

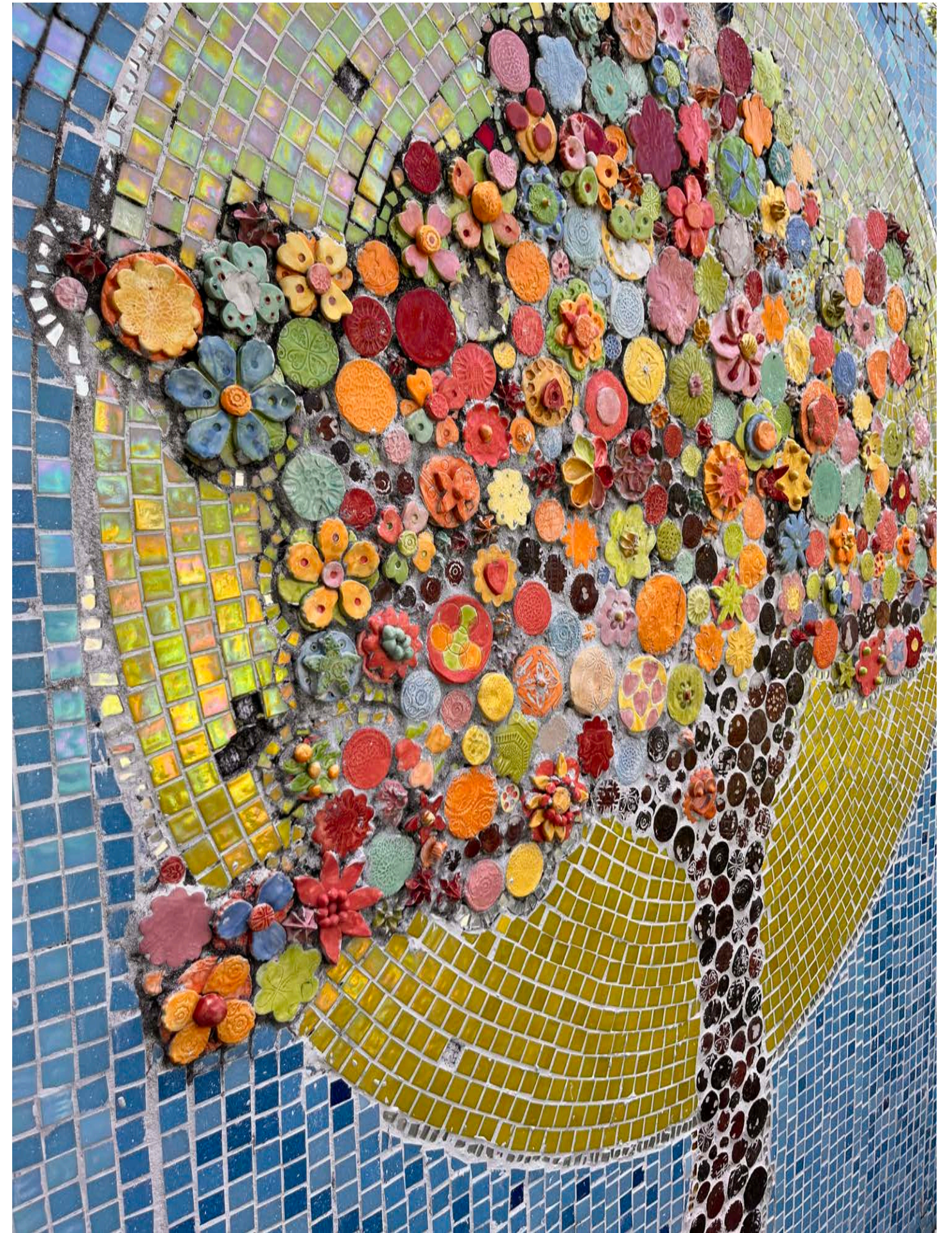
Carpenter Art Garden

Sankofa Garden, Farmer's Market Stand,
and Mimosa Memorial Park Revitalization

In partnership with the University of Memphis
Department of Architecture, 2025 Design + Build Studio



Department of Architecture



This project was in partnership with the University of Memphis Department of Architecture, Design + Build Studio 2025.

CAG Partners

Anasha Chavez-Asforis, Executive Director
Kierra Davis, Director of Operations
Chandra Ellerson, Executive Assistant,
Grant Coordinator

Design + Build Studio Team

Andrew Parks, Professor of Practice
(Instructor of Record)
Michael Hagge, Professor
Marleny Granados-Diaz
Malak Ayman Nossair
Adriana Esparza Giron
Ashley Guerrero Rojo



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Vision



The vision of this collaborative project between Carpenter Art Garden and the University of Memphis Department of Architecture is to cultivate a vibrant, inclusive, and sustainable place for the community of Binghampton by uniting art, education, and health. Through the creation of the Sankofa Garden, a community Farmer's Market stand, and revitalization of Mimosa Memorial Park, this partnership aims to foster healing, empowerment, and economic opportunity. By engaging residents, students, and faculty in hands on experiences that honor cultural heritage and promote well-being, the project envisions a thriving neighborhood where creativity, nourishment, and resilience flourish together.

Project Research



Mosaics

Mosaics in Color

A mosaic is a conversation in color and shape, where each tile, though small and distinct, contributes to a larger story—just as individuals in a community, each with their own identity and voice, create something meaningful and beautiful when united in purpose.

The Art of Assembly

In a mural, the beauty isn't just in the finished image, but in the act of assembling it—piece by piece, hand by hand. A community functions the same way; its greatest beauty lies not only in outcomes but in the collective process of coming together, where the strength lies in the willingness of diverse individuals to come together and build something whole from many parts.



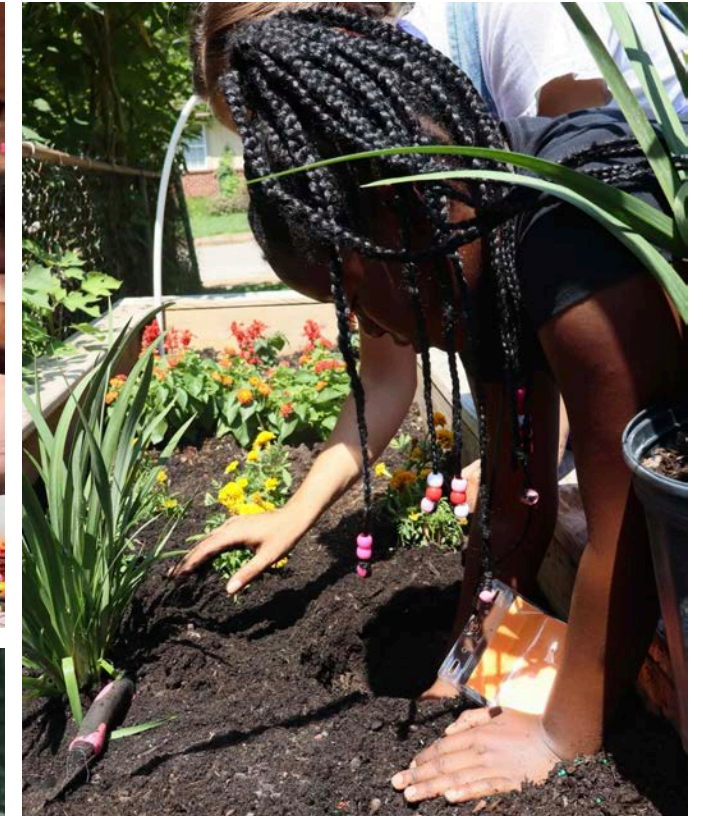
Carpenter Art Garden Goals

Carpenter Art Garden aims to bring the community together and make connections.

Community Impact: Foster a sense of pride and ownership among residents while addressing food insecurity and promoting wellness.

Educational Opportunities: Provide hands-on learning for The University of Memphis students and community members in areas such as urban farming, art therapy, and social entrepreneurship.

Sustainability: Create spaces that are environmentally sustainable and economically viable for long-term community use.



Binghampton History

Binghampton was established in 1893 as an independent town. It developed around the Litchfield Car Works factory, which built wooden boxcars. Binghampton was a thriving blue collar town with a lumber industry and railroads at its core. Memphis' first outdoor farmer's market—Scott Street Farmer's Market – was relocated from Downtown to Scott Street in Binghampton in the early 1950s.

Binghampton was annexed to Memphis in 1919. During 2007-2012, it became a vibrant arts district as local businesses began to occupy the vacant storefronts.



Sankofa

The word “Sankofa” has symbolism of “turning back to get it” and “learning from the past to build the future.”

Sankofa is derived from the Akan language of Ghana. Its literal translation is “to go back and get it.”



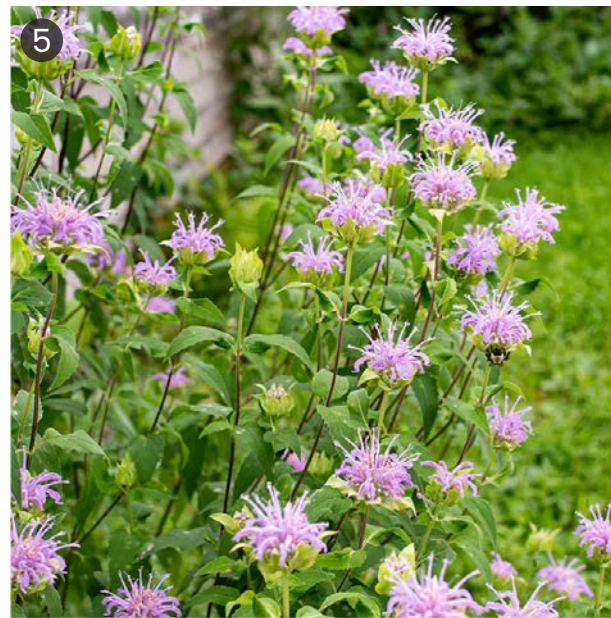
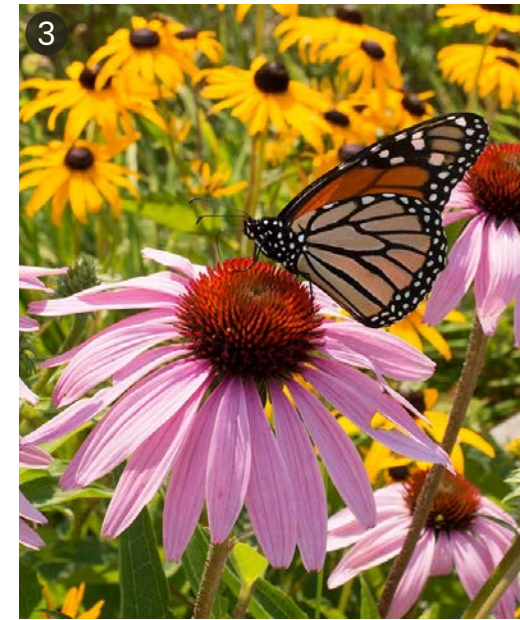
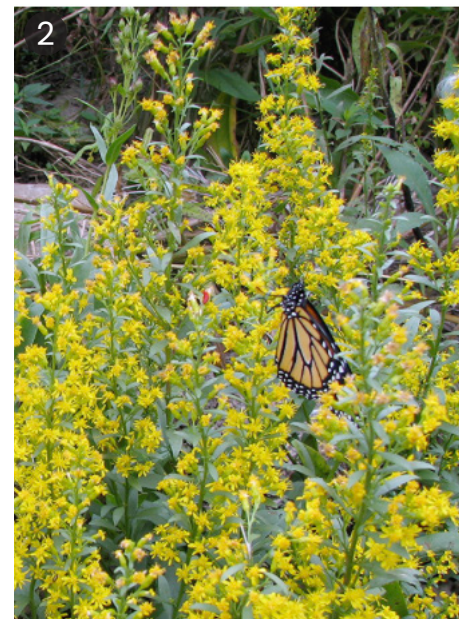
Design Research



Native Plant Species

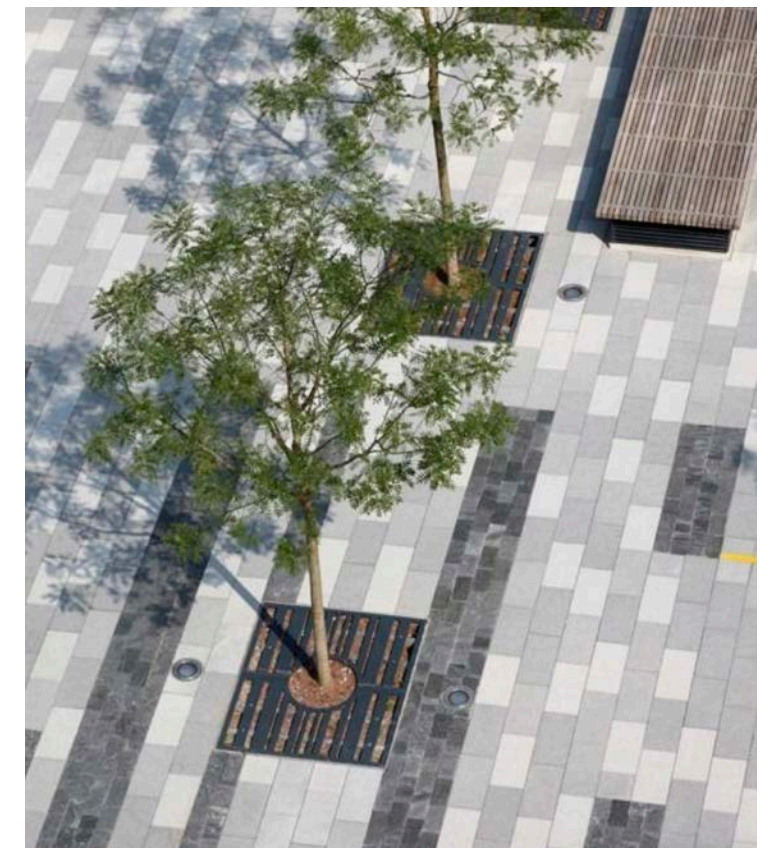
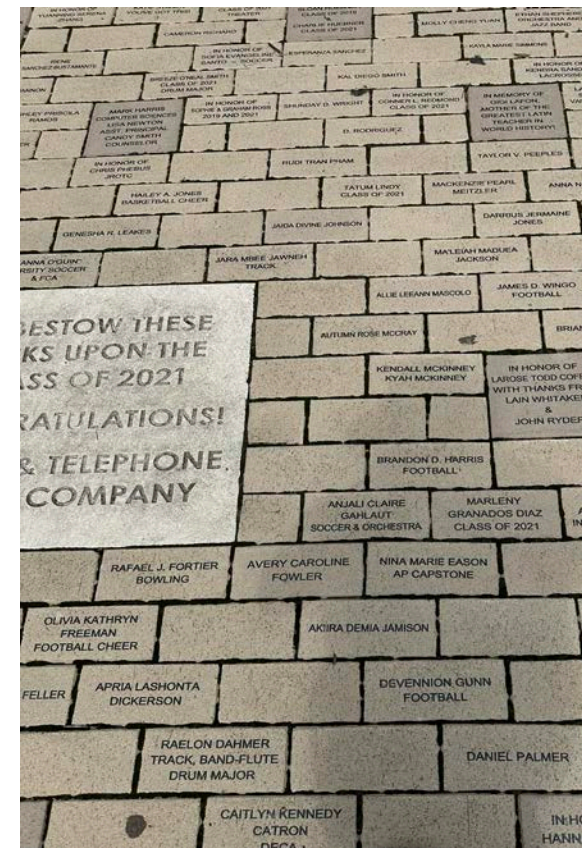
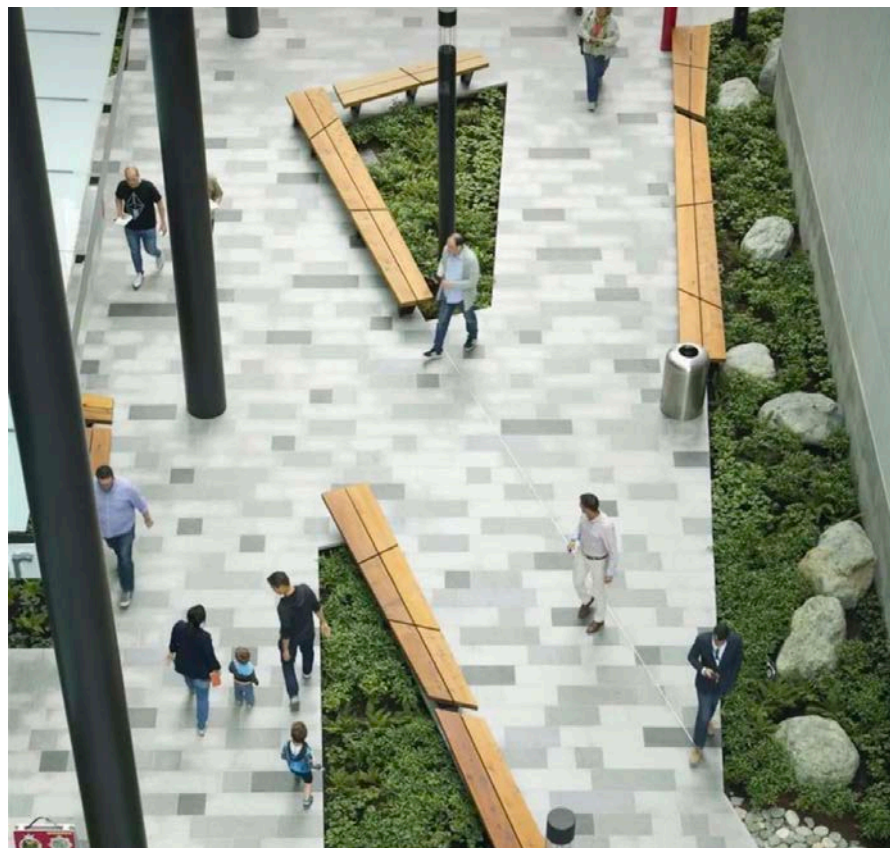
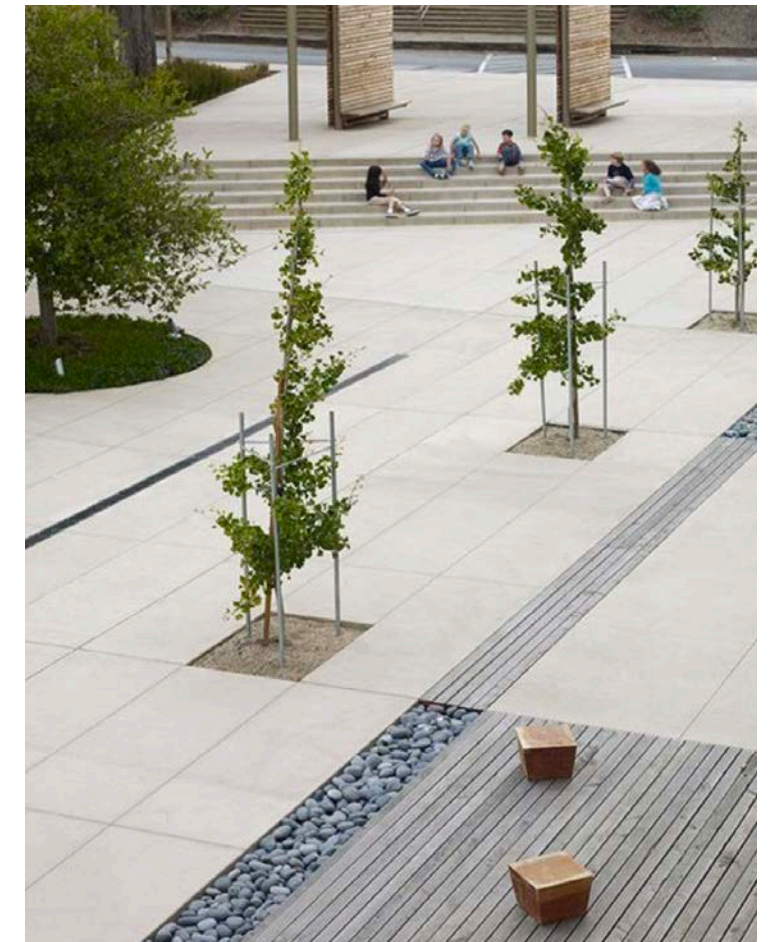
pollinator/ wildflower species

1. Northwind Switch Grass
2. Goldenrod
3. Purple Cone Flower
4. Daylilies
5. Wild Bergamot
6. Foxglove Beardtongue
7. Sidegoats Gamma Grass
8. Asters
9. Little Bluestem
10. Black Eyed Susan



Market Plaza

- transition in materials
- possibility for donor opportunities
- thinking of the pavers as a mosaic
- material colors
- landscape boundaries



Pavers

Step Stone LLC

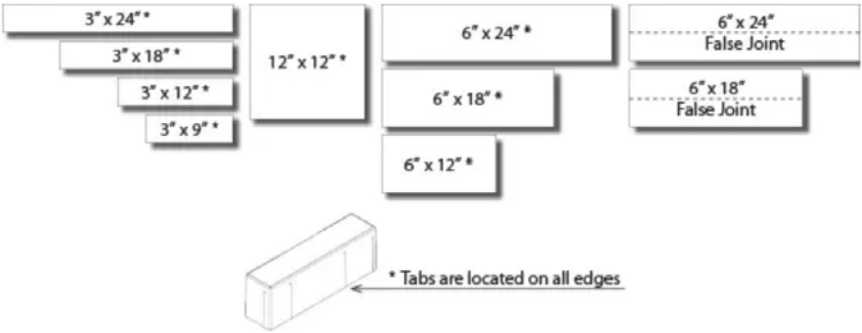
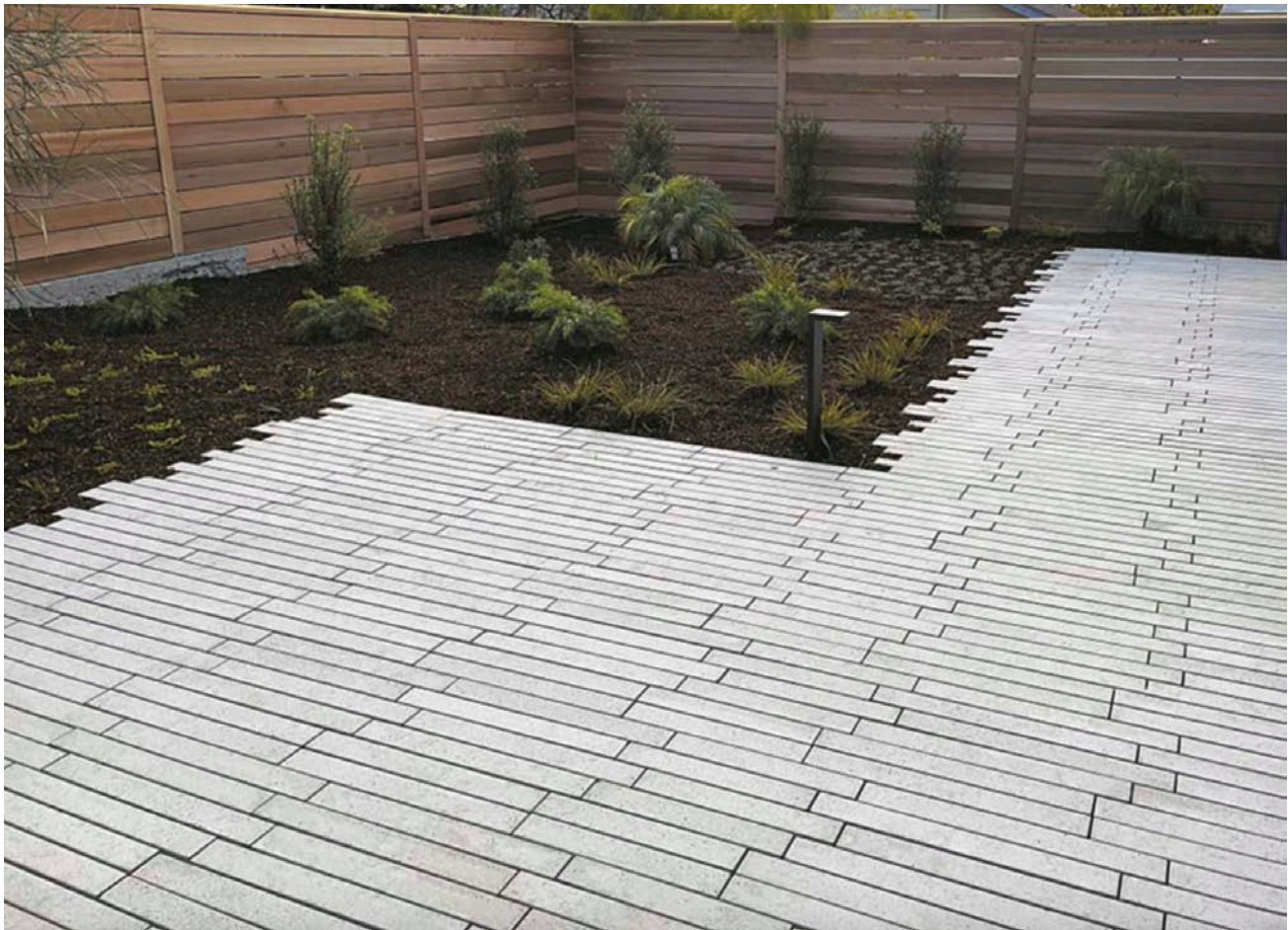
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Type III Cement
Finish: Sandblast



Agave

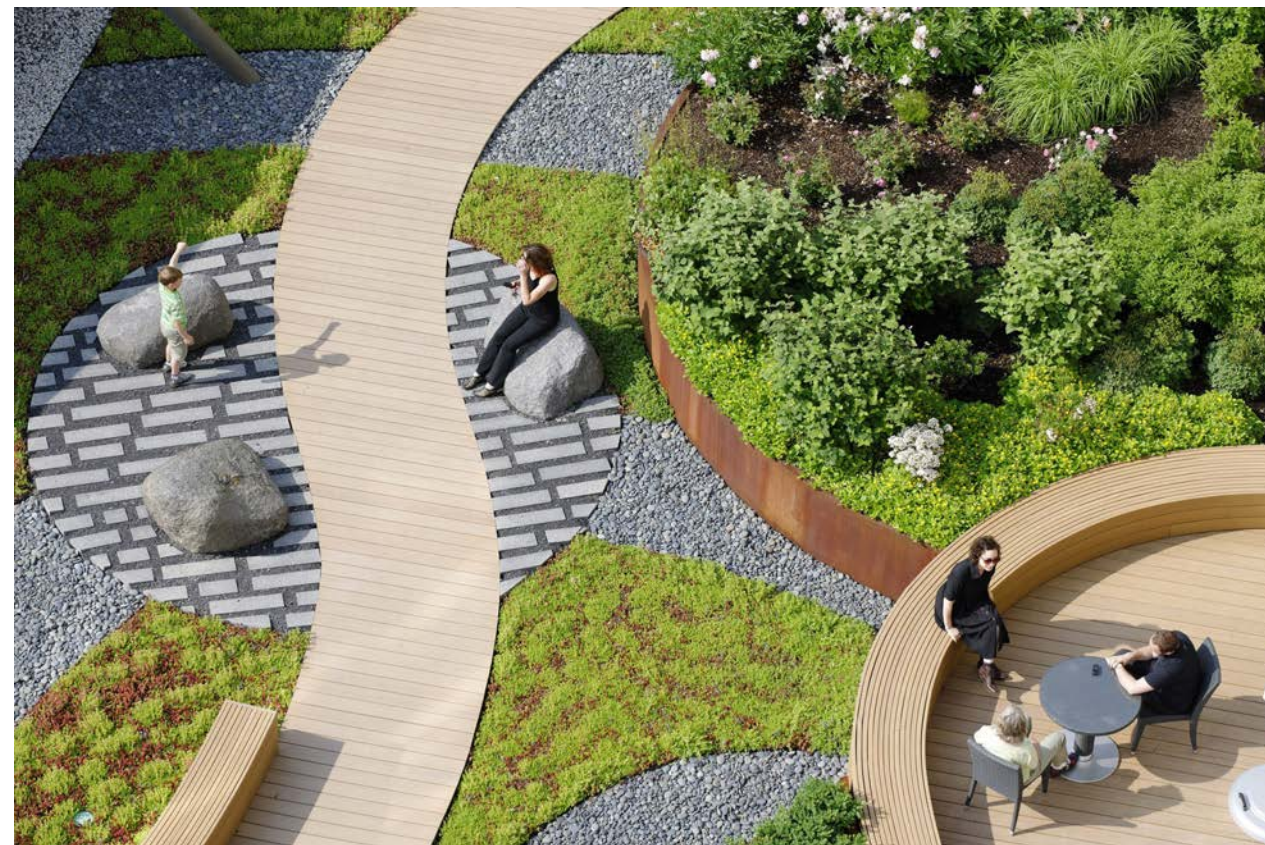
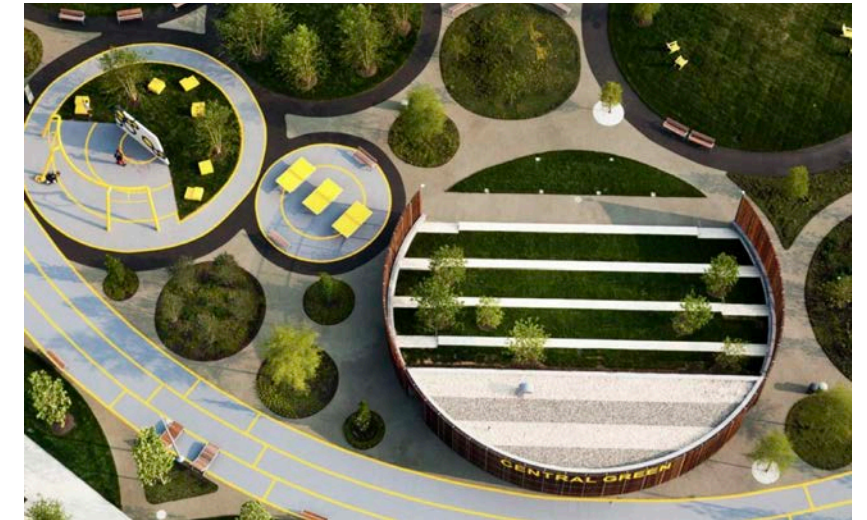


Porcelain



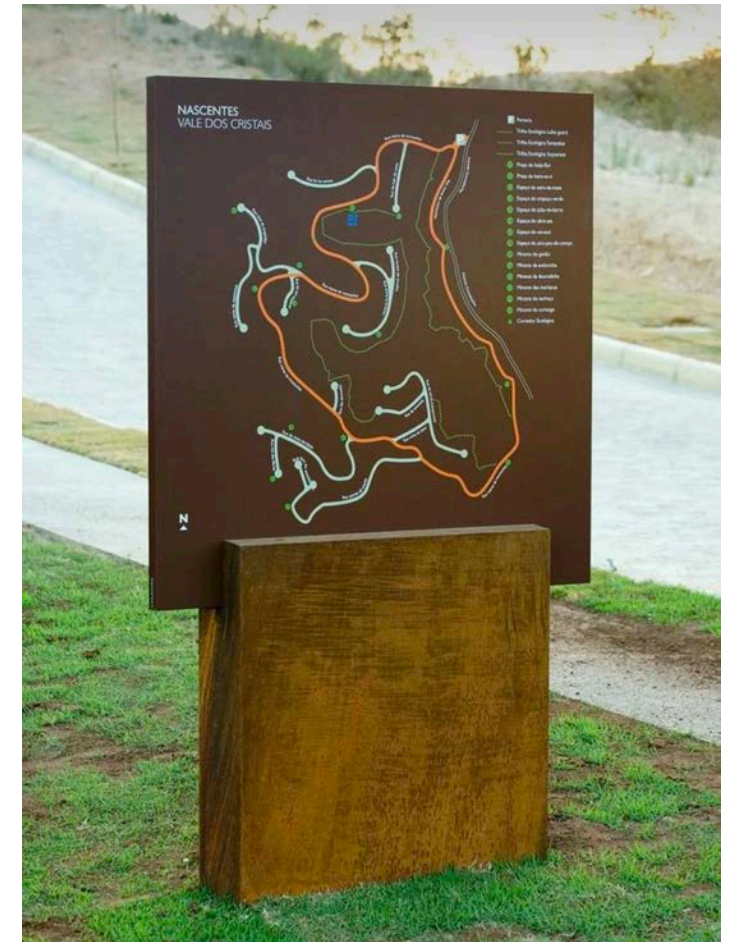
Circular Benches

- transition in materials
- seating incorporated into circular zoning
- thoughts on how to engage users with these zones
- landscape boundaries

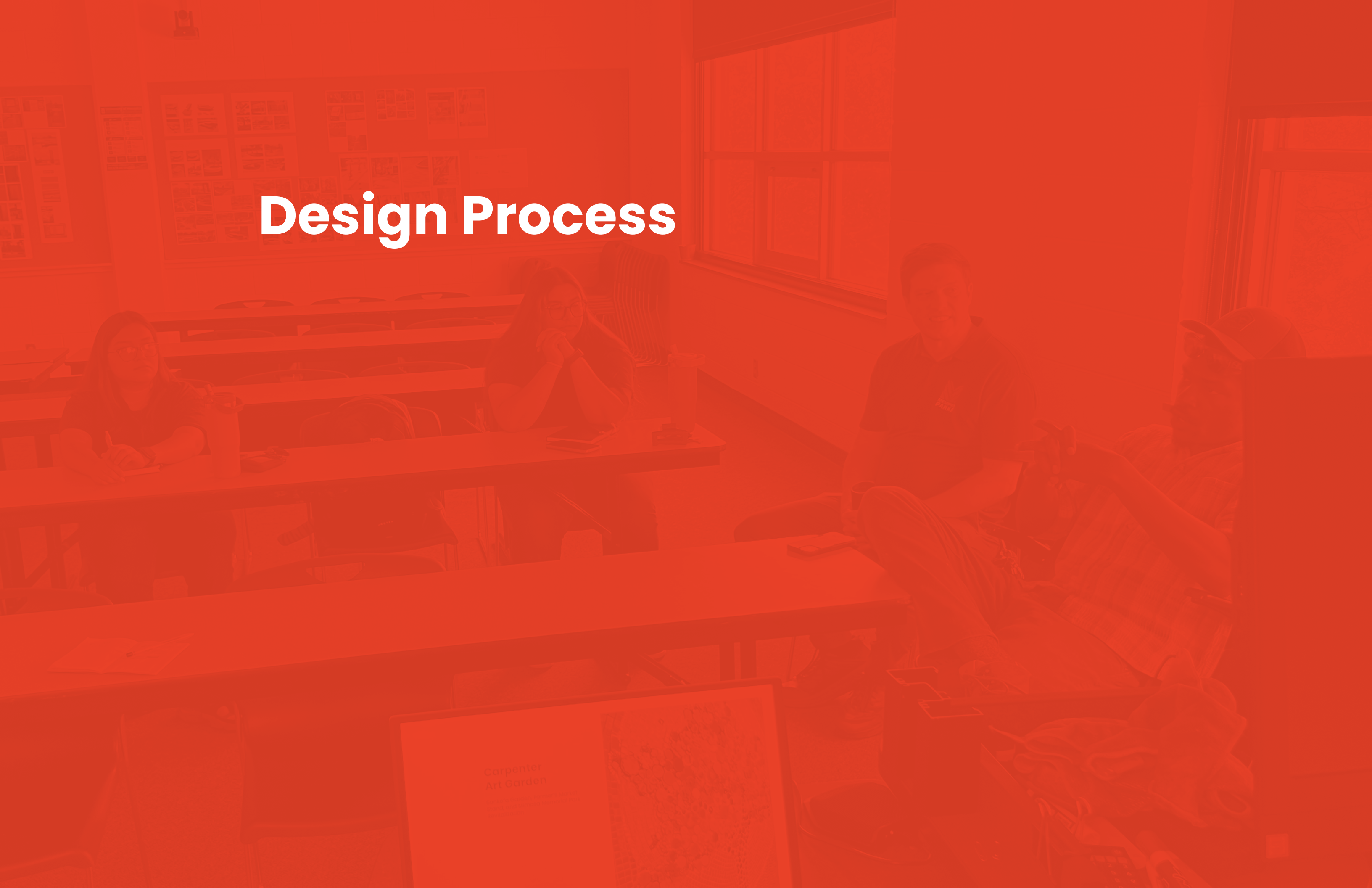


Signage

- QR code/plaques
- signage at the entrance to highlight the different sites
- materials
- variety of scales



Design Process



City Scale



Neighborhood Scale

-  Parks
-  Greenline
-  Collage Dance
-  School
-  Police Precent
-  Carpenter Property
-  Community Center



Carpenter Street Scale

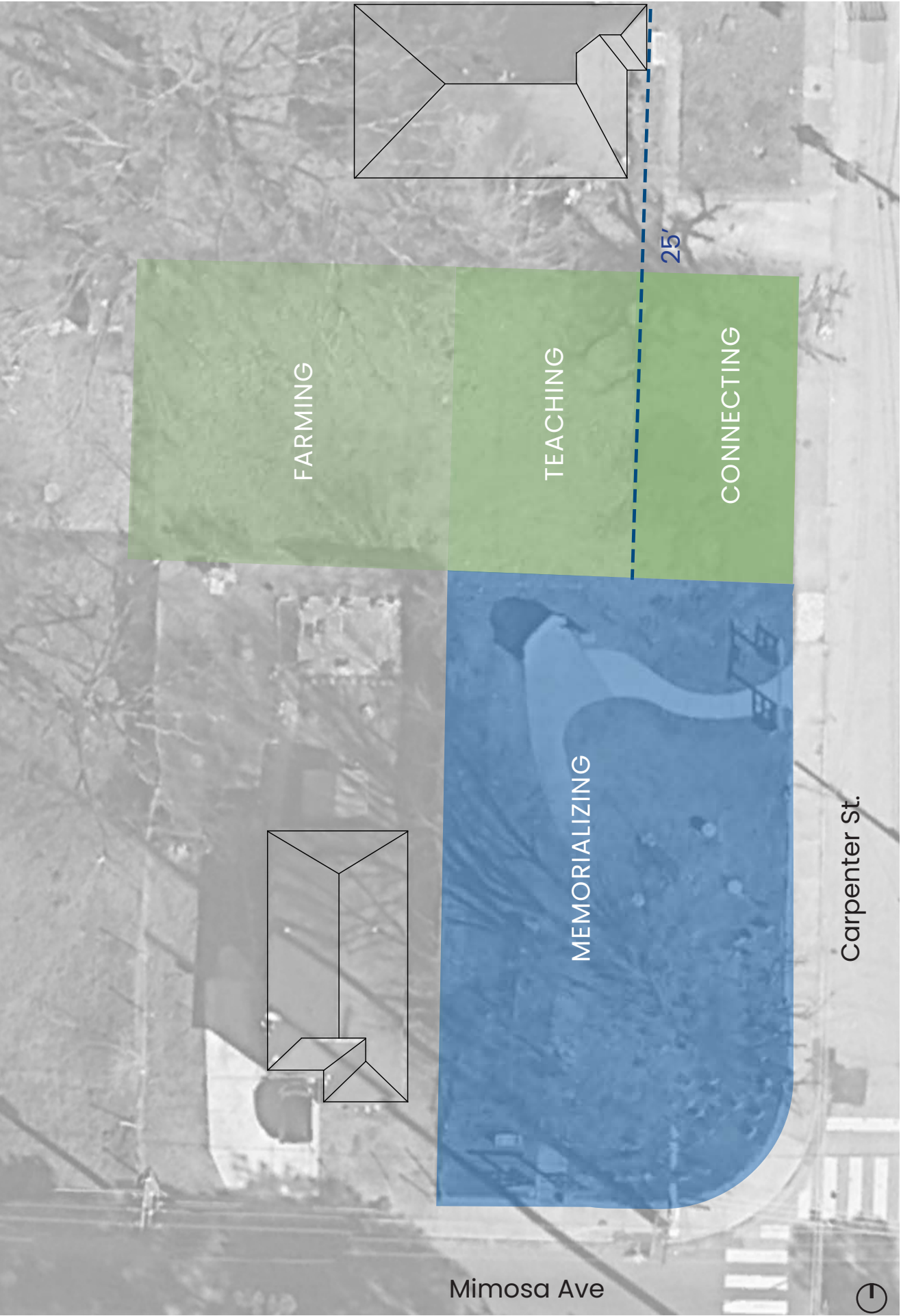
- Art Garden
- Purple House
- Workshop
- Aunt Lou’s House
- Gardens
- Sankofa Garden and Memorial





Site Zoning

The Sankofa Garden site is divided into three parts (connecting, teaching, and farming) based on the 25 foot front setback that limits any permanent structures in this area. The connecting area to the east is meant to connect the community to the learning and farming space to the west. The site to the south is dedicated to the memorial.



Circular Zoning

To enhance the experience of remembrance, the first circle was based on the existing ring-shaped seating arrangement around the mosaic memorial. Another circle was used to create a more significant space for the existing tree mosaic in the corner of the site. Three more circles at varying scale denote other areas for the community to gather and engage.



Why Circles ?

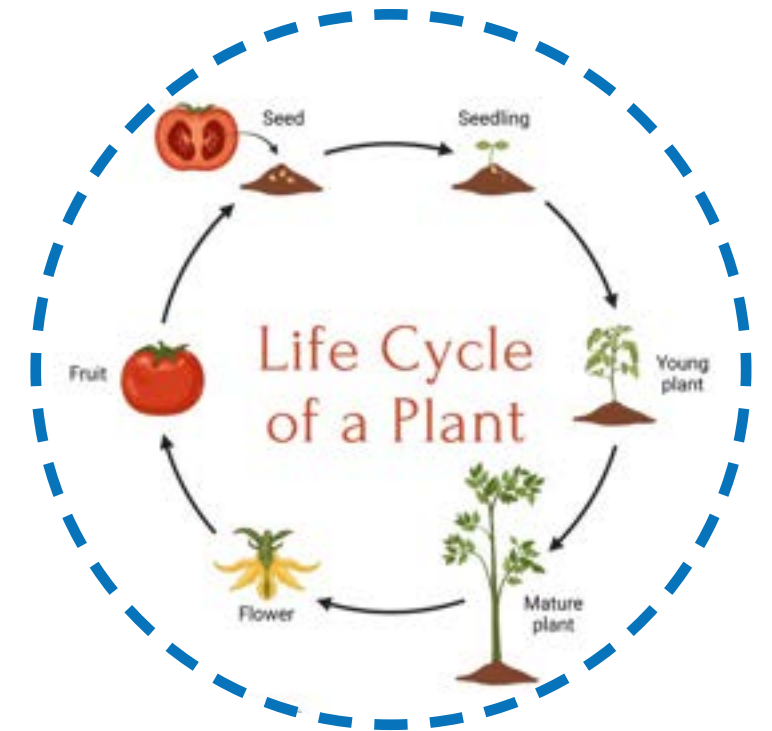
In addition to the circular inspiration observed from the sites, other sources include people naturally sitting in a circular pattern for conversation, the circular reference of “Sankofa” which is looking back to learn from the past to build a better future, as well as the circle of life.



Circular Gathering



Sankofa

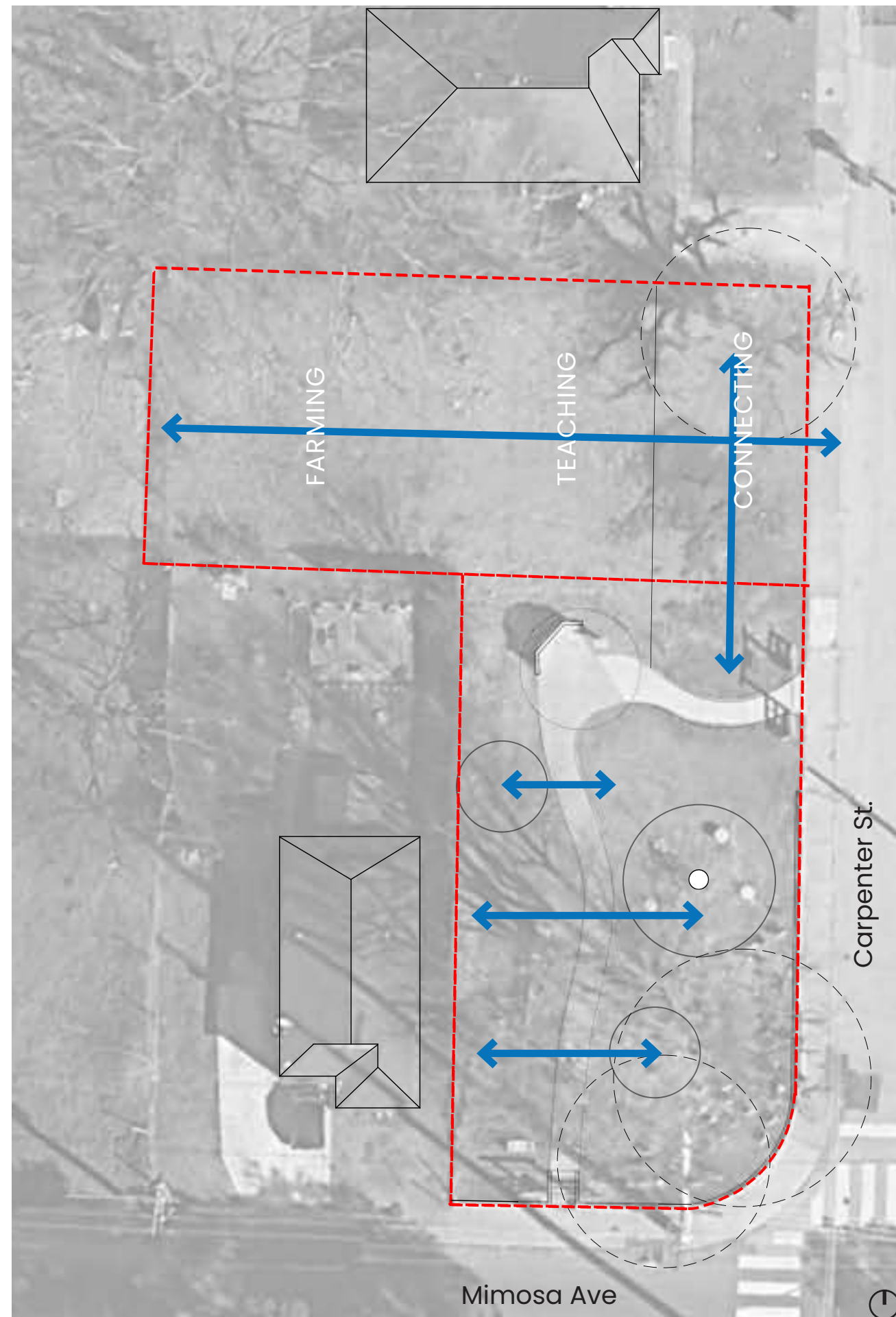


Circle of Life

Making Connections

The design of the two sites needed to establish multiple connections:

1. The first connection links the community to the learning space and then to the farming space to communicate the importance of a healthy foods.
2. The second connection visually links the public space of the Sankofa Garden to the memorial site.
3. The third connection is a series of links across the existing pathway on the memorial site to bridge various nodes of activity.



Connectors

These ideas of connection become physical connectors by creating surfaces made of pavers in multiple shades of gray all running the same direction to subtly reference the idea of mosaics in a walking surface.



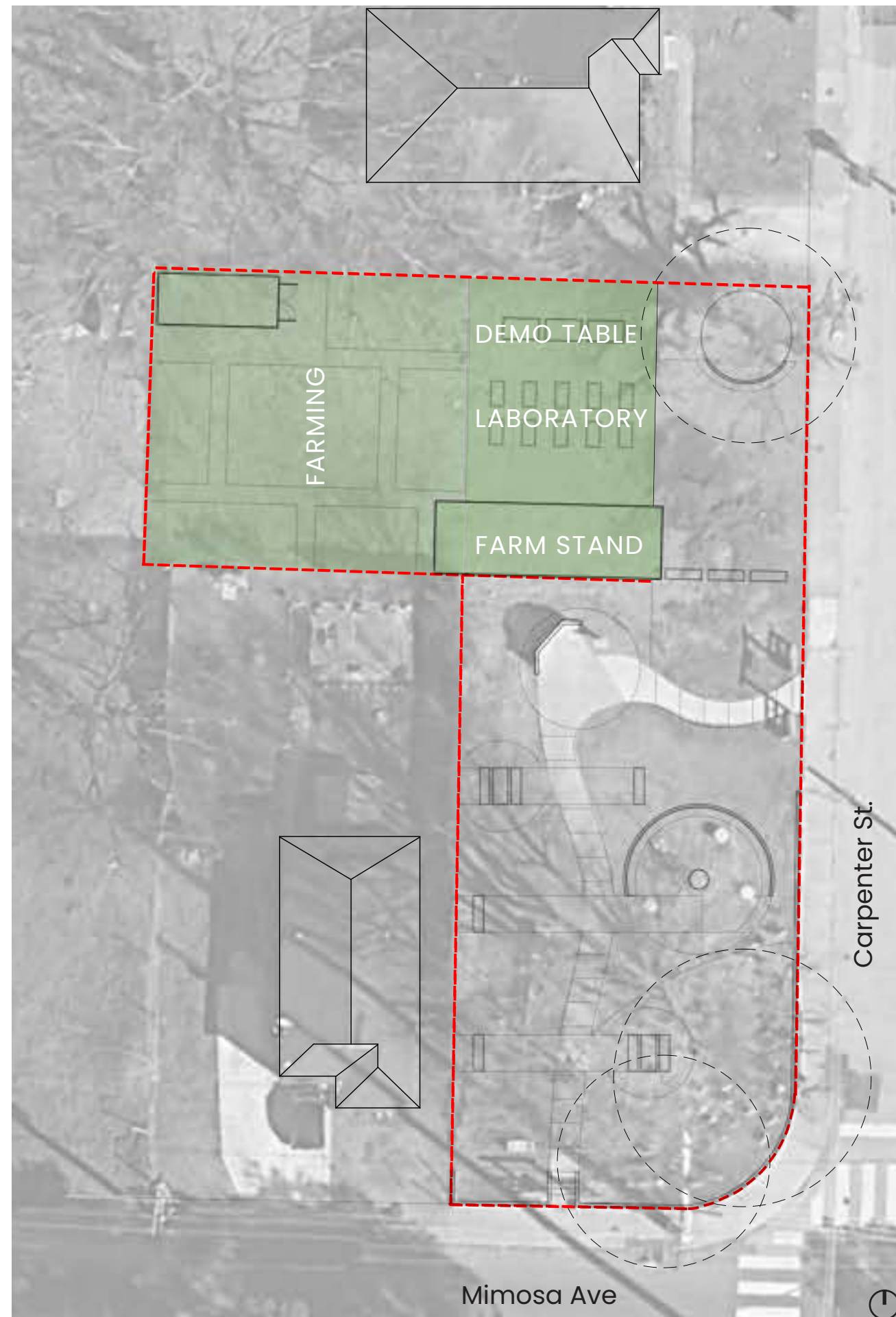
Seating

The circles and connectors from the previous steps are populated with seating elements that can provide a shady spot under a tree for people to sit and chat on a hot summer day, a bench to sit in the sun on a chilly afternoon, a reflective space to sit a remember a loved one, or a picnic table to celebrate a family member’s birthday.



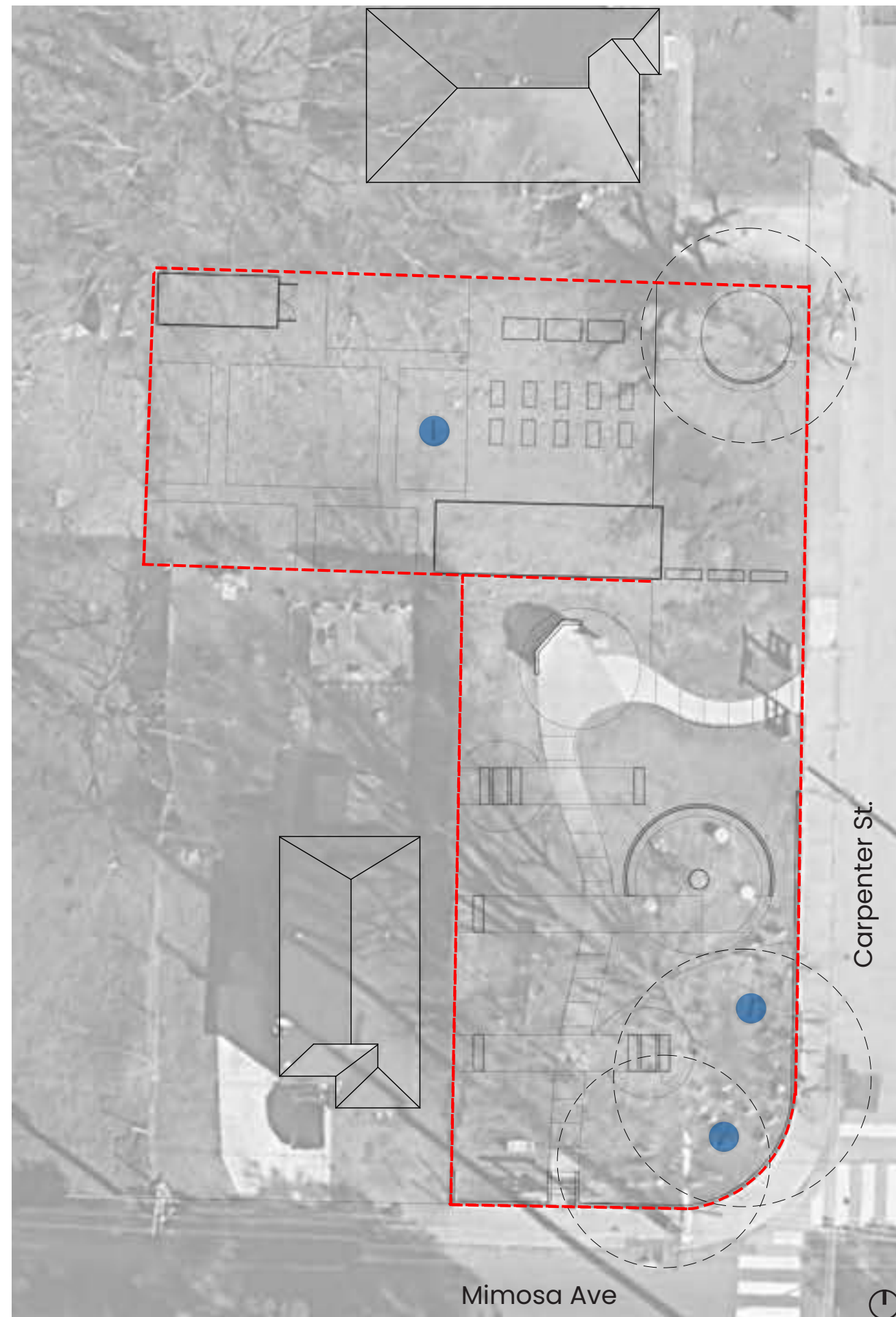
Laboratory + Farming

This area is comprised of a transitional learning zone between the public connector and the farming area. It includes a dedicated demonstration space, an outdoor laboratory space to experiment with the latest farming techniques, and a farm stand which will act as a shade structure during camps and work days as well as a farmers market hub for selling produce grown by the various gardens run by Carpenter Art Garden.



Art Installations

Three designated spots for art installations are included throughout the sites to engage local artist to create large scale art pieces that welcome visitors into the site as well as communicate the mission of Carpenter Art Garden.



Fencing + Signage

Horizontal wood fencing with integrated mosaic mural panels acts as a colorful and textural backdrop for the new design of the sites while providing security around the farming area and farm stand. A low wall covered in mosaic tiles defines the public edge and announces the entries into the two different sites.



- Fencing
- Sliding Fence
- Mosaic Mural
- Signage

Orchard Zone

A defined edge to the north and west of the memorial site is dedicated to a linear orchard where the community can come onto the site and pick a piece of fruit to enjoy when ripe.



Planting Zones

Paths, connectors, plazas, and circular elements create various landscape spaces that will be filled with either grass, ground cover, shade plantings, or wildflowers. The low maintenance landscaping was chosen to offer a variety or heights of plants for spacial definition, a space to kick off your shoes and walk in the grass, and plant materials that support local pollinators and butterflies.



- Wildflowers
- Lawn
- Shade Plantings
- Ground Cover

Design Experience



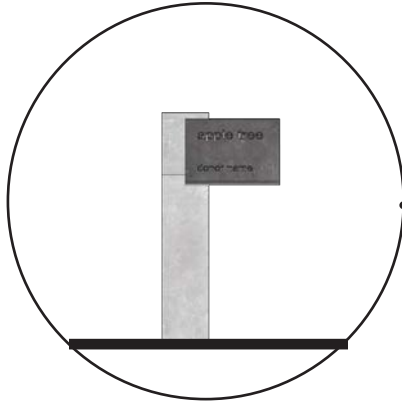
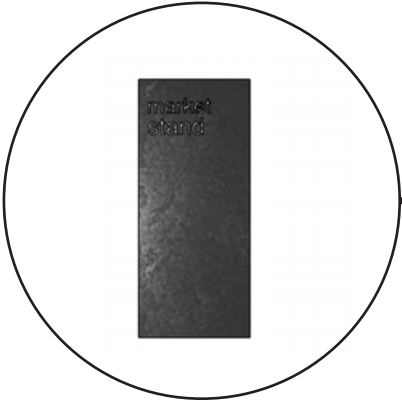
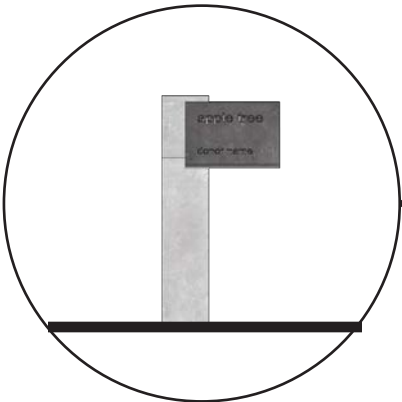
Legend

- 1 Garden
- 2 Storage
- 3 Public Art Installation
- 4 Demonstation Table
- 5 Movable Planters
- 6 Market Stand
- 7 Sliding Fence
- 8 Market Plaza
- 9 Seating
- 10 Mosaic Signage Wall
- 11 Community Reflection Area
- 12 Mosaic Tree Mural
- 13 Orchard Trees
- 14 Picnic Area
- 15 Pollinator Garden
- 16 Reunion Memorial
- 17 Performance Platform
- 18 Mosaic Mural Panels



Giving Opportunities

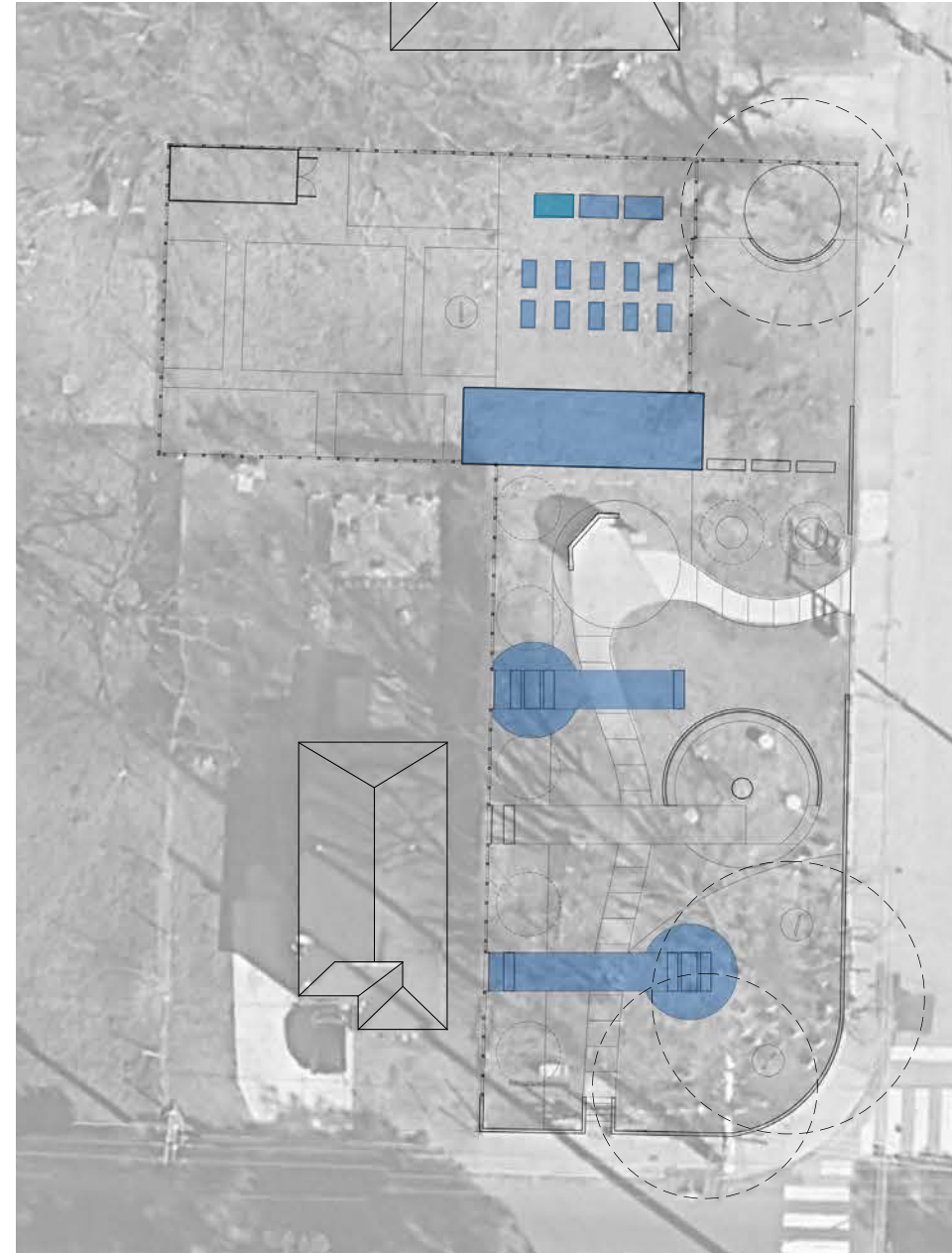
- 1 _____ Growing Lab
- 2 _____ Market Plaza
- 3 _____ Market Stand
- 4 _____ Reflection Area
- 5 _____ Mosaic Roots
- 6 _____ Pollinator Meadow
- 7 _____ Picnic Area
- 8 _____ Orchard
- 9 _____ Reflection Walk
- 10 _____ Reunion Memorial



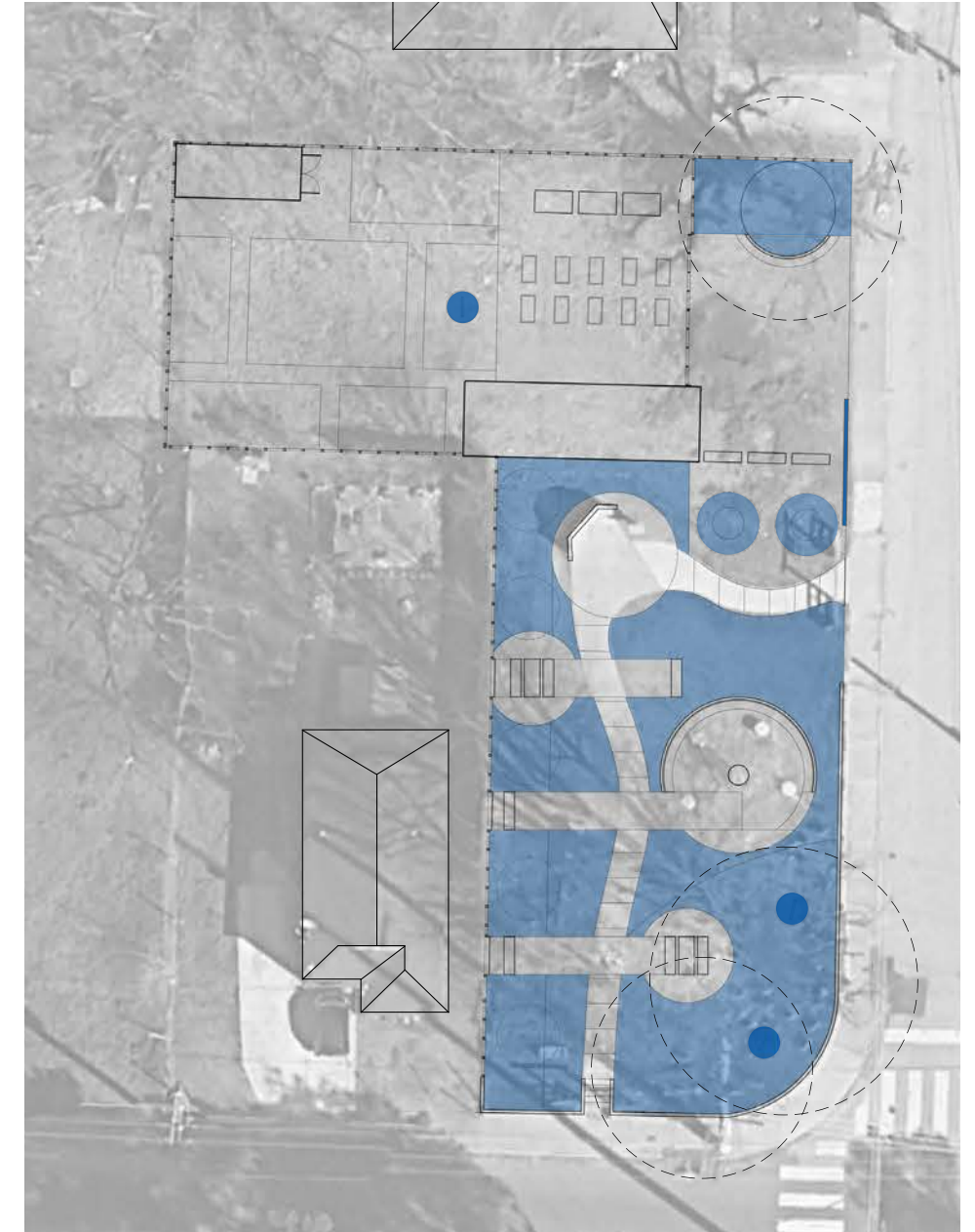
Construction Phasing



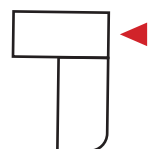
PHASE 1:
Garden area, storage, demonstration area paving, market plaza+community refection area, circular paving around existing tree mosaic, community reflection area +paver connector, all fencing.

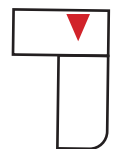


PHASE 2:
Market stand, demonstration tables, movable planters, 2 paver connectors and seating areas on memorial site.

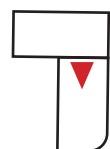


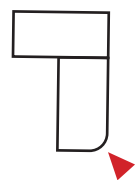
PHASE 3:
Installation of all final plant material, lawn, and public art installation pedestals.





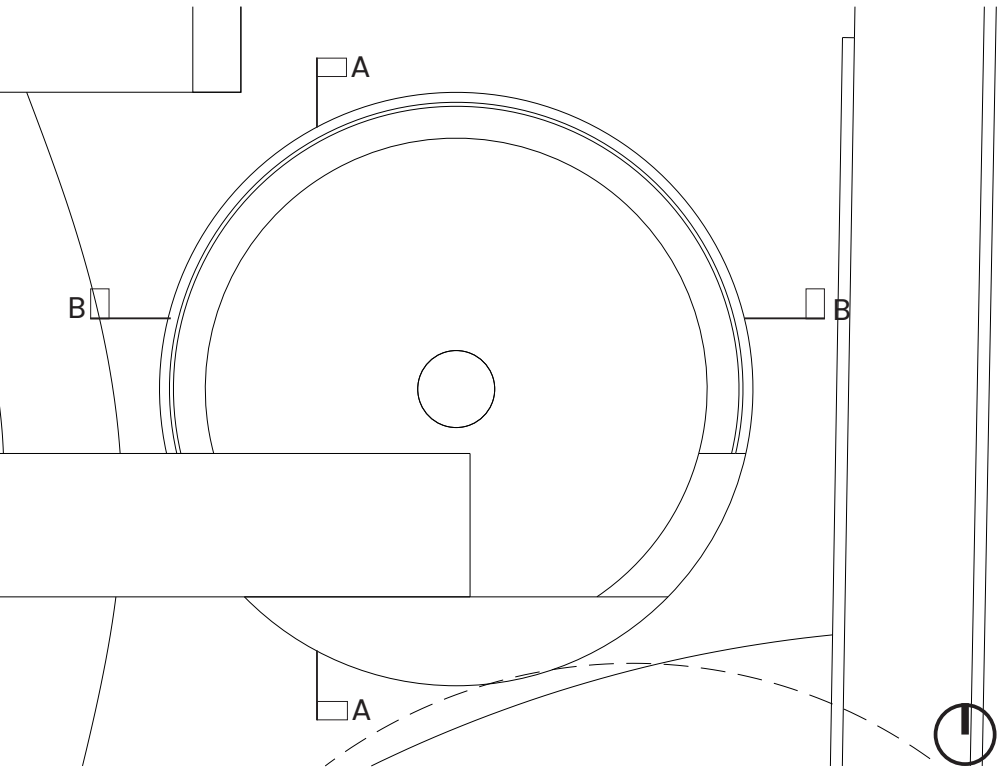




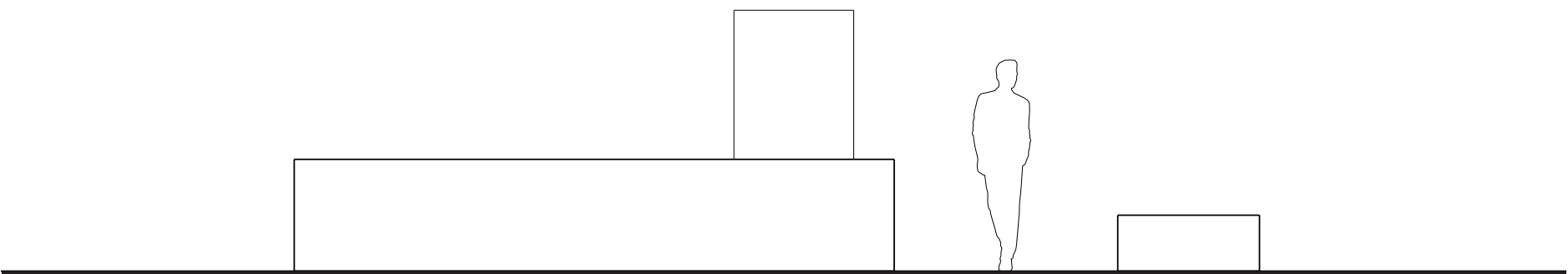


Drawings

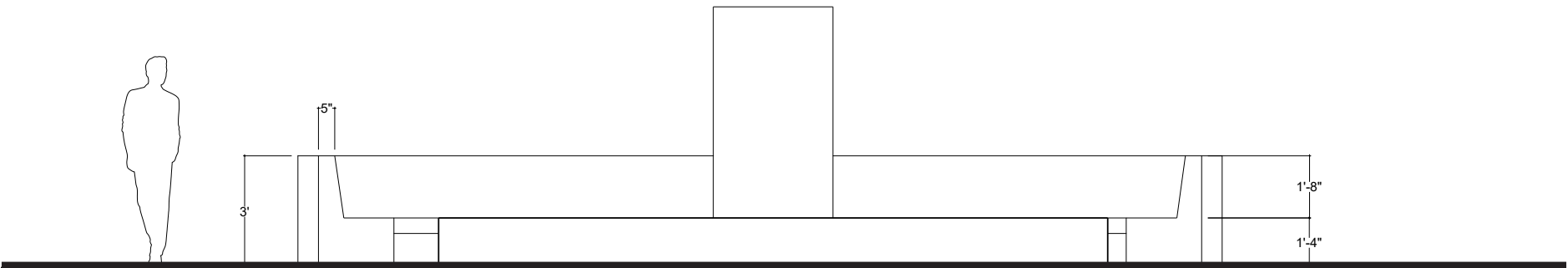
Reunion Memorial



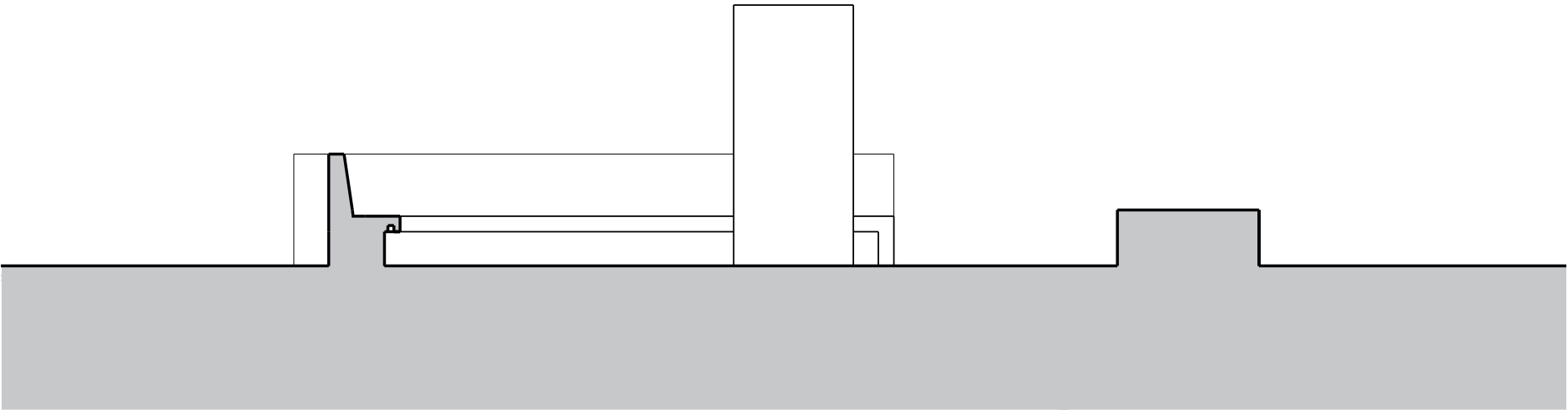
Site Plan



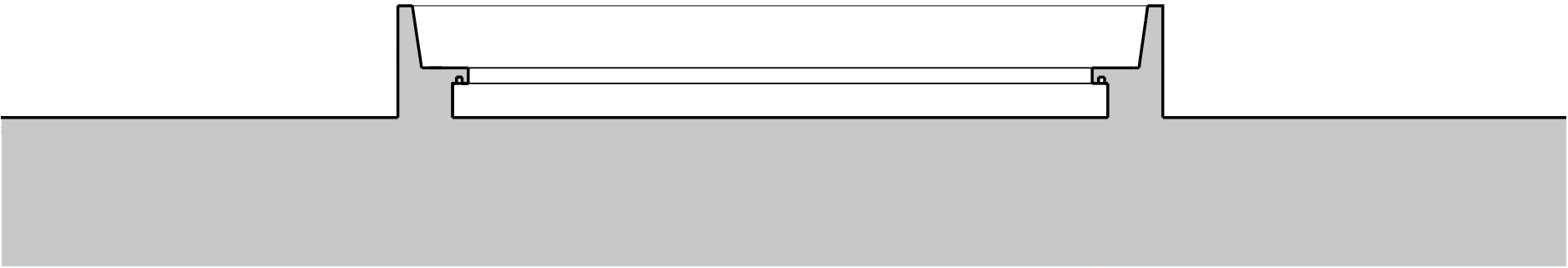
East Elevation



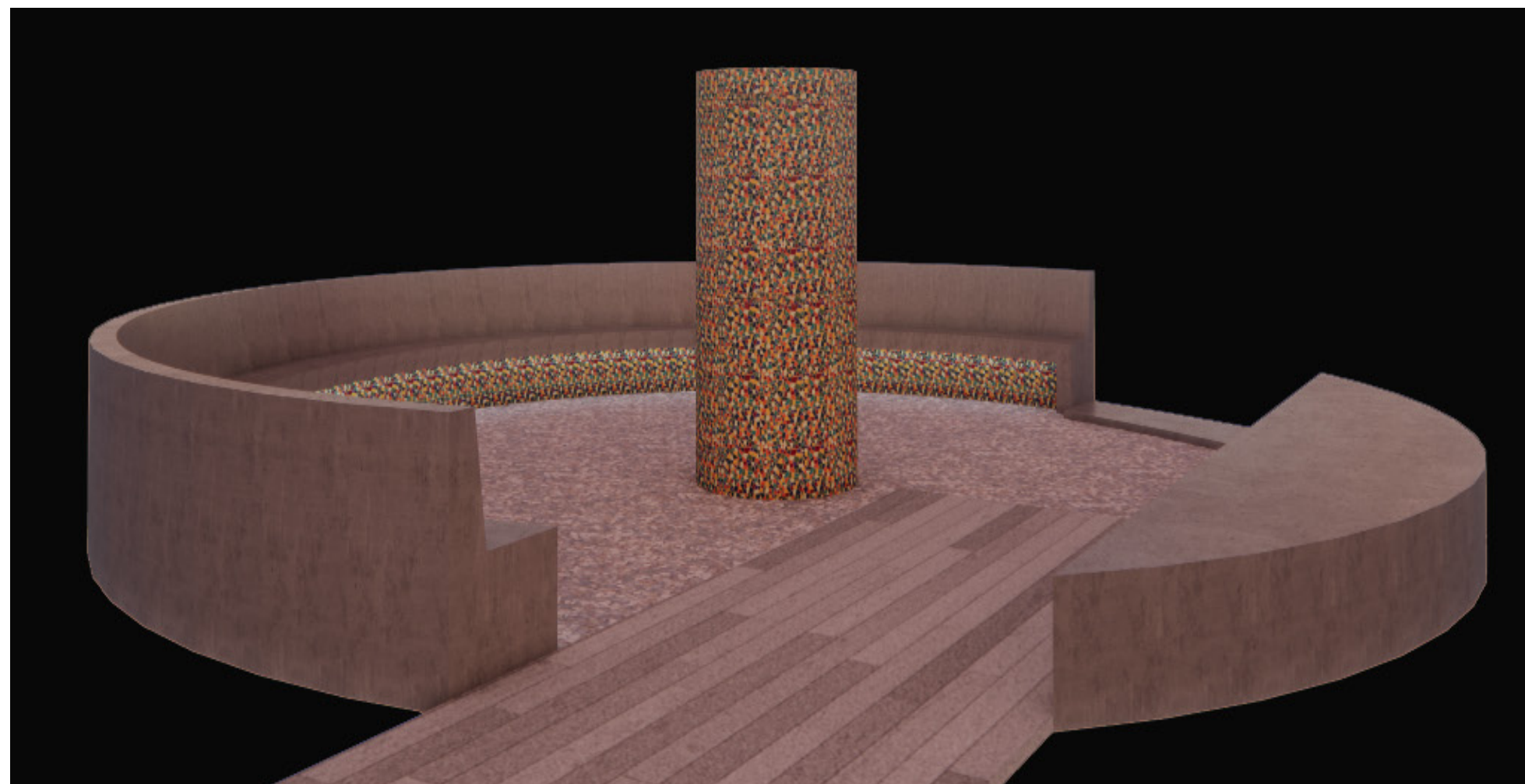
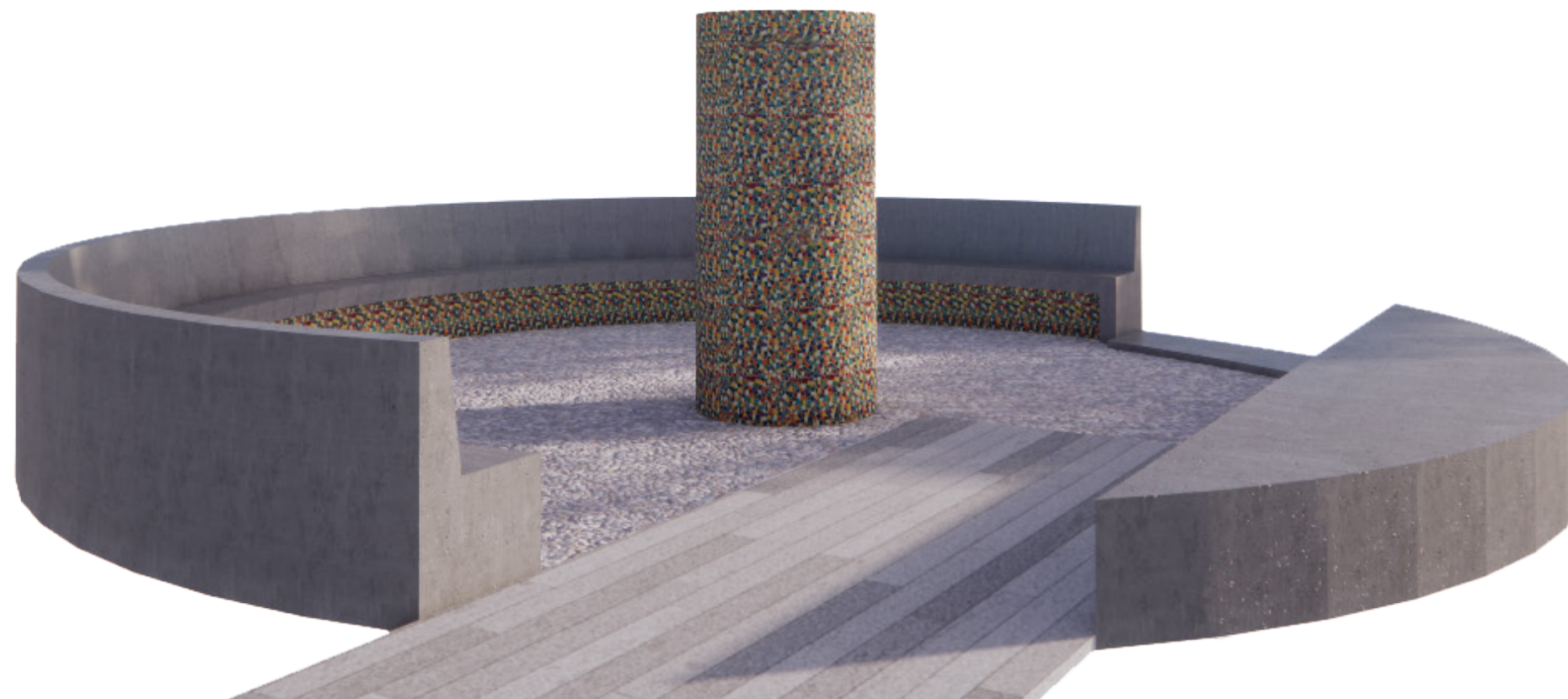
North Elevation



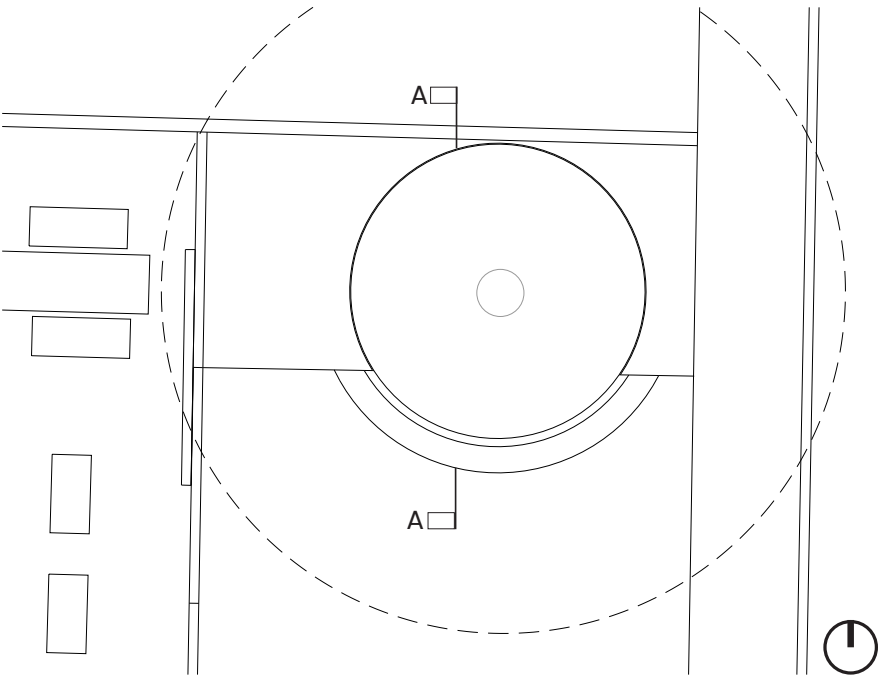
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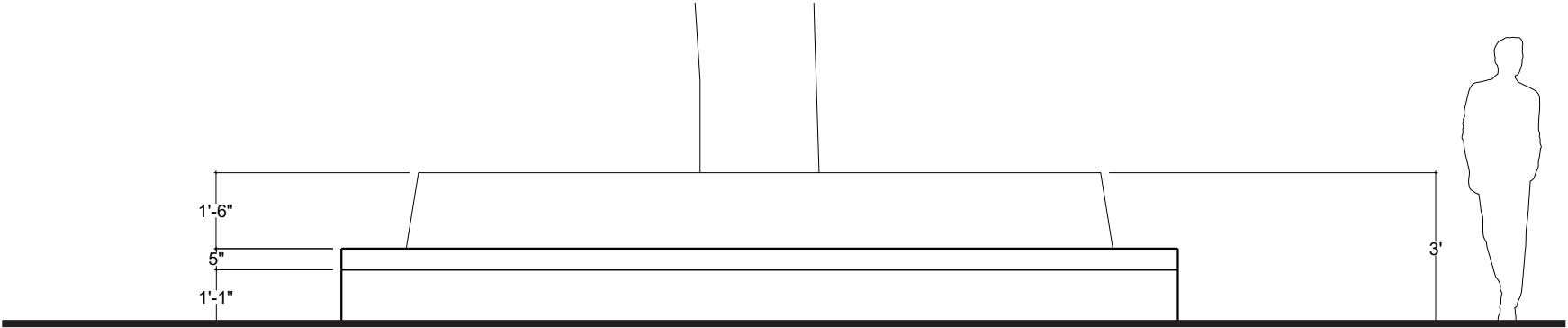
Section B



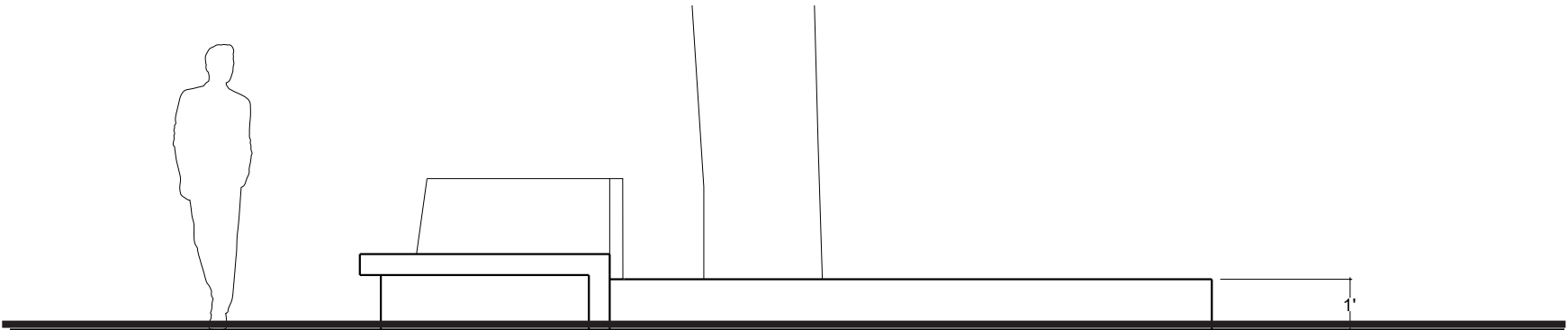
Tree Seating



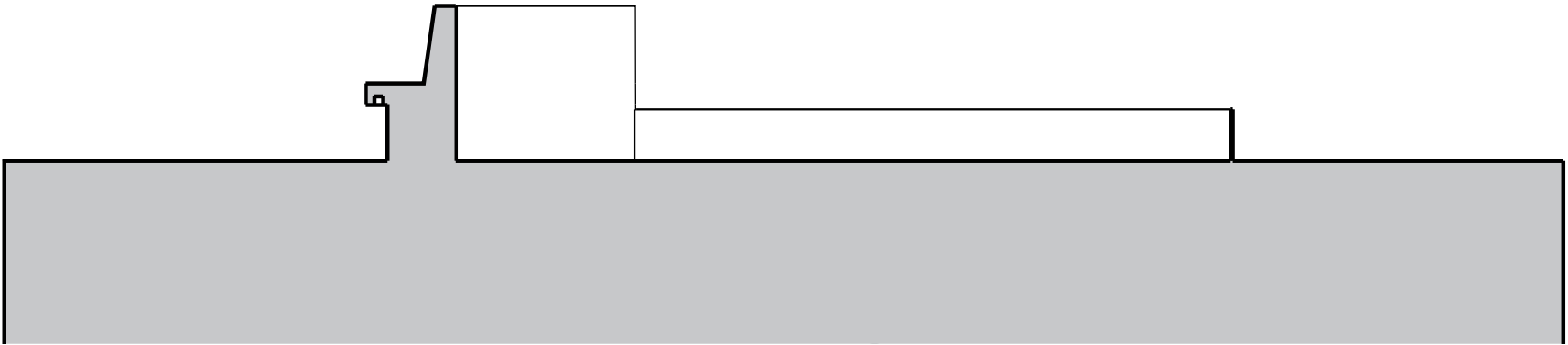
Site Plan



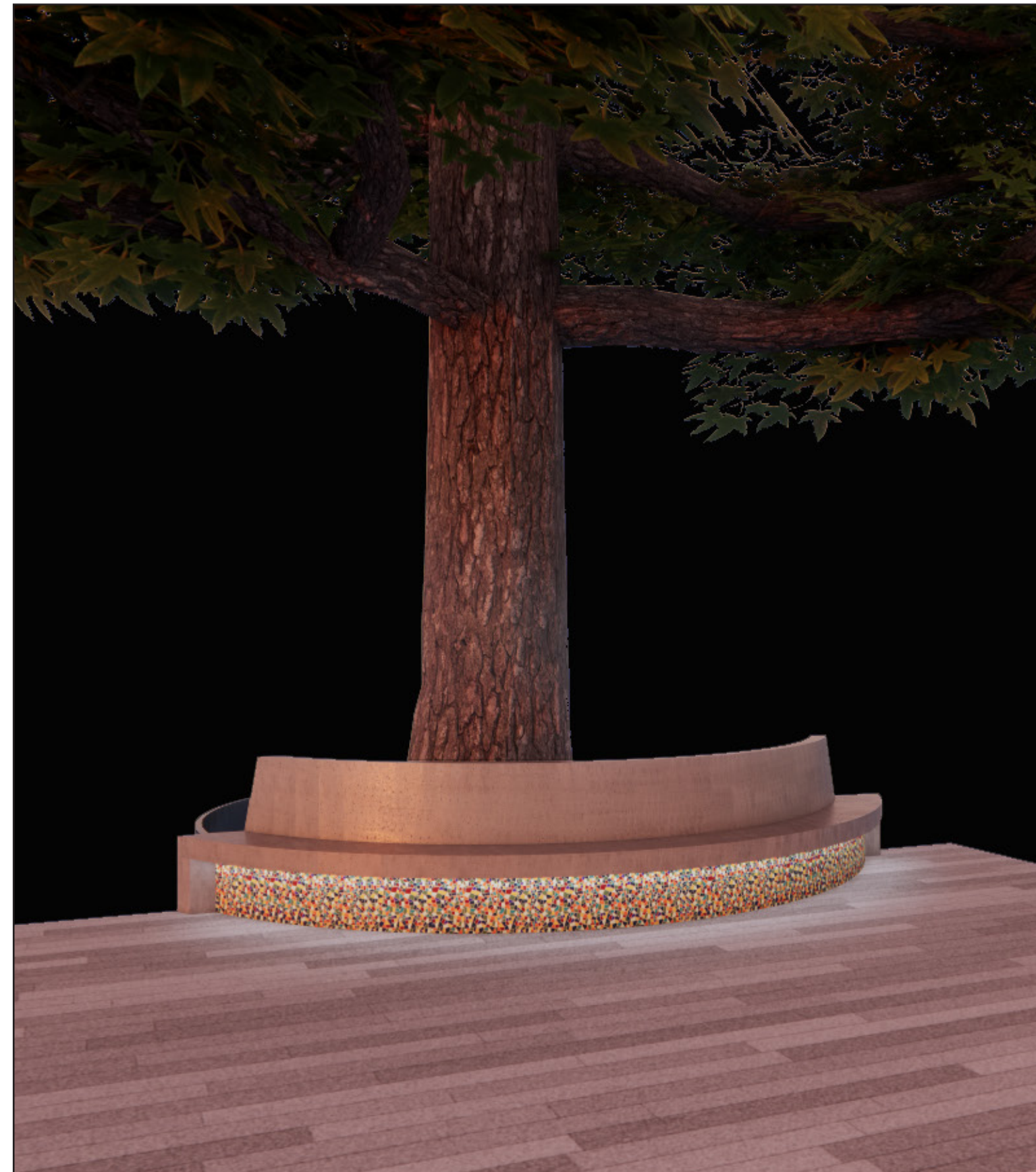
North Elevation



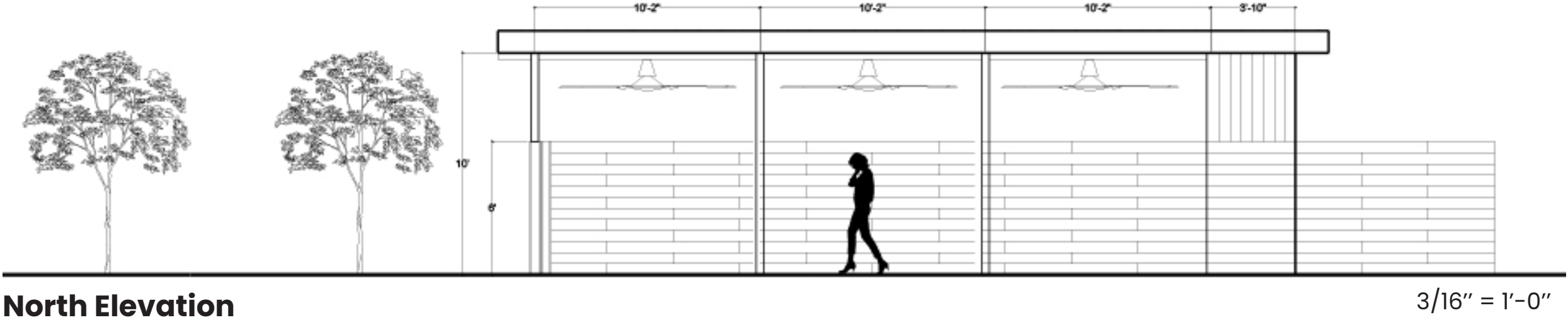
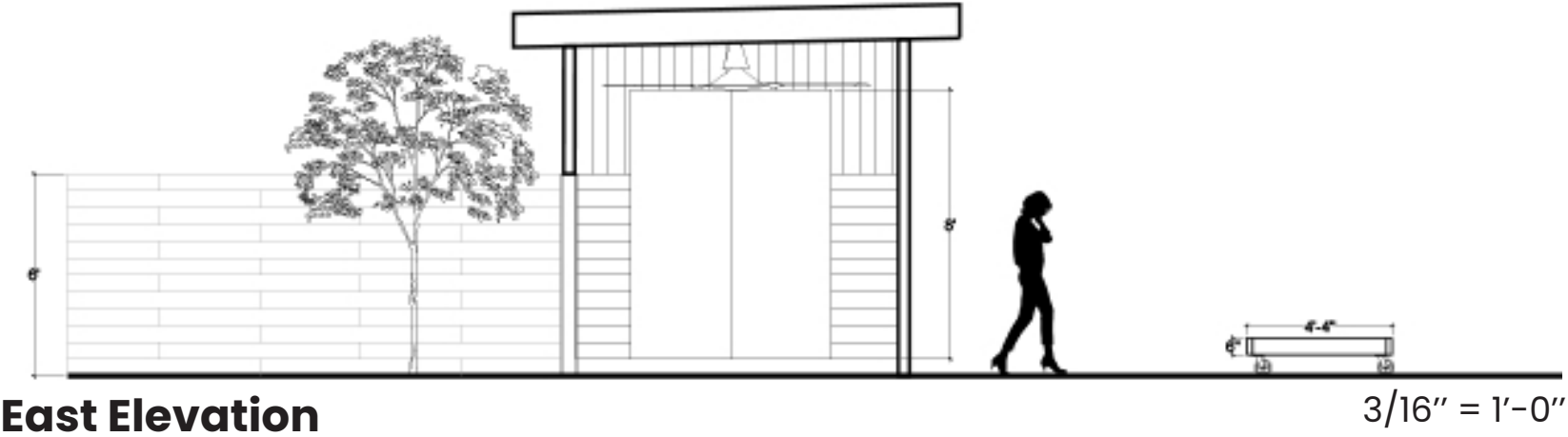
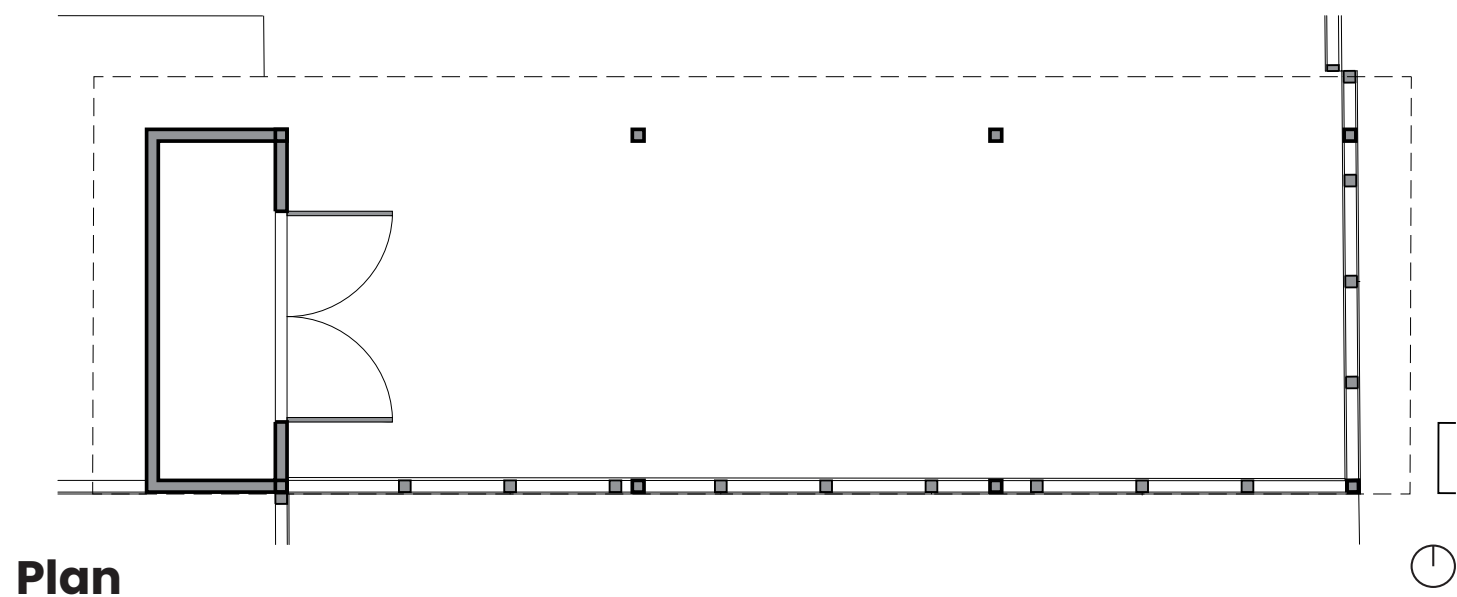
West Elevation

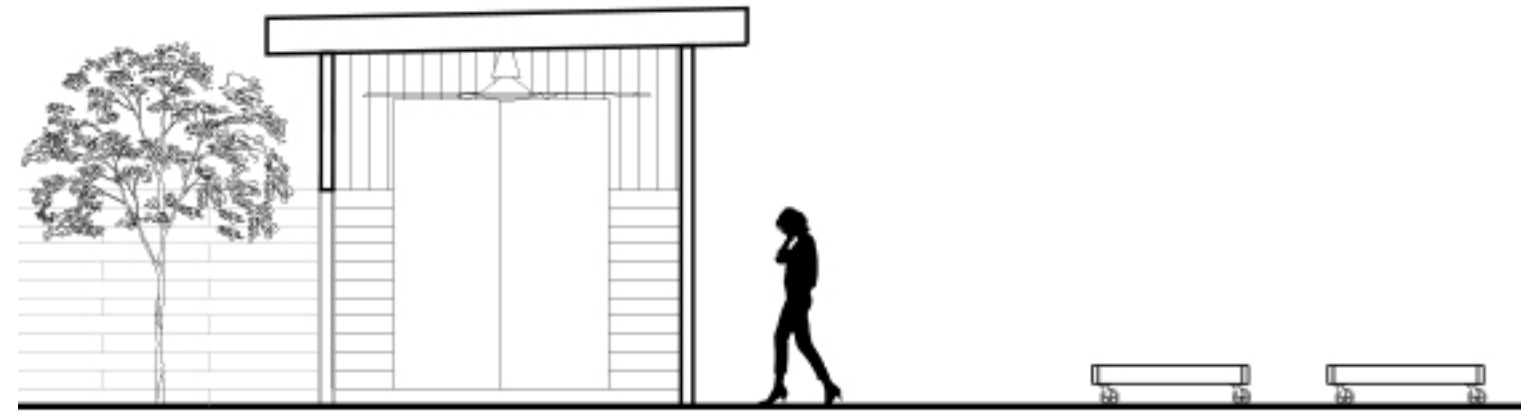


Section A

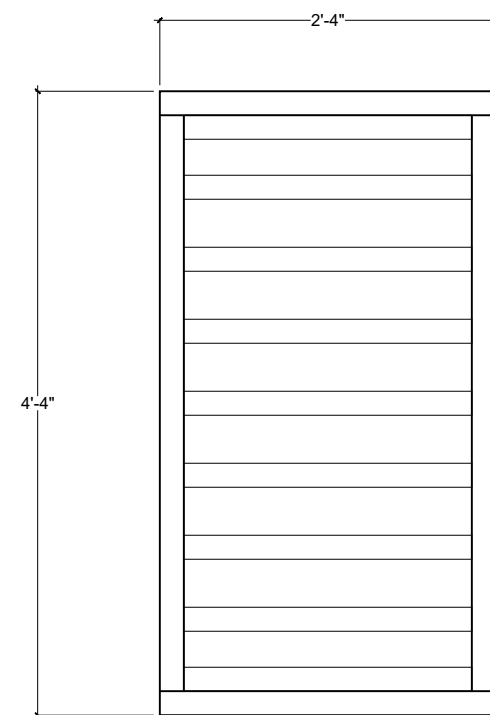


Market Stand

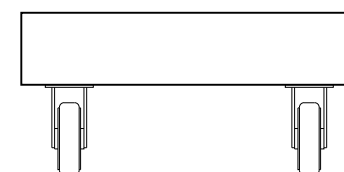
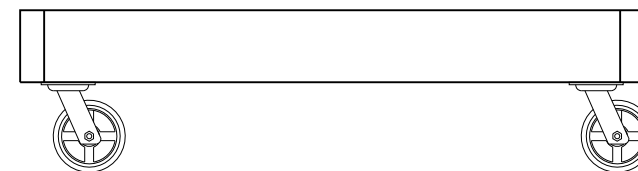




East Elevation

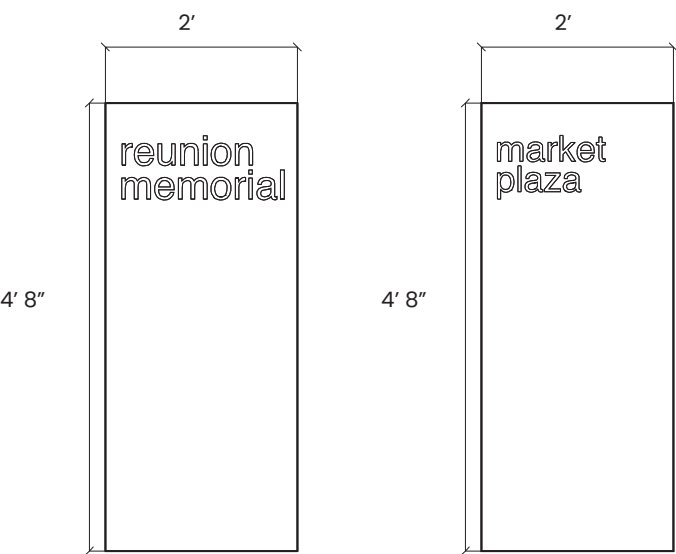


Movable Planter

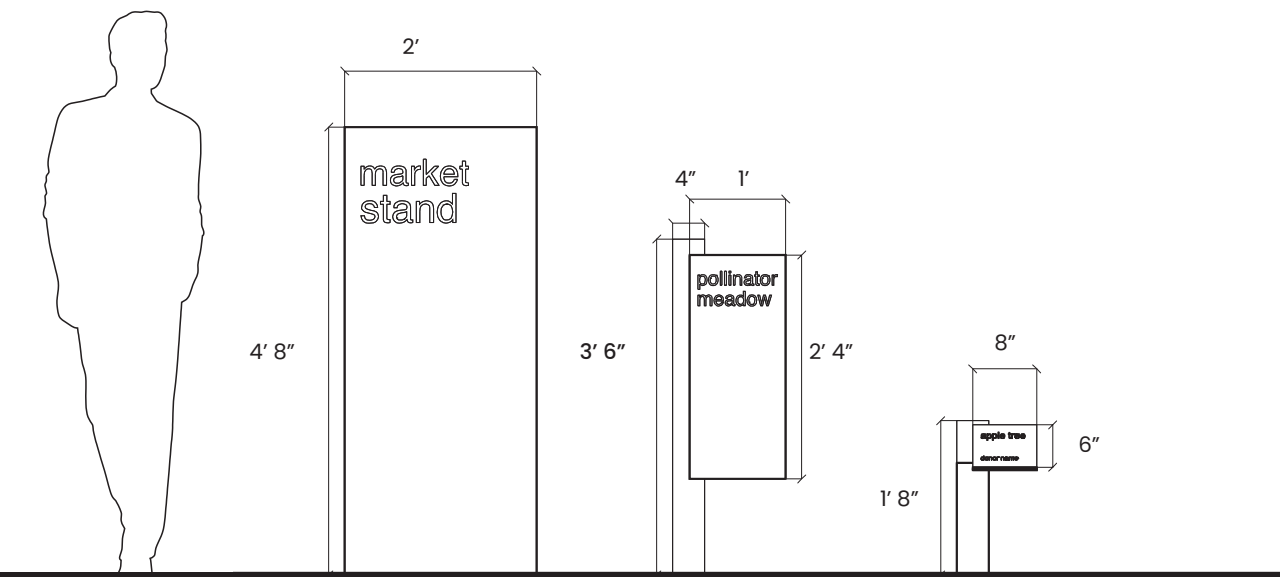
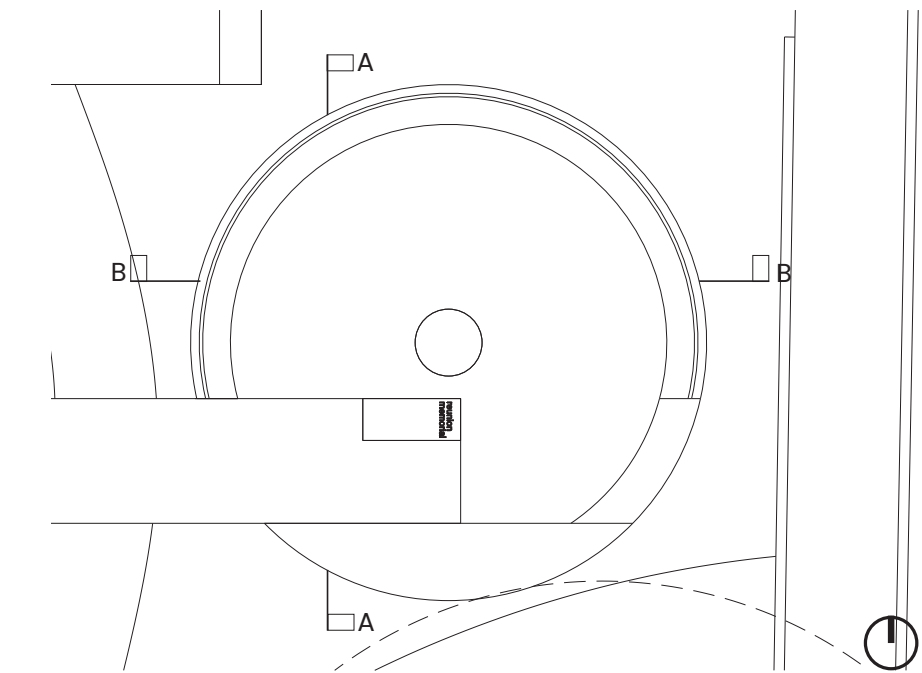




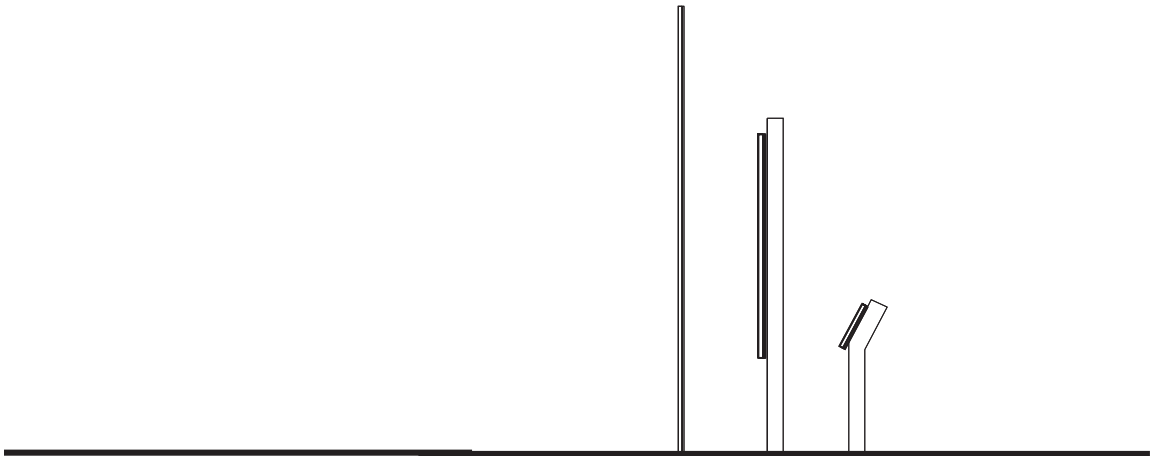
SIGNAGE



PLAN Inground Signage

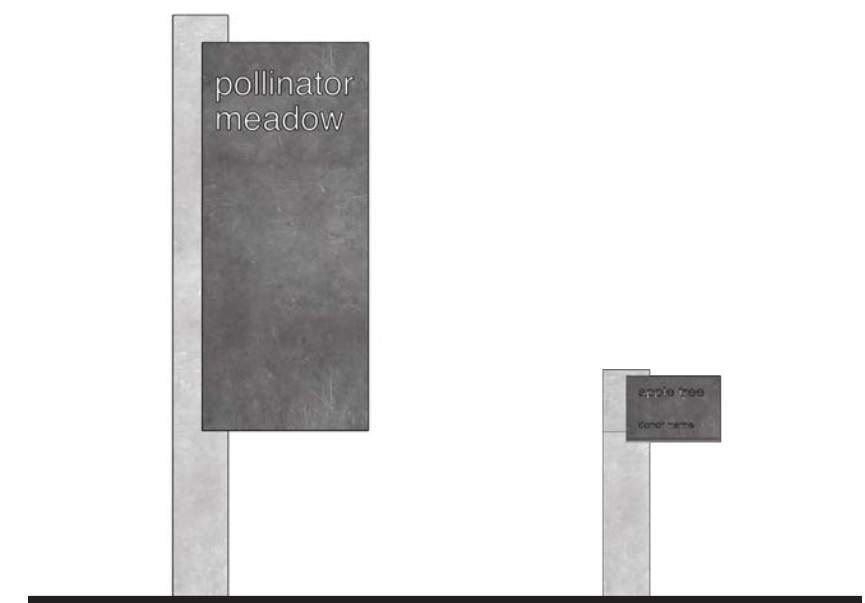
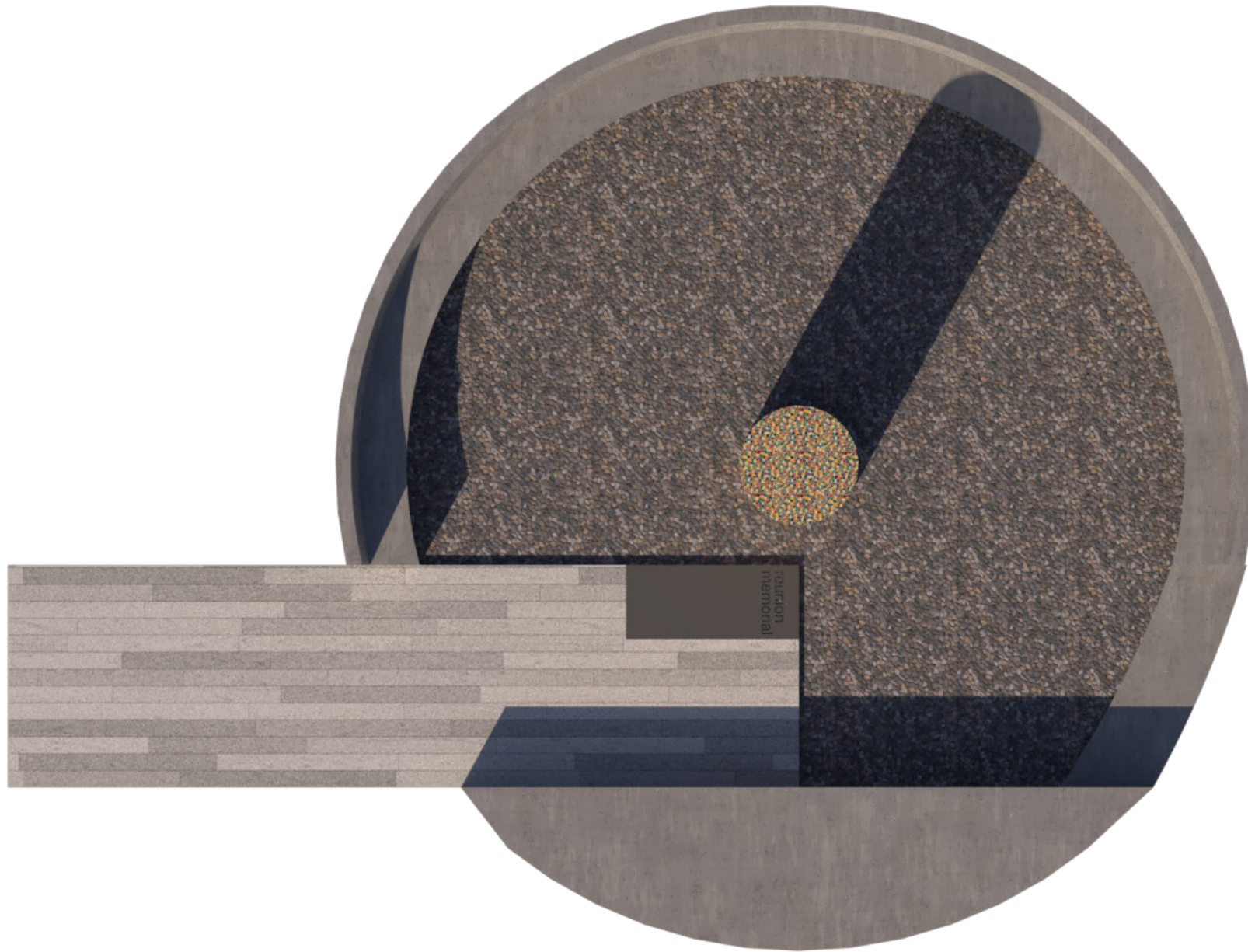


FRONT ELEVATION Additional Signage

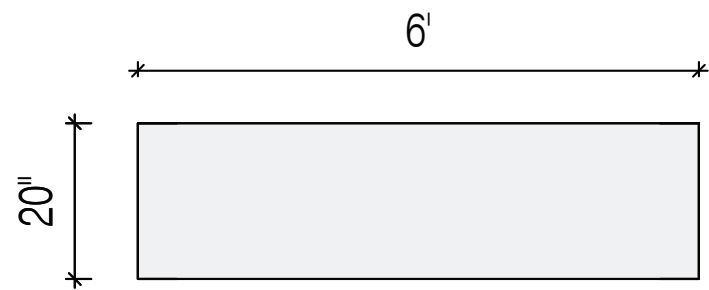


SIDE ELEVATION

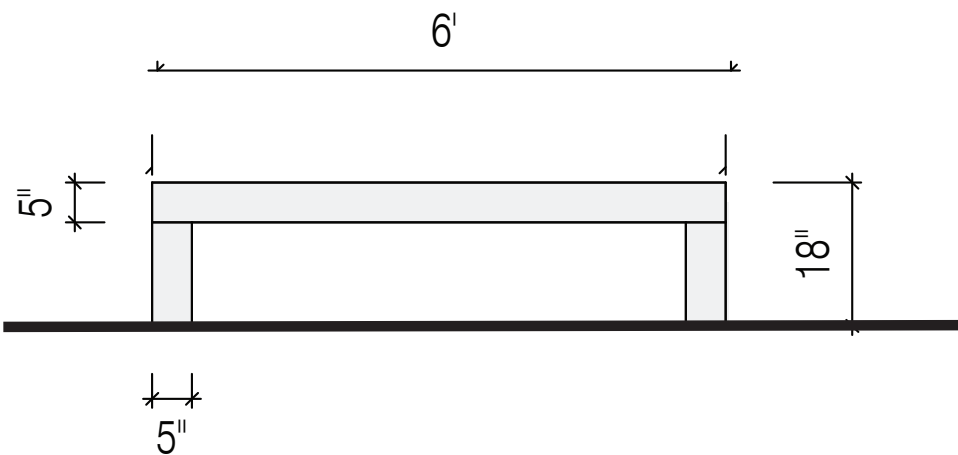
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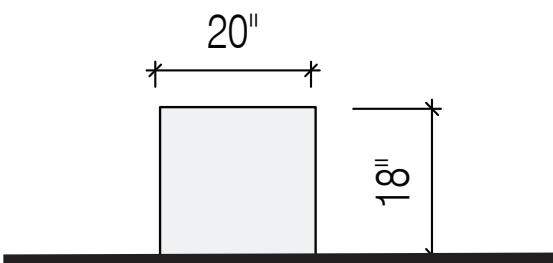
BENCH SEATING



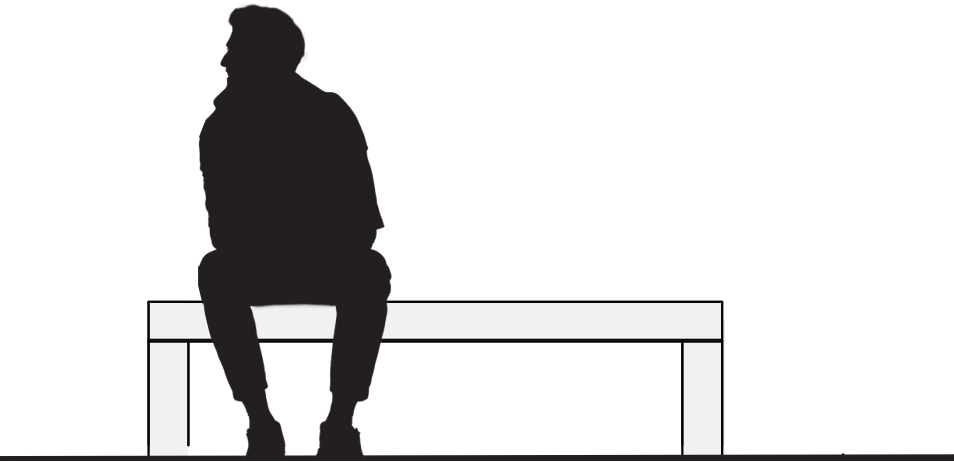
PLAN

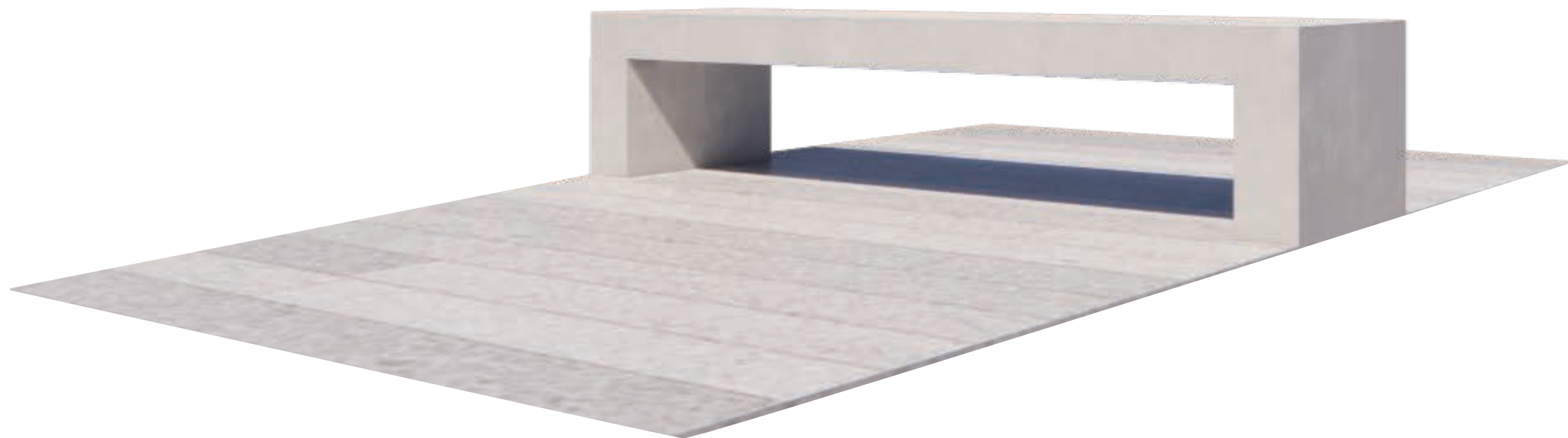


FRONT ELEVATION

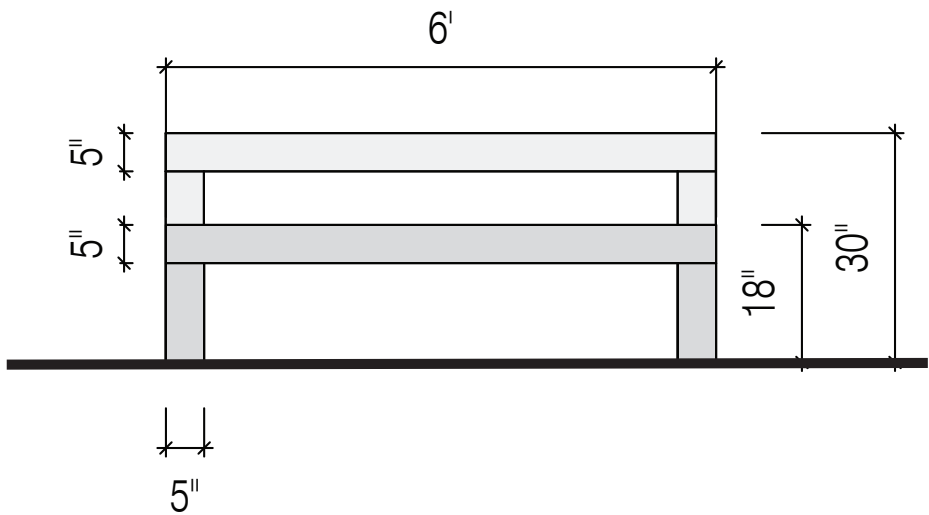


SIDE ELEVATION

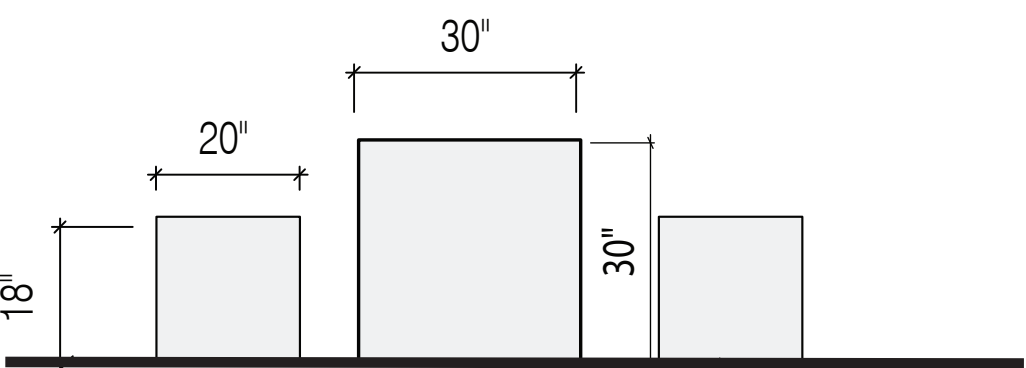




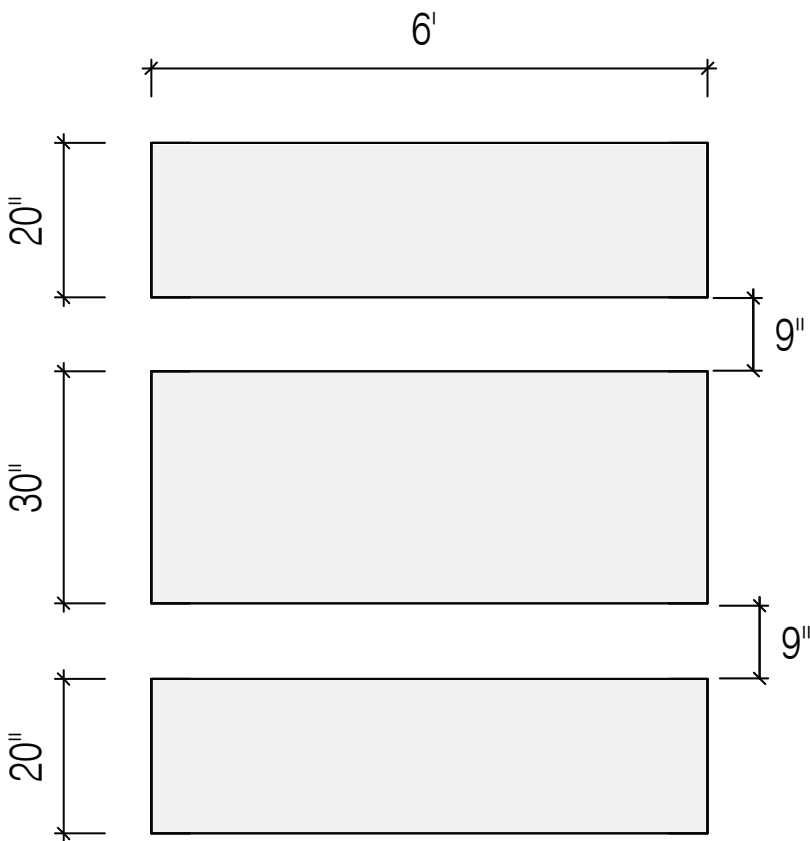
PICNIC TABLE SEATING



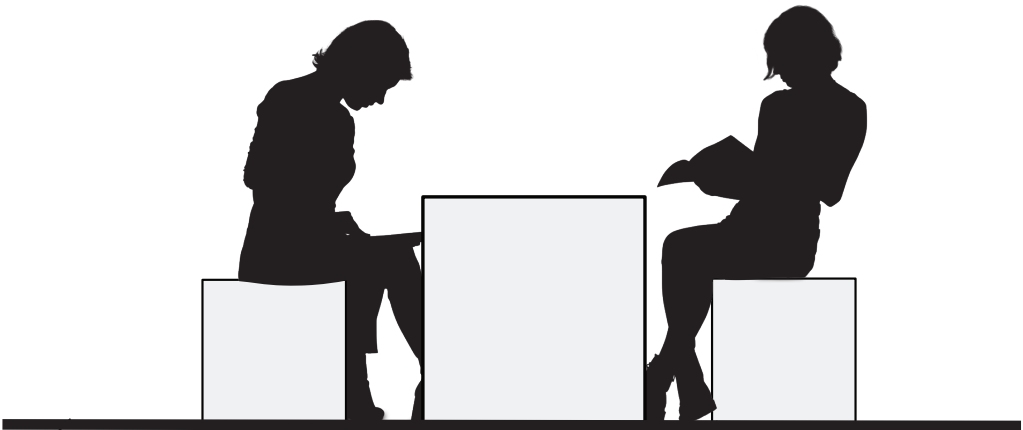
FRONT ELEVATION



SIDE ELEVATION

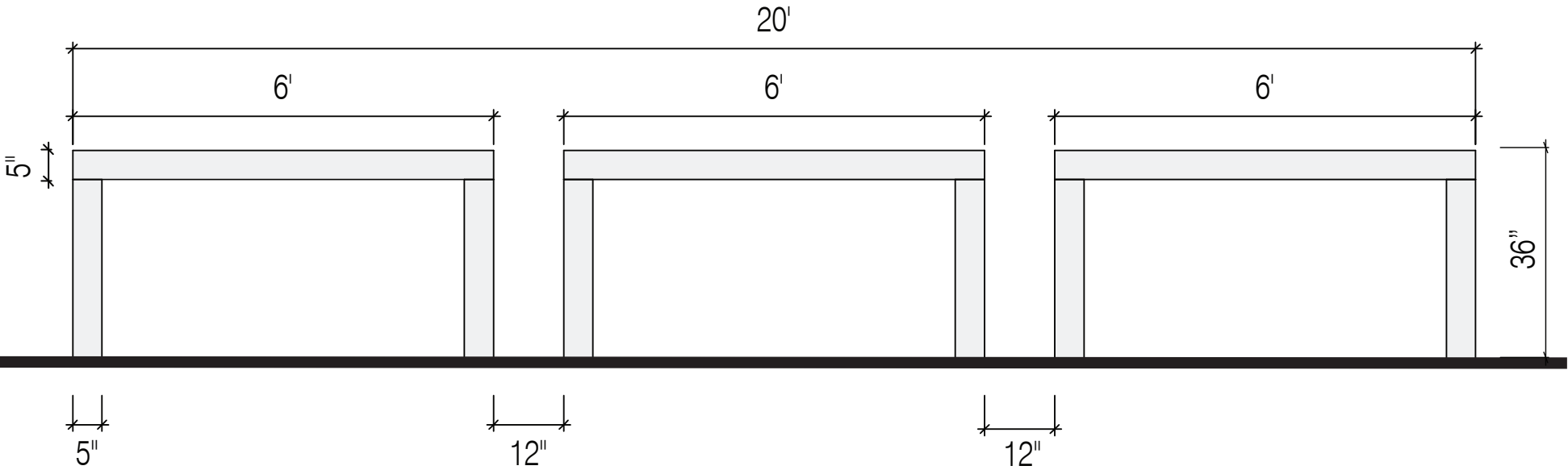


PLAN

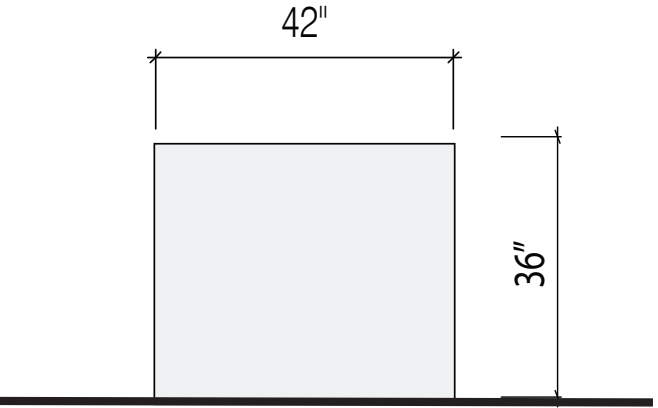




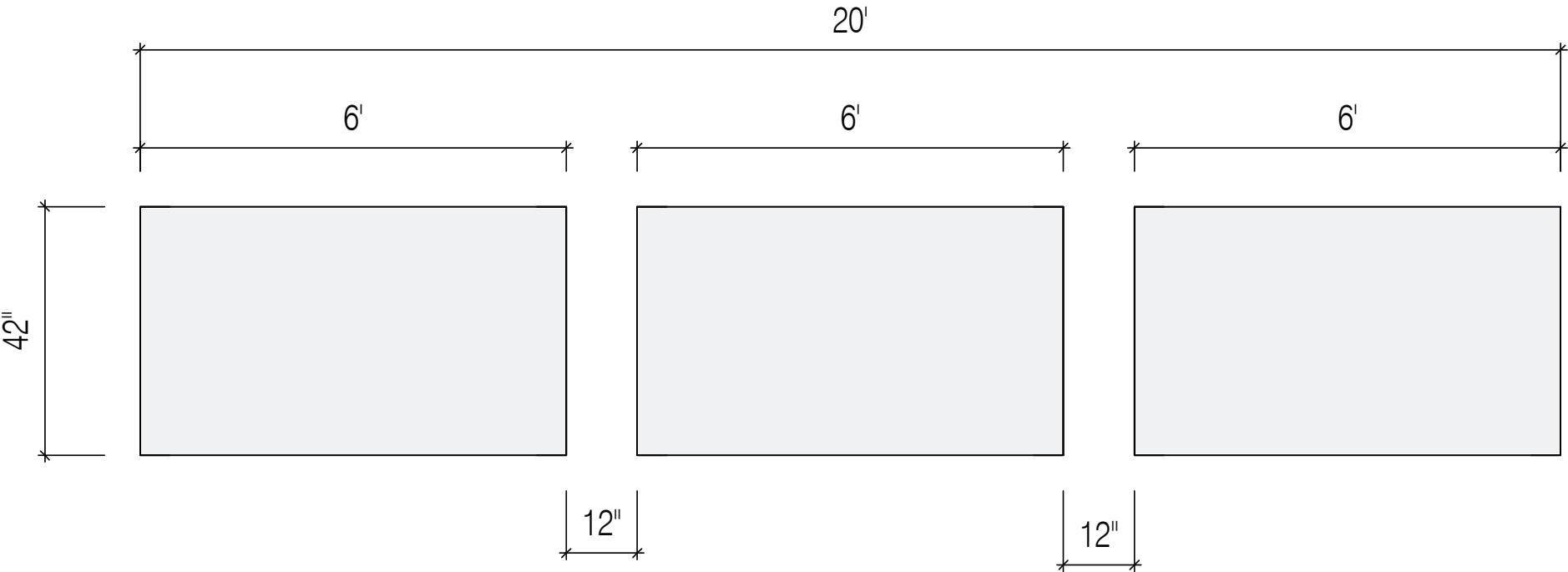
DEMONSTRATION TABLE



FRONT ELEVATION

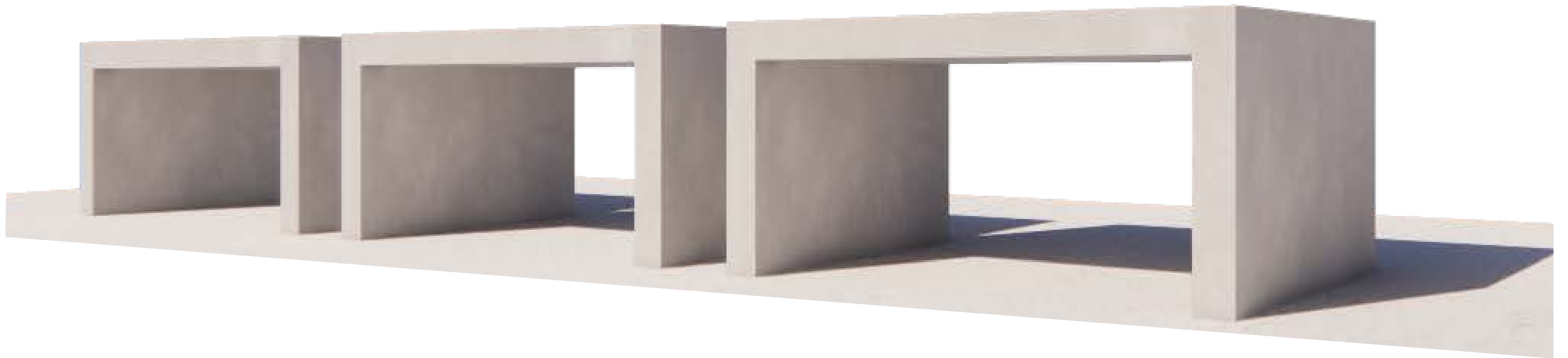


SIDE ELEVATION



PLAN





Thank you!



Department of Architecture