

# **MAPPING THE MARGINS**

DREAMING OF A DESIGN JUSTICE

Julia Chou

ARC 505 Thesis

#### **AFTERLIVES**

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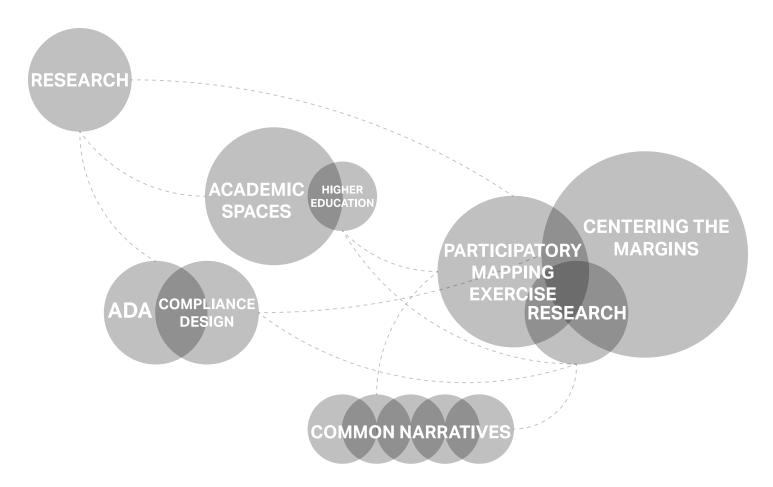
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#### PROBLEM STATEMENT



What role does architecture, design, and representation play in design and disability justice work?

Which groups are deemed the "ideal user" by mapping, drawings, and other representational techniques?

How can we use representational techniques to identify marginalized experiences?

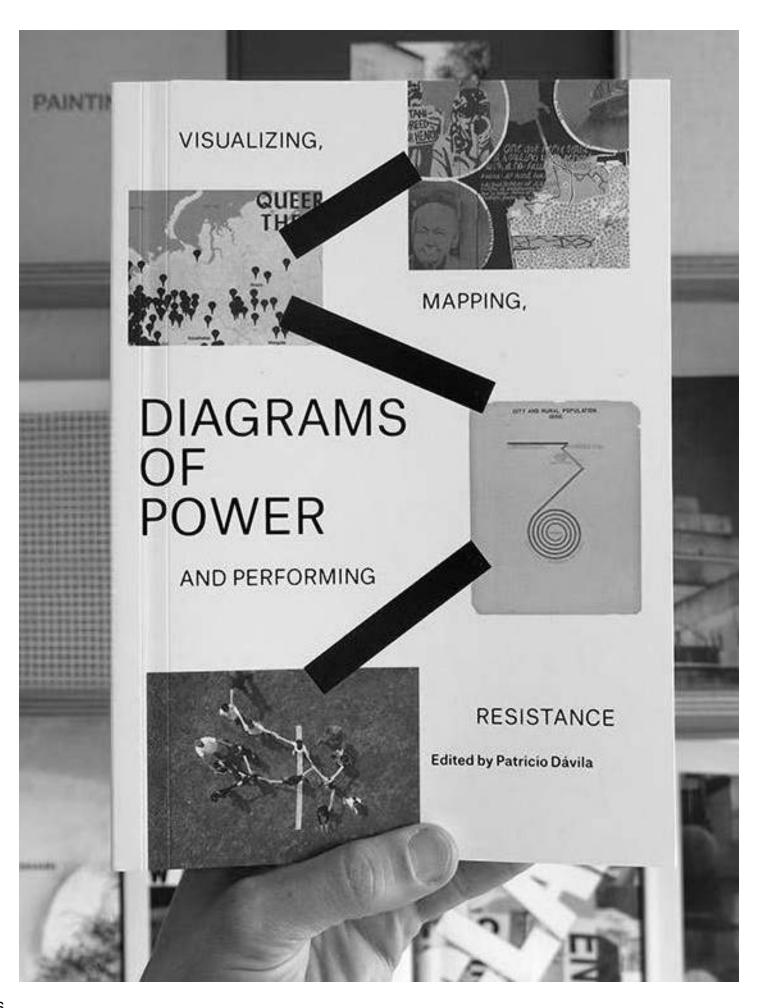
Can architectural praxis be in solidarity with those who are committed to working towards a more just world?

#### **Abstract**

This thesis aims to increase the visibility of designed marginalized experiences by identifying the dominant sequences that are prioritized by the built environment. By comparing and specifying these relationships through drawing and representational methods utilized within and outside the architectural practice, this research aims to identify and center those excluded from belonging in space. From the nature of the line to the poché of the building areas to the marking of accessible bathrooms, there exists a hierarchy of experience based on the user's physical dis/ability.

This project is focused on the architecture of higher education as a critique of the knowledge frameworks and systems of power under which we legitimize production and work. By evaluating academic spaces, we can begin to understand which bodies are privileged to access, generate, and reproduce knowledge.

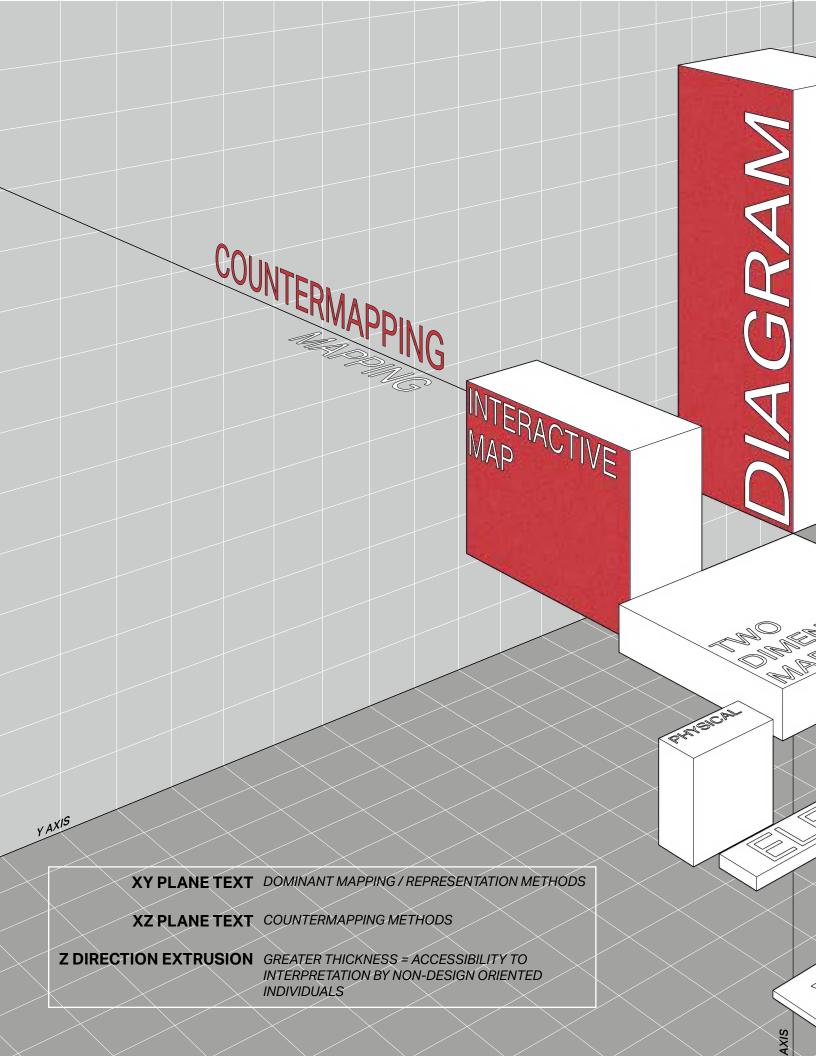
In order to center physically marginalized groups and individuals, we must look beyond common narratives. The primary mode of exploration will be a participatory mapping exercise involving users of the Syracuse University campus to evaluate the barriers of access and designs for access. Collecting and layering perspectives will reveal the potential of what can be noticed by others, and what remains unnoticed by the trained collective.



#### MAPPING METHODOLOGIES

#### Mapping as a Tool

Mapping, a common tool and practice for social justice efforts, is a familiar activity in architecture. Architects utilize mapping as a research methodology when given a new site or project. Looking into our own community in Syracuse, Professor Kishi Animashaun Ducre writes in her book, A Place We Call Home: Gender, Race, and Justice in Syracuse, "Mapping produces a specific knowledge and reveals unexamined assumptions held by those in power. Mapping has been used to legitimize and deploy that power. Critical cartographers call attention to the power, knowledge, and assumptions embedded within those maps. They understand that those physical maps have been shaped by historical, political, and economic forces." (Dure 27) Ducre writes about a project with Black mothers living in the South Side of Syracuse, highlighting the persistence, resilience, and ability to resettle and make homes through the various Cycles of disruption in Syracuse. For most, mapping is used as a tool. However for many, mapping is a tool for resistance.



# PHOTOGRAPH PERFORMANCE ANALOG DRAWING XAXIS

#### MAPPING PRECEDENTS





### **Mapping Inequality**

# Midland Avenue Regional Treatment Facility

#### Syracuse, NY

Starting in the 1930s, city planners drew map boundaries citing racist fears of "infiltration" by residents of color. Neighborhoods with large Black populations were marked in red—"redlined"— and determined undesirable. This map had great influence on future infrastructure planning, housing markets, and neighborhood growth and decline.

#### Syracuse, NY

In 2006, 45 families living in public housing by the new location of the treatment facility were forced to relocate after the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) refused to address complaints of the location. After the fact, the environmental impacts of the waste facility were detrimental to the community.



# Redlining Reparations

#### Evanston, IL

Evanston, IL is working to provide eligible Black residents who experienced "discriminatory housing policies and practices and inaction on the city's part" reparations for discrimination policies between 1919 and 1969. The city is using the first \$10 million in revenue from the city's tax on the sale of marijuana to do so.



Community
Mapping Exercise

#### Calamba City, Philippines

Andre Ortega writes on a community mapping exercise which provided a way to understand and translate onto maps the important spaces and practices which affect the lives of city dwellers. The tools utilized show planners, technocrats, and government officials the everyday spaces and activities that are often rendered invisible or are routinely ignored.



Politicizing the Female Body

#### United States of America

Lori Brown researches and maps abortion clinics, women's shelters and hospitals and reports through visual maps on the number of resources (or lack thereof) offered in each space.







**Mapping Access** 



**Mapping Access II** 

#### International

Released in 2016, this interactive game places digital critters in physical locations that had impacts on various real-world locations. Users experience a confluence of algorithmic determinations and walkability along with shifting local economies. Community issues include: trespassing, forced zoning laws, and raised questions about regulating digital spaces.

#### Nashville, TN

Aimi Hamraie led the Critical Design Lab to develop the Mapping Access guide. They write, "mapping together becomes an opportunity to revise our understandings of the most mundane aspects of built environments, to develop intersectional analyses of environmental exclusions, and to tell new stories about the places where we live and work."

#### Additional US Campuses

Hamraie's guide to Mapping Access spread to other universities such as Arizona State and Ohio State where similar iterations of the project were conducted to create pamphlets and spread awareness.



**PISSAR Checklist** 



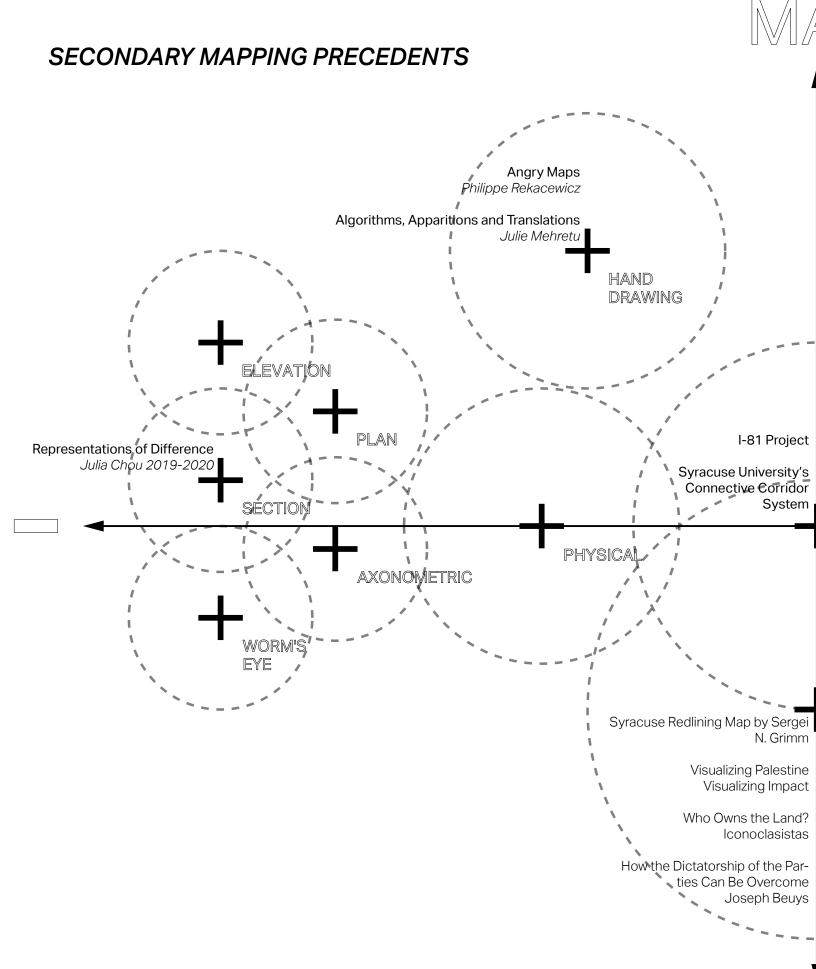
Situationists International

#### Santa Barbara, CA

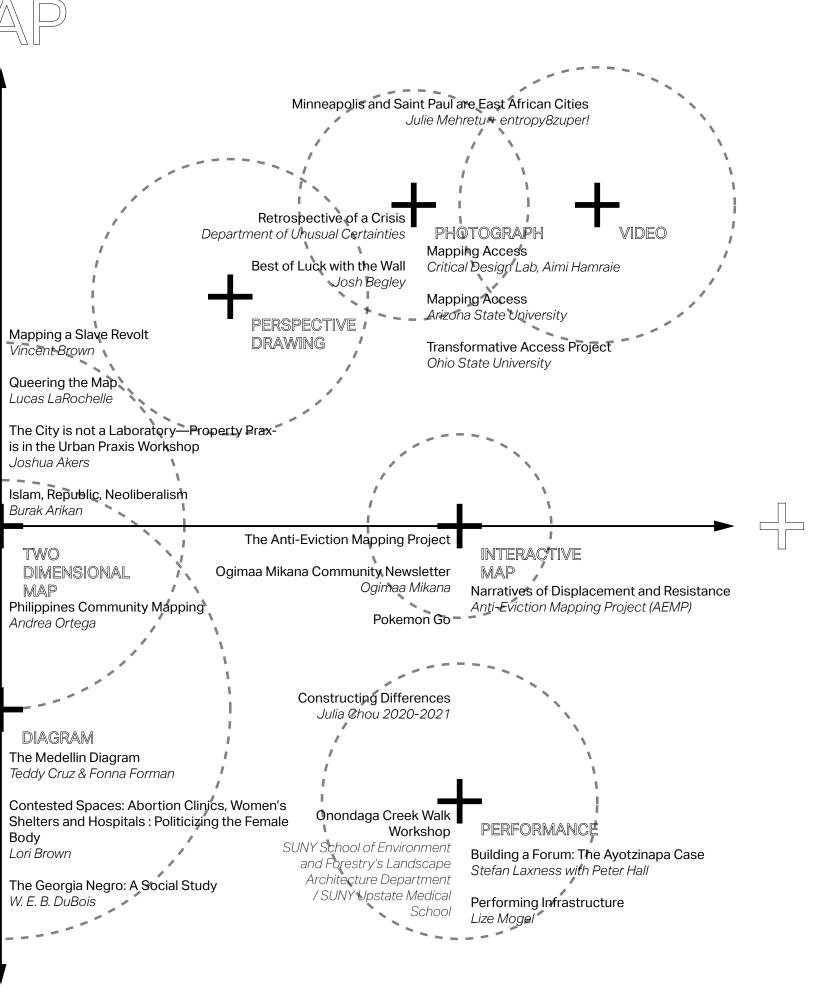
People in Search of Safe and Accessible Restrooms (PISSAR) is a coalition of UC-Santa Barbara undergrads, graduate students, staff, and community members who recognize that bathrooms are not always accessible for people with disabilities. Started in 2003, this group addresses issues of accessibility, period resources, and childcare in bathrooms.

#### Europe

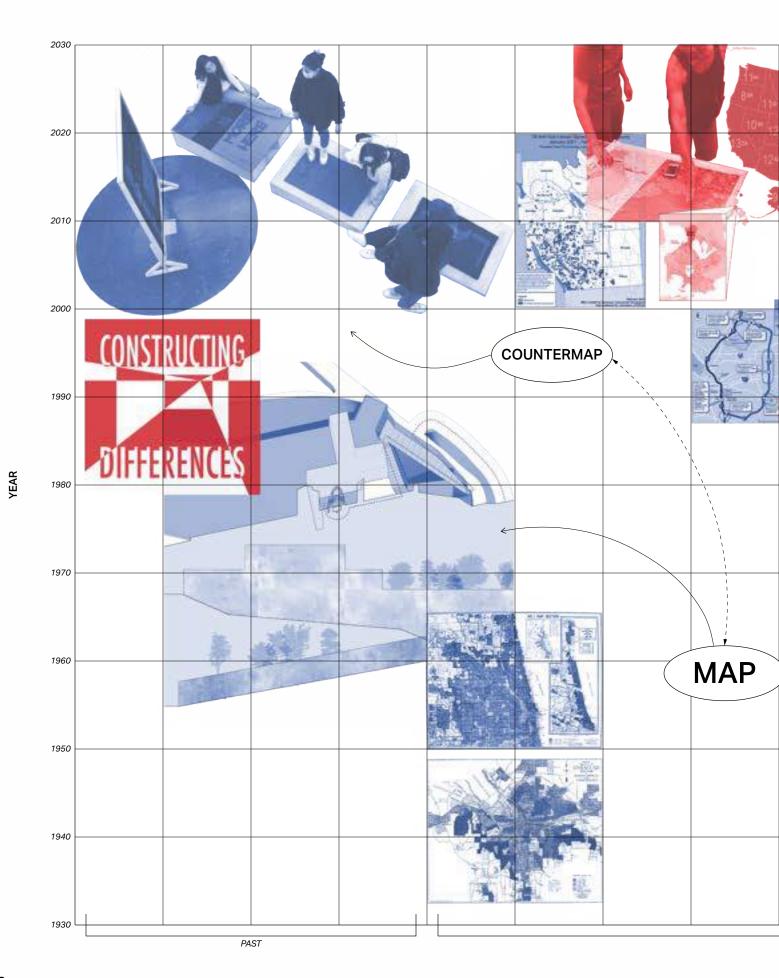
Group of artists and social scientists who desired to both understand and change urban spaces through playful practice. Derive was used as a technique of rapid passage through varied ambiances that involve playful-constructive behavior and awareness of psychogeographical effects. Detournement was a deliberate reuse of elements such as images or text.



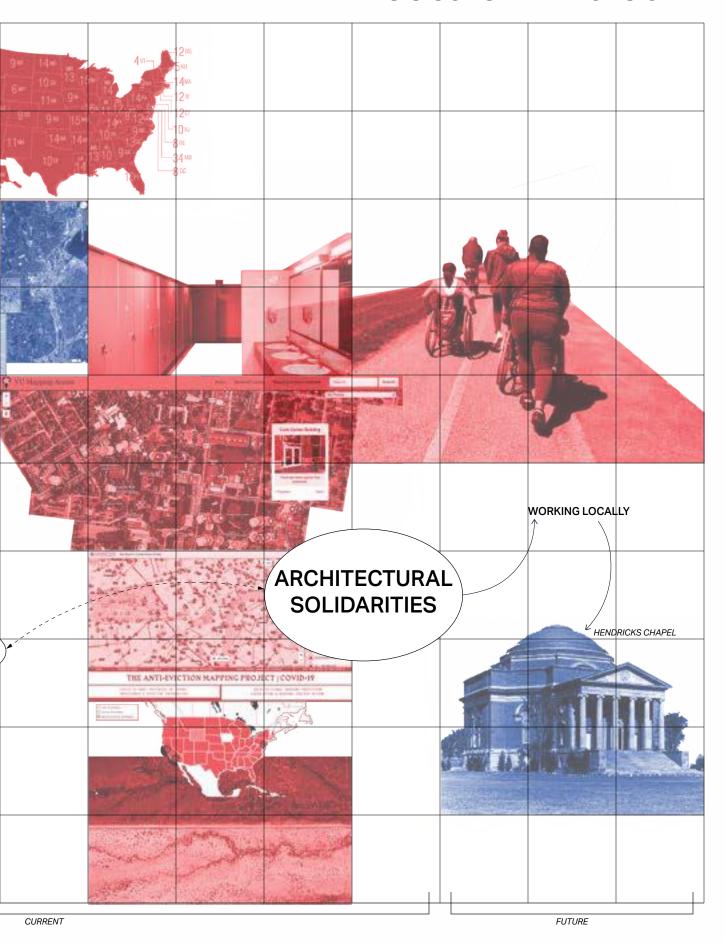




FRMAP



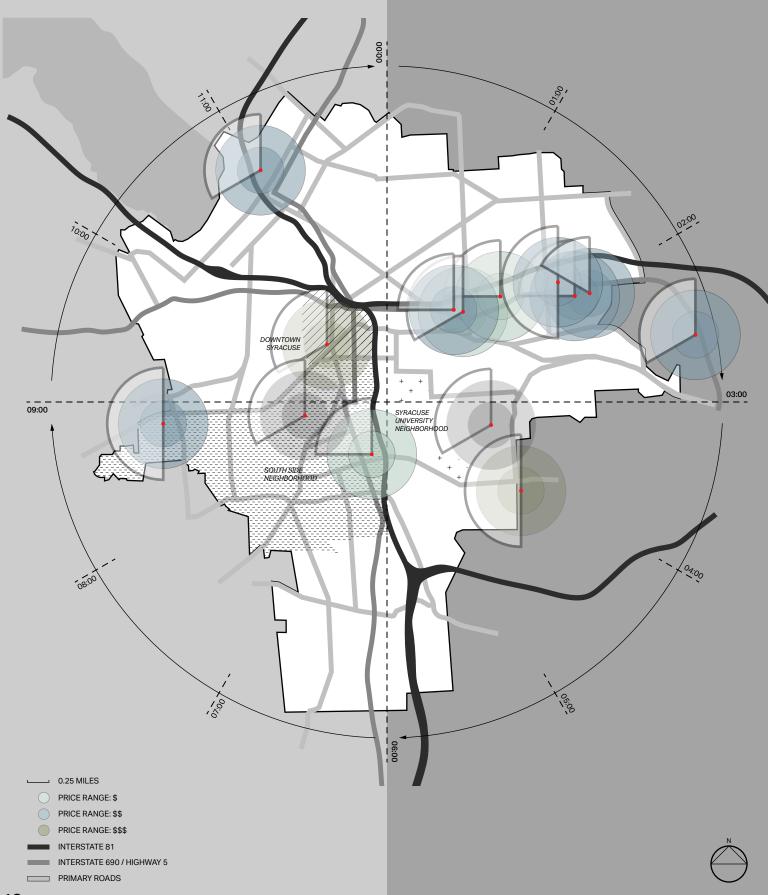
#### THESIS CONSIDERATIONS OVER TIME



RATIONS 17

# SYRACUSE GROCERY ACCESS

00:00 - 12:00



# SYRACUSE GROCERY ACCESS 12:00 - 24:00



## **MAPPING PRACTICE: HOURLY GROCERY ACCESS**



#### Wegmans

4722 Onondaga Blvd, Syracuse, NY 13219



**Buda Meat & Produce** 200 Park St., Syracuse, NY 13208



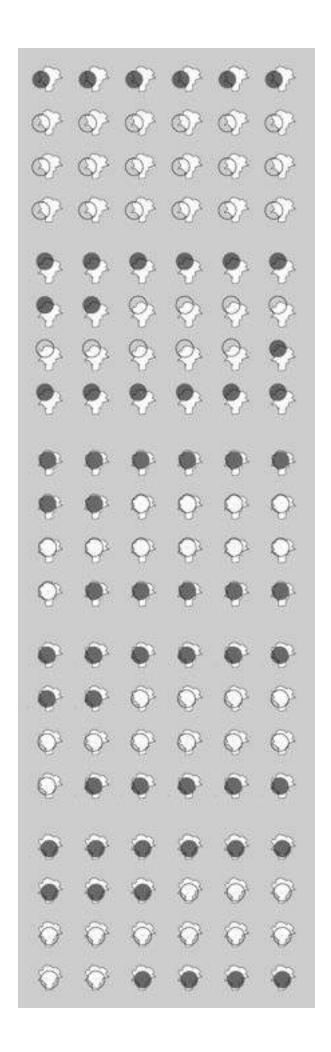
#### **Syracuse Cooperative Market** 484 S Salina St., Syracuse, NY 13202



# PriceRite Supermarkets 611 South Ave., Syracuse, NY 13207

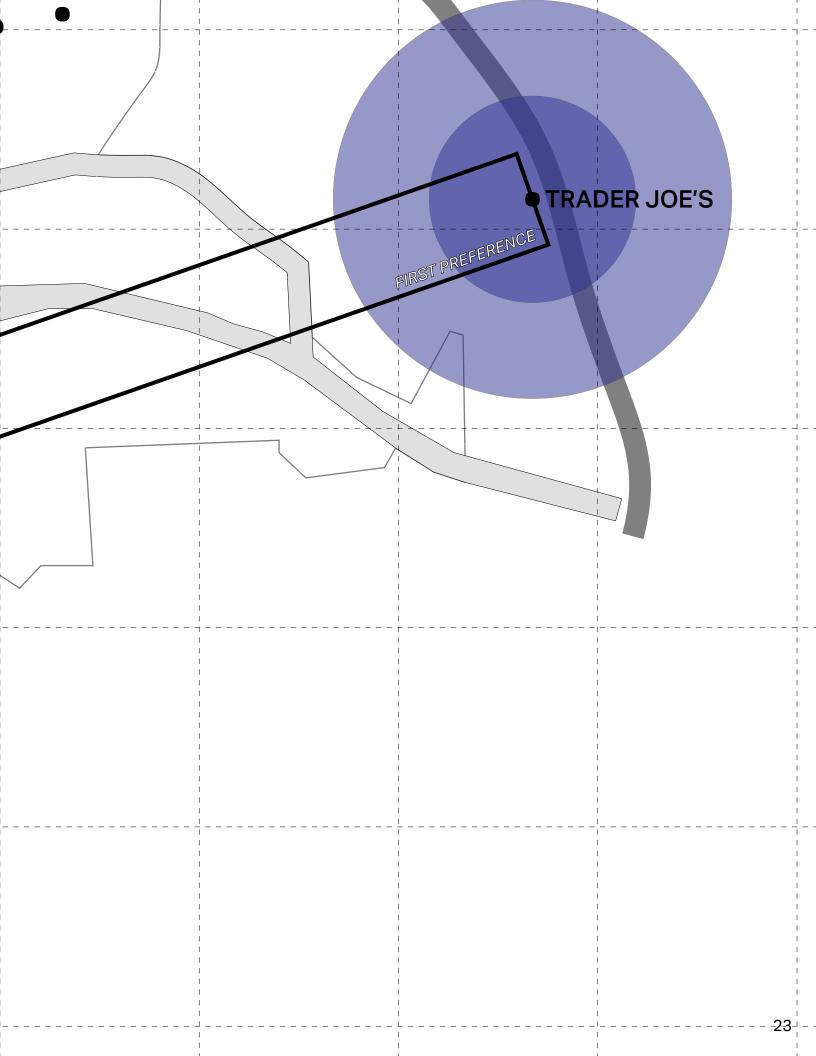


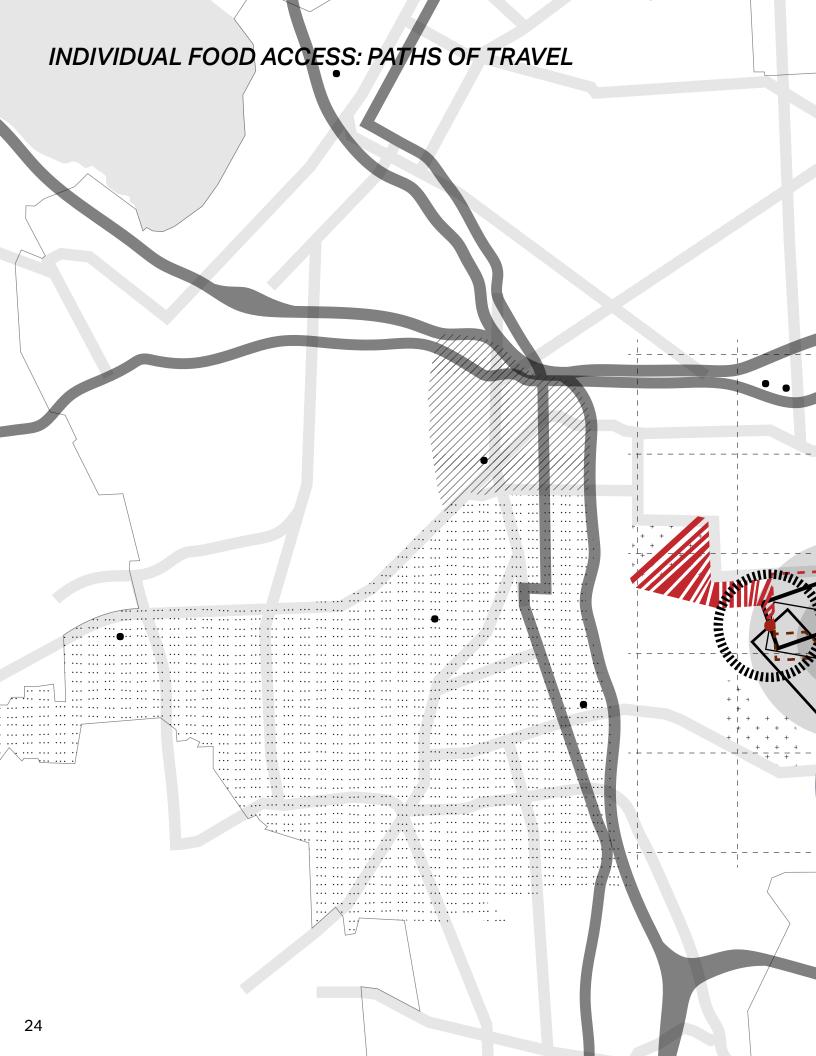
#### Middle East Deli & Market 1919 S State St #1324, Syracuse, NY 13205

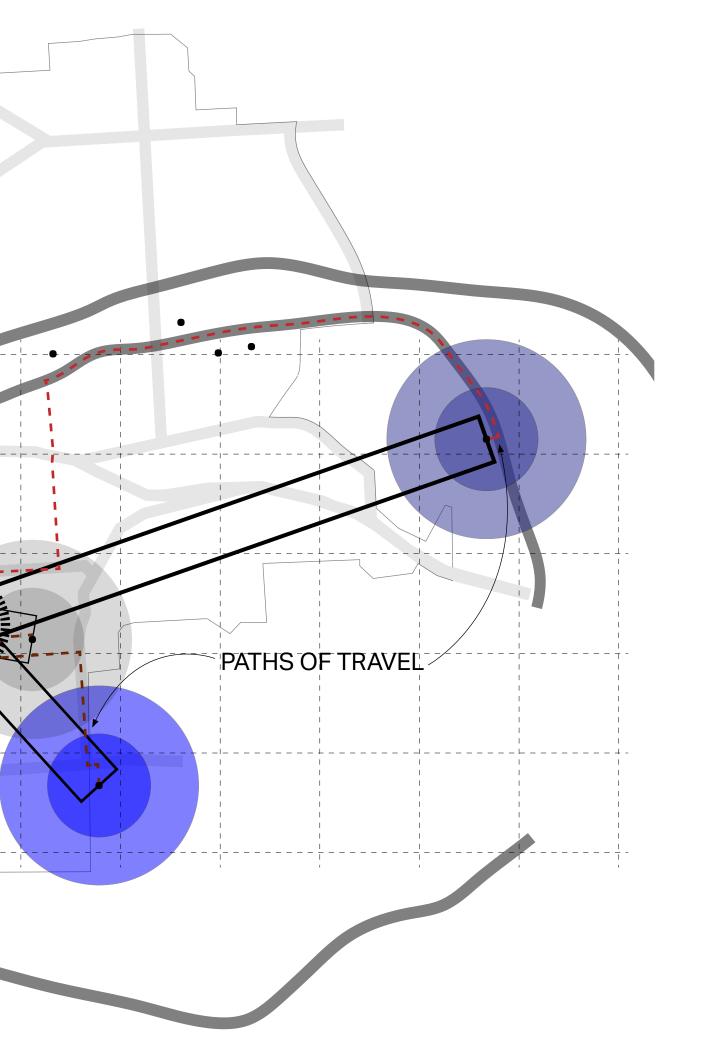


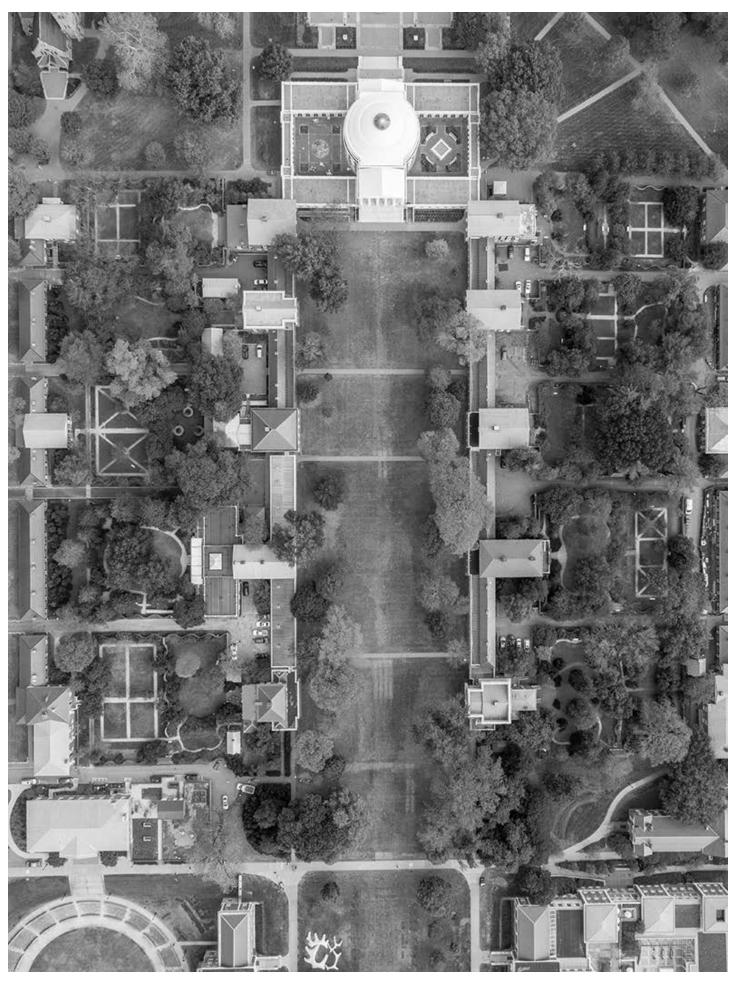
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# MAPPING PRACTICE: INDIVIDUAL FOOD ACCESS DOMINANT CIRCULATION SYNACTUSE COOPERATIVE MARKET









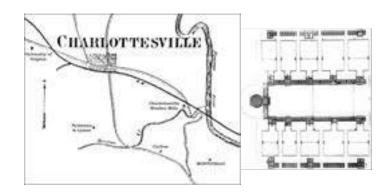
#### THE ARCHITECTURE OF KNOWLEDGE

# Who has the power to plan higher education?

The design of knowledge-making spaces has the power to keep certain bodies out of the institution, determining which bodies have the easiest access to education, knowledge production, and control over knowledge redistribution.

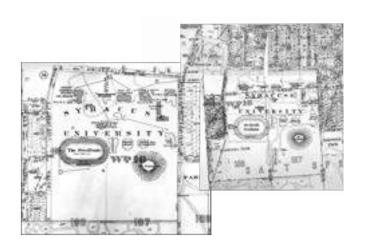
"The Academical Village." University of Virginia

#### SITES OF INTEREST



# University of Virginia

Tracing the roots of American university planning, Thomas Jefferson's designs at the University of Virginia invisibilized spaces and routes for enslaved laborers in the graphic representation of architecture and the built environment. Institutional architecture and planning has and continues to exclude and invisibilize bodies that do not fit within the dominant framework.





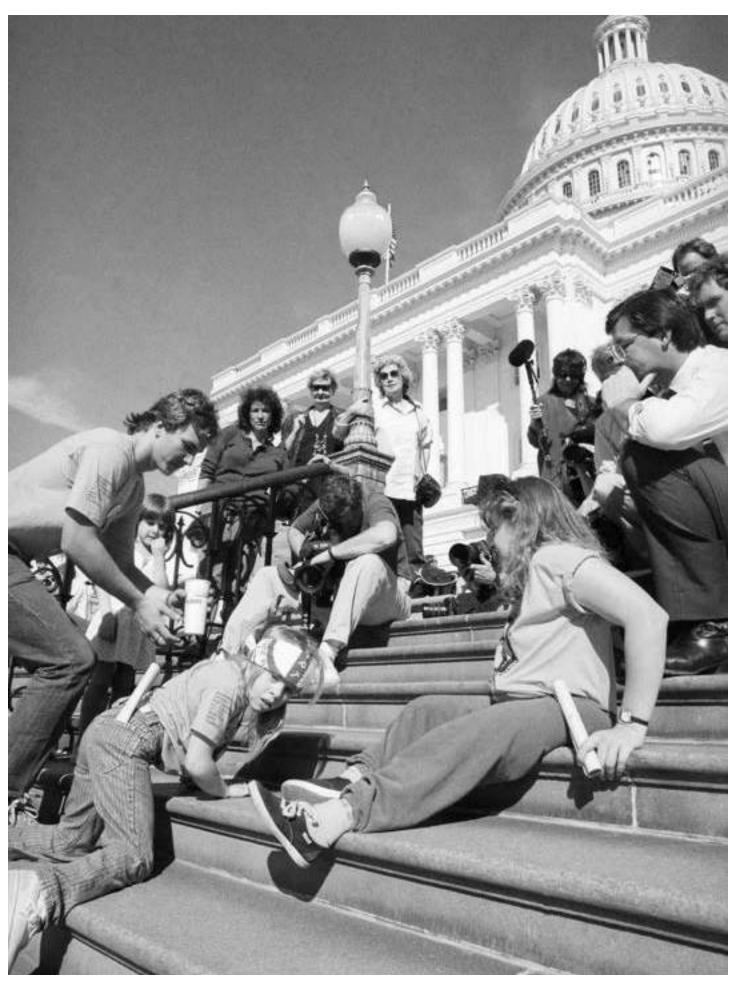
#### Syracuse University

The 1906 Master Plan was developed by School of Architecture professors Frederick Revels and Earl Hallenbeck. The two focused on the Old Oval, a field for ceremonial green space. This planning effort formalized the main quadrangle—a new feature for the campus.

The University engaged New York City architects John Russell Pope and Dwight James Baum to enforce the strong classicism and axial organization of the campus. They created the

#### **Hendricks Chapel**

At the heart of the Syracuse University campus lies Hendricks Chapel, open to members of the community regardless of religion, race, gender, or other social categories of identification. The neoclassical architecture of the chapel, however, creates numerous barriers for individuals with mobility disabilities to enter through dominant spatial sequences. Rather than entering through the ceremonial staircase at the front of the building, people are forced to access the interior through hidden side doors. This division of sequence contributes to the stigma of disability, as groups are then excluded from designed architectural experience denoting education, enlightenment, and power.



#### ADDRESSING ACCESS

#### **Architectural Solidarities**

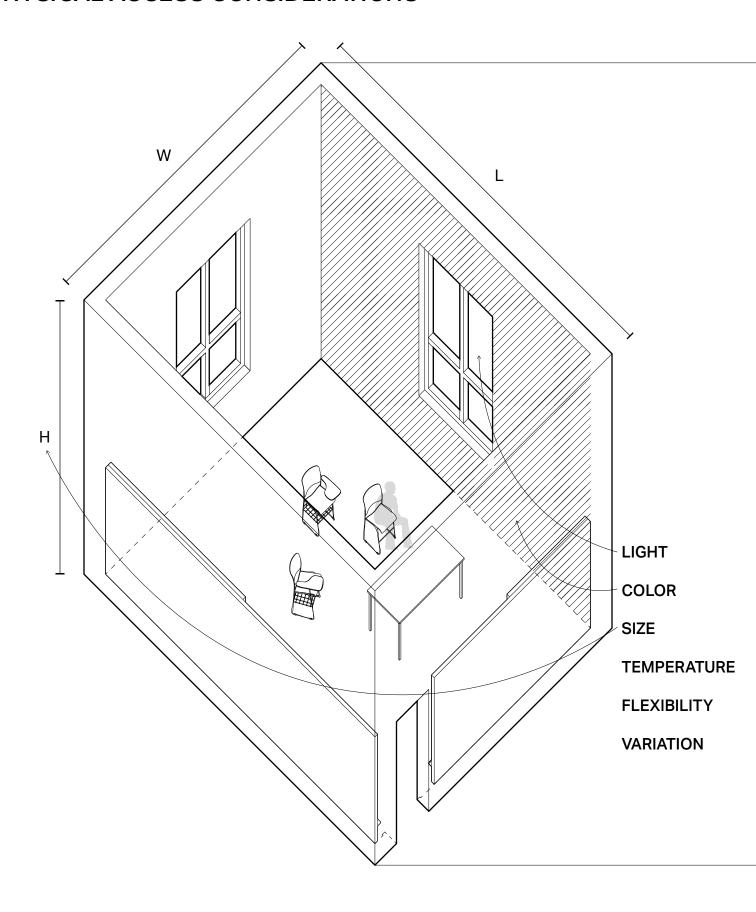
In many ways, mapping and diagramming are forms of storytelling. Intentionally and strategically moving away from traditional western methods of drawing, we can begin to work through layered ideas, bringing together diverse and diverging identities.

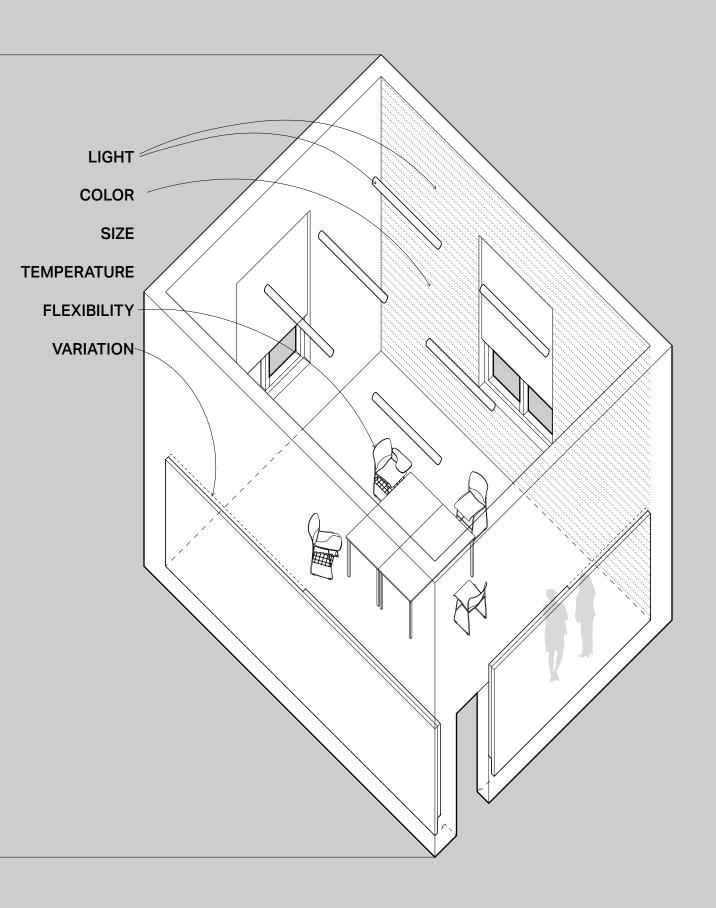
The exploration of physical access in the built environment extends beyond disability, bleeding into categories of race, gender, class, caste, and more. When designers operate beyond compliance knowledge, we can begin to identify barriers that were not seen before. By materializing disability needs, we can work to develop self-sustaining and attainable methods for designing inclusive spaces.

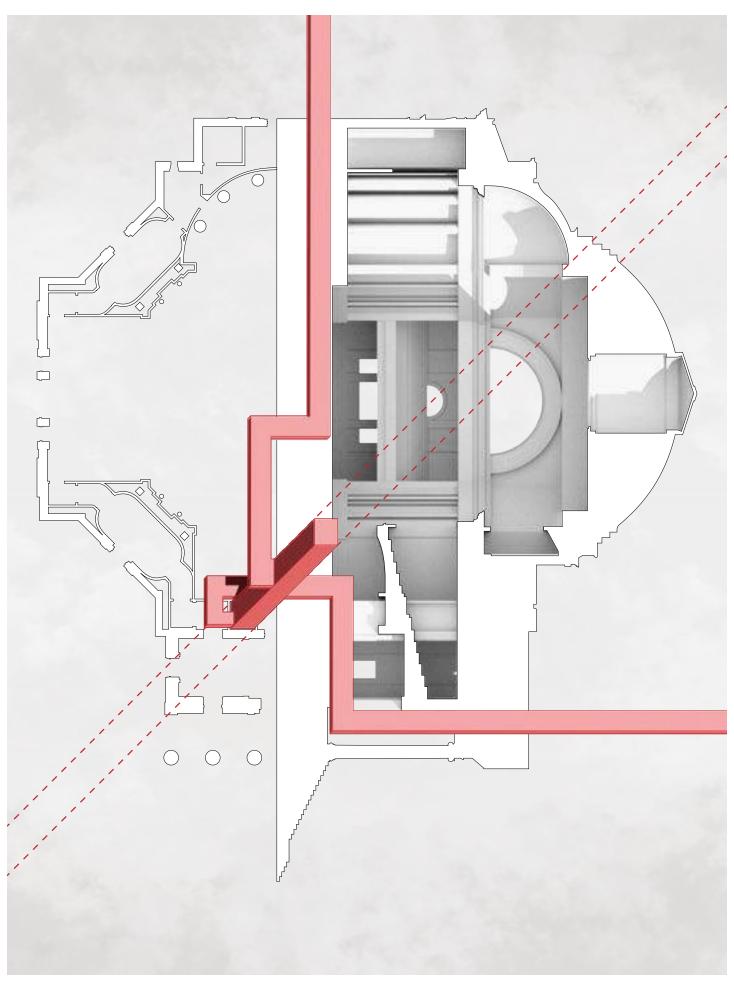
Concluding my undergraduate research at Syracuse University, this project is an accumulation of my disability and spatial justice-focused research. My thesis will be action-oriented and focused on immediate applications and integrations of research in the community. The proposed project will serve as a replicable model and resource for future accessibility and design justice initiatives on the Syracuse campus and universities nationally through design interventions.

Kaufman, Stephen. 8-Year-Old Jennifer Keelan Leads Physically Disabled Protesters on the March 12, 1990, "Capitol Crawl." (© AP Images). 1990. Share America. https://share.america. gov/crawling-up-steps-demand-their-rights/.

# PHYSICAL ACCESS CONSIDERATIONS







#### THE PRACTICE OF MAPPING

#### **Working Locally**

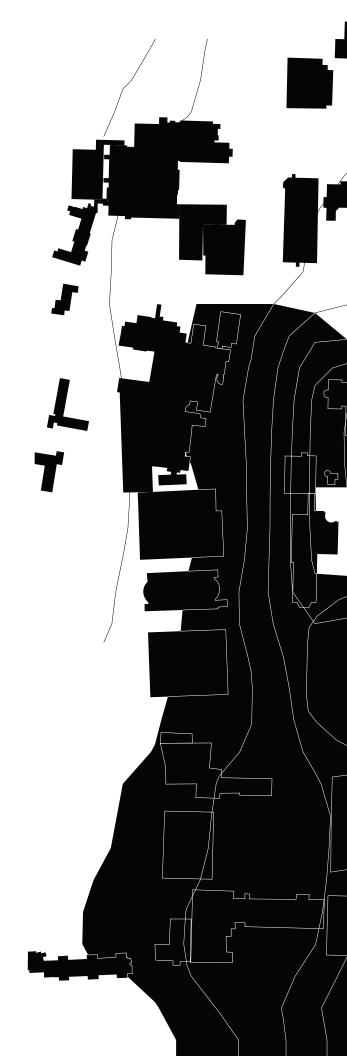
The thesis interest in mapping stems from my desire to understand the way different people perceive space. The dominant & traditional two-dimensional map was contextualized as a starting point—a visual mode of representation created to be read by most people (road maps, google maps, globes, etc.)

Within the context of the built environment, architects design, plan, and perceive space through more specialized "mappings" or modes of representation. Architects enact plans, sections, axonometric, and other modes of drawing to convey design strategies, structural integrity, building materials, and spatial sequence. These drawings demonstrate the intent to develop a graphic toolkit of dominant representational methods. Moving along the spectrum from what is "architecturally" legible, requiring an education or previous understanding of architecture, to what is "publicly" legible, accessible to those without insider knowledge. By layering, altering, and or avoiding these representational methods, the toolkit acts as a guide or means of comparison for the mapping project to be conducted on the Syracuse campus.

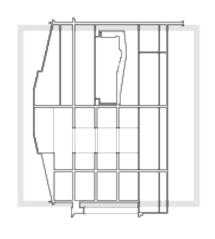
#### REDEFINING THE "PUBLIC"

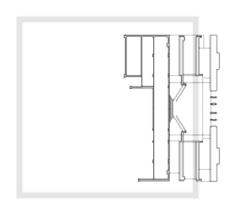
The Nolli Map is a two-dimensional plan drawing used to understand and document the flow of space within the city through notions of the public. The first Nolli map was created by Italian architect Giovanni Battista Nolli to divide the city for future public works. Nolli maps represent the public spaces inside and outside of the buildings, understanding them as urban realms.

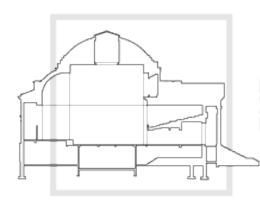
This Nolli drawing of the Syracuse University campus challenges the notion of "public space" through a disability lens, as many public spaces are physically inaccessible to many users. Steep hills, large staircases, and unpaved roads are potential determinants to users of the public. This map asks the question—who has access to the public?

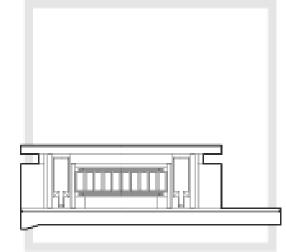


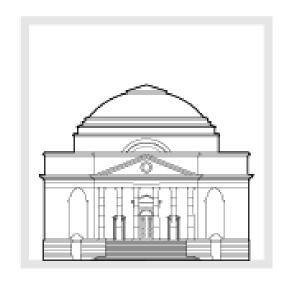






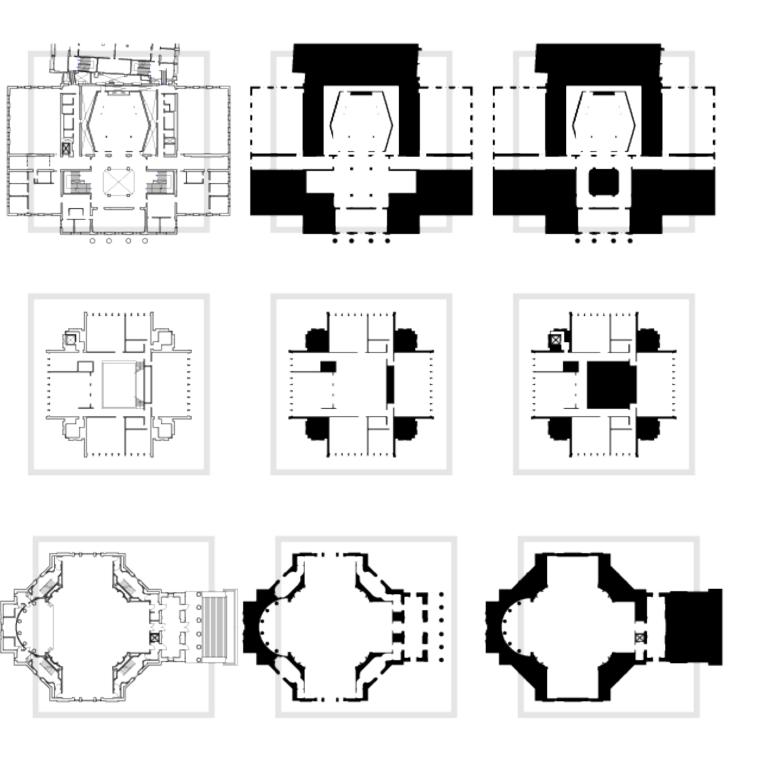




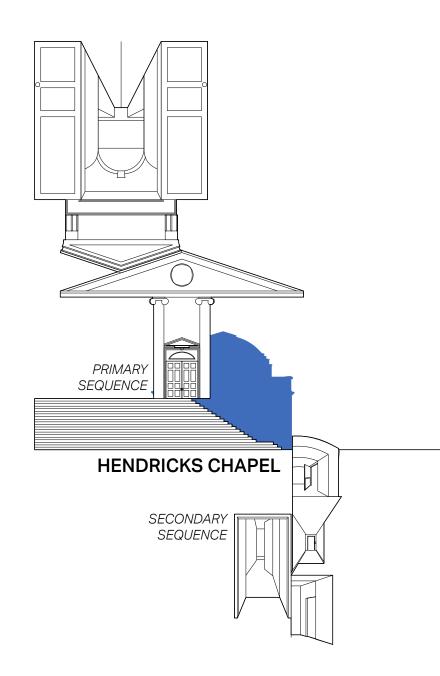


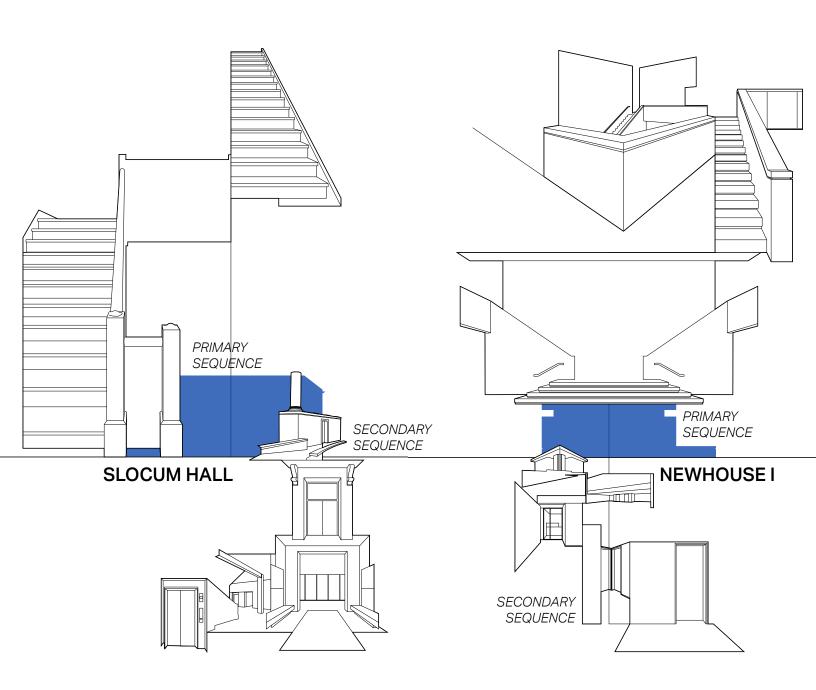
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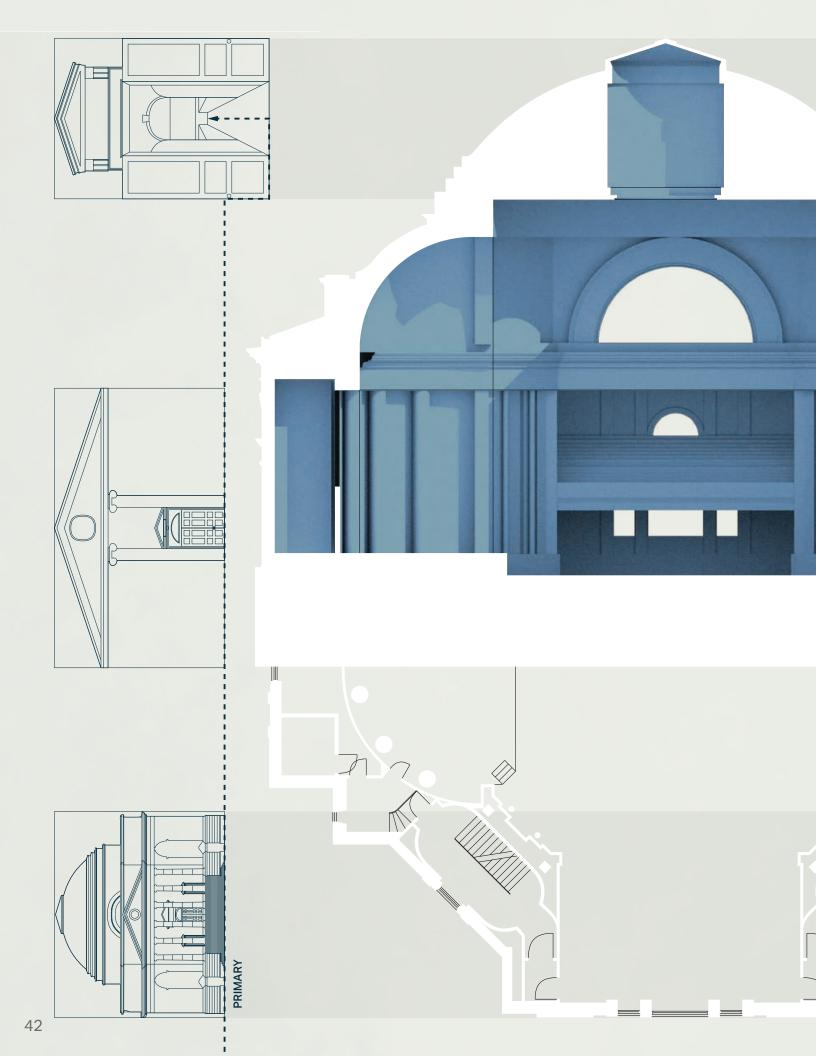
HENDRICKS CHAPEL

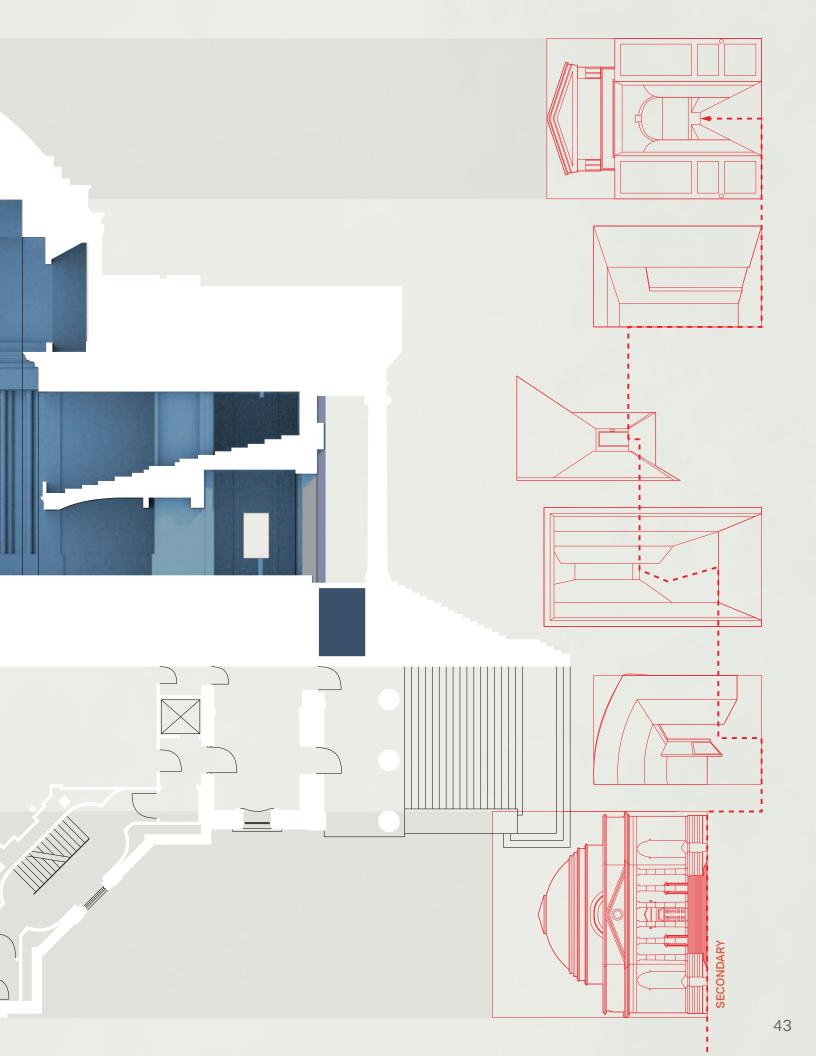


## ACCESSIBLE SEQUENCES









@representationsofdifference

# ENACTING & MAPPING ACCESSIBILITIES AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Does the design of the campus make going to class difficult?

Are you interested in identifying the access barriers you face?

My name is Julia Chou and I am a fifth-year undergraduate student at Syracuse University. I looking for participants for a research study to learn about the physical accessibility of the Syracuse University campus.

This in-person mapping exercise will take place on **Saturday, February 19th**from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. You will be asked to participate in a mapping project that
includes a survey, analogue mapping, and brief dialogue. All materials needed for the
research will be provided. These activities will take approximately 2 hours of your
time. In appreciation of your full participation, you will be compensated \$45 using
cash or Venmo.

Please email Julia Chou at jychou@syr.edu by Monday, February 14th if you are interested in participating.

If you have any questions, concerns or complaints about the research please contact David Shanks at <u>drshanks@syr.edu</u>. If you have any questions or concerns about your rights as a research participant, you may contact the Syracuse University Institutional Review Board at (315) 443-3013.

### PARTICIPATORY MAPPING EXERCISE

# Enacting & Mapping Accessibilities at Syracuse University

This mapping exercise aims to increase the visibility of marginalized spaces and experiences through survey, dialogue, and participatory mapping by the students and users of the Syracuse University Campus. This project focuses on the architecture of higher education to analyze the ways in which it deters social categories (gender, disability, race, nationality, etc.) from accessing education and knowledge. To center marginalized groups and individuals, this project seeks to map the dominant and non-dominant spatial narratives that students experience. Collecting and layering the perspectives of participants will reveal what goes noticed and unnoticed by dominant frameworks and therefore must be centered to create greater design justice.

Participants were recruited using social media and email. I utilized my research Instagram (@ representationsofdifference) to post a call for participants (Figure 8). The goal was to gather a participant pool of both architecture and non-architecture students. I wanted to compare the mapping strategies and methods of design and non-design-oriented people

### PARTICIPATORY MAPPING

In order to center marginalized groups and individuals, this project seeks to map the dominant and non dominant spatial narratives students experience. Participants will answer a series of questions, participating in short dialogue, and hand draw maps based on their own spatial experiences. Collecting and layering the perspectives of participants will show what is most noticed by others and reveal what remains unnoticed and must be centered to create design justice.

### **PART 1: SURVEY**

What is your major / minor field of study at Syracuse University?

What year of study are you in?

Which buildings have you most commonly used in your time at Syracuse University?

Please list any and all barriers you have encountered in each respective building.

Please rate the following statements from 1-5 (5-strongly agree, 4 - agree, 3 - neutral, 2, - disagree, 1 - strongly disagree).

The appearance of a building affects the quality of my education.

The current signage on campus is clear to me and helps me find where I need to go.

I use the plan of buildings with room numbers provided on campus to find where I need to go.

I am able to move throughout this campus without separating from other students to use an elevator, ramp, or more accessible path.

This campus is very accessible to me.

### **PART 2: MAPPING**

Please draw a map a common route you take throughout campus

Choose a classroom you have been in within an educational setting—draw it by identifying building/structural/design elements that are important to you. (i.e. doors, walls, windows, lights, light switches, vents, wall color)

Find a way to enter Hendricks Chapel and arrive at the central chapel space. Please draw the route that you used to get there. Identify through drawing any barriers you faced in getting there.

Now, enter Hendricks Chapel without using a stair. Please draw your path and describe your experience finding ramps, elevators, and alternative routes.

### **PART 3: DIALOGUE**

What does accessibility mean to you?

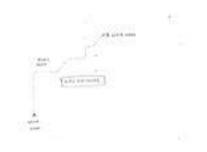
How do you determine what is accessible?

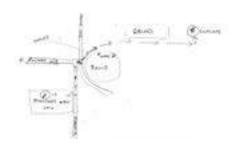
What makes the campus accessible for you?

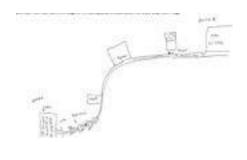
What makes the campus inaccessible to you?

What would you change about the planning of the Syracuse Campus, if you could?



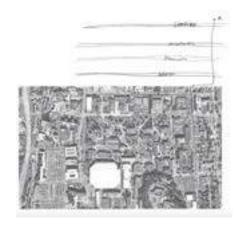








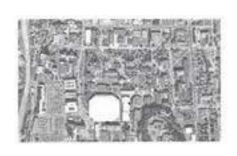


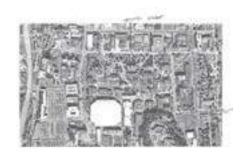




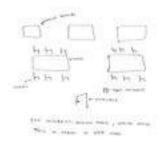


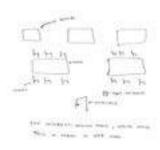








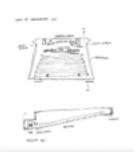




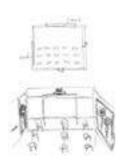






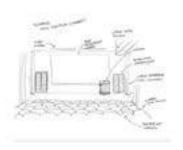


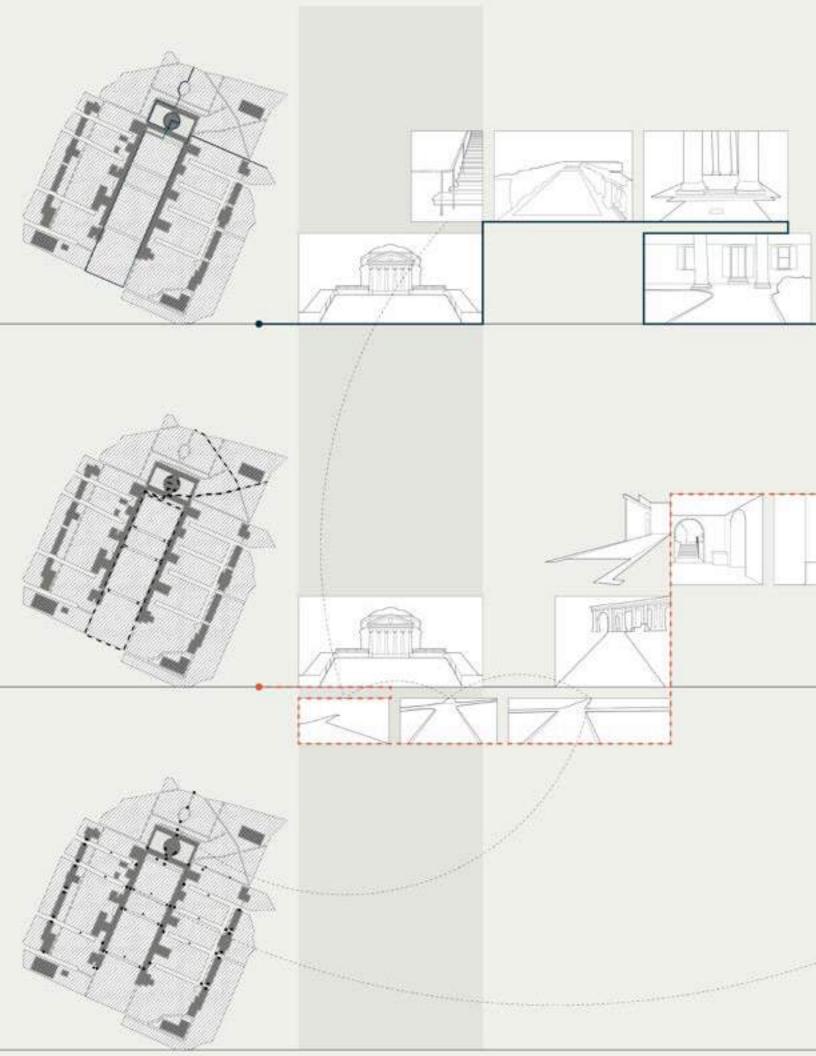


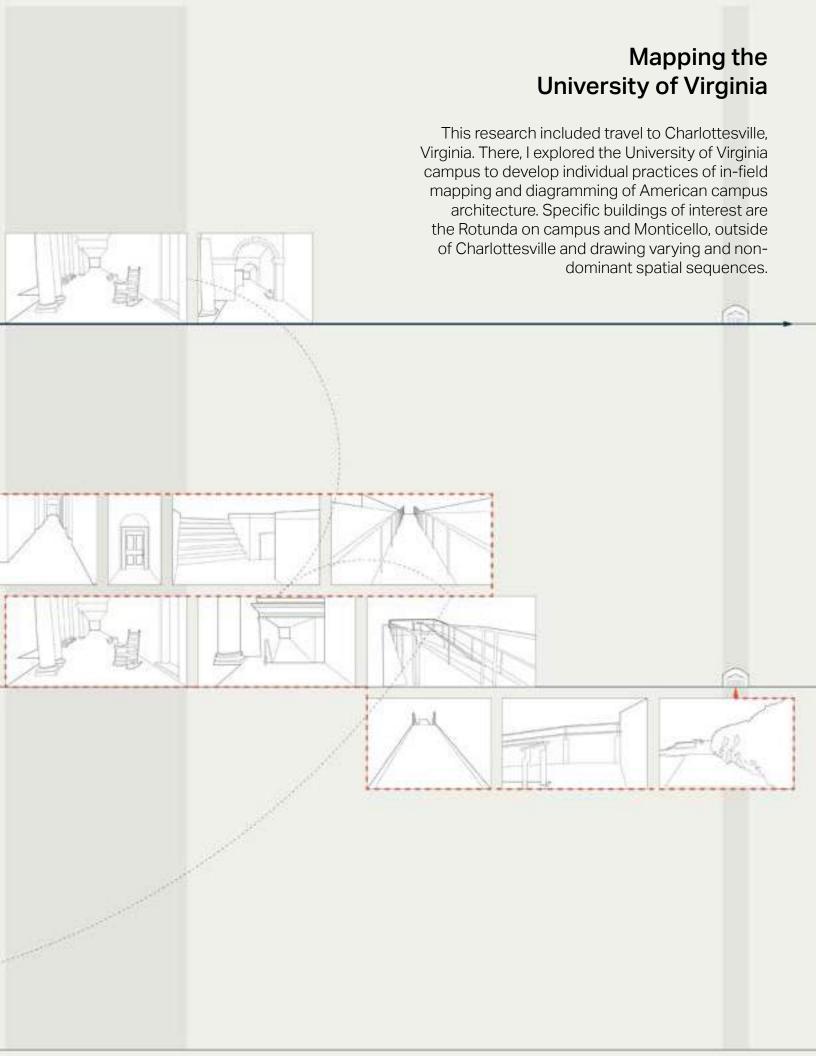


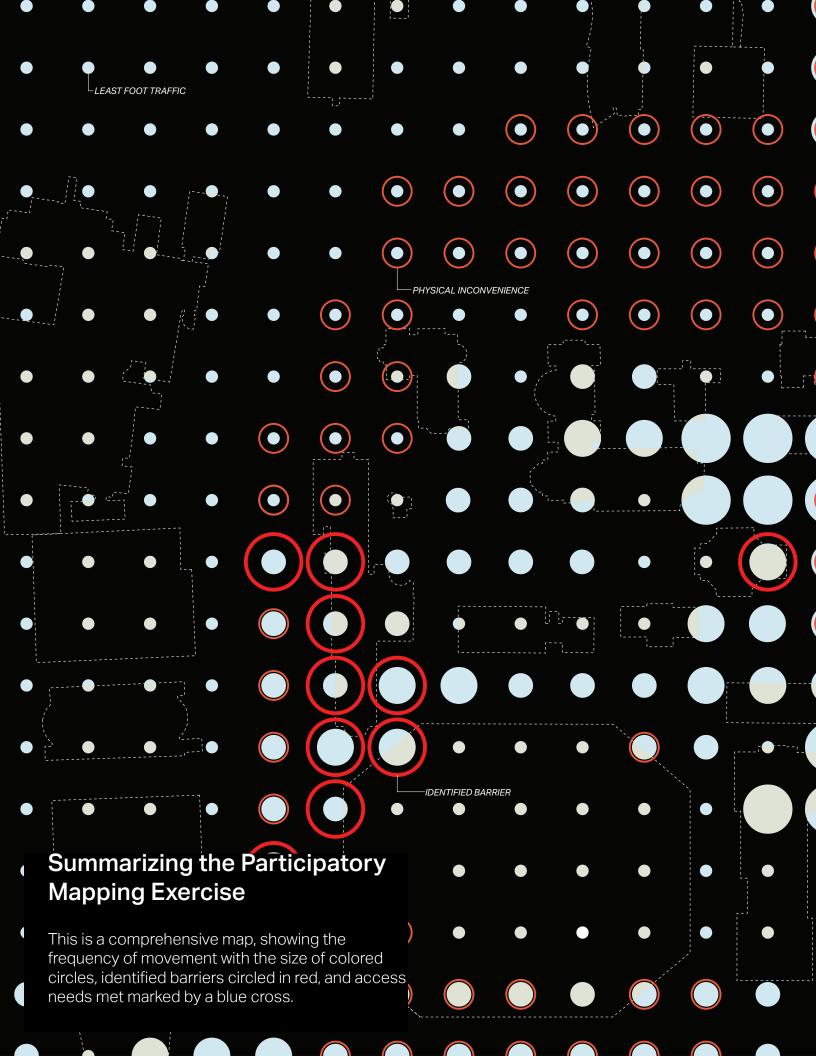


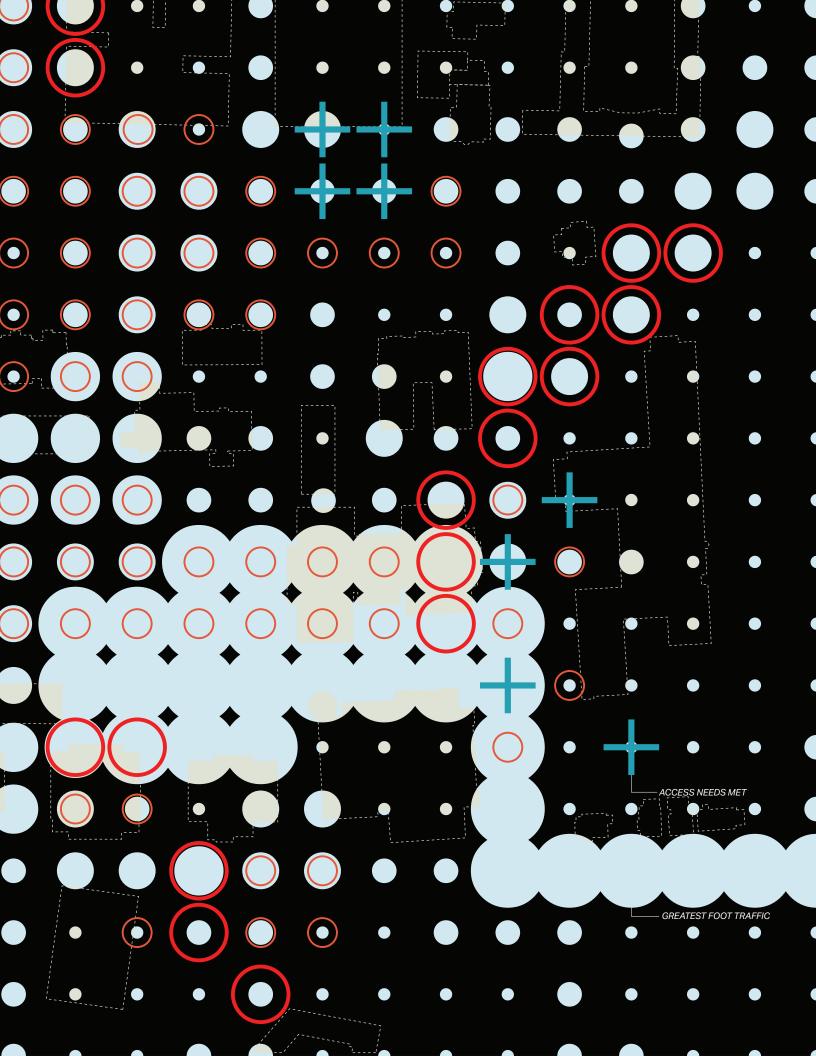


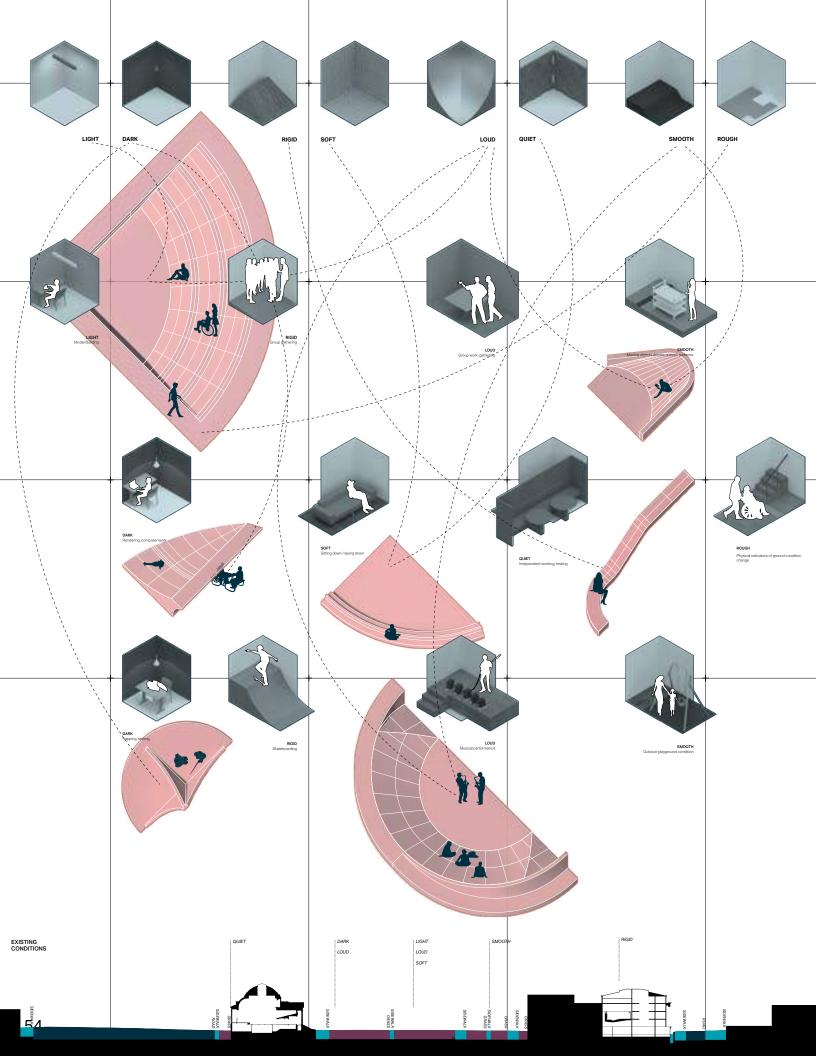








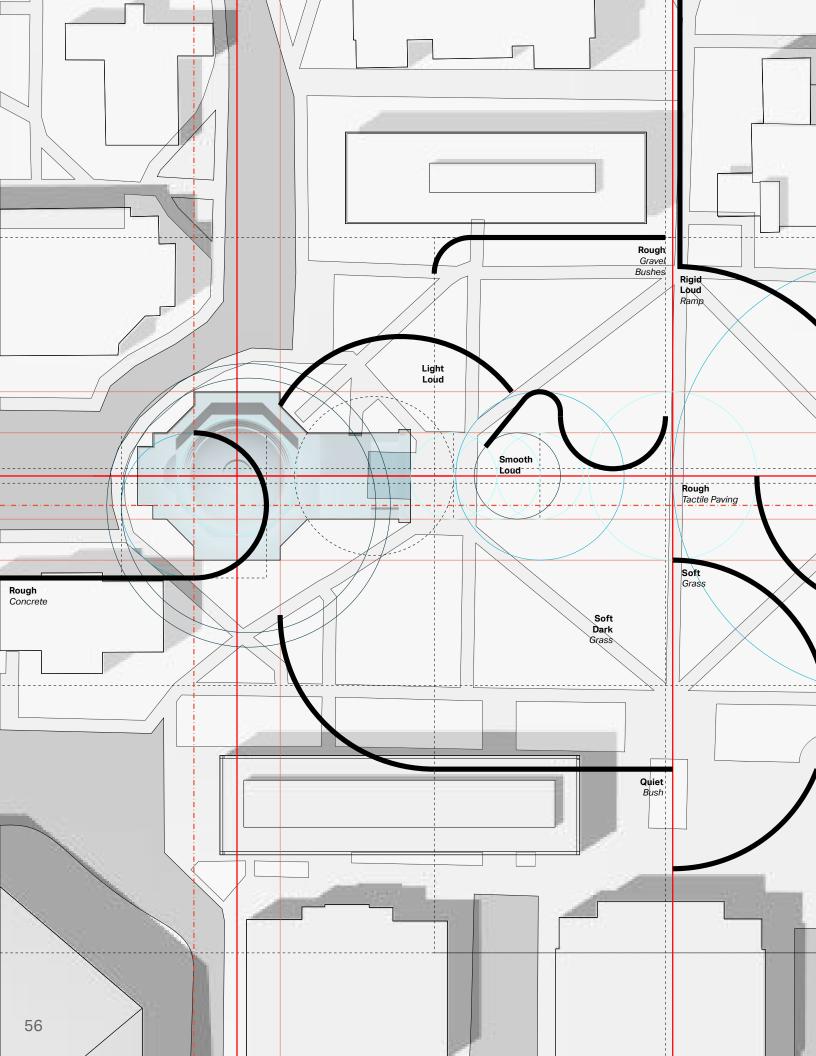


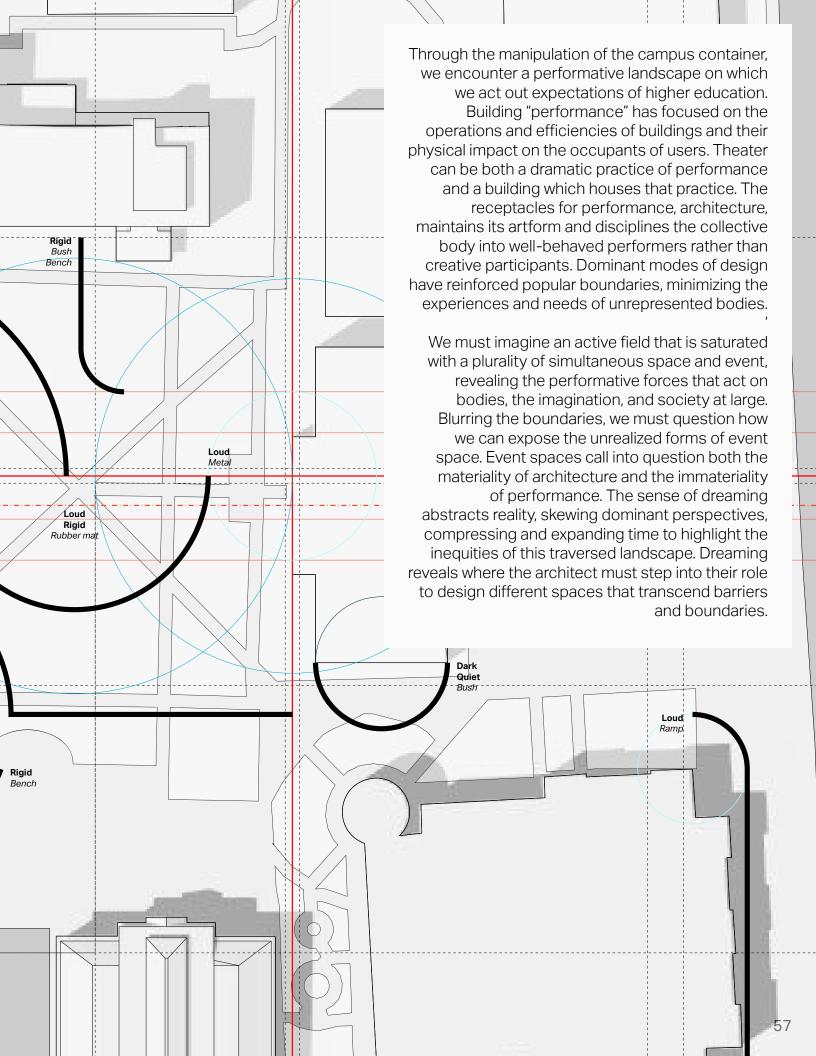


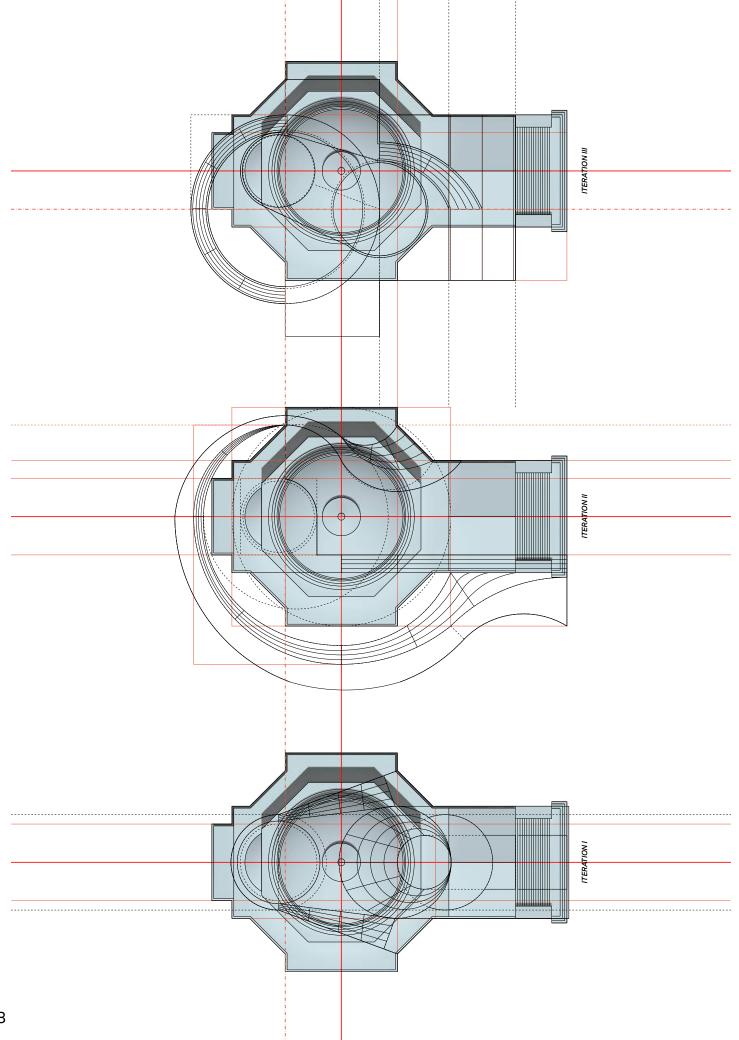
### **CAMPUS RETROFITS**

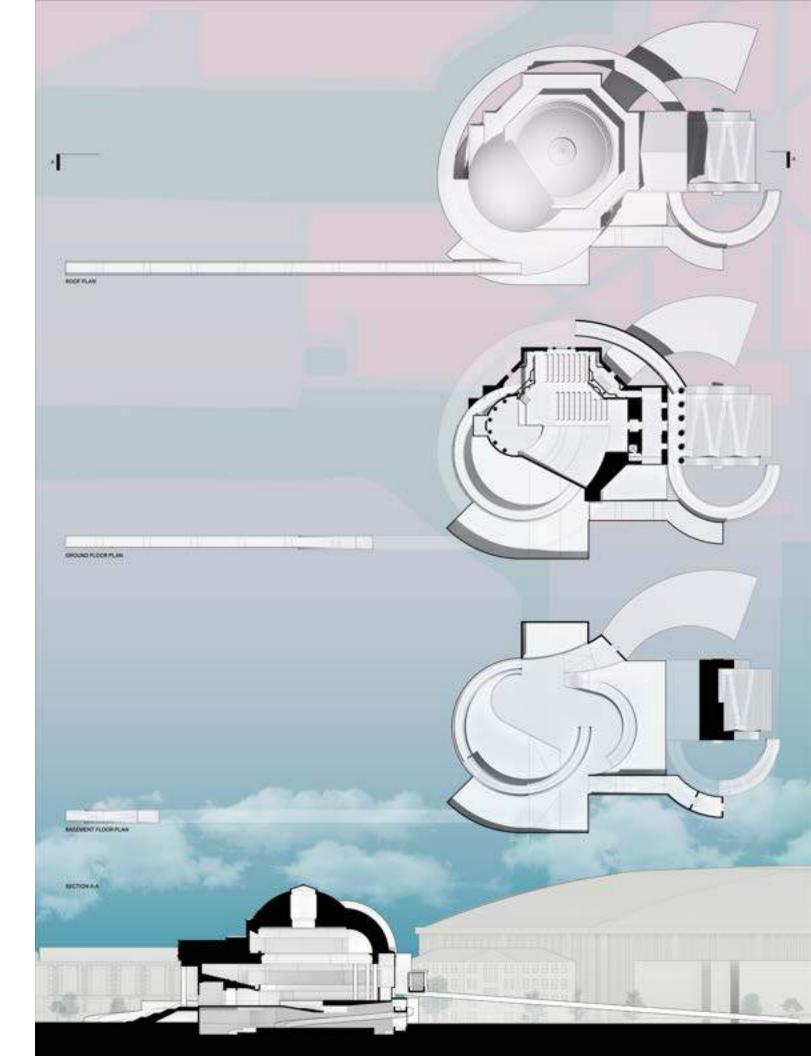
### **DREAMING DESIGN JUSTICE**

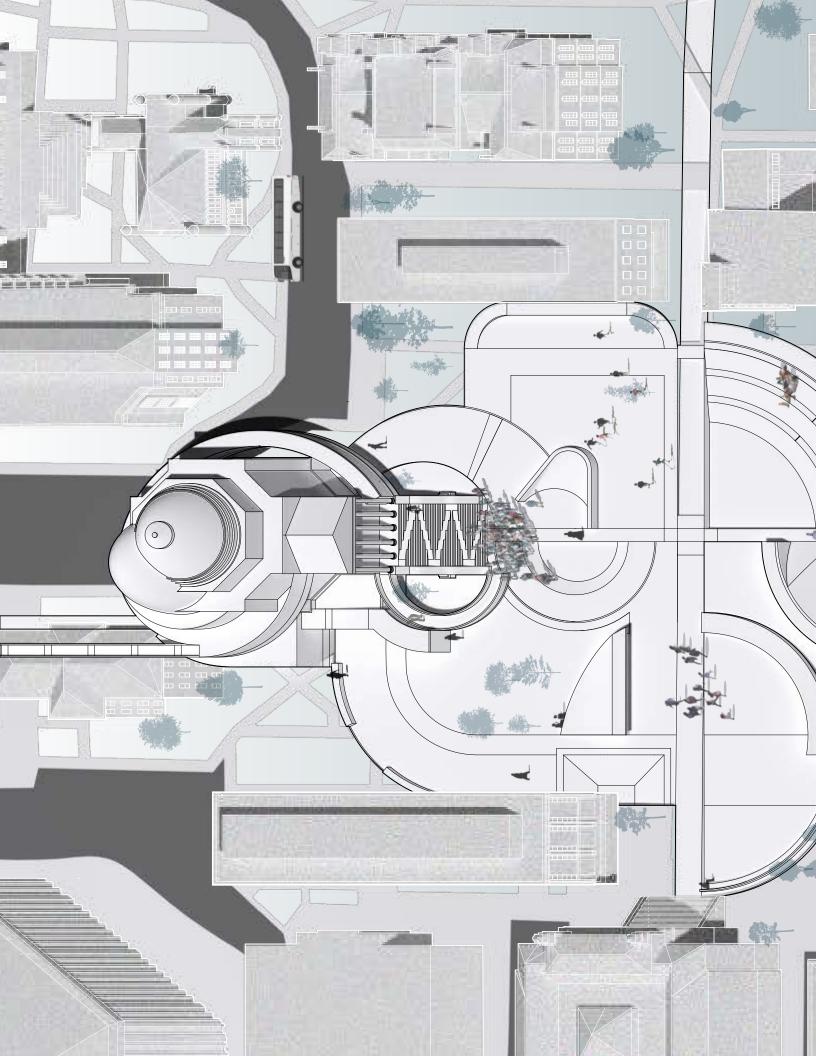
No person belongs in a singular category because our identities are complex and composed of multiple categories, requiring further analysis. Disability, in some ways, is inevitable for us all through the process of aging. Other moments in life also require us to utilize a built environment designed for disability. People with children need ramps and elevators for strollers and counters in bathrooms for changing diapers. Intersectional feminist theorist Sara Ahmed writes. "sometimes in order to survive institutions we need to transform them. But we still have to survive the institutions we are trying to transform" (Ahmed 189). The design of this thesis is an attempt at transformation as a means of survival. Growing up with a disabled mother, I have witnessed the limitations of normative design and the need for spatial multiplicity to meet the transient mobility of users. The design and manipulation of the site beginning at Hendricks Chapel creates a landscape for performance, generating moments of beauty, commonality, and joy.

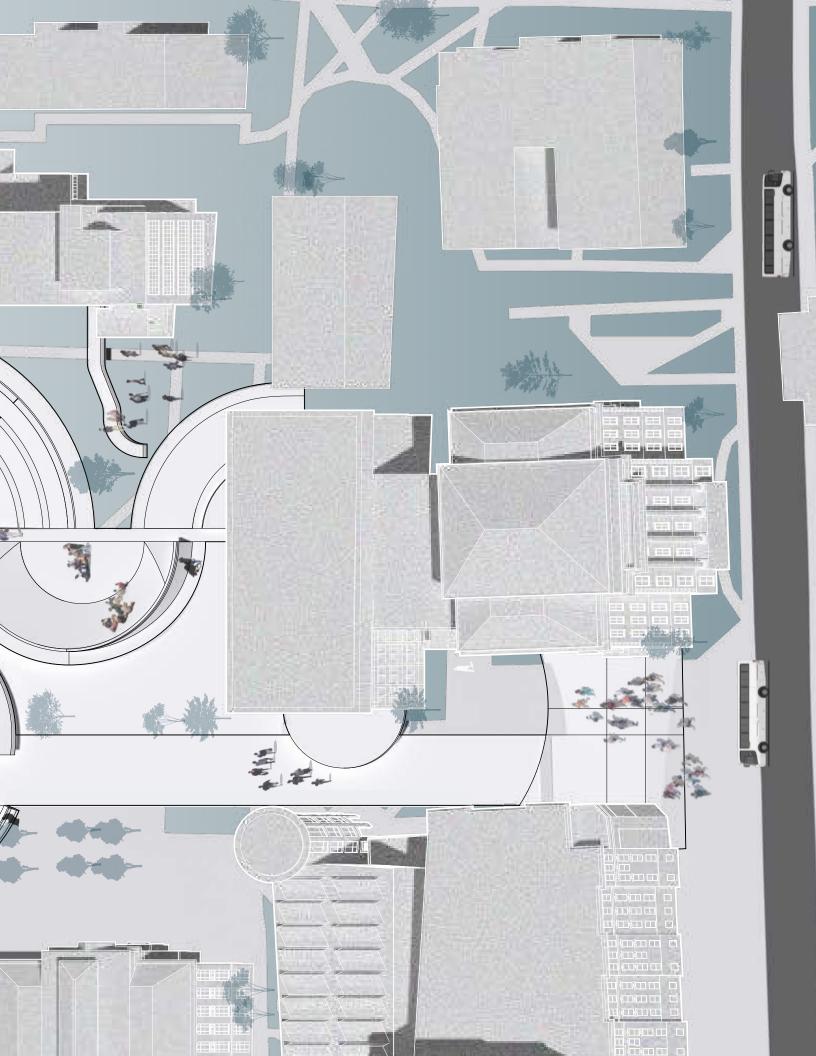












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ARC 505 Thesis

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