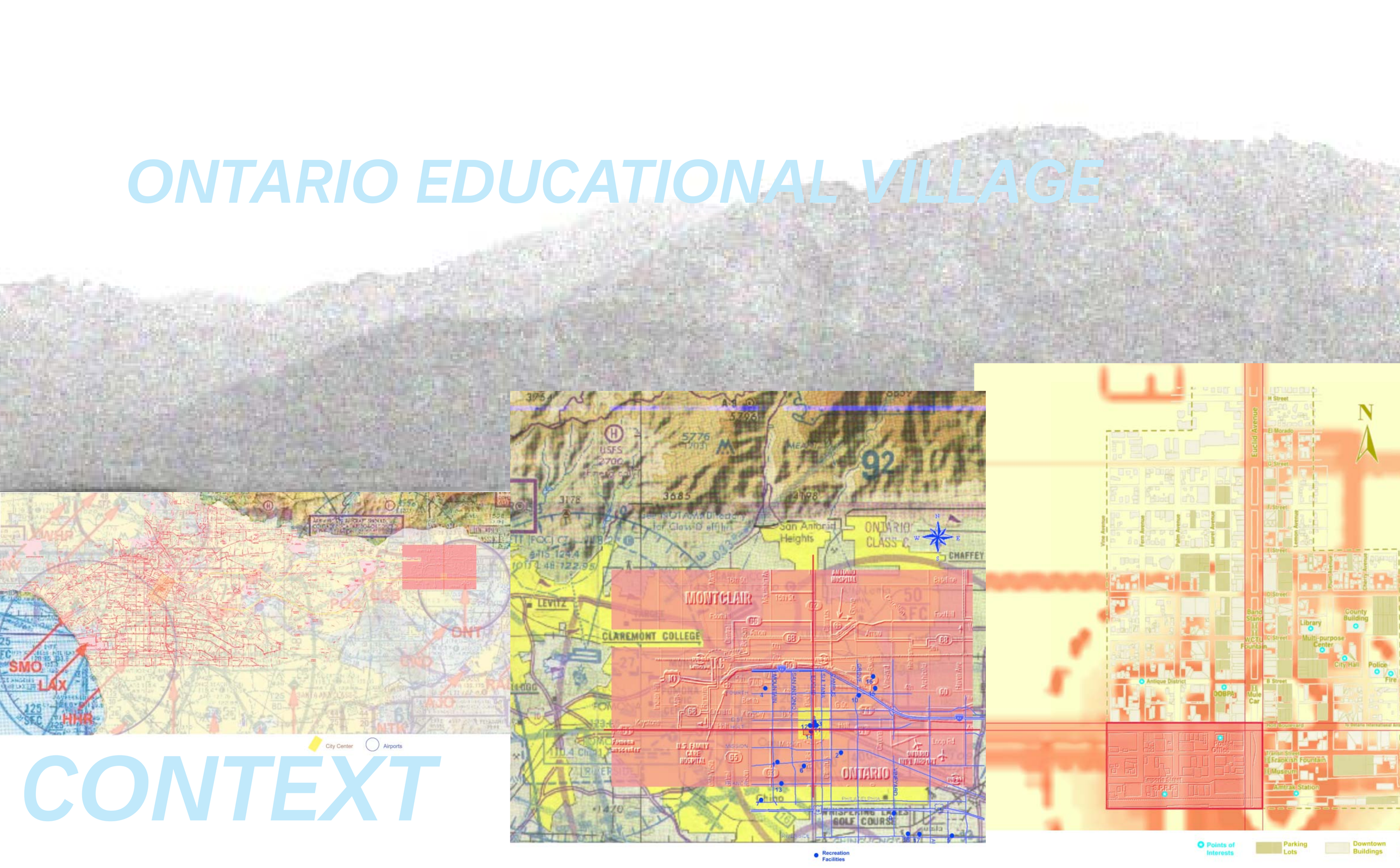
ONTARIO EDUCATIONAL VILLAGE



CONTEXT

MOUNTAIN

FIELD

TREE

LEARNING
Edna Little Elk, a Lakota Sioux elder who lives in South Dakota, and home schooled her children, told us once that the best place to learn was at home. "You learn by watching the elders and then you go and try to do it on your own."
Teaching and learning was a mentoring process that took place through direct experiences. Home meant family and friends that act together in an ever enlarging extended family. Mentoring relationships were not strategic, they were personal. We discovered over time that she was open to the possibility of an institutional education structure being created to have social and spatial aspects that engender extended family experiences. This is an objective here.

CITY
Cities grow accretionally. They sometimes shrink, leaving a landscape evolving back to its natural state, yet with vestiges of inhabitation.
This part of the city is not as dense as it once was. It has a fraction of the population and activity it once had. Although much is vacant, it makes for broad views and open spaces. On this particular site there are large trees that give both shelter and boundary on the site. Because of their age, they carry the vague memory of what might have once been there. The village will be on the Southwest sector of Ontario downtown district. This is an excellent location of a number of reasons.

1. It is along Holt Blvd., the primary East-West link to many communities and is within walking distance to Euclid.
2. It is the South West anchor to Ontario's old core which positions it to play a major role in regenerating the life of 'downtown'.
3. It is urban and green, a rare combination.
4. It has excellent access to international, regional, and citywide transportation at or near the site.

Considering these aspects our framework for design decisions were the following:

PEOPLE
We are proposing to create the spatial conditions for a multigenerational community to grow and sustain itself. This community has a primary interest in social structure, economy and justice being explored and implemented within the frame work of formal and informal teaching and learning.

It is a place of interface and exchange.

There will be a wide variety of people of all ages living on this site. They will be living in this place for mutual benefit. Each generational community brings the unique richness of its intelligence and experience to a greater community. They will meet in a variety of places and spaces and most likely exchange aspects of their lives with each other. Stories, shared experiences, and observation are the media. It is a place of teaching and learning.

PASSAGIO
There will be public walkways and "secret routes" throughout the entire neighborhood connecting spaces and activities on the ground and upper levels. These routes will allow people to walk a complete circuit meeting new and old friends along the way.

SPACES
The buildings are situated and sized to keep as much open space as possible and then they are configured over both sites to make a continuous fluid series of interconnected spaces that are shaped as rooms et with permeable boundaries. This will hopefully encourage communal groupings with no territorial boundaries. These space range from neighborhood public to family private. The spaces of varying size will support a wide range of outdoor activities. The spaces are shared by everyone so activities big small could naturally be cross generational.

There will be private flower gardens and community vegetable gardens supplying a seasonal farmers market. There will be a small elongated park on the eastside bounded by the large existing trees and hard surface work spaces in between the live / work units where residents can work outdoors. Smaller personal gardens will also be on the ground and upper levels of the senior housing. The will be some full building height topiary walls softening building mass with green walls as well as serving as privacy screens for the apartments.

DOMAINS

Seniors — This Housing is across the 2 parcels and is situated along the centerline. It is the spine of the neighborhood physically and socially. This is a 4 Level complex of units that share open space on all levels.

Students — This Housing is adjacent to the Seniors along the West edge and along Vine Avenue.

Live-Work — Immediately to the west along Vine Avenue to the south and at the northwest corner of Holt and along Holt. These are layed out as 2 parallel buildings with a linear hard-scaped communal workspace.

Retail — Live-Work may also be retail along Holt. The dedicated retail is on the north-east part of the site along Holt and Fern. This area will be where Seniors and students go for city and human service needs including police, library, etc.

Classrooms — These will be a part of the retail complex being situated along Fern and Transit. They will be within the park, which can be use for classrooms. There will be smaller classrooms in central locations within the Senior Housing. These will also be used as community rooms and will encourage seniors to audit classes.

BUILDINGS

In consideration of the social aspect of personal or familial identity in the context of the larger society, we explored the conceptual problem of repetition. Can things be similar rather than identical? Can there be identity as well as economy of means?

We answered yes.
Through systemic constructional logic based on the conventions of the industry, elemental prototypes (windows, doors, walls, roof) applied with reasonable flexibility, recurring patterns of opening within walls, and local symmetries, the buildings can have apparent non-recurring body language (massing, elevation) and remain within the economic parameters of this project type.

LANDscape ELEMENTs

NORTH WEST corner
Live / Work
The North West corner to the development at Holt Boulevard and Vine Avenue opens up to the community and invites users into the premier Live / Work domain of the site. A water feature enlivens the space and draws people into the mew between buildings that incorporates an outdoor market experience and provides an outlet for the artists and craftspeople living on site. Vehicular parking for the residents is provided within a tapestry of decomposed granite, unit paving and planting. Seating and meeting places are provided under the dappled light of Koelreuterias.

The main axis extends into the main car parking area adjacent the library and classrooms. The car park is of decomposed granite with granite setts indicating line markings and creating an earthy texture to the entry.

Simultaneously along Holt Boulevard, a festival of color and shade with Jacarandas and Tipuanas present the public face of the development. Pedestrians and traffic are separated by low growing shrubs and groundcovers, which define the footpath area and allow for retail activity.

NORTH EAST corner
Classrooms & Parking
Vehicular parking at 90° is provided along Fern Avenue. A slip road adjacent to Fern Avenue and to the classrooms provides additional and convenient curbside parking set in decomposed granite. Tipuanas punctuate the entrance to the site at Fern Avenue and provide local shade for cars.
A change in street pavement occurs to indicate a pedestrian crosswalk as the landscape treatment extends into the street domain.
An avenue of young Camphors replicate the rhythm and plantings of the lower portion of Fern Avenue.

Vine Avenue
Vine Avenue replicates the metaphor of youth maturing with the street tree planting. Young Camphors line the street adjacent to the Student Accommodation and progresses south to the South West corner Live/Work Areas. Curbside seating is provided for interaction particularly at the Student Accommodation areas.

Transit Street
Transit Street has been narrowed to accommodate curbside parking to both sides of the street. Whilst two-way traffic is maintained, the speed and frequency of traffic is subdued by the changes in paving and enclosure to the street.
Pedestrian crosswalk areas to the intersections and at the community buildings are reinforced through a textural paving arrangement. The main pedestrian crosswalks bind the two halves of the site and are delineated by bold rectilinear paving.

Riparian Corridor
The 'riparian corridor' connects the north and south sides of the site and runs adjacent to the classrooms and elderly accommodations. Typical Californian riparian plantings meander through the site following the line of the 'riparian' edge and creates meeting places and conversation pieces ending at a cluster of Cottonwoods to the southeastern corner.

Passenger drop-off areas are provided north and south of Transit Street.

An open turf area south of Transit is a family park. A strip of cacti and succulents define the edge to the elderly housing. Finally a cluster of Cottonwoods defines the end of the riparian corridor and marks the southeastern entry to the site. This entry is the portal to the axial progression of parks that move toward the post office in downtown Ontario.

Swimming Pool
The elderly housing has outdoor recreation areas for their exclusive with swimming and soaking pools. The spa is set into boulders overlooking the Riparian edge. Safety fencing is hidden in the landscape and the boundary between public and private while maintained is also blurred. The swimming pool deck is raised slightly above the open lawn area to allow for supervision and spectators to enjoy the activity on the lawn, whilst maintaining privacy of the users of the pool.

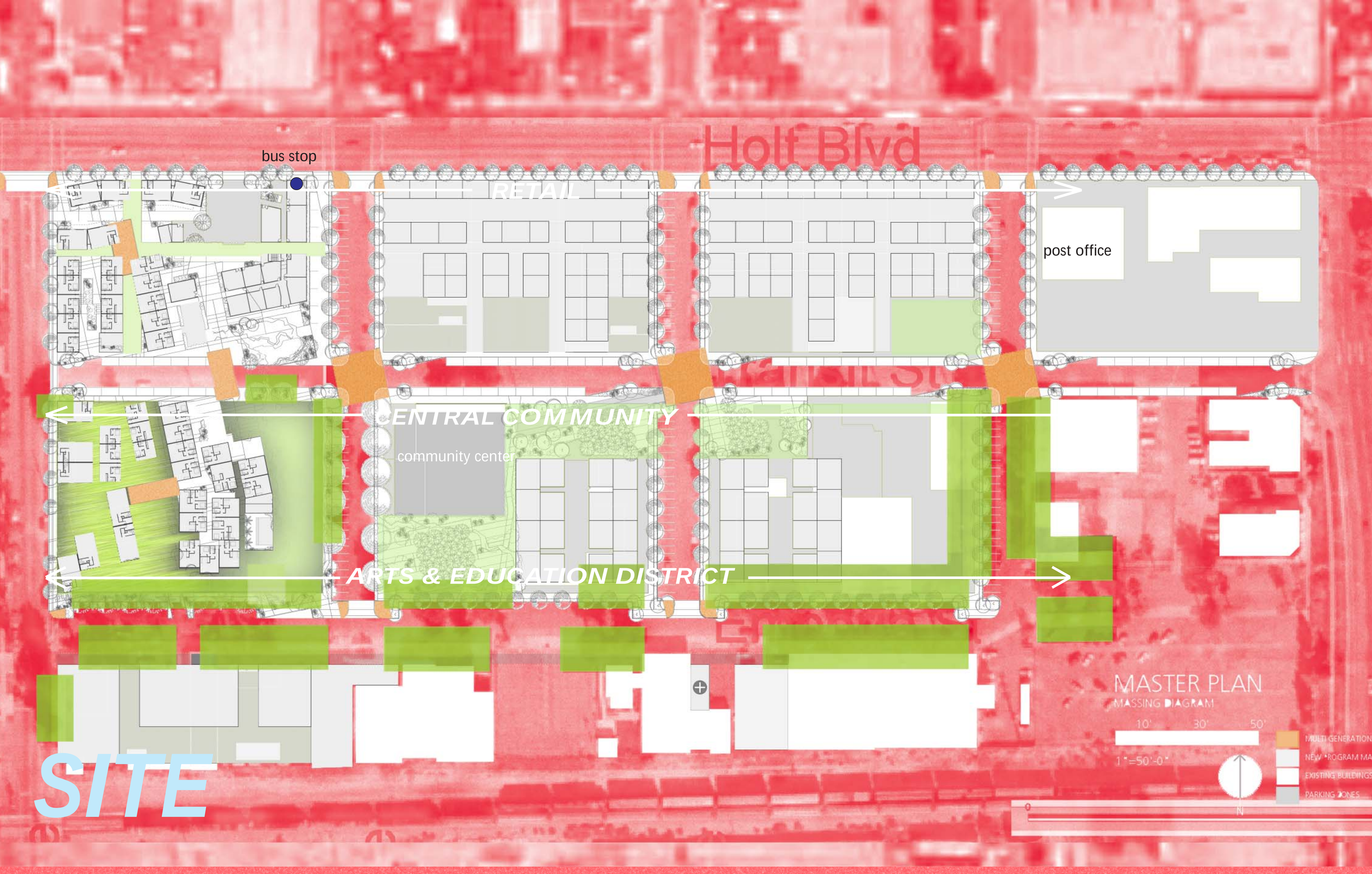
Interior Car Parking Areas
Off-street car parking areas are provided set around decomposed granite and clusters of flowering shade trees. When unused for car parking, these areas operate as open piazzas or shady courtyards for resident activity.

Emporia Street
Vehicular parking at 90° is again provided along Emporia Street. At the majestic Oak to the south of the site a passenger drop-off area is provided to the southern site entry. Emporia Street is the location of southern vehicular access to the site and into the market gardens that fill the areas between the elderly accommodation and the South West live / Work zone. Parking areas are provided and the informal nature of the design allow for overflow off-street parking when needed.

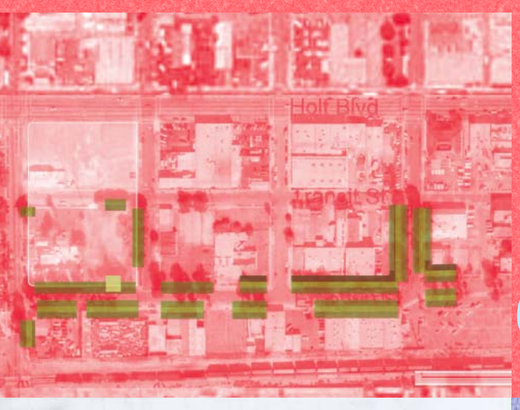
Market Gardens
An abundant area of edible plantings, fruit tree orchards, and herb gardens create an array of deliciously scented experiences for the residents. Interaction between the residents is encouraged and an outdoor kitchen, seating under a shaded trellis and water feature provides the basis for a festive and dynamic space.

Phase I – Axial Parks to Post Office
The South East corner at the Cottonwood cluster is the beginning of a daily journey for many residents. Phase I of the development includes the use of derelict or open sites on a diagonal axis through to Euclid Avenue. This progression of parks creates an experiential walk for residents. As the pedestrian moves from the Riparian Edge the plantings and textures become more urban as the city center nears. Within the parks there are areas for public use such as picnics, seating areas, informal exercise and are a forum for public art.

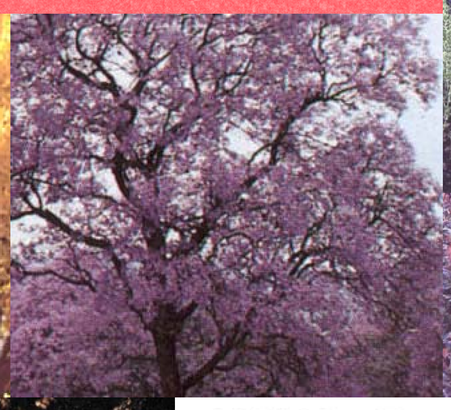
Public Art
Public art is integrated into the landscape and provides opportunities for students, the elderly and live/work residents to contribute creatively to their living and working environment.

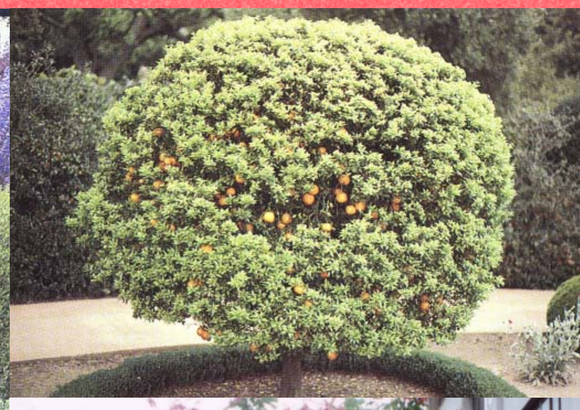


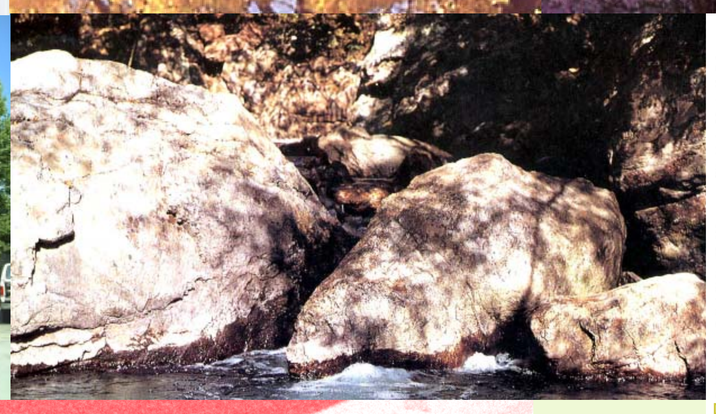
SITE

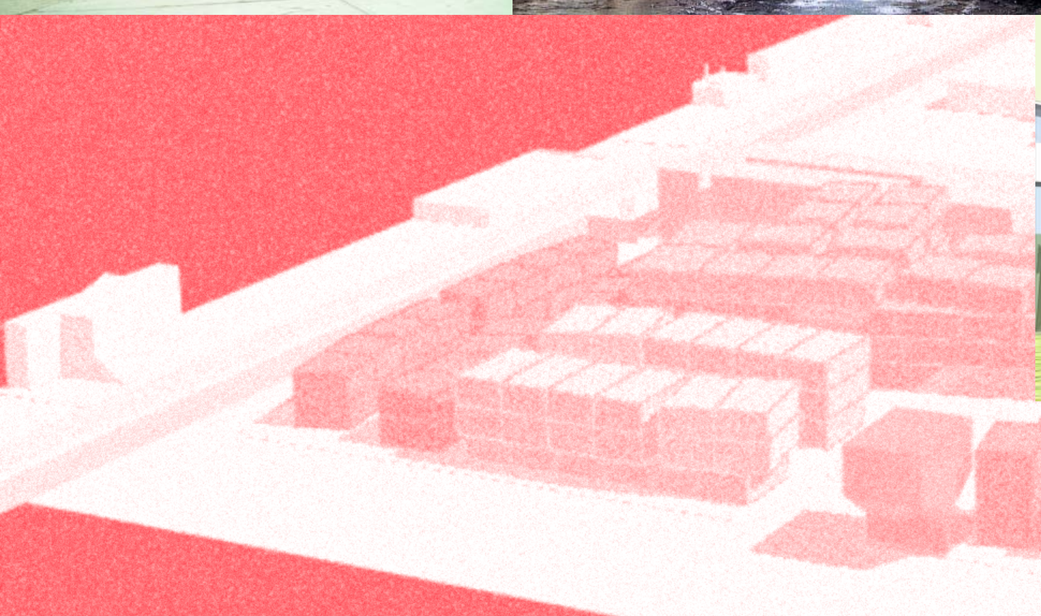


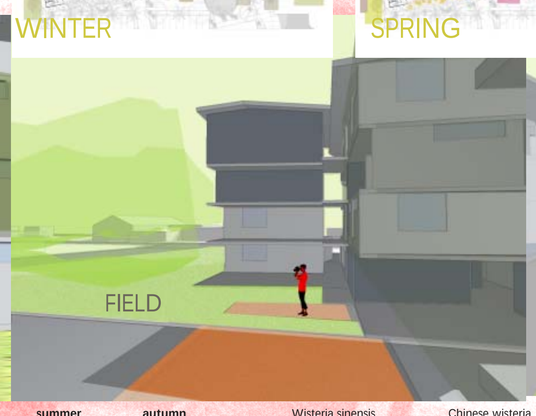
CYCLES AND RHYTHMS

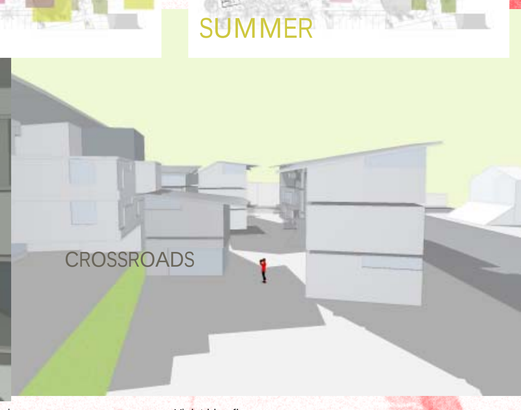






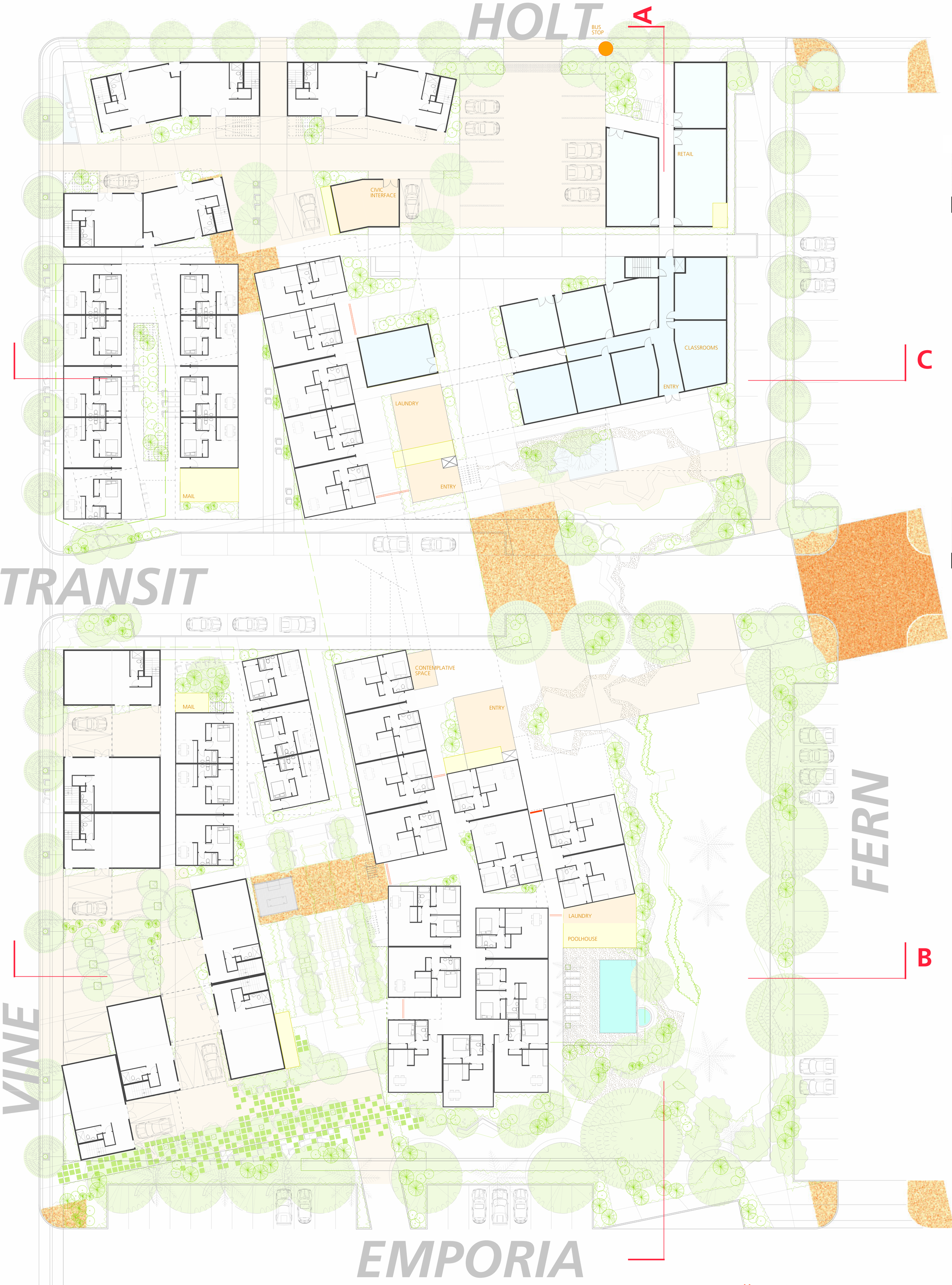


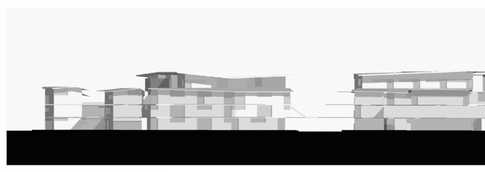


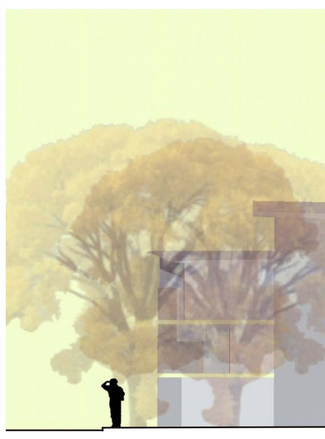


Scientific Name	Common Name	winter	spring	summer	autumn
Trees					
Chorisia speciosa	Silk floss tree				pink flowers
Cinnamomum camphora	Camphor	shiny yellow-green foliage		Late-yellow flowers	
Robinia ambigua	Locust		Late-pink flowers	Early-pink flowers	
Tabebuia chrysotricha	Golden trumpet tree		yellow flowers		
Tabebuia ipe	Pink trumpet tree	Late-pink flowers		Late-pink flowers	
Vines/shrubs/groundcover					
Dietes bicolor	Fortnight lily		yellow flowers	yellow flowers	yellow flowers
Loropetalum chinense 'Rubrum'		Razzleberri bush		Purple/pink flowers	
Phormium tenax	New Zealand flax				
Trachelospermum jasminoides	Star jasmine			white fragrant flowers	
Vitis Vinifera	'Ruby seedless' grape			fruit	fruit

Wisteria sinensis	Chinese wisteria		Violet blue flowers	
Fruit trees				
Eureka' lemon	Eureka' lemon	fruit	fruit	fruit
Pyrus communis	Pear		white flowers	fruit
Valencia' orange	Valencia' orange			fruit
Washington' navel orange	Washington' navel orange		fruit	







LEVEL 1 PLAN

10' 30' 50'

1/16"=1'-0"

N

- MULTI GENERATIONAL CROSSINGS
- SERVICE / MAINTENANCE
- LAUNDRY / COMMUNITY RMS
- POOL
- RETAIL
- CLASSROOMS
- HOUSING

GROUND PLAN

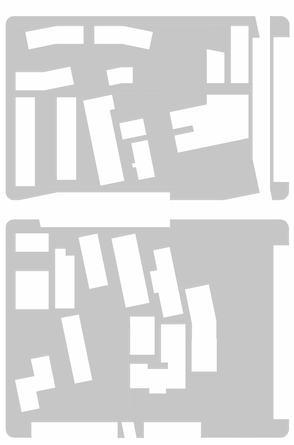
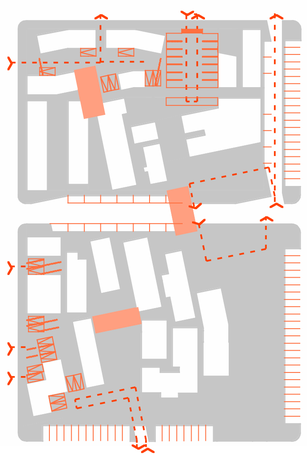
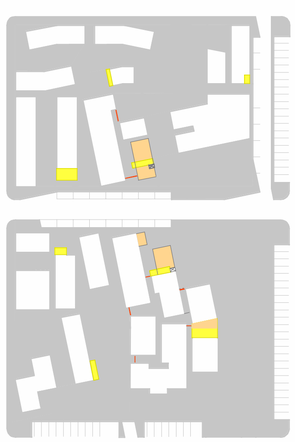


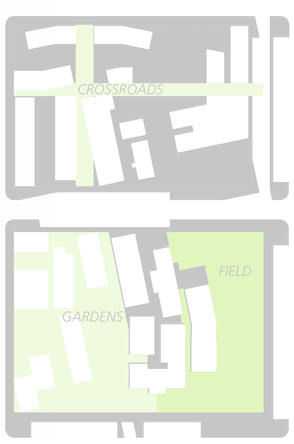
FIGURE / GROUND



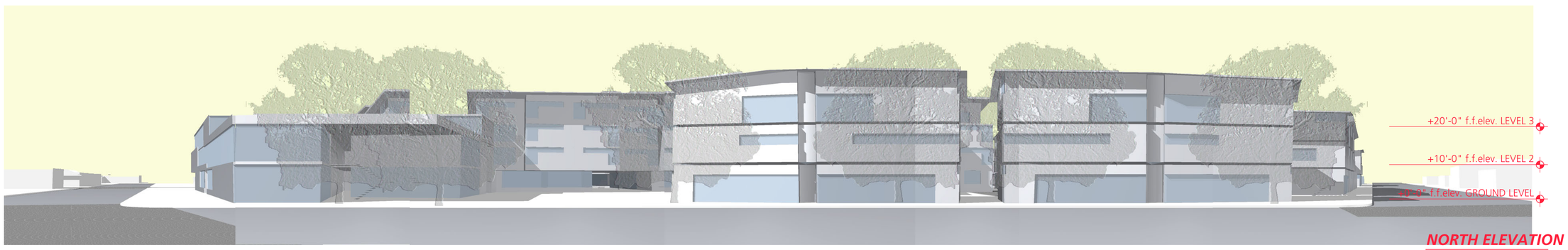
CIRCULATION / PARKING



SUPPORT SPACES



LANDSCAPE DIAGRAM

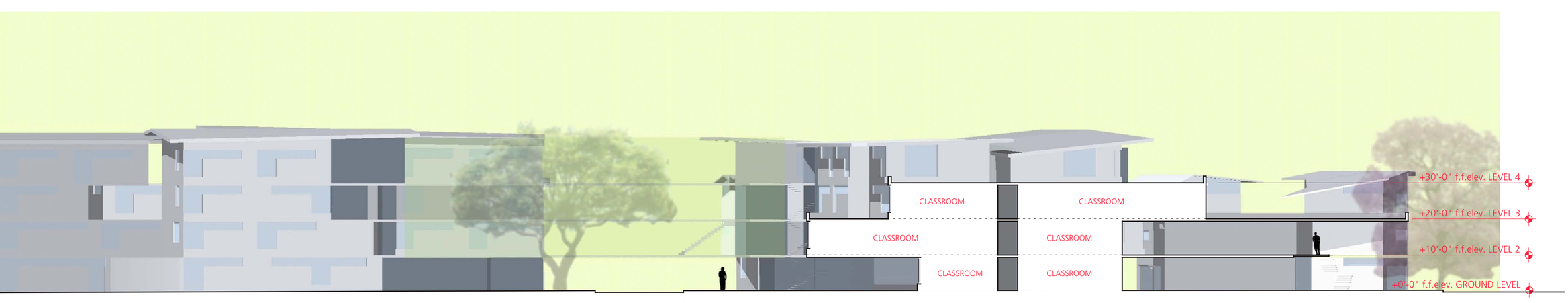


NORTH ELEVATION
1/16" = 1'-0"

EAST ELEVATION
1/16" = 1'-0"

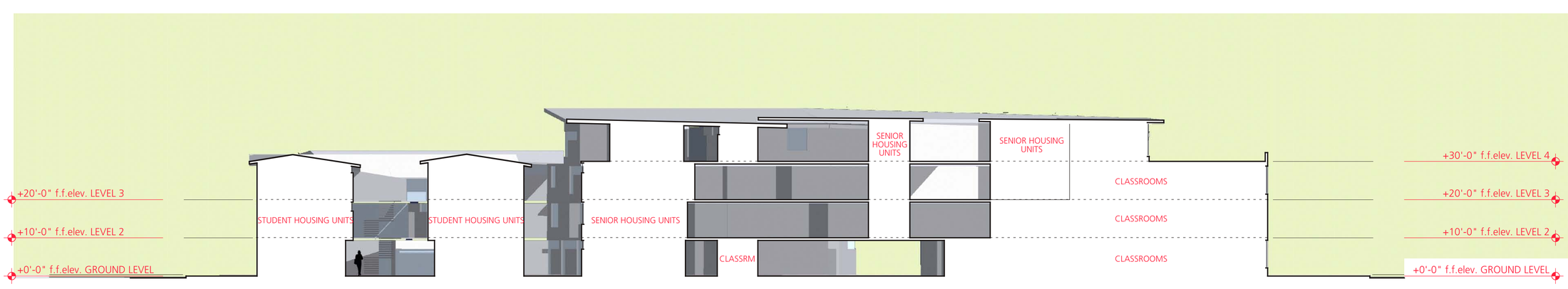
SOUTH ELEVATION
1/16" = 1'-0"

WEST ELEVATION
1/16" = 1'-0"



SECTION A
1/16" = 1'-0"

SECTION B
1/16" = 1'-0"



SECTION C
1/16" = 1'-0"

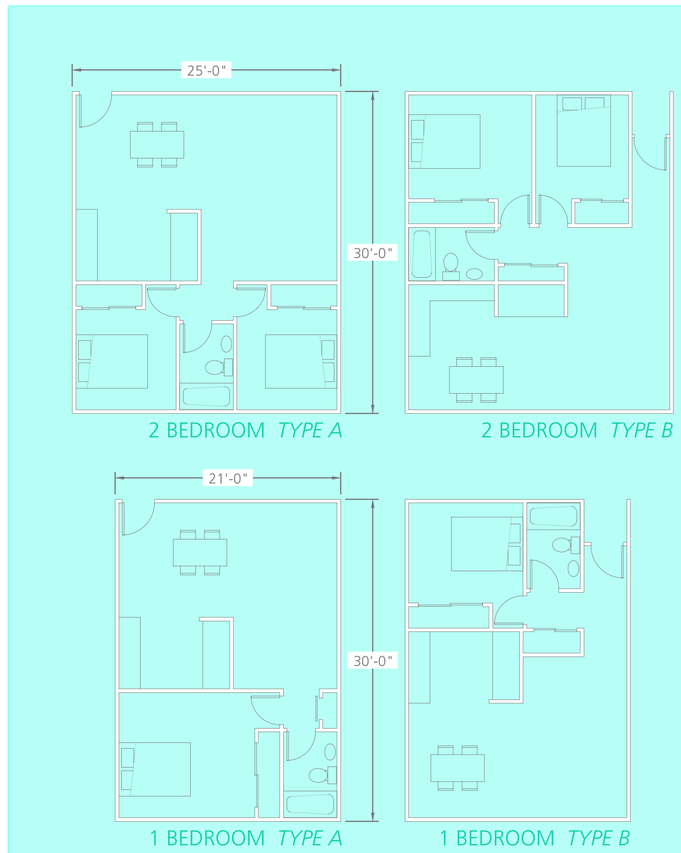
LEVEL 3 PLAN

10' 30' 50'

1"=50'-0"

N

- MULTI GENERATIONAL CROSSINGS
- SERVICE / MAINTENANCE
- LAUNDRY / COMMUNITY RMS
- HOUSING
- CLASSROOMS
- ROOF / DECK



SENIOR HOUSING

STUDENT HOUSING

LEVEL 2

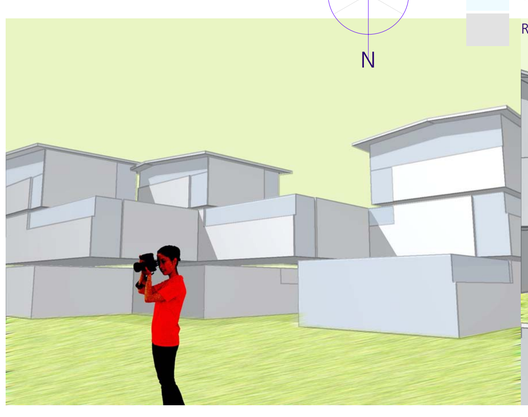
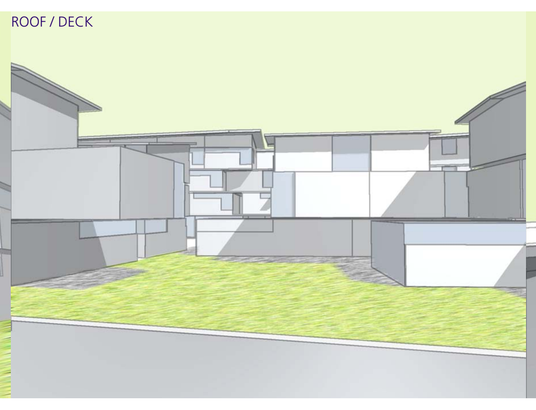
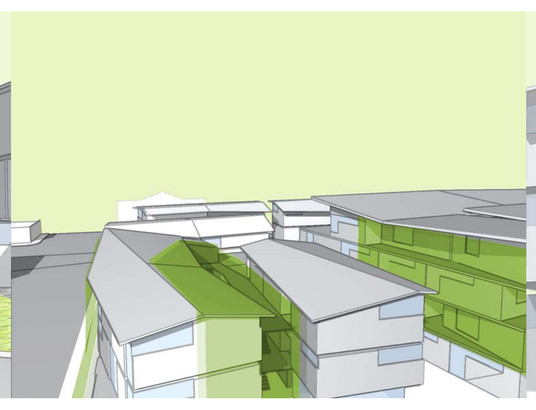
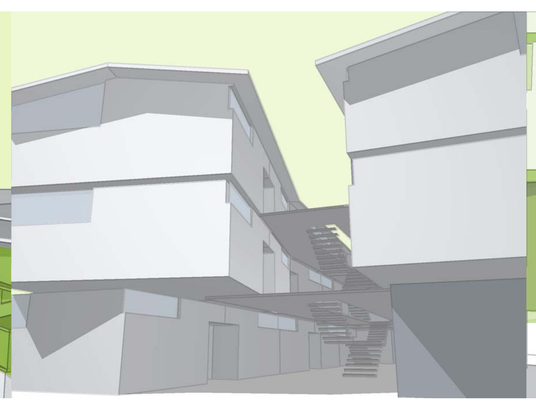
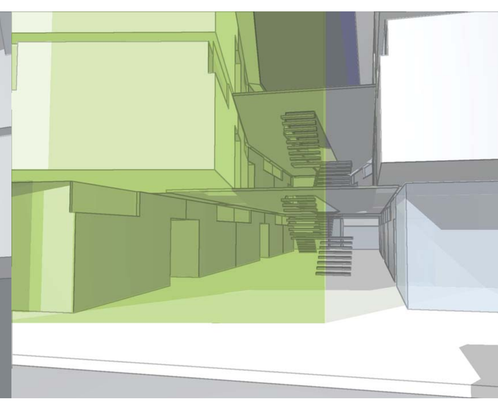
LEVEL 2 PLAN

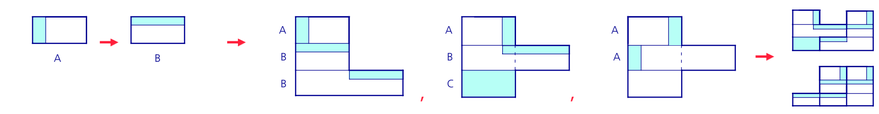
10' 30' 50'

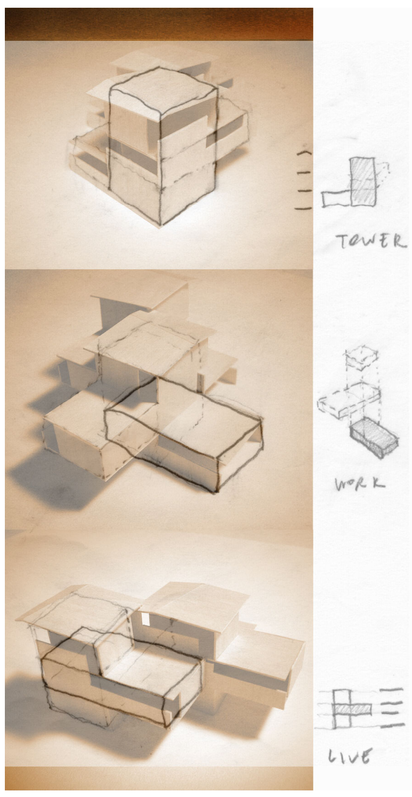
1/16"=1'-0"

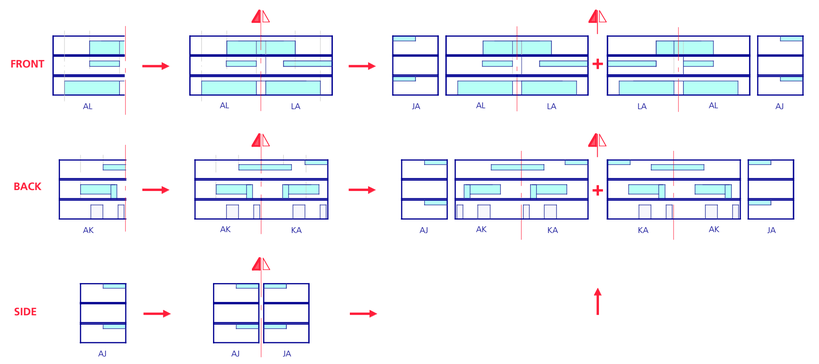
N

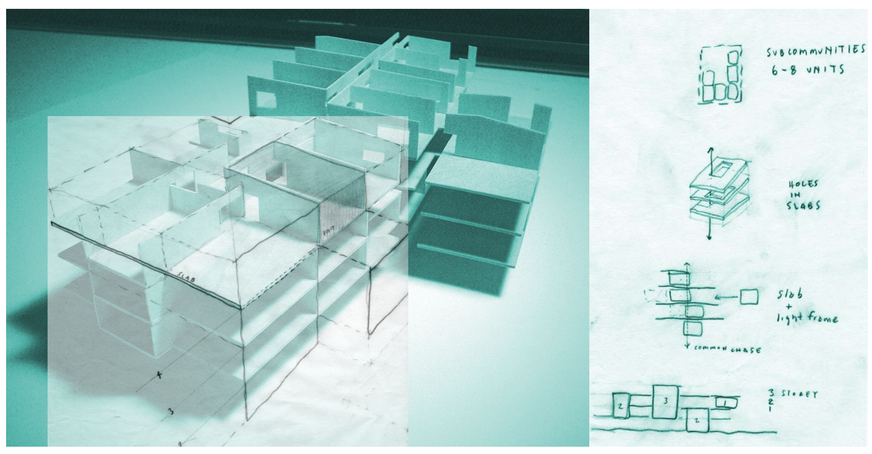
- MULTI GENERATIONAL CROSSINGS
- SERVICE / MAINTENANCE
- LAUNDRY / COMMUNITY RMS
- HOUSING
- OFFICES
- CLASSROOMS
- ROOF / DECK

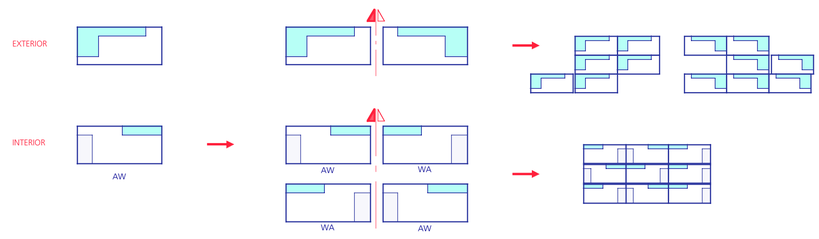






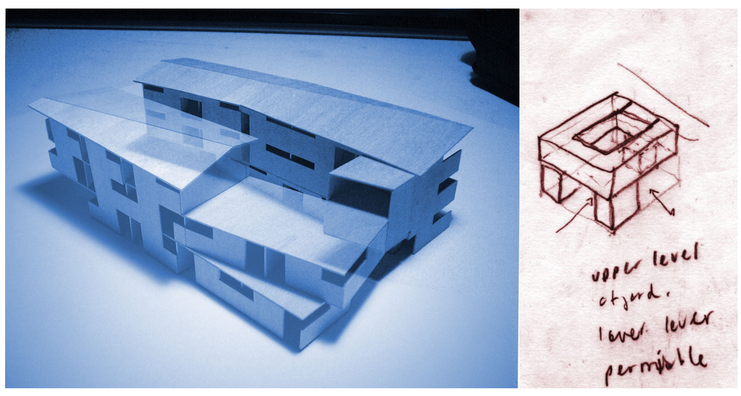


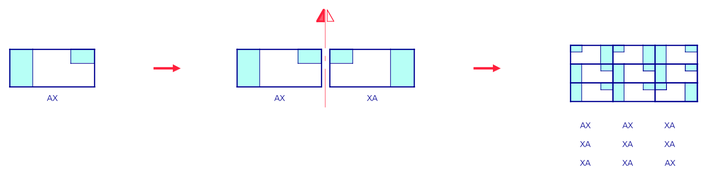


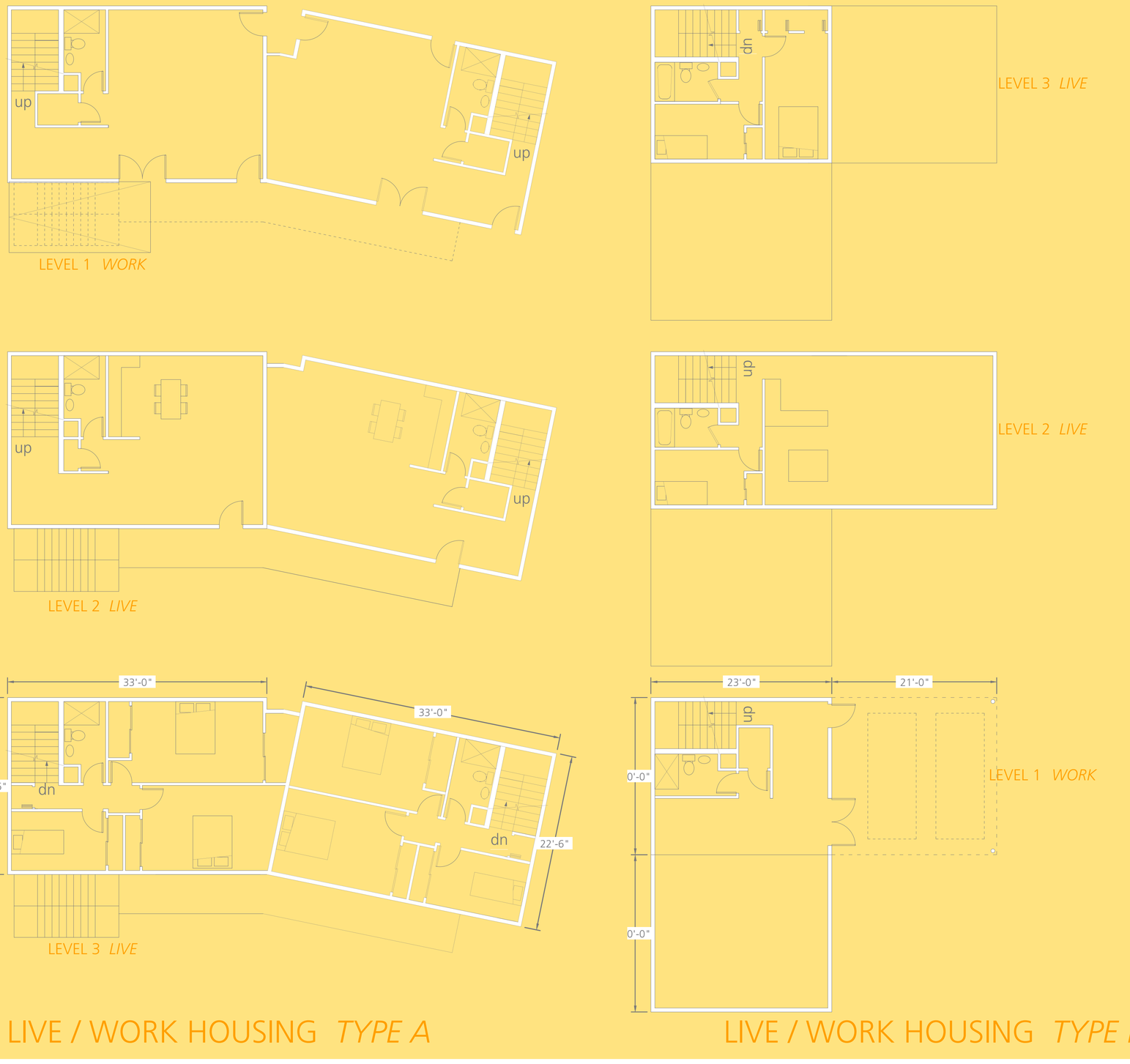


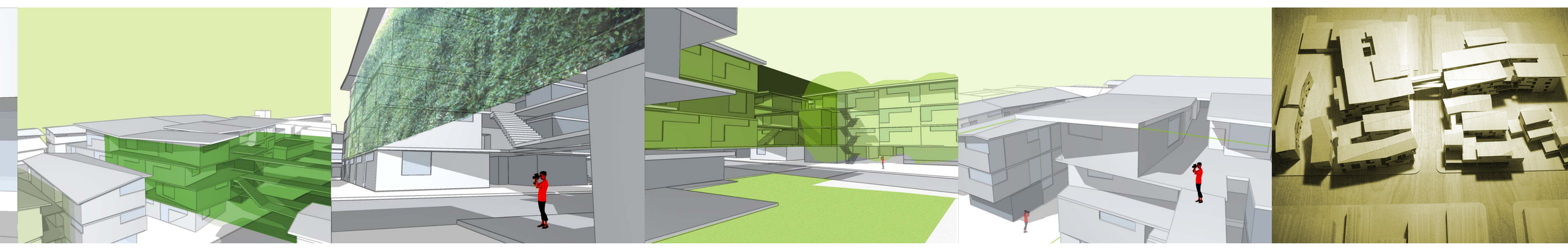












UNIT PLANS AND DIAGRAMS

RoTo Architects, Inc.
Mia Lehrer+Associates

OCTOBER 2001