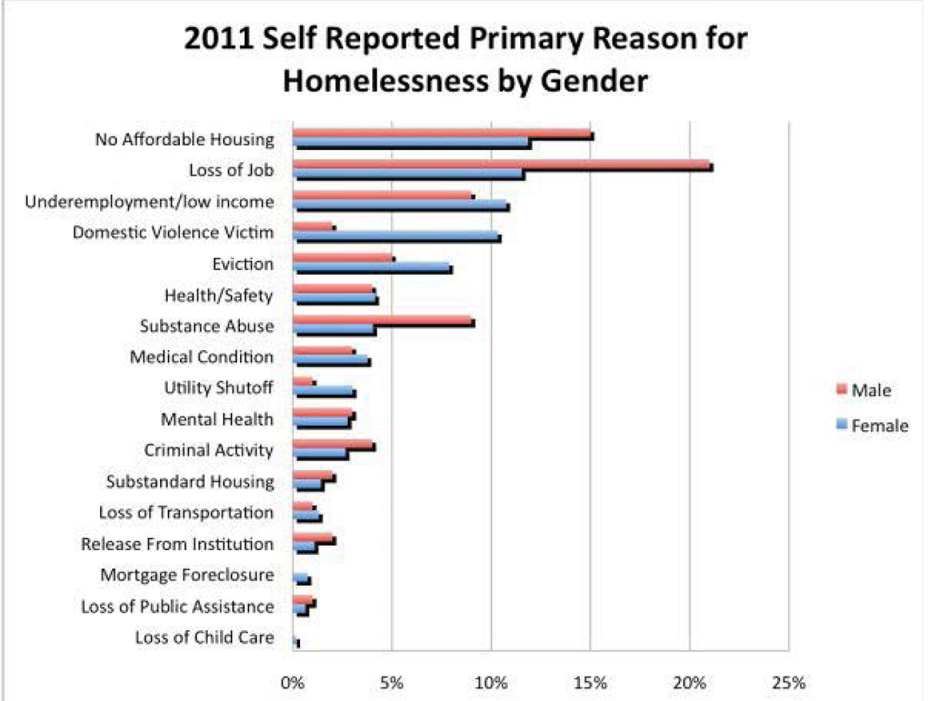
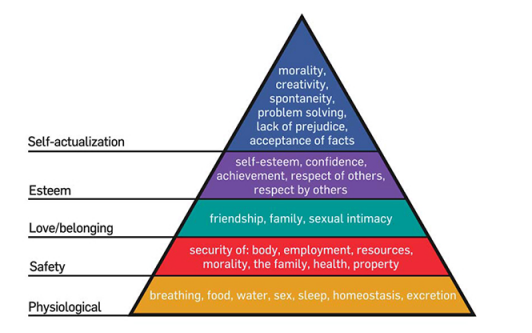
Interactions Between the Urban Environment and "The Homelessness": Observations and Responses

Utilizing Prefabricated Architecture to Redefine the Homeless Shelter

TABLE 1: CHARACTERISTICS OF KNOX COUNTY HOMELESSNESS 2012 AND 2010

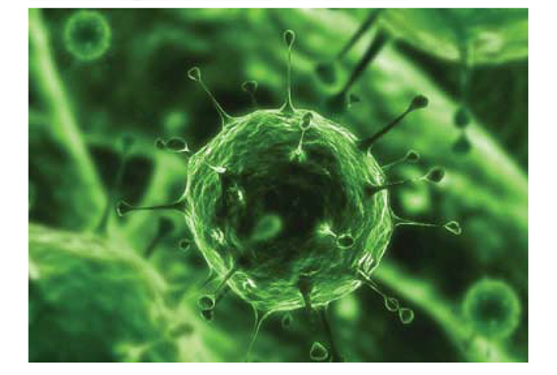
Item	2012 Percent (n=236)	2010 Percent (n=213)
Age:		
Under 18 years old	-	7
18 – 30 years	20	19
31 – 60 years	73	70
Over 60 years	5	4
	mean = 42.3 male = 46.4 female = 40.3	mean = 43 male = 45.2 female = 39.3
Gender:		
Male	62	75
Female	38	25
Race:		
White	81	73
Black	17	19
Other	1	8
Military Service:		
Veteran	20	18
Marital Status:		
Single/never-married	36	40
Married	10	8
Divorced/Separated	47	45
Widowed	6	7
Education:		
8 years or less	8	6
Some high school	31	23
High School Grad, Incl. GED	39	47
Post high school	22	24

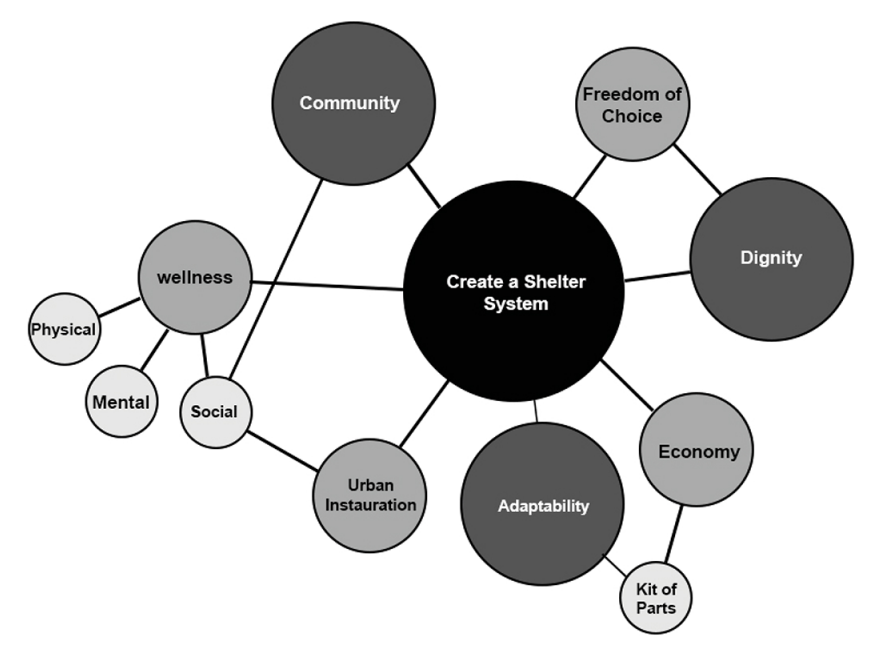

2011 Self Reported Primary Reason for Homelessness by Gender

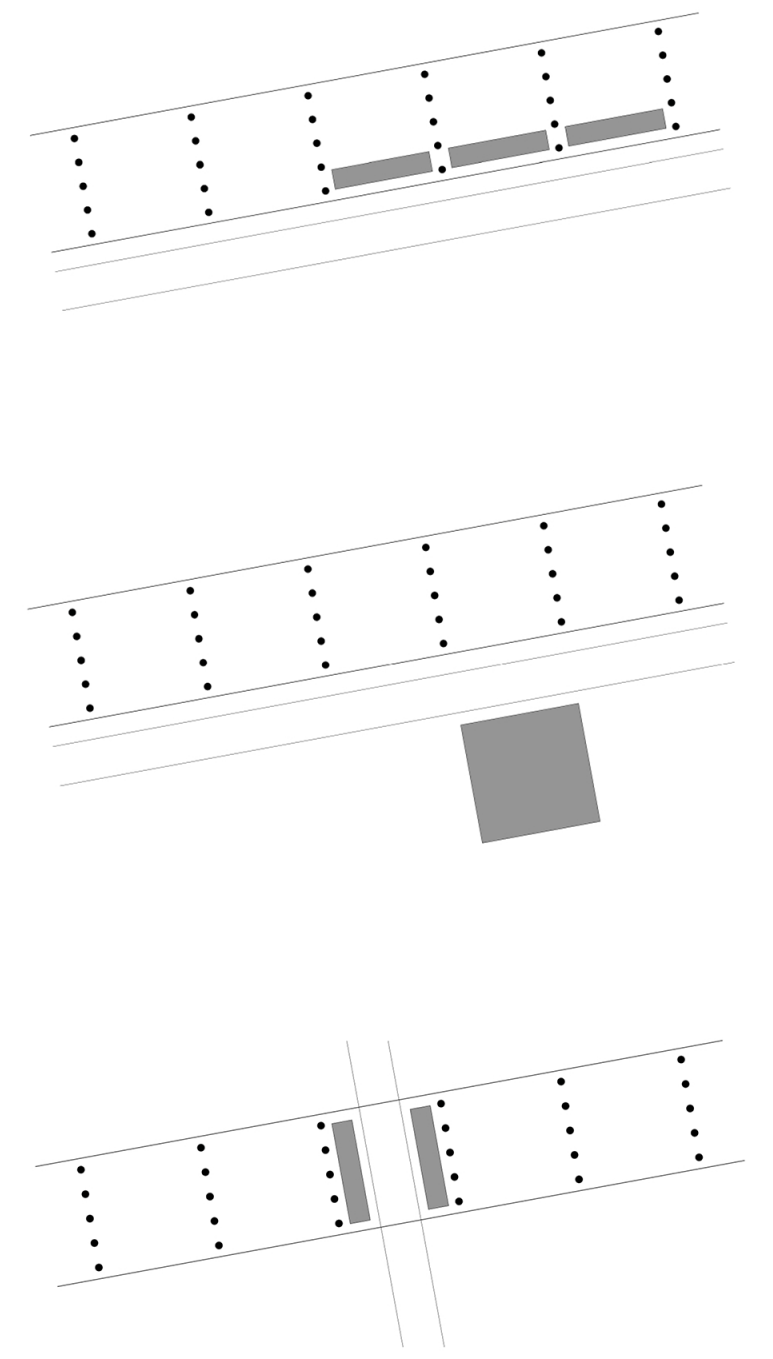

Self-actualization
morality, creativity, spontaneity, problem solving, lack of prejudice, acceptance of facts
Esteem
self-esteem, confidence, achievement, respect of others, respect by others
Love/belonging
friendship, family, sexual intimacy
Safety
security of: body, employment, resources, morality, the family, health, property
Physiological
breathing, food, water, sex, sleep, homeostasis, excretion

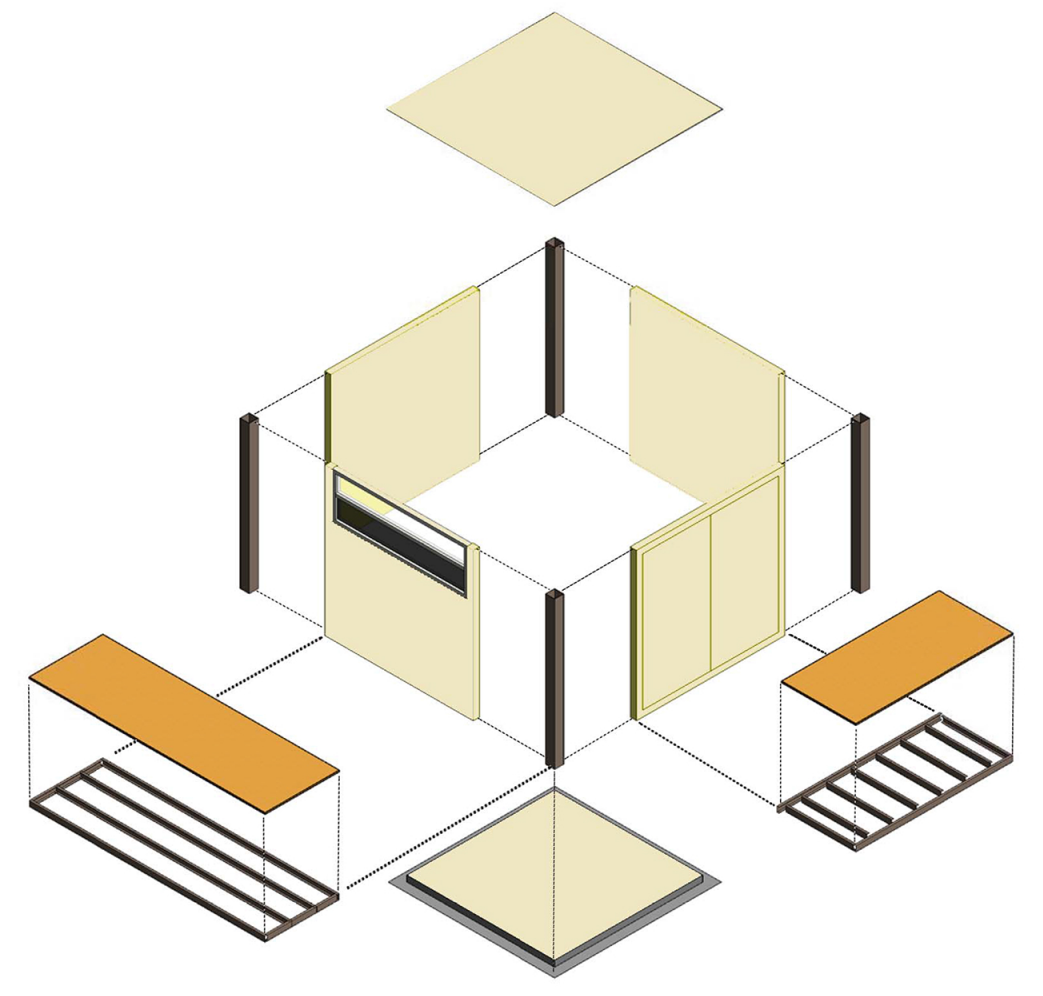
The city lives, breaths and dies with it's people. If you remove a single thread, the whole of the fabric is at risk. "The single story is where the same story gets told over and over again about a people or a place we do not know first-hand. The danger is that it leads to stereotypes, to half-truths not the full truth" (Abagond, 2009). This is quite common with the subject of homeless individuals. They are often seen as lazy degenerates that are addicted to drugs and alcohol and have a myriad of psychological problems. This is, in fact, only a half truth. When we are presented with the term "homeless", it conjures images of a smelly crazy man just looking to get drunk. Yes, these individuals are part of the homeless population, but, they only make up a small percentage. Most homeless individuals are no different than you or I. They are just people trying to survive.

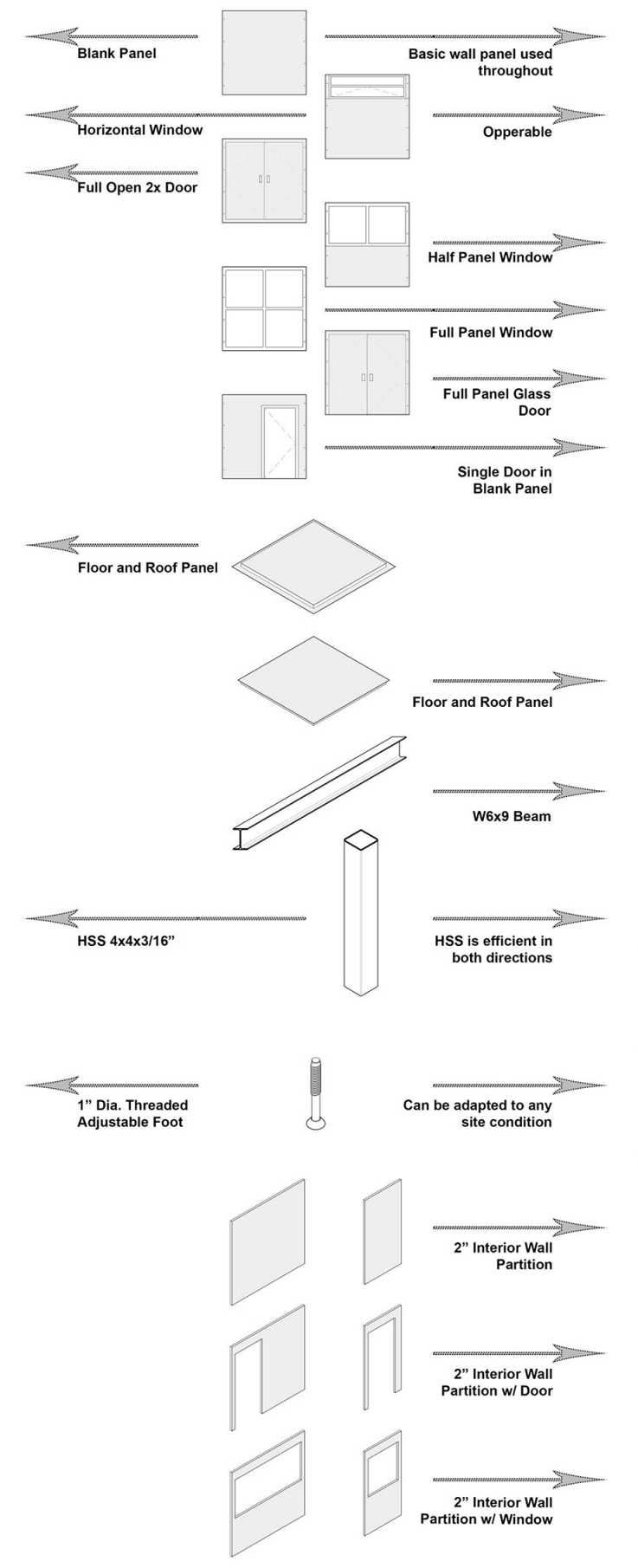
We must reevaluate how we view the urban. Every member of the urban community is our client, including public place dwellers. How can the current urban fabric be subverted or altered to accommodate those whom need rest? We must consider how the buildings and spaces that we create respond to all of the cities inhabitants. We must stop our current practice of actively denying our fellow man respite. To see a homeless person, all you need to do is look in to a mirror. Tomorrow, you could be the homeless person.

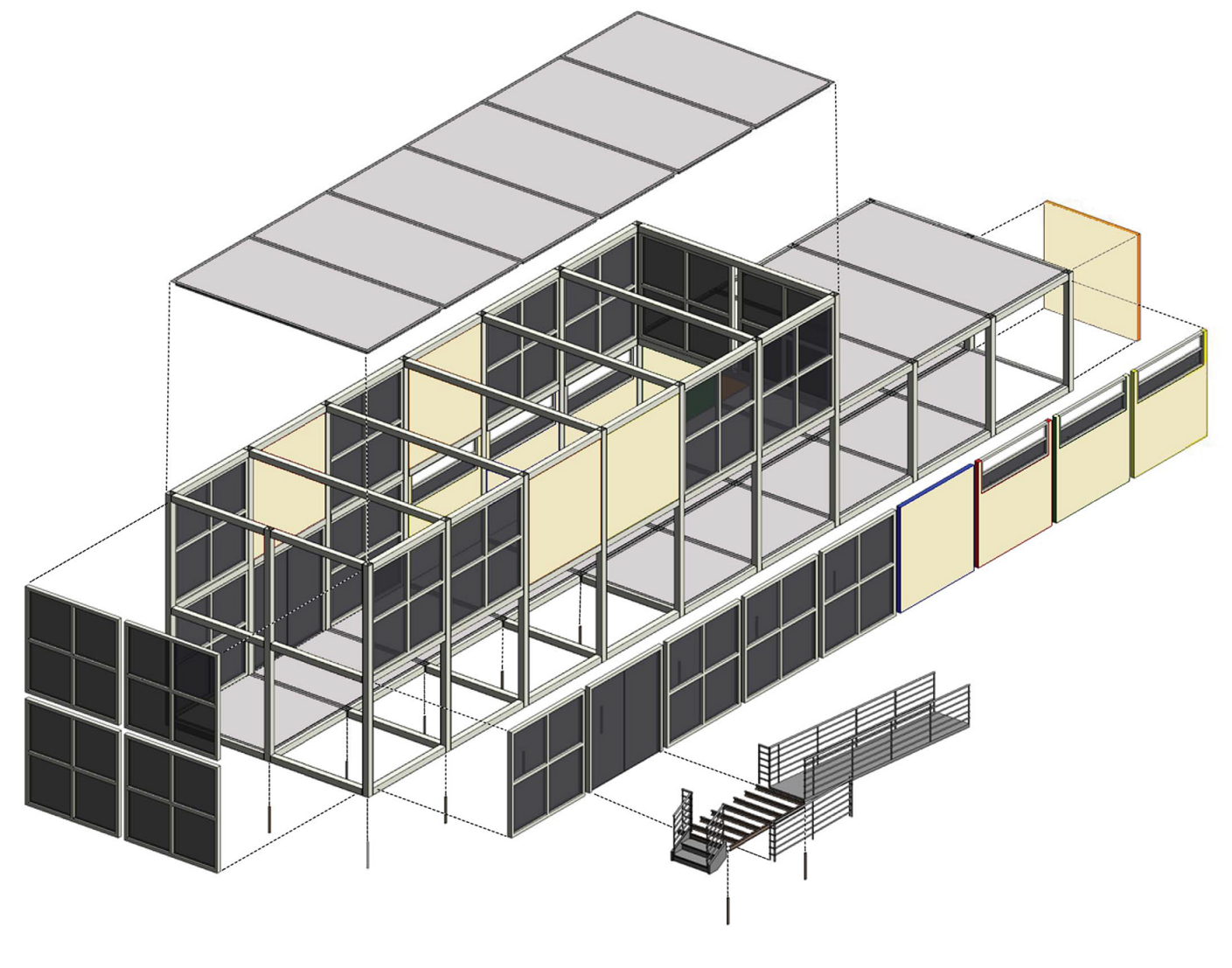


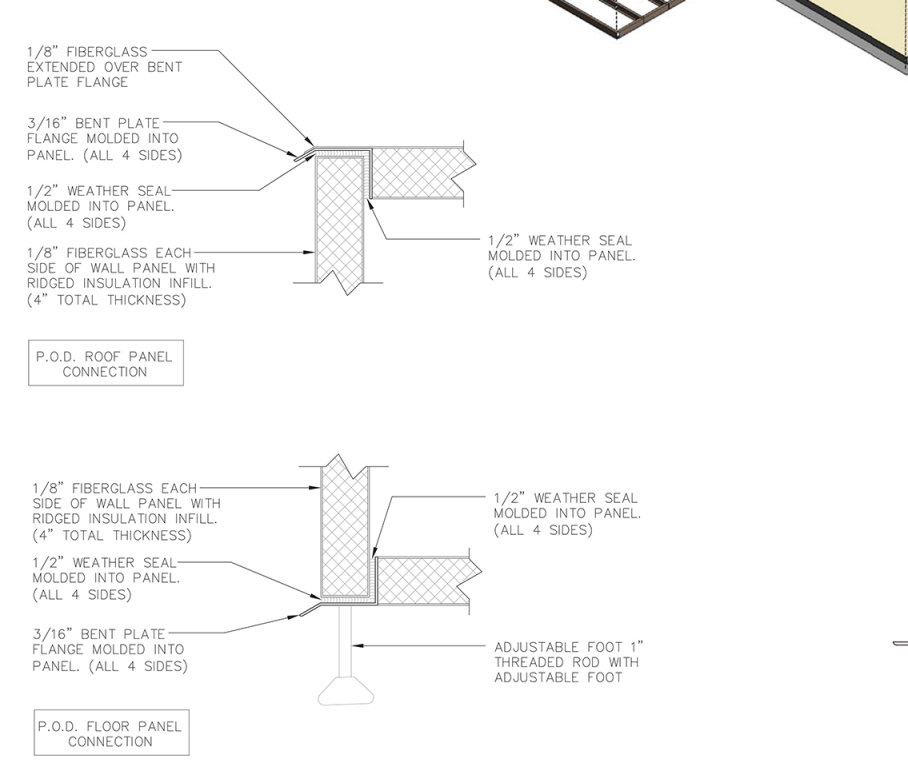

Community
Freedom of Choice
Dignity
Create a Shelter System
wellness
Physical
Mental
Social
Urban Instauration
Adaptability
Economy
Kit of Parts

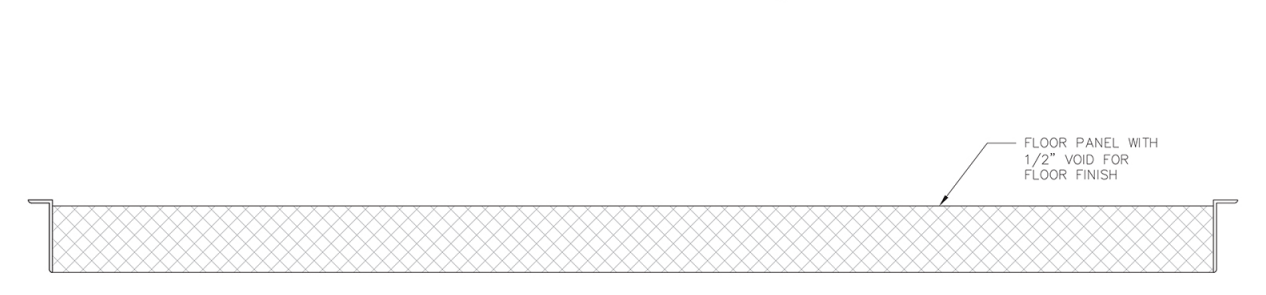


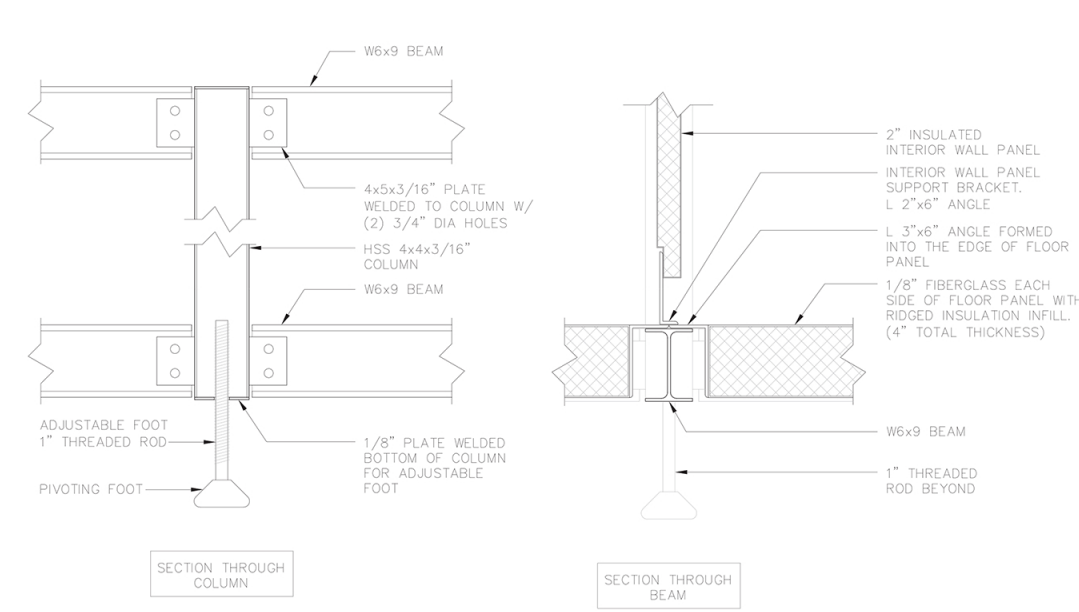


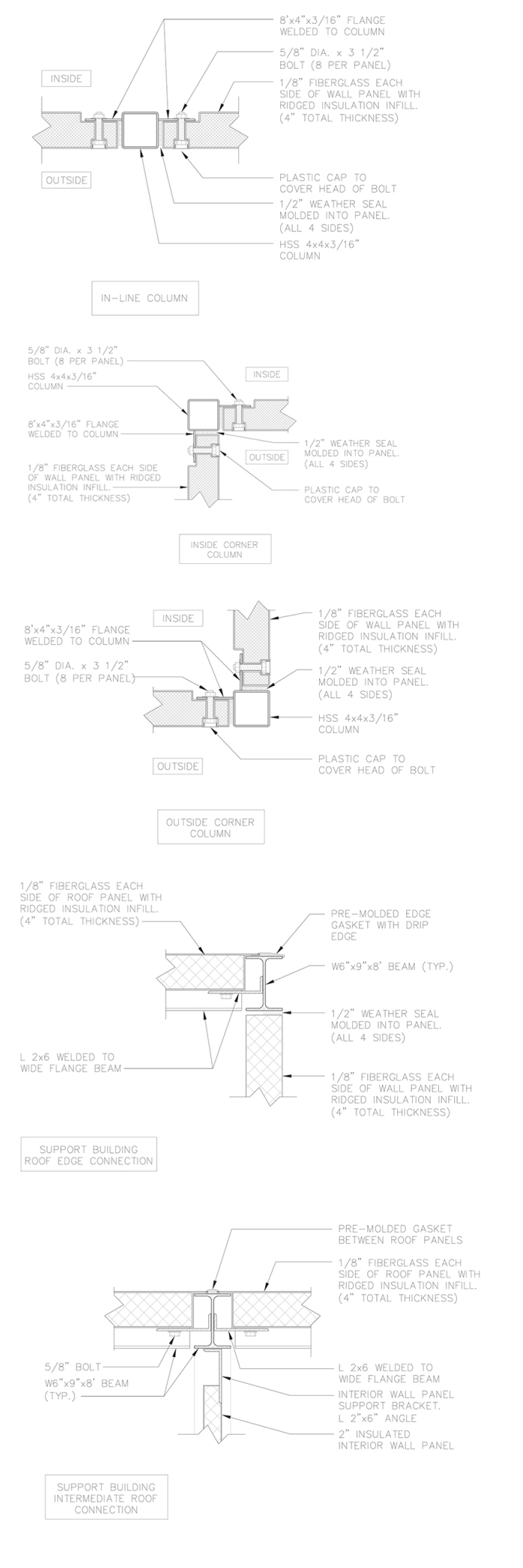

Blank Panel
Basic wall panel used throughout
Horizontal Window
Opperable
Full Open 2x Door
Half Panel Window
Full Panel Window
Full Panel Glass Door
Single Door in Blank Panel
Floor and Roof Panel
Floor and Roof Panel
W6x9 Beam
HSS 4x4x3/16"
HSS is efficient in both directions
1" Dia. Threaded Adjustable Foot
Can be adapted to any site condition
2" Interior Wall Partition
2" Interior Wall Partition w/ Door
2" Interior Wall Partition w/ Window

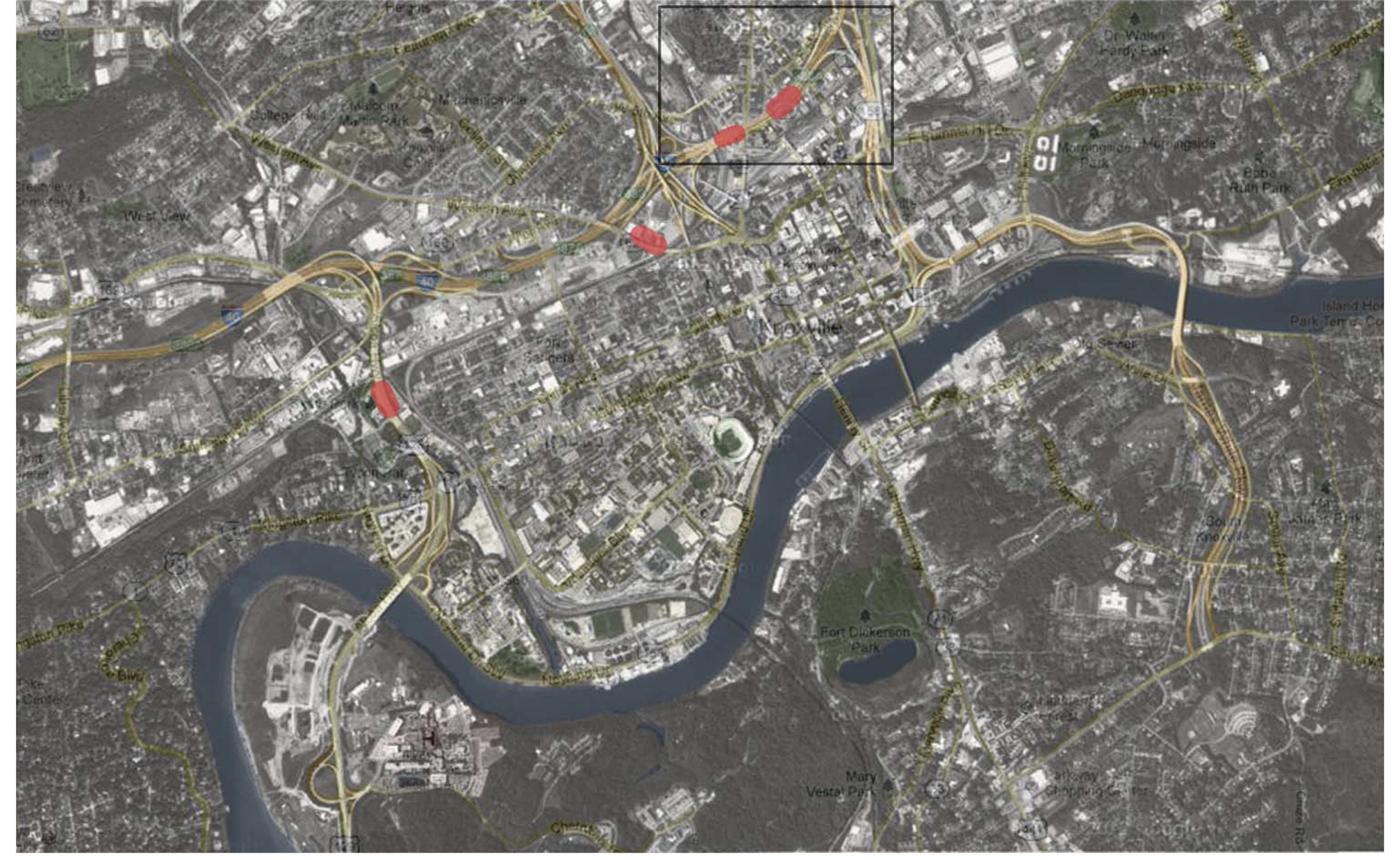


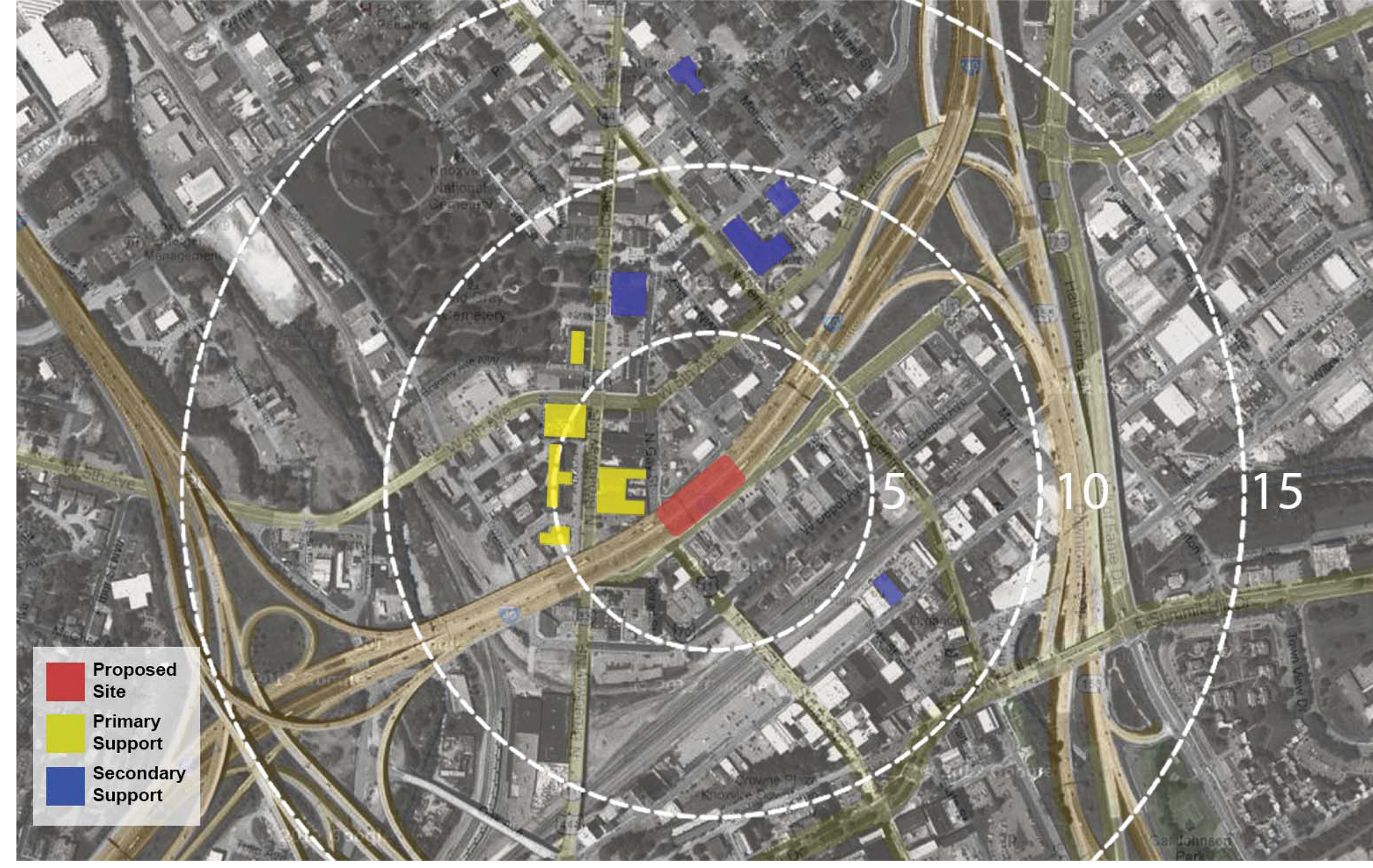


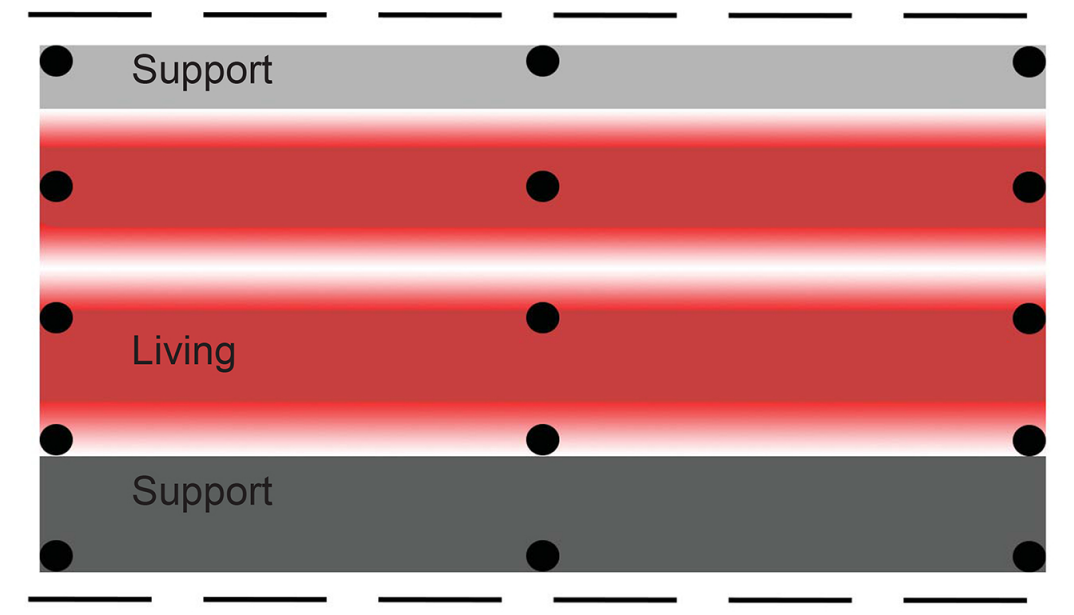

FLOOR PANEL WITH 1/2" VOID FOR FLOOR FINISH

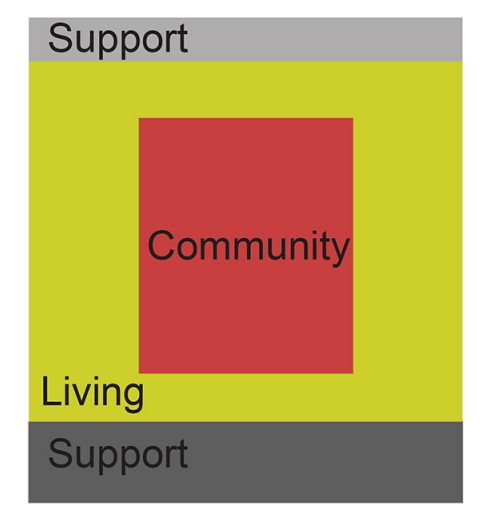


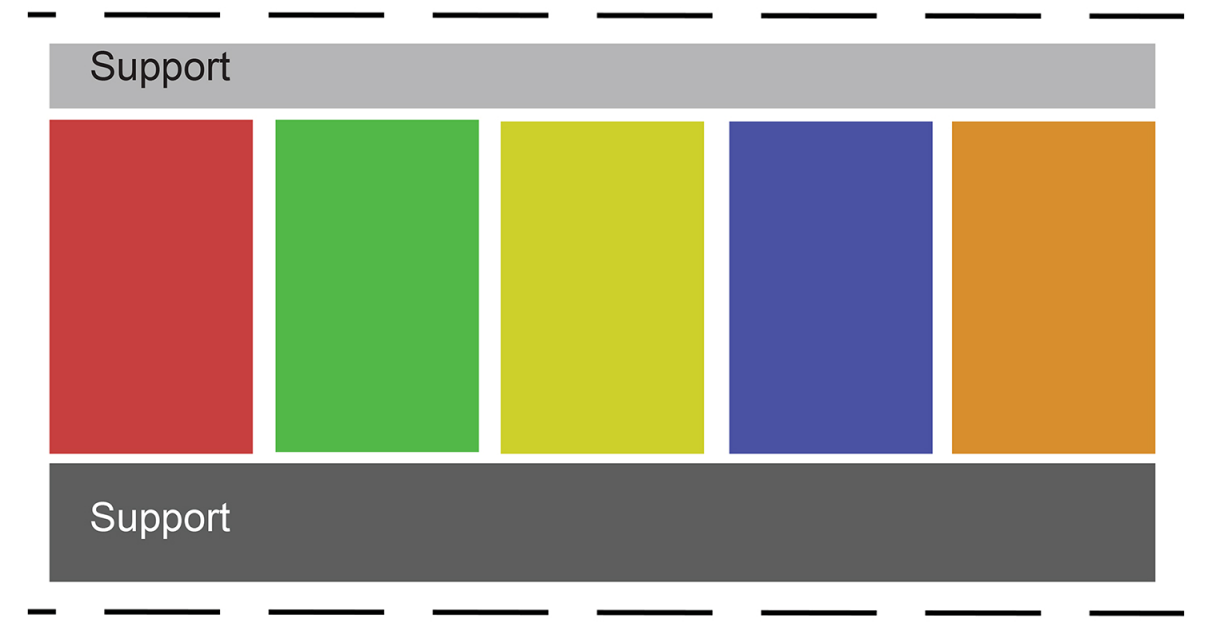


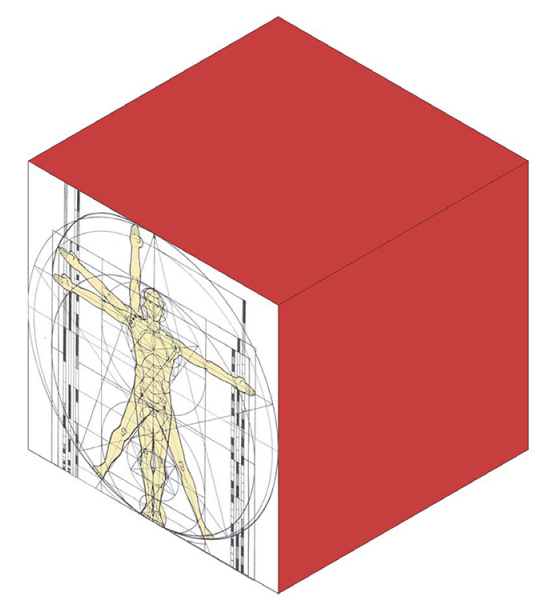


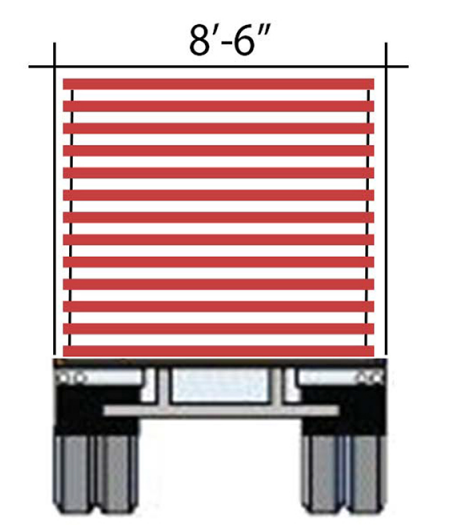

5
10
15
Proposed Site
Primary Support
Secondary Support

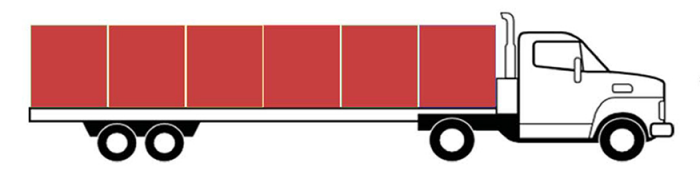

Support
Living
Support

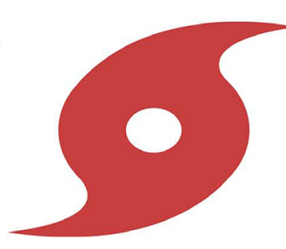

Support
Community
Living
Support

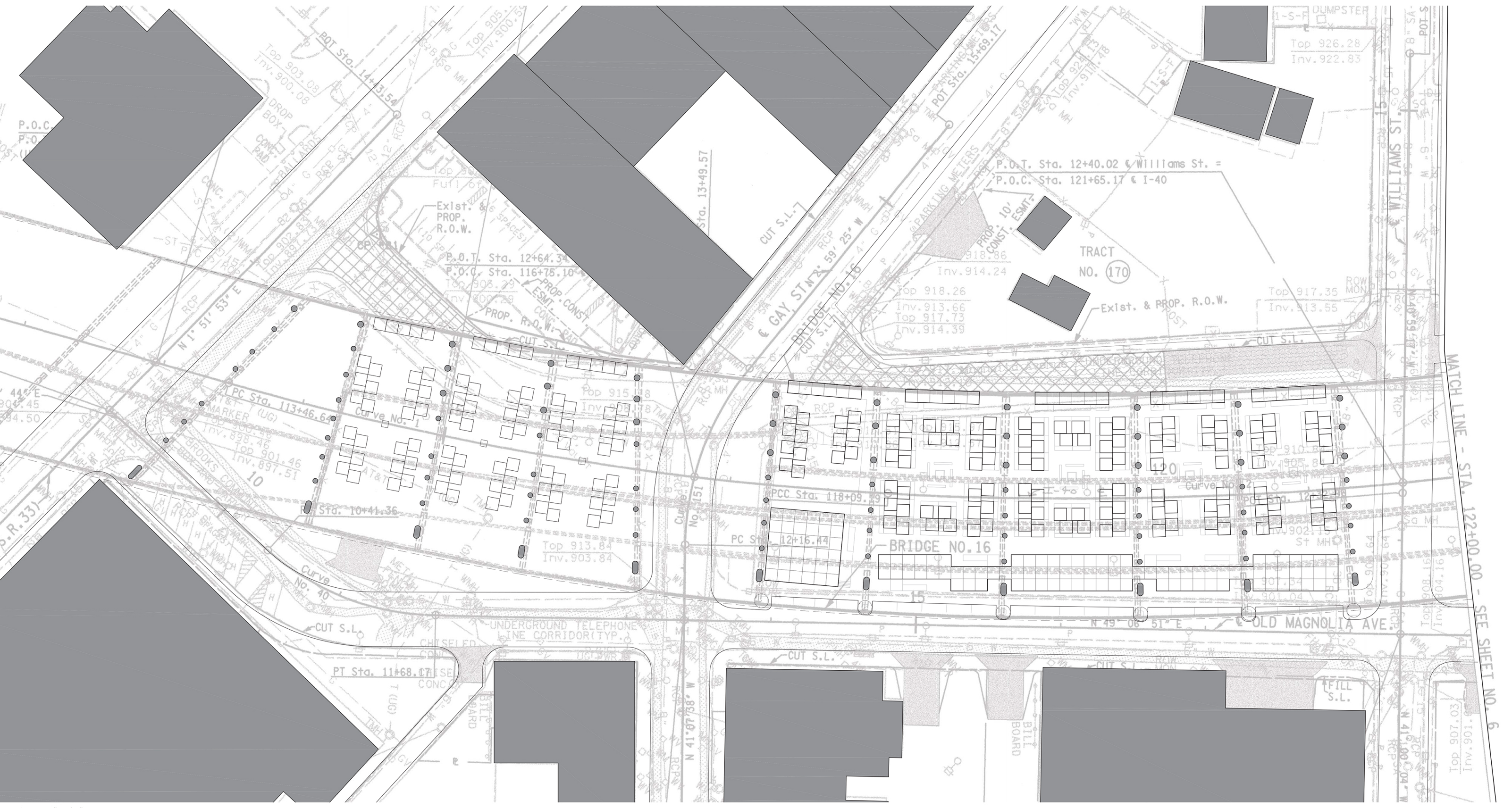

Support
Support

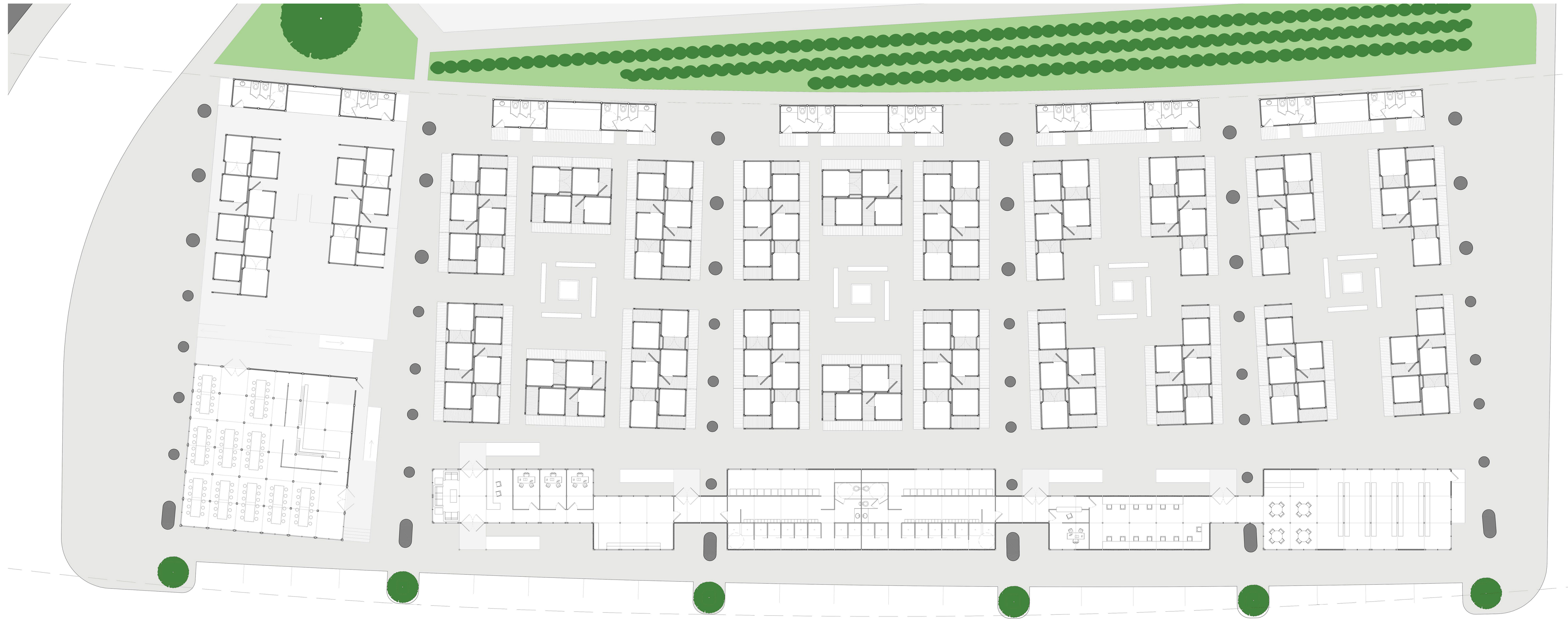


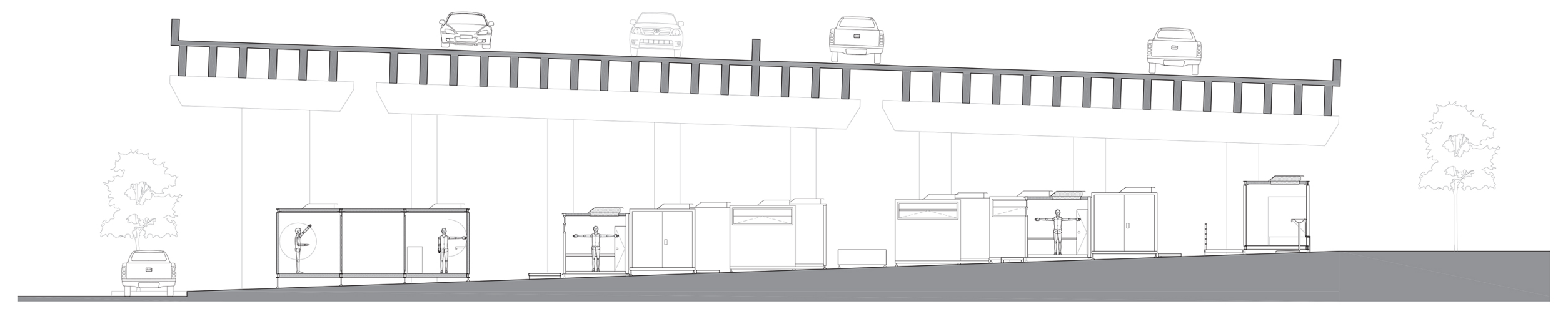


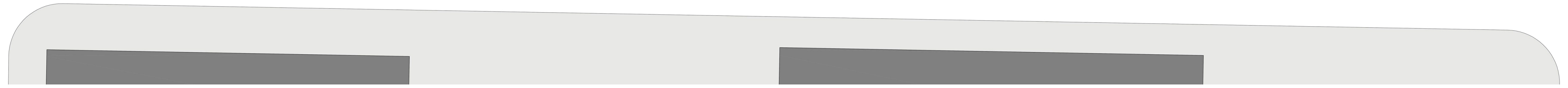


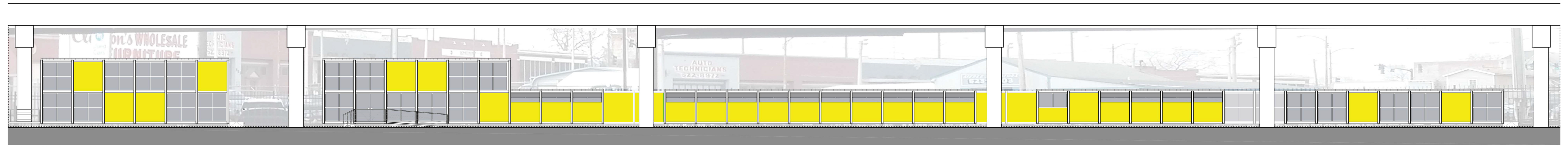


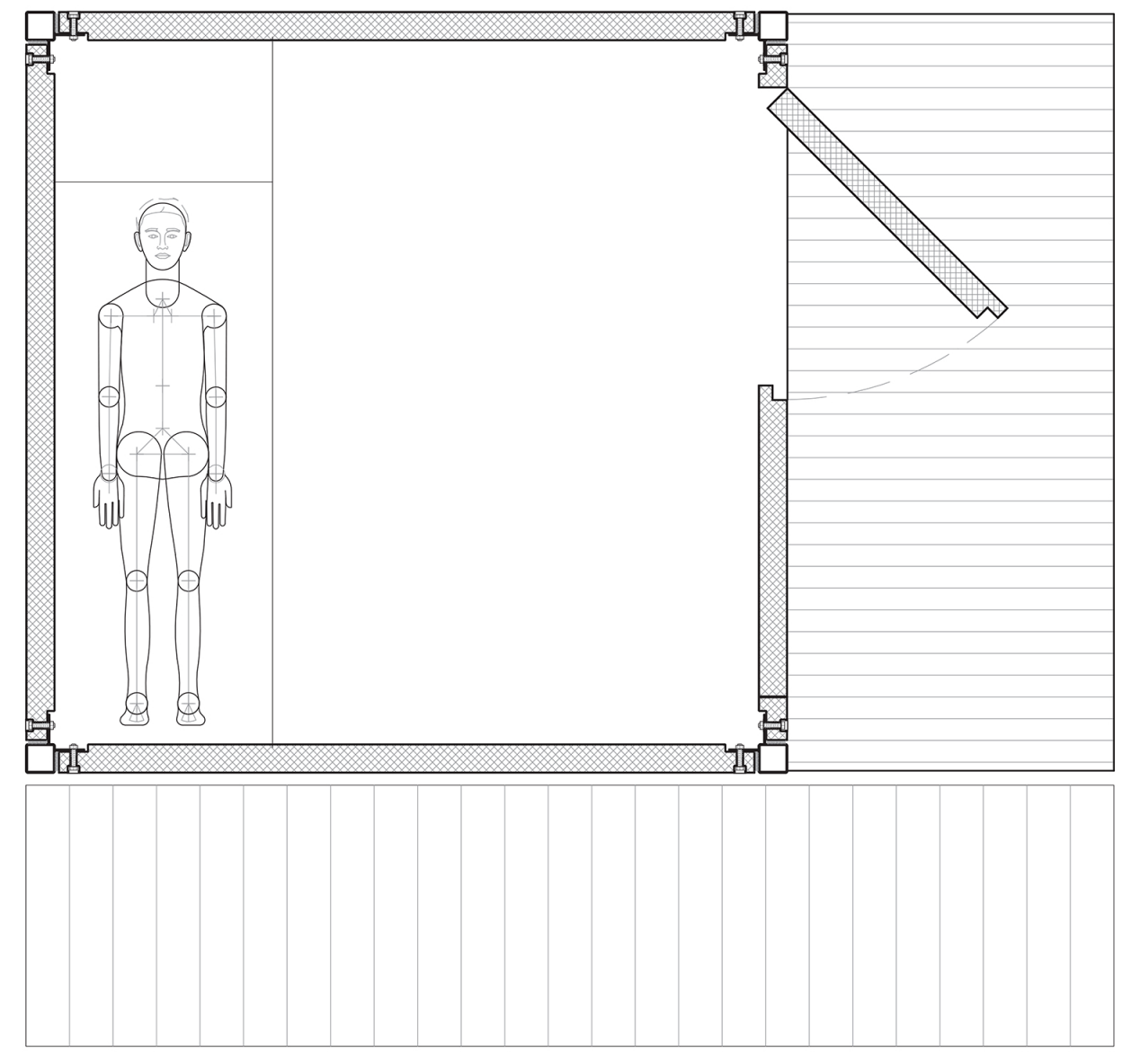

Site Plan - 1/32" = 1'-0"

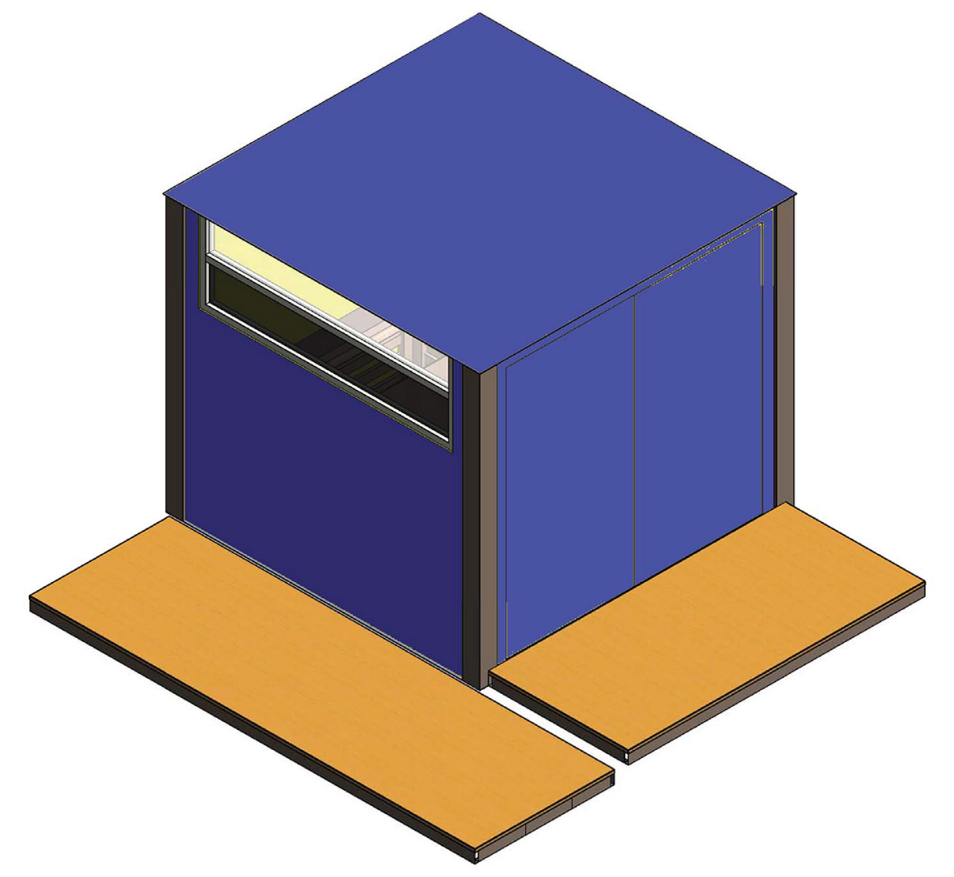


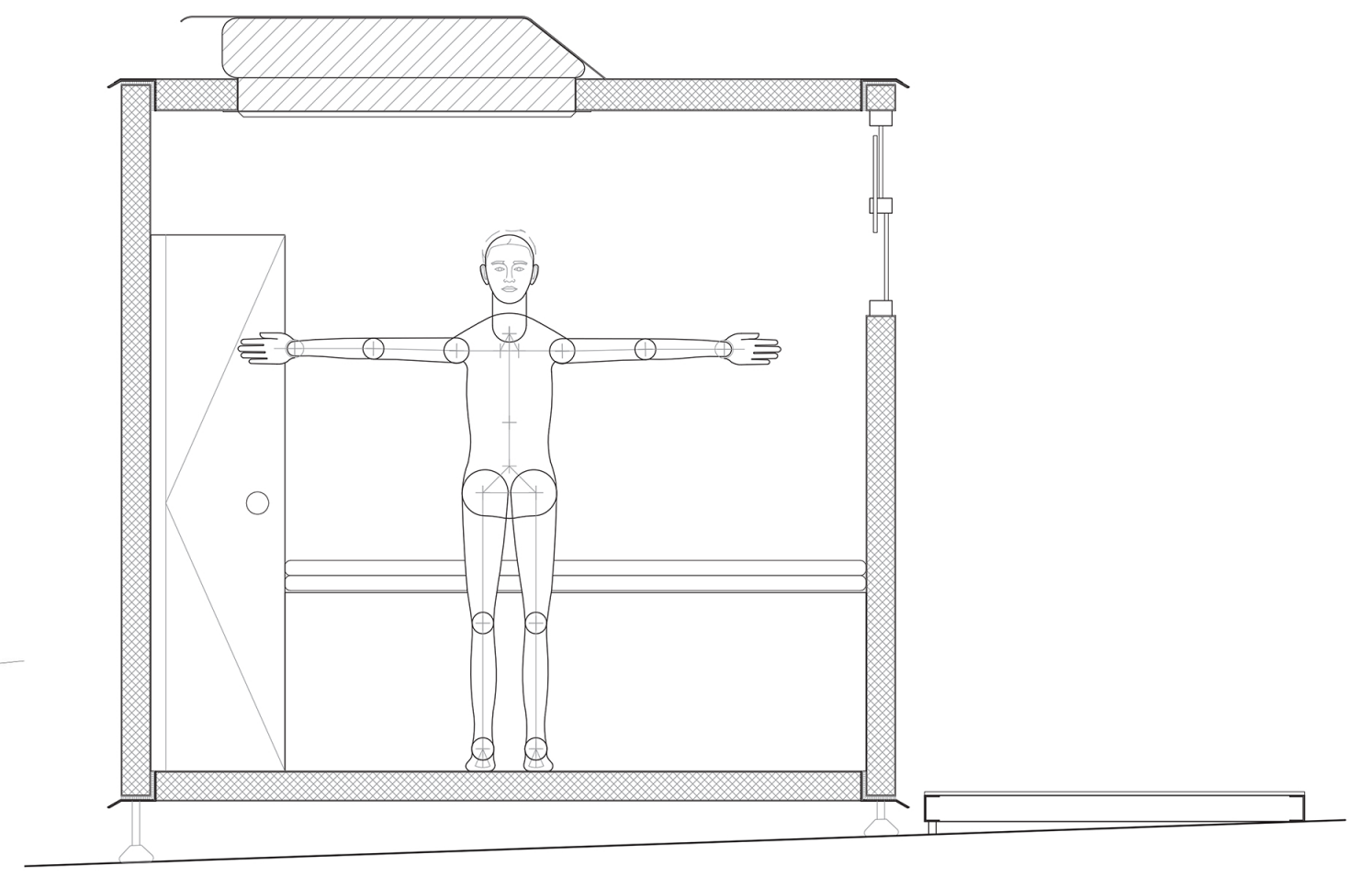

Section Through Support Building and Typical Neighborhood - 1/8" = 1'-0"

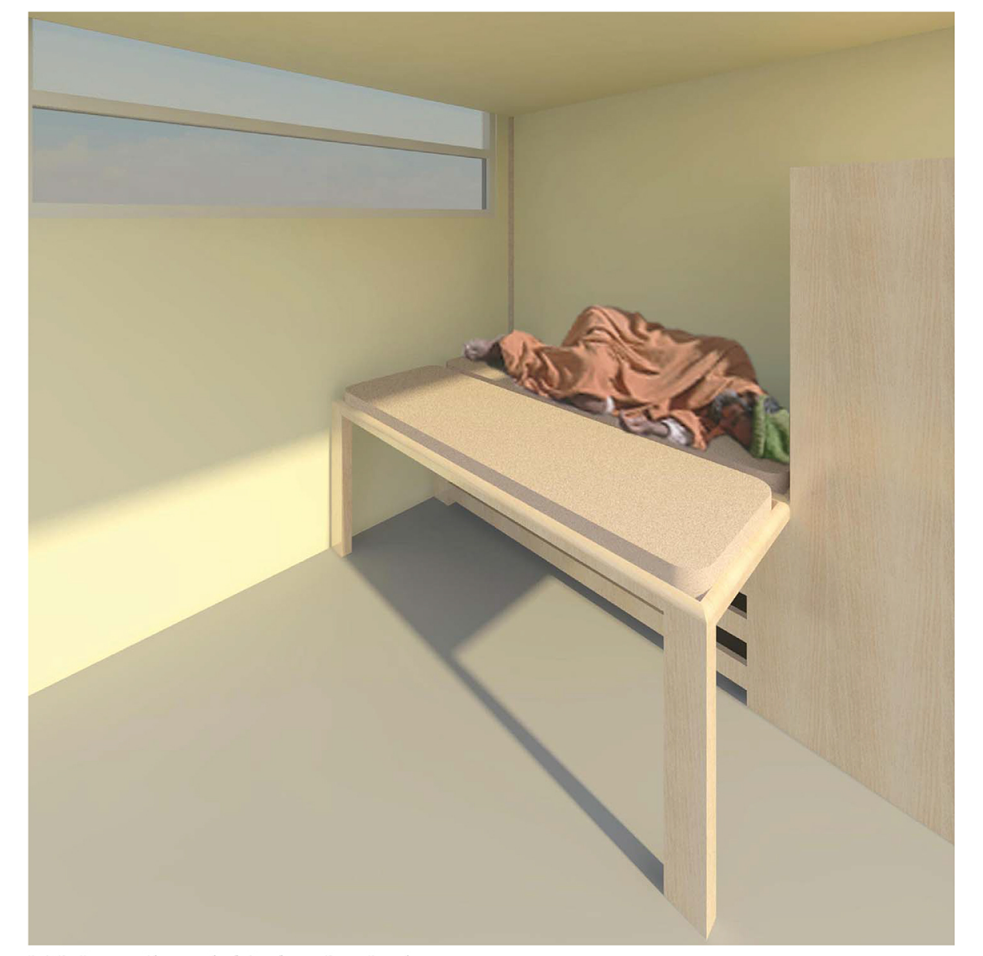

Support Buildings and Neighborhoods Floor Plans - 1/8" = 1'-0"

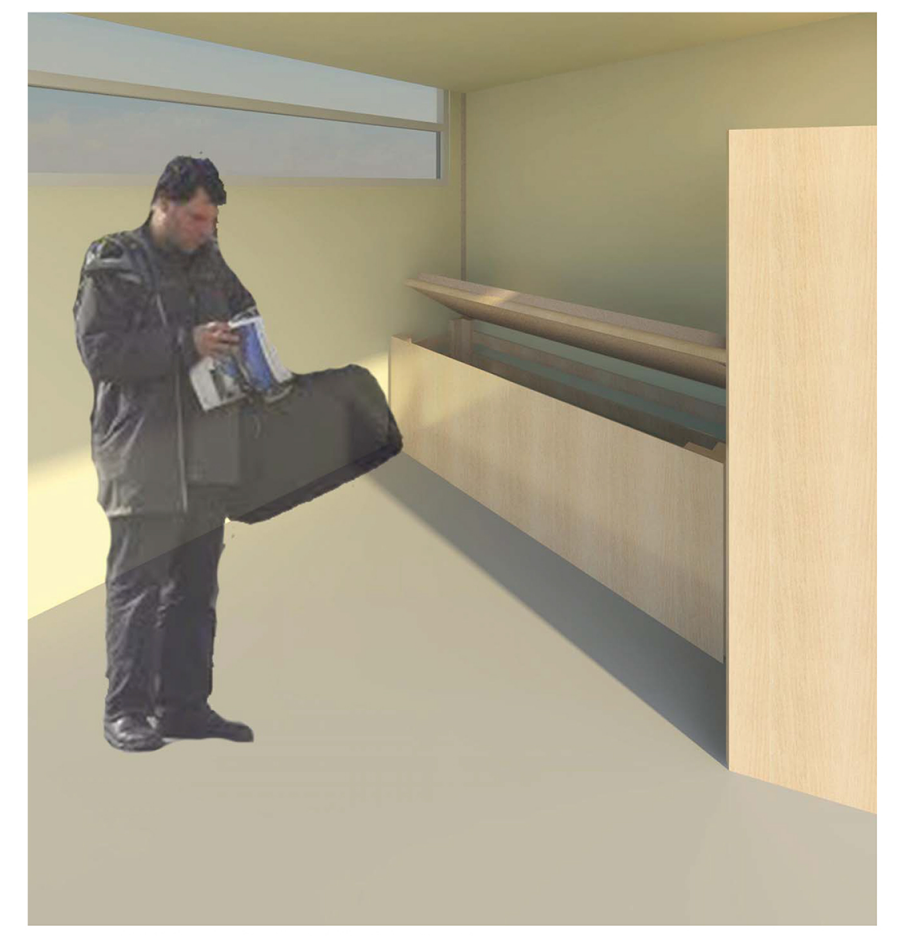
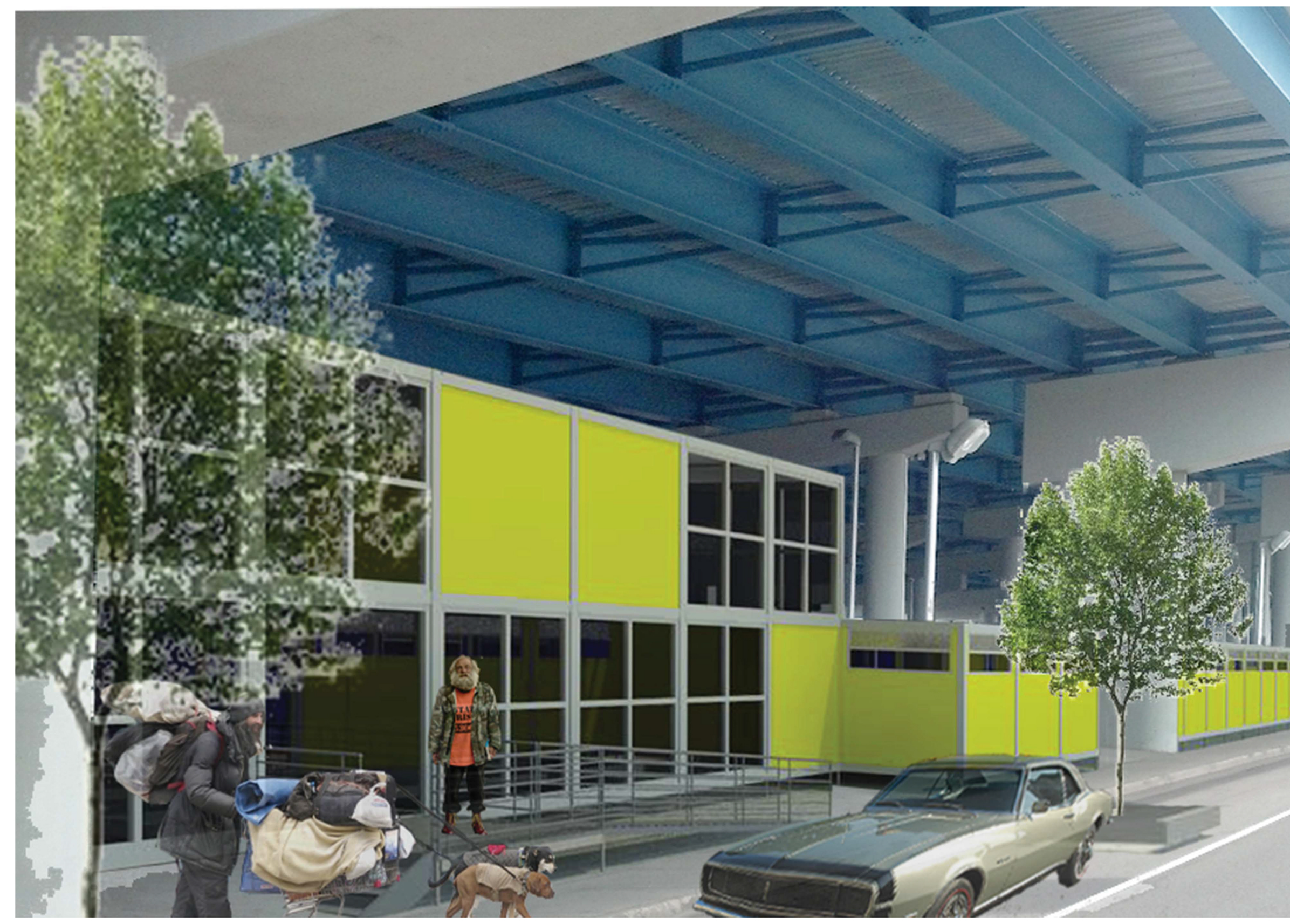
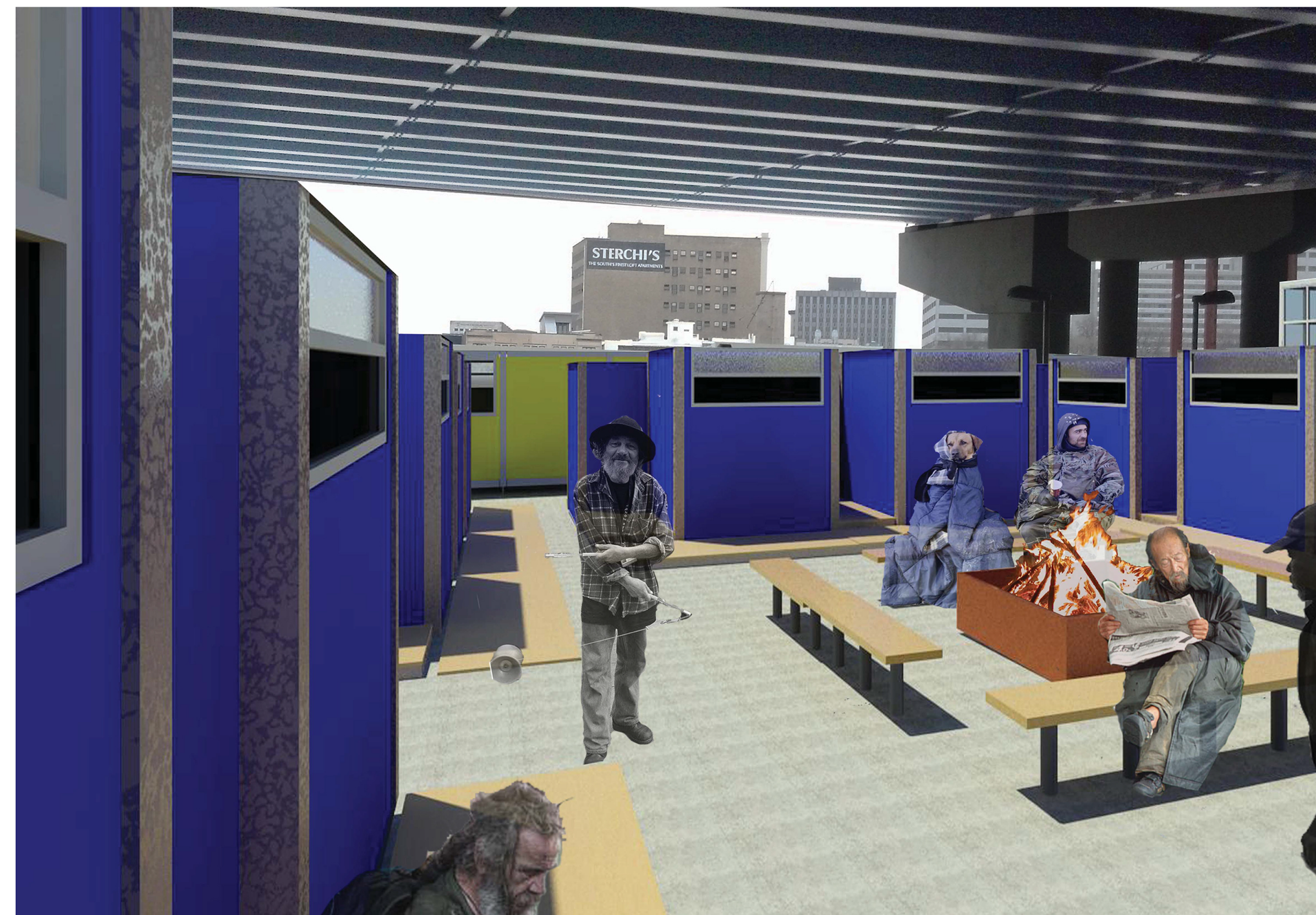

Elevation Looking North From Street - 1/8" = 1'-0"


Typical P.O.D. Plan - 1" = 1'-0"


P.O.D. Axonometric


Typical P.O.D. Section - 1" = 1'-0"


P.O.D. Interior Showing bed Condition For 2 People


P.O.D. Interior Showing bed Condition For 1 Person