Generational Weave:

An age Inclusive Community Centre

by

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Author's Declaration

I hereby declare that I am the sole author of this thesis. This is a true copy of the thesis, including any required final revisions, as accepted by my examiners.

I understand that my thesis may be made electronically available to the public.

Abstract

The demographic composition of Toronto is shifting rapidly, with a significant increase in the senior population prompting the need for innovative, socially inclusive care solutions. Traditional models of senior care have typically led to environments marked by isolation and limited interaction across generations, negatively impacting seniors' emotional and social well-being. Addressing this gap, this thesis proposes an architectural reimagining of community spaces through the design of a Intergenerational community centre integrated with senior care facilities located in North York, Toronto.

This project challenges conventional paradigms by promoting environments that actively nurture social connectedness, emotional resilience, and intergenerational reciprocity. Central to this thesis is the principle of universal and adaptable design, ensuring spaces seamlessly accommodate the varying needs of seniors, adults, and children. By fostering natural and spontaneous interactions, the design aims to diminish generational barriers and facilitate meaningful relationships.

Through careful site integration, including the strategic development of an existing water stream as a central community feature, the thesis underscores architecture's role in cultivating a sense of belonging, dignity, and vitality. Ultimately, this project presents a comprehensive design framework for multi-generational spaces that enrich social connections, foster emotional well-being, and set new benchmarks for community-based senior care in an urban context.

Acknowledgements

This thesis marks the culmination of a deeply personal journey one that carried me through some of the most challenging and transformative moments of my life. I could not have completed this work without the unwavering support, encouragement, and kindness of those who walked beside me. I am truly grateful, and it is a privilege to honour each of you here.

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Positionality Statement

This thesis grows out of my evolving understanding of what it means to design not just spaces, but relationships between people, generations, and ways of living. As someone who has moved across countries, cultures, and roles as a daughter, a student, and a designer I carry a mix of perspectives that shape how I see care, connection, and community.

I don't claim to have all the answers, but I've learned to listen carefully: to how seniors navigate public spaces, how young families seek support, and how architecture often overlooks the quiet needs in between. Being trained in India and now studying in Canada has made me more aware of the gaps between systems and people, policies and emotions. It's in these gaps that I find my motivation to design differently.

This project reflects my hope to create spaces that feel generous, welcoming, and grounded in empathy. I see architecture as a way of asking better questions about who we design for, and how we can build more inclusive futures together.

Generational Weave

An Age Inclusive Community Centre













"Architecture is not just about space and form,
but about creating the conditions for life to unfold where
generations meet, memories are shared, and communities are
bound together."

— Adapted from Louis Kahn & contemporary Intergenerational design philosophy

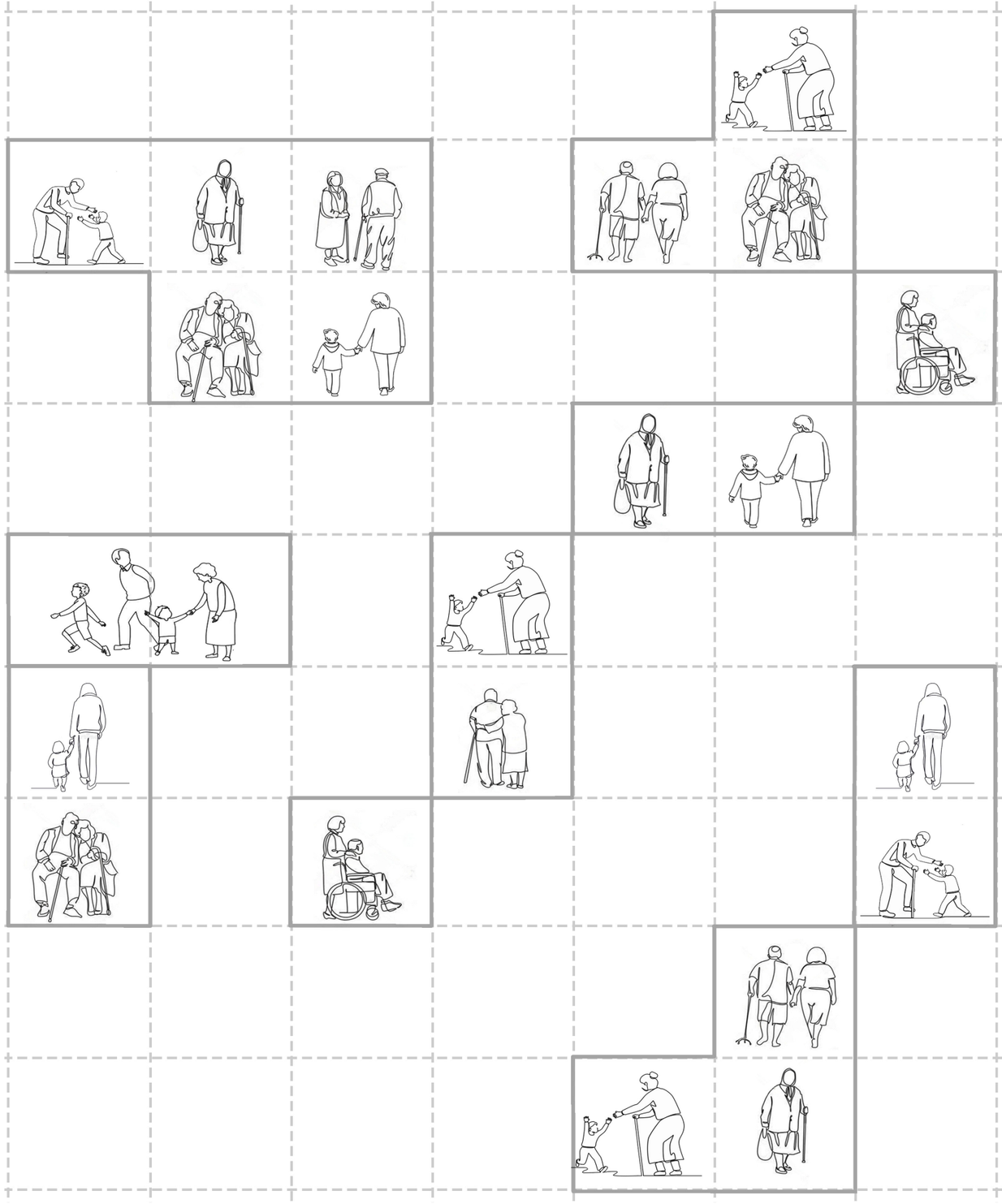




Fig 0.1 : Kids learning to bake from elderly.

Prologue: The Story

"When generations live together, a child gains roots, a parent gains support, and a grandparent regains purpose. The house becomes more than shelter it becomes continuity."
— Donna Butts, Executive Director of Generations United

My thesis asks the question: "How can architecture add to the quality of life of the elderly?" This issue is particularly important to me because of my experience of living in a community with my parents, grandparents and siblings.

I grew up in a multigenerational, multicultural household, where daily life was enriched by the presence of multiple generations coexisting, learning, and engaging in shared activities which deeply shaped my understanding of intergenerational bonds. My grandparents played a central role in my childhood, sharing wisdom and cultural narratives that became the foundation of my values and perspective. I fondly recall moments when tradition met innovation, such as introducing them to virtual reality, allowing us to explore history together in vivid, immersive ways. This exchange created meaningful dialogue between generations, bridging past experiences with contemporary insights.

When my grandparents required specialized care at home, our family's collective presence and mutual support significantly contributed to their emotional resilience and overall well-being. These experiences emphasized the power of shared daily interactions in maintaining social and emotional health across generations.

Upon immigrating to North America, I encountered a distinct shift in the social fabric. Unlike my previous experience, where intergenerational engagement occurred organically, here I observed pronounced generational divides. The lack of opportunities for meaningful interactions between different age groups highlighted a critical gap in community structures designed to support social connectivity and emotional health.

This realization prompted my exploration of architecture's role in fostering genuine intergenerational connections. Through demographic analysis, site-specific research, and precedent studies, I investigate how thoughtful architectural design can facilitate meaningful interactions among children, adults, and seniors. This thesis represents my personal reflection and professional pursuit aiming to redefine community spaces to promote social inclusion, mutual learning, and care across generations. My goal is to envision environments where intergenerational relationships become an enriching and integral part of everyday life, ultimately cultivating more connected and supportive communities.



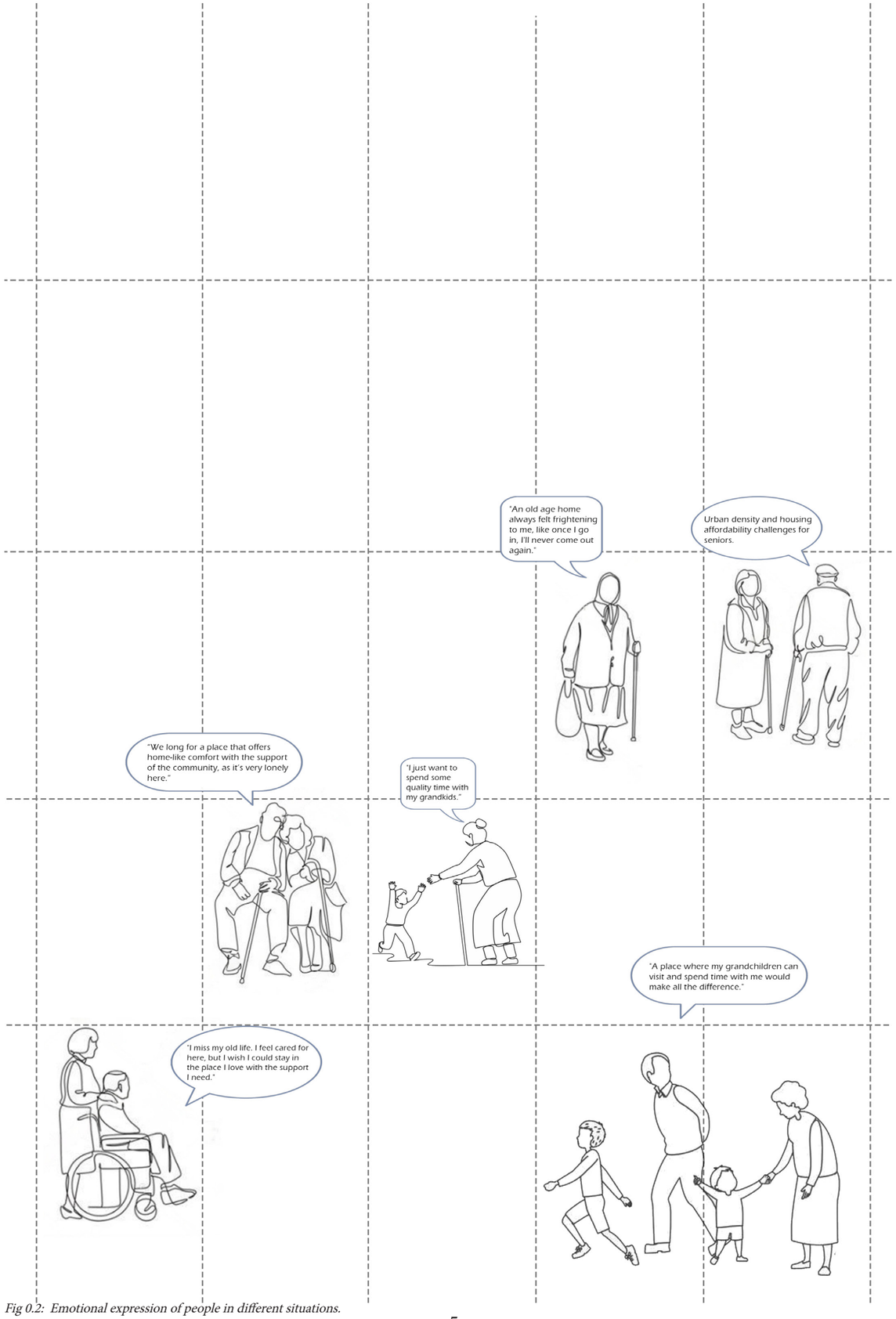


Fig 0.2: Emotional expression of people in different situations.

Introduction

"Strong communities are built not on similarity, but on connection when generations live, work, and share together, they weave a social fabric that is both resilient and inclusive."
— Ray Oldenburg, adapted from his work on "third places"

'With this change has come an appreciation for "the long way" of thinking about human personality and its social pathways in changing societies. Developmentalists have gained more sensitivity to the interlocking nature of human lives and generations, as well as an informed awareness of individuals as choice makers and agents of their own lives.'[1]

Canada's demographic fabric is shifting, and nowhere is this more evident than in Toronto, where the senior population is growing at an unprecedented pace. This transformation brings with it a set of urgent questions 'How do we prepare our communities for this change, not just physically but emotionally and socially?'
One of the most pressing concerns is the increasing isolation experienced by older adults, often a result of environments that separate rather than connect different age groups. Most existing community infrastructures continue to serve age-specific needs in silos, unintentionally reinforcing divides that leave seniors disconnected from the wider rhythms of community life.

This thesis confronts that disconnect by asking how architecture might act as a bridge rather than a boundary. It explores the potential of intergenerational spaces. Places intentionally designed to bring together children, adults, and seniors in ways that foster shared experience and mutual care. In contrast to conventional senior care models, which prioritize efficiency but often at the cost of emotional richness, this project proposes a Intergenerational community center in North York, Toronto.

The vision is one of integration: senior services coexisting with child-friendly programming, public gathering areas, and spaces designed to encourage both spontaneous encounters and structured intergenerational interaction.

Ultimately, this work offers a framework for rethinking how we design for aging within a shared urban context. It proposes an architectural model where care is embedded in community, and where spaces are shaped not only by accessibility but by empathy. The result is a replicable, context-sensitive approach that positions intergenerational engagement as essential framework for fostering community resilience and everyday connection.

[1] *Glen H. Elder, "Time, Human Agency, and Social Change: Perspectives on the Life Course," Social Psychology Quarterly 57, no. 1 (Mar 1, 1994), 4. doi:10.2307/2786971. https://www.jstor.org/stable/2786971.*

Summary

The Story offers a glimpse into the personal journey behind this thesis. It shares the questions that sparked this exploration, the intentions guiding the research, and the values that shaped the work.

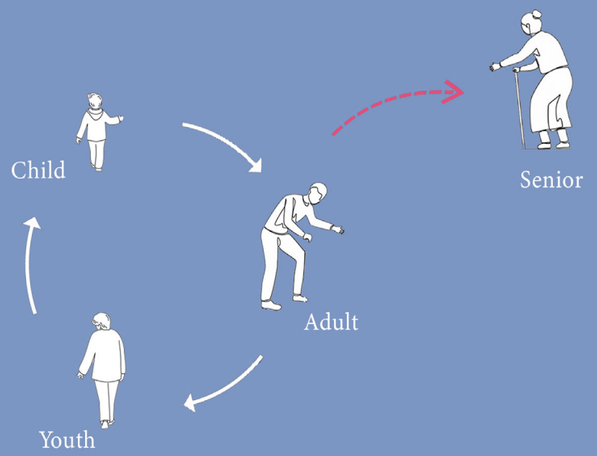
Aging and Urbanization looks at how growing older is experienced in today's cities both around the world and in Toronto. It explores how urban life often creates distance between generations, and how architecture can respond to this gap. The chapter introduces the idea of a "third space" a shared, welcoming place where meaningful connections between people of all ages can begin to unfold.

Unpacking the Aging Narrative invites readers to consider how we perceive aging and age itself. It explores the stories, assumptions, and stereotypes we carry about different generations. At its core, this chapter is about recognizing the value in every age group, and how trust and care across generations can shape stronger, more compassionate communities.

Intergenerational Bond explores the emotional fabric of the project. It focuses on how people relate, share, and care for one another beyond roles and labels. Through ideas like the "threads of encounter" and "healing line," the chapter builds a foundation for designing spaces that hold memory, foster joy, and make room for togetherness across age groups.

Redefining the Community translates the research into design. It begins by identifying the core values the architecture should reflect, then explores the existing context and how the site was chosen. From there, it presents a detailed design proposal outlining key spatial decisions, design gestures, and landscape elements that support intergenerational interaction, accessibility, and a sense of belonging.

Conclusion reflects on the journey this thesis has taken what it uncovered, what it contributed, and what possibilities still lie ahead. It closes with thoughts on how design can continue to respond to care, connection, and the evolving needs of community life.



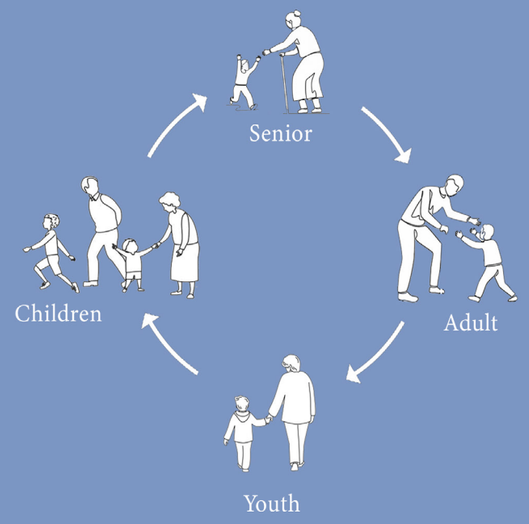


Fig 0.3: From isolation to reciprocity a life cycle reconnected through intergenerational care. Drawn by Author

Aim and Objective

"These oldsters, in their wisdom and experience have protected and instructed the little ones, while the children, in turn, have protected as the "eyes, ears, hands, and feet" of their feeble old friends. Care of the young has thus generally provided the aged with a useful occupation and a vivid interest in life during the long dull days of senescence."
(Alexander, p.217)

Aim

This thesis proposes an intergenerational community centre where seniors, children, and adults can come together not just in proximity, but in shared purpose. By weaving together senior care, early childhood spaces, and communal gathering zones, the project seeks to nurture belonging, foster meaningful interactions, and support the well-being of all generations.

Objective

1. Understand Toronto's shifting demographics and the implications for its aging population.
2. Examine the spatial and social conditions that contribute to senior isolation in urban settings.
3. Develop architectural strategies that invite intergenerational exchange through everyday encounters.
4. Design a flexible, replicable framework that supports emotional, physical, and social wellness across age groups.



"One in five frail elderly Canadian are lonely"

-Government of Canada (Nov. 2024)

Fig 0.4: One in Five frail elderly Canadian are lonely. Drawn by Author

Thesis Statement

This thesis explores how architecture can serve as a catalyst for intergenerational connection by designing a community centre that dissolves age-based silos through integrated care services, shared spaces, and programs that foster daily encounters across generations.

Thesis Question

How can architecture foster intergenerational connection and reduce senior isolation through inclusive, shared spaces?

Structure and Research

Thesis Structure

The thesis is structured into four main parts, beginning with a Contextual Analysis that investigates global demographic shifts in aging, specifically examining local implications within Toronto, socio-cultural disconnects, and the importance of inclusive third spaces. The second part, Narrative Exploration, delves into generational perceptions, identifying strengths, needs, and mutual benefits derived from intergenerational interactions. The third section, Intergenerational Bond, explores community engagement, architectural strategies to facilitate meaningful interactions, and nature-based methodologies for healing and wellbeing. Lastly, the thesis culminates in an Architectural Intervention, presenting site-specific design proposals that encompass programmatic development, spatial qualities, purposeful design moves, and comprehensive landscape integration.

Research Scope and Limitation

This research integrates care services, social engagement, and shared activities to support senior well-being in urban environments. Focusing on Toronto's aging population, project also serves as a prototype, testing how zones can be layered to create a cohesive environment for intergenerational interaction. While the scope is specific to Toronto and does not engage in medical or policy reforms, it aims to offer architectural strategies that can address generational divides, enhance emotional resilience, and promote shared community belonging across age groups.

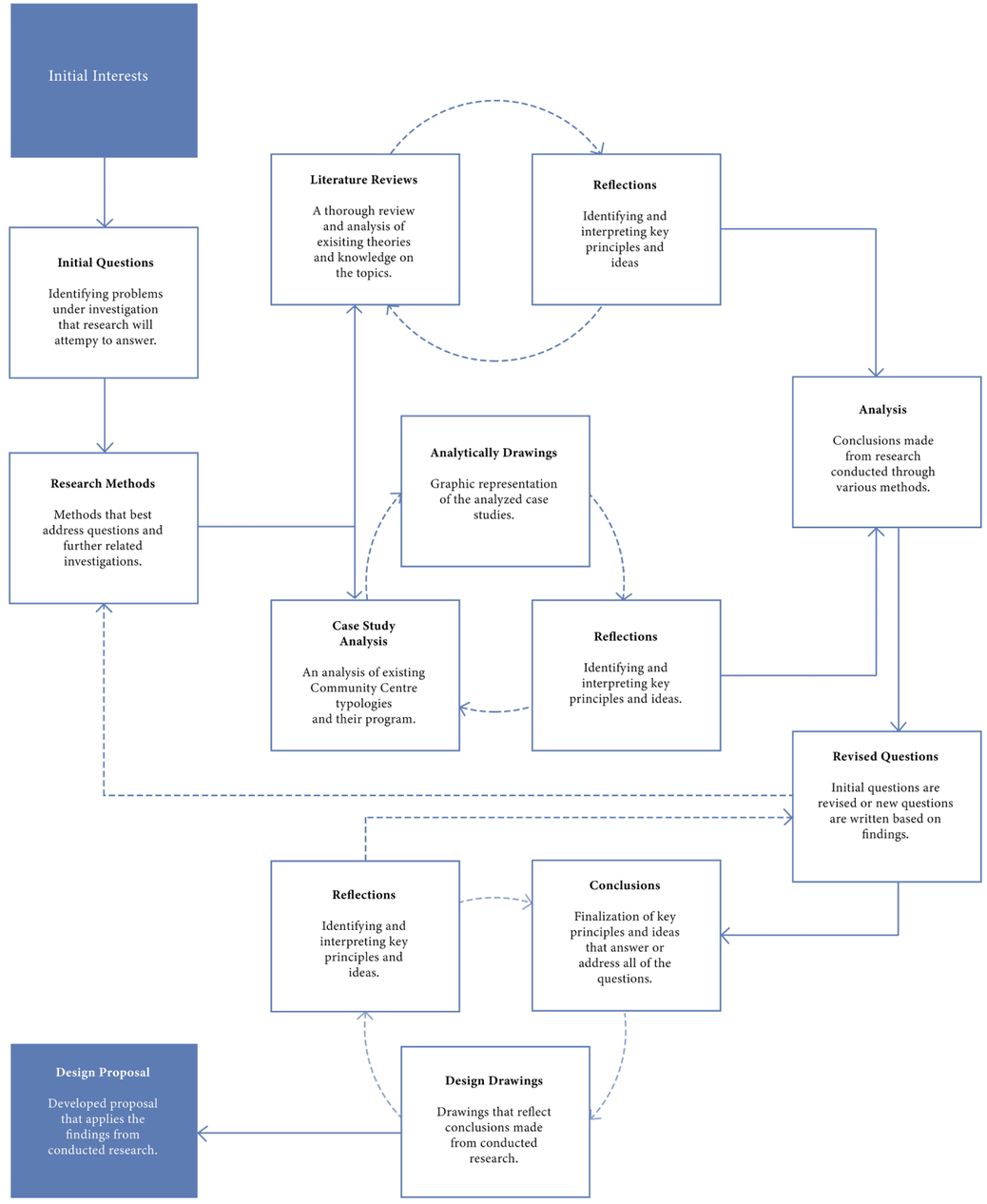


Fig 0.5: Methodology Flowchart. Drawn by Author

Methodology

The following methods were employed to address the research questions guiding this thesis. Each phase grounded in reflection, precedent, and spatial inquirywas instrumental in shaping the project's conceptual framework and final design.

Literature Review and Theoretical Research:

The initial phase focused on developing a strong foundation of knowledge around aging, intergenerational relationships, community-centered care, and spatial strategies that support well-being. This included reviewing the work of key theorists such as Richard Sennett on cooperation, Juhani Pallasmaa on sensory perception and embodiment, Matthew Kaplan on intergenerational reciprocity, and Sarah Wigglesworth on care architecture. These texts helped establish the importance of designing spaces that support emotional resilience, belonging, and participation. Concepts of spatial generosity (Tye Farrow), defensible space, and universal design also played a critical role in framing the design intentions. Reflections from these works informed both the research direction and the evolving design criteria for inclusive, adaptive architecture.

Case Study Analysis:

A set of national and international case studies was examined to identify spatial, programmatic, and operational strategies that successfully foster intergenerational interaction and care integration. Projects such as the Qinghuayuan Intergenerational Centre, Dementia Village (Hogeweyk), De Drie Hoven Elderly Complex, and Maggie's Centre in Yorkshire were chosen based on their ability to blend care, community, and design in meaningful ways. These cases were not evaluated solely by typology, but by how well they embodied design principles relevant to this thesis such as spatial layering, accessibility, community engagement, and storytelling through architecture. Through visual and spatial analysis, these precedents revealed specific formal and experiential strategies that were then adapted to the context of North York, Toronto.

Design Research and Analytical Drawings:

Drawing was treated as both a method of analysis and synthesis. Analytical diagrams were developed to extract principles from case studies and theoretical research such as programmatic mixing, spatial thresholds, and circulation hierarchies. These were then tested and evolved through speculative drawings and models that explored possible site configurations, spatial relationships, and user interactions. By iterating between drawing and reflection, the design process became an active research tool. For instance, spatial layering, the role of central courtyards, and narrative circulation paths were developed through diagrammatic experimentation and site-specific overlays. These tools helped translate abstract principles such as care, autonomy, and encounter into architectural form.

Reflections and Iterations:

Throughout the process, key moments of reflection allowed for the synthesis of insights from literature, precedent, and spatial trials. Research questions were continuously reframed in light of emerging knowledge, allowing the thesis to remain responsive rather than prescriptive. Each iteration of drawings, program development, and spatial layouts was followed by critical assessment based on the project's core values: inclusion, dignity, participation, and social well-being.

Conclusions and Design Translation:

Insights from the research process were consolidated into a series of guiding design moves such as the creation of a central courtyard, spinal connectivity, and programmatic blending. These strategies became the foundation for the final proposal, which seeks to spatially manifest care through layered thresholds, multi-generational interaction zones, and accessible landscapes. The design proposal is not a static solution, but a framework for continued adaptation and community co-creation, deeply rooted in the findings and reflections outlined above.

Part 1

Aging and Urbanization

The Aging and Urbanization

"…we cannot even know today what life in a demographically older society will look like, because we have had no experience with comparable social conditions."
- Herrad Schenk, The Adventures of Growing Old: On Growing Old and Staying Young

Aging is a natural and inevitable part of the human journey a gradual yet deeply transformative process that reshapes not only our physical being but also the way we perceive, interact with, and inhabit the spaces around us. As we move through different stages of life, our relationship with the urban environment evolves, reflecting broader societal shifts, changing cultural values, and the personal narratives we carry.[2] This evolving connection between aging and urbanization reveals the layers of human vulnerability and resilience, shedding light on both the challenges we must address and the opportunities we can embrace within the built environment.



Fig 1.0: Elderly people in a public urban setting illustrate the role of accessible third spaces

1 . 1

The Global Trend: Demographic shift in aging

The greying of the population has emerged as a profound global concern. While aging is a universal experience, its current scale signals more than just longer life spans it demands a fundamental recalibration of the social, cultural, and architectural frameworks that define urban living. Across all regions, and most notably in developed nations, we are witnessing an unprecedented demographic shift as older adults make up an increasing share of the population. This transformation, often described as both a remarkable achievement and a formidable challenge of modern civilization, reflects advancements in medicine, public health, and the evolving dynamics of family structures and fertility rates.[3] Aging today is no longer a purely biological journey; it has become a complex intersection of cultural values, economic systems, and urban forms, reshaping the way we build and

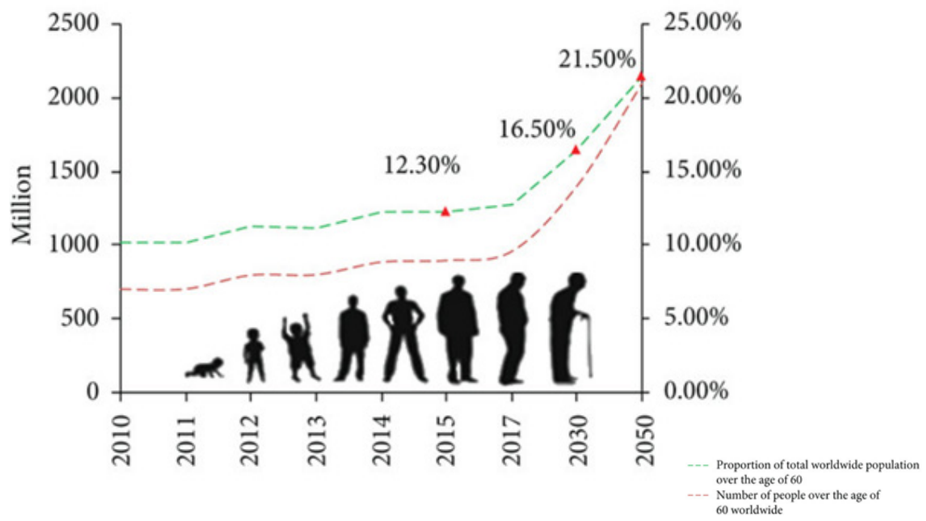
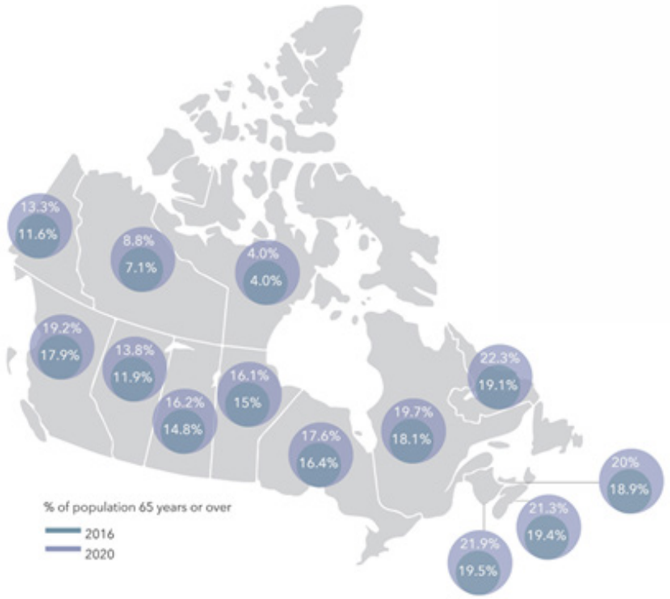


Fig 1.1a: Illustrated Graph of increasing number of aging population worldwide [4]

The contemporary urban condition intensifies this demographic reality. Urbanization has emerged as a parallel global phenomenon, with cities becoming the preferred residence for populations across all age groups, driven by opportunities in employment, education, and quality of life.[5] Currently, over half of the global population resides in urban environments, a trend expected to escalate substantially by mid-century.[6]

This urban migration has amplified challenges associated with aging, particularly in dense urban centres such as Toronto, which must now grapple with the pressing task of accommodating the needs of an increasingly older population within spaces that were initially designed for younger demographics.[7]



The idea of "Aging with Dignity" reminds us of the enduring value and contributions of older adults within the fabric of society. In many traditional Eastern cultures, elders were not only respected but held central roles in guiding family decisions and preserving collective wisdom.

Fig 1.1b: Map of Canada Showing percentage increase in population 65 years and over (Statistics Canada 2024)

[2] Enfermagem, Latino am. " Quality of life of seniors living in the community and in long term care ." (2021): 5-10.

[3] Simpson, Paul. Urban Aging: A Critical Introduction. London: Routledge, 2015.

[4] Liu, Yanfei & Weng, Weiliang & Gao, Rui & Liu, Yue. (2019). New Insights for Cellular and Molecular Mechanisms of Aging and Aging-Related Diseases: Herbal Medicine as Potential Therapeutic Approach. Oxidative medicine and cellular longevity. 2019. 4598167. 10.1155/2019/4598167.

[5] Manuel Castells, The Rise of the Network Society, 2nd ed. (Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2010).

[6] United Nations, World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (New York: United Nations, 2014).

[7] Hauderowicz, Sophie, and Serena Tsen. "Aging in the City: Urban Design for an Age-Friendly Toronto." Cities and Health 3, no. 1–2 (2019): 62–72

1 . 2

The Scenario: Aging in Toronto

"Age-Friendly Cities are communities that enable residents to age actively through supportive policies and infrastructure"
- Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Canada's Aging Population

Toronto exemplifies this demographic evolution, with seniors rapidly becoming one of its largest population segments, outnumbering children under fourteen for the first time in history.[8] This shift not only strains existing social and health infrastructures but also profoundly influences housing typologies and community planning practices.[9]

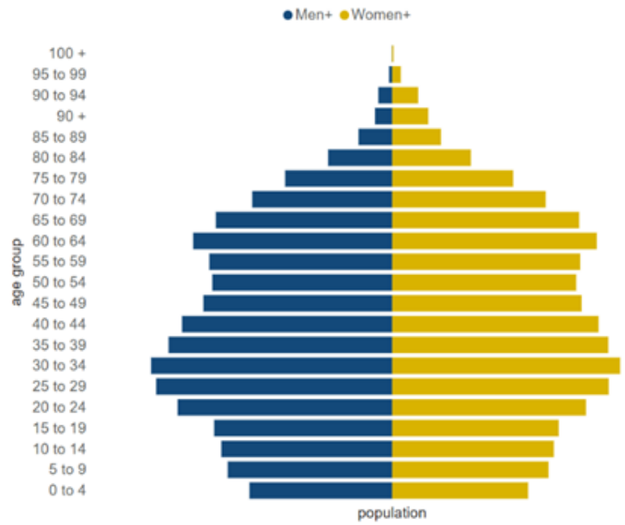
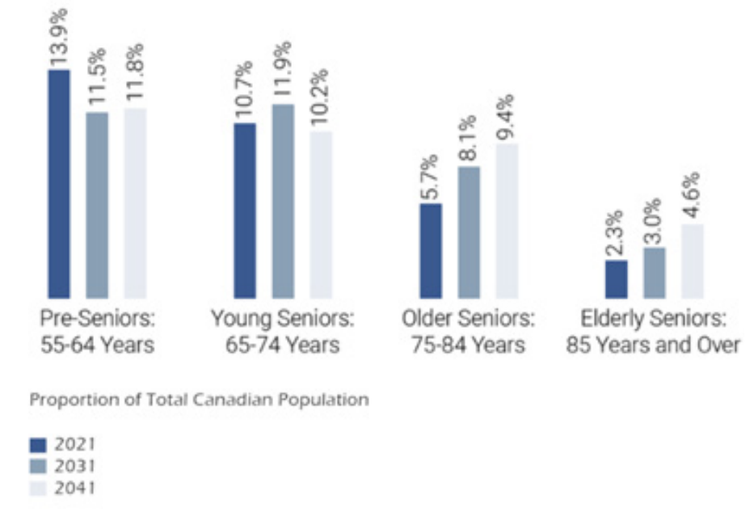


Fig 1.2a: Population distribution by age and gender in Canada, showing a widening aging segment (Statistics Canada, 2024).

Age-friendly infrastructure must move beyond accessibility to promote social participation, walkability, and intergenerational interaction.[10] Successful models show that compact, mixed-use neighbourhoods with access to healthcare, recreation, and community services significantly enhance quality of life for older adults.[11] Toronto's diverse urban fabric presents both challenges and opportunities to reimagine public spaces and housing as platforms for equity across age groups.[12]



Urban spaces, once envisioned primarily as engines of economic productivity and youthful vitality, now must be rethought to address the needs of an aging populace, who face increased vulnerability to social isolation, diminished mobility, and declining physical and mental health due to inadequate and inaccessible housing conditions.[13]

Aging populations thrive in socially engaging, walkable environments that support interaction and well-being. However, many cities lack inclusive spaces that foster intergenerational connections.

Fig 1.2b: The proportion of Canadian senior population from 201 to 2041

[8] *Statistics Canada. Portrait of Seniors in Canada, 2021 Census. Ottawa: Government of Canada, 2021.*

[9] *arki_lab. Intergenerational Housing: Designing Communities for All Ages. Copenhagen: arki_lab, 2015*

[10] *World Health Organization. Global Age-Friendly Cities: A Guide. Geneva: WHO Press, 2007.*

[11] *Plouffe, Louise, and Alexandre Kalache. "Towards Global Age-Friendly Cities: Determining Urban Features That Promote Active Aging." Journal of Urban Health 87, no. 5 (2010): 733–739*

[12] *Grant, Jill L. Planning the Good Community: New Urbanism in Theory and Practice. London: Routledge, 2006.*

[13] *Jacqueline van Bronswijk, Ageing and the Built Environment: Design Solutions for an Ageing Society (Delft: Delft University Press, 2015); Frank Oswald et al., "Housing and Health in Later Life," Reviews of Environmental Health 34, no. 1 (2019): 65–78. https://doi.org/10.1515/reveh-2018-0053.*

1 . 3

The Gap: Socio cultural Connection

"… the new culture of old age. In this context, education, social networks and housing conditions play a key role"
- Herrad Schenk, The Adventure of Growing Old: On Growing Old and Staying Young

While urbanization widens generational divides, it also creates opportunities to bridge cultural gaps through shared spaces that foster inclusion across age and ethnicity. North York, one of Toronto's most culturally vibrant regions, exemplifies this dynamic. Home to communities from South Asian, East Asian, Middle Eastern, and European backgrounds, North York provides a mosaic where aging individuals of diverse heritages engage with each other beyond religious or cultural boundaries.[14]



Fig 1.3: Interconnection of senior's facility in their daily routine. Drawn by Author

Places like the Aga Khan Park, Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre, and Mel Lastman Square host public events and serene communal areas where seniors find joy in simply gathering sharing stories, laughter, and leisure, unconstrained by difference.

This everyday mingling reveals a deeper architectural and social truth: age-inclusive spaces function best when designed to nurture spontaneous interaction across both culture and age. Unfortunately, most urban housing models still isolate seniors into homogeneous environments, reinforcing separation rather than integration. In contrast, North York's diverse cultural infrastructure offers an emerging model where seniors feel they belong not because they are similar, but because they are welcomed as part of a larger, shared urban story. Architecture and urban planning must evolve to echo this ethos by designing for multicultural, intergenerational interaction not merely accessibility.

Architecture, when sensitively executed, has the potential not just to accommodate the elderly but to celebrate their presence and wisdom through spaces intentionally designed to foster narrative exchange across generations. This transformative shift in approach demands architects move beyond traditional paradigms embracing the potential of intergenerational design to reconnect seniors to their communities and enable them to reclaim their roles as valued storytellers and contributors within urban society.

[14] *City of Toronto. 2016. Cultural Loops Guide – North York. Toronto: Economic Development and Culture Division.*

[15] *City of Toronto. 2016. Cultural Loops Guide*

[16] *Chui, Tina. 2008. The Canada Year Book 2008: Immigration and Ethnocultural Diversity in Canada. Ottawa: Statistics Canada.*

[17] *Simpson, Paul. Urban Aging: A Critical Introduction. London: Routledge, 2015.*

The presence os some chronic health problems or pain and their inability to move with family.



The instability of the financial situation, which is one the main problem of the elderly in Toronto.



Loss of confidence in people as a result of the trauma they have been exposed to.



Care paitents with lack of facilities, Lack of opprotunity for independence and solitude.



Rehabilitate them psychologically and physically to restore their ability to communicate with others.

Providing them the feeling of belonging and connectivity with the community that restores the sense of confidence.





How do we help them?

Fig 1.3a: Issues faced by the elderly in current situation. Drawn by Author

1 . 4

The Third Space

"It is in the third place that people may come and go as they please, feel at home, and encounter others on a level playing field—forming the heart of a community's social vitality."
— Ray Oldenburg, The Great Good Place

One concept critical to fostering such community bonds is the implementation of "third places." Coined by sociologist Ray Oldenburg, third places refer to informal public spaces distinct from home (first place) and workplace (second place) that encourage voluntary, relaxed social interactions across diverse age groups. These spaces hold significant potential in reducing age-related isolation, bridging generational divides, and promoting mutual understanding and reciprocal relationships between older and younger community members. Particularly for retired individuals, third places become essential environments for sustaining connections with broader social networks, facilitating interactions not only among peers but also with younger generations.[19]

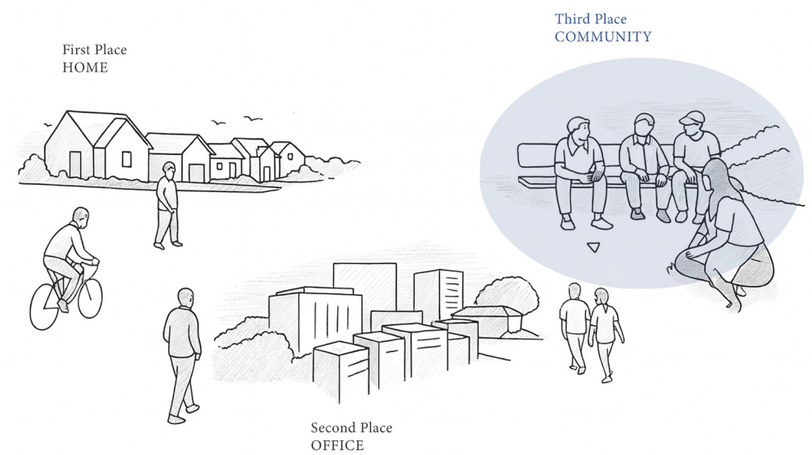


Fig 1.4: Diagram representing First (home), Second (work), and Third (community) Places, highlighting social and spatial dynamics in urban life (University of Chicago ELI, 2023). generated by Chatgpt

While third places often emerge organically within communities, their intentional integration into architectural design can greatly enhance their effectiveness. Thoughtful placement and design of communal spaces such as shared gardens, cafés, libraries, or community hubs can actively encourage daily intergenerational exchanges. These designed third places should not be considered isolated entities; rather, their successful functioning depends largely on their relationship to the broader community infrastructure.

Oldenburg emphasizes that vibrant third places thrive best within walkable, mixed-use communities that encourage spontaneous social interactions.[20] Hence, an architectural design that promotes pedestrian-friendly environments, diverse amenities, and convenient accessibility significantly enhances community engagement opportunities for seniors.

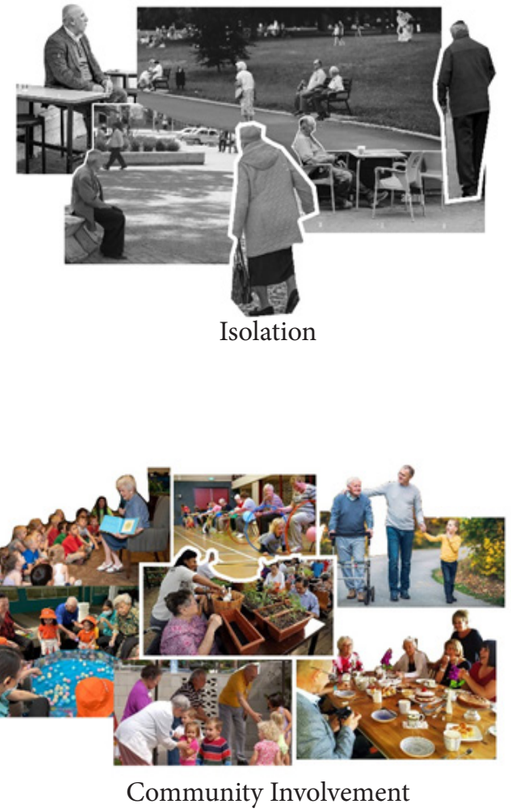


Fig 1.4a : Seniors daily lonely lifestyle vs Intergenerational engagement in life. Illustrated by Author

[19] Oldenburg, Ray. The Great Good Place: Cafes, Coffee Shops, Bookstores, Bars, Hair Salons, and Other Hangouts at the Heart of a Community (New York: Marlowe & Company, 1999), xxi.

[20] Oldenburg, The Great Good Place, 210

Part 2

Unpacking the Aging

Unpacking the Aging

"The young cannot flourish without the wisdom of the old, just as the old cannot thrive without the vitality of the young; aging is not an isolated journey but a shared continuum that binds all generations."
— Margaret Gullette, in "Agewise: Fighting the New Ageism in America" (2011)

Aging is often misrepresented as a slow retreat from relevance, or a solitary passage disconnected from the flow of everyday life.
Aging is not linear or isolated; it is a relational process, continuously shaped by the presence of others. It is within these intergenerational ties that aging finds its most enduring meaning.

Contemporary discourse, especially in urban cultures, tends to separate older adults from the rhythms of public life. As Gullette points out, aging is often framed in decline narratives, overlooking the deep contributions elders make in holding together families, transmitting cultural memory, and offering relational stability.[21] This distancing isn't neutral it influences how spaces are designed, who they prioritize, and how inclusion is silently determined.

Yet when we observe communities where generations remain in close proximity, another picture emerges. Margaret Mead spoke of this interdependence as a necessary cultural pattern the wisdom of elders offering direction, while the energy of youth brings renewal.[22] Together, they sustain a more complete social ecology.

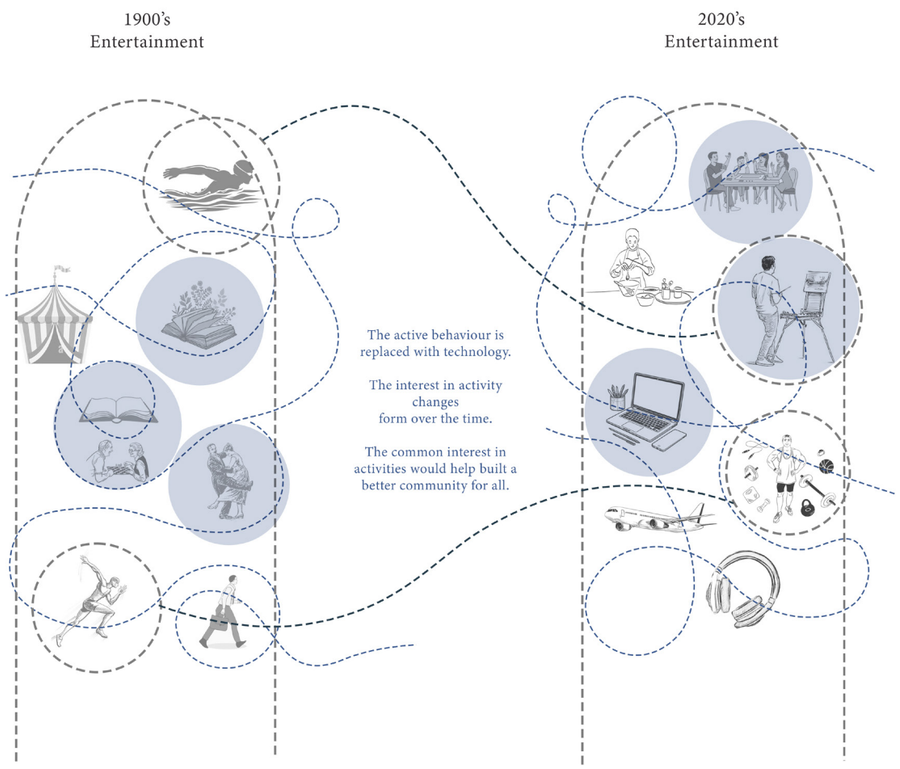
2 . 1

The Generational Interface: Perception of Age

"Each generation sees the world through a different lens, shaped by time and experience, yet their lives remain invisibly stitched together—through memory, legacy, and shared spaces of meaning."
— Sarah Lamb, in "Successful Aging as a Contemporary Obsession: Global Perspectives" (2017)

The generational interface is a complex space where age-based perceptions, values, and experiences intersect and evolve. Each generation whether young, middle-aged, or elderly interprets life through its own temporal and cultural lens. These differing perceptions can shape intergenerational dynamics, influencing everything from workplace hierarchies to family roles. Beneath those surface differences lies a web of subtle entanglements shared stories, inherited responsibilities, and overlapping needs. Lives are "invisibly stitched together" through shared histories, cultural memory, and interdependence, even when perspectives diverge.[23] These threads aren't only emotional or personal; they run through economic roles, caregiving expectations, and how public systems assign value to age. Biggs and Lowenstein's idea of "generational intelligence" invites us to reflect on how awareness of these structures could deepen empathy and how architecture might spatialize that awareness.[24]

The reciprocal exchanges reveal that aging is not an isolated or individualized experience but a socially embedded process· Gullette reminds us that culture plays a powerful role in how we "become aged" in public view·[25] Understanding age through this interconnected framework not only challenges ageist assumptions but also encourages more compassionate and collaborative intergenerational relationships· These perceptions don't just influence how we see others they shape how spaces are designed› who they serve› and who is left out·



Entertainment, once rooted in shared physical activity and social presence, has evolved into a more isolated, screen-based experience. This visual traces a shift from collective games, reading, and dance in the 1900s to cooking shows, digital workouts, and streaming in the 2020s. While the nature of leisure has changed, the need for connection remains. By identifying overlaps art, food, movement architecture can design opportunities for new forms of shared joy. The diagram suggests that despite generational shifts, common interests can still serve as powerful threads for building community, bridging past and present through inclusive, intergenerational activity spaces.

Fig 2.1a: Intersection of activities that people were interested in 1900's and 2000's. Drawn by Author

[21] Gullette, Margaret Morganroth. 2011. Agewise: Fighting the New Ageism in America. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

[22] Moody, Harry R., and Jennifer R. Sasser. 2017. Aging: Concepts and Controversies. 9th ed. Thousand Oaks, CA: SAGE Publications.

[23] Lamb, Sarah, ed. 2017. Successful Aging as a Contemporary Obsession: Global Perspectives. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press.

[24] Biggs, Simon, and Ariela Lowenstein. 2011. "Generational Intelligence: A Critical Approach to Age Relations." Generations 35(4): 28–33.

[25] Gullette, Margaret Morganroth. 2004. Aged by Culture. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

2 . 2

The Reliance: Benefits of all ages

"The old need the company of the young, and the young need the wisdom of the old."
(Pearl S. Buck)

Intergenerational interactions create valuable opportunities for reciprocal relationships where each generation can both give and receive support, reflecting the intrinsic interconnectedness of human communities. The accumulated wisdom, gained through life's successes and failures, provides a stable emotional foundation, offering younger individuals a nuanced perspective on overcoming life's complexities.[26] Furthermore, their increased emotional resilience and focus on meaningful relationships foster an environment conducive to mentorship, nurturing younger individuals through guidance and support. [27]

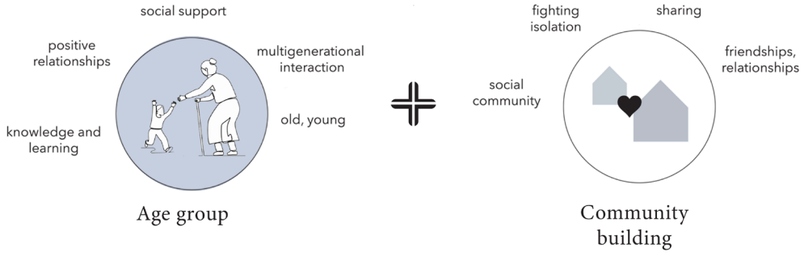
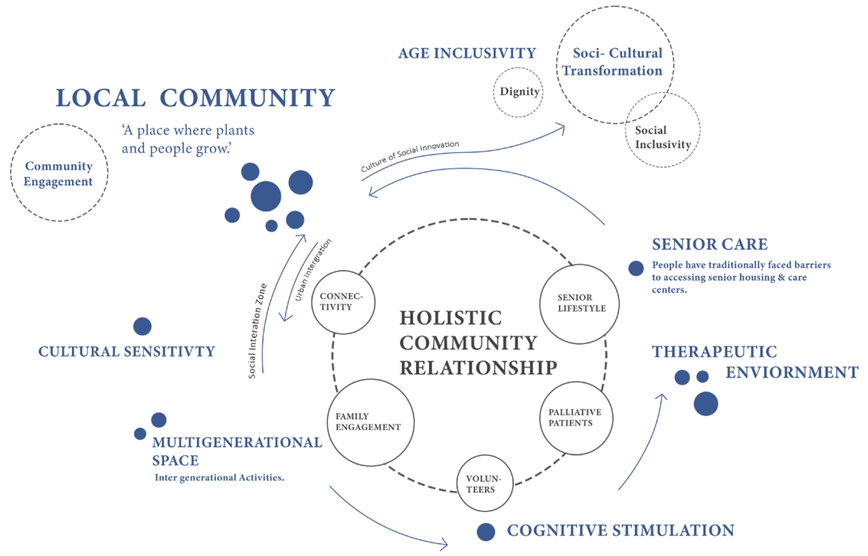


Fig 2.2a: Age group and community connection. Drawn by Author

Conversely, younger generations contribute vitality, energy, and contemporary insights, helping older adults maintain an active engagement with society. Recent studies emphasize that older adults regularly interacting with younger individuals demonstrate significant cognitive improvements and experience reduced feelings of isolation, loneliness, and depression, promoting active aging and overall life satisfaction.[28]

Adults in middle age also play a pivotal role in these intergenerational exchanges. With their financial stability, caregiving capacities, and professional knowledge, middle-aged adults form a critical support system bridging the gap between generations. This multifaceted exchange alleviates stresses such as childcare, eldercare, and emotional fatigue, common among adults balancing careers and family obligations.[29]



Intergenerational engagement not only fosters social cohesion but also addresses specific needs across age groups. It enhances cognitive and emotional health for seniors, builds essential life skills and resilience in youth, and supports adults in their caregiving roles, creating a robust, supportive, and adaptive community structure. Promoting intergenerational reliance through thoughtfully designed architectural spaces can significantly enrich the lives of all community members, highlighting the profound potential of integrated, multigenerational living environments.

Fig 2.2b: Wordmap with community context brainstorming. Drawn by Author

[26] Kaplan, Matthew. "Intergenerational Programs in Schools: Considerations of Form and Function." International Review of Education 48, no. 5 (2002): 305-334.

[27] Erikson, Erik H. The Life Cycle Completed: A Review. New York: W.W. Norton & Company, 1982.

[28] Jarrott, Shannon E., and Cynthia L. Smith. "Intergenerational Programs: Understanding What We Have Created." Journal of Intergenerational Relationships 17, no. 2 (2019): 215-233

[29] Small, Mario L. Someone to Talk To: How Networks Matter in Practice. New York: Oxford University Press, 2017.

Part 3

Intergenerational Bond

The Intergenerational Bond

“A community that engages all generations is one that draws on the full spectrum of human capacity—energy, wisdom, curiosity, and care—creating a resilient and inclusive society for all.”
— Marc Freedman, How to Live Forever: The Enduring Power of Connecting the Generations

The emotional and spatial dynamics that foster intergenerational relationships within the urban fabric. Building upon earlier insights into aging and community disconnection, Part Three explores how architecture can serve as a medium for meaningful engagement across age groups. It focuses on the value of shared experiences and social reciprocity how moments of encounter between generations can shift perceptions, reduce age-based segregation, and nurture collective belonging. The chapters unpack key spatial strategies, including the role of third places, narrative-driven design, and biophilic integration, that support everyday interaction, care, and healing. This part acts as a bridge between theoretical understanding and design application, grounding social intent in architectural form.

3 . 1

The Engagement: Community and Social Interconnections

"The focus is on creating community settings that welcome age- and generation-diverse populations, provide opportunities for meaningful intergenerational engagement, and, in some way(s), enrich community life."
-Matthew Kaplan, a professor at Penn State University, Intergenerational Contact Zones (ICZs)

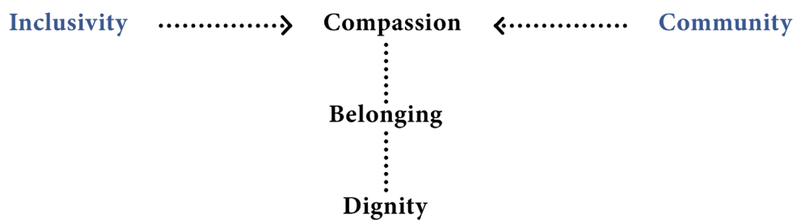
Social connection is not simply a desirable element of aging it is fundamental to a life of meaning, continuity, and emotional vitality. For older adults, strong social ties provide far more than companionship; they help sustain mental agility, emotional resilience, and physical health. The quiet comfort of familiar voices, the rhythm of shared routines, and the sense of belonging within a community become deeply stabilizing forces over time.

Research has consistently shown that frequent interaction with family, neighbors, and local groups is one of the most powerful indicators of well-being in later life.[30] Such connections act as a protective layer against loneliness, often buffering the emotional and cognitive decline associated with isolation.

Older adults typically prefer remaining within familiar communities, where their established relationships and routines provide stability, comfort, and continuity. Oswald et al. (2003) emphasize that, displacement from these known settings can erode emotional well-being, increasing vulnerability and disconnection. The importance of aging in place is heightened by evidence suggesting that relocation to entirely new environments can exacerbate feelings of isolation and negatively impact emotional well-being.[31] Architecture, then, must not treat senior spaces as separate or static. Instead, it should support fluid engagement designing for continuity, accessibility, and inclusion. A well-considered community center is not just a facility; it is a quiet invitation for older adults to continue shaping, and being shaped by, the life around them.

"Social relationships are consistently associated with biomarkers of health, reduced risk of cognitive decline, and increased longevity making connection as vital to aging well as diet and exercise."

— Lisa F. Berkman, Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies



[30] National Institute on Aging, "What Do We Know About Healthy Aging," (Bethesda: National Institute on Aging, 2022).

[31] Oswald, Frank, Hans-Werner Wahl, Heidrun Mollenkopf, and Oliver Schilling, "Relationships Between Housing and Healthy Aging in Very Old Age," The Gerontologist 43, no. 1 (2003): 96–107.

3 . 2

The Threads of Encounter

"We are Woven into the fabric of being." "We are not individuals who relate, but are already related."
– Tim Ingold

The concept of Threads of Encounter draws from Ingold's vision of the world as a meshwork a system not of discrete points, but of entangled lines of life and movement. In his words,
"We live in a world of lines, not dots".[32]
These lines represent lived paths of gestures, of footsteps, of shared histories and when they intersect, they create encounters. In such a framework, relationships are not formed after the fact; they are the condition of being itself. We do not merely pass by one another we become, in part, through our proximity.

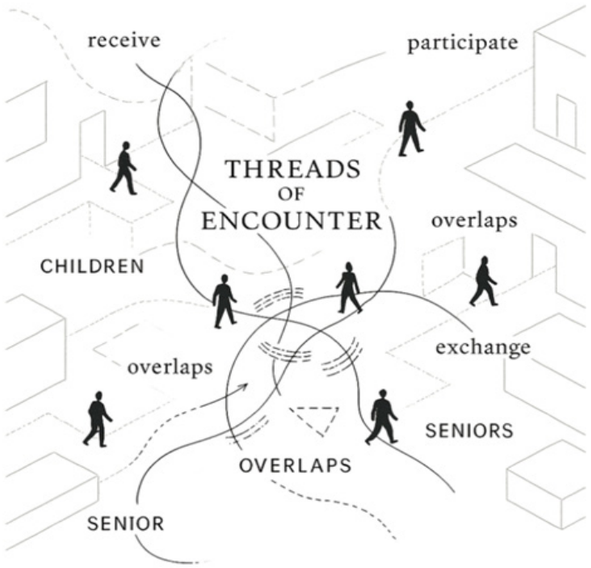
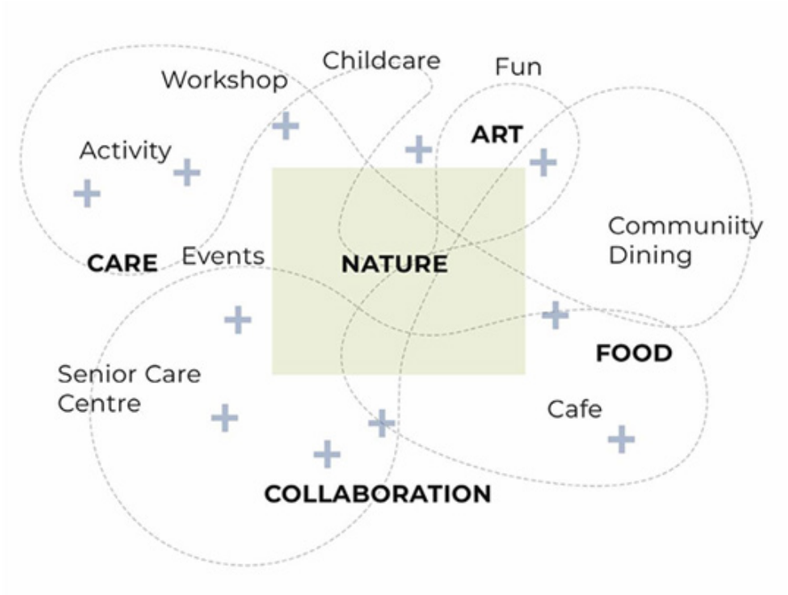


Fig 3.2: Threads of encounter theory. Drawn by Author

In parallel, Pallasmaa emphasizes that architecture should invite empathy and recognition it must
"Enable engagement rather than observation".[33]
For him, space is not passive it is a prompt for empathy, for resonance, for recognition. In intergenerational design, this takes form not in grand interventions but in subtle, carefully placed overlaps: A shared bench beneath a tree, a corridor where rhythms of movement gently align, a courtyard where light, sound, and activity interlace across ages.
They generate space for exchange, ritual, and care allowing the built environment to serve as a social tissue that holds people together.[34] We do not simply occupy space alongside others; we become through our encounters with them.

In the context of intergenerational design, this means crafting spaces where children, adults, and seniors can coexist meaningfully not as separate groups, but through layered presences. Spatial overlaps become opportunities for quiet rituals, passing glances, shared tasks, and collective memory.



The thesis explores how those designed proximities through seating, pathways, and thresholds can create opportunities for shared ritual, for unspoken exchange. These are not merely spatial decisions, but social ones. The built environment, then, becomes a kind of soft infrastructure what Heidegger might describe as a gathering of "Earth, Sky, Divinities, and Mortals" [34] a quiet but enduring fabric that holds people together across time, memory, and care.

Fig 3.2a: Encounter with the Green Spaces. Drawn by Author

[32] National Tim Ingold, Being Alive: Essays on Movement, Knowledge and Description (London: Routledge, 2011), 69.

[33] Juhani Pallasmaa, The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses (Chichester: Wiley, 2005).

[34] Martin Heidegger, "Building Dwelling Thinking," in Poetry, Language, Thought, trans. Albert Hofstadter (New York: Harper & Row, 1971).

3 . 3

The Nature as Healing line

"We do not inhabit an environment; we are part of it."
– Juhani Pallasmaa

Integrating nature into architecture is no longer a design aspiration it has become an ethical and spatial necessity. As our cities densify and lives become increasingly disembodied through screens and schedules, the presence of natural elements in the built environment becomes essential not only for ecological balance, but for emotional and physiological well-being. The framework of biophilic design, as developed by Kellert, Heerwagen, and Mador, builds on this premise: that humans possess an inherent affinity for nature, and that integrating it meaningfully into architecture can reduce stress, sharpen cognitive performance, and enhance emotional resilienc.[35]

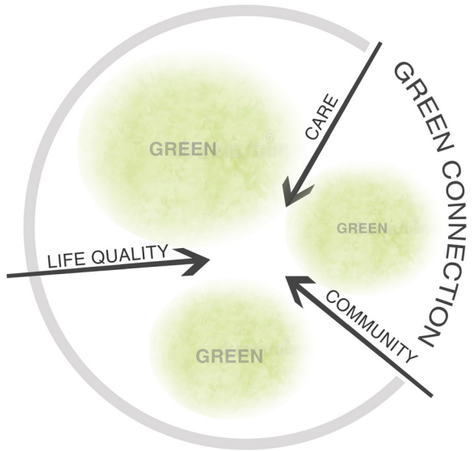


Fig 3.3: Green Connection. Drawn by Author

These interventions light filtering through leaves, the scent of soil, the gentle sound of water are subtle but deeply grounding. Ryan echo this by identifying design patterns that connect people with natural systems to foster well-being.[36] Nature, then, is not an aesthetic layer it is memory, rhythm, and a carrier of emotional resonance. As Pallasmaa writes, our identities are shaped through the sensory fabric of the world around us:

"We are in constant dialogue with our surroundings through the body".[37]

A courtyard with shifting sunlight, a tree whose shade traces time, or a stream that bends around built form all of these carry meaning beyond utility. They situate the body in time and help the mind recover its rhythm.

In Heidegger's notion of the Fourfold, dwelling is the harmonious gathering of earth, sky, divinities, and mortals. The river, in this light, is not simply a water channel: it is a presence, a mirror of flow, continuity, and return.[38] Tim Ingold similarly describes natural paths rivers, trails, and winds as "Lines of becoming".[39]

Within this thesis, these ideas shape the role of nature not just as environment, but as a healing line: woven into spatial experience to create grounding, memory, and quiet forms of connection across generations.

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[35] *Kellert, Stephen R., Judith Heerwagen, and Martin Mador, Biophilic Design: The Theory, Science, and Practice of Bringing Buildings to Life (Hoboken, NJ: Wiley, 2008).*

[36] *Ryan, Colette O., et al. "Biophilic Design Patterns: Emerging Nature-Based Parameters for Health and Well-Being in the Built Environment." International Journal of Architectural Research 8, no. 2 (2014): 62–76.*

[37] *Juhani Pallasmaa, The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses (Chichester: Wiley, 2005).*

[38] *Martin Heidegger, "Building Dwelling Thinking," in Poetry, Language, Thought, trans. Albert Hofstadter (New York: Harper & Row, 1971).*

[39] *Tim Ingold, Being Alive: Essays on Movement, Knowledge and Description (London: Routledge, 2011).*

Part 4

Redefining the Community

Redefining the Community spaces

"Architecture cannot change society but it can under write and enhance the basic activities of those who work in it."
- Charles Jencks, The Architecture of Hope

The proposal presents a site-specific design in North York that integrates senior care services, child-friendly programming, and public community functions under one architectural system. Through iterative development beginning with program articulation, spatial listing, and design strategies this section examines how built form can address social isolation, foster multigenerational connections, and enable a sense of shared ownership. Landscape design, material expression, and accessibility are approached with sensitivity to aging and cultural diversity, resulting in an inclusive, resilient urban typology. This part is where architectural thinking moves from 'Intention to Intervention.'

4 . 1

The Design Principles: Holding Spaces with Intentions

"The ultimate meaning of any building is found in the experience of the person who enters it, who uses it, and who dwells in it."
- Juhani Pallasmaa, The Eyes of the Skin

Design principles are more than functional guidelines they are quiet frameworks of intention, shaping how architecture responds to life. At their best, they align concept with context, but also with care. They guide the creation of inclusive, responsive spaces that support social interaction, emotional well-being, and a sense of belonging ensuring the architecture not only serves but uplifts all generations who inhabit it.

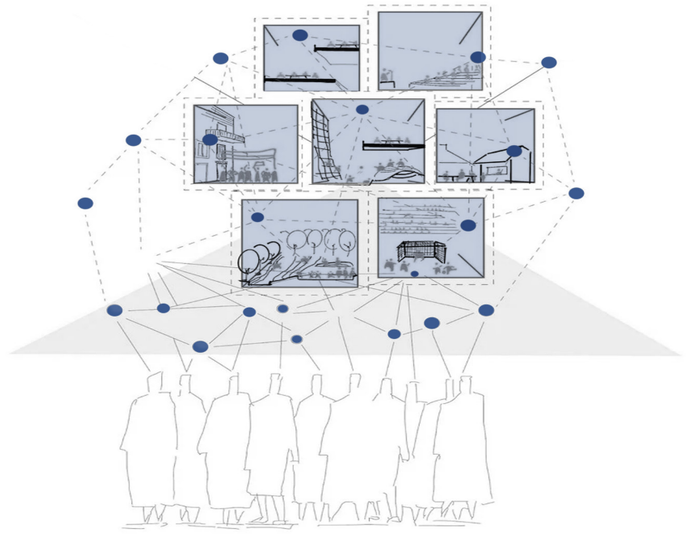


Fig 4.1: People's perseption of spaces. Referred from Rethinking Architecture and Illustrated by Author

In the context of intergenerational design, these principles carry deeper weight. They influence how people of different ages meet, rest, move, and observe each other sometimes silently, sometimes through shared activity. They invite architects to move beyond utility and ask: Does this space foster connection? Does it offer comfort, clarity, and the chance to belong?

List of Design Principles:

1. Care and Community

Community support services with everyday social life, ensuring care environments feel familiar, not institutional. It emphasizes dignity, autonomy, and emotional safety for seniors within a vibrant setting. It dissolves the barrier between receiving care and participating in communal life.

2. Intergenerational Reciprocity

Shared spaces that encourage mutual exchange between age groups through activities, storytelling, and collaborative learning. It treats seniors as active contributors, promoting social connection and reducing generational gaps within the built environment.

3. Inclusive and Universal Design

Design that considers diverse physical and cognitive abilities, using level transitions, tactile surfaces, and intuitive circulation. It ensures equal access for all users, supporting a welcoming, age-inclusive environment across the entire site.

4. Spontaneous Connection

Spaces that promote casual encounters through overlapping functions, visual links, and shared programs. These informal moments help build relationships between strangers and strengthen community ties across generations.

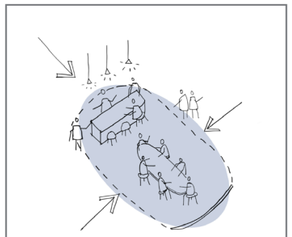
5. Incorporating Nature

Natural elements like gardens, trees, and water features used as healing tools within the design. Nature supports sensory engagement, reduces stress, and fosters emotional well-being, particularly for seniors.

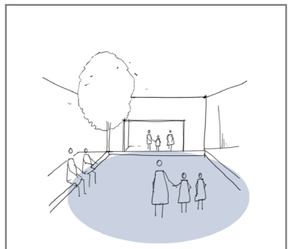
6. Seamless Threshold

Smooth indoor-outdoor transitions that encourage movement, visibility, and seasonal interaction. It activates the full site, enhances accessibility, and connects people to changing environments throughout the year.

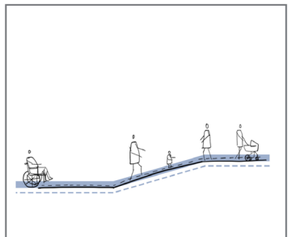
Design Principle Criteria Analysis



Care and Community



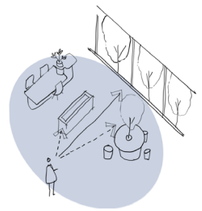
Intergenerational Reciprocity



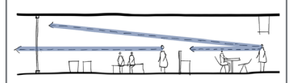
Inclusive and Universal



Spontaneous Connect



Incorporating Nature



Seamless Threshold

Fig. 4.1a: Design principles derived from Literature Review for design testing. Drawn by Author

4 . 2

The Existing: Program and Typology

"Only architecture that considers human scale and interaction can truly build community."
— Jan Gehl, Life Between Buildings

The literature points us toward age-inclusive architecture spaces that gently hold a spectrum of needs, from quiet reflection to lively exchange. But theory alone cannot reveal how these ideas take root in lived space. To explore this, the chapter turns toward built examples: case studies where design has been tested by time, weather, and human presence.

Each project selected responds to shared themes intergenerational care, social connection, and emotional well-being yet does so through different architectural languages, climates, and cultural settings. Some respond with density, others with openness; some through layering, others through transparency. What binds them is their effort to include not as token gestures, but as structural intention.



1 .

Dementia Village

Community-based dementia care

"You live your life as usual, in a place that feels like home."
— Hogeweyk Care Concept

Architect
Molenaar&Bol&VanDillen Architects with NORD Architects

Site Location
Weesp, Netherlands

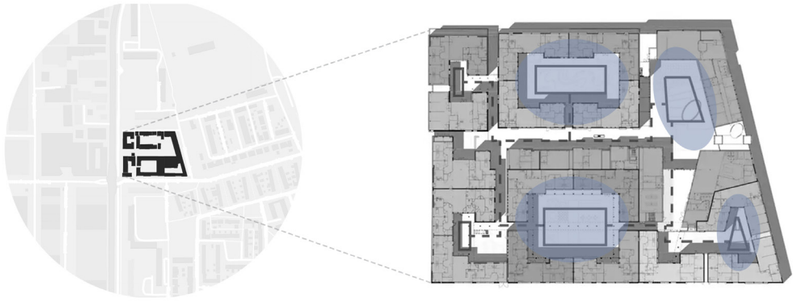
Year of Completion
2009

Project Type
Dementia Care Community

Fig. 4.2.1a: Image of Demntia Village by Hogewey

Dementia Village

Heemraadweg 1, 1382 GV Weesp, Netherlands



Location map and Plan

Description:

Hogeweyk, often referred to as the "Dementia Village," is a pioneering care model that blends medical support with the architecture of everyday life. Designed as a secure micro-village for individuals with severe dementia, the project includes 23 residential homes, a supermarket, theatre, café, and several courtyards that collectively simulate an active, walkable town. Residents live in small clusters based on shared lifestyles and backgrounds, helping preserve routine, memory, and identity within a protected yet socially rich environment.

Design Focus:

The project challenges institutional care by focusing on normalized daily experiences walking to the grocery store, enjoying theatre, or sitting in a green courtyard within a secure framework. Staff blend in as facilitators of everyday life, avoiding clinical cues in favor of social immersion.

Program & Spatial Strategy:

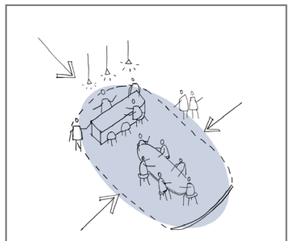
The site is organized around pedestrian-scale "streets" and landscaped open spaces, with residential clusters lining these pathways. Public amenities are integrated throughout the village, encouraging gentle mobility and spontaneous encounters. The layout promotes routine circulation while maintaining a high degree of safety, especially for memory-impaired residents. Landscape plays a key role, both in orientation and emotional wellness, with gardens and courtyards offering sensory richness.

Inference:

Hogeweyk demonstrates how thoughtfully zoned, human-scaled environments can transform perceptions of care. For the thesis, its approach to activity-based zoning, embedded green pockets, and seamless circulation is especially relevant. Although not intergenerational, its integration of domestic and social programs offers insight into how care and community can coexist. The use of nature as both orientation and therapy supports the design goals around healing landscapes, while the rhythm of clustered activities informs spatial planning for mixed-use, multigenerational engagement.

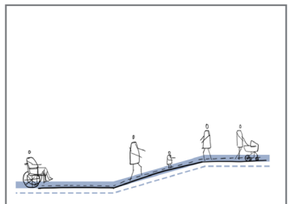
Fig. 4.2.1b: Illustration of Location of Dementia Village and Plan. Drawn by Author

Design Principle Criteria Analysis



Care and Community

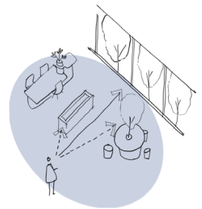
Intergenerational Reciprocity



Inclusive and Universal



Spontaneous Connect



Incorporating Nature

Seamless Threshold

Through this analysis, the case study reveals a strong adherence to four key design principles, while two criteria remain unaddressed.



2 .
De Drie Hoven Elderly community
Integrated elderly community

"Architecture for the elderly must go beyond shelter it must enable participation and dignity."
— by Herman Hertzberger'

Architect
Van Mourik Vermeulen Architect

Site Location
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Year of Completion
1975 (redeveloped in phases)

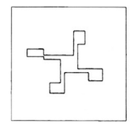
Project Type
Elderly Care and Residential Community

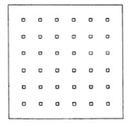
Fig. 4.2.2a: Image of De Drie Hoven Elderly community

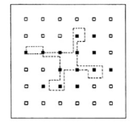
De Drie Hoven Elderly community
Kingsfordweg 151, 1043 GR Amsterdam, Netherlands

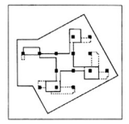


Location map and Zoning


Program


Mate Grid


Superimposition


Schematic diagram

Description:

De Drie Hoven is one of the largest elderly-focused residential care projects in Amsterdam, initially designed as a self-contained village for seniors. Over time, it has evolved through redevelopment into a more integrated urban care environment. The project combines long-term residential units with a wide range of shared amenities such as therapy areas, dining halls, recreational zones, and green courtyards. Its design emphasizes accessibility, familiarity, and autonomy within a dense urban fabric.

Design Focus:

The project moves beyond isolated senior housing by embedding opportunities for social participation, movement, and therapeutic care throughout the building. It prioritizes continuity between private, semi-private, and public domains, enabling elderly residents to navigate multiple levels of interaction based on their needs and comfort.

Program & Spatial Strategy:

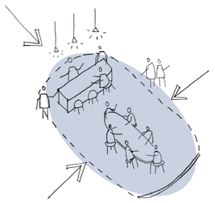
The building is organized around a central landscape spine that connects residential blocks with indoor shared facilities and external green courts. Internal circulation is wide and intuitive, lined with seating zones and social nooks. Key programs like dining, healthcare, and recreation are spaced strategically to encourage daily movement and reduce isolation. The scale of corridors and common areas supports both wheelchair access and social interactions, and outdoor gardens are placed to enhance sensory stimulation and seasonal use.

Inference:

Hogeweyk demonstrates how thoughtfully zoned, human-scaled environments can transform perceptions of care. For the thesis, its approach to activity-based zoning, embedded green pockets, and seamless circulation is especially relevant. Although not intergenerational, its integration of domestic and social programs offers insight into how care and community can coexist. The use of nature as both orientation and therapy supports design goals around healing landscapes, while the rhythm of clustered activities informs spatial planning for mixed-use, multigenerational engagement.

Fig. 4.2.2b: Illustration of Location of De Drie Hoven Elderly community and Plan. Illustrated by Author

Design Principle Criteria Analysis



Care and Community

Intergenerational Reciprocity

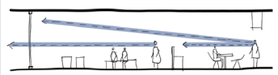


Inclusive and Universal



Spontaneous Connect

Incorporating Nature



Seamless Threshold

Through this analysis, the case study reveals a strong adherence to four key design principles, while two criteria remain unaddressed



3 .

The Qinghuayuan Intergenerational Community Centre

Intergenerational spatial layering

"We designed a building not for one generation, but for a shared future."
— Paraphrased from architect Hiromi Ohba and Yoh Murayama's intent

Architect

THAD (Architectural Design and Research Institute of Tsinghua University)

Site Location

Beijing, China

Year of Completion

2018

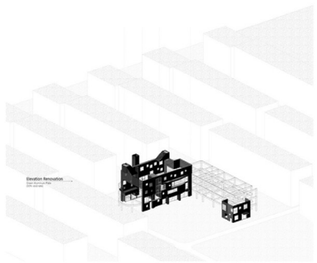
Project Type

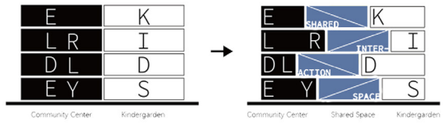
Intergenerational Community Centre

Fig. 4.2.3a: Image of The Qinghuayuan Intergenerational Community Centre

The Qinghuayuan Intergenerational Community Centre

Qibin District, Hebi, Henan Province, China.





Location map and Program Development

Description:

The Qinghuayuan Intergenerational Community Centre is a pilot project that challenges age-segregated community planning by creating a shared space for elderly residents, children, and young families within a high-density Beijing neighbourhood. Located within a repurposed public housing compound, the centre reinvents underutilized infrastructure into a hub for social exchange, lifelong learning, and care services. It responds to demographic shifts in China by promoting intergenerational engagement in both formal and informal ways.

Design Focus:

The project intentionally places activities for children, adults, and seniors in close proximity, with overlapping zones of interaction. It emphasizes mutual care, shared responsibility, and social vitality through programming that includes childcare, therapy rooms, communal dining, workshops, and public events.

Program & Spatial Strategy:

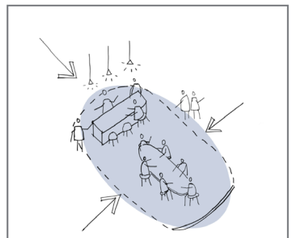
The building is composed of layered public, semi-public, and care-focused spaces that encourage flow between different user groups. Childcare classrooms and senior lounges share visual and physical proximity, with overlapping courtyards and flexible indoor spaces acting as mediators. The architecture is modest and human-scaled, emphasizing adaptive reuse and efficient spatial distribution. Landscape elements and small seating clusters support both planned and spontaneous social moments.

Inference:

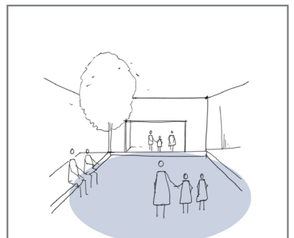
Qinghuayuan illustrates how spatial overlap and programmatic adjacency can facilitate cross-generational learning, care, and companionship. Its integration of early childhood education and elderly support in a single, accessible facility aligns directly with your thesis goals. The adaptive reuse approach also highlights the potential of revitalizing existing sites to support evolving social needs. For the thesis, the spatial strategy reinforces the importance of visual connection, shared thresholds, and blended programming that supports reciprocal intergenerational engagement.

Fig. 4.2.3b: Illustration of Location of The Qinghuayuan Intergenerational Community Centre , sourced from ArchDaily

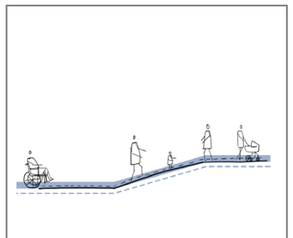
Design Principle Criteria Analysis



Care and Community



Intergenerational Reciprocity

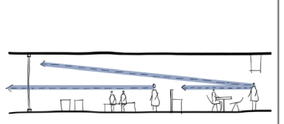


Inclusive and Universal



Spontaneous Connect

Incorporating Nature



Seamless Threshold

Through this analysis, the case study reveals a strong adherence to five key design principles, while only one criteria remain unaddressed



4 .
Redmond Senior and Community Centre

Civic care integration

"It's not a senior center. It's a community center that welcomes everyone."
— City of Redmond project preview (2020)

Architect
Opsis Architecture in collaboration with Buffalo Design

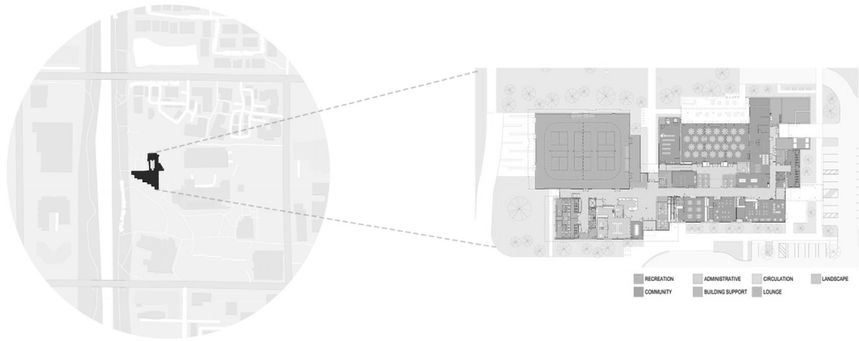
Site Location
Redmond, Washington, USA

Year of Completion
2024 (in-progress)

Project Type
Senior and Community Center

Fig. 4.2.4a: Image of Redmond senior and community center

Redmond senior and community center
160th Ave NE, Redmond, WA 98052, United States



Location map and Plan

Description:

The Redmond Senior & Community Center (RSCC) reimagines the role of civic architecture by blending senior services with broader community programs under one inclusive roof. Located within a public park and replacing an aging senior facility, the new center creates a highly accessible, multigenerational space for wellness, learning, culture, and connection. The building includes activity rooms, fitness studios, a teaching kitchen, and flexible gathering spaces, all anchored by visual and physical ties to the surrounding landscape. Its mass timber structure and daylight-filled interiors emphasize warmth, transparency, and environmental responsibility, setting a new precedent for intergenerational public architecture.

Design Focus:

The design prioritizes inclusivity and emotional well-being by removing physical and symbolic barriers between age groups. Rather than separating senior services, the layout encourages overlapping use of shared spacescreating moments of organic interaction. Programs are designed to foster agency and dignity in older adults while engaging all generations through art, food, and wellness activities. Sustainability is embedded through biophilic elements and a highly efficient, carbon-conscious structure.

Program & Spatial Strategy:

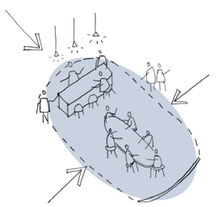
Organized around a central spine with views into the park, the building distributes public, semi-public, and senior-focused spaces along an open circulation path. Activity zones such as the multipurpose rooms, teaching kitchen, and fitness studios are accessible to both seniors and the wider community, encouraging programmatic cross-pollination. Outdoor terraces, gardens, and walking paths extend activity into nature, supporting both formal programming and spontaneous engagement.

Inference:

The RSCC exemplifies how senior-centered design can be integrated into broader civic life without segregation or stigmatization. Its model of shared, non-institutional space resonates deeply with the thesis goals of inclusivity, multigenerational use, and therapeutic spatial experience. For the thesis, the project's open, layered programming offers a valuable precedent for combining age-friendly design with community vitality. The material language, connection to landscape, and embedded flexibility in use support long-term adaptability and emotional well-being for users across the lifespan.

Fig. 4.2.4b: Illustration of Location of De Drie Hoven Elderly community and Plan. Illustrated by Author

Design Principle Criteria Analysis



Care and Community

Intergenerational Reciprocity

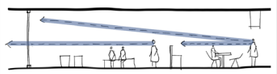


Inclusive and Universal



Spontaneous Connect

Incorporating Nature



Seamless Threshold

Through this analysis, the case study reveals a strong adherence to four key design principles, while two criteria remain unaddressed



5 .

Maggies Centre

Biophilic healing environment

"Architecture should care for the mind as much as the body."
— Thomas Heatherwick on designing Maggie's Centres

Architect
Heatherwick Studio

Site Location
Leeds, United Kingdom

Year of Completion
2020

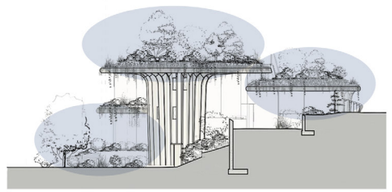
Project Type
Cancer Care Support Centre

Fig. 4.2.5a: Image of Maggie's center

Maggies Centre

St James's University Hospital, Alma St, Harehills, Leeds LS9 7BE, United Kingdom





Location map and Section diagram

Description:

The Maggie's Centre in Leeds is part of a global network of non-clinical cancer care facilities that offer emotional, social, and practical support to patients and their families. Unlike hospitals, Maggie's Centres are designed as warm, domestic, and uplifting environments where architecture plays an active role in healing. The Yorkshire centre, designed by Heatherwick Studio, features three sculptural timber volumes surrounded by gardens, offering a quiet, comforting refuge that contrasts the nearby hospital setting.

Design Focus:

The design rejects the sterile language of institutional care in favor of softness, tactility, and biophilic design. Through spatial intimacy, material warmth, and sensory richness, the building offers moments of calm and connection for individuals navigating stress and uncertainty.

Program & Spatial Strategy:

The building is organized as three interconnected pavilions, each oriented around a central communal kitchen. These volumes hold counselling rooms, lounge spaces, and meditation areas, with open visibility to the surrounding gardens. Circulation is fluid and informal, allowing visitors to move at their own pace. Large windows, natural materials, and plantings blur the line between interior and exterior, turning the landscape into an extension of the care experience.

Inference:

The Maggie's Centre reinforces the therapeutic potential of scale, materiality, and sensory engagement in care architecture. While it is not an intergenerational facility, its success lies in how it creates comfort, agency, and emotional resonance through spatial quality. For thesis, this project validates the importance of designing spaces that reduce stress and support well-being through natural light, greenery, and human-scaled design. Its integration of a shared kitchen as a social anchor also aligns with your goals of fostering everyday interaction through familiar domestic rituals.

Fig. 4.2.5b: Illustration of Location of Maggie centre and Elevation. Illustrated by Author

Design Principle Criteria Analysis



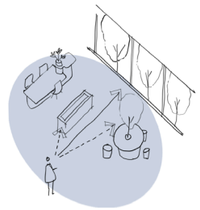
Care and Community

Intergenerational Reciprocity

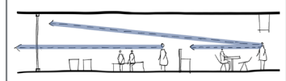


Inclusive and Universal

Spontaneous Connect



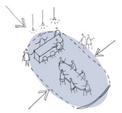
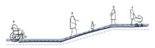
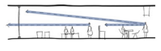
Incorporating Nature



Seamless Threshold

Through this analysis, the case study reveals a strong adherence to four key design principles, while two criteria remain unaddressed

Summary of Results

	Dementia Village	De Drie Hoven Elderly Community	The Qinghuayuan Intergenerational Community Centre	Redmond senior and community center	Maggie's Centre, Yorkshire, Leeds
 Care and Community	Familiar routines with Community Care	Shared spaces for elder support	Integrated care with public zones	Civic care through open programs	Emotional well-being through space
 Intergenerational Reciprocity			Layered programs across generations		Families included in care
 Inclusive and Universal	Safe design for cognitive needs	Elder-friendly, barrier-free layout	Universal access across zones	Accessible to all age groups	
 Spontaneous Connect	Streetscape enables informal meetings	Courtyards invite casual encounters	Shared gardens spark interactions	Open plan invites connection	
 Incorporating Nature	Gardens in everyday routines				Lush gardens support healing
 Seamless Threshold		Gradual change from private-public	Intermediary thresholds between programs	Smooth spatial flow throughout	Welcoming, gentle entrance sequence

This comparative framework distills the key takeaways from precedent studies, offering a grounded basis for informed design moves rooted in tested principles of care, inclusion, and intergenerational connectivity.

Tab. 1: Summary of Results. Drawn by Author

4.3

The Program Development

"We shape our buildings, but our buildings shape us—emotionally, socially, and even physically."
— Judith Heerwagen, Healthy Environments, Healing Spaces

Through the lens of case study, research, and programmatic reflection, the thesis naturally positions itself at the convergence of three essential realms: community life, care services, and senior living.
It is within this shared overlap where support meets spontaneity, and routine meets relationship that the project finds its purpose.
This intersection is not defined by walls, but by the quiet rituals of daily life: a shared meal, a moment of rest, a spontaneous conversation across generations. Here, the architecture doesn't separate needs it holds them together, offering a model of integrated, human-centered coexistence.

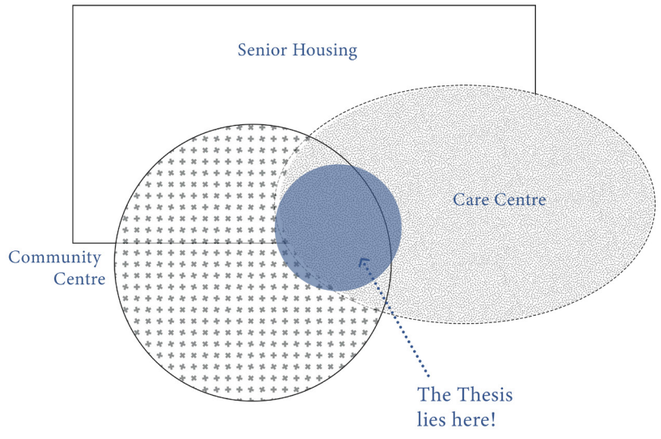


Fig. 4.3a: Thesis lies in the combination of Community Centre, Care Centre and Rehab. Drawn by Author

Through the lens of case study, research, and programmatic reflection, the thesis naturally positions itself at the convergence of three essential realms: community life, care services, and senior living.
It is within this shared overlap where support meets spontaneity, and routine meets relationship that the project finds its purpose.

The spatial arrangement of the community centre reflects a layered response to the distinct yet interconnected needs of five user groups: children, youth, adults, seniors, and families. Rather than separating these groups into siloed zones, the design draws them toward a shared centrea community hub that anchors social exchange, mutual learning, and emotional support.

Each spatial branch extends from this shared core to accommodate specific age-based needs while promoting interaction through adjacency and overlap. For instance, the communal dining and kitchen area supports both large-scale events and intimate daily meals, inspired by Maggie's Centre in Leeds where the kitchen functions as the emotional and social heart of the building. [40]
Similarly, the child-oriented spaces such as the kid's centre, play area, and intergenerational daycare are positioned in visual and physical proximity to senior lounges and care rooms, drawing on the precedent of the Qinghuayuan Intergenerational Community Centre in Beijing. There, shared courtyards and programmatic adjacency enable spontaneous and meaningful exchanges between young children and elderly residents.[41]

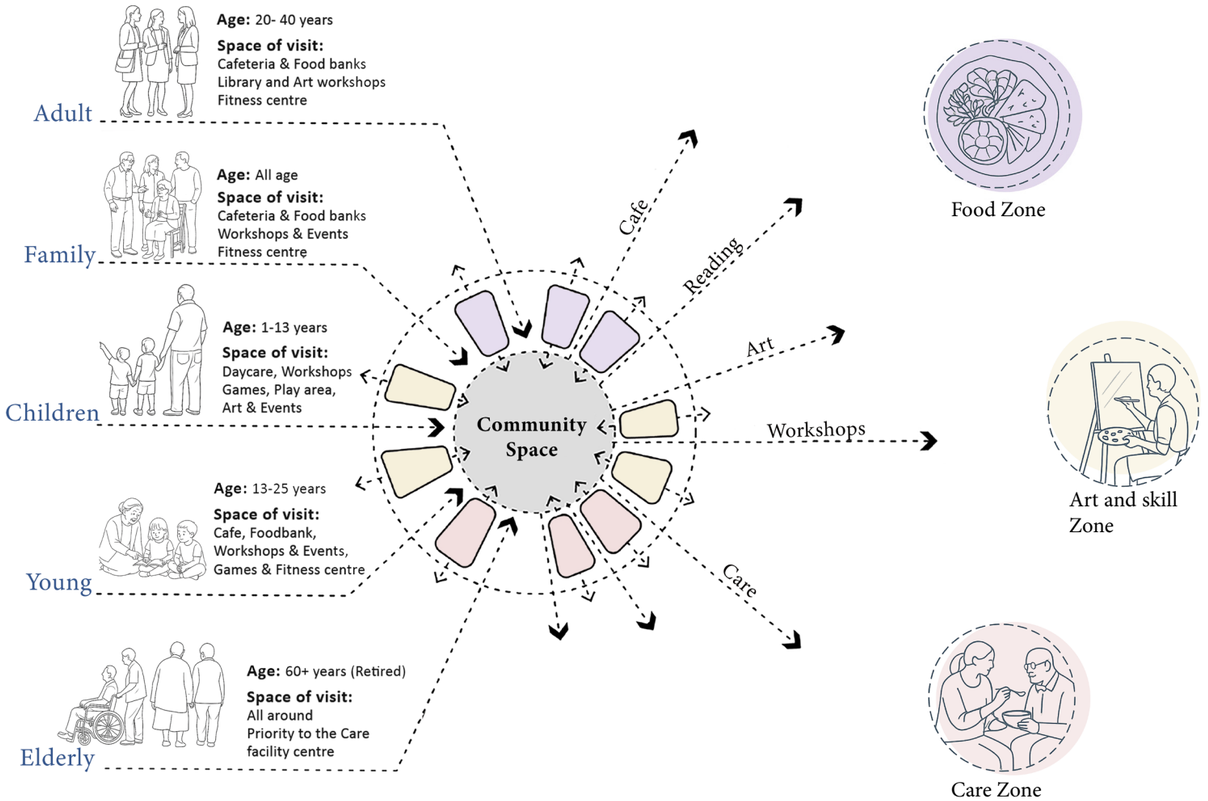


Fig. 4.3b: Shared community core connecting programs. Drawn by Author

Workshops in the form of art therapy, storytelling, and maker activities are distributed across the site to encourage cross-generational collaboration. These programs are informed by De Drie Hoven in Amsterdam, which emphasizes therapeutic creative engagement as a means to preserve identity and foster intergenerational understanding.[42] The inclusion of a food bank and community counselling rooms responds to the socio-economic fabric of North York, drawing from the Redmond Senior and Community Centre's integration of civic services and health-based amenities that are embedded in daily community rhythms.[43]

These programmatic decisions form a generational weave a spatial choreography that recognizes the autonomy of each group while offering daily rituals of proximity, care, and contribution. By translating social needs into architectural overlap, the project creates a setting where memory, movement, nourishment, and belonging are continuously shared.

Zone	Program Type	Activity	Key user	User Frequency	Average users
Care Connection	Senior's Common spaces	Socializing & Passive Care	Seniors	Daily	20-30
	Counselling Facility	Mental Health, Therapy (Indoor & Outdoor)	Seniors	Daily	5-6
	Grooming & Movement areas	Massage Therapy, Meditation, Yoga	Seniors	Daily	10-15
	Children's Centre	Co-engagement, Early Learning, Play-based	Seniors and Children	Daily	20-30
	Community Dining & Kitchen	Co-eating, family meals, cultural food sharing	All ages	Daily	30-50
	Multipurpose hall	Events & Cultural Activity	All ages	Event Based	40-60
Community Connection	Cafe & Food Bank	Spontaneous meeting, & small talks, helping the vulnerables	All ages	Daily	30-40
	Library Workshops 1. Bakery & Cooking 2. Creative Writing & Poetry Telling 3. Art & Craft 4. Tech Exchange 5. Music 6. Kitchen Gardening	Co-active spaces, Lraning and growth of all age groups	All ages	Weekly Events	15-20 each

Tab. 2: Program development Table. Drawn by Author

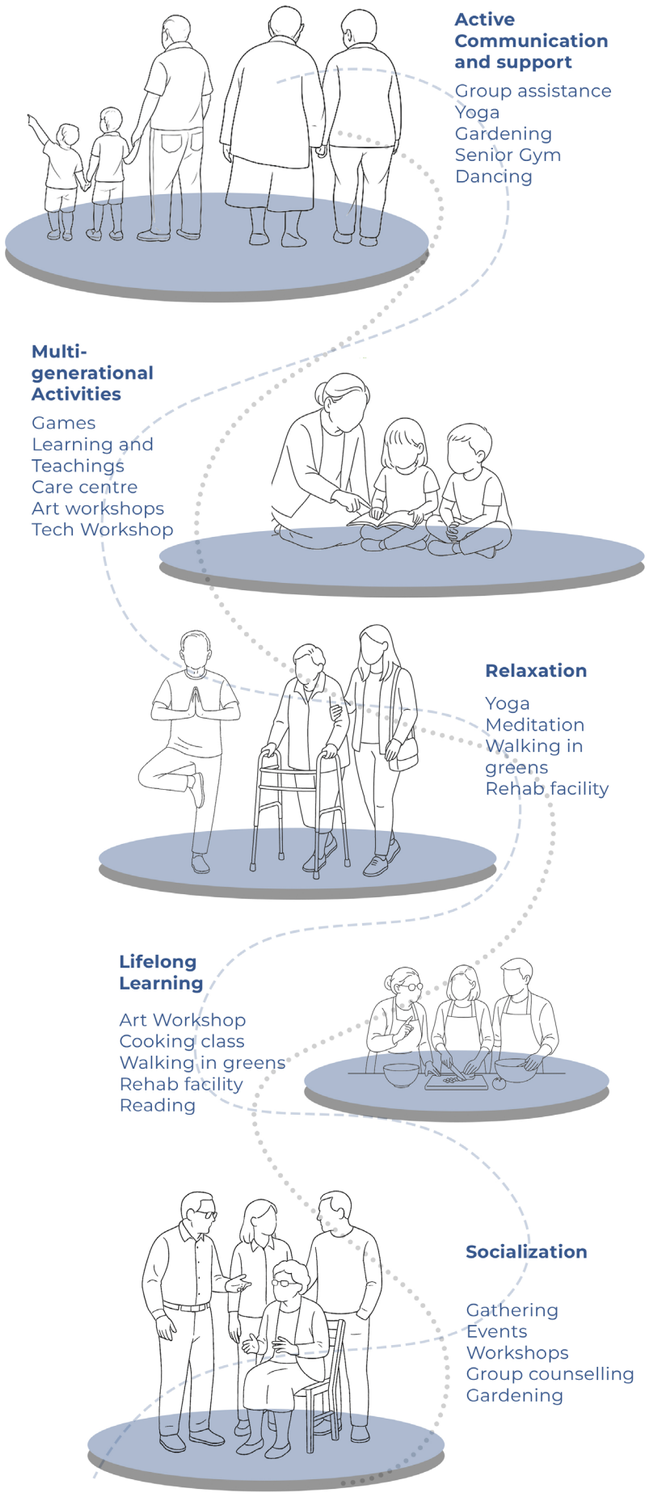


Fig. 4.3c: Intergenerational programs evolve from shared activity. Drawn by Author

[40] Heatherwick Studio· Maggie's Centre Leeds· Leeds· UK· [2020]. https://www·heatherwick·com/project/maggies-leeds

[41] THAD (Architectural Design and Research Institute of Tsinghua University)· Qinghuayuan Intergenerational Community Centre· Beijing· China· [2018].

[42] Van Mourik Vermeulen Architect· De Drie Hoven Elderly Complex· Amsterdam· Netherlands· [1975].

[43] Opsis Architecture with Buffalo Design· Redmond Senior and Community Center· Redmond· WA· USA· ongoing [(2024)]. https://www·redmond·gov/[1519]/Senior-and-Community-Center

4 . 4

The Exploration: Site Selection

"Each generation sees the world through a different lens, shaped by time and experience, yet their lives remain invisibly stitched together—through memory, legacy, and shared spaces of meaning."

— Sarah Lamb, in "Successful Aging as a Contemporary Obsession: Global Perspectives" (2017)

Choosing the right site is more than a technical step it's about finding a place where the vision of care, connection, and community can genuinely take root. For a project centered on intergenerational interaction and social well-being, the surrounding neighbourhood plays a vital role. It shapes how people arrive, how they feel, and how the spaces are used day to day.

The site selection process combined practical tools and personal insight. Using QGIS mapping, several layers like population age groups, green spaces, healthcare access, and transit were analyzed to identify areas with potential. But beyond data, the process also drew from learning gained through elective courses, where ideas of neighbourhood safety, inclusivity, and environmental quality were explored deeply.

Rather than searching for a perfect plot, the goal was to find a context that could support everyday care, spontaneous encounters, and a sense of belonging. The following section explores three shortlisted sites, each with a unique character, and reflects on which one best supports the heart of the thesis.

Site Selection Category

The selection of an appropriate site plays a pivotal role in realizing the goals of an intergenerational care centre. These criteria were developed to evaluate each location's potential to support inclusive design, program integration, and long-term community relevance. Grounded in both research and contextual analysis, the following four categories guided the selection process:

1. Demographic Relevance

The site is chosen based on the presence of a significant senior population alongside a diverse age range, encouraging intergenerational interaction. This ensures the centre responds to the real needs of its users across all generations.

2. Accessibility and Proximinity to Community Resources

Close access to healthcare, transit, and public amenities promotes convenience, safety, and daily usability. This integration strengthens community connection and supports regular engagement.

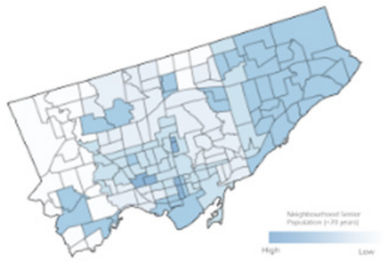
3. Cultural and Social Context

The neighbourhood's diverse cultural identity and active social life foster inclusion and community participation. A rich local context enhances the centre's potential to become a trusted, shared space.

4. Enviornmental Quality

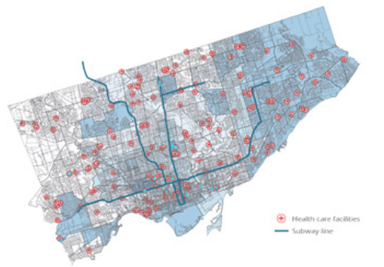
Green space and a balanced urban setting offer opportunities for outdoor activity, healing, and sustainability. Nature access contributes to mental well-being and supports passive design strategi

QGIS Mapping Overlays



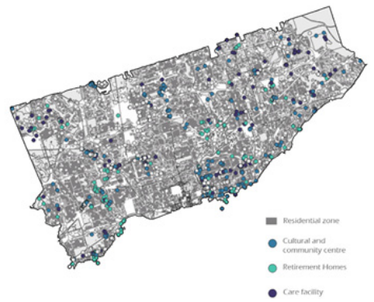
Senior Population in Toronto

This map highlights areas with a high density of senior residents, indicating a growing need for age-inclusive infrastructure. It identifies key neighbourhoods where intergenerational support services would have the most impact.



Commute and Healthcare Facilities

By mapping healthcare access in relation to Toronto's subway network, this map underscores the importance of connectivity and proximity to medical services critical for seniors and multi-generational users alike.



Cultural and Community Centre Distribution

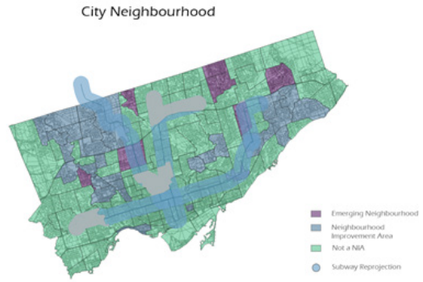
This map illustrates the spatial concentration of cultural hubs, retirement homes, and care facilities across Toronto's residential zones. The clustering pattern indicates strategic opportunities for co-locating intergenerational programming where infrastructure already supports diverse community functions and



Recreational Spaces

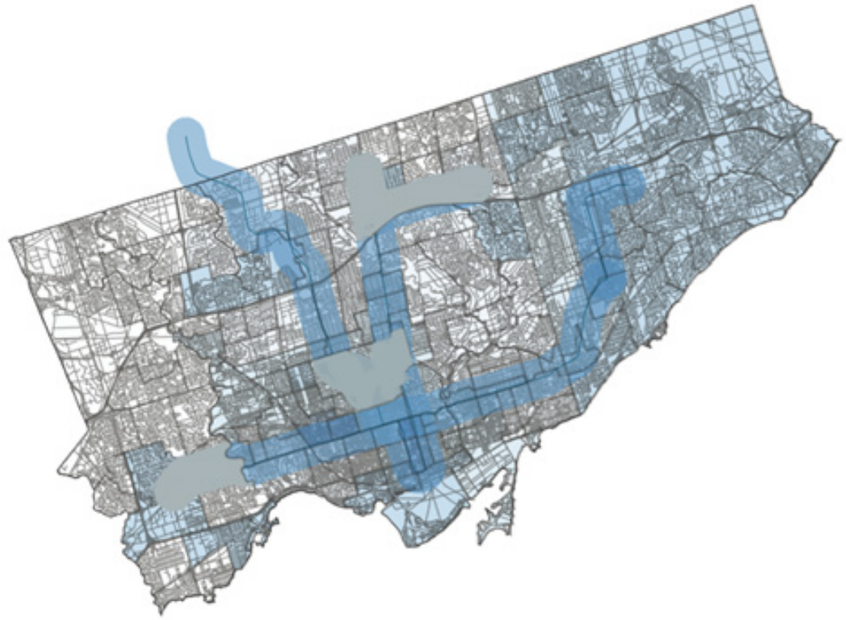
This map shows the distribution of recreational areas within Toronto's residential zones, emphasizing the potential for integrating intergenerational activities into existing green infrastructure. Areas with dense recreational nodes present strong opportunities for community engagement.

Fig. 4.4a, 4b, 4c, 4d: Map Layering with QGIS . Drawn by Author



Neighbourhood Improvement Areas (NIAs)

Overlaying NIAs with subway accessibility, this map identifies under-resourced neighbourhoods in need of revitalization. These areas present key opportunities for introducing inclusive, community-oriented spaces that support social equity and age-inclusive design.



Site Intervention

This map highlights three potential intervention zones across Toronto, selected through layered GIS analysis. Each grey-marked area reflects optimal overlap between aging demographics, transit accessibility, community infrastructure, and environmental context framing the city's most strategic locations for intergenerational architectural impact.

Fig. 4.4e, 4f: Map Layering with QGIS . Drawn by Author

4.4.1

The Exploration: 3 Site Study

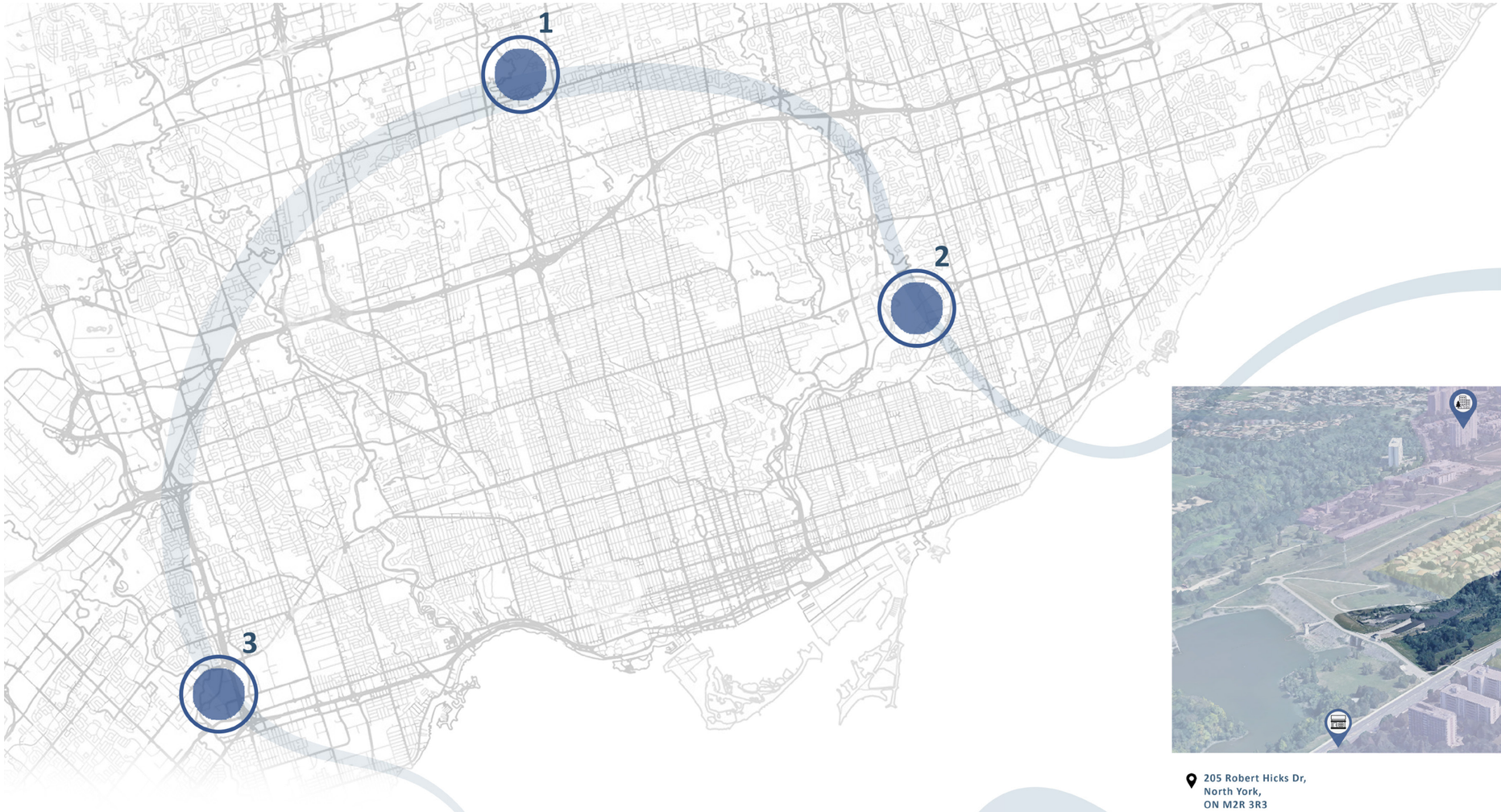
The QGIS mapping analysis and demographic overlay study, three potential sites have been shortlisted based on their contextual relevance, accessibility, and potential to support an intergenerational care community. This selection process considered various layers of spatial data including proximity to community amenities, healthcare institutions, green infrastructure, and age-based population distribution.

The next step involves a detailed exploration of each site's immediate context focusing on how surrounding programs, demographics, and physical conditions could influence or enhance the architectural proposal. Each site presents a unique opportunity to test the thesis against a different spatial and social condition.

Site [1] is located adjacent to a natural green corridor, offering a serene backdrop that supports biophilic and wellness-oriented design strategies. Site [2] is situated as an extension to an existing senior housing community, enabling seamless continuity with established residents and services. Site [3] is directly linked to a senior palliative care facility, opening up the possibility for care integration and supportive service expansion.

The comparative analysis that follows will evaluate how each of these conditions aligns with the thesis goals, ultimately informing the final site selection for developing a meaningful intergenerational care hub.

3 Study Location

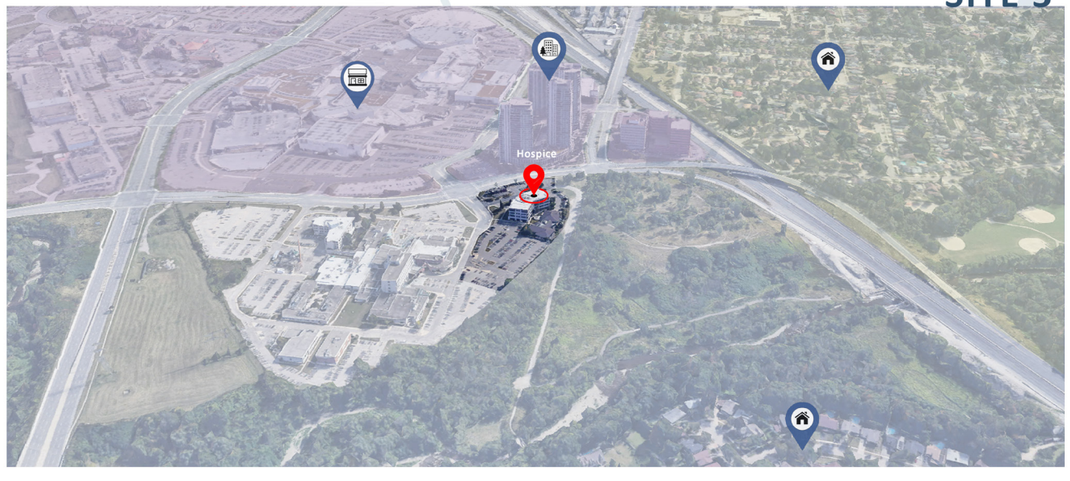


SITE 1



205 Robert Hicks Dr,
North York,
ON M2R 3R3

SITE 3



Dorothy Ley Hospice,
220 Sherway Dr, Etobicoke,
ON M9C 0A7

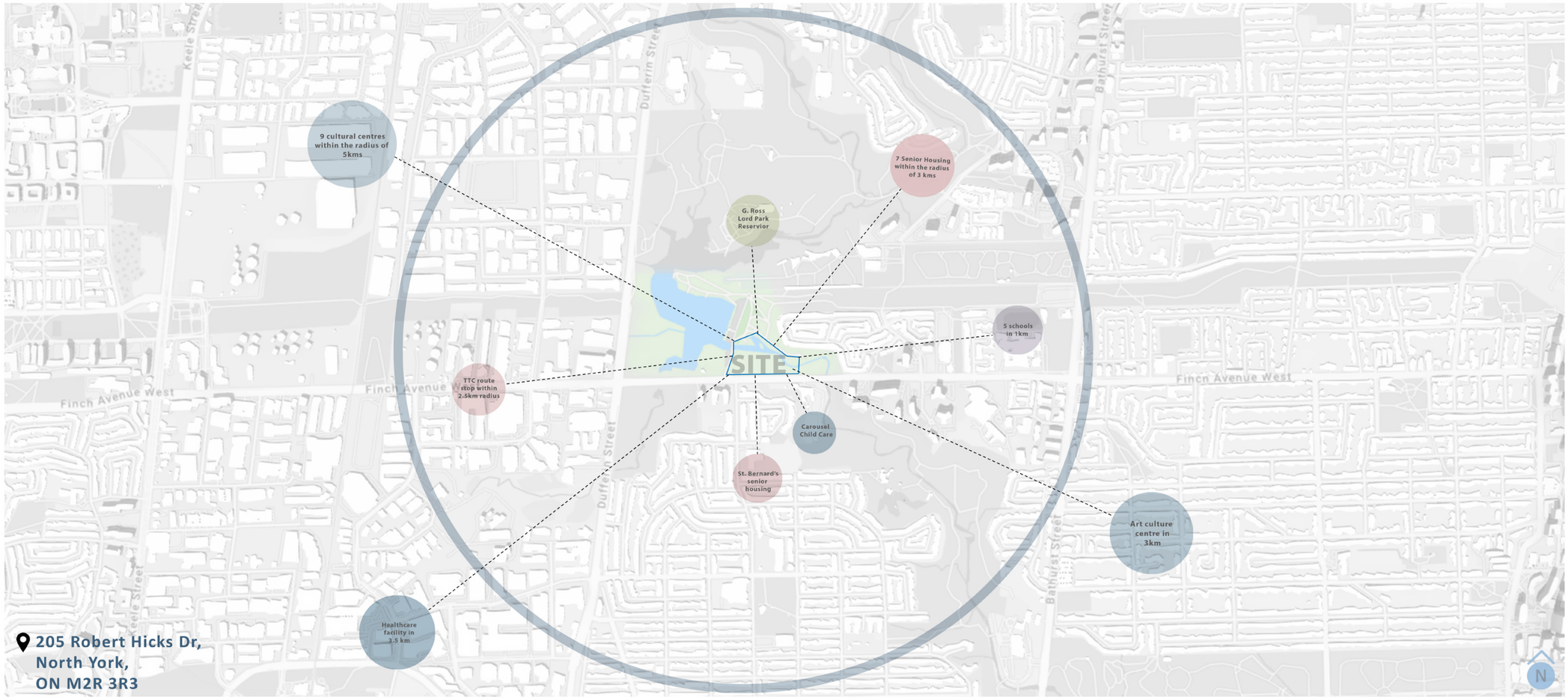
SITE 2



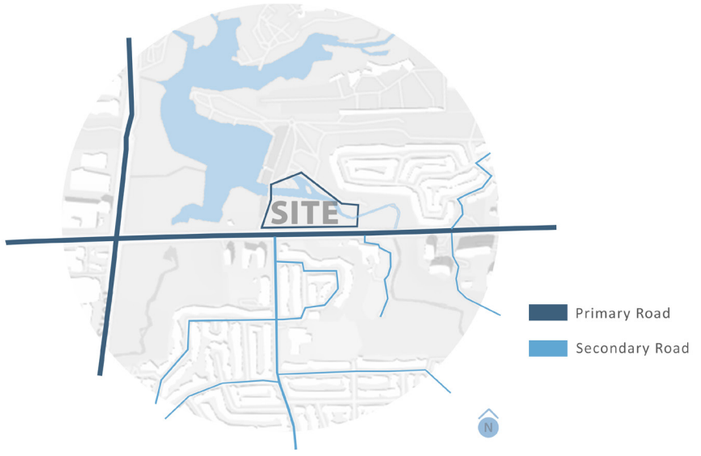
2701 St Clair Ave E,
East York,
ON M4B 1M5

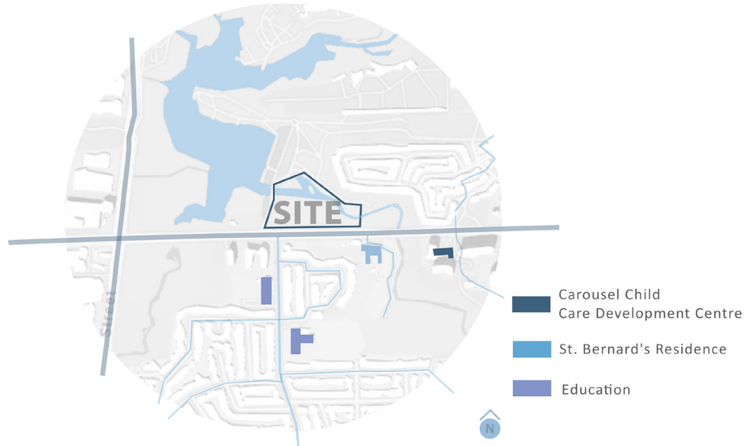
Fig. 4.4.1a : Mapping 3 potential site locations. Drawn by Author

Site 1: Part of G.Ross Loard Park









Busy Street with Natural Backdrop

High accessibility from a busy street.
Biophilic design elements with nearby greenery and water body.
Suitable for senior residents, families, and community members.

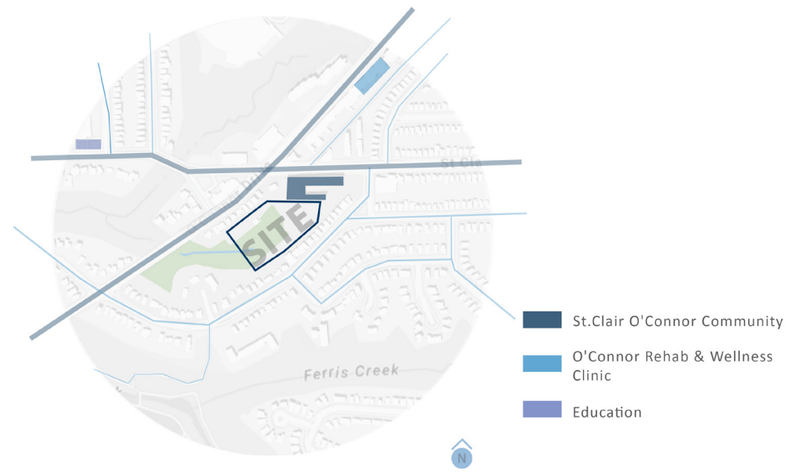
Fig. 4.4.1b : Site 1 Mapping Layers. Drawn by Author

Site 2: Extension of St.Clair O'Connor Community Living Facility







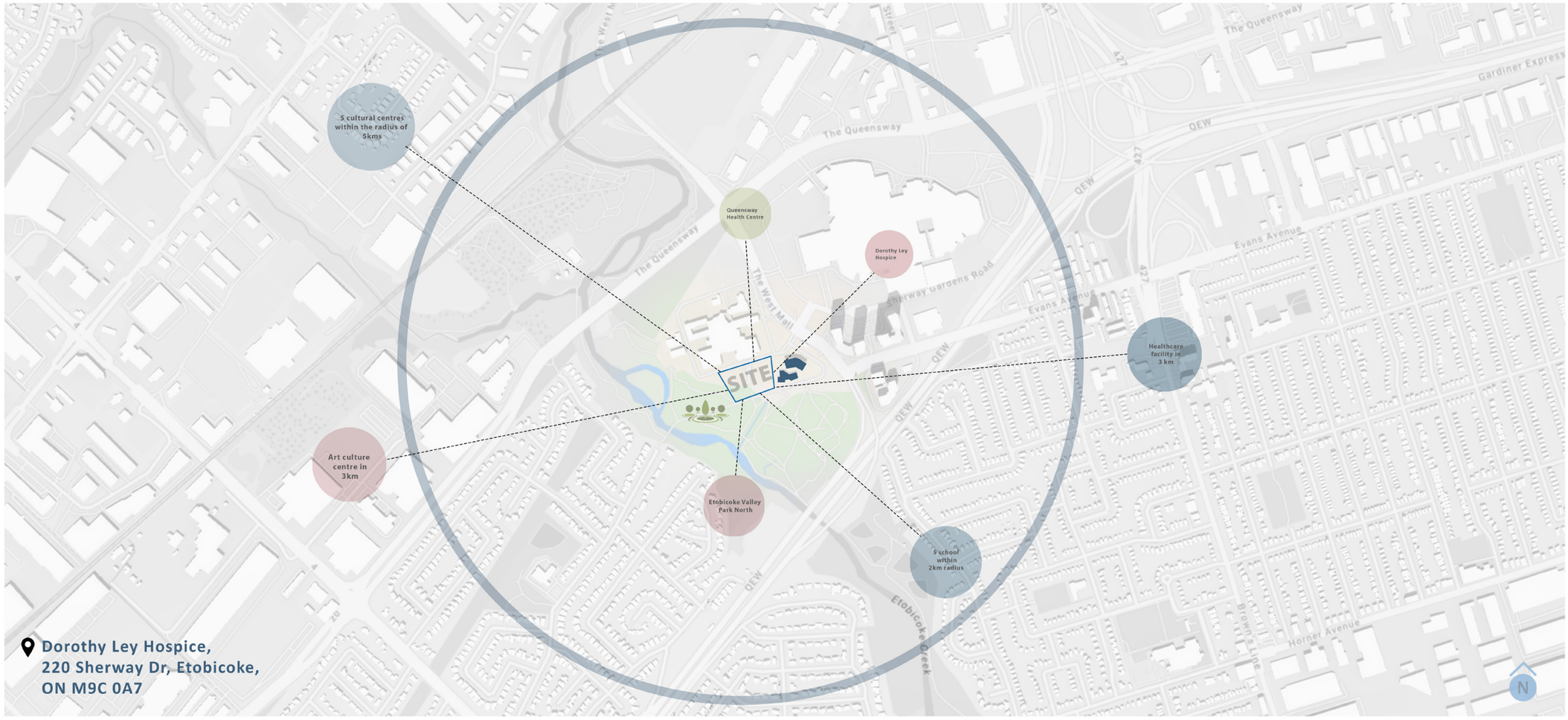


Existing Senior Community Living.

Proximity to established senior community.
Easy integration for seamless connection with the community.
Fosters familiarity and comfort for residents.

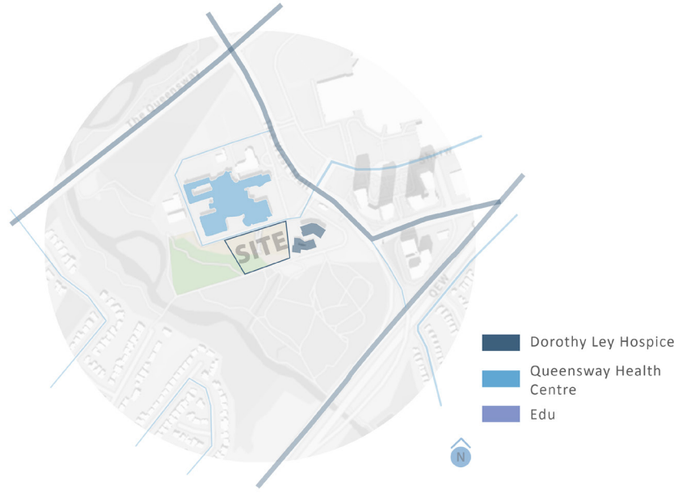
Fig. 4.4.1c : Site 2 Mapping Layers. Drawn by Author

Site 3: Adjacent to Dorothy Ley Hospital and Palliative care centre









Existing Palliative Care Facility

Opportunity for integrated palliative care services.
Existing infrastructure for supportive care expansion.

Fig. 4.4.1d : Site 3 Mapping Layers. Drawn by Author

The Site Selection Conclusion

After evaluating all three proposed locations, Site 1 emerges as the most suitable choice for developing an Intergenerational Care Community Centre. The selection is based on a comprehensive assessment of demographic relevance, accessibility, environmental context, and neighbourhood dynamics.

Why Site 1 is Ideal:

Located adjacent to a natural green corridor and water body, offering visual and physical access to nature. Surrounded by a stable residential neighbourhood, with nearby schools, parks, and community resources that support intergenerational interaction. Walkable access to healthcare, education, and public transport enhances daily functionality for all age groups.

As highlighted in Judith Heerwagen's book Healthy Environments, Healing Spaces, exposure to green spaces significantly benefits seniors by:
1. Reducing stress and promoting emotional balance
2. Supporting cognitive function and physical activity
3. Creating restorative and therapeutic daily experiences

Additionally, Recreating Neighborhoods for Successful Aging by Abbott, Carman, and Scarfo emphasizes that safe and familiar environments are essential for aging in place. Site 1 reflects this by offering:
1. Low vehicular traffic and high walkability
2. Clear visual connectivity within the neighbourhood
3. Opportunities for social engagement and passive surveillance

Compared to Site 2 and Site 3, which are limited by programmatic rigidity and institutional constraints respectively, Site 1 provides a flexible, community embedded canvas to cultivate inclusive, multi-generational care through architecture.

4.4.2

The Site Study

Nestled between the woodlands and within the meadows at G. Ross Lord Reserve lies a carefully scattered collection of learning opportunities. Scattered across its terrain are moments of learning subtle, intergenerational, and deeply rooted in place. Though the land appears fragmented in form, its spirit is cohesive: it offers a rare chance for generations to gather, to listen, and to learn with and from one another. Informed by North York's demographic fabric, this act of spatial gathering becomes a shared ethic one that invites care not just for each other, but for the land itself.

Selecting this site was never simply a practical decision. It was a search for belonging a place capable of holding memory, dialogue, and repair. I was drawn to a landscape that felt alive, not only visually but rhythmically. A place where nature is not background, but participant. Here, the architecture is imagined not as an imposition, but as a gesture responsive, grounded, and continuous with its surroundings.

This project is an attempt to honor that sensibility. Not just to design a structure, but to shape a setting where care ecological, emotional, and communal can quietly unfold as part of daily life.

Site Context Study

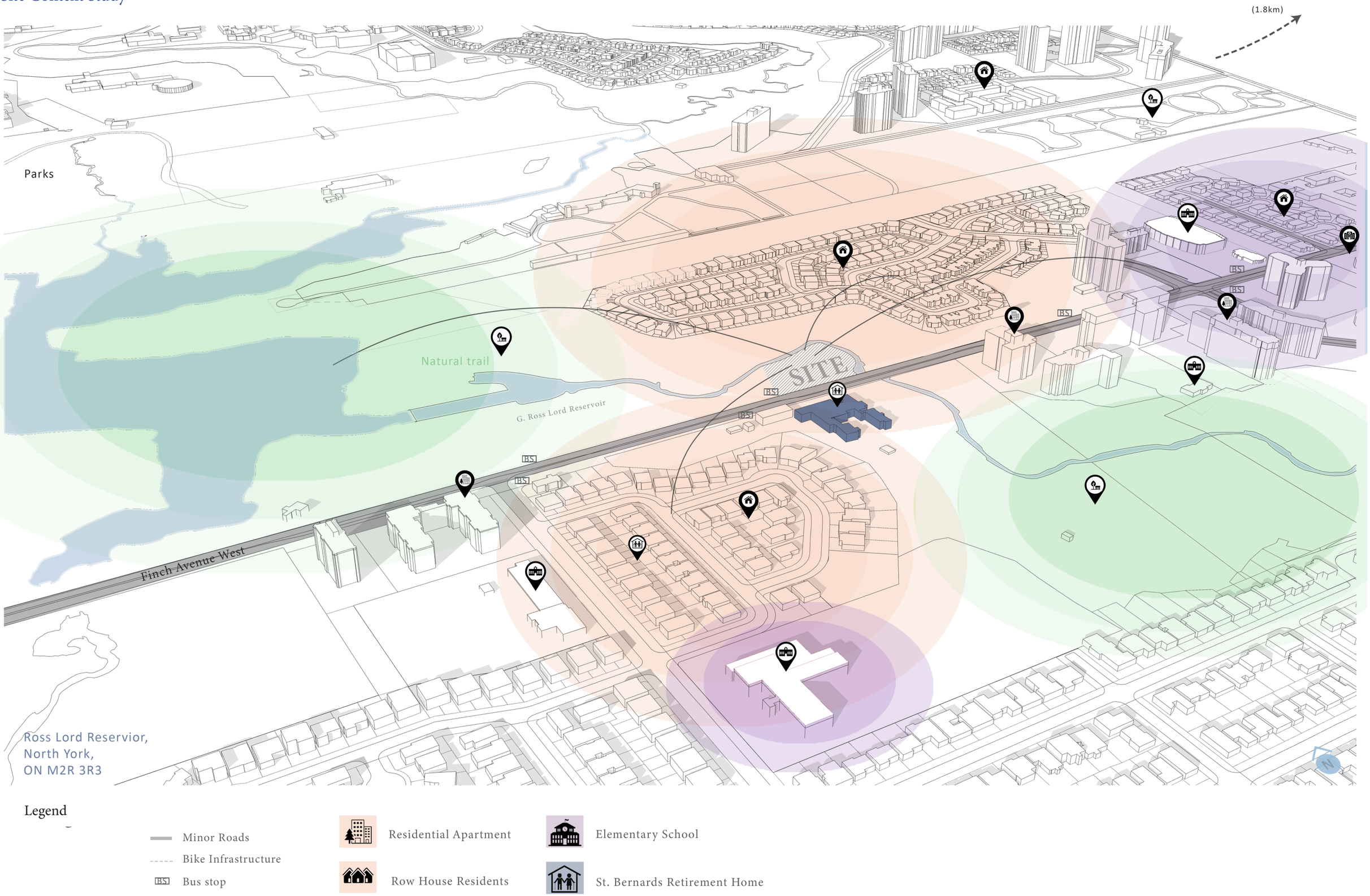
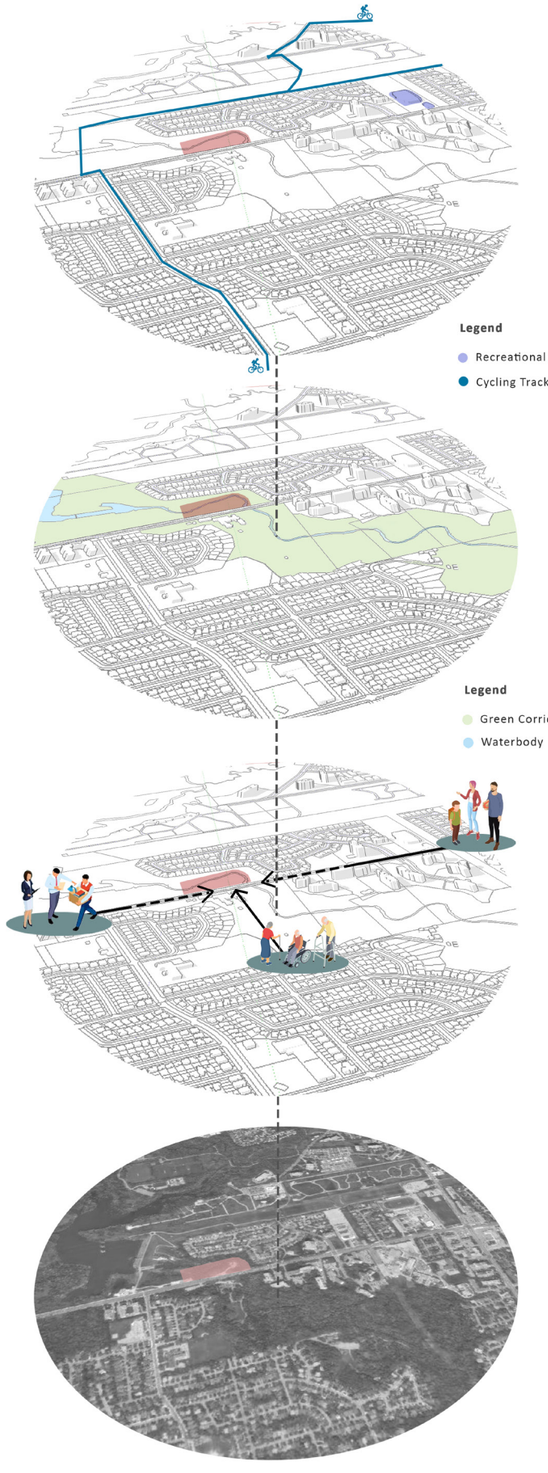


Fig. 4.4.2a : Selected Site Context Study. Drawn by Author

Site Surrounding



Community Facility

The facilities that contribute in the lifestyle of the residents in the community.
Most of the facilities are neighbourhood and business building facility, insufficient in cultural facilities to promote social interaction.

Green Corridor

Long green lane with water body, The existing site has a under construction Dam, G ross Lord Park with multiple trails, Parks and Picninc spots.

Composition of Footfall

To the north of the ite, Dufferin Street is located with Commercial facilities so the proportion of the footfall is high from that context.
To the south of the site apartment, complexs and schools are located, so the proportion of residents is high.

SITE

It is Loacted near the interection of Finch Ave and Dufferin street, the Hostials and care facilities is 5-7mins alk, and the use of the surroundingd is commercial, so highly accessible.

Fig. 4.4.2b : Selected Site Study. Drawn by Author



From the street

The site is a reservior and has limited access with some dam repair and maintainance process going on.



Site Topography

The site has a decreasing Topograpgy of 171m form the road side to 169m to the inwards direction.



Ross Lord Dam

The Reservior has a dam that helps regulate the water flow.



Water body

The site has a water stream passing which can be developed and be a crucial part of the proposal.

Fig. 4.4.2c : Selected Site Photographs. Photograph by Author

Site Overview: A Place Already Full of Life

Tucked at the intersection of Finch Avenue West and Wilmington Avenue in North York, the selected site doesn't immediately shout for attention. But when you slow down and begin to look closely, you realize it's quietly holding a lot of connections, rhythms, and quiet opportunities for care and community.

This place isn't isolated. It's surrounded by familiar and important everyday landmarks a community centre, a school, a place of worship, and nearby homes. These spaces already bring people together, and the site sits gently within that web, ready to become part of the neighbourhood's daily patterns.

What makes it even more special is its relationship with nature. The site connects directly to a green corridor one of those rare stretches in the city where nature still breathes freely. There are trees, open land, and trails that hint at what's possible: walks, gardens, shared moments outdoors. It's not just greenery it's potential.

Yet, like much of suburban North York, this potential is held back by an environment shaped more for cars than for people on foot. Finch Avenue is a wide, fast-moving arterial road with limited pedestrian crossings, while many surrounding blocks are designed around parking lots and vehicle access. For seniors, children, or anyone with mobility challenges, approaching the site can feel intimidating, even with nearby transit stops.

This car-oriented fabric demands a design that actively invites and protects pedestrians through clearly marked crossings, generous setbacks, and landscaped buffers that create a sense of safety before arrival.

The people around the site reflect Toronto's diversity. Finding young families, elderly residents, and children passing by on their way to school or the park. Transit links make the site accessible, and its everyday foot traffic suggests that it could naturally grow into a place where generations cross paths not just physically, but meaningfully provided the design bridges the gap between the street's scale and the human scale.

From above, the site has a kind of softness. It sits on the edge between built form and open space, between movement and stillness. It holds enough space to breathe, and enough structure to belong.

Pedestrian-Friendly Urban Fabric Rules & Strategies



1. Improve Walkability

Provide wide, smooth sidewalks (min. 2.0–2.5 m) with continuous, unobstructed walking paths.
Use pedestrian walkway signage to clearly indicate safe routes.



2. Provide Safe Street Crossings

Install raised or marked crosswalks every 80–100 m with pedestrian signals with audible cues and longer crossing times for seniors.



3. Reduce Vehicle Speeds

Apply traffic calming measures: narrowed lanes, textured paving, and speed limits of 30 km/h or less in pedestrian-priority zones. Use stop signs at key intersections to slow traffic and prioritize pedestrian movement.



4. Enhance Comfort & Accessibility

Integrate inclusive bus stops with seating, shelter, and barrier-free boarding areas. Provide ramps with gentle slopes (max 5%) and tactile warning strips.



5. Increase Visibility & Safety

Keep clear sightlines at intersections for both drivers and pedestrians.
Use human-scale lighting for night-time safety. Position walkway signals at all major crossings.



6. Accessible-Friendly Street Design

Maintain a minimum 1.5 m clear passing width for wheelchairs.
Ensure all pedestrian elements (ramps, crossings, signals) follow universal design standards.
Provide multi-sensory wayfinding (visual cues, audible signals, tactile surfaces).



Fig. 4.4.2d: Street development for pedestrian friendly access. Drawn by Author

Imaging the Proposal through Site Study

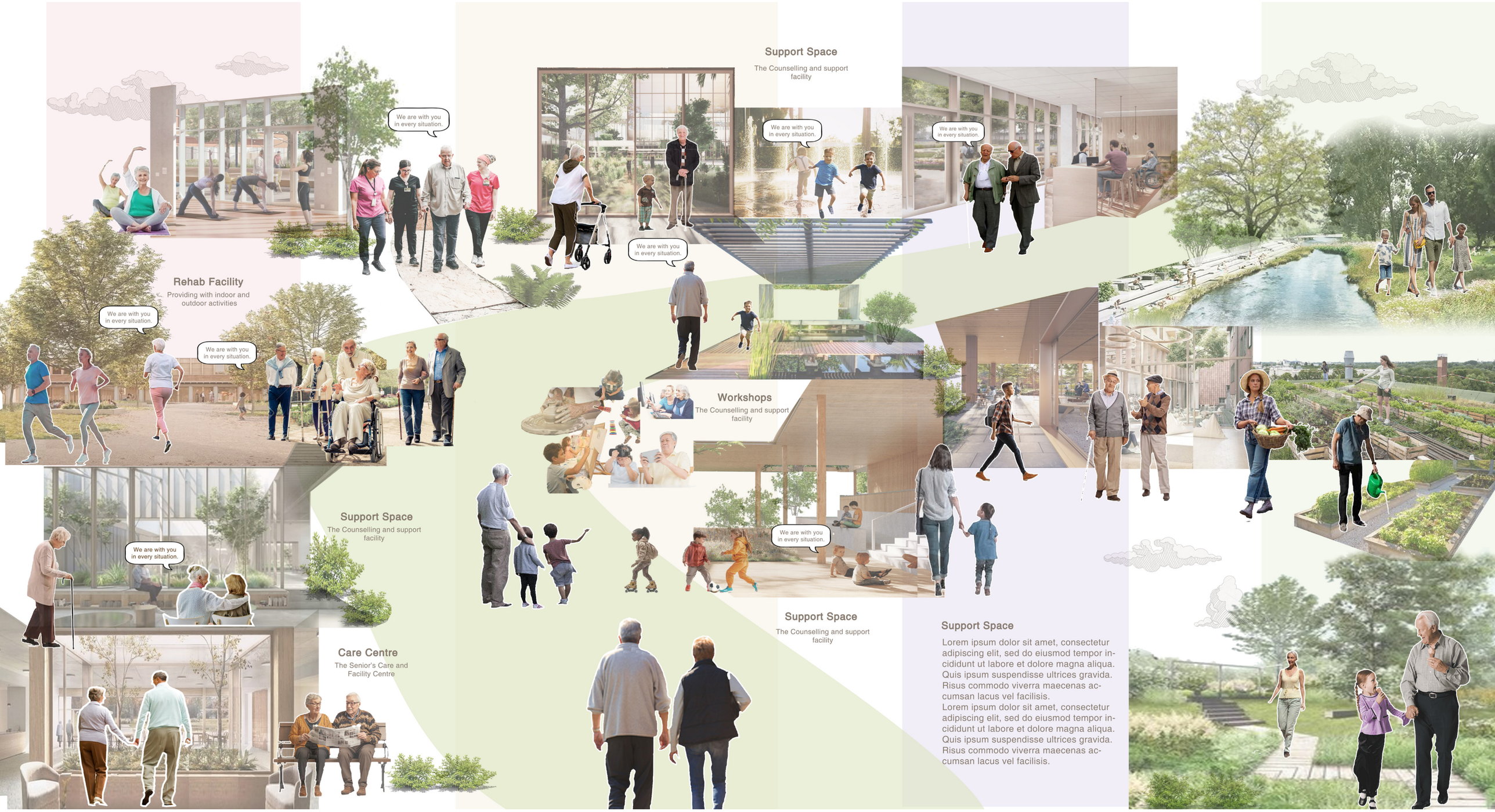
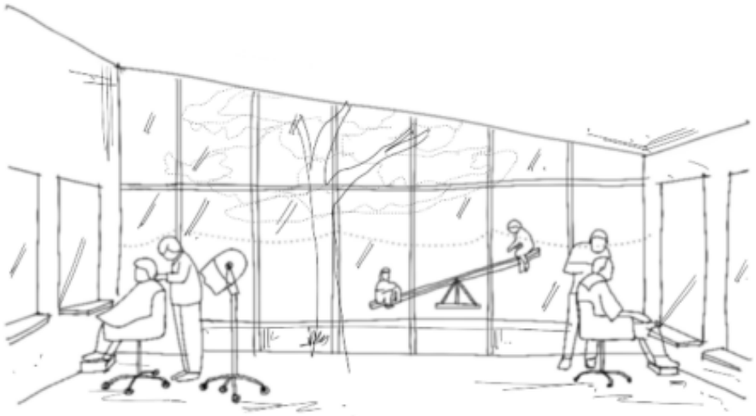
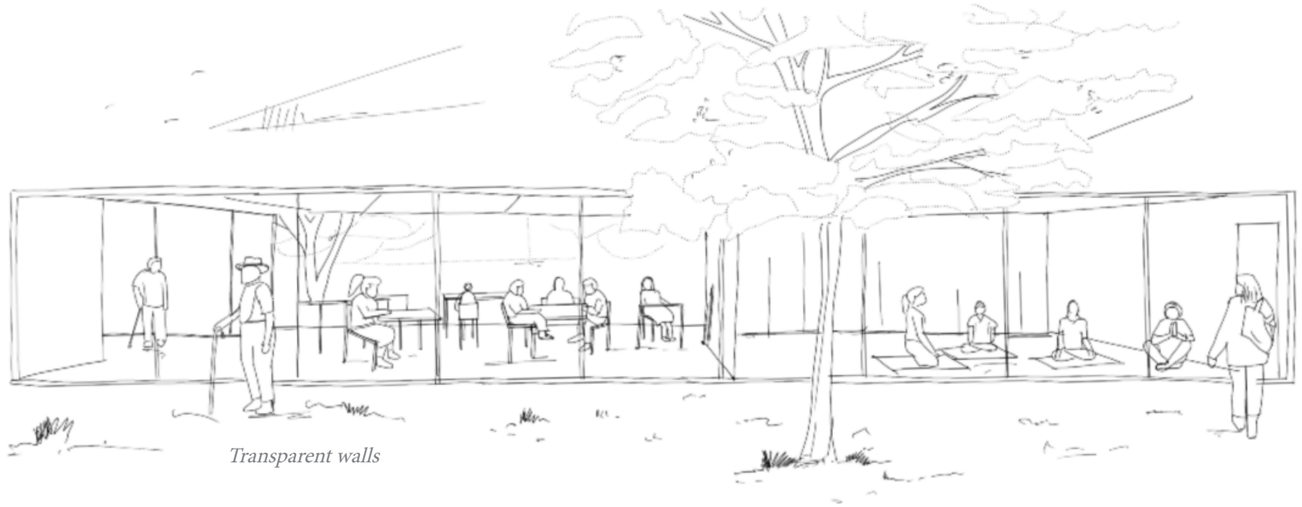


Fig. 4.4.2e : Imaging proposed programs on site though collage. Illustrator by Author



Visual Connection



Transparent walls



Outdoor area



Porch Seating



Forest Trail

Fig. 4.4.2f : Imaging proposed programs through sketches. Drawn by Author

4.5

The Design Development

The primary concept was to create a vibrant socio-spatial scene where different ages coexist together, collaborate with each other and engage in a complicated network of social interaction and community activities.
Architectural space becomes a catalyst for social engagement, spontaneous interaction, and integrated care. Inspired by the metaphor of a “woven commons,” the site is organized around a central community spine an open-air courtyard that connects all programmatic zones, from care services and workshops to cafés and learning spaces. This connective thread is envisioned as both a literal and symbolic space of encounter inviting movement, interaction, and shared experience between seniors, children, and adults.

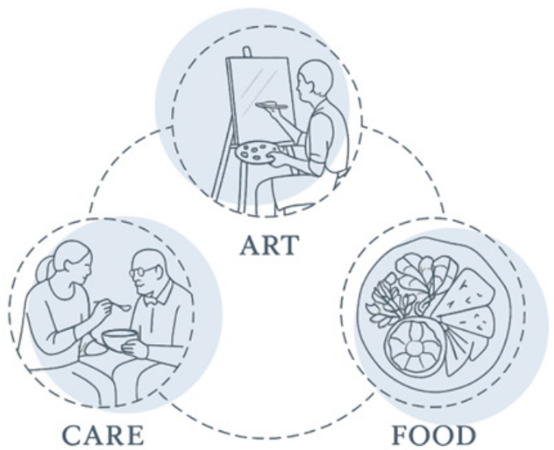


Fig. 4.5a : Program Theme. Generated by Chatgpt

The community centre is zoned into three key clusters: Care & Wellness, Learning & Engagement, and Food & Gathering. Each cluster is accessible through interconnected pathways and framed by nature-inspired features healing gardens, sensory zones, and seasonal courtyards. On the ground floor, senior day programming, rehabilitation, counselling rooms, and a multipurpose hall are positioned to offer passive engagement with the courtyard, while the upper levels support workshops, a library, and art studios open to all age groups.

A small intergenerational daycare is embedded at the edge of the care wing, designed for visual continuity and shared courtyards with elderly programs. This adjacency fosters spontaneous and programmed moments of inter-age interaction. Community dining is situated along the main circulation path, adjacent to the kitchen and urban farm zones, enabling co-cooking activities and seasonal events. Meanwhile, outdoor pavilions, walking trails, and greenhouses reinforce active aging and therapeutic engagement with nature.

Every spatial move reinforces dignity, participation, and agency. The architecture does not impose boundaries but creates overlaps between leisure and care, youth and age, private reflection and public exchange. This layered design redefines not only the care typology but also what it means to age meaningfully within a shared civic fabric.

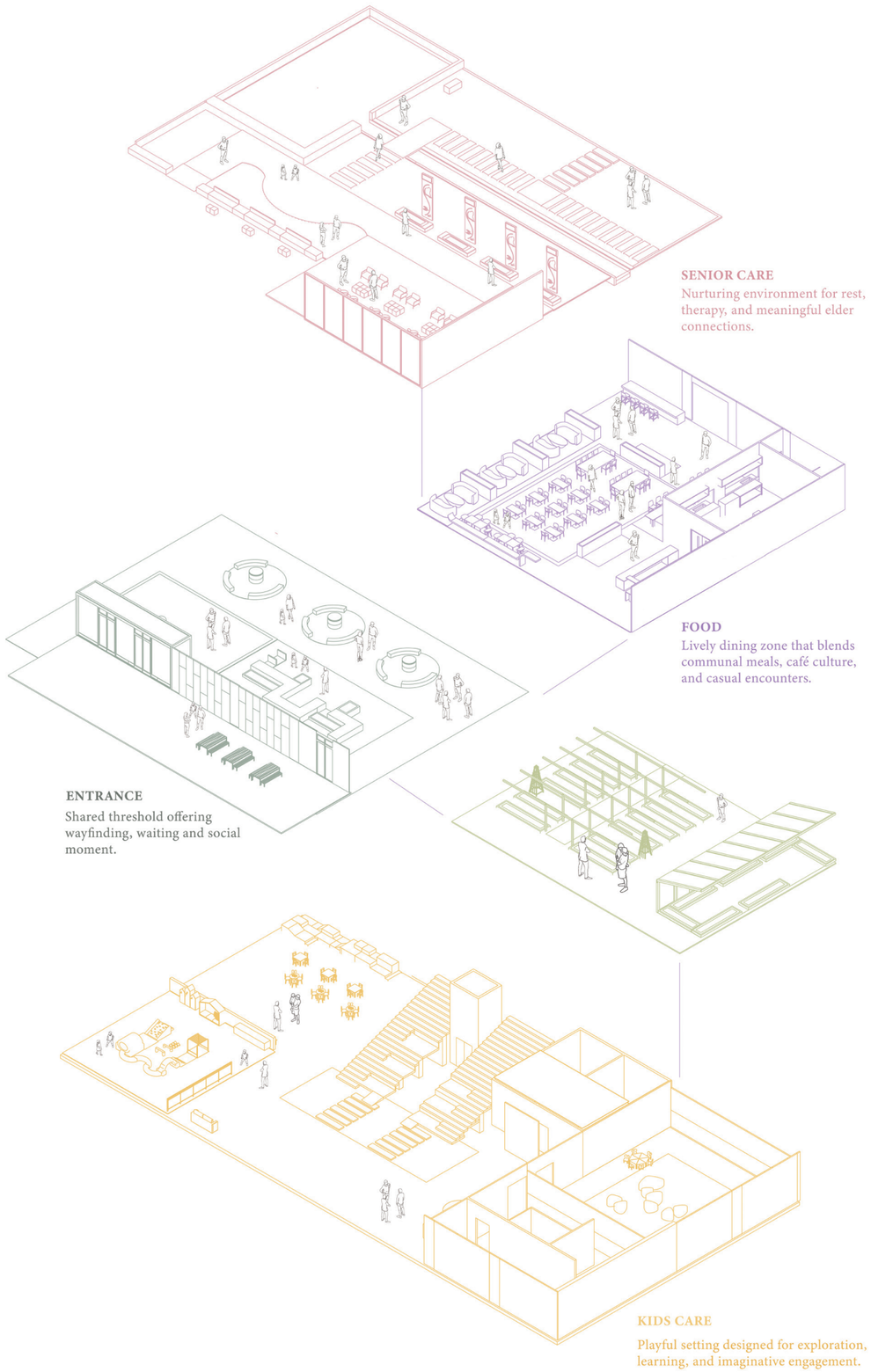


Fig. 4.5b : Program Theme Activity Diagramed. Illustrated by Chatgpt

1. Senior Care

A gentle realm for healing and connection.
This zone offers a nurturing space where seniors can rest, receive therapy, and engage in meaningful conversations designed with dignity, comfort, and quiet strength at its core.

2. Food Zone

A table where stories, meals, and lives intersect.
Blending café culture with communal dining, this space becomes a social glue where spontaneous chats over tea and intergenerational cooking workshops cultivate a sense of shared belonging.

3. Entrance

A welcoming threshold of pause and possibility.
More than a passage, the entrance is a social hinge where people meet, wait, orient themselves, and begin to feel the rhythm of the place. It is both threshold and invitation.

4. Outdoor Veranda

Nature's pause for reflection, gardening, and care.
A semi-covered outdoor extension that fosters biophilic engagement this veranda becomes a backdrop for quiet conversations, seasonal planting, and cross-generational workshops in fresh air.

5. Kids Care

Play, curiosity, and joyful chaos held with care.
This area celebrates imagination through tactile learning and discovery. Children explore, play, and create while their joyful energy becomes a vital thread in the intergenerational fabric.

4.5.1

Zoning on Site

The spatial organization of the project is guided by the principle of Generational Weaving a conceptual framework developed through research that emphasizes the intentional overlap of age groups, routines, and relationships within a shared environment. In the design, this is expressed through a central spine that runs across the site, acting as both a literal and symbolic thread that connects the Care Zone, Art Zone, and Food Zone. Rather than isolating functions, the spine encourages gentle movement between them, allowing for spontaneous encounters and layered experiences.

This connective axis is not just a corridor it is a spatial narrative where generations meet, pause, and pass through one another's rhythms. By embedding generational weaving directly into the zoning strategy, the design becomes an active reflection of the thesis research where circulation becomes interaction, and adjacency becomes opportunity for empathy, growth, and belonging.

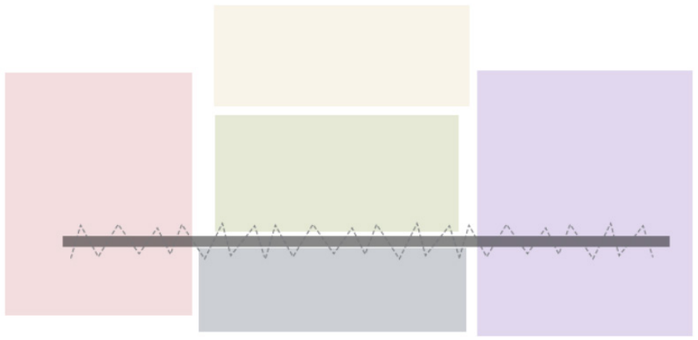


Fig. 4.5.1a: Program Zoning illustration. Drawn by Author

Weaving Encounters Through Spatial Choreography

Architecture, when thoughtfully composed, becomes more than a container of functions it becomes a medium for relationships. The spatial narrative of this project unfolds through orchestrated transitions and layered proximities that invite intergenerational encounters. Thresholds are not mere entries but moments of arrival, where atmospheres shift and the communal rhythm begins. Social zones serve as pauses within the spatial journey places that host both stillness and spontaneous connection. Exchange, in this context, becomes the architectural tool through which difference is embraced: the young and old, the active and reflective, the caregiving and the receiving.

Rather than isolating age groups into fixed zones, the design allows boundaries to blur spaces of art flow into areas of nourishment, and care emerges not as a clinical backdrop but as a shared ethic of the everyday. The spatial logic reflects a commitment to reciprocity: a child's play becomes a senior's memory; a shared meal becomes a moment of teaching; a corridor becomes a canvas for interaction. Movement is purposeful yet open-ended, suggesting that architecture can prompt empathy simply by how people are asked to move, meet, and linger.

These layered decisions while embedded quietly within form frame the project's broader ambition: to restore care as a civic act, and to reimagine the built environment as an evolving network of shared time, trust, and tenderness.

4.5.1.1

Community Centre Typology and Program Overview

This thesis proposes an Intergenerational Care Community Centre that integrates senior care services, children's programming, and inclusive social spaces within a shared environment. Unlike conventional community centres with an emphasis on competitive sports or large-scale recreation, this design prioritizes care-based, creative, and socially connective activities that foster sustained interaction across age groups.

The program intentionally excludes facilities such as swimming pools or full-size gyms, as the design focus is on low-impact, intergenerational activities that accommodate seniors, children, and adults in ways that are inclusive and adaptable. Active spaces are provided through gardens, walking loops, and flexible multipurpose areas rather than high-intensity sports facilities, aligning with the goal of encouraging everyday participation by all age groups, including those with mobility limitations.

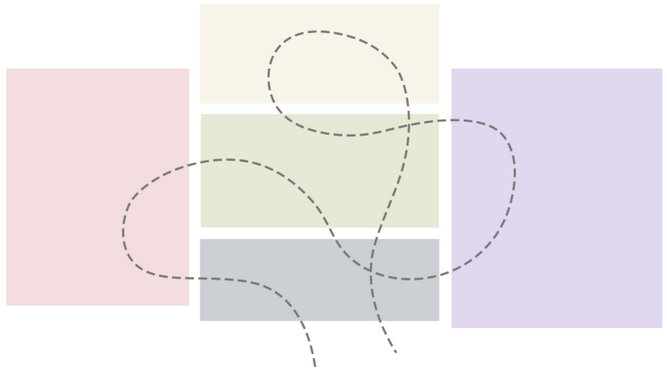


Fig. 4.5.1.1a: Program placement by weaving them together. Drawn by Author

Program Overview

The program for the Centre has been developed through a careful balance of site context, user needs, and the thesis vision of fostering meaningful connections between seniors, adults, and children. Rather than following the template of a conventional recreation-focused community centre, the program prioritizes care-based, social, and creative spaces that are accessible to people of all ages and physical abilities.
Activities are designed to encourage reciprocal exchange, shared learning, and everyday engagement, with flexible areas that can adapt to different uses throughout the year. The program is organized into three primary zones Food area, Art and skills area and Care area.

Public Interaction Zone (Food and Social Spaces):
Indoor central courtyard
Outdoor riverside seating and gathering areas
Community Cafe and Dining Hall
Intergenerational Kitchen/Cookery Workshop
Kitchen Garden and Foodbank
Community Multipurpose hall

Semi-Public Zone (Creativity and Learning Spaces):
Indoor Play area
Flexible Workshops
-Story exchange workshops (children and seniors)
-Intergenerational Art maling and outdoor Exhibition
-Tech Tutor sessions
-VR History Experience
-Makers workshop
Family counselling

Semi-Private (Care and Wellness Spaces):
Communal lobby with Green Oasis
Therapy rooms (art, music, physical therapy with Indoor and outdoor areas)
Quite lounges for Family Visits
Senior engagement rooms
Movement room (Yoga, Excercise,etc.)
Open Library with greens

By focusing on shared, adaptable spaces rather than competitive sports facilities, the centre strengthens its role as a hub for community connection, creative engagement, and inclusive care creating a daily destination that is welcoming, restorative, and socially vibrant for all generations.

Age group

Needs

Spatial program list

Space	Outdoor	Area
Adult		
Cafe	-	510 sqm
Food Bank	Waiting Porch	470 sqm
Community Dining	Patio Setup	590 sqm
Community Kitchen	Urban Farms	400 sqm
Family		
Event Hall	Family Lounge	360 sqm
Library	Green Lounge	160 sqm
Children		
Entrance lobby	-	465 sqm
Lounge and Fireplace	Front Porch	250 sqm
Kid's Centre	Play area	930 sqm
Care Space	-	90 sqm
Art Workshop	Art Exhibition	210 sqm
Tech Workshop	-	80 sqm
Makers Space	-	75 sqm
Young		
Senior Common space	Entrance porch	550 sqm
Multifaith room	-	160 sqm
Spa & grooming	Sunroom	190 sqm
Counselling	Talk in green	350 sqm
Movement room	Sunroom	360 sqm



Adult

Age: 20- 40 years

Space of visit:
Cafeteria & Food banks
Library and Art workshops
Fitness centre



Family

Age: All age

Space of visit:
Cafeteria & Food banks
Workshops & Events
Fitness centre



Children

Age: 1-13 years

Space of visit:
Daycare, Workshops
Games, Play area,
Art & Events



Young

Age: 13-25 years

Space of visit:
Cafe, Foodbank,
Workshops & Events,
Games & Fitness centre



Elderly

Age: 60+ years

Space of visit:
All around
Priority to the Care
facility centre

Fig. 4.5.1.1b: Program with area statement. Drawn by Author

4.5.2

Zoning Strategies

The Vastu Shastra is an ancient Indian system of spatial planning and environmental design that seeks harmony between the built environment and natural forces. Derived from Vedic texts, it offers a holistic framework that integrates architecture, cosmology, ecology, and human behavior.[44] At its core, Vastu is not a religious imposition but a spatial logic establishing balance among solar orientation, wind direction, magnetic fields, and functional use of space to optimize physical comfort and psychological well-being.[45]

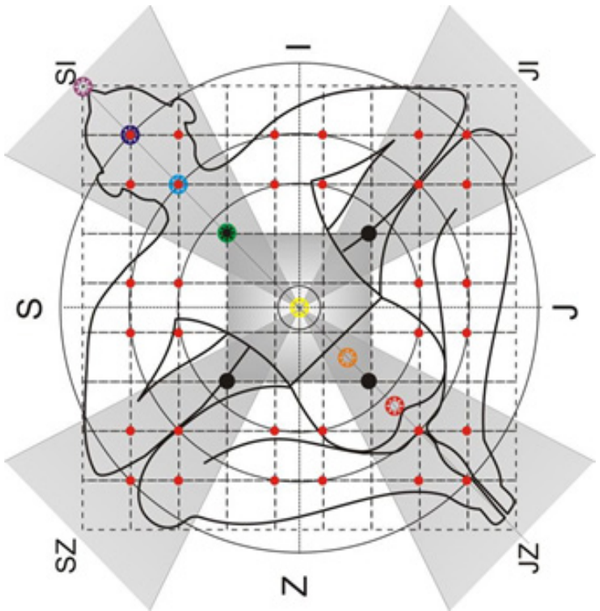


Fig. 4.5.2a: Vastu Theory Purush Mandala Diagram. Sourced from wordpress.com

Despite its cultural origins, Vastu's principles are fundamentally environmental and thus globally adaptable. Whether applied in India or elsewhere, its zonal logic aligns with universal ecological patterns prioritizing light, ventilation, and thermal comfort. In the context of community-oriented spaces, Vastu provides a methodology to distribute activities in a way that supports social connectivity, restfulness, activity, and introspection. Its strength lies in fostering intuitive environments spaces that feel aligned with natural rhythms, regardless of geography.[46]

In this framework, cardinal directions are assigned symbolic and functional attributes: North encourages intellectual activity and interaction; East symbolizes growth and collective well-being; South supports grounding and stability; and West favors inward focus and reflection. These associations offer a flexible spatial grammar to guide zoning and program distribution across diverse climates and cultures.

By adapting Vastu's logic within contemporary architectural practices such as in the community zoning diagram shown designers can cultivate spaces that are not only context-responsive but also deeply human-centric.

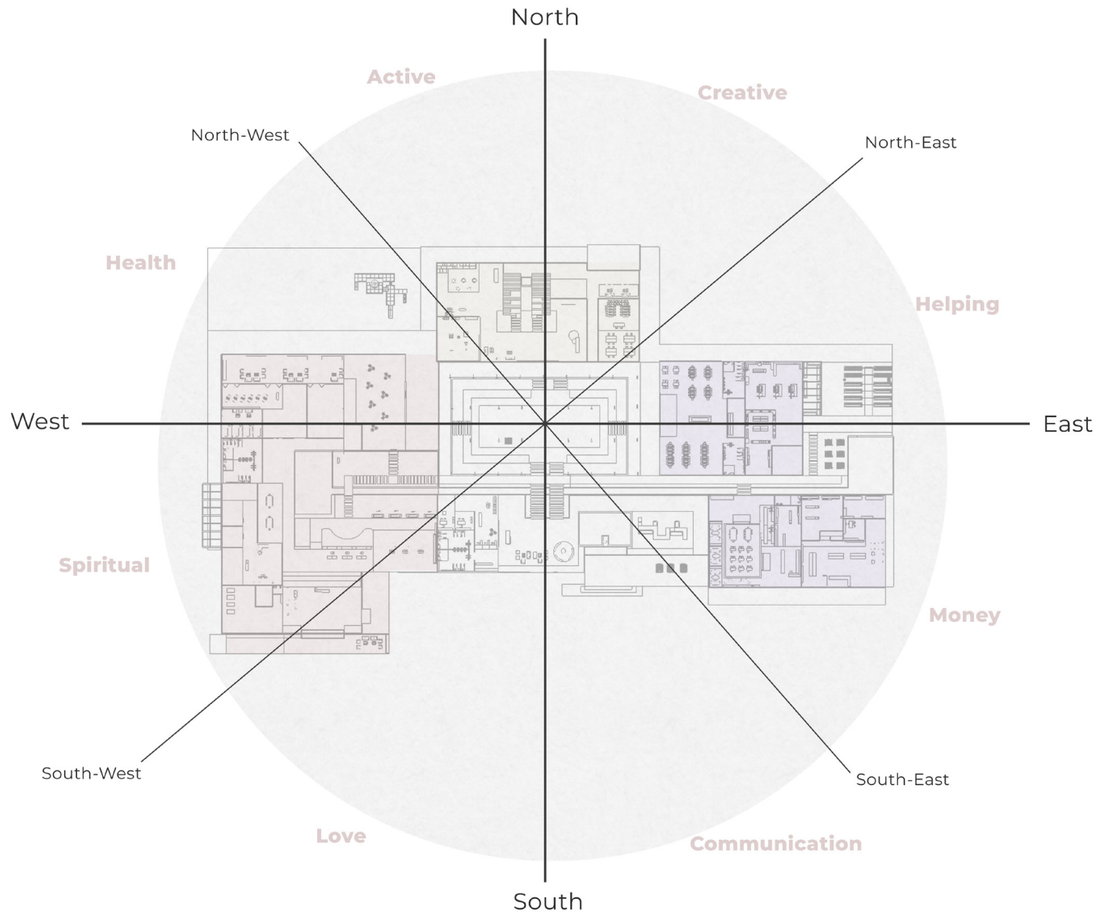


Fig. 4.5.2b: Zoning of programs on site based on Vastu Theory. Drawn by Author

[44] Acharya, P.K. (2010). Architecture of Manasara. New Delhi: Munshiram Manoharlal.

[45] Fazeli, H., & Goodarzi, A. (2010). "The principles of Vastu as a traditional architectural belief system from an environmental perspective." WIT Transactions on Ecology and the Environment, 128, 141–152.

[46] Kapoor, S. (2021). Vastu: Transcultural Design Principles for Modern Living. Journal of Design Philosophy, 5(2), 47–60.

Zoning on Site

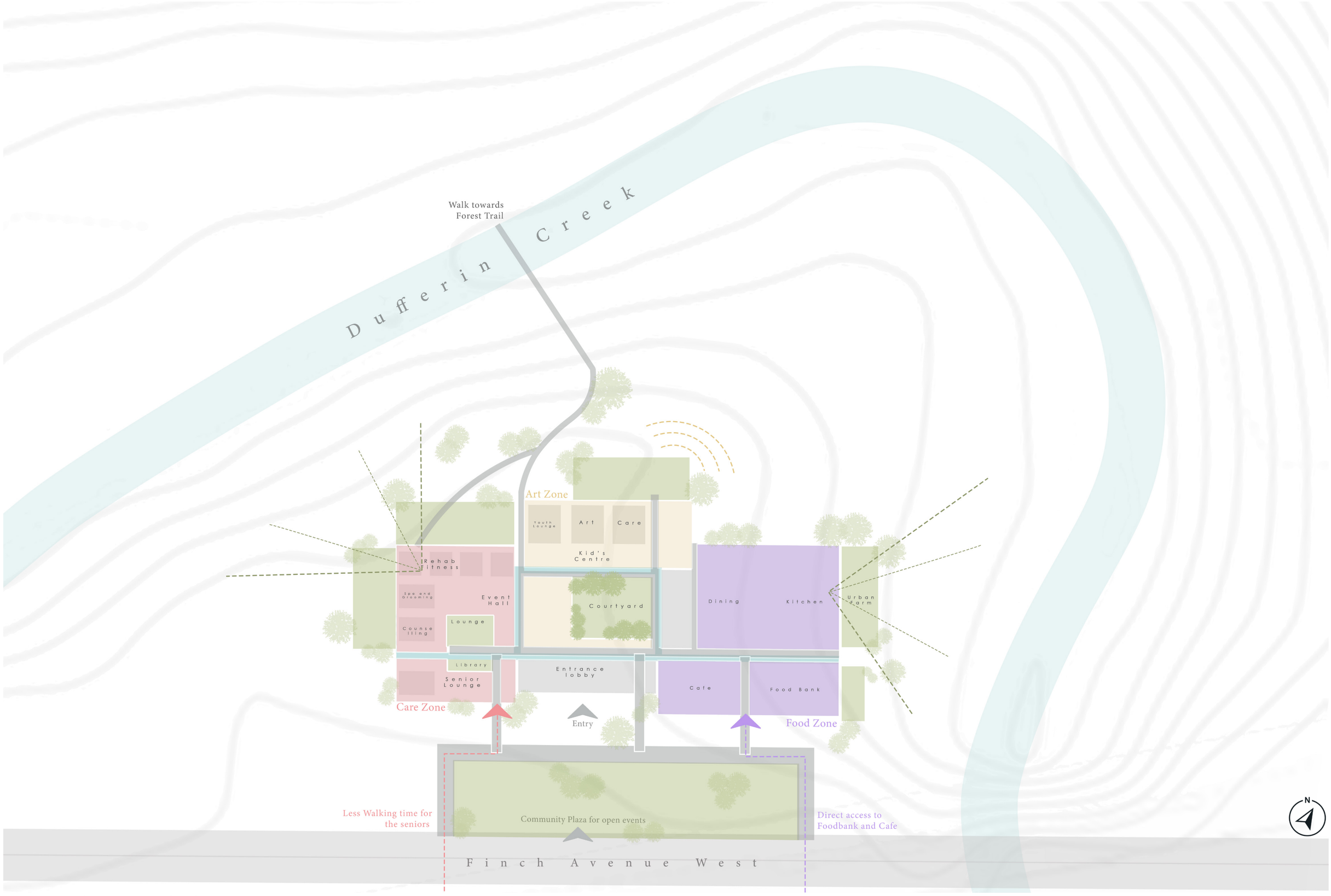


Fig. 4.5.2c: Program Zoning on site. Drawn by Author

4.5.3

Identifying the Nodes

Node Strategy

The zoning is amplified by the introduction of three key node types Threshold, Social, and Exchange each playing a critical role in the project's narrative of connection and care:

Threshold Node

Positioned at the intersection of care and community spaces, this node represents transition. It softens the boundary between institutional care and public life, creating an inviting, respectful entry into the care realm.

Social Node

Located between playful and restful spaces, this node encourages informal interactions where children might pause beside seniors, and where conversations spark naturally across age lines.

Exchange Node

Found near communal dining areas, this node celebrates the act of sharing food as a deeply human, intergenerational experience. Here, storytelling, bonding, and empathy are nurtured through everyday rituals.

These nodes are essential because they humanize the plan. They choreograph how people move, meet, and make meaning together transforming the building from a collection of rooms into a community.

Program placement

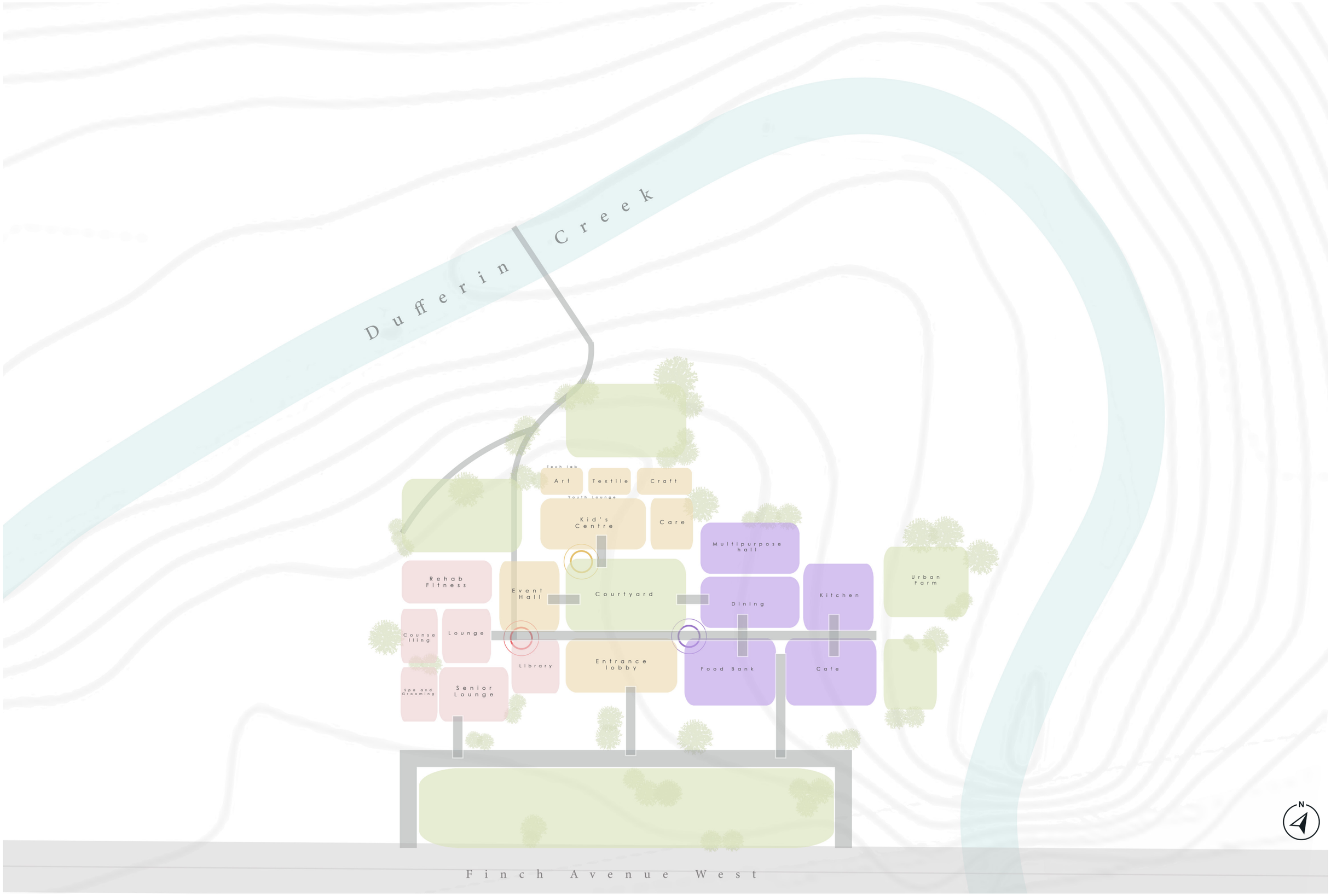


Fig. 4.5.3a: Program development on site. Drawn by Author

4.5.4

Weaving the programs: Designing Encounters the in-between

The spatial progression from programmatic zoning to interwoven intersections represents more than a shift in layout it reflects a philosophy of coexistence. Instead of isolating each function in a rigidly compartmentalized framework, the design invites overlap and intersection, creating dynamic moments of encounter. Spaces are no longer defined solely by their labels but by the relationships they nurture between seniors and children, caregivers and community members, solitude and celebration.

As the diagram evolves, program boundaries begin to blur. A corridor becomes a gallery; a shared wall becomes a place to converse. This design intentionally embraces "in-between" zones not as leftover space, but as third places of informal connection, where the unexpected becomes possible. Inspired by Ray Oldenburg's notion of the third place, the intersections are designed to foster spontaneity, empathy, and cross-generational dialogue.

Programs are gently threaded together through adjacencies and transitional nodes, encouraging users to cross paths naturally. The result is a spatial fabric where care, play, nourishment, and creativity are entangled, creating a human-scaled architecture rooted in community rhythms. This strategy of spatial weaving challenges traditional zoning models and instead cultivates a fluid, lived-in environment where architecture becomes a backdrop to intergenerational storytelling, daily rituals, and shared belonging.

Program Intersection

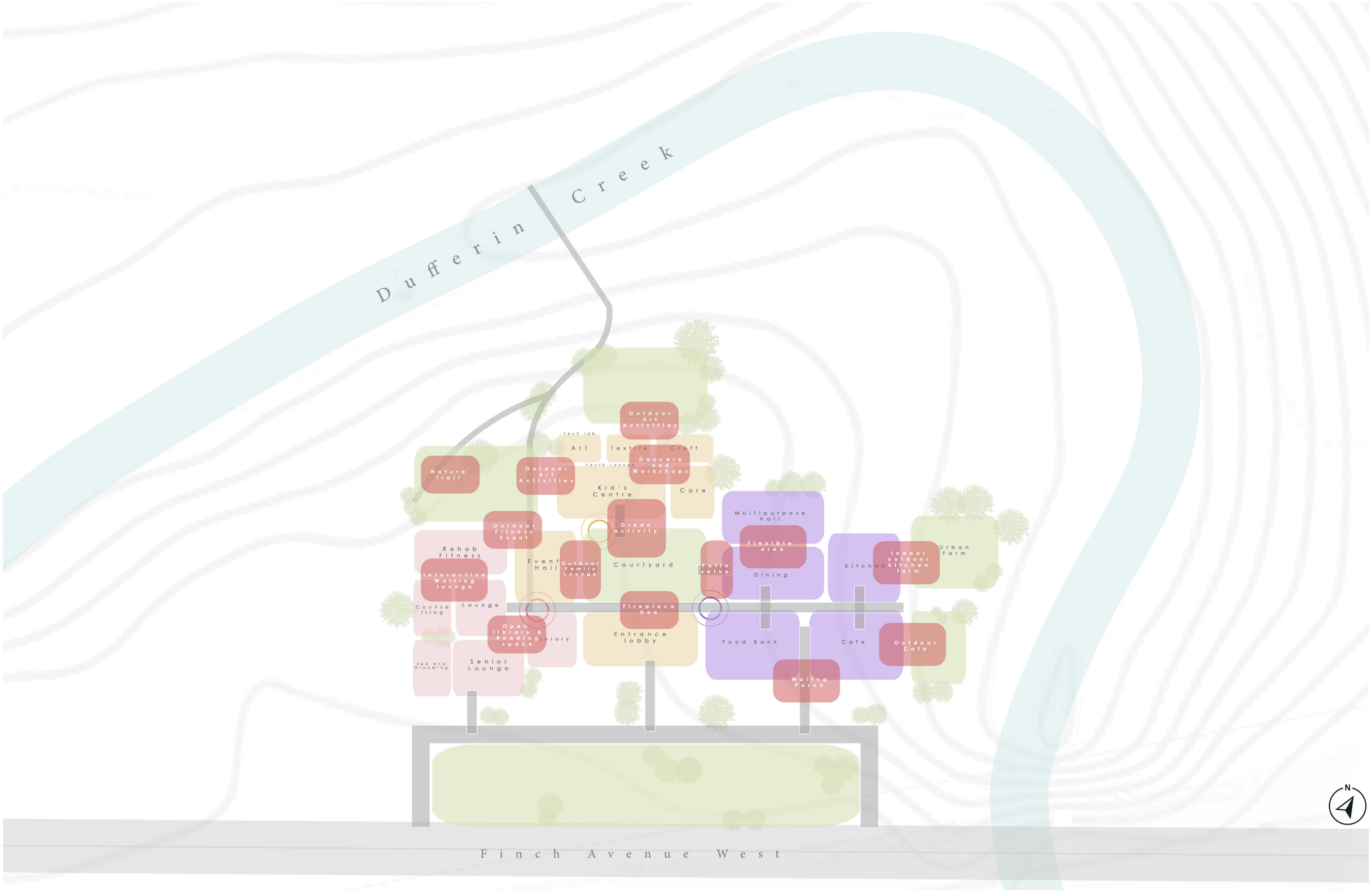


Fig. 4.5.4a: Program Intersection on site. Drawn by Author

4.5.5

Biophilic Spatial Strategies: Moments of Nature, Memory, and Meaning

In an age where built environments often distance us from the natural world, biophilic design offers a quiet return a reconnection to something deeply instinctive. Rooted in the idea that humans thrive when they are close to nature, biophilic design integrates natural elements such as light, vegetation, texture, water, and organic patterns into architecture, not as decoration, but as essential layers of experience.

For users especially the elderly, children, and caregivers these sensory and spatial connections nurture emotional well-being, reduce stress, and foster a sense of belonging. A garden becomes more than a garden; it becomes a site of memory, comfort, and shared moments. Daylight becomes more than illumination it becomes rhythm and reassurance.

In the context of intergenerational community care, biophilic design helps create environments that heal, calm, and invite interaction. It brings warmth to institutional spaces and dignity to daily rituals. This chapter explores how nature is not simply added to the building but woven into it, becoming part of how people move, feel, and connect.

Each space within the intergenerational community center is intentionally crafted not just for function but for sensory richness and natural resonance. These are not just zones they are living environments where nature acts as an active participant in care, interaction, and emotional grounding.

1. The Trail

A connective green spine that guides movement along water, light, and layered landscape edges. Architecturally, it frames views, introduces seasonal change, and supports rhythmic walking patterns, reinforcing sensory orientation and cognitive clarity.

2. The Pinnacle

This elevated legacy garden fosters tactile engagement with soil, plants, and growth. As users tend to raised beds, they participate in slow rituals of care that strengthen memory, patience, and intergenerational dialogue.

3. The Oasis

A calm zone designed for multisensory restoration—fragrance from herbs, the softness of shaded seating, and ambient textures invite users to pause. It merges biophilia with mental wellness through open-air rest platforms and dappled light.

4. The Nest

An enclosed, acoustically soft space oriented toward views of foliage and filtered sunlight. The natural textures and controlled sensory input make it ideal for neurodiverse users needing gentle retreat.

5. The Arbor

A social garden threshold where informal encounters unfold under pergolas wrapped in climbing plants. The play of shadow, scent, and openness enables relaxed conversations and spontaneous sociality.

6. The Woods

A semi-sheltered grove nestled between built masses—inviting slow strolls, quiet reflection, and shaded microclimates. It becomes an immersive buffer, turning transition zones into restorative green interludes.

7. The Den

Located at the core, this nurturing indoor-outdoor room opens to natural materials, green courts, and play elements. With earthy tones and daylight apertures, it anchors caregiving in a familiar and calming sensory envelope.

Together, these biophilic spaces reflect a philosophy where built form and nature are co-authors of experience supporting well-being not through addition, but through careful architectural integration.

Program with Biophilic Inspiration



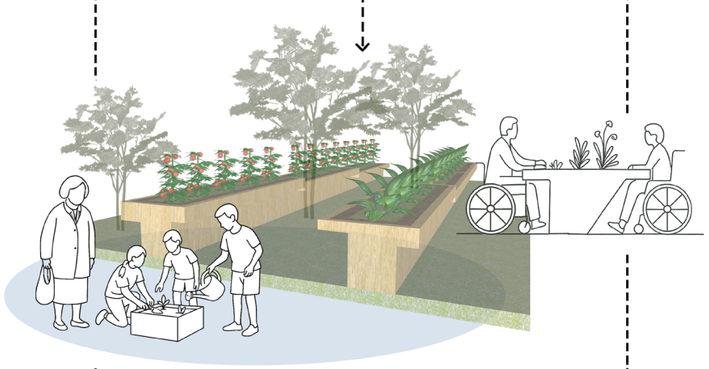
Fig. 4.5.5a: Biophilic design inspiration in Plan. Drawn by Author

THE TRAIL

A connective green spine that frames movement with light, water, and landscape rhythm.

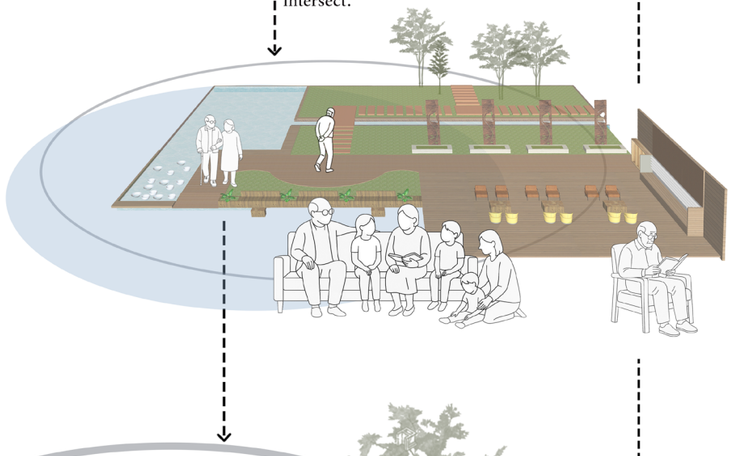
PINNACLE

A legacy garden space fostering inter-generational engagement through hands-on interaction with greenery.



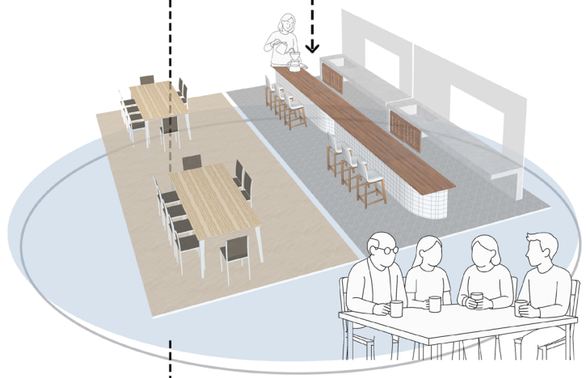
OASIS

A calm, restorative platform where sensory comfort and communal rest intersect.



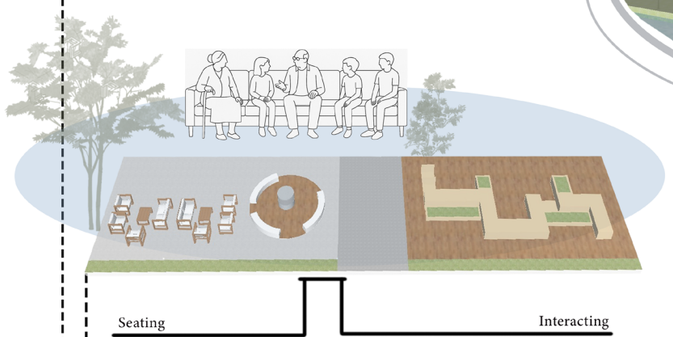
NEST

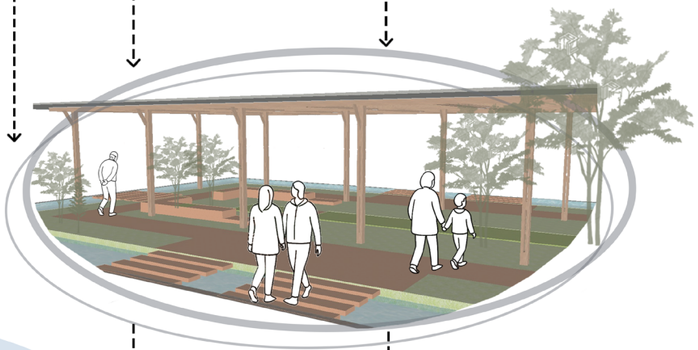
A quiet, enclosed zone offering sensory relief, focused work, and supportive interaction.



ARBOR

A flexible seating landscape designed for pause, conversation, and informal social exchange.



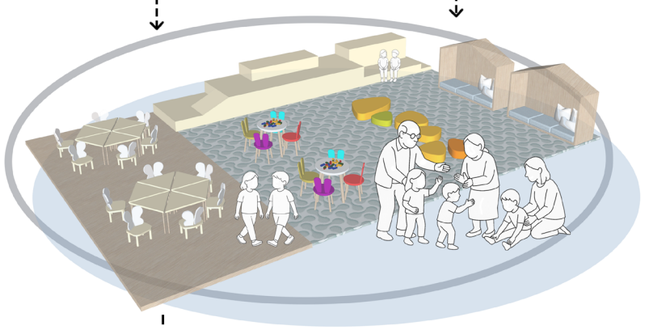


WOODS

A semi-sheltered grove that invites walking, resting, and immersion in nature.

DEN

A nurturing, activity-rich interior space that supports caregiving and playful bonding.



These are not just spaces they're moments. Places where a grandparent tends to a garden with a child, where silence feels safe, and where paths gently guide people back to one another through nature's quiet presence.

Fig. 4.5.5b: Biophilic design elements for spaces. Drawn by Author

4 . 6

The Design Moves

"Architecture is a social act and the material theater of human activity."
— Spiro Kostof

Design is not merely about function it is about shaping experience, enabling encounter, and nurturing belonging. In the context of an intergenerational community centre, where diverse users coexist with overlapping yet distinct needs, spatial decisions must do more than accommodate they must connect. This project embraces the idea that architecture can choreograph interaction, offering both comfort and curiosity through its formal and spatial responses.

The design moves outlined here are not isolated gestures but strategic threads woven to foster community, reciprocity, and emotional security. Each stems from a deep reading of the site, the users, and the social goals of the project. Rooted in the central idea of "threads of encounter," the architecture facilitates layered experiences across age groups from spontaneous meetings in open courts to quiet observation in gentle thresholds.

Site Landscape and Topographic Analysis

It is a light contoured site with highest level of 169m near the road and keeps decreasing as moving towards the water body. to 163m. The site is rich with natural elements like lush greenery all over and a water body with flowing water form the reservoiry form thw North west towards South east Direction. The building seats on the 169-168m terrain on the site with minimal shift in levels, creating it comfortable for the elderly.

Designing a building near the G. Ross Lord Reservoir in North York, Toronto, presents unique opportunities and challenges. To ensure a harmonious integration with the surrounding environment, consider the following strategies:

Understanding Flood Control Mechanisms: The G. Ross Lord Dam is an earthen embankment dam equipped with two concrete control structures. The primary structure includes two low-level gates used to draw down the reservoir after rain events, while the secondary structure features two large radial arm gates for extreme storm events.

Constraint: Proximity to a reservoir and creek may expose the site to flooding or waterlogging.

Solutions: Raingarden at the water edge. Integrate bioswales, retention ponds, or permeable surfaces to manage runoff and prevent erosion. Incorporate permeable materials in landscaping to enhance water absorption and reduce runoff.

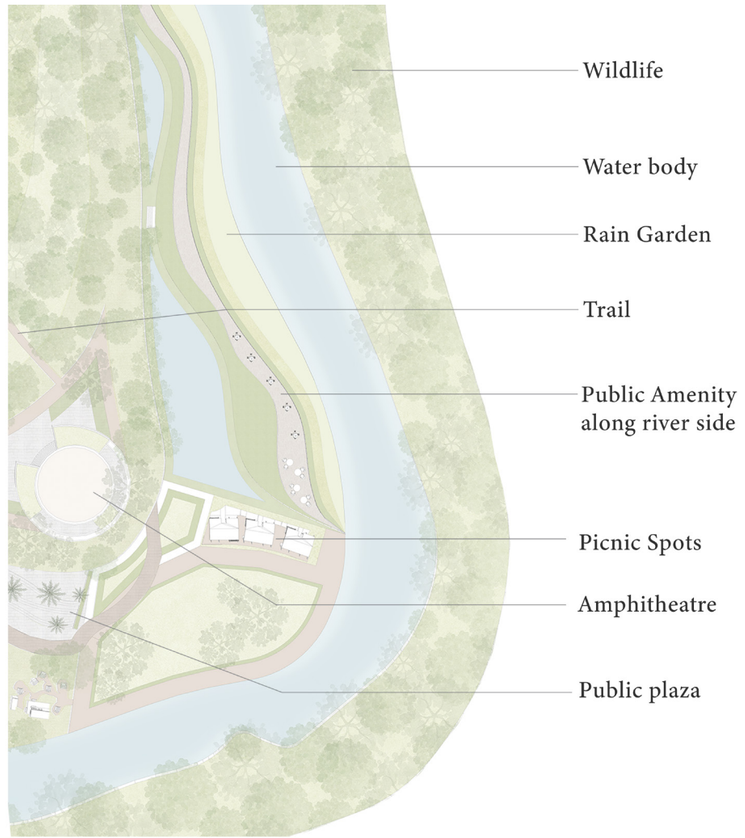


Fig. 4.6a: Waterfront activity development on site. Drawn by Author



A serene waterfront edge designed for restful seating amidst lush greenery and soft garden blooms.

Fig. 4.6b: Seating at the Waterfront. Image by Author

Exsisting Site

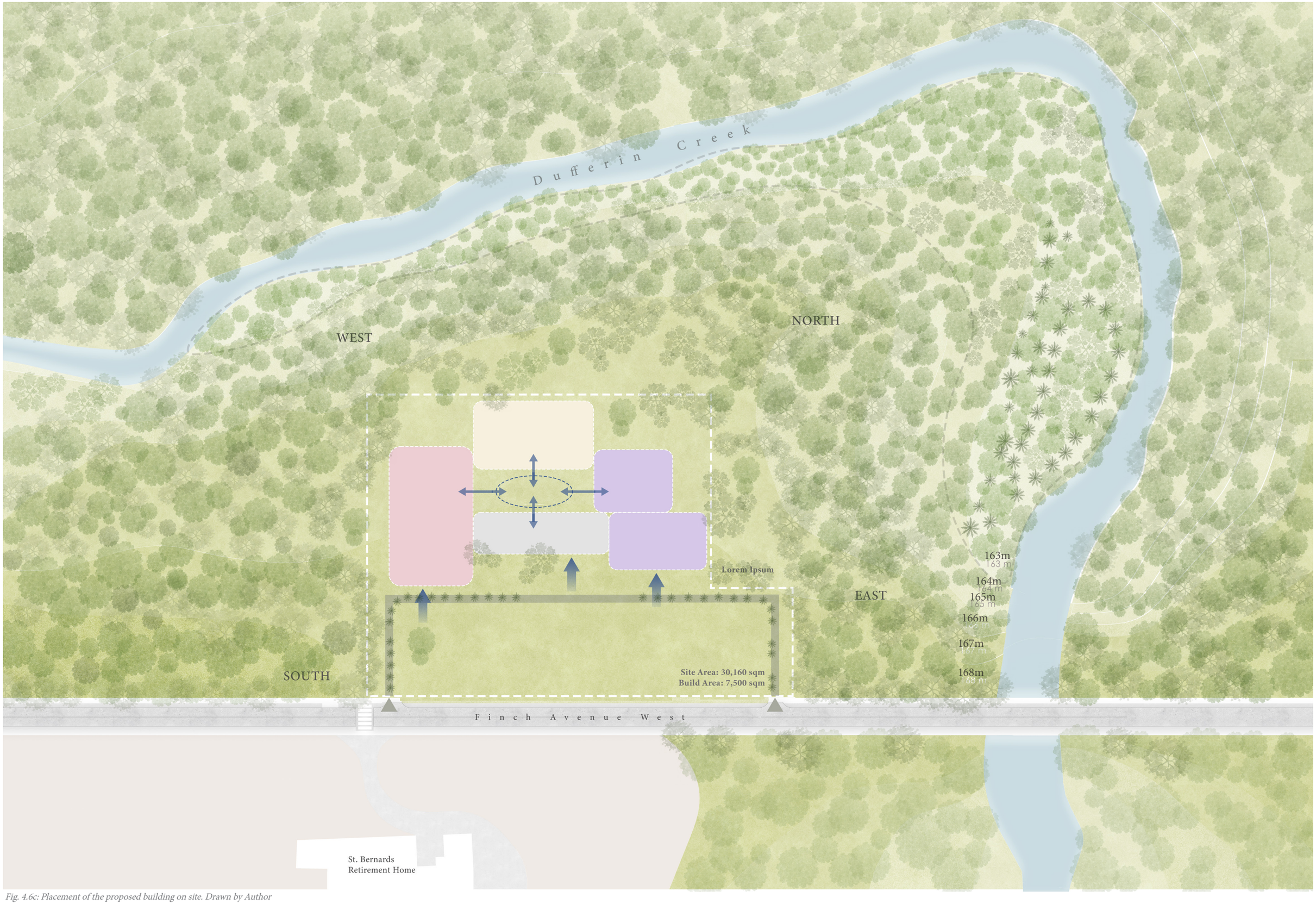
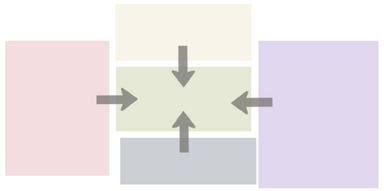


Fig. 4.6c: Placement of the proposed building on site. Drawn by Author

The Design Moves

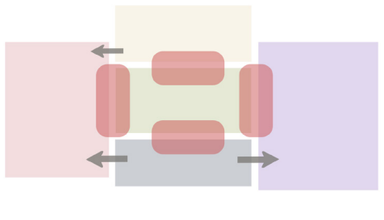


1. Courtyard

The central courtyard acts as the spatial and social heart of the project, offering a shared green commons where all generations can gather, rest, and interact. It provides a protected, nature-integrated zone that anchors the community and encourages passive encounters throughout the day.

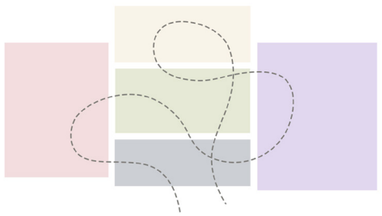
2. Spinal connectivity

A continuous internal spine links all key programs care spaces, activity zones, dining, and workshops fostering intuitive navigation and uninterrupted accessibility. This linear circulation becomes a narrative pathway of experience and interaction across age groups.



3. Blended Threshold

Public, semi-public, and care zones are stitched through graduated thresholds that blur boundaries rather than enforce separation. These transitions allow for layered interaction while maintaining comfort, privacy, and emotional security for diverse users.



4. Programmatic Weaving

Programs are deliberately interlaced to create moments of shared function where a dining area serves both seniors and children, or a workshop becomes a stage for intergenerational exchange. This intentional overlap nurtures empathy and informal learning across age and ability.

5. Scale

Human-scale design choices such as low-rise edges, open views, and small-group clusters ensure the space feels welcoming and non-institutional.

Site Plan

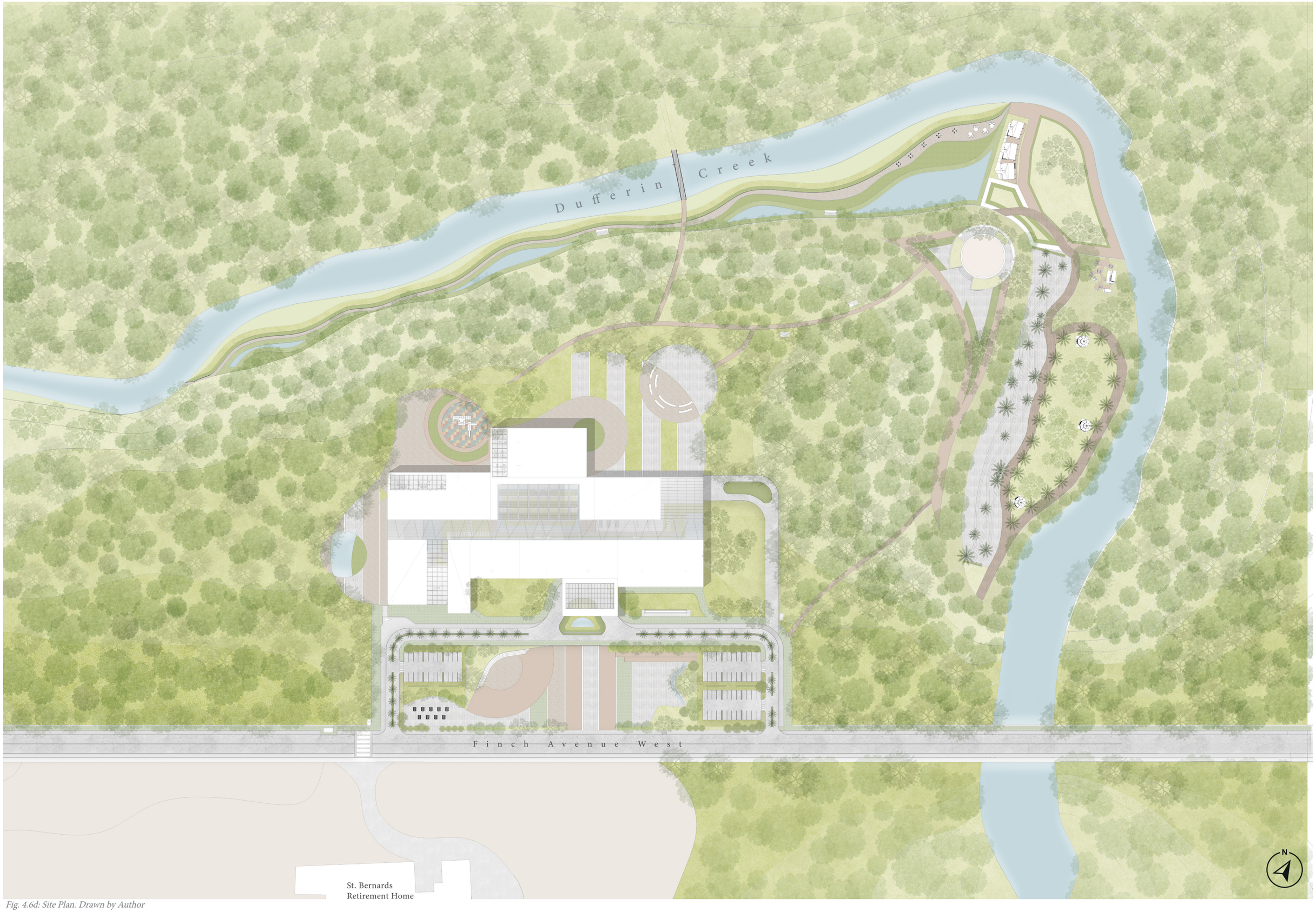


Fig. 4.6d: Site Plan. Drawn by Author

Site Section



Fig. 4.6e: Site Section. Drawn by Author



The forest trail weaves through curated greenery, with picnic spot for rest, meals, and gentle encounters with nature.

Fig. 4.6f: Forest Trail and Picnic pause points near the waterfront. Image by Author

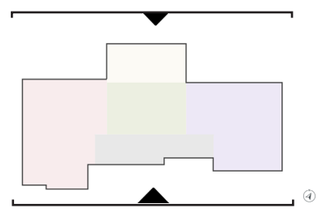
Elevation

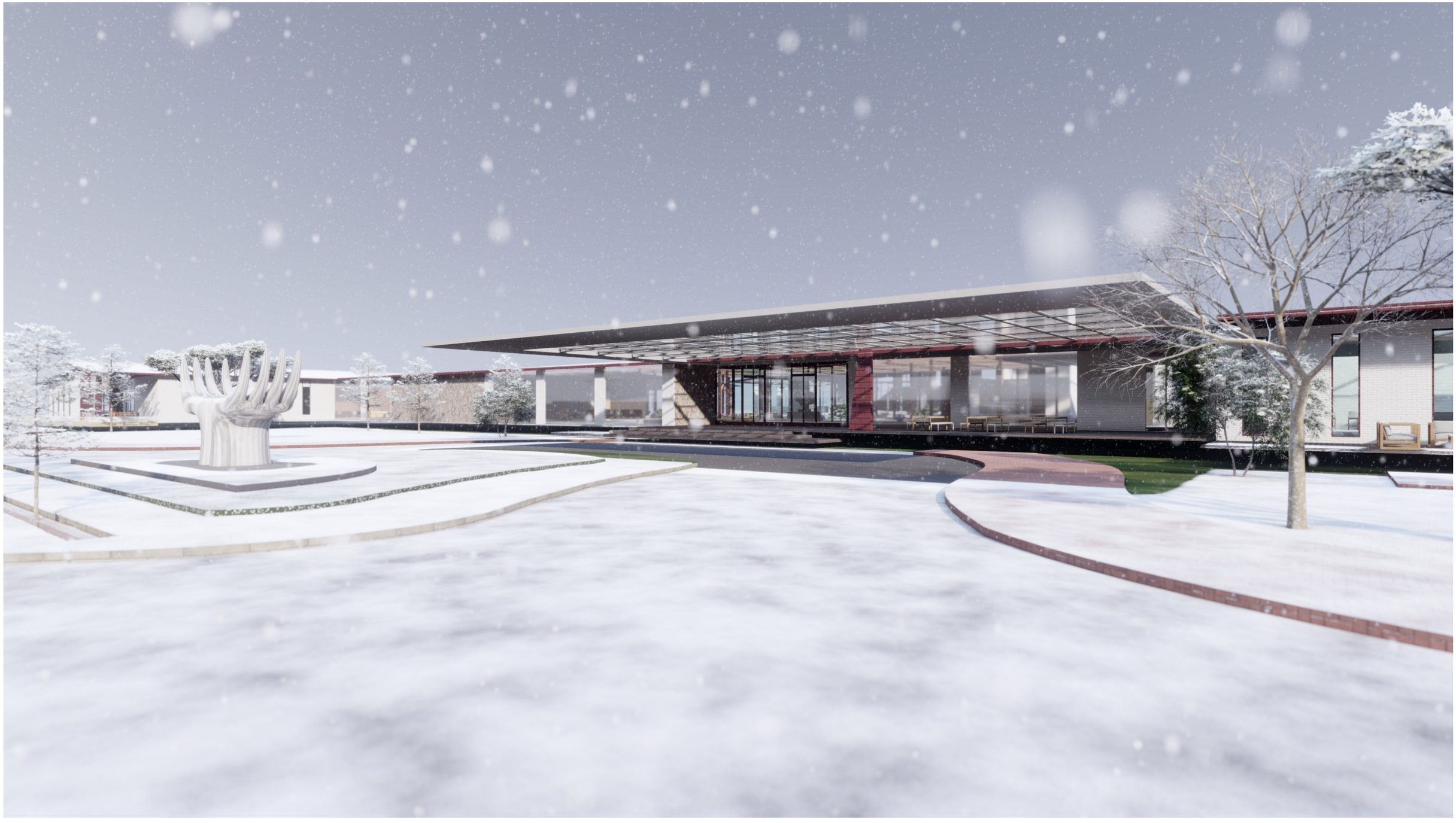


Fig. 4.6g: Front/South-East Elevation. Drawn by Author



Fig. 4.6h: Rear/North-West Elevation . Drawn by Author





In the hush of winter, the building's entrance becomes a beacon marking of a seasonal transition from cold exterior to the comfort of indoor spaces.

Fig. 4.6i: Building Entrance in Winters. Image by Author

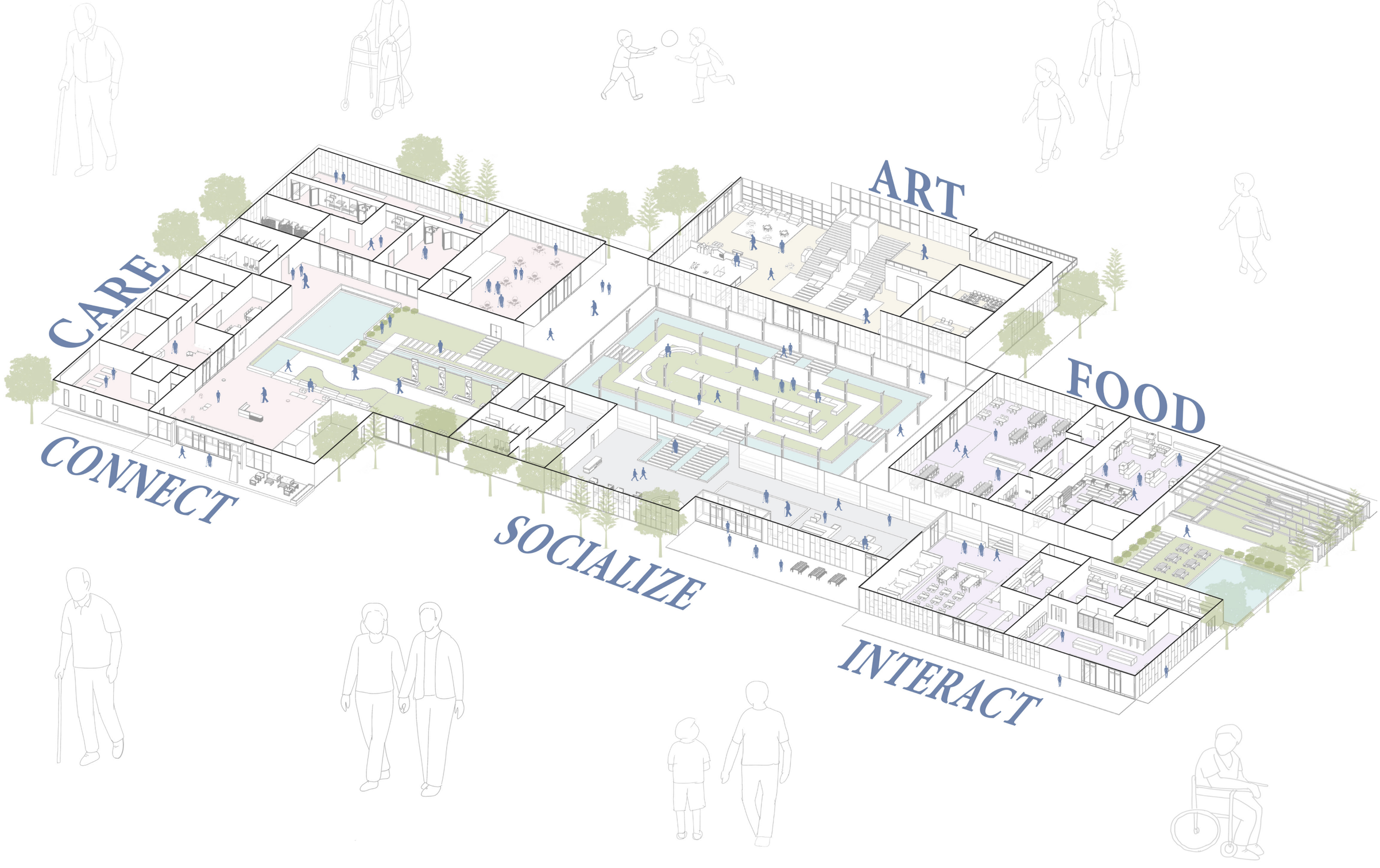


Fig. 4.6i: Building Axonomentric. Image by Author

Ground Floor Plan

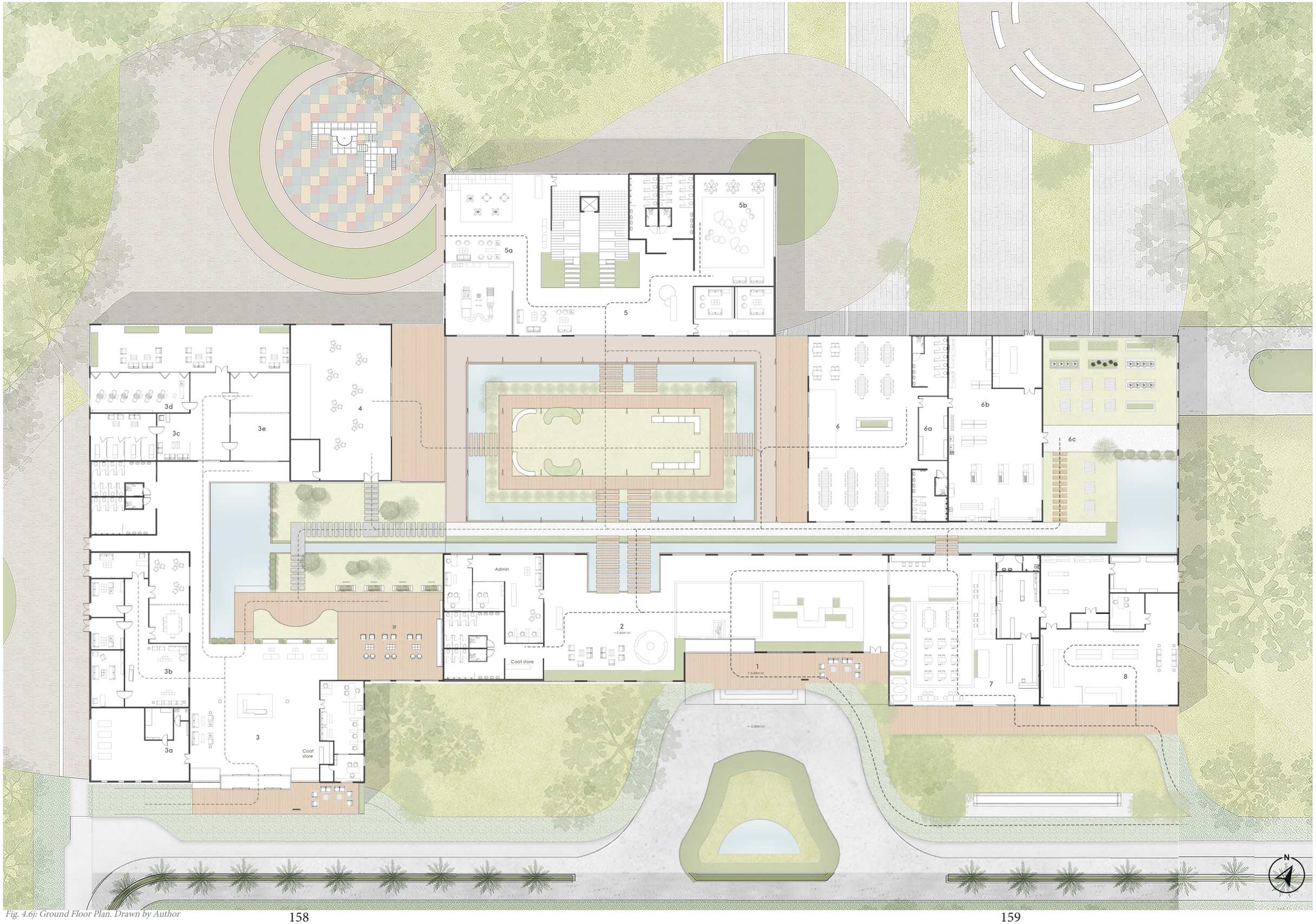
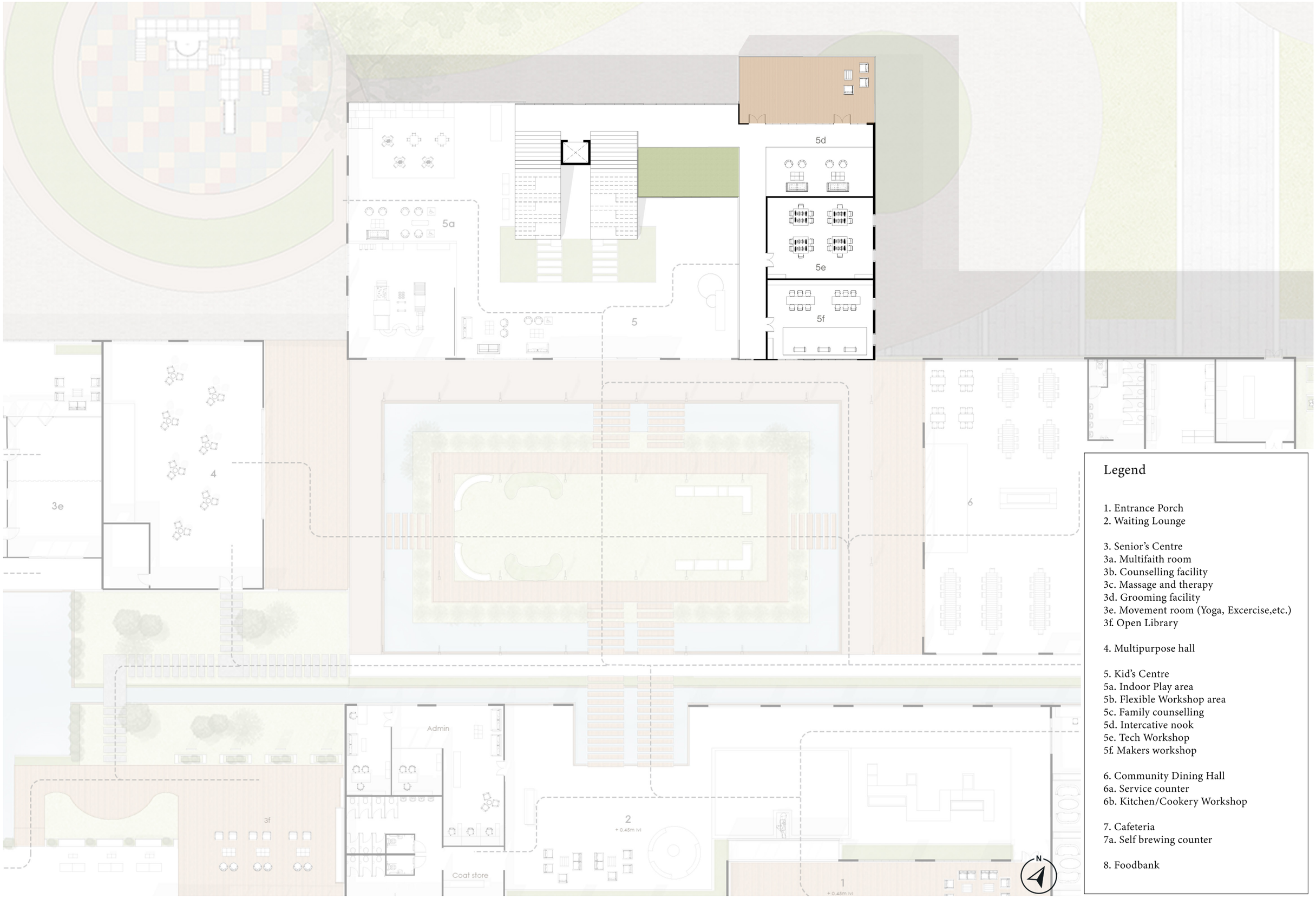


Fig. 4.6j: Ground Floor Plan. Drawn by Author

First Floor Plan



Legend

1. Entrance Porch
2. Waiting Lounge

3. Senior's Centre
3a. Multifaith room
3b. Counselling facility
3c. Massage and therapy
3d. Grooming facility
3e. Movement room (Yoga, Excercise,etc.)
3f. Open Library

4. Multipurpose hall

5. Kid's Centre
5a. Indoor Play area
5b. Flexible Workshop area
5c. Family counselling
5d. Intercative nook
5e. Tech Workshop
5f. Makers workshop

6. Community Dining Hall
6a. Service counter
6b. Kitchen/Cookery Workshop

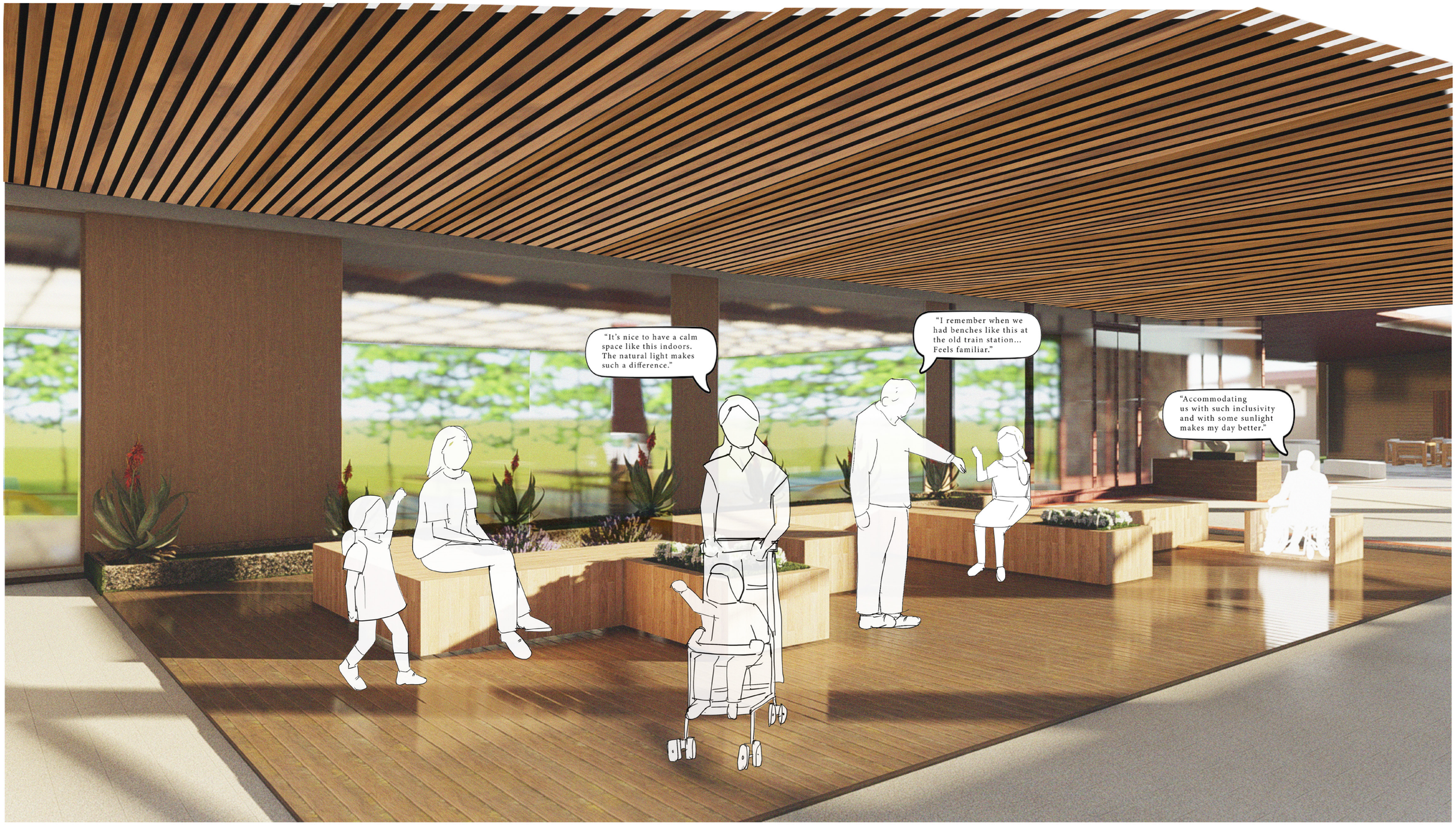
7. Cafeteria
7a. Self brewing counter

8. Foodbank

Fig. 4.6k: First Floor Plan. Drawn by Author



Fig. 4.6l: Project Aerial view. Image by Author



The seating nook in the Entrance lobby that invites casual interactions grounding visitors in a sense of community.

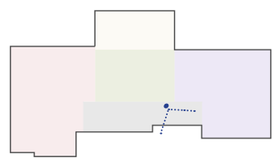
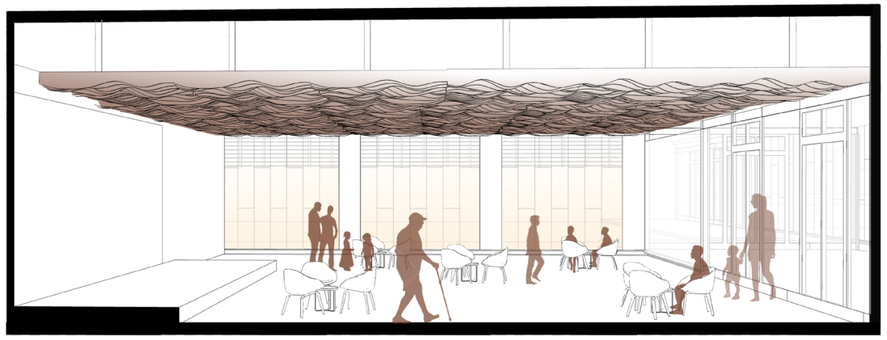
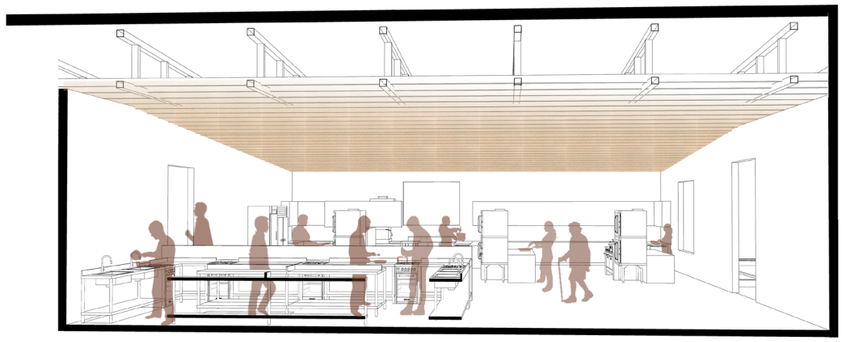


Fig. 4.6l: Lobby area with Interactive Seating. Image by Author



Multipurpose Event Hall



Community Kitchen

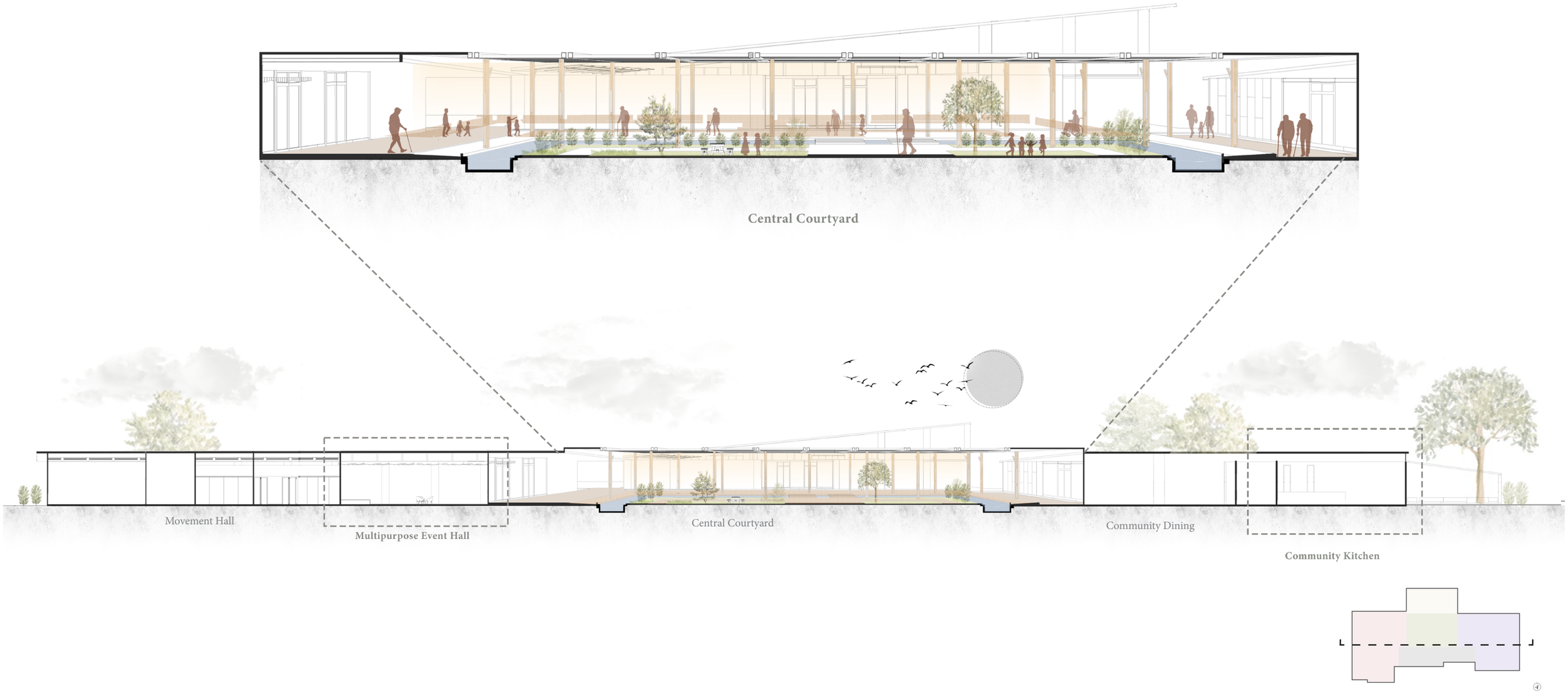


Fig. 4.6m: Section. Drawn by Author



Fig. 4.6o: South-West Elevation. Drawn by Author



Fig. 4.6p: Section. Drawn by Author

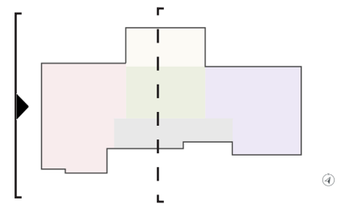




Fig. 4.6q: North-East Elevation. Drawn by Author

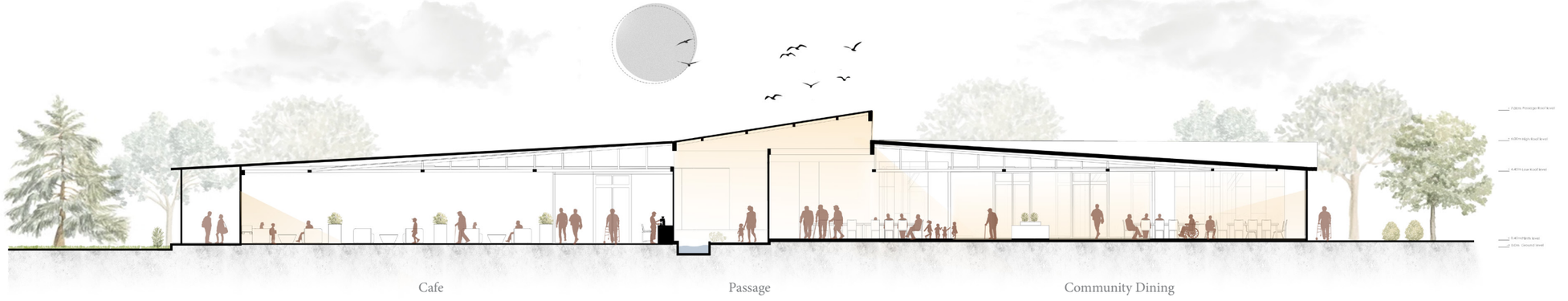
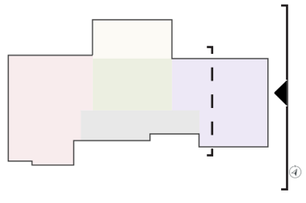


Fig. 4.6r: Section. Drawn by Author



4.7

The Designing for Connection: The Intergenerational Spaces

"Architecture is employed more and more as a preventative measure which, by its very nature, limits the horizon of experience…"
- Robin Evans, Figures, Doors and Passages

At the center of this thesis is a simple, deeply human belief: we are better when we are together when children, adults, and elders share not just space, but time, rhythm, and ritual. Intergenerational connection isn't a design trend. It's a quiet healing force. It softens the solitude that can shadow aging, gives young people mentors beyond their families, and weaves continuity through a world often shaped by fragmentation.

Spaces that hold these exchanges aren't just backdrops for activity they're vessels for empathy, purpose, and joy. Kaplan and Sanchez write about the subtle transformation that happens when generations create side by side how learning and care emerge not from instruction, but from presence[1]. Whether it's planting herbs, telling stories, or baking bread, these acts don't just pass time they pass meaning. Children grow into compassion. Elders feel visible, necessary.

Design can nurture that. A corridor wide enough to pause and chat. A workshop where a child paints while a senior threads a needle. These aren't just spatial overlaps they're emotional invitations. Reciprocity becomes tangible, felt. As Pallasmaa reminds us, architecture must "enable engagement rather than observation"[4]; it shapes not just how we move, but how we connect.

In this project, intergenerational spaces aren't peripheral. They're central. The children's play zone and senior care rooms are linked not by signs but by thresholds that suggest curiosity: a garden path, an open kitchen, a shared table. Inspired by Sherry Ahrentzen's notion of relational living, these transitions are gentle seams, not borders[5].

Ray Oldenburg's idea of the third place those informal, welcoming spots where community quietly holds itself together echoes here too[6]. Sunlit courtyards, communal dining nooks, and quiet reading corners offer spaces to simply be without role, without rush.

And the effects ripple. As Abeles, Gift, and Ory observe, older adults flourish emotionally when woven into multigenerational life[7]. Children, too, gain a deeper sense of belonging when aging isn't hidden, but honored[8]. These everyday proximities shape how we understand care not as a service, but as a shared rhythm of life.

This is architecture not just as function, but as care. Soft, intentional, alive. A framework that doesn't impose connection, but patiently makes room for it.

Workshop Floor Plan

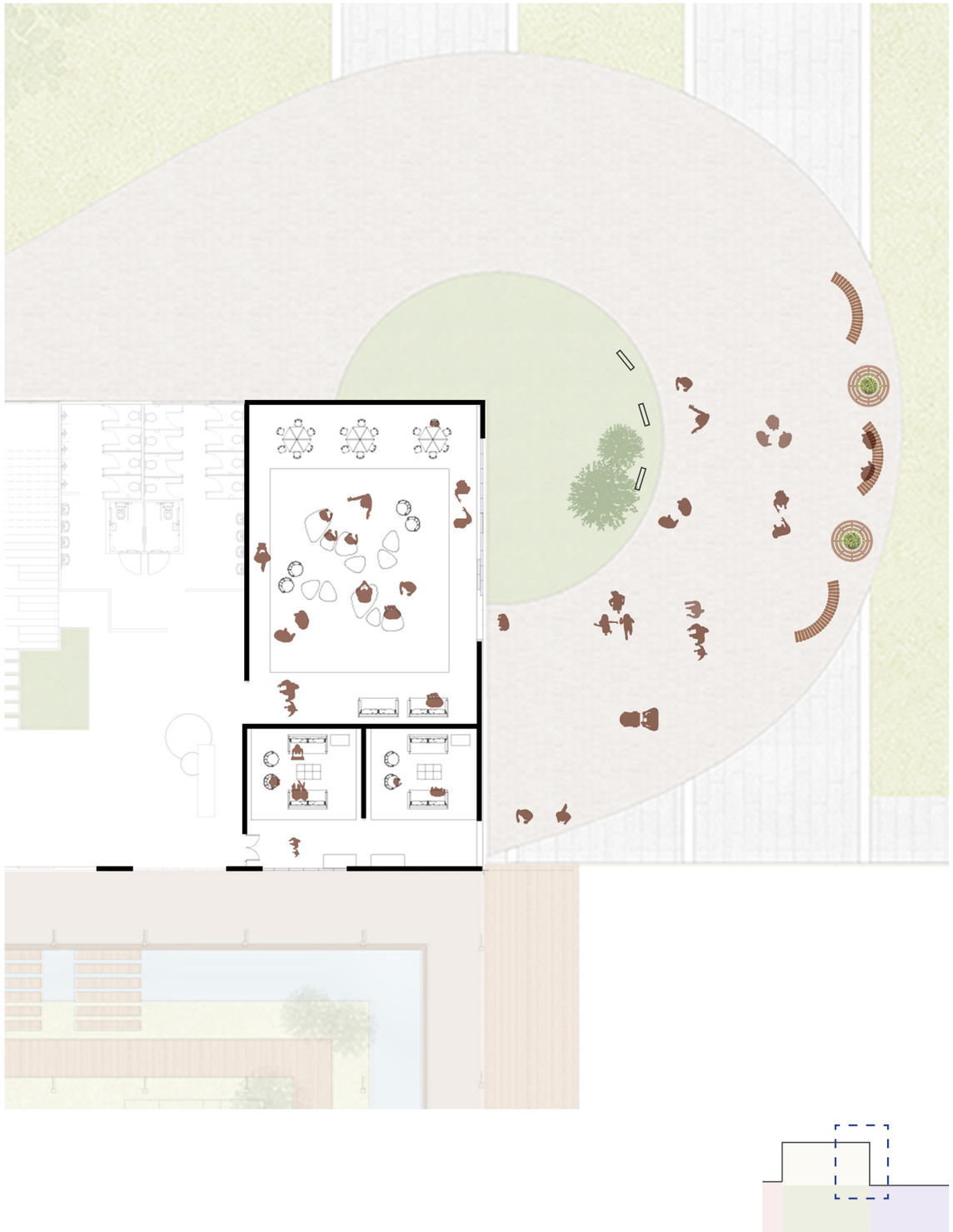
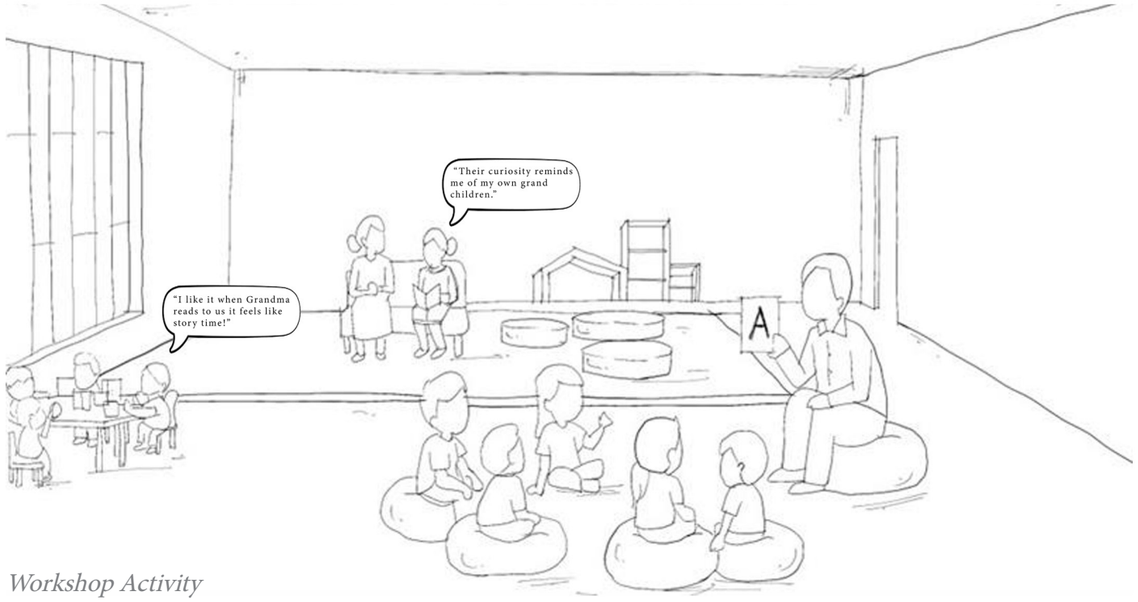


Fig. 4.7a: Ground Floor Workshop and Family Counselling area Plan. Drawn by Author



Workshop Activity

This area is workshop space where learning flows in both directions elders and children co-creating, listening, and moving together. These aren't structured programs tucked into tight schedules; they're lived encounters. The rooms are configured for openness and intimacy: quiet storytelling corners, flexible seating, and soft transitions into the outdoor plaza. Each activity becomes a thread of intergenerational connection.

Story Exchange, Poetry Telling & Illustrated Books

Children illustrate while elders narrate life stories fostering empathy, imagination, and intergenerational listening.

Toy & Game Crafting

Recreating vintage toys or board games becomes a shared act of remembering and inventing, bridging generations through craft.

Movement & Dance Play

Chair yoga for elders and rhythmic games for children offer playful co-movement and gentle physical connection.

Sensory Exploration

A space designed where textures, sounds, and scents evoke memory, curiosity, and storytelling..

History Exchange Workshop

A space where oral history becomes conversation: children ask, elders share, and timelines collapse into understanding and connection.

Importantly, these creations don't stay confined. The adjacent plaza becomes a gallery of shared joy. Poems are pinned to trees, hand-painted games are etched into pavement, and handmade toys rest on low benches. It's a living archive quietly broadcasting that these lives and connections matter.

Fig. 4.7b: Learning and knowledge sharing in workshop. Sketch by Author



An open-air plaza designed for outdoor workshops, crafts are exhibited, and interaction come to life.

Fig. 4.7c: Outdoor art exhibition and amphitheatre plaza. Image by Author

Workshop - 2nd Floor Plan



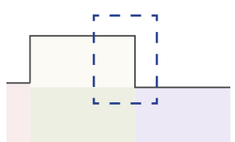
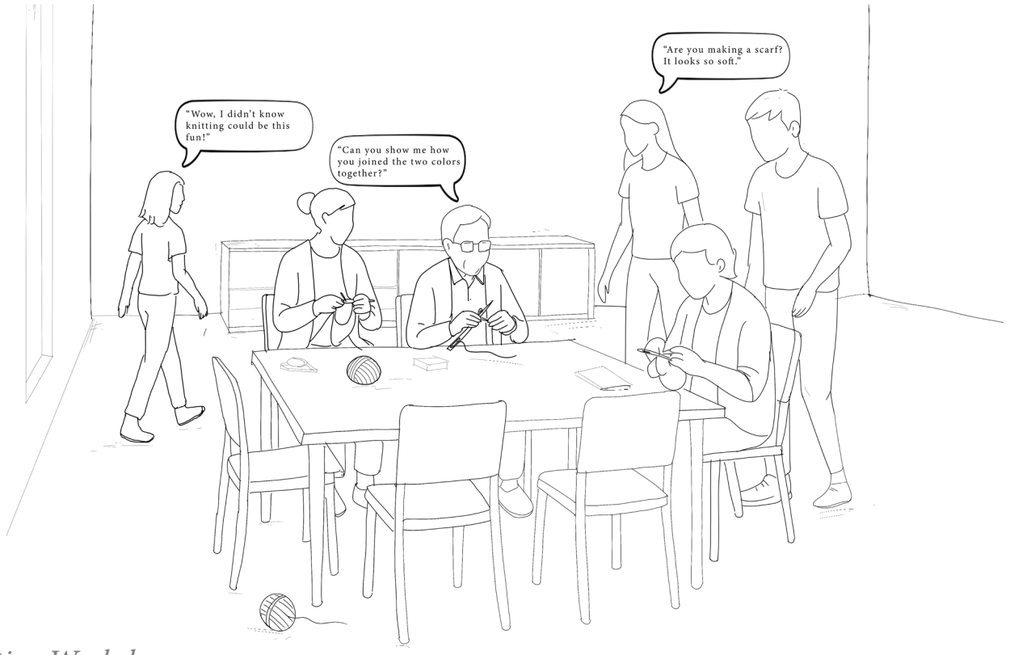


Fig. 4.7d: Second level -Tech and DIY Art workshop. Drawn by Author



Knitting Workshop

Technology Workshop

Digital divides begin to dissolve. Seniors are introduced to emerging tools computers, tablets, and VR with the guidance of younger generations. From virtual travel to storytelling in immersive environments, this room becomes a bridge between memory and innovation, wonder and learning.

Makers & Art Workshop

This room hums with quiet attention and craft. It's where generations sit side by side to knit, sculpt, sketch, or fix. A grandmother teaches a child to thread a needle. A teenager helps an elder make a photo album. These aren't just activities they're shared rituals. The room is filled with textures, tools, and stories, where hands stay busy and hearts stay open.

Balcony Lounge

Just outside, the covered balcony offers a place to breathe. After the focus of making and learning, this threshold between indoors and out invites reflection. Surrounded by planters and seating, it's a soft transition a place for tea, for looking out, for quietly being near one another.

Fig. 4.7e: Learning tech and art in the workshop. Sketch by Author



This flexible zone blends play with pause area, inviting kids to learn, lounge, climb, or connect under a canopy of daylight and care.

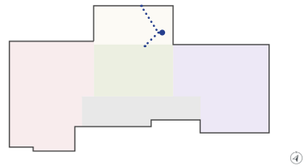


Fig. 4.7f: Kid's centre lounge. Image by Author

Community Kitcheny and Kitchen gardening Floor Plan

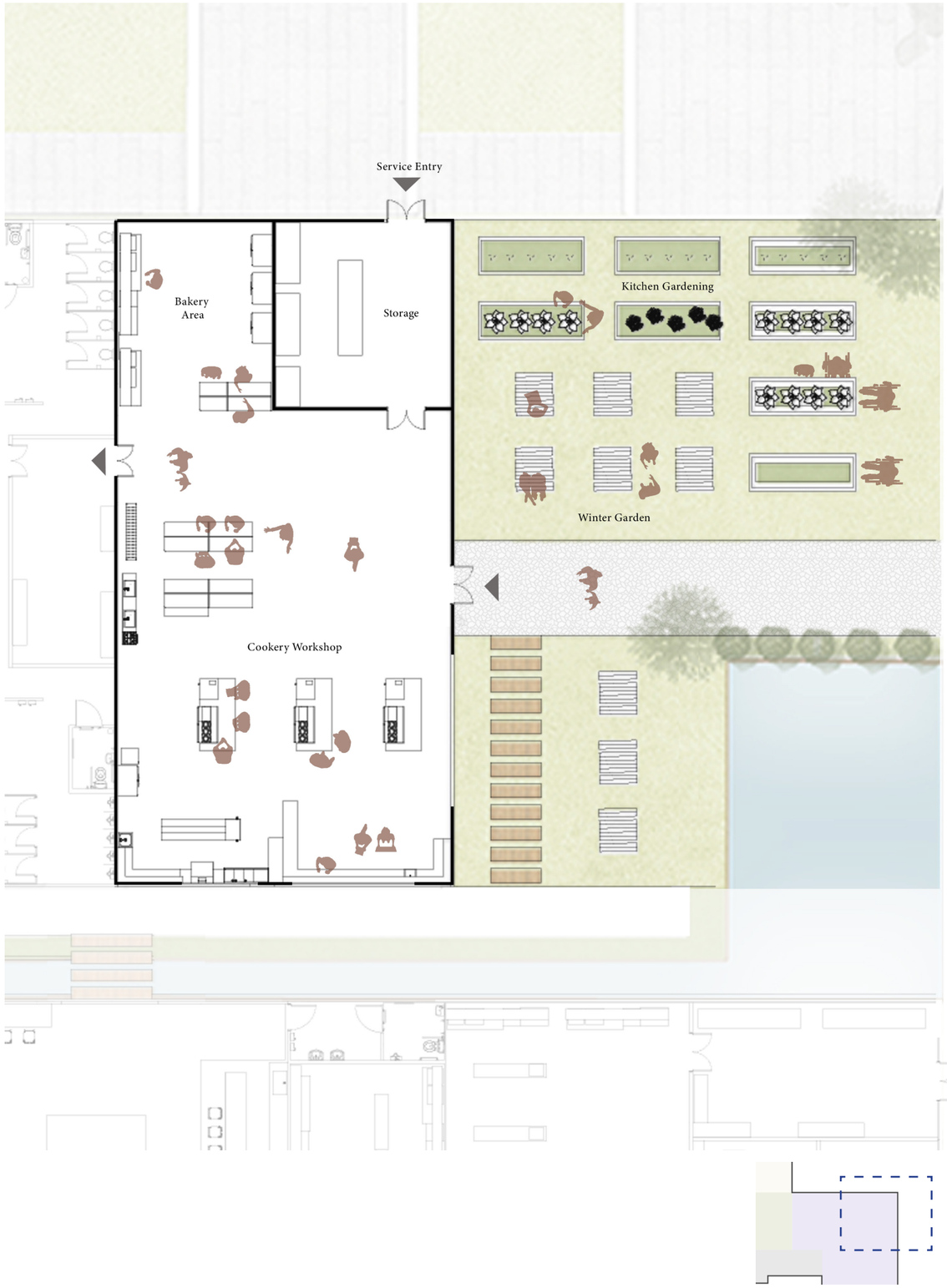
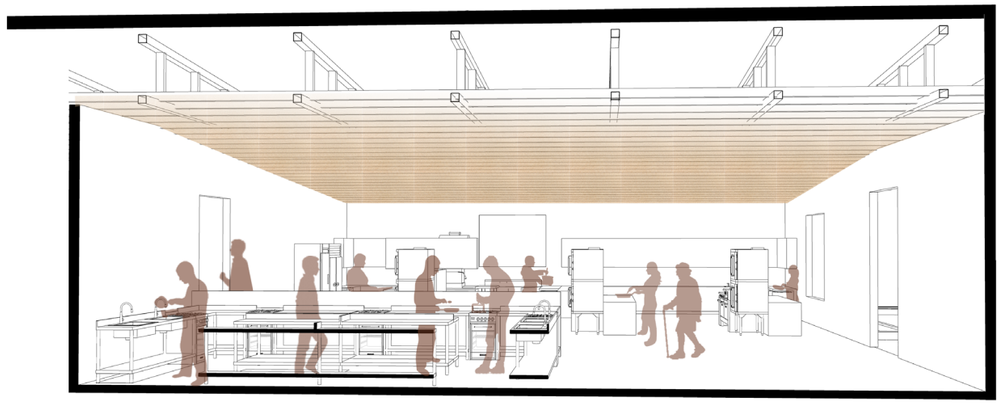


Fig. 4.7g: Community Kitchen with cookery and Bakery workshop and Kitchen gardening. Drawn by Author



Community Kitchen

Cookery Workshop: Recipes as Storytelling

In this space, elders become the storytellers, guiding participants through recipes passed down over generations. Cooking becomes a medium for memory each spice or method a bridge between cultures and ages. These workshops create room for slow conversation, shared discovery, and collective nourishment.

Bakery Studio: Everyday Warmth

With simple, tactile tasks like kneading, whisking, and shaping dough, the bakery offers a sensory rich setting that is welcoming to all ages. It invites casual participation and creates an atmosphere of comfort. The act of baking becomes a gentle anchor for conversation and companionship.

Kitchen Garden: Growing Together

Just outside, raised garden beds offer accessible gardening for all mobility levels. Here, participants plant, tend, and harvest herbs and vegetables building a sense of responsibility, rhythm, and care. The garden also becomes a shared space of observation and quiet presence, where life unfolds at its own pace.

Winter Garden: Rest and Reflection

Nestled beside the gardens, this area offers seating and gathering zones for rest, storytelling, or simply being. Whether sharing tea or enjoying the sunlight, this is a threshold between activity and stillness, where moments of connection can unfold naturally.

These interlinked zones foster shared purpose, skill exchange, and the slow rituals of being together honoring everyday acts as meaningful forms of care.

Fig. 4.7h: Section of community kitchen with cookery workshop. Drawn by Author



This sunlit kitchen garden invites all ages to dig, grow, and gather fostering hands-on care and a supporting therapeutic engagement, seasonal learning, and farm-to-table connections.

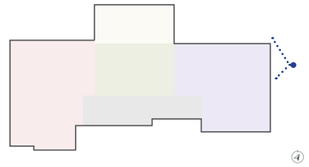


Fig. 4.7i: Kitchen Gardening activity with kids, adults and seniors. Image by Author

Cafe and Foodbank Floor Plan

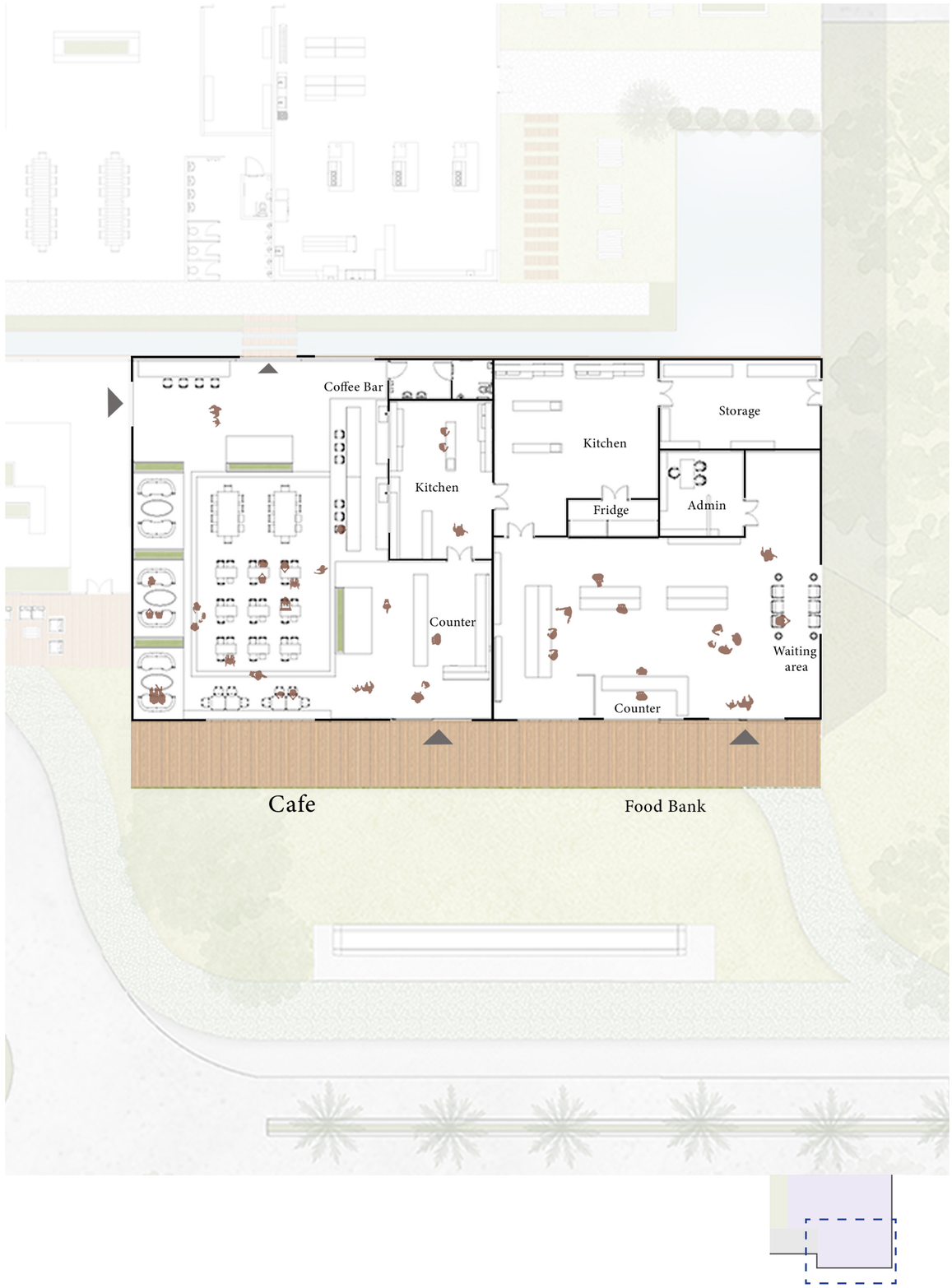


Fig. 4.7j: Community Cafe and Foodbank Plan. Drawn by Author



Food Bank

Cafe: A Place for Everyday Encounters

This café is designed for more than just coffee it's a space that welcomes conversation and gentle connection. With a dedicated coffee bar, residents can brew their own cup or join someone else in the process, sparking spontaneous interactions. Whether it's a quiet morning chat or a shared table between strangers, the setting supports slow, informal social rituals that build community.

Food Bank: Reciprocity Through Care

The food bank extends this sense of community through acts of giving and receiving. Here, seniors take on a nurturing role, preparing homemade meals for students and young adults in need of affordable, healthy food. This exchange is not just practical it's personal. Elders share their time, recipes, and warmth; younger generations receive nourishment, but also a connection to care that feels familiar and human.

Together, the café and food bank form a social ecosystem. They don't just provide services they host encounters. They invite people to linger, to talk, to give, and to receive quietly weaving intergenerational trust and empathy into the daily fabric of the center.

Fig. 4.7k: Exchange of care in the foodbank via food. Sketch by Author

[1] Matthew S. Kaplan and Mariano Sánchez, Intergenerational Pathways to a Sustainable Society (Cham: Springer, 2016), 22–29. 67.

[3] Ronald P. Abeles, Helen C. Gift, and Marcia G. Ory, eds., Aging and Quality of Life (New York: Springer Publishing Company, 1994), 88–92.

[4] Juhani Pallasmaa, The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses (Chichester: Wiley, 2012), 34.

[5] Sherry Ahrentzen, "The F Word in Architecture: Feminist Analysis in/of/for Architecture" in Reconstructing Architecture: Critical Discourses and Social Practices, ed. Thomas Dutton and Lian Hurst Mann (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1996), 74

[6] Kaplan, Matthew, and Lydia Hanhardt. Intergenerational Activities Sourcebook. University Park, PA: Penn State Intergenerational Program, Penn State University, 2003. .

Kaplan, Matthew, and María E. Sánchez. 2014. Intergenerational Pathways to a Sustainable Society. New York: Springer.

Pallasmaa, Juhani. 2005. The Eyes of the Skin: Architecture and the Senses. Chichester: Wiley.

Ahrentzen, Sherry. 2003. "Home as a Workplace in the Lives of Women." In The Meaning of Home, edited by Tony Chapman and Jenny Hockey, 105–120. London: Taylor & Francis.

Oldenburg, Ray. 1999. The Great Good Place: Cafes, Coffee Shops, Bookstores, Bars, Hair Salons and Other Hangouts at the Heart of a Community. New York: Marlowe & Company.

Abeles, Ronald P., Helen Gift, and Marcia G. Ory. 1994. Age Matters: Realigning Policy with the Needs of Older Adults. Washington, DC: National Academy on an Aging Society.

4.8

The Design Landscape: Nature playing the role

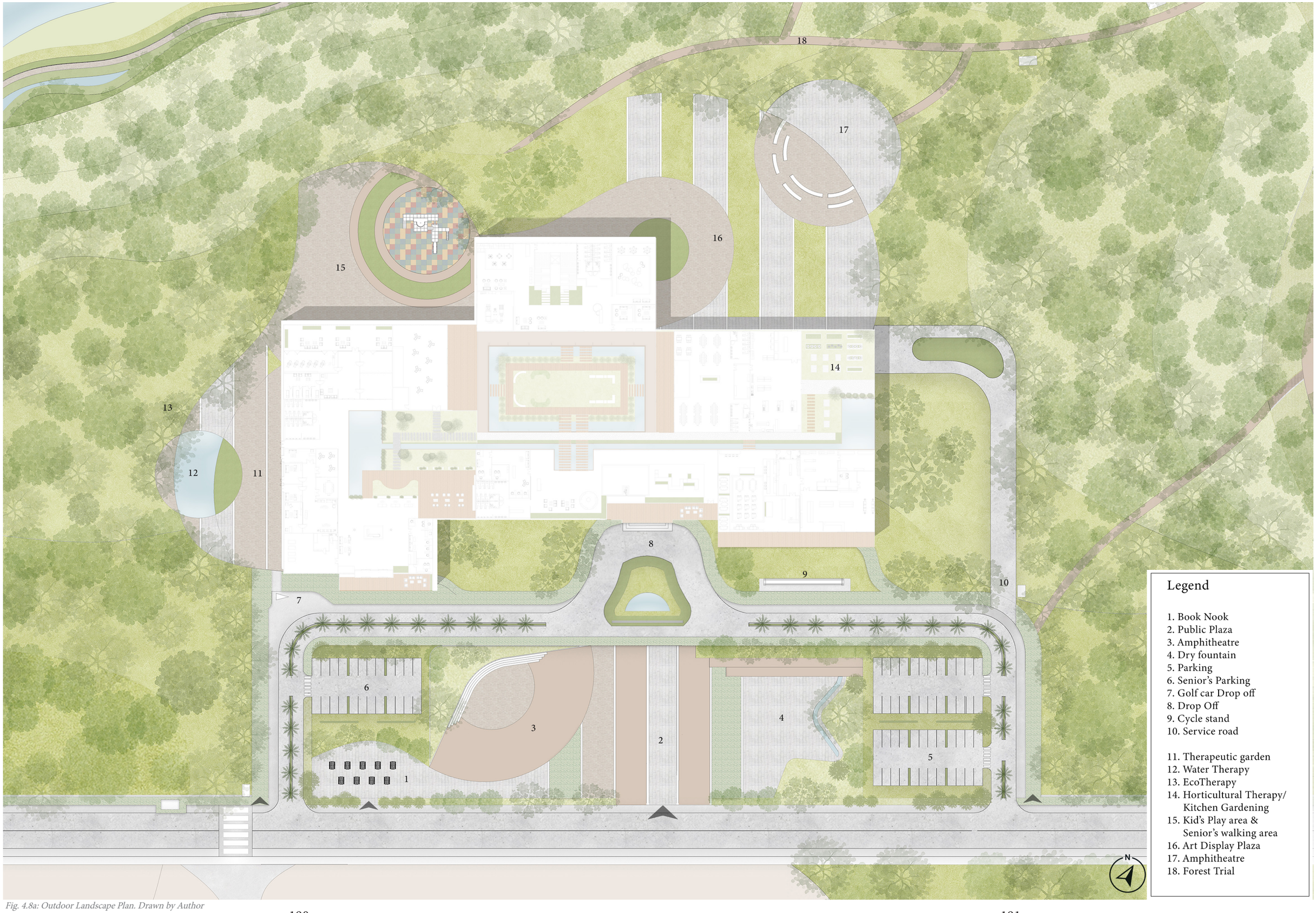
"Architecture is employed more and more as a preventative measure which, by its very nature, limits the horizon of experience…"
- Robin Evans, Figures, Doors and Passages

The potential to promote positive health and well-being outcomes and enhance cognitive functioning has powerful economic as well as human benefits.
As Terrapin Bright Green (2012) points out in The Economics of Biophilia:
Implementing biophilic design into our workplaces, health care system, educational environments and communities is not just a nice amenity. It has profound economic benefits. It is now imperative that we bring nature into our built environments.

Nature is beneficial to all, regardless of age, gender, race, or ethnicity, and it should be available to all urban dwellers, not just those who can afford to live on the edges of parks and open spaces. Connection to nature on a daily basis reinforces the values of respect and care for the environment that are prerequisites for sustainable communities and that languish when nature is remote.

The book healthy enviornments, healing spaces- by beatley and rainey has a chapter of 'Can nature e a health intervention by Judith Heerwagen)

Outdoor Landscape layout



Legend

1. Book Nook
2. Public Plaza
3. Amphitheatre
4. Dry fountain
5. Parking
6. Senior's Parking
7. Golf car Drop off
8. Drop Off
9. Cycle stand
10. Service road

11. Therapeutic garden
12. Water Therapy
13. EcoTherapy
14. Horticultural Therapy/ Kitchen Gardening
15. Kid's Play area & Senior's walking area
16. Art Display Plaza
17. Amphitheatre
18. Forest Trial

Fig. 4.8a: Outdoor Landscape Plan. Drawn by Author



The project's primary threshold, the front plaza offers spatial openness, a soft sense of welcome for visitors and open community multipurpose event area.

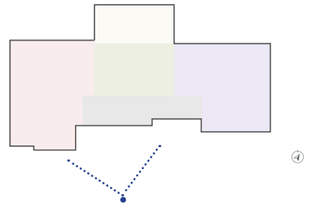


Fig. 4.8b: Amphitheatre in the Public plaza . Image by Author

Indoor Landscape layout

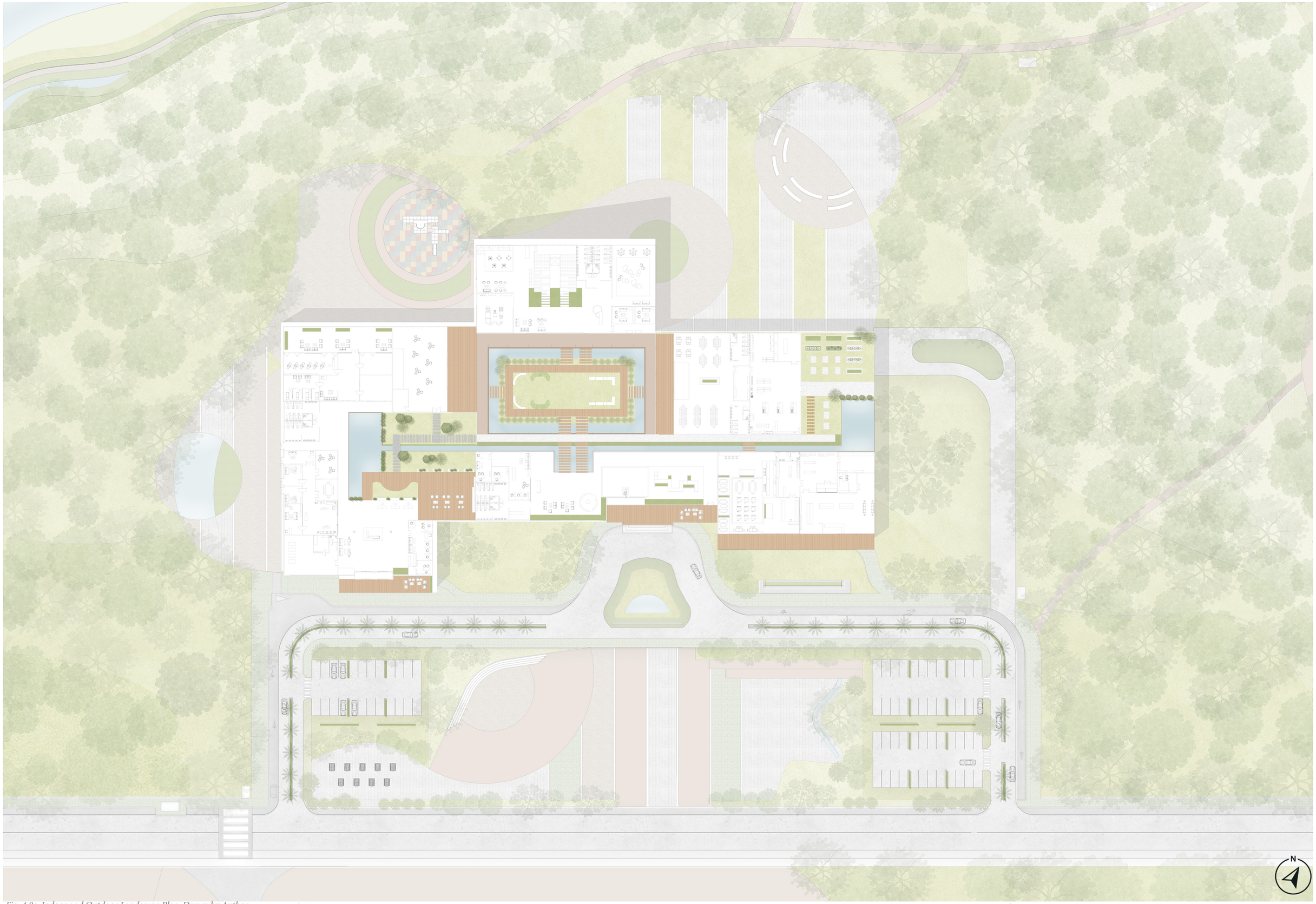


Fig. 4.8c: Indoor and Outdoor Landscape Plan. Drawn by Author



This central courtyard, bordered by a gentle water stream, offers a multisensory haven framing moments of rest, gathering, and quiet connection to nature.

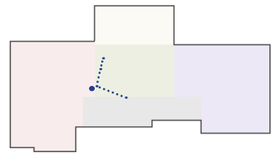


Fig. 4.8d: Central Courtyard . Image by Author

Sometimes you feel like visiting the same place again and again, it's not because of the place it is because of the memory you make in that space!



A calming sensory garden where sound, scent, and soft textures invite seniors to pause, wander, and reconnect with nature at their own pace.

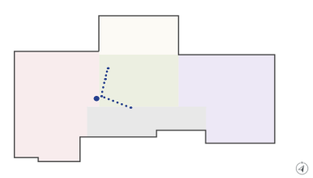


Fig. 4.8e: Senior's Centre Oasis. Image by Author



The central passage acts as the spine of the project that features flowing water, soft planting, and a skylit canopy that guides movement with serenity and light.

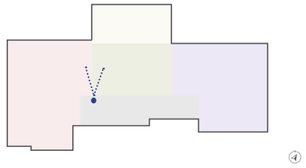


Fig. 4.8f: Central passage. Image by Author

Indoor Landscape Plant





Canada Anemone
Anemone canadensis
Delicate white flowers, ground-cover potential



Thyme
Thymus vulgaris
Indoor Ground Cover



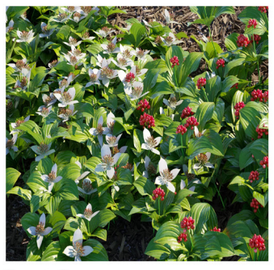
Foam Flower
Tiarella cordifolia
Shade-loving rosettes, spring blooms



Snake Plant
Sansevieria
Air purifying,Potential Mental Health Benefits



Wild Columbine
Aquilegia canadensis
Fragrant blossoms



Bunch Berry
Cornus canadensis
Spring flowers, edible red berries



Woodland Phlox
Phlox divaricata
Fragrance, adds colorful flower



Lavender
Lavandula
Fragrance, Therapeutic

Fig. 4.8g: Indoor and Outdoor Plants for landscape. Image by Author

Outdoor Landscape Plant





Service Beery
Amelanchier canadensis
Spring bloom, fall colors, summer berries



Wild Bergamot
Monarda fistulosa
Aromatic summer blooms, pollinator favorite



Culver's Root
Veronicastrum virginicum
Tall white spikes, winter structure



Easterb Redbud
Cercis canadensis
Heart-shaped leaves, pink-lavender spring flowers



White Birch
Betula papyrifera
Peeling bark, airy summer shade, native to uplands |



Iron wood
Ostrya virginiana
Muscular trunk, fine branching, light snow catch



amarack / Larch
Larix laricina
Deciduous conifer needles turn gold in fall then drop



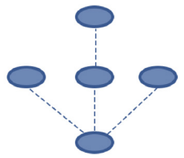
American Elm
Ulmus americana
Graceful vase form, Climate adaptable

4 . 9

Universal and Inclusive Design Strategies

Universal design and inclusive design principles play a critical role in ensuring that spaces are accessible, welcoming, and empowering for people of all ages and abilities. These principles move beyond basic accessibility codes to foster a sense of dignity, independence, and belonging, particularly for seniors and those with varying physical or cognitive needs. In this project, universal and inclusive strategies are seamlessly embedded into the spatial experience through open circulation, non-hierarchical access, and flexible, multi-use spaces to create an environment where everyone feels seen, safe, and involved. Whether through physical interventions like ramps and clear wayfinding, or emotional considerations like warm aesthetics and community seating, the design enables shared participation and comfort across generations.

Integrated Strategies Applied:



1. Equitable Use

All spaces are usable by people with diverse physical and cognitive abilities·
Example: Entrances and circulation paths accommodate both wheelchairs and strollers, without separate routes for different users.
Width of all the passage is minimum 1.5m for access of wheel chair around the building

Visual and spatial cues guide movement, reducing confusion for all users.
Example: Visually connected to all spaces around according to 'Spatial Syntax' by Hiller and Hanson



2· Ramps and Smooth Transitions

Level access ensures fluid movement for seniors, strollers, and wheelchairs· smooth and even surfaces with non-slip materials·

4. Low Physical Effort

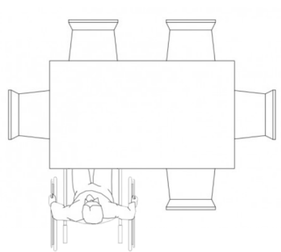
Design spaces that can be used efficiently and comfortably with minimal fatigue·
Example: Automatic doors, accessible fixtures, and shaded resting areas throughout the site·

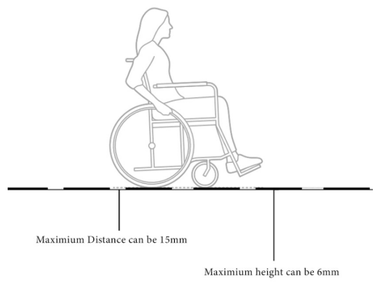


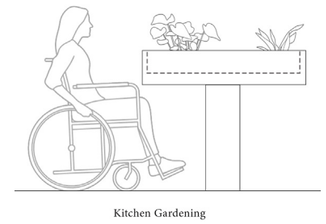
3· Flexible Furniture & Spaces

Example: Rooms adapt for Yoga, meditation, etc for seniors· Flexible furniture in workshops to adapt for different events and activities·
Example: Dedicated space for wheelchair in furniture, slip-resistant flooring, and height features for safer interaction by both children and elders.
Universal washroom in all toilets, toilets slight larger than usual size to make it comfortmable for the users.

Below are Diagram of accessible freindly Furnitures:







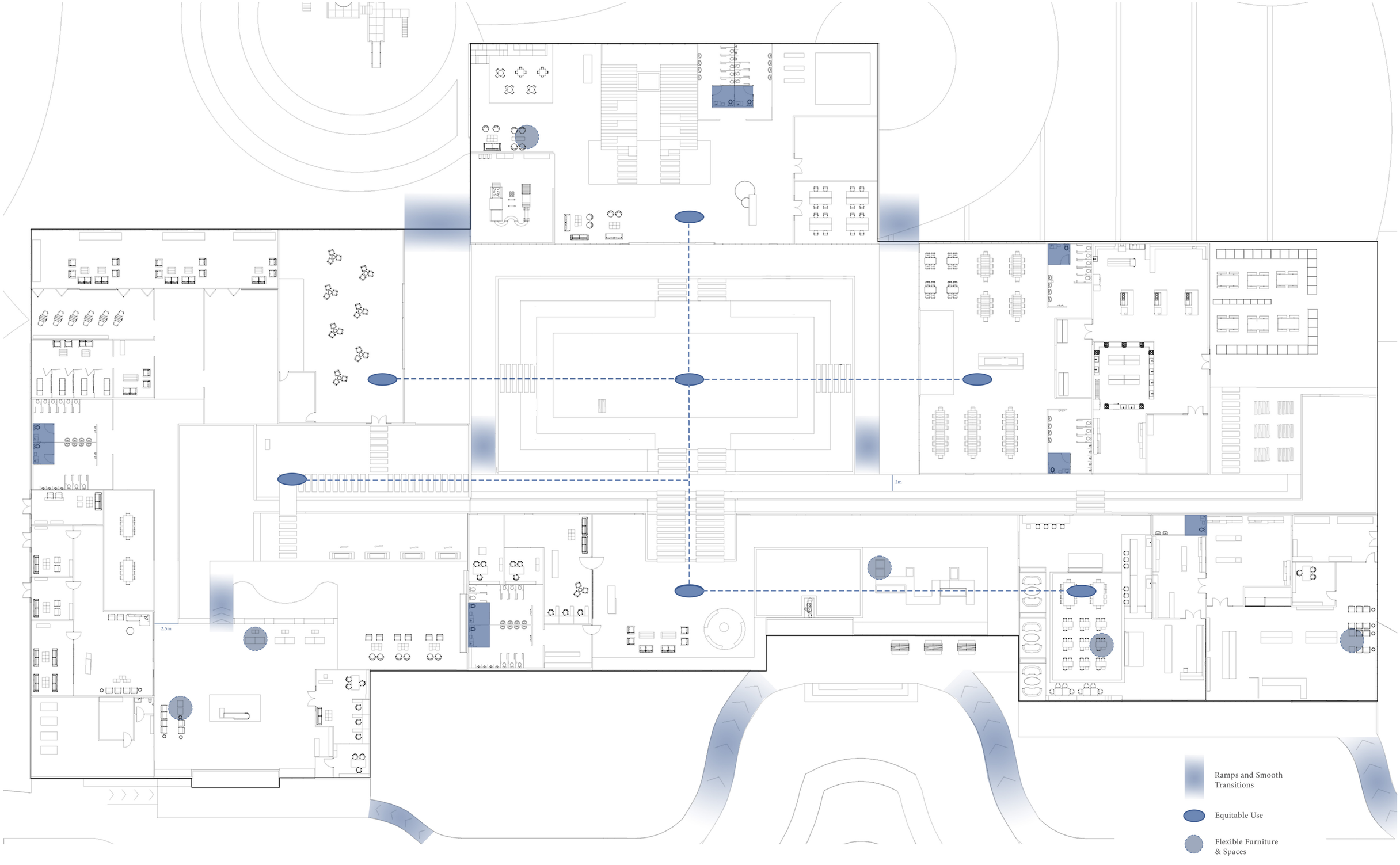


Fig. 4.9a: Universal and Inclusive Design Elements Layout. Drawn by Author

4.10

Sustainability Design Strategies

"Buildings should respond to climate as naturally and effortlessly as trees do."
— Ken Yeang, EcoDesign: A Manual for Ecological Design, 2006

Sustainability, at its heart, is about care for the land we build on, the resources we use, and the lives that inhabit our spaces. In architecture, it's not just about systems and checklists; it's about creating places that breathe with the seasons, respond to the environment, and age with grace. A truly sustainable space is one that feels right warm in winter, cool in summer, and gentle on the world around it·

In a country like Canada, where snow blankets half the year and summers grow steadily warmer, buildings must do more than shelter they must adapt.
Designing for this duality means balancing sunlight and shadow, warmth and ventilation· durability and lightness. It means using what's local, what's lasting, and what feels natural·

In my design, I've tried to respond to this rhythm.
Passive solar strategies invite daylight and warmth where needed. Shaded walkways and cross-ventilated corridors ease summer heat. These aren't just sustainable strategies they're gestures of empathy. Because a space that respects its environment, respects its people too·

Designing for Winter: Embracing Light, Warmth & Protection

Canadian winters bring deep cold and long nights but design can soften their edge. These strategies celebrate warmth, harness light, and shield from chill, making every indoor moment more inviting and sustainable.

1. South-Facing Sloped Roof and Large Window

Optimizing intake for winter sun exposure in Toronto latitude. Glazing on the south façade invites low-angle winter sun, naturally warming interiors and reducing heating needs.

2. Sunrooms or Greenhouses on South/East Corners

These buffer zones soak in morning sunlight, offering warm, light-filled retreats and passive solar heat.

3. Triple-Glazed Windows on North & Windward Sides

High-performance glazing locks in heat and guards against cold northern winds, keeping interiors cozy.

4. Enclosed Courtyards with Skylights and Retractable Roof

Sheltered gathering spaces stay bright and usable in winter, bringing people together without exposure to the elements.

5. Evergreen Windbreak Landscaping

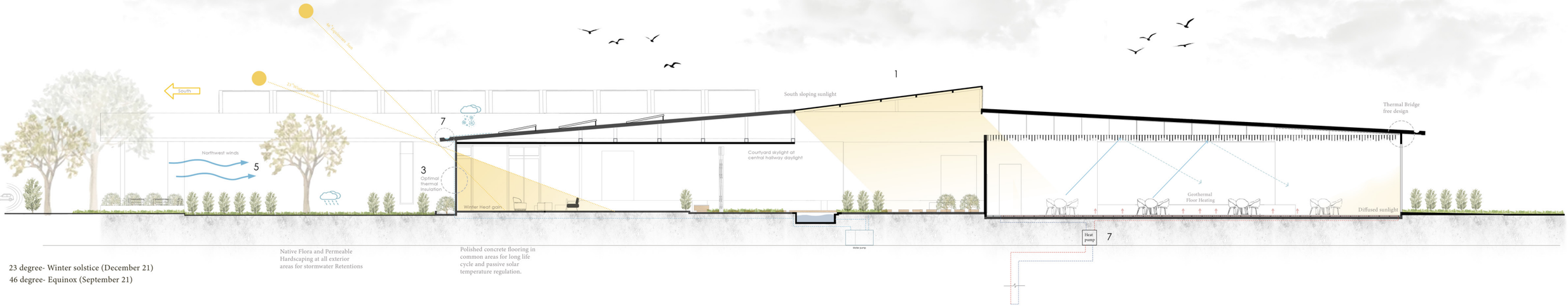
Dense planting on the north and west shields buildings from harsh winter gusts especially near entrances and walkways.

6. Rainwater Harvesting for Greywater Use

Even in winter, collected water supports toilets and winter irrigation, reducing municipal demand.

7. Geothermal Floor Heating and Heat Pumps

Radiant geothermal floor heating distributes warmth evenly through the slab, powered by a ground-connected heat pump system. Earth-stable temperatures provide supplemental heating, offering a clean and efficient thermal baseline throughout winter.



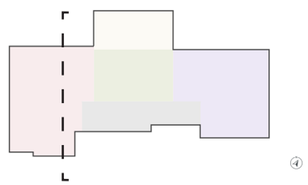


Fig. 4.10a: Winter Climate Sustainable Strategies. Drawn by Author

Designing for Summer: Passive Strategies for Comfort and Conservation

In the heat of Canadian summers, comfort doesn't need to come at the cost of energy. The following strategies are thoughtfully integrated to naturally cool, ventilate, and shade the building letting architecture work with the climate, not against it.

1. South-Facing Photovoltaic Panels

Solar energy is captured during peak sunlight hours, offsetting electrical loads and powering daytime use. Tilted to match Toronto's winter sun angle, these panels capture precious daylight to support energy efficiency year-round.

2. Skylight Louvers, Retractable Roof and Operable Window

Adjustable louvers diffuse harsh light and reduce glare, while still drawing daylight deep into interior spaces.

3. Indoor Water Features

Small-scale water bodies promote evaporative cooling, enhancing thermal comfort while calming the senses.

5. Geothermal Cooling

Earth-cooled loops stabilize indoor temperatures, reducing reliance on mechanical cooling even on hot days.

6. South & West-Facing Windows with Overhangs

Positioned to welcome prevailing breezes, these windows pair with deep overhangs to invite air while blocking harsh summer sun.

7. Rainwater Collection System

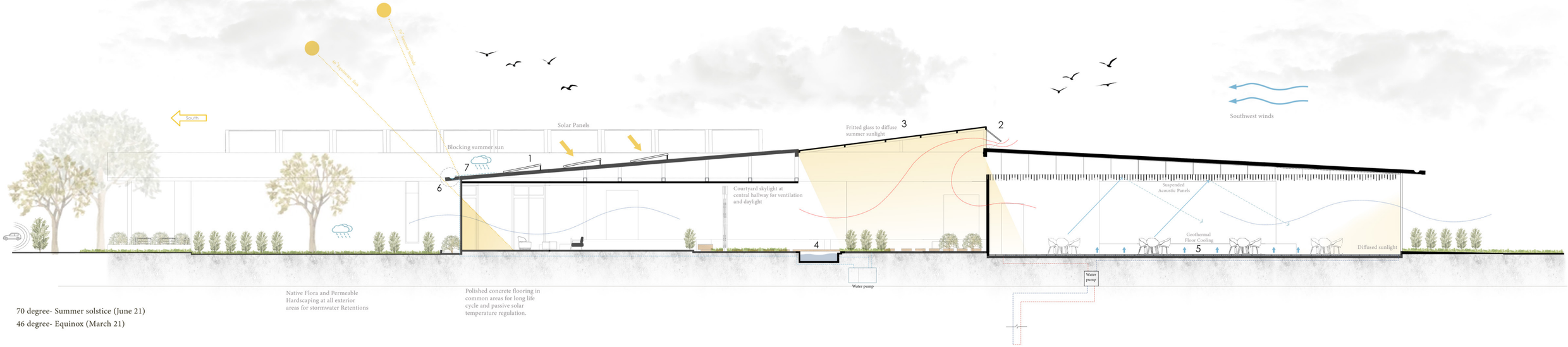
Roof runoff is stored and reused for landscape irrigation and toilets conserving water while cooling planted zones.

8. High-Albedo Roofing

Reflective roof materials reduce heat absorption, minimizing heat gain across the building envelope.

9. Retractable Roof

The retractable sliding glass roof allows for natural ventilation and daylighting, enhancing thermal comfort during summer through passive cooling.



70 degree- Summer solstice (June 21)
46 degree- Equinox (March 21)

Fig. 4.10b: Summer Climate Sustainable Strategies. Drawn by Author

4.11

Material Study

Materiality is not just about what we build with it's about how those materials feel, age, and respond to human presence.
Material choices aim to bridge warmth and resilience, grounding the architecture in both emotional and environmental sustainability. The selection leans into textures that invite touch, surfaces that tell stories of reuse, and finishes that balance functionality with sensory experience. Each layer of the structure from the timber roof to the stone paths supports intergenerational use with safety, clarity, and care at its core.

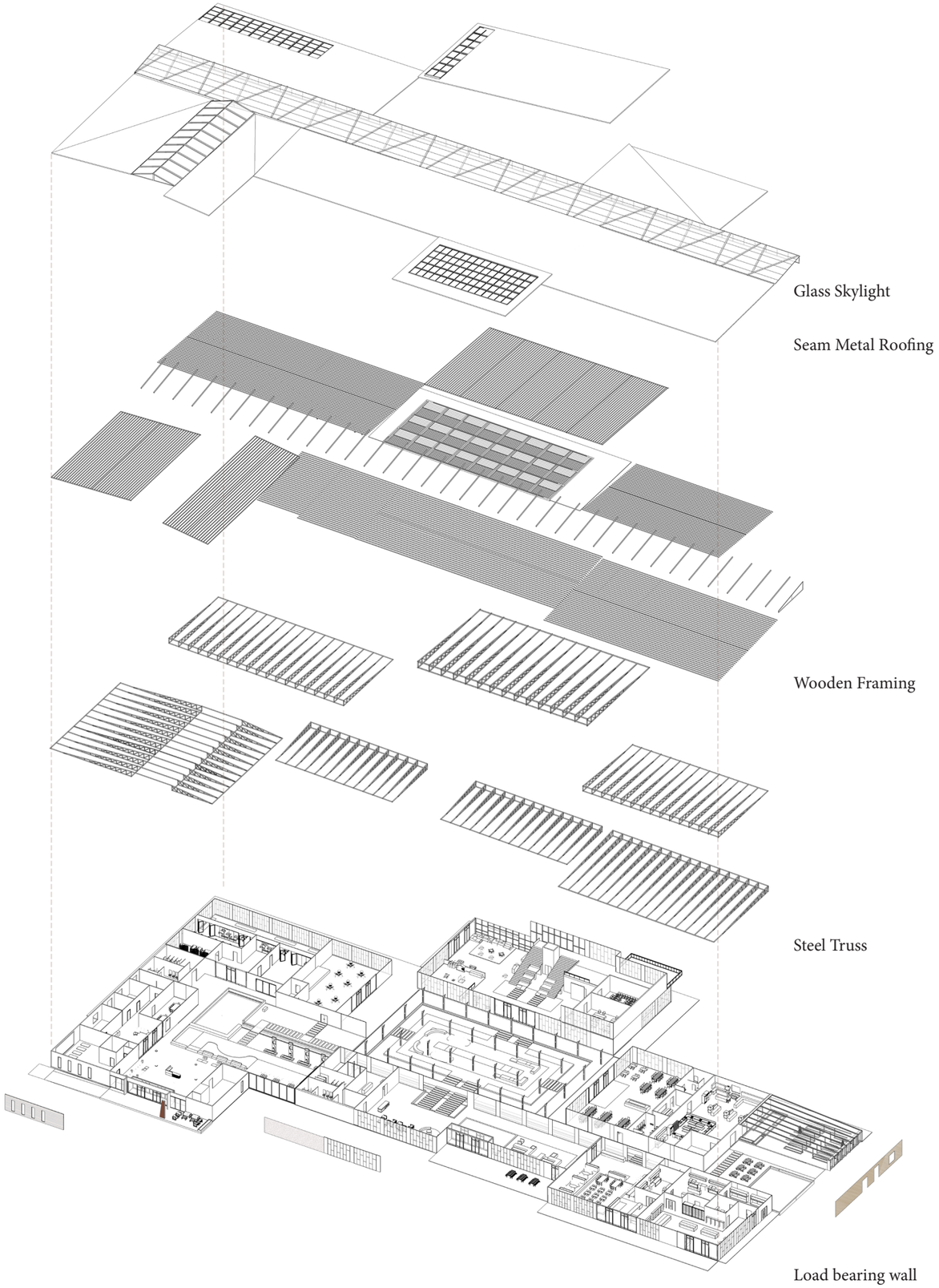


Fig. 4.11a:Material study. Drawn by Author



Material Study

Architecture is not only experienced through space but through touch, texture, light, and memory qualities that materiality brings to life. They must express warmth and familiarity, while also ensuring durability, environmental responsibility, and accessibility.

Roof System

Steel Truss and Wooden Framing

A hybrid roof structure combines the strength of steel trusses with the warmth and renewability of wooden framing. This pairing supports long spans for open, column-free interiors and uses FSC-certified timber to reduce environmental impact.

Structural Integration

Sloping steel or glulam frames span the 10m width, repeated every 3–6m.
Purlins run along the 40m length, supporting glazing.
The 5-10degree slope helps shed snow and resists wind loads.

Glazing System

Uses double/triple-glazed IGUs or polycarbonate panels.
Low-E coating or frits improve energy performance.

Standing Seam Metal Roofing

This roofing system is highly durable, recyclable, and weather-resistant. Its clean lines contribute to a modern aesthetic, while its ability to reflect solar radiation supports energy efficiency.

Space-Framed Skylight with Glass Panels

The glass skylights maximize natural daylight and reduce reliance on artificial lighting. Using low-emissivity (Low-E) glass, the skylights help maintain thermal comfort while opening up vertical visual connections to the sky promoting biophilic experiences that are especially beneficial in care environments.
Daylighting & Solar Control
Glare controlled with fritted glass or shading films.
Optional operable panels for passive ventilation.



Exterior Wall Materials

Fiber Cement Panels
Material is low maintenance, fire resistance, and longevity, fiber cement panels are made from sustainable cellulose fibers and cement. They offer a clean, modern finish while being robust against Toronto's freeze-thaw climate cycle.

Reclaimed Wood Cladding
Sourced from deconstructed buildings, reclaimed wood reintroduces material with history. Using reclaimed material also diverts waste from landfills and reduces deforestation.

Thin Stone Cladding
Natural stone provides durability and visual grounding. Using thin-cut stone reduces weight and material usage while maintaining resilience. Its tactile quality and earth-toned texture reinforce the project's connection to nature.

Interior Wall Systems

Slatted Solid Wood Panels (Maple or White Oak)
Used for decorative or acoustic walls, slatted panels improve acoustics and provide biophilic textures. Ideal for community dining and quiet gathering spaces.

Acoustic Felt Panels (Recycled PET)
Made from post-consumer plastics, these panels improve acoustics, add texture, and introduce soft, calming tones ideal for workshops or quiet zones.

Reclaimed Glass Panels (Transparent and Translucent)
Glass is used not only for daylighting but also to encourage visual continuity across program zones. Transparent panels enhance openness and visibility, while translucent glass maintains privacy without isolation. Reclaimed and recycled glass minimizes the environmental footprint.



Pavement Materials

Natural Stone Pavers (e.g., limestone or granite)
Natural stone offers timeless durability and tactile richness, grounding outdoor spaces with warmth and resilience suited for Toronto's seasonal shifts.

Grasscrete for ecological integration
This permeable paving system merges hardscape and greenery, supporting stormwater infiltration while softening the built environment with living texture.

Clay pavers in soft earth tones
With their handcrafted feel and muted hues, clay pavers introduce warmth, heritage, and subtle variation ideal for walkways and gathering zones.

Rubberized Safety Surfacing
Made from recycled rubber, this soft, slip-resistant surface provides comfort and fall protection for all ages, especially in intergenerational play areas.

Interior Floor Material

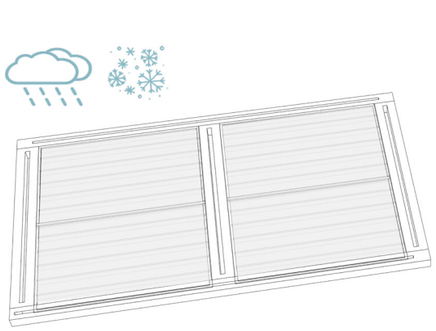
Polished Concrete with Low-VOC Sealer
No additional material layers, long lifespan, thermal mass reduces HVAC loads, and sealers can be non-toxic. Locally sourced aggregates reduce embodied energy.

Cork Flooring (Formaldehyde-Free, Sustainably Harvested)
Harvested from cork tree bark without harming the tree, soft underfoot, naturally antimicrobial, and biodegradable. Choose natural finish or plant-based sealants.

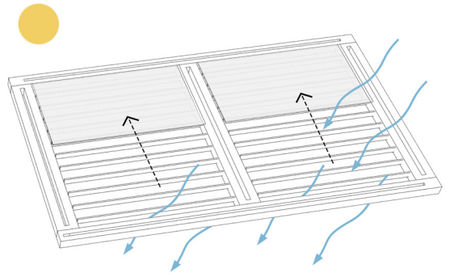
Linoleum (Natural, Not Vinyl)
Made from linseed oil, wood flour, cork dust, and jute backing. Fully biodegradable, water-resistant, and long-lasting.

Terrazzo with Recycled Aggregate (Cement-Based)
Uses recycled glass or stone chips, extremely durable (50+ years), low maintenance. Cement binder is more sustainable than epoxy and supports thermal mass.

Retractable roof



Winter Season shut down roof



Summer season open sliding roof

Fig. 4.11b: Retractable roof Details. Drawn by Author

Acoustic Ceiling

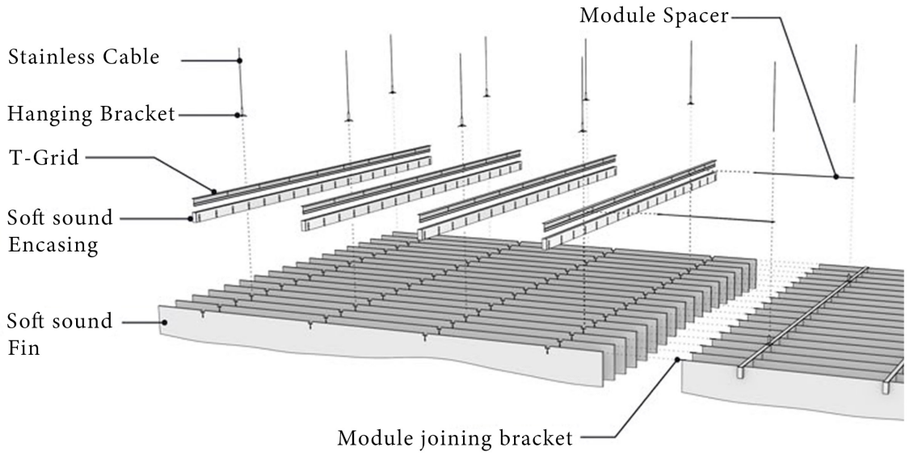


Fig. 4.11c: Acoustic ceiling Details. Drawn by Author

Wall Section

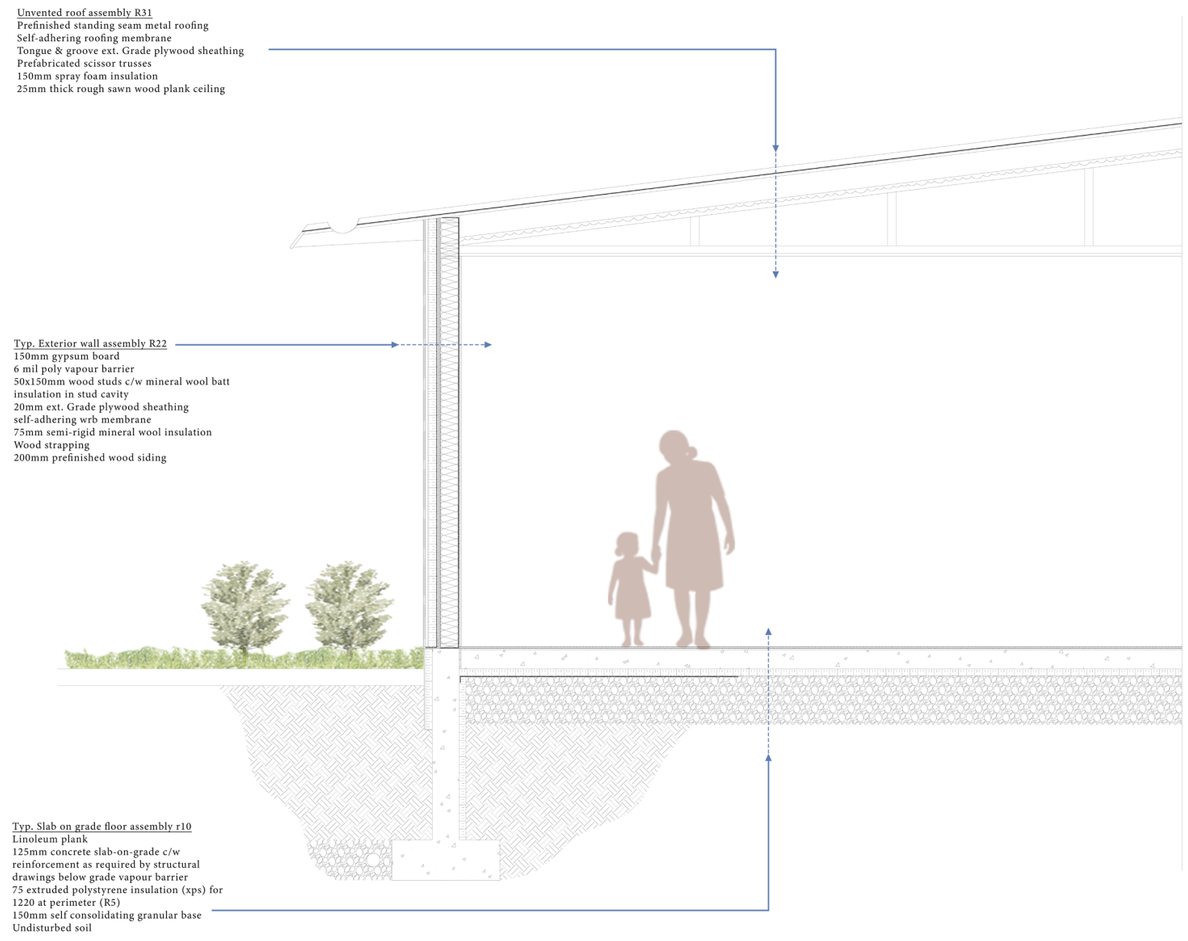


Fig. 4.11d: Wall section Details. Drawn by Author

4.12

Ontario Building Code

The Ontario Building Code (OBC) is the legally enforced provincial standard that governs building construction, design, use, and occupancy in Ontario. It sets minimum requirements to ensure public safety, fire protection, accessibility, structural performance, and environmental integrity. For buildings with mixed-use programs and vulnerable populations, such as intergenerational care centers, adherence to the OBC is not only a legal obligation but also a foundation for ethical and inclusive design. The following section outlines how this project complies with the relevant parts of the OBC, particularly Part 3: Fire Protection, Occupant Safety and Accessibility, alongside key dimensional, parking, and occupancy provisions.

Part 3: Fire Protection, Occupant Safety and Accessibility.

According to the OBC, Part 3 applies to:
Buildings exceeding 600 m² in building area
Buildings more than three storeys in height
Buildings classified under the following occupancy groups:

Group	Occupancy Type in this Project
Group A, Division 2	Assembly (e.g., daycare, multi-purpose hall, community dining, workshops)
Group B, Division 3	Care (e.g., therapy zones, vaccination areas, fitness/rehab support)
Group D	Business (e.g., administration, consultation, life skills rooms)
Group E	Mercantile (e.g., café, food-serving or retail-type public interface)

All of the above are present in the proposed community care center, and the building exceeds both 600 m² and includes assembly and care occupancies, thus triggering full compliance with Part 3.

Occupant Load and Exit Requirements

Occupant Load Calculations are based on OBC Table 3.1.17.1:
Assembly (tables/chairs): 1.2 m² per person
Daycare: 2.5 m² per child
Business/Office: 9.3 m² per person
Minimum two exits are required for most rooms/areas.
Maximum travel distance to exits must not exceed 30 m, and all public assembly rooms must have appropriately sized and illuminated exit signage.
Fire separations (minimum 1-hour fire-resistance rating) are required between assembly areas, care areas, and service spaces (e.g., kitchens, storage).

Accessibility Requirements

Per OBC Section 3.8 (Barrier-Free Design):
Barrier-free paths: minimum 1,100 mm wide in general, 1,500 mm recommended for turnarounds and maneuvering.
Accessible washrooms: required on each floor with public access; clear floor space of 1,500 mm turning radius.
Doorways: minimum clear width 850 mm, with level thresholds.
Ramps: maximum slope 1:12, minimum width 900 mm.
Accessible seating: at least 5% of seating must be barrier-free in assembly areas.

Height and Building Classification

Height Restriction Trigger for Part 3: Applies to buildings more than 3 storeys in building height. If your project is 1–3 storeys, Part 3 still applies due to occupancy types and building area. Fire-resistance-rated floors and vertical separations are required between occupancies and storeys.

Parking Requirements (Barrier-Free Spaces)

Per OBC (Section 3.8.2.1, Table 3.8.2.1):

For 50–60 parking spaces, a minimum of 4 accessible parking spaces is required.
Minimum size of each accessible space:
Type A (van-accessible): 3.4 m wide + 1.5 m access aisle
Type B (standard): 2.4 m wide + 1.5 m access aisle

All accessible spaces must be located on the shortest accessible path to a principal building entrance.

Conclusion

This intergenerational community care center meets all thresholds outlined in OBC Part 3, including building area, occupancy types, and safety criteria. The design integrates all required provisions related to fire protection, occupant load and exit strategies, accessibility, and parking to ensure the building serves a diverse population safely, inclusively, and legally. These code-compliant decisions are foundational to the architectural strategy, especially for a project serving seniors, children, and the general public.

Epilogue

"Architecture is not just about space and form, but also about event, action, and what happens in it."
— Bernard Tschumi, Event-Cities

This thesis began with a simple human question:

What does it mean to age with dignity, connection, and purpose in today's cities?

In response, the journey unfolded not only as a design exercise but as a search for belonging across generations, within spaces and between strangers who might become companions.

The proposed intergenerational community center is built on more than concrete and timber. It is built on shared laughter, everyday rituals, quiet care, and unspoken understanding. The courtyard becomes a living room for the neighborhood; a ramp becomes a gesture of welcome; a workshop becomes a place where a child learns from a grandparent not just how to craft, but how to connect.

Architecture here does not dictate, it invites. It holds space for spontaneity and emotion for the unpredictable beauty of people coming together. The design doesn't just aim to solve problems; it hopes to create possibilities. Possibilities for healing. For shared memory. For slow, meaningful encounters. This project ends where community begins with open doors, soft thresholds, and spaces that remind us we belong to each other.

"Architecture should speak of its time and place, but yearn for timelessness."
— Frank Gehry

Seniors's Way of approach

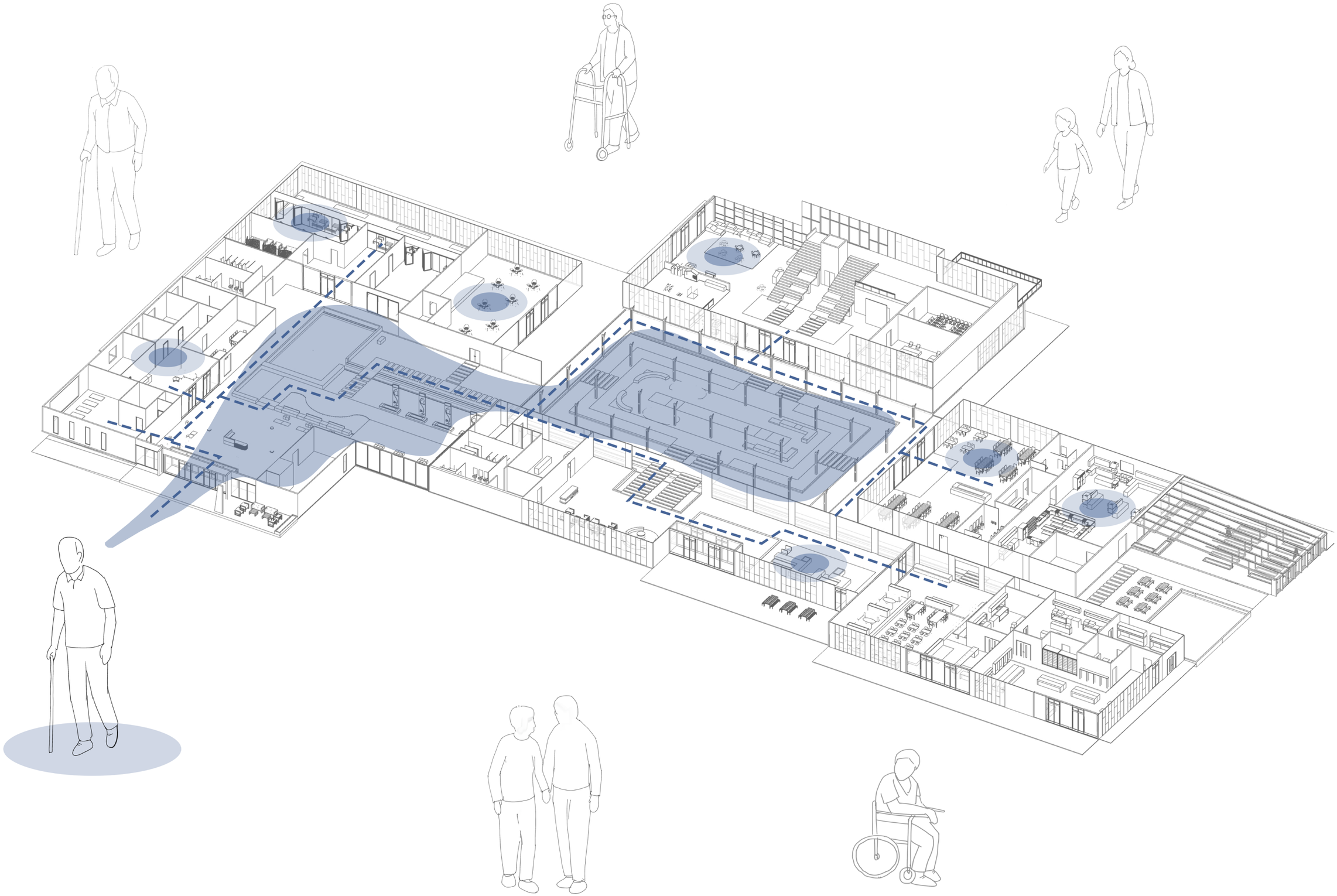


Fig. 4.12a: Seniors way of approaching the project. Drawn by Author

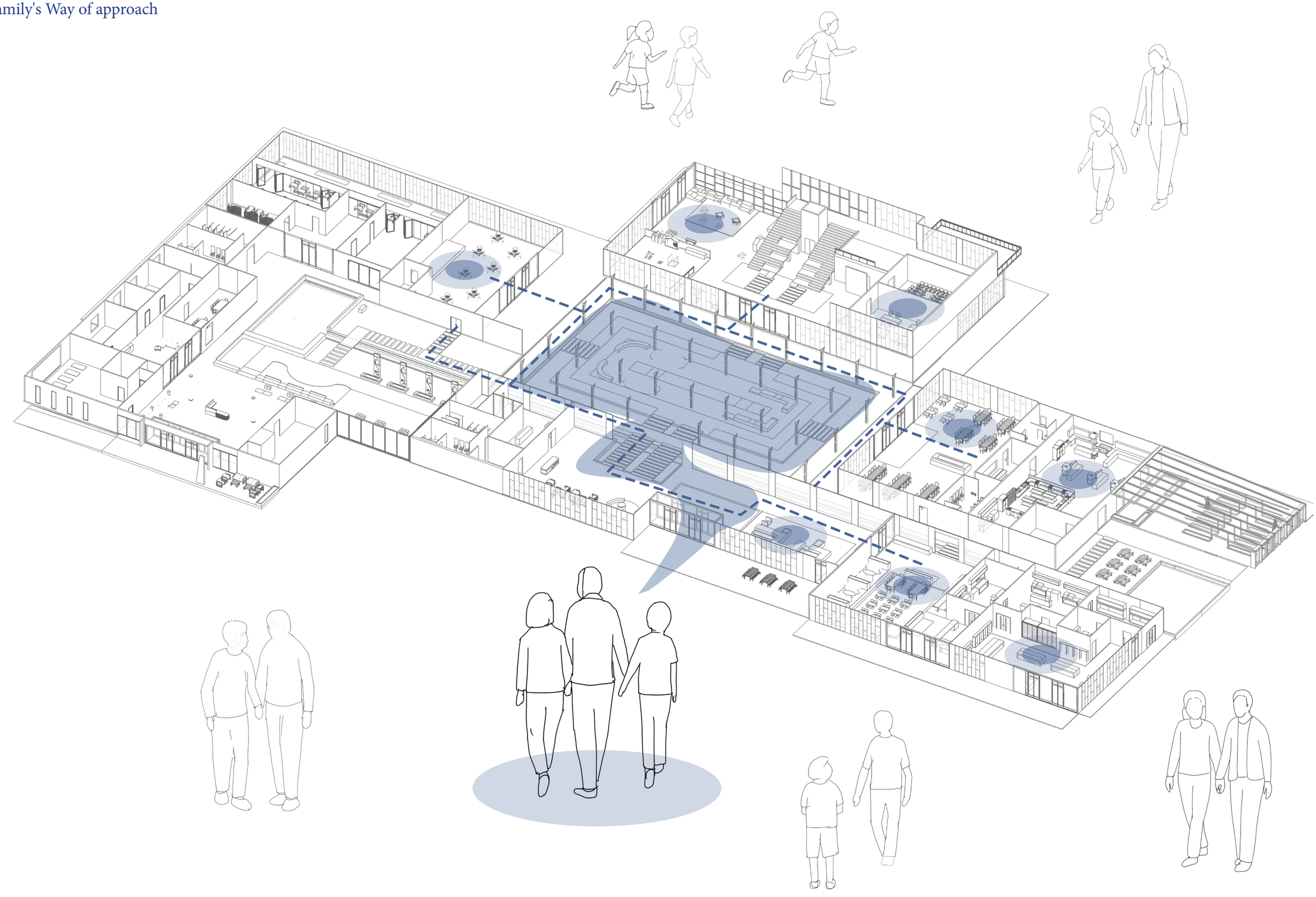


Fig. 4.12b: Family's way od approaching the project

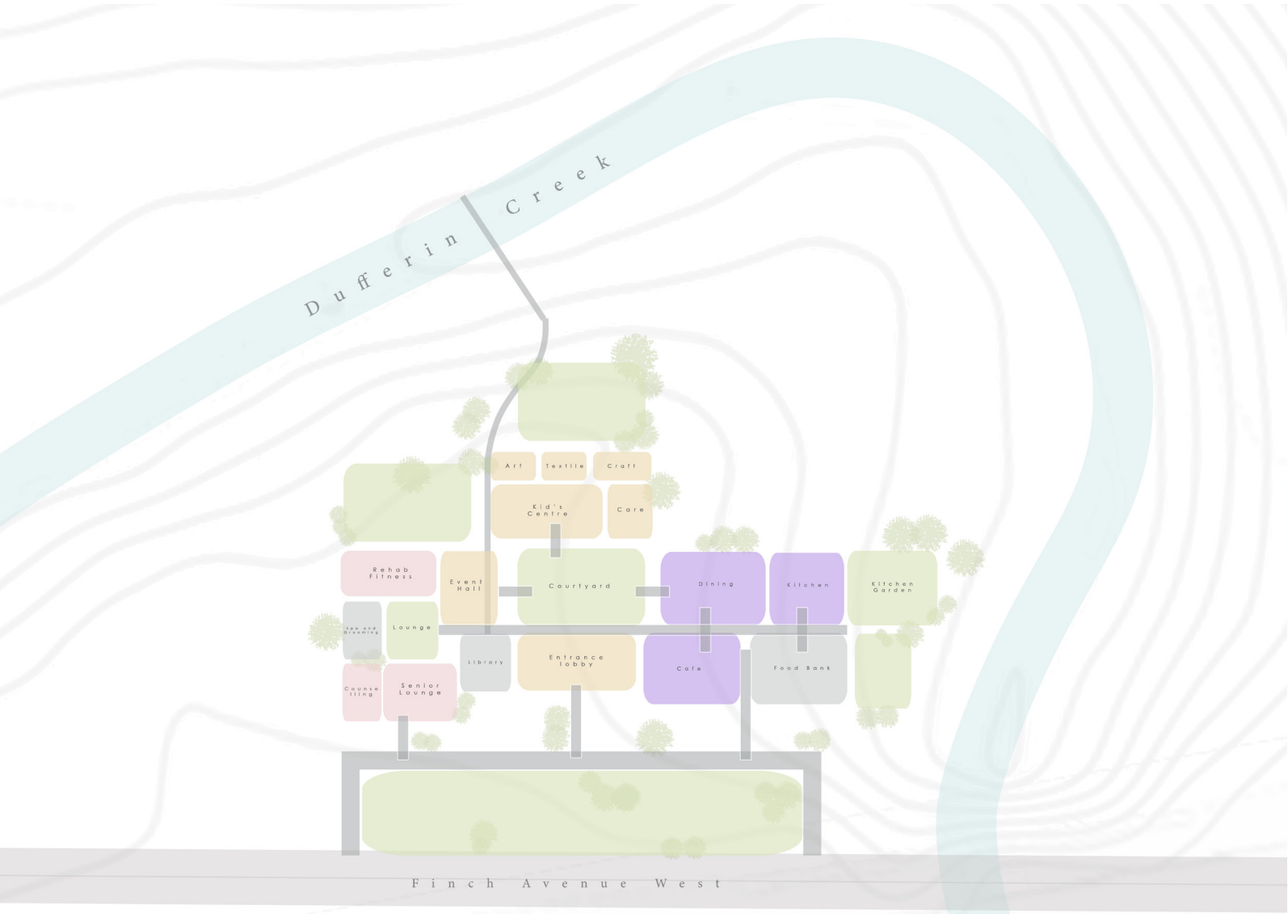
Reflection

The thesis has been primarily focused on researching and understanding intergenerational interaction within the Canadian context, with a priority on developing a strong program and designing spaces that create meaningful, shared experiences for users. The emphasis throughout has been on studying people and their lifestyles, and how the proposed program could make the project more socially workable and contextually relevant.

That said, I acknowledge the feedback from my external reader Cheryl Atkison that some spaces in the proposal could be more compact. In its current state, the project is intentionally generous in scale perhaps "too good to be true" and could be strategically reduced to make it more practical for real-world implementation.

Refining and tightening the footprint would not only make the proposal more feasible but, in an intergenerational setting, could also enhance interaction. Compactness can bring activities into closer proximity, strengthen program connections, and improve spatial efficiency while retaining the spirit of openness.

These refinements present a clear opportunity for continued development beyond the scope of the thesis, ensuring the design remains both socially rich and operationally realistic.



Demarkated the Potentially reduced or eliminated areas in Grey.

Fig. 4.12c :Potential Program Reduction of areas. Drawn by Author

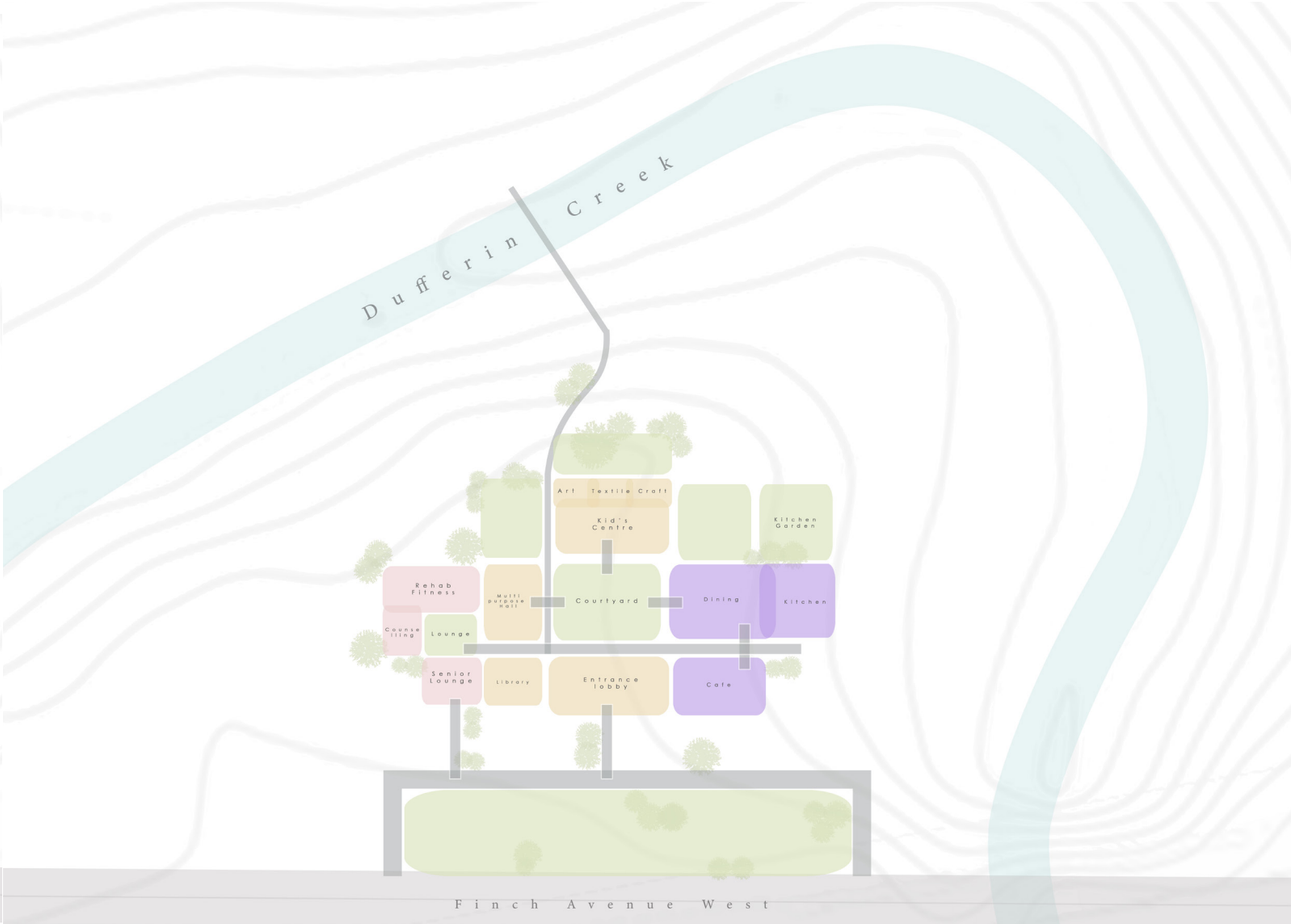


Fig. 4.12d :Potential Program Placement to increasing interaction. Drawn by Author

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