



interior design
PORTFOLIO

Tri-Jeye Villaroel

Master of Science
in Interior Architecture
Drexel University

June 2024

"TOPIC" OF CONTENTS

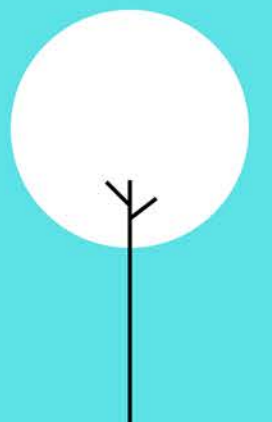
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* A twist on your normal table of contents, topic of contents uses the approach of matching my design projects to critical issues to show that through the fusion of creativity and conscientious design we can reimagine products and spaces, ensuring they not only captivate us by the aesthetics but also speak to the diverse needs and experiences of users.



HELLO,

When you're meeting in a space with other designers for the first time, "Tell Me About Yourself" or "What Got You Into Design?" are always one of the first questions that are asked. Well, my name is Tri-Jeye Villaroel and this is my answer to those questions:

For me, going through the college process is what sparked my interest in becoming an Interior Designer. It made me dig deep into my thoughts and I vividly remembered a time within my childhood where I found myself immersed in the virtual world of home design platforms like Houzz during my free time. Little did I know, as I meticulously curated folders for each aspect of my dream home - from the kitchen to the garage and even the backyard - I was unwittingly getting into the intricate process of design development, akin to that utilized by seasoned interior designers. So, when this memory resurfaced and I paired it with my belief that you will enjoy your career if it brings you joy, my design journey began.

In my initial years of design exploration, I was always fascinated with creating the best color combinations or finding ways to creatively make the impossible possible. For example, I once designed a pediatric office with an aquarium in the floor for one of my first academic projects. Yes, I know, but then as I got more exposed to the design world, I realized that my passion for design extends beyond mere aesthetics; it is rooted in a desire to address important issues within the design sphere. I am driven by the belief that space holds immense potential to influence human experiences and interactions. This then fuels my eagerness to craft environments that not only elevate their surroundings but also evoke positive emotional responses from those who inhabit them. Whether it's tackling accessibility challenges or promoting sustainability, I am committed to leveraging my skills to effect meaningful change in the world of design.

However, my journey has not been without its challenges. As a first-generation student, the notion of economic constraints once loomed large, casting doubts on the feasibility of pursuing my passion professionally. Yet, through unwavering self-advocacy, diligent networking, and a devoted commitment to continuous learning, I have come to realize that the only limits are those we impose upon ourselves. My experiences have instilled in me a deep-seated determination to serve as a beacon of hope for others facing similar obstacles, demonstrating that with perseverance and resilience, success in any field is attainable.

I hope to become a visionary with a keen eye for design, driven by a desire to effect positive change and inspire by the belief that one's background should never dictate their future. As I continue to refine my craft and expand my horizons, I am guided by the idea that through creativity, empathy, and a relentless pursuit of excellence, I can make a tangible difference in the world - one space at a time.

-Tri-Jeye Villaroel
(tree-jay vi-lah-rel)



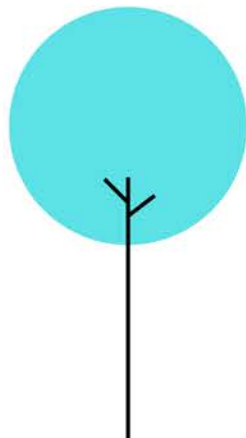
AGING-IN-PLACE

Completed in Spring 2023, **1706 Rittenhouse** is a condominium located in Center City Philadelphia. Being a part of the Baby Boomers generation, my clients figured this would be their forever home and asked that I concentrated on creating an environment that they can age-in-place while achieving a design style where old money aesthetic met funky town.

A few important details that I had to keep in mind as I designed this space was:

- Everything should be adaptable incase either of my clients experienced mobility issues.
- One of my clients is in his early stages of Dementia, so visibility into spaces are key as well as items to evoke memory.
- As we age our vision to see color declines, so it is important to incorporate contrasting colors throughout material selections.

- Residential Design



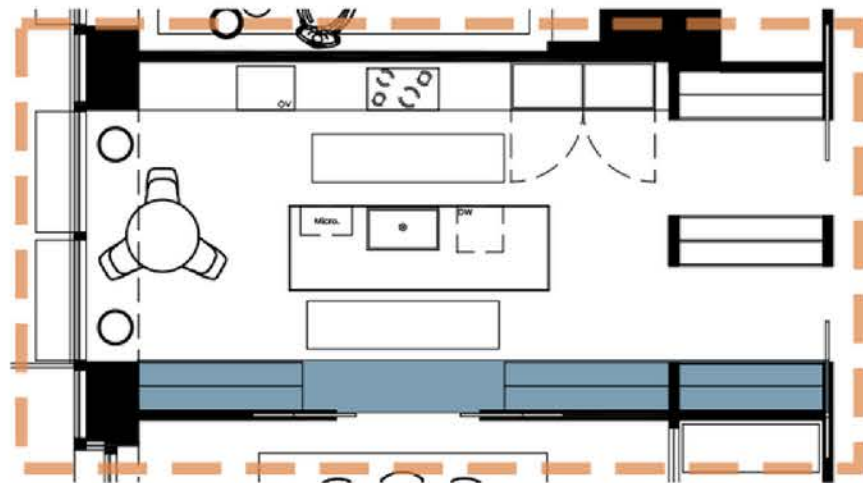
Living Room



Kitchen



KITCHEN DESIGN DECISIONS



Area of Focus in Kitchen Layout



Figure 1



Figure 2

1) Sliding trays for base cabinets can be beneficial to someone with mobility issues because with this feature they will not have to reach far into cabinets that come with fixed shelves. **(seen in figure 1)**

2) Under cabinet lighting to specifically provide light for the worktop and help with navigation through the space.

3) Glass Cabinets so that my client with Dementia could see the contents in them so he doesn't feel lost or go looking somewhere that he isn't supposed to.

4) 34" max base cabinet with a 14" back splash is ideal for accessible kitchens due to the fact that the first shelf in the upper cabinets should be reachable in-case any of my clients face any mobility issues as they age in place.

5) Research has shown that it is important to have a 4.5" toe kick for anyone with mobility issues.

6) As we age in place our vision begins to decline so it is important to include contrasting colors in the spaces our clients will occupy so that they can differentiate things like the floor from the cabinets and the countertops. **(seen in figure 2)**



South Elevation of Kitchen

Completed in AutoCAD & Photoshop

7) I wanted to include a pot filler so that my client would not have to go back and forth from the sink to the cooktop which will then create an efficient working space.

8) I included slide out trash can draws on both sides of the stovetop which will create an easier access to throwing away items as well as aid with any mobility issues that can present itself in the future.

9) An electric stovetop seemed ideal for my clients because it included a feature that automatically locks the unit and turns it off if it is inactive for more than 10 minutes.

10) I installed these ADA compliant grab bars so that as my clients grow older they will not have to worry about hardware that requires them to use their hands as much to open them.

(seen in figure 3)

11) The Sub-Zero fridge that allows you to see the contents of your fridge seemed ideal for my client since he has Dementia and visibility is key. The other panel blends in with its surroundings so that he can only focus on the items that are safe for him to take without being monitored.

12) The pantry and upper cabinet spaces are equipped with a shelf lift so that if anyone experiences mobility issues, they can still reach the top shelf.

(seen in figure 4)

13) The cabinet under the sink is a false cabinet and can be removed any time it has to be.

14) I wanted to include base cabinet outlets so that my clients did not have to reach far to plug their appliances in.

(seen in figure 5)



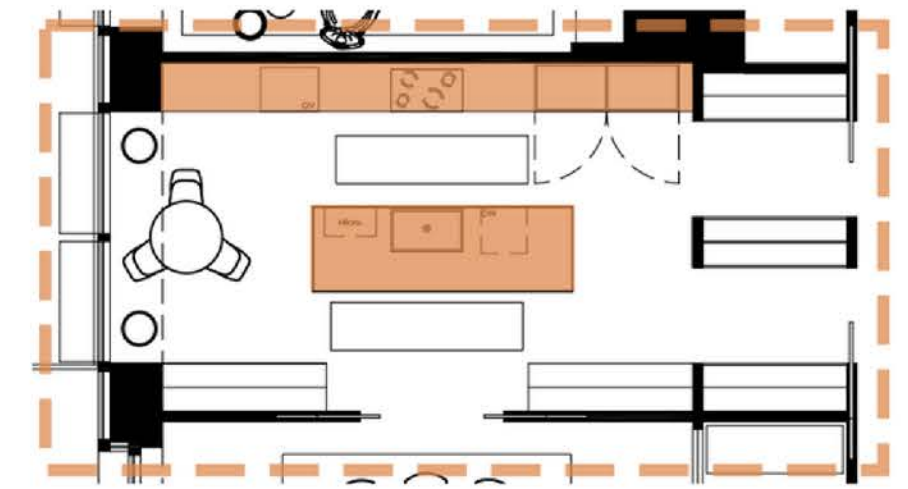
Figure 3



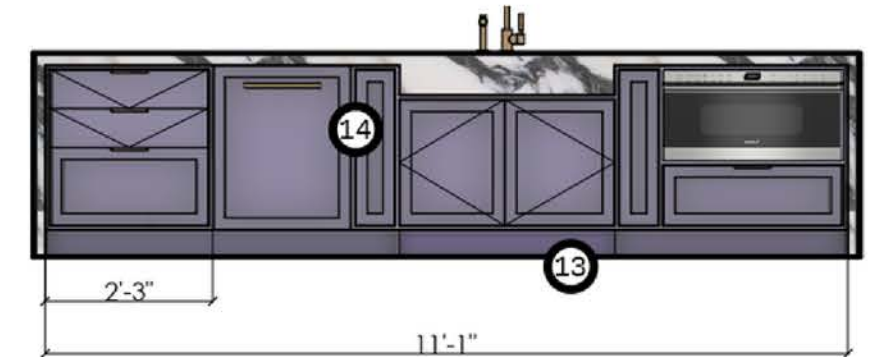
Figure 4



Figure 5



Area of Focus in Kitchen Layout



Kitchen Island Elevation

Completed in AutoCAD & Photoshop



North Elevation of Kitchen

Completed in AutoCAD & Photoshop

INCLUSIVITY

Completed in Winter 2023, **3161 Market Street** is a 2-story building in need of creating a sense of community in the West Philadelphia area. By finding creative ways to promote well-being and hopefulness through graphics and technology is how I created **SocialLife**, a secure, encouraging and inspirational community health center for the LGBTQIA+ population who reside within the target area.

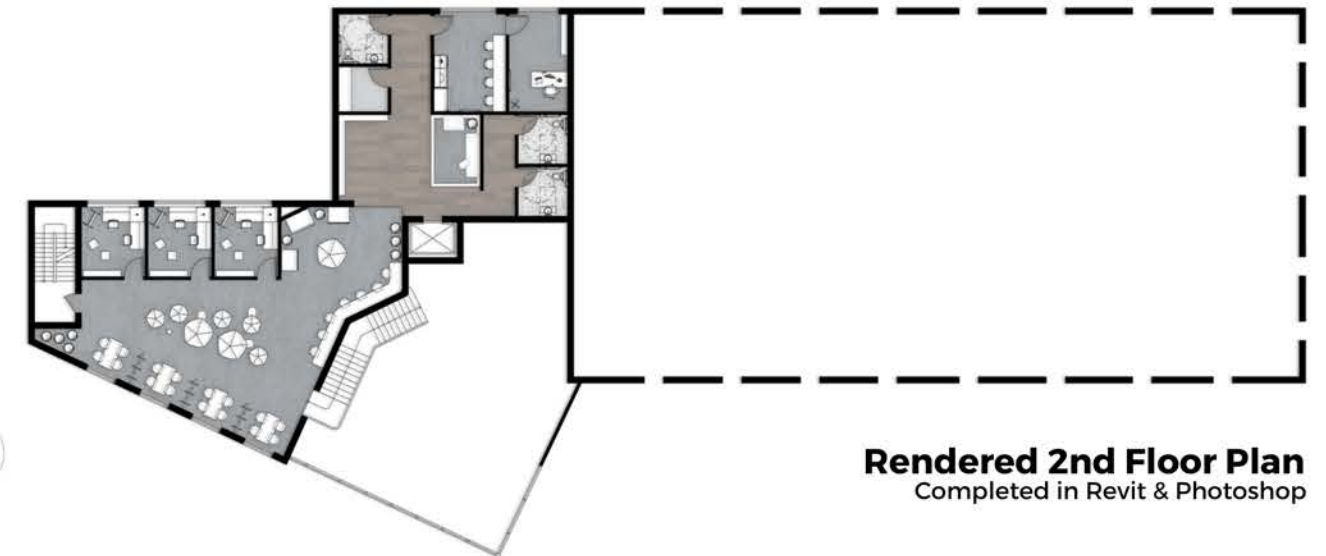
SocialLife includes but is not limited to:

- a library cafe that allows individuals to feel free from discrimination in public spaces while paying homage to Giovanni's Room, a LGBTQ bookstore once located in Philadelphia.
- a beauty salon that expands the community of salons in the area that cater to creating a safe space for individuals to pamper themselves.
- a healthcare clinic that offers exam rooms that are equipped with staff members who create a non-discriminatory space for their patients who worry about disclosing information to their regular doctors and therapy offices to help with issues like depression and coming out to family members.

- *Community & Health*



Rendered 1st Floor Plan
Completed in Revit & Photoshop



Rendered 2nd Floor Plan
Completed in Revit & Photoshop



Color Key

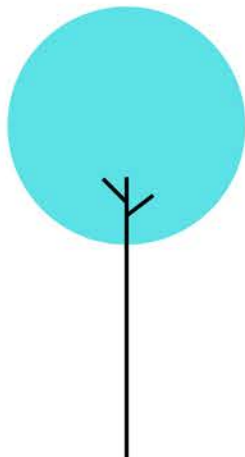
- Library Cafe
- Beauty Salon
- Health Clinic



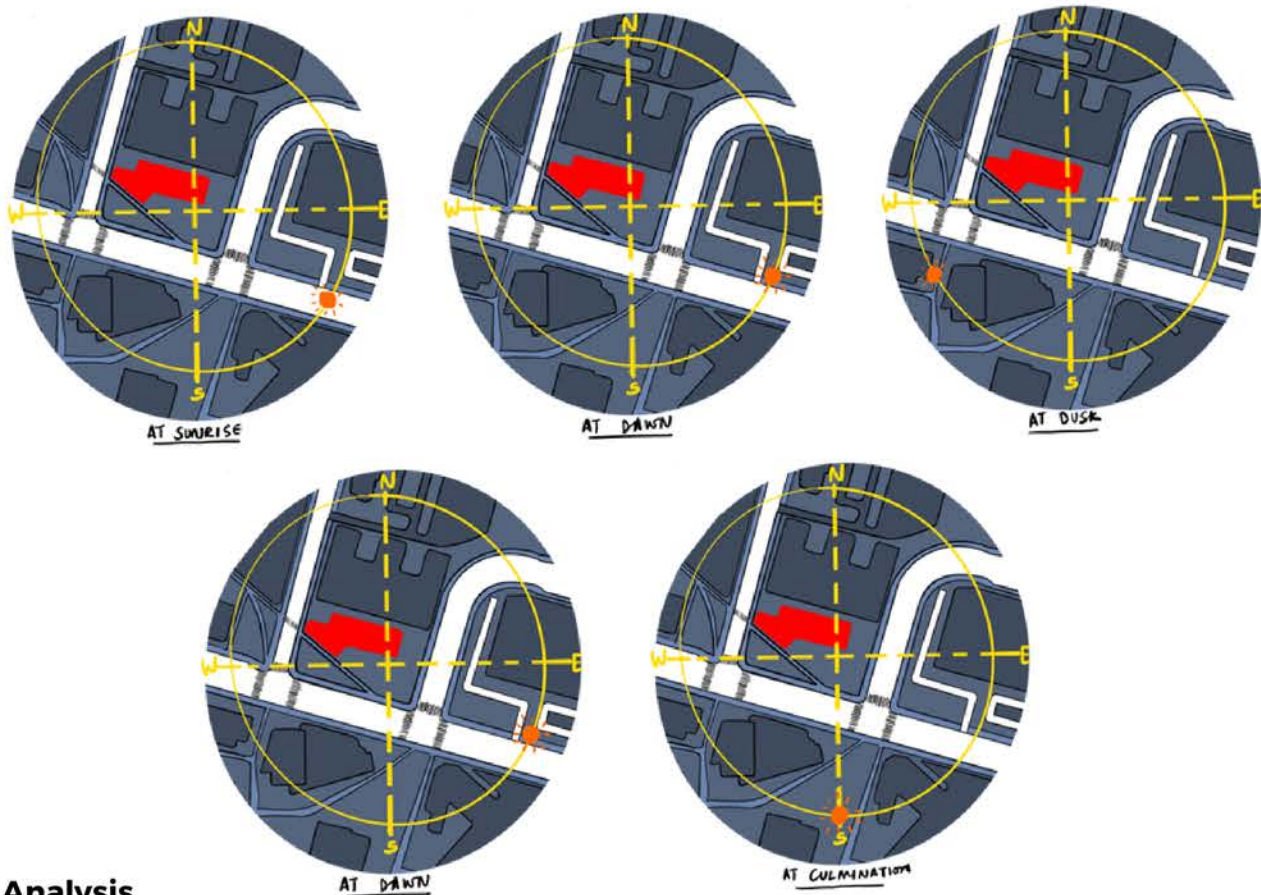
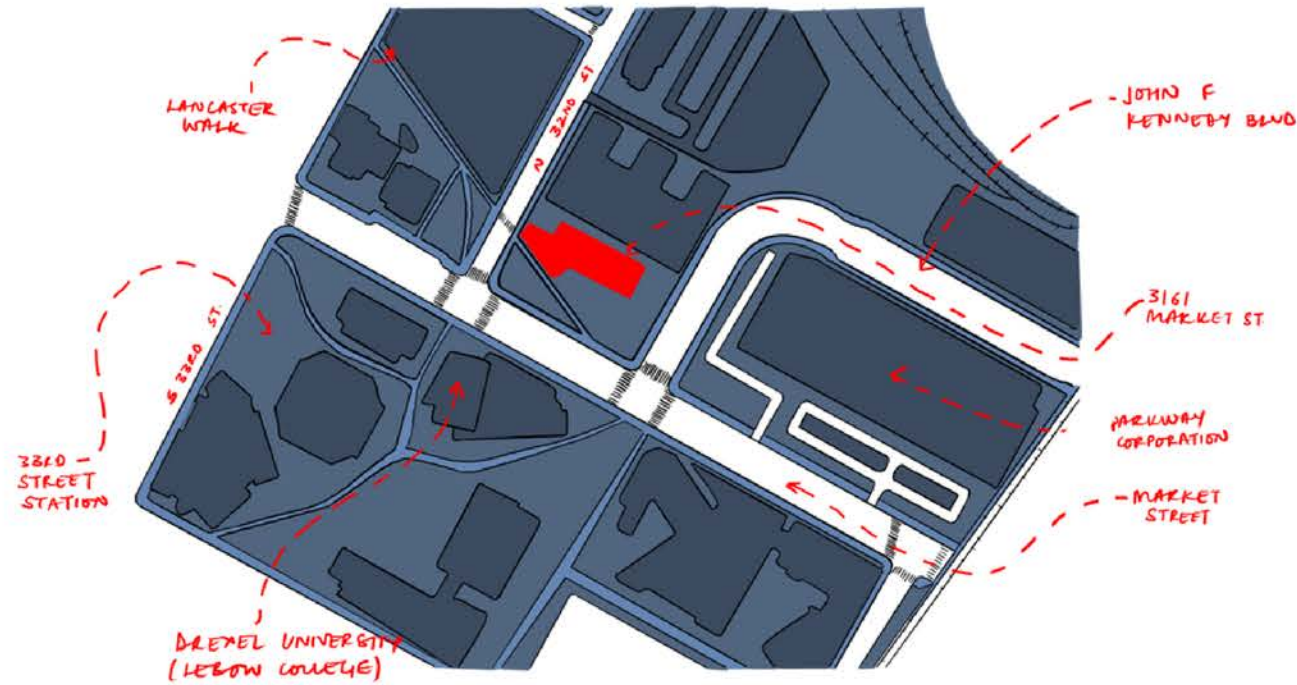
Rendered Longitude Section
Completed in Revit & Photoshop



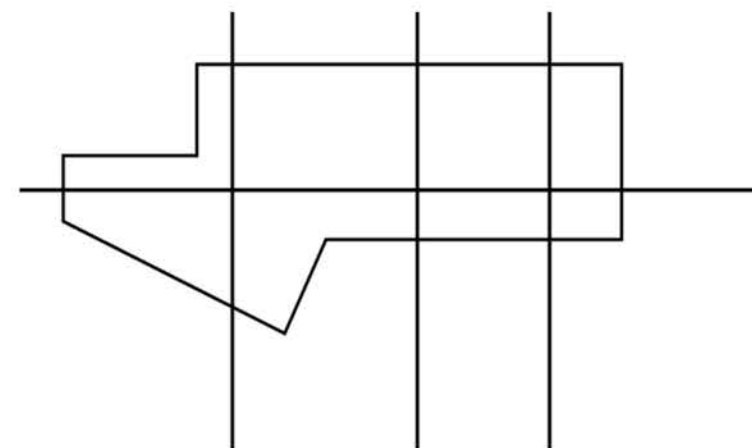
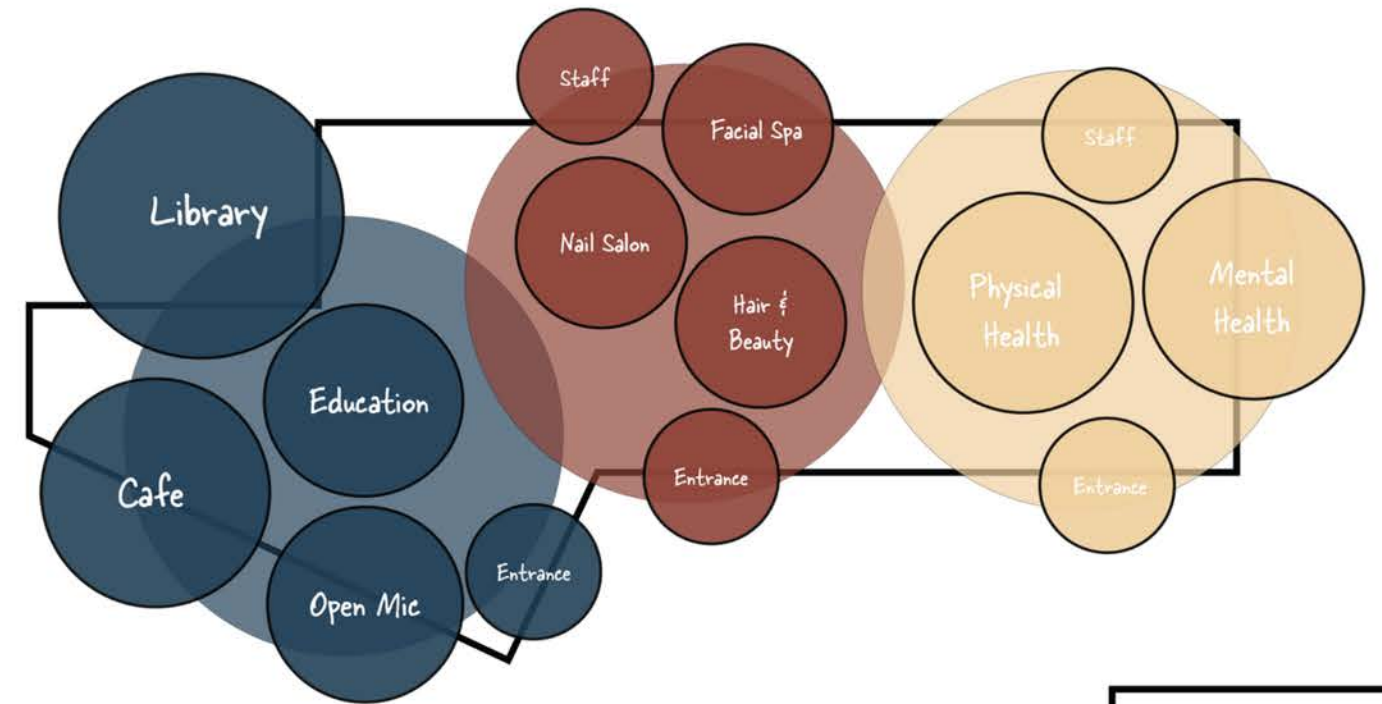
Key Plan



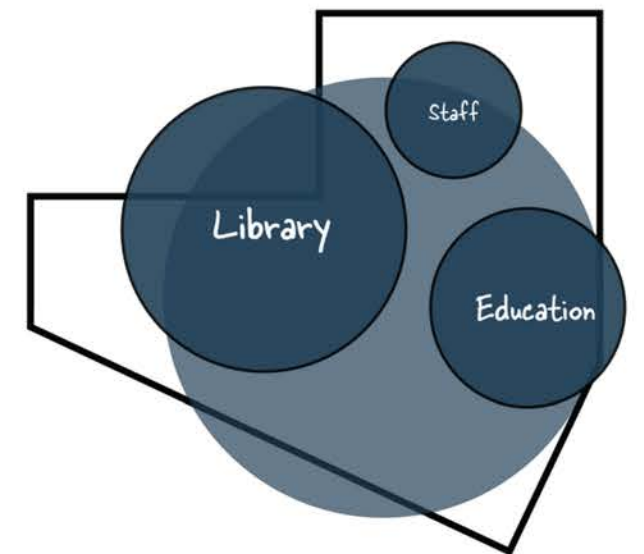
DESIGN PROCESS WORK



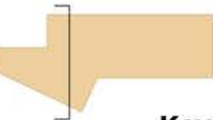
Site Analysis
Completed in Procreate



Parti Diagram
Completed in InDesign

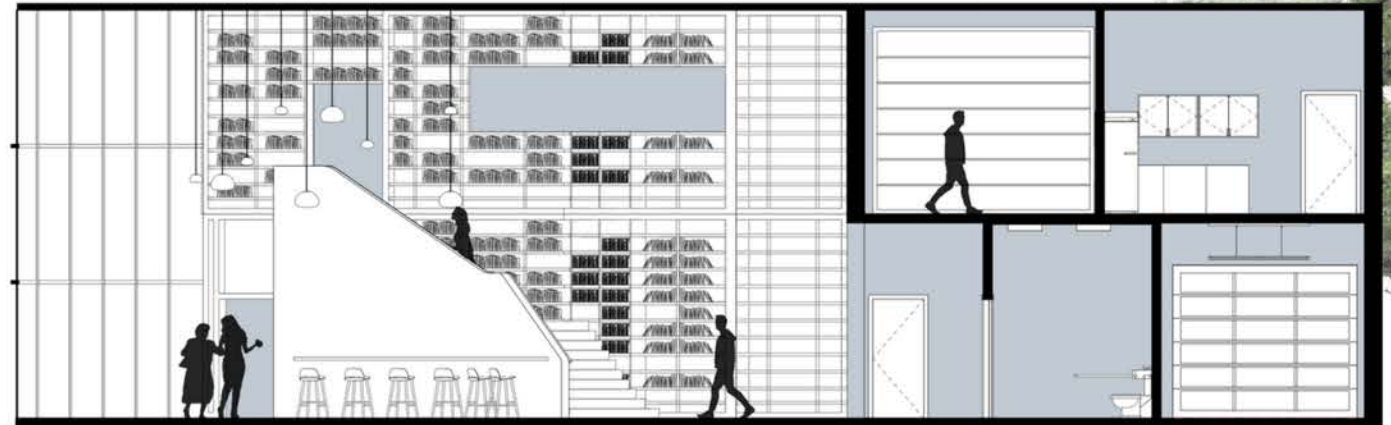


Bubble Diagram
Completed in InDesign



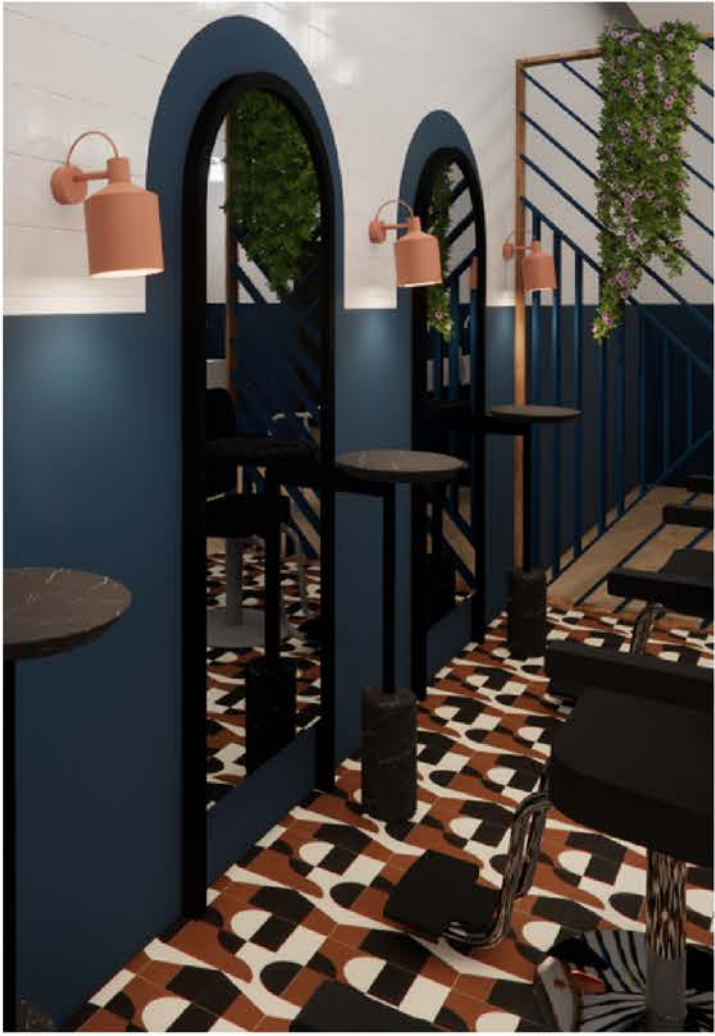
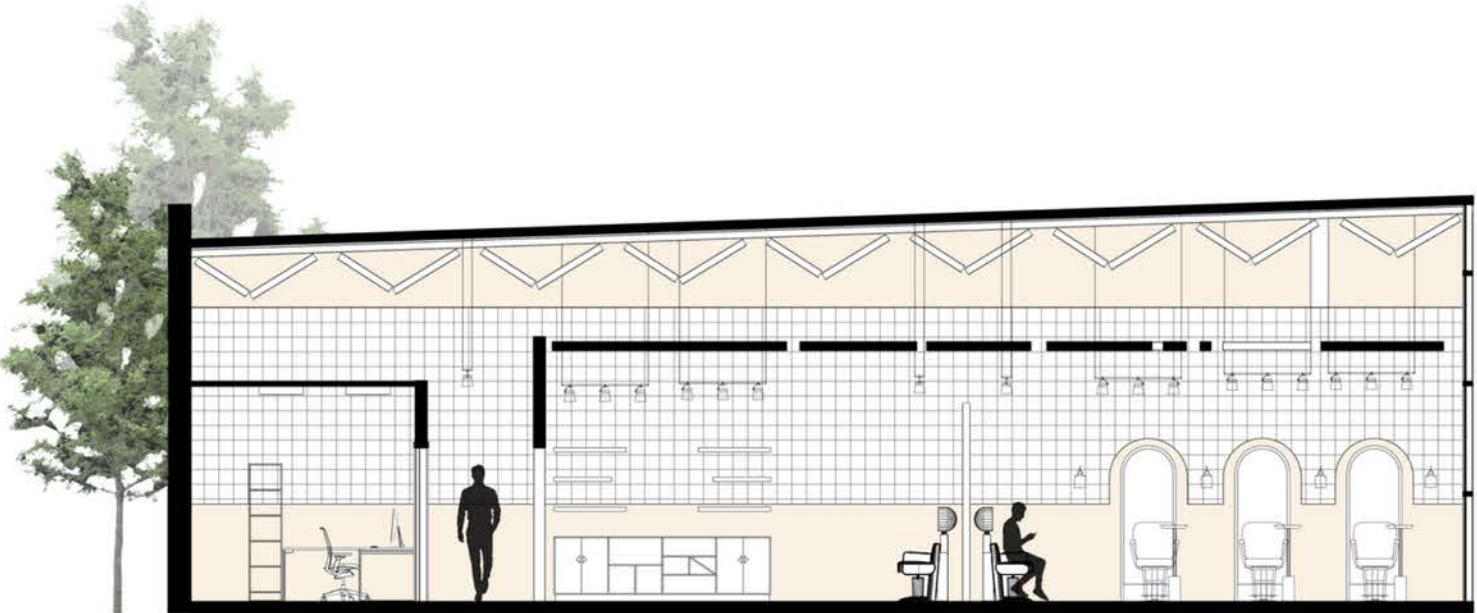
Rendered Cross Section

Completed in Revit & Photoshop





Rendered Cross Section
Completed in Revit & Photoshop



EQUITY

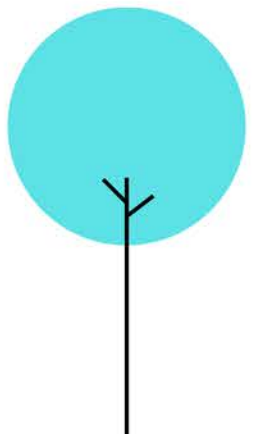
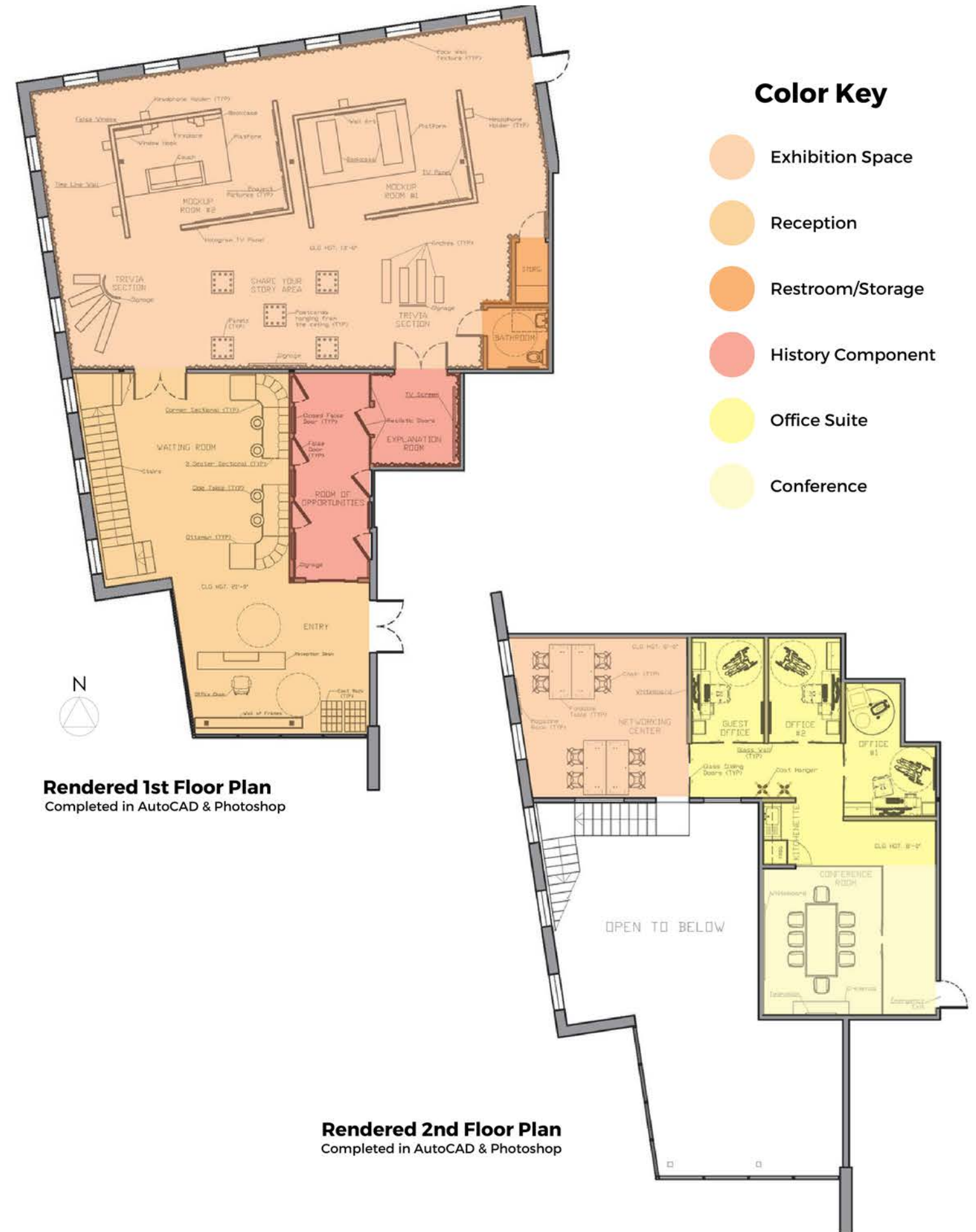
Completed in Spring 2021, **The Missing** is a two-story interactive exhibition space located in New York, NY. I was challenged to develop a space that expands on my Senior Topic which is, **an interior designer who advocates for racial justice should discover hurdles that encumber minority representation within the field so that “lack of diversity” amongst interior design practitioners becomes a statement of the past.**

A few important details that I had to keep in mind as I designed this space was:

- My solution should “inform” visitors, just as my written thesis “informed” readers.
- To make the exhibit or showroom “hands on” so that visitors may interact with the contents.
- It must demonstrate research-based design.

I figured that the theme of carving your way out was the best way to showcase my research. The first floor will consist of a rock textured wall while the second floor will have a smoother texture. The idea of that was to show that minorities within Interior Design may be encumbered but with proper solutions there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

- Senior Topic



DESIGN PROCESS WORK

Inspiration

Trip to South Africa 16'

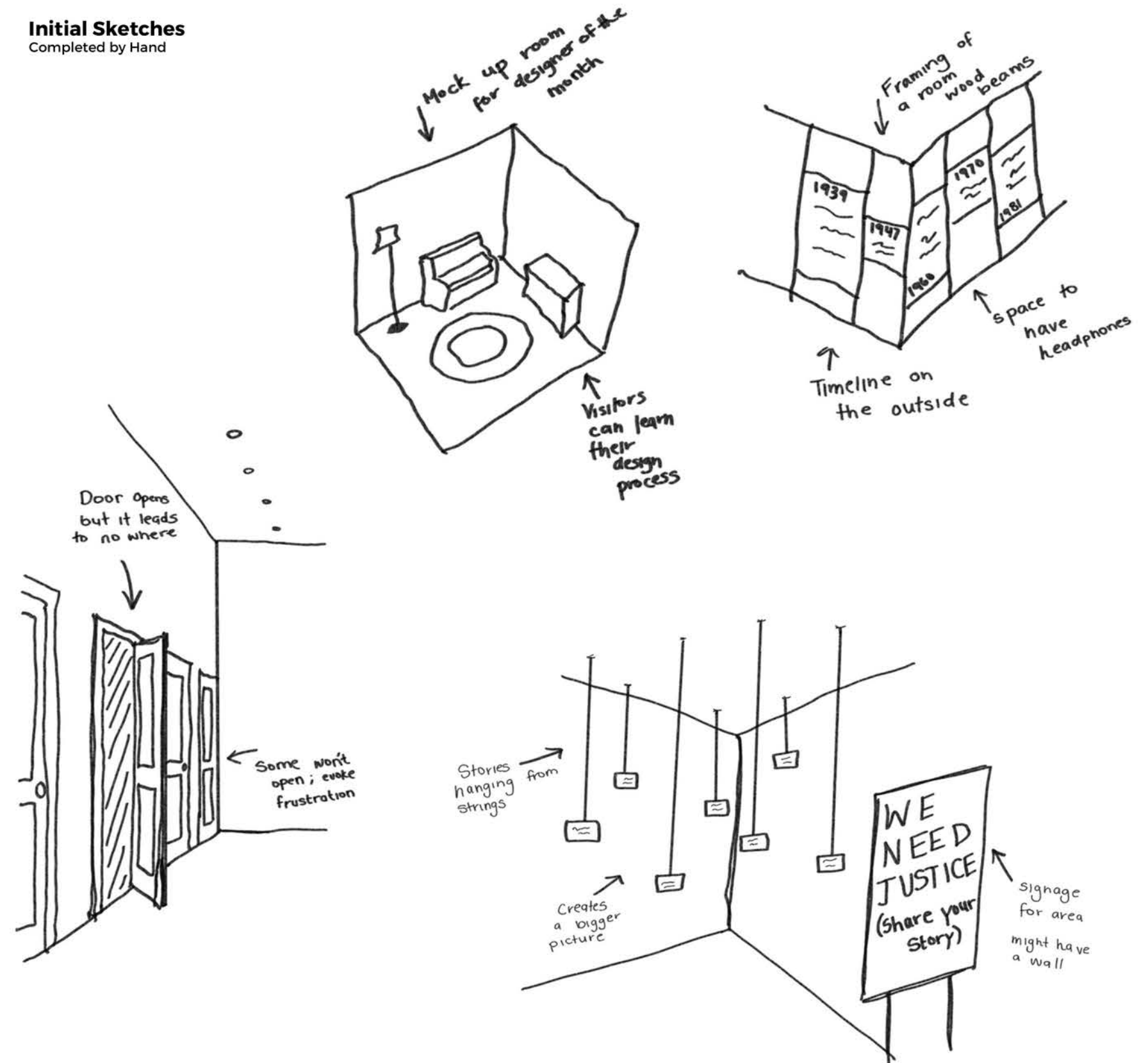


During the **Summer of 2016**, to serve as an educational retreat, myself and 119 other young men of color were granted the opportunity to go on a trip to explore the cities of South Africa. On this 14-day trip, one of our activities involved visiting the Apartheid Museum located in Johannesburg. I wasn't aware of it at the time but when this project was presented to me, I remembered how impactful not only the exhibition was, but also the entrance.

Racial classification was the footing of all apartheid laws. When visiting the museum, by random choice, visitors are given a ticket letting them know if they are either white or non-white and they are only allowed to enter through the gate allocated to their race group. So, taking that into consideration, I wanted to explore this same theme of illustration throughout my project in order to not only educate, but evoke the senses of the individuals encountering this space to create an everlasting memory.

Initial Sketches

Completed by Hand



The Missing Wall

Rendering Completed in SketchUp & iRender



As guests are checking in, they are greeted by **The Missing Wall**. It has pictures of current BIPOC designers, empty frames to show those who are missing and frames with mirrors to show that as a minority they as well have the opportunity to be showcased on this wall as well.

Room of Doors

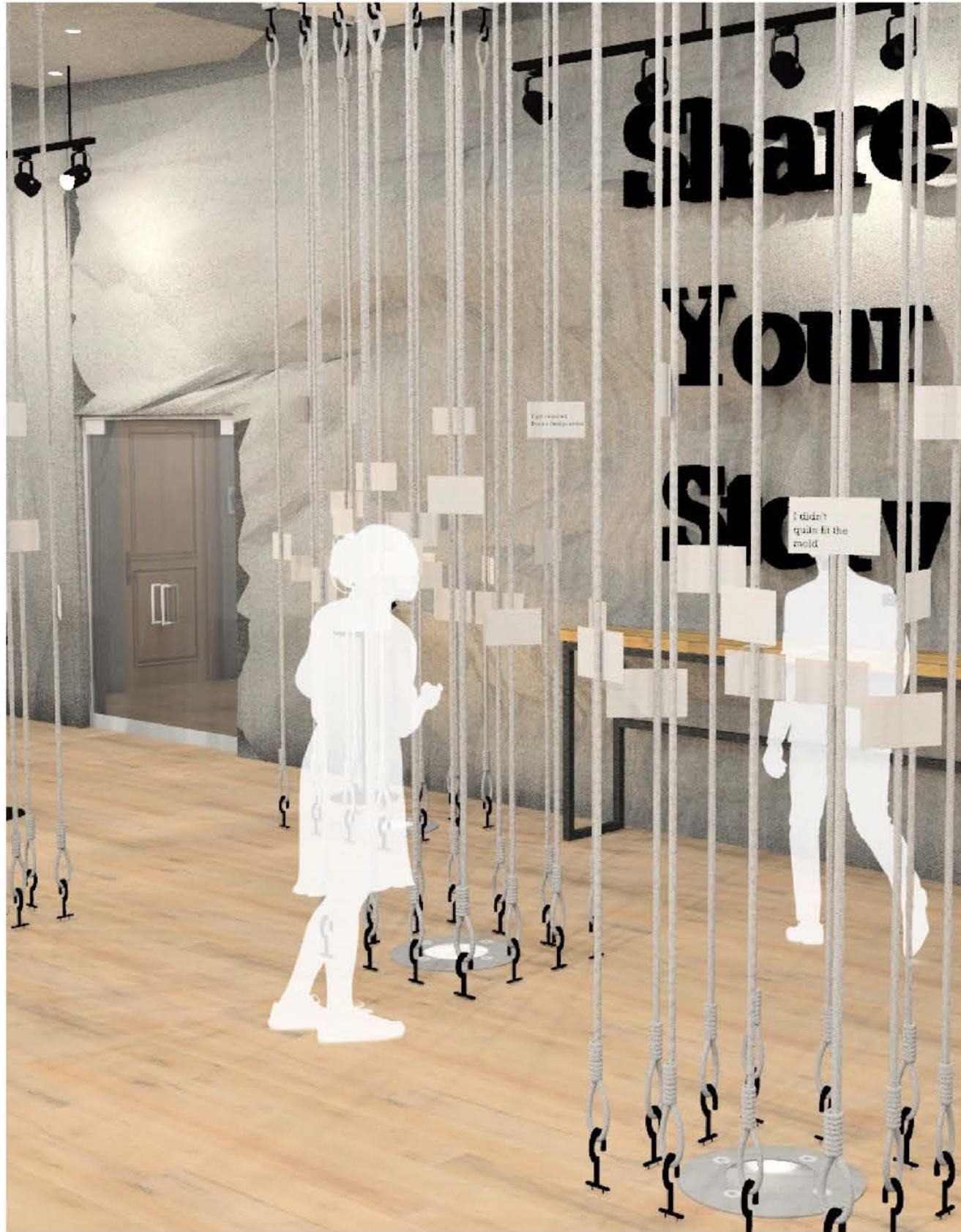
Rendering Completed in SketchUp & iRender



Each door is different, some may open while some may not, and it is to represent the struggle and frustration that minorities had/have within the field when it comes to opportunities.

Share Your Story Wall

Rendering Completed in SketchUp & iRender



Viewers can use this space to either read about the experience's minorities have encountered within the field or share their own stories.

Designer Showcase

Rendering Completed in SketchUp & iRender



Each month a new designer will be on display and their timeline to where they are now will be showcased here. For example, this rendering showcases the timeline of Sheila Bridges who was named America's Best Interior Designer by Time magazine and CNN.



THANK YOU

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