



ByDESIGN Presents the
**13th Annual
CASA Alumni Scholarships**

**College of Environmental Design
University of California, Berkeley**

April 19, 2024



CASA Alumni

Awards Program

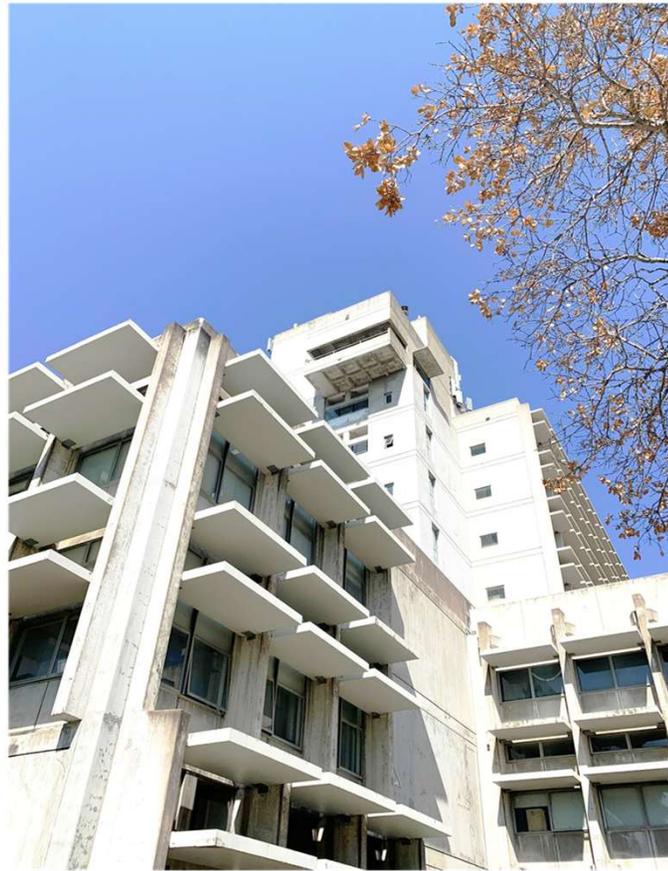
Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice

Evening Program



- **Welcome:** Rogelio R. Hernández
- **Introductions**
- **Announcements:**
 - CASA Alumni Board
 - "Chicanx Architecture" Workshop at CED
- **Sara Ishikawa Recognition**
Professor Emeritus of Architecture, CED, UC Berkeley: Jennie Lew, Babette Jee, Katherin Hoover
- **CASA Student Awards**
- **Luz de Sol, UC Berkeley Mariachi**
- **Music & Networking**

Introductions





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Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice

Our Partners



Rogelio Roy Hernández
President & CEO
ThirdWave Corp.
CASA Alumni Chair,
ByDESIGN Publisher
BA Arch & M Arch CED,
UC Berkeley

Joseph Martinez
Principal, Martinez-Cutri Urban Studio
CASA Alumni Chair,
ByDESIGN Sr. Editor
BA UC San Diego, M Arch Harvard GSD

Gladys Valadez
President, CASA
BA Sustainable Environmental Design
'24 UC Berkeley

Patricia G. Alarcón, AIA
Principal, Ratcliff
AIASF LiA Committee Chair
B.A. Arch Washington University St. Louis M. Arch CED, UC Berkeley

Melissa Iris Garcia, AIA, NOMA LEED AP
Principal, Herman Coliver Locus Arch.
AIASF LiA SF Committee Co-chair
BA Arch, CED UC Berkeley

ByDesign





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Our Commitment to the Next Generation



- Educational Mentoring
- Scholarships
- Application to Grad School
 - Personal Statement Reviews
 - Letters of Recommendation
- Professional Development
 - Internships
 - Fellowships
 - Career Counseling
 - Cover Letter Reviews
 - Resumes Reviews
 - Portfolios Reviews





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Our Prizes



- Merit Award
- Bob Esparza Prize
- Martin Del Campo Prize
- Ken Simons
- Sara Ishikawa
- Latinx in Architecture Prize
- Isaac Alcantar DACA Prize
- Antonia Escobar Prize
- Maria & Guillermo Hernandez
- Master's Prize



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Our Donors

Platinum (\$5,000 & above)

Roy Hernandez, CEO



Gold (\$1,000 & above)



Charles Higuera

Kathryn Hoover

Joseph Martinez



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Silver (\$500 & above)

Robert Daughters
BASE Landscape Architecture
Herman Coliver Locus Architecture
Siegel & Strain Architects

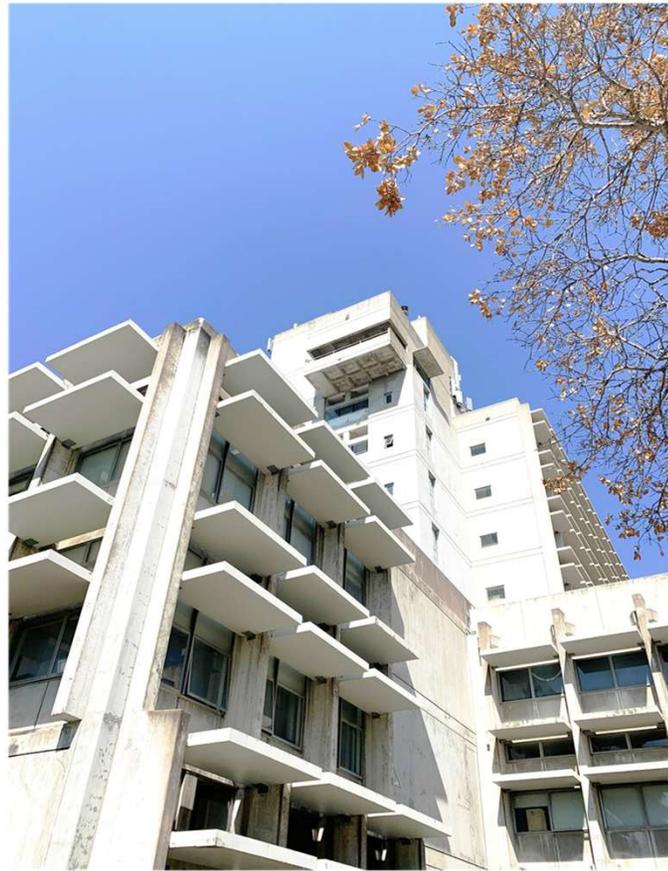
Jennie Lew in honor of Sara Ishikawa
KPF Consulting Engineers
Edwin Rodriguez
Isaac Alcantar

Bronze (\$250 & above)

SF NOMA
BAR Architects & Interiors
Napa Design Partners
Geny Muñoz
Studio Perez

Elizabeth Lagarde
Patricia Centeno
Alma Rodriguez
Drs. Renato & Graciela Alarcón
Priscilla Mark Der

Announcements





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CASA Alumni Board

Roy Hernandez



Purpose

- Establish formal structure & gravitas
- Engage a broader set of generational members: students, educators, and professionals
- Build a pipeline of leaders
- Establish a 501 (3) c Non-profit
- Pursue larger corporate / NGO donors
- Increase student financial support



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Roy R. Hernandez, President/CEO, ThirdWave Corp
M. Arch & BA Arch CED, UC Berkeley

Joseph Martinez, Principal/President, Martinez-Cutri
M Arch Harvard University, BA UC San Diego

Patricia G. Alarcón, AIA, Principal, Ratcliff
M. Arch CED, UC Berkeley, BA Arch Washington
University St. Louis

Isaac Alcantar, Designer, HDR
BA Arch CED, UC Berkeley

Samantha Andalon, Designer, Martinez-Cutri
BA Arch CED, UC Berkeley

Aymee Barajas, Sr. Business Analyst, ThirdWave
BA Business, UC Merced

Imelda Delherra, VP Construction, Irvine Company
BA Arch CED, UC Berkeley

Charles Higuera, **FAIA** CEO, C. Higuera & Assoc.
M. Arch & BA Arch CED, UC Berkeley

Katherin Hoover, **Attorney**,

J.D. & M. Arch, UC Berkeley, BA Math, Immaculata College

Elizabeth Legarde, Project Architect, Hennebery Eddy
Architects, BA Arch CED, UC Berkeley

Homer Perez, AIA, NCARB, NOMA, LEED AP, Owner
BS Architectural Design, MIT

Dan Perez, AIA, Principal, Studio Perez
M. Arch CED, UC Berkeley, BSD. Arch, Arizona State

Anton Pizano, Consultant / Architect
M. Arch, CED UC Berkeley, Harvard Kennedy School

David Zamora, Principal, David Zamora Architect
M. Arch, CED UC Berkeley

Brianna Barba, CED, UC Berkeley, BA Landscape
Architecture

Gladys Valadez, CED, UC Berkeley
BA City + Regional Planning & Landscape Architecture

Omar Martinez-Zoluaga, Yale, MA Arch, BA Arch CED, UC
Berkeley



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Chicanx Architecture Workshop

Joseph Martinez



Agenda

- Importance of knowing your own culture
- How to draw inspiration from your design
- Strategies for getting projects approved
- Case study in-progress by CASA Alumni

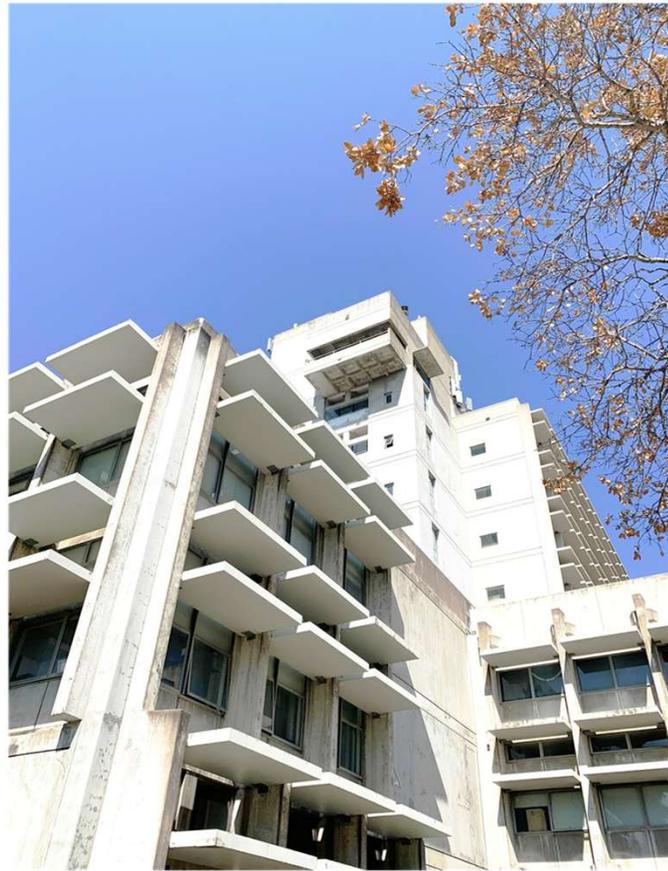
Date: Saturday, April 27, 2024

Time: 12:00 – 2:00 pm

Location: Wurster Hall, UC Berkeley

SARAH ISHIKAWA

Lifetime Educator, Mentor, & Activist





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Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice

SARAH ISHIKAWA

Professor Emeritus of Architecture, College of Environmental Design, UC Berkeley

"Steel wrapped in cotton . . ."



S.F. South of Market Community Design Studio (circa 1972-1974, community representatives meet with co-Instructors Carl Anthony and Sara Ishikawa)



Sara Ishikawa (center, late 1970's - early 1980's) in UCB Wurster Bldg. Courtyard



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SARAH ISHIKAWA



S.F. Ferry Bldg. Lunch: '70's era UCB Architecture Alumni (Feb. 2010, L to R, Babette Jee, Charmaine Soo, Jennie Lee, Sylvia Kwan, Sara Ishikawa, Maritza Delgadillo, Janet Tam)



S.F. Ferry Bldg. Lunch (Feb. 2010, L to R, Sara Ishikawa with Maritza Delgadillo)



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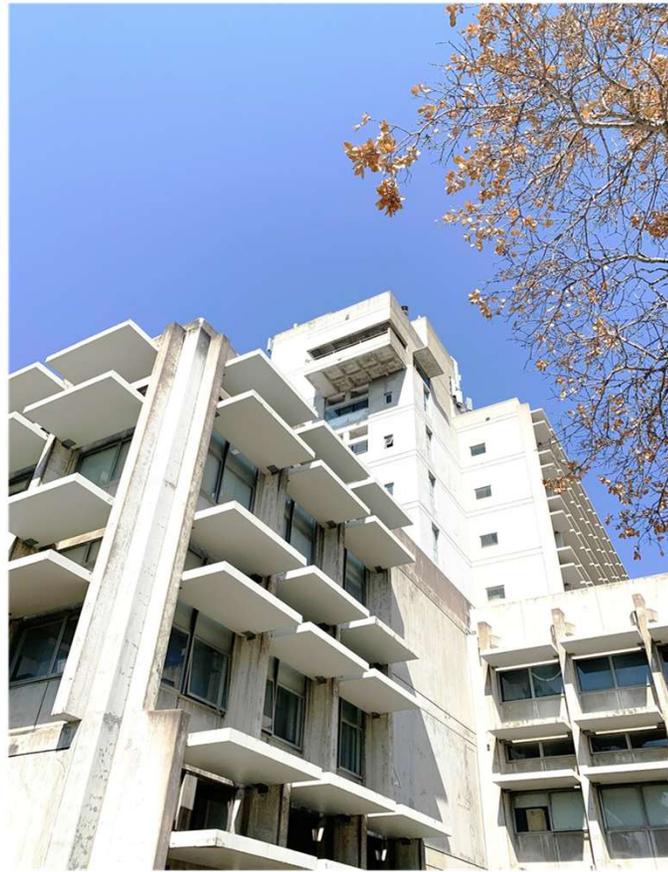
SARAH ISHIKAWA

AOC BBQ at Sara's House (201?, L to R, Maritza Delgadillo, Babette Jee, Kitty Hoover, Jenny Lew, Sara Ishikawa)

"She points the way ... as all good teachers have in the past"



CASA ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION





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Scoring Criteria

- Personal history statement
- Participation in CASA
- Contributions to ByDESIGN
- Work with student or community orgs
- Scholastic achievement
- Contributions to CED or UC Berkeley
- Future Vision





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Ramamnpreet Singh

BA Political Science 2024

- From Punjab, India
- Has worked with Sikh Student Association and Latino Business Student Association
- Participant in CASA events

My goal is to inspire and create pathways for others emerging from low-income or broken family situations to not just dream big, but to achieve those dreams through passion, determination and hard work.

Merit Prize:

\$ 200



Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



I see myself working in a firm focusing on improving and developing schools, public and housing. One day establish my own company prioritizing developing affordable housing in low-income neighborhoods,

Sara Garcia

BA Architecture 2026

- First generation, from a low-income immigrant family Mexico
- Discovered interest in architecture on a family visit to San Francisco Queen Anne homes and Grace Cathedral .
- CASA Intern for External Chair
- Participated in NOMAS, AIAS, and APX events .

Bob Esparza Prize:

\$ 400



Parallelism & Color

Arch 11A: Introduction to
Visual Representation and
Drawing

Prof. David Orkand

Through the combination of eight 4x4 cubes to make a giant distorted cube, I was able to explore ideas of sharp edges, curves, open and closed spaces, and the use of color to represent light and dark, heavy, and light, and balance or disunity.





Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



I see myself working for the City of Los Angeles taking part in decisions in urban planning and landscaping, specifically in South Central and East Los. I will be a community worker and engager, as well as an environmental advocate..

Alexandra Isabella Rodríguez

BA Society & Environment 2025

- Started participating CASA events in 2022, fell in love with the community & friendships
- CASA Outreach Chair, update CED students with newsletters and CASA pamphlet.
- Want to take open lots and abandoned buildings and appoint them to community organizations for low-income housing for the houseless.

Bob Esparza Prize:
\$400



**Personal Narrative:
Why do Latinos Hate EBT?
R1B**

Prof. Miriam Bird Greenberg

This essay was about personal objects that helped us during the pandemic. It was inspired by a New York Times column, Letter of Recommendation, with a collection of small stories of objects that were personal to the writers' lives. I wrote about the EBT card I received during the pandemic, and how generations of my family have interacted with EBT.



My professor reached out to me suggesting I share my piece with the New York Times. She contacted the editor, and they were very open to considering my essay for the Letter of Recommendation column as well! While it did not make the cut, I am still so proud of the writing I did and the story it tells.



Algae Bioreactors

Lawrence Hall of Science

Algae bioreactors are jars of algae that are fed CO₂ all day, every day, along with being given light 12 hours a day. Each jars are their own kind of algae. My responsibility is to create new algae media every month to prevent contamination and overgrowth. Once the media is created, I inoculate the new media with the current Algae bioreactors using about 100-200 mL of liquid depending on the growth of the algae, this allows the plants to continue thriving.





Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



I intend to include design activism into my work in the future and hope to concentrate on affordability and sustainability. In any design field I work in, my ultimate goal is to support marginalized communities.

Sulem Hernandez

BA Architecture 2023

- From Bakersfield, CA
- First generation, Latinx, low-income, queer, woman of color
- Goal is to serve underrepresented communities in any design field I work in 5 years
- Is going to Graduate School, accepted at UCLA and USC

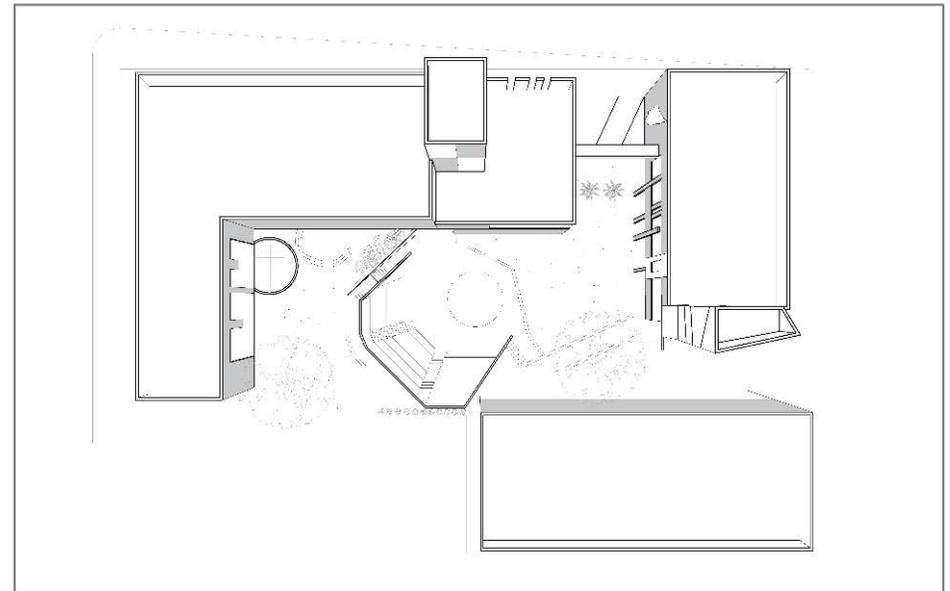
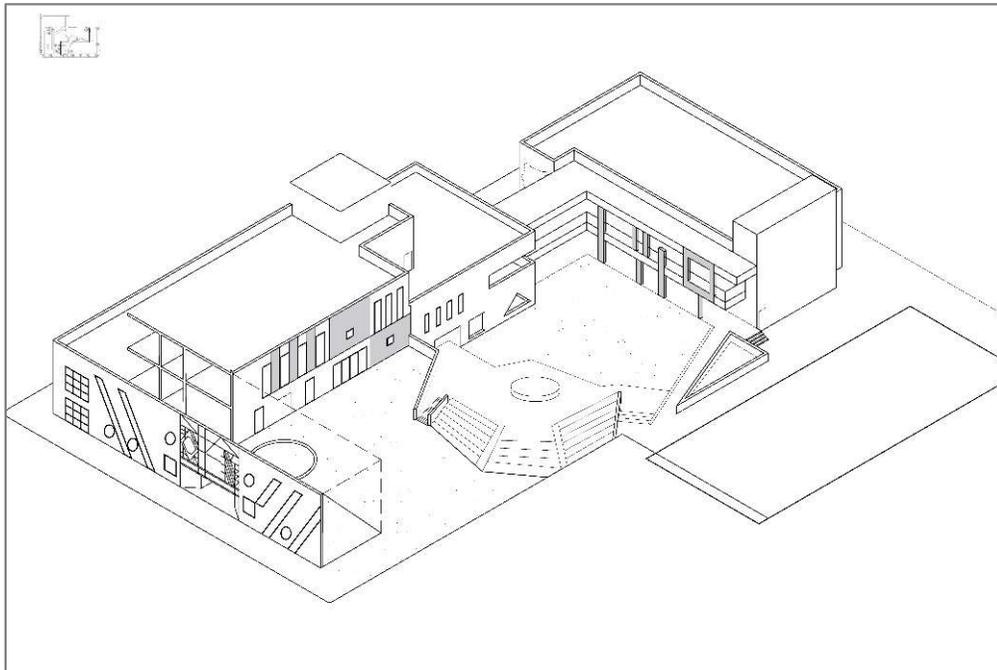
Bob Esparza Prize:
\$400



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Integrity High School
Architectural Design
Martinez-Cutri,
Urban Studio Corporation





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I see myself working in the urban planning field with a job that closely relates to community development and leading with community-based engagement.

Lauren Maria Velasco

BA Urban Studies 2026

GPA: 3.8

- First generation student, daughter of immigrants parents from Baja California and Jalisco.
- CASA member since first semester at CED, and Historian Intern
- Contributed Dia de Los Muertos Article for ByDESIGN

Bob Esparza Prize:

\$700



ED 100 Research PaperCenter

Env. Design 100, The City, Theories
and Methods in Urban Studies

Prof. Michael Larice

This research examined two case studies of a city and its social justice implications: Art in Los Angeles. “A palace with pristine walls and perfectly polished floors, the freshly painted walls dressed in precisely carved wood frames gilded with gold. Just a few blocks down on the bustling streets of LA, a vibrant mural of the Virgin Mary organically planted next to an unkept alleyway.”





**Work Title: Social Justice Poster
Fossil-Free Future: Richmond Oil
Refinery**

Env Design 5: Cities & Sites

Profs. Greg Castillo & Fite Matamoros

The purpose of this assignment was to create an eye-catching social justice poster regarding a social justice issue in the Bay Area. The aim is to send a message to the public with an artistic and powerful message portrayed on the poster.





Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



In 5 years I see myself graduating from graduate school and practicing residential architecture where I can design families' dream homes.

Yadira Manrra Castro

BA Arch 2025

- First generation, born and raised in Los Angeles in a very small studio apartment with her mom and dad..
- Participated in CASA since her freshman year, and is the Intern for the CASA Pres.
- CED Ambassador providing tours to high school students/parents. Happy to give back to the community by helping others.

Ken Simons Prize:

\$ 700



The Square Part 1 & 2

Architecture 100B

Prof. Aaron Forrest

Create a pavilion with our understanding of what is a square. A shape that is similar to a square is a rectangle. I experimented with foam core: folded it, scored, and made cutouts from one long rectangle shaped foam core. The blue material is represented as glass to create a colorful pavilion.



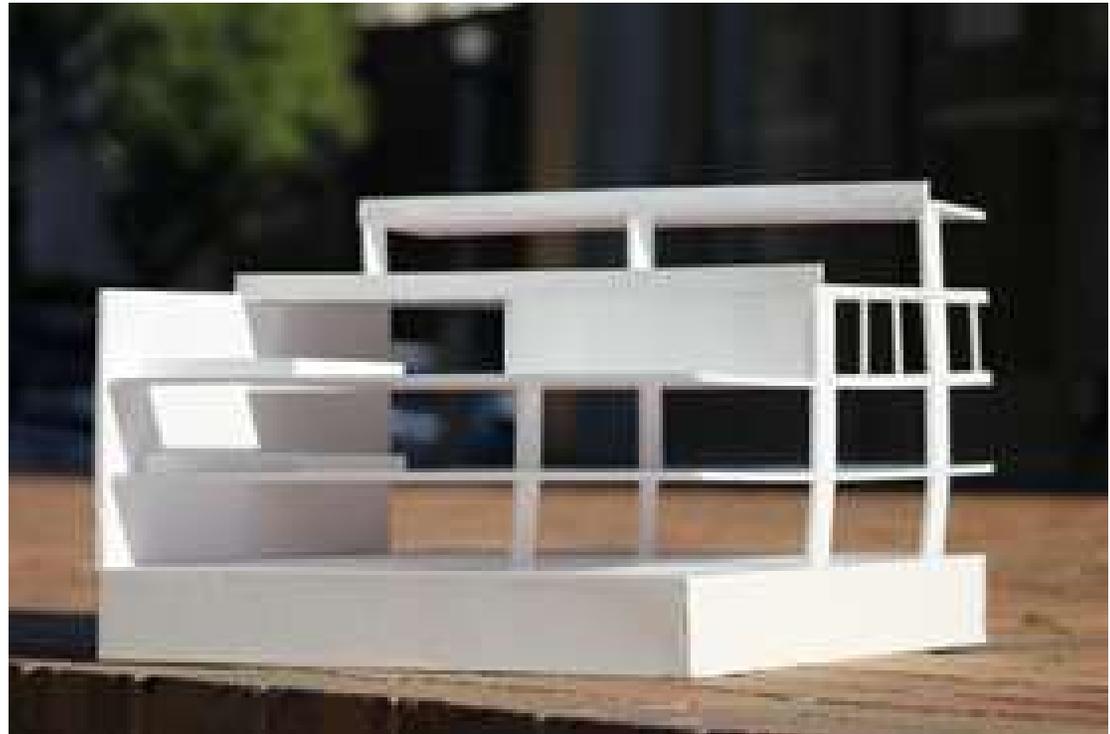


Upper Hearst Parking Lot Group Project

Arch 100A

Prof. Andrew Atwood

For this group project we had to think of how to repurpose a parking garage. We analyzed the site and noticed that food stands and student lounges were missing in this area. The area is secluded and almost divided from campus. This is a 5 story building that is open to UC Berkeley students to study, relax, and do outside activities.





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Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



Saul Oleta-Guerrero

BA Architecture 2025

GPA: 3.5

- Son of immigrant parents, with a background steeped in relentless work ethic, resilience and determination.
- CASA member since freshman year and CASA co-vice president
- Dream of joining a firm that shares my values of sustainable design and social responsibility. .

Growing up as the child of Mexican immigrant parents and working hands-on in construction with my father has shaped my perspective. My goal is to advocate for diversity and inclusion within the architecture industry.

Latinx in Architecture Prize:

\$ 750

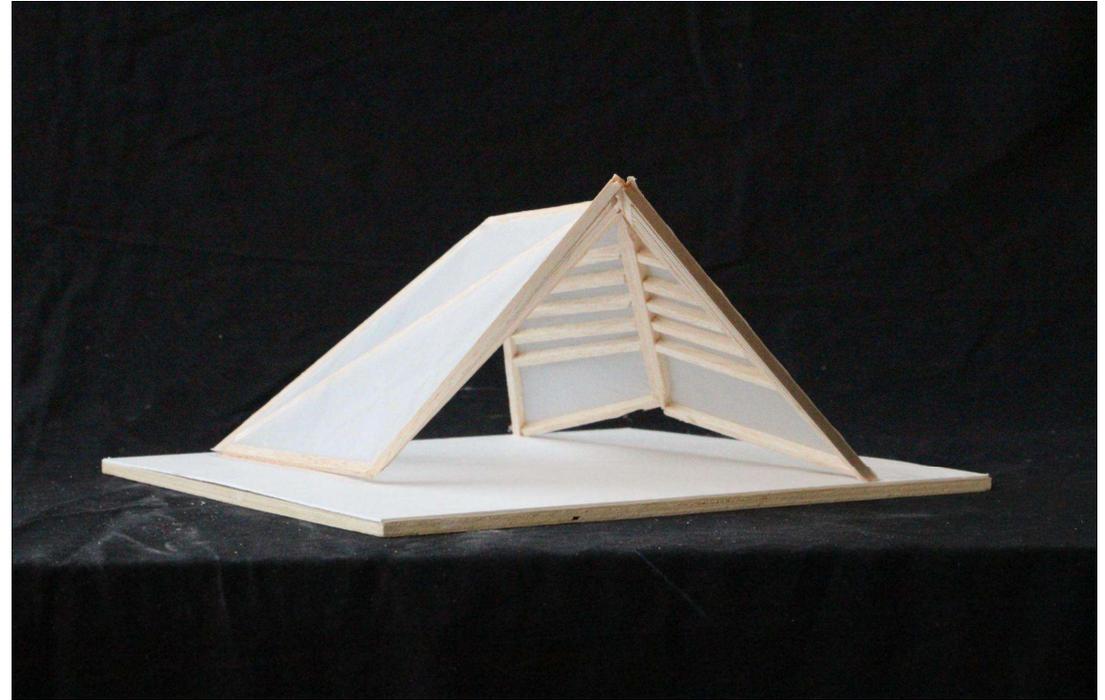


Drawn Room with Items

Arch 11B

Prof. Rudabeh Pakravan

For this exercise, I drew the room in which I sleep. The room was drawn as a section perspective from above.





Lower Hearst Parking Structure

Arch 100A

Prof. Alissa Chastain

A redevelopment proposition for a new public building at the Lower Hearst Parking Structure located in Northside, Berkeley, on Hearst Ave. and Scenic Ave., is to create an art gallery and maker space.





Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



I hope to make an impact on women in the construction field. I plan to lead art programs in elementary schools in my former school district, and provide mentorship to students in middle/high school.

Kaylee Garcia

BA Arch 2025

- Latinx, first generation, low-income, queer, woman of color pursuing a major in Architecture.
- Served two terms in Internal Chair & CED Student Ambassadors Internship Program
- Has a love for construction and will obtain Project Management Professional certification

Latinx in Architecture Prize:

\$ 800



Work-Life Balance: Downtown LA's Integrated Wellness Center

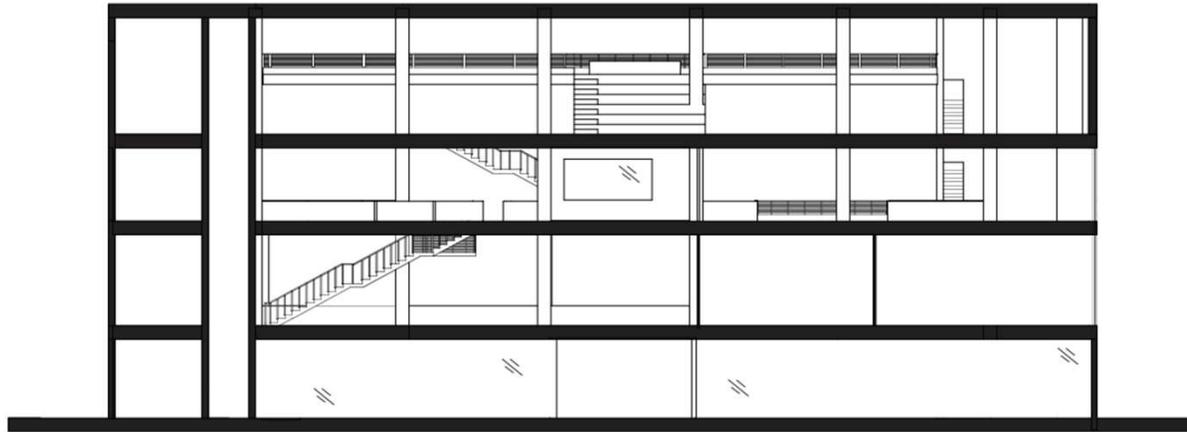
Arch 100A

Prof. Andrew Atwood

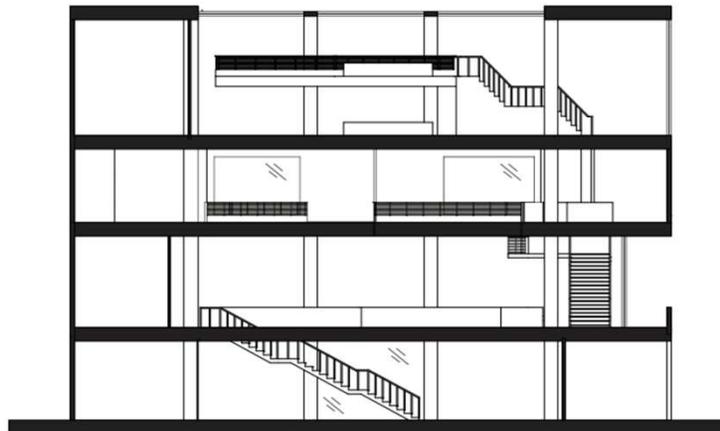
Designed to promote holistic well-being and work-life balance, this multifaceted center offers a comprehensive range of amenities and services, catering to the diverse needs of modern urban dwellers. At its core, this project serves as a sanctuary for mental and physical health, providing a variety of facilities aimed at promoting wellness and relaxation.



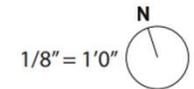
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SECTION ONE



SECTION TWO





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In five years I imagine myself to be set up at a firm that takes into consideration people and the environment. I will have gotten my master's degree in Architecture..

Alma Rodriguez Guzman

BA Arch, Sustainable Design 2024

- Born in Mexico. Her single mother immigrated when she was 2, held 3 jobs to provide for her 5 children.
- President of NOMAS & Casa Esperanza. AIA East Bay Board Student Co-director
- Held “Reverse Panel” with Dean & Faculty to address issues in studios for students of color at CED.

Latinx in Architecture Prize:

\$ 800



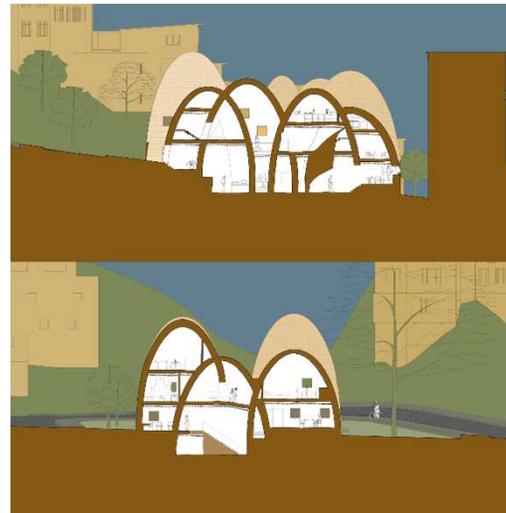
Golden Mud Architecture

Arch 100C

Prof. Maria Paz de Moura

Castro King

Analysis of mud architecture precedents and varied construction techniques, a typology was set up to compliment the chosen art practiced here. This conceptual design is complimented by the adobe brick and wooden dowel construction. These domed structures overlap, resulting in dynamic intersectional spaces for program and circulation.



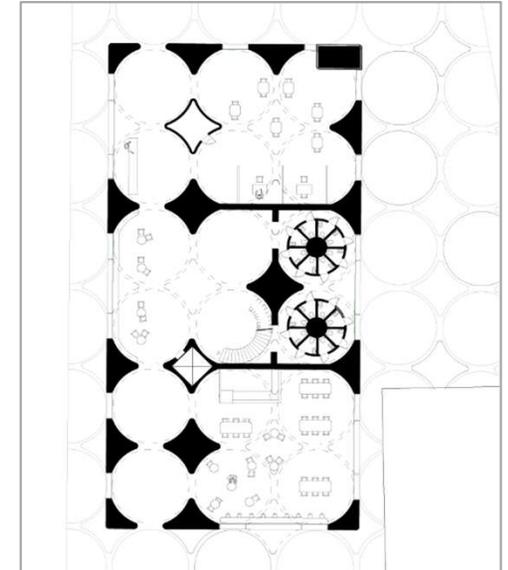


Rotaries of Recreation

Arch 100

Maria Paz de Moura Castro
King

In a system of a strict circular grid, an abstract recreational center with diverse spaces and circulation are created. These circular forms inform the division of program. The fluctuation of floors allows for the full appreciation of the circular grid and its intersections. Recreational activities include a running track, a swimming pool, and a gym/workout area.





Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



Angeline Vasquez Ayala

BA Arch 2025

- First-generation, low income student raised by her mother and grandmother.
- Her single mother taught her the strength and resilience of women -- and to believe in the limitless potential of women and their ability to achieve anything.
- CASA Vice President/Secretary, and IURD Student Program Researcher.

I will work on projects that prioritize environmental conservation and social equity, enhancing the quality of life for all. I look forward to starting her own firm. I also envision myself embodying the spirit of characters like Elle Woods and Barbie in the design world.

Latinx in Architecture Prize:
\$800



The Mirage

Introduction to Construction

14811

Prof. David Jaehning

Group Project

A Gluelam wooden pavilion with an illusion fictionally based in “The PARK” Las Vegas, Nevada.

(This one was fun because I learned how to cut wood at different angles since each side had to be rotated and placed precisely 5 degrees to create an illusion)





Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



In 5 years, I see myself finishing my masters degree in architecture, working in an architecture firm and getting ready to present the exam to get my license, one of my main goals.

Jorge Ramos

BA Arch 2025

GPA: 3.6

- From Monterrey, Mexico, coming to UC Berkeley was a dream come true.
- Interested in the phenomenology (consciousness & experience) of space
- CASA Academic Chair (2 years) and Professional Dev. Committee member
- East Bay AIA Student Director

Latinx in Architecture SF Prize:

\$ 800

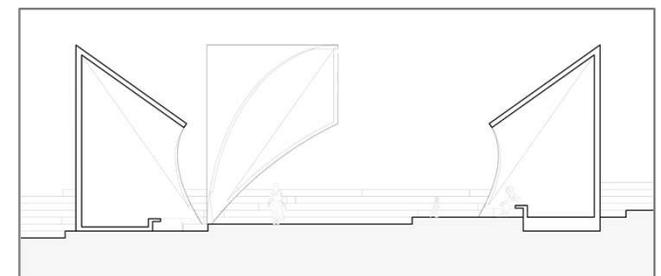
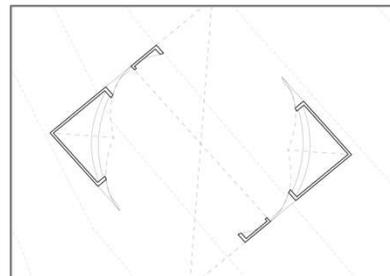
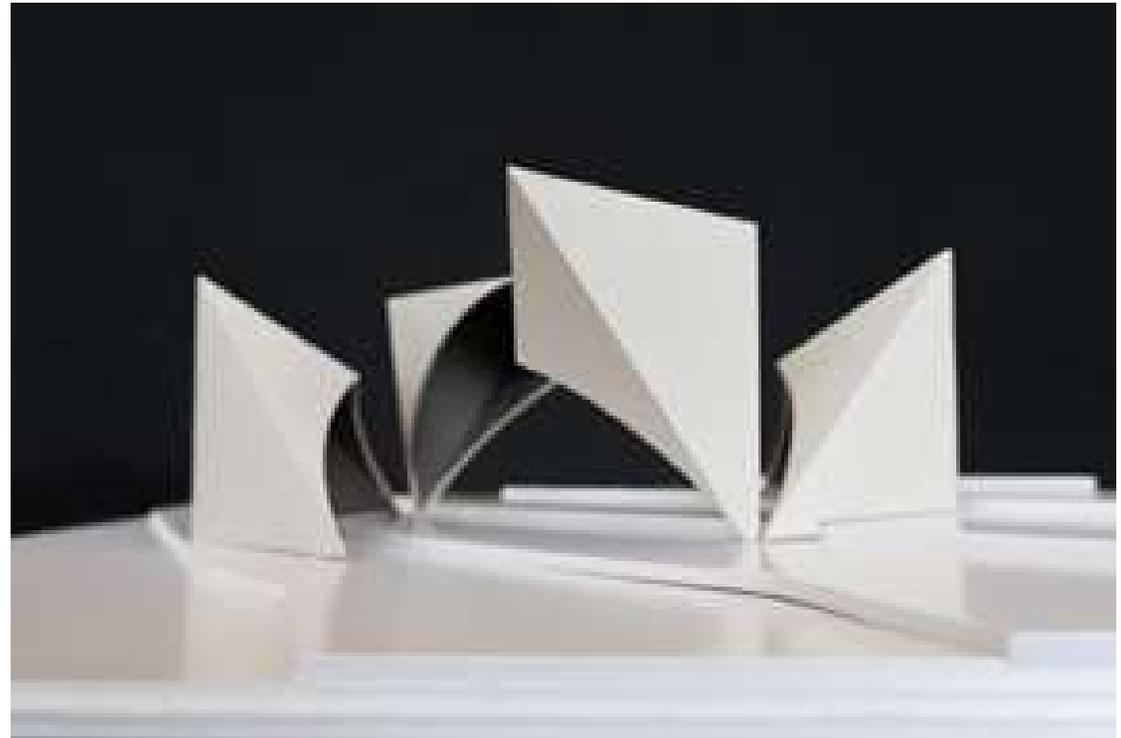


Pavilion

ARCH 100B

Prof. Aaron Forrest

Given the prompt of a square, we created a pavilion that explored the spatial qualities of a square. My interpretation was taking the basic elements of the square (the four points) and making those the fundamental parts of the design for my pavilion, playing around with sister shapes like the triangle to create this, almost paper-snowflake-y pavilion.



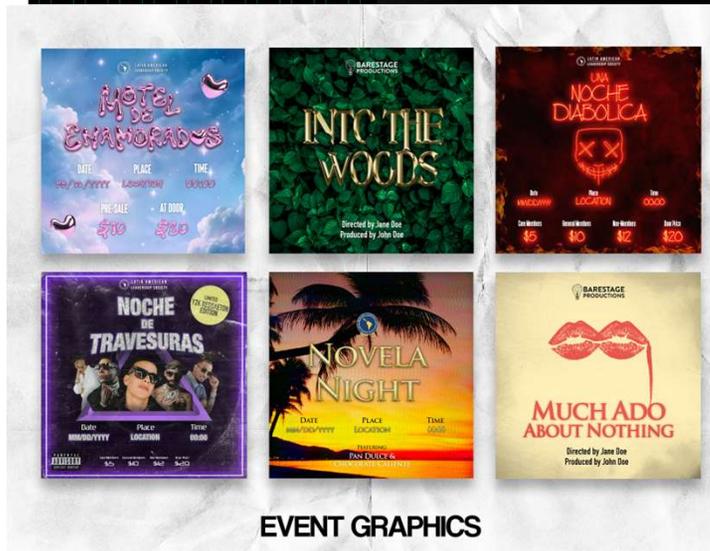


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Graphic Design - Personal Work

I am very interested in graphic design and how to best represent the essence of something visually. This is why, in my free time, I usually play around with the Adobe programs to make art. This, combined with my roles as marketing in various student organizations, has led me to create multiple posters and flyers for different events. Here are some of my work samples.





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I hope to work at a small architectural firm in either the Bay Area or Sacramento, as a designer and working towards my licensing. I do not see myself joining graduate school directly after my undergraduate studies because of the need for an income.

Paula Alatore

BA Arch 2026

GPA: 3.85

- First generation student, saw architecture as a balance between creativity and STEM fields.
- CASA member, with two jobs
- CED Design Competition first place, AIAS and AIA East Bay, CASA, NOMAS, and APX.

Latinx in Architecture SF Prize:

\$ 900

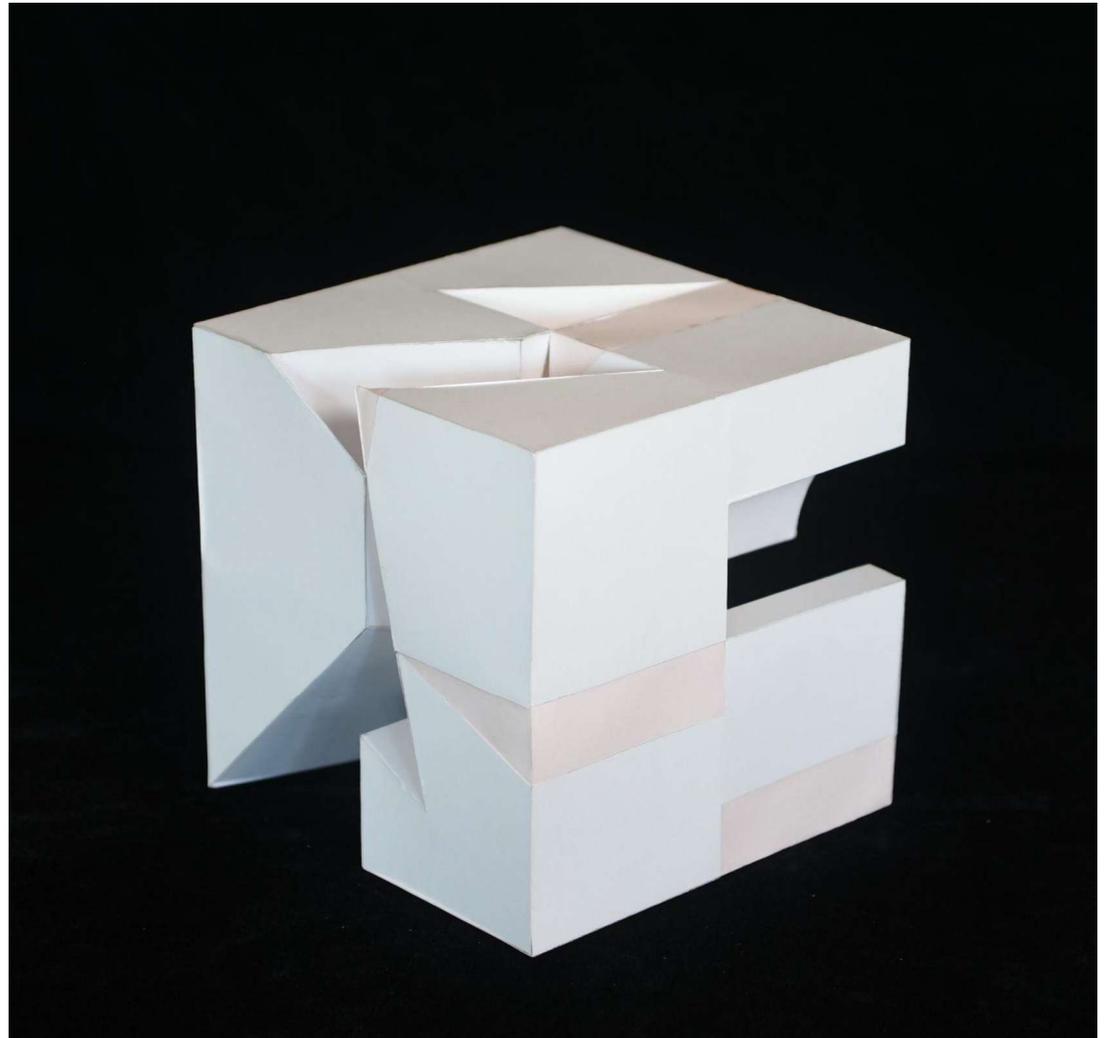


Canyon Cube

ARCH 11a

Prof. David Orkand

This work involved the process of randomly creating cuts across eight different cubes, and then assembling them into a larger cube. My choice of assembly placed all the cuts on the inside of the cube as a way to study the travel of light through a fractured, canyon-like object.



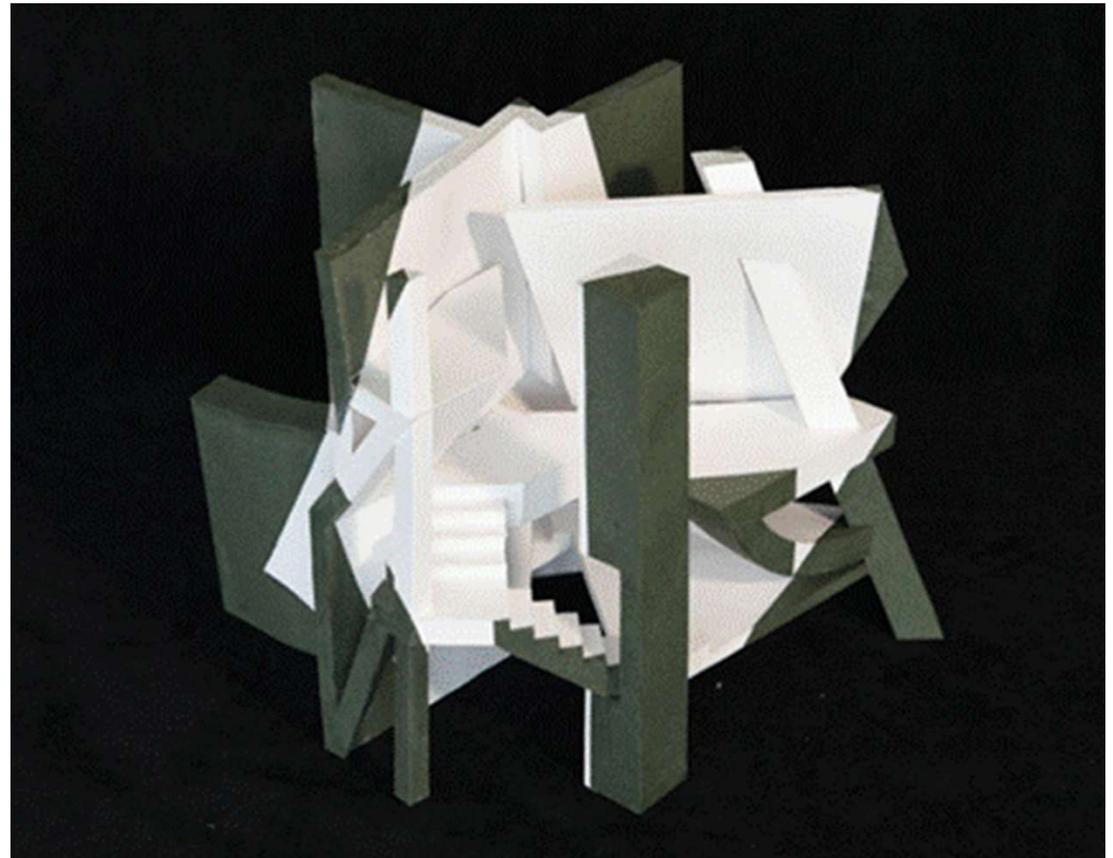


Abstracted Cube

ARCH 11a

Prof. David Orkand

This project was a further iteration of the last. We kept the inner faces of the cube and turned them into a structure with wall thickness, adding stairs and columns. I decided to carry on with the study of light and fracturing. by emphasizing the fractures, creating spaces of light and darkness, and placing the stairs in a way that allowed one to traverse both the fractures and the different light/dark spaces.



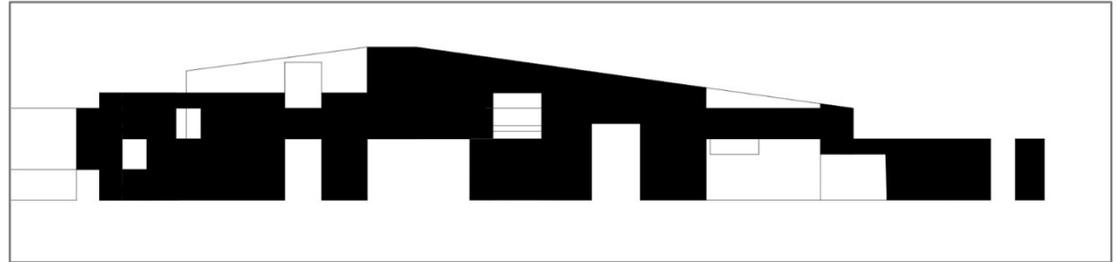


Thickened Edge

ARCH 11b

Prof. Rudabeh Pakravan

For our first assignment, we were given a site and told to thicken certain edges, creating a volume in whatever shape and height we wished, and then subtracting voids from it based on a grid. The main goals of my project were to make the grid prominent on the massing from all perspectives, and to create as many double negative spaces using the voids.





Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



I see myself working at a firm that values the needs of the community, dedicated to helping low-income individuals and promoting affordability. My goal is to apply my skills as a designer to create spaces that are aesthetic and foster equity, accessibility, and social cohesion.

Alondra Castillo

BA Arch 2026

GPA: 3.6

- Come from a low-income household with immigrant parents.
- Found empowerment and comfort in art.
- CASA offered valuable opportunities for networking and professional growth.

Latinx in Architecture SF Prize:

\$ 900

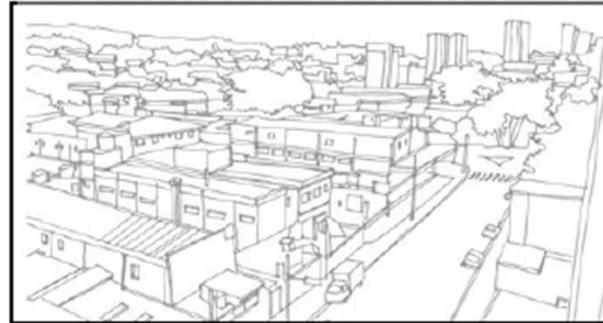


Chicano Park Legacy

ENV DES 5

Prof. Greg Castillo & Pol Fité Matamoros

This project takes on a historical fiction approach, featuring the impact the Latino community in Logan Heights had on the built environment. This graphic novel highlights the injustices faced by the community while communicating the importance of community activism and empowerment.



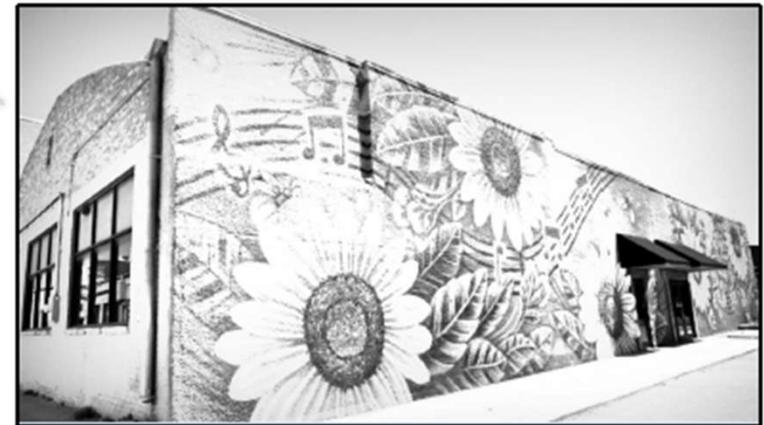
An overview of the city of Logan Heights before any government related institutions came in and disturbed the low income Mexican American community. The story will center around the Garcia family, who like many were impacted by the environmental injustice in the city.



After the construction of interstate five, Logan Heights was divided and Barrio Logan emerged. Barrio Logan, the side where the Garcia family ended up, was cut from many of the amenities it used to have access to. Despite the removal of homes and displacement of families, Uncle Sam (representing the government) continues to disrupt the Barrio Logan community.



However, the people feel like the park is incomplete. Many murals begin popping up. Eventually, the park is filled with multiple murals.



The Garcia family is asked about their thoughts on Chicano Park. They mention that the vibrant murals contribute to making the Mexican American community visible, which is a struggle they have been fighting for after constantly being ignored by the government. They describe how the murals add cultural value to the area, which makes it welcoming. It provides a space for the community to express themselves.

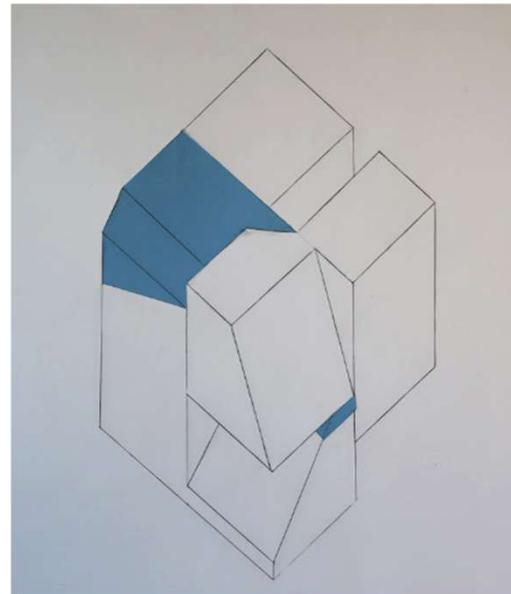
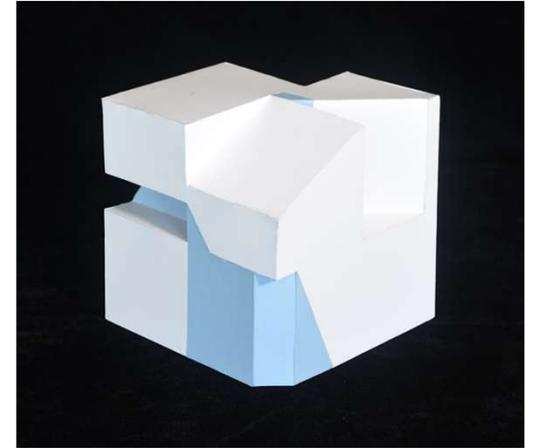
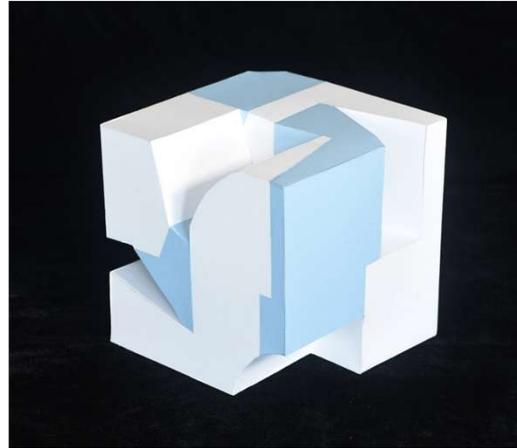


The Mega Cube

Arch 11A

Prof. David Orkland

This work features a representation of the fundamental aspects of design such as form, volume, and language by intertwining simple geometric shapes. The dynamics present emphasize the significance of these design elements and allow for the contemplation of shadow and materiality through the incorporation of color.



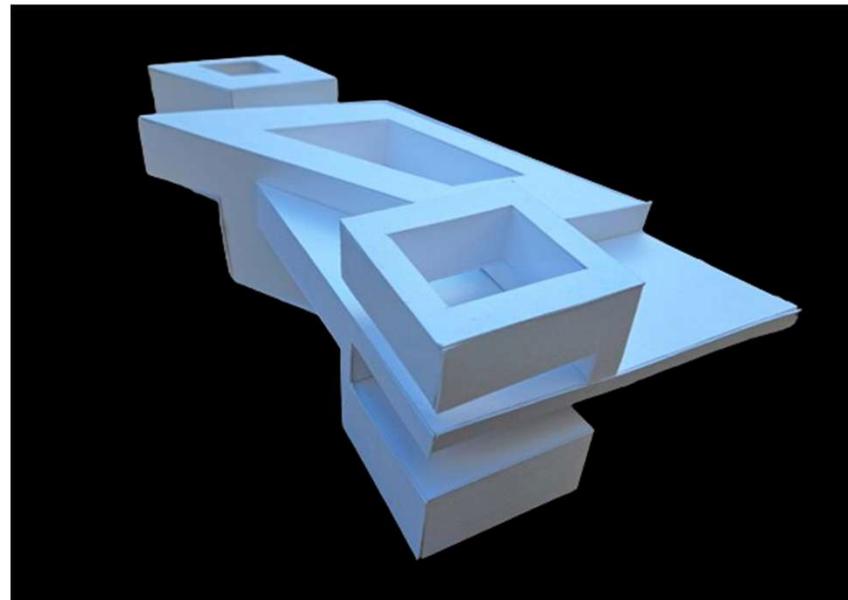
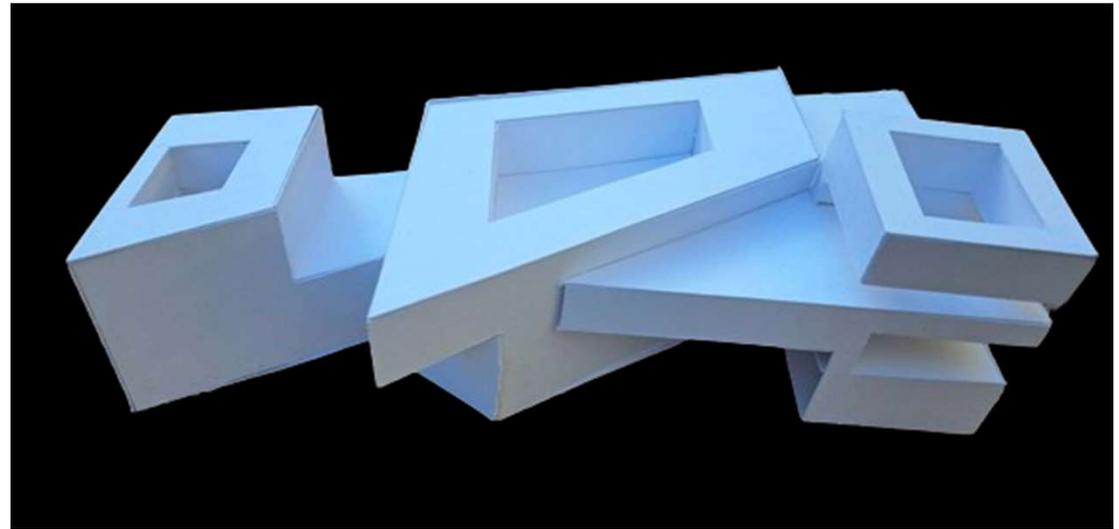


The Geometry of Design

Arch 11B

Prof. Rudabeh Pakravan

This project is centered around the use of a grid pattern which helps guide the form of the structure. The grid informs the cuts and voids present in this building, thereby facilitating the transformation of mass volumes into functional use and giving it an aesthetic form. The design process uncovers the transformative power of geometric shapes to produce architectural designs.





Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



The immediate next step in my academic and professional development involves committing to the Master's program in Landscape Architecture + Urbanism at the University of Southern California (USC).

Wendy Nicole Milan Angel

BA Landscape Architecture 2024

GPA: 3.8

- First-generation Mexican-American, raised in Santa Ana, in a one-bedroom apartment shared her family of 5.
- Has held various work-study positions, ranging from advising, research and consulting for a landscape design firm
- Participated in Academic Committee Member within UCB ASLA Student Chapter

Sara Ishikawa Prize:

\$ 1,000



CASA Alumni

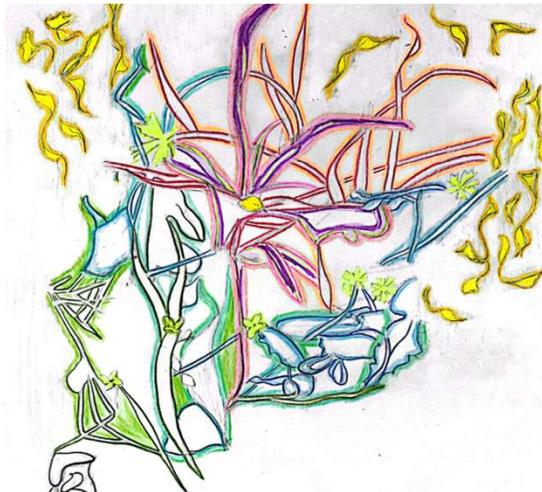
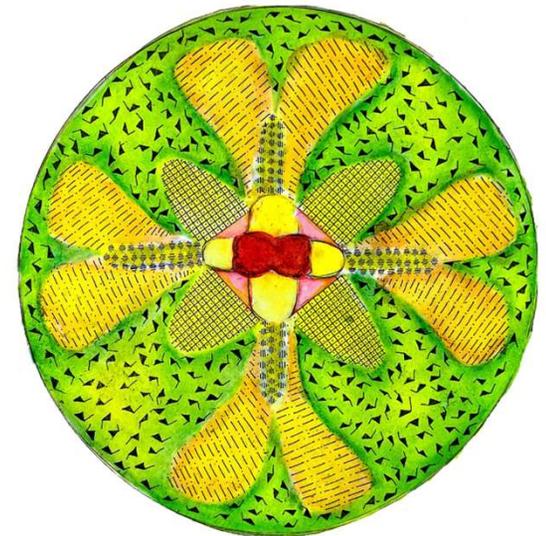
Awards Program

Laboratory for Invention & Visual Perception

LDARCH 135

Prof. Chip Sullivan

The following showcases design assignments from the Sacred Landscape course. Each image is influenced by unique design features that are shaped into blossoms.





Engaging with Communities through Sustainable Practice

ETH STD 198

Prof. Chip Sullivan

This project emphasizes the application of agroecology principles in Puerto Rico. In collaboration with Camp Tobonuco in Momeyes, Jayuya, we integrated academic theory with practical construction to create a sustainable compost toilet facility, enhancing community involvement and environmental education.





Enhancement of Victorian Park

LARCH 102

This introduces the Victorian Park project in San Francisco, CA, a design challenge centered around the reactivation of urban park space. The proposal focuses on adynamic user-oriented park furniture, like movable tables and chairs, and integration of Wisteria arches to craft intimate , immersive spaces, The accompanying illustrative design plan and vignettes depict these concepts in practice.





Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



My goal is to graduate from UC Berkeley with a BA Arch. After, I would love to pursue a MA Arch as well. One of my main interests is residential architecture to create homes for lower-income communities, a passion of mine because of the life I lived as a child.

Yaretzi Corpus Solis

BA Arch 2026

- Born in Coahuila, Mexico, moved to the Central Valley at 5. She and her family are undocumented.
- Come from a low-income agriculture family.
- Participated in Sharing Wisdom Across Generations event with the Chicanx Latinx Student Development Center.
- Contributing writer to ByDESIGN.

Isaac Alcantar DACA Prize:

\$ 1,000

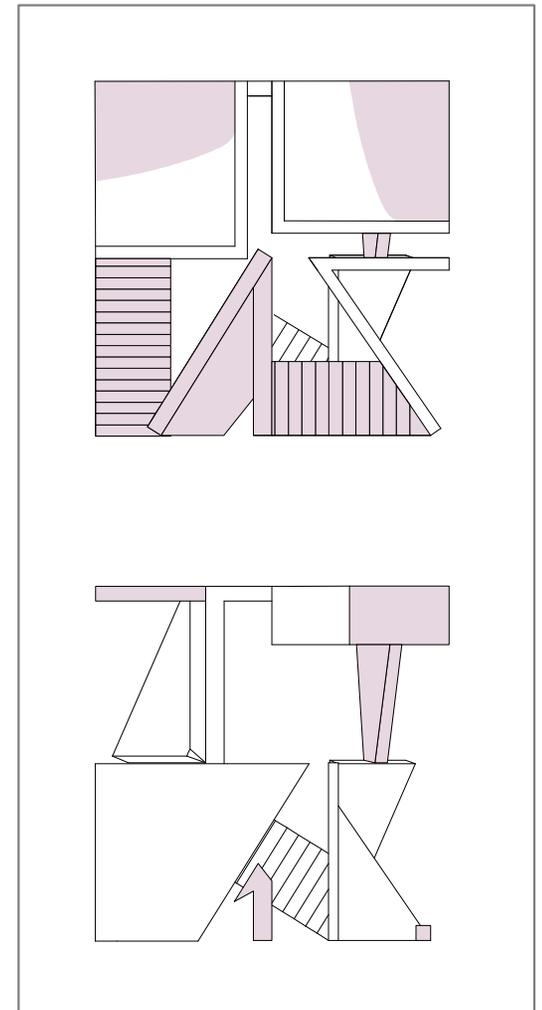
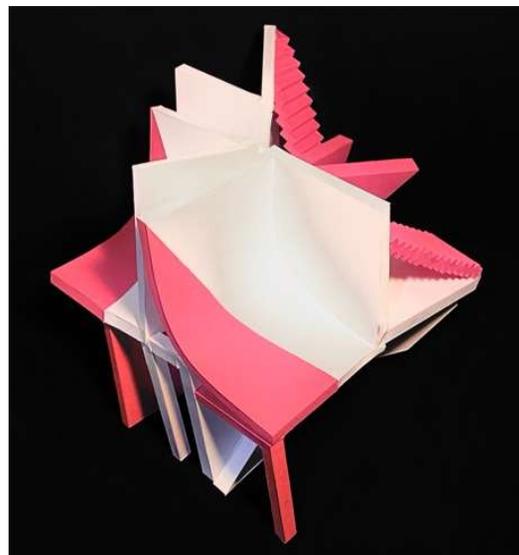


Final Model: “Mirroring Patterns”

ARCH 11A.

Prof.: David Orkand

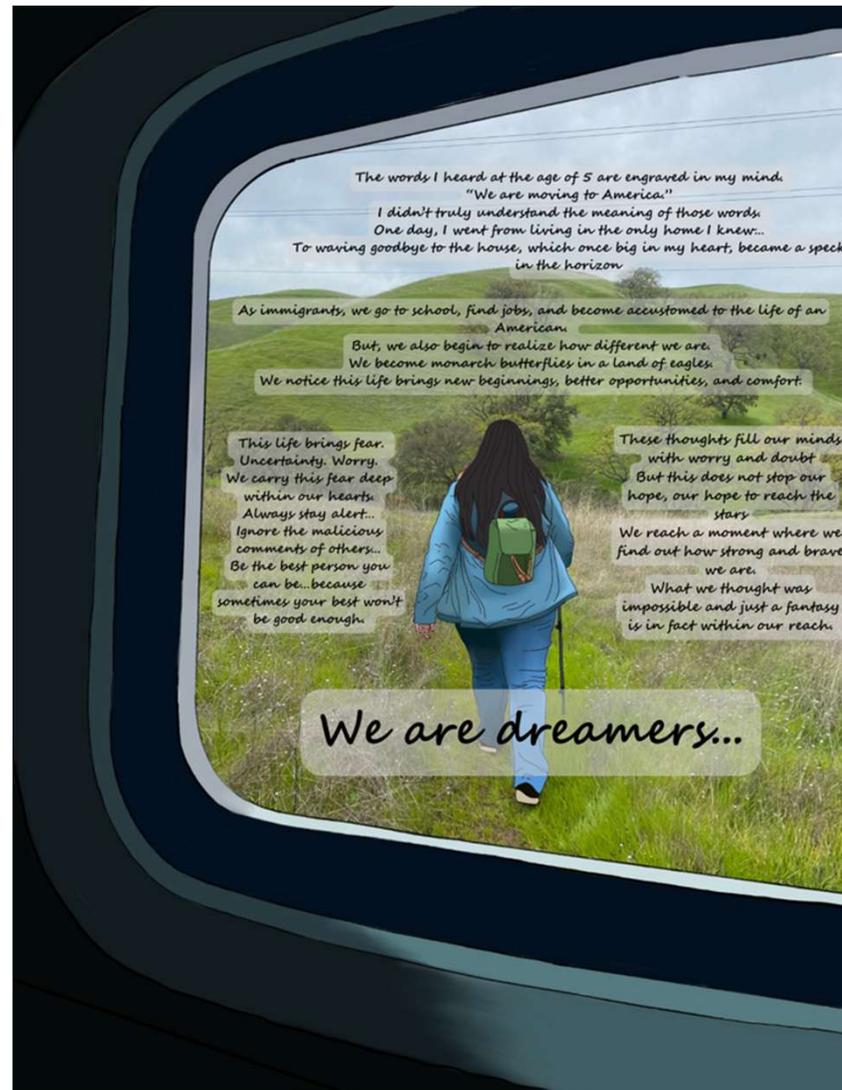
During this process, we focused on the idea of lines, shapes, and integrity of limitations given to us in order to create a form that had an overarching idea. For this model, the two key concepts that inspired the design were patterns revolving the model as well as a mirroring of ideas that transcend through the whole model.





Final Model: “We are Dreamers”

This piece is an image / drawing of myself with a self-written poem about my experiences being an undocumented student. It shows a glimpse into my life and the person I am. It's titled “We are Dreamers” because everyone should have the opportunity to accomplish their goals and dream big without fear. This shows my determination to get through higher education and hopefully one day help others through the journey as well.





We Are Dreamers

The words I heard at the age of 5 are engraved in my mind.

“We are moving to America.”

I didn't truly understand the meaning of those words.

One day, I went from living in the only home I knew...

To waving goodbye to the house, which once big in my heart, became a speck in the horizon.

As immigrants, we go to school, find jobs, and become accustomed to the life of an American.

But we also begin to realize how different we are.

We become monarch butterflies in a land of eagles.

We notice this life brings new beginnings, better opportunities, and comfort.

This life also brings fear.

Uncertainty. Worry.

We carry this fear deep within our hearts.

Always stay alert...

Ignore the malicious comments of others...

Be the best person you can be...

Because sometimes your best won't be good enough.

These thoughts fill our minds with worry and doubt

But this does not stop our hope, our hope to reach the stars

We reach a moment where we find out how strong and brave we are.

What we thought was impossible and just a fantasy is in fact within our reach.

We are dreamers...



Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



Embracing the challenges of independence and pursuing my passion for landscape architecture, I have come to realize I am capable of a lot more than I ever thought possible.

Brianna Barba

Landscape Arch 2025

GPA: 3.9

- From Mexico, influenced by grandmother's clothing creations and mother's passion for interior design and architecture.
- CASA Board, Historian, member of ASLA and Environ Design Undergraduate Student Council.
- Contributing writer to ByDESIGN, CED Dia de los Muertos article

Antonia Escobar Prize:

\$1,250



Un-leveling the Land at Pier 27 Landscape Design Case Studies

Prof. Karl Kullmann

Pier 27 is a flat grassy area, hardly used. It lacks an incentive to bring people in. I decided to create sculptural grass waves taking into account body proportions. The tallest is five feet and the smallest is a foot and a half. Each can be used differently: one for leaning, sitting, stepping, laying down, etc. This project tested our 3D modeling/post production abilities in a quick 3 weeks.





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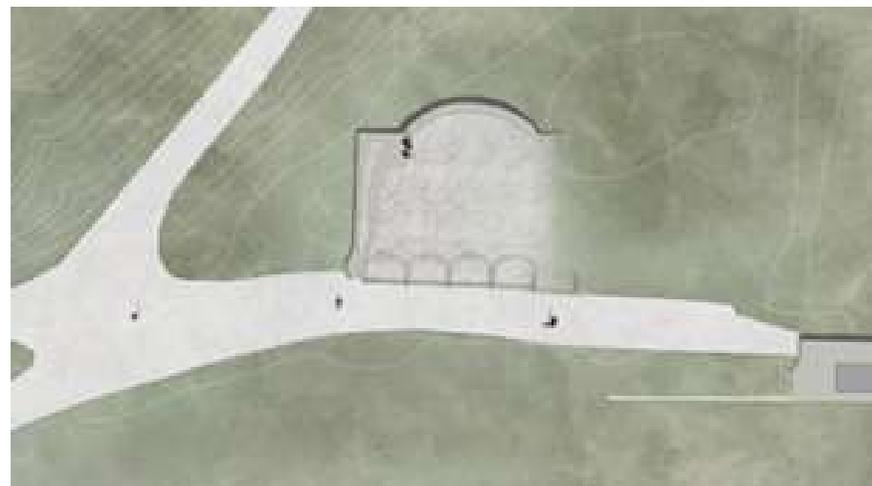
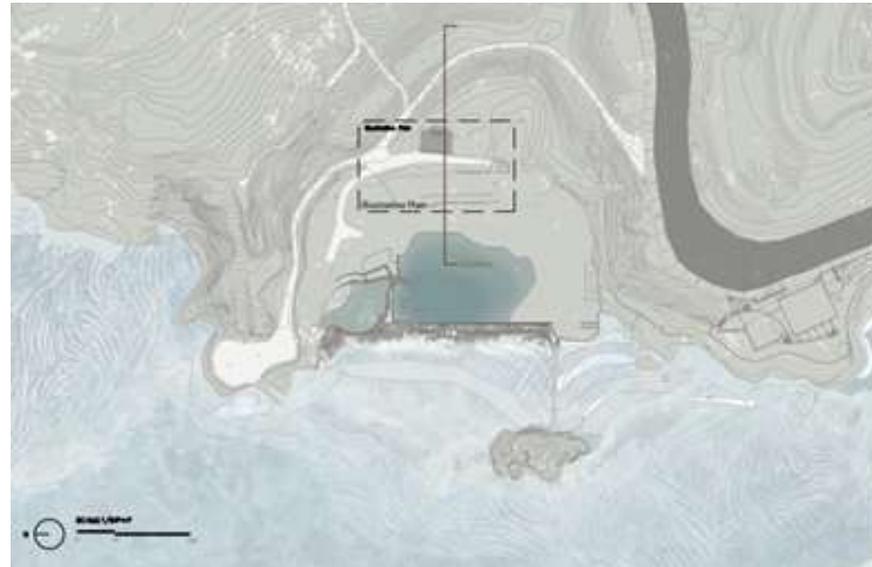




Framing the Landscape Studies: Sutro Bath

Case Studies in Landscape
Prof. Karl Kullmann

We were instructed to frame the site by either enclosing a portion of the land or orchestrating a view. I wanted my design to pay homage to what was once there. I took inspiration from the blueprints of the buildings and the design of the roof truss. I wanted to use five arcs to conceptualize the building. I removed the ornamentation and made the last arc the least built.





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Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



I am looking to working after I graduate. After some work experience, I will consider grad school, as of now I plan to work then take the exam. I am fortunate to have been given the CASA Alumni Internship through the scholarship last year.

Faith Cuellar

BA Arch 2024

- First generation Mexican-American from Santa Ana CA, raised in a single father household
- Member of CASA since her first semester, CASA Co-VP
- Member of NOMAs, AIAS, APX
- President and founding member of Cal women's Club Softball team

Antonia Escobar Prize

\$1,250



Office Center

Arch 100A

Prof. Ashely August

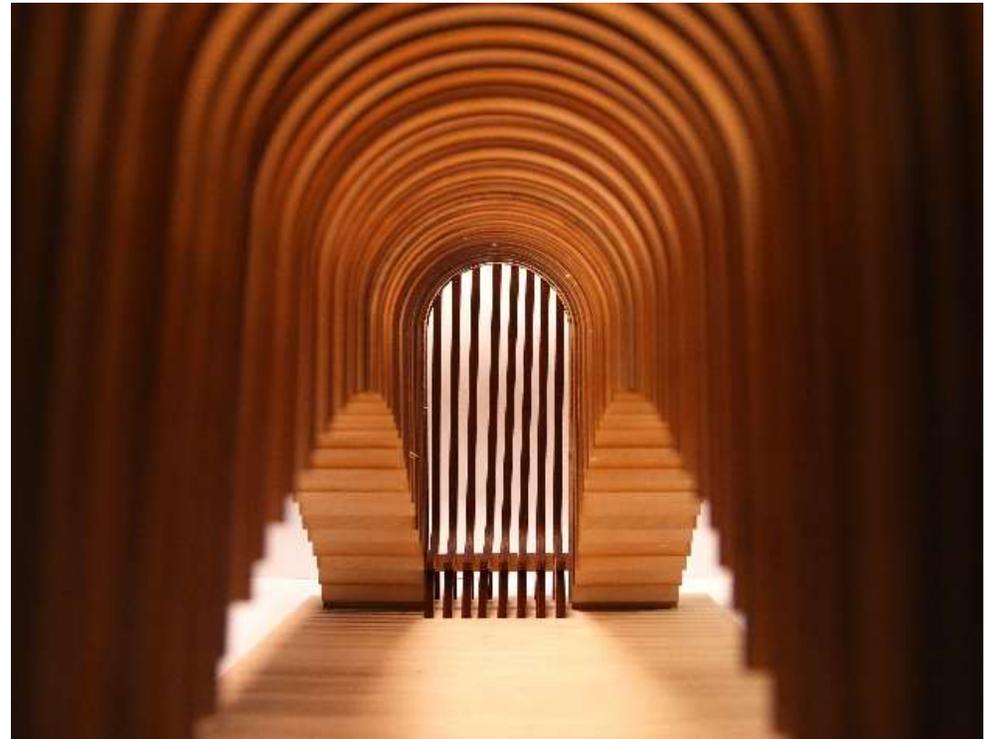
Designed an Office Center in Oakland, CA. The project allowed us to focus on communal and individual space, horizontal and vertical circulation, programmed and unprogrammed space, form and envelope, and access to natural light in a constrained site.





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Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



My goal is to gain experience in a Landscape Architecture firm prioritizing environmental sustainability, or an Architecture firm specializing in educational institutions or affordable housing.

Marcos Vargas

BA Sustainable Environmental Design 2025

- Grew up in agriculturally dense Oxnard, CA, as a first-generation Mexican American.
- First exposed to architecture at 10 on a trip to Tequila, Mexico, an uncle gave him a book: “Asi que quieres ser arquitecto?”
- CASA Officer, Digital Marketing Chair
Participated in the inaugural AIAS CED Design Competition

Sara Ishikawa Prize:

\$ 1,250



El Callejon, Unifying Disruption through Void

ARCH 100A

Profs.: Adam Miller

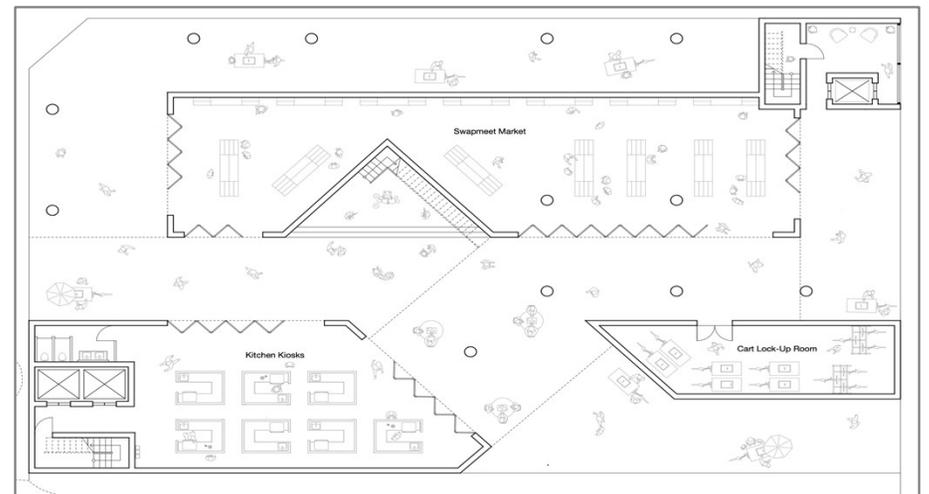
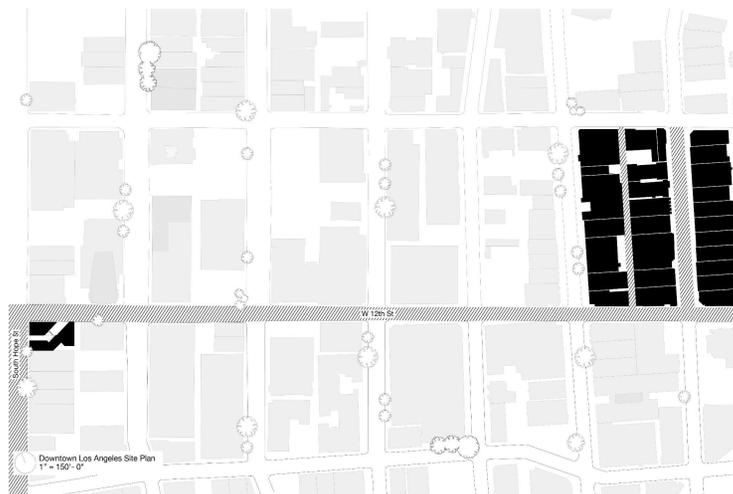
Focused on enhancing vibrancy, integrating context-sensitive design with a focus on program and form for this adaptive reuse Community Work Center. Close to the lively Santee Alleyways, a low-income Latinx shopping hub, the site's program takes inspiration from this dynamic community. Integrating a Swap meet and an Art and Cultures Center,



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The Intersubjective Structure

ARCH 100B

Prof.: Morganne Copp

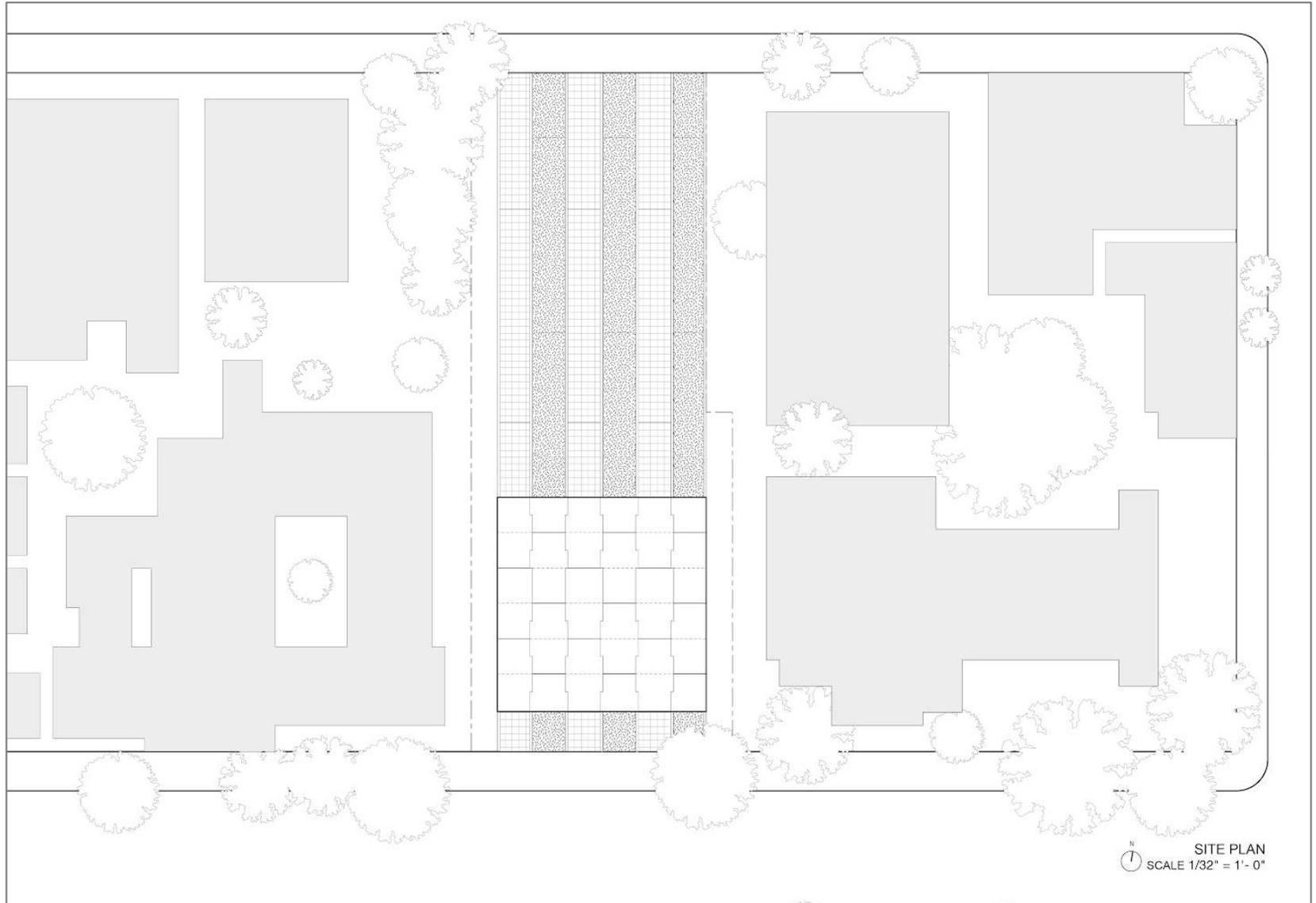
The pavilion stack structure challenged conventional notions of the square and truss. The utilization of a 6x6 grid served as the cornerstone to shape the pavilion's form, allowing for playful manipulation of overlaps to seamlessly integrate with the surrounding landscape. The pavilion's switchback rows incorporated printed glass elements, further enhancing the harmonious blend between the structure and its environment.



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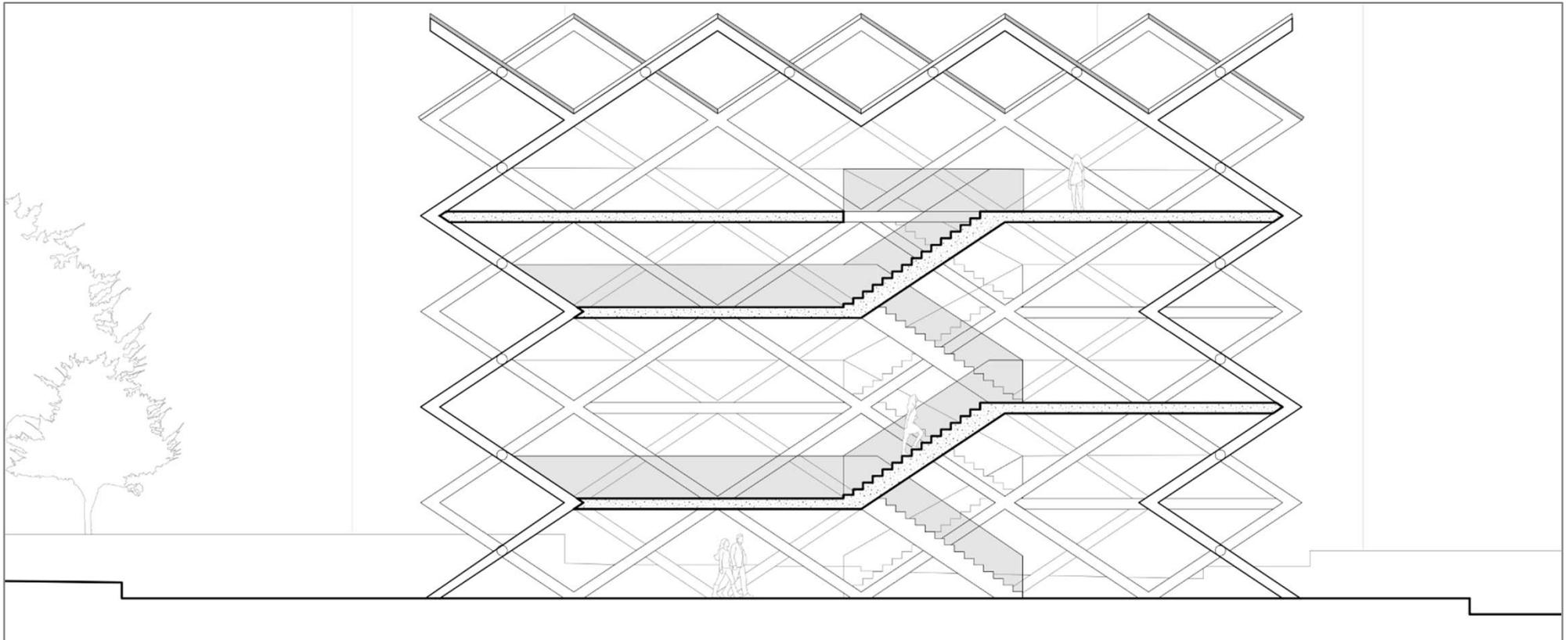


Site Plan

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Section



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Lourdes Aguayo Francia

BA Arch 2025

GPA: 3.65

- First home as immigrants in the US was a one-bedroom mobile home for six.
- Joined CASA in first semester. Alumni Board, coordinated with LiA, AIA SF, Arquita and CA+D
- Contributing writer for ByDESIGN

Maria & Guillermo Hernandez Prize:

\$1,500

After graduation, I hope to take a gap year to travel South America. Recently attaining my U.S. citizenship and moving to a completely new continent to study abroad has spurred a desire to travel the Latino world.

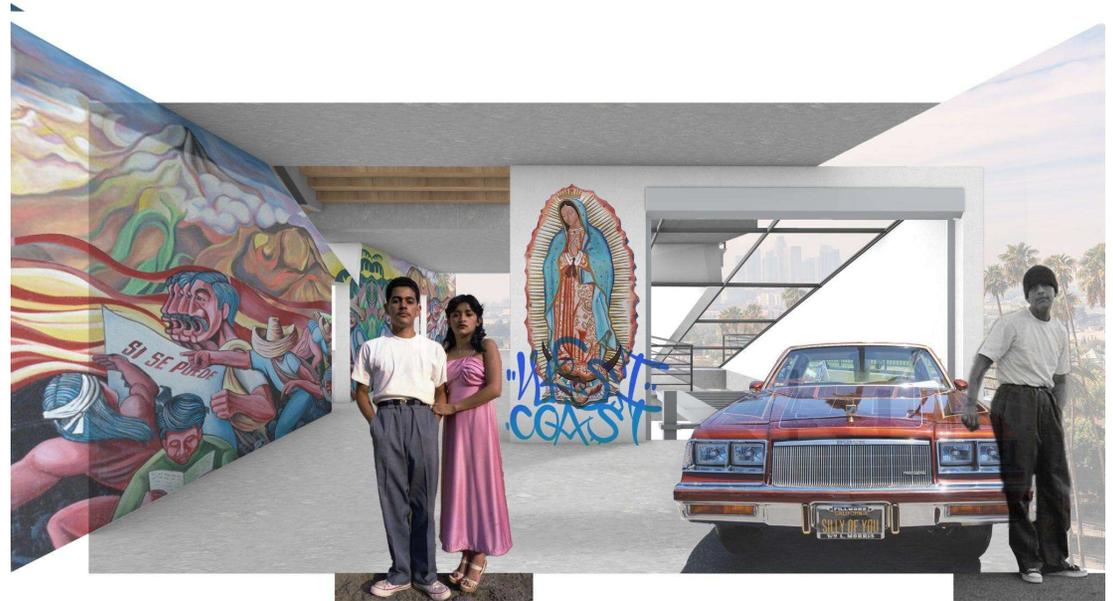


Chicano Art Studio

ARCH 100A

Prof. Peter Suen

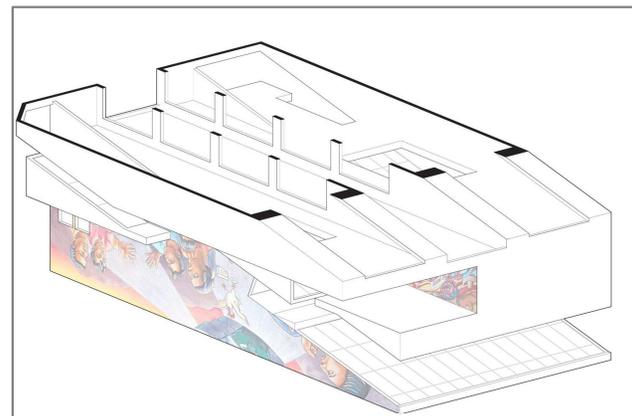
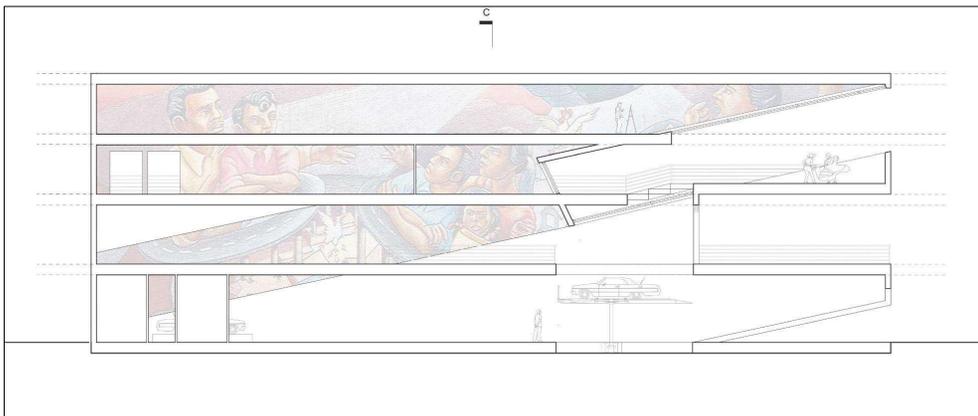
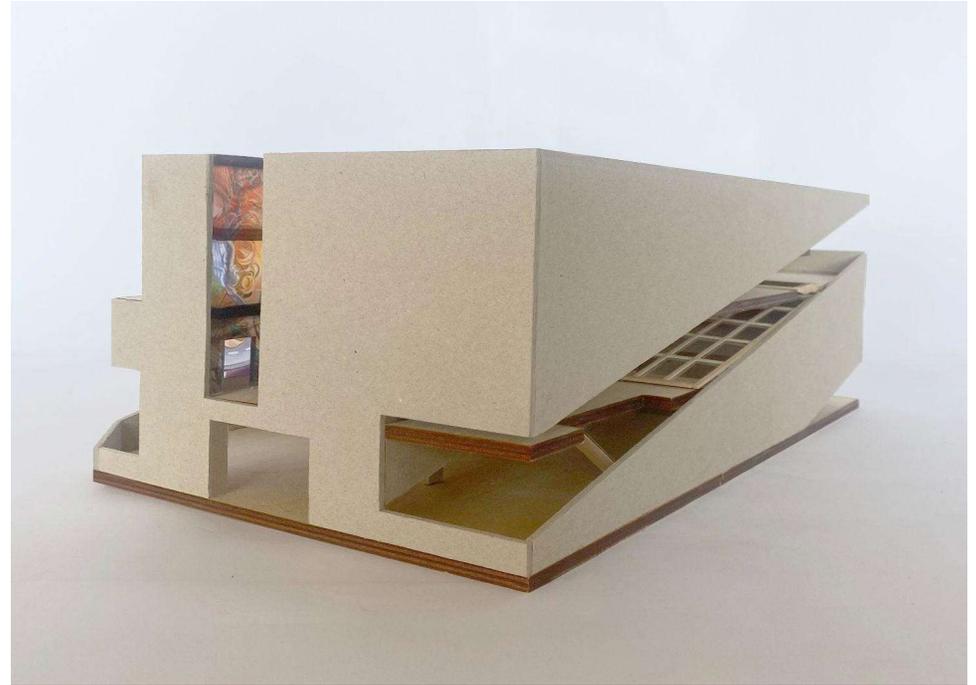
Through adaptive reuse, the course designated a work center in LA's financial district. A proposed Chicano art studio aims to provide an architectural haven for LA's cultural artists, excluded from design and impacted by gentrification. This space not only facilitates the creation and display/sale of art but also reinforces the cohesive presence of Chicano communities.





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Chicano Art Studio

ARCH 100A

Prof. Peter Suen

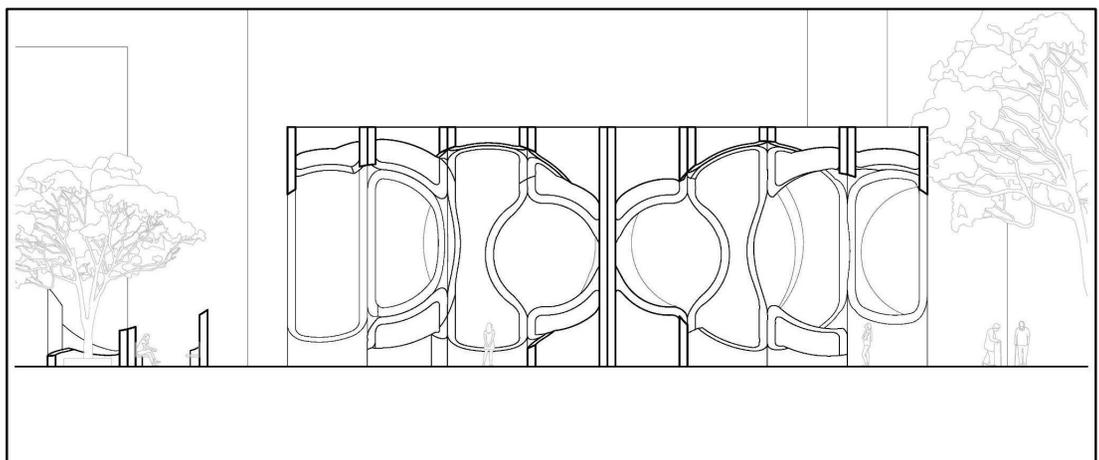
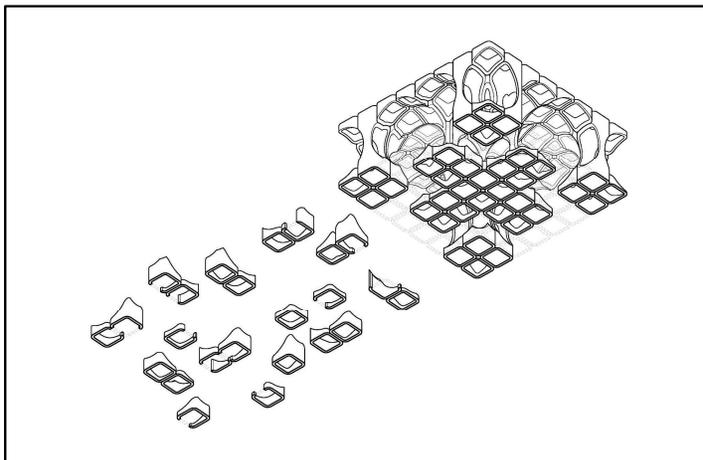
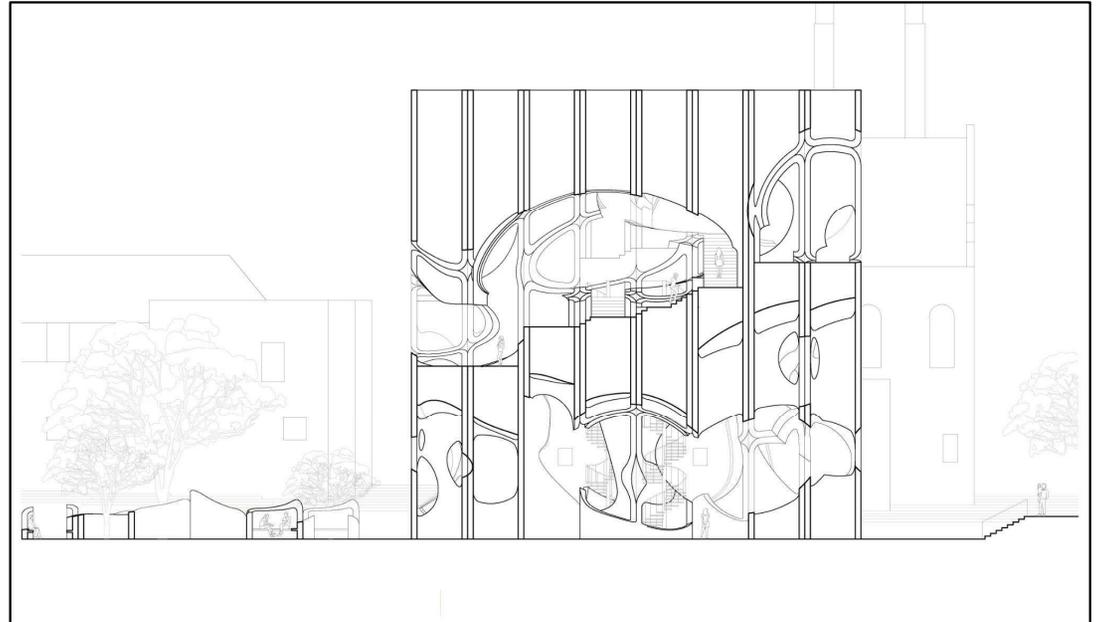
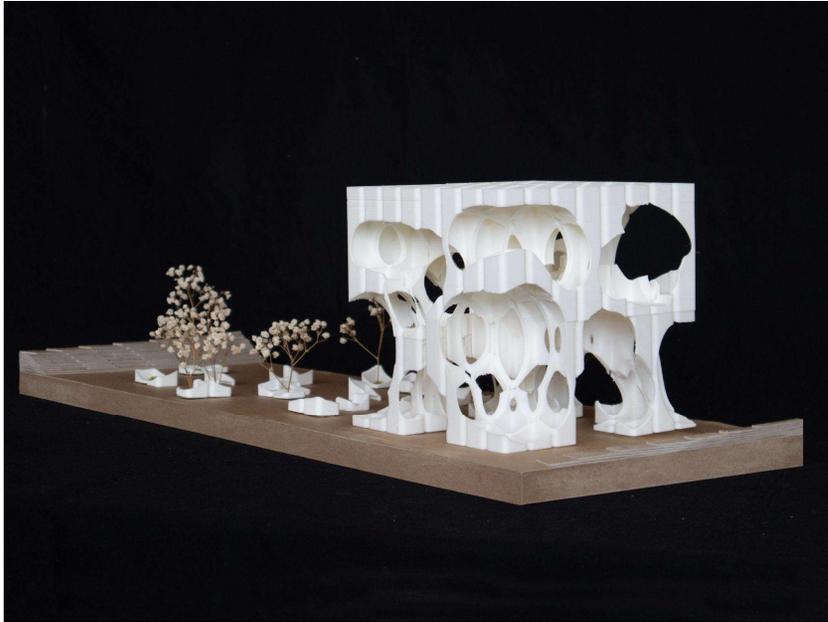
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CASA Alumni

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Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



While I've worked extensively with non-profits and city partnerships, I'm eager to delve into opportunities with public or private firms, and to work directly with cities or counties.

Gladys A. Valadez

BA Sustainable Environmental Design 2024

- Sustainable environmental design: we must assess, challenge, and work through adversities within the built environment.
- CASA President 2 years, engaged with LiA as part of the Programming and Network subcommittee.
- Two time recipient of Segal Education Award and CASA Alumni Scholarship

**Maria & Guillermo Hernandez Prize:
\$1,500**



Regional Profile of Los Angeles County

CYPLAN 190: Data Science:
Urban Transitions to Carbon
Neutrality

Prof. Dr Nader. Afzalan

Utilized at least 6 data systems, including ArcGIS Pro to generate maps, charts, and infographics to present your findings, using data provided from other sources. We tailored our communication to policy professionals and ensured our analysis addresses the "how," "what," and "where."

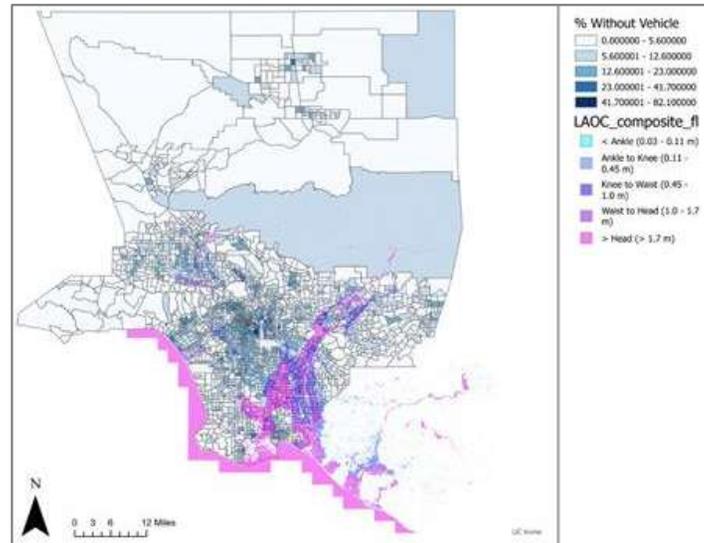


Figure 1. Proportion of residents per LA County census tract without vehicle access, and composite flooding depth for 100-year disaster events.

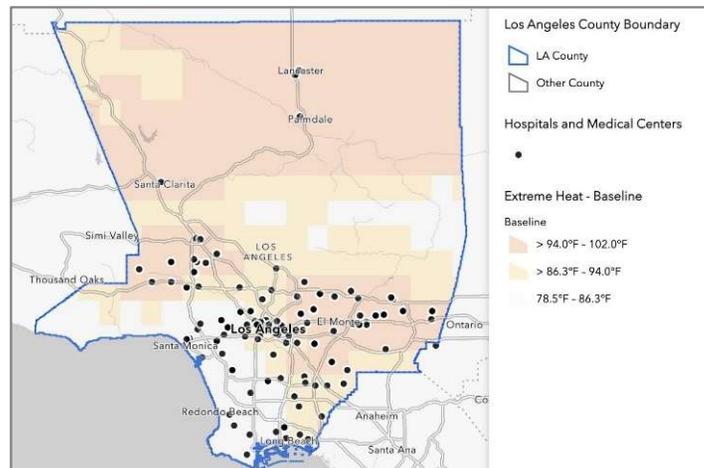


Figure 14. LA County hospital and medical centers overlaid with extreme heat.

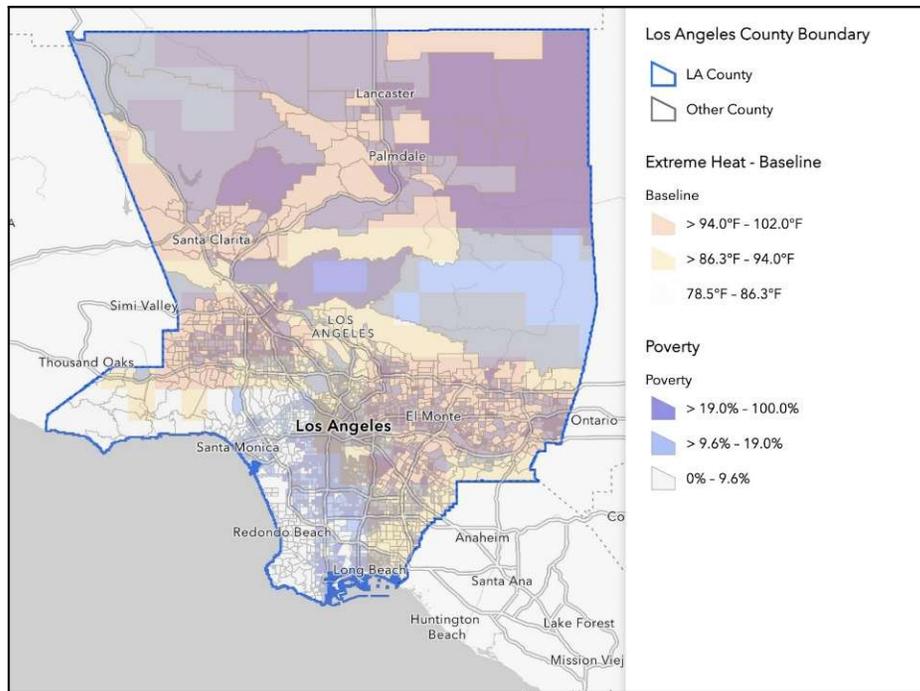


Figure 10. Proportion of LA County residents facing poverty and suffering from extreme heat.

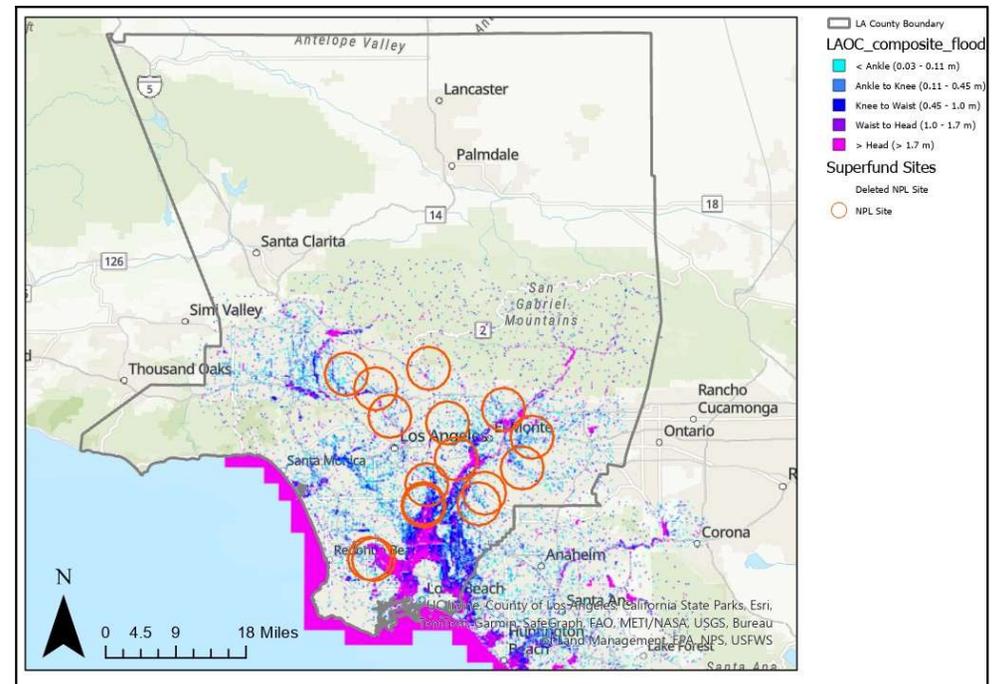


Figure 11: LA County hazardous waste sites (EPA Superfund) in 100 year flood event.



Academic Achievement, Creative Excellence & Community Design Justice



Five years from now, I see myself pursuing and completing my master's degree in architecture and city planning and in the process of becoming a licensed architect.

Samantha Andalon

BA Architecture 2023

- Past President/Chair CASA
- CASA Alumni Summer Internship
- CASA Alumni Fellow, Architectural Designer at Martinez-Cutri, Designer of Integrity Charter High School
- Contributor to ByDESIGN
- Has been accepted at Yale, Columbia, USC and UCLA for M. Arch program

CASA Alumni Master's Prize

\$1,500



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College of Environmental Design, UC Berkeley



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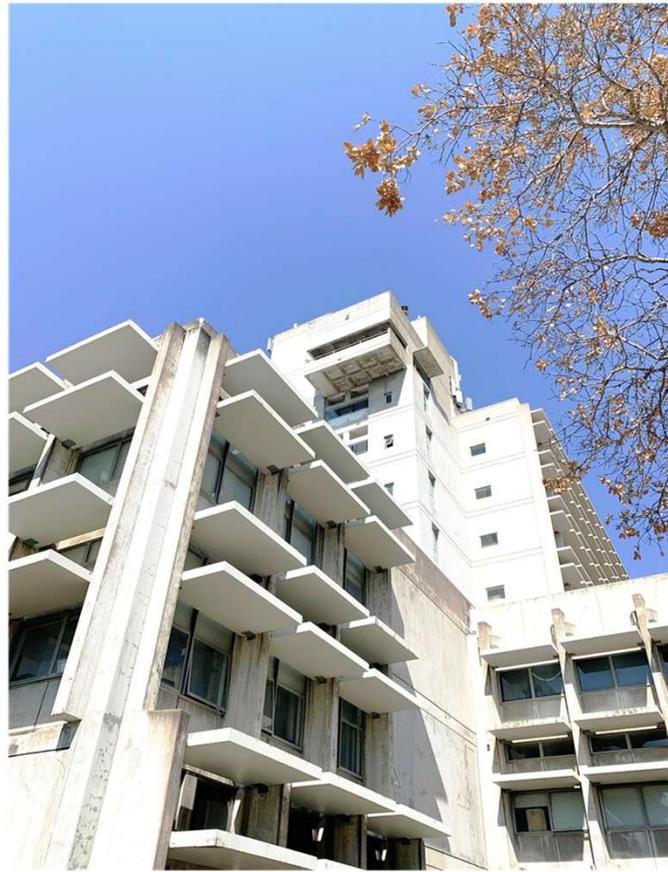
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College of Environmental Design, UC Berkeley

A CLOSING THOUGHT

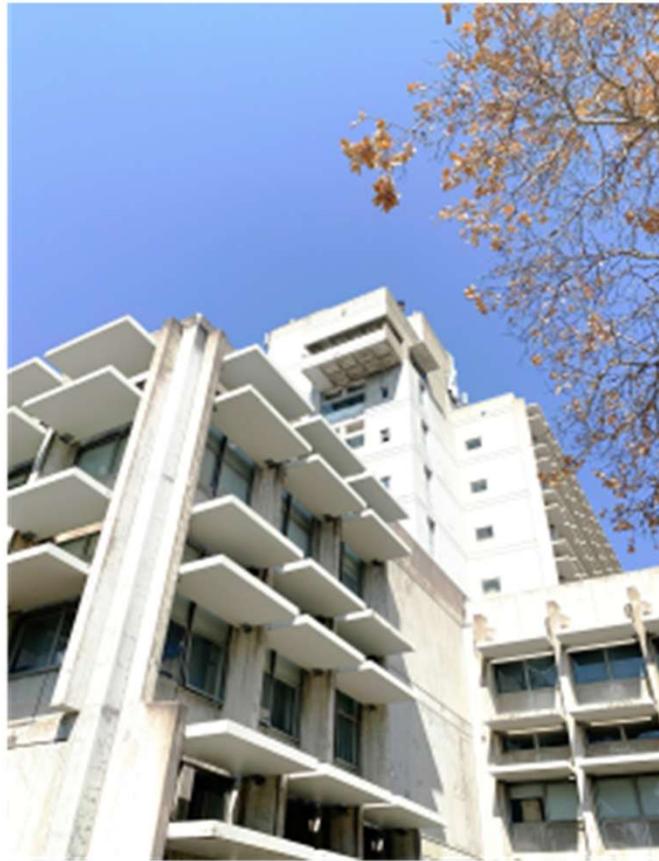


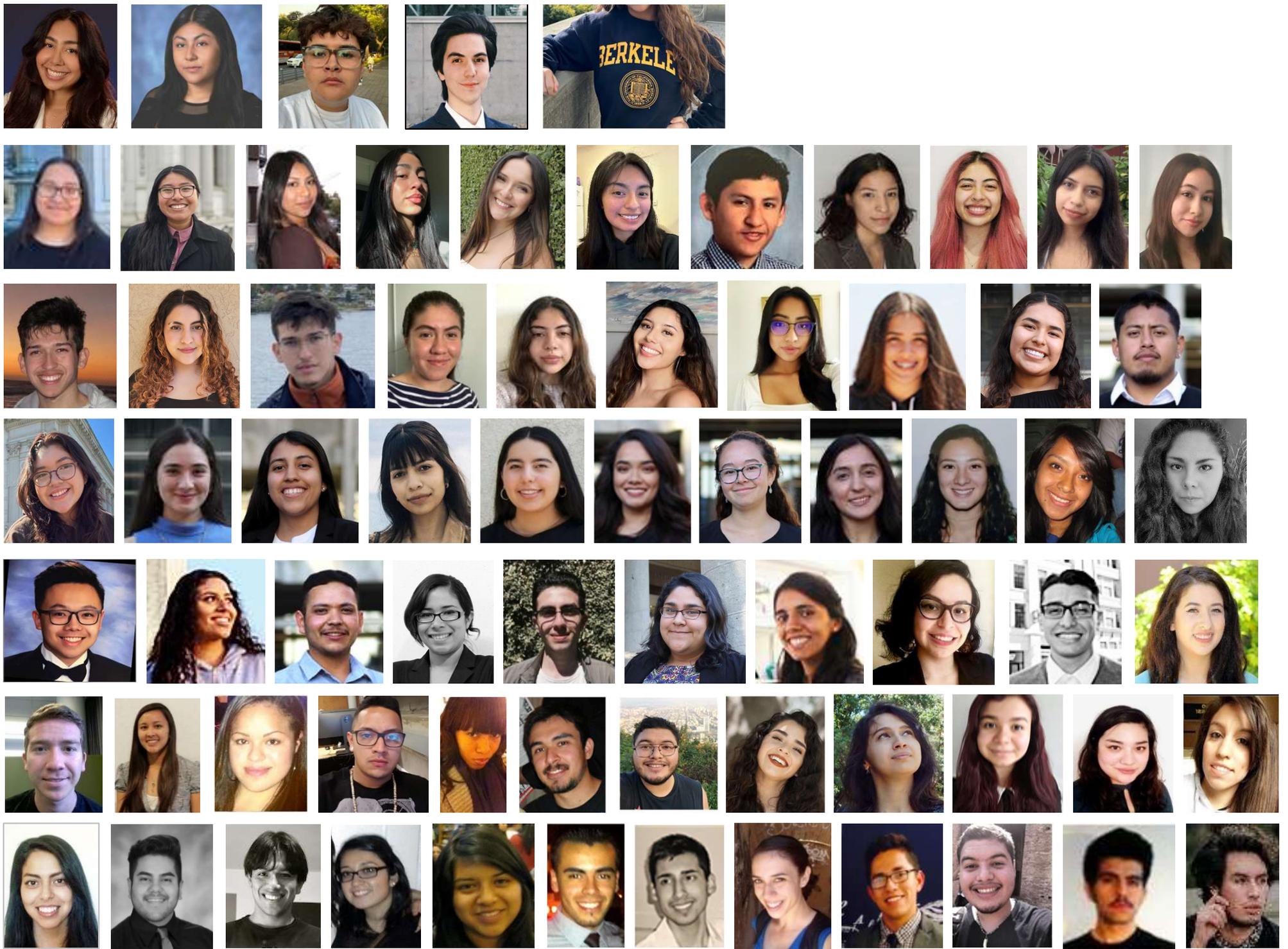


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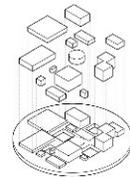
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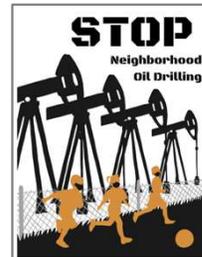
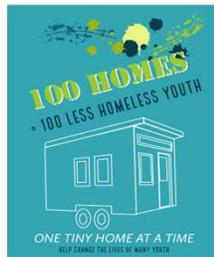


College of Environmental Design, UC Berkeley



Thanks for supporting the Dream!

Buenas noches, cuidense!





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