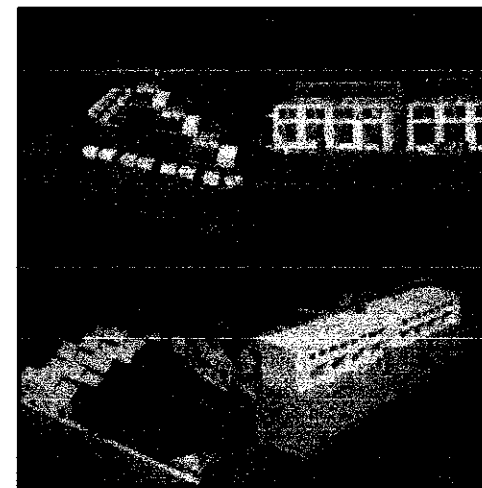


Creating a Sense of Place for the Homeless

Homeless Campus



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I would like to express my gratitude to:

Bob Fisher, my thesis studio professor, for guiding me through the last two semesters and helping me get a handle on such a large thesis project, and putting up with all my crap as well.

Rod Underwood, thesis advisor, for having all of his thesis students meet as a group to discuss our projects each week. That helped keep me on track (somewhat anyway). Without that I doubt my project would have evolved as far as it did.

My parents, Bill and Debby, for supporting me through my five years at Ball State and helping me to achieve the goals I have set for myself.

My grandparents, Grump and Grandma Gano, and Grandma Peddie, for also supporting me through my years at Ball State, especially Grandma Gano, I know she isn't here to see me graduate, but I know she is watching and is proud.

Indianapolis has a problem, as do many cities: homelessness. Approximately 15,000 people are homeless each year in Indianapolis. Roughly 40% are families while 30% are children. The city spends an estimated \$22 million annually, from public and private funds battling homelessness.

Despite the city's spending many people have repeated periods of homelessness, and there are signs, as well, that homelessness is increasing. Local shelters are constantly full and must turn away families.

Part of the problem, according to information presented by the city, is that the average wage for working families on welfare in Marion County is \$7.62 while the average hourly wage needed for a two-bedroom apartment is \$11.12. Another problem is the location of the services that help the homeless. The services currently are spread out throughout the city. The city cited this as a cause for confusion for those needing services. They do not know where to go to get the help they need. There is a need, as determined by the city, for a centralized location for all of the services.

A campus environment that collects all of the services that work with the homeless is needed in Indianapolis to better serve and help homeless. This campus will be located in downtown Indianapolis adjacent to IUPUI's campus. The campus will include an administration building which houses the services for the homeless as well as public spaces like a cafe, markets, and gathering spaces. Also on site will be separate living facilities, in the form of multi-family housing.

Growing up in the suburbs of Indianapolis homelessness was never an issue in my life. My family however attended a church that was in one of the more impoverished neighborhoods in the city. Going to church is what first introduced me to homelessness. Our church had several homeless and at risk patrons attend Sunday worship. Our church provided them with multiple services including financial support (helping with bills and purchasing of clothes), the occasional odd job, and food from the food pantry. I never realized how important it was to those people to be a part of something until I volunteered at a homeless shelter. Once I worked there I realized that some of the patrons were there just for the food and that was it. I believe there was a difference between those at the homeless shelter and those who attended our church. Those attending the church felt apart of something, identified with something.

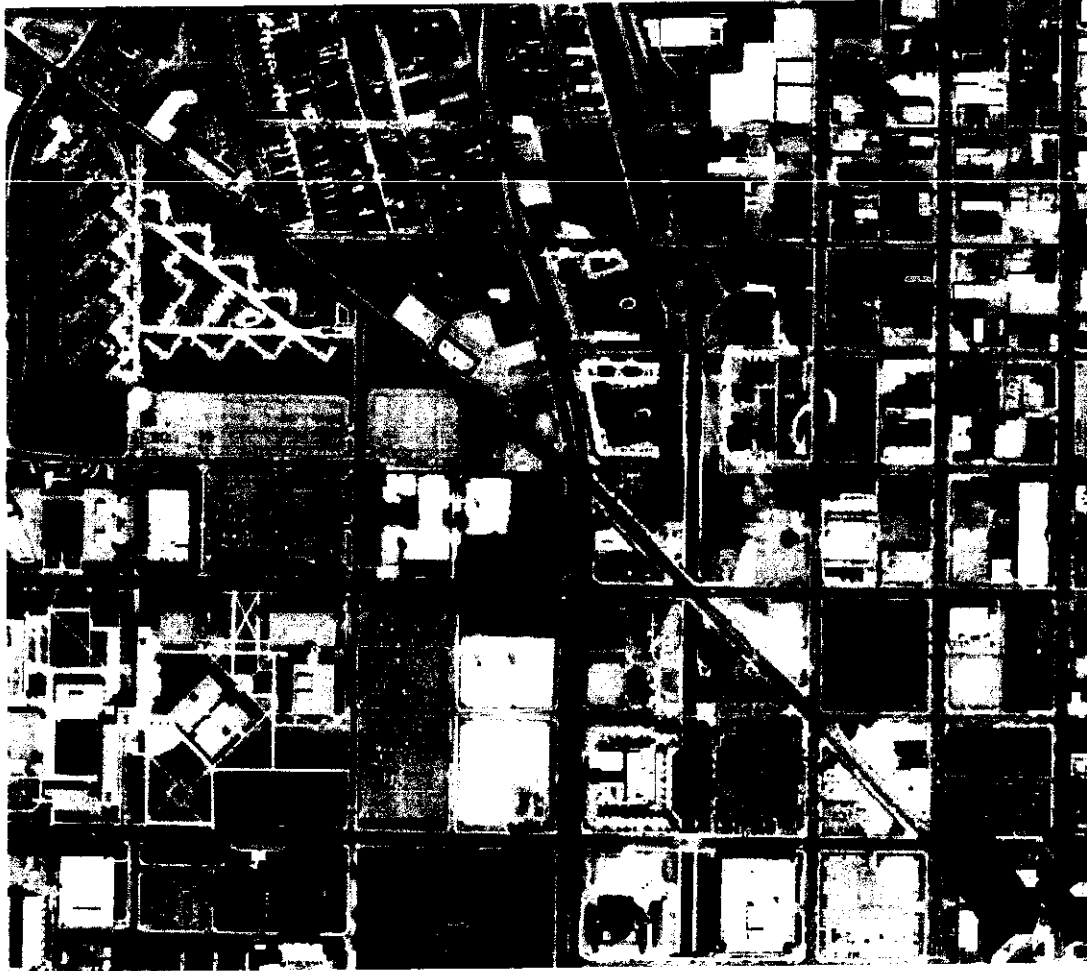
That is why I believe these people need a place that they can identify with. Therefore, I would pose these questions: How do you create a sense of place for a culture of vagabonds? Can a facility be created that is tied to the community and to the users without alienating the users?

The project that will test the thesis issues will be a Homeless Campus. The campus will be a place where all of the services that the homeless will need will be located in one location and easily accessible. There will also be separate living facilities on the campus.

The atmosphere of the campus will be similar to that of a college campus. The campus will include services to the public (cafes, public transportation stops, etc.), private living quarters, outdoor exercise space, all the amenities of a typical college campus but on a lesser scale. The reason for this is to create a place where those in need of the services can feel a part of something, a community.

Site Information





The area in which this project is to be set is in the city of Indianapolis. The services that are currently offered to homeless and at risk people are in the city center of Indianapolis. Therefore the site for the new Homeless campus will need to be in the immediate area. The actual site is the far east side of the IUPUI campus. This site was chosen for its proximity to the city center of Indianapolis and its relation to the IUPUI campus. The IU medical center will work in conjunction with the Homeless Campus to provide medical and dental care to those in need. This urban location was important also because of the public transportation in the city. The site is easily accessible to everyone.

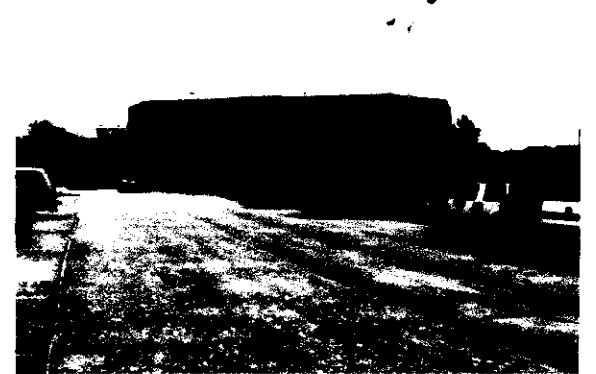
The site is situated in the center of a unique area. To the west there is a major university, to the north there is residential, to the south there is a park that links to the White River State Park, to the East is the canal walk, and to the Southeast is the city center. This site has the potential to link all of these different features of the city together while still creating a sense of place for the homeless.



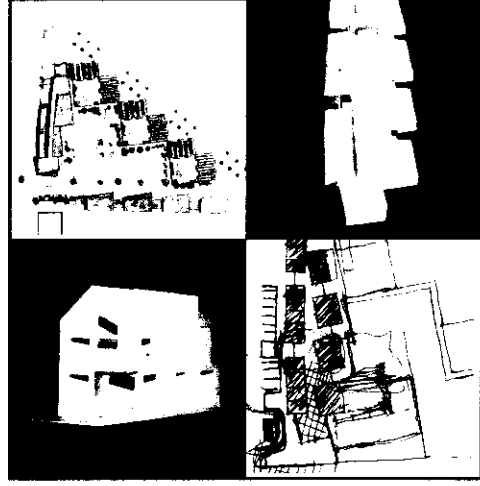
Site Information

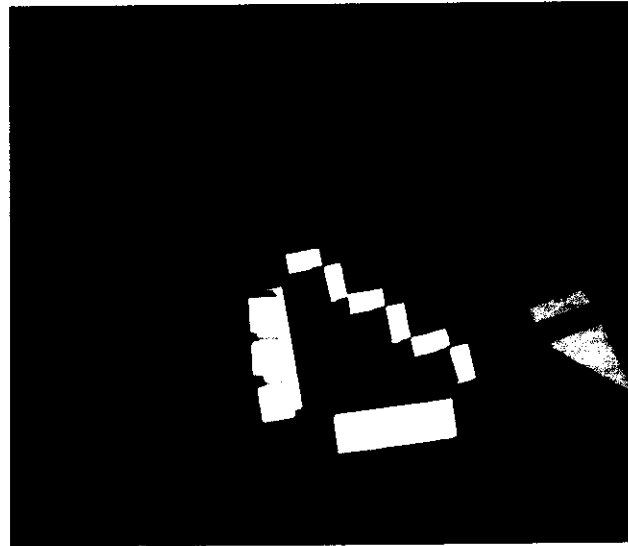
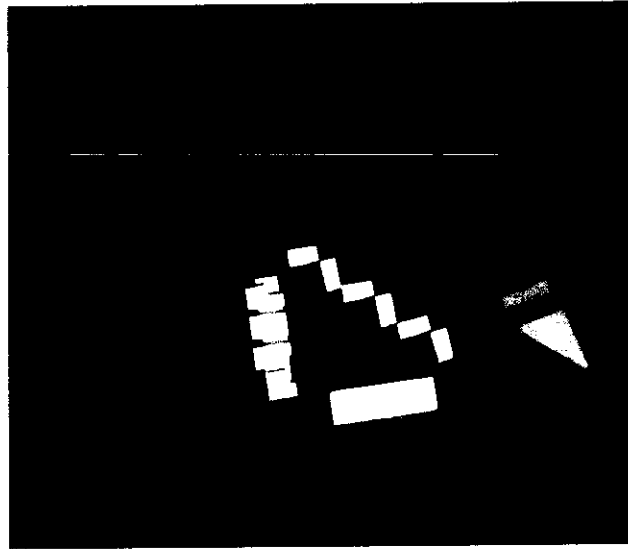
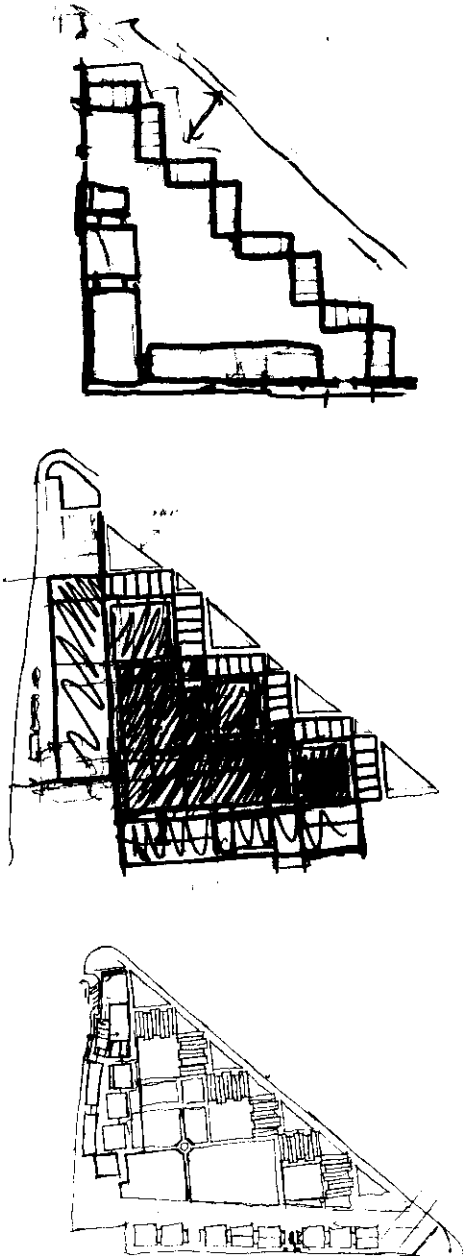
The immediate context of the site is three large parking lots. These lots are utilized by the students at IUPUI, which means there is a steady stream of people in and around the site. This brings an automatic clientele to the proposed markets of the Homeless Campus.

The surrounding area is zoned with three different types of buildings. To the west of the site it is institutional and to the east and north of the site it is mostly residential, and to the south and south east it becomes more commercial in nature. This apparent zoning is what helped define the location of the functions on the site. The context also helped guide the material selection and scale of the buildings to be placed on the site.



Design Methods





Design Objectives

Creating a sense of place for a group of people that do not specifically have a place is a very difficult task. There are two issues that need to be addressed.

1. How do you create a place that doesn't ostracize that group of people anymore than they already have been?
2. How do you design a place that is utilized by both the community of Indianapolis and the homeless?

The first step was to find an appropriate site in the city centre. The site that was chosen, as mentioned earlier, was chosen for its adjacencies to IUPUI, Military Park, the canal, and the heart of Indianapolis.

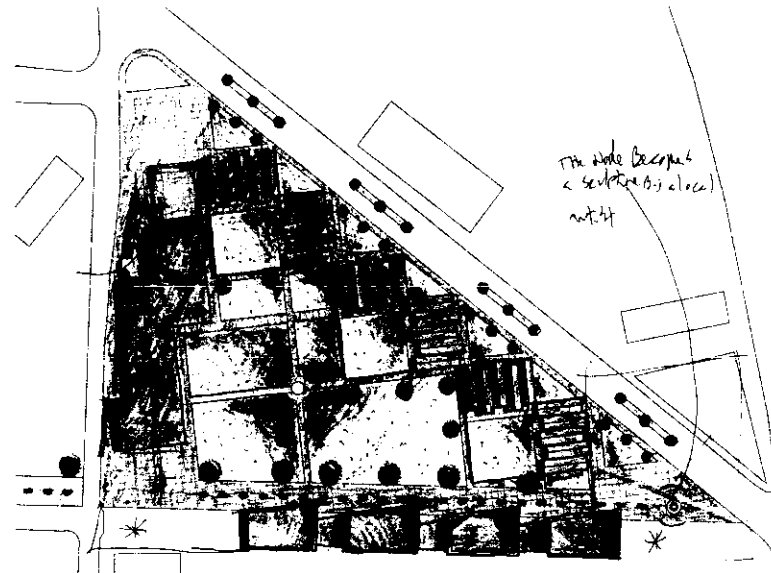
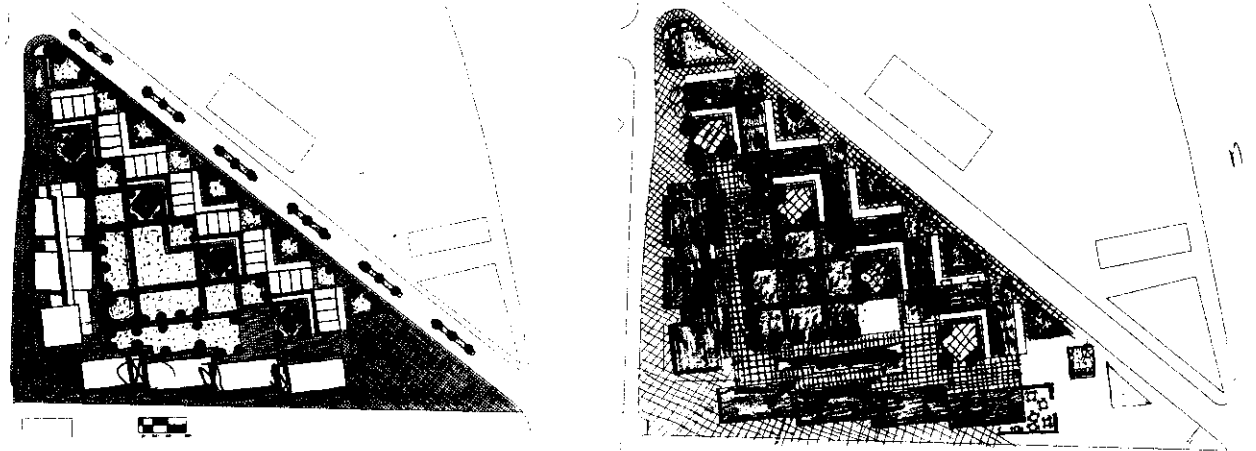
The next step was to start looking at the context to see what the best way to relate the campus to the city. Once that was accomplished the organization of the site was determined, and finally the designs of the actual buildings took place.

The Master Plan

The master plan went through many stages of development. The first was to decide on an organizational idea. The idea chosen was that of the centralized urban park.

This scheme provided several opportunities for community interaction and privacy for the users.

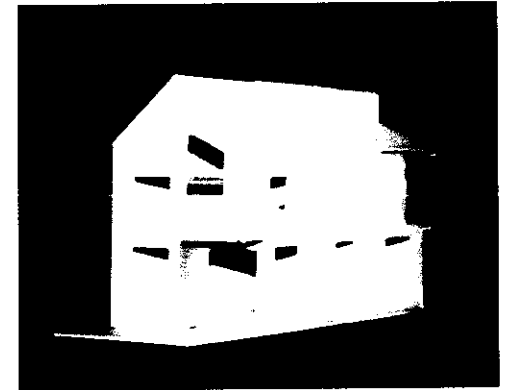
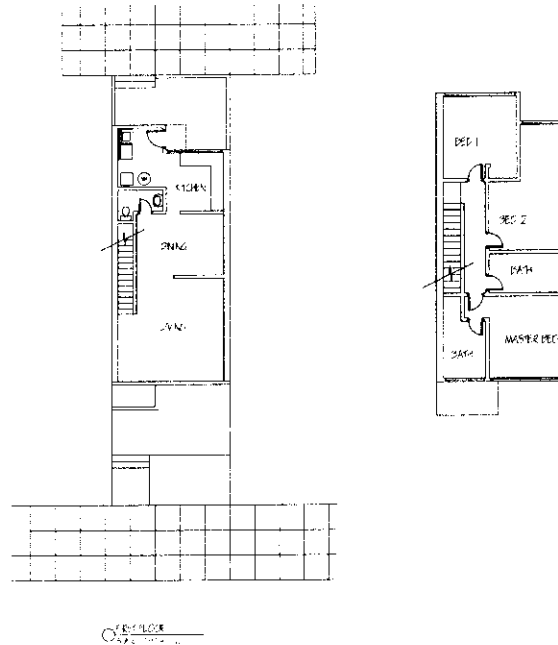
This green space originally was to be privatized for the use by those living at the facility, but after several schemes of the centralized urban park were worked out the idea of creating an open urban park to the public evolved. With the community park now set there still needed to be private outdoor green space. This space became small social courtyards shared by the townhouses.

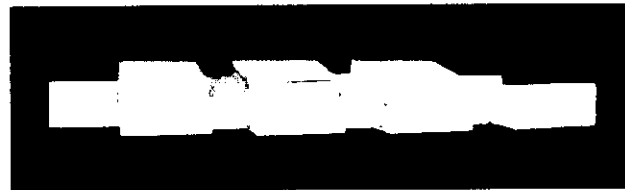
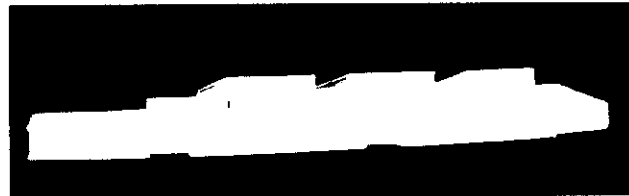
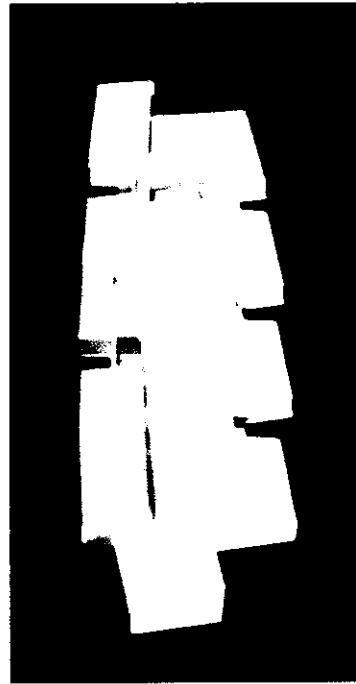
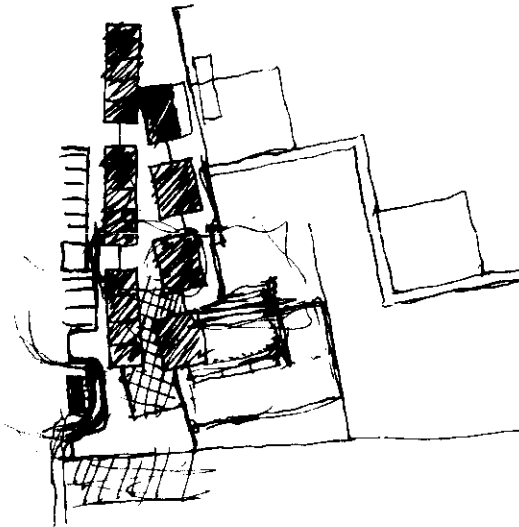
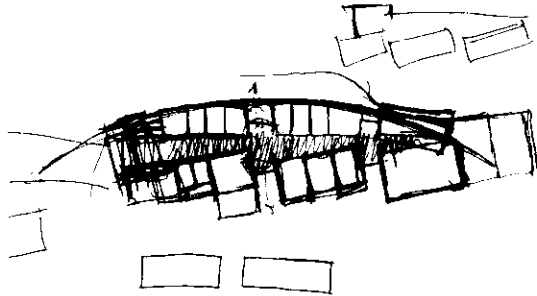
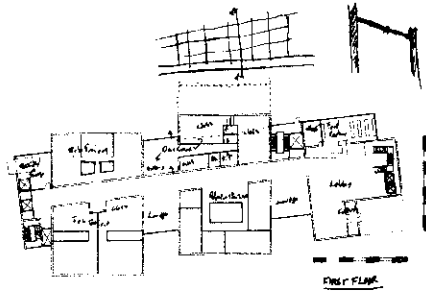


The Housing

The housing consists of 30 townhouses that would serve approximately 150-200 people. The idea behind the townhouses is to create clusters of ten that share a private courtyard as well as a "front yard". These yards were designed to help promote social interaction between the residence of the complex.

The roof forms of the townhouses are the way they are to provide clerestory windows to each unit. These clerestory windows help to bring natural light into the central spaces of the second floor of each unit. These spaces have no access to natural light with out the clerestory. The form also allows vents to be placed on each gable so that natural ventilation can be utilized. The stairwell acts a large stack pulling air up and out the vents. Also cross ventilation can be utilized. The major openings on the first floor are on axis to facilitate the cross ventilation.

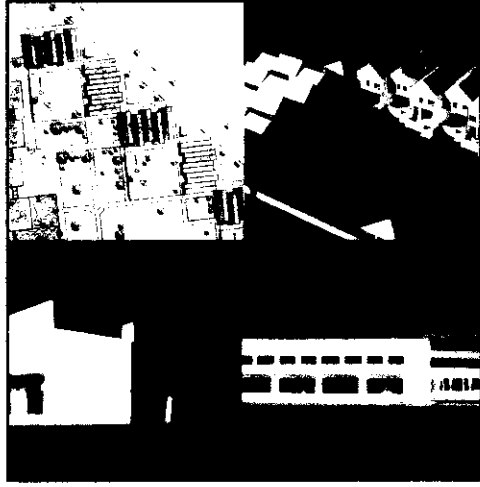




Administration

The administration and services building is the heart of the campus. This is where the campus is run from and where those in need of services come to receive them. The idea behind the design of this building is that of an interior pedestrian street. The goal with this idea is to eliminate the institutional feel that these buildings typically have. The building is zoned public to private.

Design Development



I. Campus support/ Administration

- Gathering Space: For lectures, performances, and religious services. Open to the facility and public.....1750sq.ft.
- Public Support Facilities: Restrooms, drinking fountains, kiosks, information/welcome desks.....1,000sq ft.
- Administration: This will be the administrative arm of the entire facility.
It will also include all building maintenance and security.....1750sq.ft.

- Storage.....2400sq. ft.
- Building Support: This includes the receiving and mechanical.
- Receiving.....1000sq.ft.
- Mechanical: 5% gross area
- Total..... 1,000sq. ft. + 5% of the gross

- Public Transportation Stop: A small sheltered area for waiting for buses and cabs.

II. Services for the Homeless

1. **Child Care:** Childcare services are being provided because adequate child care is expensive. This provides a safe place for the families to leave their children while they receive job training or are at work.

Total: approximately.....8,000sq. ft.

2. **Job Training/Adult Education:** Training facilities (the library, café, etc..) along with classrooms will be provided for job training
The educational part will be to provide those the opportunity to earn their high school diploma.
Rehabilitation services are included in the job training for those disabled
residents.....1750sq. ft.

Classrooms: The classrooms will be for those who are in need of a GED or children that have been out of school for a while and need to fill in the gaps in their education.....525sq.ft

Social Services: This includes social, family counseling and offices for social and case workers.....2100sq.ft.

Physical and Mental Services: This includes offices for a dentist and doctor as well as an office for psychological services.....2100sq.ft.

Religious Services: The gathering spaces will be used on Sundays as a nondenominational worship space.

Total: Net area of services.....27,775sq. ft.

Total Mechanical.....2,380sq. ft.

III. Onsite housing

1. Single Family: These units are for more permanent residency. For those who need a place to stay while saving up for their own place or transitioning to a new job.....1300sq. ft. Per unit.

The main idea behind the design of the site is that of community interaction with the users as well as privacy for the users. This was achieved by utilizing the centralized urban park scheme.

The buildings were organized according to the existing context's organization. On the west side of the site is where the administration/ services building was put. On the south side the markets were located along a vehicular street which was closed and made into a pedestrian street. The housing was then located on the east side of the site. This zoning of the site created a large interior green space.

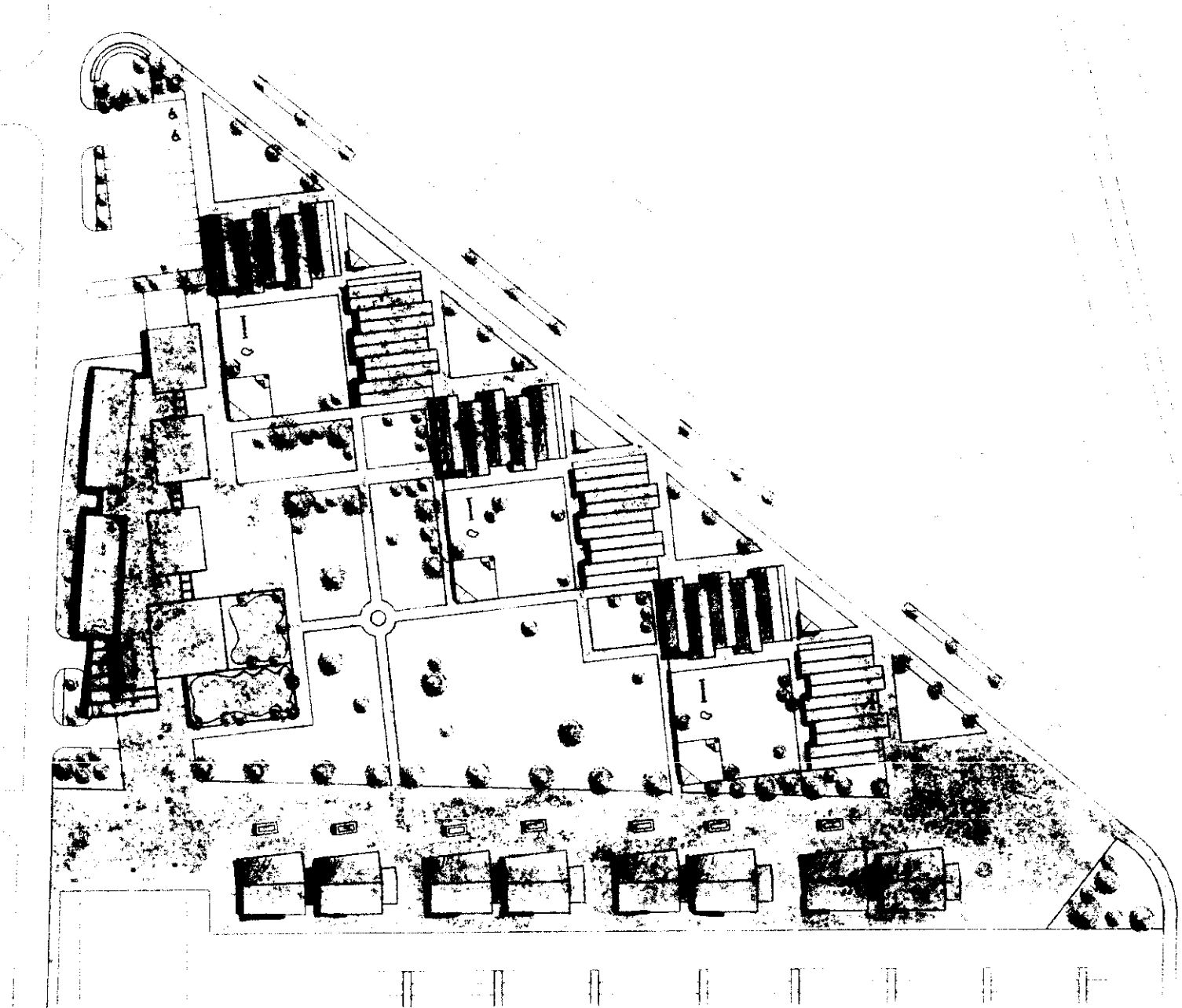
This scheme works to bring the community through and into the site without creating a box that has a flashing neon sign saying "Homeless Shelter".

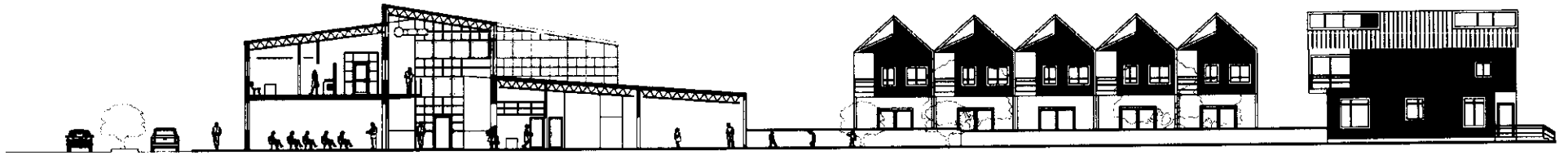
**Urban Relationship
Before**



**Urban Relationship
After**







⊕ SITE SECTION B
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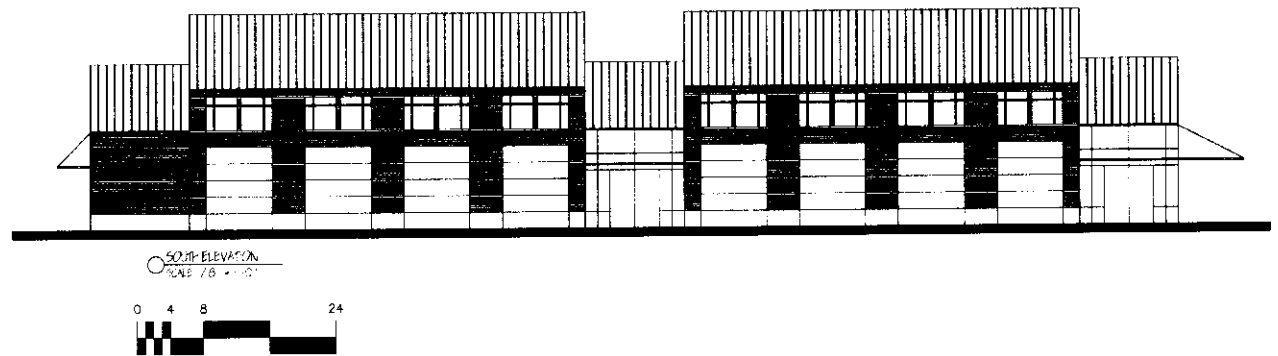


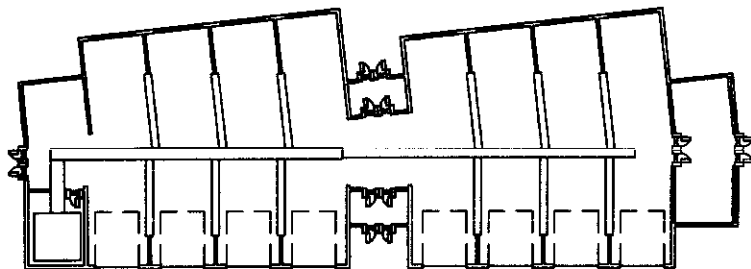
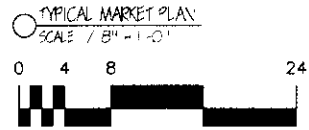
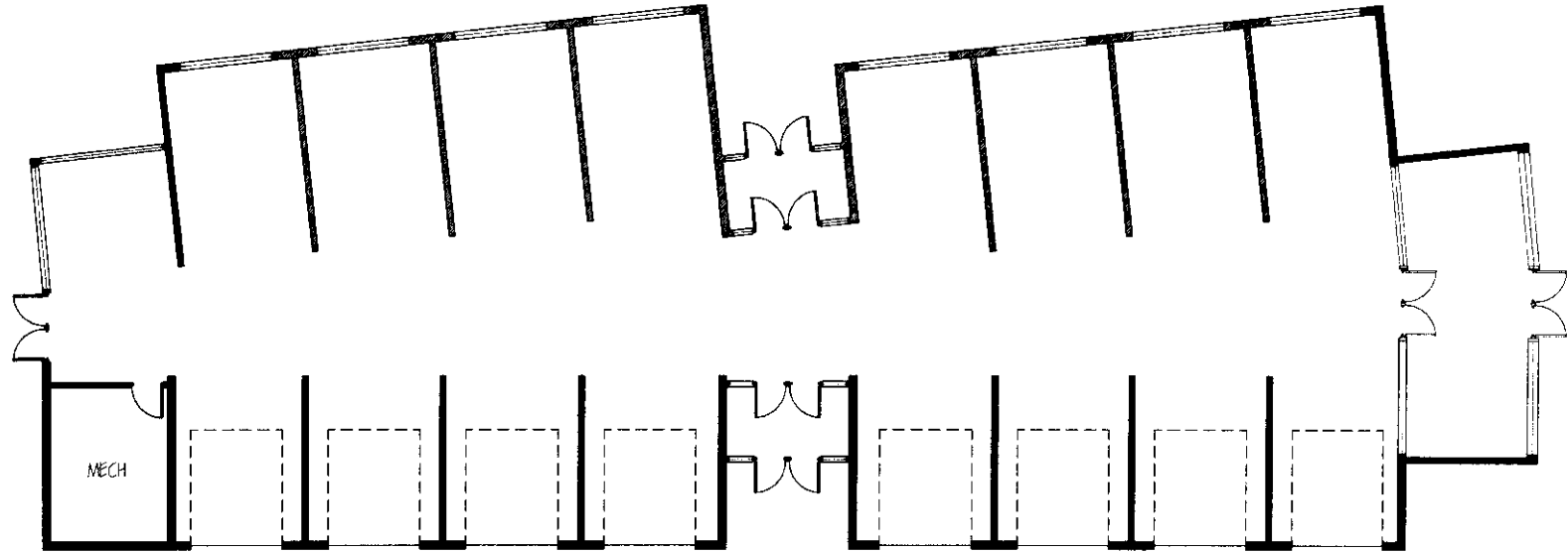
⊕ SITE SECTION A
SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"
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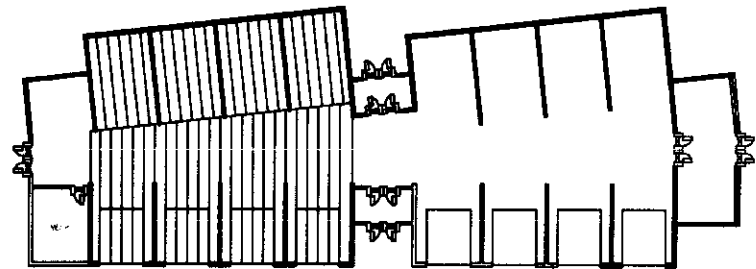
The design for the market is based off of the idea of a farmers market. The building is kept simple in form and materials. The basic layout of the market is based off of an interior pedestrian street. The pedestrian street is the interior circulation. Off of this street are the stalls for the market. The separating walls of the markets are moveable if renters want more than one space.

The market is broken up into four units of two buildings per unit. Three of the units are market stalls while the other unit contains offices for the running of the market and public restrooms for the market users. The first building in the unit is a café. The café is used as a focal point for that corner of the site, creating a public plaza.

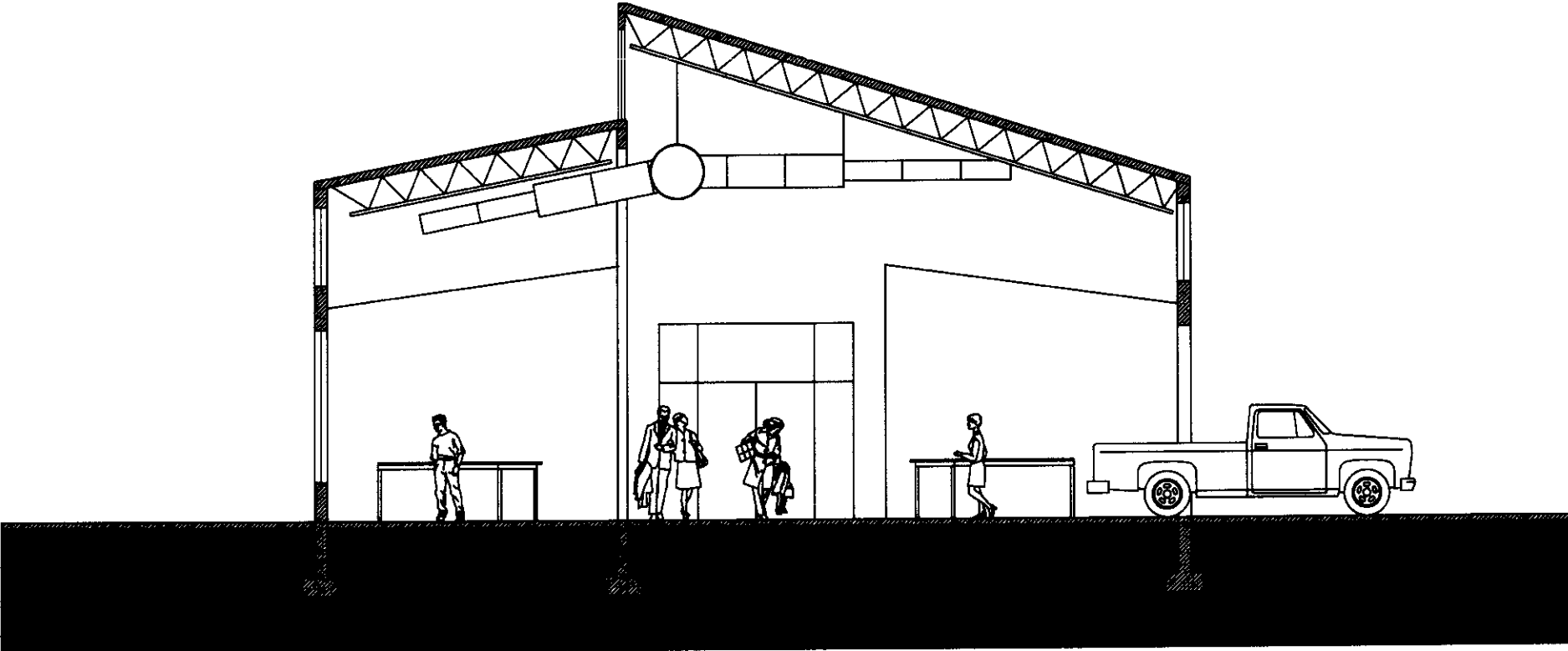




⊕ HVAC DIAGRAM
SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0"

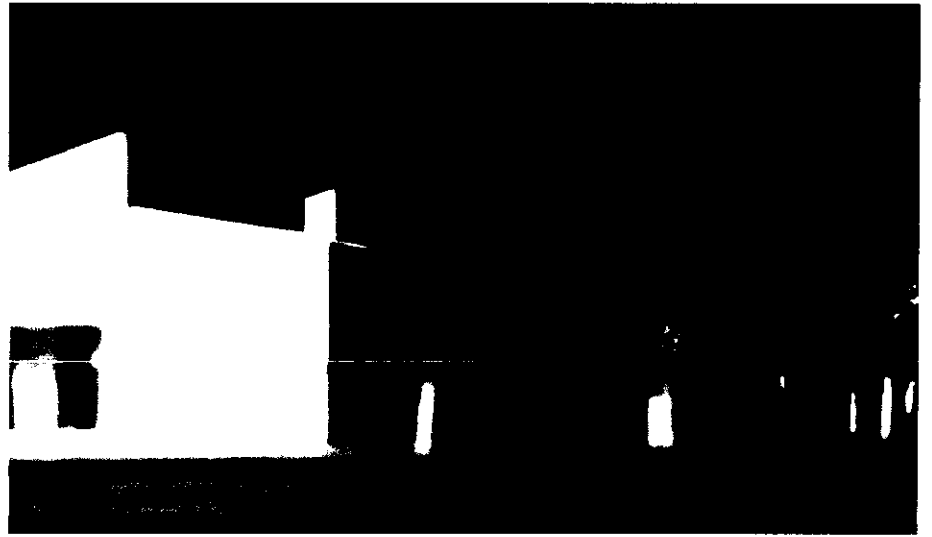
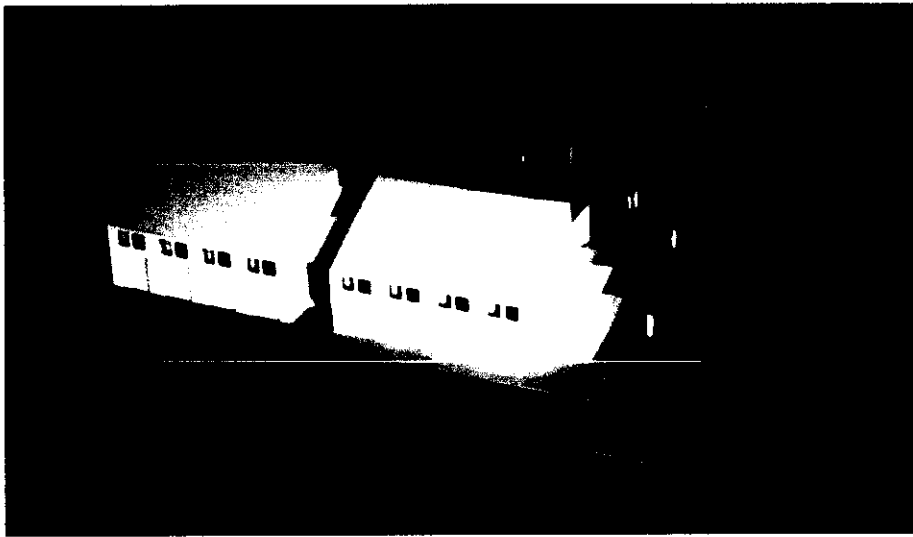
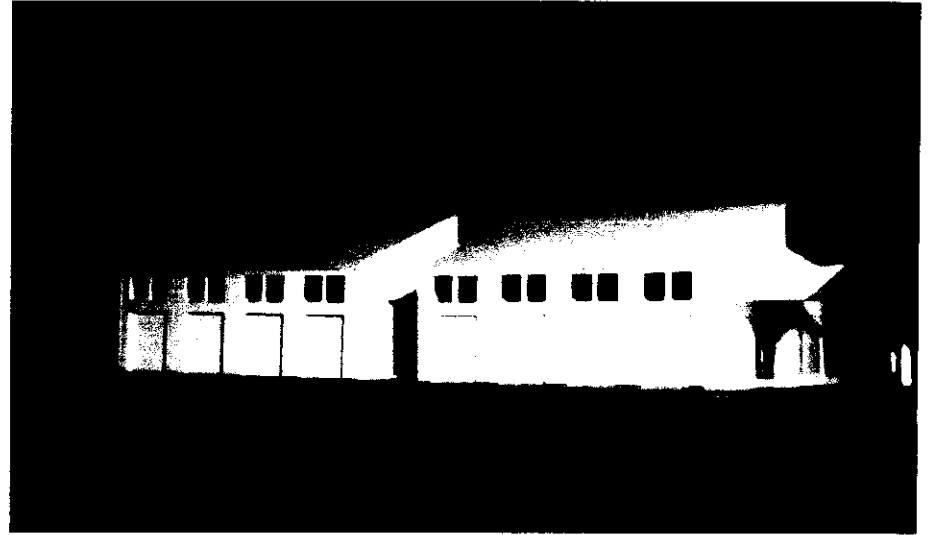
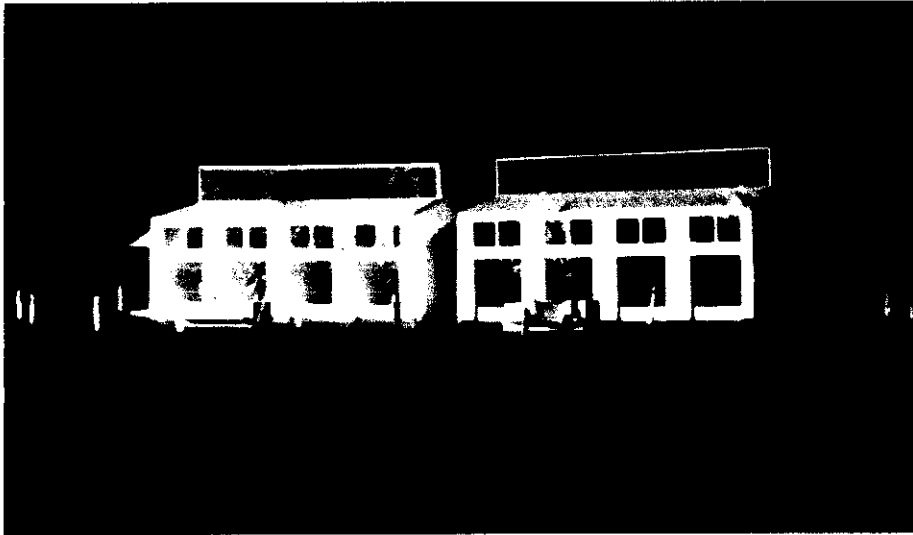


⊕ STRUCTURAL DIAGRAM
SCALE: 1/32" = 1'-0"



① MARKET SECTION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

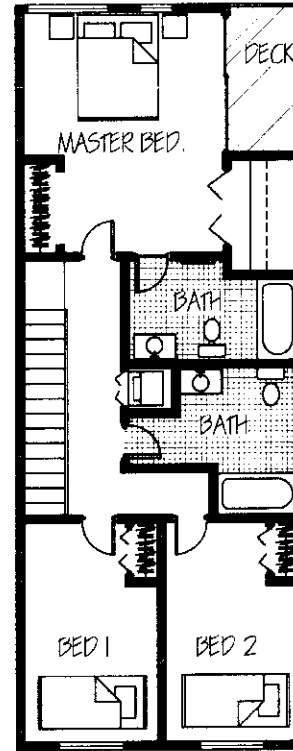
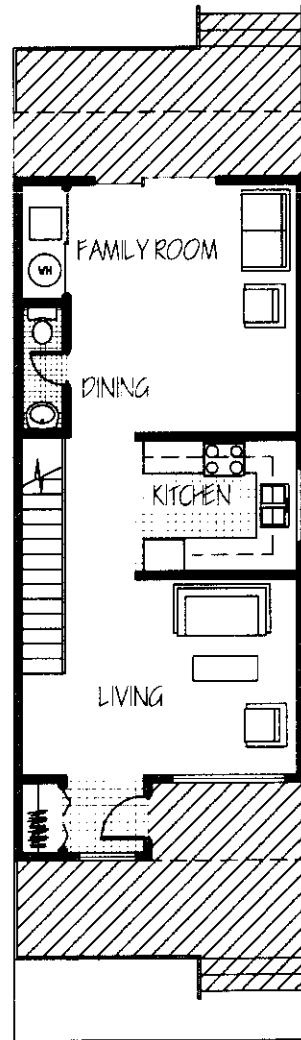




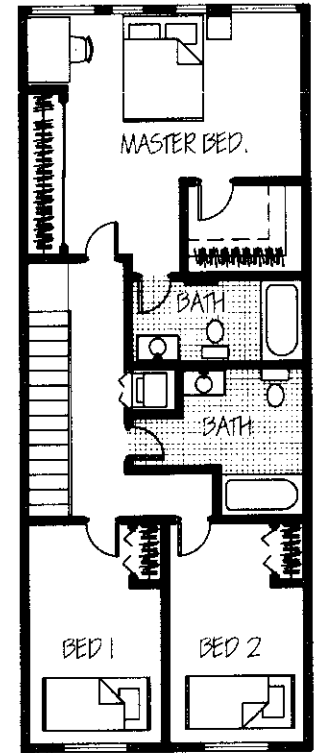
Each townhouse is approximately 1300sq.ft. There are different variations to the plans; two alternates are shown here, with alternate elevations to match. The idea behind this design is that with the same basic layout each cluster can appear to be different depending on the orientation of the elevations and the floor plans used.

The shared courtyard in the back is approximately 7,000sqft. It contains a swing set and sandbox for the younger children of the community, while there is a covered shelter with barbeque pit and seating for the families to use. The rest of the space is open green space, which would provide the older children a place to run around and throw the baseball or football.

The "front yard" has a similar covered area and is gated off to the back courtyard for security. Only those who live in the townhouses can gain access to the shared courtyard in the back. The "front yard" has seating for those who wish to have a peaceful place to sit or read.



⊕ SECOND FLOOR
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



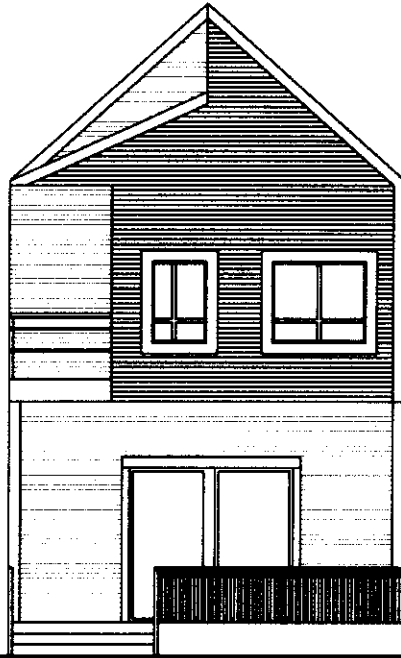
⊕ ALT. SECOND FLOOR
SCALE 1/8" = 1'-0"



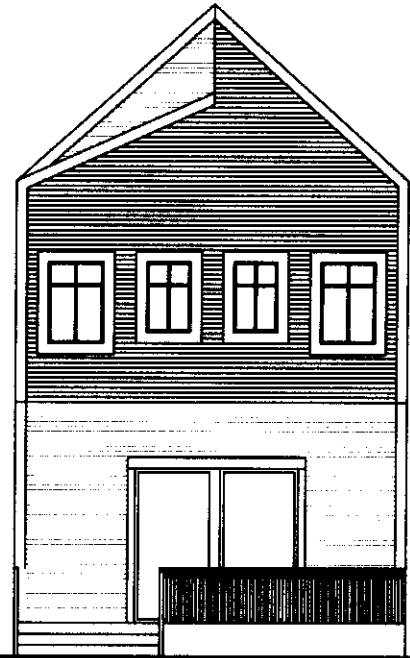
⊕ FIRST FLOOR
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



② FRONT ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



③ REAR ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

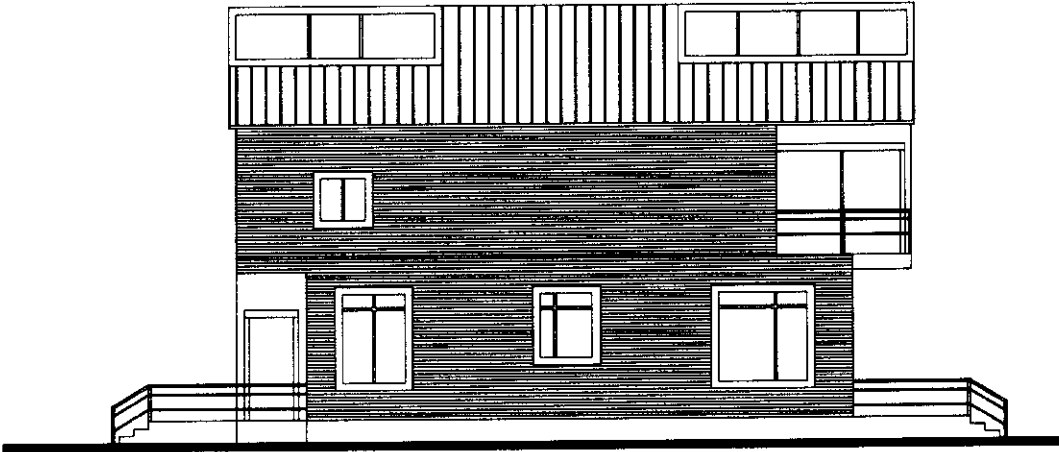


③ ALT. REAR ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



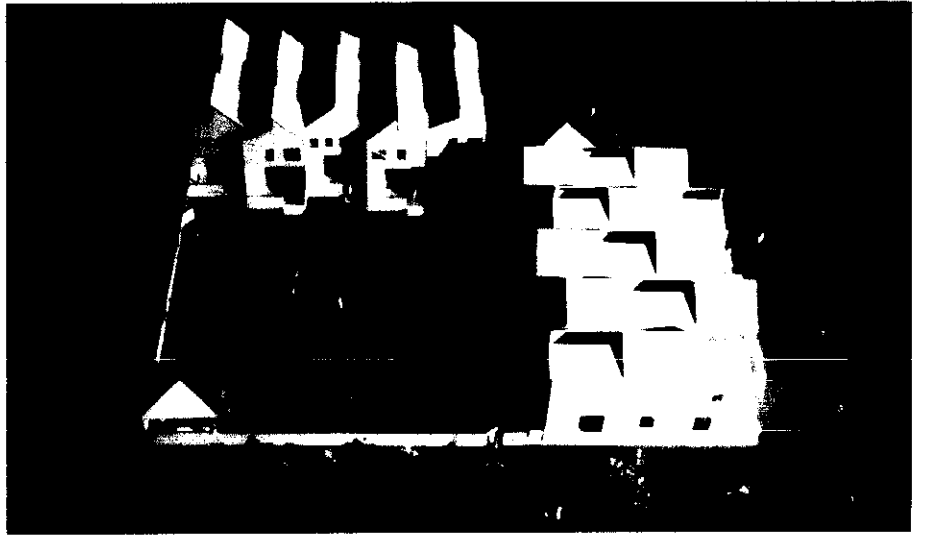
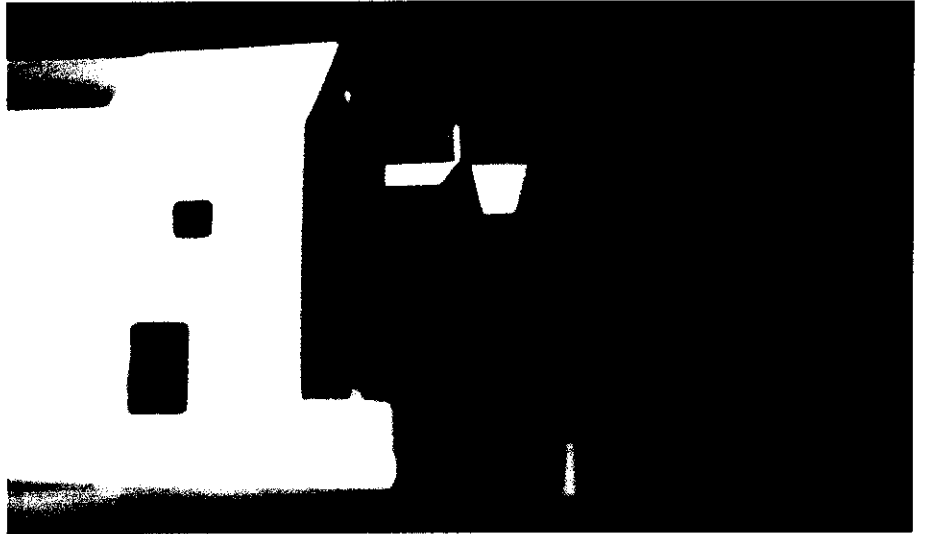
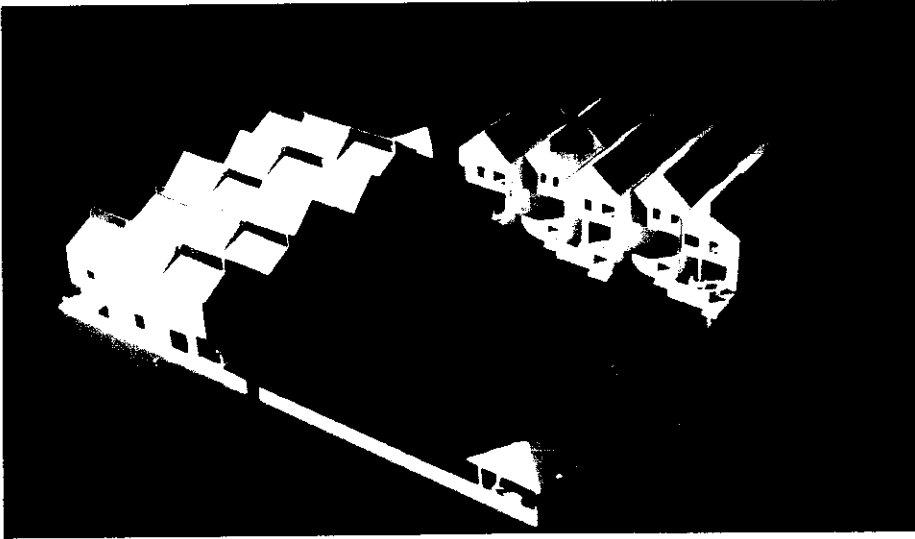


HOUSING SECTION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



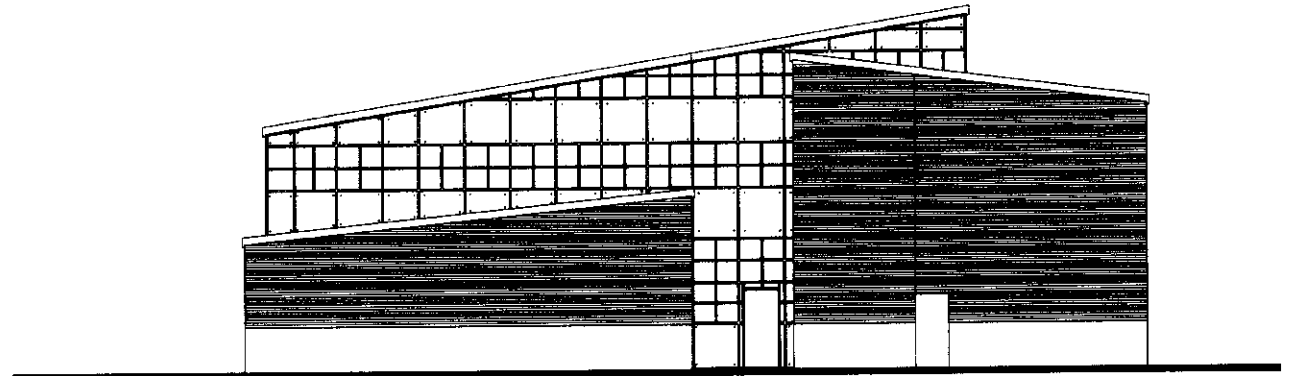
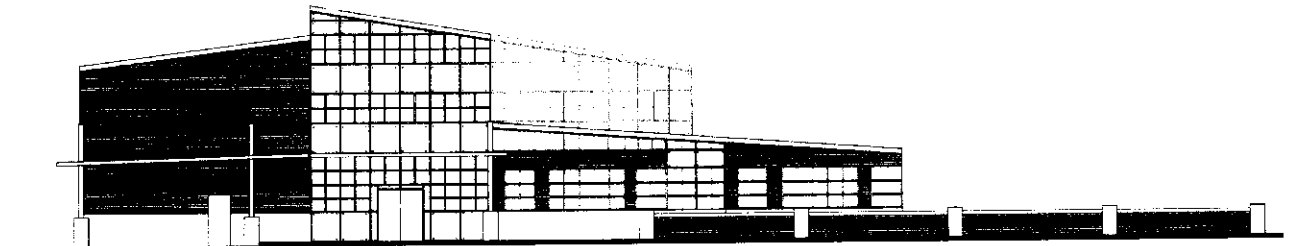
SIDE ELEVATION
SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

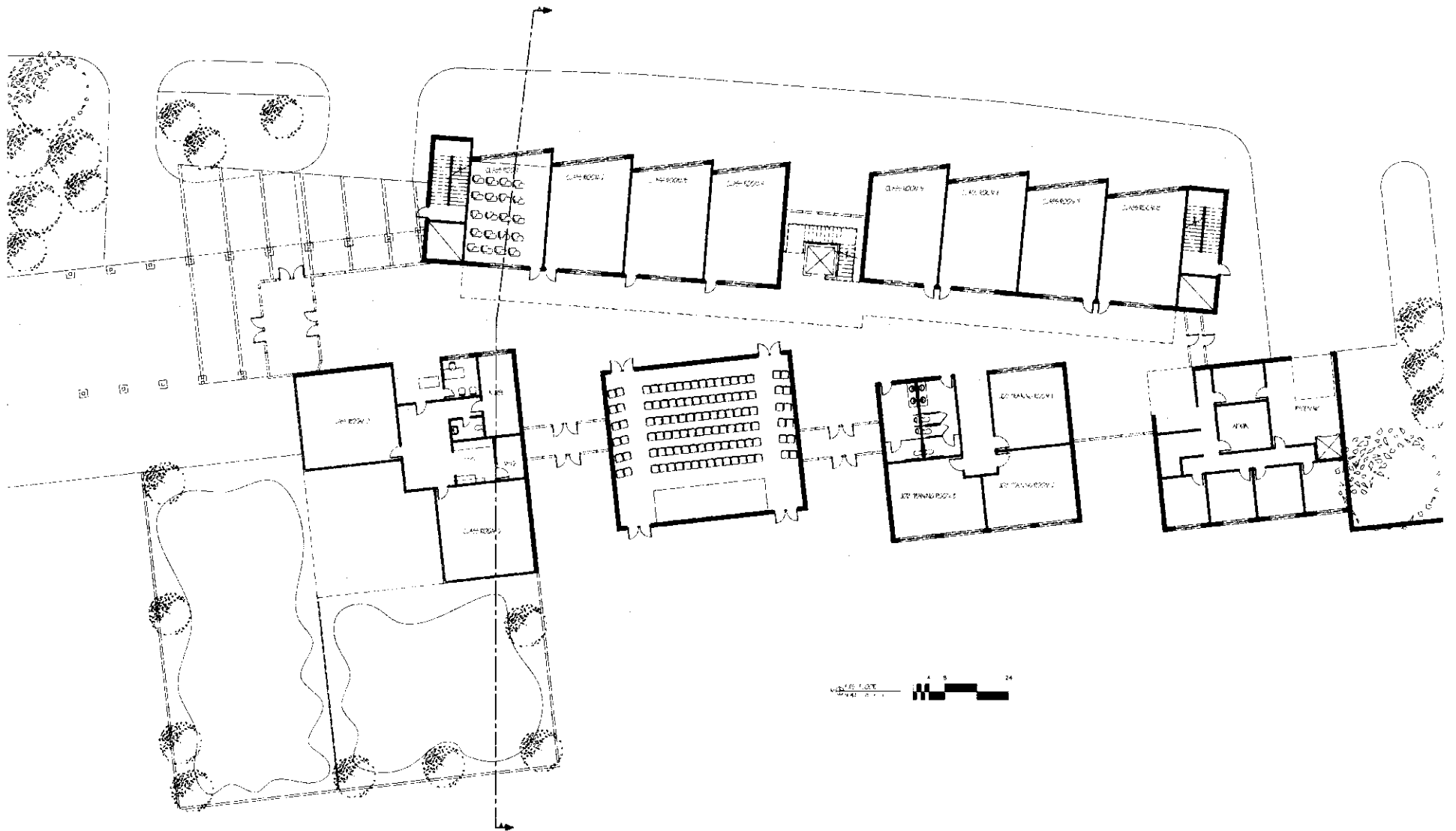


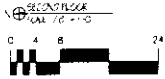
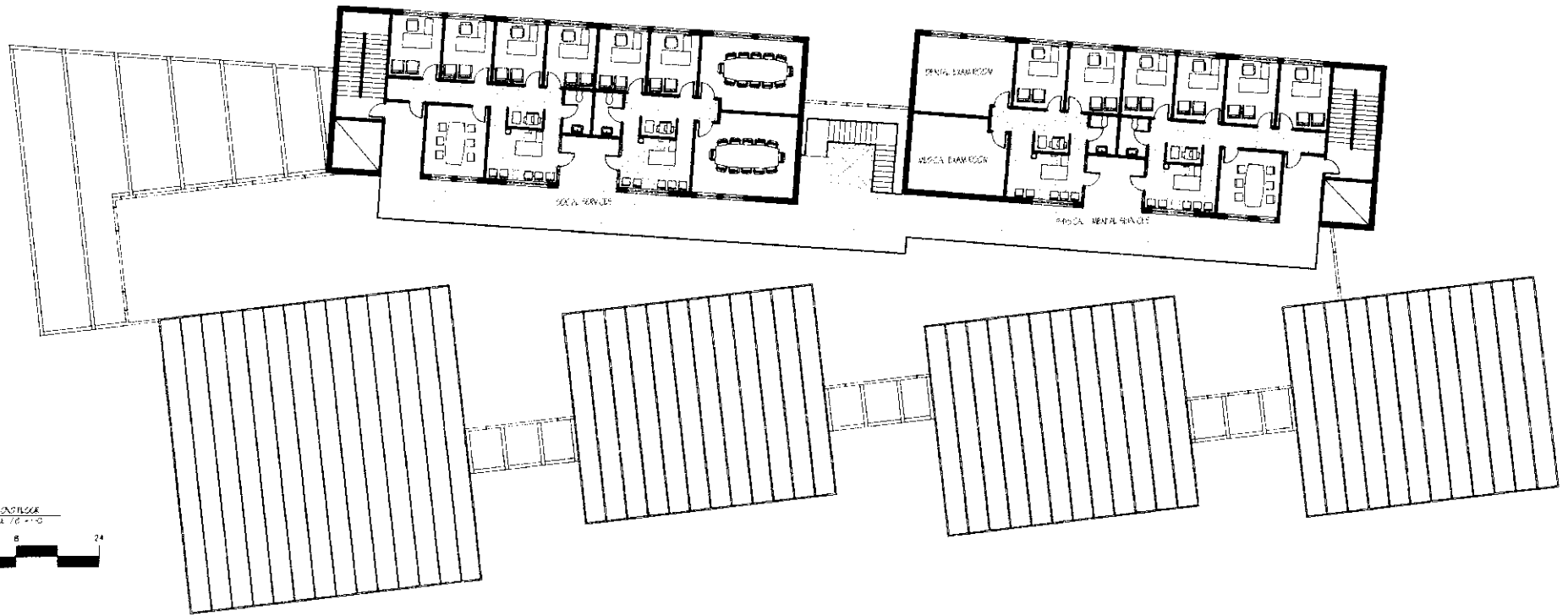


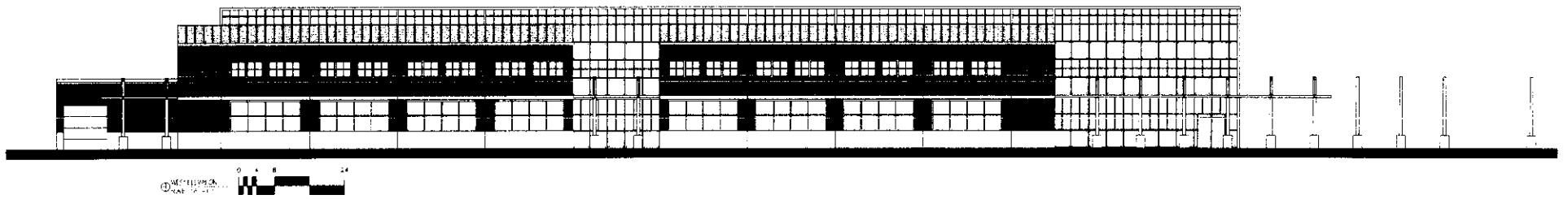
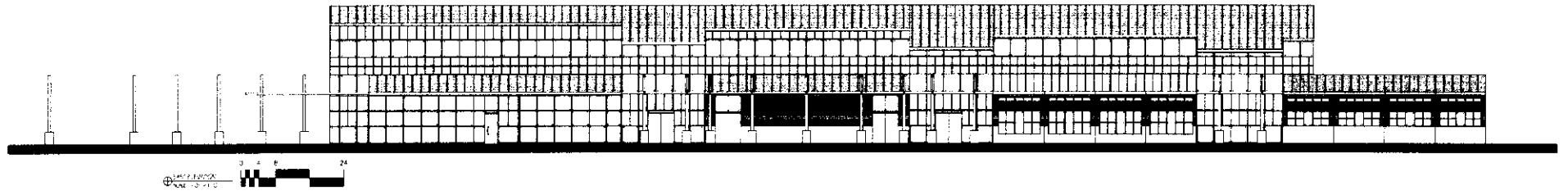
The building is made up of three components, first is the two story space on the west side and a one story space on the east side. The two sides are joined together by an atrium space which acts as a pedestrian street through the entire building.

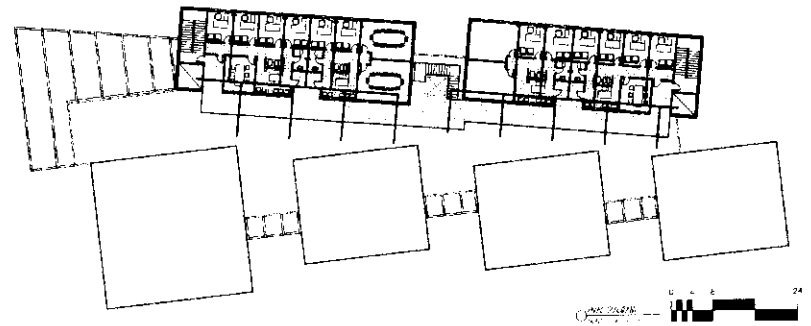
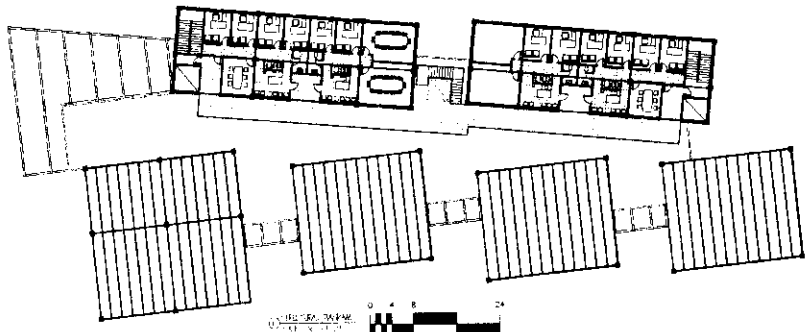
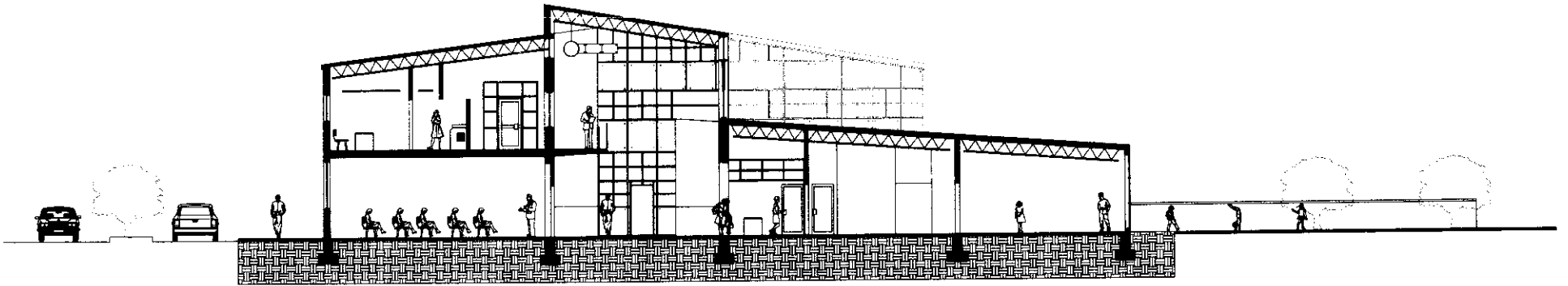
The massing of this building is based on the site. The two story part is on the west side for two reasons. First, IUPUI is to the west of the site and is full of institutional buildings, so by having the two story part on the west side it addresses their campus. The second reason is that the western light is harsher than eastern light, so by having the building two stories on the west side it helps to block the western light from the atrium.

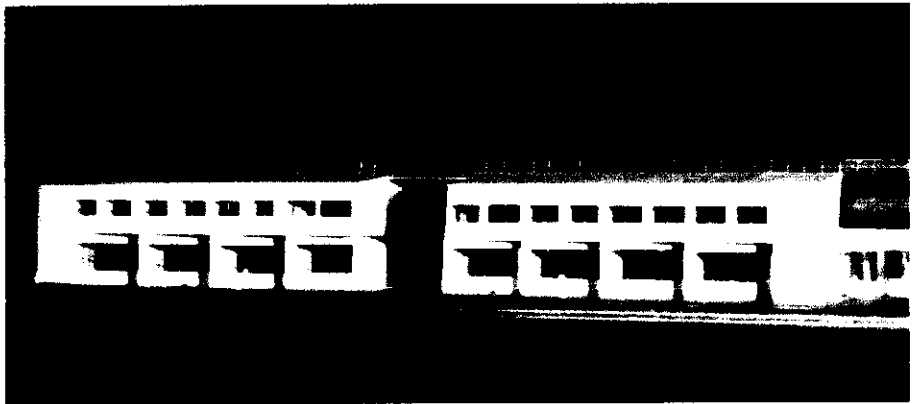
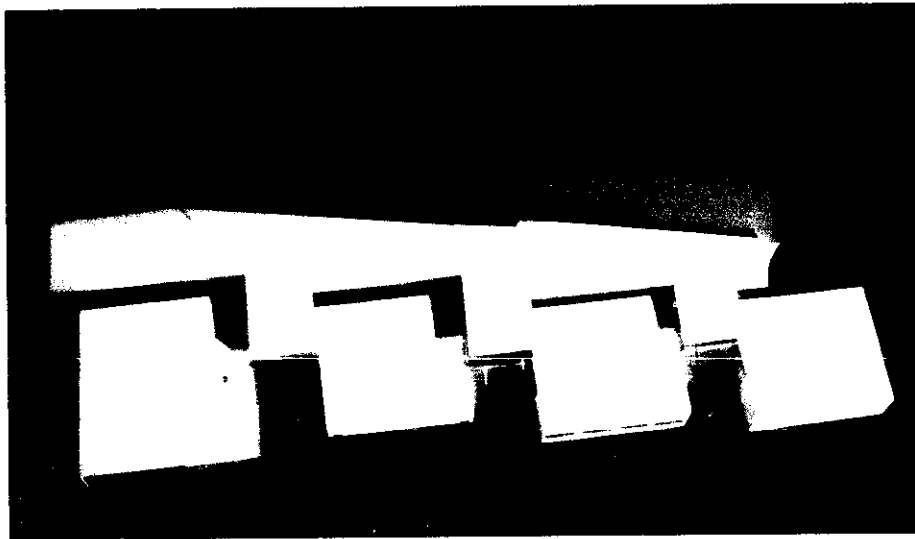
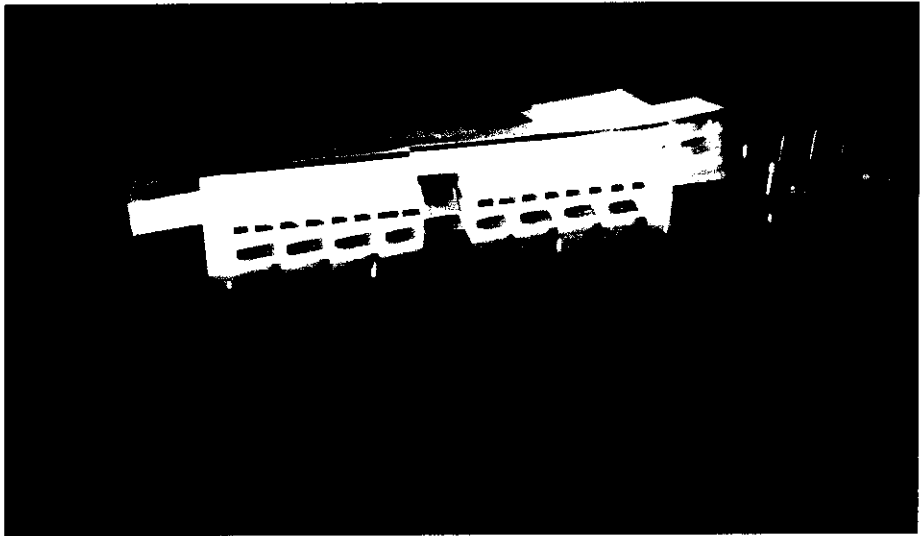
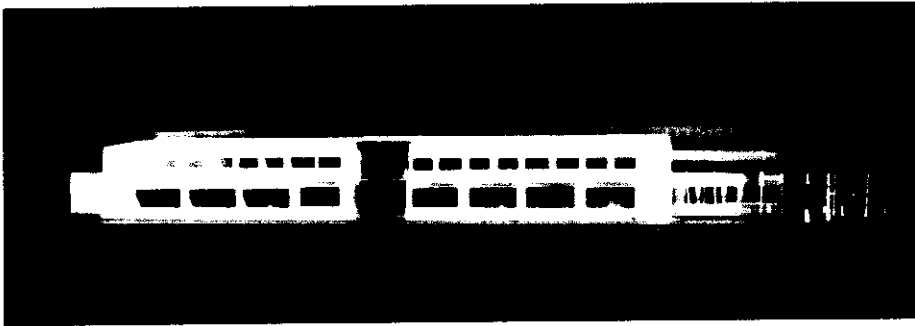












This past year has been one of the worst years. Looking back now I would have done a lot of things differently. One thing I would not have done differently would be choosing my thesis topic. I feel strongly about helping others, specifically helping through design. I believe that the homeless are never thought of when design decisions are made. They are considered to be leftover people and get the “left over spaces”, which is what a lot of the homeless shelters are.

With that said, I am very proud of the work I did on my thesis. I feel, like with all my projects that I could have done better. But with such a large project, I think I accomplished what I set out to do. I would, however, not do such a large project if I had it all to do again. I would instead propose a master plan and focus only on one building type. If time permitted I would work on the other building types.

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