The Healing Home

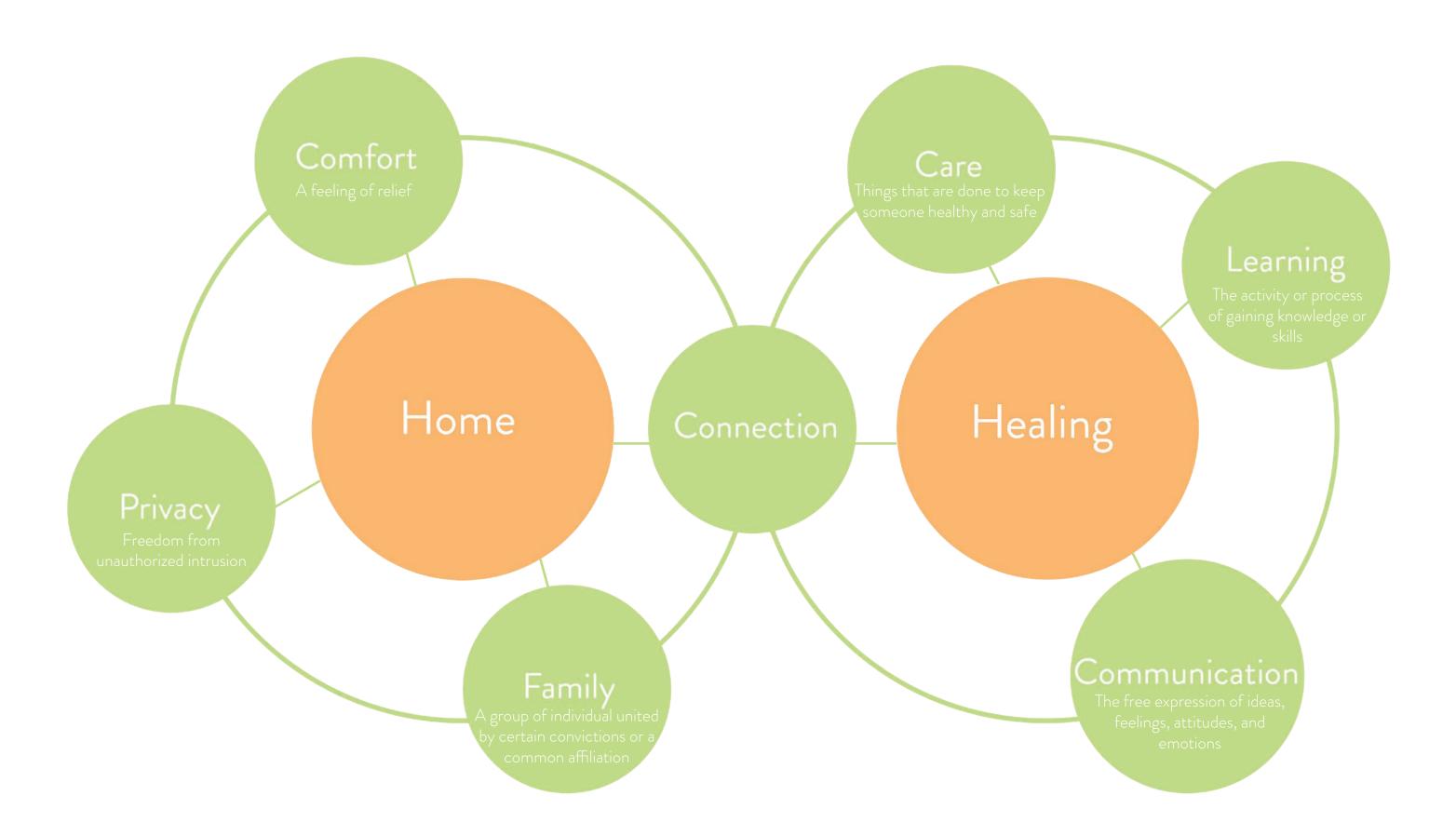
A Cohousing Project for Female Victims of Domestic Violence and their Children

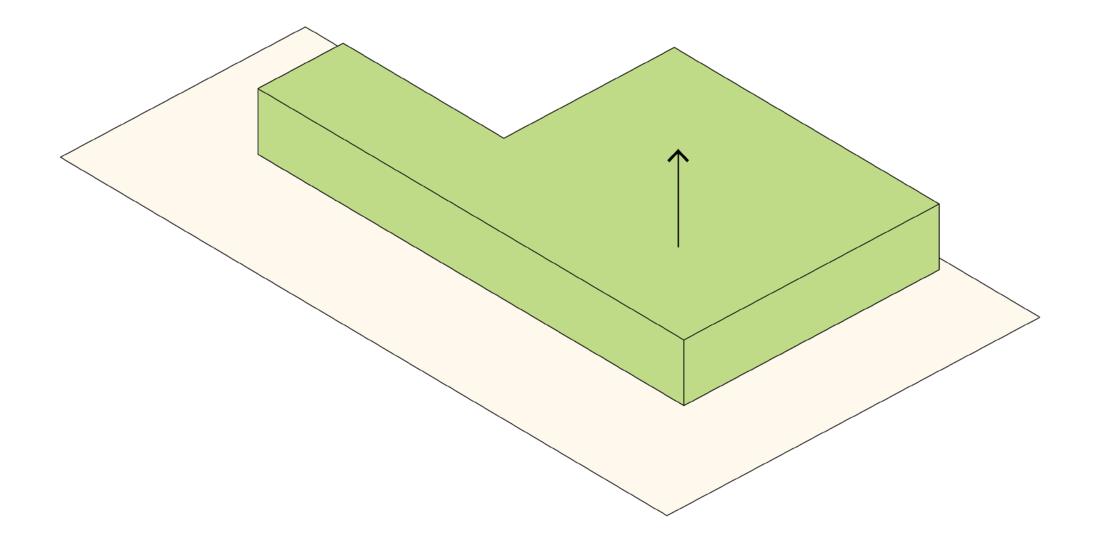
Forms of Abuse

- -Physical Abuse: can include hitting, biting, slapping, battering, shoving, punching, pulling hair, burning, cutting, pinching, etc. (any type of violent behavior inflicted on the victim). Physical abuse also includes denying someone medical treatment and forcing drug/alcohol use on someone.
- Sexual Abuse: occurs when the abuser coerces or attempts to coerce the victim into having sexual contact or sexual behavior without the victim's consent. This often takes the form of marital rape, attacking sexual body parts, physical violence that is followed by forcing sex, sexually demeaning the victim, or even telling sexual jokes at the victim's expense.
- Emotional Abuse: involves invalidating or deflating the victim's sense of self-worth and/or self-esteem. Emotional abuse often takes the form of constant criticism, name-calling, injuring the victim's relationship with his/her children, or interfering with the victim's abilities.
- Economic Abuse: takes place when the abuser makes or tries to make the victim financially reliant. Economic abusers often seek to maintain total control over financial resources, withhold the victims access to funds, or prohibit the victim from going to school or work.
- Psychological Abuse: involves the abuser invoking fear through intimidation; threatening to physically hurt himself/herself, the victim, children, the victim's family or friends, or the pets; destruction of property; injuring the pets; isolating the victim from loved ones; and prohibiting the victim from going to school or work.
- Threats: to hit, injure, or use a weapon are a form of psychological abuse.
- Stalking: can include following the victim, spying, watching, harassing, showing up at the victim's home or work, sending gifts, collecting information, making phone calls, leaving written messages, or appearing at a person's home or workplace. These acts individually are typically legal, but any of these behaviors done continuously results in a stalking crime.
- Cyberstalking: refers to online action or repeated emailing that inflicts substantial emotional distress in the recipient.

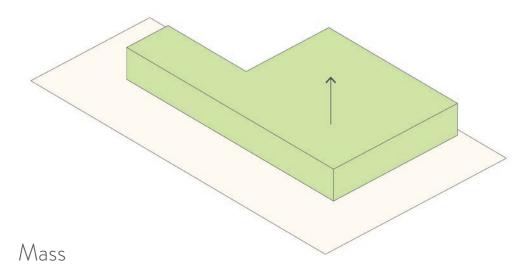
Domestic Violence | de - me - stik vi - o - lents | Noun

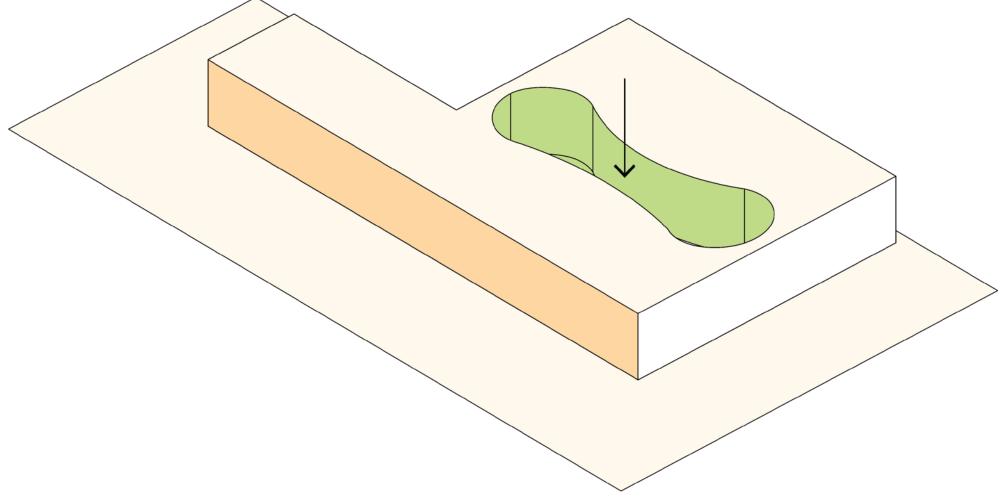
- Violent or aggressive behavior within the home, typically Involving the violent abuse of a spouse or partner.



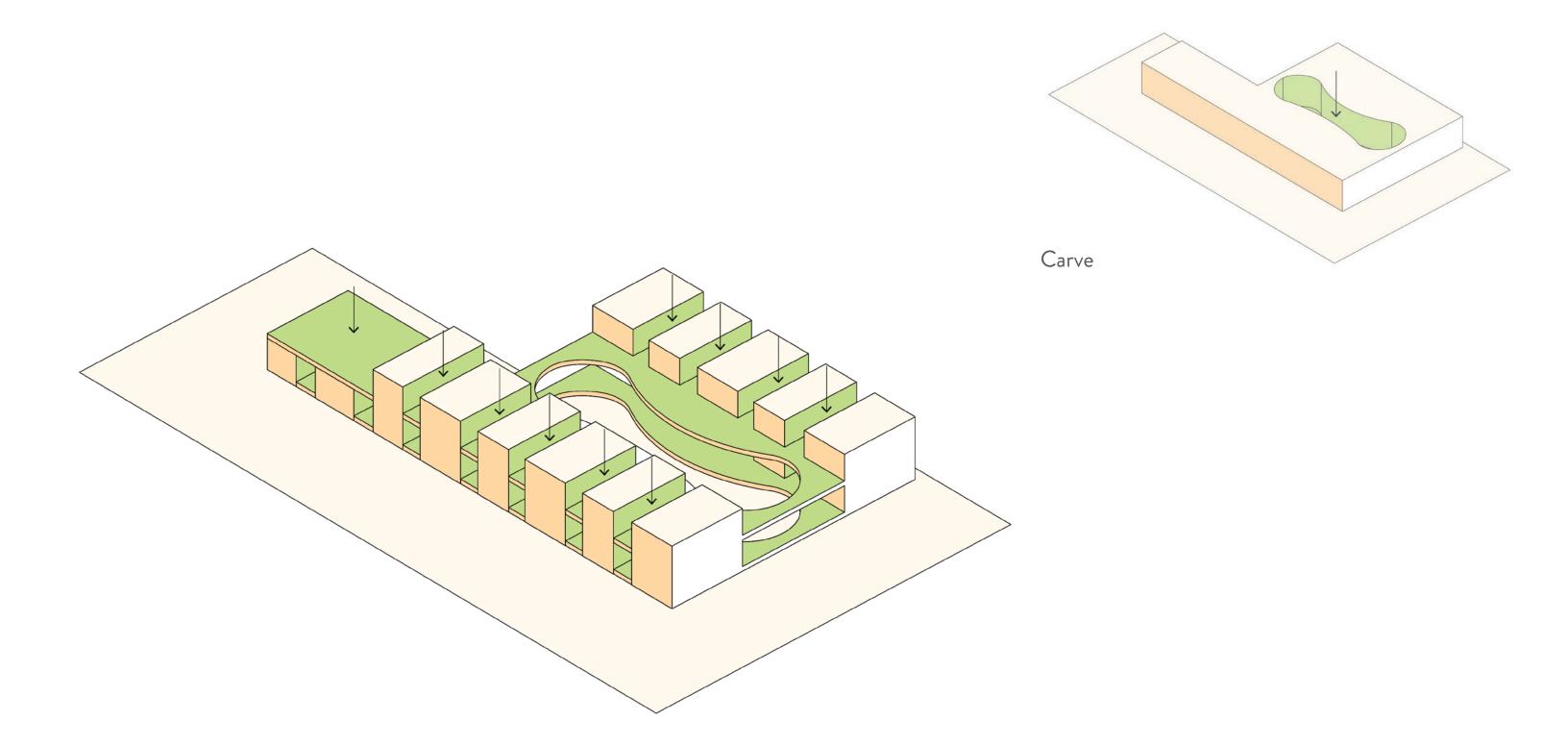


The building occupies a large portion of the given site, and almost all of the buildable area. In doing so this project is allowed a much lower profile to better blend in with the surrounding context.

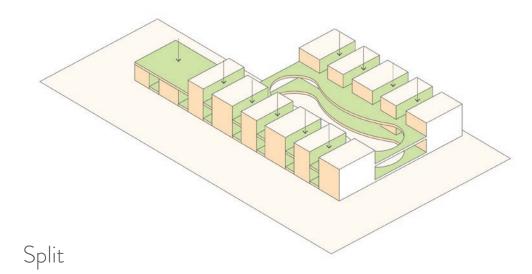


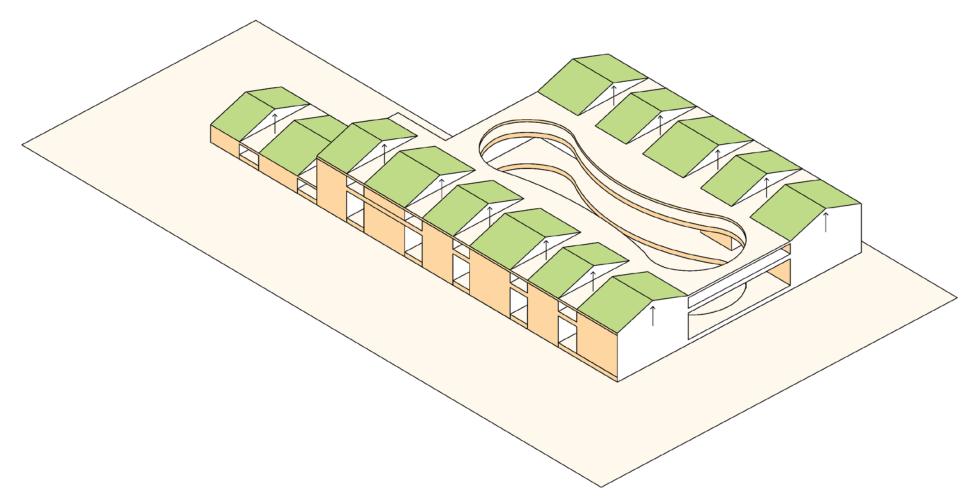


In the center of the building, a curvilinear courtyard was carved out of the mass in relation the, mature, existing trees on site. This move gives the courtyard hierarchal dominance within the scheme as a centralizing and unifying experience, especially for the residents.

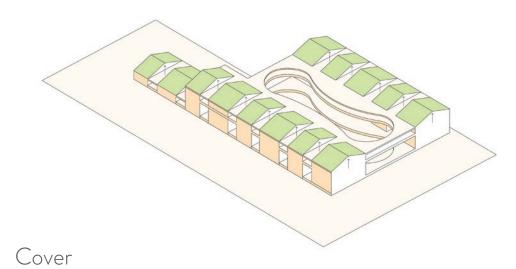


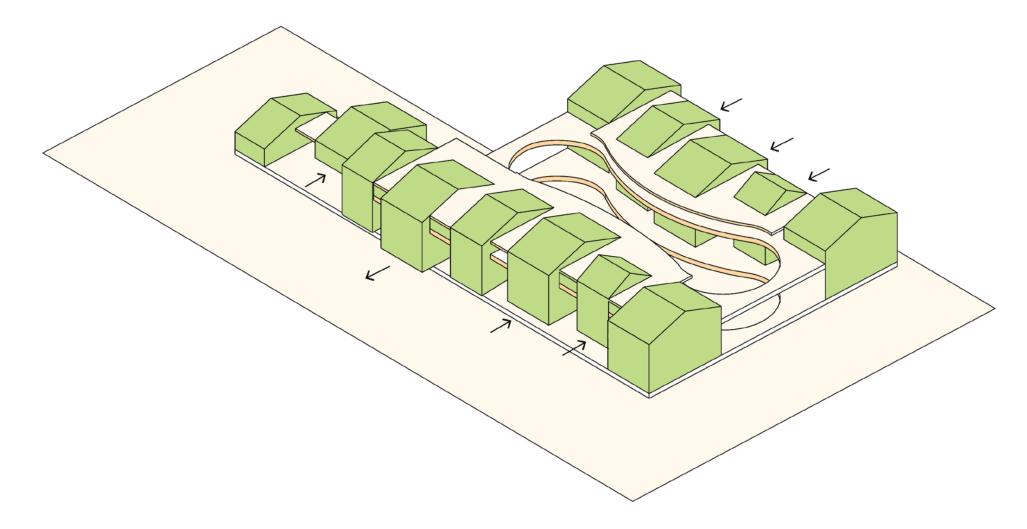
Every individual dwelling unit was split apart so that no two units had a shared wall. This was done to give each resident a stronger sense of autonomy and to create spaces between each unit that can be programmed. The split also establishes an underlying structural rhythm throughout the project.



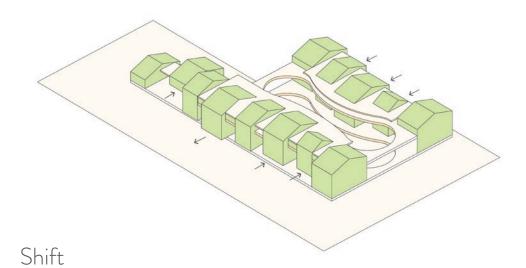


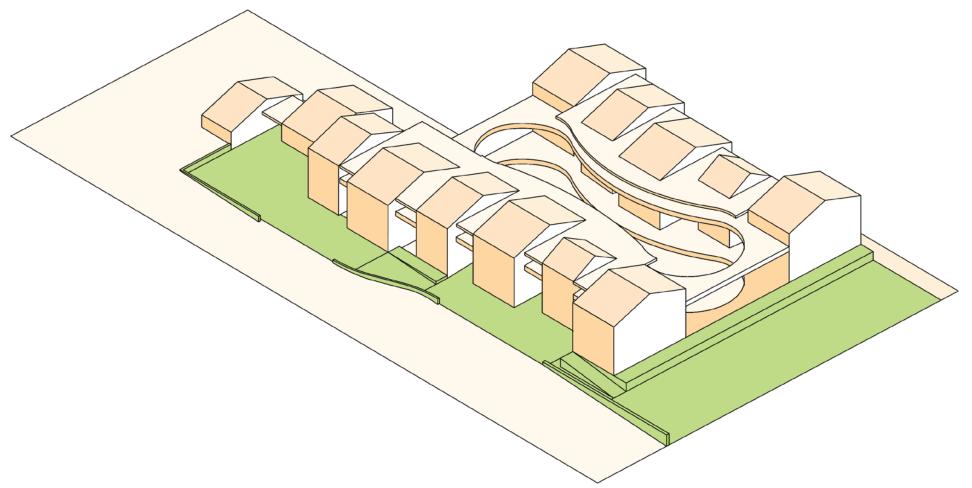
The roof above each dwelling unit was gabled while the remainder of the roof above circulation and communal spaces was made flat. This further reinforces the notion of the autonomy of each residence, while also providing a more home-like atmosphere within the dwelling units. Also the gabling of the roofs helps assist the project blend into the surrounding context.





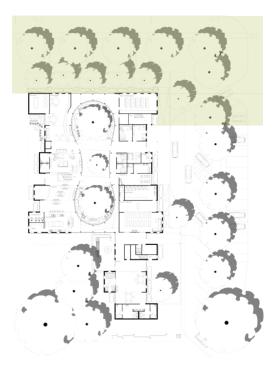
The remaining masses are shifted in response to the nature of the courtyard. This promotes the courtyard as the unifying space for the residents, and it breaks down the scale of the building making it feel more comfortable and cozy.





The site the building is built upon was both carved and filled. In doing so it created opportunities to create paved terraces in association with the program of the building. The uppermost terrace is the access point to all of the community spaces. The intermediate terrace is adjacent to the primary entry point for the residents, staff, and guests of the residents. Lastly the bottom terrace is on the same level as the sidewalk and creates a public space to assist in engaging the community with the building.

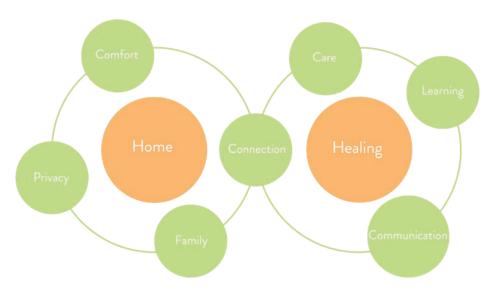




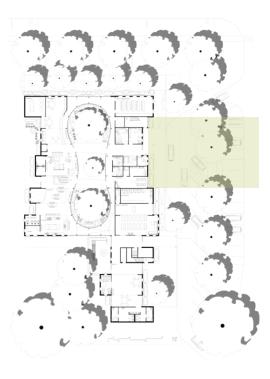
Community Engagement

The northern edge of the site engages the community through the creation of a public plaza. This plaza was placed here as it would be the most trafficked and visible area on site.



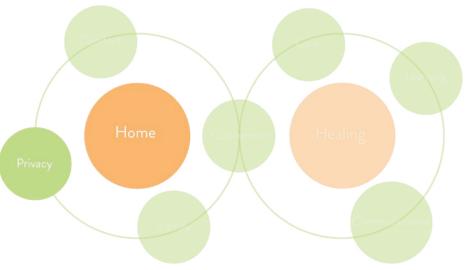


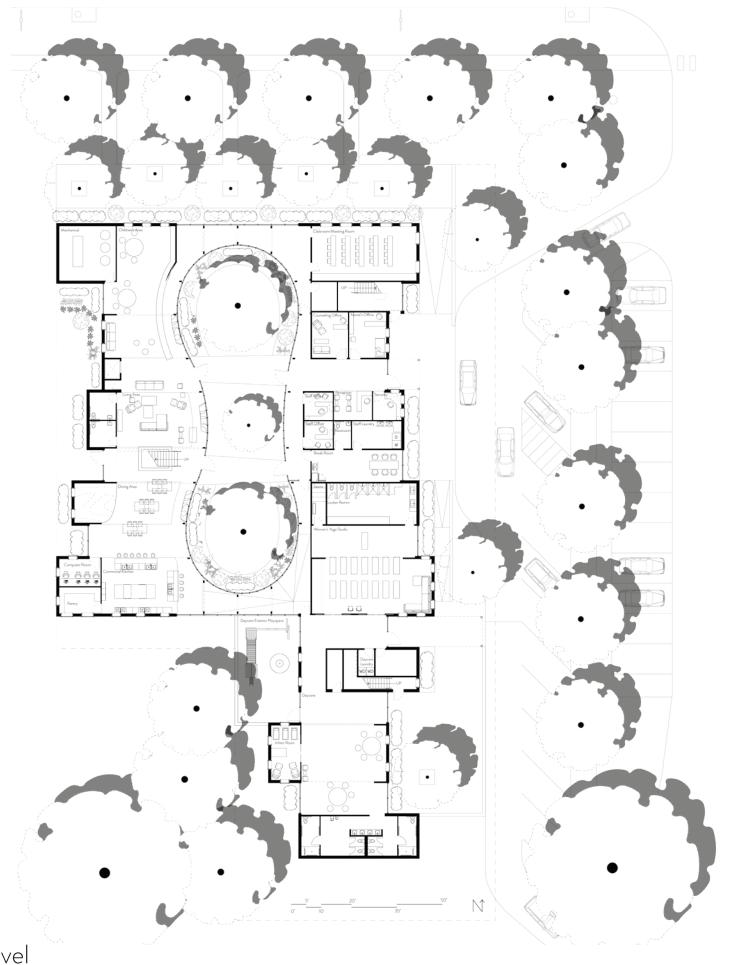




Privacy through Security

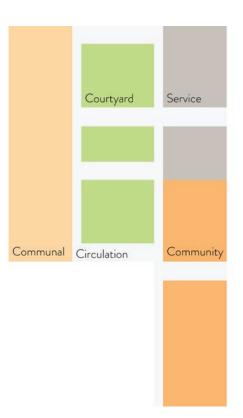
The entry to the project utilizes an overhead plane to protect the residents as they enter the building, while the actual entrance is recessed to enhance this effect.





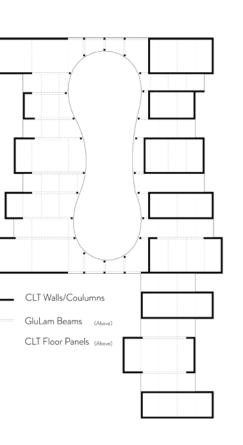
Organization

The project is organized with the service and administration block on the northeast corner, and the community accessible blocks on the southeast corner. Both act as buffers to enhance the privacy of the communal areas on the west side of the building.

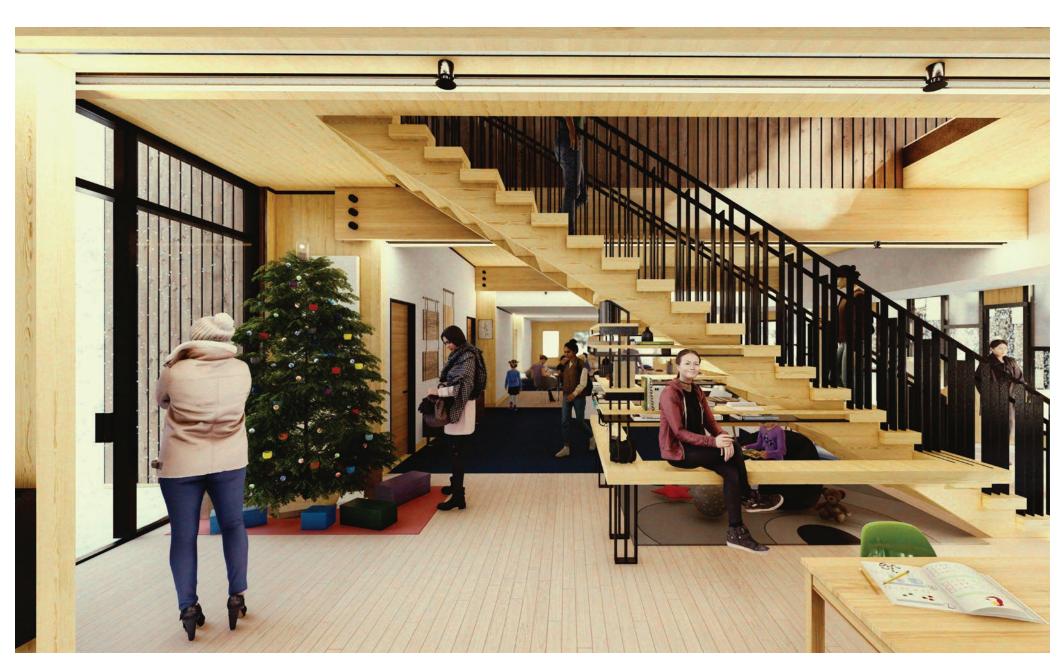


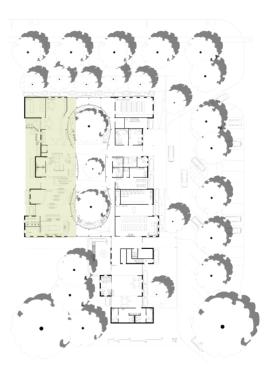
Structure

CLT was chosen as the primary structural system for this project for multiple reasons. Firstly, it was chosen as it allows for the structure to be exposed by code. This was essential because it is a natural material which has been proven to help improve the healing process. Secondly, CLT was used since it acts as a mass. In this manner it helps to create a sense of security and privacy, which is an essential element of this project. The final deciding factor for choosing CLT was its use as a sustainable building material that a. Doesn't produce any carbon emissions once it has been assembled.



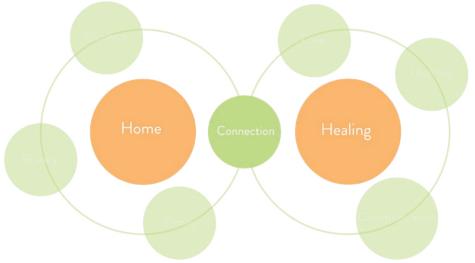






Connection

The communal spaces arrange themselves open to each other, which provides a connection for the residents, along with sight lines for parents to watch their children.



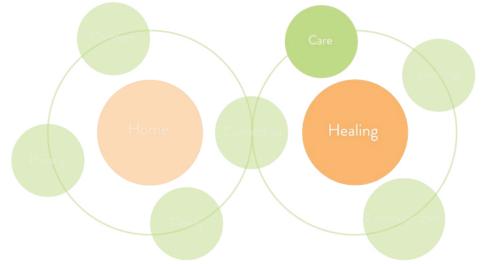


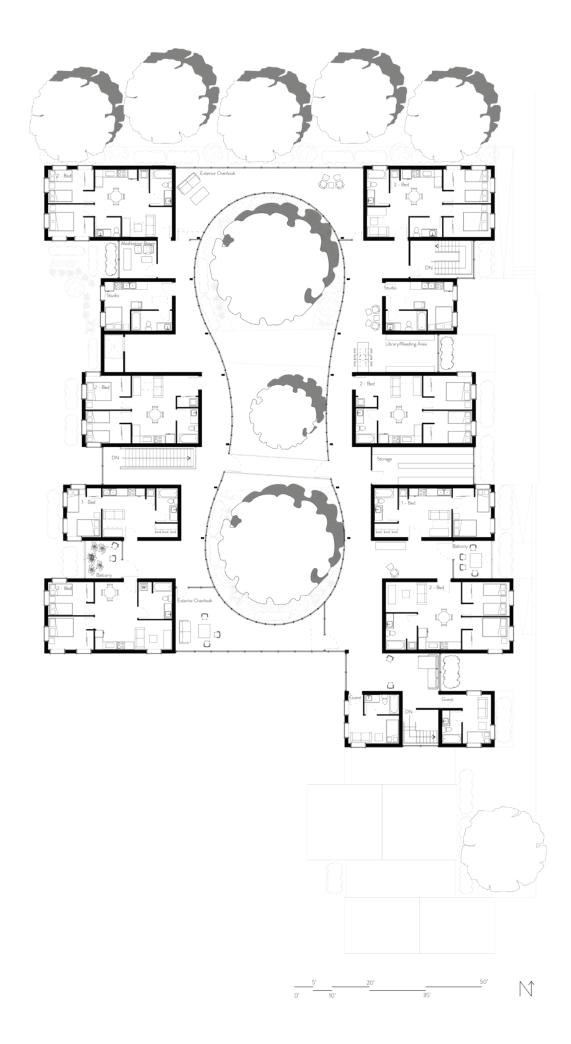




Healing

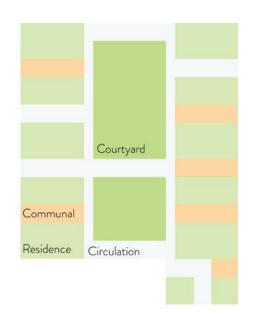
The interior courtyard of the building preserved three existing trees on site. This is a vital aspect to the project as seeing and experiencing nature has been proven to hasten physical and mental healing.





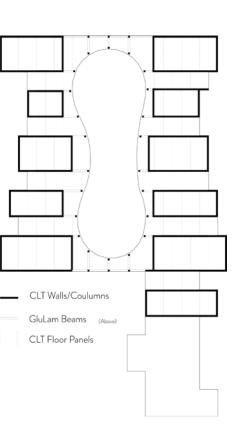
Organization

The residential level provides a space between the residences. In four instances it acts as vertical circulation. In the remaining spaces it is an intimate space for the residents to experience. Above the courtyard there is also an open bridge between the West and East sides for the residents.

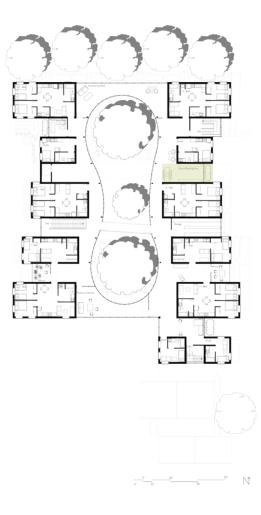


Structure

The structure of the residential level stacks directly on top of the communal level. However each residence is constructed of a CLT box, which allows for nonstructural walls to be freely placed within the units.





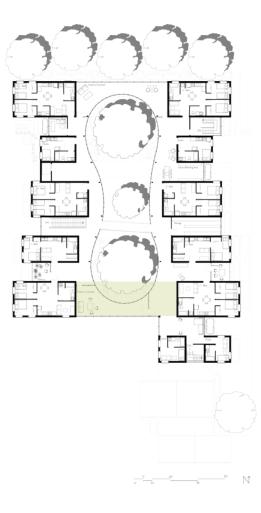


The Space Between

On the residential level, the interstitial spaces between each individual residence is utilized. Each space is customized for a different function.

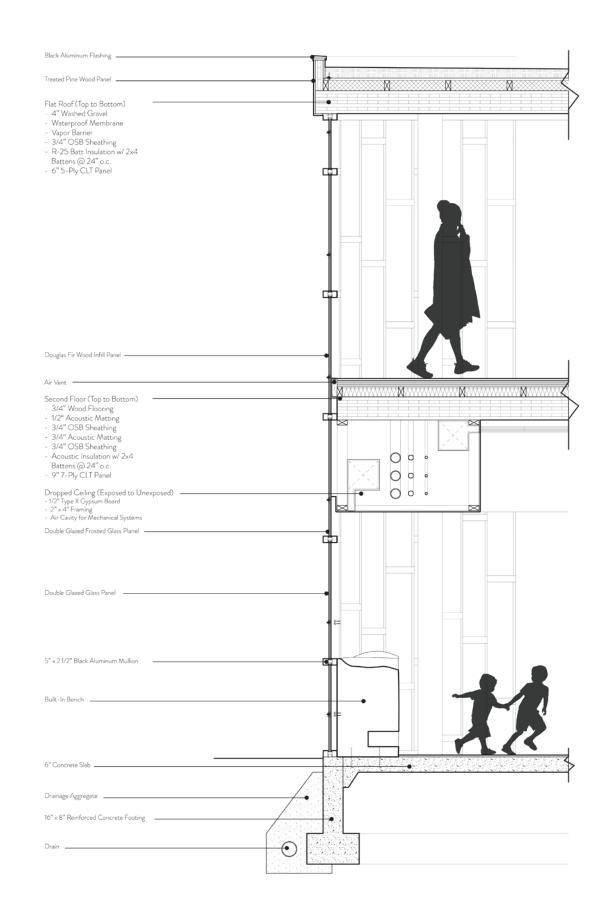


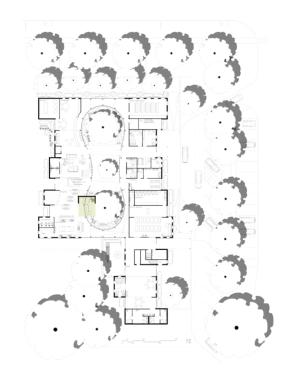


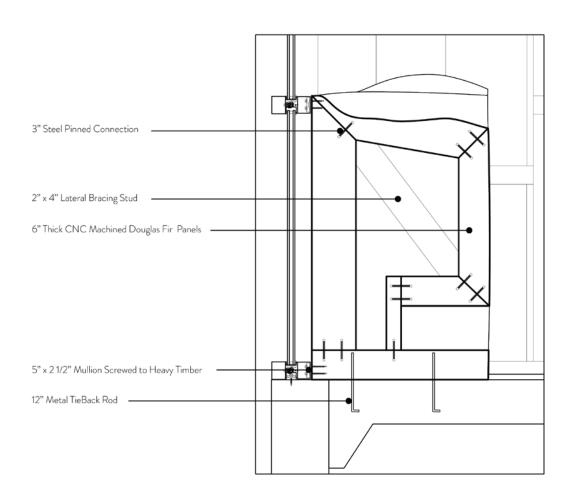


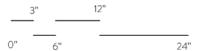
Private Observation

The overlook on the residential level creates a space for residents to observe their surroundings from a comfortable and secure place.

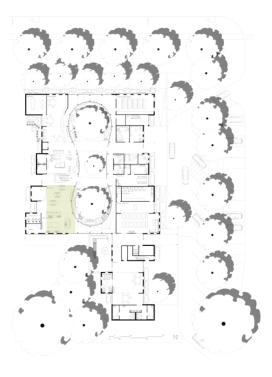






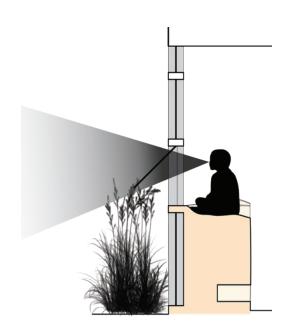


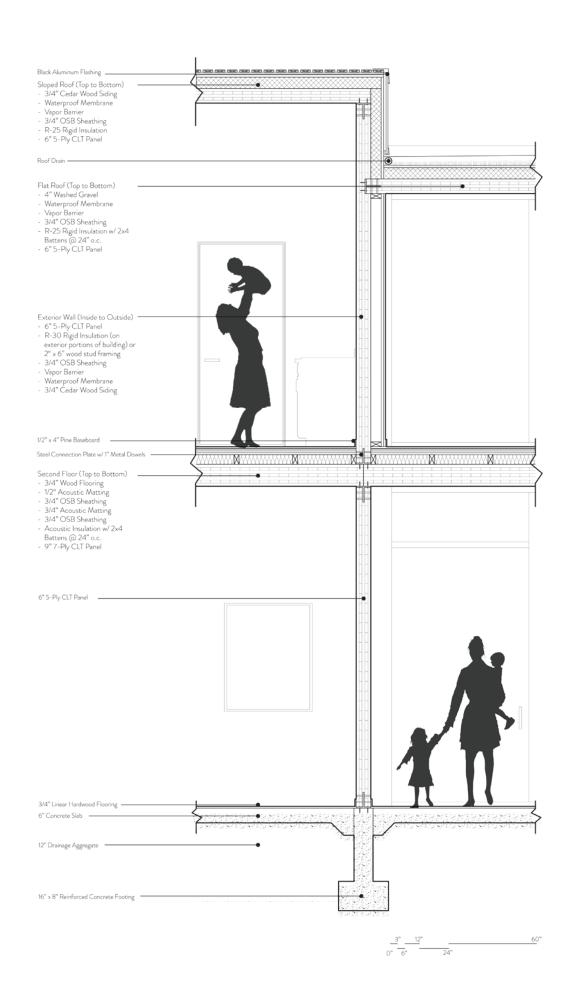




Connection to Courtyard

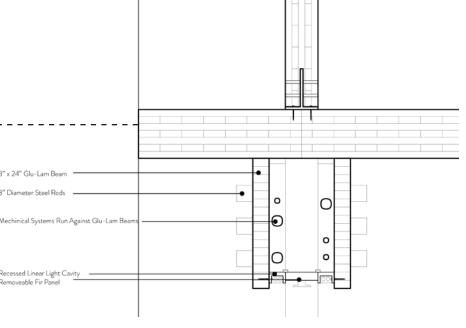
The three custom benches located along the curtain wall all provide operable windows to engage the occupants with a connection to nature.





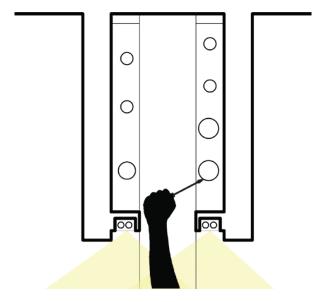


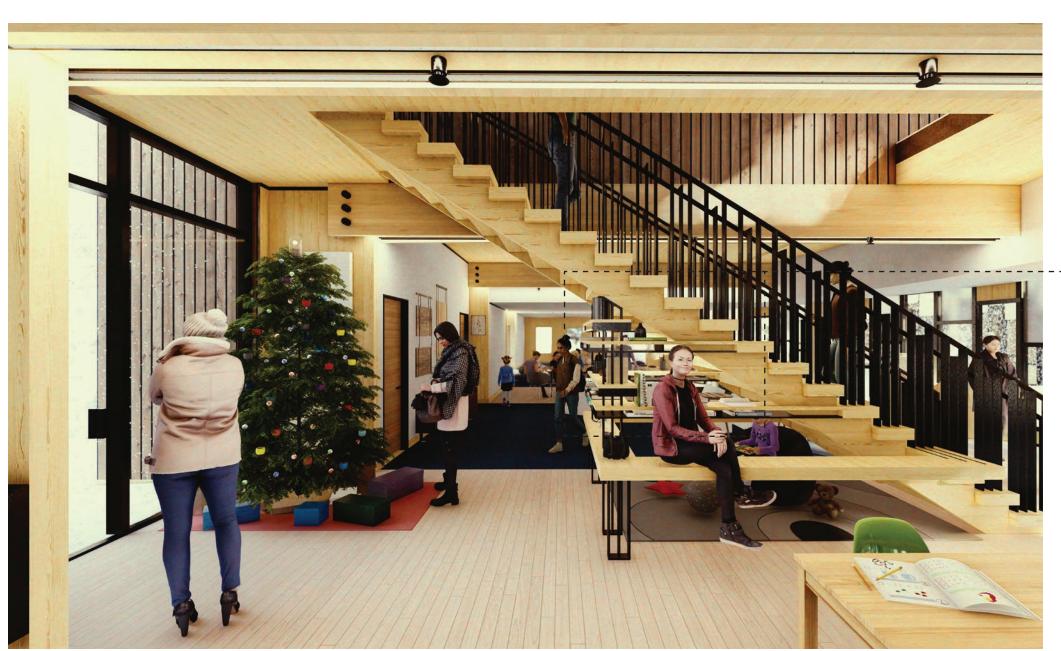


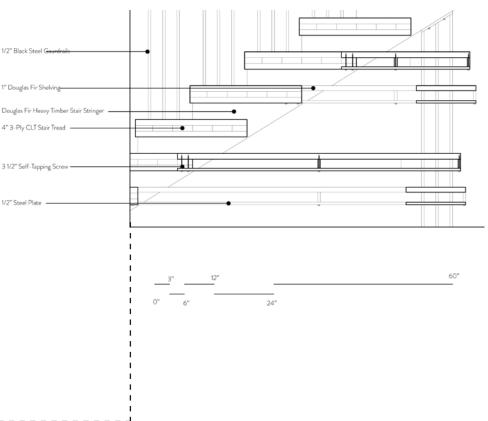


Glu-Lam Beam Detail

Instead of using one larger beam to support the floor above, two smaller beams were used and spaced 12" apart. This move created a cavity where mechanical systems could be run and maintained, and allowed for lighting and sprinkler systems to be dispersed throughout the project.



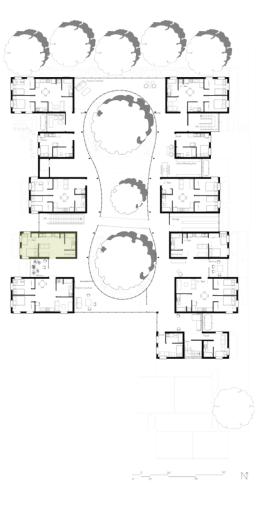




Stair Detail

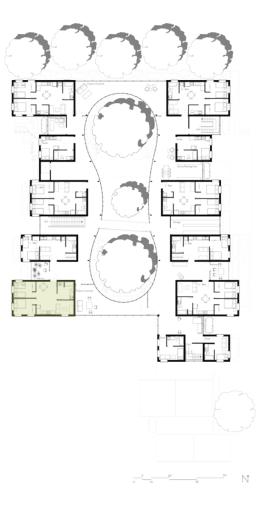
To occupy the space under and around the communal stairs a bench and shelves were added. This move solves an issue related to code and simultaneously creates a small private space for children to occupy underneath the stairs.





Home

Although the areas of the living units is smaller in nature, which helps to draw the residents out of their private spaces and into the communal spaces, they still can evoke the feelings of home for the residents. This feeling stems from the individuality of each residence being separate from one another.



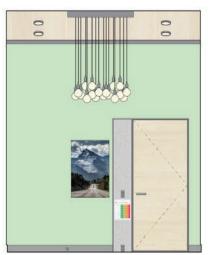
Home

The feeling of home is accentuated by the expressed gable of the ceiling within. The visual expression of a gable roof subconsciously triggers a more domicile feel to a space, as many people have evolved living in spaces with similarly pitched roofs.









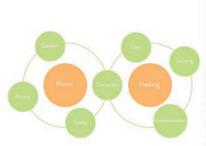




Living Units



This project seeks to answer that question. First, as a place where these families will live, it should evoke a sense of home. A place one can call their own. To evoke the home, it needs to be comfortable, private, and arrange itself around the structure of a family. Secondly, this place should support the healing process these families are experiencing. To do so it must emphasize a caring environment, allow ample spaces for learning, and promote a culture of communication. Lastly, to tie the home unto the healing there must be an ease of communication.





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