

# REIMAGINING THE NEW YORK HARBOR SCHOOL



The Cooper Union  
Solar Decathlon Team



# THE COOPER UNION TEAM

Instructors: Melody Baglone, Pamela Cabrera,  
Julian Palacio, Nader Tehrani, Cosmas Tzavelis, David Wootton

We are a multidisciplinary team of engineers and architects ranging from first-year students to seniors. We are dedicated to the design of efficient, sustainable and innovative buildings, and focus on high-performance buildings which requires building science, energy efficiency, structural and mechanical systems, resilience, and water conservation and other skills. We aim to contribute to climate solutions that can be used to decarbonize the building sector.

## Architecture

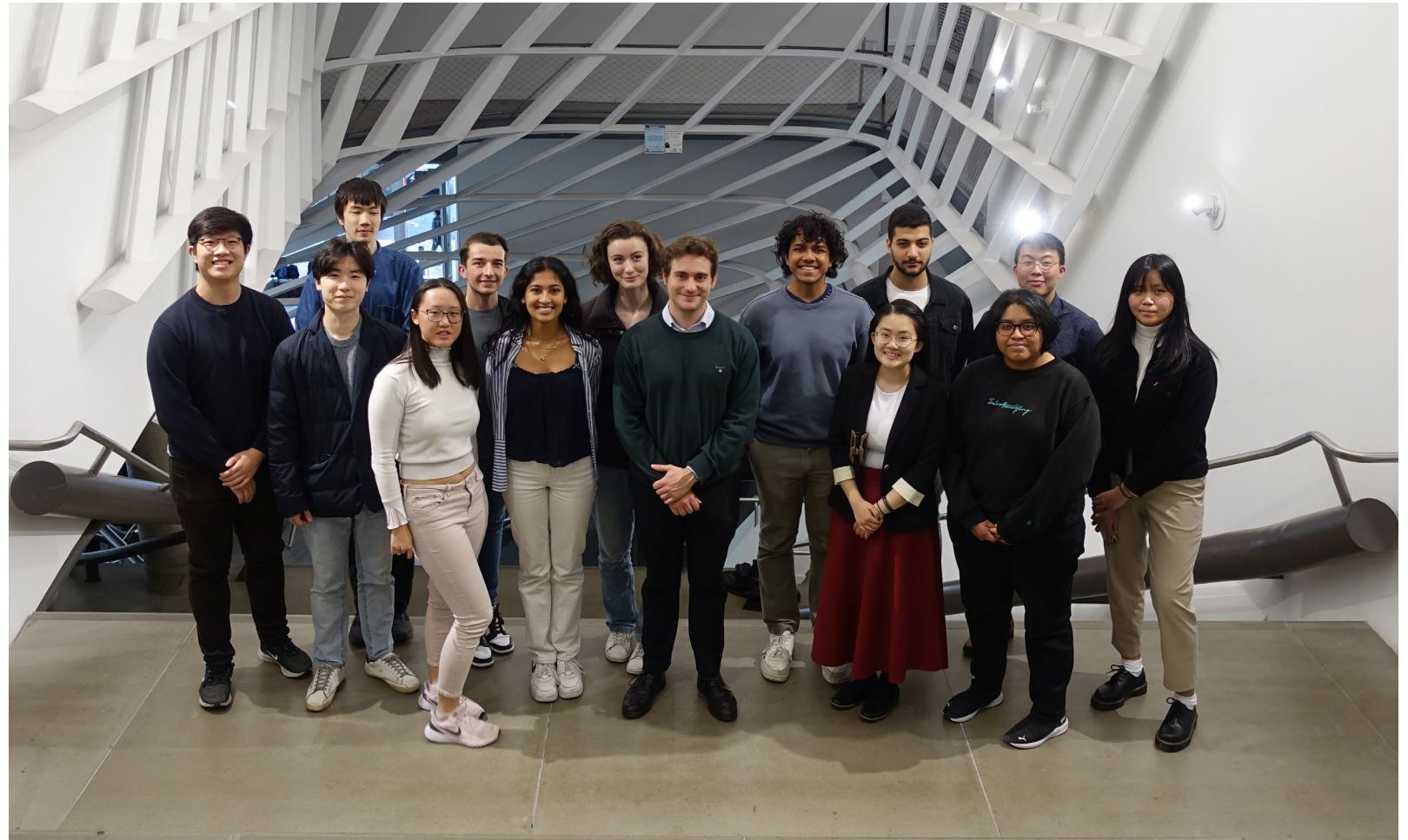
Ji Yong Chung  
Tate Liang  
Shannagh H. Crowe

## Civil Engineering

Lionel Gilliar-Schoenenberger  
Sophia Zhao  
Matviy Zhachek  
Vito Di Gregorio  
Mohamad H. Hassan  
Benny Wu  
Shirley Xingyu Yan  
Larry Zeng

## Mechanical/Electrical Engineering

Sarah Coraizaca  
Samantha Wu  
Mizanul Hoque  
Amelia Roopnarine  
Grace Ee  
Yu Shan Luo





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# PROJECT GOALS

## Population Growth:

520 students -> 900 students

## New Academic Building Construction:

+60,000 sqft

## Building 555 Renovation:

+32,000 sqft

## Additional Needs:

- 19 Additional Classrooms
- Competition-sized Pool
- Gymnasium
- 4 Labs

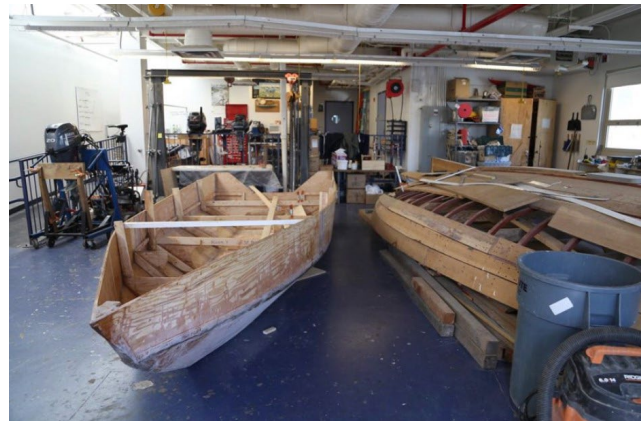
LEARNING FROM  
THE ENVIRONMENT



BILLION  
OYSTER  
PROJECT

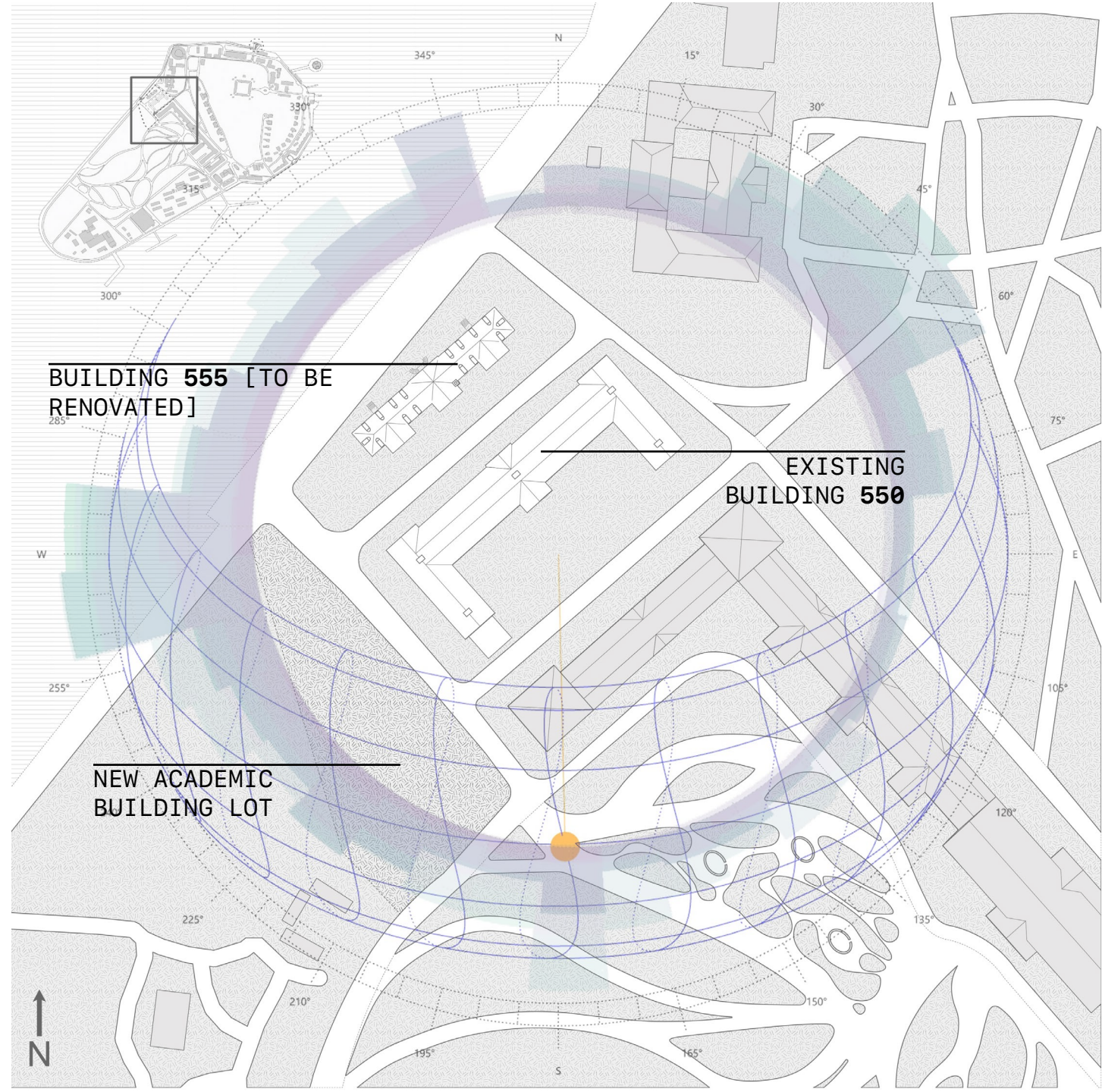


BOAT  
CONSTRUCTION





# SITE ANALYSIS



## Architecture

Durability and Resilience

Engineering

Integrated Performance

Energy

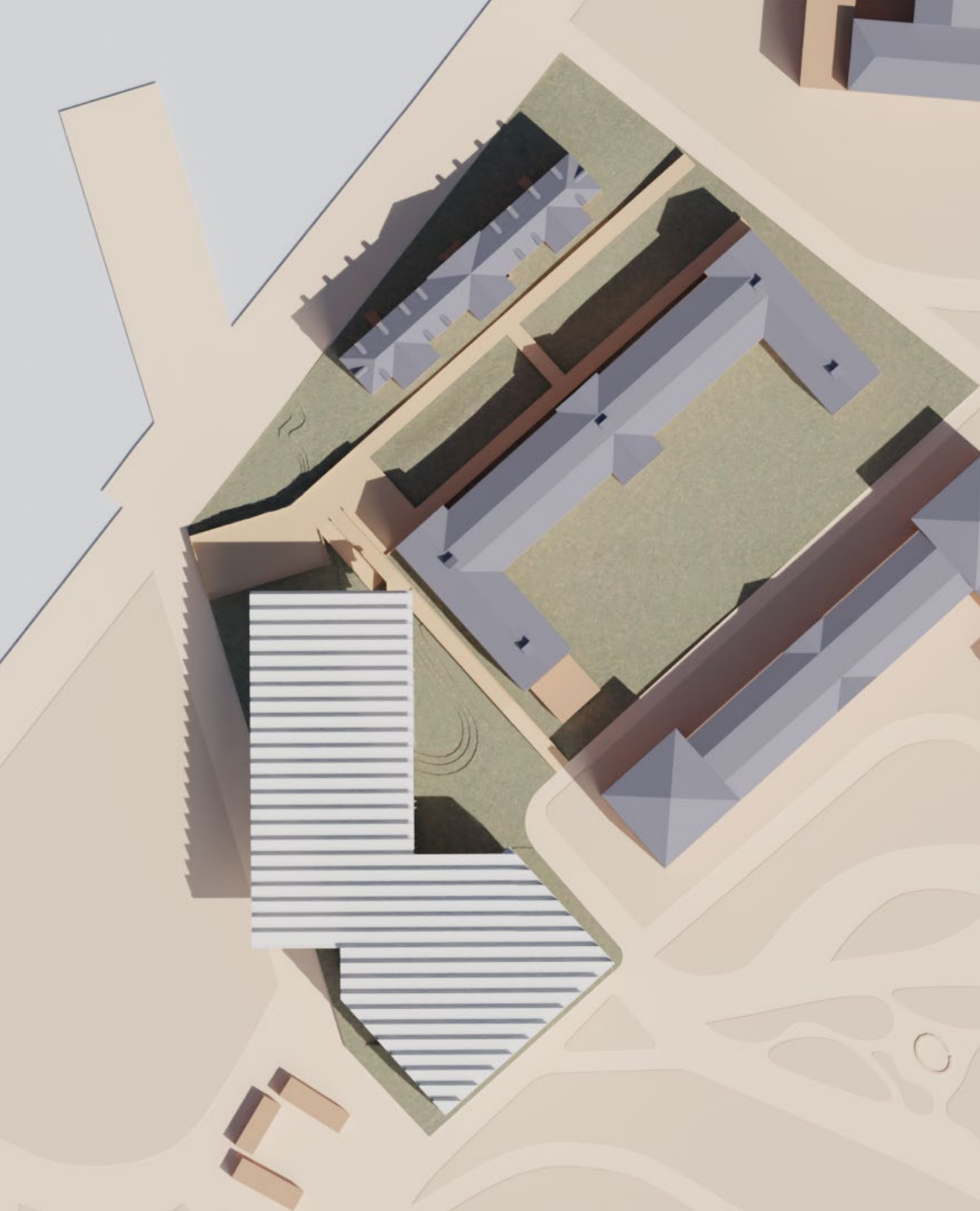
Embodied Environmental Impact

Occupant Experience

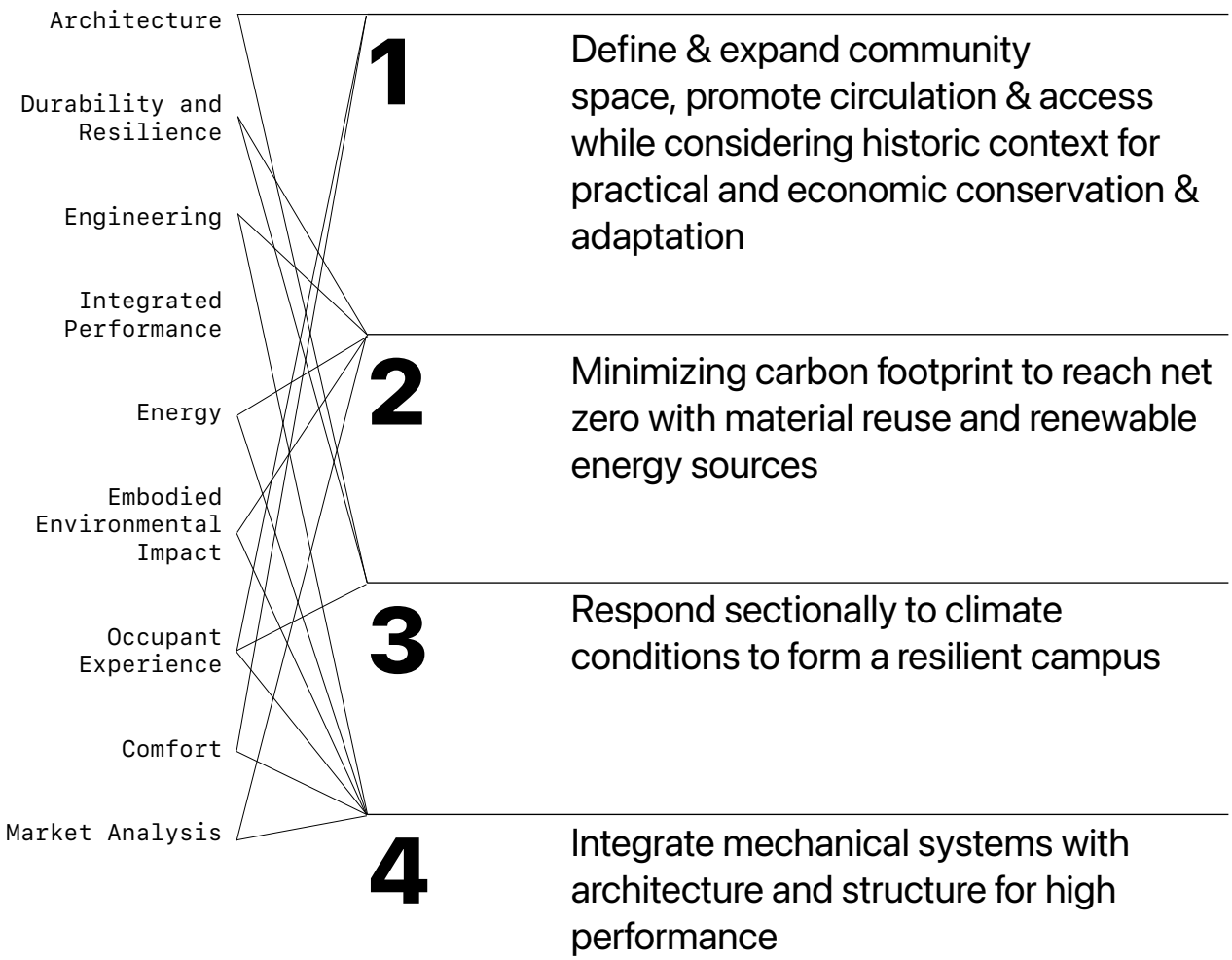
Comfort

Market Analysis





# DESIGN GUIDING CONCEPTS





# CAMPUS OVERVIEW

The New Academic Building includes sports facilities, larger classrooms, labs and flexible multipurpose areas, and the new boardwalk connecting the overall campus. We focus on the experience of students by introducing outdoor and indoor areas for events and communal activities.

## Architecture

Durability and Resilience

Engineering

Integrated Performance

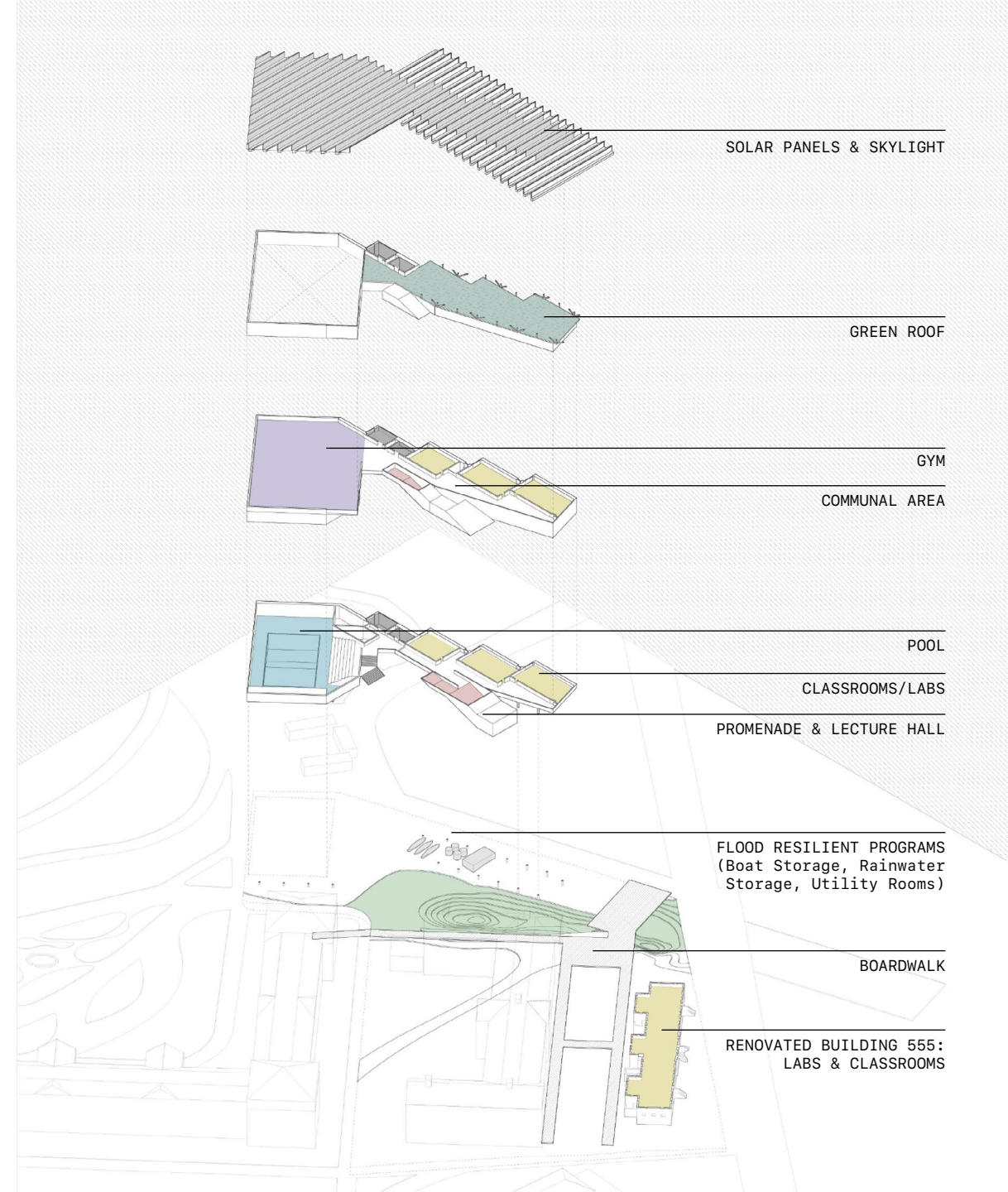
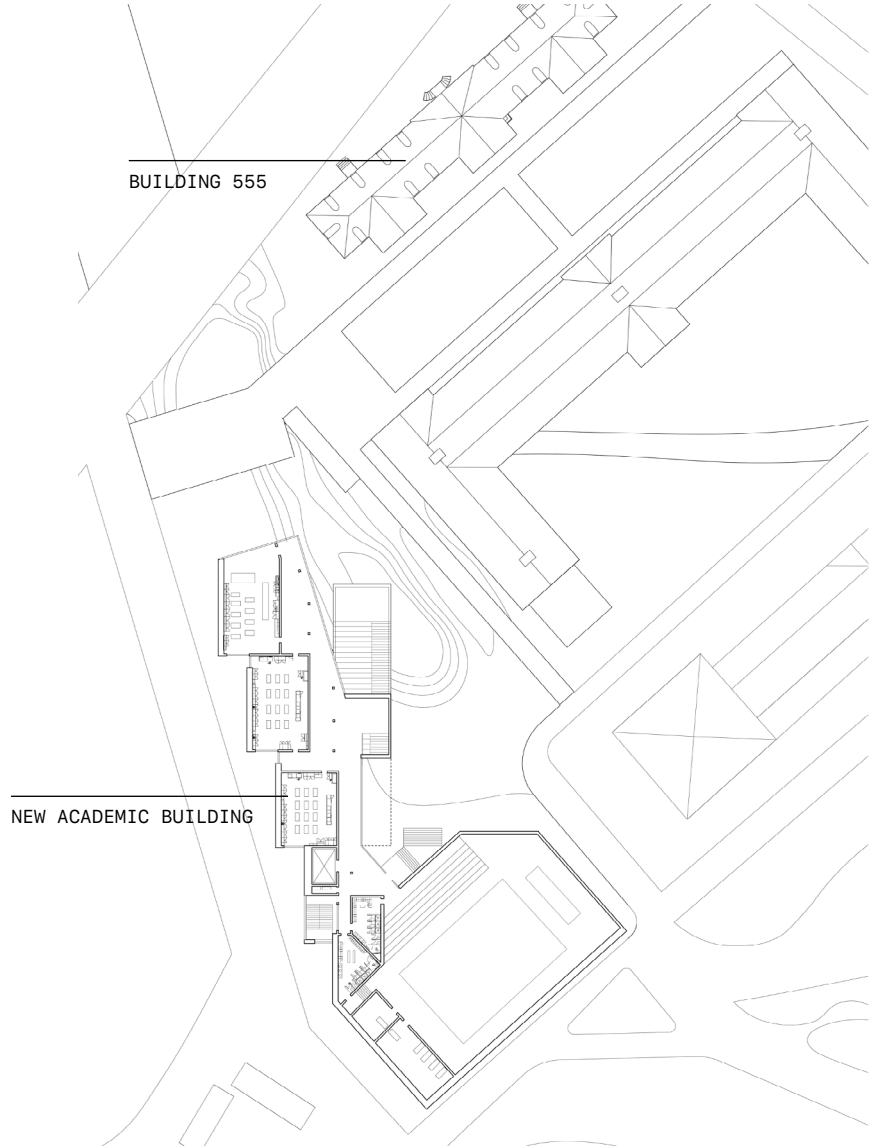
Energy

Embodied Environmental Impact

Occupant Experience

Comfort

Market Analysis





# PROGRAM

## NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING

### Architecture

Durability and  
Resilience

Engineering

Integrated  
Performance

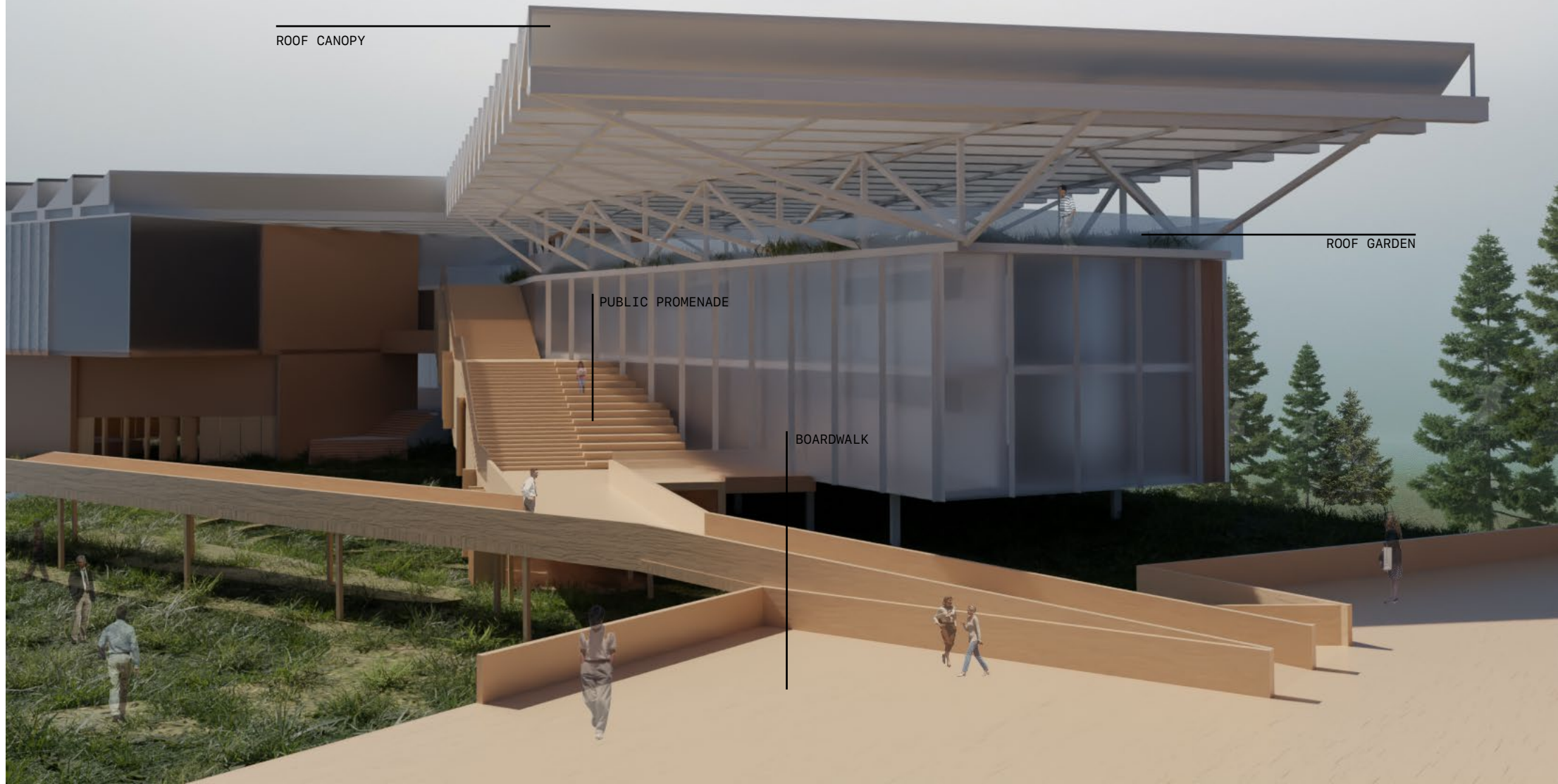
Energy

Embodied  
Environmental  
Impact

Occupant  
Experience

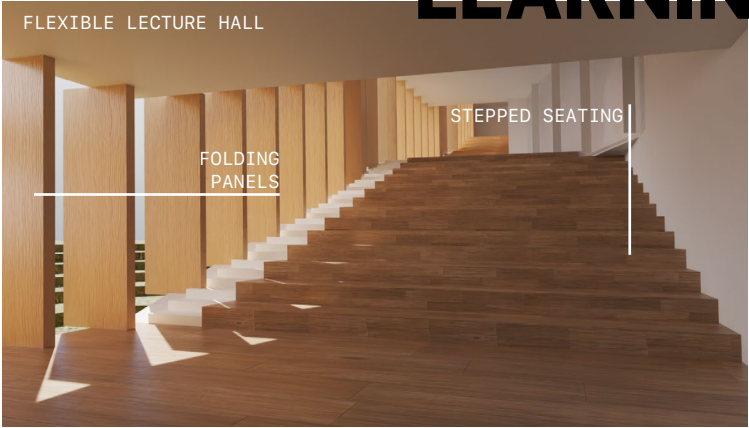
Comfort

Market Analysis

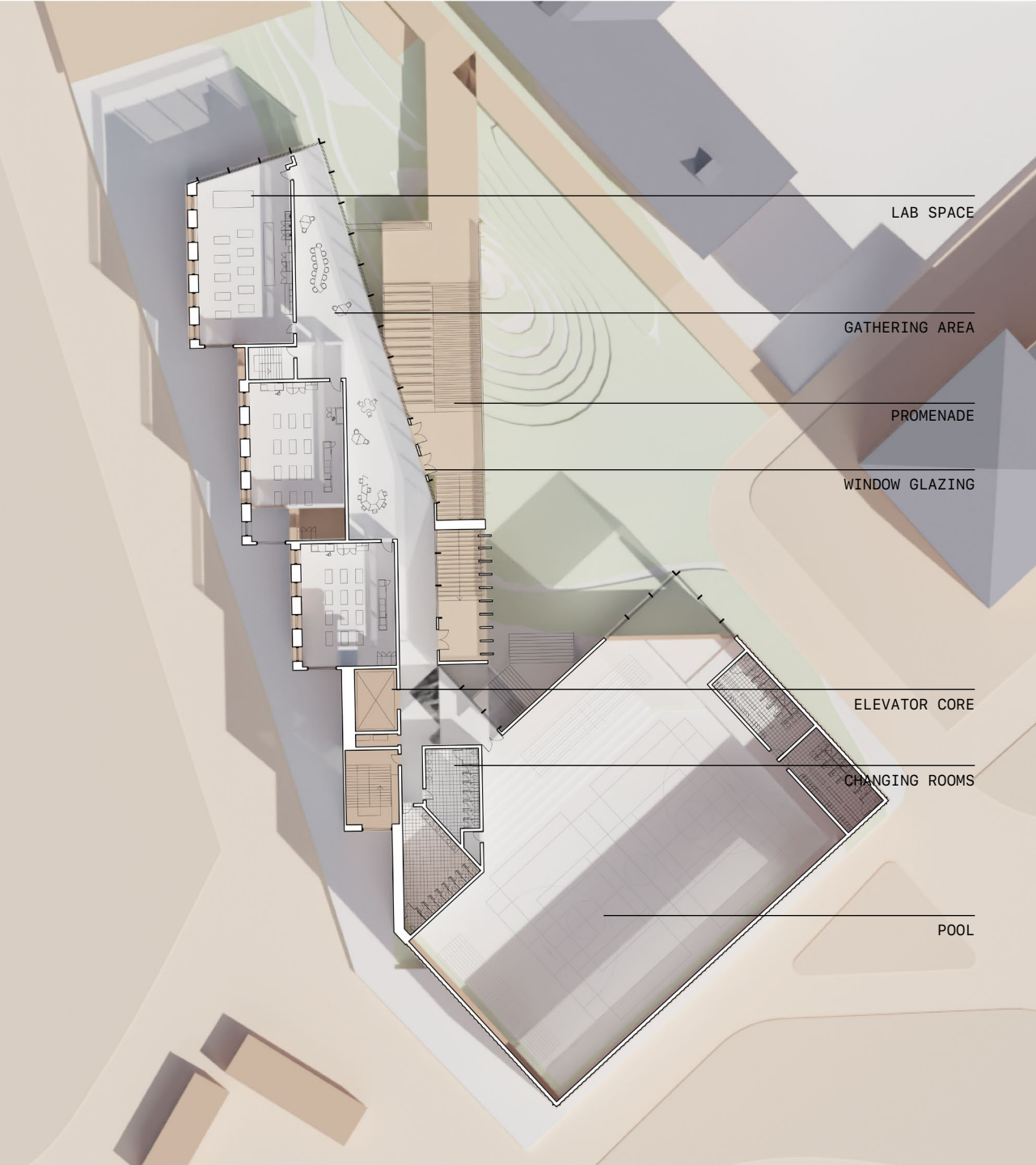




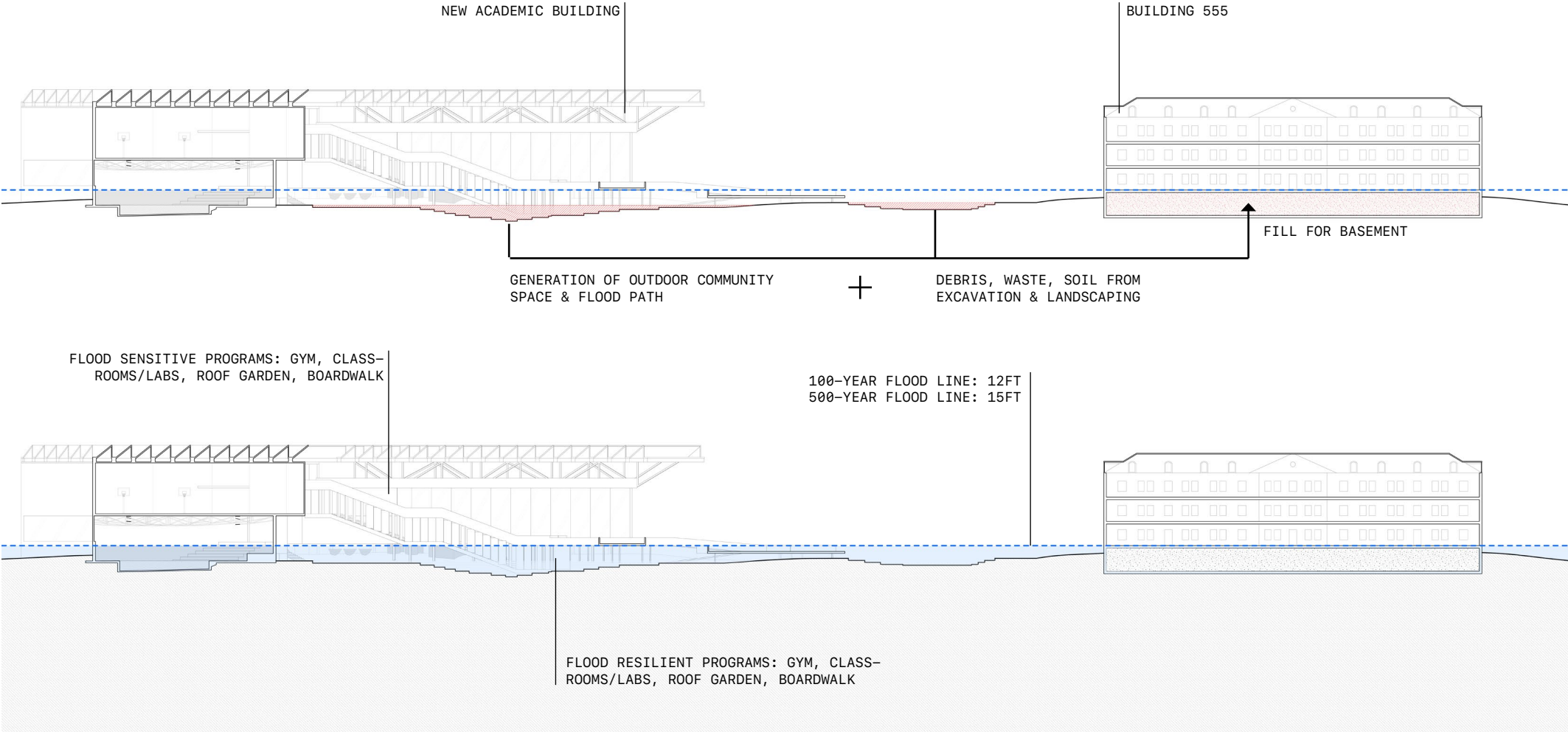
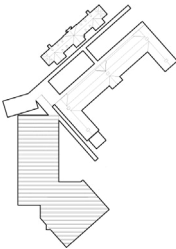
# OCCUPANT EXPERIENCE & LEARNING SPACES



- Architecture
  - Durability and Resilience
  - Engineering
  - Integrated Performance
  - Energy
  - Embodied Environmental Impact
- Occupant Experience
- Comfort
- Market Analysis

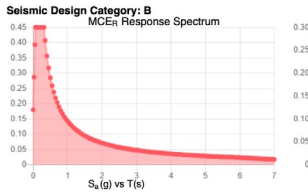
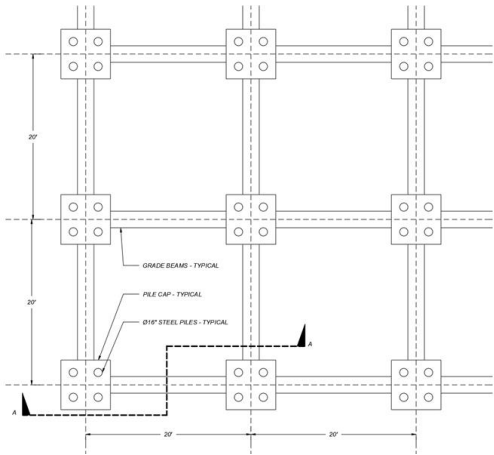
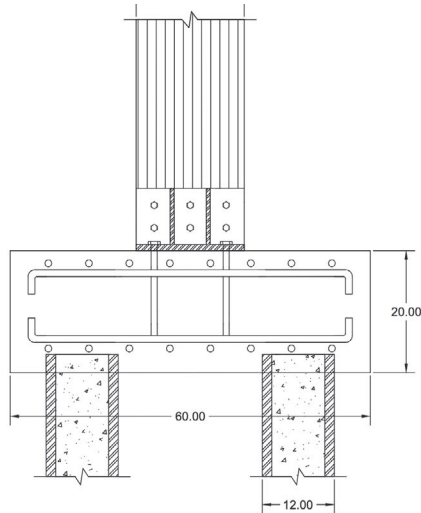
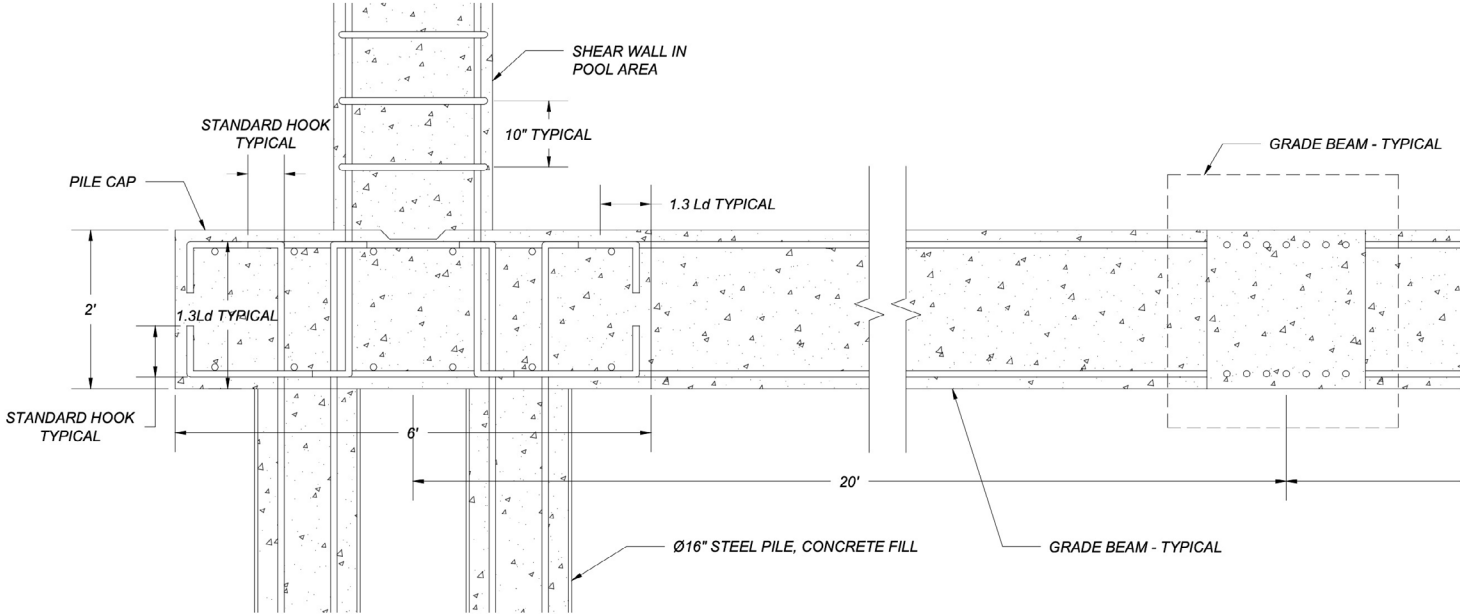
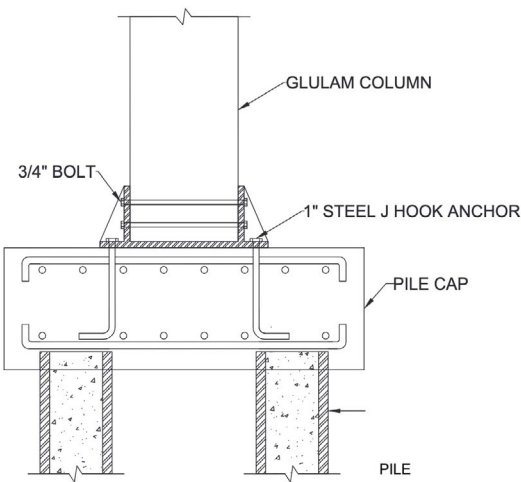






- Architecture
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NATIVE PLANT RESILIENCE

The bathtub style foundation system incorporates resistance to extreme storm events in terms of strength and serviceability. Grade beams span between pile caps to provide lateral stability and support the pool slab in case of liquefaction or uplift caused by an elevated water table. Monolithic pours are used to make integral connections seen in the typical plan and section A-A as well as reduce the number of expansion and construction joints. Waterproofing wrap, Drainage mats and hard board insulation are added to prevent stagnation of salt-water near foundation.



# SECTION

STRUCTURAL

16" MASONRY WALL  
FOR POOL LEVEL

W24 COLUMNS

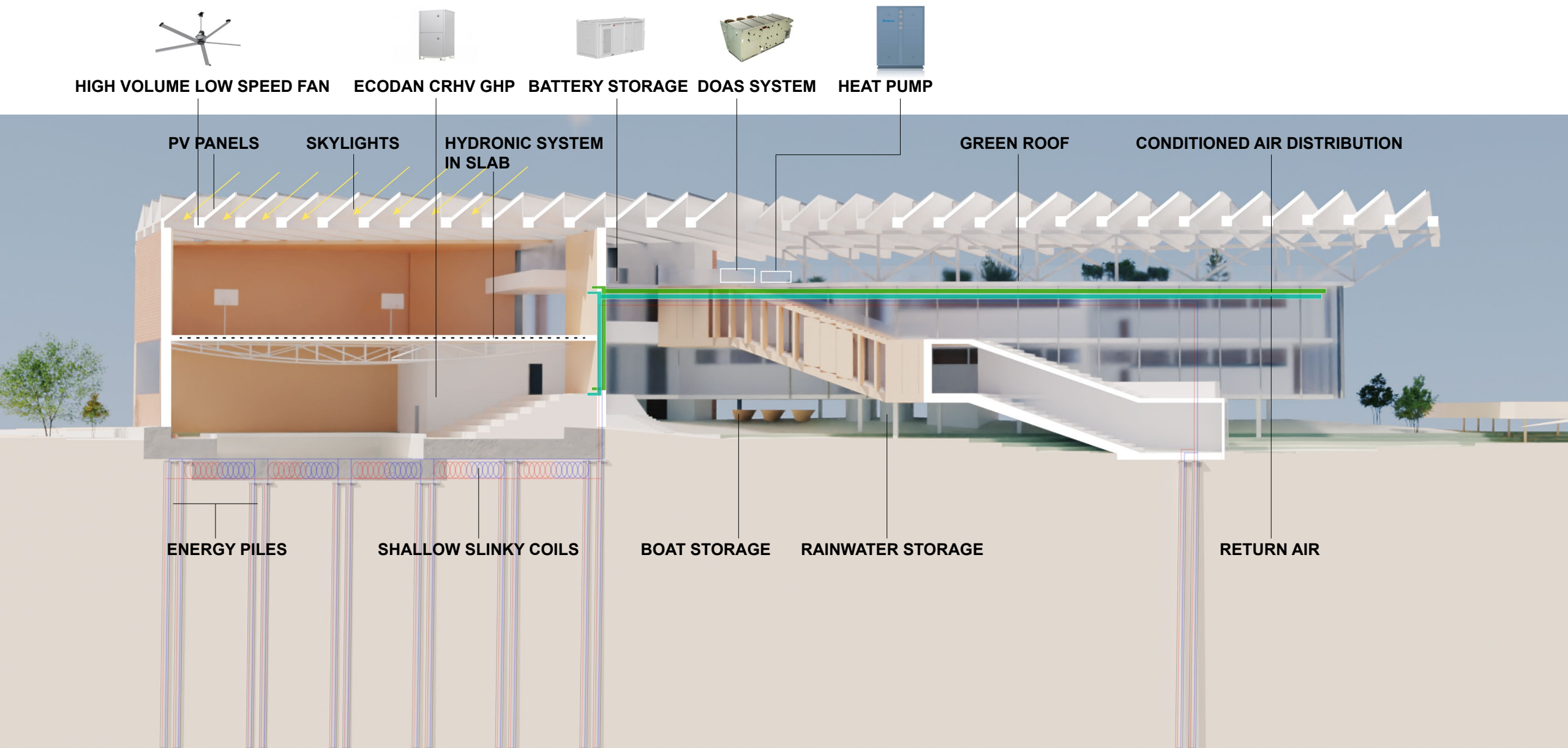
4' TRUSS 10' OC

12" CLT PANELS + 8" = 20" WALL

ROOF TRUSS SYSTEM



# SECTION





# ENERGY PILES & SLINKY

Energy Pile Capacity 0.042 kBTU/hr/ft

Slinky Capacity 0.026 kBTU/hr/ft^2

Total Energy Pile Capacity 269 kBTU/hr

Total Slinky Capacity 347 kBTU/hr

Total Heat Sink Capacity 616 kBTU/hr

Peak Heating Load 497 kBTU/hr

Peak Cooling Load 740 kBTU/hr

Architecture

Durability and  
Resilience

Engineering

Integrated  
Performance

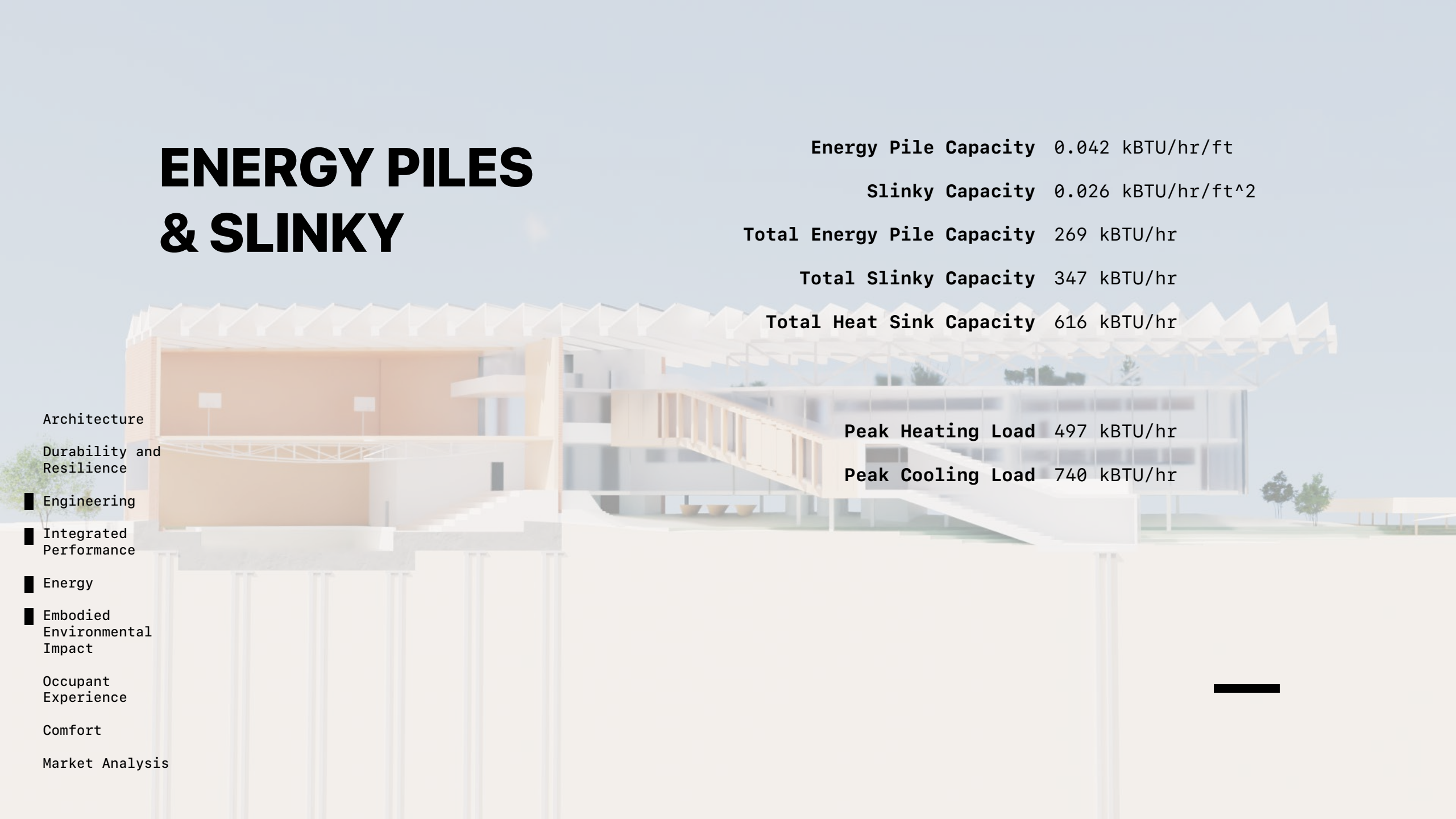
Energy

Embodied  
Environmental  
Impact

Occupant  
Experience

Comfort

Market Analysis



# INTEGRATED ROOF SYSTEM

## RAINWATER COLLECTION & REUSE

Architecture

Durability and  
Resilience

Engineering

Integrated  
Performance

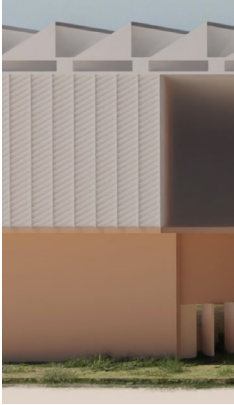
Energy

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Environmental  
Impact

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Experience

Comfort

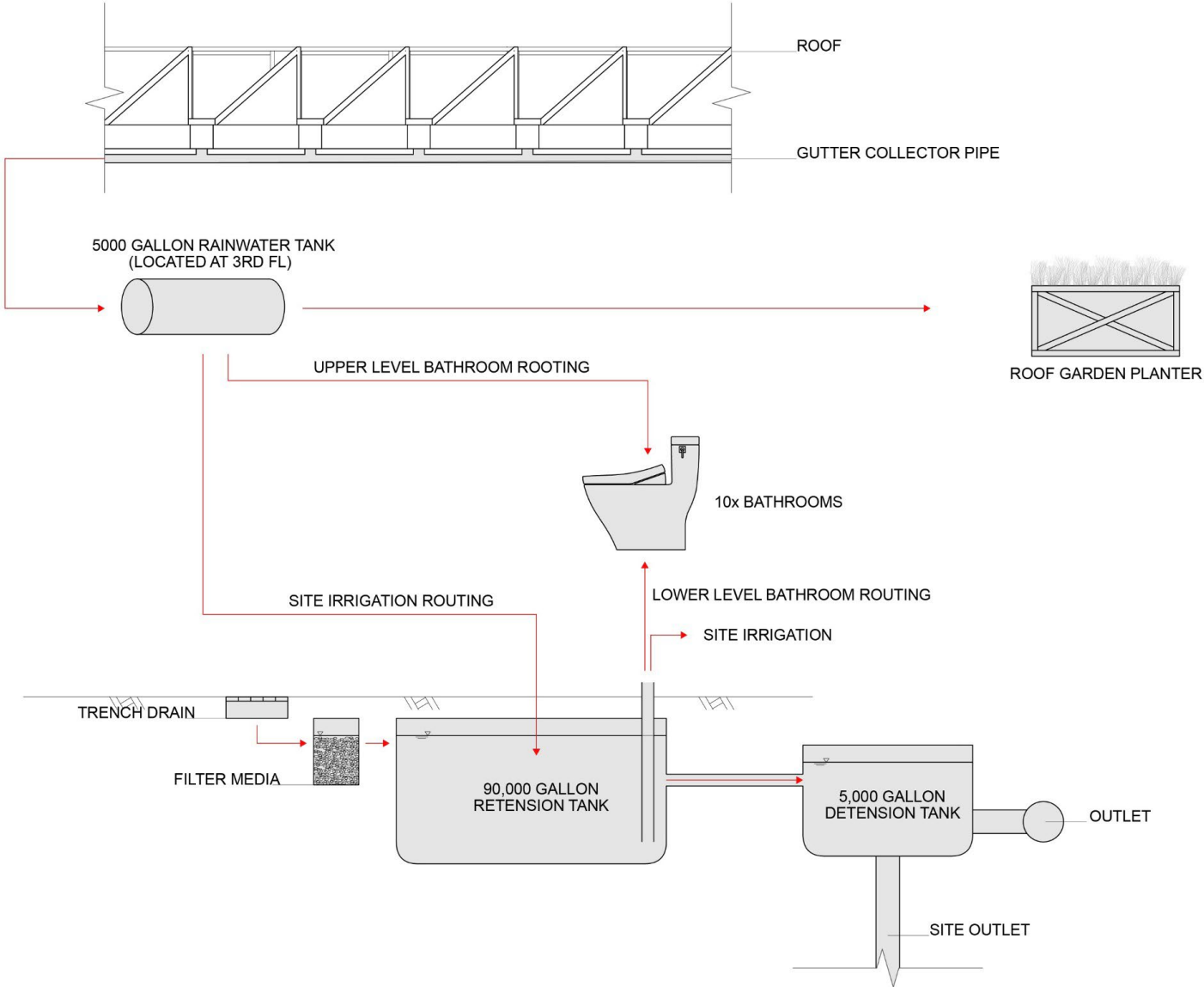
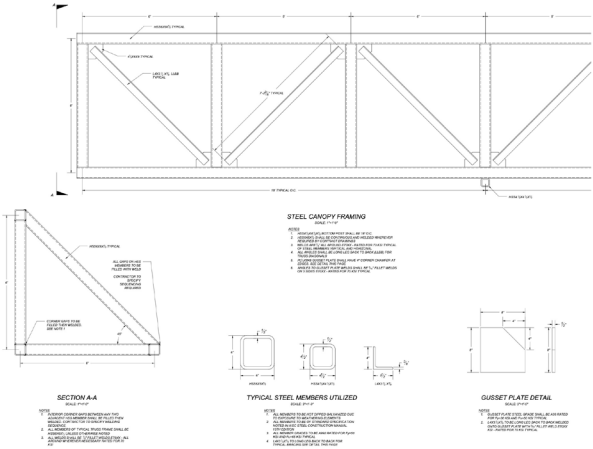
Market Analysis



RAIN-CATCHING FACADE



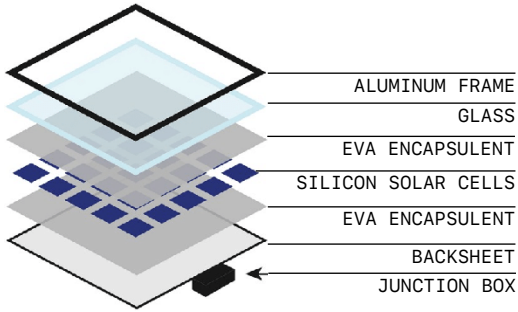
SAMPLE PRECEDENT





# INTEGRATED ROOF SYSTEM

└─ BATTERY STORAGE



Architecture

Durability and  
Resilience

Engineering

Integrated  
Performance

Energy

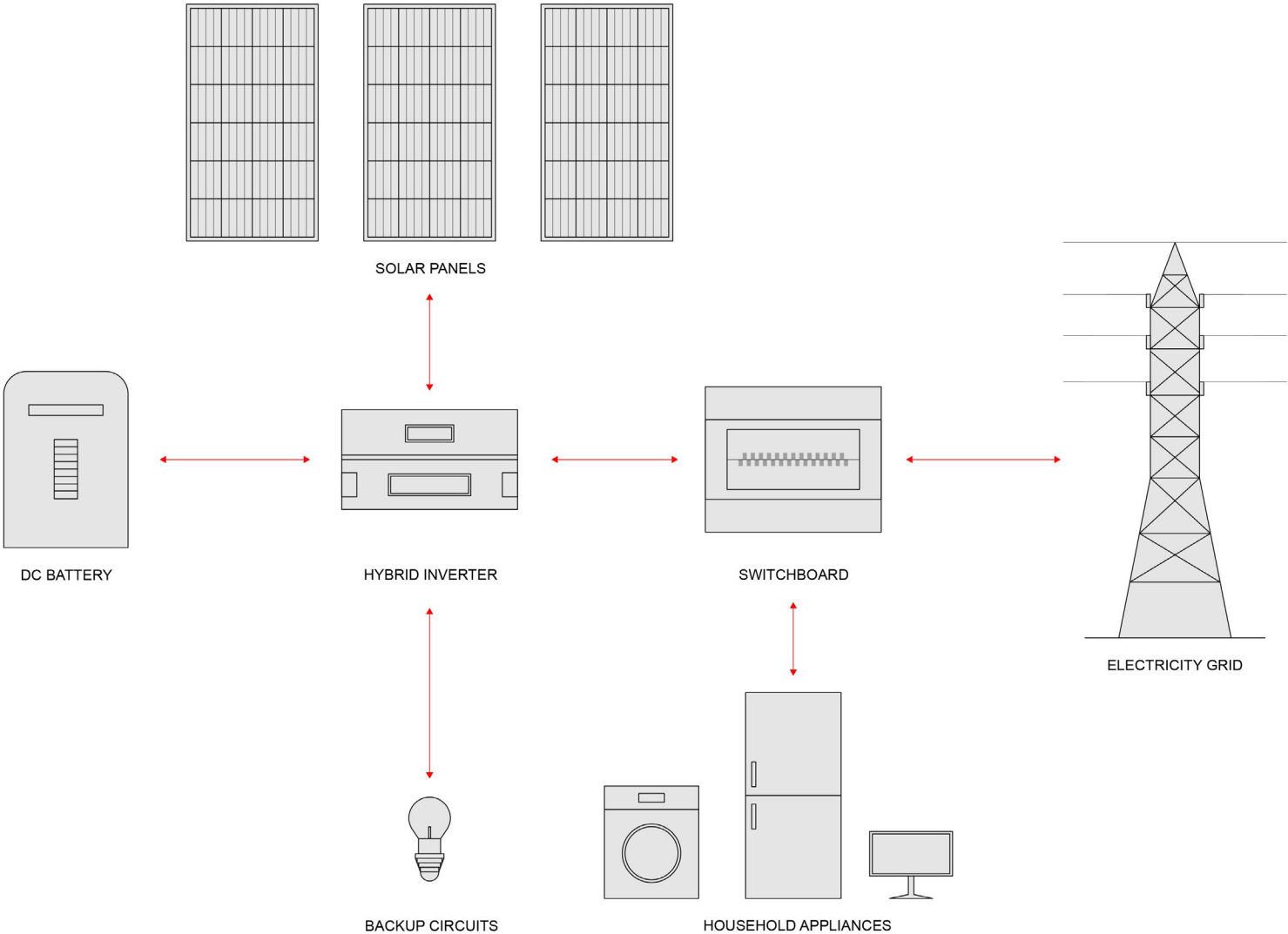
Embodied  
Environmental  
Impact

Occupant  
Experience

Comfort

Market Analysis

Under normal conditions, the solar panels collect power that goes through an inverter with a 99% efficiency and distributes it to the building then the lithium ion batteries. The automatic transfer switch is engaged, connecting the building to the PV panels and the battery. The batteries are located in an ABB eStorage Flex 40 Fully integrated Energy Storage System on the green roof and the second-floor MEP room. This system is equipped with fire suppression and allows us to integrate the components that we see fit to optimize performance.



Architecture

Durability and  
Resilience

Engineering

■ Integrated  
Performance

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Market Analysis

# CLASSROOMS

NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING  
INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE

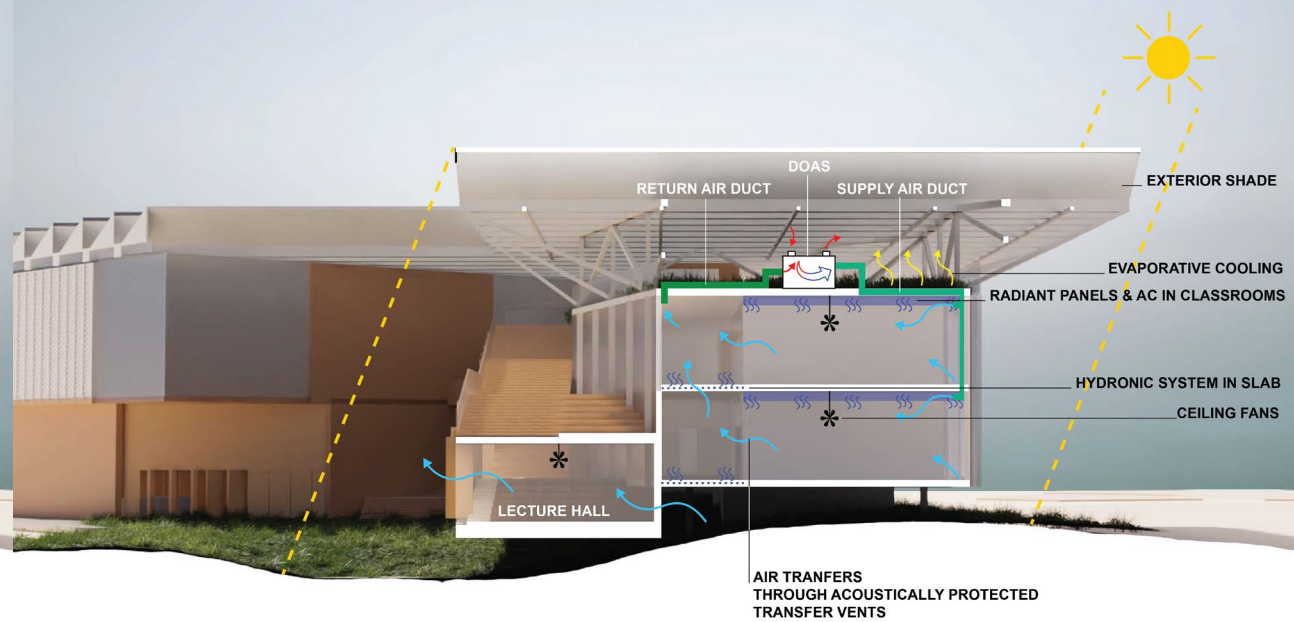
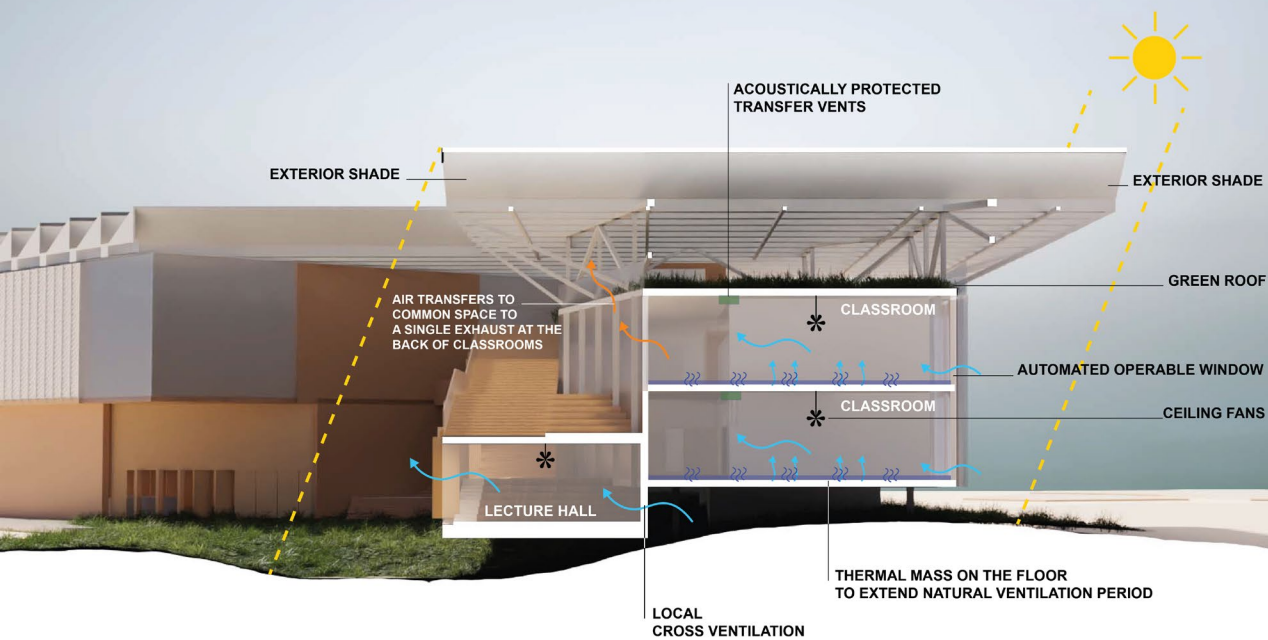
ROOF SYSTEM

WEST FACADE  
OF CLASSROOMS

RAINCATCHING  
FACADE







Architecture

Durability and Resilience

Engineering

Integrated Performance

Energy

Embodied Environmental Impact

Occupant Experience

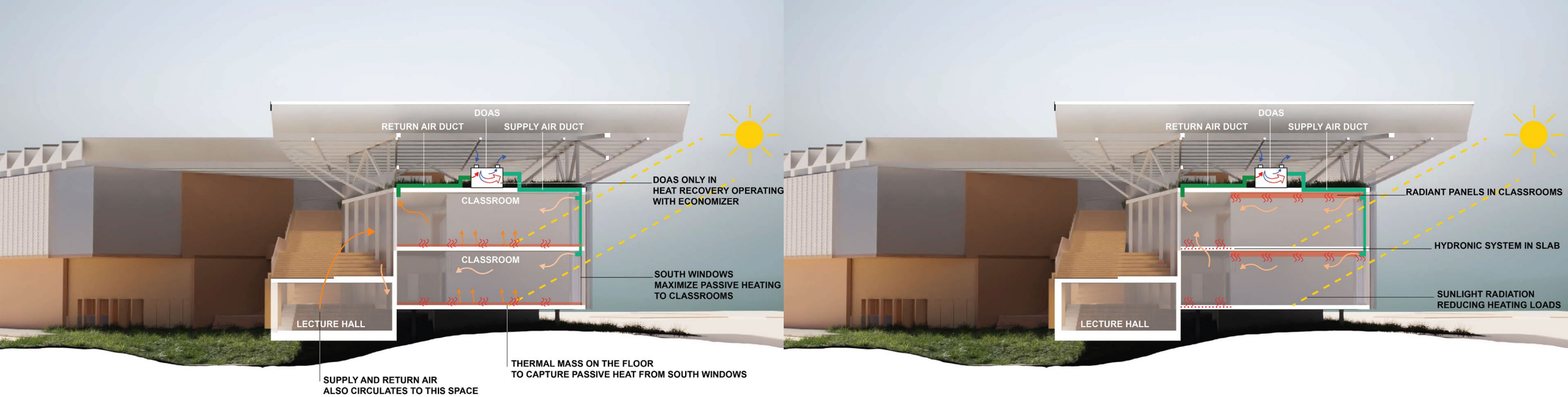
Comfort

Market Analysis

# SUMMER

## ACTIVE & PASSIVE MODES FOR THE NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING CLASSROOMS

In the active mode, the radiant panels are engaged and conditioned cool air is moved from the DOAS to the ducts located in the classroom and hallway. In the passive model, warm air travels from the glazed windows and heats the classrooms and eventually the hallway from radiation. Warm air also makes its way to the unconditioned promenade and is warmed through radiation.



## Architecture

## Durability and Resilience

## Engineering

## Integrated Performance

## Energy

## Embodied Environmental Impact

## Occupant Experience

## Comfort

## Market Analysis

In the active mode, the radiant panels heat the classroom and the hallway, where air is moved through the DOAS and is redistributed. In the passive mode the sun is positioned at a lower angle, allowing a longer period of time for the classrooms, hallway and the promenade to warm up from radiation.

# WINTER

## ACTIVE & PASSIVE MODES FOR THE NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING CLASSROOMS



# POOL & GYM

NEW ACADEMIC BUILDING  
INTEGRATED PERFORMANCE

COMPETITION-SIZED  
SWIMMING POOL

CLERESTORY WINDOWS

OPENABLE PANELS

Architecture

Durability and  
Resilience

Engineering

Integrated  
Performance

Energy

Embodied  
Environmental  
Impact

Occupant  
Experience

Comfort

Market Analysis

Architecture

Durability and  
Resilience

■ Engineering

■ Integrated  
Performance

■ Energy

■ Embodied  
Environmental  
Impact

Occupant  
Experience

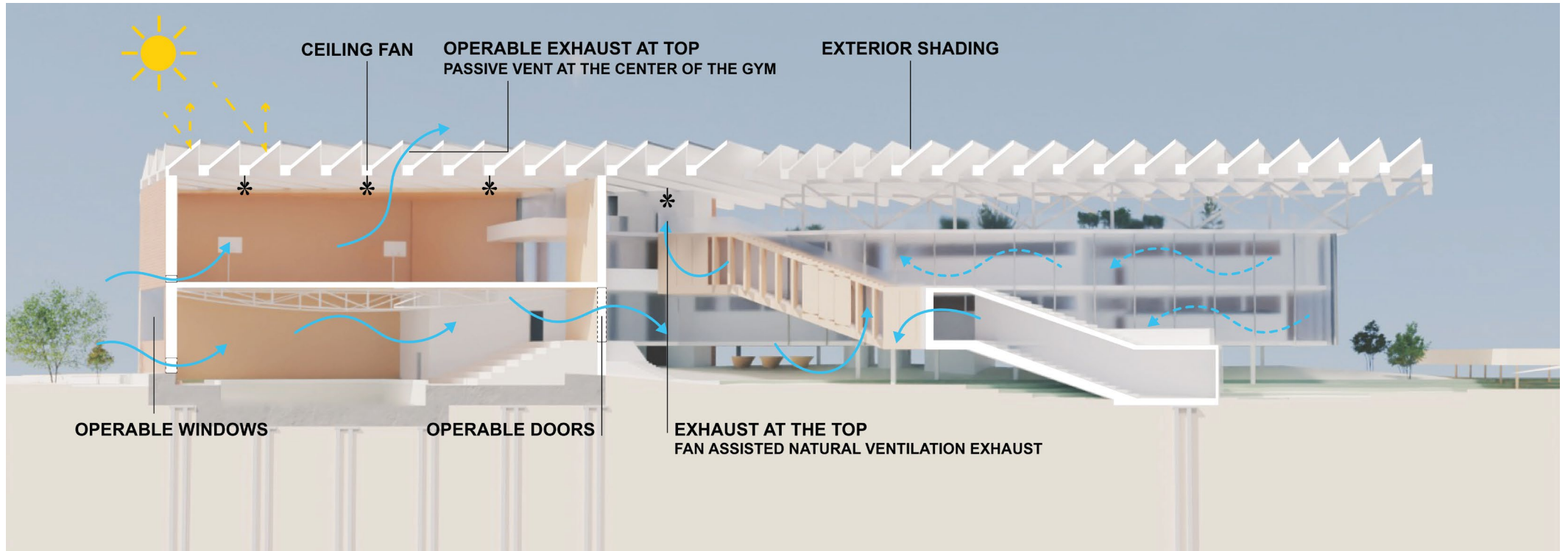
■ Comfort

Market Analysis

# SUMMER

## COOLING THE GYM / POOL

The cooling mode includes a small duct that lets in outside air to the second-floor gym, allowing cool air to circulate from the bottom, throughout, and to the top of the space. Then this cool air will make its way to the return ducts. The first floor is equipped with rotating doors that will be left open to allow for cool fresh air to flush out the humid air that is created by the pool. This fresh air will also go through the return ducts and will provide some cool air to the unconditioned promenade.





Architecture

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Integrated  
Performance

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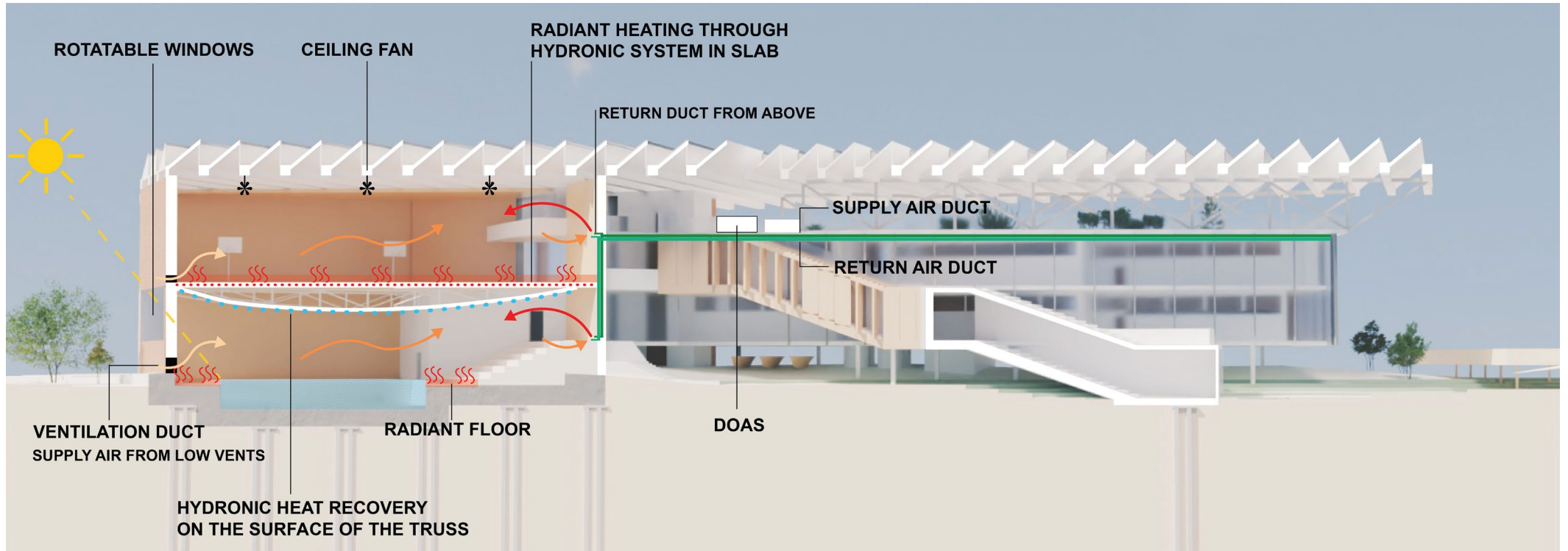
Comfort

Market Analysis

The heating mode has the radiant panels engaged and fans located on the roof circulation air to prevent stratification. Air is also being moved into return ducts to be circulated throughout the building. The passive diagram of the building would primarily show that the building is gaining heat through solar radiation from the sunroof.

# WINTER

HEATING THE GYM / POOL



# GYM & POOL DAYLIGHTING ANALYSIS

## SPATIAL DAYLIGHTING AUTONOMY (SDA)

Lighting is an essential component to occupant comfort and building energy use. We integrate the architecture through the skylights of the sawtooth roof above the gym and the curtain glass adjacent to the hallways for increased natural lighting. A daylighting analysis conducted using Climate Studio in Rhino found that around 89 percent of the space has spatial daylight autonomy, meeting the 300-lux (28 Foot-candle) standard for 50 percent of operating hours. This significantly reduces the lighting energy needed for the pool and gym. It was then estimated that around 185,300 kBTU can be saved annually with natural lighting.

### Architecture

Durability and Resilience

Engineering

Integrated Performance

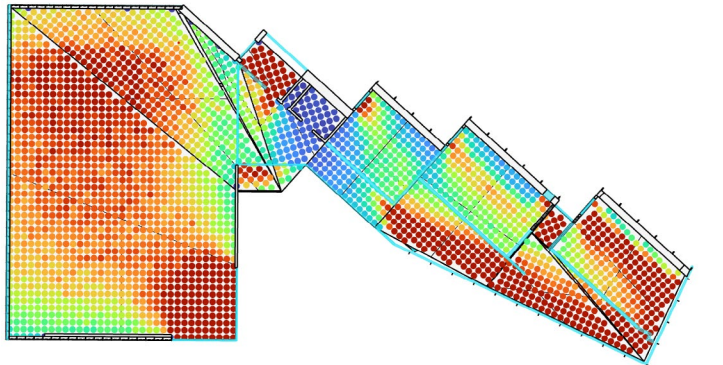
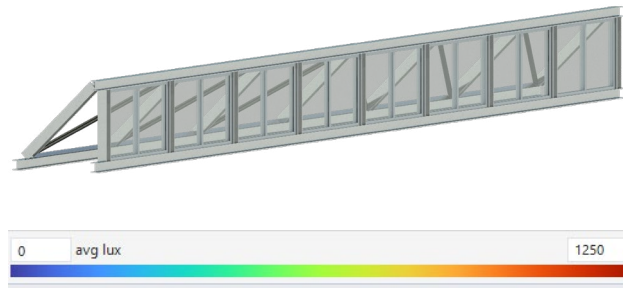
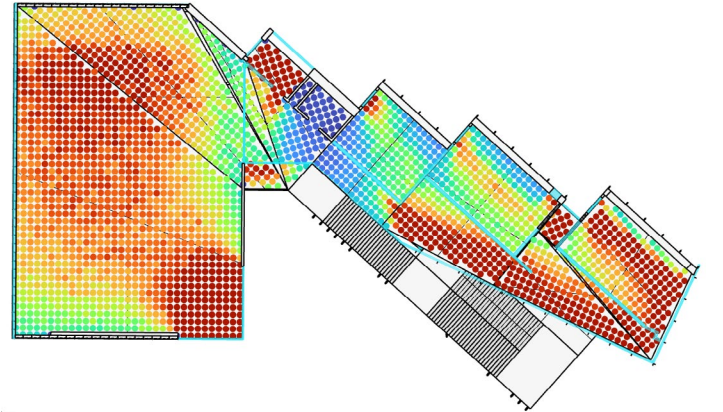
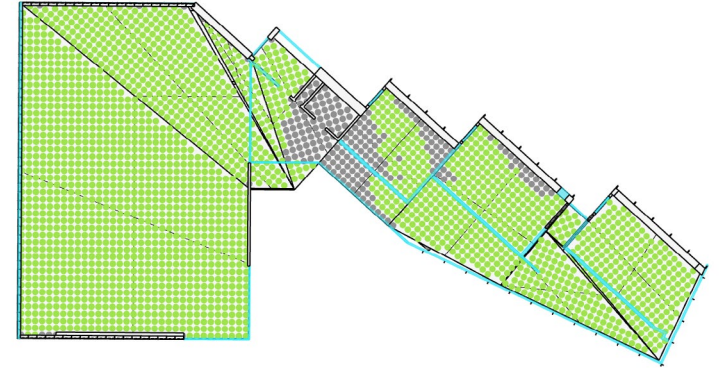
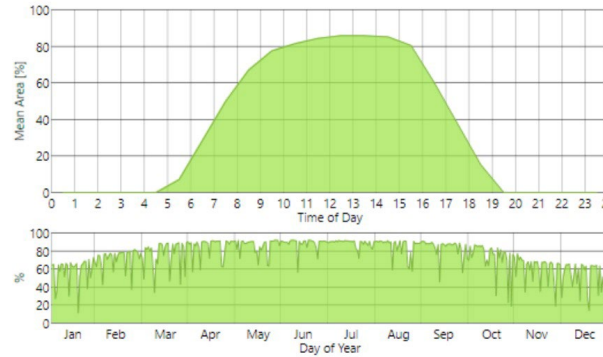
Energy

Embodied Environmental Impact

Occupant Experience

Comfort

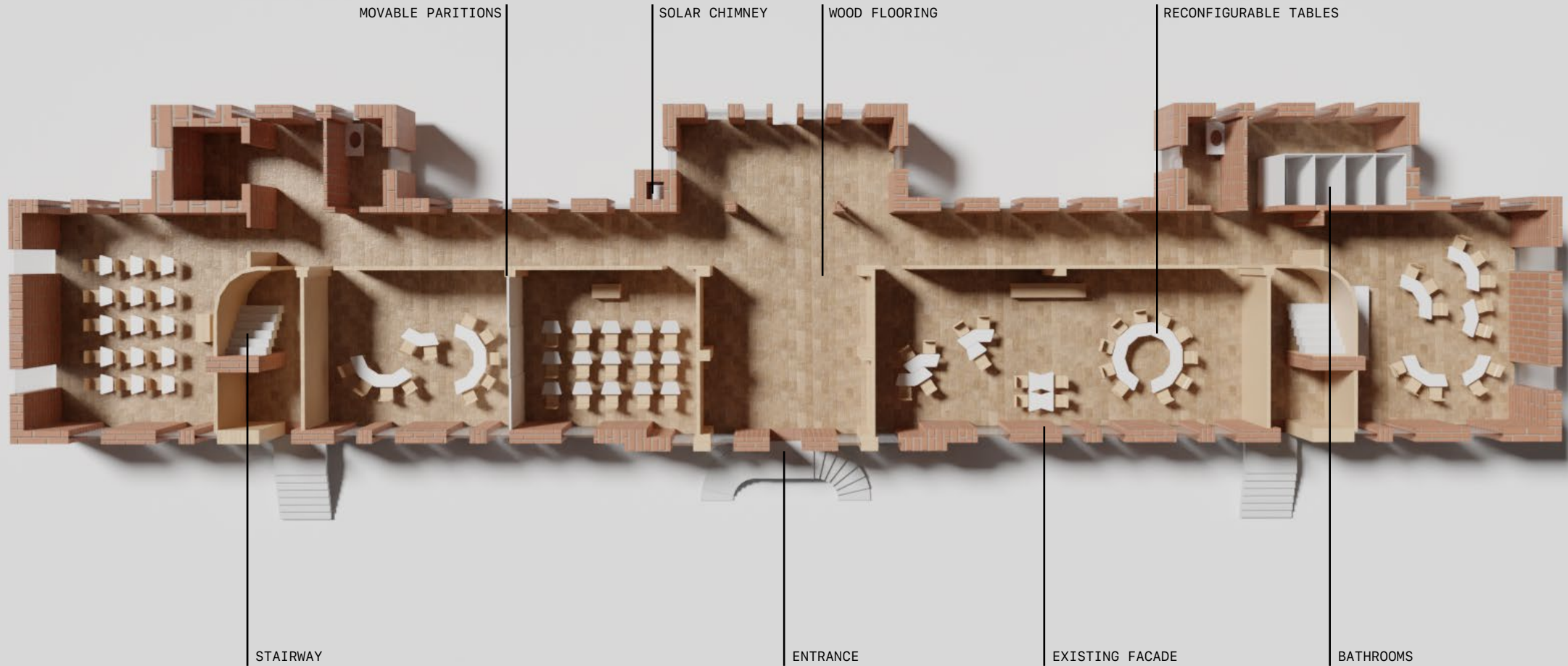
Market Analysis



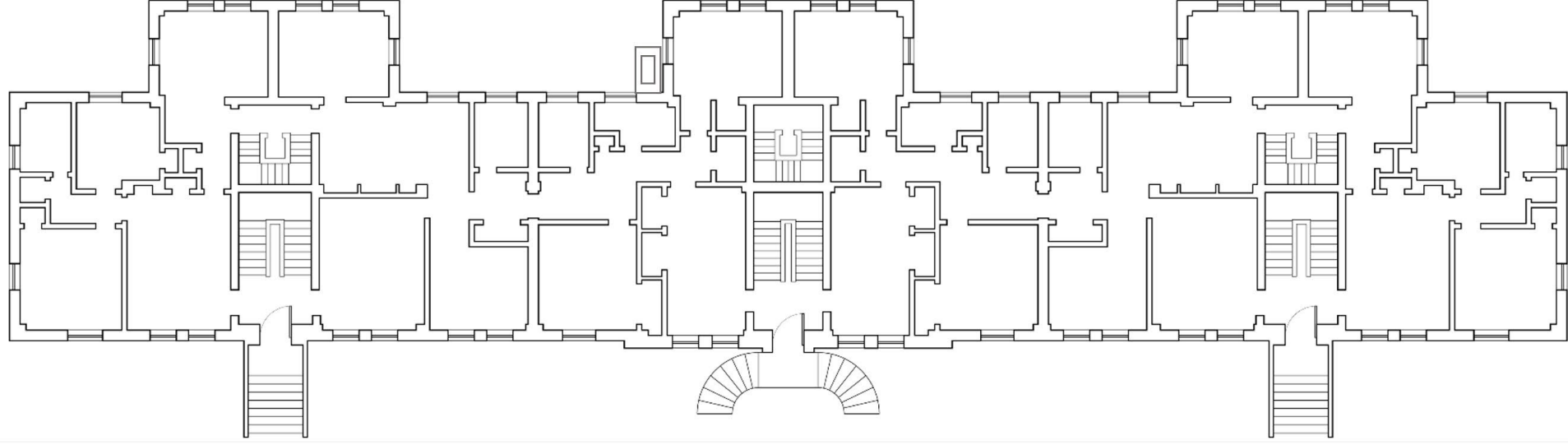


# BUILDING 555

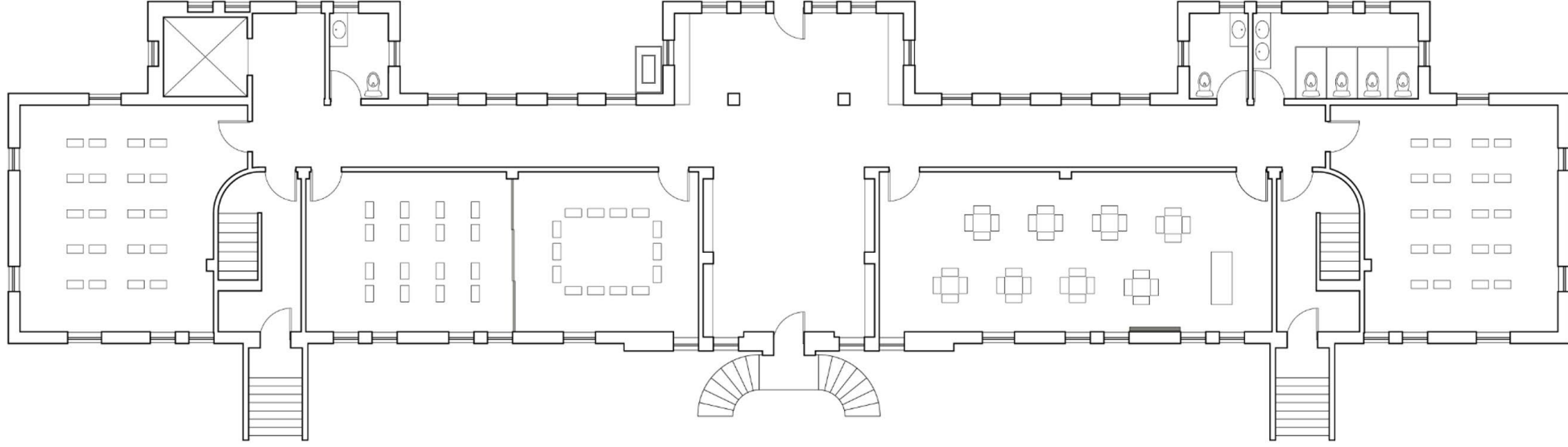
→ RENOVATE & RETROFIT



**BEFORE**



**AFTER**





# BUILDING 555

## ➔ HEATING & COOLING

The retrofit of Building 555 includes Radiant Ceiling Panels on the first floor for resiliency and in the slabs on the 2nd and 3rd floors, with the mechanical equipment on the 3rd floor. A solar chimney modifies an existing one, aiding passive heating and cooling of the space when needed. Mineral wool insulation will be used for its effectiveness, resiliency, and soundproofing qualities.

### Architecture

Durability and Resilience

Engineering

Integrated Performance

### Energy

Embodied Environmental Impact

Occupant Experience

### Comfort

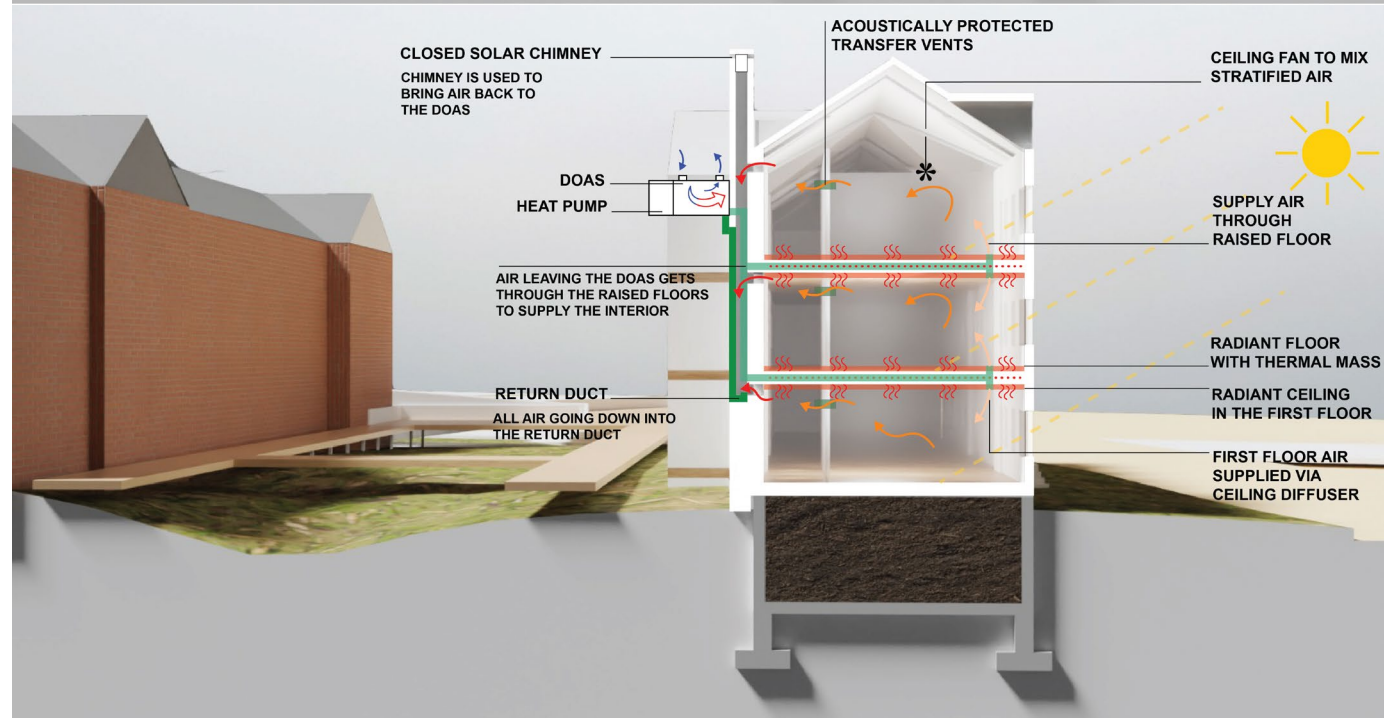
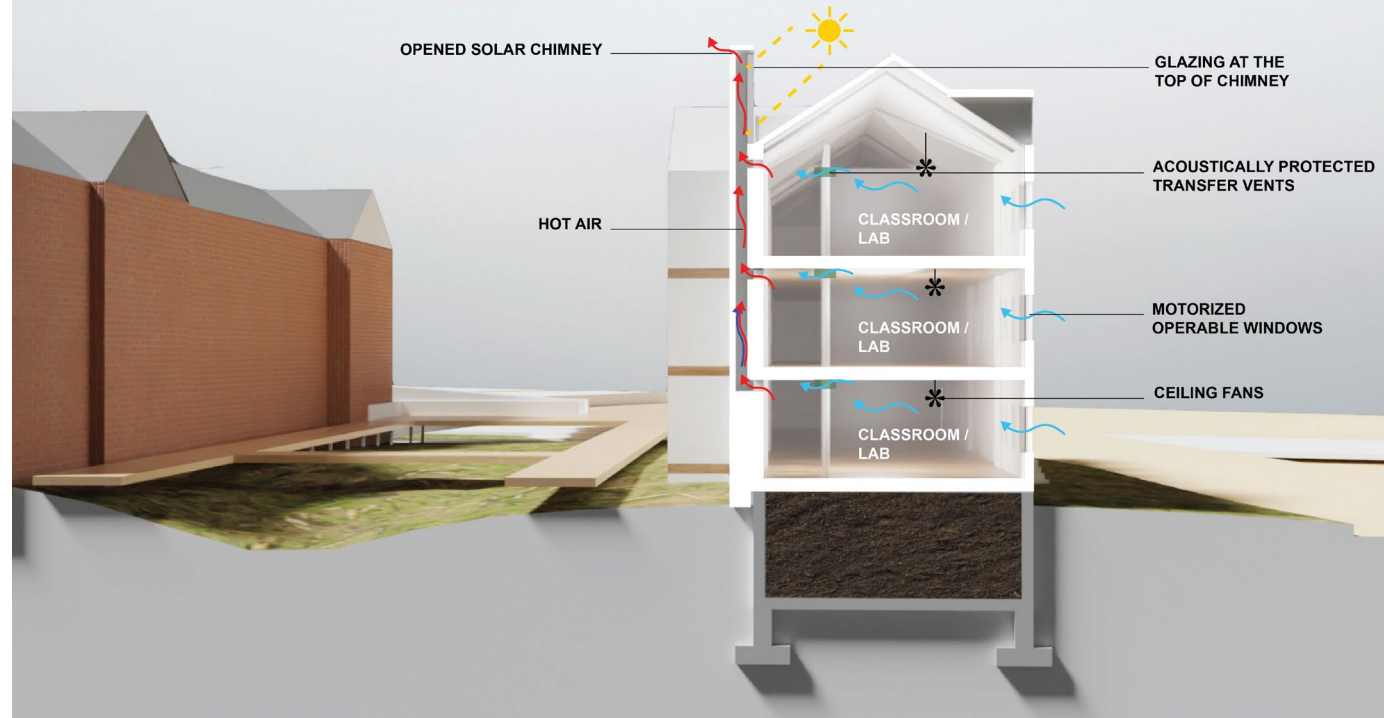
Market Analysis



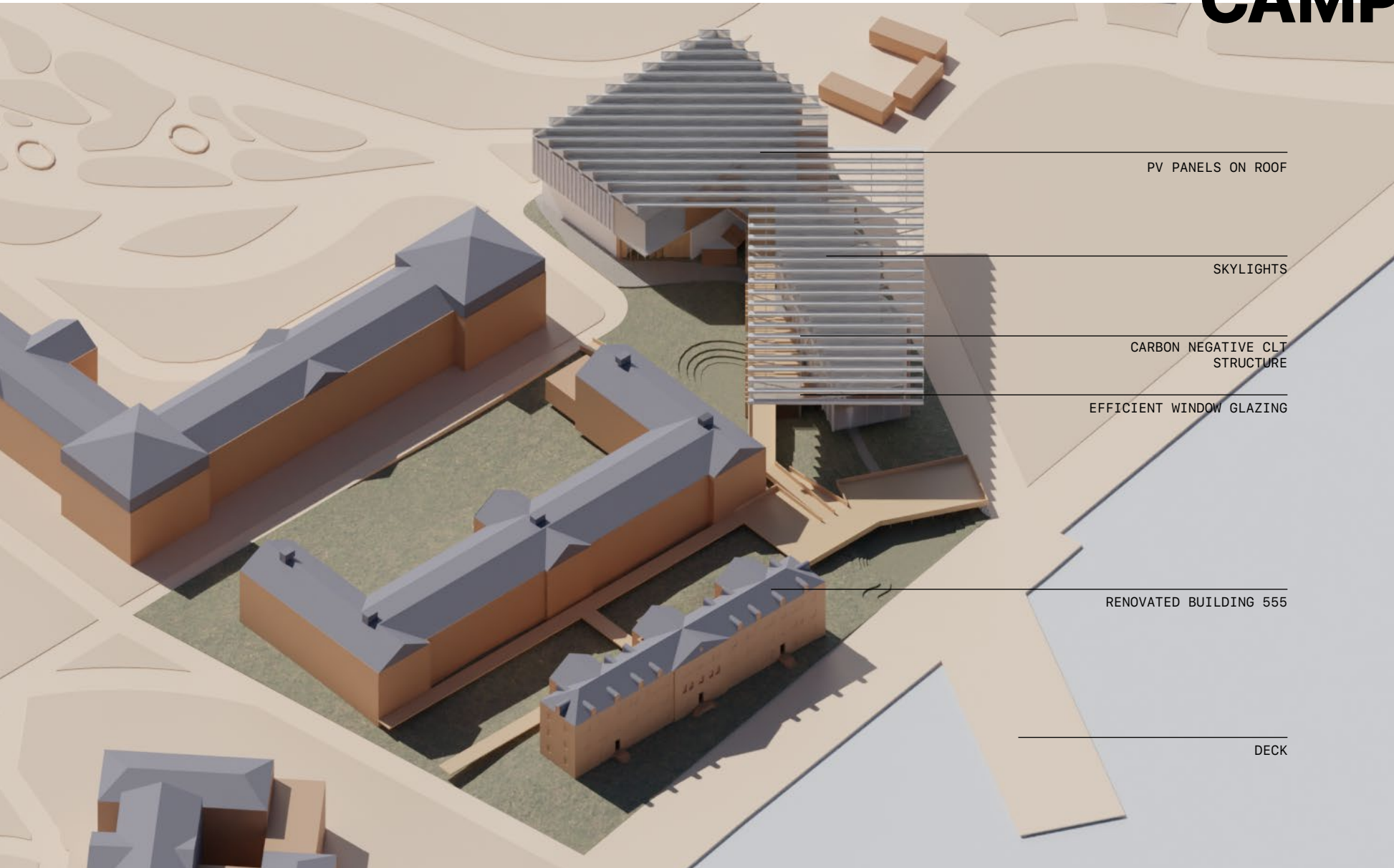
Building 555 EcoForest  
EcoGeo Geothermal Heat Pump



Building 555 Versetec  
700 Indoor DOAS + ERV



# CAMPUS ENERGY ANALYSIS



PV PANELS ON ROOF

SKYLIGHTS

CARBON NEGATIVE CLT  
STRUCTURE

EFFICIENT WINDOW GLAZING

RENOVATED BUILDING 555

DECK

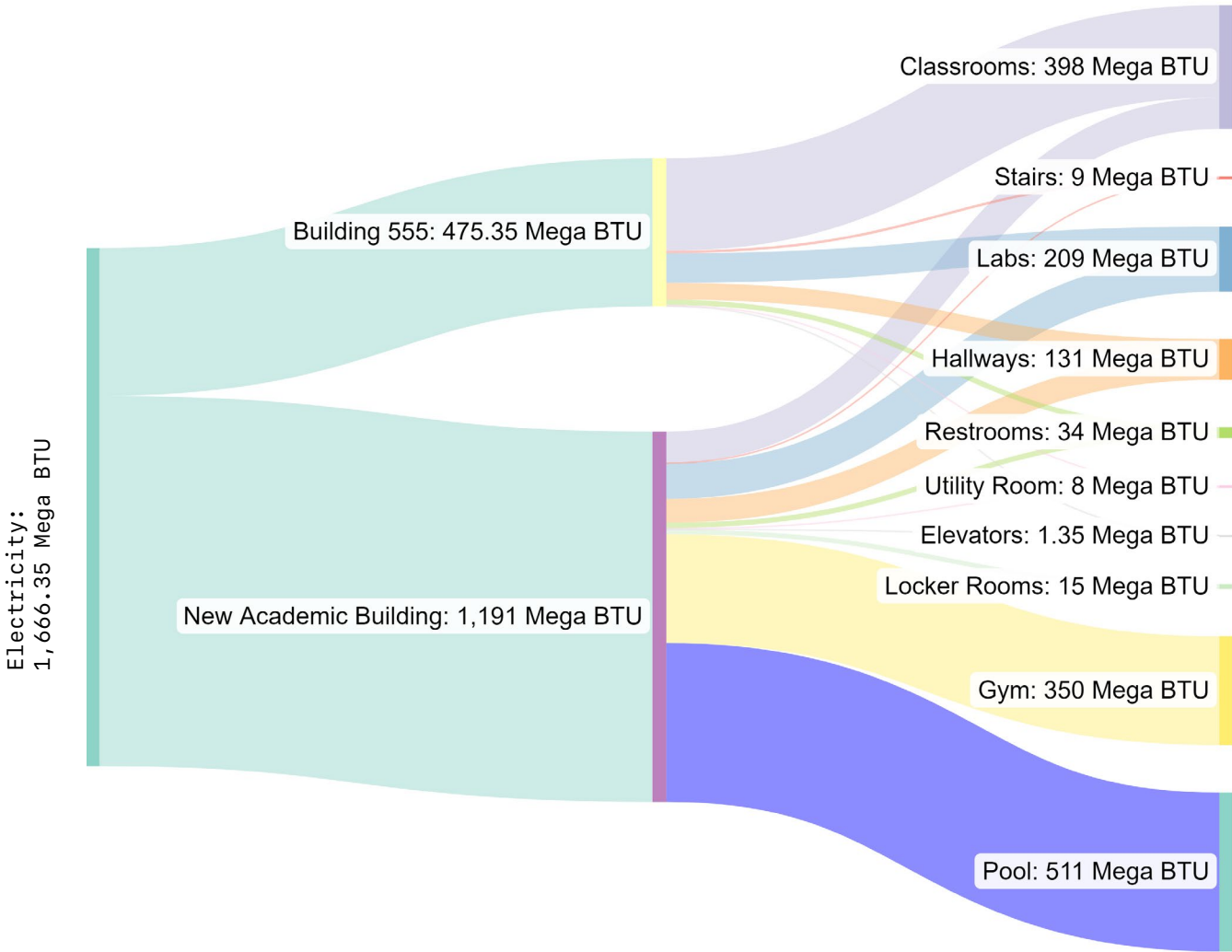
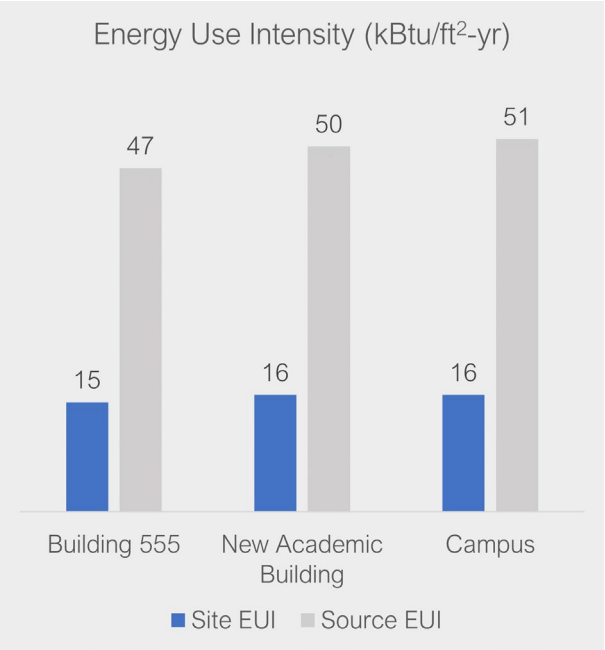


ENERGY MODELING

PROGRAMMATIC

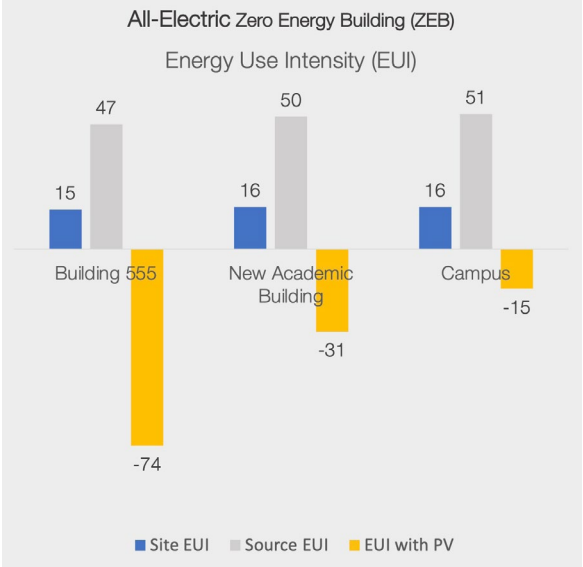
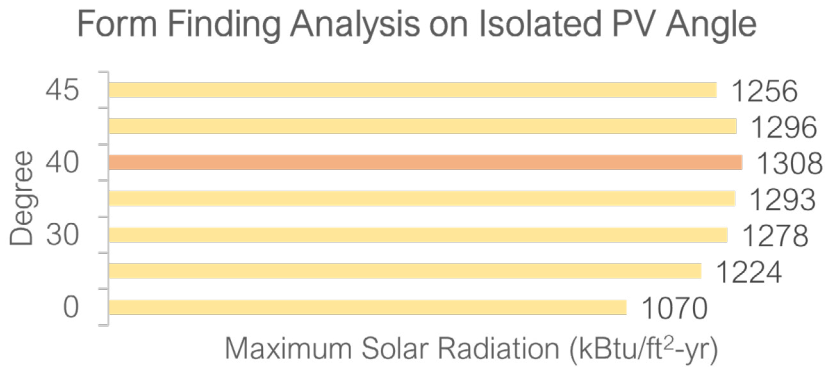
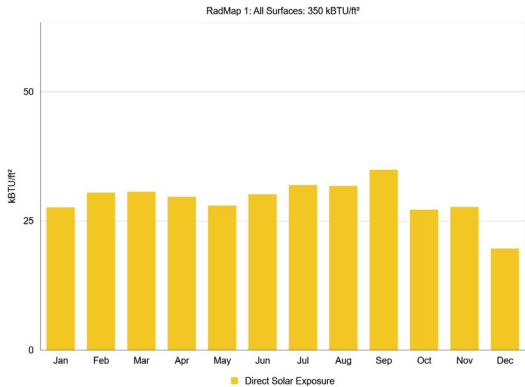
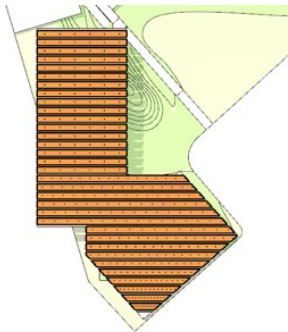
The pool is the largest consumer of energy, taking up half of the energy use, followed by the gym, classrooms and labs, resulting in the NAB with a source EUI of 50, Building 555 with a source EUI of 47 and an overall EUI of 51. Despite the energy intensive programs in the NAB, the building still falls well below the average source EUI of secondary schools in the same climate zone

- Architecture
- Durability and Resilience
- Engineering
- Integrated Performance
- Energy
- Embodied Environmental Impact
- Occupant Experience
- Comfort
- Market Analysis



# ENERGY MODELING

## SOLAR GENERATION & ZERO ENERGY BUILDING



Architecture

Durability and Resilience

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Energy

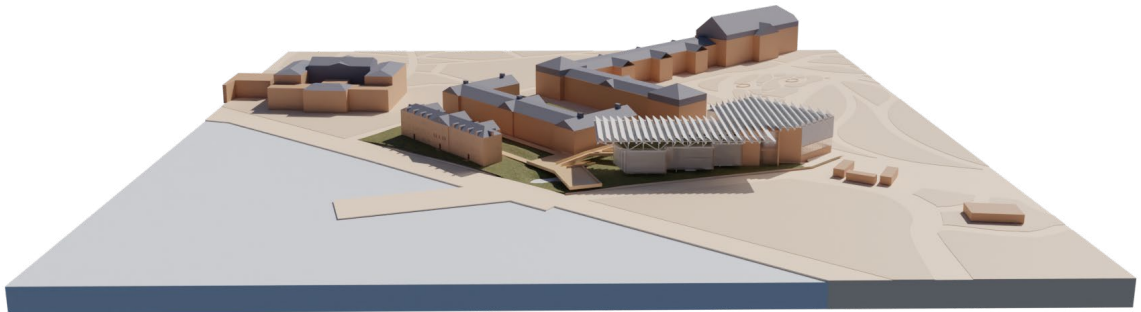
Embodied Environmental Impact

Occupant Experience

Comfort

Market Analysis

Solar panels are only allowed on the new academic building, as Building 555 is a historical landmark building. We used the Climate Studio extension on Rhino to determine the optimal 40 deg tilt angle. The annual direct solar radiation is 350 kBtu/ft² and the 22% efficient sun power solar panels produce around 2.8 million kBtu a year, making our buildings, net- zero energy buildings with a net Source EUI of negative 15 kBtu/sf. The excess energy production will go into a battery pack system for grid-failure events or be sold back to the grid.



Annual Direct Solar Radiation 0.042 kBtu/ft²-year

Total PV Panel Area 36,993 ft²

PV Panel Efficiency 22%

Annual Energy Generated 2,848,461 kBtu/yr



# EMBODIED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

**Total Embodied Carbon Cost for Life of Structure + Envelope:** 1,191 tons CO<sub>2</sub>e

**Area Embodied Carbon Cost:** 250 kg/m<sup>2</sup> CO<sub>2</sub>e

**Yearly Embodied Carbon Cost:** 2.14 kg/m<sup>2</sup>/year CO<sub>2</sub>e



Carbon-negative CLT superstructure (85% reduction compared to equiv. conc. structure)



Local materials sourcing



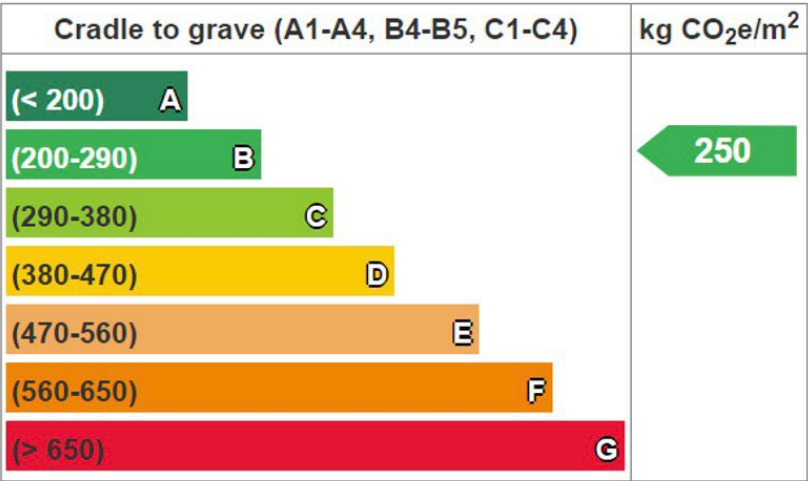
Structural replacement redundancy + end of life harvest



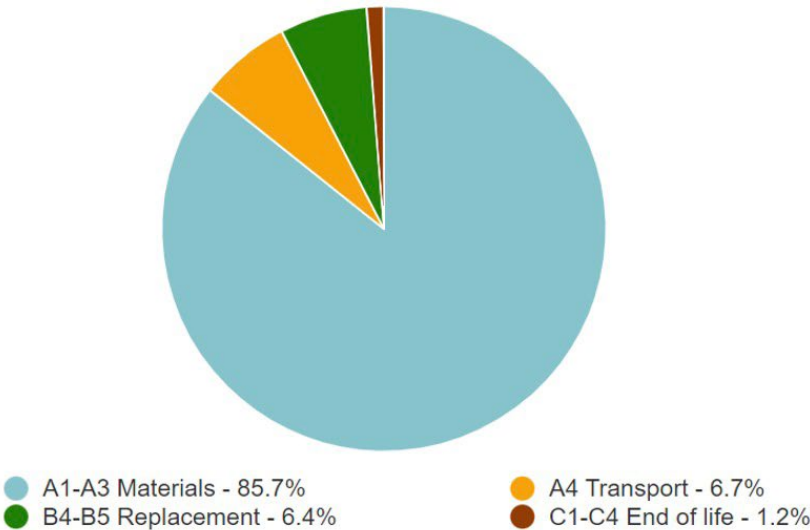
Direct construction waste + excavated earth use

Carbon Cost Payback w/ PV to NYC electric: 10-12 years  
Path to Grade A: Recycled Steel, Hempcrete, alt. Insulation

Embodied carbon benchmark ?



Global warming kg CO<sub>2</sub>e - Life-cycle stages



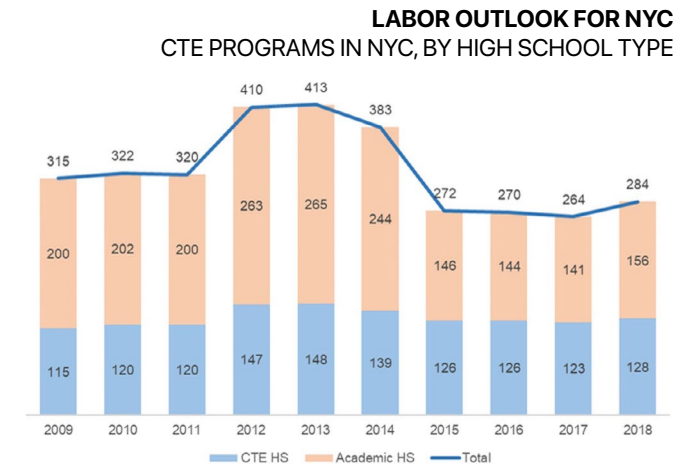
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# MARKET ANALYSIS



## PLANNING FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS CENTER CONCEPTUAL DRAFT RENDERING

The construction of the New Academic Building is part of the larger redevelopment plan of Governors Island as part of an effort to establish a Climate Solutions Center for New York City. The development aims to turn the island into a hub for climate research with a focus on environmental justice and resiliency. Developing new facilities for the Harbor school is expected to generate opportunity for research into climate change, providing an opportunity for student involvement as well as piloting solutions for NYC communities affected by extreme weather events, which disproportionately impact lower-income neighborhoods.



Source: Research Alliance calculations based on data obtained by the NYC Department of Education.

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Anticipated overall budget of **\$84 Million**  
**\$79 Million** New Academic Building | New Construction  
**\$5 Million** Building 555 | Renovation

School Construction Authority budgets **\$90,000** per new/renovated student seat on avg.

**\$20 Billion** Available from NYC Department of Education (DOE)

Successful Local Construction Precedents



# PROJECT IMPACT



# THANK YOU!

## Acknowledgements:

Elizabeth Waters, Harbor School parent

## Industry Partners:

Samuel Anderson, Principal, Samuel Anderson Architects

Manny Feris, Lutron Electronics

Mariana Leibman-Palaez, Associate, Transsolar

Florian Meier, P.E., Director, Knippershelbig

Neil Muir, Sr. Mechanical Eng., Arup

Ashok Raiji, P.E., Principal (Retired), Arup

John W. Rhyner, P.G., LEED AP, Geothermal Discipline Leader, CDM Smith

Eric Ringold, Sr. Eng., kW Engineering

Michael McCormick, NYC Superintendent, Mega Contracting

Matthew Duffy, VP, IESVE Sales North America East, IES

