And& Soul Soul

Where generations learn, create, and thrive

The Concept The driving force behind the design

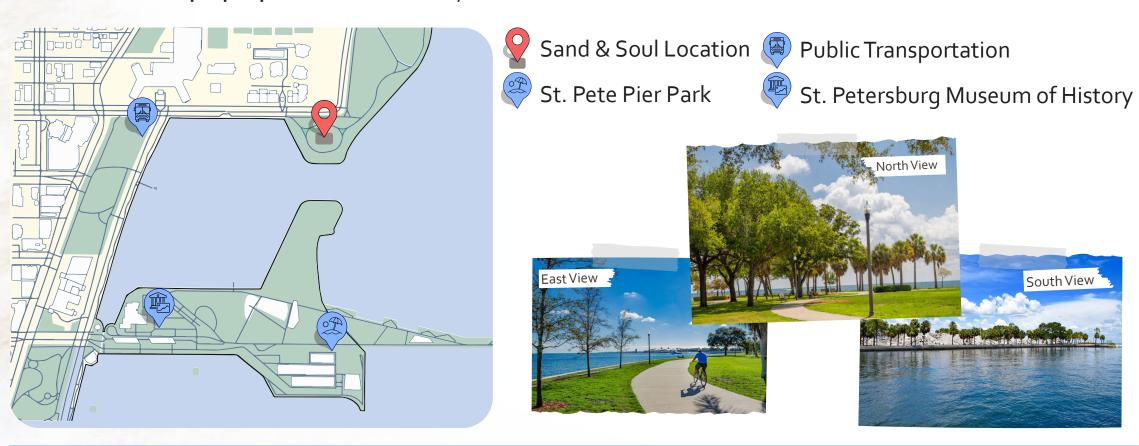
Sand and Soul is a dynamic environment that nurtures **meaningful interactions** between children, young adults, and elders. Sandcastles are whimsical in nature and are often created with help from others. Based on these characteristics, the design encourages **creativity** and **collaboration** across generations, allowing visitors to engage their **inner child** and **creative spirit**. Natural elements like **plants**, **open air**, and **soothing soundscapes** promote psychological well-being. **Soft textures**, **lighting**, and **ergonomic seating** support users' physical health. The design supports activities like storytelling, art, and music, **stimulating** cognitive and creative functions, **strengthening** interpersonal relationships, and **supporting** mental and emotional health for many generations.

The Site

Vinoy Park, St. Petersburg, Florida. 701 Bayshore Dr NE.

Vinoy Park is located along the waterfront of downtown St. Petersburg, Florida. It is bordered by the Vinoy Renaissance Resort & Golf Club and a variety of public spaces, including North Shore Park. This prime location makes Vinoy Park a major recreational hub and a focal point for community events. The park's open layout makes it a popular venue for concerts, art festivals, charity walks, and cultural events. Residents and visitors also utilize the space for other activities, such as jogging, picnicking, and yoga. The park is connected to the city's pedestrian and bike trail system, making it a great area for those commuting by foot or bike. Bus routes are also easily accessible for those traveling by public transportation (Waterfront Parks Foundation, n.d.).

St. Petersburg experiences a **humid subtropical climate**, which includes hot, humid summers and mild winters (Weather Spark, n.d.). The city averages about **361 days of sunshine** per year, earning the nickname "The Sunshine City." However, occasional **thunderstorms** and **hurricane threats** during the summer and fall seasons require the park to be **resilient** against flooding and storm surges (Nelson Construction and Renovations, n.d.). To sustain its **long-term usability**, structures within the area must have **proper precautions** for heavy storms.



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The Story Bridging the generational gap through design

Each stage of life resembles distinct chapters in our personal book. In the first chapter, the world feels **vast** and filled with **wonder**. We rely on our parents or caretakers to **guide us** through this adventure, they model how to navigate life, **offering lessons** that **shape our understanding** of the world. Younger generations have opportunities to **explore** the space and **experience** potentially **new activities** with older generations to guide them.

As we transition into the next chapter, everything changes. We **examine our identity**, questioning who we are and **envision the direction of our story**. While we begin to seek independence, we also face **new stresses**, **navigating challenges** that can feel overwhelming. Yet, with each bump, **we gain strength**, both physically and mentally. Young adults may find **social and mental support** that they are seeking through creative activities that can **facilitate bonding** with others close in age.

Moving into the later chapters, we often reflect on our past experiences, recognizing their influence on our current selves. We learn that every individual has a unique story to share. We learn from young children, full of energy and curiosity, reminding us of the vitality of life. As older adults, we have achieved an abundance of experiences and wisdom, often offering insights that influence our paths. Adults are able to participate in creative activities, caregiving, or anything in between because of their position in life. The ultimate goal of our shared journey is to foster meaningful interactions between these generations. By encouraging engagement and collaboration, we create opportunities for growth, inspiration, and the development of lasting relationships. In this way, the oldest generations find a renewed vitality while in the space, being able to participate in creative, fun activities, as well as offering conversation and wisdom to those who seek it.

The components needed for a sandcastle are physical, such as **sand and water**, but also abstract, such as **communication and connection**. Sand and Soul offers **unique opportunities** and **experiences** for **different generations**, while still combining various components that help to **create connections** and **relationships**, much like that of a sandcastle.

The User



This age group is developing their sense of self, improving motor and reading skills, and expanding their language skills. They are usually physically able, but rely on older individuals to help them with more difficult tasks. They are also eager to absord information and stimuli around them while being inquisitive and demonstrating abstract thinking (Staff, 2022).



These individuals are exploring their own identity, developing a sense of independence, and strengthening their emotional intelligence. They are experiencing significant hormonal changes and improving their strenght and coordination, making them more physically able. They may be partaking in activities on their own, while still depending upon their caregivers (BBC, 2024).



Individuals are now taking action on their independence by moving out or starting a career, developing a much stronger personal identity. Many are in their peak physical condition, but they may have more strain on their mental health due to new independence and responsibilities. They may experience economic stress and instability, possibly still relying on their caregivers for help (Harvard, n.d.).

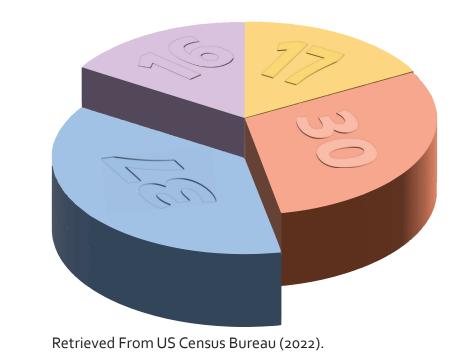


This age group may now be reflecting on their life and past experiences and they have a strong emphasis on maintaining relationships. They may begin to experience cognitive decline, lower mobility, and other health conditions that may start in this age group. People may begin to think about retirement and future housing plans (Mather, 2012).



Individuals are more likely to experience physical and cognitive decline at this age, potentially needing assistance from a walker or wheelchair and relying on caregivers or family members. Many people in this age group have lost friends or family and dealing with their own health issues, resulting in higher levels of grief and anxiety (Scheibe, 2010).

St.Petersburg Population Data by age



o-18 Years- 17%
19-39 Years- 30%
40-69 Years- 37%
70+ Years- 16%

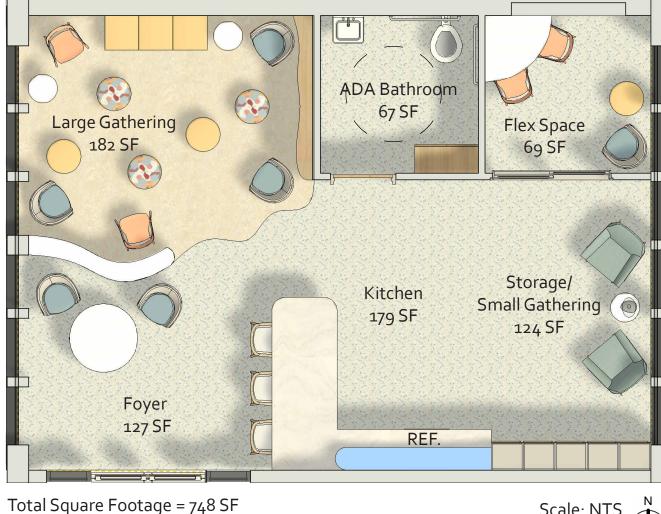
This range shows a diverse age spread, offering an opportunity to bridge generational gaps by fostering interactions between people of different ages. Much like individual grains of sand that come together to form a beach, our goal is to create spaces that encourage meaningful connections between people of all age groups.

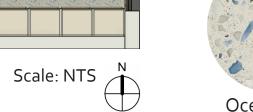
By designing environments where people can come together, whether for activities, relaxation, or shared experiences, we can help facilitate conversations and relationships that might not occur otherwise. Just as sand is soft yet binding, we envision a space where gentle, natural interactions promote stronger intergenerational ties. These encounters can enrich the social fabric of the community and nurture a sense of belonging and unity across different age groups.

The Goals

- 1. Establishing a welcoming, comfortable environment that caters to the needs of all generations, giving all users opportunities to interact with the space.
- 2. Implementing areas with varying degrees of proximity in furniture arrangements, allowing users to choose their degree of intimacy with others.
- 3. Providing activities for users to participate in that stimulates their mind and encourages interaction with other users.

The Solution





High Pressure Laminate

Concrete

Material Selections

Exterior

Ocean Glass (

Material Considerations

Due to the warm, humid, and sometimes hurricane conditions that occur in St. Petersburg, having materials that are able to adapt and withstand the constant humidity and occasional harsh conditions is important. Due to it being located near the water, the **concrete structure** allows protection against strong winds and storm surges as well as regulates the interior temperature of the space. The **stucco exterior** is inspired by local building materials, it is a Florida favorite because of its durability and aesthetic appeal. **Hurricane-proof glass** is also implemented to withstand strong ocean winds and soften outside noise inside the space.

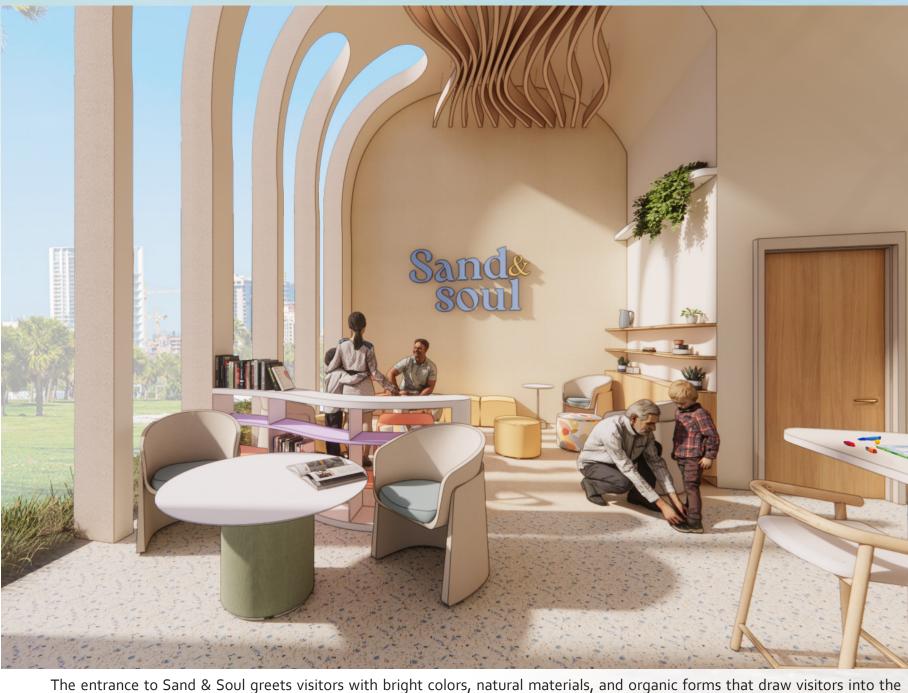
On the interior, **luxury vinyl tile** with acoustical backing and **acoustical ceiling baffles** are utilized to mitigate noise within the concrete structure. **Performance cloth upholstery** creates a warm, comforting atmostphere for users while being durable and cleanable for long-time use and inevitable stains. **High pressure laminate** is applied on cabinets and shelving, its durability, resiliency, and cleanability is ideal for areas that endure heavy interaction. **Ocean glass terrazzo flooring** adds pops of color and allows for easy cleanability if flooding were to occur.

Public Zone Social Zone

Diagram

The zoning diagram shows the distinct areas within the space which allow users to choose their degree of intimacy and communication with others. The large gathering space is very social and open, indicating a **public zone** (12+ feet of separation). The small gathering space/kitchen is smaller, yet still social, indicating a **social zone** (4-12 feet). The flex room is more intimate and provides acoustical privacy, indicating a **personal zone** (1.5 to 4 feet) (Warren, 2023). The bathroom is a private area within the space.

FURNITURE & ACOUSTICS SELECTION Lounge Wire Chair Seba Chair Freeform Baffle Ceiling Movable furniture with armrests along with armrests provide support smaller ottomans help promoting comfort, stability bring people of different and ease of movement for ages together, no matter aging folks (Wilson, Guralnik, & their needs. Fried, 1997) stress-free environment. The curved forms not only diffuse sound but also welcomes visitors, enhances comfort, and promotes a sense of calm.



The entrance to Sand & Soul greets visitors with bright colors, natural materials, and organic forms that draw visitors into the space. The energized environment encourages visitors to engage in creative activities and pass down life skills across generations.



The open layout within the kitchen allows for easy circulation when visitors are going to the bathroom, small gathering space, or flex space.

Abundant natural light floods into the space, reinforcing a warm, inspiring atmosphere. The kitchen space features an under-counter refrigerator with the millwork implementing universal design features.



Moveable furniture within the small gathering and flex space allow for seating arrangments to be adapted for various activities, such as storytelling, sewing, and painting. The flex space provides acoustical privacy for more focused activities, while still maintaining a connection to the main space with glass doors.