

HARBOR

RESOURCE CENTER

Providing help for those going through rough waters

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Not having a home is more than just a housing circumstance -- it is a **living condition that affects both the mind and body**. Homeless individuals are part of a vulnerable population, with many individuals within it having experienced alienation, addiction, and/or abuse.

With consideration to these individuals' unique needs, Harbor focuses on creating an environment for its visitors that is **comfortable, secure, inclusive, and supportive**.

GOALS

01 Comfort
Users of this shelter would benefit from a "homey" environment that provides a comforting aesthetic, fostering an inviting atmosphere. Homeyness **decreases the gap between institution and users** (McCracken, 1989). Harbor's color and furniture selection create this experience.

02 Inclusivity
This space creates an environment that is inclusive to all identities and abilities both physical and mental. These individuals are in need of a place in which their needs are met and the the bathroom and showers within the facility exemplify that through their universal design.

03 Support
When reviewing the role of psychopathology in youth homelessness, data showed that psychopathology often precedes homelessness and homelessness in turn, increases risk for psychopathology (Hodgson, 2013). This resource center **supports these needs with the allowance for self-regulation** within the space, coupled with consulting rooms for guided counseling.

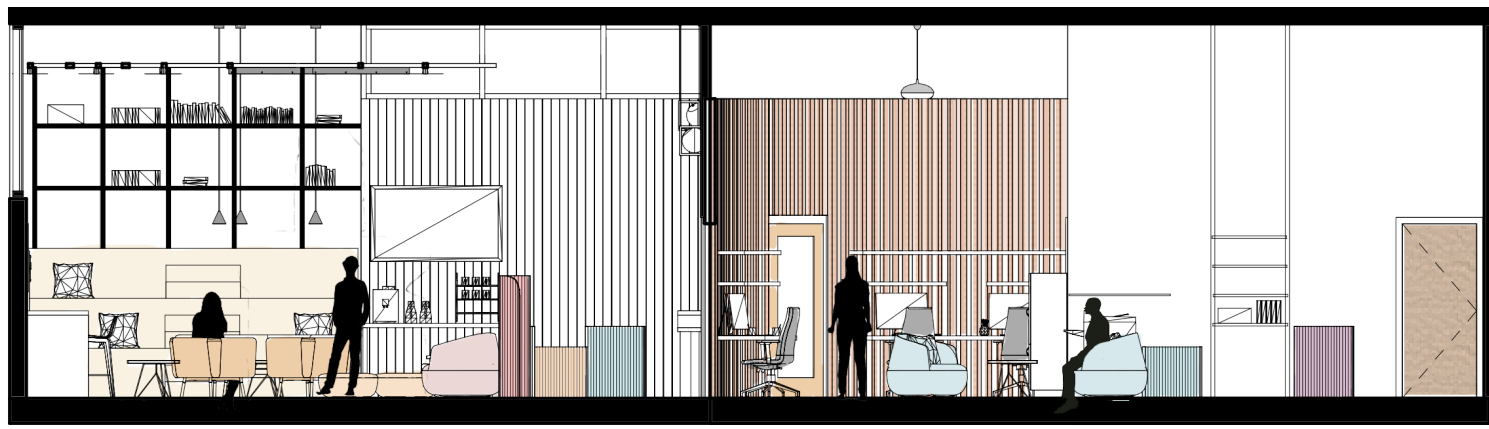
04 Security
A necessity for a secure environment is privacy. Privacy relates to independence, autonomy dignity and identity, but also to safety, stress reduction, and healing (Berens, n.d.). Harbor works to ensure security by allowing its visitors to walk freely through the facility while still maintaining clear sight lines.



Section 1



Section 2



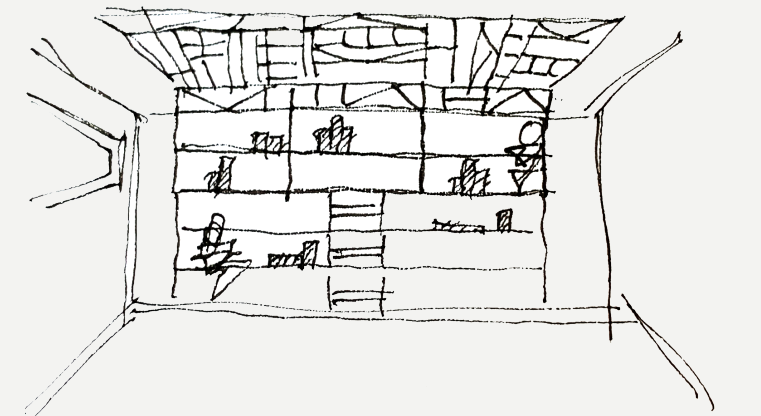
Section 3



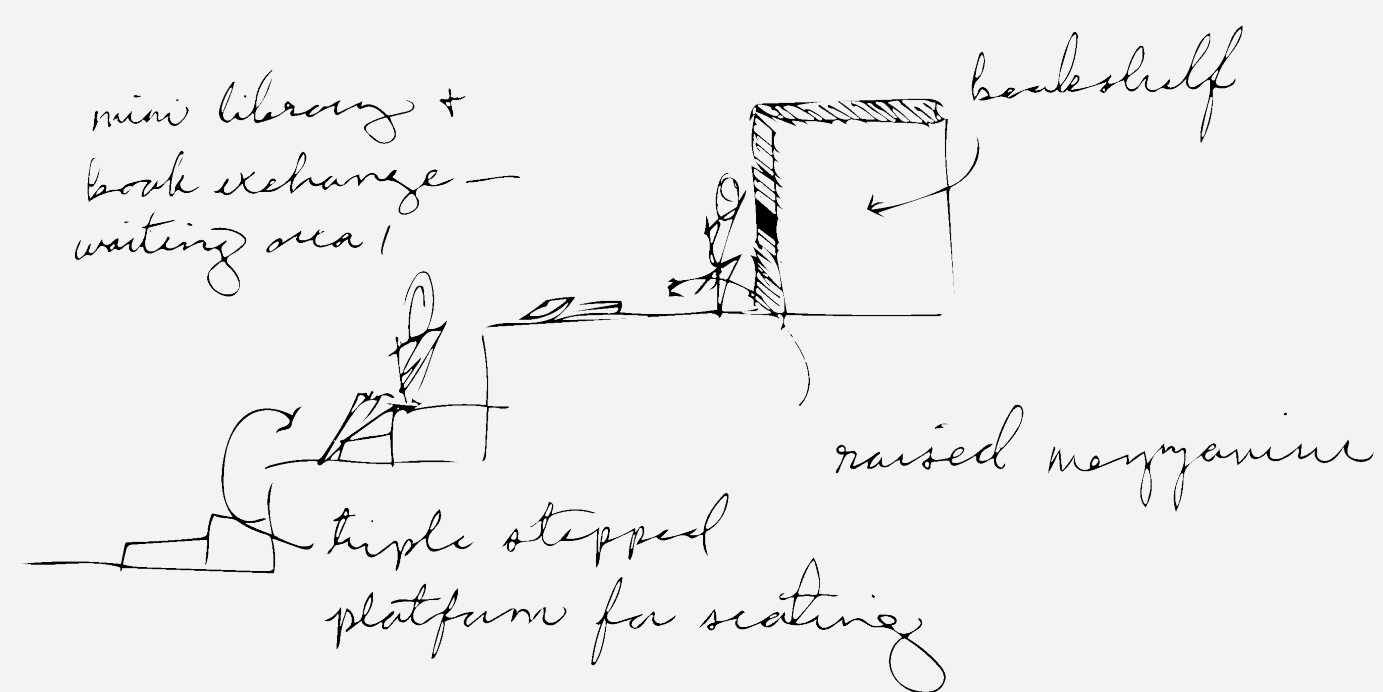
Color Palette

Materials

PROCESS WORK



overhead structure leads into bookshelf



Stepped Capsule Library Concept Development

The capsule library is a book exchange-style library for guests and staff alike. The decorative wooden ceiling structure in the waiting area plunges down to form a bookshelf. On it rest curated and donated books to be read, perused, taken, or left. A set of riser seats meet the bookshelf and introduce a furniture typology unique to the space. This delineates the waiting area from the library without partitioning the spaces, allowing for the programs of waiting, reading and learning to converge in the capsule library.

ADJACENCY DIAGRAM



Reception Area



Administrative Office



Waiting Area Lounge

RESEARCH

In 2018, on a given night about 553,000 people were experiencing homelessness in the United States (Henry, 2018). Over the past 10 years homelessness has significantly decreased. There has, however, recently been an overall increase in people experiencing homelessness overall and also an increase in those that are unsheltered. With these numbers on the rise, the need for resources has also increased.

Not every facility can provide housing, but some can be safe havens. Safe havens provide temporary shelter and services to individuals who are in need. Access to amenities such as hot water, clean bathrooms, and clothes washers and dryers can do a lot for people who are homeless because "when you're dirty, it shuts down opportunities, because that's the first thing that you look at" (Murakami, 2019). Harbor is designed to be a haven for individuals to not only help them in the present, but also be a guide towards opportunity during this challenging time in their lives.



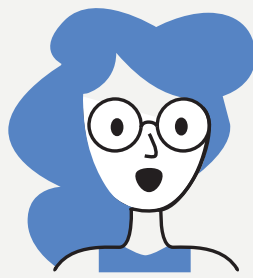
SITE ANALYSIS

Ithaca is in upstate New York located within the Finger Lakes region. This area is known for its scenic landscape but also its cold harsh winters with temperatures reaching below freezing for half the year (US CLIMATE). Due to these severe temperatures Ithaca's need for homeless shelters and support systems is high.

An area known as "the Jungle", located behind a Walmart in Ithaca, is home to dozens of individuals who combat the cold in tents and sleeping bags (Cornell Sun citation). Harbor will be located within this area, so that these individuals and the surrounding community have resources to support their shower, bathroom, and laundry needs within a welcoming and relaxing environment.

PERSONAS

"Being accessible to the residents is so important to me -- but not at the expense of my own privacy"



DIRECTOR
needs:
- privacy
- accessibility
- proximity to staff



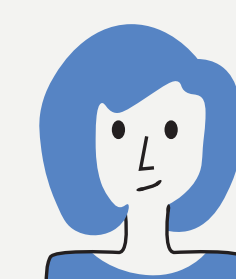
ADMINISTRATOR
needs:
- privacy
- security
- sight lines
- work fulfillment

"I like being able to see into the rest of the space while I work. I feel more connected to everything that's going on outside my office."

"It's easy to bring residents from the nearby shelter here. Staff are accessible and it's easy to find my way around!"



STAFF MEMBER
needs:
- legibility of space
- clear site lines
- waiting space



GUEST
needs:
- resource access
- safety
- security
- accessibility

"I like the level of involvement of the staff. I can always find a staff member when I have a question but I never feel like I'm being watched."

UNIVERSAL DESIGN

We believe accessibility shouldn't be an afterthought. It should be integrated into the design from the beginning, and shouldn't be done in a way that stigmatizes marginalized populations - instead, it acknowledges the presence of a variety of user types and addresses their needs equitably.



Secondary Waiting Area



Outdoor Garden Patio