

"At "Spirit Line" we value creativity, freedom and craftsmanship. Through our carefully created and handmade textiles, we wish to share the history of the Navajo weavers while embracing the beauty in the imperfect. The spirit line is a line that breaks the border of the textile so the inside spirit is not trapped. It emphasizes the release of negativity and a connection to the community and the outside world."

CONCEPT: "When we consciously create a path outward to the world, we escape the entrapment of a closed mind, and a closed heart" - Donnice Smith on the spirit line (Smith, 2011).

A juxtaposition between industrial and handmade, boundaries and creativity.

This space allows one's creative spirit to escape into the world to live connected to the earth and the community.

SPIRIT Line

CONCEPT RATIONALE

According to the Navajo, the spirit is a tangible object that gets woven into every textile (Less Than Perfect, 2017). When traders requested a border on their textiles, the weavers became concerned that their creative spirit would become trapped in their work (Freund, 2013). The ch'ihónit'i, or "spirit line" is a colored thread that contrasts the border to create a pathway that allows the artist's creative spirit to flow freely and safely between either side of the border (Less Than Perfect, 2017). Our project abstracts this spirit line to show a contrast between boundaries and creativity. This allows one's creative freedom to travel uninhibited between either side of the boundaries connecting the artists with the environment, and the community.

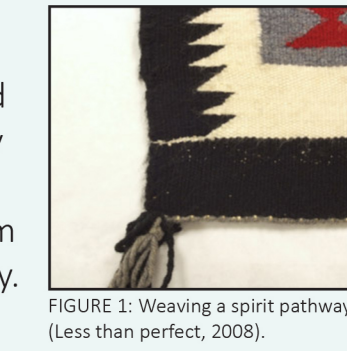
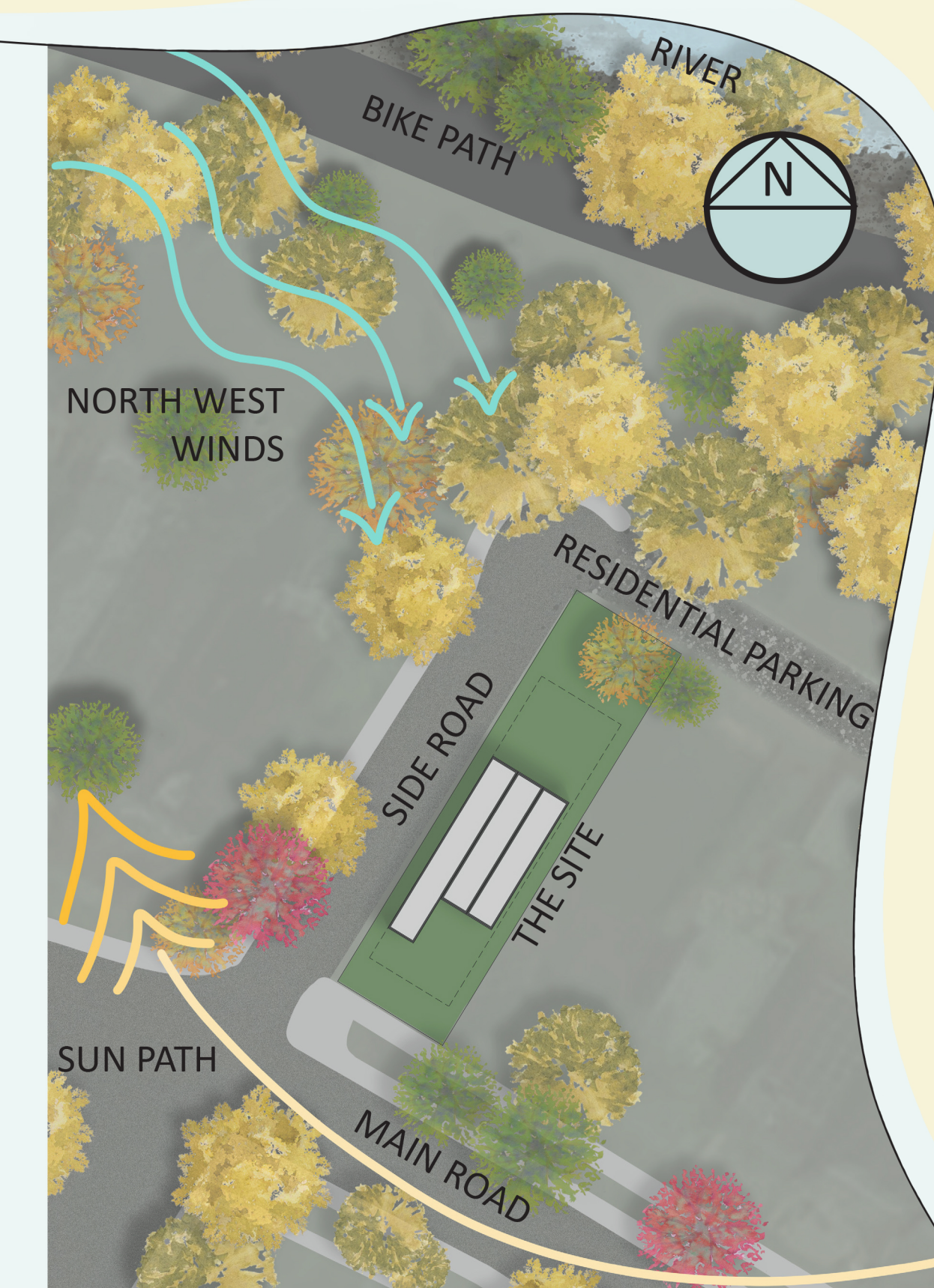
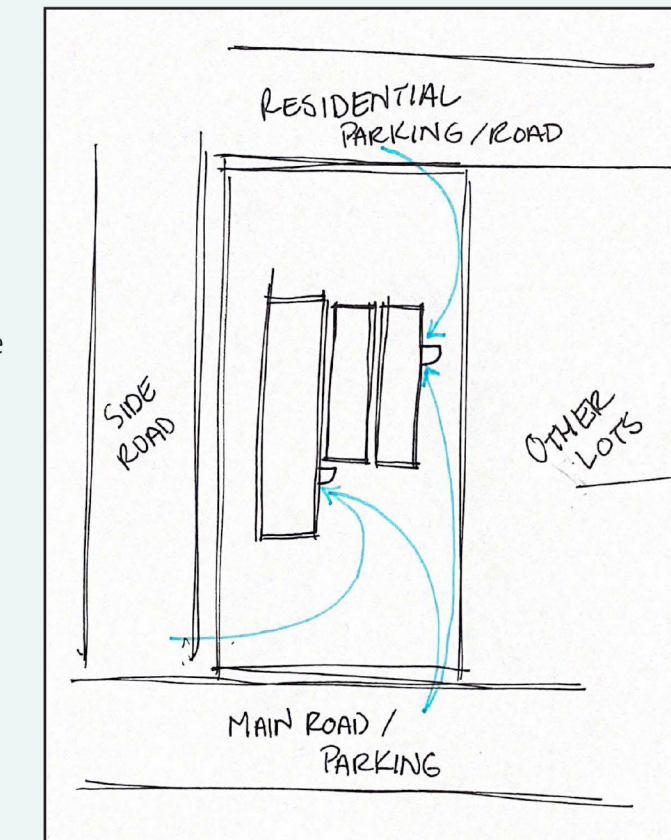


FIGURE 1: Weaving a spirit pathway (Less than perfect, 2008).

OVERALL FLOW OF SPACE

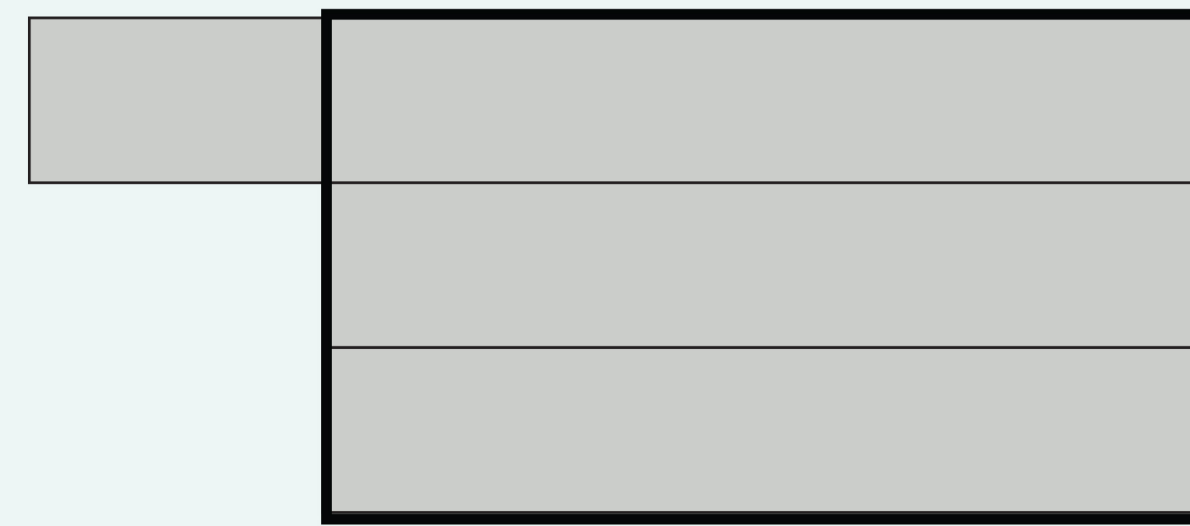
The location of the doors is deliberately on the easternmost face of the building, as traditionally the Navajo would always have their doors facing east to embrace the morning sun, and receive good blessings (Long, n.d.). The entrance to the work environment is easily accessed from the two most public streets, and the live environment is accessible from the back road that is used primarily for residents and guests. The space itself accommodates the 45% public facing, 45% private living, and the 10% flex space required. The flow throughout the space shows the concept of the spirit line. The mercantile environment is very linear, which mirrors the spirit line, but the people and the fixtures flow throughout the space which is representative of the spirit flowing throughout. This flow is also seen in the live environment, as the user moves organically yet logically throughout. The space complements the user's routine by flowing from bed to bath, to kitchen, to living, and to work. All shipping containers were placed on ground level to accommodate both accessibility and aging in place. The entrances are also accessible to accommodate all users (National Research Council of Canada, 2019).



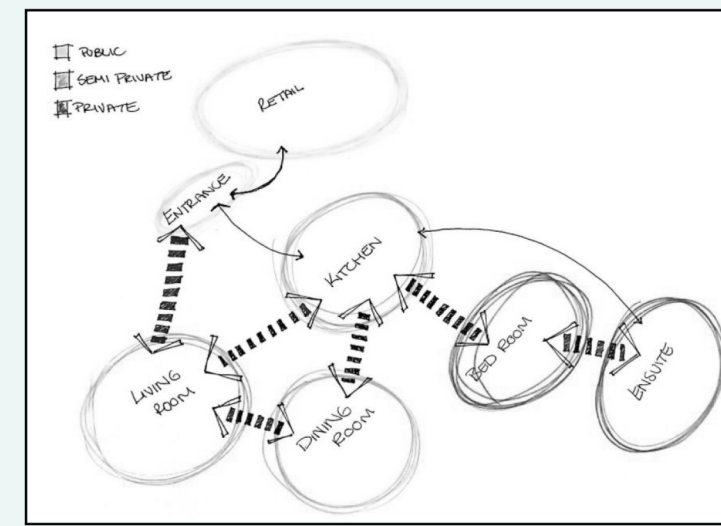
SITE PLAN: RATIONALE

The site is located at 1202 8th Ave SE in Calgary, Alberta Canada. This sits within the beautiful community of Inglewood. It's teeming with life and excitement, while also providing moments of peace, with the outdoor spaces and river access including bike paths. These bike paths provide a connection to the rest of the city. A short walk in the opposite direction is a bustling hub for shopping, dining, and various other community activities on the community's main street and giving the company access to a large amount of traffic. Also within walking distance is the Calgary zoo where one can meet with friends and family for a fun day in both the summer and winter. In addition to the river areas, there are also several additional park spaces within the community including several dog parks. This lot is also within 10 minutes of downtown providing easy access to the city. Another thing to note is the local school that is within walking distance, reducing the need for a vehicle. This adds to the security of the area and brings a certain vibrancy to the street. In regard to transportation, there are several great options in the area. There are bike paths all around the community alongside bike shops where you can rent. This area is also serviced by buses that connect with the remainder of the city's transit. While there is currently no train station located directly in this community there is one within a 15-20-minute walk, or a bus can be taken to a train station. This however will be changing with the planned future addition of the Ramsay Inglewood station which will connect Inglewood to Ramsay and the rest of the city. It will be an elevated station allowing for pedestrian walkways and green spaces to remain beneath. With the combination of public transit, biking, and walking, this area is an extremely maneuverable and connected area to promote a sustainable lifestyle. Therefore, the site meets the LEED prerequisite for Smart Location and Linkage, as well as Neighborhood Pattern and Design as it is within an existing community with access to public transit infrastructure and it has high levels of internal connectivity with the community. (USGBC, 2019)

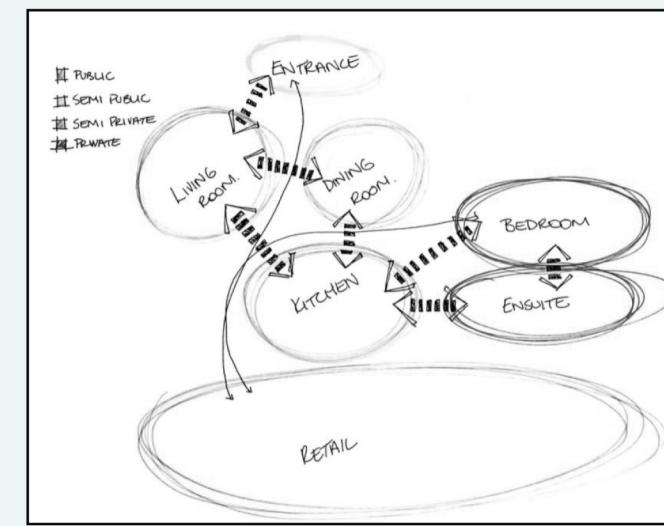
PROCESS



The layout of the shipping containers was chosen to replicate the idea of the spirit line allowing ones creativity to break past the boundaries and connect with the world. The shipping containers create an implied border as seen in most weaving. The large container breaks past this boundary representing the spirit line, and it houses the maker's space which is the hub of creativity in this project.

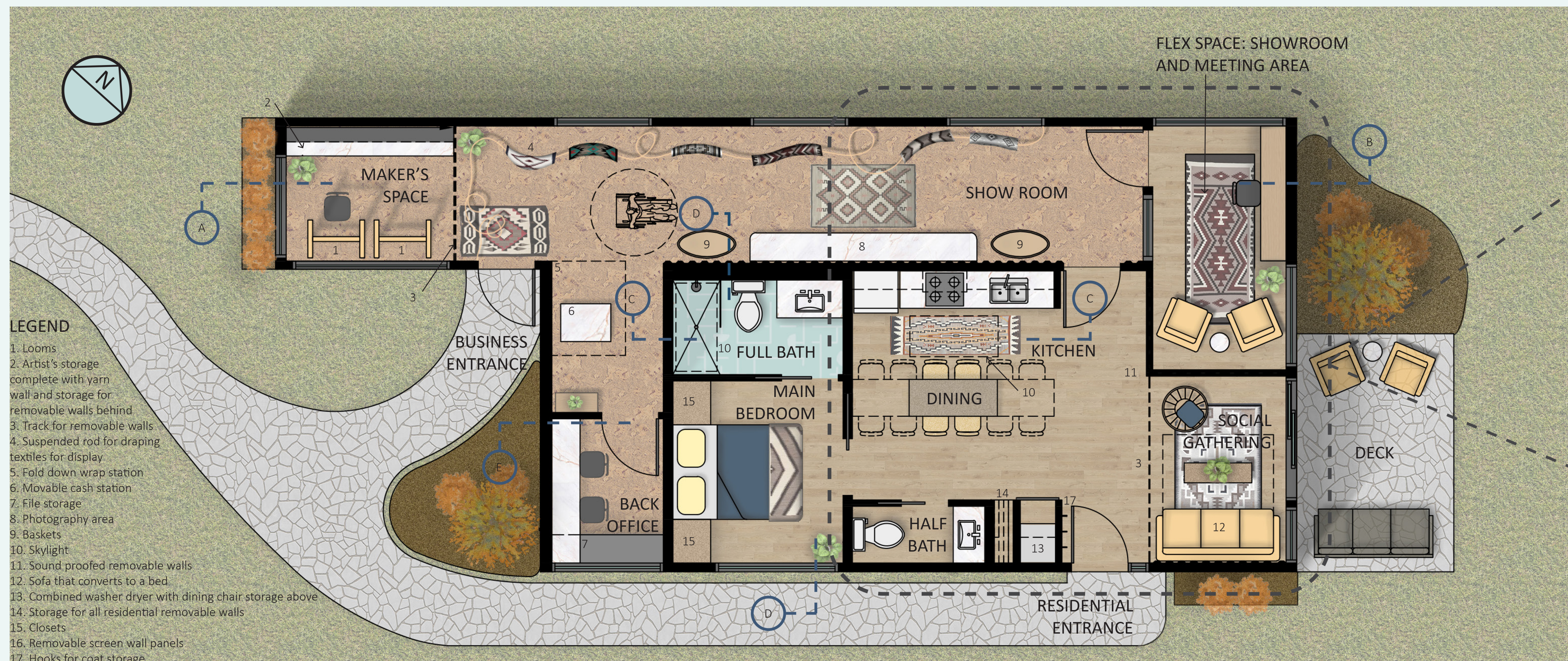


Bubbling was used to determine optimal adjacencies within the space. The above diagrams were categorized pertaining to levels of privacy, and primary and secondary adjacencies. This ensured that the space would be functional, embrace a feeling of community when appropriate, and provide for privacy when needed. Many iterations were done in order to land on the layout that we ended up using. We then took these bubble diagrams and translated them into blocking diagrams to fit into the space, then into floor plans.



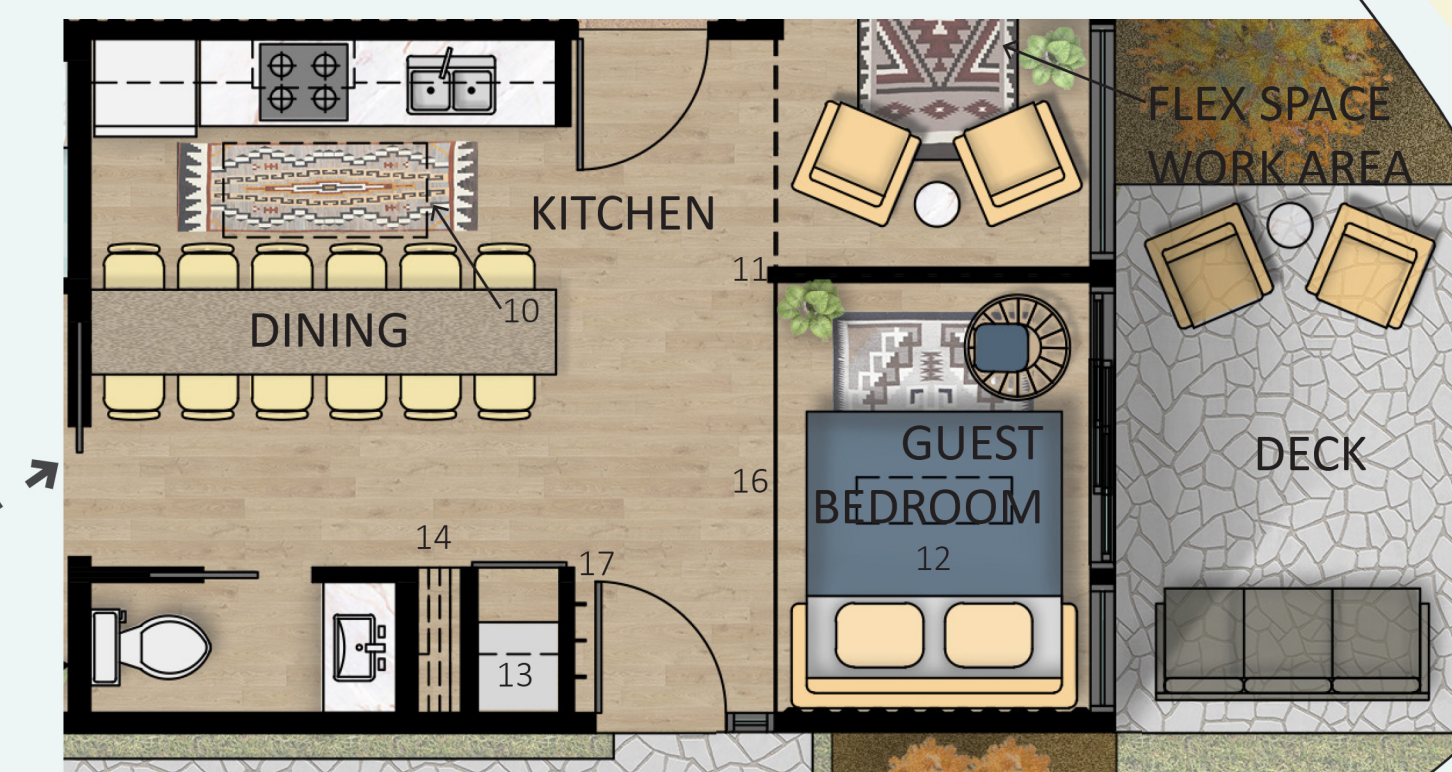
A LIVE/WORK ENVIRONMENT

The top priorities for our live/work environment were safety, acoustics, and a sense of work life balance. The number one priority was safety. Occupants must be able to exit and enter the space in a safe manner that is inclusive to all. According to the requirements of the Alberta Building Code, to safely conduct a live/work environment, a 2 hour fire wall was added to separate the residential from the mercantile space (National Research Council of Canada, 2019). All elements were considered to ensure this space is an inclusive environment as well, especially when it comes to door sizes, signage, and accessibility (National Research Council of Canada, 2019). A few of the sustainable ideas of LEED were also considered to create a sustainable environment that promotes one's well being including access to quality views, a mat that collects debris to improve indoor air quality, proper lighting, quality daylight, and acoustical considerations (USGBC, 2019). Moreover, acoustics was a major consideration in our space, as we wanted to ensure that the acoustics from the work area did not impede on the residential side and vice versa. The main bedroom is located on the opposite end of the showroom to avoid acoustic issues and to respect the privacy of the inhabitants. As one travels throughout the space from the work entrance to the bedroom, the sense of privacy gradually increases, both acoustically and physically. Lastly, we wanted to ensure there was enough of a separation between the live and work environments to create a sense of work life balance in such a small space. This was achieved by having a distinct wall with an easily accessible door to seamlessly divide the space. The flex space also allows for a sense of privacy when in both the online mode and in person mode.



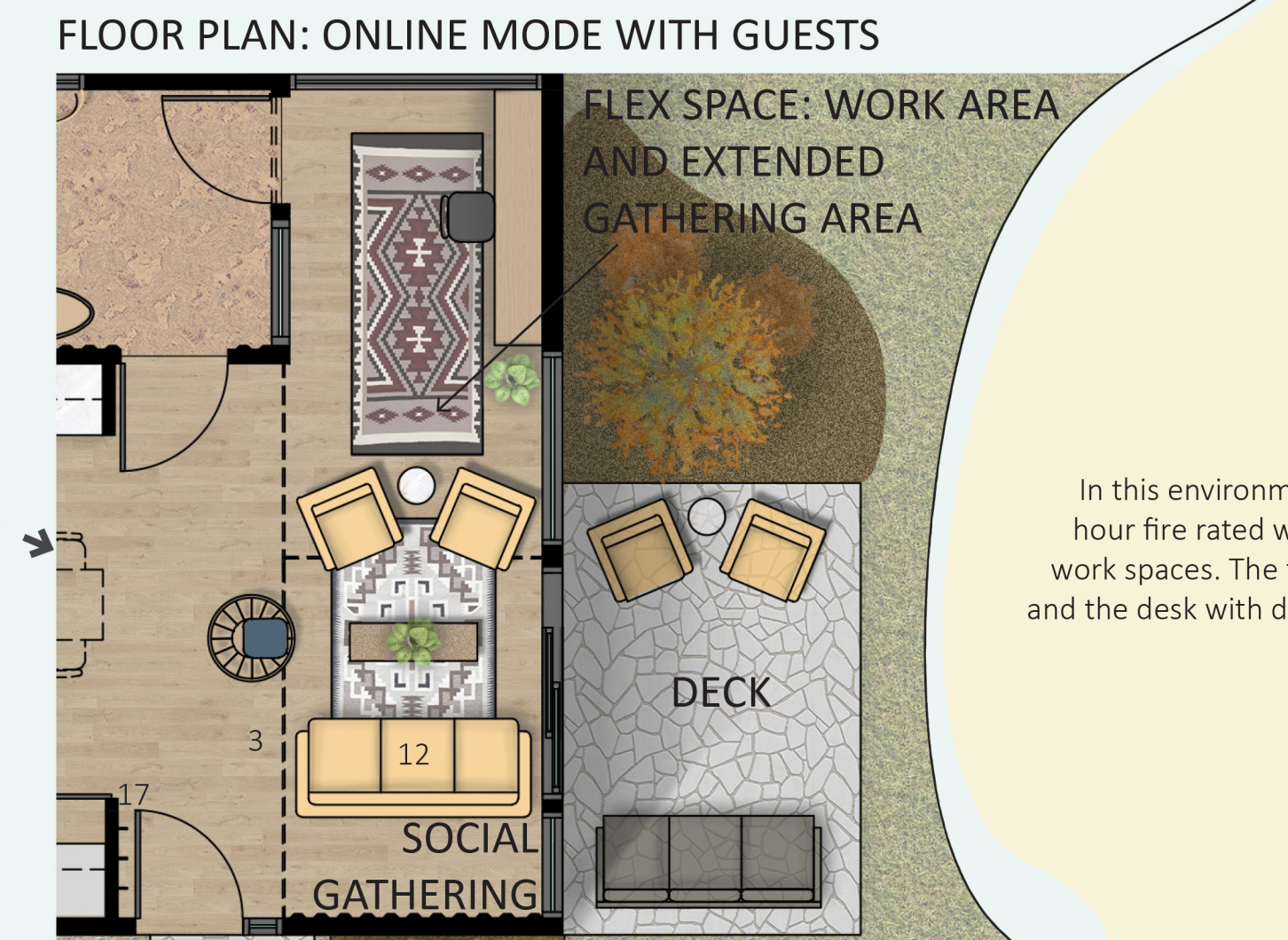
- LEGEND**
1. Looms
 2. Artist's storage complete with yarn wall and storage for removable walls behind
 3. Track for removable walls
 4. Suspended rod for draping textiles for display
 5. Fold down wrap station
 6. Movable cash station
 7. File storage
 8. Photography area
 9. Baskets
 10. Skylight
 11. Sound proofed removable walls
 12. Sofa that converts to a bed
 13. Combined washer dryer with dining chair storage above
 14. Storage for all residential removable walls
 15. Closets
 16. Removable screen wall panels
 17. Hooks for coat storage

FLOOR PLAN: In this environment, sound proofed removable walls are placed between the flex space and gathering space in the tracks located in the floor and ceiling. This allows the flex space to operate as an additional display room for the business and as a meeting space for possible custom orders with clients.



FLOOR PLAN: ONLINE MODE WITH GUESTS

In this environment, the gathering area can be turned into a guest bedroom, and the island becomes a dining table for twelve. The sofa transforms into a bed, the coffee table stuck under the bed, and the lightweight removable walls pop into the track in the floor and ceiling to easily create a private guest room. The sides of the island fold out and are propped up with hidden supports to provide a dining table with foldable chairs hidden above the laundry machine.



FLOOR PLAN: ONLINE MODE

In this environment, the sound proofed walls are removed and the 2 hour fire rated wall acts as the main separation between the live and work spaces. The flex space acts as an extension on the gathering area and the desk with display becomes a work space for the user to conduct online business.

FLOOR PLAN: ONLINE MODE

