

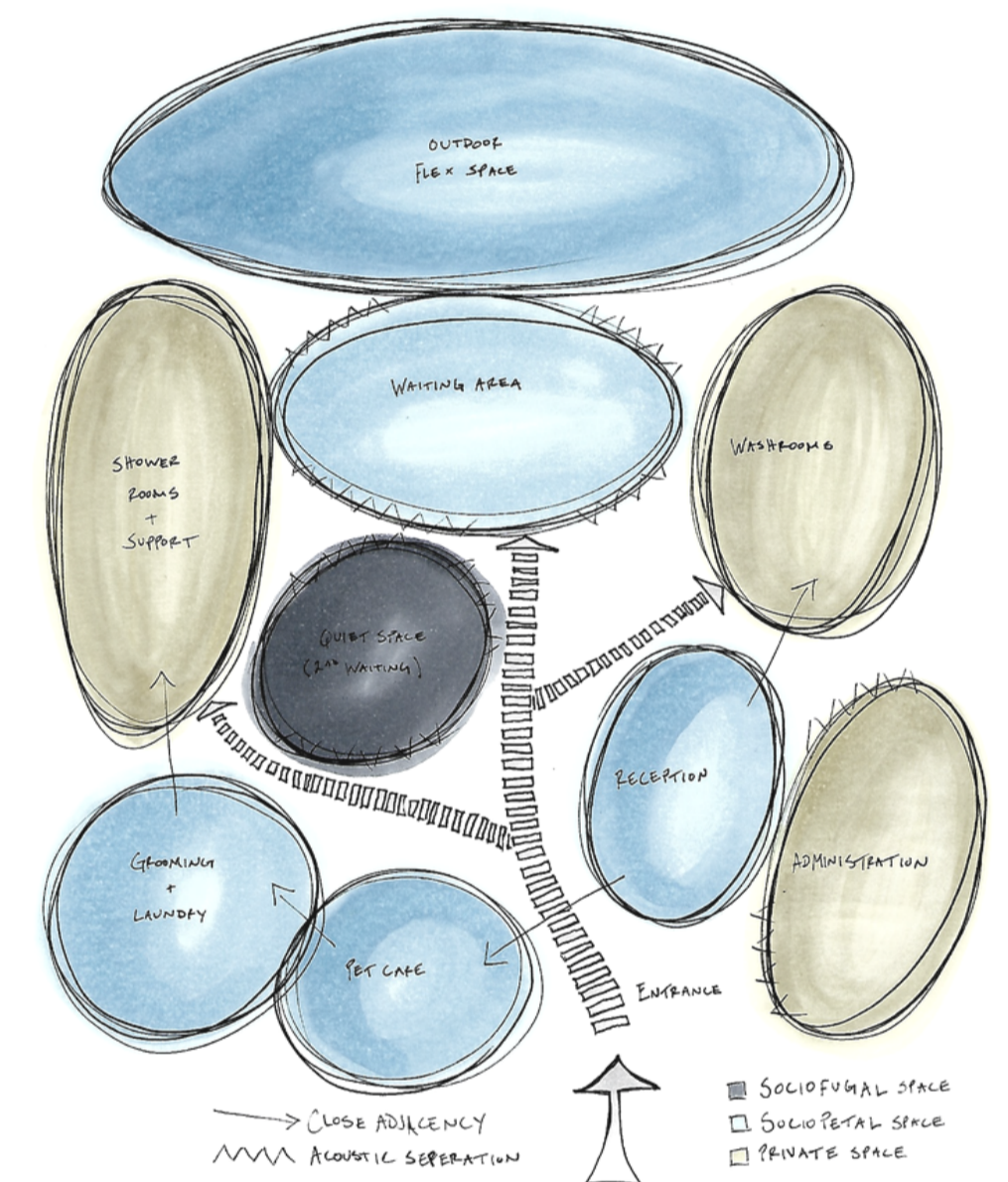
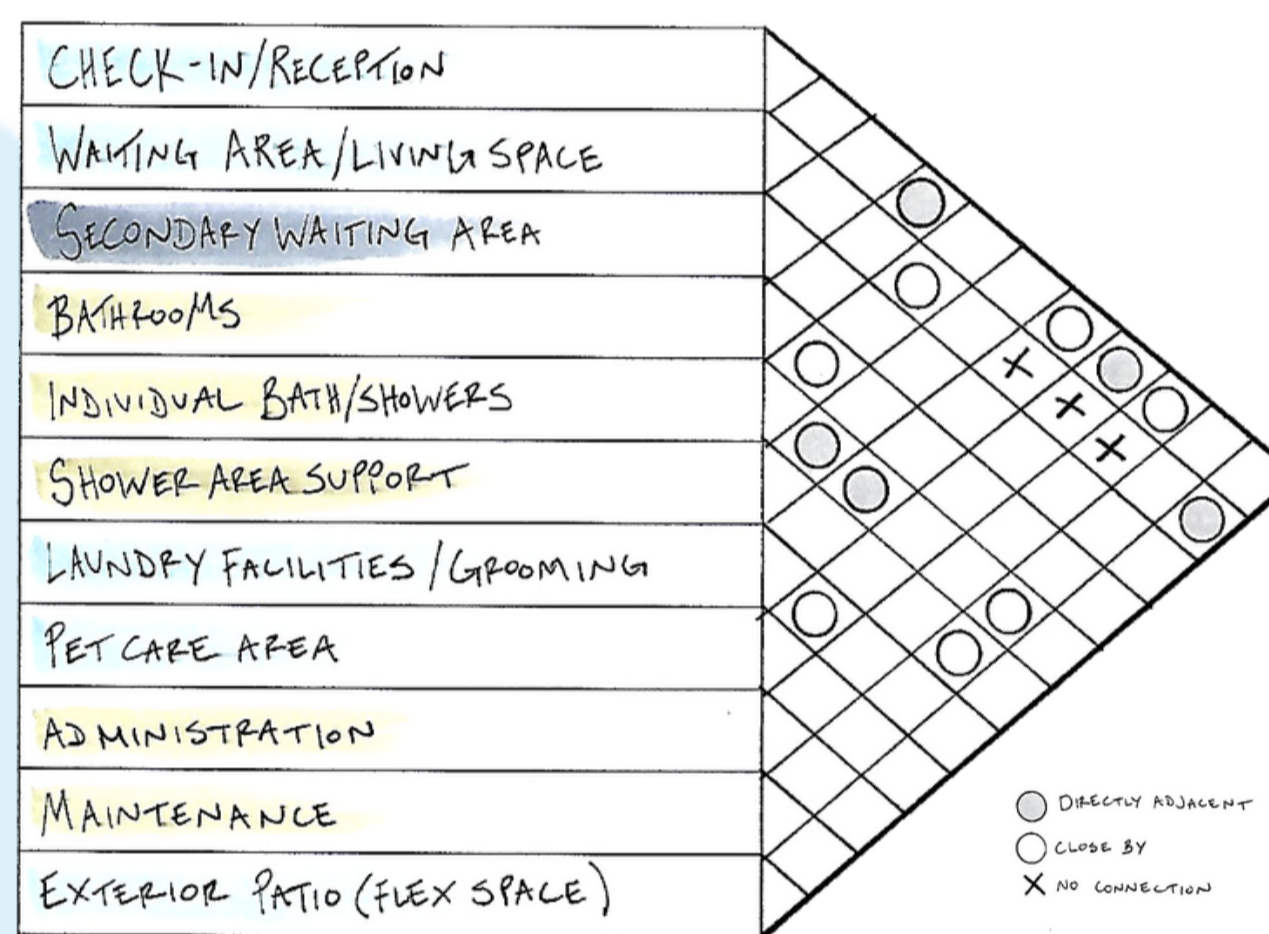


A place is defined as a particular position or point in space. Although each individual's 'place' may vary in destination, one similarity arises; the journey to arrival. 'The Place' is designed to aid and assist those facing homelessness to arrive with dignity to their desired destination. The focus lies in equipping those without a traditional home with the resources necessary to meet their fundamental needs. Because each destination will differentiate between each user, 'The Place' will provide encouragement and support, free from judgement and imposition of lifestyle. The facility recognizes it cannot solve homelessness, but rather strives to restore dignity to those who may have lost it.

## OBJECTIVES

- Mentally → Provide mental health support and guidance and encourage self-care practices and habits.
- Physically → Welcome all beliefs, cultures, and backgrounds, and provide space for reflection and growth, judgement free.
- Socially → Create a barrier free space universally accessible and inclusive to all through the use of wayfinding, wide corridors, and flexible fixtures/ furniture.
- Spiritually → Encourage sociality, but also independence through the incorporation of both sociofugal and sociopetal space.

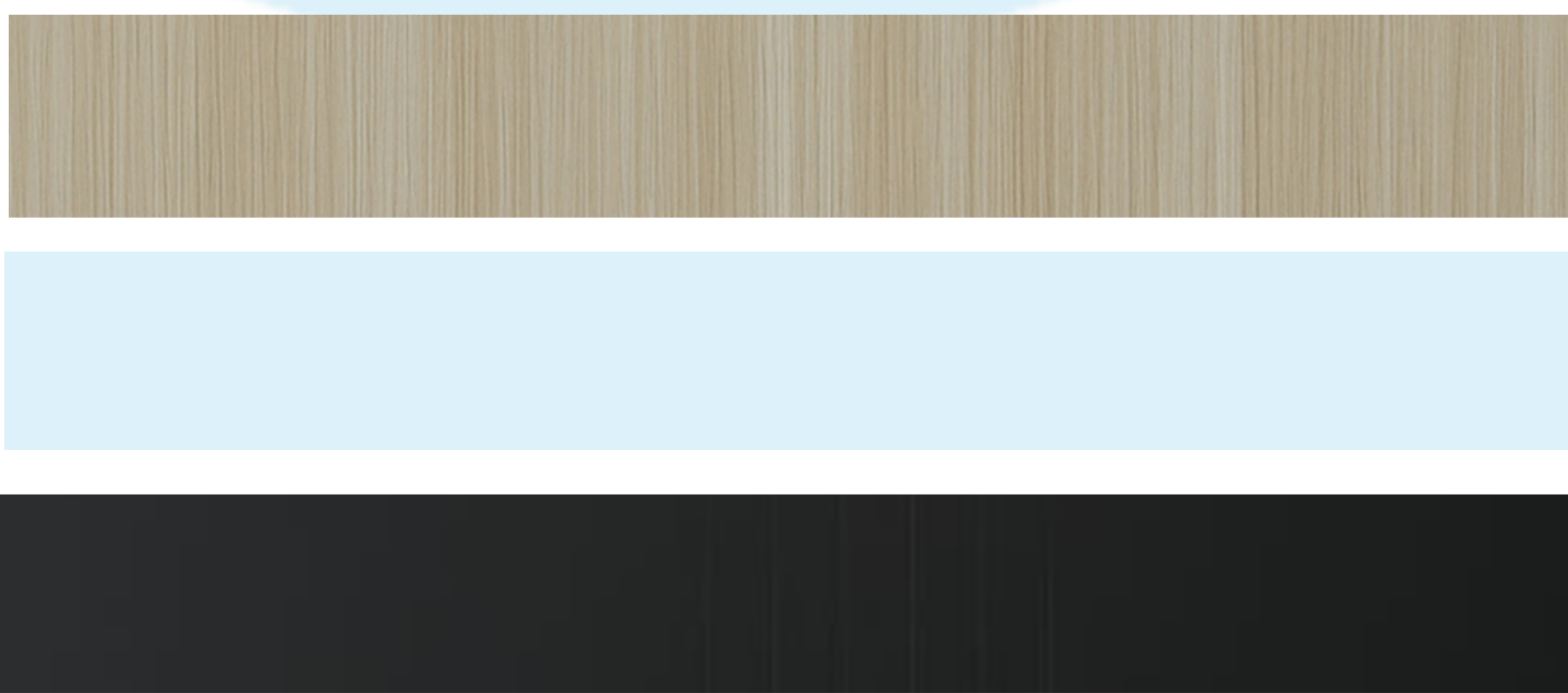
## PROCESS WORK



## RESEARCH

Homelessness affects a broad spectrum of individuals in varying situations and locations around the world. In Canada alone, at least 235 000 people are living day to day without a consistent home. There is no direct cause of homelessness, but rather individual circumstance resulting in the loss of domesticity. (Homelessness 101, 2019) Considering each person's result of homelessness is unique to their situation, careful design considerations and spatial planning must be analyzed and implemented within a space to accommodate their needs. Although stereotypes exist in terms of how the public acknowledge a 'homeless' person to look and behave, there is no definitive presence in which someone without a home carries that is visible to the general public. We often perceive these individuals in a negative light, though uncontrollable factors may or may not contribute to the reasoning for absence of a home. Factors resulting in both intentional and unintentional homelessness can include mental and physical disabilities, lack of affordable housing, mental health and deinstitutionalization, and social factors such as violence and abuse. (Oudshoorn, 2010) Because these factors are vast and often overlap, design to accommodate fundamental needs must cover aspects that are universal and inclusive to all involved. Design Resource for Homelessness.org theorizes homelessness as an "orphan sector of knowledge", relating facility needs more closely to behavioural health design and psychology. They recommend design solutions prevalent in healthcare design to be applied to the design of basic needs facilities, with focus on accessibility, wayfinding, comfort, self-care, and safety. Accessibility holds an important role in ensuring those with varying disabilities can move safely, conveniently, and effectively through the facility. By "keeping the space plan intuitively easy to navigate" and implementing wide corridors, those with an array of accessibility needs can be accommodated. Clear wayfinding is crucial in "[reducing] disorienting newcomers to the space", as well as effectively directing those with mental and physical disabilities. (Kitchell & Hearn, 2019) Comfort is a priority in ensuring users feel a sense of belonging and community within the facility, offering and acknowledging human interaction and touch as a basic human need. (McLeod, 2018) Self-care should be addressed through the incorporation of "adequately sized and accessible bathrooms and showers that promote good hygiene", as well as designated spaces to practice mental health such as retreat spaces, sacred spaces for prayer, and areas of respite. Safety also poses concern in terms of keeping both guests and staff secure. For staff, "visual access...that can enhance protection...[from] hostile visitors" is key to ensuring their well-being. Guest safety focuses on allowing the user to feel in control whilst being covertly monitored. Elements such as high sided chairs and wall niches can "ease the sense of exposure and let clients control the degree of engagement". (Kitchell & Hearn, 2019) Shannon Cupskey, Marketing Manager of Armstrong Flooring, has worked extensively in the industry of shelter design, and agrees with the importance of incorporating ideas related to health and psychology into basic needs facilities. She explained the concern of materials within facilities, emphasizing the use of seamless materials such as vinyl and other sheet materials over grouted tiles. Wash-ability is another imperative consideration when selecting materials both fixed and unfixed. High traffic and hygiene considerations result in the requirement of both durable and wash-able materials in applications such as floor and wall coverings, furniture, and fixtures. (Cupskey, 2019) These findings and discoveries are crucial to designers when creating a space to cater to an assortment of individuals facing everyday life without a domestic home. This design must come with the comprehension and recognition that homeless populations in any city are diverse and unique. The intent is not to try and solve homelessness through facility design, but rather to create an environment to support and assist them in attaining basic needs.

Appendix  
 Cupskey, S. (2019, 09 27). Homelessness Facility. (T. Neigum, Interviewer)  
 Homelessness 101. (2019). Retrieved from Homeless Hub: <https://www.homelesshub.ca/about-homelessness/homelessness-101>  
 International Code Council, I. (2014). 2015 International Building Code. Country Club Hills: International Code Council.  
 Kitchell, D., & Hearn, V. (2019). Adolescents Experiencing Homelessness. Retrieved from Design Resources for Homelessness: <http://designresourcesforhomelessness.org/people-1/education/>  
 McLeod, S. (2018, 05 21). Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Retrieved from Simply Psychology: <https://www.simplypsychology.org/maslow.html>  
 Oudshoorn, A. (2010, 09 29). The Root Causes of Homelessness in Canada. Retrieved from Abe Oudshoorn's Blog: <https://abeoudshoorn.com/blog/?p=16>

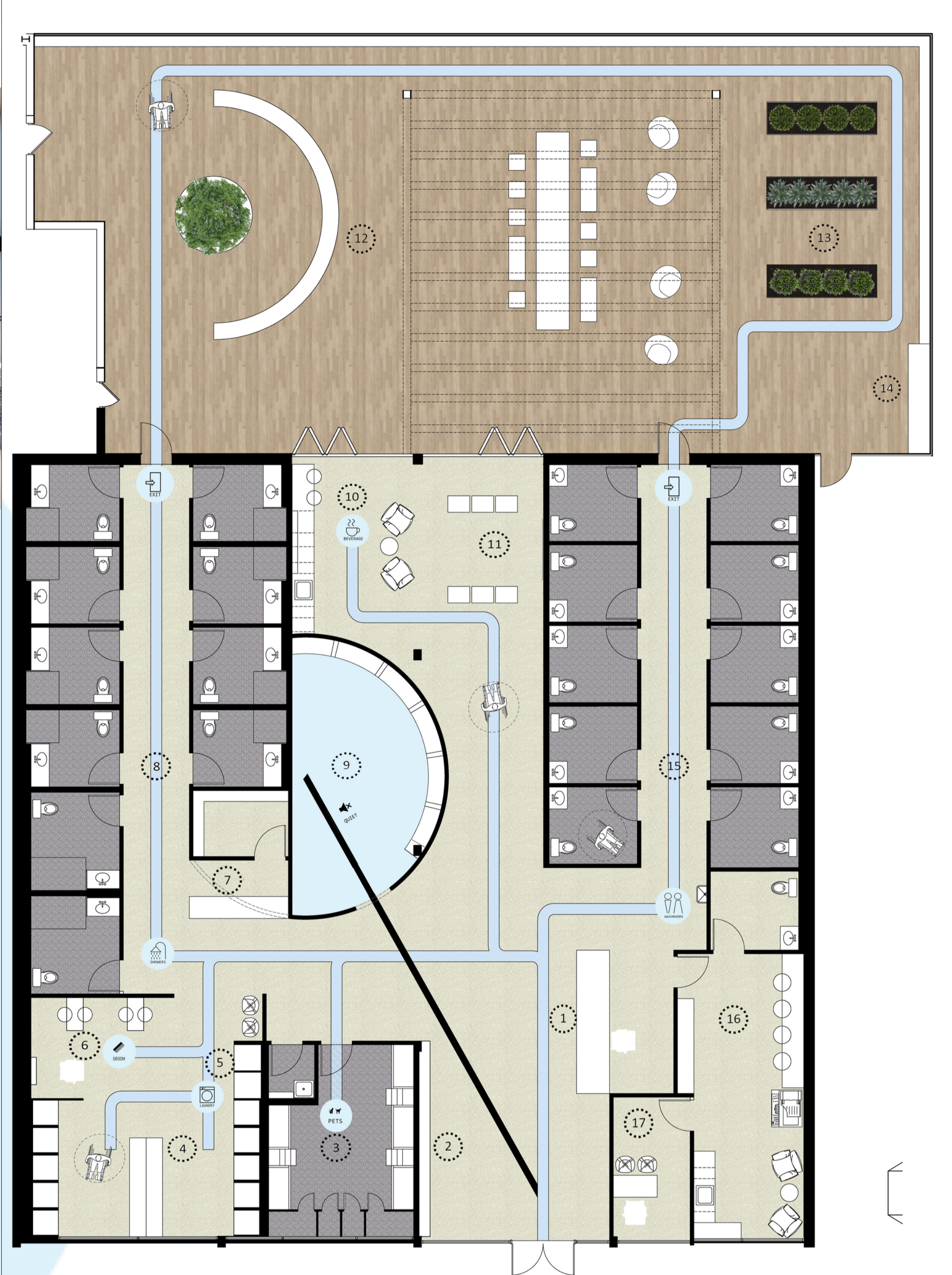






## SITE ANALYSIS

The proposed location for "The Place" is located on Nicol Street next door to the Salvation Army homeless shelter. This location is beneficial to the community due to the high volume of homeless population living in the southern part of Nanaimo. In addition, the Nanaimo Youth Services Association, Nanaimo Womens Centre, Nanaimo Mens Centre, and Nanaimo affordable housing society are all within 1-kilometre distance to the proposed location. Nanaimo affordable housing provides citizens with housing to transition from the streets. To add, the Samaritan house is also within 1-kilometre and provides 14 emergency shelter beds, 6 supportive shelter beds, and 6 transitional beds. Pacifica Housing also provides housing for transitioning from the streets with various locations around Nanaimo. Locations such as the Women's Centre provide clothing and other services the community may need regarding mental health, safety (etc). There are various drugstores and pharmacies available nearby such as London drugs, as well as the Nanaimo General Hospital approximately a 10-minute drive away. Finally, the Salvation Army provides free food for the community, as well as meals under \$2.



1. Reception has a view of the quiet area feature and wayfinding on the ground leads the user to each space with wide corridors for easy navigation. Reception also has mailboxes for guests needing a permanent address for job opportunities.
2. Lockers for users to safely store their belongings while using the facility.
3. Pet area with washing stations and kennels to house pets while using the facility.
4. Laundry area with stacked washer and dryers alternated for accessibility. Folding tables with wide circulation for parking shopping carts.
5. Vending machines with laundry detergent and two seats for waiting.
6. Grooming area with two manicure stations and one chair for haircuts.
7. Support area to check in with an employee for a shower and get shower necessities.
8. Shower area with 10 shower/washrooms, 2 being accessible.
9. Quiet area for a unique experience inside the cylinder feature for those wanting to be alone and quiet.
10. Coffee bar, where users will help themselves to coffee and tea and engage with one another in a social environment. Community chalkboard and note board for all to write messages for one another and see advertisements for job opportunities (etc.).
11. Lounge/waiting area for those wanting to relax, socialize, and watch television.
12. Outdoor area with pergola and seating around a large harvest table, promoting socialization. Seating area with large fruit tree allowing for users to pick fruit from the tree and take with them.
13. Community garden beds for users to water plants and pick vegetables and fruit to take with them.
14. Bike racks with locking mechanism.
15. 10 bathrooms all accessible.
16. Administration for employees with private washroom, photocopy area, kitchenette, and lounge eating.
17. Directors office with seating for two guests.

