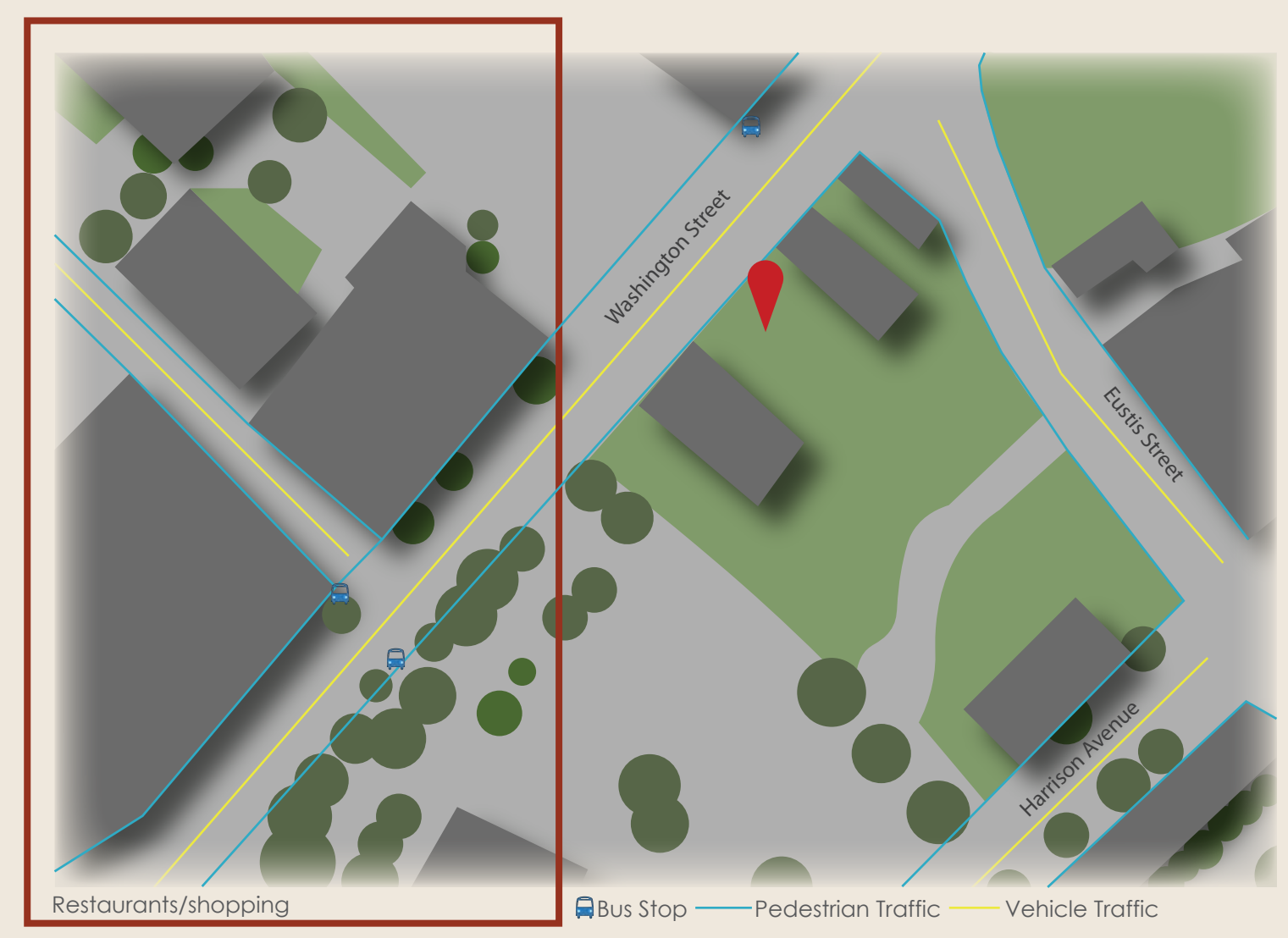


CLIENT STATEMENT

The separation of work and home can be difficult to define in a work-driven society, especially when work is 5 feet from your front door. Likewise, the housing market is soaring and predicted to not come down anytime soon; leading to innovative solutions for affordable housing. Woven Corners is a commercial retail store situated just in front of the artist's home, with all spaces enclosed in shipping containers. Our clients are a self-supporting Navajo Artist and their partner. The artist works to create traditional Navajo weavings, taking inspiration from the works of sand-painters such as Hosteen Klah (Beb).

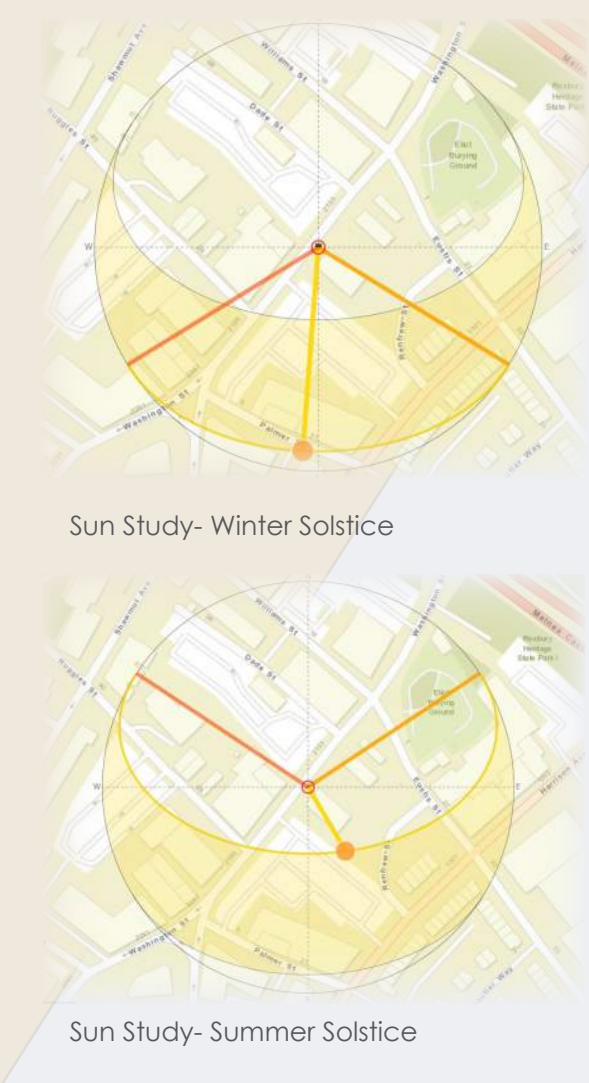
CONCEPT STATEMENT

Our design will bring Navajo culture to the community through the use of traditional Navajo elements paired with sustainable practices. This will be achieved through the use of materials such as adobe, wood, plaster and textiles. Symbols, like the number four and shapes such as triangles, diamonds, and crosses, from the Navajo culture will be represented throughout the design to educate the community and to honor traditions away from home (Navajo Weaving).



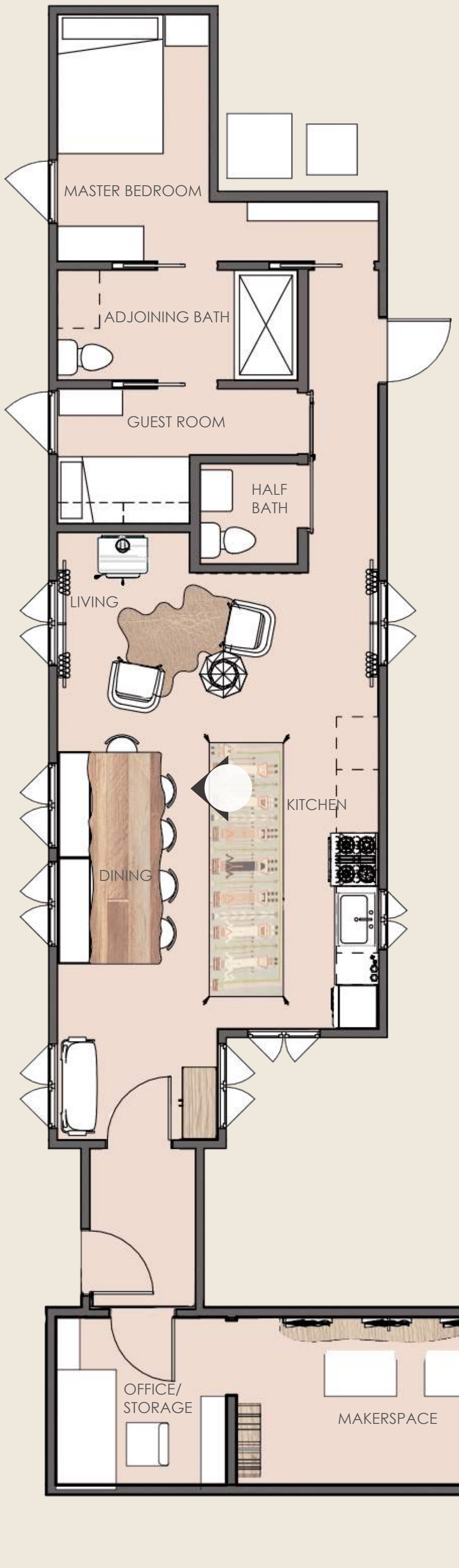
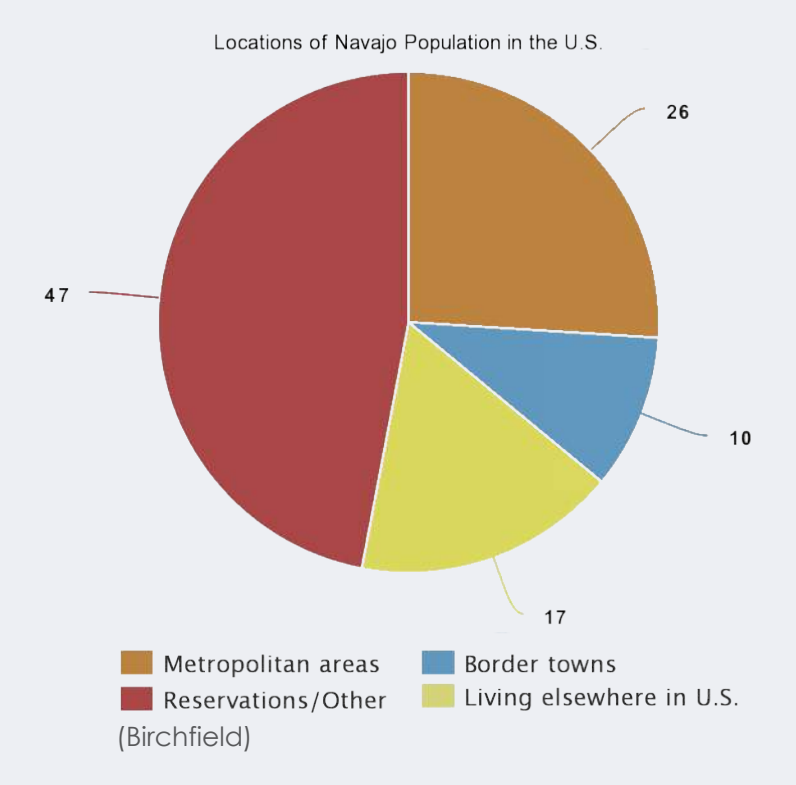
SITE RATIONALE

Due to high volume traffic bringing customers to the site and proximity to public transportation, we chose to locate Woven Corners at 2164 Washington Street, Boston, Massachusetts. There are small single-owned shops, a variety of housing, public parking, and parks and trails all nearby, showing signs of a well-developed neighborhood as specified by LEED (LEED). With street parking behind the residential portion and open land to provide room for rain-water tanks and a garden, our clients can live comfortably and sustainably even in the middle of Boston. The retail aspect is located between a gallery and a neighborhood planning organization, creating a communal environment focused on sharing art and caring about the community.

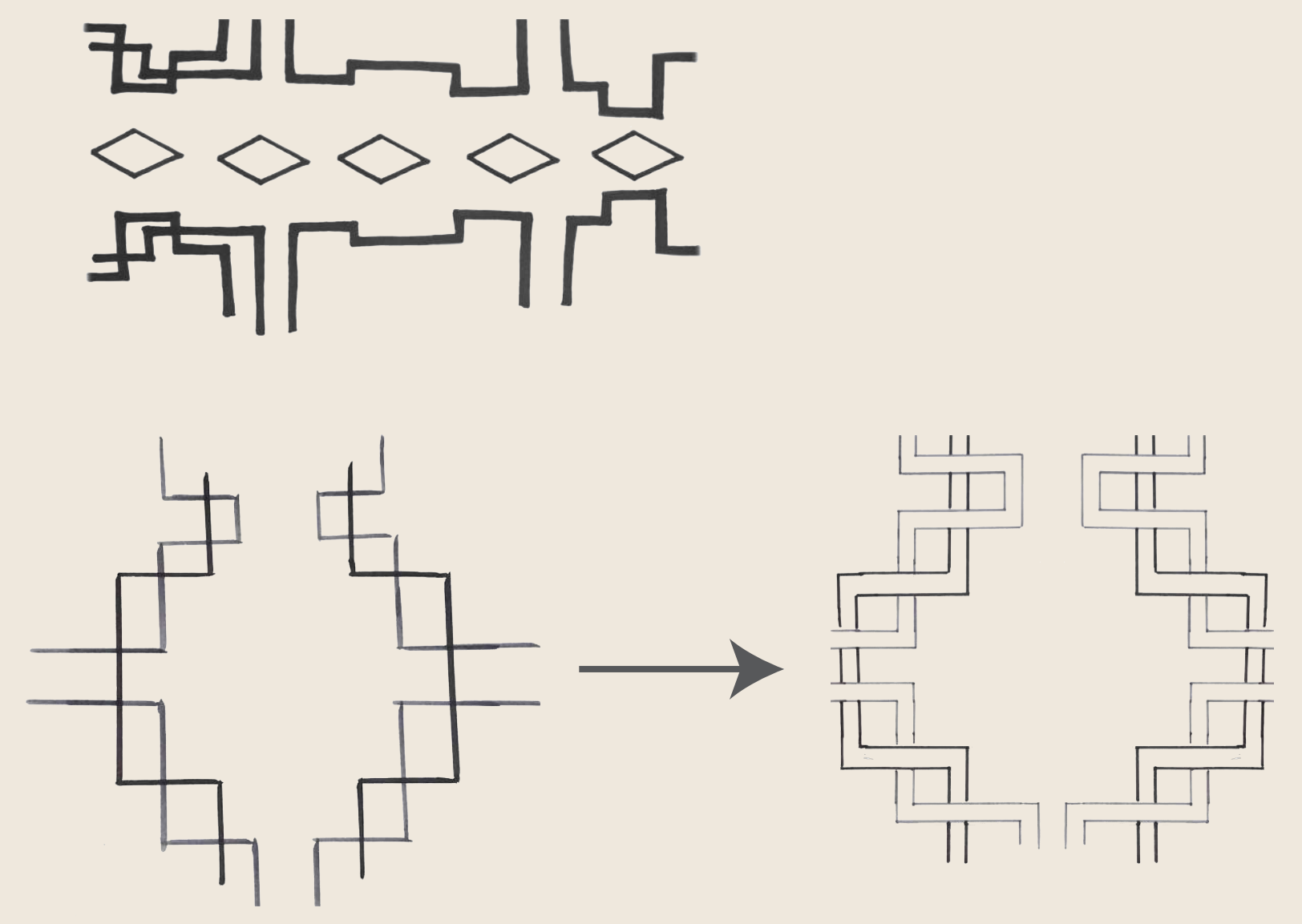


DEMOGRAPHICS

Nubian Square has a diverse background reflected through self-supporting companies that occupy the business sector in the heart of Boston. In 2020, Nubian Square's population consisted of 40,000 residents, which is expected to rise 11.6% by 2024. As the area expands and becomes more diverse, it is the perfect location for an independent Navajo textile storefront. In the local area, African Americans make up the largest part of the population at 41.8% with the Hispanic population following at 22% (Nubian).



PRELIMINARY COMMERCIAL SKETCHES



Exterior Perspective- Residential Back Entrance



Exterior Perspective- View from Washington Street

DESIGN RATIONALE

The circulation of our design follows the clockwise pattern with a circular plan that follows the sun path. The entrance of the residential portion faces east to see the rising sun in the morning and the sun would travel around the exterior throughout the rest of the day (Bradley).

The residential section consists of a 40' container placed adjacent to a 54' container with the abutting wall removed expanding the residential space to allow for gatherings. To maximize all room sizes, an adjoining full bath is located between the master and the guest bedroom, making its amenities available to all guests. A half bath is placed just outside the main living area, making it a vital location so visiting guests do not have to enter the more private spaces along the back of the home. In the gathering area, the incorporation of a small wood stove and a skylight pays homage to traditional Navajo Hogans, where the hearth is the center of the home and skylights were used to capture the sun in the middle of the Hogan (Bradley).

The commercial space is laid out in a linear organization. Working from the main entrance, customers enter the showroom and see weavings hanging from the wall. Displayed in customized shelving are pieces of pottery and jewelry created by other local Navajo artists. To the left is the cash wrap which is located centrally, separating front and back of house while having a clear view of the door. Across from the cash wrap is an interactive screen featuring the store's website and is available for customers to browse the online catalog and all available works. Behind the cash wrap, is the makerspace, which is visible from the showroom and includes the looms, storage for yarn in a wall display, and finished textiles. Beyond the makerspace, closed off to the public, is the office for the company and the private entrance to the residential space through a corridor.



Cashwrap Elevation- Custom wall divider inspired by Navajo textiles.

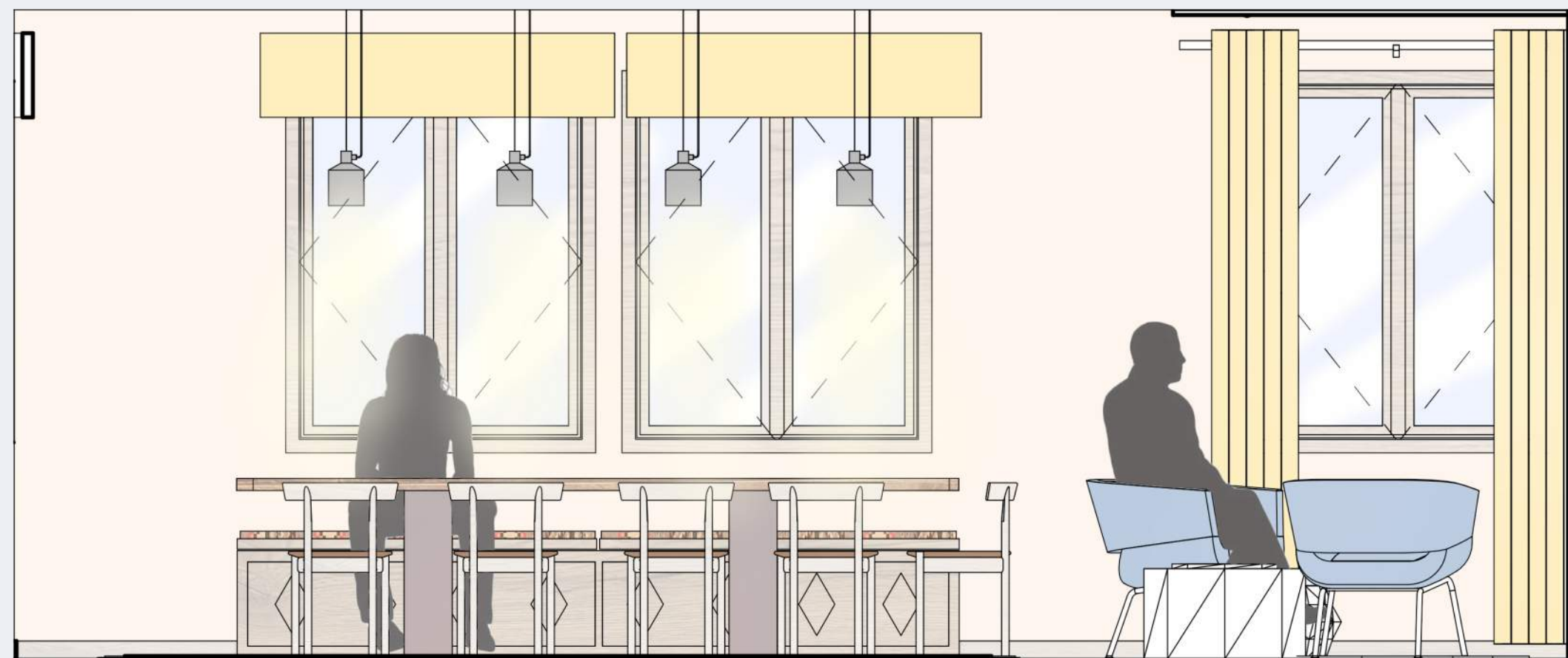


Makerspace Perspective (above)
Showroom/ Cashwrap Perspective (below)- Interactive screen for online browsing.





Entry Perspective- Rug depicting community joins the kitchen and dining spaces, creating an open concept space.



Dining Elevation- Banquet seating includes storage, features diamond detailing and Navajo upholstery. Four dining and four lights above bring attention to the cultural significance of the number four.

Kitchen Perspective

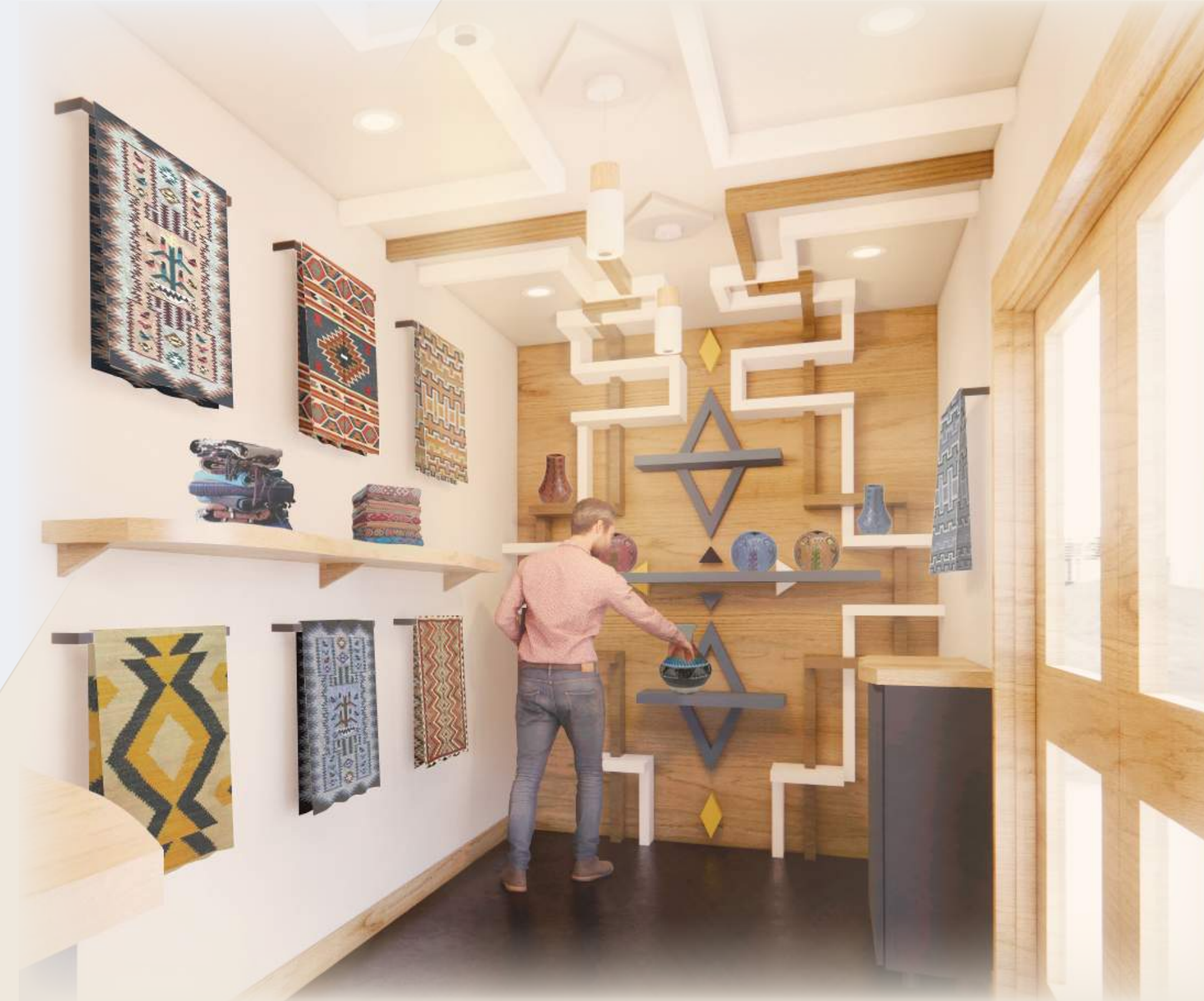


SUSTAINABILITY RATIONALE

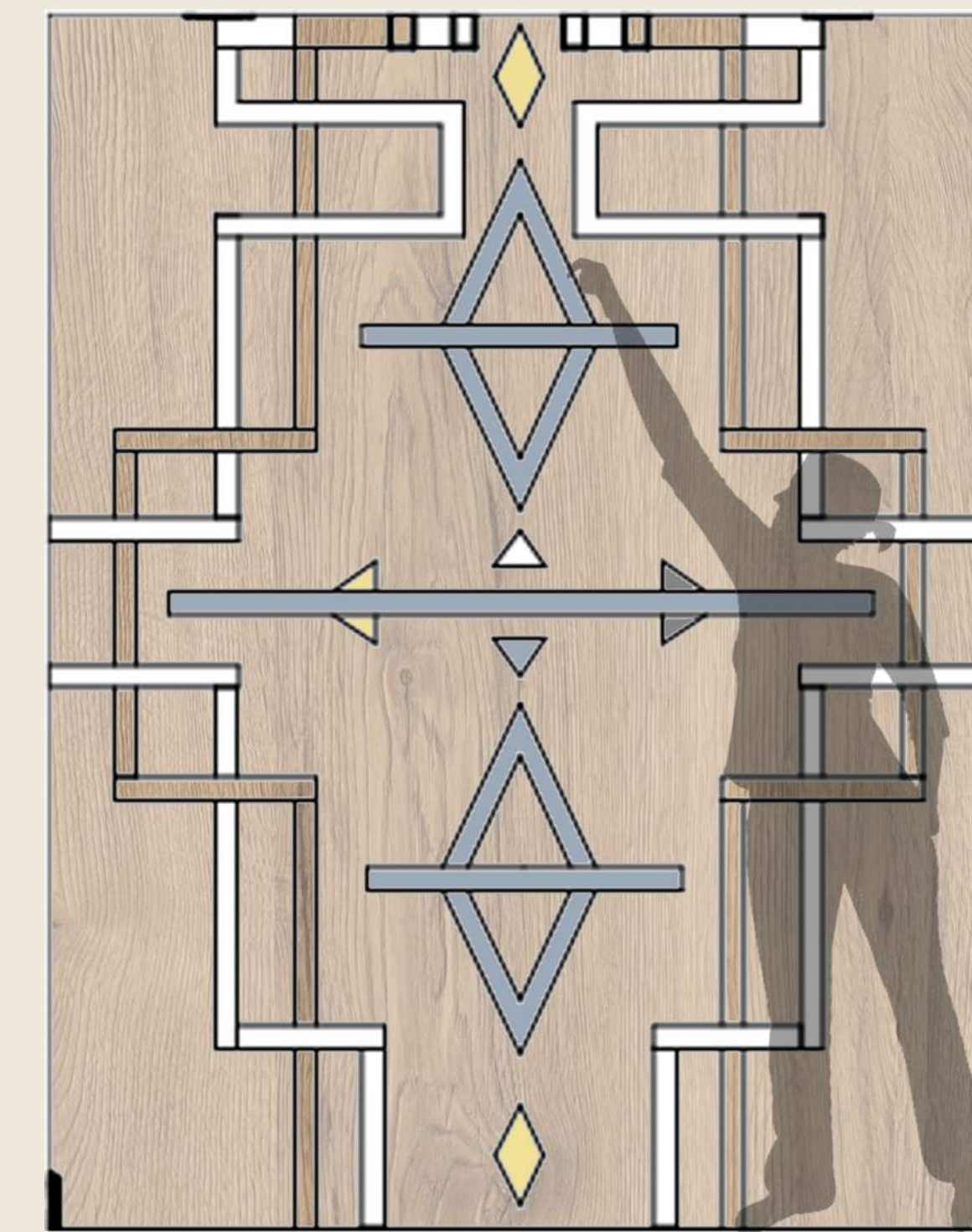
On top of being diligent in material selection, sustainable practices were considered with how the home and retail store could operate. To reduce energy costs and get energy from a sustainable source, solar panels were installed on the roof of the residential portion. A vacuum tube solar collector could also be implemented along the solar panels and water would be stored in one of the tanks alongside the north-most wall of the building. This system collects and stores rainwater to heat and use for both hot water and space heating (Lechner). Along with this heating, the walls are thinly insulated with straw, which is cost-effective and easily obtainable (Roberts). In the second tank, greywater would be collected and accessible for recycling and irrigation (Stang). A sloped roof, and windows on each side of the main residential section, allow for proper ventilation and wind flow, helping with the cooling aspect of the design.

CREATING A LARGE DINING AREA

The approach to the design for these spaces was focused on creating a multi-functional gathering space centralized around a skylight and wood stove, bringing important aspects of Navajo culture into the space. The large dining table is designed with banquet seating with enclosed storage and traditionally upholstered chairs. Foot stools in the gathering area and entry provide flexible seating for larger gatherings. Acting as separation between the kitchen and dining, a rug woven by the client depicts a sand-painting of Native Americans and crops, representing community gatherings and culture (Bradley).



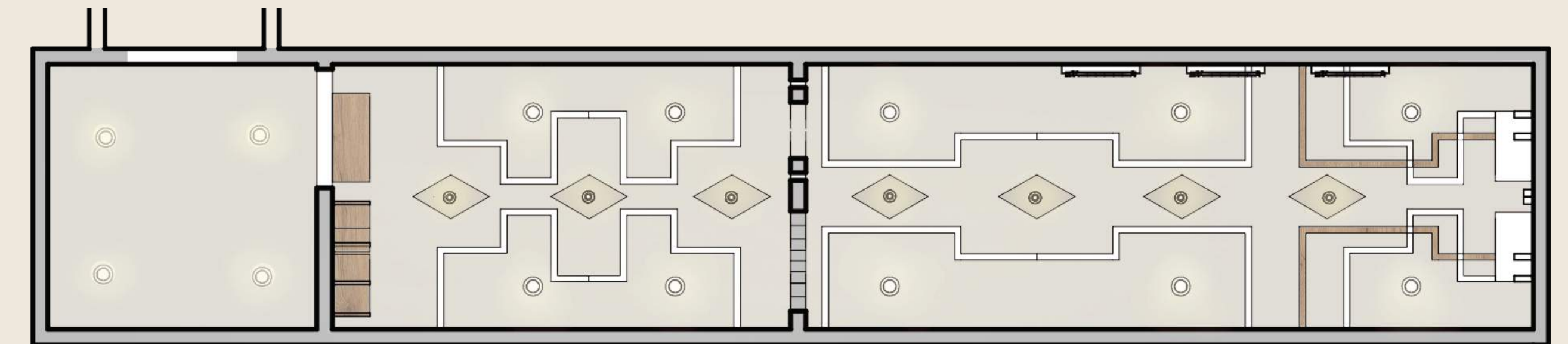
Showroom Perspective



Shelving Elevation- Retail wall display featuring art works by local Navajo artists.



Living Room Perspective (above)- Wall detailing made from scraps of window cut outs, creating interest and outlining the skylight. Living/Dining Perspective (below)- Entry/ exit doors can be seen with wall detailing above representing the gateway over passageways.



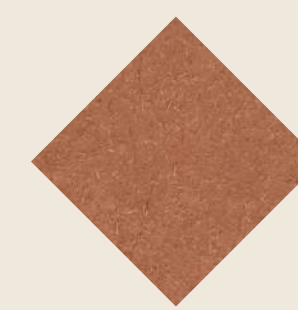
Commercial Ceiling Detail

MATERIAL RATIONALE

Navajo Weavings Upholstery, Rugs
Textiles are made from natural fibers that are easily broken down and compostable.



Adobe Flooring
The earthen materials used to make adobe connect the home and retail space back to nature, mimicking the feeling of a traditional Navajo Hogan. It is sealed with linseed oil and is a welcoming color. Adobe also contributes to creating a sustainable home because it acts as a thermal mass through regulating building temperature (Keya).



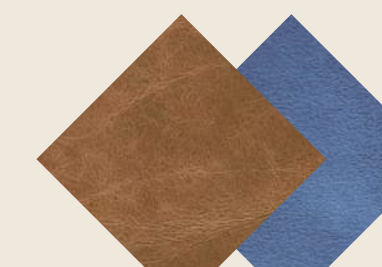
Plaster Walls & Ceilings
Similar to adobe, plaster can be made from earthen materials, making it less expensive and able to create a healthier space. It allows for a breathable structure, ability to repair easily, and helps to regulate temperatures, all while creating a natural and comfortable atmosphere (Bingham).



Walnut and Oak Wood Details, Furniture, Doors, Etc.
Due to the proximity of the harvesting to the site, these woods are both beautiful and sustainable. They also have a long-life span so it would not need to be replaced.



Deerskin Leather and Suede Rugs and Upholstery
Both are durable materials, relating to the Navajo hunting practices of deer and their sustainable use of the whole animal. Their use brings traditional Navajo elements into space and creates comfortable seating.



Reclaimed Wood Dining Table
Sourced from IndoTeak, this reclaimed wood comes from demolished houses and is used as a statement piece for the central dining table.



Materials work together in the spaces bringing the Navajo culture to life. The use of warm colors and soft materials creates an inviting atmosphere that represents the Navajo- culture and its people. A combination of actual and simulated texture, such as patterned surfaces contrasted with rough plaster and adobe, provides visual interest throughout the spaces. These materials also incorporate shapes important in Navajo sand-painting and techniques practiced in traditional Navajo homemaking. The colors black, white, blue, yellow, representing North, South, East, and West, were chosen for their portrayal of the four sacred corners in the Navajo Nation. Without being overwhelming, they bring energy into the space and incorporate Navajo values in a modern way. Used in shades of both white and beige, the plaster takes up a majority of the space and makes the walls feel more expansive.

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