

Designing Transitional Center for Refugees in The United States:

Adapting to Cross-Cultural Living

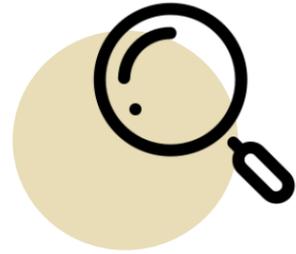
By Pailyn Schroeder

Introduction

Many refugees are forced to migrate to a different country or location due to factors such as violence, war, discrimination, and persecution. These refugees **do not have a choice** on where they will resettle or take refuge, and this is when the United Nations (UN) and other organizations come into play. The UN and other organizations work hard in making sure the refugees are **going to be safe** in their new future home, as well as getting the treatment they need.

The transitional center for refugees focuses on **improving their overall health and educating new experiences and culture** through design and services. Interior design allows services to be provided to refugees effectively by considering their mental and physical conditions, this can help refugees feel welcomed and cared for.

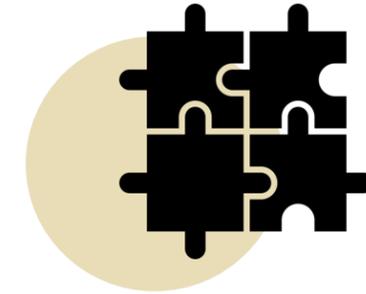
Literature Review Process



K-State Library



Key Words



Filter and analyze data

Database

Search it
Proquest
InterLibrary Loan

Refugees
Refugees in the U.S.
Mental health in refugees
Where do refugees come from?

Peer-reviewed Journal
Books
Articles

Websites

Refugees in the U.S.
Syrian Refugees
Where do refugees go when they arrive to the U.S.
ISS of BC

UNHCR.org
UN.org
ISSBC.org

Discovery through Literature



Definition



Health Issues



Housing



Refugee Rights



Government & organizations
involvement

A definition of refugee

A refugee is someone who has been forced to flee his or her country because of persecution, war or violence. A refugee has a **well-founded fear of persecution** for reasons of race, religion, nationality, political opinion or membership in a particular social group. Most likely, they **cannot return home** or are afraid to do so. War and ethnic, tribal and religious violence are leading causes of refugees fleeing their countries.



Refugee Rights



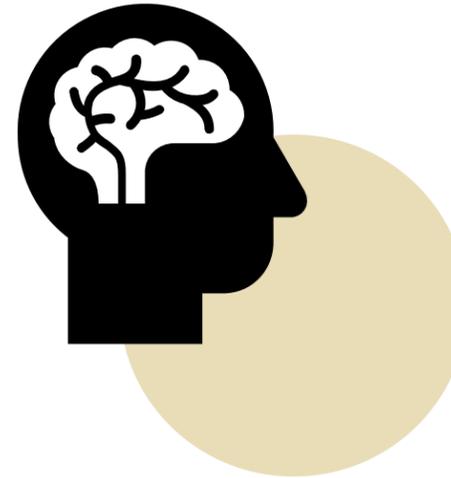
A refugee has the right to safe asylum. Refugees should receive at least the same rights and basic help as any other foreigner who is a legal resident, including freedom of thought, of movement, and freedom from torture and degrading treatment.

Health Issues among refugees



Physical Health

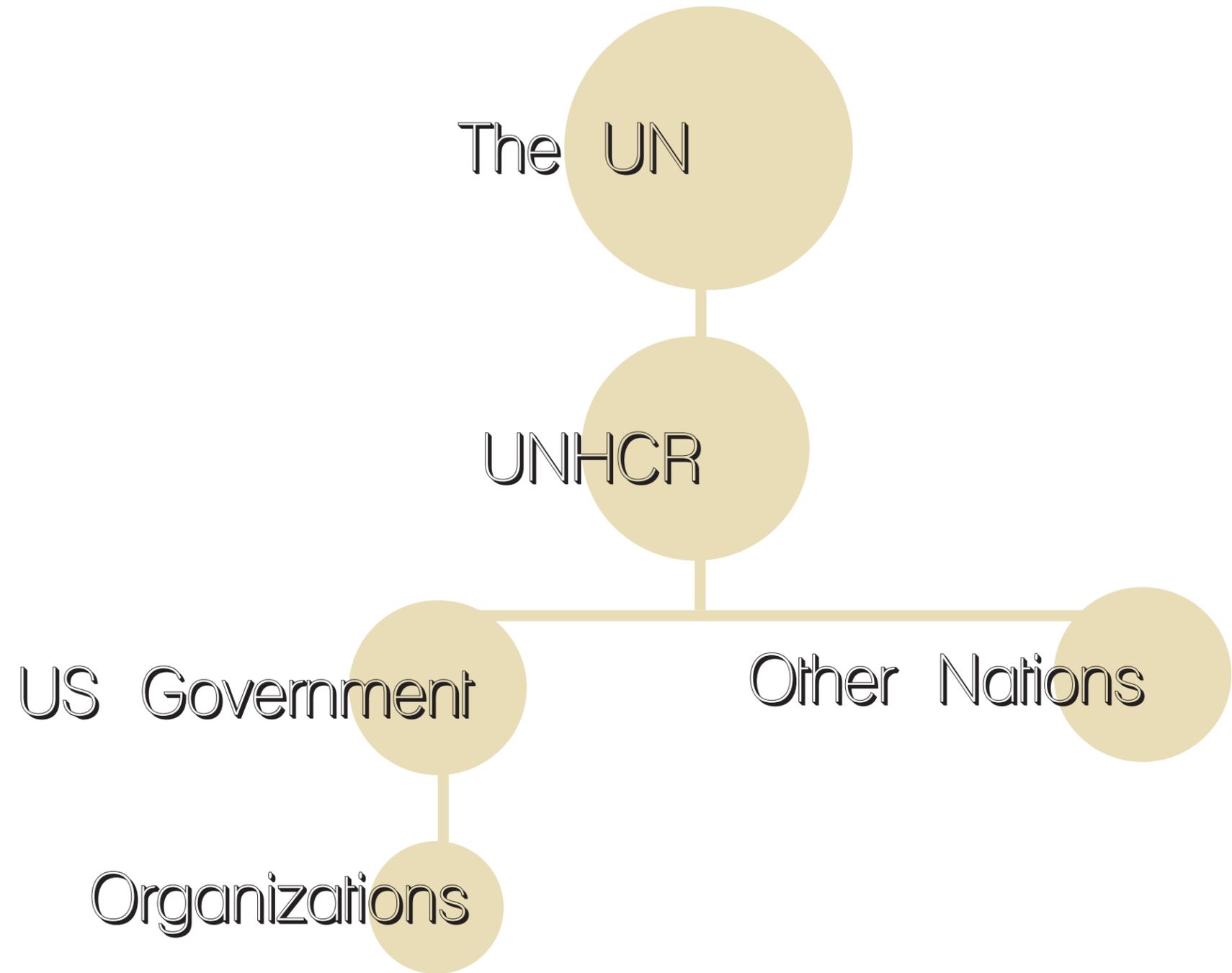
Injured
Lack of nutritious food
Abused
Illnesses



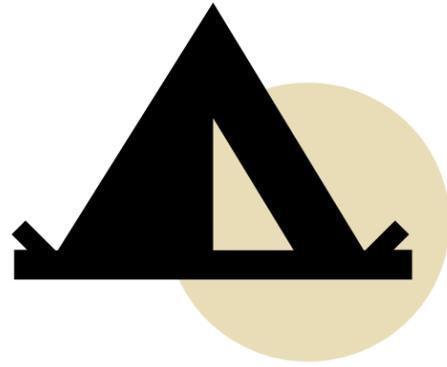
Mental Health

PTSD
Depression
Anxiety

Government and Organizations involvement



Temporary Housing: Refugee Camp



2.6 M

Refugees live in camps



37,000

Number of people forced to flee their home every day



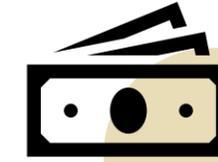
The Example of Transitional Center



The Welcome House of BC

Vancouver, Canada

Over 600 people walk through the center's doors each day to access a wide variety of services:



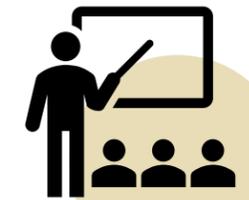
Employment services



Clinic



Temporary housing



Language classes



Daycare



Community



Immigration services

Statement of Problem

Refugees do not have any control nor choice in the happening of wars, persecution or violence. They were forced to leave their home. Refugee camps became **the alternative for their home**. Refugee camps are not a permanent housing option even though they could end up living there for years.

According to refugee rights, refugees have the same rights as other foreigners in that particular country.

There's not many of the transitional centers in the United States that provide the basic services refugees need under one roof: food, shelter, educational/ learning center, religious sanctuary, etc.

The goal is to make refugees become self-sufficient as quickly as possible according to UNHCR.



Cognitive-Related Appraisal Theory

Stress appraisal refers to the process by which individuals evaluate and cope with a stressful event.



“Stress is experienced when a person perceives that the demands exceed the personal and social resources the individual is able to mobilize. This is called the ‘transactional model of stress and coping.’”

Richard Lazarus

Proposed Method to Investigate Problem



Interview

Who: Refugee Organization Assistant or worker

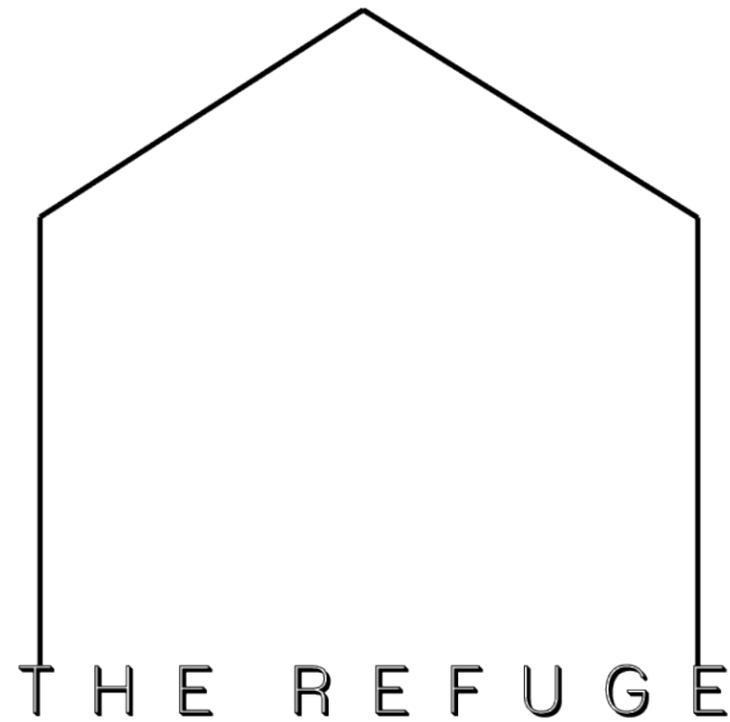
Questions

- What is the process for refugees to be placed in the United States?
- Do most refugees come with their families? by themselves?
- What nationality are the refugees?
- What would you say their struggles are?
- What type of jobs do the refugees do when they choose to work in the U.S.?
- How could interior designers assist refugees?



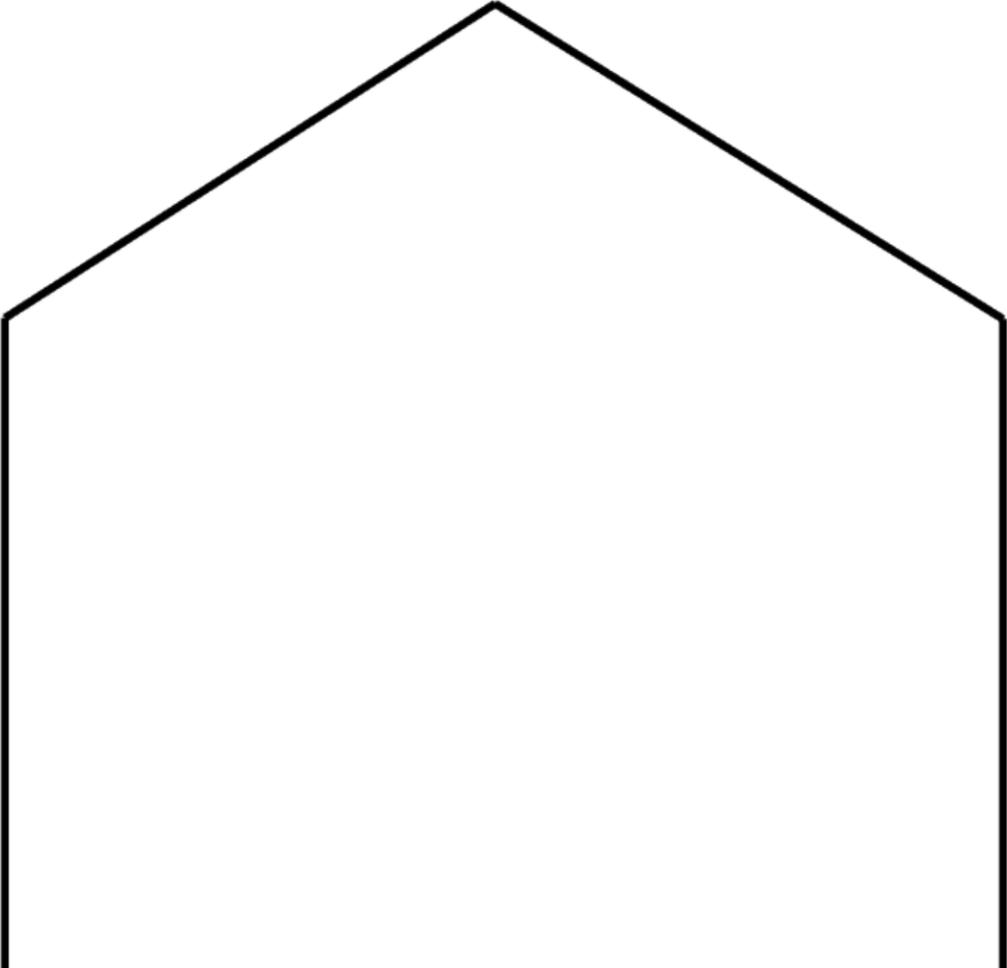
THE DESIGN
PROBLEM RELATED
TO THE TOPIC

The Design Problem Related to The Topic

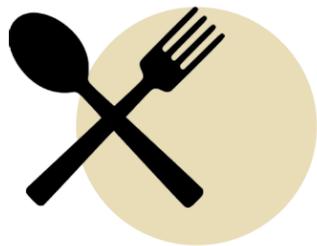


Refugees relocate to a different country, cultures that don't align with their own, or languages they have never spoken before. Design can help refugees in adjusting and adapting cross-cultural living.

The Refuge was designed to respond to the challenges and to improve the lives of refugees long terms through



T H E R E F U G E



The Refuge: Inspiration



WELL Building Standard

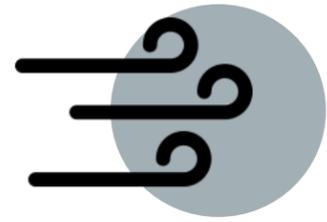
WELL v2

Designer = Caretaker

We have an obligation to create spaces that move us—all of us—in the direction of health. There are ten concepts in WELL v2: Air, Water, Nourishment, Light, Movement, Thermal Comfort, Sound, Materials, Mind and Community.



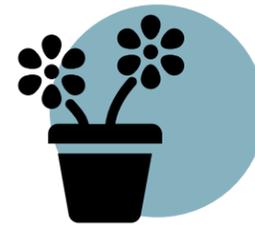
WELL Building Standard



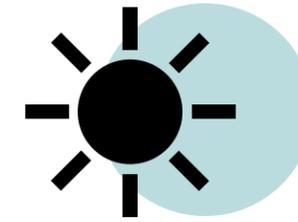
Air



Water



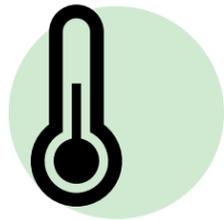
Nourishment



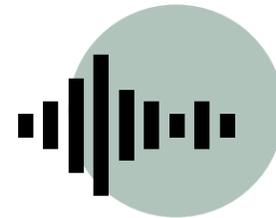
Light



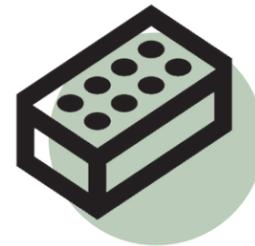
Movement



Thermal Comfort



Sound



Material



Mind



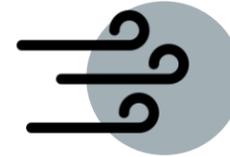
Community

WELL Building Standard

First Floor



- Thermal Controlability



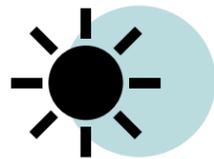
- Smoke-free environment
- Air-filtration system



- Fruits and Vegetable
- Special Diets



- Access to drinking water



- Enhanced daylight access



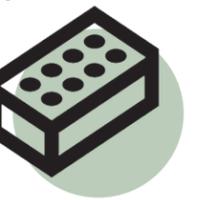
- Sound barriers



- Mental Health promotion



- Movement network & circulation



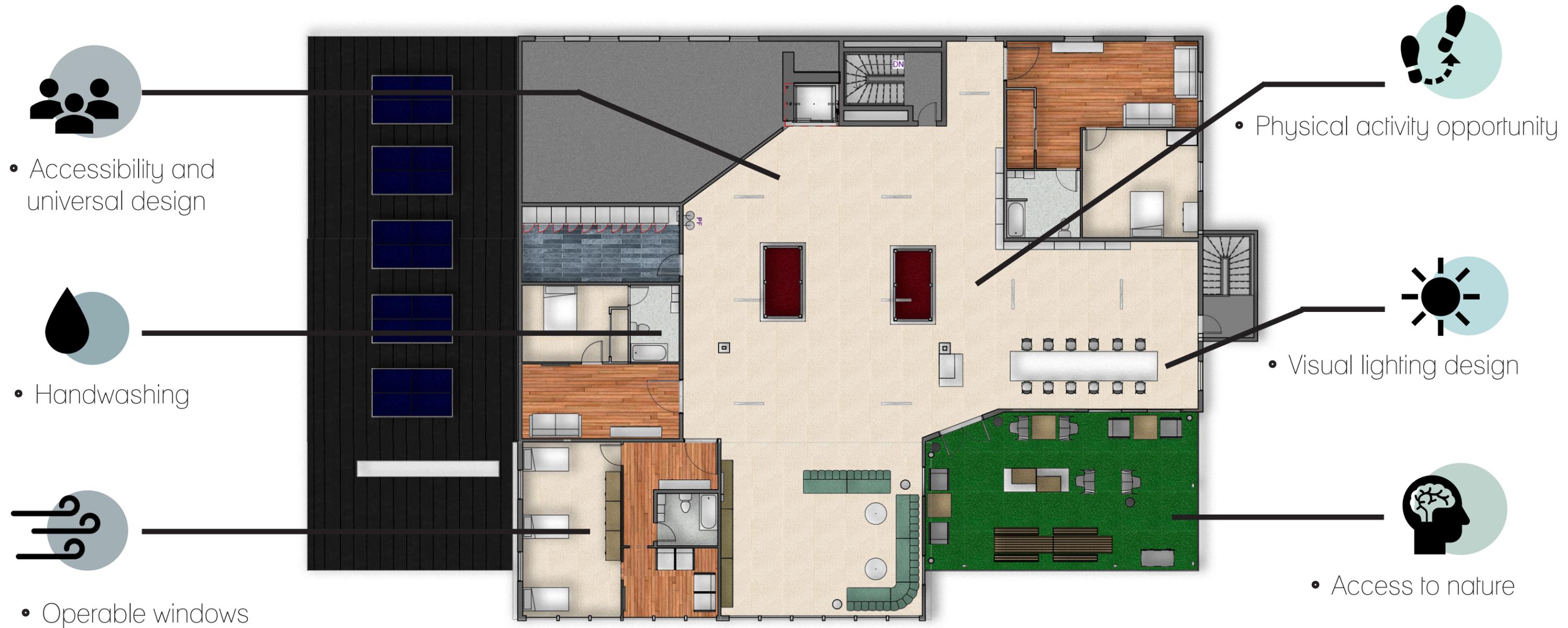
- Cleaning products and protocol



- Family support

WELL Building Standard

Second Floor



A large crowd of people is gathered for an outdoor event. Many individuals are wearing white caps, and some are holding up their phones to take pictures. The background is filled with a dense sea of people, creating a vibrant and busy atmosphere. A semi-transparent yellow circle is positioned on the right side of the image, partially overlapping the text.

Design Areas of focus

Logo Development

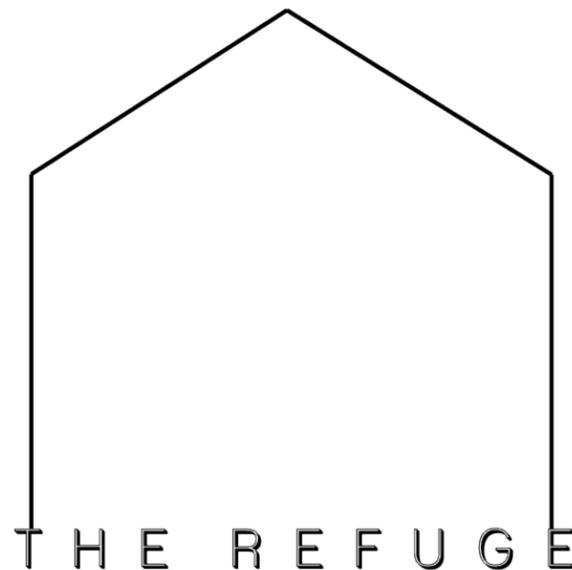


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Refuge

a place that provides shelter
or protection

a condition of being safe or sheltered
from pursuit, danger, or trouble.



Design areas of focus

Level One



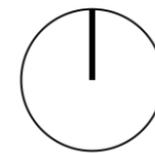
The Cookhouse



All Faith Chapel



The Refuge



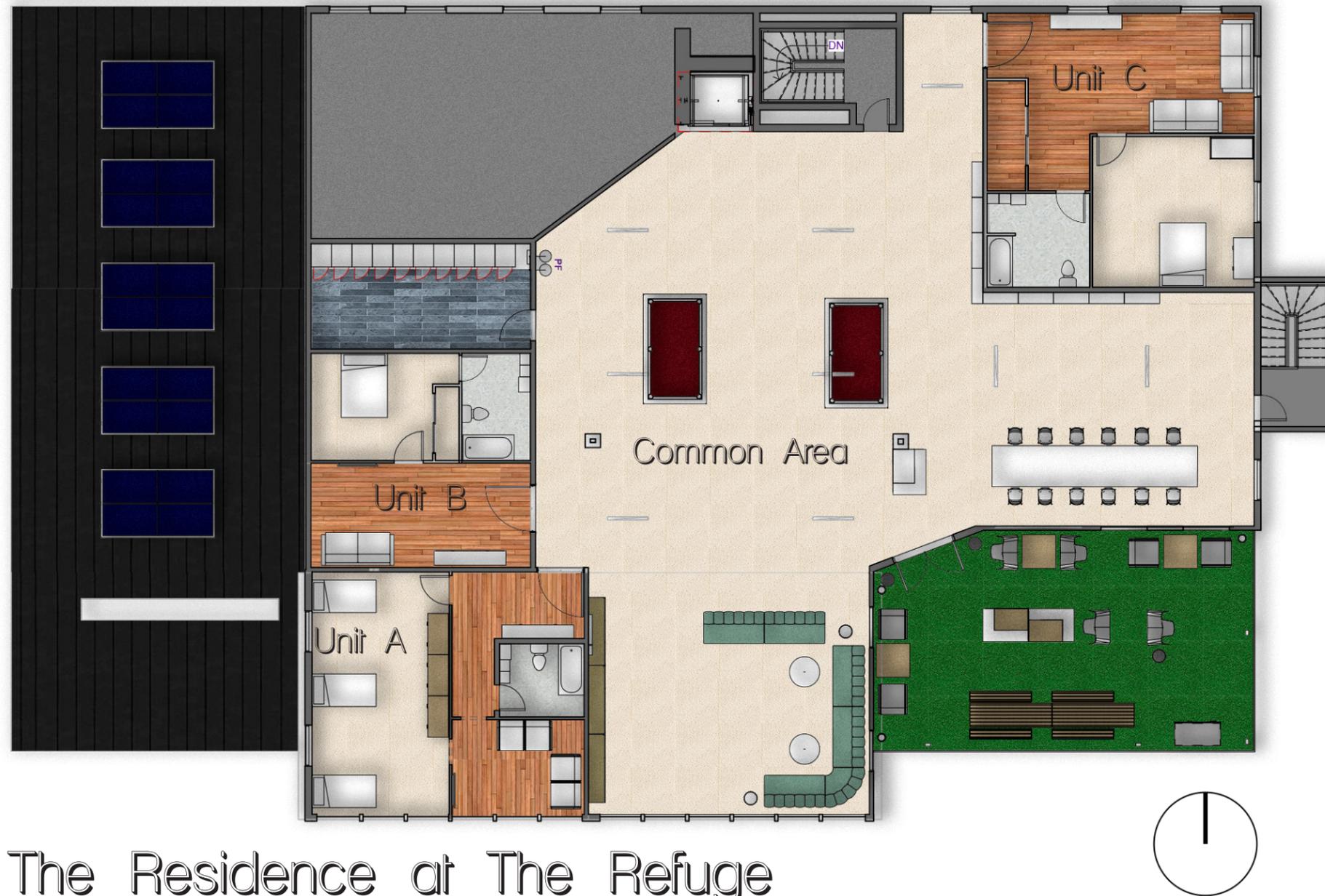
Learning Center



Child Development Center

Design areas of focus

Level Two

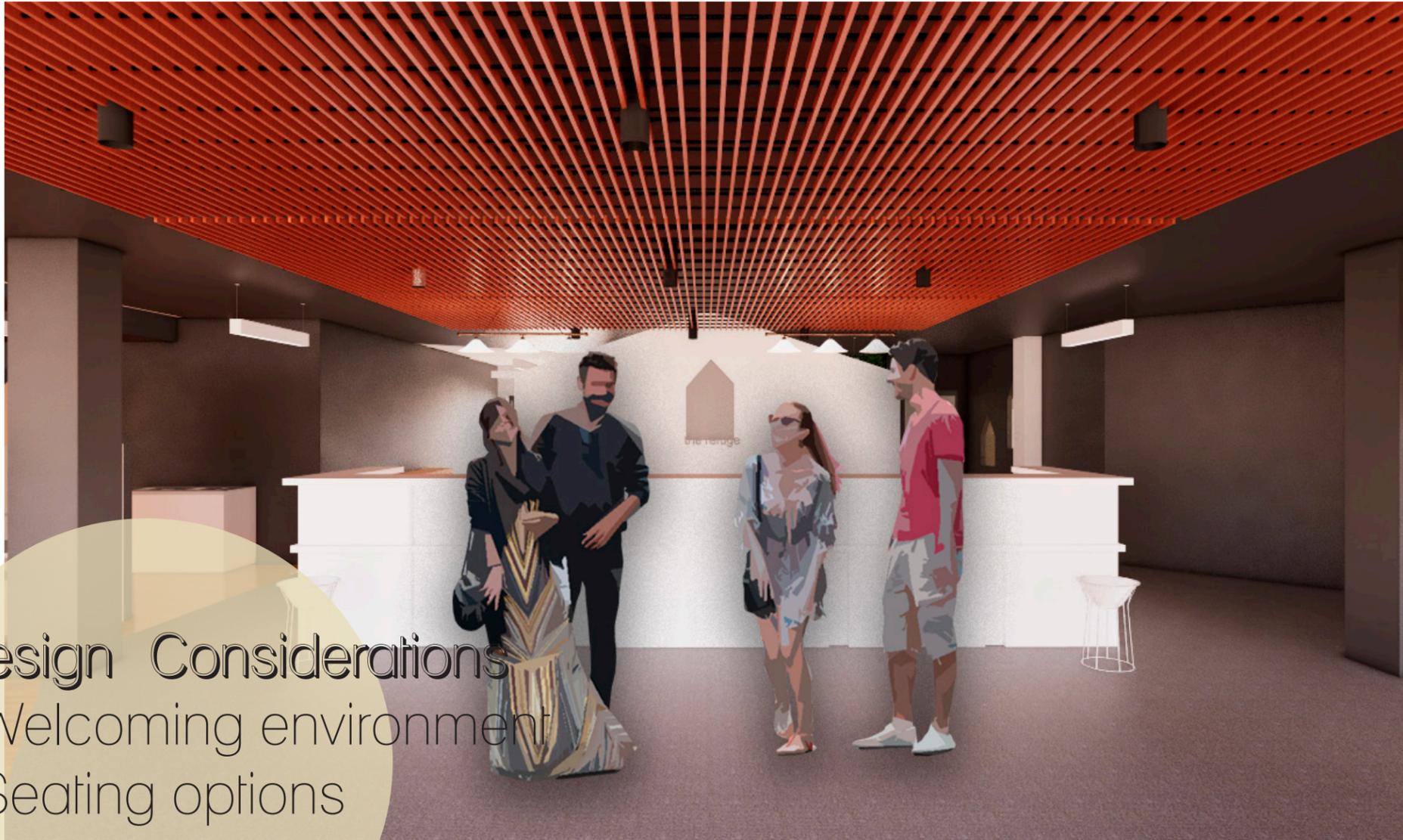


The Residence at The Refuge



The Residence

Reception and Lounge Area



Design Considerations

- Welcoming environment
- Seating options
- Lounge area

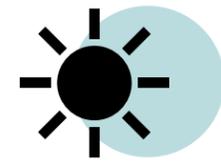




All Faith Chapel



- Sound barriers



- Enhanced daylight access

Design Considerations

- Acoustical
- Simple and crisp finishes
- Daylight



The Cookhouse



- Fruits and Vegetable
- Special Diets



- Access to drinking water

Design Considerations

- Community building
- Easily maintained materials
- Daylight

Aあ Learning Center



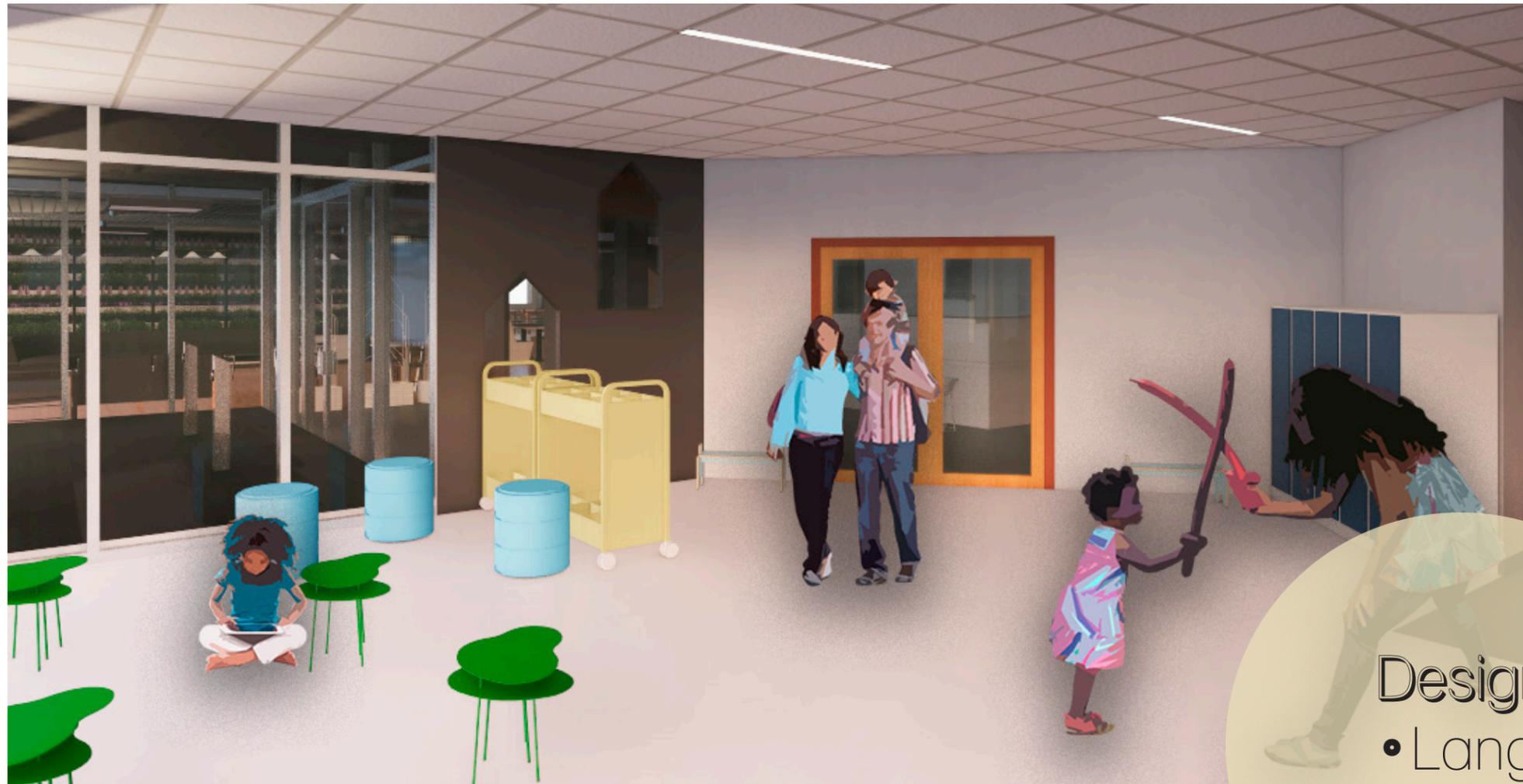
- Mental Health promotion

Design Considerations

- Adjustable height furniture
- Daylight



Child Development Center



- Cleaning products and protocol



- Family support

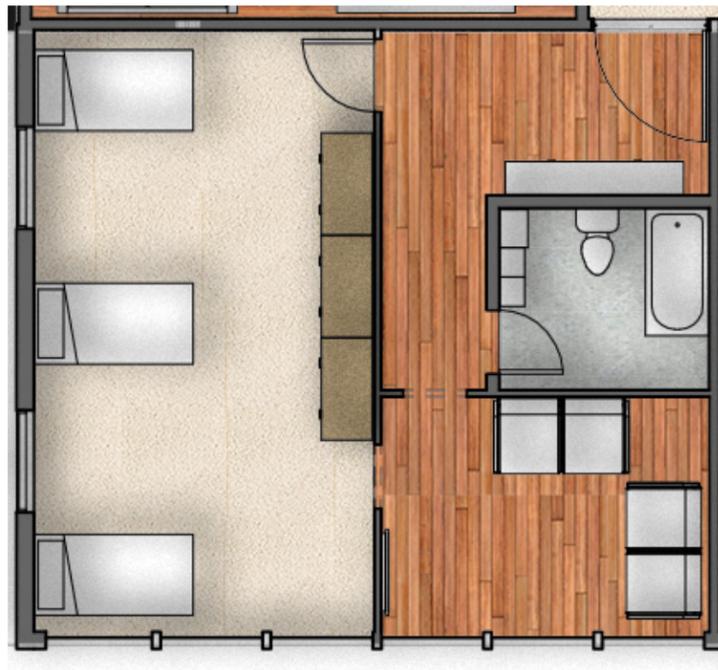
Design Considerations

- Language barriers among children
- Safety & Cleanability of the facility

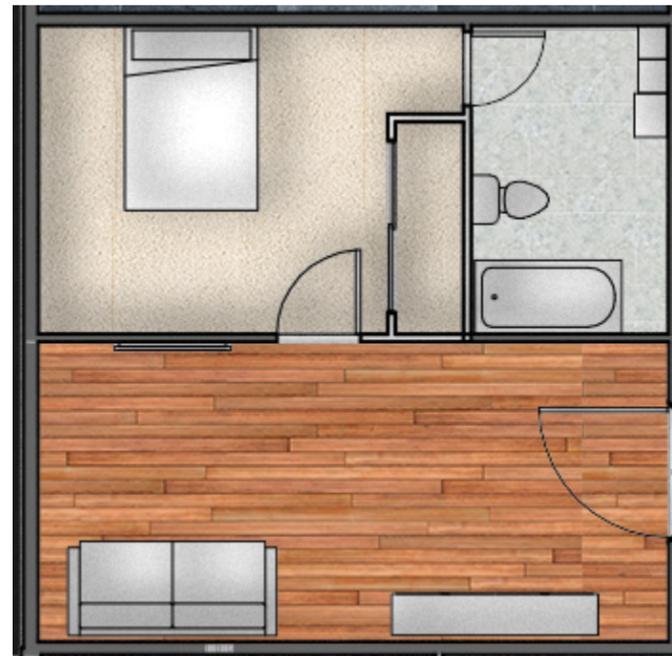


The Residence

Option A



Option B



Option C



Design Considerations

- Accessibility
- Family sizes and other needs



The Residence

Outdoor Access



Design Considerations

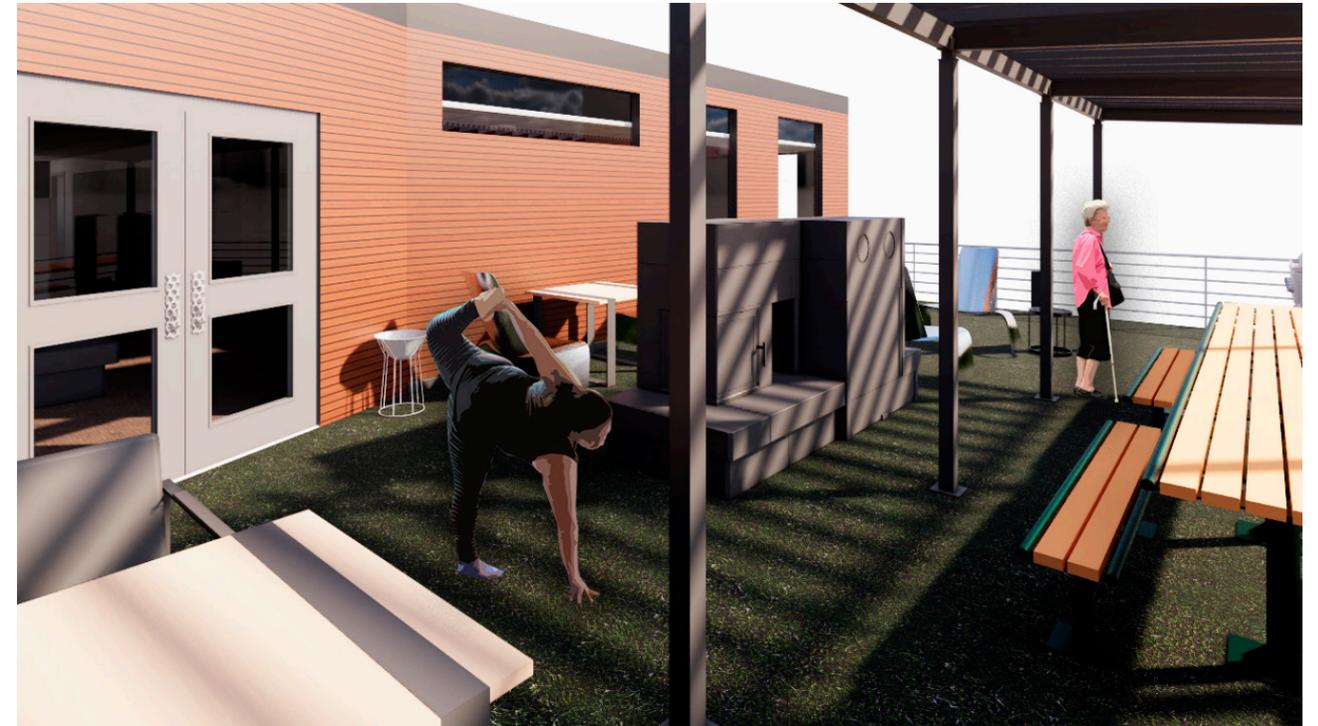
- Access to nature
- Gathering space



- Access to nature



- Physical activity opportunity





The Residence

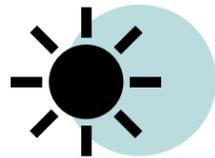
Common Area

Design Considerations

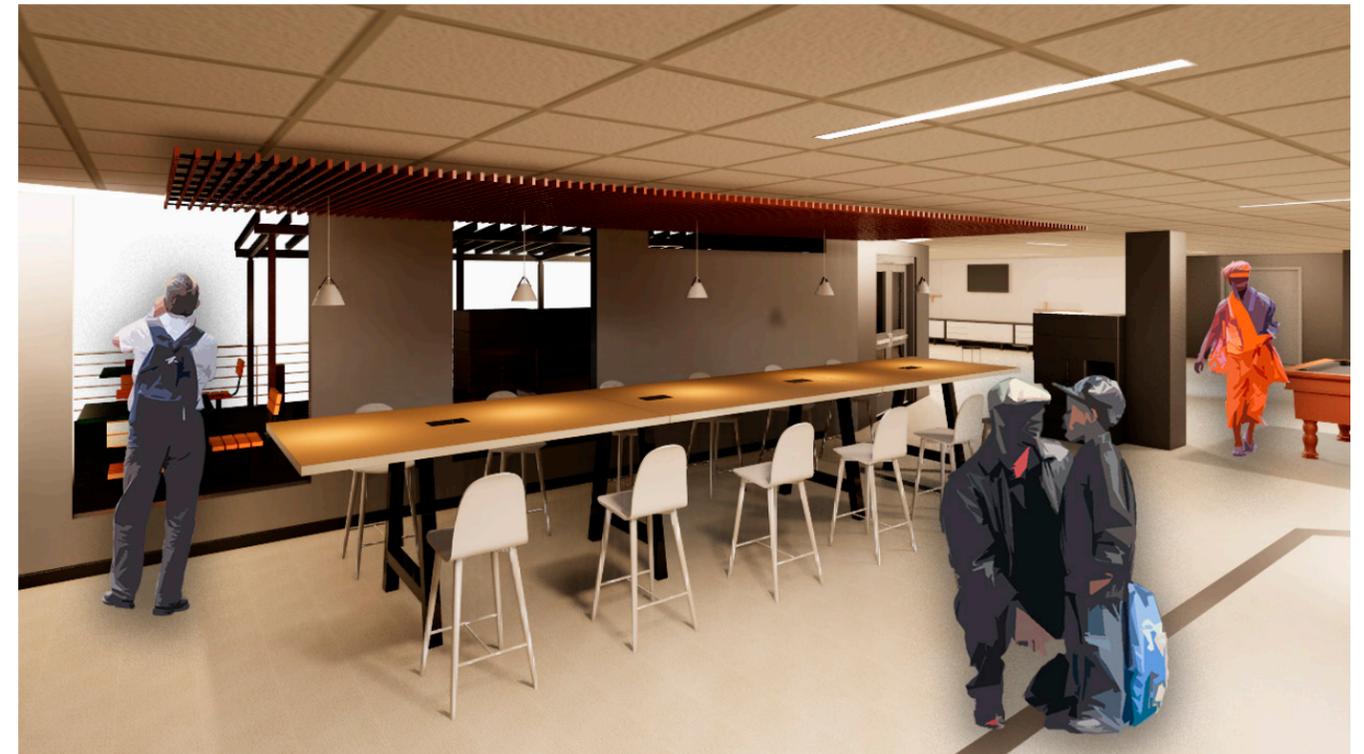
- Promote activity and movement
- Promote diversity
- Community building spaces



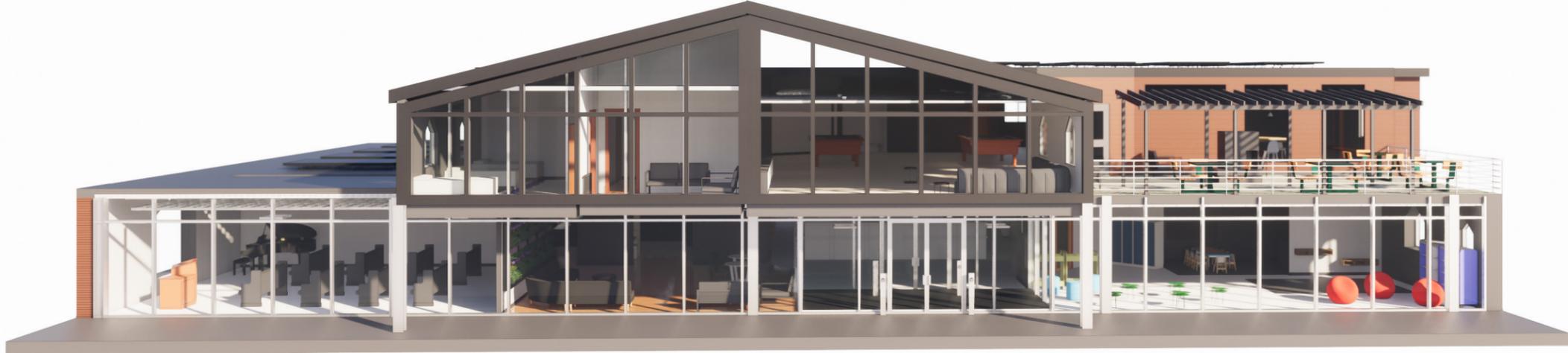
- Physical activity opportunity



- Visual lighting design



The Refuge: Exterior

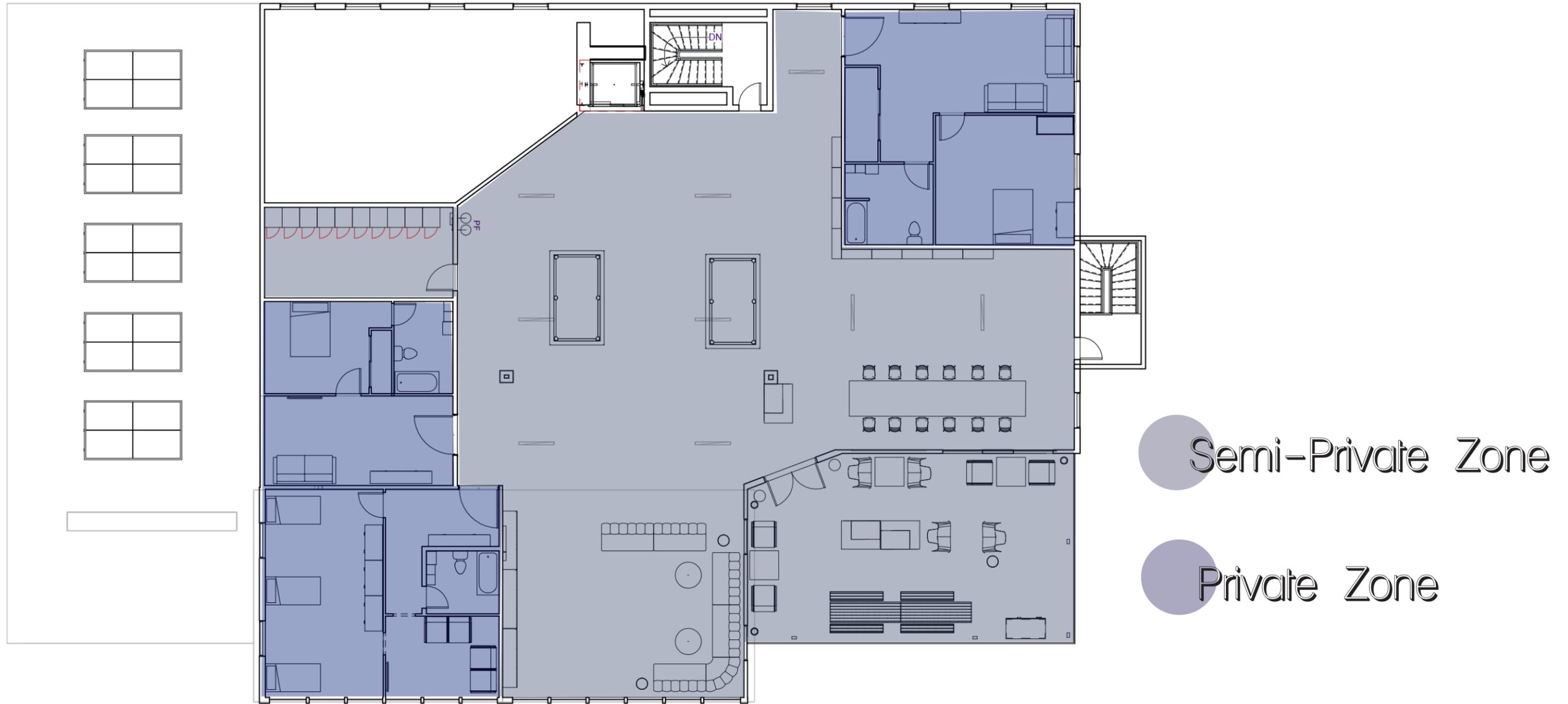


Solar Panels

Zones



Zones

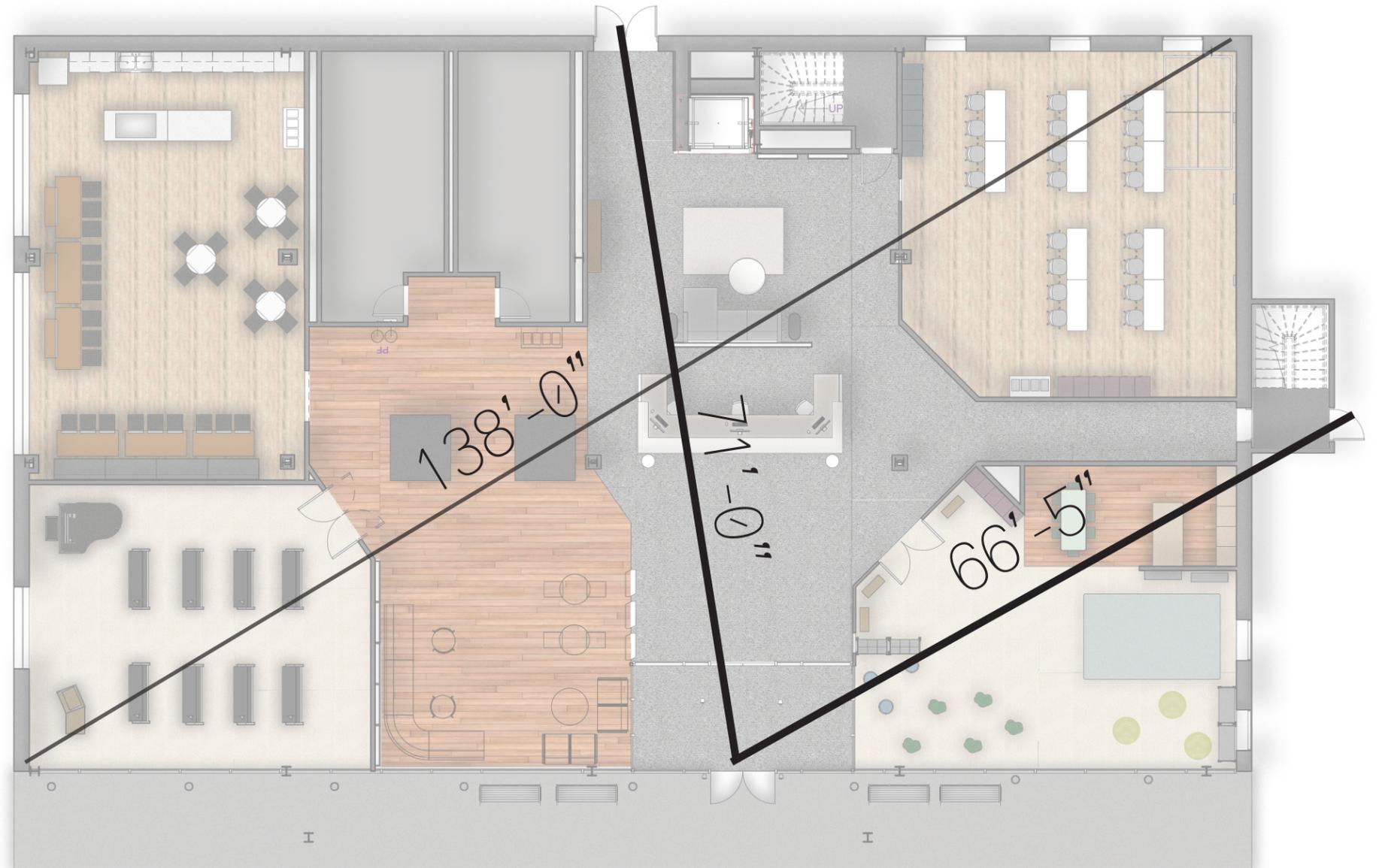


Code

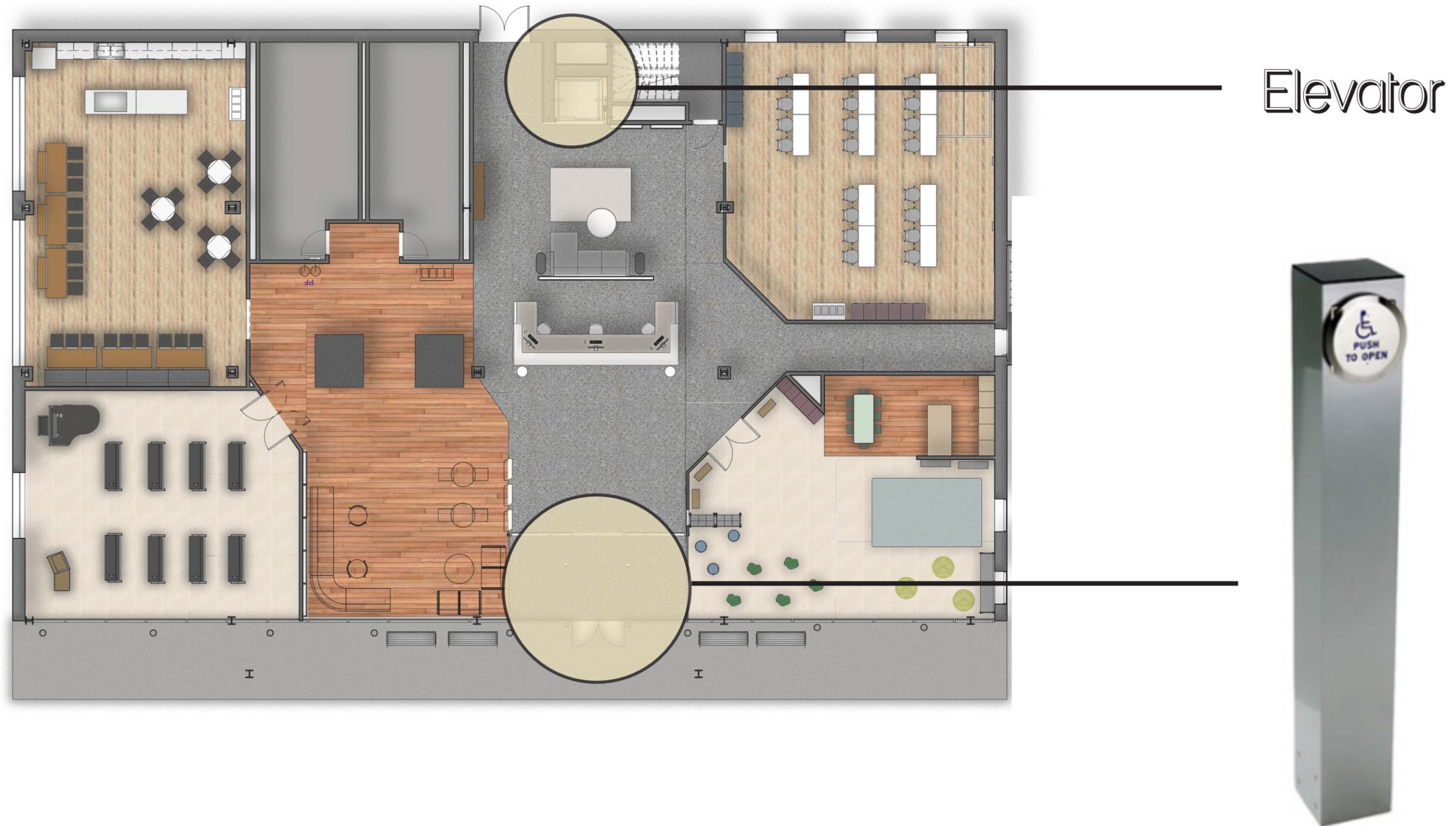
Occupancy Type

1. Chapel: A-3
2. Learning center: E
3. Child development center: E
4. The Cookhouse: A-2
5. The Residence: R-1

Occupancy Load: 419



Accessibility Plan

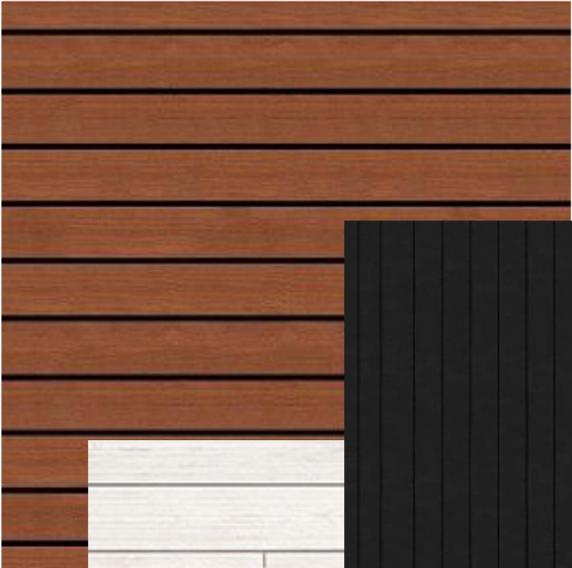


*Only residents who live at The Refuge will be able to access the elevator to the second level

Furniture



Materials



Exterior siding and roof

Shiplap



Artificial grass

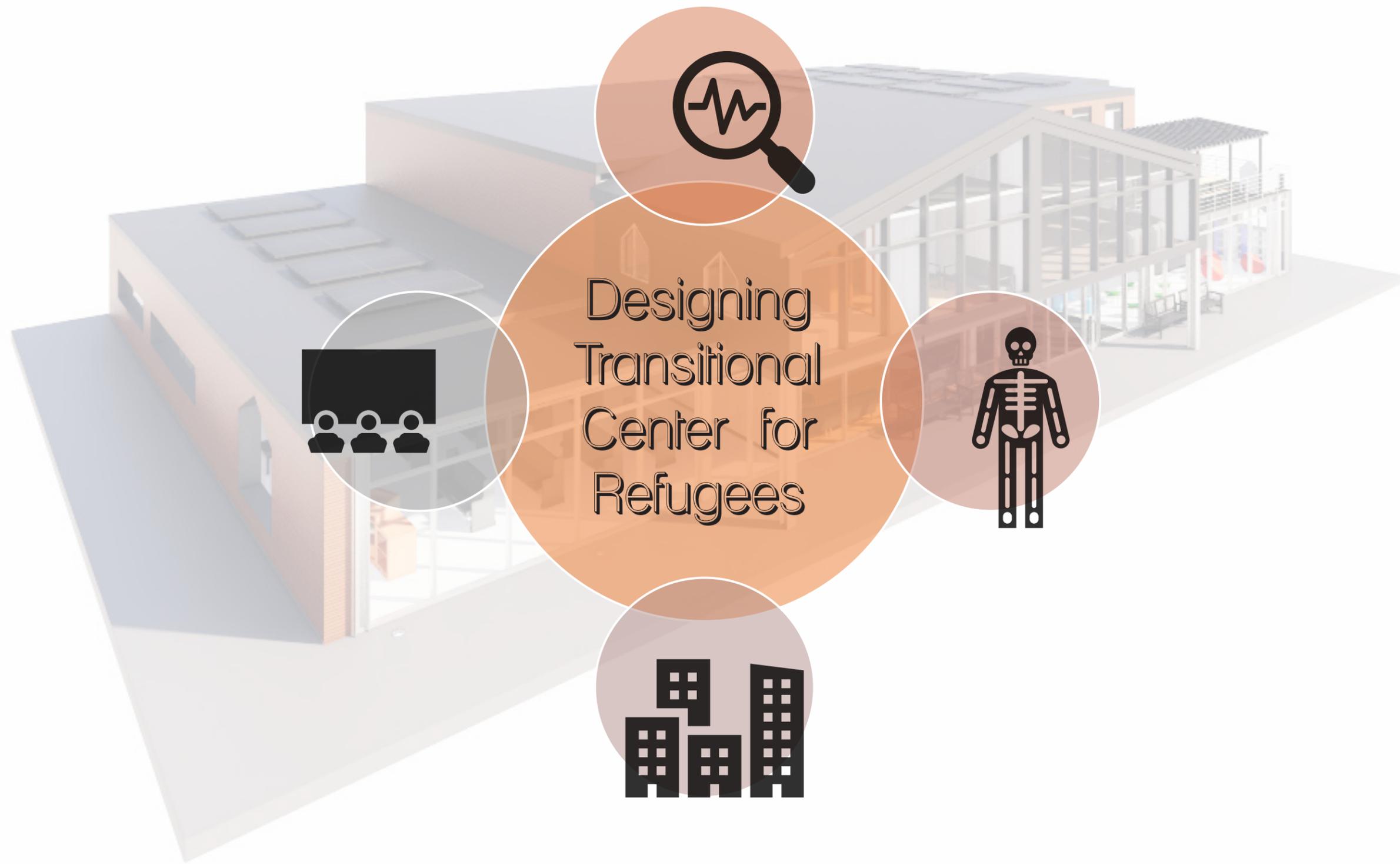


Carpets



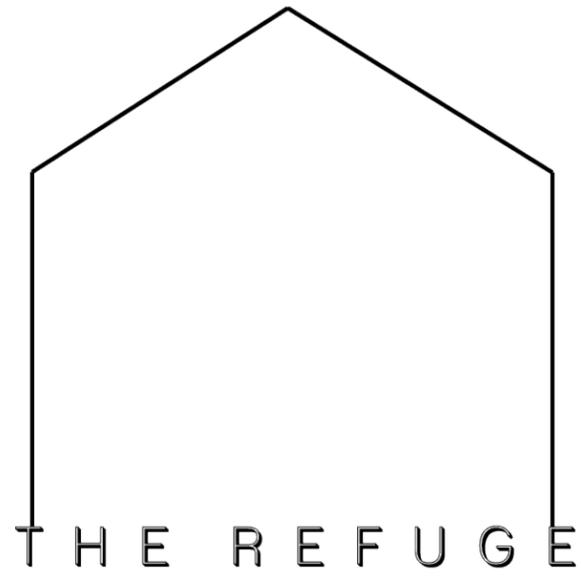
Hard floorings

Conclusion



Sources

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- <https://v2.wellcertified.com/v/en/overview>
- <https://www.steelcase.com/>



Thank You

