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Community Connections: Relief through Athletics

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COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

RELIEF THROUGH ATHLETICS

JOSHUA ARTHUR
ARCH 613 GRADUATE THESIS STUDIO
MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE FALL 2017
ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, ART, AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
PROFESSOR HASAN-UDDIN KHAN

**GRADUATE THESIS PROJECT SUBMITTED TO:
ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, ART & HISTORIC PRESERVATION
IN FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE M. ARCH DEGREE IN ARCHITECTURE
SUBMITTED DECEMBER 2017**

**ROGER WILLIAMS UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE, ART & HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

SUBMITTED BY:

**JOSHUA H. ARTHUR
M. ARCH GRADUATE THESIS
CLASS OF 2018**

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1. INTRODUCTION

Architectural Manifesto

Architecture is the highest form of art and knowledge. It encompasses many fields of work from the sciences to cultures to math to history. Architecture has the ability to partially define a country. For centuries architects have designed buildings using the same materials and concepts and within the context of the city making those cities what they are today. Architecture takes from the past to create a better future.

Architecture is an art for the people. Architects must design for the good of the communities. Buildings must be able to serve its function for its users efficiently and effectively. Architecture can evoke feelings in people the same way paintings can, and even better than paintings if executed properly.

Architecture should make us ask questions and should be ever changing. If we just accepted it for what it was, then we would never learn anything and would never create anything new. After time people would just walk by and pay no attention to the architecture. New ideas are what drives the business and attracts the eyes of people.

Architecture should be sustainable. We have an obligation as professionals to create buildings that will last generations and improve the quality of life in appropriate settings. It should promote the health and well-being of individuals, enriching their lives.

Finally, architecture is beautiful. Every building we have seen started as an idea. Through meticulous care and extreme effort it transforms from that basic concept into what we see today. It is a beautiful and rewarding process that provides satisfaction in completing a good project.

Problem Statement and Project Definition

A sports based recreation facility can significantly enhance the quality of life in a community. Activities held within these facilities can encourage participation, promote health and well-being, and foster a sense of community and togetherness. Today with crime and obesity being increasingly troublesome in the US a space focused on athletics, health, and wellness would allow for kids to have a plethora of activities to do after school and on weekends. There they can make friends, learn about health, and stay off of the streets. Sports and recreation can demonstrate and contribute to the sustainable use of natural resources. They can help to directly reduce social exclusion and disaffection. Sports contribute to local and national economic vibrancy. Physical activity contributes to peoples' perceptions and experience of well-being and sense of attachment to their surroundings. The foundations of life-long health and sporting excellence lie in early opportunities for taking part in sport and active recreation. The goal of this project will be to incorporate the community and the environment into a sustainable sports-related facility. Keeping mechanical costs low is vital to its success. A center that will engage the people of Norwalk would be extremely helpful, especially for kids, teens, and young adults.

Issues with Recreational centers:

- Sports and Recreation facilities remain a challenge for proponents of sustainable design
- High costs to build and maintain
- Large amounts of water usage (pools, restrooms, showers, outdoor fields, etc.)
- Air handling requirements (ice rinks, large gyms/atriums)
- Most utilize large expanses of glass adding to heating loads
- Costs of equipment

2.

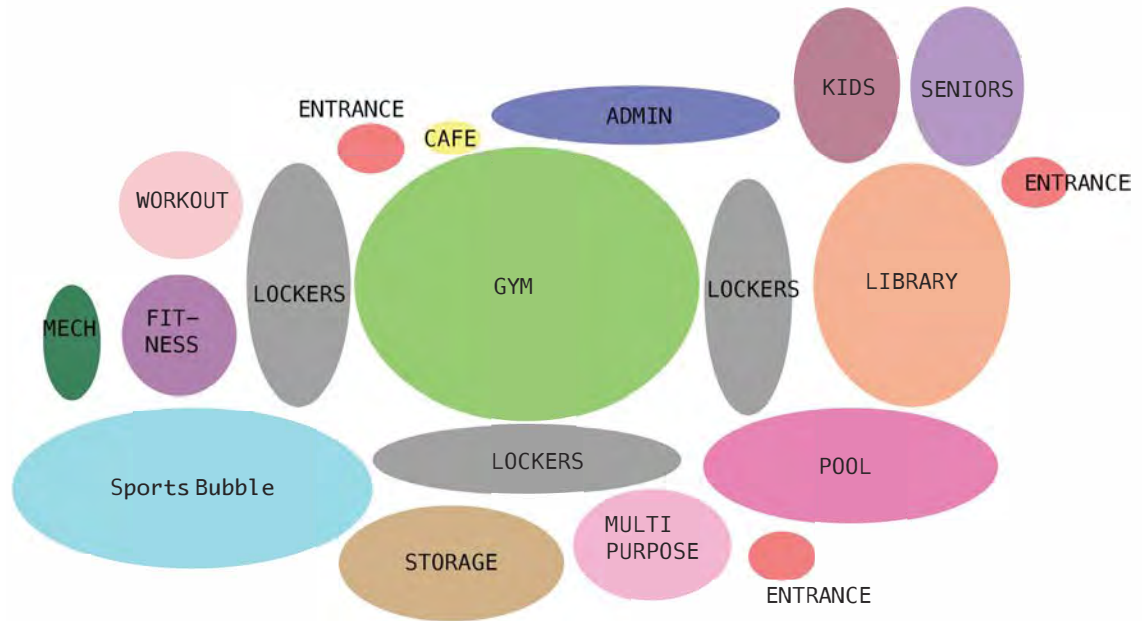
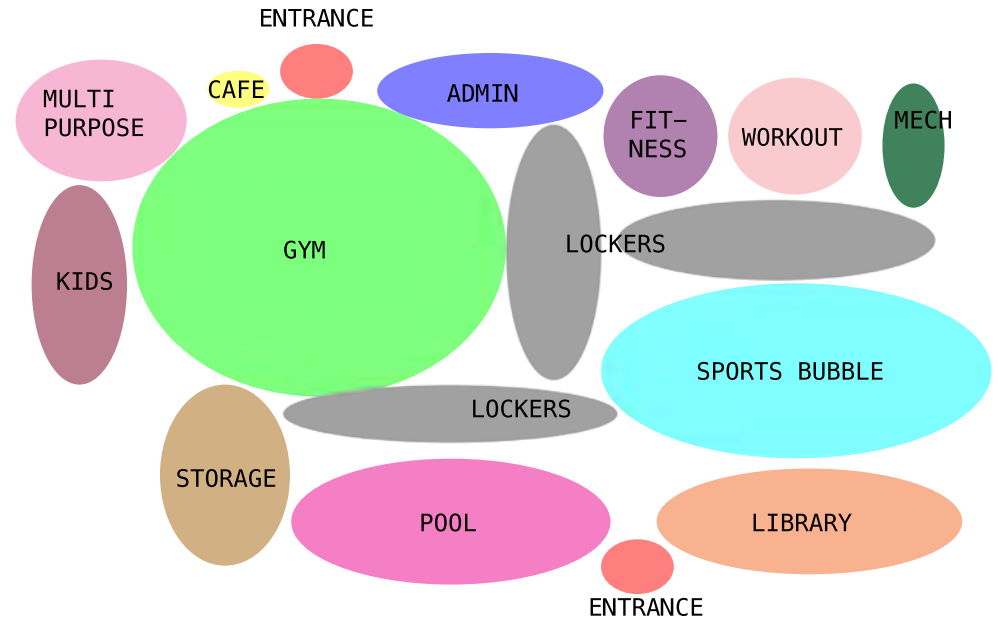
PROGRAM

Initial Program vs Final Program

PUBLIC:		PUBLIC:	Net SQFT
LOBBY	5,000	LOBBY/RECEPTION	4000
MULTIPURPOSE ROOMS	10,000	LIBRARY	19000
CAFÉ	5,000	STORE	5700
LIBRARY	25,000	CAFE	2000
KIDS SPACE	8,000		
STORE	7,000	ATHLETIC:	
ADMINISTRATION	6,000	GYMNASIUM	27560
		FITNESS CENTER	23500
SERVICES:		SOCCER FIELD	23750
MECHANICAL	10,000	TENNIS COURTS	27300
STORAGE	12,000	TRACK	95000
BATHROOMS	5,000	POOL	36050
ATHLETICS:		PRIVATE	
LOCKER ROOMS	12,000	ADMINISTRATION	4800
GYM	35,000	STORAGE	10000
TRACK	100,000	MECHANICAL	8500
FITNESS STUDIO	10,000		
SPORTS BUBBLE	75,000	SERVICES	
WORKOUT ROOM	25,000	LOCKER ROOMS	9200
POOL	40,000	BATHROOMS	4400
Interior Total	390,000	INTERIOR TOTAL	300,810
Grossing Factor	1.4	GROSSING FACTOR	1.46
Interior GSF	546,000	INTERIOR GSF	439,185
Parking	140,000	PARKING (366 SPACES)	140,600
TOTAL GSF	686,000	TOTAL GSF	579,785

Possible Program Arrangements

For this program the main athletic spaces are the gym with a walking track above, the sports bubble with turf fields, the pool, and the library branch which will have a strong focus on health, fitness, and wellness. Workout rooms, fitness centers, and the cafe will be great spaces for parents to be while their kids are at school, or at the rec center doing other activities.

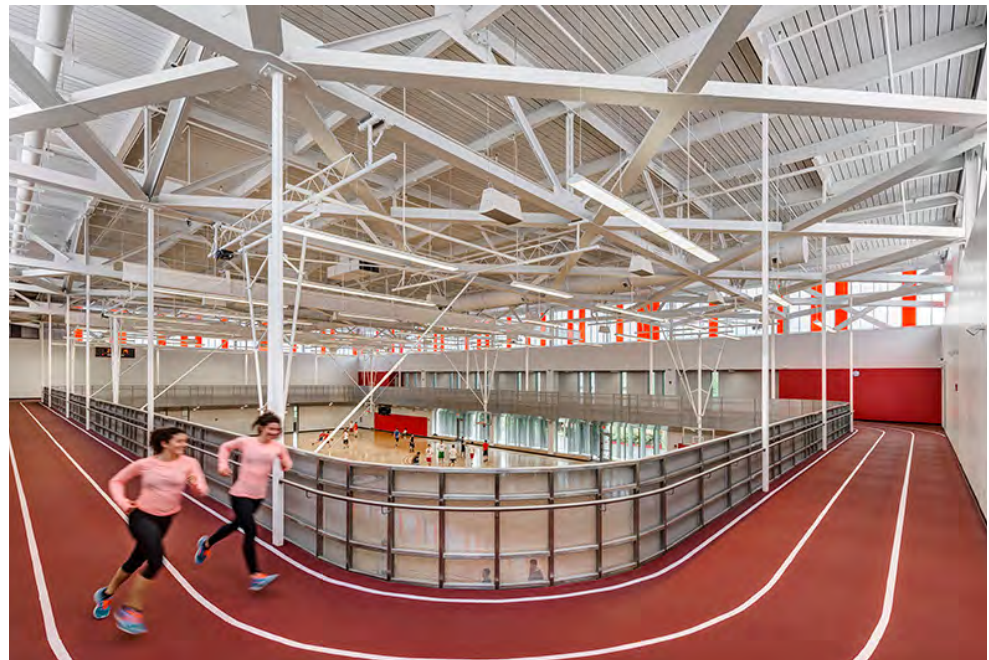


Sample Spaces

Example of a sports bubble. Usually they house turf fields used for indoor soccer, lacrosse, and flag football. Some have indoor tennis courts. Therefore, this space can serve many purposes.



Example of a track with the gymnasium located below. By raising the track up to the second level it allows for more freedom with the design of the gymnasium. The track will be a 200m track to be able to use for high school level competition.





Example of a Multipurpose room in which there is seating, games, a cafe, as well as meeting rooms behind.



Example of a pool space with a regulation sized competition pool as well as a public swim space. Seating for any competitions or for parents watching their kids is provided.

3.

SITE ANALYSIS

Site Option 1: Bristol, CT

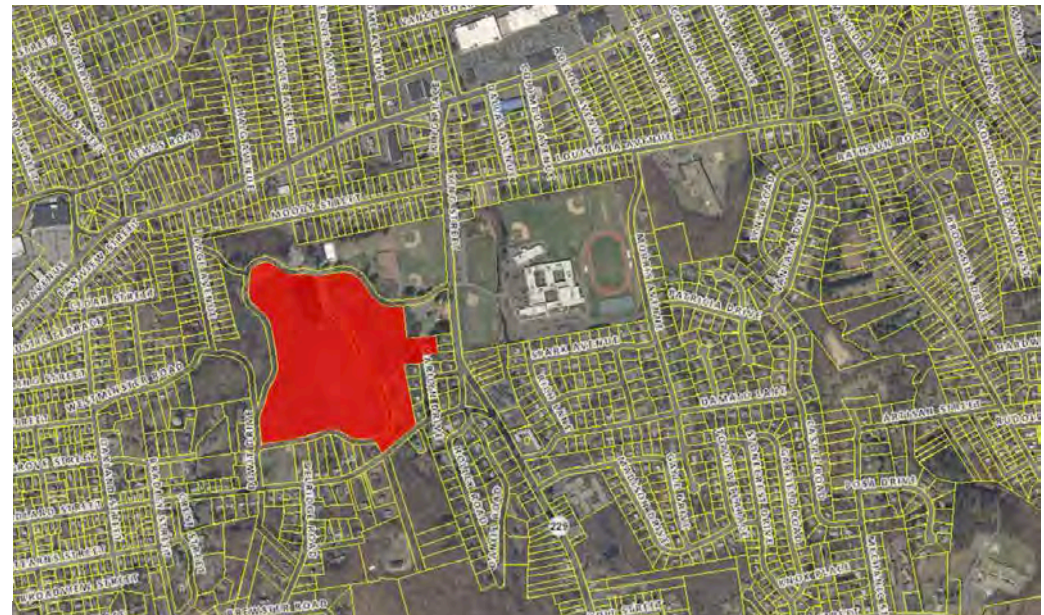
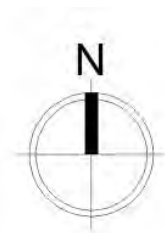
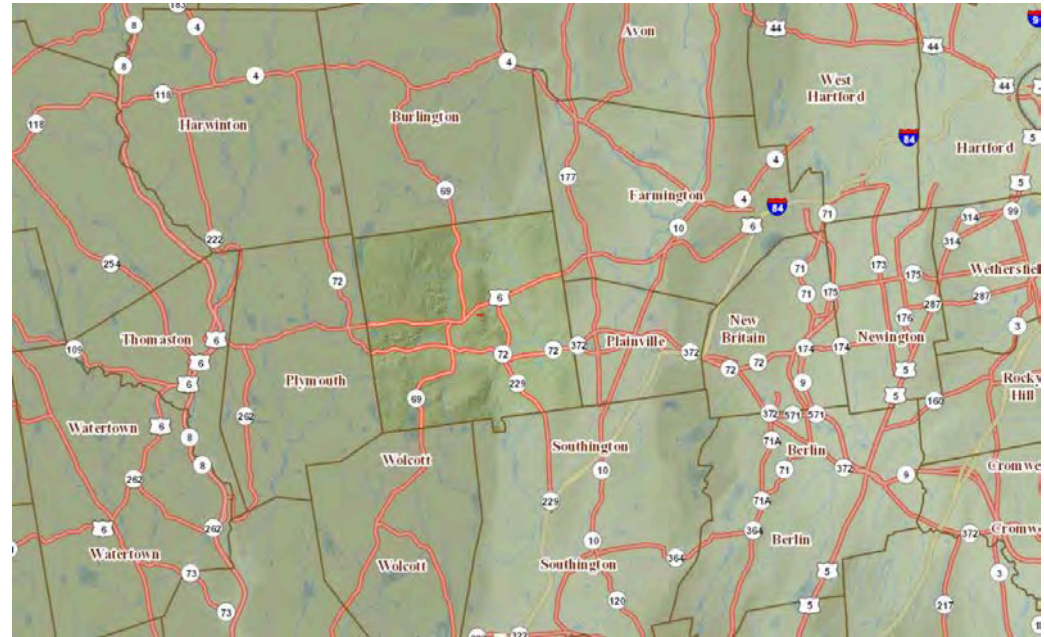
Population: 60,570

Currently don't have their own rec center.

They have to share Plainville's center along with 5 other surrounding towns

Located in the center of town right off of route 6

Mostly a residential area, and adjacent to a school.



Site Option 2: Weymouth, MA

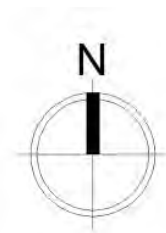
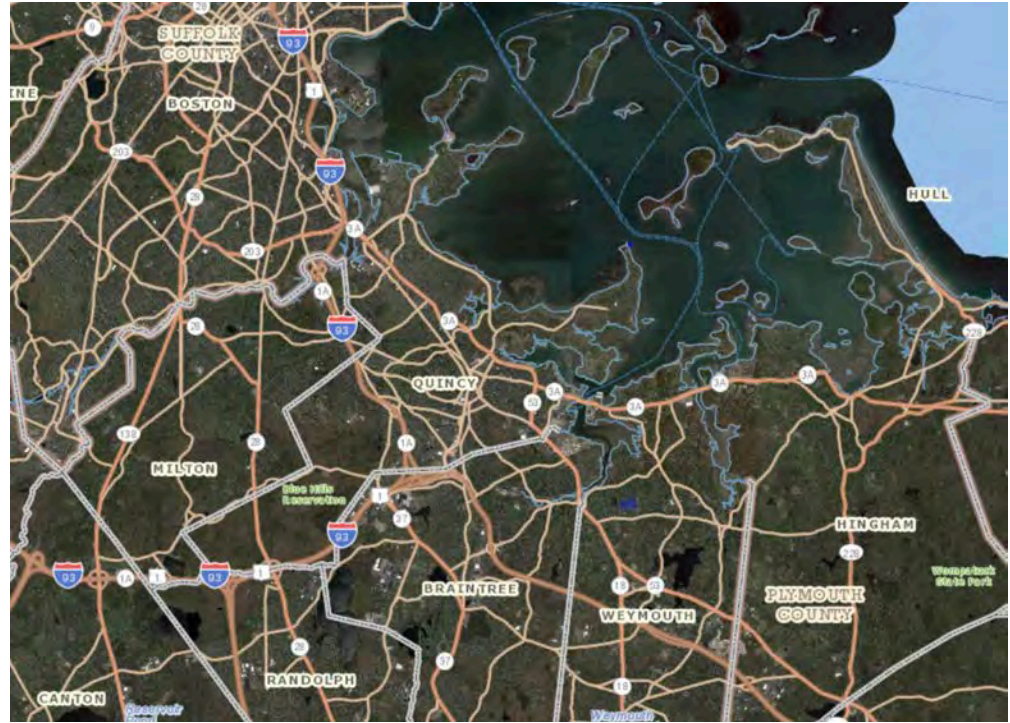
Population: 53,743

Currently does not have a rec center/
athletic facility

Closest is in Quincy

Right next to existing ice hockey rinks,
baseball fields, and soccer fields

Mostly a residential area



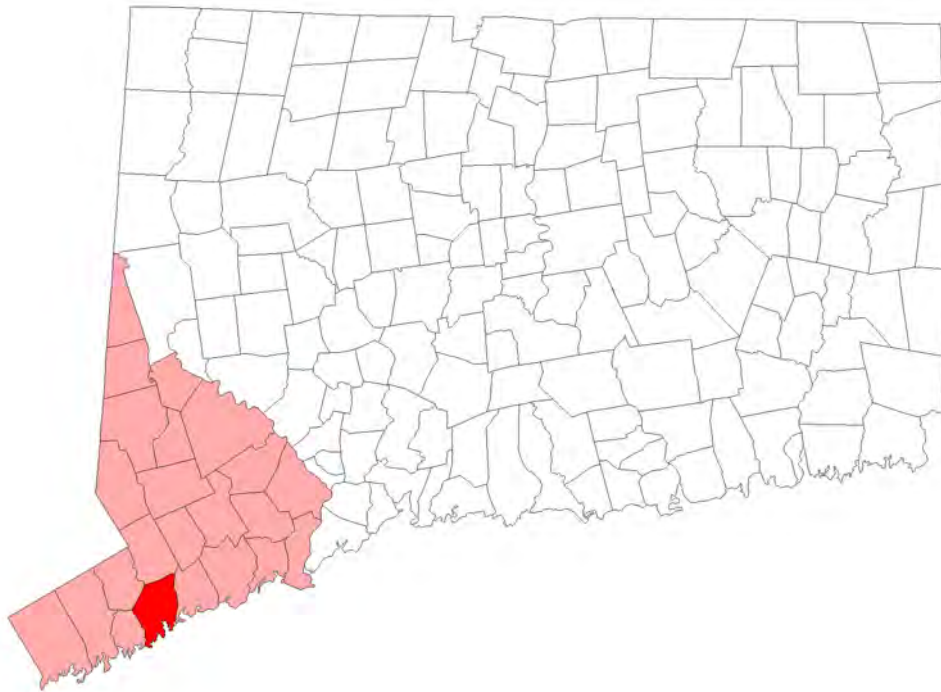
Site Option #3: Norwalk, CT

Population: 88,485

Current YMCA just closed

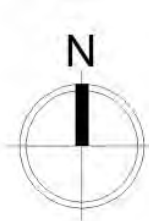
The town is looking for a new site and building to keep the community connected

Site is located in the center of town off of I-95



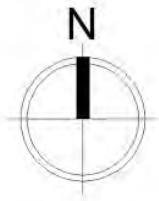
Site Chosen: Norwalk, CT

The site is located on Reed St. It is right off of I-95 and Route 7. The Norwalk River is to the east and southeast. Also adjacent to the site on the east is the train system and Oyster Shell Park. The YMCA that was recently closed is just a few blocks down the road. The site is approximately 300,000sqft.



Site Topography

For the most part, the site is relatively flat. The perimeter slopes downward to meet the sidewalks and street, and the street slopes down as it heads towards the river to be underneath the train tracks.



Norwalk Statistics

Norwalk is home to about 88,500 people and was chosen as the city for the site due to its size and need. Their YMCA building was 90 years old and recently shut down. The activities held there are now a burden on the local schools. The city board is already looking for a new site and new building. With over 21,000 families, there are plenty of those who need the services of a recreational center.

Crime in Norwalk is an issue. There are more violent crimes, property crimes, and general crimes than the Connecticut average. It has also been given a crime index rating of 34 which means it is only safer than 34% of US cities. With this kind of project it allows kids and teens to have after school activities and has proven to help lower the crime rates particularly among the youth.

Also in 2012-2013 40% of Norwalk students from Kindergarten through the 9th grade were considered overweight or obese, higher than national and state averages. A center that has a library focused on health and wellness, along with a kids center and sports facilities would allow kids to stay active and learn about what it takes to be healthy, as well as informing their parents and what they can do for their children.

CRIME INDEX

34

(100 is safest)

Safer than 34% of U.S. Cities

NORWALK ANNUAL CRIMES

	VIOLENT	PROPERTY	TOTAL
Number of Crimes	239	1,627	1,866
Crime Rate (per 1,000 residents)	2.70	18.39	21.09

Norwalk School District Body Weight Status, 2012
Kindergarten, 3rd, 6th, and 9th Grades

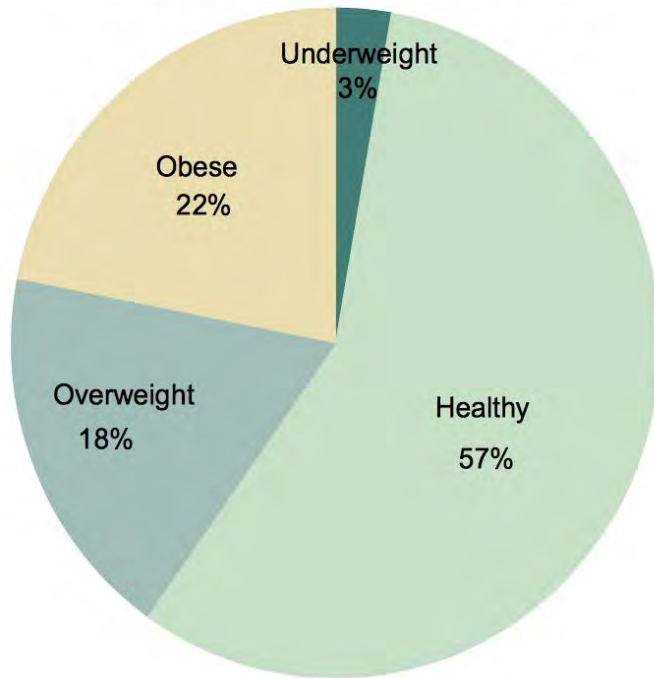


Table 3: Prevalence of overweight and obesity in ninth grade students, 2012

	Non-Hispanic White	Non-Hispanic Black	Hispanic	All
Norwalk, 2012	34%	43%	41%	38%
Males	36%	42%	43%	39%
Females	33%	44%	39%	38%
Connecticut, 2011^a	26%	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	29%
Males	32%			36%
Females	18%			22%
U.S., 2011^a	30%	33%	34%	31%
Males	32%	29%	39%	34%
Females	26%	38%	29%	27%

On the surface, it seems like the solution to the obesity epidemic is simple: eat more nutritious foods and be more physically active. The Norwalk Health Department, Norwalk Public Schools, and several other Norwalk organizations are helping children and their families learn ways to eat right and stay active. However, in order to get healthy and stay that way, Norwalk families need help from neighbors, schools, daycare providers, health care professionals, businesses, and community leaders so that when faced with choices about food and physical activity, the healthy choice is the easiest choice. To this end, the Greater Norwalk Healthy Living Workgroup, a group of organizations led by the Health Department, works to promote healthy policies and programs in Norwalk and to educate and empower children, their families, and caregivers to make healthy choices. Among its many initiatives, the Workgroup helps to promote Walk to School Day events and Story Walk trails and is working to update the Health Department's NorWalker routes. To learn more, check our website: www.norwalkhealth.com

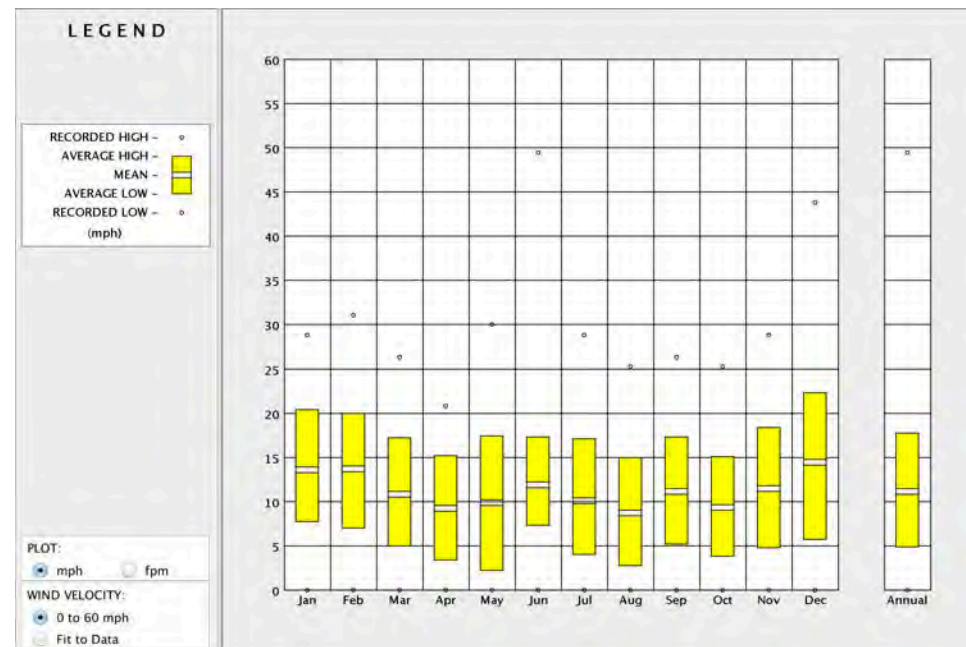
Climate

Norwalk, CT is in a Cool-Humid climate zone. Temperatures can vary from below freezing in the winter to above 90 degrees in the summer. Being in a coastal area, the breeze from the ocean cools off the area, but the humidity is ever-present. In order to keep people comfortable in the winter and summer, both heating and cooling will need to be efficiently utilized in the project.

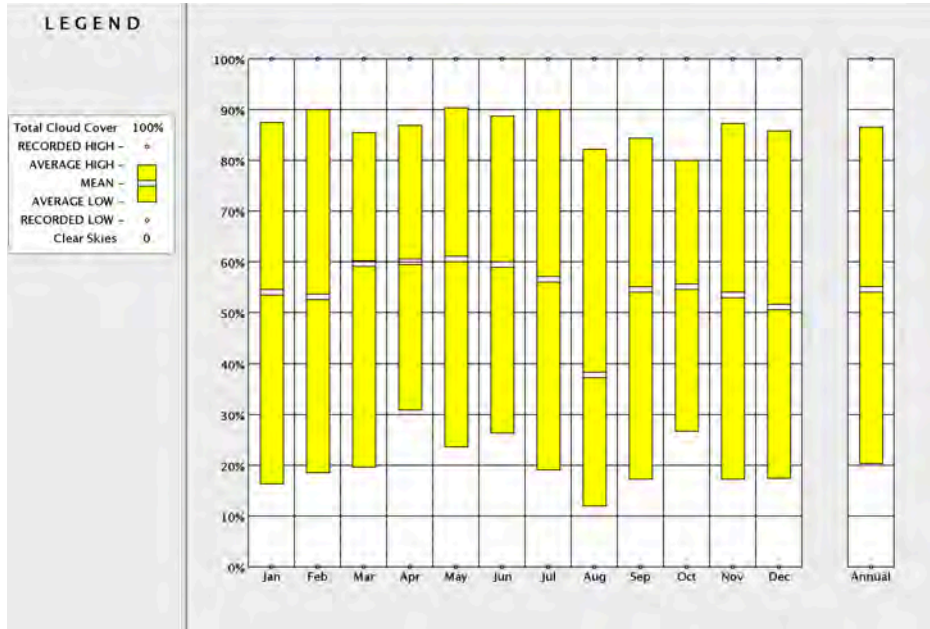
TEMPERATURE RANGE



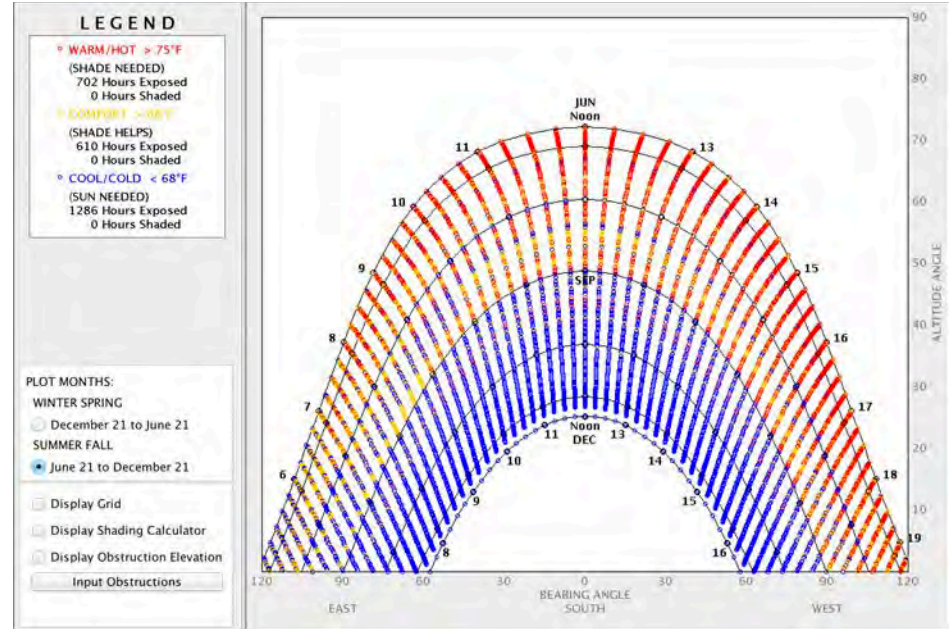
WIND VELOCITY RANGE



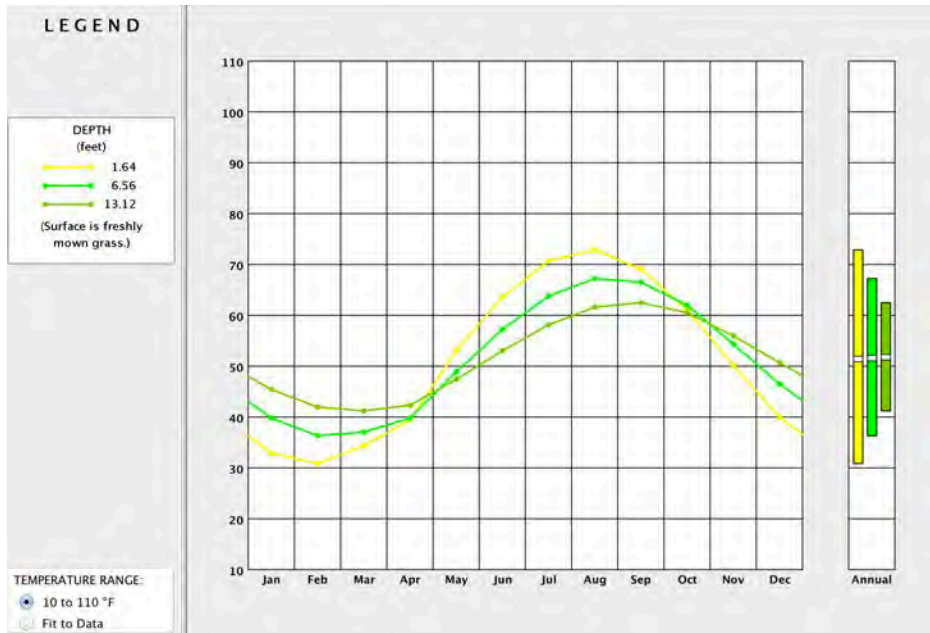
SKY COVER



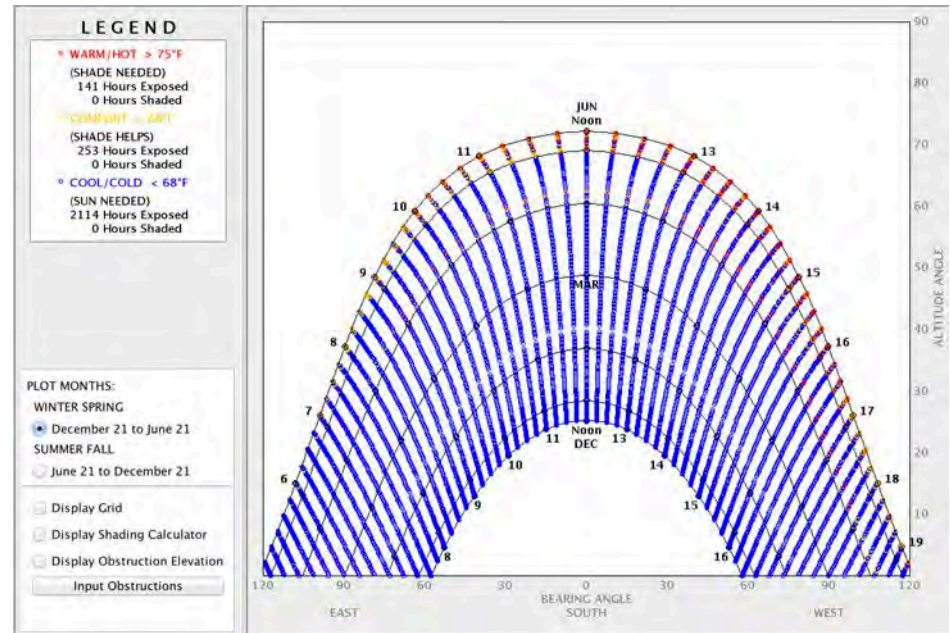
SUN SHADING CHART



AVERAGE GROUND TEMPERATURE

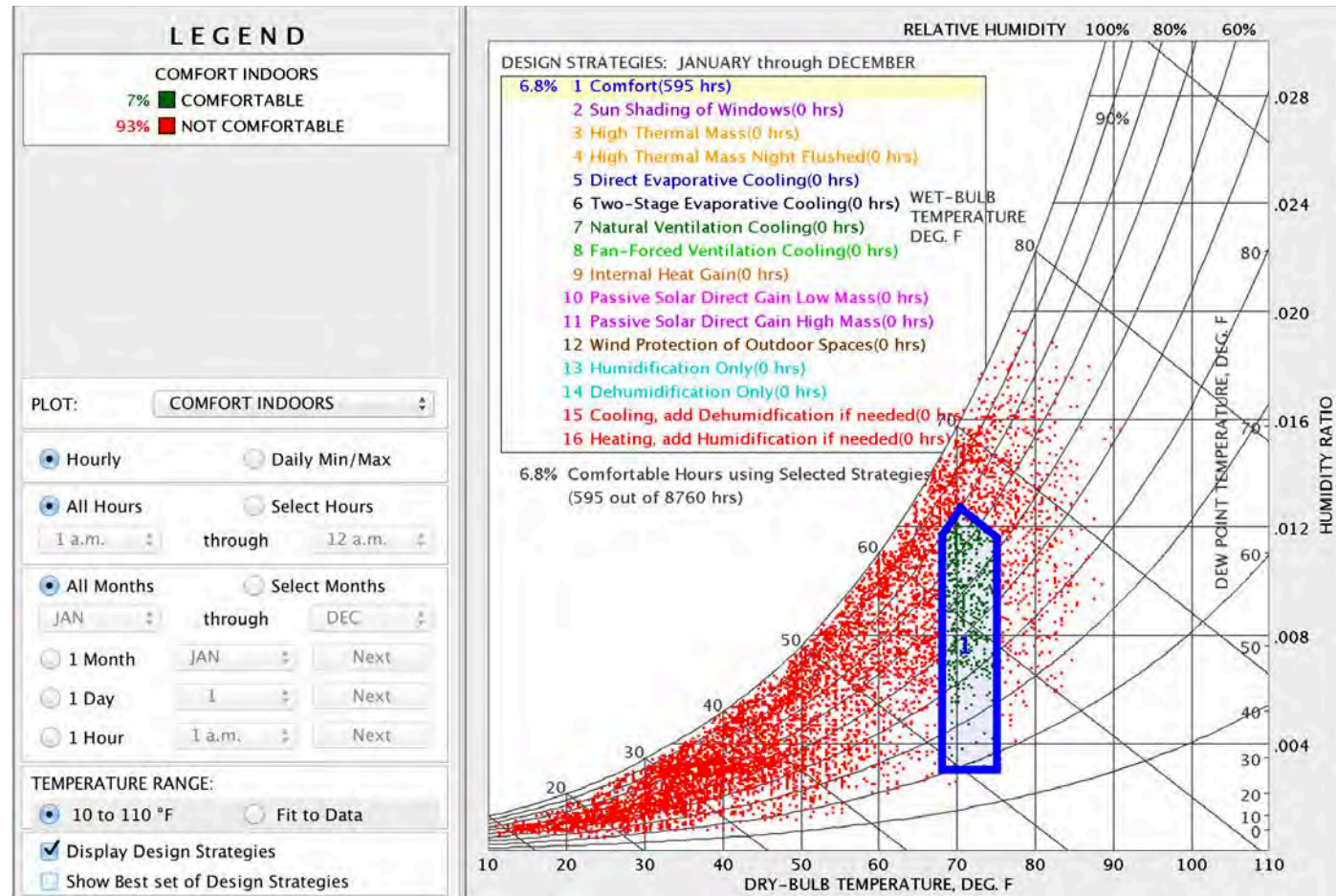


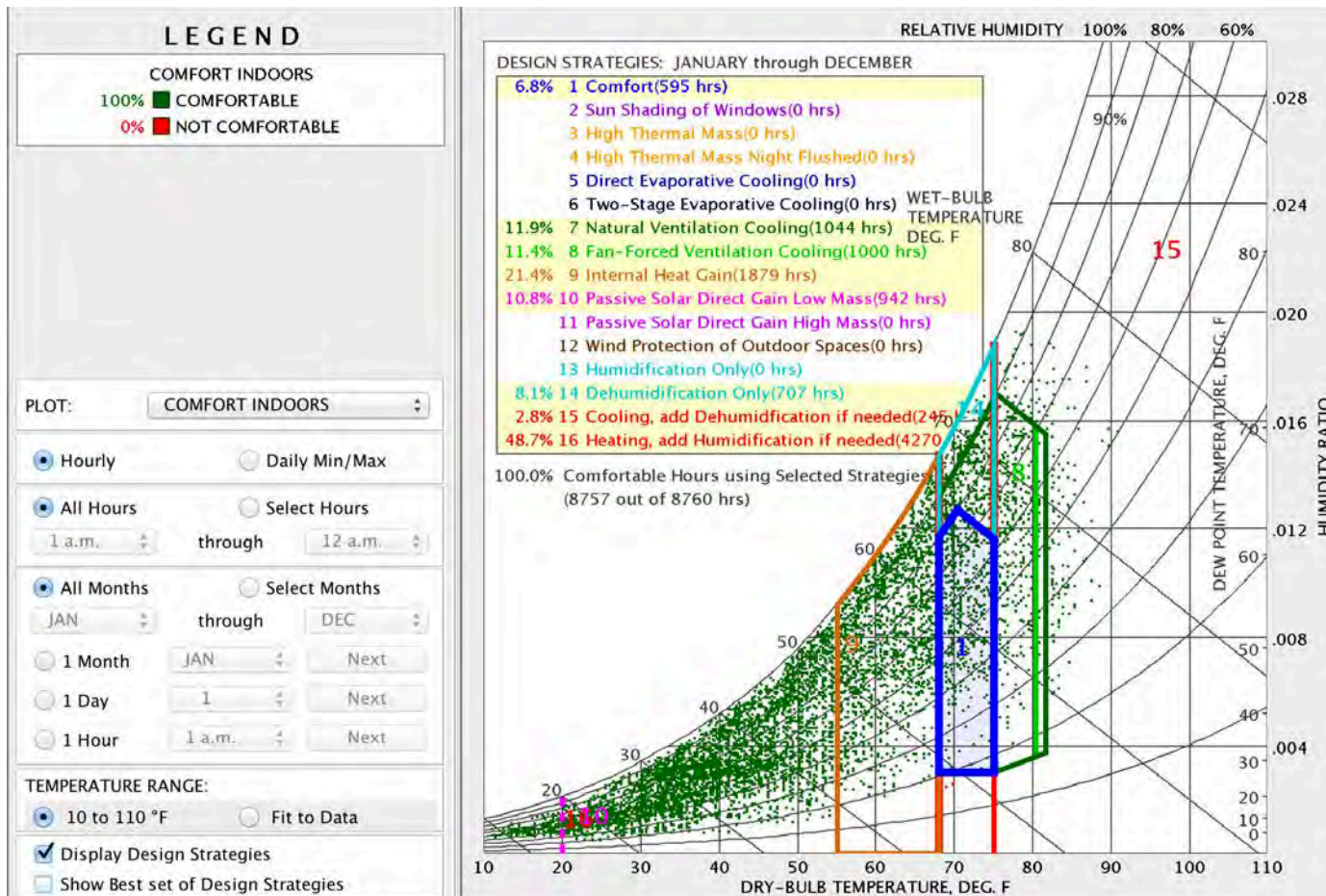
SUN SHADING CHART



Climate

The psychrometric chart shows the basic level of comfort in the building if there were no added strategies to create comfort for the building's users. So if nothing was put into the building people would only be comfortable 7% of the time. Ways to improve this number would obviously be just heating and air conditioning but there are more sustainable ways that won't jack up the mechanical costs.





This psychrometric chart shows the design strategies I have decided to utilize in the building. Natural ventilation and fan forced ventilation are two types of air circulation that are needed for the expansive spaces in the project. Having some curtain walls will allow the building to be partially naturally heated by sunlight in the winter but not too much where it gets overheated in the summer.

Site Measurements

The site is approximately 300,000 sqft. With the maximum build-able area being 85% of the lot size. This allows for a maximum of 255,000 sqft floor plan.

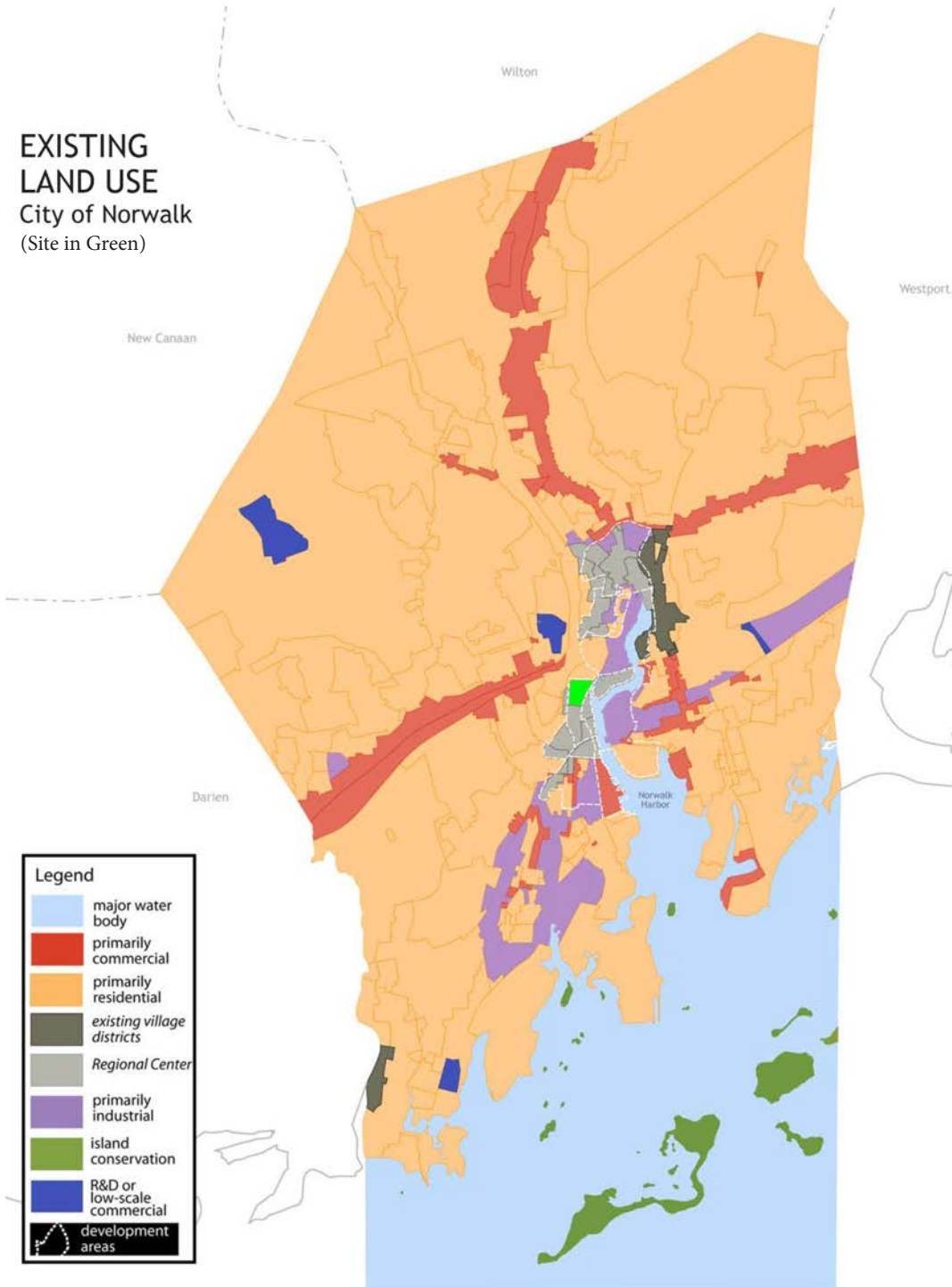


**COMMUNITY
& CULTURAL
FACILITIES**
City of Norwalk
(Site in Black)

Located in the center of Norwalk, this site allows for easy access for everyone in the community. It is very close to 5 different schools including the Norwalk Community College. It is halfway in between the main town library and the South branch allowing for easy collaboration with the branch in the proposed project.



**EXISTING
LAND USE**
City of Norwalk
(Site in Green)

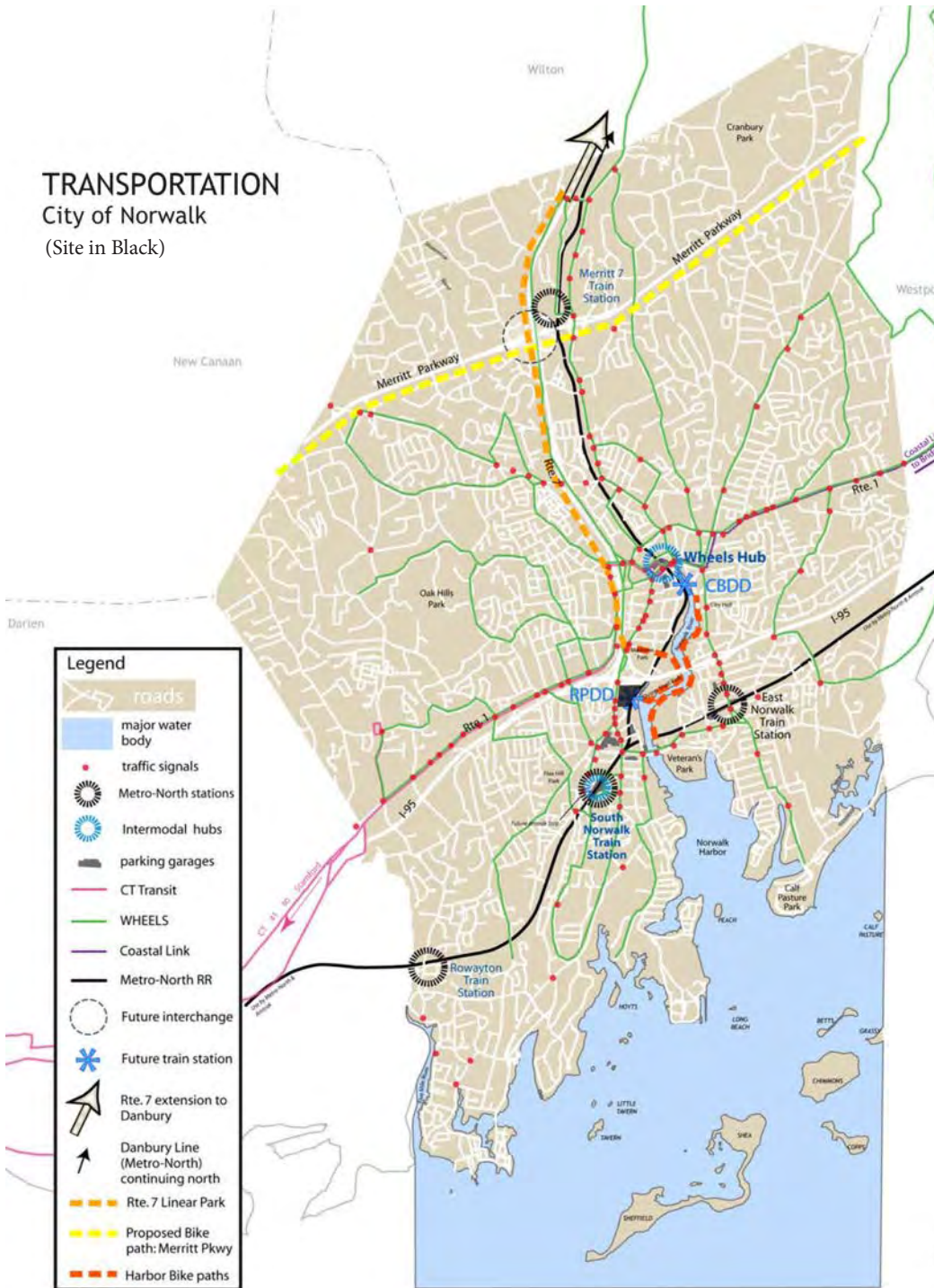


This site is within the regional center and a part of the development area. Norwalk is mostly residential as there are nearly 90 thousand people, however the main commercial areas are bustling and can attract many visitors. Being in the center of the town as well as adjacent to commercial area makes it an ideal location.

The site is located directly next to Oyster Shell Park and the Harbor Bike Path, which will allow for integration with the project. There aren't many public facilities in the town and none of them contain what this project entails.

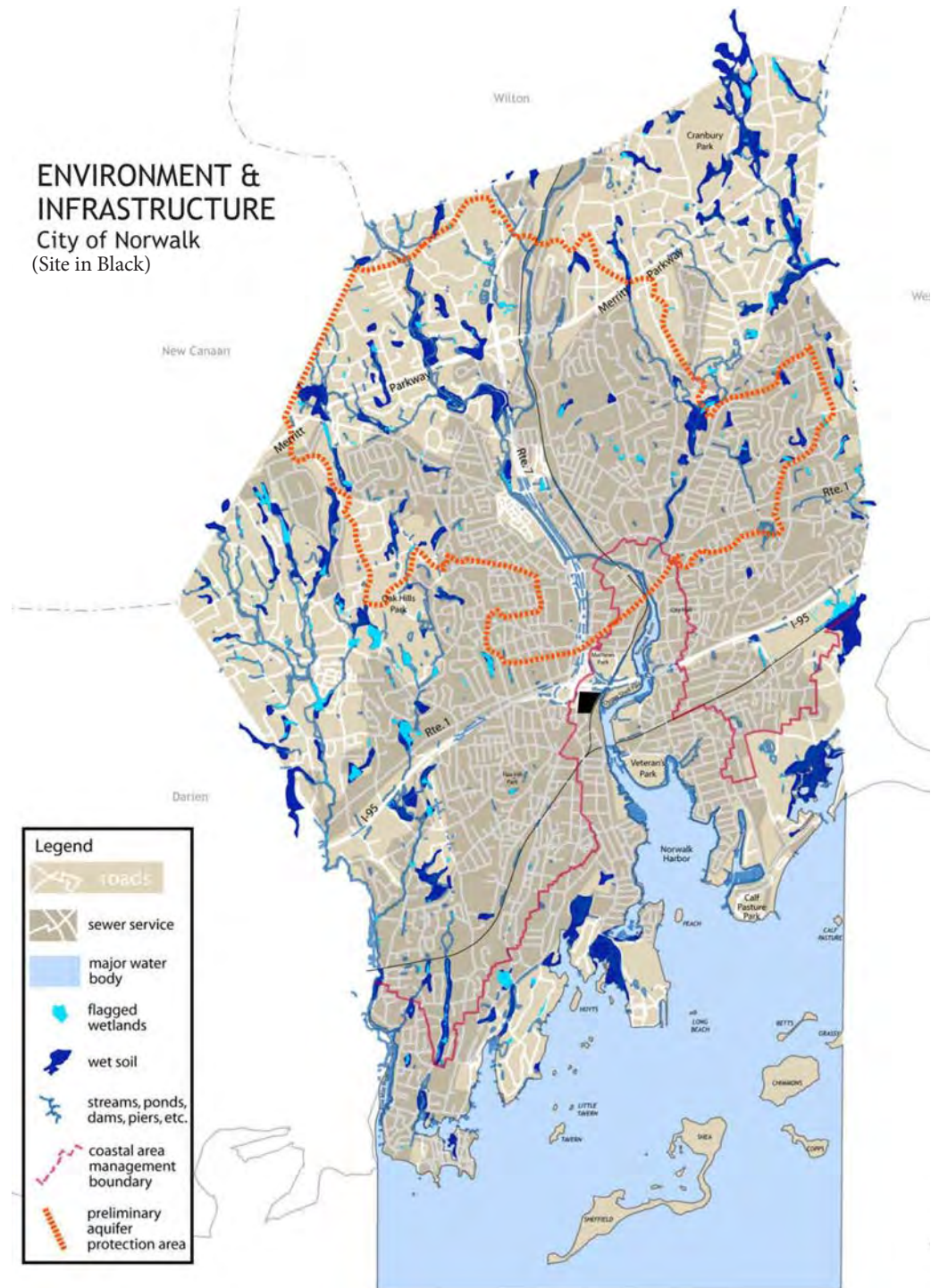


TRANSPORTATION
City of Norwalk
(Site in Black)

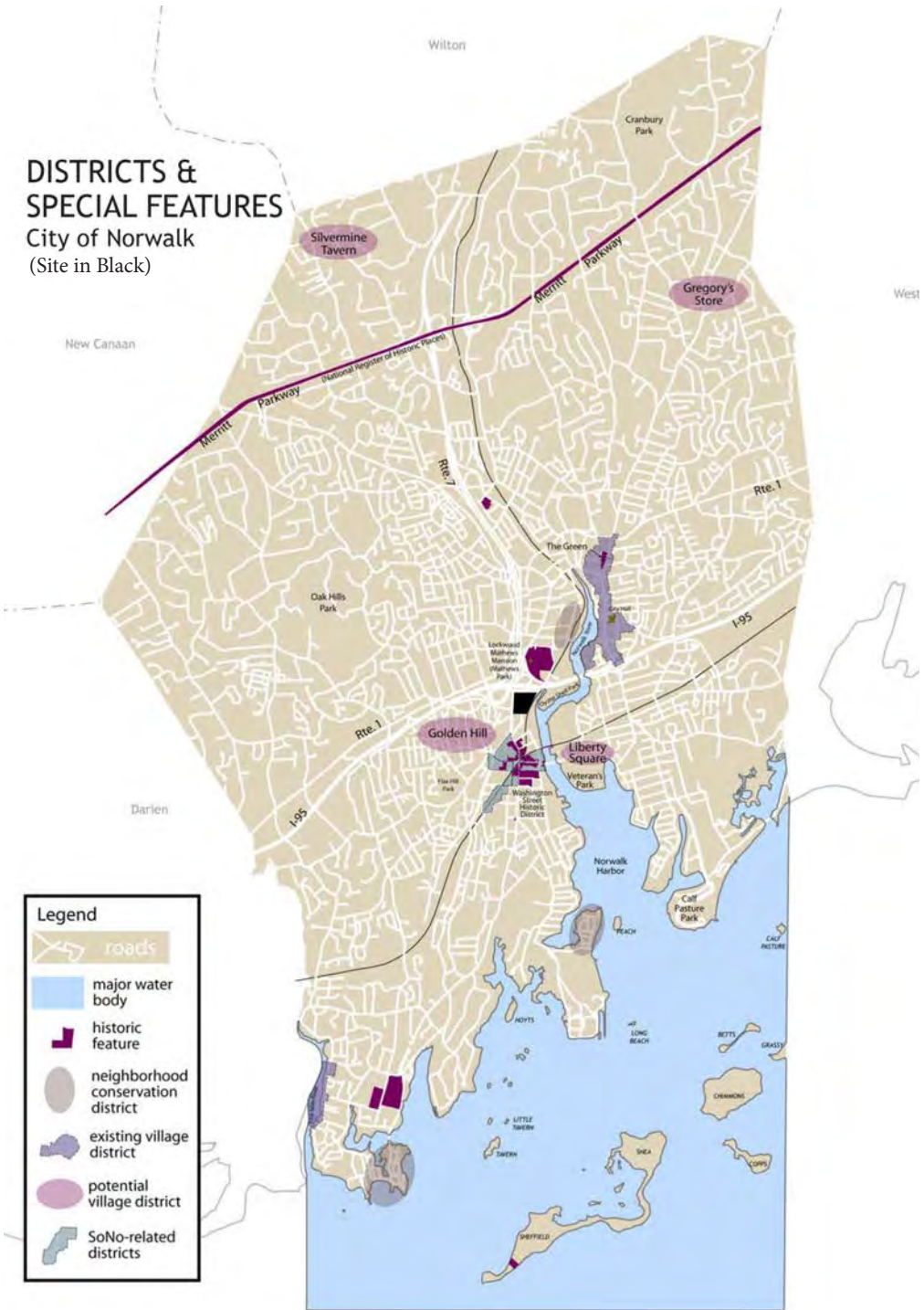


Transportation around the town will be vital to the success of this project. The train tracks run right next to the site and a proposed train station will be just a few steps away. Bus routes also pass nearby the site. This will allow those without a car of their own including those from other towns to travel to the facility. Being right off of I-95 hundreds of passersby will see the building and will have easy access to parking in the area from the highway.

Being along the coast there are many spots in the town with wet soil conditions and flagged wetlands. There is a steep incline from the river leading up to the site, therefore the water will not rise up to that level and the soil beneath is solid enough to not be considered wet soil. It is however, within the coastal area management boundary.

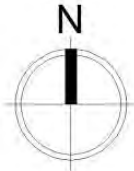


DISTRICTS & SPECIAL FEATURES
 City of Norwalk
 (Site in Black)



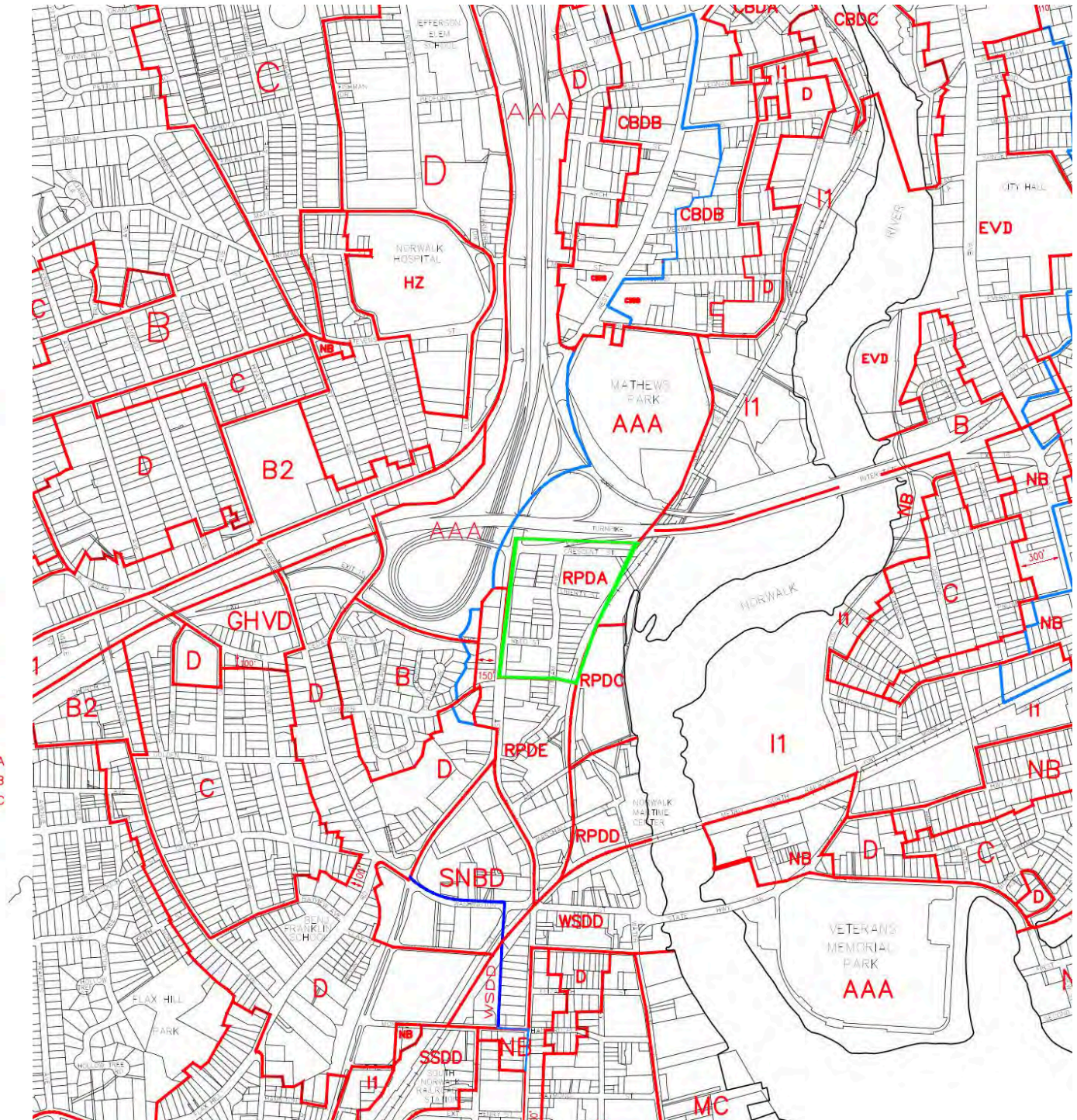
Being in the geographical center of town, this project will be located next to the historical district of Norwalk. It is also next to Matthews Park which is considered to be a historic feature of the town.

Zoning In Norwalk



LEGEND

- Aquifer Protection Area
- COASTAL AREA MANAGEMENT BOUNDARY
- IC Island Conservation
- AAA AAA Residence
- AA AA Residence
- A A Residence
- B B Residence
- C C Residence
- D D Residence
- EVD East Avenue Village District
- WSDD Washington Street Design District
- RPDA Reed Putnam Design District – Subarea A
- RPDB Reed Putnam Design District – Subarea B
- RPDC Reed Putnam Design District – Subarea C
- RPDD Reed Putnam Design District – Subarea D
- RPDE Reed Putnam Design District – Subarea E
- RPDE-1 Reed Putnam Design District – Subarea E
- CBDA Central Business Design District – Subarea A
- CBDB Central Business Design District – Subarea B
- CBDC Central Business Design District – Subarea C
- EO Executive Office
- NB Neighborhood Business
- SNBD South Norwalk Business District
- MC Marine Commercial
- SSDD Sono Station Design District
- B1 Business No.1
- B2 Business No.2
- RVD Rowayton Village District
- RD Research & Development
- I1 Industrial No.1
- LI2 Light Industrial No.2
- RI Restricted Industrial
- HZ Hospital Zone
- SVD Silvermine Tavern Village District
- GHVD Golden Hill Village District



**REED PUTNAM DESIGN DISTRICT
SCHEDULE LIMITING HEIGHT AND BULK OF BUILDINGS
CITY OF NORWALK**

SUBAREA A													
Maximum Residential Density and Minimum Office or Mixed use retail shopping center development		Maximum Office, Mixed use retail shopping center development & Mixed Use Building Height		Maximum Parking Garage Height		Minimum Size of Plot		Minimum Yards		Maximum Building Area	Maximum Floor Area Ratio		
1,650 square feet of lot area per dwelling unit; 100,000 sq ft office or 500,000 sq. ft. Mixed use retail shopping center development		15 stories office; 8 stories Mixed use retail shopping center development and 18 stories residential or hotel and 200 feet; subject to Section 118-502C(1)(b) & (d)		6 stories and 72 feet, except that a green roof located on top of such structure shall not count as a story, subject to Section 118-502C(1)(b)		21,780 sq. ft.; subject to Section 118-502C(1)(b) & (d)		None		85% for buildings and parking; subject to Section 118-502C(1)(b) and (d)	2.0; subject to Section 118-502C(1)(d); Mixed use retail shopping center development 2.7 on any individual lot, but not to exceed 2.2 as computed on the basis of all parcels or parcels of land in a project, subject to Section 118-502C(1)(b)		
SUBAREA B													
Maximum Residential Density and Minimum Office		Maximum Office & Mixed Use Building Height		Maximum Parking Garage Height		Minimum Hotel Size		Minimum Size of Plot		Maximum Building Area		Maximum Floor Area Ratio	
1,650 square feet of lot area per dwelling unit; 75,000 sq ft office		10 stories and 120 feet; subject to Section 118-502C(2)(d)		5 stories and 45 feet		100 guest rooms		21,780 sq. ft.; subject to Section 118-502C(2)(d)		75% for buildings and parking; subject to Section 118-502C(2)(d)		2.0; subject to Section 118-502C(2)(d)	
SUBAREA C													
Minimum Residential Density	Maximum Residential Density	Maximum Residential Building Height	Maximum Mixed Use Building Height	Minimum Hotel Size	Maximum Hotel Building Height	Maximum Parking Garage Height	Minimum Size of Plot	Minimum Yards	Maximum Building Area	Maximum Floor Area Ratio			
1,500 sq ft of lot area per unit	750 sq ft of lot area per unit	6 stories and 72 feet	8 stories and 110 feet	200 guest rooms	12 stories and 150 feet	4 stories and 36 feet	87,120 sq ft (2 acres)	None	80% for buildings and parking	2.0 for multifamily dwellings; 2.0 for mixed use; 5.0 for hotels			
SUBAREA D													
Minimum Residential Density		Maximum Residential Density		Maximum Residential		Maximum Parking Garage		Minimum Size of Plot		Maximum Building Area		Maximum Floor Area Ratio	
2,000 sq ft of lot area per unit		700 sq ft of lot area per unit		6 stories and 72 feet		6 stories and 72 feet		43,560 sq ft (1 acre)		90% for buildings and parking		2.0	
SUBAREA E													
Minimum Residential Density		Maximum Residential Density		Maximum Residential		Minimum Building Height		Minimum Size of Plot		Minimum Yards		Maximum Building Area	Maximum Floor Area Ratio
None		1,500 sq ft of lot area per dwelling unit		4 stories and 50 feet		2 stories and 25 feet		Multifamily dwellings and elderly housing: 7,500 sq ft; Mixed use, commercial and industrial uses: none		Multifamily dwellings and elderly housing: front 30 ft, side 20%, need not exceed 30 ft, aggregate side 40%, need not exceed 60 ft, rear 30 ft, subject to 118-502(5)(d)(2); Mixed use, commercial and industrial uses: none		50% for building, 80% for parking garage	1.0 for multifamily dwellings and elderly housing; 1.0 for other uses

Dated: 10/15/99 as revised to August 30, 2002, February 25, 2005, October 26, 2007 & June 10, 2016. Note: See copy of Building Zone Regulations in P & Z office for amendment and revision dates.

The location of the site is in subarea A

Architecture of Norwalk

A wide majority of the architecture in Norwalk is brick. The historical district includes the church (pictured below) and the Maritime Aquarium (pictured top right). The church is directly to the south of the site. However, in recent years the architecture of Norwalk is becoming more modern, mostly in the business areas where buildings such as The Towers are located (pictured bottom right).

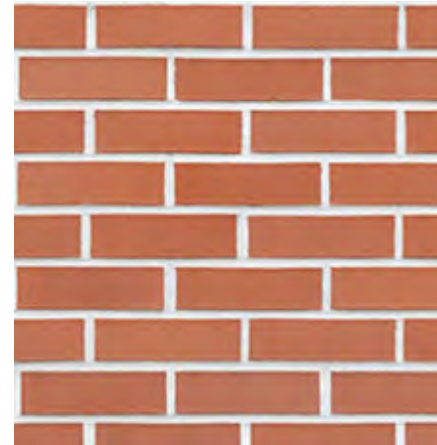


More brick buildings in Norwalk including the Brien McMahon High School (near right), Norwalk City Hall (far right), and the Lock Building (below).



Materials Considerations

This facility has many different programmatic spaces that will need different materials for its structure. For spaces like the gym, pool, and library, more glass and steel will be used. Most of the exterior will be brick to match the surrounding areas, however, the glass and steel used throughout will give it a more modern feel and make it more attractive to those passing by on the highway. The sports bubble will be a pneumatic structure like the one pictured to the right. Snow loads, wind loads and air locks will be taken into consideration due to the coastal New England location.



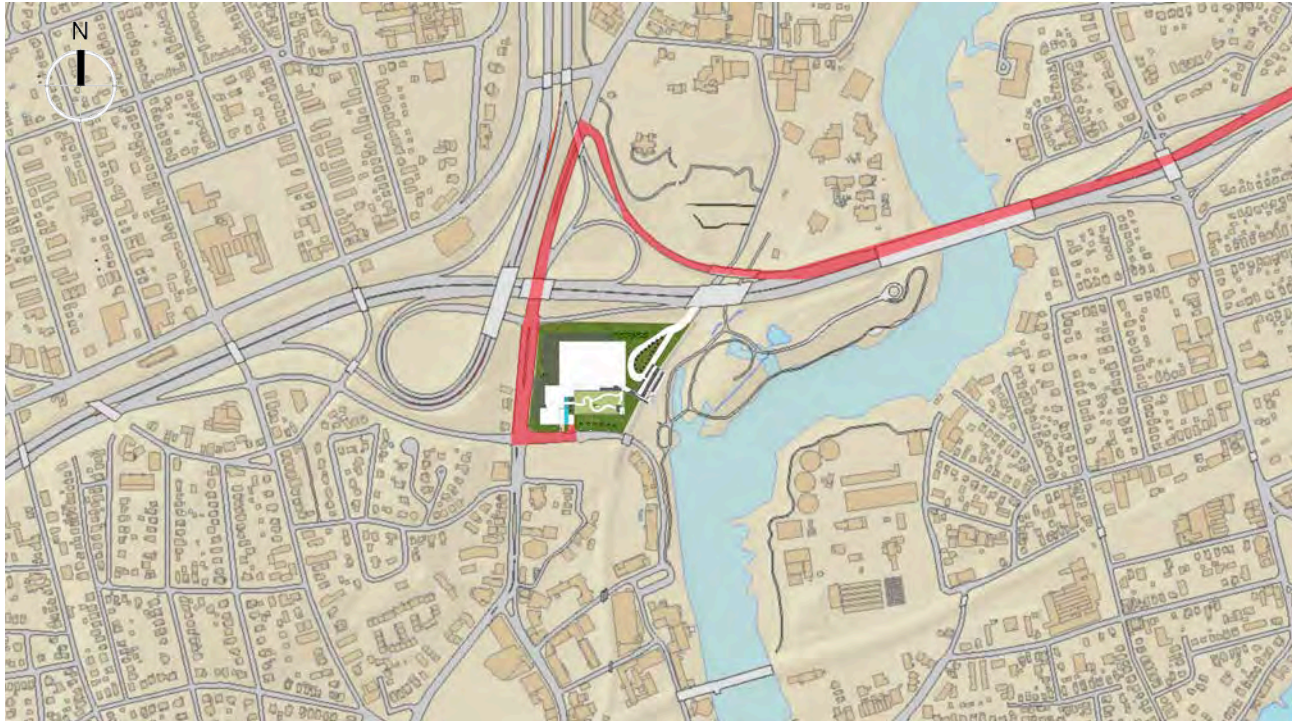
Site Access

Route 7 South highlighted in green. The access to the underground parking level is from the south side on Reed St.

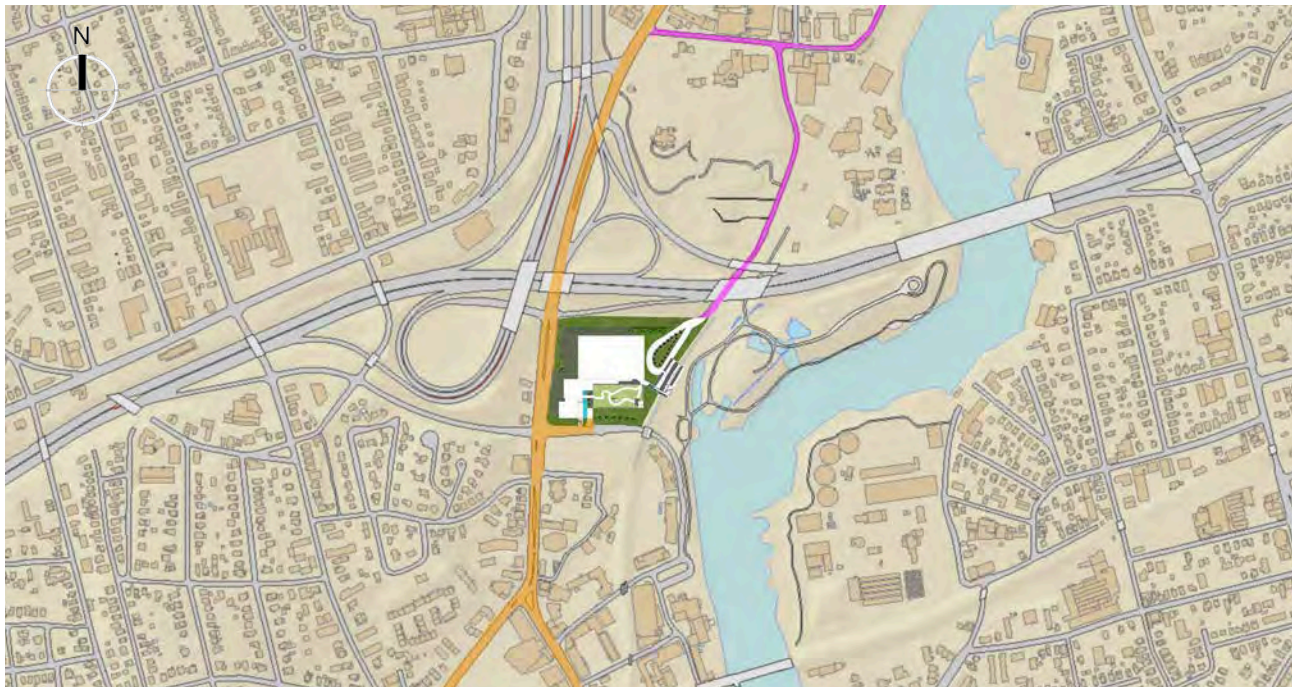


I-95 North highlighted in blue. The offramp continues straight into Reed St for easy access.





I-95-South highlighted in red. From there, one turns onto West Ave and then Reed St. to access the underground parking.



West Ave. is highlighted in Orange and Butler St. is highlighted in purple. Butler St originally cut through the site in the 1960s and since then it has slowly turned into just a dead end. I decided to reintroduce the street to a purpose and lead it into the pickup and drop-off area for the train station.

Site Images

Far Right: view from under the train track bridge with the site on the right side of the image



Near right: view from across West Ave.

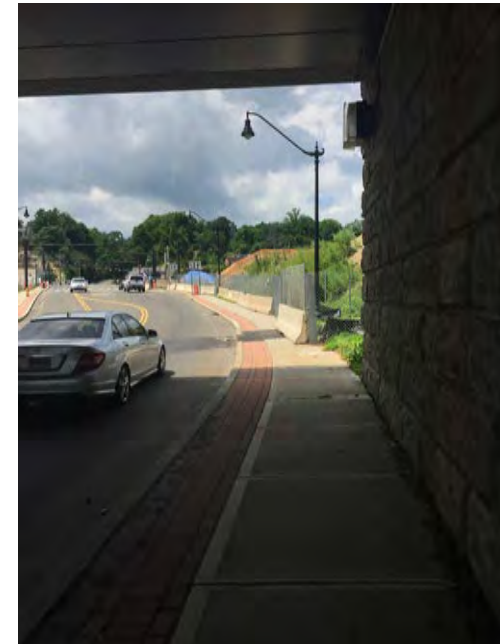


Image from the start of the I-95 on ramp





View of the train tracks crossing the street above



Images of crosswalks on Reed St.

Intersection of West Ave. and
Reed St.





View overlooking the Norwalk River



View of the train tracks from the I-95 on-ramp

Birdseye of Oyster Shell Park. The Norwalk River is pictured on the left and the site is in the upper right



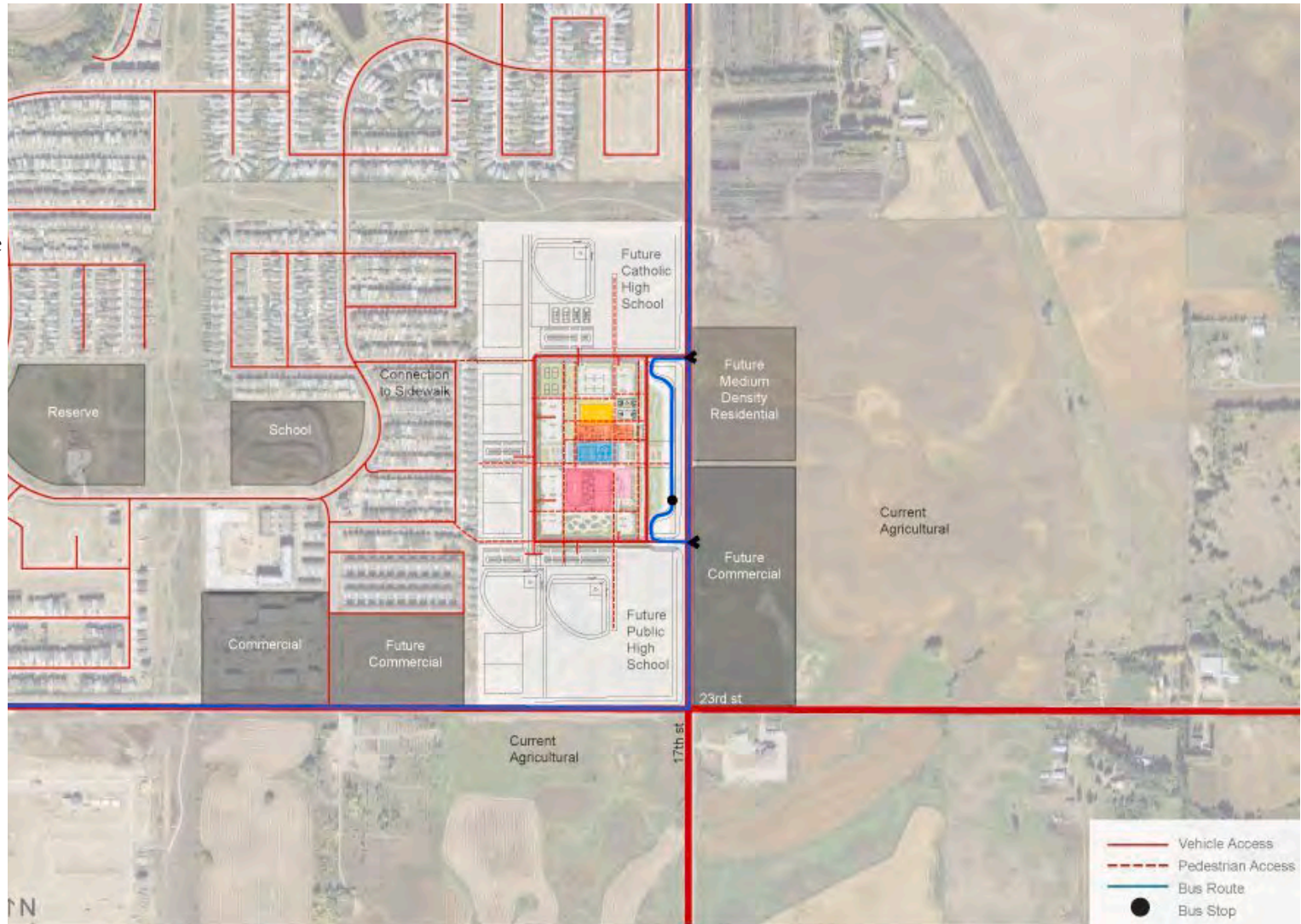
4. PRECEDENT ANALYSIS

**Precedent 1:
The Meadows Community Rec Centre
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada**



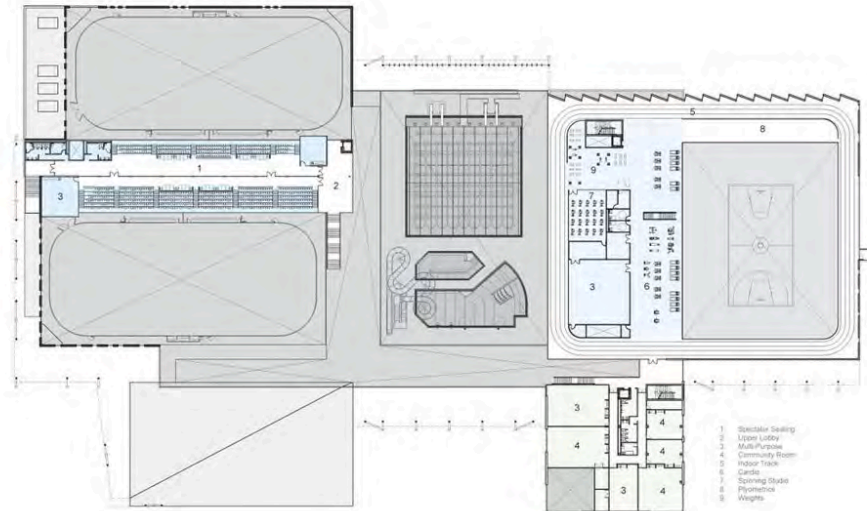
Site Plan

The designers wanted to create an architectural strategy to support the program and operation over many decades as the population of the area is to grow by 60% in the next 20 years. They also wanted the creation of a strong sense of place that will build the community within a vibrant public realm and the integration of architecture and landscape into a highly sustainable built environment.

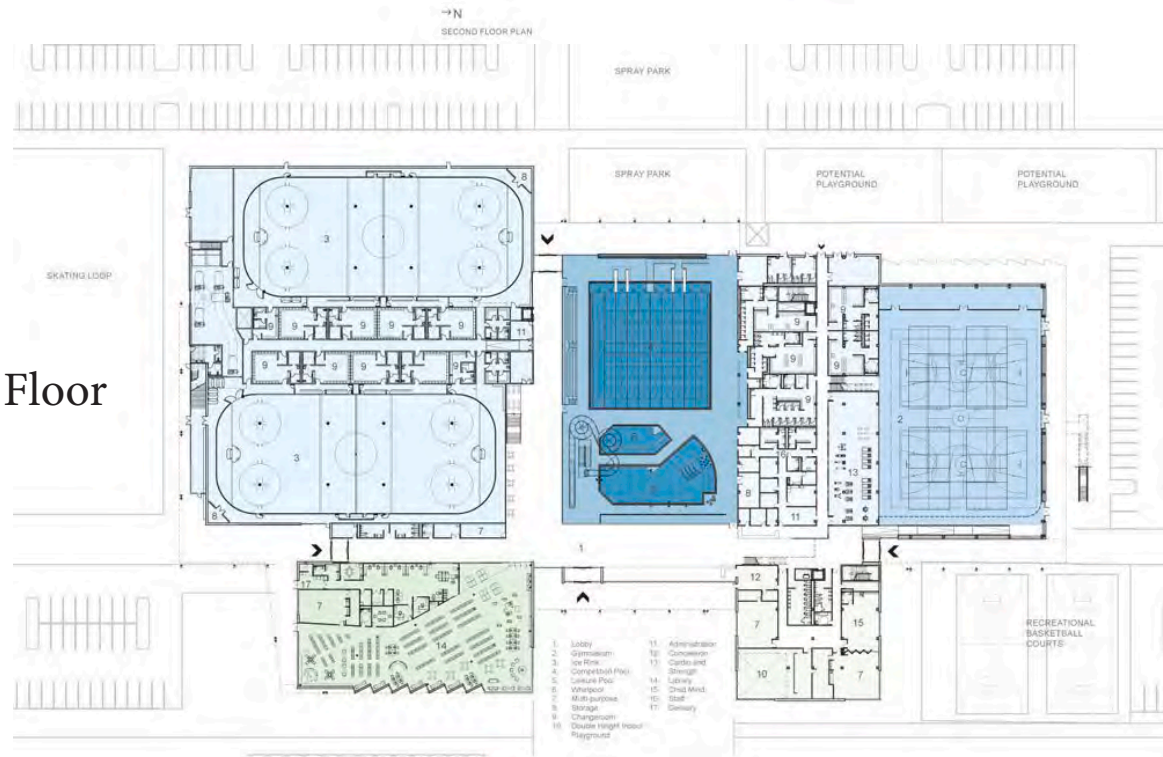
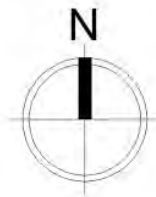


Most of the program is located on the first floor. Only the spectating area for the hockey rink, the walking track, and some exercise rooms are on the second floor. On the first floor there are 4 entrances, one on each side of the building. The 4 main spaces (hockey rinks, library, gym, and pool) are all separated by either hallways or locker rooms. There are also exterior basketball courts and a skate park that are in use during the summer months.

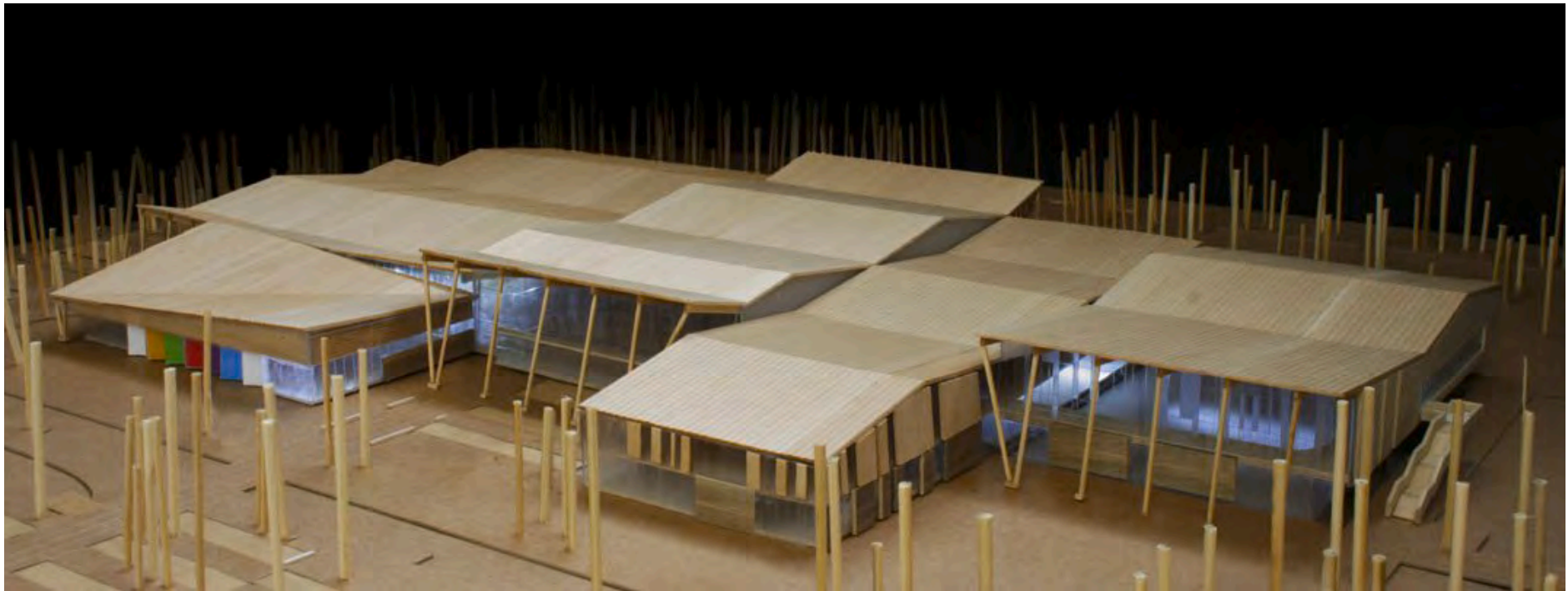
2nd Floor



1st Floor



The form draws upon the rolling terrain and echoes the natural inflections of the landscape, giving rise to an architectural exploration of the building as topography. Ample light is brought into these spaces as seen in the Gym to the right. This allows for efficient heating from the sun in the cold winter months.

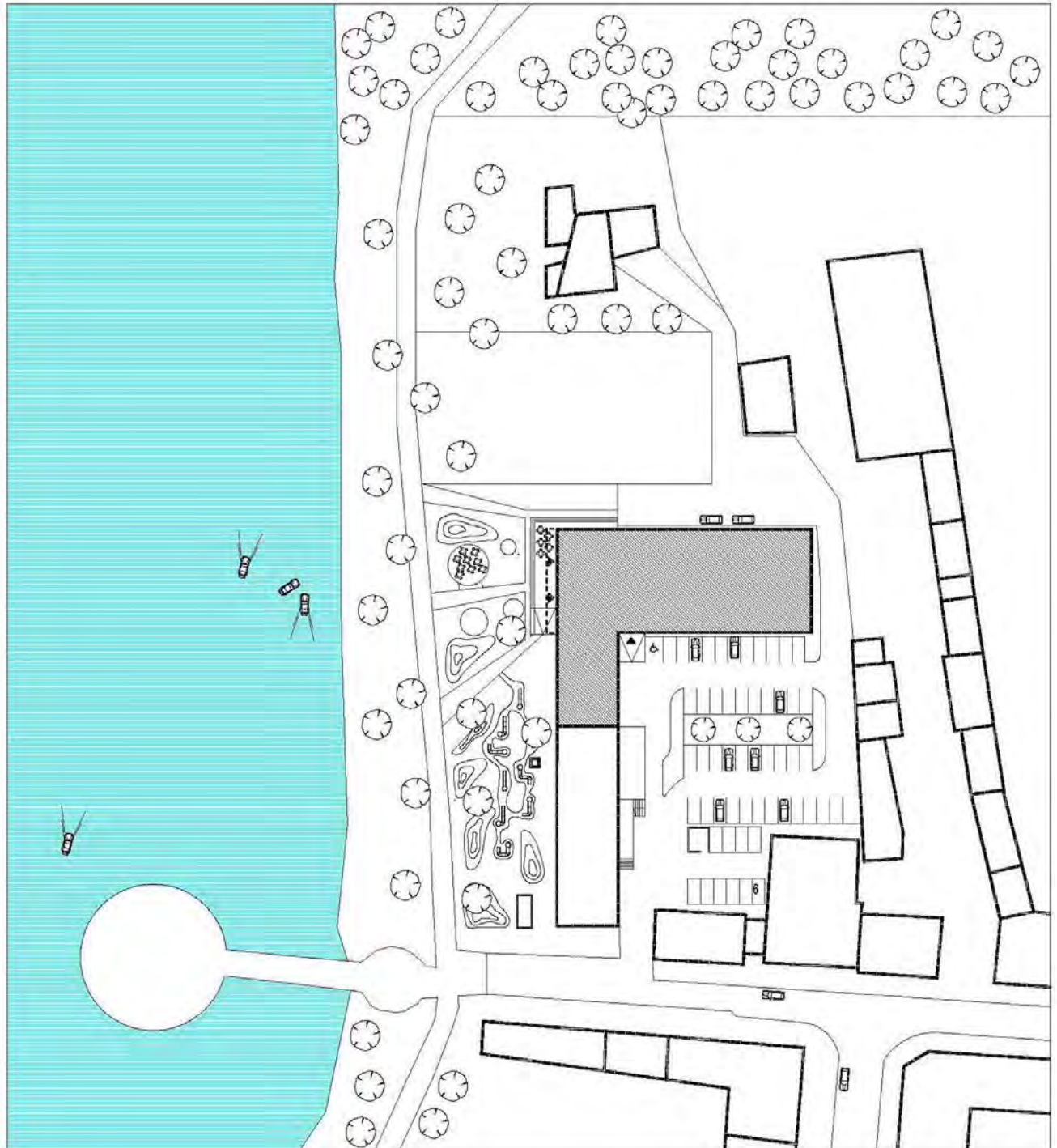
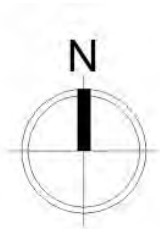


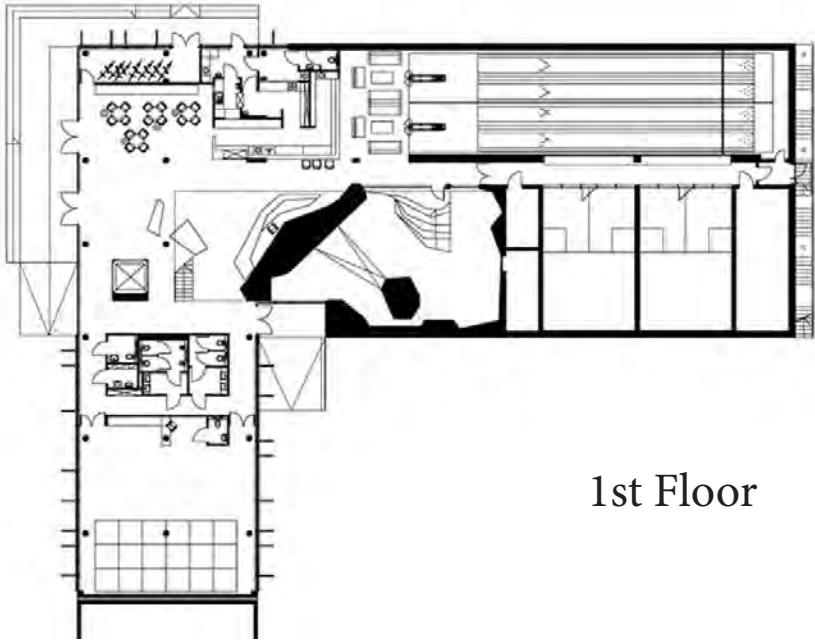
Precedent 2: Fala Park, Poland



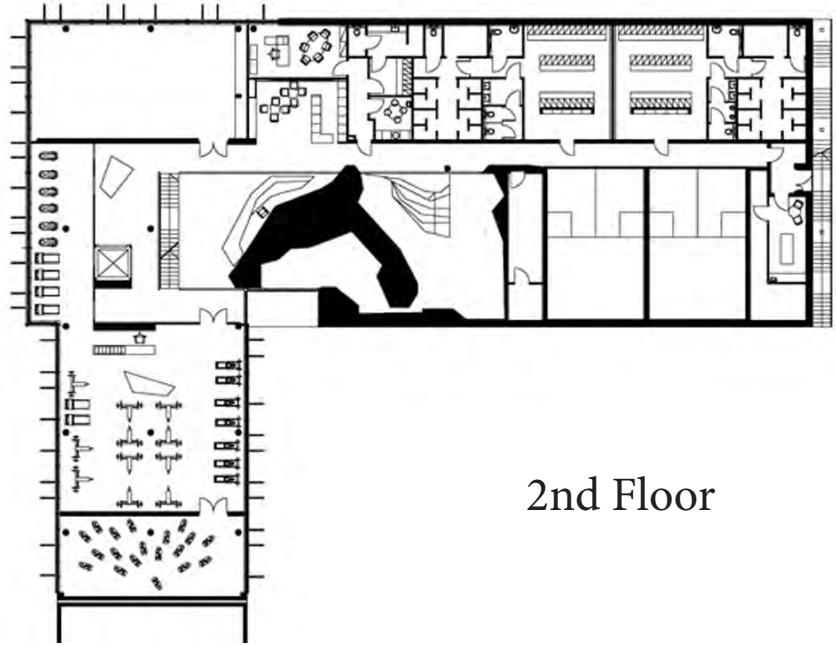
Site Plan

The site takes advantage of the breeze off the ocean. The elongated parcel allows for the wind to be the main cooling component. Those spaces that need natural light are located along the lake side for the view. This facility was added on to the existing building, which shelters the park.

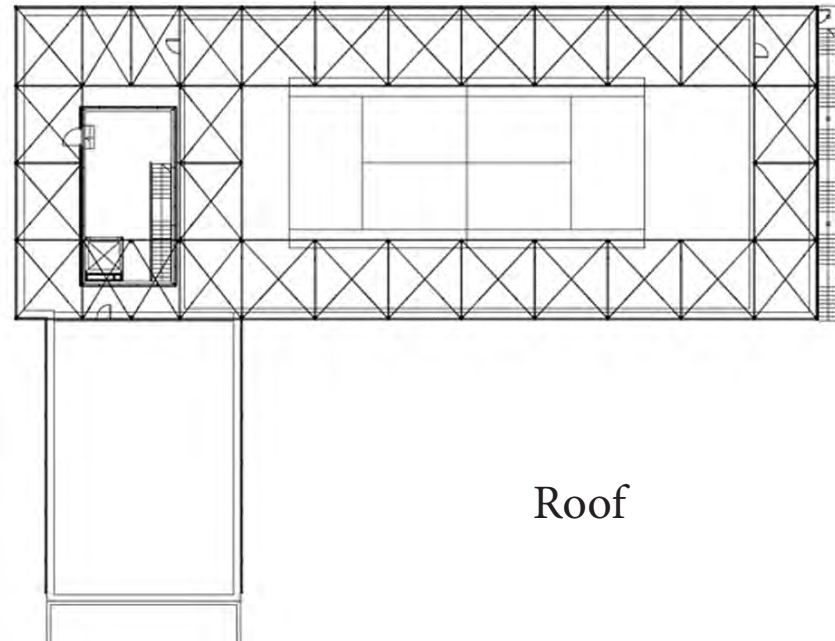
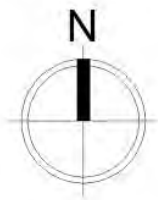




1st Floor



2nd Floor



Roof



Tennis Courts on the roof



Workout room

Rock climbing wall near lobby



Bowling alley



Mesh facades for wind



5.

DESIGN CHANGES

I. MID REVIEW 53

II. GATE REVIEW 67

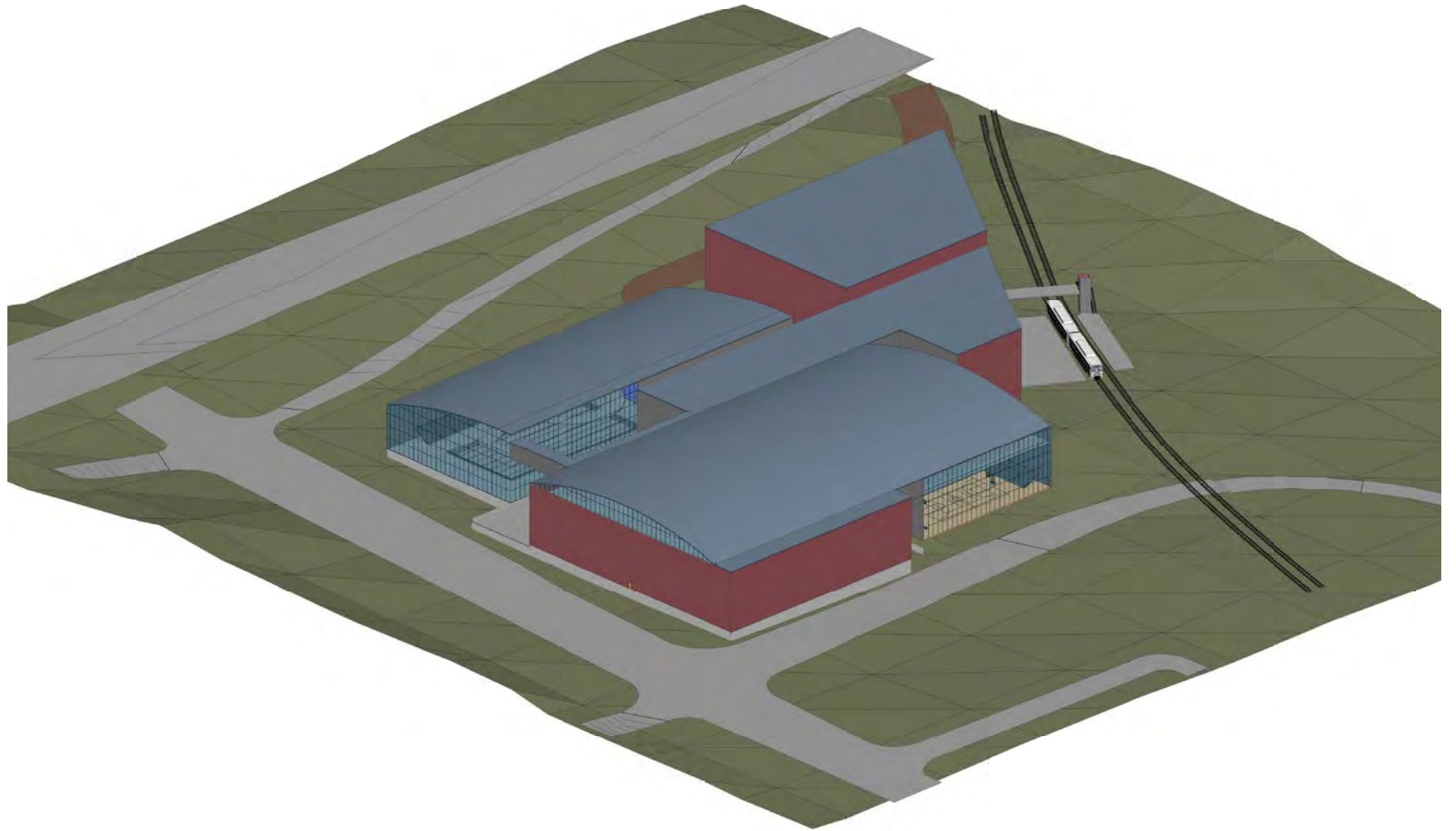
III. FINAL REVIEW 83

I.

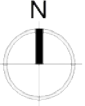
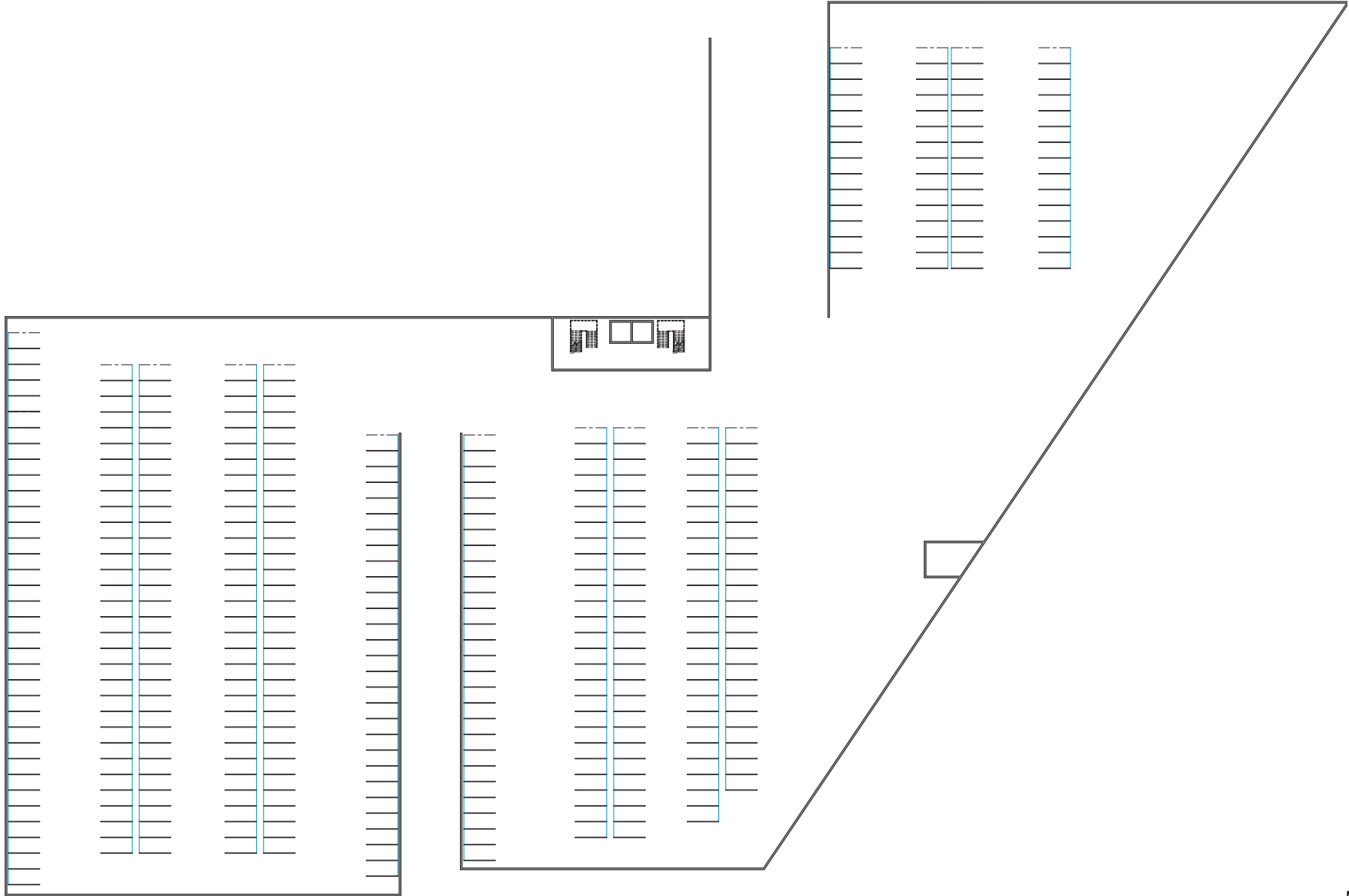
MID REVIEW

For the mid review the project encompassed everything programatically I had wanted to incorporate. The main focus here was to look at how people would approach the site, enter the building and circulate throughout it. The placing of the program was the difficult part. The Gym, tennis courts, and soccer field all had to go together with the track placed up above. That really was the only part that stayed the same throughout the process. In this iteration I decided to place the library on the third and fourth floors in the northwest corner to keep it away from the hustle and bustle of the ground floor circulation and noise. The materials chosen were mainly brick and glass as those are the two most common materials used in Norwalk. I wanted to create a building that communicated with the rest of Norwalk and one that could easily be identified from the highway as a sense of marketing the building and the program within.

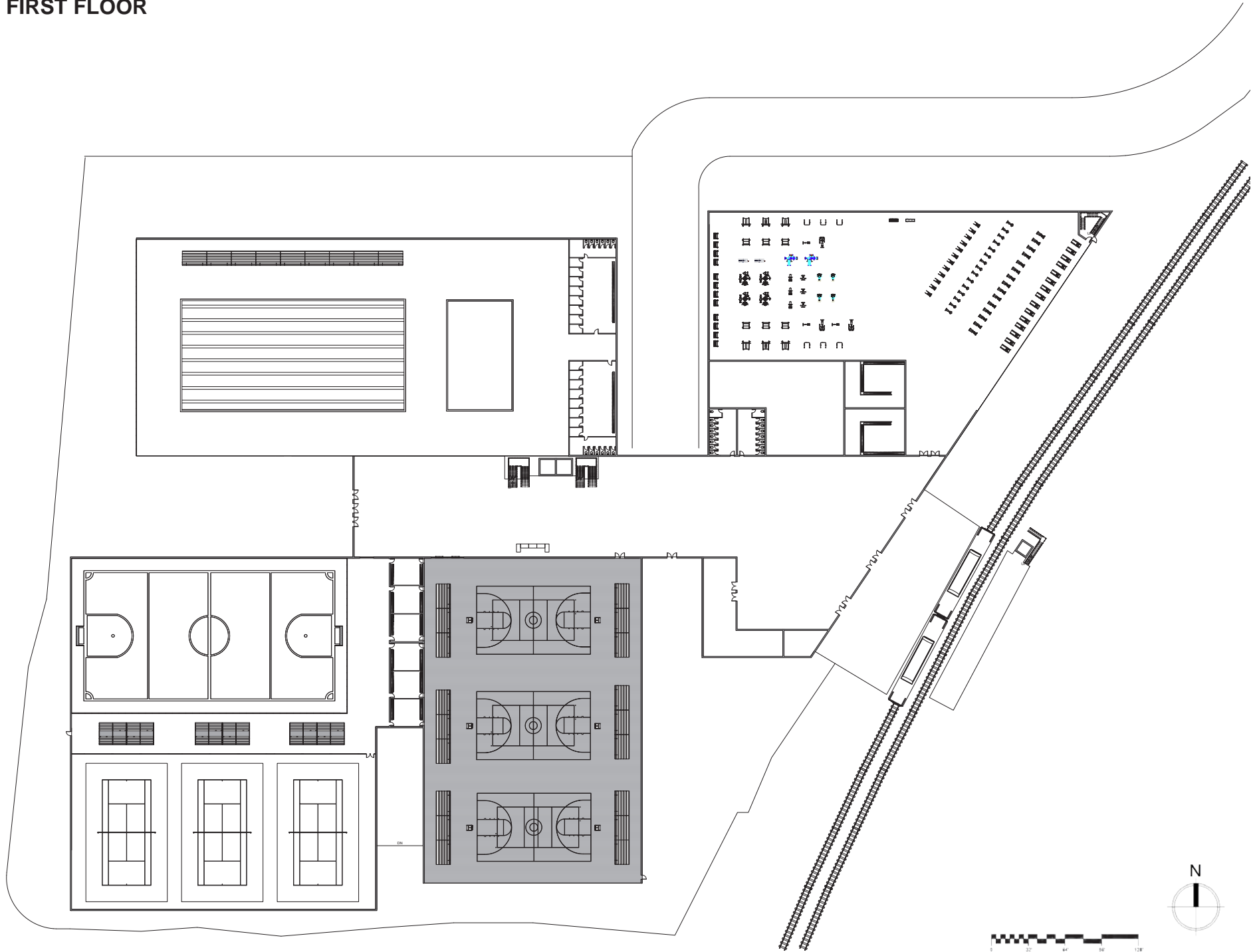
3D AXON OF SITE



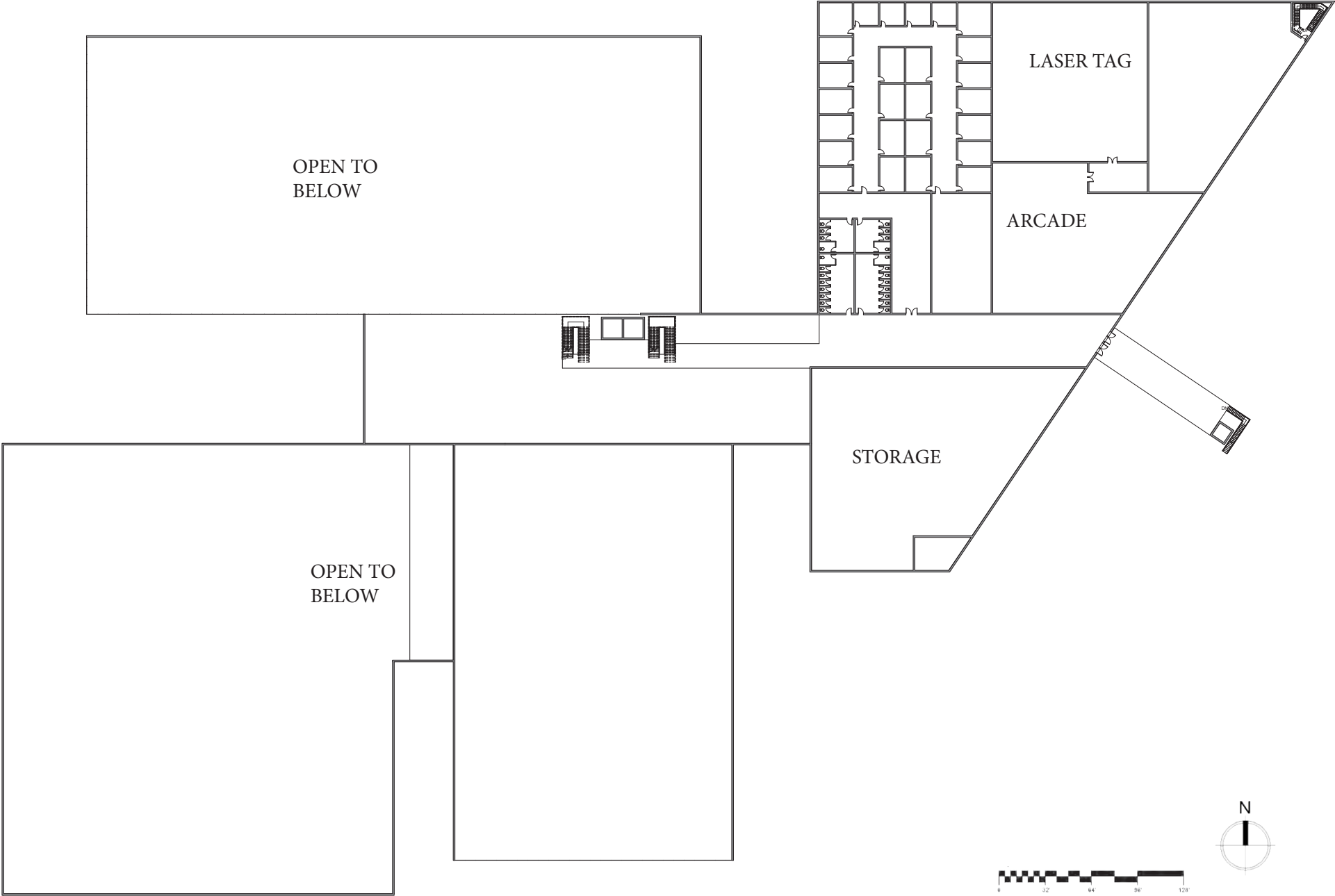
**UNDERGROUND PARKING
372 SPACES**



FIRST FLOOR

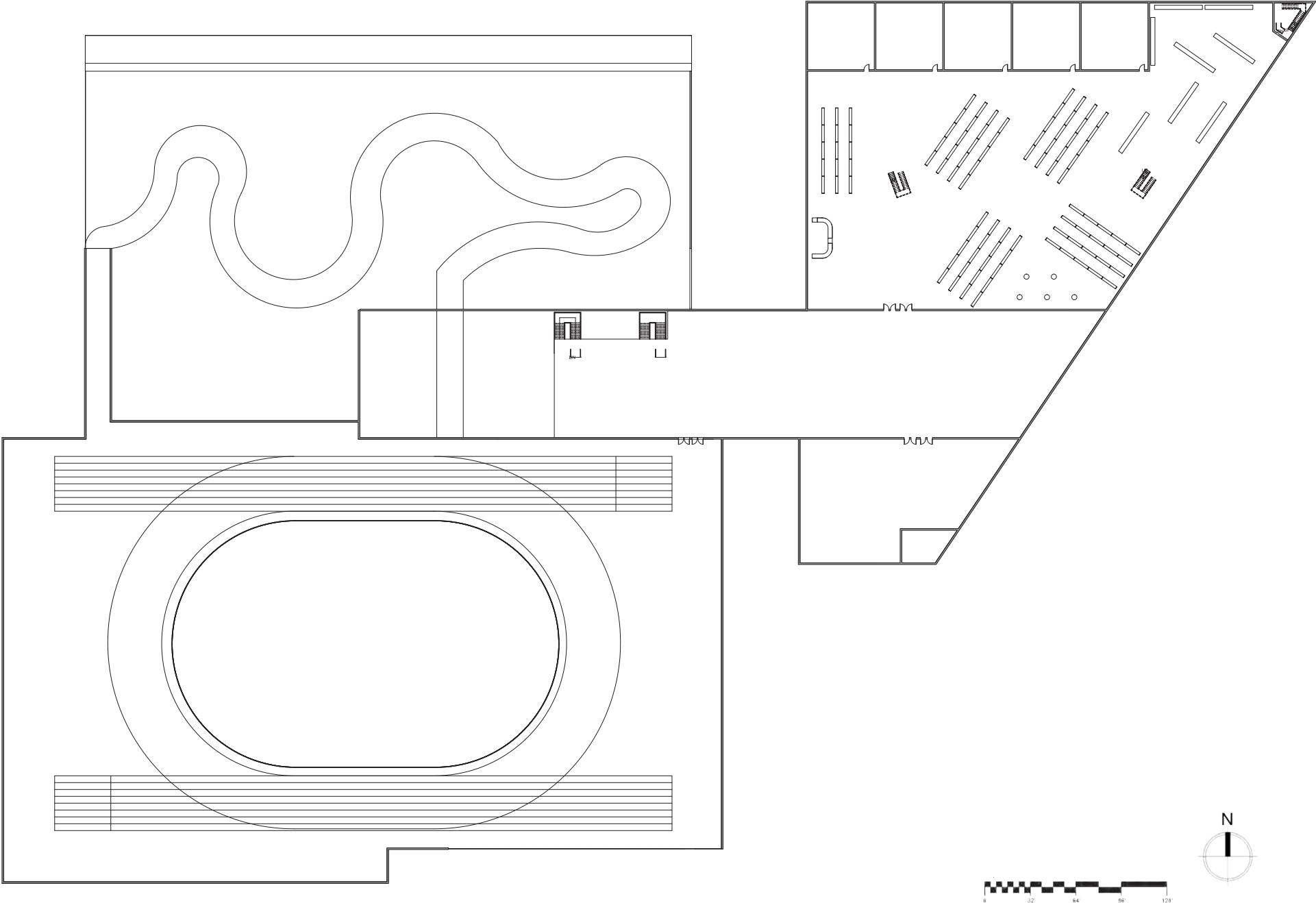


SECOND FLOOR

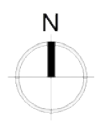
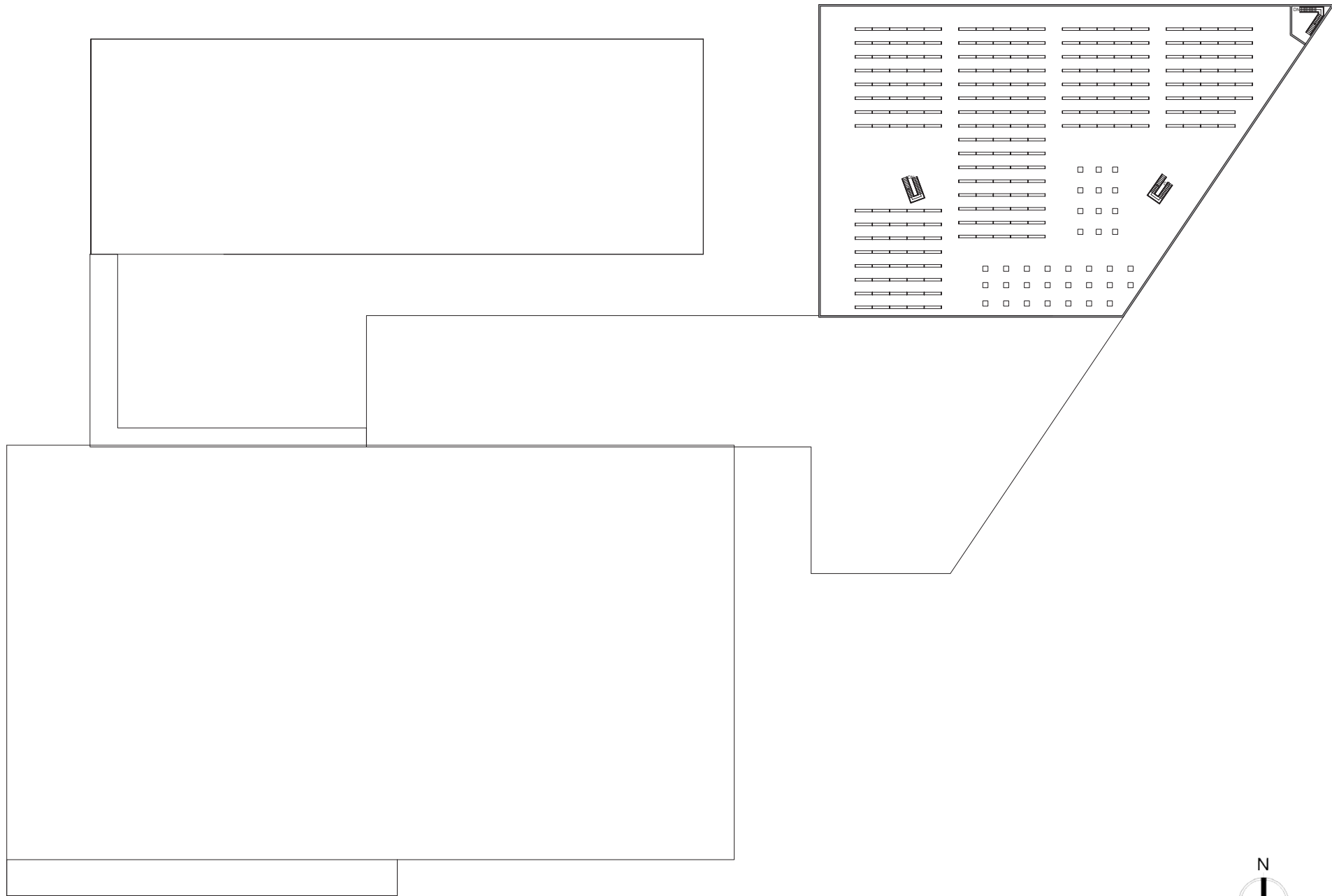


The underground parking level was designed to have 2 entrances and exits with 372 spaces available for the users of both the train station and the building itself. There is ample space and height for delivery trucks to maneuver around. The two entry ways are located based off of the road that used to cut through the site. All of the athletic spaces minus the track are located on the first floor as those are the main spaces of the building and simplest to have on the ground floor like the pool. The second floor, as an “in between” floor of the large athletic spaces, has the administration, storage, and an arcade and laser tag section. This allows for the library, track, and walking path to be located on the third floor. The connections between the walkway and track area serve as bridges that can be seen from the main circulation axis on the first floor creating that visual connection to show people what else there is in the building.

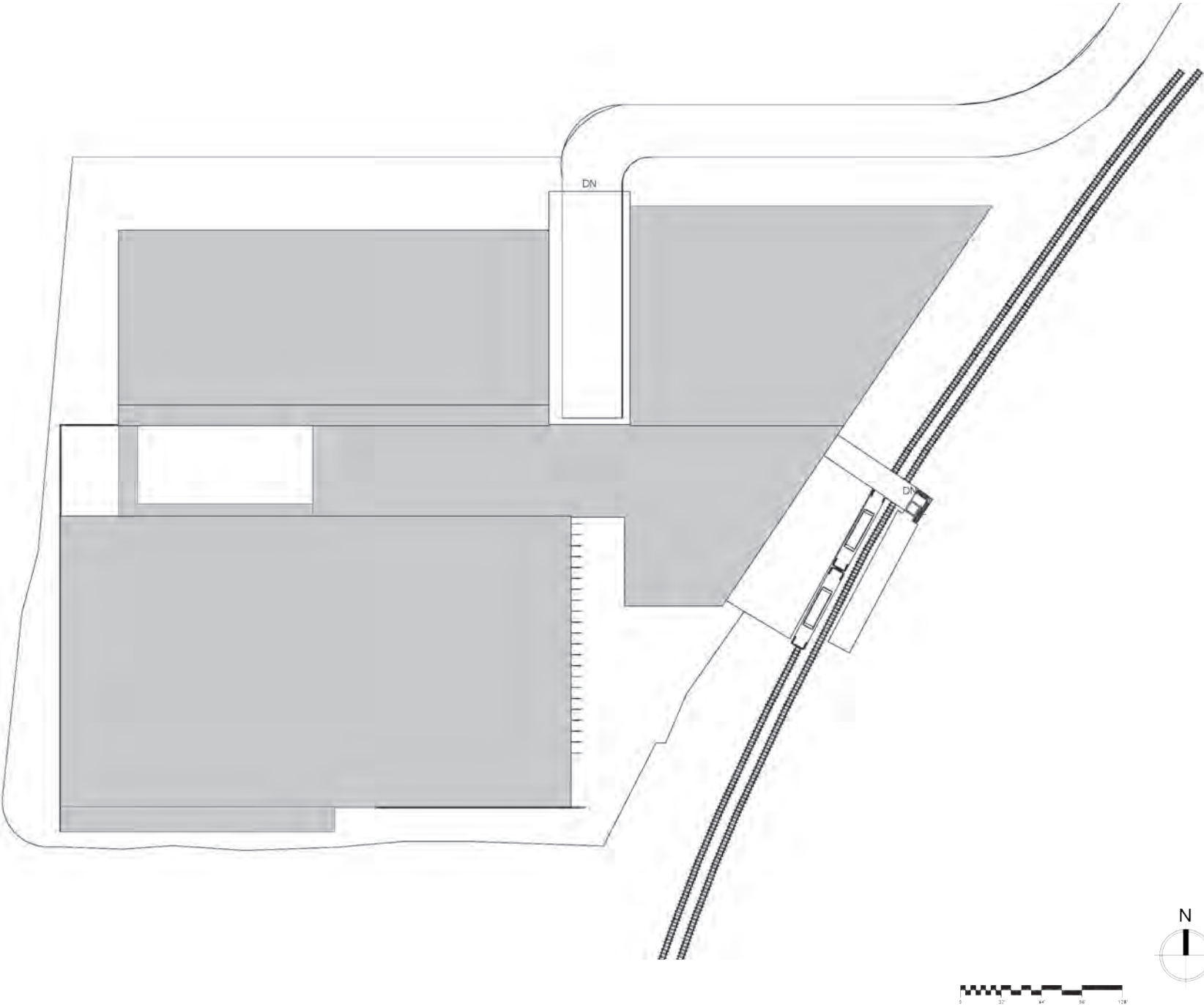
THIRD FLOOR



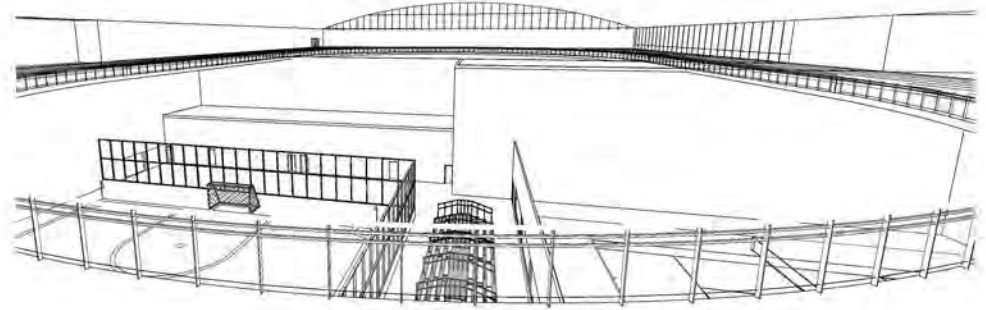
FOURTH FLOOR



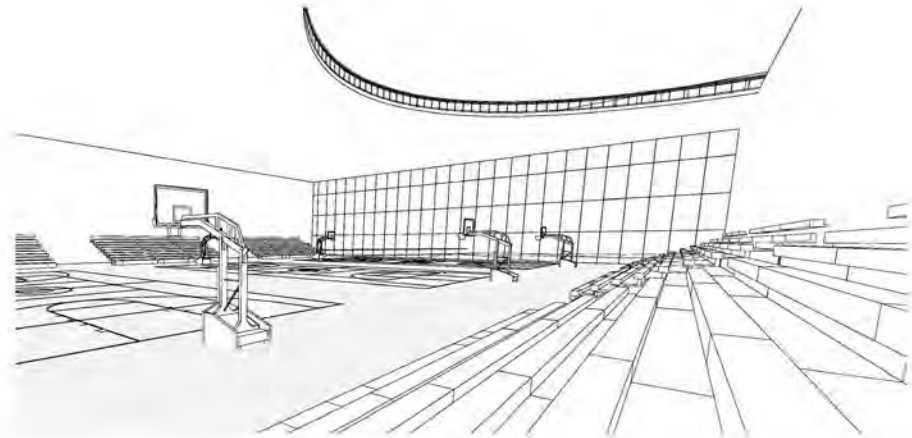
ROOF PLAN



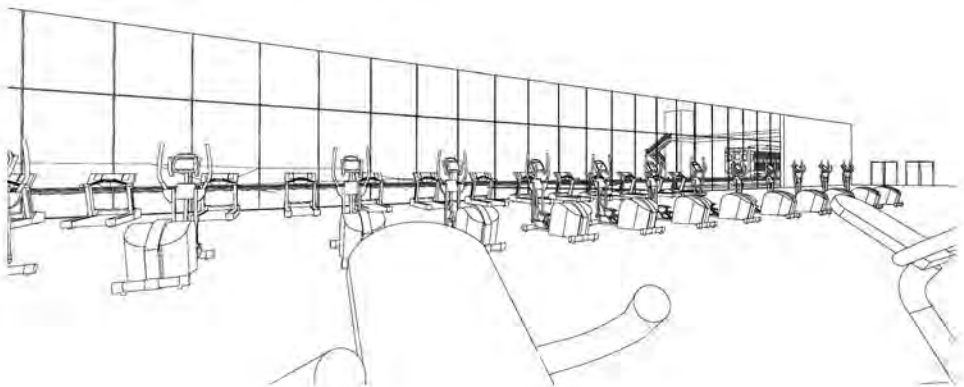
View from the track on third floor looking down at the soccer field and tennis courts.

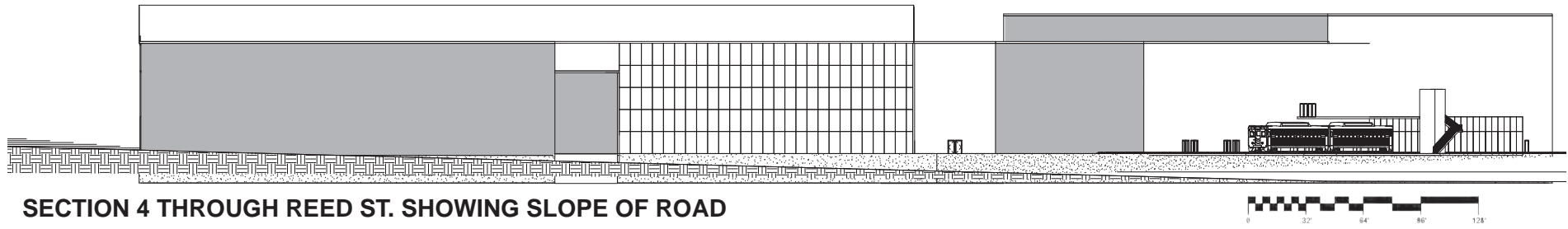
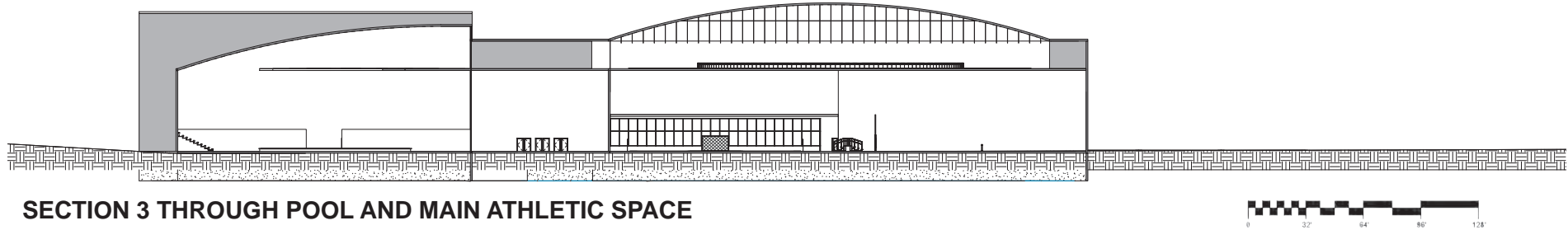
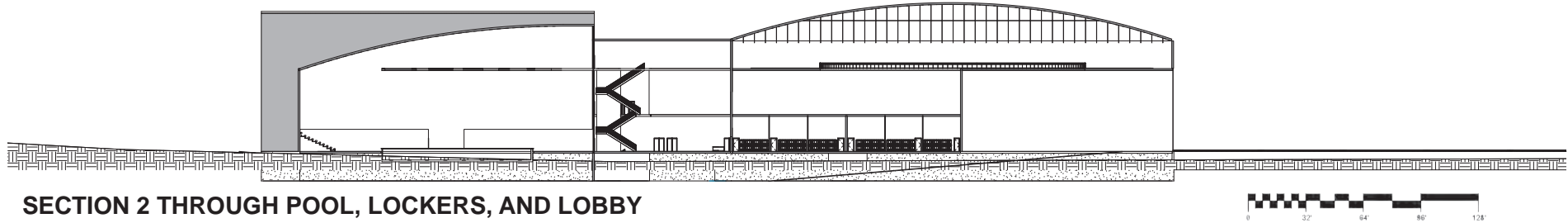
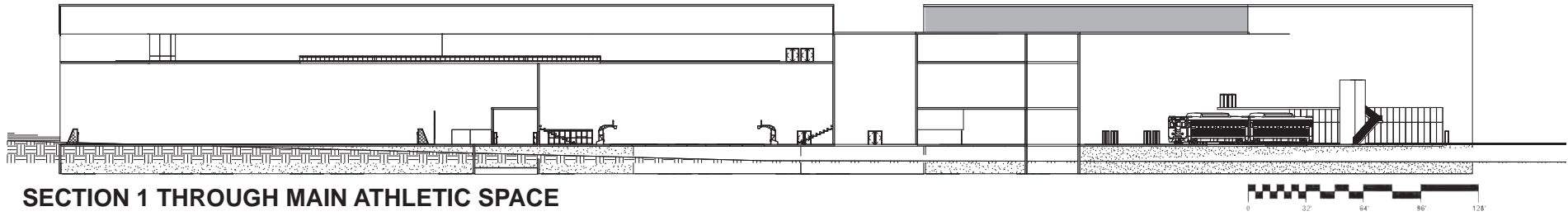


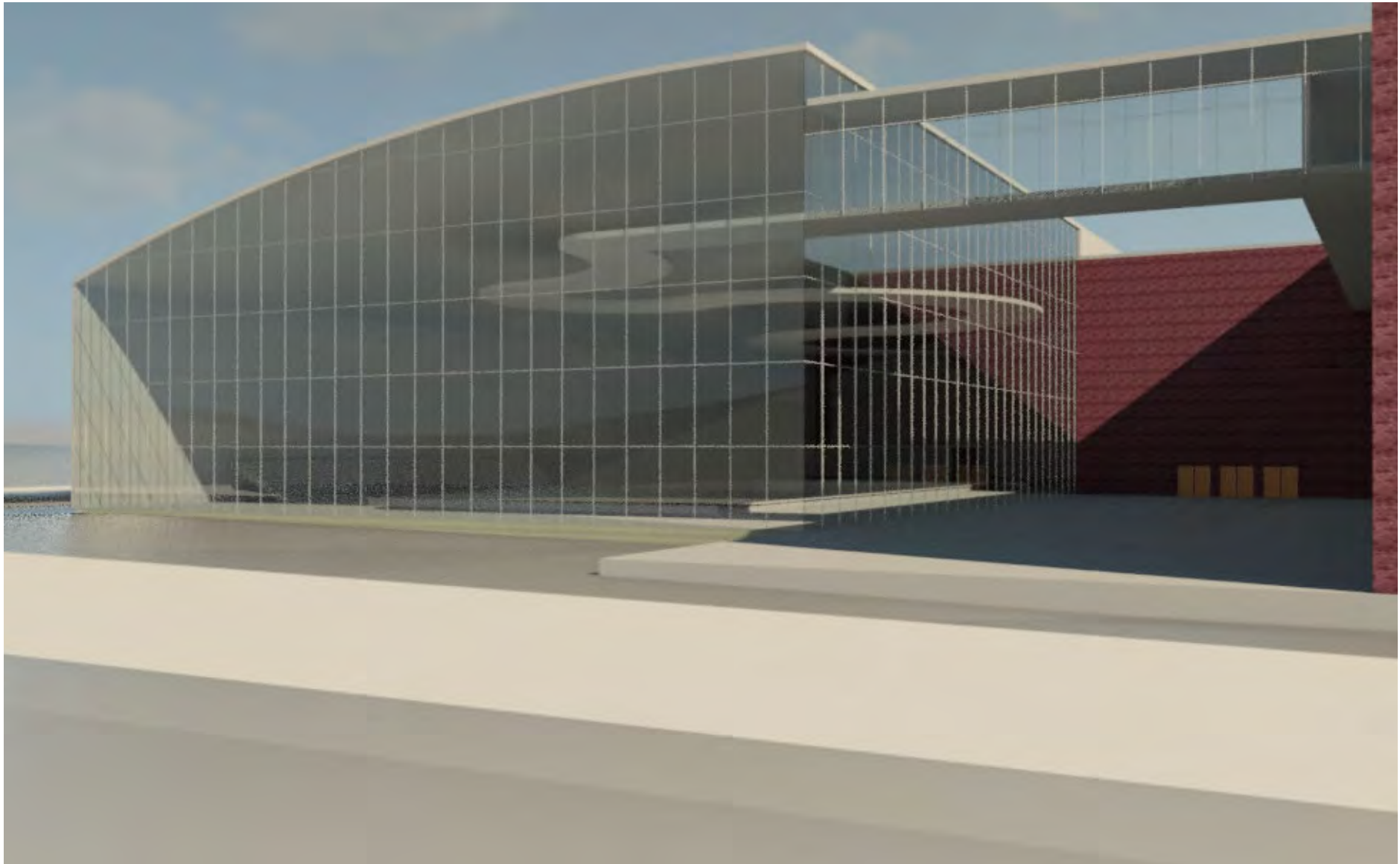
View from bleachers in the gymnasium with the track seen above



View from a stationary bike in the exercise room.

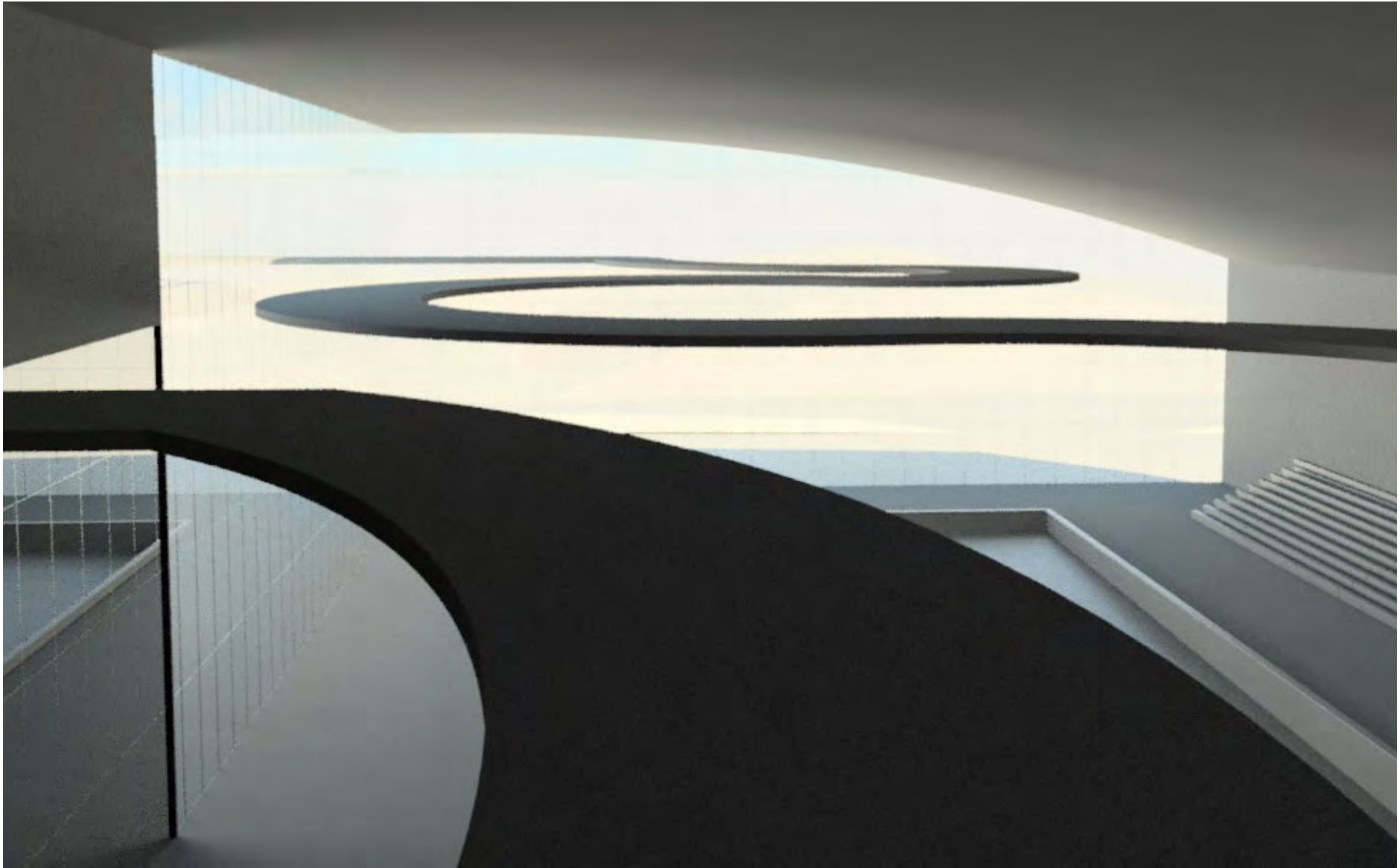






VIEW OF ENTRY SPACE AND POOL WITH THE WALKWAY ABOVE

The idea for this was to have an expanse of glass that would give off the feeling of openness and welcome. I wanted to give people a sizable plaza leading to the entrance and they would walk under the bridge from the walkway in the pool area to the track.



**PRELIMINARY VIEW OF THE PEDESTRIAN
WALKWAY OVER THE POOL**

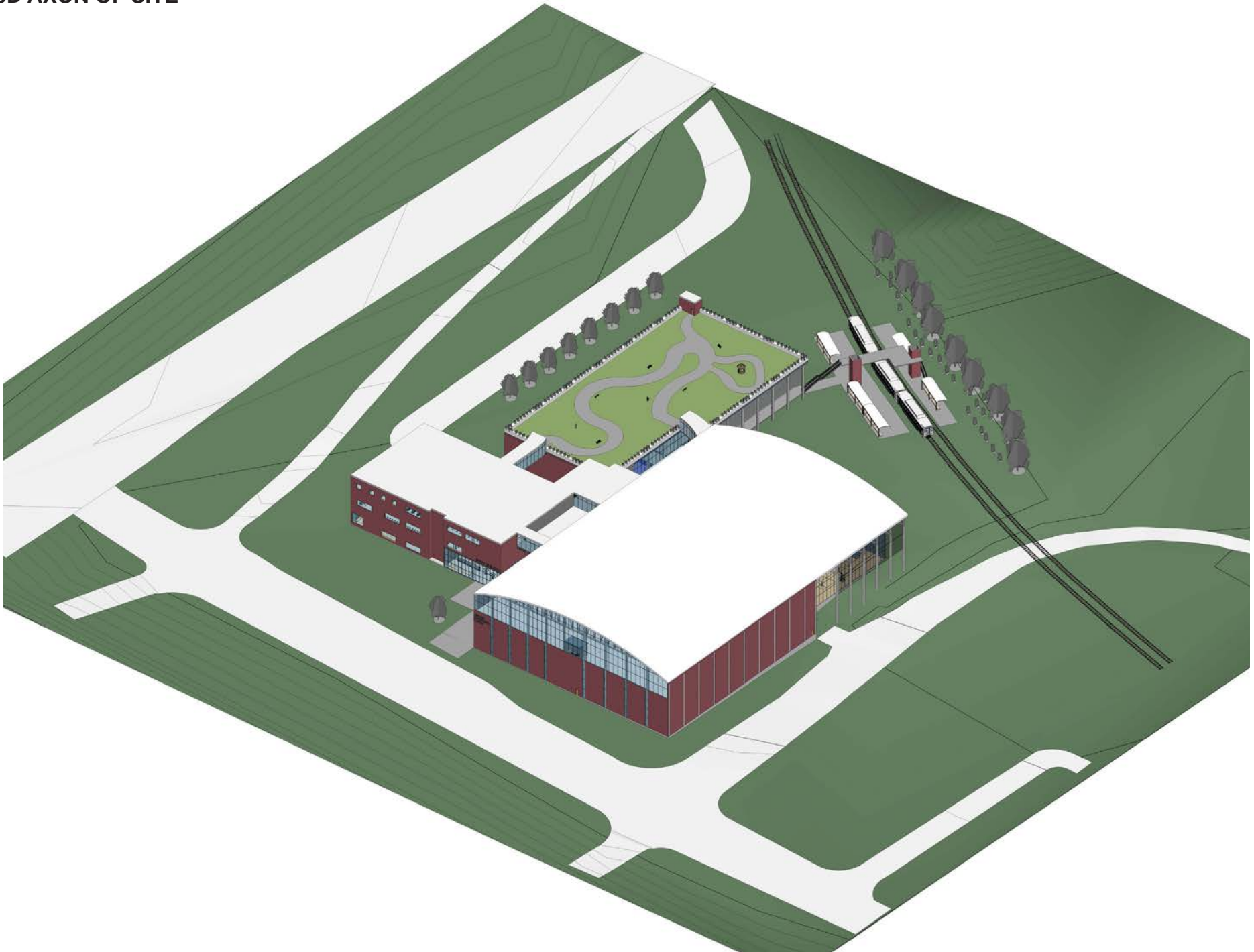
This walkway serves as a connection to the track for those who want to have the ability to maneuver through different spaces of the building. It also allows for a view out to the city as well as the pool below.

II.

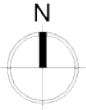
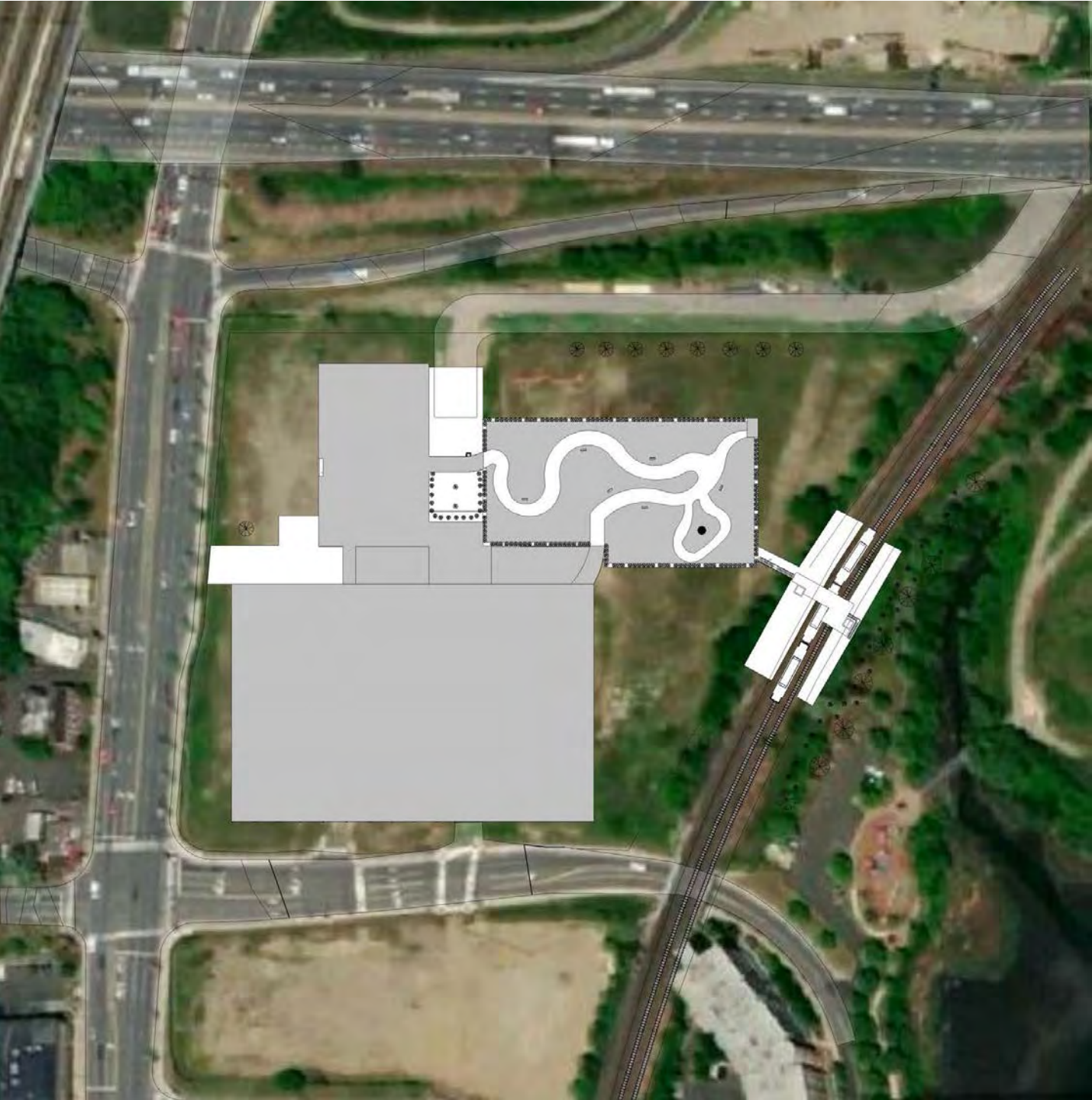
GATE REVIEW

For the gate review a lot of the program arrangement changed. The major one was the walkway that was originally in the pool area being moved above it and turning it into a roof garden. The bridging connections from that walkway to the track are still in place and I added another connection to the exercise room. The massing of the building changed as well. The overall square footage shrunk by more than 100,000sqft as I really dialed back on the excess program. I also wanted to give the library a little better presence so I moved it to the first floor next to the department store and branched off of the main circulation axis that way more people would be apt to visit it and was in an easier location on the first floor for accessibility.

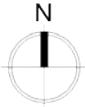
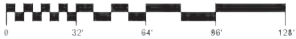
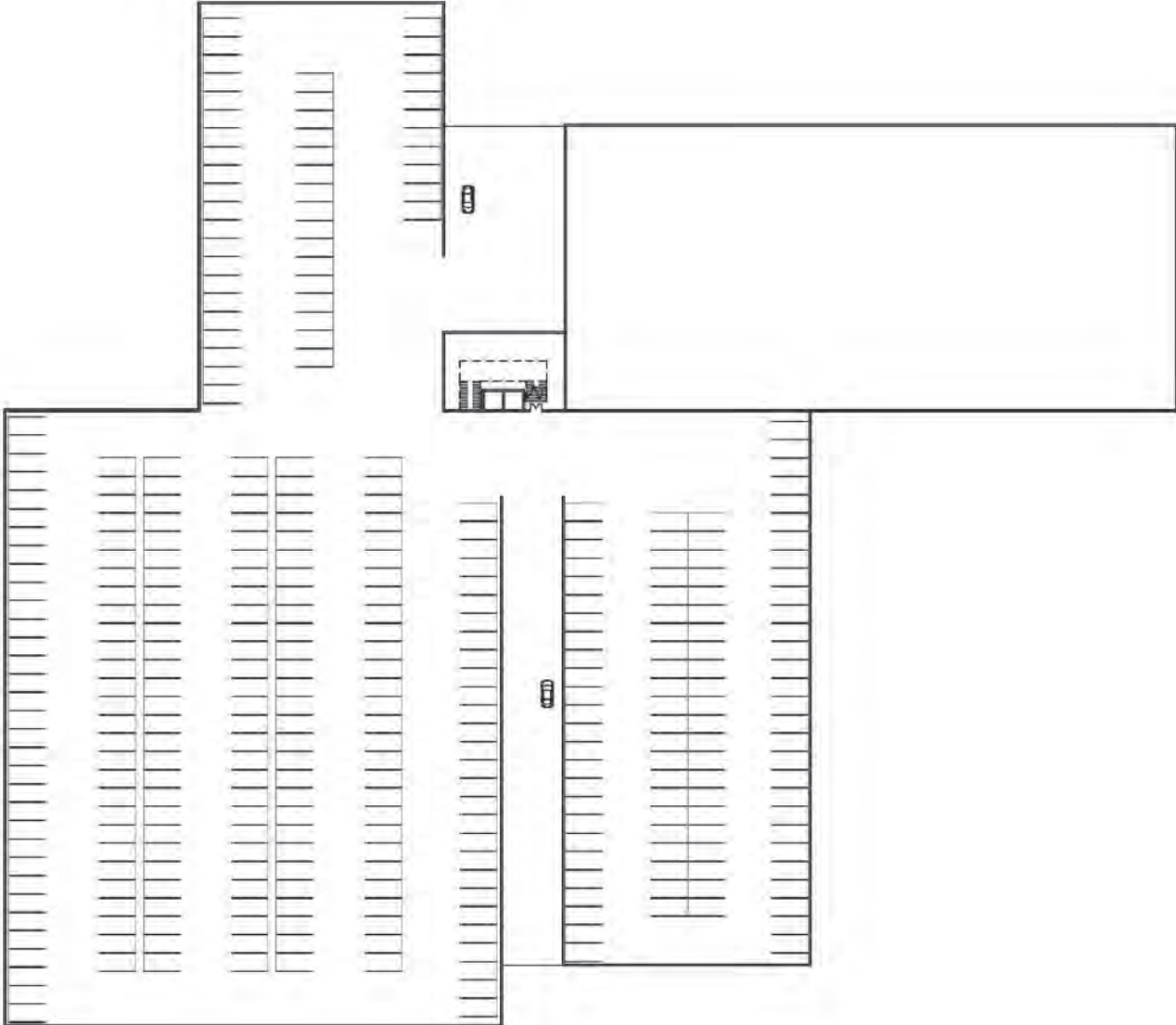
3D AXON OF SITE



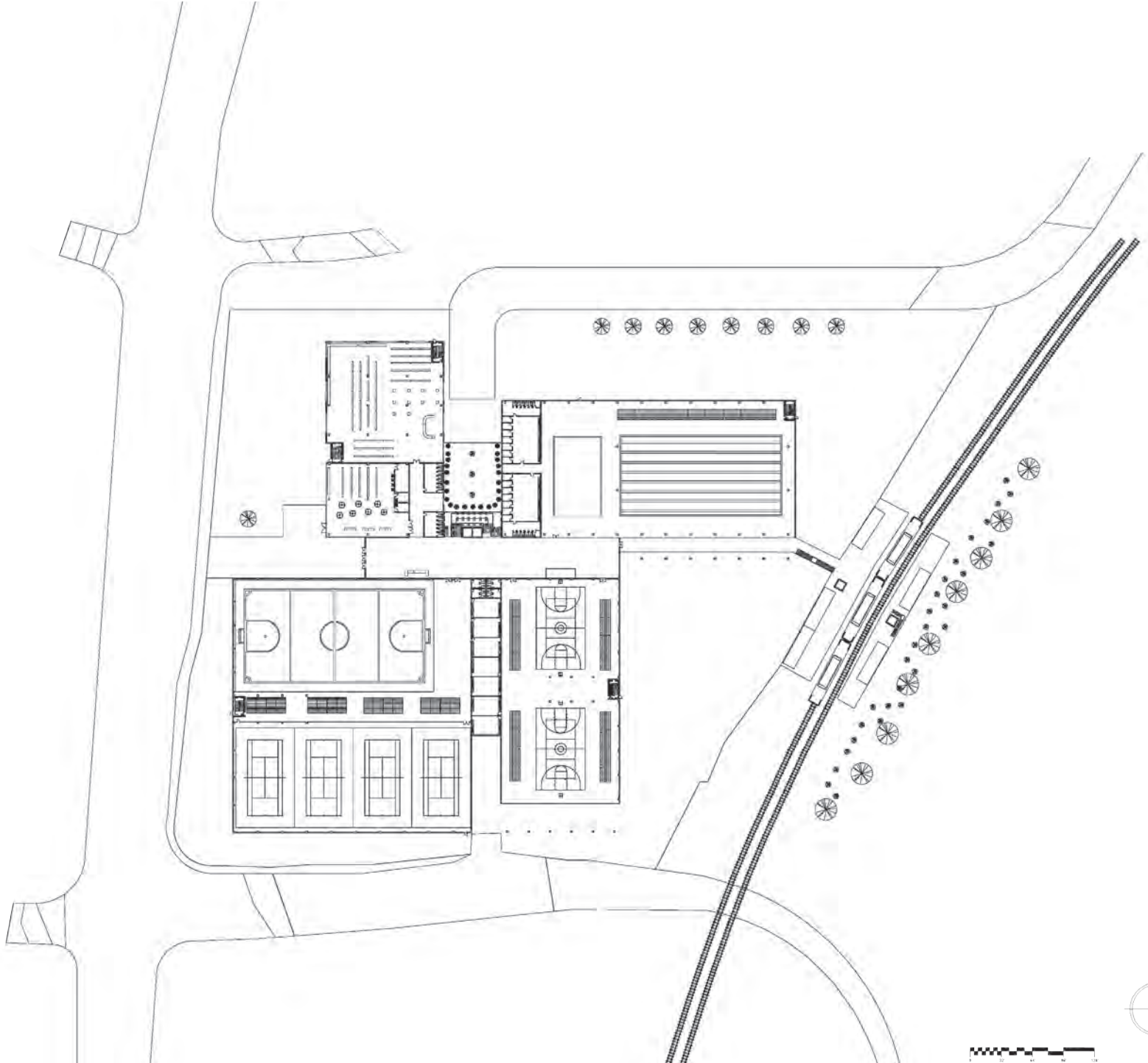
SITE PLAN



**UNDERGROUND PARKING LEVEL
347 SPACES**

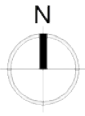
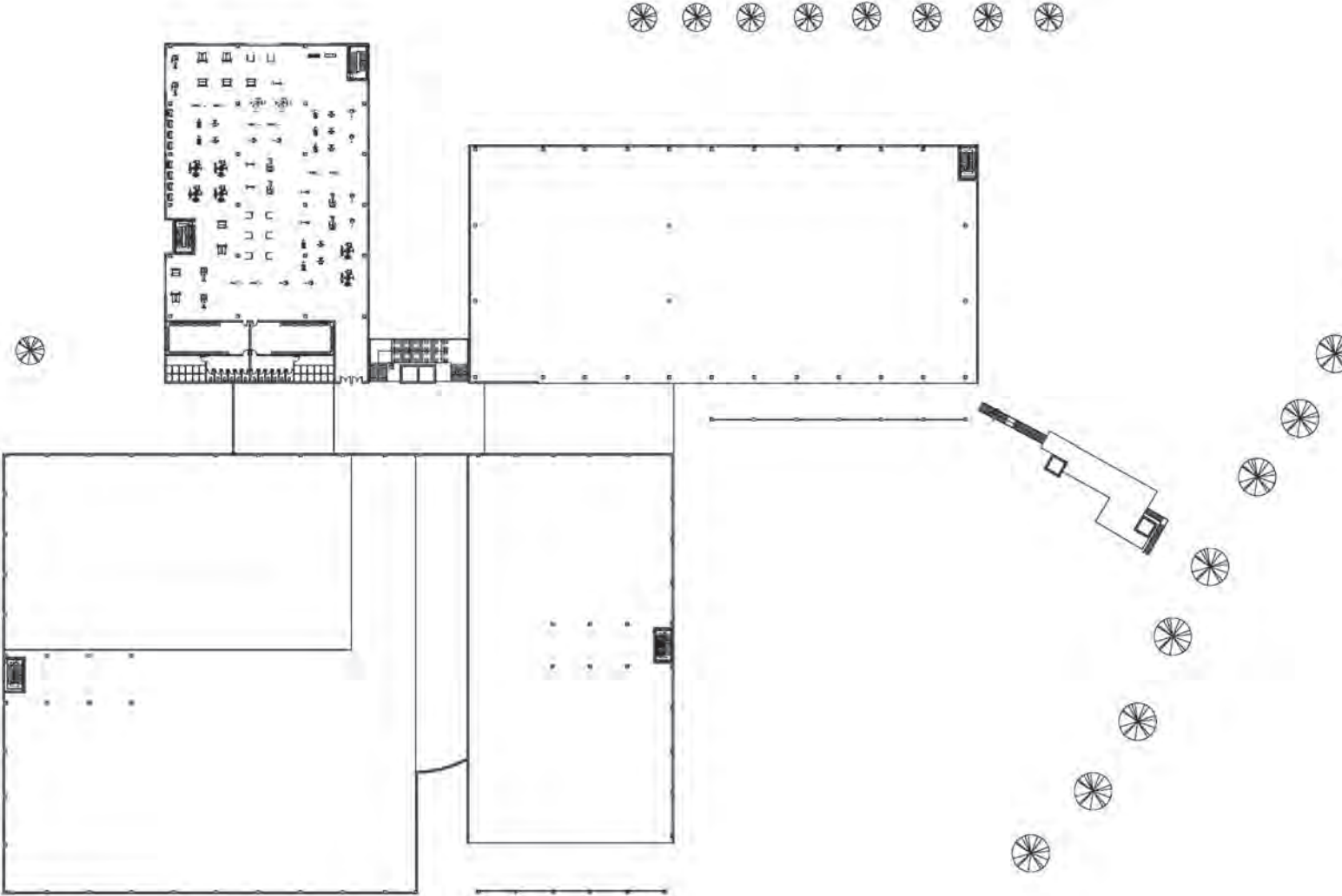


FIRST FLOOR

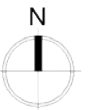
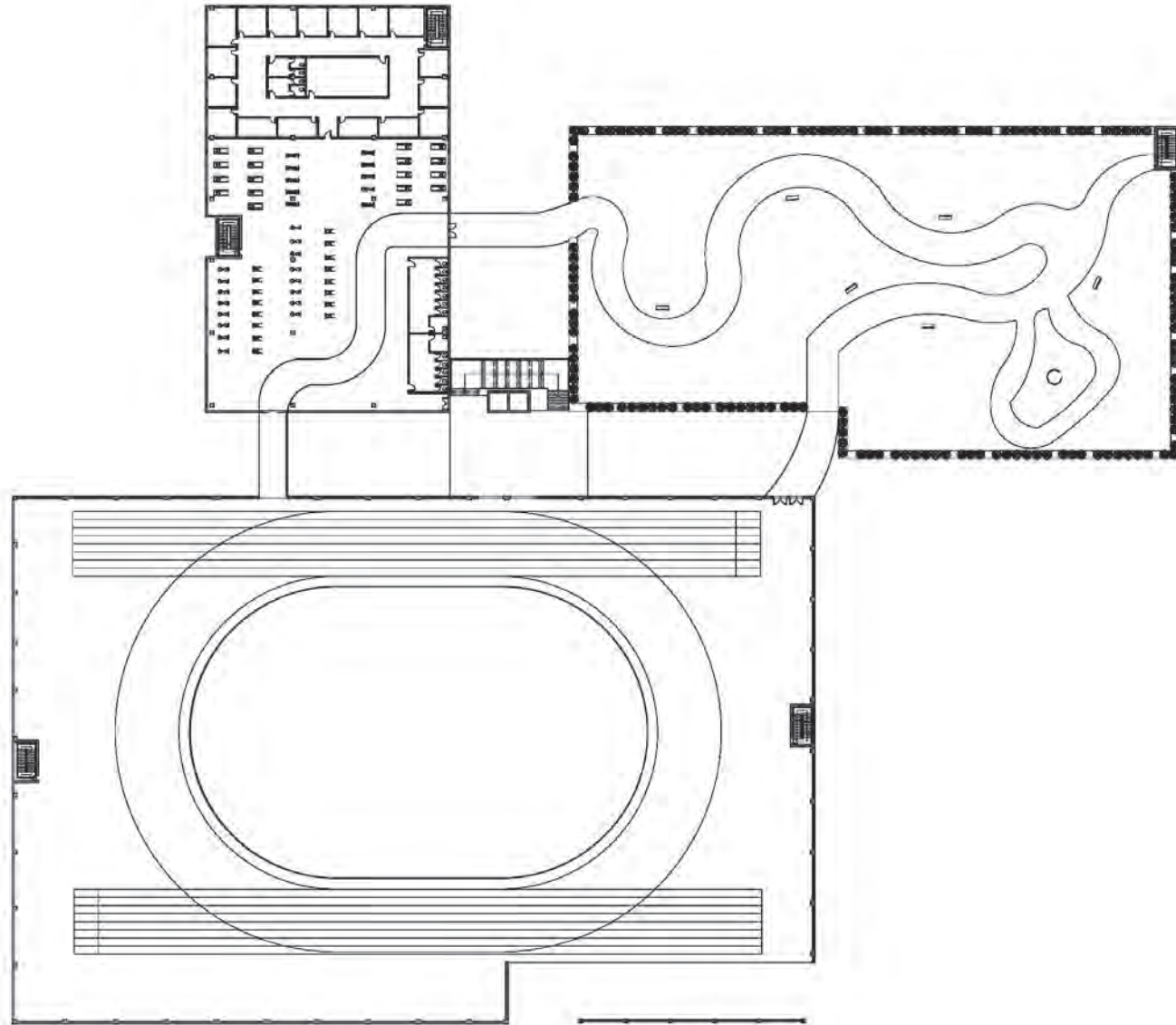


The floor plans for the gate review are much more condensed and efficient than the mid review. Most of the spaces shrunk in size and became much more appropriate in scale. Having the main circulation cut through the building from east to west allows for people to easily travel from the street to the train station as well as branch off to any space in the building. Creating the locker room and bathroom cores helped to further delineate the spaces and create 3 distinct masses. Because of the height needed for the gymnasium, diving pool, tennis courts, and indoor soccer field, the only place to really put a “second floor” was above the library. The third floor is where the 3 masses become the most distinct yet they are all connected by the bridges of the walking path allowing visitors to easily go from one place to the next.

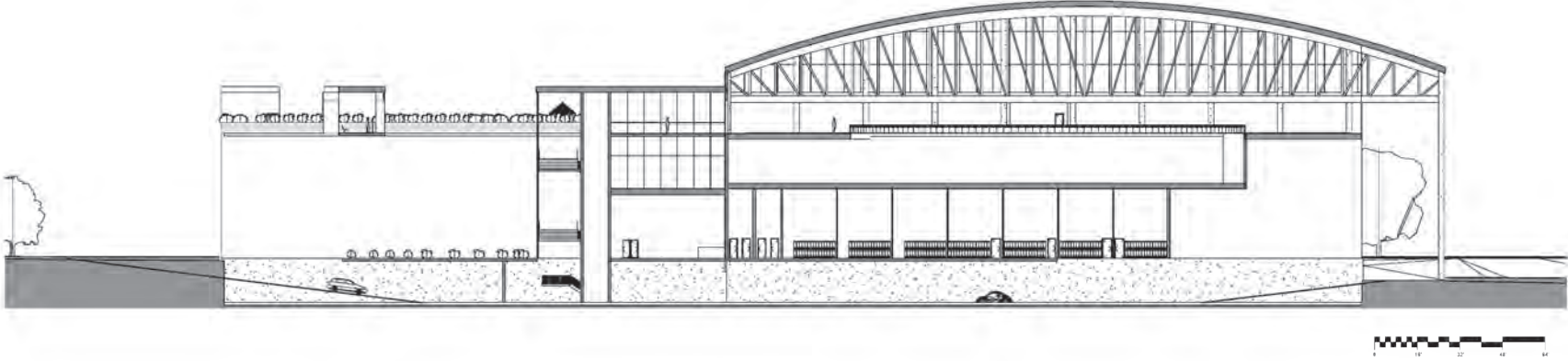
SECOND FLOOR



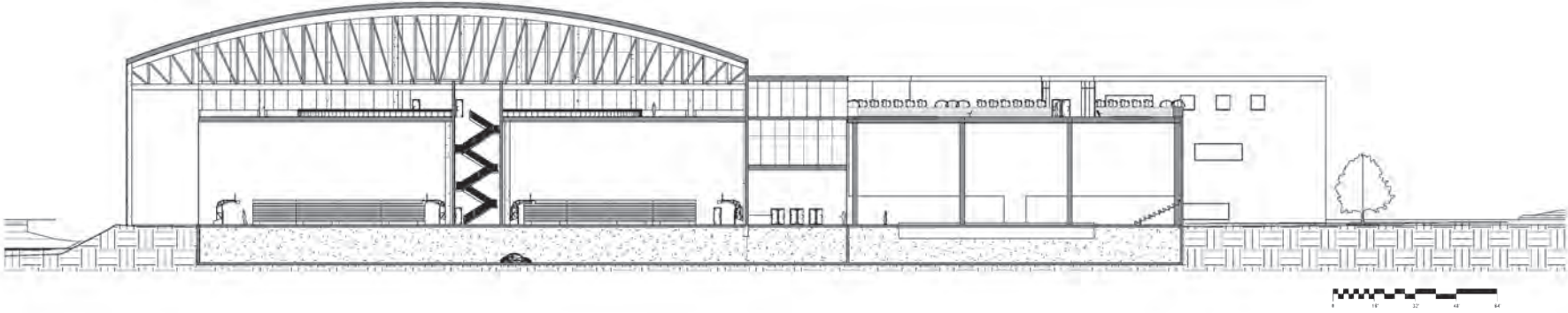
THIRD FLOOR



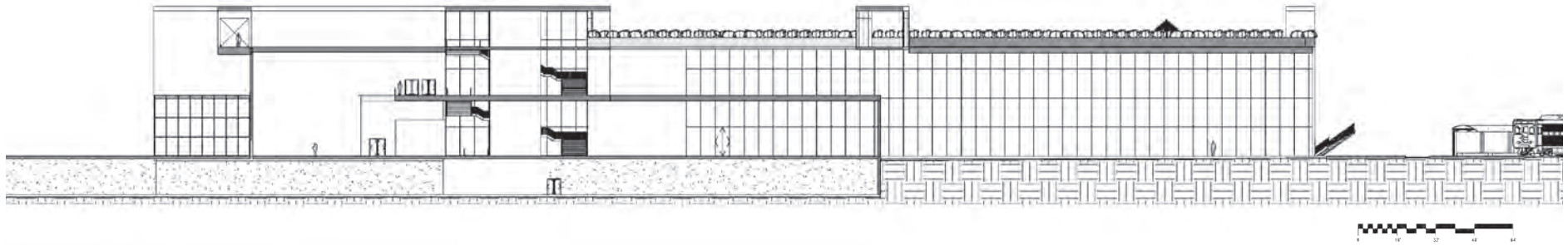
SECTION THROUGH ENTRIES TO PARKING LEVEL



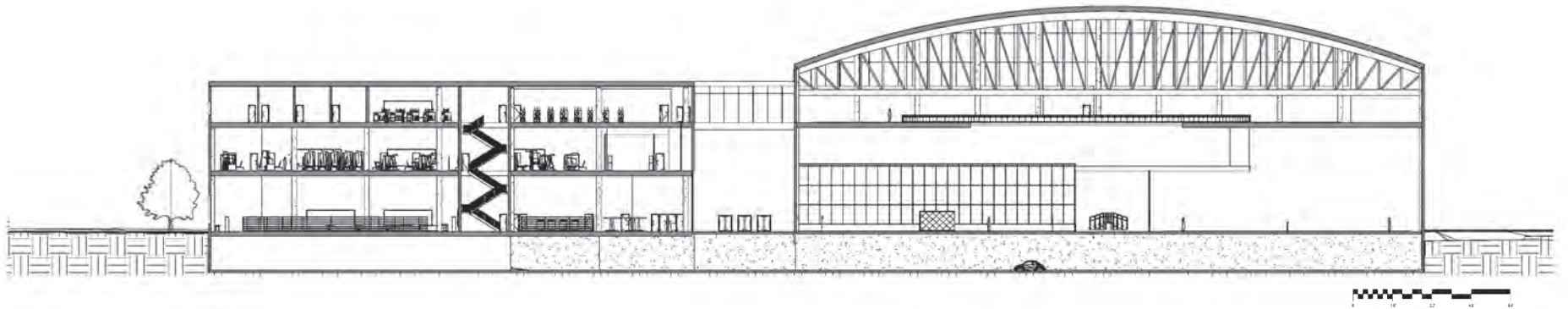
SECTION THROUGH ATHLETIC SPACE AND POOL



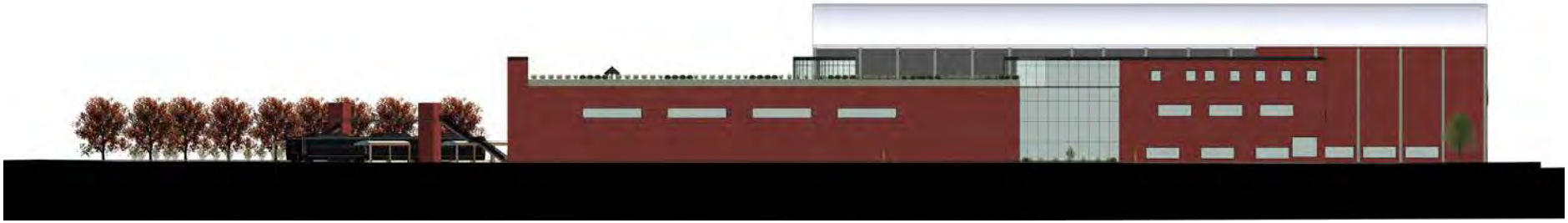
SECTION THROUGH LOBBY



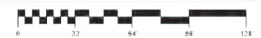
SECTION THROUGH LIBRARY AND FITNESS CENTER



NORTH ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION

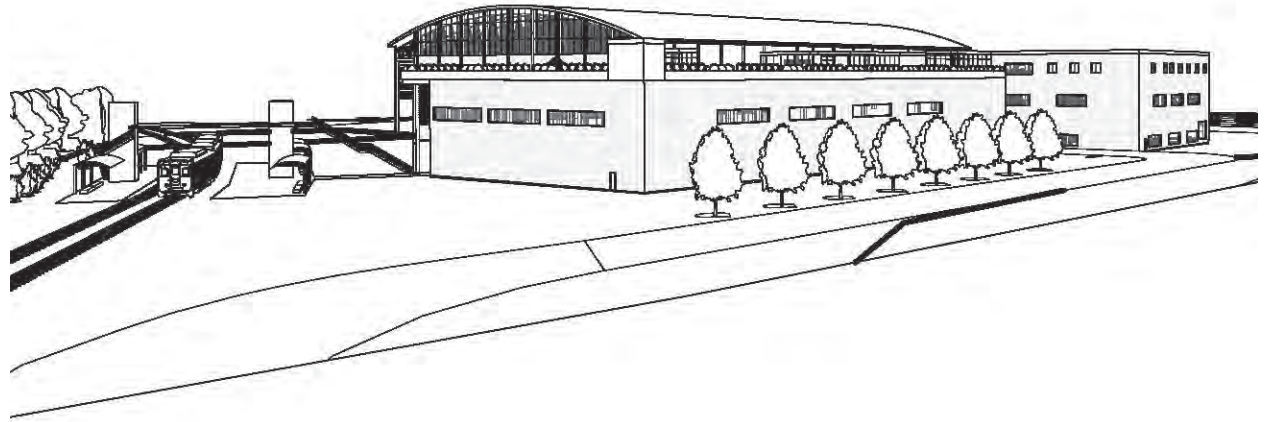


EAST ELEVATION



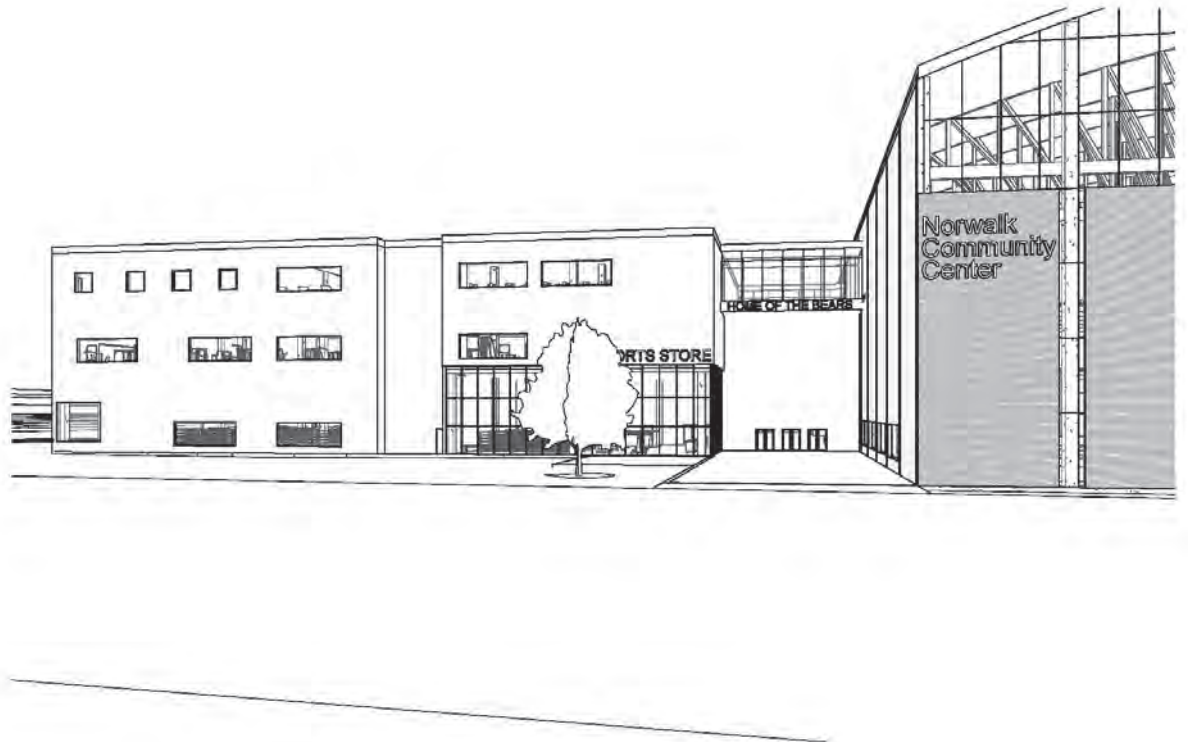
VIEW FROM I-95

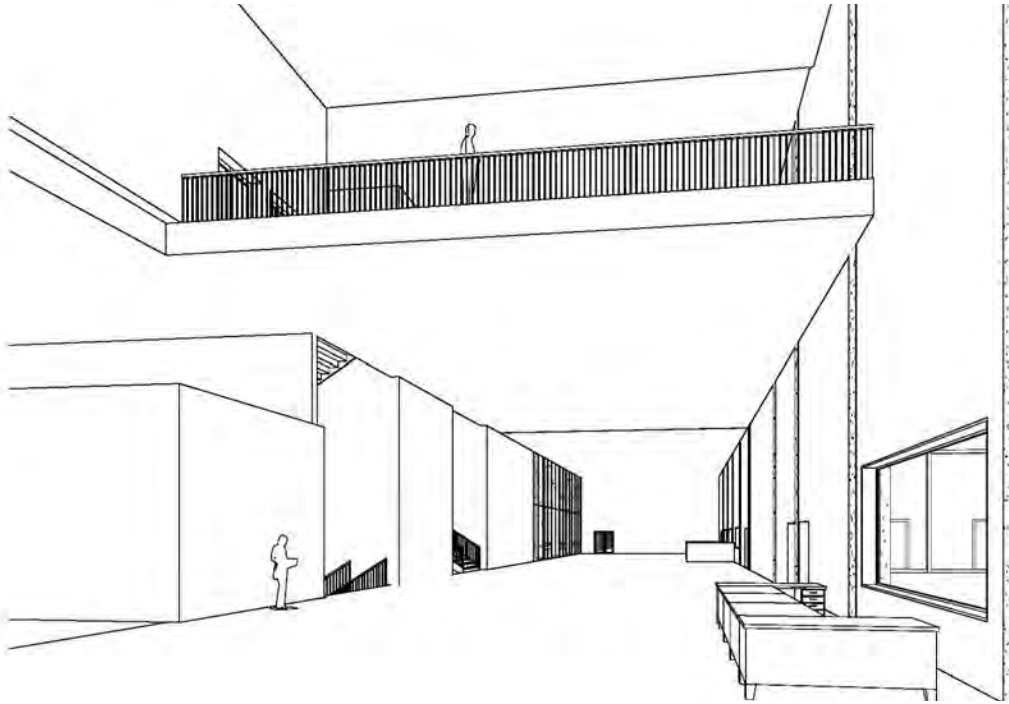
I wanted the building to have a presence from the highway and placing the roof garden closest to it with the arch from the track looming behind it allows for that presence to come through.



VIEW FROM WEST AVE LOOKING AT THE ENTRY

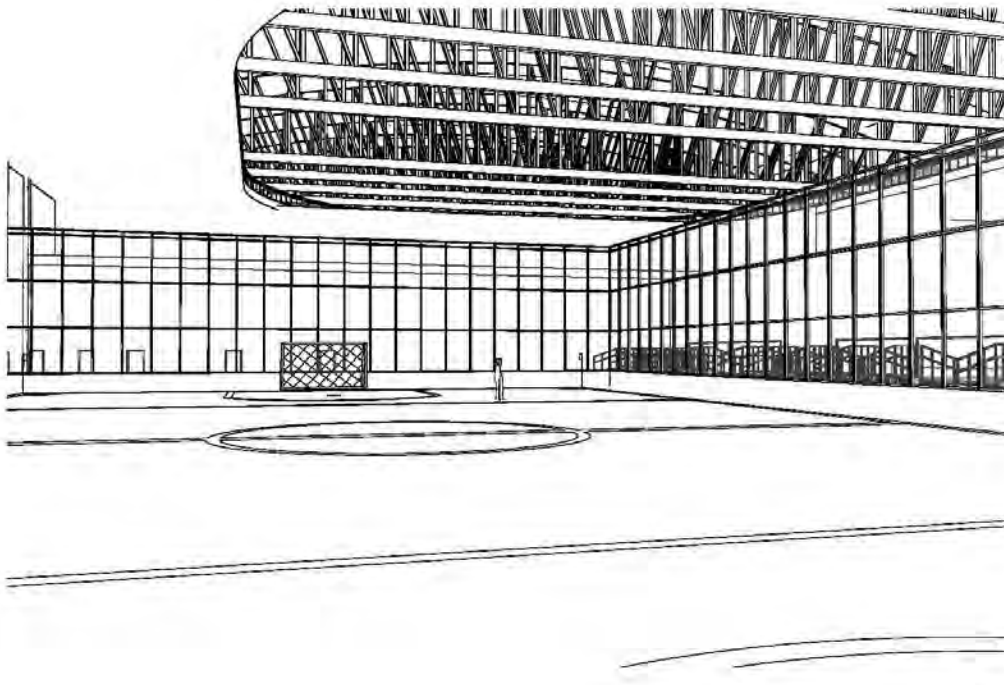
With the entry I still wanted a small plaza feel to it where people would have to walk into the site and past parts of the building before they could enter. Having the store and library right next to the entrance allows for them to be seen by all visitors.





VIEW OF LOBBY

I wanted to have views from every floor to look back at the lobby. It is located right on the main circulation access this way it can be visible to everyone for anything they may need.

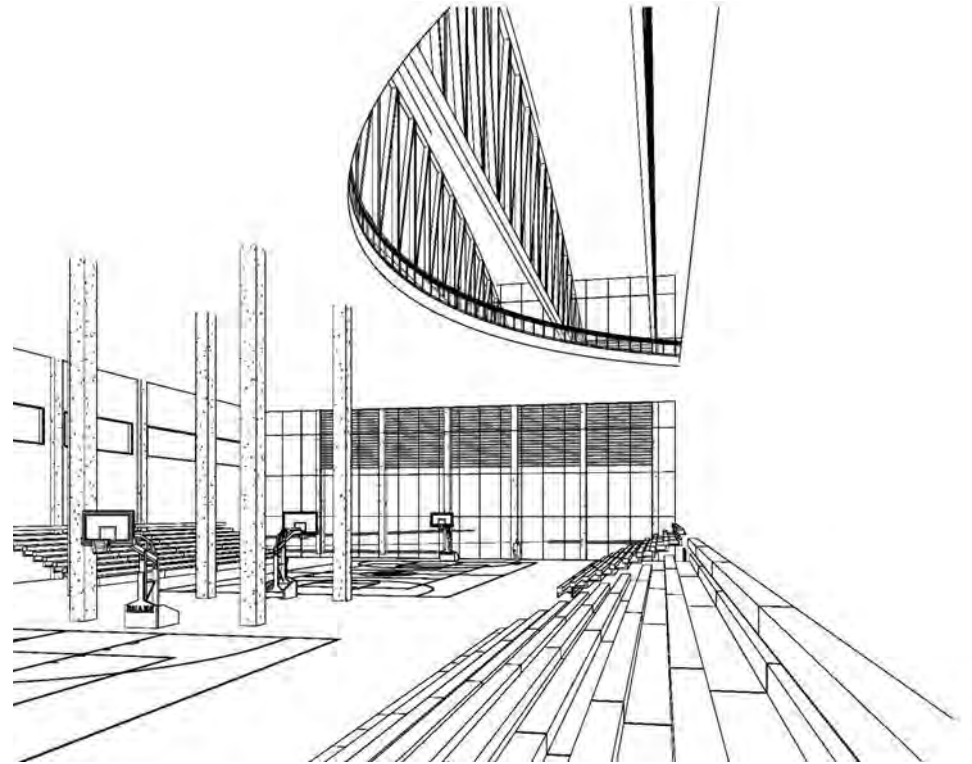


VIEW OF SOCCER FIELD

The soccer field is enclosed with Plexiglas that is used for hockey arenas. The track area can be seen above and bleachers run the length of the field.

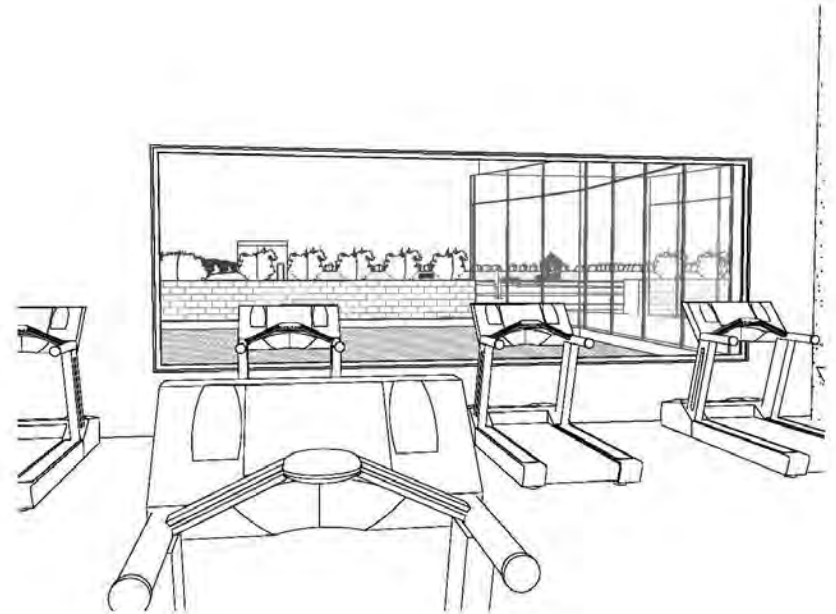
VIEW OF GYM FROM BLEACHERS WITH TRACK ABOVE

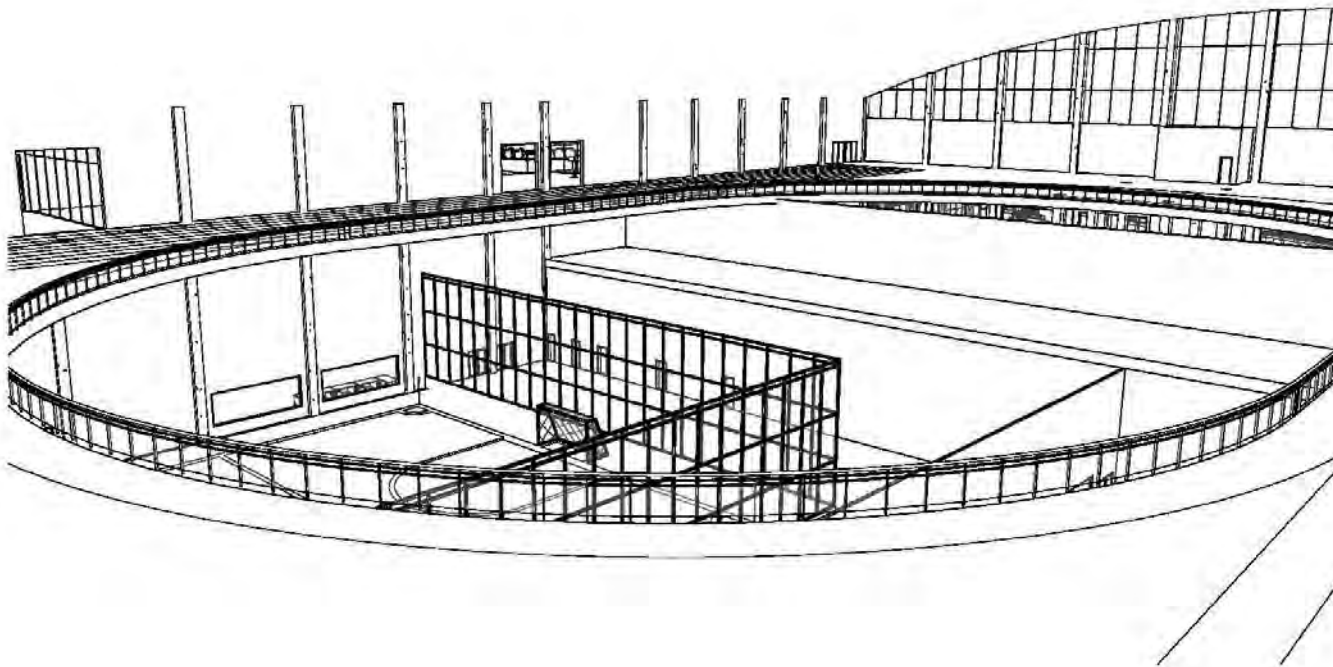
For the gym I have stands on both sides with a curtain wall on the south side allowing light to enter the space.



VIEW OF ROOF GARDEN FROM TREADMILL

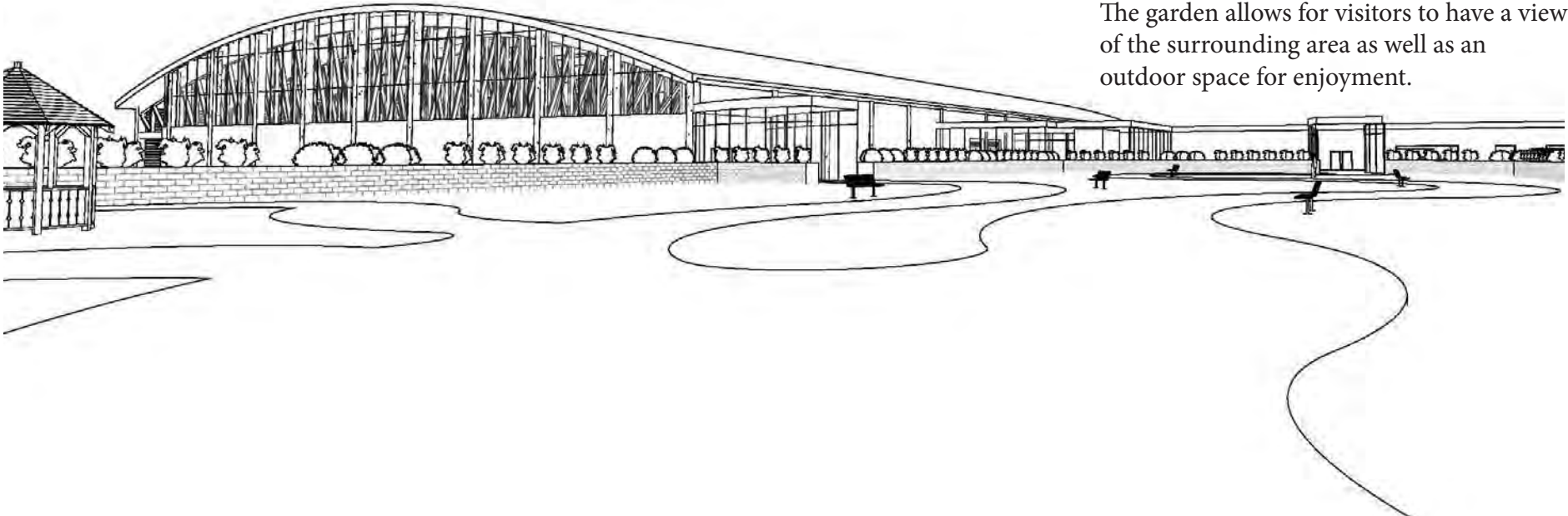
For the exercise area I wanted most of the equipment to face in this direction where they would be facing the roof garden and would be able to see the river out on the horizon as well.





VIEW OF SOCCER FIELD FROM TRACK

The goal here was to have the athletic spaces be intertwined to a degree where they have a relationship to one another.



VIEW OF ROOFTOP GARDEN

The garden allows for visitors to have a view of the surrounding area as well as an outdoor space for enjoyment.

III.

FINAL REVIEW

For the final review the building became flipped as the main athletic space moved from the south side of the site to the north near the highway. The library moved to the southeast on the corner of West Ave and Reed St in order to give that educational piece a larger presence to the public. The main axis from the street to the train station as well as the vehicular entrance to the underground parking remains the same. Adjacent to the train station is now a drop off and pick-up area. The entrance is now delineated with a reflecting pool and a row of trees.

3D AXON

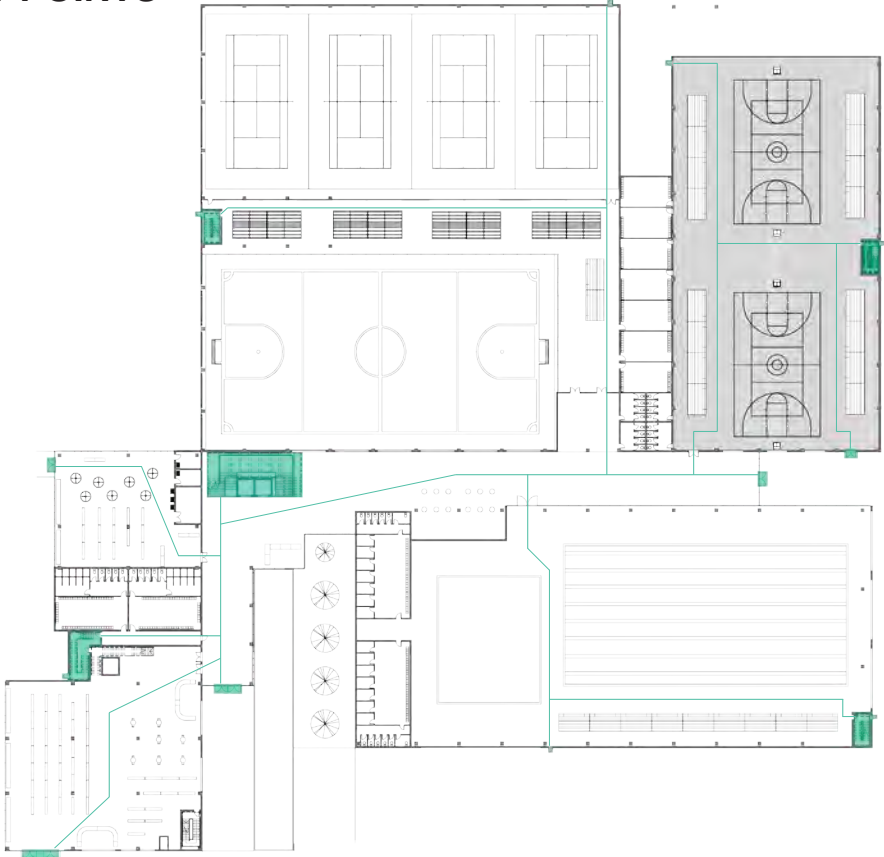


SITE PLAN



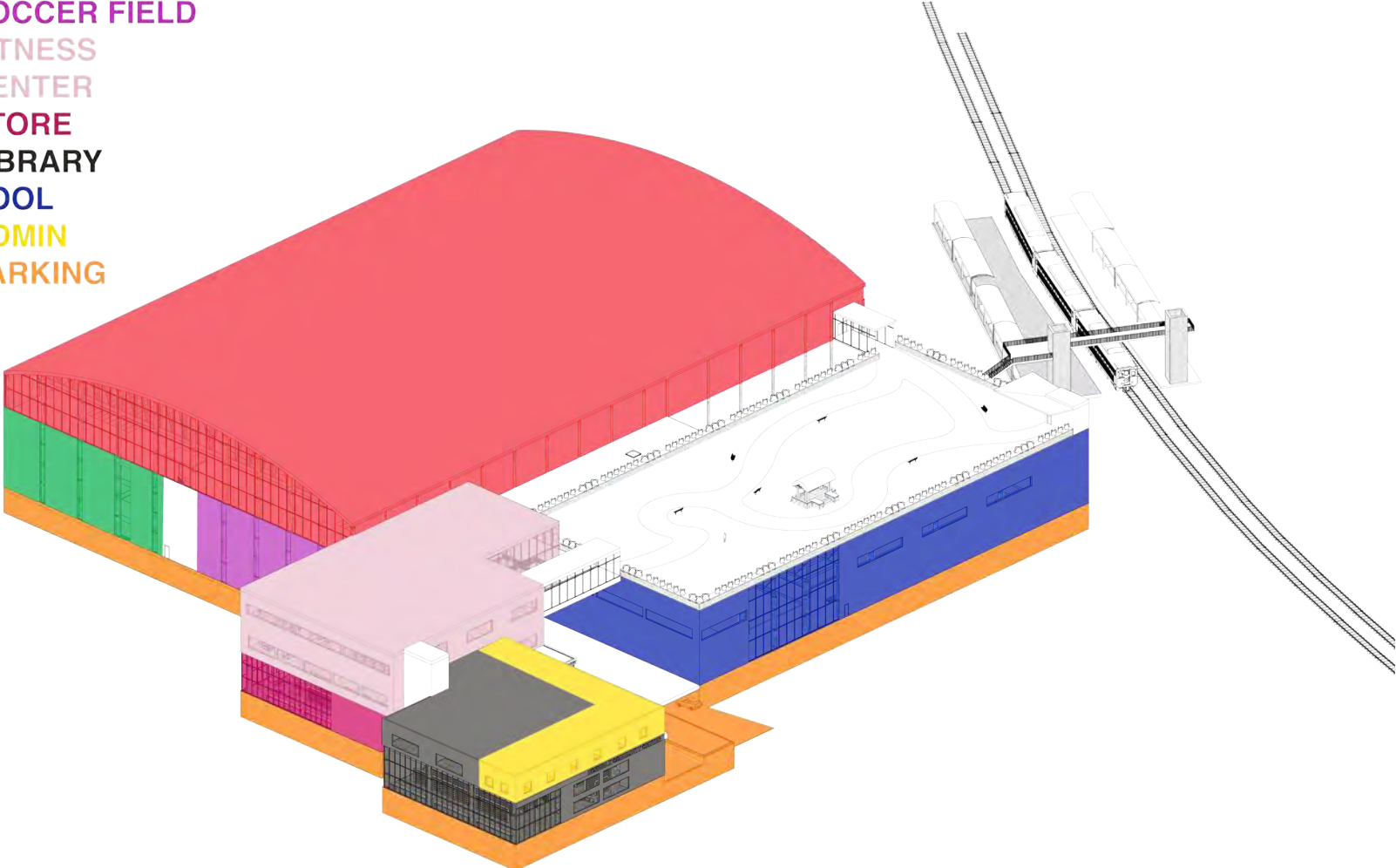
CIRCULATION AND EXIT POINTS

AXIS

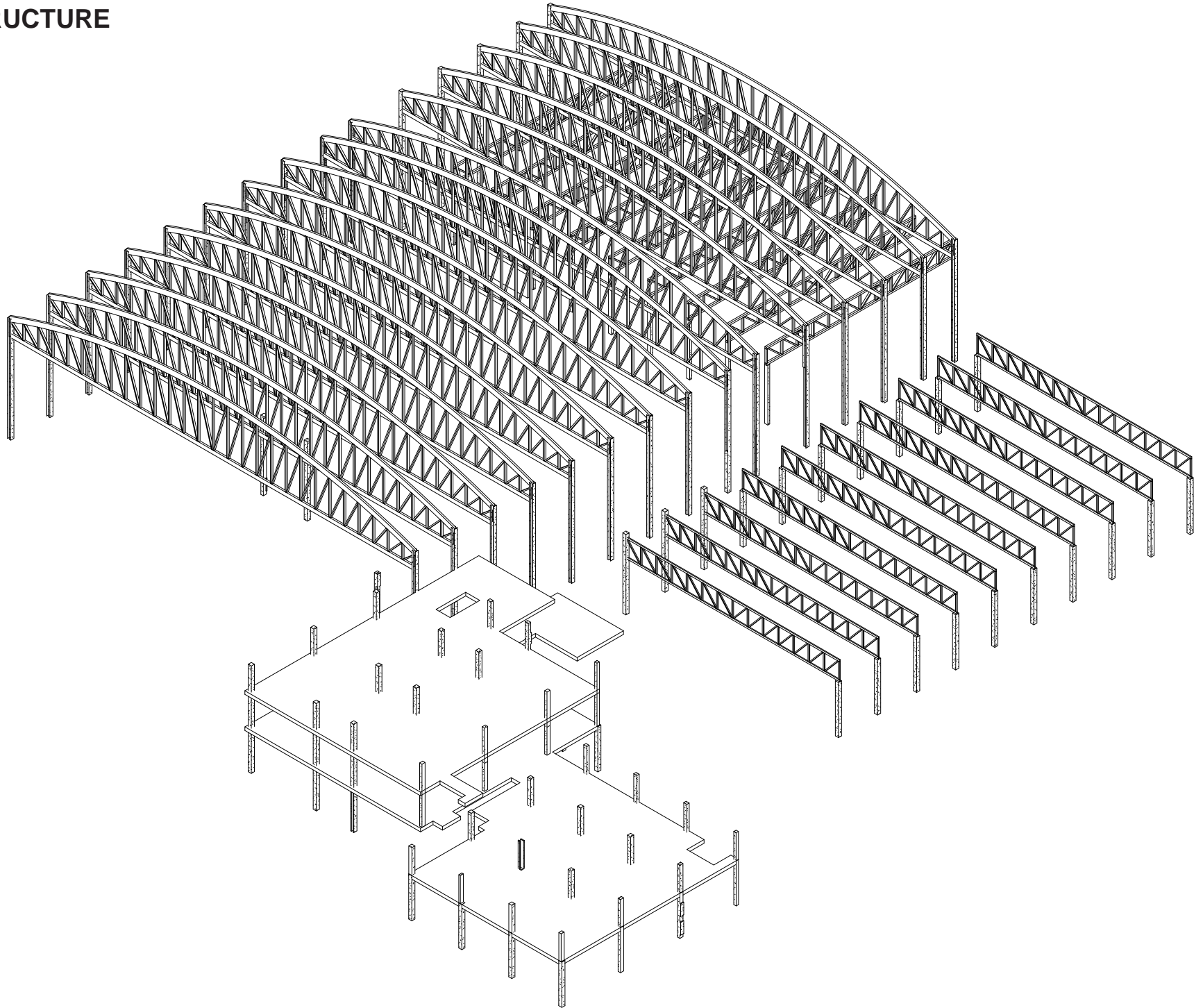


PROGRAM

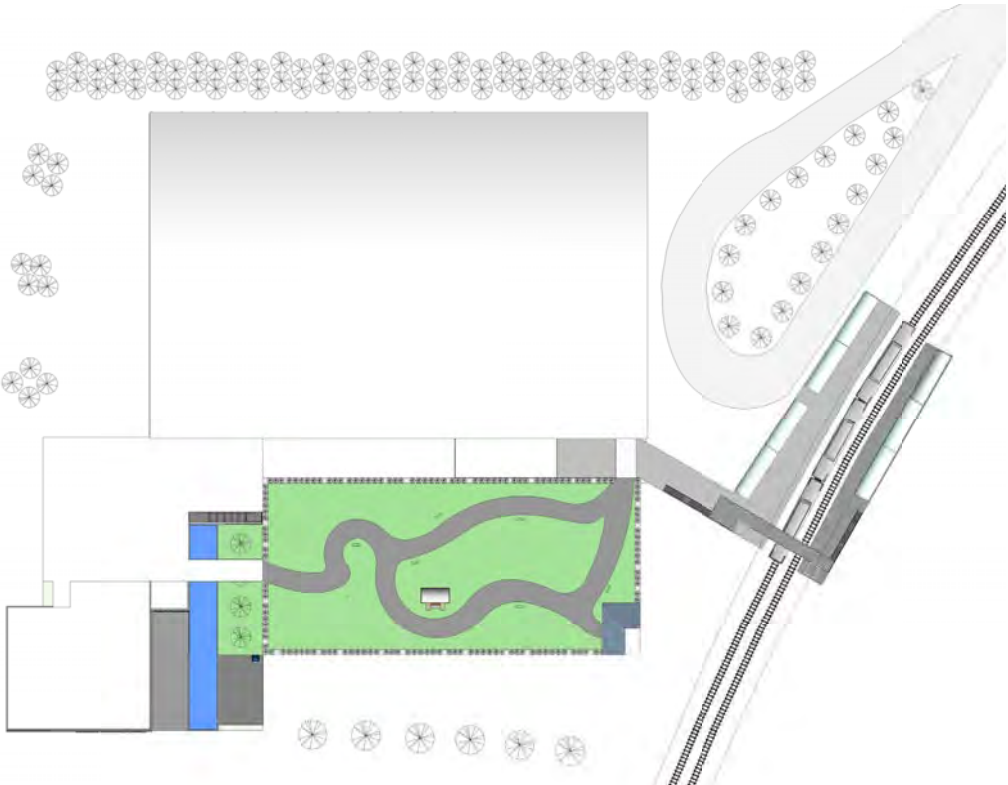
- TRACK
- TENNIS COURTS
- SOCCER FIELD
- FITNESS
- CENTER
- STORE
- LIBRARY
- POOL
- ADMIN
- PARKING



STRUCTURE



NATURAL ELEMENTS

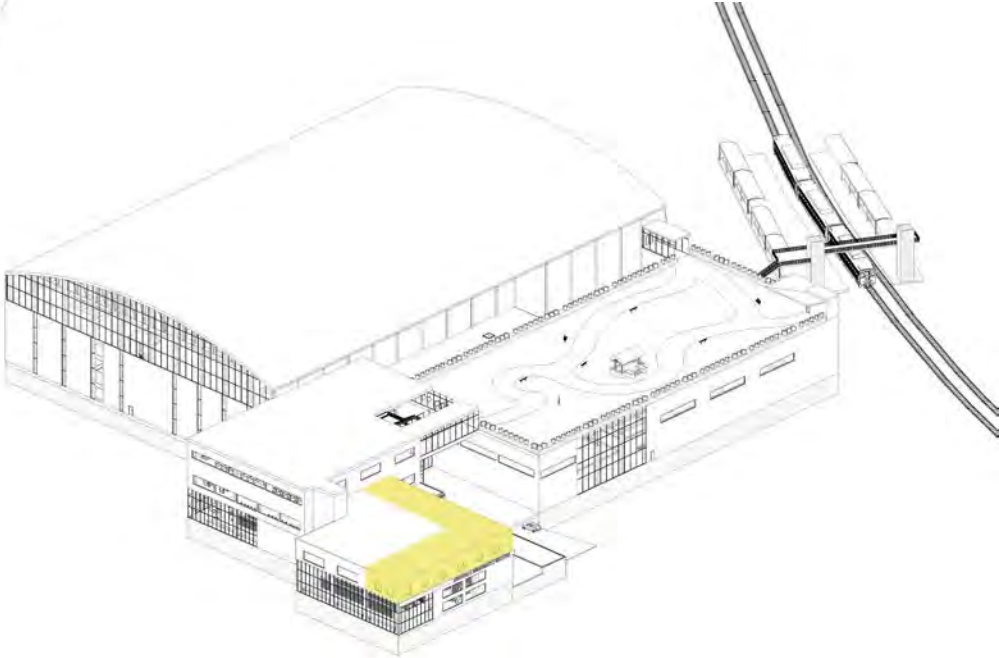


Green- grass for rooftop garden and entryway

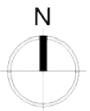
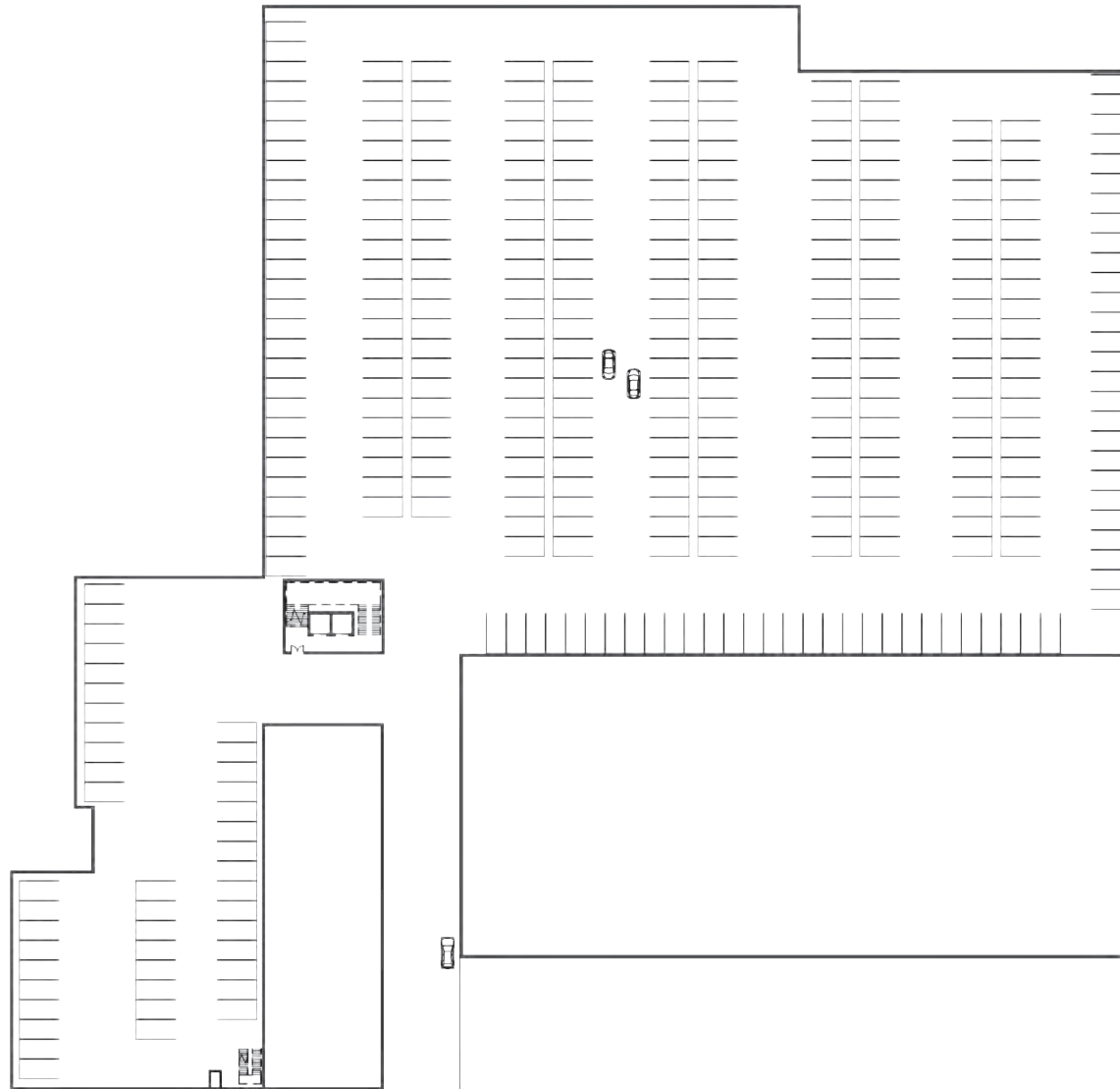
Blue- reflecting pool

PUBLIC/PRIVATE

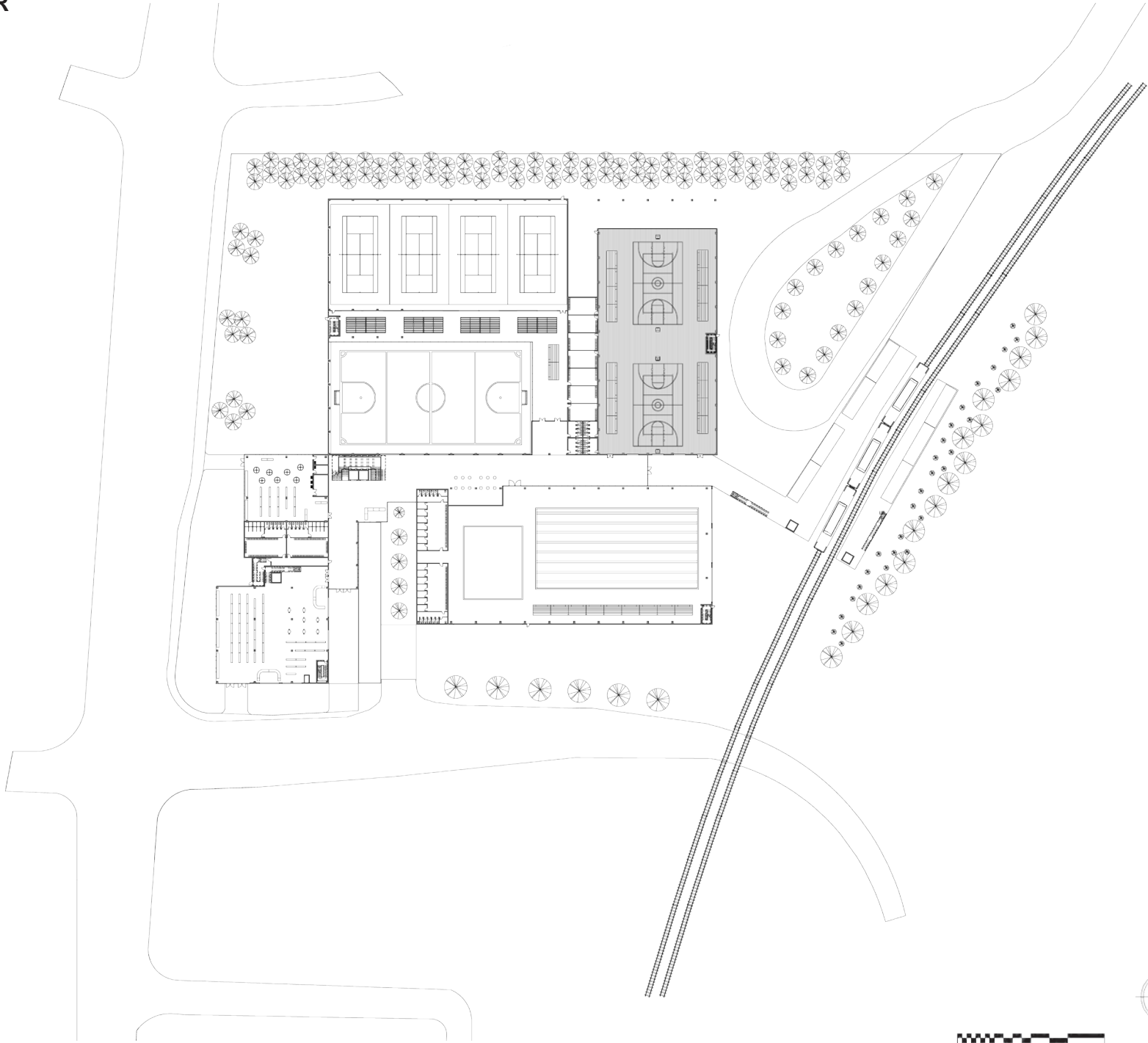
Yellow- Private
Black&White- Public



**UNDERGROUND PARKING LEVEL
366 SPACES**

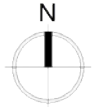
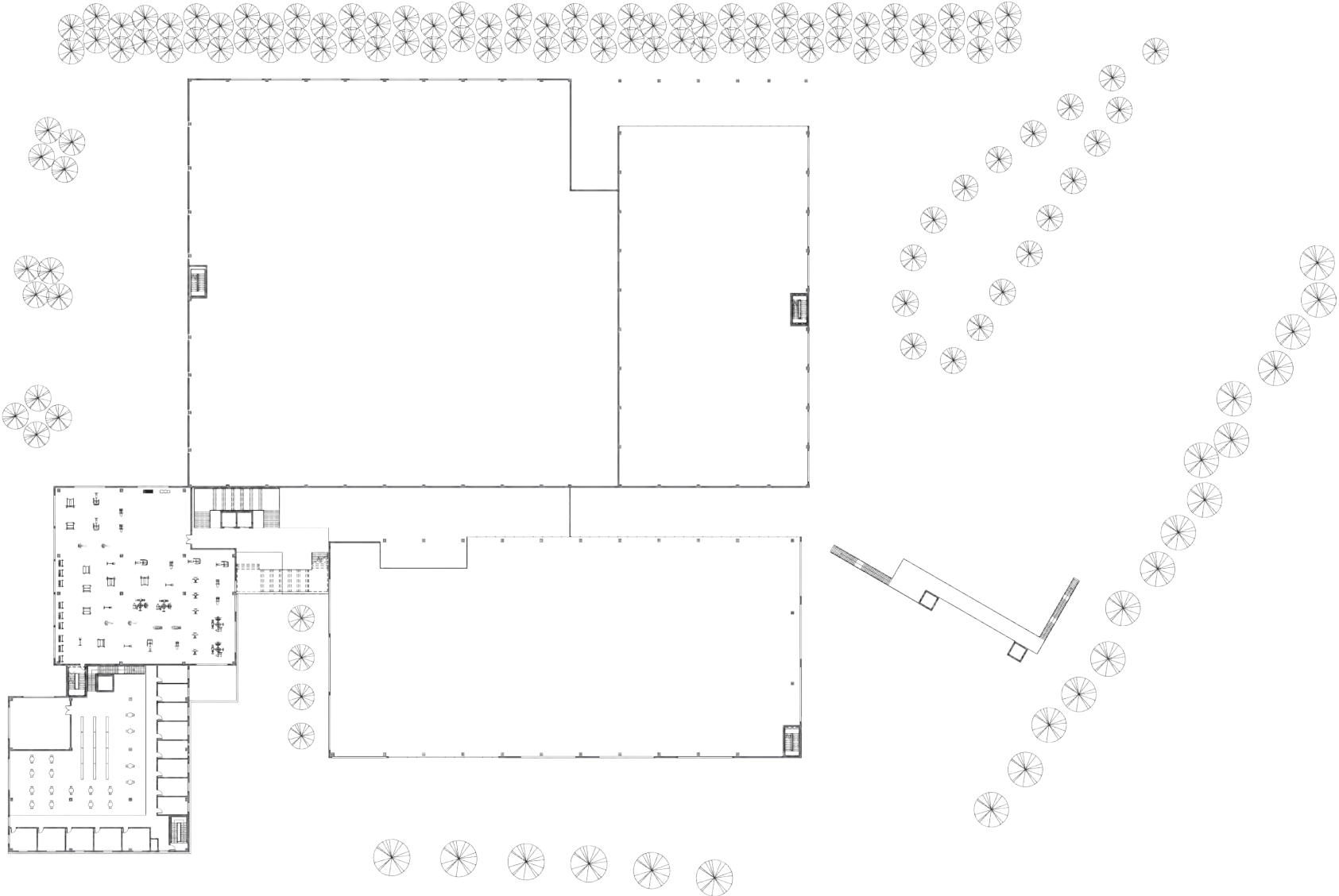


FIRST FLOOR

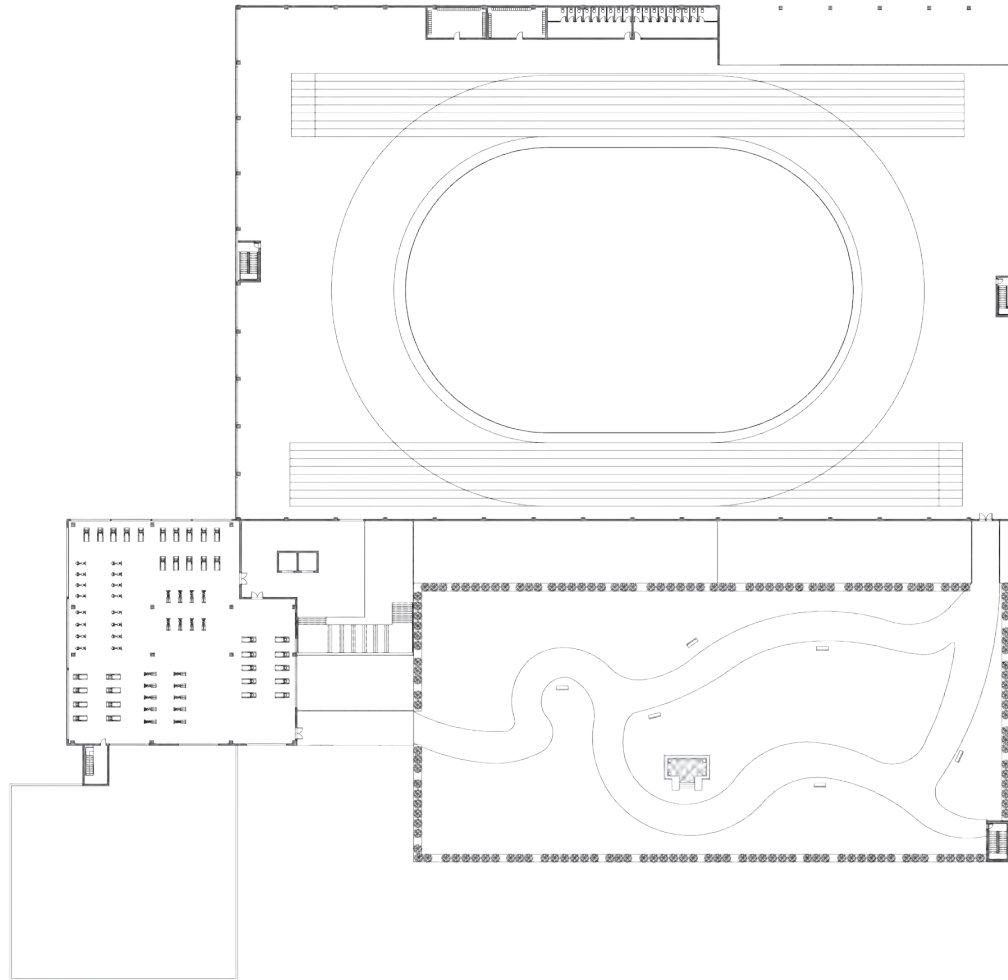


The floor plans for the final review are fairly similar to the gate review. Everything on the north side flipped to the south and vice versa, that way the entry could become more defined as well as the library and store being the most prominent features to West Ave. Due to the flip the bridges on the 3rd floor had to be rearranged as well as the envelope design. The louver system in place was no longer necessary as the curtain walls all flipped to become north facing.

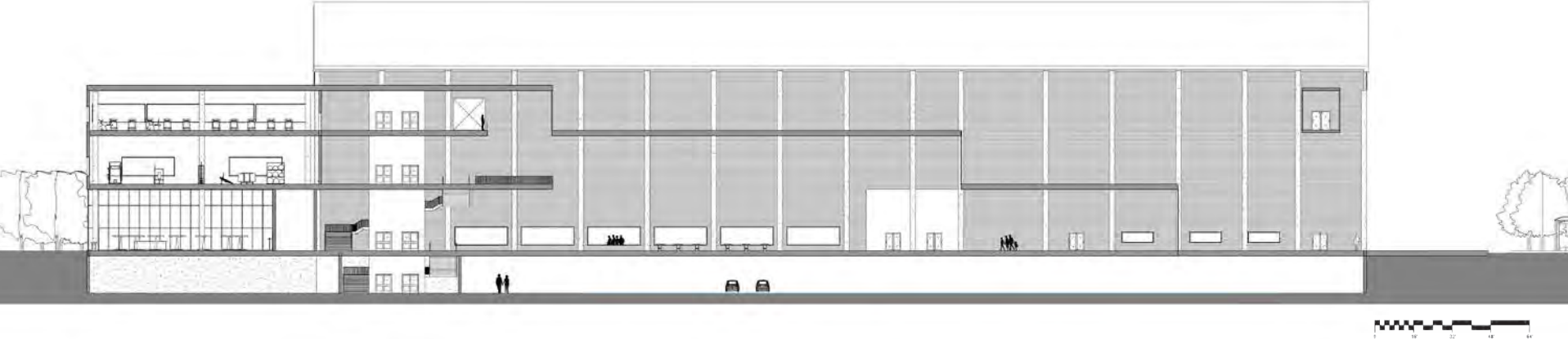
SECOND FLOOR



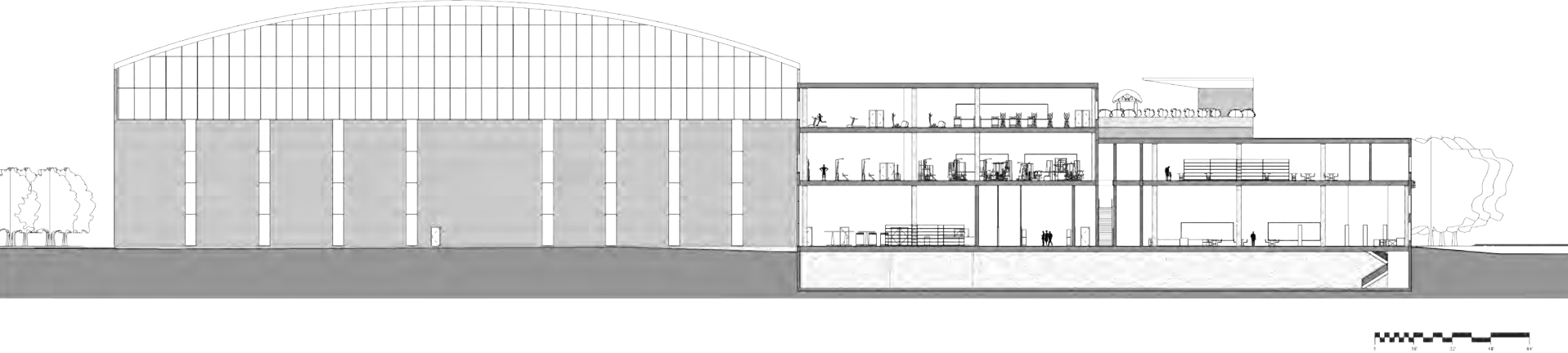
THIRD FLOOR



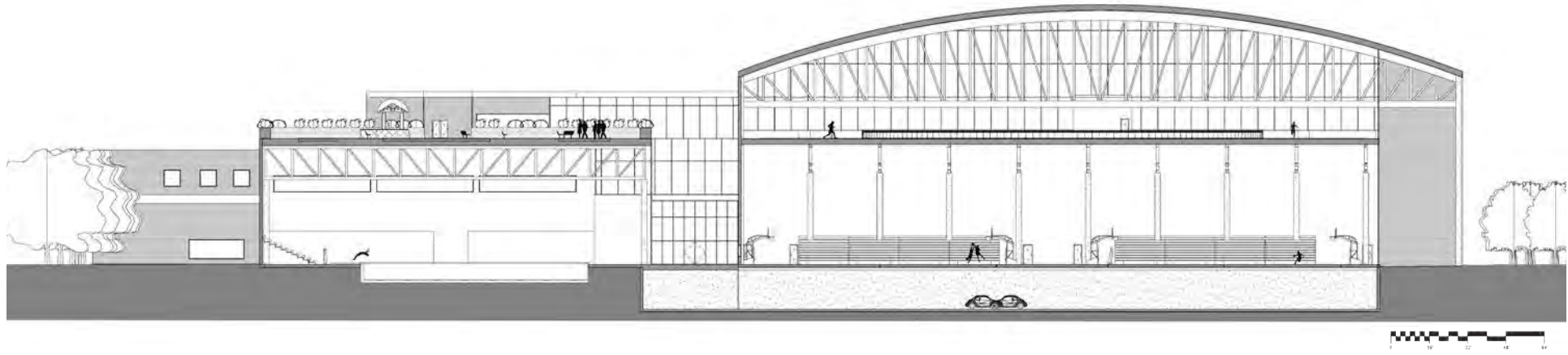
SECTION THROUGH LOBBY



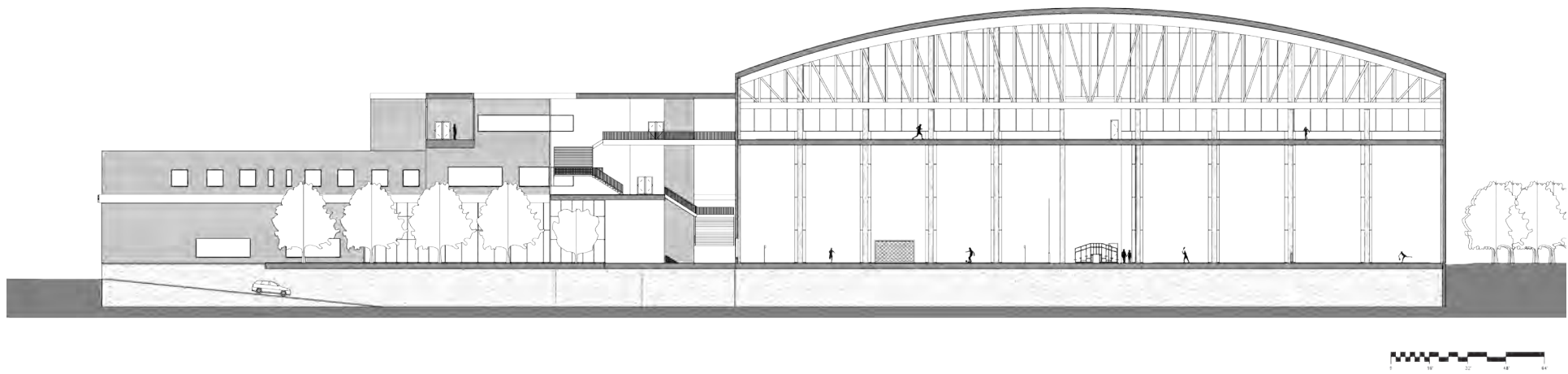
SECTION THROUGH LIBRARY, FITNESS CENTER AND DEPARTMENT STORE



**SECTION THROUGH ATHLETIC SPACE
AND POOL**



**SECTION THROUGH RAMP
TO PARKING**



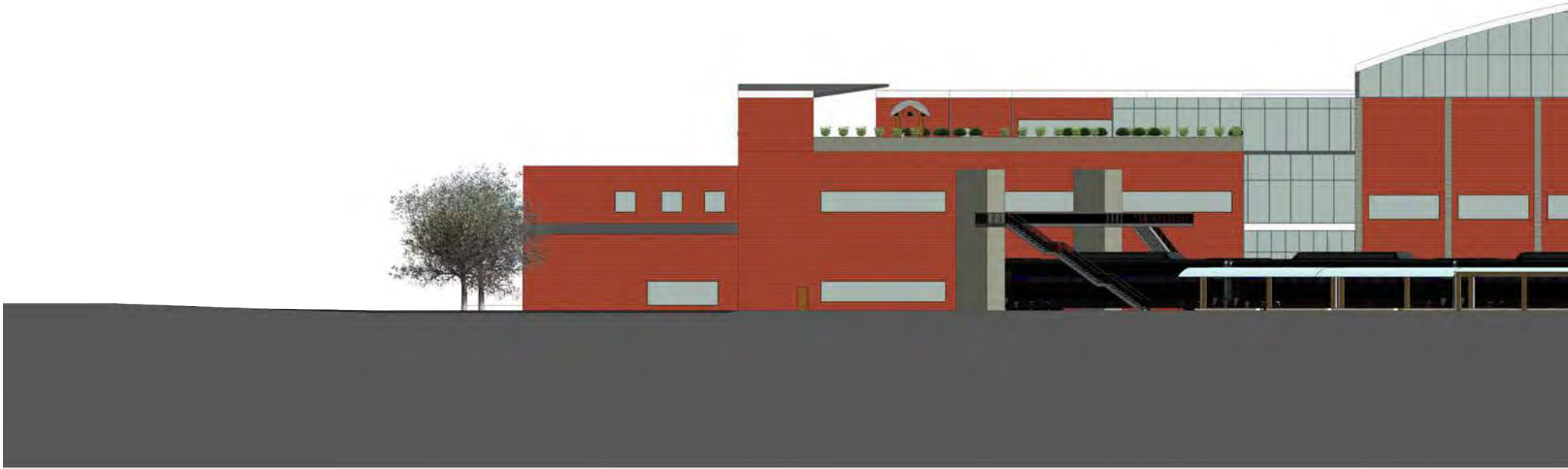


NORTH ELEVATION

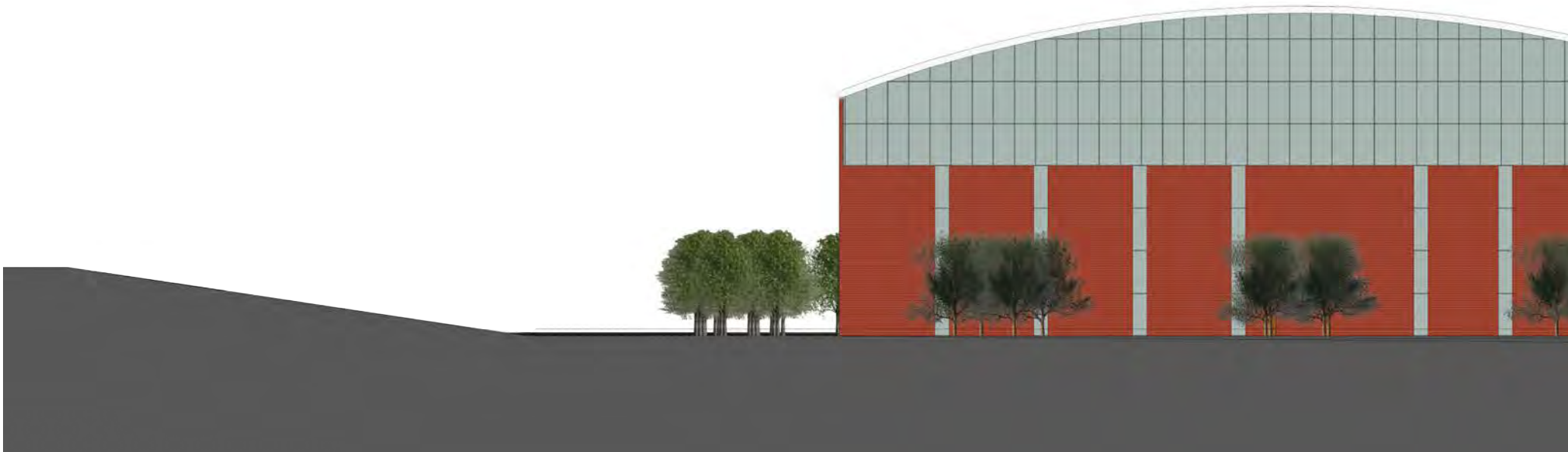


SOUTH ELEVATION

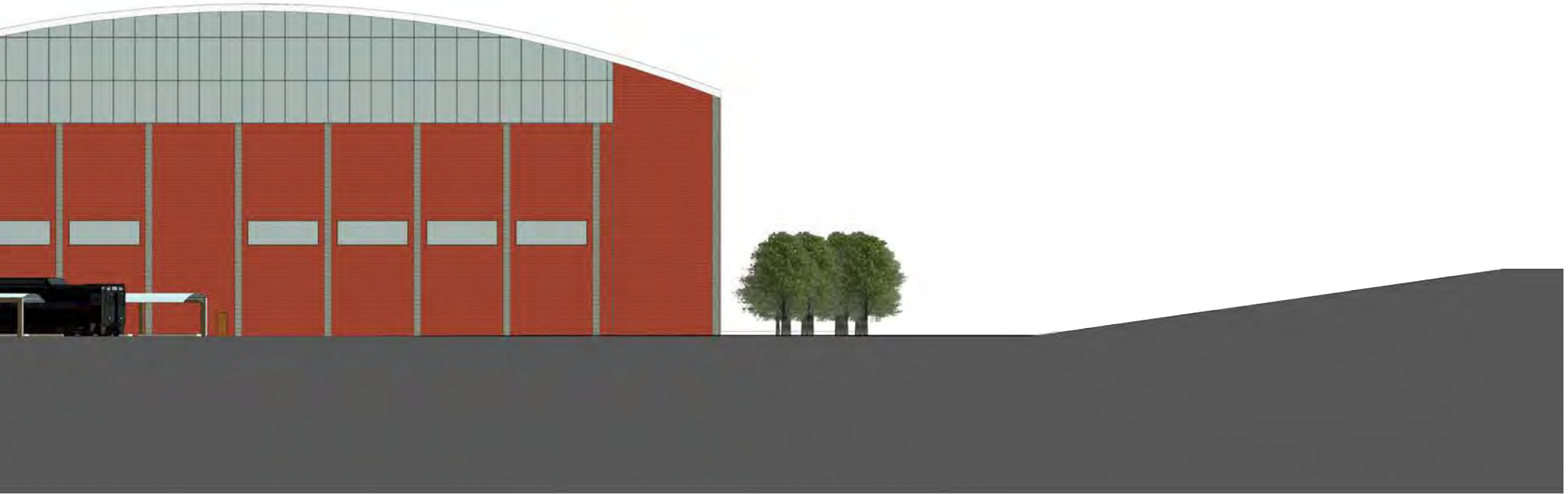


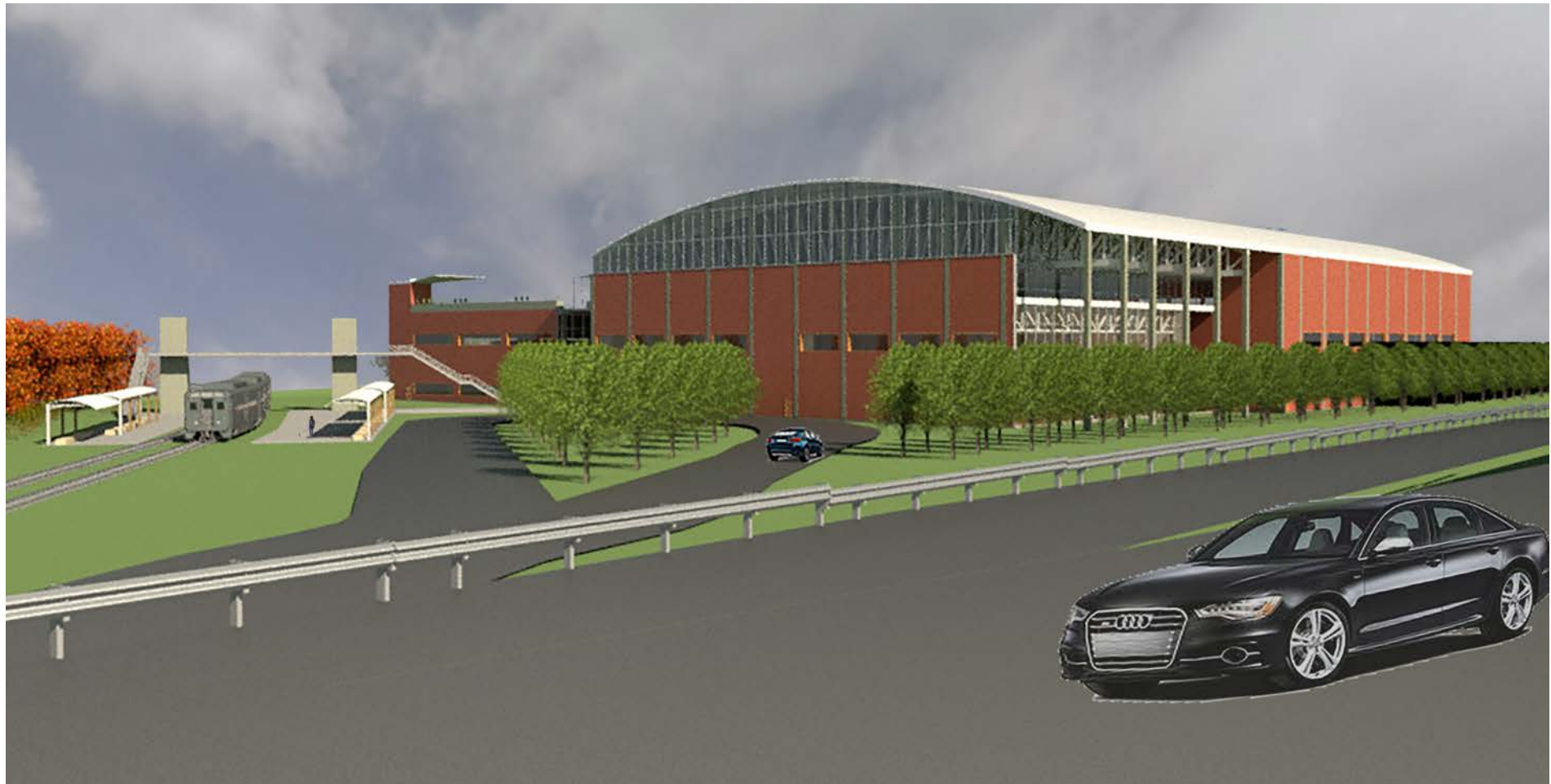


EAST ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION





**VIEW FROM I-95 OF THE
DROP OFF/PICK UP AREA**

From here the pick-up drop-off area for the train station can be clearly seen as well as the main athletic space drawing people's eyes.



**VIEW FROM REED ST OF ENTRY TO
THE BUILDING AND PARKING BELOW**

I wanted the entry way to be clearly delineated and have a barrier between it and the vehicular entrance with the reflective pool. Having the library adjacent to the entrance allows for easy access for all visitors



VIEW OF LOBBY

The lobby is the first main space one sees when entering and is the focal point of the layout. Two main corridors meet here where the vertical circulation is located allowing for easy way-finding.



VIEW OF SOCCER FIELD

The soccer field is enclosed in Plexiglas used in hockey rinks and is in the open athletic space beneath the track. It can be used for both leagues and training camps for kids and adults.



**VIEW OF BASKETBALL COURTS
FROM THE BLEACHERS**

Two regulation sized courts are located with a north facing curtain wall. The lockers are located behind the bleachers and this space is a part of the open athletic space with the track above.



**VIEW FROM SECONDARY ENTRANCE HEADING TOWARDS
THE TRAIN STATION**

This walkway from the train station is in between the gymnasium and the pool. It is utilized as a secondary entrance and a bridge to the roof garden can be seen above.



**VIEW OF ROOF GARDEN FROM
TREADMILL IN FITNESS AREA**

For the fitness center the views are either of West Ave. or of the roof garden. The bridge from the fitness center to the roof garden can be seen on the right.



ROOFTOP GARDEN

The rooftop garden has 2 entries as well as a gazebo in the middle and benches along the pathway for relaxation. From here the Norwalk River is visible as well as South Norwalk.



VIEW OF LIBRARY

This is the first floor of the library where the help desk is as well as a majority of the book cases. The second floor is for quieter study and has the classroom

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