The Ameobode

Project Description and Overview - Gilad Frish

In this project, I wanted to directly respond to the major problems that face senior citizens as they age and settle down: Comfortably aging in place, the increase of community, the thinking of private and public spaces; as well as their relationship to ensure a better future for both the community and the individuals. When thinking about site, I came into the search knowing that I wanted a higher number of cottages than the regular amount. I did this purposefully, with the intention of creating a community that is public to the site, but private to the rest of the world, by this idea I created my concept: Public, yet private.

The site I chose is 3333 Truman ST sitting off Commanche and San Mateo. Sitting directly in the middle of a major transit area; allowing me to have the minimal parking on site, relying on street parking to sustain the parking requirements. This site is also in a great location in relation to a few factors: first, the site is sitting directly at the edge of six tennis/pickleball courts, two basketball courts, and a large field that are all directly accessible from the left side of the site. Allowing me to design a threshold that connects those elements into my site. Second, the relationship between site to off – site amenities is important. Just across the street from the site there sits a chain of restaurants and stores that the residents can go with little effort and ease of access. In addition to that, being directly on the San Mateo bus route allows quick access and easy planning when traversing in either direction. Lastly the site in an unofficial sense has a "barrier" from it to the street, with one row of business and housing before reaching the structure itself.

Another reason I chose this site was do to its wide dimensions, when looking at a site like this, with my concept, I wanted to try to figure out how can I maximize the number of units that I can fit into this rectangle while still abiding by every code and zoning restriction. First, I made sure that the site was zoned accordingly, in accordance with the Albuquerque available Properties tab on the website (R1-B). After confirming that, I started designing a rotational concept that has units wrapped around a central point, that way a series of units can all share a central courtyard; and with enough replications, make up one bigger courtyard that connects them all. Although I found that this wasn't very effective, as I was only able to fit 15 units out of my 24 required by the Pro – Forma. I then created an Amoeba like shape that kept the angles consistent yet followed zoning constrictions but kept my concept of shared open courtyards and views, that then ended up connecting to form one big courtyard accessible by every resident. To adhere to my concept of Public yet Private, I hollowed out the middle of the site and created ramps leading down on either side. The hollowed-out space served as a private burrow that from one glance as one drive by, isn't noticeable at all. The buildings appear to be a collective set of individual structures, but upon entry to the courtyard, series of balconies looking down into the courtyards are now noticeable, as well as an entirely new level to the design that was once hidden by the elevation. The community is at all times allowed to see the interior, yet the outside world cannot as easily; hence the term Public, yet Private.

The desire for the community to interact was also a big part of this design. Throughout the briefings and critiques, this idea has been consistent: as people age the desire to interact and engage with each other in activities grows. With this idea in mind, I wanted every point of the Amoeba to have a private gazebo where gathering and activities can take place. The angles for the gazebo design stayed true to the curves of the homes, allowing the curved language to continue as the rest of the courtyard was designed and broke off to create seating and other elements to encourage the relation of people.



Rendered Plan View Context



Rendered Iso View SE



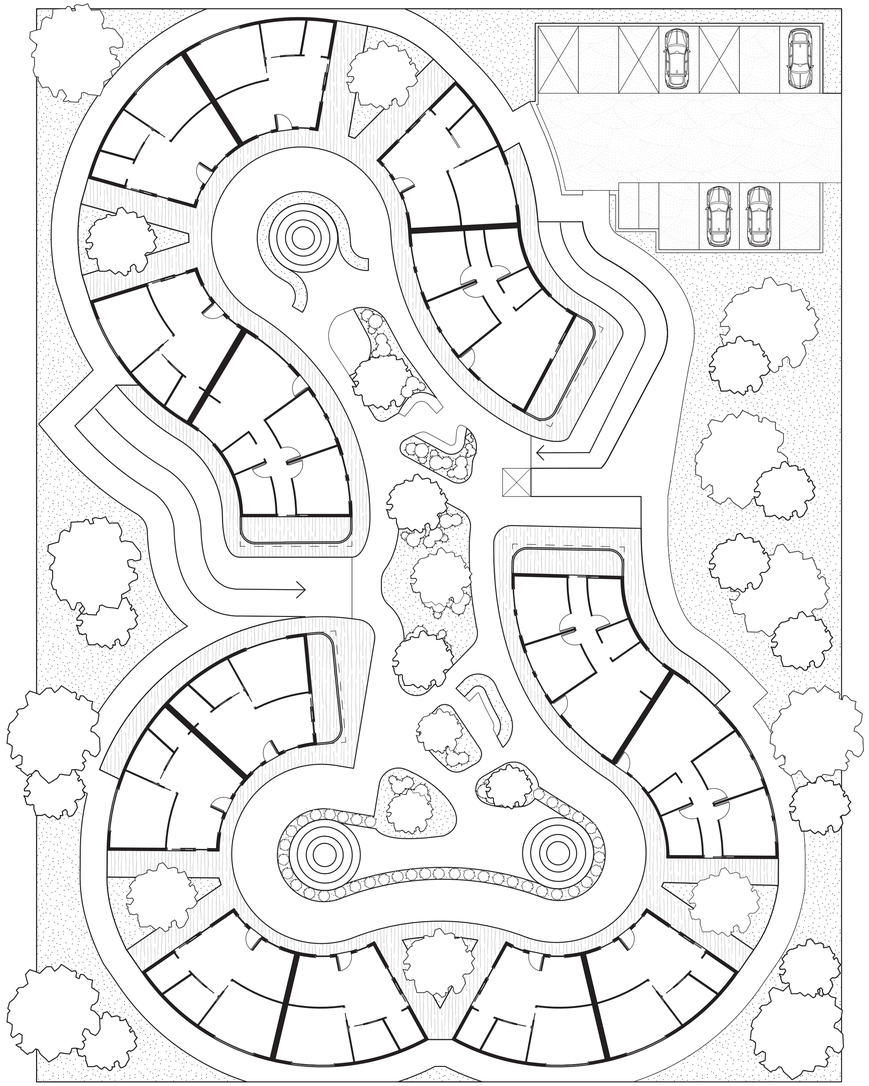
COURTYARD PERSPECTIVE



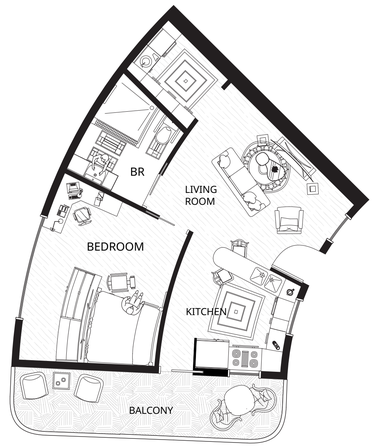
DOWN RAMP PERSPECTIVE



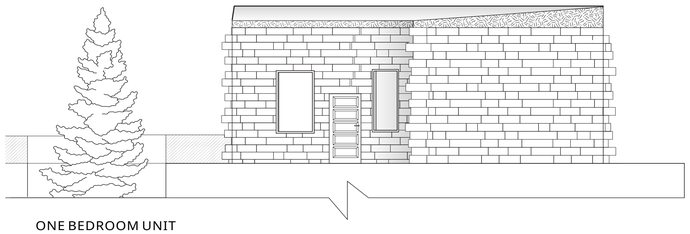
GAZEBO PERSPECTIVE



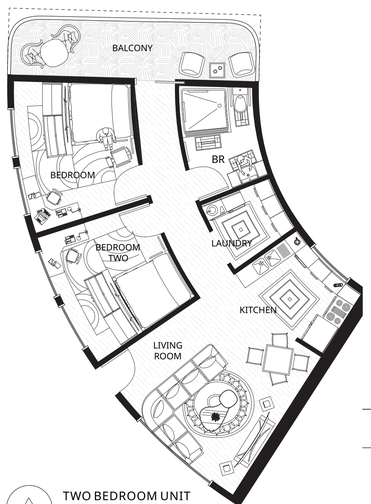
SITE PLAN
1/16" : 1 ' SCALE



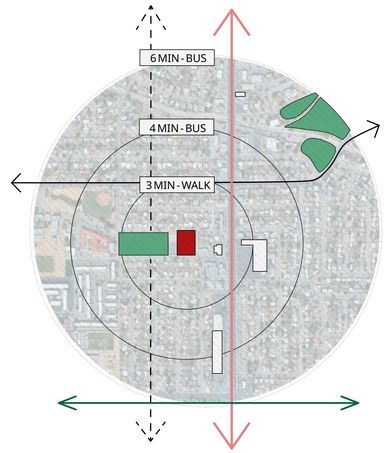
ONE BEDROOM UNIT
1/8" : 1 ' SCALE



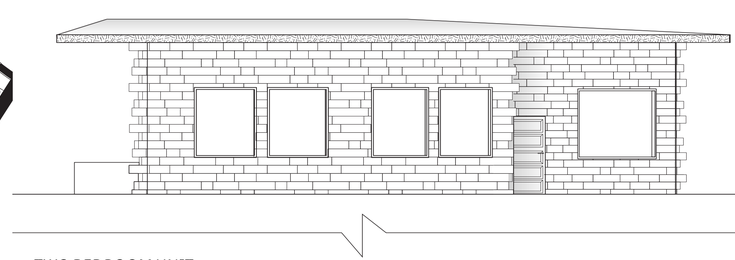
ONE BEDROOM UNIT
FRONT ELEVATION
1/8" : 1 ' SCALE



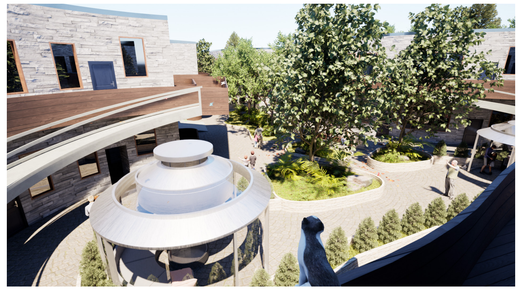
TWO BEDROOM UNIT
1/8" : 1 ' SCALE



TRANSPORTATION
ACCESS, CONTEXT DIAGRAM
1/50" : 1'



TWO BEDROOM UNIT
FRONT ELEVATION
1/8" : 1 ' SCALE



BALCONY PERSPECTIVE



ELEVATOR PERSPECTIVE



CORNER PERSPECTIVE



RAMP PERSPECTIVE



BATHROOM PERSPECTIVE

PRECEDENT STUDY

The Tirpitz Museum In Blaavand is a museum that is completely hidden to the outside world, with the ecpetion of one path that is directly leading you down into a shared landing area tat allows viewing in and out of the museum. Space wat wxcavated around the desired building location, but a "shell" or a "budding flower" shape is created when we see that the interior is actually open to the sky; information that we aren't able to tell just by a first look

In the same way, I wanted my building to do the same thing, that is demonstrated in the example below: the site elevation is making it appear is if the cottages are only on the ground level, but upon further inspection at a different angle, you are able to tell that the "burrow" is present. That in which a passerby might not be able to tell at first glance, providing that extra level of privacy, and once again reinforcing the idea of Public, yet Private.







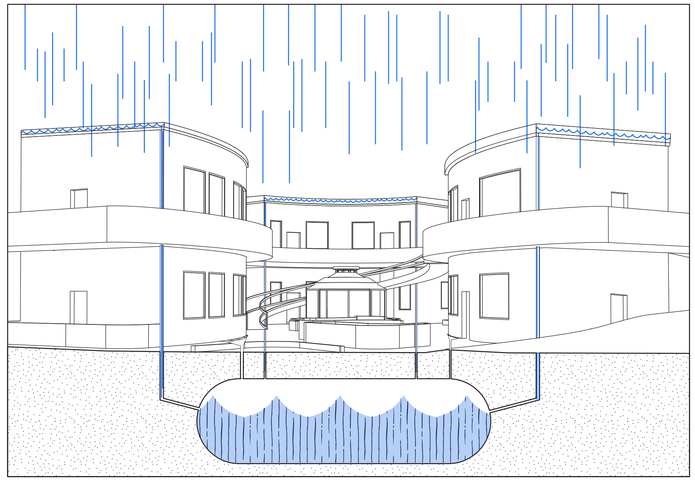
ELEVATED VIEW



SITE ELEVATION

SUSTAINABLE COMPONENT

Because this is a "burrow", the water has no where to escape once it reaches the bottom, this diagram shows a water collection system through two methods, a gutter system, and a drain that is at the bottom floor, water is angled towards the drains and is then collected, and is re-sused and stored to water the greenery of the courtyard.



RAIN CONTROL DIAGRAM

1/16" : 1 ' SCALE

Universal Design Elements

Step free entries and pathways

- Removes stumbling risks and simplifies access for those employing walkers, canes, or wheelchairs.
- Incorporate textured nonslip surfaces to remove slipping

Wider Doorways and Hallways

- Boosted accessibility, >= 32in doorways make circulation easier
- Lever handles over knobs for easy operation - easier with arthritic hands, high contrast paint to frames demonstrate passages clearly

Non-Slip Flooring with Seamless Transitions

- Surfaces with superior traction prevent slips, uniform materials avoid disruptive seams that impede wheels or feet. Consistent flooring simplifies maintenance as well.
- Vinyl Tiles mimicking hardwood provide durability and grip - textured - use earthy tones to conceal dirt

Open concept kitchens with adaptable Elements

- Kitchens serve as communal hubs - barrier free layouts permit fluid movements, allowing higher social interaction
- Height adjustable countertops, pull out pantry shelves and touchless faucets to reduce reaching and twisting. Differentiate counter edges with bold color bands (such as navy against white quartz)

Accessible bathrooms and Luxurious Touches

- Zero - threshold showers, reinforced grab bars, grippy tiles
- Rainfall showerhead with adjustable arm and fold down set
- Diffused led panels to illuminate evenly minimizing shadows

Adaptive lighting solutions

- Adjustable levels of light
- Sensor triggered hallway fixtures that activate upon approach.
- Low level toe kick lights under beds and cabinets
- Choose warm - white dimmable LEDS

Multifunctional living areas

- Versatile rooms, spaces that repurpose easily, sliding doors to maximize

Inclusive outdoor environments

- Patios with permeable pavers for even footing and to rehydrate the ground
- Pergolas for shaded rest and pathways with glowing LEDS

Strategic color and contrast Applications

- Thoughtful palettes enhance perception and safety
- Contrast clarifies boundaries, aiding those with diminished sight to navigate confidently
- Pale walls with darker baseboards for edge definition. Favor satin over glass to make reflections weaker. Serene Hues such as muted sage or light clay that amplify natural light diffusion