

# Ideas + Action for a Better City

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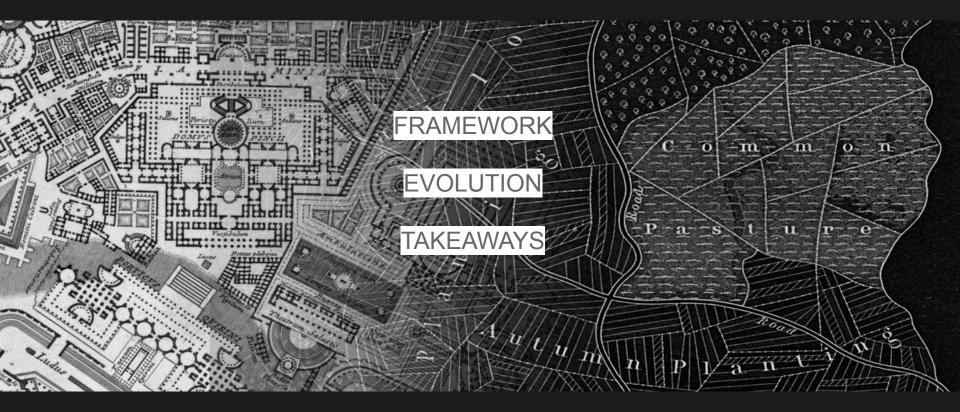
In partnership with:



# COMMON GROUND: *Re-Making the Ground Floor*



# COMMON GROUND: *Re-Making the Ground Floor*



# FRAMEWORK

SPUR: Julia Grinkrug + Christopher Roach / California College of the Arts



# PROJECTS



Owner-improvement is done separately from the B.I.D., and would likely be architecturally distinct from the B.I.D.'s building style. However, it would still exists within the space and context of the B.I.D. whose actions and improvement would come to surround





The Micro-Retail Kiosk is an informal and flexible type of retailer.



# B Walkable Street

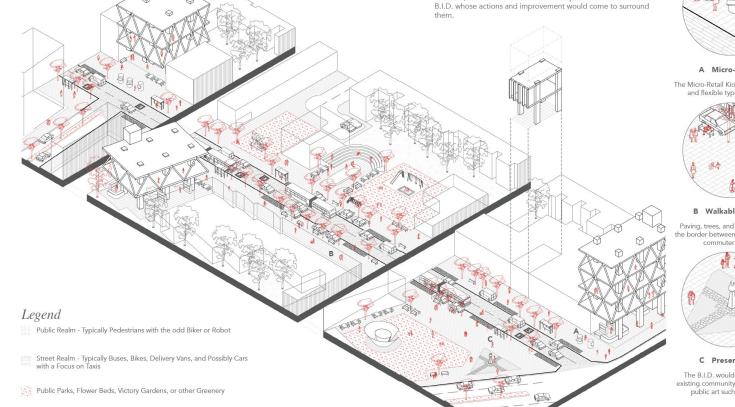
Paving, trees, and benches mark the border between pedestrian and commuter paths.

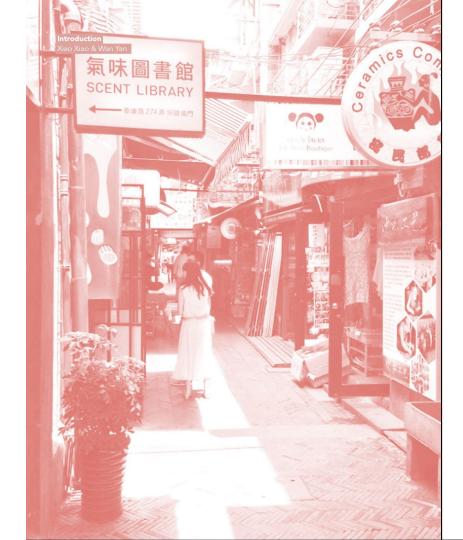


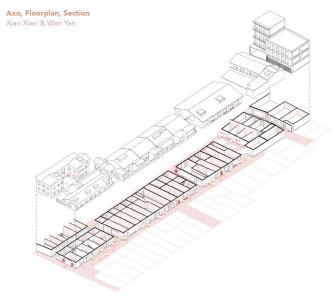
C Preservation

The B.I.D. would maintain the existing community landmarks and public art such as murals.

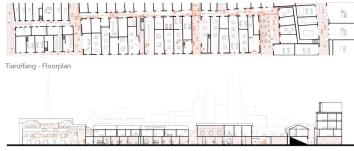
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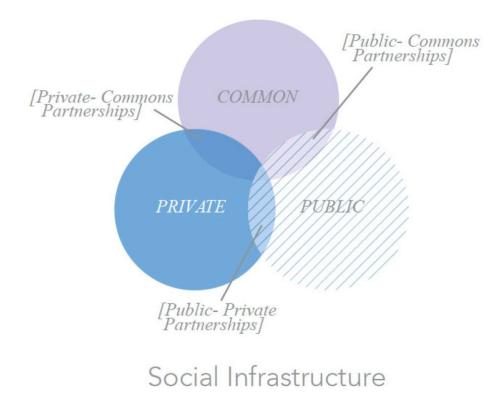


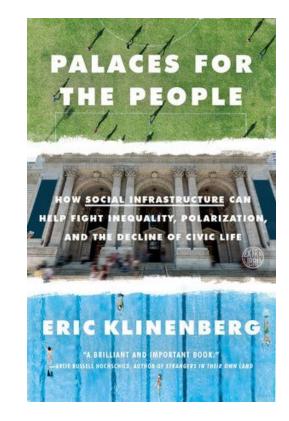


Tianzifang - Axonometric



Tianzifang - Section

















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Sheila R. Foster and Christian Iaione



Urbanism



Social Movements Within, Against, and Beyond Settler Colonialism

Craig Fortier



# **EVOLUTION**

# Christopher Roach Christina Cho Yoo

James Ayling Elliot Gorman Donna Mena Maria Ramirez Perez Abby Rockwell Sharan Shiboji Elmer Wang Xiao Xiao Wan Yan Elida Zavala

+ Duy Nguyen

Con Collifornia College of the Arts

# **APOCALYPSE NOW!**

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POCALYPSE

**NON** 

etail City

CHRISTOF

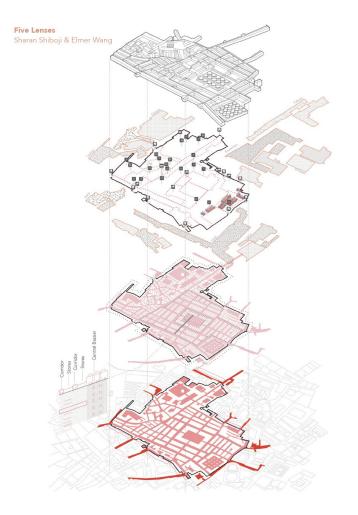
IER ROACH

CHRISTINA CHO YOC

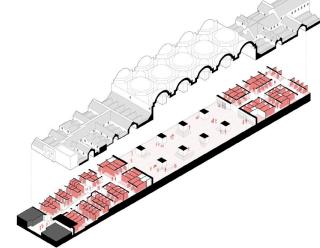
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Project for the Post-Retail City: Rethinking the Ground Floor

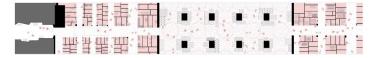
> CCA ARCHITECTURE / THE URBAN WORKS AGENCY







Grand Bazaar - Axonometric



Grand Bazaar - Floorplan



Grand Bazaar - Section

Transportation - Ferry Demographics Residents Student Activities 12 1 2 2 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 <u>12</u> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

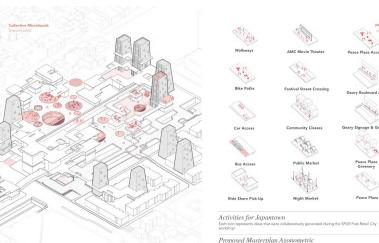
## Existing Density

# Transportation - Ferry

Arrivals Weekends Demographics Residents

### Student ....... 0.00 000 9 Activities 12 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 <u>12</u> 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

Proposed Density



Concept Development

A Self-Sufficient Ground Floor

Service

A Educationa

Cubural

and consumption, and hubs of social interaction that create a sense of place.

Understanding Treasure Island's existing conditions and the need for more people, it is clear that new

O Other

C Entertainmen

Commercia

PROJECTS

Peace Plaza Access

Genry Boulevard Art

Geary Signage & Greenery

Peace Plaza

Peace Plaza

Greenery

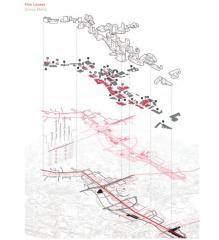
1 Temporal Organization

2 Categorical Organization

@ Ecological

The proposed new organization of Japantown incorporates residential towers mixed into the Japantown plazas. The red circles are areas of activation for outdoor public use that interact with the

PROJECTS



# Five Lenses

# Media / Technology

The ORBA Privilege Card provides employees of the Orchard Road Business Association the opportunity to shop, dine, and play using their rewards card. This card also provides perks to the user,

## Ownership / Capital

Orthard Road is owned by a number of corporate and international investors. C.K. Tang is the oldest owner after he opened Cold Storage Supermarket in the 1950s. Currently, Orchard Road is operated by corporate owners throughout the contact.

### Governance / Programming

Orchard Road Business Association (ORBA) is responsible for quality and integrity of the road.

## Form / Surface

Wide sidewalks can be found on either side of Orchard Road. South-East of the road, skate parks and open green space can be found filled with visitors taking a break from shopping. The interconnectedness of the street allows for pedestrian-friendly

## Access / Infrastructure

Orchard Road operates as a "spine" that moves east to west. It bisects a series of smaller streets, which connect the district to the rest of the city. Subway lines were added in the 1980s when the district began to attract more visitors, which has now become one of the major modes of transportation for the neighborhood.

First Floor Mall Outline

First Floor Non-Mall

First Floor Mall Outline

Metro Stops

- Orchard Road

Roads and Sidewalks









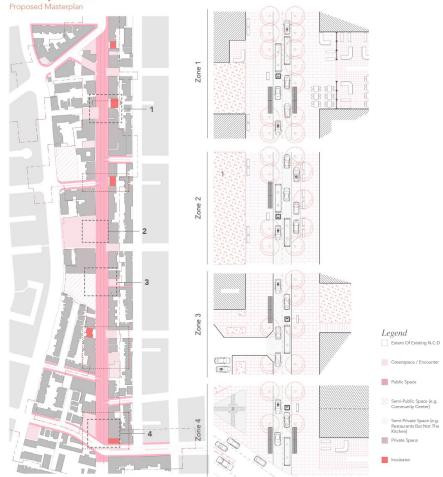


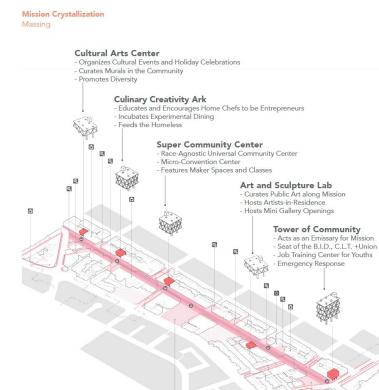
# CASE STUDIES





**Mission Crystallization** 





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Covered Open Space

Zoom Legend

Walk Paved Area

Center Road Area

Traditional Roadcover

Semi-Private Space (e.g. Restaurants But Not The Kitchen) Planted Area

Private Space

Semi-Public Space (e.g. Community Center)

Incubator

# 1) PROPERTY: Social infrastructure is fundamental to the resilience of our cities and communities.

The businesses and organizations that make up the social infrastructure of our cities (cafe's, restaurants, bookstores, laundromats, childcare, arts spaces, libraries, etc.) provide a public good that often exceeds their pure market value. While they also provide an intangible value to owners or developers who can sometimes subsidize them to increase the profitability of their properties, this is increasingly difficult due to fluctuating market conditions, or as we are witnessing during the COVID-19 pandemic, increasingly fragile due to the vulnerability of these very organizations. Our conclusion is that we cannot leave the design & programming of the ground floor of our cities to the market alone, and should consider this social infrastructure as part of the public domain, and how it should be subsidized, supported through regulation, and incentivized through tax policy just as we do so for other public goods like affordable housing. This shift in thinking may necessitate a fundamental reconsideration of our conceptions of property and ownership, where the boundary between the commercial and the commons becomes increasingly complex, fluid, and

"Cities ... should pull together cluster working groups of business and non-profit representatives and local academics and experts to best assess the impact of the pandemic and pandemic-related response on key clusters and develop medium-range plans."

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## 2) GOVERNANCE: Smaller-scale governance entities possess untapped potential to support social infrastructure.

Quasi-governmental entities that operate in between the public and private realms such as Business Improvement Districts (BIDs), Community Benefits Districts (CBDs), Green Benefits Districts (GBDs), Community Development Corporations (CDCs), Merchants' Associations, and other "District Managers" exist at a scale between individual property owners and the municipality, are nimble and have the ability to influence or control what programs are offered and what uses or activities are allowed in the ground floor of our city, and are important in both channeling market forces as well as providing a counterbalance between the "local" and the "global." Empowering these district managers to provide governance, curation, and a nimble, experimental environment where innovation can be incubated and deployed throughout the city. We recommend the City examine the possible establishment of a series of Community Innovation Districts (CID's) where zoning and other policies could be relaxed to empower existing or new CBDs/BIDs/GBDs/CDCs to work with developers, property owners, residents, and community groups to experiment with alternative arrangements of retail, commercial, and public space within a proscribed area and for a set period of time, with the intent of producing innovative models that could be codified into city policy.

## 3) PROGRAMMING: Public policy must relax constraints & allow for experimentation in new retail & groundfloor programming models.

Globally, there is a high degree of experimentation in alternative retail formats, ground floor activation, and models for incubation and curation of rich environments with hybrid mixtures of commercial and common space, but locally, regulations, insurance policies, and lending all lag woefully behind, and unnecessarily constrain innovation. We desperately need to develop rapid, highly-responsive, and nimble methods for tinkering with public policy. The COVID-19 pandemic offers a unique opportunity for this kind of experimentation, where the widespread relaxation of codes and regulations that have allowed the highly experimental appropriations of spaces for emergency facilities such as hospitals and other first-responder centers, or the opportunistic reformatting of food & beverage or other retail stores in a desperate attempt to stay open for business and provide critical goods and services could be extended beyond this immediate crisis to address the slow-moving crisis that preceded it. In the aftermath of this crisis as we attempt to reboot our cities, we will need to deploy many of the same strategies gleaned from these crisis-driven experiments in policy, programming, and financing tactically and at small, localized scales so that we can create rapid feedback loops to develop best practices that can be scaled to address the longer-term structural problems that instigated the retail apocalypse.

New spatial typologies must be supported by an analogous flexibility in regulations, insurance, lease terms, and financing to allow for the high-energy experimentation and short-term feedback loops that will allow our ground floors to be nimble, highly-responsive, and resilient systems for enhancing public life.

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## 4) SPACE: The design of the ground floor must evolve to meet the changing needs of an increasingly fluid and volatile market.

The architecture of the street can no longer default to static and generic typologies, but must accommodate the increasingly common rapid fluctuations in consumer habits, social practices, and market conditions driven by boom / bust economic cycles, global pandemics, & climate change. The innovations in retail and hybrid uses that are being experimented with during this crisis must find their analogue in the physical configuration of the spatial infrastructure that supports them. with emphasis on flexibility, hybridity, and rapid-responsiveness. The storefront itself needs to be recovered from the banality of the generic and undifferentiated wall of glass that is so typically an afterthought of contemporary development and made more porous, more operable, and more varied in depth and width to respond to the fluctuating and fuzzy boundary between public space and commercial space. Behind it we must provide a wider variety of more flexible spatial typologies that can accommodate a broader range of uses like PDR / maker space, hybrid production / consumption spaces, arts & culture centers, temporary pop-ups, micro- and nano-retail, co-tenancy, night markets, and even live / work or residential. These typologies range from the tall ceilings and long span mass timber structures of Sidewalk Lab's "Stoa" concept, to layered or arcaded storefronts, "market hall" models with shared tenancy, and aggregated micro-retail supported by shared infrastructure. Post-pandemic best practices will further necessitate more open and flexible storefronts to promote social distancing and increase air circulation, as well as more open or multiple entries to avoid bottlenecks

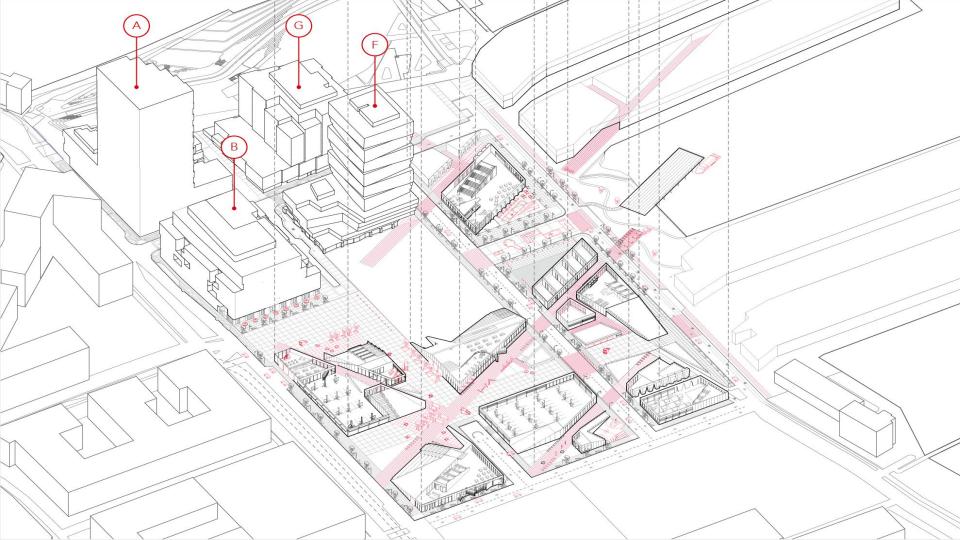
5) SURFACE: The interior of the ground floor, the street, and the public realm must be designed as a continuum of social and physical infrastructure.

The ground itself should be designed as a continuous surface that unites inside and outside and acknowledges and manages the gradient of ownership and uses from public to private. The boundary between the space of commerce and the commons is fluid, in constant fluctuation, and the surface upon which these sometimes contradictory and sometimes complementary domains operate must also be designed to be responsive and support multiple and changing uses and activities. The design of the ground must overcome the binaires of inside/outside, street/sidewalk, public/private and rather incorporate more subtle and flexible boundary elements, utility infrastructures, surface treatments, and height variations to manage the flows of vehicles, people, & goods, and support both fixed and changing uses over multiple timescales. In a Post-COVID-19 world, the well-managed return to the streets as we lift Shelter in Place will demand both indoor and outdoor spaces that are more open, with fewer bottlenecks and better circulation to promote social distancing and reduce airborne transmission. The markers of safe social distance and managed foot traffic flow that have already been taped out on the ground will become permanent features of a redesigned surface that must respond to the fluctuations of social norms in public life that will be under constant flux in a world increasingly vulnerable to global health emergencies, extreme economic cycles, and seasonal environmental crises driven by climate change.

A BOL

The Post Retail COVID-19 City .° Provisional Manifesto

















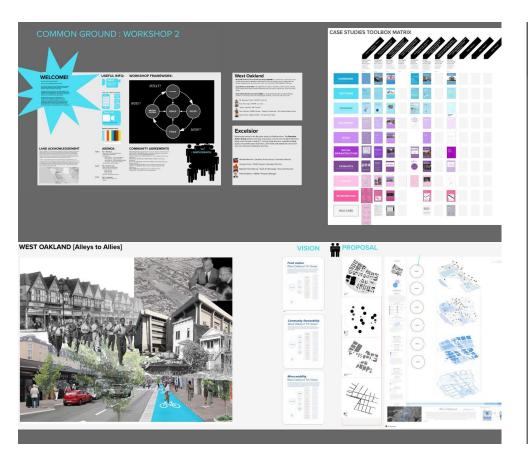
West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project know which way the wind blows



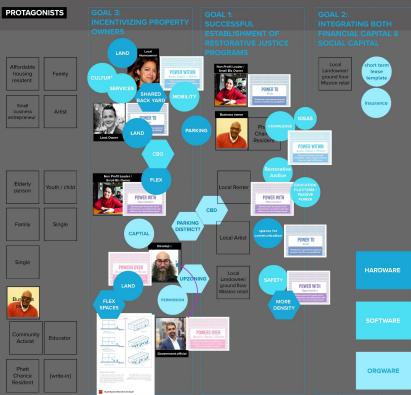








SCENARIOS



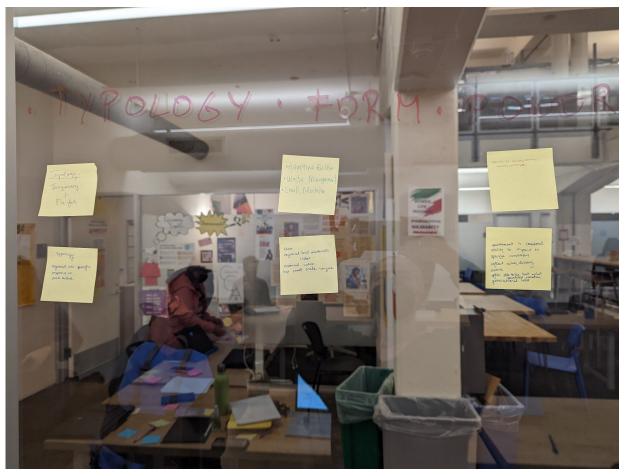


"One of the things that we want you to learn, to unlearn, is how to be engaged with the community and our process .... from the White House to the outhouse and everything in between ... We wanted to give you something that you have never experienced ... to start rooting yourself in, and growing and sprouting to see the bigger picture; I have a vision for the bigger picture to have to educate."

Ms. Margaret Gordon, West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project













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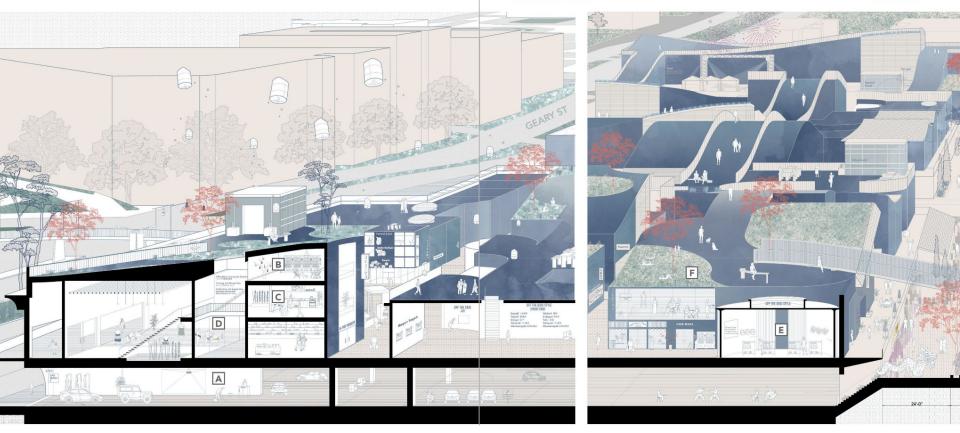
Mandela Blvd. West Oakland / Sanyukta Bhagwat

Claiborne Ave. Case Study / Maria Ramirez & Valeria Velika, 2021

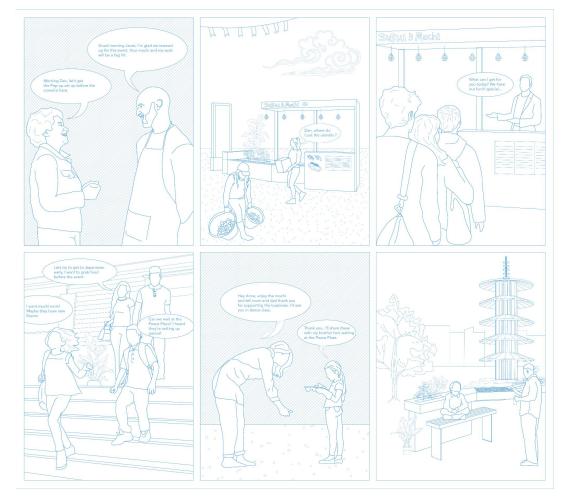
**Commons Village** 

# Section Perspective

PROJECTS

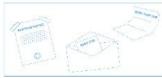


Common Village / Maria Ramirez & Valeria Velika, 2021











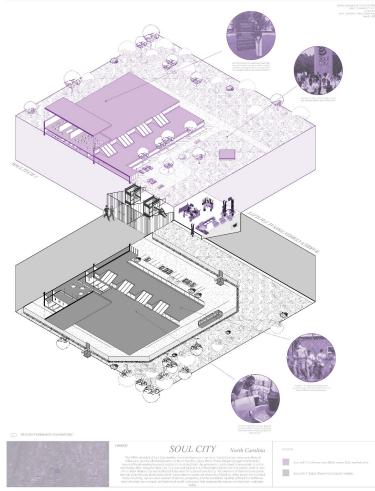
The Cultural Economy Office will evaluate your application. We support culinary arts, design, entertainment, literacy arts and humanities, preservation and visual arts and crafts.



# Common Village / Maria Ramirez & Valeria Velika, 2021



Olalekan Jeyifous, The Ark, 2020. Part of the series "The Apocryphal Gospel of Oakland." [© Olalekan Jeyifous]





Alden Gendreau, Suvin Choi, 2022

























Alterspace. Shreya Shankar, Manpreet Malhi, Vishakh Hiren Sutri. 2022









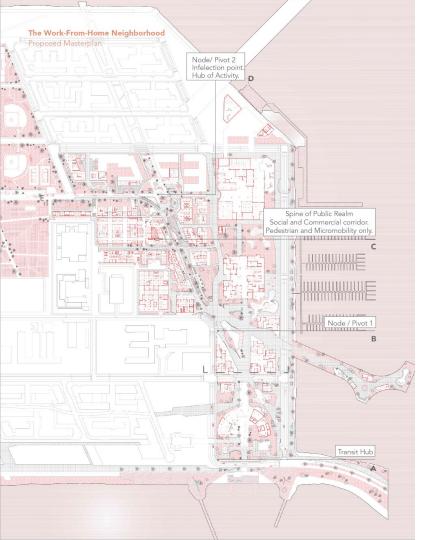






Alterspace. Shreya Shankar, Manpreet Malhi, Vishakh Hiren Sutri. 2022

# CONCLUSION



# The Work-From-Home Neighborhood Research

Survey Demographics by OWL Lab

# Who Works Remotely? (US Survey)

The Survey for the State of Remote Work Report 2019 by OWL Labs surveyed 1,202 full-time workers in the United States between the ages of 22 and 65. Of the 1,202 individuals, 745 (62%) work remotely at any frequency, and 457 (38%) work on- site. 62% Remote workers

38% On-site workers

# Growth in Remote WorkLast 5yrs44%Last 10yrs91%Last 12yrs159%Next 5yrs215%

Statistic Gathered From: http://globalworkplaceanalytics.com/telecommuting-statistics: https://www.owllabs.com/ state-of-remote-work/2019; https://www.flexjobs.com/blog/post/remote-work-statistics/

# WFH Statistics

(2019).

time (2019).

43% of employees work remotly with frequency (2018). Could Work From Home 56- 62% of employees have a

job that could be done remotely

Want To Work From Home 80% of employees want to work

**88%** of companies have encouraged or required their

workers to WFH (2019).

from home at least some of the





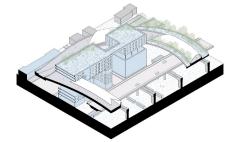


# St Mark Christian Methodist Episcopal church Pace Supply Plumbing Supply Open Groundfloor Job Fairs+ Job Pentecostal House of Truth 5 Keys Charter School Salam Halal Market+ Restaurant As-Salam Mosque Billo Design Studio Open Groundfloor: Zoo Lab West Oakland Health Council Art exhibitions (support local artists) + Workshops and Factory Open Groundfloor Seafarres International Union Open Groundfloor: Job-Fairs + Job Training Furniture making Green Planet 21 Open Groundfloor: Environmenal Youth Center Service Open Groundfloor: Nor Cal Metal 3rd st.) Open Groundfloor: Metal Fabrication Workshops Pacific Agri-products Inc. Open Groundfloor: Food Justice Event Venue + Bar

## Immersive Street View

Seam

The street view shows a section cut of the skywalk's various levels of usibility and activity. In the center pathway, it's used for a safer direct transportation, the wings are for hosting food stands and market places. The structure emerges through potential future







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PROJECTS

B Affordable Co-Op Housing C Small Business Spaces

A hybrid of residential, accessible Using recycled containers to create ground floors and urban farming. Using recycled containers to create enclosed spaces supporting small business owners and open kitchens, also creating more intimate social



spaces.

E Vegetative Buffers F Local Arts&Culture Scenes

# D Urban Farms

In areas of vacant of open unused lots, available for community members to grow crops. It will improve WO's food desert issue and hold educational programs.

A Skywalk

The Urban fabric of WO is

fragmented, the skywalk will reconnect all of the resources in

areas of need.

In areas of vacant or open unused Large amounts of vegetation planted Recycled temporary structures are on skywalk and green spaces to create buffers between occupants/ users and airborne pollutants. added to support and promote local artists, and to create temporary stages/spaces for performances.

# THANK YOU!