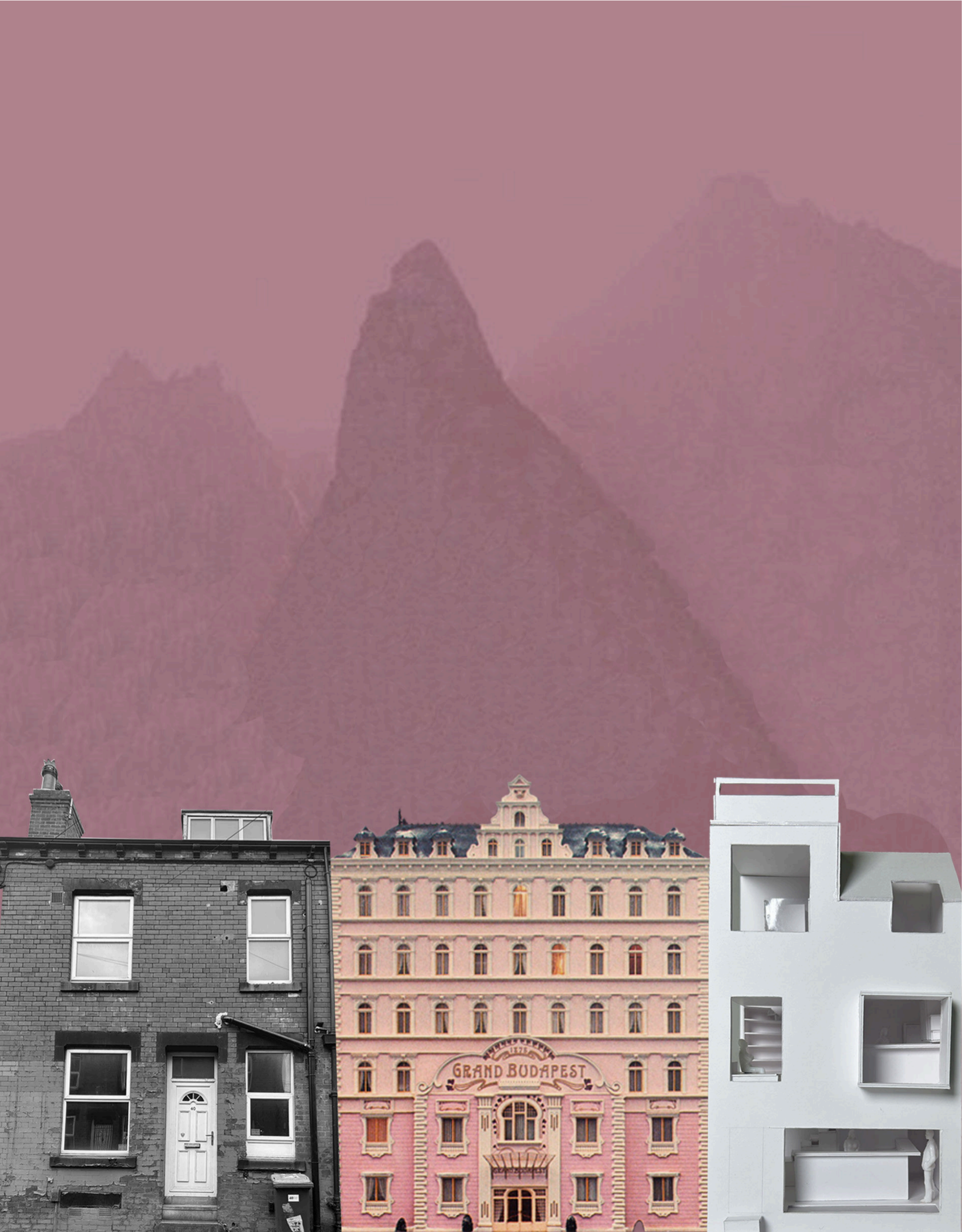


# COMMUNITY THROUGH CAKES



PAST

INSPIRATION

FUTURE

## SITE

**LOCATION:** 40 Harold Mount, Leeds, West Yorkshire  
**DATE:** After 1891, Before 1900  
**ORIGINAL PURPOSE:** Back-to-back Housing  
**DEFINITION:** A type of terraced housing where two houses share a rear wall and one or both side walls.

## BRIEF

This project reimagines a back-to-back terraced house in Burley as a multifunctional space where two self-employed creatives can live, work, and sell their products. Responding to the post-covid shift toward remote work, flexible lifestyles, and small business growth, the design embraces a human-centered approach that balances productivity, comfort, and well-being within a compact urban setting. Taking inspiration from The Grand Budapest Hotel and the symbolic charm of Mendl’s pastries, the project explores how overlooked housing typologies can be transformed into an example of warmth, entrepreneurship, and meaningful living, proving that even in the greyest surroundings, design can cultivate kindness and community.



SECOND

FIRST

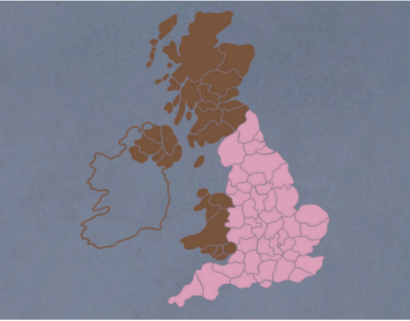
GROUND



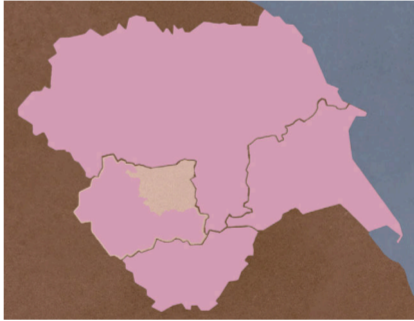
INTERIOR VIEWS



## LOCATION



ENGLAND, UNITED KINGDOM



LEEDS, WEST YORKSHIRE



HAROLD MOUNT, BURLEY

## HISTORICAL CONTEXT

Back-to-back housing, first built in Leeds in 1787, was a cheap, high-density solution to the population boom during the Industrial Revolution, but it faced criticism for its poor living conditions. Even with improvements, back-to-backs still had a negative reputation as they continued being built in Leeds until 1937.

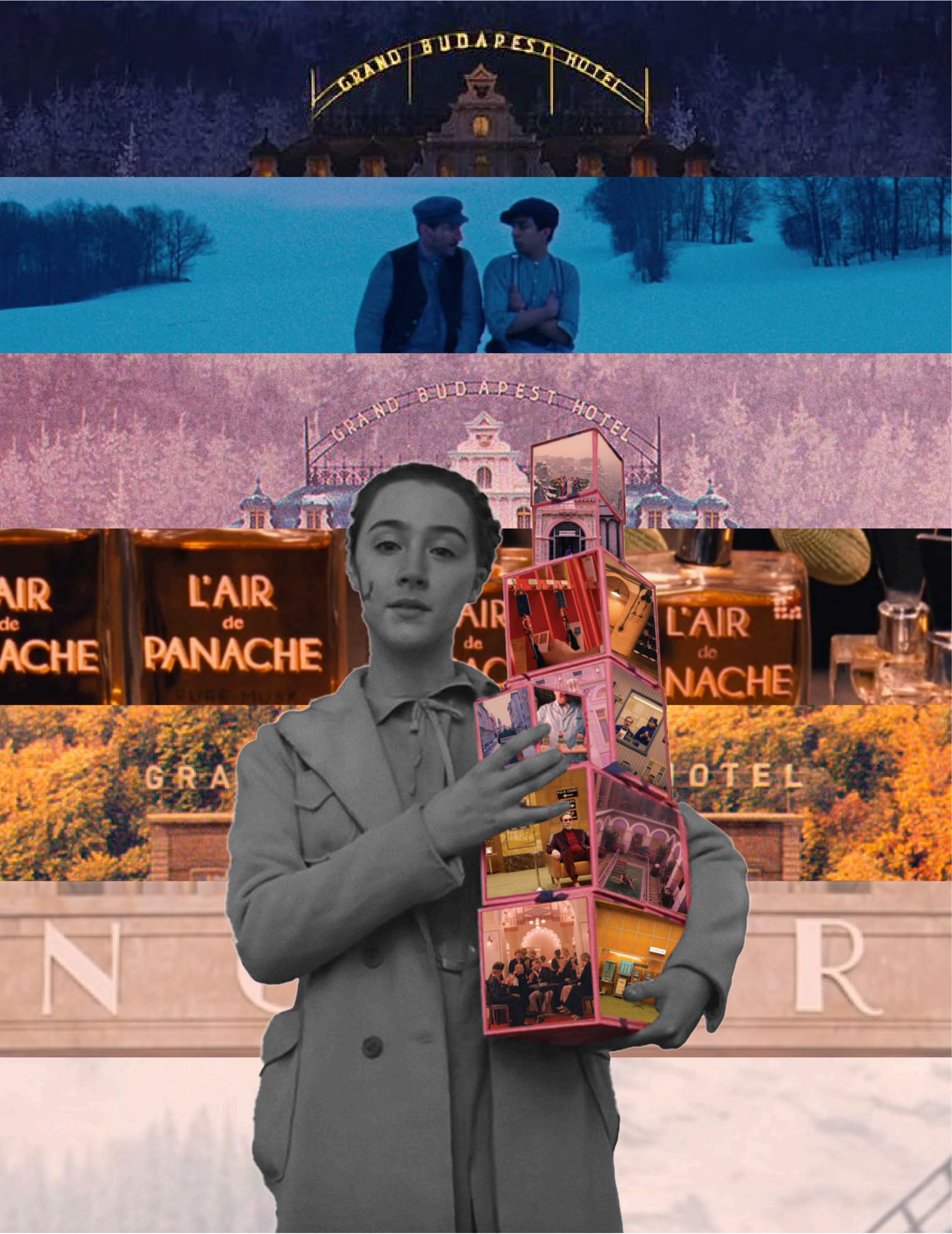


Elderly Lady Standing at Her Street Corner (Hedges, N. 1970)



Crossing Wasteland from Back to Back Housing Towards Railway (Hedges, N. 1970)

SPIRIT OF THE FILM COLLAGE



The background image depicts seven scenes from the film, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, arranged in a sunrise/sunset formation, representing the rise and the fall of the golden days. The figure holding the boxes is Agatha, in black and white, she represents the working class and the past, her job in a patisserie brings warmth, kindness, and comfort to everyone, shown through the different, colourful scenes on the cake boxes.

HUMAN-CENTRED DESIGN

CLIENT PROFILE

- 27 year old married couple, Emma and Gabriel Belmont, are looking to open up a cake shop located in the student/ young professional area of Leeds.
- Emma, specializing in confections, will be making and decorating the cakes.
- Gabriel, specializing in bakery science, will be developing new weekly cake flavours and fillings.



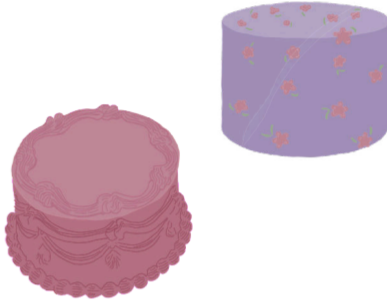
- Named FROSTED CONNECTIONS, the cake shop will offer small, cute, and convenient bento cakes.
- Each bento cake will have a message piped on top to encourage kindness and connection through sharing a sweet treat with someone.
- *The aim of the shop is to create community engagement through a more meaningful and personalized customer experience.*

BUSINESS CONCEPT

Although only selling one product, the cakes are unlimited in its range and options.



- Step 1:
- Choose flavour & filling
  - Changes weekly



- Step 2:
- Choose piping design
  - Flowers or vintage style

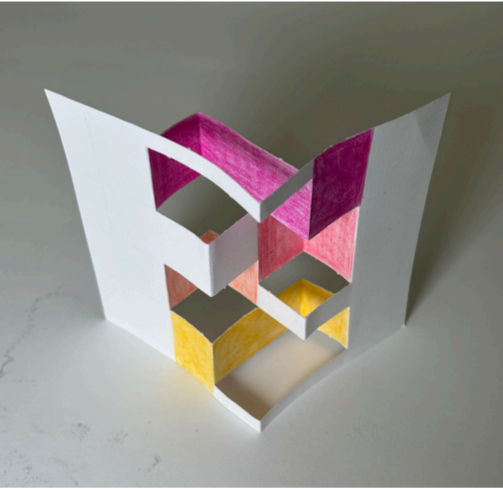


- Step 3:
- Choose message
  - Pre-set or custom

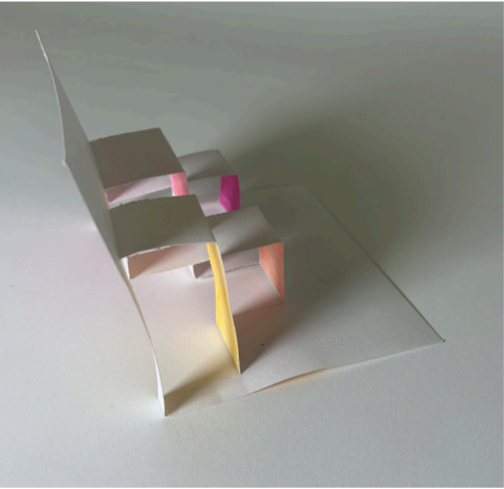
CONCEPT MODELS



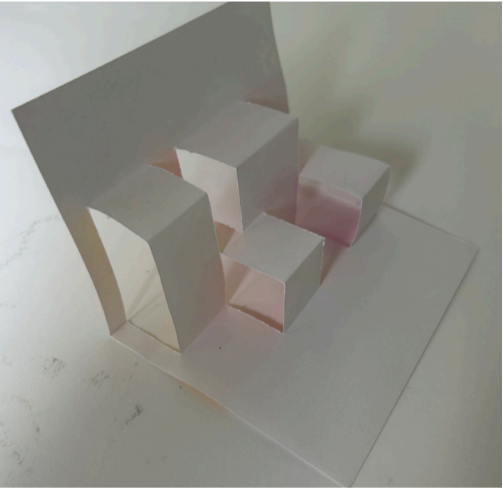
- Narrow 4-storey building
- Split levels: change in function



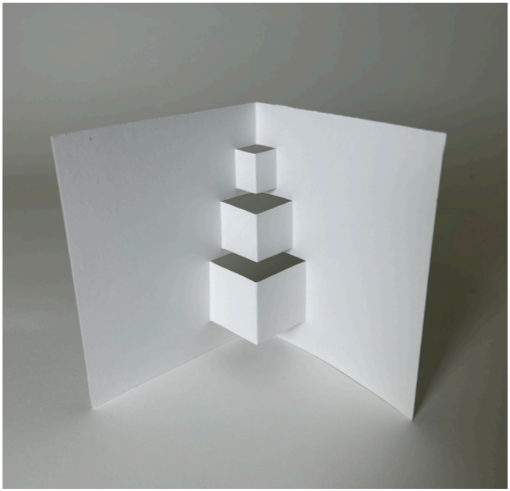
- Design precedent: DE Shaw & Co offices by Steven Holl
- Backlit wall panels



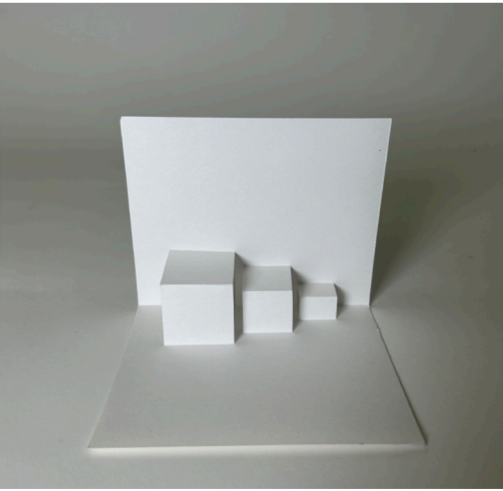
- Design precedent: 6 Tsubo House
- Different colours: different areas



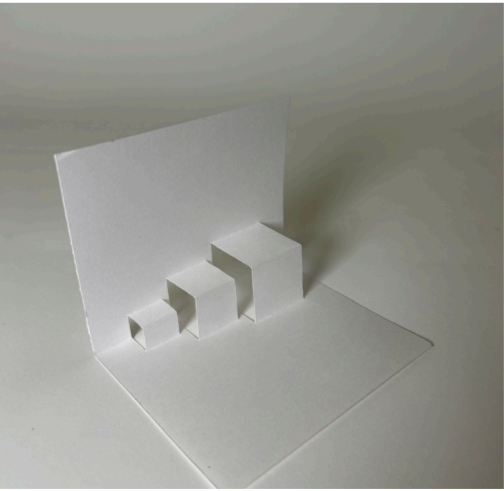
- The Grand Budapest Hotel colours
- Sunrise and sunset
- Saturated pastels



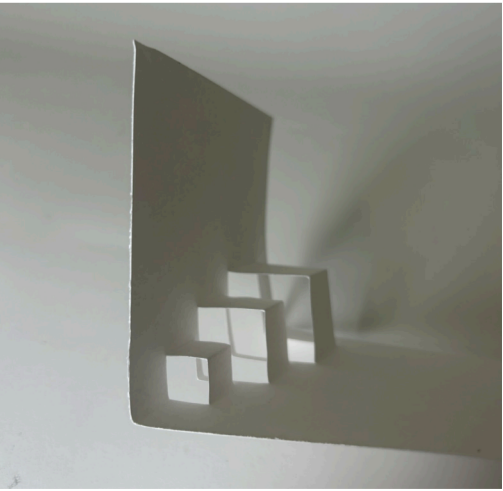
- Mendl's boxes unfold
- Pop-up card style



- Light the way in the dark
- Ambient staircase lighting



- Mendl's boxes
- Boxes stacked upon each other



- Courtesan au chocolate
- Three, smallest on top

DAY IN THE LIFE

7pm

80s

8pm

9pm

Listen to music while cooking & eating together

Watch a movie together

Shower, brush teeth, & read before sleeping

4pm

5pm

6pm

Both watch counter & serve customers

When free, prep cakes for the next day and start the closing cleaning tasks

Shop closes at 6pm

1pm

2pm

Him: Serve customers

Prepare frosting & crumb coat

Cool cakes in fridge and clean area

1pm

2pm

Her: Have lunch break

Frost cakes & take pictures for marketing

Serve customers

10am

11am

12pm

Him: Serve customers

Accept & put away deliveries, take inventory

Have lunch break

10am

11am

12pm

Her: Prep ingredients, make cake batter, and bake cakes

Serve customers

7am

8am

9am

Wake up, brush teeth, and have breakfast together

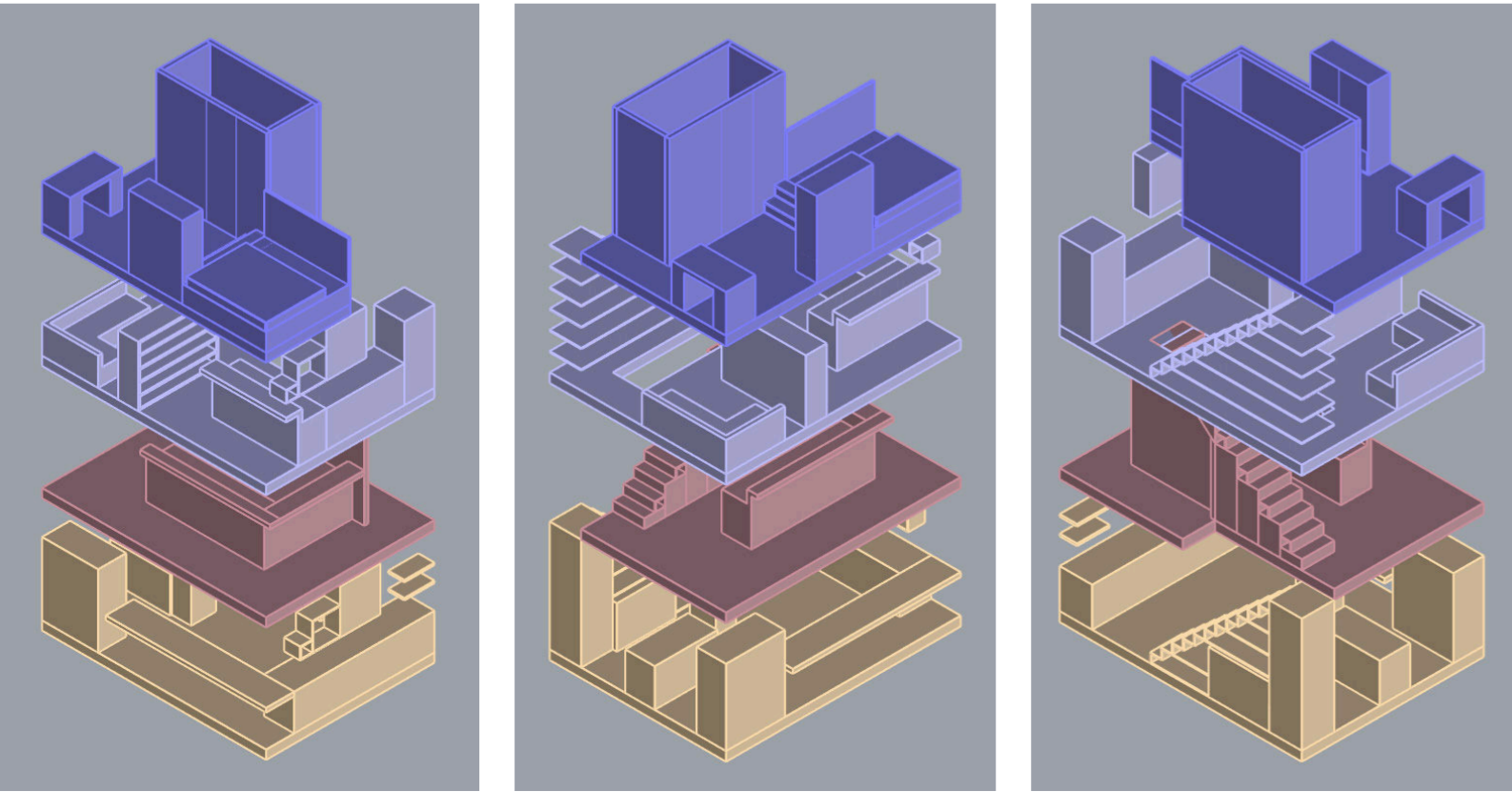
Frost cooled cakes from yesterday, prepare display case and online orders

Shop opens at 9am

Isometric View | SE

Isometric View | SW

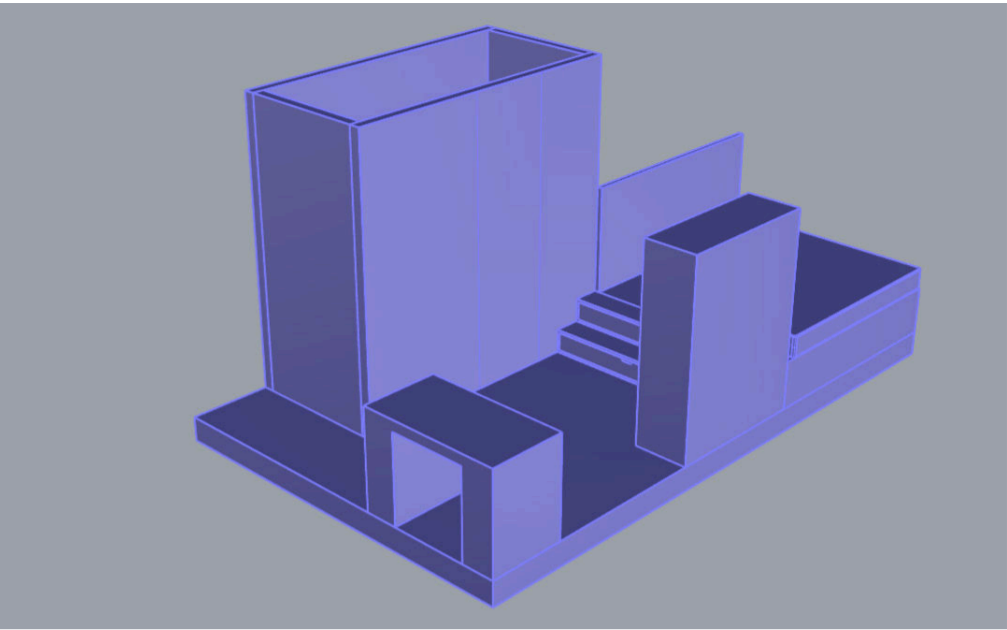
Isometric View | NW



FLOOR PLANS

SECOND FLOOR

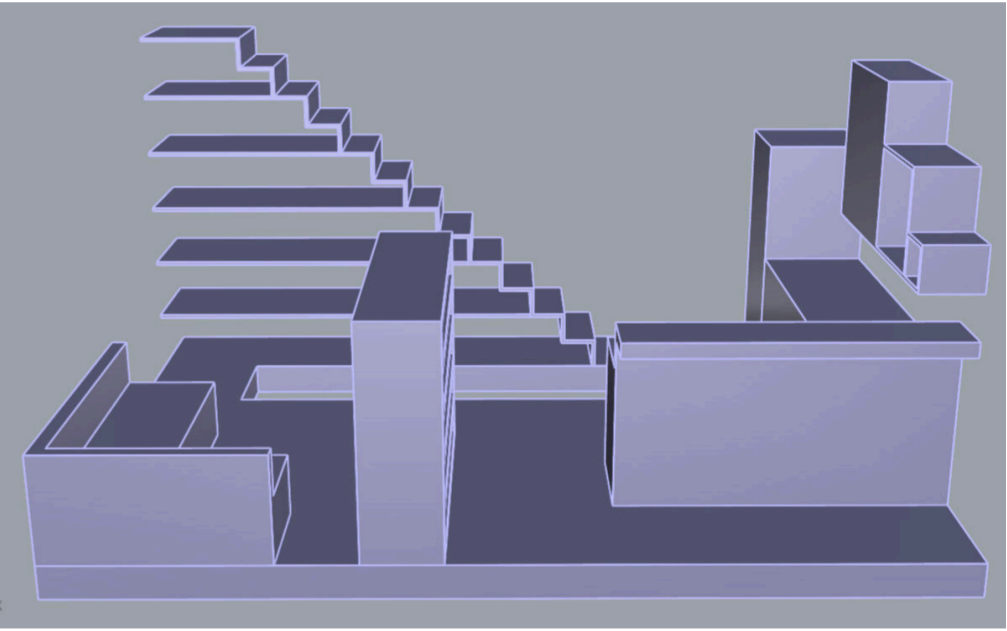
- 01. Stairs
- SHOWER ROOM:**
- 02. Shower
- 03. Vanity Sink
- 04. Toilet
- 05. Storage
- BEDROOM:**
- 06. Desk
- 07. Wardrobe
- 08. Steps w/drawers
- 09. Bed



Perspective View | Second Floor

FIRST FLOOR

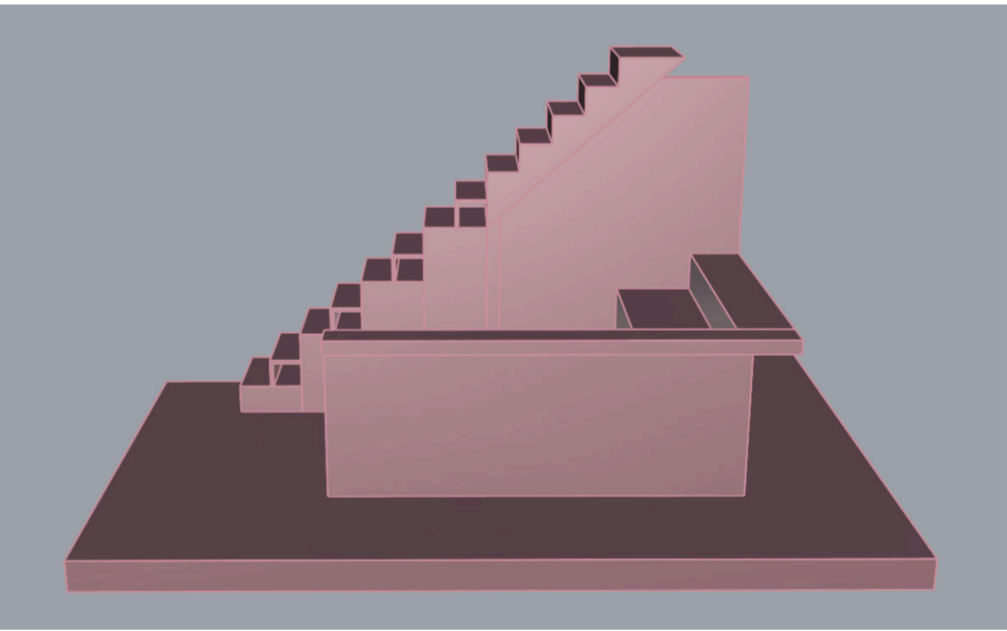
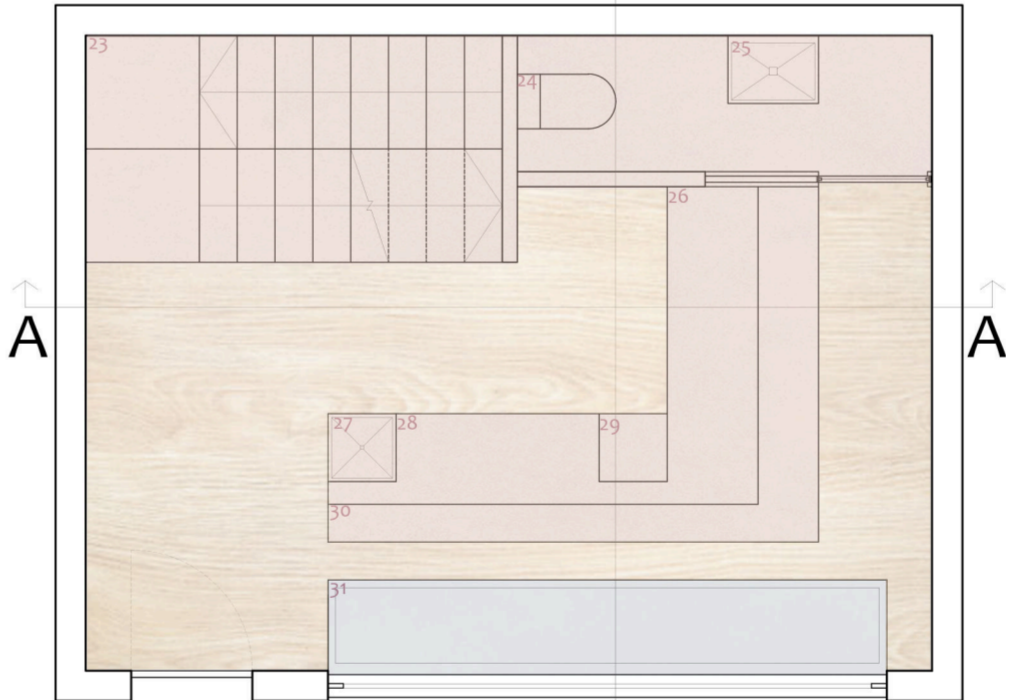
- 10. Stairs
- LIVING SPACE:**
- 11. Couch
- 12. Mounted-TV/ bookshelf
- DOMESTIC KITCHEN:**
- 13. Oven
- 14. Countertop
- 15. High-counter
- 16. Window bench
- 17. Fridge/freezer
- 18. Counter w/drawers
- 19. Sink
- 20. Counter w/drawers
- 21. Cabinets
- 22. Dishwasher



Front View | First Floor

GROUND FLOOR

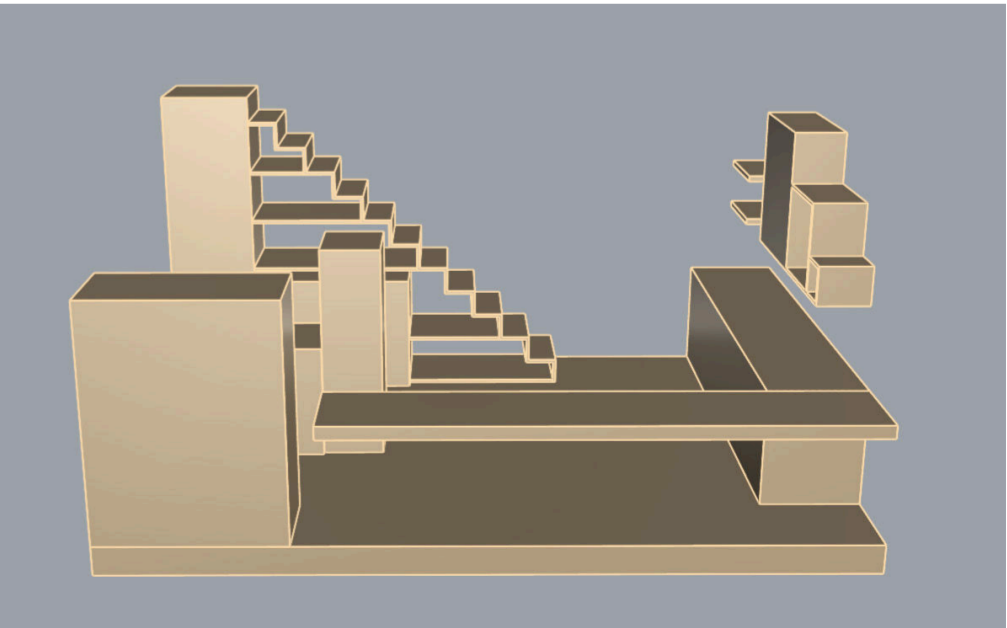
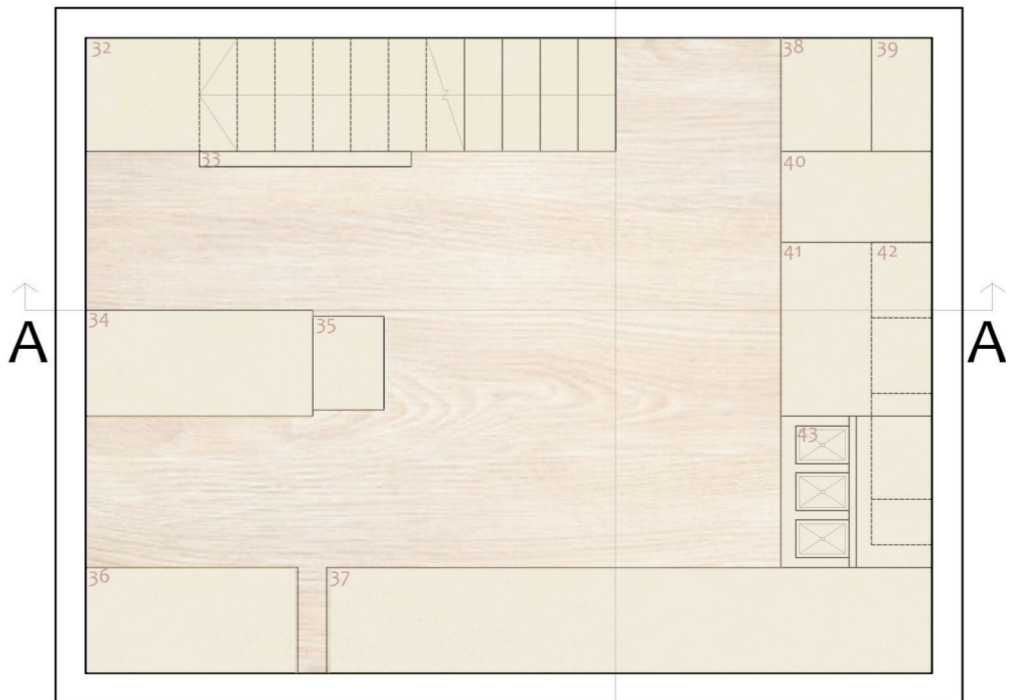
- 23. Stairs
- CUSTOMER TOILET:**
- 24. Toilet
- 25. Sink
- SHOP:**
- 26. Work surface
- 27. Hand wash sink
- 28. Work service counter
- 29. Cash register
- 30. High-counter for customer service
- 31. Glass floor to see down to basement



Front View | Ground Floor

BASEMENT

- 32. Stairs
- COMMERCIAL KITCHEN:**
- 33. Washer/Dryer
- 34. Moveable island with storage
- 35. Moveable cooling rack
- 36. Commercial fridge/freezer
- 37. Wood countertop work surface
- 38. Drop-off counter for deliveries
- 39. Shelves
- 40. Double deck convection oven
- 41. Work surface
- 42. Cabinets
- 43. Three-compartment sink



Front View | Basement

1:50 @ A2

B



MATERIALS



**Japanese Mulberry paper**  
- infused with banana trunk  
**Used:** Wallpaper



**Maple wood**  
- highly resistant to wear, dents, and scratches.  
**Used:** Floors, stairs, countertops, & some shelves

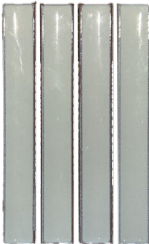


**Coloured laminate**  
- matte-finish, scratch and dust resistant  
**Used:** Cabinets

S  
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S



**Solus Ceramic Tiles**  
- Ability to handle temperature variations, soiling, humidity, anti-slip, solar radiation, and other wear and tear, ceramic tiles can last at least 60 years with the proper care and maintenance.  
- Terazzo tiles are the most sustainable tiles made with the lowest carbon cement and repurposed production waste and building debris.



**Name:** YEARNING  
**Range:** Aspiration  
**Finish:** Gloss  
**Dimensions:** 150x100 (4)  
**Used:** First floor kitchen backsplash



**Name:** SPO-DUNE  
**Range:** Spolia  
**Finish:** Honed  
**Dimensions:** 100x100  
**Used:** Ground floor bathroom counter, Second floor bathroom counter and shower



*The proximity of homes encourages social interaction and creates a strong sense of community that is often lacking in apartment buildings which shapes into a more interconnected way of living.*

Bowker, M. (2024). Why terraces and modern back to backs are making a comeback. [online] Building Design.

*Open-plan designs and strategically placed windows and skylights allow for natural light to penetrate further and improve airflow in the home.*

Bowker, M. (2024). Why terraces and modern back to backs are making a comeback. [online] Building Design.

*Shared walls help regulate indoor temperatures by limiting heat transfer, leading to lower energy consumption and reduced utility costs.*

Bowker, M. (2024). Why terraces and modern back to backs are making a comeback. [online] Building Design.

*“Terraced homes are a proven way to build popular and enduring ‘street based’ neighbourhoods that can help create strong and vibrant communities.”*

Bowker, M. (2024). Why terraces and modern back to backs are making a comeback. [online] Building Design.



INTERIOR VIEWS

SECOND FLOOR

- Personal bathroom
- Wardobe

- Bed
- Desk for both personal and work use

FIRST FLOOR

- Personal kitchen
- Personal living room

GROUND FLOOR

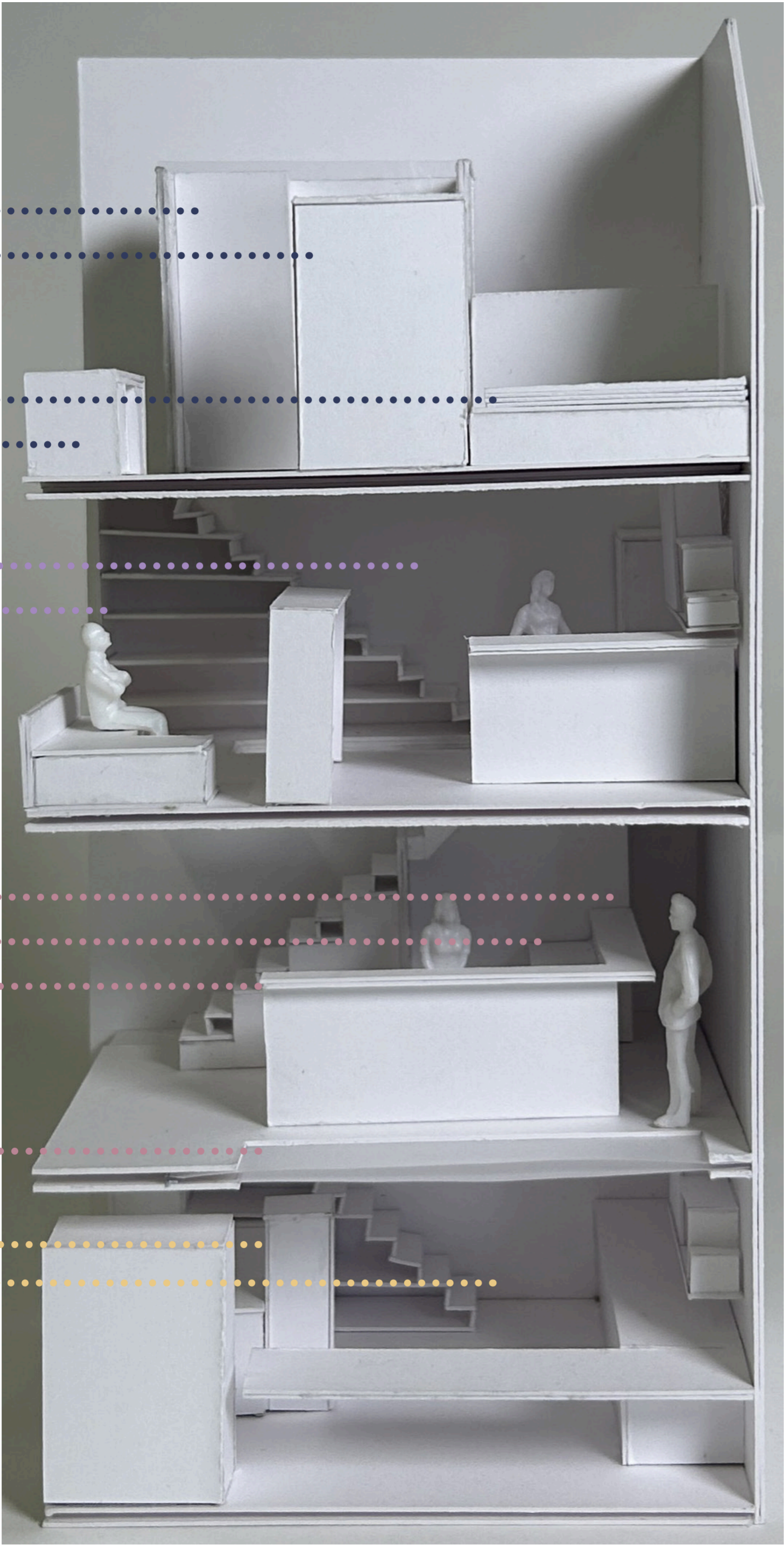
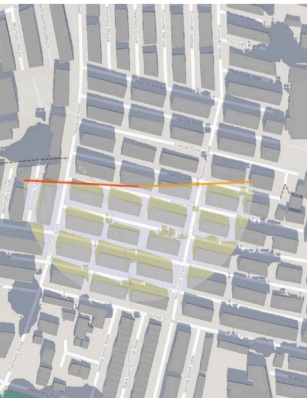
- Customer bathroom
- Secondary working area
- Checkout counter

- Glass floor to see down to working space

BASEMENT

- Washer/dryer for both personal and work use
- Primary kitchen/ working area

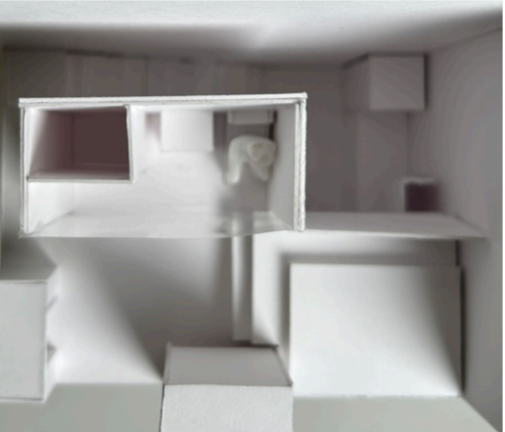
Due to only south-facing windows, spring and fall is when the interior receives the most direct sunlight with no shadow from surrounding buildings



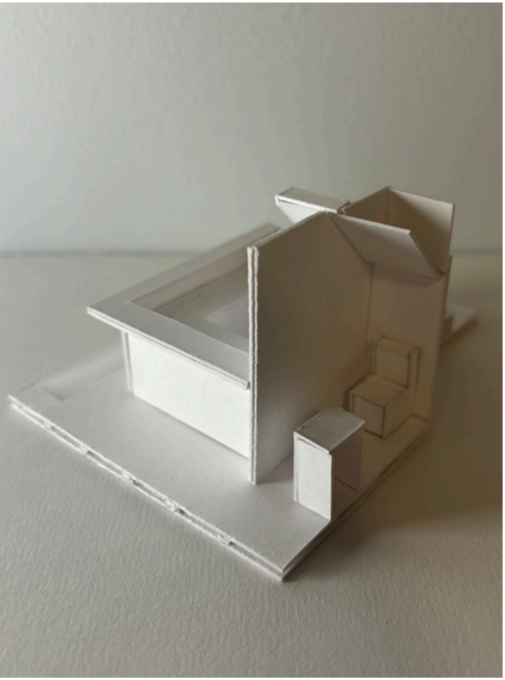
ROOFTOP VIEW



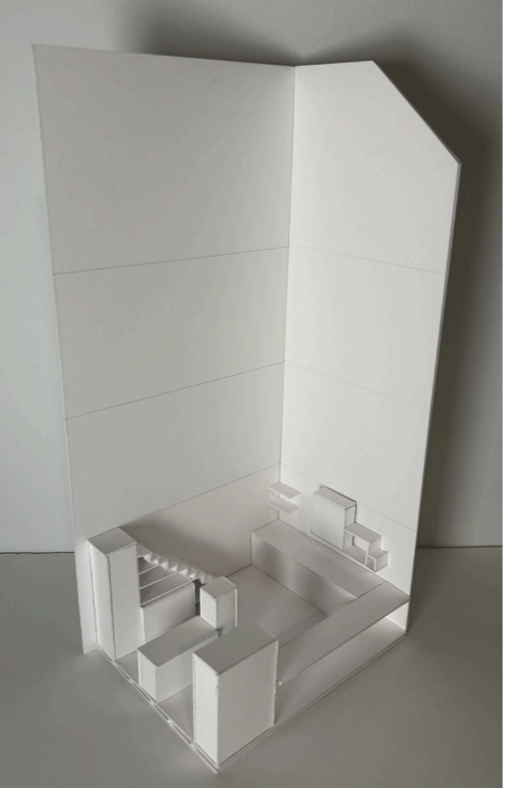
SECOND FLOOR AERIAL VIEW



CUSTOMER BATHROOM VIEW



CONSTRUCTING THE MODEL



FRONT VIEW OF 1:50 MODEL



SHORT SECTION AT MIDDAY



PERSPECTIVE VIEW

