



Sense With Body:
Art Therapy Center For Autistic Children

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Project Overview

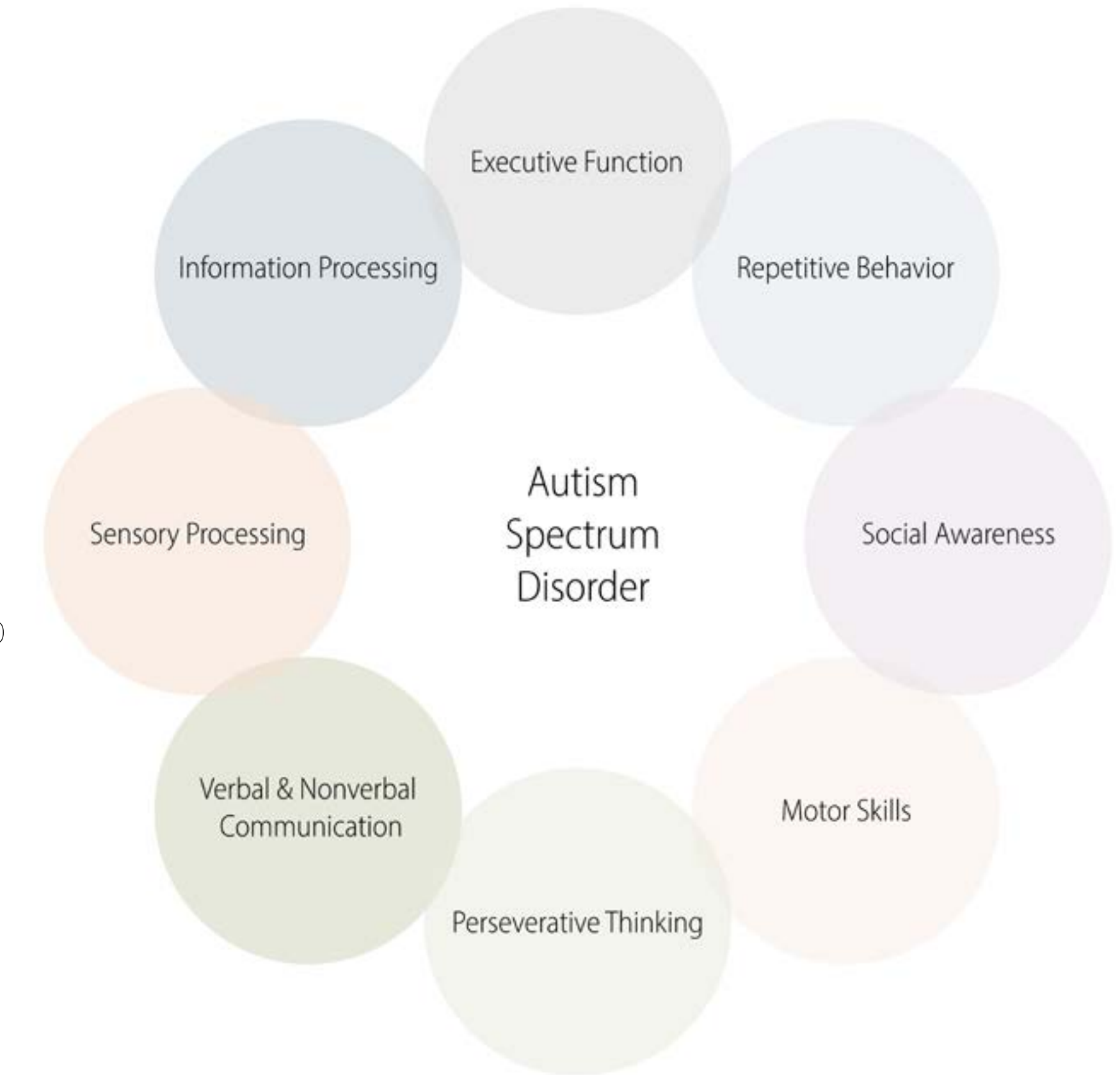


My project addresses the multisensory integration design of ASD children and makes them feel comfortable when they are being exposed to an unfamiliar environment. It's hard for Autistic children to interact and communicate with each other, and they have difficulties with integrating their senses. Autistic children's sensory experiences are different from normal people. In order to resolve the issue of the sensory design and its relationship to autistic behavior, the program will be an art therapy center, which art therapy is considered as the therapy that can improve with imaging, groupworking, and stimulate motor skills. Although there is no certain cure for them, a proper therapy environment can help Autistic children interact with others and get into the society easier when they grow up.

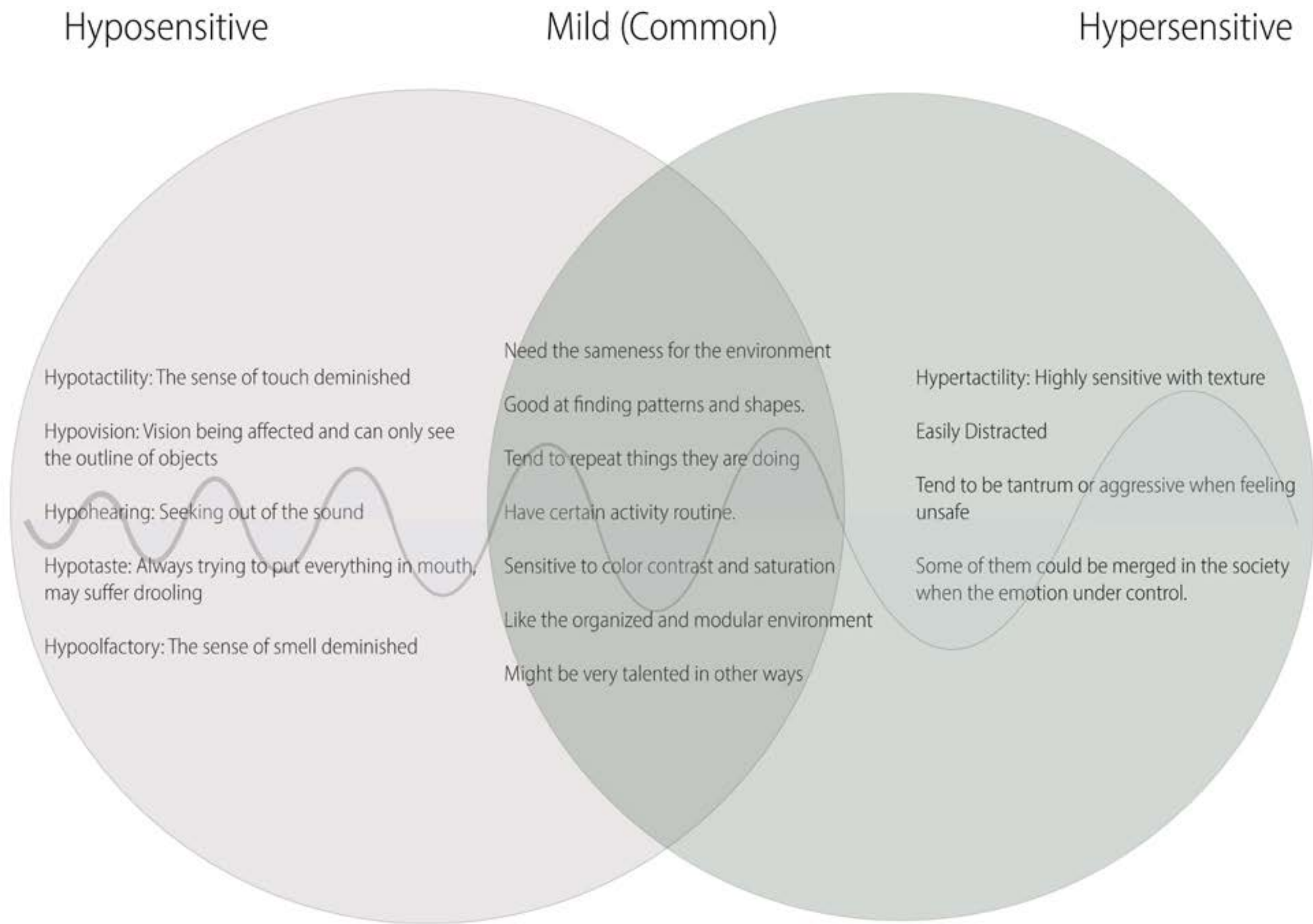
User Information and Research

User Introduction

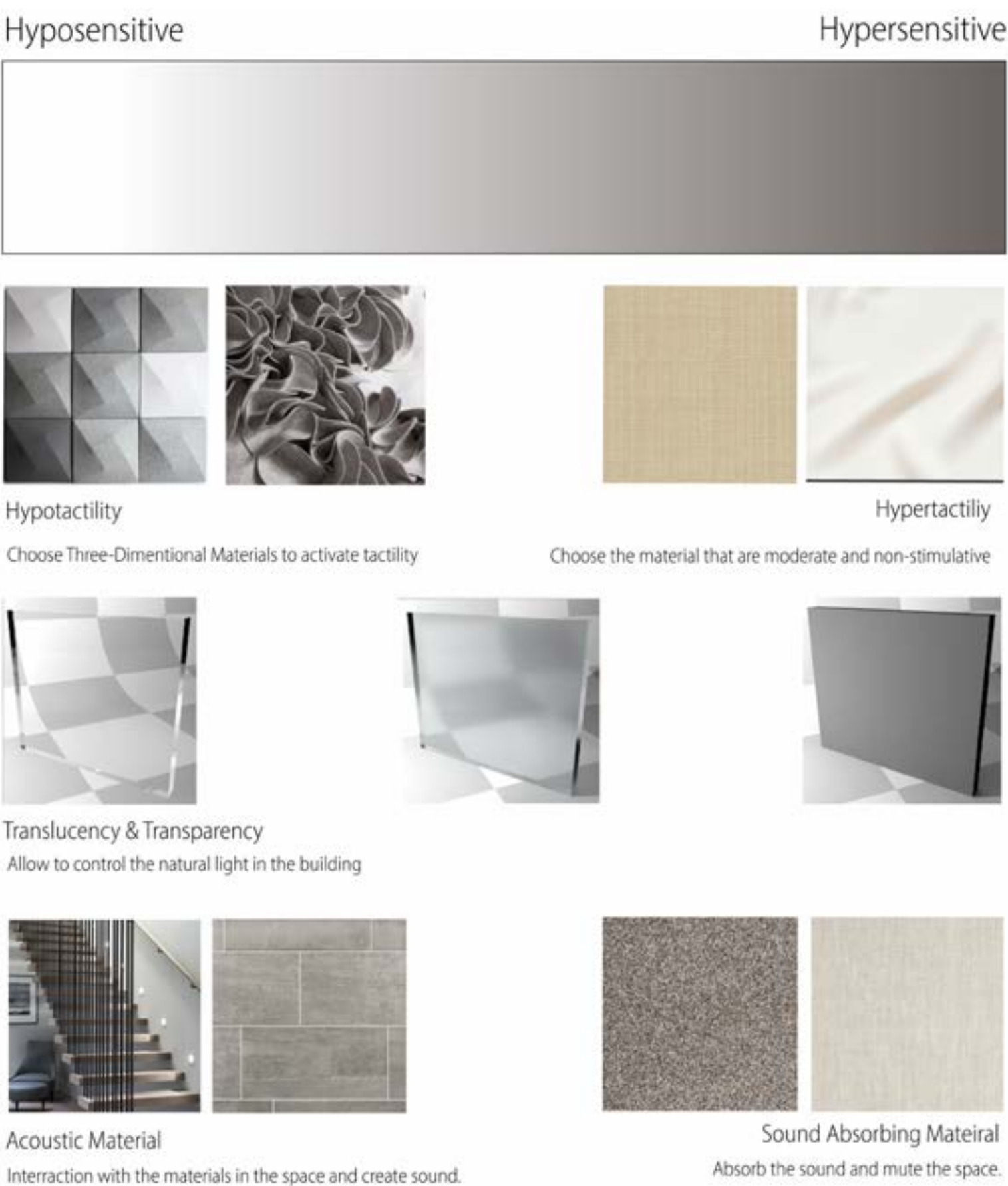
Autism Spectrum Disorder is a disorder that has many aspects to it. It is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. Scientists do not know the exact cause of the ASD, and there is no exact method to cure it. However, uncontrolled sensory stimulation in the built environment can lead to overload of senses and cause significant discomfort to people with autism.



User Category



User Category



The symptoms of autism become most notable between the ages of 2 and 3, if it can be diagnosed as early as 18 months and get proper therapy, the autism children will have less barriers when communicating with people and get into the society easily when they grow up.

For children who are diagnosed as hyposensitive, they might have problems with perceiving the sense of touching, hearing, tasting, smelling, and seeing. Their sensories are diminished and it's hard to get their attention. For people who are diagnosed with hypersensitive autism, they have opposite symptoms than hyposensitive. They are highly sensitive to texture, sound, or certain scenes. They will be easily distracted, and tend to be tantrum and aggressive when they feel unsafe

User Needs



Program Introducton

Art therapy has been used as tools of communication, self-expression, group interaction and diagnosis. It allows people to express feelings on any subject through creative work rather than speech. It is believed that it will be helpful for people who feel out of touch with emotions or feelings. By designing an art therapy center, I would like to help ASD people to develop the social behavior, the sense of self and the world, the emotion regulation and object relations.

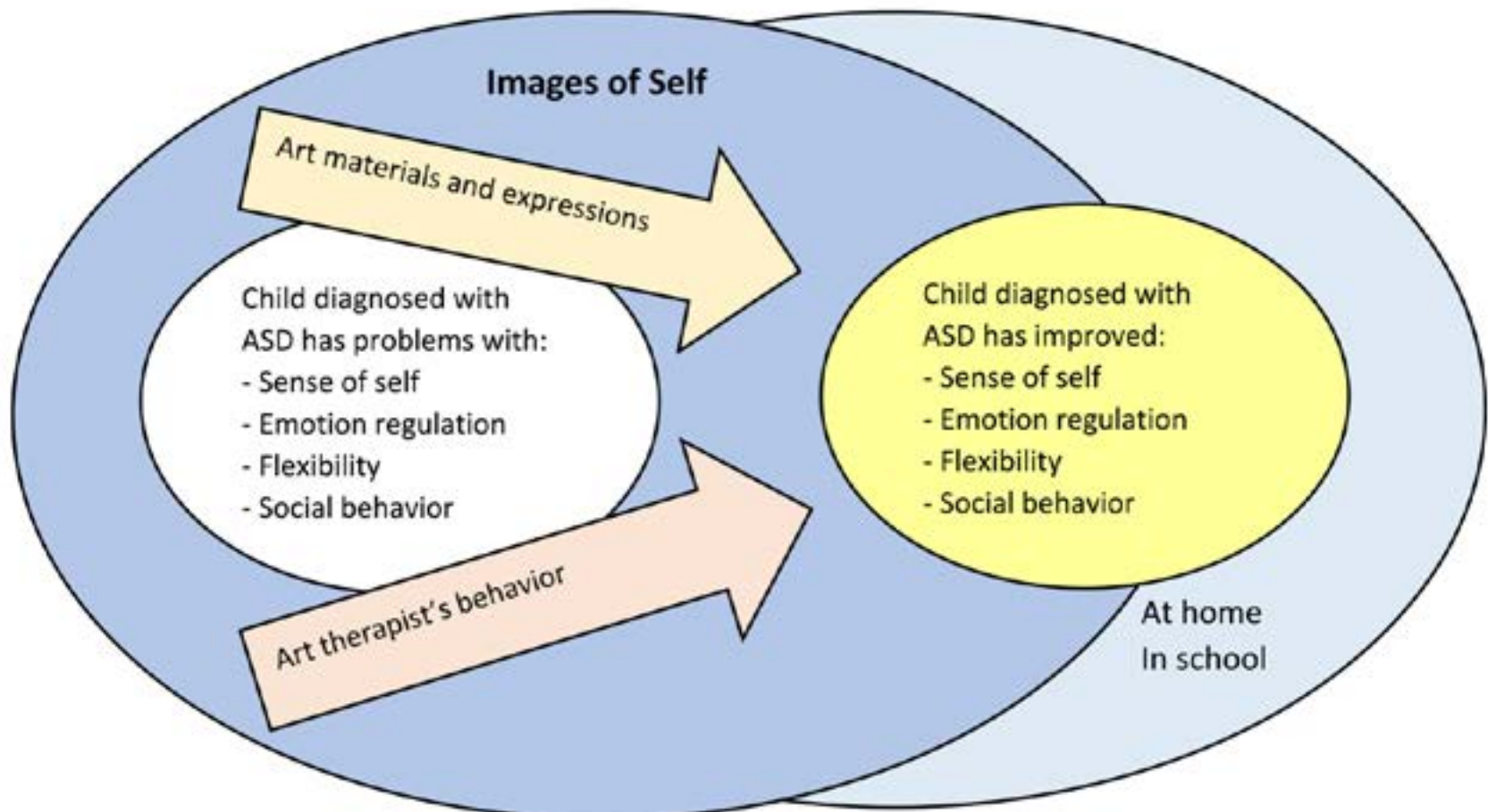


Fig. 1. Hypothetical influence from art therapy on the behavior of the child with autism.



Visual and Body Movement Coordination Training



The StrechColor project is designed by Sean Ahlquist, it is a 2D surface with black and white drawing projected. By pressing to different parts of the surface, children can be able to digitally color it, just like color it with a mouse.

Saori Weaving Patience Training



Saori is an art therapy form by weaving. The process of seeing that the fabric grows through looping the loom can help with strengthen hands and fingers, develop eye-hand coordination, promote bilateral hand use, etc.

Interactive Environmental Acoustical Installation for Music Therapy

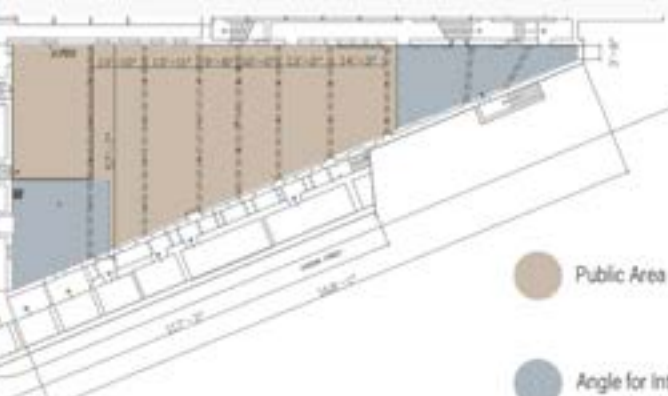



Music Therapy is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship. It is a well-established allied health profession that uses music therapeutically to address behavioral, social, psychological, communicative, physical, sensorymotor, and/or cognitive functioning.

Site Documentation

Site Location

Site: 1: Meating Packing Area, 675 Hudson St



Total Area: 6010 Sqft + 9130 Sqft
= 15140 Sqft

Usable Area: 5039 Sqft + 7322
Sqft = 12357 Sqft

Estimate people: 150-200

Reception: 1500 Sqft

Meeting Area: 2000 Sqft

Therapy Rooms: 3000 Sqft

Escape Rooms: 1000 Sqft

Exhibition: 800 Sqft

Waiting Rooms: 1000 Sqft

Transitional Area: 500 Sqft

Storage: 200 Sqft

Open Sitting Area

Commercial Area

Residential

Museum of Illusions

Blank Space Gallery

Whitney Museum

43 8th Avenue Gallery

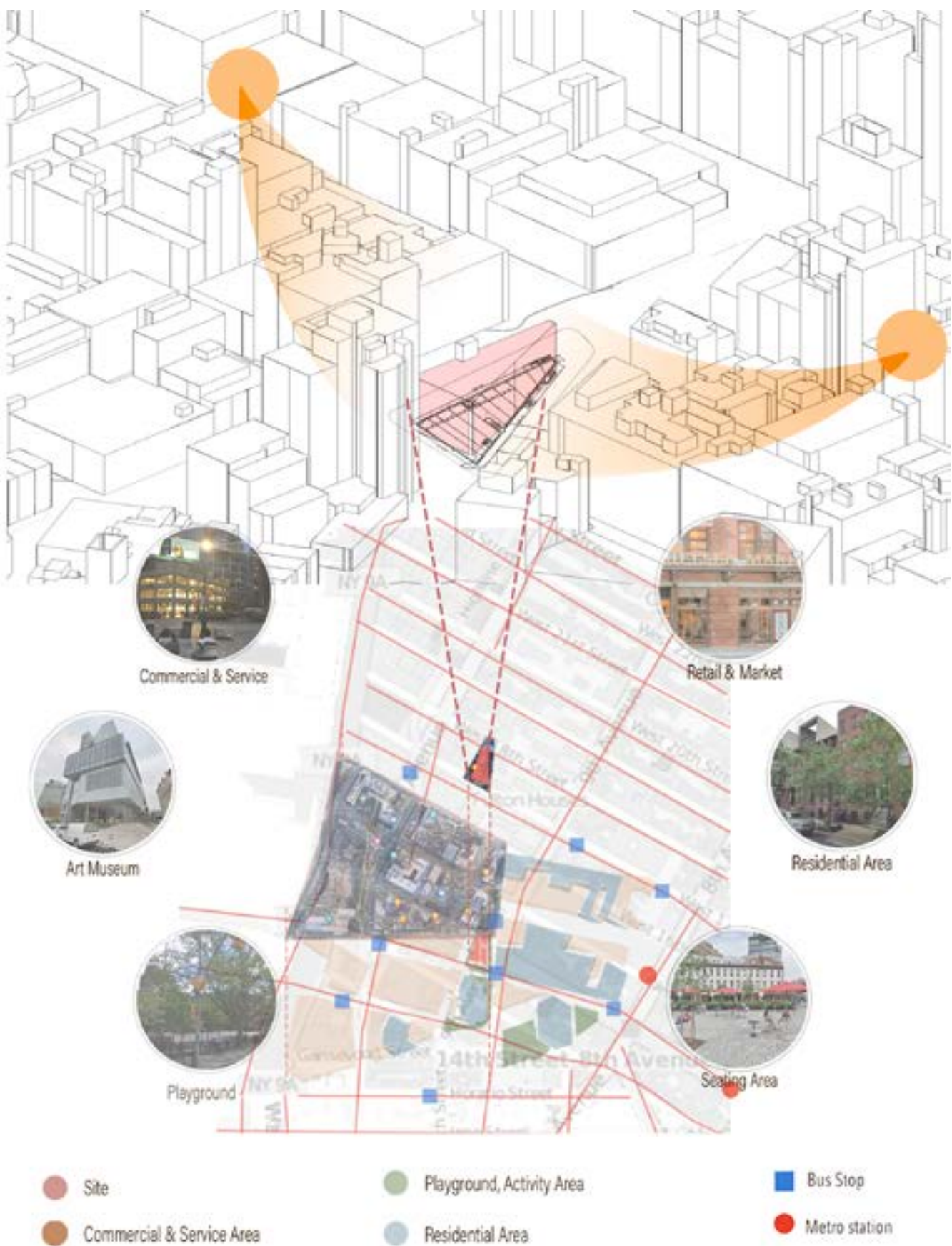
Allouche Gallery

The Sport Gallery

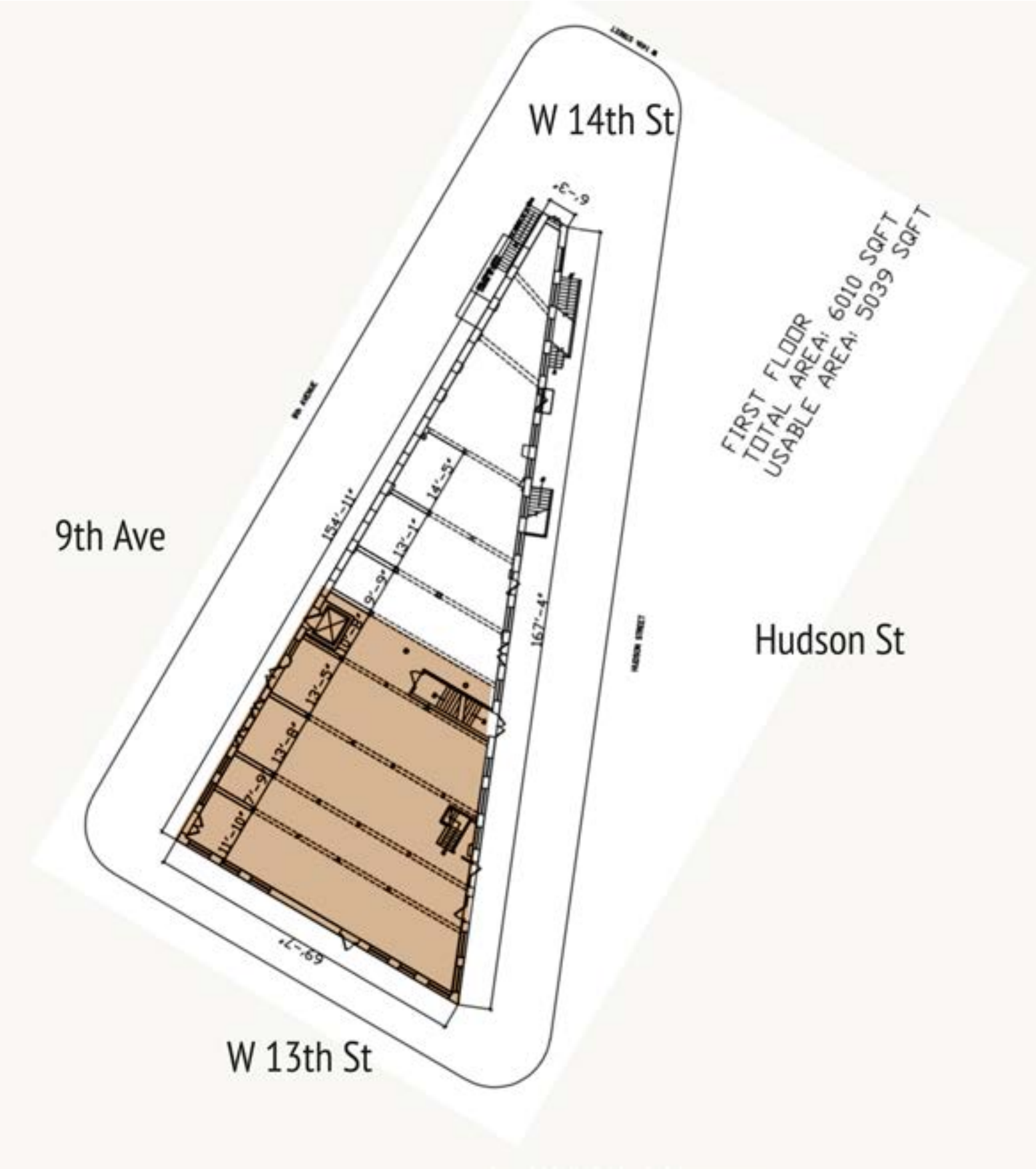
The site is located at 675 Hudson Street, meatpacking area. It is not attached to other street blocks, therefore it's easy for people to find it.. It is closed to art museums, and there are various services around, such as the commercial area, restaurant, playground. Also, there is an exterior open seating area. The transportation is convenient, I took half part of this building, and the design will occupy two floors.

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Site Analysis



Site Analysis Map showing the location of the site (orange circle) and surrounding context including Commercial & Service, Retail & Market, Art Museum, Residential Area, Playground, and Seating Area. The map also includes a legend for Site, Commercial & Service Area, Playground, Activity Area, Residential Area, Bus Stop, and Metro station.



Floor Plan of the First Floor of the building at 675 Hudson St. The plan shows the building footprint, room layouts, and dimensions. The total area is 6010 Sqft and the usable area is 5039 Sqft.

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Dangerous Supplement

Photos



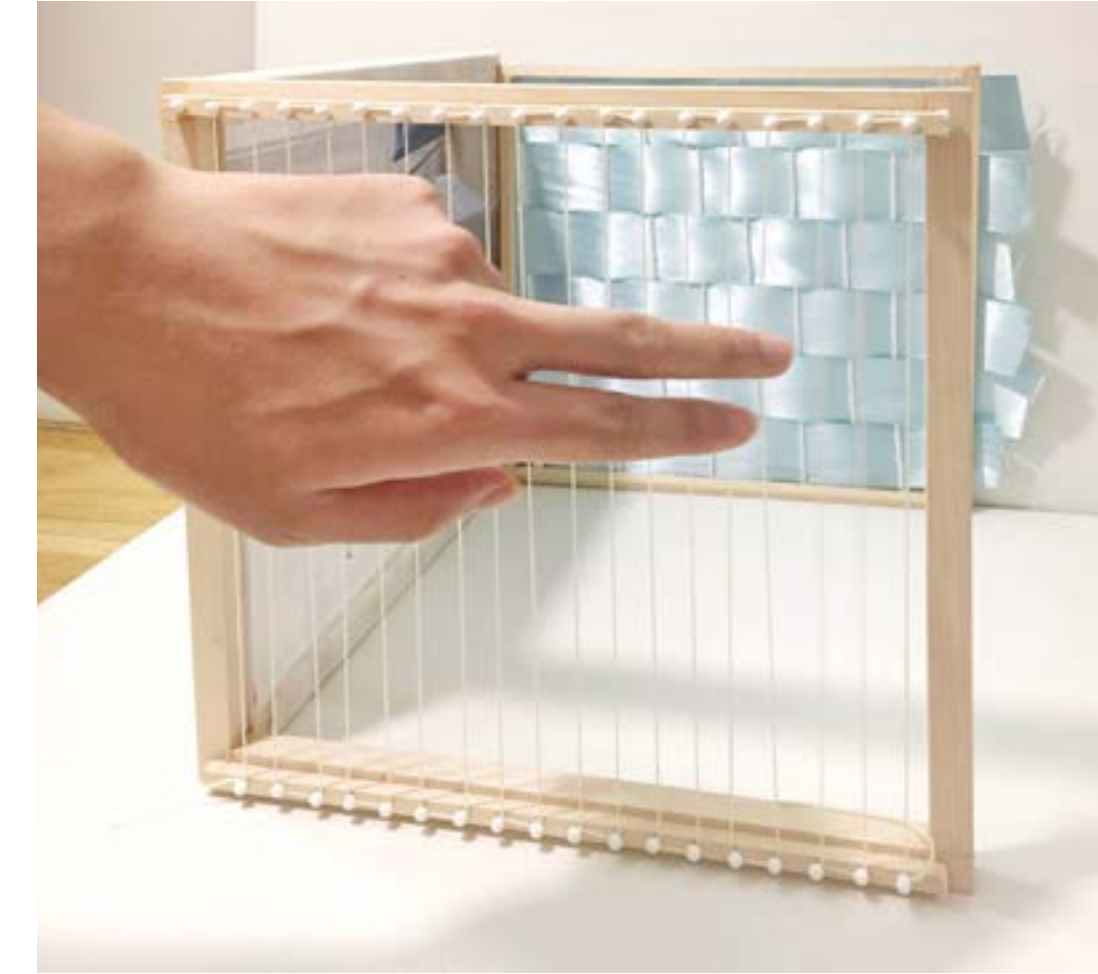
The dangerous supplement is the project that helped to develop the program ideas. This is an art therapy box. By interacting with different parts of the box, children will get trained with different sensory coordination.

Eye-Hand Coordination



When touching the touch sensitive lighting patterns, they can create the patterns without making their hands dirty.

Ear-Hand Coordination

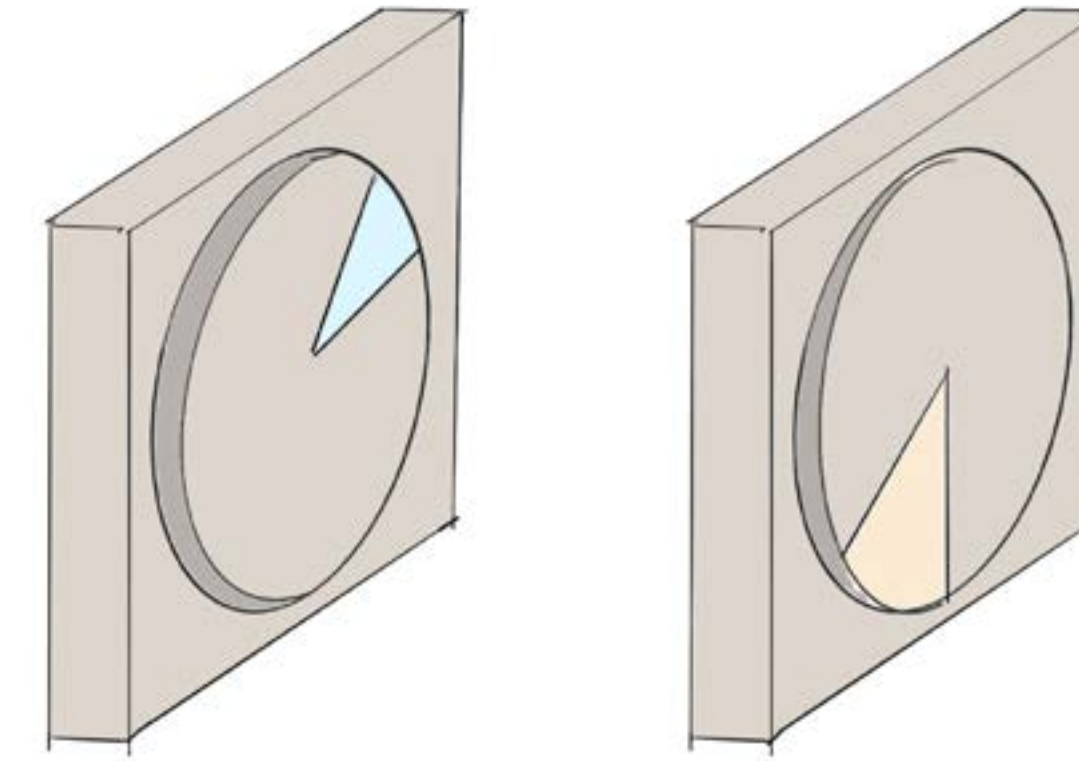


When children pluck the string, there will be sound played,





This part is a vertical loom with all the weft setup. Children can choose what types of fabric they wanted to weave in. There will be a storage drawer underneath the weaving loom

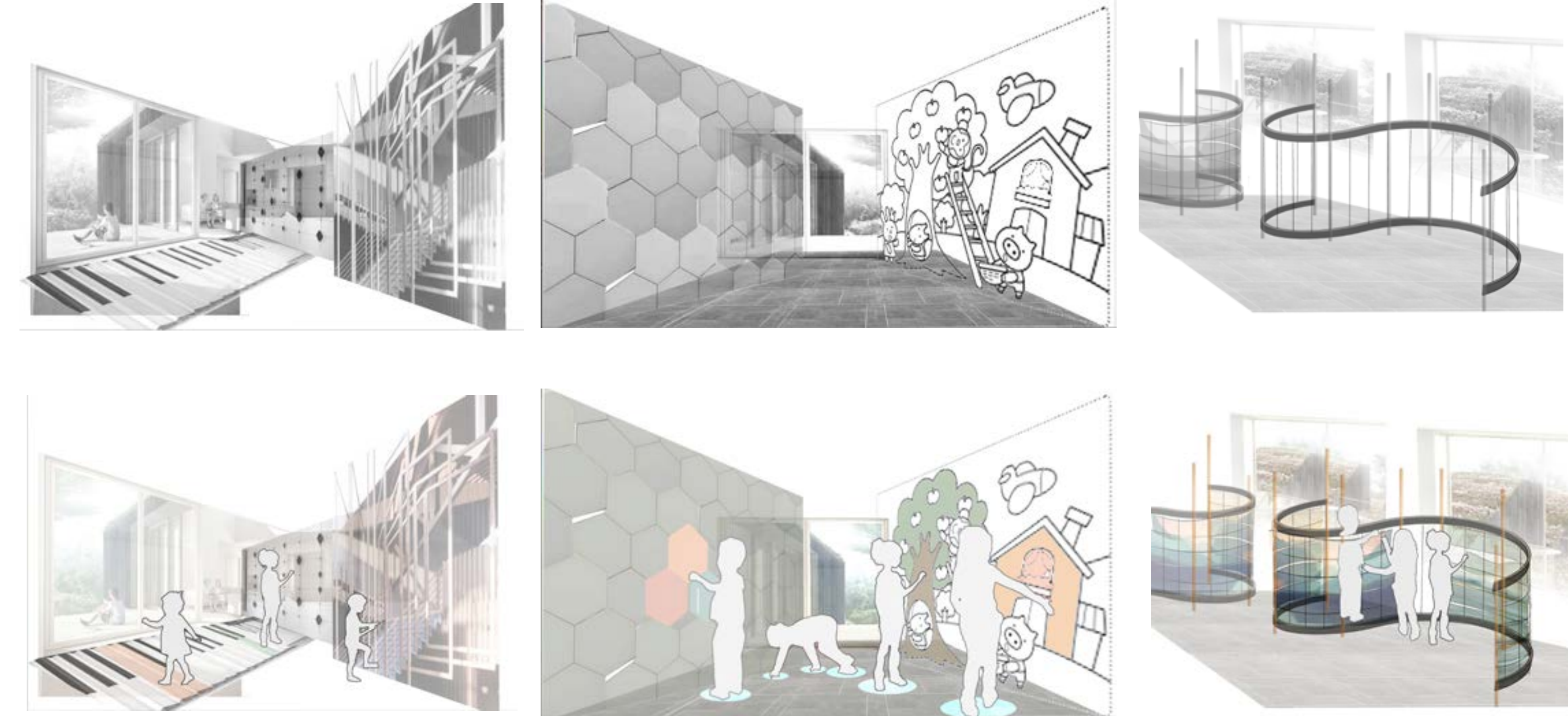


By rotating the wheel on the reward box, there will be different types of gifts come out.



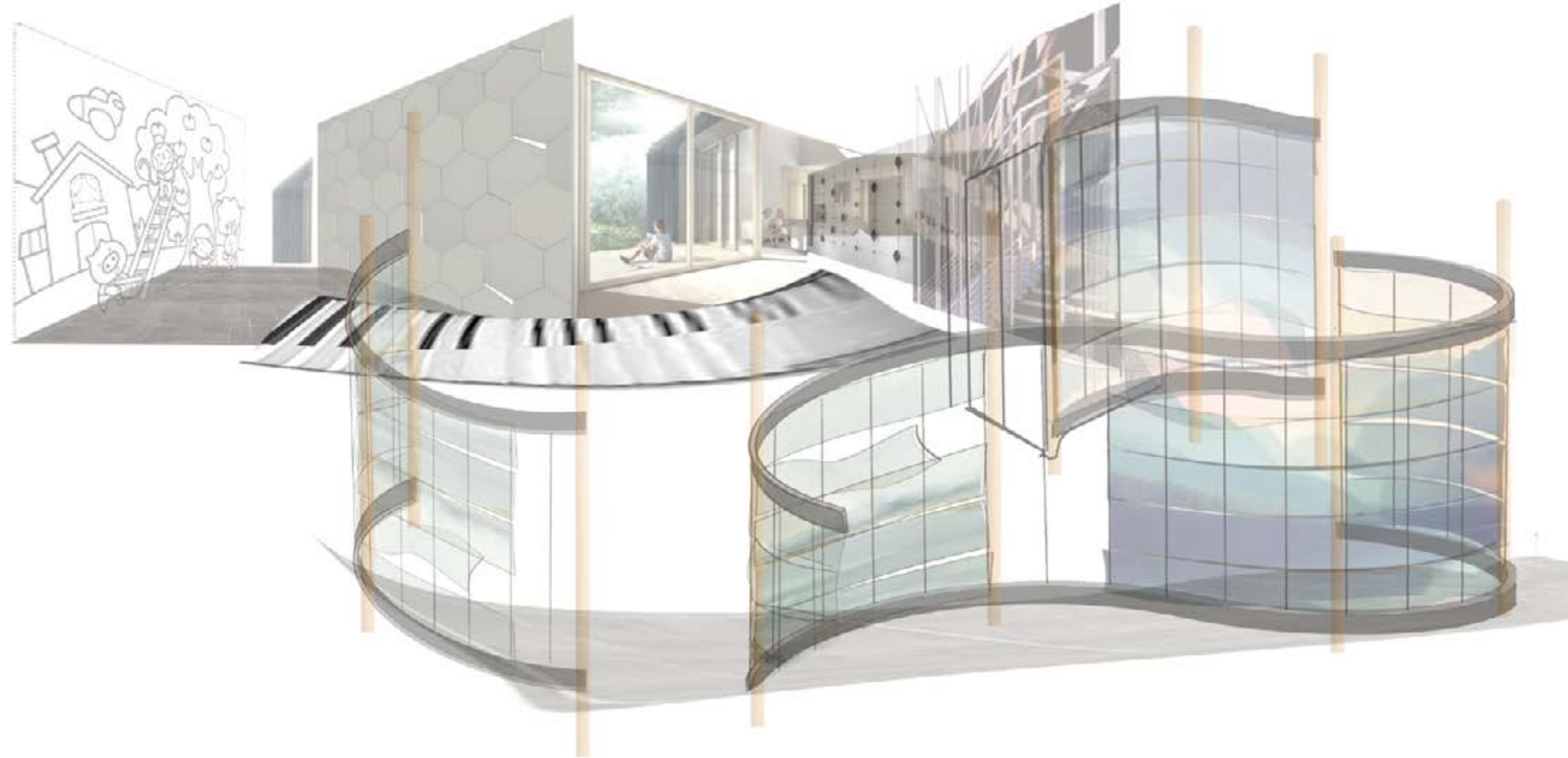
Diptych & Program

Diptych



The diptych helped with conceptualize the vibe of the interior space of different art therapy programs. With the children's activities, the space is activated and interactive.

Program Collage



Program Types



Reception

Signup Information



Evaluation Room

Evaluate & Orient



Post Therapy Meeting Room

Conference with Guardian for Further Therapy



Rest Area

For Parents who are waiting for children to rest



Interior Loggia

Provided Intimate and Generous Space
For Children Interacting with Each Other



Group Therapy Room

Get Children Involved in Group



Individual Therapy Room

For Autistic Children don't want to work with others



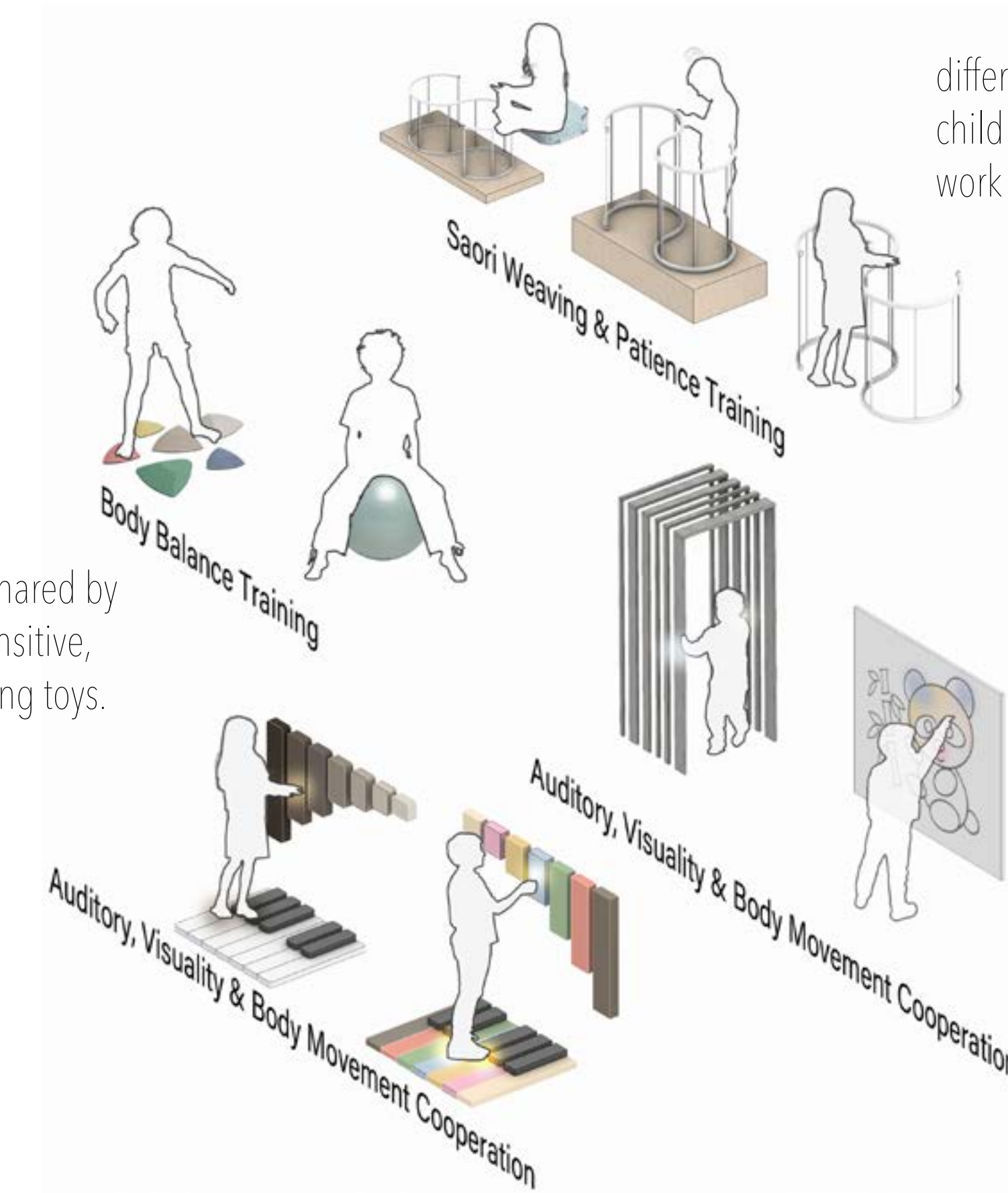
Neutral Zone

Allow children to calm down when feel overwhelmed

Spatial Design

Art Therapy Program Types

In the common space which is shared by both hypersensitive and hyposensitive, there will be body balance training toys.



By touching and stepping on different parts of the acoustical installations, there will be light and sound played with their body movement.

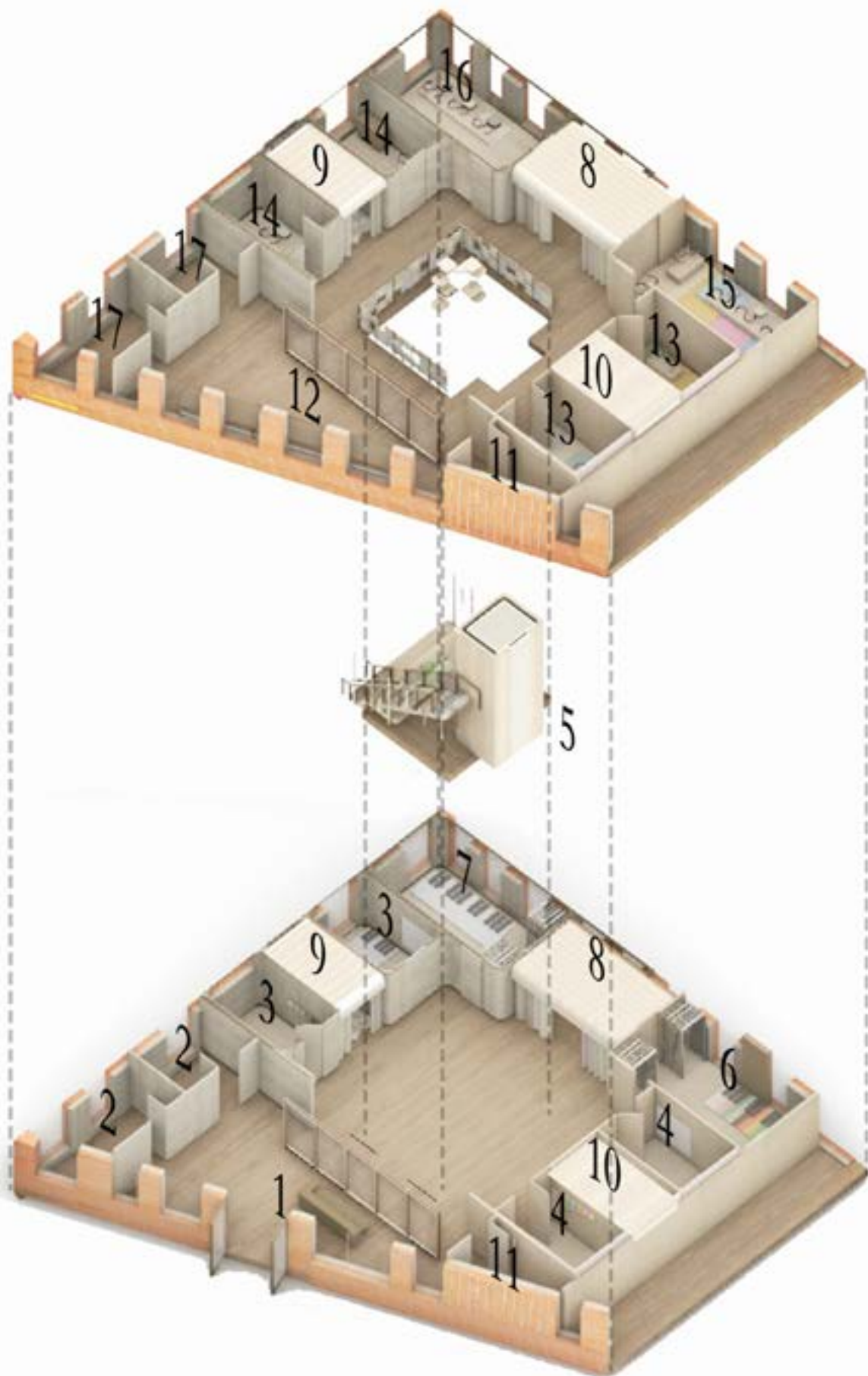
First Floor: Auditory, Visuality and Body Movement Cooperation



- 1: Reception
- 2: Evaluation Room
- 3: Hypersensitive Individual Therapy Room
- 4: Hyposensitive Individual Therapy Room
- 5: Common Area
- 6: Hyposensitive Group Therapy Room
- 7: Hypersensitive Individual Therapy Room
- 8: Hypersensitive Neutral Zone
- 9: Mixed Neutral Zone
- 10: Hyposensitive Neutral Zone
- 11: Restroom

People enter from the gate, and they will register in the reception area. Then the staff will lead them into the evaluation room on the left side. There is also a bench for waiting. After the evaluation, they will be guided to the different art therapy rooms

Second Floor: Auditory, Visuality and Body Movement Cooperation



- 1: Reception
- 2: Evaluation Room
- 3: Hypersensitive Individual Therapy Room
- 4: Hyposensitive Individual Therapy Room
- 5: Common Area
- 6: Hyposensitive Group Therapy Room
- 7: Hypersensitive Individual Therapy Room
- 8: Hypersensitive Neutral Zone
- 9: Mixed Neutral Zone
- 10: Hyposensitive Neutral Zone
- 11: Restroom

The left side is designed for hypersensitive autistic children who need less stimulation, in which the color and material will be muted and moderate. The right side is designed for hyposensitive children who need stimulative environment, in which the color and material will be a bit more saturated and have more variation.



Building Section A



Building Section B



Building Section C



Building Section D

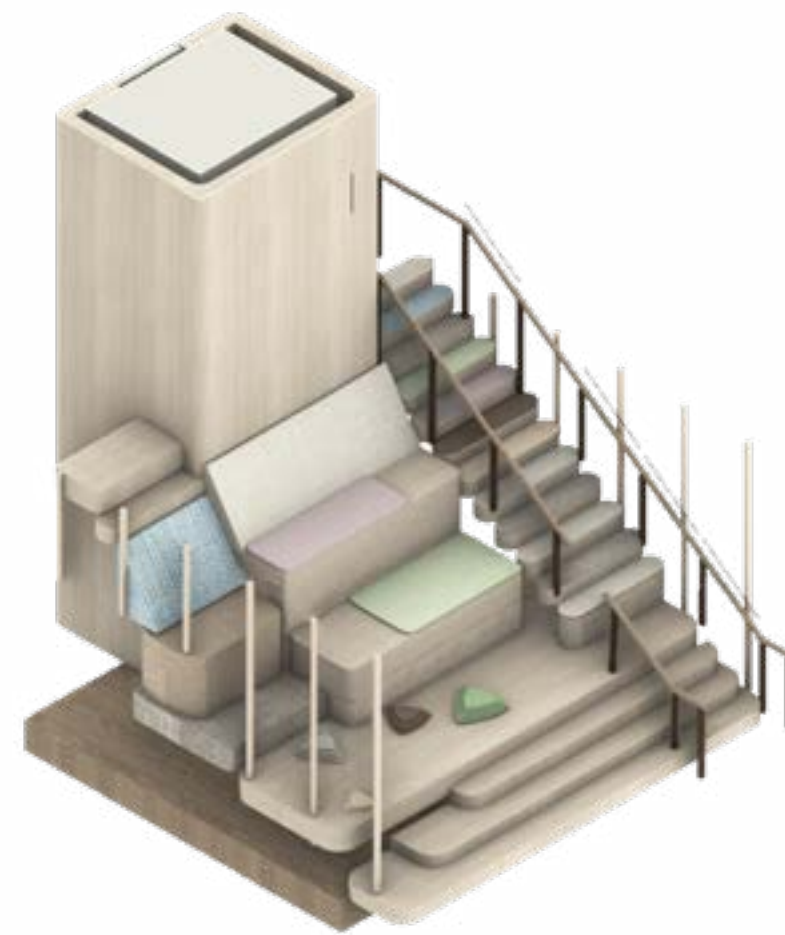


Interior Images

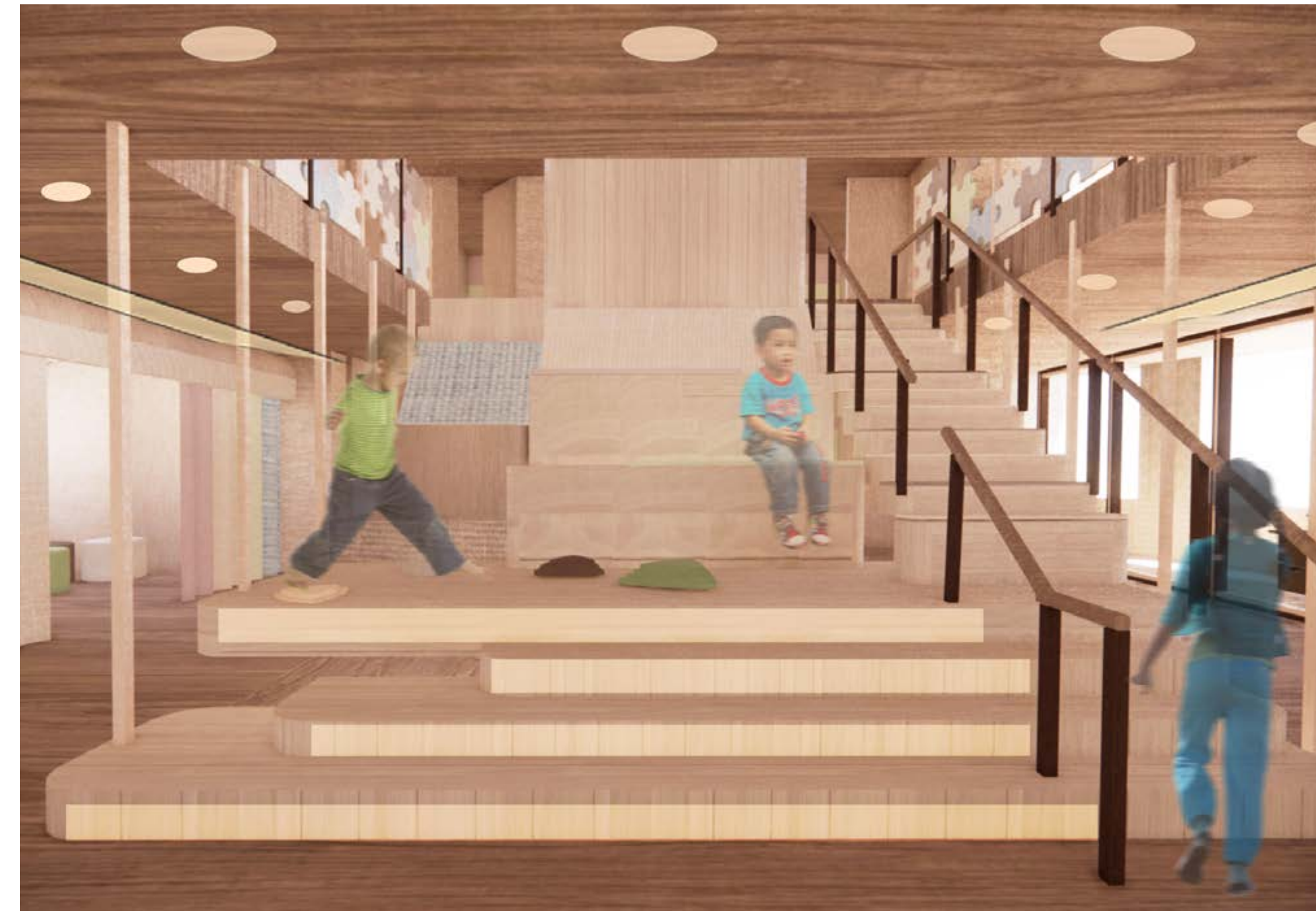


Reception





the interior loggia that was designed for mixing different groups of autistic children together. There are different sizes of the stairs, and they sit together. There will also be artworks that were created by the children on the wall. The guardrail on the upper level will be the same pattern of the mat of the neutral zone





Hyposensitive Group Therapy Room: Saori Weaving & Patience Training



Hyposensitive Group Therapy Room: Auditory, Visuality and Body Movement Cooperation



Individual Therapy Room: Auditory, Visual and Body Movement Cooperation



Individual Therapy Room: Siori Weaving & Patience Training



Hyposensitive Neutral Zone



Hypersensitive Group Therapy Room: Saori Weaving & Patience Training



Hypersensitive Group Therapy Room: Auditory, Visuality and Body Movement Cooperation



Individual Therapy Room: Auditory, Visuality and Body Movement Cooperation



Individual Therapy Room: Siori Weaving & Patience Training

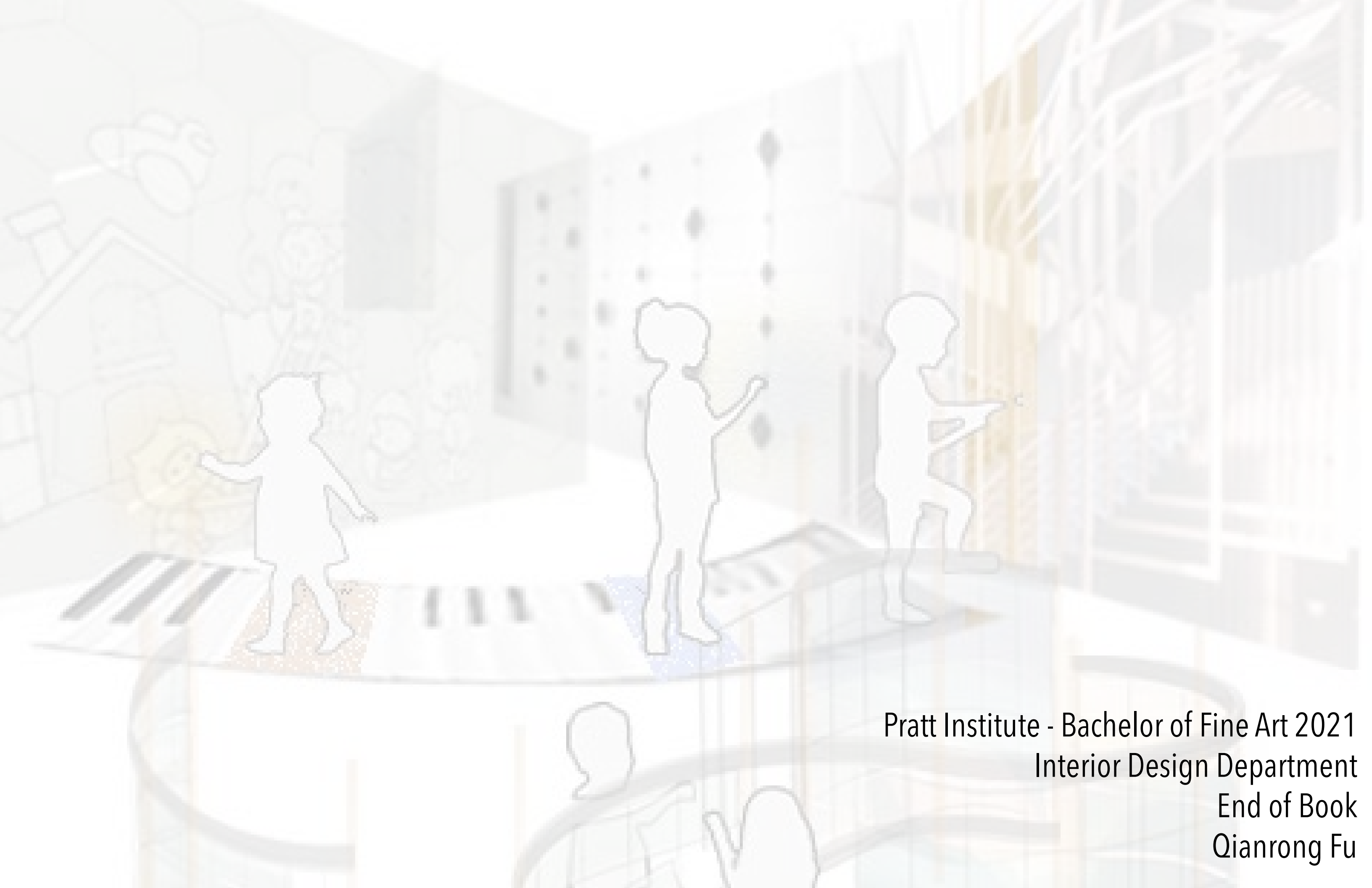


Hyposensitive Neutral Zone



Project Summary

In recent years, the fast growing of Autism Spectrum Disorder has brought the attention for designers to think about how interior spaces are affecting autistic children. Autism Spectrum Disorder is a disorder that has many aspects to it. It is a developmental disability caused by differences in the brain. Scientists do not know the exact cause of the ASD, and there is no exact method to cure it. However, uncontrolled sensory stimulation in the built environment can lead to overload of senses and cause significant discomfort to people with autistic groups. Since art therapy is a effective way has been proved that can help with intervening the development of autistic behavior, and there is no art therapy center designed specifically aimed to autistic children, I would like to propose design strategies which multisensory integration into the spatial design to help autistic children to get along with themselves and others. In order to understand their needs, I have researched different articles, and did many precedent studies to try to make the space more intimate and interactive. The design of different programs from the "Dangerous Supplement" has helped me with developing the spatial program, and those therapy programs are being approved that can train autistic children's motor ability and sensory integration. I want to bring peoples' attention to this special group of people that needs special treatment, and help autistic children get involved in society when they grow up.



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