

# NATURE WITHIN AN URBAN SHELL

Peter Na

Prof. B.Moran

21/SP-INT402-6V

Pratt Institute School of Design, Interior Design Department

# Table of Contents

CONCEPT	1 -
DESIGNING MODULES	5 -
SITE	11 -
GREEN CONTEXT / PROGRAMS	13 -
LIGHT / CIRCULATION	17 -
DESIGNING A POCKET OF NATURE	19 -
THESIS QUESTIONS	25 -
APPENDIX	27 -
BIBLIOGRAPHY	31 -

# Biophilia

ypothetical human tendancy to interact or be closely associated with other forms of life in natur desire or tendancy to commune with nature.

### Statement

This thesis will explore the relationship between humans and nature, as well as the connection between the two. Nature has been slowly depleting in most urban settings. We as humans do not realize the urgent need of nature surrounding us. This thesis will be applied to a communal mini-mall located within a bustling neighborhood in Seoul, South Korea. The users will be the ones who pass by or live/work nearby where they can come and take a break from reality and relax skiping off their urban shell





### Biophilic Elements



Sensory Stimuli

The smell of vegitation, percipication, dirt etc, visual color stimuli by the variety of vegitation engages another level of community.



Various Vegitation

A variety of vegitation create atmosphere, mood and tone of space.



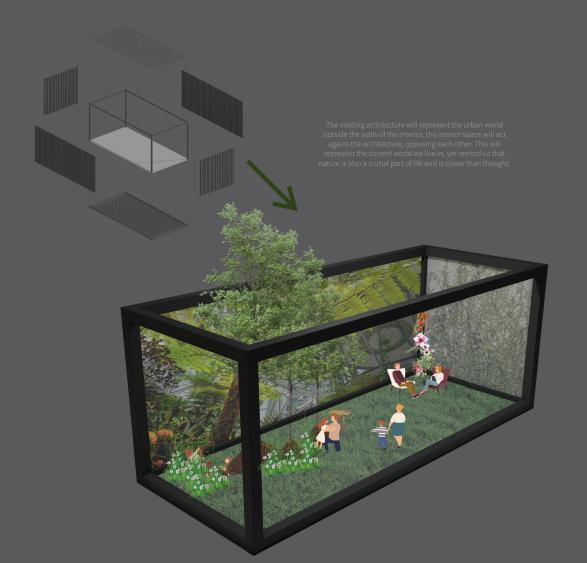
Shelter and Structure

The structure of vegitation imita community and strength.



Diffused Natural Light

The use of natural light enhance the warmth and cozyness of



# Pocket of Nature within an Urban Shell.



# **Design Concept**

This thesis will dive into the relationship between nature and human interactions. through various different elements of biophilic design will create an atmosphere that users can immerse in and step away from the urban world that they live in. The site is located in Seoul, South Korea where they have a consistently developing urban setting, along with a large demographic of people. The structure of the chosen site resonates with this thesis, representing the urban shell that we live in, and the biophilic elements will be carefully implemented within the space to finalize the thesis of "Nature within a Urban Shell".

We as humans live with nature close by, however in our modern world we are depleted from any type of nature within an urban environment specifically

Seoul, South Korea.

"Bringing nature into the confines of space."

# **Crown Shyness**

Nature within Human's

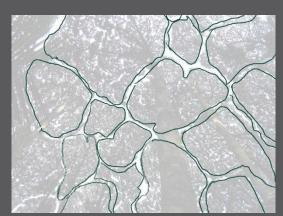
### Crown Shyness

Is a phenomenon that occurs within adult trees that, where the leaves do not touch the adjacent tree. This can be seen in large forested areas where many trees are close to one another.

We as humans also resemble Crown Shyness within our everday lives. This occurance can be easily seen walking down the street without us even noticing. This phenomenon is a representation of who we are and how closely we are rooted into nature itself. The modules will be a symbol of us in nature, how they come together to create a whole.







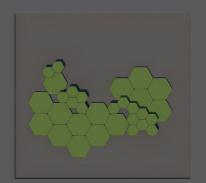


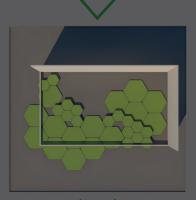


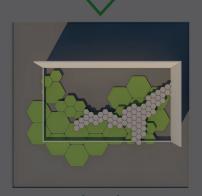


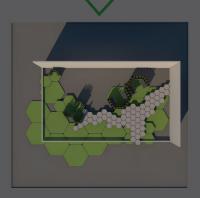


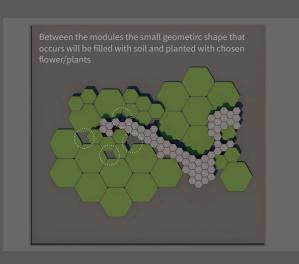
# Modularity Interpreting Nature



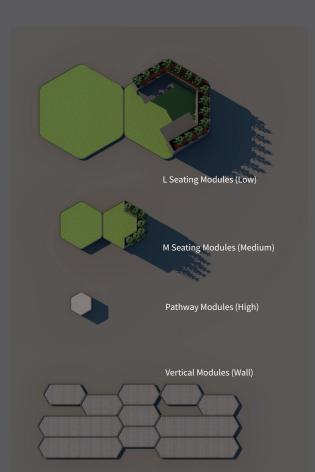








Each module will resemble the shape of the phenomenon; Crown Shyness. 3 different sizes will be used and each module can be modified into the needed types of material and finishes.



# **Cycle of Nature**

# Winter

### Cycle of Season's

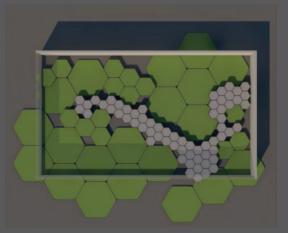
The climate of Seoul also affects the cycle of nature. Korea has four distinct seasons, though the duration of each season differes drastically. The population of Korea's capitol can experience distinct climate cycles. The cycles not only change the scenery of the capitol, but with in the setting of the site, this can also translate to the visibility that the greenery provides. This will also drastically change according to the seasonal changes.

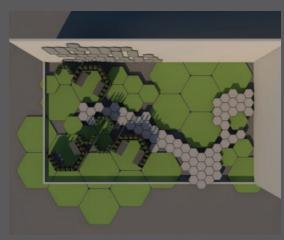
The greenery, specifically greenery that has leaves, naturally fall and grow back. During this process, the cover that the leaves provide open up visibilty throughout the space when they fall off.

# **Modular Stacking**









The height difference of each module will allow for a more visible understanding of the space, dividing the space without the use of a physical barrie





The addition of seating and vertical modules allows for a coinuous connection between the horizontal and vertical spa

# **Nature Within**

1 Silver Birch Tree Symbolizing beginnings, renewal & purification.

### 2 Hawthorn Tree

Greek (Kratos - Strength / Akis - Sharp) Symbolizing love, all types of love directed toward myself.

### 3 Rowan Tree

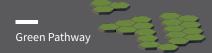
Celtic Mythology (Tree of Life) Symbolizing courage, wisdom and protection.

- 4 Magnolia Flower / Tree Single Tree within Void Signifies love of Nature.
- 5 Daisy Flower
- 6 Edelweiss Symbolizes courage and devotion.
- 7 Chrysanthemum (Red / White) Symbolizes happiness, longevity and joy.
- 8 Rose of Sharon (Mugoonghwa Flower) 무궁화 꽃 National flower of South Korea. "Forever flower that will never die"

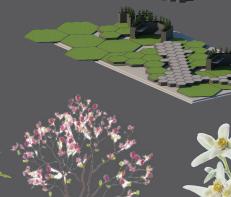


















### Site

COMMON GROUND / Seoul , South Kore

This complex is made up of 160 40ft container boxes. This complex is to represent the urbanism that has occured around us, depleating nature from our surroundings.



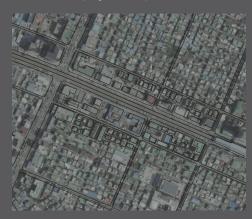
The material/modularity of the structure closely represents how and what we have become.



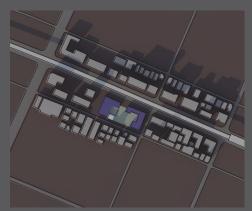


# **City Context**

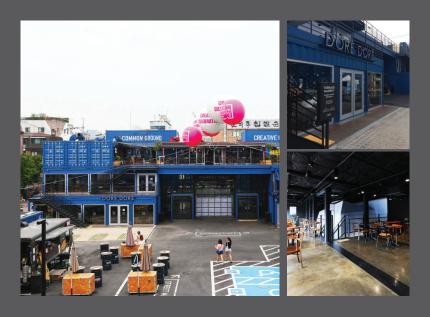
Satellite View (City Context



Bird's Eve View (Shadow & Light)



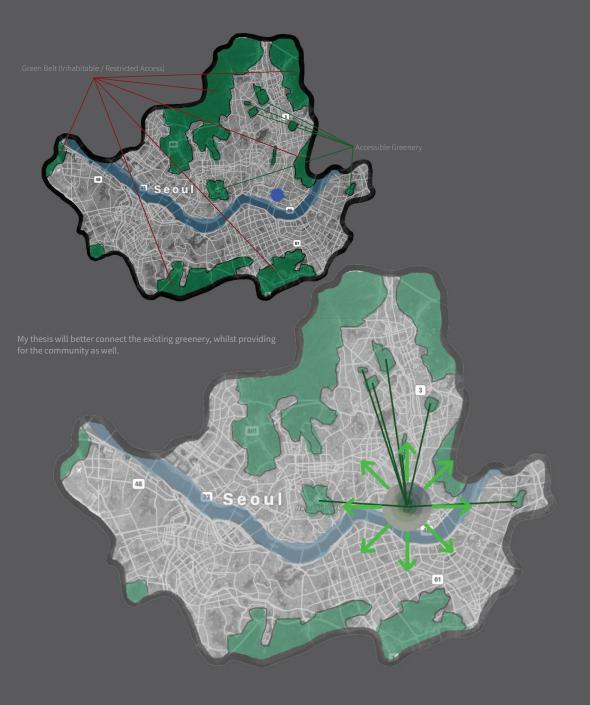
By understanding the surrounding, which is a heavily populated and architecturally dense surrounding. The lack of nature can be easily seen. The placement of my thesis project wi allow not only a "Pocket of Nature", but it will stand out to all that pass by and fulfull our human connection with nature.



This site was chosen due to its large variety of demographics nearby, as well as ease of acces due to one of the busiest subway stations adjacent to the site. The major factor of this site was the material that it was built with; container boxes. This represent the industrialized and technologically advanced modern society we live in, a drastic opposite of nature.

# **Surrounding Green Context**

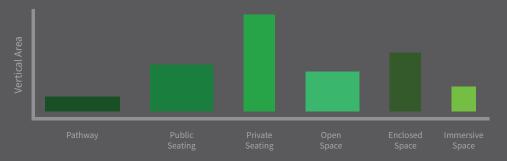
Seoul, South Korea is a heavily developed country, that has grown rapidly in the past century. Due to this boom of infrastructure and population, there was not enough room to spare for enough greenery.



## **Programs**

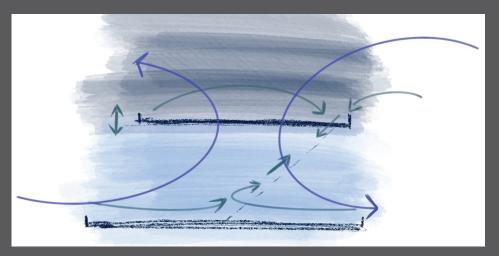
TOTAL AREA - 180m2 / 1930 saft

Pathway	10%	18 m2 / 193 sqft	Horizontal	Green + Color
Public Seating	25%	45 m2 / 482.5 sqft	Horizontal + Vertical	Green
Private Seating	20%	36 m2 / 386 sqft	Vertical	Color
Open Space	20%	36 m2 / 386 sqft	Horizontal	Green + Color
Enclosed Space	15%	27 m2 / 289.5 sqft	Horizontal + Vertical	Color
Immersive Space	10%	18 m2 / 193 sqft	Horizontal + Vertical	Green + Color



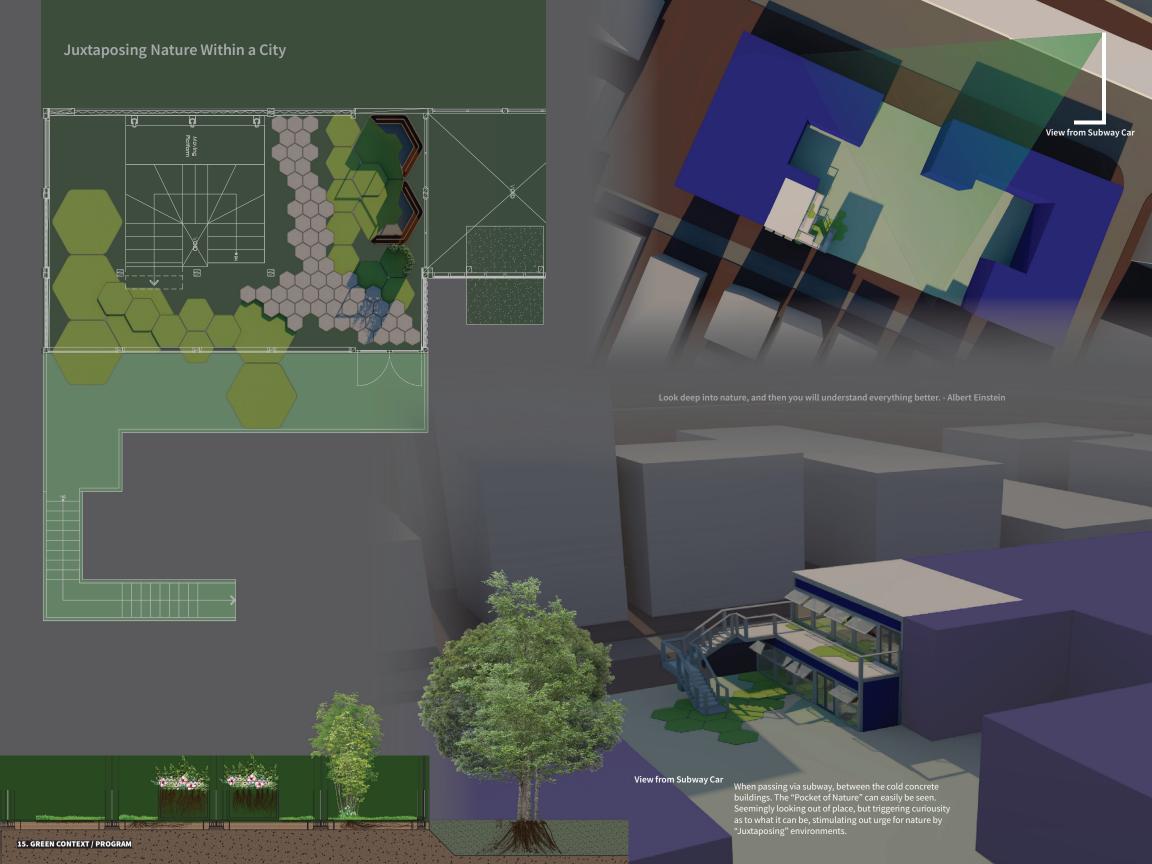
Horizontal Area

The programs of the space will all be intertwined with one another, meaning each space will come together to create a community within nature. Each floor will have different privacy measures. The first floor will be for a general population area for the users to roam about without the need of privacy. The second floor will be more secluded, however it will not be detached from the space. It will allow for a more intimate time with nature and as well as the surrounding company.

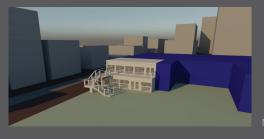


### User

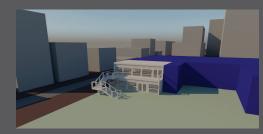
The users of this program will be a majority of younger demographics along with nearby residential users as well. Nearby programs will also provide a larger demographic that will not be as large as younger demographic however, allow a larger demographic scale to access this program.



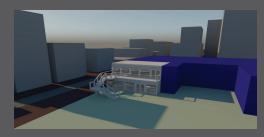
# **Natural Light**



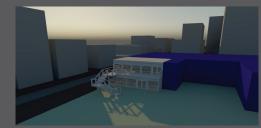
Mornin



loon

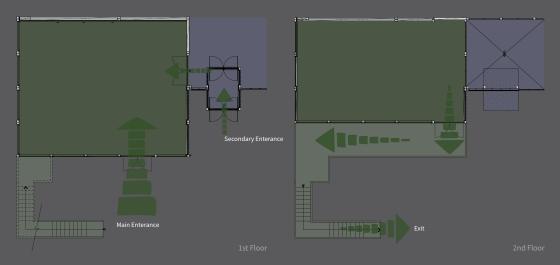


Afternooi



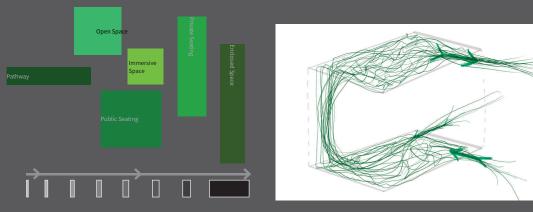
Late Afternooi

# **Circulation of Space**



The users of the space will enter only through the first floor. Allowing for a sequential experience that is intended.

The exit will be located on the second floor which oversees the courtward that is the beginning and end simultaniously.



pace Vertical Movemen

The view is overlooking the enterance and exit sequence. As the users would enter through the 1st floor main enterance and move throughout the space, moving vertically to the second floor and lastly exiting through the 2nd floor overseeing the court and



# **Designing Nature**



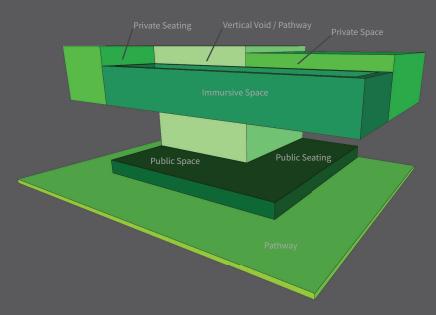
### Center Void

The central void allows for the vertical connection to be enclosed by the 2F slab, allowing for a immursive experience of nature overall

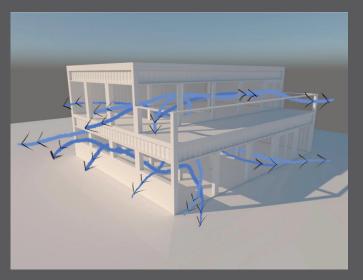
### Pros

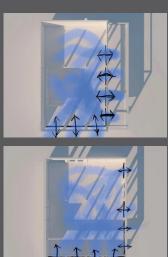
Private 1st Floor / Catwalk (private) 2nd Floor / Central Vertica Circulation / Platform creates different mood

This layout allows for a larger visual of the space, allowing for a visually larger, wider space. This design also allows for a balcony layout for each floor.



# **Air Circulation**





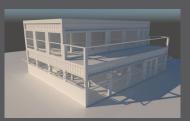
The air circulation will be independant from each floor, meaning that each individual floor can circulate seperately. The windows will allow for air, but also act as a balcony for the private areas.







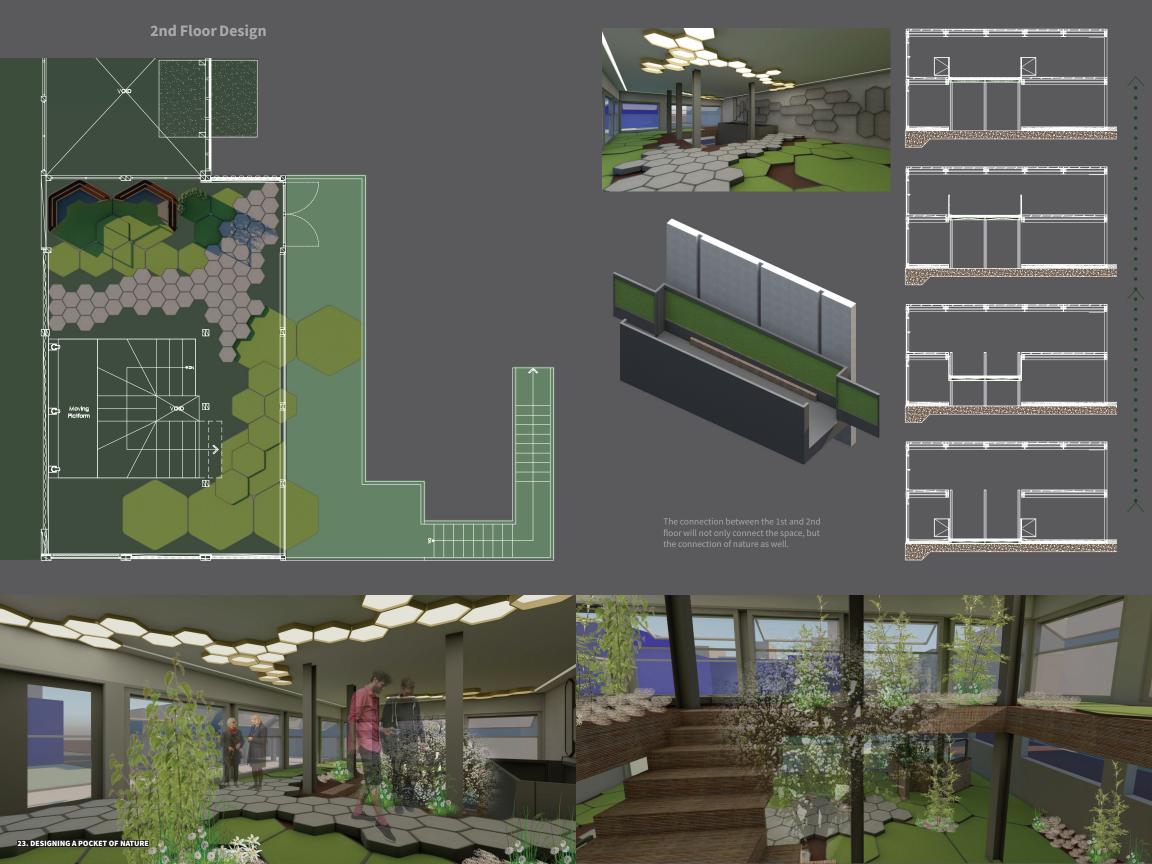




Closed

Open





1. What kind of impact (creative, intellectual, communal, civic, social, etc.) do you hope your projec
will have? What strategies will you employ to achieve the desired impact?

My work will impact the community, the relationship between humans and nature, and finally it impacts each individual's inner nature. To achieve the desired impact, the careful deployment of biophilic elements will be a crucia part of the design. The choice of specific biophilic elements will not only be a part of the interior space, it will become the interior space. creating an atmosphere.

# 2. What are the main influences on your thesis work? These might be historical, social, political, and/or physical forces or phenomena. Use concrete examples: design precedent work, political movement, cultural occurrence, or work from outside the design field could all apply.

The main influence for my thesis was the realization of the lack of greenery within my home town in Korea. It was a struggle to find a close enough plot of nature within a close range. It was driven from curiosity as well as awareness of my surroundings. The curiosity was triggered by the realization of how much Seoul lacks in greenery, allowing me to nove forward in bringing nature into a interior space to mimic the lacking nature outside.

# 3. How might your proposed thesis act as a catalyst for your creative and professional growth? How might your thesis require changes to the way interior design is practiced professionally?

My thesis has allowed me to better understand the innate need of nature within humans, along with the knowledge of drastic depletion of nature, it has made me to think more about the relationship, impact and overall connection between us humans and nature. My thesis would require for designers to be approach nature more intimately into their design, naturally attracting us to such designs. This will not only benefit us humans, but the existing nature around us as well.

# 4. Who are the specific audiences/communities that you hope to engage through this exploration How are you hoping to reach them?

My expected community my thesis will impact will be the users of the mall, near-by residents, office workers, nearby university students and general passer-byers. The method for reaching out to these communities and users would be out of our innate need of nature which is drastically depleting near-by. By implementing biophilic elements and lighting, I will reach to the community and users to experience nature within an urban shell..

### 5. Speculate: will your project take an original and imaginative approach to content and form:

My thesis will take form of a more original approach, using methods that exist to implement my biophilic elements into the space. Ultimately creating the intended experience of nature.

# 6. How does your thesis take a responsible position in relation to the limited resources of the planet? What specific aspects of your project will implement this position?

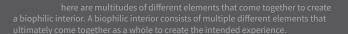
The site of my chosen thesis project is initially recycled 40' container boxes, that were repurposed to create a unique architecture. By renovating the interior with minimal fabricated finishes such as wood, tiles, fabric etc., the space it-self will reflect upon the nature that we are trying to help save. Creating a nature to bring our innate need to our realization, leading to more awareness of the depleting nature around us.

# 7. Describe the processes and materials you would be using to realize your design as a built work. How do they represent an invention within the field of interior design?

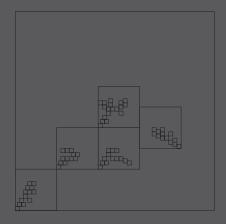
My thesis will be mainly designed and built with nature, such as trees, soil, grass, flowers, shrubs and more. This project will show the need and ease of more interior spaces lt will allow for an innovative move toward interior spaces implementing more biophilic elements such as greenery, soil etc.

# 8. How do your thesis ideas (or project) contribute to the wellbeing of your proposed users or inhabitants? Do they contribute to the wellbeing of the community?

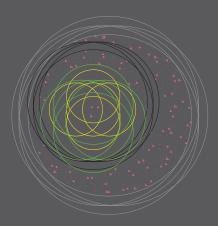
My thesis supplies and nourishes the community as well as surrounding communities, with nature. The surrounding area of my site has close to no green parks around for them to connect back with nature. My thesis will allow for a nature within experience; a Pocket of Nature. This contributes to the community, as well as providing for the overall environment.



We live in a world where we are deprived from natures nurture, we don't realize how much we have pushed it away to further advance into the future. However, this has not only slowly pushed nature out of our urban environment, but the lack of nature has since allowed us as humans to lose our connection between nature as well. This thesis will further explore and experiment with nature and its specific elements that bond together to create a surround of nature experience.



Community Build-Up



Coexisting Ecosystem



Bringing nature into space.
The visual aspect as well as sense of smell; soil, moisture and plant.
Creating a sense of being enclosed by nature.



The use of wood, which is a natural material, creates warmth through sense of touch.



Natural light brings in the physica sense of warmth as well as a visual que of warmth.



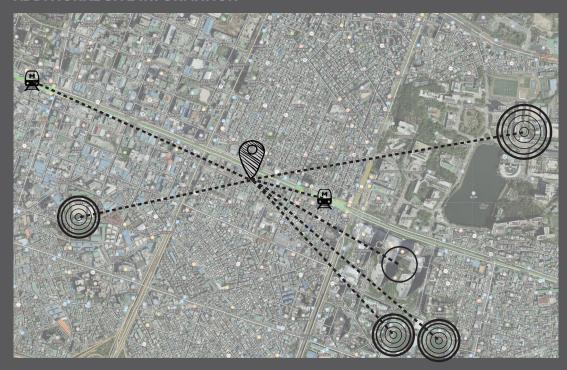
**Various Vegitation** 

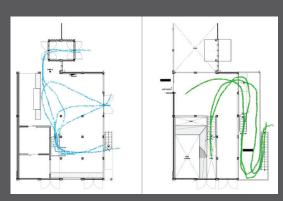
**Diffused Natural Light** 

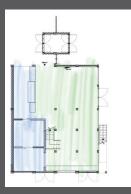
**Sensory Stimuli** 

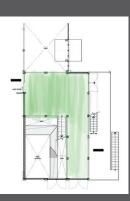
**Shelter and Structure** 

# **ADDITIONAL SITE INFORMATION**









### MACRO

- . Located between high traffic areas
- . Adjacent University (Kunkook University)
- . Seoul Children's Zoo

### 1ICRO

- Raw material (URBAN)
- Multi-level (Vertical Space)
- . Enclosed by other programs
- . Multiple Entry Points

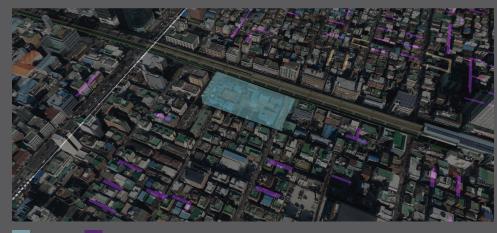
### 3QF1

10tal 1,880 sqπ (175m2

- 1F 820 sqft (76m2)
- 2F 1,060 sqft (99m2)







Site

Restricted Circulation (Too narrow / Obstructed / Construction etc)





### **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Nelson, Bryn. "Americans Have a Nature Problem. Is 'Biophilic Design' the Solution?" NBCNews.com, NBCUniversal News Group, 10 Mar. 2018, www.nbcnews.com/mach/science/new-biophilic-buildings-use-ouirky-features-bring-nature-indoors-ncna853996.

Dezeen 2021 www.dezeen.com/

Archdaily . 2021. www.archdaily.com/.

"Find Plants by Plant Types." Gardenia.net, www.gardenia.net/plants/plant-types

Hunt, Maria C. "Love Plants? You Might Be a Biophiliac." Architectural Digest, Architectural Digest, 22 June 2020, www.architecturaldigest.com/story/what-is-biophilia-plants-design.

"What Is Biophilia?" The Wellbeing Experience, www.thewellbeingexperience.org/biophilia.

COMMON GROUND | HOME, www.common-ground.co.kr/.

Old Farmer's Almanac. "Flower Meanings: The Language of Flowers." Old Farmer's Almanac.. https://www.almanac.com/flower-meanings-language-flowers

"The Ultimate Guide to Flower Meanings." Interflora.. https://www.interflora.co.uk/content/flower-meanings/

Dyas, Bric. "The Secret Meaning Behind 11 Common Trees." House Beautiful. House Beautiful, October 17, 2017. https://www.housebeautiful.com/lifestyle/gardening/g2373/secret-meaning-behind-common-trees."

"Tree Symbolism: Ancient Meaning of Trees." The Present Tree. https://thepresenttree.com/pages/tree-symbolism.

"Tree Images." Shutterstock.. https://www.shutterstock.com/search/tree?kw=shutterstock&c3apidt=p11277540745&ds\_rt=1243391&gclid=CjwKCAjwkN6EBhBNEIwADV fya9mpqt1FMZqpnrBgyyHVNGYzmu5e91gvwCB1l0jWODxctfwGmtqg-hoC5wMQAvD\_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds.

"Flower Images." Shutterstock... https://www.shutterstock.com/search/flower?kw=shutterstock&c3apidt=p11277540745&ds\_rl=1243391&gclid=CjwKCAjwkN6EBhBNEiwADV-fya9mpq11FMZqpnrBgyyHVNGYzmu5e91gvwCB110jWODxctfwGmtqg-hoC5wMQAvD\_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds.