

INHABITING IN-BETWEEN SPACES

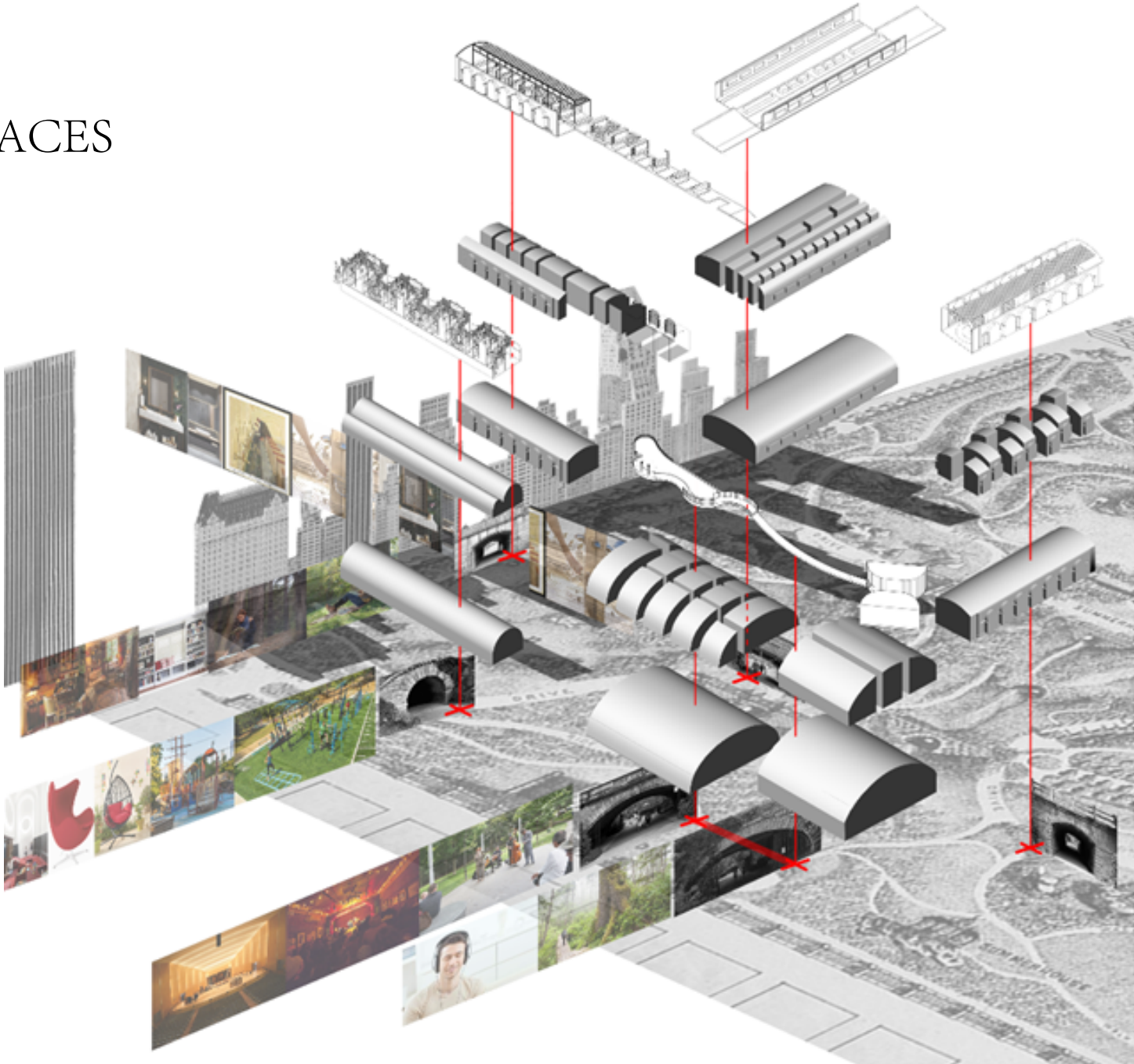




Fig. 1.1 Process of the space in-between (Glen Span Bridge, Central Park)

Thesis Statement

Where is the boundary between the interior and exterior? What tips space from being considered one or the other? Or can we define a new interiority, a space in between? This new interiority introduces new approaches to the exterior, and while the interior and the exterior can function as one, their influence will also be strengthened and users in this space can be social with multiple groups safely.

Thesis Abstract

“The space must not constrain; it needs to be suggestive of new types of uses and have a dynamic character to it, to suggest new possibilities, new types of social engagement.” (Lorraine 141) This is how Lorraine Farrelly described the space between interior and exterior in the article *New Occupancy*. And we need it especially now when people seek interior space which is more exterior due to the COVID. Interior space is laden with formal functions, but compared to the exterior space, it is always an enclosed space that offers its services to a certain group of people. But under the current pandemic situation, it won't be enough, 'a new types of social engagement' should be established, an in-between space needs to be built.

What can be considered to be in-between space in the city, in my opinion urban threshold and urban oasis can be. The former ones can be bridges and streets, the latter ones are usually parks, among which Central Park is the most complicated and crucial one, in some ways this park has already functioned as social space. Then I notice that Arches in this park are in-between spaces to it, they are shelters when it is raining, gates to the next area and in-between space between nature and manmade structures.

So, I think it should do more by redesigning the arch spaces. Now they are just abandoned pathway left to suffer from rusting and leaking, only work like basic shelters under a sudden rain. But with proper furnishing they can be a new type of interior, not strongly influenced by the weather and not limited to be just pathways. As people are walking through these spaces, they are experiencing a new engagement to the park and multiple social groups.

There are 26 arches in Central Park, and I choose Dipway Arch, Driprock Arch, Inscope Arch, Densmouth Arch and Willowdell Arch to be my sites. Because first, they locate at the southern part of the park which is a hot spot to the visitors. Second, they are closer to each other unlike other bridges in the park so it is easier to find some connections between them. Third, each of them tells its own story which means the feeling before and after you walk through this arch is totally different. This difference emphasis their importance to be the in-between space in the park.

My strategy for these potential interior spaces is minimizing the interior while not weaken their functions, considering not to break the balance of the natural beauty in the park. But mostly I was influenced by some wonderful moments I have seen in NYC, like people are trying to build their own community food stations, some of them are just refrigerators, but they show the power of community and how powerful it is when someone pull part of his or her interior space out and makes exterior feel like a warm interior to interact with others. According to this, I see what a minimal new interiority has been established to evokes people to realize the existence of public and community.

Thesis Research Statement



Fig. 1.2 The images that show how restaurants occupy the space and how pedestrian go through

Start (Out dining space, extended space)

Under current pandemic situation, the owners of the restaurants have relied on out dining space for months. This new space, which built usually between bike way and the road, has brought a new experience to the bike rider and the pedestrians. They all now have to go through the restaurants now not passing by them anymore, the new space pulls the interior space out and the visitors have more access to the atmosphere of interiority of the restaurant not just limited to food and service.



Fig. 1.3 The University of Illinois Springfield's new Student Union

What is in-between space

This new space is considered as in-between space which Lorraine Farrelly mentioned in the article *New Occupancy*, “We need to allow ourselves to “imagine” them as flexible, so we can think of new and unexpected activities. The space must not constrain; it needs to be suggestive of new types of uses and have a dynamic character to it, to suggest new possibilities, new types of social engagement.” (141)

In-between space can also easily be found in any school, usually in the students' union, it works as a platform to allow students to engage with others, allows study, team communication, relax and other functions. It is a new type of social learning space, it encourages students to meet with random group, and increase new encounters.

In-between space in New York City (urban threshold, urban oasis)

There are many pocket parks in New York City, they offer spaces for people to finish their breakfast or lunch, relax while doing sightseeing, communicate with their colleagues, these spaces are in-between space, space between human society and manmade nature world. Although they are manmade park but in certain degree they doing better than the real nature. Like Paley Park uses the noise created by the water fall to claim its territory in this busy city, a special sound environment can easily form an in-between space since sound can extend itself and overlap with other spaces.

Memorial arches in Washington Square Park and Grand Army Plaza also do the similar function on the sight view, at one side you are looking at the street and city, on the other side there are plants and nature park, it is 2 different stories. At the same time the Memorial arches themselves have their own story so they are also space between now and the past which makes them so charming to the New Yorkers.

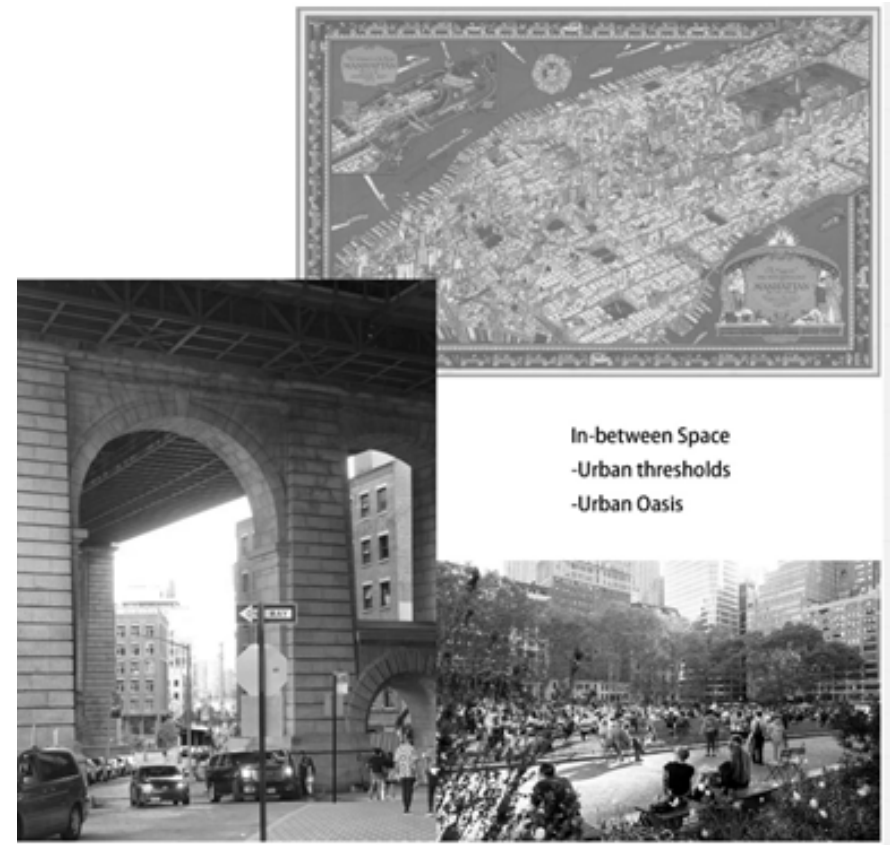


Fig. 1.4 The collage of the space under Brooklyn Bridge and Bryant Park

Under-arch space in Central Park

Others like Park and arch, these two elements lead me to Central Park which does the best in New York on both. There are totally 26 arches and bridges in this park, an every one of them has its on uniqueness and story. But now, based on my research, they are suffering a lot from rain and decay problem, they are the space that visitors want to skip while they preparing to reach next spot because they usually dim and wet. However, they have the potentiality to be great in-between space in Central Park.



Fig. 1.5 The collage of multiple spaces under Arch in Central Park

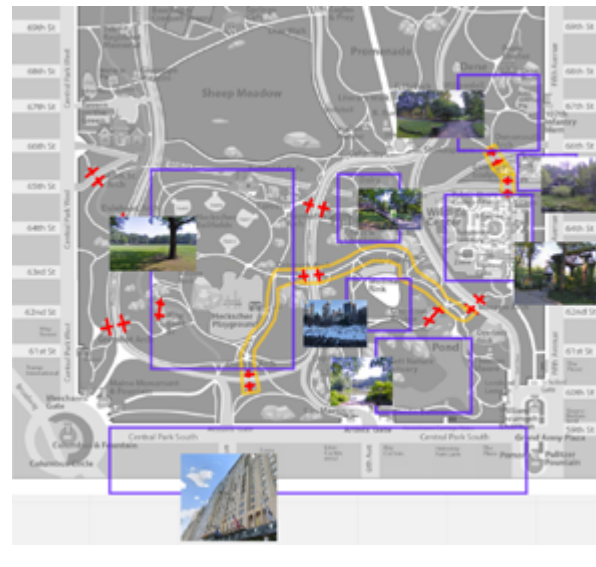
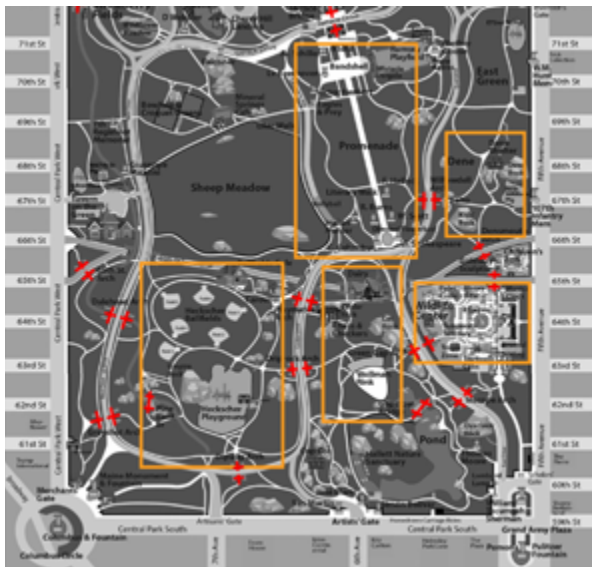
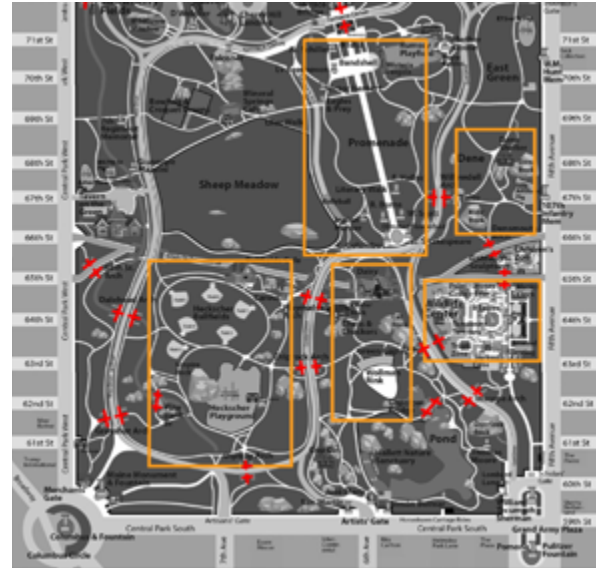


Fig. 1.8 Community refrigerator, street lab and performance

How to create interior intimacy in exterior space

My strategy for these potential interior spaces is minimizing the interior while not weaken their functions, considering not to break the balance of the natural beauty in the park. But mostly I was influenced by some wonderful moments I have seen in NYC, like people are trying to build their own community food stations, some of them are just refrigerators, but they show the power of community and how powerful it is when someone pull part of his or her interior space out and makes exterior feel like a warm interior to interact with others. According to this, I see what a minimal new interiority has been established to evokes people to realize the existence of public and community.

General Site Description and Analysis



In Central Park, there are countless stories happening at the same time around Heckscher Ballfields, Wollman Rink, Central Park Zoo and Promenade in the low southern part of it. The arches and bridges are perfect thresholds in such area. It is a pity to find they are left to suffer from water leaking and decaying. Why not change them to in-between space, a space not totally sealed as an interior but can offer more functions than just the exterior?

Dripway Arch is closing to the street but it is really quiet with few visitors, it can be a Free Library where people are welcome to give and take books then bring them to wherever to read.

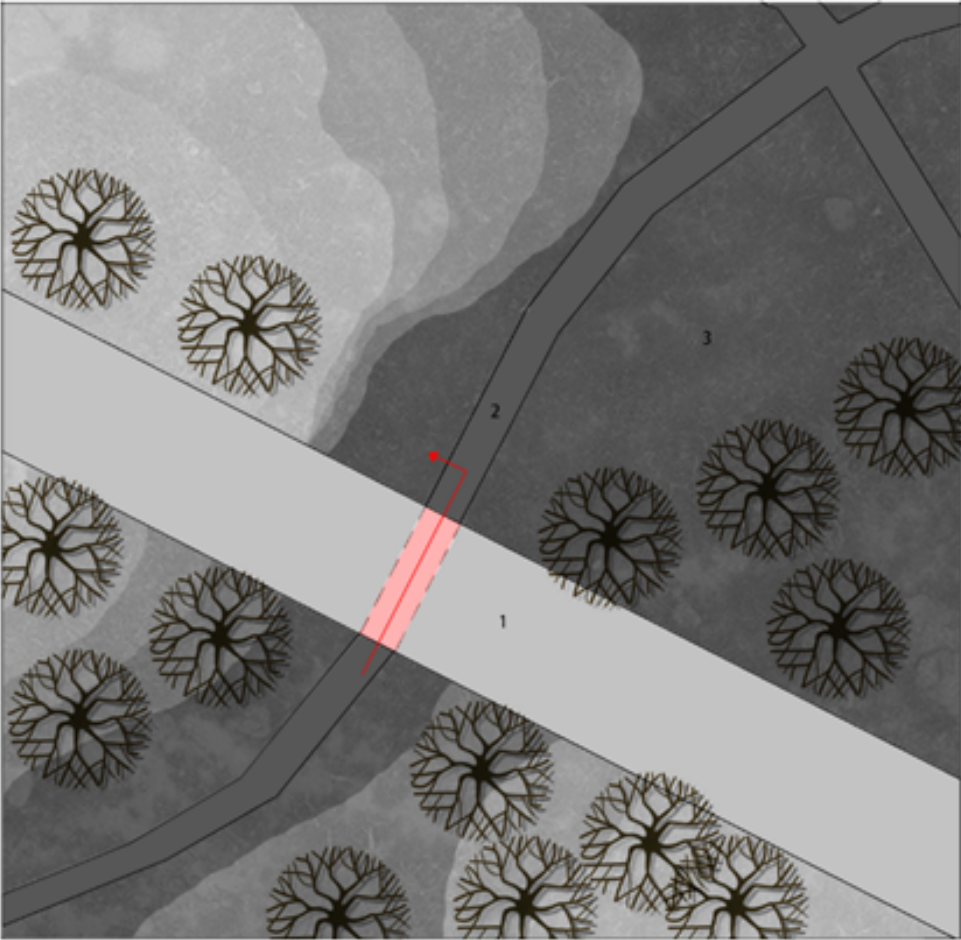
Driprock Arch is the busiest arch among them, it can be a Clean Station so that people are more willing to touch the nature world with their bare feet or hands without worrying to get them dirty.

Densmouth Arch has the greatest sound environment where you can listen to the music from the performers and bird songs from nearby zoo, and even have the chance to hear the music clock every 30 minutes.

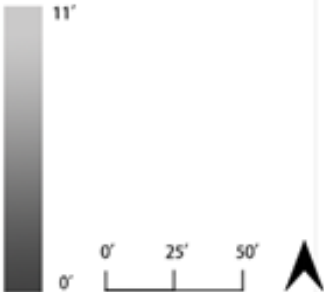
Willowdell Arch is featured with the Balto Statue, which attracts many visitors to come closer to know more about it. If people are so curious, why not let them know more about this park. The arch can be changed into a Discover Hallway.

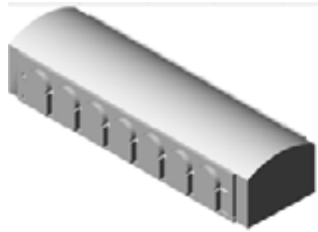
Fig. 2.1 Map of multiple stories in Central Park

Dripway Arch



- 1. Road above the arch
- 2. pedestrian walkway
- 3. Lawn

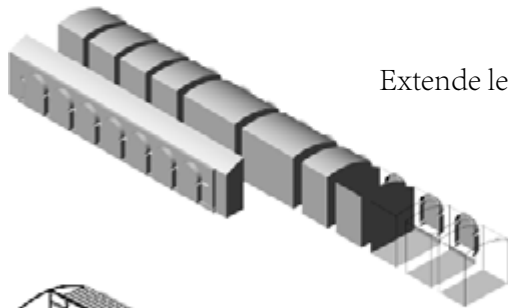




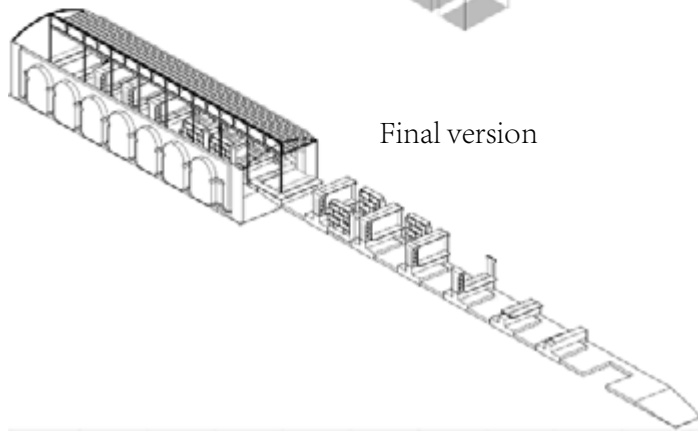
Original void



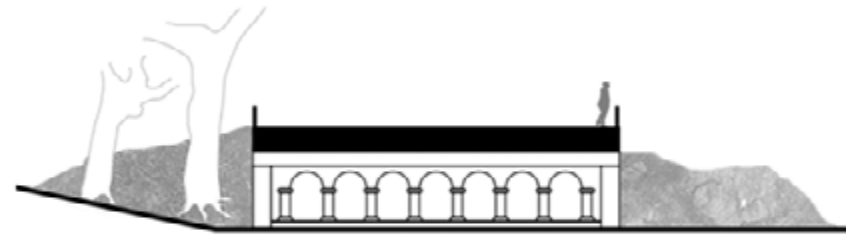
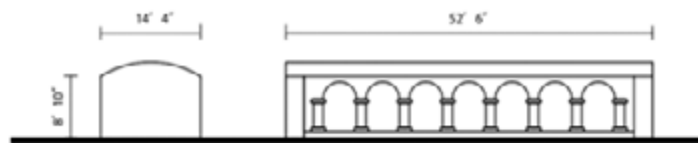
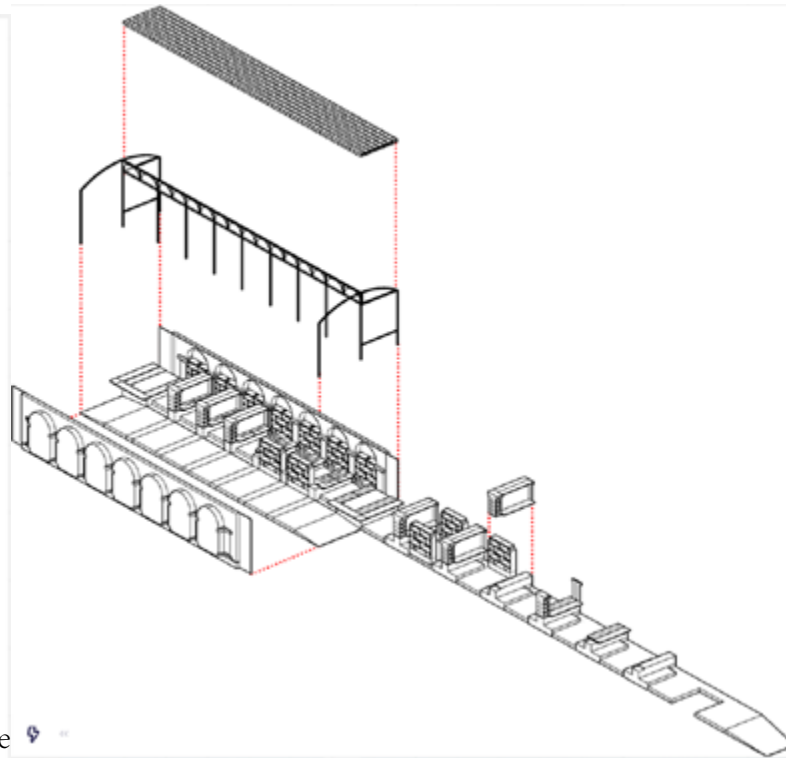
Seperated personal space



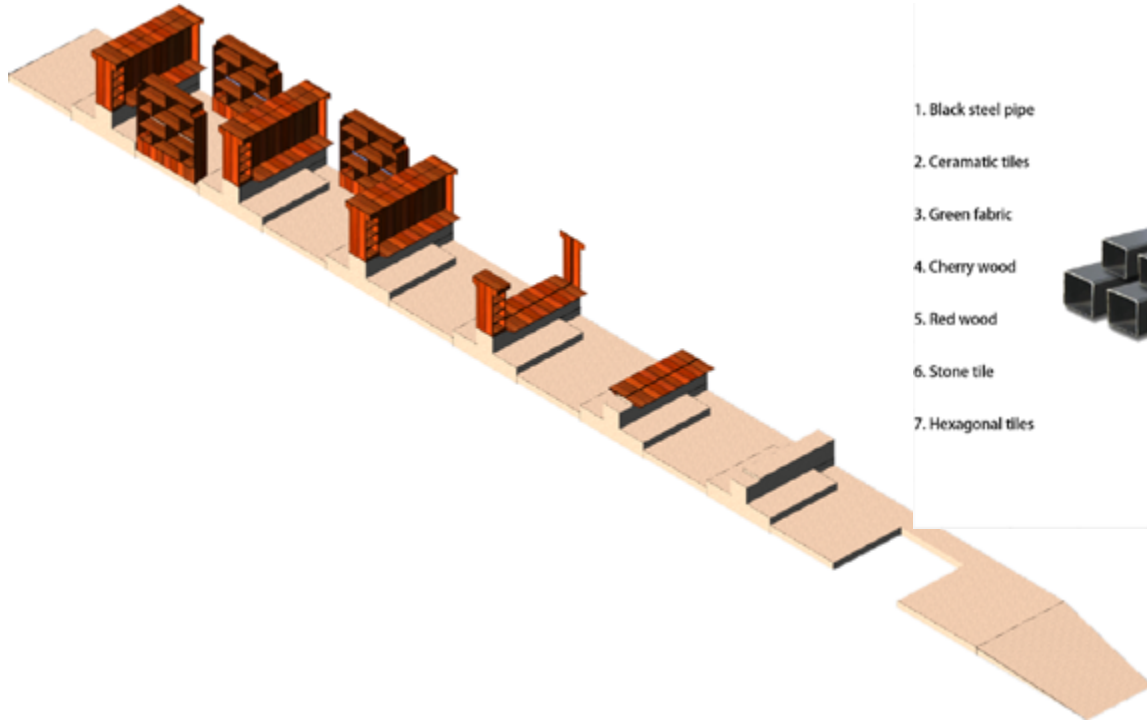
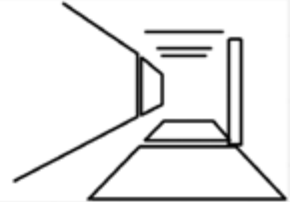
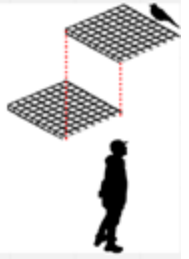
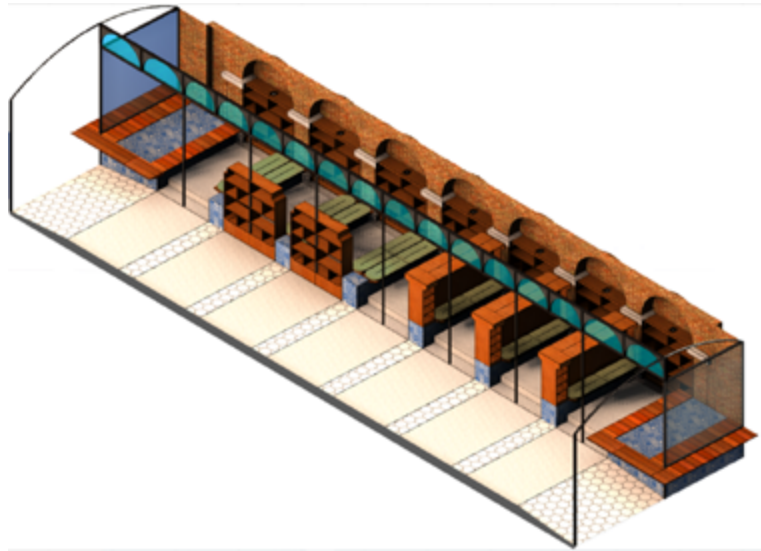
Extende less interior space



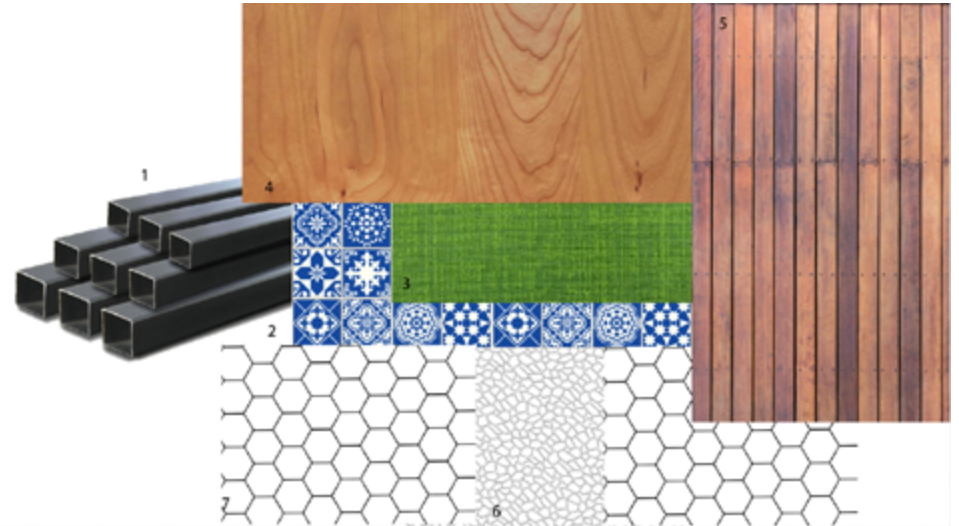
Final version



The most interior part is under the original arch, it is a combination of a simplified reading room space and a railroad car. And I add a steel frame to emphasis the feeling of the exterior, which is usually used in a lot of old train station. The frame also holds the ceiling which separated people and birds that already inhabited the arch space as their home. With the space extended to the exterior, I reduce the elements of interior and finally it becomes just foundations for people's free using.

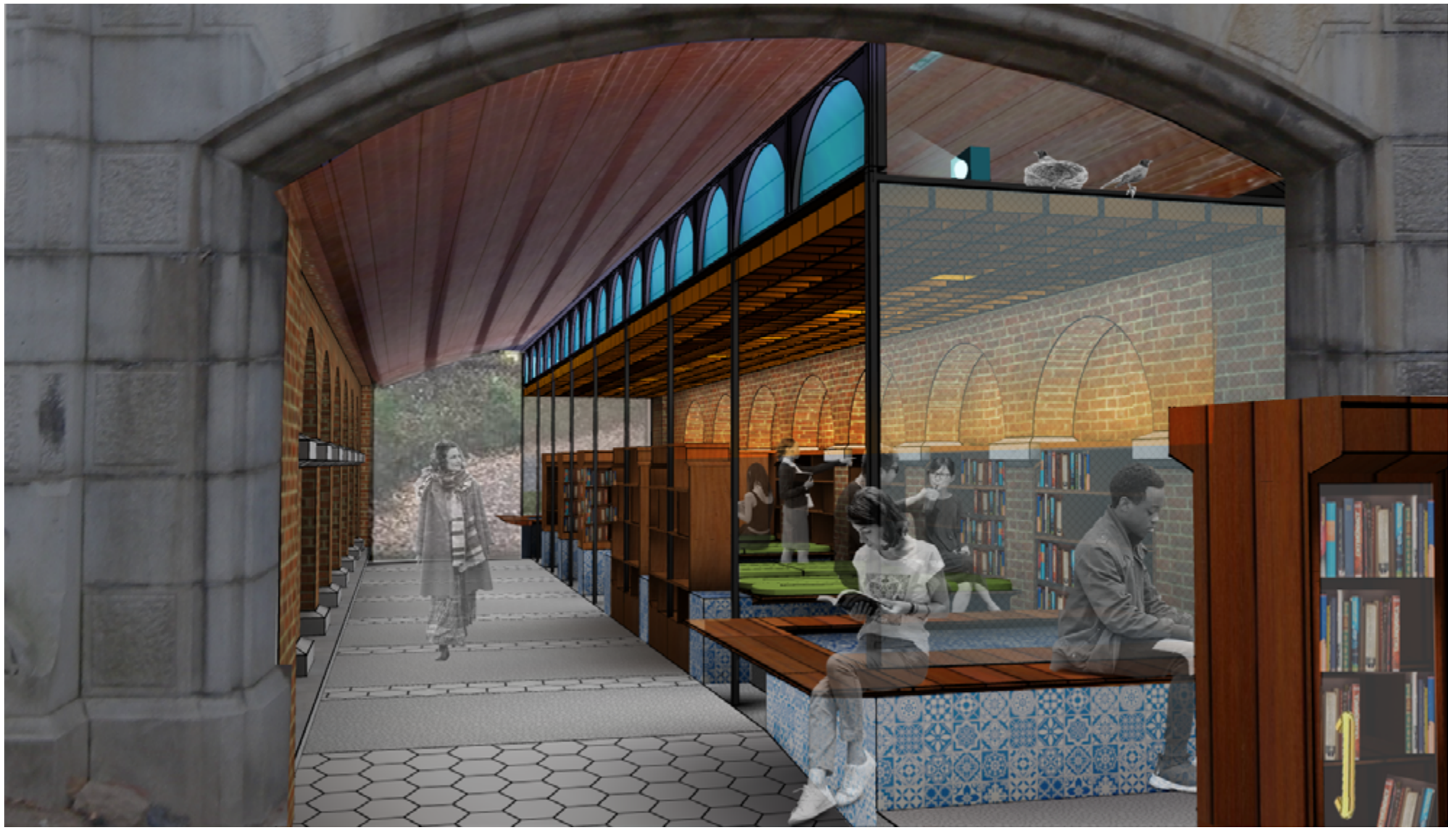


1. Black steel pipe
2. Ceramic tiles
3. Green fabric
4. Cherry wood
5. Red wood
6. Stone tile
7. Hexagonal tiles





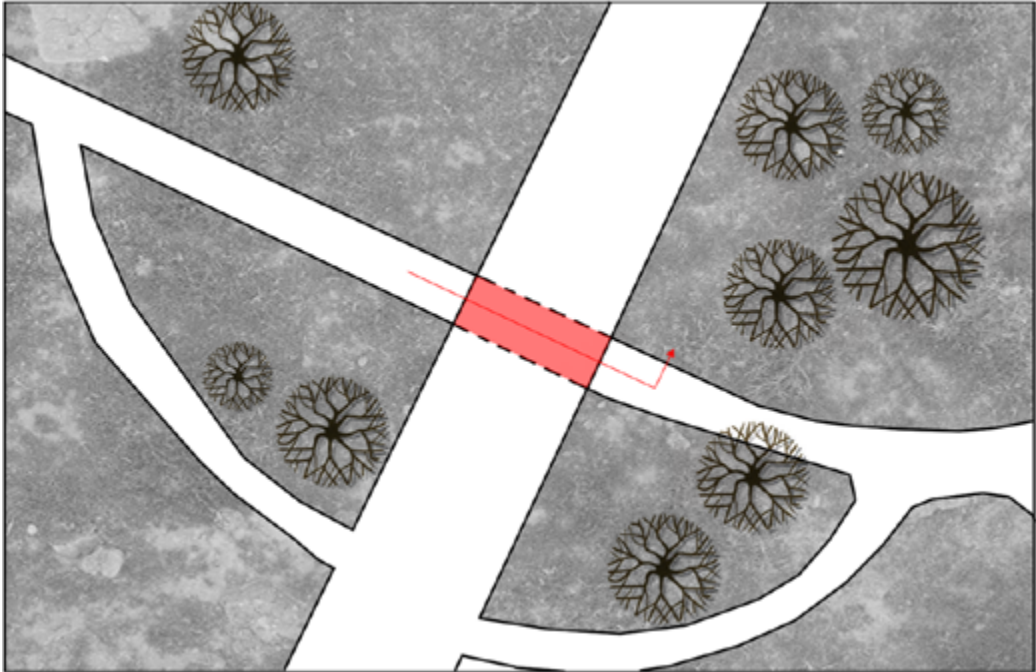
For the space extended to the exterior, I reduce the elements of interior and finally it becomes just foundations for people's free using. To illustrate that they have the freedom to choose wherever to read in Central Park

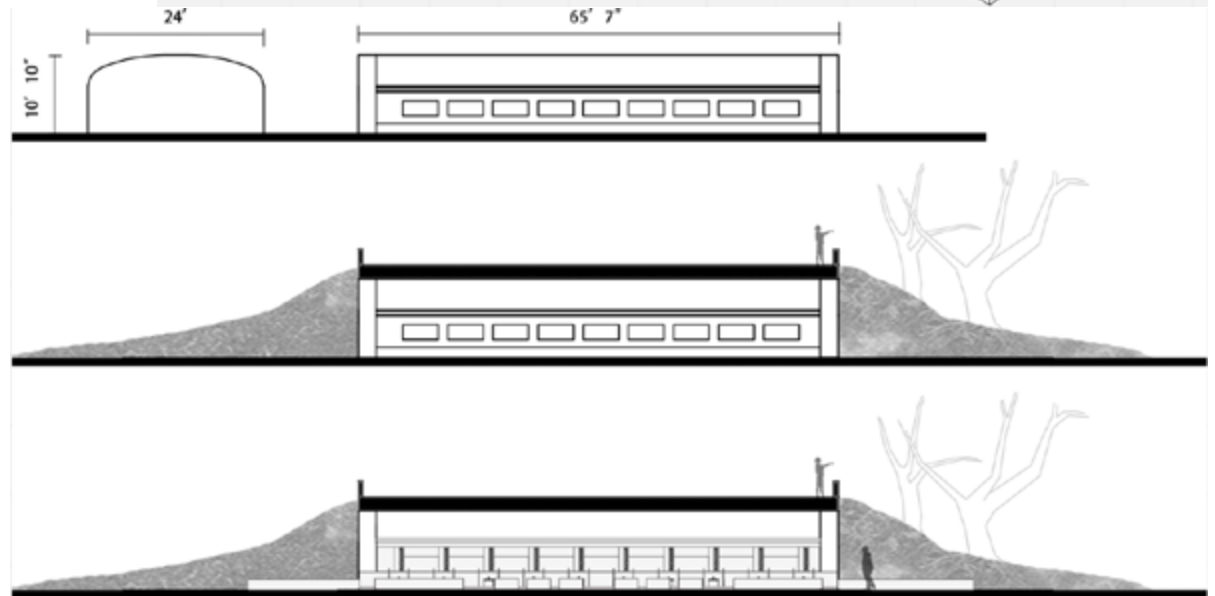
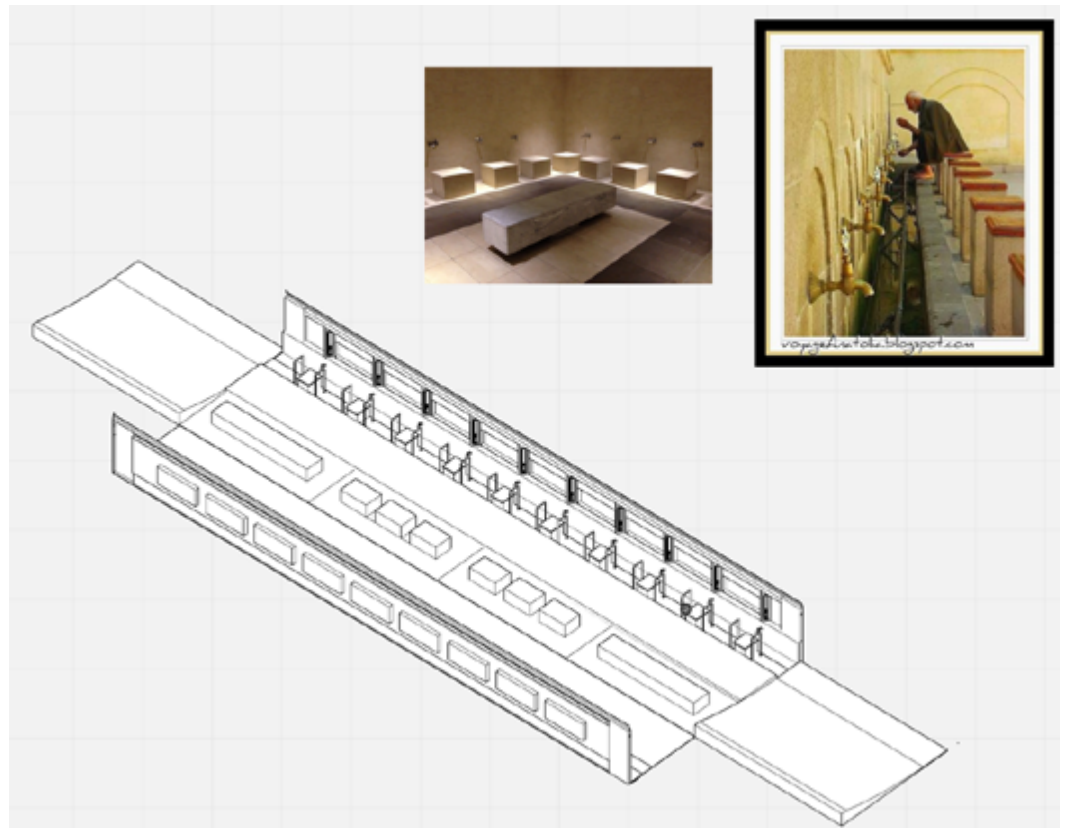
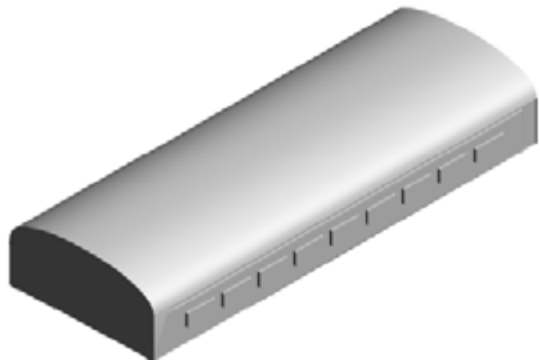
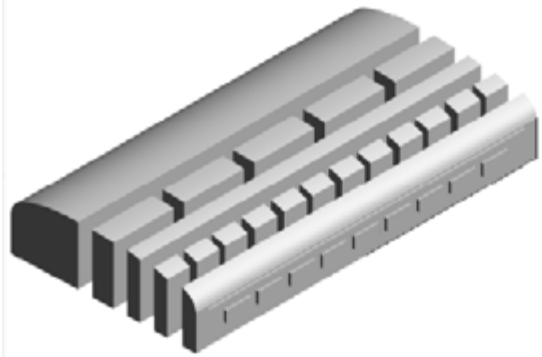
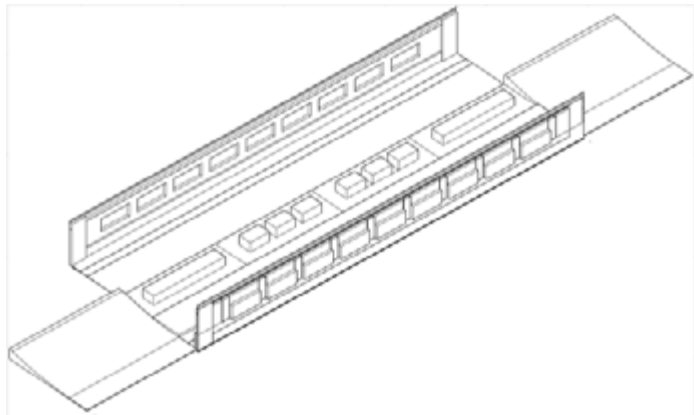


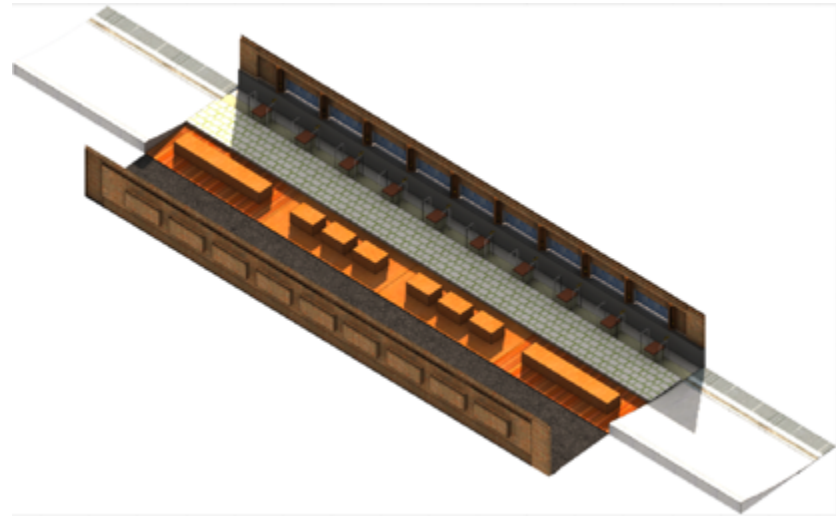
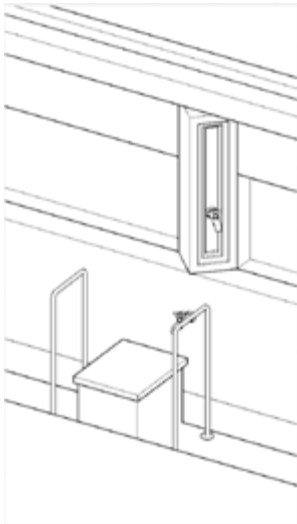
You can have a clear view of how interior and exterior, people and birds are claiming their space but also remain a harmony.



Driprock Arch







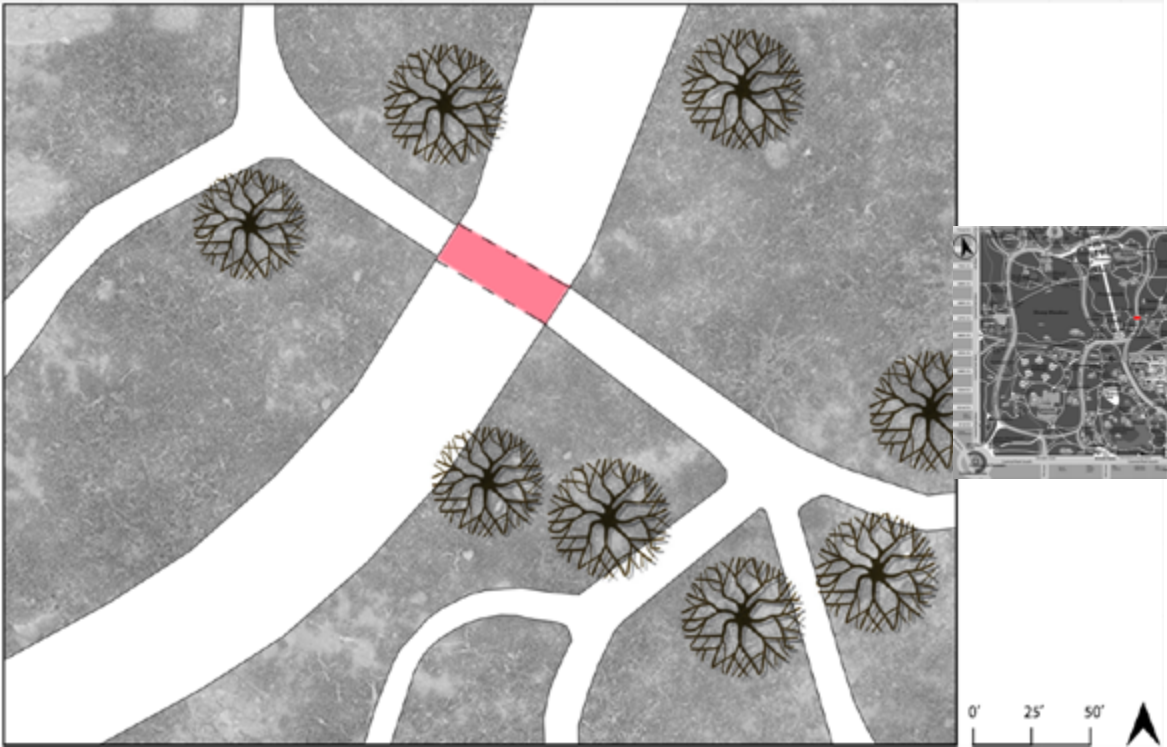


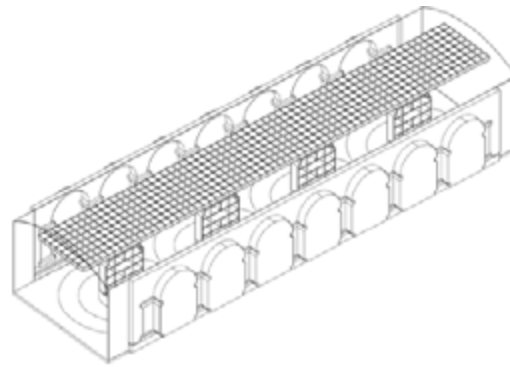
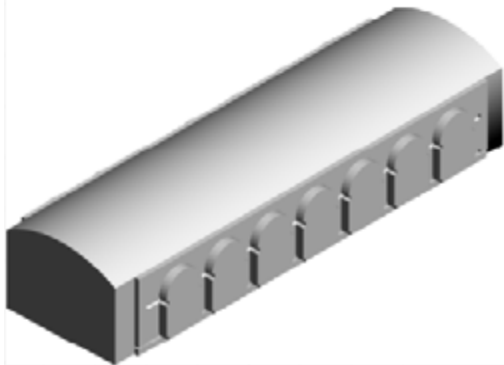
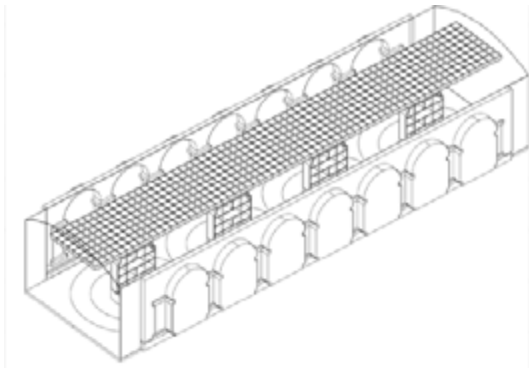
The footprints people left in this cleaning space will offer hint to others that they are welcomed to do the same





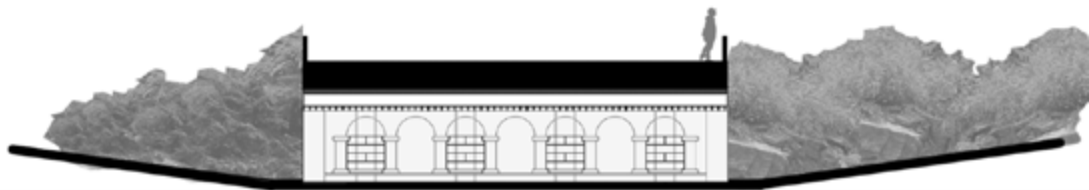
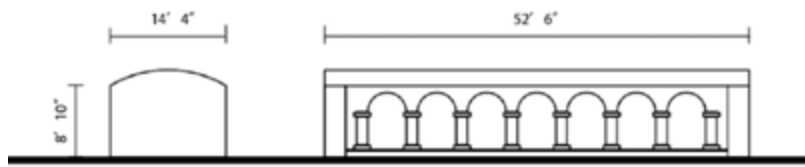
Willowdell Arch





From discovery room, newstand, bus stop to just an information board, the interiority is decreasing but they remain the basic function to inform people who use that space. In that way, I take them as reference of my Discover Hallway.







The ceiling part is the same one with the one in Free Library, the steel frame supports the ceiling while working as part of the shelf as well. People are welcome to stand by the shelf. The floor is not built only to inform the interiority and increase the intimacy. But like the inner green rubber part works to prevent possible falling down.