# Final Portfolio
# CRP 201

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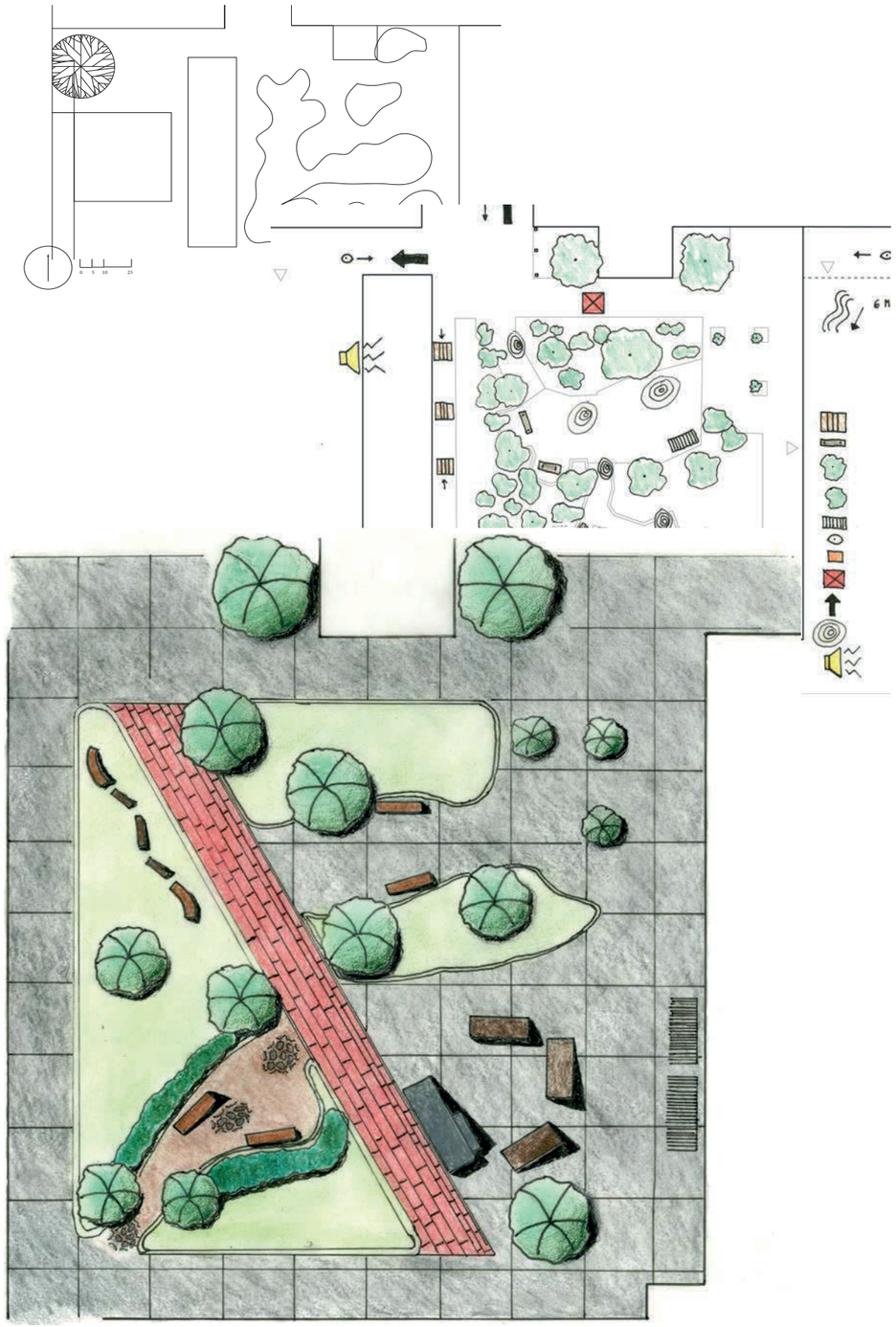
12/6/24
Thando Mthembu



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# About Me

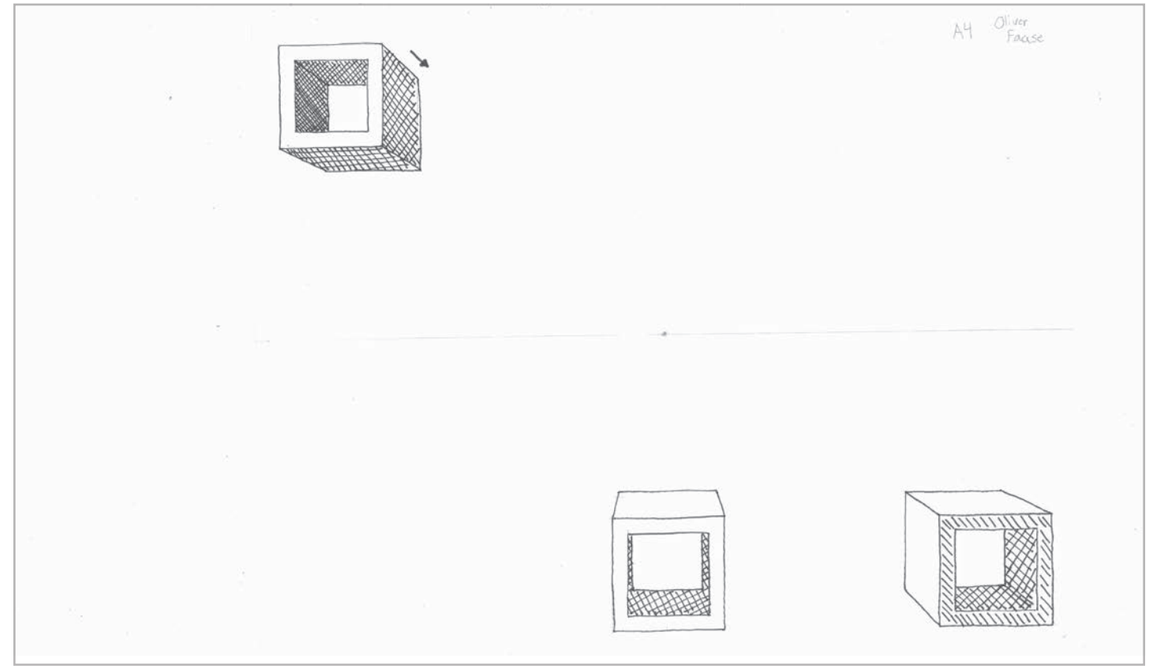
I am a sophmore at California Polytechnic State University with an excellent academic record, organized and self-motivated working towards a major in City and Regional Planning and a minor in Sustainable Enviornments.

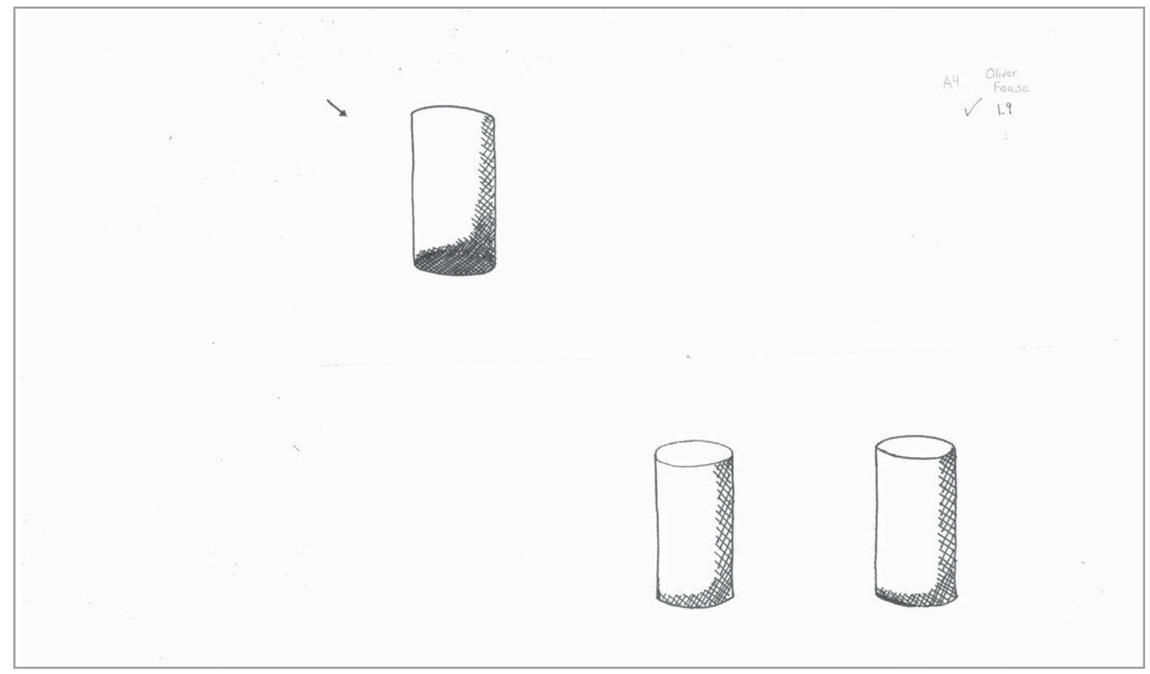
Skills
- Time mangement
- Self-motivated
- Communication skills
- Logical thinking
- Architecture - designed and helped build an ADU during highschool

# Chapter 1: Graphics

# Perspective Drawings

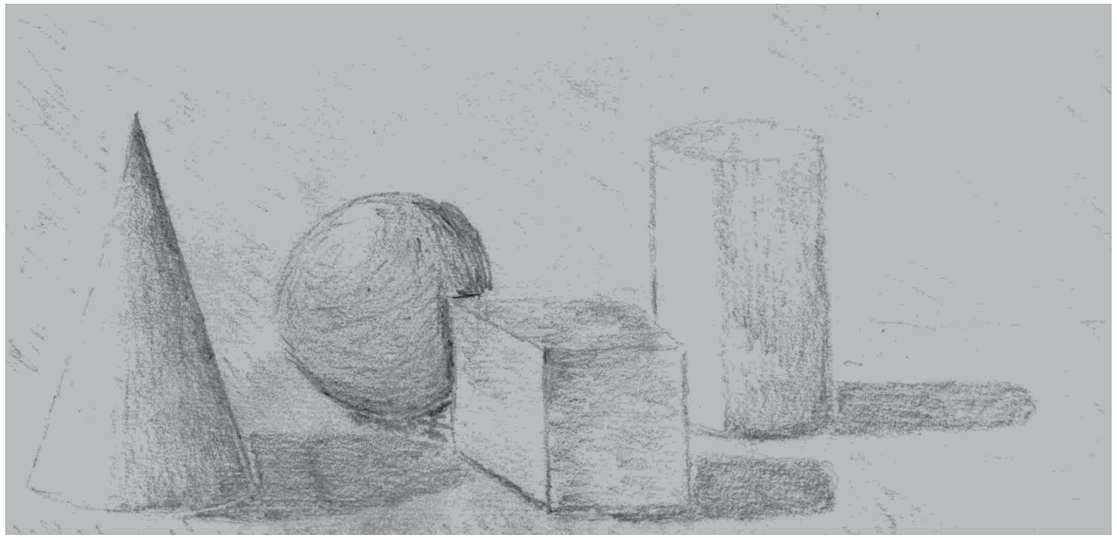
On the right you have one-point perspectives focusing on vanishing points and shading to show where the light source is coming from. Below is a two-point perspective focusing on the windows and doors and connecting to the vanishing points. I also used this assignment to practice drawing trees and people with shadows in perspective.

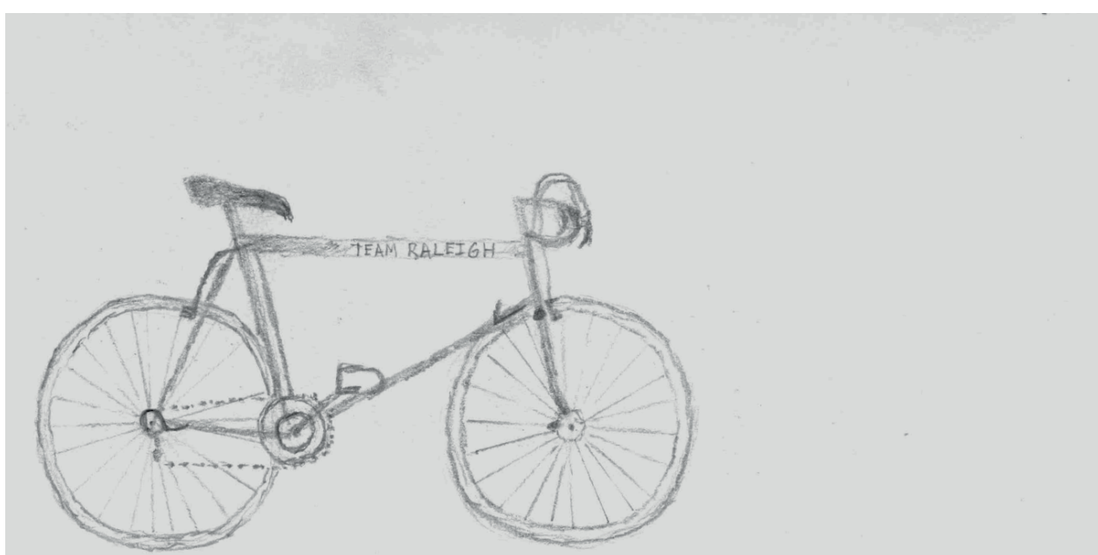


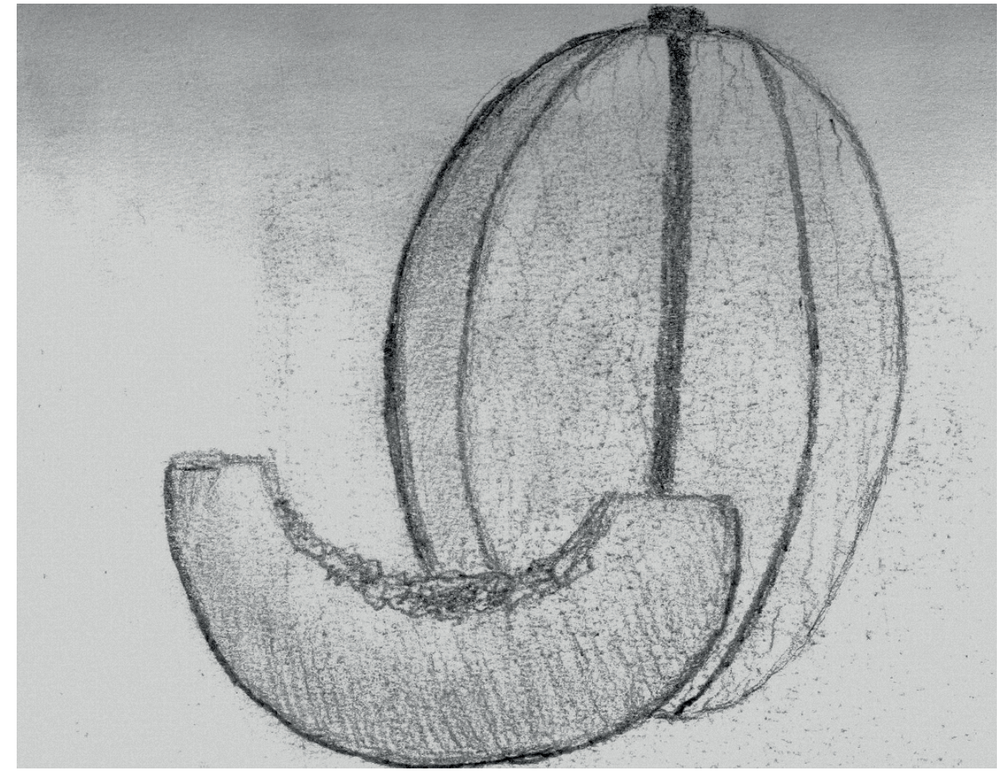


# 15-Minute Sketches

These were sketches done daily in class. They were done in around 15 minutes trying to replicate techniques from images that were shown on the board. Here are a few of my favorites from the quarter.

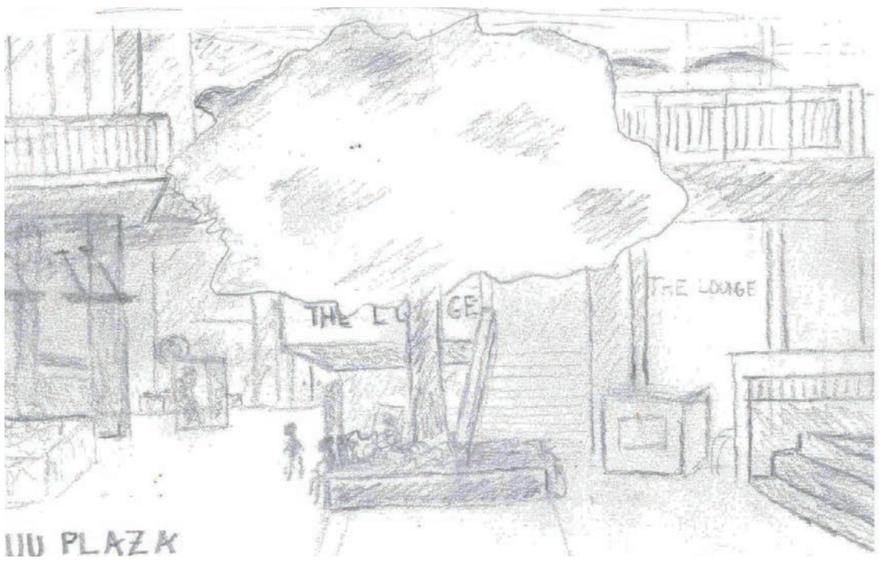


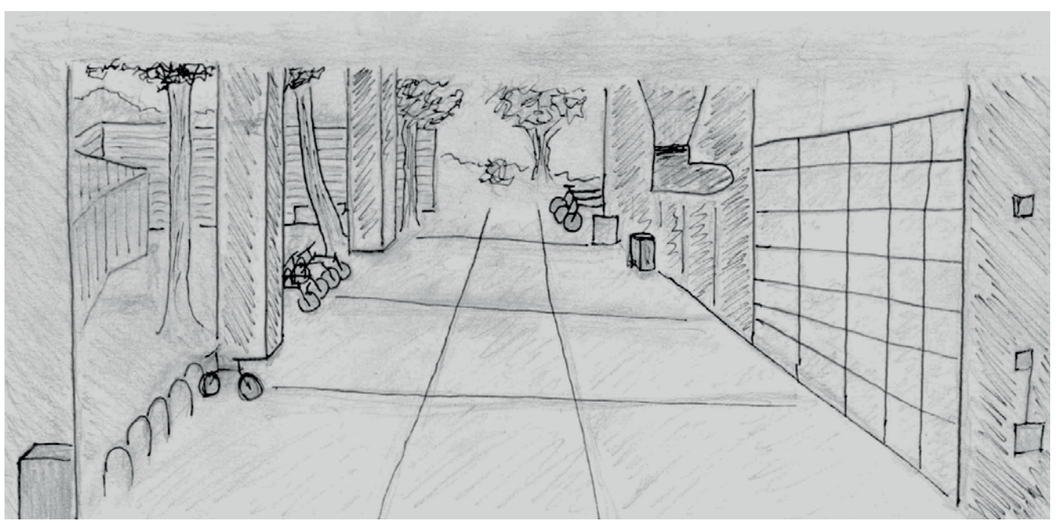


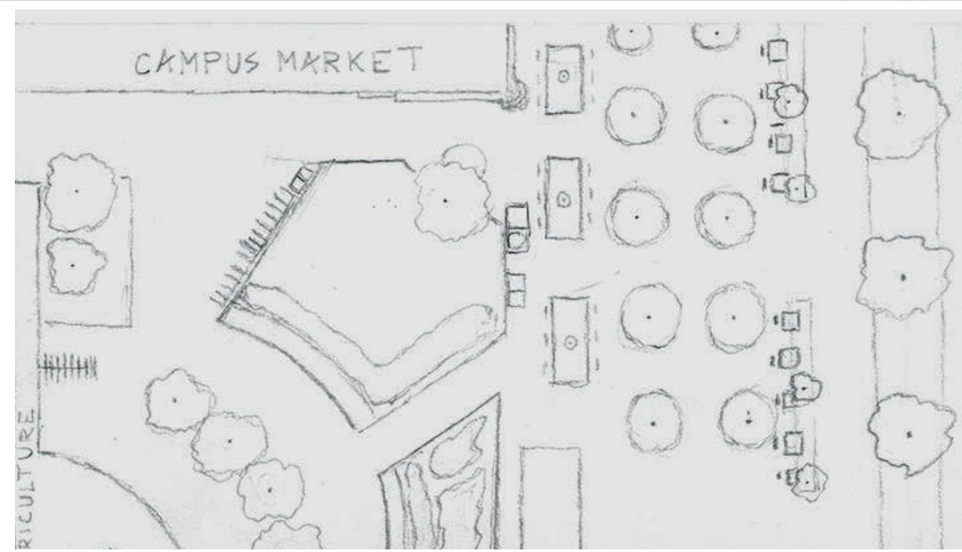


# Plein Air Sketches

These sketches were done throughout the quarter. Each of them show a distinct place on campus or in San Luis Obispo. The focus of the two images on the left side is on a specific perspective and trying to capture everything within that.

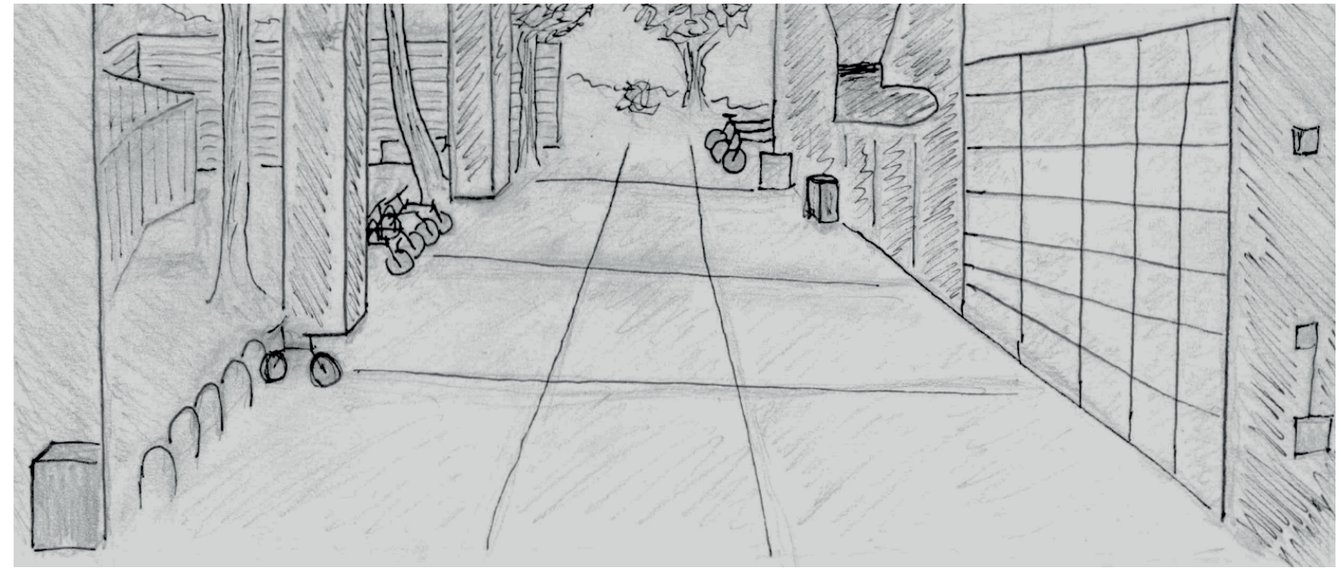






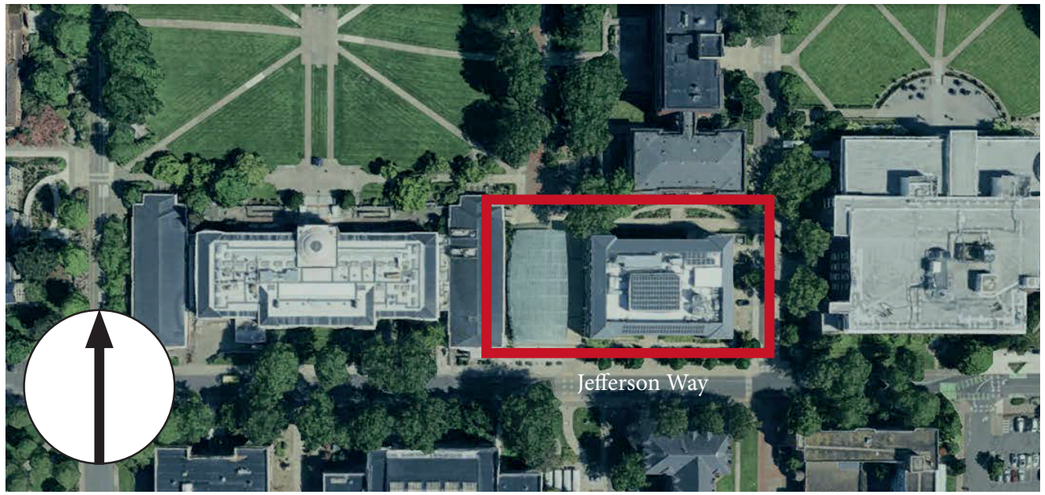
# Architectural Sketch + Rendering

This sketch was another of the plein air series, but this one I put into photoshop to practice showing people and shadows, along with bikes and trees.



# Favorite Place

Below shows the early use of InDesign, using visuals and text to present my ideas. I used this technique to inform about one of my favorite places from back home in Corvallis, Oregon. It is an atrium on the OSU campus designed to enhance the student experience.



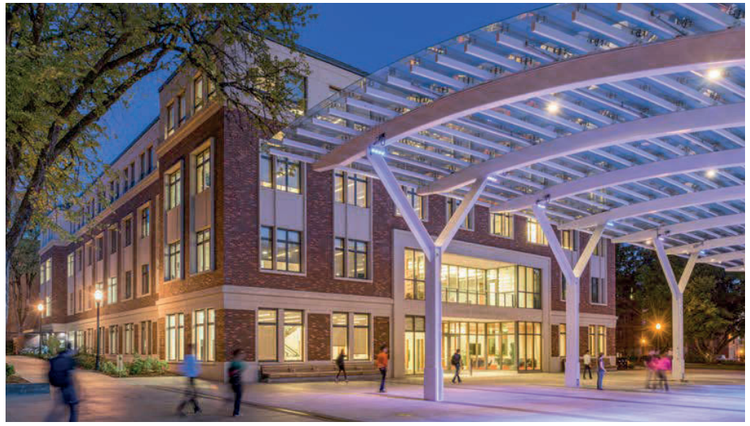

The SEC (Student Experience Center) plaza, which was built in 2018, is located in the heart of the OSU campus. There is always some event going on under the glass arch. Some days are flea markets, some days are career fairs, and some days even have music performances. Even on days when there is no scheduled event, people always stop to do work, talk, or get a second of cover from the constant rain. And right next to it is the Memorial Union Quad and on the other side the Student Experience Center, which creates a space where students can get everything they need. It also has many trees, and bushes nearby creating an open, yet safe space.

## Don't Just Design; Respond

This area was beautifully designed to connect some of the most important areas on campus. It could have been yet another brick building on campus, but instead, it was designed to engage the students at OSU. It has created an amazing space for events and clubs to host. It has also helped to bring the community together as a whole.

## If the Edges Fail - the Space Fails

This space contains a strong edge on the back wall. The wall has tables and chairs, creating a great space to sit down to do work or to grab a bite to eat. It also creates a space where people can enjoy themselves without being in the center of the action.



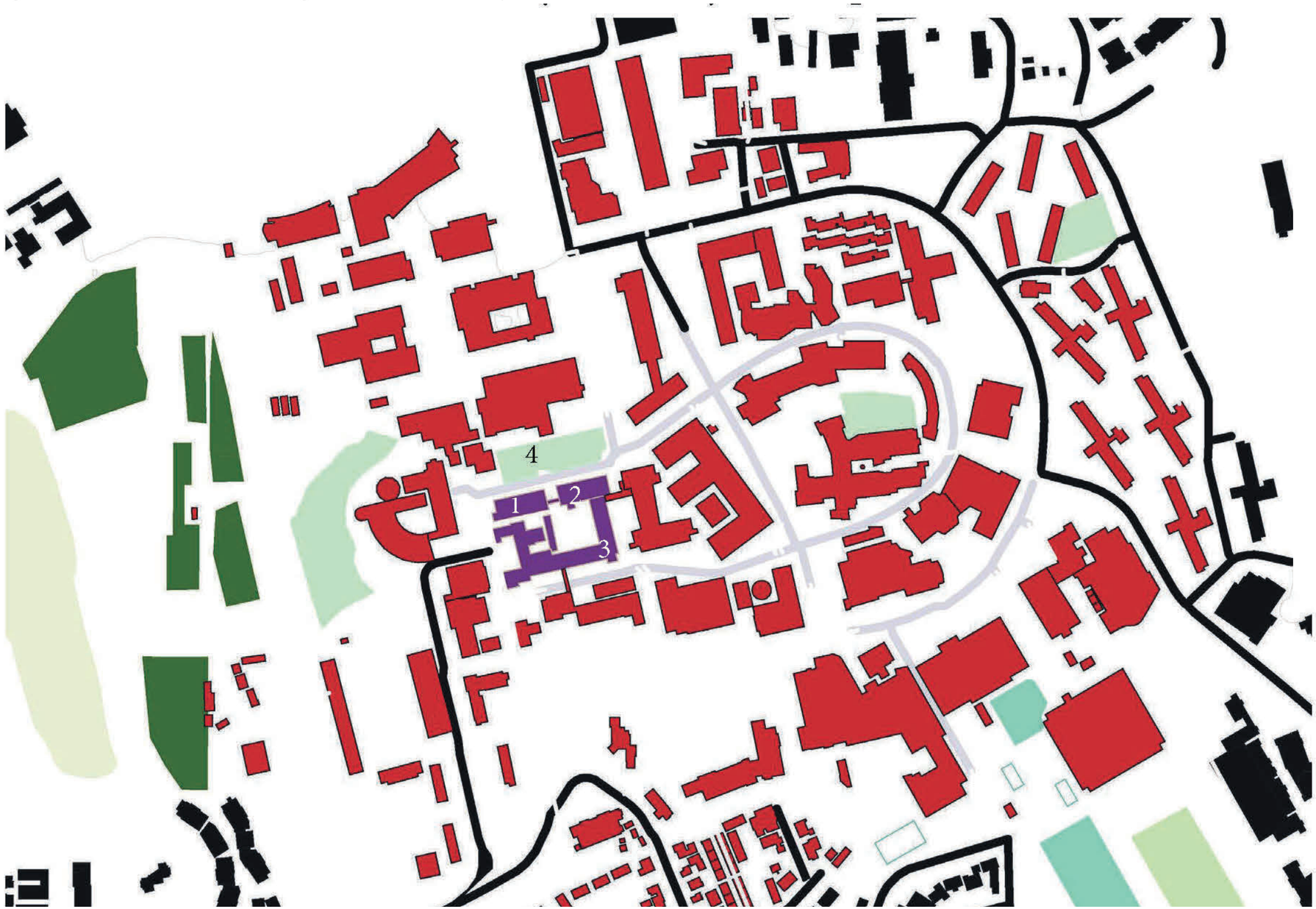
## Porosity = Possibility

This space is open on three of the four sides, creating an incredibly accessible area. The area is not limited by windows and doors, which brings even more students in. This also draws more students into the Student Experience Center Building which has so many resources to help students.

# Chapter 2: Existing Conditions and Site Analysis

# Figure Ground Map

This was the beginning of the project that the entire portfolio centered around. My focus was the courtyard located inside of the purple buildings below. The red buildings represent all the buildings within a 10-minute walking radius of the courtyard.




## Project Information

- The courtyard is roughly 8000 square feet.
- The dimensions are 100 feet by 80 feet.

## Legend

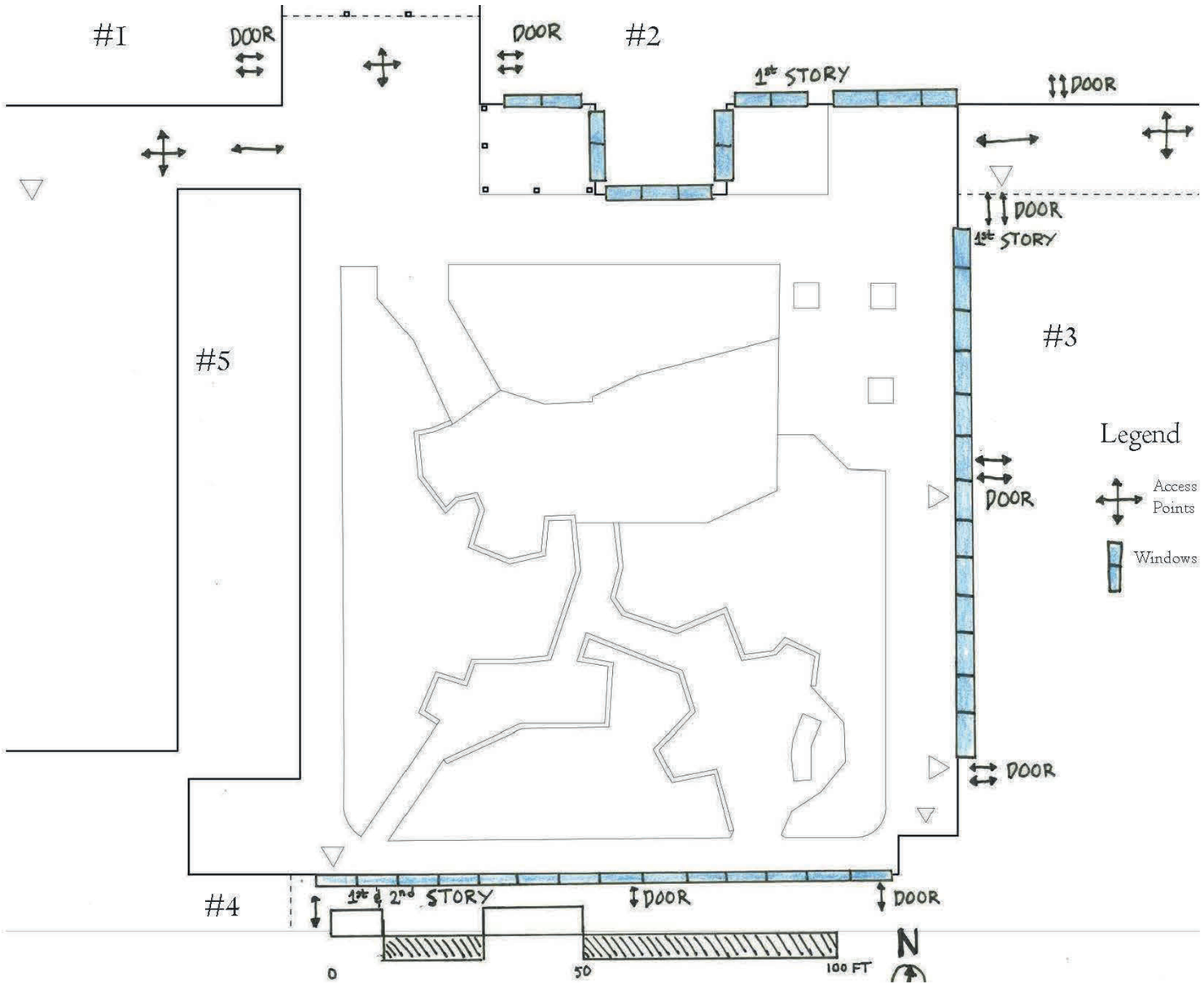
1 - City and Regional Planning Building
2 - Architectural Engineering Building
3 - Engineering West
4 - Dexter Lawn

Red Buildings
- 10-minute walking radius

Purple Buildings
- Courtyard Area

# Existing Structures

In this next phase of the project, I looked at different conditions relating to the courtyard. I first analyzed the existing structures, what their uses were, their size, and the condition of each building.



## #1 City and Regional Planning

Main Uses: Classrooms and Offices

- 2 stories
- Lots of windows, with brick exterior
- Appealing from the outside
- In good condition, with no major negative factors

## #2 Architectural Engineering

Main Uses: Classrooms and Offices

- 2 stories
- A fair amount of windows, and a brick exterior
- In great condition

## #3 KTGY Gallery

Main Uses: Gallery, Classroom

- 1 story
- Lots of Windows, with an open feel
- In good condition

## #4 Engineering West

Main uses: Classrooms

- 2 stories
- Not many windows and a pretty minimal design
- In decent condition

## #5 CAED Workshop

Main Uses: Workshop for metal/wood-working

-1 story
- Very bland with just a plain wall
- In decent condition

# Visual Conditions

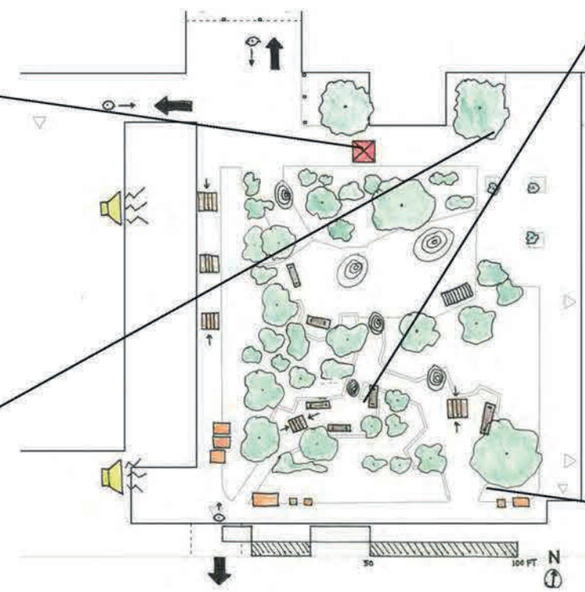
Next, I looked at specific visual elements throughout the courtyard. I analyzed the presence of good signage, greenery, and areas that I thought were lacking visually.

This area has many strong visual features along with some negative visual features. Starting with the strong visual features, there is a lot of greenery in the center of the courtyard. There are also a lot of benches, especially in one of the back corners which creates a peaceful area. Another strong feature is the use of signage throughout the courtyard.

Areas that could use work, are the back corner by the KTGY Gallery and Engineering West. It has a tree a bench but the space could be used to create more traffic, and an area to hang out for students.

Benches and greenery

Walk zone sign

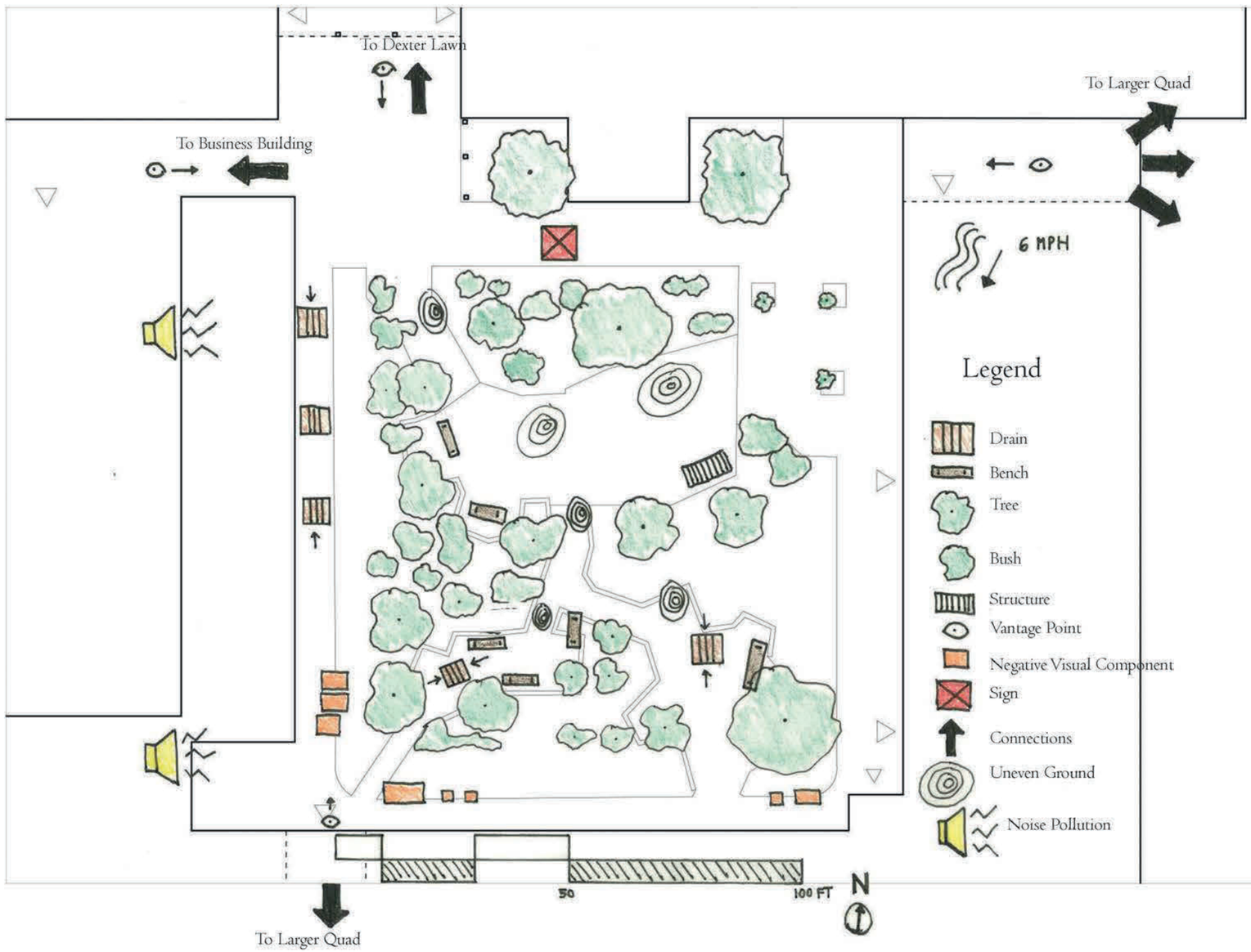


Greenery by ARCE building

Bland back corner

# Environmental Conditions

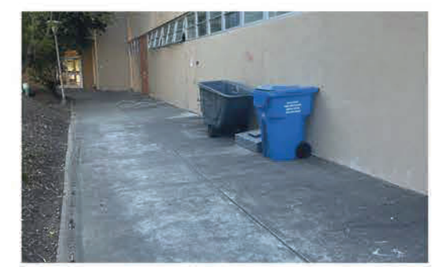
In the next iteration, I looked at the environmental conditions. I looked at noise pollution, drainage, benches and other environmental aspects.




## Visual/Acoustic Components

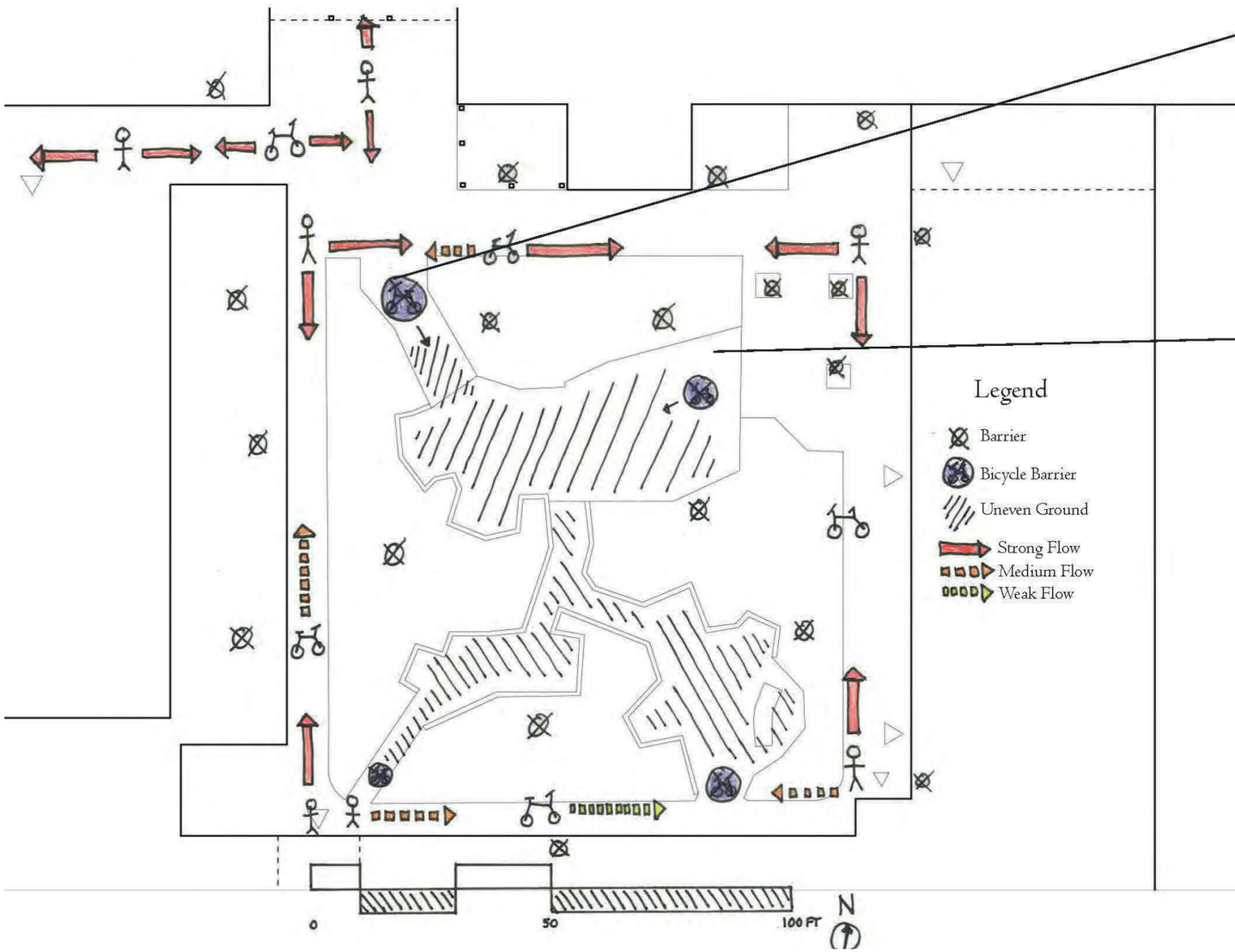
Positive Visual/Acoustic Components
- Trees
- Benches
- Structure
- Bushes
- Wind through the Quad

Negative Visual/Acoustic Components
- Trash Bins
- Noises from workshop area



# Circulation

In the last iteration, I looked at the circulation of bikers and walkers through the courtyard. I also took notes on barriers to bikers and walkers and what prevented circulation in the courtyard.

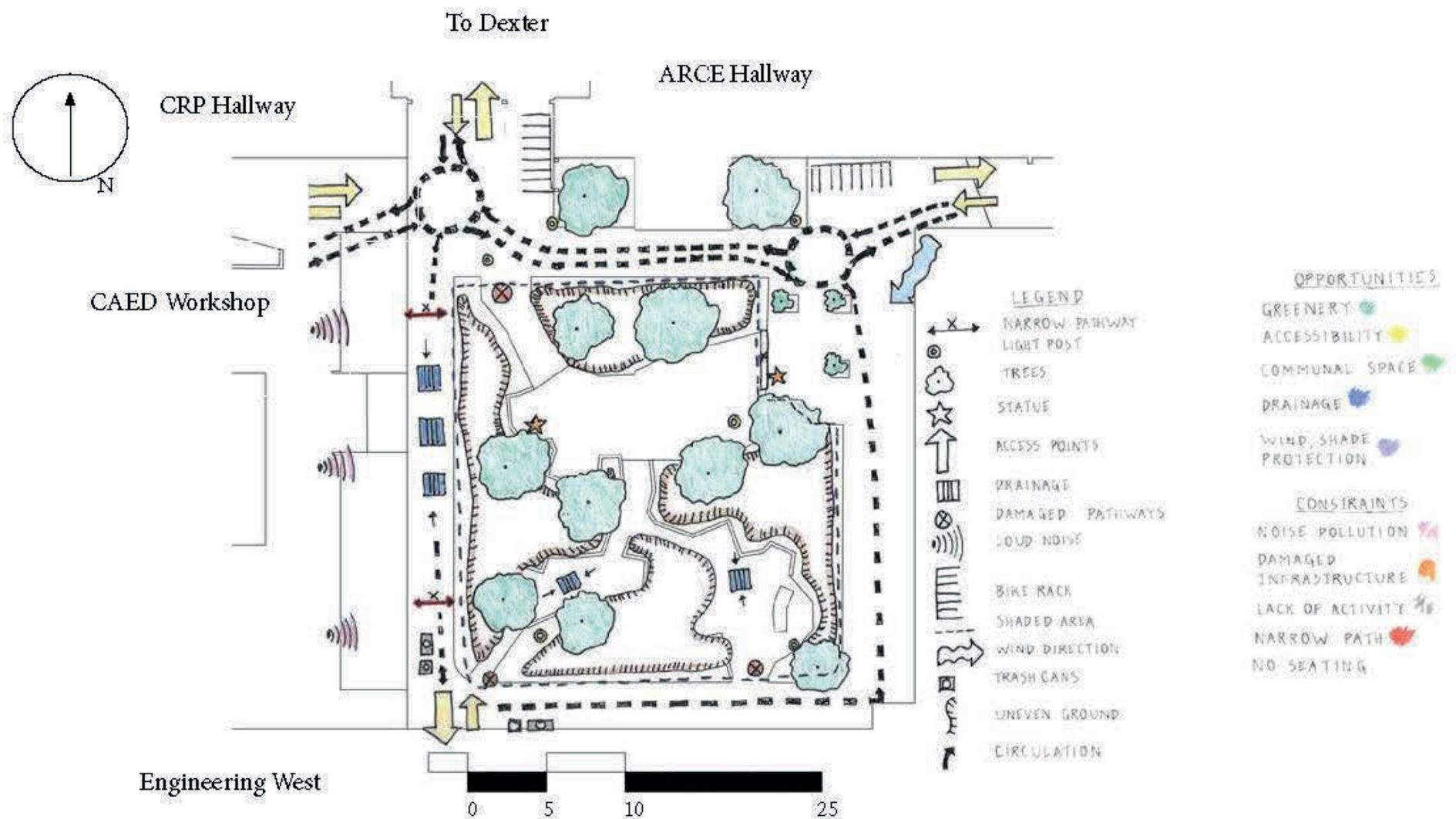


In this photo, you can see the brick path has a major bump in it. This leads to it being unusable for bikers and also a tripping hazard for walkers.

This is another example of unfriendly walkways for both bikers and walkers. The straight line of red tape shows the curb there. And the circular red tape again shows the same problem as above with there being a large bump in the brick. This can be a major tripping hazard. The red brick is also an issue during the winter as it can become slippery.

# Site Analysis

The last step of this design process was to use all of the observations from before to find the opportunities and constraints of the courtyard. Opportunites are things that were already good or had the potential to be made good, while constraints are things negatively impacting the space that needed work.



# Chapter 3: Design

# Design Concept

In the first step of the design process, I researched ideas for specific elements that I liked. I then used these to plan out general estimates of the space I needed for these elements.

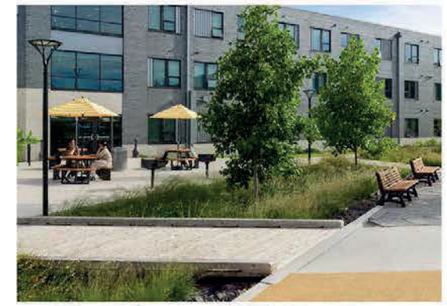
Objective 1: Using the Southeast Corner to Create Communal Space

Idea 1.1: More Seating Areas

Idea 1.2: Create Activity and a Place to Stay

Objective 2: Increasing Accessibility

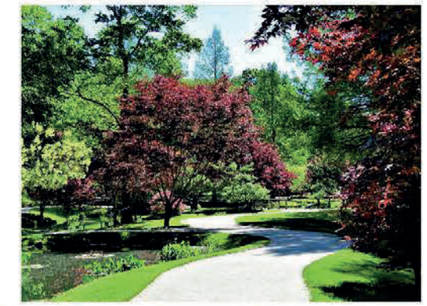
Idea 2.1: Ensure Paving is Even



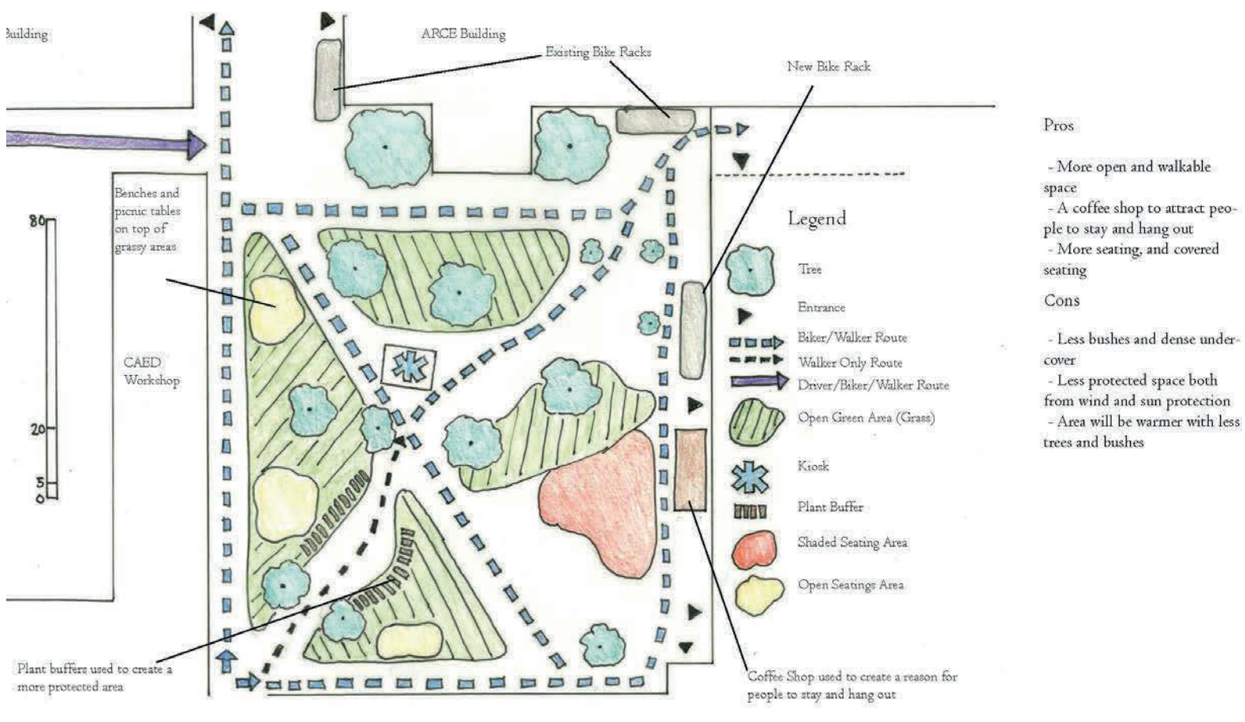
Idea 2.2: Increase Sittable Green Space

Objective 3: Increase Connectivity for all Users

Idea 3.1: Use of Wide Paths



Idea 3.2: Increase Connectivity by Using Signage

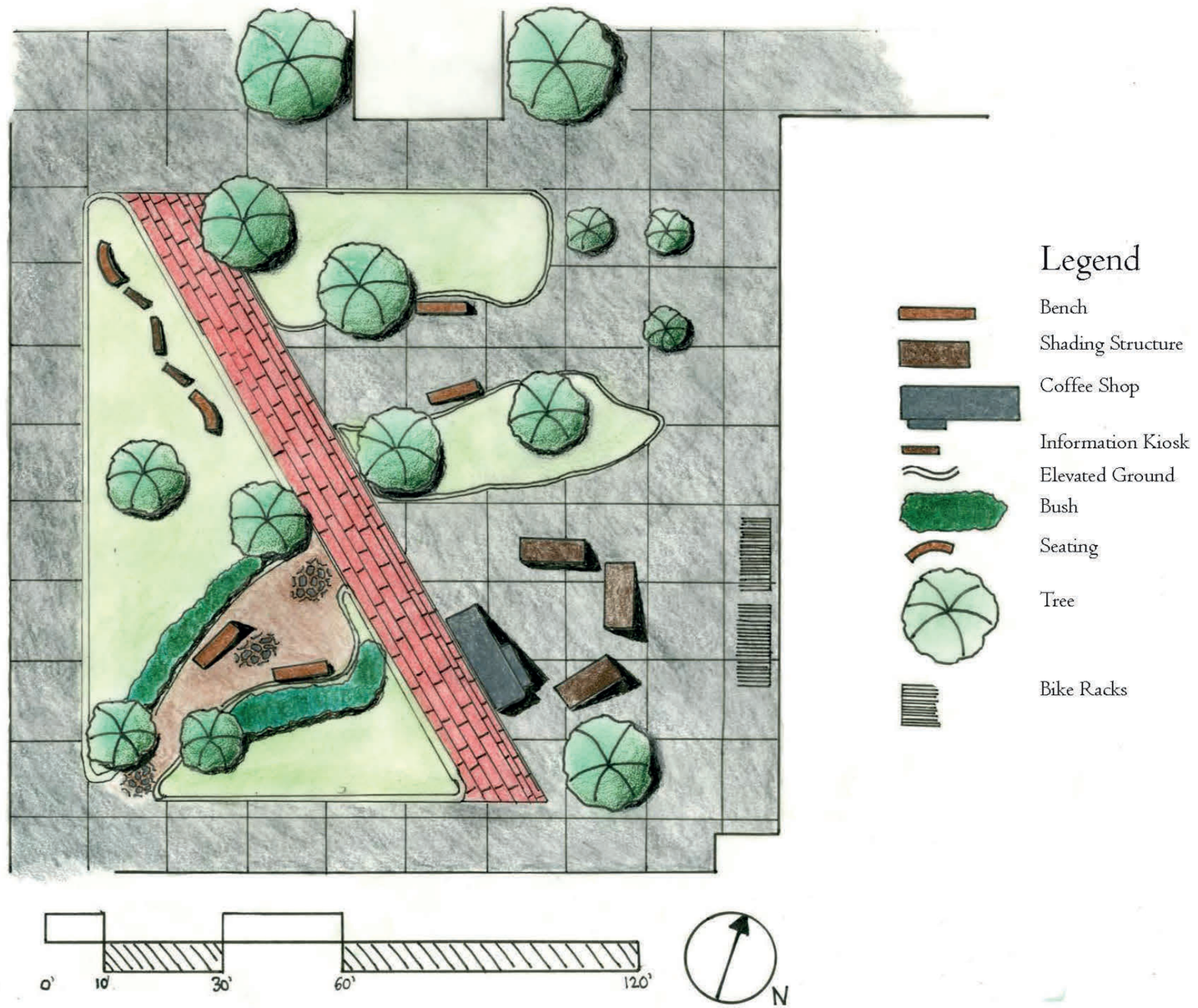



## Vision Statement

The CAED Courtyard is a lively, peaceful space connecting the Construction Quad to Dexter Lawn and bringing the CAED community together. This welcoming area provides various social, recreational, and academic opportunities for students and everyday pedestrians or bicyclists.

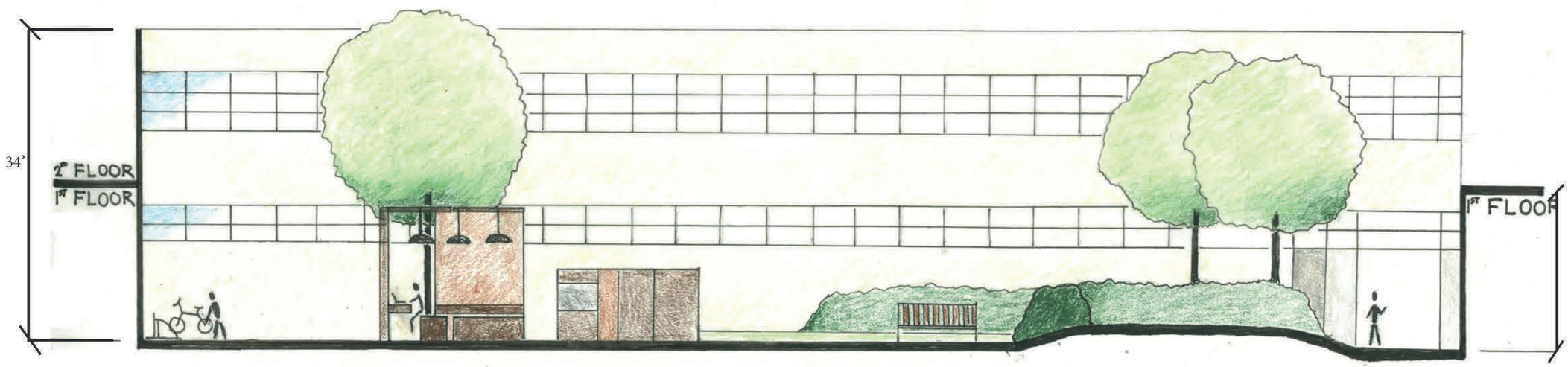
# Illustrative Site Plan

Next, I took my design concept and turned it into an actual site plan with much more exact measurements, and specific areas where I wanted to place new design elements.



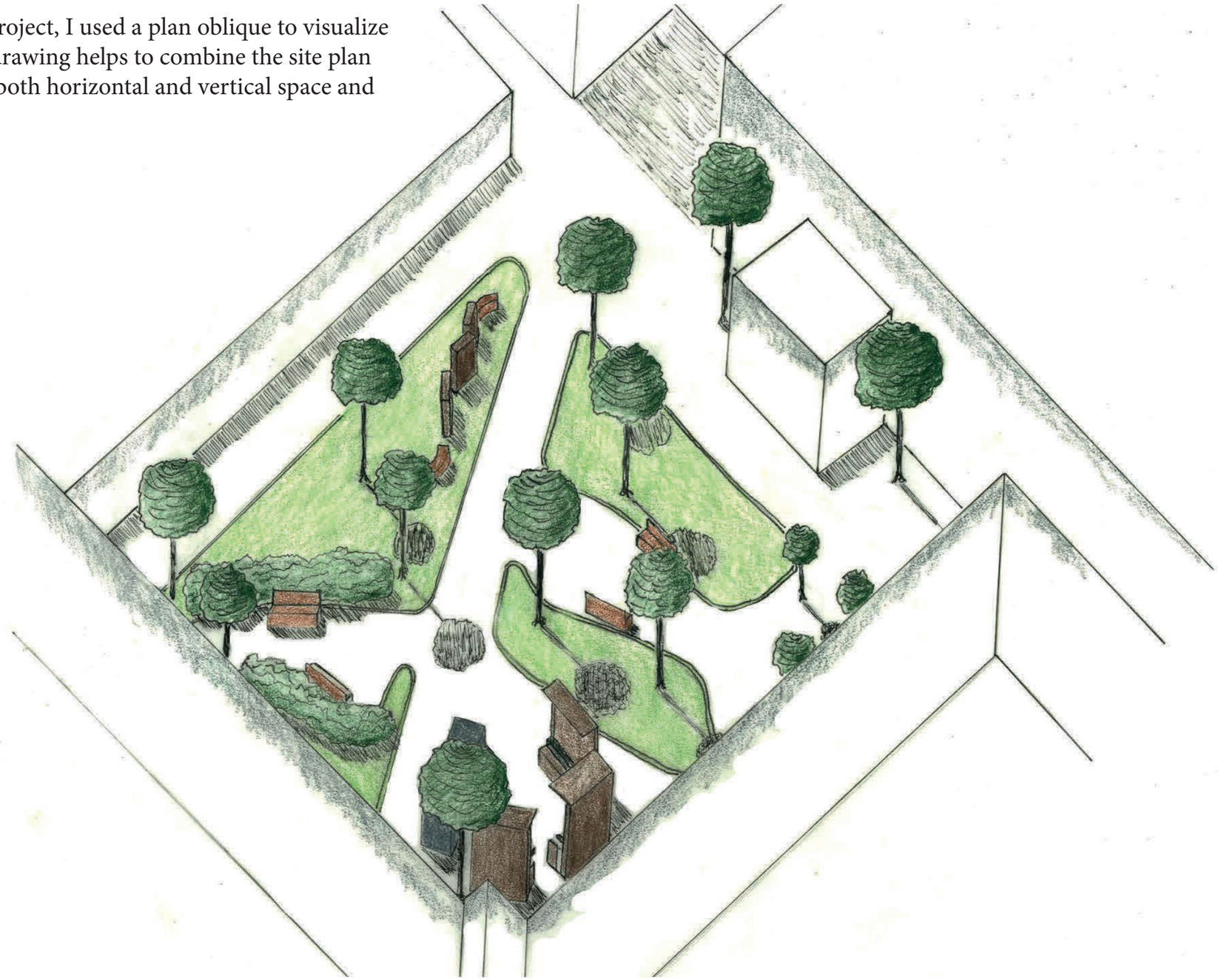
# Cross-Section

Next, I took a cross-section of my drawing. The goal here was to see the shading structures and coffee shops I added as they were focal points of the design. This drawing was also used to show the heights of different elements in the plan.



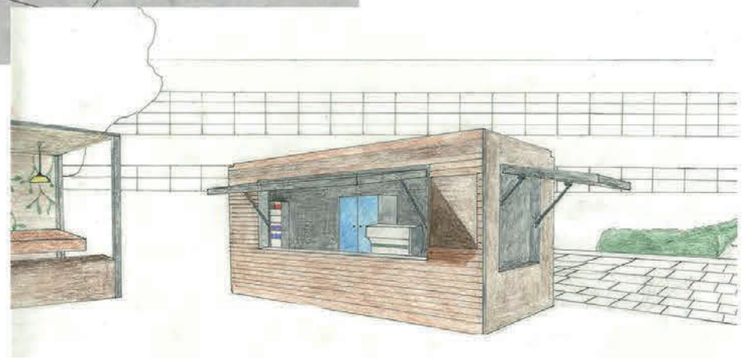
# Plan Oblique

In one of the last steps of the project, I used a plan oblique to visualize my design in a new way. This drawing helps to combine the site plan and the cross-section to show both horizontal and vertical space and how they relate to each other.



# Two-Point Perspective & Photoshop Rendering

In the last step of the project, I used a two-point perspective to show the coffee shop and the elements in the nearby vicinity. I then put the drawing into Photoshop to show shadows, flooring, and other elements not shown in the hand-drawn rendition.



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