

Public Realm

Guiding Principles



Celebrate Space as a Civic Asset

Relate to both urban and human scales and create connections that respond to site and streetscape activation and support pedestrian activity that is open and accessible.



Respond to Urban Relationships

Consider urban gateways by framing views and vantage points from the pedestrian experience and consider user types in creating a sense of scale in an inviting landscape.



Utilize Streetscapes as Open Space

Create an inviting public realm that supports pedestrian flows. Draw visual interest and promote social interaction while activating the street frontage. While addressing traffic concerns specifically around Atlantic Ave and Boerum St.



Lead with Dignity in Design

Welcome visitors and users with an engaging experience while creating a comfortable and calming environment. While integrating diversity and accessibility in civic amenities.



Develop Supportive Environments

Convey dignity and respect through high-quality design while ensuring safety and security. The environment's configuration should grant a sense of personal agency and foster well-being.

What We Heard

Develop **accessible routes** into the facility and the community space from the nearby street intersections with **integrated wayfinding**.

Use space at Smith Street and Atlantic Avenue for **social gathering**.

Provide a **community garden** for the people in custody in the public plaza that children can play in or **visually engage with**.

More clarity needed on the **location of pedestrian and vehicular entrances and exits** - for staff, Department of Corrections, and people in custody.

Incorporate exterior public **drinking fountains**.

Create accessible gathering spaces with **public seating and diverse planting strategies** to invite the community to occupy the plaza.

Provide reserved DDC, staff, and public visitor parking in the parking garage and around the street perimeter (**where possible, to preserve the existing MTA bus stop**).

Traffic concerns at the intersection of Atlantic and Boerum, where there has been a history of high-speed collisions.

Incorporate a **variety of seating** modules to encourage **multi-generational interactions**.

Integrate rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable paving systems that require **minimal maintenance**.

The pedestrian environment should be **improved** and **activated**.

Incorporate wide sidewalks (12' min, 15'-18' ideally) and reduced lanes.

Create **diverse street designs** for each street around the block.

Ensure adequate safety upon arrival and throughout.

Incorporate **street-level parking strategies** that discourage the use of parking placards.

Implement a **sheltered bus stop**.

Expand public space beyond Brooklyn Detention Center block in all directions.

Avoid implementation of raised gardens that **collect garbage**.

Preserve/expand access to the Smith Street bike lane.

Implement **protective barriers**.

Integrated trees and **maximize planting** of trees.

Provide a **space** for food cart and food vendors.

Public Realm

Creating a New Vision for the Public Realm Together



Boerum Place streetscape experience

Public Realm

Creating a New Vision for the Public Realm Together



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Atlantic Avenue streetscape experience



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State Street streetscape experience

Public Realm

By reenvisioning the public realm, we created a more diverse and dynamic streetscape design that is unique to each street. By increasing the sidewalk widths, we can better support pedestrian mobility throughout the block with opportunities for social gathering adjacent to building entries.



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Public Realm Vision Plan

Architecture

Guiding Principles



Reinforcing Neighborhood Connections



Creating A Civic Asset



What We Heard

Incorporate **architectural massing strategies** that **respond to daylighting** and that distribute natural light deeper into the facility

Will there be **roof access**?

Incorporate **live landscaped areas** on the building's exterior setbacks and roof

The design of the **outdoor recreation spaces** should address the neighboring residents' concerns about their **visual and acoustical privacy** and **personal safety**.

Incorporate **warm-toned materials** at the entrances to the facility to appear inviting to the public/visitors

Maximize access to natural light and views to the outside while avoiding direct line-of-sight relationships and acoustical spillover to the neighboring residences via screening of the façade

How will sanitation and garbage be handled?

Address community concerns about the **facility casting shadows** on the residences North of the site (shadow studies?)

The overall **character of the facility** should reflect the **humanity** of both the community and the people in custody, and encourage **personal growth** and interaction.

Incorporate **contextual references** into the material language of the **façade** to show respect to the **existing fabric of the neighborhood**, and mitigate the use of reflective materials

Accentuate the **architectural features** of the **Brownstone** on the façade through **setbacks and fenestration** framing details, especially on Smith Street

Integrate **bird safe glass** into the fenestration along with pigeon control systems and **grafitti resistant materials** at street level

Smith Street is a narrow street, is it possible to add a **setback** or **carve out element** on Smith?

There was great enthusiasm for the "**sculpted by light**" concept presented by the design team. Transparency and daylight were seen as emblematic of "**designing for hope**".

Architecture

Creating a Human-Centric Architecture



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Boerum Place streetscape experience



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Atlantic Avenue streetscape experience

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Architecture

Creating a Human-Centric Architecture



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State Street streetscape experience



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Smith Street streetscape experience

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Interior Public Spaces

Guiding Principles

- Plentiful natural light and views to the outdoors
- Civic asset that respectfully engages with its community
- Good neighbor with strategic placement of outdoor recreation areas
- Incorporating design for equity



What We Heard

Incorporate a **gallery space** visible to the street for people in custody to showcase their art

Incorporate a free **community book exchange**

Provide an **accessible entrance** to the community space on Smith Street

Incorporate a **children's play area** adjacent to the visiting/waiting areas with separation between people in custody

Provide **no-charge storage lockers** for the visiting areas

Incorporate an **indoor waiting area** for visiting public and/or expand the lobby queueing area to **prevent overflow** and extended wait times

Incorporate a **mother's room** for visitors

Provide facilities for **temporary housing** or resources for temporary housing placement

Provide a separate **attorney visiting space** for families of the people in custody

Provide a **grab-n-go café area** or **vending machines** at visiting lounges

Provide an **inviting, well-lit environment** for visiting areas

Provide public **drinking fountains**

Accessible community spaces for meetings, exhibits, workshops that engage diverse populations from community and facility.

Introduce a **calming olfactory experience** in the public lobby

Provide **comfortable seating** in the waiting areas with nearby **accessible public restrooms**

Eliminate excessive invasive searches of visitors

Incorporate a **community café or bodega**

Engage with the public to host **public events** in partnership with local organizations

Provide facilities for community **social outreach** and local events and exhibitions

Interior Public Spaces

Lobby Experience



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View Of Lobby Seating Area And Child Play Area

Interior Public Spaces

Lobby Experience



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Internal View Of Lobby Reception Area

Interior Spaces

Guiding Principles

- Genuine outdoor access with sensory enhancements like visual texture..
- Integrated staff-resident areas; concerns about real-world usage.
- Integrated programmatic spaces; easy medical access; diverse materiality for stimulation.
- Stacked housing concerns; emphasis on natural light in cells.
- Less sterile spaces; more greenery; feedback from former inmates.
- Soft lighting; varied floor finishes for intimacy.
- Continuation of specific programs; insights from past designs.



What We Heard

Provide an adequate number of **therapeutic housing units** - should stay at 40% as in original design. This is key to **addressing the needs** of people in custody and communities.

Eliminate punitive design features such as **vertical bars** on doors/windows and **enhanced supervision units** (solitary confinement)

How/where are **medical facilities** and clinics included?

There were follow-up questions about how/if **feedback** from **formerly incarcerated persons** or families of formerly incarcerated persons was collected and if it **influenced design**.

Spaces that allow for **human element** - public art & color integrated into spaces, changing exhibitions of work curated by community partners, plantings, greenery inside the building

Integrate acoustical finishes where possible in the **large communal spaces** to control noise levels

Increase access to the **natural environment** outside beyond the minimum requirements for outdoor recreation

Will they design a **housing unit for ESH**?

Will there be an onsite **kitchen and dining** areas?

Can we provide a schematic representation of **what cells will look like**?

What are the **fire safety** and **evacuation procedures**?

Cells: what is window size, how each cell will be furnished?

Provide **dormitory housing units** for PIC with **mental health conditions** like claustrophobia

Rendering of Mezzanine - questions about whether visitors would be able to see people in custody through the clear glass in the mezzanine, whether **housing areas have mezzanines**, or if that was only for public facing areas.

Provide **individual climate controls** for people in custody housing

Food: how and where will it be **prepared**; how will it be **delivered** to a) housing areas and b) facility in general?

What is the **size of housing units** (max # of cells in each area, not sf)?

Integrate **communal facility** DDC staff areas with people in custody areas to **foster interaction**

How will DOC make sure that those **glass walls** wouldn't be obscured with papers etc ?

Provide **dedicated cultural programming spaces** for education, art, group activities, and vocational training for **people in custody**

Would **decontamination showers** be in cages?

Provide a **polling site** for feedback from **people in custody**

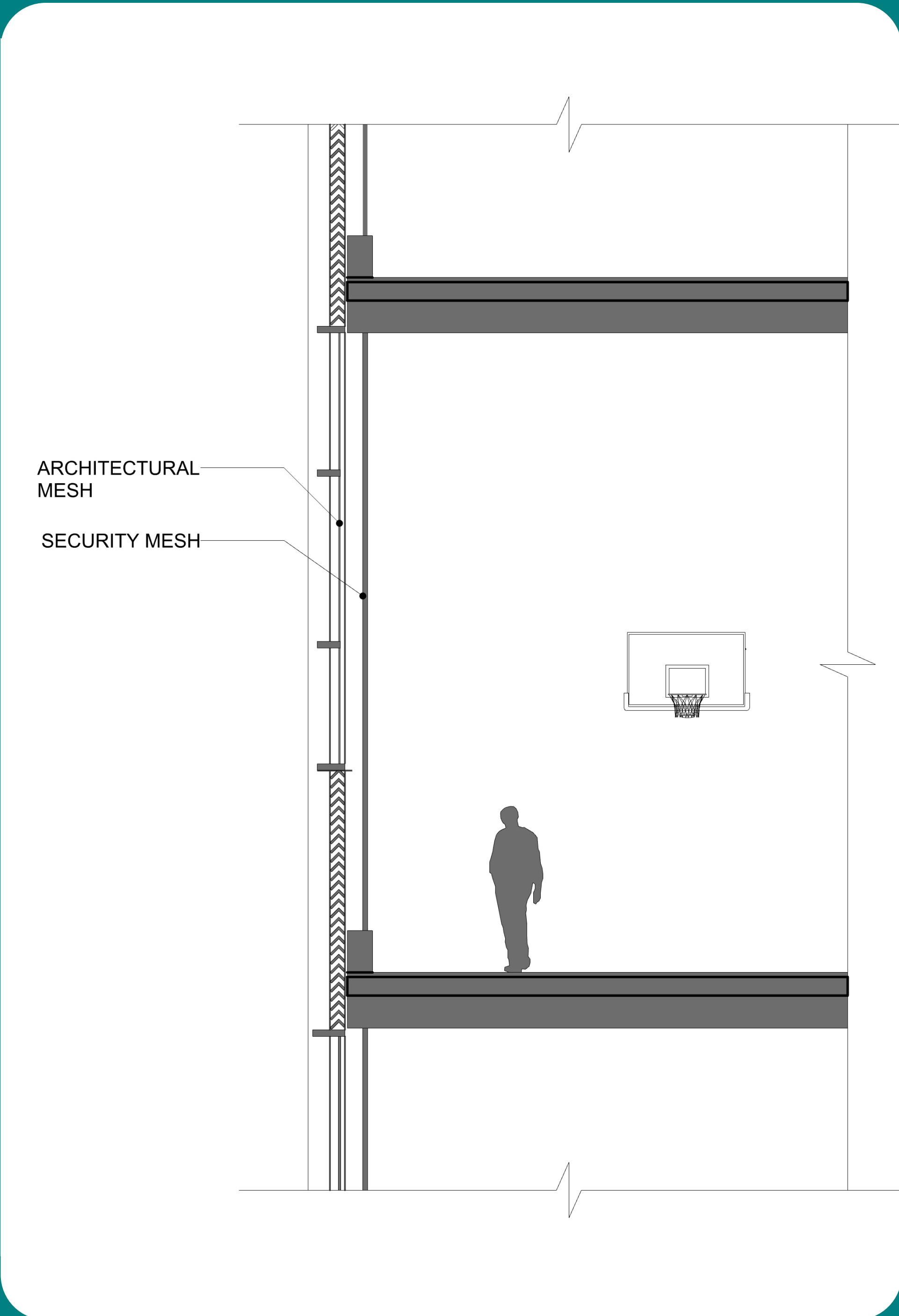
Double-tiered people in custody housing units exacerbate the sensation of **overcrowding** and could negatively influence **people in custody with serious mental illnesses (SMI)**

General concern that interior spaces looked **"too sterile"** and needed more greenery;

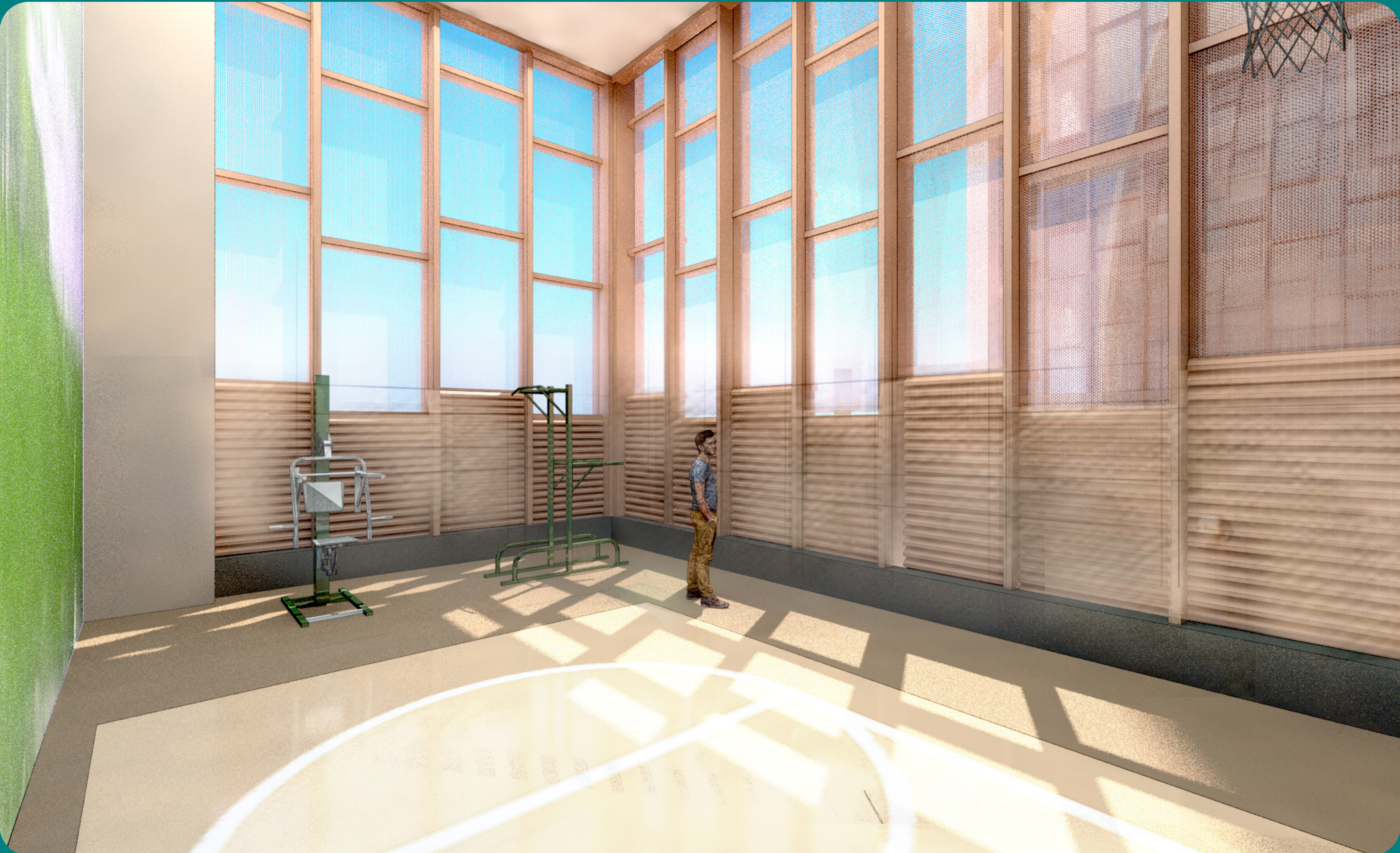
Single versus double tiers (and can/will there be a unit in **dorm format**?).

Interior Spaces

Rec Yard Section & Render

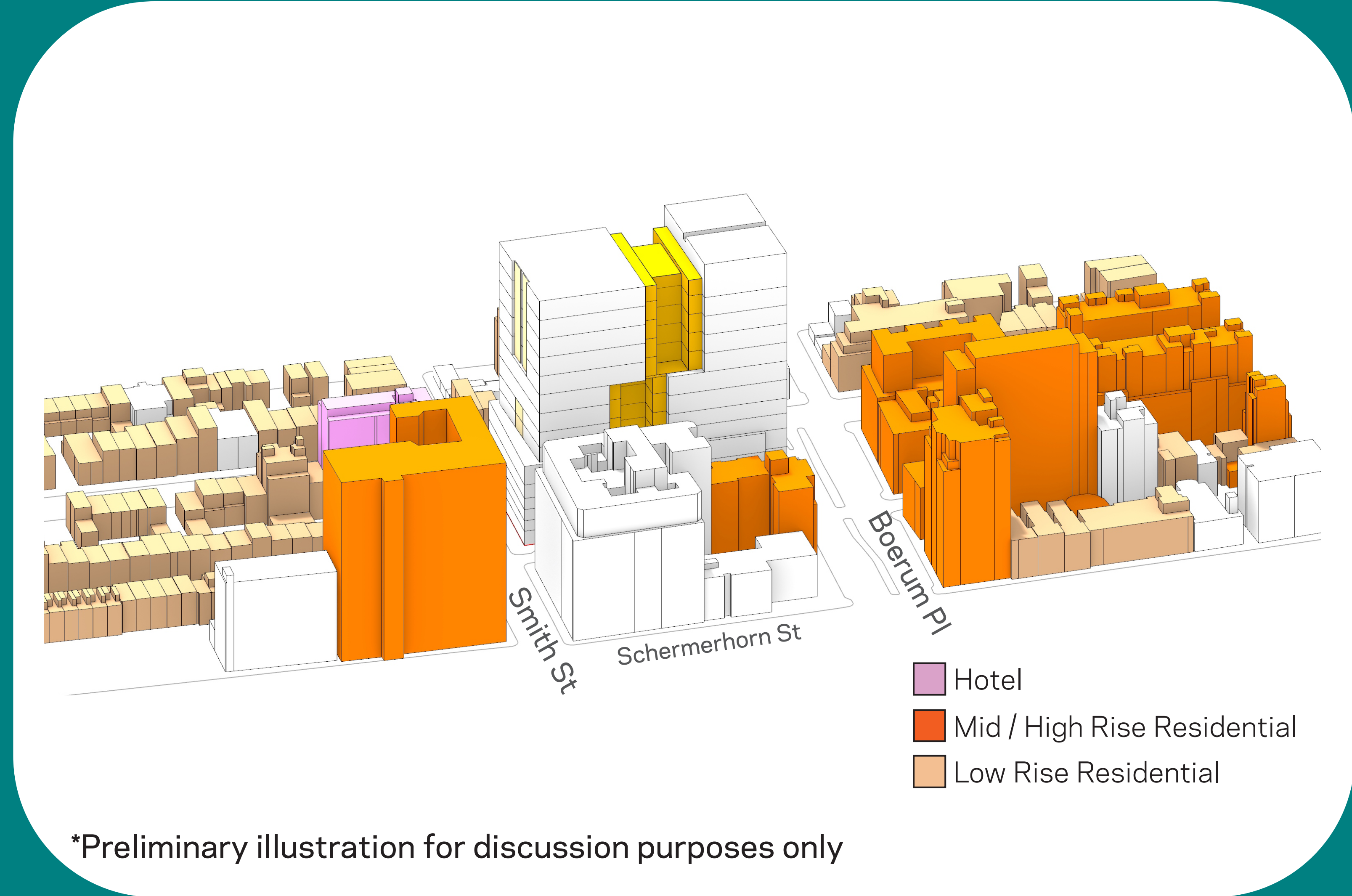


Recreation Yard Section



Recreation Yard Interior View

Site Axons



Residential Buildings Around The Site
View From North East



Residential Buildings Around The Site
View From South West

Interior Spaces

Horticulture Program



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Aerial View Of Horticulture Space