Joe Koslow - Architect

Portfolio of Professional and Academic Work - Spring 2025

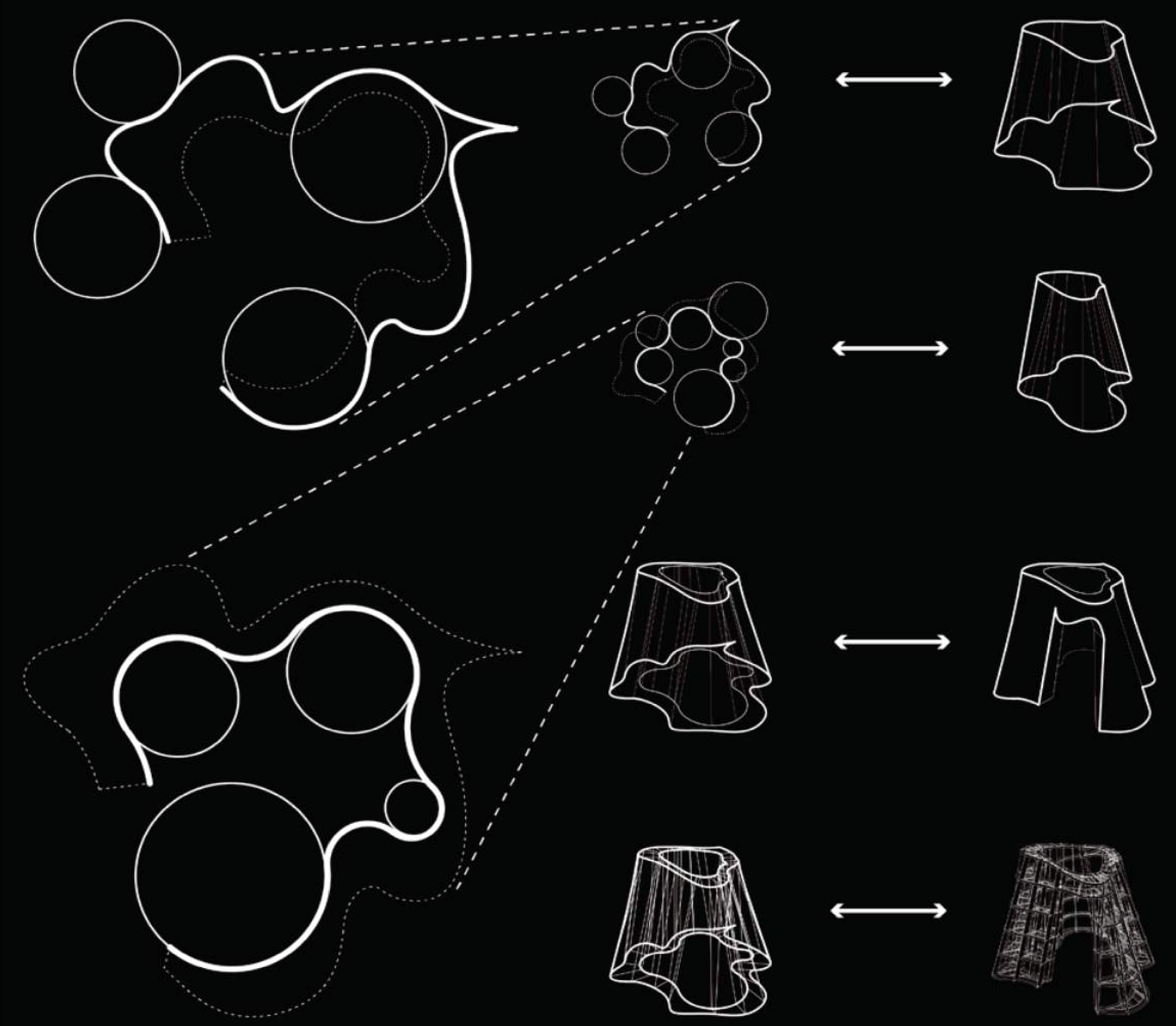
For more detailed information, please visit: joe-koslow-design.com

Academic Work - Overview

Ball State University - Fall 2013 to Spring 2017, Fall 2018 to Spring 2020

Topics Explored:

- Post-Industrial revitalization
- parametric design
- design/build with community partners
- built environment response to homelessness
- Climate Change resilient design
- ...and more!



Academic Work - Excerpts

Catalyzing Community:

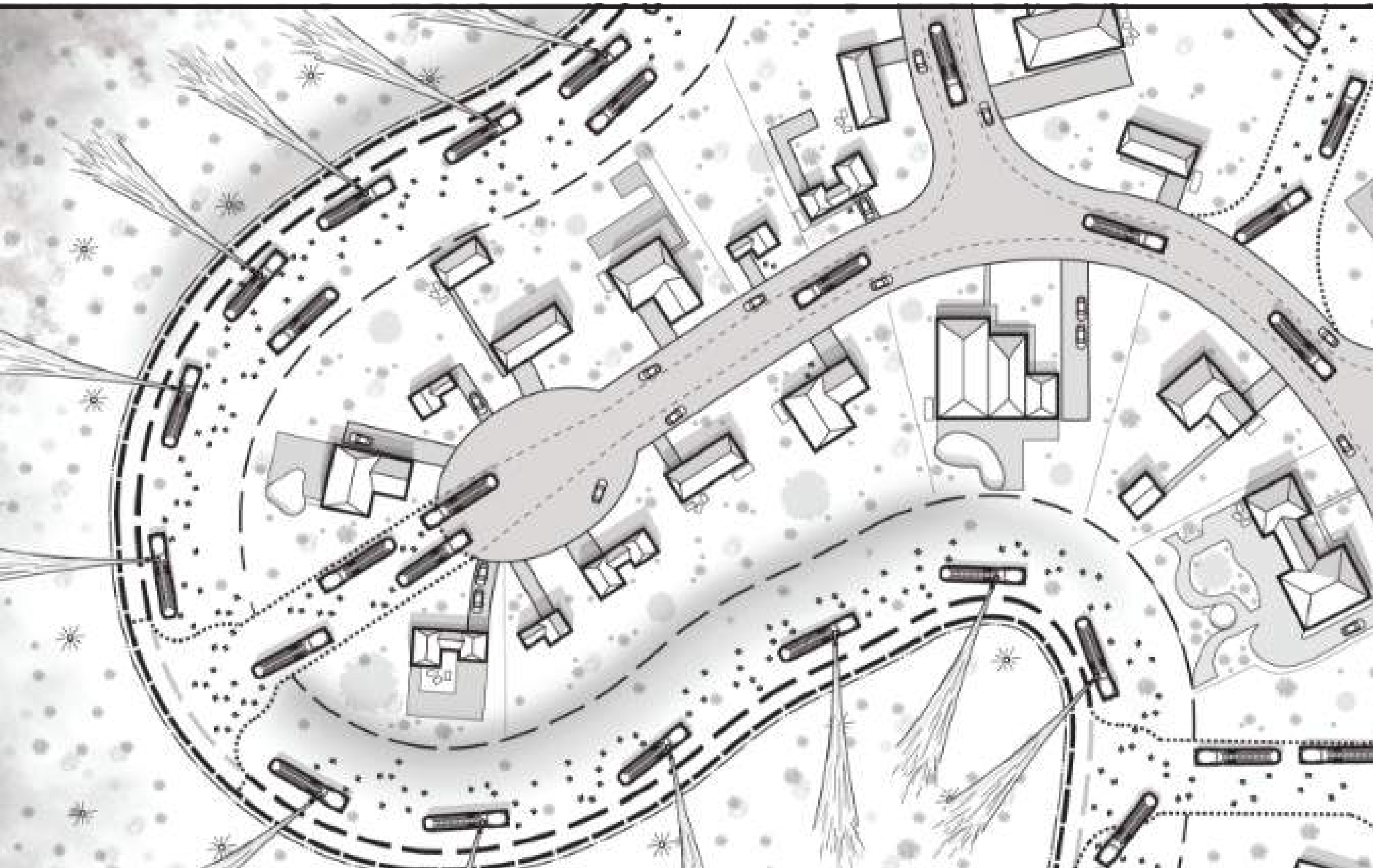
During my time at Ball State University, we discussed Post-Industrial decay and the associated consequences often as a prompt for design explorations. Being located in Muncie, Indiana, Ball State University students were often challenged to better understand economic and societal shifts that influenced the decay of communities throughout the Midwest region. These explorations begged the question:

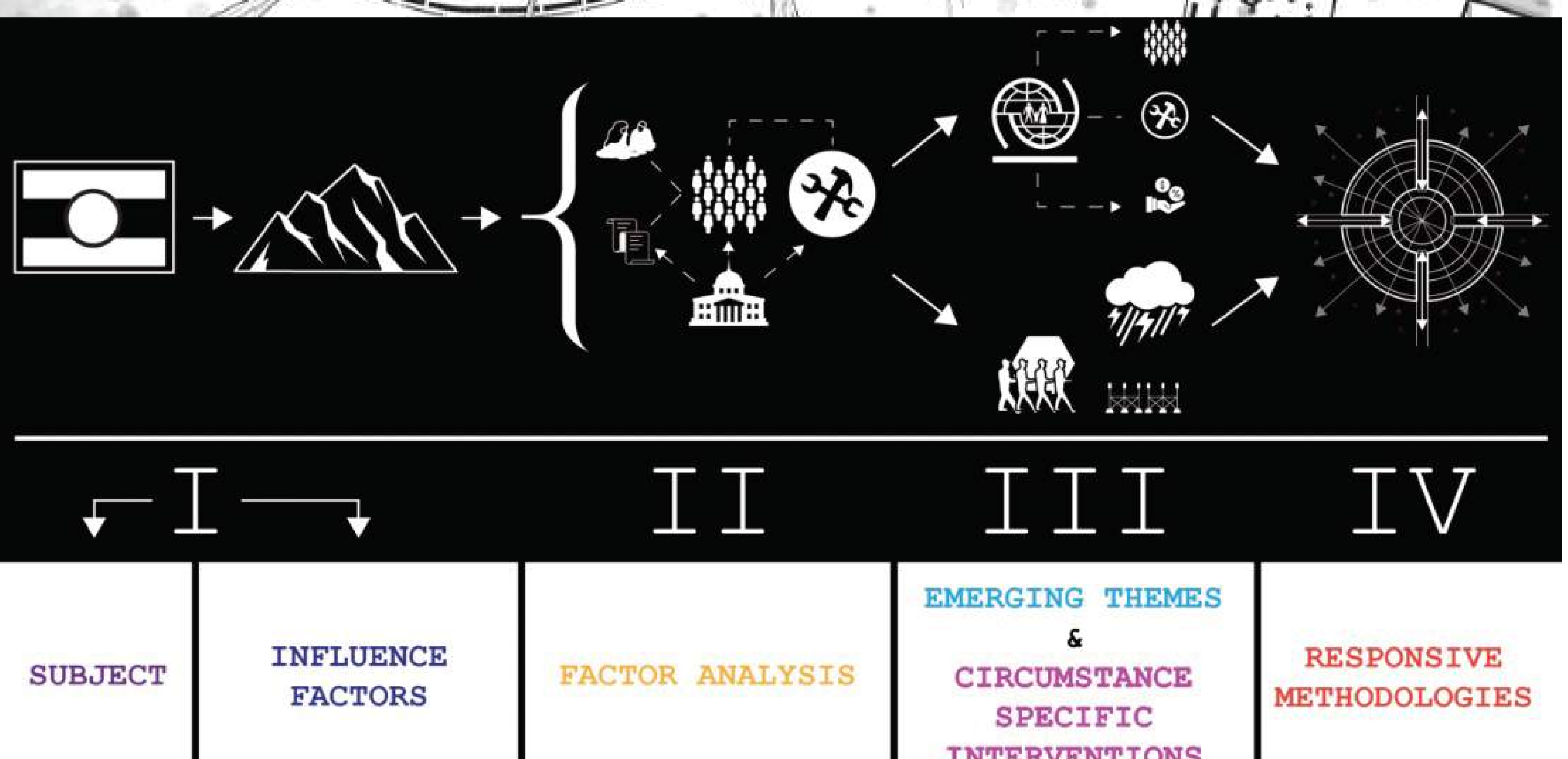
How can the built environment and design methodologies respond to promote success in blighted communities for a better future?

Design school projects such as "Catalyzing Community" attempted to explore further how Post-Industrial communities could benefit from renewed opportunities facilitated through unique and playful design interventions. This project explored the concept of utilizing cheaply constructed but well-designed mobile homes that could double as places of work. Inhabitants of these mobile units could adapt their locations easily and find renewed purpose through businesses facilitated from the amenities provided by these habitats. Creating these mobile communities could also bring together destitute individuals plagued by the challenges of Post-Industrial decline to find new meaning and purpose that could benefit their lives and the lives of others.

Projects like these in college helped me understand unique construction methods, missed opportunities in declining communities, and the potentiality for design to positively impact overall communities.

Academic Work - Excerpts





A Generative Design Language for Climate Change Migration:

For our graduate school thesis project, we were challenged to intensively research a topic relevant to design in the built environment. I've always been interested in Climate Change and its continued impacts on our global society. Preventative design is often the focus in the topic of Climate Change, such as sustainable systems that can further mitigate pollution that contributes to Climate Change's progression. However, it's now evident that some of the worst effects from Climate Change will inevitably occur due to an inability to respond effectively in a global fashion. This realization then begs the question:

How can resilient design methodologies protect vulnerable communities throughout the world, through the use of a comprehensive design language that can be adapted per scenario?

I was inspired by Christopher Alexander's book "A Timeless Way of Building" where Alexander analyzes traditional civilizations and attempts to codify a set of design language rules that help proliferate some of these timeless and successful built environments. In a similar fashion, my senior thesis attempts to analyze susceptible communities throughout the world and codify a set of design language rules, based on the formation of an analysis process that can generate unique solutions respective of each specific scenario.

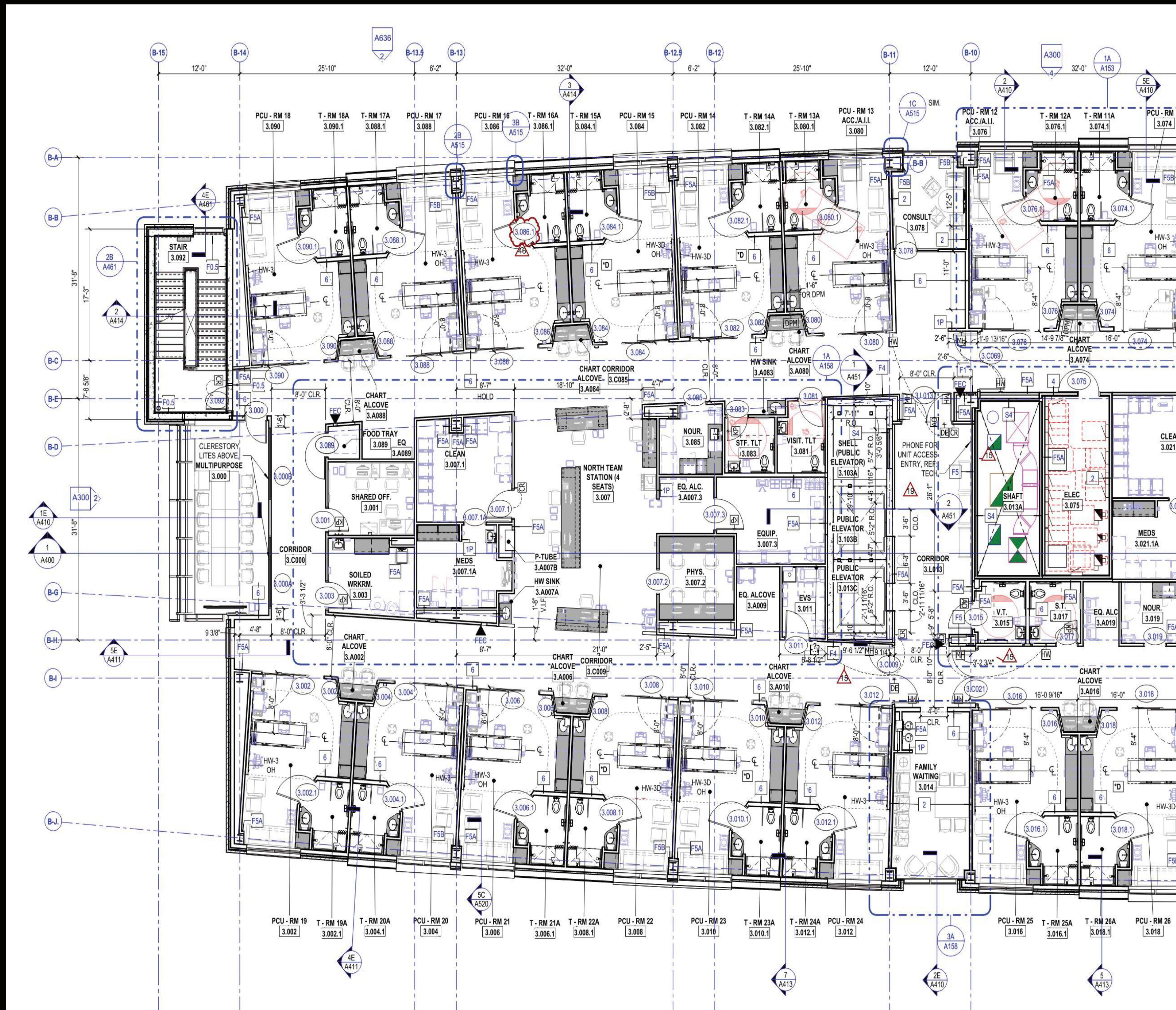
The full text for this exploration can be found on my professional website, and I encourage all to read it!

Professional Work - Overview

Key Experience - The SLAM Collaborative - Architectural Designer to Architect

Experience & Skillsets:

- large healthcare projects
- experience in all design phases
- utilizing Revit and BIM 360 to facilitate complex projects with several consultant team models linked
- construction administration experience and contractor collaboration to facilitate design
- ...and more!



Academic Work - Excerpts

"i-Made" Immersive Learning Project:

Design school also challenged us to work together in large teams along with local industry partners and clients from the community of Muncie. This exercise gave students a very realistic experience comparable to professional practice, where an architect must work with consultant design partners and their fellow peers to deliver on a client's goal. Our professor was very involved in the Muncie community and learned that a local civic center Minnetrista needed new built-in furniture and signage for a farmers' market event that occurs throughout the Summer. Our class worked together as a team to attend user meetings at Minnetrista where we could better understand their needs.

After gathering this data, we analyzed what would be contextually appropriate to design and build for this community center. All of Muncie has a Post-Industrial feel, and the combination of weathered wood and steel can be found throughout the small city. We decided to connect with a local steel fabricator and wood processing facility where we could derive kiln-dried wood.

Using design tools available to us and constant communication with these industry partners, we generated designs and helped fabricate a number of benches and signs still used at these farmers' market events in Minnetrista. This academic exercise demonstrated how Architects can work with industrial partners and community members to give back appropriate and beautiful design.

Professional Work- Excerpts

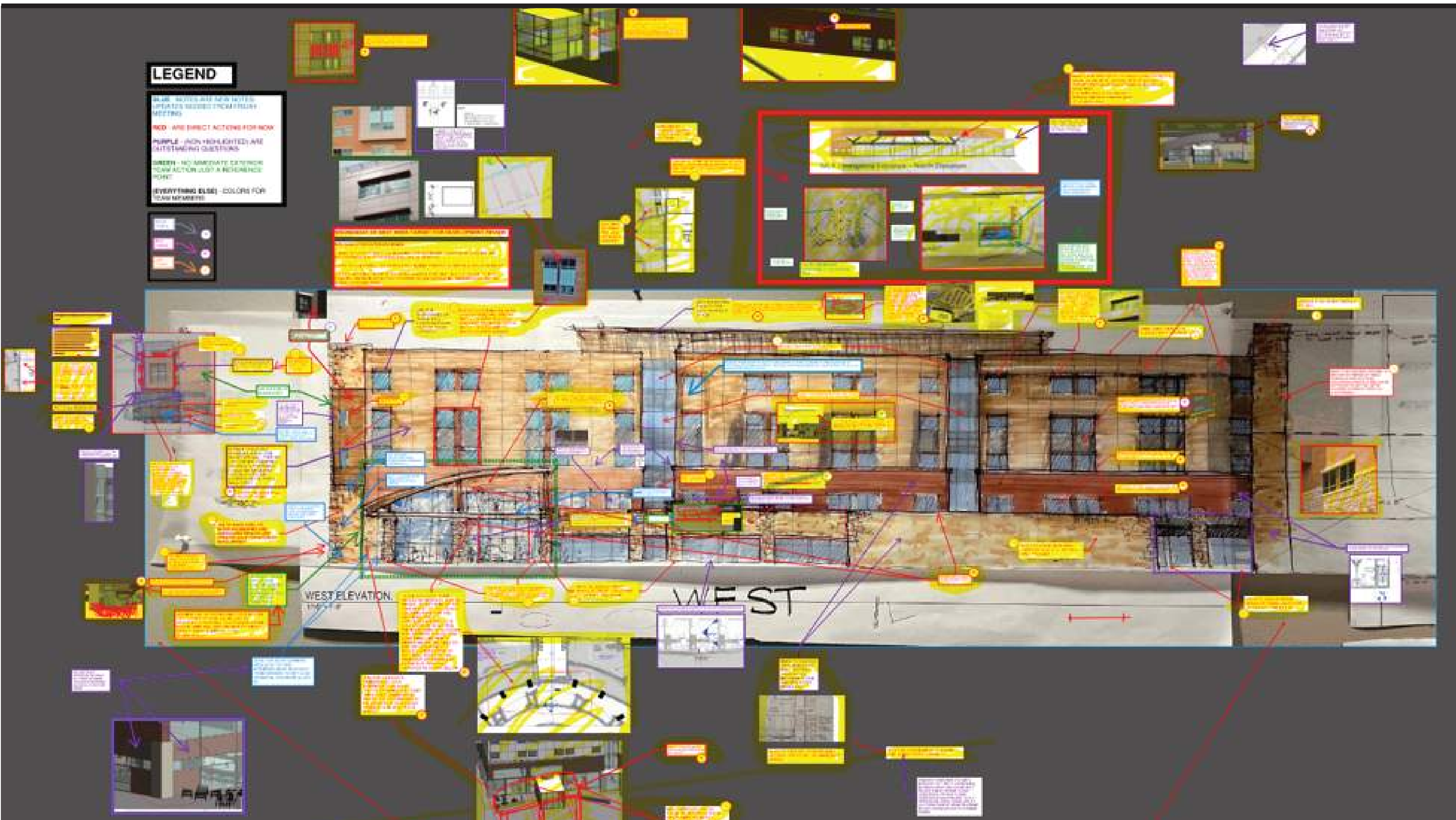
Medical Center of the Rockies Expansion & Renovation Project:

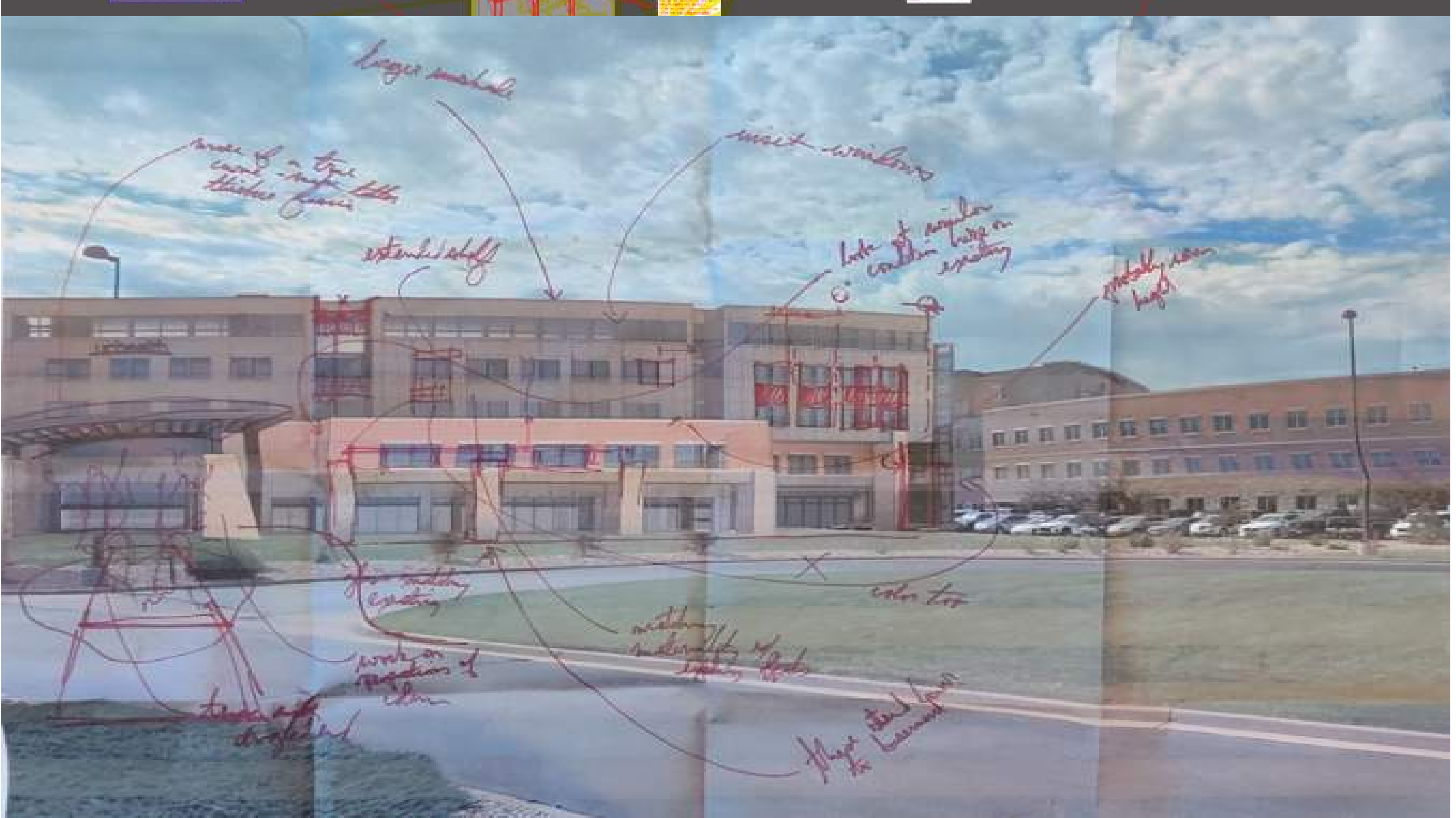
I've worked on several large and complex projects at The SLAM Collaborative in Denver. The Medical Center of the Rockies Project has been my most involved contribution at this firm. This project began with a study of a master plan curated by our firm's principal over 20 years ago. We needed to better understand what was the best and most opportunistic way to expand this existing hospital campus based on their current needs.

Several master plan expansion considerations were explored, and we soon began to curate a design proposal to add a new inpatient bed tower, cancer center, as well as expanding the existing emergency department, imaging, and cardiac catherization laboratory departments along with other new programmatic considerations in the existing facility. I contributed heavily to a predesign package that was later confirmed by our client U.C. Health's executives for the full design from schematic through construction administration.

I played a considerable role in producing graphics for this design proposal, as well as developing construction documents, contributing in meetings with users/ consultant partners/ owners representatives, and helping facilitate the construction of this commission with our contractor partner Haselden. This 283 million dollar project is still under construction as of writing, and it will sever thousands throughout the Front Range of Colorado and beyond.

Professional Work- Excerpts





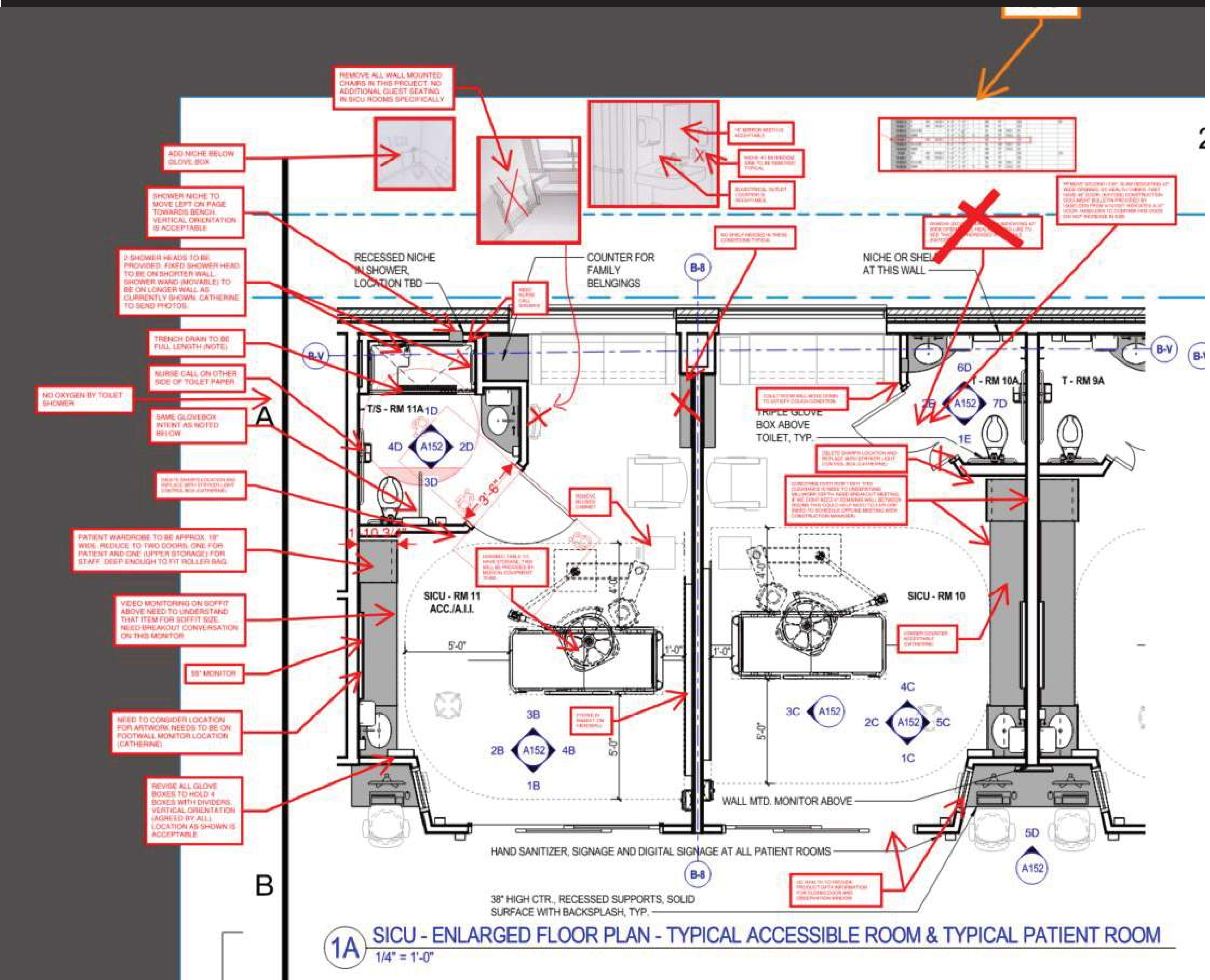
Medical Center of the Rockies Expansion & Renovation Project:

We began this project through sketch explorations and rough digital models. Due to the nature of this complex design commission, our firm utilized dozens of design professionals across the country to help facilitate its creation. Effective digital coordination and communication of information was essential for meeting the quick milestones for this large complex project consisting of hundreds of thousands of square feet in scope. Teamwork in general was paramount for success in this project.

I led in this project's BIM management process which consisted of several consultant models linked together and coordinated to utilize representations of building elements from each team. Our team utilized detailed 3D Enscape walkthroughs within Revit for various user meetings throughout the schematic and design development phases to gather information and facilitate owner requests in the design.

This project was also a great exploration into the detailed and stringent code and regulatory requirements of a hospital of this scale. Our team had to meet the dynamic modern needs of the current U.C. Health team while still paying respect to the existing character of this facility and the requirements of the City of Loveland, Colorado.

Professional Work - Excerpts



Medical Center of the Rockies Expansion & Renovation Project:

I also led in the management of detailed Bluebeam Studio session documents throughout this project where various consultant, contractor, and owner team representatives communicated, coordinated, and documented decisions made throughout the design process.

Keeping track of all of this information was paramount for successfully integrating all of the key components and requirements for this project. This project allowed our Denver office for the national SLAM firm to grow substantially as we took on new staff to continue through each phase of design.

Careful consideration was taken at each phase for retaining key design elements and considerations necessary for the operation of this facility. Multiple site visits to the Medical Center of the Rockies Campus and similar U.C. Health projects in the region helped inform our design team of critical design interventions needed.

Contractor feedback throughout the design process also helped our team value engineer aspects of the design in real-time which challenged our team to morph and adapt our model as needed to deliver a design that also meets efficiency guidelines for effective utilization of the budget given to us.

Academic Work - Excerpts

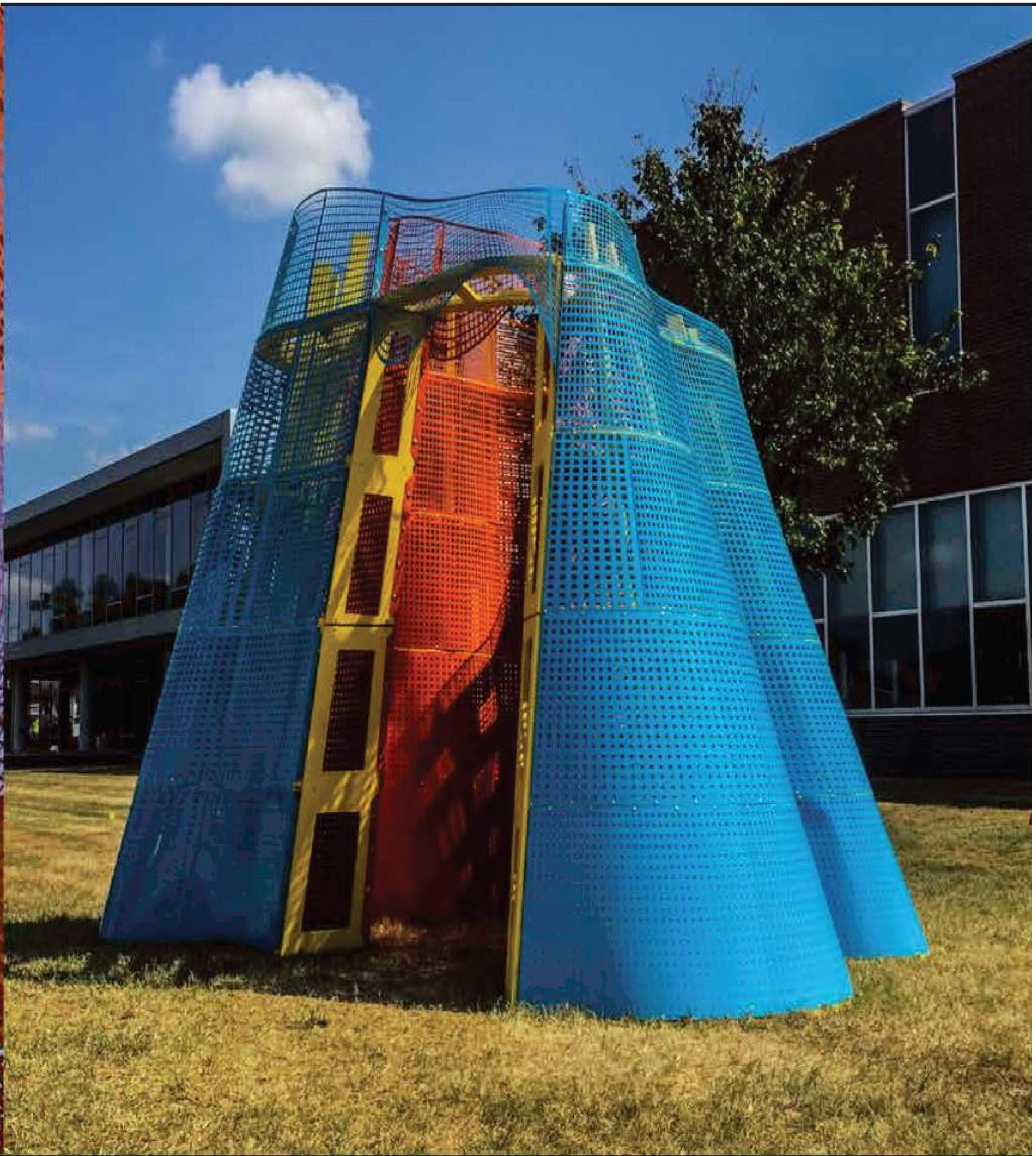


Exhibit Columbus Design Competition:

During design school at Ball State, we also participated in a number of design competitions. Columbus, Indiana has a rich architectural history and promotes innovation in design to a high degree. Ball State joined the design competition "Exhibit Columbus" with a number of other colleges. Students in our design-build class worked together using parametric tools like Rhino 3D and its plugin Grasshopper to derive unique and interesting concepts for an occupiable installation. A number of design iterations took place, where we ultimately landed on a design concept comprised of undulating planes connecting various sized "nodes". These nodes represented a number of circles of architectural interest in this small Indiana city that are interconnected in its well-designed urban fabric.

Students had a number of weeks to work through design concepts and then begin fabrication of elements for erection on site. We originally designed the structure of this installation out of metal. After a value engineering exercise, we quickly realized the financial difficulties behind this concept. We adapted the design to a wood structure with a perforated metal skin.

This design exploration was an excellent exercise for team collaboration, novel design explorations, and design refinement through an analysis of constructibility constraints. This project was among several other great installations from other schools that participated in the competition.

Professional Work - Excerpts

Medical Center of the Rockies Expansion & Renovation Project:

Even during construction, the design work hasn't stopped. Our design team continues to adapt in real-time to address contractor questions and concerns to deliver the best possible product for our client. We're also responding to dynamic client driven changes based on the ever evolving needs of a facility this size. Complex medical facilities like these often require many changes and refinements through the construction document process.

I also had the opportunity to be involved in the submittal and RFI process for this project throughout construction administration. I led during portions of the CA process for this project in the management of hundreds of submittal documents to ensure that final coordination items were addressed in shop drawings and other CA items to successfully build this project.

My experience with this project from initial design conception on scratch paper through the construction administration process has taught me a great deal about the gravity of decisions made during the design process, and lessons learned for better methodologies and leadership strategies for future design commissions that I'll fully lead as a project architect.

Thank You!

Thanks for Reviewing. Please remember to visit my website for more detailed information.

joe-koslow-design.com