

Architecture Undergraduate Portfolio

Alexa Cotesta
2023-2026

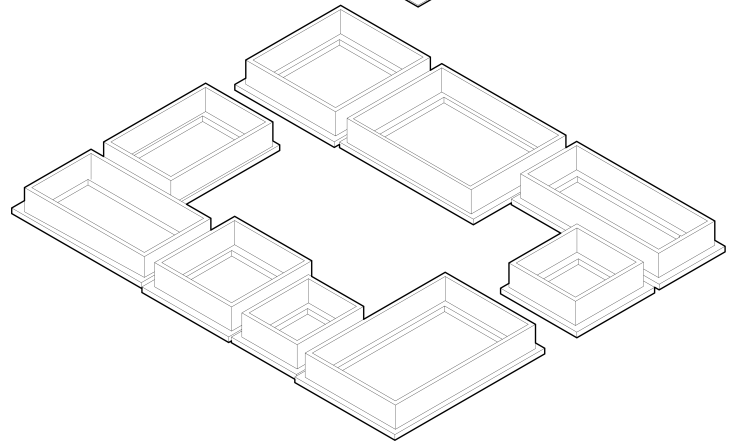
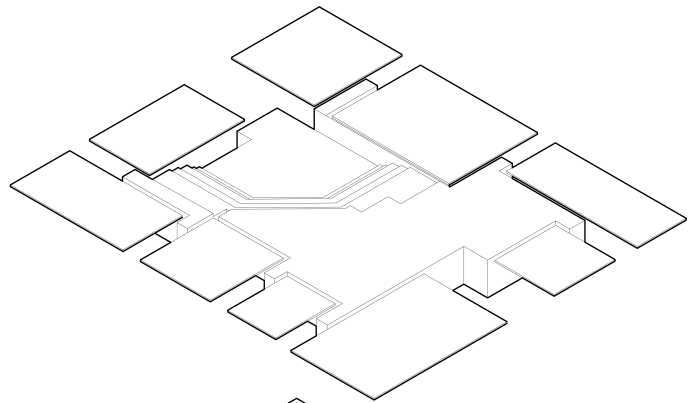
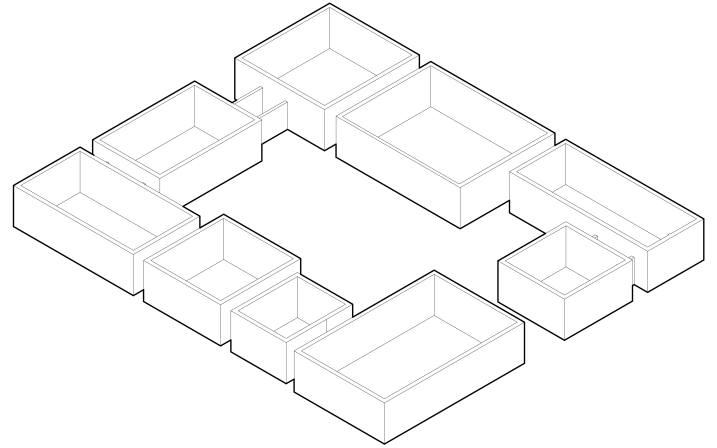
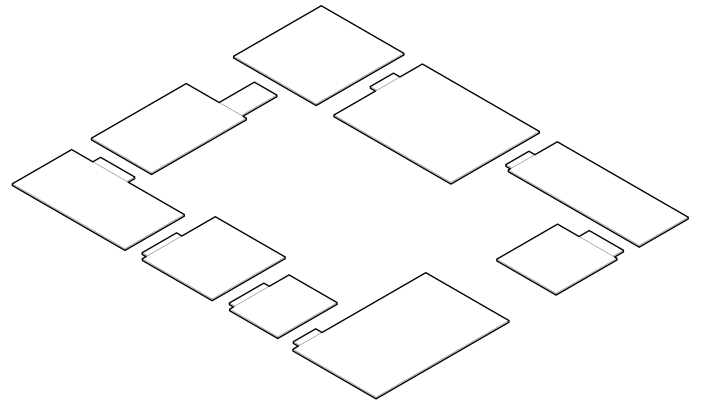


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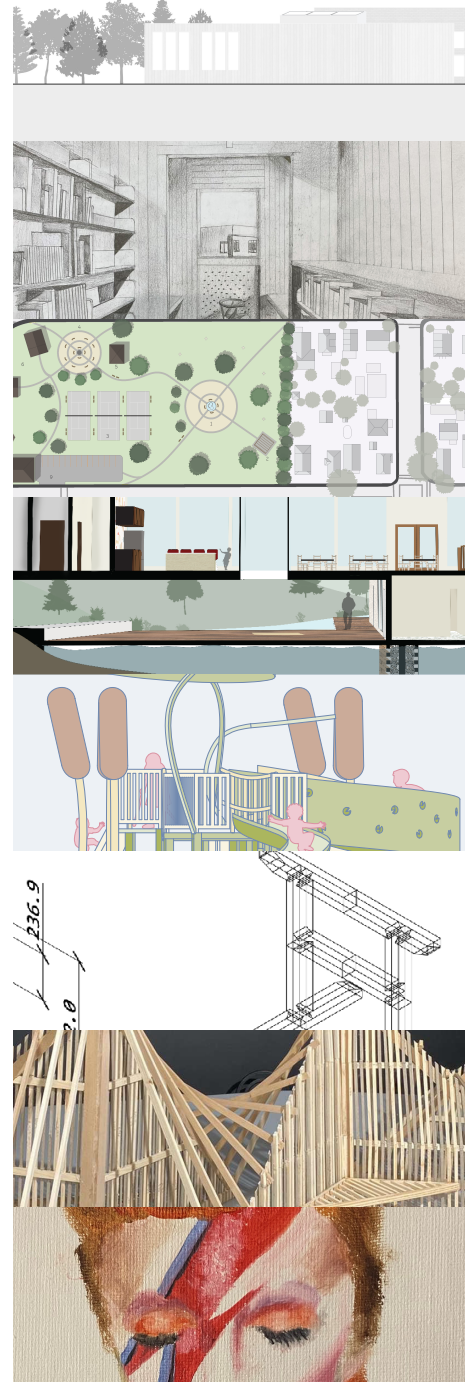
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ALEXA COTESTA

ARCHITECTURE STUDENT

CONTACT

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PROFILE

Detail-oriented and creative third-year architecture student with strong organizational skills and a fast-learning ability. Bilingual in English and French with excellent verbal and written communication skills. Experienced in providing high-quality service in individual or collaborative settings. Proficient in Microsoft Office, Adobe Creative Cloud, CAD software and Rhino.

EDUCATION

- École secondaire Collège Notre-Dame High School Diploma | 2019-2023
- Laurentian University McEwen School of Architecture Bachelor of Architecture | 2023-present

PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE

CANADIAN TIRE ASSOCIATE

Sudbury, Ontario | 2021 – present

Customer Service and Cashier | August 2021-May 2025

- Demonstrated problem-solving skills during customer dilemmas
- Handled and counted large quantities of money
- Showcased efficiency and multitasking during busy periods

Hardware Department associate | May 2025-present

- Gained knowledge regarding materials and products, plumbing, electrical, paint and basic repair
- Helped customers find the appropriate item for their projects
- Developed strong communication skills through customer inquiries

Garden Centre Associate | May 2025-August 2025

- Learned and gained exposure to landscaping materials and plant care
- Assisted customers in finding the right plant for their outdoor space
- Demonstrated reliability and independence by caring for a large quantity of plants

ACHIEVEMENTS

- High School Valedictorian | 2023
- High School Art Award | 2023
- Entrance Scholarship | 2023-2024
- Portfolio Award | 2023
- Club Montessori Scholarship | 2024
- GPA :8.2 | 2025

CERTIFICATIONS

- Whimis
- Basic first aid
- Currently completing a Revit workshop

DESIGN AND PRESENTATION

- Hand drawing and sketching
- Physical model making
- Digital model making
- Graphic communication and layout
- Analogue and digital hybrid workflow

SOFTWARE

Microsoft Office

- Word
- Powerpoint
- Excel
- Teams

Adobe

- Illustrator
- Photoshop
- Lightroom
- PDF Reader

Autodesk

- AutoCAD
- Fusion360
- Revit

Other

- Rhino 7
- Rhino 8
- Lumion
- QGIS

Espaces en mouvement

Fall 2025

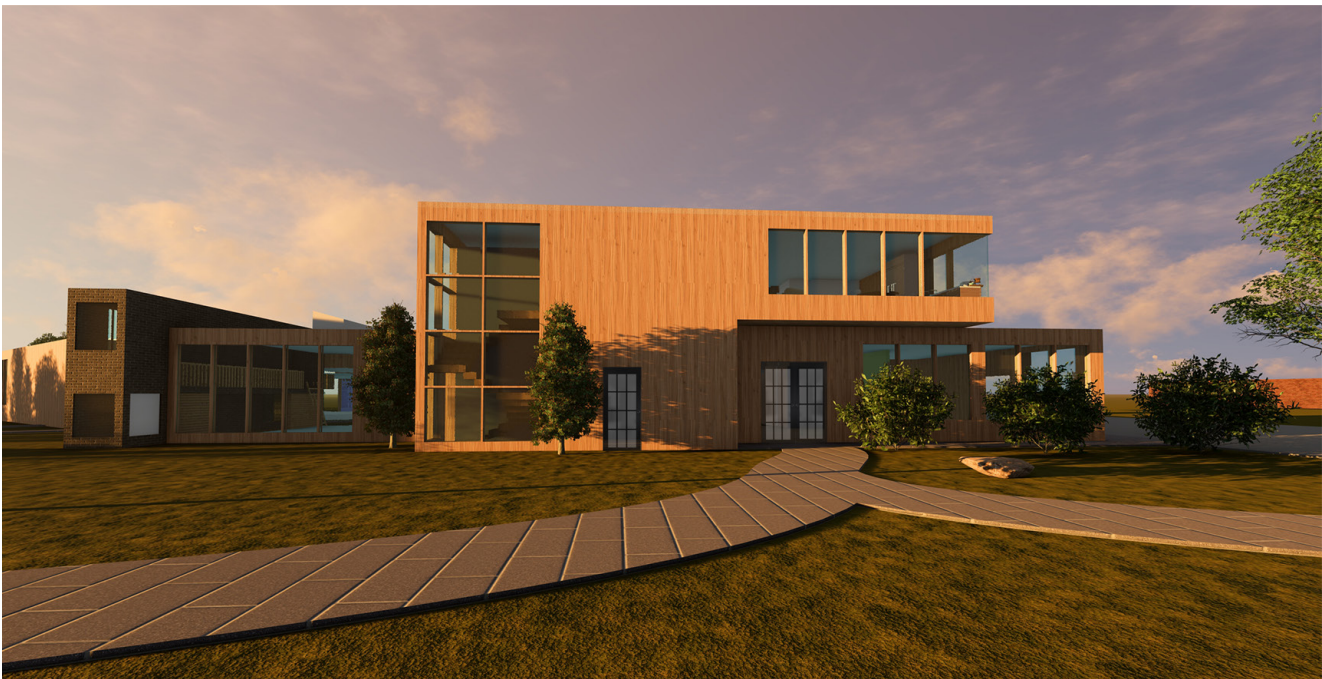
ARCH-3505 Design Studio 5: Northern Building

Prof: Émilie Pinard

Various media

Solo project

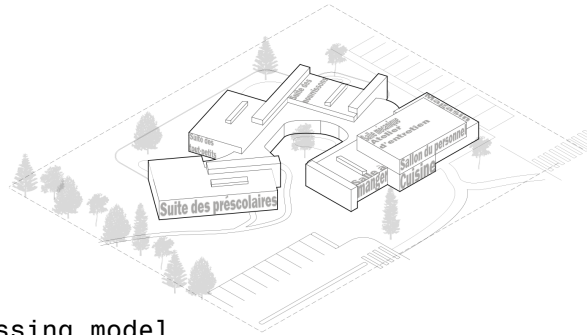
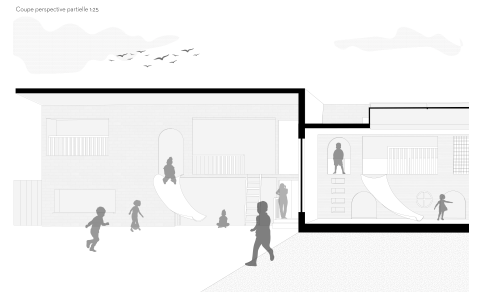
The goal of this project was to design a child care centre on Bruce Ave in Sudbury Ontario. There are 3 suites for 3 different ages ranging from 0-4 years old. My main concept for this project was interactive walls that encourage movement and gross motor skills for each age group.



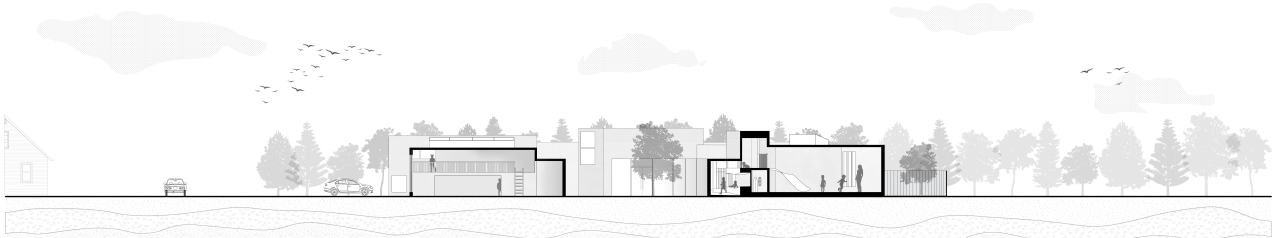
Main Facade render



Technical drawings



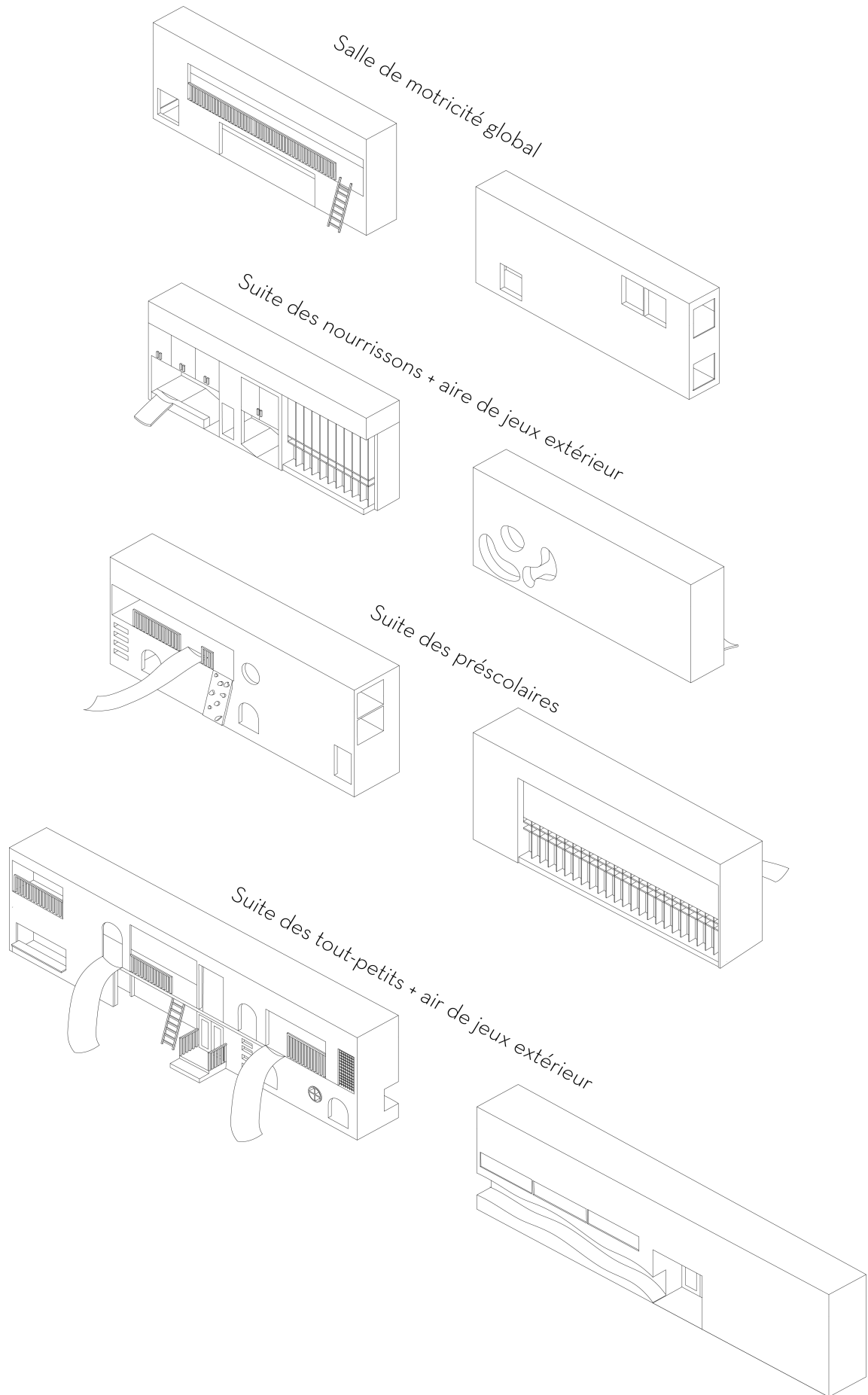
Coupe AA 1:100



Coupe BB 1:100



Wall details



Library Still life

Fall 2023

ARCH-1016 Drawing

Prof: Mark Baechler

Graphite 12" x 14"

Solo project

This is a still life of a study space in the library at the MSoA. It was one of the weekly assignments for drawing class. I feel as though it is my most successful piece from that course due to the use of perspective and shading.



O'Connor Park Redesign

Winter 2025

ARCH-2336 Building Systems 1

Prof: Ted Wilson

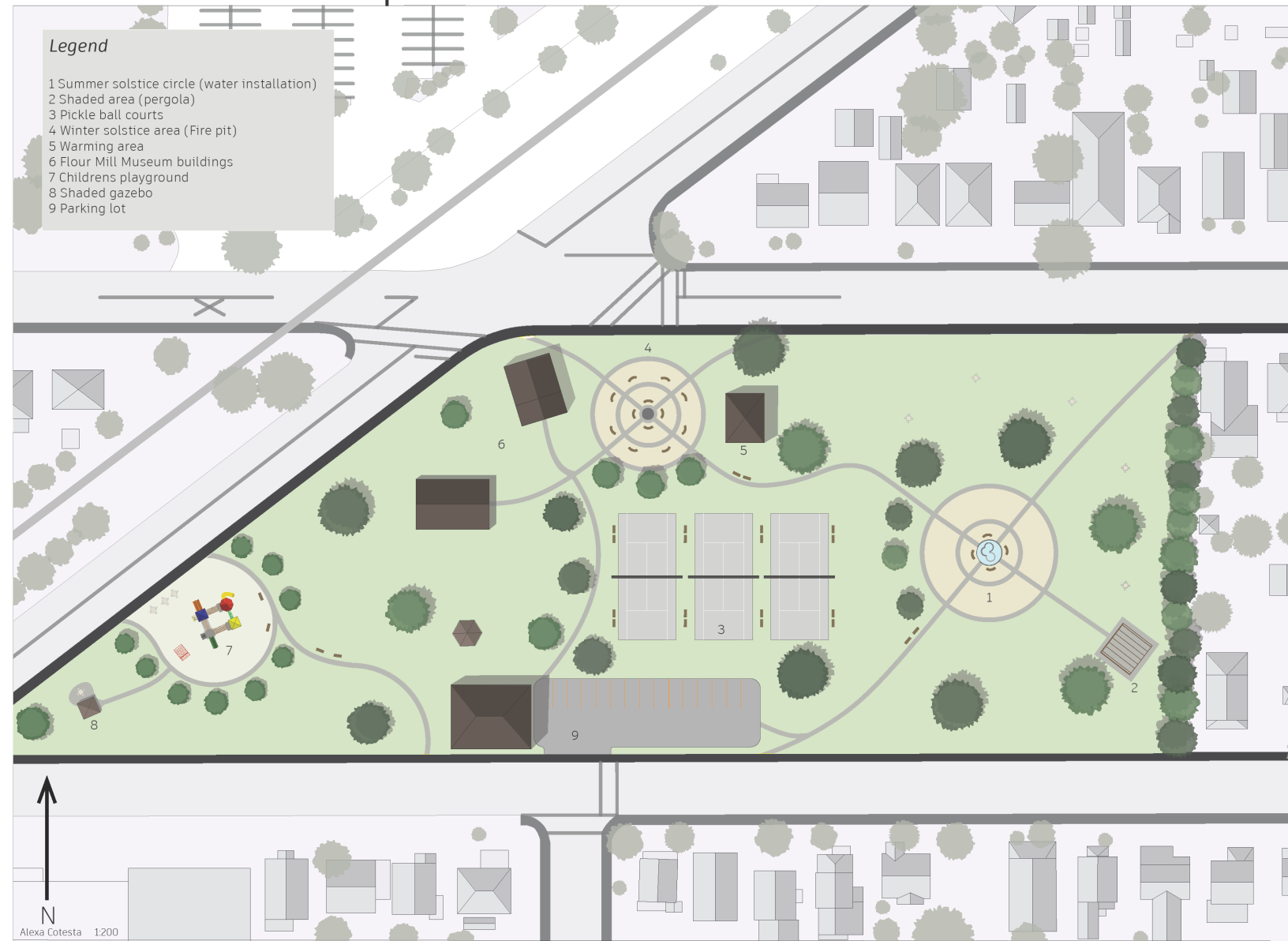
Rhino + Illustrator

Solo project

O'Connor Park Proposal

Legend

- 1 Summer solstice circle (water installation)
- 2 Shaded area (pergola)
- 3 Pickle ball courts
- 4 Winter solstice area (Fire pit)
- 5 Warming area
- 6 Flour Mill Museum buildings
- 7 Childrens playground
- 8 Shaded gazebo
- 9 Parking lot



The goal for this assignment was to create a new proposal for O'Connor Park while keeping the solstice festivals in mind. O'Connor Park has been a summer solstice celebration area for the local indigenous community in Sudbury for decades. I decided to add an area for the winter solstice, which lines up with the sun during that time. I added pickleball courts, pathways, rest areas and a playground to maximize the utility of the area and make it a great place to spend time during any season.



Descriptions

- 1. A new summer solstice circle with an added water feature for ambiance*
- 2. A shaded area for warm days, located near the summer solstice area to provide comfort during celebrations*
- 3. Pickle ball courts - previously on site, with a third one added to allow more occupants*
- 4. A new winter solstice area with a fire pit in the center to keep occupants warm during celebrations during cold days*
- 5. A warming area for cold days*
- 6. Flour Mill Museum buildings*
- 7. A playground for children living near the park*
- 8. A shaded gazebo near the playground to provide parents/guardians with a shaded area close by*
- 9. A new parking lot for accessibility*

Fenêtres suspendues

Winter 2025

ARCH-2512 Design Studio 4: Landscape II

Profs: Amina Lalor and Laura Auchinleck

Various media

Solo project

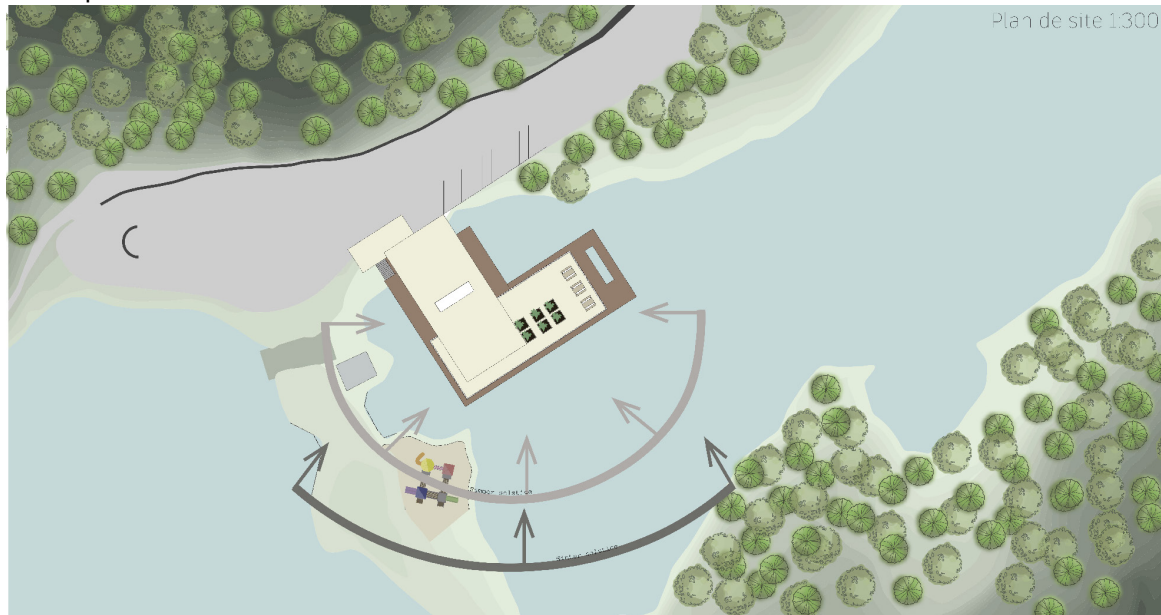
This assignment was to design a learning centre for the Lake Laurentian Conservation Area. My main goal was to create a building that wouldn't disturb the landscape but still be functional and beautiful. There are learning spaces for all ages, both inside and outside, as well as areas to observe what is happening below.



Side render of the building

Technical drawings

Site plan

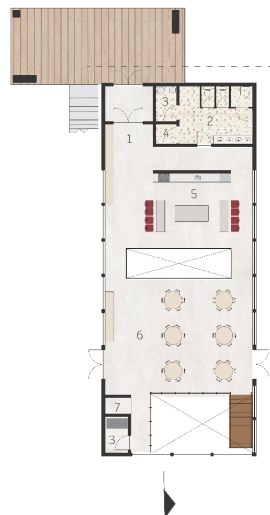


Floor plans

Plan supérieur 1:100

Légende

- 1 Entrée - vestibule
- 2 Salle de 10 tables
- 3 Salle mécanique
- 4 Salle de rangement
- 5 Cuisine - coin repas
- 6 Programme pédagogique
- 7 Ascenseur



Plan inférieur 1:100

Légende

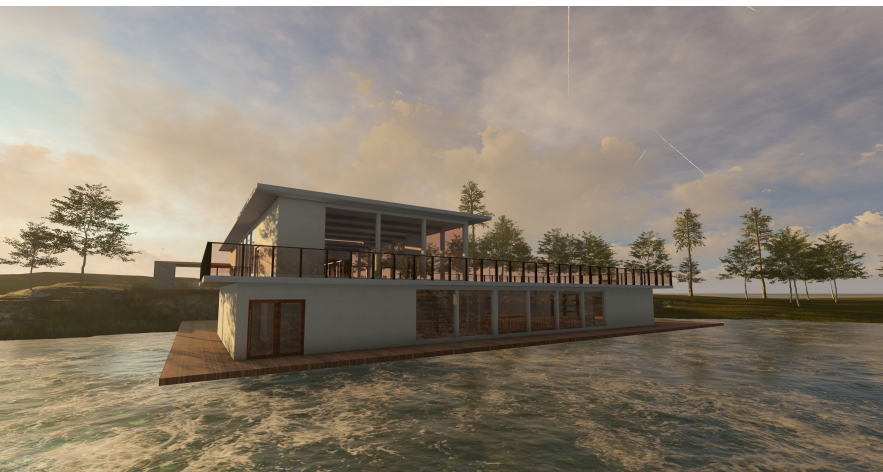
- 1 Salles de toilettes
- 2 Entrée
- 3 Ascenseur
- 4 Salle mécanique
- 5 Programme pédagogique
- 6 Bureau
- 7 Laboratoire
- 8 Salle de réparation des embarcations
- 9 Salle de classe extérieure



Section perspective



Renders



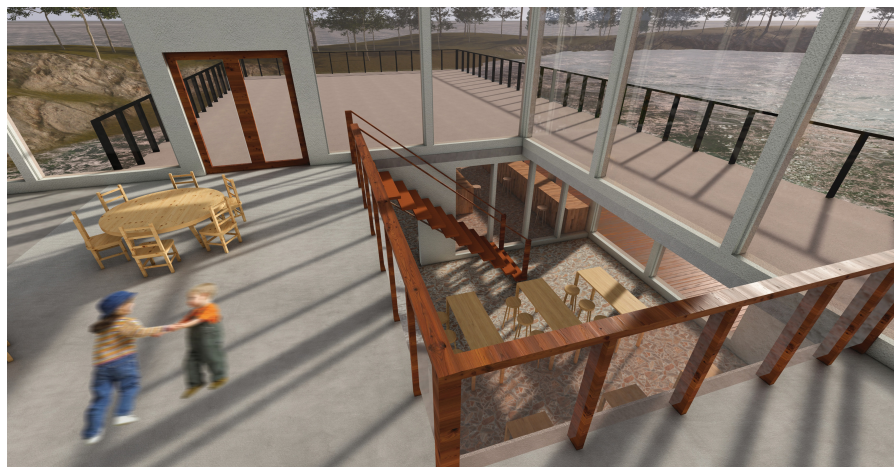
Exterior
render

Exterior render of
entrance



Kitchen and learning
space render

Classroom and
staircase
render



Playground Charette

Fall 2025

ARCH-3505 Design Studio 5: Northern Building

Prof: Emilie Pinard

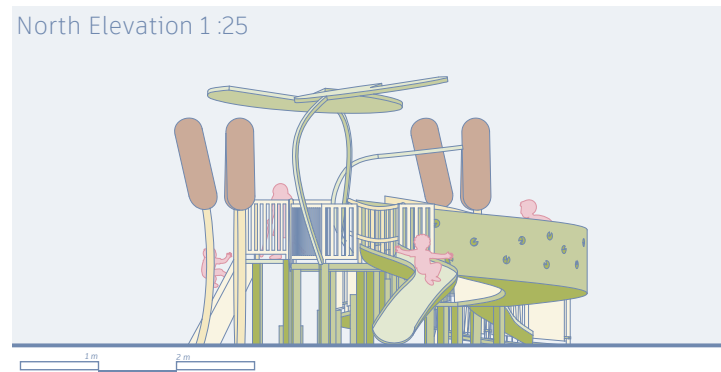
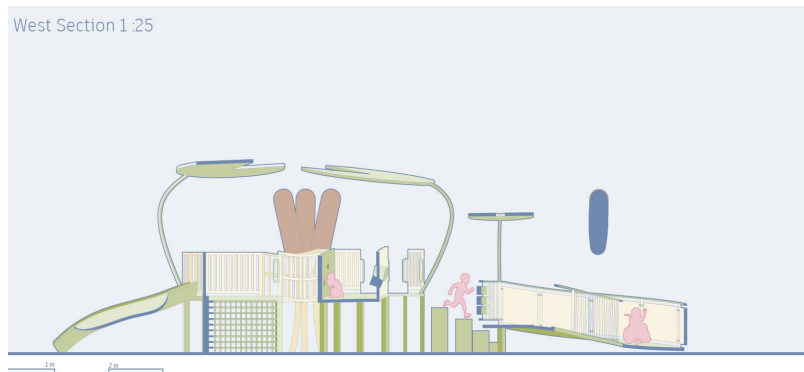
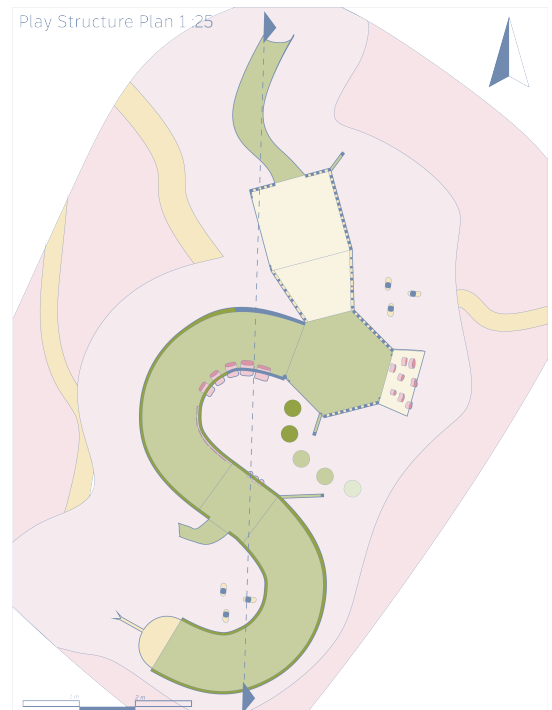
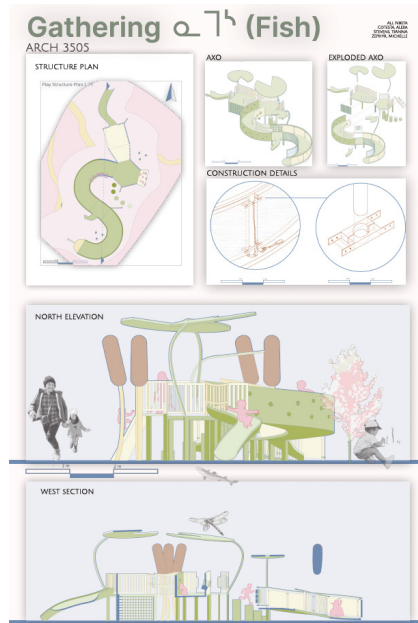
Rhino + Illustrator + Photoshop

Group Project, 4 members

This assignment was a group project that involved redesigning Antwerp Park in the Flour Mill. As a group, we developed a pond-inspired theme with the goals of creating a fully accessible space and providing a rich sensory experience. My main contributions included designing the play structure and producing the 3D Rhino model, the plan, elevation and section drawings.



Full boards (collaborative)



Collaborative Sawhorse

Winter 2024
ARCH-1306 Wood Structures
Prof: Randall Kober
Lumber
Group Project, 2 members

We were tasked with designing and building a sawhorse using Japanese joinery, without the use of screws or power tools. My partner and I decided to go with Mortice and Tennon joints. We used a dovetail saw and chisels to cut the wood to size and add the joints. We took extra time to sand it down to ensure a smooth finish.

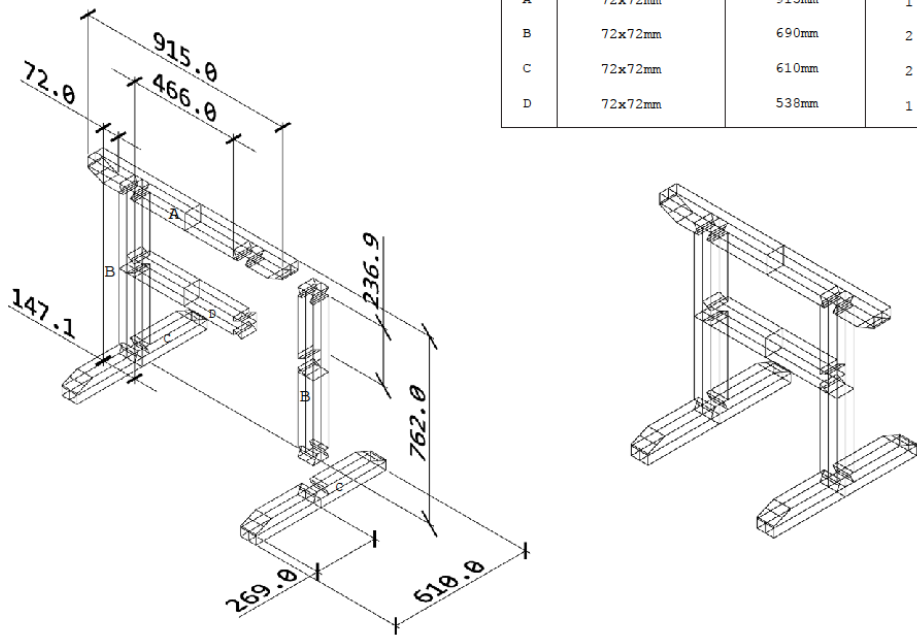


SAWHORSE

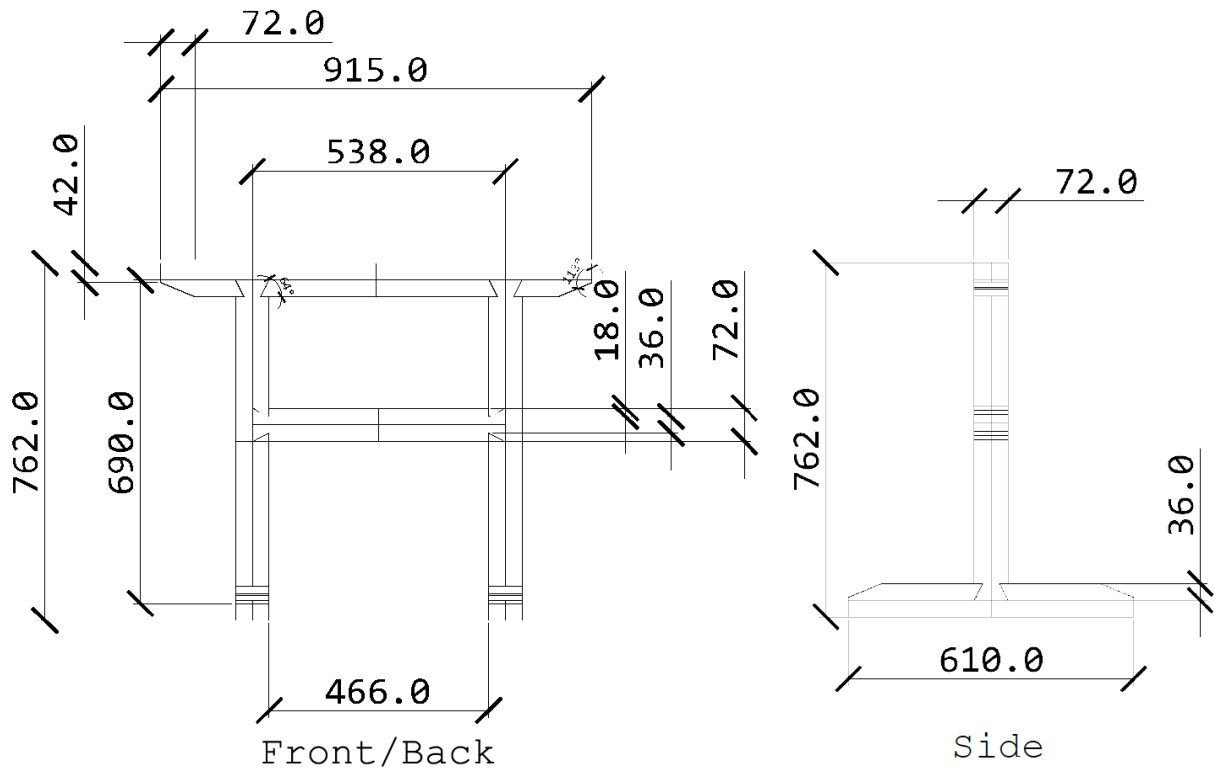
FABRICATION DRAWINGS

Alexa Cotesta & Emily Wallace
March 2024 | ARCH 1306 EL | Wooden Structures | Randall Kober

Table of materials			
Pieces	Dimensions (mm)	Length (mm)	Quantity
A	72x72mm	915mm	1
B	72x72mm	690mm	2
C	72x72mm	610mm	2
D	72x72mm	538mm	1



Elevations



Ice Station

Fall 2023 + Winter 2024

ARCH-1505 Design Studio 1: Place

ARCH-1515 Design Studio 2: Place II

Prof: Jean-Philippe Saucier

Mixed Media

Group project

In collaboration with my studio group led by Jean-Philip Saucier, we designed and built our Ice station “Wavy”. We utilized straight wood beams with slightly different angles to create the illusion of a wave. Once we had a design and a materials list, we constructed our structure in the wood shop and later transported it to a public exhibition on the beach at Bell Park. It was an interactive structure, which allowed people to walk through it and weave in and out of the various entrances. The design also incorporated two bench seats, one on either side. My task was to create a scaled model of our design in preparation to present in front of a jury, as well as help construct the ice station once our design was approved.





Scaled model of Wavy



Constructed Ice Station, Wavy

Personal Works

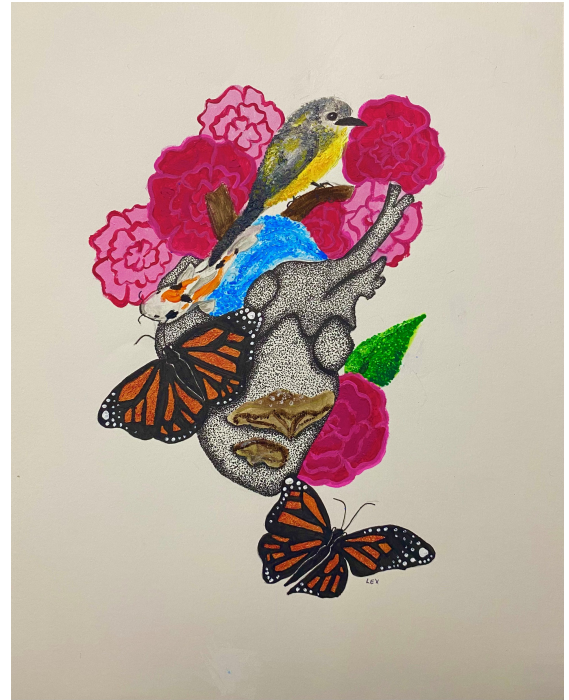
Beaded Flowers



Nature Within

October 2021

Acrylic paint + water-based marker
24cm x 30.5cm



Where Poppies Grow

Summer 2023

Acrylic on Canvas
20.5cm x 25.5cm

Ziggy Stardust

March 2022

Oil on canvas
20.5cm x 25.5cm

