

Service Design Project:
Reimagining Women's Shelters

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Finalized Vision Board

Vision Board: REIMAGINING WOMEN'S SHELTERS

Approximately 98% of women suffering from domestic abuse and/or homelessness look for formal support. However, seeking help doesn't guarantee safety, comfort or guidance to reinsert themselves in society.




FINANCIAL DEPENDENCY

If the system fails to properly assist a woman fleeing from an abusive partner in becoming financially independent, they are more likely to suffer post-separation violence



CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

This is the first resource that women in risk go to for help, but studies reveal that these women claim to be the least helpful tool available



THE SPACES

Women who seek shelter often take their kids with them. Current shelters rarely have the infrastructure to accommodate kids. Besides that, the design of temporary housing fails to reflect women's needs and provide them with a sense of security, dignity and belonging.



orientation: rather than proposing new approaches to architectural design as a means to satisfy women's material/pragmatic needs, they argue for an architecture that reflects the special qualities of women's inner world and consequently represents their true being. As Professor Donna Salzer argued, in her summary of the design theme, the papers of this panel "ask that we look at alternative ways of inhabiting. ... that we consider how women occupy space differently than the much generalized and standardized western dwellings might imply."

How to create something new, inviting, that makes women feel like they should go to shelters for support and assistance?

Incorporate nature= reinforces sense of belonging
"Diluted" style= reduces sense of isolation

The above approaches to women's issues, to which many more can be added, constitute theoretical positions that seek not only to explicate the problems of women in contemporary societies but also to question conventional cultural practices and norms, the effects of modern economy and politics and even the traditional arrangement of family life. They could, therefore, be viewed as having an at least implicit effect on the physical, architectural form of housing. However, there have also



User Profile

USER PROFILE- REDESIGNING WOMEN'S SHELTERS



Shadelle was born and raised in the Bronx. Growing up, her family was financially unstable and she began working at the age of 13 to help with the house expenses.

When she turned 19, she got pregnant and moved in with the father of her child. There, she suffered domestic abuse and became financially dependent of her boyfriend.

She tried moving out of their house in various occasions, until she decided to seek help and go to a shelter.

Shadelle and her kid lived in five different shelters throughout their life. Now she lives with her cousin and works on the startup Soulphia.

Shadelle Rowan, 34
Bronx, New York

"I am shocked you asked me about the architecture and the inside decorations. People usually think we don't care about that stuff, that we shouldn't expect something nice. I think they think we would be asking for too much if we asked for a nice place to stay."

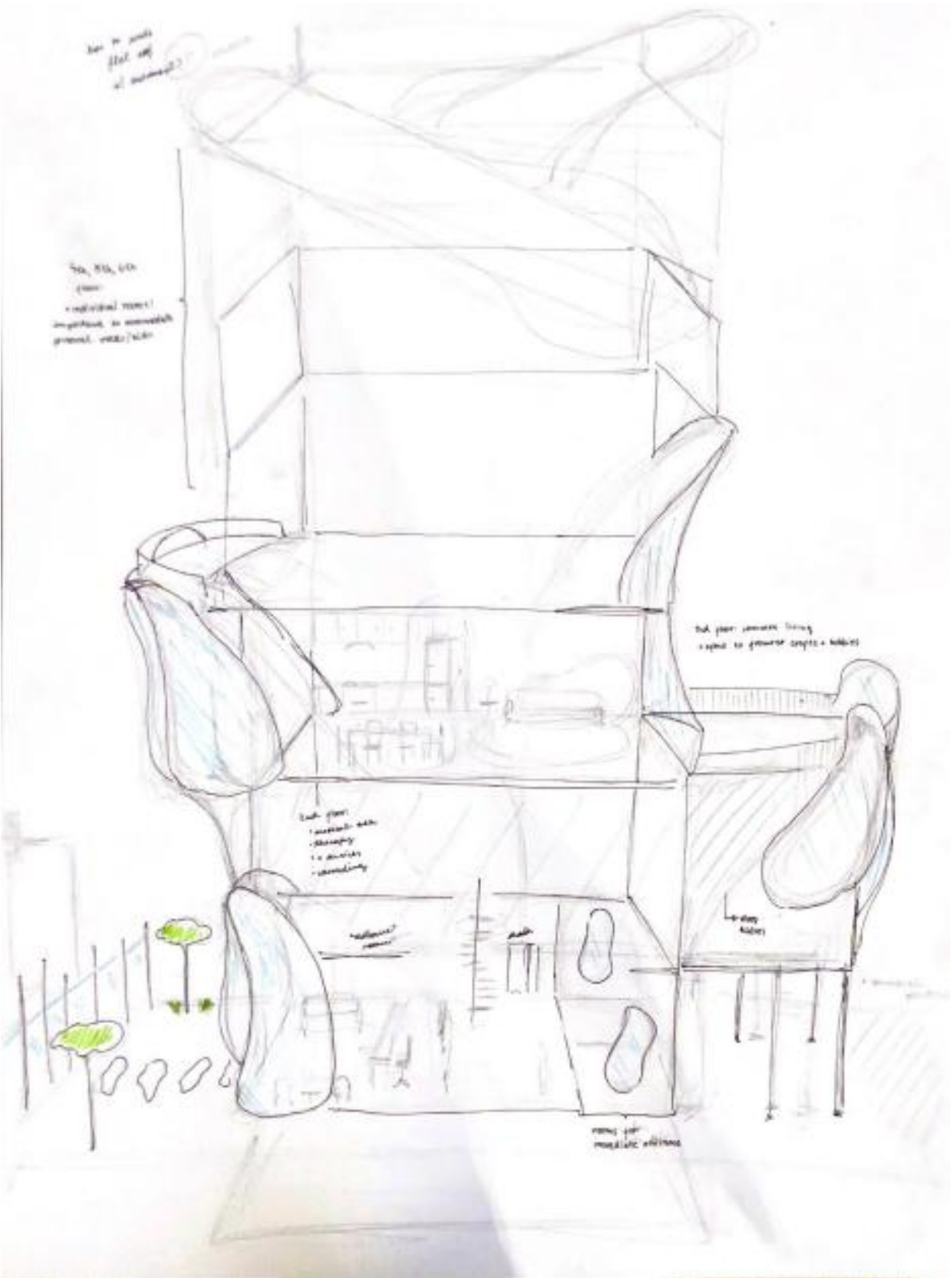
Concerns Shadelle pointed out about women's shelters:

- Shelters are rarely clean
- Some women don't feel safe if there are male employees
- The architecture is "old and depressing"
- There is no outside space, which makes women feel alone
- The decor "isn't nice at all, it doesn't encourage anyone there to visualize a better future."
- The common areas don't promote integration

What she would like to change/ how she would imagine a better shelter:

- "I would want a garden, something everyone can work together in. It would also be meaningful, represent us taking care of ourselves and our lives."
- Modern design: "The old buildings weren't made with us in mind, and you can feel that once you're inside. I think something modern would make us feel included in the rest of the world."
- "No male employees. There's too much trauma that we associate with men, that's why many of us don't even bother going to the shelters. It needs to be a space for women to support women, until we're ready to go into the world again."

Prototype



IDEAS: WOMEN'S SHELTER DESIGN

CONCEPTS: feminine architecture, detailed, modern, user oriented
responsive, engaging

LE CORBUSIER:

- 1) pilotis
- 2) free plan
- 3) roof garden = flat?



ERIK ERIKSON: design from inside out
= social reliance

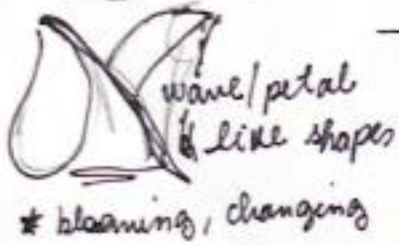


FEMALE ARCHITECTS:

tendency to use round / horizontal shapes and lines

= organic feel, bodily shape + movement

if it's too geometrical = "unnatural"

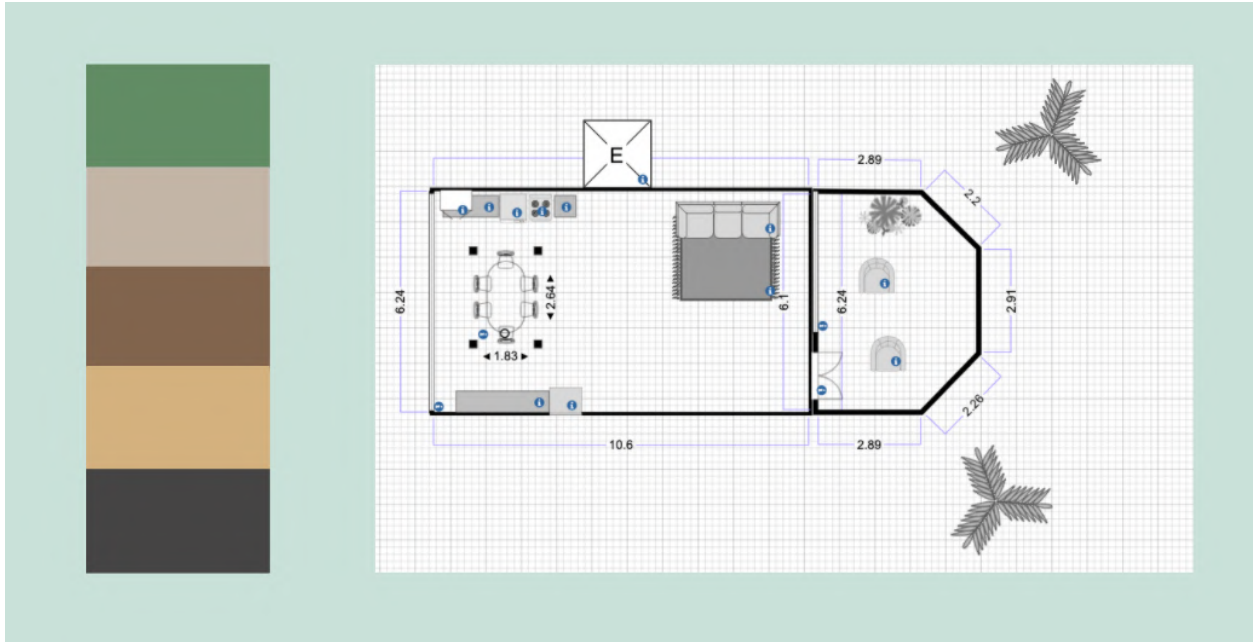


MATERIALS:

concrete (exposed) = modern
wood = soft, balance, warmer
glass = one w/ surroundings



inspo: Jeanne Gang
Zaha Hadid



Architectural Model





Final Sketch

