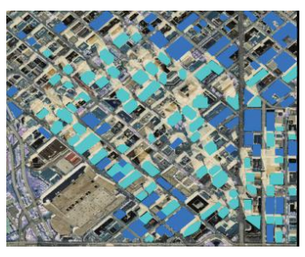
Existing Architecture



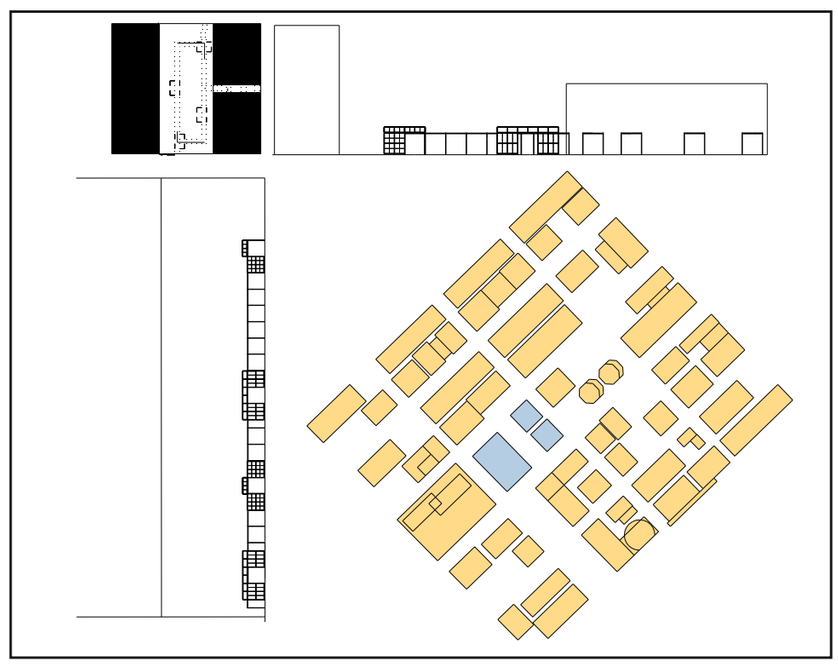
Green Spaces

Traffic Flow

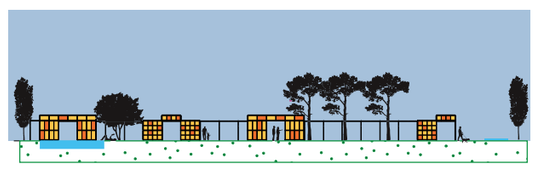
Existing Zones

The 16th street pedestrian mall is an existing effort by the City of Denver to create walkable, communal space, for leisure, commerce, and public art. It is a space surrounded by skyscrapers, major sources of economic power within the city. To the East, is mixed use zoning of residential and business, as well as to the Northwest. Southwest zoning contains greenspaces, as well as major cultural and educational centers.

The Denver Botanic Gardens Annex sits adjacent to the 16th street mall, in a former brownfield.

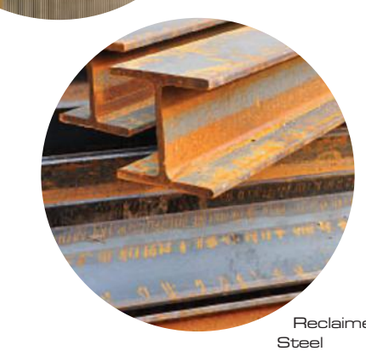


The annex provides a communal space for education and relaxation situated in the context of the downtown area.



It acts as an extension of the Denver Botanic Gardens, providing community outreach, promoting native flora, and exploring alternatives for urban spaces. A much needed breath of fresh air.

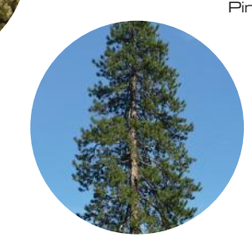
Polyvinyl Carbonate



Reclaimed Steel

Gambel Oak

Plains Shrubs

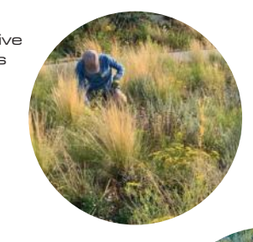


Ponderosa Pine

Rain Garden

Cottonwood

Blue Spruce



Native Grass

Wildflowers

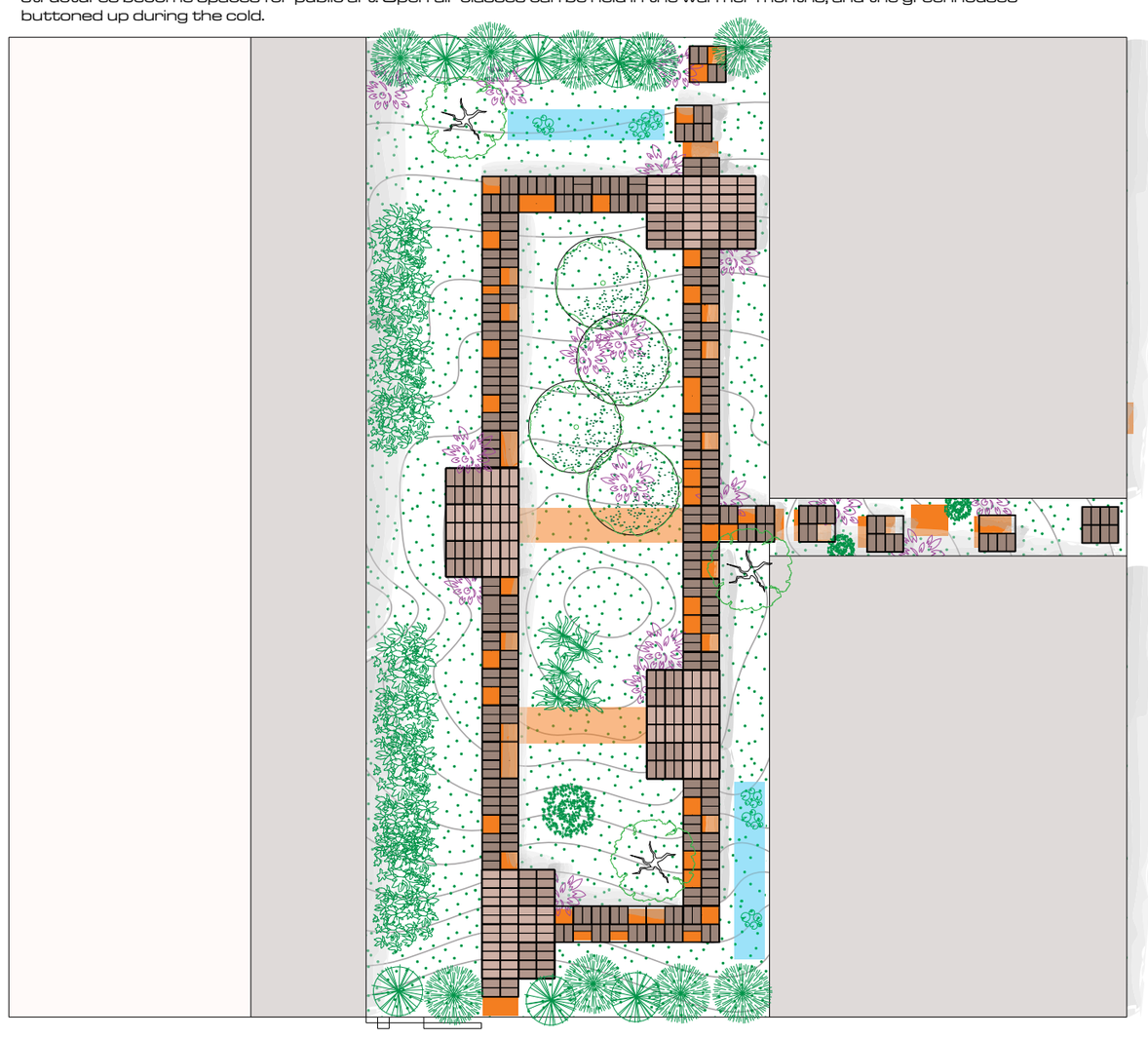
Material considerations are important aspects of this project.

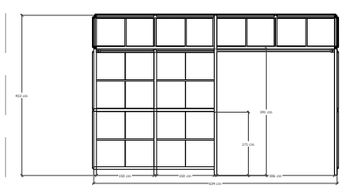
Recycled and reclaimed materials play a crucial role in the ideology of the site. They provide architectural character in the form of reused, historic bricks, while also allowing for groundcover to grow between. Lightweight steel frames negate the need for concrete pads, and polyvinyl carbonate panels inform the greenhouses and walkways.

Recycled Brick

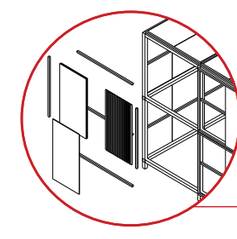
The site offers unique opportunites for transformation. A collection of simple, lightweight greenhouses, connected by partially covered walkways, create small bioregions. Native flora, water reduction, and water retention take center stage, supported by efforts to improve the general tree cover of the downtown Denver area. More flora, trees especially, means less heat, better rainwater filtration, and less air pollution.

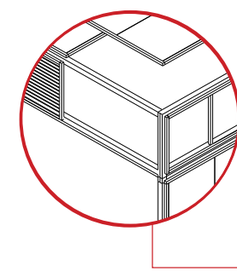
Gentle slopes fill rain gardens and ponds, walkways create new zones for exploration, and the exposed sides of existi structures become spaces for public art. Open-air classes can be held in the warmer months, and the greenhouses buttoned up during the cold.

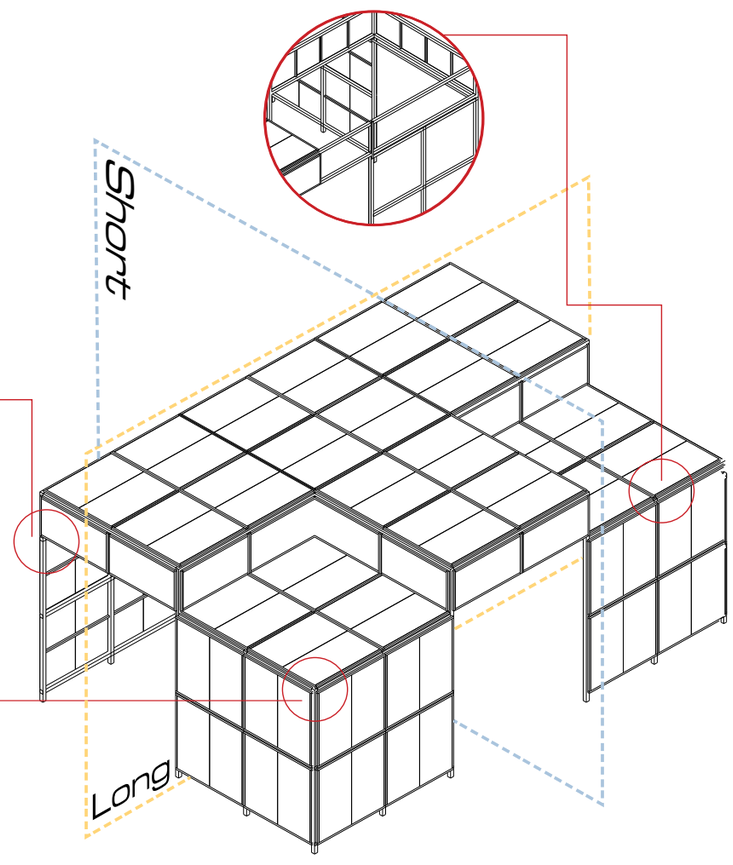




Short

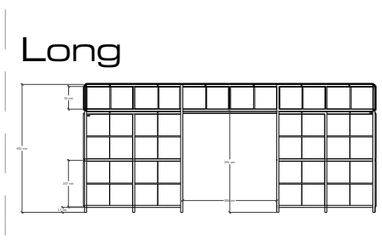






Short

Long



Long

Modular polyvinyl panels, fixed to a lightweight steel frame, clad the greenhouse providing both soft lighting and ambient heat.

Panels can be easily and quickly welded together, creating a low cost, low-impact structure.

Lightweight steel frames inform the structure.

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ARCHITECTURE MINOR COURSE . EAET
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ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN STUDIO 2 _ ARCH 3002

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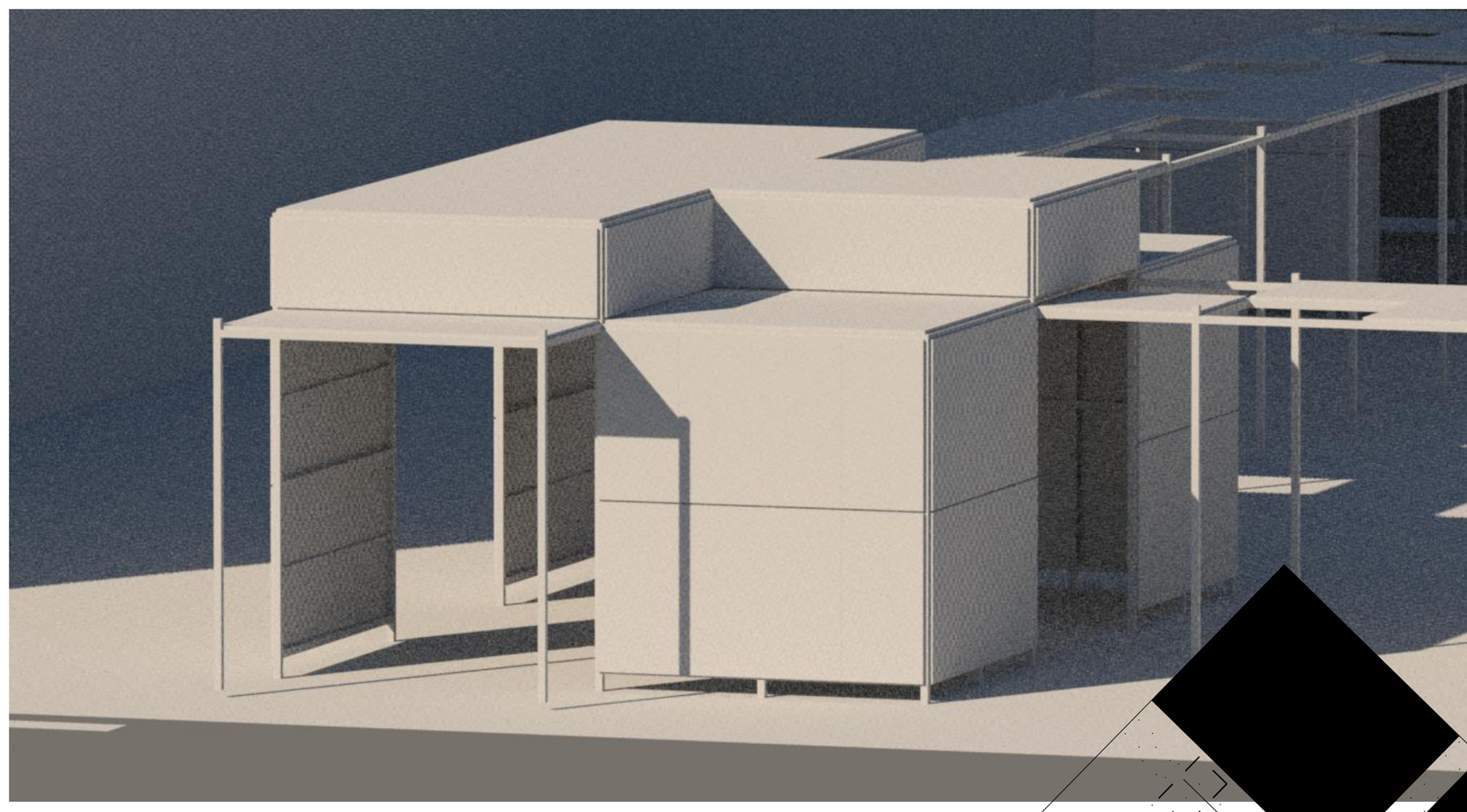
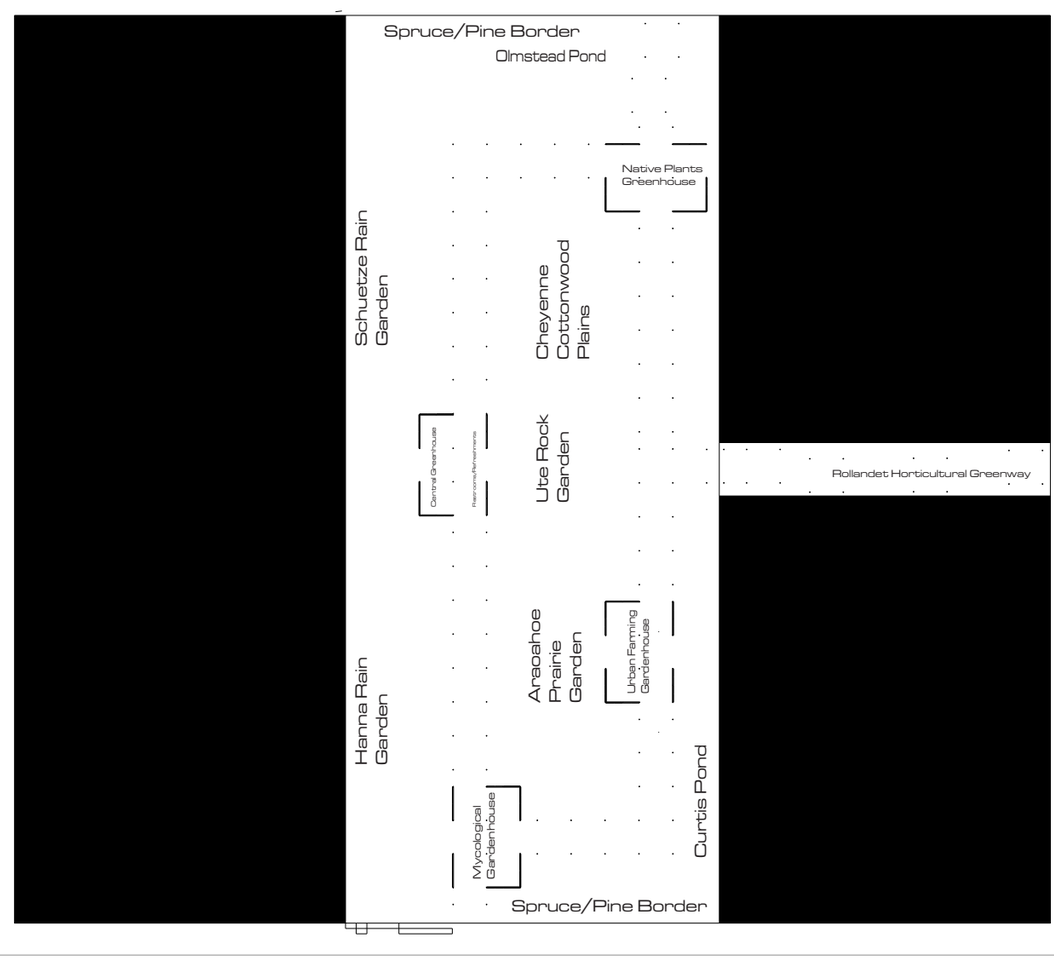
Due to the location of the site, nestled next to a skyscraper, the shade need be taken into account. As such, shade-tolerant rain gardens are planted nearest the building, and greenhouse functions where applied according to amount of sunlight they will recieve throughout the day.





The names of the gardens take inspiration from architects and landscape architects who left their mark on the city, as well as some of the Native American tribes who have traditionally called the rolling plains of Denver home.