

2024 FIRST PRIZE

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LYCEUM

A traveling fellowship in Architecture

BACK OF HOUSE



LF-12179

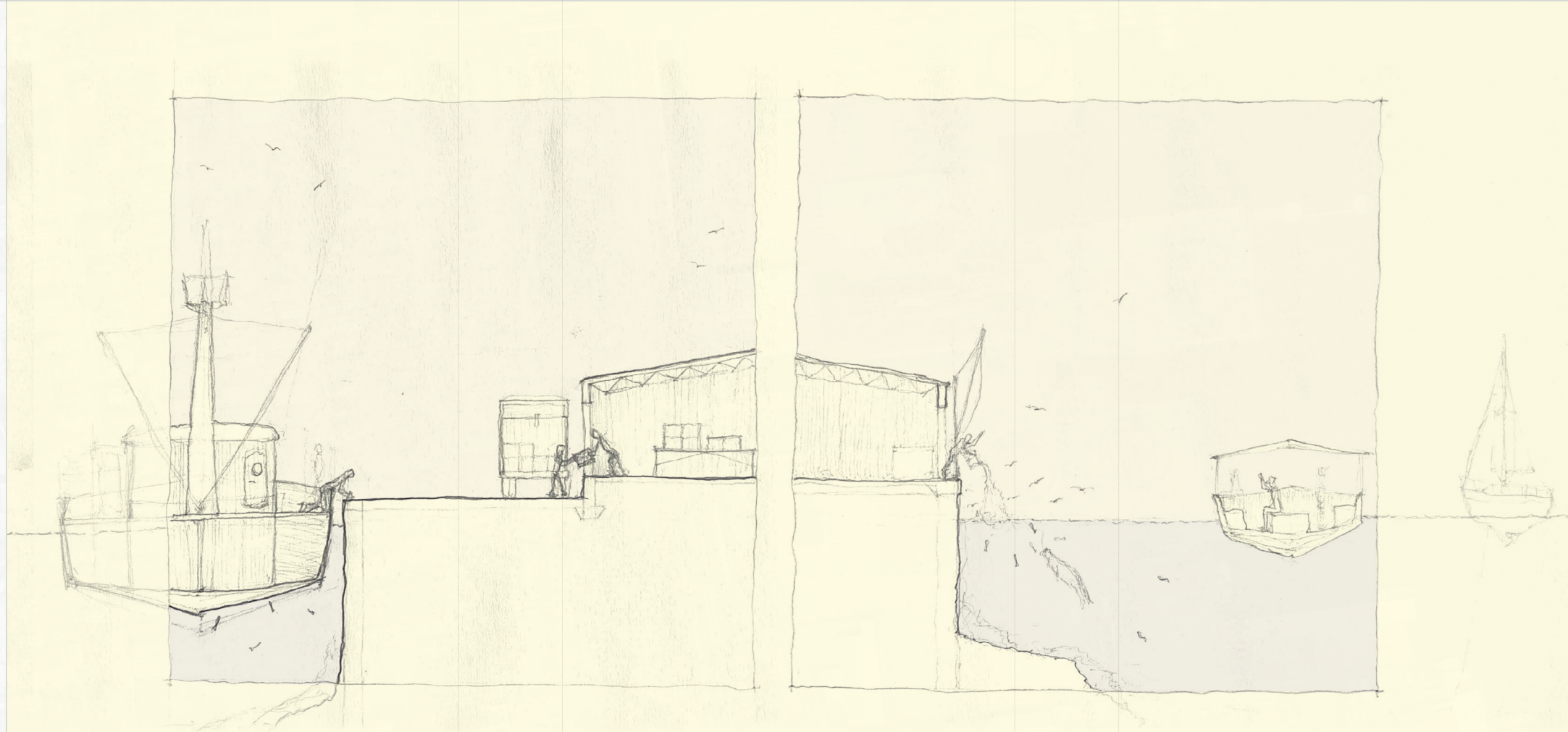


01 NEW BEDFORD, MA: A WORKING COMMUNITY

New Bedford is a servant. Unlike proximal “fishing towns”, New Bedford still predominantly harbors commercial and industrial activity: fishing and fish processing. Its permanent residents sustain the other towns’ distorted romanticizations for transient inhabitants, beyond solely ferrying them to and from the mainland. Its hazardous waterfront, a stage for unglamorous but essential work, quietly supports a region—a nation (the US’ largest fishing port).¹

For centuries, workers across the globe have found opportunity in New Bedford, once an epicenter of the world’s whaling industry. Azorean and Cabo Verdean whalers’ influences can still be observed. Today, Central and South American workers are further diversifying the area’s perpetually proud, tight-knit working culture.² But incoming migrant workers, the community’s most vulnerable and desperate, are often prone to exploitation. The working waterfront is dominated by a homogenous collage of opaque warehouses, explicitly segregated from New Bedford’s public realm with six lanes of high-traffic arterials and a railway. Resultantly, the work is veiled from public supervision, and New Bedford’s maritime activity excludes residents’ innate non-industrial compulsions to connect with the water that defines much of their identity.

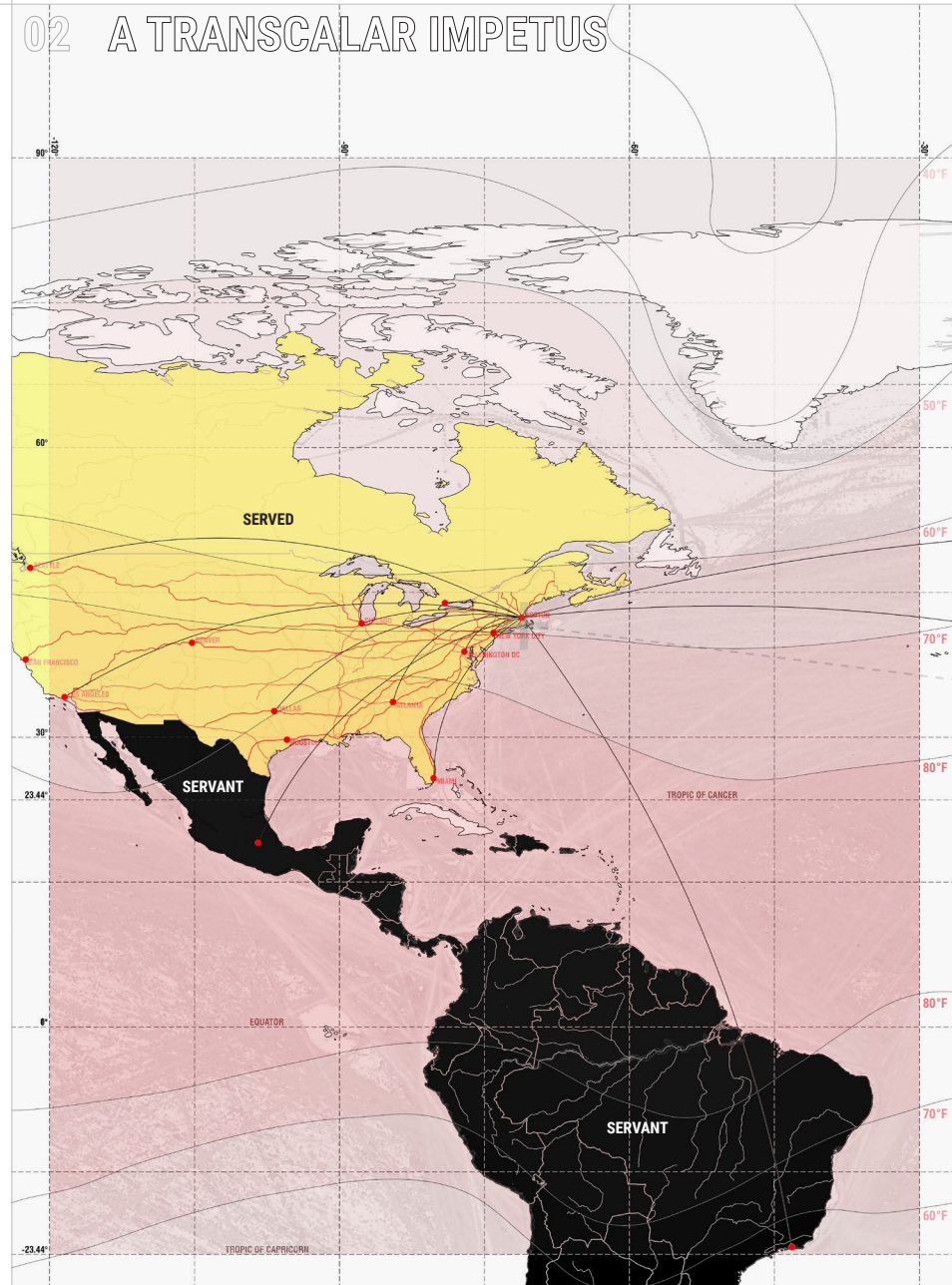
New Bedford’s latest industrial ventures place it at the forefront of the American offshore wind energy enterprise, posing simultaneous threats and opportunities. It will further diversify New Bedford’s working community with white-collar workers; but how will this affect the established populace/culture?



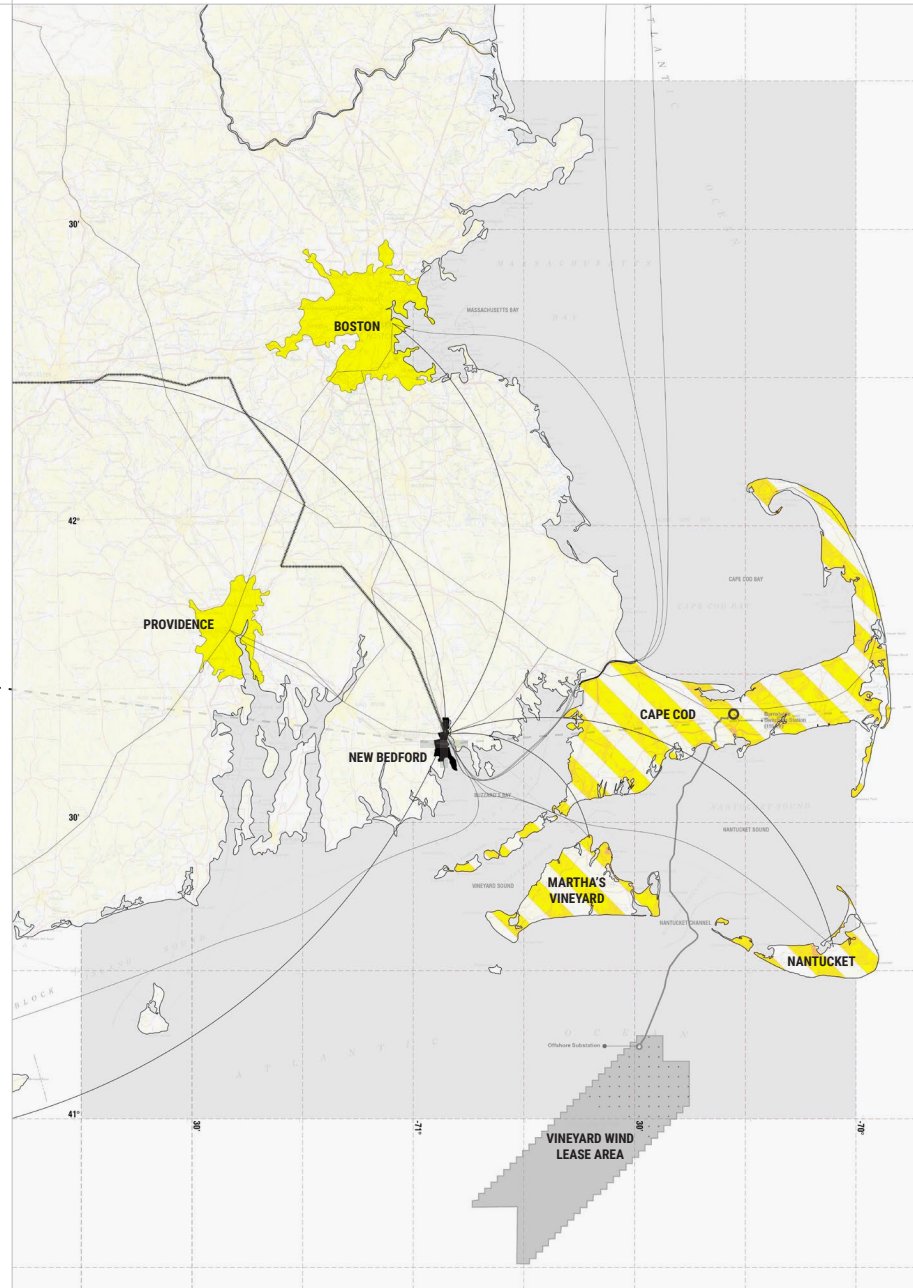
¹ Port of New Bedford, February 28, 2024, <https://portofnewbedford.org/>.

² “Digital Exhibits - New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center,” New Bedford Fishing Heritage Center - Progress and Innovation of the New Bedford Fishing Industry, May 19, 2023, <https://fishingheritagecenter.org/digital-exhibits/>.

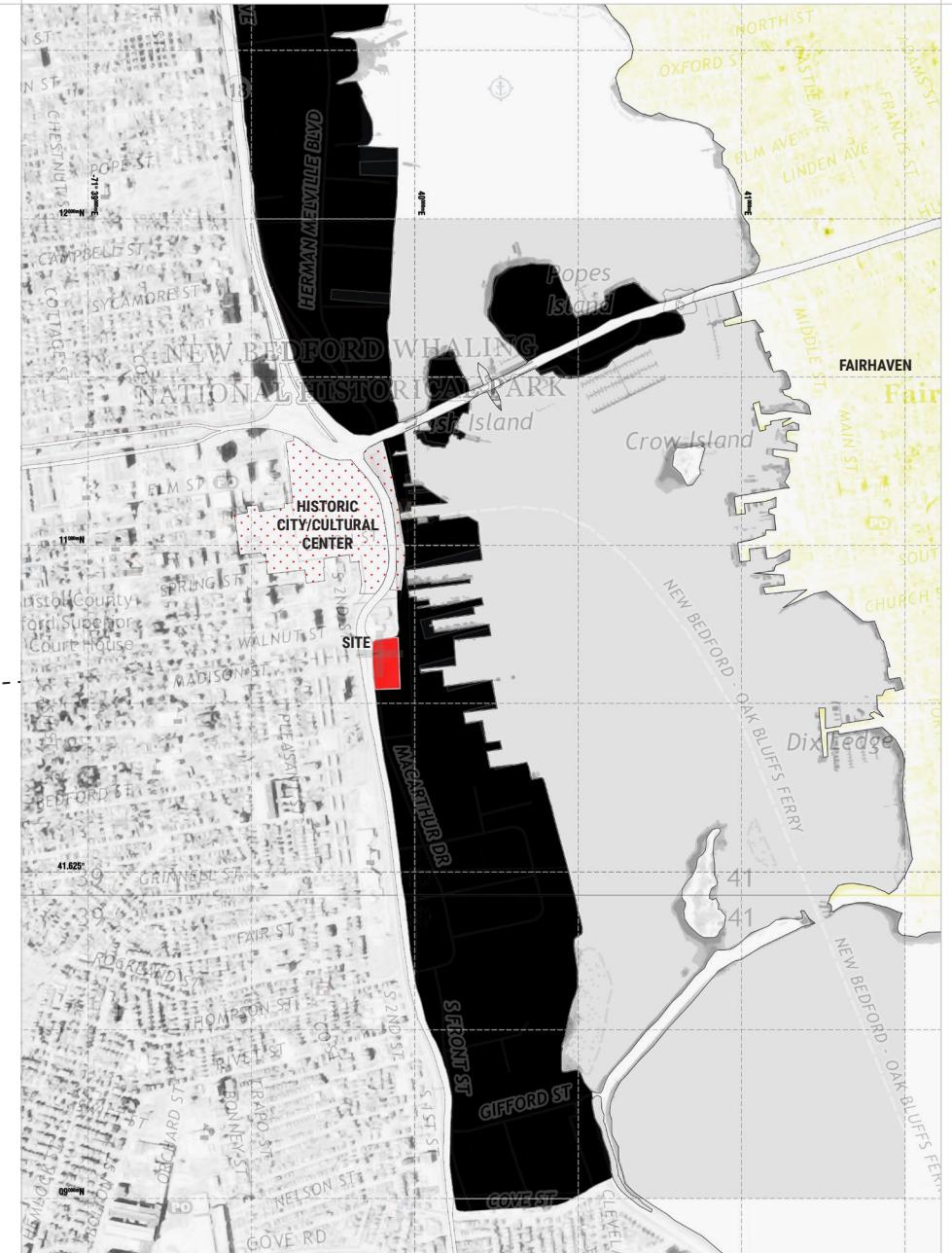
02 A TRANSCALAR IMPETUS



Climate change is disproportionately affecting polar and equatorial regions —the climactic extremes. Rising temperatures and political/economic distress in Central and South America are encouraging more to seek refuge in more temperate and stable havens like New Bedford.



Like the global South, New Bedford serves more economically affluent areas. The relationship is evident in the new "Vineyard Wind" project, a government initiative to generate renewable energy with offshore wind turbines. The project heavily relies on New Bedford's industrial waterfront infrastructure; without it, the project would not be possible.



MA-18, a wide, busy, state road demarcates the working waterfront's western edge. The road is a supply vein for the region, but it further discourages the city from inhabiting the waterfront's public wharves and commercial activity. Can the site be a bridge?

03 AN ECOLOGICALLY REGENERATIVE CULTURE?

Vineyard Wind has become a contested topic among New Bedford's residents. Many, predominantly those working in the fishing industry, are hesitant amidst the project's uncertain ramifications; how will it affect their livelihoods?

This controversy depicts a recurring dilemma with democratically transitioning toward a more sustainable society —a majority has not bought in. While ideas and technologies for sustainable construction practices are plentiful, their implementations are rare and their environmental benefits are negligible at such small scales. We continually choose the damaging but familiar out of an ironic sense of self-preservation; we sacrifice the long-term, less tangible future to preserve the immediate and more tangible. To develop a regenerative Architecture, one must address this dilemma.

New Bedford's conflicted community presents a testing opportunity. How can an architectural intervention focus New Bedford's dense, mostly unified cultural context into positive change? This project hypothesizes that colliding New Bedford's now detached public and industrial realms could encourage buy-in to an ecologically sustainable culture. New Bedford's density and work culture have kept it a tight-knit community, but the people have continually nudged their public spaces further away to accommodate their industrial activity. Spaces to collect outside the work place are sparse and decentralized. What if a building reclaimed a piece of the waterfront for the city. What if this collective space was a place of ideological collision? —a place to observe, respond to, and debate the city's direction?



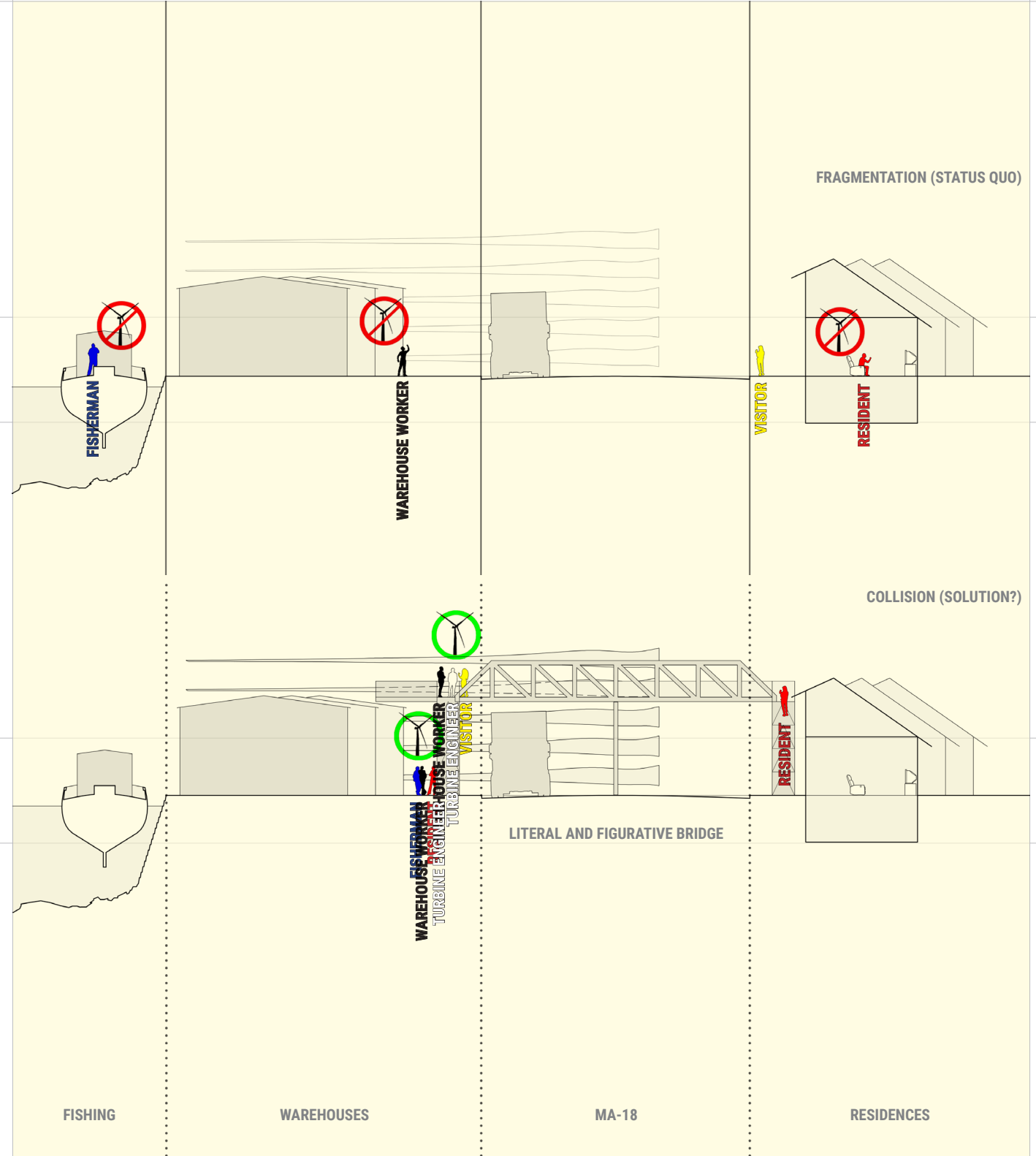
A Claim Staked by Outsiders



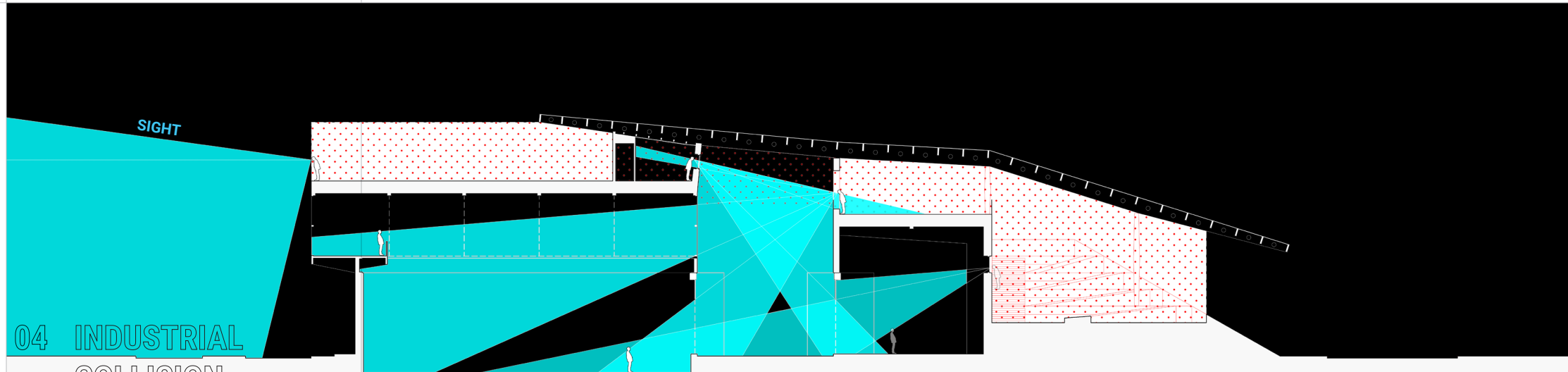
An Excluded Populace



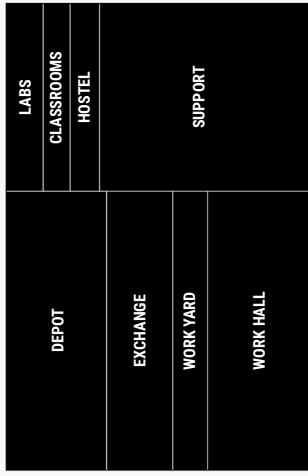
Ideological Division



04 INDUSTRIAL COLLISION

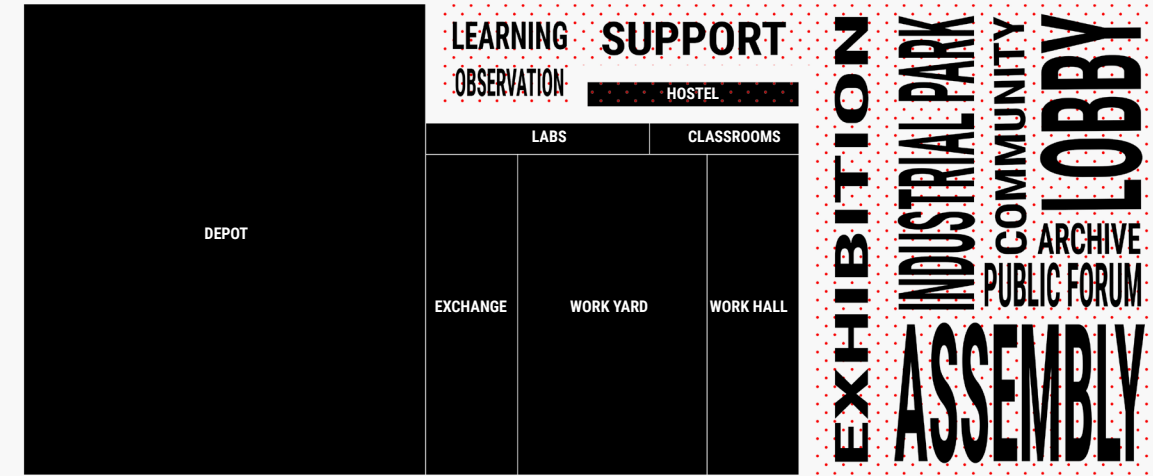


PROGRAMMATIC SECTION



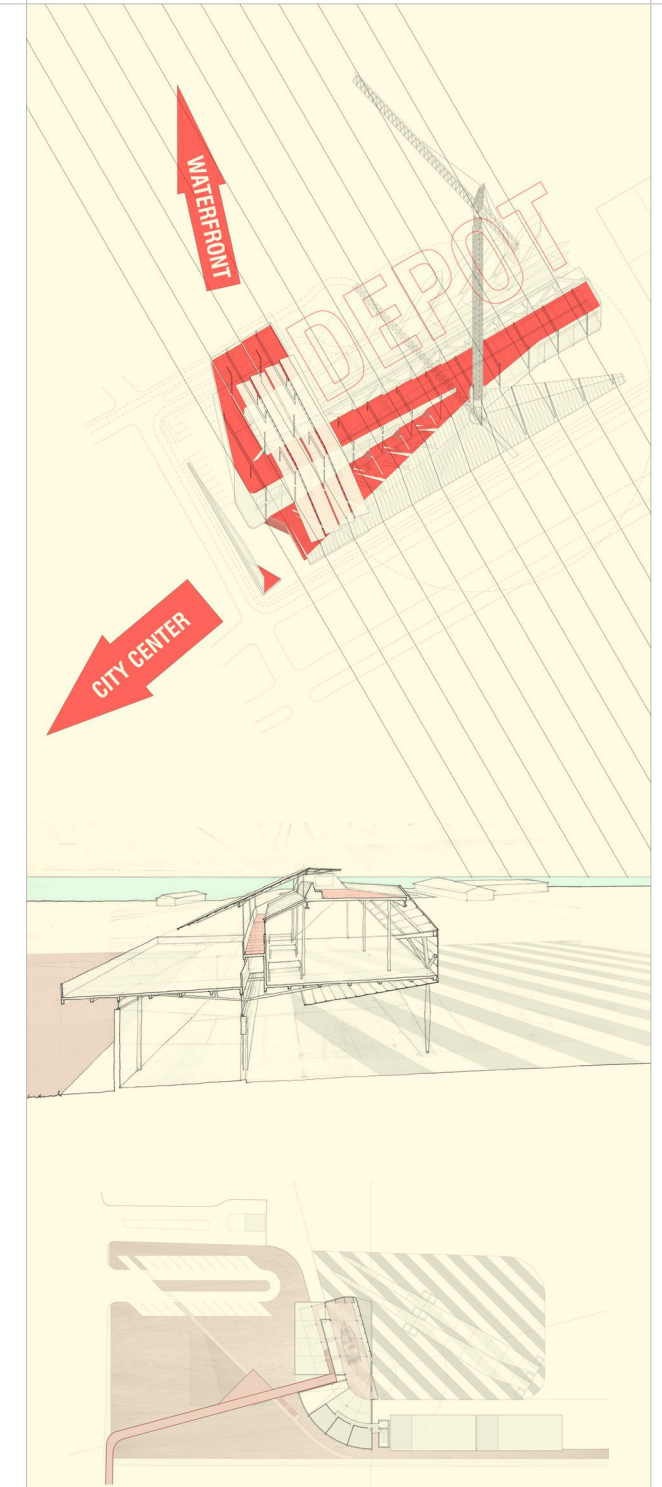
PROGRAM PROVIDED

INDUSTRIAL



PROGRAM MODIFIED/SPECIFIED FOR SITE;
ORGANIZED FOR CONCEPT

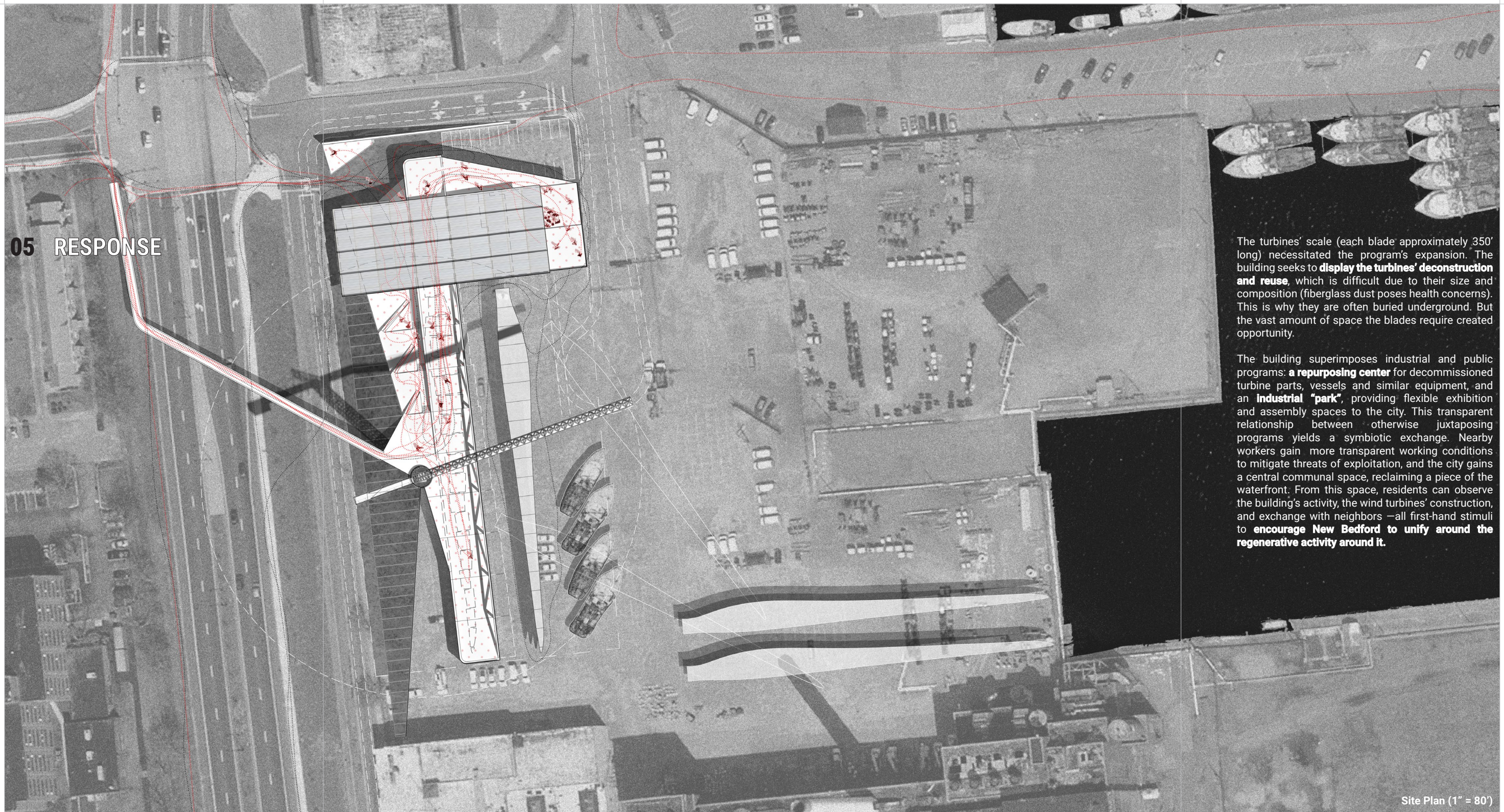
PUBLIC



(Top) Protected Public Access, Axonometric

(Bottom) Process Study, Section and Plan

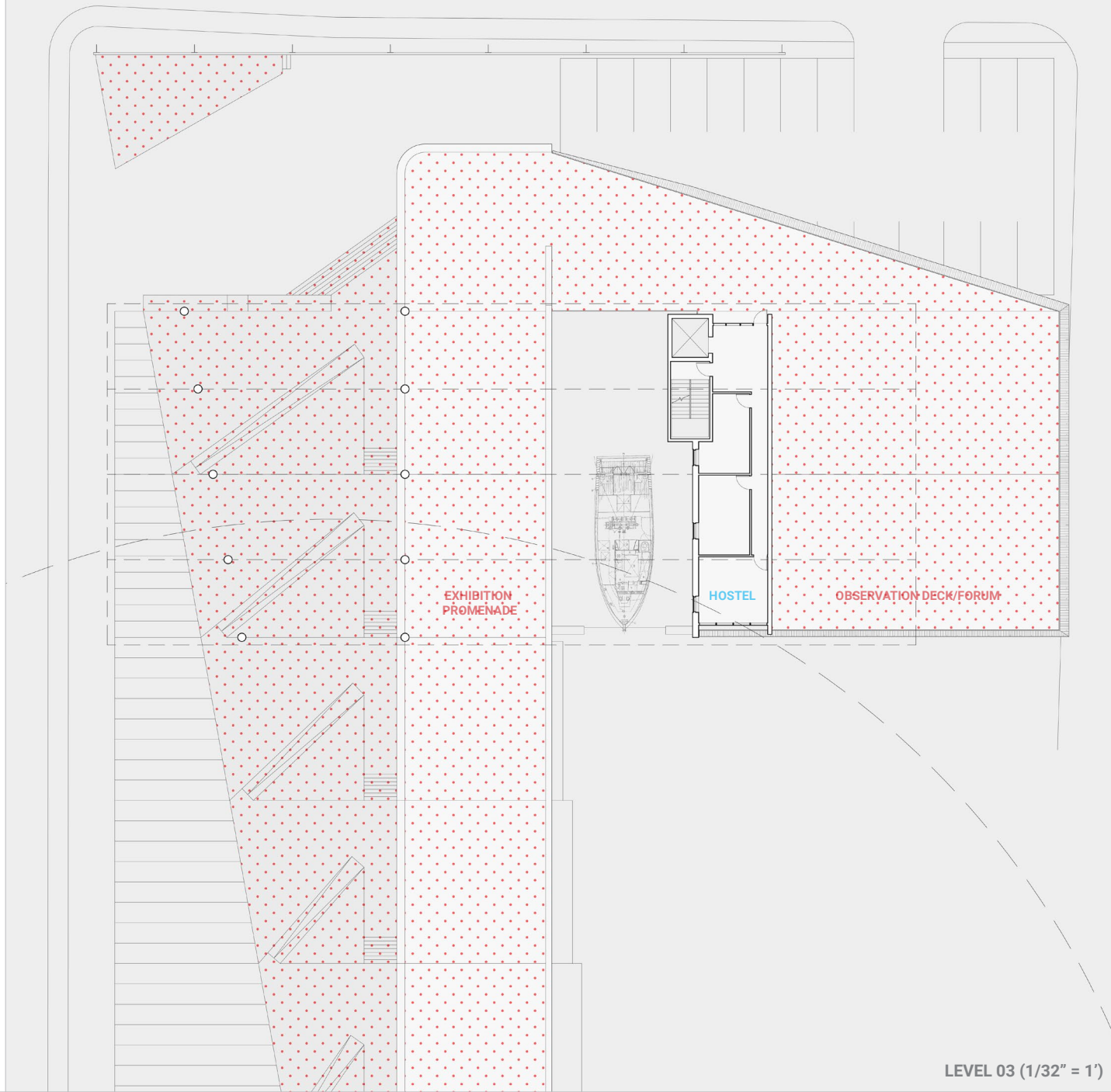
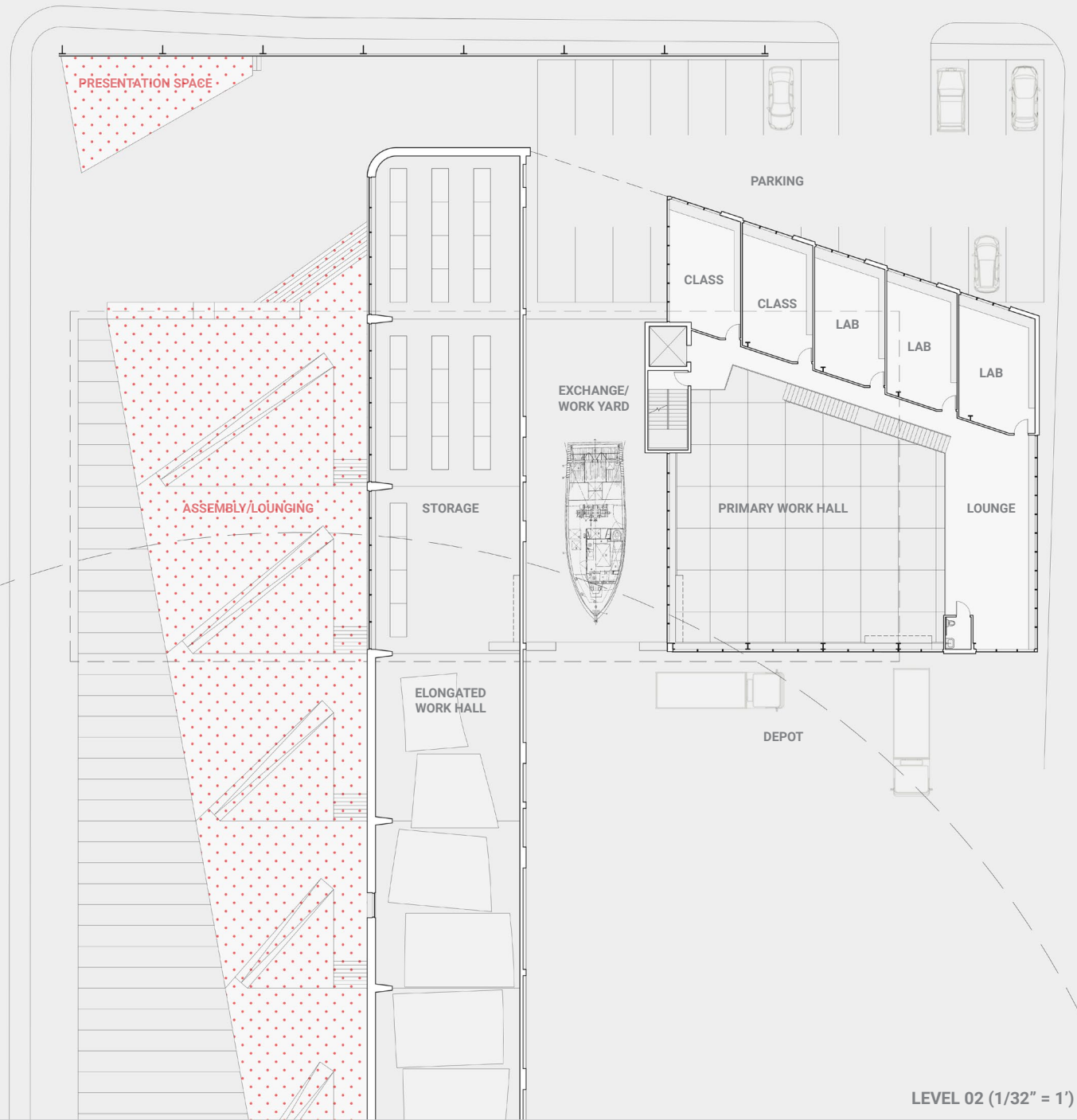
05 RESPONSE



The turbines' scale (each blade approximately 350' long) necessitated the program's expansion. The building seeks to **display the turbines' deconstruction and reuse**, which is difficult due to their size and composition (fiberglass dust poses health concerns). This is why they are often buried underground. But the vast amount of space the blades require created opportunity.

The building superimposes industrial and public programs: **a repurposing center** for decommissioned turbine parts, vessels and similar equipment, and an **industrial "park"**, providing flexible exhibition and assembly spaces to the city. This transparent relationship between otherwise juxtaposing programs yields a symbiotic exchange. Nearby workers gain more transparent working conditions to mitigate threats of exploitation, and the city gains a central communal space, reclaiming a piece of the waterfront. From this space, residents can observe the building's activity, the wind turbines' construction, and exchange with neighbors—all first-hand stimuli to **encourage New Bedford to unify around the regenerative activity around it.**

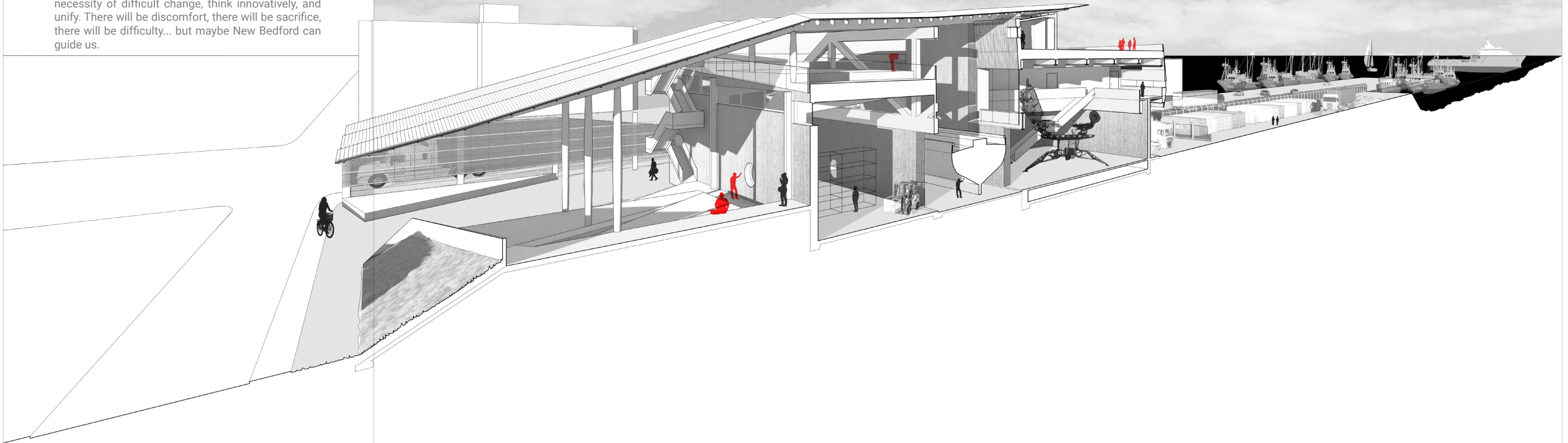
06



07

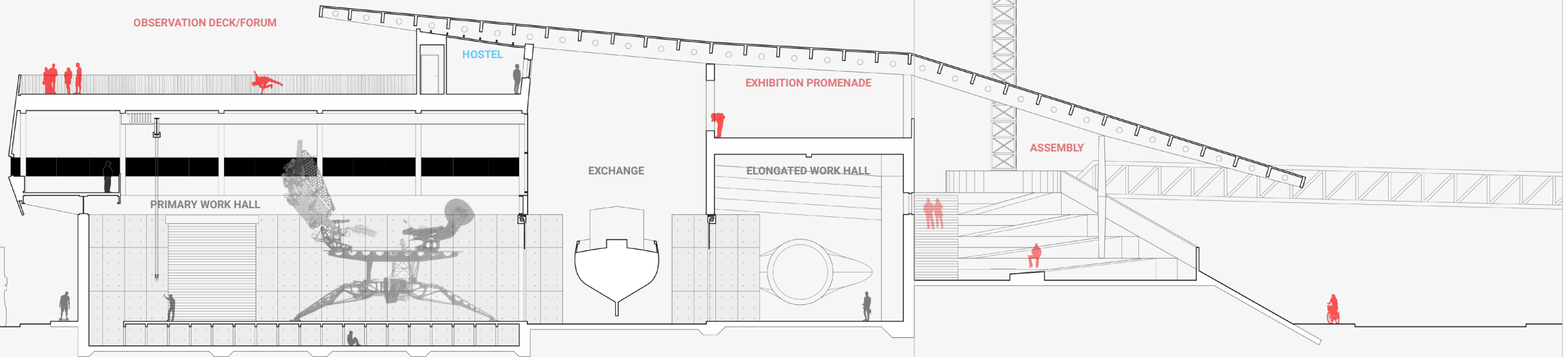
From the city center to the Northwest, the building presents itself as an embedded, ascending landscape, inviting the city to explore, to exchange, **to unite**... A gradual ascension terminates in an indeterminate space, overlooking the working waterfront and connecting to proximal warehouses and workers. This space might occasionally provide public educational functions, become an impromptu forum, or simply serve as an accessible, central, and protected meditative space carved out of the industrially-dominated waterfront.

The building communicates, through example, that a regenerative future demands us to accept the necessity of difficult change, think innovatively, and unify. There will be discomfort, there will be sacrifice, there will be difficulty... but maybe New Bedford can guide us.





SHORT SECTION (3/64" = 1')



LONG SECTION (3/64" = 1')

09 BACK OF HOUSE

