



# MATTHEW D. COOK

[www.matthewdavidcook.com](http://www.matthewdavidcook.com)

[matt@matthewdavidcook.com](mailto:matt@matthewdavidcook.com)

+1 (630) 642-0186





*Matthew Cook is an American architect registered in his home state of Illinois and currently practicing at Zephyr Architects in Beijing, China. He is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame's five year Bachelor of Architecture program. After a childhood spent drawing in and around the fantastic buildings of Chicago, he chose to study architecture and urban design in order to work creatively with and for others on a daily basis. While Matthew loves the aesthetic puzzle of every design, it is the human element of architecture that makes the profession so appealing for him. His work has allowed him to travel extensively, and from Rome to Bali, from Cuba to the American South, Matthew is most moved by traditional architecture and the story it tells about a people and their history.*

*Matthew's work at present is focused on the architecture of the Asia Pacific region, and this interest has yielded two long-term work experiences abroad. After graduating from Notre Dame, he spent fourteen months working at Ibuku, a bespoke bamboo design-build firm in Bali, Indonesia as one of seventeen Americans selected for the 2014-2015 Luce Scholars Program. He then spent two years at Robert A.M. Stern Architects in NYC, working on and learning more about the fascinating process of residential development in China. Eventually, a desire to investigate by going to the source brought Matthew to Beijing.*

*Matthew hopes that by looking to the past to generate design solutions for the future, his work will bring renewed awareness to the importance of tradition in architecture.*

# CURRICULUM VITAE

## EDUCATION

- University of Notre Dame** 2009 - 2014  
*Notre Dame, IN*
- NAAB-Accredited Bachelor of Architecture; Minor in Italian Language
  - Selected as a member of the Glynn Family Honors Program
  - Rome Studies Program: a full year of study and design in Italy (2011-2012)

## EXPERIENCE

- Zephyr Architects (这方建筑师事务所)** 2017 - Present  
*Beijing, China*
- Lead conceptual design of buildings and master plans for sites throughout north and central China, including a new multifamily residential development in Shenyang, a tech campus in Chengdu, and the renovation of a Ming dynasty icehouse turned Cultural Revolution-era missile silo turned state-owned agricultural office in Beijing's historic center
  - Work directly with partners to create storyline pitches to present to developers and local government officials
  - Study Mandarin outside of the office to enhance communication with colleagues; produce Chinese-language material for presentations to clients

- Robert A.M. Stern Architects** 2015 - 2017  
*New York City, NY*
- An integral part of design teams for RAMSA's work in China, including Heart of Lake in Xiamen and a large mixed-use community in Jinjiang, as well as a master planned hill town near Kunming and a family estate in Beijing
  - Responsible for the design development of key public spaces, including gateways and courtyards, that consider both the needs of the particular project and the vernacular architecture of the area
  - Assisted with client coordination and LDI construction document review for RAMSA's project in Jinjiang

- Ibuku / Luce Scholars Program** 2014-2015  
*Bali, Indonesia*
- One of seventeen Americans selected for the 2014-2015 Luce Scholars Program, a nationally competitive fellowship program that places young US citizens in Asia working in their field of interest or study for fourteen months
  - Assisted with the design and development of several of Ibuku's all-bamboo projects, including a high-end home in Bali's Green Village featured in *Architectural Digest* and an Indonesian restaurant interior in Hong Kong
  - Attained proficiency in spoken and written Indonesian to facilitate communication within the office and on job sites
  - Responsible for intern interviews, hiring, and visa procurement

## HONORS AND ACTIVITIES

- Provided illustrations for chef and author Fuchsia Dunlop's recipe contribution the "The Illustrated Wok," a hand-drawn Chinese cookbook published by The Cleaver Quarterly (2017)
- RAMSA Prize finalist for proposal to conduct architectural research along the Tea Horse Road in Yunnan (2016)
- Sketches selected for the first two RAMSA Sketch Gallery exhibitions (2016-2017)
- Recipient of the Norman A. Crowe Award for contributions to sustainability in architecture and urbanism (2014)
- Member of student team that received a CNU Award of Merit for an urban infill project in Havana, Cuba (2014)
- Awarded two Nanovic Institute grants to conduct thesis research in Vernazza, Italy (2013)
- Recipient of CUSE and Glynn Family Honors grants for three week summer study in China (2012)

## SKILLS

- Design and Rendering: Schematic design, pencil and ink hand drafting, Photoshop rendering, watercolor
- Software: Revit, AutoCAD, SketchUp, Rhino, Photoshop, InDesign, PowerPoint
- Language: French, Italian, and Indonesian (limited working proficiency); Mandarin Chinese (early intermediate)
- Furniture Design and Execution: Woodworking, traditional mortise and tenon joinery, bamboo carpentry
- Photography (Digital and Film): Travel, landscape, and architectural images



# FUXIAN LAKE DEVELOPMENT

*Kunming, China*

*Robert A.M Stern Architects*

*2017*

The new residential development at Fuxian Lake is located in China's southwest, immediately adjacent to the country's third-largest freshwater lake in Yunnan province. The site, perched on a hillside an hour's drive from Kunming, offers sweeping views of Fuxian as well as a nearby mountain range. Once constructed, the development will include between eight hundred and a thousand residential units in a variety of sizes, as primary residences or for weekend getaways from the city.

To determine how best to configure the client's unit mix on such steep terrain, the project team looked to other hill towns in Yunnan for inspiration. I created a set of figure ground diagrams, shown at right, for several villages and towns, representing the urbanism of distinct ethnic groups living in Yunnan. After thorough analysis of Chinese precedent as well as plans of French and Italian hill towns, the team developed a way to rearrange the client's provided units into courtyard blocks scaled to match urban fabric endemic to the region. The courtyard blocks also allow all units on site to receive required southern sun exposure, even on a challenging north-facing slope.

The project team completed the master plan and early concept architectural design for the development, moving between a physical clay model and drawn plans and sections in order to ensure that the scheme met sunlight, cut and fill, parking, and visibility requirements. The arrangement of typical courtyard blocks on the site provides ample space for hardscaped plazas, pocket parks, and overlooks with views of the lake.



*Previous page: the residential development at Fuxian Lake, viewed from above (pen, Photoshop)*

*Above: a view north to the mountains from a primary plaza (pen, Photoshop)*

*Right: figure grounds of the towns of Baoshan and Dali in Yunnan (Photoshop)*



Above: the completed Fuxian Lake master plan, with courtyard blocks scaled to match Yunnan hilltowns (pen, colored pencil, AutoCAD, Photoshop)

# VANKE BAIHUA

*Shenyang, China  
Zephyr Architects  
2018*

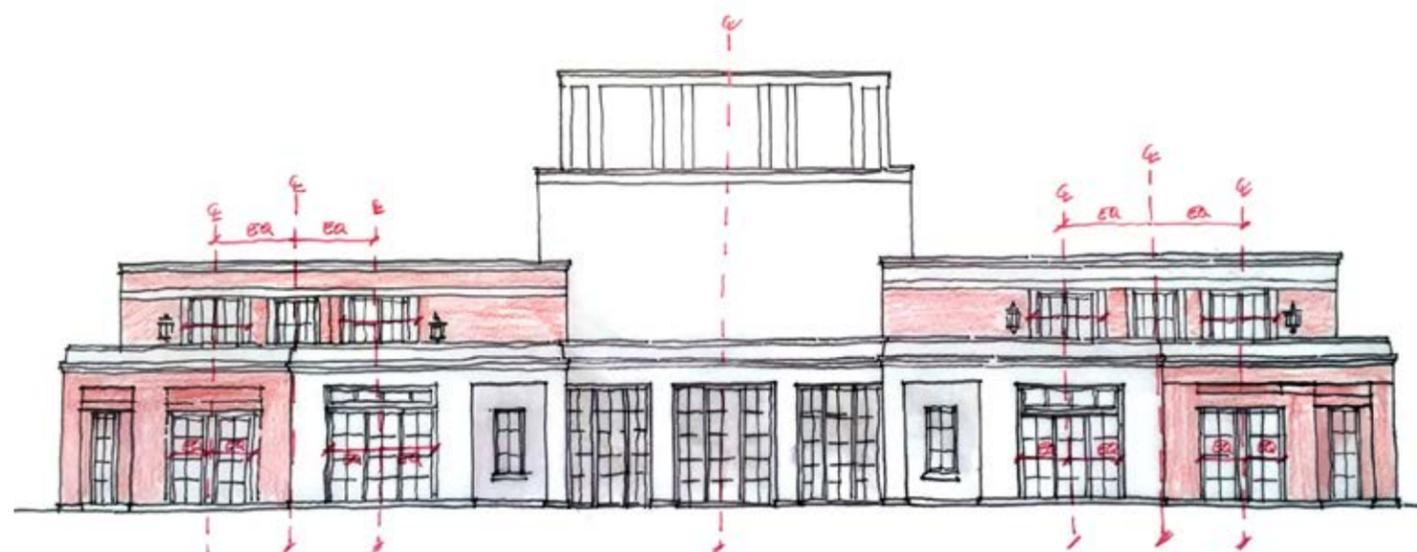
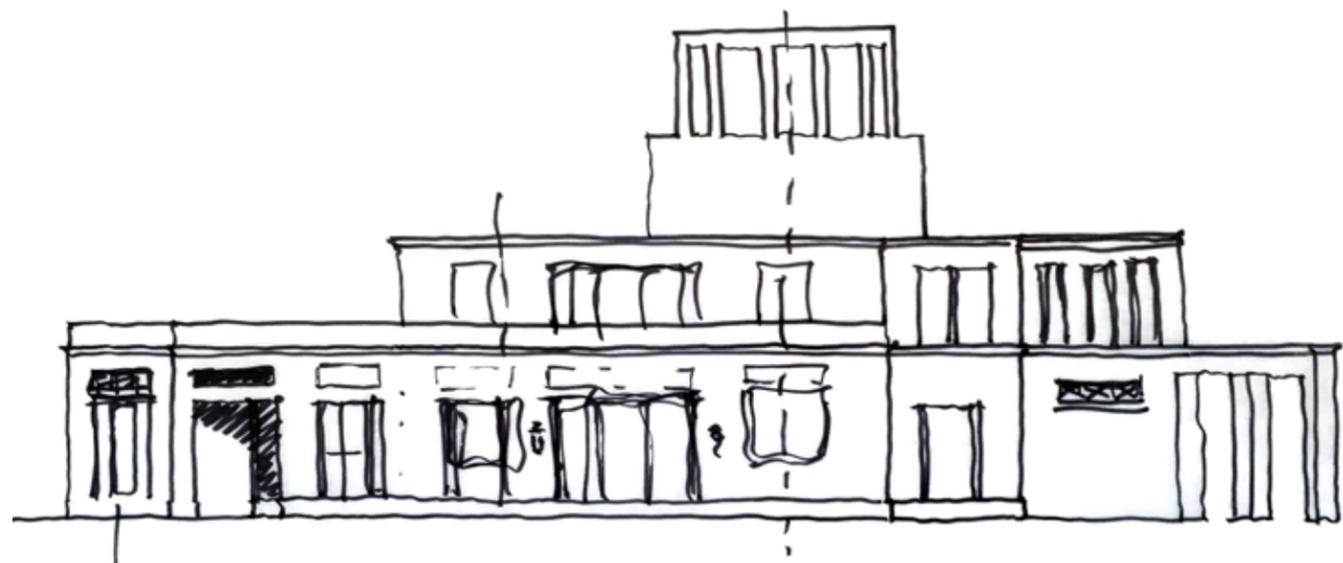
Baihua is a ground-up residential complex in the northeast Chinese city of Shenyang. Zephyr was tasked by the client, Vanke, with the design of five condominium high-rises and one rental apartment tower, as well as the sales center for the development. A public plaza on the southern edge of the development provides residents and visitors with outdoor seating areas, and the towers to the west sit on a retail podium that engages a major pedestrian thoroughfare.

As one of the team's project architects, I led the conceptual design of the sales center. I assisted Zephyr's partners in developing a storyline for the design that acknowledged Shenyang's historic role, along with Harbin, as northeast China's melting pot and academic hub. We had the area's eclectic, turn-of-the-century architecture in mind when selecting brick and limestone as appropriate materials for the sales office.

The sales center, which will be the first structure built on site, was located and laid out to permit easy access but minimal disturbance during construction. Once a critical mass of units has sold, the client intends to convert the sales office into a library and community center for the development, so the future reuse of the building necessitated flexible planning of the interior. In addition to the sales center, I also contributed to the design of the master plan, the condo towers, and the landscape.



*Left: an aerial view of Vanke Baihua  
(SketchUp; professional rendering by  
Fancy Digital Technology)*



Top: two concept sketches for the sales office at Vanke Baihua (pen, colored pencil); below: the final conceptual rendering for the sales office (SketchUp; professional rendering by Fancy Digital Technology)

# CACAO HOUSE

*Bali, Indonesia  
Ibuku  
Completed 2016*

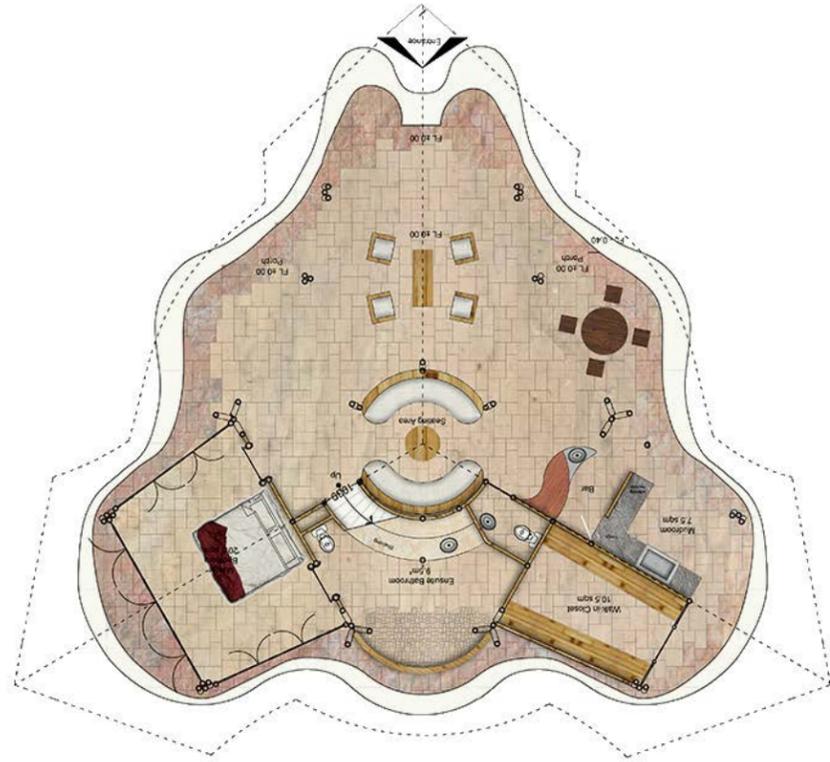


Cacao House is a bamboo home in Green Village, just outside of Ubud, Bali.

The clients, extremely active gardeners and horticulturalists, were keen to design a house that would bring the outdoors inside without sacrificing any of the trappings of a high-end home. By wrapping open living spaces around a structural bamboo core, Cacao House (so named for the cacao trees on site) meets the client's desire to draw nature indoors while opening up each room to a view. Living spaces and the kitchen on the ground level tuck below a spiral stair that leads to bedrooms at the rear of the home. At the house's highest level, an open air pavilion provides an area for the clients' daily yoga practice, with views across the river valley below.

The structural bamboo core necessary to support Cacao House was a modification of a tested engineering concept developed by the Ibuku team. I assisted the team with the plans for the house as well as the model of the structure for stress testing. The clients also requested that the development of their property include plans for a plunge pool and nearby massage area. With the team, I helped develop several options for the layout of additional structures on site and for landscaping concepts around the property.

*Left: the Cacao House entry and yard at night*



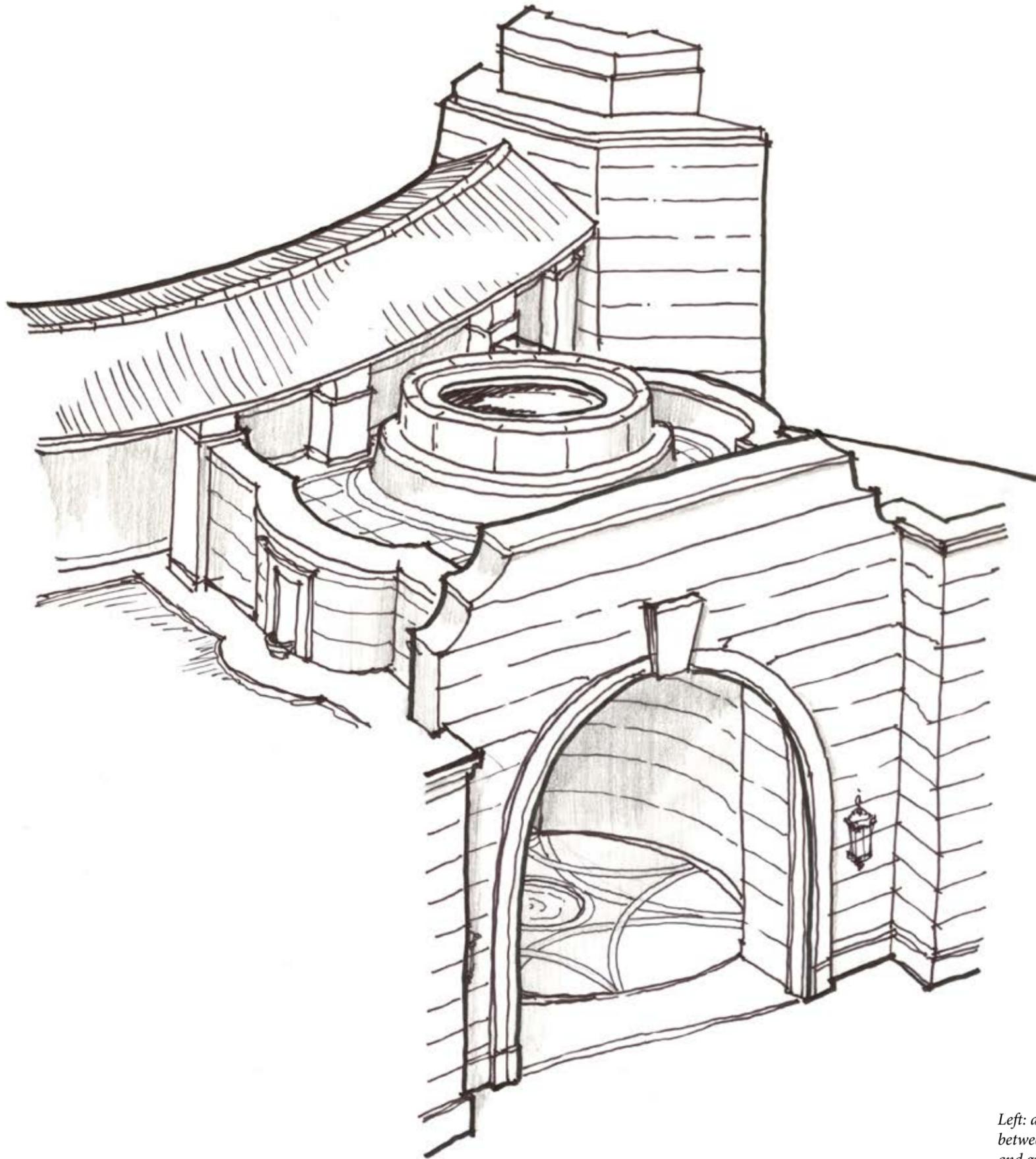
Top: the Cacao House ground floor plan (AutoCAD and Photoshop); below: the house's entry and living space



Above: the Cacao House living room as seen from the bedroom level

# AVIC JINJIANG UPTOWN

*Jinjiang, China*  
*Robert A.M. Stern Architects*  
*2016 - 2017*

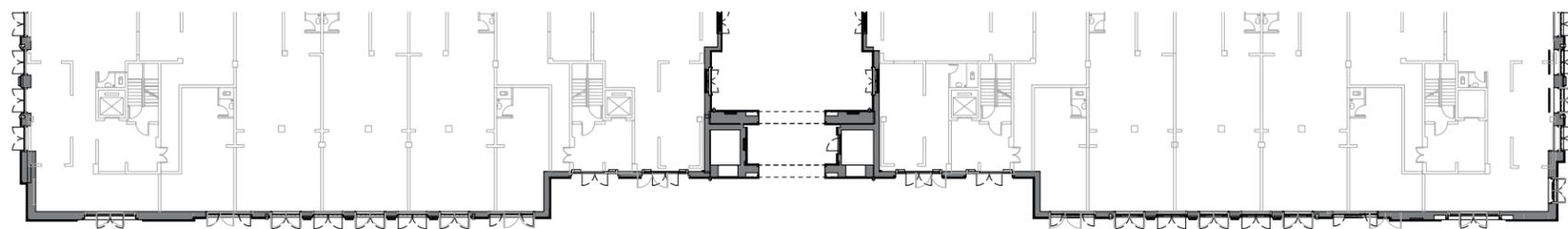


AVIC Jinjiang Uptown is an 8 million square foot mixed-use development on China's eastern seaboard. The site is currently on the outskirts of the city, but expected development within Jinjiang will knit the RAMSA-designed neighborhood into new urban fabric over time. RAMSA's plan combines a ground floor retail podium with many scales of housing, including several towers and a neighborhood of townhouses.

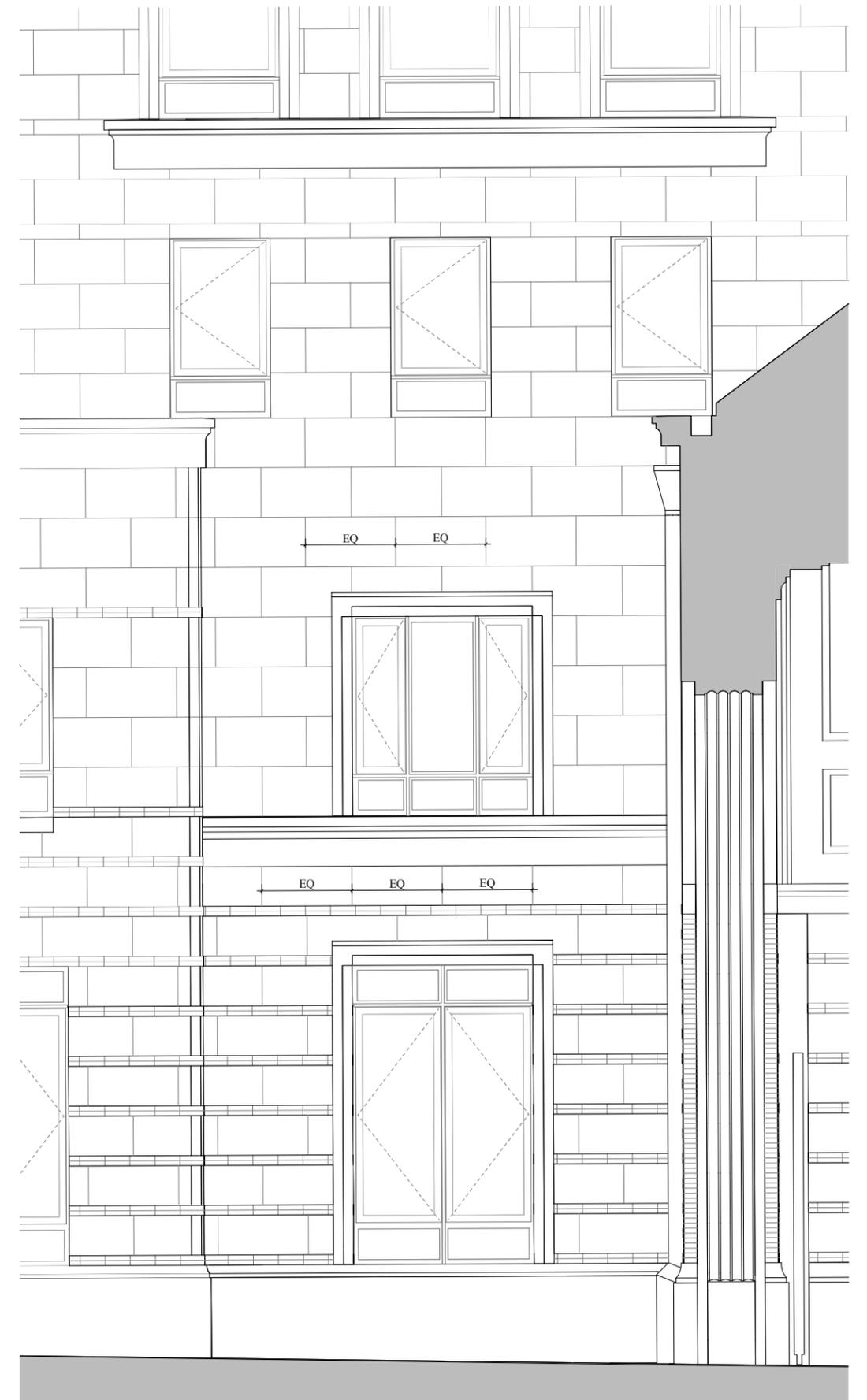
A diagonal boulevard separates the site into eastern and western halves, providing residents and visitors views to a lake in one direction and a mountain in the other. Retail on either side of the view corridor ensures that the development's primary thoroughfare remains activated throughout the day. Within the fabric of the development, smaller housing and lush green spaces provide a landscaped respite from the city beyond. Characteristic elements of Jinjiang's local architecture, like a unique type of brick that is scorched during fabrication, tie the development's architecture together.

The RAMSA Jinjiang team used Revit to model the project and track design changes. My role on the team required me to become familiar with BIM workflow in order to assist the team with both design and coordination. I contributed to schematic design and design development for several of the project's construction phases, as well as their related landscape plans. In particular, I focused on the design of public spaces and gateways, such as the 'oculus' shown here. Additionally, I reviewed the local design institute's construction documents for several phases of the project and aided the team with design changes as necessitated by ongoing coordination with the client and the local design institute.

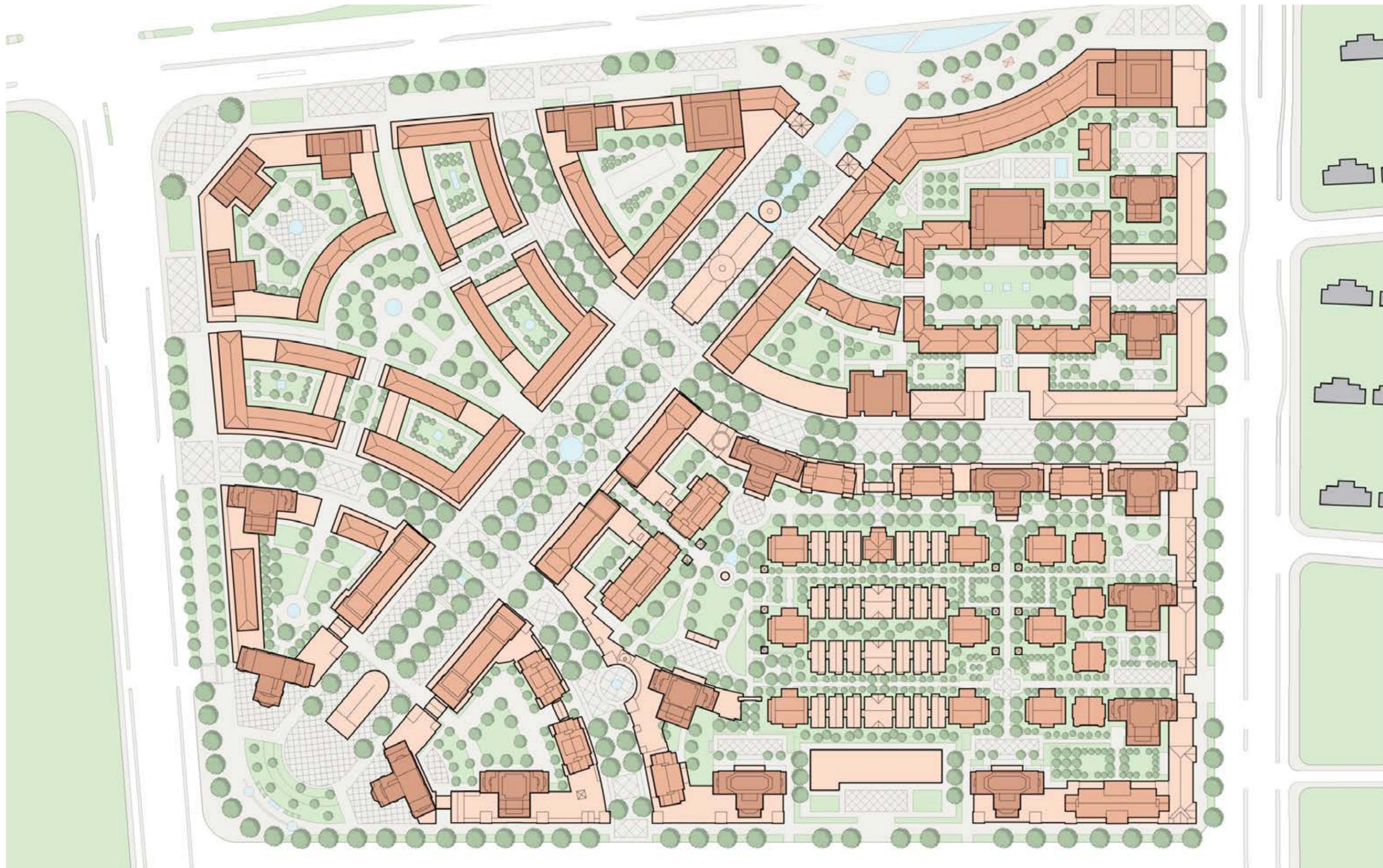
*Left: a perspective view of the 'oculus' between two major public spaces (pen and graphite)*



Above: the elevation for twin Art Deco-inspired midrise buildings along the site's main street (Revit)



Above: brick and stone coursing for a corridor between the twin midrises (Revit)



Above: the masterplan for AVIC Jinjiang Uptown (AutoCAD)

# PATANBESI SCHOOL

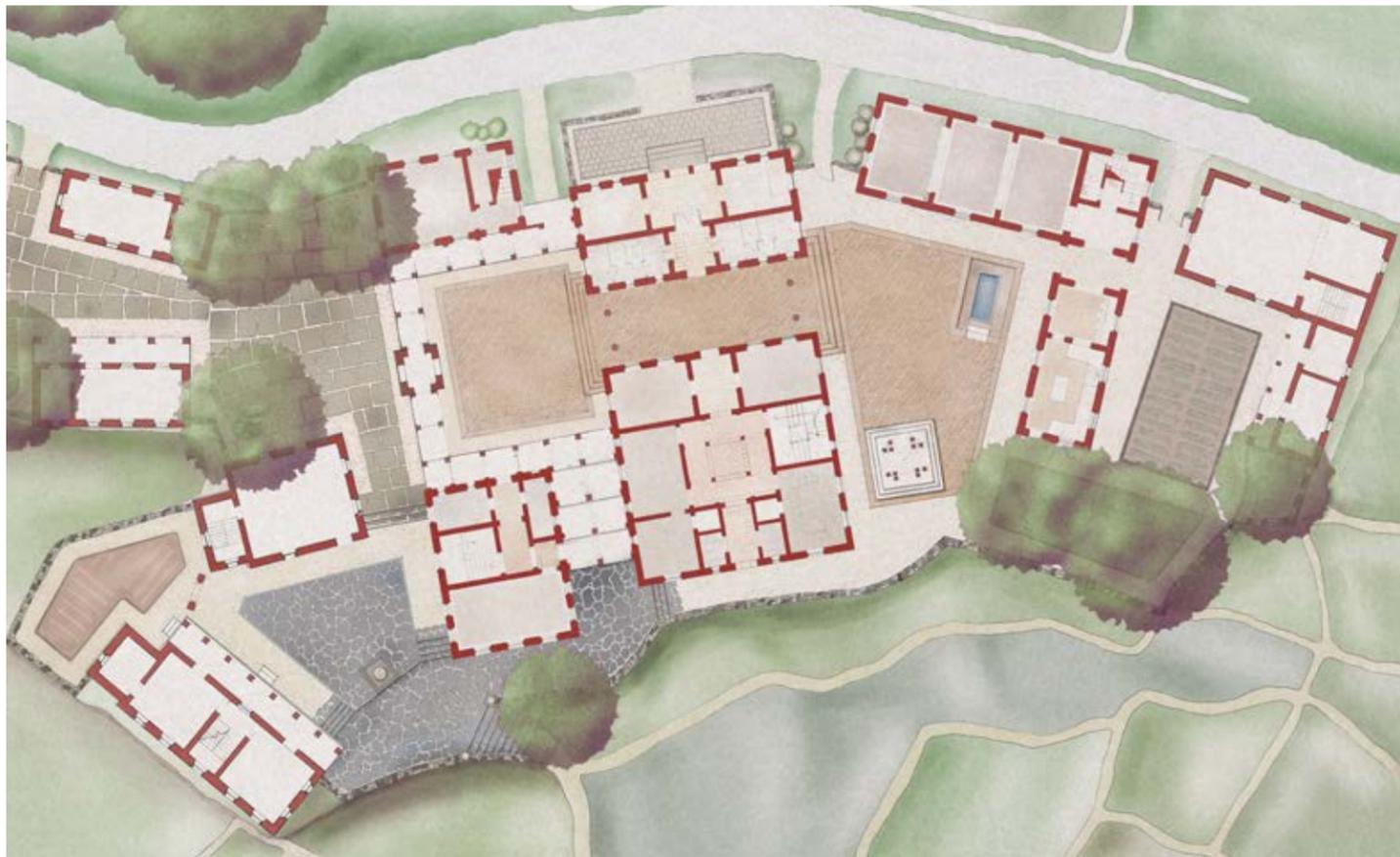
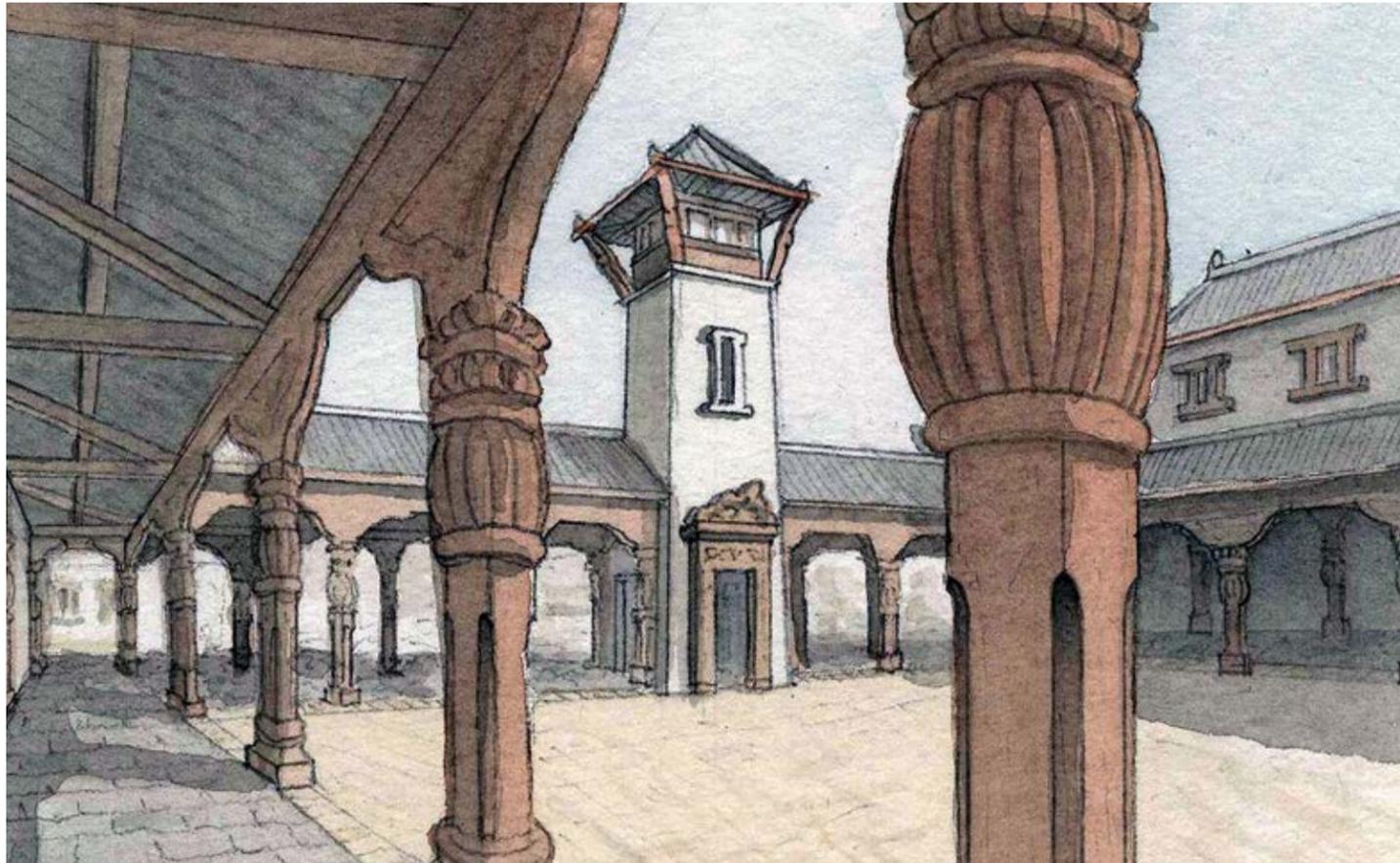
*Pokhara, Nepal  
2013*

Our studio was asked to design a K-8 school in Nepal with a curriculum based on Montessori's tactile and investigative learning approach. The school makes use of open classrooms and nature integrated throughout the site to facilitate students' academic growth.

The school facility is located near Pokhara, one of Nepal's largest cities just south of the Himalayas. The property owner, a professor at the University of Notre Dame, tasked our studio with envisioning what she could do to maximize use of the site. The studio investigated several different proposals by working in pairs. Each proposal, though distinct, attempted to engage local building traditions in some way.

The elevation below presents a view of the entire proposal from the rice paddies in the valley. The primary buildings that house core program are located at the center of the site. To the east, an agricultural facility and garden plot allow students to learn practical farming skills. The western end of the site includes several simple dormitories so that students who travel great distances to get to school can stay on campus during the week.

Within the eastern courtyard, paved in herringbone mud brick, a traditional stepped well serves as a gathering space for students adjacent to the campus canteen. A small shrine, raised on a plinth in the same courtyard, provides students with a place for worship or reflection.



*Above: a view of the school's main courtyard (pencil and watercolor)*

*Left: the plan of Patanbesi School (pencil and Photoshop)*

*Below: an elevation of the School as seen from the rice paddies below (pencil)*





# ANANDA HOUSE

*Bali, Indonesia*  
*Ibuku*  
*Completed 2016*

Ananda House is an almost entirely bamboo home in central Bali, designed by Ibuku for the artist David Hornblow. The site is located within the Green Village community southwest of Ubud. Ananda's spectacular location offers stunning views from the banks of the Ayung River Valley to the jungle beyond, as well as to Ibuku's most iconic house, Sharma Springs.

The program for the home is divided into three structures to make best use of the site's extreme topography. At the top of the hill, two pavilions - one in black bamboo, the other in tan - stand sentinel, housing bedrooms, offices, and kitchen space. A stone path leads down to the pool grotto and pavilion below. All three structures are unified by an Ibuku-designed permaculture garden containing tropical fruits and vegetables.

During my time at Ibuku, I was tasked with site supervision for Ananda House during construction. Balinese builders work primarily from models rather than from plans, so careful coordination was required to ensure that design intent was carried out. To facilitate job site communication, I spent my time abroad learning Indonesian and so that I could conduct my work in the local language.

Ananda House was featured in the May 2017 issue of *Architectural Digest*.

*Left: Ananda House as seen from the river valley below*

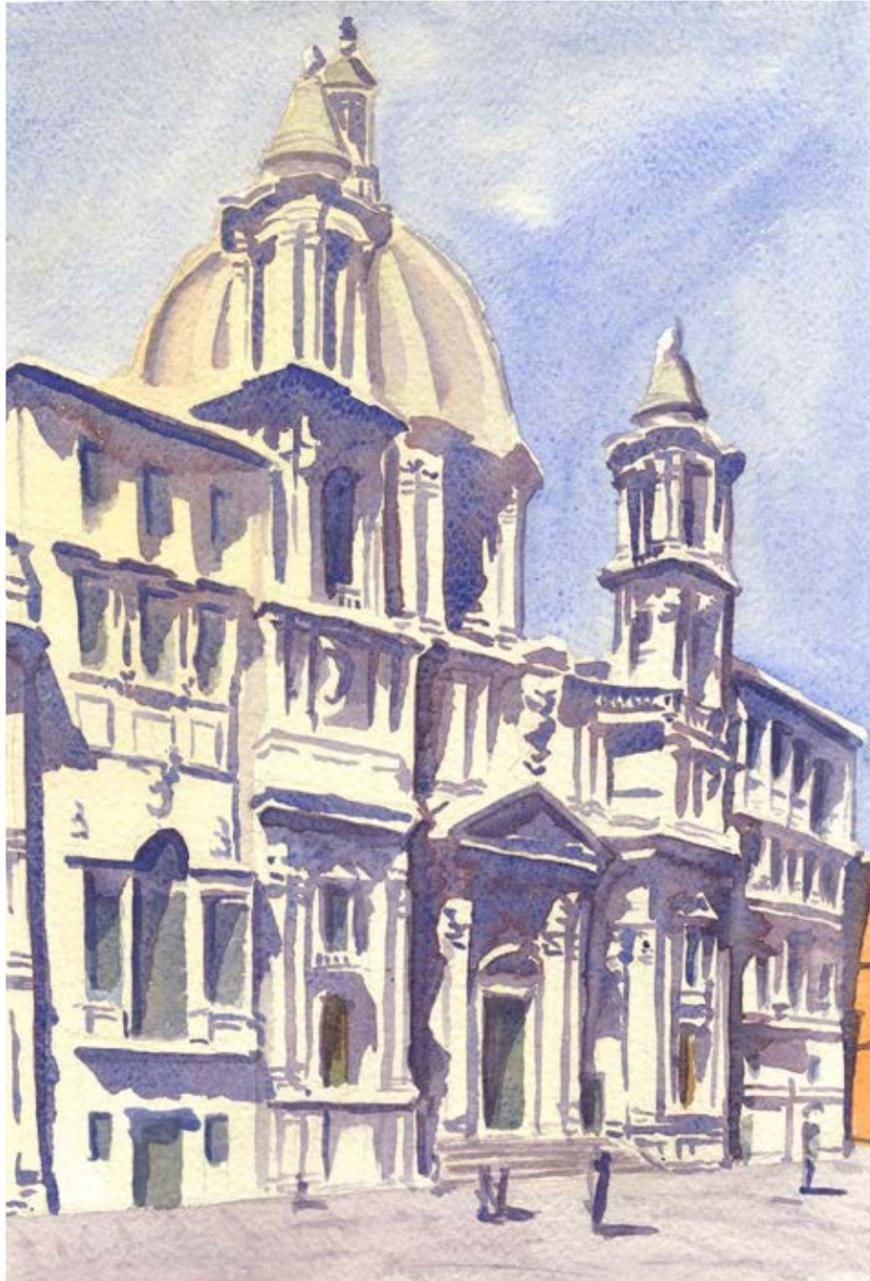


*Above: the gathering space at Ananda House*

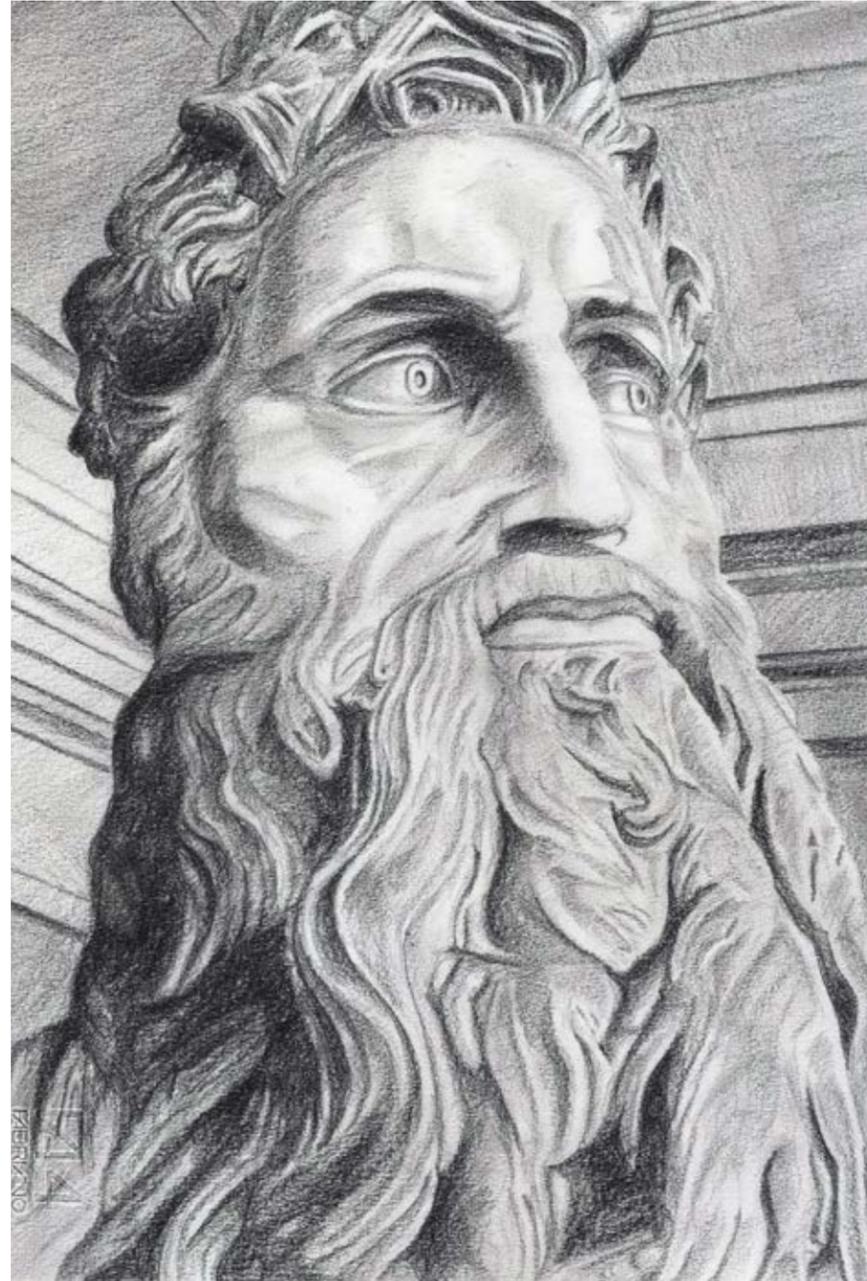


*Above: the client and his child look out to the river valley below from the Ananda balcony*

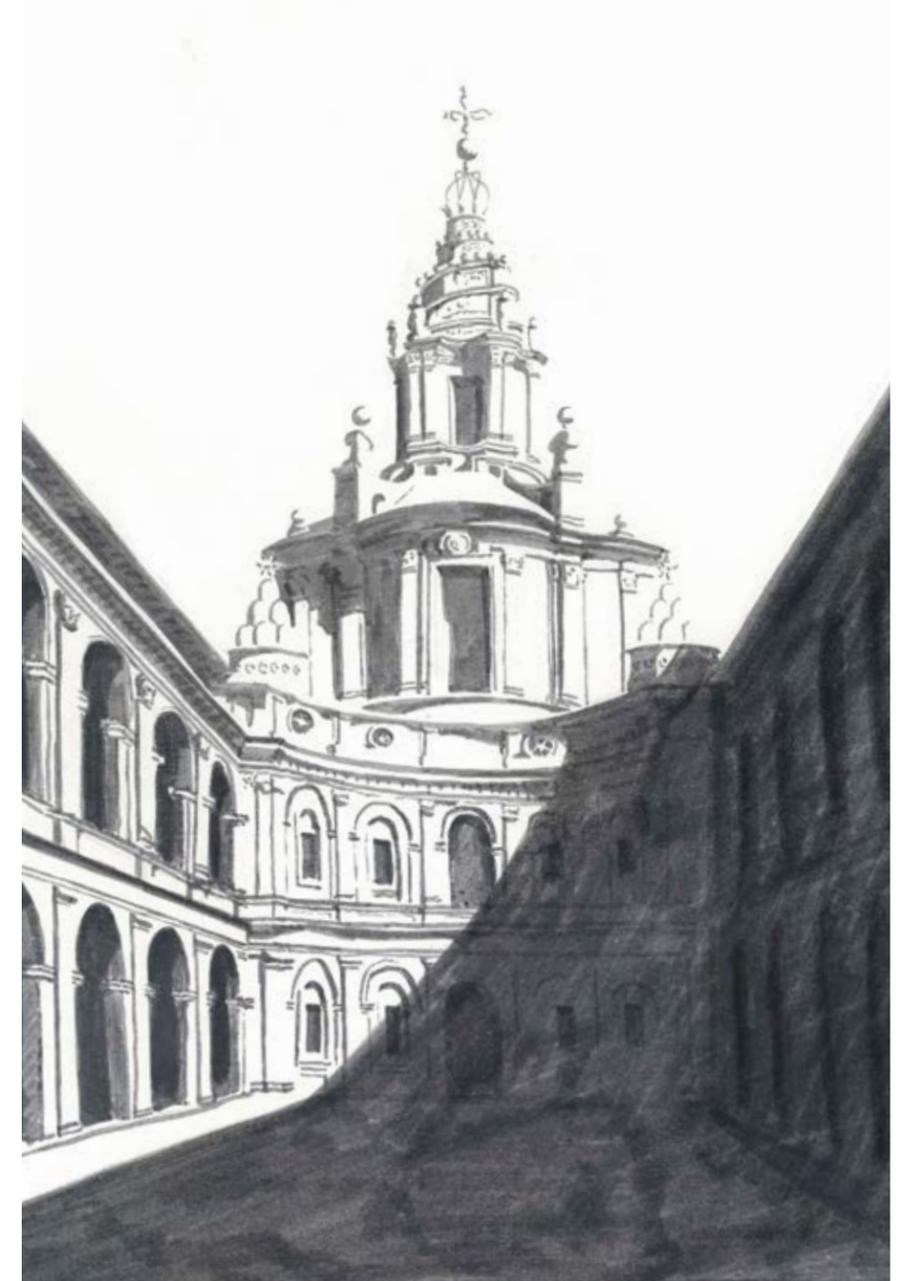
# ROME SKETCHES



*Sant'Agnese in Agone (watercolor)*



*Michelangelo's Moses (graphite)*



*Sant'Ivo alla Sapienza (marker)*

# TRi RESTAURANT

*Hong Kong*

*Ibuku*

*Completed 2015*

TRi is a high-end Balinese restaurant in Repulse Bay, Hong Kong. The client, a notable restaurateur, requested that the members of the Ibuku design team draw from their knowledge of Balinese craft and materials to produce a space that would transport diners to Indonesia.

Guests enter the building, a low-rise retail space containing several shops and restaurants, from either the street or the beach. A brick and *paras* (a kind of volcanic stone native to Bali) staircase leads patrons to the bar, where a black bamboo pavilion provides diners a space in which to enjoy a cocktail with a view of the restaurant. A brick walkway leads to a private dining area separated from the restaurant by a bamboo bone screen. At the core of the restaurant, diners may eat communally at a fifty-foot long reclaimed teak table or in woven bamboo pods floating on a pool of water, meant to evoke lily pads in a stream.

As a member of both the conceptual design and construction administration teams for TRi, I traveled between Bali and Hong Kong to produce as-built drawings of the space and to ensure that the team's design intent was met by the client-selected construction crew, who were largely unfamiliar with structural bamboo. I also contributed to the shipping strategy for the project (Ibuku's first commission outside of Indonesia), which required the team of artisans back in Bali to produce bamboo pieces that could be disassembled and packed flat for transport to Hong Kong.



*Right: a concept sketch for the woven bamboo seating 'baskets' at TRi (pencil)*

*Below: the completed 'baskets' float over a pool of water in the restaurant's interior*



# GIN PROPERTY RESIDENCE

*Senoia, GA  
Historical Concepts  
Completed 2014*

As an intern in Historical Concepts' downtown office, I had the opportunity to spearhead the schematic design of a spec home for Senoia, a development southwest of Atlanta that serves as the set for the TV show *The Walking Dead*.

The lot was selected by the town's developer, Scott Tigchelaar, for its role in creating a critical building mass in Senoia. Its neighbor across the street was also designed by Historical Concepts and was selected as Southern Living's 2012 Idea House.

At just over two thousand square feet, the house is intended for empty nesters, with a master-on-main and two rooms above for visiting children or grandkids. Most of the ground floor is taken up by an open plan kitchen and living space with a game room above. The porch wraps the entire house and opens toward the back onto a walled garden. The two-car garage is accessible from both the mud room and the garden.

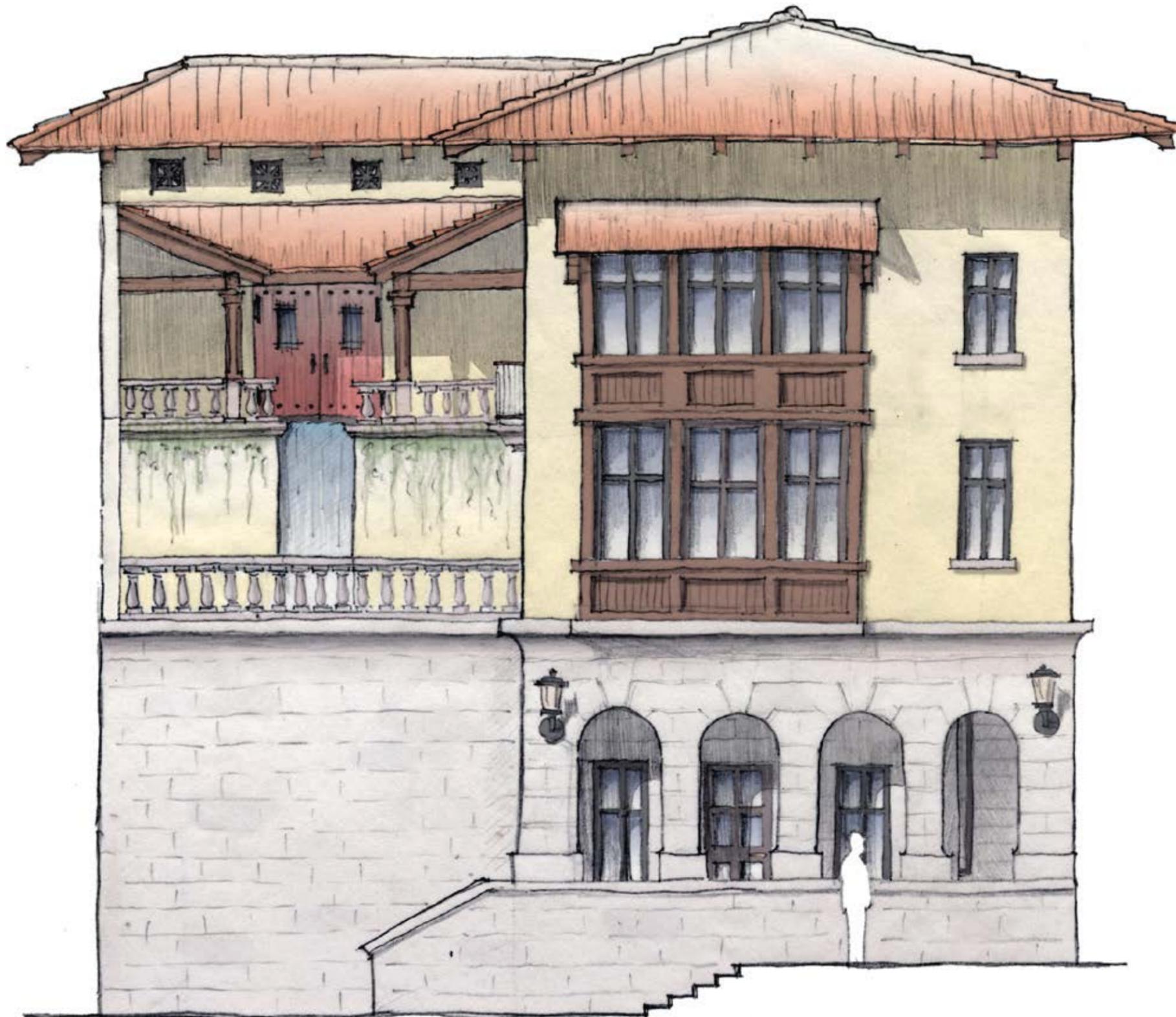


*Above: the completed home in  
Senoia, GA*

*Right: the front and side elevations  
of the house (pen)*

# LAS CATALINAS HOUSE

*Guanacaste, Costa Rica  
2015*



Las Catalinas is a coastal community developed by Earthlink founder Charles Brewer, a lifelong architectural hobbyist who left the tech world to create a walkable mixed-use hill town on the Costa Rican seashore. Much of the master plan has already been constructed, and Las Catalinas has a growing full-time population in addition to hosting vacationers from all over the world.

The town's layout and aesthetic pull heavily from Brewer's travels to hill towns around the Mediterranean and in Central America. The site's steep topography and location near the Pacific Ocean ensure that every home has sweeping views of the water and nearby rainforest.

This house, designed as a spec home on an existing lot in Las Catalinas, evokes the character of Central American houses on a site with a small footprint for owners making occasional visits. Guests enter on the third level through a traditional Costa Rican entry space called a *zaguan*. A fountain at the entrance cascades down to the level below, becoming a swimming pool with a view to the sea. The home's three bedrooms allow the owners to host many guests on a compact site. At the base of the building, a lock-out apartment available for short-term rentals enlivens the building when the primary tenants are not in town and provides an additional source of income for the owners.

*Left: the Las Catalinas house, as seen from the street (pencil and Photoshop)*

# HAVANA WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION

*Havana, Cuba*  
2013

Our studio traveled to Havana with several faculty members to observe the disuse of the western side of the Cuban capital's harbor. After analysis and documentation onsite, the group returned to the US to compose a new master plan of the historic but dilapidated area.

We worked as a studio on the overall composition but split into smaller groups to focus on particular areas of the plan. Two colleagues and I completed the area surrounding the main public space, Plaza Gómez, visible at the center of our aerial perspective. A monument to Cuban revolutionary Maximo Gómez occupies the center of the square and establishes the visual axis to the south, terminating on the front face of the presidential palace.

The studio sought to retain the visual feel of a typical Havana block while providing more light and ventilation. For this reason, we created superblocks which organize themselves around open courtyards. The completed masterplan went on to receive the 2014 CNU Award of Merit.

Once the urban component of the project was finished, the studio examined several individual buildings within the master plan. I chose to design a concert hall on the main public space in our plan. In addition to our studio course, I also took a course on acoustics and lighting in which I analyzed the acoustical properties of the concert space within the project.

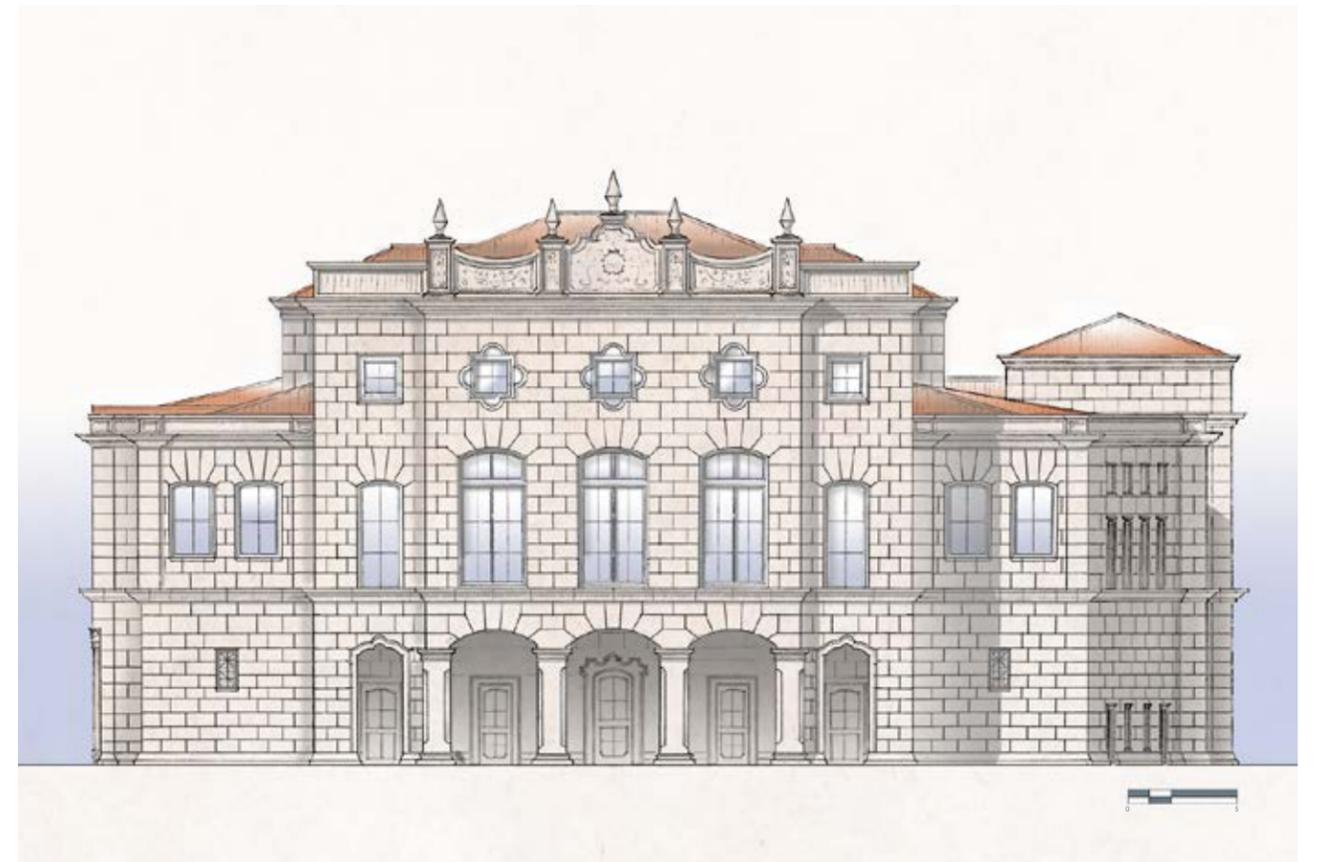
One of the explicit goals of the project was to tackle design at all scales, so I decided to incorporate the details we had documented in Havana into my design for a piano bench. The bench is constructed from cherry with pyramidal walnut inlays. The leather seat with brass tacks recalls the Cuban leatherwork tradition, and the ornate sinuous forms match those built in stone atop the concert hall that harken back to the island's history as a Spanish colony.

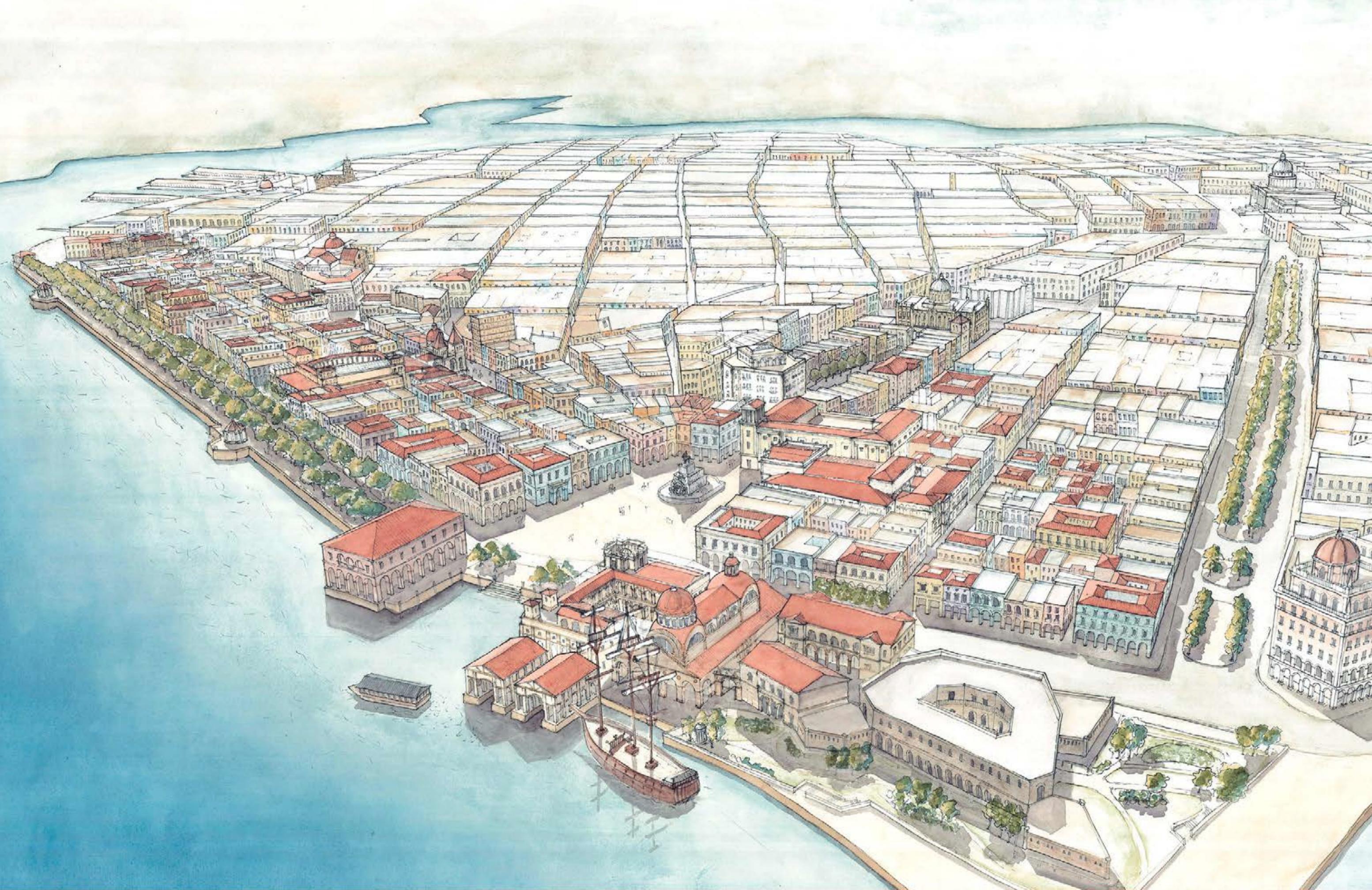


*Above: a cherry and walnut  
Spanish-influenced piano bench*

*Right: the front elevation of the  
concert hall on Plaza Gómez (pencil  
and Photoshop)*

*Below: an aerial perspective of the  
completed Havana masterplan  
(pencil and watercolor)*





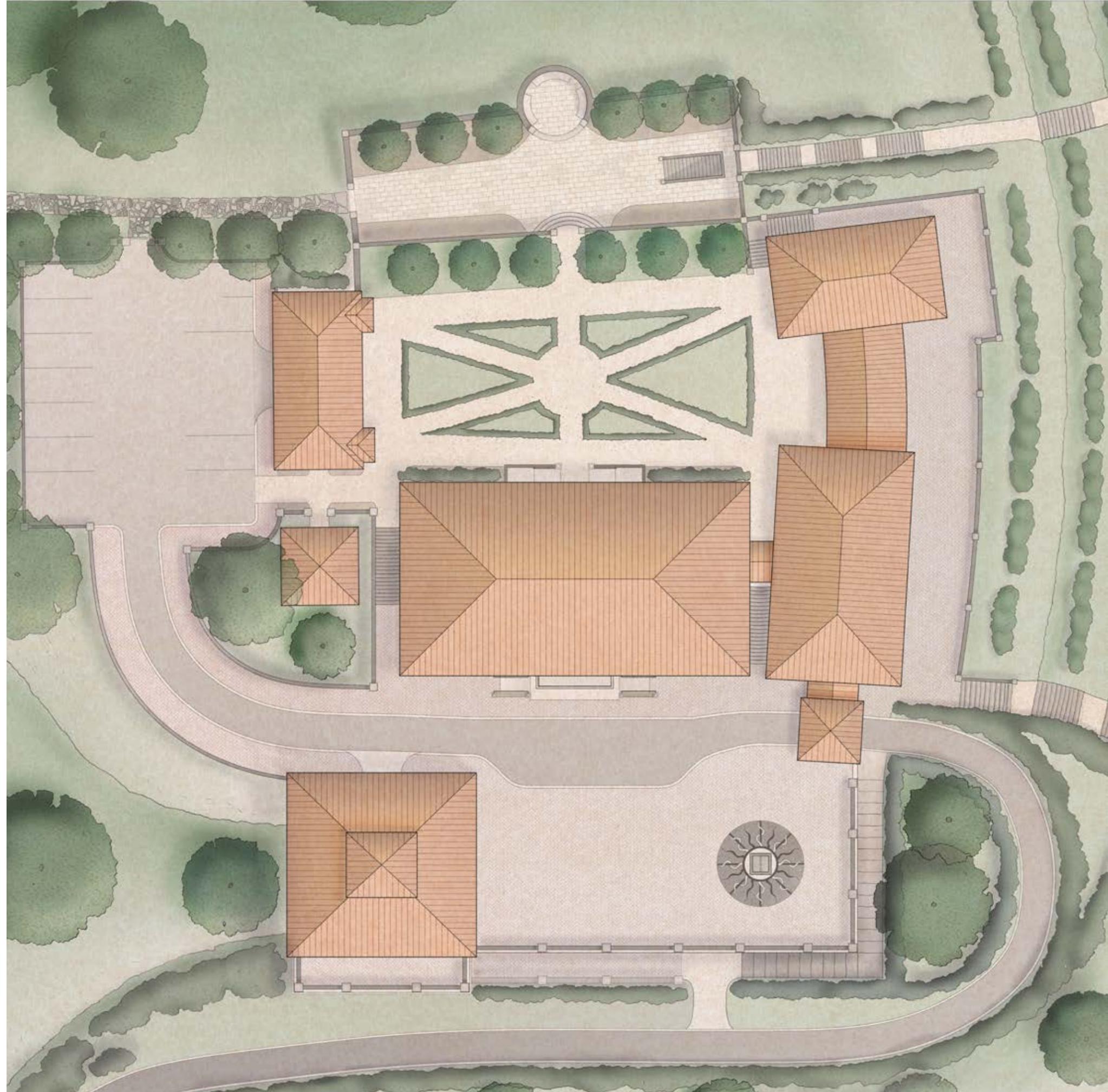
# CANTINA CINQUE TERRE

*Vernazza, Italy*  
*Undergraduate Thesis*  
*2014*

The architectural thesis represents the culmination of coursework at Notre Dame. My final project was a design for a winery in Vernazza, one of the five towns that make up the Cinque Terre in northwest Italy. The town was ravaged by devastating landslides in the fall of 2011 that buried the city's main street under ten feet of debris and earth. Much of the damage was caused by falling rubble, a consequence of poor soil conditions and erosion exacerbated by the movement of grape growers out of the countryside and into town where it is easier to make a living catering to tourists. The idea for the winery grew out of a need for greater attention to Vernazza's hills, which at one time produced one of Italy's most storied white wines.

Thanks to generous funding from Notre Dame's Nanovic Institute, I was able to travel to the site twice in 2013 to discuss the project with government officials, local architects, masons and builders, as well as Vernazza's residents. Speaking with locals helped shape the scope of the project and enhanced my understanding of the city's building traditions as well as its needs in the wake of a tragedy.

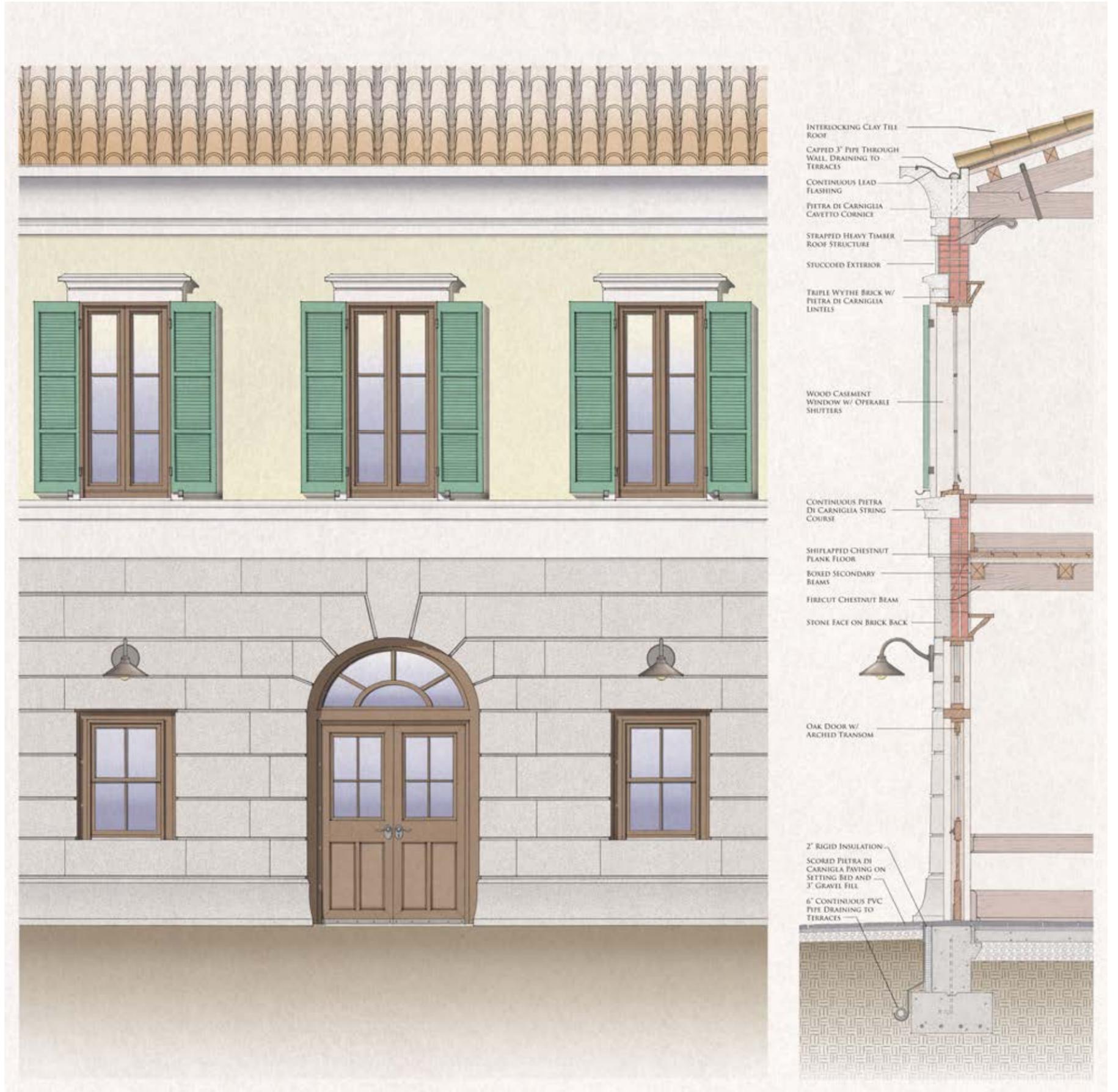
The winery takes cues from the local vernacular. The switchback drive up the hillside leads visitors past a mortarless dry-set stone facade, a contemporary example of Vernazza's traditional masonry technique. The drive leads under a lookout tower containing lounge and event spaces that enjoy prime views back to the town and to the Mediterranean. A large paved platform on the west side of the site allows growers to drop grapes through a crusher and down to a large production space and tasting room below. Several guest rooms set at the building's upper level provide lodgings for visitors, as well as an additional revenue stream for the winery operation.



*Right: the site plan for the winery (pencil, AutoCAD, and Photoshop)*



Above: the site plan illustrates the winery's relationship to town and the sea (pencil and Photoshop)



Above: a bay detail and technical section taken from the winery's valley elevation (pencil and Photoshop)



Above: the winery, seen from Vernazza's valley (pencil and Photoshop)

# PHOTOGRAPHY



*Above: a royal funeral procession in Ubud (Bali, Indonesia)*

*Top left: a ger at dawn (Khuustai Park, Mongolia); top right: a Tibetan family enjoys the sunshine (Gyalthang, China); above: Intha fisherman at Inle Lake (Shan State, Myanmar)*