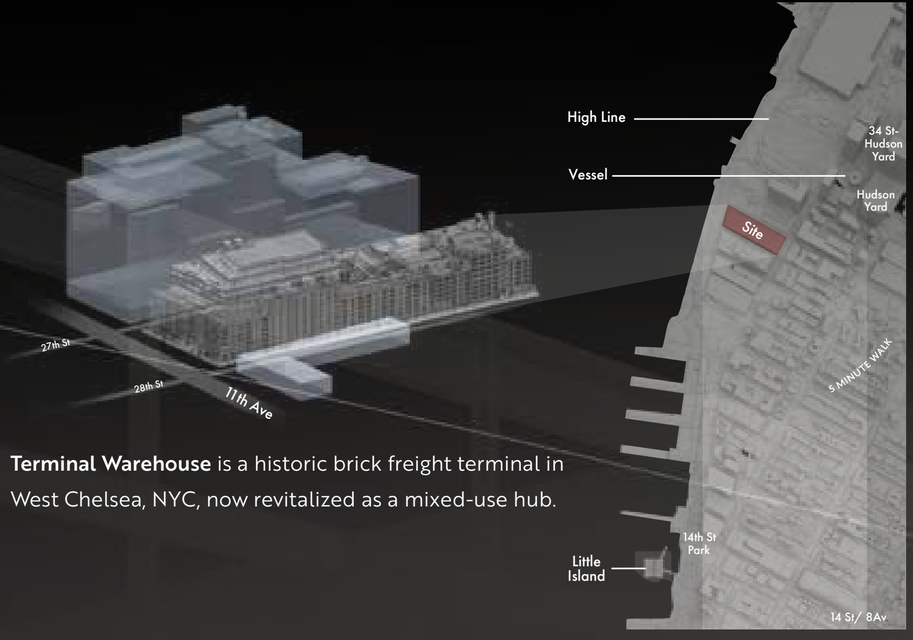
ECHOES OF BELONGINGS

Reflecting memory, emotion, and shared presence

PROBLEM STATEMENT

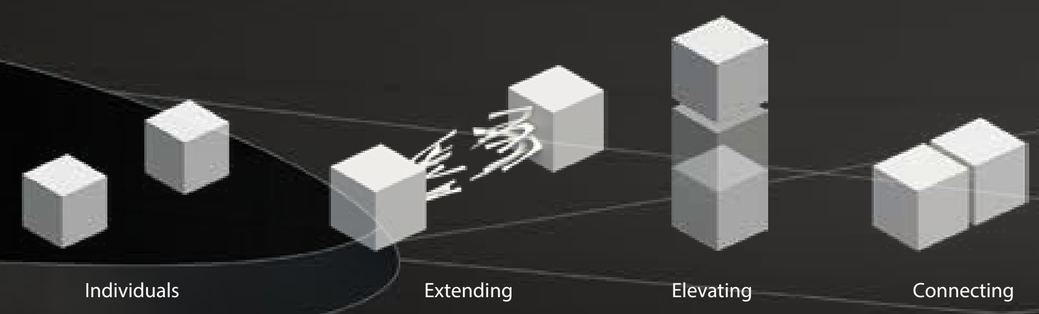
Gen Z professionals in NYC are increasingly isolated due to remote work, rigid hierarchies, and the absence of authentic after-work spaces. Traditional offices and third places fall short of offering the intimacy, flexibility, and psychological safety they seek, underscoring the need for new spatial solutions that foster genuine connection and belonging.



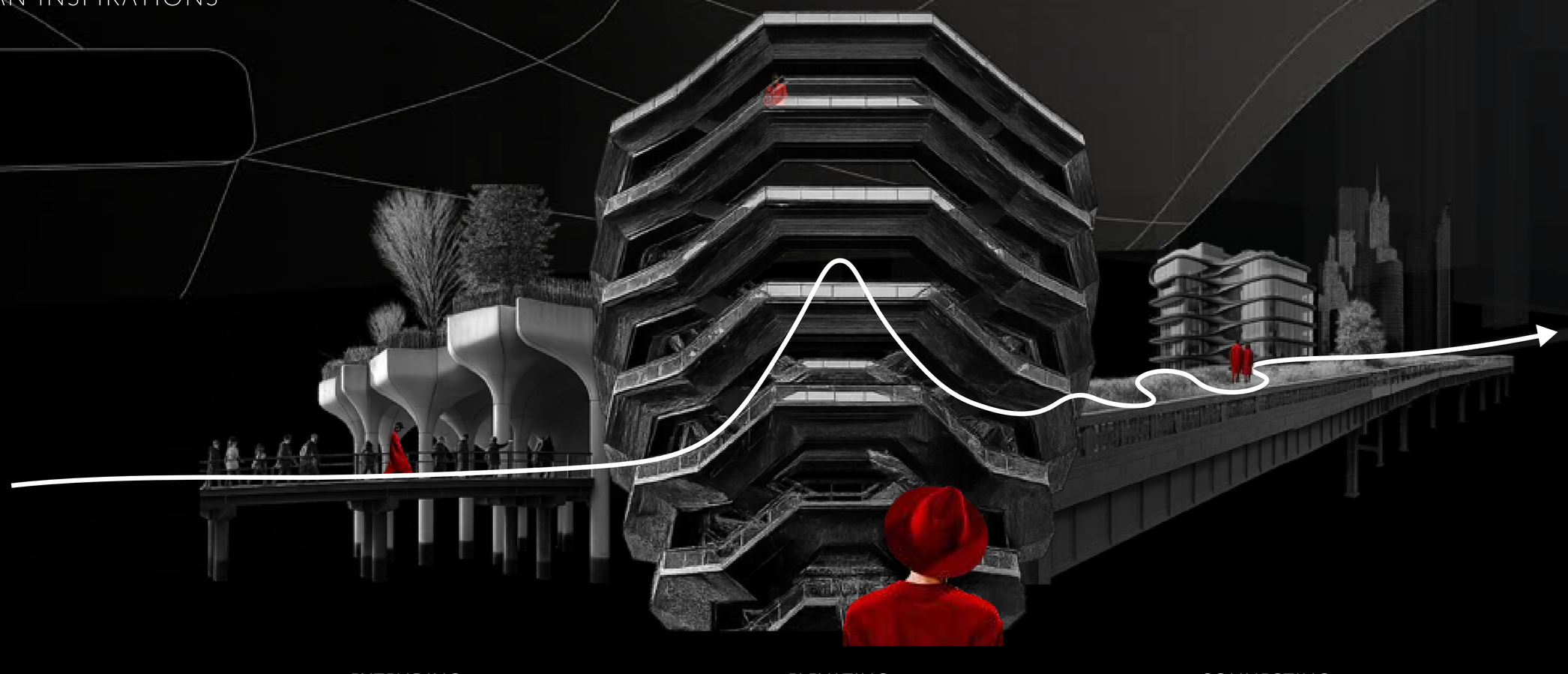
Terminal Warehouse is a historic brick freight terminal in West Chelsea, NYC, now revitalized as a mixed-use hub.

BRIDGING: THREE WAYS OF CONNECTING

Extending – reaching outward to initiate casual, low-stakes interaction
Elevating – shifting from passive presence to heightened awareness and reflection
Connecting – engaging deeply with others through trust, proximity, and intimacy



URBAN INSPIRATIONS



EXTENDING
Explore the first step towards being connected

ELEVATING
Elevation enables observation and mental retreat

CONNECTING
Profound connection established

"The environment should promote comfort and ease, allowing interactions to unfold naturally."



"An environment that fosters both collective energy and personal connection."



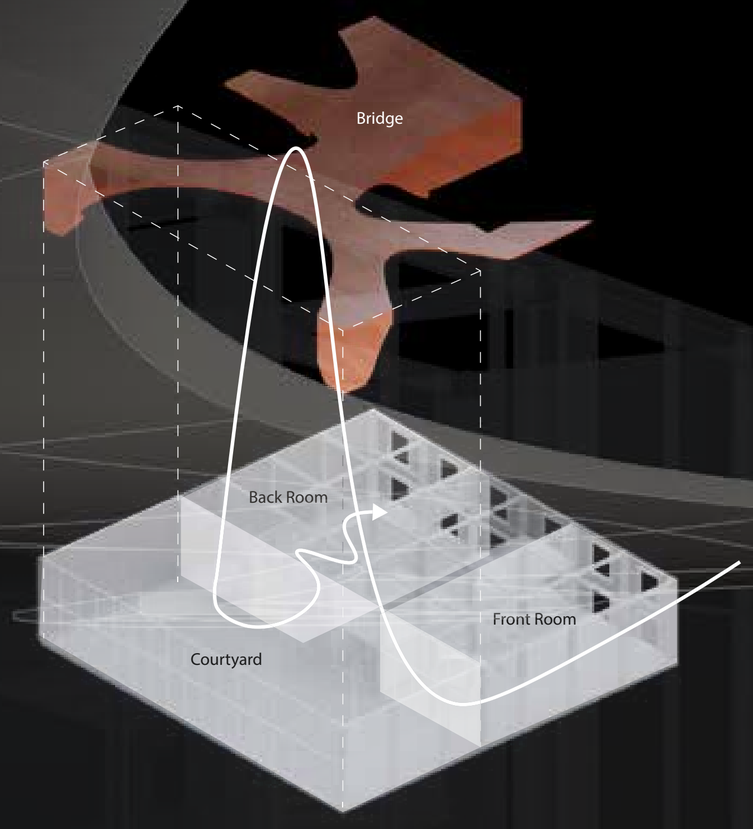


FRONT ROOM

Acoustical Privacy ●●○○○
Visual Privacy ●●○○○
Perceived Spaciousness ●●●●○
Time Flexibility ●●●●●

An open, vibrant space designed for casual mingling and spontaneous interaction: Ideal for easing into after-work socialization.

PROTOTYPE PROPOSAL



FRONT ROOM (EXTENDING)
Socially vibrant and visually open
Supports casual conversation and low-pressure engagement

COURTYARD
Buffer zone between public and private
Introduces sensory relief
Encourages self-awareness and relaxed reflection

BRIDGE (ELEVATING)
Organic form connects three spatial zones
Elevated platform invites pause, observation, and introspection

BACK ROOM (CONNECTING)
Emotional resonance and privacy
Dim lighting, soft acoustics, and close seating

3 ARCHITYPES



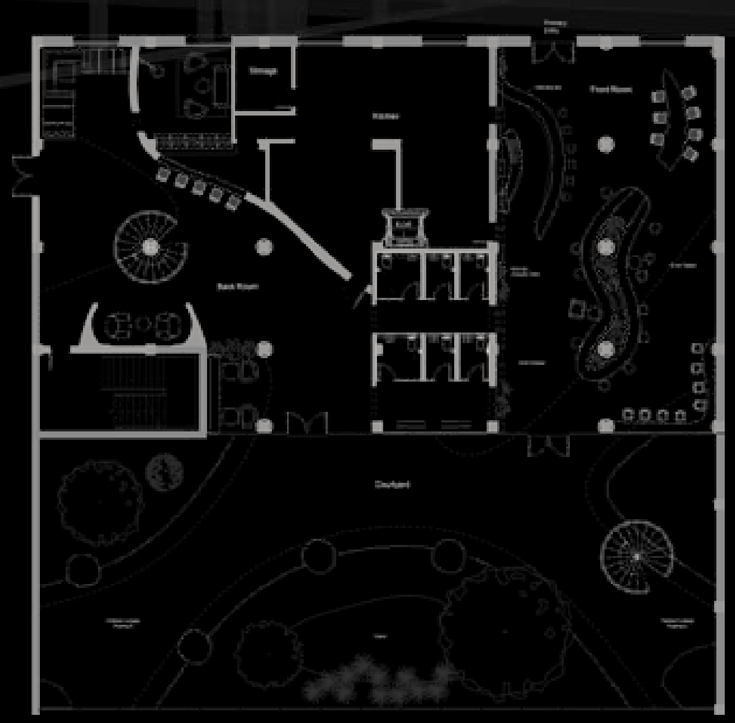
THE ENTHUSIASTIC SOCIALIZER
Actively seeks after-work events
Thrives in spontaneous, relaxed settings
Enjoys low-pressure environments that allow genuine connections



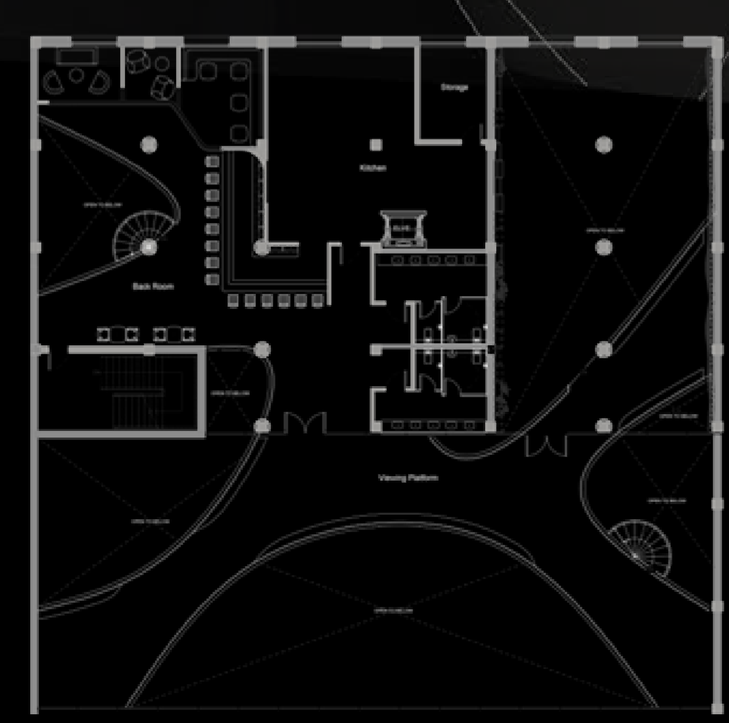
THE SELECTIVE PARTICIPANT
Selective about events, attends based on comfort
Prefers smaller groups and familiar environments
Values depth in conversation over frequency



THE HESITANT JOINER
Often avoids events, but feels uplifted when they attend
Prefers predictability and calm
Avoids overstimulating, unstructured spaces



GROUND FLOOR SCALE: 1/16″=1′-0″



BRIDGE LEVEL SCALE: 1/16″=1′-0″

"It bridges the vibe. Setting things up before conversations start to matter"





"It's where I decide if I want to lean in or step back."



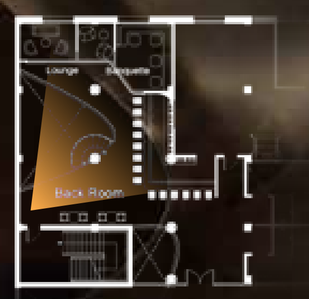
"It's where I can pause, observe, and ease in at my own pace."



COURTYARD

Acoustical Privacy ●●●●○
Visual Privacy ●●○○○
Perceived Spaciousness ●●●●●
Time Flexibility ●●●●●

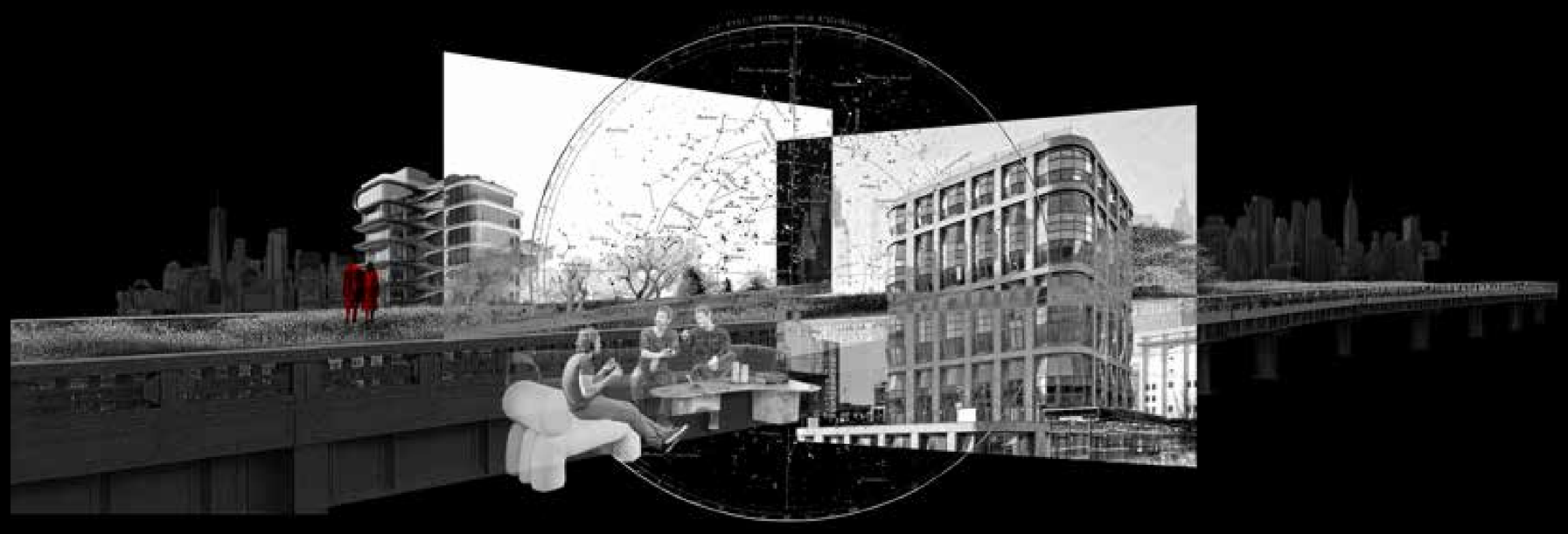
A transitional zone offering sensory relief and visual openness;
it gently shifts the energy from public to personal, inviting reflection.



BACK ROOM Bridge Level

Acoustical Privacy	●●●●●
Visual Privacy	●●●●●
Perceived Spaciousness	●●●●●
Time Flexibility	●●●●○

The most intimate zone of the prototype—elevated, dimly lit, and acoustically cocooned.
Designed for moments of vulnerability, trust, and deep one-on-one conversation.



"This is where the real conversations happen.
Less noise, more meaning."

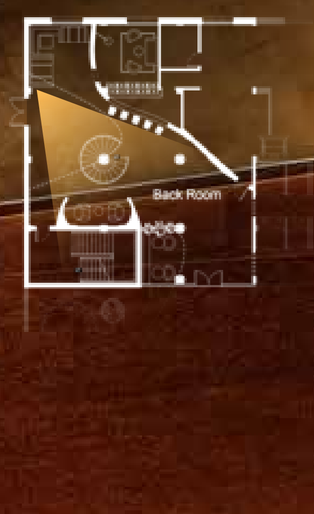


"Comfortable enough to open up and actually connect."



"It feels safe here. quiet enough to just sit and listen,
until I'm ready to share something real."





BACK ROOM Ground Level

Acoustical Privacy	●●●●○
Visual Privacy	●●●●○
Perceived Spaciousness	●●●●●
Time Flexibility	●●●●○

A semi-enclosed, organic space that supports slow social rhythms and small group gatherings.
Quietly immersive and softly connected to its surroundings.