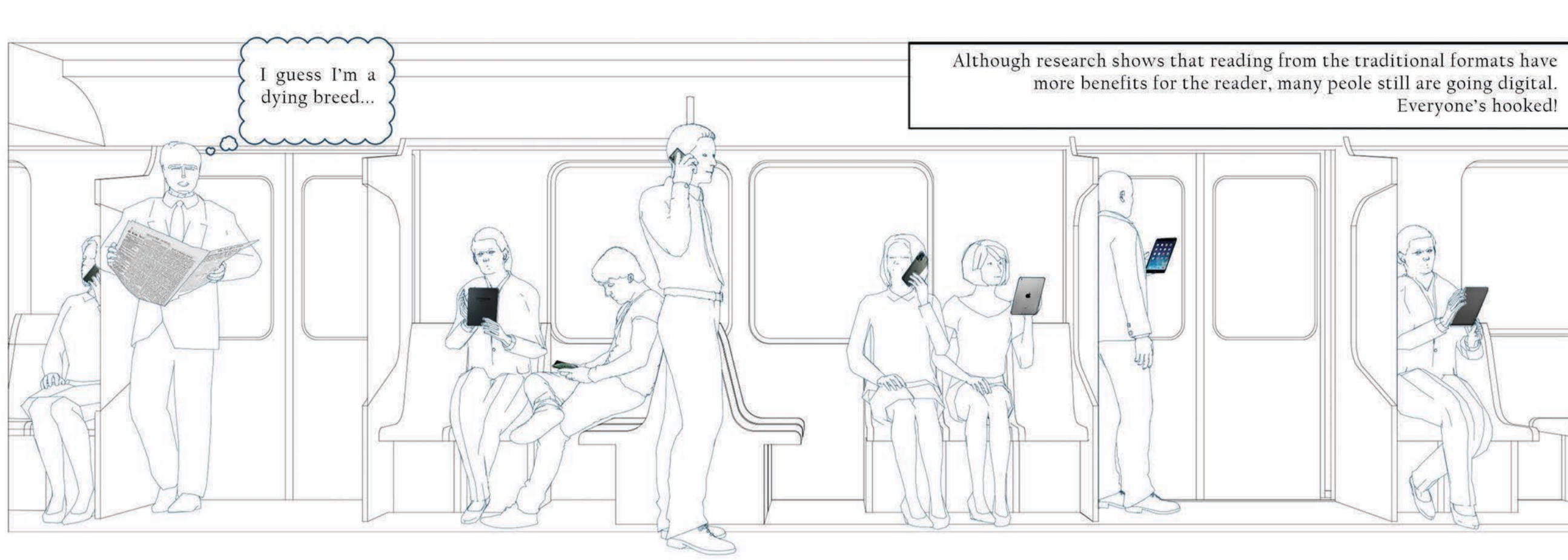


It appears that technology has taken over our lives!

Libraries used to be valuable resources with free books and information for all. But today, everyone has information at their fingertips!

With the advances in technology, libraries and books have come under threat. This begs the question - do we need physical books and libraries?



Although research shows that reading from the traditional formats have more benefits for the reader, many people still are going digital. Everyone's hooked!



Libraries used to be reader centered spaces...

Many libraries today have been transformed into tech-hubs

How do we create more reading spaces?

Tsundoku
積ん読
The Japanese word tsundoku (積ん読) - The word 'doku' can be used as a verb to mean 'reading', while 'tsun' originates in 'tsumu' - a word meaning 'to pile up'. This name was chosen for the project as it encompasses the basis of how the program would work. In the spirit of 'one man's trash is another man's treasure', the project aims to provide a framework for book sharing within a community.

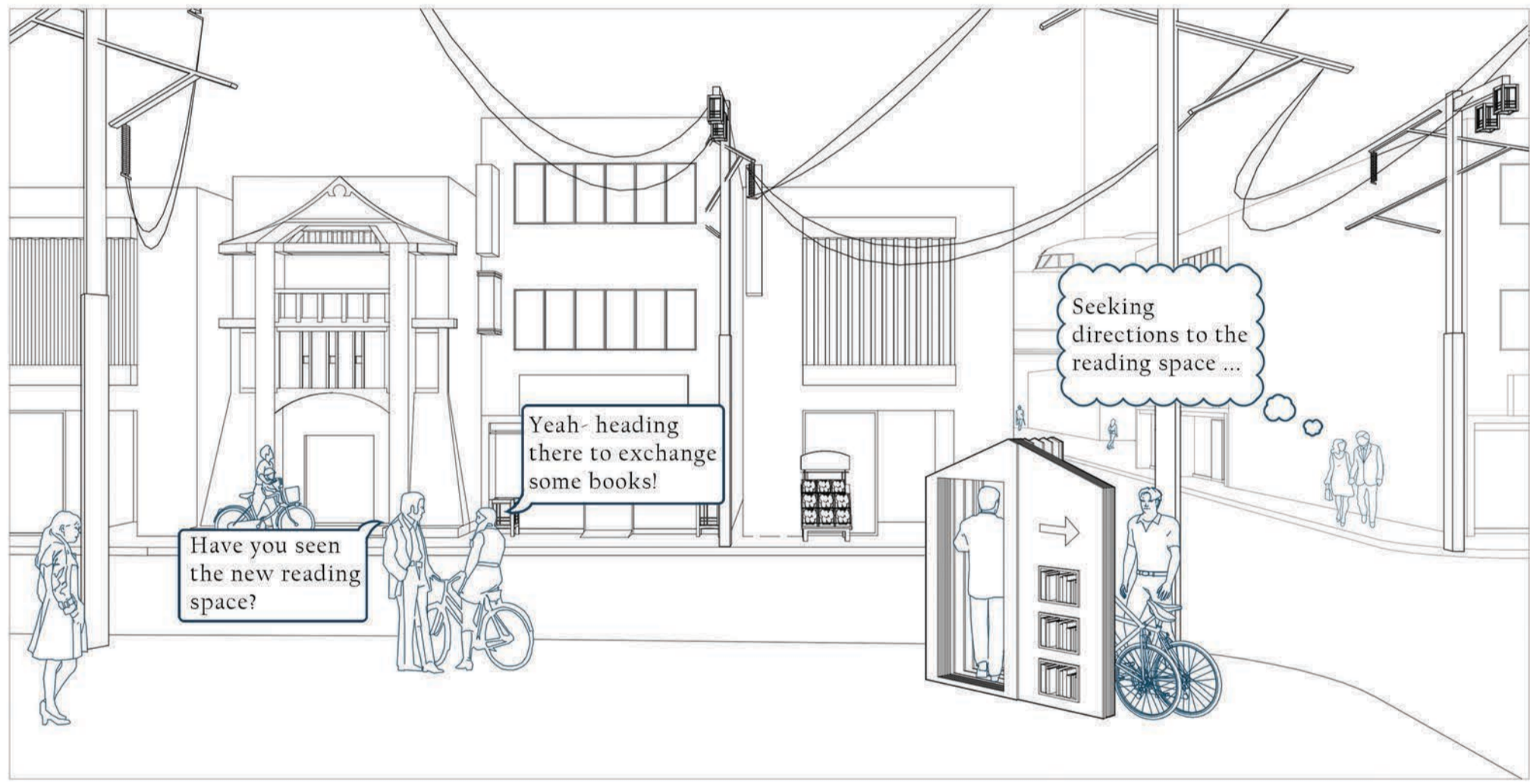
In addition, many people lead an increasingly 'urban nomadic' lifestyle today. With the mobility of electronic devices and the easy access to the internet, the phenomenon of urban nomads has arisen whereby most people don't have to be in a specific place (like libraries) to access information or in offices to work. It is uncommon to have meetings and work from spaces other than their offices. This has placed emphasis on the idea of mobility in the lives of many today.

In the process of designing a space, it is common to focus on the functions of the space and in providing facilities and amenities for the intended activity. However, beyond catering to the project brief, the success of the space is determined by the user and their experience. This is a result of the stimuli or lack of stimuli that the five senses receive. In the article titled 'The Art and Science of Our Senses', it is explained that "through taste, touch, smell, sight and sound our five senses are a direct line into how we make sense of the world and ourselves" (The Atlantic, n.d.)

With the widespread availability and easy accessibility of e-books and audiobooks today, many might turn to acquiring texts online rather than going to a book store or library to search for them. But even libraries have their limits. Today, many libraries are focusing on providing access to information and research, and technology to help bridge the information and technological divide. Some libraries have even opted to go bookless, reasoning that libraries are becoming "warehouses for books."

In line with this theme of mobility, the idea of a being 'location independent' is carried forward into the design and framework of this project. The sites chosen were to serve the purpose of demonstrating that the structures are modular and portable, and can be set up in various locations. This also provides the opportunity to repurpose previously under-used spaces while promoting the hobby of book reading.

In 'The Art and Science of Our Senses', they mention a TED Talk by Jinsop Lee he explains that the "most intense" and hence most memorable experiences, "tend to combine the five senses". For example, the article presents the motives behind the design of the Lincoln 2015 MKC vehicle and how the five senses are engaged in the design of the car.



Firstly, the sense of sight is engaged through the outward appearance of the car. The designer Dillon Blanski describes that "the exterior of the car has to be the first thing that draws a consumer into the experience".

The texture and smell of natural wood is hoped to provide comfort and warmth for the users, as well as giving them the illusion of being close to nature. This is also used to give users a reprieve from the bustle of the city around them.

As such, the outwards appearance and visual attractiveness is the first level of interaction with the user. This is achieved through the signposting placed around a town that directs users to the space and informs them of how Tsundoku works.

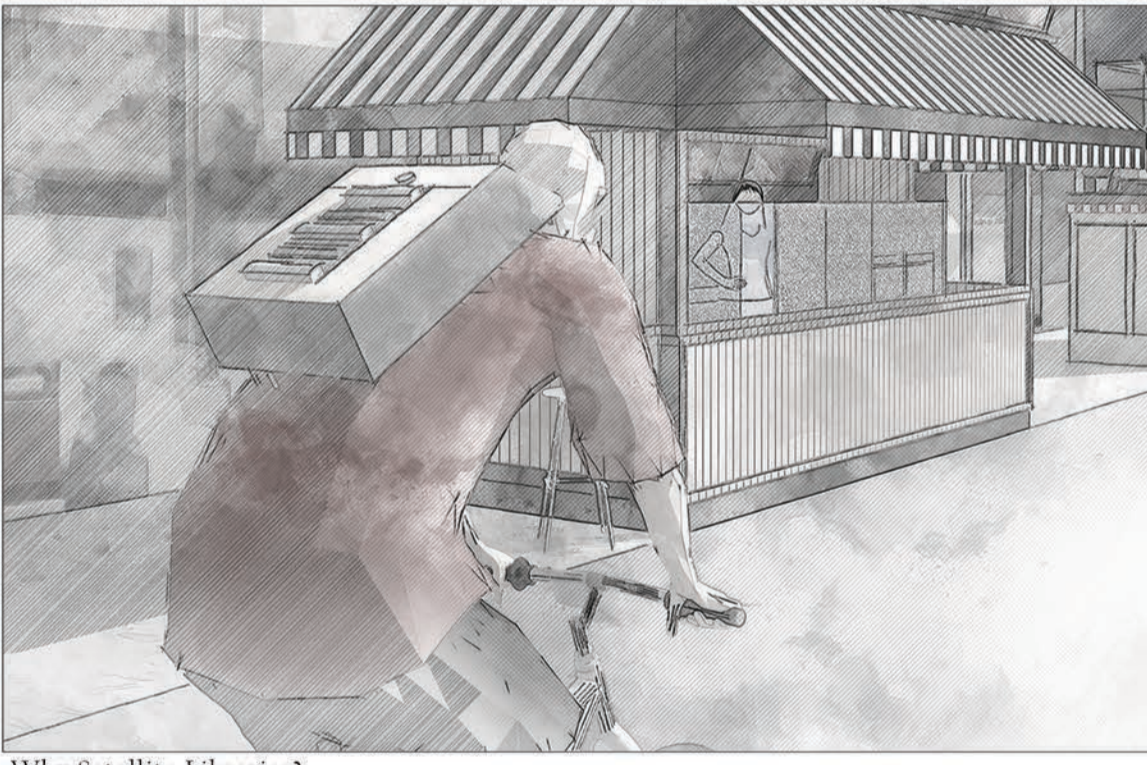
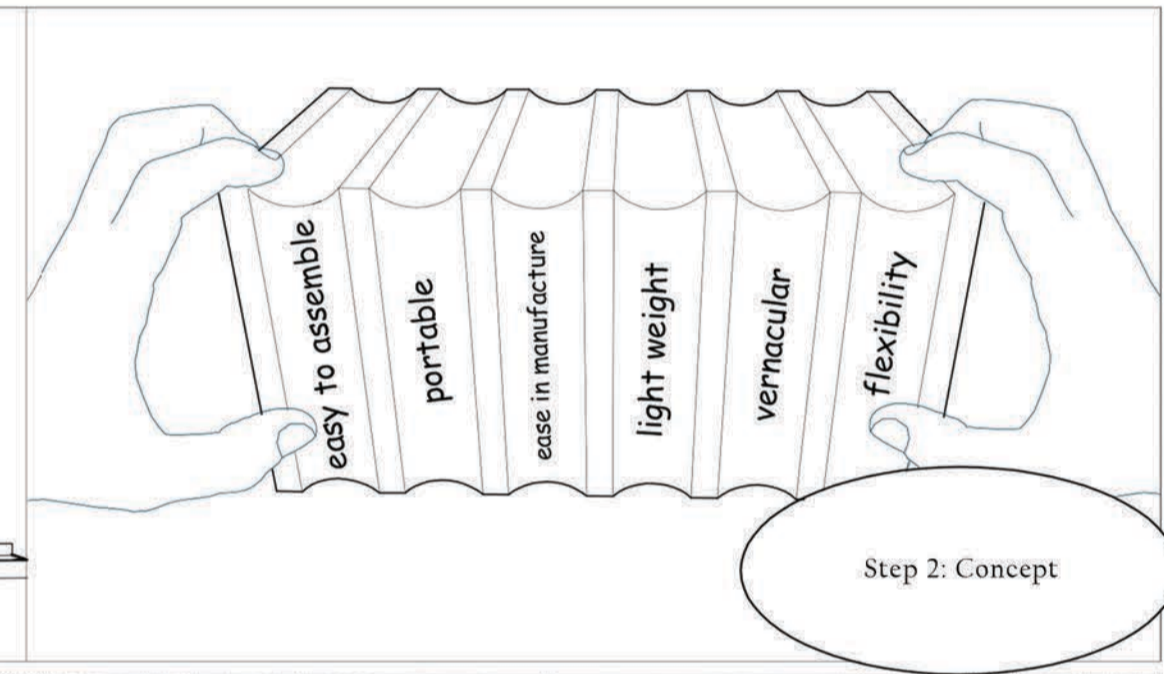
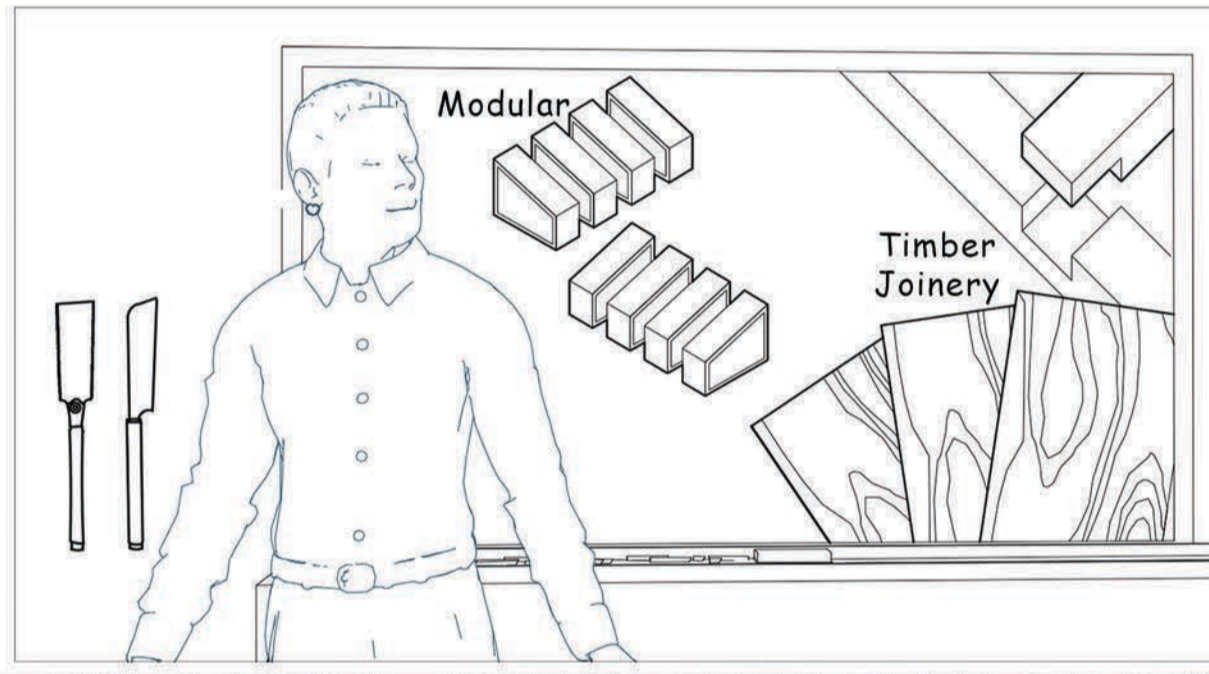
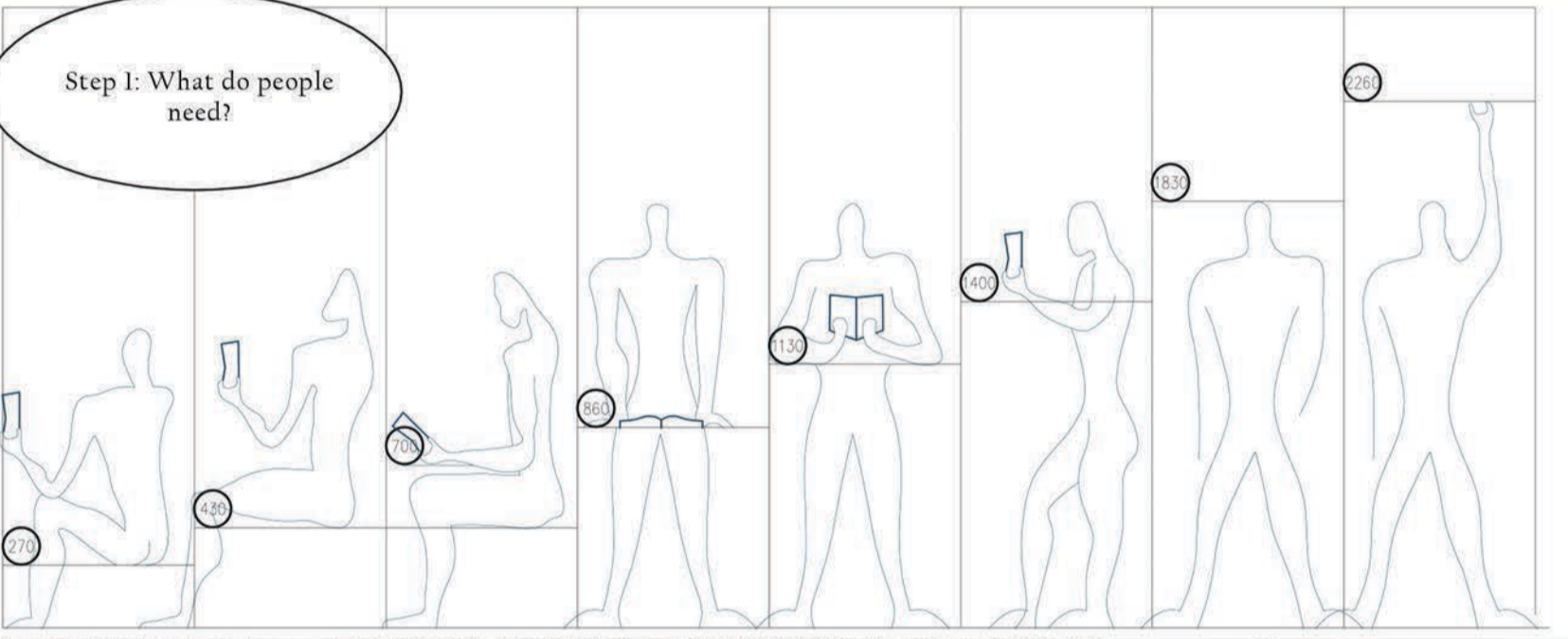
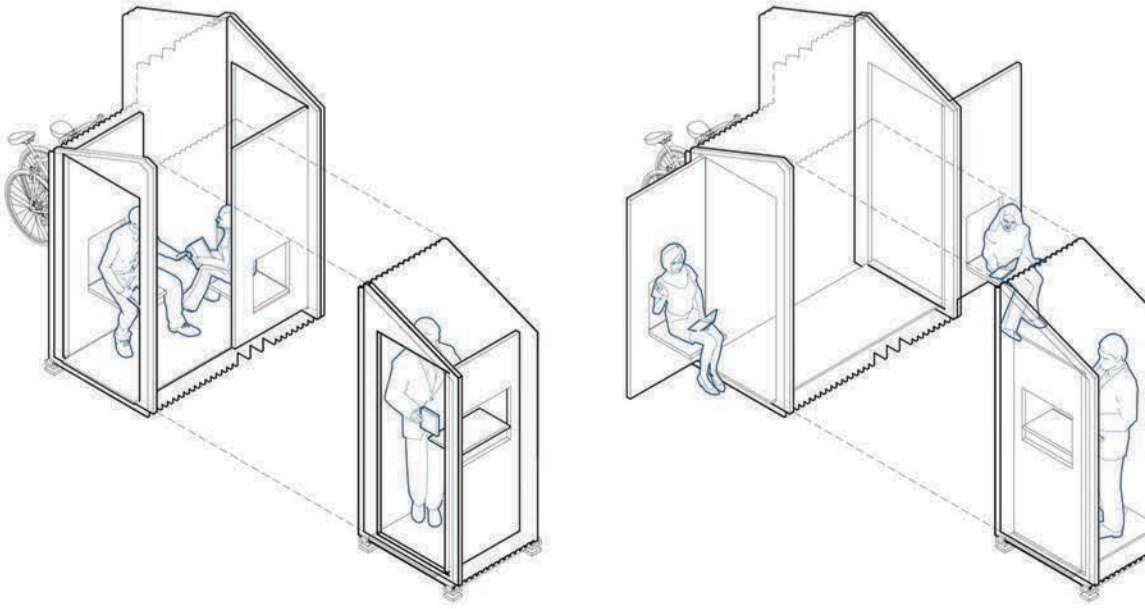
While the design of a car is unable to incorporate the sense of taste as it is an inanimate and inedible object, as in a library, the design of a functional vehicle is seen to elevate the user through design and material selection to create a better driving experience. Kusume (2015) also explains that designing a "multi-sensory brand experience" does not necessarily appeal to "all our senses at once".

While inside the space, the other senses come into play. Secondly, the car was fitted with a "Active Noise Control technology", reducing "unwanted sounds" while creating a "soothing ambience" that appeals to the sense of hearing. In the Tsundoku, the level of enclosure and exposure can be varied depending on the user's preference. With the rotation of the seating and standing panels to be within the structure or outside the structure, noise can be screened out as desired.

As displayed, there are many permutations that can be created of the structure to suit the needs of different users. It is hoped that this flexibility is able to provide users with a sense experience conducive to their reading needs.

Although the structures are not entirely enclosed and will not provide complete noise cancellation, it is hoped that the sense of hearing, combined with sight (of being within the space) would provide the effect of reducing "unwanted sounds".

Thirdly, the selection of the interior materials of the car engage the sense of touch and smell and were chosen to provide comfort as well as give the users a sense of luxury as "the smell of leather alone makes the driver feel like he or she is surrounded by luxury". The material selection for the Tsundoku is timber.



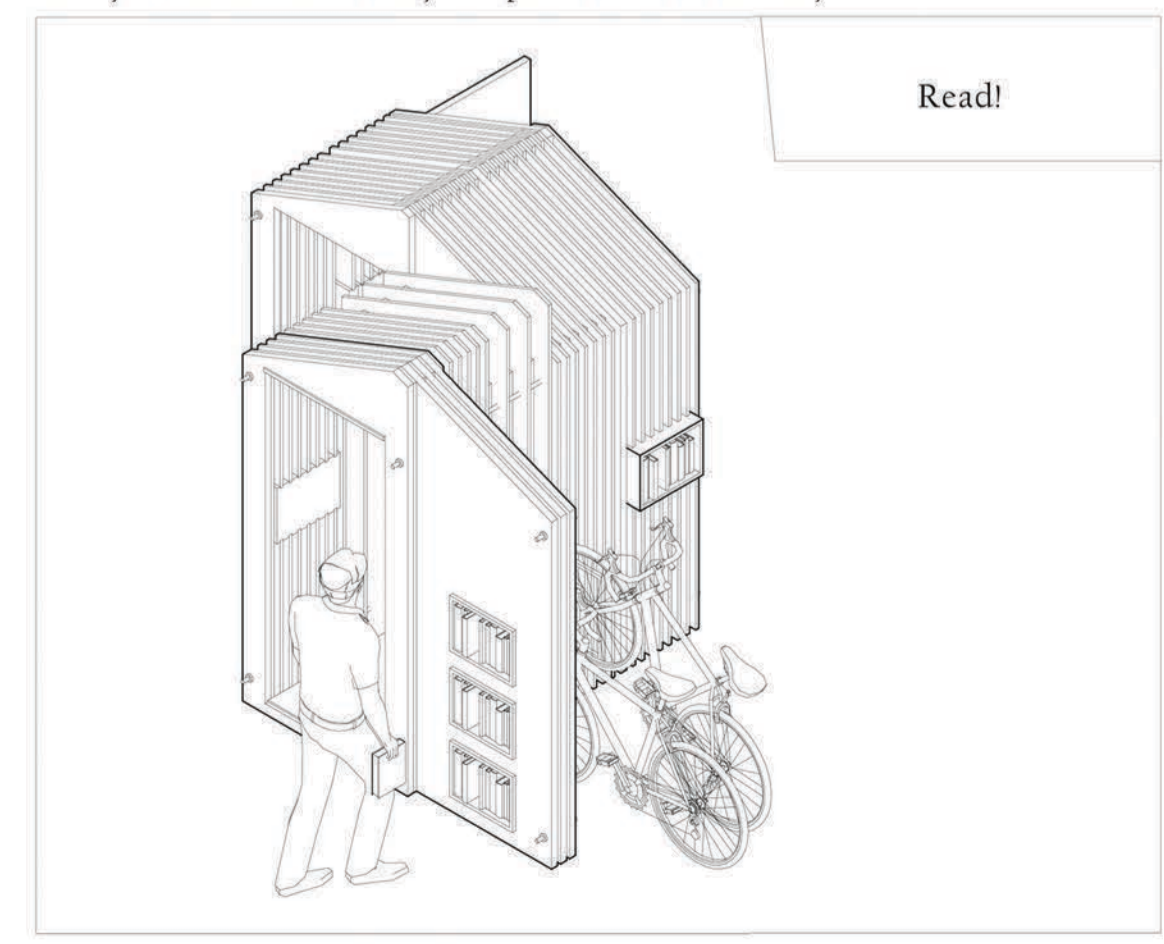
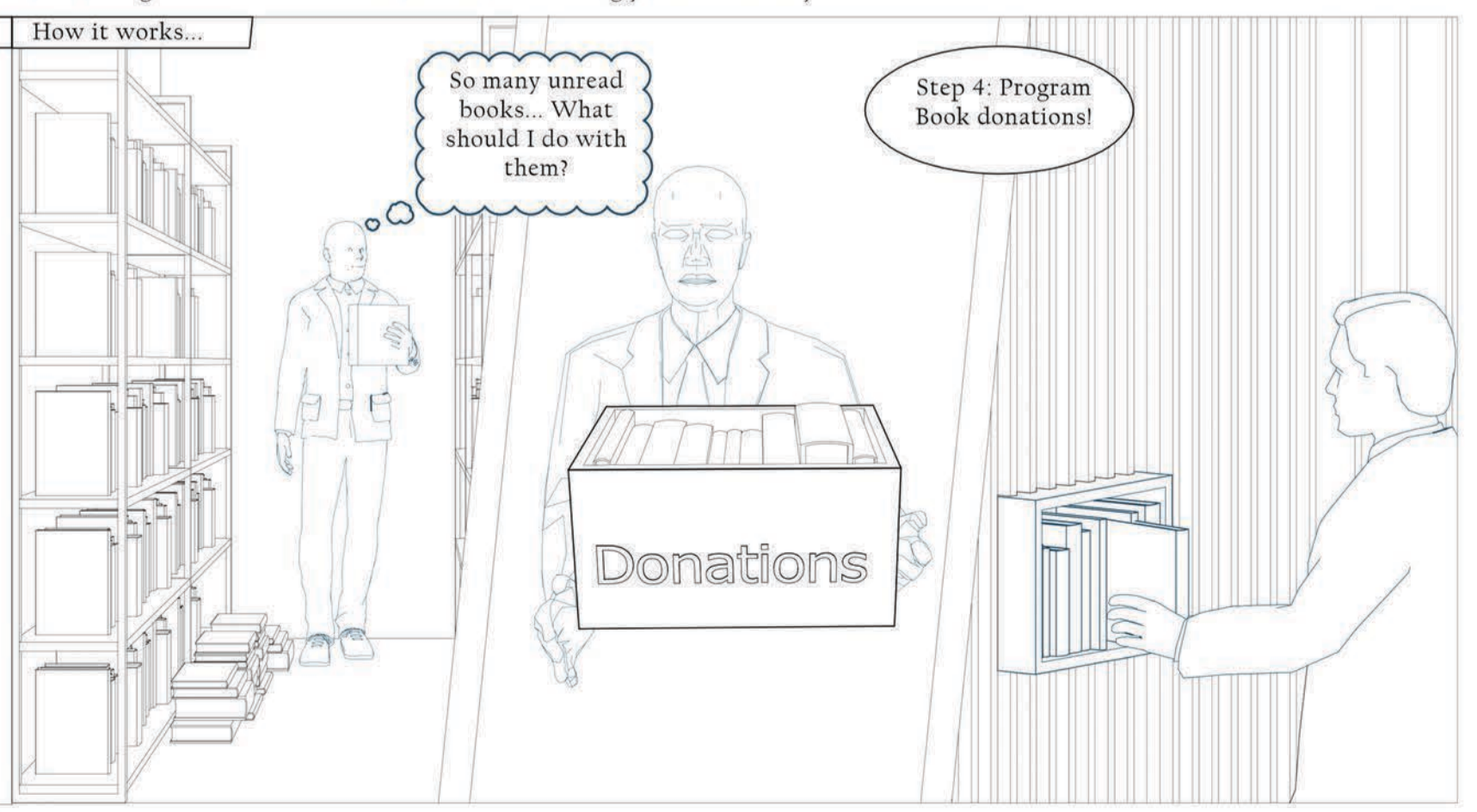
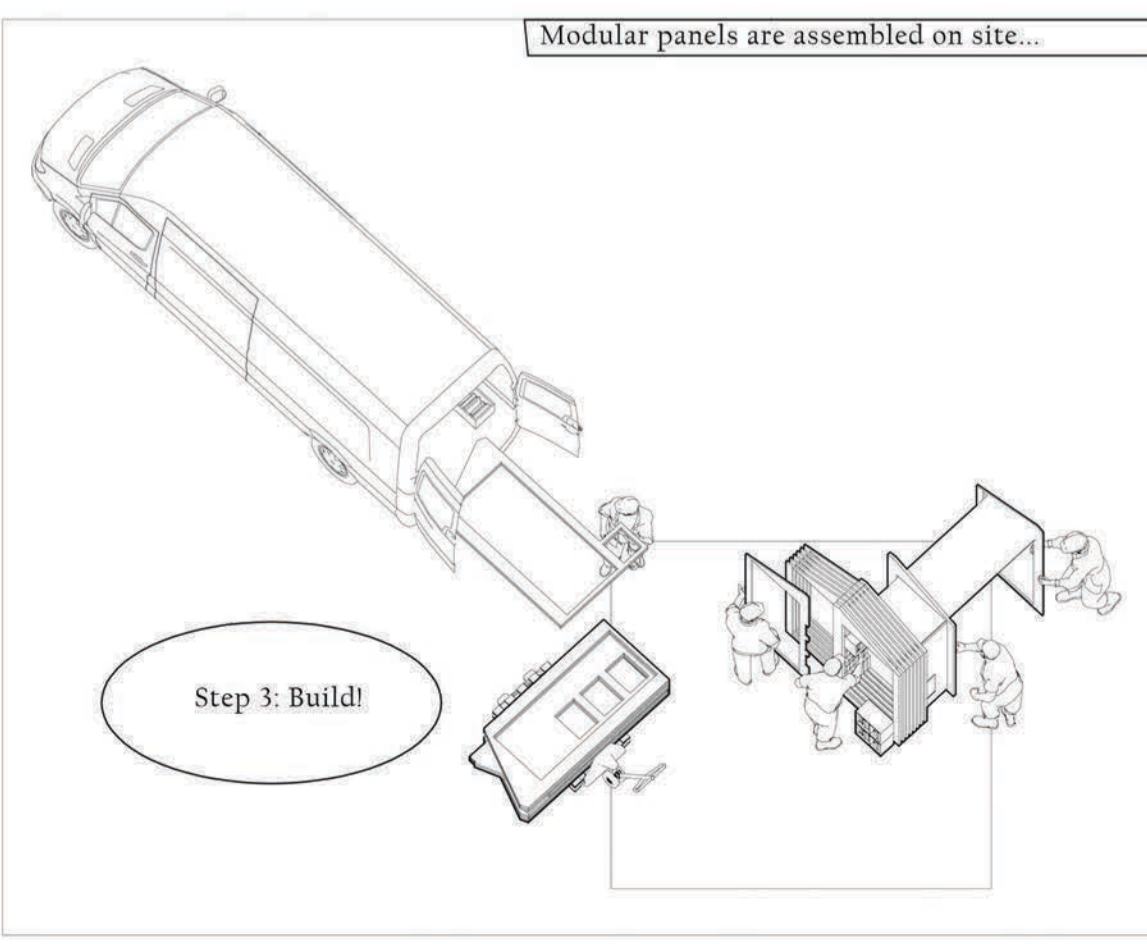
While libraries have evolved in functions, they now play an important role in bridging the technological divide. As such, this project proposes the provision of satellite libraries that are separate from central libraries and focus on reading books.

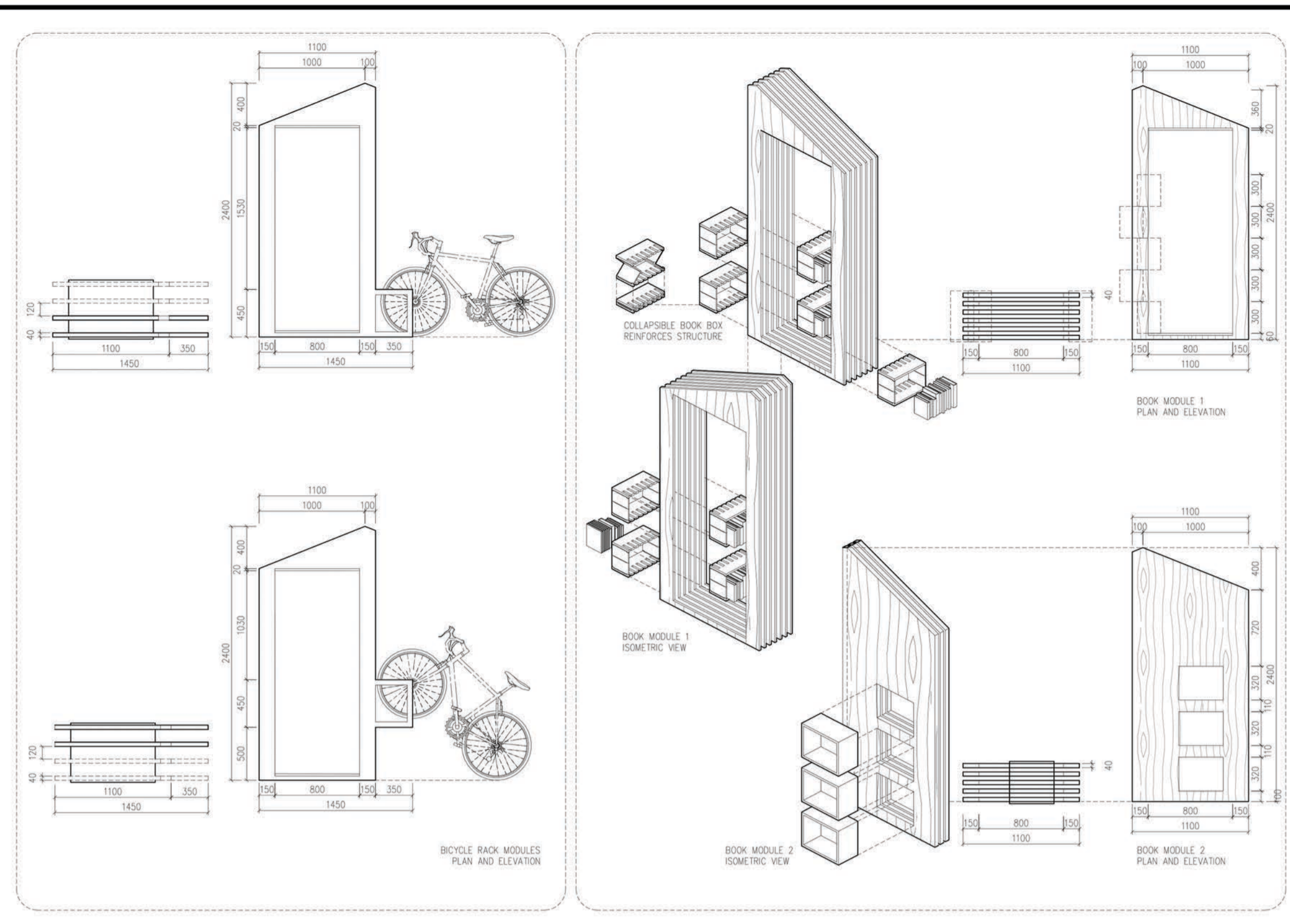
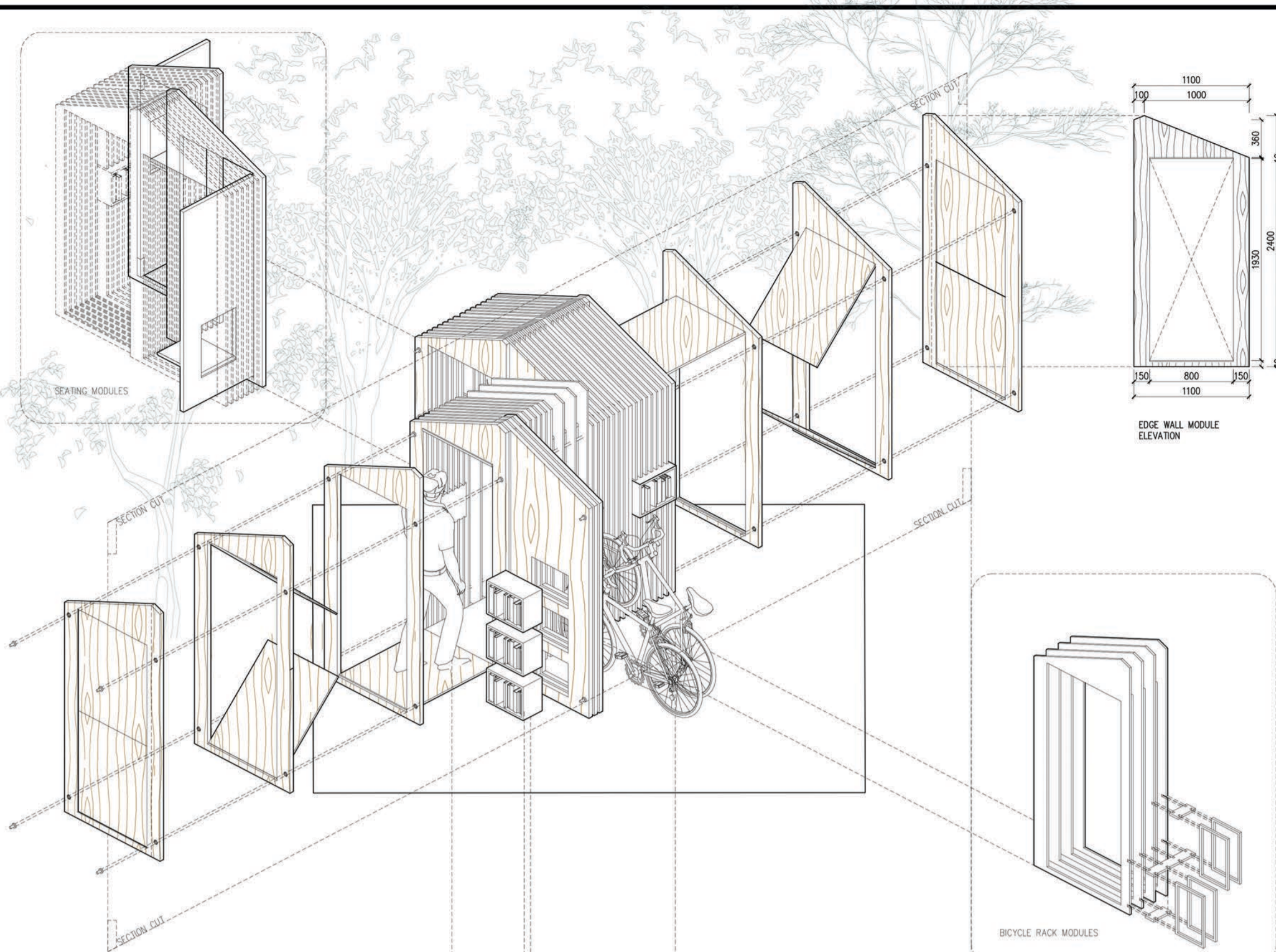


With the mobility of electronic devices, the easy access to the internet and the phenomenon of urban nomads, emphasis has been placed on the mobility and efficiency in people's lives. In line with this theme, the idea of a being 'location independent' was carried forward into the design and framework of this project. This was done to amalgamate the idea of providing a reading space and free books to read, while taking into consideration the needs of an increasingly nomadic society.



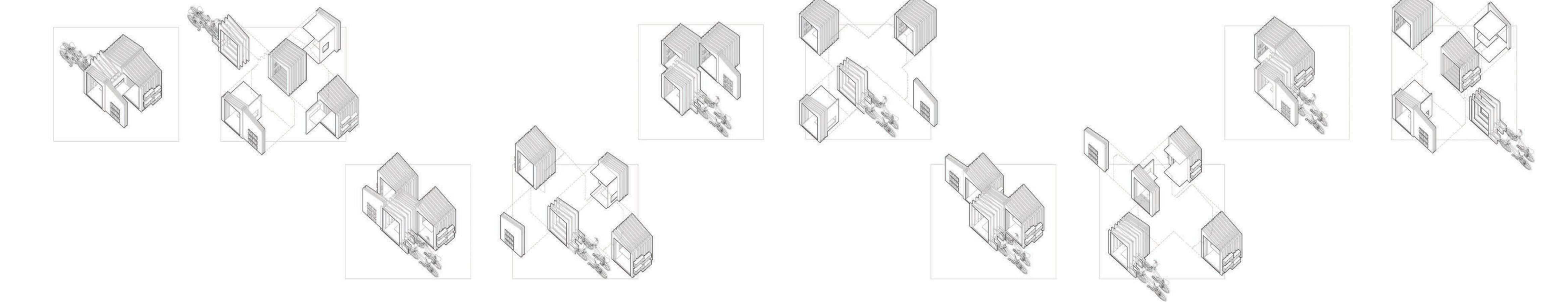
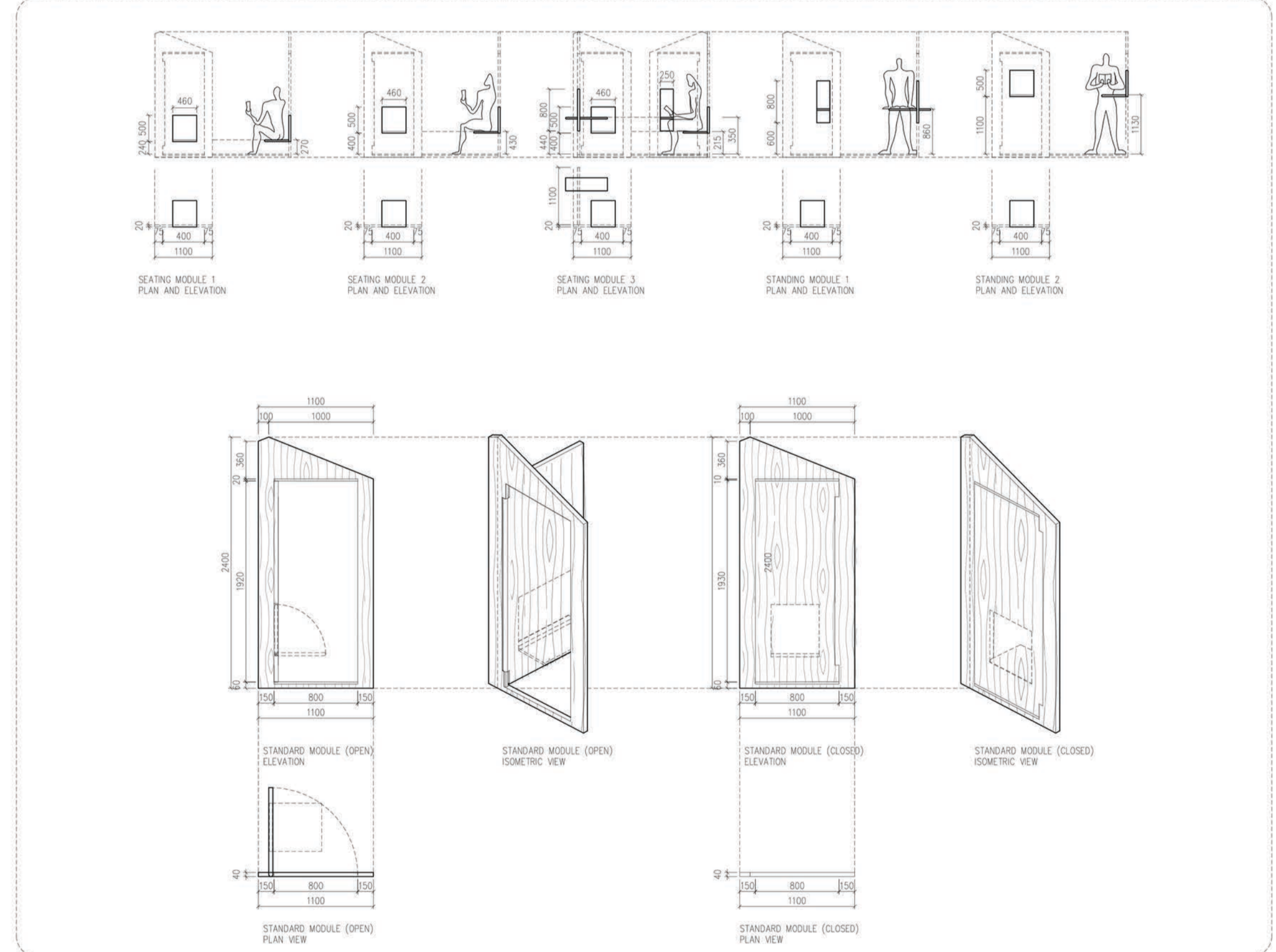
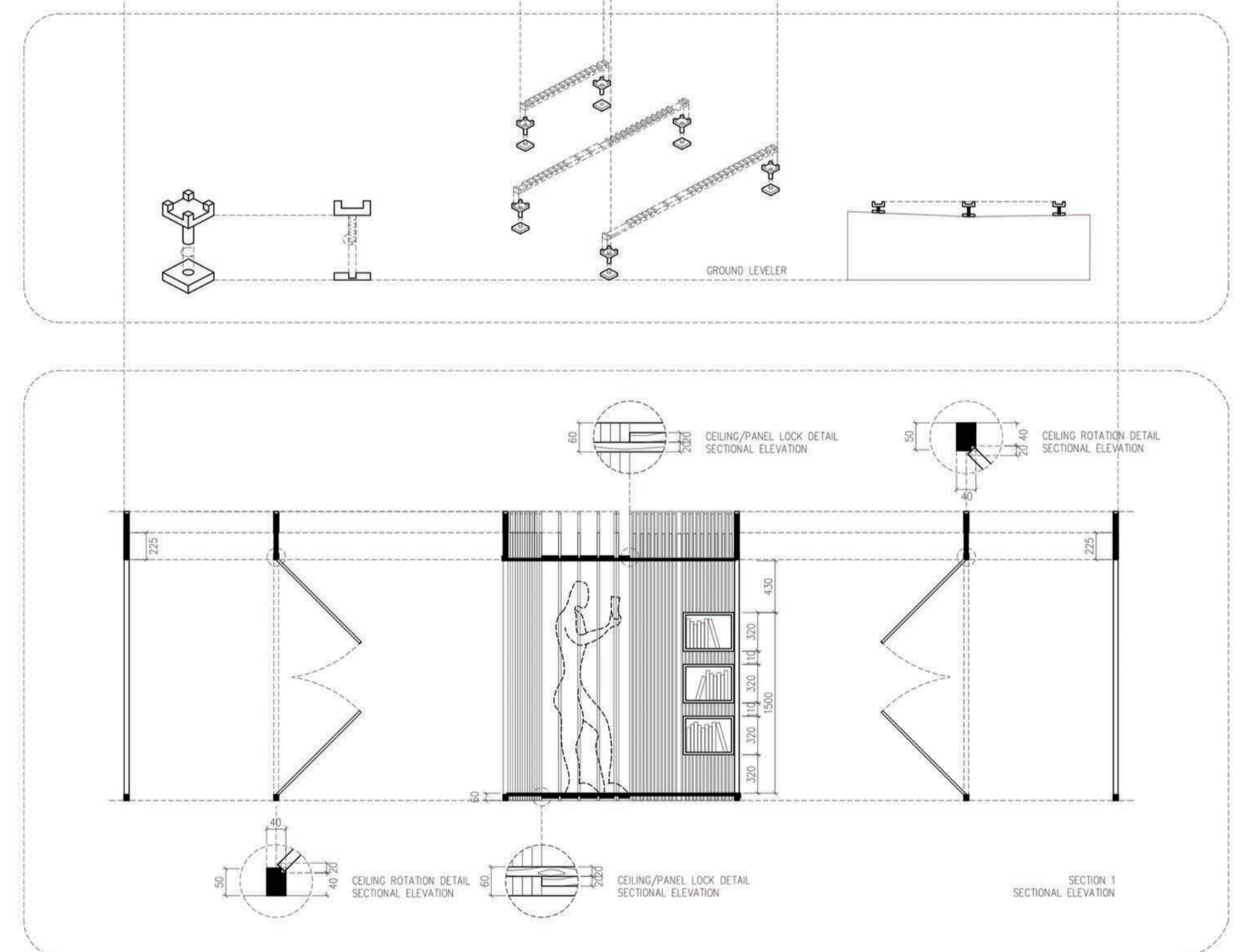
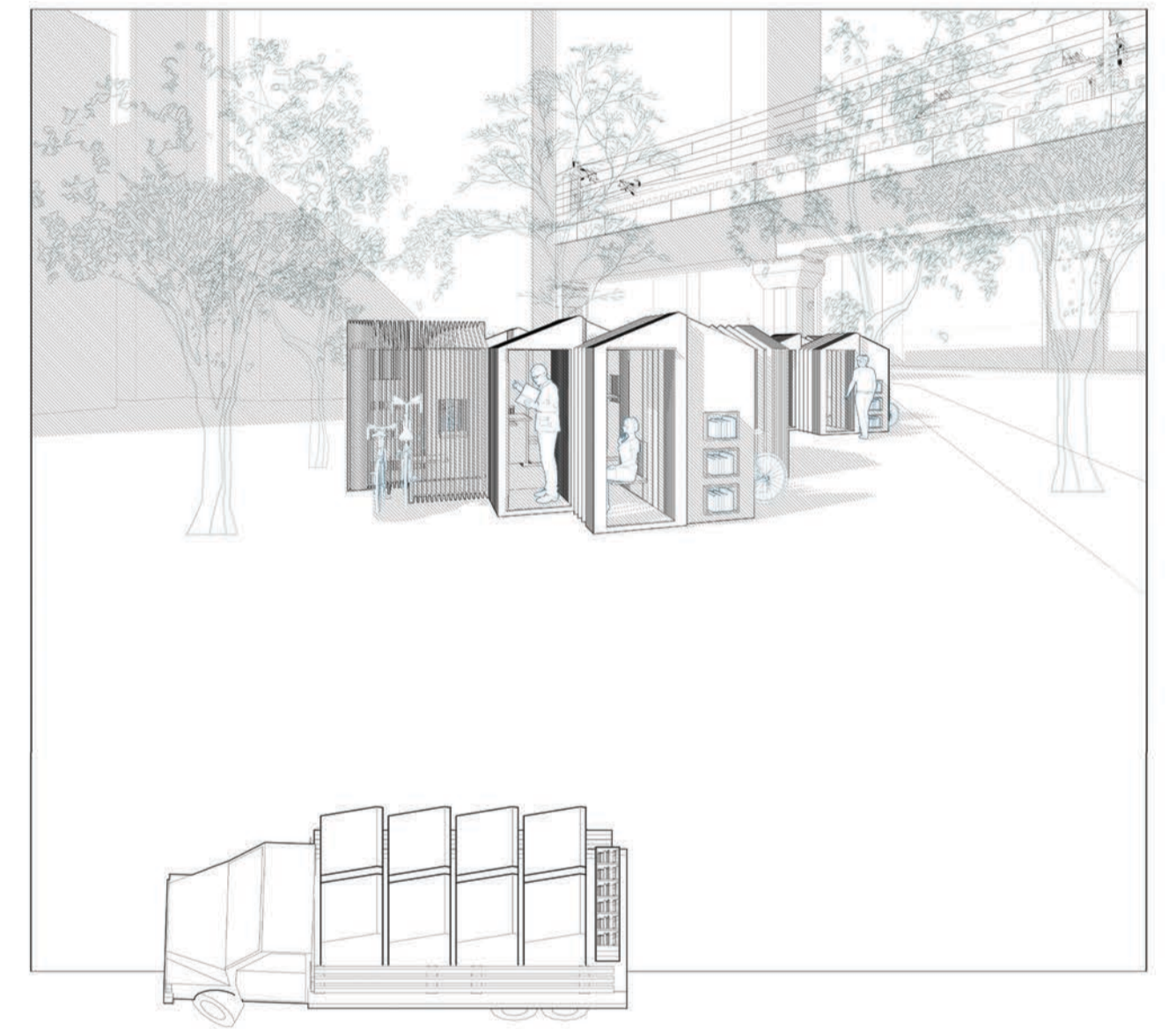
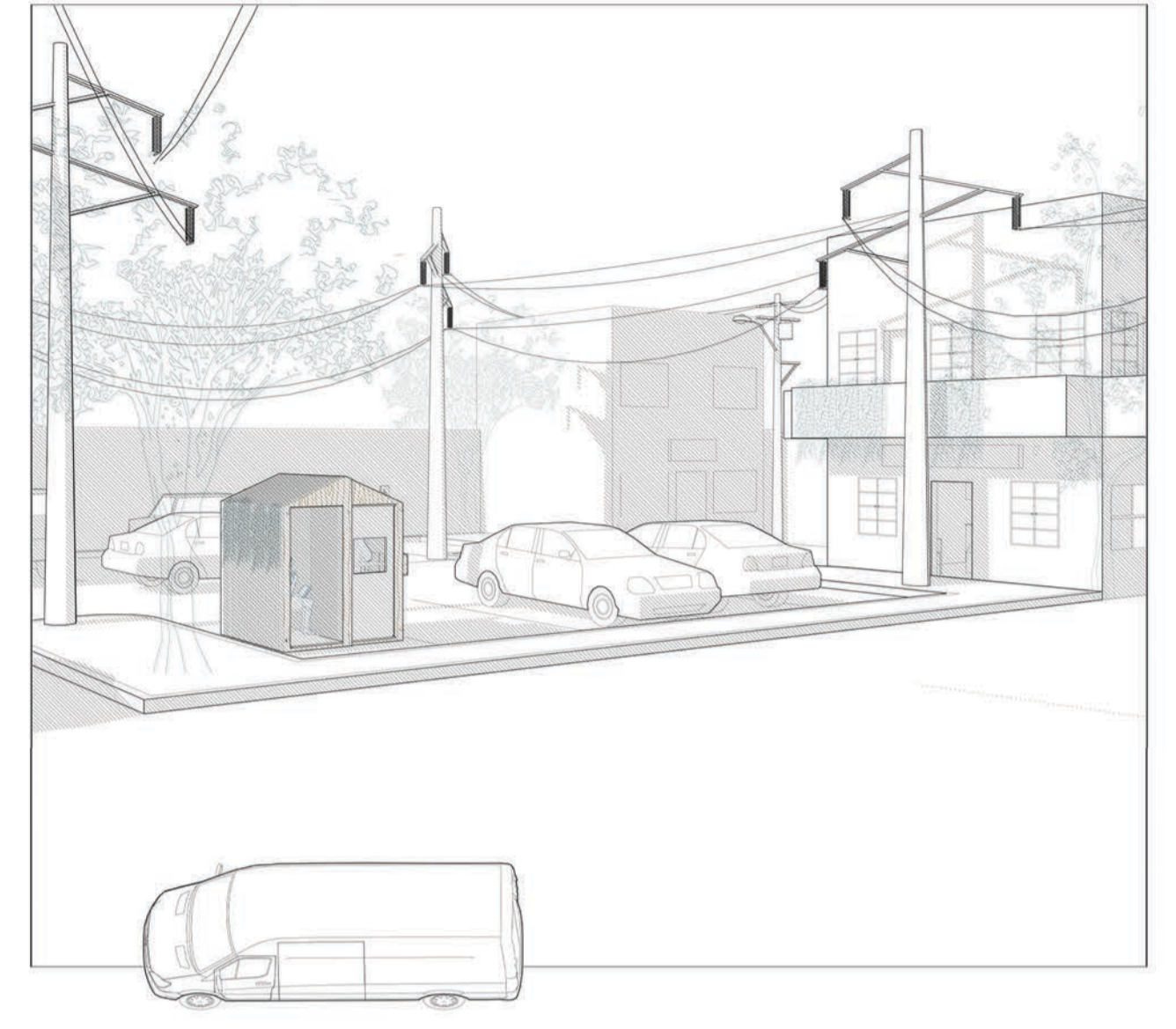
The structure is therefore modular and composed of repeated elements that support the function of the space. Keeping in mind the main functions of the space, the main elements like seating for the users and book stacks are incorporated as part of the structure and support so they have a dual functionality. These modules are easily transported to site for assembly.

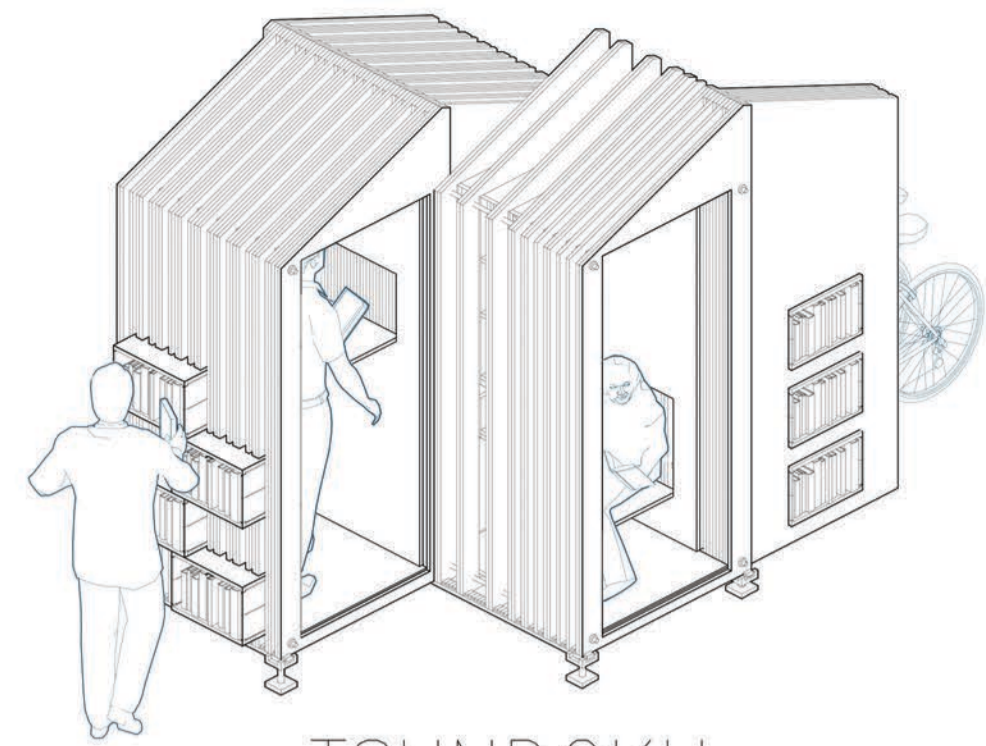




By attuning the program function to be easily accessible for users, the structures should be mobile and easily adaptable to suit various locations. They are portable, easily assembled or disassembled and modifiable to adapt to different spatial restrictions like the size of a site and its terrain.

These parts can be reconfigured into different arrangements depending on factors like space restraints. The only variable is the base plate that holds the structure - this would change depending on the configuration of the modules.

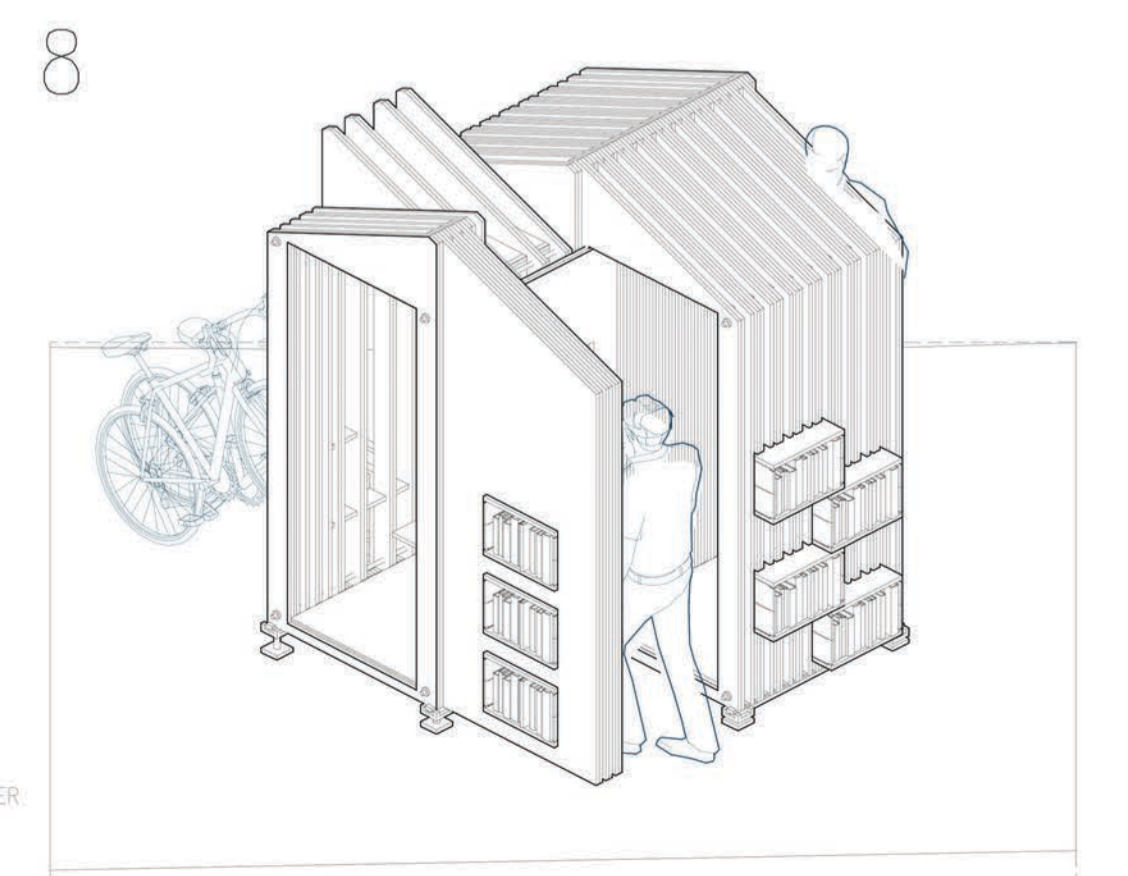
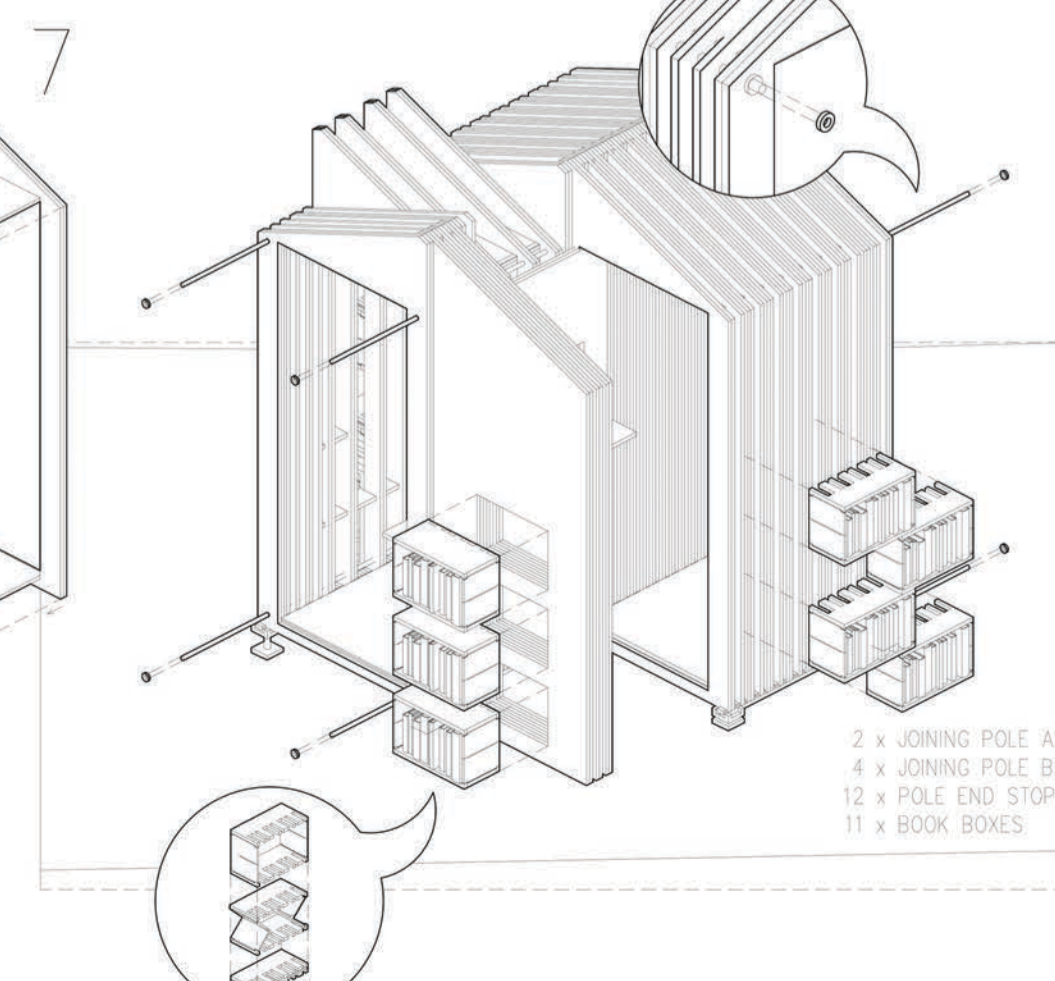
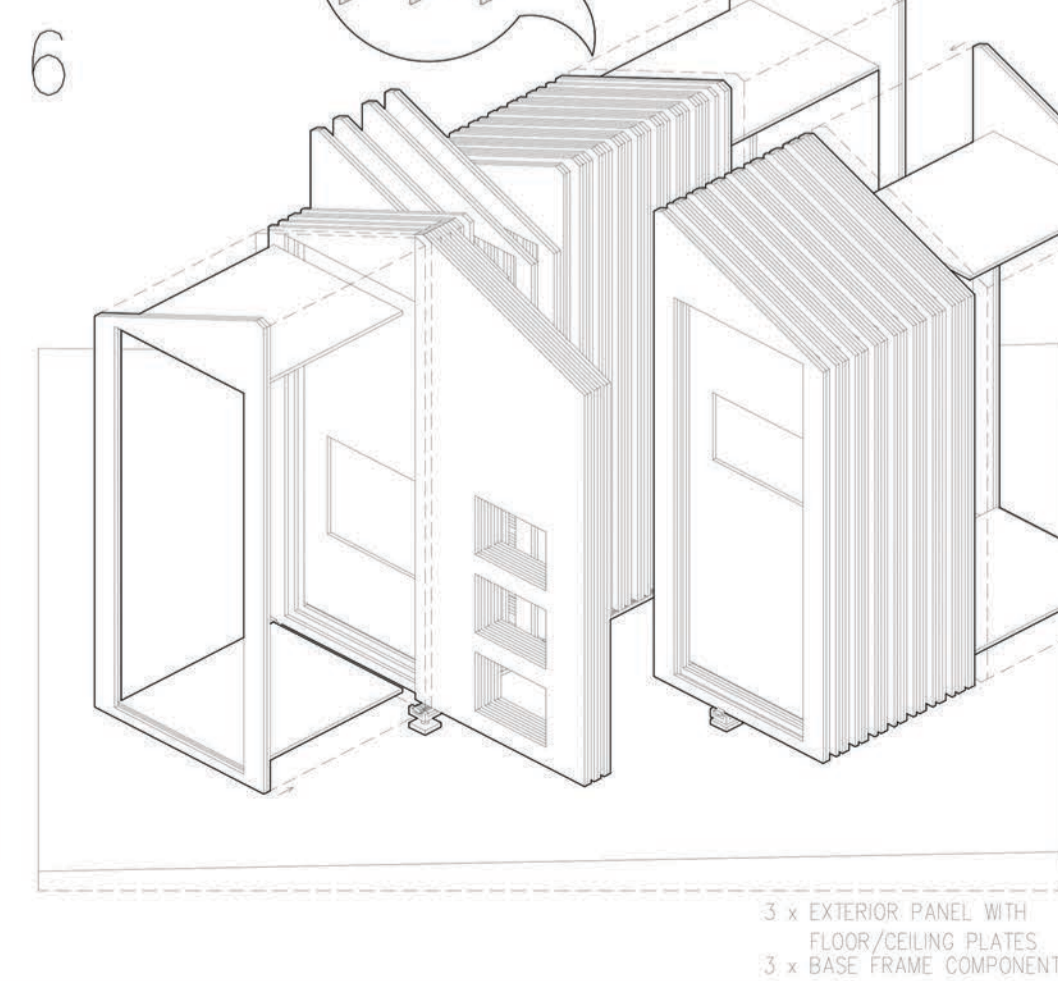
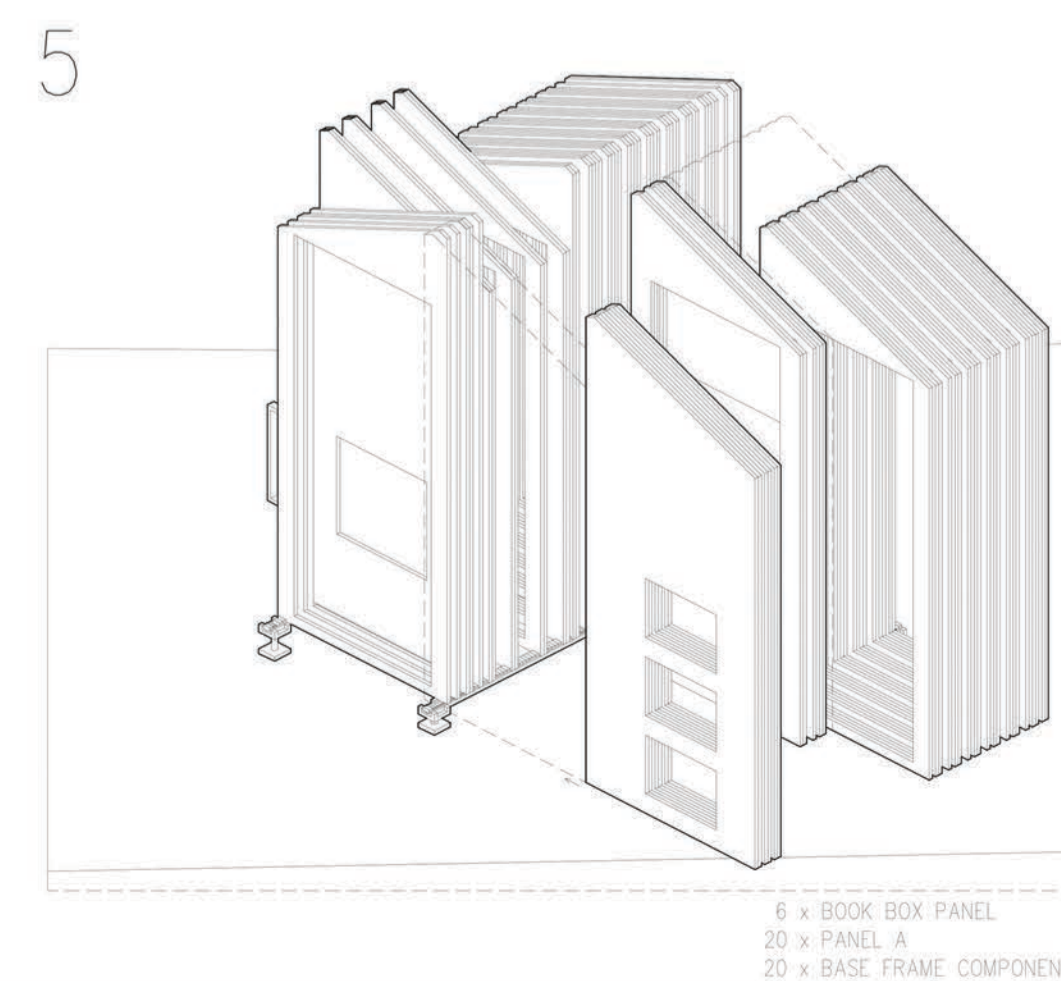
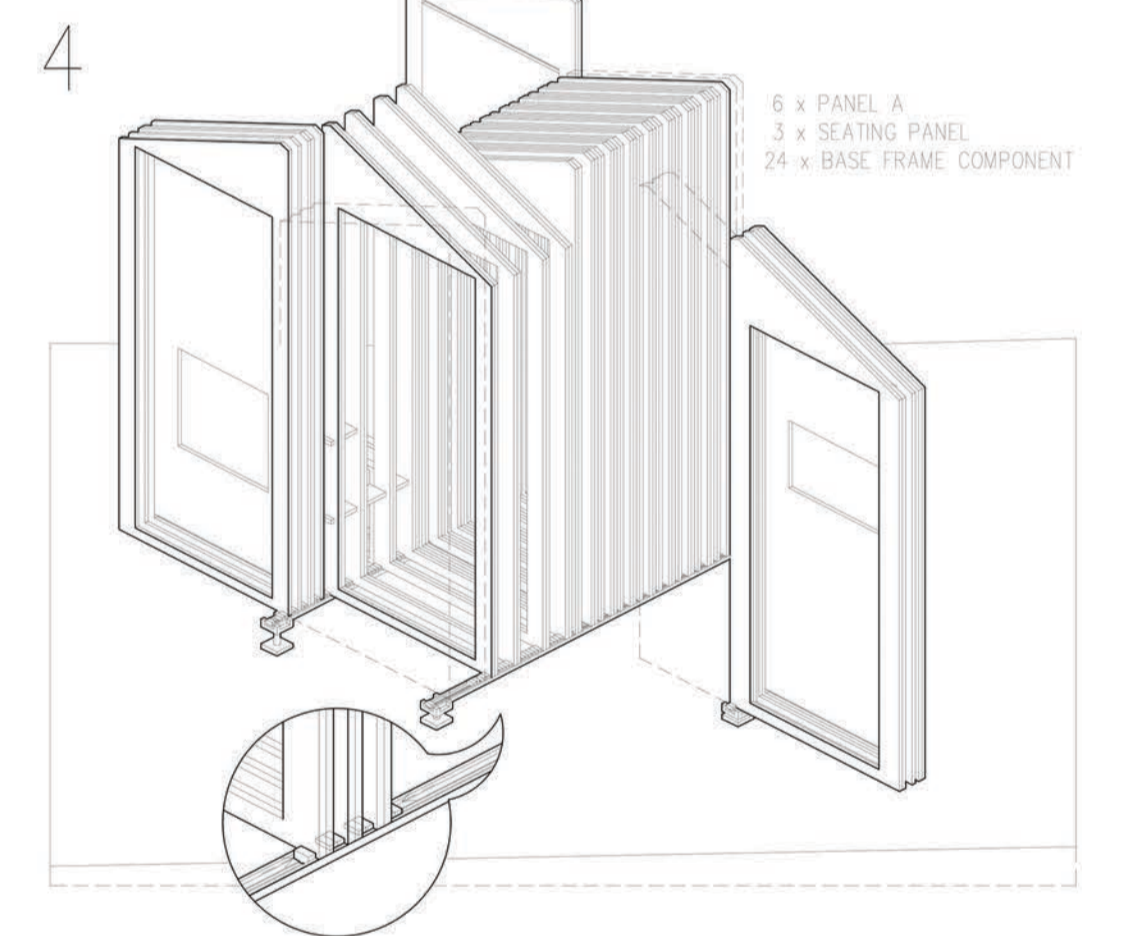
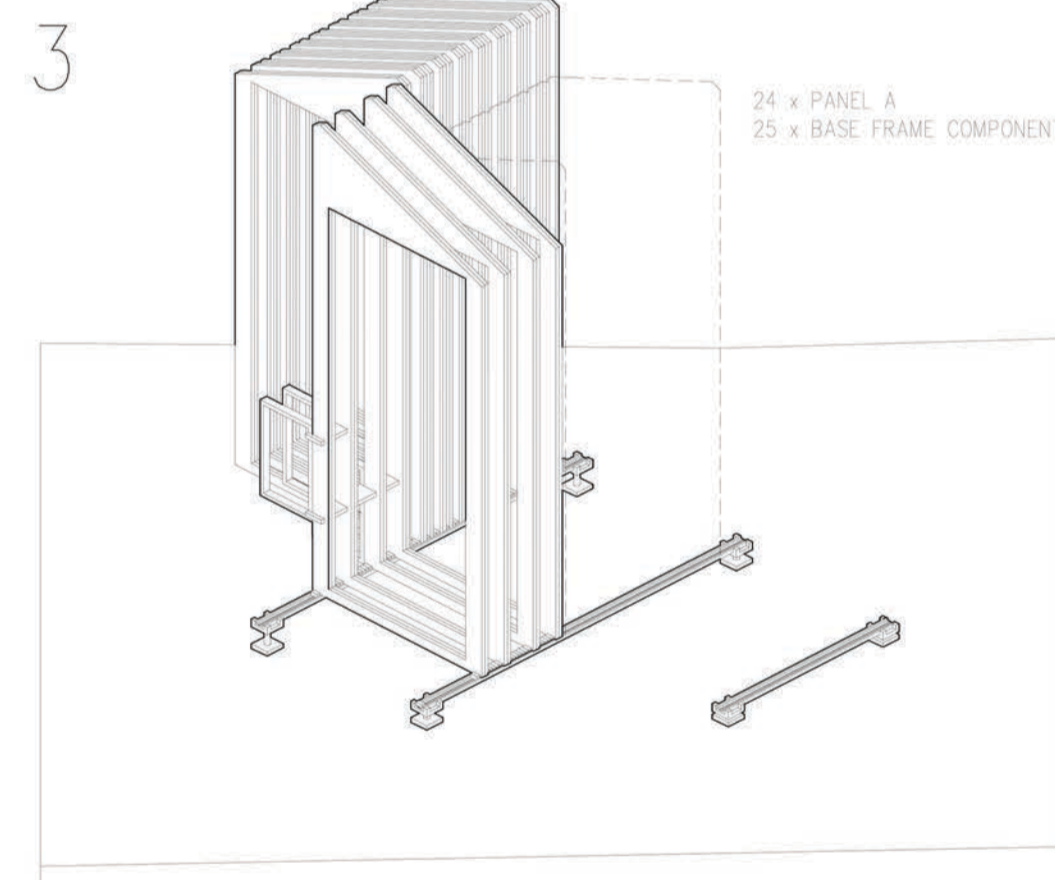
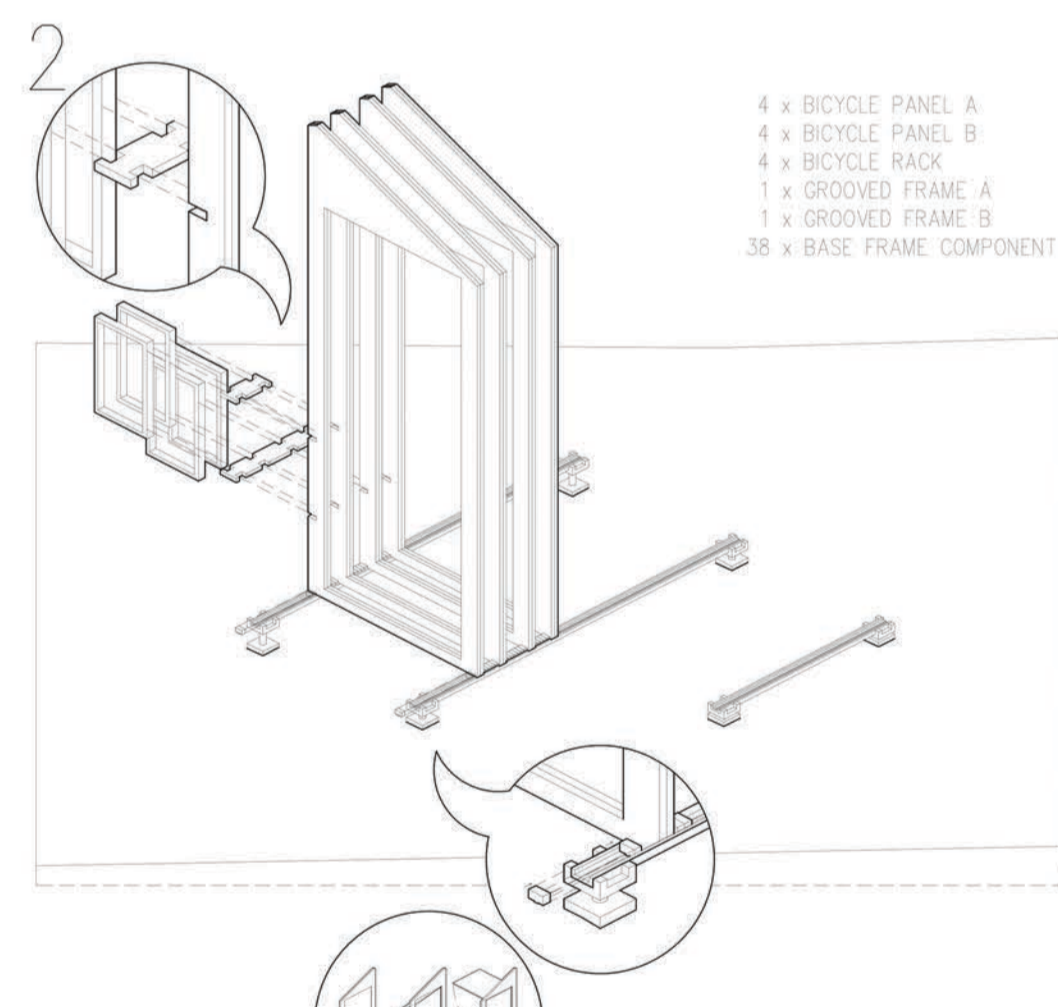
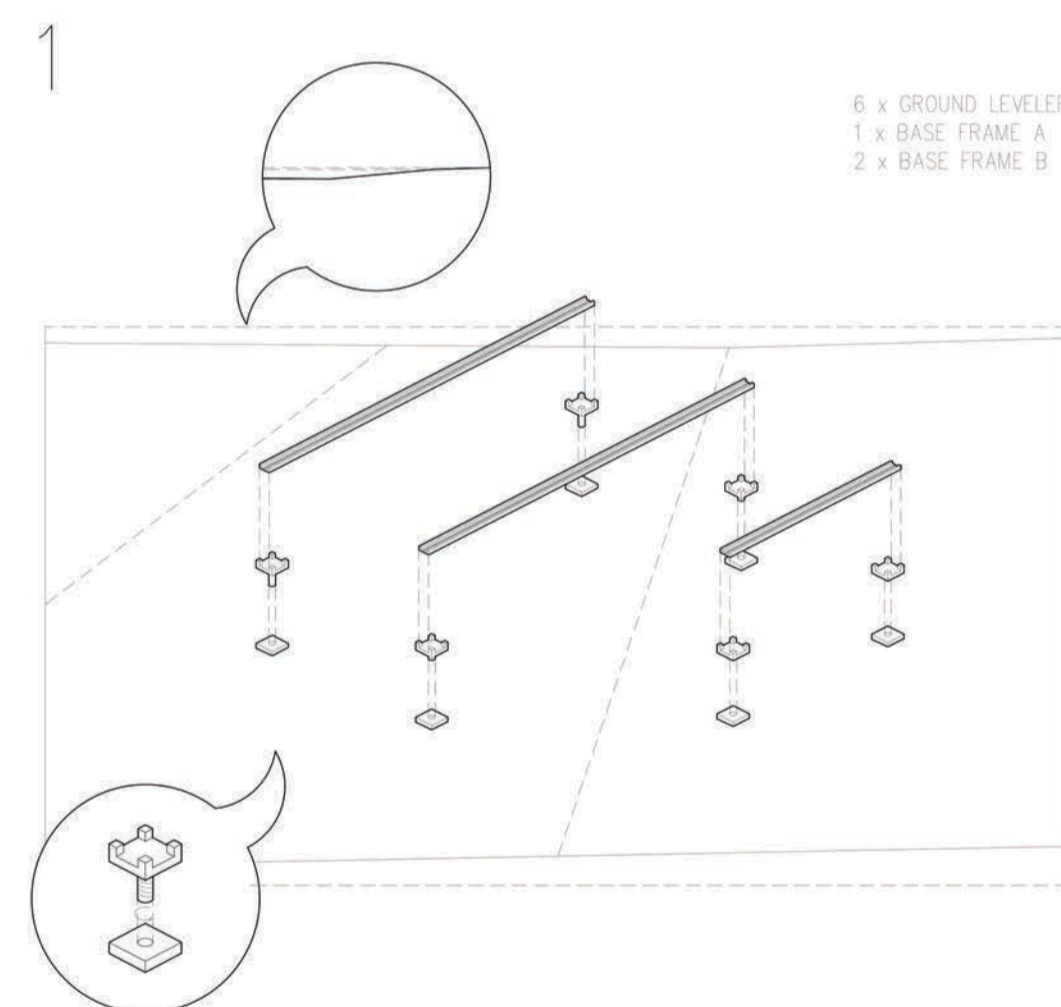
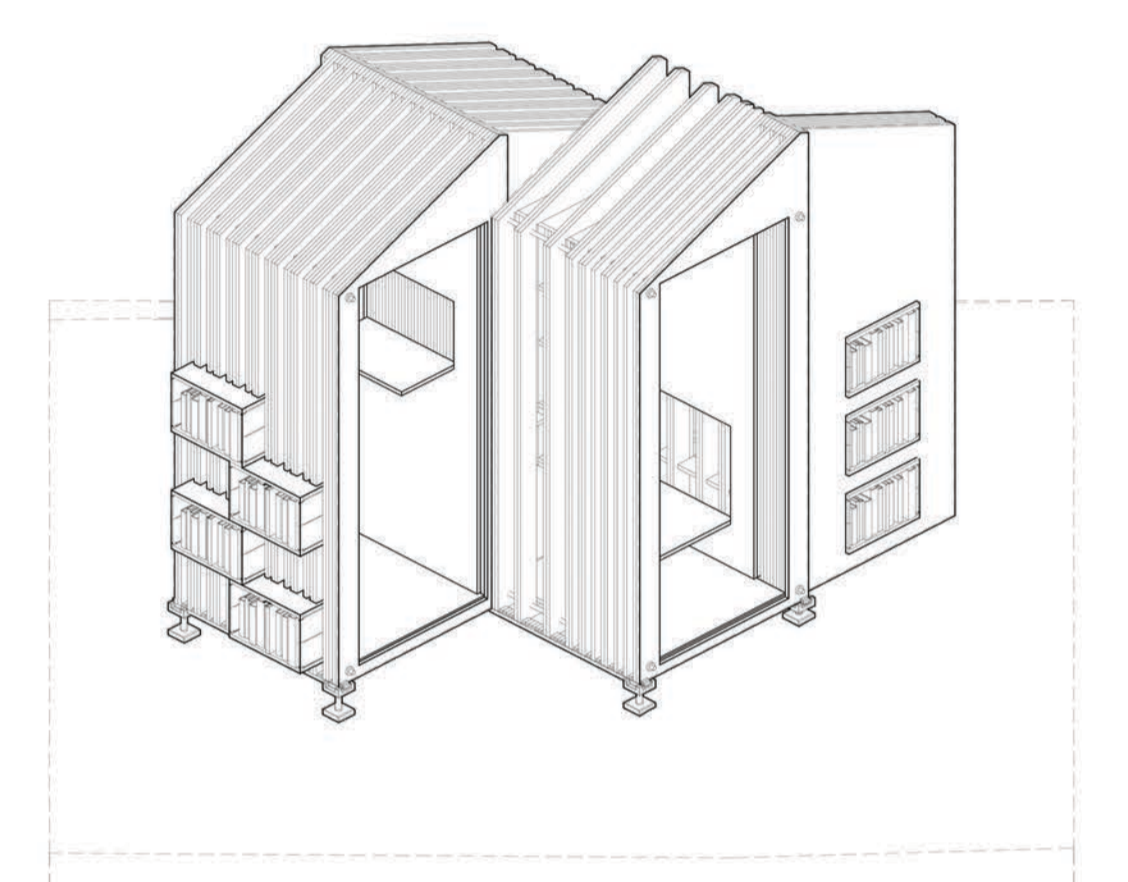
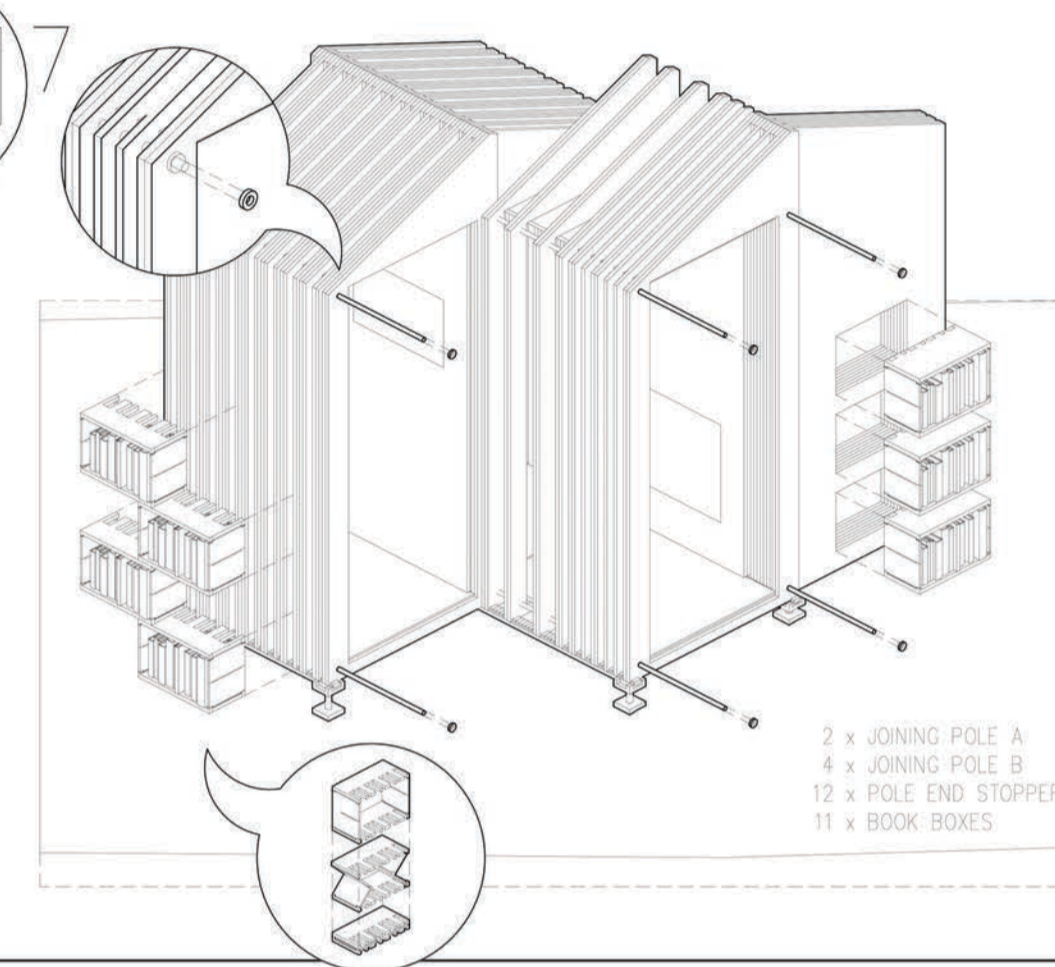
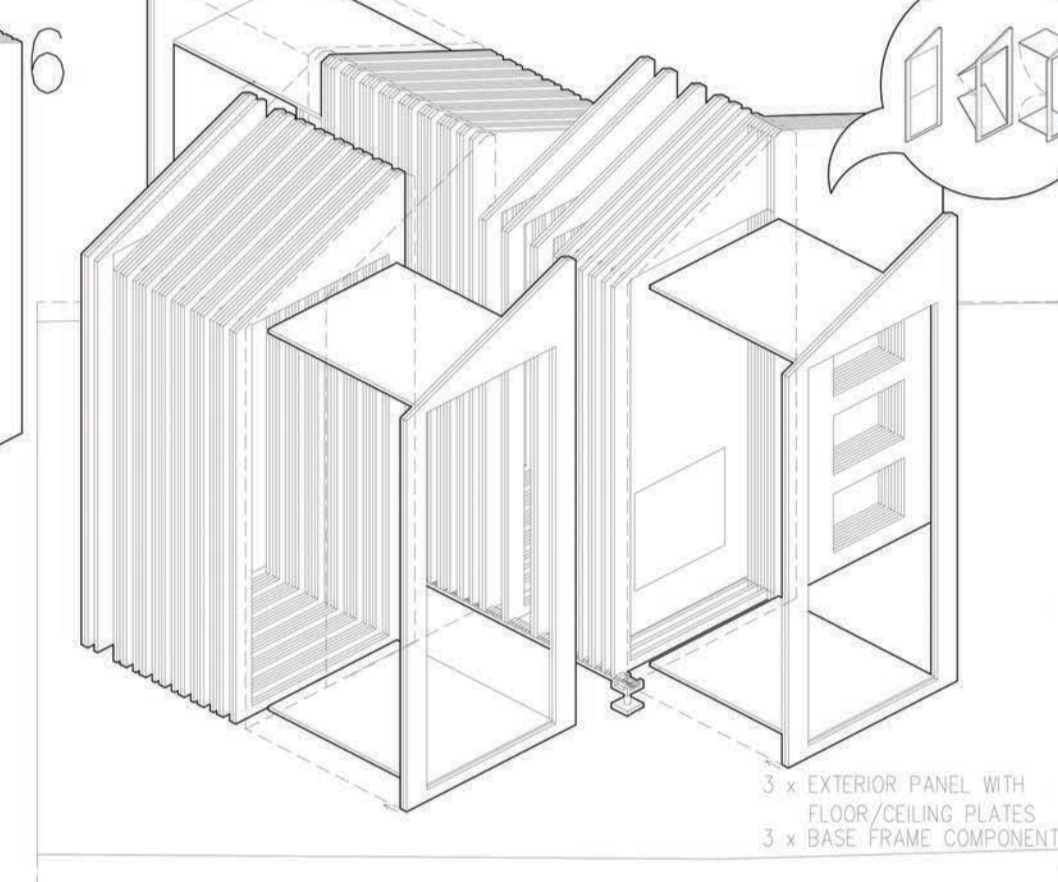
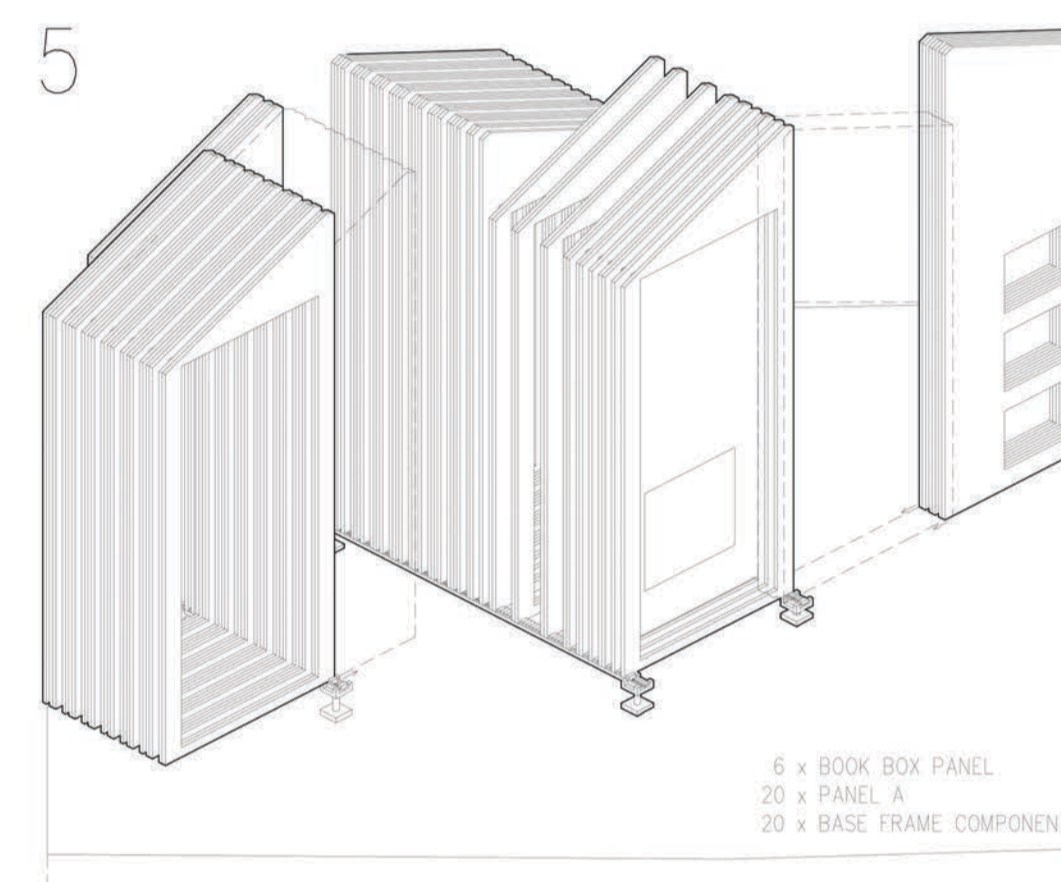
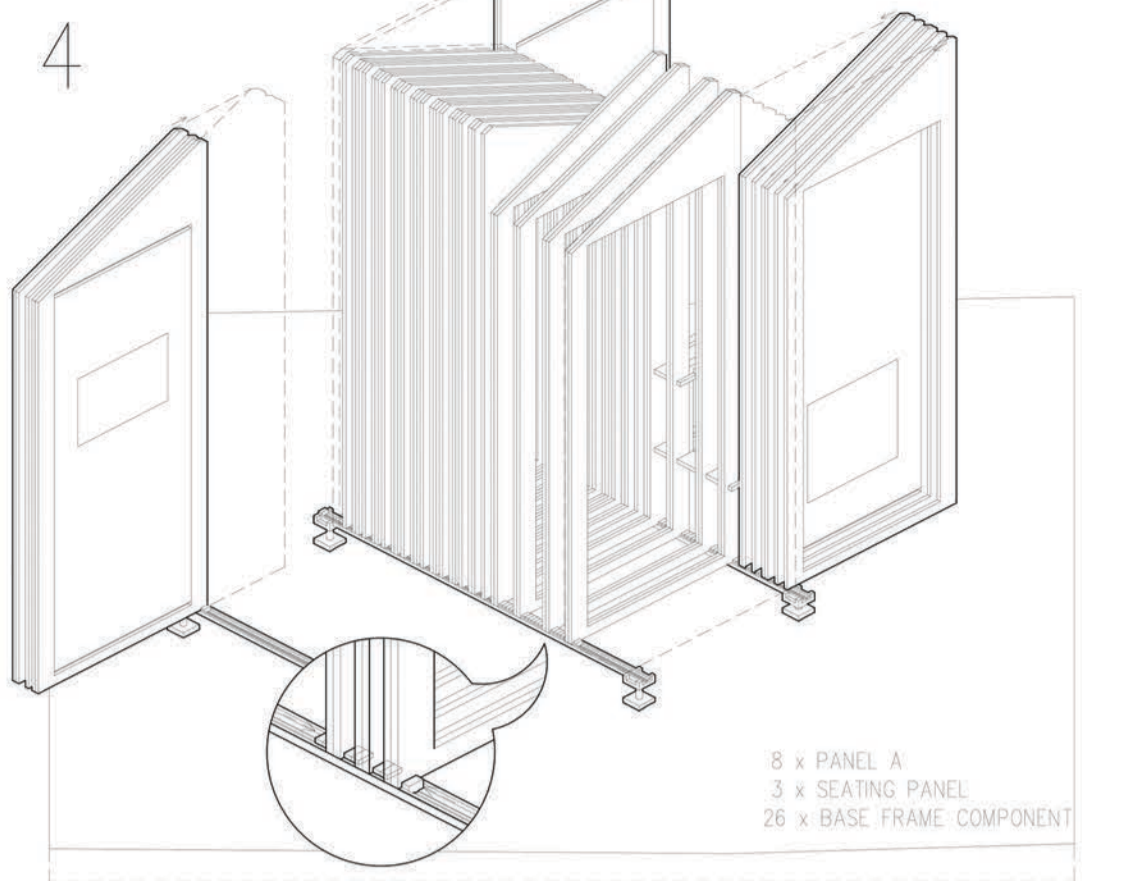
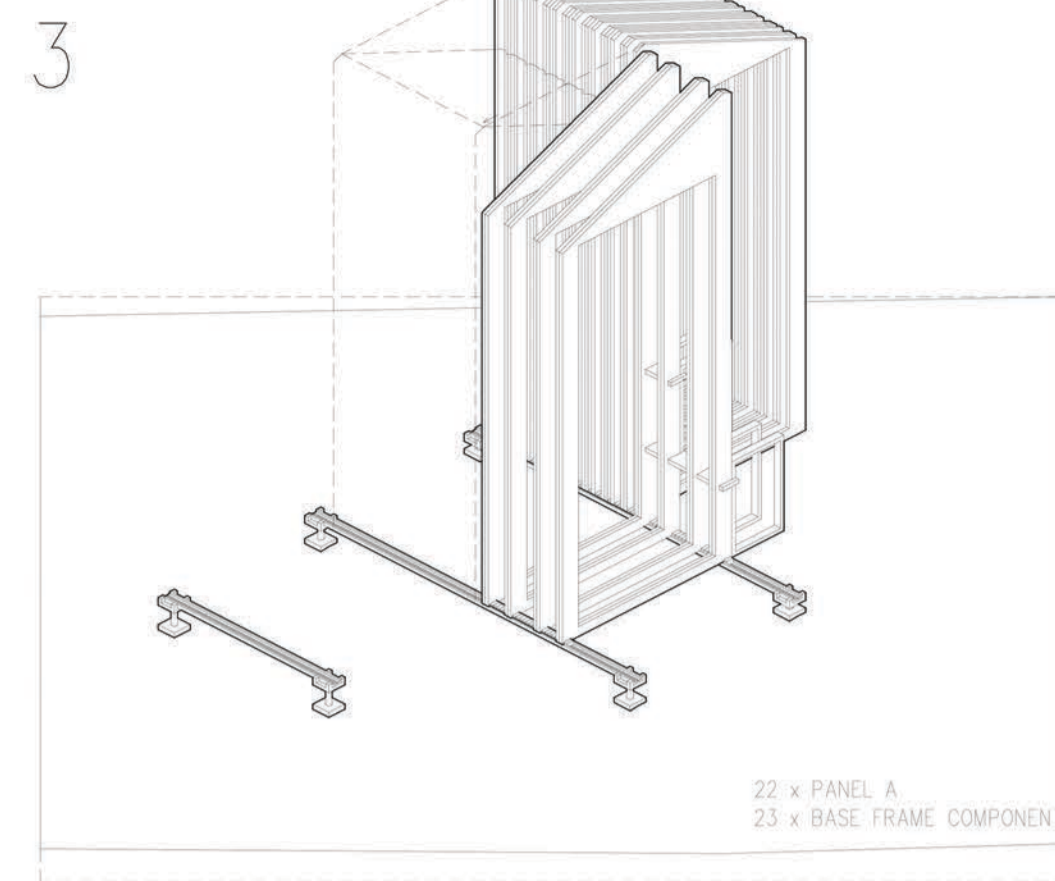
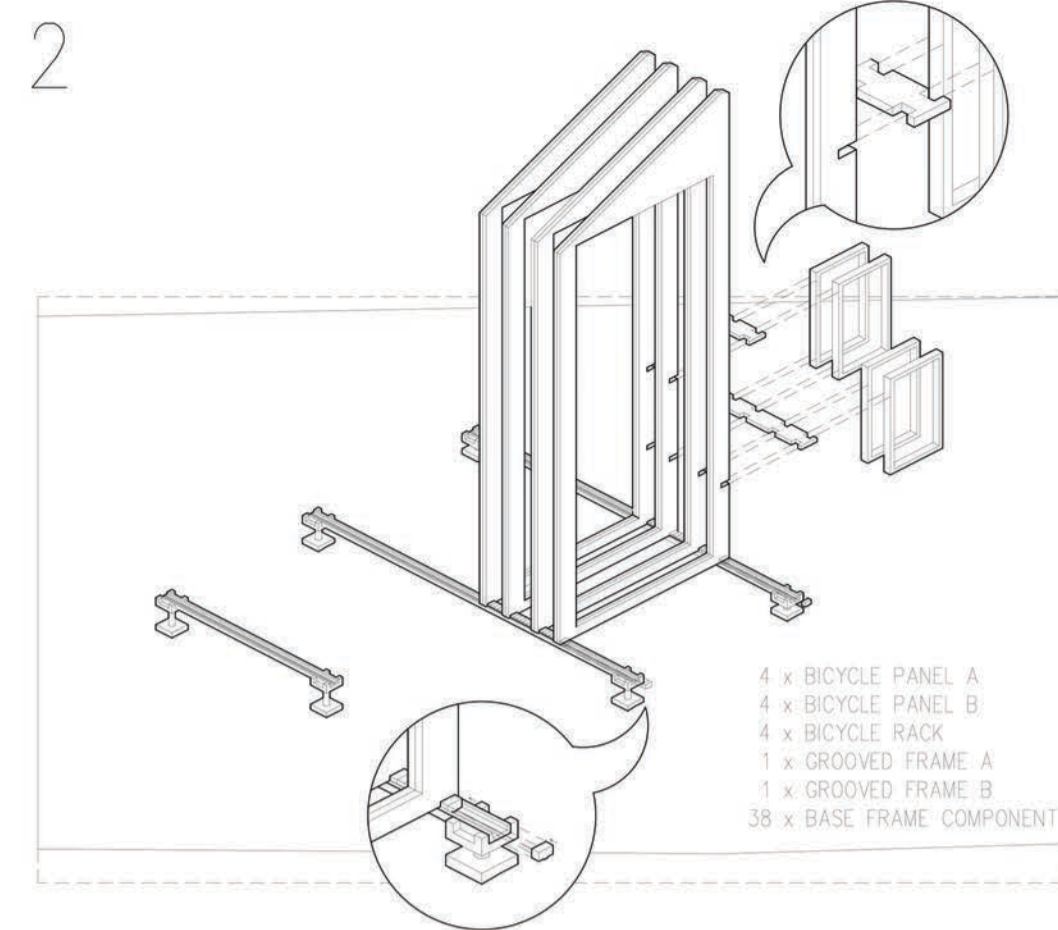
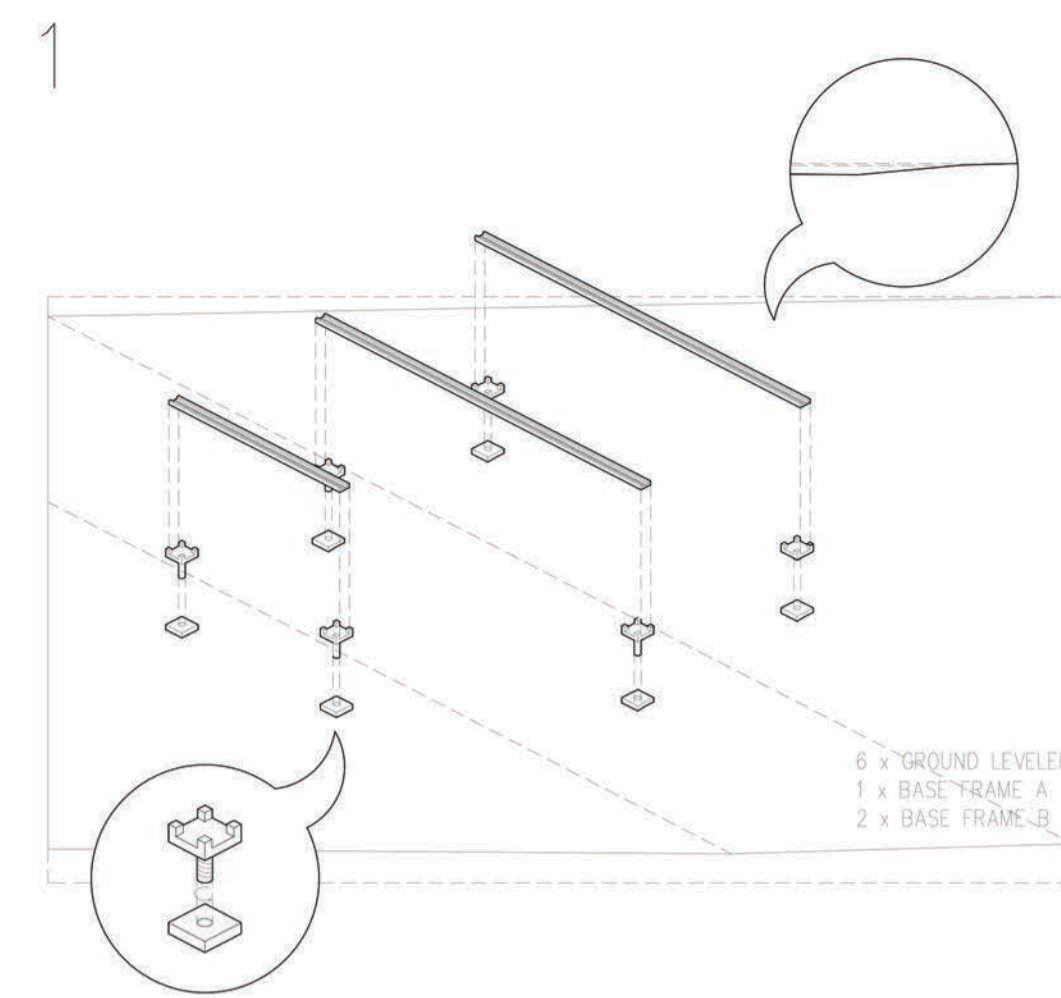
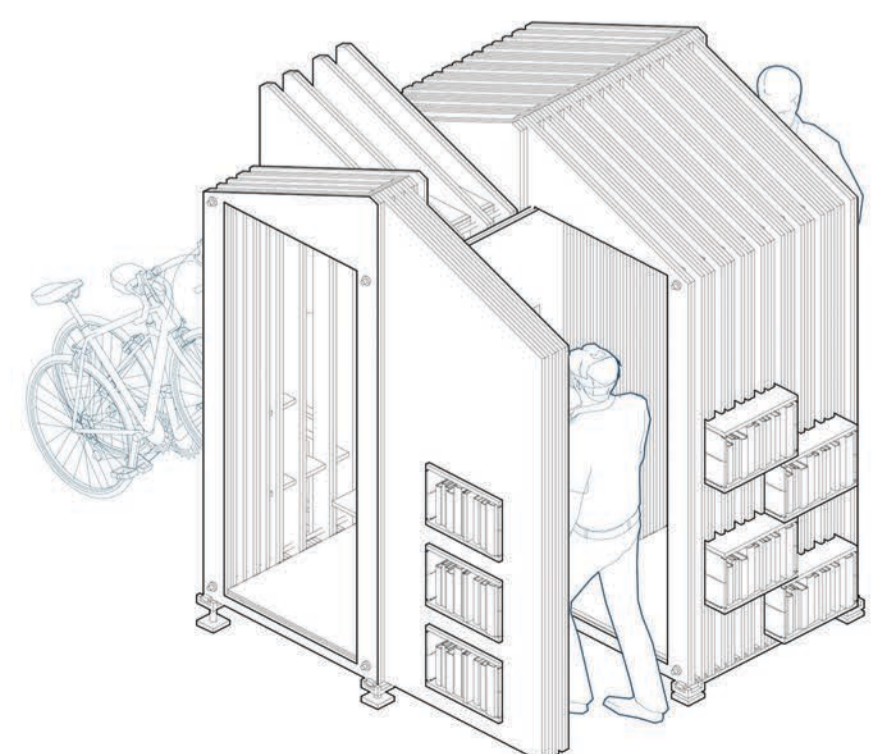
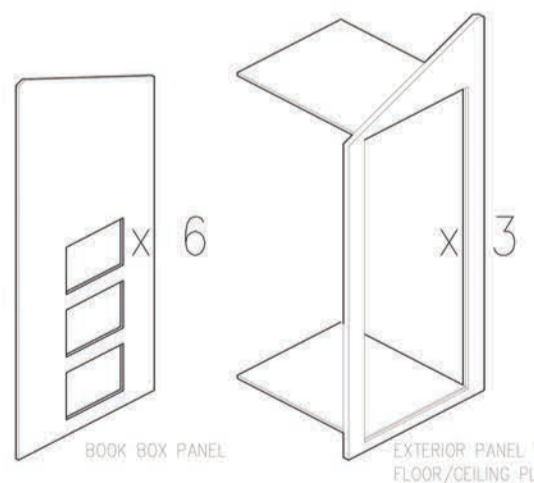
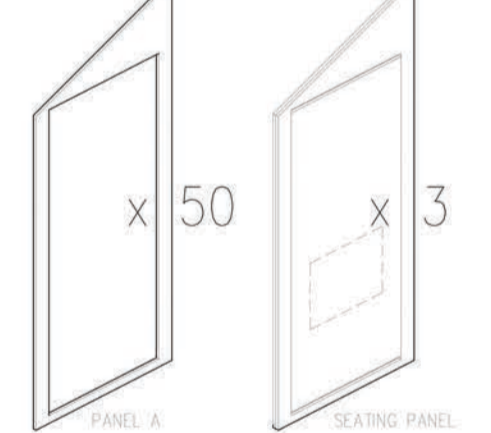
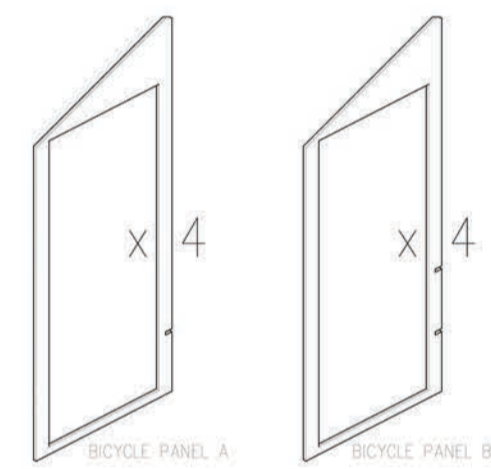




TSUNDOKU

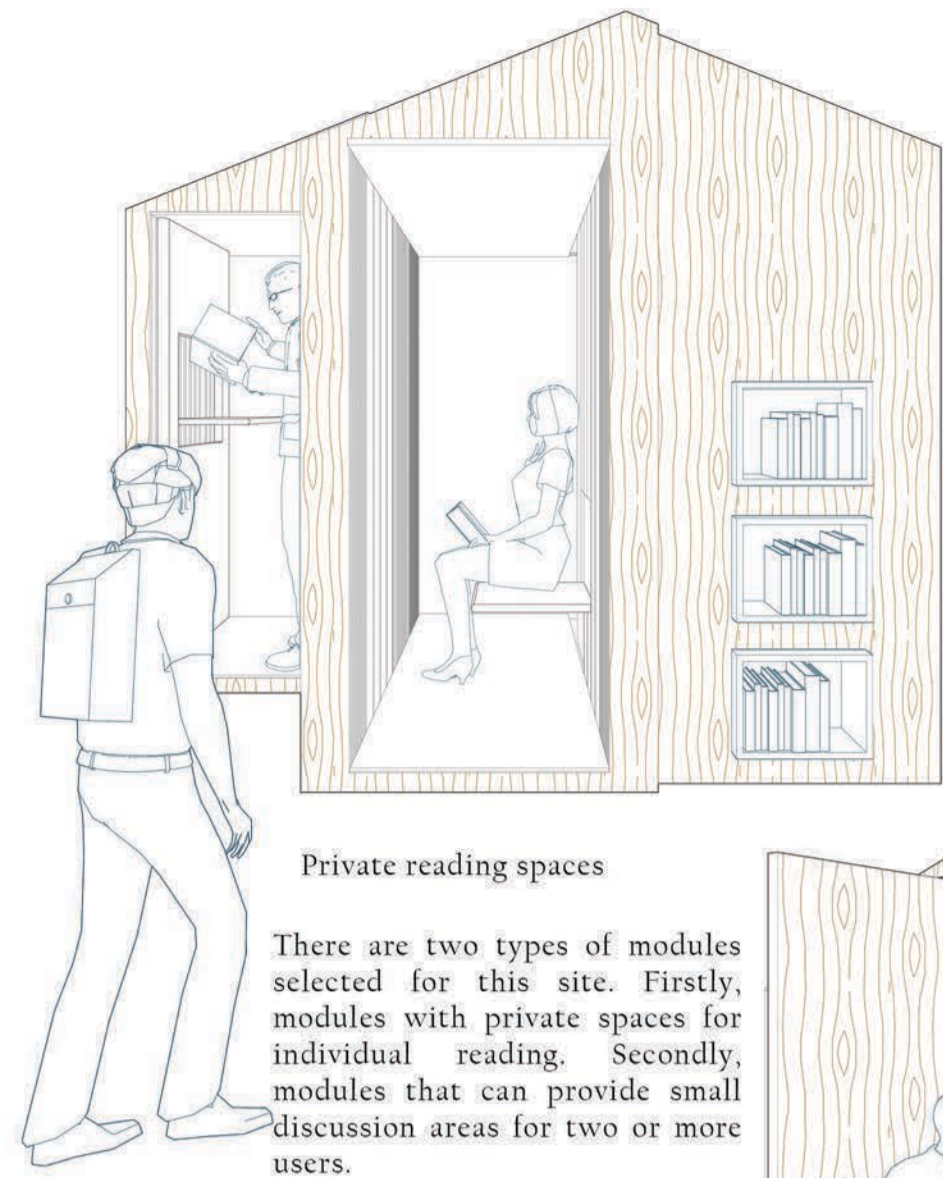
Sequence of Assembly

- x 6
- x 1
- x 2
- x 1
- x 1
- x 4
- x 12
- x 11
- x 2
- x 4
- x 110



Site Application

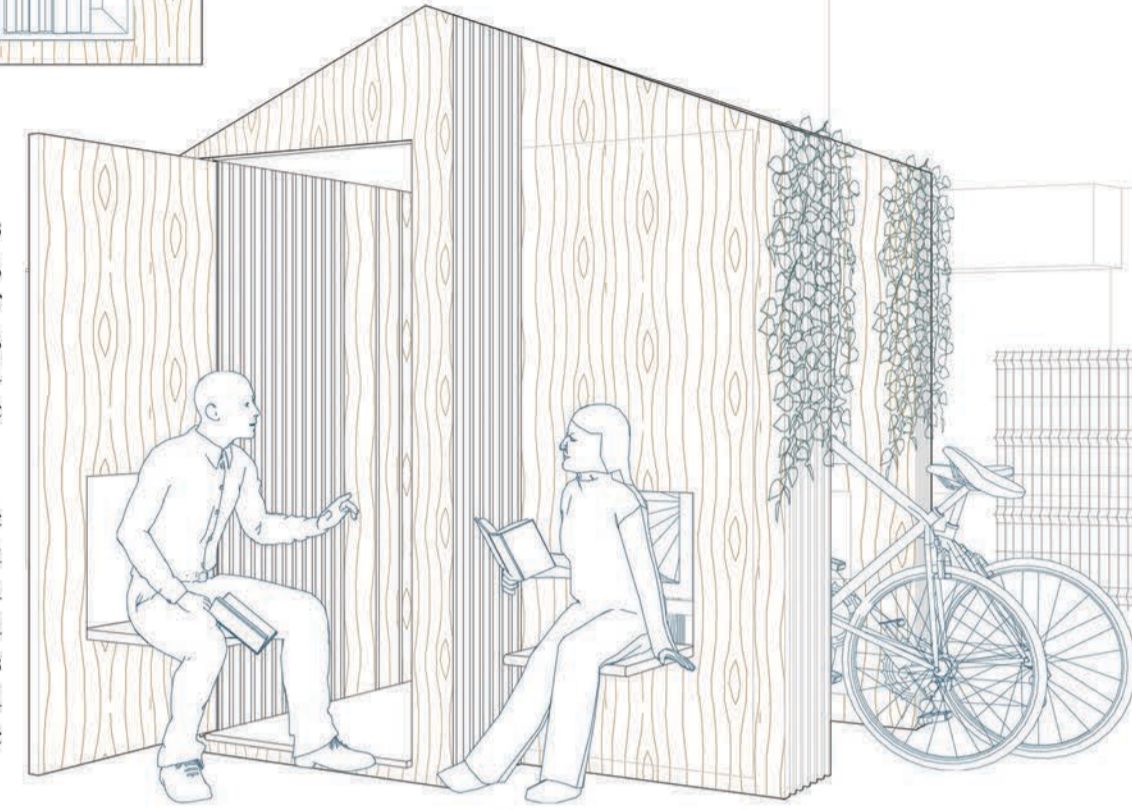
Nishi-Okubo Park
西大久保公園



Private reading spaces

There are two types of modules selected for this site. Firstly, modules with private spaces for individual reading. Secondly, modules that can provide small discussion areas for two or more users.

The private reading spaces can be placed along the edges of the park while the collaboration spaces can be placed facing the playground area. This is done so that parents with children can read and interact with other parents while their children play.



Reading spaces that encourage collaboration

This park is situated in Okubo, a multi-racial neighborhood in Tokyo. Dubbed as Korean Town, Okubo is also home to many South-East Asian and Indian communities.

The chosen site is Nishi-Okubo park, which sits in close proximity to Okubo and Shin-Okubo stations, and the Shin-Okubo Shopping Street. The park gets a lot of foot traffic, as it connects the Okubo and Shin-Okubo train stations to the main shopping streets. In the park, there is an open gravel paved area with a few plastic table and chairs that forms the majority of the space, and a small run down playground in one corner, but is lined with large shady trees.

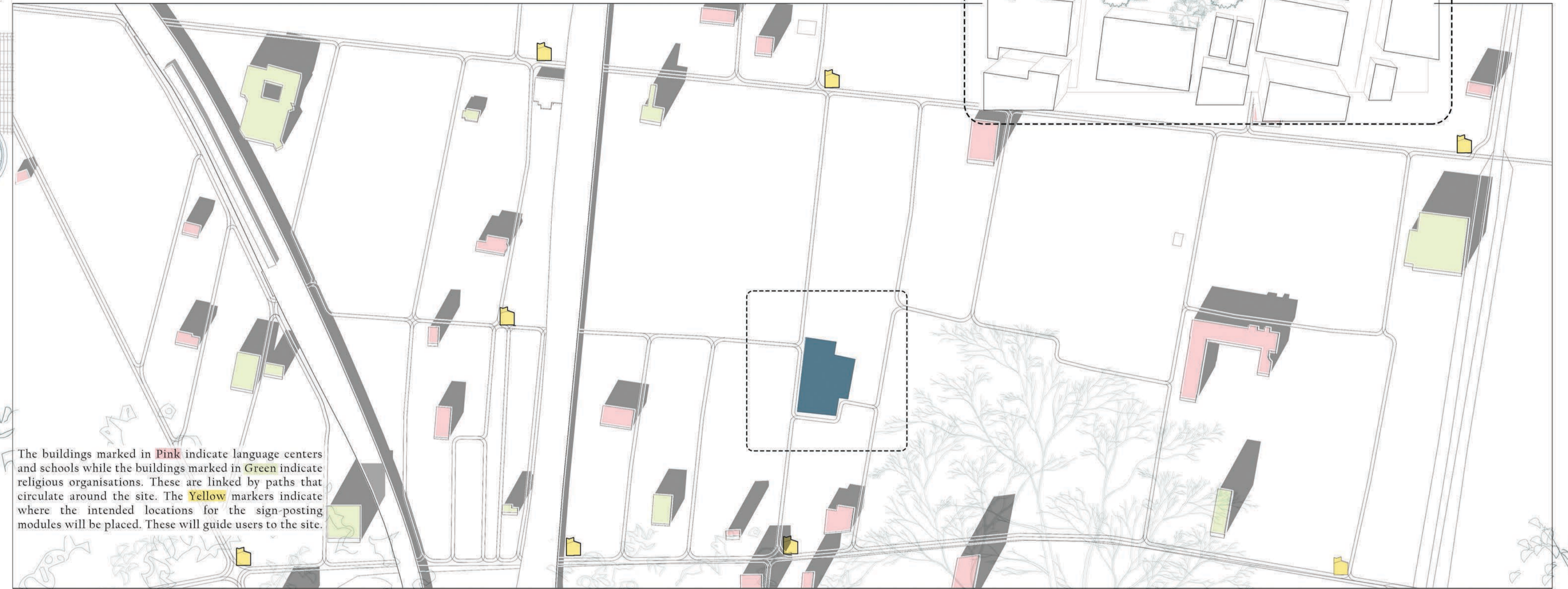
Being an international town, there are many language schools and several different religious groups and organisations scattered around the site. These are indicated on the map in reference to the site.

This location was selected as it is hoped that the Tsudonku could be used as a social catalyst that not only brings the diverse community together in a shared movement of book sharing, but encourage collaboration and reading in Okubo. Mario Vargas Llosa, the recipient of the 2010 Nobel Prize in Literature once said that Literature allows readers to be "members of the same species." Through the stories and words of writers, the shared experiences are what remains common among readers, despite the many socio-economic, racial, language and geographical differences that may separate them.

The current park is paved with gravel, and has a playground in the top right corner. It's lined with trees that provide a comfortable shade but other than a few plastic table and chairs along the bottom corner of the park, most people use the park as a byway rather than a destination.

By siting the reading and book exchange space here, the new program could also renew the outlook of the space and make it a new destination in Okubo, rather than just a footpath. It could provide an alternative activity, as opposed to the main attractions of eateries and shopping streets of Okubo. Furthermore, with many migrants living and working in the area, it may be normal to have many people who relocated to Tokyo alone. The structure could therefore provide individual reading spaces, as well as spaces of collaboration where readers could share and discuss their books and ideas. With the program function, users could share books related to their country, culture and origins. This would therefore foster a greater understanding and be informative for the cohesion of this community.

Furthermore, through the revitalisation of the park, the existing playground could be inviting for families with children, hence providing activities for all ages. It could also help foster the habit of reading in children from young.



The buildings marked in Pink indicate language centers and schools while the buildings marked in Green indicate religious organisations. These are linked by paths that circulate around the site. The Yellow markers indicate where the intended locations for the sign-posting modules will be placed. These will guide users to the site.

