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### Grandparenting Center: Connecting the Generations

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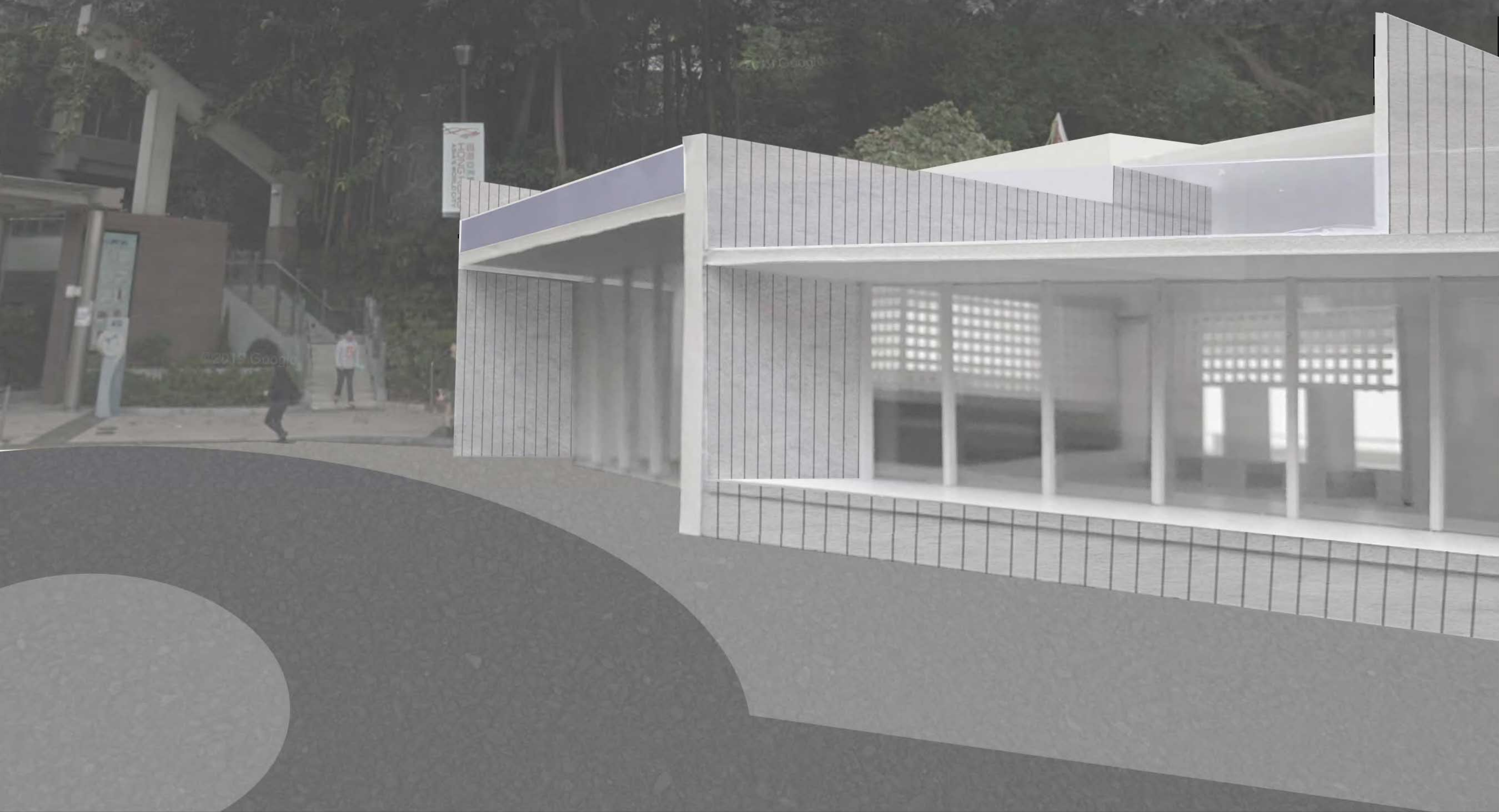
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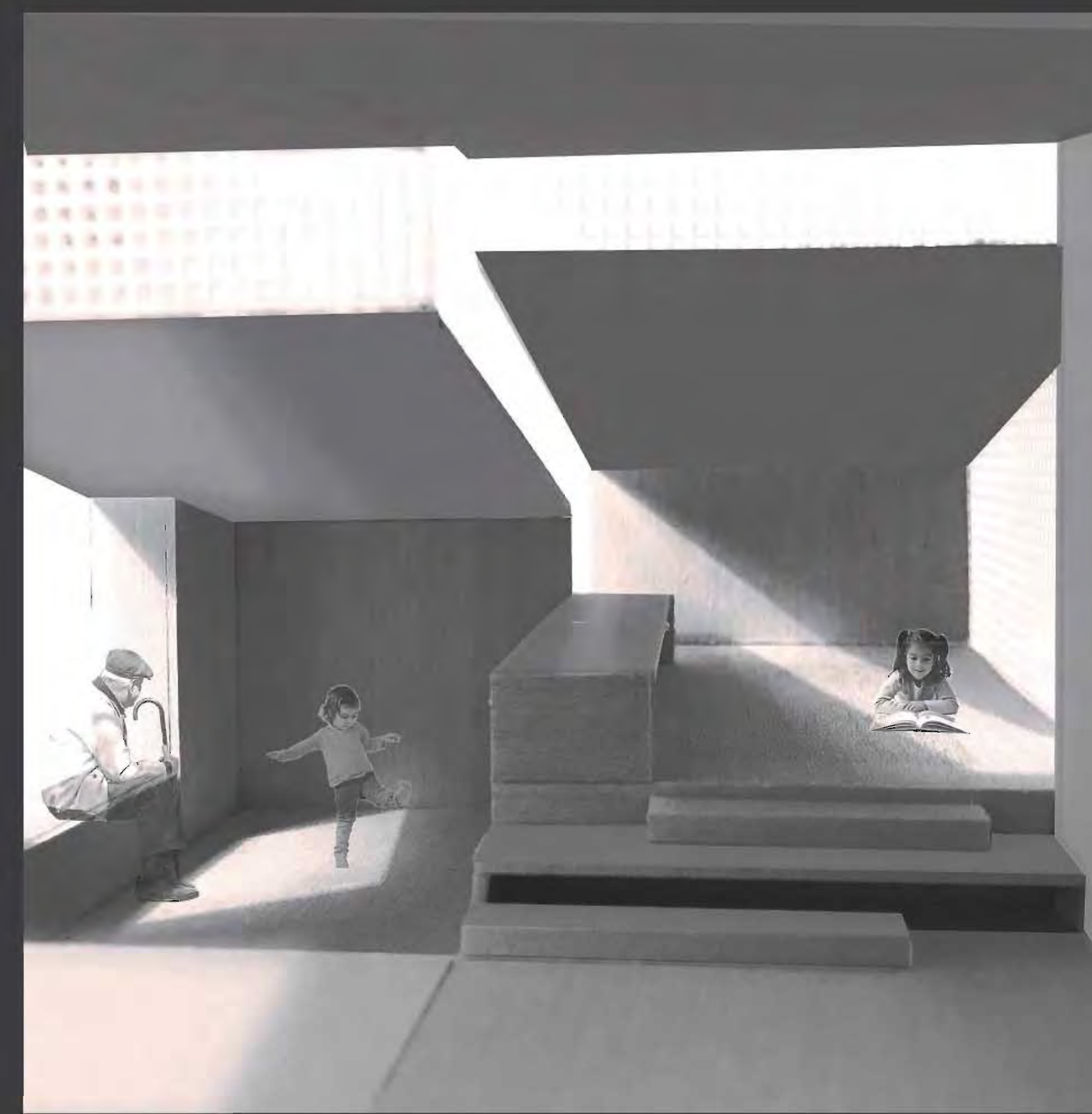
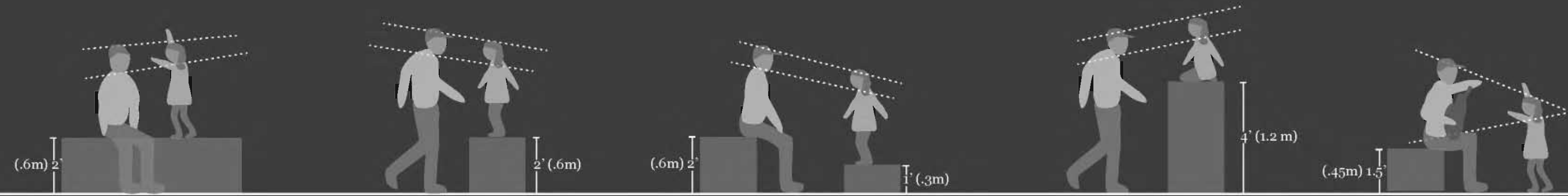
# GRANDPARENTING CENTER: CONNECTING THE GENERATIONS

JESSICA DEANGELO  
SPRING 2019



## FRAMING CONNECTIONS

### A ROOM FOR TWO



### JAMES TERRILL (80) & AVORA (4)

The space is designed for James Terrill (80), affectionately known as Gren and his great-granddaughter, Avora (4), who lives just down the street. As a father of six, grandfather of thirteen, and great-grandfather of two, Gren has interacted with children throughout his life. When Avora was born, she actually lived with her great-grandparents for a while, so Gren knows Avora well and plays with her often.

### PROPIOCEPTION AND SIGHT

The senses I would like to focus on in my design include proprioception and sightlines. The enlarged stair areas provide enrichment for balance and strength, which are both important elements of proprioception, a person's understanding of their body as well as how it interacts with objects or space. In order to safely use these areas, a mix of direct and indirect light is ideal. I hope to provide different combinations of light in each room by orienting the windows to the south and north as well as having a clearstory above. By enriching the spaces in these ways, I hope that both individuals are actively engaged within the space without the environment becoming overwhelming.

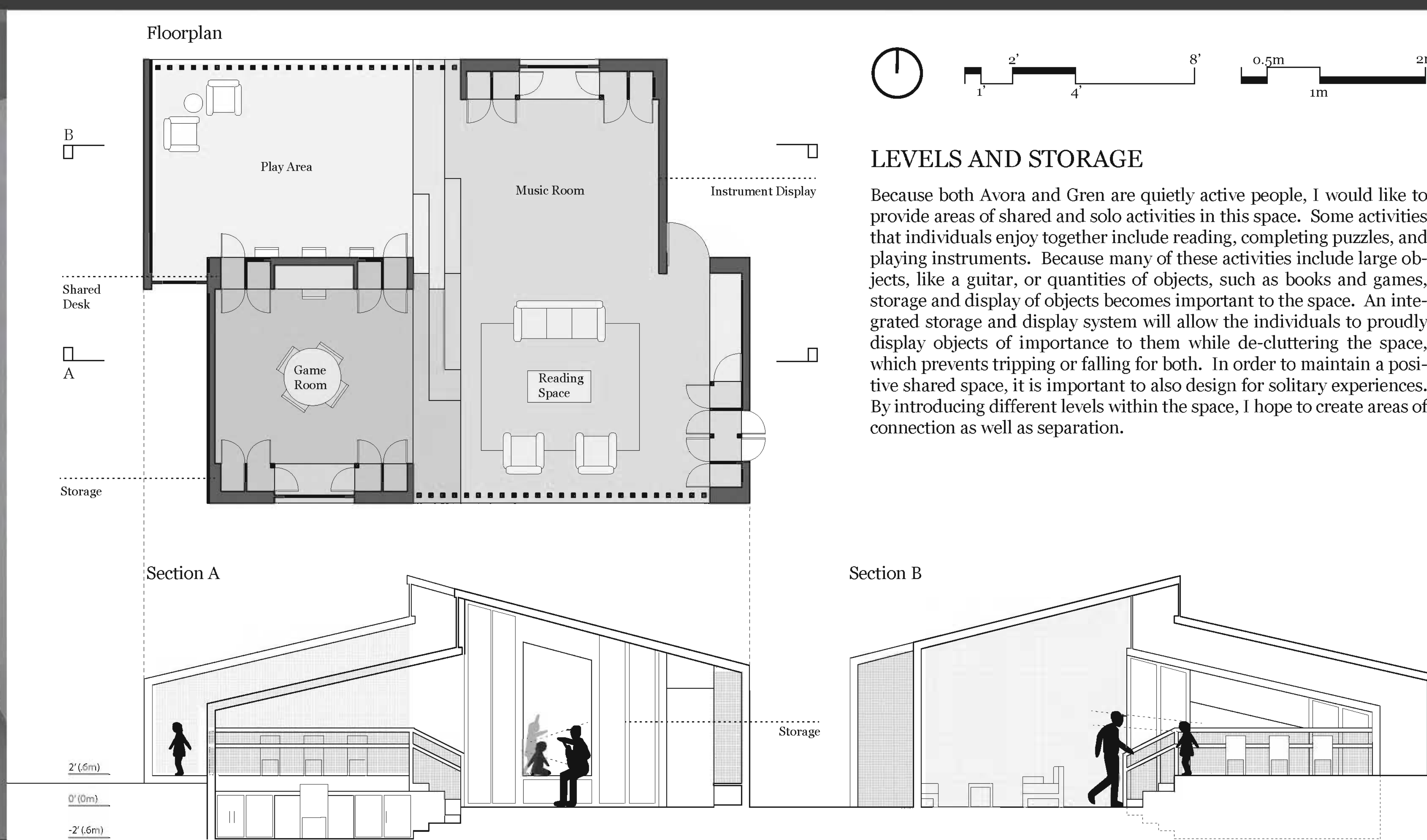
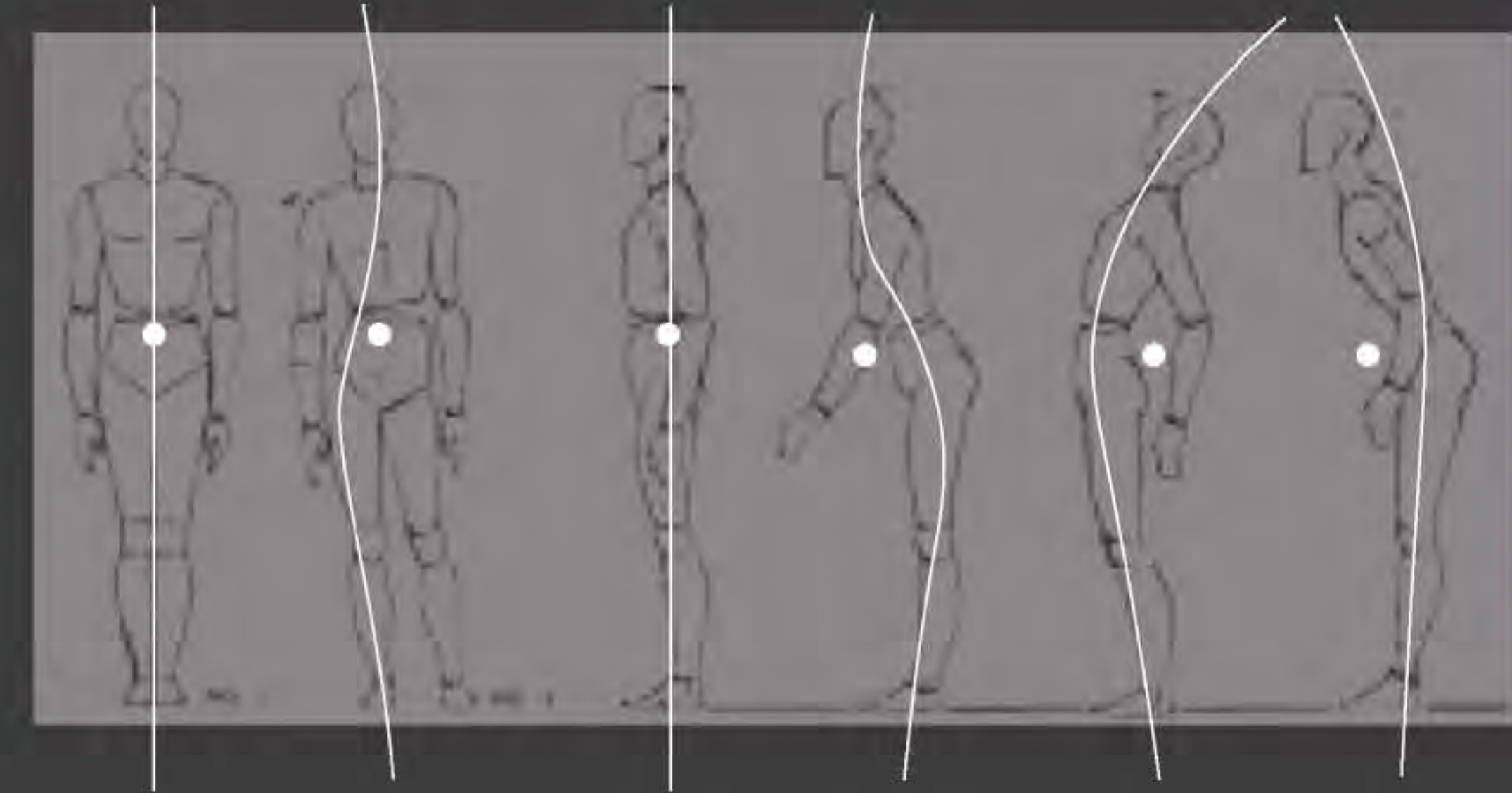
### THE IMPORTANCE OF CONTACT

Face-to-face interactions are extremely important for children and adults alike, yet with differences in the size and mobility of the different age groups, it is often difficult to maintain these connections without exerting constant efforts. In many architectural spaces, the responsibility of making these connections is placed on the body, often the adult body. My proposal is that the form of the architecture itself should facilitate physical contact between these two groups, hopefully allowing for individuals to grow closer emotionally.

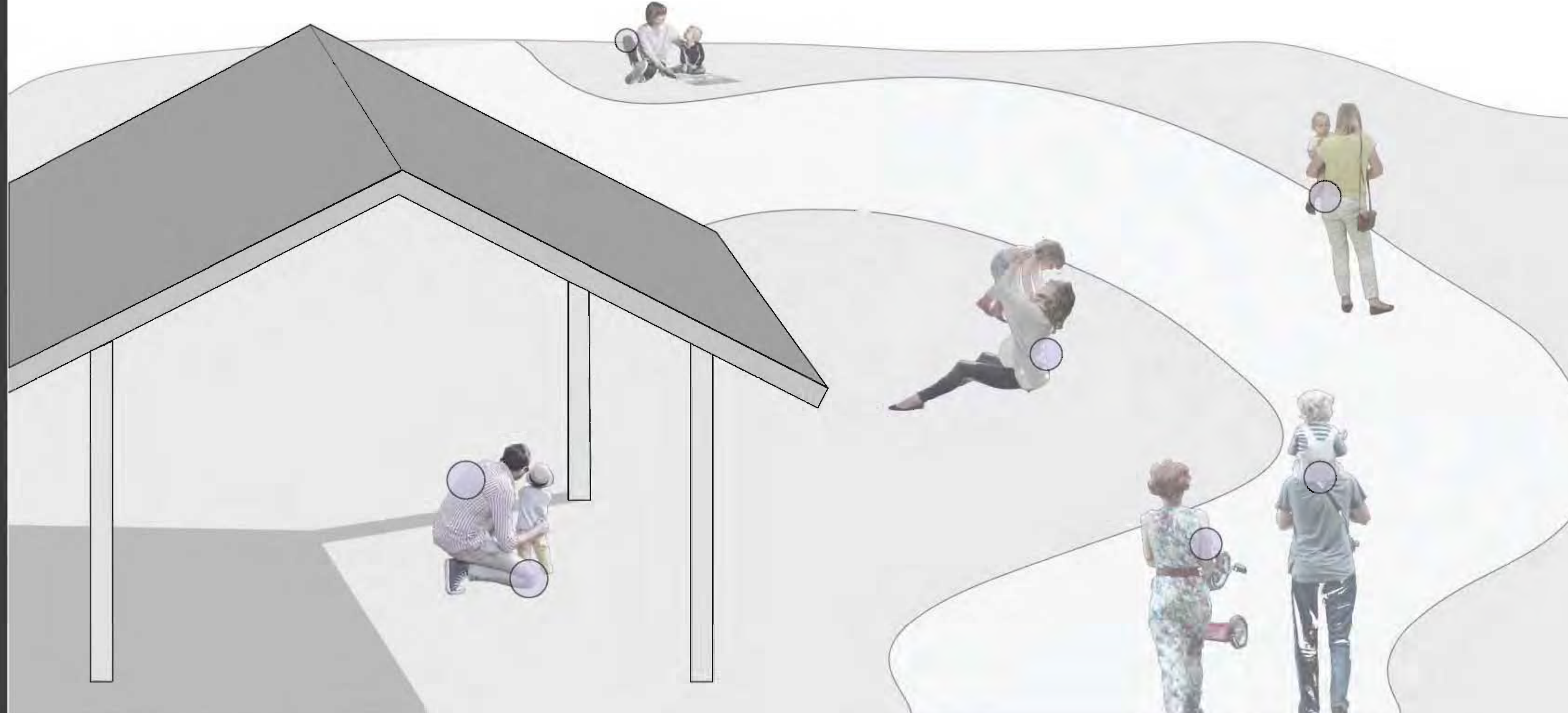
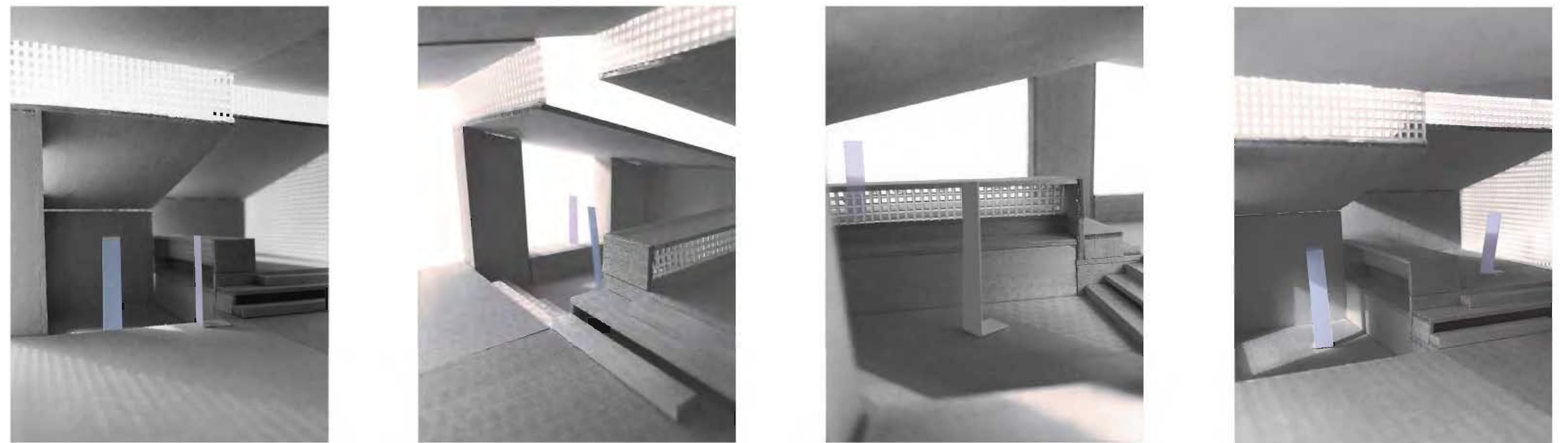
### BODY MOVEMENTS

In order to determine how architecture can improve opportunities for contact, it is important to study the ways in which adults manipulate their bodies in order to interact with children. There are several different factors that will influence the success of two people in maintaining physical contact, including the size of each individual and range of their body movements. To allow for connections between the extreme age groups for a longer period of time, I suggest that the pro-

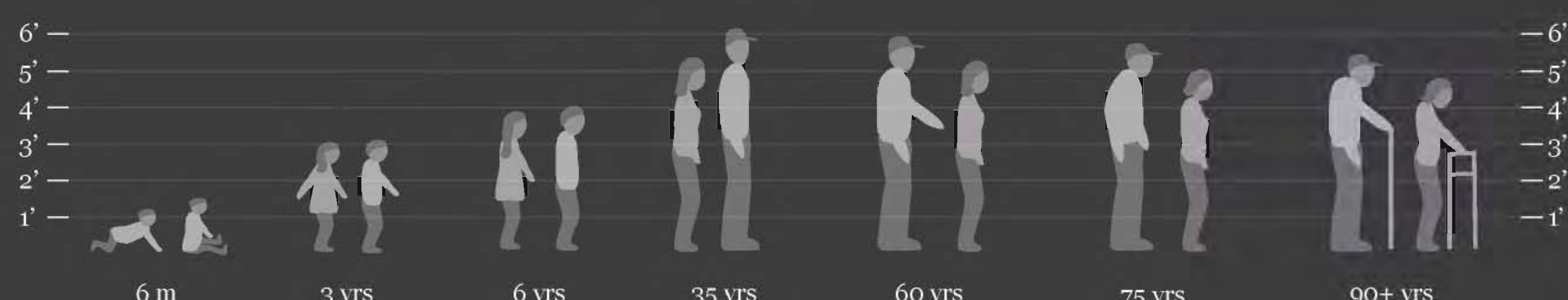
**PROPIOCEPTION:** Perception & awareness of the position and movement of the body in space



**LEVELS AND STORAGE**  
Because both Avora and Gren are quietly active people, I would like to provide areas of shared and solo activities in this space. Some activities that individuals enjoy together include reading, completing puzzles, and playing instruments. Because many of these activities include large objects, like a guitar, or quantities of objects, such as books and games, storage and display of objects becomes important to the space. An integrated storage and display system will allow the individuals to proudly display objects of importance to them while de-cluttering the space, which prevents tripping or falling for both. In order to maintain a positive shared space, it is important to also design for solitary experiences. By introducing different levels within the space, I hope to create areas of connection as well as separation.



## FACILITATING CONTACT PROPIOCEPTION RESEARCH



**THE CHANGING BODY**  
We age throughout our whole life, which means that the body is undergoing changes, particularly in the early and later years of life. It is important to understand the scale of different ages of children and adults in order to create spaces to accommodate for the distinct body sizes.

