

Interior Design Portfolio



PJ SHIELDS PORTFOLIO

©

Professional Summary

Creative and resourceful interior design professional with 15+ years of decorating experience, recently earning a Bachelor's degree in Interior Design. Strong foundation in space planning, floorplan development, and design coordination, combined with hands-on expertise in client consultation, vendor management, and budget oversight. Eager to apply my decorating background and formal education to intermediate interior design roles, contributing fresh ideas and practical solutions to commercial and residential projects.



Core Competencies

AutoCAD · Revit · SketchUp · Adobe Photoshop · Adobe InDesign · Microsoft Office Suite · FF&E Specification · Lighting Layouts · Millwork Detailing · Space Planning · Visual Merchandising · Vendor Coordination · Custom Furnishings · Strategic Project Management · Budget-Conscious Sourcing · Onsite Issue Resolution · Mood Boards · Client Consultation

Education

Bachelor of Interior Design (BID), YORKVILLE UNIVERSITY
TORONTO, ON

- Graduated: 06/2024 | CIDA-Accredited Program
- President's List (8 terms),
- Honours Standing (7 terms)

Professional Experience

2024-PRES Interior Design Intern – Freelance

Curate2 | Toronto, ON

- Independently develop space plans, finish selections, and presentation materials for residential and commercial projects.
- Preparing construction drawings, FF&E documentation, and coordinating site visits to ensure design intent and quality.
- Manage vendor and trade communications to source materials and keep projects on schedule
- Actively seeking mentorship to expand design expertise and transition decorating experience into a comprehensive interior design practice

2007-2024 Interior Decorator – Freelance

Curate2 / Shields Interiors | Toronto, ON & Calgary, AB

- Provided comprehensive residential and commercial decorating services, including space planning, lighting suggestions, material and finish selection, staging, and sourcing custom furnishings and cabinetry, coordinating with vendors and trades to ensure projects were completed smoothly and reflected client preferences.
- Oversaw coordination with contractors and vendors, maintaining project timelines from concept through completion, which minimized delays and ensured high-quality results.
- Collaborated with trades to achieve cohesive project outcomes, leading to high-quality, well-executed spaces.

2012-2021 Event Designer & Coordinator – Hybrid/Freelance

POP Kollaborative | Calgary, AB

- Led event activations for branded corporate events, town halls, and music festivals by implementing décor, layouts, and visual elements that supported marketing and brand objectives, helping to engage attendees and reinforce brand identity.
- Developed and executed décor concepts, layout plans, and vendor briefs; managed logistics from setup to teardown to ensure seamless event execution.
- Supervised onsite teams, coordinating with vendors and trades to maintain quality and meet tight timelines in fast-paced environments.

2018-2020 Assistant Event Coordinator– Hybrid/Freelance

Decor & More Inc. | Oakville, ON

- Assisted with the design and setup of large-scale events by coordinating with vendors and venues, ensuring timely installations and smooth event operations.
- Coordinated with vendors and venues to ensure timely installation and issue-free setup.
- Provided on-the-spot problem-solving during live events, responding quickly to challenges, which minimized disruptions and maintained event quality.

PORTFOLIO

GREY RAINBOWS

SENIOR THESIS - MULTI-RESIDENTIAL

04-13

TKARONTO

HOSPITALITY - RESTAURANT

14-15

FACTORY INN & SPA

HOSPITALITY - HOTEL AND SPA

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Core Competencies

BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

18-21

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

DECORATING/ STAGING

22

GREY RAINBOWS

GREY RAINBOWS

SENIOR THESIS - MULTI-RESIDENTIAL & COMMUNITY SPACE

location: 169, 171 Eastern Ave. Toronto, ON

area: 29,000 sf

year: 2024

ABSTRACT

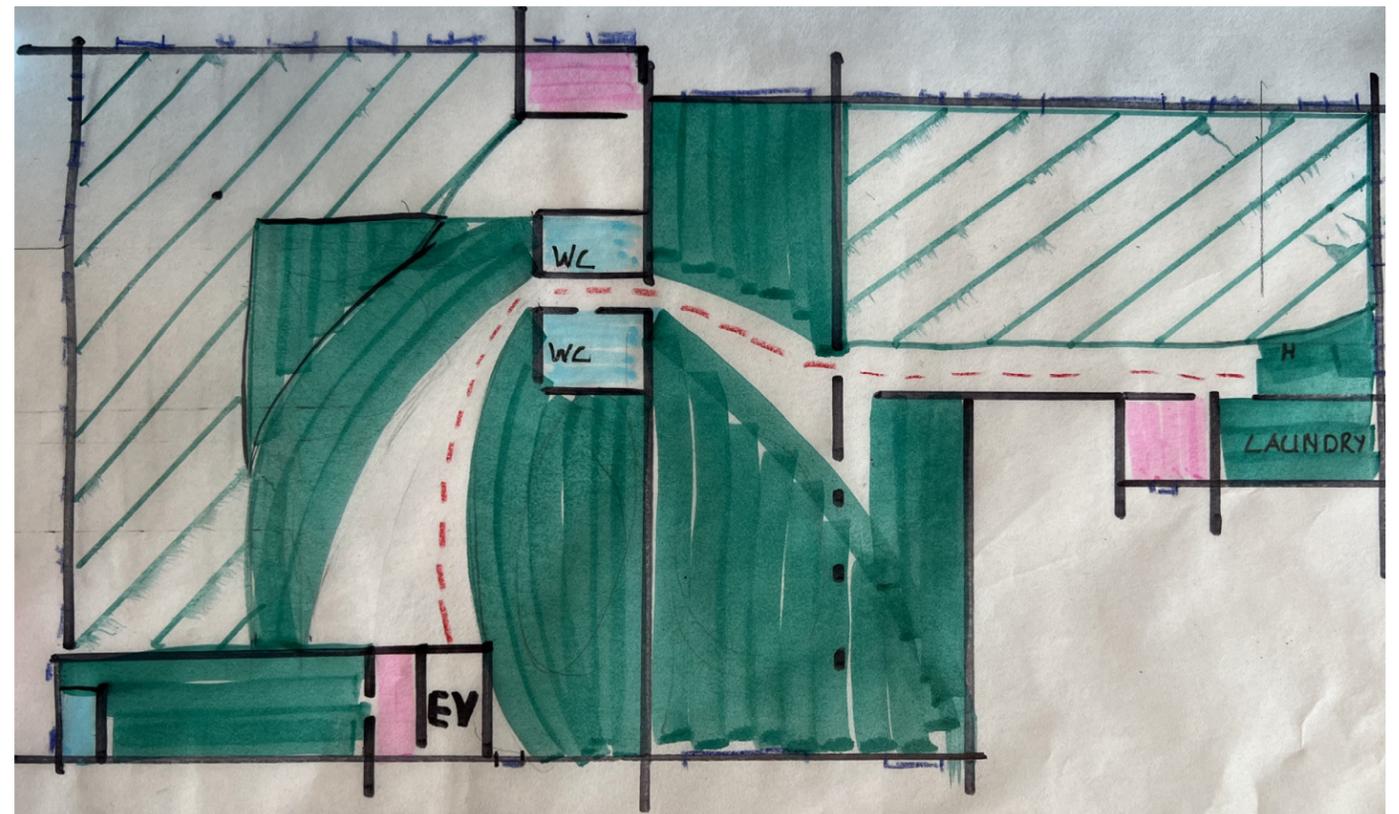
The unique challenges faced by the 2SLGBTQIA+ (45+) community due to affordable housing shortages and the gentrification of once-safe communities have inspired the creation of Grey Rainbows, a safe haven where 2SLGBTQIA+ (45+) elders can thrive.

Grey Rainbows integrates shelter, community, and health through:

1. An Affordable Supportive Housing Project
2. A Multi-disciplinary Wellness Centre
3. A Multi-use Community Space with a neighborhood Café

The design prioritizes the seven dimensions of health and well-being for seniors: physical, intellectual, emotional, social, spiritual, vocational, and environmental.

Grey Rainbows plays a crucial role in bringing together residents, promoting inclusivity, and strengthening community ties within Toronto's evolving urban landscape, while celebrating the rich history and experiences of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community.



2024

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

As someone with a strong tactile sensitivity, I prioritize the incorporation of diverse textures and raw materials in my design work. This approach not only satisfies my personal need for tactile engagement but also enhances the sensory experience of the spaces I create. In "grey rainbows," I aim to integrate a variety of materials—such as wood, stone, and textiles—to evoke a sense of warmth and connection to nature. By thoughtfully layering these textures, I strive to create an inviting atmosphere that encourages interaction and fosters a deeper emotional connection among residents.

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2024
NORTHERN FACADE

I selected the historic Dominion Wheel & Foundry complex at buildings 169-171 Eastern Avenue, Toronto, the warehouse (1917) and office building (1930) that reflect the area's industrial heritage for this adaptive reuse project.



2024
SITE LOCATION

Located in Toronto's up-and-coming West Don Lands precinct, situated north of Corktown, this project takes advantage of a heritage site to create a vibrant community space for elders in the 2SLGBTQI+ community as gentrification shuffles this community through the city.

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GROUND FLOOR - COMMUNITY/HEALTH

The ground floor is organized into four distinct zones:

- Community Center: A welcoming space designed to foster connection and celebrate diversity.
- Wellness Center: Providing tailored health services that address the unique needs of residents.
- Resident-Staffed Café: A social enterprise that offers meaningful employment opportunities while generating funds to support residents.
- Administration: Efficiently managing operations in an accessible environment.

GREY RAINBOWS

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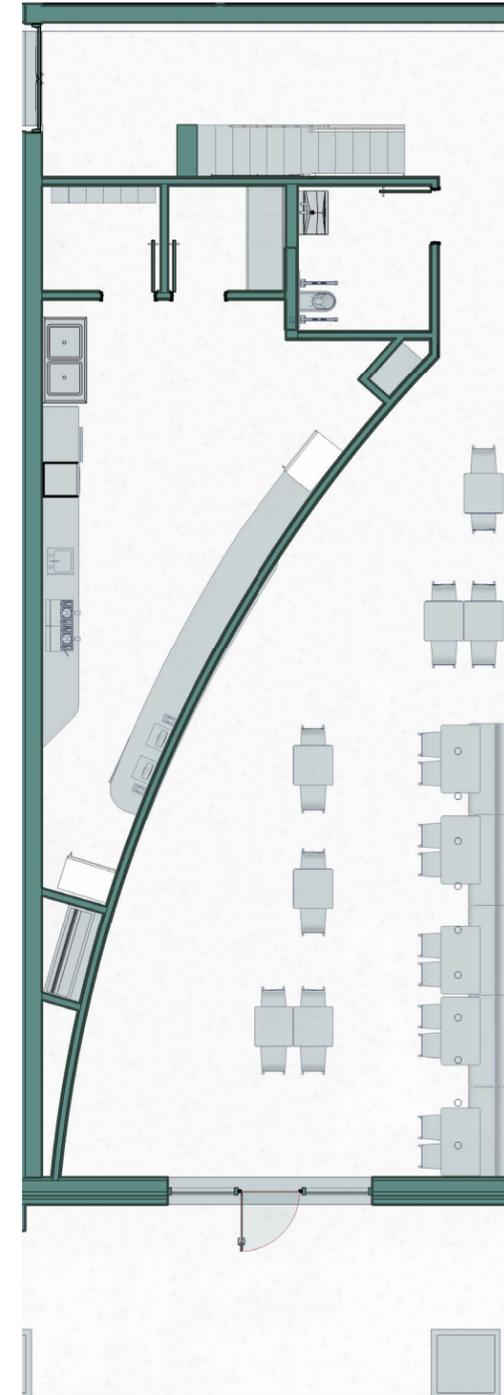
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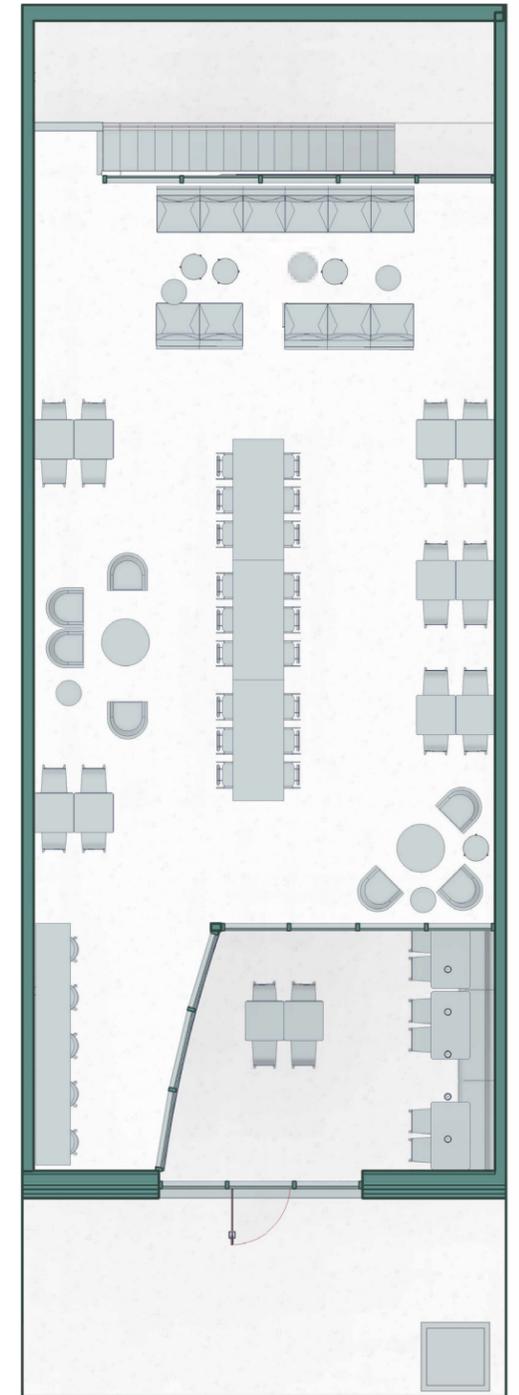
year: 2024

GROUND FLOOR - CAFE

The division of the café's mezzanine level addition maximizes the heritage building's vertical space while adhering to the japandi-inspired aesthetic. This elevated area not only increases seating capacity but also creates a multi-functional environment that caters to various needs of the 2SLGBTQIA+ elder community extending the options for meeting and event spaces within the building. .



2024
CAFE FLOOR PLANS



Dual-level floor plan showcasing the café's thoughtful space allocation. The ground floor features built-in bench seating, a service counter, and display areas for artwork. The mezzanine level illustrates the central communal table, varied seating pods, and workspace areas, demonstrating the efficient use of vertical space and the flow between both levels.

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GROUND FLOOR - CAFE



created in
REVIT 2023

Mezzanine Level Render: The central communal table takes center stage, surrounded by cozy seating pods in natural materials. Textured wood elements and muted tones create a serene atmosphere, while strategically placed plants add life to the space. The open design allows natural light to filter through, illuminating the artwork on display.



created in
REVIT 2023

Entrance View Render: large format textured

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created in
REVIT 2023

FIRST FLOOR - SUPPORTIVE LIVING

To Create a nurturing environment for 2SLGBTQI+ community I integrated the 7 principles of wellness design:

- Air Quality: Open-concept design promotes airflow with advanced filtration.
- Water: Accessible filtered water stations encourage hydration.
- Nourishment: Communal kitchen and dining areas foster healthy eating and social bonding.
- Light: Large factory windows maximize natural light, supporting mental health.
- Movement: Inviting corridors encourage physical activity.
- Thermal Comfort: Individual climate controls ensure optimal comfort.
- Sound: Acoustic treatments balance lively social areas with peaceful zones.

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created in

REVIT 2023

As you exit the elevator into the open corridor of the HUB, you'll notice a cozy dining area to the left, partially screened by a partition that resembles factory windows. This design provides privacy from suite entrances while keeping the space feeling open and inviting. On the right, a large group dining table is positioned in front of an original factory window, filling the area with natural light. Beyond, a double work zone kitchen awaits, ready for culinary adventures and fostering community connections. The overall atmosphere is warm and welcoming, featuring natural materials that blend heritage elements with modern design, perfectly reflecting Grey Rainbows' inclusive and supportive ethos.

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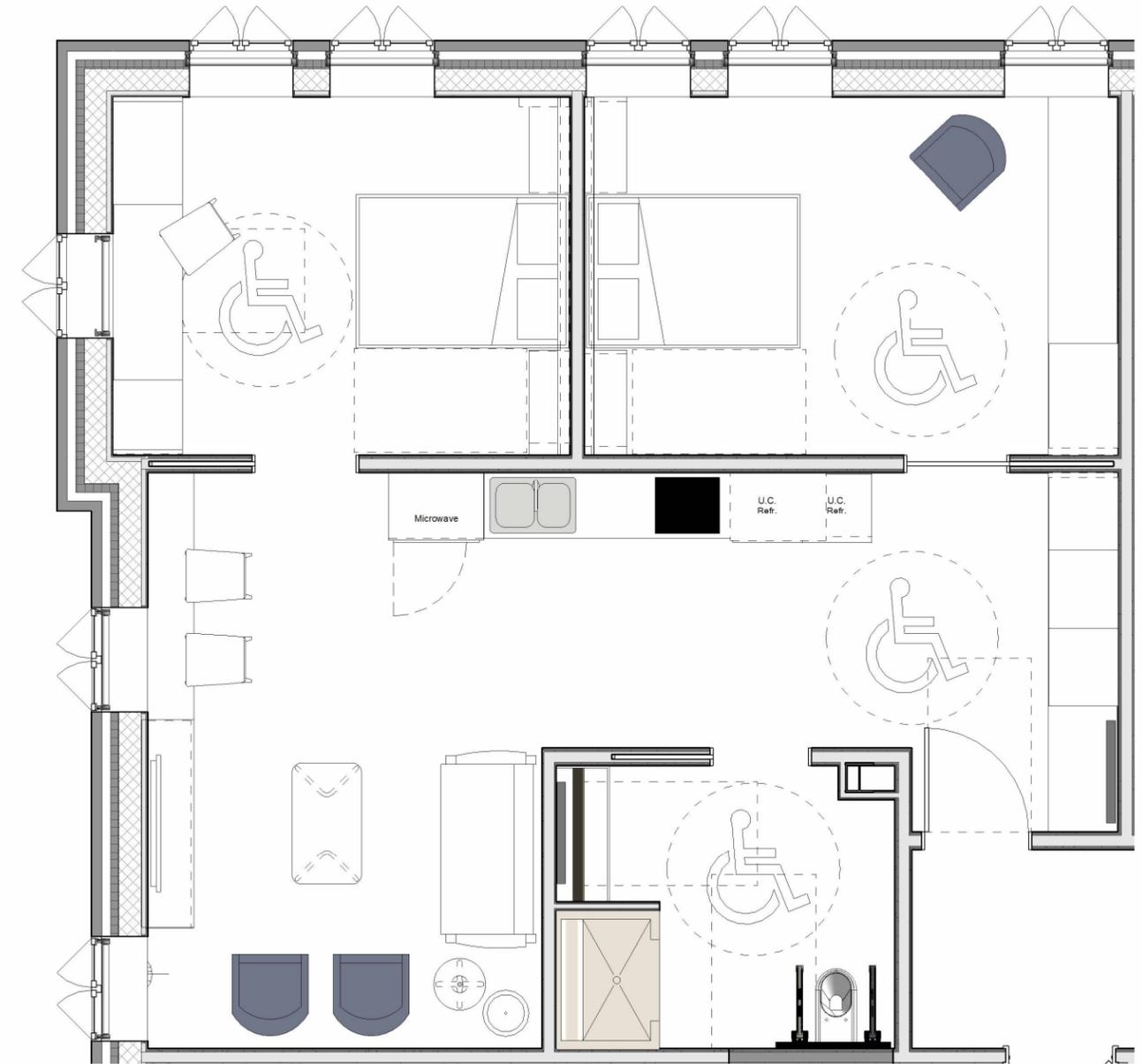
year: 2024

FIRST FLOOR - BARRIER FREE SUITE

The two-bedroom suite exemplifies barrier-free design in accordance with CSA/ASC B651:23: Accessible design for the built environment, prioritizing accessibility and comfort for residents using mobility aids.

1. Consistent flooring materials in tone and texture throughout, providing a seamless path of travel as per Section 4.3 of the standard.
2. Sliding in-wall doors to optimize floor space, meeting the clear width requirements specified in Section 5.2.
3. Bedrooms designed with ample clearance on both sides of the bed, ensuring the 1500 mm turning diameter required for wheelchairs as outlined in Section 6.2.3.

These design elements not only meet the technical requirements of the Canadian barrier-free standards but also create a living space that promotes independence and ease of use for residents with diverse mobility needs.



created in
Revit 2023



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year: 2024

FIRST FLOOR - ACCESSIBLE

I prioritized accessibility and adaptability, aligning with the CSA/ASC B651:23 standard for Accessible Design for the Built Environment. This approach not only ensures compliance but also demonstrates my commitment to creating inclusive spaces that enhance the quality of life for all users.



created in
REVIT 2023

Appliance Integration: Drawer fridge and drawer dishwasher, enhanced accessibility while maintaining a sleek, modern aesthetic.



created in
REVIT 2023

Adaptable Fixtures: mechanical height-adjustable work surface incorporates sink and two-burner cooker. Allowing various user needs to be met.

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FIRST FLOOR - BARRIER FREE



created in

REVIT 2023 This bathroom floor plan illustrates accessible features such as wide doorways and strategically placed fixtures, ensuring ease of use while promoting dignity and independence for all residents.



created in

REVIT 2023

Natural Light and Energy Efficiency: Large windows on the north and west walls flood the space with natural light, creating an open and inviting atmosphere. The integration of sun sensor-equipped roller blinds not only improves energy efficiency but also demonstrates my consideration for user comfort and environmental impact.



created in

REVIT 2023

Smart Storage Solutions: Floor-to-ceiling cabinets featuring mechanical hanging rods showcase my ability to maximize space efficiency while ensuring accessibility. This solution addresses the diverse needs of users, allowing for easy reach regardless of height or mobility constraints.

TKARONTO

TKARONTO

HOSPITALITY - RESTAURANT

location: toronto entertainment district

area: 218.5 m² (2,500 sq ft)

covers: 64

year: 2021

ABSTRACT

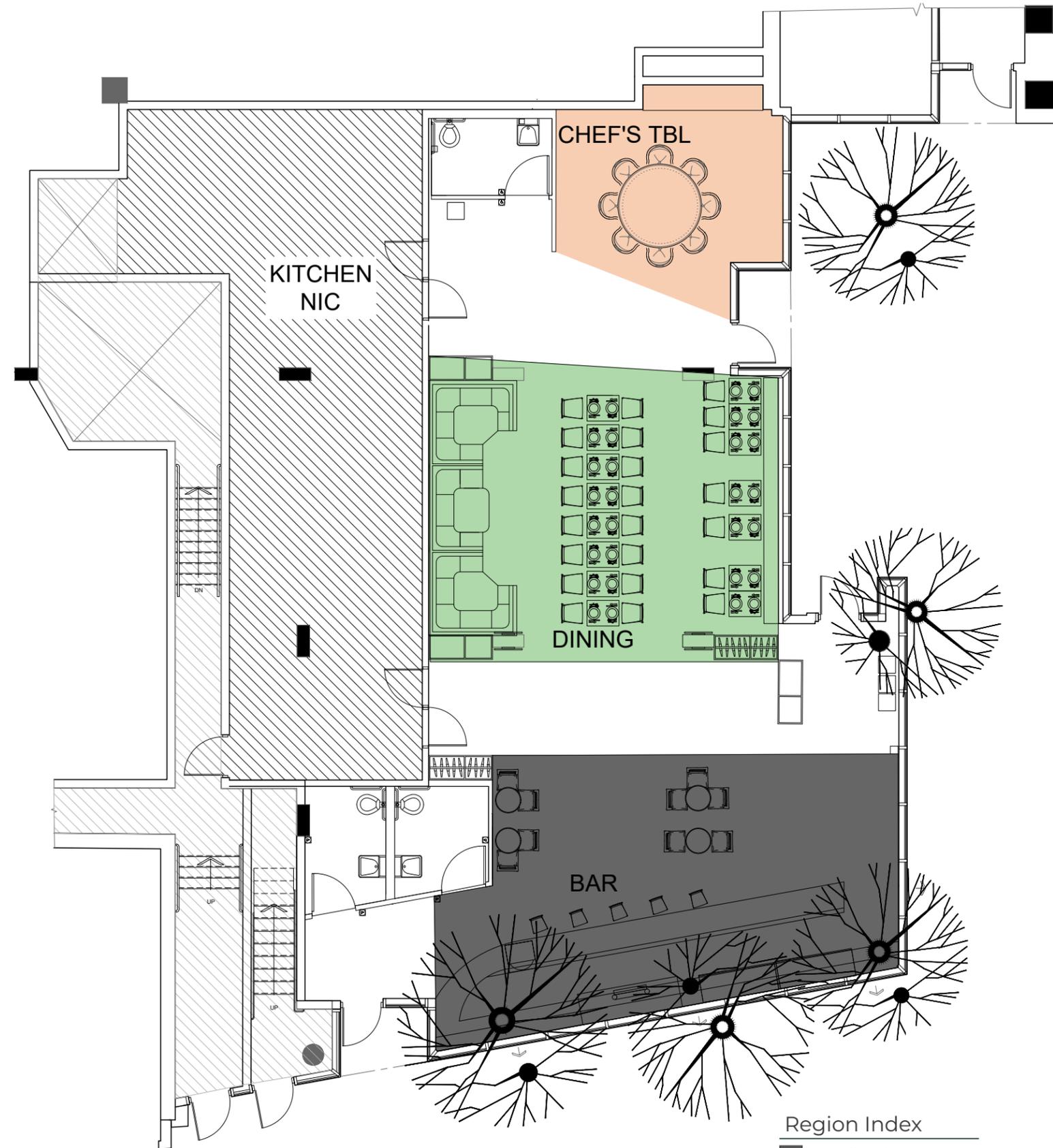
Concept: “the place in the water where the trees are standing,” (Haudenosaunee)
 Forged and Found: mans versions of what this place was before it was settled.

1. Lake Dining Room: Forged, chainmail light sculpture shimmers above moving with a soft air current.
2. Woodland Bar: Found, shipping pallets encapsulate and grow from the raw concrete columns locally sorced sandblasted tree limbs.
3. Canadian Shield: Chef's Table, stone floor, grass cloth textured walls.



INSPIRATION

Inspired by the wawatay (aurora borealis), this project infuses its colors and movement in nature. Textures and natural materials are thoughtfully layered throughout.



created in
AUTOCADD 2019

Region Index

- woodland bar
- wetland dining
- canadian shield chefs table

TKARONTO

TKARONTO

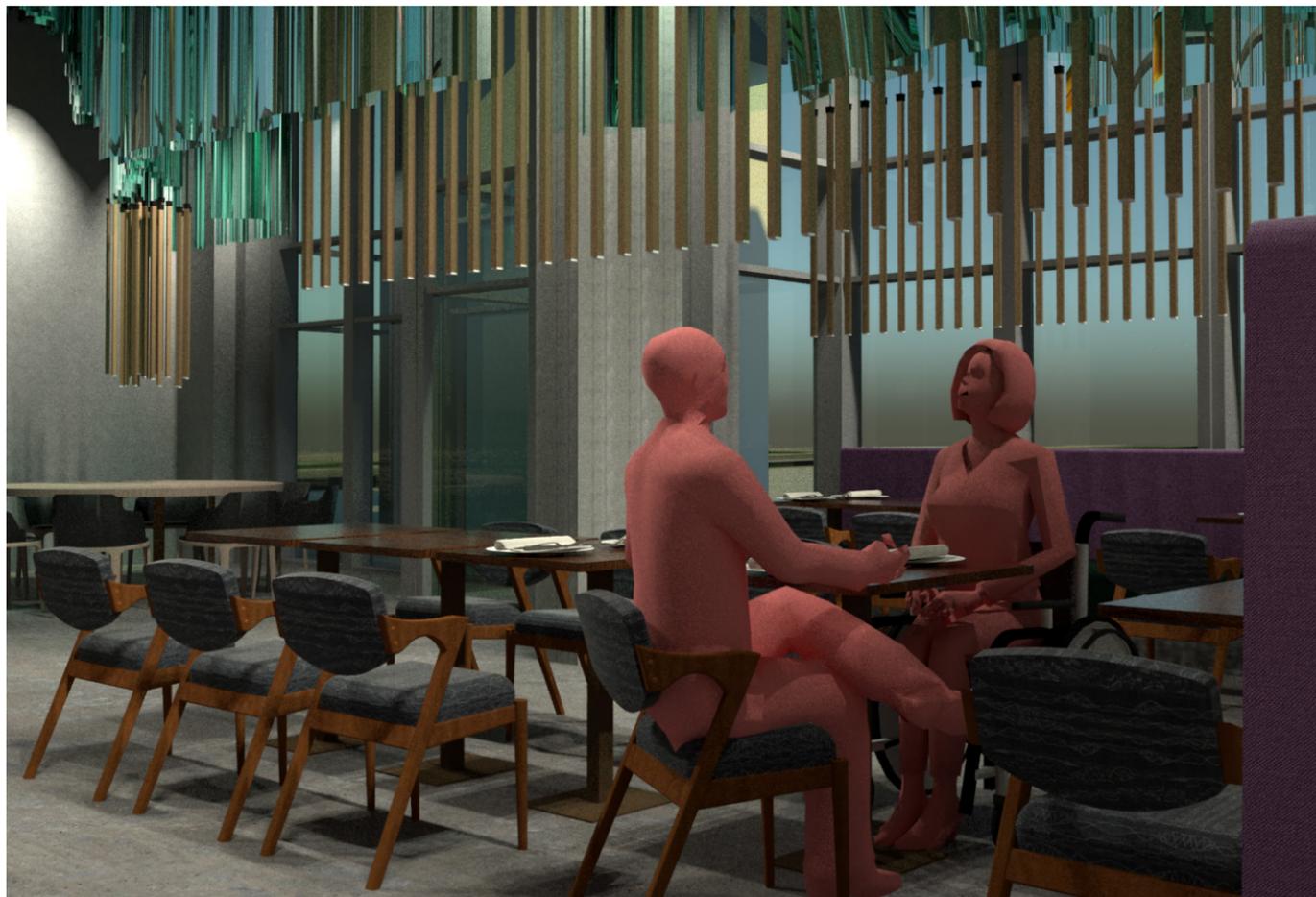
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created in
SKETCHUP 2019

The focal point of the restaurant is a mesmerizing kinetic light sculpture that emulates the wawatay (aurora borealis). This innovative installation features multi-colored chainmail curtains suspended above the central seating area.



FACTORY INN & SPA

FACTORY INN & SPA

HOSPITALITY- HOTEL

location: 5196 Magdalen St, Niagra Falls, On

area: 29,000 sf

rooms:

year: 2022

ABSTRACT

The Factory Inn & Spa represents a transformative approach to hospitality design, embodying my commitment to creating spaces that foster connection and cater to specific market needs. This adults-only boutique hotel not only addresses a gap in Niagara Falls' hospitality landscape.

The hotel serves as a sanctuary away from home, allowing guests to momentarily forget the outside world and immerse themselves in a narrative that celebrates both nature and fantasy. The interior spaces are designed to evoke a sense of playfulness and wonder, treating each visit as a performance in a magical setting.

Materials and color palettes reflect the natural landscapes that inspire these stories, creating an environment that resonates with warmth and comfort. The design intertwines elements of traditional craftsmanship with modern aesthetics, ensuring that every corner tells a story while providing an inviting space for relaxation and connection.

By embracing the essence of fairy tales—where every detail contributes to an overarching narrative—the boutique hotel becomes more than just a place to stay; it transforms into an experience that encourages guests to engage with their surroundings and rediscover the magic within themselves.



2022

INSPIRATION

Inspired by the buildings heritage and industrial materials, i entwined grimms fairy tales into this boutique hotel design invites guests to escape into a realm where imagination meets reality. Drawing from the rich colors of the forests depicted in timeless tales and the saturated hues of ball gowns worn by princesses, each element of the design is carefully curated to create a whimsical yet sophisticated atmosphere.

FACTORY INN & SPA

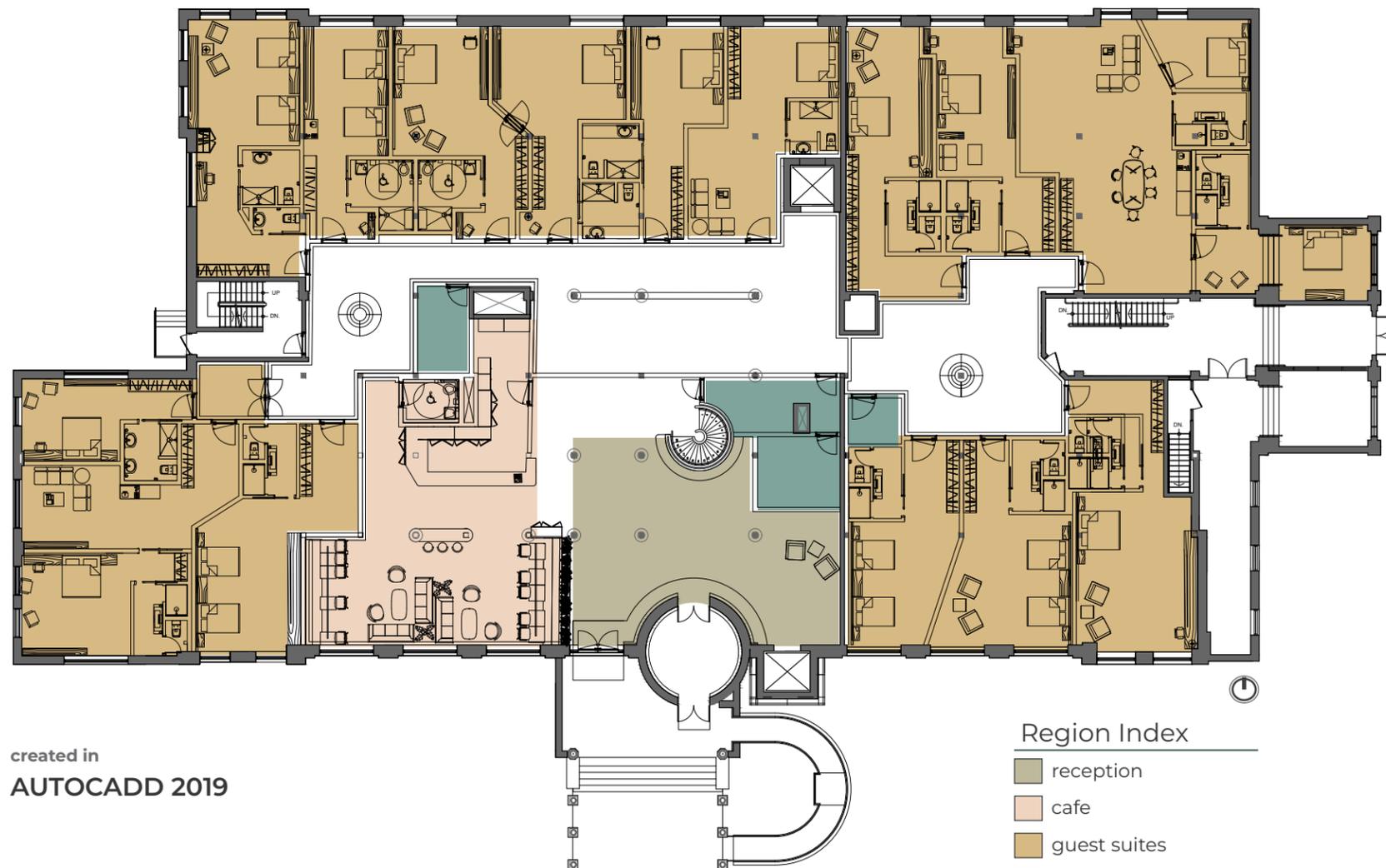
FACTORY INN & SPA

HOSPITALITY- HOTEL

location: 5196 Magdalen St, Niagra Falls, On

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year: 2022



created in
AUTOCADD 2019

FLOOR PLAN

Elevated Event Spaces: The third-floor addition and rooftop restaurant offer exclusive venues for corporate events, weddings, and social gatherings, with unparalleled views of Niagara Falls.

Sophisticated Ambiance: The gradual transition from industrial chic to airy elegance throughout the vertical space reflects the tastes of our target demographic.

Adult-Centric Amenities: From the lobby café to the spa facilities, each space is designed to offer tranquil, grown-up luxury.

This strategic alignment of architectural vision with market demand showcases a nuanced understanding of both design principles and business awareness. Factory Inn & Spa stands not just as an exemplar of adaptive reuse, but as a case study in how thoughtful, market-responsive design can create a distinctive hospitality experience that fills a specific niche in a competitive tourist destination.

Core Competencies

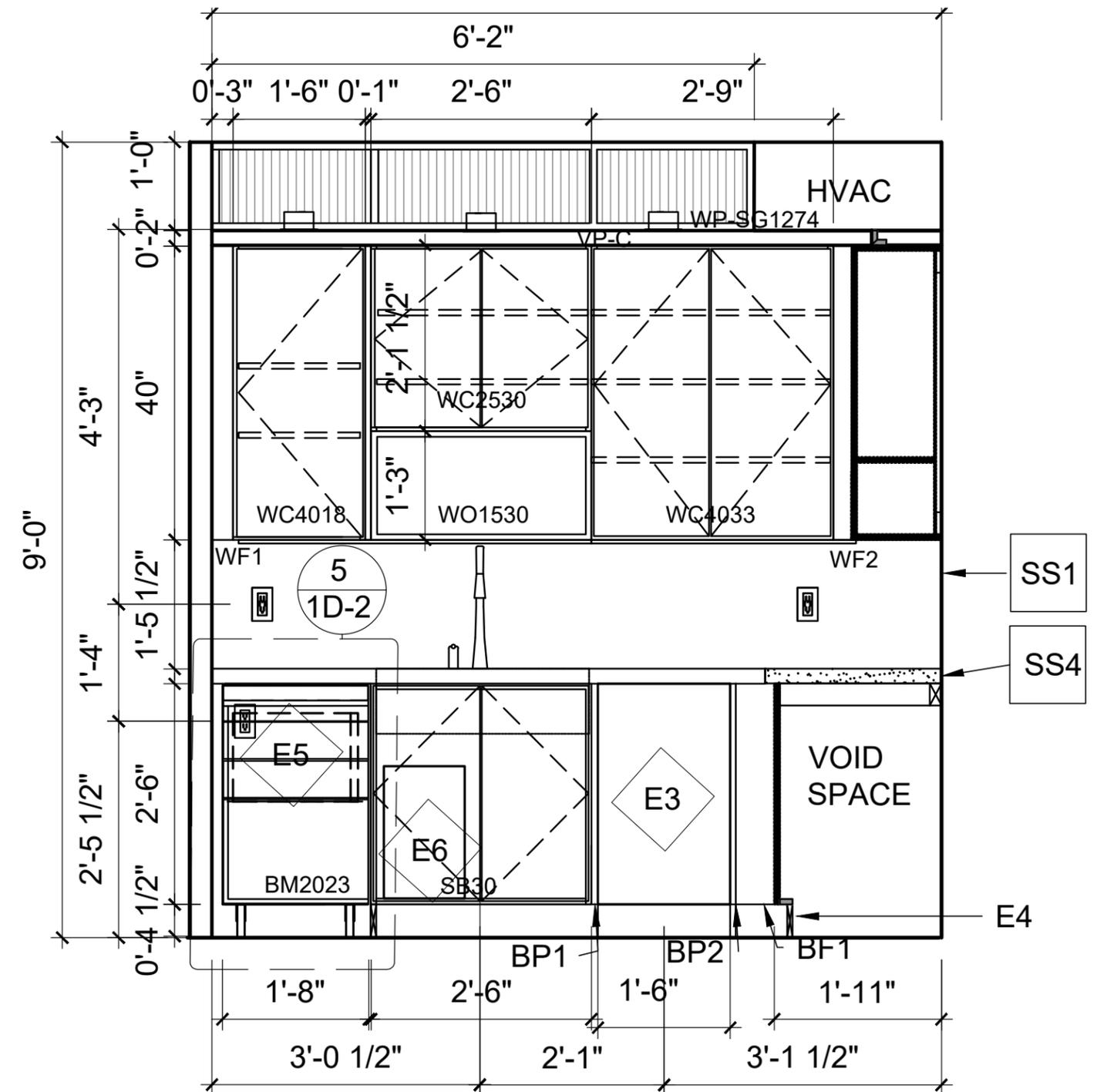
AUTOCAD VERSION - 2019, 2020

AUTOCAD

I have a foundational understanding of 3D modeling software and am excited about its potential to present alternative views for different audiences. My introduction to Revit, AutoCAD, and SketchUp during my hybrid education has sparked my interest in these tools. I'm eager to expand my knowledge in a supportive office environment that values mentorship and hands-on learning.

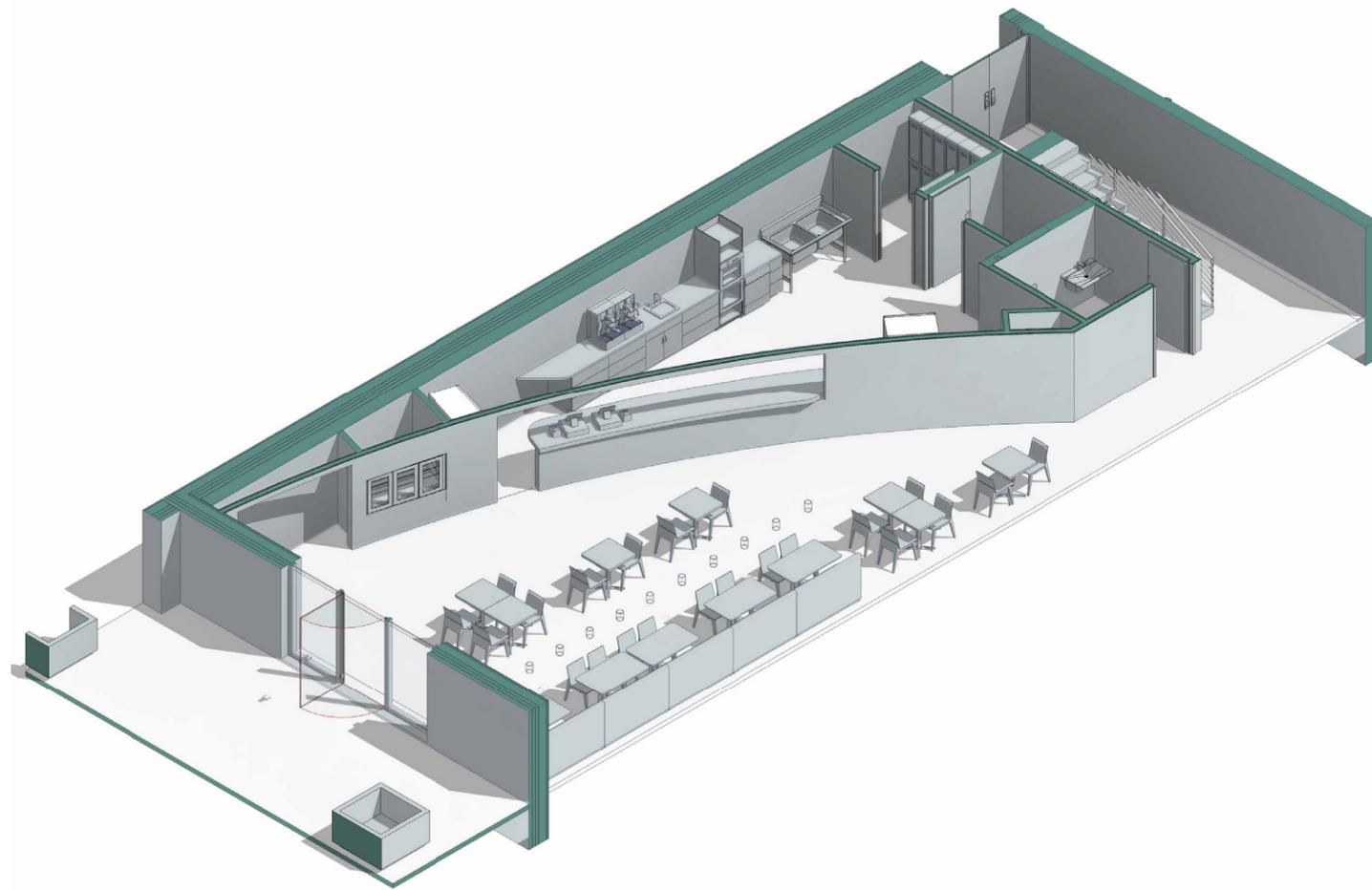
- Creating 2D drawings like floor plans, elevations, and detailing.
- Understanding layer management and basic drafting techniques.
- Learning to apply dimensions and annotations.
- Familiarity with plotting drawings

While I'm still developing my AutoCAD skills, I'm committed to improving and can handle basic tasks with guidance.

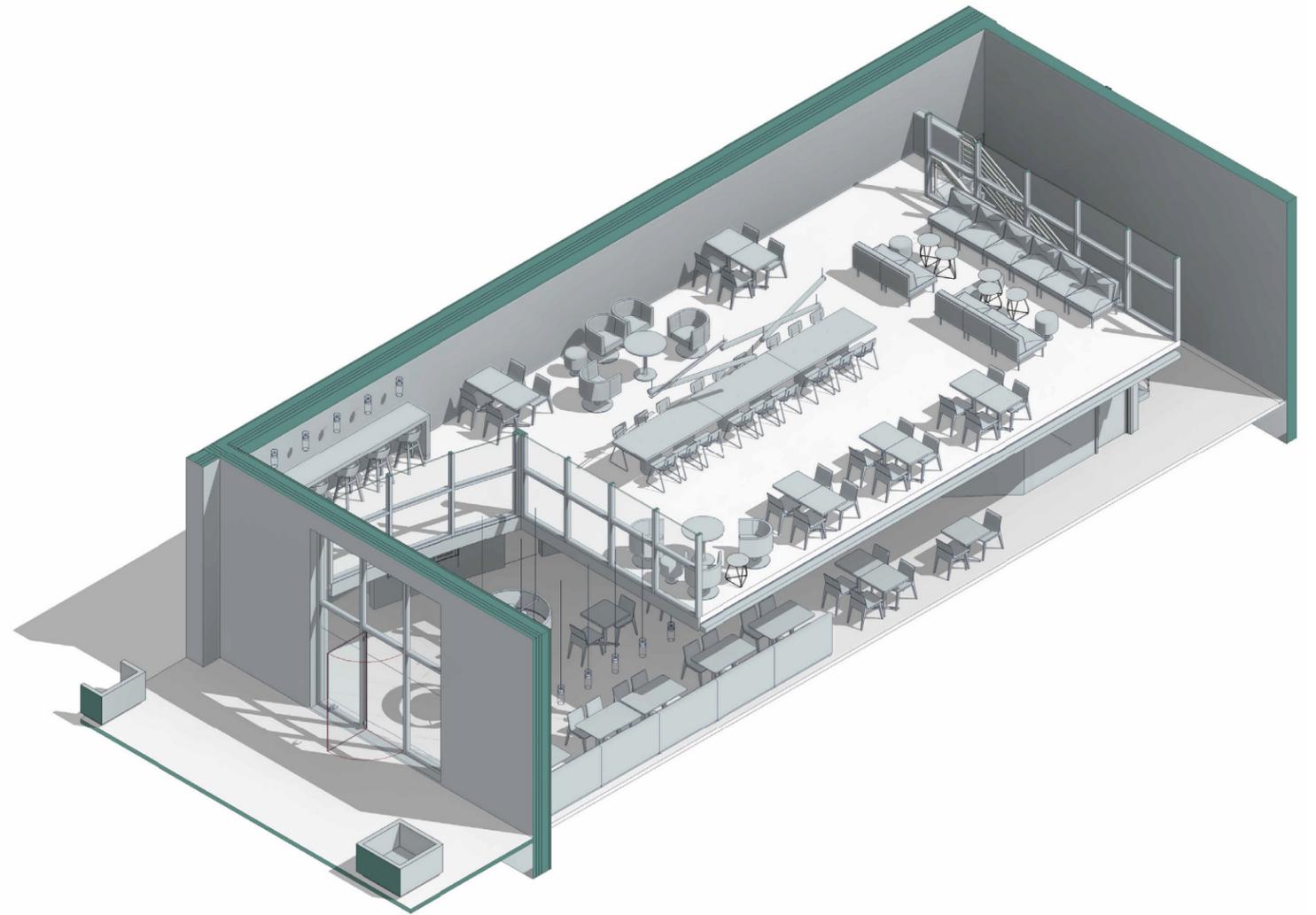


Core Competencies

REVIT
VERSION - 2020



created in
REVIT 2023 ground floor



created in
REVIT 2023 mezzanine

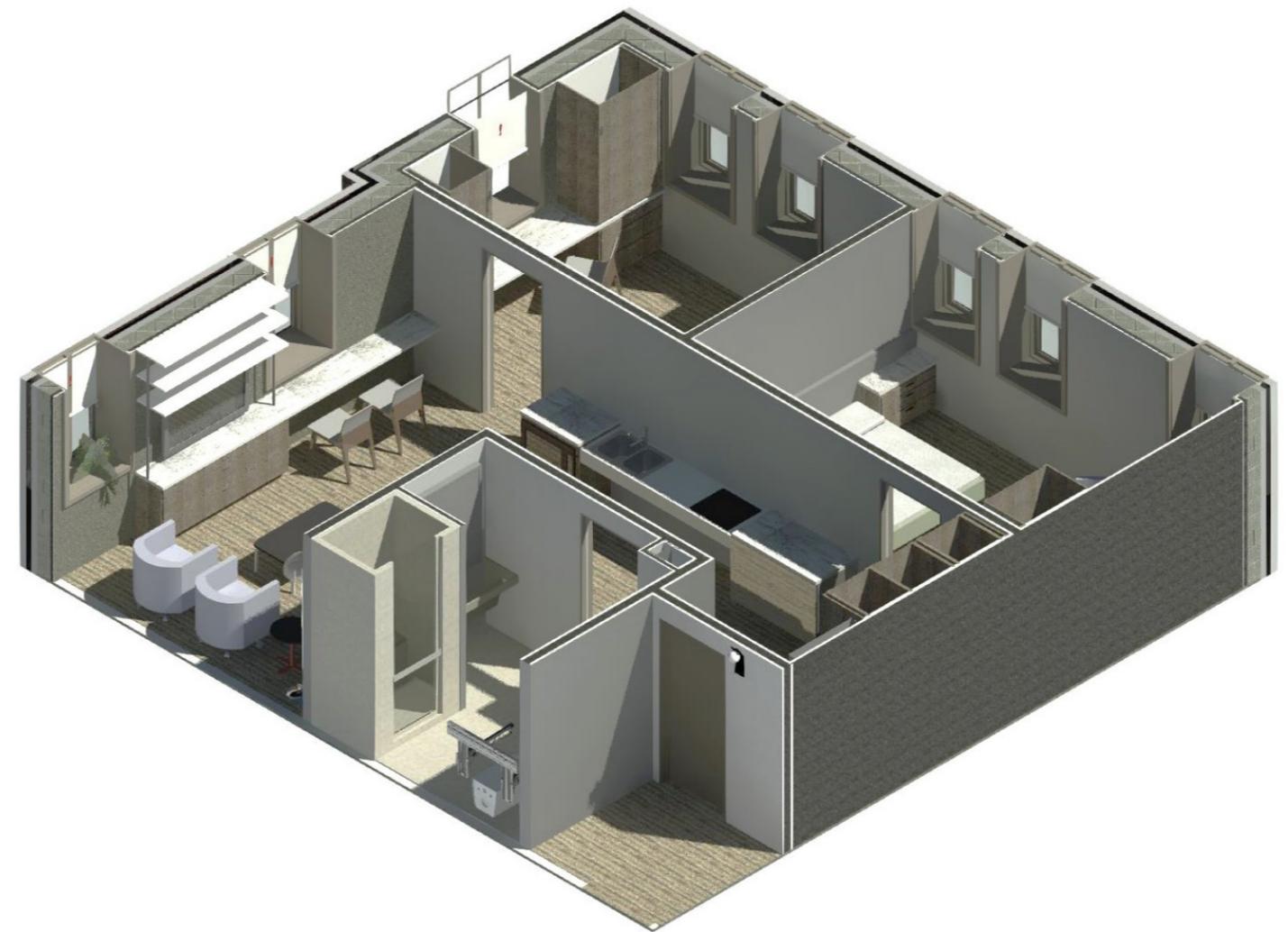
Core Competencies

REVIT
VERSION - 2020, 2023

REVIT 2020, 2023

I'm eager to gain more hands-on experience with Revit and understand its full capabilities in a professional setting.

- Understanding the basics of building information modeling (BIM).
- Exploring Revit's interface and fundamental tools.
- Creating basic architectural elements within a model.
- Learning about families and how they function in Revit.



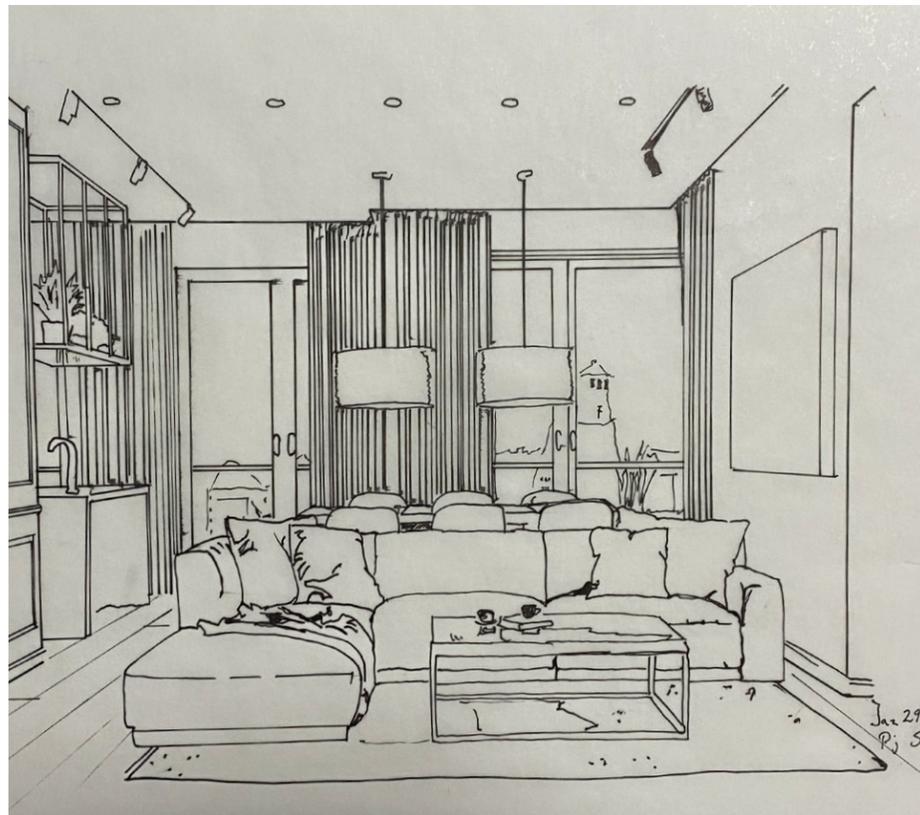
created in
REVIT 2023

Core Competencies

SKETCH

PHOTOSHOP COLOUR WASH

year: 2021



2021
HAND SKETCH



2021
PHOTOSHOP



2021
PHOTOSHOP

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

PAST WORK

RESIDENTIAL SHOWHOME DESIGN & STAGING

location: Calgary, Ab

year: 2010

RESIDENTIAL SHOWHOME DESIGN & STAGING

In partnership with Sabal Showhomes and Sojourn Home Furnishings, I crafted an interior for their 2010 showhome lane that captures the essence of East Coast contemporary style. The vision was all about creating a sanctuary—somewhere that feels both refined and welcoming. Soft grey walls set a calming tone throughout the space, while crisp, white bedding adds a touch of understated luxury.

To bring warmth and character, I incorporated natural wood accents, which lend an organic feel and a sense of grounding. Every detail was chosen to strike a balance between modern elegance and everyday comfort, making the home feel approachable yet sophisticated.

This design was carefully tailored to resonate with buyers seeking a peaceful retreat that still feels current and stylish. The result is a serene, versatile environment—one that invites future homeowners to imagine their own story unfolding within its walls.



2010

SABLE SHOWHOME

Showhome design and staging from 2010.

THANK YOU FOR REVIEWING MY PORTFOLIO.

I am eager to contribute my skills in interior design while continuing to grow professionally. I am particularly interested in opportunities that offer strong mentorship, as I believe that guidance from experienced professionals is invaluable in developing my design capabilities and understanding industry best practices.

I look forward to the possibility of collaborating with a team that values mentorship and fosters an environment of learning and creativity.