



the luminary
灯影剧院

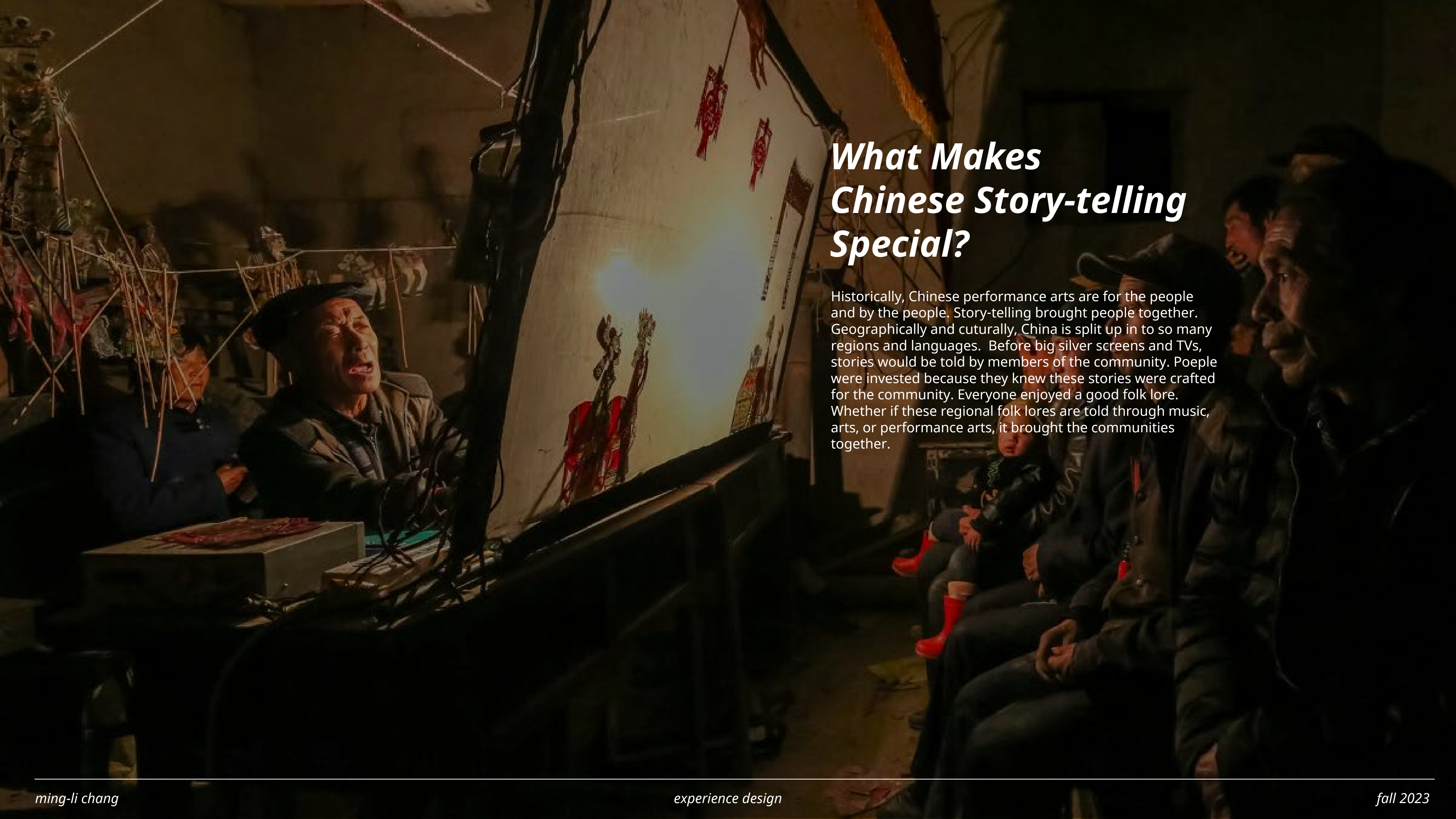
ming-li chang
experience design

fall 2023

Chinese Independent Cinema

Controversial. Historical. Diverse. The history of cinema in China has often been divided into six generations, all of which involve the influence of three distinct cultural hubs; Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Mainland China. Beyond the surface level, in contemporary Chinese film we are seeing story-tellers of smaller rural and urban cultural groups crafting narrative pieces that are compelling, stunning, and thriving amongst a group of passionate audiences that look for a storytelling experience outside of commercial movie theaters.





What Makes Chinese Story-telling Special?

Historically, Chinese performance arts are for the people and by the people. Story-telling brought people together. Geographically and culturally, China is split up in to so many regions and languages. Before big silver screens and TVs, stories would be told by members of the community. People were invested because they knew these stories were crafted for the community. Everyone enjoyed a good folk lore. Whether if these regional folk lores are told through music, arts, or performance arts, it brought the communities together.

Case Study

Bringing people together: Alula Film Festival

Established as a non-profit organization in Washington DC in 2011, Alula Film is dedicated to discovering under-recognized Chinese language independent and arthouse films and filmmakers. Over the past decade, Alula Film has successfully hosted multiple film festivals and retrospective series in Washington DC, showcasing more than 400 films to U.S. audiences.

Design
Story

皮影戏



Design
Story

皮影戏

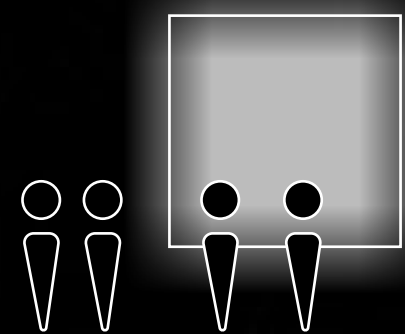
Chinese Shadow Puppetry

Before motion pictures and movies. Before film was captured by cameras were projected on screens. **Light, colors, and shadows** were manipulated **behind a screen**. Beautiful and **elegant papercrafts** puppeted with mastery to **tell stories** for the young and old. **Weaving communities together.**

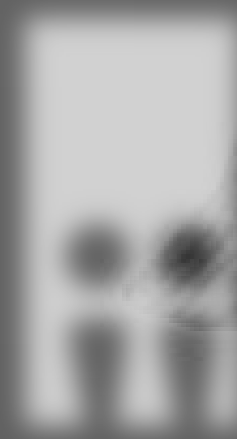
Design
Story

皮影戏

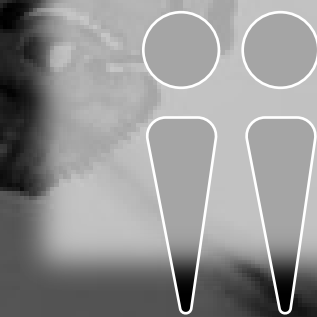
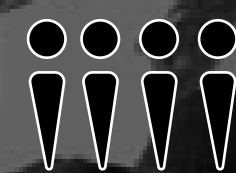
As a spatial experience
how might someone



Feel the warmth of a story
telling environment



Experience the story
being told by others



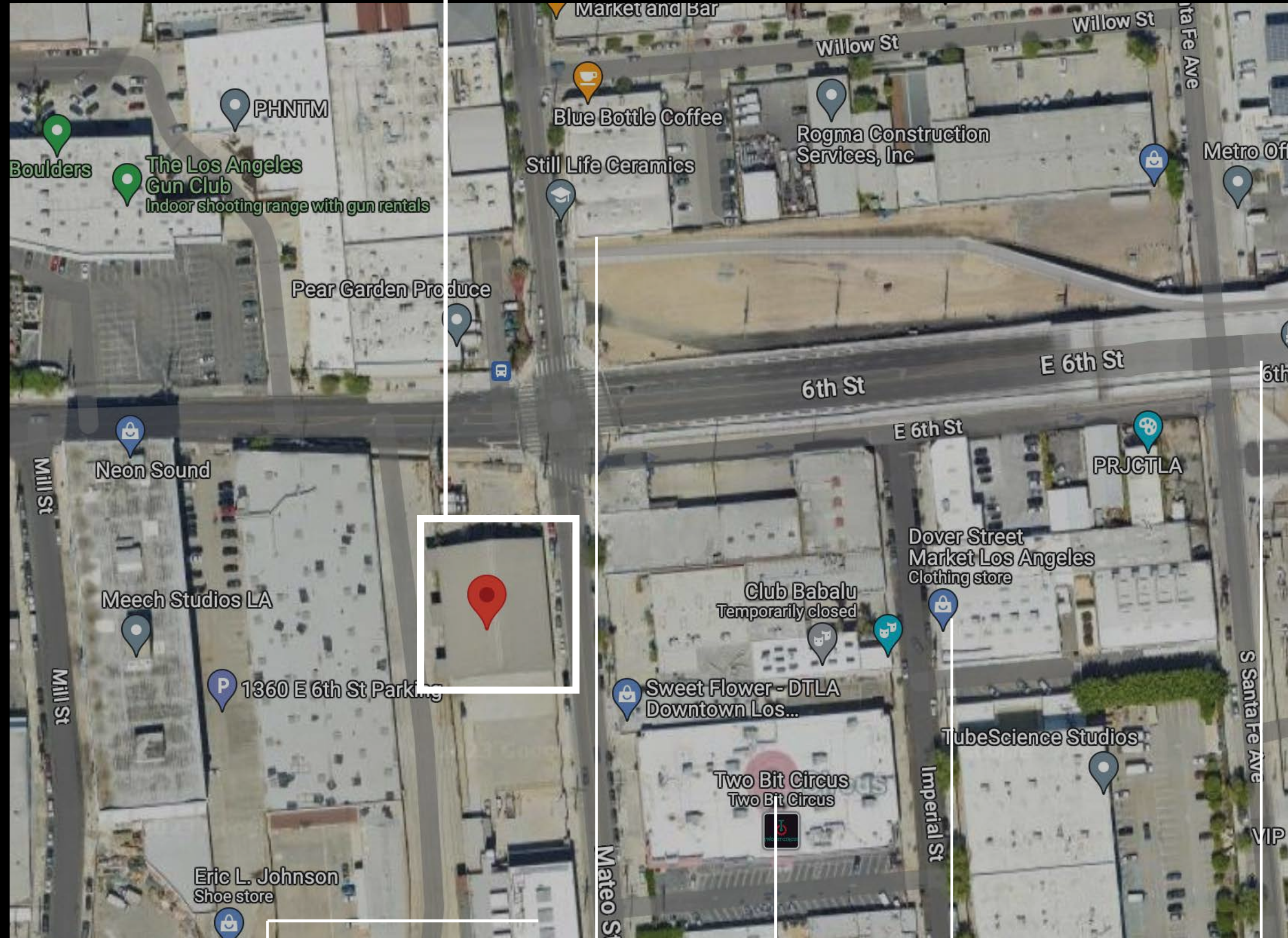
Become part of the story through a
connection with the story teller



the **lumi**
nary
灯影剧院

*The Luminary is a sanctuary for independent Chinese story tellers, be that of art or film. It is a space where light and shadow meet to illustrate well crafted narratives. These narratives are to be shared with the community and for new stories to be created. Behind or in front of the screen, the community is able to appreciate the stories, peak behind the paper screen, and also **become a part of the story** that is The Luminary.*

site analysis 1380 E 6th St



Toy Factory Lofts
Loft building with large parking structure

6th and Mateo
Shops, cafés, and restaurants (Blue Bottle Coffee)

Two Bit Circus
Retro arcade for adults

Dover Street Market
High-end designer collective retail store by Rei Kawakubo

6th Street Bridge
Recent redesign attracts tourists, photographers, and the car community

Sun and Lighting

Lack of greenery and building allows for a significant amount of sun on the building. The entrance is backlit in the morning and the loading dock/parking is backlit in the afternoon.

Views

Very industrial surrounding. The site sits at the intersection of the entrance to the 6th Street Bridge from the Arts District. Partial view of the bridge from certain angles at the building.

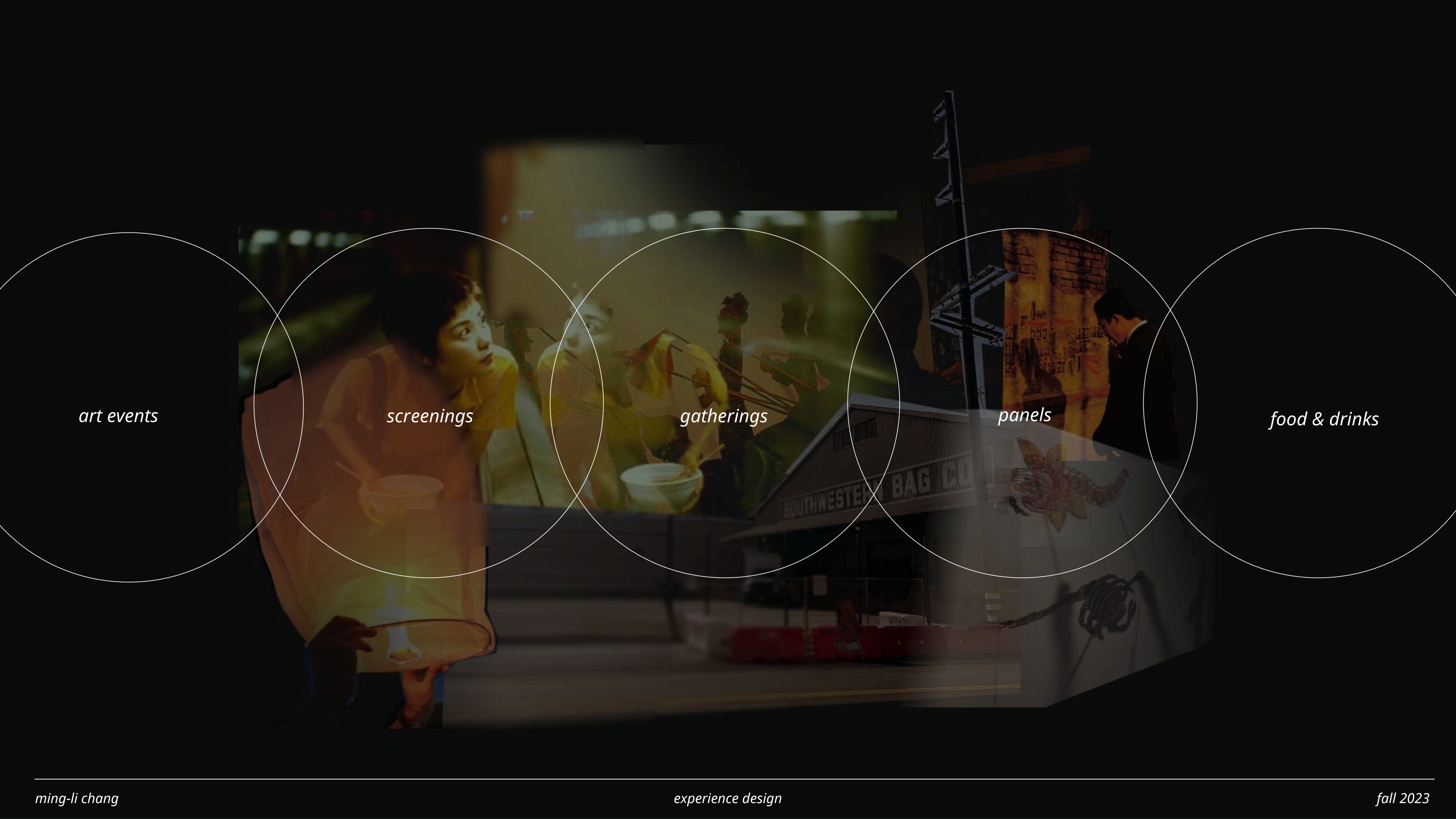
Traffic

A lot of constant road work at the intersection. Street parking packs the side of the street. The surrounding is structured with a couple one-ways and stop signed intersections. The intersection breaks off into the bridge so it can be a little bit confusing.

Neighborhood

The neighborhood is filled with graffiti (both tags and artistic murals) on the sidewalks and on the walls. Its a mixture of industrial factories/warehouses and hipster cafés/shops. Public parking structures are priced at the higher end. The area has seen a change of population in the past couple of years.





art events

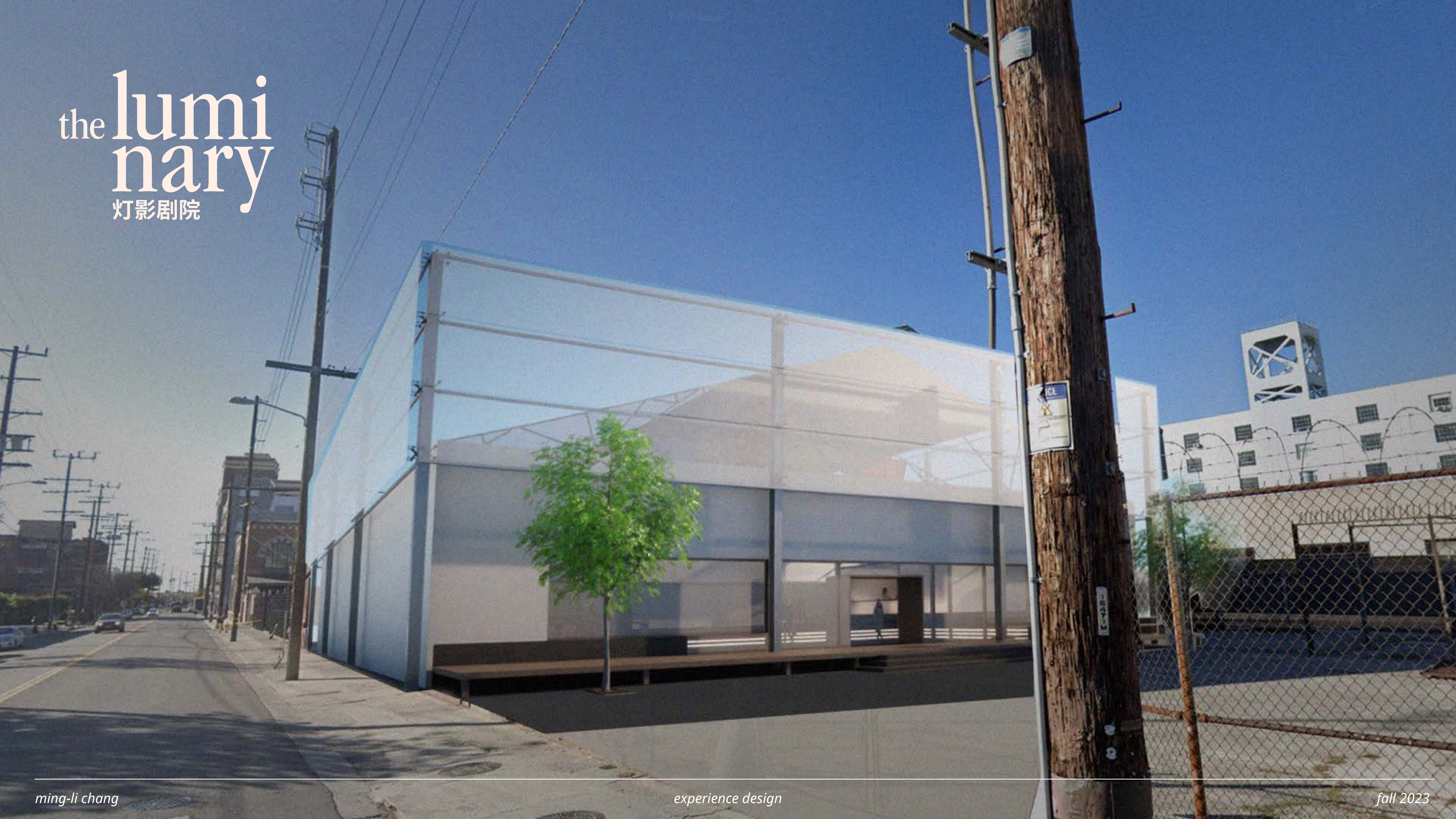
screenings

gatherings

panels

food & drinks

the luminary
灯影剧院





**Material
Story**

Embracing.

*Warm
Transparent
Flexible*

Authentic.

*Natural
Familiar
Comfortable*

Surreal.

*Translucent
Weightless
Light bending*



Embracing.

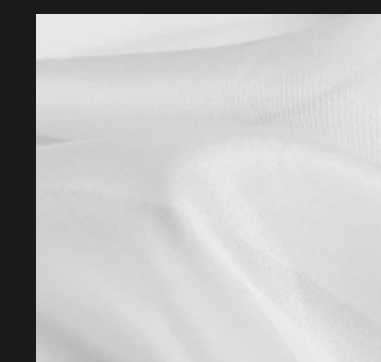
***Warm
Transparent
Flexible***



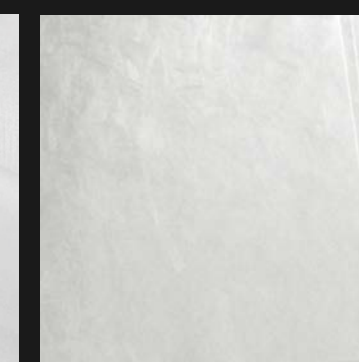
Stretched Nylon



Ceramic Terrazo



Organza

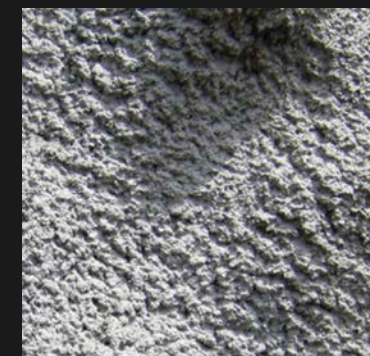


Tyvek



Authentic.

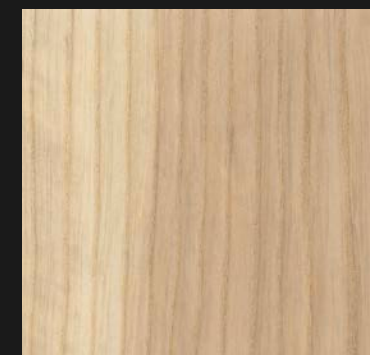
***Natural
Familiar
Comfortable***



Fly Ash Cement



Oak Wood



Ash Wood

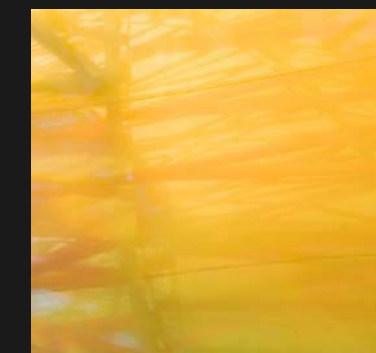


Woven Wool

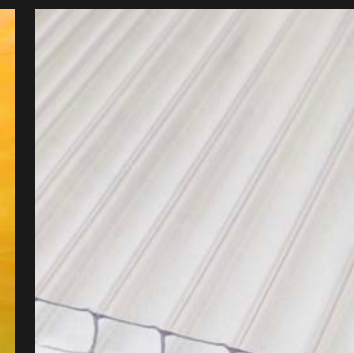


Surreal.

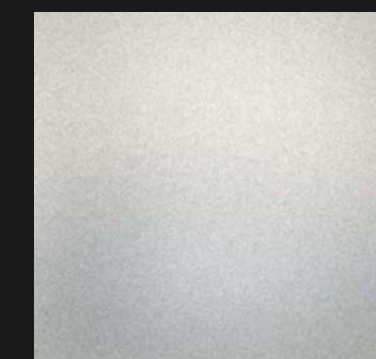
***Translucent
Light weight
Vivid***



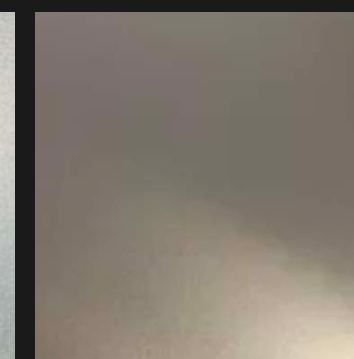
Colored Tensile Fabric



Polycarbonate



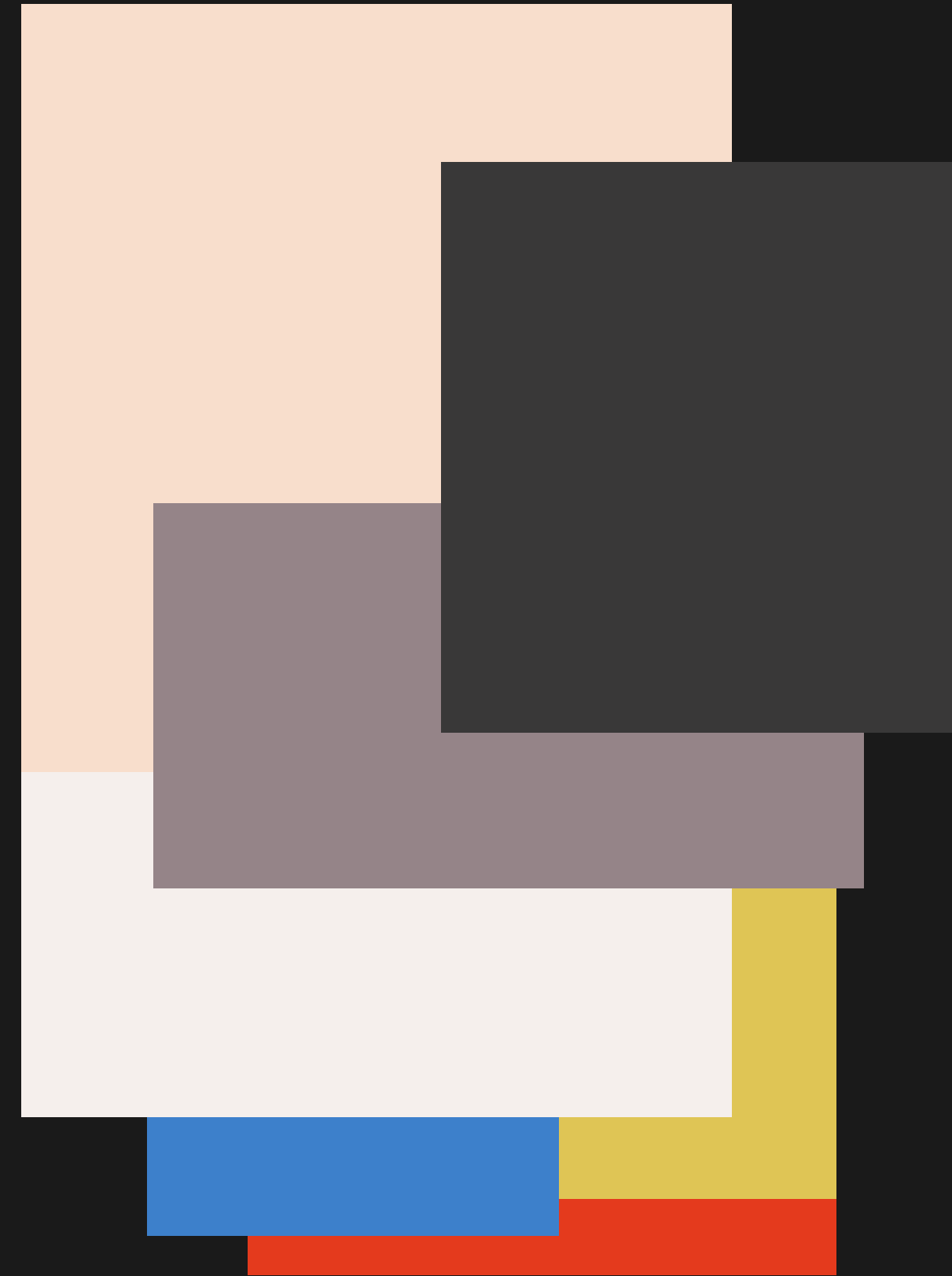
Frosted Glass



Anodized Aluminum

Color Story

*Colorful Light & Shadow play meets
Understated minimal surrealism*



Embracing.

Warm
Transparent
Flexible



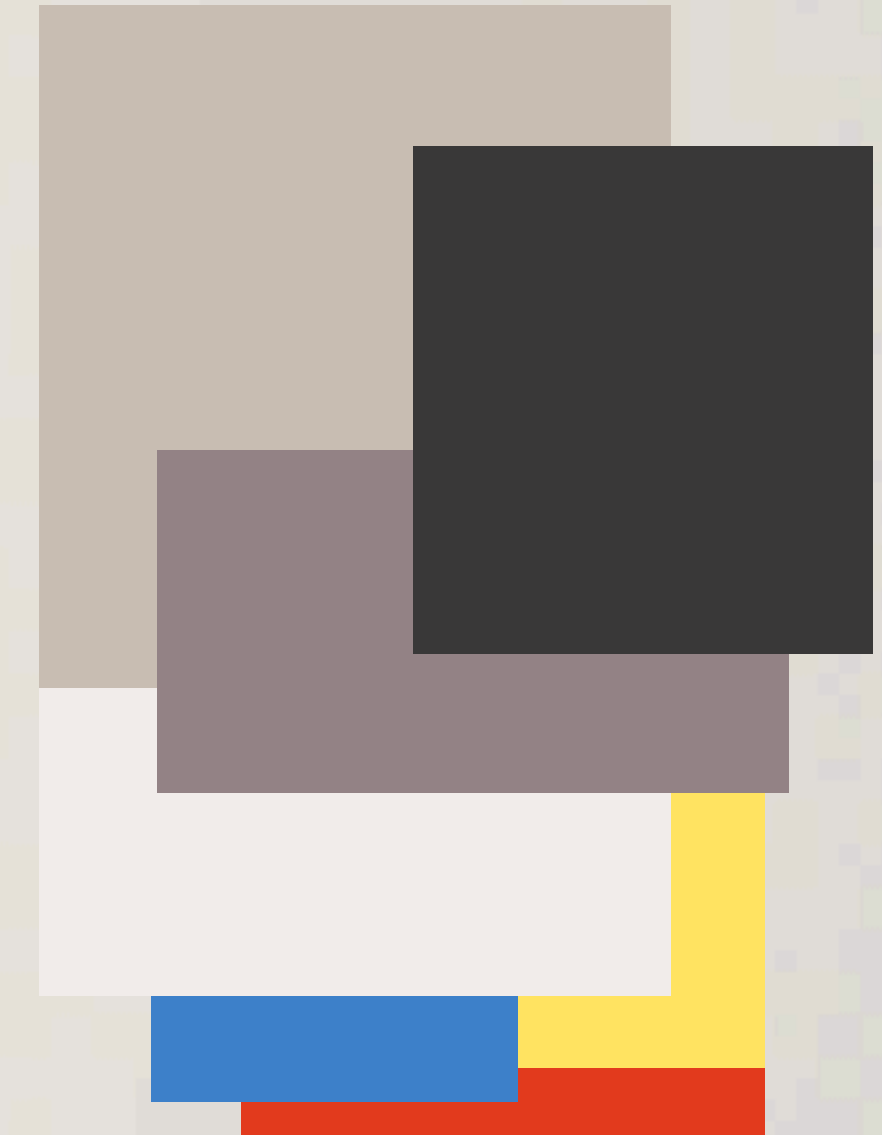
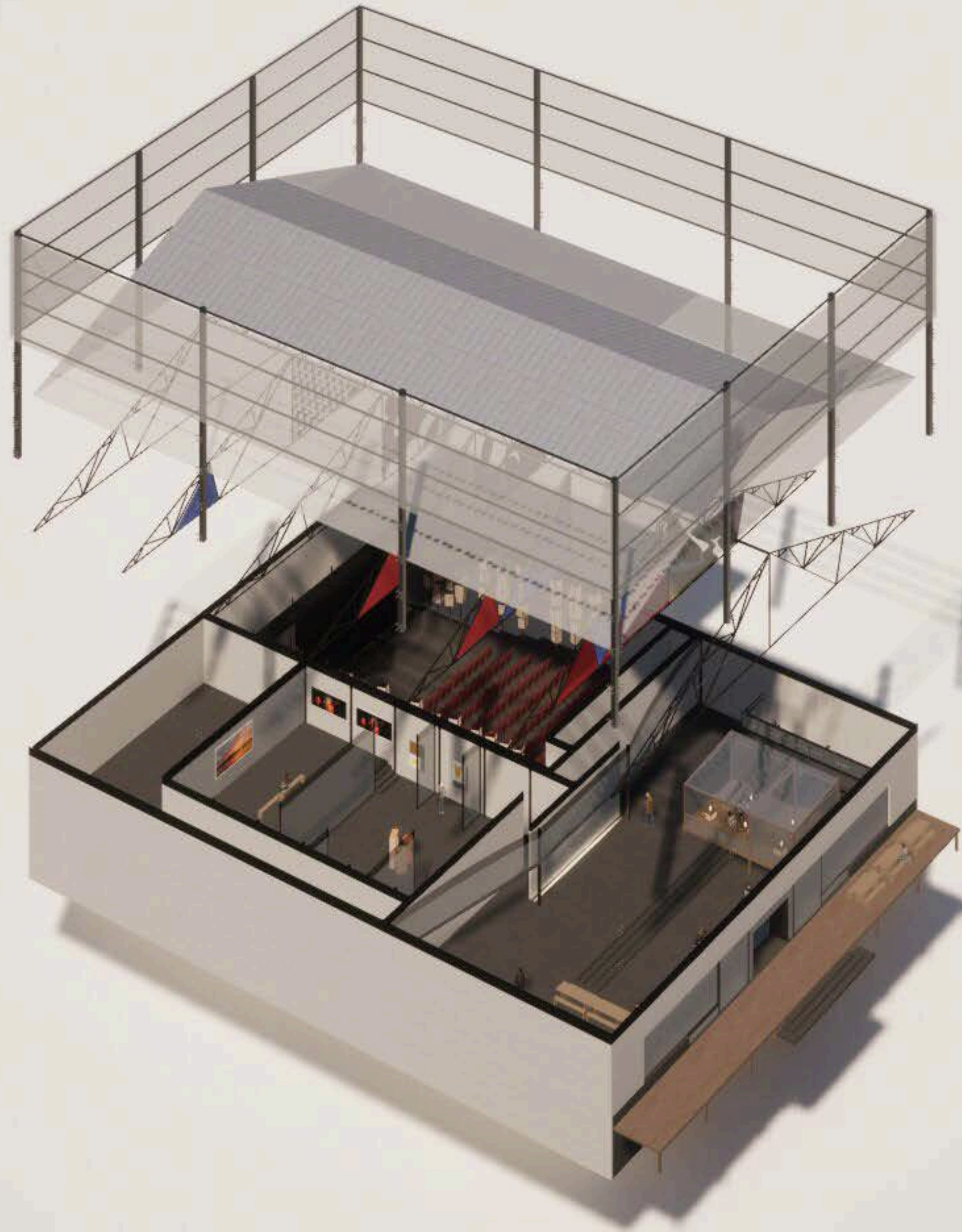
Authentic.

Natural
Familiar
Comfortable



Surreal.

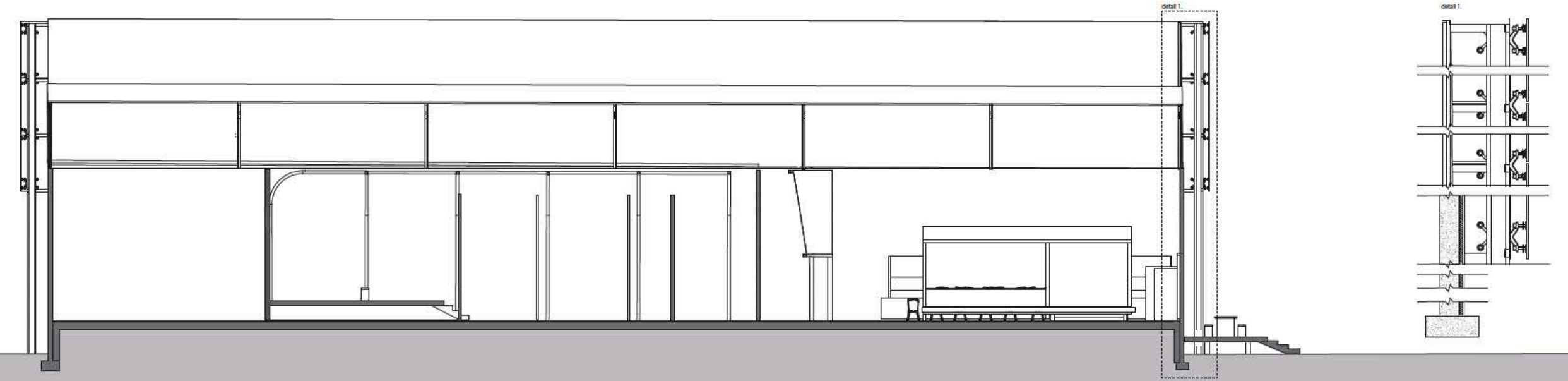
Translucent
Light weight
Vivid



Two Storytelling Spaces

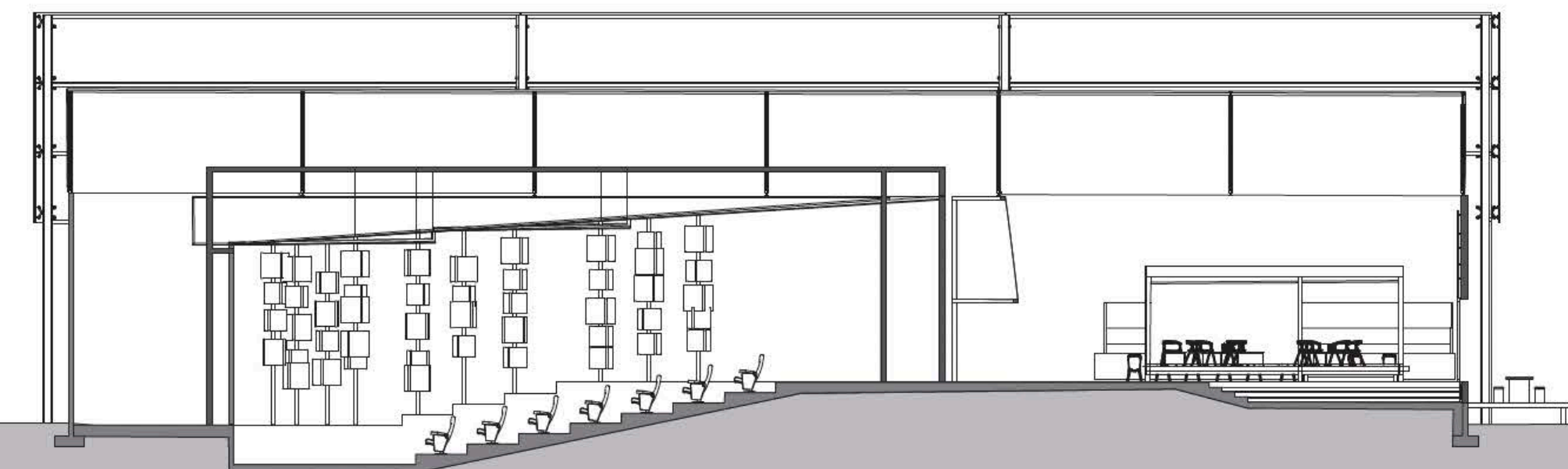
Art Gallery

The art gallery space mimics that of a stage where translucent panels creates framing for observers to become part of the art.



Screening Theater

A special theater with multiple lighting and acoustic elements. The big move in this space is the lanterns on the wall drawing parallels to the sky lanterns that people light up to make wishes come true.



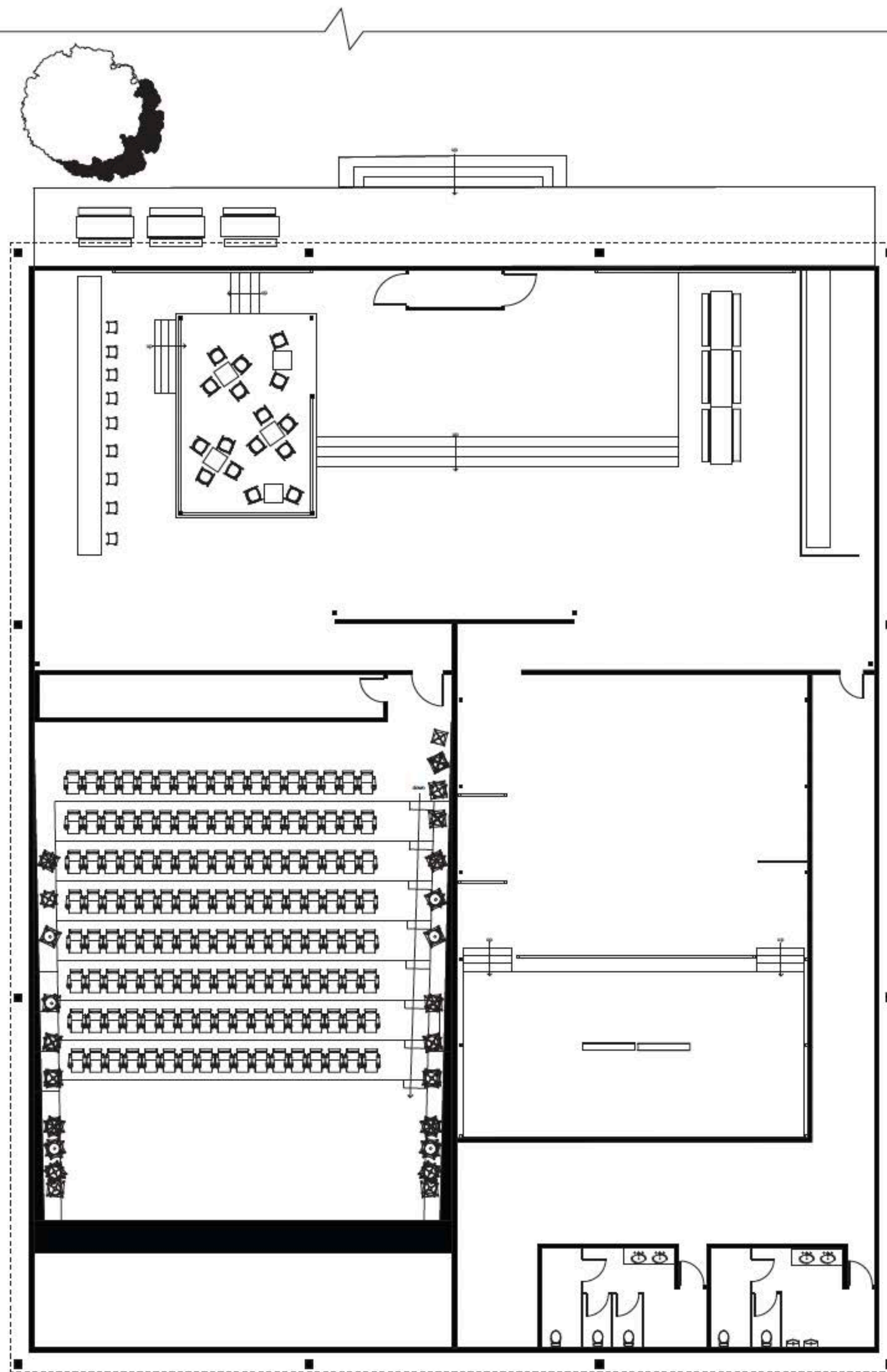
Celebrating Tradition

Chengdu Teahouse Cafe Space

Inspired by the multifaceted nature of a Chengdu teahouse, this space can be opened up to include the patio outdoor area for a lively mixed use food/drinks area.

The Fabric of Tradition

Tensile fabric is stretching along these large structures that create an interesting activation for the people walking around in the space. The patterned cut out fabric stretched in certain areas of the trusses creates activation for the people outside of the space.



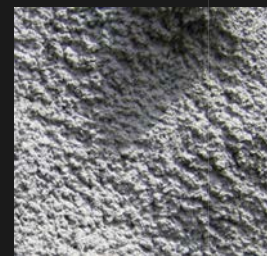
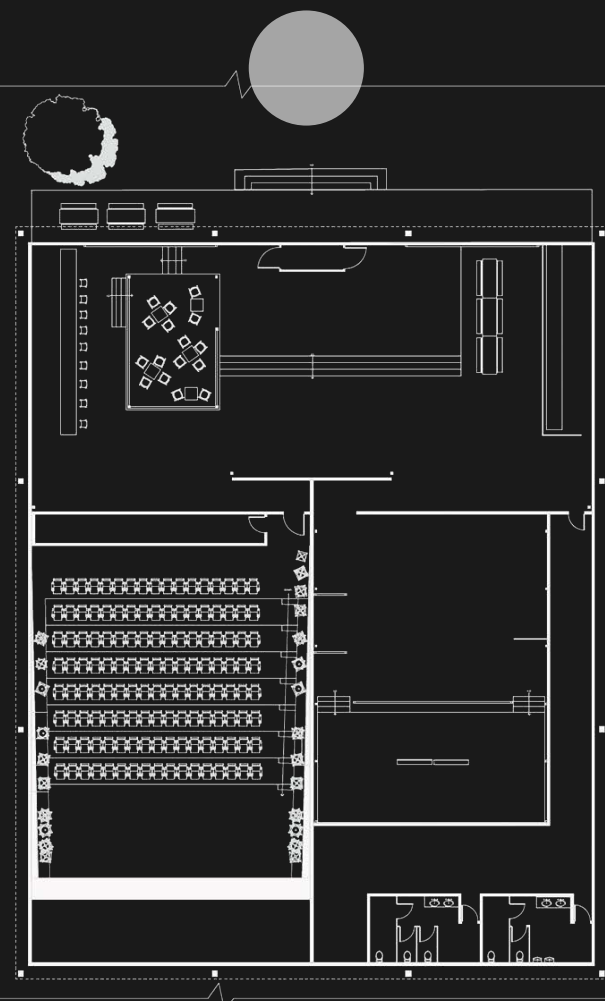
MATEO ST



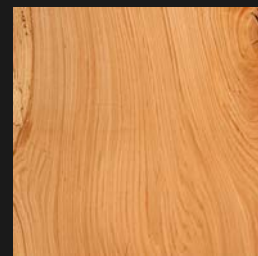
Facade



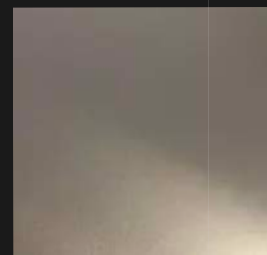
Facade



Fly Ash Cement



Oak Wood



Anodized Aluminum



Polycarbonate

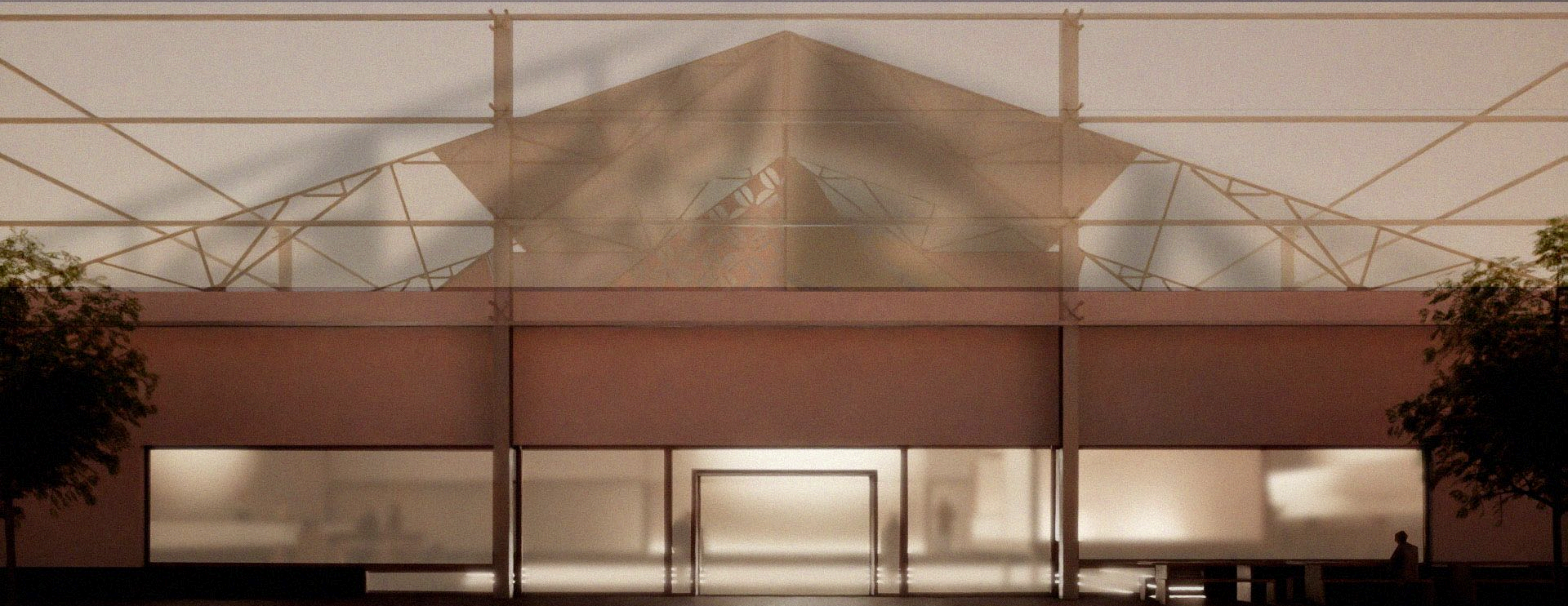


Frosted Glass

1:100

North

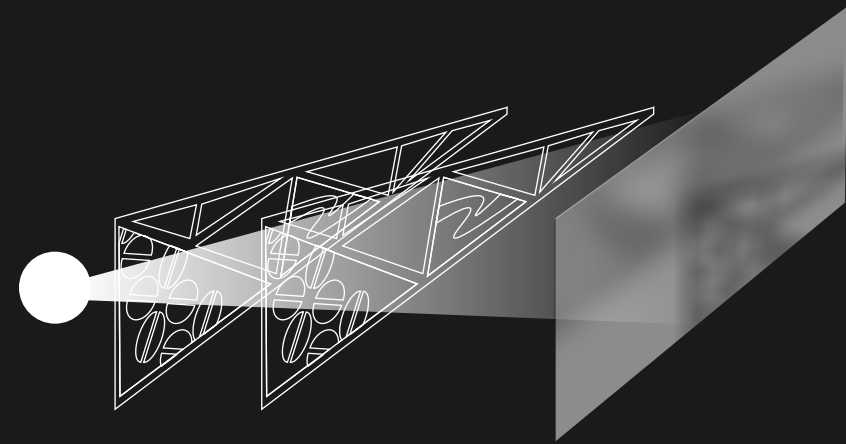
Facade



Facade

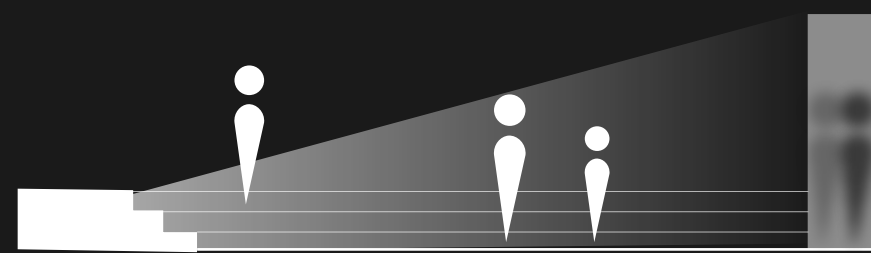
Shadows of the Pattern

Although the pattern cut out fabric is colorful and vibrant on the inside at night, lights placed in the trusses projects layers of shadows onto the big screen surrounding the facade.

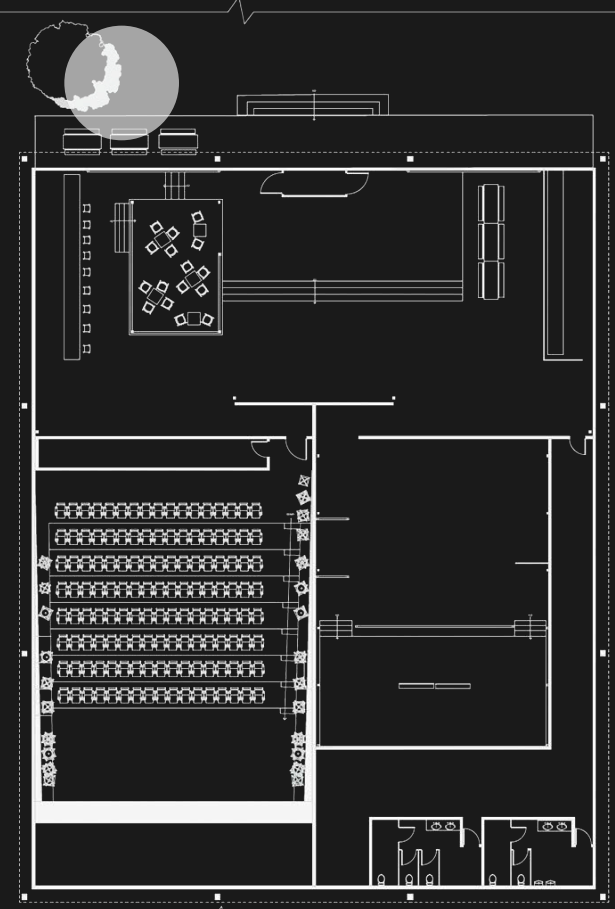


The lobby becomes its own story

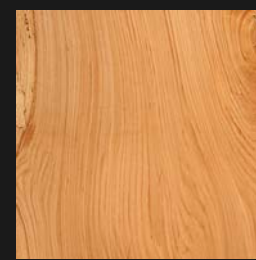
The lighting in the stairs projecting upon the people walking around the lobby with a downshifted area in the center illustrates the silhouette and movement of the people on to the frosted glass panels that creates the facade.



Patio



Fly Ash Cement



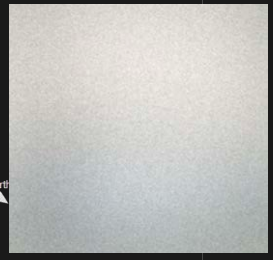
Oak Wood



Anodized Aluminum



Polycarbonate



Frosted Glass

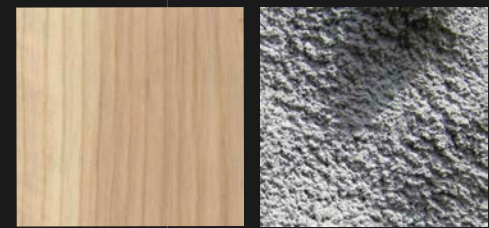
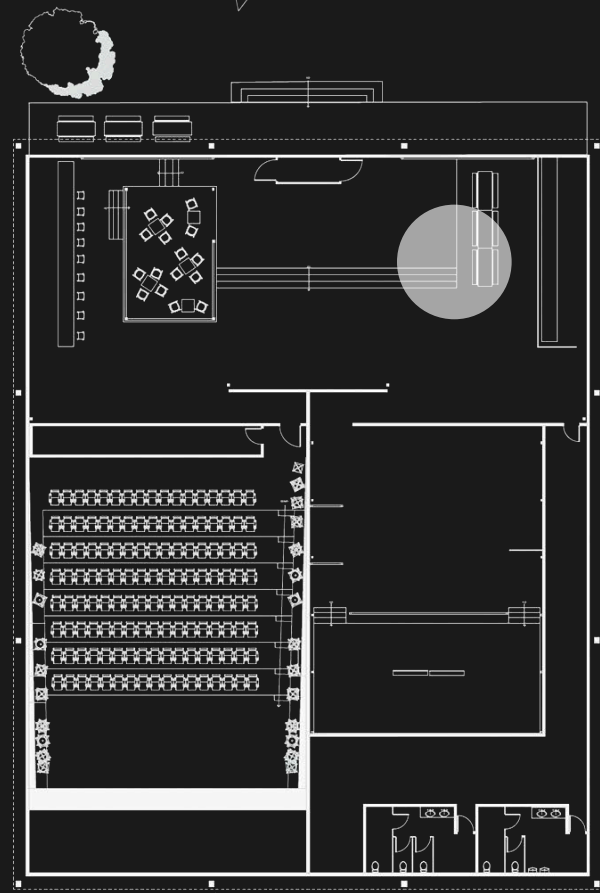
Patio



Patio



Reception



Ash Wood

Fly Ash Cement



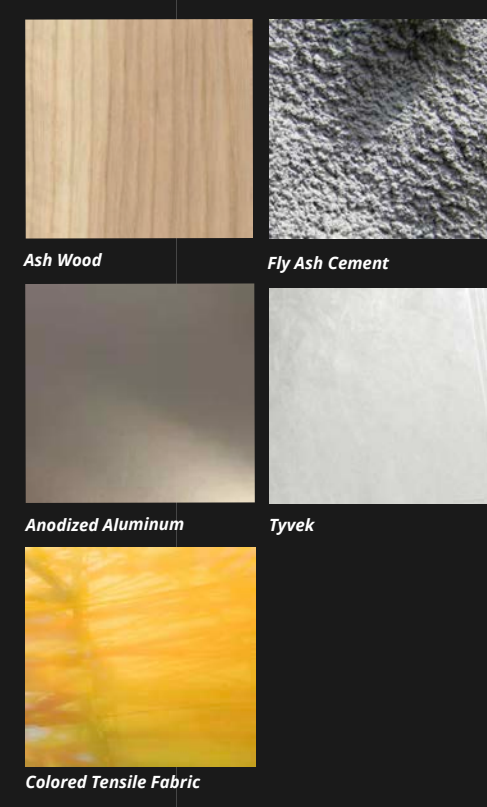
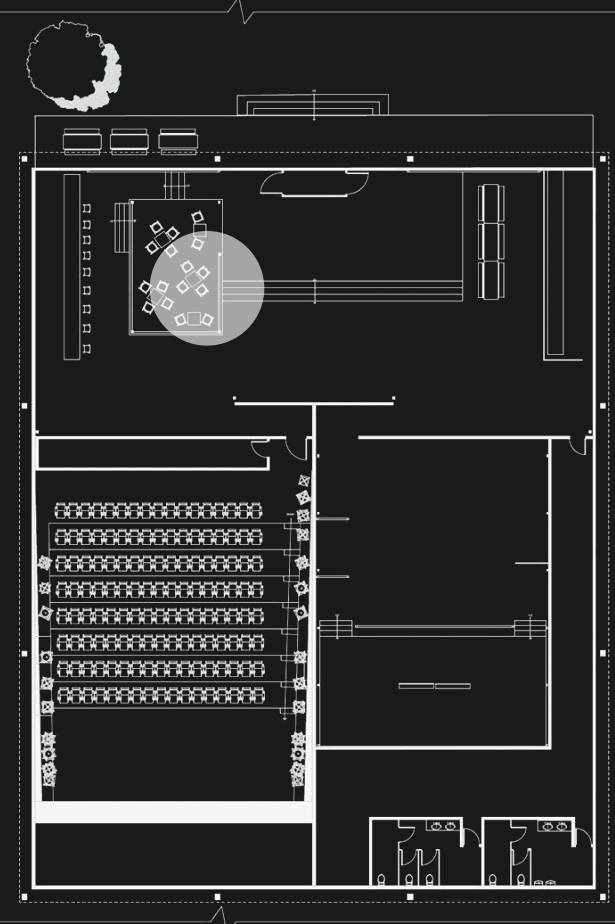
Anodized Aluminum

Tyvek

Reception



Tea house Space



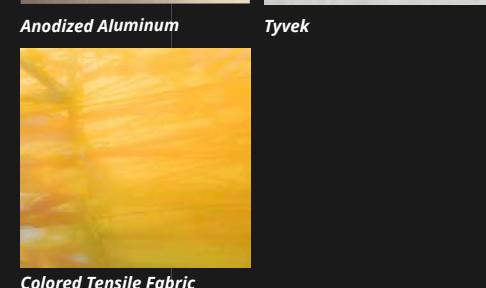
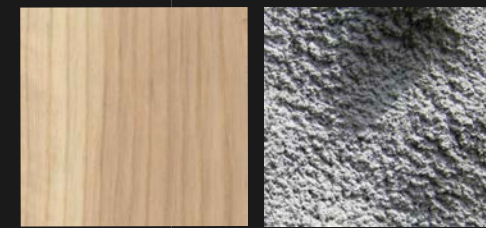
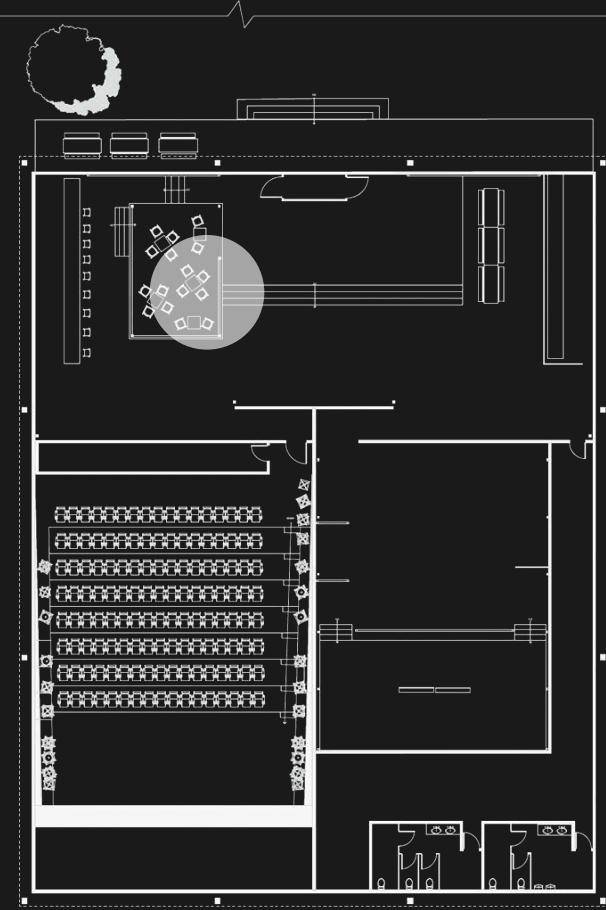
*Tea house
Space*



Tea house Space

成都茶馆

Very typical of a city in the Sichuan province of China called Chengdu. These teahouses are vivid, busy, yet calming and relaxing. Everything goes on in these tea houses, from mahjong, cards, to calligraphy auctions. They are also outdoors.



MATEO 37
North



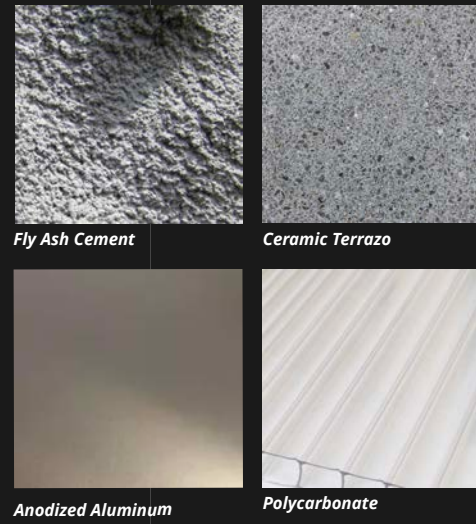
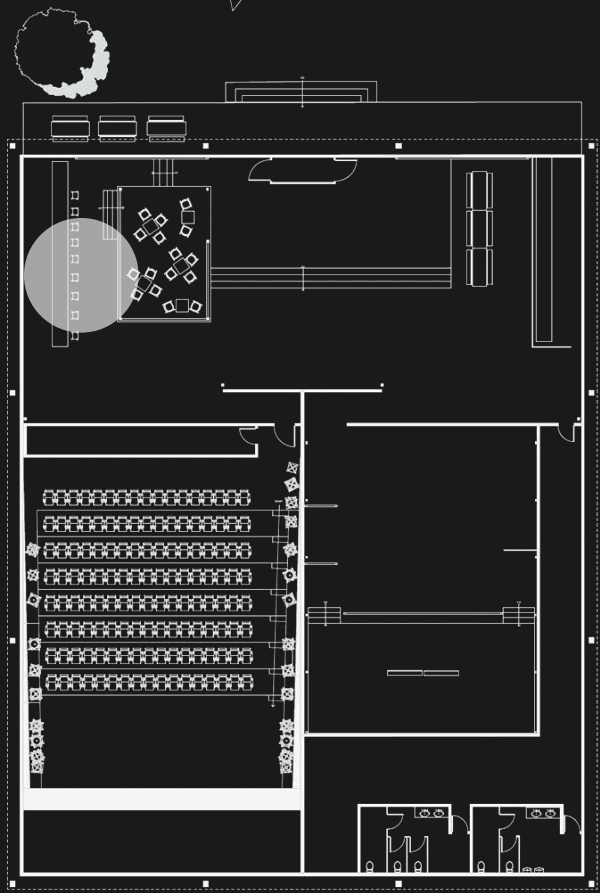
*Tea house
Space*



*Tea house
Space*



Shadow Bar



Fly Ash Cement

Ceramic Terrazo

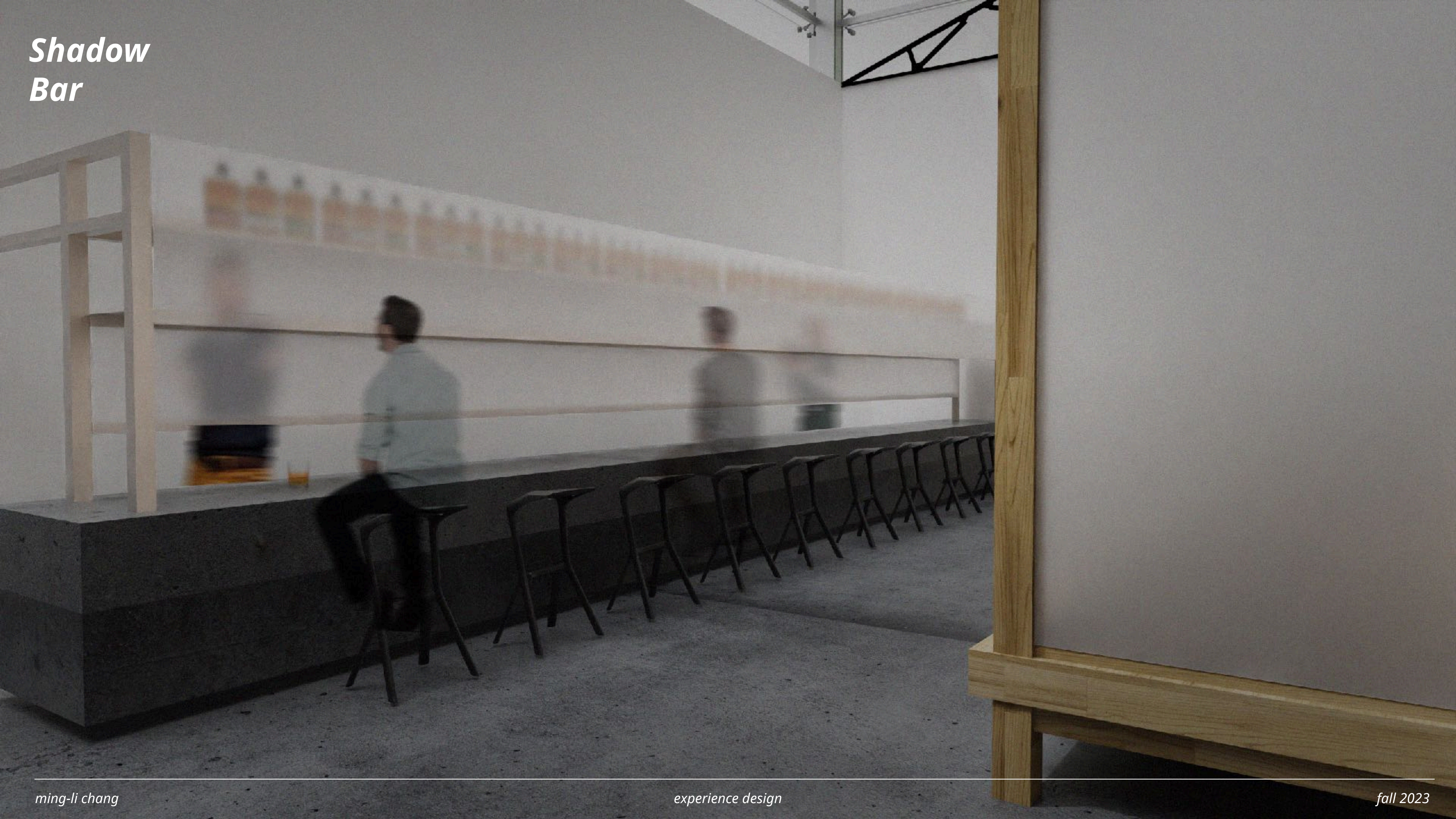
Anodized Aluminium

Polycarbonate

MINO ST

North

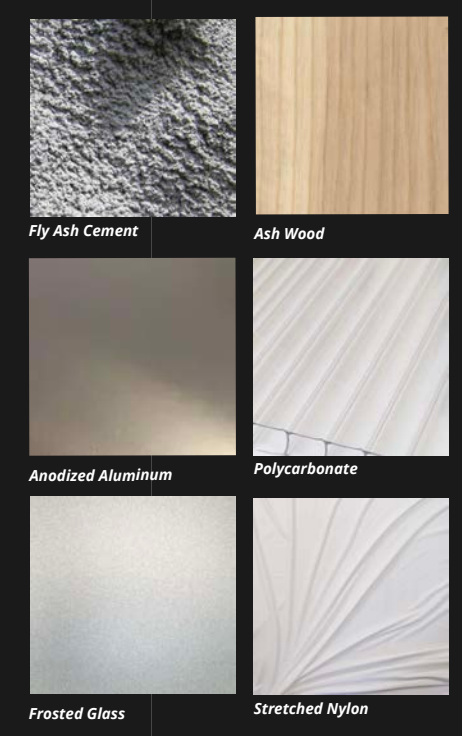
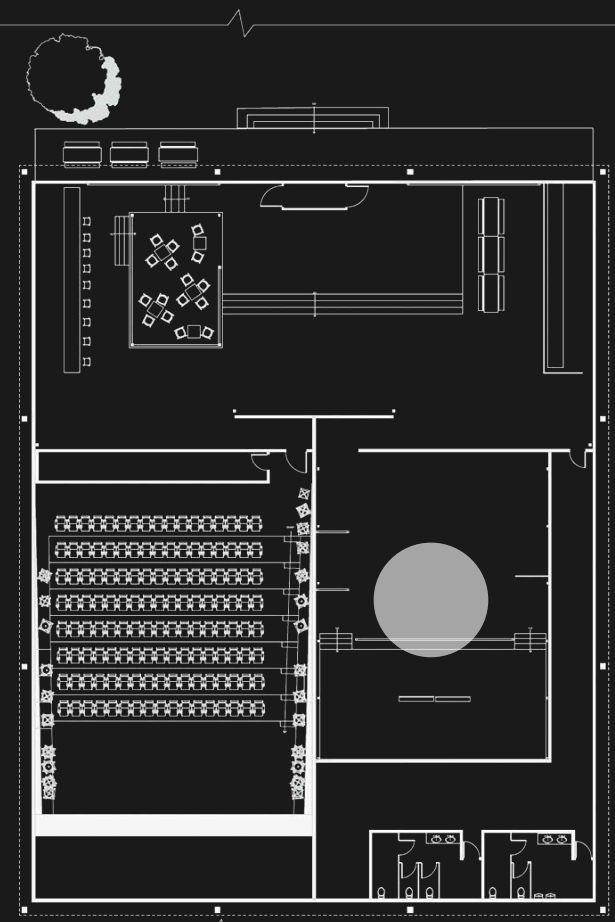
*Shadow
Bar*



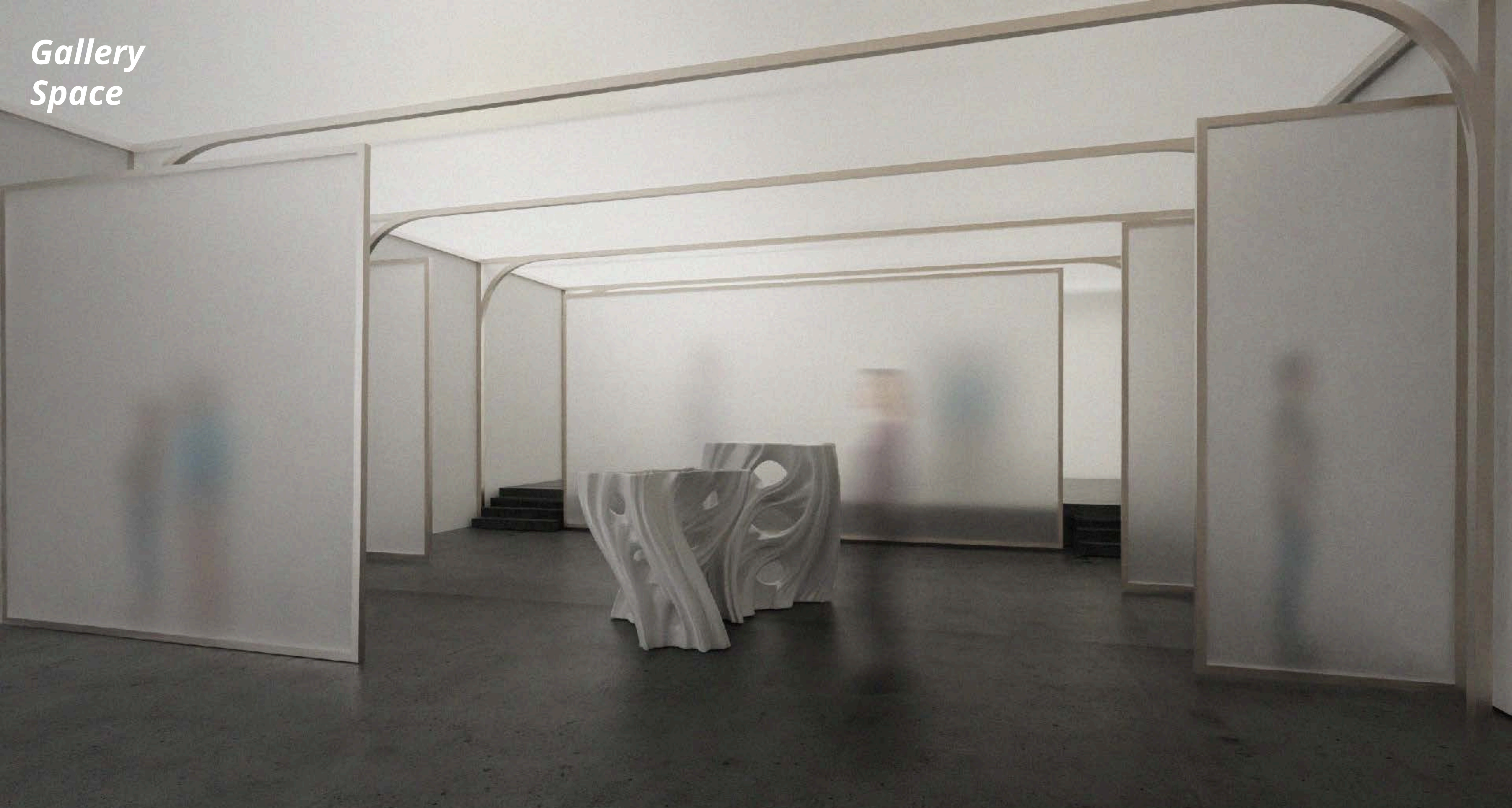
Gallery Space

The observers are part of the story

The frosted polycarbonate and stretched nylon dilutes the light for the view of the art and frames the observers for the viewers to become part of the story that makes the art space.



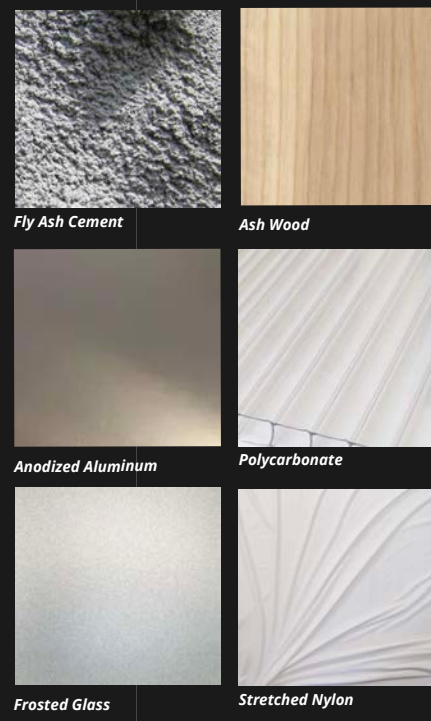
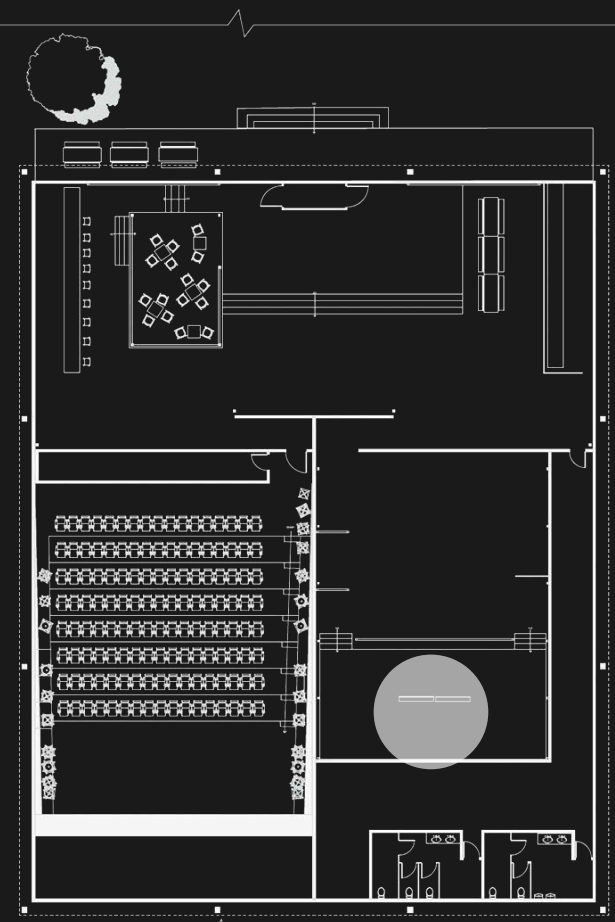
*Gallery
Space*



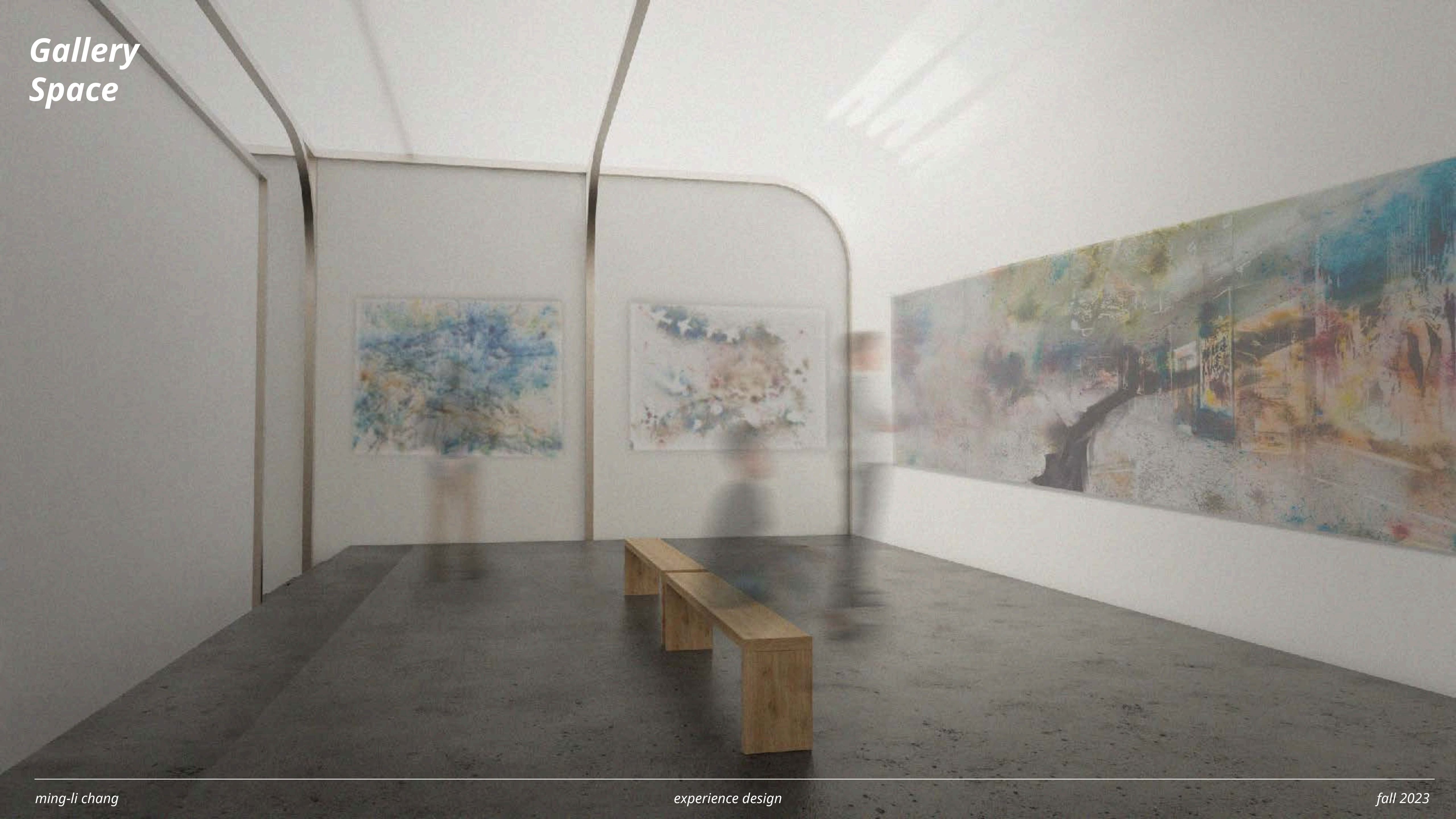
Gallery Space

Spotlighted on stage

A shadow puppet stage like platform separates the individual artist that is display work as the highlighted artist.



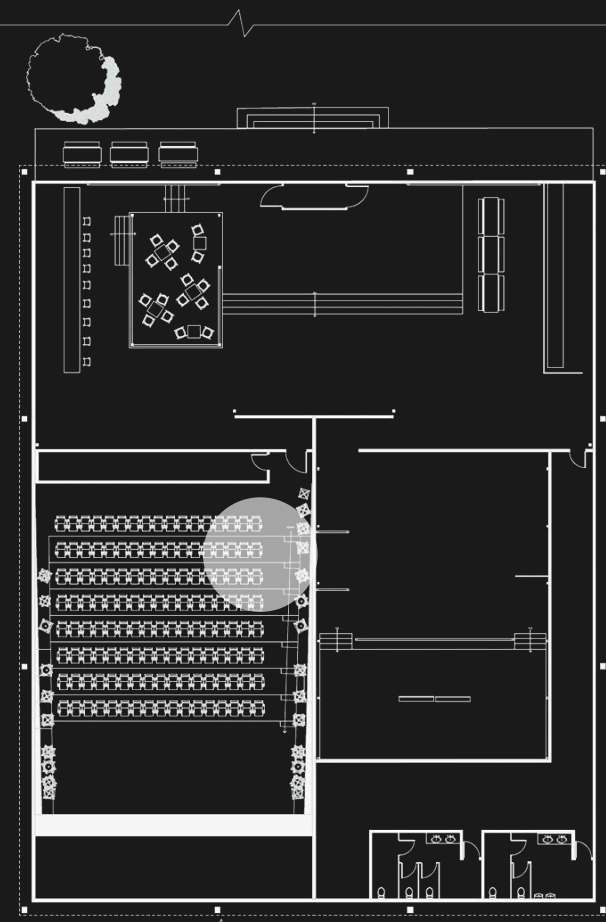
*Gallery
Space*



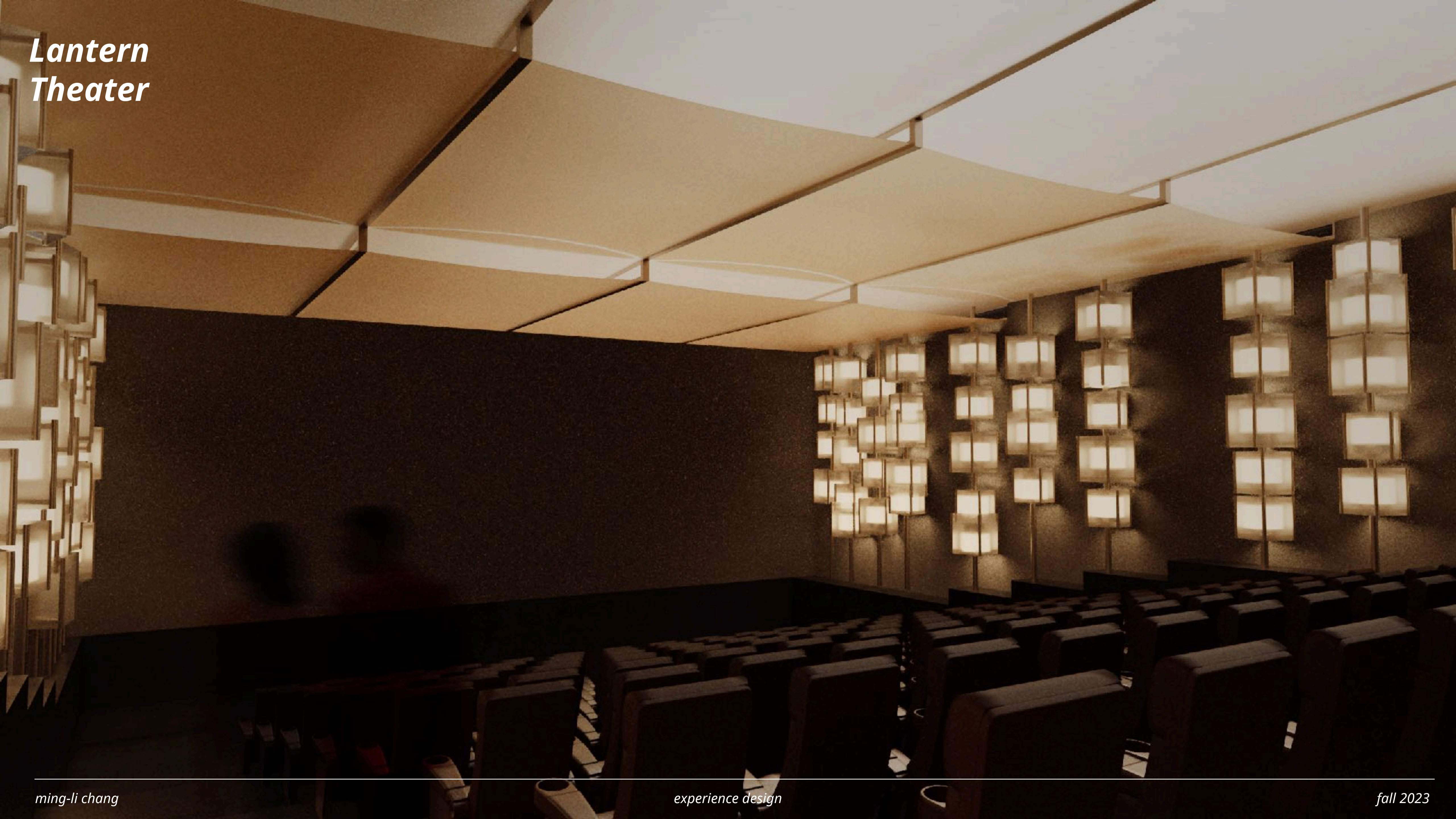
Lantern Theater

Sky Lanterns 孔明灯

These lanterns are special lanterns that people light up and float into the sky. In each lantern, people would write down their wishes. Each lantern represents someone's story.

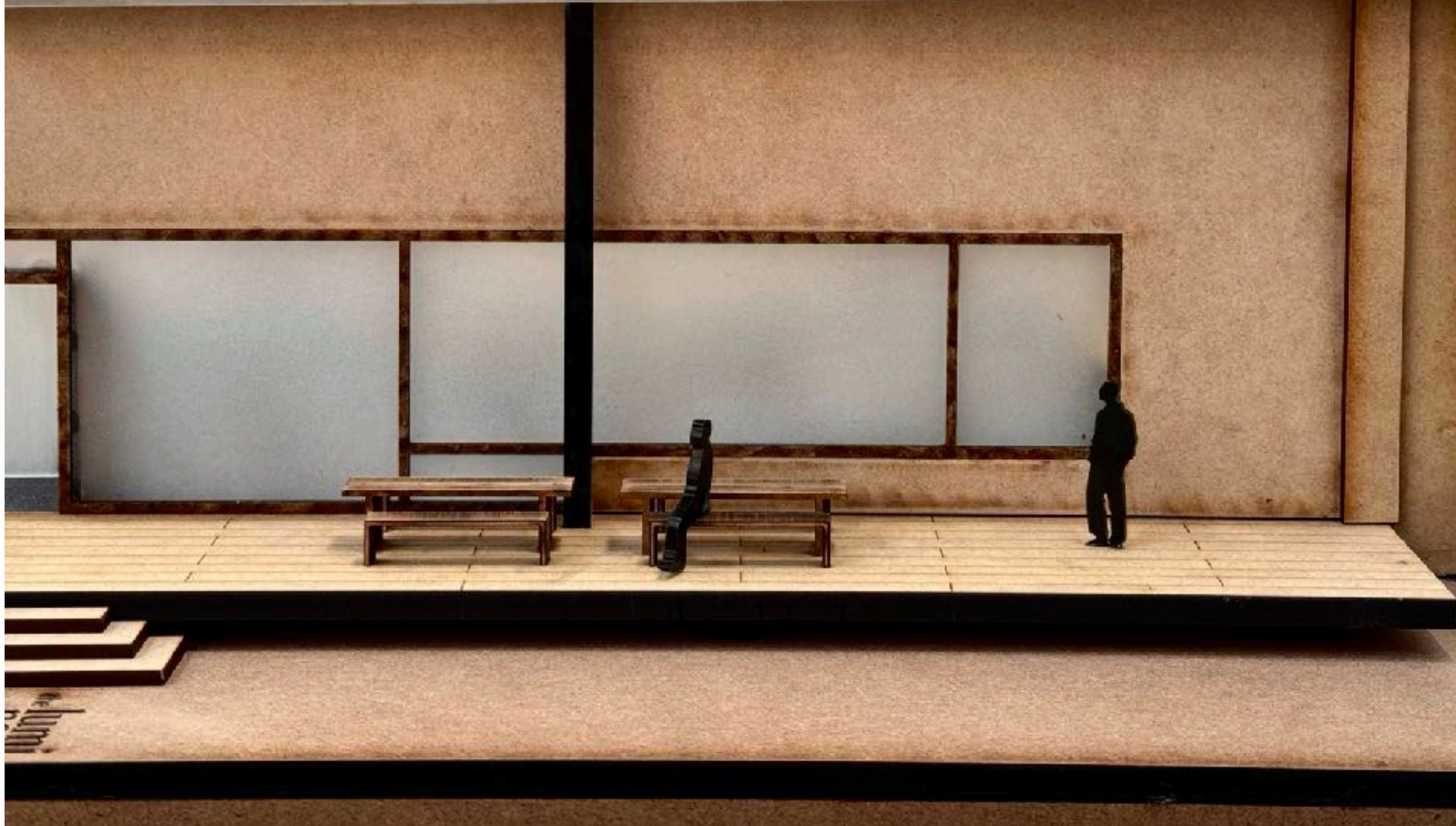
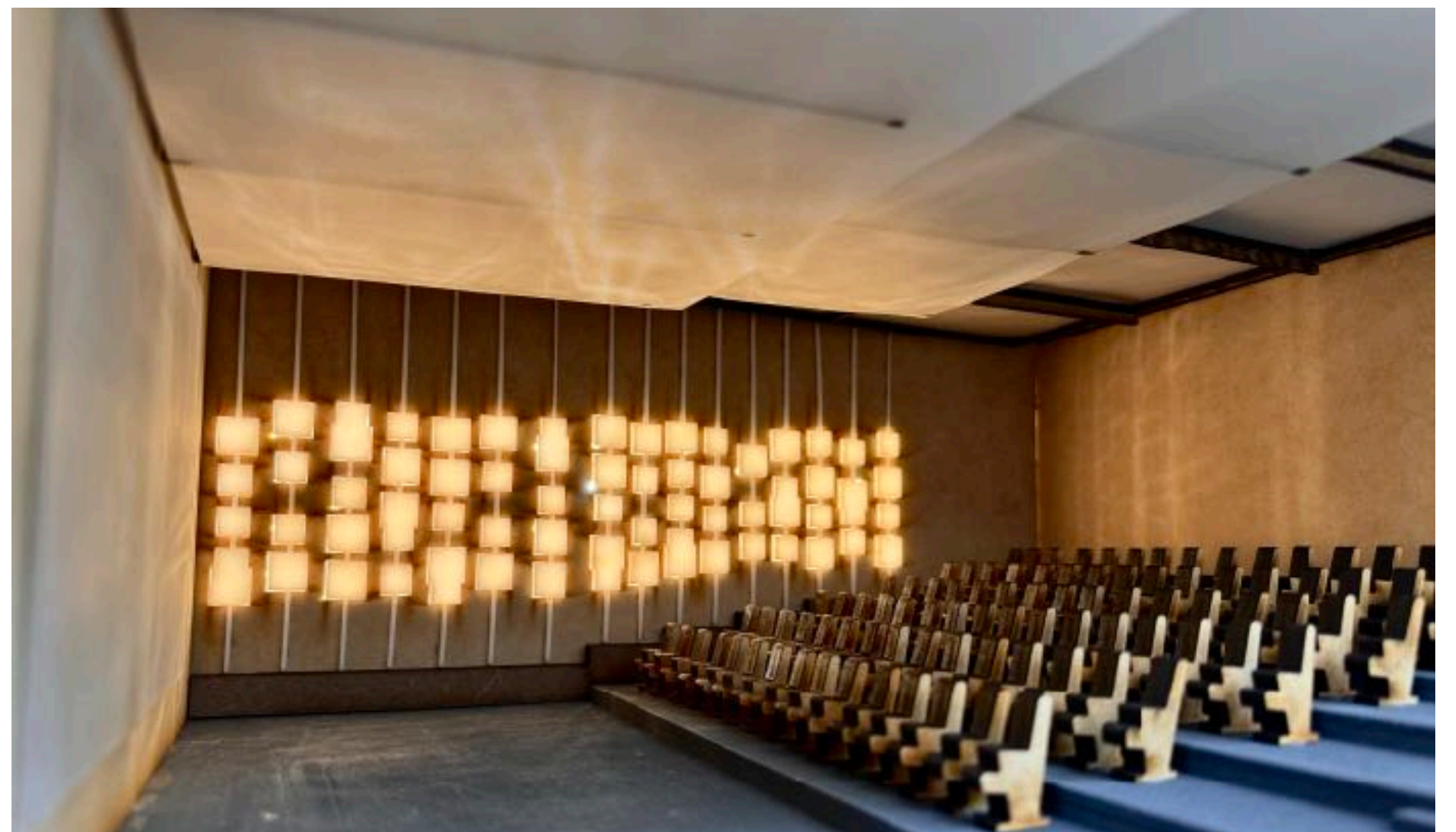


Lantern Theater



*Lantern
Theater*





the **lumi**
nary
灯影剧院

Thanks.



the luminary

灯影剧院

design and concept
by mingji cheng

What is the Luminary

The Luminary is a sanctuary for independent Chinese story tellers, be that of an oral film, or a space where light and shadow meet to illustrate well-crafted narratives. These can serve as a bridge with the community and for new stories to be created, shared or in front of the screen, the community is able to appreciate the stories, peek behind the paper screen, and also become a part of the story that is The Luminary.

What Makes Chinese Story-telling Special?

Historically, Chinese performance arts are for the people and by the people. Story-telling brought people together. Geographically and culturally, China is split up in to so many regions and languages. Before big silver screens and TVs, stories would be told by members of the community. People were invested because they knew these stories were called for the community. Everyone enjoyed a good folklore. Moreover, if those regional folktales were told through music, arts, or performance arts, it brought the communities together.

site analysis 1380 E 6th St



Chinese Independent Cinema

Controversial, historical, uneven, the history of cinema in China has often been divided into six generations, all of which involve the influence of three distinct cultural hubs: Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Mainland China. Beyond the surface level, in contemporary Chinese cinema, there are several story-tellers of smaller rural and urban cultural groups creating narrative movies that are coexisting, thriving and thriving amongst a group of passionate audiences that look for a storytelling experience outside of commercial movie theaters.

Chinese Shadow Puppetry

Before motion pictures and movies, before film was captured by camera was projected on screens. Light, colors, and shadows were manipulated behind screens. Beautiful and elegant paper puppets with mastery to tell stories for the young and old, weaving communities together.



As a spatial experience how might someone



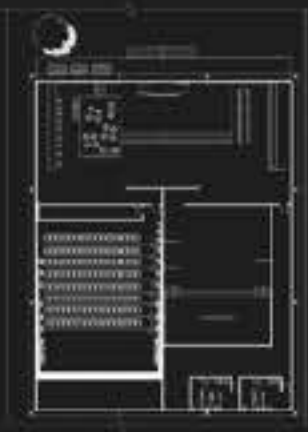
Feel the warmth of a story telling environment



Become part of the story through a connection with the storyteller



Experience the story being told by others



Material Story	Authentic. Neutral Familiar Comfortable	Embracing. Warm Transparent Flexible	Surreal. Dramatic light weight bold



Tea house Space

喝茶茶室

Very typical of a city in the Sichuan province of China called Chengde, these tea houses are used to enjoy the morning and evening. Everything goes on in these tea houses from making cards, to collaborative activities. They are also outdoors.



Gallery Space

The observatory part of the story

The fractal polycarbonate and frosted glass volumes, the light for the view of the art and frames the observance for the viewers to become part of the story that makes the art space.



Spotlight on stage

A shadow puppet stage like platform separates the individual acts, their display mark, and highlighted artist.

Lantern Theater

Sky Lanterns

These lanterns are special lanterns that people hold up and float into the sky. In each lantern, people would write down their wishes. Each lantern represents someone's story.



Shadows of the Pattern

Although the pattern cut out fabric is simple and abstract, the shade of color is used to create a sense of depth and movement. The light of shadows cast on the big screen surrounding the lobby.

The lobby becomes its own story

The lighting in the lobby projects upon the people walking around the lobby, with a downward focus in the center illustrates the silhouette and movement of the people in the lobby, just as the light of shadows cast on the big screen surrounding the lobby.

