

DV SHELTER.

RESEARCH & ADAPTIVE REUSE.

INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE & DESIGN

Design by promoting the social, economic, and political self-determination of women and all survivors of violence and oppression. Taking an existing 3 story office building for adaptive reuse. Interviewing survivors and specialists to implement meaningful programming and implement the needs of a shelter.

DESIGN CONCEPT

Beauty in shelter spaces provides inspiration. Beauty is healing. In focus groups, shelter residents indicated their appreciation for art, inspiration and beauty in shelter. Present in many things, it can be expressed by bringing in nature, and by thoughtful use of color, proportion and texture.

Colors that resonate with the communities served can have positive associations and make a space feel uplifting, familiar and friendly like a trip to grandmas house.

PROJECT CONSIDERATIONS

1. Keeping the location of the shelter confidential, or if the location is public, ensuring specific security features are in place.

2. Working with local police to develop, implement and periodically review a police security plan, which may involve button-activated alarm systems to directly inform police of an emergency.

3. Direct emergency phone line to the police.

4. Providing police with a map of the layout of the shelter and surrounding grounds, including entrances, and facility locations.

5. Regular meetings with police to discuss security issues.

6. Fire prevention and regular fire safety checks.

7. Installing security features within and around the facility, where possible, such as: Strong, secure doors, with safe entrances that cannot be forced open.

8. Internally locked entrances and doors with monitored access to the building ideally including technical monitoring system such as cameras.

9. Gratings (metal bars) on all windows that are accessible from outside.

10. Security of the land or area surrounding the facility, including any outdoor space used by women (e.g. fenced and locked gardens)

- Indoor and outdoor security cameras
- Chain link fencing
- Motion lights
- Personal safety alarms for staff
- Bullet proof or riot glass on windows
- Visible parking areas, where relevant

PROJECT SCOPE

PRE-DESIGN
SCHEMATIC DESIGN
DESIGN DEVELOPMENT
CODE ANALYSIS
CULTURAL EMPHASIS
MONITORING SYSTEM
DESIGN & RESEARCH
SPACE PLANNING
SPECIALIST INTERVIEW
ADAPTIVE RESEARCH
CONSULTANT
SOCIAL JUSTICE
ECONOMIC DIVERSITY
EVIDENCE-BASED DESIGN

ESTABLISHING GOALS

1. Make the commercial space feel like a residential home.

2. Safety is a high priority.

3. For every interview room there is an observation room. 2-3 cameras in each interview room.

4. Plenty of storage for donations.

5. Separate entrances for different functions. In order to separate traumas and experiences.

6. Kids toys areas in interview rooms and waiting areas.

7. medical exam rooms connected to showers and changing rooms.

8. Entry contain of sensory garden to loosen the tension.

9. Area for staff to decompress.

10. Therapist for staff and residents.

11. House mother located on second floor.

12. Bathrooms with no storage.

13. Open cabinets only in resident rooms.

14. Ambient lighting throughout.

15. Shared shower rooms.

16. No urinals located on site to avoid unnecessary PTSD triggers.

MATERIAL SELECTIONS



INTERVIEWEES COMMON FEARS

Isolation: from friends, family, community support, resources, as abusers often attempt to cut off survivors from support networks as a control mechanism; this often includes monitoring of a survivors texts, emails, and social media accounts.

Children: fear for their safety if abuser has threatened to hurt them if they leave, custody concerns (such as the abuser gaining custody, which still occurs in 50% of cases), child abuse that has occurred as a result of trying to leave in the past.

Fear: of retaliation; of being killed; of the abuser hurting loved ones; of being stalked; of not being believed; of unsupervised visits with the abuser putting children at risk. Physical harm that occurred after trying to leave or after having called the police, or after having sought medical attention.

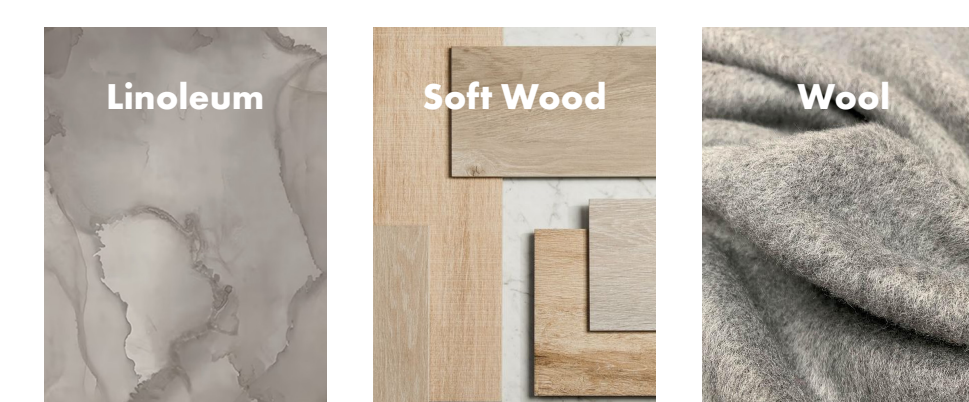
Immigration status: fear of deportation without partner's support.

Threats: the abusive partner may threaten to commit suicide or hurt their partner/children, other loved ones and/or pets, threaten to call INS (Immigration and Naturalization Services), threaten to take the children.

Economic necessity: the abusive partner may control the finances or be the sole source of finances for the family; the abusive partner may have destroyed the survivor's credit or forced joint accounts so starting over financially is not feasible.

Homelessness: the abusive partner may threaten to kick the survivor and possibly their children out of their living situation; the abusive partner may have control over the survivor's living situation. Lack of resources or information about available resources, such as lack of transportation to services or lack of access to the internet to find services, or lack of resources in the survivor's language.

Shelters are full and there is nowhere to safely go.



SHADOW PANDEMIC

Incidents of domestic violence have shown a significant increase during COVID-19 "a pandemic within a pandemic."

While one in three white women report having experienced domestic violence [during the pandemic], the rates of abuse increased dramatically to about 50% and higher for those marginalized by race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, citizenship status, and cognitive physical ability," says Erika Sussman, executive director of the Center for Survivor Advocacy and Justice (CSAJ), a support and research organization.

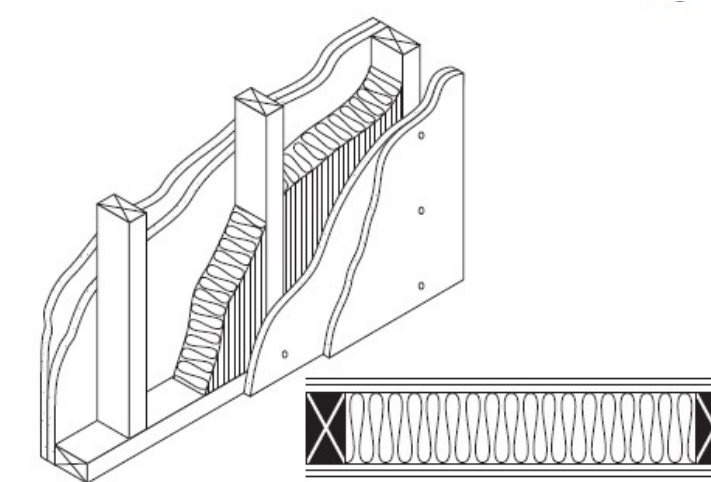
Violence Against Women During COVID-19." It said that since the pandemic, violence against women has increased to unprecedented levels. The American Journal of Emergency Medicine said that domestic violence cases increased by 25 to 33 percent globally.

ACOUSTICS

Control acoustics: In a shared environment, minimizing noise provides privacy and a sense of peace. Loud spaces make it difficult for residents to concentrate, families to engage in quiet activities, children to focus on homework, and residents to sleep.

Well-sealed, floor-to-structure walls help prevent noise transfer between rooms and enhance privacy. Ceiling and/or wall acoustic panels help reduce noise within a room. Solid core doors and door hardware, such as silencers, gasketing, and weatherstripping, can all help control noise transfer.

Acoustic sound machines or white noise machines are another effective tool to assist people with blocking out external noises. These portable devices can be turned on and moved around as required.



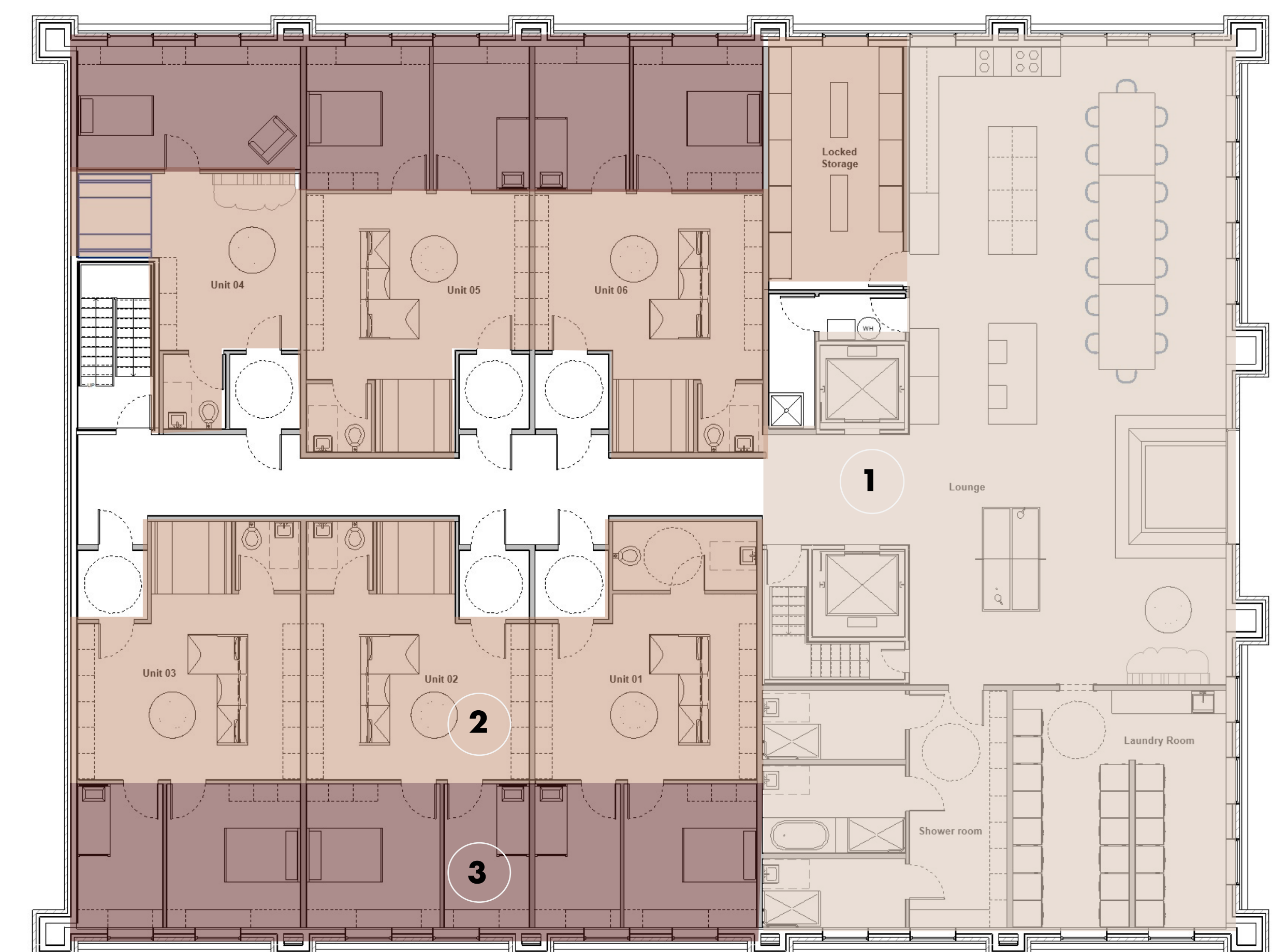
GROUND FLOOR



FLOOR PLAN KEY

1. Medical Wing 2. Staff Wing 3. Resident Entry 4. Therapy Wing 5. Interview Wing - - - - Open Storage

FIRST & SECOND FLOOR



FLOOR PLAN KEY

1. Public 2. Semi-Public 3. Private - - - - Open Storage