

DUKE UNIVERSITY - MARY LOU WILLIAMS
CENTER FOR BLACK CULTURE



'The Lou' (as it is affectionately called by students) is a **refuge for students** often lacking community, voice, or platform.

Inspired by the shared rhythm of the African Diaspora and the legacy of jazz composer Mary Lou Williams, this space celebrates the persistent cultural remnants uniting dispersed Africans. A central **"drum"** adorned with Adinkra-inspired patterning and echoes of the African Diaspora anchors the communal area, complemented by intimate spaces for personal reflection.

Drawing from Charleston's **Gullah Geechee** heritage, the Center's design, with its **Haint Blue** palette, fosters comfort, healing, and a sense of home, creating a **sanctuary for collective celebration and remembrance.**



Post-Flood Damage





Eastern Africa | Uganda



West Africa | Cote D'Ivoire

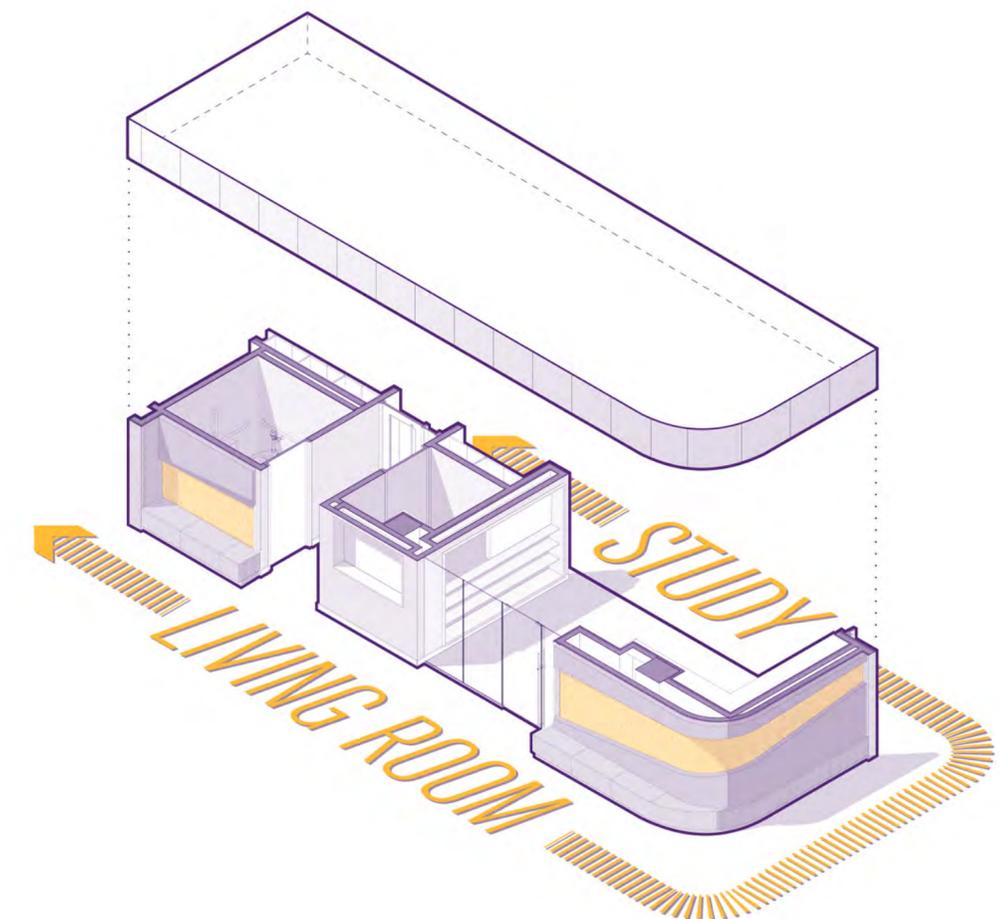
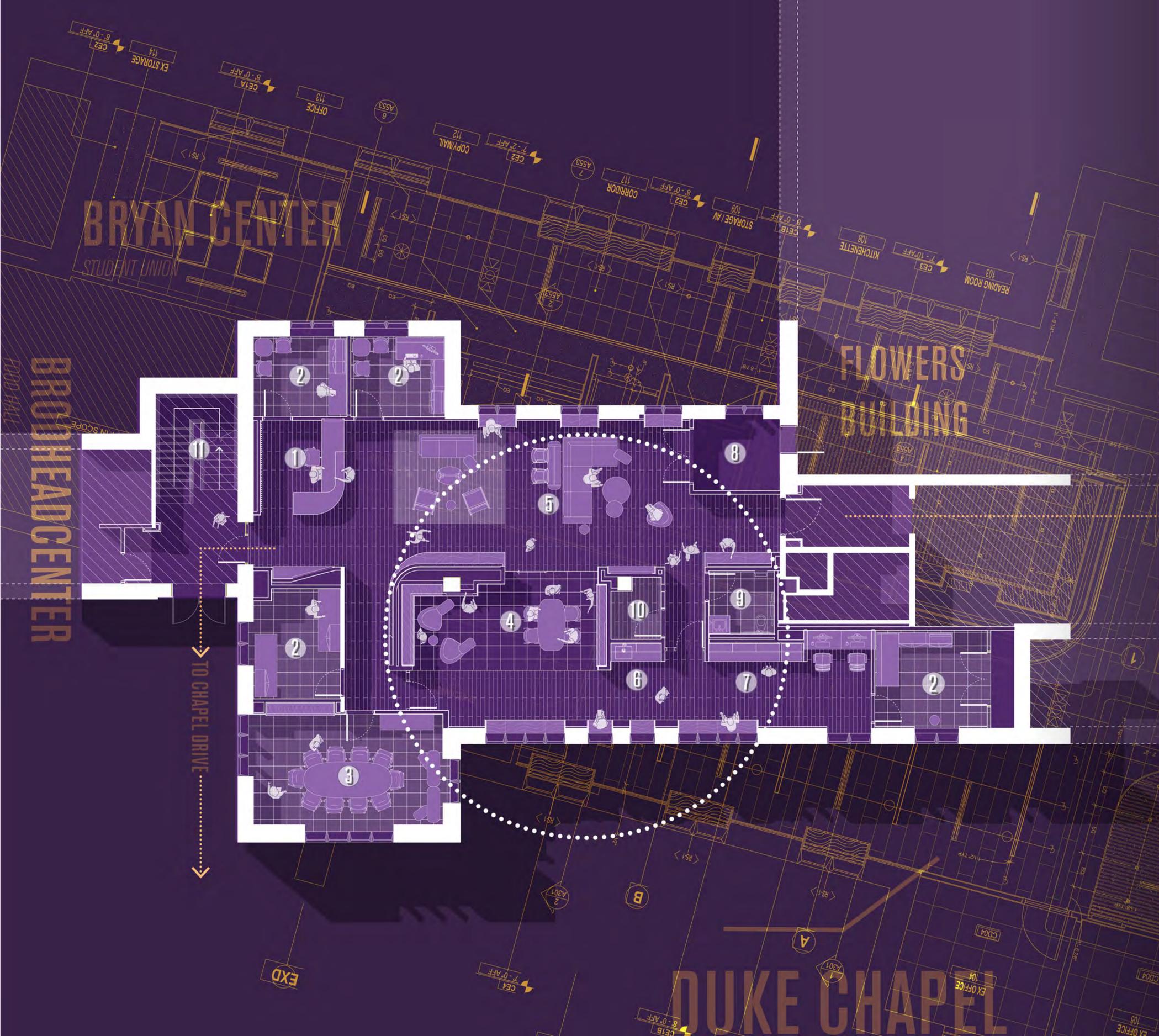


West Africa | Sierra Leone

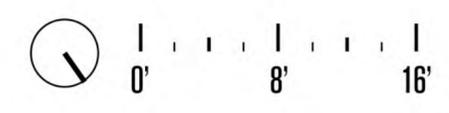


West Africa | Nigeria

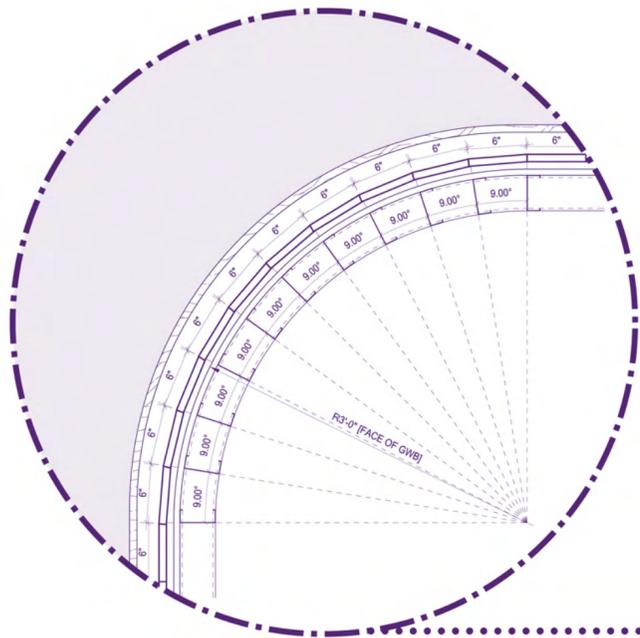




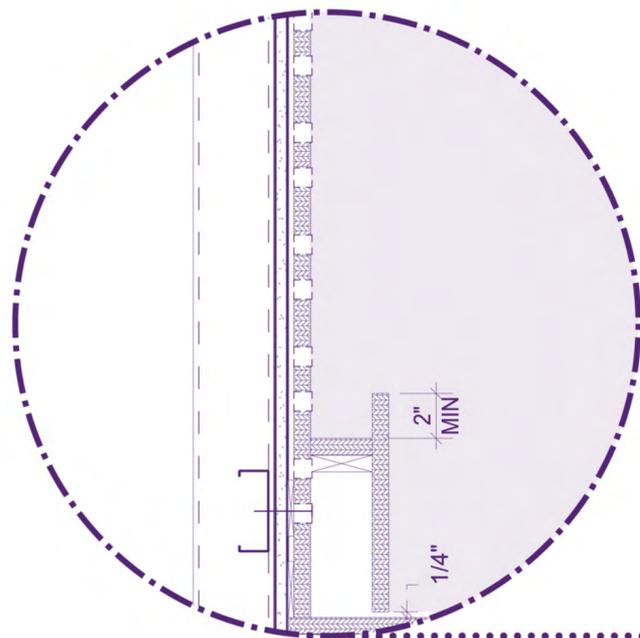
- KEY**
- 1 Reception
 - 2 Office
 - 3 Conference Room
 - 4 Reading Room
 - 5 Living Room
 - 6 Kitchenette
 - 7 Copy/Print
 - 8 Mechanical
 - 9 Bathroom
 - 10 Storage
 - 11 To Lower Level Flex-Space







RADIUSED 'DRUM' CORNER



WOOD PANELING DETAIL



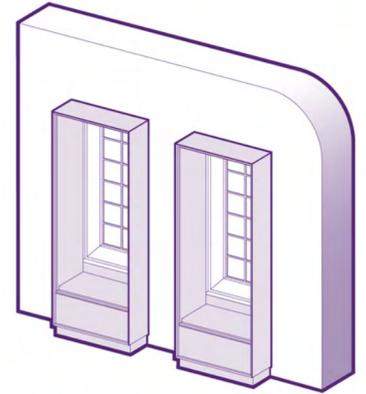




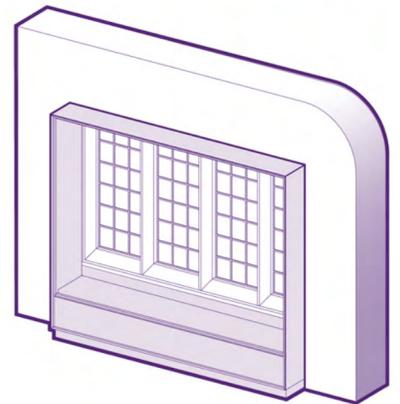
Window benches tie the new Center to the iconic styling of Duke University's historic architecture. The window typologies allow themselves to accommodate activities of varying sizes.



TYPE I



TYPE II



TYPE III

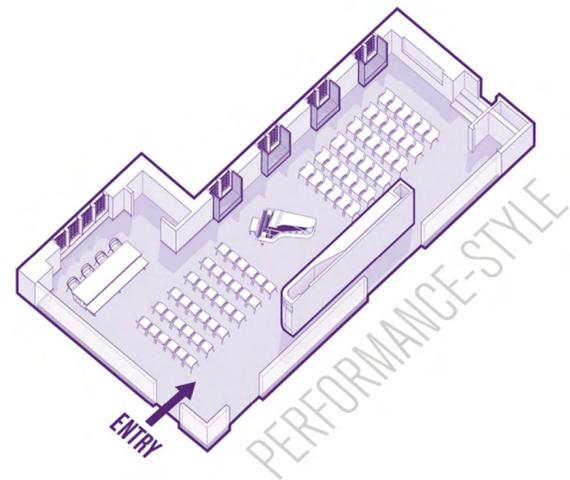
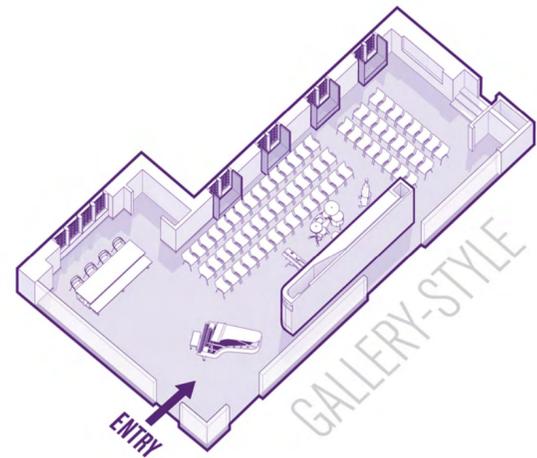
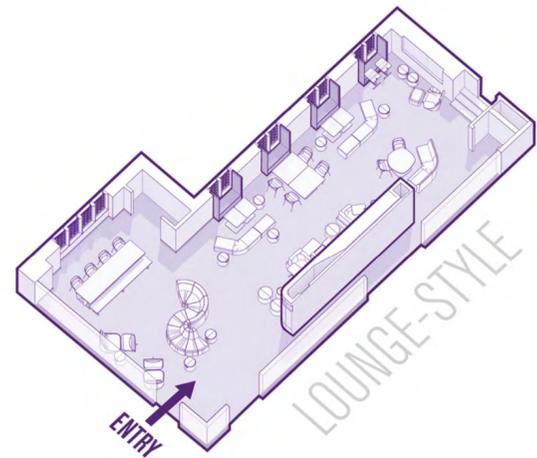


SENIOR CHATS
SENIOR CHATS
with Stacia and Samalyah

Graduating Seniors! The Mary Lou Williams Center team wants to speak to you! Sign up to meet with an MLWC staff member and reflect on your Duke experience over coffee/tea, a smoothie, or a light meal. Your questions? We want to hear what you have to say!



“Anything you are shows up in your music – jazz is whatever you are, playing yourself, being yourself, letting your thoughts come through.” - Mary Lou Williams



LOWER LEVEL FLEX-SPACE



