

**53199275**

**DUKE  
UNIVERSITY**

Mary Lou Williams Center for Black Culture  
Durham, NC



'The Lou', as it is affectionately called by its students, is a refuge for those 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.

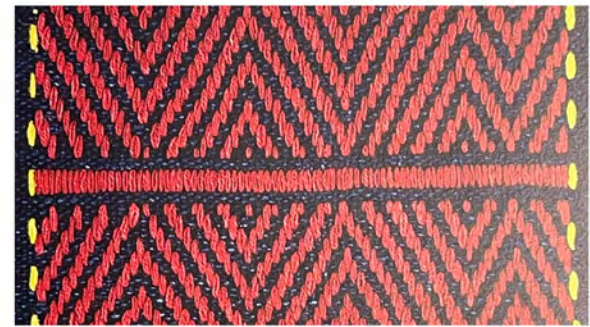
Charleston's Gullah Geechee heritage influenced the Center's design. A Haint Blue palette fosters comfort, healing, and a sense of home, seeking to **create a sanctuary for collective celebration and remembrance.**

Flowers Building | Location of Mary Lou Williams Center





Eastern Africa | Uganda



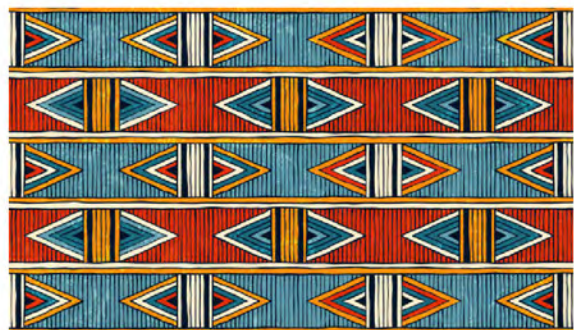
West Africa | Cote D'Ivoire

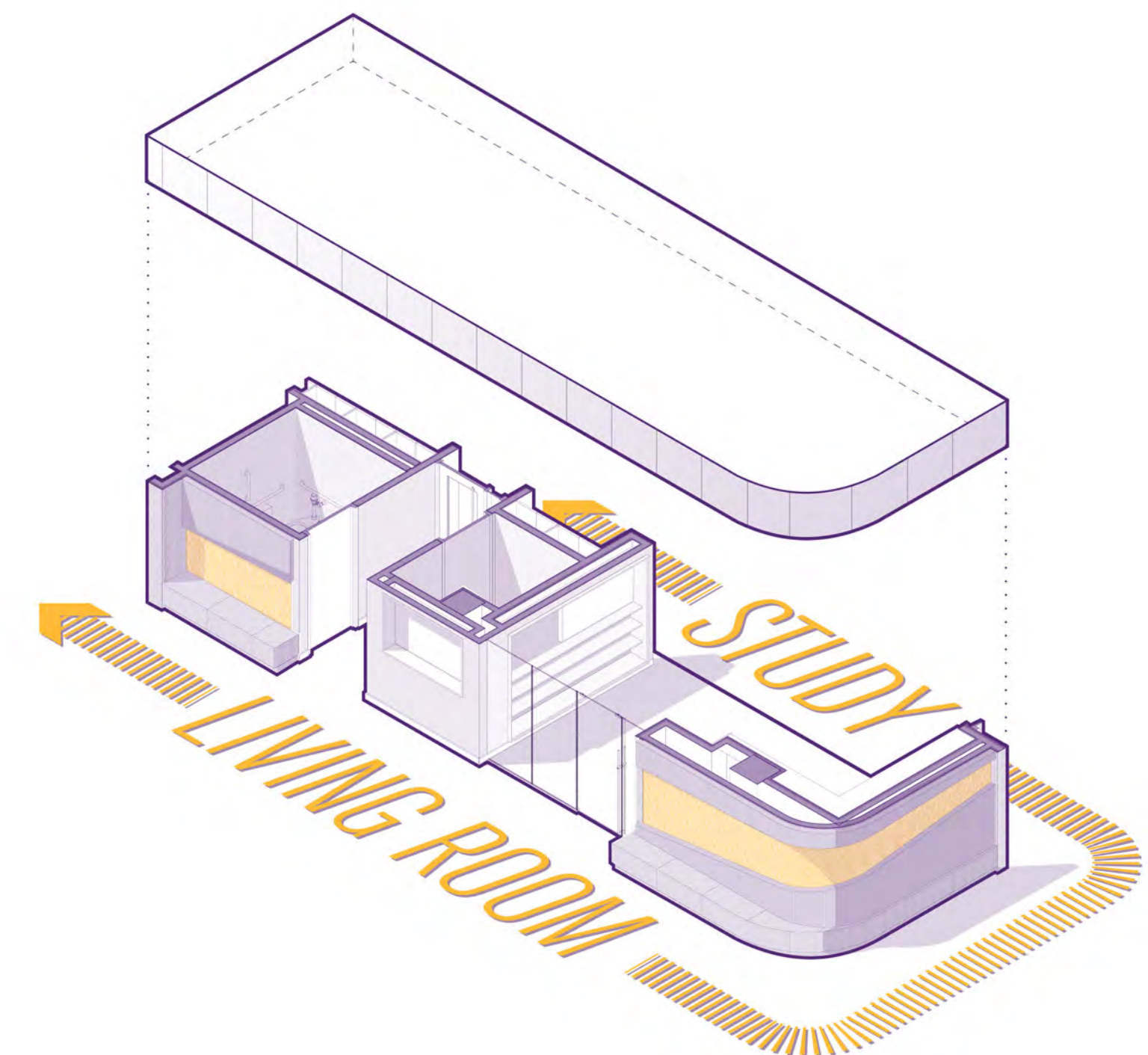
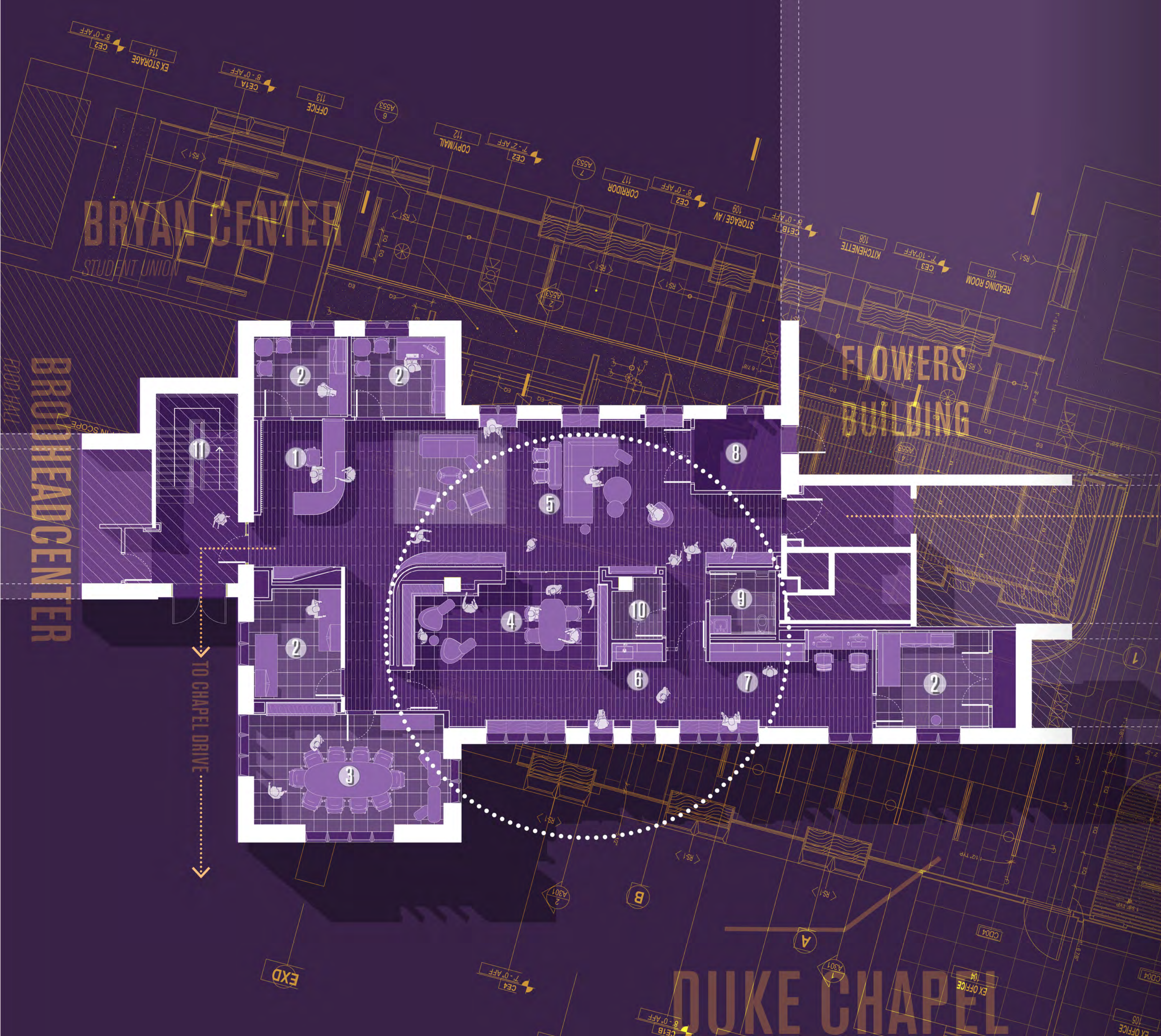


West Africa | Sierra Leone



West Africa | Nigeria

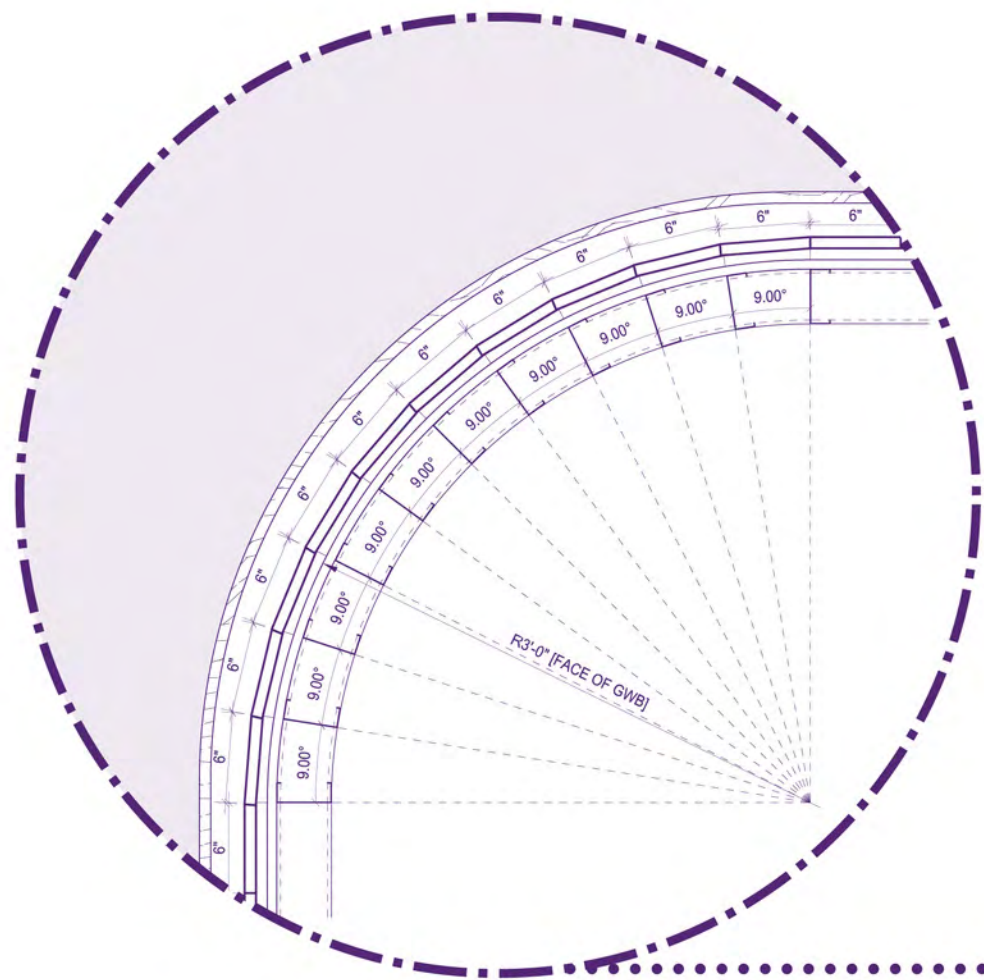




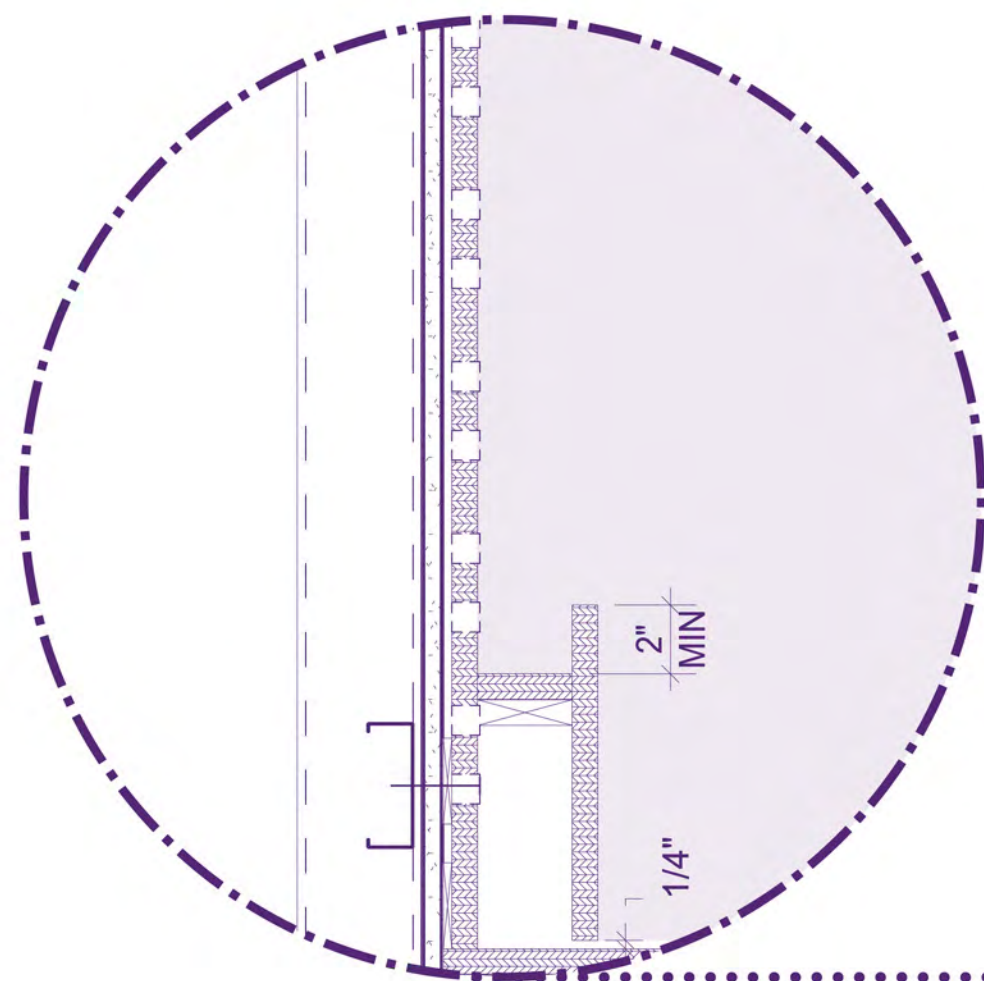
- KEY**
- 1 Reception
  - 2 Office
  - 3 Conference Room
  - 4 Reading Room
  - 5 Living Room
  - 6 Kitchenette
  - 7 Copy/Print
  - 8 Mechanical
  - 9 Bathroom
  - 10 Storage
  - 11 To Lower Level Flex-Space







RADIUSED 'DRUM' CORNER



WOOD PANELING DETAIL





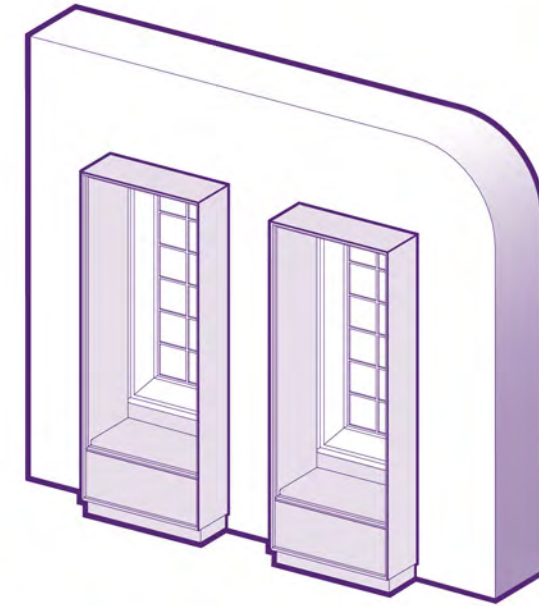
Celebrating DUKE WOMEN IN INNOVATION



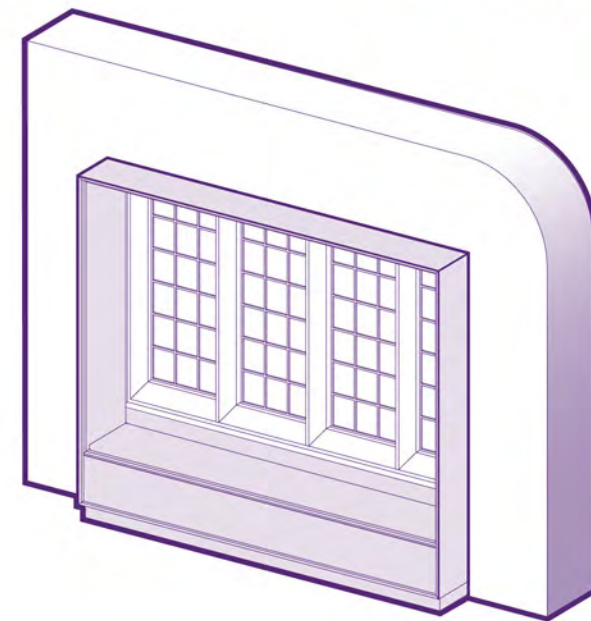
Window benches tie the new Center to the iconic styling of Duke University's historic architecture. The window typologies allow themselves to accommodate activities of varying sizes.



TYPE I



TYPE II



TYPE III



**SENIOR CHATS**  
**SENIOR CHATS**  
 with Stacie 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 chance to shine! 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

