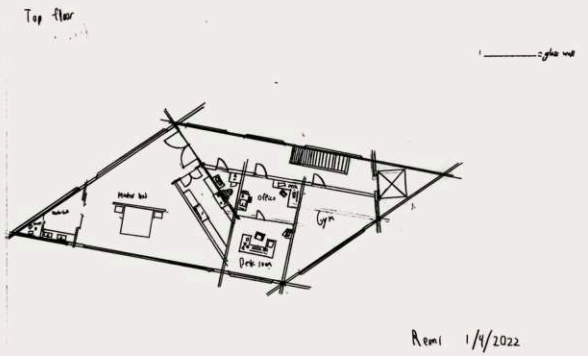
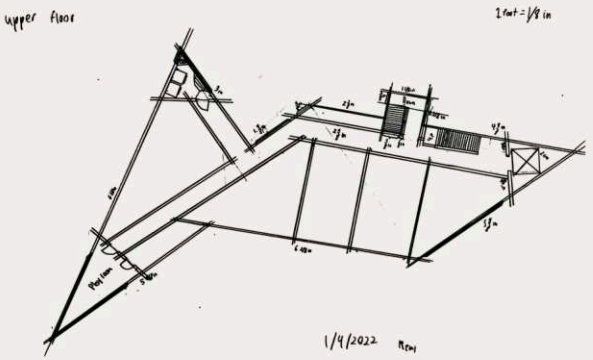
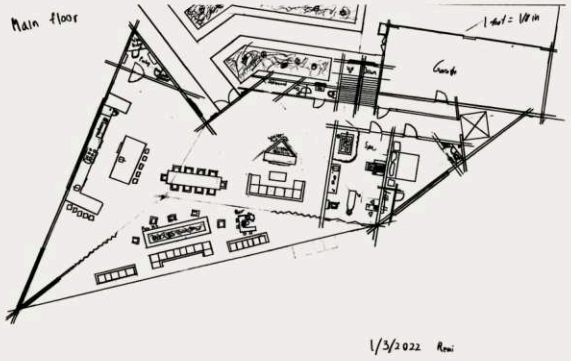
Remi Coleman

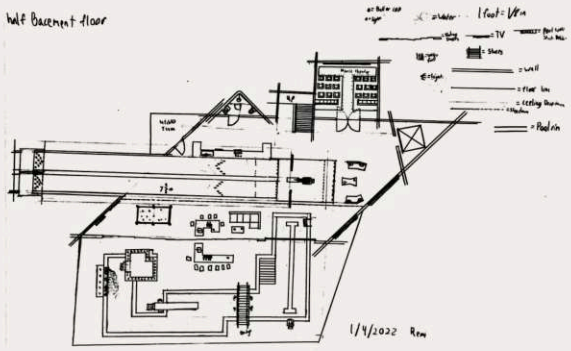
Architecture Portfolio

2026 | Bellevue, Washington











INTRODUCTION

Meet Remi

My godfather is an architect in Zurich. He's the one who gave a name to what I'd already been doing for years.

My grandfather invented the machine that balances car tires, because nothing like it existed. His advice to me never changed: just make things. So I do, usually before I know if they'll work.

I ask a lot of questions, and most of my projects start as one. What would a gondola station look like if it had everything I want on a ski day? What would get people to walk down a street they avoid? And I notice light first, in buildings and in photos.

This portfolio is a snapshot of what that looks like so far.

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Independent project, 2026. Designed in Tinkercad, 3D printed

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Light Zoom (Select Award, WSHSPC 2026), sculpture, photo processes

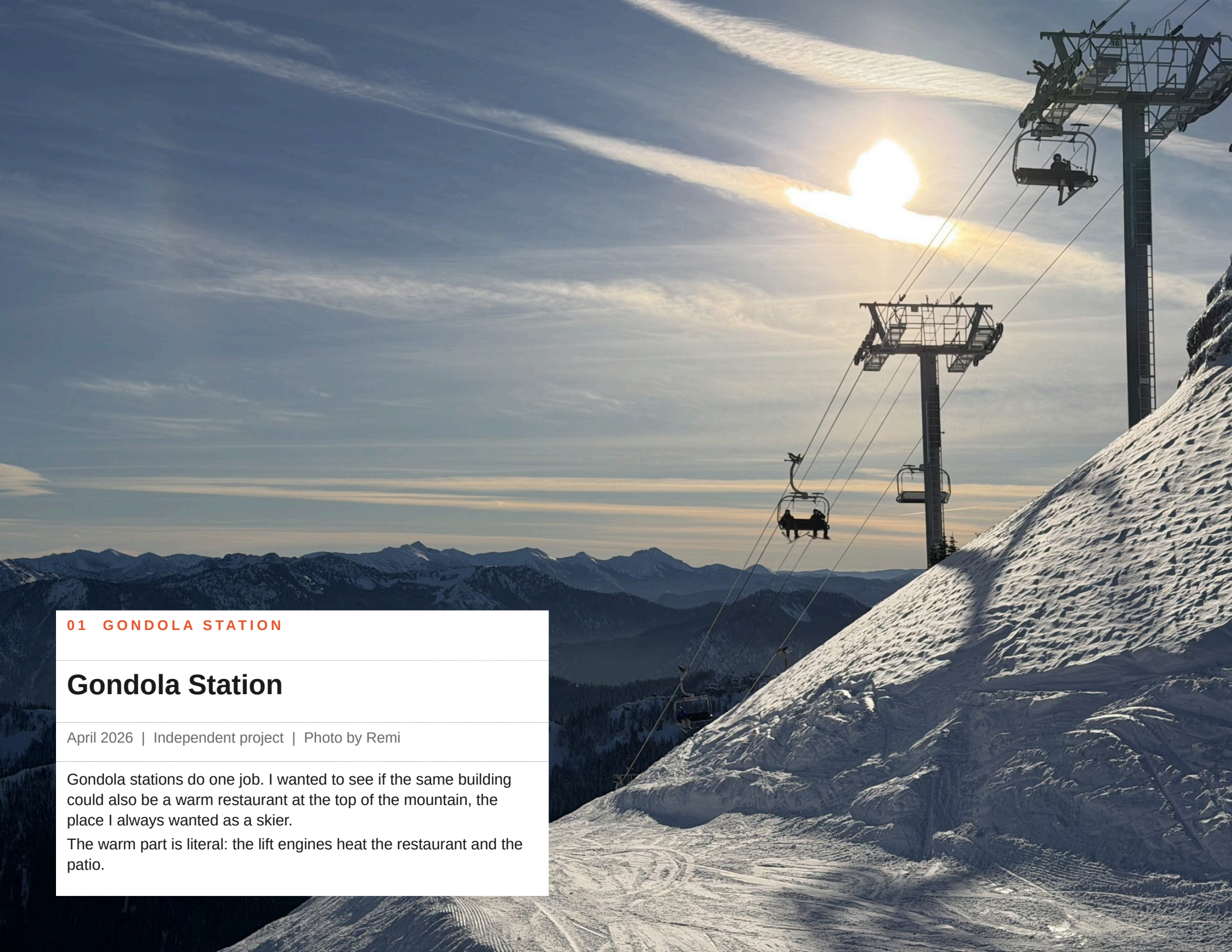
06 **Photography** 15

Florence, New York, San Francisco, Switzerland, Seattle

07 **Where It Started** 18

The Northwest School modeling class, 2022, and early building

All drawings, models, and photography are my own. A few photos of my models and of me working were taken by my family. The aerial photo on page 7 came from my instructor.



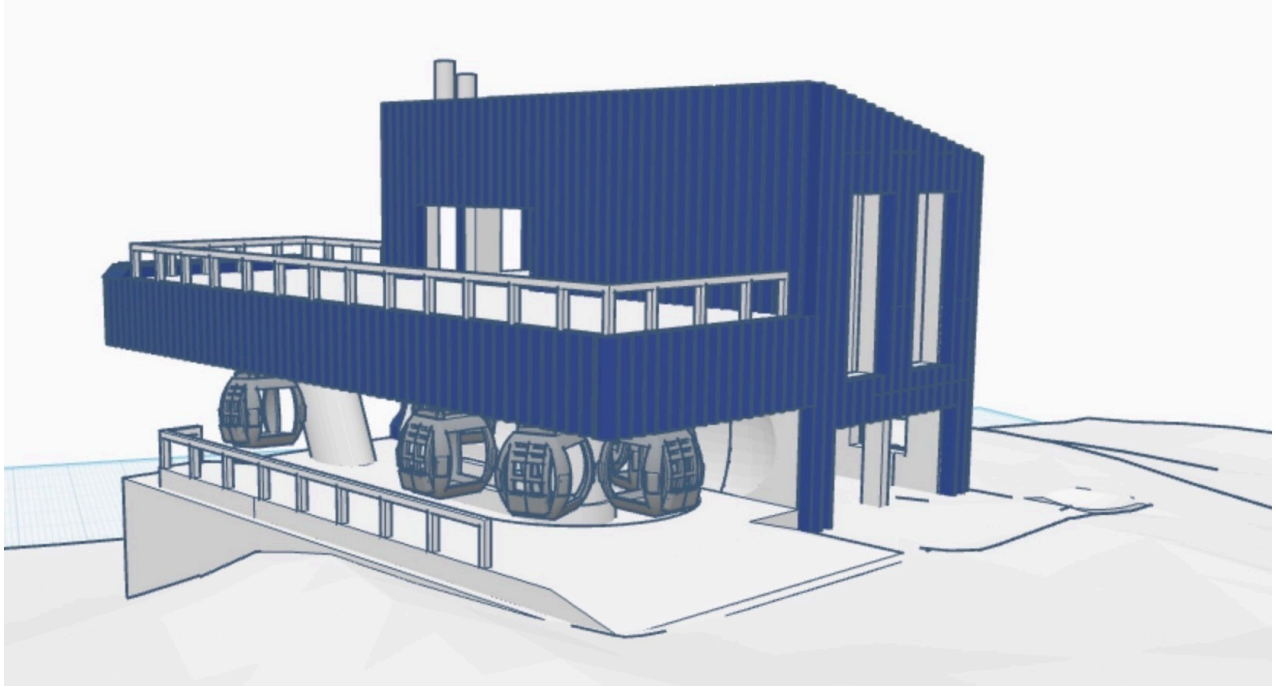
01 GONDOLA STATION

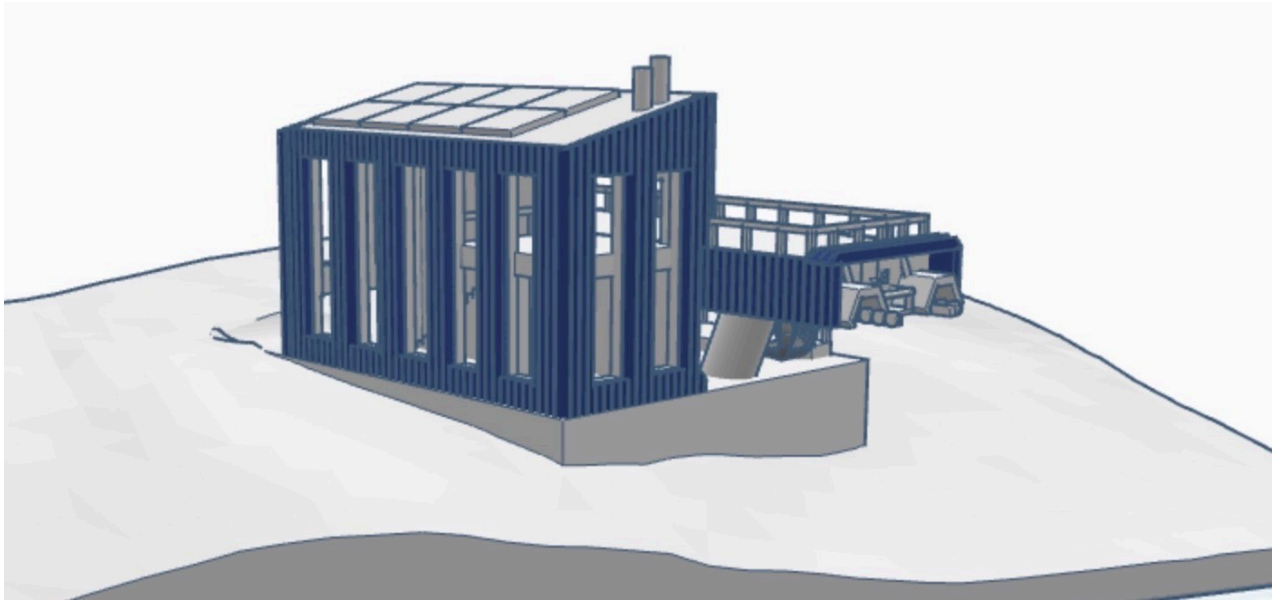
Gondola Station

April 2026 | Independent project | Photo by Remi

Gondola stations do one job. I wanted to see if the same building could also be a warm restaurant at the top of the mountain, the place I always wanted as a skier.

The warm part is literal: the lift engines heat the restaurant and the patio.





01 GONDOLA STATION

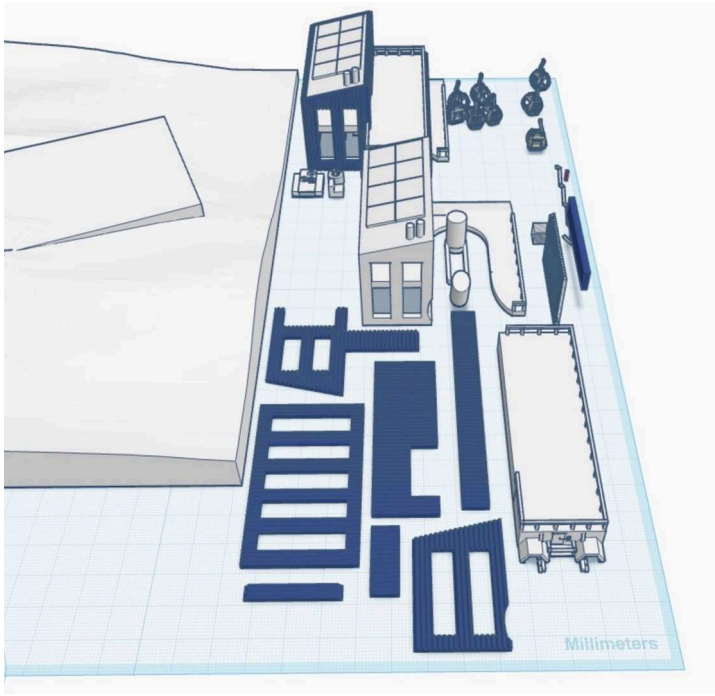
How It Works

April 2026 | Designed in Tinkercad on iPad

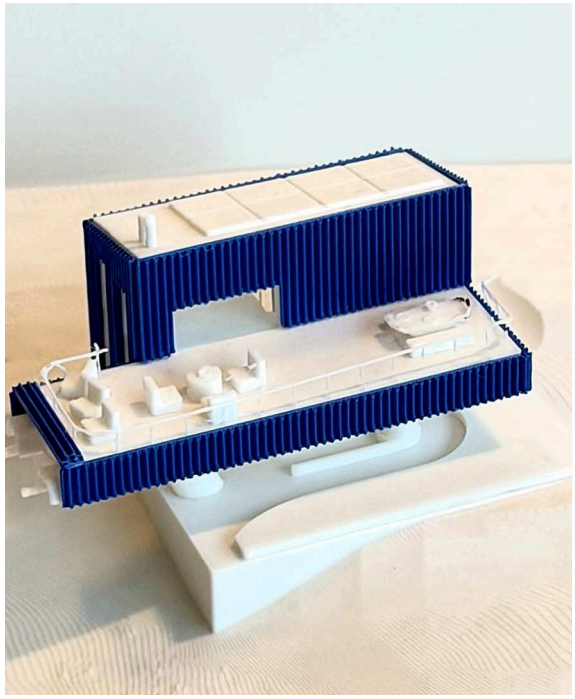
The station and the restaurant are one building. The gondolas pull in underneath, and the restaurant sits right above them.

Heat from the lift engines warms the restaurant and the patio, and the two stacks vent it. Solar panels cover the main roof. The windows face the light, and the roof over the gondolas became the restaurant's patio.

Top: the gondola bay under the restaurant. Bottom: the station on the slope.







01 GONDOLA STATION

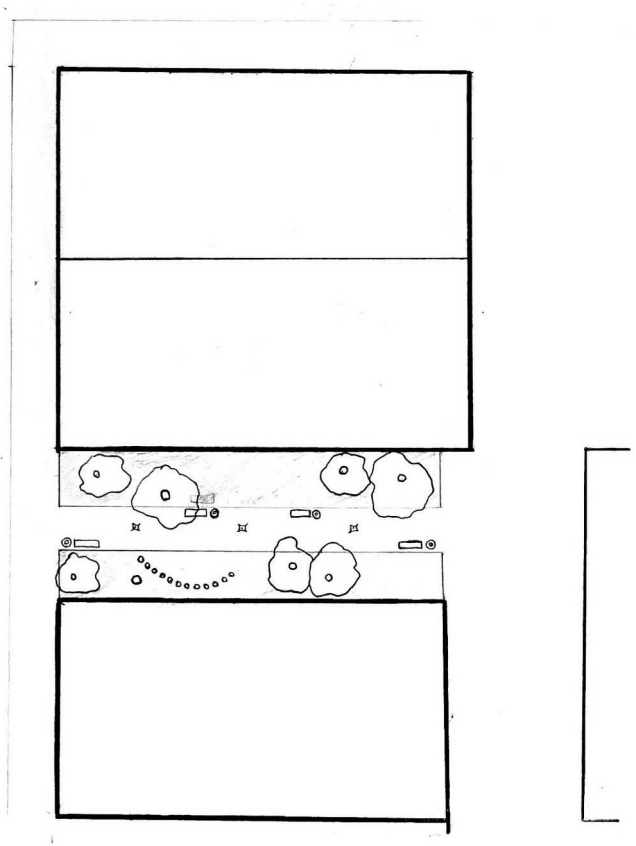
Building It

April 2026 | Tinkercad on iPad | 3D printed in PLA, about 10 x 7 x 4 in

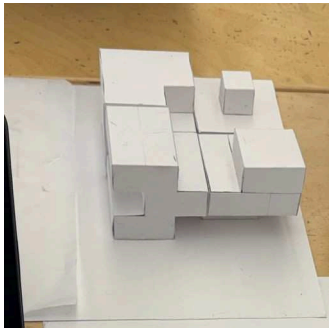
I designed it over several days in Tinkercad on my iPad, then split it into separate parts so each could print in its own color. Left: every part laid out in Tinkercad before printing.

Printing was harder than designing. The cantilever had nothing to rest on, some sections warped or collapsed and had to be reprinted, and one slot piece was reprinted five times before it fit.

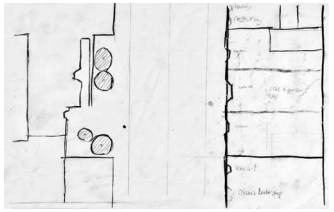
What I learned: the railings were too thin and snapped off after printing, and the smallest details were too fine to print. The next version needs thicker railings and a larger scale.







Folded paper cubes



Mapping the businesses

02 SEATTLE JAPANTOWN

Seattle Japantown

August 2026 | UW Architectural Studies II | Paper, pencil, AI-assisted rendering

The assignment: study a real Seattle neighborhood and propose a change that improves it. Japantown's center is divided. One side has businesses but heavy car traffic. The other has a pedestrian walkway with no businesses, and nothing connects the two.

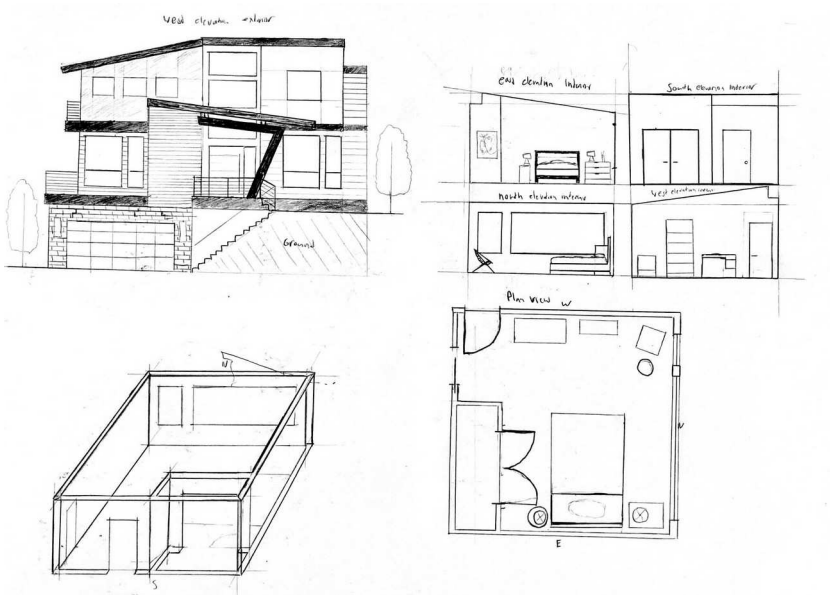
Folding paper cubes showed me that taking parts away opens new paths through a space, paths the solid cube didn't have. Mapping the businesses pointed the same way: remove something instead of adding something. So I'd remove a half-vacant building, move its barbershop next door, and replace it with a park and a path that connects both sides. More people walking through means more visitors to the Japanese American Museum at the Panama Hotel.

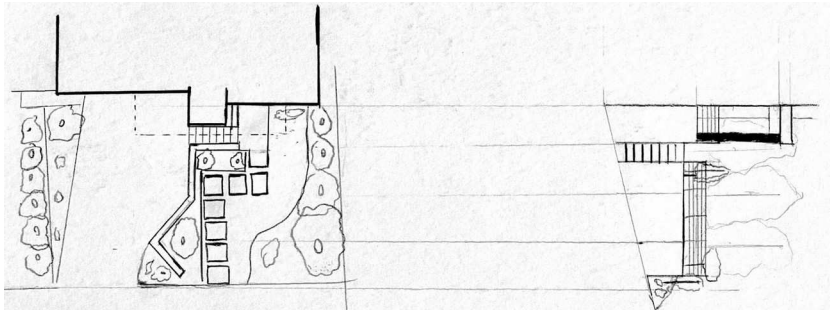
Left: my site plan. Center: my plan on an aerial photo of the real block, which my instructor provided. I used AI to help with the rendering.

What I learned: the solution came from taking something away, an idea that started with the paper cubes.

Three Small Buildings

Spring 2026 | UW Architectural Studies I, online | Pencil and ruler



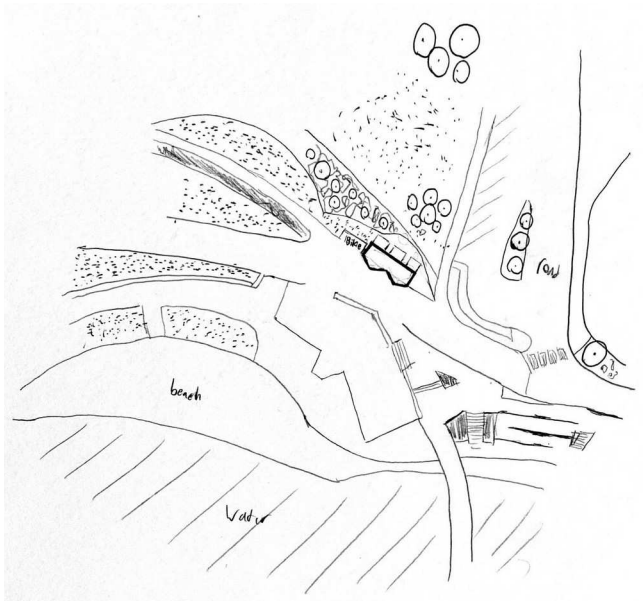


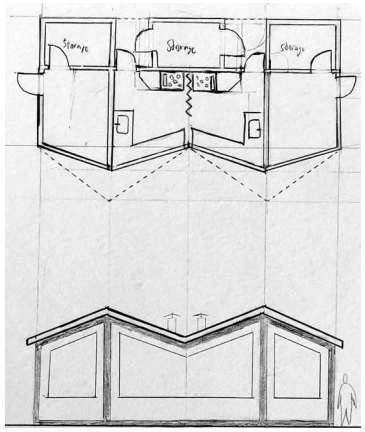
Drawing My Own House

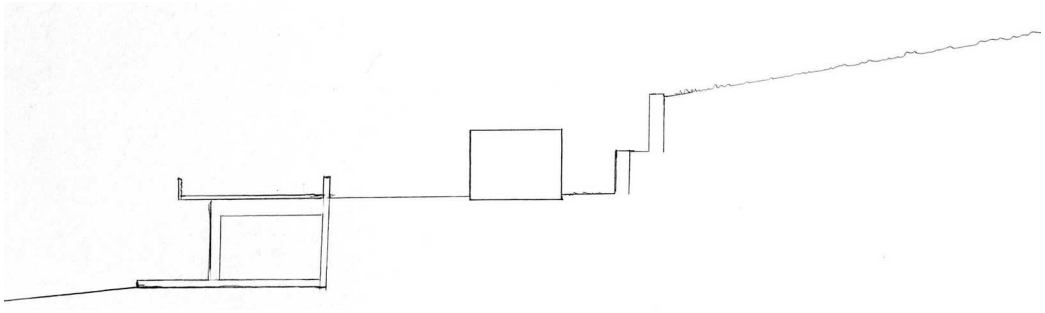
The assignment: draw my own house from scratch, without measuring.

I drew my room in section, elevation, and axonometric, estimating every dimension by eye, including the furniture. Below: the front yard landscape in plan and elevation.

What I learned: each type of drawing reveals something different about the same space.







Park Market Pavilion

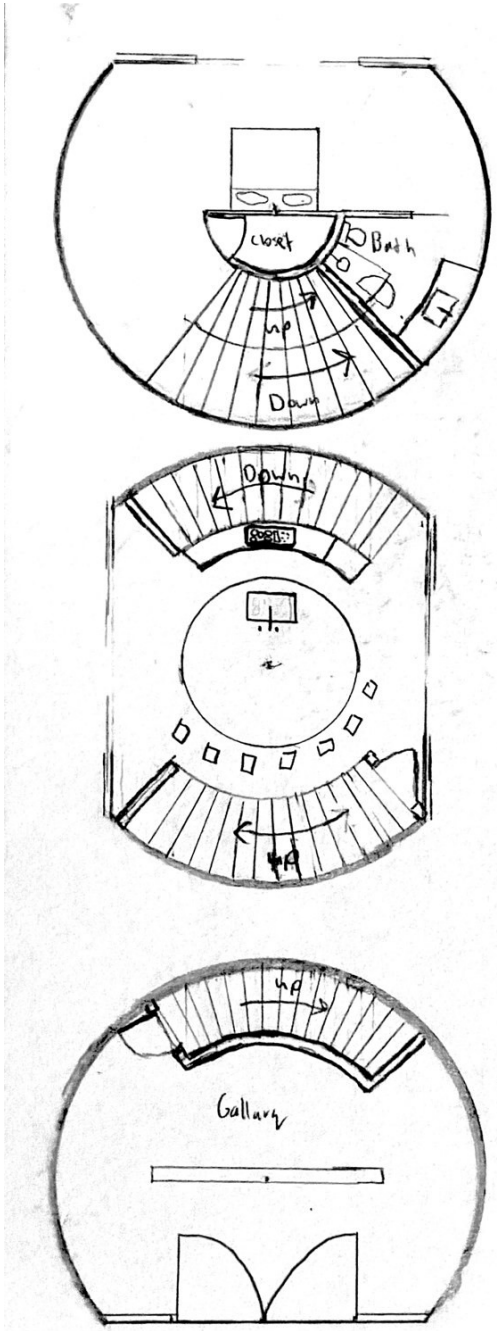
The assignment: design a building that serves your community.

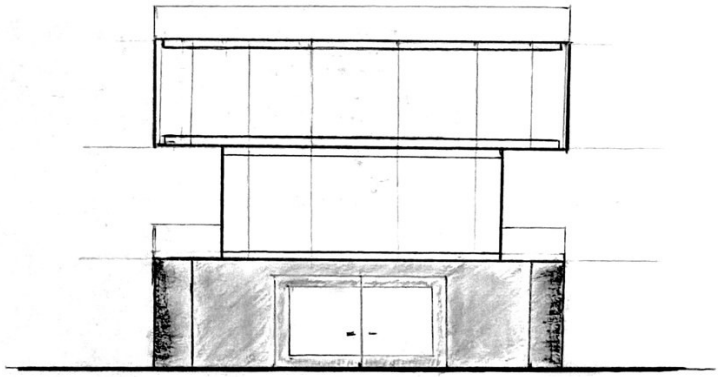
My answer is an open pavilion for food vendors in our neighborhood park. The zigzag facade rises into mountain shapes along the roof. Left: the site. Right: plan and elevation. Below: site section.

What I learned: the wood and metal facade is too plain. The low profile works, though, because it lets the building sit quietly in the park.

House for a Photographer

Spring 2026 | UW Architectural Studies I, online | Client: Richard Misrach





The assignment: choose a photographer and design the house they would need.

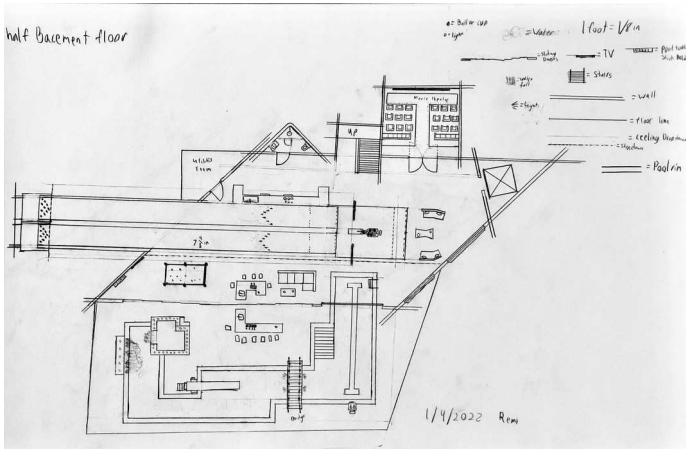
Richard Misrach photographs wide landscapes from every angle and in every kind of light. So the house is round instead of facing four directions, with big windows, balconies for aiming a camera at the sky, and a gallery on the ground floor.

Left: the floor plans, ground floor at the bottom. Right: the elevation.

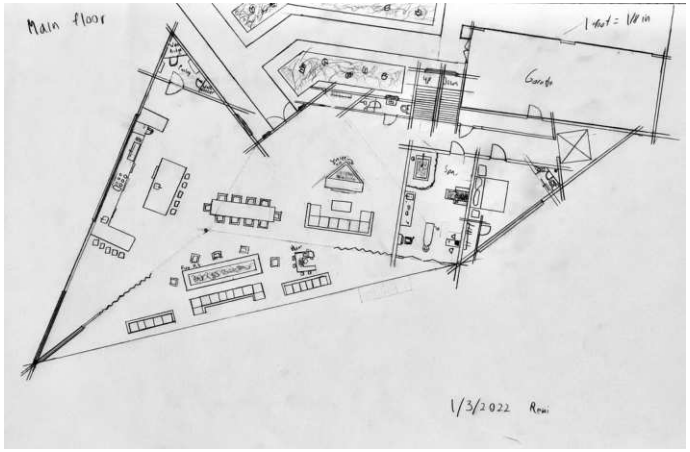
What I learned: designing for one specific person made ideas easier to find, not harder.

My Dream House

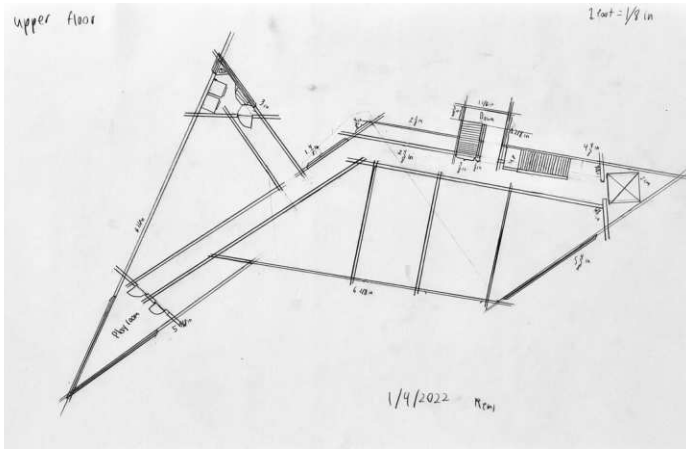
2022 to 2026 | Independent | Pencil on paper, 1/8 in = 1 ft



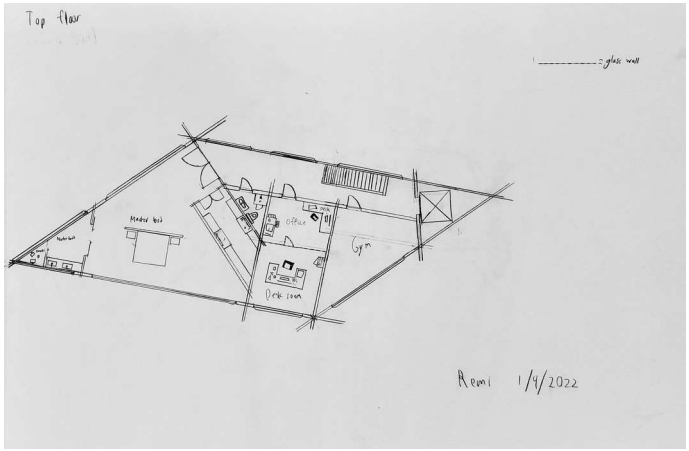
Half basement



Main floor



Upper floor



Top floor

What happens if everything I want goes into one house, and it still has to look good?

I avoided boxes and curves, so the plan is built entirely from triangles. Every feature, from the bowling alley to the movie theater, is drawn at its real size. The pool is shaped like a river, with a lap lane.

The plans read left to right, from the half basement up to the top floor.

Looking back: I worked on it a little at a time and kept coming back to add one more idea.



04 DRAWING

Sketches on Location: Brazil

October 2026 | Sketched on site | Pencil on paper

I sketched these instead of just taking photos. A photo didn't focus on the lines and patterns I was actually looking at.

Hillside Houses

Rio de Janeiro, from our hotel roof | October 14, 2026 | About 20 minutes

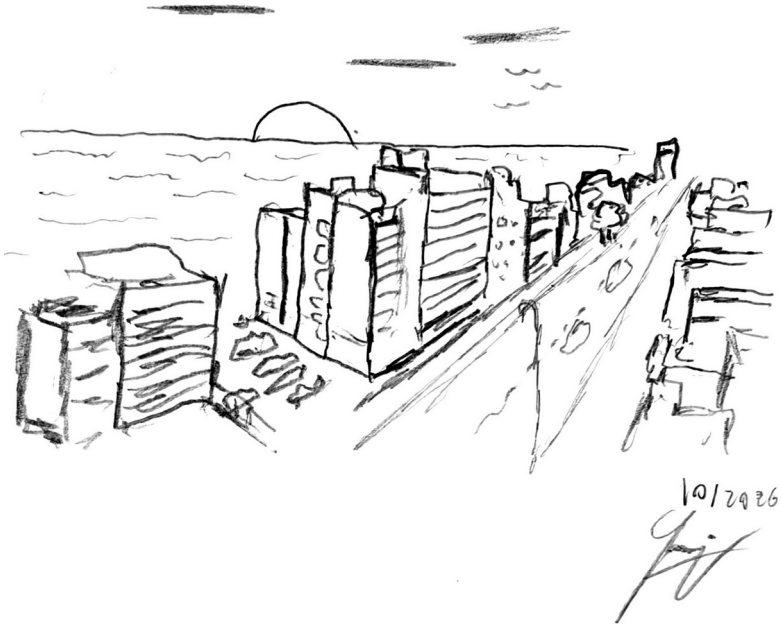
The houses make a pattern that never repeats: lines, windows, roofs. Even in black and white, a photo didn't show it, so I sketched every house as close to its true form as I could.



Detail: houses at the bottom of the hill, about 1.3x

Perspective and Depth

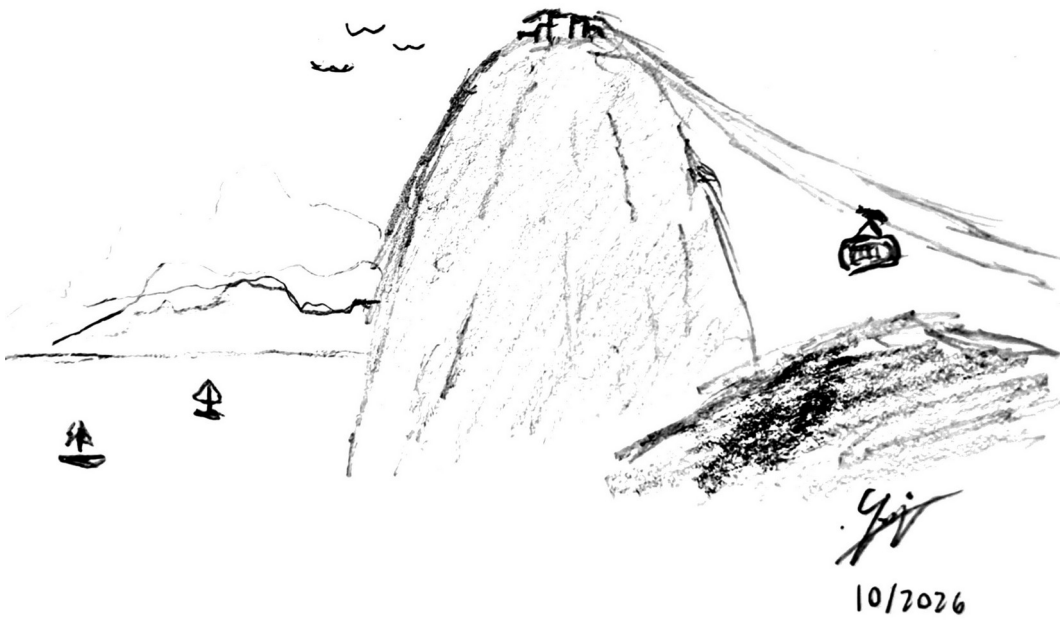
October 2026 | Macaé and Rio de Janeiro | Sketched on site | Pencil on paper



City Meets the Ocean

Macaé, from a friend's balcony | About 12 minutes

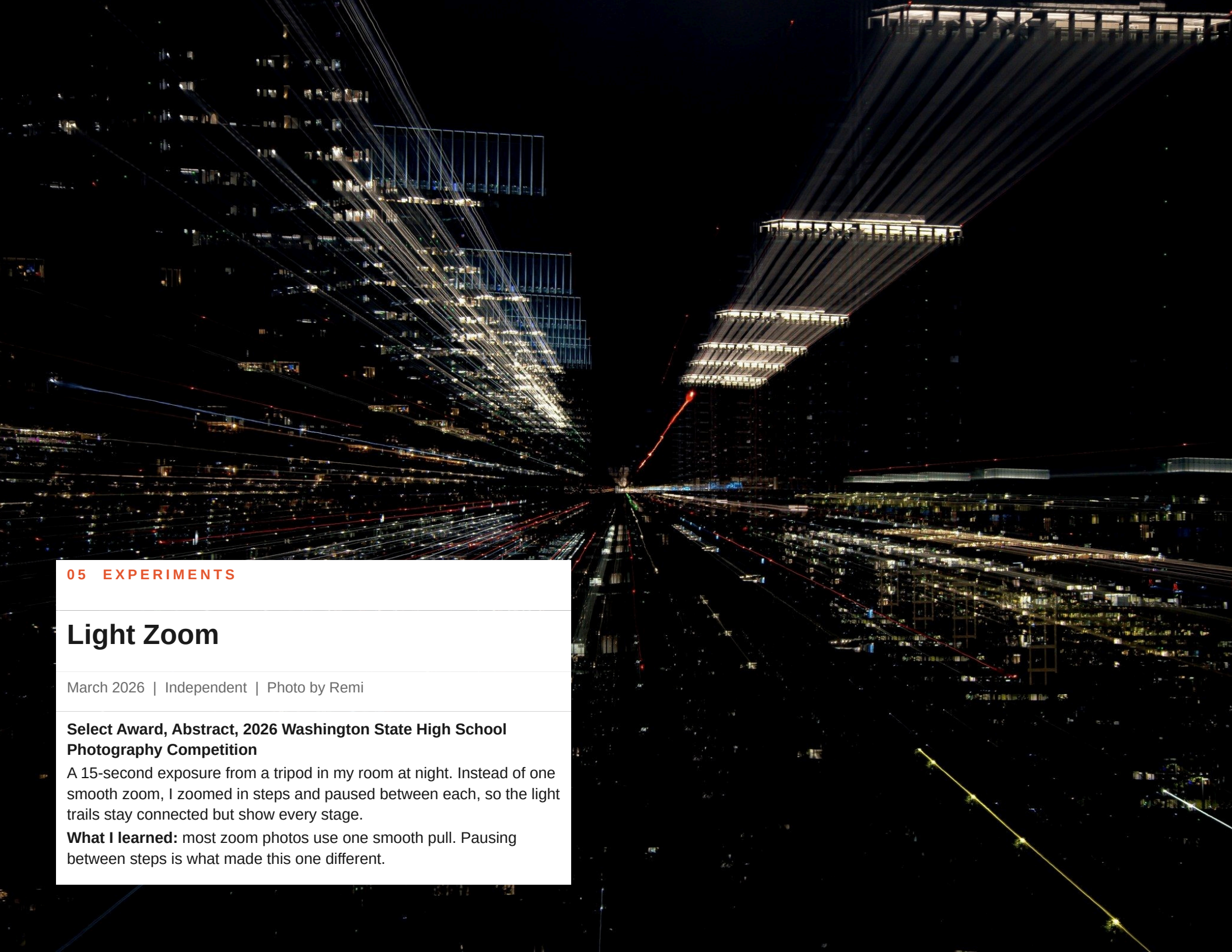
The road and the buildings all run off into the distance, but every building is a different height. I wanted to show those lines against the flat water right behind them.



Sugarloaf Cable Car

Rio de Janeiro, from dinner | About 7 minutes

Rock up front, Sugarloaf in the middle, boats farther out, mountains way in the back. I wanted to see if I could show all that depth. The cable car kept going up and down, and I like gondolas, so that was a cool connection.



05 EXPERIMENTS

Light Zoom

March 2026 | Independent | Photo by Remi

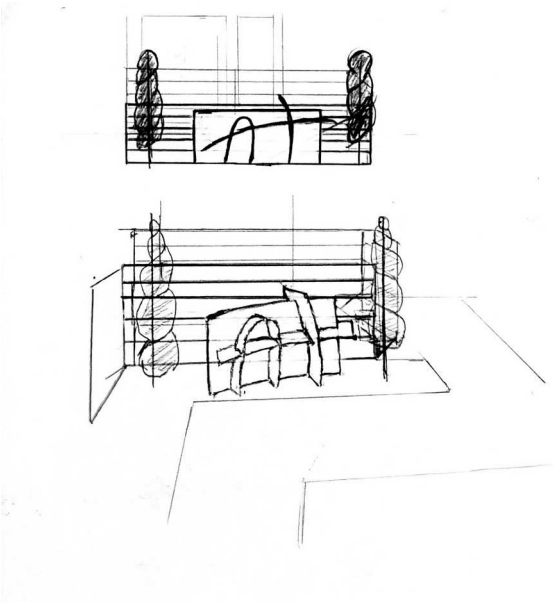
Select Award, Abstract, 2026 Washington State High School Photography Competition

A 15-second exposure from a tripod in my room at night. Instead of one smooth zoom, I zoomed in steps and paused between each, so the light trails stay connected but show every stage.

What I learned: most zoom photos use one smooth pull. Pausing between steps is what made this one different.

Three Experiments

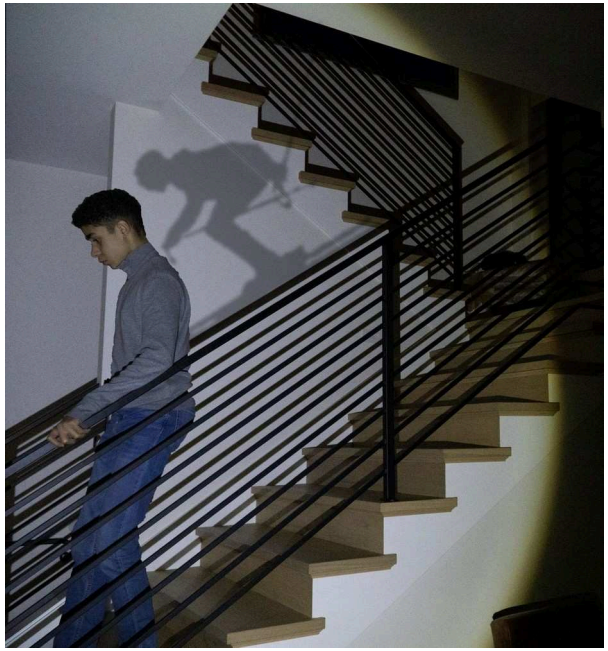
2025 to 2026 | UW Architectural Studies II and school photography class



Sculpture | Arch II

The assignment: add something that improves your own house.

I designed an abstract sculpture of bent, intersecting steel plates. They start out reflective and slowly rust, so the piece records how long it has stood there.

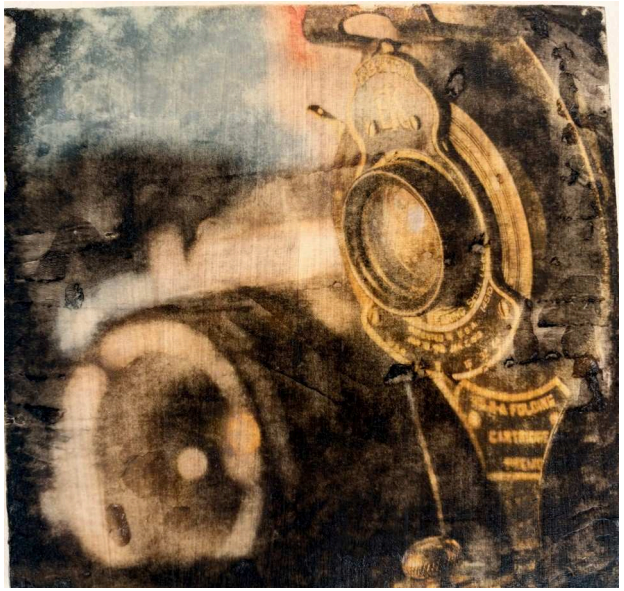


Ski Shadow | Photography class

The assignment: a silhouette of yourself on a wall.

I made it harder by compositing three photos, so my skiing silhouette appears on the stair wall behind me without my real shadow.

What I learned: how compositing actually works.



Wood Print | Photography class, 2025

Cameras from oldest to newest, each lit a little wider. I glued the print onto wood and dissolved the paper with water, so only the ink remained.

What I learned: how to transfer a photograph onto a new material.

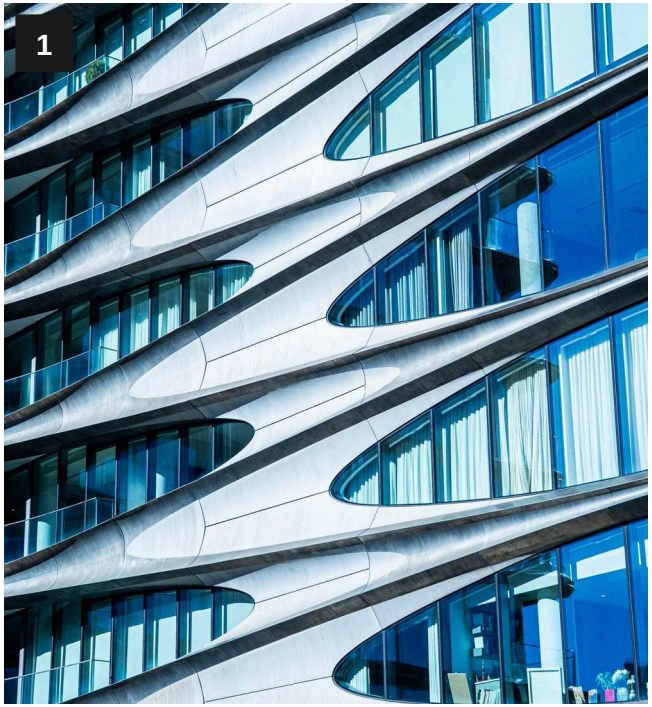


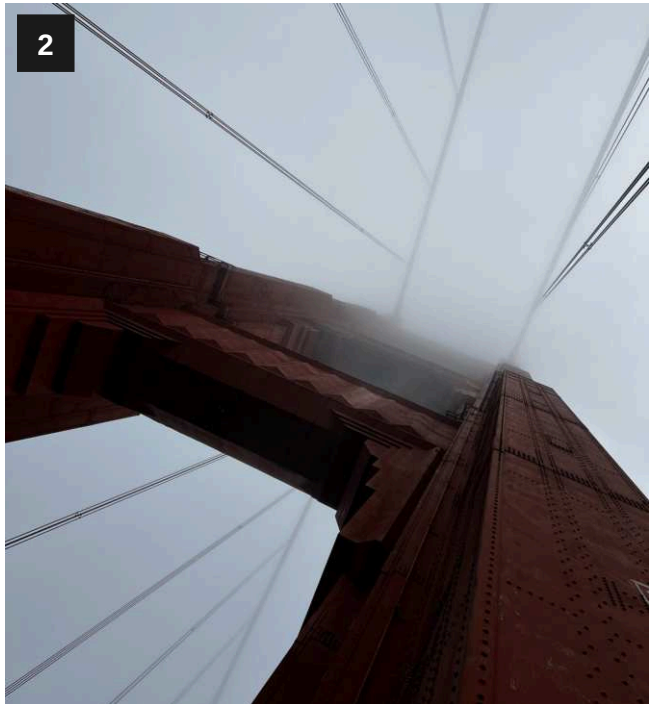
06 PHOTOGRAPHY

Spiral

Florence, Italy | School Latin trip | Photo by Remi

Photography started with my mom's camera, and it turned me into someone who stops for buildings. On a school trip to Florence, I climbed to the hotel roof for the view. Looking back down, I found this spiral, broken by a sharp 90-degree turn and framed by plants. Black and white let the textures carry it.









Through Remi's Eyes

New York, San Francisco, home, Switzerland | Photos by Remi

Texture and light, used in a different way each time, at very different scales.

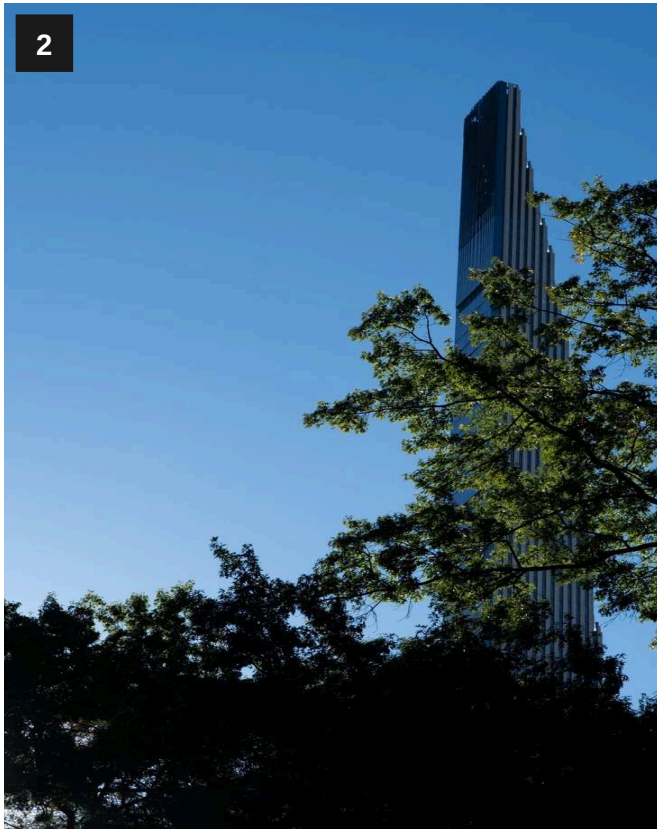
1 I stopped because the curves kept changing as the light moved across them. I barely edited it, just cropped in where the windows meet, because the building was already doing the work.

2 Walking across the Golden Gate, I looked up and the tower seemed to dissolve. I shot it at an angle so every line leads to a vanishing point hidden in the fog.

3 This only happens a few times a year, when the sun lines up with our entry. I didn't set anything up. Black and white makes the light, not the objects, the subject.

4 It was raining in Gruyeres, and the wet stone caught light the dry walls never would. I framed it through the restaurant window so the castle sits against layers of trees.





06 PHOTOGRAPHY

The City

Zurich, New York, Seattle | Photos by Remi

Small moments inside big cities.

1 Zurich rail yard at sunset. The low sun lit every track, and the crossing curves made a pattern. Step back and it could be building siding, or a story of its own.

2 Central Park. Light came through the branches, and the empty sky on the left lets the tower spear out of the trees. I kept the whole frame so that space stays.

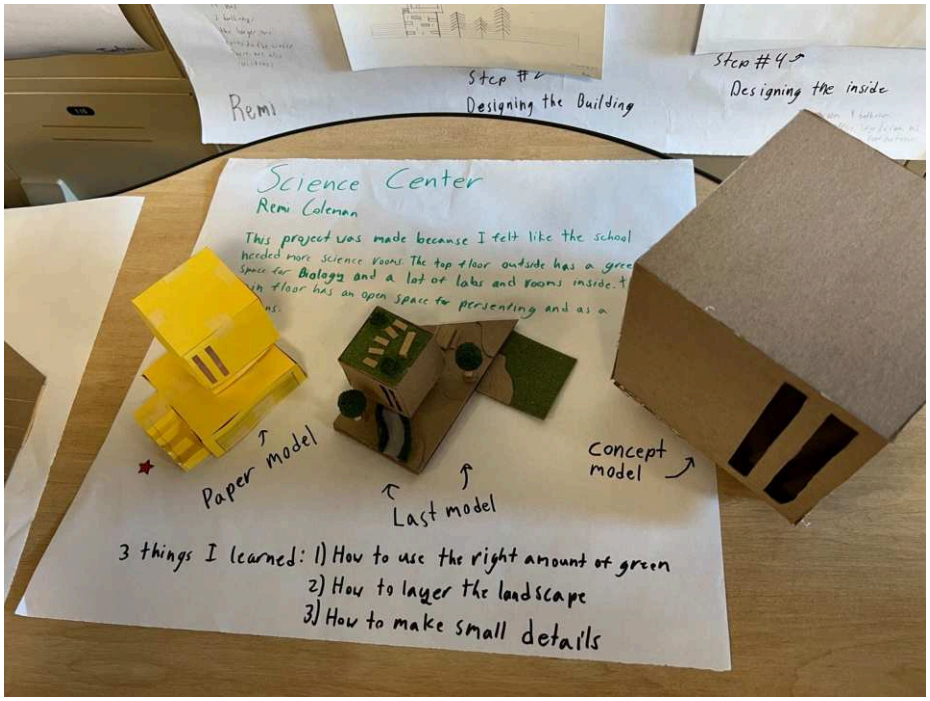
3 Seattle. The rusted railing stopped me first: green plants, red steel, gray concrete, all at sharp angles. Shooting from below stacked them into one frame.

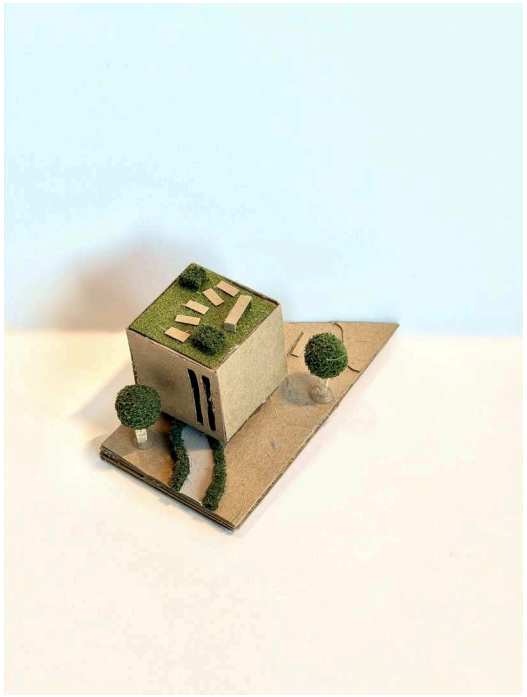
4 Seattle Steam's Western Avenue plant. It's over 100 years old and still pipes steam under downtown to heat buildings. The light was brightest in the middle and faded at the edges, and every surface held it differently.











07 WHERE IT STARTED

Waterfront Mansion and Science Center

Summer 2022 | The Northwest School architectural modeling class | Paper and cardboard

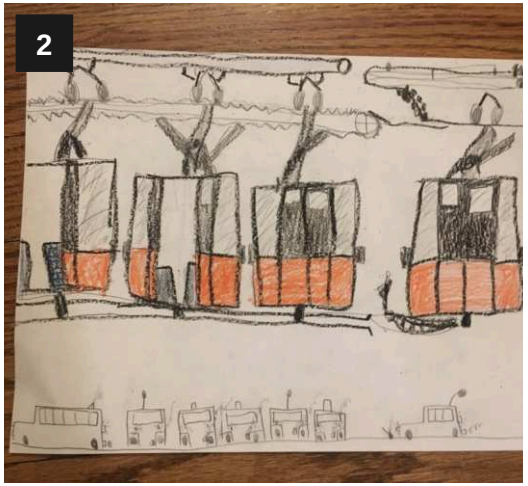
The assignment: design buildings that fit into a shared site model. I made two.

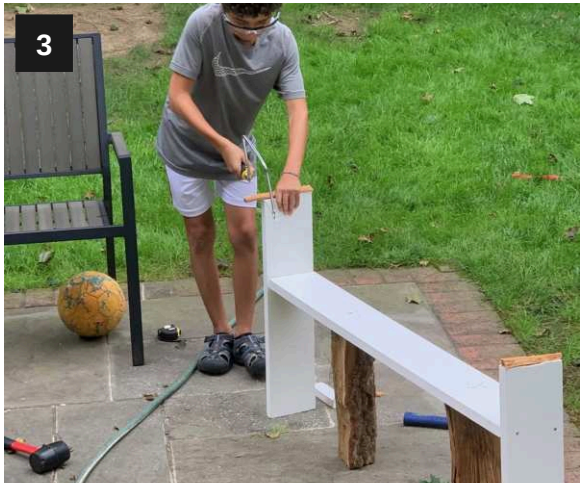
The Waterfront Mansion (far left, first photo) sits on an empty lot near Seattle's waterfront. A waterfront wants big windows, but the site wasn't private, so I made it taller: more windows, fewer people looking straight in.

The Science Center needed labs, so fewer windows. It went from a yellow paper model to a big cardboard version to the final one, with a green roof, trees, and an eating area so it fits the site.

What I learned: green space, layering the landscape, and small details, the three lessons on my board.













07 WHERE IT STARTED

Always Designing

2016 to 2024 | Home, school, backyard

Before I knew the word architecture, I was already building. Kapla blocks taught me how structure holds things up, first as supports for a train track, later as a cathedral built from a real floor plan. Instead of just riding gondolas, I studied how they worked from underneath and drew my own. A wobbly backyard bench taught me how to make things rigid. A cardboard desk taught me that good joints matter more than more material, and that something strong can still look clean. My teachers and classmates noticed both. And drawing on my bedroom floor, tools always out, was my favorite way to spend free time.

I drew gondolas in 2018. In 2026 I designed a station for them.

THANK YOU

WORKS INCLUDED

Gondola Station

Seattle Japantown

Drawing My Own House

Park Market Pavilion

House for a Photographer

My Dream House

Brazil Sketches

Light Zoom (Select Award, WSHSPC 2026)

Experiments

Photography

Waterfront Mansion and Science Center

Always Designing

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