



**HOME INTERIORS & FURNISHINGS IN REMOTE NORTHERN FIRST NATION COMMUNITIES:
EXPLORING SUSTAINABLE AND CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE SOLUTIONS THROUGH THE MINO BIMAADIZIWIN HOMEBUILDERS**

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**A PRACTICUM SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF GRADUATE STUDIES OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEGREE OF**

MASTER OF INTERIOR DESIGN

**DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR DESIGN
UNIVERSITY OF MANITOBA
WINNIPEG**

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DESIGN INQUIRY:

1. How can interior design support the unique Anishiniwuk cultural identity of both WFN and GHFN within a residential typology?
2. Given the remote and northern location of WFN and GHFN,
 - a. What are the unique challenges that directly correlate with the remote northern site conditions?
 - b. With efficiency, reliability and sustainability as a priority, what interior solutions can effectively address these challenges?
3. What local materials can be respectfully harvested and used as interior design elements?

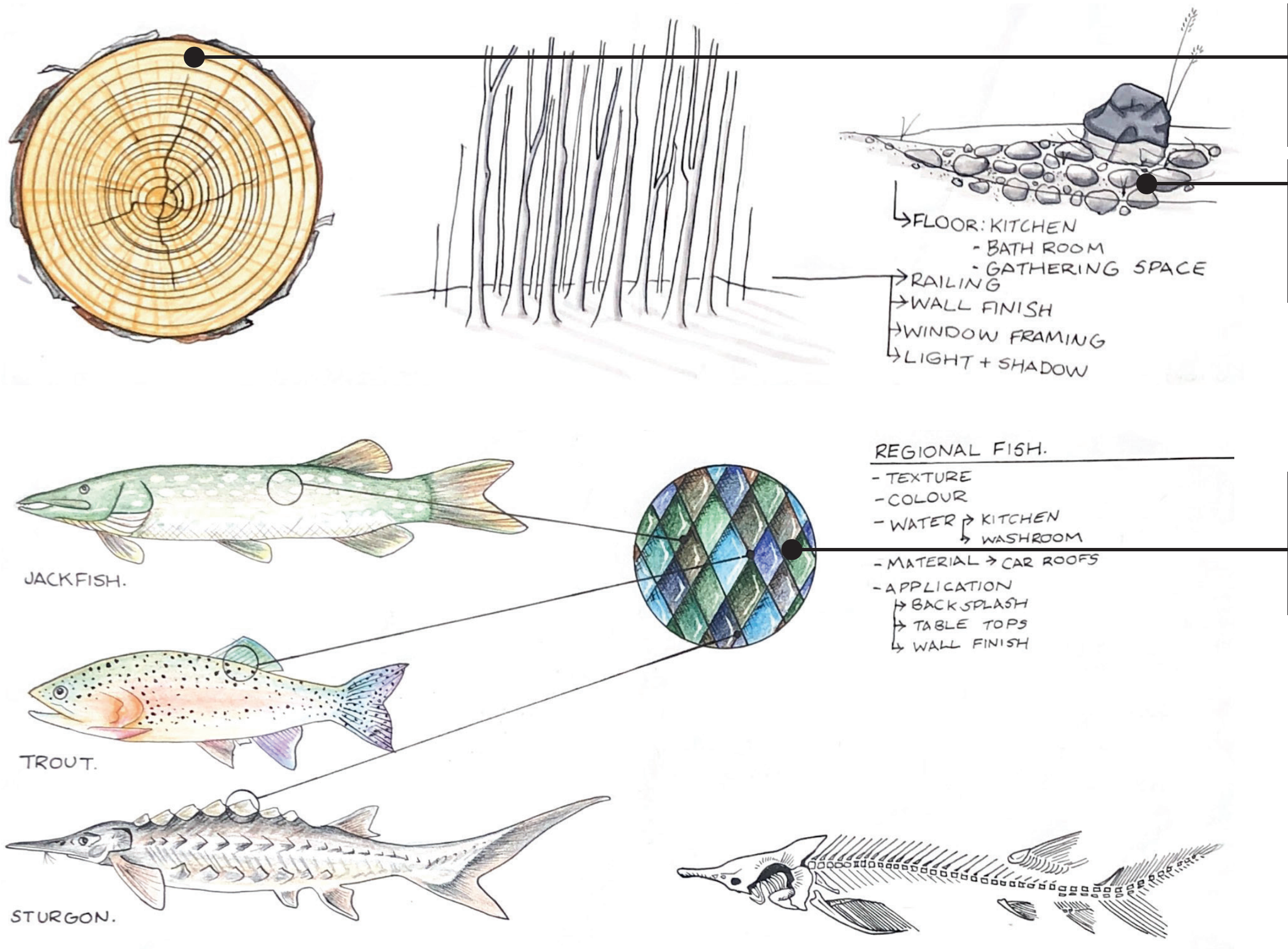


KEY FINDINGS:

AUTHOR (S)	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
CROSS - CULTURAL LENS		
Albert Marshall Murdena Marshall Cheryl Bartlett	Two Eyed Seeing	1. A concept of mutual respect and collaboration between Western schools of thought and Indigenous ways of knowing. This framework suggests that the weaknesses of both ways of knowing can be improved or eliminated as the fusion of knowledge begins to fill the gaps within the opposing school of thought.
DESIGN CRITERIA		
Frank Vodvarka Joy Monice Malnar	New Architecture on Indigenous Land	1. Explores in great detail modern Indigenous architecture and how identity, culture, heritage and history are embedded in the design and design processes. 2. Provides a set of design criteria and form determinates. 3. Is an example of how to analyze traditional and cultural information from an outside perspective.
Center for American Indian Research and Native Studies	Four Dimensions	1. CAIRNS promotes a list of uniquely Indigenous design concepts, all of which speaks to the design process that prioritizes the community vision. CAIRNS looks at how traditional Native architecture philosophy is evaluated.
RESILIENCY AND SUSTAINABILITY		
Dr. Joseph Fiksel	In Designing Resilient, Sustainable Systems	1. Dr. Fiksel challenges the current standards of sustainability with the concept of resilience, arguing that more positive environmental impact can be achieved when focusing on a broad range of systems level issues rather than limiting the focus on the function and form of a product or service.
Dr. Robin W. Kimmerer	The Honourable Harvest	1. Dr. Kimmerer, along with her Elders challenge the current sustainable model, arguing that the answers to questions of how to be more sustainable is not to simply continue to find ways to take from the earth but instead find ways to give gifts back. This will create a bio-cultural relationship where the earth is good for humans and humans are good for the earth, better known as reciprocity.
OWNERSHIP AND SELF DETERMINATION		
R.S. Bailie K.J. Wayte	Housing and Health in Indigenous Communities	1. Bailie and Wayte consider the implications of owning verses renting property. They argue that owning a home instils a sense of security, control and mastery, which is believed to impact health and well-being.
Ryan C Walker	Searching for Aboriginal/Indigenous Self -Determination	1. Walker addresses the pursuit of self-determination among Indigenous communities. 2. Walker argues that the most effective low-cost living and welfare solutions for Indigenous peoples would be most successful if they were governed and conducted by Indigenous leaders.

PRELIMINARY CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT:

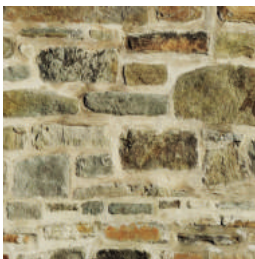
LAND, WATER AND ANIMAL INSPIRATION:



MATERIAL SELECTION:



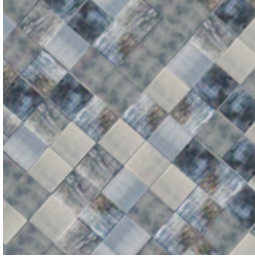
Local Wood can be harvested and milled locally. A defining material of the home, lining walls, ceiling and floors as well as all furniture and cabinetry.



River rocks are a part of the land identity. Bringing this material in to the home helps reflect the gifts of the earth in the interior.



Poured concrete is a durable and cost effective solution for solid surfaces such as counter space.



When vehicles die the metal sits relatively untouched and begins to rust. This material would be otherwise wasted if not harvested and used for this fish scale inspired wall application.



Quilts can be made for bed coverings as well as for couch cushions. They can act as simple pops of colour or as comfortable art pieces that tell stories throughout the home.



Animal hide can be used in various tactile application. Pillows, seat cushions and area rugs can all be made from animal hides.

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT: WOODLAND ART

JACKSON BEARDY:



Paintings Waterbird 1796 J. Beardy

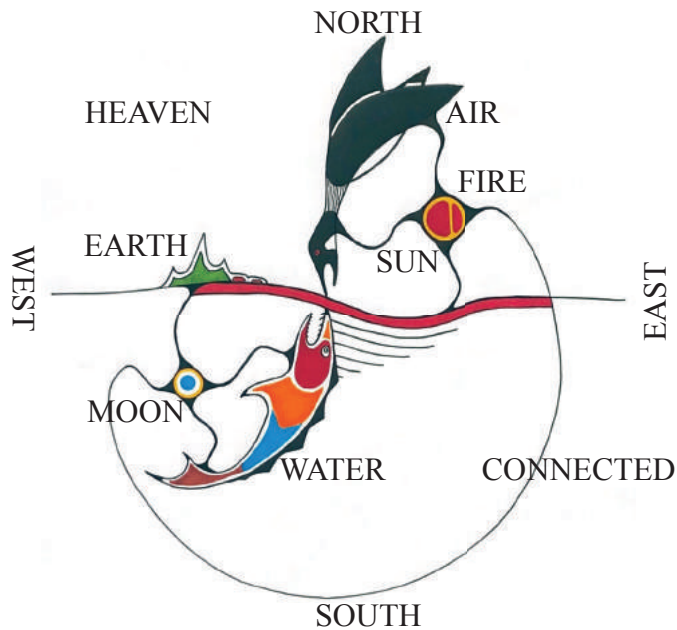


Sturgoen Clan 1979 (right), J. Beardy

Jackson Beardy was a member of the Woodland School of Indigenous art before becoming a part of the Indian Group of Seven in 1974 (Phillips, 2011). Beardy’s work was stylized, painted on canvas, birch bark and beaver skins and often focused on the interdependence of humans and nature (Phillips, 2011). Beardy often aimed to depict figures from his traditional heritage (Phillips, 2011). For nearly twenty years Beardy promoted Indigenous art as a valid category of contemporary art (Phillips, 2011).

Beardy was born and grew up in Island Lake. Beardy told stories learned from his land and home, therefore forever connecting his art to the long and inter-woven history of the Anishininwuk.

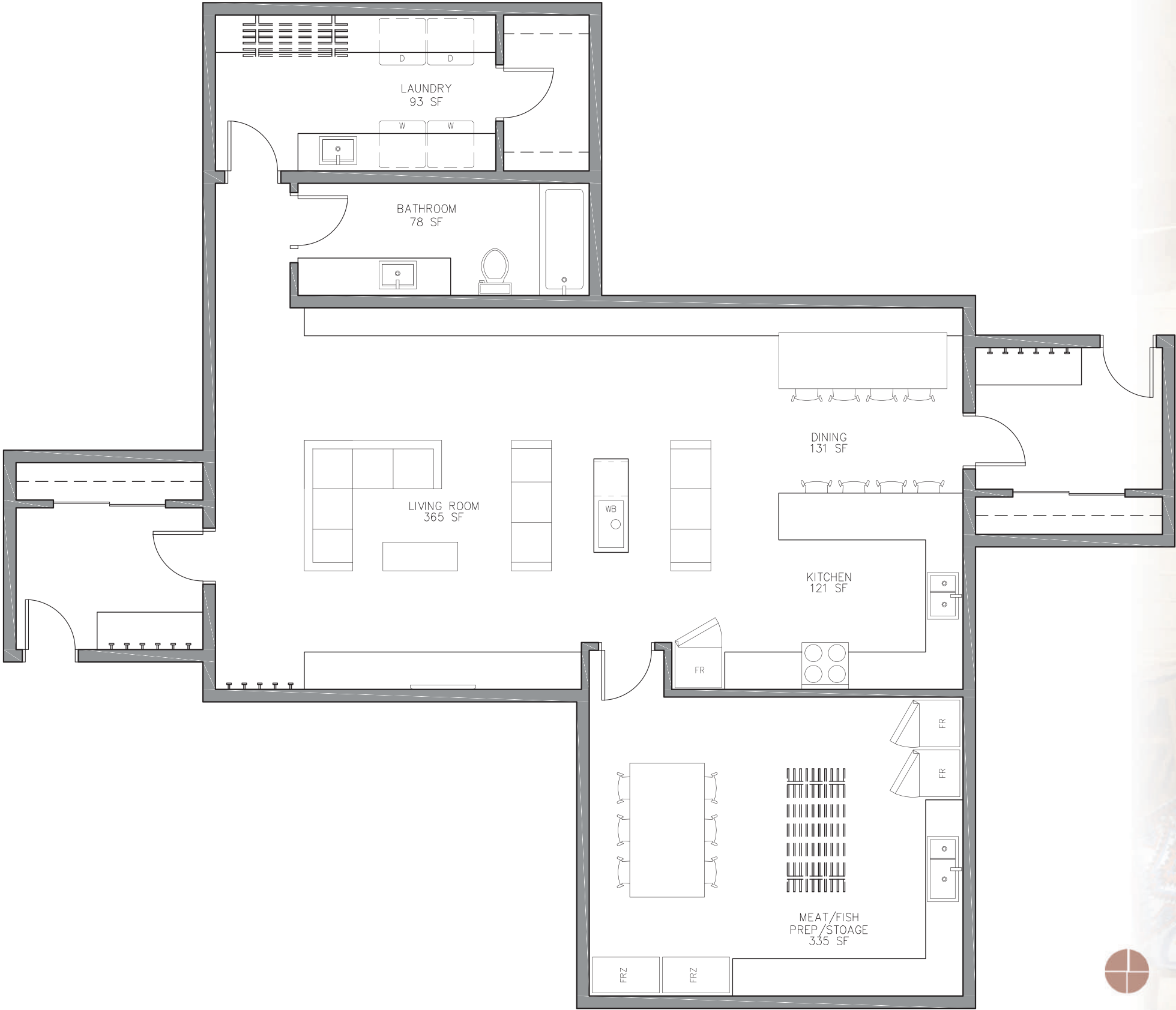
ORIGINAL WOODLAND ART:



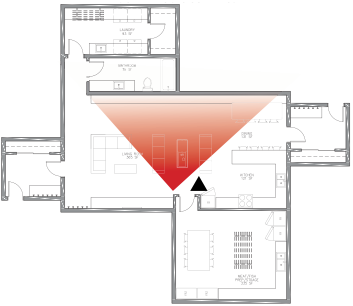
MODULAR HOUSE PLAN



LONG HOUSE - SHARED SPACE



FAMILY WALL



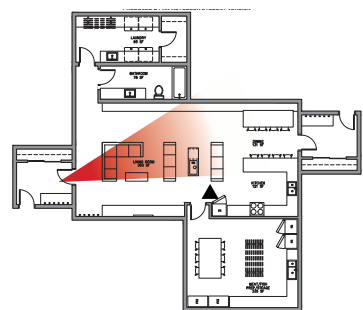
The family wall provides a space to showcase pictures of the entire clan as well as a place to display family relics and ceremonial objects.

A long bench with storage provides an abundance of storage for the family but also provides seating for large feasts and celebrations. Additional tables and chairs can be added to accommodate twenty-four people comfortably.



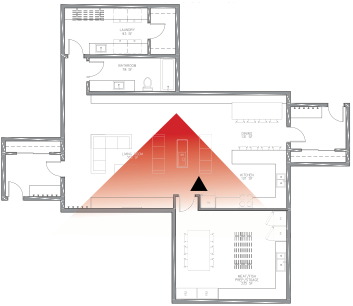
Windows on this wall face north to address solar gain and loss strategies.

Two removeable racks are hung on this wall. These racks are used for drying winter gear around the wood burning stove.



FAMILY WALL

STORAGE AND ENTERTAINMENT



All windows on this wall face south to address solar gain and loss strategies.

A shared entertainment system is included in this space for friends and family to gather and watch movies, sporting event

A locally built wall unit was designed with low drawers for people of all ages and capabilities to easily access. This wall unit also provides interior storage for wood that feeds the central wood burning stove.



The open concept design allows for the wood burning stove to be central and unobstructed, allowing heat to disperse throughout the entire building envelope.

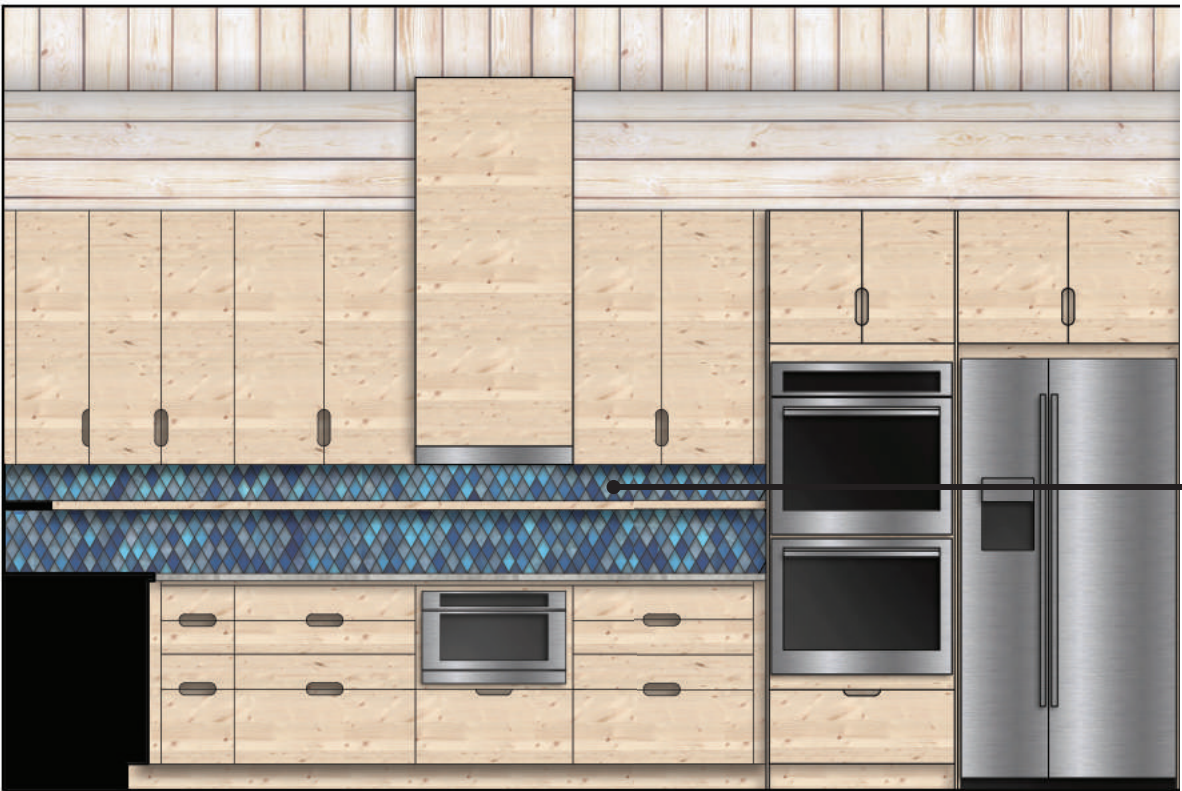
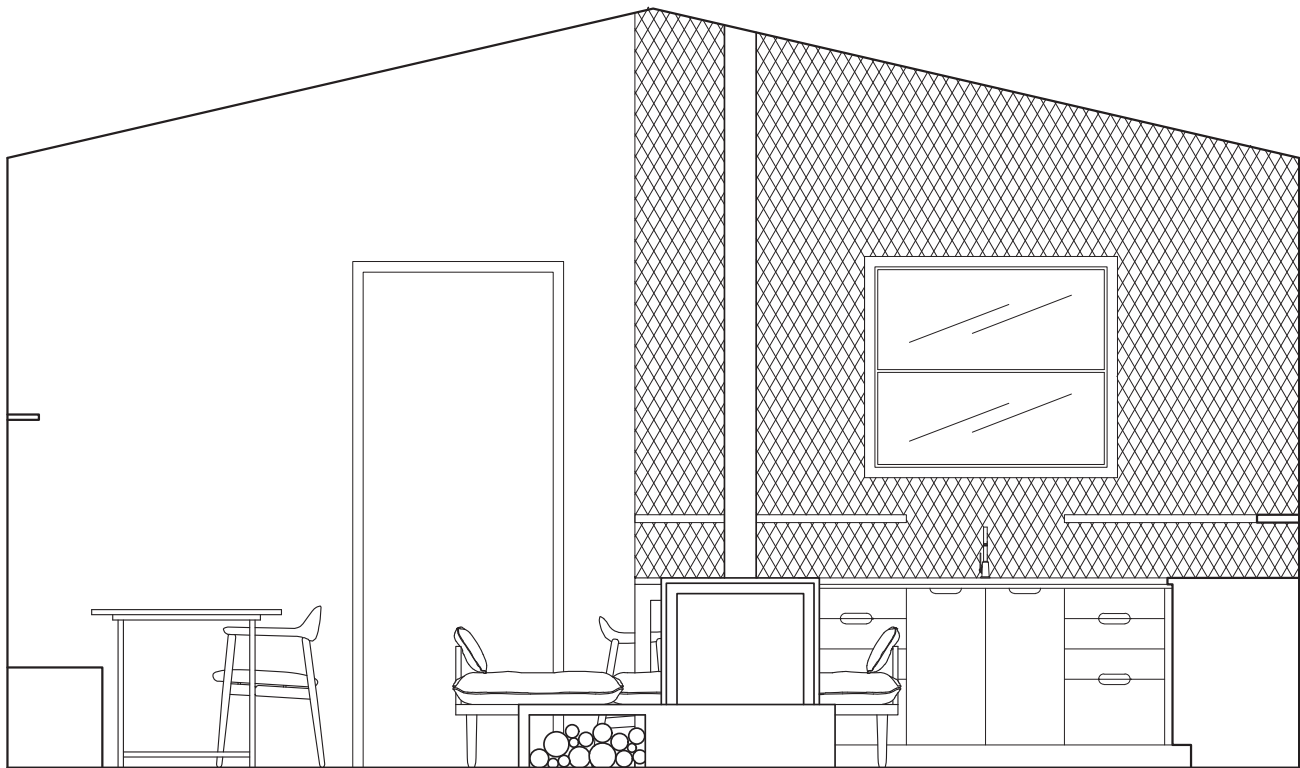
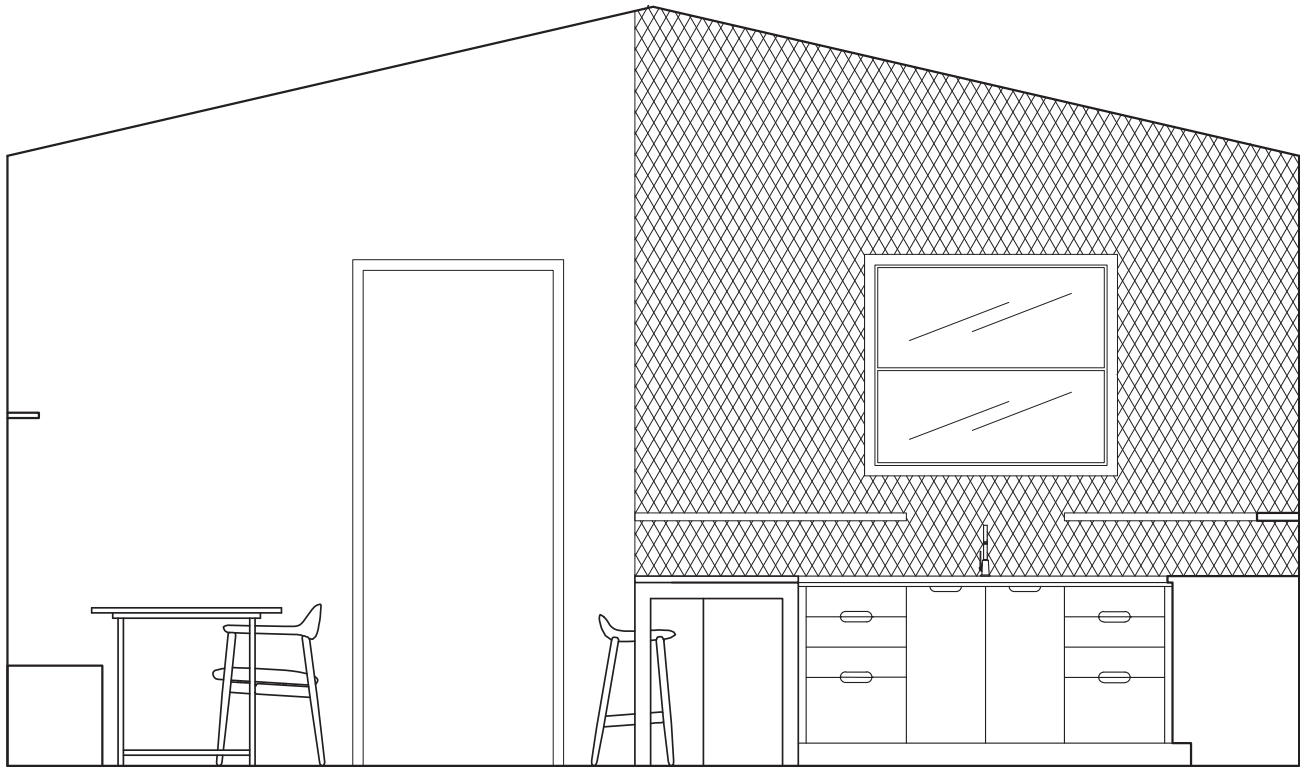
There is custom lounge seating on either side of the wood burning stove. The wood burning stove is a transition area between dining and lounging but also provides a space for gathering and storey telling. Couch cushions are locally made and display a variety of colourful quilts.



STORAGE AND ENTERTAINMENT



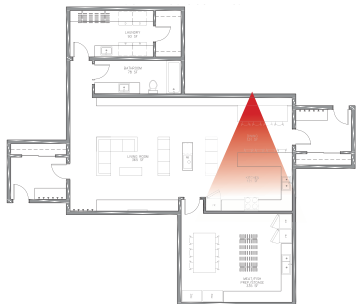
SHARED KITCHEN

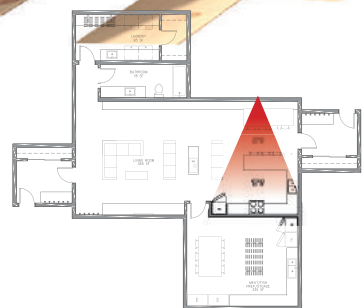


The kitchen features a recycled car roof wall in leu of a standard tile backsplash. The diamond pattern is gradually extruding off the wall resulting in a texture that creates shadow and movement. This wall is inspired by the sharp diamond shaped scales of the sturgeon while the shiny blues and silvers refer to the twinkly skin of the colourful trout. All metal can be salvaged from junk metal found in Island Lakes as there are an abundance of scrap cars with no purpose or place to be disposed of.



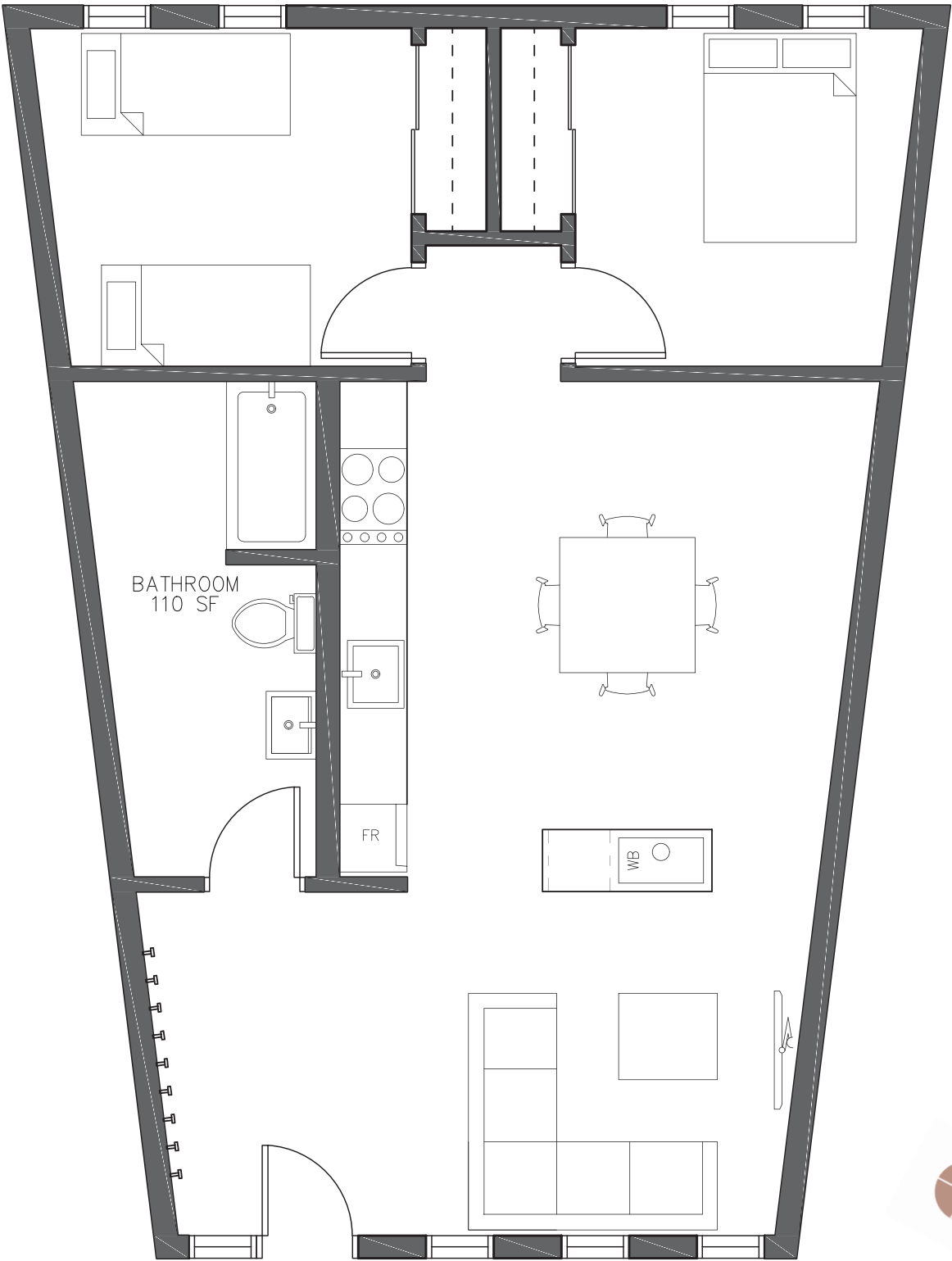
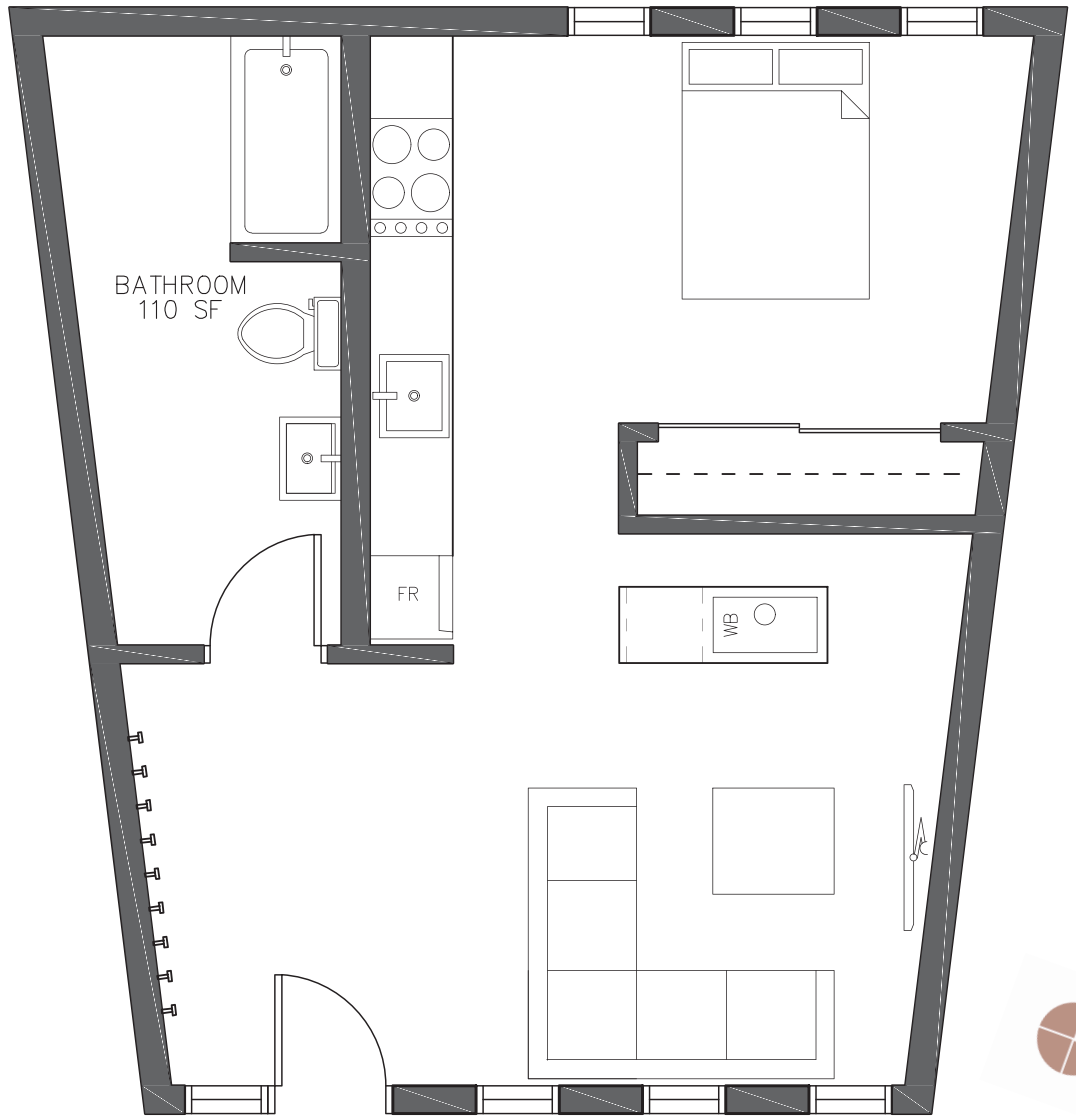
This shared kitchen is indented to be used for large feast and therefore has been equipped with a double stacked oven, electric stove top, microwave and double door fridge.





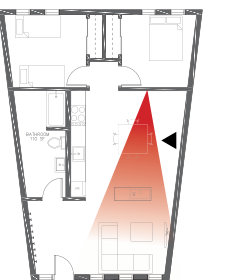
FAMILY UNITS

There are two family units to choose from, the one-bedroom and the two-bedroom unit. Each unit is equipped with a wood burning stove, ally kitchen, living space and washroom. The same materiality is used in the family units as in the long house shared spaces. However, a family wall is also included in each unit for the individual family to display their own pictures and objects.





FAMILY UNIT: TWO-BEDROOM





THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME,

ANY QUESTIONS, COMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS ARE WELCOMED