

# JEMIMAH ASAMOAH | ACCRA, GHANA | M. ARCH '21

## Beyond Sustainability: Biophilia as a Tool for Regenerative Urban Design



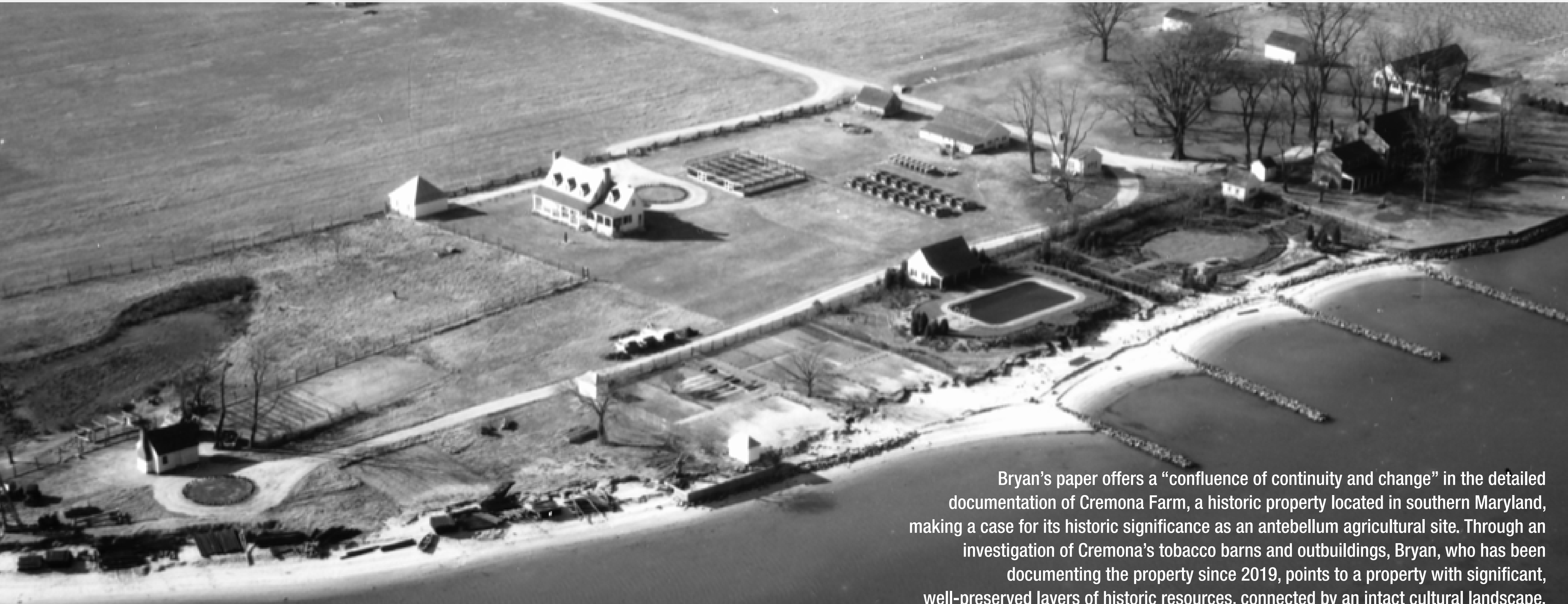
Asamoah's thesis, which she developed after resonating with an ecological design thinking class she took during her graduate degree, explores how regenerative design and biophilia—the human desire to connect and engage with nature—can be used as a tool to improve the quality of life in an urban area. In her design project, Asamoah re-envisioned the Anacostia Recreation Center as an engaging and interactive neighborhood respite, for Southeast Washington, D.C., where people and nature come together.

*What's next:* Asamoah is looking forward to catching her breath before she starts her professional life as an architect.



# MICHAEL CHRIS BRYAN | GREENCASTLE, PENNSYLVANIA | MHP '21

## A Comparative Study of Cremona Farm's Antebellum Tobacco Barns and Outbuildings as Resources in Regional Context



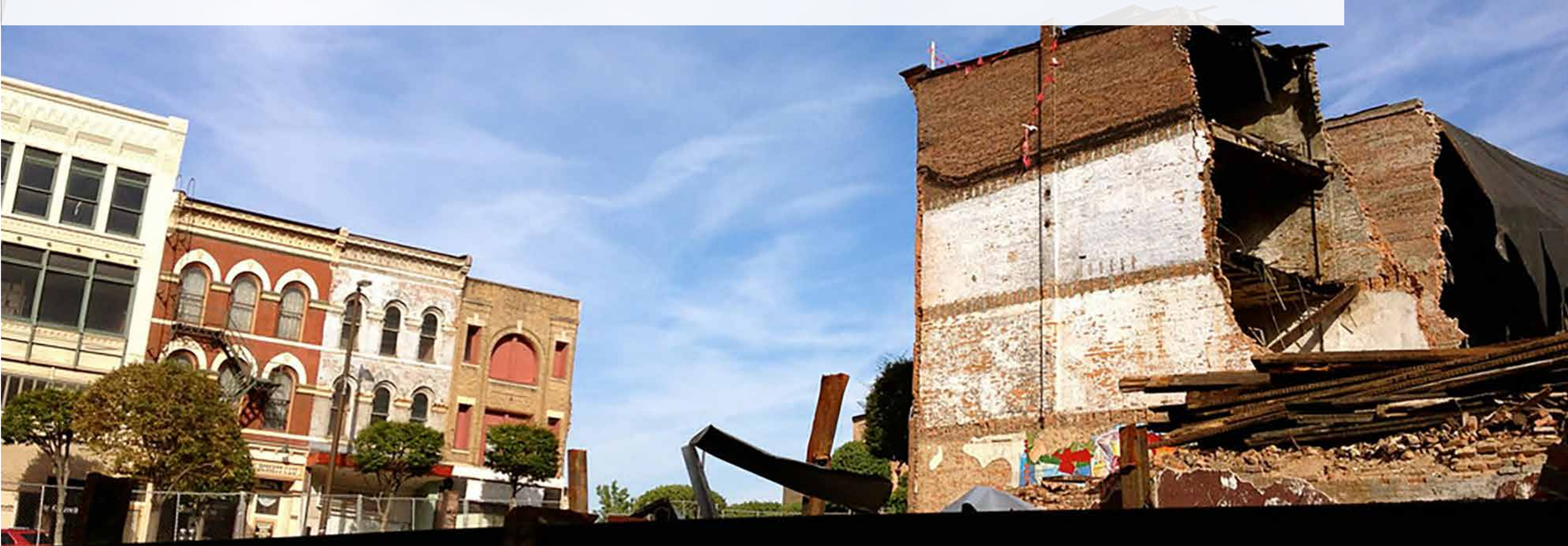
Bryan's paper offers a "confluence of continuity and change" in the detailed documentation of Cremona Farm, a historic property located in southern Maryland, making a case for its historic significance as an antebellum agricultural site. Through an investigation of Cremona's tobacco barns and outbuildings, Bryan, who has been documenting the property since 2019, points to a property with significant, well-preserved layers of historic resources, connected by an intact cultural landscape.

*What's next:* Bryan's new book on the Union Army XXII Corps, which he wrote during his master's degree program at Maryland, hits bookshelves in November.



# JEFF BRAMMER | CHARLES TOWN, WEST VIRGINIA | MHP '21

## Demolition by Neglect in West Virginia: A Policy Analysis of Historic Preservation Scourge in the Mountain State



Brammer's final project confronts "demolition by neglect," an insidious practice that remains the greatest threat to preservation efforts in his home state of West Virginia, where 1 in 16 properties are vacant or abandoned. Through an examination of existing laws and policies, comparative analysis and by sharing case studies from other states, Brammer finds that West Virginia's legislation fails to empower the enforcement and incentivization efforts of local jurisdictions and suggests measures to help communities address local preservation.

*What's next:* Brammer and his wife are heading south to Georgia where he will be the next historic preservation planner for the historic southern city of Valdosta.



# JAZMIN INOA REYES | SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND | M. ARCH '21

## Affirming Identity: Communities Cultivating Heritage

Reyes' thesis proposes an agrarian community and heritage center for the recently demolished Barry Farm public housing community, building on her experience growing up on the fringes of society. She utilizes key design tenets to celebrate the history and heritage of this vibrant community and serve to its people.

*What's next:* Reyes plans on working after taking some time to recuperate from back-to-back undergraduate and graduate school. "I look forward to building my professional experience!" she says.





# LEAH CHRISTINA CLARK | RANDOLPH, MASSACHUSETTS | M. ARCH '21

## Lots of Healing: A Transformative Approach to Lot Vacancy



Inspired by grassroots church organizations' work to transform vacant lots into community amenities in Baltimore, Clark's thesis proposes to revitalize such communities filled with vacant lots by engaging the design process, then dedicating those spaces to the homeless and the greater neighborhood community. "I chose to work in this topic because I felt it is an important issue and one that can be addressed with a little design thinking," she says.

*What's next:* Clark is hoping to obtain her license and later join other grassroots non-profit organizations to tackle other related issues in Maryland and abroad.



# HANNAH GRADY | MANSFIELD, OHIO | M. ARCH + MHP '21

## The Growcery Store



How can rustbelt cities, like those that dot Grady's home state of Ohio, stay relevant in a post-industrial economy? In her thesis, she sees a lot of room for growth. Utilizing the industrial fabric of Fairfax, Ohio, Grady offers a fresh take on sustainable farming to explore the "next evolution of how we produce and consume food." Fusing preservation, ecology and design, she devises an innovative design alternative to meet the economic, environmental and social needs of the area, and others like it.

*What's next:* Grady sees her future office as one that carves out plenty of time for fieldwork; she plans to take the summer to figure out her next move, both geographically and professionally.



# ZUZANNA NOWOSIELSKA | WARSAW, POLAND | M. ARCH '21

## Architecture Improving Mental Health in Response to the Covid-19 Pandemic



Nowosielska's conception of a Restorative Center for the MedStar Washington Hospital Center medical employees explores the possibilities of experiential architecture focused on health and wellness. Curious about the connection between architecture and human feelings and inspired by the need for mental health care during the COVID-19 pandemic, she aims to achieve tranquility through biophilic design and evoke a multisensory experience.

*What's next:* Nowosielska will now turn her efforts to becoming a licensed architect.



# DANIEL PERAGINE | WANTAGH, NEW YORK | M. ARCH '21

## Infill Farm: Revitalizing Urban Landscapes for Food Production



Peragine is a believer in the power of food—not just in building bodies, but communities. His thesis, which proposes an East New York Food Hub, leverages a community garden infrastructure to nourish those who have been historically disenfranchised and to build social, economic and human health. A network of indoor and outdoor spaces improves connection to one another and to food, with ample gathering space for food-centric events.

*What's next:* Peragine will be joining the “amazing team” at Design Collective in Baltimore, broadening his horizons with academic and mixed-use projects.



# CHRIS PEARCE | LAUREL, MARYLAND | M. ARCH '21

## Crabitat and Cuisine: Blue Crab Restaurant and an Educational Water Treatment Wetlands at Sparrows Point, Maryland



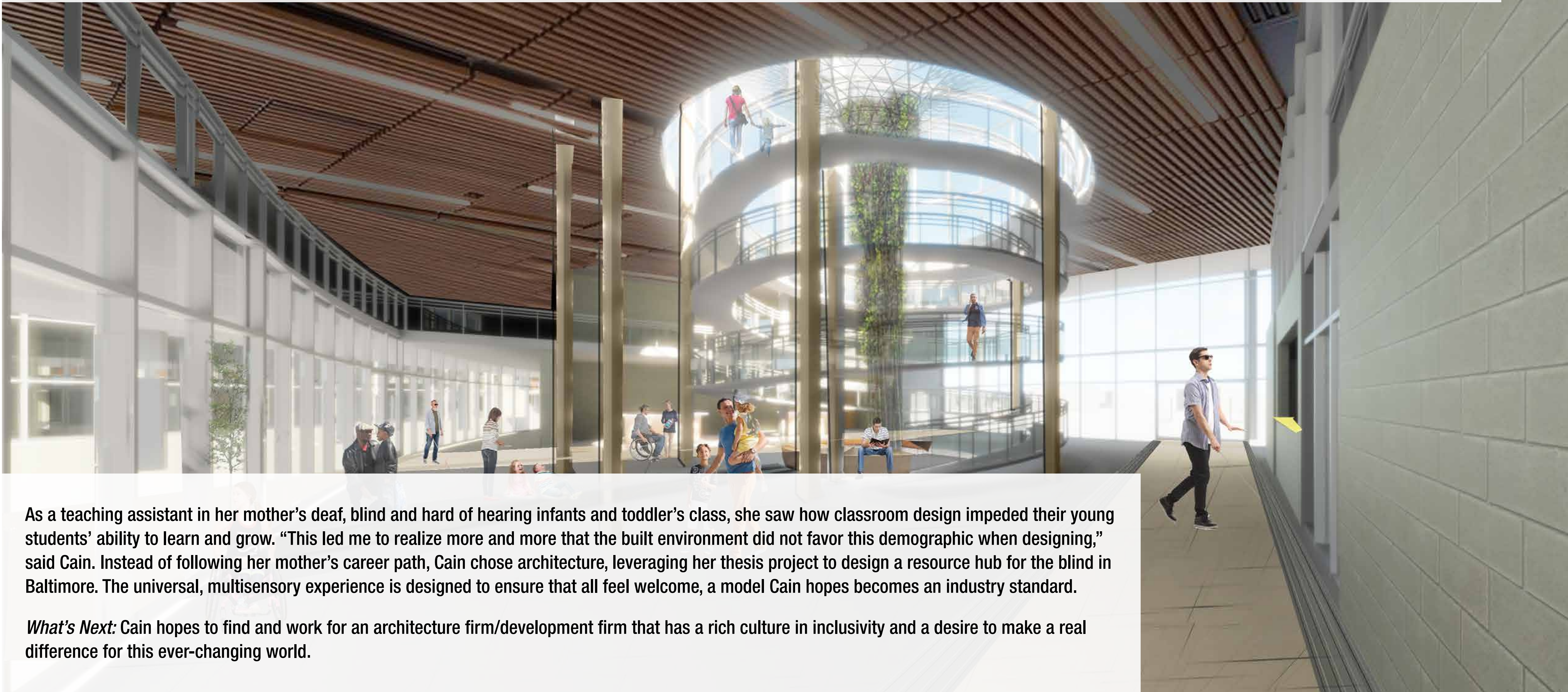
Pearce's thesis, which was influenced by memories of crabbing with his grandparents and planting bay grasses in middle school, phyto-remediates a brownfield site to create a dynamic restaurant and educational center dedicated to the riches of the Chesapeake Bay, highlighting the importance of environmental and cultural heritage.

*What's next:* Pearce is hoping to pursue sustainable architecture within the DMV area.



# RACHEL MARISA CAIN | CLINTON, MARYLAND | M. ARCH + MRED '21

Equal Living: Re-Imagining the Everyday Building Typology in Order to Enhance the Lifestyles of Everyone, With a Specification on the Blind and Visually Impaired



As a teaching assistant in her mother's deaf, blind and hard of hearing infants and toddler's class, she saw how classroom design impeded their young students' ability to learn and grow. "This led me to realize more and more that the built environment did not favor this demographic when designing," said Cain. Instead of following her mother's career path, Cain chose architecture, leveraging her thesis project to design a resource hub for the blind in Baltimore. The universal, multisensory experience is designed to ensure that all feel welcome, a model Cain hopes becomes an industry standard.

*What's Next:* Cain hopes to find and work for an architecture firm/development firm that has a rich culture in inclusivity and a desire to make a real difference for this ever-changing world.



# JEFFERSON CHOI | FREDERICK, MARYLAND | M. ARCH '21

## Going Beyond the Game - Evolving the City through an Esports Venue



Choi's vision for Tysons Reboot in burgeoning Tyson Corner, Virginia, embodies advanced technology within the built environment and capitalizes on the region's growth among young professionals to create a digital experience and destination esports venue. The Reboot features a new city landmark of an ellipse ring that activates the site and a glowing ramp that ascends users through a digital journey towards the esports arena.

*What's Next:* Choi will be joining Overmyer Architects, a custom residential firm in Georgetown. He plans to study for the ARE exams and achieve licensure in the following years.



# MELONEE QUINTANILLA | GAITHERSBURG, MARYLAND | M. ARCH '21

## Strong Foundations



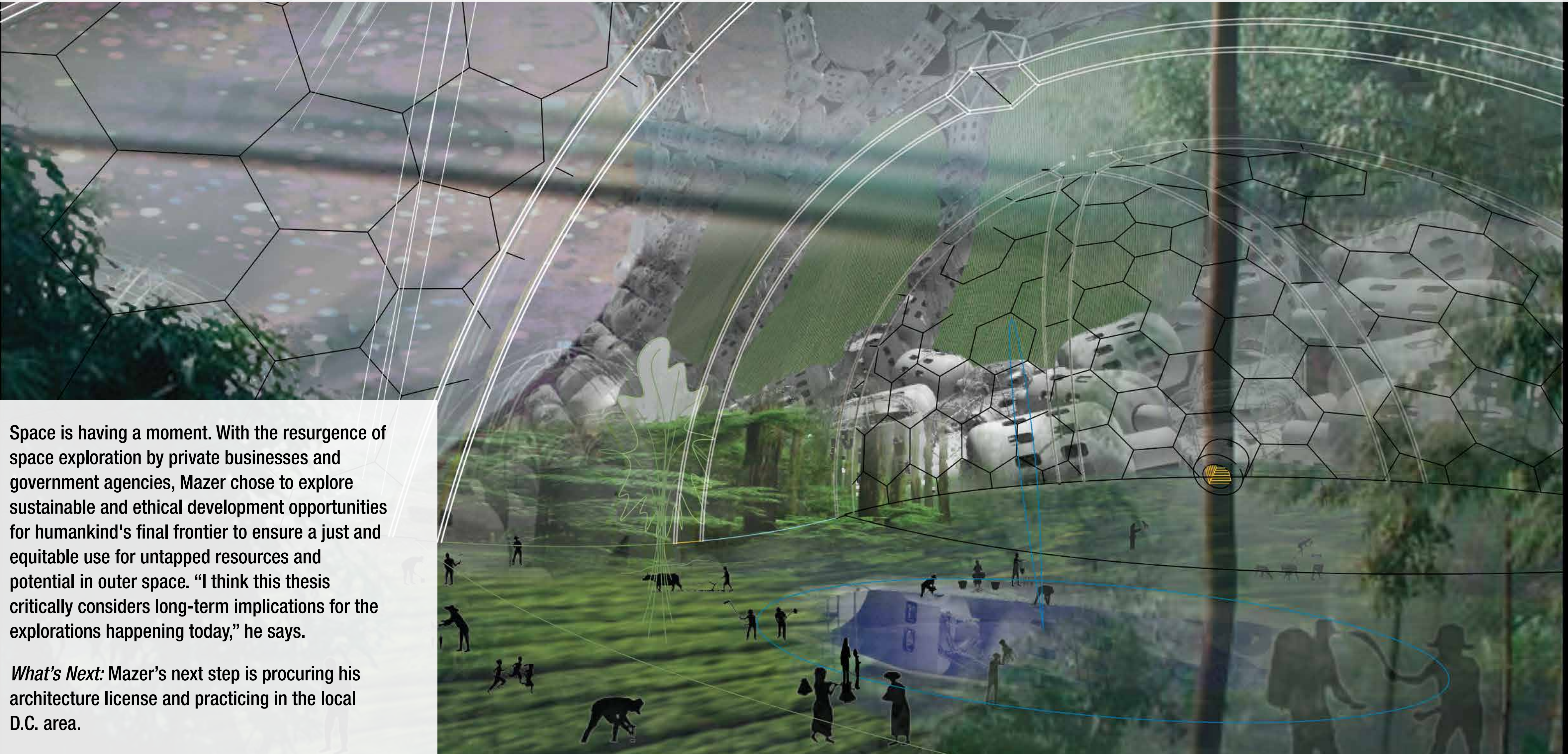
What is the role of educational architecture in mitigating Baltimore's racial disparities and healing a community harmed by discriminatory design? Quintanilla explores this question in depth in this thought-provoking thesis. "'Separate but not equal' can still describe public education in the United States," she says. "The architecture of schools can either combat or perpetuate these discrepancies—it's up to us as designers to decide where we stand."

*What's next:* Quintanilla is excited to start working at Ayers Saint Gross in June.



# ANDREW MAZER | HILLSBOROUGH, NEW JERSEY | M. ARCH + MCP '21

## Free Space: Envisioning the Low Earth Orbit Metropolis



Space is having a moment. With the resurgence of space exploration by private businesses and government agencies, Mazer chose to explore sustainable and ethical development opportunities for humankind's final frontier to ensure a just and equitable use for untapped resources and potential in outer space. "I think this thesis critically considers long-term implications for the explorations happening today," he says.

*What's Next:* Mazer's next step is procuring his architecture license and practicing in the local D.C. area.



# CHRISTIAN ROMERO | LEWISDALE, MARYLAND | M. ARCH '21

## Memoria en Capas



Romero's memories of visiting his grandparents in El Salvador were the inspiration for his vibrant affordable housing community that meshes affordable 3D printed building typologies and community amenities in a lush garden city setting. When his plans to research in El Salvador were dashed last summer, Romero took to social media to glean community input, creating a design that offers beauty and dignity for the underprivileged.

*What's next:* Romero has turned a successful internship with WDG into gainful employment; he starts this summer.



# ANDREW KOENINGS | ELKTON, MARYLAND | M. ARCH '21, New Urban Network of Southeast DC

## URBAN DESIGN CERTIFICATE



Koenings' thesis proposes an urban network that connects the underserved communities of Southeast Washington, D.C., and Prince George's County, Maryland. Three urban designs span across three different sites: Deanwood, Seat Pleasant and Naylor Road.

*What's next:* Koenings has accepted a position at Gensler's D.C. office as a sustainability specialist.



# JARED SCHMITZ | SPARTA, WISCONSIN | M. ARCH + MHP '21

## Embracing Continuity: The Ongoing Stewardship of Milwaukee's Center Peace Neighborhood



Schmitz's approach to neighborhood stewardship, a departure from traditional methods of preservation and redevelopment, was inspired by his involvement in a community-engaged field school in the Milwaukee neighborhood of Center Peace during his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Continuity between the past and current community puts the power to shape Center Peace in the hands of its residents, while five streetscape interventions explore how the neighborhood can continue to grow into the future.

*What's next:* Schmitz is hoping to pursue licensure at a firm that specializes in adaptation and preservation.



# ANDREW WALKER | LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY | M. ARCH + MRED '21

## Cayler Point



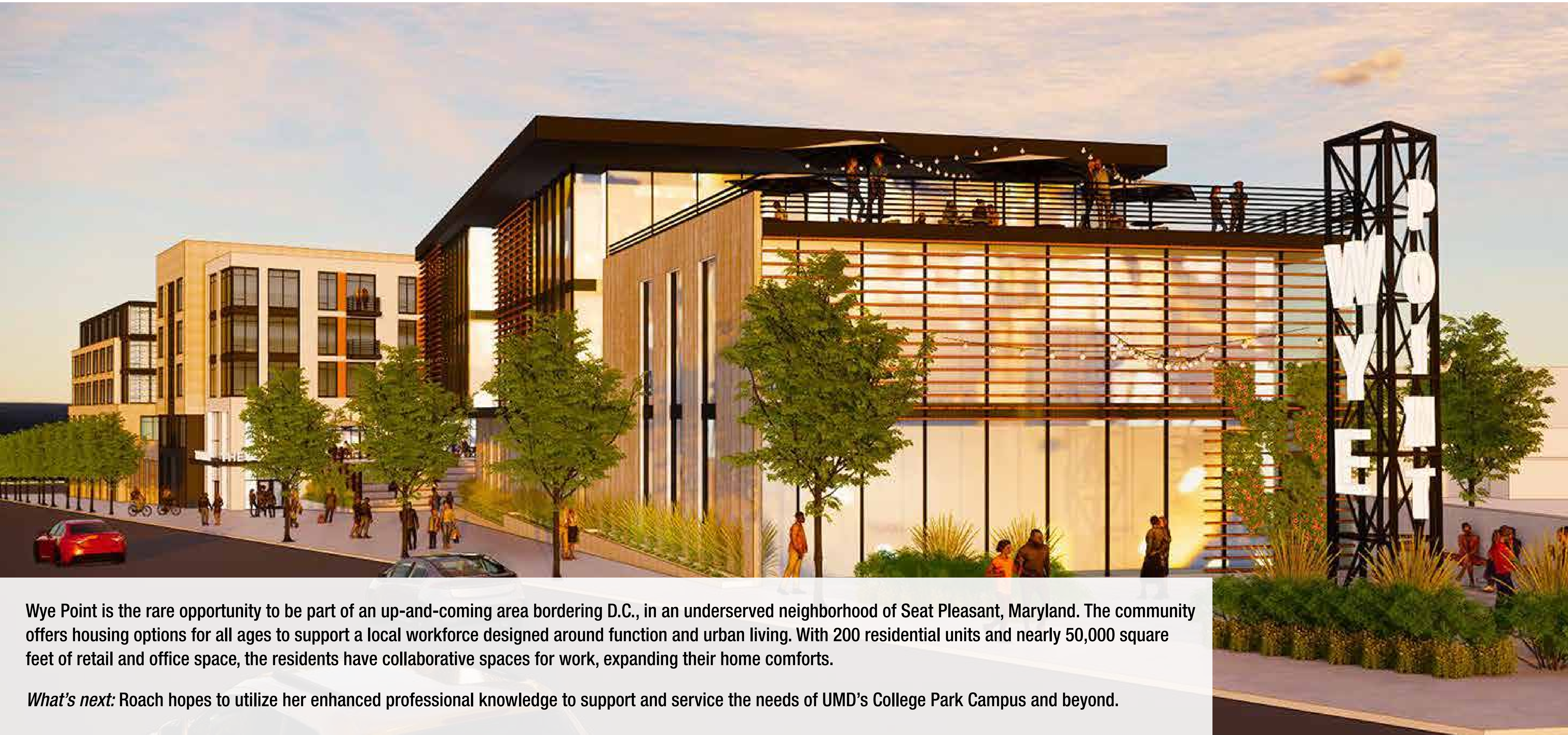
Walker devised Cayler Point as an about-face for the East River Waterfront of Brooklyn, which has been a hub for industrial manufacturing for over a century. Rezoned for residential uses, Walker envisions a mixed-use, mixed-income development with a whopping 1,000 units, mixing sustainable design practices and a three-phase development to bring 1,000,000 square feet of vibrant living along the waterfront.

*What's Next:* After graduation Walker's long-term plan is to get licensed and then transition into real estate development, where he hopes to focus on mixed use multi-family residential buildings.



# CATHERINE ANN ROACH | STEVENSVILLE, MARYLAND | MRED '21

## Wye Point



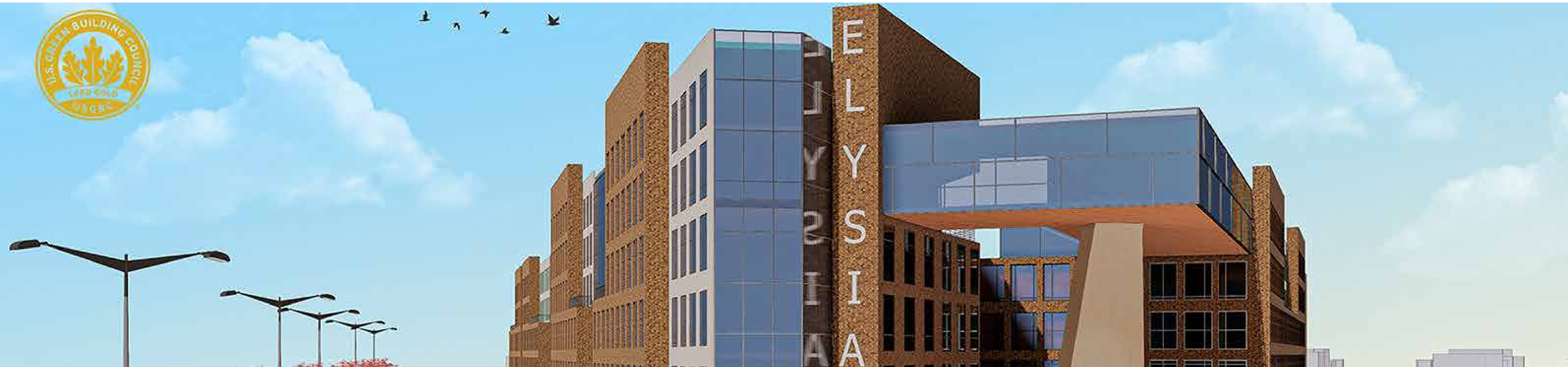
Wye Point is the rare opportunity to be part of an up-and-coming area bordering D.C., in an underserved neighborhood of Seat Pleasant, Maryland. The community offers housing options for all ages to support a local workforce designed around function and urban living. With 200 residential units and nearly 50,000 square feet of retail and office space, the residents have collaborative spaces for work, expanding their home comforts.

*What's next:* Roach hopes to utilize her enhanced professional knowledge to support and service the needs of UMD's College Park Campus and beyond.



# DOMYNIQUE GARRETT | ASHBURN, VIRGINIA | MRED '21

## Elysian



Elysian brings the best in lifestyle design, paired with a relaxed vibe, convenient retail and exceptional amenities. Carefully curated private and public spaces at the Elysian foster a well-balanced and healthy standard of living, with an industrial influence and modern flair.

*What's next:* Garrett plans to start working at LMI, where she has taken a facilities portfolio engineering manager position. She plans to one day launch her own development firm and give back to her community.



# SIYUE HUANG | SHANGHAI, CHINA | MRED '21

## The Plaza at 5922



The Plaza at 5922 is a grocery-anchored, mixed-use development that includes 159 residential units and 41,000 square feet of commercial and retail, located adjacent to the east corner of Washington, D.C. The project offers both traditional long-term leasing and flexible short-term leasing options to accommodate a flexible working and living style.

*What's next:* Huang is looking for job opportunities in real estate development and financial analysis. He hopes to start his own business after getting experiences in the industry.





# KIA SMITH | GLEN BURNIE, MARYLAND | MRED '21

## The Rails



The Rails is a mixed-use development located at the midpoint of Seat Pleasant, Maryland. Consisting of 130 market rate units, the Rails offers ground floor retail, including an anchor pharmacy and dynamic public space. Revenue generated from rentals of the public space will go towards local scholarships.

*What's next:* Kia hopes to work in diversity and inclusion or go into affordable housing to learn more about that sector.



# NATHAN VELIZ | SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS | MRED '21

The Verge – Tied First Place, 2021 Capstone Competition (MRED)



As the center of revitalization for the city of Seat Pleasant, Maryland, The Verge is a mixed-use and mixed-income community with a focus on connectivity, health and wellness and style. Acting as a gateway to Maryland and Washington, D.C., it will offer a feature-rich environment for residents looking for convenience and comfort. The designated public plaza and curated retail create a much-needed focal point for the neighborhood and breathe life into the city.

*What's next:* Veliz plans to use his knowledge to help his current company, Bozzuto, continue to offer exceptional services.



# STEVEN BERNARD | NEWPORT NEWS, VIRGINIA | M. ARCH '21

District Line – Third Place Win, 2021 Capstone Competition (MRED)



District Line is an exciting new destination in Seat Pleasant, Maryland, just across the D.C. border. These new apartment homes will offer the advantages of city living with the comfort of a more suburban location, with both loft-style townhomes and thoughtfully designed upper-floor units. Generous amenities include an onsite café, landscaped roof terrace, fitness center and promenade.

*What's next:* Bernard plans to stay with my current company—a local REIT—and transition into a development role.



# TOCHI OHAKAWA | LAGOS, NIGERIA | M. ARCH + MRED '21

The Pointe – First Place Win, 2021 Capstone Competition (Dual Degree)

The Pointe is a mixed-use, mixed income development in San Diego City, California. Located in the city's downtown, its strategic location affords its tenants proximity to a wide array of amenities, including Balboa Park. This project supports the local government's vision of San Diego having a world class downtown. In that respect, The Pointe capitalizes on the growing educated population in the city and the in-flux of life sciences and bio-tech companies, by providing a mix of residential units, lab spaces and retail. This project also addresses housing un-affordability in San Diego by providing a total of 69 affordable units (25%) for individuals earning less than 60% AMI.

*What's next:* Ohakawa hopes to work for a developer in the region.





# WEISHI ZHANG | TAIYUAN CITY, SHANXI PROVINCE, CHINA | MRED '21

## East King – Honorable Mention, 2021 Capstone Competition (MRED)

East King is a mixed-use, mixed-income “triple crown” redevelopment project in Seat Pleasant, Maryland. The East King redevelopment project will increase the site’s value while providing a higher-quality built environment and address a social need for more affordable housing. Poised as an economic driver for the City of Seat Pleasant, the East King project provides diverse retail options, dynamic open spaces and improved pedestrian access to facilitate neighborhood connections.


*What’s next:* Zhang hopes to use her new knowledge to land a fulltime job in development in the U.S.





# SHAYNE PILTZ | BETHESDA, MARYLAND | M. ARCH '21

The City Symbiotic: Integrating Architecture and Hydrology in the Public Realm

A woman with long, wavy brown hair is smiling at the camera. She is wearing a black strap top. The background is a blurred cityscape at dusk or dawn, with various buildings and a tall, thin tower visible in the distance.

Piltz' thesis explores the integration of urban design, architecture and stormwater management to transform a historically marginalized and hydrologically sensitive area of Southwest Washington, D.C., into a great urban space. Piltz's design of an imaginative public space that doubles as a hub for environmental health and biodiversity, mixes with ample affordable housing to create an amenity that improves public life in the city.

*What's next:* Piltz plans to live and work in Washington, D.C.



# DANIELA TONI | SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND | M. ARCH '21

## Vacant to Vibrant



Toni's thesis explores solutions to the housing crisis in West Baltimore by introducing a variety of affordable houses, transforming vacant sites into hubs of community activity and connection.

*What's next:* Toni is taking a job with Rockfish Architects in Annapolis, Maryland



# YUAN HU | XI'AN, CHINA | MRED '21

## Pleasant Square



Pleasant Square approaches the lack of retail and community amenities in Seat Pleasant, Maryland, by developing a groundbreaking 78,500-square-foot complex of high-quality but affordable consumer and business experiences, including shopping, dining, entertainment and sports. Neighborhood services, including accessible health care and business incubators, provide much-needed community resources to residents.

*What's next:* Yuan hopes to continue to bring inventive ideas to enhance urban communities and is looking for job opportunities in commercial real estate.