To Build Upon Ruin
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Watercolor below showing the view of the path from the walkway on the fifth floor of the mixed use building. Top shows plan of the walkway on the fifth floor.
The entire project revolved around the idea of making rows of walls that housed living spaces throughout the site. The units completely depend upon the walls because all fire and water run through them. This includes service spaces like kitchens, bathrooms, fireplaces, and mechanical rooms. To make the most out of the wall along these spaces, the units are designed to be long and open to give tenants the choice of assembling their spaces.

The drawing on the top is an example of Unit A. This is the largest dwelling and is composed of four single height spaces and one double height space where the vertical circulation takes place along a concrete block wall that provides the only permanent division in the space.

Unit B is smaller than the previous; it has a large balcony on each floor and a double height space where the vertical circulation takes place.

The bottom left drawing is an example of Unit C. Located along the fourth floor of the dwelling units. It is a single floor space and has all of the amenities needed in a typical apartment.

Low right is an example of Unit D. This unit is the smallest of all since it was designed as a studio space. Unit D is located along all floors making it the most abundant throughout the project.

The social life-style of the community was considered a high priority during the development of the project. It is for this reason that the units were designed with many opportunities to walk outside. All units have a balcony incorporated along their responding wall to provide flexibility in the use of indoor and outdoor spaces frequently. Common spaces are developed as much as possible between the units to create opportunities for an integral social life.
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The commercial units are prepared to accommodate flexible spaces throughout the multiuse building. Left are several unit types designed for commercial use. These units are only developed along the AB building where most of the daytime activities take place.

The top left is unit E. Ideal for a two story restaurant, with 1672 square feet of space it houses two bathrooms, a kitchen, bar area, a fire place on each floor and two coat closets. The stairs in this unit are designed along a concrete block wall that divide the lower spaces to provide privacy among diners. This unit also has an ample terrace for outdoor dining. The tall doors that open up to the outdoor terrace are two stories high and allow for effective cross ventilation during the warm months of the year.

The F Unit is similar to the previous. It is designed for retail stores or the like. It has a total of 1372 square feet and accommodates four dressing rooms, two on each level, two closets/storage rooms and two bathrooms. Unit F has the largest double height space than the rest making it the most attractive of all.

Unit G is designed as an office unit. It has 1392 square feet of open space to be subdivided by the client. It houses one kitchenette, two bathrooms and two storage rooms.

Unit H is 720 square feet designed for small businesses or studios. It is the smallest office unit available and has wonderful corner views. Unit H has one bathroom, a kitchenette and a balcony.
Watercolor of a typical residential unit. Drawing shows the way that the service wall is used and the vertical circulation that divides the open space.

Preliminary sketch of the hearth idea and how it could be used. In this example, hearth becomes a rear room.