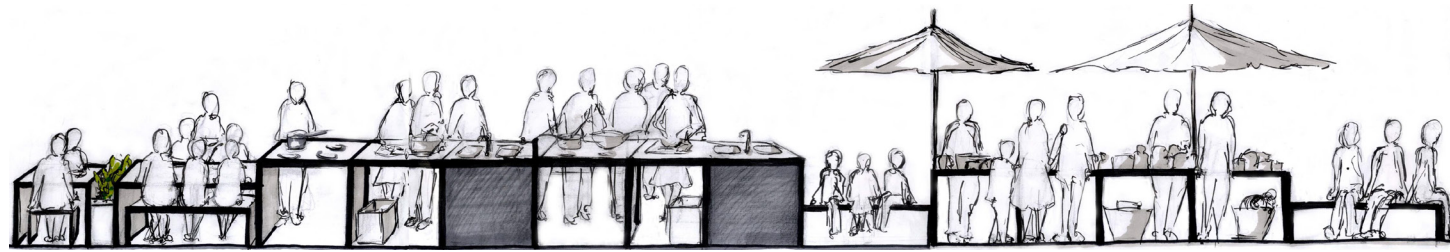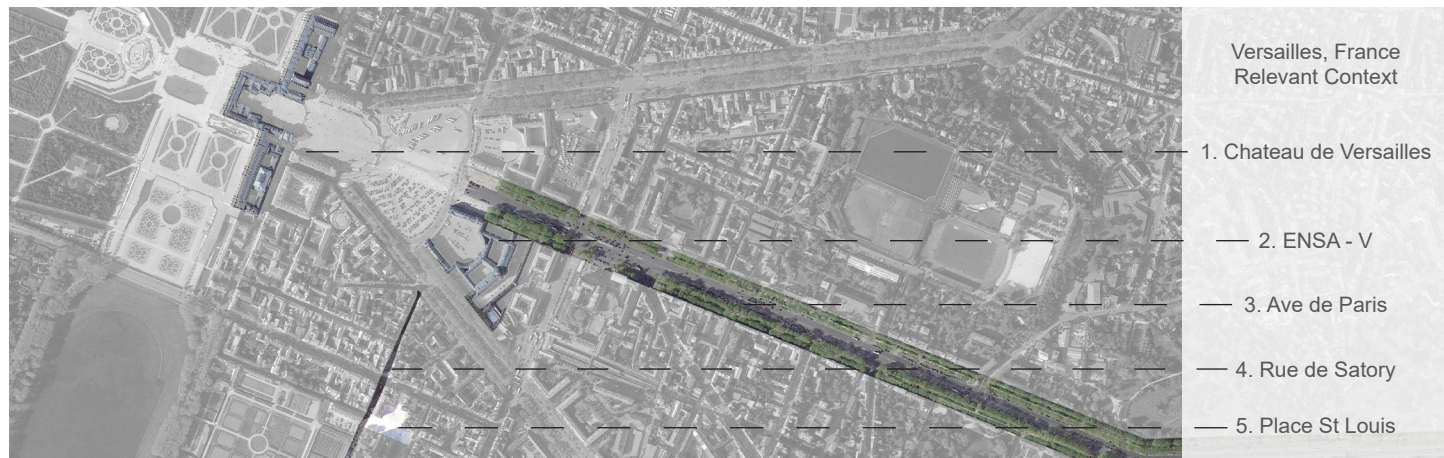**Social Box Charrette**
Two-week collaborative project
Spring 2013 *I* Versailles, France

The Social Box Charrette, in collaboration with Pascaline Brosseau, Eleonor Ferragu, Pascaline La Rochelle, and Sonia Omalek, from the École National Supériuere d'Architecture de Versailles, analyzed the potential reactivation and reorganization of one of the two local markets in Versailles, France. The design utilizes the programmatic diversity of the neighborhood to create a permanent structure for the existing market, a simple adaptable framework that integrates the market with the local shops, restaurants, schools, and community organizations. The structure is modular to allow unobtrusive flexibility for various uses. The project aims to highlight the programmatic diversity of the neighborhood and its inhabitants through a simple, customizable framework that creates a dialogue between these communal activities.
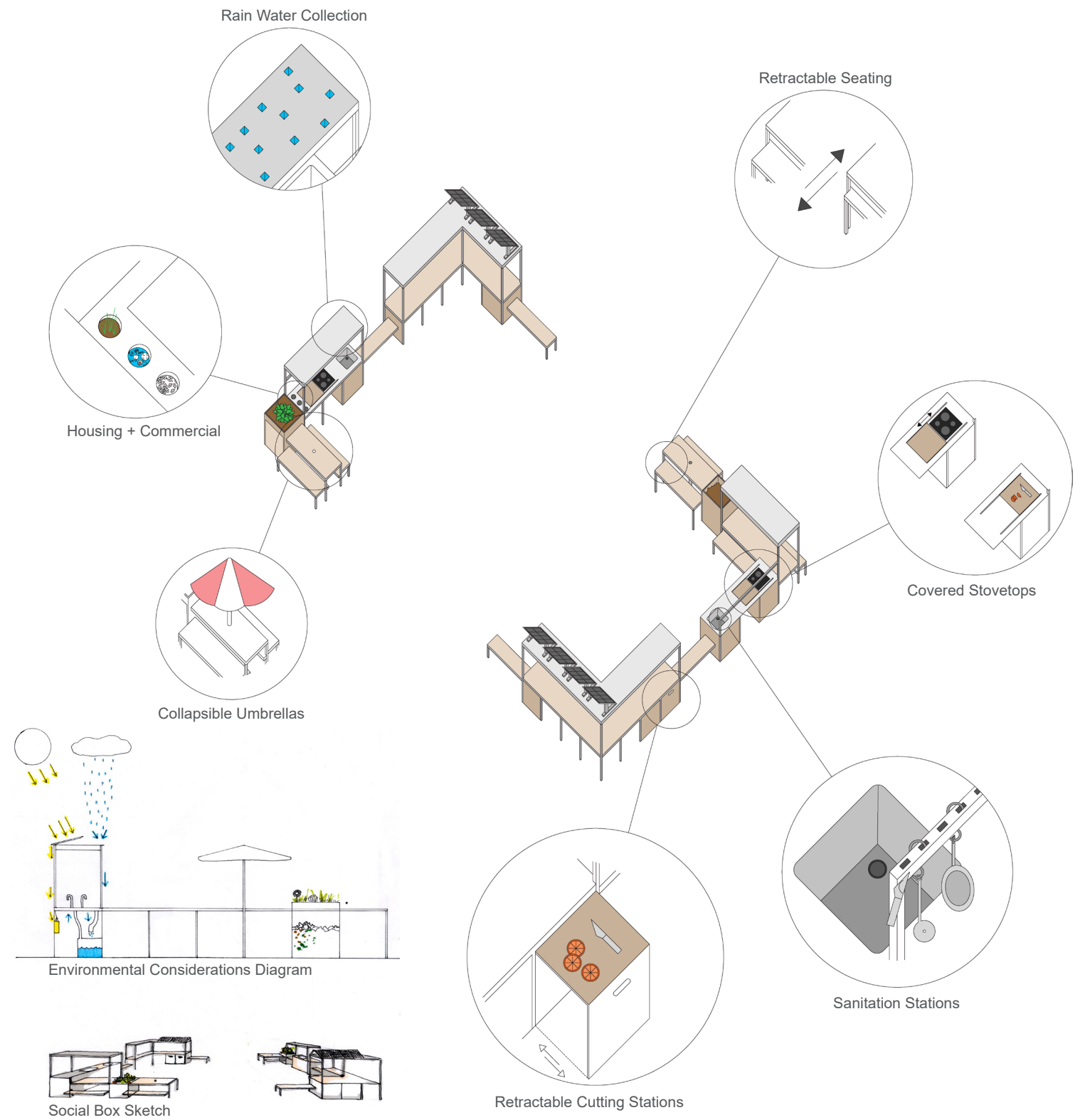

Place St. Louis

Versailles, France
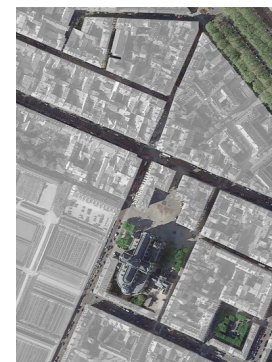Relevant Context

1. Chateau de Versailles

2. ENSA - V

3. Ave de Paris

4. Rue de Satory

5. Place St Louis

1. Chateau de Versailles

2. ENSA - V

3. Ave de Paris

4. Rue de Satory

Rain Water Collection

Retractable Seating

Housing + Commercial

Collapsible Umbrellas

Covered Stovetops

Sanitation Stations

Retractable Cutting Stations

Environmental Considerations Diagram

Social Box Sketch

Housing + Commercial

Public Access

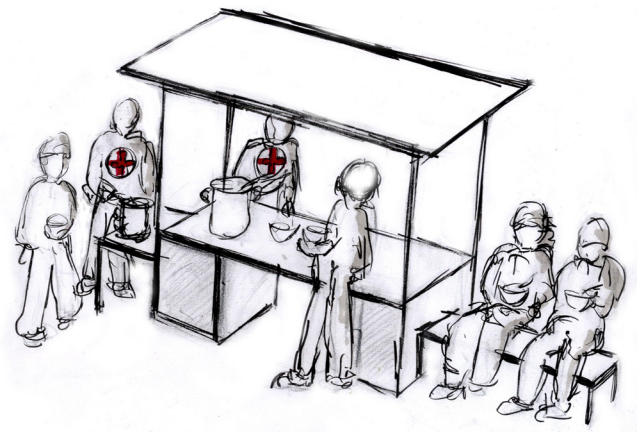Sight Lines

Project Massing

Review and critique of
Social Box Charrette

The final of four collaborative charrettes during our study abroad experience, this project was a microcosm of multiple interests. The design incorporated a modular structure that could be replicated in additional contexts while directly responding to the environment and conditions which we were analyzing. The concept of adaptable frameworks applicable to similar contextual considerations continues to be an area of study in several other personal and collaborative endeavors outside of my academic studies.
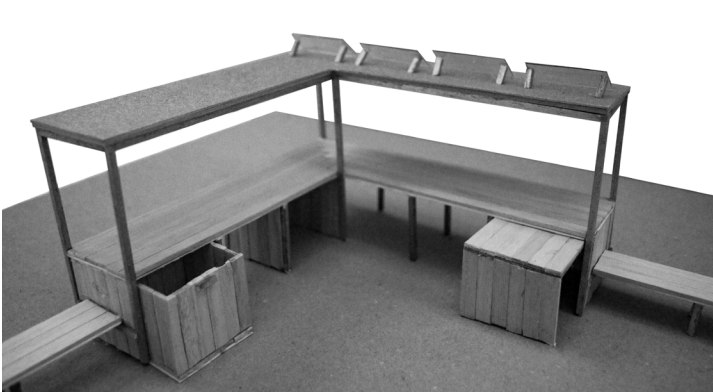
This project served as the catalyst for the formation of the Design+Build / Makeseries competition a year later at the University of Illinois in collaboration with Will Prescott and William Smarzewski, employing a similar strategy to underutilized spaces around campus.
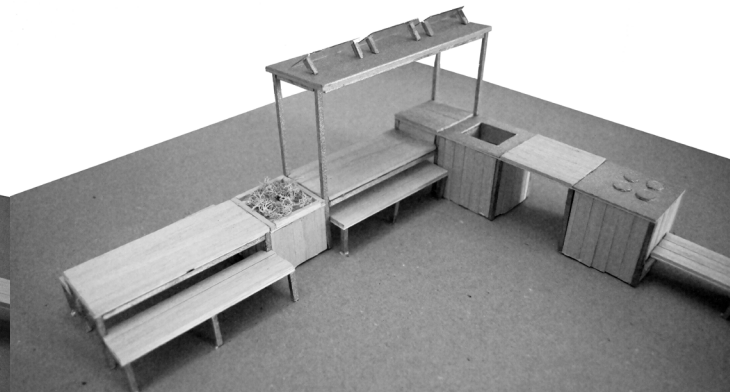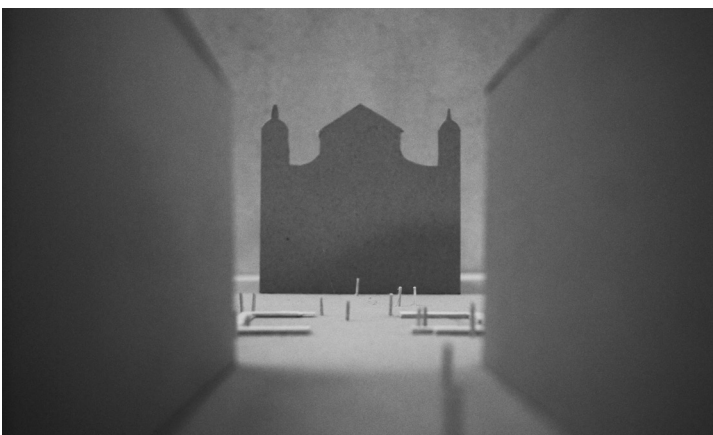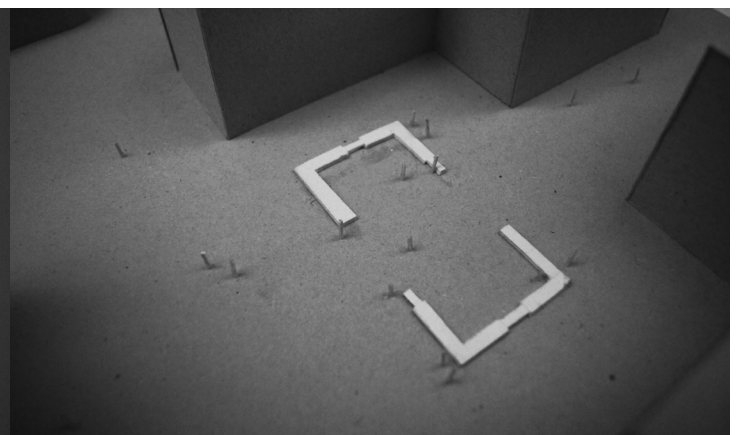

Concept Sketch

Concept Sketch

Social Box Model Photograph

Social Box Model Photograph

Sight Line Study from Rue Saint-Honoré towards Place St Louis.

Project Massing Study in Place St Louis