

DUMBARTON OAKS FELLOWSHIP HOUSE

DUMBARTON OAKS RESEARCH LIBRARY AND COLLECTION, WASHINGTON, DC

PROJECT CATEGORY: INSTITUTIONAL ARCHITECTURE



RENOVATED FELLOWSHIP HOUSE - AFTER

The Dumbarton Oaks Fellowship House is an adaptive reuse of a 1950s commercial building in the Georgetown neighborhood. The new building provides 25 dwelling units for Harvard University's Dumbarton Oaks Research Library and Collection's annual student fellows and their families, as well as public spaces for the Dumbarton Oaks community.

Dwelling units are configured into furnished studio, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom arrangements, with multi-use spaces at the upper and lower levels of the building to support Fellowship life, education, and health. The new programming includes the Garden Room (Fellows gathering place) on the ground floor, the Oak Room (presentation space), commercial kitchen, and outdoor terrace

compose the fourth floor addition. A fitness room, sound-proof Music Room, common lounge, laundry room, bike room, and storage room are located in the basement.

The Fellowship House not only gives Dumbarton Oaks new housing for its Fellows but also provides additional space in which to hold seminars, symposia, lectures, and exhibitions.



ORIGINAL BUILDING PRIOR TO RENOVATION - BEFORE

MISSION FOCUSED DESIGN

The integrated design process brought together countless institutional staff members, from the Director, professors and art curatorial staff to the gardeners and building maintenance staff, in partnership with the entire project Design Team. This allowed for a full spectrum of ideas, opinions and goals to be incorporated into a comprehensive program and design strategy early in the process.

The architectural and landscape history, and how they relate to the central mission, of Dumbarton Oaks was of vital importance in understanding how best to approach the design and planning process of the Fellowship House. Boasting an architectural and landscape confluence of McKim, Mead and White, Beatrix Ferrand, Phillip Johnson and Robert Venturi, the main campus is both playful and formal with “old” and “new” meshing constantly throughout the grounds. The Fellowship House, while on a tight corner lot fronting a commercial corridor, pursued this concept of blending “old” and “new” as well as to inject lush landscaping within small plots and playful hardscaping.

Providing a sense of place was a crucial goal in developing the design of the Fellowship House. Adopting the early adage, “where fellowship occurs,” led to the design team to pursue interior and exterior spaces that allowed the fellows and Dumbarton Oaks’ community to intersect and interact, as well as to reflect on their opportunity to be a part of the Dumbarton Oaks lineage. The architecture supported this by providing intimate spaces with calm material palettes and crisp detailing juxtaposed with curated design objects from the Dumbarton Oaks collection.



ADDITION & LANDSCAPED COURTYARD



DUMBARTON OAKS, 1980



DUMBARTON OAKS GARDENS



DUMBARTON OAKS, 1944

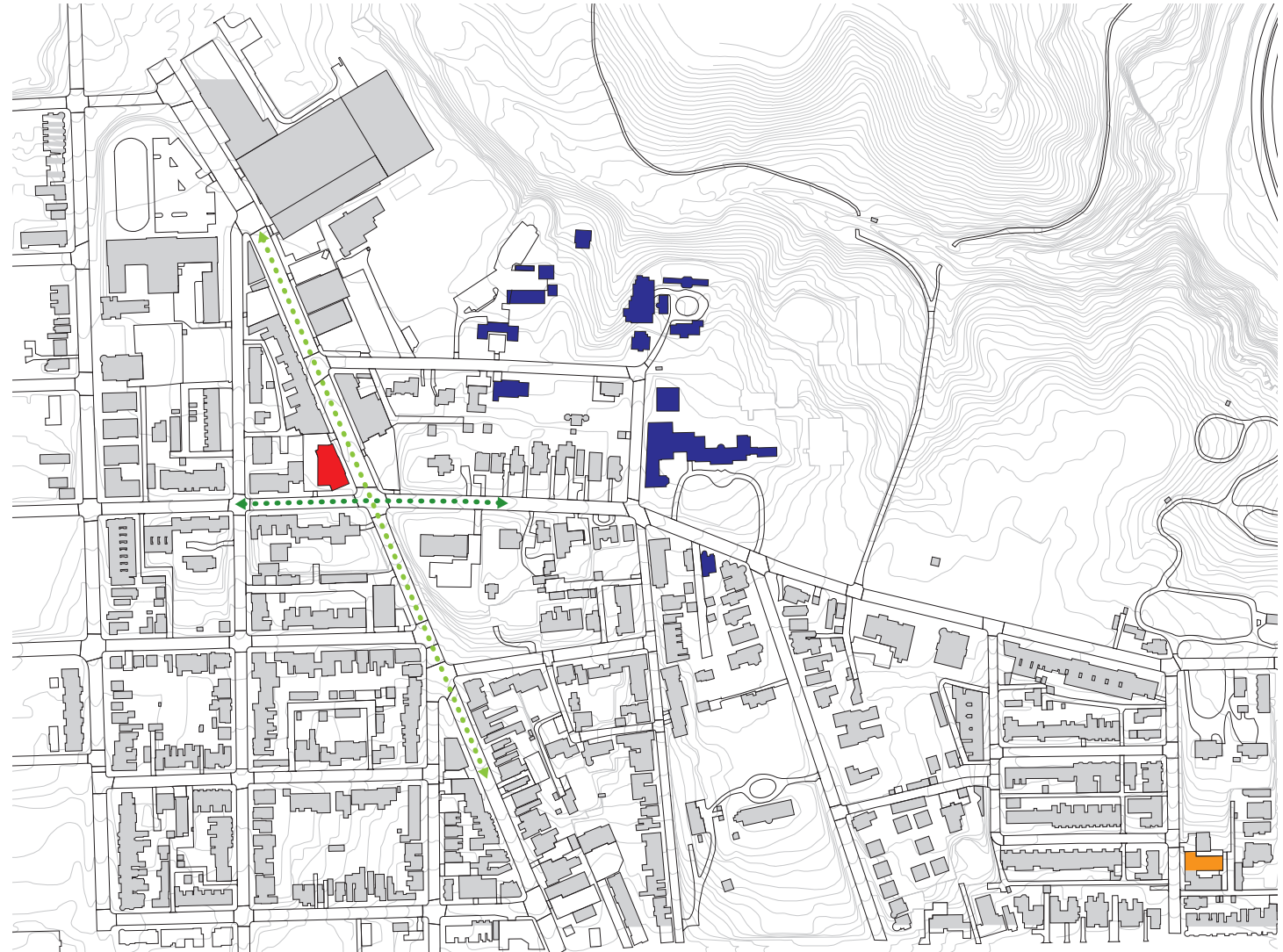
SITE CONTEXT

Located on a corner lot in Northwest DC, the building is at the intersection of a commercial corridor and a traditional Georgetown residential street.

The site underwent significant improvement to reflect the mission of Dumbarton Oaks.

CAMPUS PLAN KEY

- MAIN CAMPUS
- NEW FELLOWSHIP HOUSE
- PREVIOUS FELLOWSHIP HOUSE
- R STREET NW
- WISCONSIN AVE NW



CAMPUS ORIENTATION PLAN



VIEW NORTH TOWARDS HOUSE, WISCONSIN AVE.



VIEW ON WISCONSIN AVE., COMMERCIAL DISTRICT



VIEW FROM R STREET CORNER



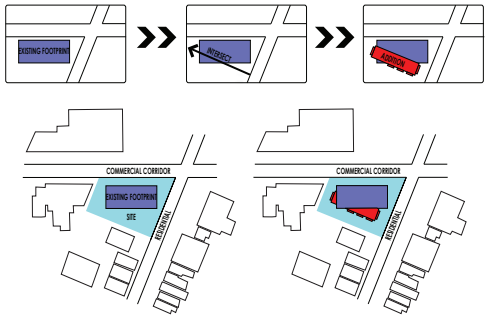
PATIO VIEW TO ADJACENT RESIDENCES

URBAN DESIGN STRATEGY

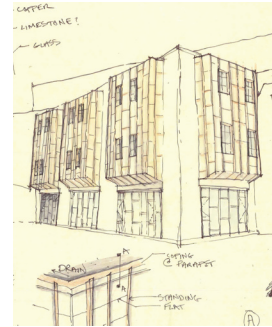
The main challenge of the project was to take a very irregular site and reintegrate it into the existing Georgetown grid. The new addition is rotated to take advantage of the shape of the site while maintaining the integrity of the original building and creating usable outdoor space. Flat-seam copper paneling was chosen for the smaller-scaled residential bays and roof top because of its historical association with residential architectural forms. The small residential bays of the addition are also intended to recall the scale and precedent of townhomes lining the adjacent residential streets. The existing black-asphalt parking lot outside the Garden Room was demolished and levelled out, and now incorporates a combination of precast granite, bluestone and concrete pavers surrounded by Ginkgo trees and low shrubs.



SITE PLAN



EXPLODED AXONOMETRIC OF ADDITIONS & SITE DESIGN STRATEGY



SKETCH OF PROPOSED ADDITION FACADE



VIEW FROM INTERIOR COURTYARD OF RESIDENTIAL BAYS



COURTYARD LANDSCAPING

ELEVATIONS



EAST ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION



WEST ELEVATION

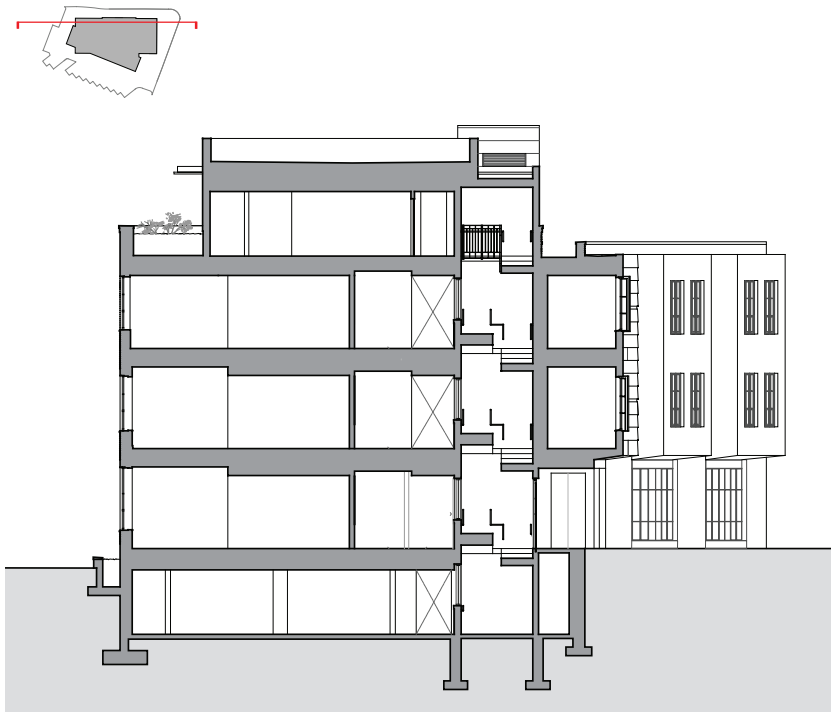


SOUTH ELEVATION

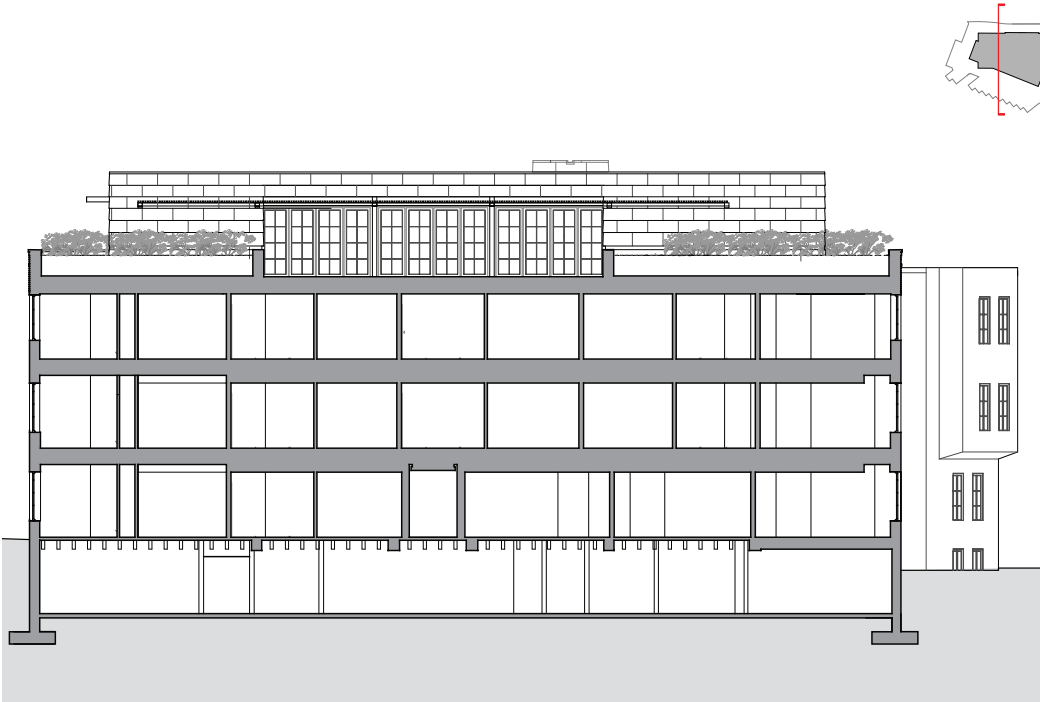


SOUTH ELEVATION

SECTIONS



EAST-WEST BUILDING SECTION



NORTH-SOUTH BUILDING SECTION

CRISP & BRIGHT INTERIORS



GARDEN ROOM (GROUND FLOOR)



FOURTH FLOOR OAK ROOM



INTENSIVE GREEN ROOF



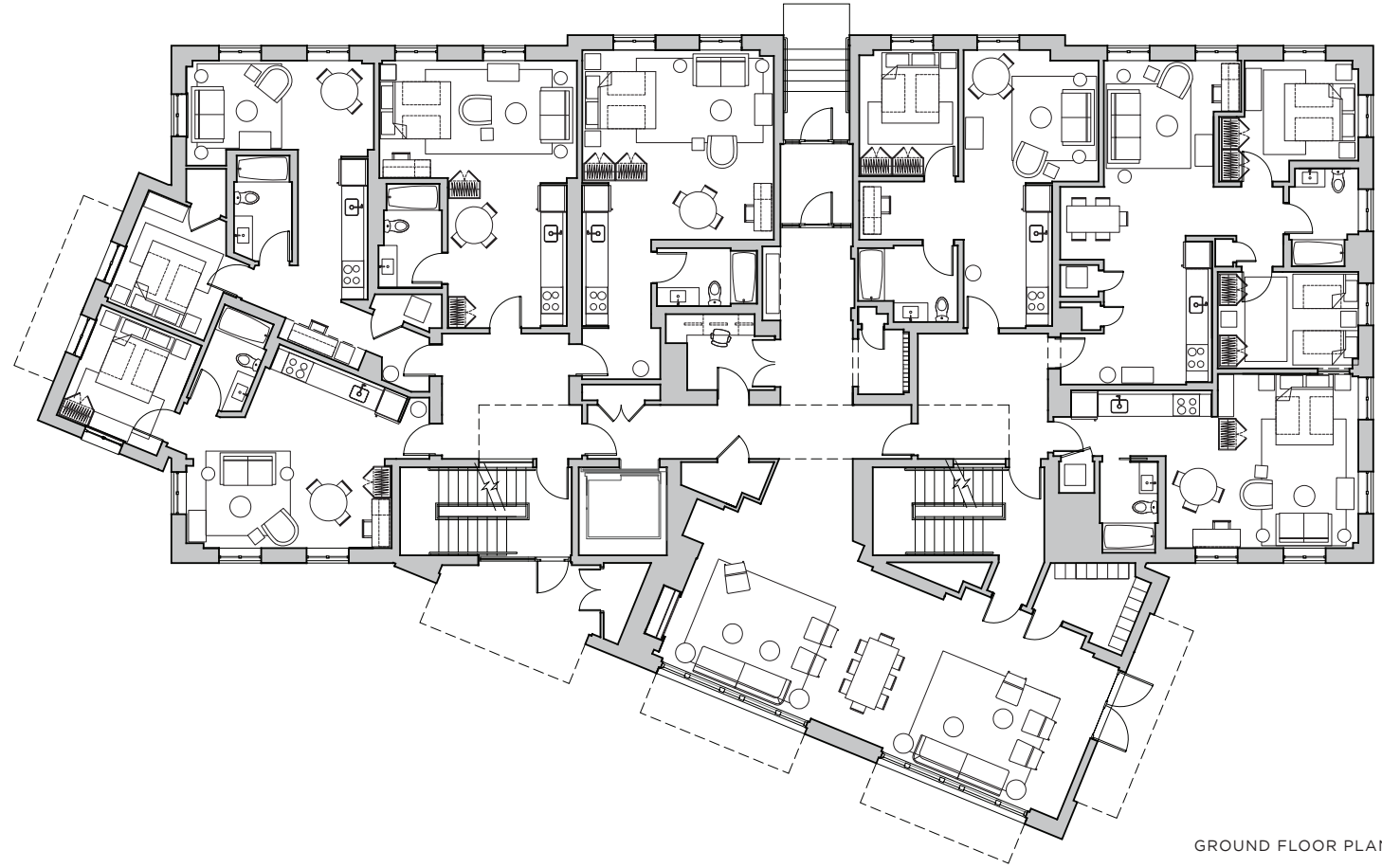
TYPICAL UNIT



BASEMENT LOUNGE

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Many measures were employed to provide a very robust program within a confined, urban footprint.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



ENTRY CORRIDOR LEADING TO GARDEN ROOM



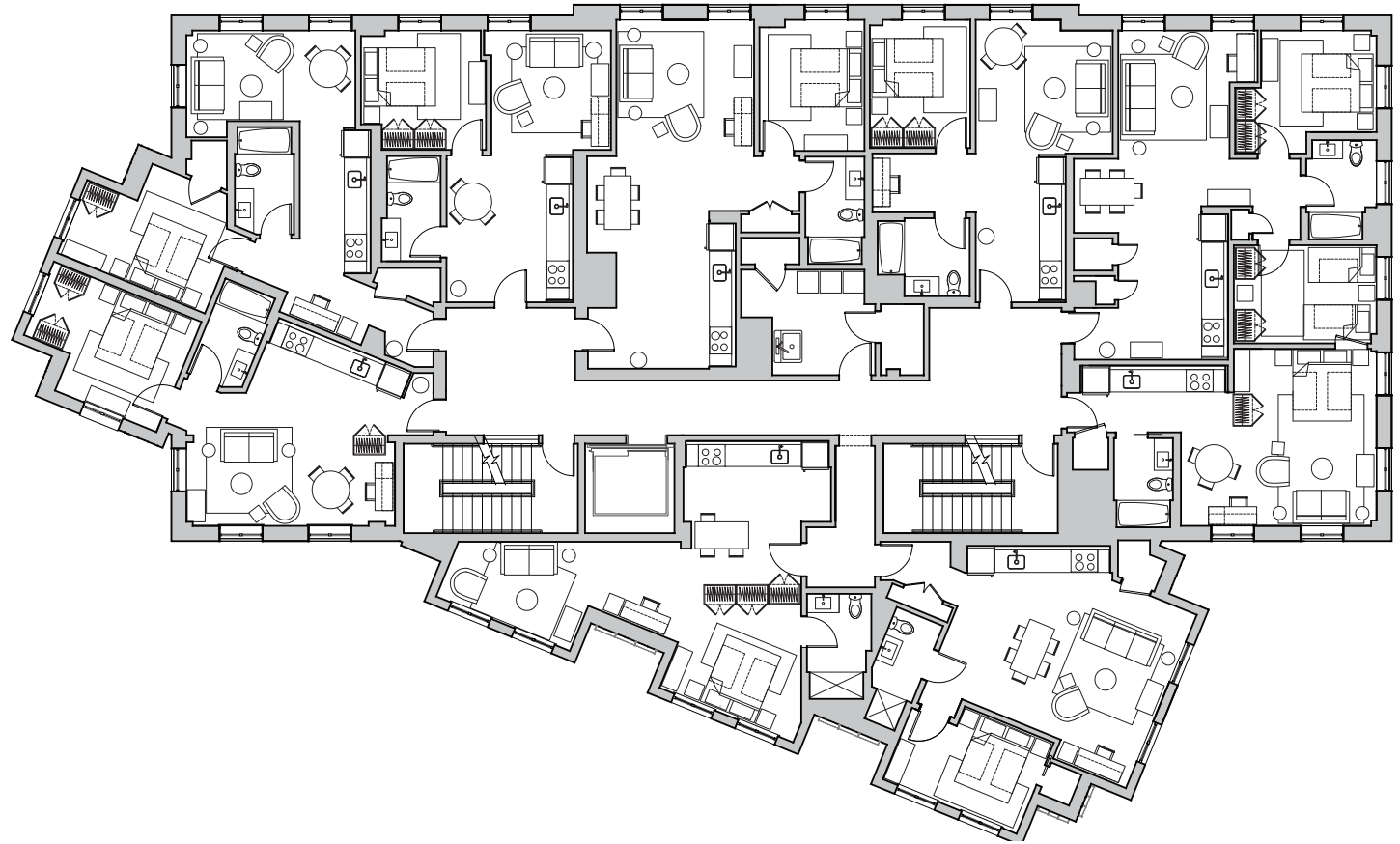
DETAIL OF GARDEN ROOM



DETAIL OF GARDEN ROOM

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

One of the program requirements was to provide unit flexibility due to variation in family composition. The final design incorporates six units which can be converted from adjacent one-bedroom configurations to two-bedroom and studio units.



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



RESIDENTIAL CORRIDORS



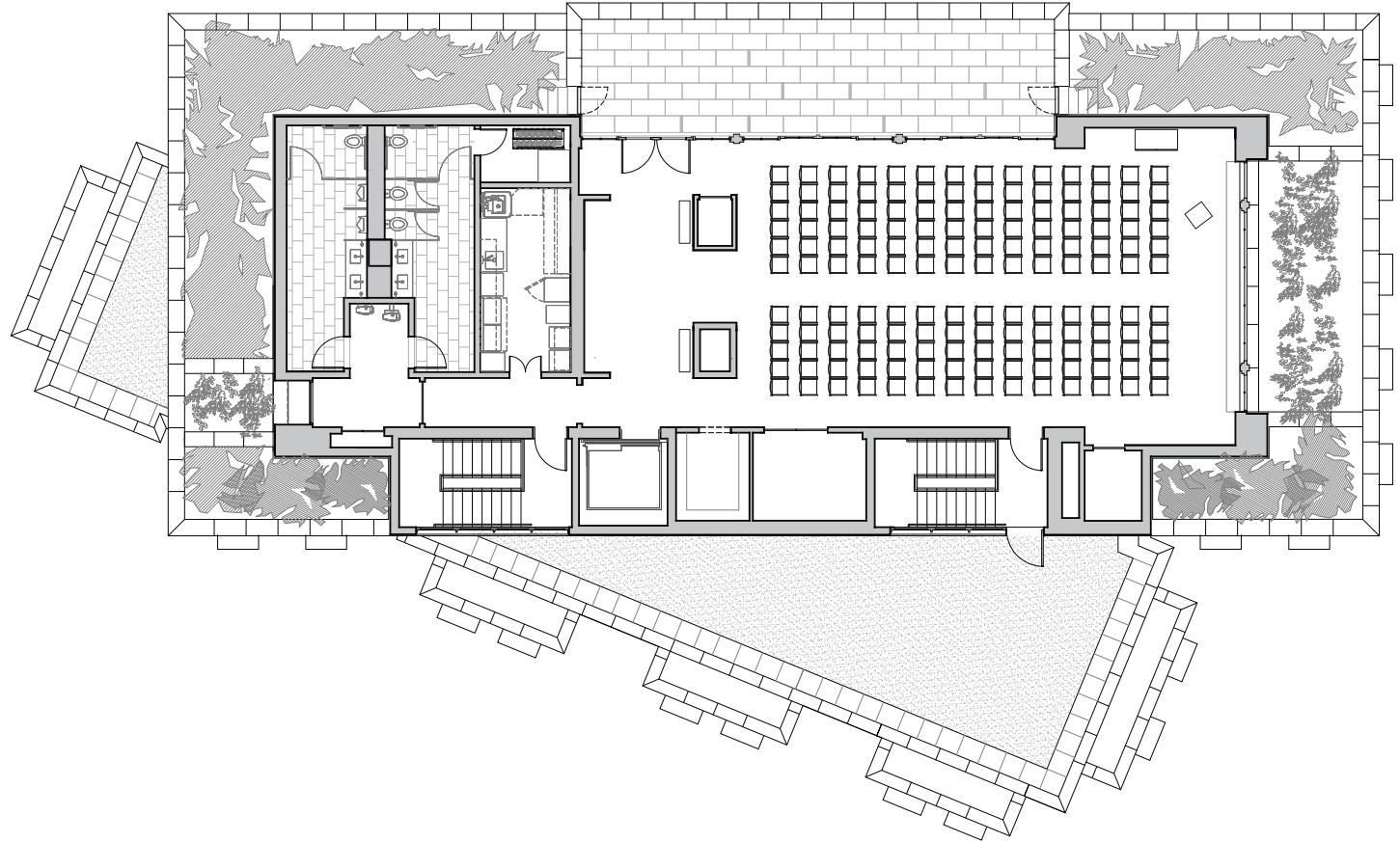
OPEN UNIT KITCHEN AND LIVING ROOM



UNIT BEDROOM

FOURTH FLOOR PLAN

The public spaces allow fellows and staff to mingle outside of the formal educational setting of Dumbarton Oaks. Impromptu meetings, meals, readings have become commonplace occurrences in the Garden Room, Oak Room and Music Room, encouraging informal academic and social discourse. Flexible space with advanced AV technologies has increased institutional events in the Oak Room.



FOURTH FLOOR PLAN



DETAIL OF OAK ROOM



GREEN ROOF



ROOF PATIO