



Regular Meeting of the Library Board of Trustees
Tuesday, June 16, 2026 – Central Library Lecture Room
3:30 p.m.

Minutes of Actions and Decisions of the Library Board of Trustees of the Bellingham Public Library as authorized by RCW 27.12.210 and SEC. 7.02 Charter of the City of Bellingham.

Board Members Present:	Rebecca Craven, Kristy Van Ness, Kendra Bradford, Deborra Garrett, and Shirin Deylami
City Council Library Liaison:	Daniel Hammill
Library Management Staff:	Rebecca Judd, Bethany Hoglund, Jennifer Vander Ploeg and Madeline Rosenvinge
FOBPL Representative:	Carol Comeau, Friends of BPL Board Liaison
Guest Presenter:	None.

Call to order and introductions: Regular session was called to order at 3:31 p.m. by Chair, Rebecca Craven.

Approve/modify agenda: Shirin Deylami moved to approve the agenda. Deborra Garrett seconded. Motion carried.

Public comment: None.

Consent agenda: Kristy Van Ness moved to approve the May 19, 2026 Regular meeting minutes, the May 2026 performance and activity measures and financial reports, and the June 1, 2026 Special meeting minutes. Deborra seconded. Motion carried.

Board Chair report: Chair Rebecca Craven provided brief scheduling updates, noting she will miss the next Board meeting and that Kendra will miss the August meeting.

Board member reports:

- None.

City Council liaison report: Councilmember Hammill summarized recent City Council activities. He reported that the Council received a presentation on Bellingham's new Homeshare Program with vendor Nesterly, which highlighted the number of unused bedrooms in the city and the goal to help

provide more affordable housing in Bellingham. He further discussed progress on the Regional Fire Authority (RFA) proposal, which aims to create an estimated \$20 million budget cushion for the City and is expected to go before voters in February. He will continue to provide updates as the process moves forward.

Friends of BPL report: Carol Comeau noted that the next book sale is scheduled for late September and may be the last one before construction begins.

Library Director report: Director Judd reported ongoing work to sunset the HEART program by year-end. She thanked Katrina Buckman for preparing the program's statistical impact summary. She also noted that September 29 marks the 75th anniversary of the Central Library building and that Annette Bagley is coordinating with Jeff Jewell at the Museum on commemorative activities. Kristy Van Ness acknowledged the impressive range of staff accomplishments and expressed appreciation for their work. Rebecca added that Summer Reading is well underway, and Bethany Hoglund and Bernice Chang recently appeared in a promotional video encouraging participation in the Bellingham Bells game, where attendees may enter free with a library card.

Central Library Renovation Update: Jen Vander Ploeg reported that design work, scheduling, budget documentation, and FF&E planning will continue through June and July. The project is expected to enter the bidding phase from mid-August through mid-September. Construction and the relocation of operations to City Hall are anticipated in December or January. Jen and Caleb, Public Works Project Manager, also provided updates on the Bellis Fair temporary space, noting that keycard access has been installed, lighting repairs are underway, RFQs for cleaning services are in process, and signage needs are being assessed. Updates on the Central Library included progress on the design of the children's desk and salmon tank, workstation layout planning, casework design for kitchenettes and breakrooms, wiring and cabling work, the review of demolition plans to identify items to retain, development of initial designs for the children's space and shelving layout, and pending updates on main-floor design changes. Samples of finishes and other design documents were reviewed (*see attachments 1, 2, 3, & 4 at the end of the minutes*).

2027 Budget Development Update: Director Judd explained that all departments have been instructed to prepare a 3 percent budget reduction exercise, with a deadline of July 10. This precedes the next Board meeting. Rebecca will email budget proposal materials for review by Board members.

Level of Service, Gap Analysis – Discussion and Action Item: Chair Rebecca Craven thanked Trustees for their work during the recent special meeting. Director Judd reviewed updates incorporated into the report and summarized the rationale behind the recommendations, emphasizing the connection between proposed increases, anticipated RFA impacts, and the City Council's longstanding directive to move toward medium-to-high service levels. The Board discussed how best to frame the document, including highlighting the rising operational costs of library service, the cumulative effect of past budget reductions, and the inflationary impacts on materials spending compared to 2017 levels. Trustees also considered preparing parallel scenarios for both RFA passage and failure, noting that the latter could require further reductions and possibly a levy measure in 2028.

Following discussion of the options, Shirin Deylami made a motion to recommend to city leadership the Level of Service increase outlined in Option 1 (with minor adjustments to the open hours schedule to improve consistency). Deborra Garrett seconded. The motion passed.

Fundraising Committee update: Kristy Van Ness reported that total funds raised to date are \$2,531,479.15. The recent Capital Campaign Committee donor engagement event was well received, with positive feedback on event flow and opportunities for refinement. The next event is scheduled for June 30, and monthly events will continue throughout the summer.

Day Center update: Rebecca Judd reported that the provider contract for the day center is still in the process of being finalized.

Director Review Update: A Director Review report will be presented at next month's meeting.

New Business:

- None

Agenda items for next meeting:

- FTE proposal
- Director review update

Meeting adjourned at 5:01 p.m.

Next Regular Library Board Meeting – Tuesday, July 21 2026 – Central Library Lecture Room – 3:30 p.m.

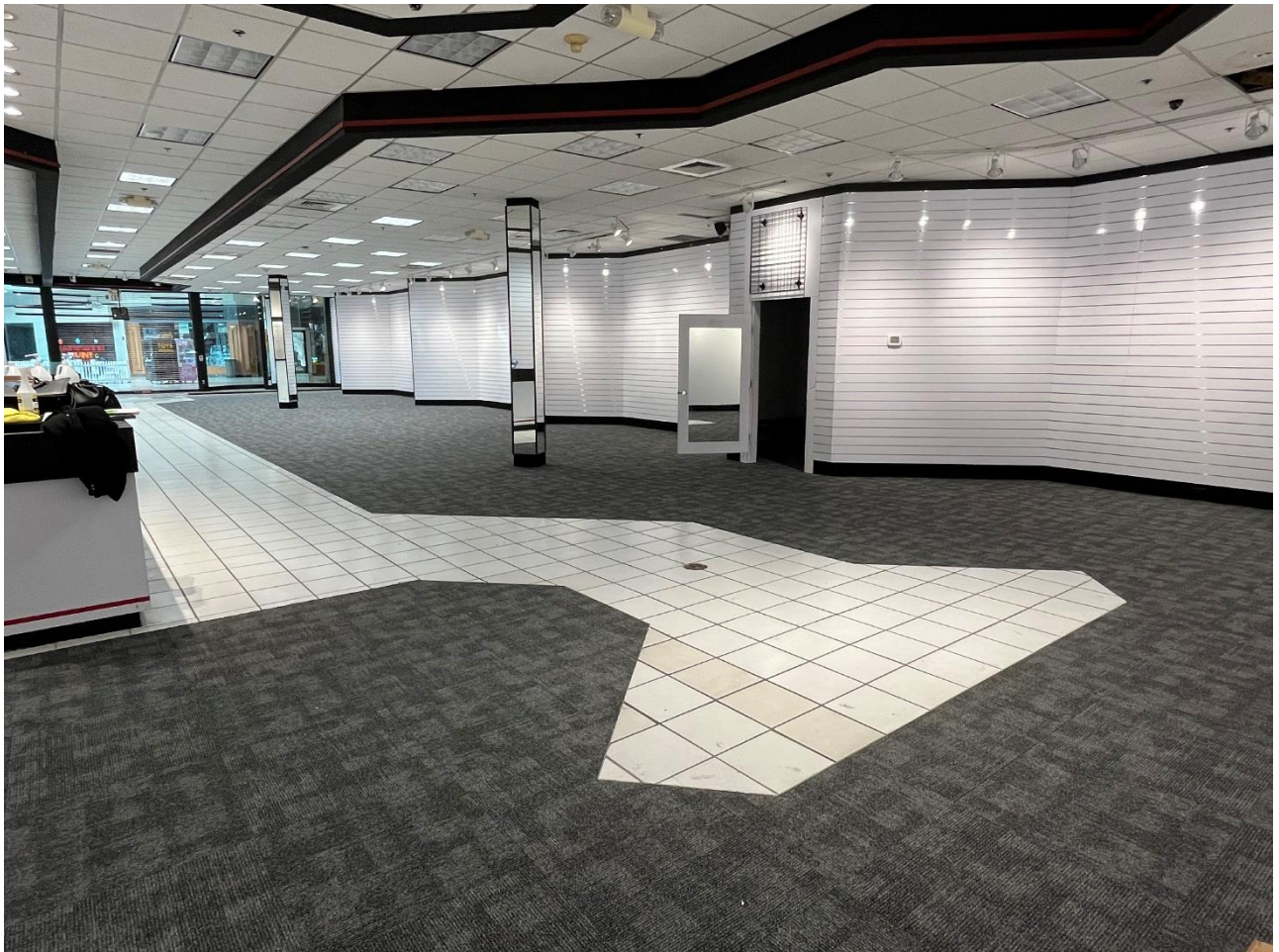
Chair, Library Board of Trustees

ATTEST

Secretary, Library Board of Trustees

Bellis Fair – Suite 614







Bellingham Central Library Renovation

June 03, 2026

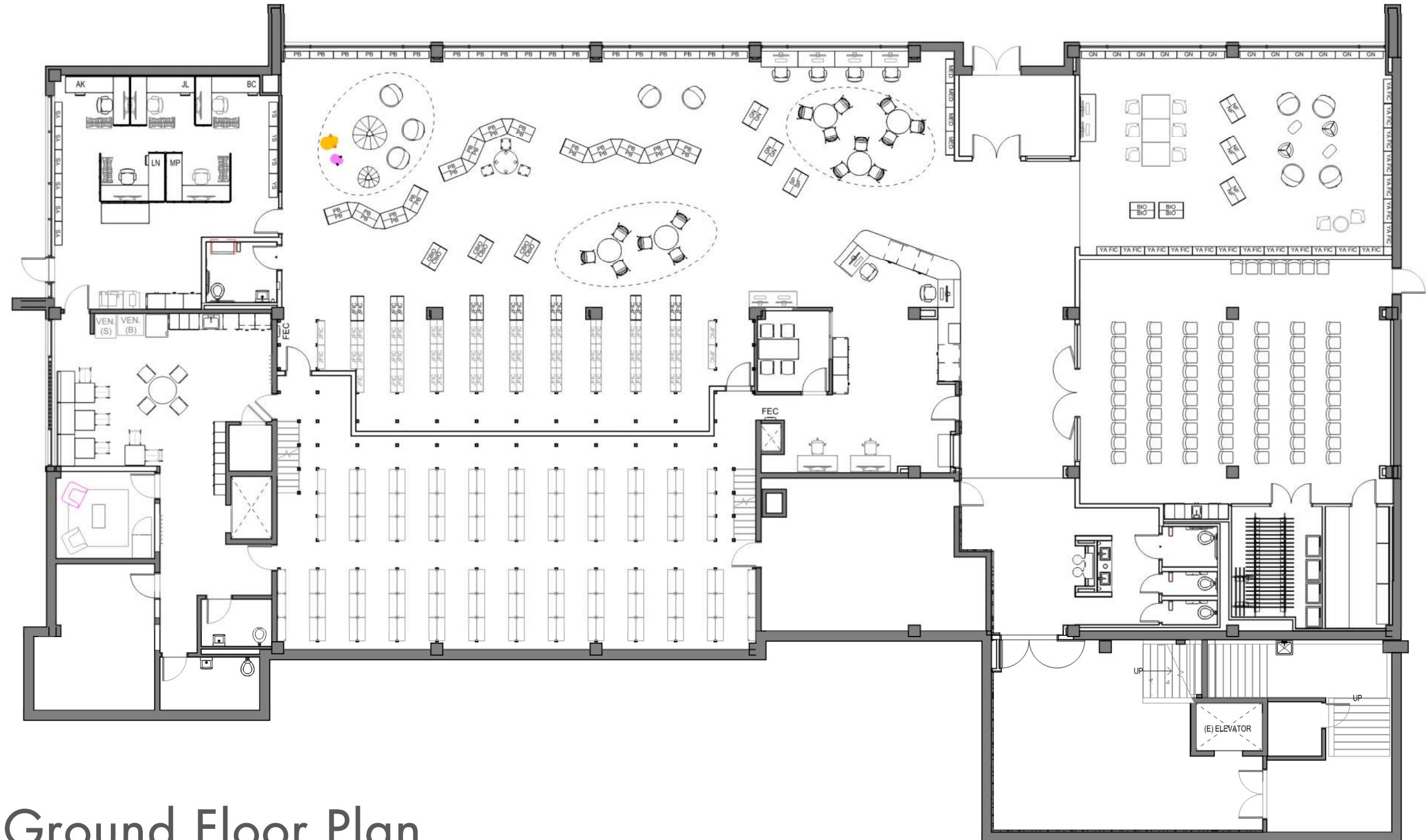
Agenda

- What We Heard
- Ground Floor Furniture & Workstations
- Ground Floor Shelving
- Level 2 Furniture & Workstations
- Level 2 Shelving
- Next Steps

What We Heard

- Distinct identities desired for Teens and Children
- Staff areas should feel uplifting, comfortable, and restorative.
- More color, pattern, and warmth are desired throughout the space.
- Wood is good!

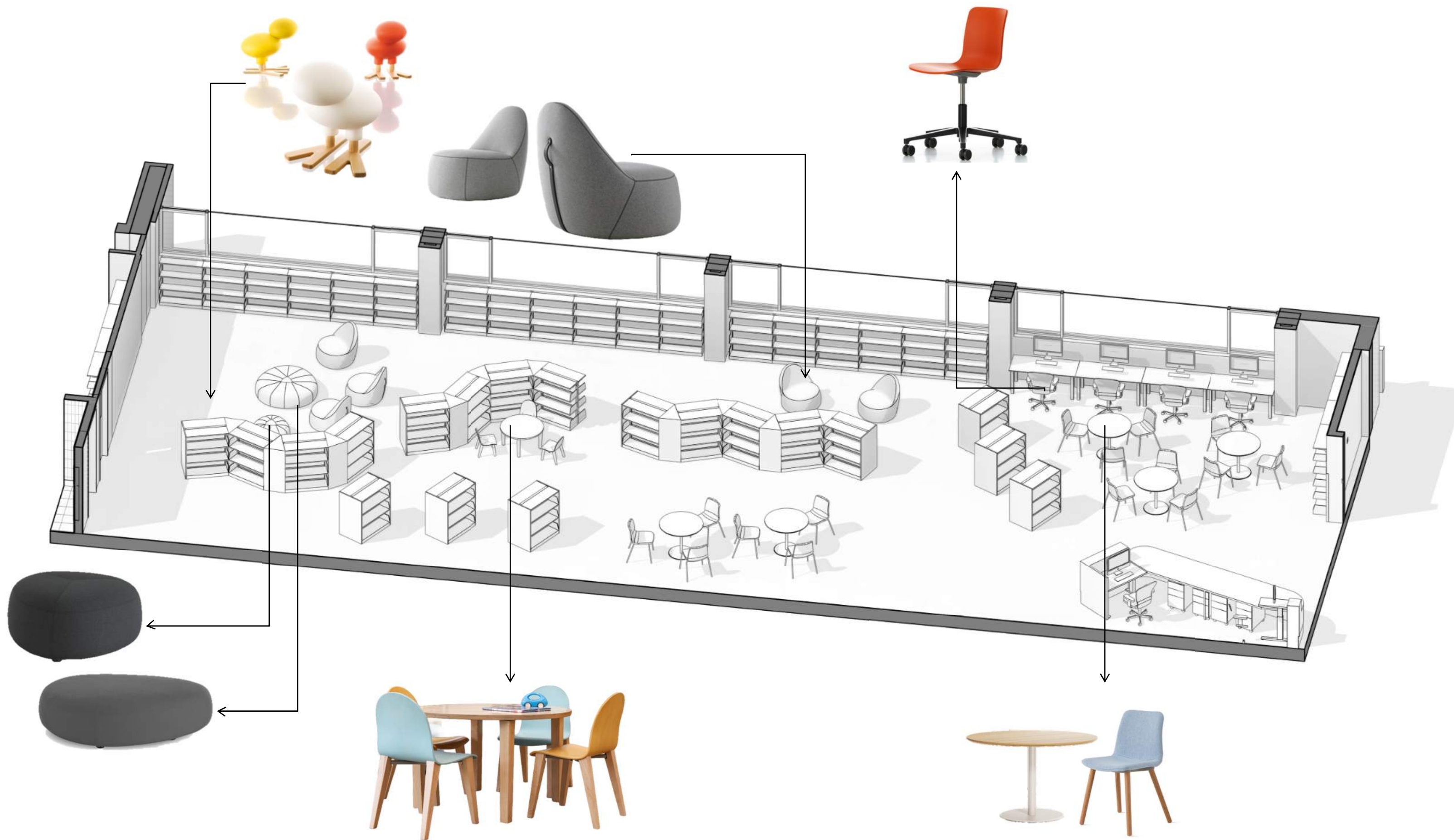
Ground Floor | Furniture & Workstations



Ground Floor Plan

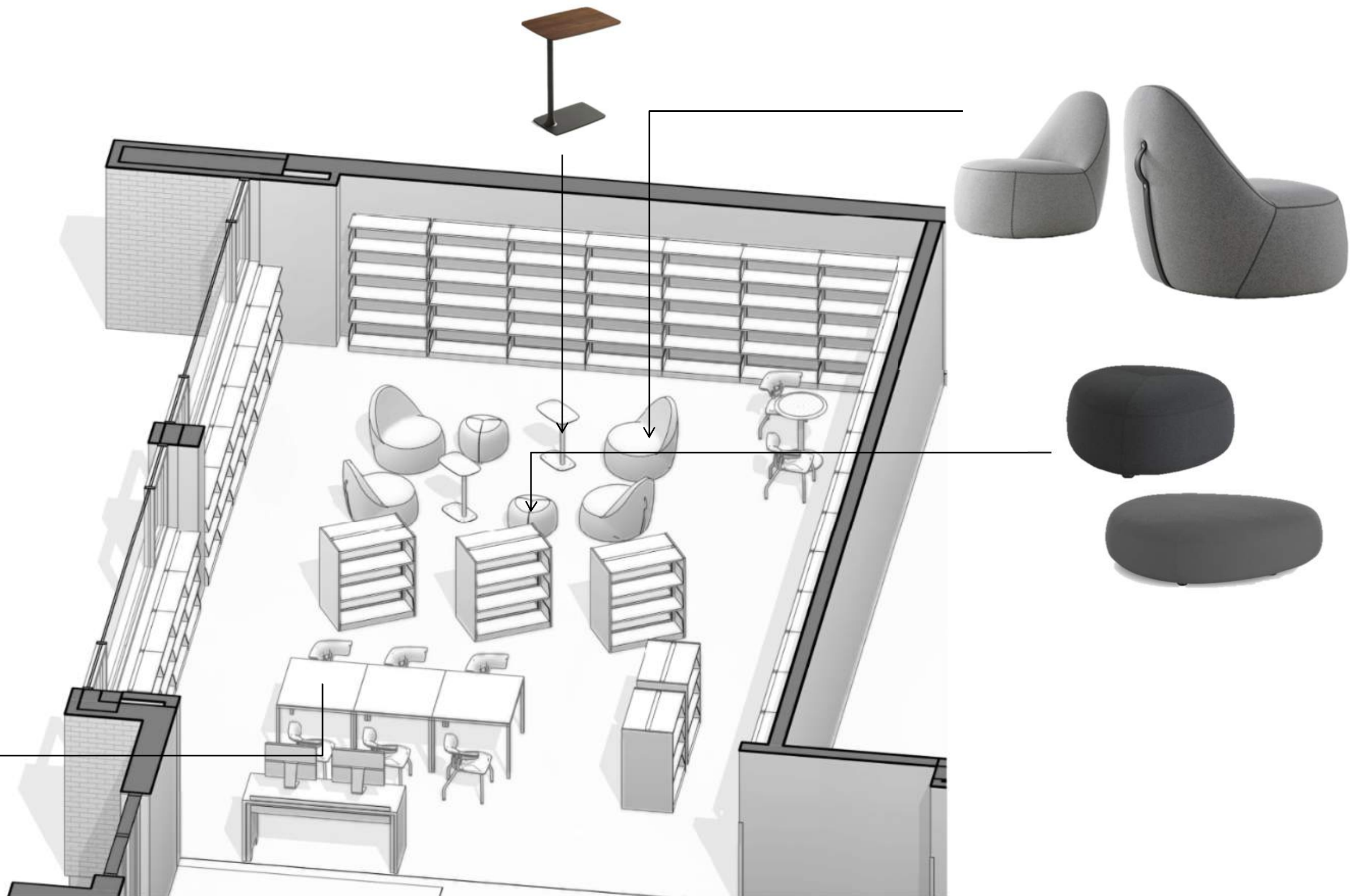
Children's Library



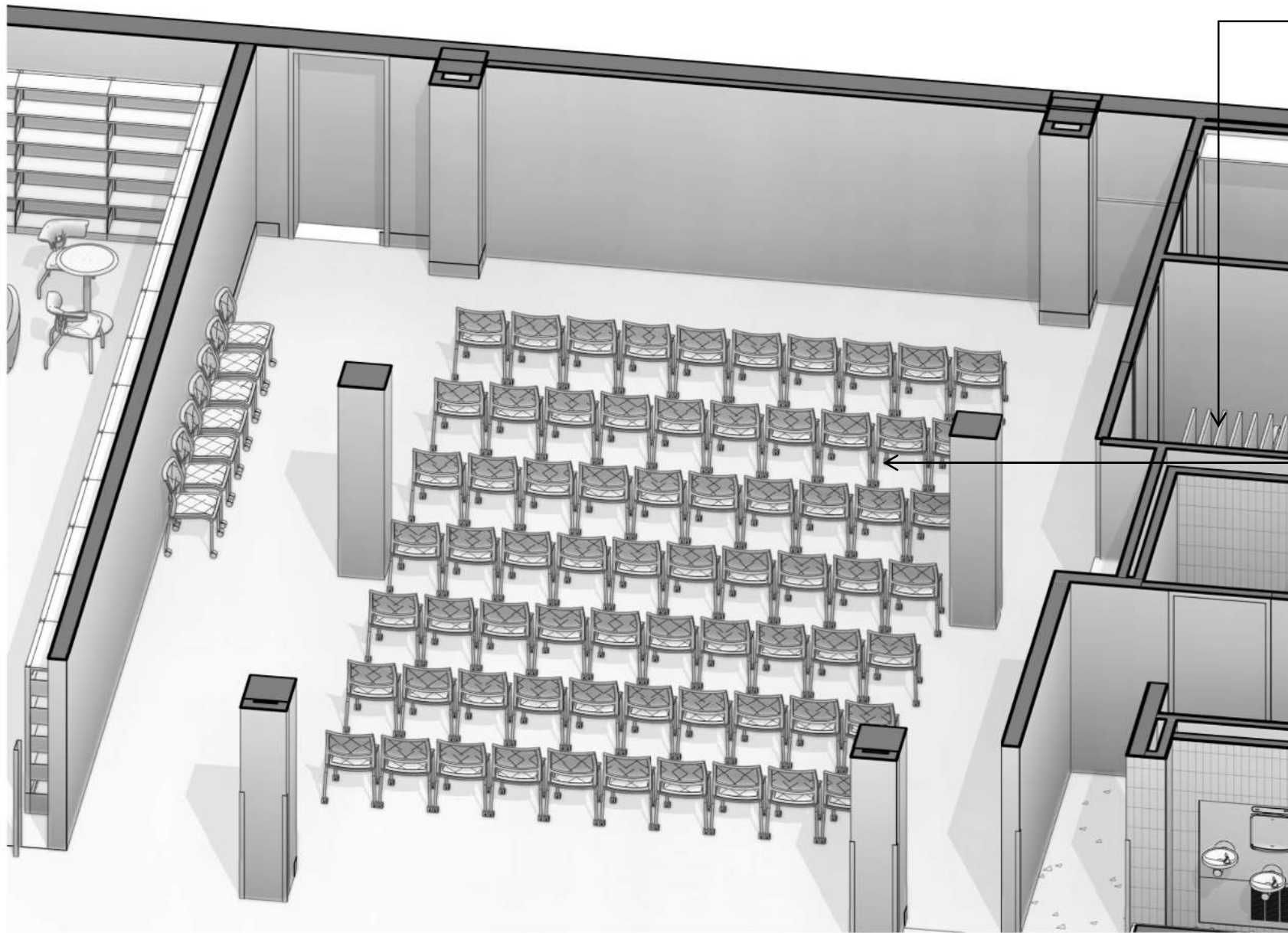


Teens

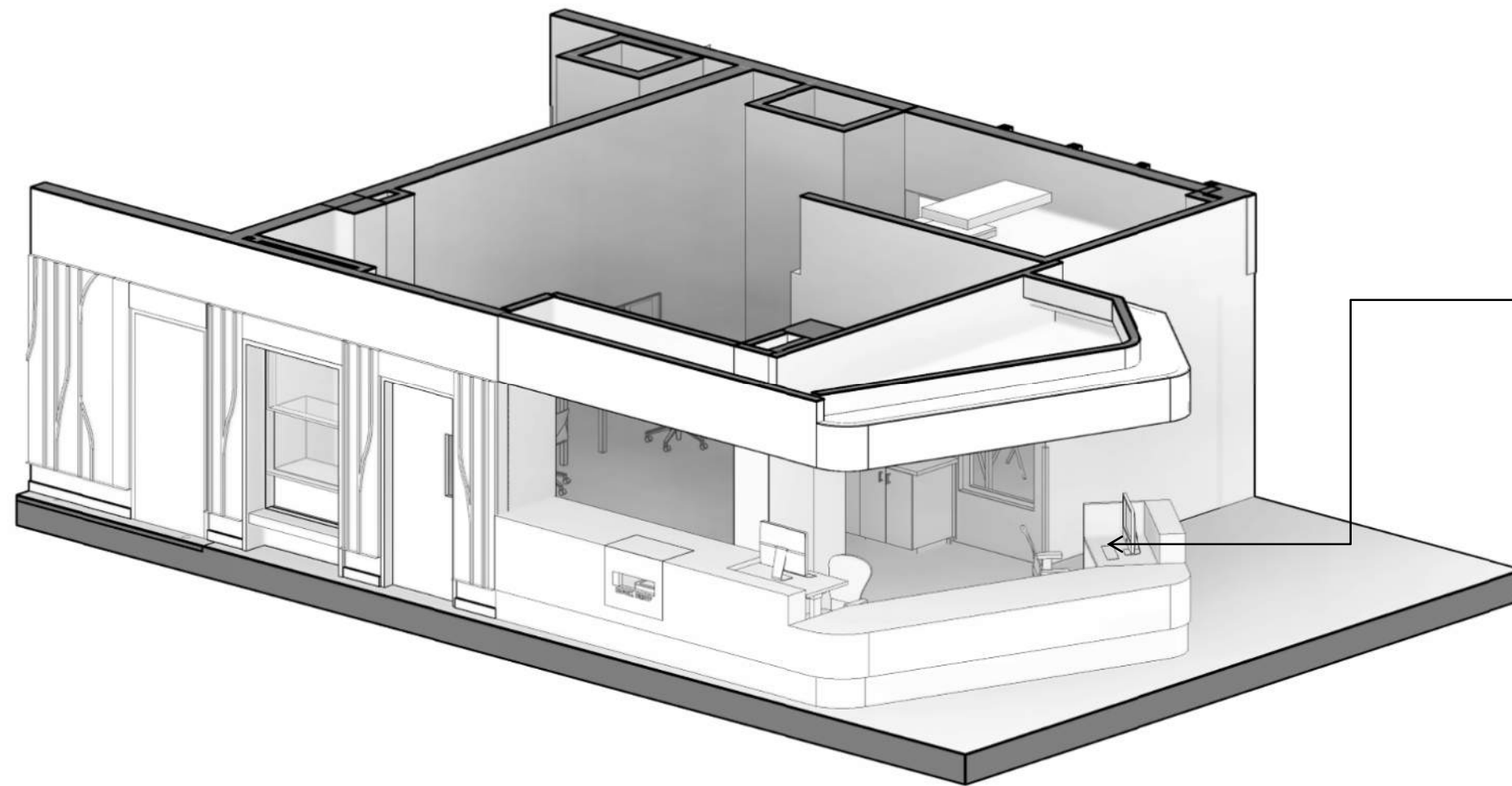




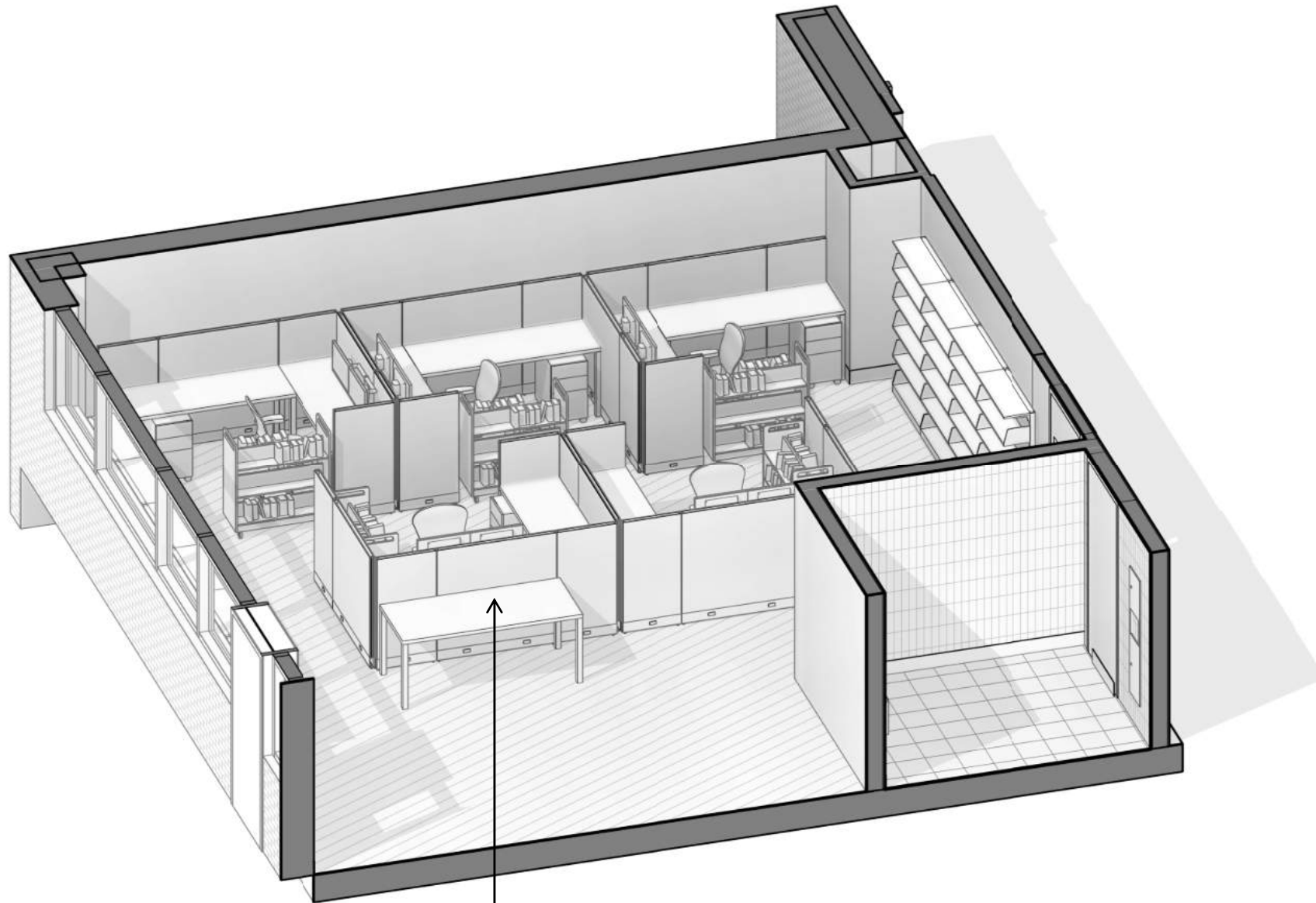
Multipurpose Room



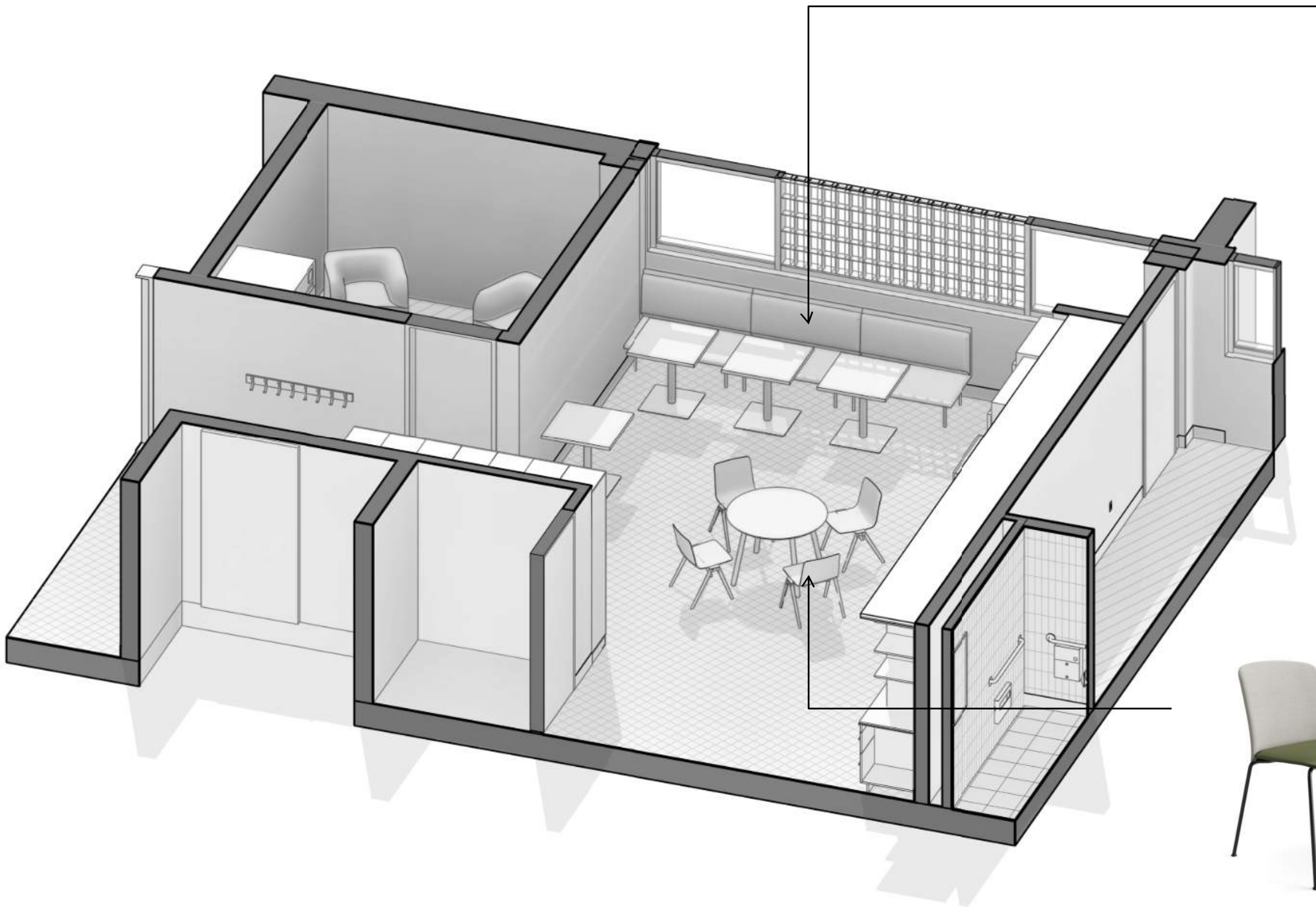
Children's Service Point



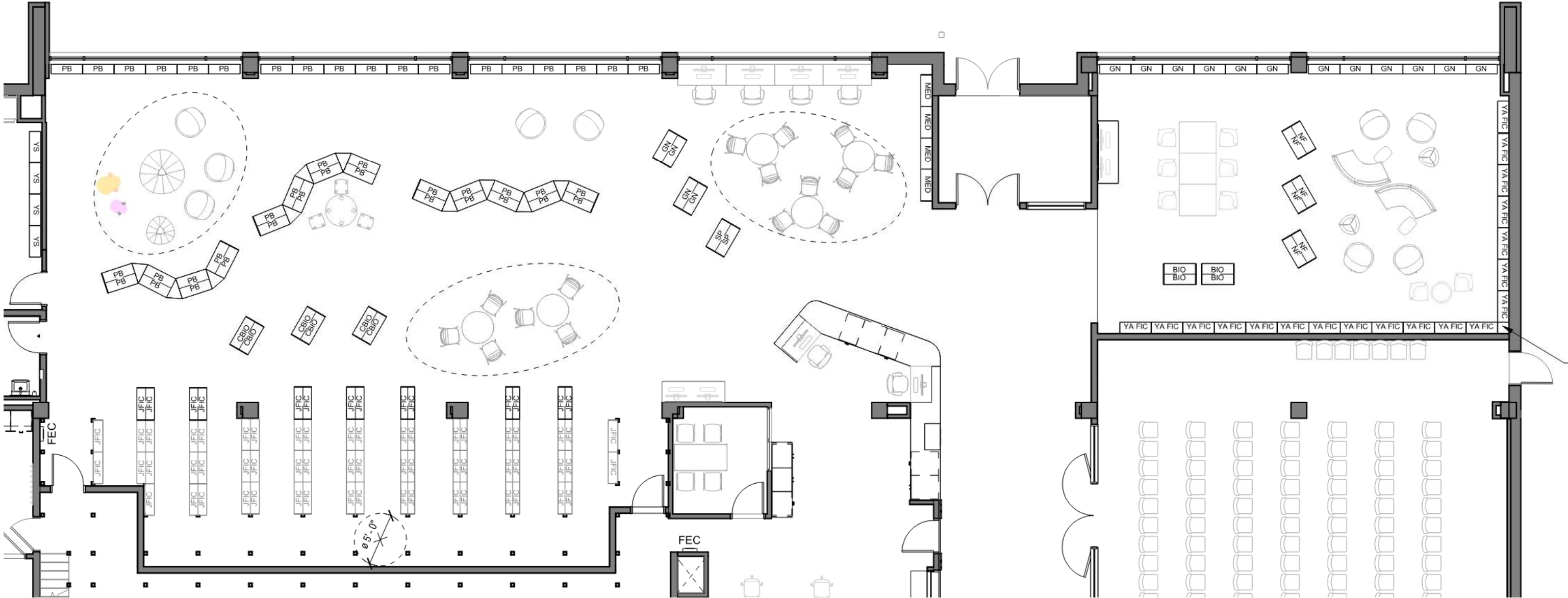
Youth Services



Staff Breakroom

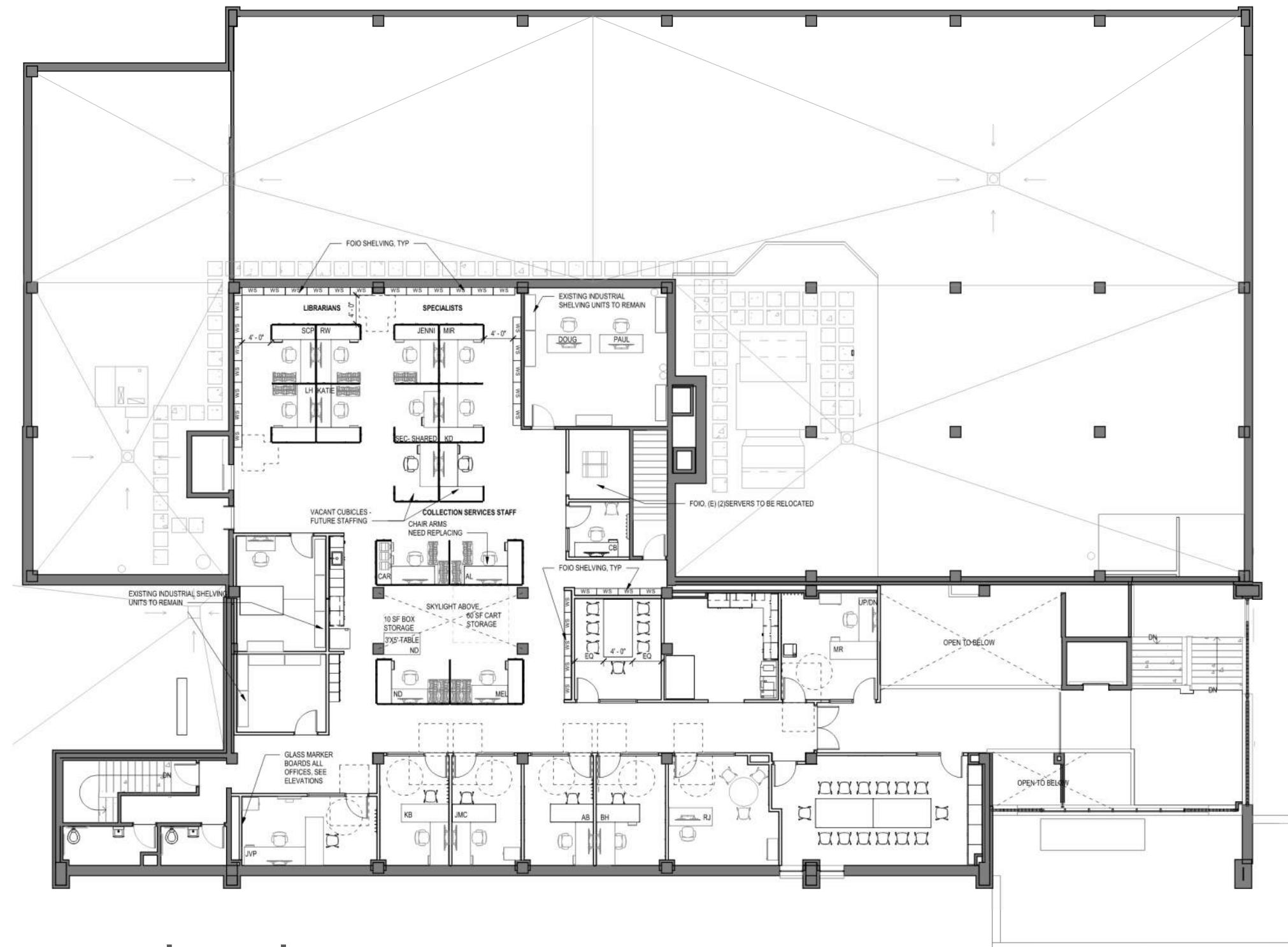


Ground Floor | Shelving



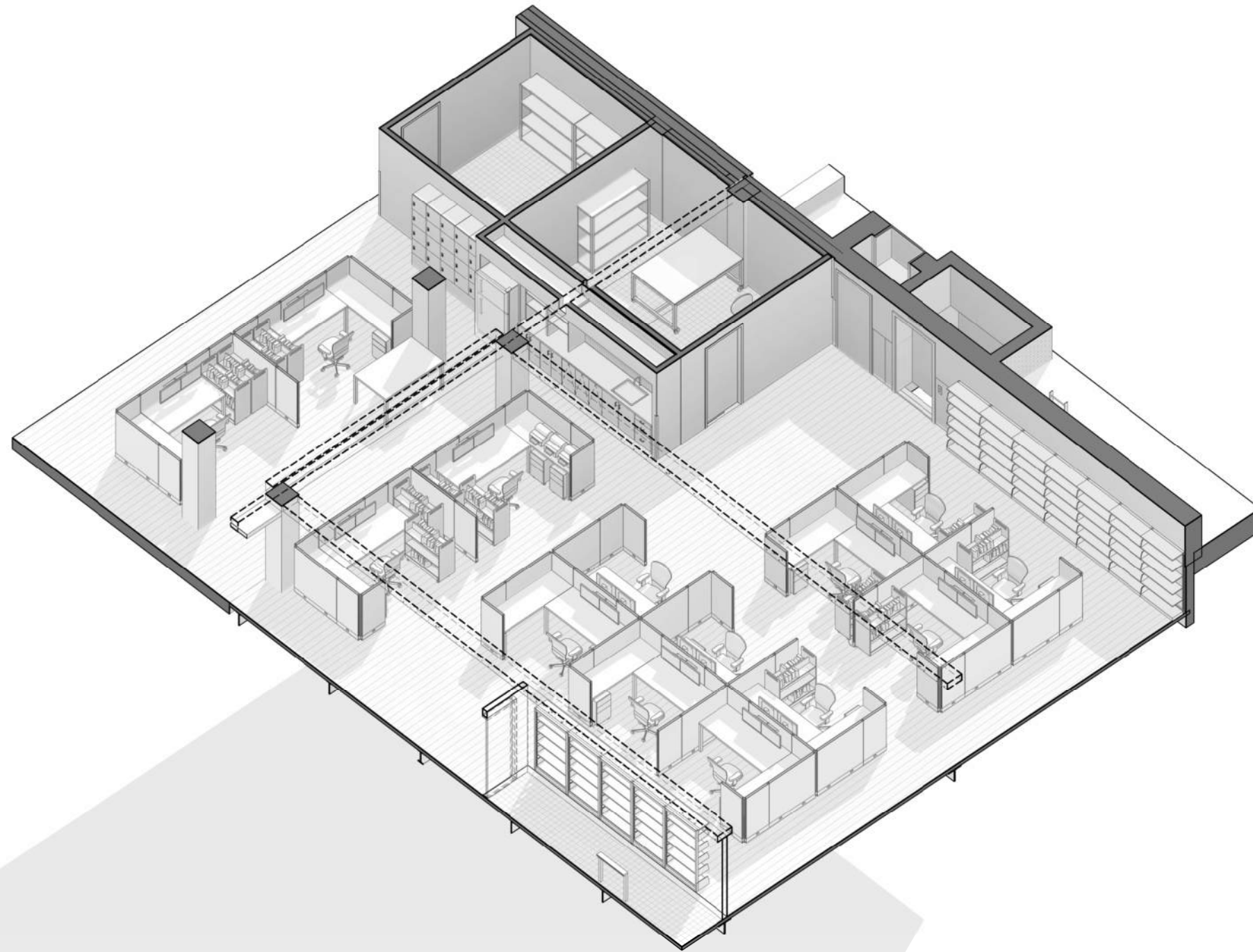
GROUND FLOOR SHELVING COLLECTION SCHEDULE					
TYPE MARK	MFR	COLLECTION TYPE		COUNT	COMMENTS
		SIDE 1	SIDE 2		
D361142-3S	ESTEY	BIO	BIO	2	Casters
D361142-3S	ESTEY	CBIO	CBIO	3	Casters
D361142-3S	ESTEY	GN	GN	2	Casters
D361142-3S	ESTEY	NF	NF	3	Casters
D361142-3S	ESTEY	PB	PB	13	Casters
D361142-3S	ESTEY	SP		1	Casters
S360942-3S	ESTEY	GN		12	Casters
S360942-3S	ESTEY	PB		18	
S360942-3S	ESTEY	YS		6	
S361166-5S	ESTEY	MED		4	
S361166-5S	ESTEY	YA FIC		19	
S361166-5S	ESTEY	YS		4	
(E)D36766-5S	EXISTING METAL	JFIC	JFIC	15	
(E)D36966-5S	EXISTING METAL	JFIC	JFIC	18	
(E)S36966-5S	EXISTING METAL	JFIC		5	

Level 2 | Furniture & Workstations



Level 2 Plan

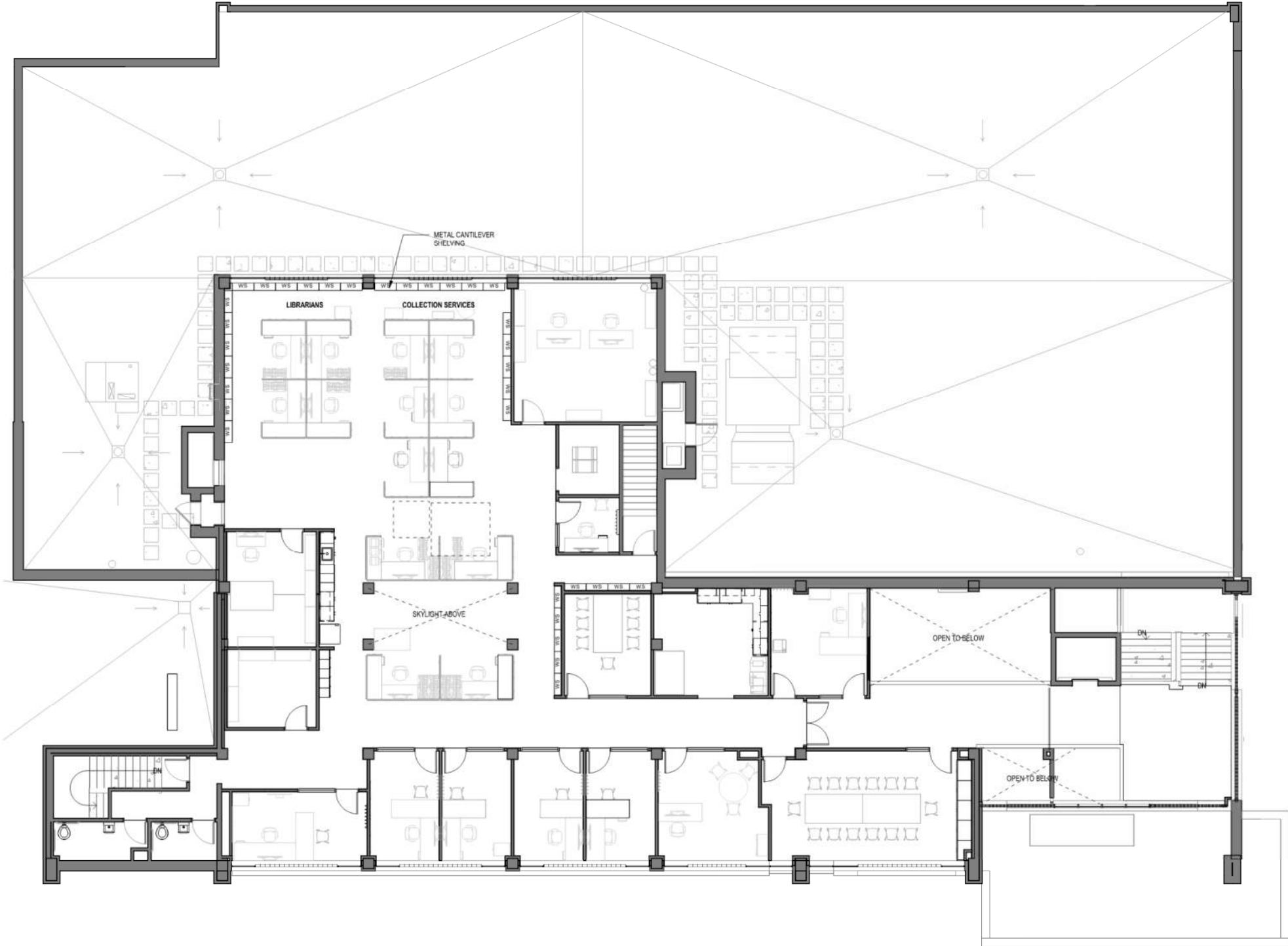
Open Plan Workspace

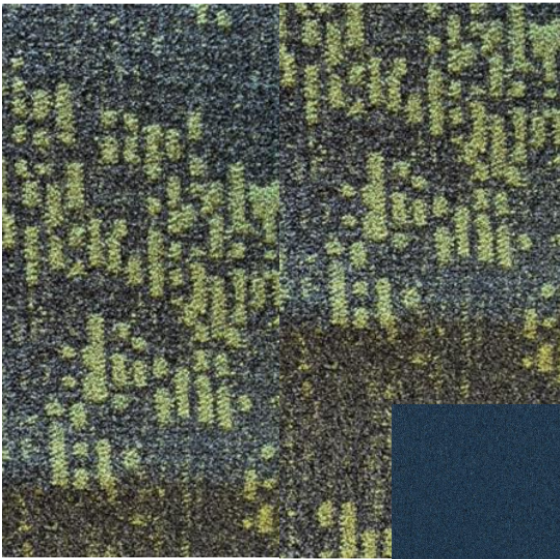


Level 2 Overall

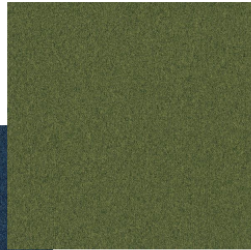


Level 2 | Shelving

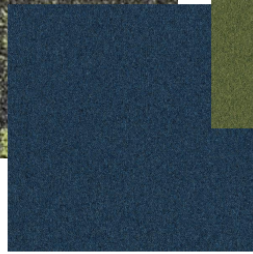




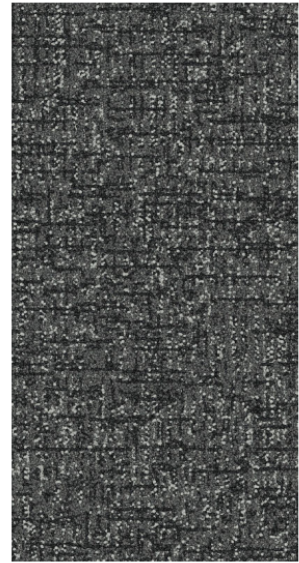
Pattern -
Level 1 public areas



Accent – Young readers

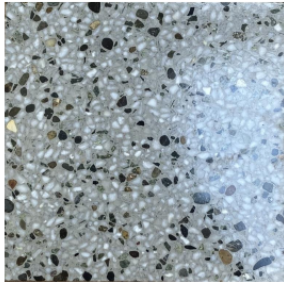


Accent - Teens



Complimentary solid
Staff areas





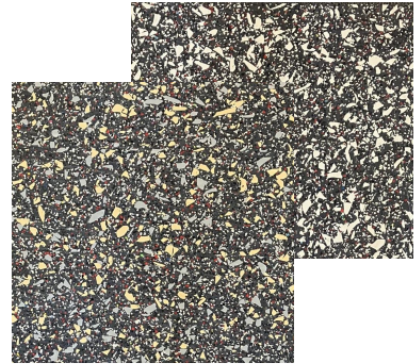
Poured Terrazzo

- 40-100 yr floor
- Easy cleaning
- Requires periodic sealing – 3-5 yrs
- Smooth / Monolithic
- Hard surface amplifies sound
- \$\$\$\$ Highest Cost



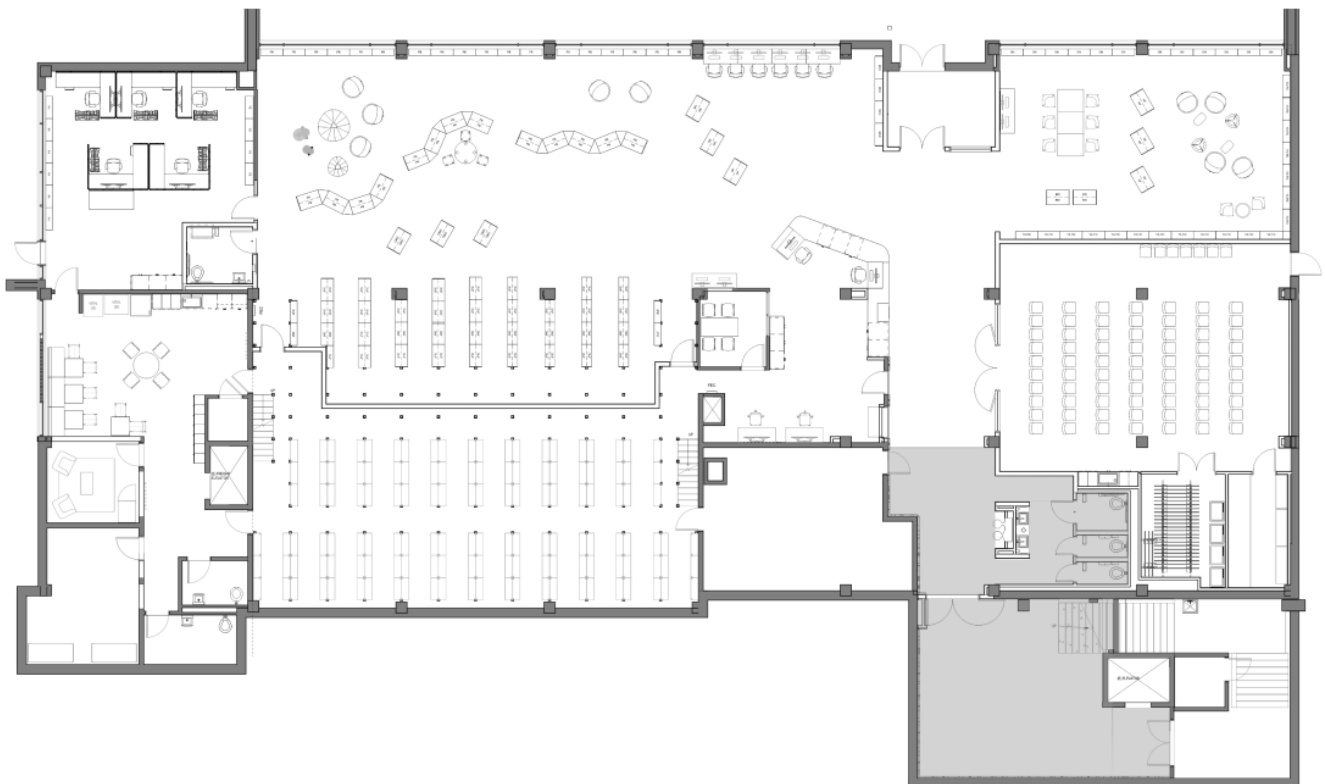
Porcelain tile – 24" x 24"

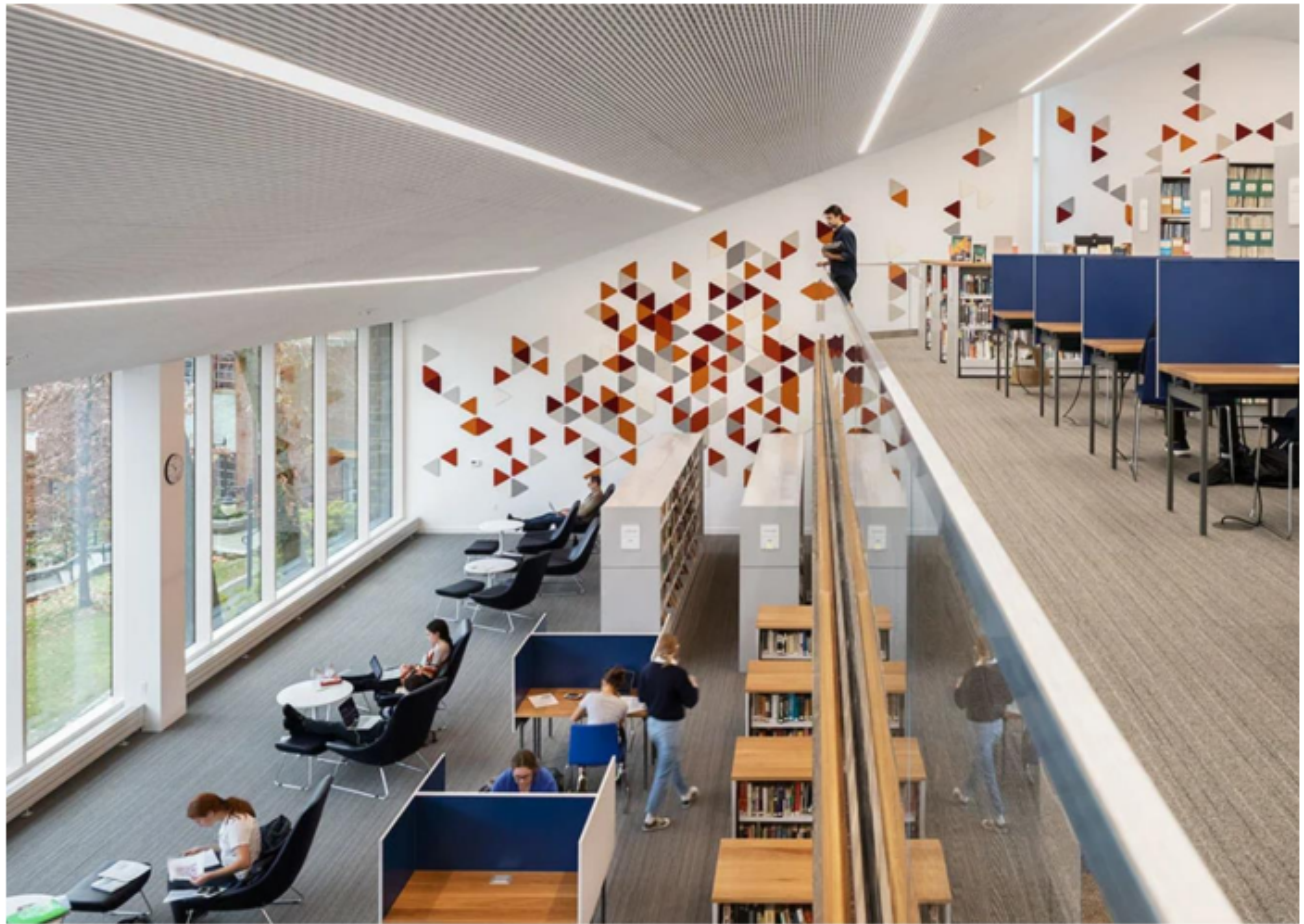
- 20-50 yr floor
- Resists stains, easy to clean
- Grout traps dirt and stains
- Grout lines
- Hard surface amplifies sound
- \$\$\$ Midrange Cost



Rubber Flooring – 48" x 48"

- 15-25 yr floor
- Handles heavy loads
- Periodic deep cleaning
- Smooth – flush joints
- Dampens impact sound
- Not suitable for restrooms
- \$\$ Most Affordable





Wall Feature Idea | Ground Floor Foyer West



GROUND FLOOR FOYER WEST

AFT - not final design

