**Concept Statement**

All people deserve a comfortable place of refuge and relaxation in their community, but unfortunately some do not have the resources to end their days in a controlled environment. Through the adoption of Japanese bath culture, and biophilic design principles One Circle, enhances a sense of belonging and provides a safe place for people preparing for housing, looking for housing, or without housing and other amenities. This facility offers an array of hygiene resources such as: clean showers, and bathrooms, along with hair and nail maintenance spaces. One Circle is a communal building intended to open 24 hours. Offering stable environments, the community enhances the likelihood of remembrance, and increases the likelihood of addressing other challenges citizens may face throughout their everyday lives.

**The Koi Fish**

This Asian native fish symbolizes property and longevity. The koi fish has the ability to swim for long periods of time, against strong currents, and in deep waters, their capability to overcome physical challenges inspired the vision throughout the project of a school of fish (the community) preparing together.

Koi fish are amongst the first fish to be accepted and successfully breed despite their defects. Their unique spots and vibrant color have now been heavily embraced by the Asian population.

**Research**

**Experiential Research and Interviews**

Analysis of a local center for the homeless was carried out at the Capital Area Alliance located in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Their mission is to provide a continuum of care network for the homeless in the local area. Services include transitional housing, and permanent housing services, mental health counseling, life skill training, and more. When speaking with Weston Schild and Assistant Director, Randy Nicholas, words like ‘durability’, ‘flexibility’, and ‘dynamic spaces’ seemed to drive conversation about how to improve a support service facility. Staff members seemed to feel comfortable and dedicated to helping the people who visit everyday, which is roughly about 150 people. When speaking with long-time receptionist, Tasha, she said “I’ve never felt unsafe here because I’ve built a relationship with the locals, and try to make them feel welcome.”

**Additional Research**

Japan has one of the smallest populations of people without homes heavily influenced by their acceptance and lack of racial biases. Not only does Japan’s government financially support families without housing, their society does too. In Tokyo, 24-hour ‘internet cafes’ double as shelters for refugees residing in the city. Café-styled environments tend to be shared spaces with diverse crowds of people. These sociocultural encounters encourage the possibility to engage with people outside of personal social norms. Many people without homes feel as if they are misunderstood and neglected by society, by offering a building that feels comfortable to a entire neighborhood, it encourages civic public patien. According to research conducted by New Haven Medical Center, citizen relationships with communities is important during the process of rehousing and helps support mental health.

**Safety**

The facility will be 24-hours so that it can become a reliable location that eases the anxiety of not having somewhere to go. Security is ensured by placing card-reader on the front and back doors. Distribution of scannable cards give administration the power to control who comes in and out. The building layout is designed so there are no dead-end corridors, always clear sight to the exits, and large open spaces to ensure members feel safe no matter where they are in the building. The outdoor area includes gardening opportunities and safety of seating arrangements. Community projects to keep the local garden and community growing. Through connection with nature, mental-health is encouraged and the site becomes a therapeutic place to rejuvenate.

**References**

The feeling of community and togetherness once you enter the building is apparent. By placing all the bathrooms, showers, and the pet area on the east-side and everything else on the west, it divided the space into wet and dry places. To improve air quality, planters were placed near HVAC systems. Skylights and transoms were also placed along the pathway to provide better lighting environments and create unique shadows throughout the building. All architectural elements contribute to the biophilic design intent.

The materials palette was heavily influenced by natural resources. The balance of soft and rough elements creates the perfect textural palette. The use of durable wood materials throughout provides a comfortable warmth and connection to nature.

The lobby and laundry area share a centralized location in the building that encourage socialization.