LOCATION:
4242 S Boyle Ave
St. Louis, MO
A. Barnes-Jewish Hospital
B. St. Louis Children’s Hospital
C. Red Cross Center
D. Planned Parenthood
E. Legal Services of Eastern STL
F. Goodwill
G. Salvation Army
H. Community Garden

CONCEPT STATEMENT:
Horizon STL is a Basic Needs Center that provides a private, safe, and judgment-free space for people experiencing homelessness in St. Louis, Missouri. Horizon is inspired by the setting sun which reflects the idea of a sun setting on the horizon. We chose the name Horizon STL because we wanted something that sounded welcoming and invoked hope. Also, we wanted something that reflected our mission which is to help improve people’s lives with a space that encourages them to move towards the future.

RESEARCH:
For our research we wanted to focus on demographics, and how design impacts people experiencing homelessness. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development states that 544,000 people in America do not have any shelter at night. Out of this 544,000 one-third of them are families. Without shelter, people are exposed to things like weather, crime, and unsanitary conditions. This being said, these types of things can be damaging to one’s self-esteem. This involves the idea that recovering from being homeless isn’t just finding a new place to live; it is finding confidence in one’s self in order to progress towards the future. Our researched talked about how physical spaces can actually impact and improve an individual’s mood. When designed with the people in mind, shelters can not only help people recover but also become motivated to get back into society. Shelters that are designed with things like warm colors and a welcoming atmosphere send the message to the people that they are cared for and safe. For shelters to have more homely feelings not only helps improve the mental health of an individual but also the physical. When asked, most homeless people say that their physical health is one of the most important things. So, if space is designed to help nurture mental/physical health, and provide basic needs then there will not only be an overall well being.

Program:
Occupancy Class - 50 People or less
Classification - Institutional

GOALS:
When we started to design the space one of our main focuses was safety. Keeping in mind that the reception had to have 24/7 security we decided to shape our floor plan around that aspect. We decided on a racetrack hallway that focuses on one point of entry and exit, which allows for staff to easily monitor and control the space. Accessibility was our next concern; the way our hallway is laid out creates it own way finding path which makes it easy for anyone to find their way around with out signs or assistance. We did this so that the space felt unified, and welcoming to everyone. For adjacencies we started with the reception and then branched off of that. We wanted the staff to be able to move “behind the scenes” and have their own space with out interrupting the main flow of the facility (which is mainly for the users). We then wanted to make sure that the bathrooms and showers were one of the first things you could access after leaving the reception area. Then, branching off of the bathrooms and showers we made sure that any other spaces that require water were sharing wet walls. We then added the remaining spaces where they seemed to fit the best, while still focusing on the users and flow. The overall space was mainly designed with the user in mind and making sure that everyone feels at home in our center.

LOGO:
Our logo depicts a minimalist graphic of a setting sun which reflects the idea of a sun setting on the horizon. We chose the name Horizon STL because we wanted something that sounded welcoming and invoked hope. Also, we wanted something that reflected our mission which is to help improve people’s lives with a space that encourages them to move towards the future.
When picking finishes we made sure that all of our materials were sustainable, easy to clean, and durable. When deciding on our color palette we made sure that was gender neutral. Also, we wanted to make sure that our color scheme has a positive psychological affect on the brain. We also wanted to bring outside colors in, so not only are our colors inspired by nature, but we also made sure that our exterior area has these color reflected in the plants. In regards to the landscape we picked plants brought in beauty, color, and texture. They also reflect our palette and continue to as the seasons change.

Objectives:

Materials:

Color Palette:

Community Space:

After the normal 8-5 work day, there will be a psychologist that will be available in the office for mental and physical support. We want to be able to give the people of our community a place to go that they will feel safe and free to talk to someone they can trust. Along with that our exterior area is a healing garden for the community and the users of the space. We want people to have a space to enjoy and ease their mind with the beauty of nature. In addition, we also have a garden for people to learn how to grow vegetables/herbs and understand the importance of healthy living.

Interview: James Stevenson with CSS Landscaping Chicago, IL

Plant List:

- Black maple: Acer Nigrum
- Japanese Lilac: Syringa Reticulata
- Autumn Moor Grass: Sesleria Autumnalis
- Huskers Red: Penstemon Digitalis
- Northwind Switch grass (Blue): Panicum Virgatum
- Lamb’s Ear: Stachys Byzantia
- Burning Bush: Euonymus Alatus

* All of our spaces are ADA compliant, and there are lower washer and dryers in the laundry facility to accommodate the code. The appliances are energy efficient to keep the electric bills at a lower cost. We made sure that most of our furniture is modular or movable so spaces can possibly be multi-functional and cleaned easily. **