RESEARCH
Individuals with Autism are said to be on a spectrum of disorders that share similar symptoms. To design a space for autistic individuals there will be elements that will be implemented to complement their needs and aid them in the prospective future. According to our research, incorporating a curvilinear design in the interior space will help with wayfinding around the center as well as have a smooth flow of movement from one designated area to another.

Another design element to consider is the use of color in the spaces. ASD individuals can be sensitive to certain color schemes due to their sensory capabilities. The use of pastel and neutral colors will help regulate and relax them, in order to help with their steady progress in the center.

PROGRAM
An additional key element is inputting lighting in a suitable way due to their sensitivity. Natural lighting promotes social interactions and reduces stress levels. We have decided to use skylights with treatments to allow a suitable amount of natural light into the space. Indirect LED lights will be used to be diffused with the natural lighting.

Furthermore, teaming up with the benefits of nature. Nature has proven to motivate their senses as well as their cognitive and social skills. This will help the autistic person with future interactions. A vortex fountain in the courtyard space stimulates the senses in terms of the sight, the feel of the water, the relaxing trickling of water. With greenery in the courtyard it will boost their motivation and productivity in the center.

In order to help the ASD individuals understand how to function within a space, the space is divided into high-stimulus and low-stimulus zones in which the former zones require alertness while the latter ones require concentration. It has been achieved through the use of a corridor with the high-stimulus zones being on one side while the low-stimulus zones on the other.

To provide flexibility within the space, a number of features have been incorporated to achieve this. This includes the use of node chairs which can be used in both group settings as well as private ones.

INTERACTING and communicating is a vital part of life and through Fluid, individuals with ASD can develop these skills and adapt into society. Other than offering classes that help them achieve this, other features have also been included to stimulate their social lives. This includes an expression wall and an interactive vortex fountain.

Creating a social environment for the users, is crucial. However, to give them a sense of balance, zones have been included to aid them in relaxing after over stimulation. This includes isolated spaces such as built in wall seating to gather their thoughts, and a sensory room to stimulate their senses.

DESIGN STATEMENT
Fluid aims to give autistic individuals the opportunity to learn skills to lead a balanced life. Inspired by water’s ability to maintain its identity and at the same time adapt to any shape or form given. Fluid allows individuals to develop the ability to face daily situations. Fluid provides a balanced and flexible space that opens up a sense of discovery and gives one more room to branch out and try different things. It gives one the confidence to steer one’s life in a direction towards independence.

LOGO
The logo design imitates the phonetic language to help the ASD individuals read the logo but it also represents the aim of the center as the word is presented in a rigid form but the style is fluid.

LOCATION
The center will be located in Arizona where the autistic population are widely appreciated and have been taken into account. Arizona has shown to be quite supportive of autistic individuals, especially towards children.

Opening a center for young adults there will continue to help the autistic flourish even after growing up. This new type of approach in terms of interior design will be a new support from Arizona to an ASD individual.

MOOD BOARD

BUBBLE DIAGRAM

CIRCULATION

To provide flexibility within the space, a number of features have been incorporated to achieve this. This includes the use of node chairs which can be used in both group settings as well as private ones.

SIGNAGE
Next to the door these signs will be kept to give visual signage and written as to what that area is to help the ASD individuals to identify the areas.

There will be a linear cut in the doors with tinted glass for the users to see inside as well as the color of the tinted glass will help them distinguish the areas.

MULTIPURPOSE + WORK TRAINING

FLEXIBLE