

The respectful repurposing of a landmark  
Venturi, Scott Brown and Associates (VSBA)

## DECORATED SHED

provides a new home for Drexel University's  
College of Media Arts and Design (CoMAD).  
Though the building is not protected by any  
preservation guidelines and the original archi-  
tects are still practicing, the designers under-  
stood the importance of honoring this early  
example of modern mannerism in the design  
of the adaptive reuse.

To transform the former 130,000 square-foot  
office building and 13,000 square-foot annex  
(once a daycare center), the design concept  
embraces the realities of the shed—a cost-ef-  
fective, four-story commercial box. Key goals  
driving the project include bringing together  
disparate CoMAD departments (including archi-  
tecture and interior design, digital media,  
entertainment and arts enterprises, fashion  
design and merchandising, graphic design,  
and product design) in one location and en-  
couraging cross-collaboration between dis-  
ciplines. To both meet the client's goals and  
honor VSBA's decorated shed, the design  
concept focuses on respecting the original  
intent, making more with less, and offering  
adaptable spaces for learning.

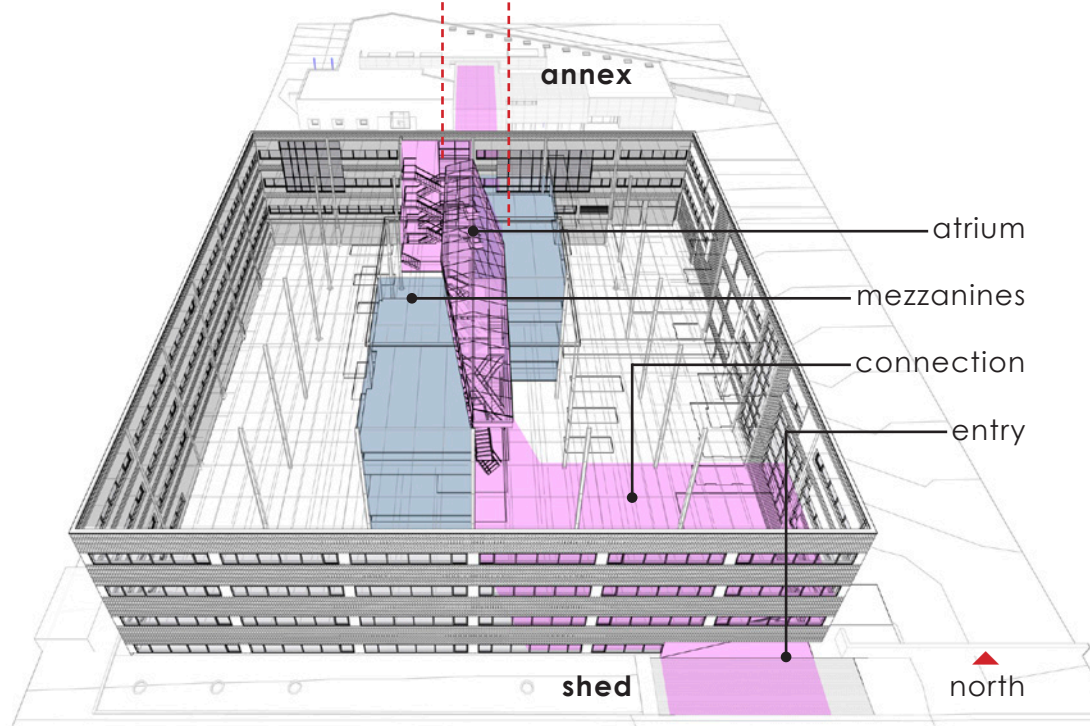
*Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*

*150,696 SF (adaptive reuse + addition)*

*\$46,100,000 (project total)*

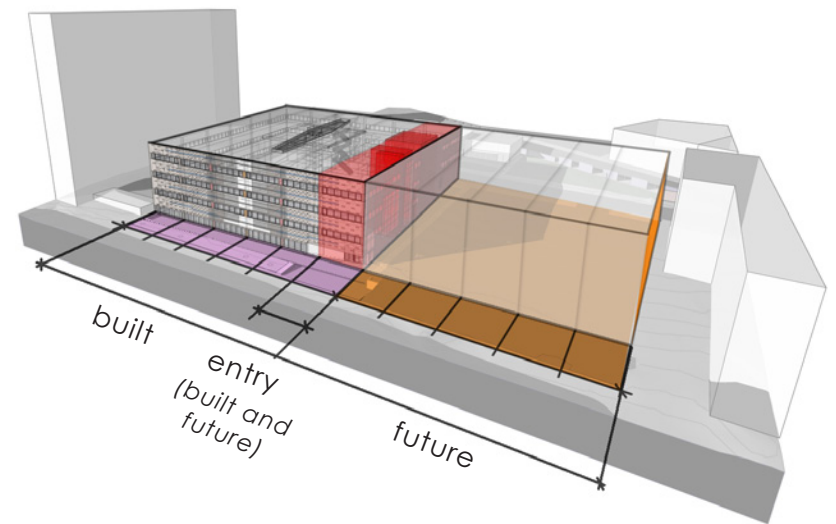
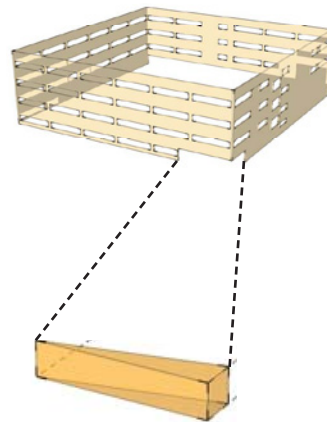
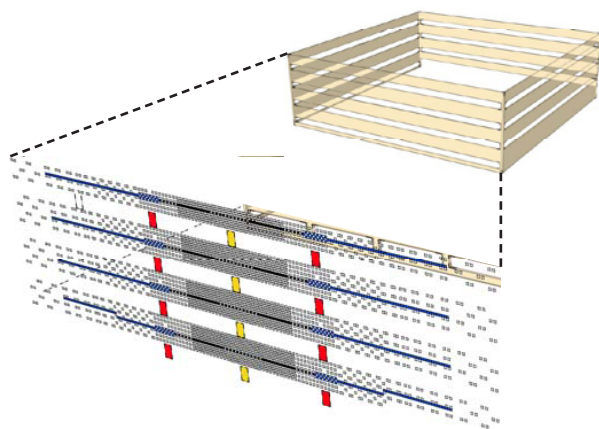








## RESPECTING THE ORIGINAL INTENT



original intent = decorated shed + clipped corner + future expansion

west  
(parking)

south  
(on Market Street)

east  
(parking)

north  
(facing Annex)



before

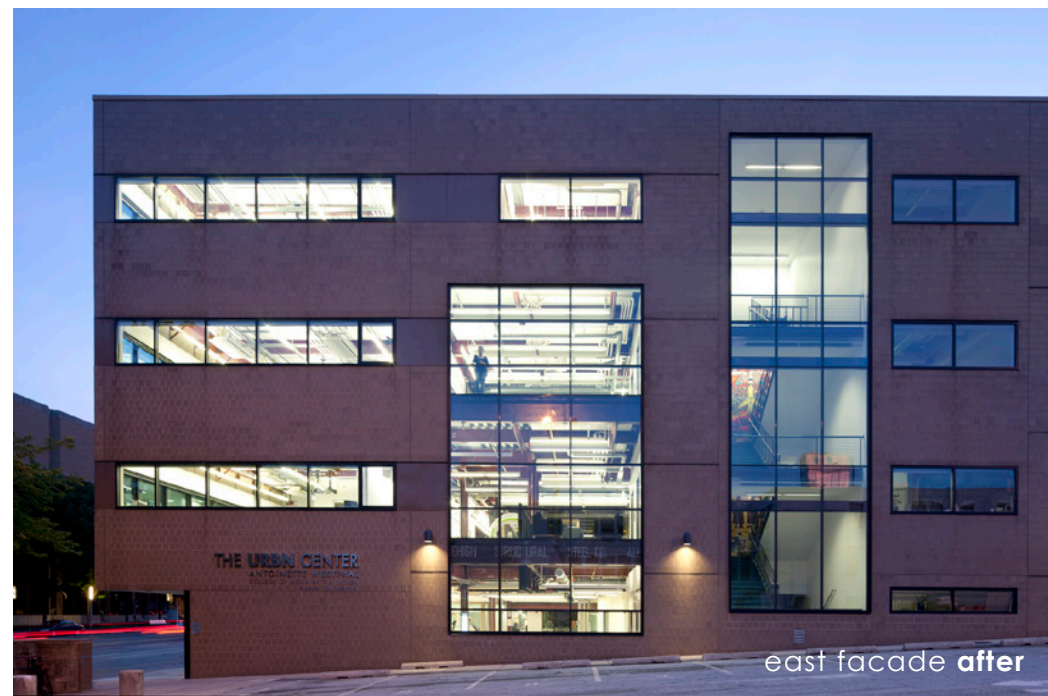


after

preserved ←

→ altered









entry lobby













4



4M

3



3M

2



2M

1



1M

# reconfigured floors

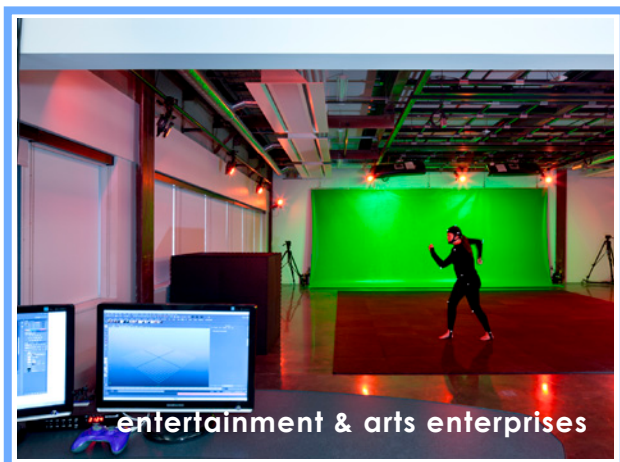
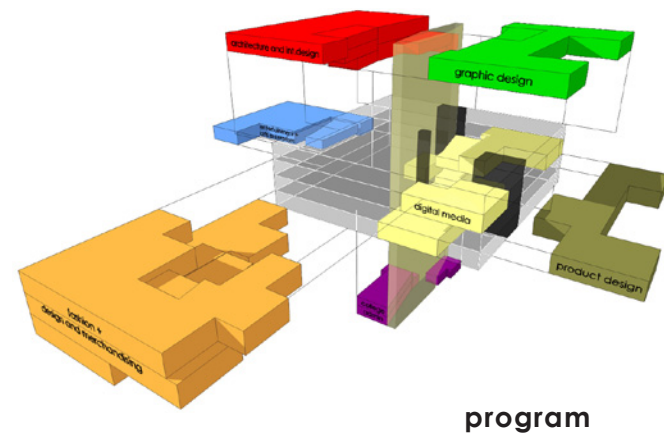
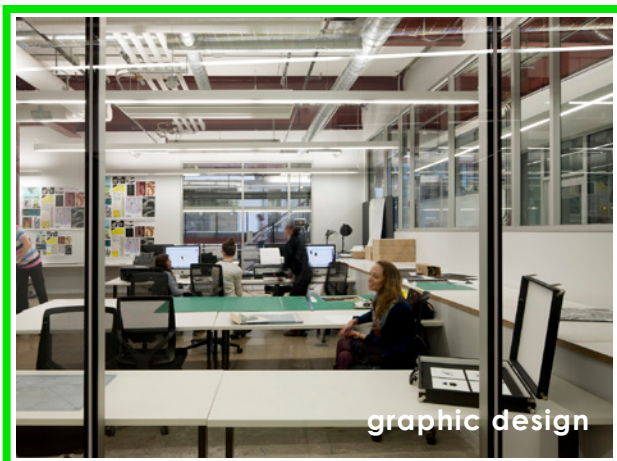
connection/collaboration

----- atrium cut

#M new mezzanines

▲ north to annex









90°

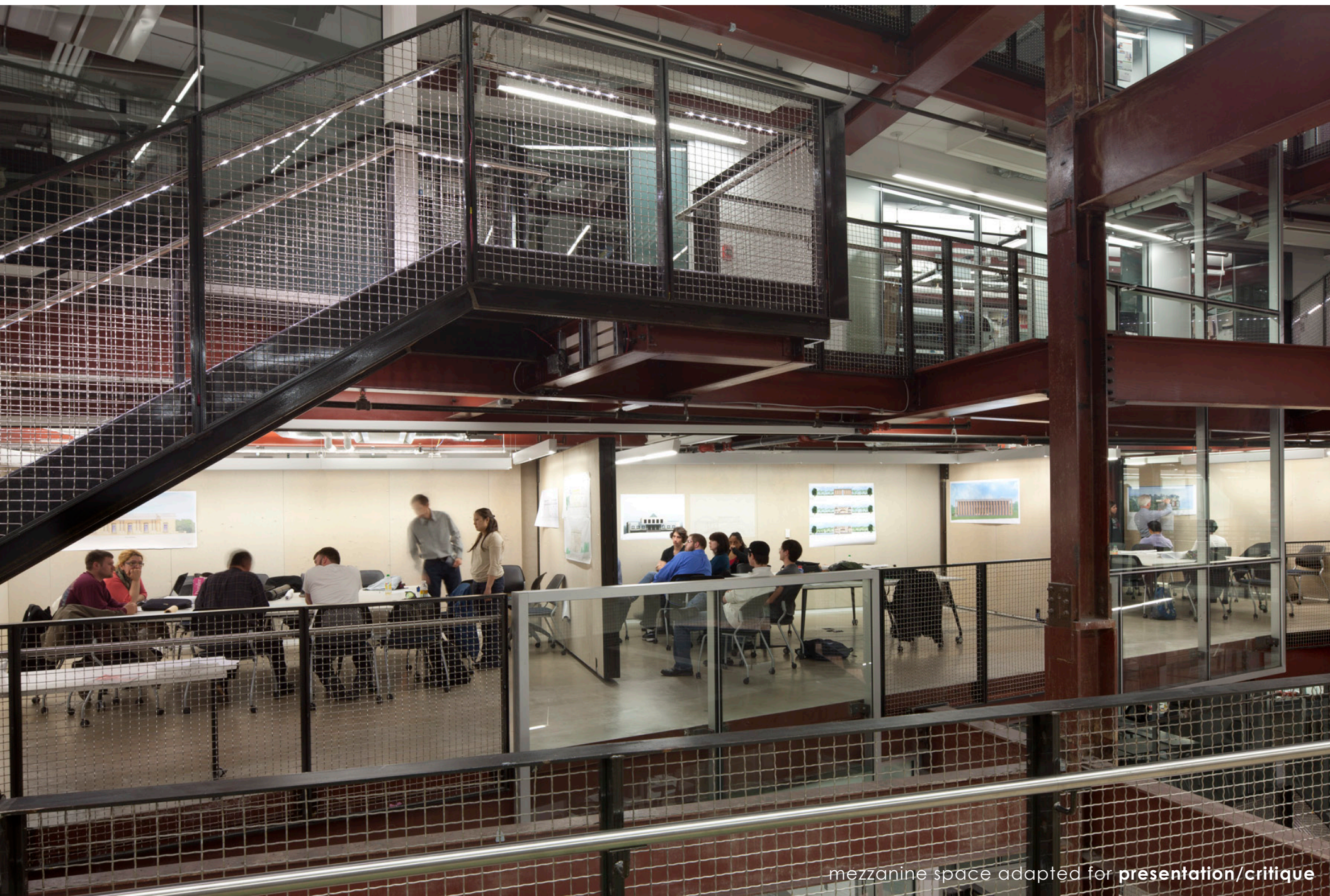


135°



180°





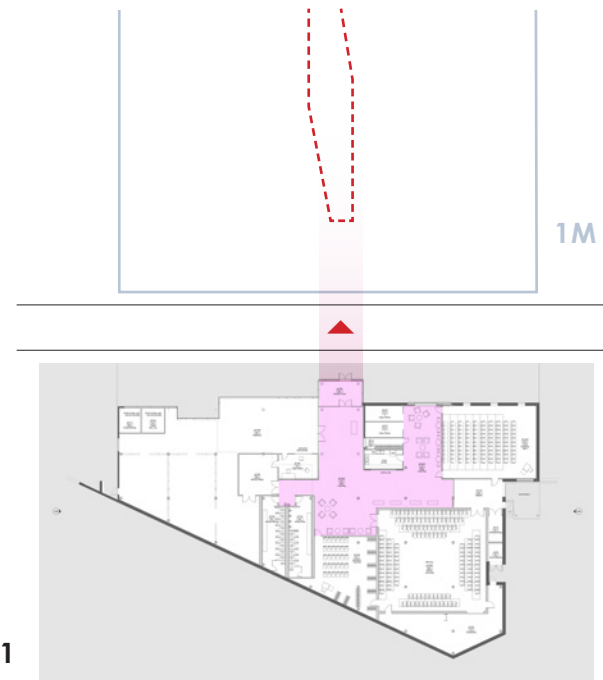
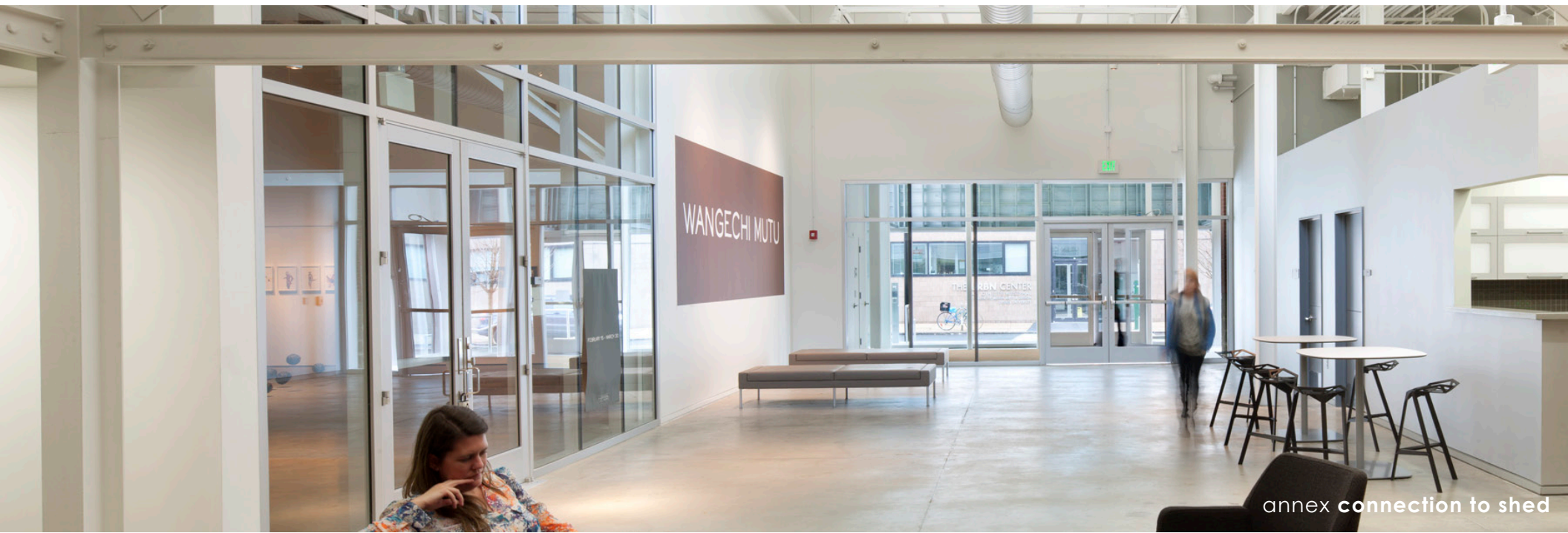
mezzanine space adapted for presentation/critique





connection/collaboration space adapted for **gallery/exhibition**





1

#

annex main level



connection/collaboration



south to shed

#M

shed mezzanine level



atrium cut





## WANGECHI MUTU

Wangechi Mutu is a Kenyan-born artist who works in a variety of media, including painting, sculpture, and film. Her work often explores themes of identity, race, and gender, and is characterized by a bold, graphic style. Mutu's art is a powerful commentary on the complexities of the human experience, and her work has been exhibited in major museums and galleries around the world.

WANGECHI MUTU



