

The recently enacted Massachusetts food waste ban is predicted to increase the demand for urban composting, likely an ecological benefit, but one that requires increased long-distance trucking. As a reaction, this building buries a composting facility in its subterranean ground floor, a performative engine that captures the heat generated by waste heaps and distributes it via prefabricated columns sistered to the primary structure that help to transfer loads where the spans increase. To provide the light and air the facility requires, two compost "chimneys" carve up through the section.

SECTION AXONOMETRIC
(Cutting North-South and East-West)



SECOND FLOOR PLAN
(Public)

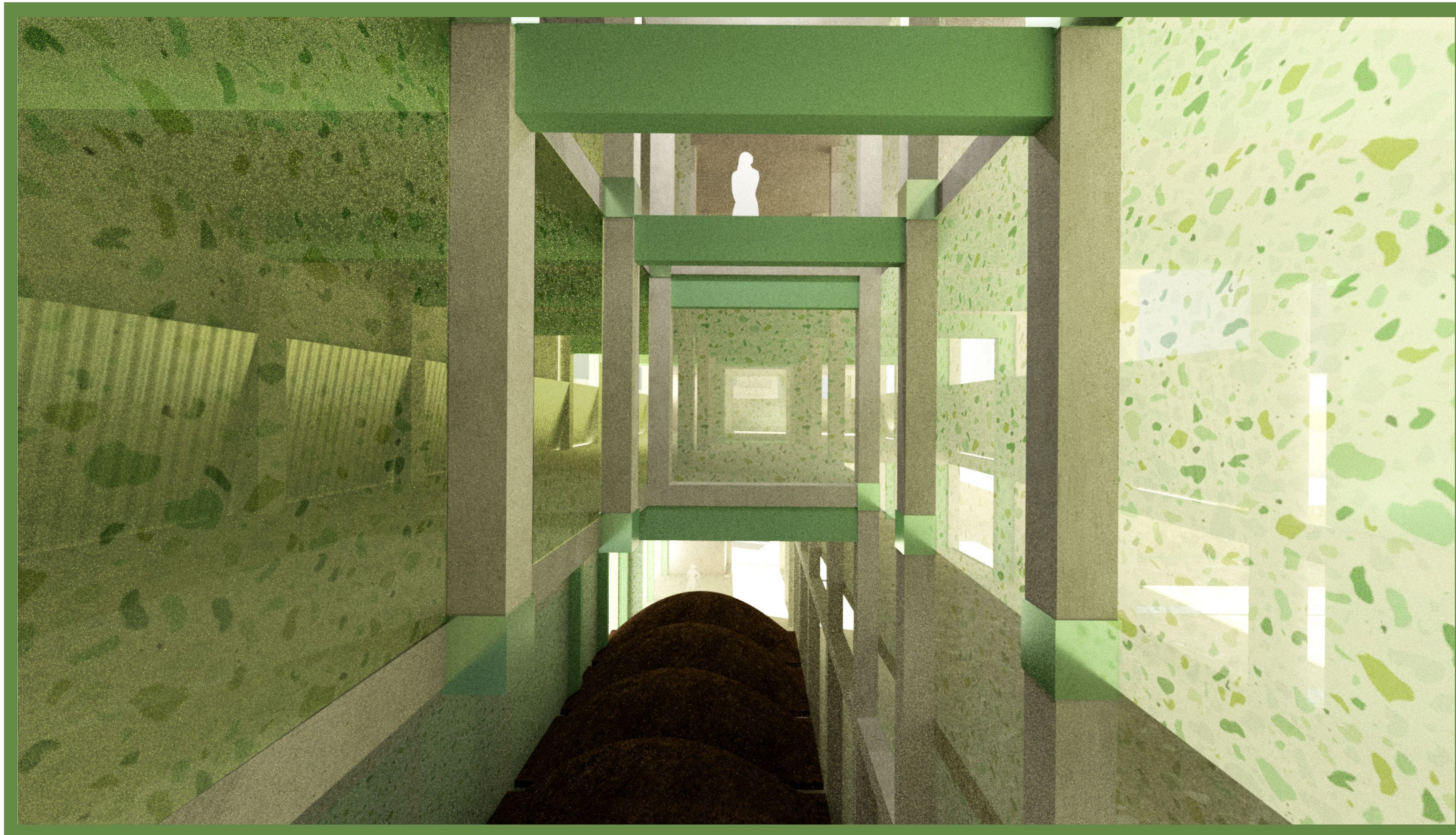
FOURTH FLOOR PLAN
(Office)

Reimagined industrial buildings are often programmed with cultural amenities for knowledge workers, makers, and foodies, while the energy and waste processing that fuels them is typically exported elsewhere. This proposal uses David Gissen's idea of "subnature" - the ignored and problematic parts of nature - to ask how the Leon Electric Building can incorporate industrial activities relevant to the contemporary city while exploring the tensions between culture, ecology, and industry.



EXTERIOR PERSPECTIVE
(View from Inbound Platform)

To create universal access, the existing train platform is extended into an entrance plaza cast from the pulverized aggregate of demolished slabs. This level ramps down to an auditorium that peers into the belly of the building, the bottom-most level of the operational compost chimneys.



INTERIOR PERSPECTIVE
(View from Offices into Compost Chimney)

Panels of melted recycled plastic infill the existing concrete structure to seal interior spaces from smells. The chimneys exhaust the air high above the building while allowing the landlocked northeast corner to borrow southern light from above.