

Cultural Center for Wynwood

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This semester project centered on urban planning strategies and how to amend current issues in cities by tackling a design project that can fit into its surrounding urban context. Wynwood was shaped along the years by the entrepreneurs, business owners, homeowners, and artists. The different roles that this site played to fit the needs of its population also shaped the physical qualities of the district known today. Re-designing the urban plan of the art district in Wynwood, including new affordable housing, commercial activity, and a new cultural center, will provide a design for a neighborhood that reflects the changing values of a diverse community. While primary research will include site visits to complete field observation, further secondary research will focus on the historical events that describe the demographic conditions in Wynwood within the greater Miami metropolitan area. The study required several two and three-dimensional drawings, models, sketches and writing for a complete representation of conceptual thinking translated into architecture and urban design. The new cultural center draws upon Wynwood's past as a single piece that has various arms; these extend the program to meet and define the sidewalks and provide a series of courtyards. The design offers areas for gathering and events along the larger green area, allowing the building to open up to days with outdoor concerts, farmer markets, and taking over the streets for more pedestrian activity. On the other hand, locals can benefit from smaller courtyards that allow a view of some of the activity inside, within a public space that they can claim as their own part of Wynwood. A new Cultural Center for the Wynwood Art District can spark a discussion of how a public building can address shifts in the population through architectural expression.