

EHRlich YANAI RHEE CHANEY
A R C H I T E C T S

+

@leimertparkfridge

THE GOOD OF
THE INDIVIDUAL
OUTWEIGHS
THE GOOD
OF THE
INDIVIDUAL
-FOOD!

WE ARE CULTURAL
WARRIORS
-LAURA

SOME TUNES WE
DON'T KNOW WE
WANTED TO
-Sika



In September 2020, members of EYRC's newly established Design Justice Committee came across an announcement on Instagram, calling for volunteers to help construct protective shelters for the Los Angeles Community Fridges. Seeing this as a unique opportunity to apply our skills as designers and builders to a cause very much aligned with our core values, we undertook the project from design to construction to installation within a span of a couple months. The completed fridge structure now stands in the heart of Leimert Park, where it provides a sheltered space for people to share free food and supplies with their community daily.

DESIGN JUSTICE COMMITTEE

In response to the death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police and the subsequent international reckoning with racial injustices that permeate all corners of our society — including the design profession — a group of self-organized EYRC staff formed the Design Justice Committee to ensure that our conversations surrounding Black Lives Matter lead to sustained action towards systemic change. As stewards of the built environment, we recognize that, with our work, we have the potential to create the spatial conditions that perpetuate systemic inequities. To actively promote a more equitable and diverse profession, we must address our complicity and culpability head on, which begins by unraveling our own unconscious biases. The Design Justice Committee, which now includes 15 members of EYRC staff and leadership, has identified three areas through which to integrate design justice into EYRC's practice and office culture: internal education & discourse, operations & firm management, and community engagement.





COMMUNITY FRIDGES

Recognizable as the brightly painted refrigerators and pantries stocked with free food and supplies, the Los Angeles Community Fridges is a growing mutual aid network that promotes equal access to healthy food. Neither government-funded nor a charity, these fridges present an alternative framework for resource redistribution, emphasizing the horizontal sharing of resources at the neighborhood scale. Mutual aid means that each fridge is run independently by local volunteers and directly caters to the needs of its immediate community, while more broadly serving as an open resource for all. This bottom-up approach decentralizes the task of resource allocation, taking the power that is commonly bestowed upon a singular charitable entity and empowering the community instead. Unlike more traditional models of food distribution, the fridges never regulate who is able to take or leave food, nor do they restrict how much food can be taken and how often. The fridges aim to be accessible to and welcoming of all.

LEIMERT PARK

Less than five miles away from EYRC's Culver City office, the historic neighborhood of Leimert Park is a tight-knit community where it is not uncommon for local residents and unhoused neighbors to know each other on a first-name basis. Local businesses line Degnan Boulevard, which has long been a cultural hub and safe space for the Black community of South Central Los Angeles. The Leimert Park Fridge sits at the heart of the community, adjacent to (and drawing power from) the Black-owned and -operated Hot and Cool Café on this main thoroughfare, serving as a vibrant space for local creatives, hosting weekly outdoor jazz nights and showcasing local artwork.

While this culturally rich setting of Leimert Park and the community-driven mission of the LA Community Fridges provided an exciting opportunity for us as designers, it was of utmost importance that we acknowledge the role that gentrification plays in the displacement of individuals and communities and the potential impacts our design may have. To respect the context of Leimert Park and ensure that the safety and comfort of those who use the fridge were always prioritized, we worked closely with organizers Abby Magallanes, Kennedy Mitchell, and Donovan Brown throughout the entire process.



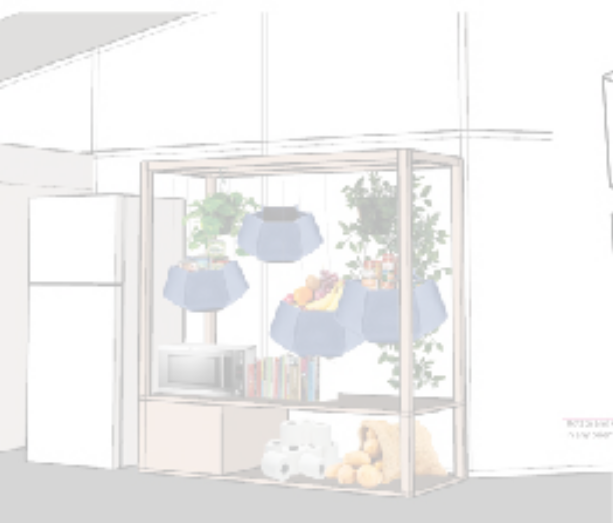
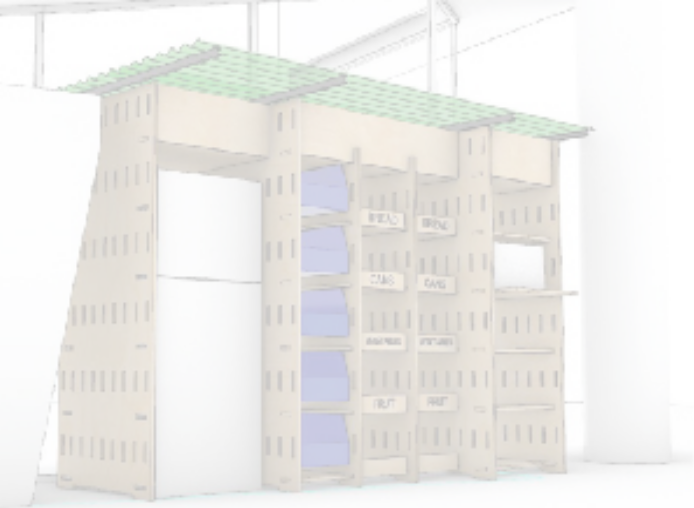


Above: Original fridge and donation setup outside of Hot & Cool Cafe in Leimert Park.

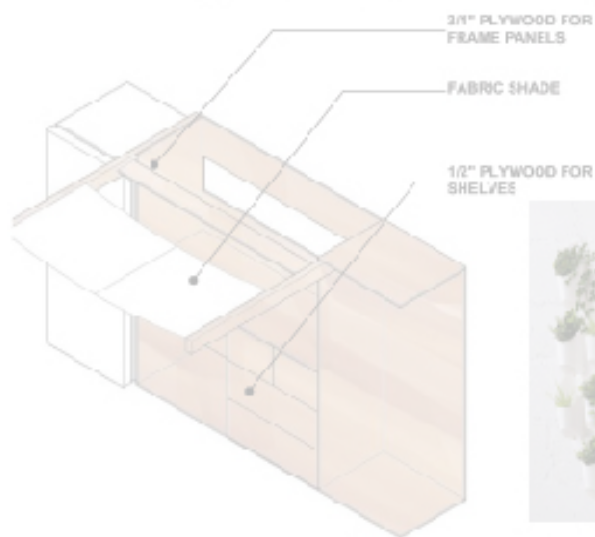




**OUR
DESIGN**



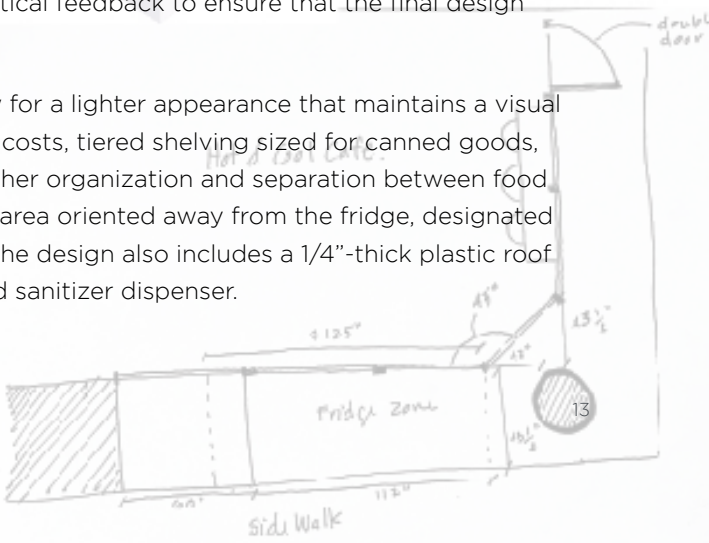
WOODEN STRUCTURE

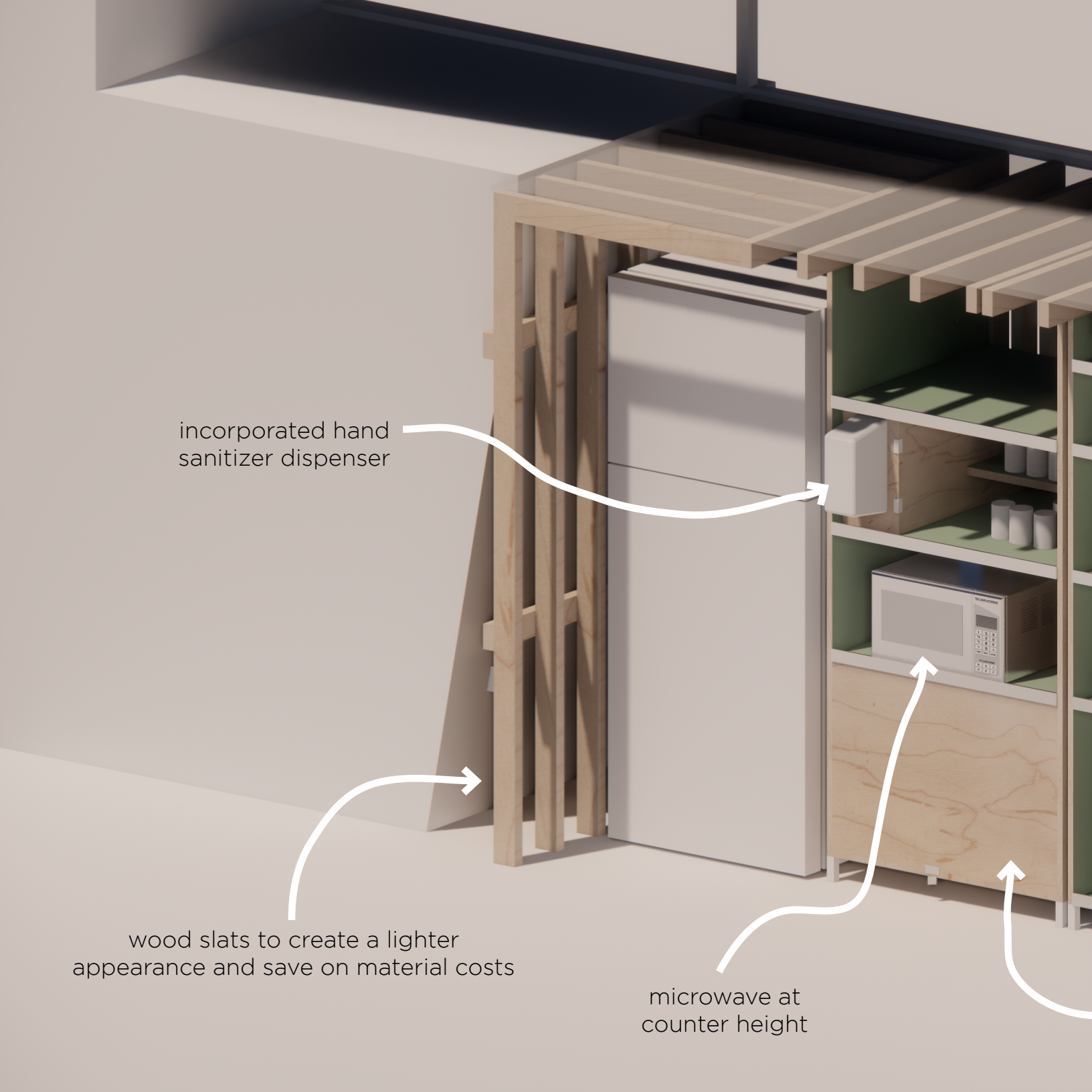




To generate a diversity of ideas in a limited amount of time, we hosted an internal design charrette, in which teams of 3-4 EYRC staff each developed proposals for the fridge structure. Abby, Kennedy, and Donovan served as “jurors” at the interim and final reviews, providing critical feedback to ensure that the final design would meet the community’s needs.

The final design features a slatted structure that not only allow for a lighter appearance that maintains a visual connection into the Hot and Cool Café but also saves material costs, tiered shelving sized for canned goods, and lockable unit for the organizers’ cleaning supplies. For further organization and separation between food and non-food items, the design features an additional storage area oriented away from the fridge, designated for hygiene products, animal supplies, and household goods. The design also includes a 1/4”-thick plastic roof to provide shelter from inclement weather and integrated hand sanitizer dispenser.

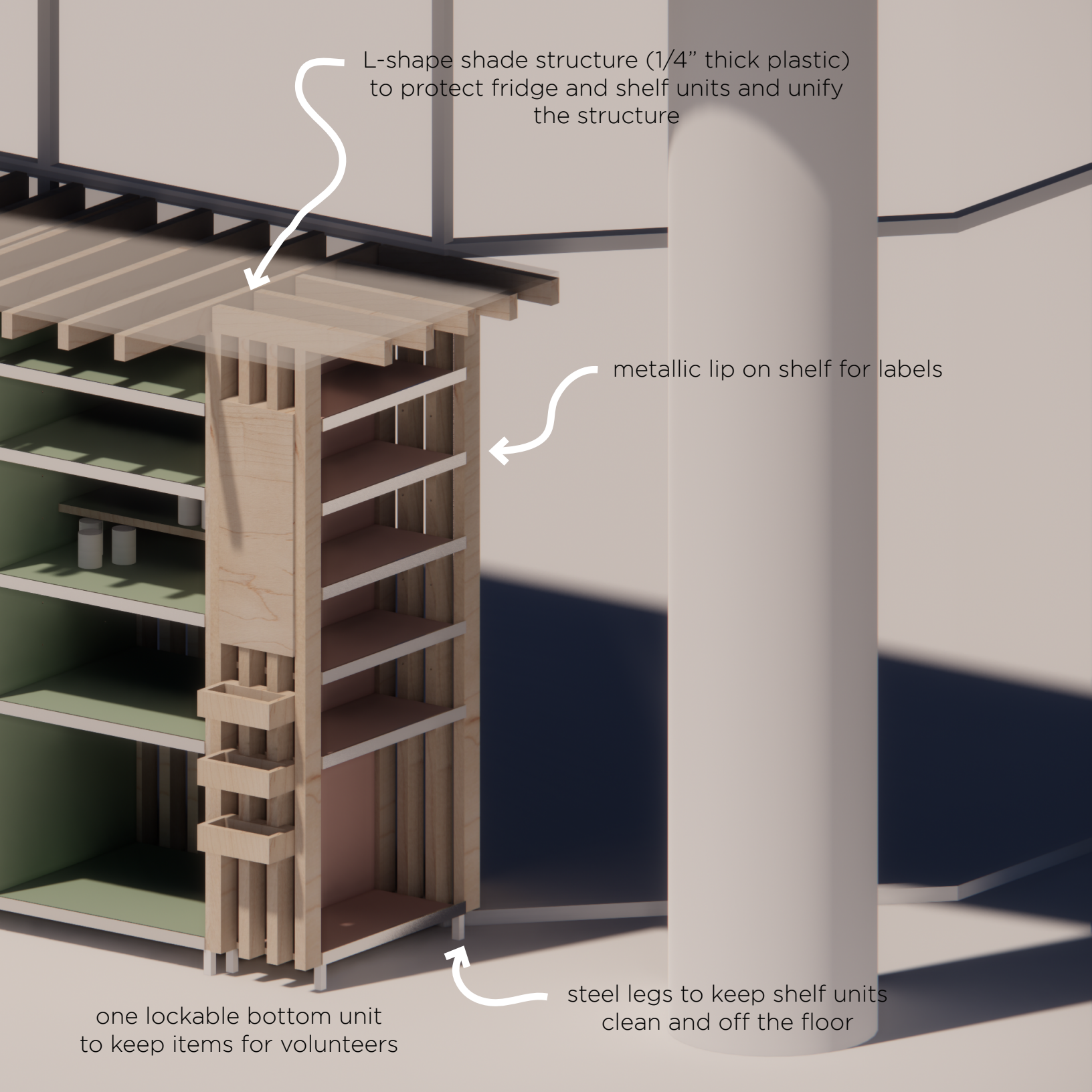


A 3D architectural rendering of a modular kitchen unit. The unit features a white refrigerator, a microwave at counter height, and open shelving with green backsplashes. The structure is made of light-colored wood slats and panels. Callout lines point to specific features: a hand sanitizer dispenser, wood slats, a microwave, and a cabinet base.

incorporated hand
sanitizer dispenser

wood slats to create a lighter
appearance and save on material costs

microwave at
counter height



L-shape shade structure (1/4" thick plastic)
to protect fridge and shelf units and unify
the structure

metallic lip on shelf for labels

one lockable bottom unit
to keep items for volunteers

steel legs to keep shelf units
clean and off the floor





Above: Three tiers of can shelving for easy viewing.
Left: Planter boxes for harvestable herbs and board for artwork or community postings.



Above: Shelf for microwave at counter height.

Right: Built-in hand sanitizer dispenser and closed storage for refill packets.



@LEIMERTPARKFRIDGE

Free Food!



COMIDA
GRATIS



ART BY @Sisi_Hood



EVOLU TION

"Thou
Shalt
love
thy
neigh-
bor
as
thyself"





Above: Original Fridge Artist, Sisihood, giving the structure a paint job.

Right: The art board provided a canvas for local artist, Sara Boatema Benjamin, to creatively express herself with bold colors.

Thou
Shalt
love
thy
neigh-
bor
as
thyself"





**BUILD
YOUR
OWN**

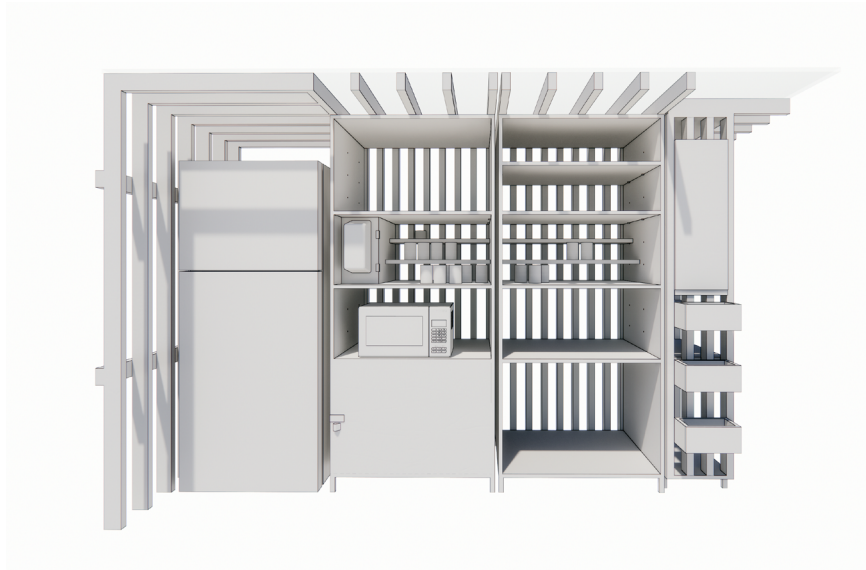




We saw this as the perfect opportunity to explore a modular design approach, which would not only allow for safe assembly, even with covid-era social distancing measures, but would also be flexible and reproducible for other community fridge sites. Each module is sized to fit in a flatbed truck, making it possible to complete most of the construction off-site, transport each module, and efficiently install the structure with minimal disruptions to the existing fridge.

Our structure for the Leimert Park Fridge consists of three modules, but the design can easily be adapted to accommodate other sites. In the following pages, we outline the supplies needed to replicate this fridge structure design.

STRUCTURE SIZE



3 MODULE STRUCTURE

128" x 50" x 80"

Our structure for the Leimert Park Fridge! This version consists of one module with a lower lockable unit, one module with completely open shelving, and one module oriented away from the fridge for non-food items, with shallower shelving and planter boxes. The fridge and all storage units are united and sheltered under an L-shaped shading structure.



2 MODULE STRUCTURE

94" x 50" x 80"

Composed of one module with a lower lockable unit, sideways-facing module with shallower shelving and planter boxes, and roof structure above.

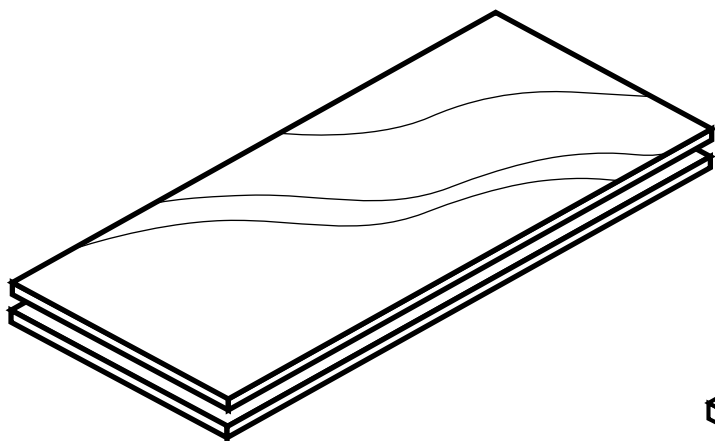


1 MODULE STRUCTURE

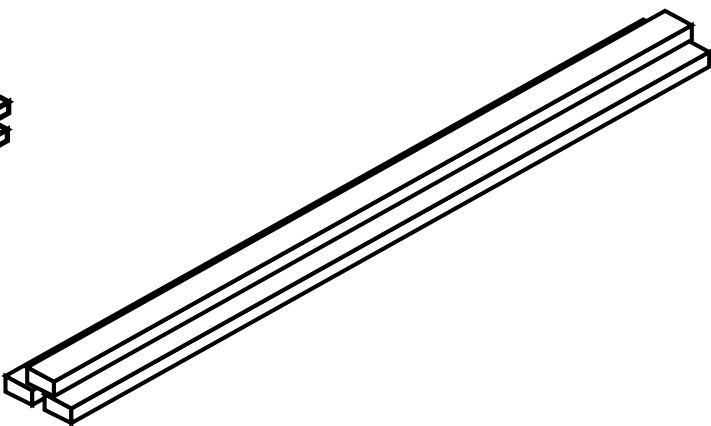
70" x 50" x 80"

For more compact sites, the most minimalist version features one module with shelving for dry goods and a roof structure for shelter.

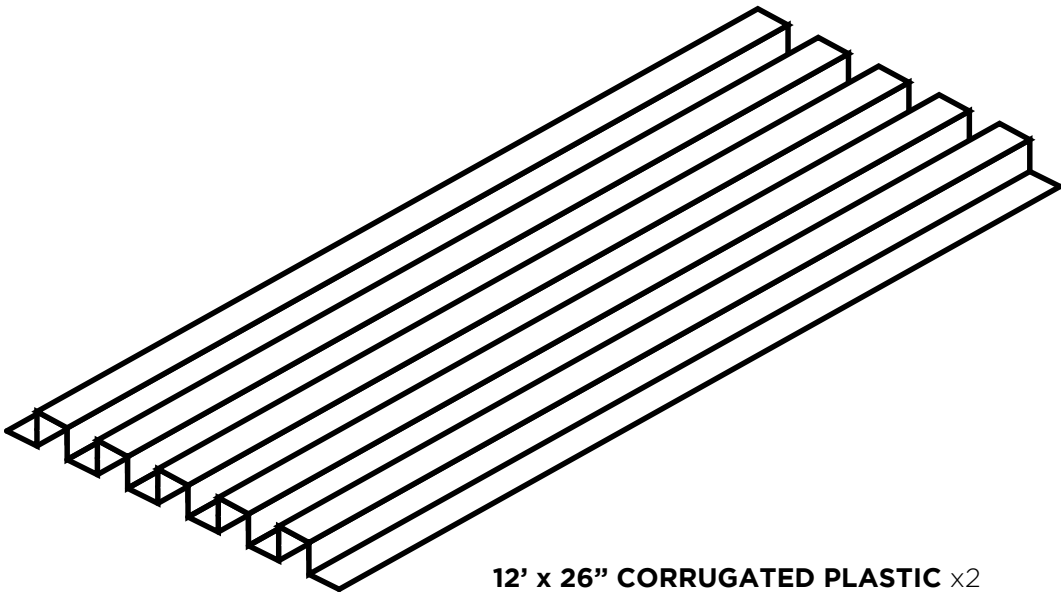
WHAT YOU'LL NEED



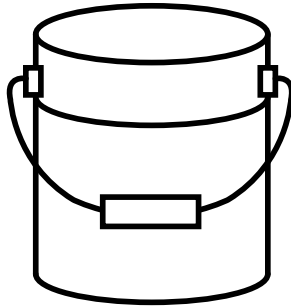
3/4" ARRACOR PINE PLYWOOD
x(SEE FOLLOWING PAGES)



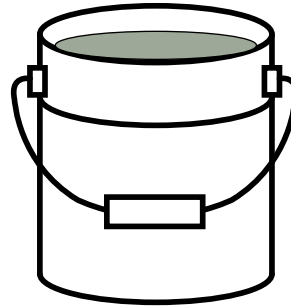
TREATED FIR 2x4 LUMBER
x(SEE FOLLOWING PAGES)



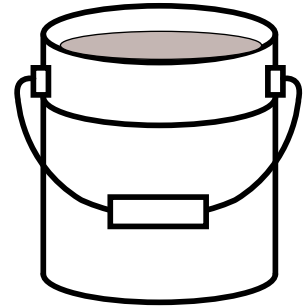
12' x 26" CORRUGATED PLASTIC x2



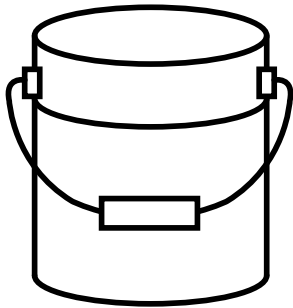
PAINT PRIMER
x1 GALLON



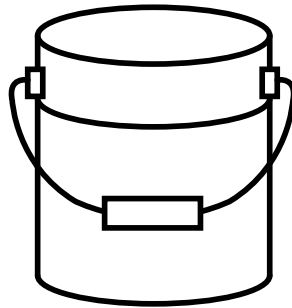
**GLIDDEN WHISPERING
PINE PAINT - SEMI GLOSS**
x1 GALLON



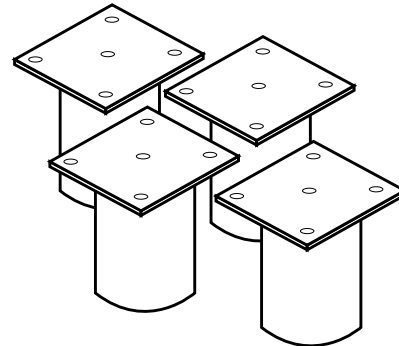
**GLIDDEN KANGAROO
PAW PAINT - SEMI GLOSS**
x1 GALLON



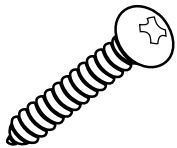
**WATER-BASED EXTERIOR
POLYURATHANE FINISH
SATIN** x2 GALLON



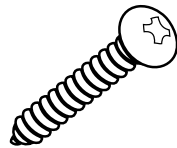
**WATER-BASED EXTERIOR
POLYURATHANE FINISH
GLOSS** x1 GALLON



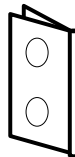
3" CABINET FEET x12



**2 1/2" STAINLESS
STEEL SCREWS**



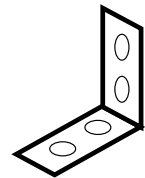
**5/8" STAINLESS
STEEL SCREWS**



DOOR HINGES x4

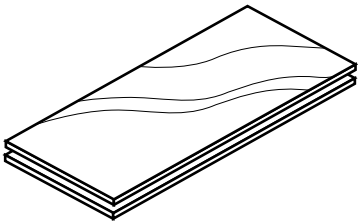
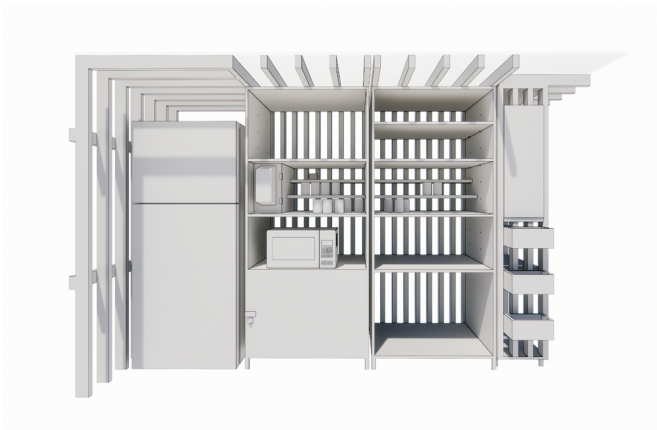


1/2" L BRACKET
x40

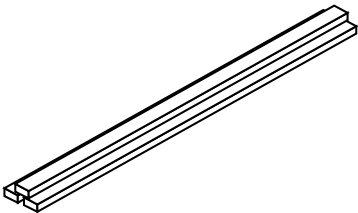


1 1/2" L BRACKET
x20

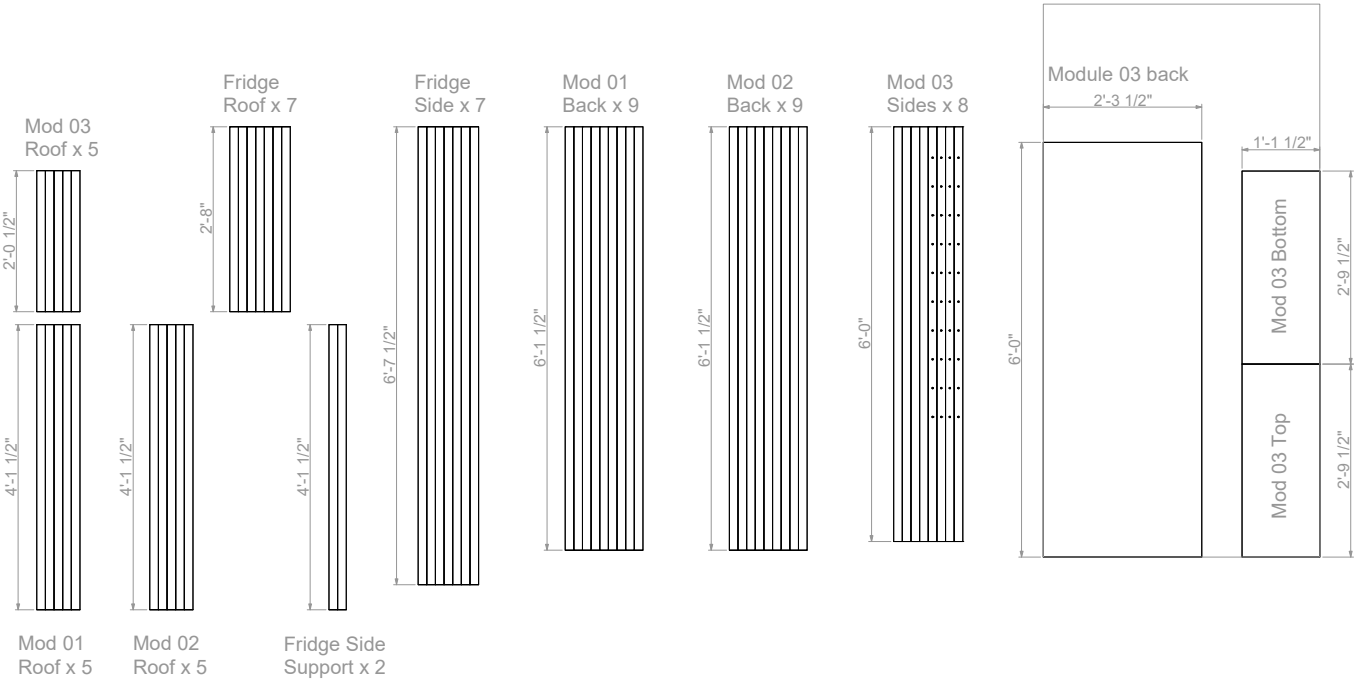
3 MODULE STRUCTURE

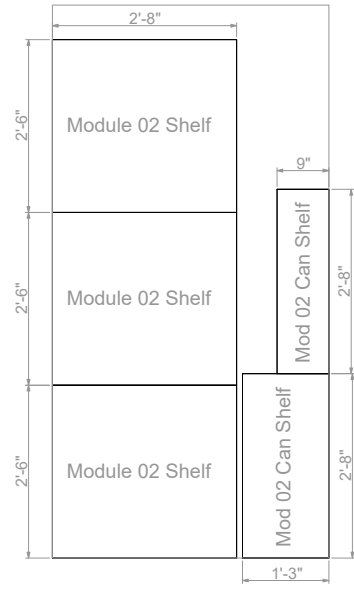
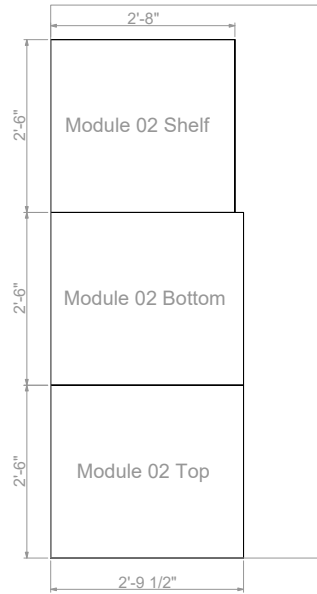
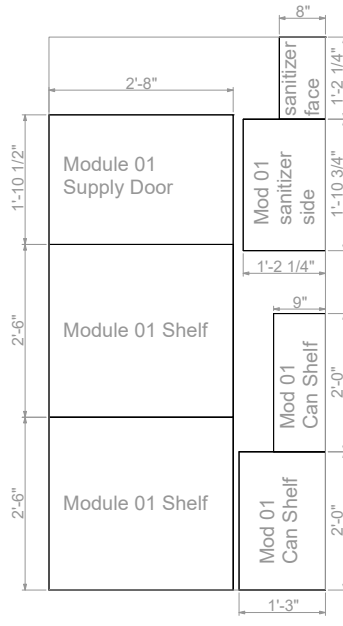
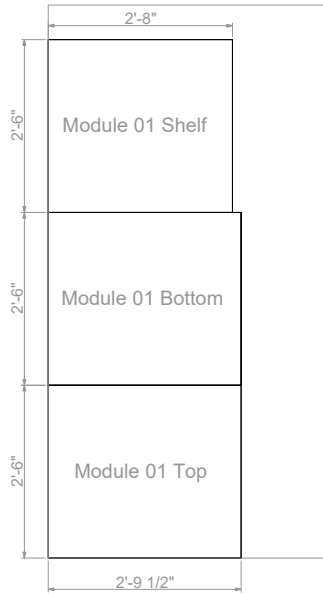
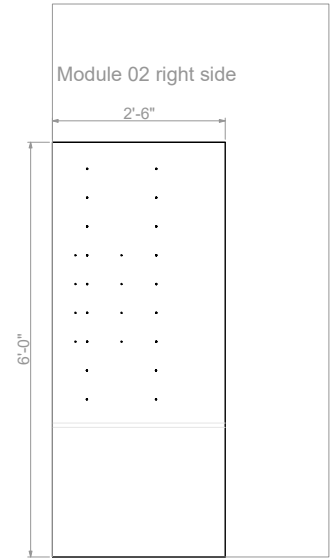
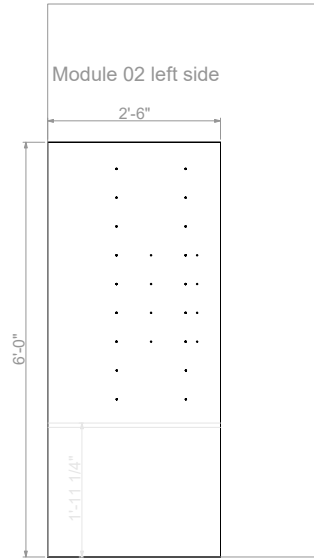
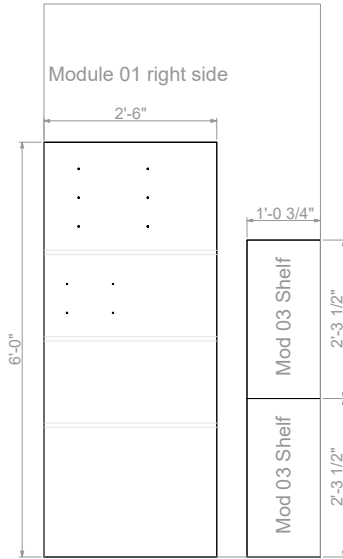
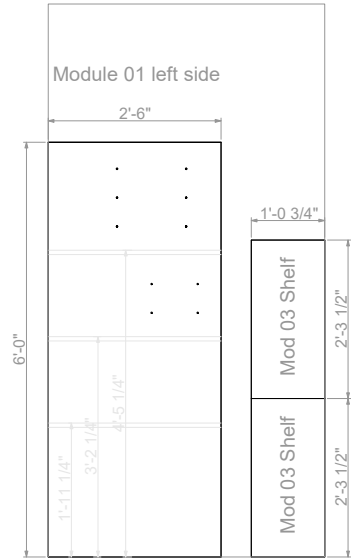


**3/4" ARRACOR PINE
PLYWOOD x9**

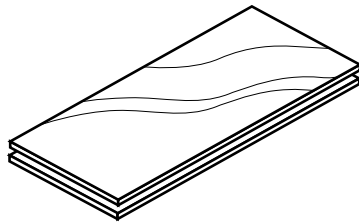
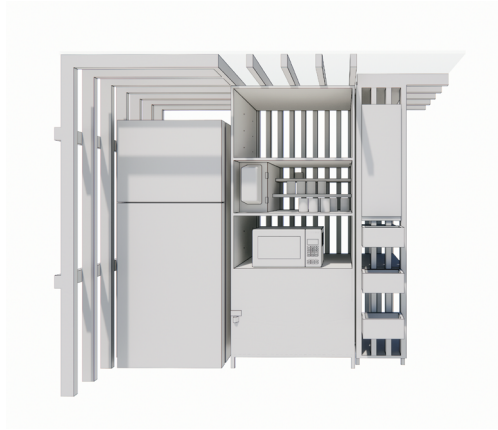


**TREATED FIR 2x4
LUMBER x44**

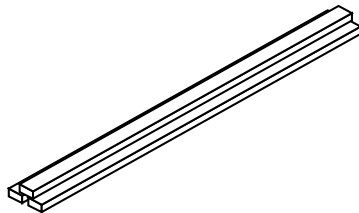




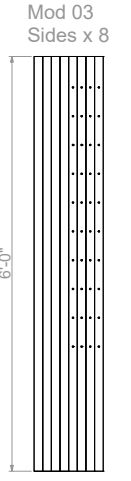
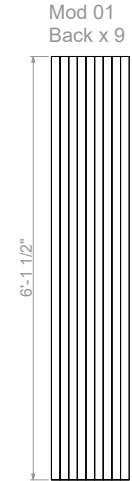
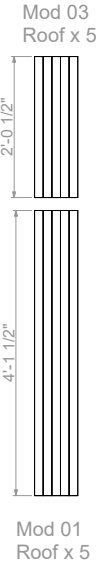
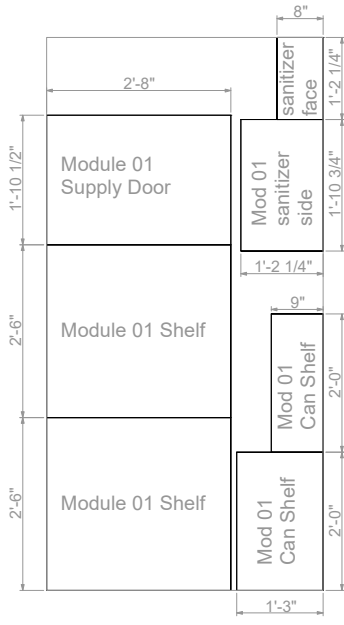
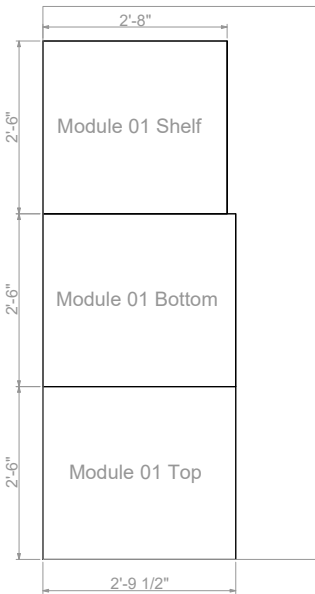
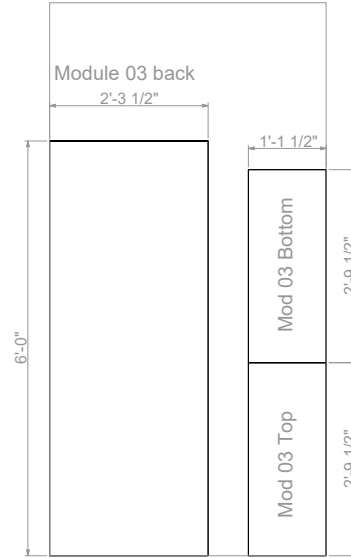
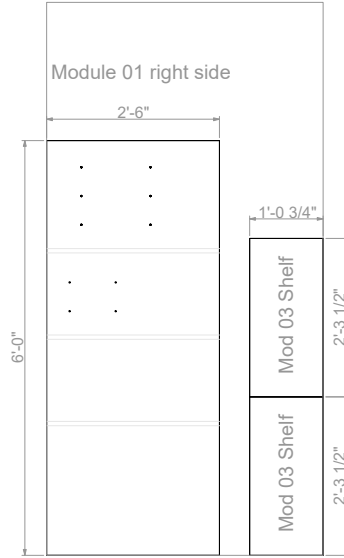
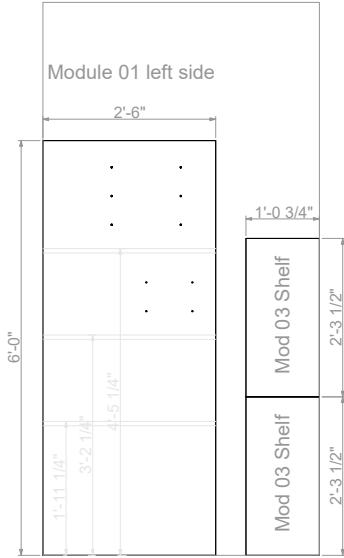
2 MODULE STRUCTURE



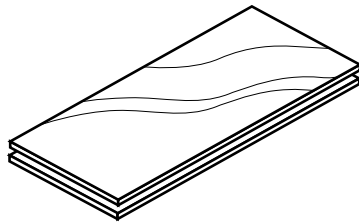
**3/4" ARRACOR PINE
PLYWOOD x5**



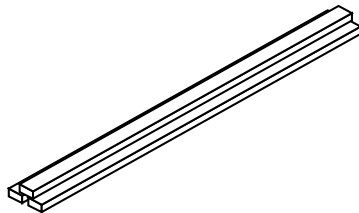
**TREATED FIR 2x4
LUMBER x36**



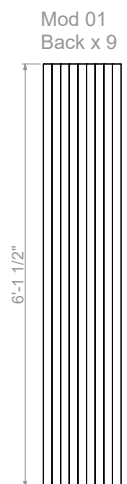
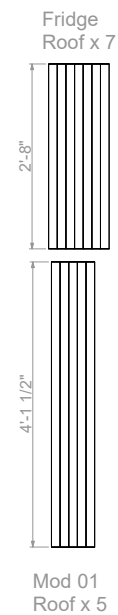
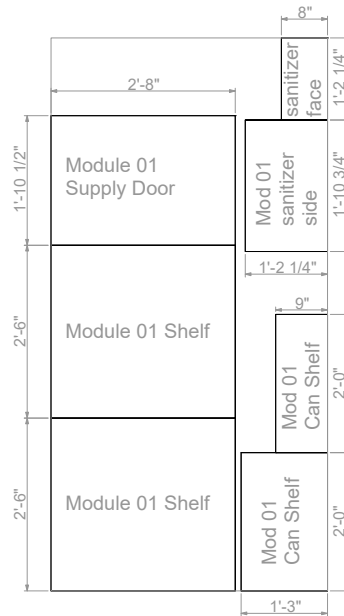
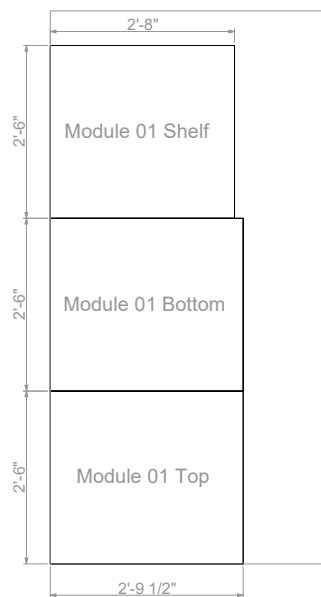
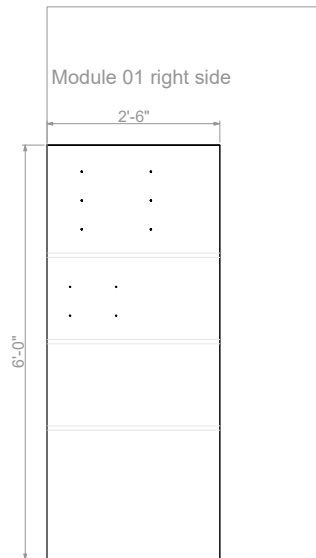
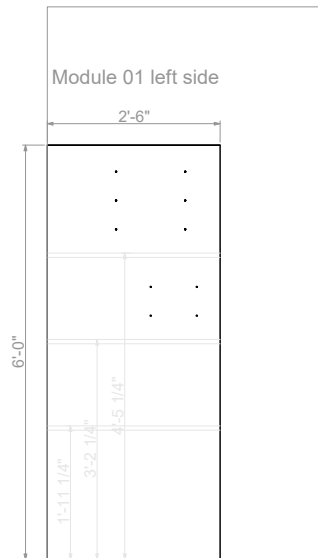
1 MODULE STRUCTURE

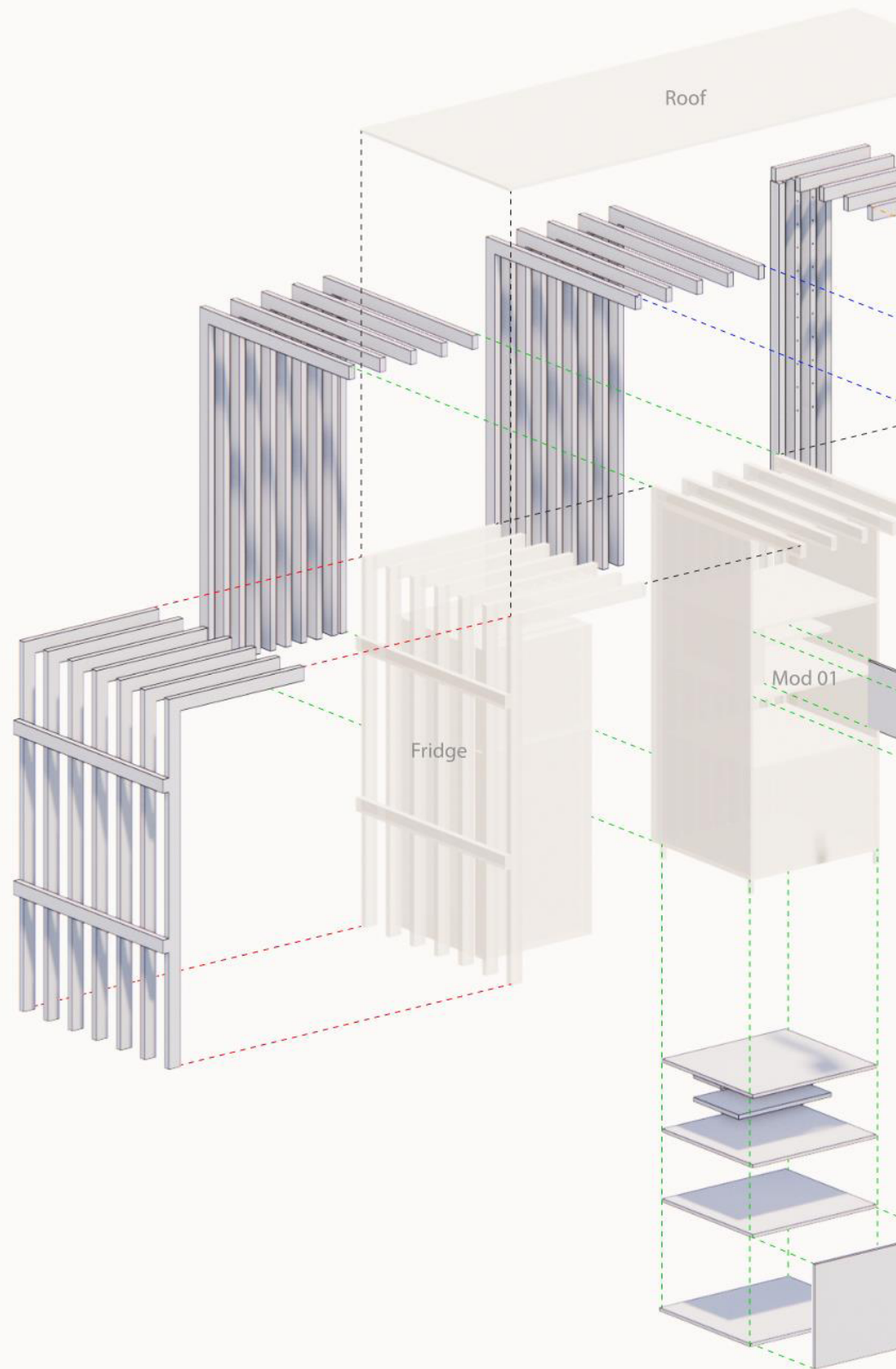


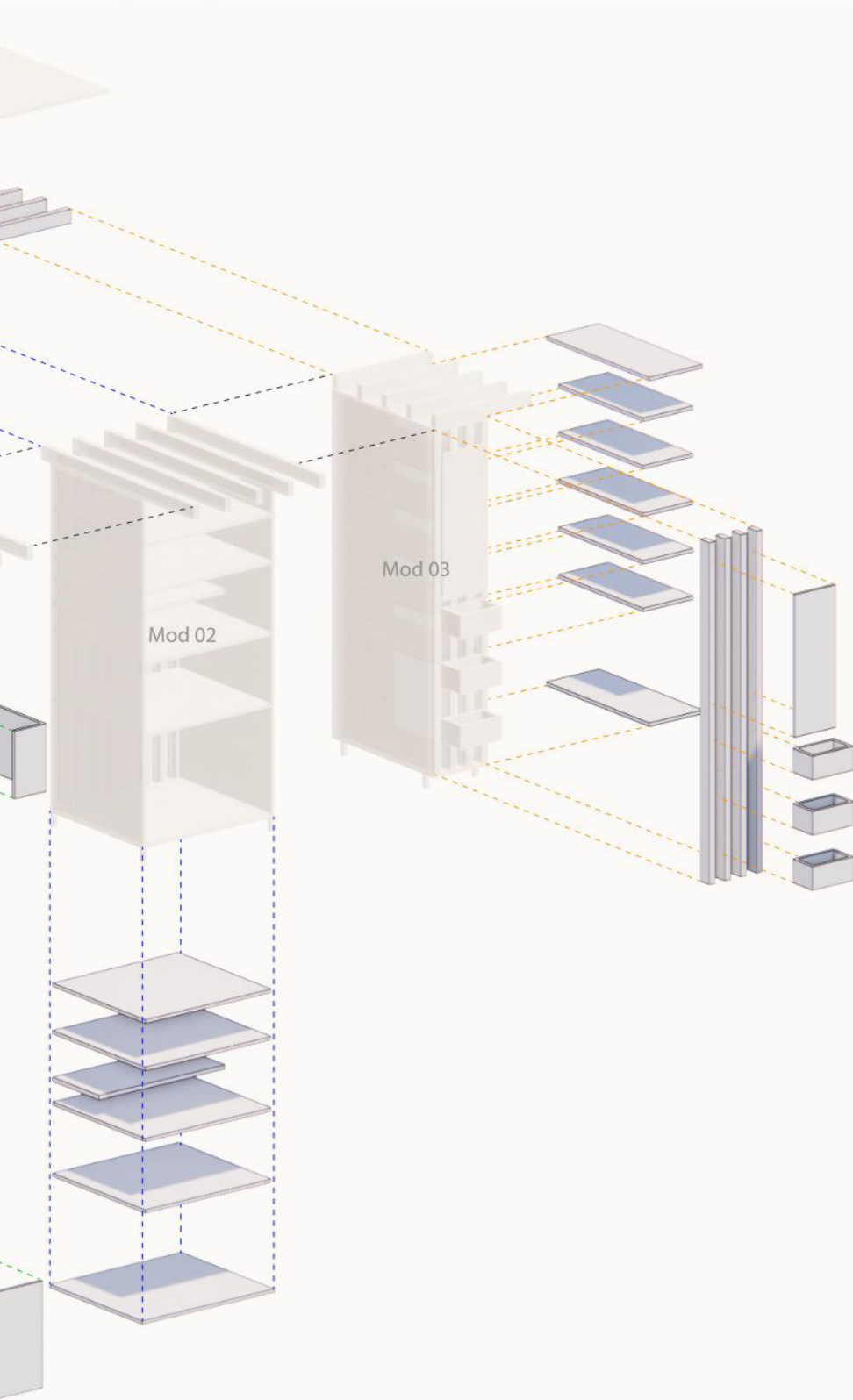
**3/4" ARRACOR PINE
PLYWOOD x4**



**TREATED FIR 2x4
LUMBER x23**



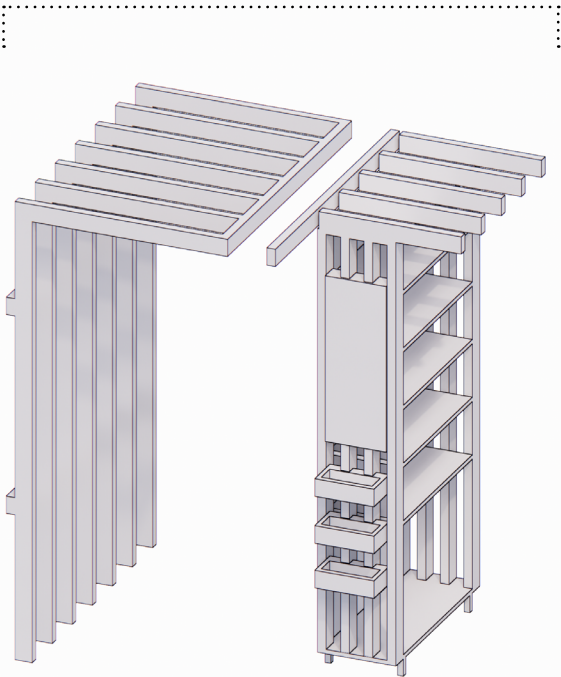




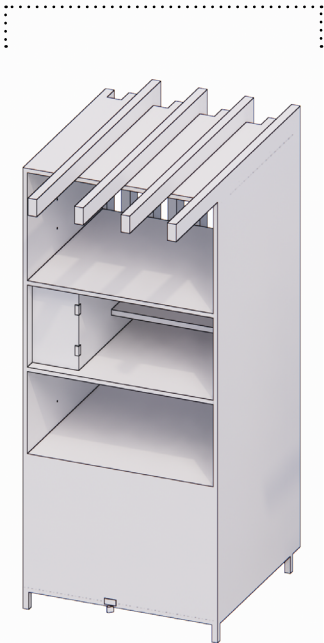
TRUCKBED LOADING

the modules are designed to fit on a conventional pick up truck

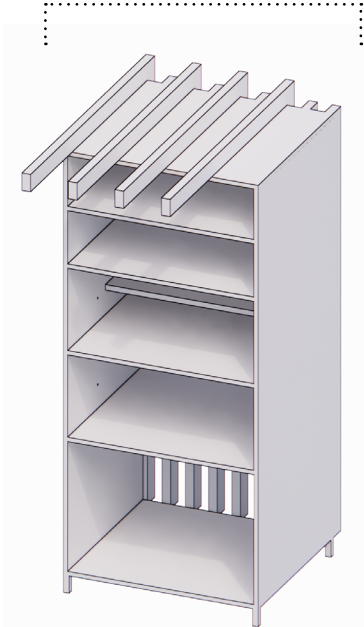
LOAD 1



LOAD 2



LOAD 3







MATERIAL COSTS

PRODUCT	UNIT COST	AMOUNT	TOTAL COST
STRUCTURE			
Arracor Pine Wood 3/4" 4x8	\$51.25	9	\$461.25
Arracor Pine Wood 2x4	\$6.95	50	\$347.50
General Finishes Exterior 450	\$70.00	1	\$70.00
Screws / Finish Nails / Cabinet Feet / Adjustable shelf pegs	\$85.10	1	\$85.10
Hinges	\$14.32	1	\$14.32
Door hasp for lock	\$9.99	1	\$9.99
Lock	\$6.90	1	\$6.90
12' Santuf PC Panel Clear	\$72.53	1	\$72.53
Additional Clear Coat	\$100.00	1	\$100.00
Additional Fasteners	\$32.60	2	\$65.20
FINISHES			
Paint / Primer / Wood Filler / Tarp	\$106.89	1	\$106.89
Paint rollers / Trays	\$26.30	1	\$26.30
MISC.			
Purell	\$68.50	1	\$68.50
C Batteries	\$12.99	1	\$12.99
Plants	\$36.05	1	\$36.05
Plastic Labels	\$14.99	1	\$14.99
		TOTAL	\$1,648.20*

*Reflects total costs for a painted 3-module structure including hand sanitizer, plants, and labels, with a \$1,500 target budget.

LESSONS LEARNED

After seeing the project all the way through installation and receiving community feedback, we've compiled the following list of tips – things that were particularly successful, that we'd do differently next time, and that we would've found helpful to know.

1. Much like the fridge itself, the plywood makes for a great canvas for local artists to showcase their creativity and talent!
2. If installing a hand sanitizer dispenser, we recommend a manual model – we found that motion sensor dispensers are often unintentionally triggered by passersby.
3. Fixed shelves will be sturdier than our adjustable peg system and will save time during construction by eliminating the need to drill peg holes.
4. We felt it was important for the backside of our fridge structure to be slatted to maintain a visual connection to the Hot and Cool Café. However, if your fridge structure sits along a solid wall, consider a solid plywood back to prevent debris from slipping through the slats and accumulating behind the structure.
5. While lifting the structure off the ground helps keep the shelves clean, we recommend ensuring its feet are attached securely and durable enough to withstand the structure being pushed across the ground for relocation or routine maintenance. The feet we used were the most fragile part of the structure.
6. A high gloss finish on the shelves helps create an even surface that is easy to wipe down for routine cleaning.
7. If you're planting harvestable herbs in the planters, expect to replant them periodically.
8. Make a plan for upkeep and maintenance of your beautiful new structure! (e.g., who will clean the structure and how often, how to fix potential structural failures, etc.)

ESTIMATED TIME COMMITMENT

Based on 3 Module design with a team of
3-4 people per day:

Cutting

1-2 days

Sanding, Priming, and Painting

2-3 days (allows for drying time)

Connections

2 days

Assembling On Site

3 hours





TEAM

Fridge Coordinators and Founders:

Abigal Magallanes
Kennedy Mitchell
Donovan Brown

Design Team

Jessica Chang
Ashley Chang
Sharon Turek

Project Manager

Jessica Chang

Construction and Fabrication

Jessica Chang
Caitlin Baiada
Jake Weldon
Sam Tannenbaum
Ashley Chang
Zach Crocker
Bill Zahurak
Maria Cardenas
Melissa Cataldo
Sharon Turek
Donovan Brown
Alric Van

Photography and Videography

Evan Koester





EHRlich YANAI RHEE CHANEY
A R C H I T E C T S

LA 10865 Washington Boulevard | Culver City | CA 90232 | 310 838 9700
SF 60 Brady Street | San Francisco | CA 94103 | 415 578 9797