

University of Toronto Scarborough

# North York Central Library

Jemimah Lopez





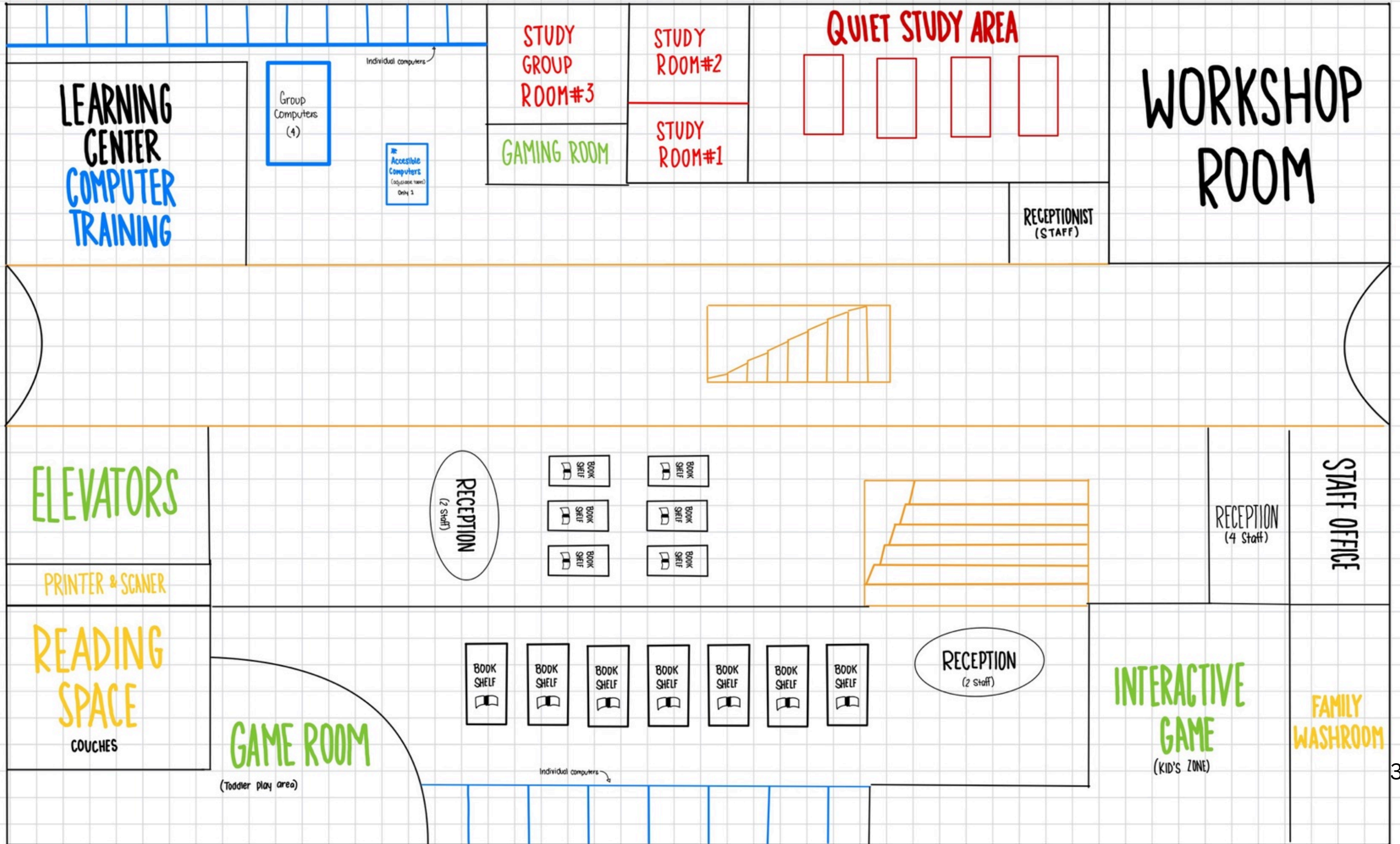
# Purpose of the Project

- This project was created for Introduction to Interdisciplinary Disability Studies (HLTB60).
- The goal was to evaluate and map the accessibility of a public space.
- I chose North York Central Public Library to assess its inclusivity for people with disabilities.
- This project encouraged me to apply the social model of disability, recognizing that barriers are created by environments, not individuals.
- Findings highlight both accessibility successes and gaps, reinforcing that accessibility is an ongoing process, not a checklist.



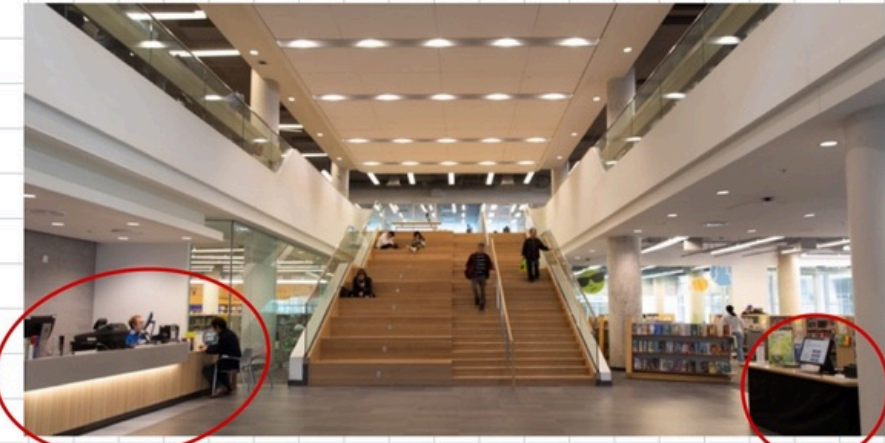
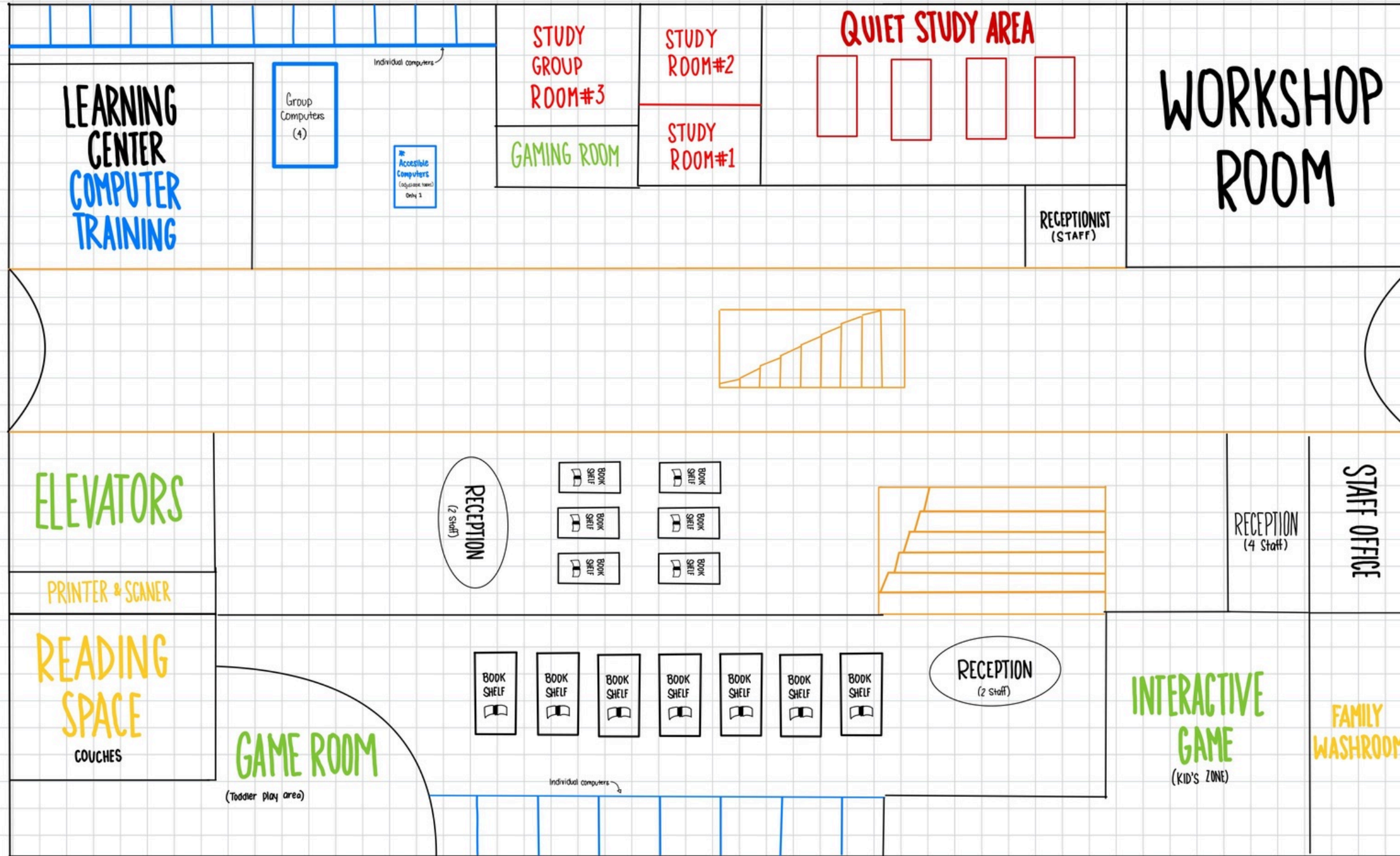


# 1<sup>st</sup> Floor



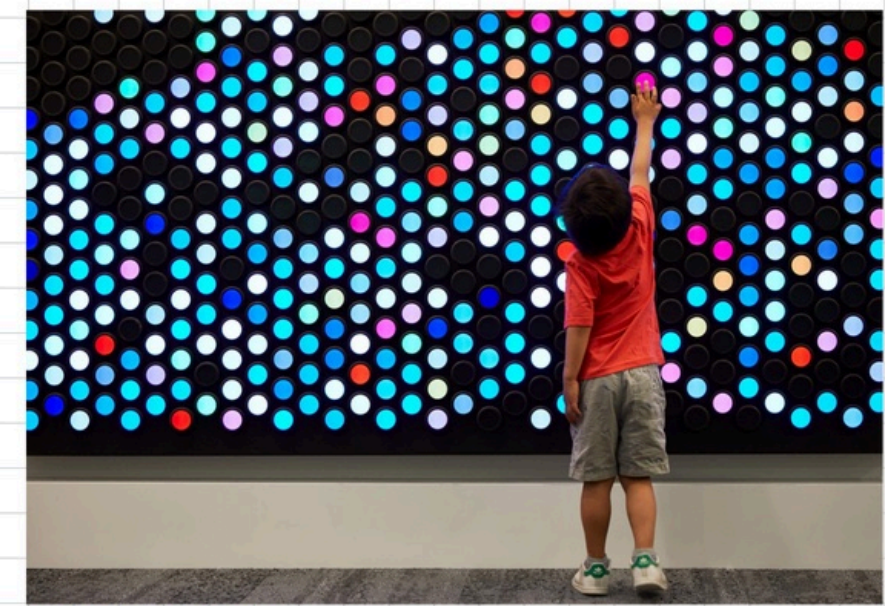


# 1<sup>st</sup> Floor









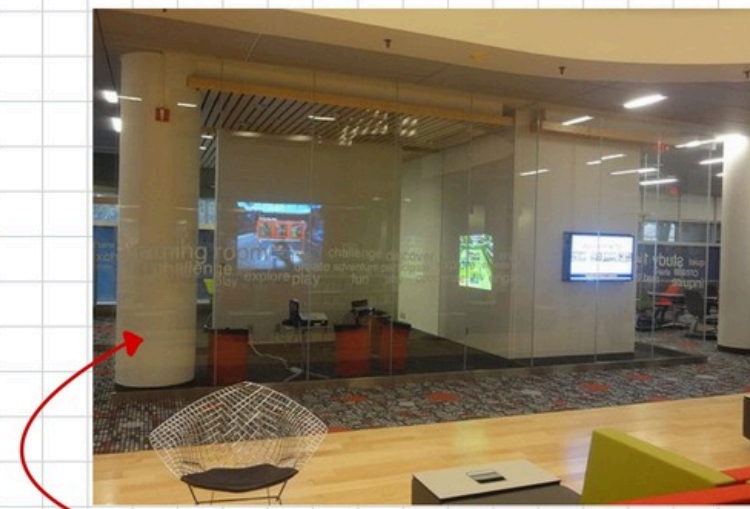
Reception

Staff Guide



Interactive games  
↳ Sensory Games  
In-door play scape

- Study tables 
- Computers 
- Stairs 
- Washroom\*   
(Toilet, baby changing station)
- Study Rooms
- Printer & Scanner
- Elevators
- Reception 
- Book shelf 



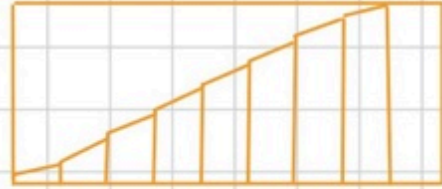
Video Game Room





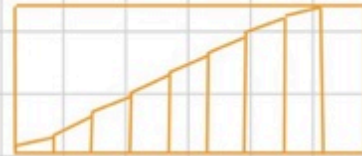
# 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

STAFF OFFICE



STUDY TABLE (high tables & chairs)

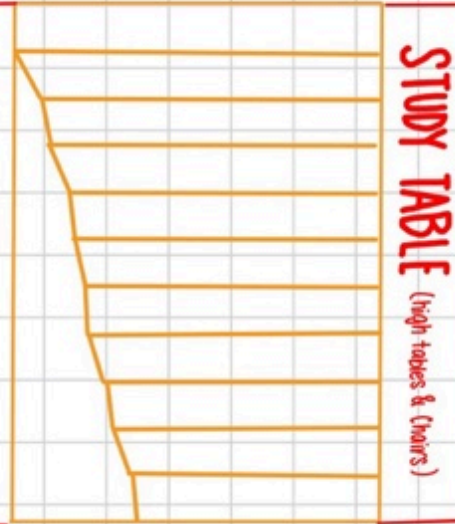
ELEVATORS



READING SPACE  
COUCHES

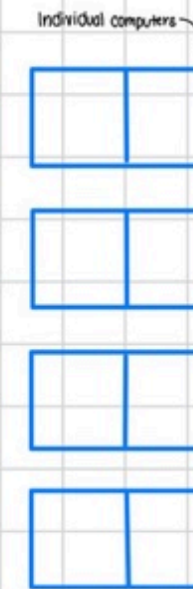


STUDY TABLE (high tables & chairs)



STUDY TABLE (high tables & chairs)

Accessible Computers (adjustable table) Only 1



STUDY ROOM

DIGITAL PIANO LAB

ALL-GENDER WASHROOM (wheelchair accessible)

RECEPTION (2 staff)

DIGITAL HUB INNOVATION

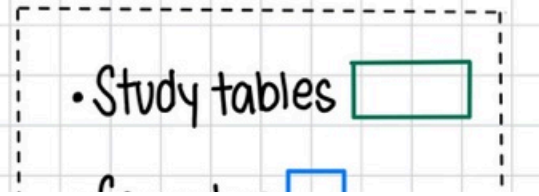
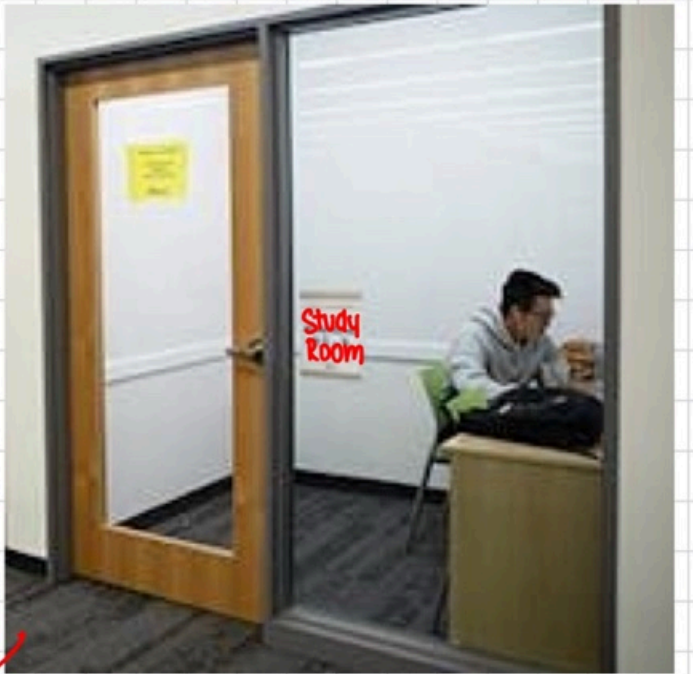
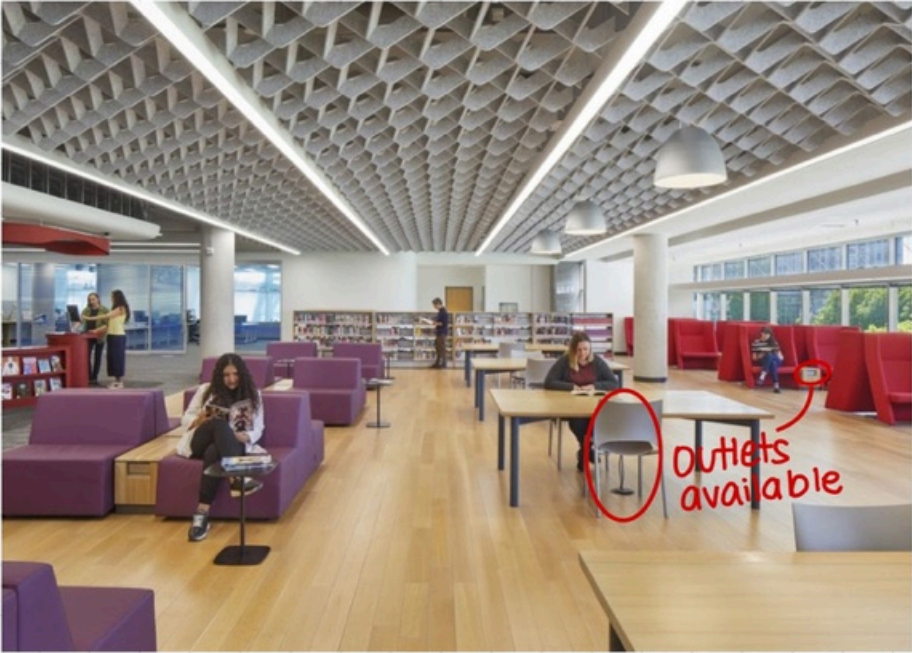
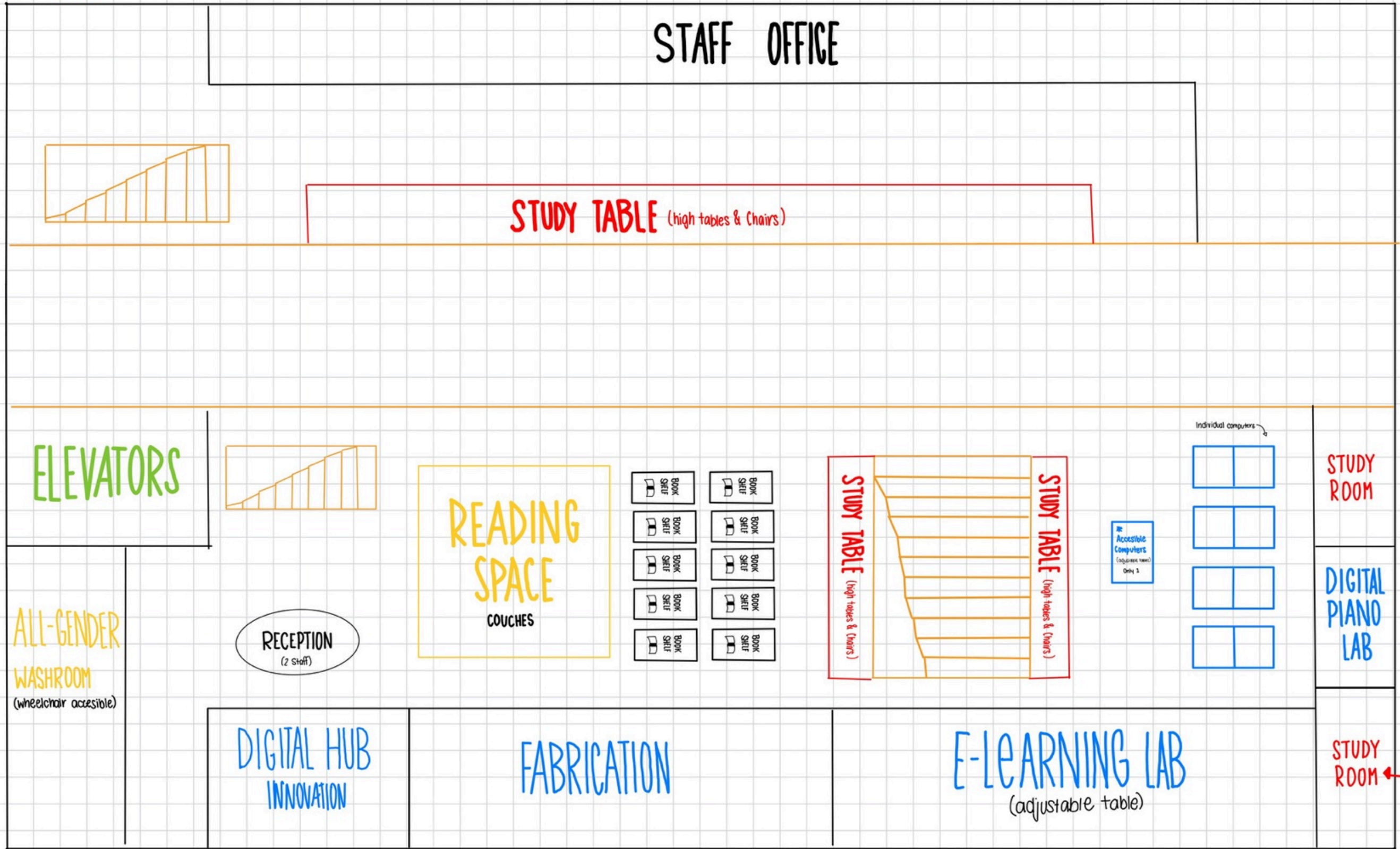
FABRICATION

E-LEARNING LAB (adjustable table)

STUDY ROOM



2<sup>nd</sup> Floor





# 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

## YORK HISTORY ROOM

(no adjustable tables)

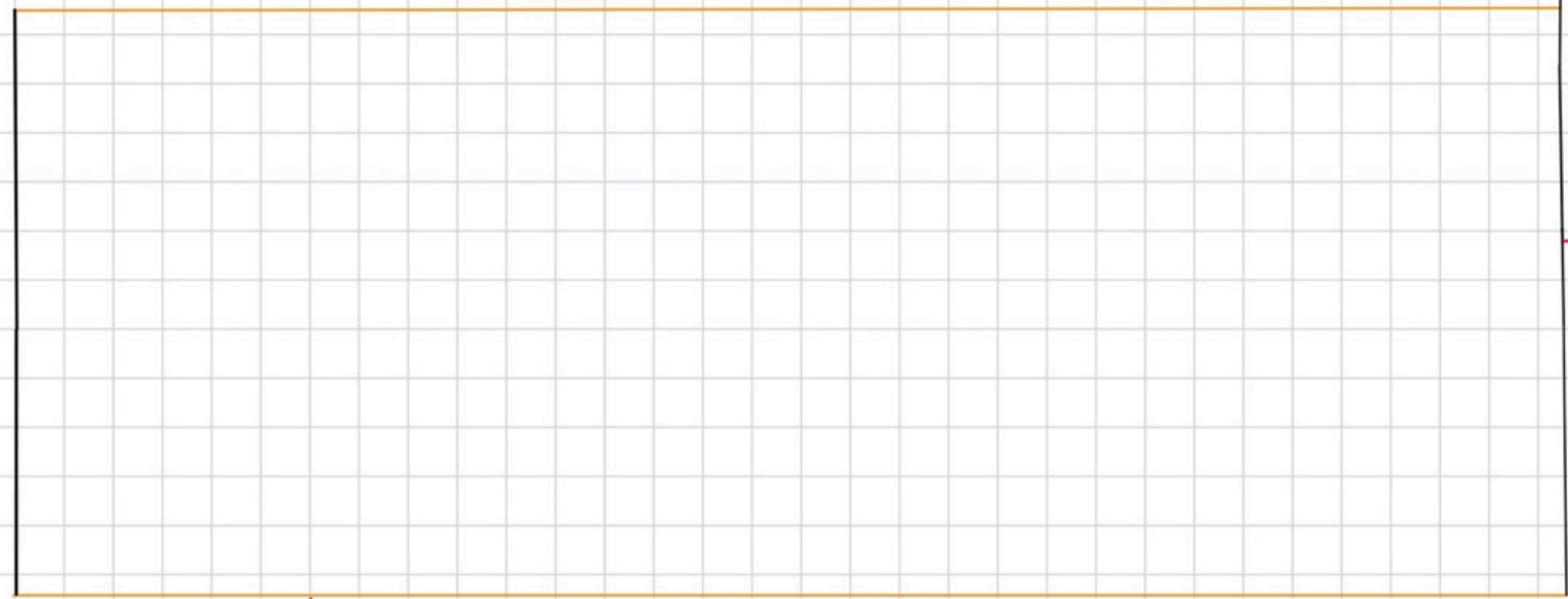
\* Trans-Welcome Washroom

## ELEVATORS

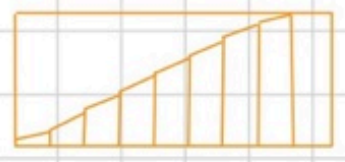
## WASHROOM

(wheelchair accessible)

PRINTER & SCANNER



## STORAGE

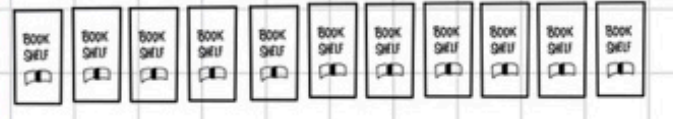
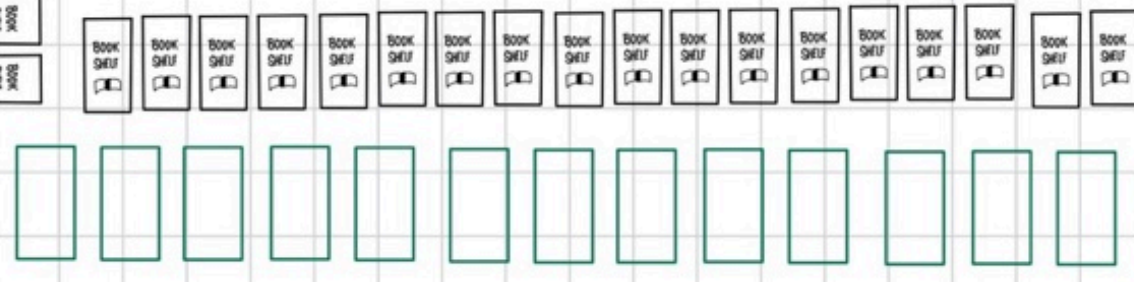
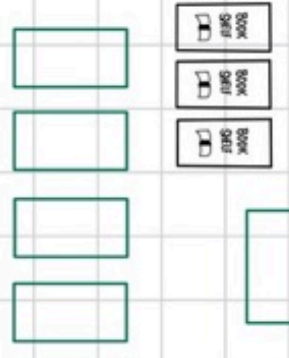
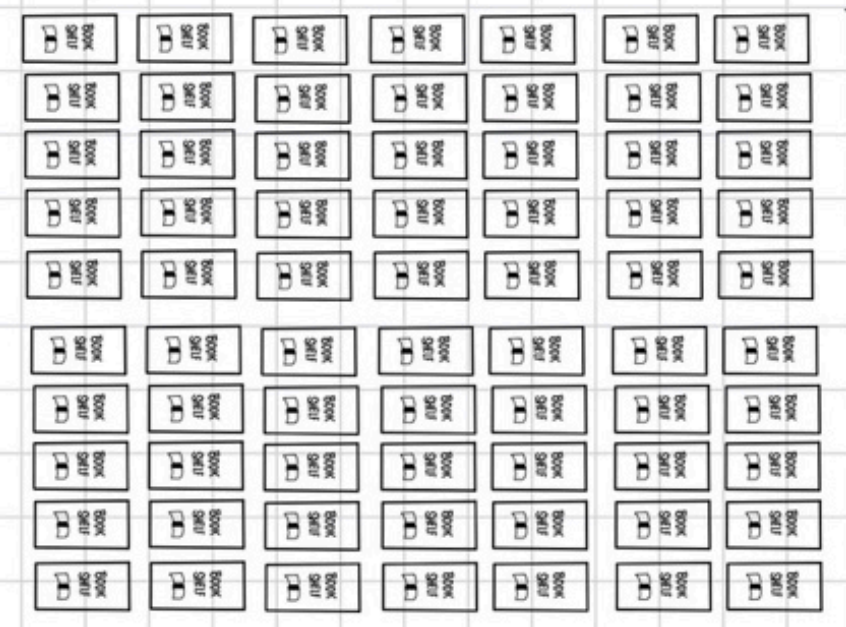
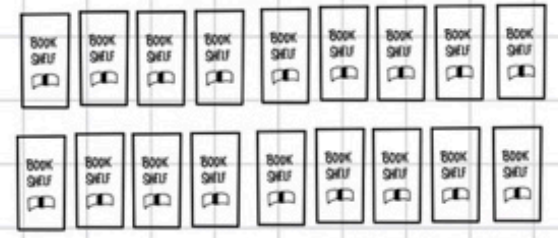
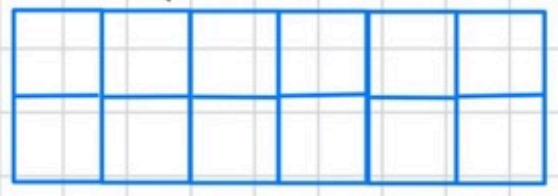


## STUDY TABLE

(high tables & chairs)



Individual computers

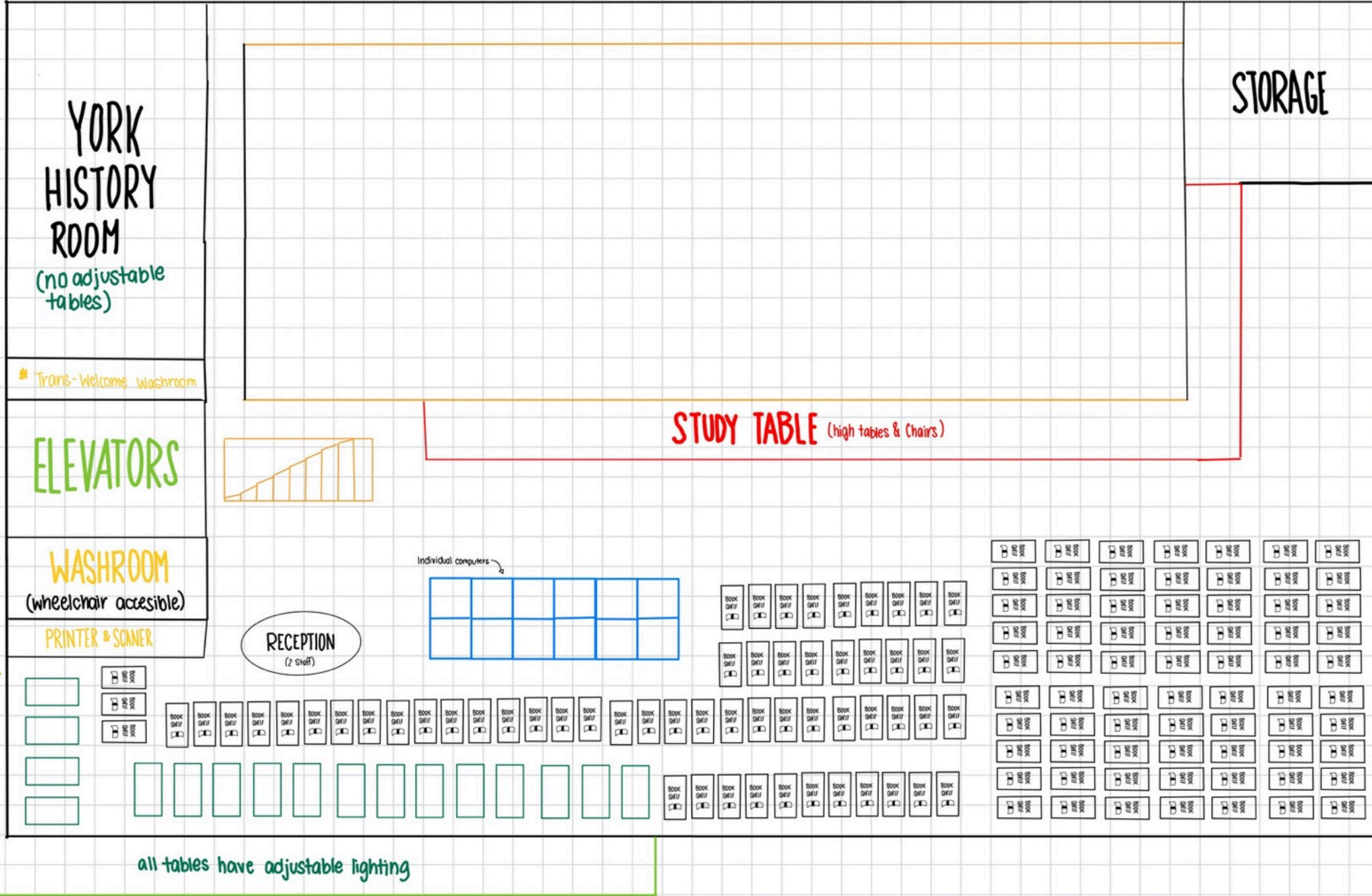


all tables have adjustable lighting

↑ windows




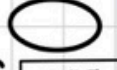
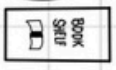


# 5<sup>th</sup> Floor



adjustable light (lamp & Blinds)



- Study tables 
- Computers 
- Stairs 
- Washroom\*  
(trans-welcome washroom)
- Study Rooms
- Printer & Scanner
- Elevators
- Reception 
- Book shelf 



# Accessibility Features Present

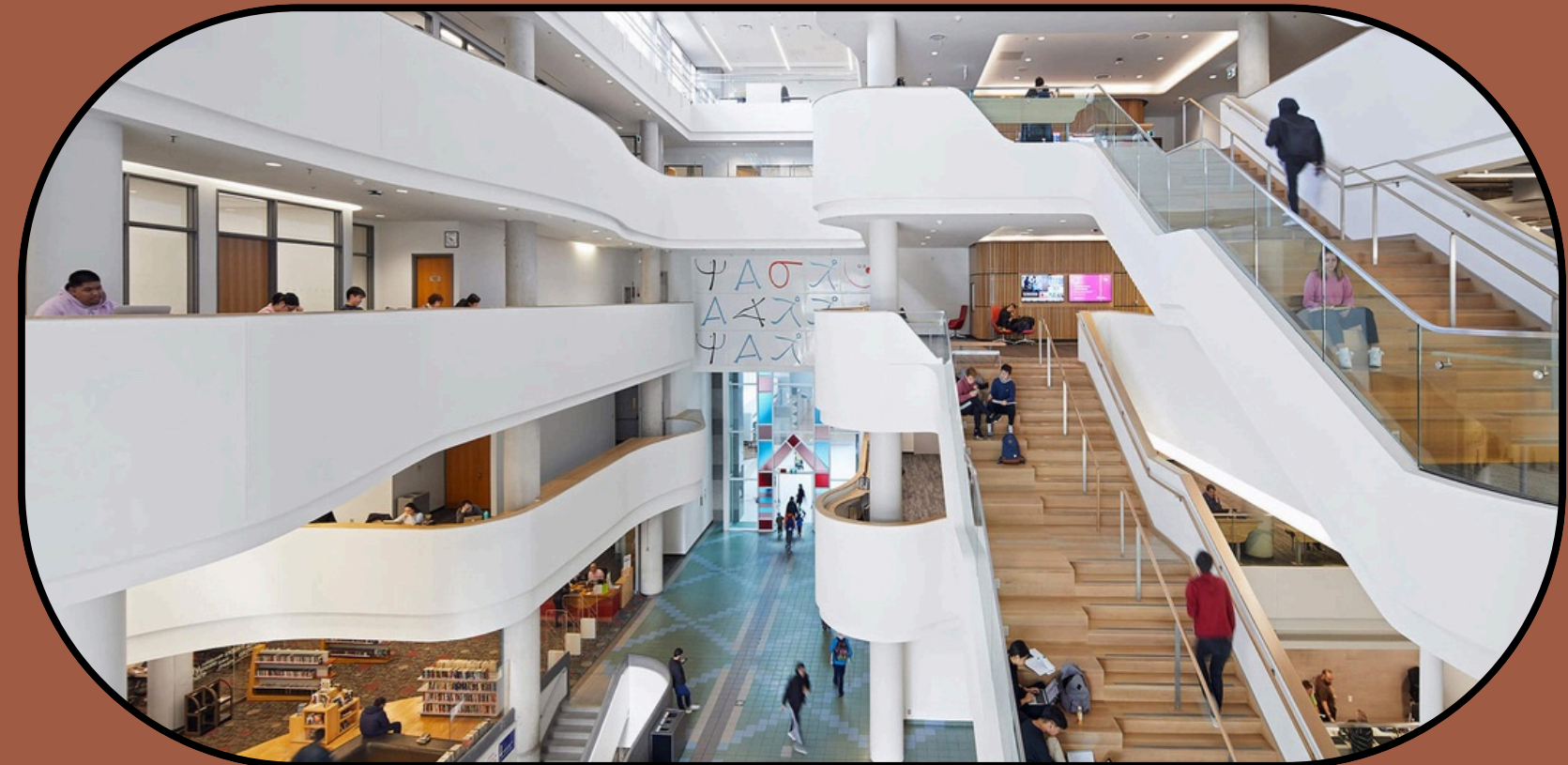
AUTOMATIC DOORS, ELEVATORS,  
AND WIDE PATHWAYS

ACCESSIBLE PARKING  
CLOSE TO THE ENTRANCE

ACCESSIBLE BATHROOMS  
WITH GRAB BARS

TRAINED STAFF TO  
ASSIST USERS

ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY (E.G., SCREEN  
READERS, MAGNIFYING READERS)



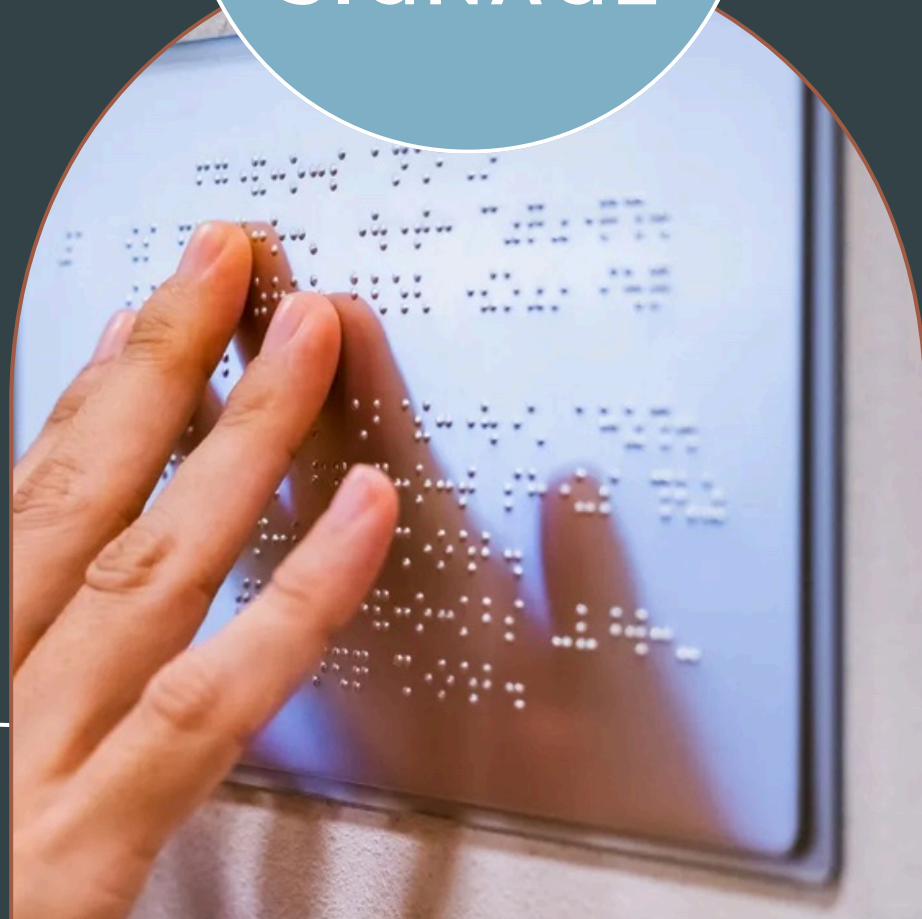


# Accessibility Gaps and Challenges

LIMITED  
ADJUSTABLE  
DESKS



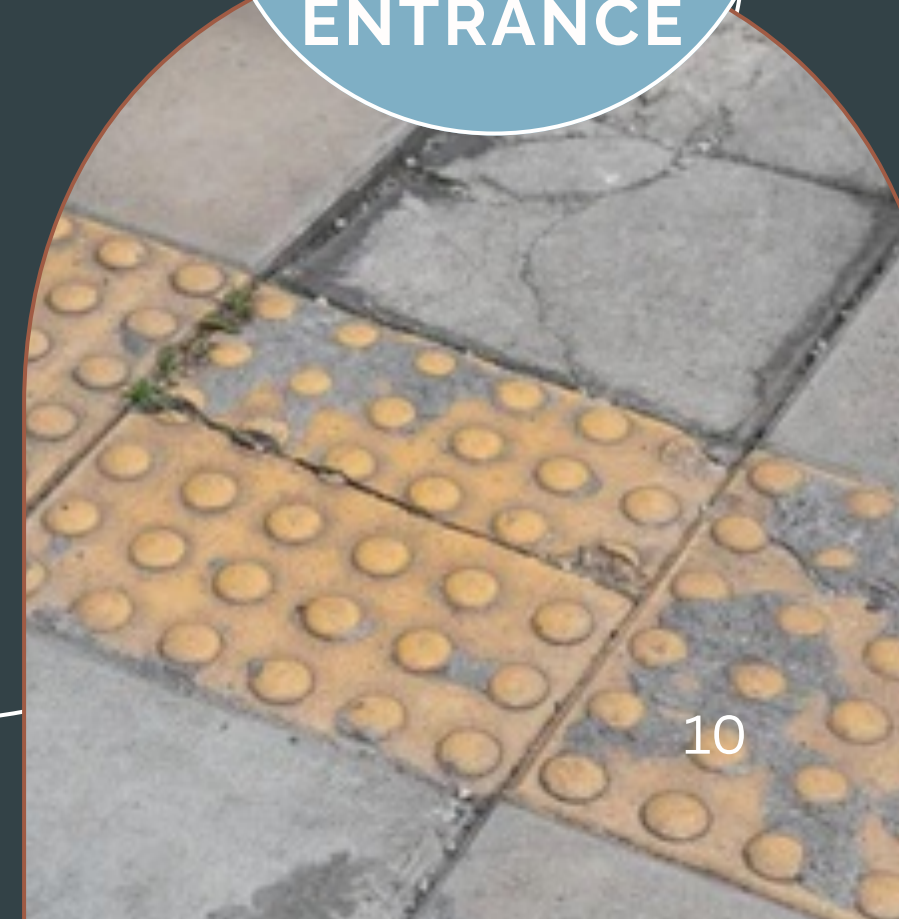
LACK OF  
BRAILLE-  
SIGNAGE



MISSING  
TACTILE  
FLOOR TILES  
FOR NAVIGA-  
TION

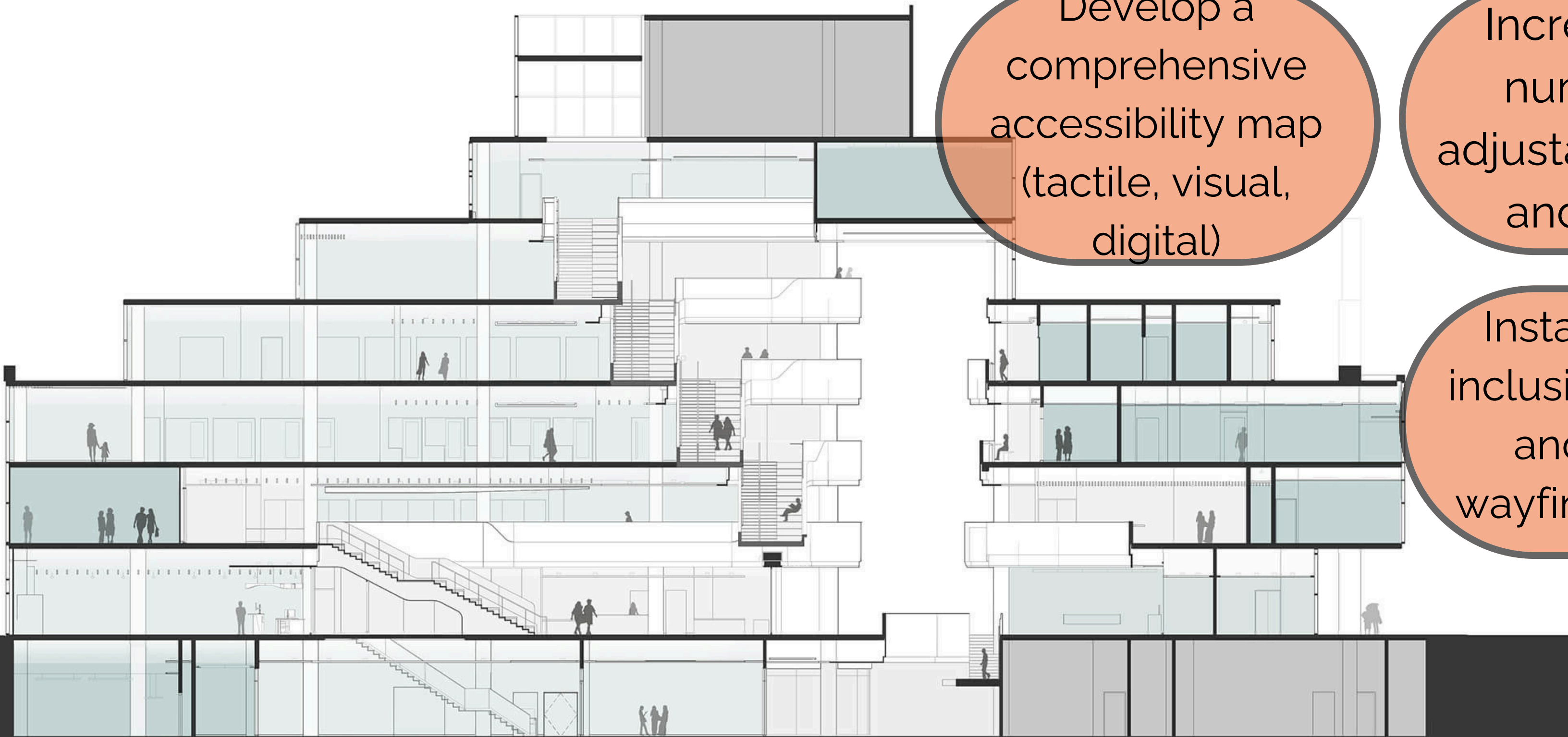


WORN  
TACTILE  
PAVING  
NEAR THE  
ENTRANCE





# Recommendations for Improvement



Develop a comprehensive accessibility map (tactile, visual, digital)

Increase the number of adjustable desks and chairs

Install braille-inclusive signage and tactile wayfinding tools



# Refelection

- Accessibility is an ongoing, collaborative effort, not a checklist
- Gaps reveal how ableism is embedded in public spaces
- Conversations with staff and visitors emphasized the need for community input
- Sharing findings can inspire actionable improvements and align with the library's mission





# THANKYOU

“Accessibility  
allows us to tap  
into everyone's  
potential.”

Debra Ruh

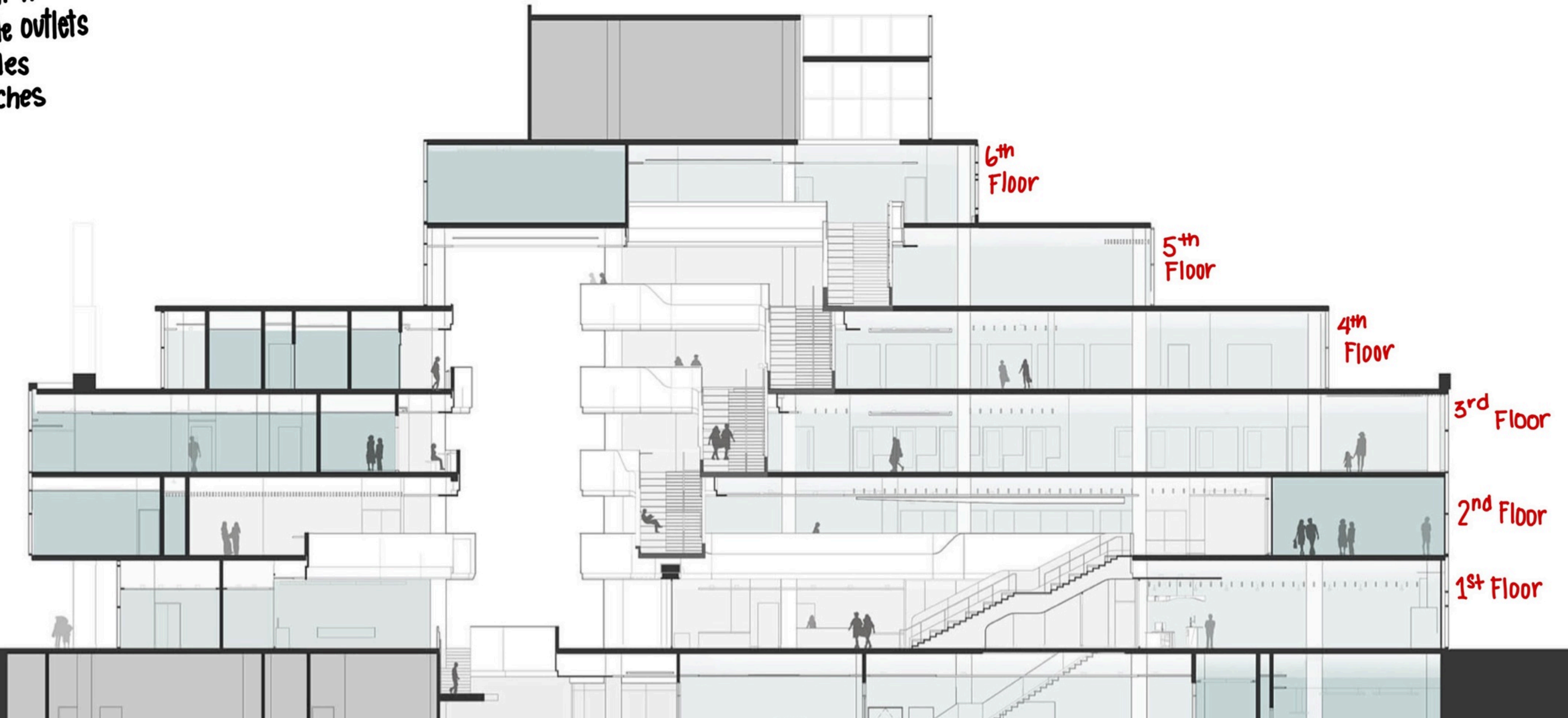


# North York Central Library

**SOURCE:**

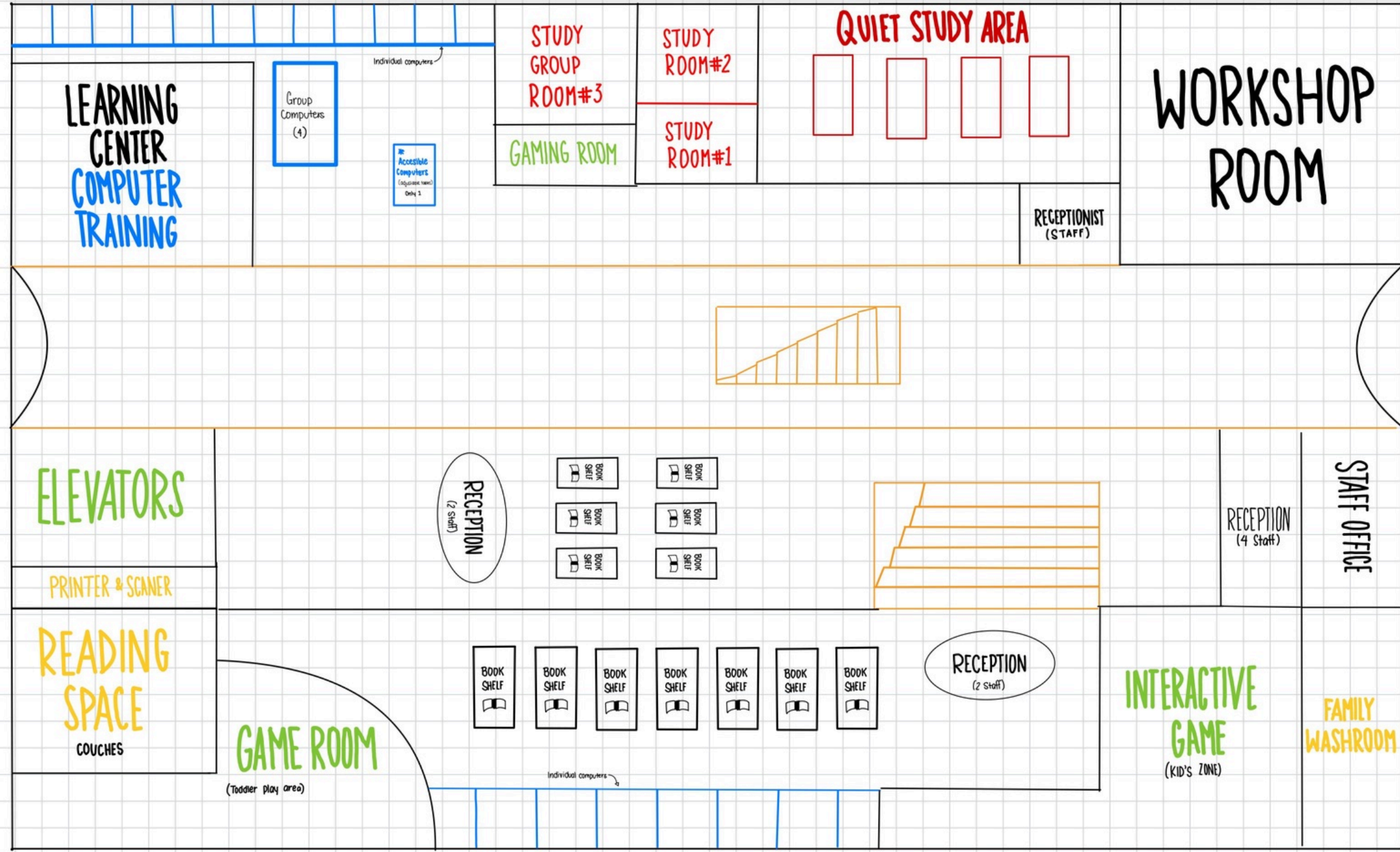
<https://dsai.ca/projects/north-york-central-library/>

- Free Wi-fi
- Multiple outlets
- ↳ tables
- Couches

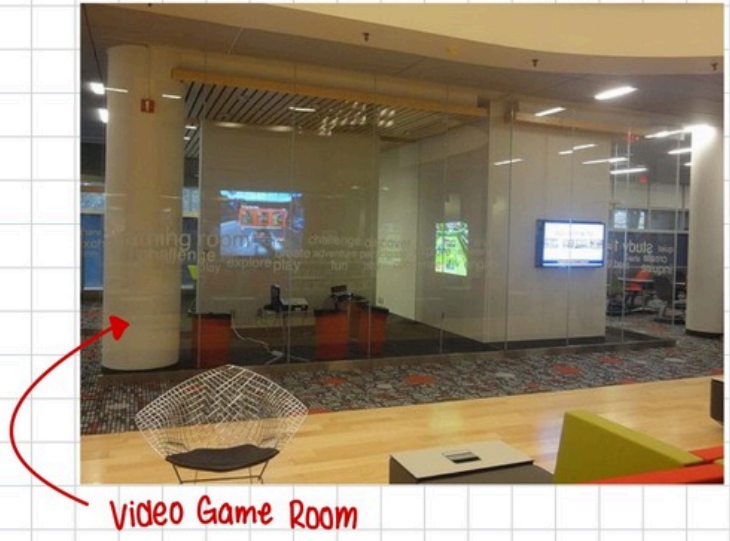
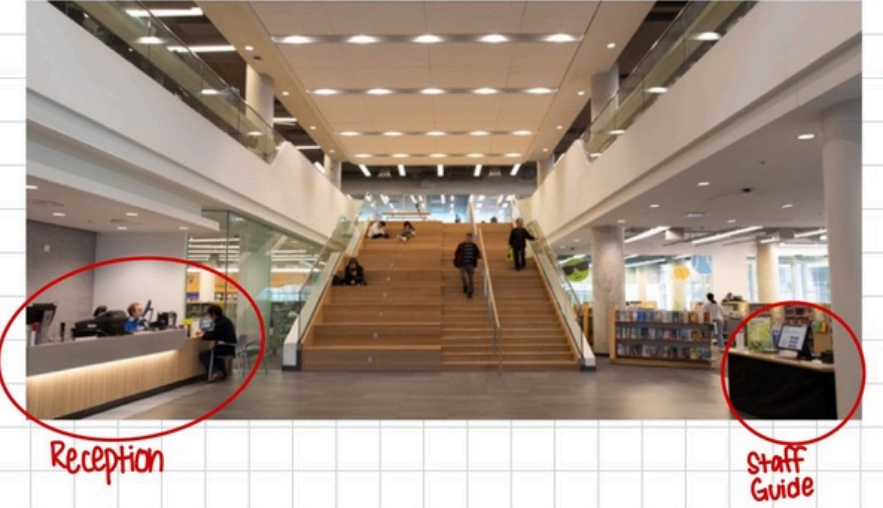




# 1<sup>st</sup> Floor

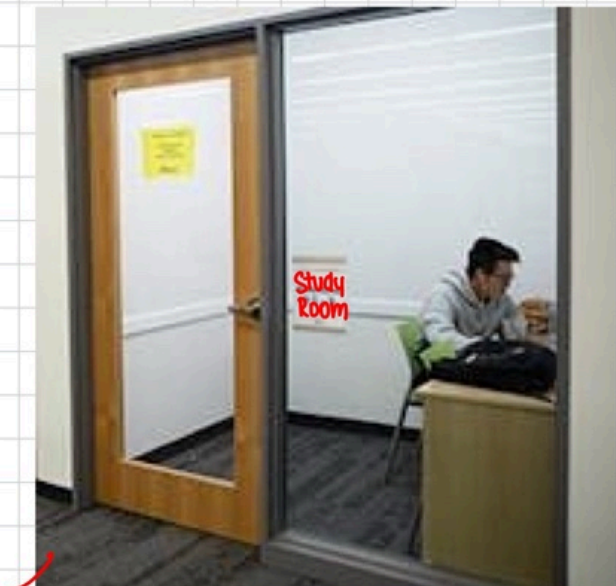
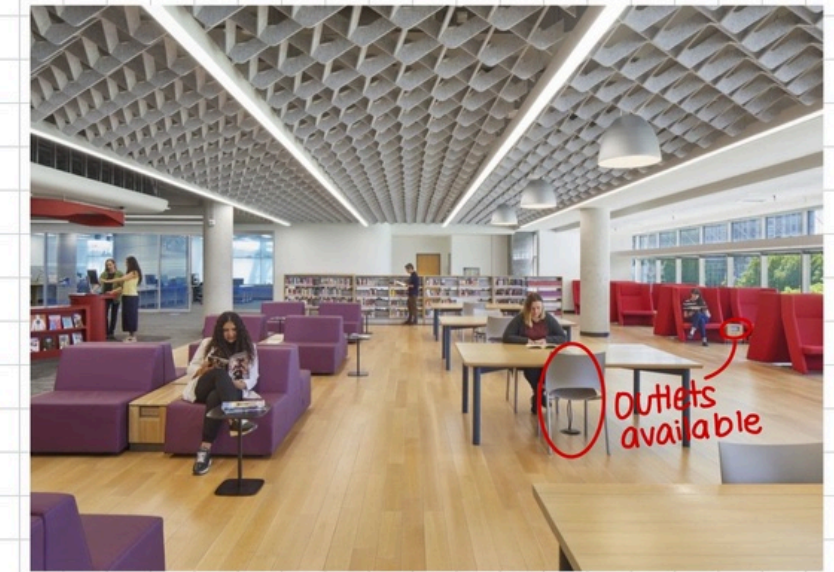
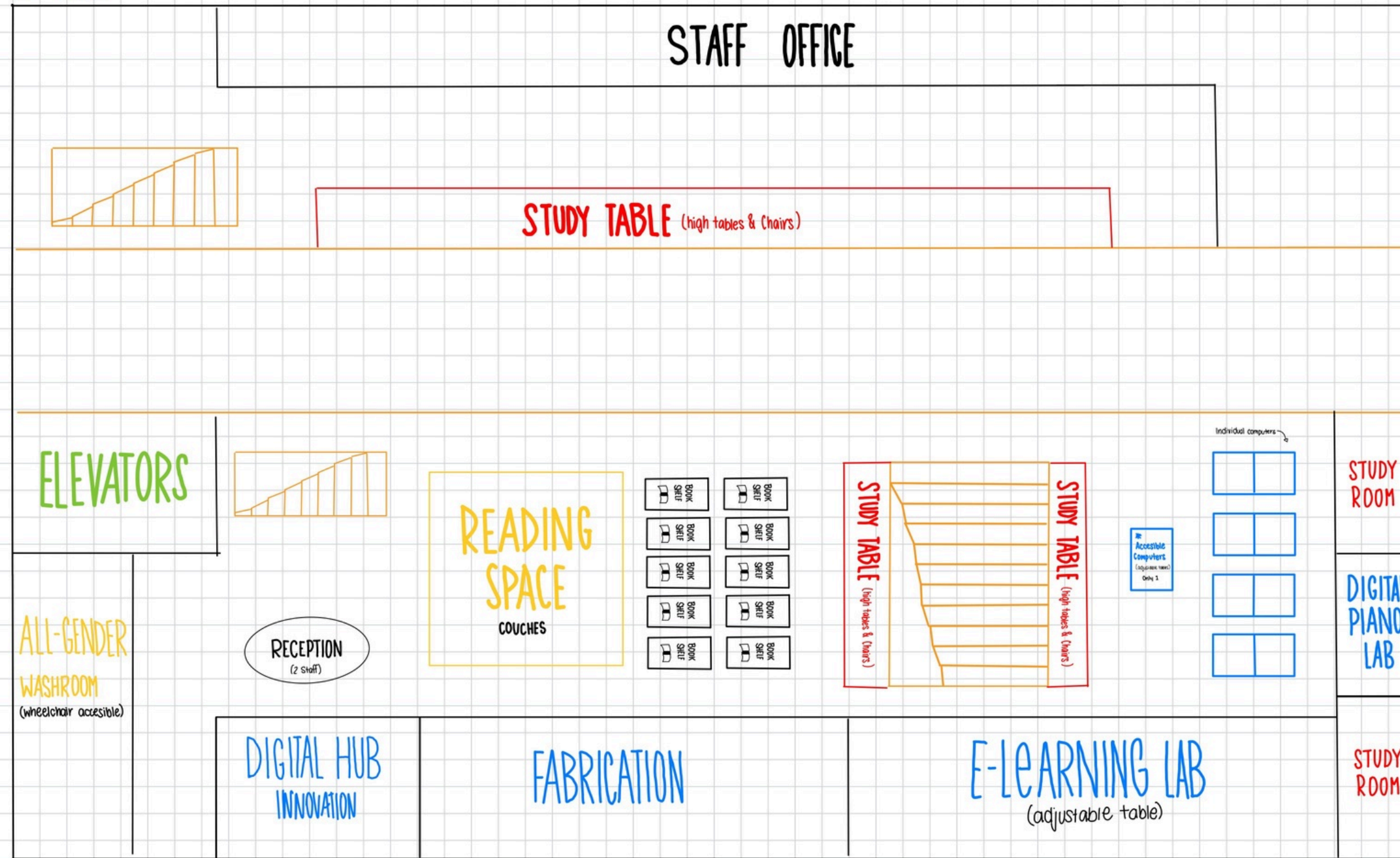


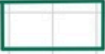




- Study tables
- Computers
- Stairs
- Washroom\* (Toilet - women)
- Study Rooms
- Printer & Scanner
- Elevators
- Reception
- Book shelf





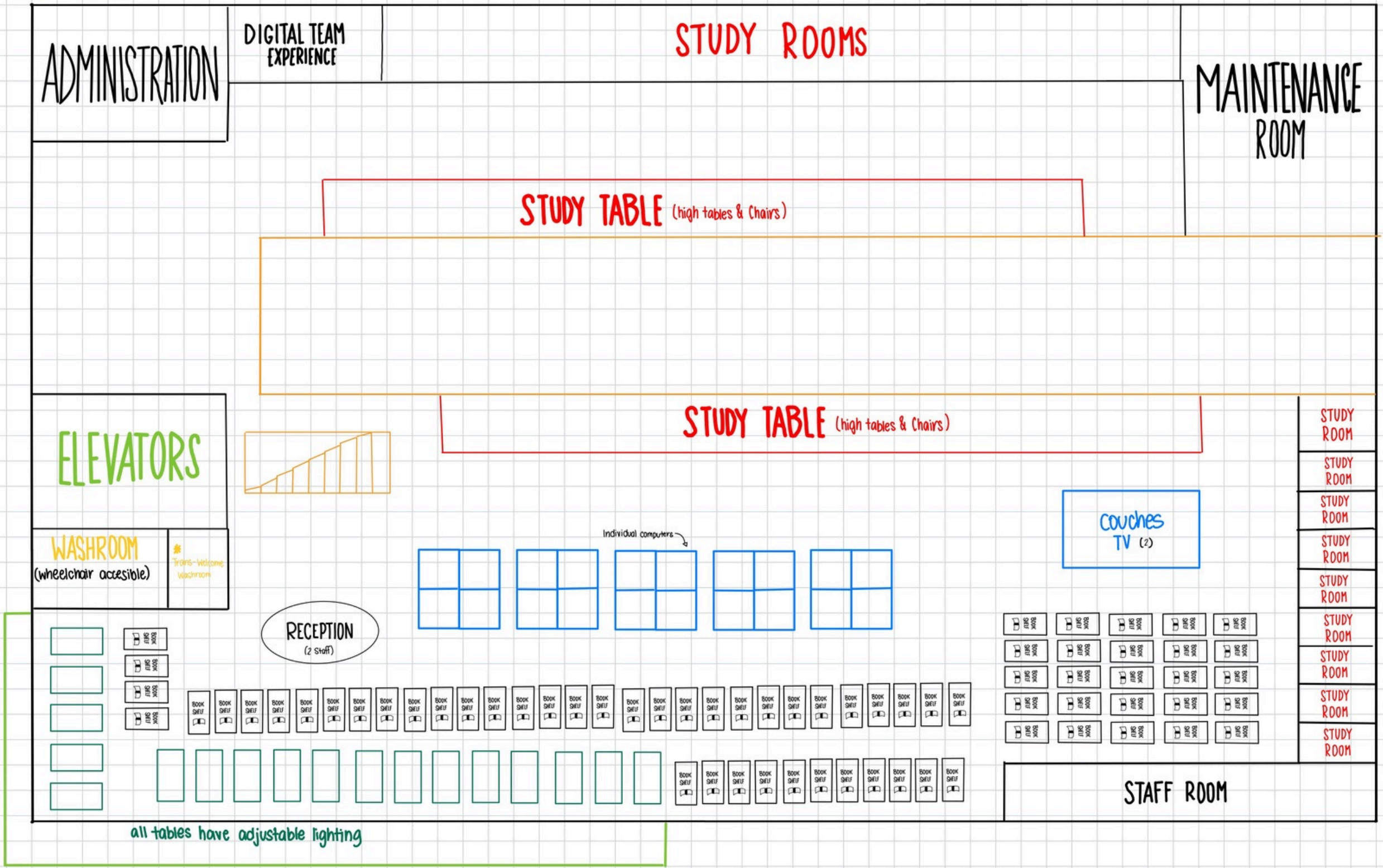
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor



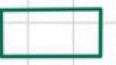




- Study tables 
- Computers 
- Stairs 
- Washroom\*   
 (toilet - all-gender washroom)
- Study Rooms
- Printer & Scanner
- Elevators
- Reception 
- Book shelf 



# 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor

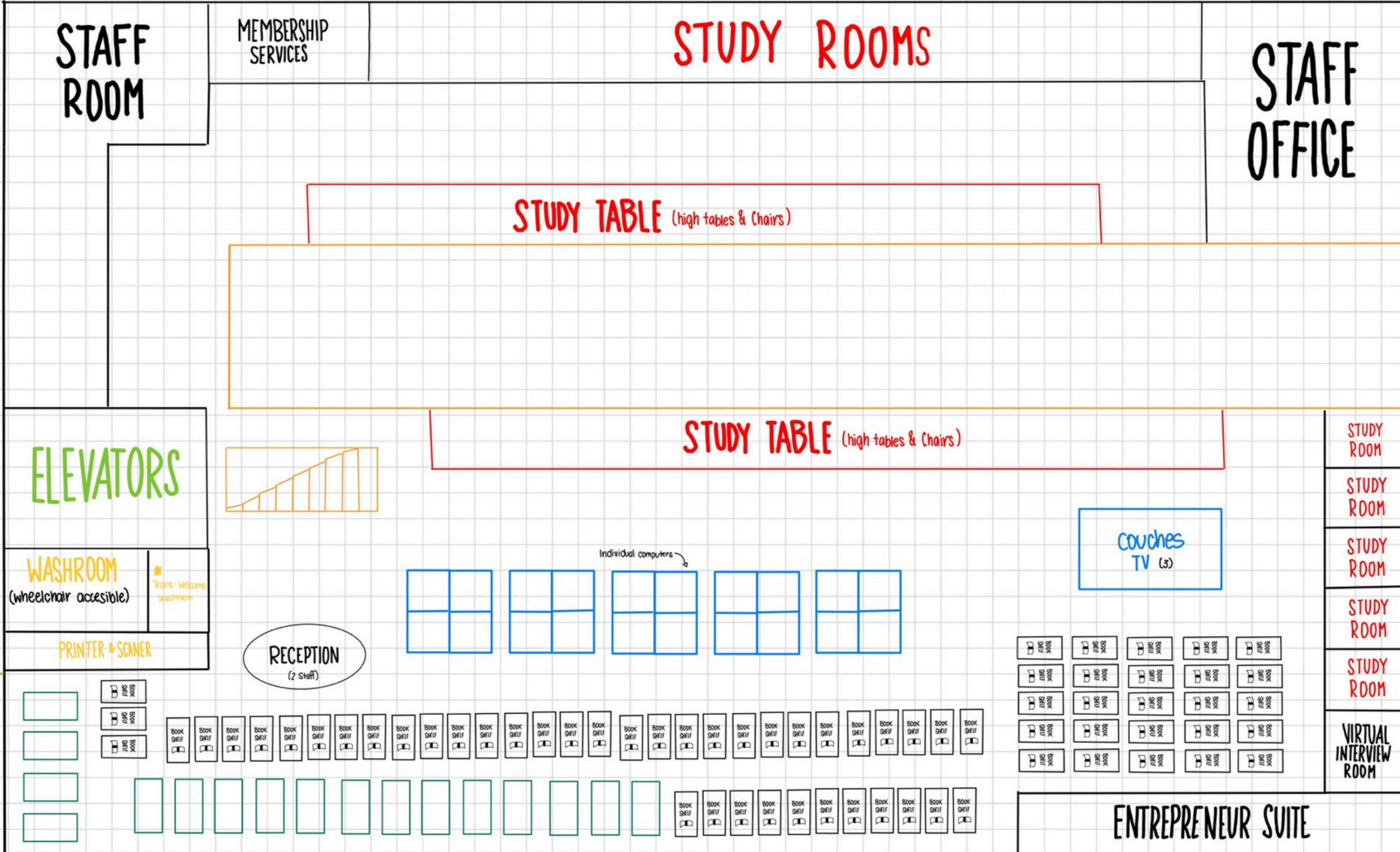


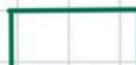




Reception (2 people most of the time)

- Study tables 
- Computers 
- Stairs 
- Washroom\*   
 (toilets - wheelchair accessible)
- Study Rooms
- Printer & Scanner
- Elevators
- Reception 
- Book shelf 



# 4<sup>th</sup> Floor



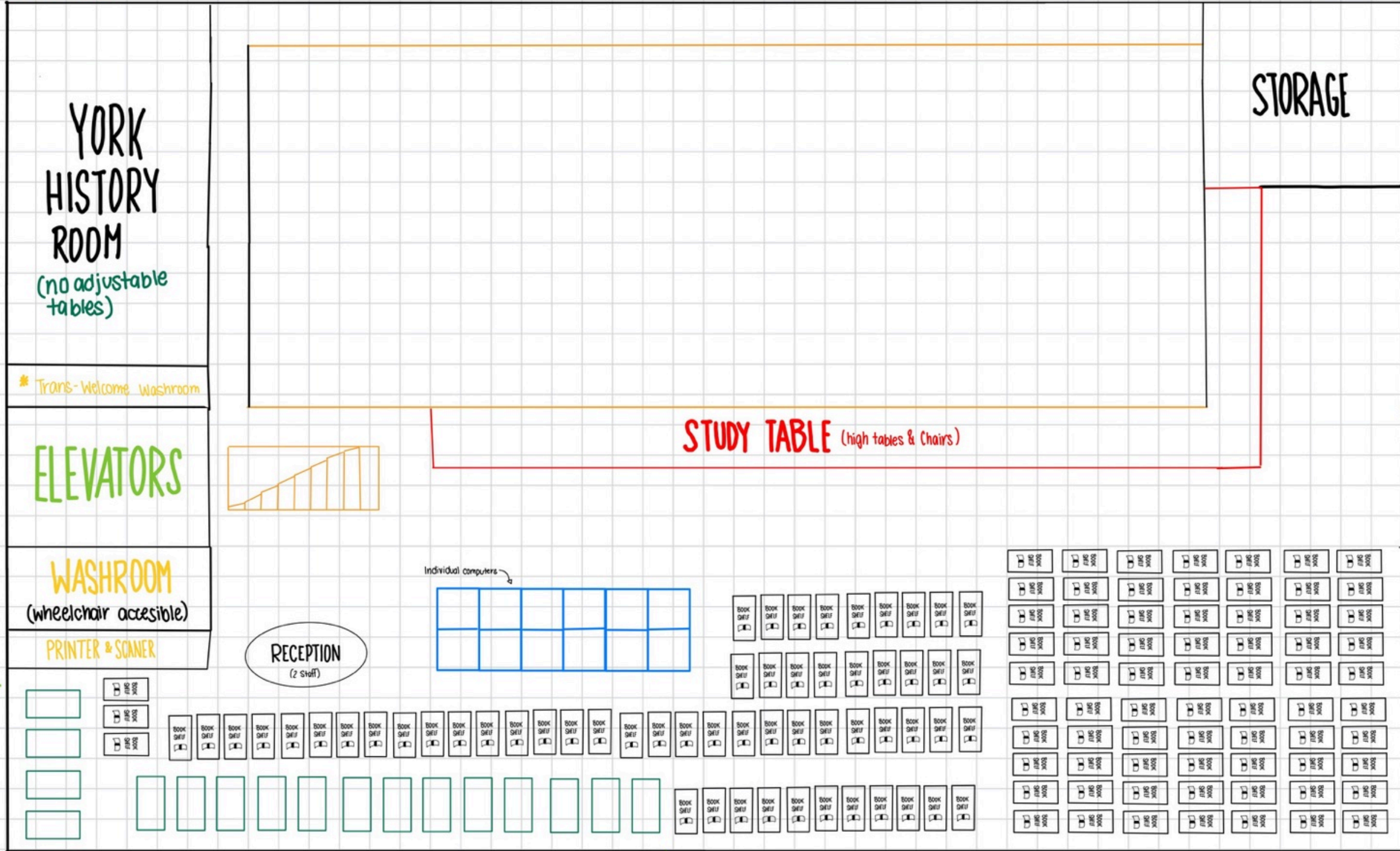
- Study tables 
- Computers 
- Stairs 
- Washroom\*   
 (Trans-welcome washroom)
- Study Rooms
- Printer & Scanner
- Elevators
- Reception 
- Book shelf 

all tables have adjustable lighting

↑ windows








# 5<sup>th</sup> Floor



adjustable light (lamp & Blinds)



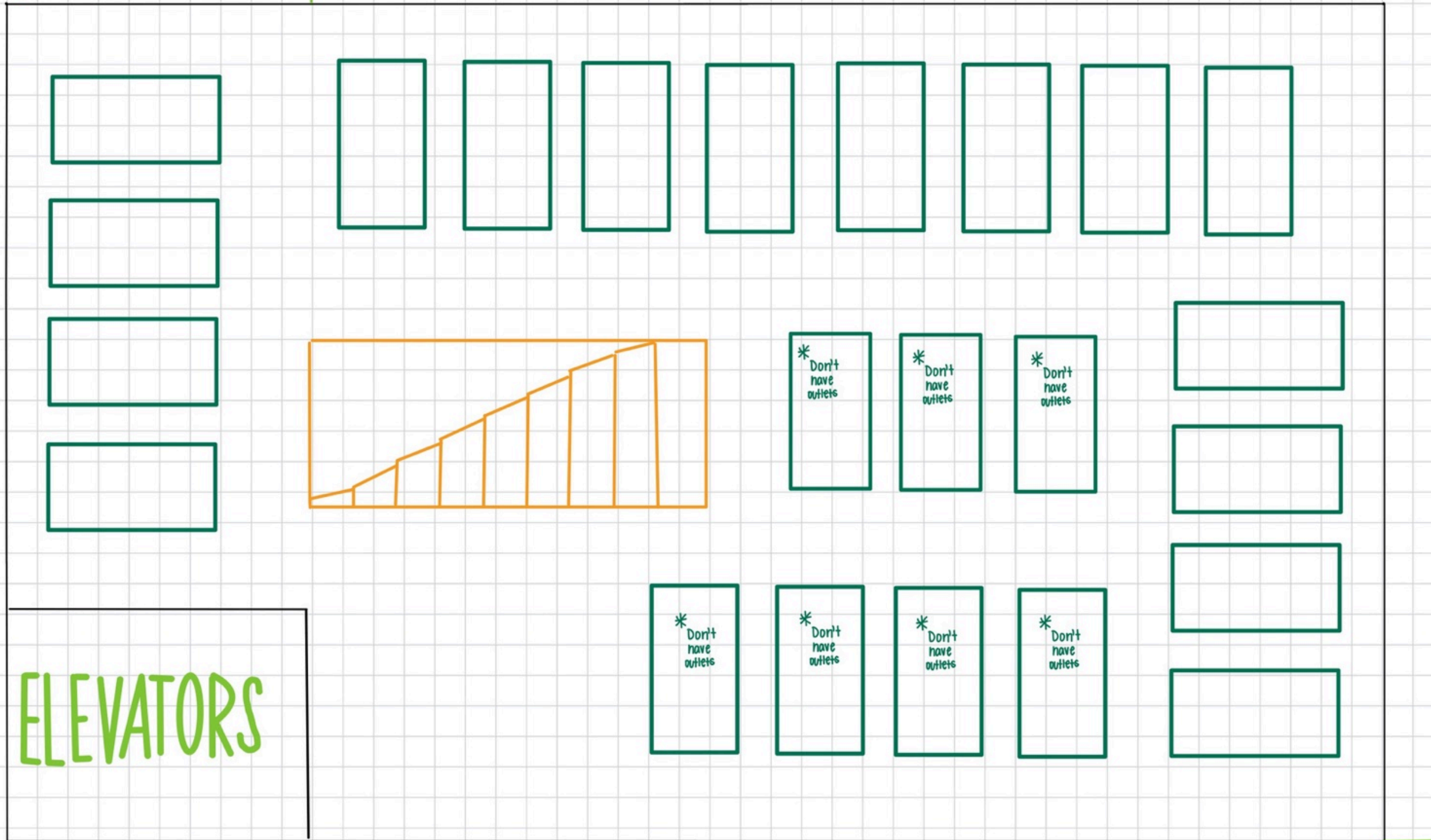
- Study tables 
- Computers 
- Stairs 
- Washroom\*   
 (trans-welcome washroom)
- Study Rooms
- Printer & Scanner
- Elevators
- Reception 
- Book shelf 

↑ Windows







# 6<sup>th</sup> Floor

Windows  
all tables have adjustable lighting



View from the top

- middle tables don't have electrical plugs
- no washrooms
- no adjustable tables

- Study tables 
- Computers 
- Stairs 
- Washroom\*  
(trans-union washroom)
- Study Rooms
- Printer & Scanner
- Elevators
- Reception 
- Book shelf 