



Ella White

art + design

ellakwhite32@gmail.com | (404)-539-2709 | ellakathrynwhite.com

Design Philosophy

My approach to interior design is rooted in the belief that spaces should feel as natural and authentic as the people who inhabit them. I strive to create thoughtful, personal environments, ensuring that each space reflects the individuality and needs of its occupants. My background in fine art and hands-on making shapes my attention to detail and appreciation for craftsmanship. I approach each project with care, curiosity, and intention. Some of my greatest joys and fulfillments are working with my hands and creating functional, aesthetic spaces. I believe the design process is as beautiful as the finished product, with many twists and turns that can lead to new ideas, different perspectives, and unexpected outcomes.

Through my education at the University of Georgia, my study abroad experience in Cortona, Italy, my individual travels, and my communities, I've learned to develop a holistic view of the people around me and how design influences their everyday lives. My greatest sources of inspiration come from nature and landscapes, and I reference natural motifs and themes in my color palettes, materials and textures, and space planning. Ultimately, I strive to create spaces that not only serve a purpose, but feel authentic to those inhabiting them.



"I will make everything around me beautiful - that will be my life"

Elsie de Wolfe

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The Golden Hour House

Maternity & Birth Center

Senior Exit in Interior Design | Spring 2026



Concept

Golden Hour is a holistic birth center located in Athens, Georgia. It focuses on improving the birth environment to support women through the emotional and physical experience of childbirth. It redefines birth as natural, empowering process rather than an emergency medical event. Operating under the midwifery model of care, Golden Hour serves low risk pregnancies. Blending the comfort of home with the safety of a clinical setting, Golden Hour offers an alternative to traditional hospital births, which can feel restrictive and invasive, while still providing access to medical support if needed. Golden Hour prioritizes the use of color, material, and light to enhance the birth environment and provide an optimal experience for natural childbirth.

DESIGN PRIORITIES

- ☀ Familiar residential feel
- ☀ Comfort prioritized for patients, partners, and staff
- ☀ Close proximity to a hospital for peace of mind
- ☀ Connection to nature
- ☀ Calming colors and lighting



500 Oglethorpe Ave.
Athens, Georgia 30606

Golden Hour is located just a three minute drive away from Piedmont Athens Regional Hospital. The historic house is on the University of Georgia's Health Sciences campus.



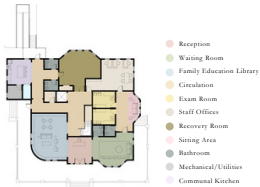
Golden Hour's logo features a sun shining with the silhouette of a pregnant woman coming out of it. The sun symbolizes new life and the name "Golden Hour" symbolizes the first 60 minutes after childbirth dedicated to uninterrupted skin-to-skin contact between the parent and newborn.



Floor Plans



Second Floor Plan



First Floor Plan





Waiting Room



Family Education Library

Environment strongly shapes our comfort and mood, with light and color playing a key psychological role. In a birth environment context, research suggests that how color is used matters more than having color at all. For example, harmonious combinations are preferred over monochromatic schemes. Calming effects can come from natural materials, balanced colors, nature views, and soft lighting. The same color can have different effects depending on lighting. For instance, soft sunlight on a green wall may promote the desired calming effect, but blue LED lighting (450–480nm) and blue white light (10,000 lux) at night would do the opposite.

Golden Hour's use of warm, natural lighting combined with a harmony of colors is designed to foster a peaceful, home-like environment that women feel safe to give birth in. Scientifically proven calming colors such as blue, green, light yellow-green, pale pink, muted earth tones, and more are shown to reduce stress hormone levels which leads to a better physiological birth.



The birth suites are the most important rooms at Golden Hour. They are thoughtfully and intentionally designed to be calm spaces. The use of color, light, and texture are especially important because they impact the natural birth experience.



Shinjuku Grand Hotel

Luxury Hospitality Design

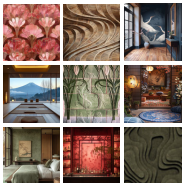
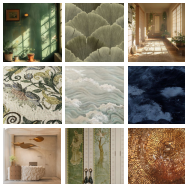
Studio V Large Scale Design | Fall 2025



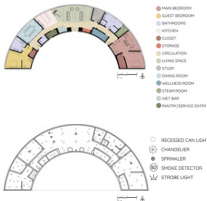
Concept

The Shinjuku Grand Hotel is a 30-story five-star spa hotel located in Tokyo, Japan. Prominently featured in the Shinjuku business district, the hotel has the capabilities to host large conferences in its event hall, while also including four high-end restaurants and an executive club to wine and dine business colleagues after meetings. There are wellness features for the guests to enjoy on site such as a spa with a meditation center, beauty salon, pool, and various treatment rooms. The Shinjuku Grand Hotel's design aims to highlight the cultural richness of Japan while incorporating high end finishes and technology. To continue the promotion of wellness in the hotel and promote the purity of nature, the design includes natural elements through plants and wood materials to enhance guests' experiences. With the circular form of the building in mind, the elements of the design work to complement the building which establishes harmony throughout the design.

purity



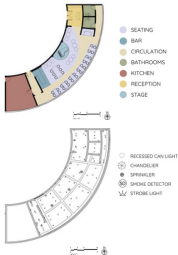
harmony



Presidential Suite

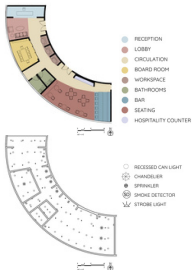
The presidential suite is the largest and most elevated of all the guest rooms. Located on the thirtieth floor and offering a grand view of Shinjuku, the suite offers thoughtfully crafted spaces. The grand living room, spacious dining and conference area for twelve, full kitchen, study, and additional guest room transform the suite into a luxurious retreat instead of just a hotel room. The master suite is equipped with a walk-in closet, living space, and spa style bathroom which includes a rain shower, steam room, jacuzzi, and private wellness room. The incorporation of natural materials and earthy colors in the space offer a harmonious blend between contemporary design and Japanese tradition.





Homura Steakhouse and Lounge

Homura Steakhouse and Lounge, an elevated Japanese grill and piano bar, is nestled on the thirtieth floor between the presidential suite and executive club. Its name, Homura, is the Japanese word for "flame" or "blaze." Homura channels the warmth and energy of fire through its cuisine and design. Its intimate, minimalist, and balanced atmosphere blends traditional Japanese values with modern elegance. Curated cocktails and piano performances offer guests a place to unwind and indulge



Executive Club

The executive club serves as a business and relaxation hub equipped with amenities such as a concierge, high speed internet, and express check in. For guests traveling for business, a private board room is included. The seating near the bar can be used during the day as an alternative breakfast room or workspace. In addition, the hospitality counter has a selection of snacks and beverages throughout the day for the guests' convenience. In the evening, the bar serves specialty drinks and hors d'oeuvres, inviting guests to relax and enjoy the view of Shinjuku from the hotel's highest floor.



Il Centro

A Storytelling Cafe

UGA Cortona Study Abroad | Summer 2025



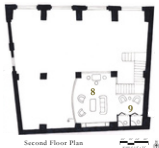
Concept

Il Centro is a storytelling cafe designed during my time abroad in Cortona, Italy. We worked in groups of three to use a previously existing building downtown and develop it into a new concept. Our prompt was to create a communal space for storytelling that welcomed locals and travelers alike. Without access to suitable software, all aspects of this project are entirely hand drafted. We used watercolor paint to bring our drawings to life. At the end of the summer, we had a schoolwide art show where other students and the locals of Cortona could view our work.



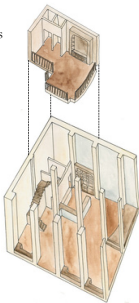
Located in Cortona's historic post office, Il Centro embodies its name as a center, heart, core, and focus. Traditionally a hub linking local communities to the rest of the world, the post office serves as a powerful symbol of communication and storytelling. Likewise, Il Centro focuses on storytelling not only as a local practice but as a practice of traveling and spreading stories throughout the world. It fosters connection through dialogue, reflection, and creative expression by sharing stories, whether from the ancient past or everyday life, that will spread beyond just Cortona.





Floor Plans and Axonometrics

1. Common Area
Area Comune
2. Stage
Palcoscenico
3. Bar
Bar
4. Letter-Writing
Scrittura di Lettere
5. Stair
Scale
6. Bathroom
Bagno
7. Storage
Magazzinaggio
8. Reading Nook
Angolo Lettura
9. Phone Booths
Cabine Telefoniche





Il Centro consists of natural textures and earthy colors, complementing the post office's existing brick floors and ceilings. We wanted this design to incorporate as many existing elements of the space as possible. To accent the brick and stone, we incorporated earth tones, tiles, and stained glass.

The design features a stage, phone booths, a letter writing station, reading nook, and a bus ticket station. Each of those details aims to create methods for local storytelling and retrospective storytelling. A cafe is open throughout the day and night to ensure a consistent inflow of people who can share stories over drinks or a bite to eat.



Storytelling through writing



Storytelling through recording



Storytelling through performance



Storytelling through traveling



Storytelling through gathering



Storytelling through written records

NEXT Advertising Office

Steelcase NEXT Student Competition

Studio III | Fall 2024



Concept

NEXT is an independent global creative agency that has partnered with leading brands since 1990. Its Chicago office is designed to cultivate creativity that drives cultural influence, supporting the full creative process from concept to public launch. Inspired by the surrounding Chicago River and Lake Michigan, the space reflects fluidity and adaptability, mirroring the natural flow of water. This environment promotes creativity, authenticity, and flexibility, empowering both employees and clients to thrive and produce impactful work.



The characteristics of water: flexibility, impact, and renewal, reflect the characteristics of creativity. The incorporation of a fluid floorplan, simple furniture, and glass allows the work space to feel authentic and flexible, inspiring people's creative sides. The logo incorporates NEXT's top priorities with a wave, which represents both the physical traits of water but also how the creative process can take many different forms.



811 W Fulton Market St.
Chicago, IL
Building Construction: Type II



STRATEGY CREATIVE PROCESS EXECUTION

Floor Plans



- 1 Work lounge
- 2 Work cafe
- 3 Phone room
- 4 Team meeting rooms
- 5 Huddle rooms
- 6 Mother's room
- 7 Wellness room
- 8 Reading room (wildcard)
- 9 Client team rooms
- 10 Client display rooms
- 11 Reception
- 12 Client celebration room
- 13 Client presentation room
- 14 Workstations
- 15 Client services private office
- 16 Creative director private office
- 17 Digital marketing director private office
- 18 Production and operations private office
- 19 Flexible private office
- 20 Production and resource center

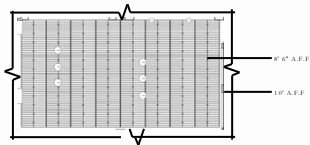
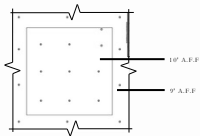
Copilot - Carpet
by Shaw Flooring

Linen Loom - Carpet
by Interface

Terrazzo



Reflected Ceiling Plans



Reception



Work Cafe





Reception Perspective

The reception is adjacent to the Client Celebration Area, allowing plenty of display space for previous company projects.

Main Staircase Perspective

The connecting staircase is at the heart of NEXT. Its open plan unites the 6th and 7th floors and serves as a gathering space. The reflecting pool is symbolic of Chicago's bodies of water and also creates a calming atmosphere.





Work Cafe Perspective

The work cafe is a flexible area offering an extended workspace or a collaborative, social environment.

Workspace Perspective

Private offices surround the workstations on both sides. The use of glass walls ensures the space is acoustically sound yet inviting and transparent. The curved ceiling panels encourage interest and creativity.





Client Team Room Perspective

There are 4 client team rooms that allow for brainstorming and executing new client projects. The use of screens and pin up space creates space for inspiration and collaboration. Adjacent to the team rooms are client display rooms, where the teams can present to their clients.

Reading Room Perspective

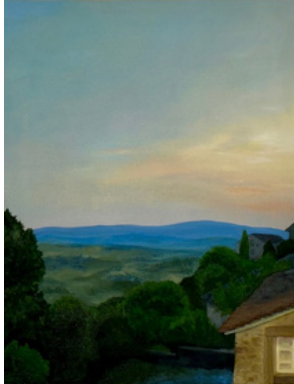
In the age where most everything is digital, it is beneficial for the well being and rejuvenation of employees to have access to a space where there is limited or no technology.



Creative Projects

3D and Fine Art

Fall 2021-Fall 2025



Paintings

Fall 2021-Summer 2025



Key West | Watercolor + Gouache |

8"x10"

Fall 2021

**Nominated for a National Award at the Savannah College of Art and Design Student Show 2022*



Laundry Lines | Oil | 30x30cm

UGA Cortona Study Abroad | Summer 2025



Cortona at Dusk | Oil | 24"x36"

UGA Cortona Study Abroad | Summer 2025



Self Portrait | Oil | 9"x12"

UGA Cortona Study Abroad | Summer 2025

Writing Desk

Furniture Design | Fall 2025

When I create, I value useful, intentional designs. Most of my projects are pieces I've been needing or ones that I can use or give away. I was first interested in building my own furniture in 2023, but did not have access to the right tools or work environment. I was inspired to create this project for personal use and also an opportunity to recreate my past work.

I sketched out a few of my initial ideas on paper. Later, when I decided on the design I liked best, I drew front and side views using my architect's scale at $1/4" = 1'0"$. This helped me visualize exact measurements and helped me think about this process three dimensionally.



Preliminary Sketches



Cardboard Model



Process



Finished Product

After deciding on the design of the desk and its measurements, I built a small model out of cardboard and hot glue. I did not cut anything to its exact scale, but I estimated the general dimensions and it ended up looking how I had imagined it. This process was very helpful for me because it helped me visualize my design on a smaller scale before committing to building it to size.

I decided on my final measurements and made a cut list (it ended up needing some tweaks as I moved through this process). For the plywood pieces, I had the curved ones cut on the CNC, and I cut all the other ones using the table saw and chop saw.

Finishing this piece and displaying it at the furniture exhibit was one of the most rewarding feelings! I am so happy with how it turned out and it is everything I imagined it to be! I learned so much through this process. Though some parts were intimidating and I made some mistakes, I grew to learn from them and go with the flow during the process.



Thank you!

I look forward to connecting with you soon

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