

JEFFREY RAMIREZ

Interdisciplinary Designer:

Bridging Craftsmanship, Innovation & Technology

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Portfolio .

Design Evolution (2010–2025)

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Content



I am a multidisciplinary designer with a background that bridges interior architecture, product design, and digital technologies. My career began in interior design, where I led projects across residential, hospitality, and commercial sectors. Over time, I expanded my practice into product and furniture design, branding, and prototyping, guided by the belief that good design lives at the intersection of function, story, and experience.

What defines my approach is adaptability and curiosity. I enjoy moving between scales — from shaping an interior environment to refining the detail of a clay stamp or designing a hydroponic system from recycled materials. Each project reflects my commitment to iteration, storytelling, and material exploration, whether through traditional craftsmanship, digital tools like Rhino and Adobe Creative Suite, or emerging technologies such as AI-assisted workflows and 3D printing.

I thrive in collaborative, cross-functional environments, where ideas are tested, refined, and brought to life. My portfolio demonstrates not just finished outcomes, but the process of discovery and refinement — the space where design evolves into meaningful solutions.

Experience:

Jeffrey Ramirez Designs, Ltd. | Cincinnati, OH | 2017 - 2025

- Led design projects across residential, commercial, hospitality, and healthcare sectors
- Managed projects from concept to installation, adhering to strict timelines and budgets
- Applied expertise in CAD, Adobe Creative Suite, and Revit to develop innovative, functional designs
- Selected materials and products that balanced aesthetic vision with practical requirements
- Navigated regulatory requirements while maintaining design integrity
- Built long-term client relationships through successful project outcomes
- Developed and administered internal IT infrastructure, including email server and VoIP system
- Consulted on branding strategy; created and designed company and client logos, color schemes, and visual identity systems

Senior Interior Designer | Ramsey Engler Ltd. | Minneapolis, MN | 2015 - 2017

- Developed interior and exterior design concepts for commercial and residential projects
- Conducted site surveys and applied safety codes to ensure compliant designs
- Created presentations and accurate cost estimates to support business development
- Strengthened client partnerships through effective communication and delivery
- Developed specifications for furnishings, finishes, and design elements aligned with client goals
- Managed CAD standards and produced comprehensive construction documents
- Supported project completion with detailed technical documentation

Interior Designer | Lori Carroll & Associates | Tucson, AZ | 2012 - 2015

- Developed custom design solutions and furniture for high-end commercial and residential projects
- Produced technical documentation, ensuring building code compliance and maintaining design standards
- Created cohesive color palettes and selected materials and fixtures to meet client requirements
- Contributed to business development through client presentations, budget planning, and vendor coordination
- Managed projects ranging from minor redecorating to full-scale renovations for spaces such as jewelry stores and multifamily developments
- Established CAD standards that improved documentation efficiency and project delivery timelines

*Resourceful
Innovative
Design-driven
Persistent
Detail-oriented*

About me

“As a resourceful and inventive designer, I bring an innovative, design-driven approach and the perseverance needed to deliver meaningful results.”

Capabilities

Design Strategy & Concept Development

- Adapted existing ideas, identified unmet needs, and refined concepts into functional prototypes using recycled materials and 3D printing.
- Translated brand values into timeless visual identity, showing ability to distill strategy into design.

Iterative Prototyping & Rapid Visualization

- Iterated from overly detailed design to simplified solutions through material testing, 3D modeling, and rapid cycle prototyping.
- Concept → foam-board prototype → production-ready build, testing variables to study spatial perception.

Cross-Disciplinary Tools & Techniques

- Integrated digital design tools with automated fabrication equipment to streamline concept-to-production workflows.
- Explored form, material, and digital rendering to visualize modern silhouettes.

Visual Storytelling & Presentation

- Each project is documented through concept sketches, prototypes, renders, and final outcomes.
- Ability to communicate process clearly across 2D, 3D, and narrative formats.

Collaboration & Adaptability

- Projects for local artists and clients demonstrated collaboration, personalization, and the ability to adjust designs based on context and feedback.

Differentiators

Multi-Faceted / Multi-Disciplinary

- Experience across interiors, product design, branding, and digital technologies.
- Flexibility to shift from interior design projects to hand-built prototypes and branding.

Product-Inspired Thinking

- Draws inspiration from sensory experiences.
- Blends craft, materiality, and narrative into functional outcomes.

Unique Design Approach

- Hands-on, iterative, and resourceful: from re-purposing fence posts into hydroponics to simplifying clay stamp details for usability.
- Balances technical execution with creativity, ensuring designs are both functional and emotionally resonant.

Core Competencies

*Projects spanning student work
through professional practice
(2010-2025)*

FURNITURE & PRODUCT DESIGN

INDUSTRIAL & FABRICATION PROJECTS

BRANDING & VISUAL IDENTITY

INTERIOR DESIGN & ARCHITECTURE

TECHNOLOGY & DIGITAL DESIGN

Featured Projects

Doux Senteur Chair

Inspired by Fragrance

The Doux Senteur Chair (French for sweet scent) was inspired by the experience of a perfume. Its composition — a blend of citrus, wood, and floral notes — became the foundation for both form and material selection.

The structural design reflects this balance of strong, straight lines which are refined and softened with curved edges, echoing the way bold notes in a fragrance are tempered by subtle undertones. The wooden side panels ground the design, representing the earthy base notes of the perfume, while the deep red upholstery reflects the richness and vibrancy of citrus.

Textiles were chosen to extend the sensorial connection. A damask pattern complements the wood and citrus tones, evoking the floral aroma of orange blossoms. Velvet silk completes the palette, adding depth and tactility to suggest an explosion of sensorial experiences.

The Doux Senteur Chair embodies how scent can inspire form, material, and atmosphere — translating the ephemeral qualities of fragrance into a tangible piece of furniture.



BACK VIEW



SIDE VIEW



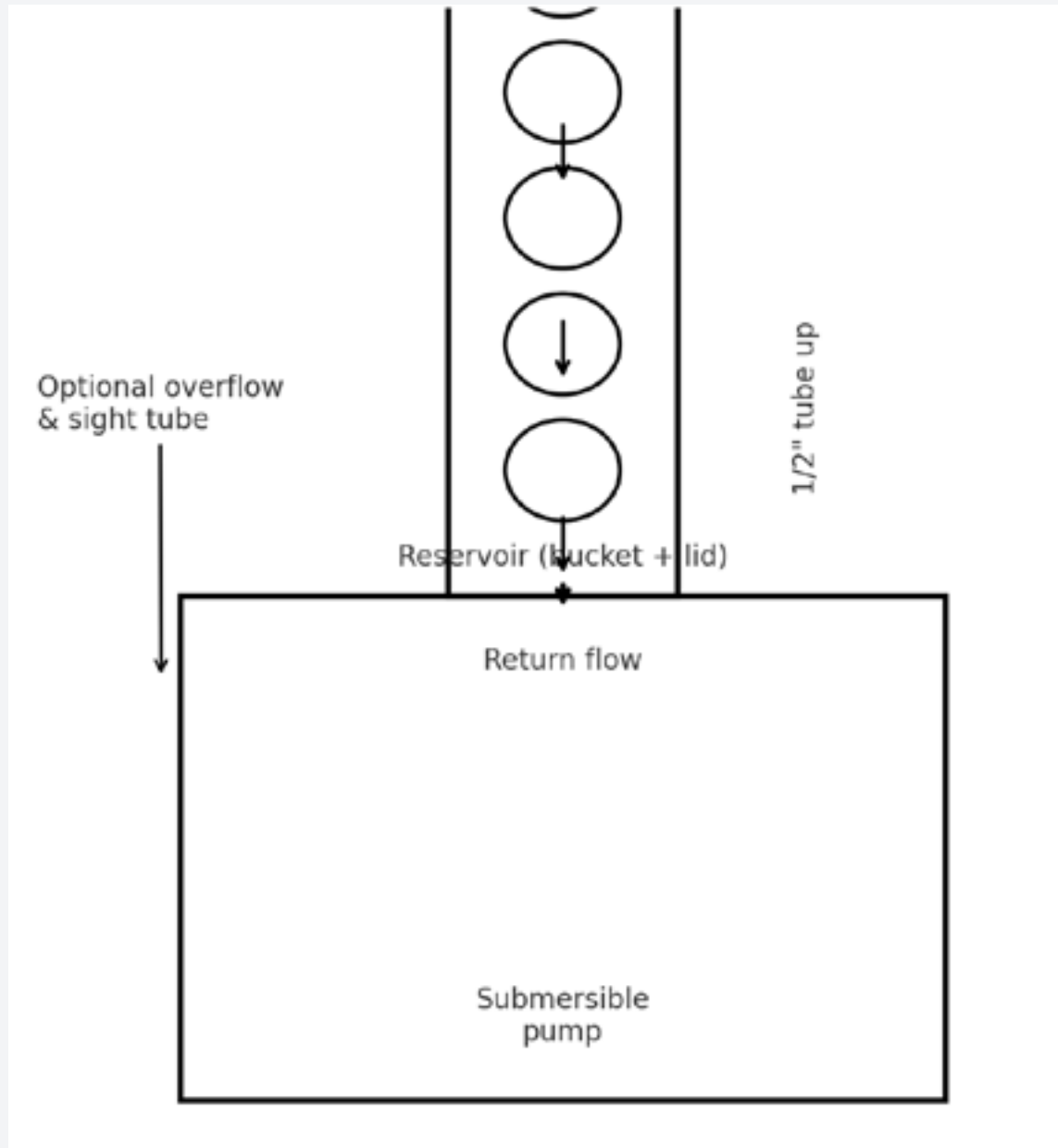
CONCEPTUAL RENDERING

Hydroponic System

Adapted Design

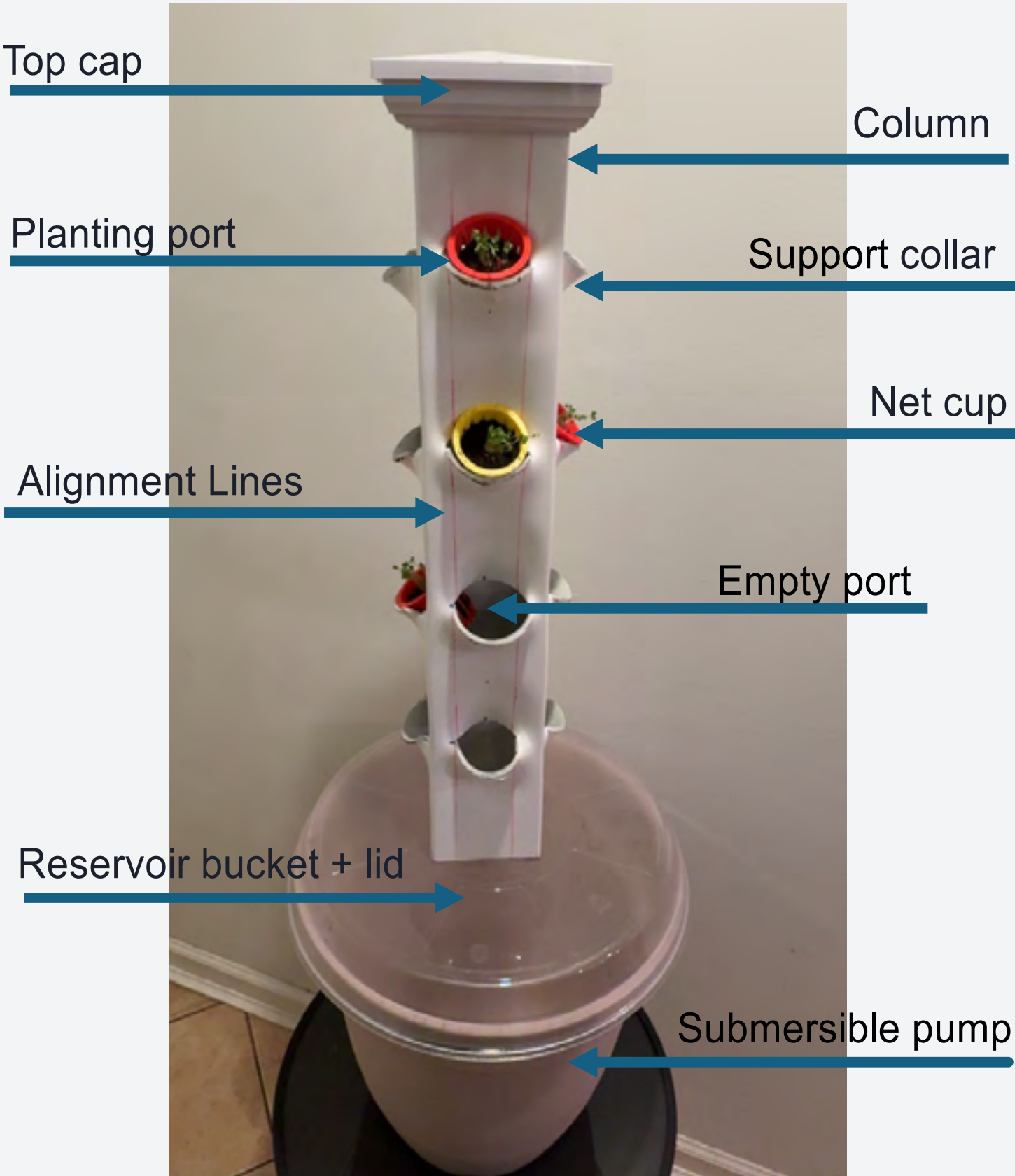
I've always been fascinated by how design can make daily life more sustainable, especially when the materials are already at hand. Food waste and long transport chains are invisible costs in modern living, and the idea of growing leafy greens at home felt like a practical way to reduce both.

While exploring DIY hydroponic systems online, I came across a tower design that caught my attention. It was clever, but it also relied on buying new plastic parts. I saw an opportunity: what if I could adapt the concept using only the resources already available to me?



CAPTION: 3D-printed sponge shaper, net cup, and hydroponic sponge.

I began with a leftover 4×4 fence post from a past project — not the material most people would imagine for hydroponics, but it was sturdy, solid, and waiting to be transformed. I retrofitted it step by step: cutting, drilling, and shaping the post into the framework for a vertical garden. The remaining challenge was how to secure the growing medium. Rather than soil, I used coco-peat sponges — a blend of coco coir and peat moss. Lightweight, renewable, and nutrient-free, they provide structure and moisture retention without introducing soil, making them an ideal substrate for hydroponics.



CAPTION: Labeled diagram of a DIY hydroponic tower showing its main components.

To solve that, I turned to 3D printing. I designed custom baskets to hold the cocopeat sponges, refining the openings through several test prints until the fit was snug enough to retain moisture yet open enough for roots to grow. It became a process of trial, error, and incremental improvement — each small prototype leading to a practical solution.



CAPTION: Seedlings sprouting in net cups.

When the first seedlings sprouted, the system came alive. The recycled fence post, the 3D-printed baskets, and the improvised assembly all worked together to form a functional, low-cost hydroponic tower. What began as a blog idea evolved into a sustainable, resourceful prototype tailored to my environment.

For me, this project highlighted how unmet consumer needs — affordable, accessible home hydroponics — can spark innovative solutions. By combining material reuse with digital fabrication, I created a design that not only functions effectively but also reveals pathways for scalable, branded systems that could bring sustainable growing into mainstream home environments.



Hydroponic Sponge Shaper

Refining Growth Media

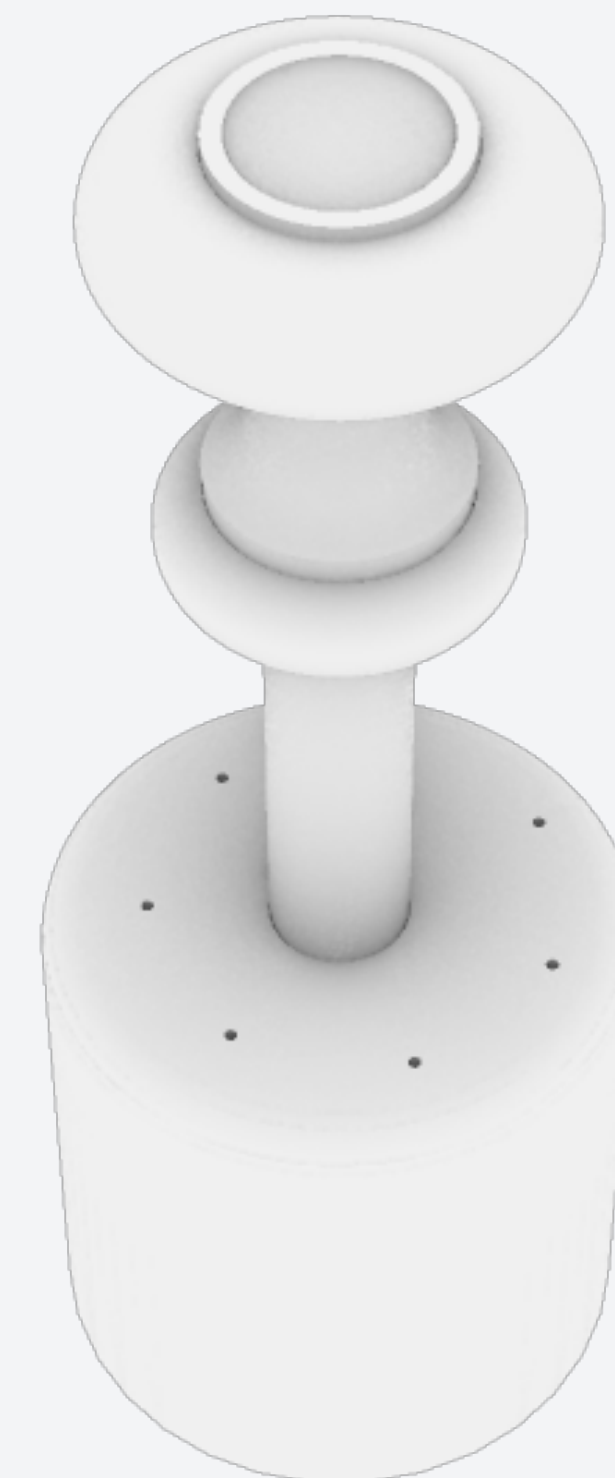
One of the key challenges in hydroponics is not the tower itself, but the growing medium that supports seedlings. I came across on-line discussions about "seedling sponges," and while the concept made sense, the execution often relied on synthetic binders or pre-made inserts. I wanted to explore whether I could design a more natural, adaptable solution.



CAPTION: 3D-printed sponge shaper, net cup, and hydroponic sponge.
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I began by experimenting with different formulations. My early tests included clay as a binder, then starch-based mixes, but both proved either too brittle or inconsistent to hold moisture effectively. Each trial became a small science experiment, teaching me not only what didn't work but also how delicate the balance is between structure and permeability.

Ultimately, the breakthrough came by simplifying: shaping the seedling medium without additives at all. By compressing cocopeat — a blend of coco coir and peat moss — into sponge-like cakes, I created pods that retained moisture, allowed root penetration, and avoided unnecessary binders. The focus shifted from chemistry to the tool needed to create the shapes reliably.

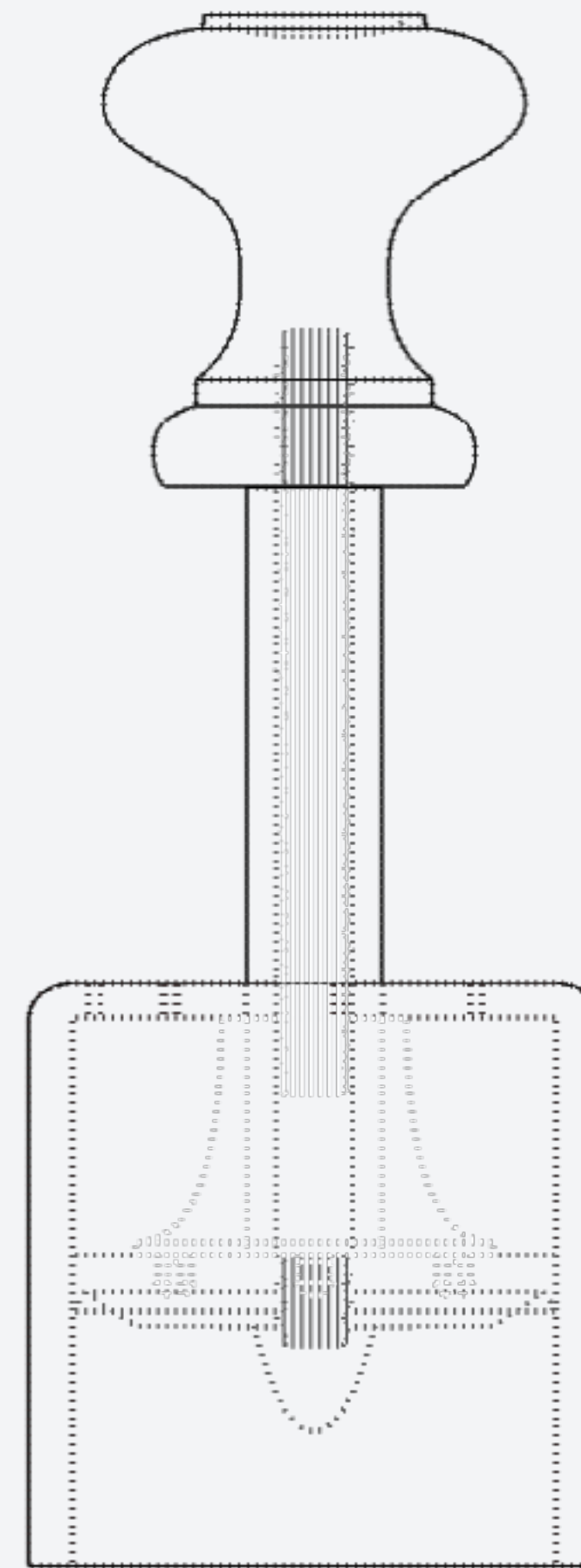


CAPTION: rendering image of the 3D printed
sponge shaper

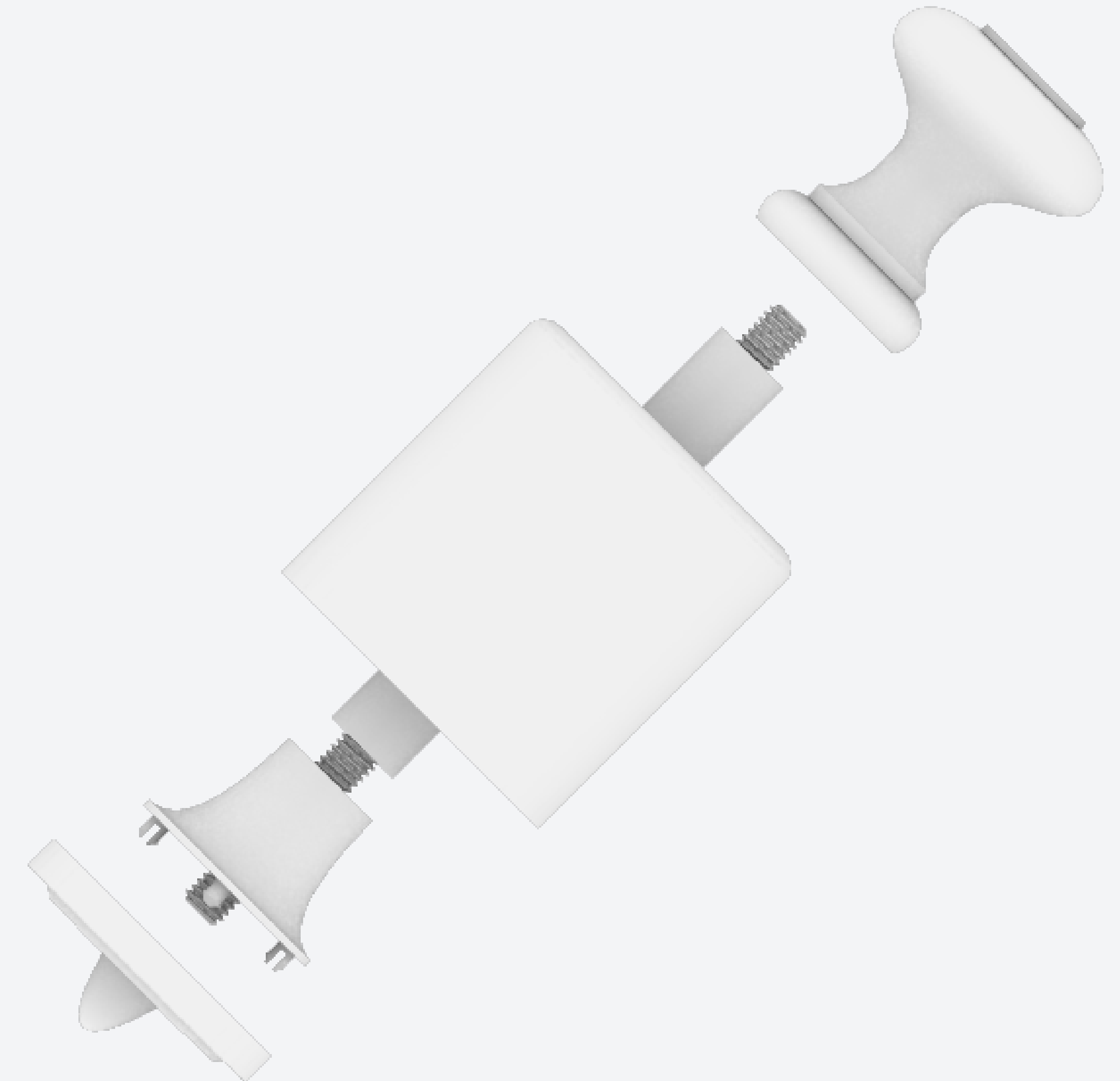
That tool became the Sponge Shaper. I designed it in Rhino, teaching myself the basics of 3D modeling specifically for this purpose. The process was a learning curve — adjusting tolerances, refining dimensions, and then translating digital models into real prints. Each prototype taught me something about how 3D printing behaves differently from CAD, until I finally produced a functional shaper that could compress the coco peat into consistent pods.

The first time I placed a handmade seedling pod into the hydroponic basket, it felt like the system had come full circle. From material experiments to digital design to 3D printing, the Sponge Shaper became both a tool and a lesson in iteration. It showed me how design is rarely about finding the “perfect” formula on the first try — it’s about testing, refining, and adapting until the idea works in practice.

This project, like the tower it supports, reinforced how accessible hydroponics can be when design thinking meets resourcefulness. A simple 3D-printed tool enabled me to transform raw materials into growing pods that outperformed commercial alternatives, closing the loop between concept and cultivation.



CAPTION: crossed section of sponge shaper



CAPTION: Exploded assembly rendering of sponge shaper

Clay Stamp

Custom Design for a Ceramicist

This project began with a commission from a local ceramicist who wanted a custom clay stamp that reflected his work and his love for his dachshund. The brief was simple but personal: combine his initials with a motif of his miniature dachshund into a functional tool that could mark his ceramics.

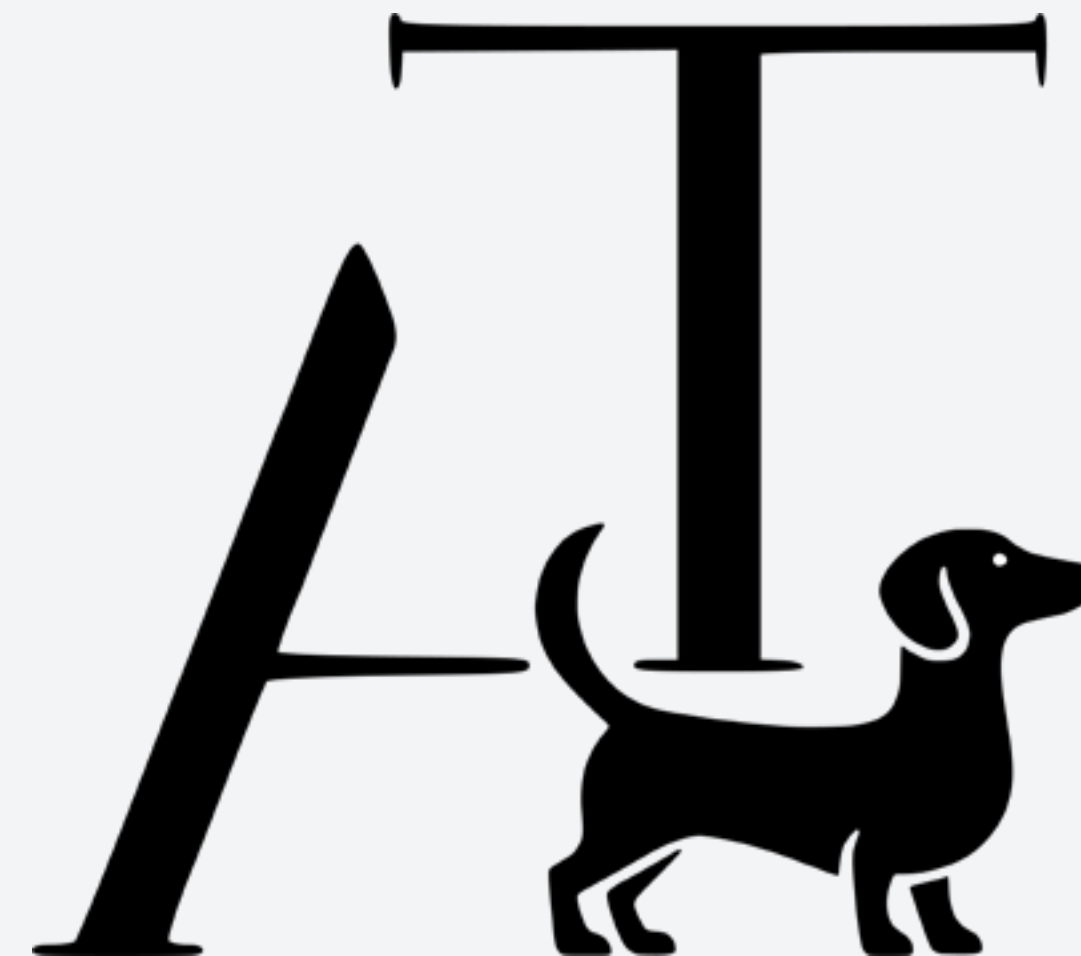
The process started with AI-assisted image generation, followed by refinement in Photoshop to clean and prepare the artwork. I then converted the design into a vector graphic in Illustrator, making sure the lines were precise and suitable for engraving. With the logo finalized, I moved into Rhino, where I modeled the stamp as a 3D form, experimenting with depth and edge detail to ensure a clean imprint in clay.

Prototypes were printed on a 3D printer and tested directly in clay, allowing adjustments to scale, line thickness, and depth until the impression was sharp and repeatable. The final stamp balanced functionality with personal meaning — a durable, usable tool that carried both the artist's initials and the silhouette of his dachshund.

This project highlighted how digital tools — from AI to 3D modeling — can merge with craft traditions to create bespoke products with emotional resonance. The successful collaboration reinforced my appreciation for how personalized design solutions can strengthen the connection between maker and tool.



CAPTION: First design iteration and prototype test.



CAPTION: Second design iteration and prototype test.

Modern Sofa Concept

Walnut & Upholstery



FRONT VIEW

This project explored the silhouette of modern furniture through a minimalist sofa design. The concept combined a solid black walnut frame with upholstered seating, armrests, and cushions, balancing the warmth of natural wood with the comfort of fabric.

The design emphasized clean, geometric lines softened by subtle curves, creating a contemporary profile that was both structured and inviting. Materiality played a key role: walnut offered durability and elegance, while upholstery introduced a tactile contrast.

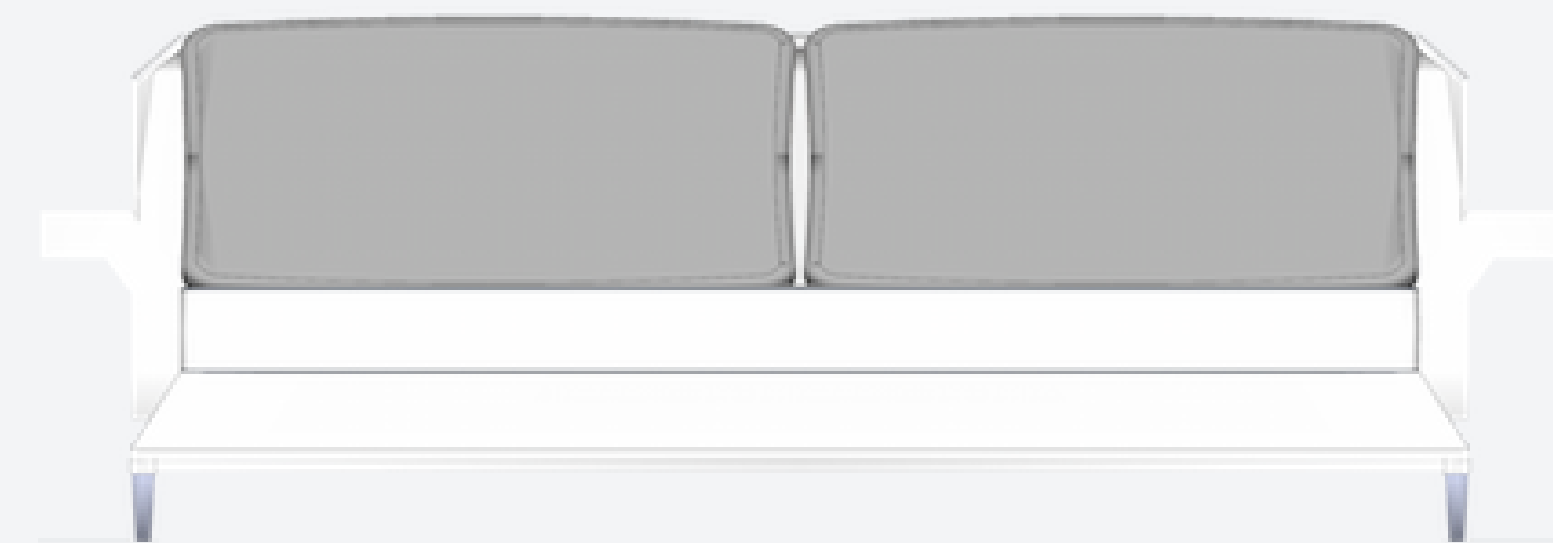
Beyond form and material, this project served as an early exploration of digital visualization capabilities. Working in the early 2010s, I used this design to test advanced rendering workflows, studying how precise control of light, texture, and shadow could transform a digital model into

a compelling design communication tool.

The result was not a production-ready piece but a design study — an exploration of how modern furniture could merge simplicity, function, and digital craft



BACK VIEW



FRONT ELEVATION

Pinhole Camera

From Concept to Darkroom

As part of my undergraduate degree, I enrolled in the Photography Fundamentals elective course, motivated by my love of fine arts and photography. The assignment was to design and construct a working pinhole camera using carboard and foamboard materials. I approached it with a concept-first workflow: concept drawing → full-scale cardboard/foamboard prototype → production-ready build.

Concept

I designed the camera body around three independent, light-tight chambers—essentially three lenses in one camera. Each chamber has its own pinhole and shutter, allowing two distinct modes of use:

- Simultaneous multi-exposure on a single sheet (capturing three viewpoints at once)
- This tri-chamber layout was an experiment in how parallel viewpoints and technical variables (time, aperture, pinhole diameter, focal distance) can reshape spatial perception, particularly in architectural subjects.

Prototype

To move from drawing to build, I constructed a full-scale foamboard and cardboard prototype. This step allowed me to test:

- Paper/negative loading and registration
- The model was a rapid, low-cost way to refine tolerances and usability before committing to a durable production-ready material.

Process & Testing

In the darkroom, I ran exposure tests for each chamber—making test strips, standardizing pinhole diameters, and calibrating focal distances

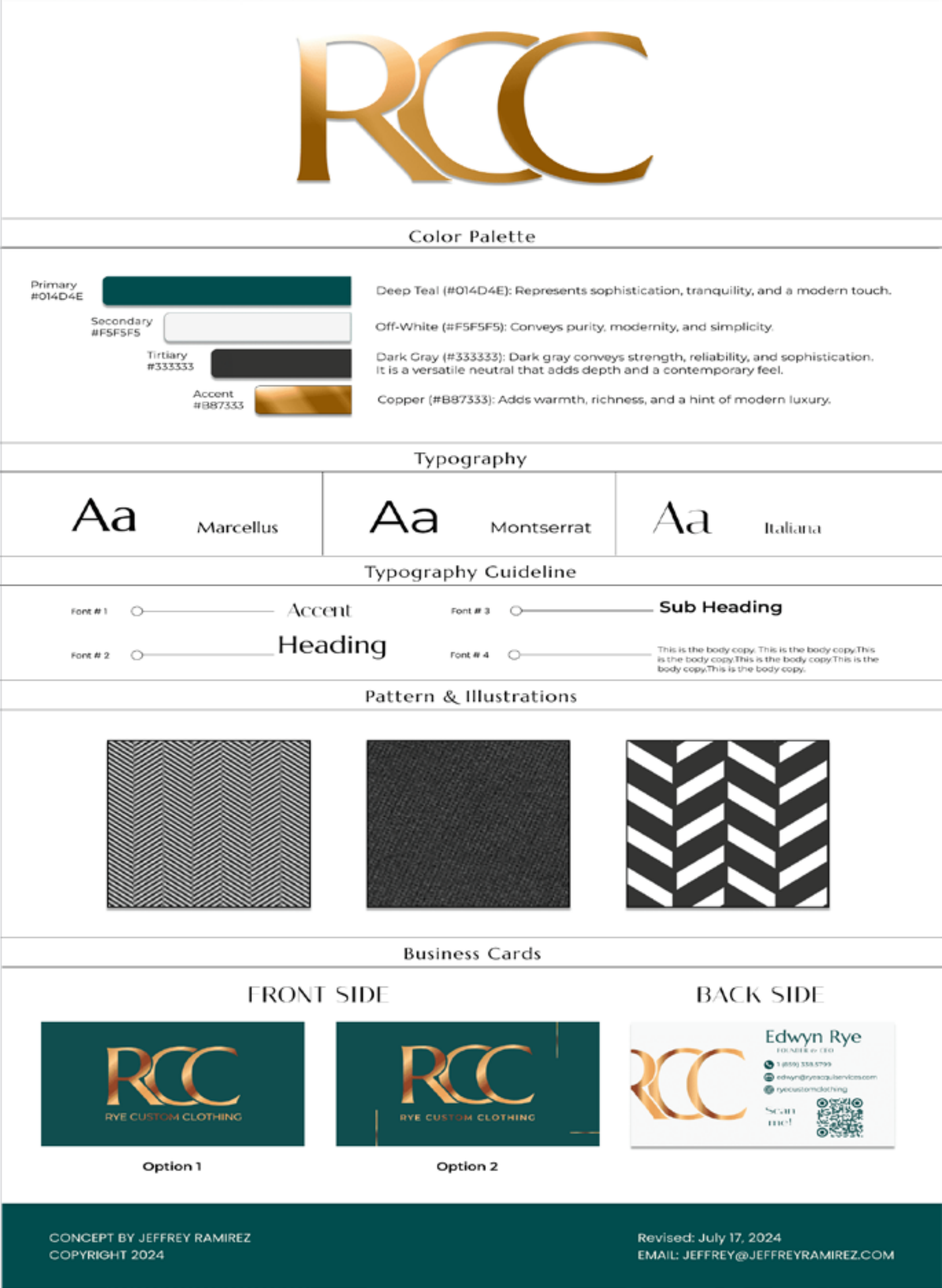
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to achieve consistent densities across three images. I documented adjustments (dodging, burning, paper grades) to see how subtle changes shifted the reading of edges, planes, and depth within architectural compositions.

Outcome & Reflection

The final deliverables included the original concept sketch, the working prototype, calibration notes, and a series of prints demonstrating both simultaneous multi-exposures and isolated single chamber captures. Beyond producing a functional camera, the project became a study in how camera design itself influences spatial representation. It linked technical choices to aesthetic outcomes, showing how even the most minimal tool—a pinhole—can open up new ways of seeing and interpreting space.





RCC Logo

Branding Design for a Custom Clothier

Rye Custom Clothing (RCC) approached me with the need for a logo that reflected their core values: craftsmanship, sophistication, and individuality in men's custom-made suits. The challenge was to design an identity that felt timeless yet modern — a brand mark that could stand confidently in both digital and physical applications, from business cards to embroidered suit labels.

The process began with research into luxury tailoring and heritage fashion houses, studying how typography, proportion, and subtle details convey refinement. I explored several directions, starting with sketches and digital drafts, narrowing toward a monogram approach that balanced strength with elegance.

I refined the design in Illustrator, experimenting with typographic structures until the initials “RCC” interlocked in a way that felt bold but not overwhelming. Supporting variations were developed for different contexts — from full wordmarks to simplified monograms.

The final logo combined geometric clarity with artisanal cues, symbolizing both precision tailoring and individual style. Paired with a neutral, masculine color palette, it offered flexibility while maintaining a strong visual identity.

This project showed how thoughtful logo design can distill a brand's essence into a mark that communicates both craft and confidence.

Birthday Card

Layered Design & Digital Fabrication

This project began as a playful exploration of combining fine arts, typography, and digital fabrication into a tangible keepsake. The goal was to design a multi-layer birthday card and matching envelope that felt both handcrafted and professional — cheerful, dimensional, and fun.

The process started with AI-generated imagery to develop a whimsical background motif and spot illustrations. Photoshop was used for refinement before the elements were arranged in Adobe InDesign, where I worked with typography, grid, and layer organization to balance text and visuals. I iterated on headlines and messages with AI-generated copy-writing, refining the rhythm and tone until the writing matched the lighthearted spirit of the design.

For production, I used a Cricut machine to precisely cut the layered elements, score fold lines, and create the envelope flaps. Multiple iterations were tested to adjust tolerances, layering depth, and assembly order, ensuring the final card felt crisp and dimensional without being fragile.

The finished card became more than a greeting — it was an interactive object with depth and movement. This project showed how design tools, from AI to precision fabrication, can merge playfulness and craft into something personal and memorable.



Cardboard Prototype

Corrugate Lounger



This project was completed during a one-hour design charrette in a Furniture Design class, with the goal of exploring structure and form using only cardboard. The exercise emphasized speed, improvisation, and material exploration, encouraging us to move quickly from idea to prototype without overthinking.

I focused on creating fluid, organic surfaces that folded and curved to suggest both support and enclosure. By bending and layering the cardboard, the prototype took on the qualities of a sculptural object that could be read simultaneously as surface, seat, and frame.

Although produced in a short timeframe, the study highlighted how material constraints and time pressure can push creativity toward bold, experimental outcomes. Working within cardboard's natural properties taught me to embrace structural limitations as design opportunities. The result was not intended to be a finished piece of furniture but a three-dimensional model — a rapid, tangible exploration of proportion, balance, and form.



Cardboard Prototype

From Floor Plan to Physical Form

The project combined precision in model-making with conceptual lessons in spatial perception, providing an early foundation in how layout, structure, and light work together to define interiors. This hands-on approach to understanding space through physical modeling continues to inform how I approach three-dimensional problem-solving today.

A key part of the exercise was introducing perforations in the walls — strategic openings that began to define light, views, and transitions between spaces. Once constructed, the prototype served as the foundation for producing basic elevations, connecting the abstract plan with tangible form.



Later in the course, the model became a tool for studying light and shadow. By observing how natural light entered and moved across the cardboard surfaces, I gained insight into how architecture shapes interior experience. This reinforced how design decisions, even at the level of wall openings, directly influence mood and function.

The project combined precision in model-making with conceptual lessons in spatial perception, providing an early foundation in how layout, structure, and light work together to define interiors.

Minnetonka Serene Living

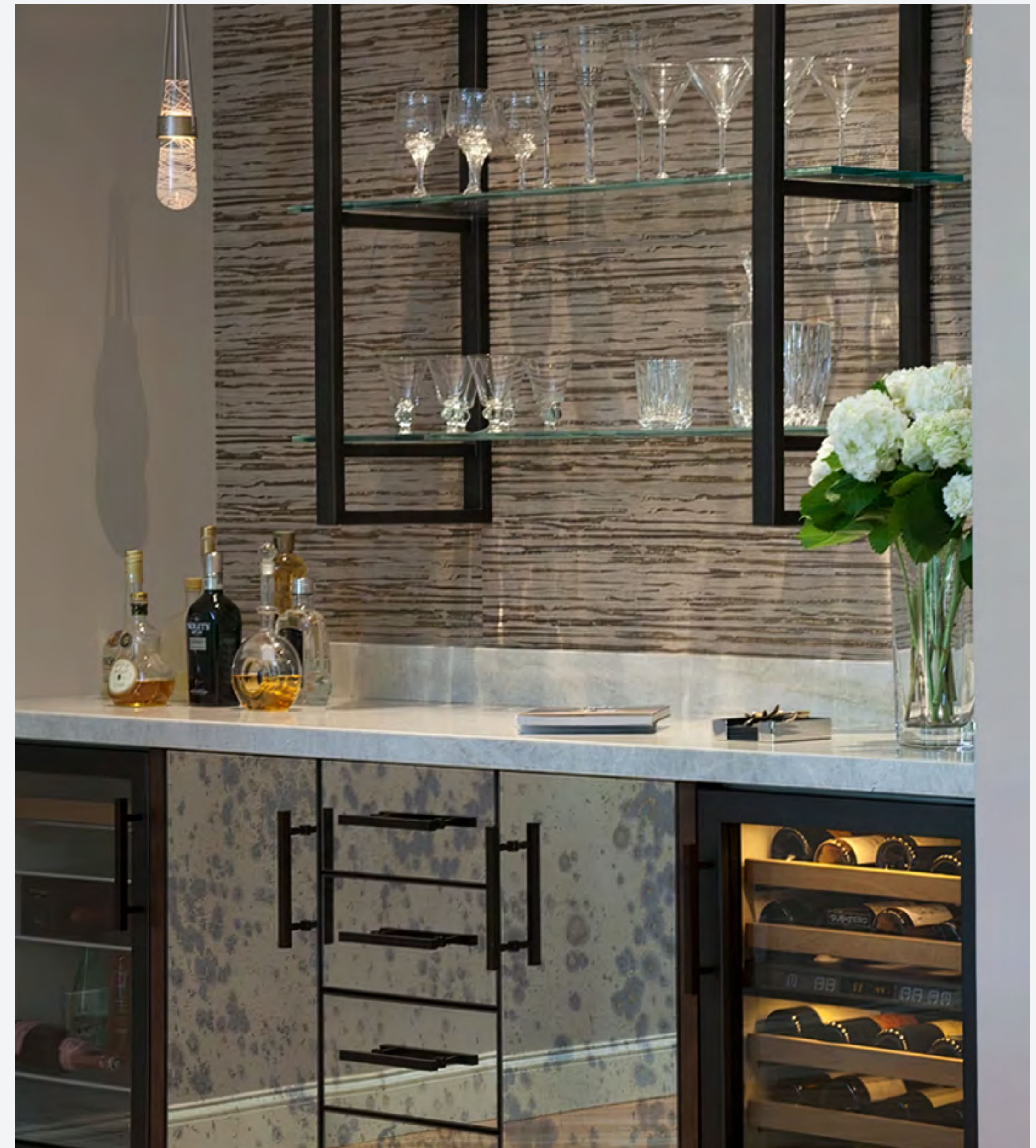
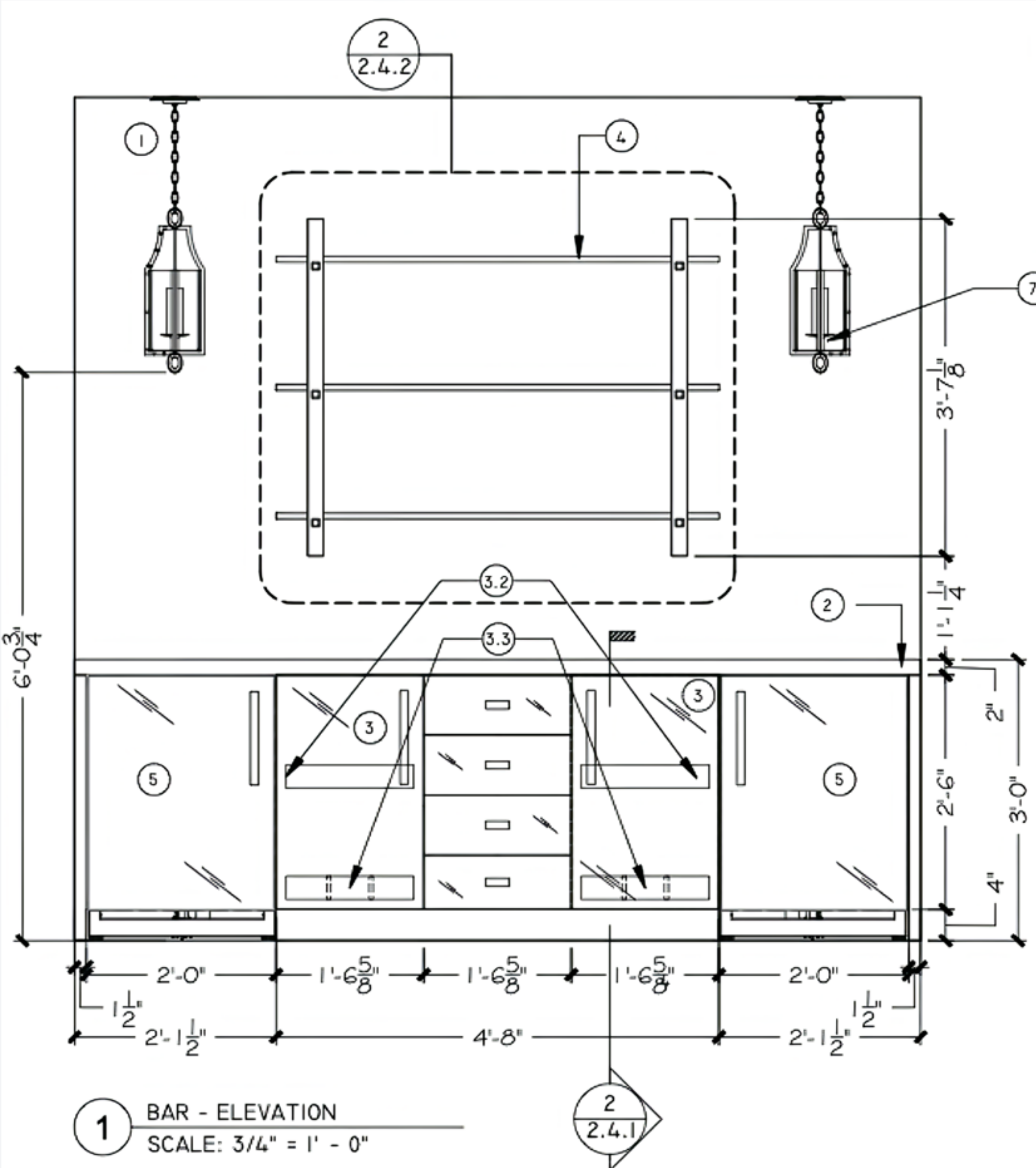
Firm: Ramsey Engler Ltd.

This residential project addressed the challenge of creating visual continuity between disconnected great room and dining spaces. The design strategy centered on introducing natural materials to unify the areas while enhancing their distinct functions.



The custom fireplace with integrated rock ledge became the focal anchor, providing textural contrast against clean-lined furnishings. A layered lighting approach combined ambient and task lighting to define zones while maintaining flow between spaces.

Material selection emphasized neutral palettes and natural textures, balancing the clients' desire for comfort with contemporary aesthetics. The result transformed two separate rooms into a cohesive living environment that supports both intimate gatherings and everyday family use.



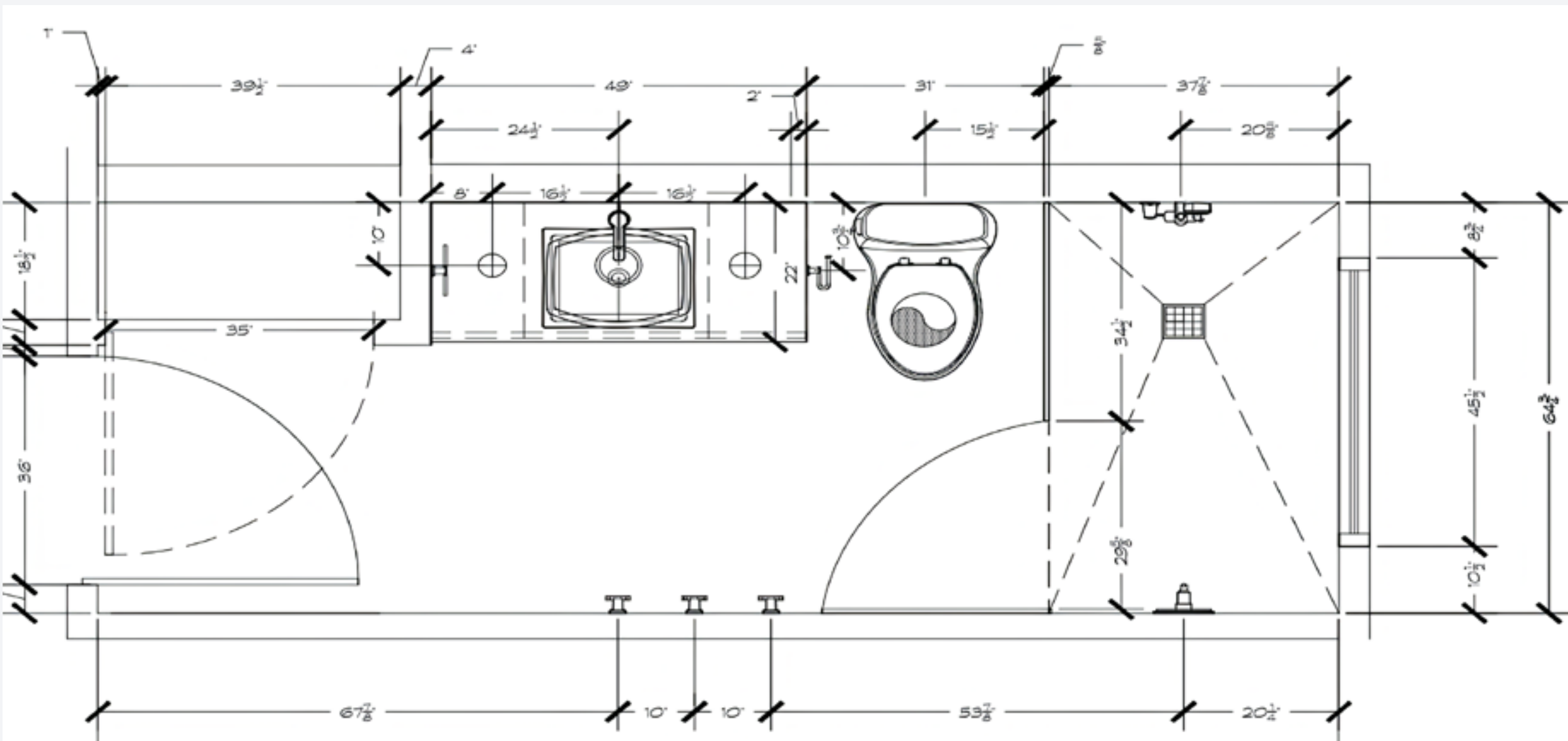
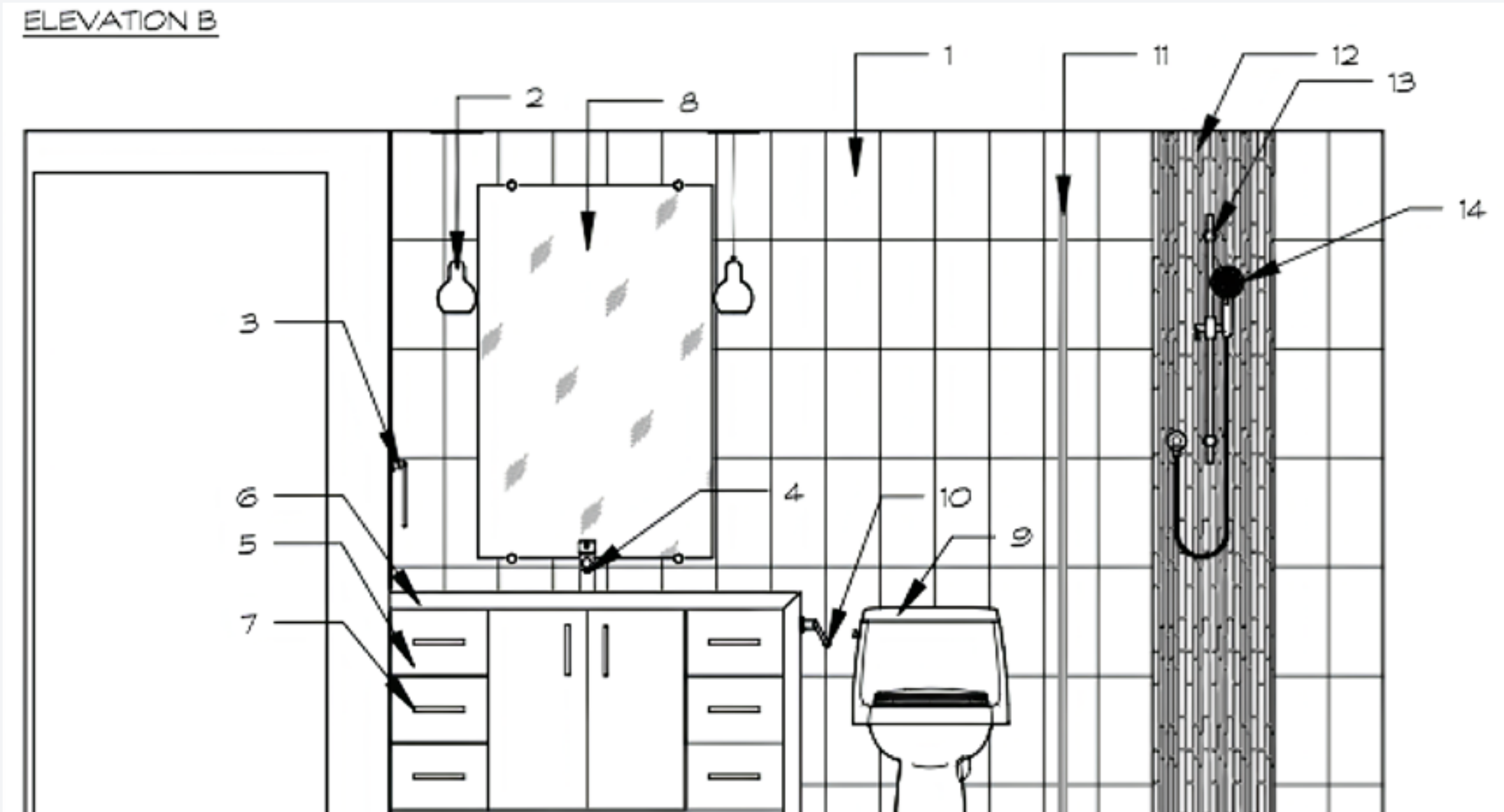
Modern Desert Oasis

Firm: Lori Carroll & Associates

Modern Desert Oasis is a project I led to create modern desert oasis bathrooms that redefine luxury. Drawing inspiration from the desert landscape, we curated interiors blending sophistication with natural textures for a tranquil retreat.

Our focus on textured finishes, handpicked furnishings, and strategic lighting placement ensures an immersive experience that elevates everyday living. This project reflects our commitment to crafting spaces that inspire wonder and invite relaxation.





DevOps Capstone Project

Accounts Micro-service

Overview

Architected and deployed a production-grade Accounts micro-service demonstrating the complete DevOps lifecycle from agile planning through automated deployment and monitoring.

Service Development

- REST API with Python/Flask (CRUD)
- PostgreSQL integration with pooling
- Security headers (Flask-Talisman) & CORS
- 95%+ test coverage (TDD with nose)

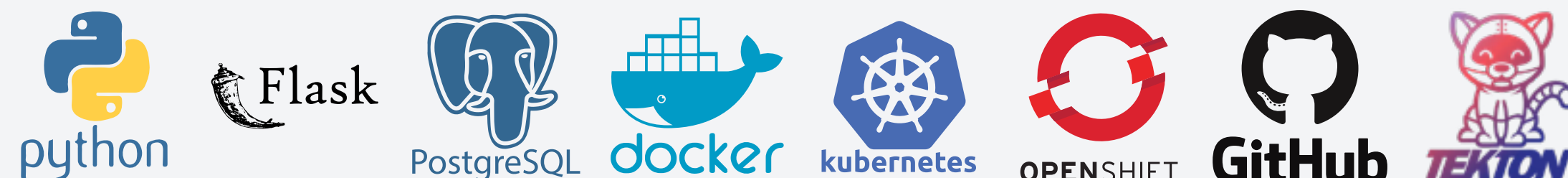
Agile Workflow

- 3 sprints using GitHub Projects Kanban
- User stories with Gherkin acceptance criteria
- Prioritized backlog + sprint metrics

Pipeline Engineering

- CI: GitHub Actions (linting, testing, security scans)
- Containerization: Docker multi-stage builds, Kubernetes/OpenShift YAMLs
- CD: Tekton pipeline (clone → lint → test → build → deploy)

Tech Stack



Monitoring & Observability

- Prometheus for metrics
- Grafana dashboards for visualization
- Health checks & alerting systems
- Structured logging with correlation IDs
- Monitoring

Production Features

- Liveness/readiness probes
- Secrets & configuration management
- Database migrations with version control
- Error handling & structured logs

Key Achievements

- 95%+ automated test coverage
- Enterprise-grade security scanning
- Production-ready deployment on OpenShift
- Fully automated pipeline from commit → deploy
- Tekton pipeline

Business Impact

- Deployment time reduced to minutes
- Improved reliability with proactive monitoring
- Reproducible workflows for developer efficiency

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Portfolio