

Program Summary:

The new construction building blends residential and commercial architectural forms into this multipurpose dog park and restaurant/bar situated within a unique neighborhood context.

Program Statement:

Located at the residential and commercial edge of a New Orleans neighborhood, the project employs an architectural language that brings together both residential and commercial architecture languages. Aiming to seamlessly integrate into the local context, the buildings were designed as a playful collection of three interconnected dwellings, carved away to provide space for the bar, outdoor seating area, and kitchen.

Operating both as a dog run and an outdoor eatery, the design team was tasked with packing a robust program into the site's relatively small, rectilinear site. Situated on a typical narrow New Orleans lot, the team concluded the best arrangement was to place the dog run at the front of the property with the bar and restaurant in the rear. Materially, the team prioritized high performing products that could withstand the wear and tear of this indoor-outdoor facility.

Color plays an important role in the project. The team researched how dogs see color and found they can distinguish between variations of blues, yellows, whites, and grays, prompting a color palette of cool blues and bold yellows that adorn the exterior seating area of the restaurant. The roof is comprised of dark gray integrally colored metal panels that fold down the walls, contrasting the colorful interior spaces throughout and while contributing to the durability of the structures. Combined with a colorful mural designed by a local muralist, The project is a playful place where both humans and dogs can unwind in a community-oriented environment.

A-200.01

Building Area: (sf)
2,500

Cost per Square Foot:
\$400

Construction Cost
\$1,000,000

Date of Completion:
February 2024

A-200.02

Exterior view

Upon arrival to the site, visitors are ushered through an inviting welcome sequence that feels both approachable and provides privacy from the street. This maneuver was meant to ensure dogs and visitors alike have a sense of separation inside to create a distinct experience from the street.



A-200.03

Aerial view

Situated between commercial and private residential neighborhoods, the design strategy for the project focused on delivering an environment that would seamlessly blend into the local context, both densely urban and slightly removed from the city center.



A-200.04

Dog Run

The dog run is equipped with a durable turf that acts as both an exercise space for dogs and a hang out spot for dog owners. The building's architecture provides a welcoming backdrop to provide a space for community amongst visitors.



A-200.05

Custom Murals

Murals by a local New Orleans artist were designed for both the enjoyment of dog visitors and their owners. Researching the way dogs perceive color, the mural was created to provide a unique sensorial experience for dogs based on how they perceive different shades.



A-200.06

Color Theory

When determining the color palette for the project, the design team studied which colors are more visible to dogs. Dogs cannot distinguish between red and green and see their world in shades of grey, yellow and blue. Therefore, the design team decided to select the yellow/blue color scheme so that all patrons, 2-legged and 4-legged could appreciate the design.



WHAT YOU SEE



WHAT YOUR DOG SEES



SELECTED COLOR PALETTE



A-200.07

Bar Area

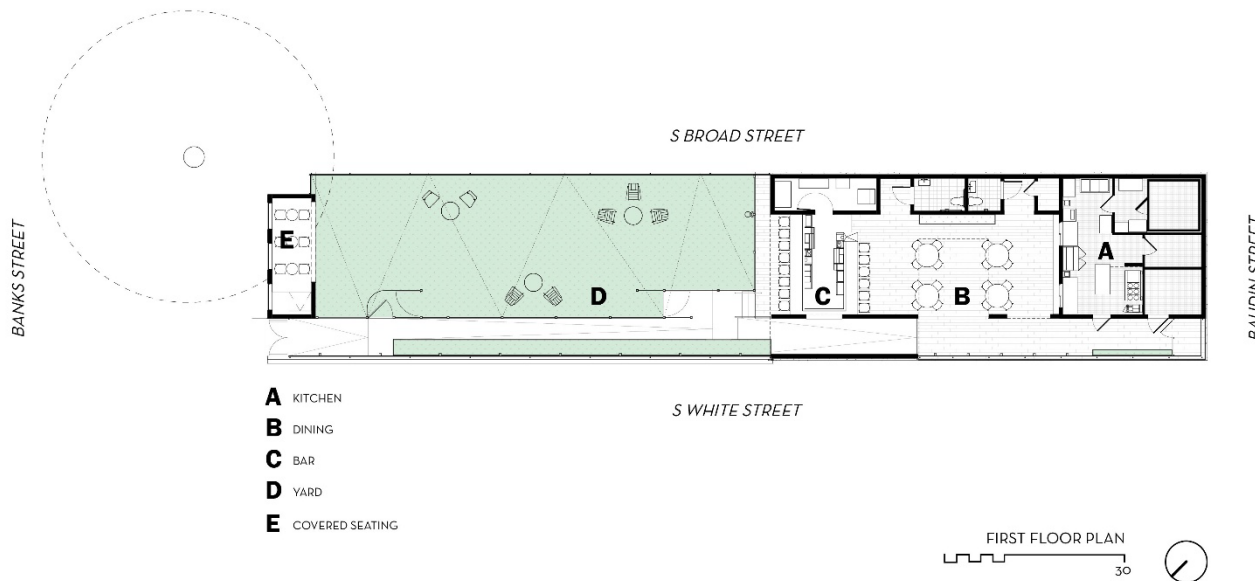
An elevated bar overlooking the dog run creates an additional zone for relaxing outside the bustling play area. A simple metal fence between these zones creates minimal separation, which was required by the local health department, while still maintaining an open feel throughout the area.



A-200.08

Floor Plan

The plan demonstrates the structured approach to how the design team assembled the layout of the program. Locating the restaurant and bar area at the back of the site, the front half is designated for the welcome sequence and wide open dog run. The two spaces are connected by a continuous linear sloped walkway that gently rises up to the raised building elevation, which was required to be 4 feet above grade to comply with base flood elevation requirements.



A-200.09

Aerial View

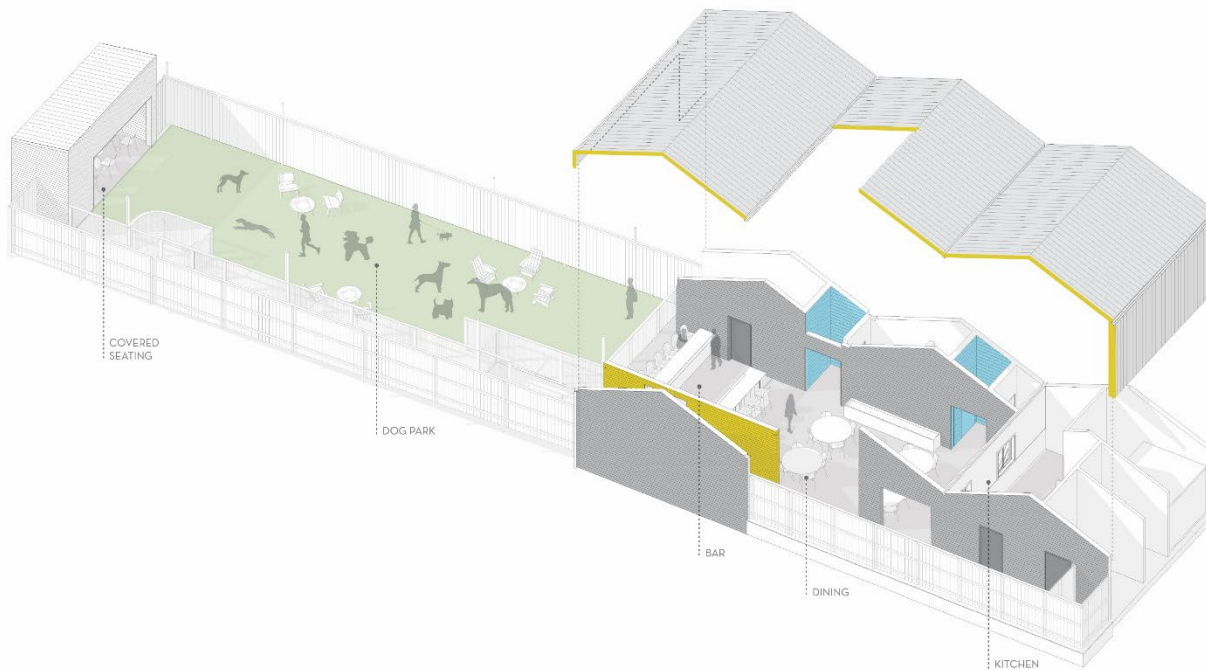
Mindful of the neighborhood context and the surrounding lots and buildings, the design team adopted a contextual approach to assess how the program could comfortably fit within the narrow site. Management of light spillage was a key sustainability objective. Low-level step lights and overhead catenary lighting was used in lieu of large overhead area lights.



A-200.10

Axonometric view and plan

When the design team first considered the roofline for the restaurant, bar, and back of house structures, they aimed to create a sense of cohesion with the neighborhood, while still creating opportunities for light and air to penetrate the dining and lounging areas. The decision was made to utilize a repeated house form with steep-sloped roofs to gesture to the surrounding residential neighborhood.



A-200.11

Aerial view

Although the building form takes cues from residential architecture typologies, the building materials reflect the nearby commercial and industrial buildings nearby on the main commercial corridor. A budget-conscious exposed-fastener roof panel was utilized for the roof, and continues down the wall at the eave end of the structure.



A-200.12

Dining area and bar

The outdoor dining area is open and airy. The design team selected and procured colorful and durable outdoor furnishings that encourage humans and dogs to stay awhile. Wrapped in gray metal wall panels and painted wood siding, the area feels immersive and separated from the activities of the dog run.



A-200.13

Exterior, street view

The architectural strategy was formed in concert with the situational context of the site, and provides a new amenity for the community to enjoy.

