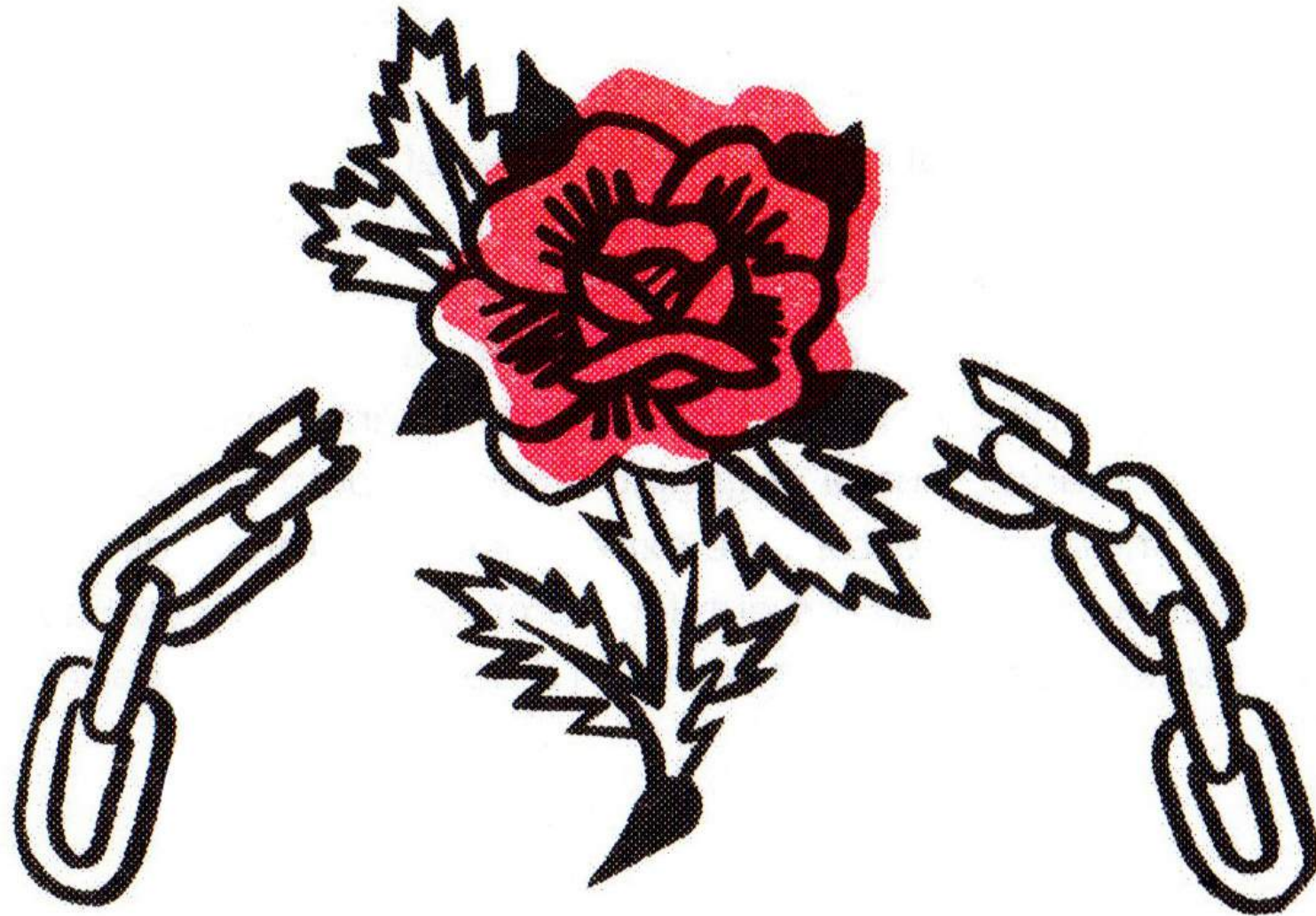


GARDEN BEHIND THE FENCE



INMATE BUILT STRUCTURES WILL TRANSFORM THE CONTEMPORARY PRISON AND
JAIL LANDSCAPE BY FOSTERING THE REHABILITATIVE EXPERIENCE OF GARDENING.

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

SERVING THE INCARCERATED WITH
HORTICULTURAL THERAPY

The United States has more incarcerated individuals than any nation in the world and subsequently a high recidivism rate. It is now understood that increased punitive measures do not decrease recidivism. With many jails and prisons having an abundance of underutilized outdoor landscape, often nothing more than gravel and cut grass, there is an opportunity to introduce positive programmatic functions in the open air.

Garden Behind The Fence is an investigation into how product and spatial design can support rehabilitative programming in correctional facilities by offering a healthy and valuable experience, both in the moment and for the future. This project identifies horticultural therapy programs as offering hands on, and mentally stimulating activities for inmates of any age, gender, and security level. Gardening asks for physical participation and problem solving that translates to virtually any skill or endeavor by cultivating an individual’s sense of self and their connection with larger systems.

OPPORTUNITY

After volunteering at Rikers Island Jail complex and working alongside inmates in the horticulture program I propose a unique outdoor landscape model delivered through a single product that enhances existing and emerging horticulture programs in U.S. prisons and jails.

Each landscaping project is entirely custom and asks for a substantial investment of resources from the facilities and personnel. This is why Garden Behind The Fence is an industrially manufactured and deployable planting unit to occupy high security landscapes. Raised plantings offer the mobility, and modularity appropriate for these unique environments while embracing security measures, and seasonal conditions. This intervention integrates a raised planter bed with seating to create programmable social hubs, drawing attention to the plants growing within, and requiring stewardship from the inmate population.



CASE STUDY: RIKERS ISLAND JAIL COMPLEX, NEW YORK CITY

The Horticulture Society of New York offers classes seven days a week in several facilities on Rikers Island. Nutrition is a large part of the curriculum, where inmate-students order seeds from catalogs, plant what they wish, and eat what grows! The duration of an inmate’s stay on the island fluctuates, as does the growing season. The program is designed to engage the students in horticultural practices no matter how long or short they participate. Two thriving greenhouses and indoor grow lamps ensure there is cultivation throughout the year.



RIKERS ISLAND
"Greenhouse" Garden
RMSC Facility

BRONX

QUEENS

There are four gardens on Rikers Island, each located at different facilities. The largest and most established garden is located Rose M. Singer Correctional Facility near the North East shoreline.

RIKERS ISLAND GREENHOUSE GARDEN

Site model

This model depicts the beautiful qualities of this 3 acre garden where sentenced men and women learn botany and care for the rose garden, butterfly gardens, vegetable beds, trees, guinea hens, make natural balms, tea sachets, and salads from fresh produce. Gardens require year round attention and in the colder months there are indoor seed preparation tasks and daily lessons. Harvesting is a major benefit to participants because it is a reward for the

dedication that plants require. Other gardens on the island are smaller but have great potential. Each landscape space is opportunity for a design intervention and potential pilot programs.



ROSE GARDEN

GREENHOUSE & CLASSROOM

GAZEBO

BUTTERFLY GARDEN

MAPLE TREES

VEGETABLE BEDS

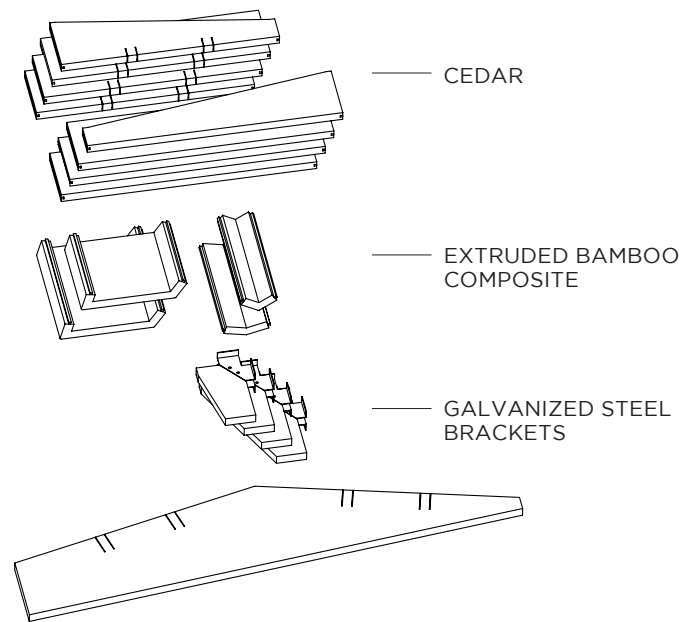
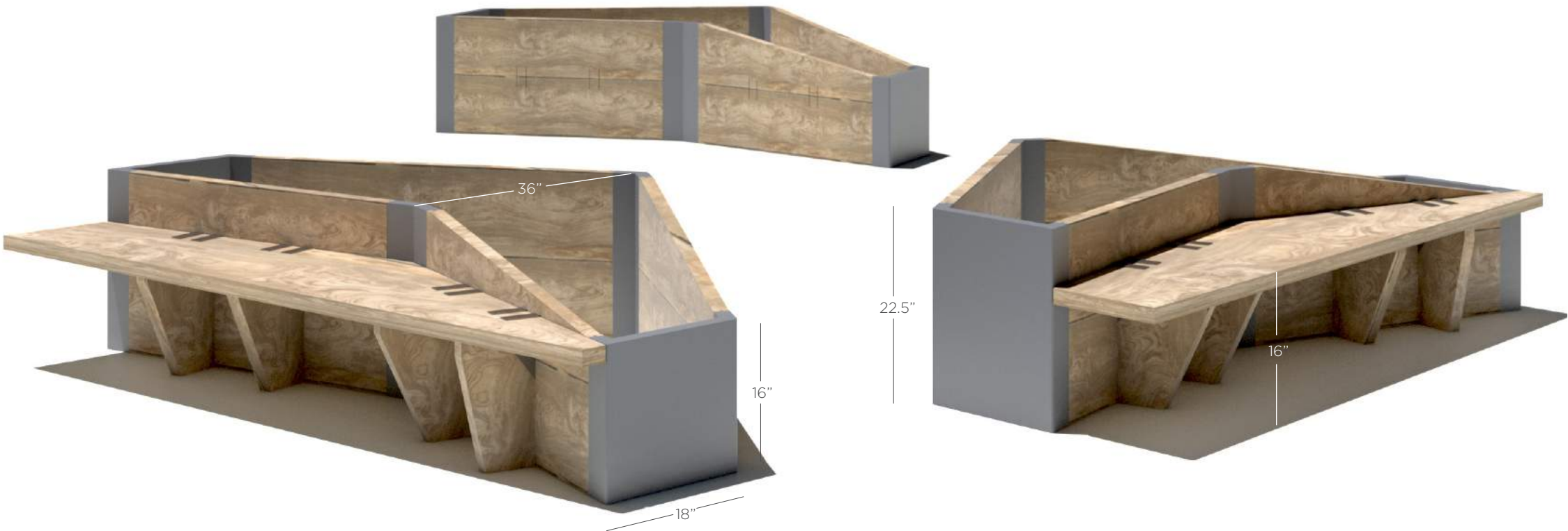




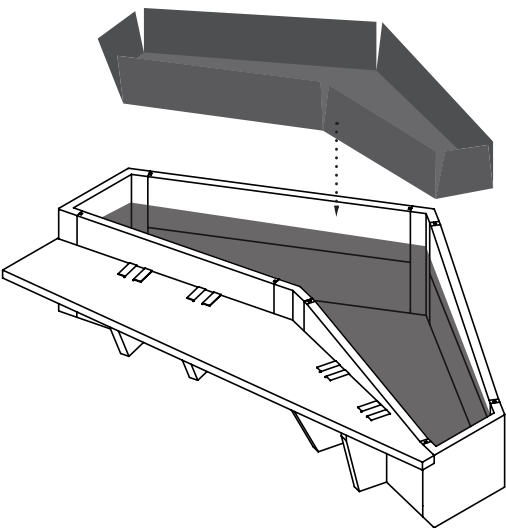
GARDEN BEHIND THE FENCE

Supporting curricula in horticultural therapy programs, Garden Behind The Fence rethinks the typical detention environment by integrating raised planter beds with seating to create programmable social hubs. Engaging inmate-students to construct the planters develops a sense of ownership while transforming the landscape and honing skills to be applied upon release. Garden Behind The Fence assures that interaction with plants, soil, and wildlife is ongoing, and the stewards of the garden can always plan for the next season.

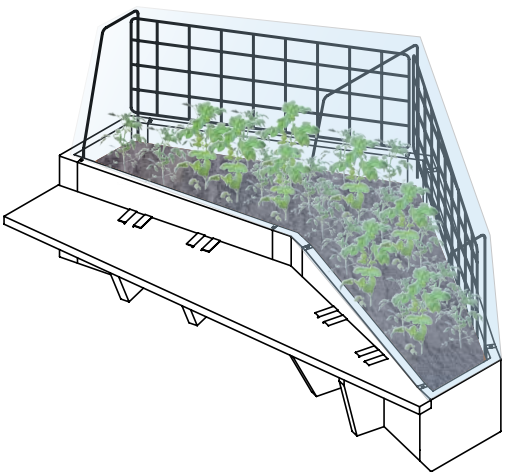
The planter is designed in accordance with standard safety measures comparable to other prison products. Height of planter bed does not block sight lines. Planter bed depth complies with root requirements of most decorative and edible plants. Materials are durable, weather resistant, and aesthetically appealing. Assembled by inmates and requires no tools. Seating is offered to stimulate engagement with the natural environment and suggest gathering spaces



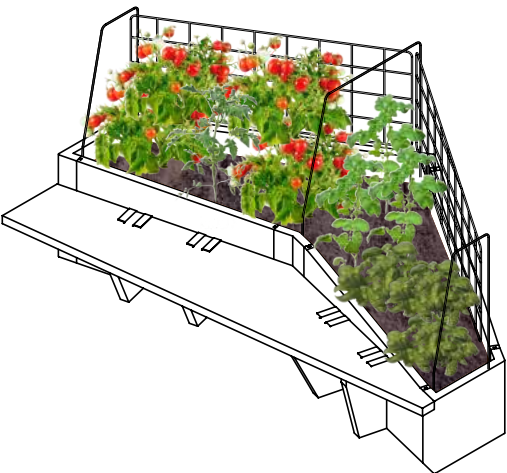
KIT OF PARTS



PRE-CUT MESH LINER



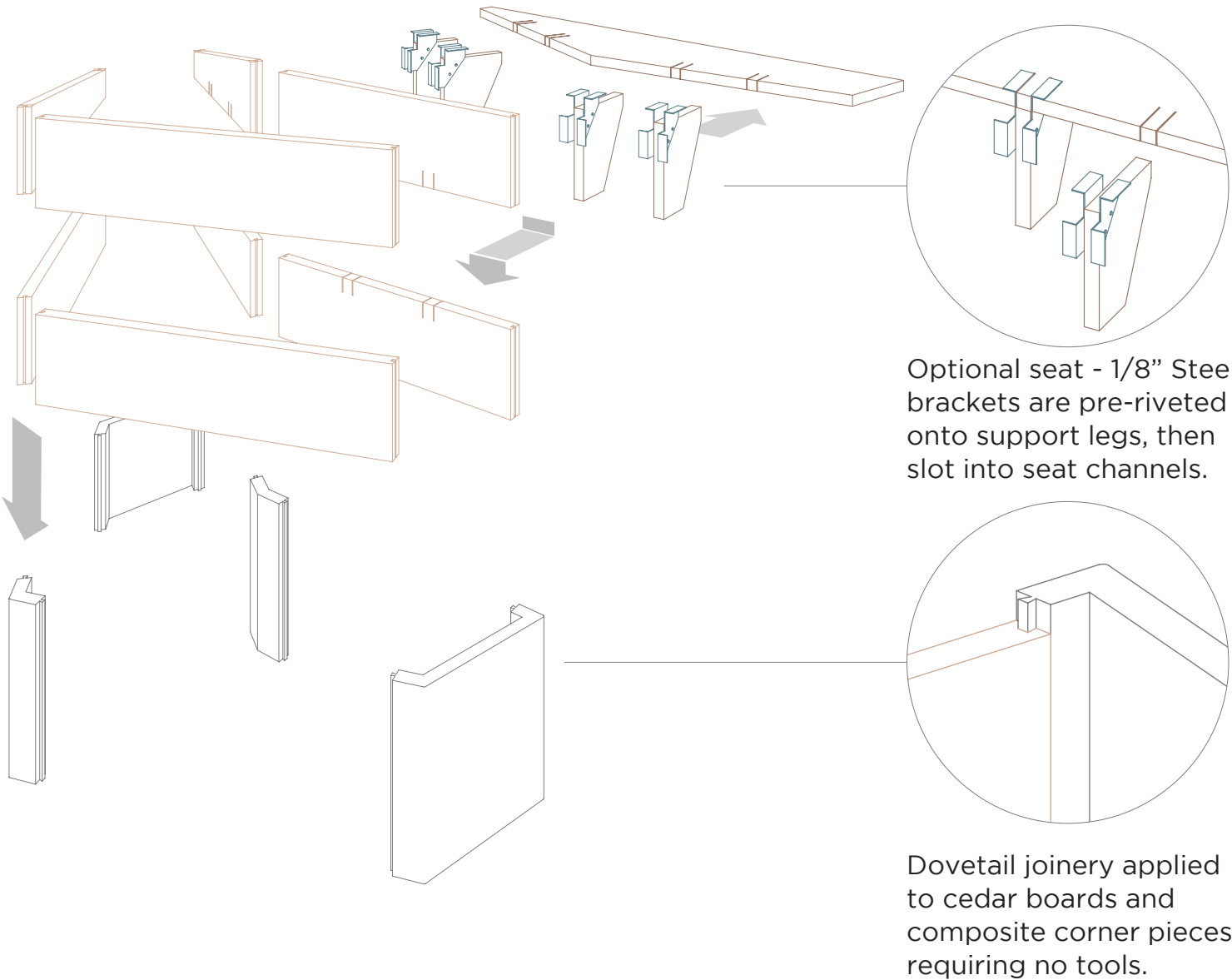
OPTIONAL TRELLIS SUPPORTS
PLASTIC SHEETING TO PROTECT
FROM FROST



TRELLIS SUPPORTS A VARIETY OF
CLIMBERS AND FRUIT BEARING

ASSEMBLY / SECTION DETAIL

Two people can construct a unit in an estimated 10-15 minutes with assembly instructions. All parts slot together and require only staples for the liner.



PERENNIALS

WESTERN COLUMBINE
BLACK-EYED SUSAN
LAVENDER
SWEET WOODRUFF
TICKSEED







MEDICINAL TEA HERBS

CAMOMILE
ANISE HYSSOP
FEVERFEW
PEPPERMINT
THYME



DROUGHT RESISTANT
PLANTS

BLUE OAT
ECHINECEA
LIATUS
RUDBEKIA
YARROW



MICHAEL PHILLIPS