

BORDERHALL

designed by Re:Dzgn

The US/Mexico border is one of the longest secure borders in the world. On the border are several border cities -- cities on the US side with sister cities on the Mexican side of the border. These towns are home to millions of people, hundreds of thousands of jobs, and hundreds of millions of dollars in economic activity. These communities have close cultural and economic ties. To overly secure the border has the potential to adversely effect the exchange of people, goods, and ideas between these close neighbors. People commute with frequency between their sister cities for work and pleasure, and more impediments to that free travel would undermine their longstanding close relationship. If one knows and loves their neighbor, they can benefit greatly through a communal level of security. Historically, artificial divisions are antithetical to the human experience. As a social species, we become better when we work together. Our global society has seen billions lifted out of poverty, created life-changing innovations, and have brought us new modes of thought to what we want for our future. To retreat from that path represents a rejection of a world we have worked hard to create. Rather than heighten divisions, we have the opportunity to communicate with and grow to know our neighbors to promote our shared ideals.

One of the campaign promises made by Donald Trump was to build a wall along the US/Mexico Border in order to enhance the security at our country's southern frontier. While tall fences may make for good neighbors, getting to know our neighbors will bring better relations between the two nations. Interpersonal relations is an important aspect of diplomacy. It builds trust and promotes cooperation between allies and trading partners. The intent behind Borderhall is simple -- if we as global citizens grow to understand each other, then we can truly ensure our welfare and prosperity together.



US/Mexico Border, site of Borderhall

Case Studies/Precedents



US/Mexico Border Volleyball game



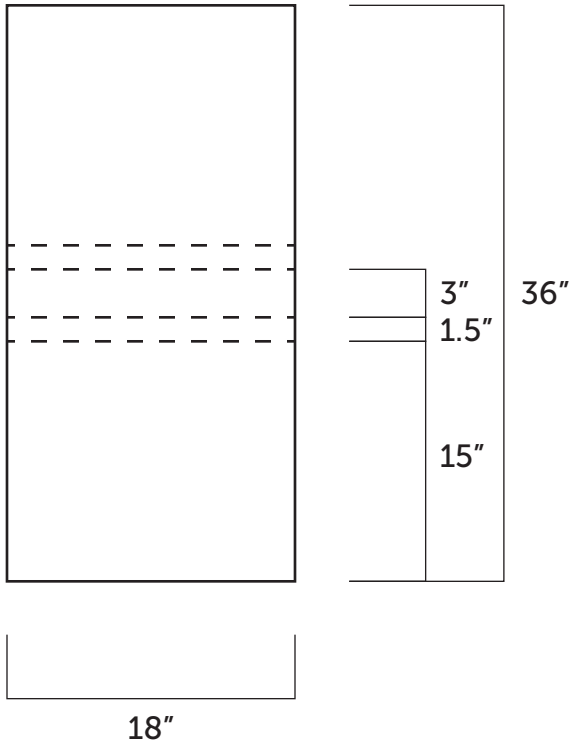
Fall of the Berlin Wall



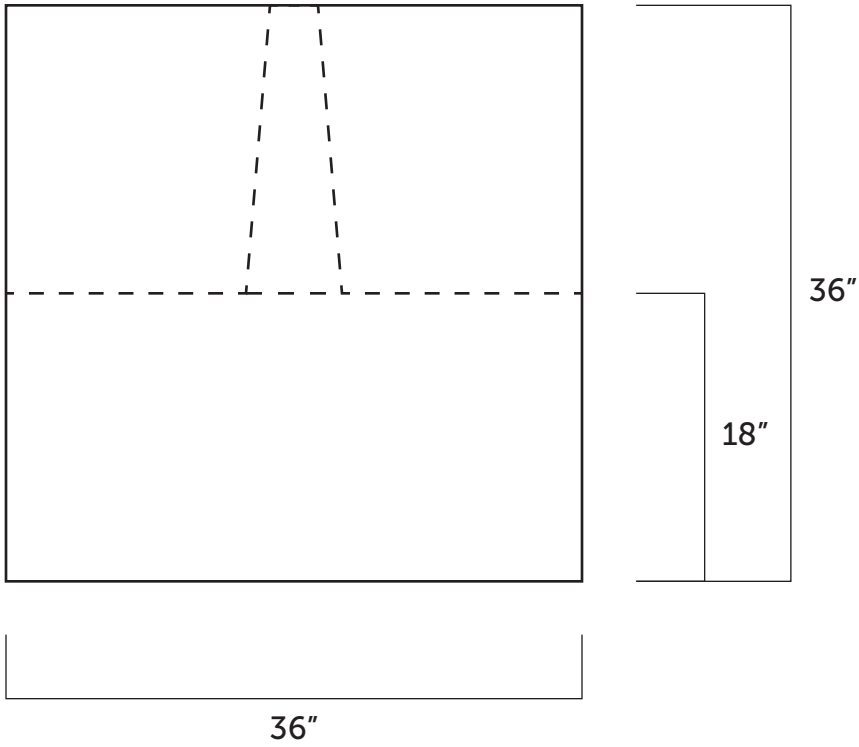
Berlin Holocaust Memorial

BORDERHALL

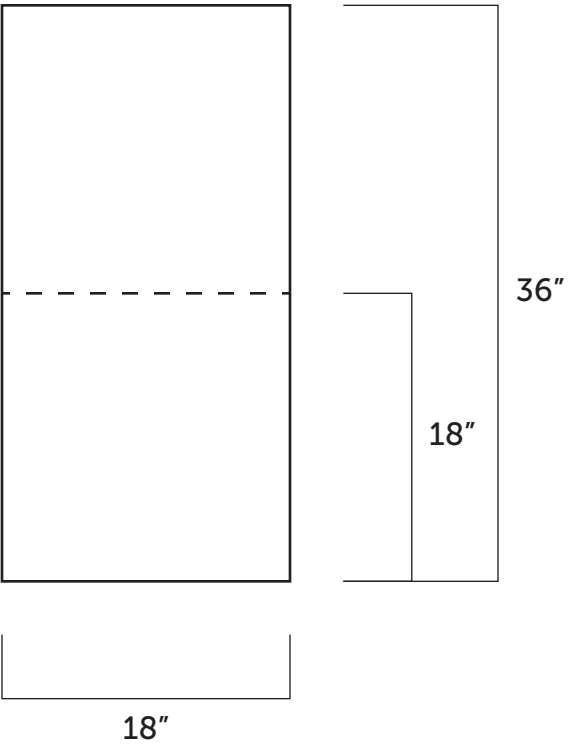
The main component of Borderhall is the concrete module. The module occupies a 36" x 18" x 36" volume and can be formed to function in different ways. A module can function as a table, be carved up to function as a chair, or halved to function as a bench. Each module serves as a meeting place for people to commune on both sides of the border. But the function of Borderhall -- to allow neighbors to get to know each other -- can only be realized with multiple interactions, with multiple modules assembled together, to allow for the congregation of different societies.



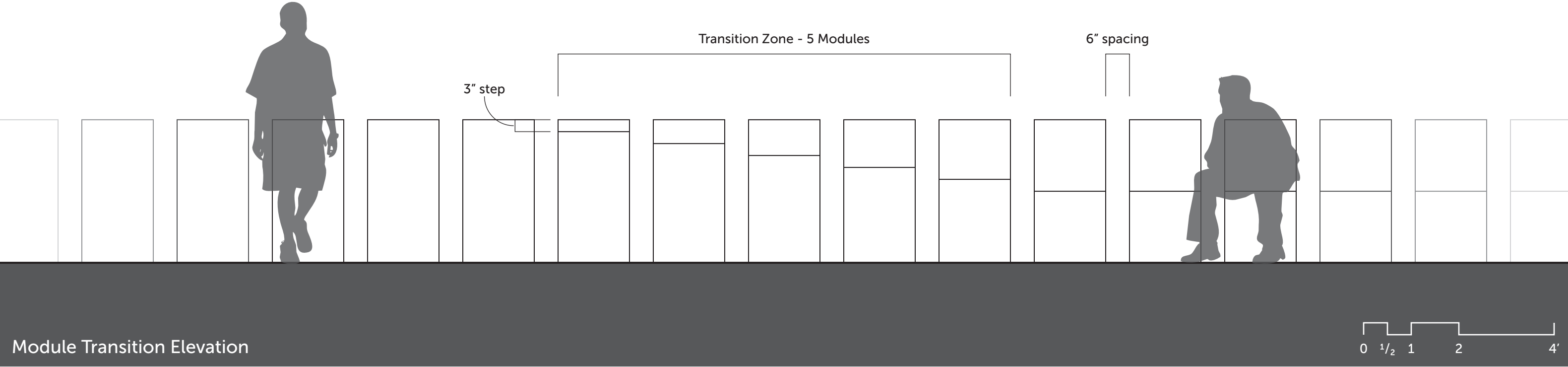
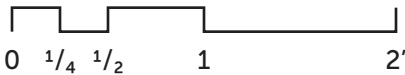
Module Template Plan



Module Template Longitudinal Elevation

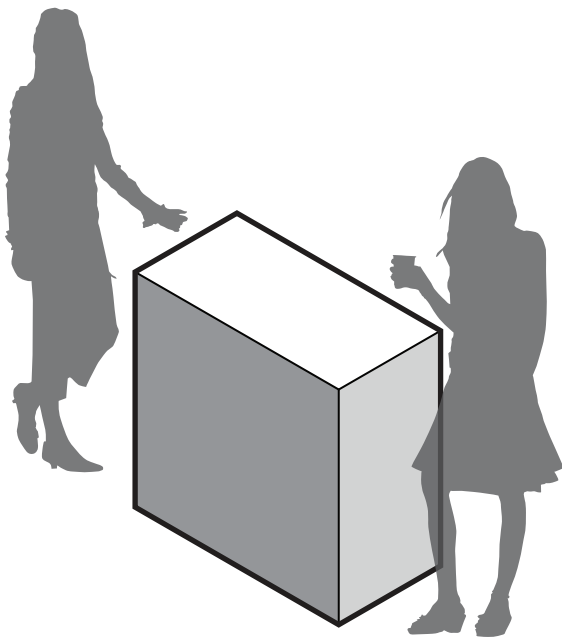


Module Template Transverse Elevation

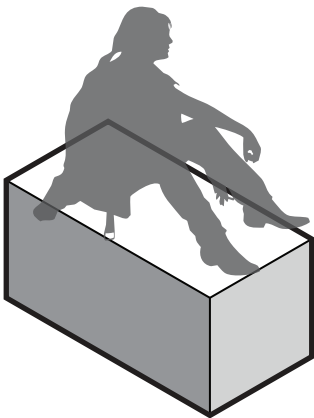


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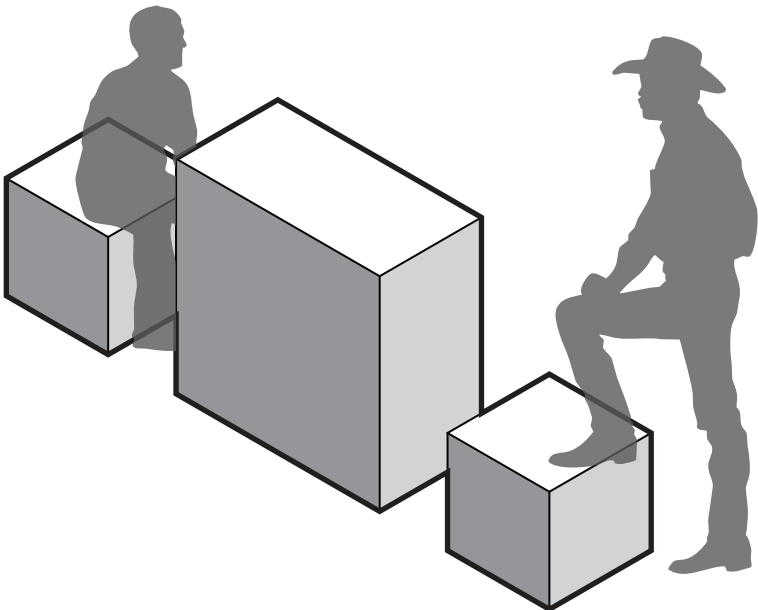
The Borderhall modules function as outdoor furniture to facilitate interpersonal interactions between American and Mexican citizens. Independently the serve different purposes. The base module serves as a table for communication. The plinth can be adapted as a bench as a place where individuals can sit together and relax, a chair for single seating, or double sided seating for individuals on either side of the border to share. The plinth can also have stools to facilitate collaborative interaction. Concrete for the material will be sufficiently durable for outdoor exposure and multiple uses.



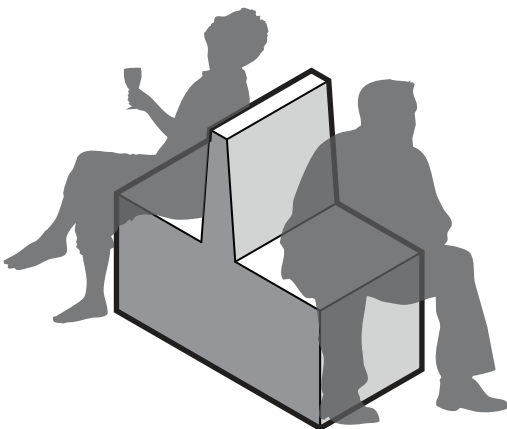
Plinth
// active interaction



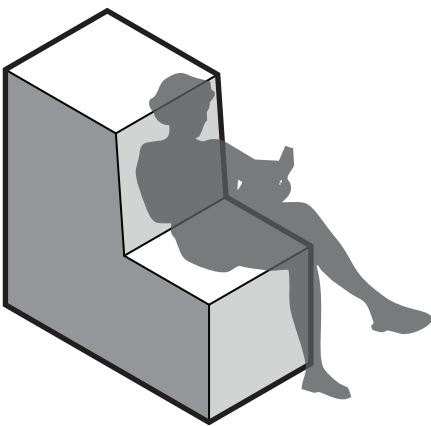
Bench
// communal repose



Plinth and stools
// collaborative interaction



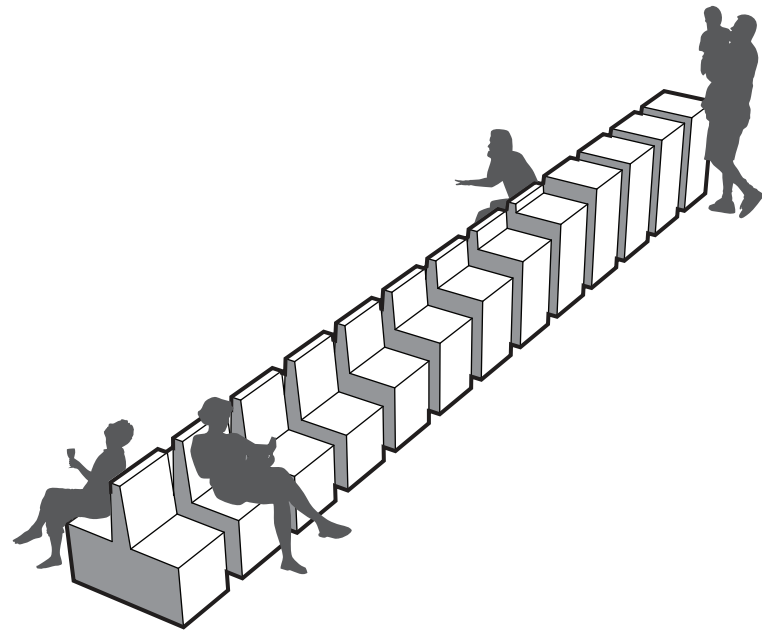
Dual Seating
// subtle connection



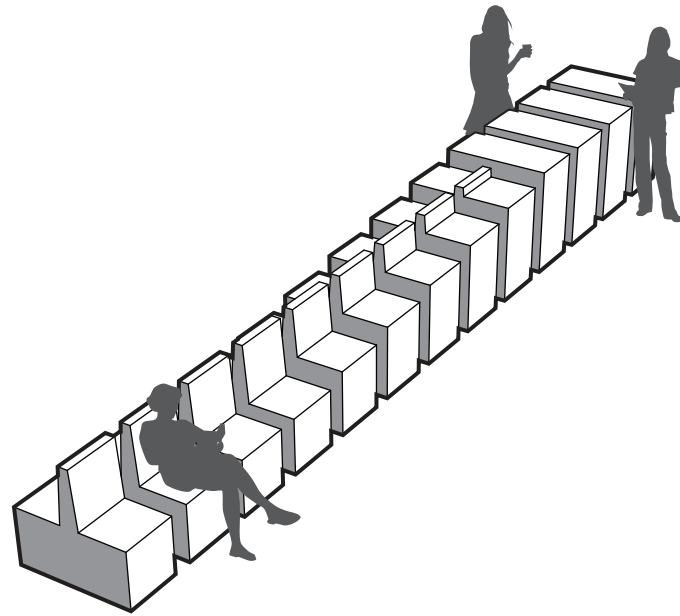
Single Seating
// singular reflection

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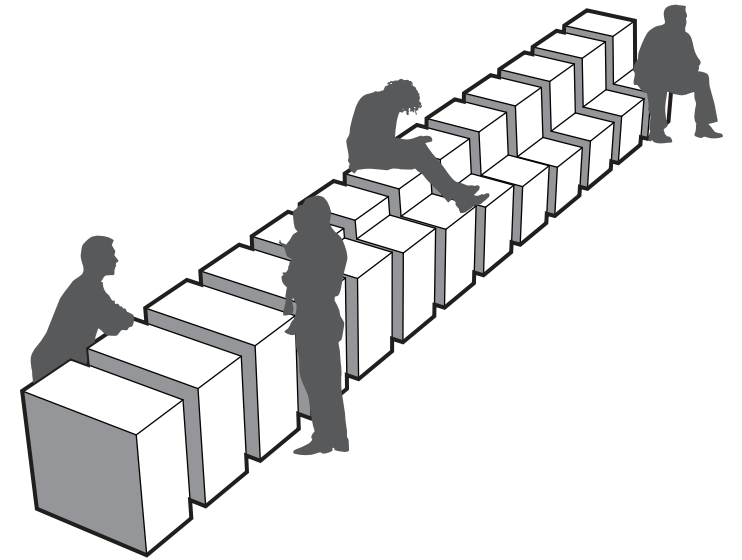
With multiple module types the Borderhall can serve, not only as an architectural monument, but a destination for neighbors regardless of nationality. The Borderhall is a hall for interaction and communication, to get neighbors talking to each other. The Borderhall features transitional forms, providing connection and cohesion between the module types. These transitions create new and interesting forms for different interaction types. The modules individually facilitate the interpersonal. When they are coordinated together, separate societies can become communal partners.



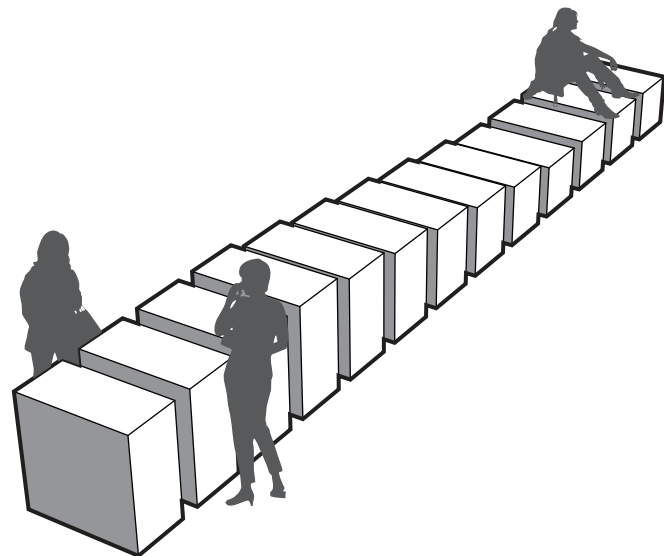
Dual Seating to Single Seating



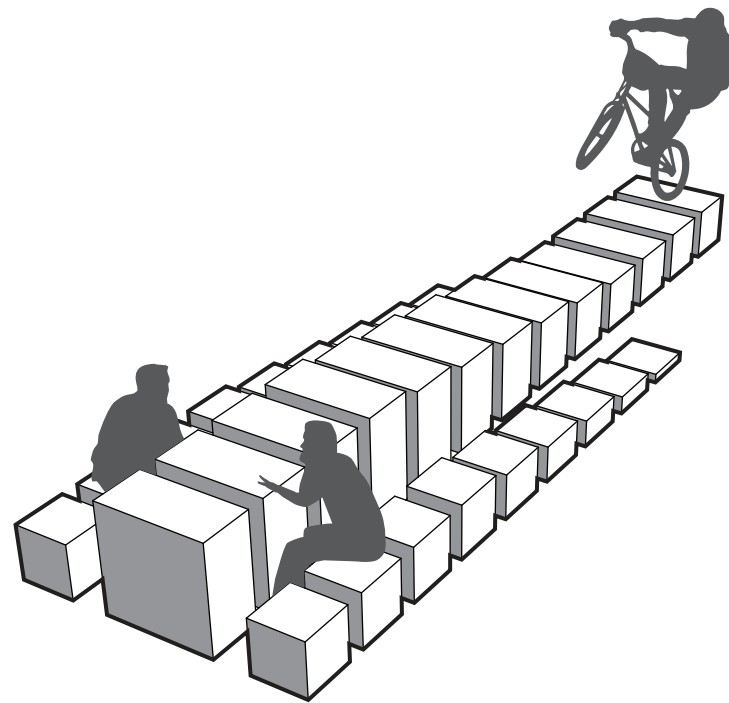
Dual Seating to Plinth



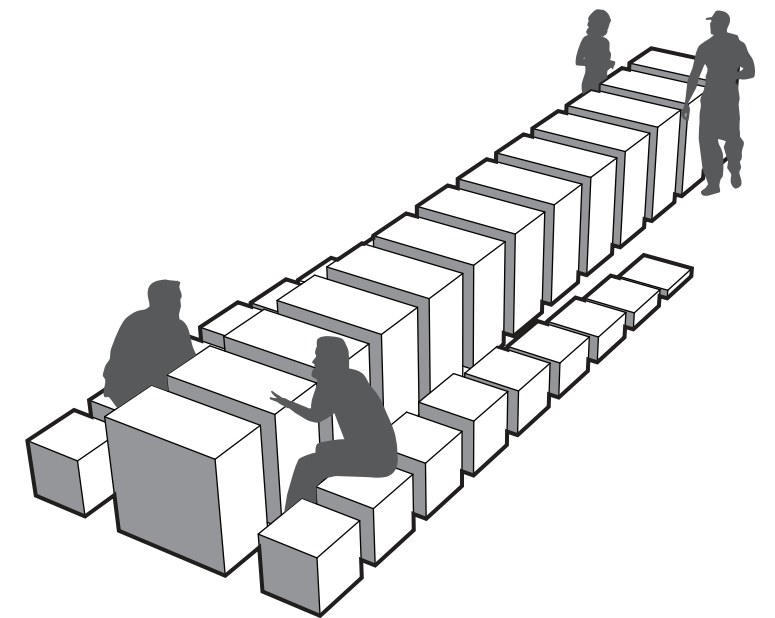
Plinth to Single Seating



Plinth to Bench



Plinth and Stool to Bench



Plinth and Stool to Plinth

Module Transitions



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