

Senior Apartment

GR538SD Interior Design Studio II

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Spring 2026

Clients

Profile and Program



Program

- Kitchen
- Dining room
- Bedroom
- Bathroom
- Closets/Storage
- Laundry

Client Profile

Eleanor and Thomas Whitaker are a married couple living in New York City, with Eleanor aged 67 and Thomas aged 70. Eleanor works part-time as a university administrator and maintains a structured routine that takes her out of the home several days a week, while Thomas is fully retired and spends most of his time at home. They are highly social and enjoy hosting seated dinner parties for friends, with cooking serving as a shared, collaborative activity rather than an individual task.

Eleanor is more outward-facing and sensitive to visual order and clutter, using the home as a place to recharge after work, while Thomas is more home-oriented and values comfort, warmth, and familiarity throughout the day. Both experience mild to moderate joint issues, including arthritis and knee and hip discomfort, which makes prolonged standing, bending, and reaching increasingly challenging.

Their primary goals are to continue entertaining comfortably, support their different daily rhythms, and age in place in a way that reduces physical strain while preserving the emotional identity and livability of their home.

Research

Aging in place

Research

This project was informed by research on aging in place, joint sensitivity, mobility limitations, and fall prevention in residential environments. As joints age, hard flooring, low seating, and excessive bending can increase physical strain and risk of injury. Water-prone areas such as kitchens and bathrooms also present a higher slip risk, requiring thoughtful material selection and spatial planning. Research on universal design and ADA principles guided decisions related to door hardware, circulation, lighting, and ergonomics to support independence, safety, and long-term usability without creating a clinical atmosphere.

Solutions

Design strategies focus on reducing joint impact, improving stability, and minimizing excessive bending. Soft-impact materials were selected, including rubber flooring in high water and high traffic areas for slip resistance and shock absorption, cork flooring in dry zones for comfort underfoot, wall-to-wall carpeting in the bedroom for joint relief, and small mosaic tile in the bathroom to enhance grip and traction. Chairs with arms were specified to support easier sitting and standing. ADA pocket door handles improve accessibility and ease of use. A pull bar was integrated into the bench for assisted movement, while the raised banquette platform includes storage for hobbies to avoid low bending. Guiding floor lights in the kitchen and banquette enhance visibility, orientation, and nighttime safety.

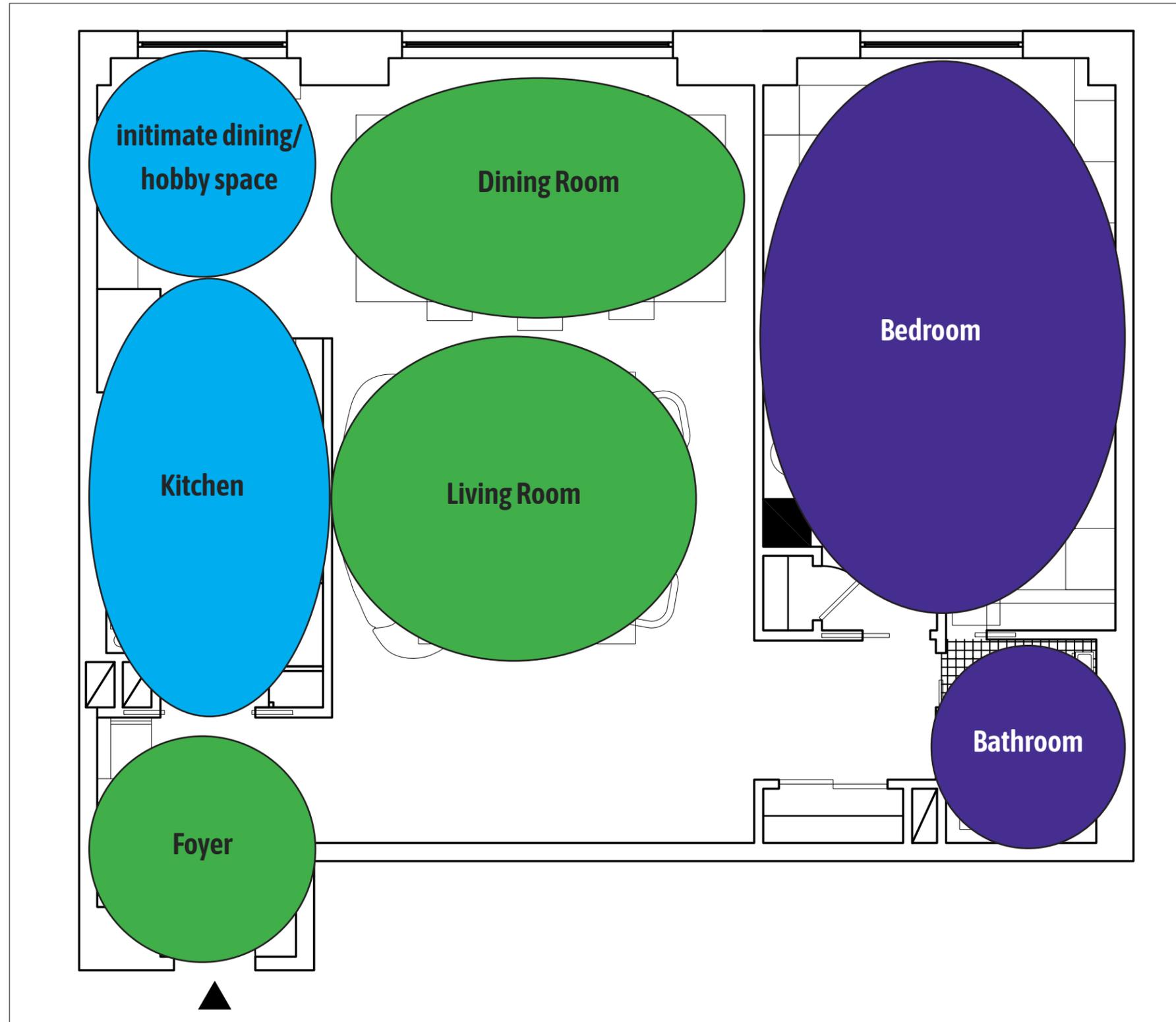
Style

Warm Contemporary

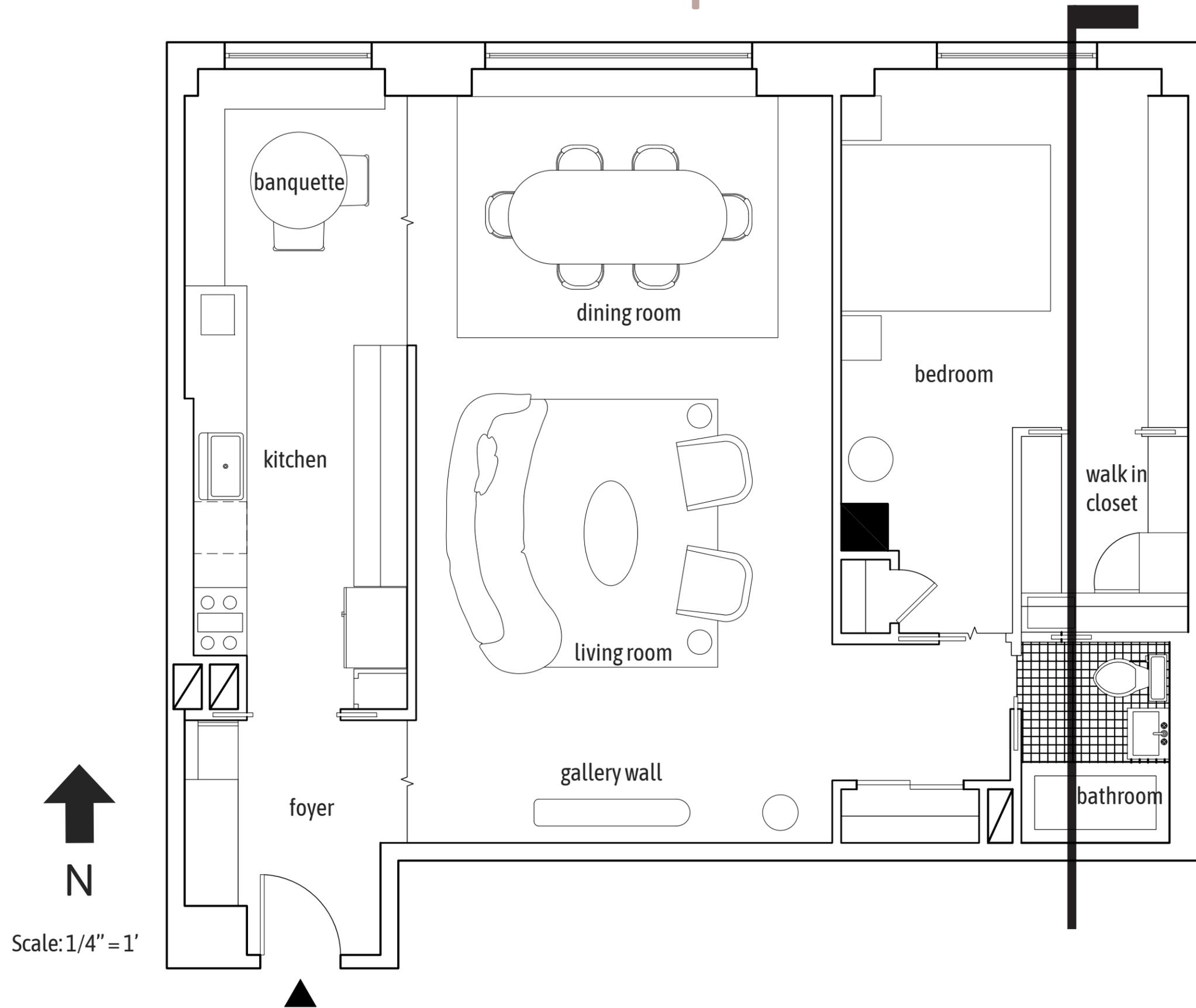


Diagrams

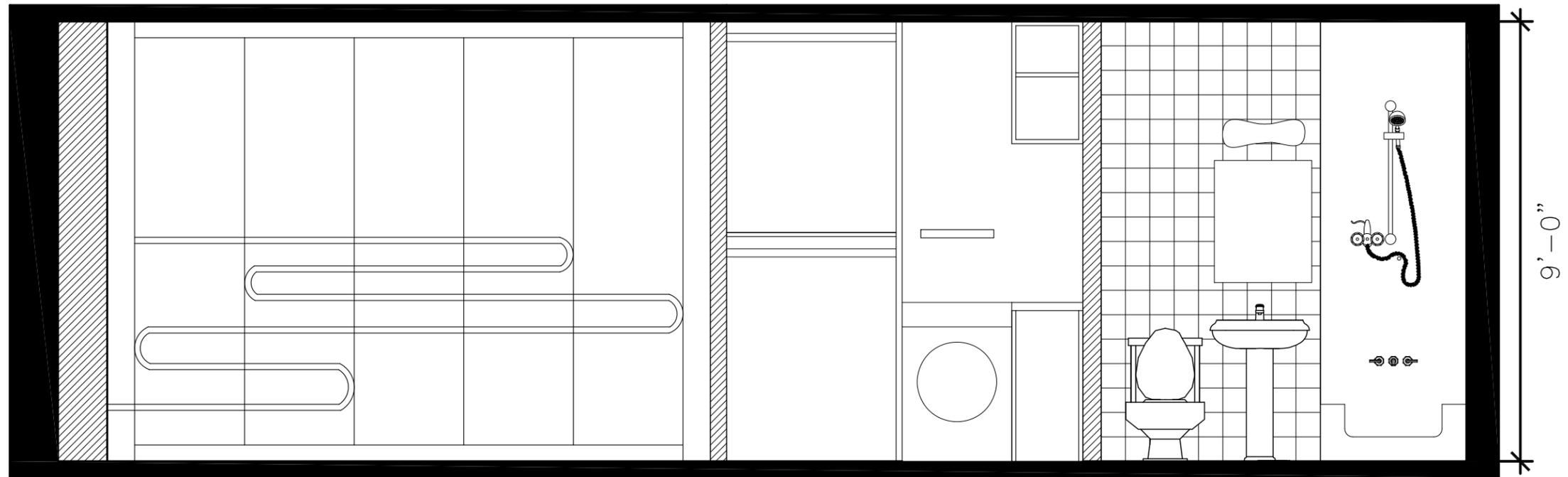
Bubble



Floorplan



East Section



Scale: 3/8" = 1'

Floorplan



East Section

