VAULT, an experimental learning laboratory, brings both flexibility and high symbolic value to Building 128 of the Brooklyn Naval Yard. As a stand-alone structure, it seamlessly plugs into the shared areas of ONE Lab, and as part of a network of similar components, it becomes a neighborhood of laboratories that connects and distributes knowledge across mediums, interests, and disciplines.

As an homage to the shipyard's context and history, the design centers around extruded archways that create a series of vaulted bays with implied programmatic zones, eliminating the need for physical barriers. While the bays provide a framework of organization, the open plan maximizes the flexibility of the space allowing for a wide range of activities to occur within. The larger bays can house temporary events and exhibitions, while the smaller more compact bays are ideal for team workspaces.
ABOVE the archways, an enclosed pocket housing an Audio Lab that balances the openness of the space below. It is only accessible from the upper level of the facility, and the cushioned landscaping surfaces dampen sound to provide different notions of privacy to its occupants. Audio Lab protects the room from the noise of the public zones below to hold performances and screenings, and because of its comfortable and secluded aspect, it can also serve as an intimate working space.

The lower level bays generate a series of circulation paths, and combined with the portals between adjacent interstitial spaces, Vault seamlessly connects to its adjacent typologies to create a network of collaborative, interdisciplinary learning spaces. The typologies extracted from this module can act both as an interconnected neighborhood of adjacent zones, and as a network of independent but formally and visually connected satellites across the facility.

VAULT NEIGHBORHOOD IN BUILDING 128
VIEW FROM LOWER LEVEL
VIEW FROM UPPER LEVEL - SOUND CHECK
VIEW FROM UPPER LEVEL - TEDTALK LIVE STREAMING