

Wyatt Walski-Rodriguez

3rd Year B.Arch

Virginia Tech

3.9 GPA

wyattw@vt.edu
(210) 727-1924
walski-rodriguez.org

Experience

President / Kappa Pi International Visual Arts Honor Society and Co-Ed Fraternity
April 2024 - present

Founder, Editor-in-Chief / Virginia Tech Design Theory Journal
February 2025 - present

Mechanic Assistant / Warthog, Inc. (FedEx Contractor)
May 2023 - August 2023

Professional Committee / Kappa Pi
August 2023 - April 2024

Editorial Team / Studio Collective (Design Journal of Virginia Tech)
September 2022 - August 2023

Media and Marketing Team / Studio72 Arts Living-Learning Community
August 2022 - present

Student-body President / High School
August 2021 - May 2022

Captain, Founder, President / High School Varsity Lacrosse Team
August 2019 - May 2022

Member / Children of the Republic of Texas Historic Preservation Society
August 2019 - present

Skills

Rhino
Adobe Suite
Blender
V-Ray
Enscape
Grasshopper
Lumion

Microsoft Suite
Revit
Hand-drafting
Writing
Photography
Video Editing
Drawing

Table of Contents

1. Bird, Meet Wall
2. Mountain-Roof-Dormer-Finger
3. Burning Bush
4. Sit Still
5. Temple in Use

Lectures/Exhibitions

We Can Be So Much More
Architecture Student Lecture Series 2

Fall 2024

Boundless Expression
Studio72 Fall Showcase

Fall 2024

Form Follows Fantasy
Slanted Commune Interdisciplinary Design Group Lecture Series
Winter 2024

Under the Sea
Studio72 Spring Showcase
Spring 2024

Bird, Meet Wall

Affordable Housing for Artists

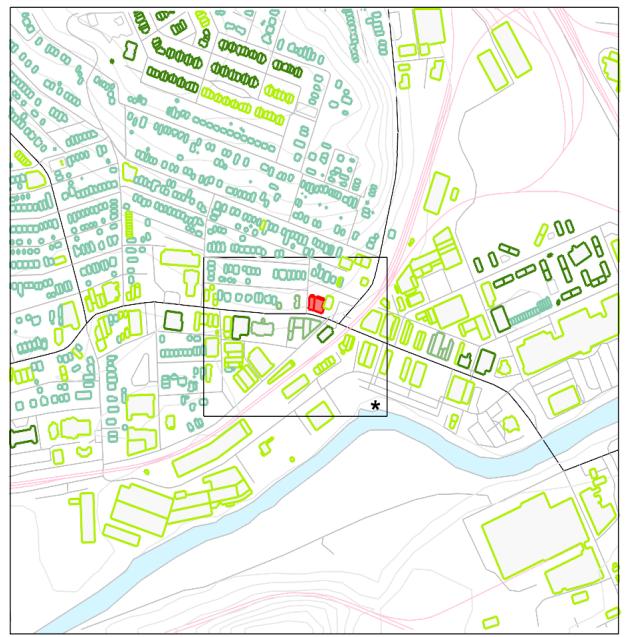
The architect no longer stands on his own. His work is held up by others, his decisions justified by esoteric ramblings and ambiguous data, **suspended with smoke and mirrors.** We are told his work is good, yet it does not touch our hearts, if it even touches our eyes with any sort of **beauty.**

Our work, instead, should contain that same **undeniable truth** as the trees and the mountains. The layman should look at our buildings in awe **without being told** why they are good. Architecture should aim itself right at our hearts.

It must be personal.



Fall 2024



Map Key:

- Site Location
- Residential Building
- Commercial Building
- Government Building
- Mixed-use Building
- Water (Chartiers Creek)
- Major Road
- Railway
- Minor Road or Path
- Topographic Contours

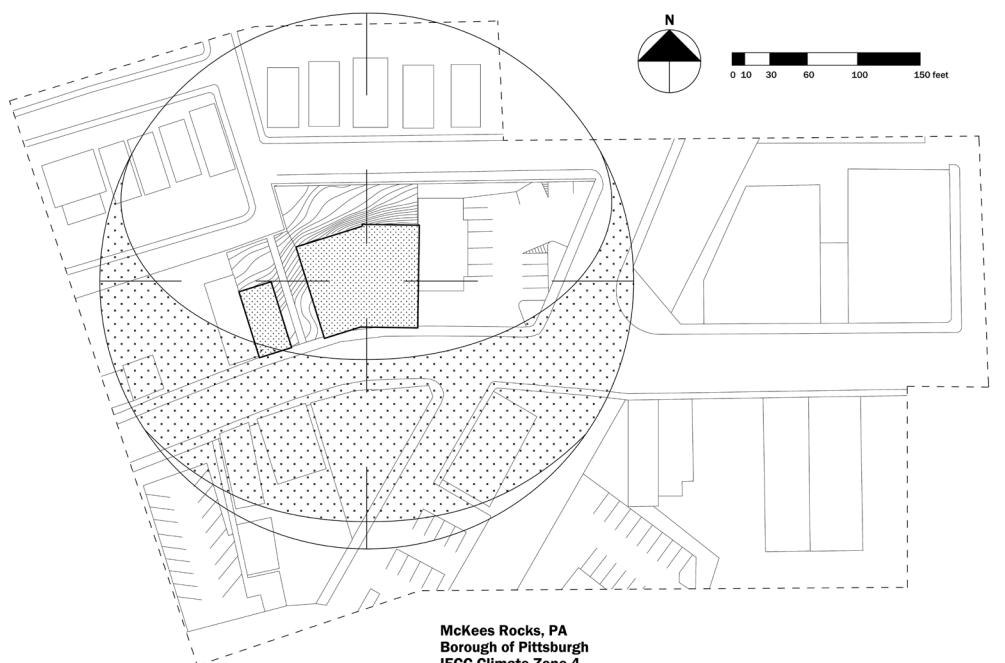


Notable Nearby Programs:

- °1 - Convenience Store
- °2 - Daycare
- °3 - Food Bank
- °4 - Fast Food
- °5 - Family Health Center
- °6 - Artist Studio and Gallery
- °7 - Church

Nutrition Scarcity

The immediate surroundings of the site in McKees Rocks, PA lack access to wholesome food. A food bank on a nearby corner reflects this need.



Southern Light

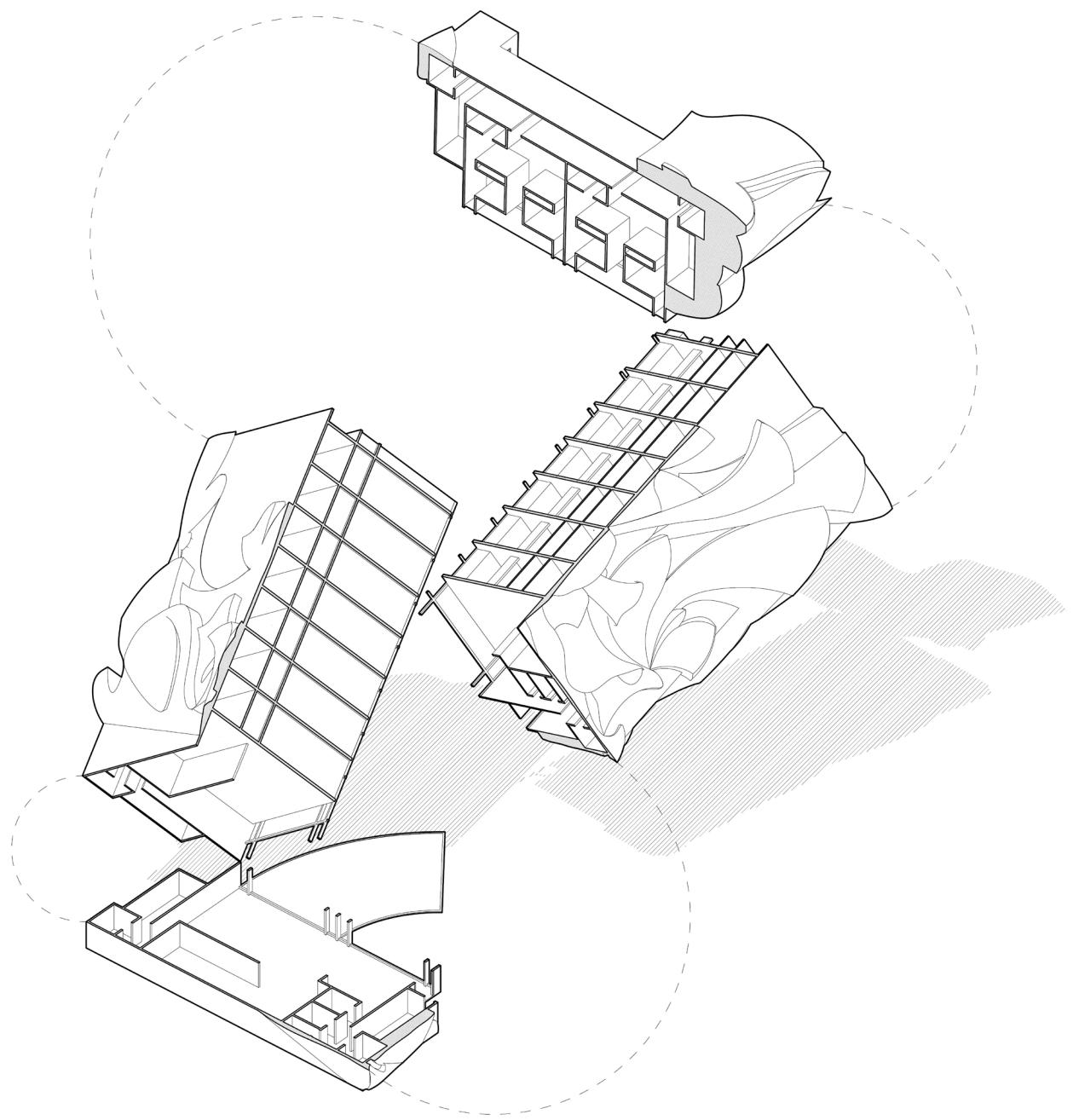
For diffuse light and comfortable temperatures, windows will be placed eastward. This will also frame the view of the on-grade garden park and Downtown Pittsburgh.

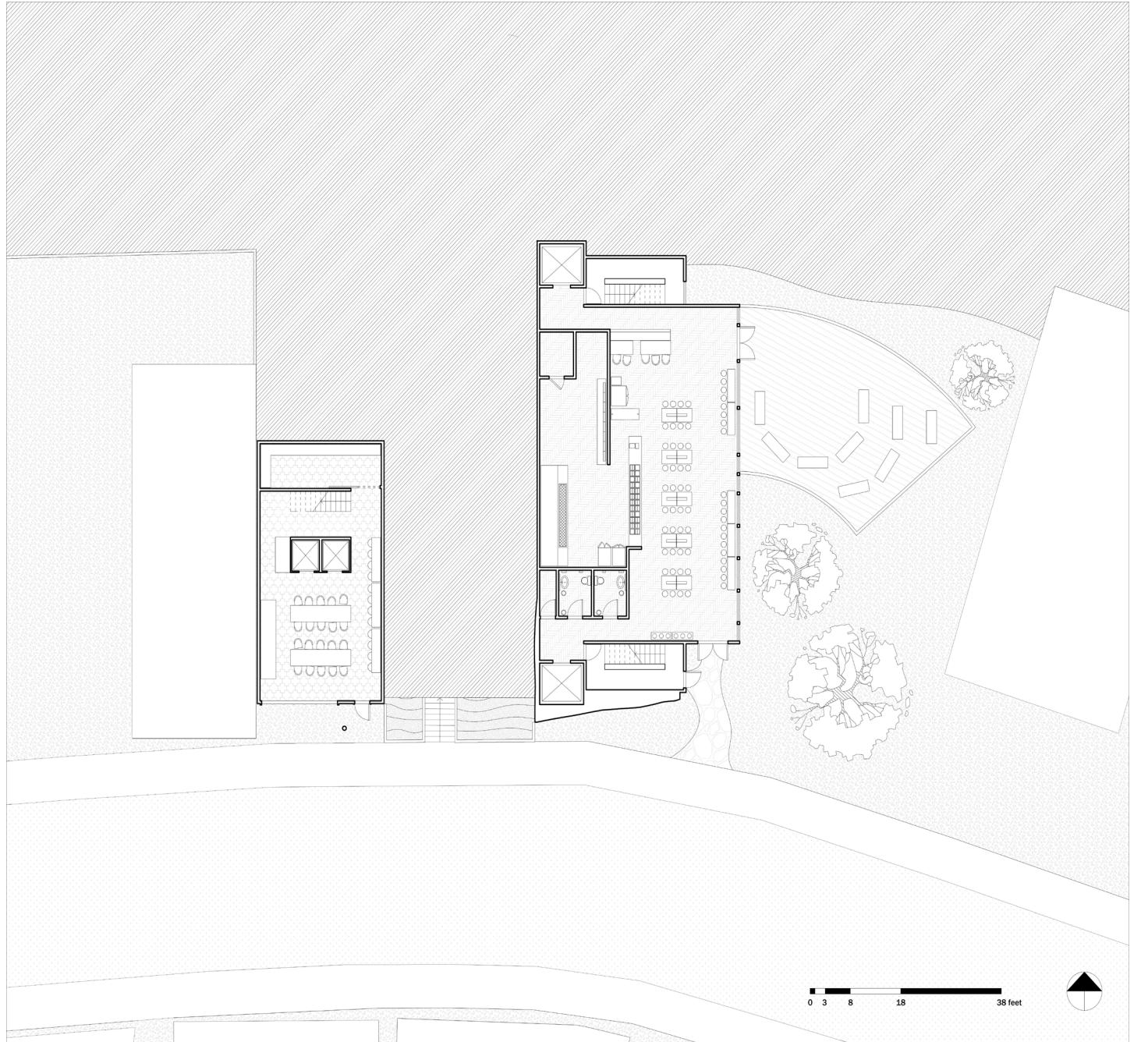
Decorated Shed

Here Venturi and Scott Brown's idea is legible to even the layman. The ornament does not pretend to be anything else. The building is a canvas waiting to be claimed.

Graffiti

Architects abandoned decoration and the street artists filled the void. If ornament is to return, we must learn from those who replaced us with an ode to their restlessness.





The Garden

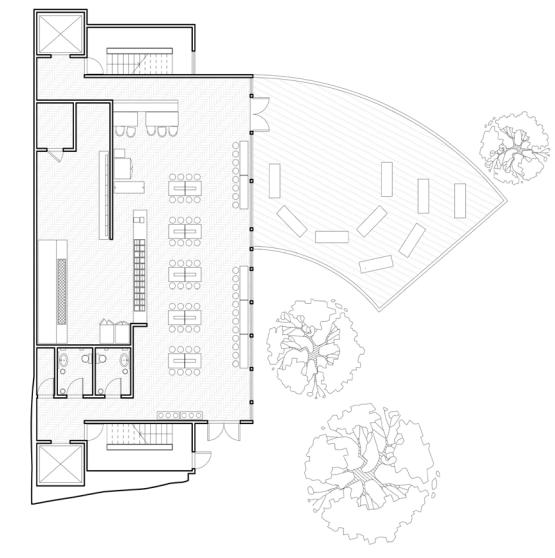
The slim tower intentionally leaves room on the street level for a public garden park. The rooms, with their floor-to-ceiling windows, become vessels for viewing.

Upper Floor Wall Variations



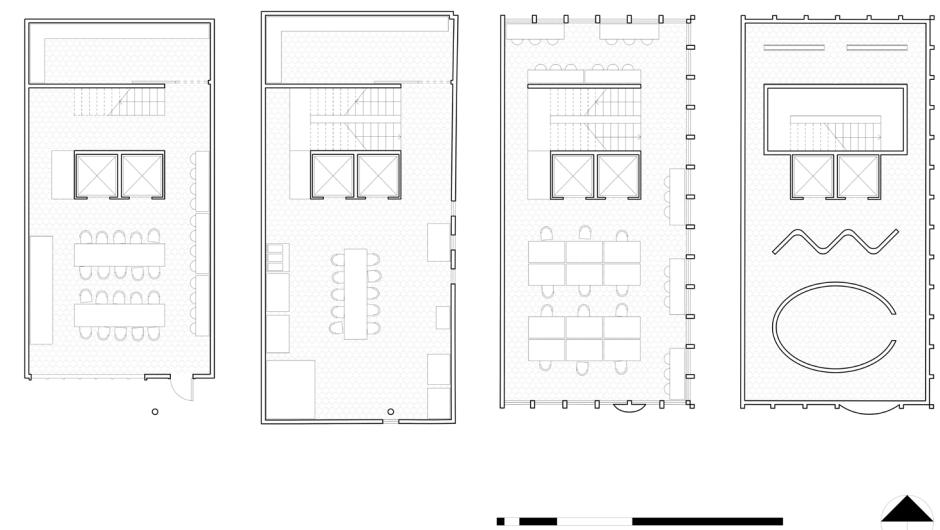
Second Floor (Residential Units)

Ground Floor (Commercial Space)



Define the Edge

Treating each architectural concept like a discrete object might result in clear conversations between form and function, and differing programs.



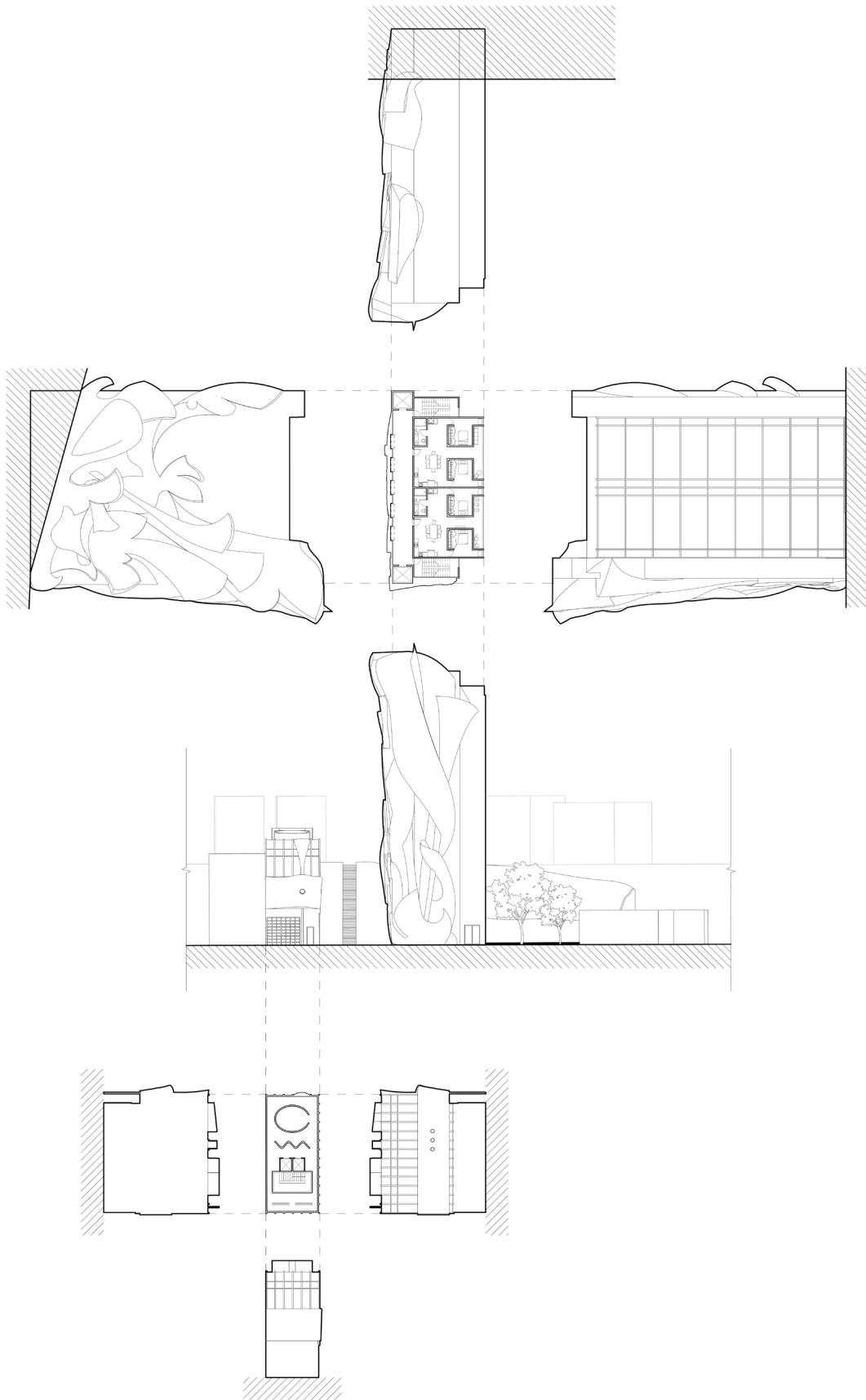


Public Event

A staircase cuts through the site, pre-existing the architecture. It has already won over the community, so it will be celebrated as an aesthetic event.

A Blank Slate

Architectural ornament is almost always centered on interruptions like doors, windows, and edges. What happens when these are consolidated elsewhere?



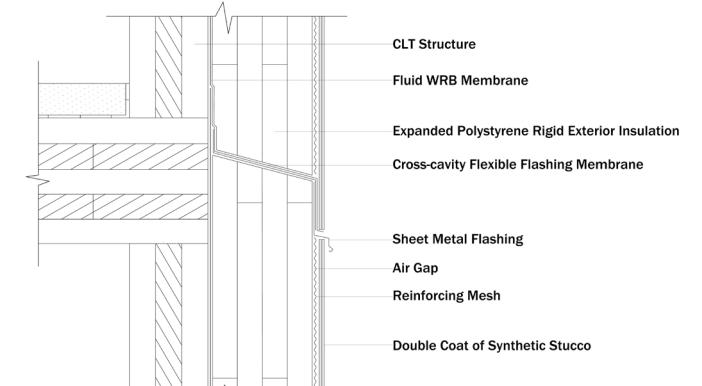
Figurative Forces

The figurative form of a bird, inspired by the ascending paths of the site, is abstracted by forces of movement: those of the eye, the public circulation, and the building.



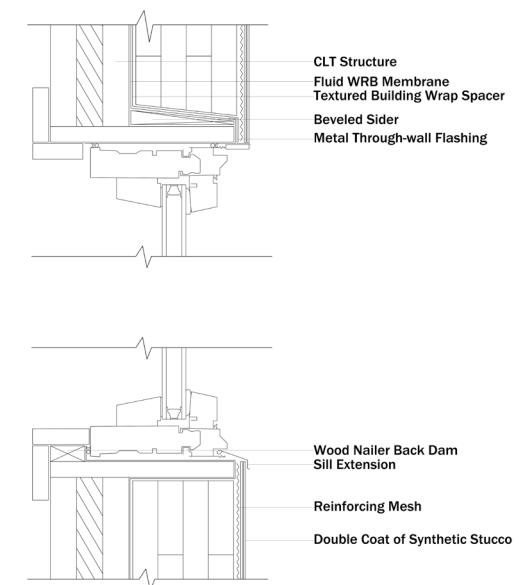
Wall System

A structural frame of cross-laminated timber is dressed in exterior insulation. This expanded polystyrene is then wrapped with mesh lining and coated in two layers of synthetic stucco.



Sustainable Relief

The exterior insulation system can be carved with a CNC machine, opening the door to unbridled expression on the facade.





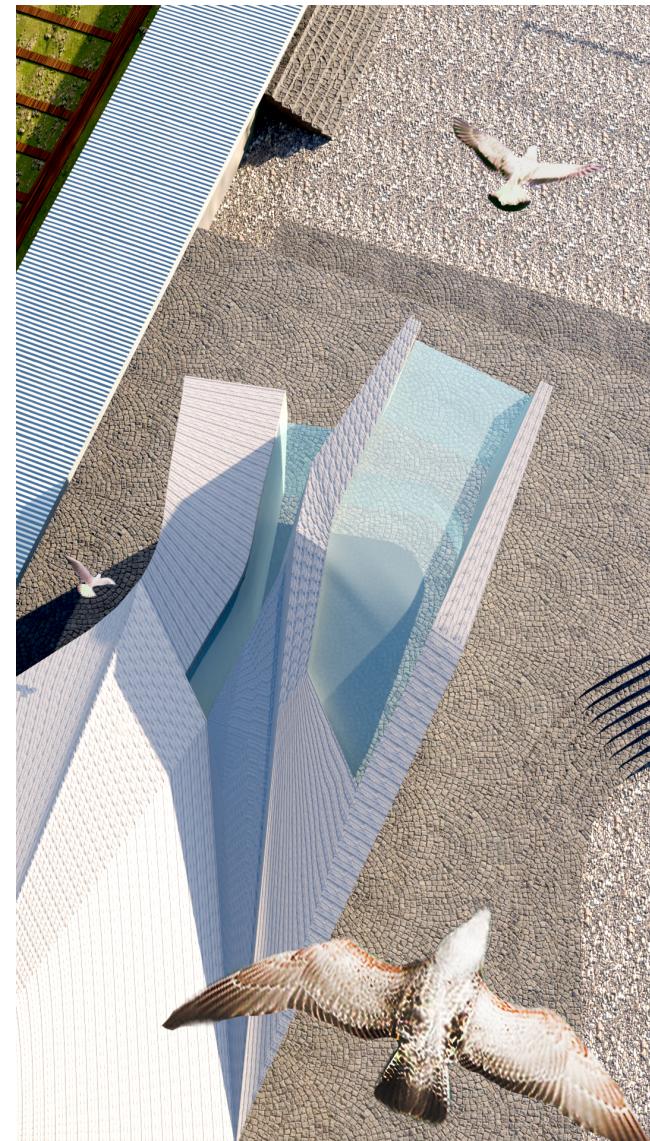
The Real Facade

The staircase's movement attracts the architecture's attention. The building-bird ascends and descends the stairs with the audience.

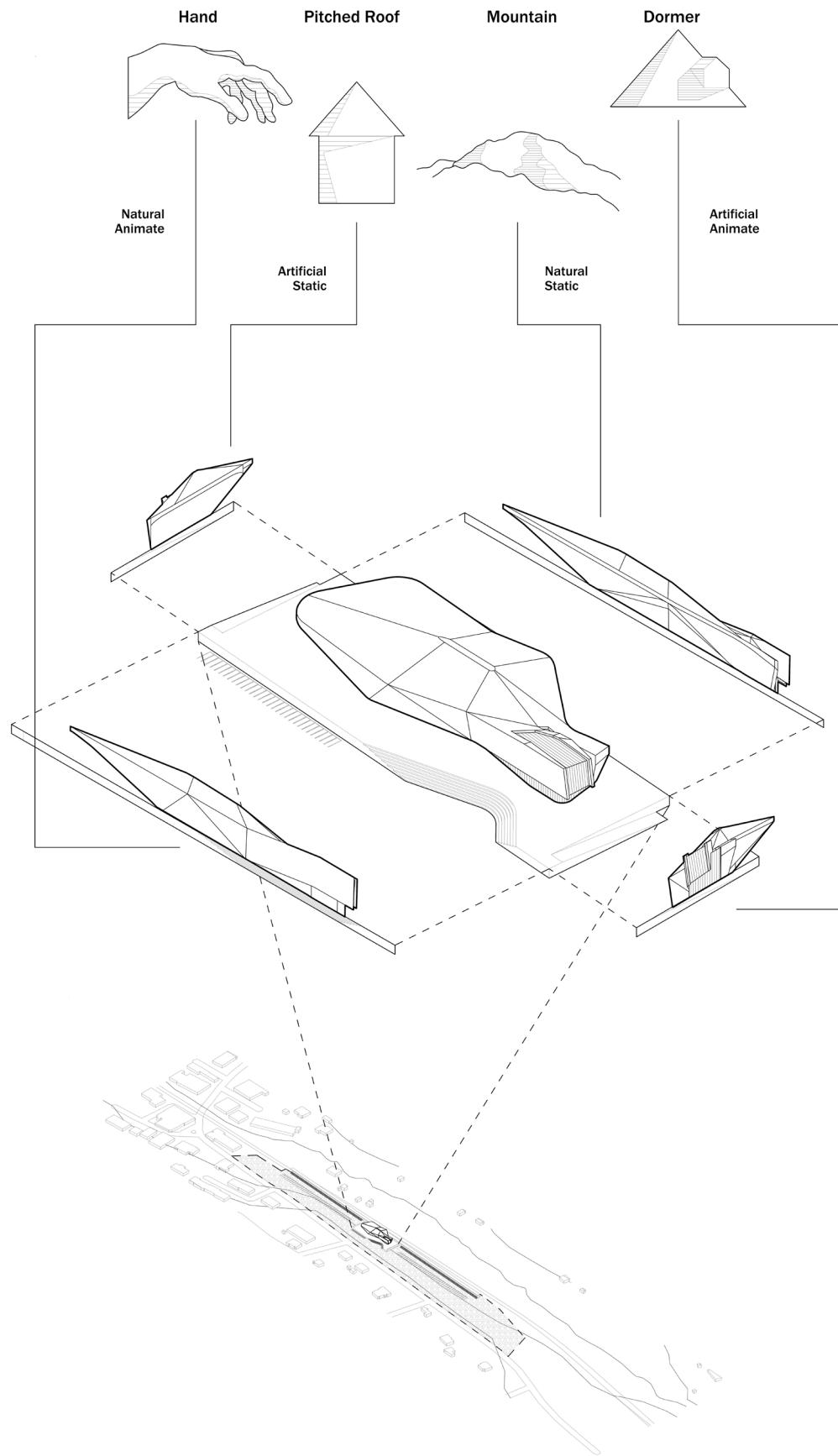
The Character

Through figurative form, the architecture is no longer just an object of contextual forces, but a character which exudes a personality from within.

Mountain-Roof-Dormer-Finger
Rail Station



Winter 2025



Grounding

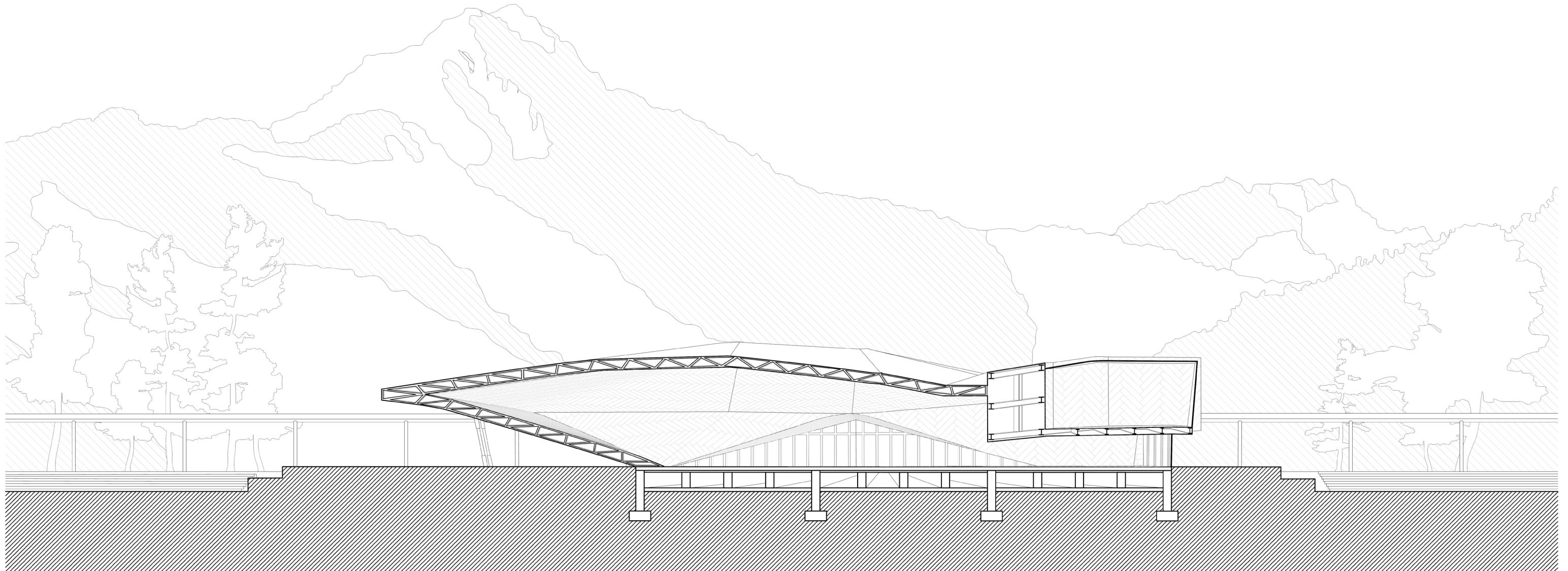
Standard vernacular forms are animated with reference to natural characters. The roof becomes a mountain. The dormer, an outstretched limb.

Sheet Monster

An almost seamless (and, in this way, “digital”) surface is challenged by an internal force. Like a beast underneath a blanket, something primitive emerges.

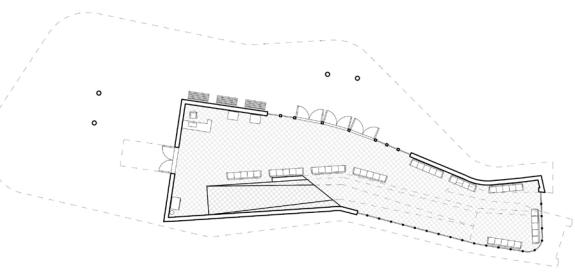
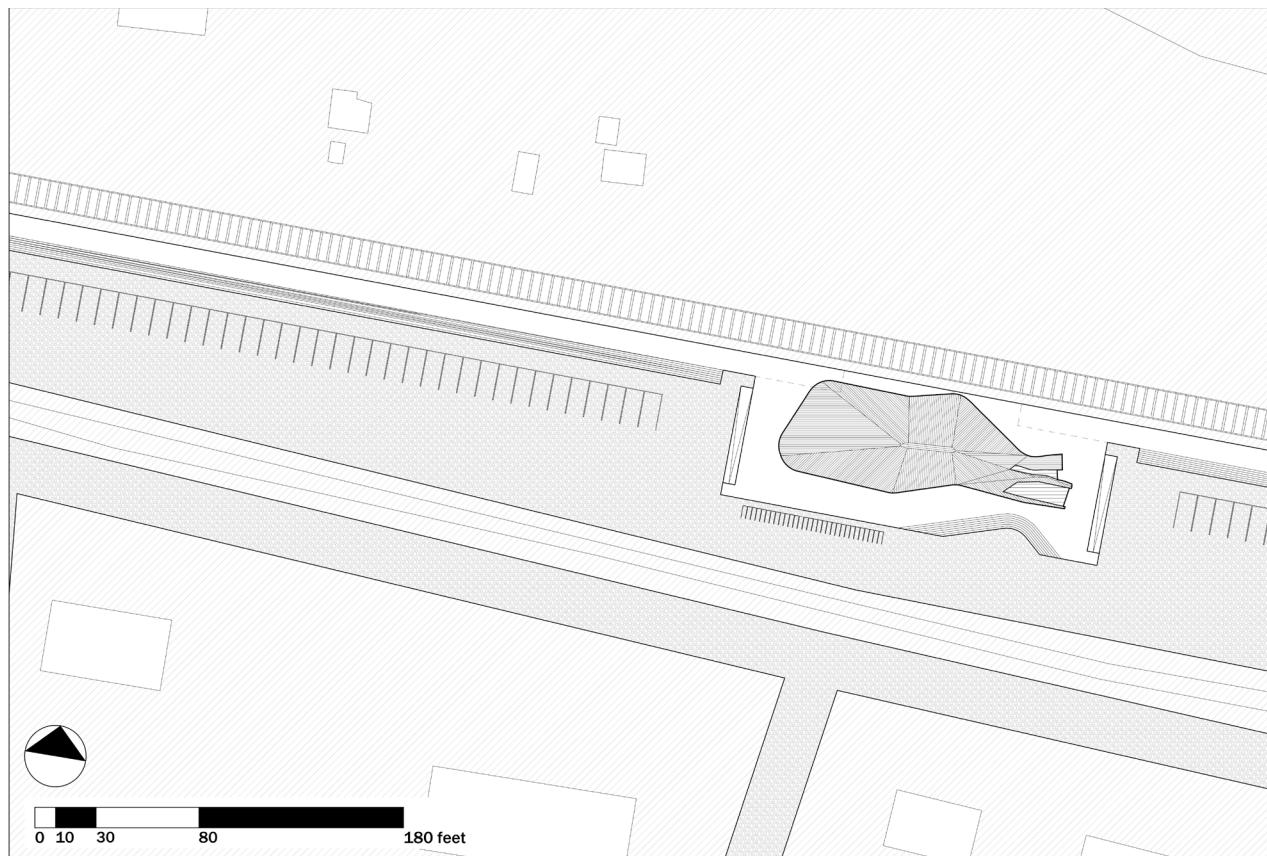


Mountain-Roof-Dormer-Finger

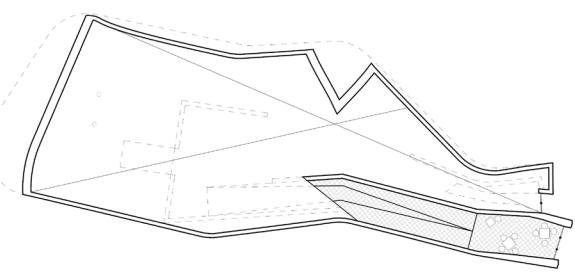


Structure

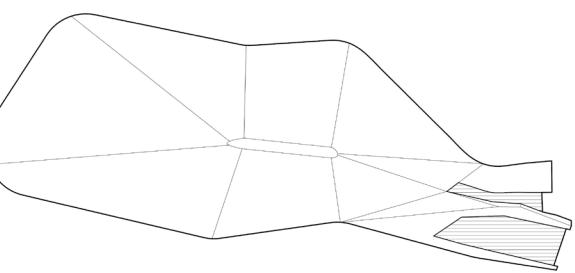
A light-gauge steel frame is anchored near the southern face and upholds the dramatic ramp. Elsewhere, a space frame maintains the building's unconventional span.



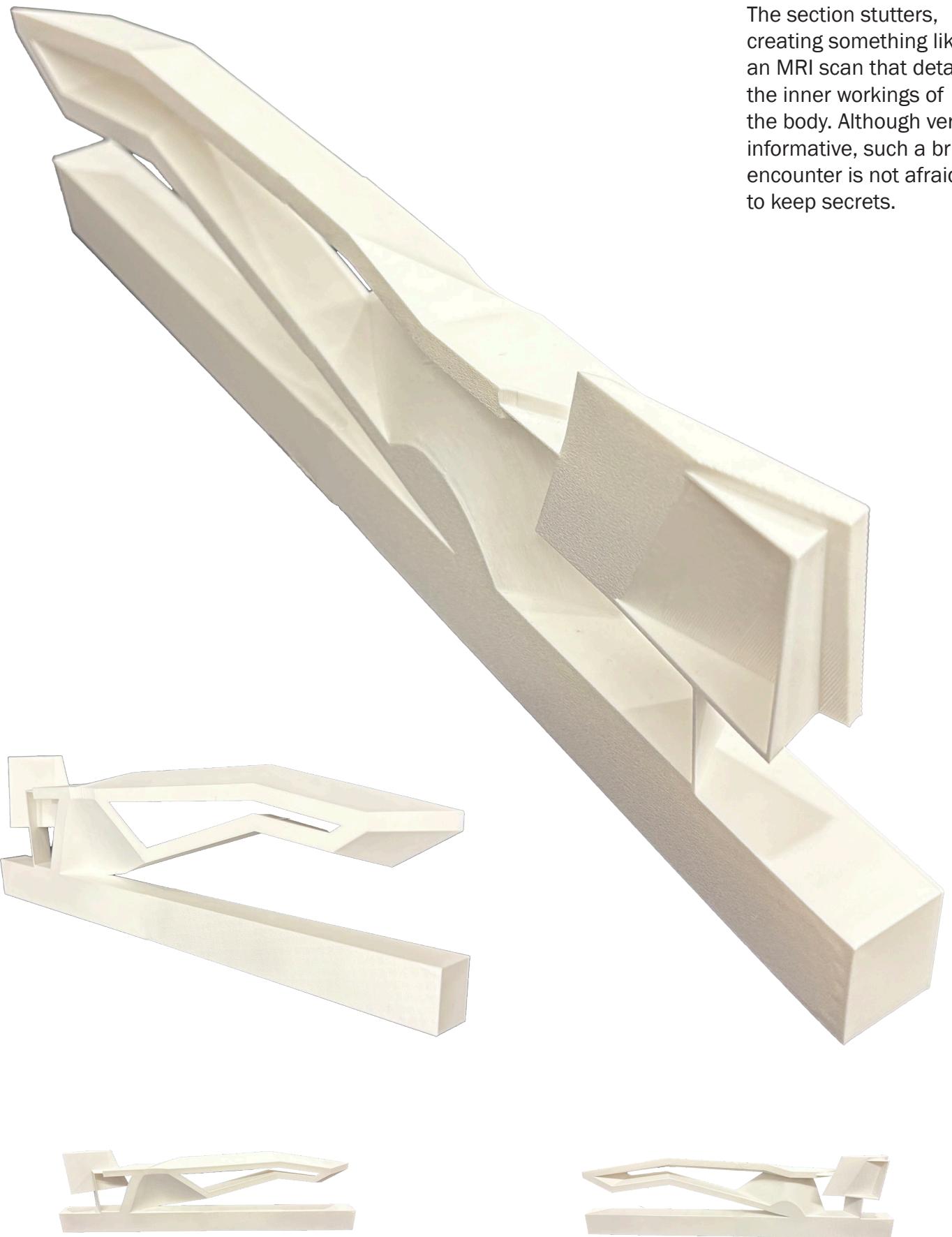
Ground Level



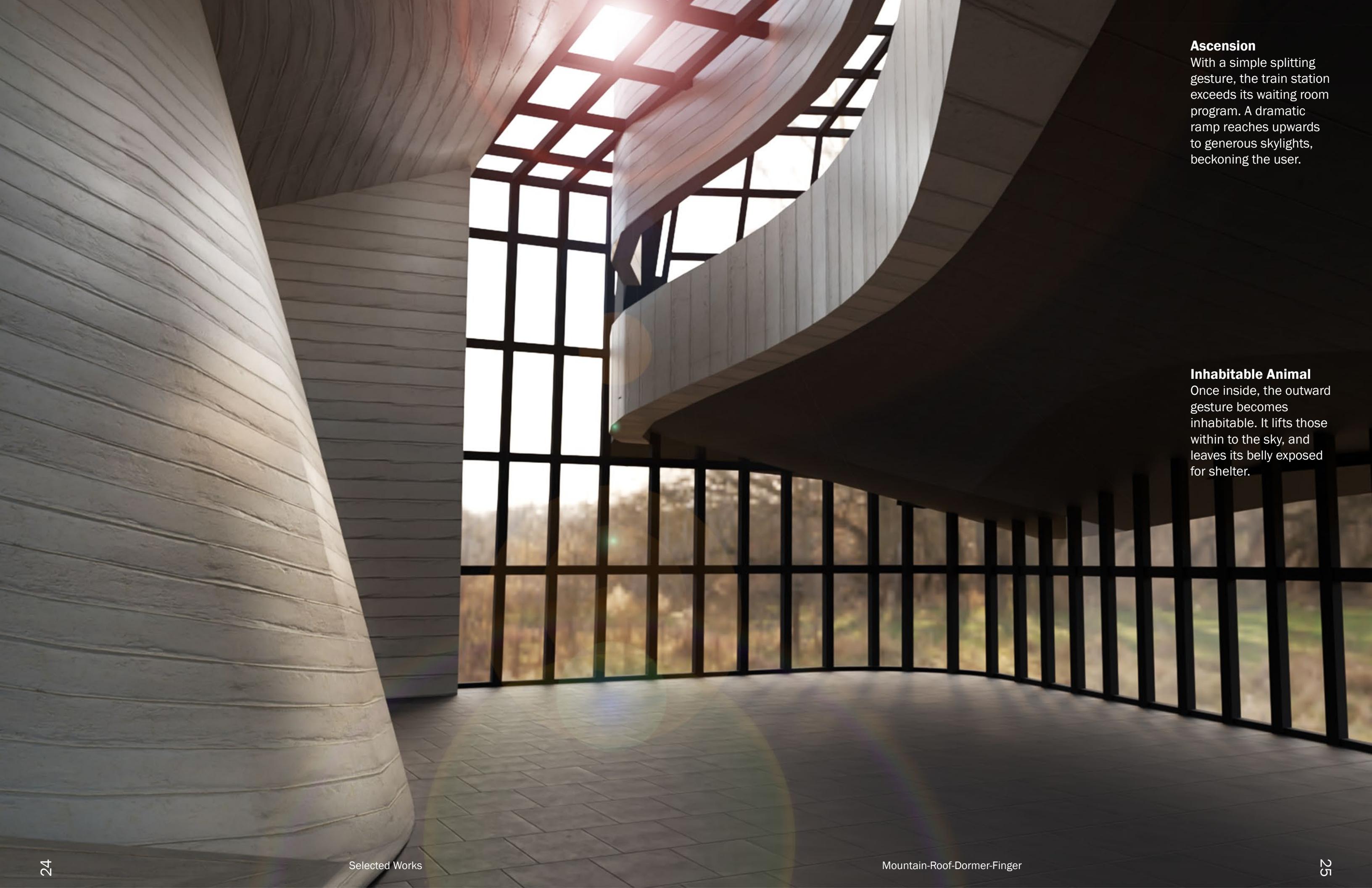
Second Level



Roof



Sliver
The section stutters, creating something like an MRI scan that details the inner workings of the body. Although very informative, such a brief encounter is not afraid to keep secrets.



Ascension

With a simple splitting gesture, the train station exceeds its waiting room program. A dramatic ramp reaches upwards to generous skylights, beckoning the user.

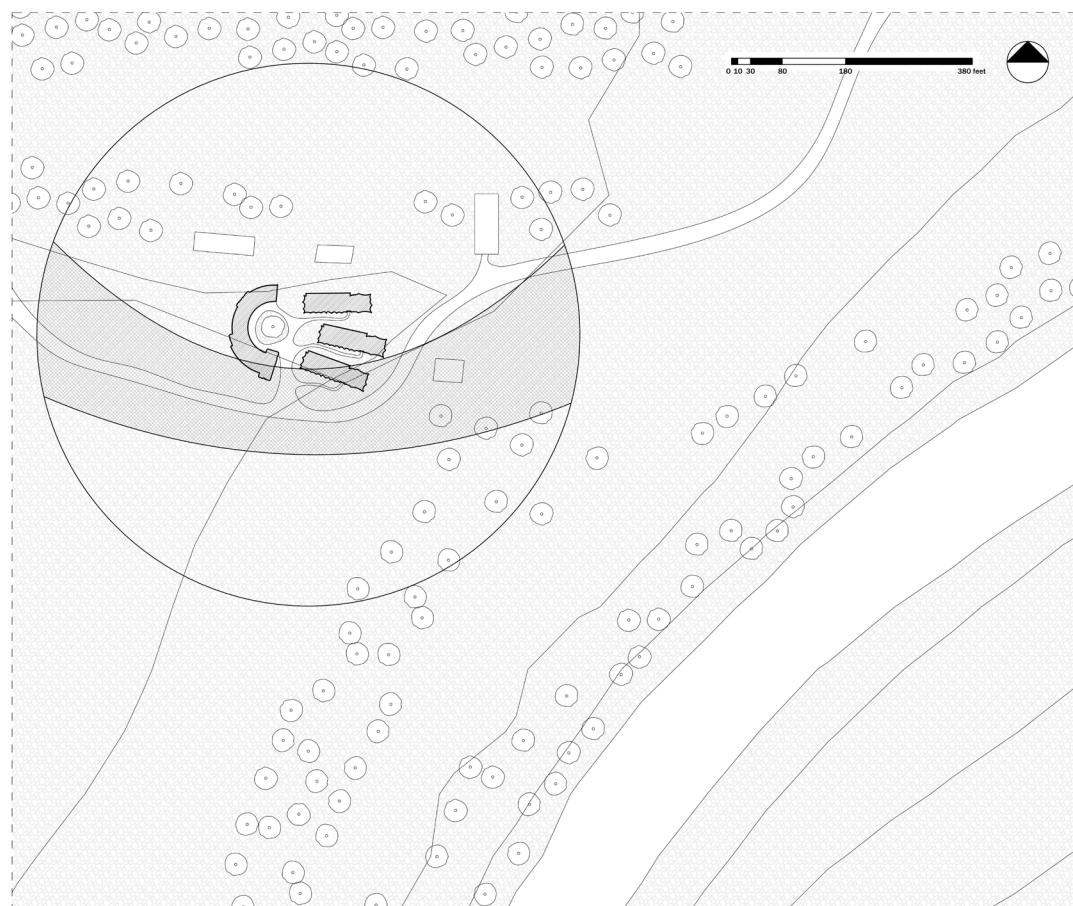
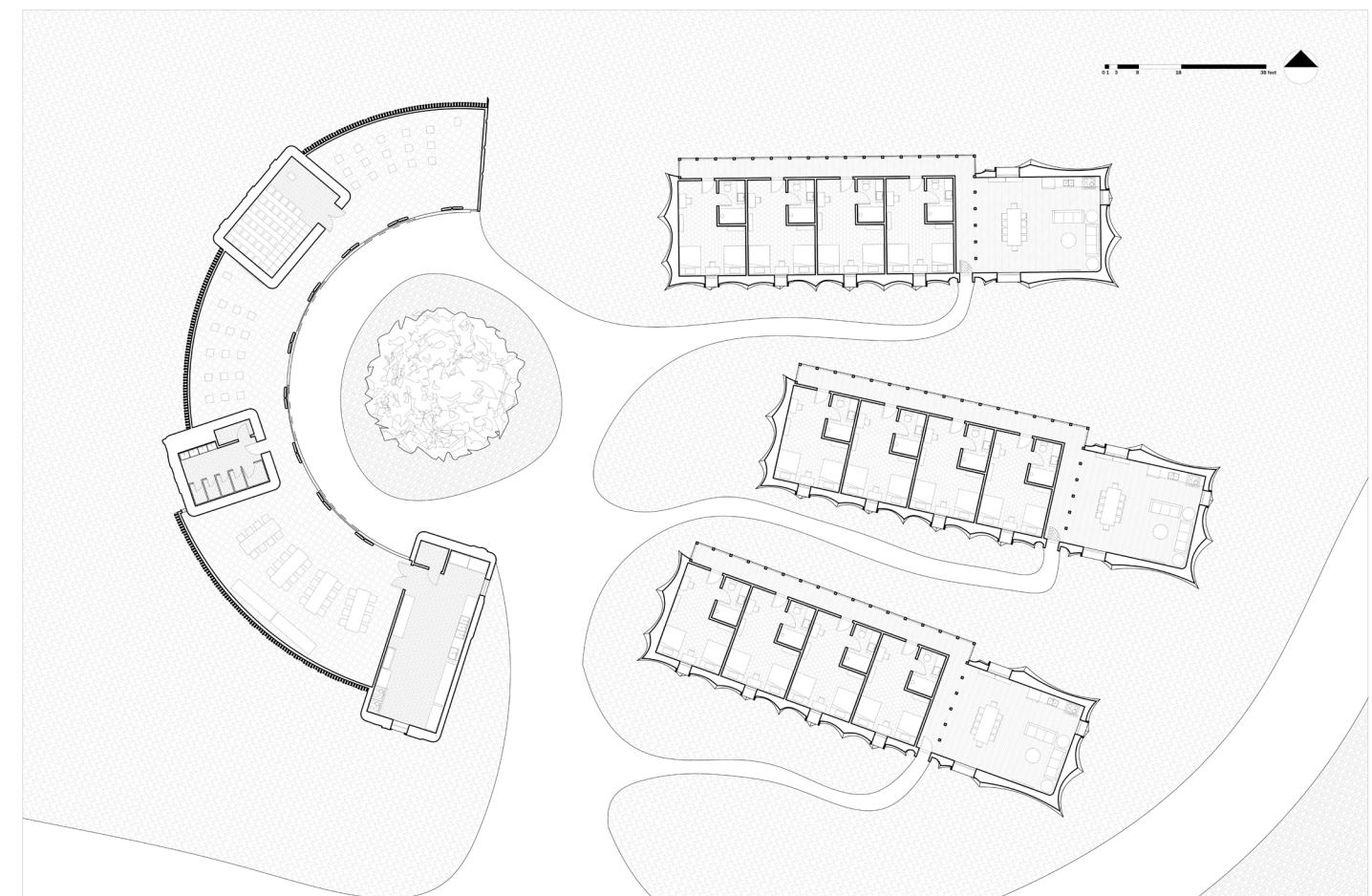
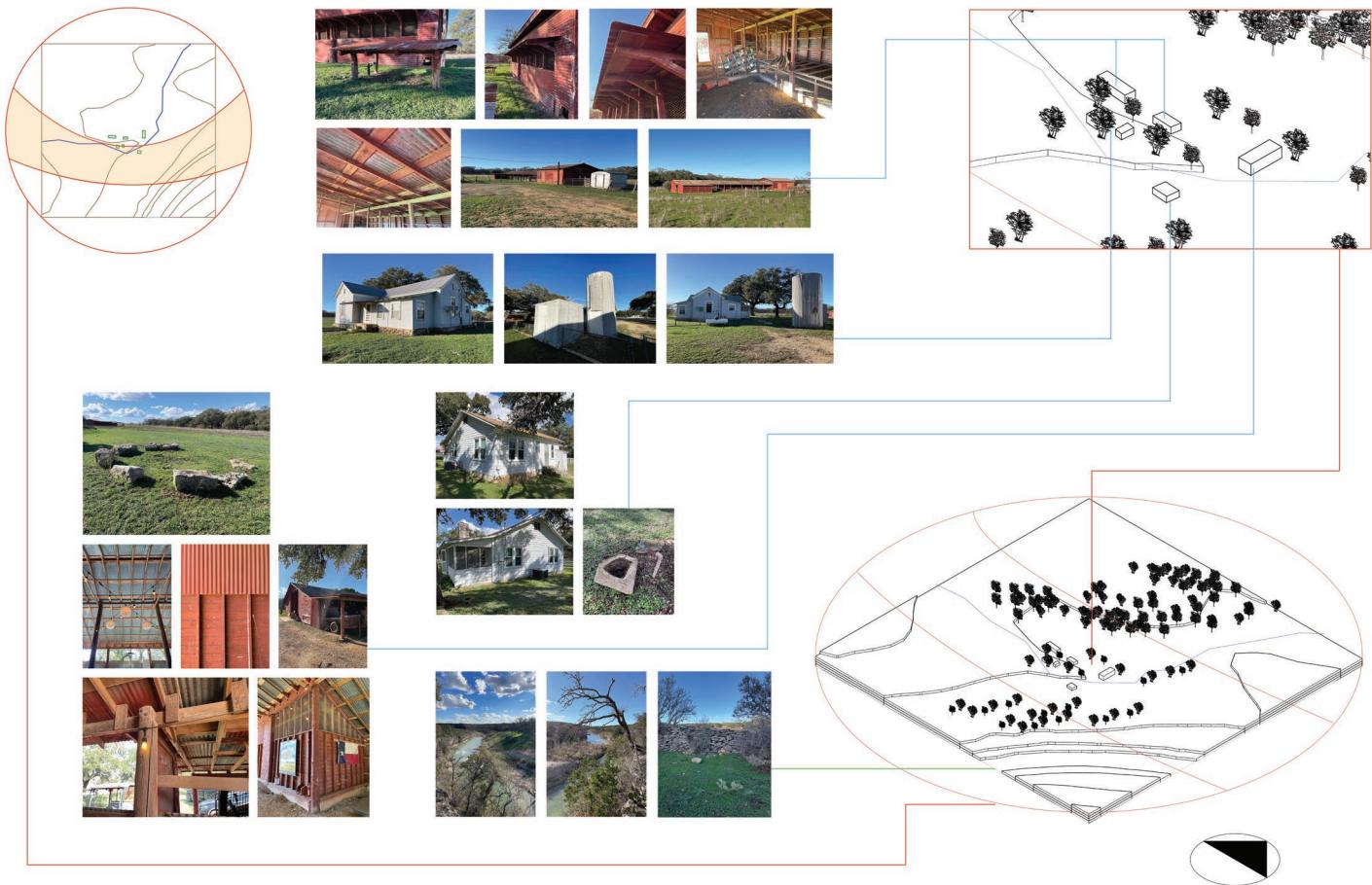
Inhabitable Animal

Once inside, the outward gesture becomes inhabitable. It lifts those within to the sky, and leaves its belly exposed for shelter.

A Mockery of the Landscape
Hill Country Retreat Center



Summer 2024



Snapshot Studies

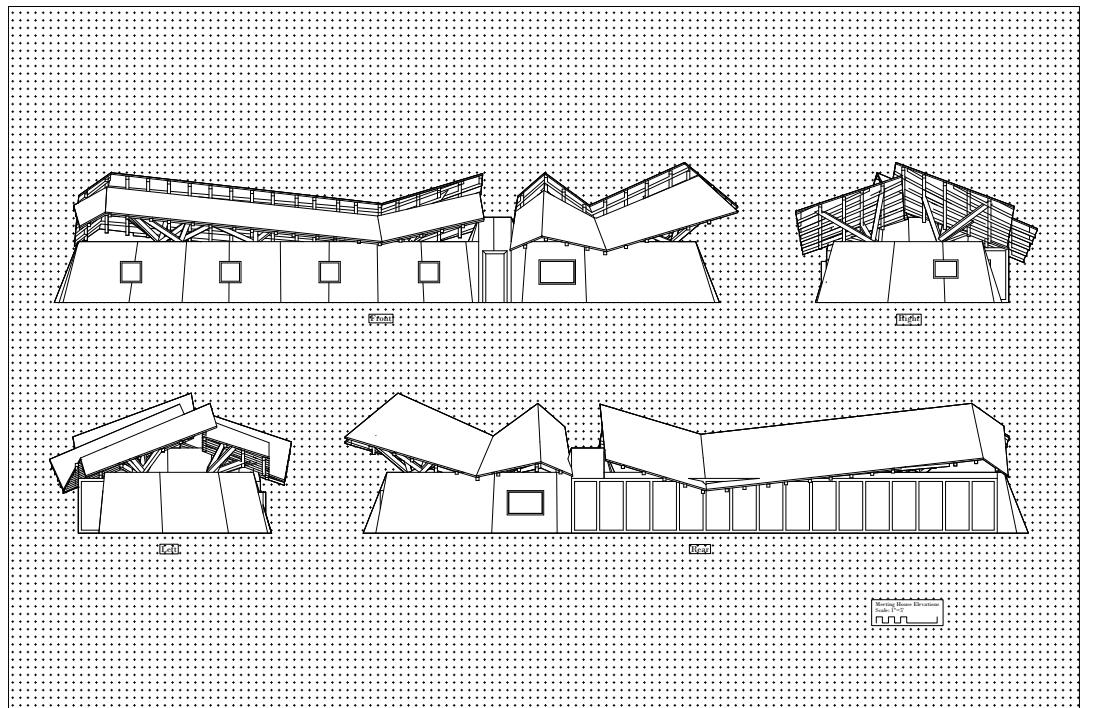
The formal characteristics of the site, found anywhere from nearby stones to the tectonics of existing structures, laid the groundwork for inspiration.

Context

The existing buildings include a barn, garage, historic residencies, and other equipment for tending to the land and wildlife.

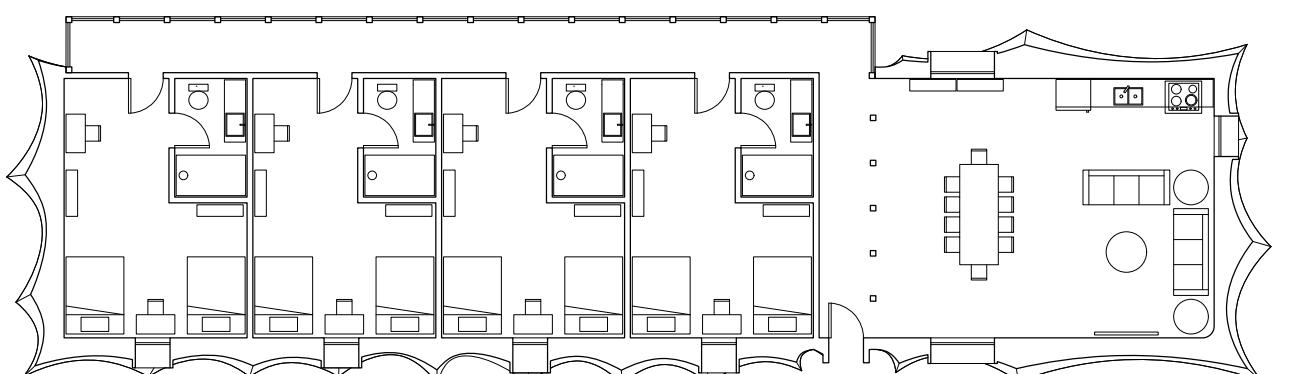
Datum

The different buildings are centrally anchored on an existing oak tree near the front of the complex.



Imitation Game

Architecture is an extension of our interpretation of the environment. A building in the harsh plains of Texas should take cues from the splayed bushes who survive there.

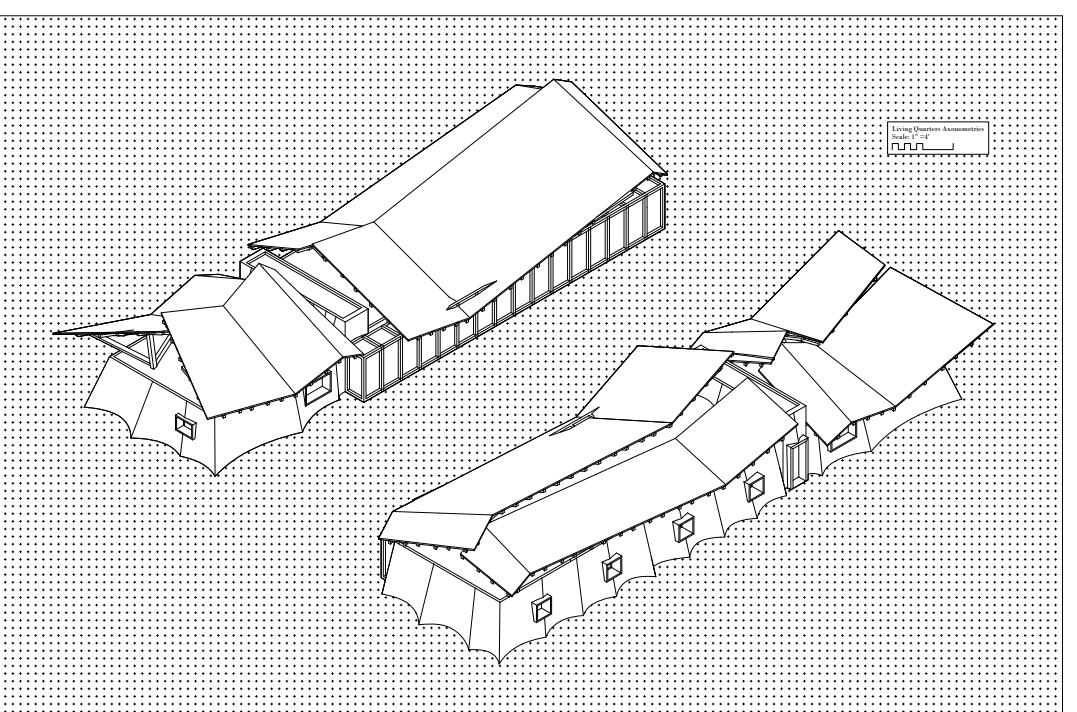


Living Quarters Plan
Scale: 1" = 4'

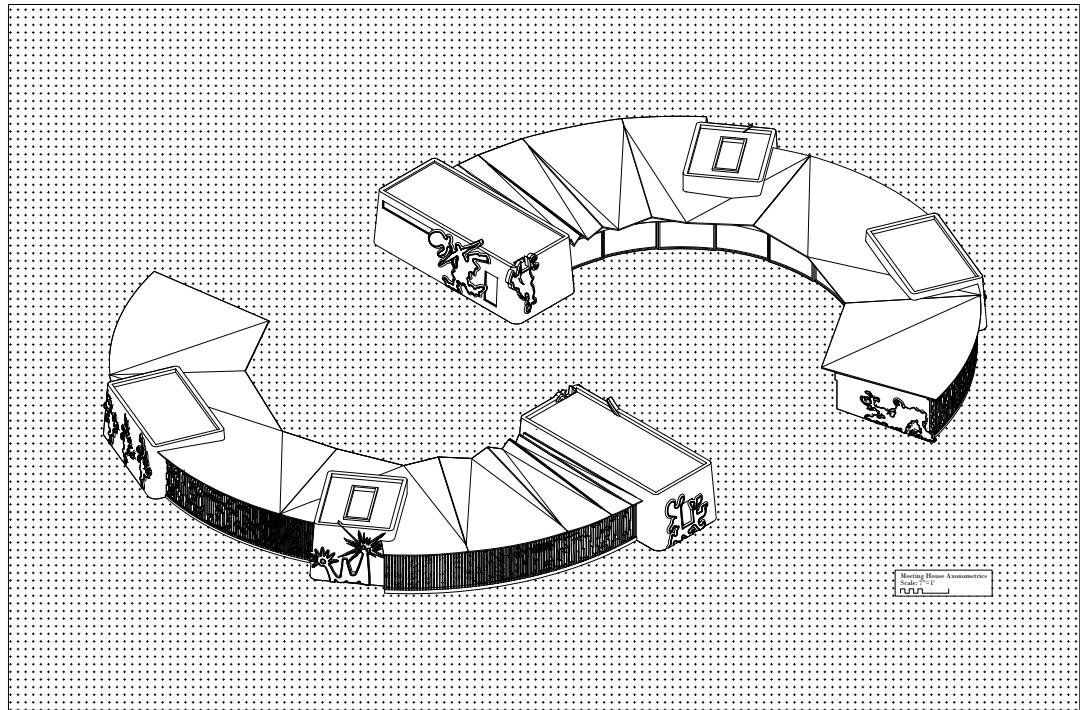


Earth and Sky

Just like every element of nature, we must consider how we meet the ground and the air, respectively. In this case, the building's roots are strong to support its upward dance.

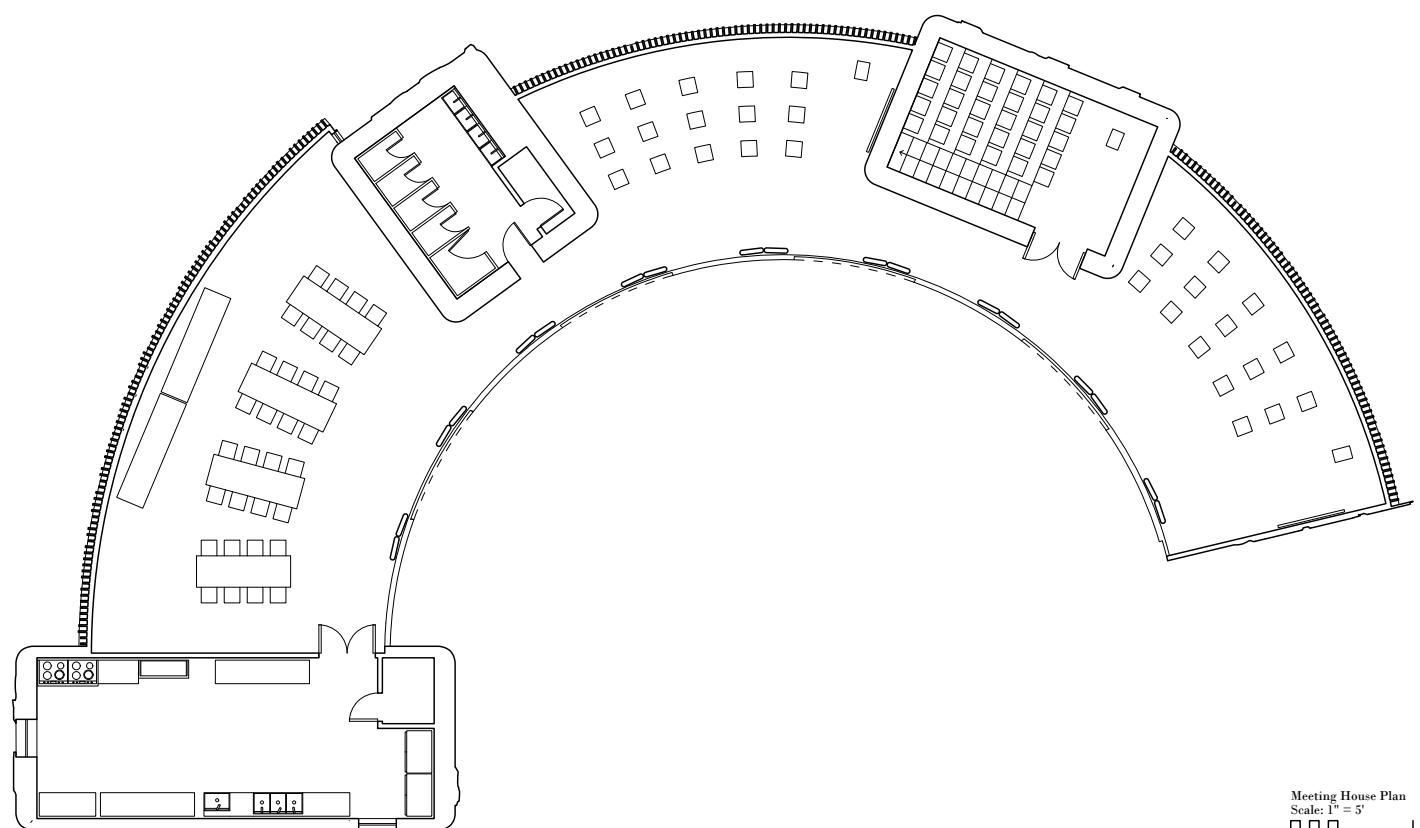






Ripples

Volumes are enclosed sparingly and, upon this act of formal independence, provoke a reaction from the roof, which doubles down on its corrugation and begins to crumple.

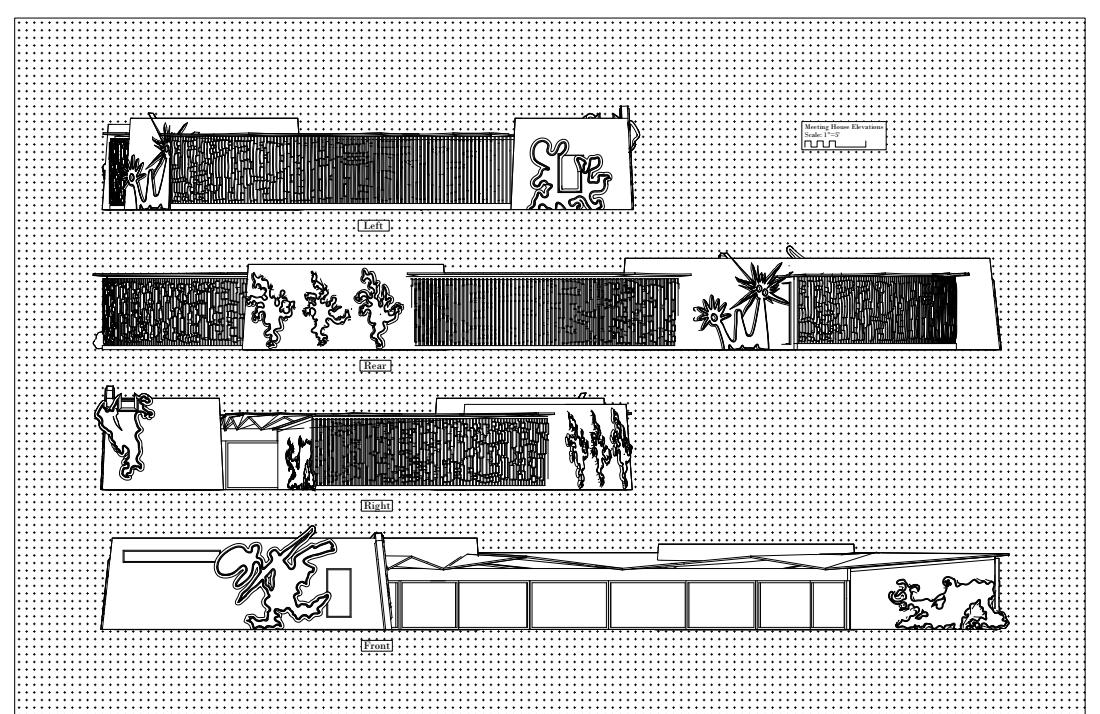


Selected Works



The Cast

Surreal graffiti dabbles in figurative form inspired by the characters of the landscape. Horses dance, the sun peeks over a hill, and a cowboy brandishes his weapon.



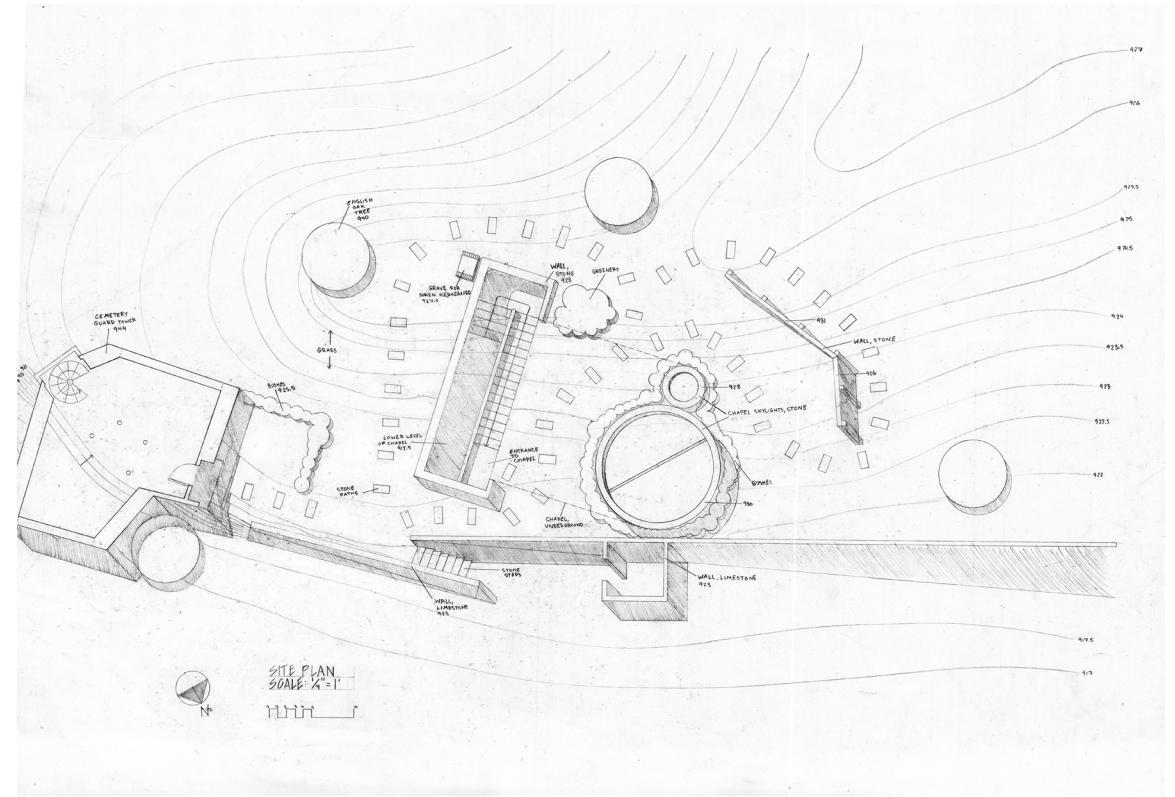
Burning Bush



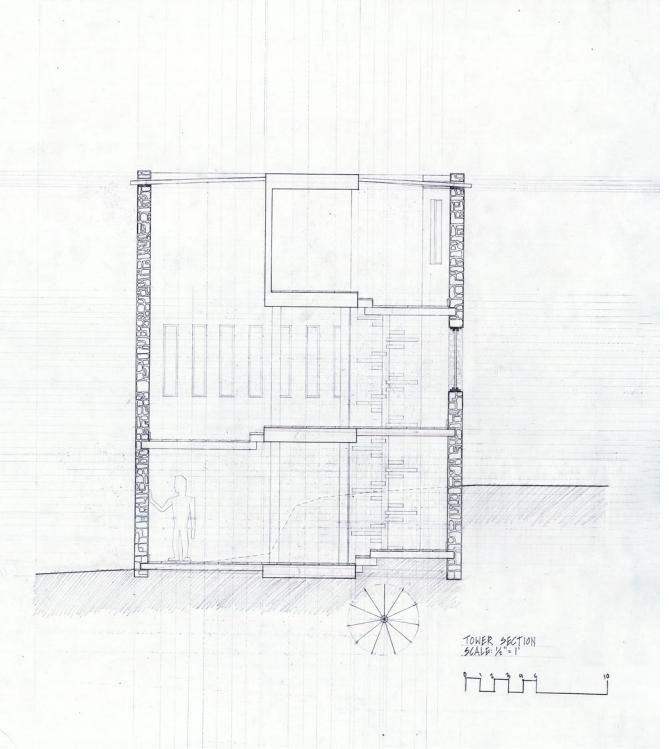
Illusory Doodles

Wooden panels are stained after a CNC cutting operation which renders an almost-three-dimensional image that can only be deciphered with a few laps around the perimeter.

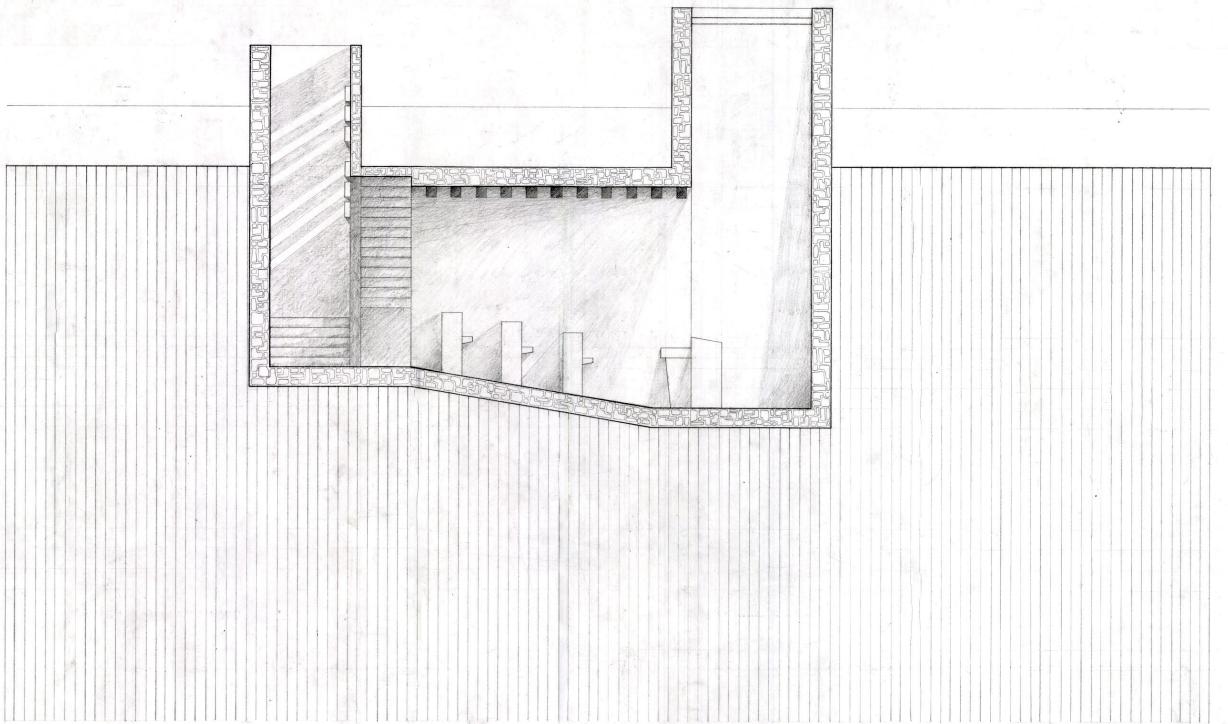
Sit Still
Graveyard Guard Tower and Chapel



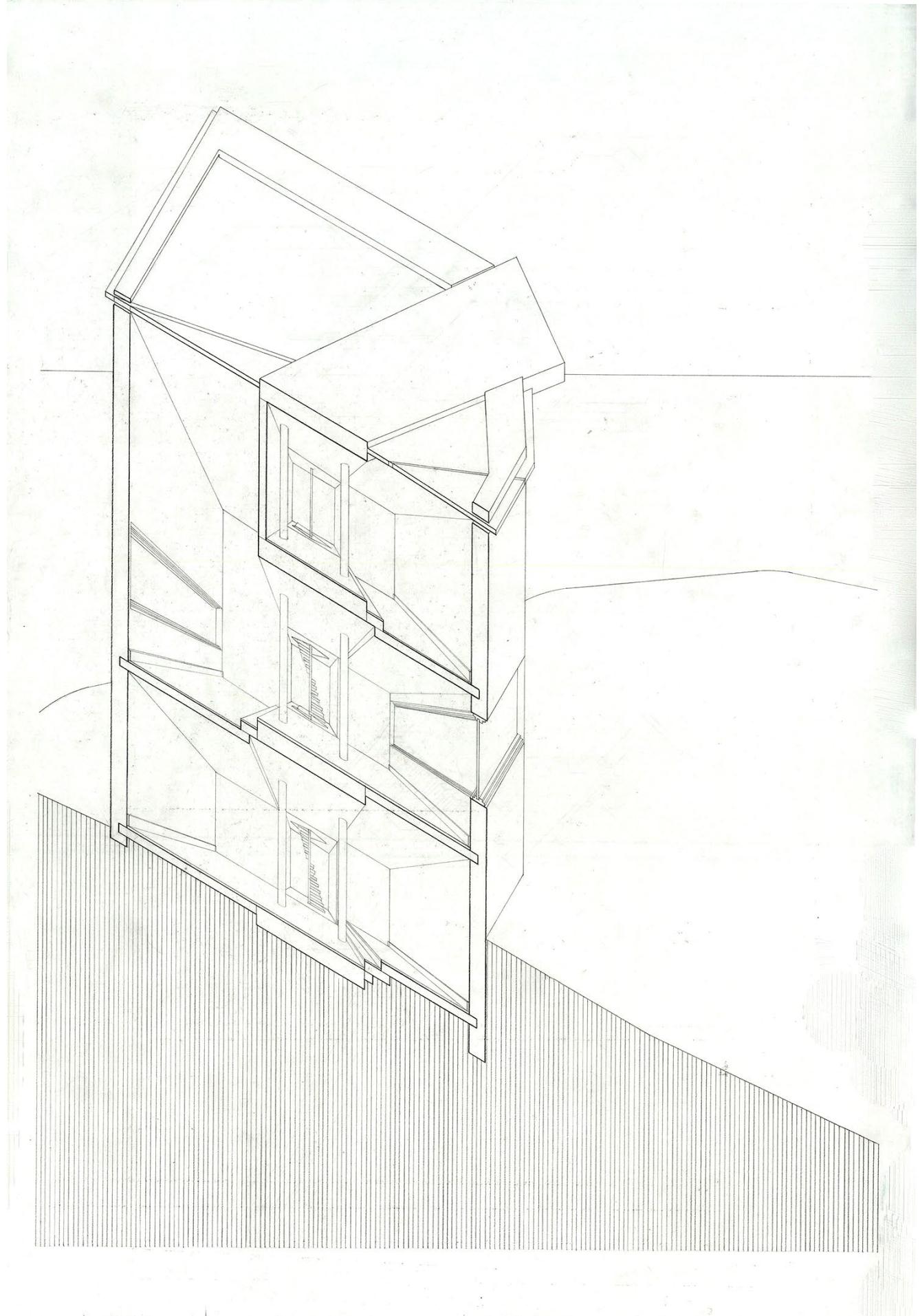
Fall 2023



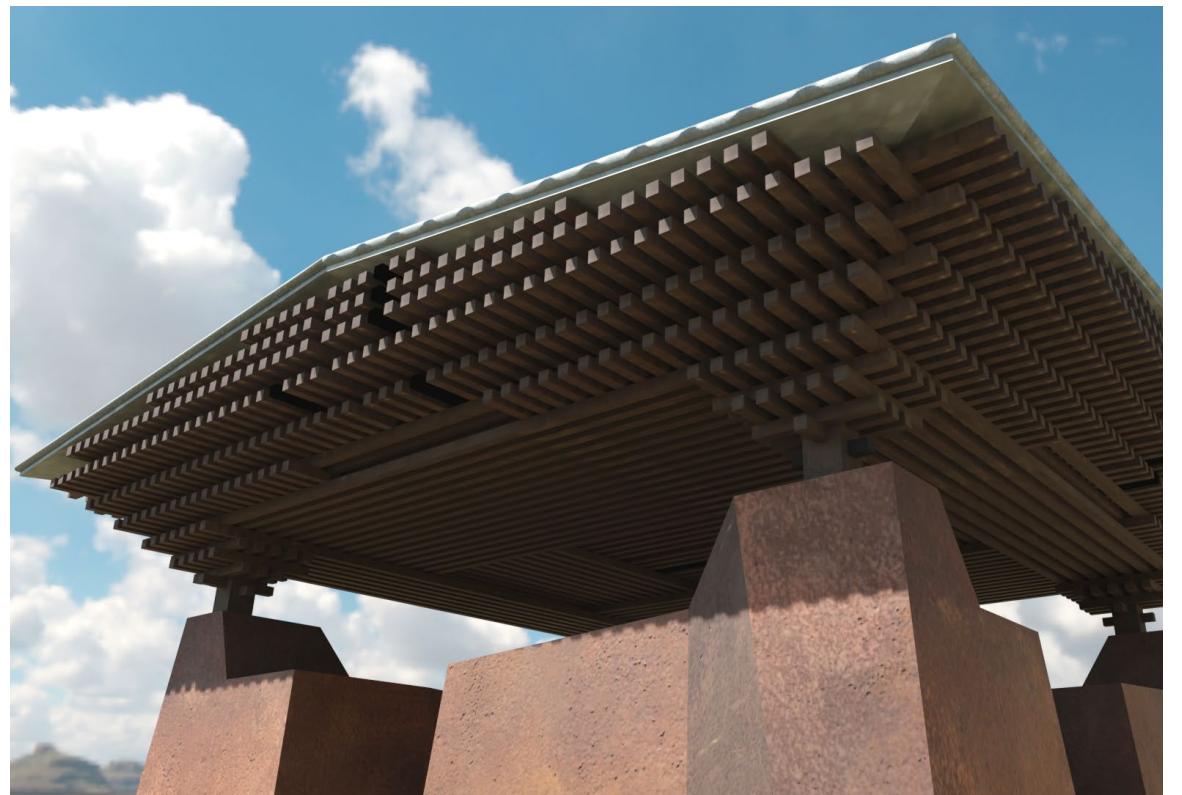
Light in the Ground
The chapel above began with a Latin Cross plan before its horizontal axis was distorted to create an above-ground entrance. This procession was then pierced with windows.



Rigid Form
The perimeter of this groundskeeper's towering home, required to have three levels, is the result of extruding and studying the contour lines of other important site elements.



Temple in Use
Public Restroom and Mutual Aid Shelter



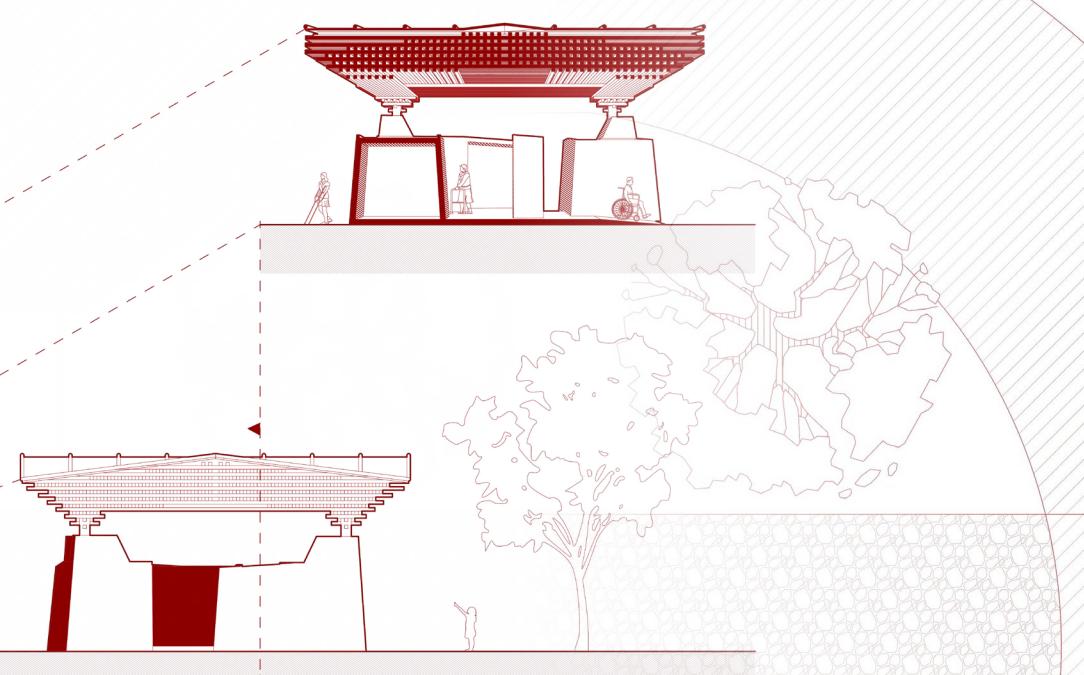
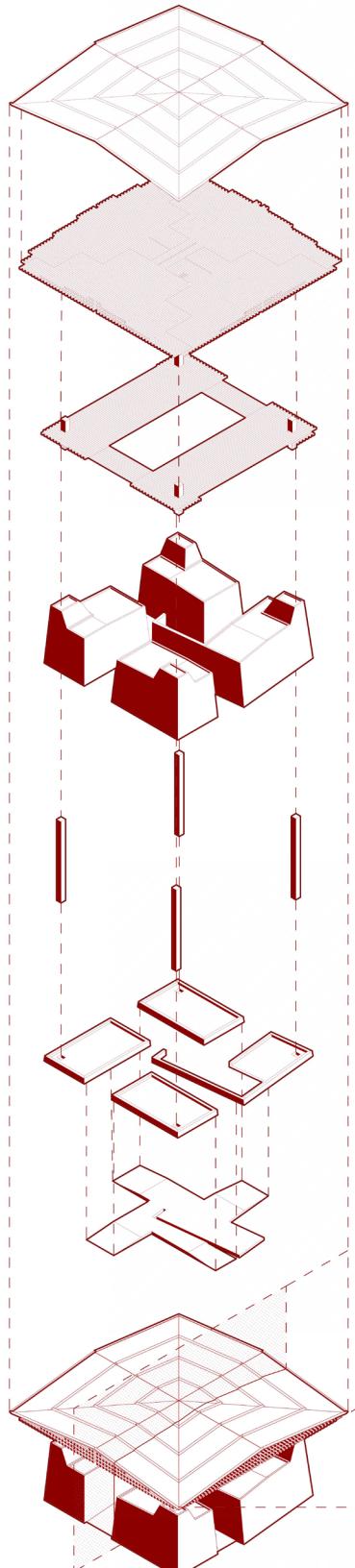
Fall 2023 / Fall 2024

Program

A public bathroom becomes a haven for the neglected and struggling through programmatic solidarity: a pantry for mutual aid, showers in accessible bathrooms, large benches, and more.

Image

A haven exceeds its program. A tree-like canopy is upheld by COR-TEN geometries extracted from a dolmen, and these resolve in the image of a temple.



Wyatt Walski-Rodriguez
3rd Year B.Arch

wyattw@vt.edu
(210) 727-1924
walski-rodriguez.org