



ACCOMPANIMENT

OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE

ECO-SENSORY
DESIGN

SUMMER KIM 



KOREAN TRADITIONAL ART WORK BY SUMMER KIM

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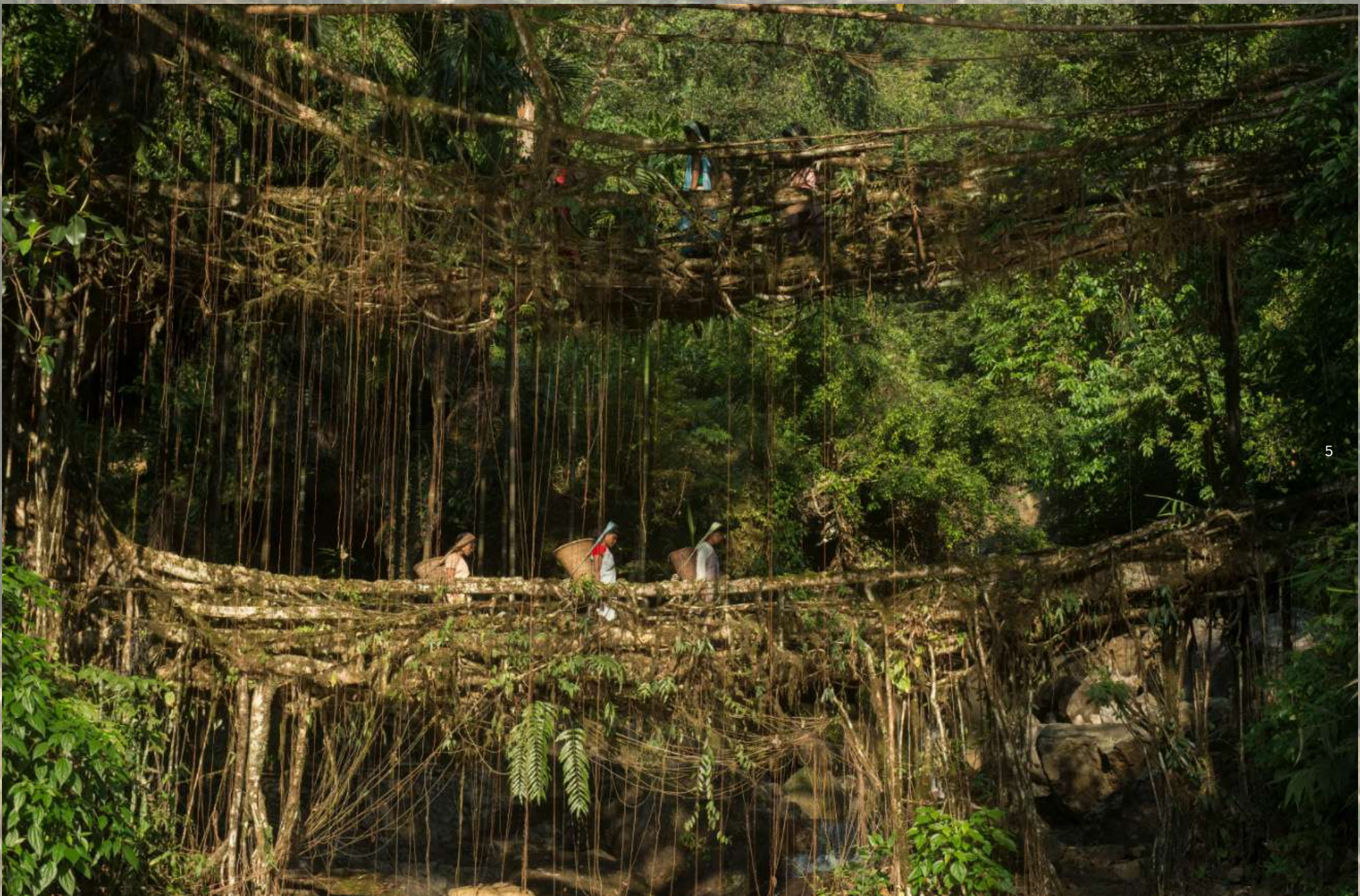
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동행 [;dong-haeng]

ACCOMPANIMENT

- 4 Accompaniment is a way of being with people and nature that fosters joy and interdependence. It is a reminder that people and nature are not separated, and people are part of nature, where people and nature continuously interact and promote one another. My thesis focuses on the ways to achieve this concept in a built environment by addressing nature as a member of our community. In this community, cultural diversity and biodiversity is valued and associated with the place's distinctive identity. What makes this Nature-Human Community Center special is the unique integration of culture with nature. The space encourages nurturing the symbiotic relationship between humans and nature through continuous exposure to self-education and activities involving art and nature in the ecological and sensory rich environment. This is to promote a close human-nature connection for a better understanding of sustainable culture and community. This holistic design focuses on the community space enriching the interdependent relationship between humanity and nature.



In Meghalaya, India known as the wettest place on earth the Khasis have trained rubber fig trees to grow into bridges across rivers during monsoons and heavy rains. Beyond their utility, they are visually stunning and have become a symbol of how humans can work with, not against, nature. Photo: Pete Oxford / Courtesy of Taschen

ACCOMPANIMENT

- CO-LIVING WITH NATURE -

The number of natural disasters our planet is experiencing due to global climate change is increasing.¹ These changes are accelerating human displacement.² What is our relationship with nature? How has that relationship been defined and what would be the right way to approach it moving forward? In this literature review, I will lay out human centered perspectives on the relationship between humanity and nature to analyze the past and current relationship and discuss how we can improve the future relationship by showcasing how we can benefit both humanity and nature through design that will enable our relationship with nature to heal.

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AUTONOMY VS. ACCOMPANIMENT

One very dominant view of the human-nature relationship is human centered perspective explaining how nature benefits humans and what is the most effective way to utilize those benefits.³ Charles Eisenstein who is a teacher, speaker and writer focusing on themes of civilization, consciousness and human cultural evolution says that until we stop objectifying nature and until we begin to see it as a living entity of which we are merely part, we will continue our path of destruction. If we begin to see nature as a living, breathing reality, we might realize how it has the power to heal us and to heal itself. ⁴ As Jonathan Herbert who has taken a role in of leader of many communities which welcomes people from many different walks of life said, "Nature is a source of life and our common home."

To juxtapose two very different views of the human-nature relationship, an example of the human centric view is found in concept of biophilic design. Biophilic design is a concept that is used to increase occupant connectivity to the natural environment through the use of direct and indirect nature. This concept of biophilic design dates back to the early 1980s, when the biologist Edward O. Wilson outlined his philosophy of biophilia, hypothesizing that humans have an innate, biological affinity for the natural world. Biophilic design takes this idea one step further: Because humans today spend 90% of our time indoors, according to the 2001 National Human Activity Pattern Survey, it's necessary to bring the outdoors in and create indoor environments that reference nature in both obvious and subtle ways.

A Typology of Values in Nature

Aesthetic	Physical appeal of and attraction to nature
Dominionistic	Mastery and control of nature
Humanistic	Emotional attachment to nature
Moralistic	Moral and spiritual relation to nature
Naturalistic	Direct contact with and experience of nature
Negativistic	Fear of and aversion to nature
Scientific	Study and empirical observation of nature
Symbolic	Nature as a source of metaphorical and communicative thought
Utilitarian	Nature as a source of physical and material benefit

Table 1.1

In *Building for Life*, the author Stephen R. Kellert, a professor of social ecology and senior research scholar at the Yale University School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, explains values in biophilic design. The inclination to value nature is known as biophilia, a presumably inherent biological affinity for the natural environment that is reflected in nine basic values as seen in Table 1.1. The presence of these nine values is considered a vital basis for human physical and mental well-being. When people possess adequate and satisfying contact with the natural environment, they derive important physical and mental benefits from the functional occurrence of these biophilic values.

The second value represented in Table 1.1 is dominionistic. This value reflects the desire to master and control the natural world. People derive a host of benefits from expressing this tendency, such as a sense of independence and autonomy. People have always honed physical and mental fitness through subduing and mastering nature. By competing, outwitting, and contesting other species and habitats, they emerge surer of themselves and their ability to confront the unknown and overcome hardship. Kellert believes people derive self-esteem from the ability to persevere in the face of adversity.

Contrary to Kellert, Jonathan Herbert in his book *Accompaniment, Community and Nature* argues that this view on autonomy is a cultural outcome. He explains accompaniment as a way of being with others which has somehow become lost in western culture, which stresses the need for independence and personal autonomy. Herbert says, "In rural Uganda, it is just part of daily life and a totally natural way of supporting and enjoying other people and a simple expression of how people belong together." Herbert explains accompaniment as a way of being with people and also with nature that fosters joy and interdependence, it is a process of rediscovering a way of being that is embedded in indigenous cultures.

As Herbert points out, another example of inclusiveness of nature in nature-human relationships can be found in indigenous cultures. In the journal titled *Moving beyond the Human-Nature Dichotomy through Biocultural Approaches: Including Ecological Well-Being in Resilience Indicators*, the authors argue that scientific literature places emphasis on the impact of nature on humans but rarely the reverse. The journal provides a different perspective on the human-nature relationship stating that western ontologies do not give the same status to nature as to humans. It argues that people and nature are not separated. People are part of nature, where people and nature continuously interact and produce one another.

DESIGN FOR CULTURAL DIVERSITY AND BIODIVERSITY

Stephen R. Kellert in *Building for Life* talks about this interaction called 'spirit of place.' He emphasizes shared relationships among people as a community within nature by saying people's experience of nature enhances their well-being. He also points out that when people live in familiar, accessible, and cherished social and geographical settings, that are more likely to feel rewarded by both the ecosystem services and the various biophilic values. This sense of satisfying and secure relation to one's physical and cultural environment is called a 'spirit of place.'

When examined closely, cherished places are not just social and cultural settings, but also physical and ecological environments that people associate with the place's distinctive identity. What makes a place special is the unique integration of culture with nature. The place reflects human society in continuous interaction with the natural environment that over time produces a unique, emergent outcome that cannot be explained as the consequence of either social or environmental forces alone.

A 'spirit of place' is reinforced by shared relationships among people within communities offering a diversity of economic, educational, recreational, civic, and environmental services and opportunities. A 'spirit of place' produces a sense of pride and place-identity of individuals that helps develop self-identity as well. 'Place-identity' is a sub-structure of the self-identity of the person consisting of, broadly conceived, cognitions about the physical world in which the individual lives. These cognitions represent memories, ideas, feelings, attitudes, values, preferences, meanings, and conceptions of behavior and experience which relate to the variety and complexity of physical settings that define the day-to-day existence of every human being.

For decades, ethnobiologists have studied inter-relationships between people and nature, showing that biological and cultural diversity are deeply intertwined. These relationships between cultures and nature are currently being negotiated under the guidance of the convention on Biological Diversity. Post-2020 GBF [Global Biodiversity Framework]'s 2050 vision: "societies living in harmony with nature whereby biodiversity is valued conserved restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people". The values, way of life, knowledge, and practices of indigenous peoples and local communities have so much to offer in addressing the current biodiversity, climate, and sustainable development crises. This journal points out that we (humans) can learn new ways about being a part of living ecosystems and participating in an intelligent and evolving world. These narratives of culture and nature working together can balance the relationship among humans and other living beings in our common home. All of humanity's creative intelligences are needed to address the planetary crisis.

TRADITIONAL SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH HUMANS AND NATURE

Although indigenous cultures have always prioritized their relationship to nature, the developed world addresses it within the built environment as well. Ali Sayigh, the author of *Sustainability, Energy and Architecture : Case Studies in Realizing Green Buildings* talks about the sustainable practice of traditional courtyards. The functions of courtyard are to create comfortable outside microclimates within the building. Courtyards were primarily used in either cold or hot with the aim of balancing the outside unpleasant effects of the harsh climate. Additional elements such as trees and water ponds or wells provided shade and fruit, as well as allowing the summer hot breezes to cool by evaporative cooling.

Paul Cooper in *Interiorscapes: Gardens within Buildings* explains a new perspective on sanctuary and the meaning of gardens in Japanese culture through the concept of 'inside outside.' The organization of the traditional Japanese house emphasized the relationship between these two domains. The garden is part of the interior, and the living space is part of the exterior. In this tradition of garden-making, walls are delicate, transparent divisions that allow a sense of flow between the inside and outside realms, and this emphasis on freedom of movement is essential to Zen theology. This interior garden, drawing on the Zen idea of "borrowing scenery," was intended as a symbolic representation of the paradise that is nature.

CONNECTING WITH NATURE THROUGH MULTI-SENSORY EXPERIENCE & ECO-LOGICAL DESIGN

MULTI-SENSORY EXPERIENCE & ECO-LOGICAL DESIGN

Esther Sternberg in *Healing Spaces* talks about different sensory experiences within nature and how they are beneficial for human health. In her book, Sternberg explores multi-sensory experience with nature based on scientific experiments. Experiments using sight, sound, touch, and smell, exploring how the sensory experience could strengthen the relationship between humanity and nature and how nature can be more involved in the experience. One example would be aromatherapy which employs natural scented oils in the treatment of illness. It is in large part on historical references and the old practice, in both Western and Eastern cultures. The main purpose of the multi-sensory experience involving nature is to provide opportunities to share this new sensory experience of accompaniment. It gives a chance to develop a culture that promotes a close human-nature connection and a better understanding of sustainable culture and community.

Eco-logical design is an approach to social and environmental problem solving, which deals with complex open systems. Eco-solutions involve not just technical but social, cultural, economic, and political dimensions. Janis Birkeland in *Design for Sustainability* talks about designers' responsibilities required for eco-logical design: "Designers ...must invent new systems which improve the quality of life and human experience, while simultaneously restoring the environment, rebuilding community, and creating a sense of place." Birkeland says design needs to shift from a paradigm of 'transforming nature' to 'transforming society' towards sustainability by improving the life quality of, and relationship between, all living things, communities, and the natural or built environment.

ECO-SENSORY DESIGN

The relationship of humanity and nature must become symbiotic. The future of our planet depends on how the human race can learn to co-live with nature. As mentioned in this review, there are many studies focused on human health benefits through the experience of nature but not so much the reverse on how we are benefiting nature through the experience. I would like to explore a novel approach of human sensory experience focusing on enhancing the connection between human and nature rather than only discussing nature's effect on people by considering nature's benefit through the sensory rich environment. I believe combining these two ideas of multi-sensory experience and eco-logical design would be the way to start exploring the approach to the symbiotic relationship between humanity and nature.

03

PRECEDENT ANALYSIS

SECOND HOME HOLLYWOOD, 2019

OFFICE BUILDINGS, OFFICES INTERIORS

Architects: Selgascano

Location: Los Angeles, USA

Area : 40340 ft²

Client : Second Home

Interior Design : Selgascano

Landscaping : Selgascano / Second Home

Lighting & Furniture Design : Alejandro Cano

Polinator-friendly space with diverse plant species keeping the local pollinator community divers, healthy and beautiful.

The 112 different plant species have all been chosen for their drought resistant qualities which reduce water consumption.



KATSURA IMPERIAL VILLA, 1656

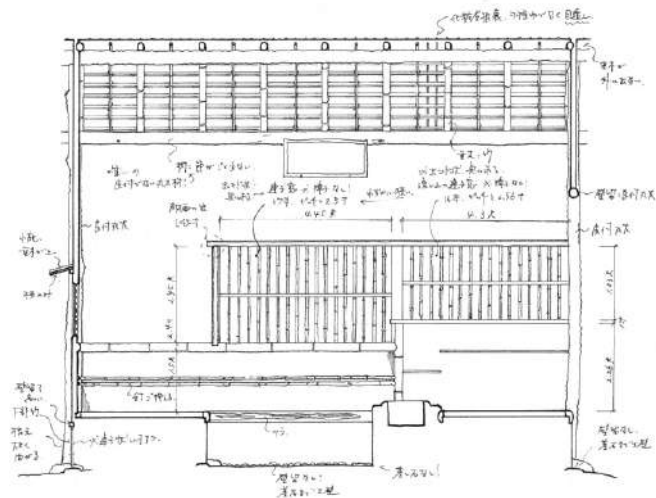
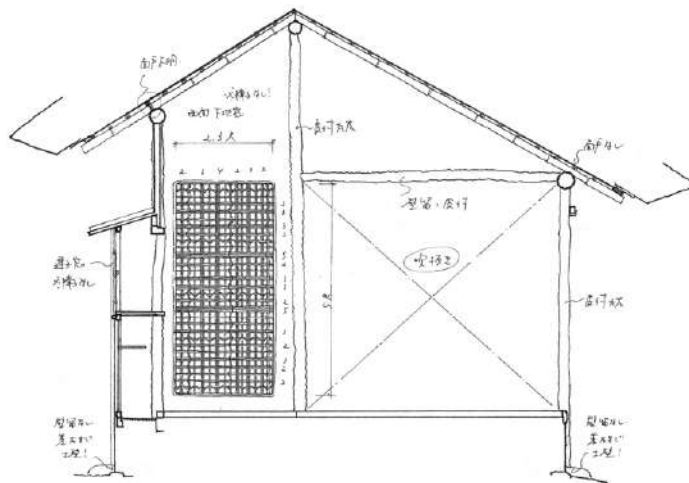
KYOTO, JAPAN

Closeness with the nature. The light boundary between indoor and outdoor space. Use of different shade throughout the indoor created by the divider of the space.





1. Ankleidenraum
2. Bad
3. Abort
4. Wäschraum (oder Toilet)
5. Ankleidenraum
6. Ankleidenraum
7. Schlafkammer
8. Pofoom
9. Wäschraum des 2. Bau-
10. Küche
11. Ankleidenraum
12. Hof der Mägde
13. Toku
14. Toku
15. Tugendstube (Feststube)
16. Urtsala
17. Wäschraum des 2. Bau-
18. Schlafkammer
19. Dienerschaft des 1. Bau-
20. Wäschraum des 1. Bau-
21. Pofoom
22. Wäschraum
23. Lager
24. Offener Hof
25. Veranda
26. Garten
27. Garten-Pavillon
28. Neue Nebengebäude



AUDUBON DISCOVERY CENTER, 2018

PUBLIC BUILDINGS, RESERVOIR

Architects: Digsau

Location: 3401 Reservoir Dr, Philadelphia, PA

Area : 14,000 GSF

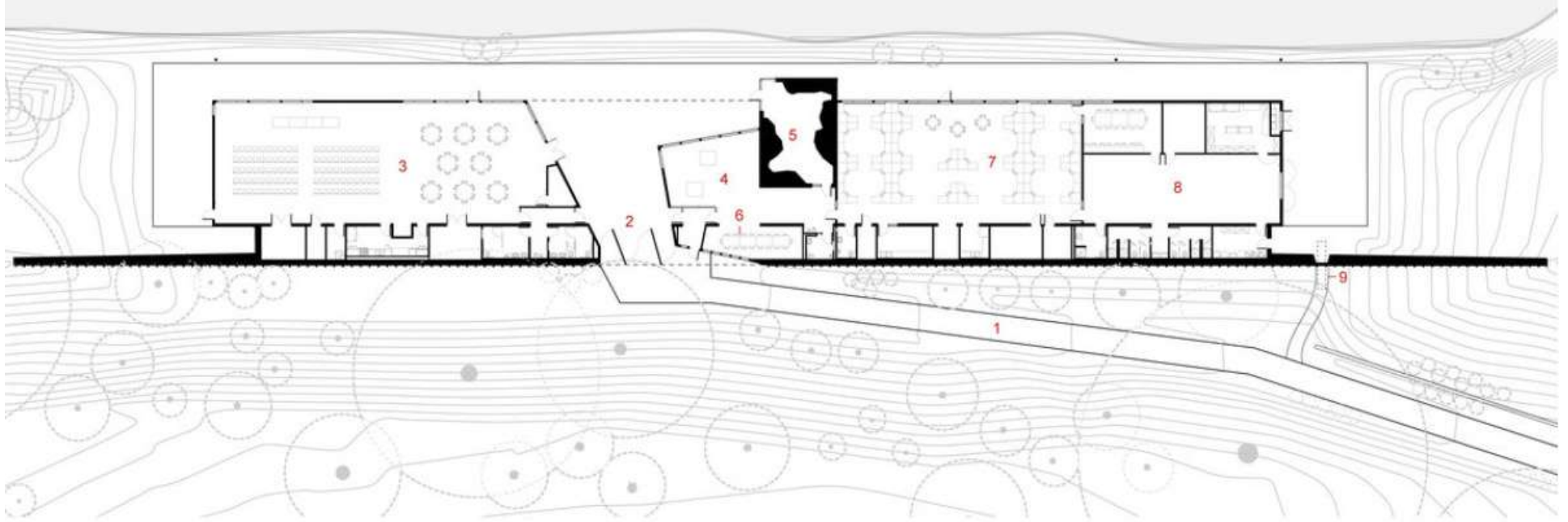
Client : Audubon Society, Outward Bound

The Discovery Center is an urban bird sanctuary and leadership development center conceived in partnership between The Audubon Society of Pennsylvania, Outward Bound Philadelphia, and the Strawberry Mansion neighborhood. The Center offers programming aimed at connecting city residents with nature. The project site surrounds a 37-acre decommissioned reservoir.

The East Park Reservoir in the 1870's and today



EAST PARK RESERVOIR



KEY

- 1 ACCESSIBLE PATH TO PARKING
- 2 ENTRY PORTAL
- 3 CLASSROOM / DIVISIBLE COMMUNITY ROOM

- 4 EXHIBITION SPACE / WELCOME CENTER
- 5 CLIMBING WALL
- 6 COMMUNITY MEETING ROOM

- 7 OFFICE & ADMINISTRATION
- 8 PACK-OUT
- 9 VERTICAL PIVOT GATE

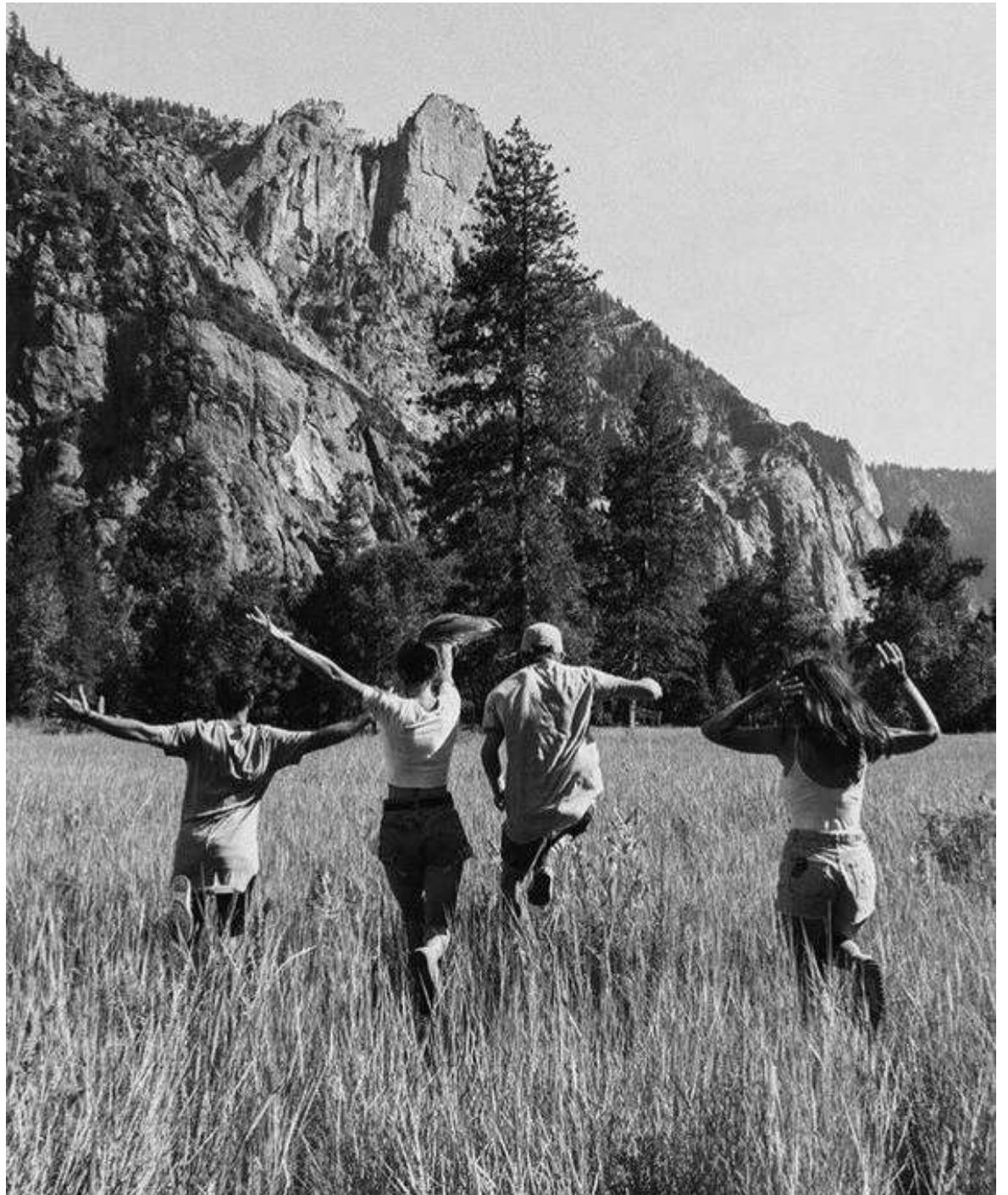


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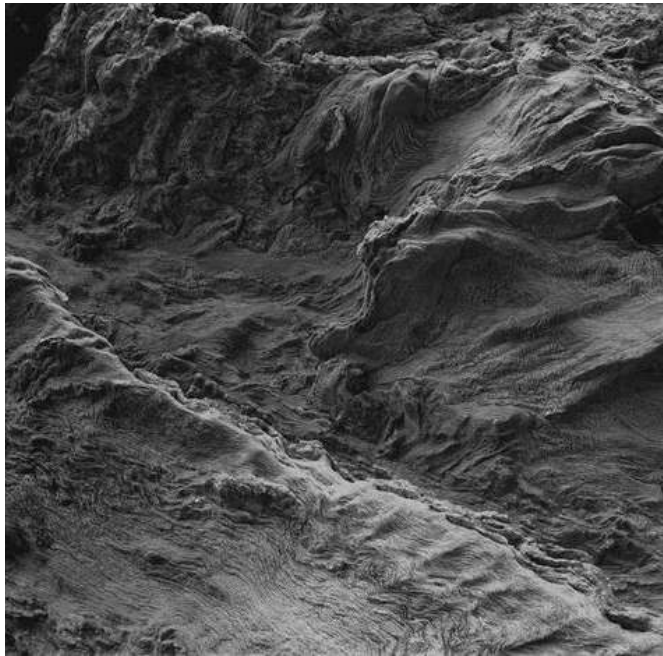
INSPIRATION

“SPIRIT OF PLACE”

: physical and ecological environments
that people associate with the place’s
distinctive identity



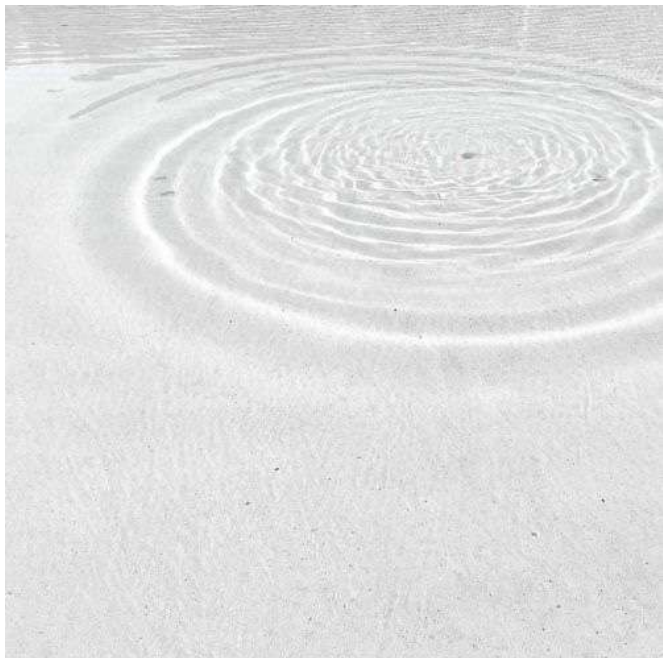
SPIRIT



EARTH



AIR



WATER



LIGHT

05

CASE STUDY



THE DISCOVERY CENTER
Discover yourself in nature



THE DISCOVERY CENTER

3401 Reservoir Drive, Philadelphia, PA 19121

MISSION:

Audubon Mid-Atlantic uses The Discovery Center as a facility for research and science-based conservation projects and educational programs throughout the Philadelphia region. Audubon engages individuals and communities by offering the resources and tools necessary to analyze, preserve and restore our natural environment.

HOURS:

Winter Hours (October 16th - April 14th)
10am - 5pm Tuesday through Sunday
Closed Mondays

*Closed November 19th, 20th, 24th
and 25th & December 24th through January 2nd

Staff member includes 5-10 + seasonal employees and Volunteers

EVENTS:

(90% center run / 10% outside of center run)

Bird Tour
Introduction to birding workshops
Birdfeeder Workshop
Audubon Bird Tour
Audubon Book Club
Wild Foodies 101
Native plant Foraging Tour
Soil Workshop: Cactus and Succulent Society
Discovery Fest: Anniversary
Discovery Day: Raptor Hunt and CPR Class
Discovery Day: Rock Climbing
Discovery Day: Ziplining and Raptors
Discovery Day: Nature in the Dark (Halloween event)
Sit Event: Sit and let the birds come to you!
Lectures: Freshwater Talks: Mussel Restoration Along the Delaware River Watershed
Indigenous Peoples' Day: Land appreciation
Volunteer Orientation and Workday
Community Engagement Committee (CEC) Meetings
Mental Wealth Event
Line Dancing, Yoga

Recommendation from the center:

Stop by our Visitor Center to borrow a pair of binoculars, chat with staff about the birds of the Strawberry Mansion reservoir and use the restroom before you head out to discover yourself in nature while walking our out and back trail partway around the reservoir. Discover native plants in our pollinator garden and learn about freshwater mussels on our water walk. Take your time, bring your friends and family and relax in nature- all without leaving Philadelphia!

Very casual setting for visitors to be and do whatever they want but not very clear of what the site offers to the visitors.

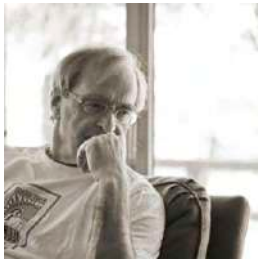
Summer Hours (April 15th - October 15th)

Closed Mondays
10am - 7pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays & Fridays
10am - 5pm on Saturdays
12pm - 5pm on Sundays

SPACE RENTAL:

(Free for the community members)
: Great Room \$450/hr (kitchen: \$100 per event)
-200 standing, 175 seated, 150 seated at table
Multipurpose Room \$175/hr (kitchen: \$100 per event)
-80 standing, 75 seated, 60-70 seated at table
Conference Room \$50/hr
-12-15 seated at table
Courtyard \$250/hr
-200 standing, 150 seated in chairs or standing at cocktail tables.





Strachan Donnelley

The Center for Humans and Nature was founded in 2003 by Strachan Donnelley, a philosopher and civic leader who saw a fundamental need for an organization dedicated to the exploration of humans and nature relationships.

Donnelley's formative early years hunting wild ducks on Illinois marshes were as important to his remarkable life and career as his professional studies of philosophy and bioethics.



“I have lately been thinking about our world and its evolutionary life as one vast, temporally deep frog pond. We humans consider ourselves at the center of all things significant and meaningful, right in the middle of the frog pond. We need ‘bullfrog philosophers’...individuals who move us humans off-center, to find a seemly and right lily pad upon which to live and croak, morally moved by a central concern for the overall and indefinite well-being of the frog pond as a whole.”

—Center founder, Strachan Donnelley, from Frog Pond Philosophy

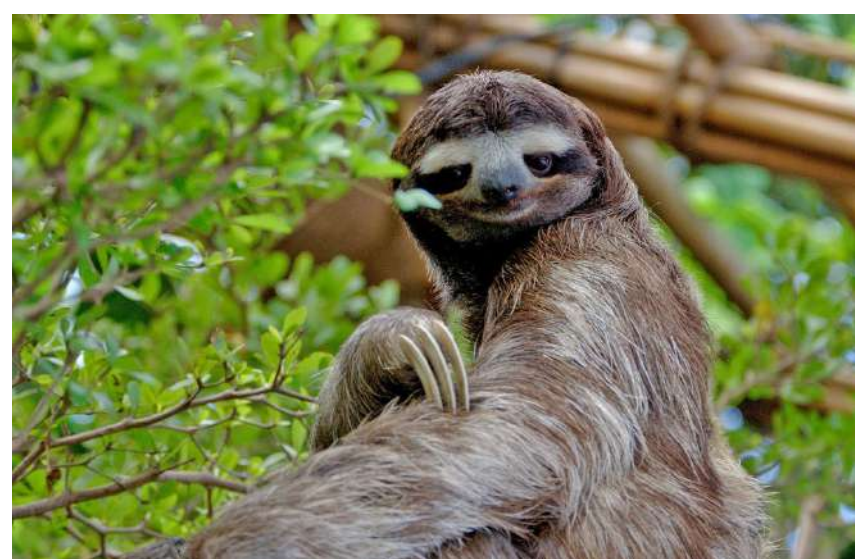
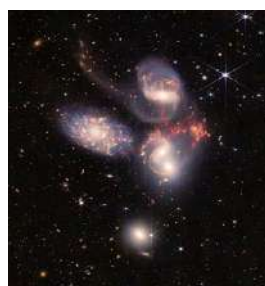
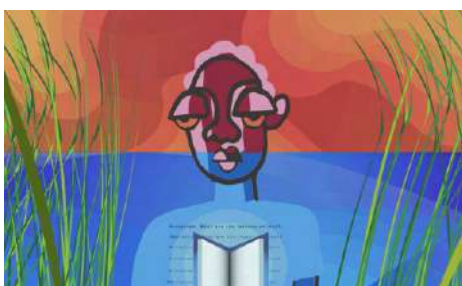
The Center for Humans and Nature is a 501c3 nonprofit organization, publisher, forum, and place to explore, connect, and nurture our understandings of and responsibilities to the natural world.

We share ideas that foster curiosity, build community, and inspire action. The Center in Libertyville, IL is a workspace for Chicago-based staff, a retreat center for the Center's gatherings of thought-leaders, a laboratory in which to practice land-relationship ideas shared by center contributors, and a welcoming space for periodic public events.

We will continue to seed ideas through our publications and through land practices that contribute to resilience and regeneration. We will continue to reimagine our cultural systems and institutions in a way that can help all of us live into more beautiful ways of knowing and being. And we will continue to nurture spaces where we can connect, listen, and learn about who we are—and who we want to be—as members of the larger community of life on Earth.

Our work provides in-depth and diverse perspectives about what it means to be human in an interconnected world.

Publication Platform





Meg Hiesinger Handler, Ph.D. is an ecological designer, educator, and artist. She holds a B.A. in Cultural Anthropology from U.C. Berkeley, and a doctorate from the program in the History and Anthropology of Science and Technology (HASTS) at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. With over 20 years creating unique hands-on ecological experiences for all ages, her work and interests center on the healing power of hand-craft and regenerative design for landscapes and communities. Meg worked as Director of Education at The Ecology Center in Orange County, where she co-created the Grow Your Own! program and led a network of over 100 school and community gardens. Handler has served as a faculty member at Cal State Fullerton and Saddleback Community College. She has also created holistic hands-on ecology and garden experiences for schools and organizations. Inspirations include: The Ecology Center in San Juan Capistrano, CA, proving good design is a great vehicle for ecology; Martín Prechtel, who helped her articulate the power of gardening and making to regenerate the human soul; Corita Kent, artist and visionary educator; Architect Mark Lakeman of Cityscape, whose pioneering work shows we can bring back the human element to public spaces and transform them into community centers; Jodi Levine of Earthroots Field School, Jon Young and Joseph Cornell who have all unlocked key patterns in helping people of all ages re-connect to nature.

THE HUMAN NATURE CENTER

GROWING REAL CULTURE WITH ECOLOGY AND ART



POPUPS:

Reconnecting people with the magic of our incredible home planet is the heart of our work. This experiences transform ordinary places into transcendent community spaces.

22



EVENT:

Winter Solstice Candle Rolling & Lighting | Garden Tykes | Kids Garden Lab | Natural Arts Studio



CONSULTING:

We are honored to collaborate with companies and organizations to help design, build, and activate hands-on spaces for nature connection. Those spaces may be a garden, a classroom, or a public space.



THE HUMAN NATURE CENTER

: mobile Ecology Arts Shop based in Ventura, California

MISSION:

We connect people to Nature and to each other through hands-on acts of growing and making. We use the arts as teaching tools for ecology. Our name comes from our belief that Humans are Nature, so when we nurture nature we're also taking care of ourselves. The Human Nature Center exists to help people of all ages reconnect with the basic cycles of life and to re-infuse our daily living with deeper meaning as tenders of life on earth.

WORKSHOPS:

* Shared with family or classroom *

FAMILY GARDENING:

The first garden class where kids directly apply their new skills to start growing organic veggies and fruits at home. Topics include - Planning, Seed Starting, Soil Health, Care

URBAN HOMESTEADING:

This class offers a starter set of skills to make better use of what each season offers in abundance. Topics include - Sprouting, Fermenting, Natural Dye, Whole Foods cook

D.I.Y. MAKER LAB:

DIY Maker Lab is a group space where kids respond to creative challenges based on their own interests and the materials they have at hand. With a focus on eco-friendly materials and "upcycling," we guide kids in making fun and functional objects from tools to toys. Themes may include - Found Object Printing, Instruments, Mobiles, Vehicles

WILD CRAFT CAMP AT HOME:

Join instructors Meg Handler and Jodi Levine-Wright for a 4-week wild crafts camp. This is a one-of-a-kind virtual summer camp supported by mailed kits to make wild crafts at your home. Create mini cob houses, yucca paint brushes, natural pigments, compost tie dye and an elderberry branch container!

ECO DESIGN:

With just a few basic tools, anyone can transform an empty space into a thriving ecosystem. In this workshop, students re-imagine food, water, energy, shelter, and waste according to Nature's patterns. They apply their knowledge to design more beautiful, resilient homes for themselves and their families. Hands-on explorations include - Using a compass to orient and plan a garden, Building mini earth homes, Growing seeds, Hand-printing reusable cotton lunch bags, Making kites etc.

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SHELTER ME:

Before food and water, shelter is the most important survival element. Yet there's much more to shelter than simply staying alive. By using creative design and natural materials, we can use make spaces that thrive. In this workshop students - Explore natural building around the world, Learn basics of orientation, building & design, Mix & build mini cob houses, Engineer a fort to withstand the elements

NATURAL ARTS:

For most of human history, people have made everything we need from the plants, animals, and minerals around us. These skills are perhaps more relevant than ever for the health of our bodies and planet. This hands-on workshop series introduces students to a series of useful life skills while exploring natural and earth-friendly materials. Topics include - Natural dyeing & Pigment painting, Book Making, Sewing & Stitching, Weaving, Printing

SEED TO SEED:

For over 10,000 years, neighbors have saved and traded seeds. In this workshop, students immerse themselves in the ancient tradition of seed saving and learn to cultivate biodiversity and resilience in their own backyards. In this workshop, students - Learn about seed saving in different cultures, Explore, harvest, and store different seeds, Make their own veggie seed balls and seed storage containers, Learn to grow food that suits their local climates

WATER IS LIFE:

In this workshop, students learn hands-on about their role in their watersheds and learn hands-on how a few simple choices can add up to big change. Topics in this class include - Journaling home water use, Exploring past and present life in their local watersheds, Constructing water-light lunch kits

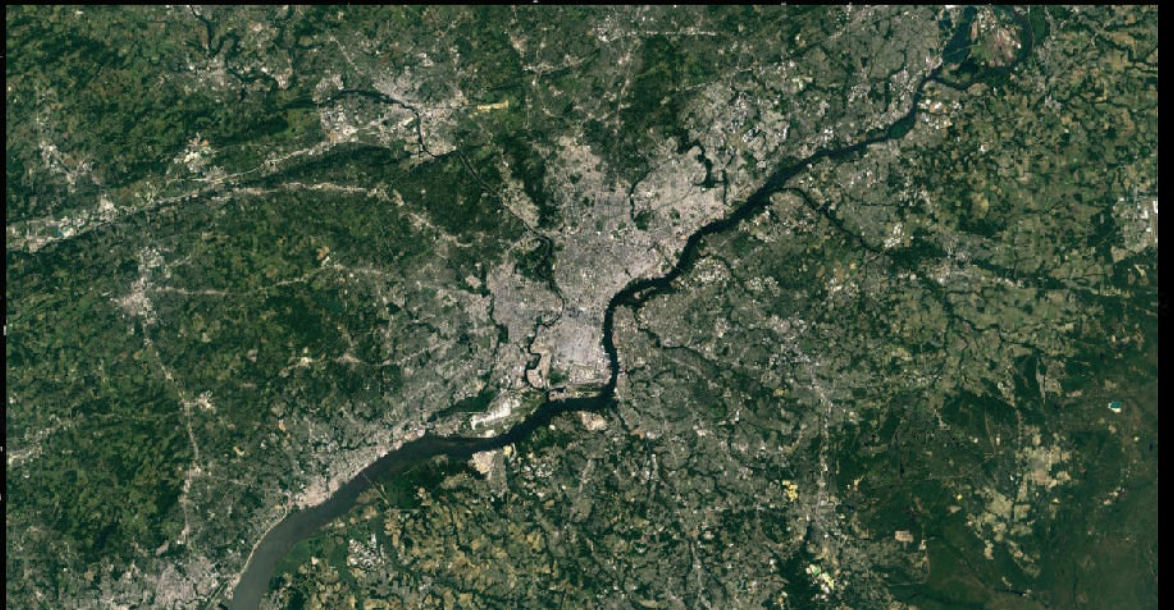
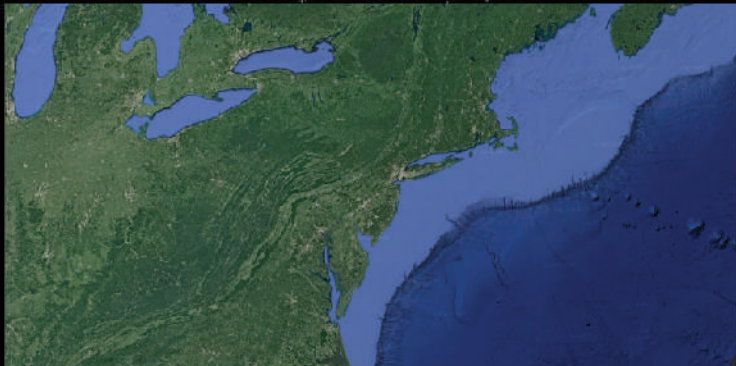


06

SCALE



24



PENNSYLVANIA, USA



● FOUR MILLS NATURE RESERVE

● BRIAR BUSH NATURE CENTER

● DIXON MEADOW PRESERVE

● PENNYPACK ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

● ANDORRA MEADOW

● WISSAHICKON ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

SITE LOCATION

● RIVERBEND ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER

● HOUSTON MEADOW

● SCHUYLKILL NATURE RESERVE COMMUNITY GARDEN

● UPPER ROXBOROUGH RESERVOIR PRESERVE

● WISSAHICKON VALLEY PARK

● SCOUT HOUSE

● SCHUYLKILL CENTER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

● NATURAL LANDS' SAUNDERS PRESERVE

● IDLEWILD FARM PRESERVE

● VICARIS St. TRAILHEAD

● PALMYRA COVE NATURE PARK

● BELMONT PLATEAU

● FAIRMOUNT PARK HORTICULTURE CENTER

● THE DISCOVERY CENTER

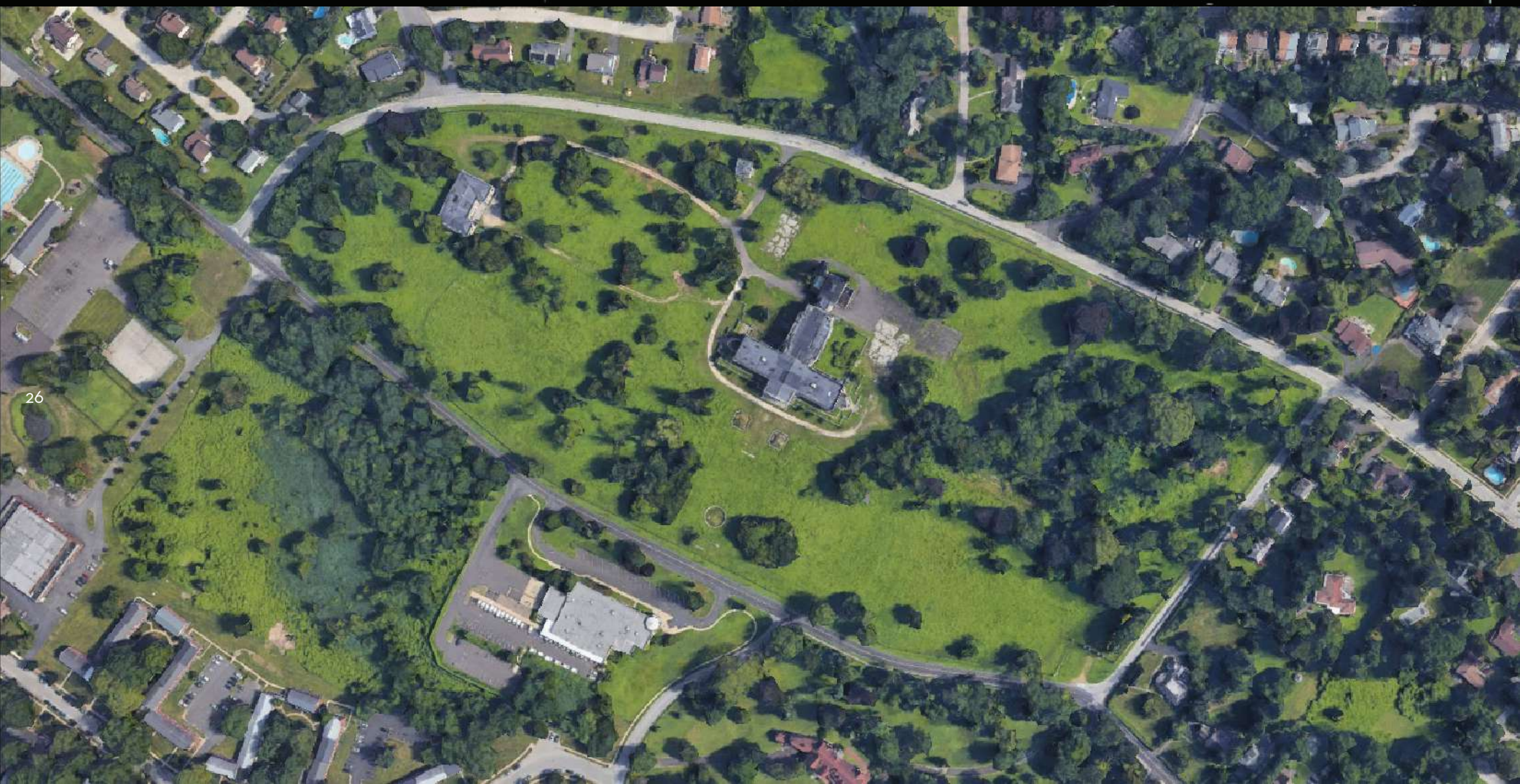
● SCHUYLKILL RIVER TRAIL

● BARTRAM'S GARDEN

● FDR PARK

● JOHN HEINZ NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AT TINICUM

NATURE CENTERS IN PENNSYLVANIA





27

LYNNEWOOD HALL
920 Spring Ave, Elkins Park, PA 19047

07

SITE

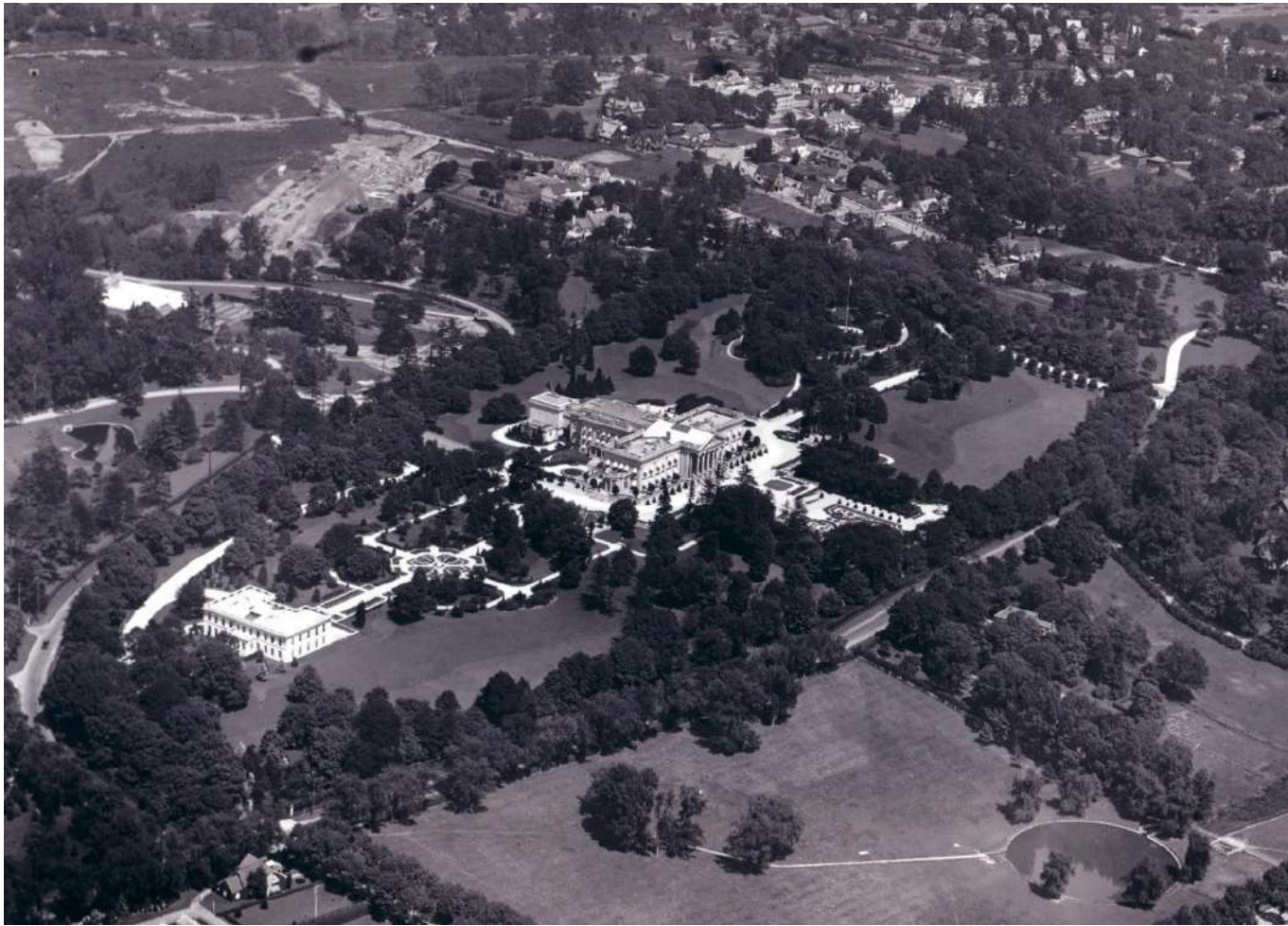
LYNNEWOOD HALL

[1898-1900]

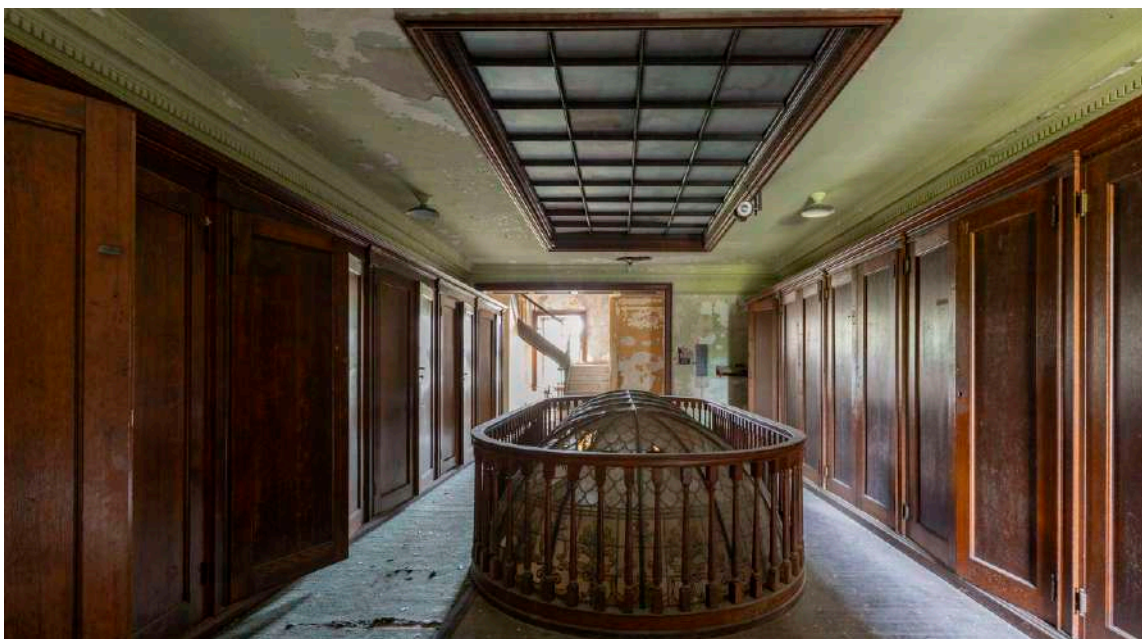
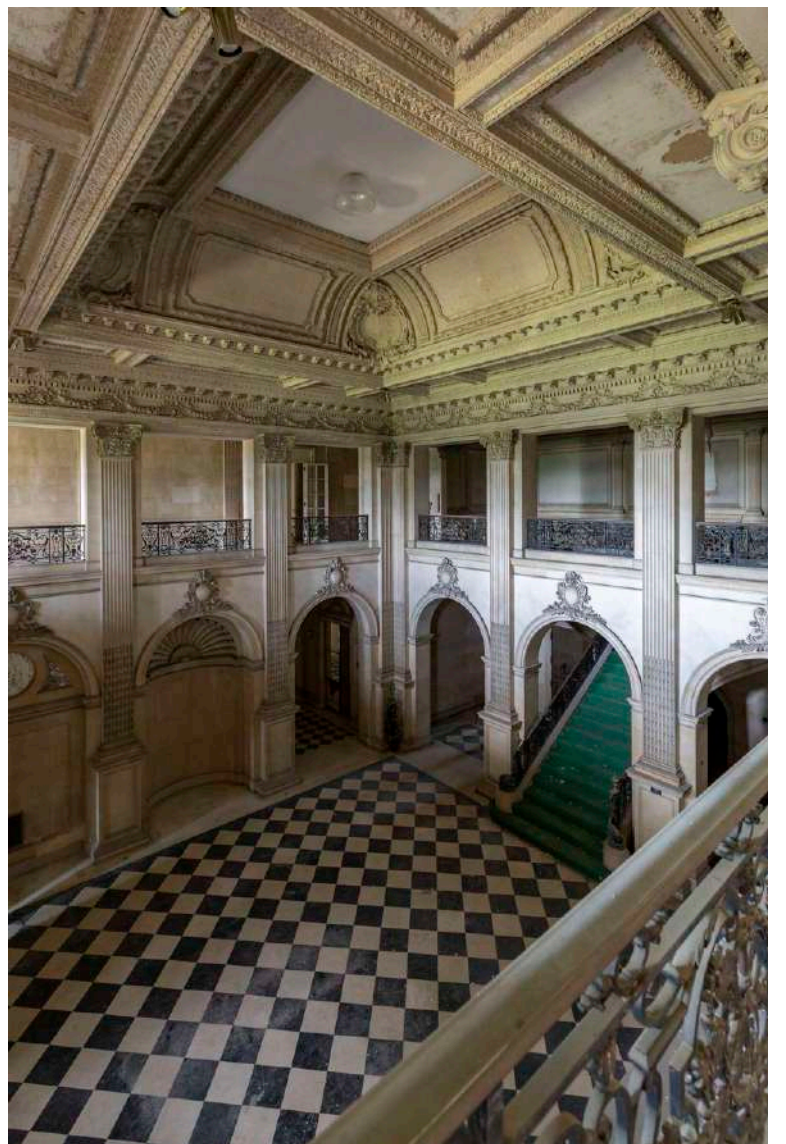
920 SPRING AVENUE, ELKINS PARK, PA 19027

- * HISTORICAL SITE THAT CELEBRATES THE ARCHITECTURE.
- * DEEP CONNECTION TO THE NATURE
- * CREAT NEW CULTURE OF 'SPIRIT OF PLACE'
- * PLACE TO NURTURE & RESTORE THE RELATIONSHIP WITH NATURE
- * EDUCATIONAL SPACE FOR THE COMMUNITY





HISTORIC PHOTOS OF LYNNEWOOD HALL



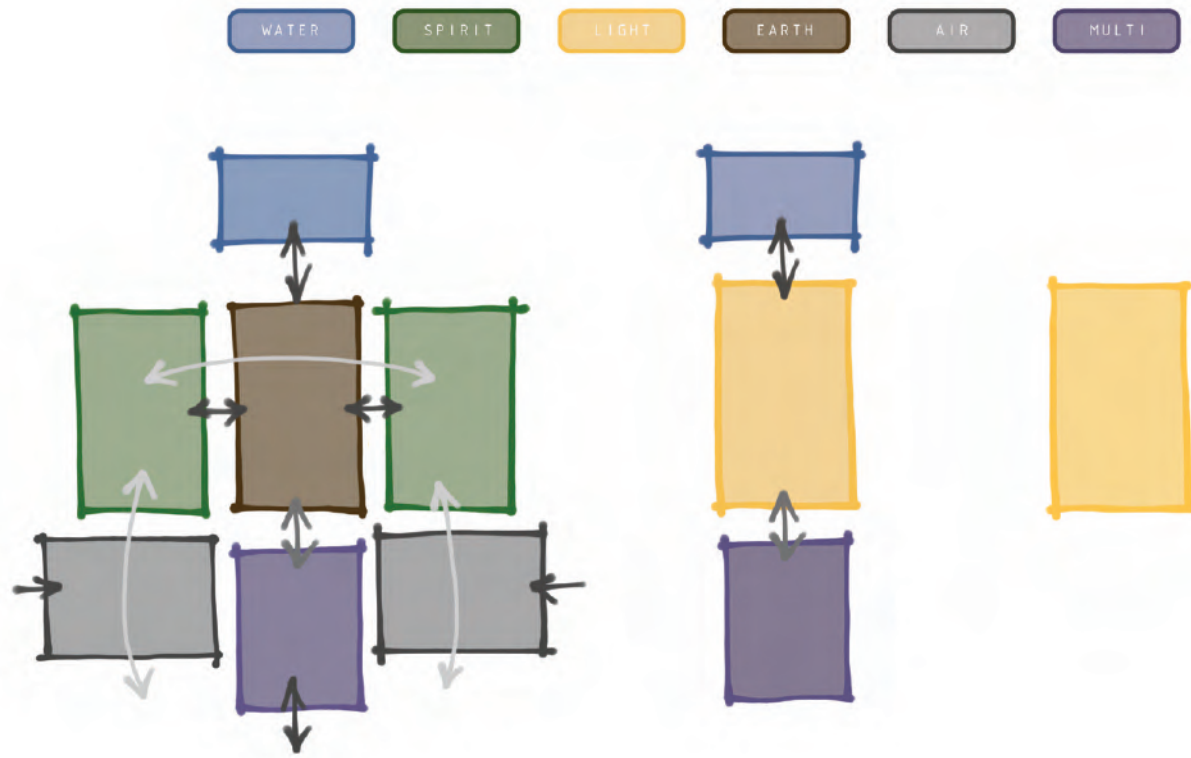


CURRENT PHOTOS OF LYNEWOOD HALL

08

PROGRAM - IN - SITE

ELEMENT DIAGRAM



32

PARTI



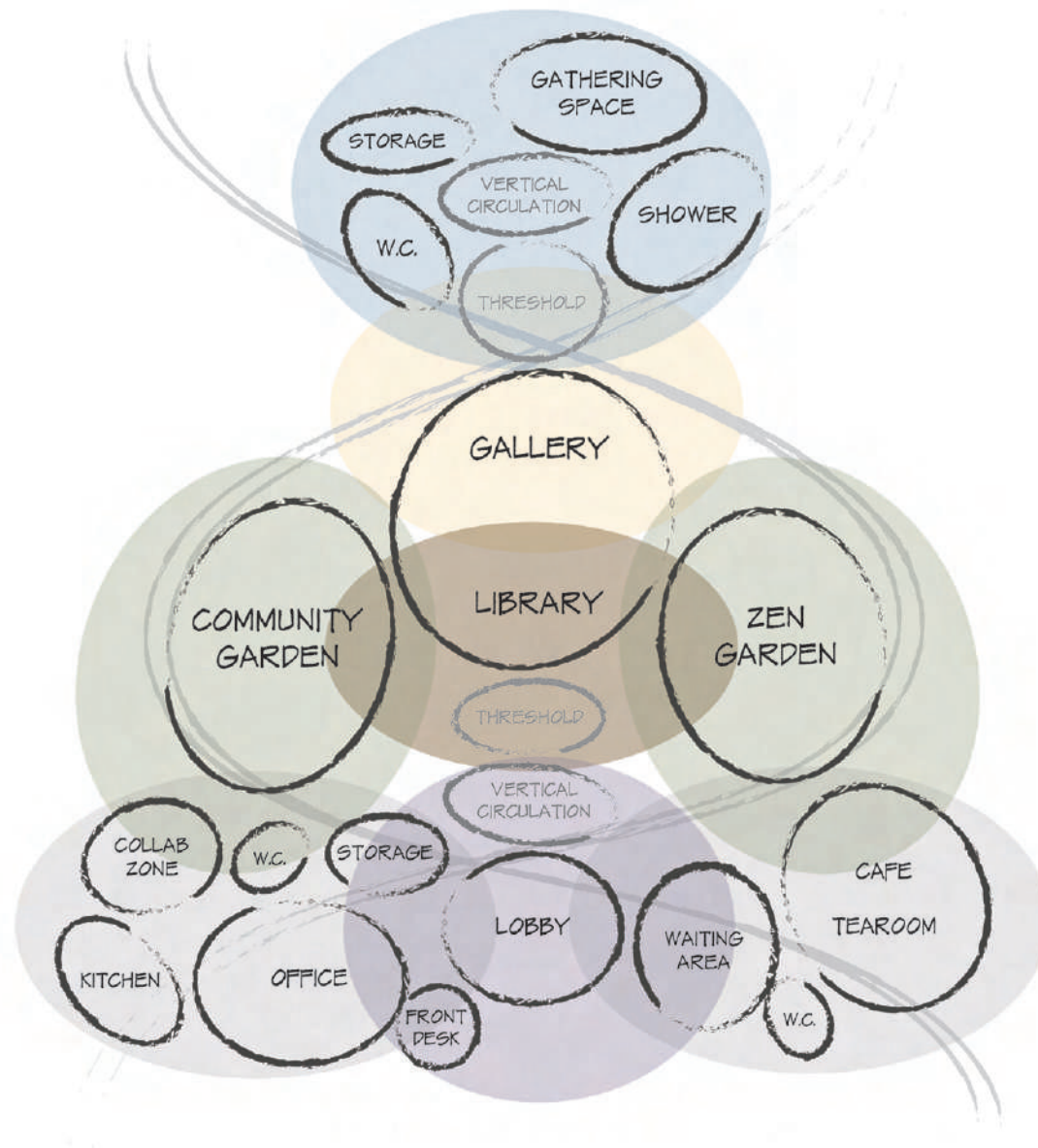
SUN PATH



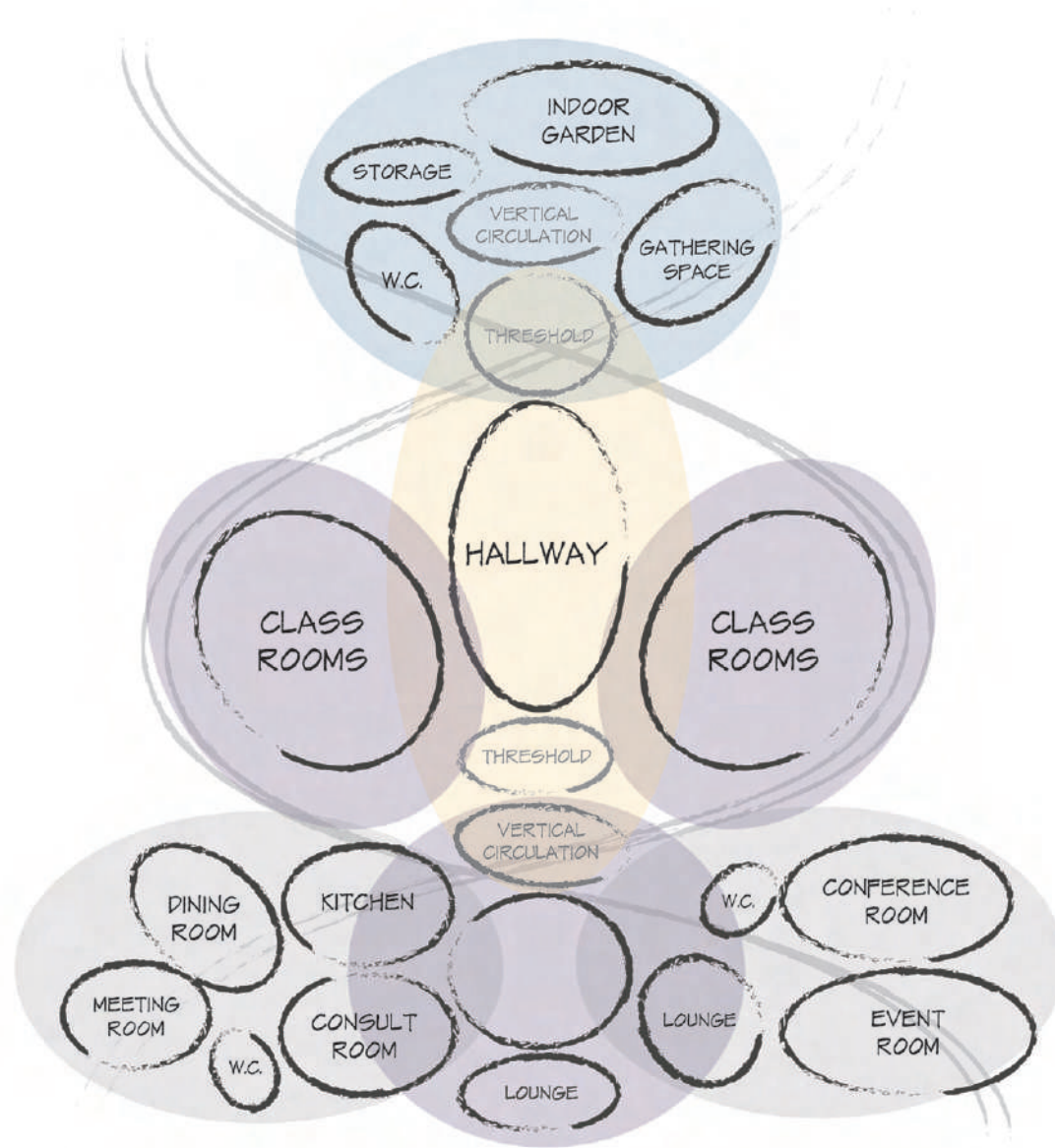
ELEMENT / PROGRAM DIAGRAM



ADJACENCY DIAGRAM



ADJACENCY DIAGRAM



MASTER SPECS

LEVEL	ELEMENT	PROGRAM	SF	NOTE
LEVEL1 ENTRY	MULTI	OFFICE FRONT DESK	300	WEST WING
LEVEL1 ENTRY	MULTI	B&B FRONT DESK	300	EAST WING
LEVEL1 ENTRY	MULTI	HORIZONTAL CIRCULATION	2000	HALLWAYS & THRESHOLDS
LEVEL1 ENTRY	MULTI	VERTICAL CIRCULATION	1300	ELEVATORS & STAIRS
LEVEL1 ENTRY	MULTI	LOBBY LOUNGE	500	ENTRY
LEVEL1 WEST	EARTH	OFFICE	930	INDIVIDUAL DESK
LEVEL1 WEST	EARTH	PANTRY/CAFE	580	PANTRY & ISLAND
LEVEL1 WEST	EARTH	COLLAB ZONE	580	OPEN SPACE / MEETING
LEVEL1 WEST	EARTH	OFFICE RESTROOM	155	OFFICE STAFFS/GENDER NEUTRAL/ADA
LEVEL1 WEST	EARTH	STORAGE	520	SEASONAL & VOLUNTEER
LEVEL1 EAST	AIR	WAITING AREA	640	B&B GUESTS
LEVEL1 EAST	AIR	LOBBY RESTROOM	210	CAFÉ USERS / GENDER NEUTRAL / ADA
LEVEL1 EAST	AIR	B&B BOH	350	BOH OFFICE FOR B&B STAFFS
LEVEL1 EAST	AIR	CAFÉ / TEA ROOM	2390	VARIOUS SEATING ARRANGEMENT
LEVEL1 MAIN HALL	EARTH	LIBRARY	5000	MAIN HALL
LEVEL2 ENTRY	MULTI	LOUNGE	1530	VARIOUS PRIVACY OPTIONS
LEVEL2 ENTRY	MULTI	HORIZONTAL CIRCULATION	3290	HALLWAYS & THRESHOLDS
LEVEL2 ENTRY	MULTI	VERTICAL CIRCULATION	1195	ELEVATORS & STAIRS
LEVEL2 WEST	EARTH	KITCHEN	970	PUBLIC
LEVEL2 WEST	EARTH	DINING ROOM	623	PUBLIC
LEVEL2 WEST	EARTH	CONSULTATION ROOM	575	RESERVED BY PROGRAMS
LEVEL2 WEST	EARTH	CLASSROOM	605	RESERVED BY PROGRAMS
LEVEL2 WEST	EARTH	RESTROOM	318	PROGRAM USERS/ G.N./ ADA
LEVEL2 EAST	AIR	EVENT ROOM	970	RENTAL PROGRAM
LEVEL2 EAST	AIR	CONFERENCE ROOM	975	RENTAL PROGRAM
LEVEL2 EAST	AIR	MEETING ROOM	275	RENTAL PROGRAM
LEVEL2 EAST	AIR	RESTROOM	275	RENTAL PROGRAM USERS/ G.N./ ADA
LEVEL2 MAIN HALL	LIGHT	LIBRARY	4420	
LEVEL3 MAIN HALL	LIGHT	EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	4420	
LEVEL1 NORTH	WATER	STORAGE	400	FOR GARDENING
LEVEL1 NORTH	WATER	RESTROOM	415	OUTDOOR ACTIVITY USERS/ G.N./ADA
LEVEL1 NORTH	WATER	SHOWER FACILITY	415	OUTDOOR ACTIVITY USERS/ G.N./ ADA
LEVEL1 NORTH	WATER	GATHERING SPACE	1390	AROUND FOUNTAIN
LEVEL2 NORTH	WATER	INDOOR GARDEN & STORAGE	2800	
OUTDOOR	SPIRIT	COMMUNITY GARDEN		OUTDOOR SPACE
OUTDOOR	SPIRIT	GARDEN		OUTDOOR SPACE
TOTAL			45200	

PROGRAMS



ART

EXHIBITION

PAINTING IN THE GARDEN

D.I.Y. WITHIN NATURE

CRAFT WITH MATERIALS FOUND IN NATURE

BIRD HOUSE & BIRD FEEDER BUILDING

LITERATURE

ESSAY

POET

SPOKEN WORDS/
WRITTEN WORDS
NIGHT

BOOK CLUB

INTERVIEWS

EDUCATION

GARDENING

CLASSES ABOUT HISTORY OF INDIGENOUS CULTURE & NATIVE SPECIES

LAND APPRECIATION SEMINAR

WATER IS LIFE

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETINGS

CONSULTANT

HOME GARDENING

INDOOR THERMO COMFORT

LANDSCAPING WITH NATIVE SPECIES

COLLABORATING WITH COPANIES & ORGANIZATIONS TO HELP DESIGN AND BUILD SPACES FOR NATURE-HUMAN CONNECTION

EVENT

SHARE YOUR RECIPE

CANDLE MAKING

YOGA & MEDITATION

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

PHYSICAL HEALTH IMPROVEMENT

JUST BE

JUST
LEARN

JUST
EXPLORE

JUST
GROW

DAILY SCHEDULE



INDOOR PROGRAMS

PHYSICAL WEALTH EVENT

MENTAL WEALTH EVENT

HOME IMPROVEMENT THROUGH NATURE

EDUCATION ABOUT THE NATURE

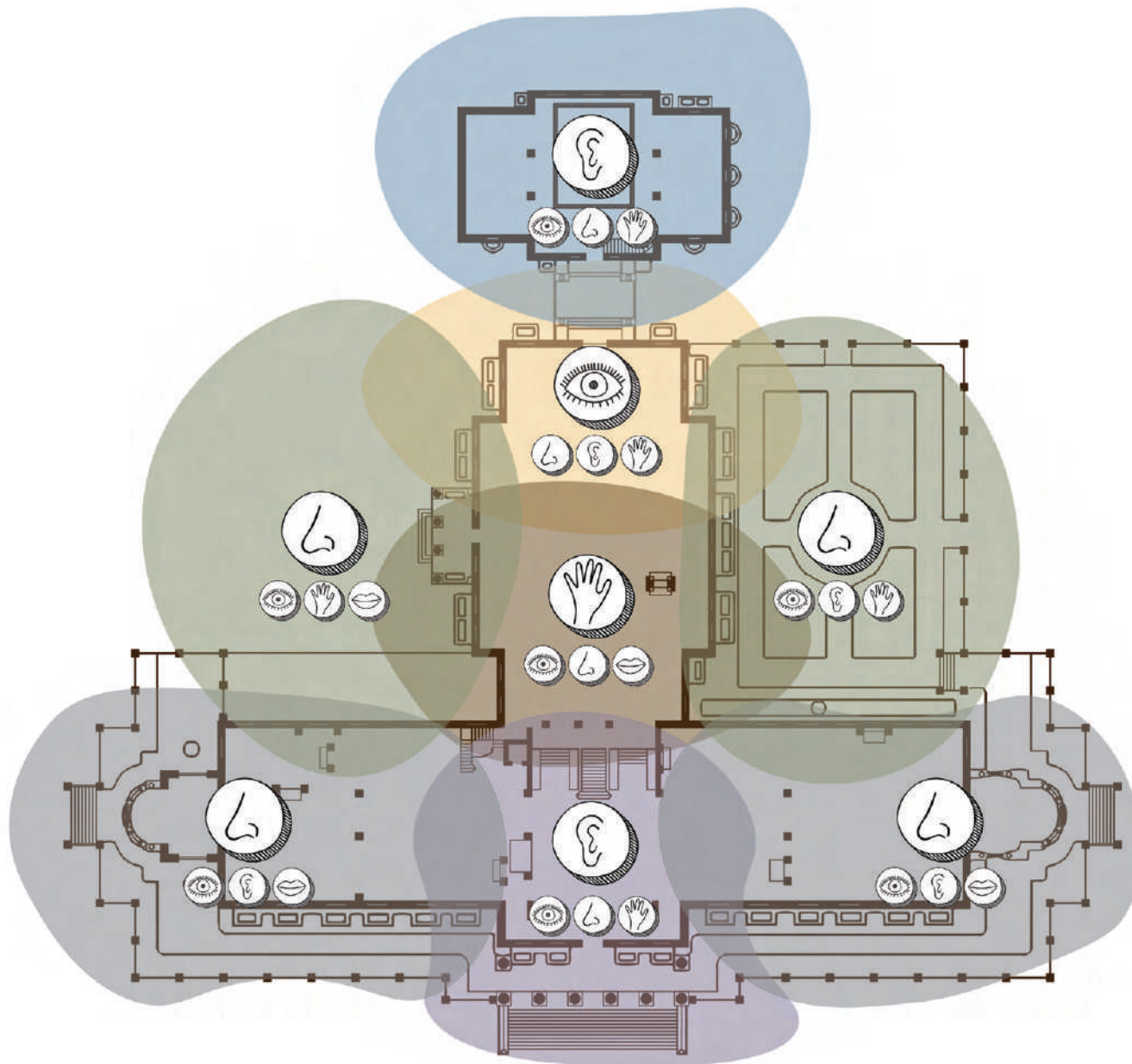
ART: painting, music, written art etc.

CRAFT WITH EARTH-FRIENDLY MATERIALS

BOOK CLUB

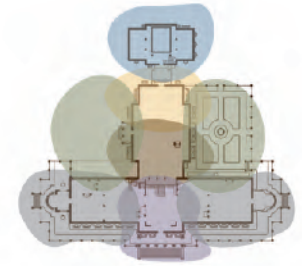


ELEMENT / SENSORY DIAGRAM





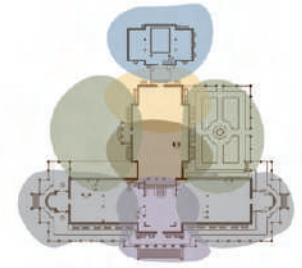
MULTI



CONCEPT MATERIAL BOARD



AIR



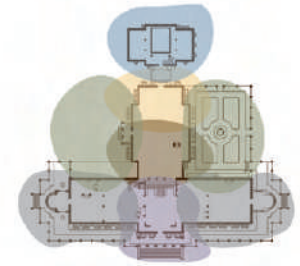
42



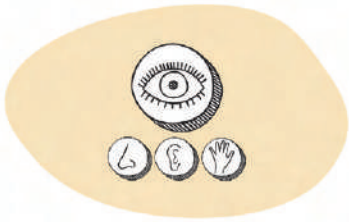
CONCEPT MATERIAL BOARD



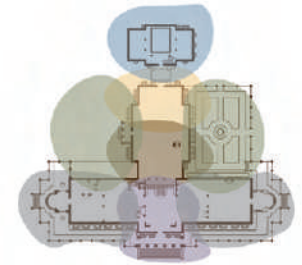
EARTH



CONCEPT MATERIAL BOARD



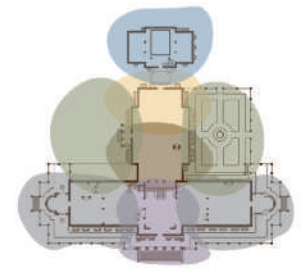
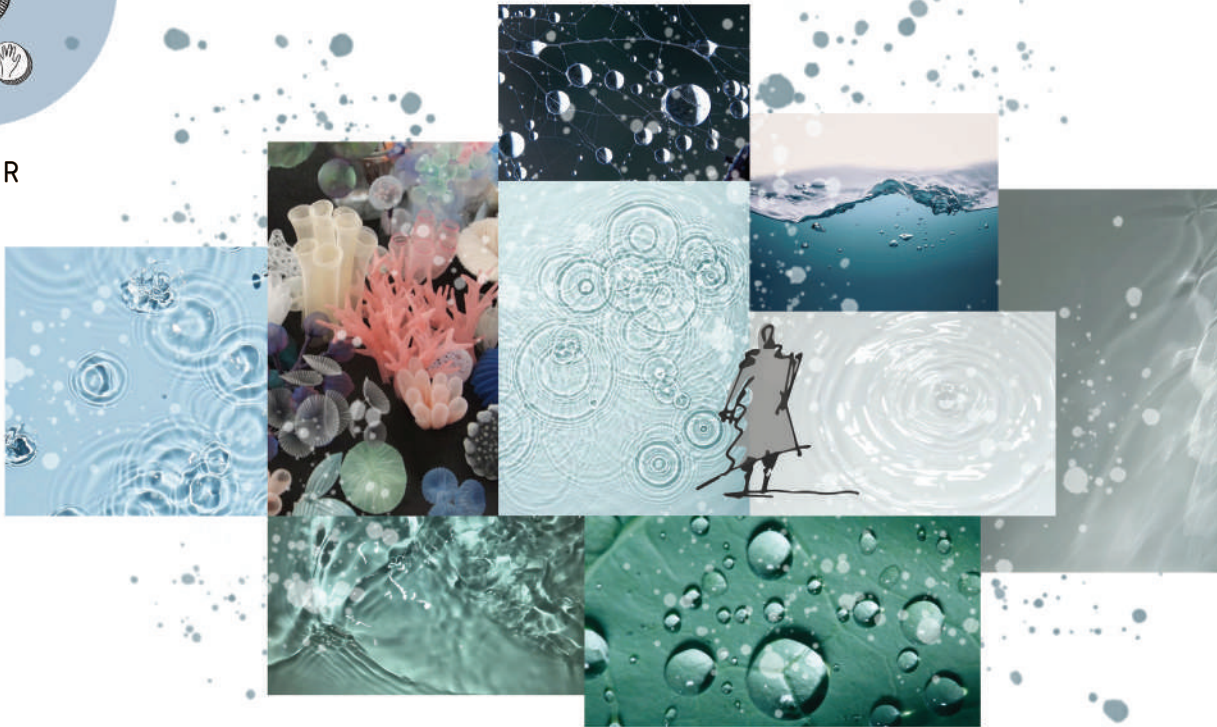
LIGHT



CONCEPT MATERIAL BOARD



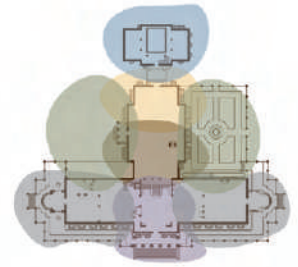
WATER

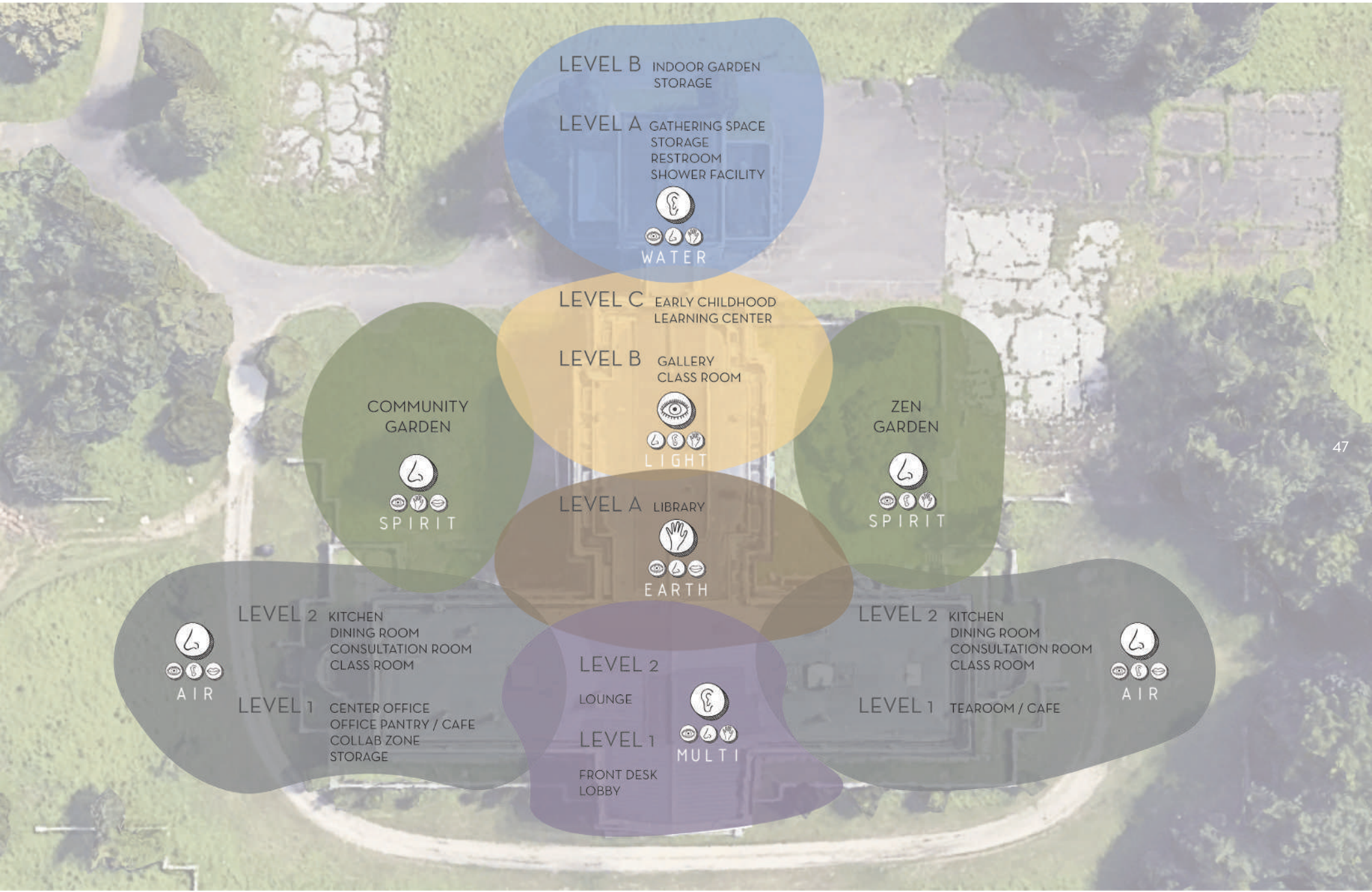


CONCEPT MATERIAL BOARD



SPIRIT





PROGRAMS / ELEMENT / SENSORY DIAGRAM

10

SCHEMATIC DESIGN

WEST WING LEVEL 2

KITCHEN
DINING ROOM
CONSULTATION ROOM
CLASSROOM
RESTROOM

ENTRY LEVEL 2

CIRCULATION
LOUNGE

EAST WING LEVEL 2

CONFERENCE ROOM
EVENT ROOM
MEETING ROOM
RESTROOM

ENTRY DOUBLE HEIGHT

LOBBY
FRONT DESK
CIRCULATION

COMMUNITY GARDEN

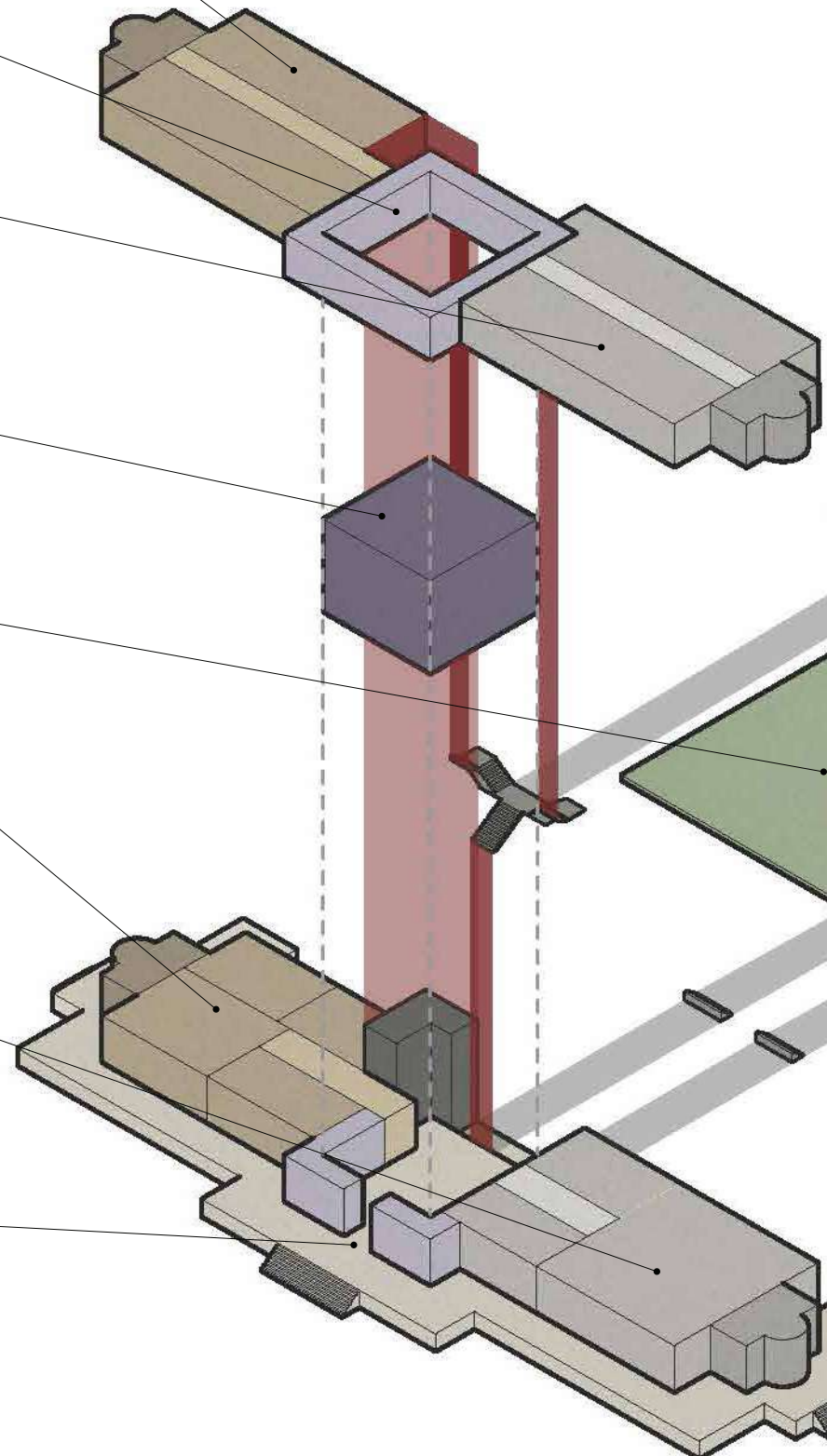
WEST WING LEVEL 1

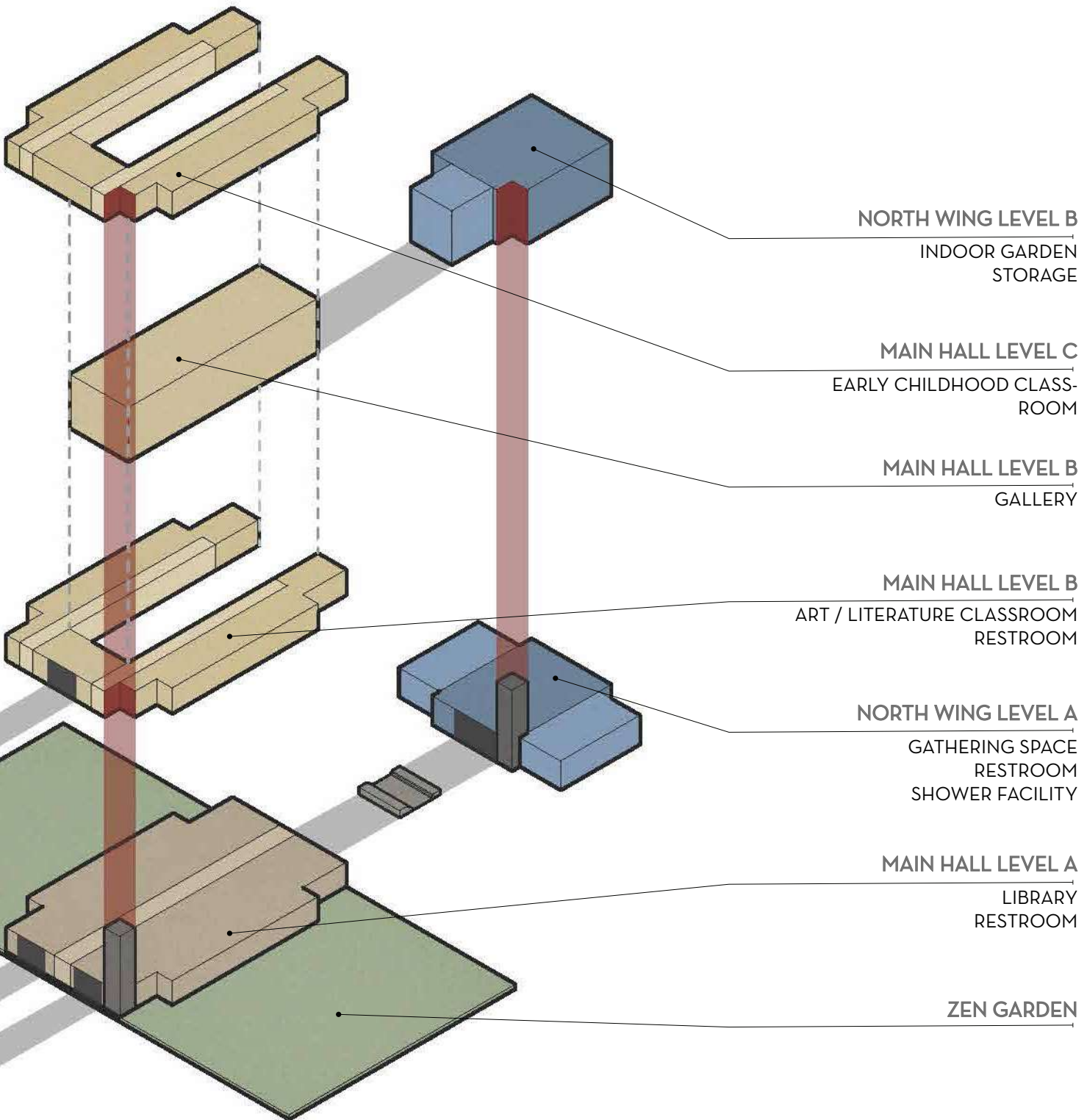
OFFICE
PANTRY / CAFE
COLLAB ZONE
CONFERENCE ROOM
STORAGE
RESTROOM

EAST WING LEVEL 1

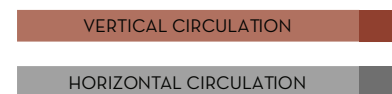
LOUNGE
STORAGE
FOOD BANK
CAFE / TEAROOM

ENTRY LEVEL 1





CIRCULATION DIAGRAM

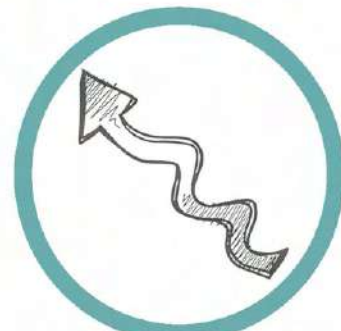




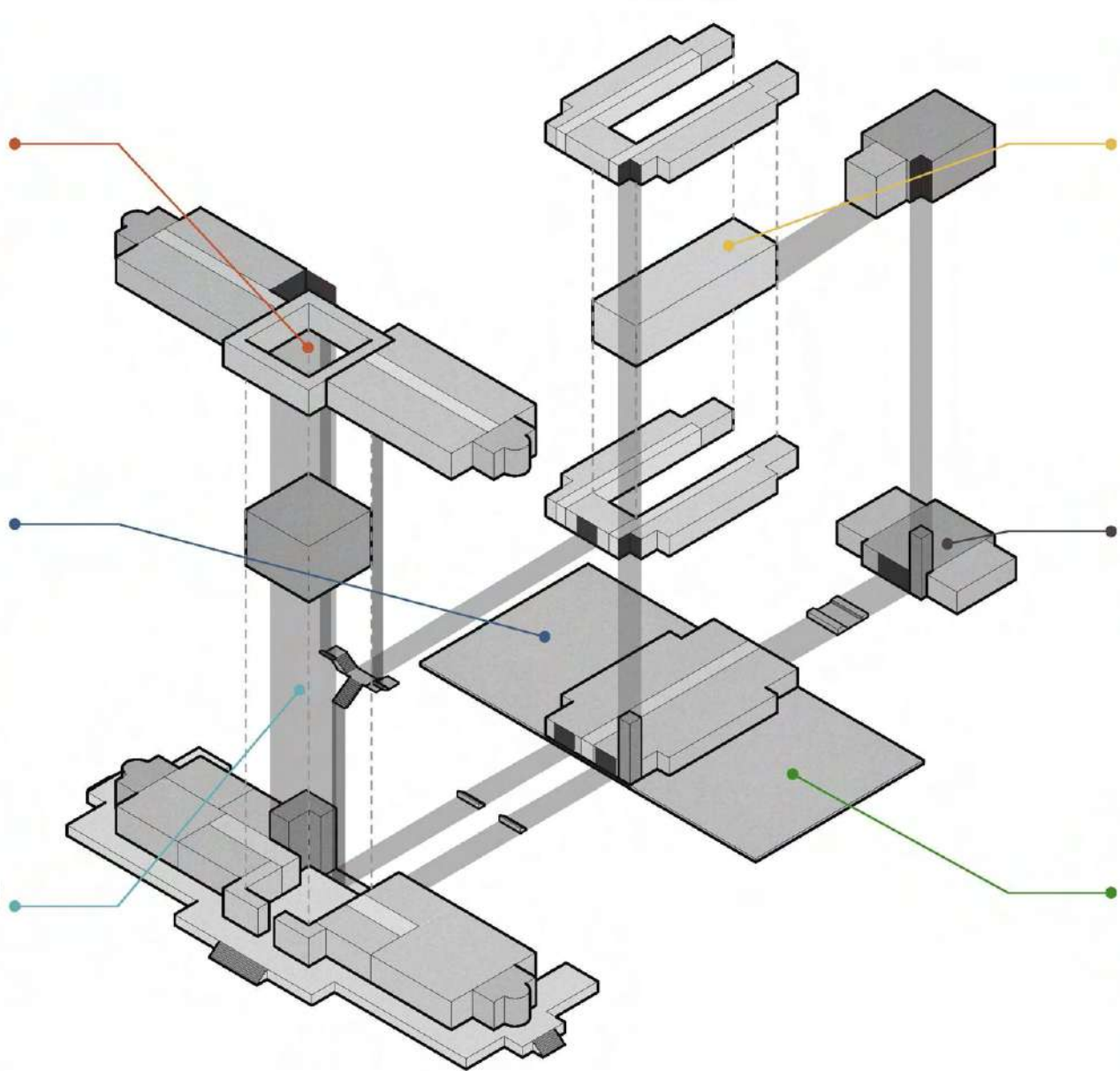
SOLAR ENERGY



RAIN WATER GARDEN



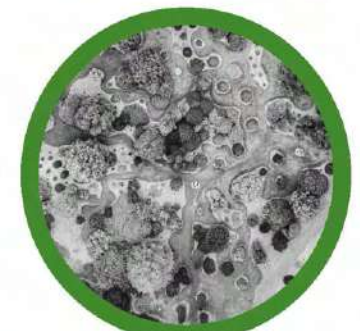
NATURAL AIR FLOW



NATURAL SUN LIGHT



GRAY WATER SYSTEM



BIO DIVERSITY

ECOLOGICAL DESIGN MAP



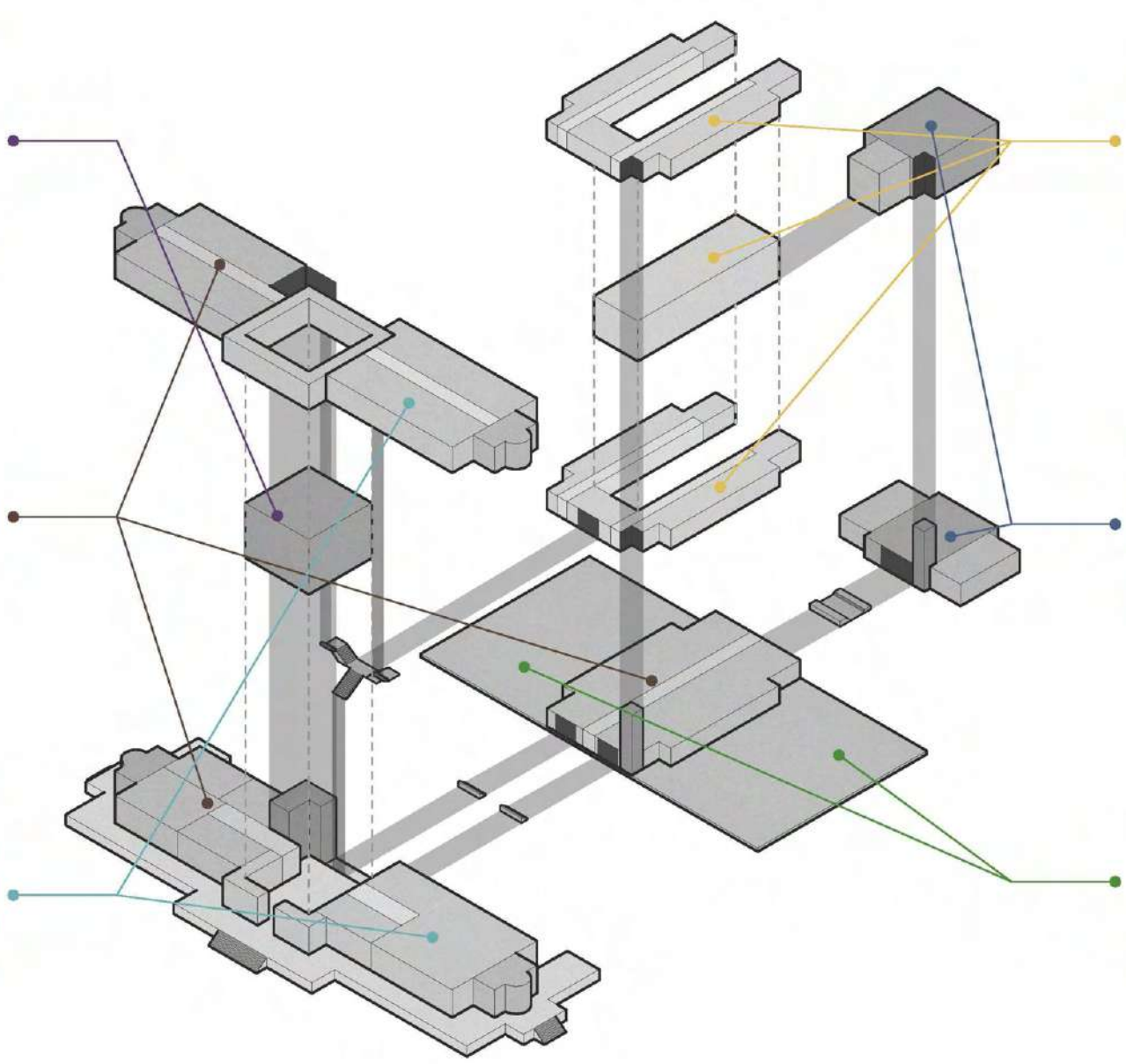
MULTI



EARTH



AIR



LIGHT



WATER



SPIRIT

SENSORY DESIGN MAP

NATURE & HUMAN COMMUNITY CENTER

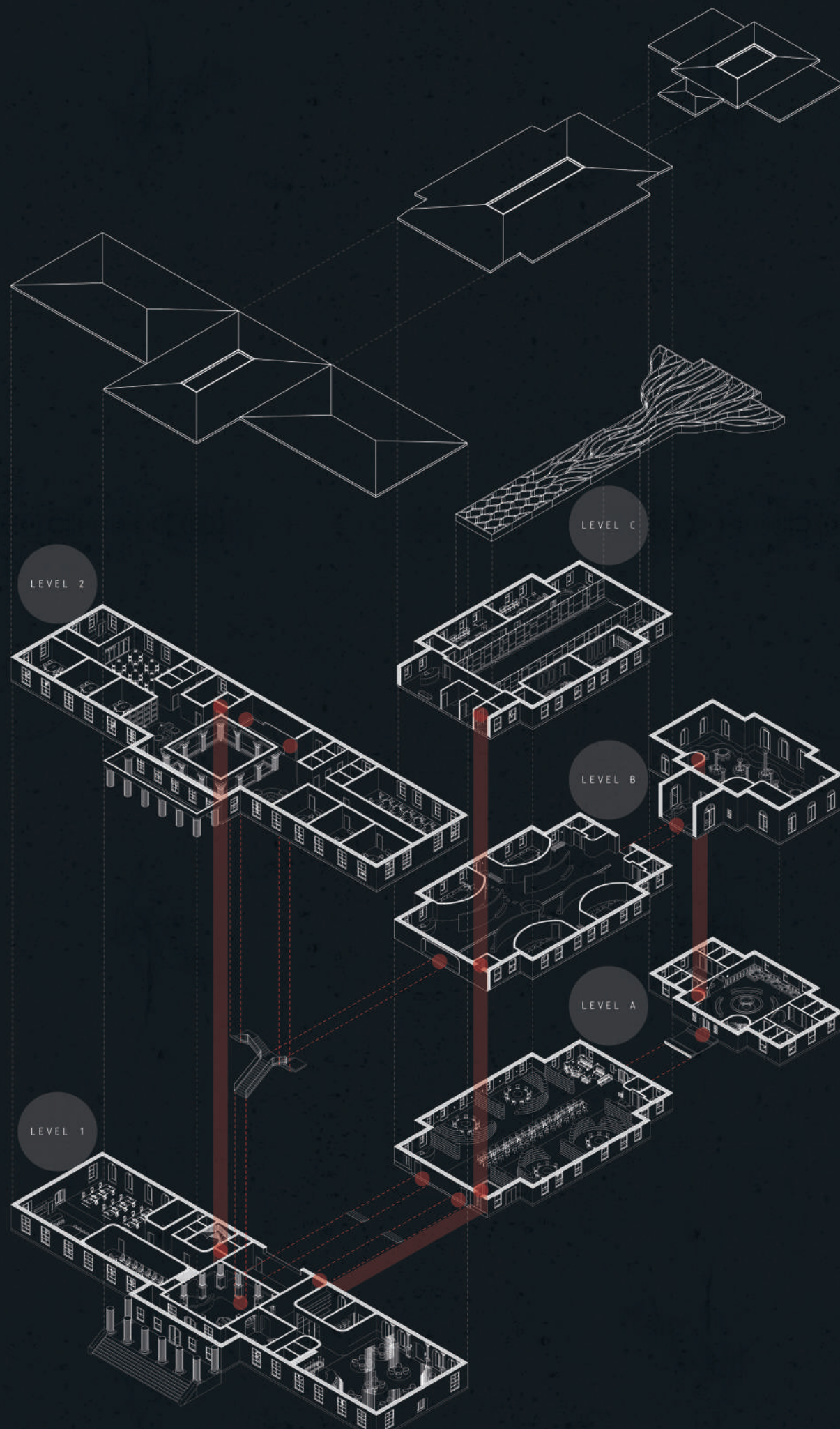
MISSION :

HUMAN NATURE COMMUNITY CENTER ENGAGES INDIVIDUALS AND NATURE AS A WHOLE COMMUNITY BY OFFERING RESOURCES AND TOOLS TO RESTORE AND NURTURE OUR RELATIONSHIP.

IN HUMAN NATURE COMMUNITY CENTER, WE CONNECT HUMAN AND NATURE BECOME ONE, AND FOSTER THE COMPASSION FOR ONE ANOTHER.

WE VALUE :

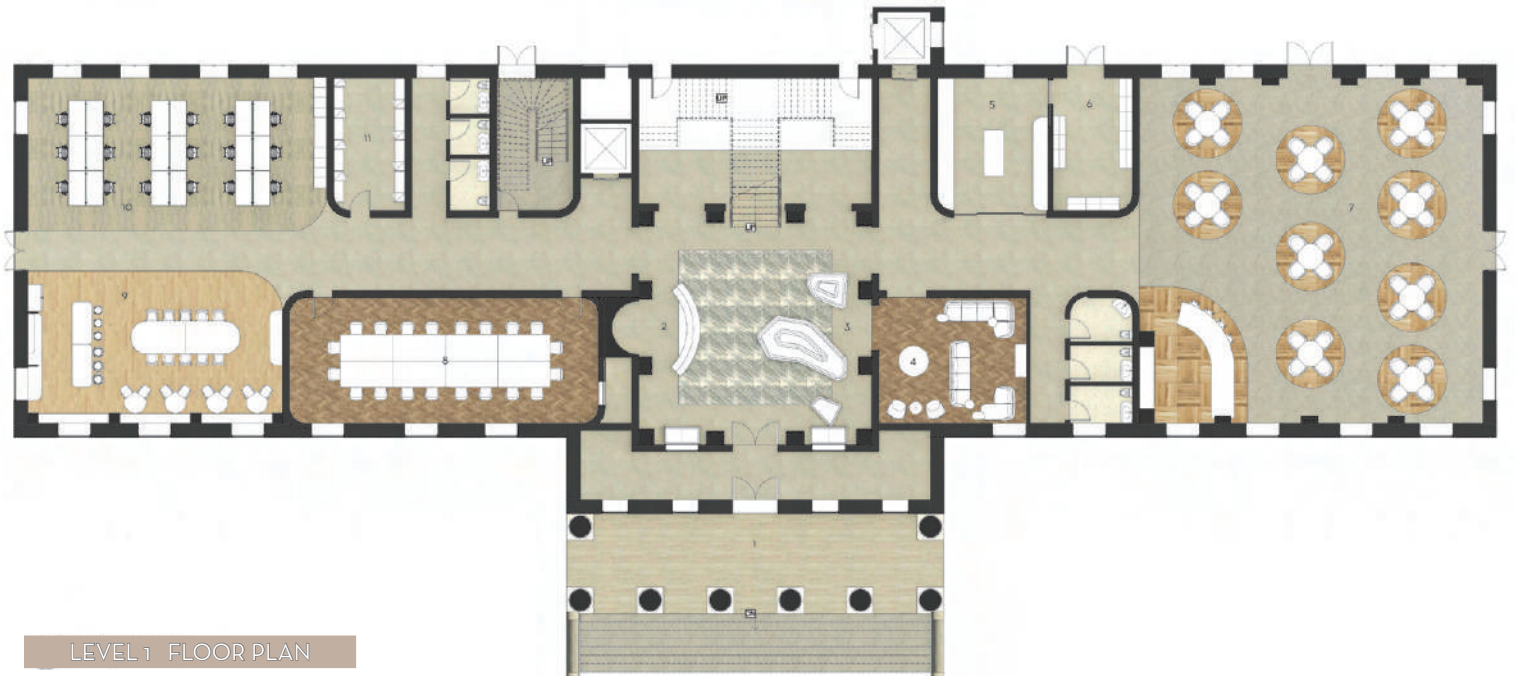
DIVERSITY AND BEAUTY OF NATURE AND HUMANITY, CREATIVE APPROACHES TO HONORING NATURE AND HUMANITY





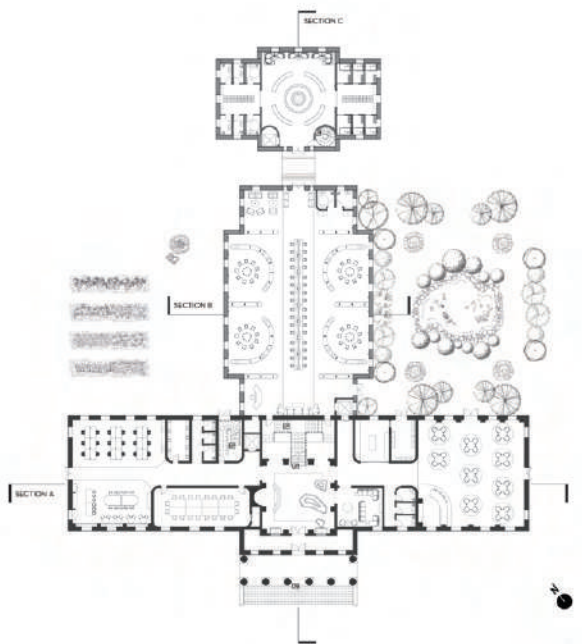
LEVEL 1 RCP

- 1 ENTRY
- 2 FRONT DESK
- 3 LOUNGE
- 4 WAITING AREA
- 5 FOOD PANTRY
- 6 STORAGE
- 7 CAFE / TEA ROOM
- 8 CONFERENCE ROOM
- 9 OFFICE CAFETERIA
- 10 OFFICE
- 11 OFFICE STORAGE



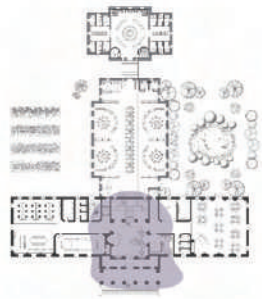
LEVEL 1 FLOOR PLAN

54



SECTION A





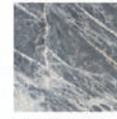
CAMIRA
BARBICAN MLF05



MAHARAM
METHOD 002



DOOGE VENEERS
RUSTIC HICKORY



ARTISTIC TILE
INVISIBLE BLUE TILE



ADDON
ISLAND SOFA



SALVATORI
FARFALLA LIGHTINGS



CAMIRA
CHEWELL MLF06



CAMIRA
EMPEROR SILK6



REPURPOSED
RUSTED IRON



EXISTING
TRAVERTINE



KDLN
CLOVER SUSPENSION LAMP



CHRISTO LOGAN
HYDROGEN LAMP

LEVEL 1

ENTRANCE

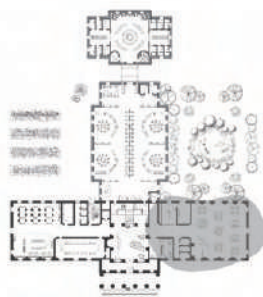
56





LEVEL 1

CAFE / TEAROOM



LYNNEWOOD HALL BALLROOM



ATLAS CONCORDE
FORGE ALUMINUM



CONCRETE LCDA
PANBELTON GEN



ANN SACKS
NUBO VERDE



LABE TEX
TRANQUILITY



HERMAN MILLER
CROSSHATCH STOOL



KOHLER
OCCASION SCONCE



LOUIS POULSEN
MOSER PENDANT



ROCK MOUNTAIN
BRUSHED BRONZE



ANTHOLOGY
HERITAGE OAK



DOOGE VENEERS
RUSTIC HICKORY



BURCH
SYLLABUS



SANCAL
PION PETRA TABLE

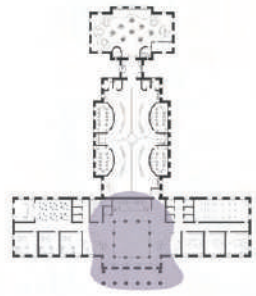
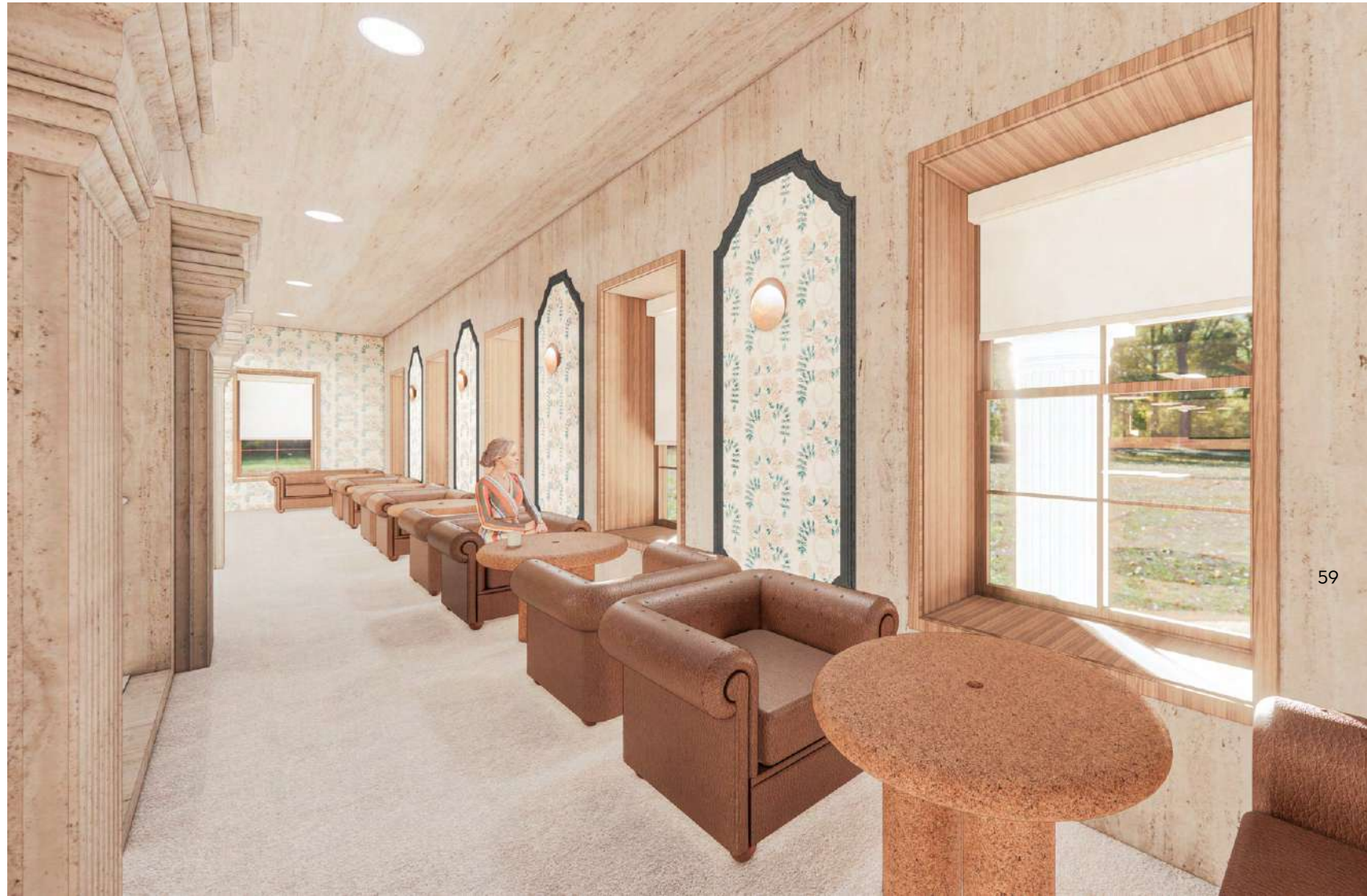


COR SITZMÖBEL
ROC EASY CHAIR



LUMENWERK
POP ROUND RECESSED





LEVEL 2

LOUNGING AREA



LYNNEWOOD HALL WALL PAPER



CONCRETE LCDA
CLASSIC SUMBETON



BENJAMIN MOORE
HALE NAVY



MAMBO UNLIMITED IDEAS
NAKED SOFA



KARL ANDERSSON
LOLLIPOP TABLE



BLOOMSBURY
CHESTERFIELD CHAIR



LUCEPLAN
ILIAN PENDANT



FARO
BARCELONA
COVE LAMP



EXISTING
TRAVERTINE



SANDERSON
FLOWER POT
FABRIC WALL PAPER



MDD
ARTIKO MODULAR SOFA



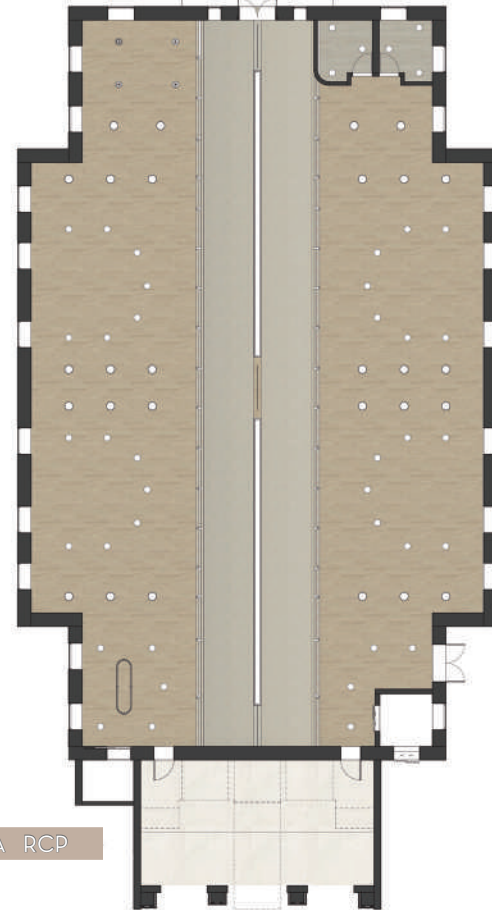
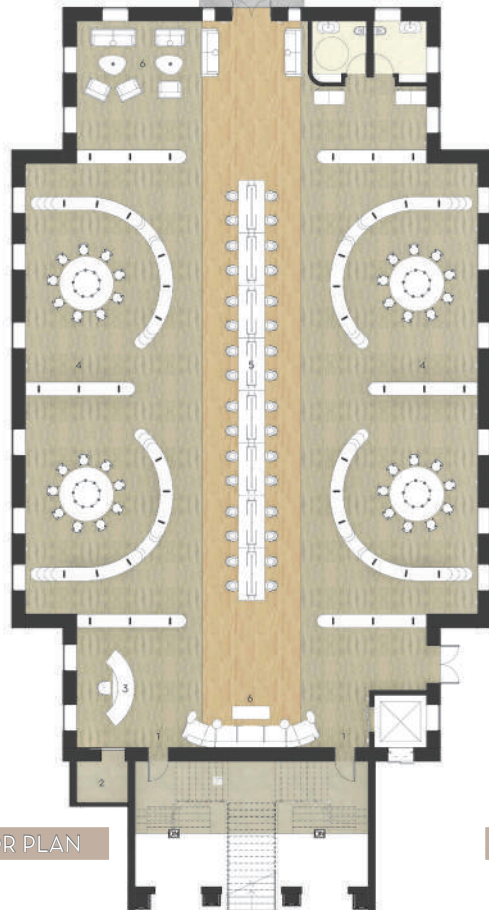
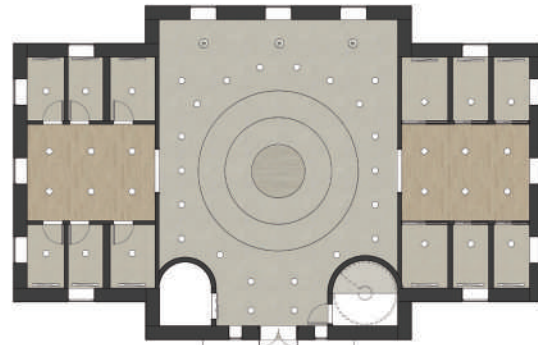
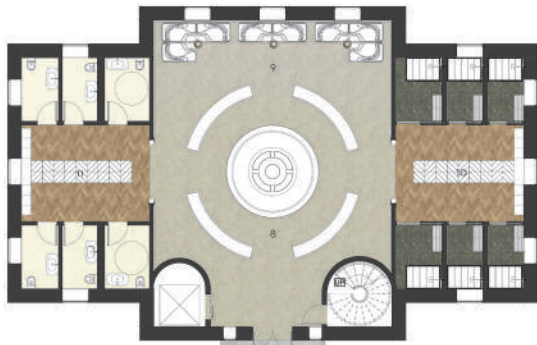
SANCAL
YESPER TABLE



TOM DIXON
CORK TABLE



LOUIS POULSEN
FLINDT SCONCE

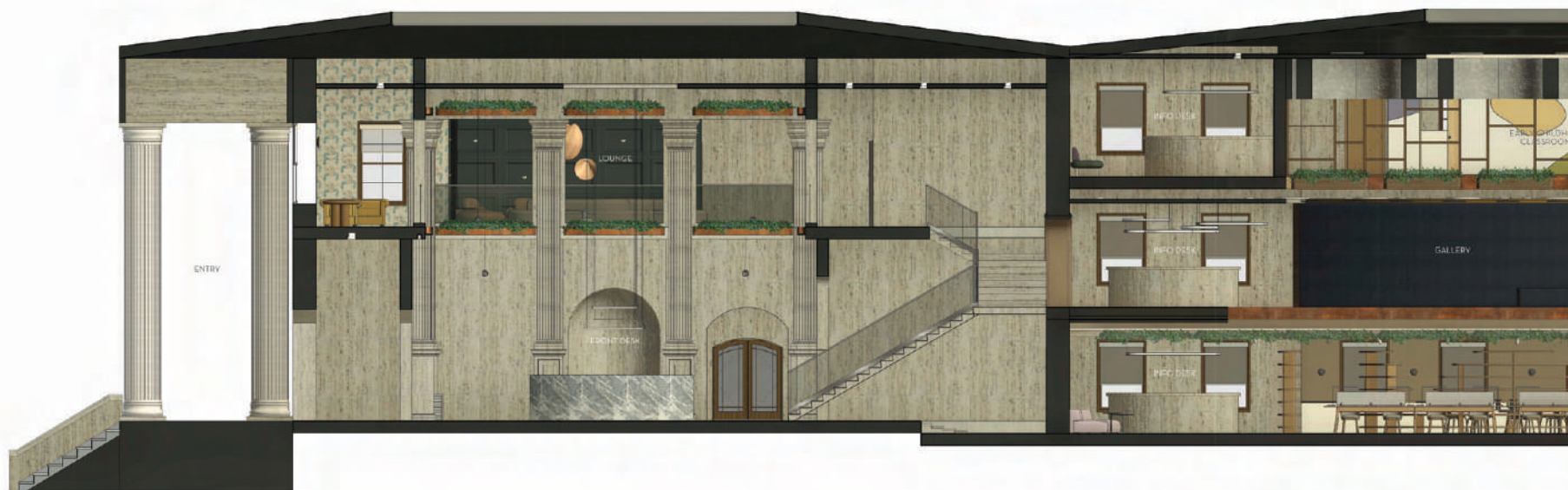


- 1 ENTRY
- 2 STORAGE
- 3 INFO DESK
- 4 READING AREA
- 5 STUDY AREA
- 6 LOUNGE
- 7 OUTDOOR WALKWAY
- 8 WATER FOUNTAIN
- 9 GATHERING SPACE
- 10 SHOWER FACILITY
- 11 BATHROOM

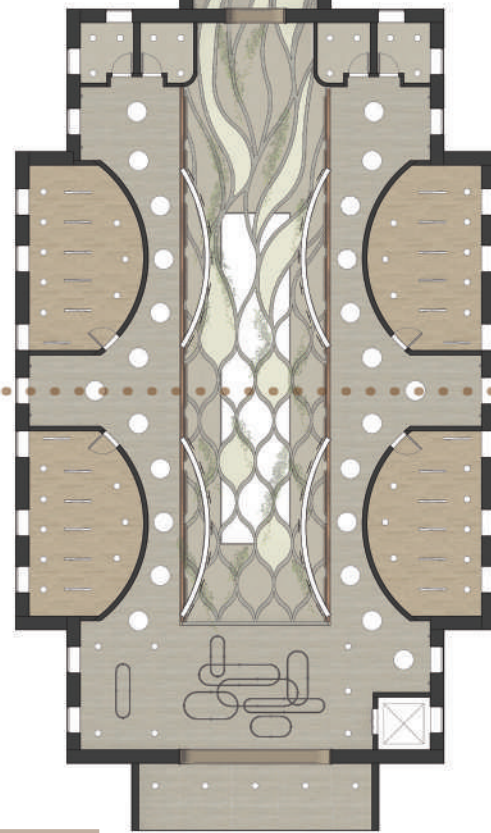
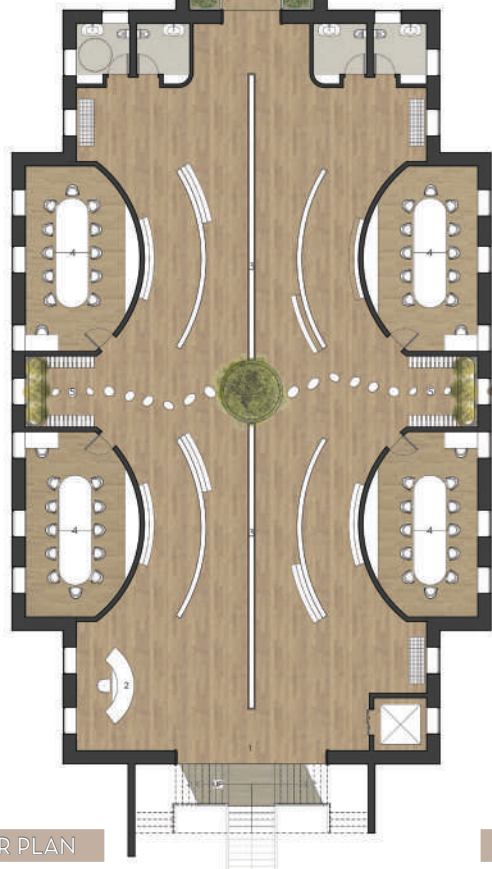
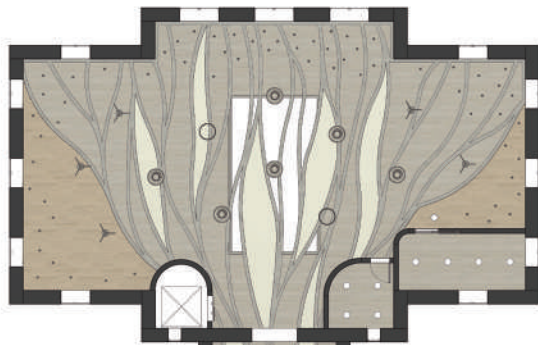
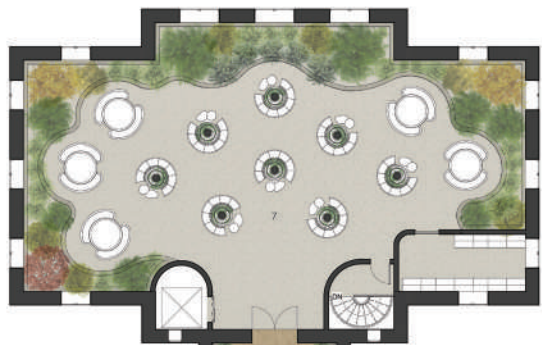
60

LEVEL A FLOOR PLAN

LEVEL A RCP



SECTION C



- 1 ENTRY
- 2 INFO DESK
- 3 GALLERY
- 4 CLASSROOM
- 5 ALCOVE
- 6 RESTING ALCOVE
- 7 INDOOR GARDEN

LEVEL B FLOOR PLAN

LEVEL B RCP





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LYNNEWOOD HALL CLASS ROOM



TERRAMAI
REPLY WHITE WASH



DINEER MILL
WHITE OAK



INTERFACE
FERRIS GLACIER



MAHARAM
NICO DROMEDARY



FRITZ HANSEN
GRAND PRIX CHAIR



KARL ANDERSSON & SÖNER
WOODWORK TABLE



PABLO
LUCI TABLE LAMP



INTRA LIGHTING
VITKA TA TABLE LAMP



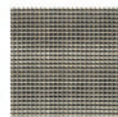
BENJAMIN MOORE
LINEN WHITE



BENJAMIN MOORE
PINE CONE



BENJAMIN MOORE
DAKOTA WOODS



MAHARAM
CROFT SCRIBE 002



VICCARBE
ALETA CHAIR



KARL ANDERSSON & SÖNER
ONDULE HIGH BACK SOFA

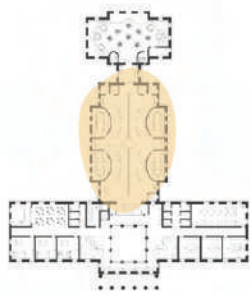


KINNARPS
VIDE DESK SCREEN



L & E
TRACK LIGHT

LEVEL A
LIBRARY



LEVEL B

GALLERY



LYNNEWOOD HALL GALLERY SPACE



WOOD VENEER HUB
NATURAL OAK SLAT



REPURPOSED
RUSTED IRON



CAMIRA
ACCORD L0560



PLANTERS
BRUSHED CONCRETE



DANDALON
IRIDESCENT IRIS GOLD



KETTAL
BOMA DAVBED



ARTISAN WOOD
K04WARTHA



NUMETAL
BRUSHED BRONZE



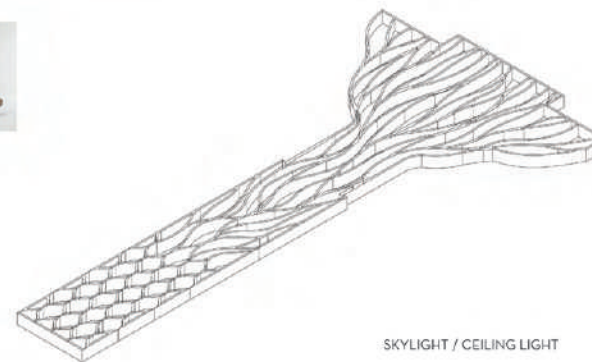
EXISTING
TRAVERTINE



CONCRETE LCDA
CLASSIC SLIMBETON



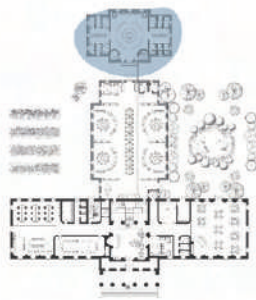
GOYA
ASTRO LIGHTING



SKYLIGHT / CEILING LIGHT



64



LYNNEWOOD HALL INDOOR POOL



DOOGE VENEERS
SAND DYED LATI



BENJAMIN MOORE
BLUE DUSK



CUMBERLAND
DARK BRONZE



DE SEDE
TERRAZZA SOFA



MARSET
GINGER PENDANT LAMP



SURFACING SOLUTION
BRUSHED WHITE OAK



FOUNTAIN
BRUSHED CONCRETE



ATLAS CONCORDE
FORGE TIN



NAUGHTONE
HATCH SEATING

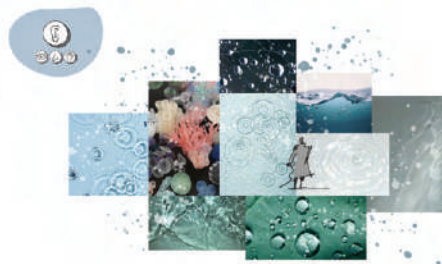
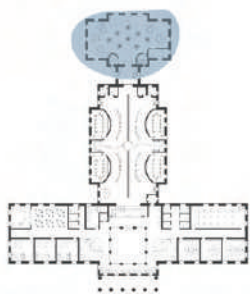


HERMAN MILLER
NELSON BENCH



LEVEL B

INDOOR GARDEN



WILSONART
LANDMARK WOOD



DESIGN TEX
RODENBACH



PLANTERS
BRUSHED CONCRETE



LAMINART
MYSTIC WOOD



PINEER MILL
RAKED WHITE OAK



FORMICA
BRUSHED ALUMINUM



CONCRETE LCDA
CLASSIC SLIMBETON



EXISTING
TRAVERTINE



BOLN SAREK
MODULAR SEAT



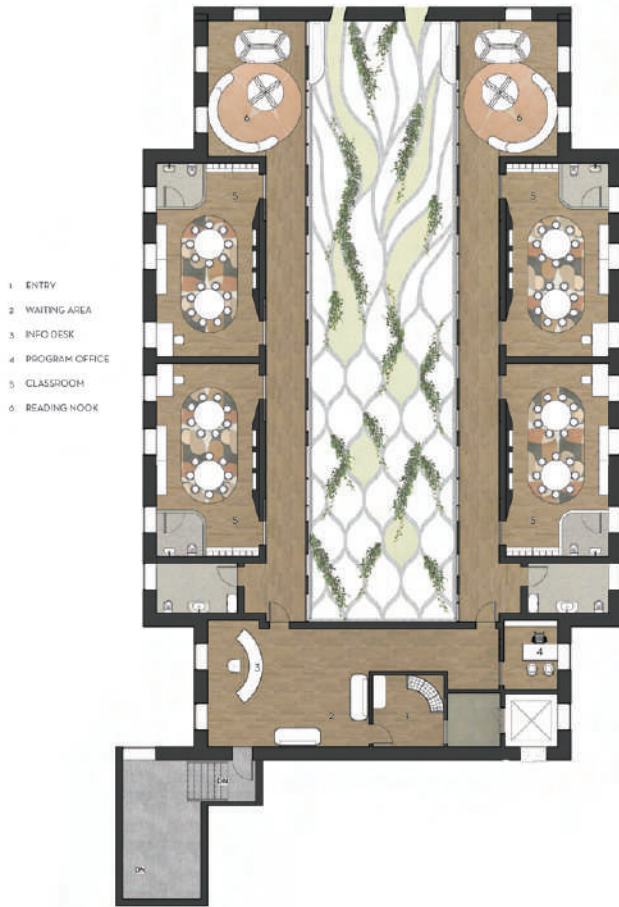
OFFECT
WIND SIDE TABLE



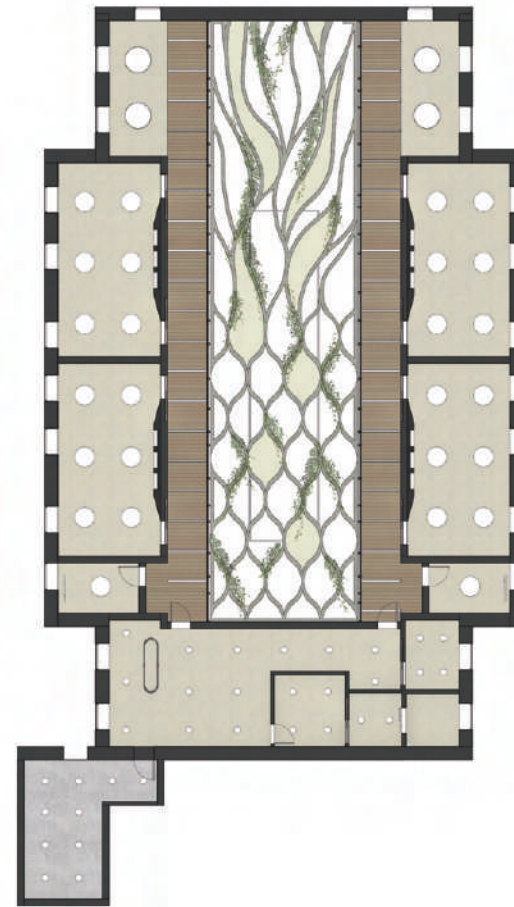
LUCEPLAN
TRYPTA PENDANT



VALAISIN GRÖNLUND
FLUTE PENDANT



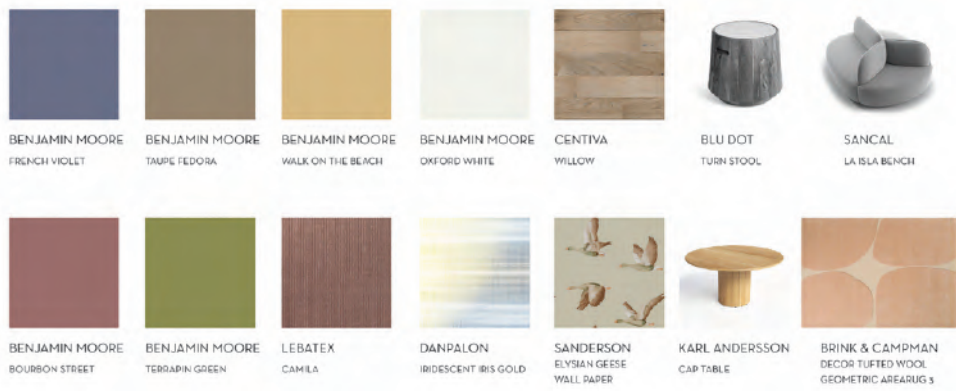
LEVEL C FLOOR PLAN



LEVEL C RCP



SECTION B



BIBLIOGRAPHY

1. Eisenstein, Charles. *The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know Is Possible*. Strawberry Hills, NSW: ReadHowYouWant, 2017.
2. Herbert, Jonathan. *Accompaniment, Community and Nature: Overcoming Isolation, Marginalisation and Alienation through Meaningful Connection*. London, UK: Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 2020.
3. Wilson, Biophilia; Kellert and Wilson, eds., *The Biophilia Hypothesis*; Kellert, *Kinship to Mastery*; P. Kahn, "Developmental psychology and the biophilia hypothesis," 1999.
4. Kellert, Stephen R. *Building for Life Designing and Understanding the Human-Nature Connection*. Washington DC: Island Press, 2012.
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INTERVIEW WITH 'THE DISCOVERY CENTER'

How long have you been working at The Discovery Center?

I've been here since September of 2021 so a little over a year and a couple months from Philadelphia originally from New Hampshire that's in the suburbs near Glenside Jenkintown Cheltenham an area and so I guess I've been living in Philly for like 1215 years now OK so a lot of people are like you are now

Were you doing similar work before you work as a center manager?

In some ways yes, but in other ways very different. Before coming to work at The Discovery Center, I was a freelance theater artist so in lighting design and production management and producing so similar along the lines of sort of venue management and program management but different content

I'm assuming that you are very comfortable with that interior design aspects of space design.

When you need to build sets you understand that, but there is a little bit of a difference because it's temporary it's telling a story not that architecture doesn't but different story and everything is a lot more permanent.

How do you like The Discovery Center?

I think it is beautiful but I don't want to be too critical of it because I know I don't know what decisions were made based on cost saving and things like that. So I guess for me, what I think is maybe missing from this building as you know it's sort of like a fortress and I don't mean that necessarily in any sort of like aggressive way but they're clear distinction of outside and inside and because there is a lot of windows on facing the reservoir so we as the people who work here and are in the building can see the nature can easily get outside to interact with nature but anyone coming from that side from the outside has to go through the gate and we also don't get to interact with that side very much.

I can see that, it's kind of closed a halfway which I understand for security and safety purposes but it does not feel very welcoming at the same time.

So, The Discovery Center was created to be a space for Audubon Atlantic and the community. The community seems to have yes great access to the space we keep it open seven days a week. There are six days a week we expand our hours when the weather is nicer. We have affordable space rentals and things like that, but we as people over in the office don't really get to see those people coming unless we're outside, even if this door (removable wall partition) is open, it's kind of hard to see people coming up the walkway and to the lobby.

Even just this vestibule area with the letters on the wall sort of blocks off the line of sight. So the birds will fly into all these windows outside, so all of these vertical lines are less than 4 inches apart to make this windows bird safe so this is the donor wall and we make sure that no birds fly into this and get injured. So then we also have the paracord which is a very inexpensive way to do this and also there's etching on the glass for some windows which is a lot more expensive but also very effective way. So we started demonstrate all of the different ways you can keep bird strikes down but because you don't really think about design necessarily. So these treatments for the birds becoming a little trouble of interaction with people sometimes.

We are OK if people don't interact with us and that's totally fine because they don't need other human interaction to interact with nature but when I think of safety and security and all of that, these environments becomes a problem. Because it is my job to think about the safety. I think to myself, "Oh, I wish we could see that a little easier from the front desk."

What is the main purpose of this facility?

The main purpose of the facility is to be a home and support for Philadelphia Outward Bound school and Audubon Atlantic or AMA. The space is here to give public access to green space we have a mission statement as well and essentially to have a green space for Philadelphians to use to develop their leadership skills or connection to nature.

Do you think that goals and purpose are met through the facility?

I do and it is only going to be more as time goes on and we get a little further away from lockdowns and everyone sort of understands what it means to be out in the world again.

How are the events are planned and who's involved in the those activities?

So the events programs are generally planned by Audubon Mid-Atlantic or our Philadelphia Outward Bound school, sometimes together and also sometimes through our community engagement committee which consists of local folks who advise on programming and say what they want to see here and then we all try to make it happen.

How would you describe your organization's culture?

I think it's so different in each staff but we are in one big open office and we're all working on different things at different times so collaboration is a main goal for us.

There is a lot of necessary awareness of things that wouldn't be the same if you were just working in an office with just your own colleagues because each organization has sort of their own flow. Though the year, Outward Bound gets very busy in the summer and in the fall, they do a lot of training in the spring. The programs are seasonal and then also nature makes a lot of our work seasonal too. We are not going to start cutting the grass until the grass is growing again. The nature also affects directly to Audubon sort of flow because we will have different groups here at different times doing different things based on what's happening outside. Migration season things like that.

Have you been to different Nature Center other than the discovery center? If have experience of different Nature Center, do you see the difference or similar routine?

I think I have gone to many programs and other nature centers. I've sort of done the self-guided thing and what I see are similarities is that everyone wants people to connect to nature somehow and I think that's so necessary especially in the middle of the city but you don't really get the ability to connect the site here. The further in you go the more distant the traffic sounds happened to be and you're like wow a huge body of water. Gale who works at the front desk and lives in strawberry mansion says that this area is like her big backyard and I see that in a lot of other places that they want people to experience nature of love.

What is the average age would you say the visitors are?

We don't take stats on visitors because we don't want them to feel like they have to check in with us. But purely anecdotally I would say that it really ranges, and it also depends on the group. I'm trying to sort of think if I can summarize it in any sort of way. Most people I see here by themselves are like the young 20s early 30s those are the people who are here by themselves or with one or two other people. We do get a lot of families that come by especially with Smith memorial across the way and we do get some older folks who just like being your major in the nicer weather. we sometimes have a person come by and just sit out there for hours. I would say it's between the families and like the 20s to 30s.

Is there any process when people visit the facility such as check at the front desk?

No, visitors can do whatever they want. When the gates are open we're essentially a public park. For example, like last week, when there was colored bird watching group they would they just gather here and then go out.

For folks who are coming here who don't need the restroom the water or anything like that they will just go and maybe they'll see us and wave or maybe they'll come in afterwards.

I saw some programs you do that looks more private like do visitors for those programs just go there straight without checking in?

Sometimes yes. To be honest people are a little confused about what's happening here.

I was a little confused where I should be going coming into the building.

Exactly, and that is one thing that I would certainly change. The architects were pretty adamant about not putting signage outside because they didn't want to visualize the space.

It is important to provide clear wayfinding if there is no sign.

Yes, so that is definitely a goal of ours, to help with the way finding.

Is there any amenities in the space for staff or visitors?

So, we have restroom zone for visitors and water fountains for staffs. We have a staff kitchen and a couple of bathrooms with showers because after a 7 day expedition, they're not going to send their kids out on the bus without showering first. There's a small kitchen on the event side of the space.

Does that mean you run camp programs?

Not necessarily. We'll do some daytime program and it's here facility partner with schools with experiential education and outdoor leadership so they'll take folks on hiking expeditions in the Lehigh Valley and surrounding areas or they'll do some daytime programming about team building and leadership skills here on site with the challenge course and other ground based activities.

How many staffs do you have in the building in the building?

The Discovery Center staff is about five people and Audubon Atlantic varies anywhere from 1-2. I would say 12 people because Mid-Atlantic is a region so it could be folks from all over coming to work here at the discovery center. Outward Bound in the slower months probably has 15 to 20 staff and then in their bigger months have anywhere from 30 to 70 staff members but they're not all here.

Can I ask you the job titles for them four or five people for the discovery center staff?

I am a Center director and there is the center coordinator. We have a building and groundskeeper and a center assistant and a facilities assistant and then we do have a partnership with Philadelphia Parks and Recreation and they provide a seasonal RSI position. RSI stands for recreational support instructor which I really appreciate.

I saw you guys always look for volunteers. Is there any involvement from the community or expectations?

In any experience level, anyone who wants to do some work outside. A lot of the volunteer work is centered around this native pollinator garden in the front because that needs a lot of maintenance a lot of weeding and things like that. So there's always removing invasive species, planting non-invasive species. They are helping with events you know wayfinding and things like greeting folks.

Do they have space they can stay?

No. you see, we have steadily outgrown space. Not all staff really have space of their own. Any other offices that I've worked in there's been a dedicated lunch area or things like that and that doesn't really happen here. But there is a benefit to the flexibility of having desk that could be anywhere you know for anyone. I would like more space for staff.

Are there any special furniture piece or any object that's built for the center?

I don't think anything is super special. I think they found things that would fit well, but I don't think anything is off the top of my head.

Is there any necessary equipment or space or furniture or any type of object that you wish you had in the space?

I always wish there was more storage. We have added three sheds to the space one for each organization. Outward Bound has one, Audubon has one and The Discovery Center has one and so that we at least can store some things. I do wish that there was some ways that cars could get a little closer to the building this walkway is not designed to support the weight of the vehicle and I know it has to be so long because of the ADA compliance, so that's nice. But we get very nervous when the visitors come to the parking lot and they can't see the entrance for the center.

That is interesting. Because I actually knew the building and what it looks like and then I walked from the parking lot so I didn't have problem, but I can see people just coming out of parking lot and feeling like they are out of nowhere not having much sign or sight of center right away.

Exactly. Yes, I'm the type of person too. If I'm arriving, if I know I'm going someplace I'm going to look it up ahead of time and see what it's like but not everyone is like that. We I also had the local firefighters come out because they hadn't been here yet and so I wanted to communicate with them like: what this place looks like for you, does this work for you, what else do you need from us etc. just talking about what they would do in an emergency and we found out they would park their trucks down there (under the hill of the ramp going up to the center from parking lot) and run up the hill because that's the shortest distance and then the fire connection is right there(on the hill) so there's safety concerns. Let's say these two buildings are on fire where do people go right we have some ways but they all need a staff member with them to unlock the gate and I don't know that anyone really thought about that. So, there were some decisions made for I honestly do not know what reason

Where is the most loved space by staff?

Most loved space my staff, hmm. I think that probably varies by staff.

Where is the most love space by visitors?

I think it's the water walk. It's floating on the water. I see everyone gravitates to that it's really nice to be on water, so I would often see people there and I was looking through the window (from the office) and I want to be there. That(water walk) was added later, probably a year or so after the building opened.

Do you come to work five days a week?

My staff does. Not everyone from Audubon, not everyone from Outward Bound does. We do since we're maintaining the building and we're responsible for the public access so we have the building open to the public six days a week and it's open to staff seven days. We tried to make sure there's always someone here for a little bit of that time.

So, I generally and that's a very you know loose generally work Monday through Friday. The center coordinator generally works Tuesday through Saturday. The building and groundskeeper generally works Sunday through Thursday and we sort of try to make sure that everything is covered when we need it to be.

Is there any indoor activities that happen in the center that the general public can participate?

I mean the visitors can come in and talk with folks here in the lobby and sometimes Audubon changes out what activity is so at one point it was origami birds and things like that but generally we are sort of asking people to go outside and experience the outdoors.

We sometimes have neighbors who want to host an event here so the discovery center itself doesn't necessarily host. it's running event or they get it for free sometimes so for instance we have like line dancing coming up this Sunday and that's just a member of the community he wants to host line dancing and because it's beneficial to people here, they get the space for free.

Based on your website, there are much more outdoor activities than indoor activities.

Yeah. And a lot of it is self-guided too if you want to come and bring a picnic, please. You know. if you want to come in with your group of friends birdwatch we have some binoculars you can borrow and go do that.

And what ratio would that be of the program provided by the center versus program that's communities bringing in?

So, most of the outdoor public programming is provided by Audubon and we are here so make sure it runs well and support them in that. So, I would say that is about 90%. Outward Bound also does some public programming and that's about 12 times a year for like 12 full days a year, and then Audubon also helps out with those too. So it is predominantly Audubon.

Do you think that visitors come visit the center today want to linger inside or they don't really want to linger?

Yeah, I find that the lobby doesn't really lend itself to lingering.

It looks a bit small and not very welcoming necessarily.

Yeah, and also it(user experience) is very seasonal so we added those tables and chairs outside I think last spring and when the weather is nice they get used all of the time people are allowed to move them around and they love it.

DREXEL UNIVERSITY
INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE AND DESIGN
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ADVISOR: RENA CUMBY

2023 . 06 . 12

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