

# PORTFOLIO

---

2023-2024

MINDI WARREN

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# GALAPAGOS RESEARCH STATION

## *San Cristobal Reforestation Center*

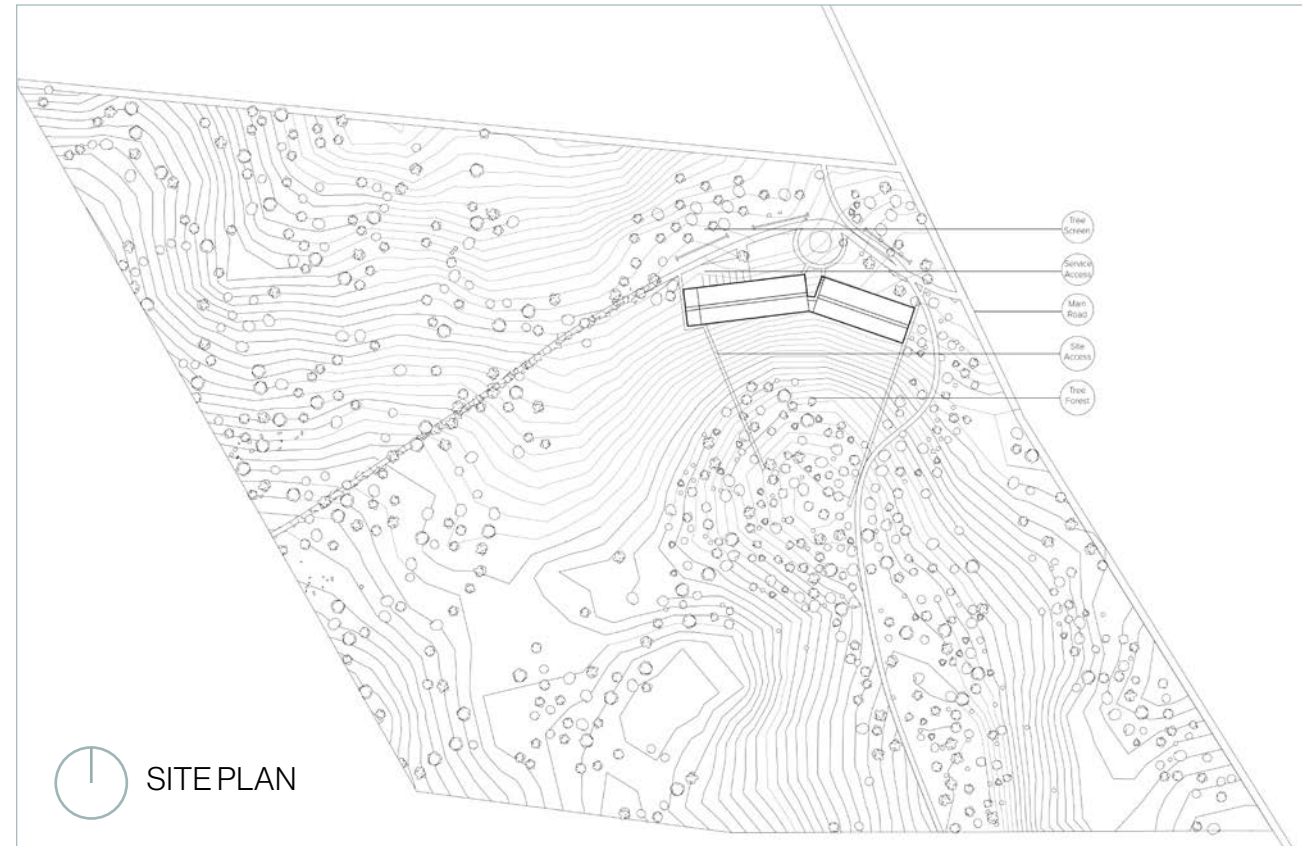
Advanced Design | Summer 2023  
Location: San Cristobal, Galapagos  
Partner: Niki Ghendy

A crucial goal of USFQ's work focuses on sustainable construction in the Galápagos, exploring how endemic tree species can be cultivated and managed to support a **circular economy**. The proposed economy stems from a local micro-industry for lumber: sourced from both **sustainably farmed endemic trees and culled invasive timber**. The project aims to combat deforestation and the spread of invasive species, which threaten native flora and fauna.

The proposed research station, located in the highlands of San Cristóbal, will serve as a **testing ground for these sustainability efforts**. The station will address the ecological impact of past agricultural practices that have left the region overrun with invasive species. The project pioneers innovative sustainability practices by **fostering new labor pools and material industries**, setting a precedent for environmentally conscious construction on the islands.



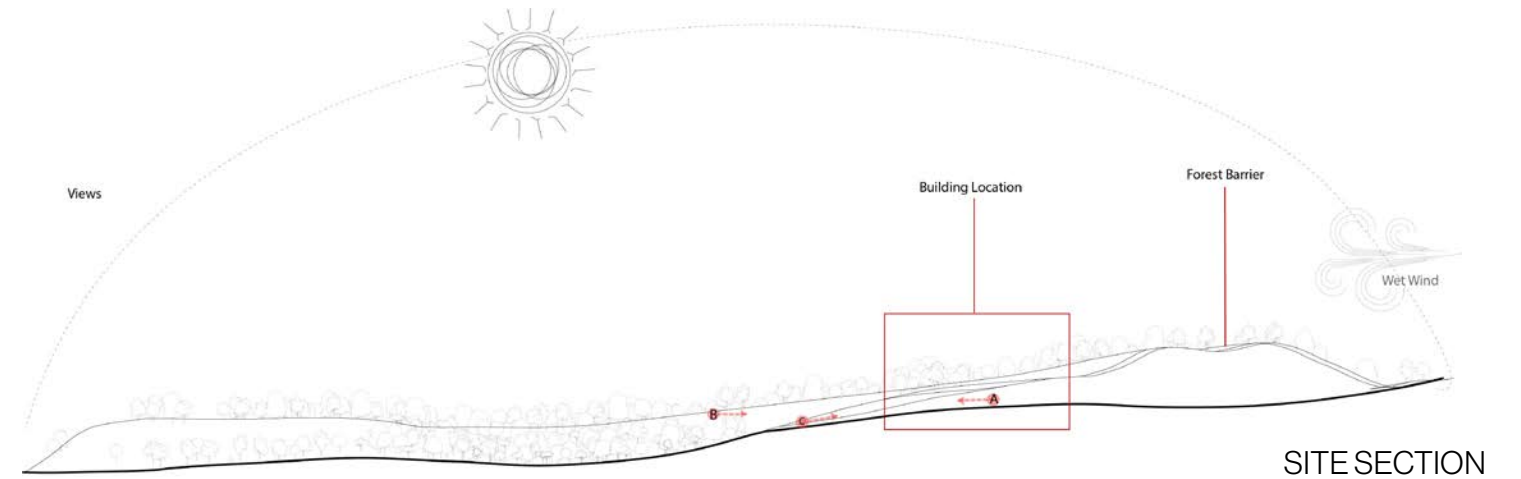
EXTERIOR RENDER



VALLEY PANORAMA



There is a **central valley** that defines the site with a view to the ocean. To the west, and, in the opposite direction, a view up to the highest mountain on the island. From this mountain, **wet winds** flow down over the site, drawn by the **macro-condition of the valley**. The design uses this context to incorporate **natural ventilation strategies**, allowing for air-conditioning flexibility and optimizing comfort while minimizing energy use. To combat the mist, **Large lichen screen systems**, placed strategically on the north side of the buildings, serve both as **moisture shields** for the wooden structures and as **water collection systems** for potable use.



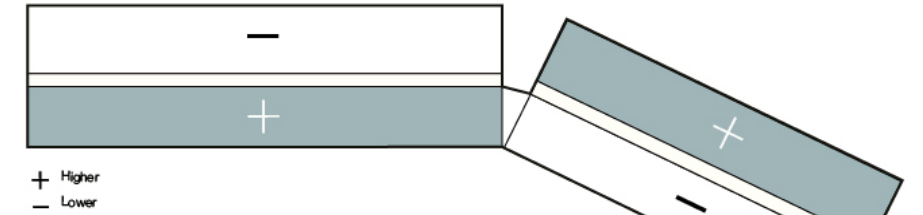
SITE SECTION



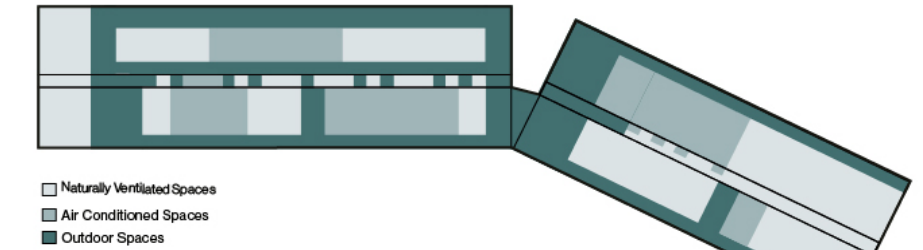
MODEL PHOTO

The facility embraces a **modular bay plan**, allowing for **programmatic flexibility**, future expansions, and adaptability in spatial use. Two timber-framed buildings house the majority of the station's functions, ensuring efficient and sustainable development. The research station supports social cohesion by **providing dormitory and apartment spaces** for students and faculty; creating an environmentally conscious living-learning community for **future island leaders**.

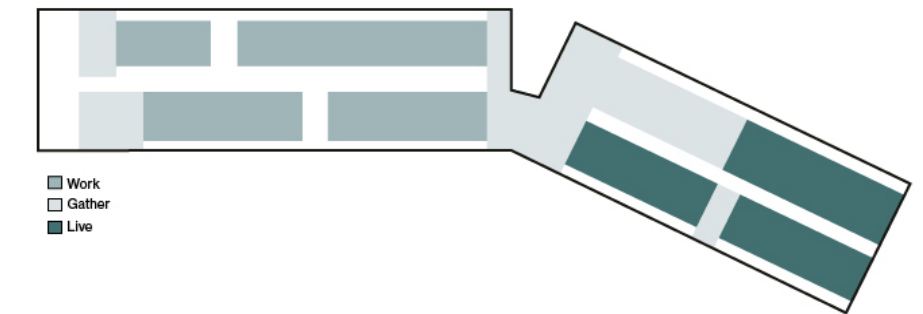
FLOOR HEIGHT

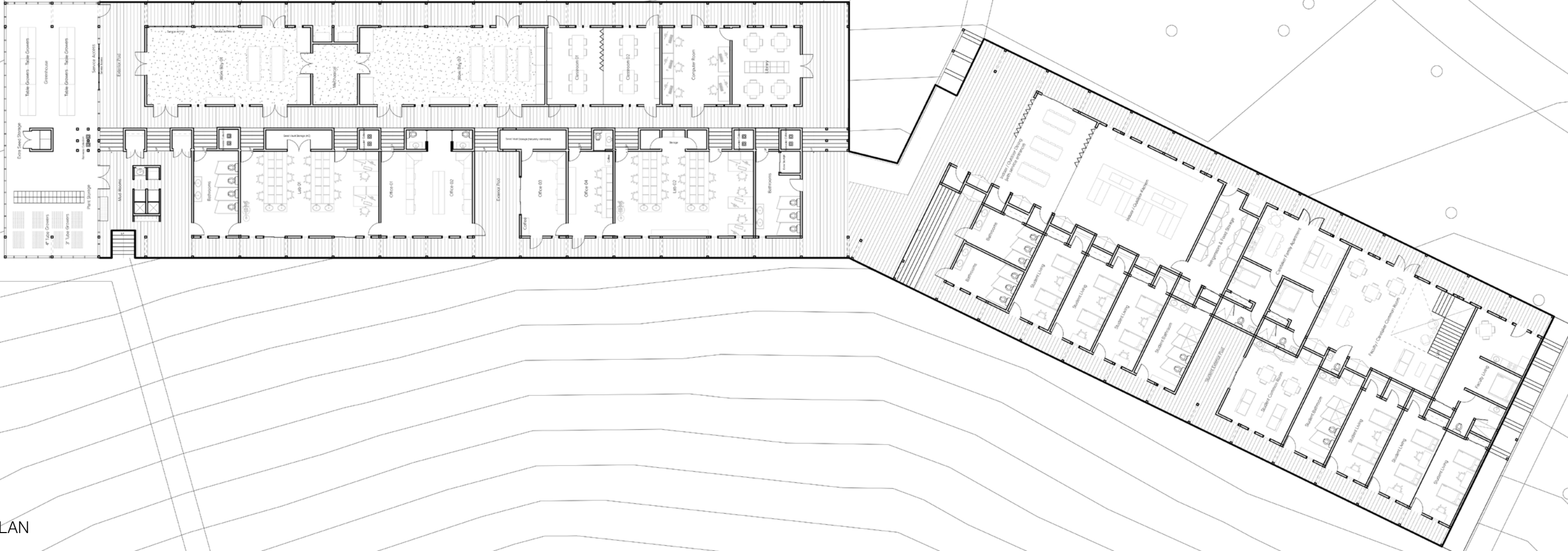


INDOOR/OUTDOOR



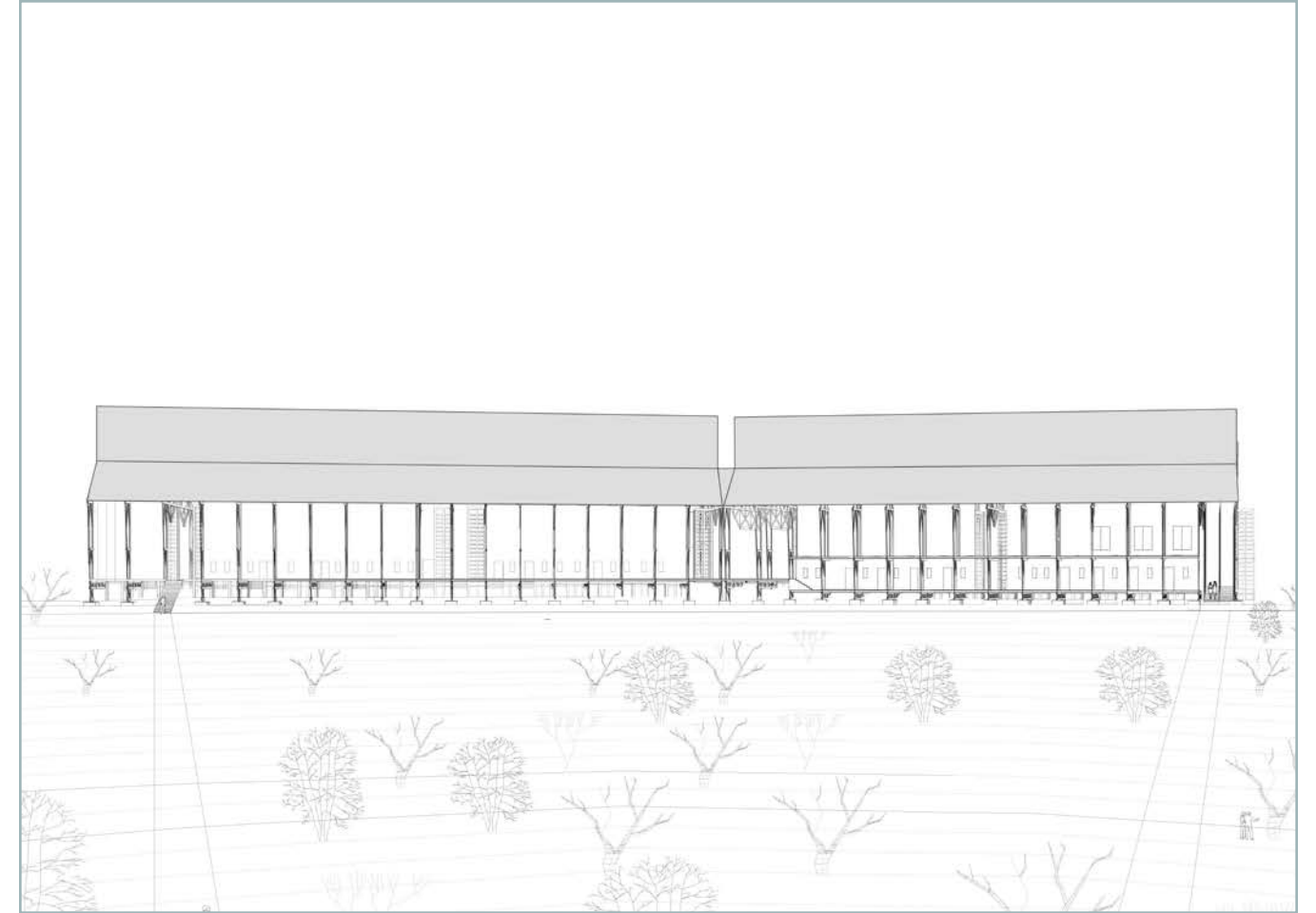
PROGRAM



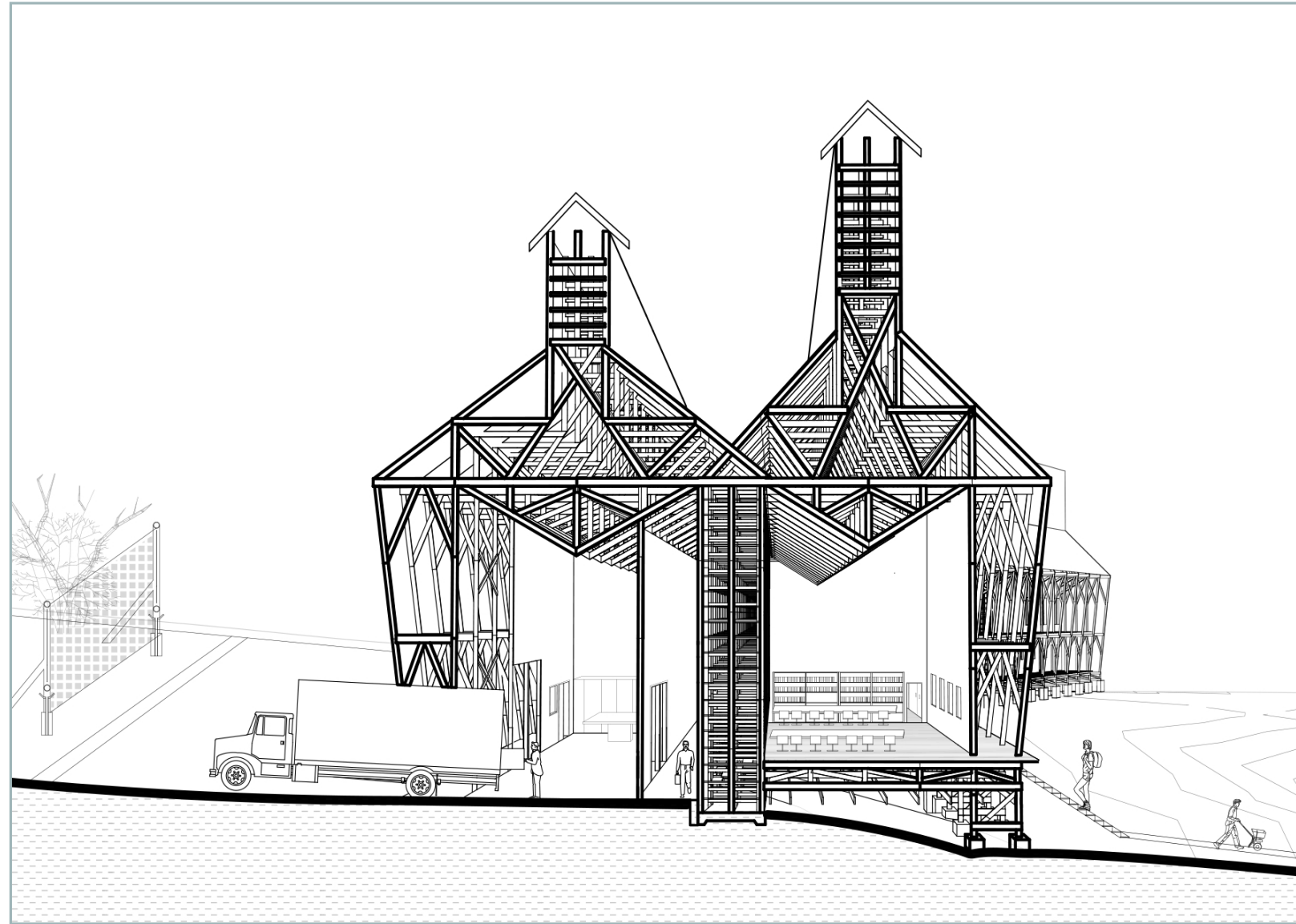




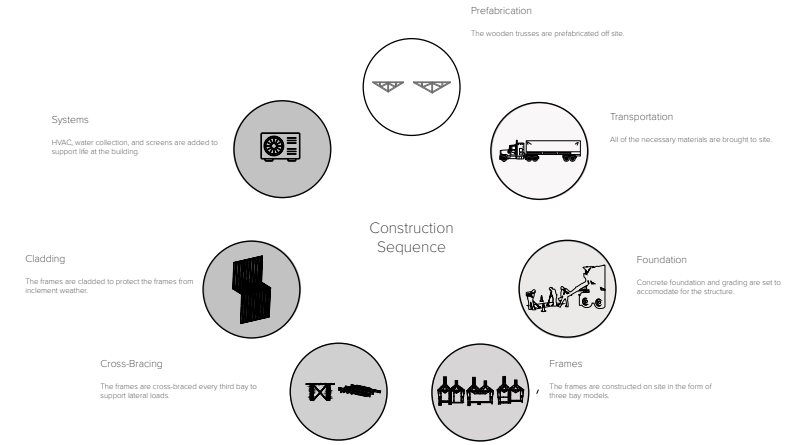
MODEL PHOTO



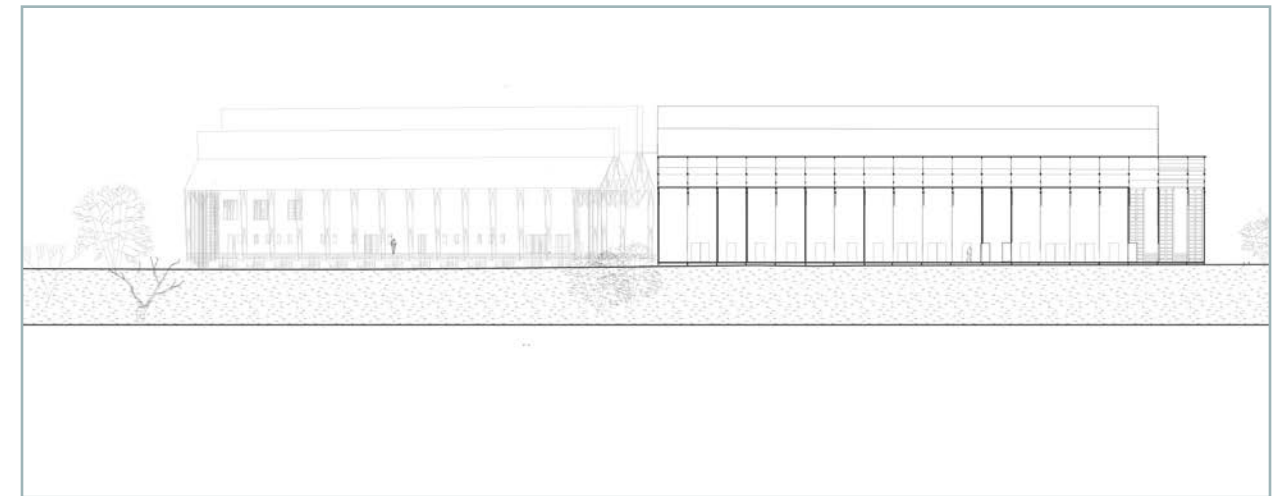
WEST ELEVATION



TRANSVERSE SECTION



LICHEN



LONGITUDINAL SECTION



# ITZTLI CALLI VISITOR'S CENTER

*Cerro de las Navajas Geopark*

Advanced Design | Fall 2023

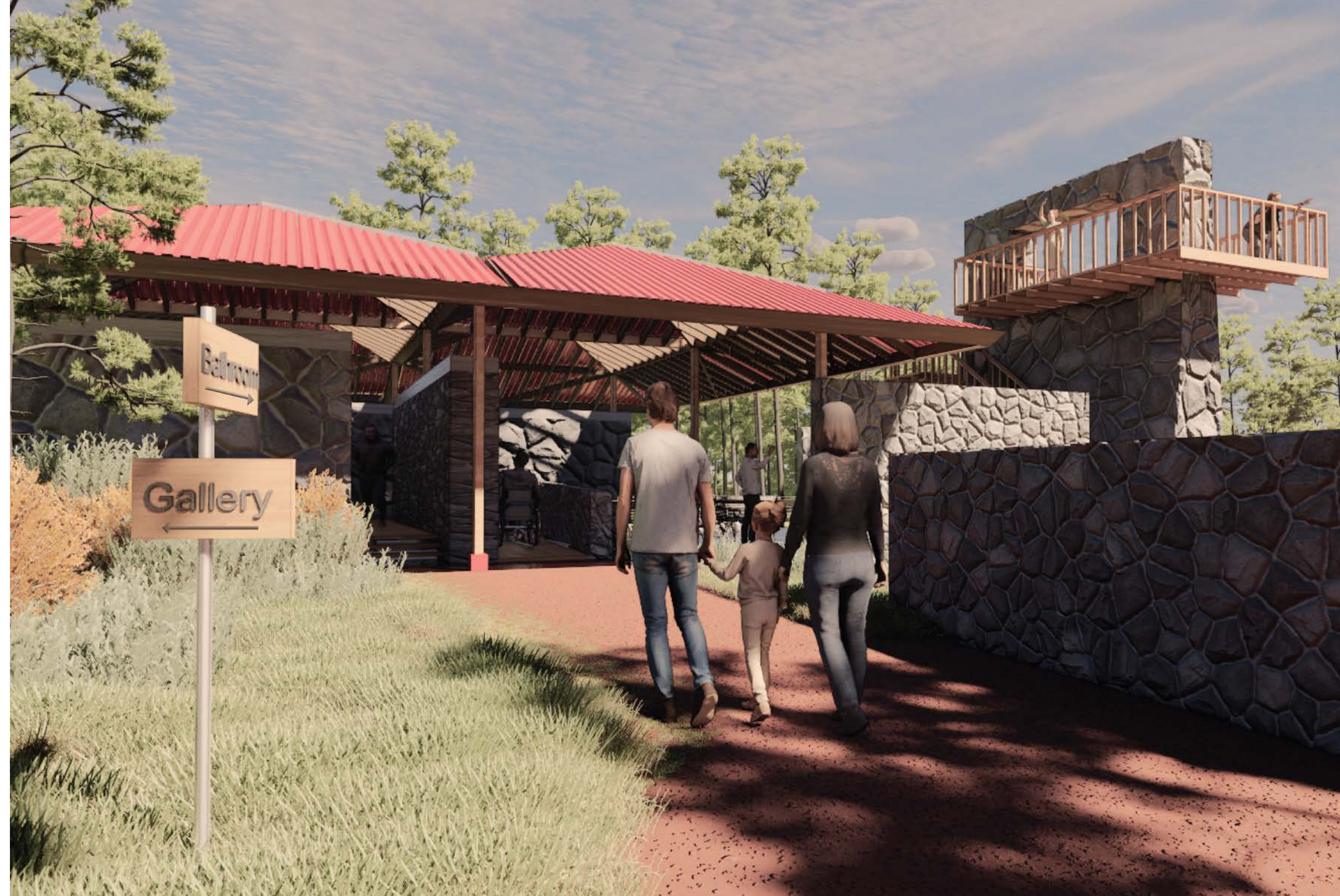
Partner: Claire Kelly

Location: Pachuca, Hidalgo Mexico.

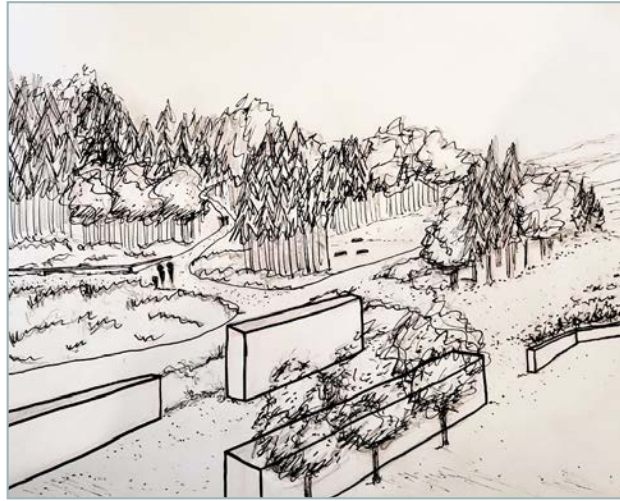
**Selected for presentation with local Edjito**

The Itztli Calli (**Obsidian House**) visitor center is located within the Comarca Minera UNESCO Global Geopark in Hidalgo, Mexico. The site holds immense geological, ecological, and cultural significance as it houses the **main source of obsidian used throughout Mesoamerican civilizations** in Central Mexico. As a protected area, the geopark serves as a platform for education, research, and tourism.

The project embraces sustainability by integrating **traditional construction methods** with minimal ecological impact, ensuring that the design respects local heritage while harmonizing with the natural landscape. By fostering **community involvement**, the project promotes a sustainable development model that acknowledges the region's rich history and unique environment- **establishing a new visual and physical connection to the site.**



EXTERIOR RENDER



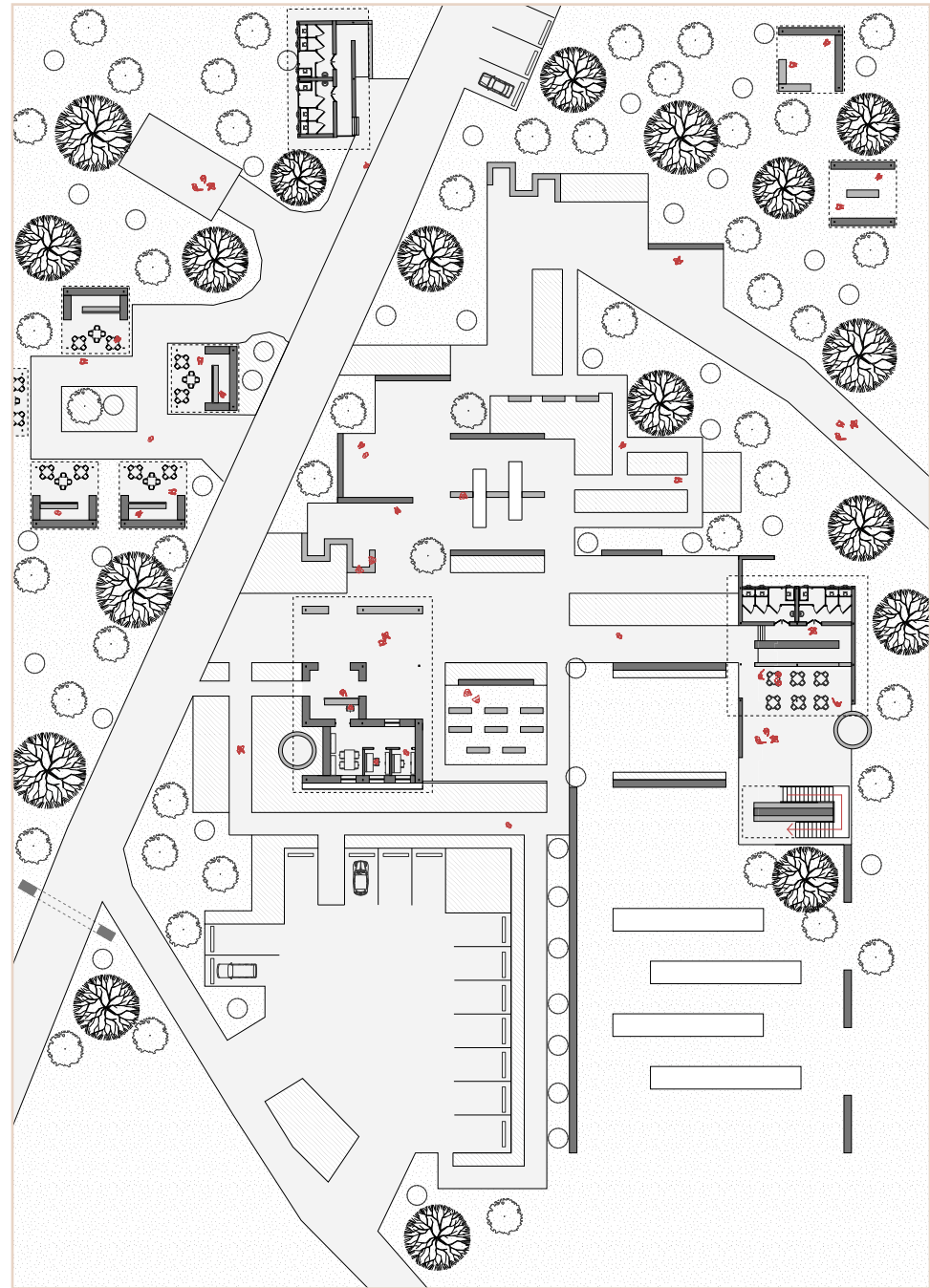
INITIAL SKETCH



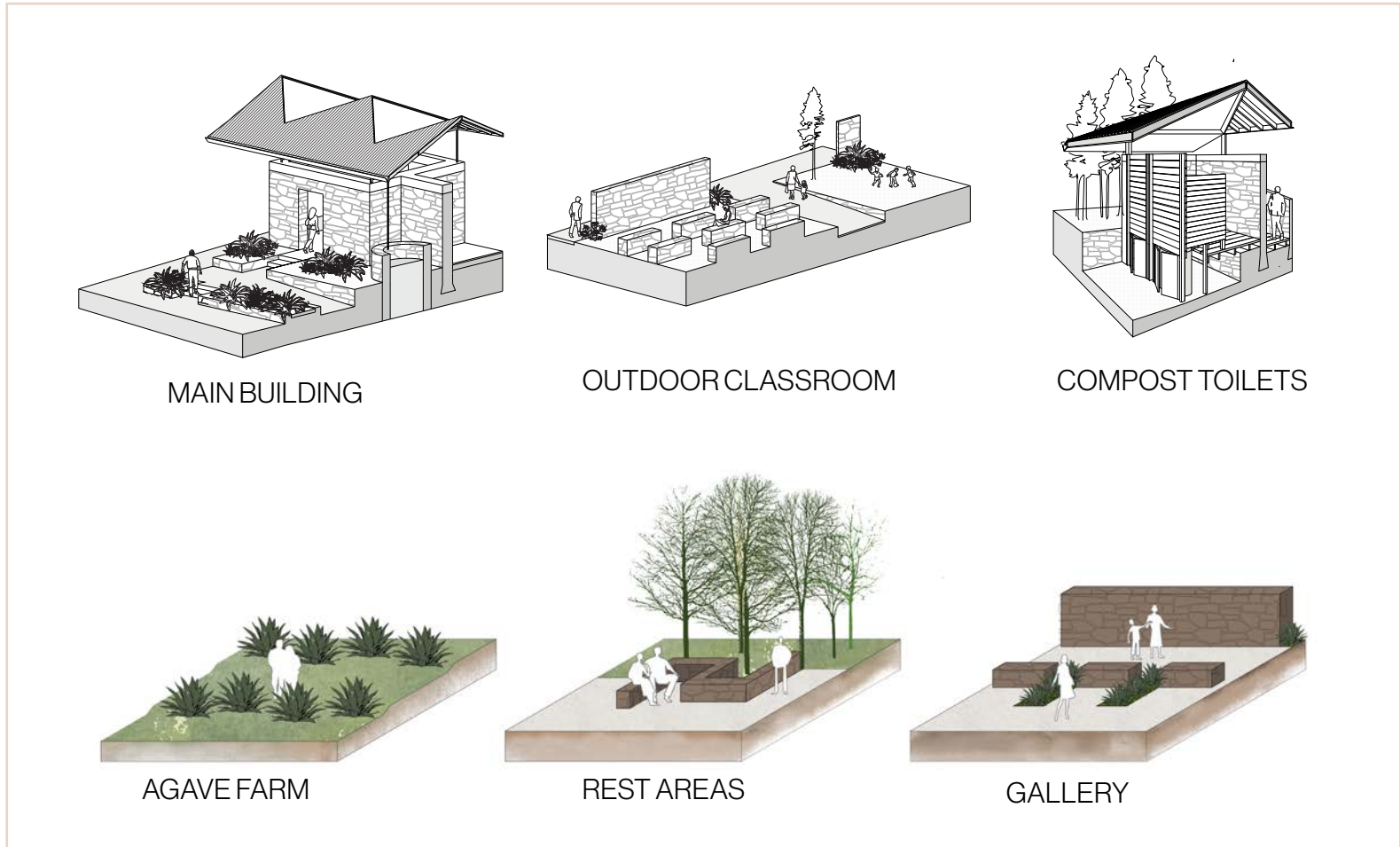
COLLAGE #1



COLLAGE #2



FLOORPLAN



MAIN BUILDING

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

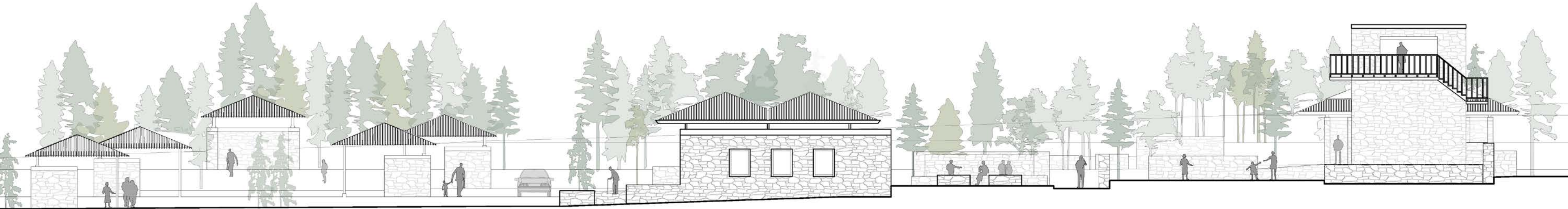
COMPOST TOILETS

AGAVE FARM

REST AREAS

GALLERY

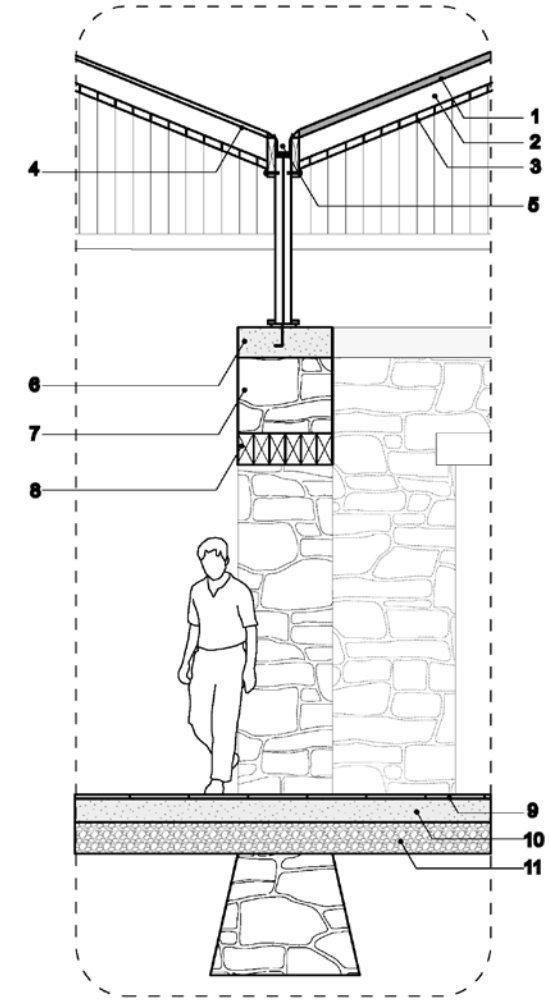
Inspired by the **natural flow of the geopark**, the center's program and layout engage visitors through an immersive experience. Native trees and giant agave plants create a **ceremonial entry**, reinforcing a connection to the land. The design blurs the boundary between indoor and outdoor spaces, seamlessly integrating the built environment with its surroundings. **Interactive educational spaces, outdoor learning areas, and interpretive trails** further enrich the visitor experience by offering hands-on engagement with geological formations, local biodiversity, and traditional craftsmanship.



NORTH ELEVATION



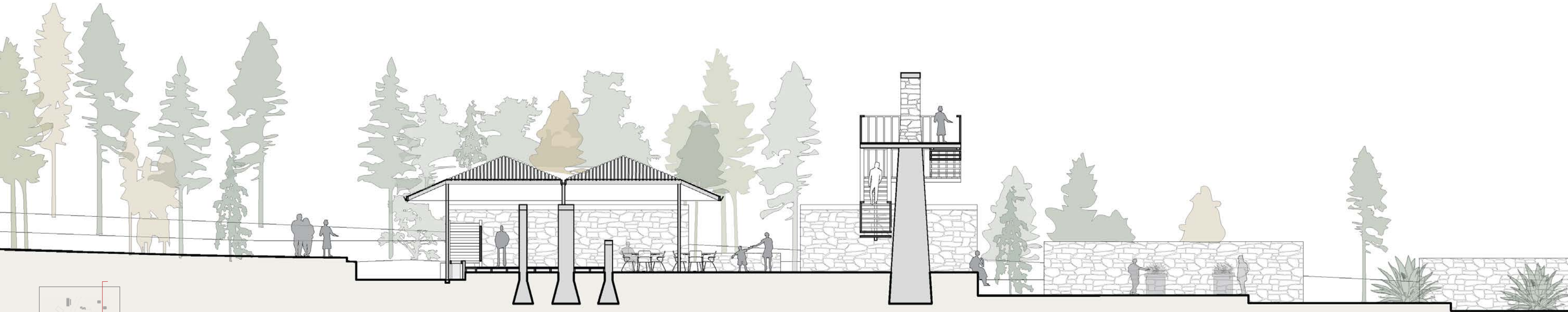
GALLERY RENDER



BUILDING STRUCTURE

- 1. CORRUGATED STEEL ROOF CLADDING(2')
- 2. LIGHTWEIGHT WOOD TRUSS
- 3. WOOD FINISH
- 4. POLYCARBONATE SHEET(1')
- 5. STEEL GUTTER
- 6. CONCRETE BOND BEAM (6')
- 7. STONE WALL (2')
- 8. WOOD LINTEL
- 9. CERAMIC TILE (2')
- 10. CONCRETE SLAB (8')
- 11. GRAVEL FILL (8')

Conceived as a “**living pavilion**,” the visitor center adapts to its context through passive design strategies that optimize natural light and ventilation, reducing energy consumption. **Rainwater harvesting systems** and **solar-reflective roofing** materials contribute to water and energy self-sufficiency, reinforcing the project’s commitment to environmental responsibility. By blending ecological awareness with cultural appreciation, the center **fosters a deeper understanding of the geopark’s significance**- establishing a stronger connection between visitors and the land.



N/S SECTION

# WALLER CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER

*Austin TX Recreation Facility*

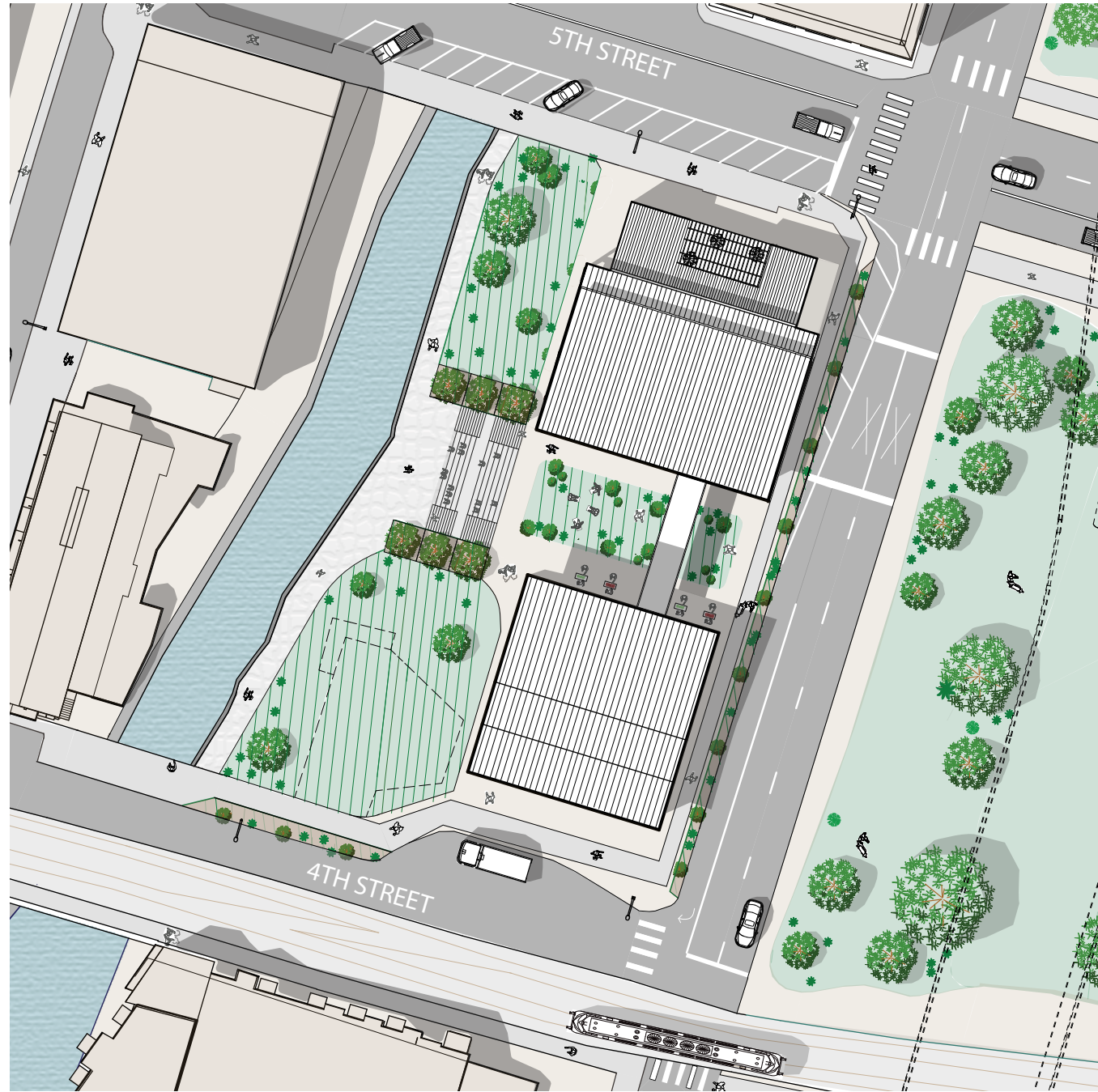
Comprehensive Studio | Spring 2023  
Partners: Katie Stiers & Brayden Byrd  
Location: Austin, Texas

**A new recreation and wellness center** is set to open in downtown Austin, serving as a hub for residents in the area and commuters from the train. The facility offers **multipurpose sports courts** for youth and adult sports leagues and practices, alongside **various fitness areas** for community use. Positioned prominently along I-35 and the light rail- as well as amidst downtown and near East Austin developments- the center **symbolizes Austin's commitment to health and vitality.**

The project explores the interplay between **activity and form, movement and stillness, as well as posture and relaxation.** Leveraging architectural fundamentals, the design integrates structural, mechanical, plumbing, and environmental control systems to **enhance user experience and well-being.**



COURT VISUALIZATION



BASE

EASEMENT

COURTYARD

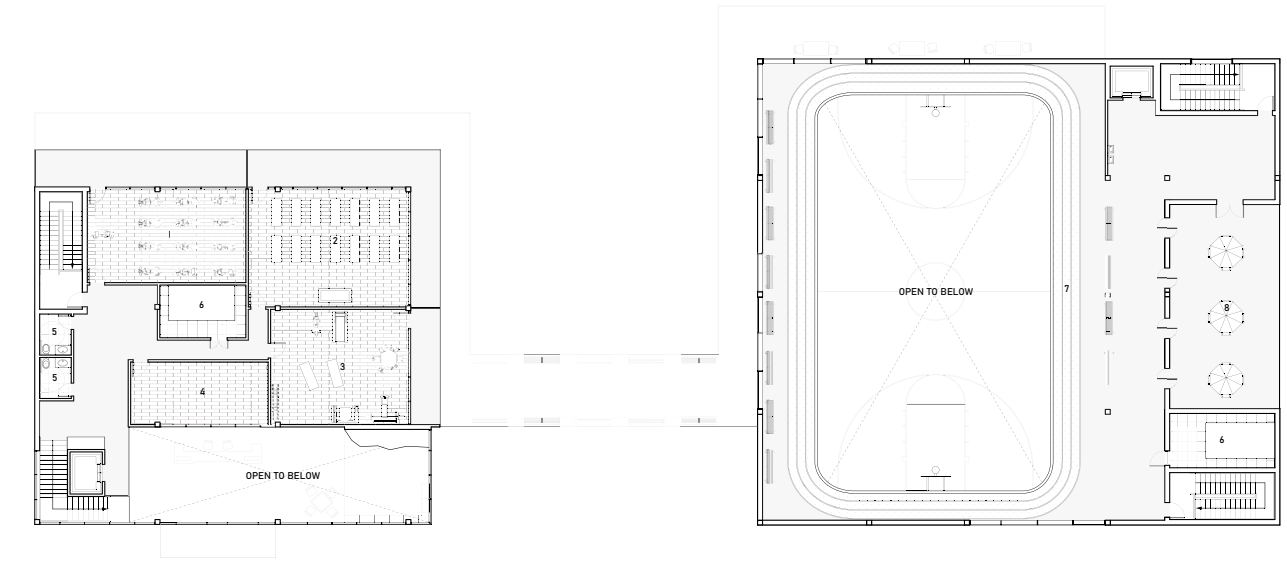
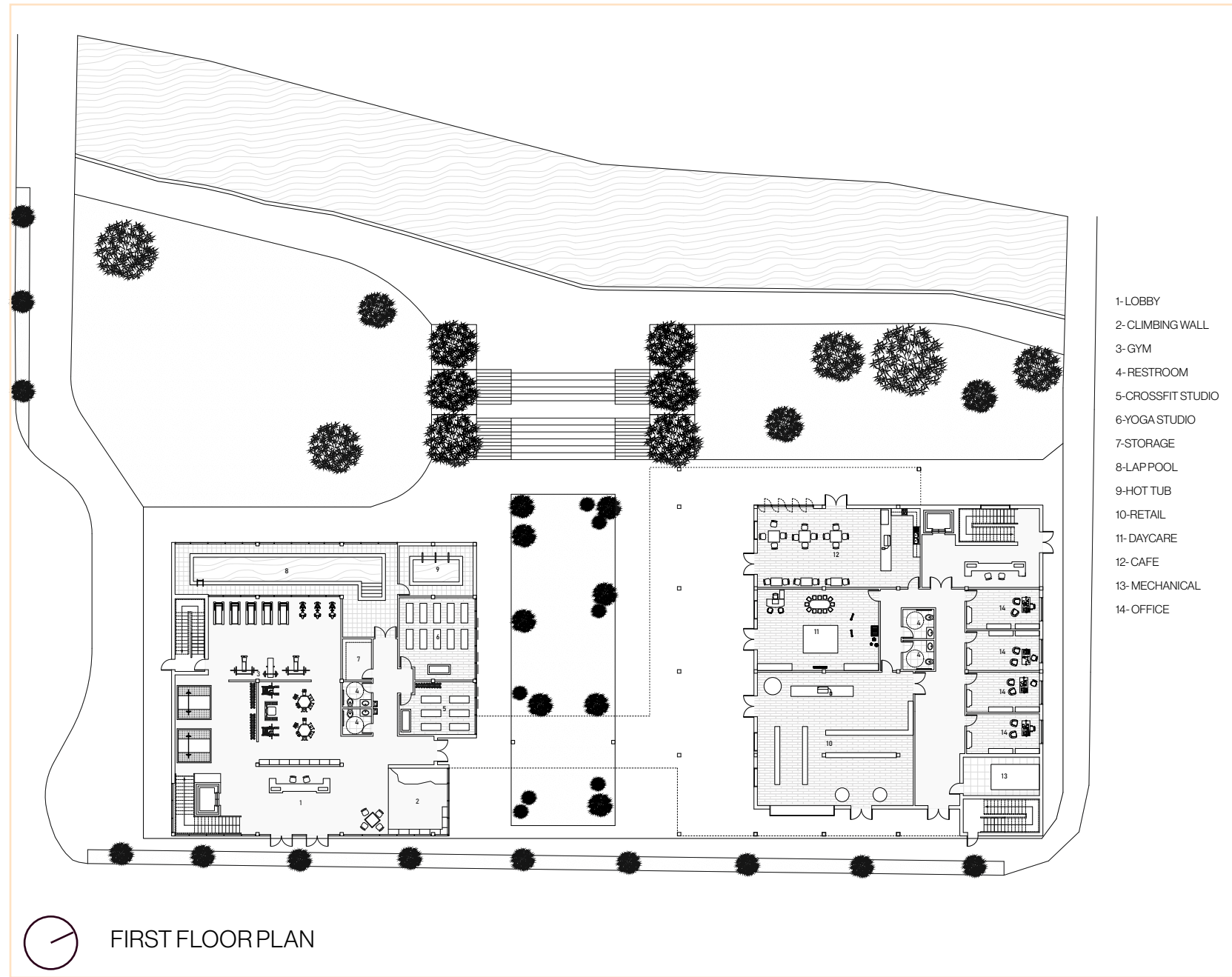
EXTRUDE

FORM

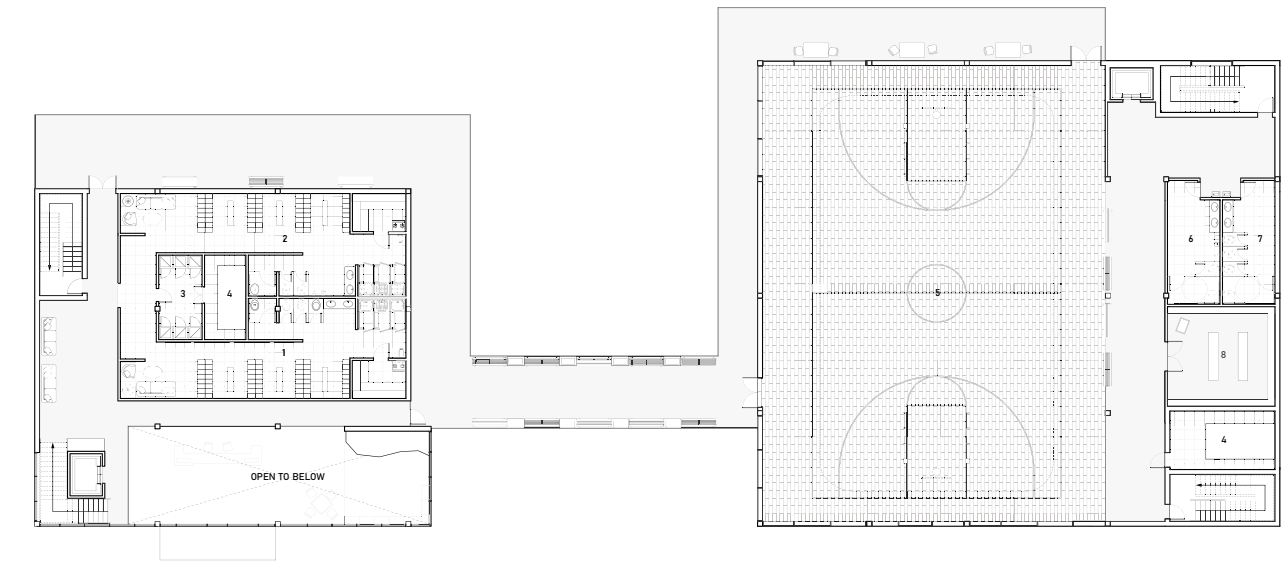
CONNECT

PROCESS DIAGRAM

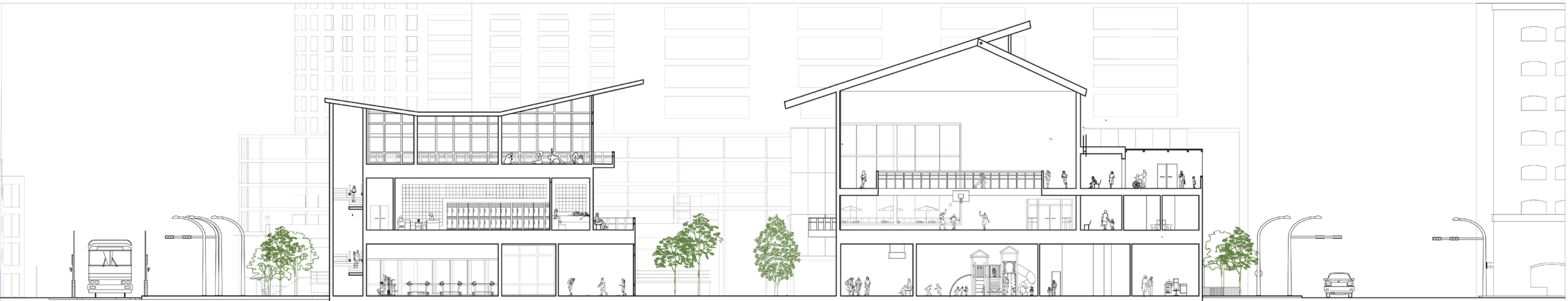




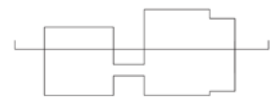
- 1- CYCLING STUDIO
- 2- PILATES STUDIO
- 3- FLEX SPACE
- 4- RESTROOM
- 5- MECHANICAL
- 6- RUNNING TRACK
- 7- EVENT BALCONY



- 1- WOMENS LOCKERS
- 2- MENS LOCKERS
- 3- LAUNDRY
- 4- MECHANICAL
- 5- MULTI-PURPOSE COURT
- 6- MENS RESTROOM
- 7- WOMENS RESTROOM
- 8- STORAGE



BUILDING SECTION

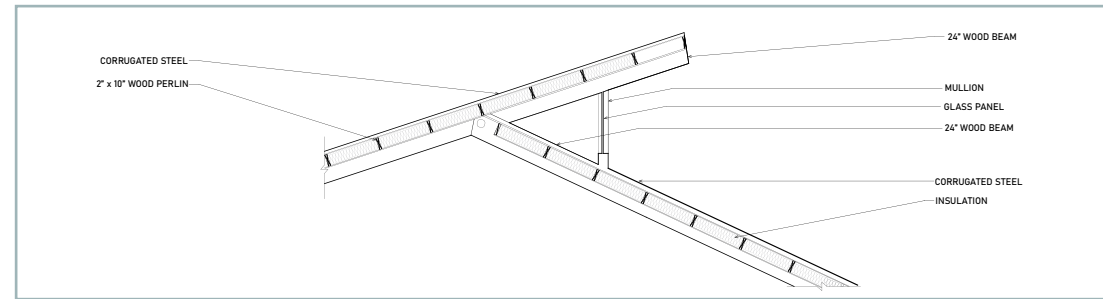


The **spacious central courtyard** nestled between the two buildings serves as a lively connection to the bustling activities along Waller Creek and acts as the **primary focal point for the site**. Designed to integrate indoor and outdoor areas, the courtyard provides a **versatile setting for various events**, from tranquil picnics to energetic yoga classes and concerts. Its **adaptability caters to the evolving needs of the community**.

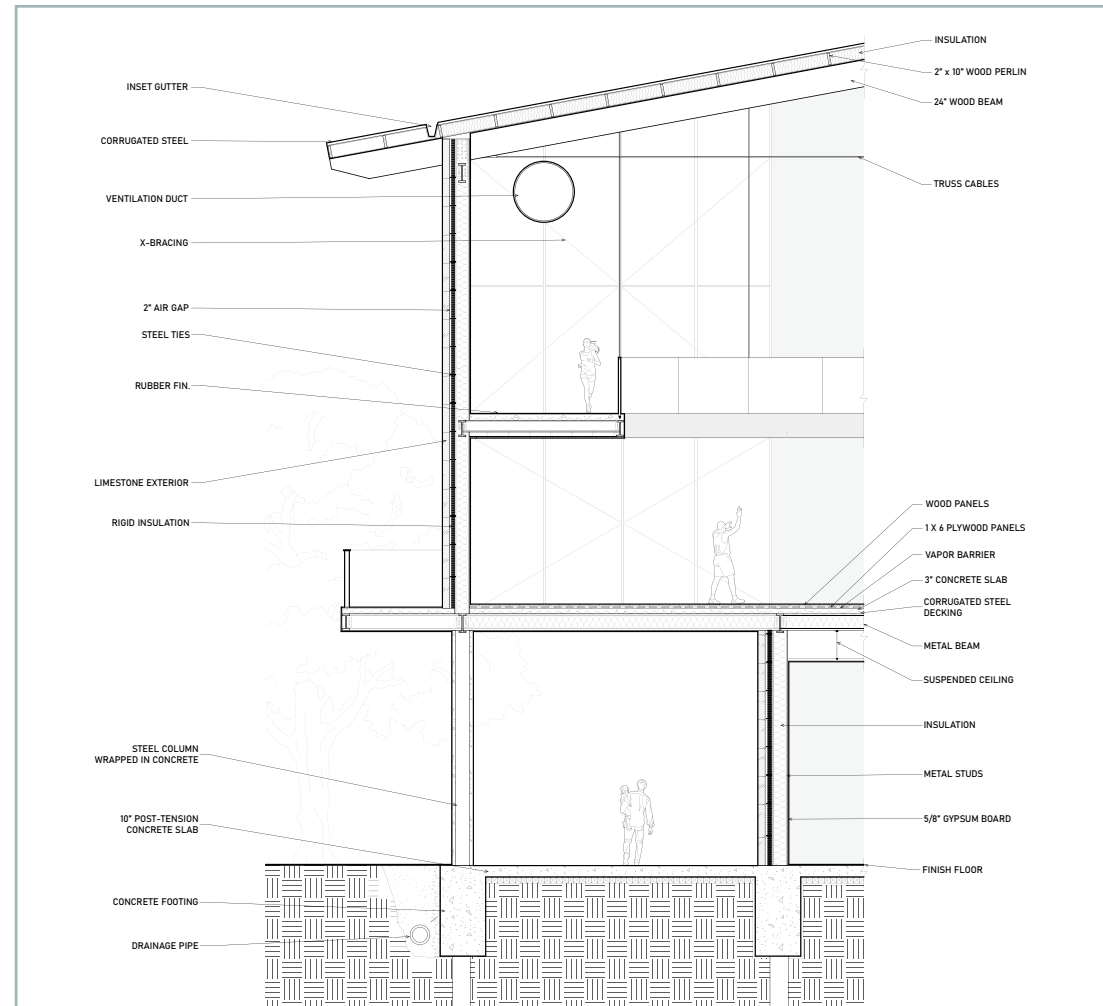
One side of the courtyard seamlessly merges with the recreation facility, facilitated by **movable walls** that blur the boundaries between inside and outside, fostering a sense of **connectivity with nature**. On the other side, the courtyard extends to the retail section, featuring shops, a daycare, and a welcoming café, which helps to **contribute to the area's economic growth and attracts visitors to the center**.

COURTYARD PLAN





ROOF DETAIL



WALL SECTION



PHYSICAL MODEL (FRONT)



PHYSICAL MODEL (BACK)

# LET'S TALK HAYBALES

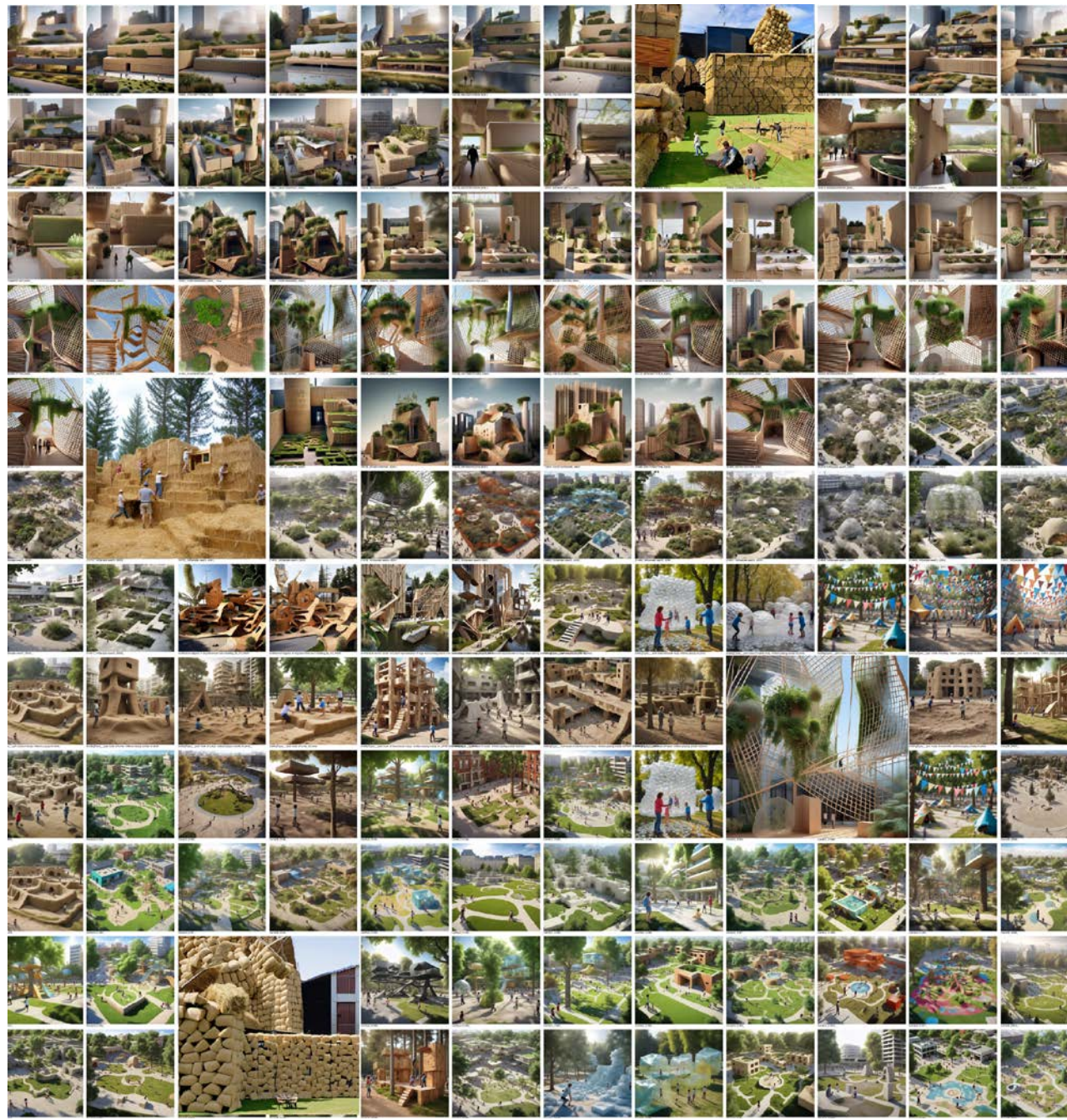
## *AI exploration*

Advanced Design | Spring 2024  
Location: Austin, Texas, USA  
**Nominated for Design Excellence**

Let's Talk Hay Bales" is a project at the intersection of **Generative AI** (GA) and architectural design, utilizing data-driven methodologies to reimagine how spaces are conceived and built. By leveraging cloud computing, AI models generate, analyze, and synthesize architectural forms with **high-resolution spatial representations, enabling rapid iteration and experimentation.** The project envisions AI as an active participant in design exploration, allowing architects to engage with deep spatial structures and material compositions in new ways.

The project explores sustainable cohabitation within **reestablished wild grass areas**, which are continually harvested and processed into **hay building blocks**—a carbon-negative, cost-effective material. The material is used to construct hay-based structures within zero-mile neighborhoods, creating **multifunctional spaces** that support vertical gardens, workshops, schools, and event venues.

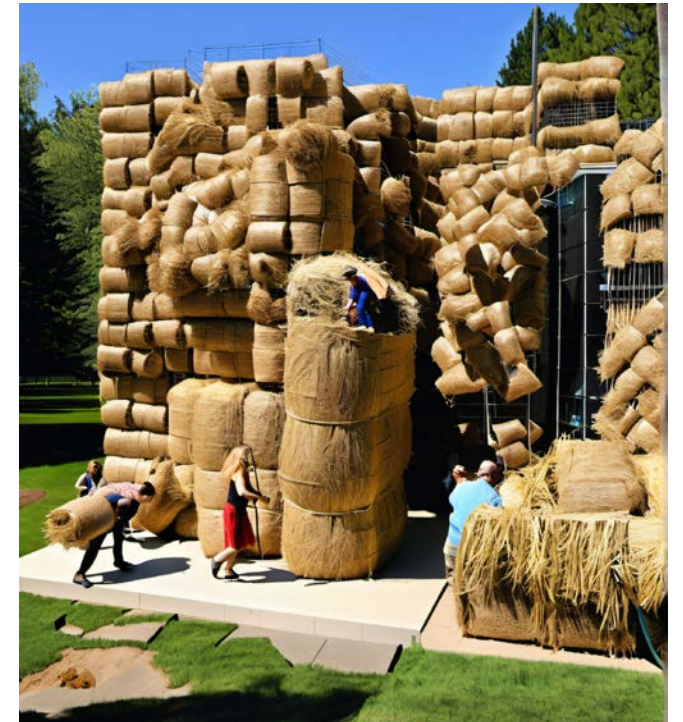




41 — IMAGE GENERATION



PHYSICAL MODEL



AI RENDER



MODEL TRAINING



Interior Space

Interior Space

Interior Space



Construction Phase 1



Construction Phase 2



Construction Phase 3

MODEL TRAINING



AI VISUALIZATION

Designed for adaptability, these structures can **expand as needed** or **decompose naturally** back into the soil, reinforcing the project's ecological cycle. By **merging sustainable architecture with regenerative land use**, this initiative offers a scalable model for environmentally conscious urban development while fostering **community-driven solutions to housing and shared spaces**. Initially funded through donations, the project will ultimately be city-owned and is envisioned to incorporate innovative environmental revenue models, **ensuring accessibility and long-term maintenance**.



PHASE 1



PHASE 2



PHASE 3



PHASE 4





AI VISUALIZATION



AI SECTION 1



AI SECTION 2

# DEEP EDDY APIARY

## *Austin Apiary & Urban Center*

Advanced Design | Summer 2023

Location: Austin, Texas, USA

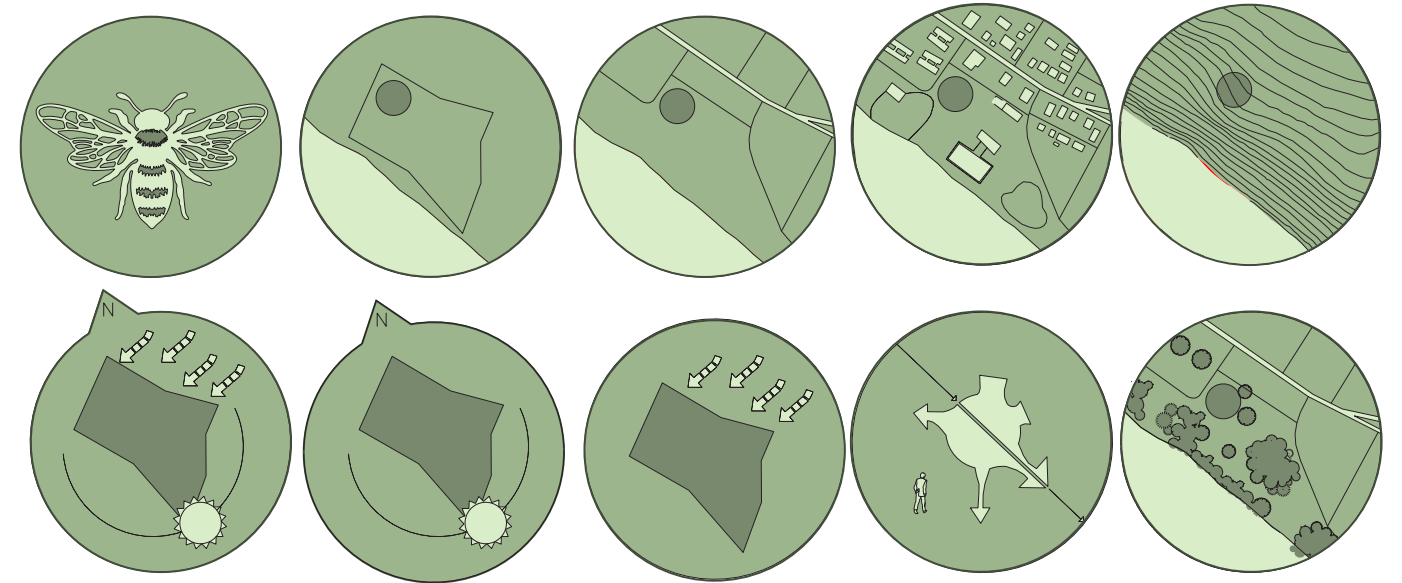
The Austin Apiary and Urban Center **reimagines the Eilers Neighborhood Park**, responding to the site's historical, urban, and ecological significance. Situated near Deep Eddy, Texas' first public swimming pool, the project builds on the **area's legacy as a community gathering space**, extending its role into environmental research, education, and public engagement.

The center houses **labs for research, observational hives, community gathering spaces, private offices, a café, and an observation tower**. This provides a dynamic setting where scientists, students, and visitors interact with urban ecology. The material palette prioritizes sustainability and efficiency, with limestone brick aiding in natural ventilation, **reducing the need for air conditioning**, while a corrugated metal roof and a simple steel structural frame ensure **cost-effective, durable construction**.





HAND DRAWING



SITE STRATEGY DIAGRAMS



SITE PLAN



FLOORPLAN

A defining feature of the design is the **observation tower**. The tower is composed of a steel structure rising from the limestone brick- **standing as both a landmark and an interactive experience**. Wrapped in perforated mesh, the tower allows visibility from within and below, turning the act of ascending into a **processional journey** through the landscape. Balconies at each rise provide moments of pause, offering sweeping views of the river and city and leading to a large observation deck. Additionally, the cantilevered **ground-level deck** helps to frame views of Town Lake's dense vegetation, reinforcing the center's relationship with the surrounding ecology.



BUILDING SECTION

# Mindi Warren

4614 Allegheny Dr, San Antonio, TX 78229  
Mindivarrenn@gmail.com | +1(832)-433-2447

I am a passionate and driven Bachelor of Architecture graduate seeking my first professional opportunity. Energetic and always eager to learn, I bring a creative and detail-oriented approach to design, with a strong ability to collaborate and adapt within a team setting. My work is guided by a deep interest in sustainable, community-driven architecture, and I thrive on exploring new ideas and innovative solutions.

I seek to design cultural and public spaces which engage the public with art, design and educational opportunities. My design approach focuses on the intersection of architecture, urban ecology, and material innovation, emphasizing sustainable strategies, adaptive reuse, and immersive spatial experiences. I enjoy working with locally sourced, low-impact materials to create environmentally responsive designs that engage both the built and natural environment. My projects often include publicly accessible research spaces, observation towers, and multifunctional community hubs, reinforcing my belief that architecture should connect people, place, and culture in meaningful ways.

## Education

**The University of Texas at Austin**  
Bachelor of Architecture  
Graduated Fall 2024

## Awards & Achievements

### Hidalgo, Mexico Presentation (2023)

- One of five projects selected to present in Mexico to the Nopalillo Community leaders.

### Design Excellence Nomination (2024)

- One of two projects selected from the studio to be nominated for UTSOA wide end of year award.

### Friends of Deep Eddy Presentation (2024)

- Projects were presented to the non-profit (FODE) in a roundtable of discussions about the future of the site.

## Skills

**AI Skills:** Chat GPT, Stable Diffusion, ComfyUI, Midjourney, Dali2

**Architectural Skills:** Revit, Rhino, Autocad, Enscape, Sketchup, Adobe Suite (Premiere Pro, Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign), Microsoft Office Suite (Word, Powerpoint, Excel, Outlook), physical model building, analog drawing/sketching.

**Intrests:** woodworking, welding, painting, pottery.

## Languages

American Sign Language | Intermediate Spanish

## Experience

**Village at the Triangle-** Valet, Package Delivery  
(Sept. 2022- Sept. 2024)

- Used communication and interpersonal skills to build rapport with different types of residents and their families
- Worked effectively as part of a multidisciplinary team in a fast-paced, dynamic, environment.
- Assisted residents with needs as necessary, including helping them in and out of vehicles, delivering groceries, fixing electronics, hanging photos, etc.

**Independent Contract-** 3D Printed Proposal  
(Jan.- May 2021)

- Produced drawings and layouts of 3D printed houses for a speculative new Houston community
- Participated in design consultations with clients to discuss project visions and site constraints
- Attended site visits to better understand the project

**Potbelly-** Team Member  
(May. 2021- Dec. 2022)

- Provided friendly and attentive customer service, addressing inquiries and ensuring customer satisfaction
- Collaborated with team members to ensure smooth operations during peak hours and busy shifts.

**Fire it Up, Pottery & Arts Studio-** Pottery Instructor  
(Feb. 2017- Aug. 2019)

- Led wheel-throwing and hand-building classes to groups and individuals of various demographics and skill level
- Provided individualized instruction and feedback to students to help them develop their pottery skills

**Thank You**

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**MINDIWARRENN@GMAIL.COM**

+1 (832)-433-2447