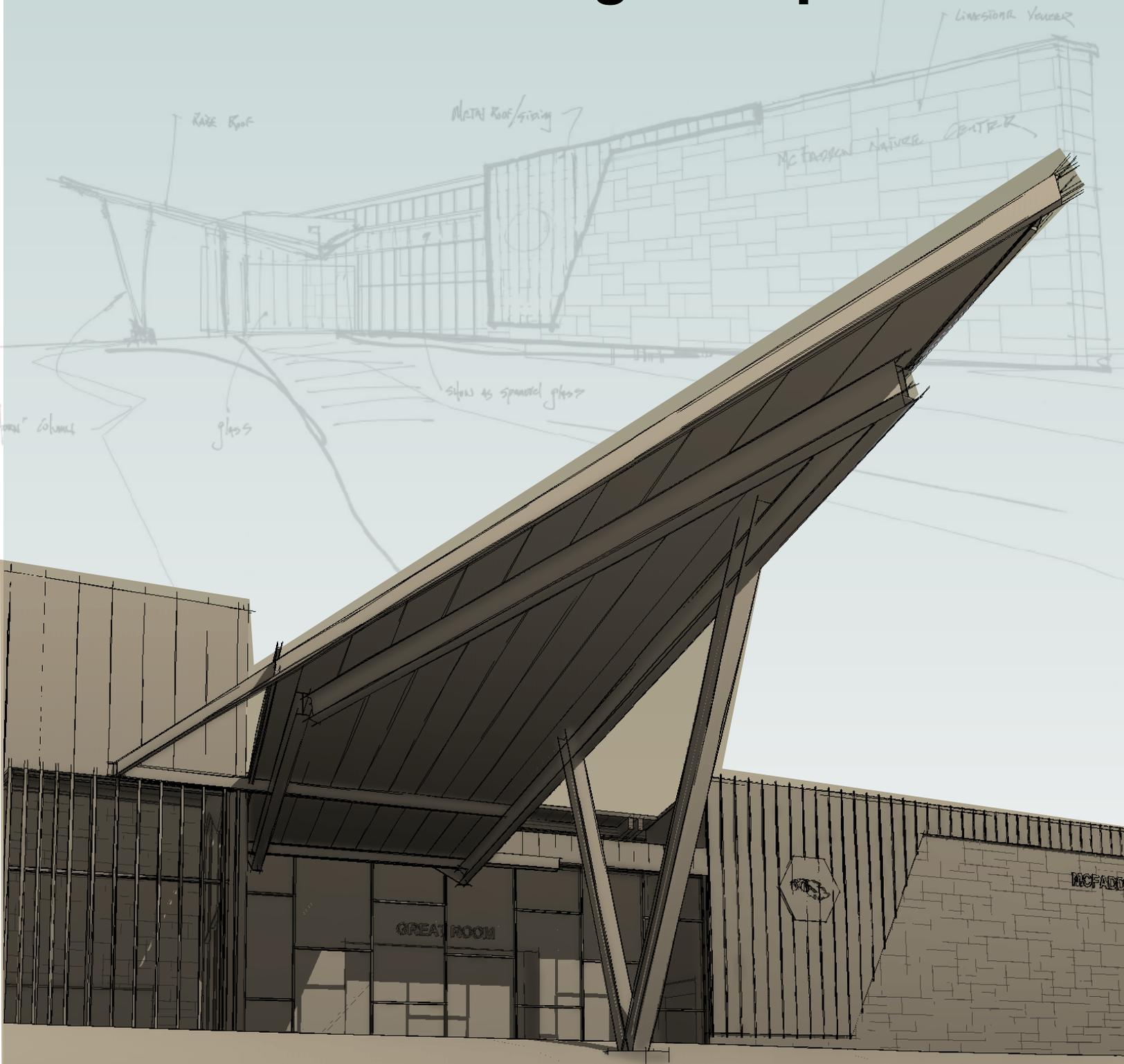


McFadden Nature Center

Architectural Design Competition



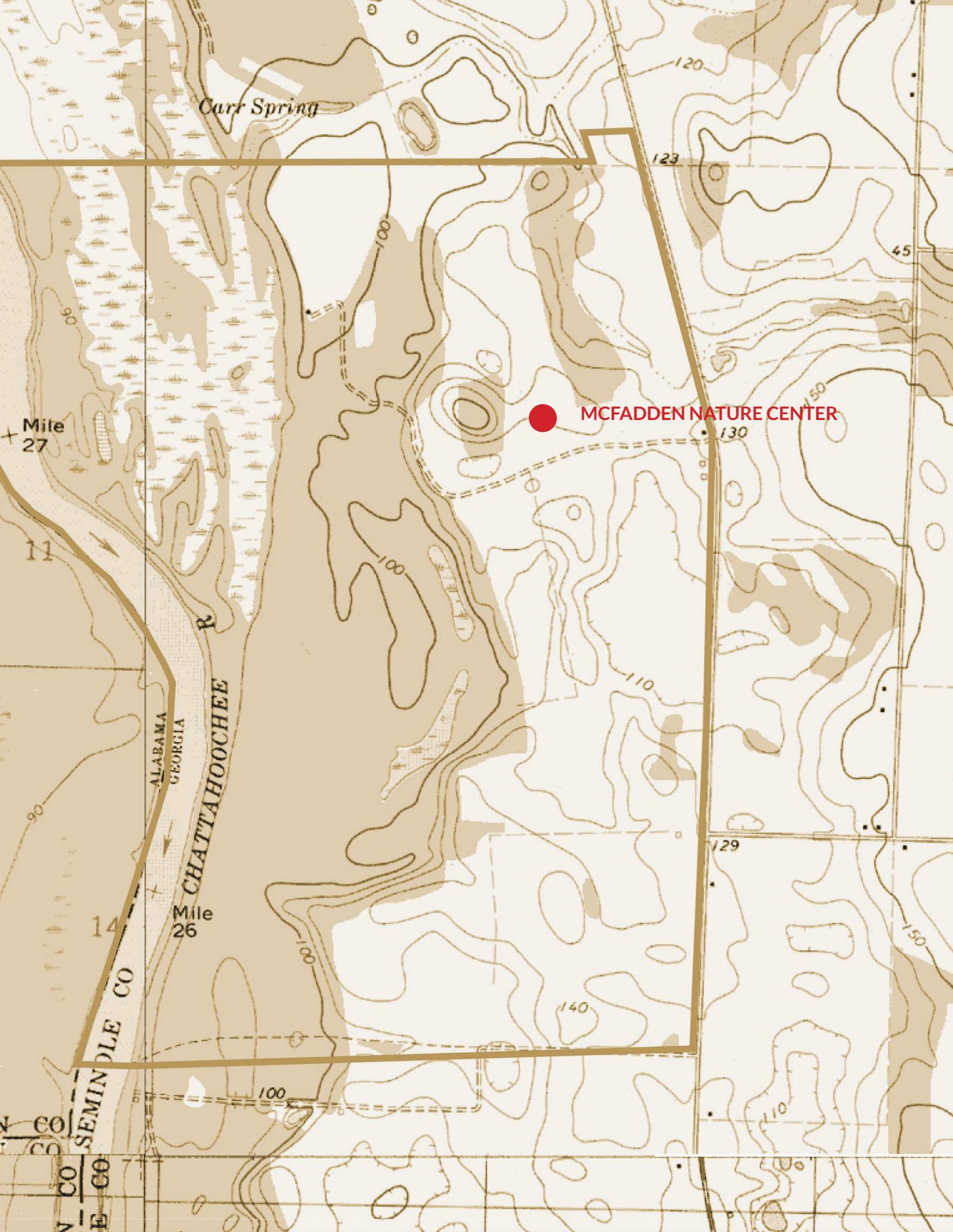


FOREWORD

Growing up, my mom and dad eagerly shared stories of their early lives in Donalsonville and Bainbridge – experiences drastically different from those I lived. My mother often jokes about how, for some time, my dad crossed the Chattahoochee River from Donalsonville to work in Alabama, often swimming the rest of the way when his small boat would fill with water. We visited Donalsonville often when I was a child. My grandmother’s home off GA-374 was underneath a pecan tree (which is all that remains today). My memories there consist of fishing in a small pond across the road and swinging on her hanging front porch swing. Occasionally, the prick from a sweetgum ball reminds me of roaming through her yard in the winter months.

This submission for the McFadden Nature Center is presented by a **highly qualified, multi-talented architectural design team**. It is with elevated pride through a delightful, serendipitous opportunity to have shared unique institutional knowledge of the Donalsonville area with the design team, including many memories passed down by my family. I hope that these unique narratives contribute to the character and finesse of this project.





Carr Spring

MCFADDEN NATURE CENTER

ALABAMA
GEORGIA
CHATTAHOOCHEE R.

Mile 27

Mile 26

SEMINOLE CO
N CO
E CO

120

123

45

150

130

100

110

129

140

150

100

110

“...Our mission is to preserve and protect the land, indigenous plants and animals and all things related to it in as good of quality as reasonably possible.”

INTRODUCTION

Our design team is pleased to present this conceptual design for the McFadden Nature Center on the McFadden Foundation property in Donalsonville, Georgia. It is our understanding that the forthcoming McFadden Nature Center project encompasses an **education center, lodging, and outdoor gathering** facility that will have an **impactful, positive influence on local and regional visitors**. The project, formerly known as the Lokchasassa Wilderness Project, was established with the intent to preserve the McFadden Foundation property for perpetuity. The future Nature Center will be built upon low, gently rolling hills on the river coast. The site is **surrounded by 1,260 acres of woods and wetlands with more than two miles of riverfront along the Chattahoochee River**. The Nature Center currently offers a self-guided tour where visitors journey through winding paths, from low-lying areas of hardwoods to regions of planted pines more upland. Wildflowers, native plants, and animals such as bobcats, deer, or gators, are frequently observed during excursions.





“...you should leave this world better than when you came into it.”



LEGACY

The Nature Center is named in honor of Larry “Pat” McFadden. Throughout his life, McFadden worked as a sign maker, airplane repairman, welder, boat captain, pilot, artist, stock market investor, and was an expert marksman. Domestically, he was an avid turkey hunter, but he was also known internationally as a great hunter. He is said to have left part of his heart in Africa. He also enjoyed reading, doing crossword puzzles, speechwriting, and collecting rare music boxes.

In 2002, along with his life partner, Angela Hagen, he helped set up People for the Welfare of Animals in the South (P.A.W.S.). By 2007, this organization rescued 1,800 cats and dogs, had them spayed or neutered, and helped them find their “fur”ever homes. In 2001, McFadden facilitated the property’s first “Hunt-On-Wheels” to help manage the deer population at the McFadden Nature Preserve. Additionally, the Nature Center hosts Boy Scouts of America troupes on-site to further their education in wildlife preservation.

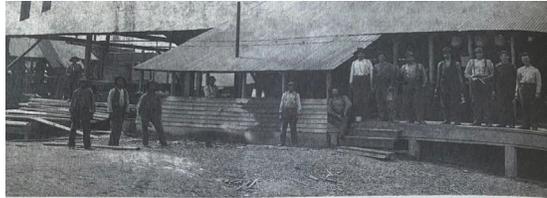
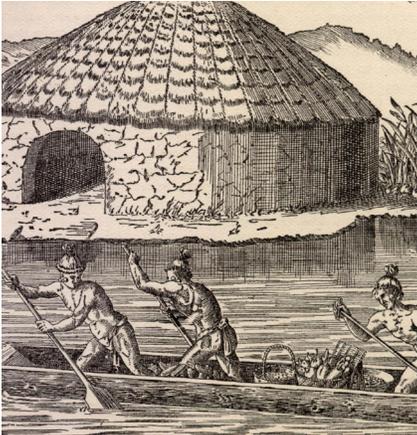
According to Mr. McFadden, “**you should leave this world better than when you came into it,**” a notion we share as a **responsibility inherent to the architectural profession.** We believe our proposed design best encompasses Mr. McFadden’s legacy and passions, as well as site components and sustainable local elements unique to Donalsonville and Seminole County, otherwise known as the “Cornerstone of Georgia.”

Sources: McFadden Nature Center; The Post-Searchlight

CONTEXT

The McFadden Nature Center property is located in Donalsonville, Georgia, at the heart of Seminole County, named for the Seminole Indians (part of the Muskhogean tribe which, at a point, occupied the lower Chattahoochee River area) whose influences can still be found throughout the region. The town itself was founded in 1987 and named after John Earnest Donalson, who built the first lumber mill in the area. In its early days, spiritual life dominated the community. Early homes drew architectural influences from log churches, which served as both places to worship and to socialize. Agriculture played a critical role in establishing the town. Early settlers prospered by ways of farming and livestock. Later, turpentine stills added to the economy, followed by lumber mills. The lumber industry catalyzed growth in the area thanks to the abundance of local pines. Rafts made from local timber eased shipping and travel woes, and ushered trade along the Chattahoochee River to Apalachicola. Donalsonville later became a leader in the production of cotton and peanuts. Thanks to its well-kept, lush green pastures, Donalsonville lures many people from Georgia and throughout the United States to study its prosperous soils and livestock populations.

Sources: Cornerstone of Georgia (pub. 1991), Personal Accounts



Donalsonville Lumber Company

History of Donalsonville
Donalsonville (Ga.) News, Friday, December 12

This history was compiled in 1939 by Beardsley for The Woman's Club.

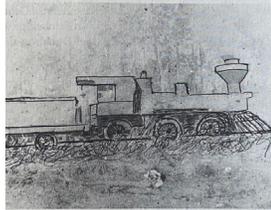
In the latter part of the eighteenth century, a family migrated to the extreme southwest corner of Georgia, Decatur County, and homesteaded land where part of the City of Donalsonville. They had no neighbors living near them. Five family died and was buried near the home as a cemetery near.

Later a Methodist Church called the Old Church was built near this small cemetery. Mr. Donalson donated the land and he and Mr. Pitts built it for the community. Rev. James Stafford was the first pastor.

The farm was sold to Mr. W.H. Cherr. He migrated to this county from North Carolina and reached into the section called Decatur Heights.

Mr. John E. Donalson bought the virgin land in this section of the county, which includes these days the City of Donalsonville. The town was started, at two and one-half dollars an acre, and built a turpentine still.

Later he built a sawmill here, also some "cottages" for his employees to live in. He also built a store to furnish food for them. Mr. Donalson was the first to build a store here.

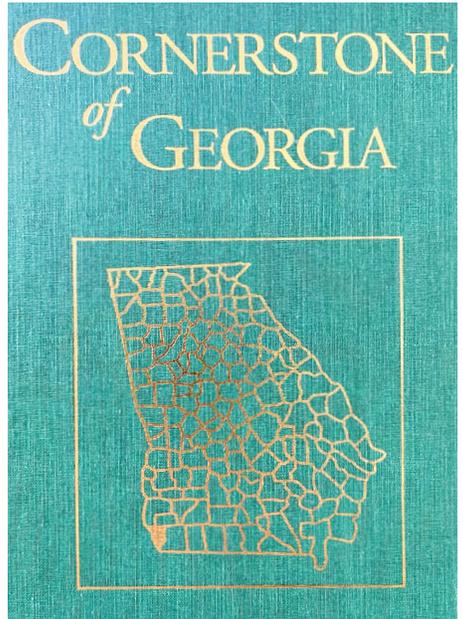
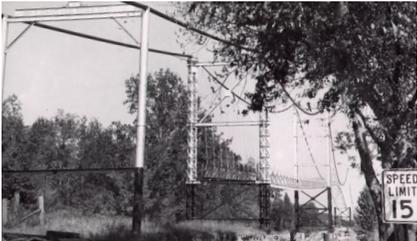


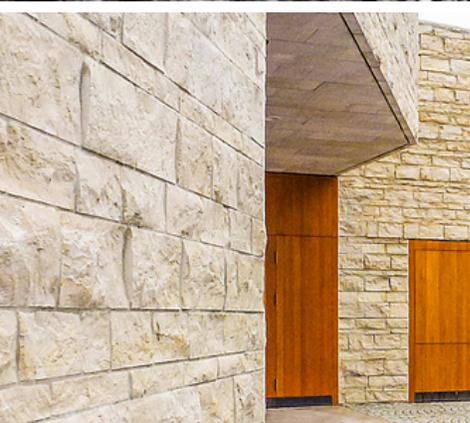
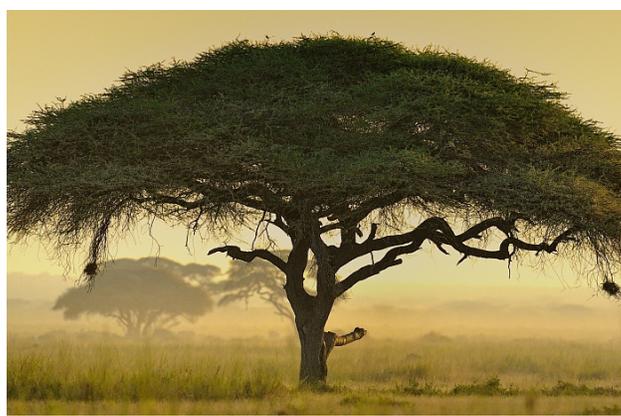
Tram train of Donalson Lumber Company



at Union Primitive Baptist Church in Donalsonville were spread on the flat cars for the train. The train was a service provided for the employees and friends. The first pastor was Big John Merkison, who was buried in the cemetery near the church.

Submitted by Reuben Parker





INSPIRATION

Our design distinctly reflects Pat McFadden's **lifelong, ferocious curiosity** along with his passions and bountiful interests. In a juxtaposition of locally-native elements with fundamental aspects of the African wilderness, the Nature Center synthesizes personality with character and function. The structure blends construction-types in the **vernacular of local Native American tribes and early settlers** with modern compositions. The design pays homage to **local antiquity**, including the design of early bridges crossing the Chattahoochee, which greatly improved travel and local commerce.

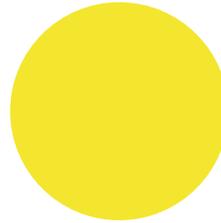
Sustainability and endurance primarily influenced material selections and other details found in both the structure and façade. These aspects of the design leverage combinations of natural elements, such as limestone and wood paired with glass and steel. The design is also based upon efficiency. In nature, the hexagon is found to be the most efficient structural shape. Its geometry uses the least amount of material to support the most weight.

The umbrella thorn acacia tree (vachellia tortilis) provides the prevailing form for the structure. One of the most recognizable trees on the African savanna, it grows in a spectacular canopy-like configuration. Its thorns are disguised within its flower clusters, a natural defense mechanism that prevents savanna animals from eating their leaves, flowers, and seedpods. Its shape provides shade and a place for gathering; a refuge from the sun during harsh summer months. **Our team architecturalized the forms of this iconic African tree to capture the ethos of McFadden's love for the continent as well as the enduring, tolerant, and sanctuary characteristics of the umbrella thorn acacia.**



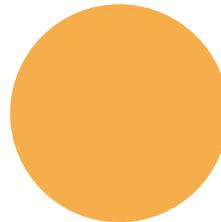
PALETTE

Working in parallel, yet building contrast, with elements of the domestic landscape, this color palette is inspired by the glowing warmth of an African sunset in contrast with the rising nightfall and silhouettes of nature against the horizon. Particular inspiration is drawn from the iconic Signal Hill located in Table Mountain National Park, known as one of the best sunset points in Cape Town, Africa. These radiant hues and their relative tints can be used throughout the design to develop site character and sweeping visual motion.



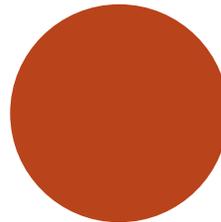
GOLDEN DREAM

CMYK: 7,2,92,0
RGB: 244,230,46
HEX: #F3E52D



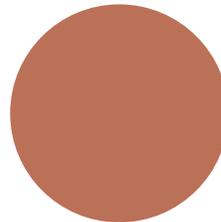
CASABLANCA

CMYK: 2,35,81,0
RGB: 245,175,74
HEX: #F5AE4A



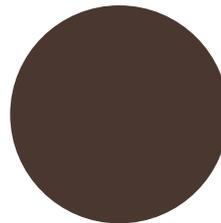
ORANGE ROUGHY

CMYK: 20,86,100,10
RGB: 185,67,27
HEX: #B9431B



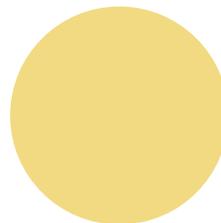
SANTA FE

CMYK: 22,62,67,6
RGB: 187,113,88
HEX: #BB7158



ROCK

CMYK: 55,65,58,55
RGB: 74,56,48
HEX: #493730



BUFF

CMYK: 6,11,59,0
RGB: 242,218,130
HEX: #F2DA82

MATERIALS

Through the use of highly sustainable and locally sourced materials, this design creates diverse textures that work in harmony with the adjacent landscape. Exterior limestone depicts the enduring, naturally-formed sedimentary rock found throughout the region and alludes to the new facility's enduring ethos. Corten steel translates rust from a negative symbol of aging into a beautiful primary aesthetic. The use of pine blends the new facility seamlessly with the beauty of the surrounding pine forests, evoking a warm, welcoming charm for both the Education Facility and the Lodging areas. The contrasting black steel features are utilized for supporting the structure, nodding to the umbrella thorn acacia.

LIMESTONE



CORTEN STEEL



BLACK STEEL



PINE



LANDSCAPE

Through the research of plants and grasses native to Southwest Georgia, multiple plant styles with various foliage colors are proposed for strategic use throughout the site. The intent of this exercise is to **stimulate future discussions** of which trees inspire gathering and togetherness; and which plants promote longevity and preservation.



BAHIA GRASS
PASPALUM NOTATUM



MUHLY GRASS
MUHLENBERGIA CAPILLARIS



CHINESE PISTACHE
PISTACIA CHINENSIS



LIVE OAK
QUERCUS VIRGINIANA

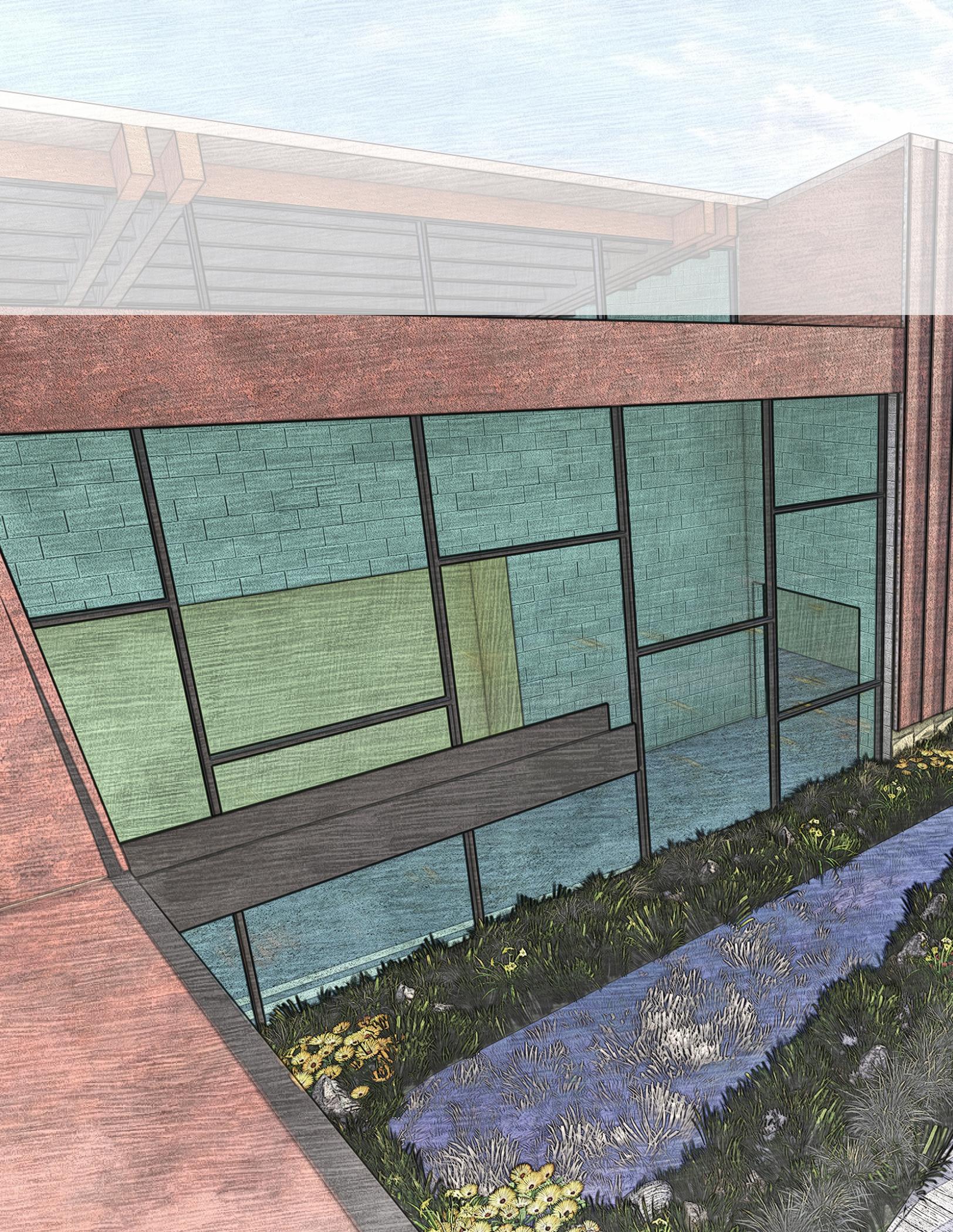


YELLOW TROUT LILY
ERYTHRONIUM AMERICANUM



RUDBECKIA
RUDBECKIA HIRTA

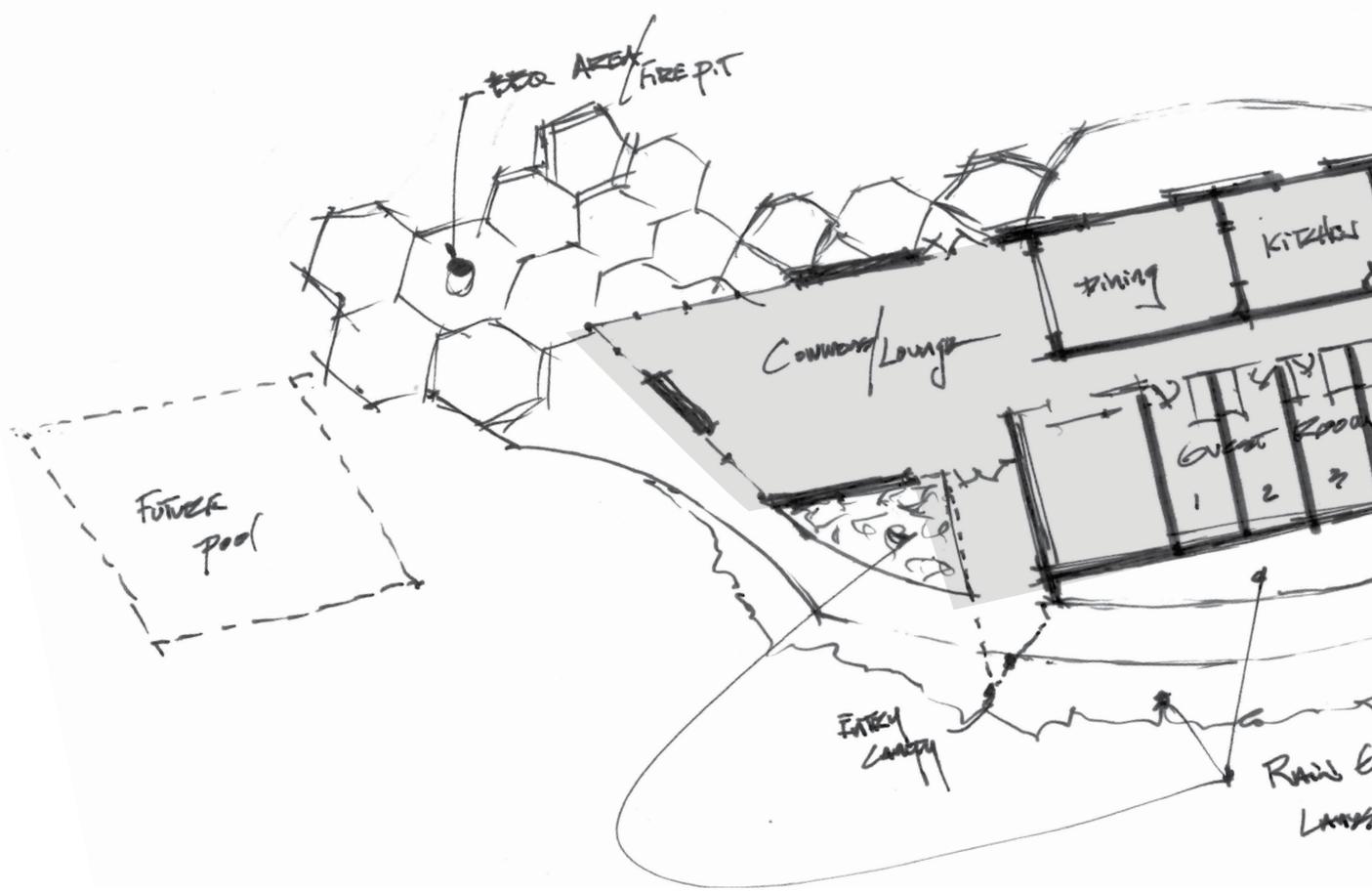
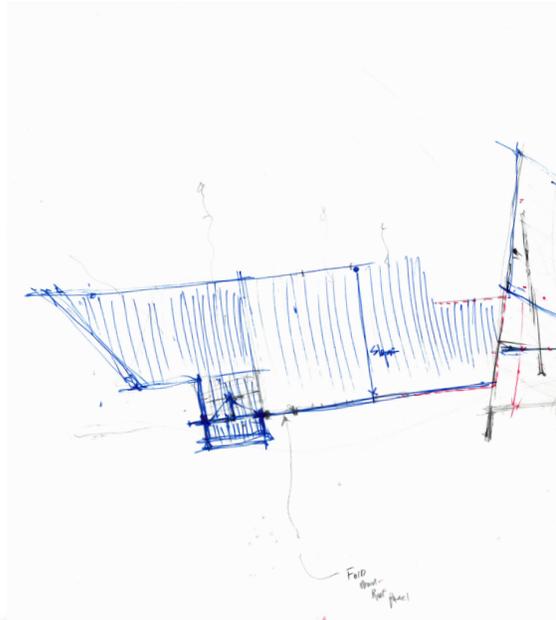
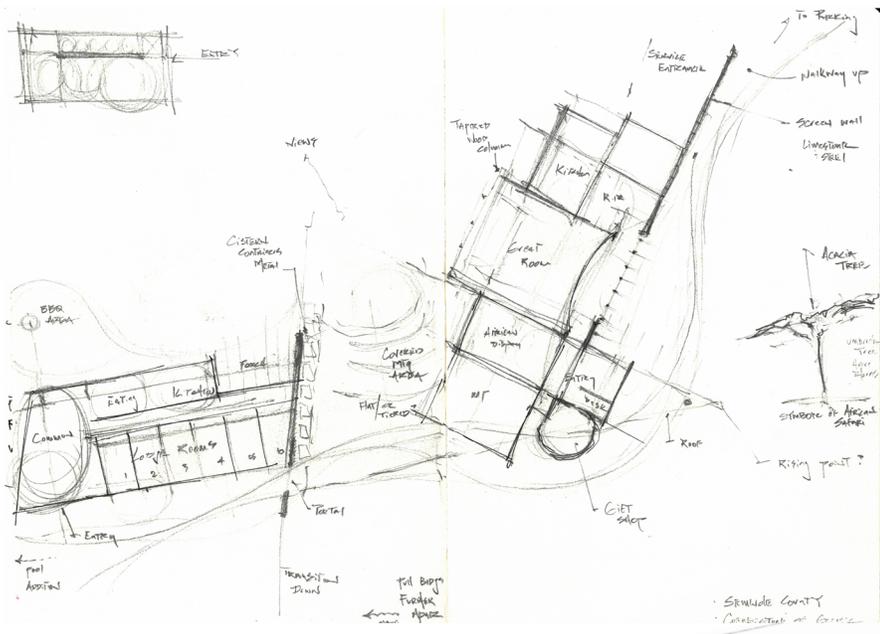


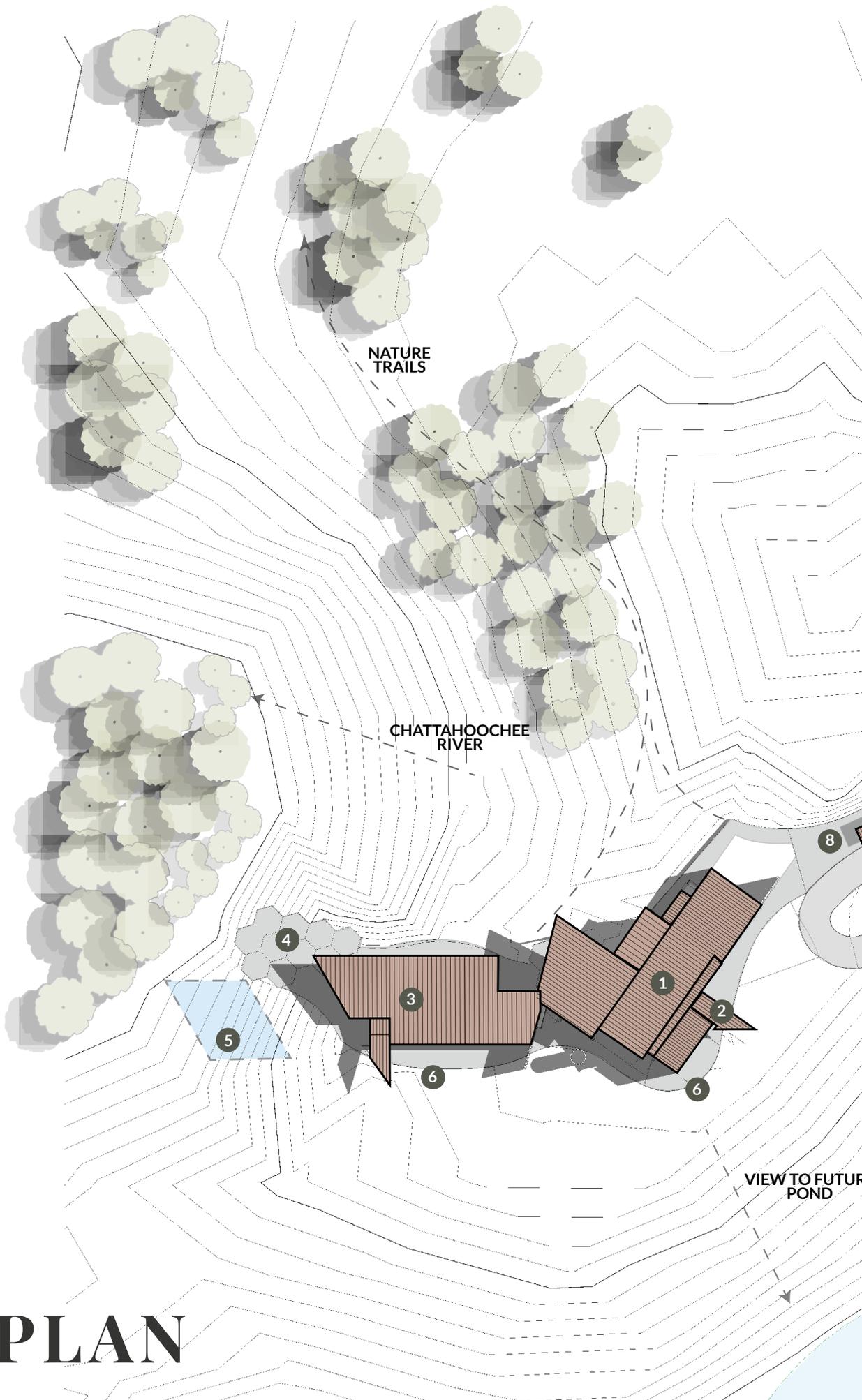


SUSTAINABILITY

In addition to utilizing local lumber, limestone, and materials inherent to preserving the native landscape, the proposed design also includes a rainwater harvesting system. As a civil engineering “best management practice,” this technology collects and stores rainwater for human use. The winged shape of the roof provides an aesthetic form and also function, as it guides runoff water to the rain gardens. The rain gardens incorporated in the design are part of the overall harvesting system, utilizing natural fauna and rock elements in a natural aesthetic to treat the water. The cistern is also to be utilized for perimeter irrigation, further reducing the facility’s environmental impact.





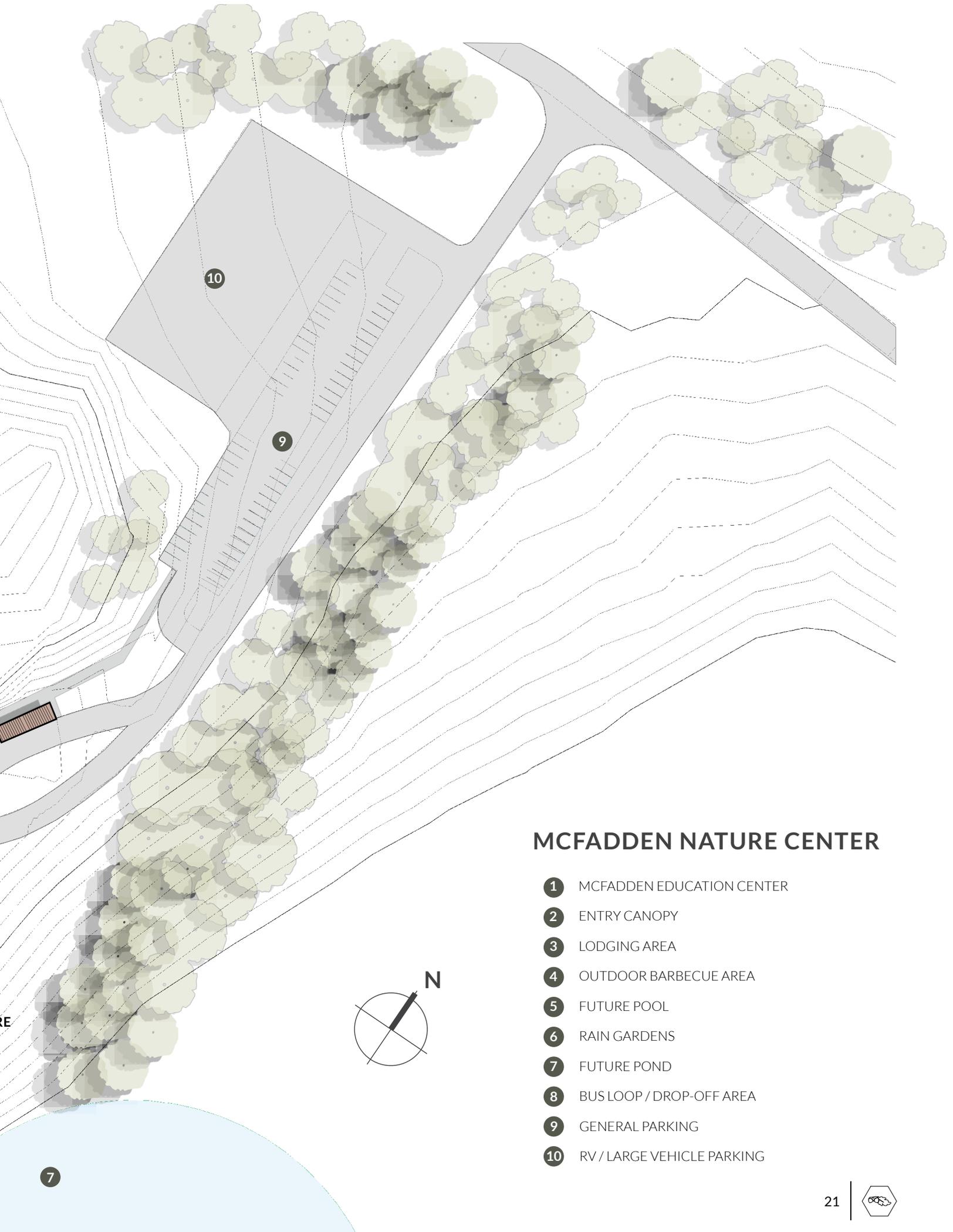


NATURE TRAILS

CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER

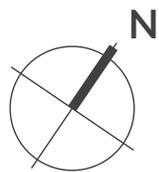
VIEW TO FUTURE POND

SITE PLAN



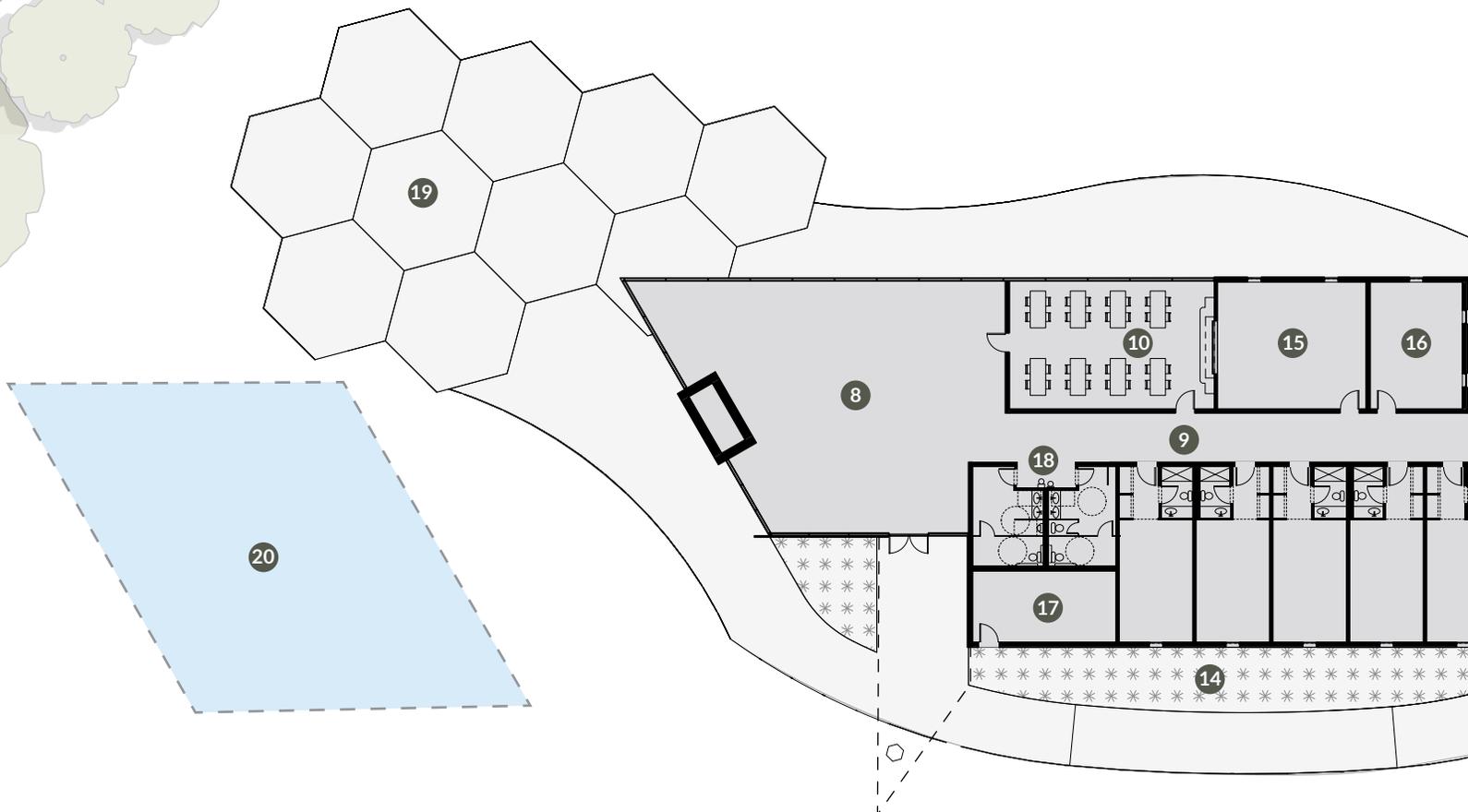
MCFADDEN NATURE CENTER

- ① MCFADDEN EDUCATION CENTER
- ② ENTRY CANOPY
- ③ LODGING AREA
- ④ OUTDOOR BARBECUE AREA
- ⑤ FUTURE POOL
- ⑥ RAIN GARDENS
- ⑦ FUTURE POND
- ⑧ BUS LOOP / DROP-OFF AREA
- ⑨ GENERAL PARKING
- ⑩ RV / LARGE VEHICLE PARKING

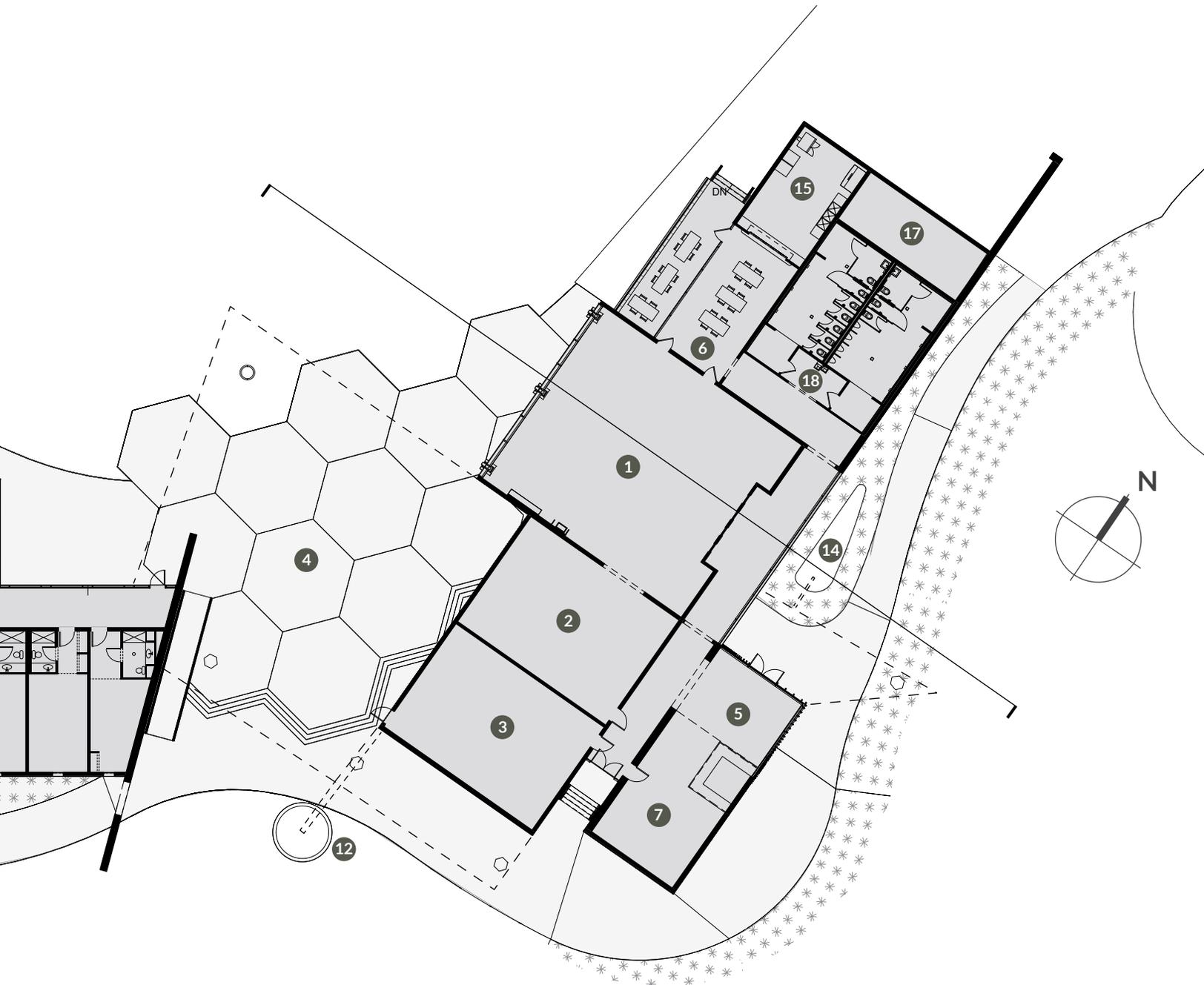


MCFADDEN NATURE CENTER

- 1 GREAT ROOM
- 2 AFRICA ROOM
- 3 MULTI PURPOSE
- 4 COVERED MEETING AREA
- 5 LOBBY
- 6 CAFE
- 7 GIFT SHOP
- 8 COMMONS / LOUNGE
- 9 GUEST ROOMS
- 10 DINING
- 11 PATIO
- 12 CISTERN
- 13 RAIN GARDEN
- 14 SERVICE DRIVE
- 15 KITCHEN
- 16 LAUNDRY
- 17 MECH / ELECTRICAL
- 18 RESTROOMS
- 19 BBQ AREA / FIRE PIT
- 20 FUTURE POOL

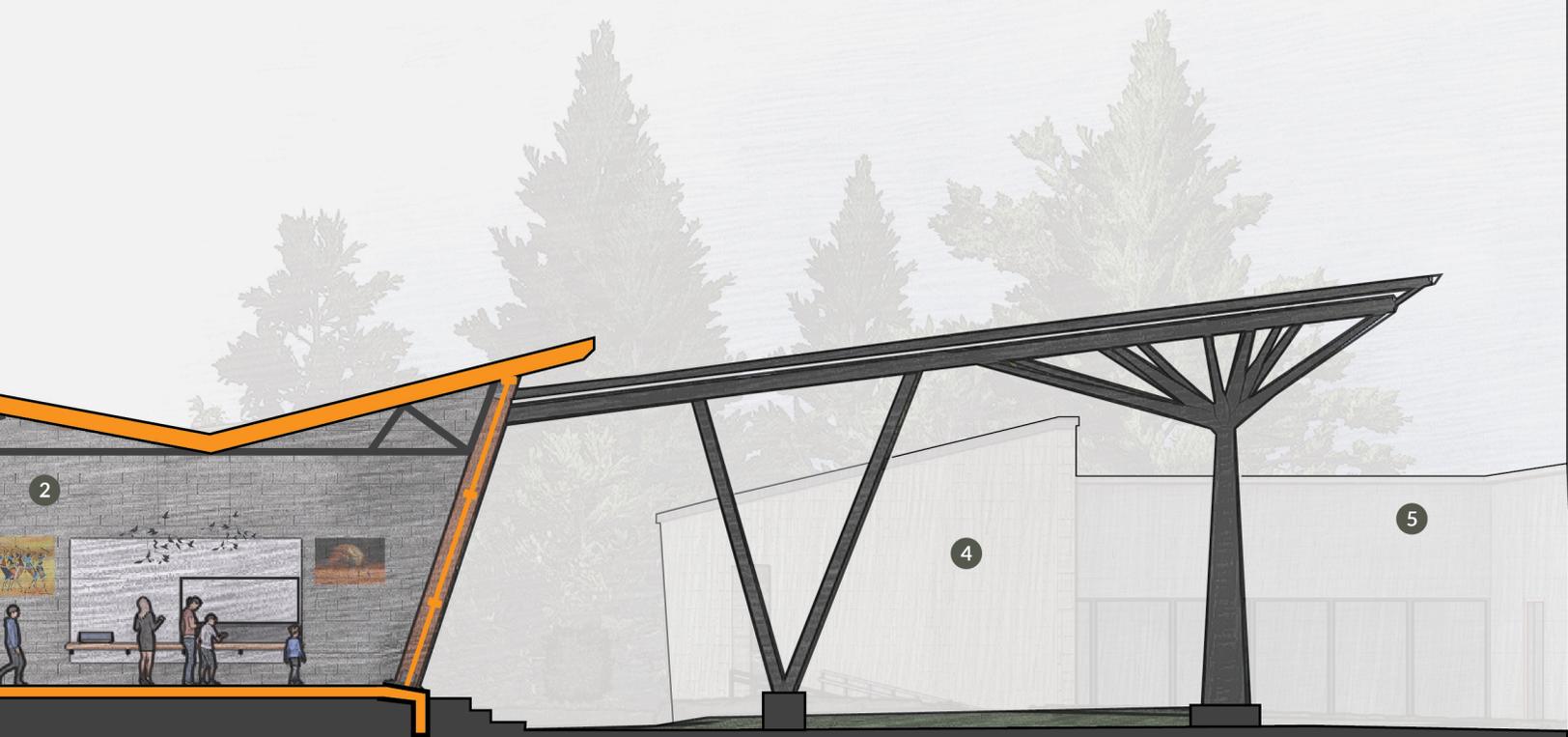


FLOOR PLAN



CROSS SECTION





- 1 ENTRY CANOPY
- 2 GREAT ROOM
- 3 COVERED MEETING AREA
- 4 AFRICA ROOM
- 5 LODGING AREA

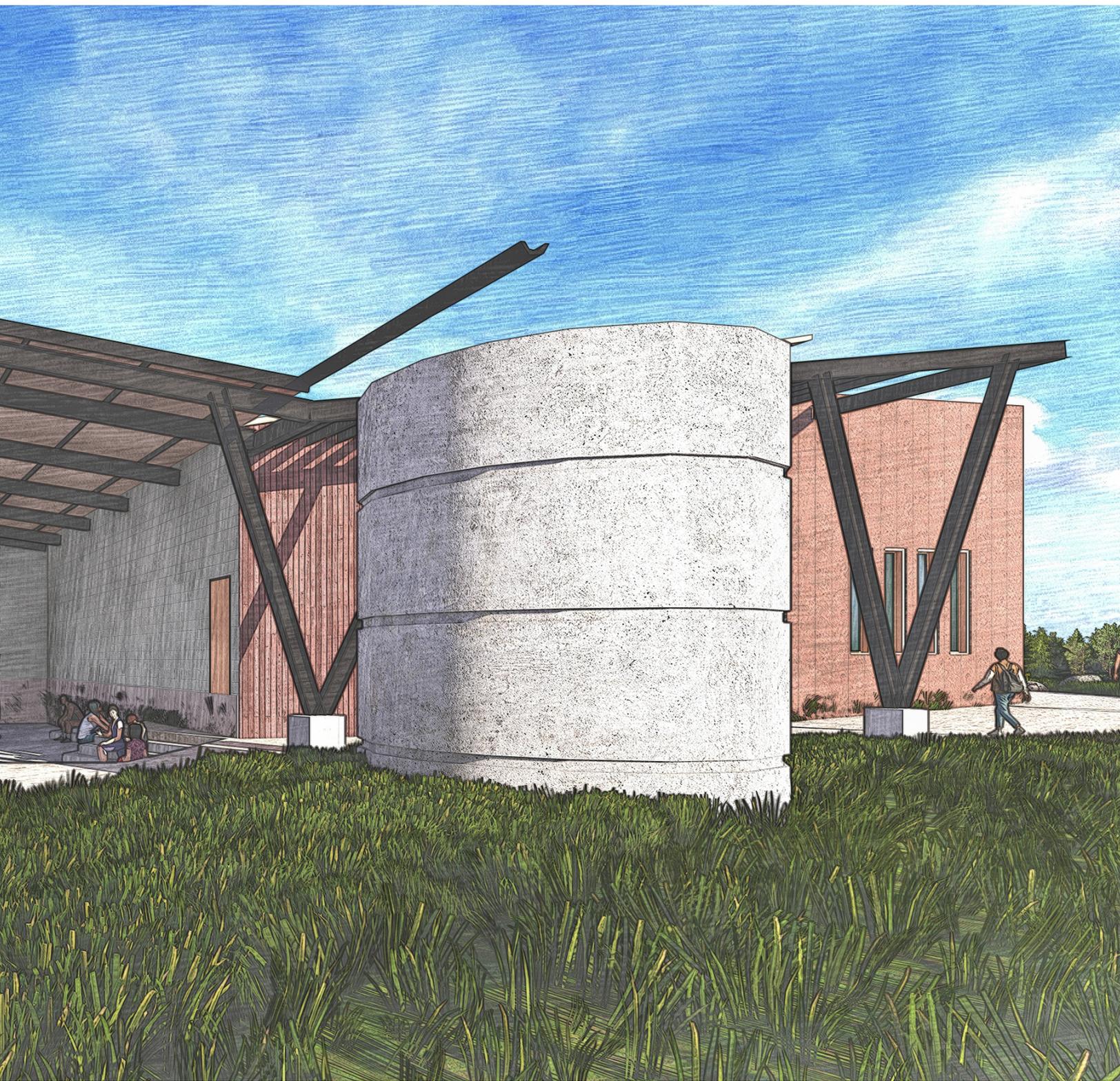
SIGNATURE IMAGE



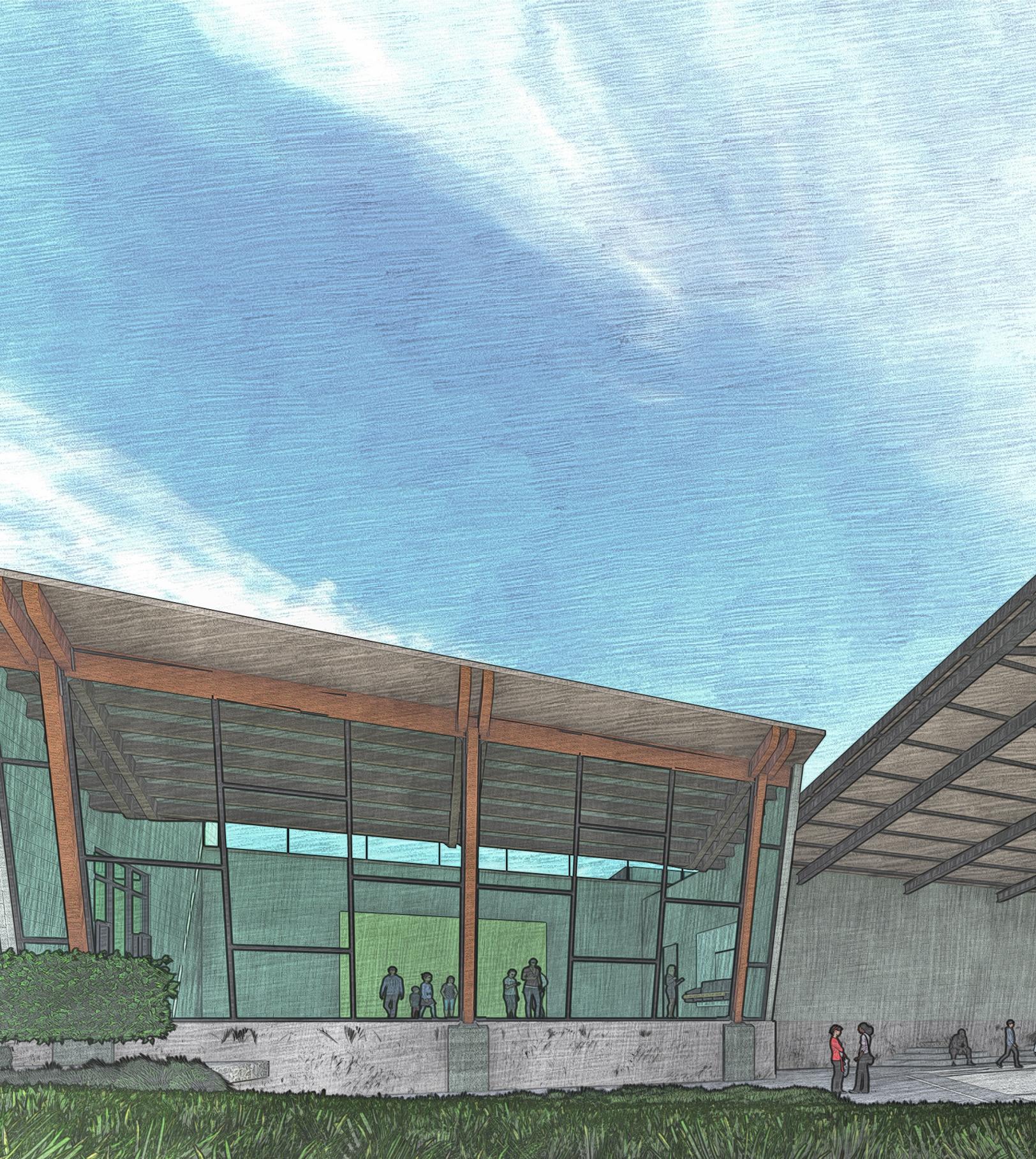


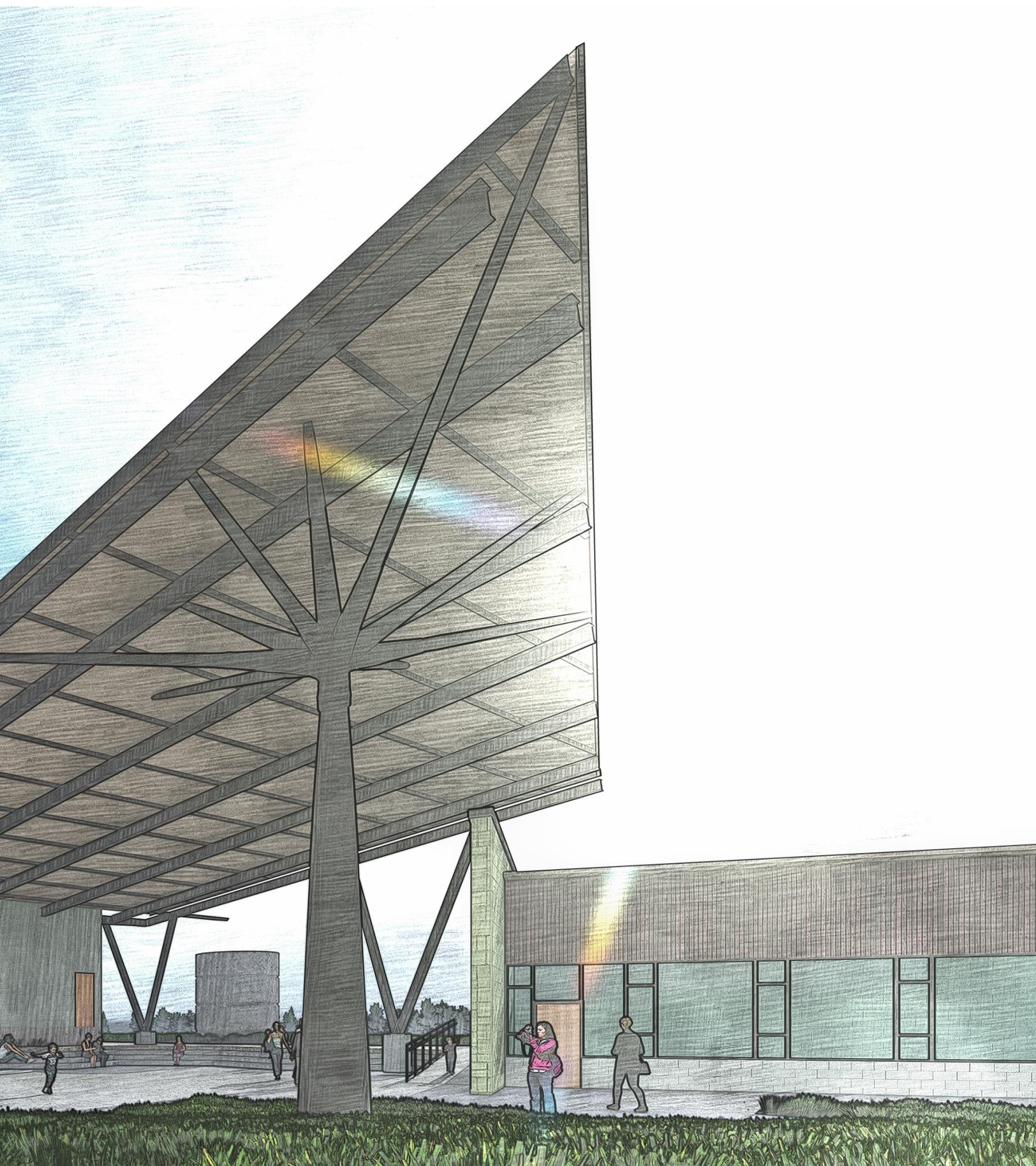
GATHERING AREA



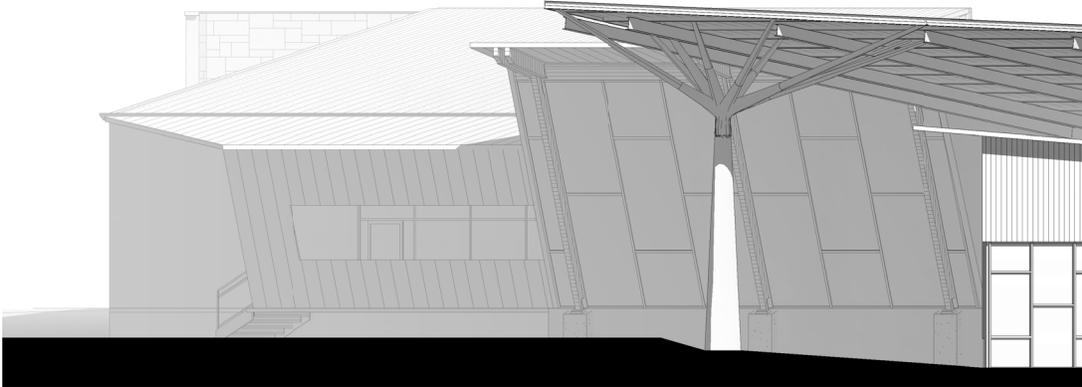
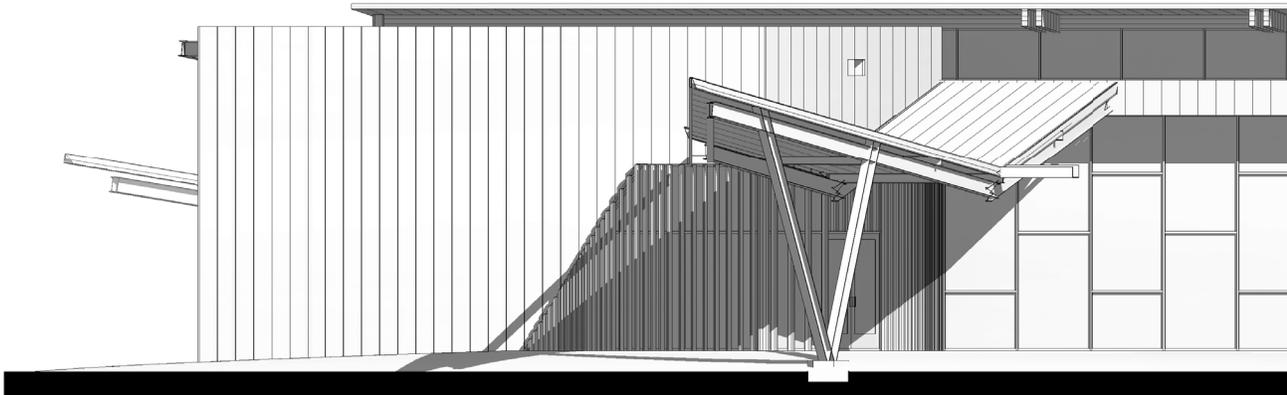


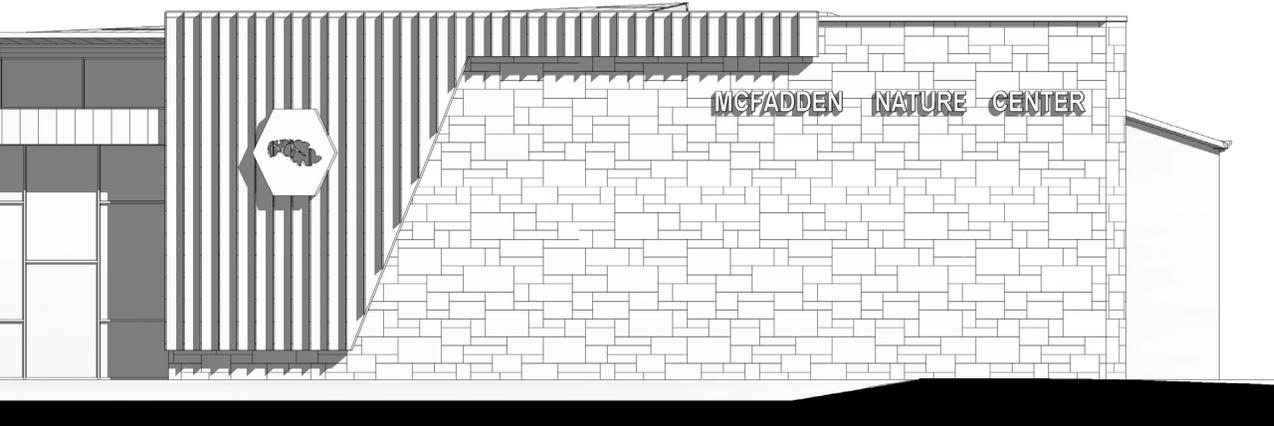
GREAT ROOM VISTA



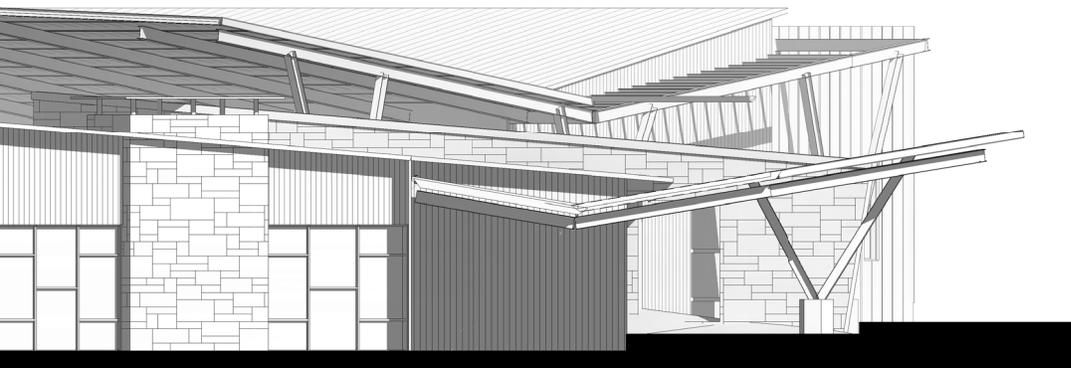


EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS





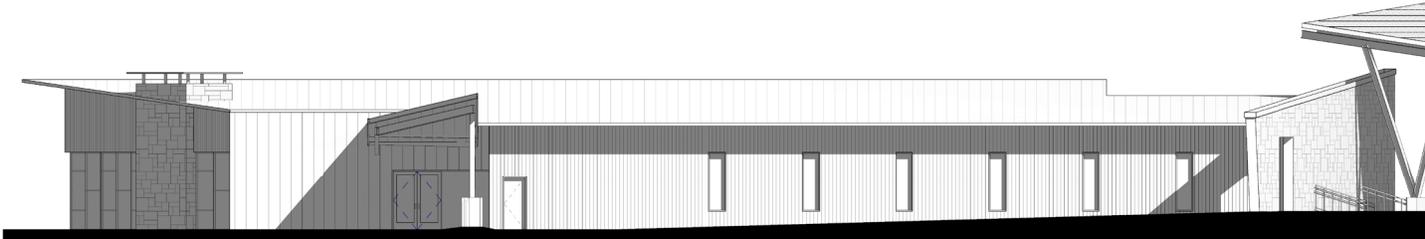
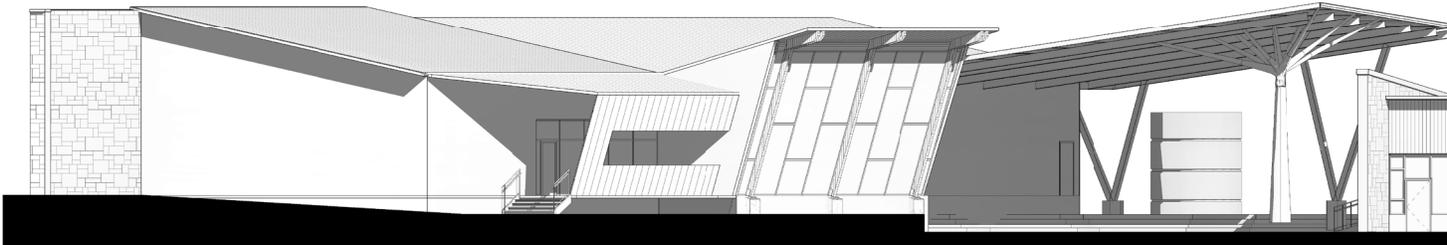
NORTHEAST ELEVATION



SOUTHWEST ELEVATION

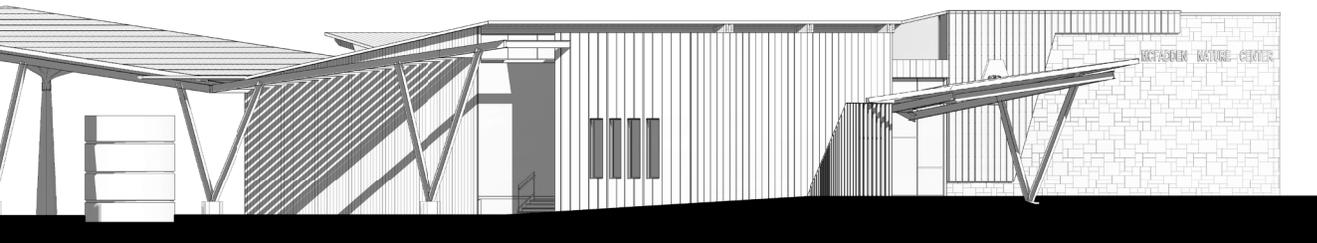


EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS





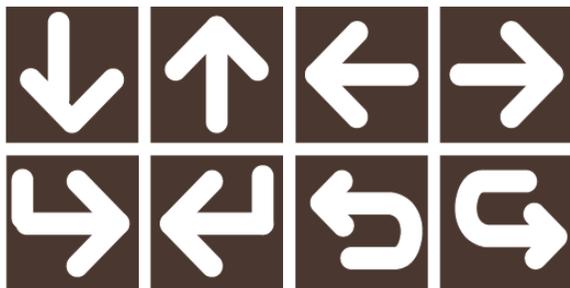
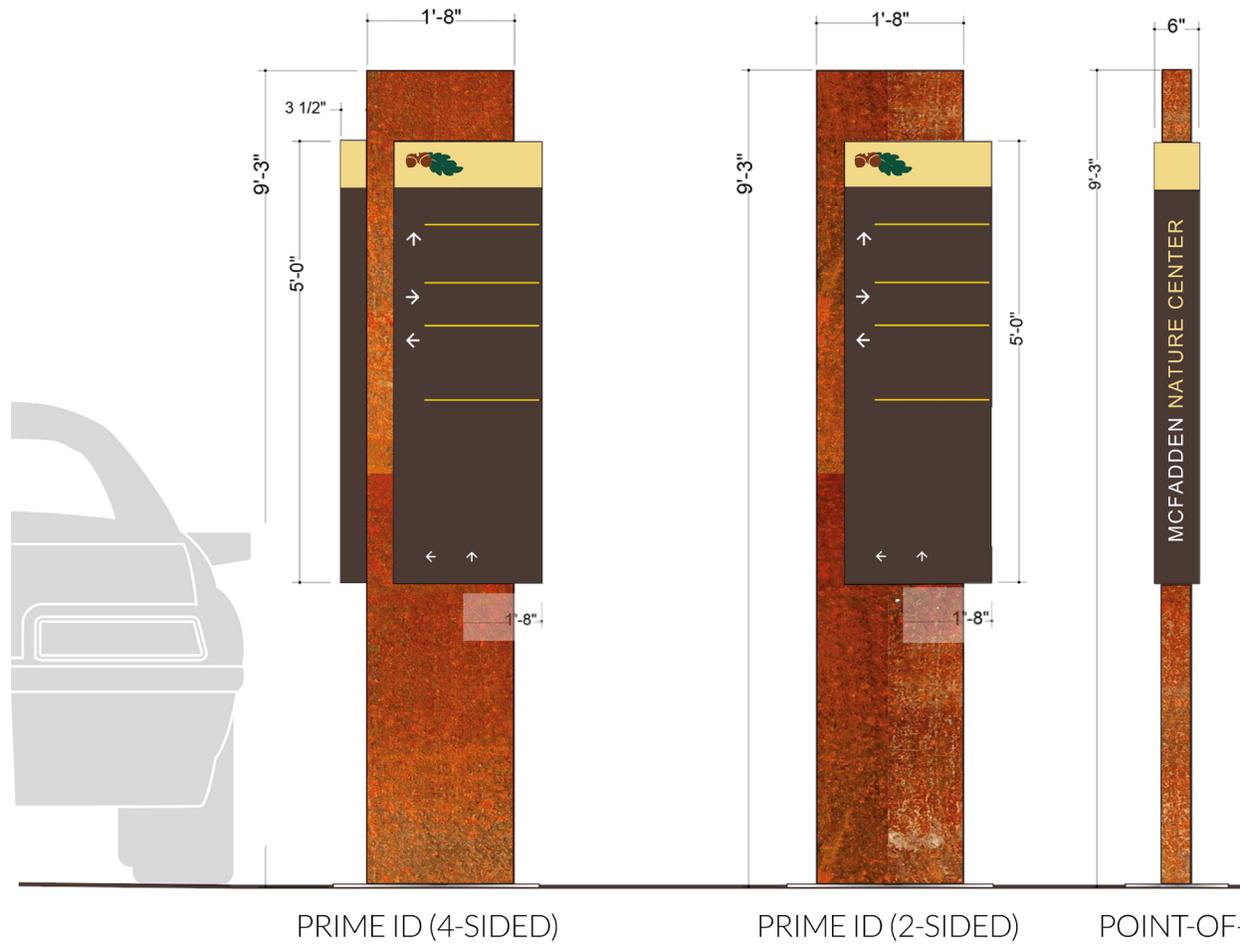
NORTHWEST ELEVATION

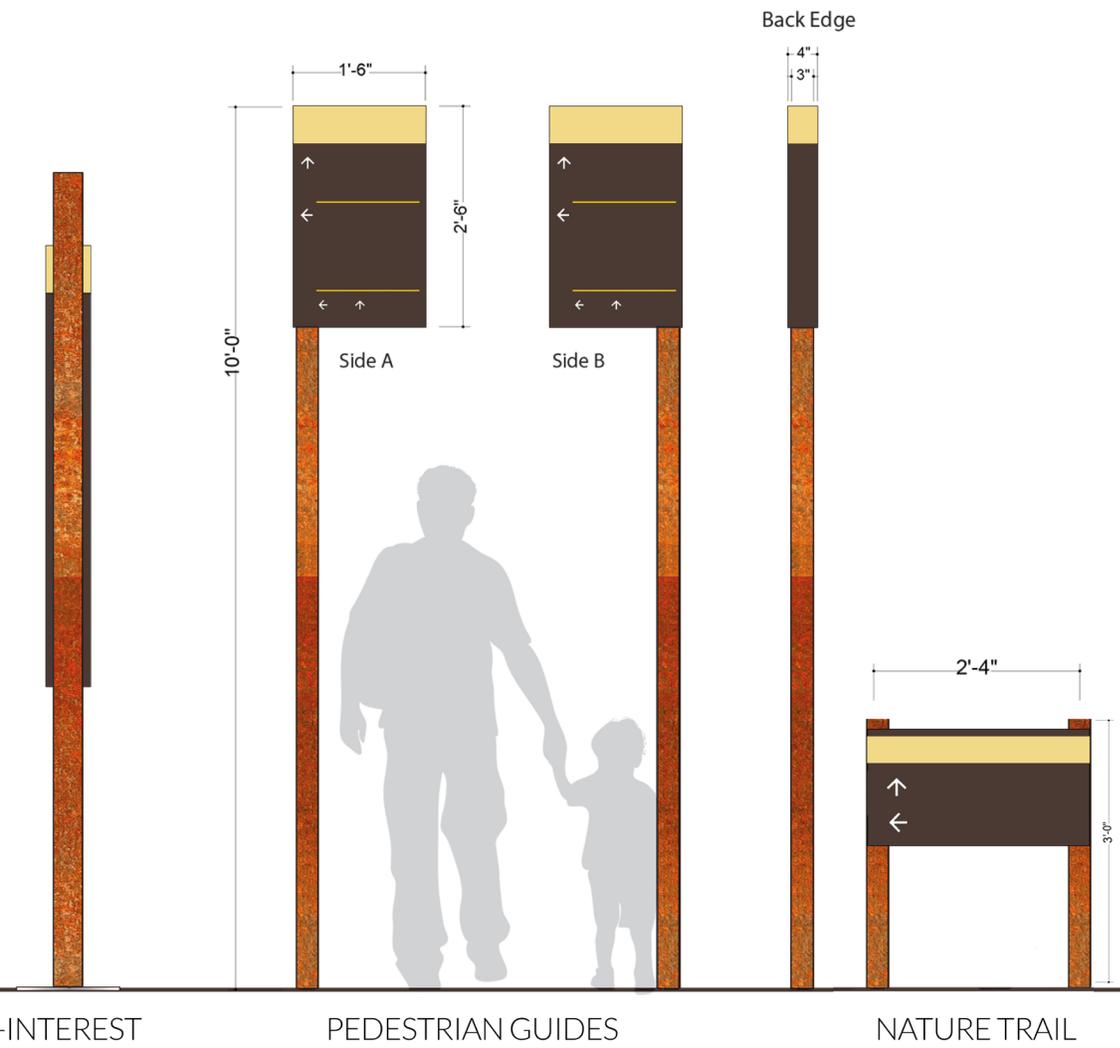


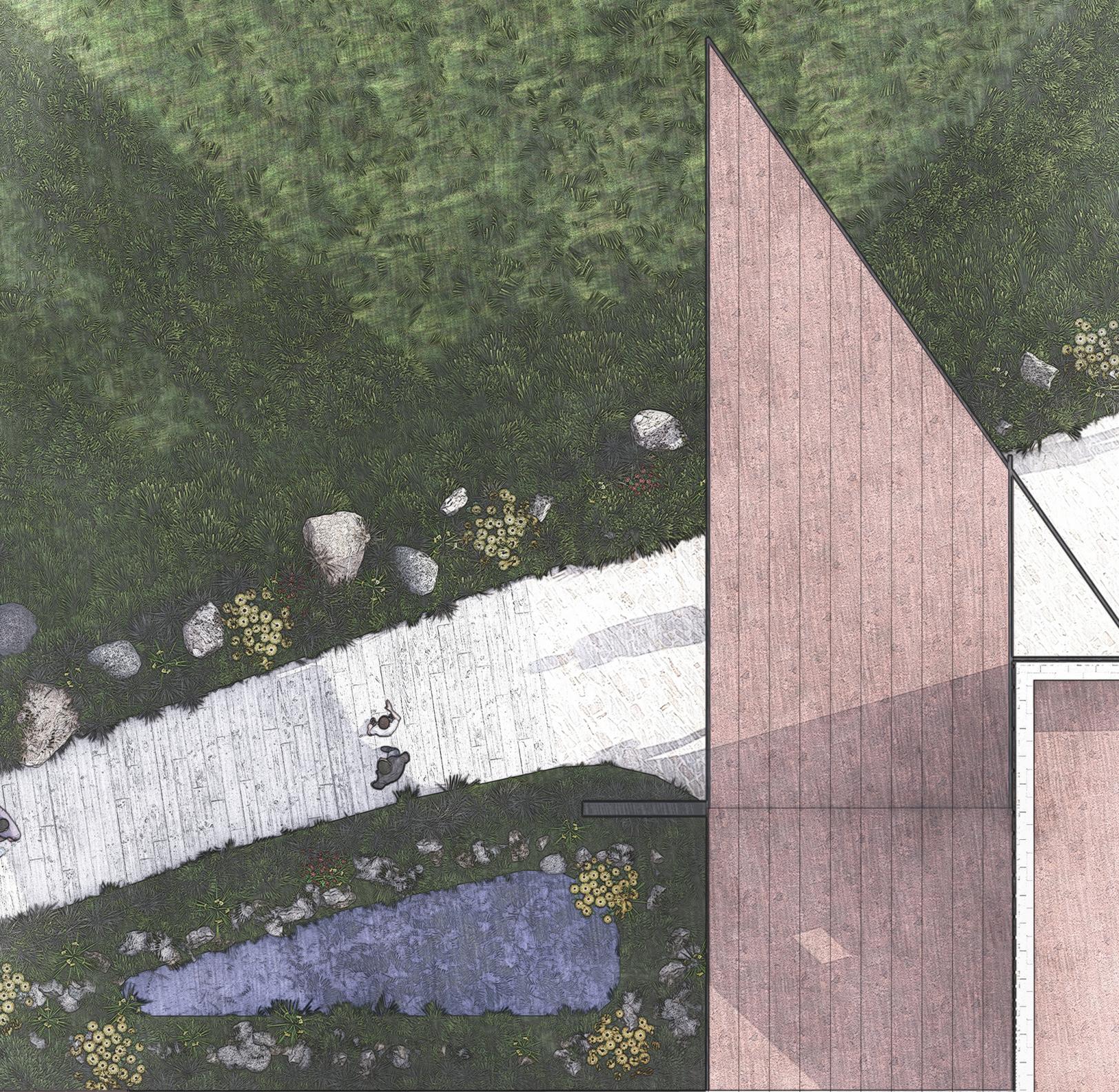
SOUTHEAST ELEVATION



WAYFINDING SIGNAGE







STRAUGHN TROUT
ARCHITECTS

2005 E. EDGEWOOD DRIVE LAKELAND, FL 33803 863.665.6205 LIC. NO. AA0002278