



ISOLATED ARCHITECTURE



FINDING SOLIDARITY IN ISOLATION



Isolated Architecture : Finding Solidarity in Isolation

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Thesis submitted to the faculty of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in partial fulfillment and the requirement for the degree of

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in
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Isolated Architecture : Finding Solidarity in Isolation

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Abstract

Throughout history, humans have stigmatized solitude. We see it as an inconvenience, something to avoid, a punishment. As a society today, we are constantly locked on to our phones, televisions, friend groups and generally being around people. It is an over stimulation that has damaging effects to our mental well-being. We need to be around people because we are a social species. Because of this we think the idea of being alone as a problem, as something strange, an unwanted behavior. I believe there is a misunderstanding between the idea of isolation with separation and loneliness.

The world's population is increasing every year and we often find ourselves trapped in overcrowded cities. Finding a special quiet place to get away and gather your thoughts is difficult in an environment like this. This is a major stress factor that contributes to the large spread of depression and anxiety that we find in our world. These cities come with many stressors such as density, excessive stimuli, competition and materialism, disconnection and even uncertainty in a constantly moving and changing environment.

This thesis is the exploration of intentional solitude which is the idea of wanting to be alone. Being alone has many benefits that go beyond what most people think. Scientists and psychologists today are finding that isolation can be very beneficial to the human mind and can be therapeutic if done so by choice. Intentional solitude can also be beneficial for groups as well. This works when individual group members set off and isolate for a certain period and then regroup later to share their own experience. By doing this, the group gains new experiences and ideas that would otherwise be unachievable if done so alone.

To best achieve solidarity, the design of the wellness retreat will include a main communal building, called the hearth, and a set of smaller individual structures, called shelters. These shelters will be located at different points throughout the site and provide an isolated, natural experience for self-reflection. The hearth will be the area for communal gatherings and to share ideas and experiences found through isolation.



Isolated Architecture : Finding Solidarity in Isolation

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General Audience Abstract

People in today's society are so consumed by their phones, media and life itself that they often forget to save time for themselves. Research has shown that finding time for solitude and isolation to gather one's thoughts and relax has proven to be a major help in terms of mental health.

This thesis involves a wellness retreat which was designed for such people in order to help them reflect on themselves through the exposure to architecture and the natural environment. The project involves two major aspects. One is the main central communal building called the hearth. This is where all the visitors will reconvene everyday to share their personal experiences. The second part of this project are the separate isolation shelters that are spread out through the wooded site. These locations will be used for personal intentional solitude. This is where each visitor will spend most of their time alone with both architecture and nature. The shelters and the hearth are connected to each other through several trails on the site.





Acknowledgments

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INTRODUCTION

1

INTRODUCTION

Goal

The idea for the thesis began in September. Due to the covid-19 pandemic, the worlds need for separation has been greatly tested. The objective was to discover how isolation could affect people physically and mentally. There is also the belief that the human spirit needs to escape sometimes from the constraints of the urban environment. For this thesis the design a wellness retreat was developed based off people that need to escape from their daily lives. It is a place for people with depression, anxiety and stress. People that need a change in their constant unchanging lives.

To disconnect from the urban world by connecting back with the natural environment through architecture has always been a big design opportunity that I wanted to take on. By providing a place of solidarity, guests can escape their urban lives in order to truly experience themselves for who they really are. This wellness retreat will provide a place for proper, quiet and solitary conteplation and self-reflection. The project will be intertwined with the geological landscape of the site in order to blend in with nature. The architecture will not only be its own object in the landscape, but also a part of the very experience of the surroundings. To help emphasize this connection with nature the project will be utilizing certain techniques to make the buildings off the grid and self-sustaining.



INTRODUCTION

Depression

Throughout history, humans have stigmatized solitude. We see it as an inconvenience, something to avoid, a punishment. As a society today, we are constantly locked on to our phones, televisions, and friend groups. We need to be around people because we are a social species. We think of the idea of being alone as a problem, something strange, an unwanted behavior.

I think we confuse the idea of isolation with separation and loneliness.

The three images to the right (FIG 1.) show three lino-block prints that I have done to tell a story of depression, escape and peace.

Depression: shows a person with the feeling of being trapped in a city. The person has two options. One is to continue downward into this spiraling depression (represented by the whole in the ground) or the second choice which is to allow hope to heal the soul (represented by the gold quarter-sphere in the corner) The hope is not in the city, and thus the person needs to seek it elsewhere.

Escape: Is about the actual act of pursuing this hope by any means necessary. In this case it is leaving the city in search of this hope.

Peace: Is the final act where this person is fully engulfed in the hope they have been searching for. The city is still apart of this person, but it is in the back of their mind, secondary to the total experience of solidarity



FIG. 1

INTRODUCTION

Depression

The world's population is increasing every year and we often find ourselves trapped in cities that are quickly becoming overcrowded.

The population in Washington DC alone has increased by over 14.6% since 2010 (1)

The overdevelopment that has exploded in the last decade has created cities and suburbs that have covered more of our world. Finding a place to go where you won't be bothered, a place where you can find peace to concentrate on what matters is difficult.

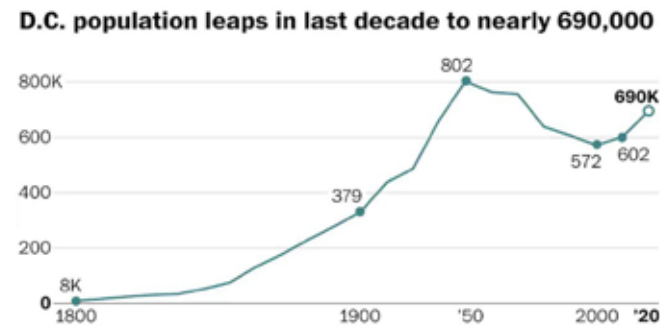


FIG. 2

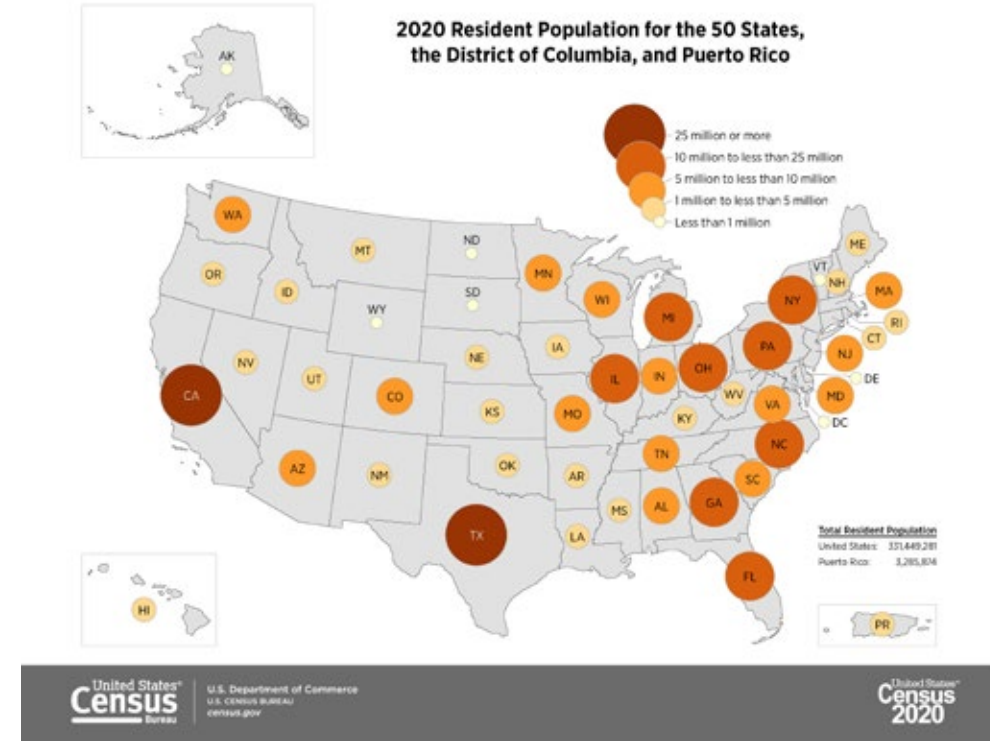


FIG. 3

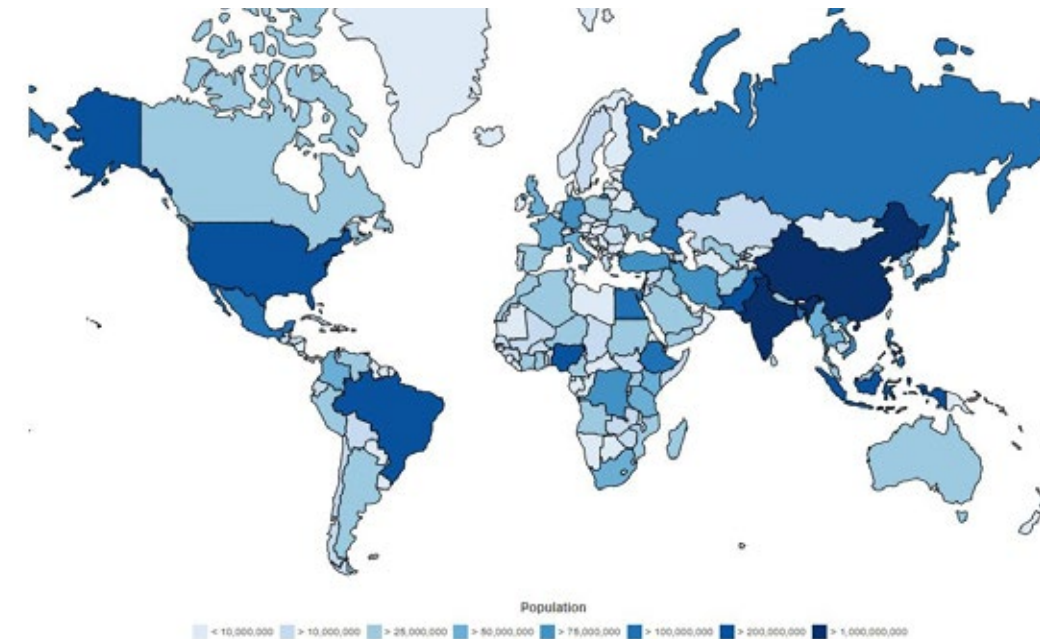


FIG. 4



FIG. 5

INTRODUCTION

Depression

There are many stressors that can be connected to living in a densely populated city.



Density: Living in a high-density environment can cause stress.

Excessive Stimuli: Cities are noisy and brightly lit places. This can affect our sleep wake cycles.

Competition and materialism: The need to be better than others. Overworking to maintain our material needs.

Pace, change and uncertainty: the city is a constantly moving place and if you don't keep up you'll be left behind. It is also a constantly changing place. Buildings appear and disappear. This effects how we process our purpose and meaning. The lack of purpose is a major source of stress.

Disconnection: Even though I said that there is a big focus on connection through our phones, this also means that people often feel disconnected when they see others having 'fun' while they are not. The increased population makes you feel disconnected from society. This makes you feel unimportant.

INTRODUCTION

Intentional Solitude

The idea of intentional solitude is a great way for those with stressful lives to separate themselves in order to better understand who they are as a person. Not only that but it helps with increased creativity and productivity as well as a general sense of purpose.

More and more scientists today are coming to the fact that isolation / solitude is something that can be greatly beneficial to the human mind and also be therapeutic if it is pursued by choice.

Jack Fong, a sociologist at California State Tech who has studied solitude says

"When people take these moments to explore their solitude, not only will they be forced to confront who they are, they just might learn a little bit about how to out-manuever some of the toxicity that surrounds them in a social setting." (2)

Other famous great thinkers have mentioned the benifets of isolation and solidarty too. (FIG 6, FIG 7)

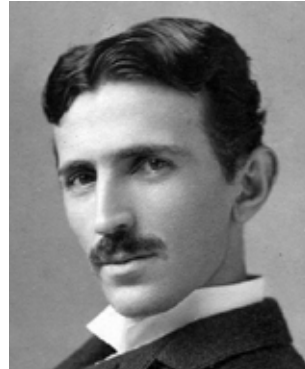


FIG 6.

"Originality thrives in seclusion free of outside influences beating upon us to cripple the creative mind. Be alone – that is the secrete of invention: be alone, that is when ideas are born" - Nikola Tesla

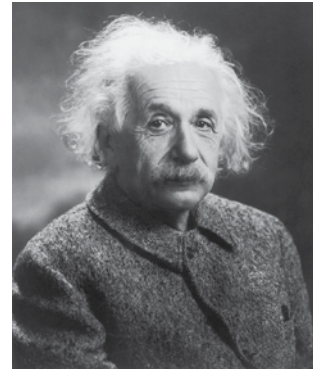


FIG 7.

"I take time to go for long walks on the beach so that I can listen to what is going on inside my head. If my work isn't going well, I lie down in the middle of a workday and gaze at the ceiling while I listen and visualize what goes on in my imagination"
- Albert Einstein



FIG. 8

INTRODUCTION

Group Isolation

Intentional solitude can also be beneficial for group work. Keith Sawyer, a psychologist at Washington University in Saint Louis says that decades of research has shown that people when they collaborate in a group setting and when they come together are far less productive than when the same number of people go off individually, come up with ideas and later, come together to collaborate and pull those ideas together. (3)

The Diagram (FIG. 09) shows the 4 stages of this.

1. The initial group that does not have enough space or time to think properly about their problems.
2. Escape: Which is when they separate into their own space
3. Contemplation: Which is the intentional solitude and where they each discover, by themselves, their own ideas.
4. Grow: Where they all come back together and share what they have learned.

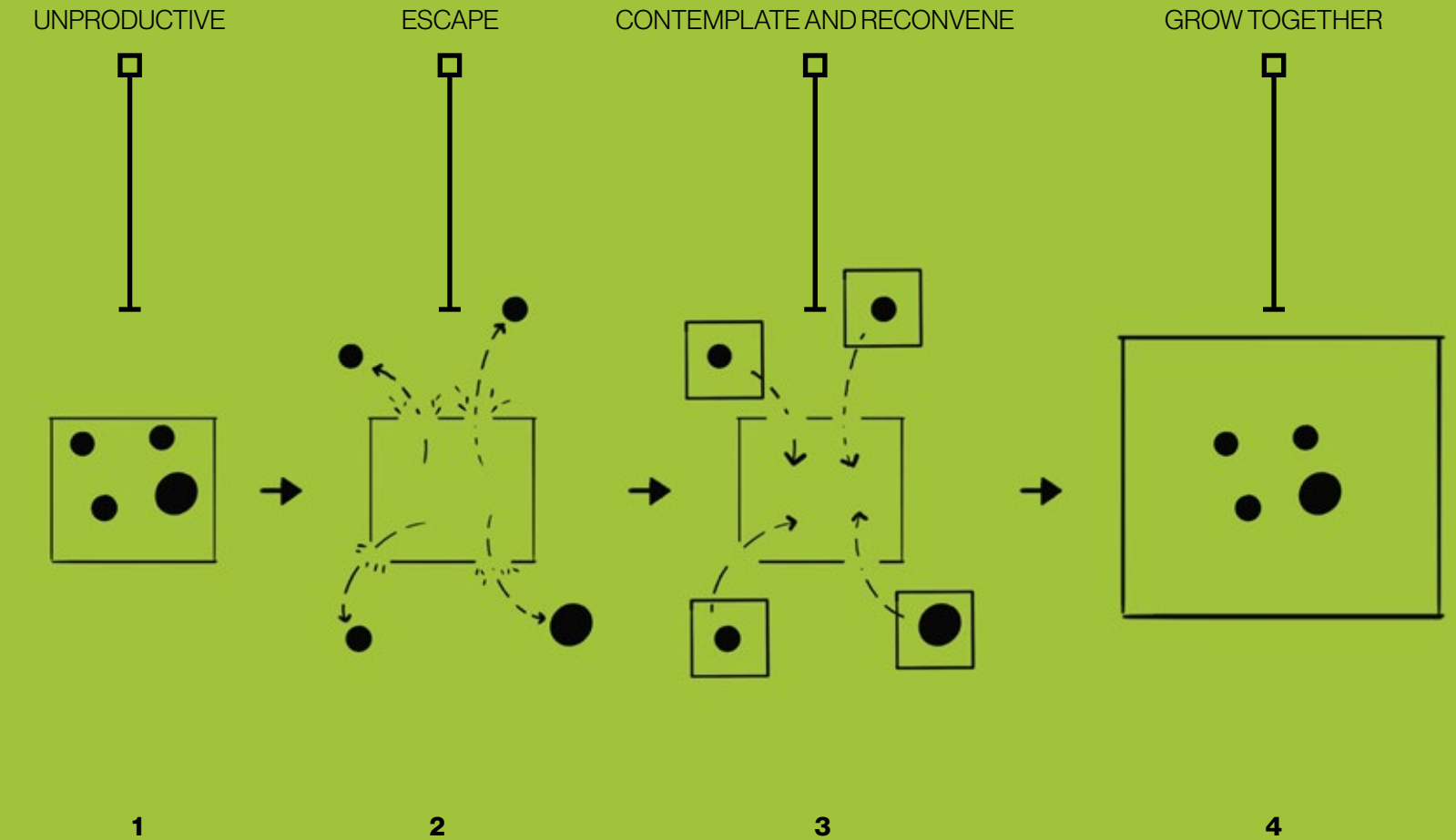


FIG. 9



SITE

2

SITE Location

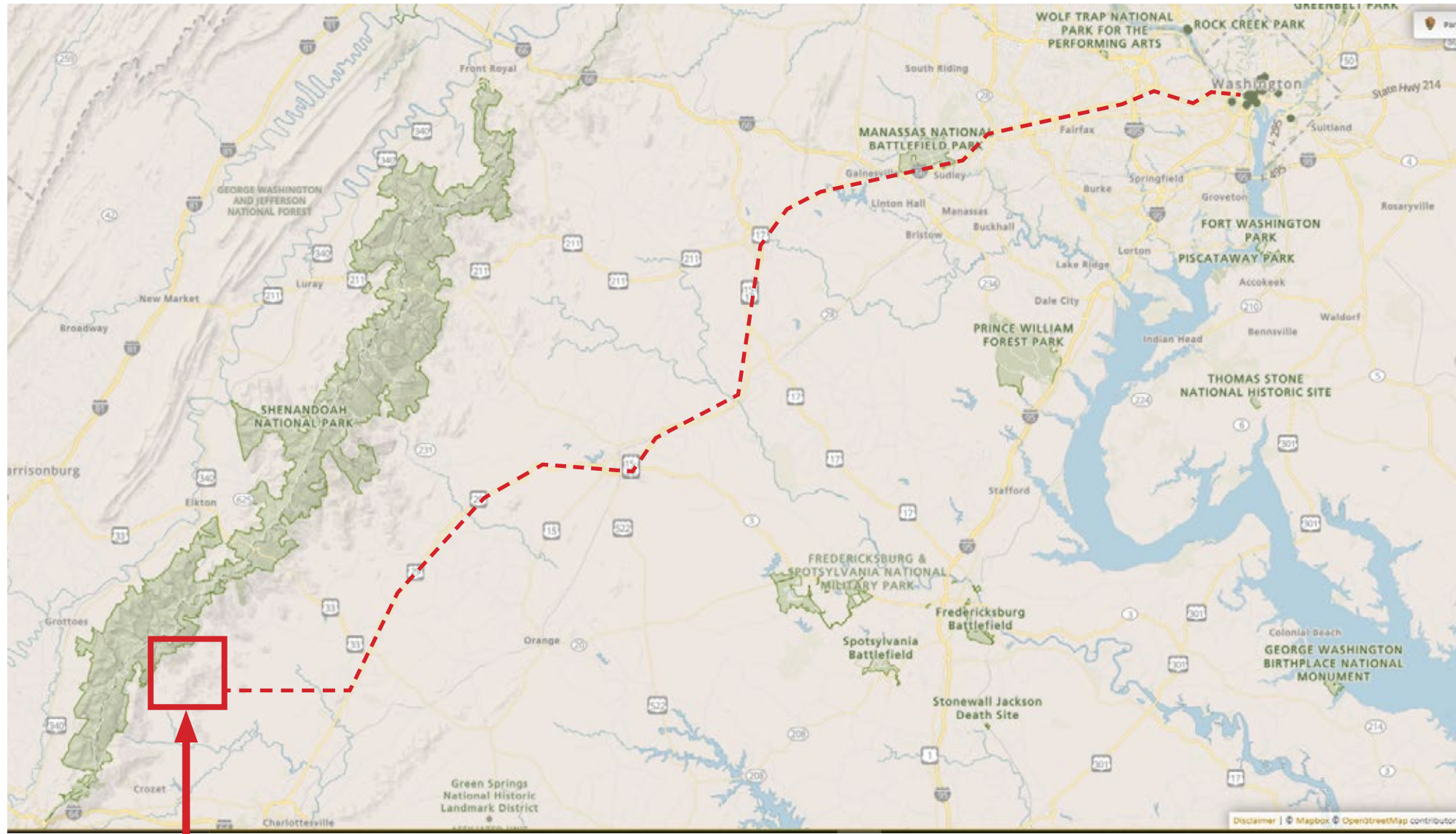


FIG.10

2H 27 MIN DRIVE
121 MILES FROM
WASHINGTON DC

SITE CONSIDERATION

The selection of the site needs to follow a certain criteria in order to best allow the project to work as an isolated wellness retreat. The ideal location needed to be in an isolated, wooded and expansive setting. It also needs to be close yet distant from Washington DC in order to ease the travel.

The site is located just east of the Shenandoah National Park with a freshwater lake. It is a 2 hour and 27 minute drive from DC. It has uninterrupted views of the natural landscape and is nestled in a valley which helps the site feel contained in nature. The heavily wooded area allows for privacy between visitors.

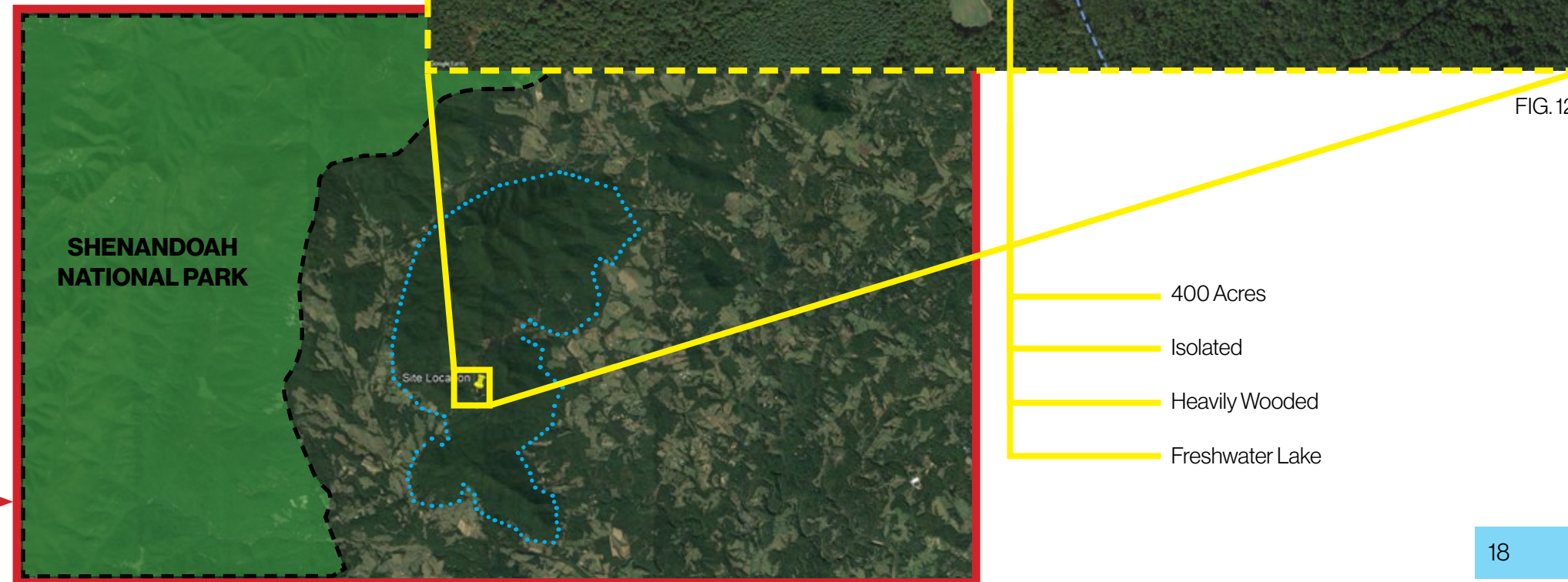


FIG.12

- 400 Acres
- Isolated
- Heavily Wooded
- Freshwater Lake

FIG.11

SITE

Site Conditions

SITE CLIMATE

The range of temperature, rainfall, wind direction and elevation were used to help create final design decisions through out the project. These findings helped determined the ideal positioning for each building and helped create the right situation for certain sustainable system such as a well utilized south facing facade, and the geothermal properties of the nearby lake.



FIG.14

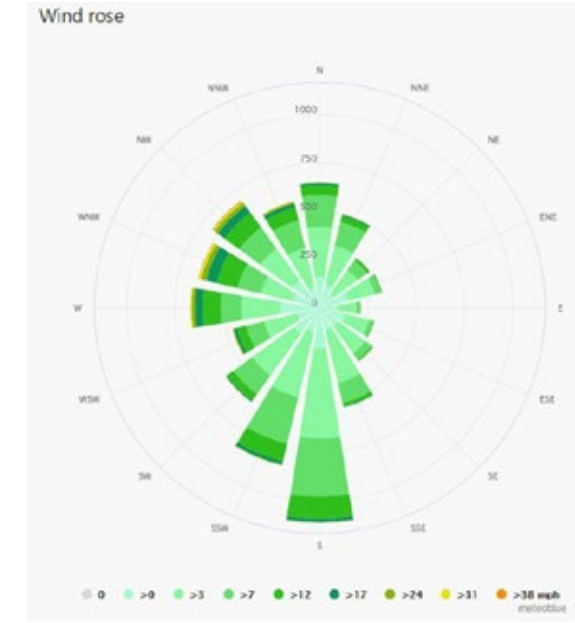


FIG.13

General Conditions Of The Site

- Temperatures Summer: 69°F-87°F
- Temperatures Winter: 28°F-48°F
- Average rainfall: 45" (US average is 38")
- Average wind direction: South to North
- Elevation changes 400' from lowest defined point

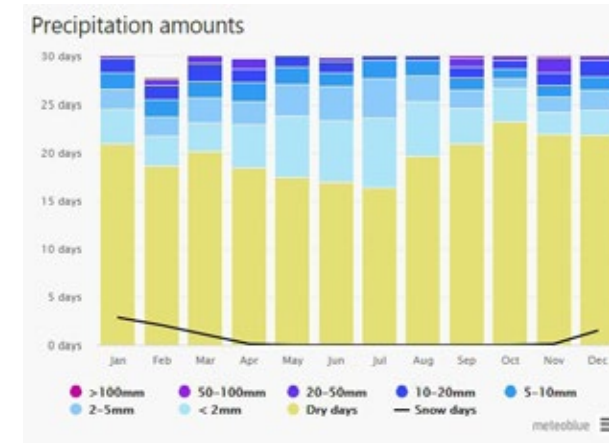


FIG.15

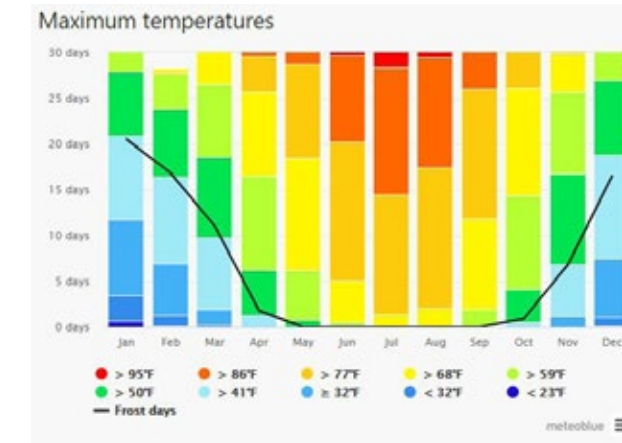


FIG.16

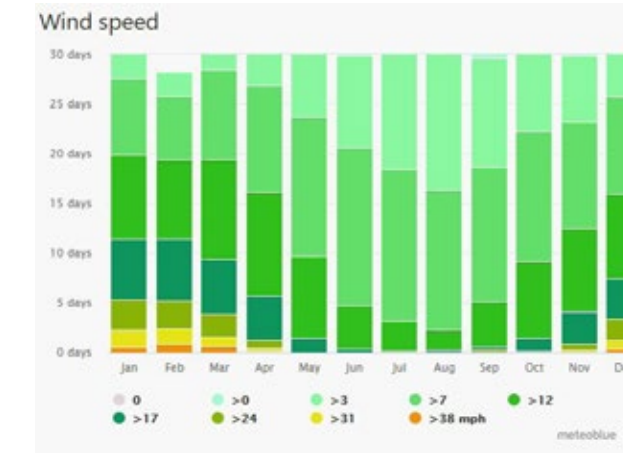


FIG.17



CONCEPT

3

CONCEPT

The Hearth

The idea of the hearth is the central concept of the thesis and thesis project. The hearth will act as a focal point on the site which all other functions will rely on.

The hearth / fireplace was once the focal point of a home. Used to provide light, and a means to cook food and heat the home, the hearth was enormously useful. The hearth was also a place to tell stories, a place that people would gather around after a long day and collect their thoughts. It is also a place of safety a place to retreat for comfort.

Since the days of caves and hut dwellings, the hearth was usually located at the center of the structure. By the middle ages, the location moved to the rooms walls to help exhaust the smoke.

This idea of the hearth as a central element for gathering helped establish a concept for the project.

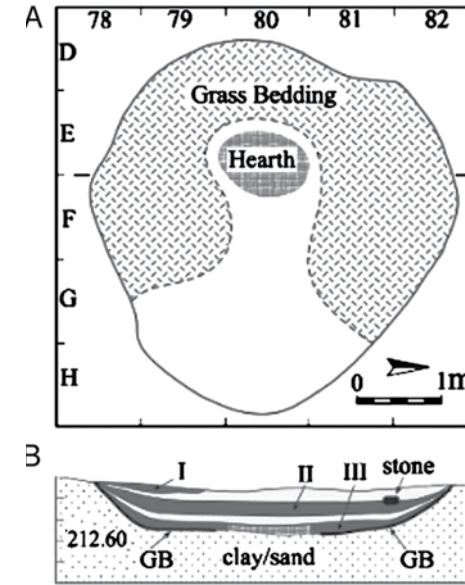


FIG.18



FIG.19

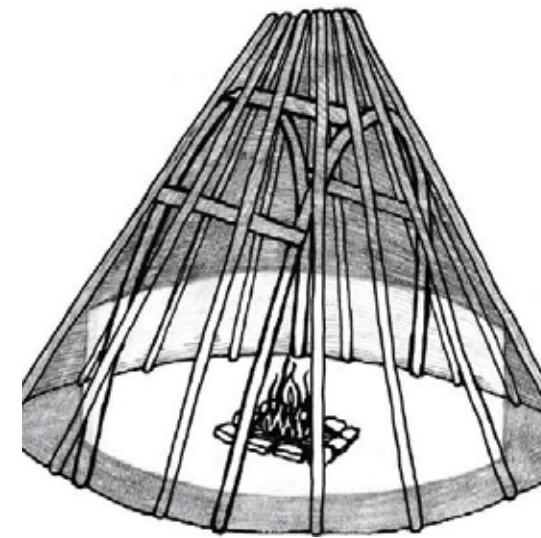


FIG.20



FIG.21



FIG.22

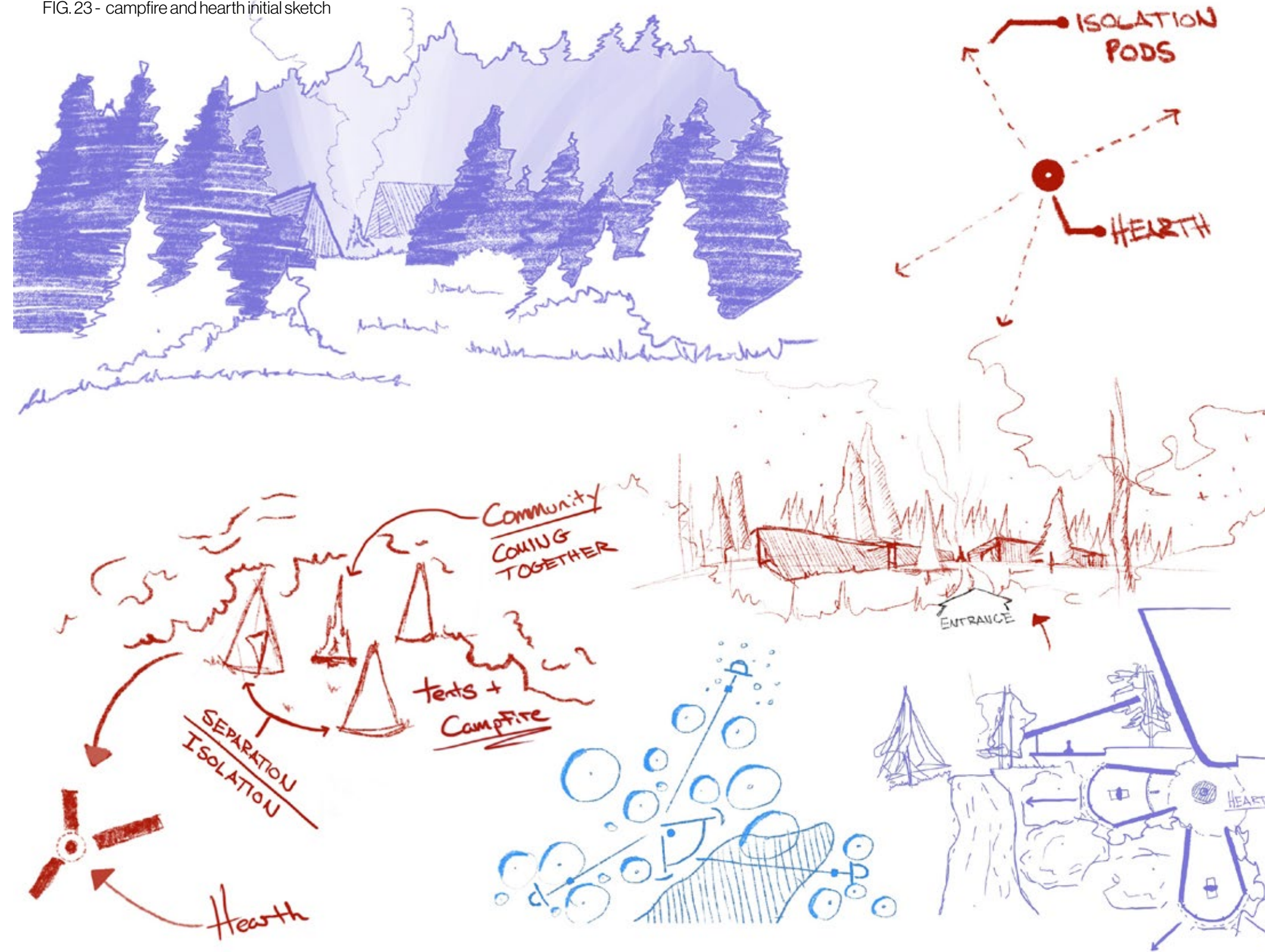
FIG. 23 - campfire and hearth initial sketch

The idea of the campfire with the hearth, implies both a gathering of tents within a forested area as well as a separation between tents. The campfire is there for gathering while the tents are for separation and protection from the elements. This idea was explored as follows.

The fire represents the community coming together. The Hearth of the project

The tents represent the separation and isolation each person will be experiencing

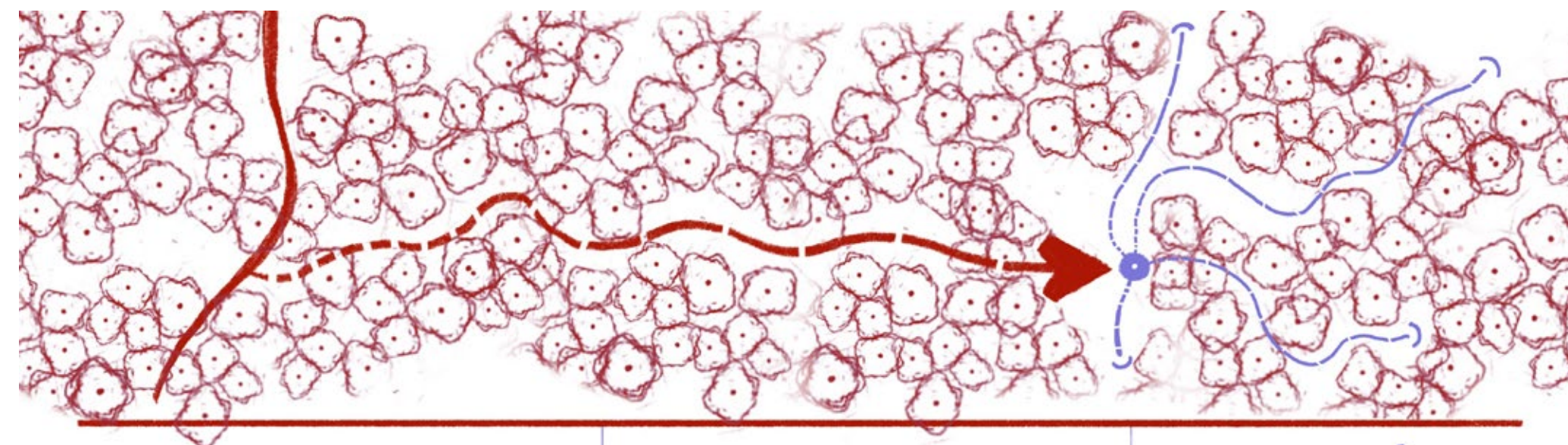
On the following page is a series of initial concept sketches based on the campfire and tent idea (FIG 23.)



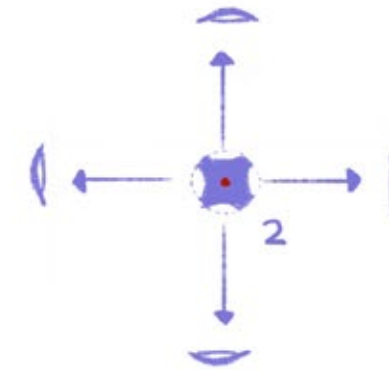
The following diagram developed into an initial organization for the larger site:

The upper sketch (FIG. 24) shows the path from the main public road that leads to the center of the project site.

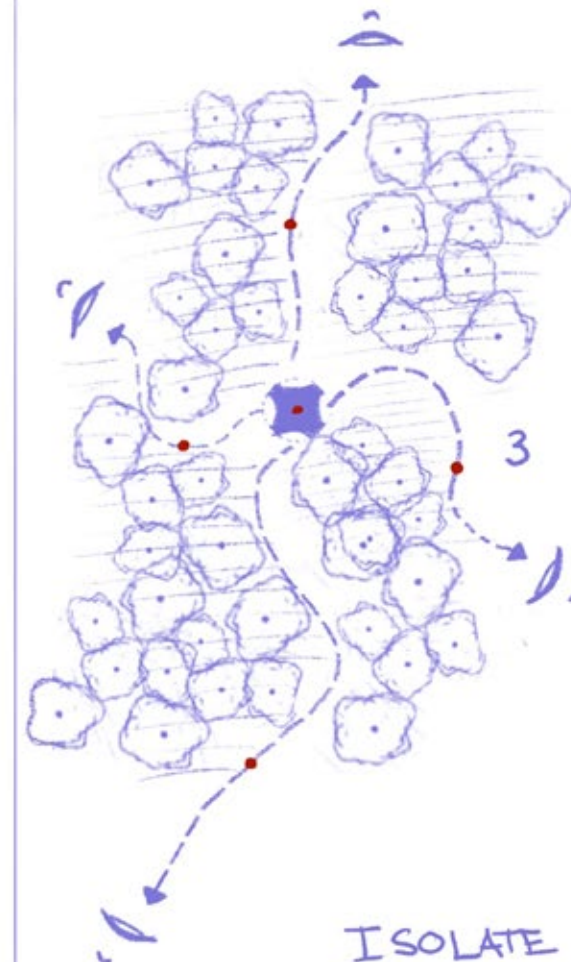
1. The center, which represents the community is the hearth of the project and the first stop. It is where all the visitors will begin their journey and also where they will regroup.
2. Then you have the separation from that community into separate units.
3. Then those units are spread out through the site to create individual isolation experiences. These separate units will be connected to the hearth through individual trails



COMMUNITY



SEPARATE



ISOLATE

FIG. 24 - separation sketch



PROPOSAL

4

PROPOSAL

Site Master Plan

The master plan is made up of a series of buildings. The diagram to the right (FIG.25) shows the basic layout of how the different buildings relate to each other. The central point of the project will house the hearth building and the secondary sleeping building. From here there are a series of smaller isolation structures called 'Shelters' which are connected through the site by trails.

The main idea of the wellness retreat is that there will be options for the visitors in terms of how they would like to isolate. The main building, the hearth will house the communal space and several bedrooms that visitors can choose to stay in. The shelters will have two types.

Type one will include a bedroom, bath and meditation space. Type one is intended for long term stays.

The second type of shelter has only one function and that is to meditate. The idea behind the second type is that the visitor will sleep at the hearth and isolate during the day at the shelter. There will be further details on shelters in the section titled 'Shelters'.

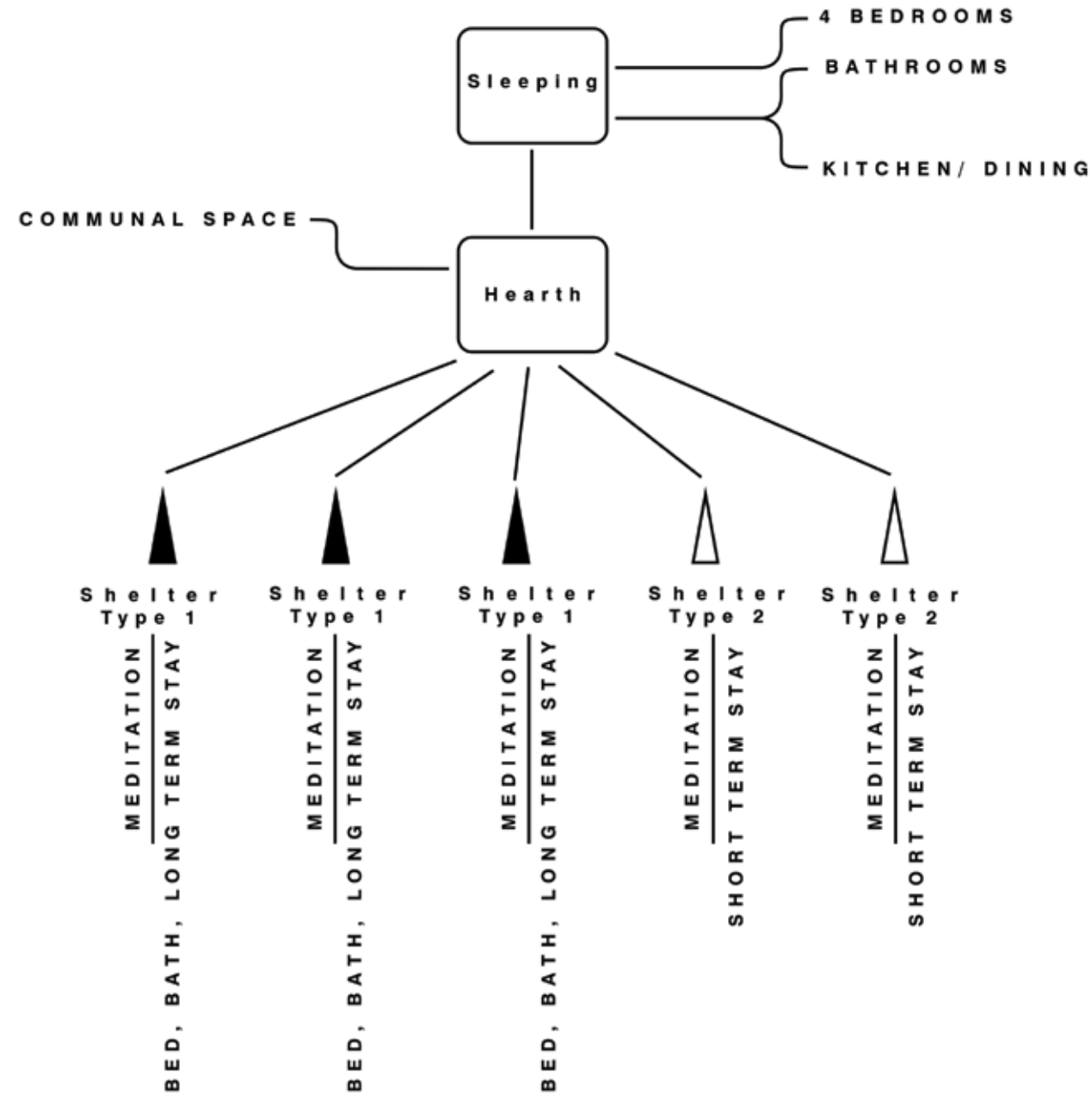


FIG. 25 - program diagram

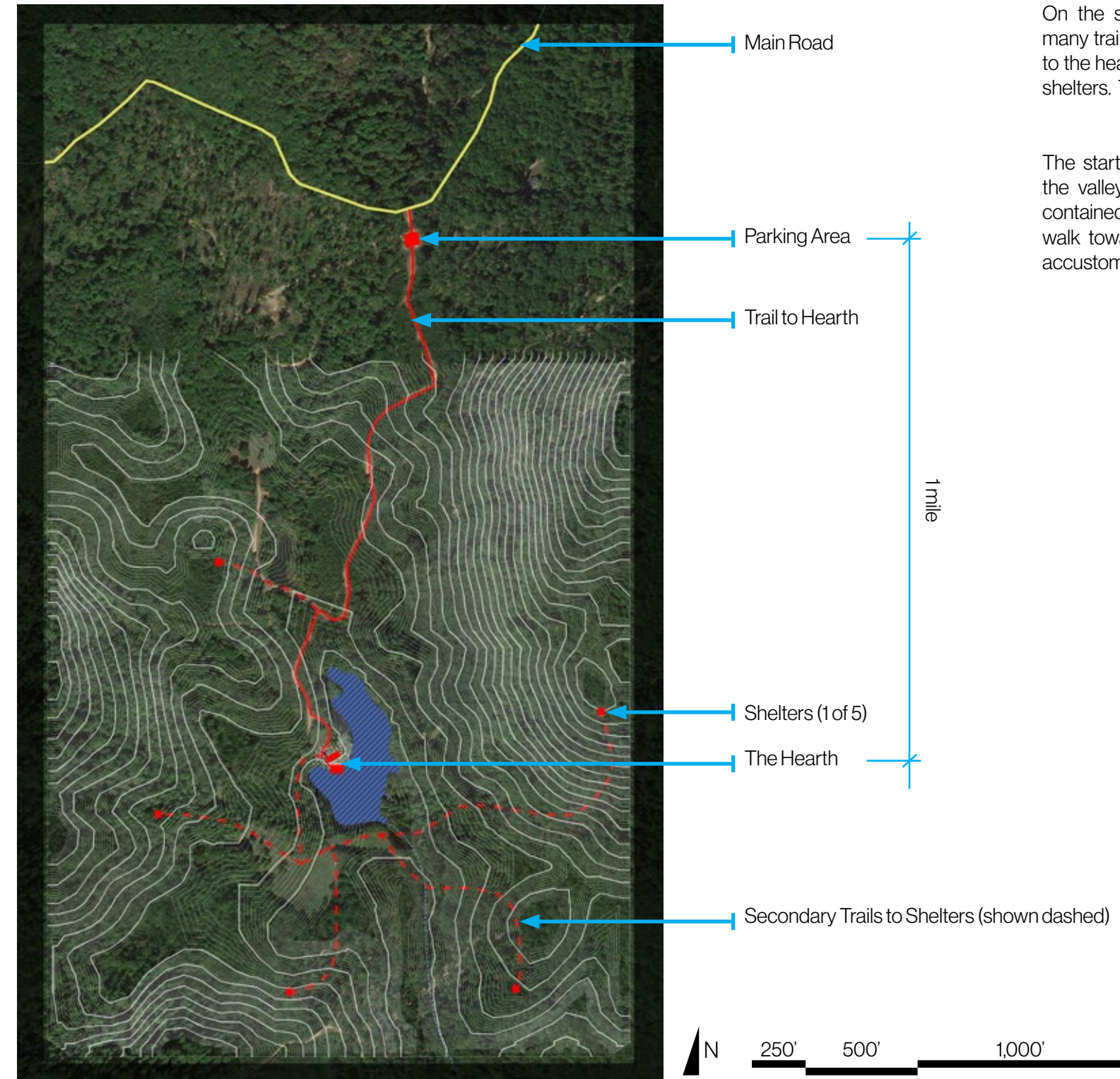


FIG. 26 - site plan / location plan

On the site plan (FIG.26) you can see the many trails that lead from the main road down to the hearth and from there to the 5 separate shelters. The path from the main road to the hearth is roughly 1 mile.

The starting path is long and leads you into the valley where your entire field of view is contained by the natural landscape. This initial walk towards the hearth is intended to help accustom the visitor to the natural surroundings.

PROPOSAL

Parking

The first point when you enter the site is the parking area. It is here where all visitors will leave their cars and prepare for the long walk towards the hearth.

The parking area is meant to be a minimal experience. The first stop before the beginning of the journey. As you approach the entrance you will notice a stone wall that curves into the parking area. The floor will also be made of the same stonework. The parking area itself is nestled in the thick wooded area of the site. Once you leave your car and prepare your belongings you will follow the trail all the way to the main communal building, the hearth.

250' 500' 1,000'

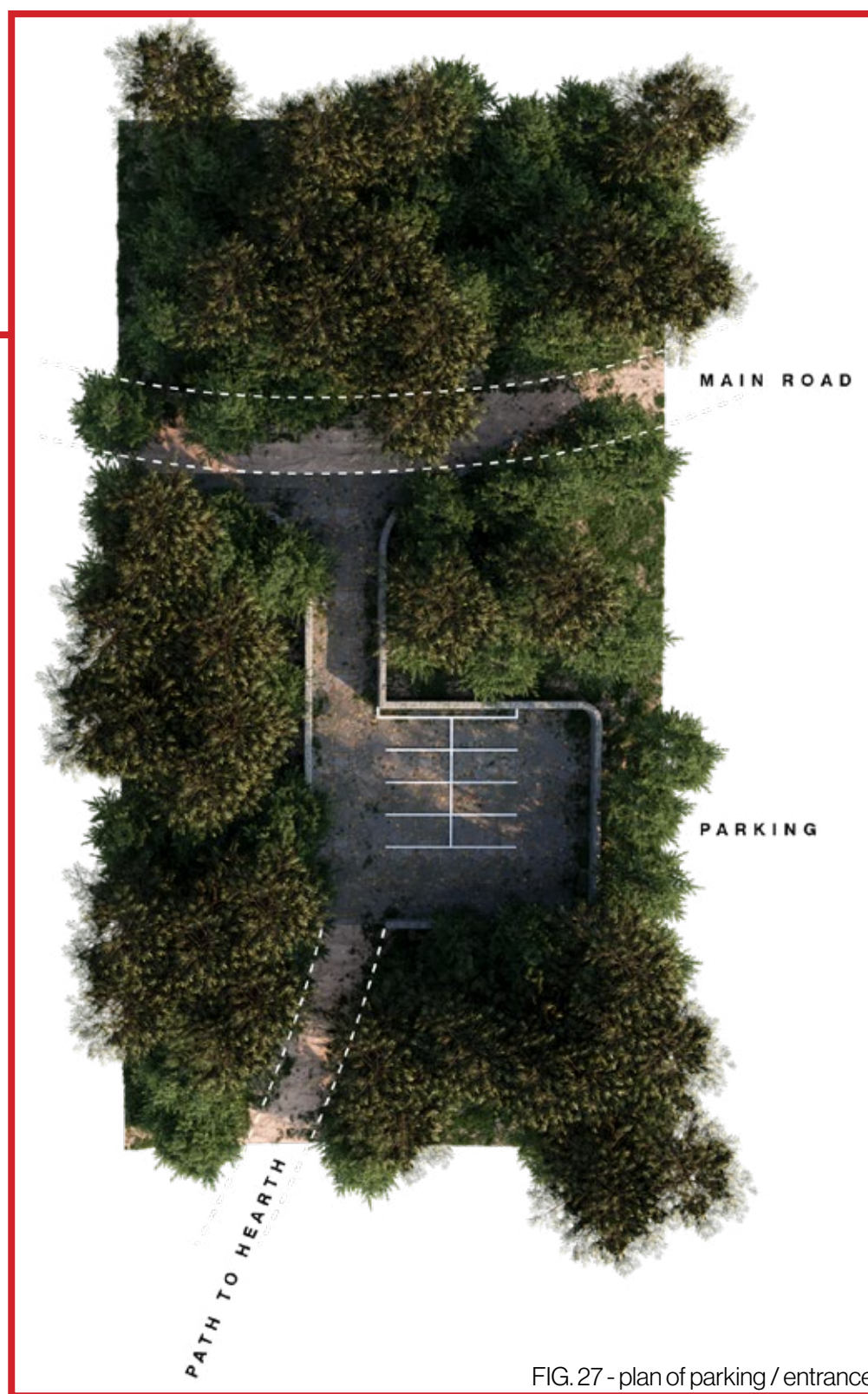


FIG. 27 - plan of parking / entrance

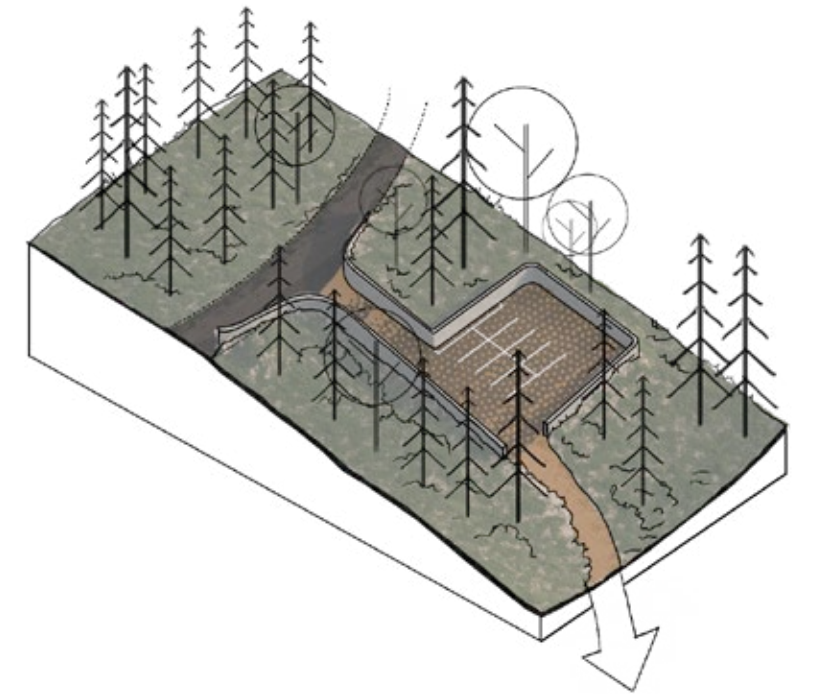


FIG. 28 - parking axon sketch

PROPOSAL

Trails and Markers

Placed along the many trails are resting points that allow the visitors to sit and relax during their walks. This creates a special moment where visitors can enjoy the surroundings and contemplate on the day to come.

The resting points consists of two things. One is the curved bench that is constructed of the same stone and wood found throughout the rest of the project. There are two benches that face each other allowing for different views at each resting point.

There are also special markers that help the visitors with the direction and distance to their destinations. Each trail will have its own marker color as seen in the diagram to the right (FIG. 29).

The different trails range from lengths and each trail will have its own experience.



FIG. 29 - resting point section render

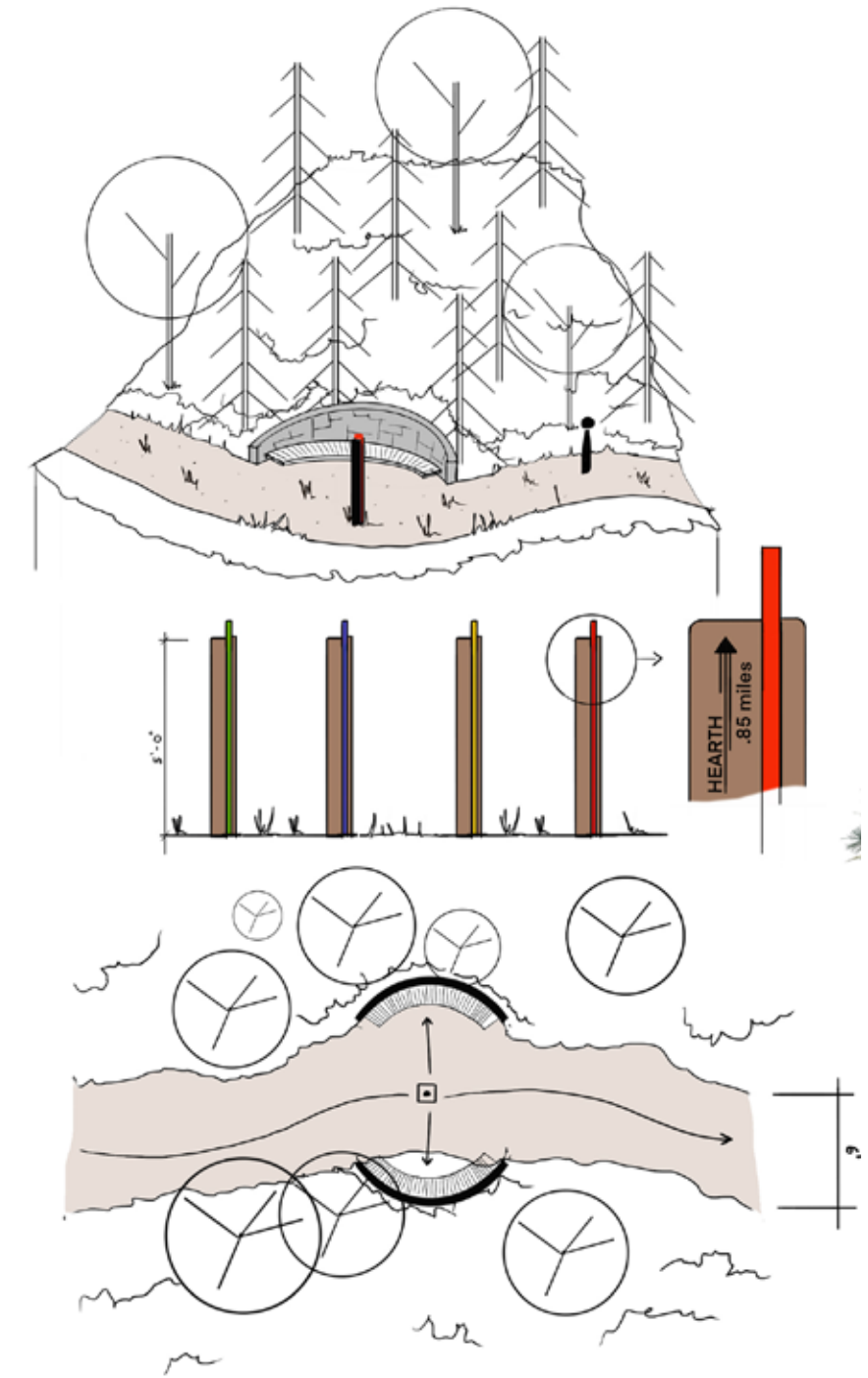


FIG. 30 - resting point sketches

PROPOSAL

The Hearth: Concept

The hearth developed from a desire to have the primary facade face south. It needs a southern facing facade to take advantage of the solar energy potentials and it needs to be on the water for both geothermal potential and natural cooling.

The idea formed into two buildings that separate the two programs; the hearth and the secondary building. The hearth is for communal purposes and is located closest to the water. The secondary building will be used for the bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchen, and utilities. In order for the visitor to experience both the architecture and nature, these two buildings needed to be connected in a way that allowed the natural landscape to become a part of the path between buildings.

The connection between these two buildings is located at a hinged point. FIG. 31 shows some initial sketches and ideas for the hearth. Here a hinged connection between the two buildings allows for the natural landscape to become part of the project in a type of courtyard space in-between buildings. The topography also rises up several feet from the lake shore which allows the two buildings to experience uninterrupted views of the site. This allow for a stepping down from one building down to the hearth and provides a unique transition when walking towards the hearth.

The other design choice was the two large stone walls. This move creates a stone spine for each building that is not only structural but a consistent architectural feature that visually connects all of the buildings throughout the site. You can see in FIG 30. initial sketch of this idea. The vertical line represents that stone spine.



FIG. 31 - initial idea of the stone wall

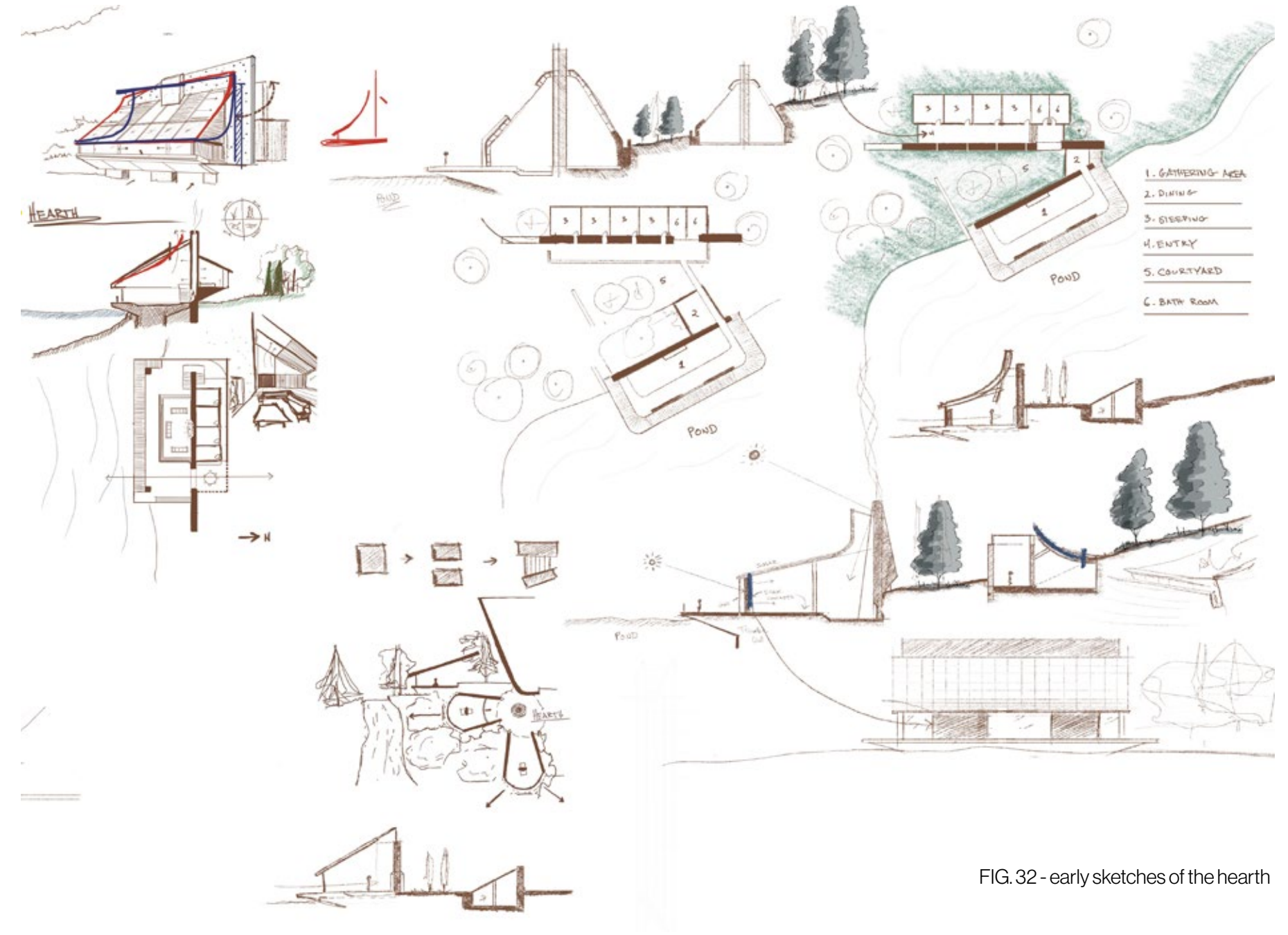


FIG. 32 - early sketches of the hearth

PROPOSAL

The Hearth: Concept

The concept was refined further in the next sketch (FIG 32). Here you can see how the building will sit on the site. The hearth is closest to the water which will allow for a cool breeze for cross ventilation. It is also the perfect location for a panoramic view of the site

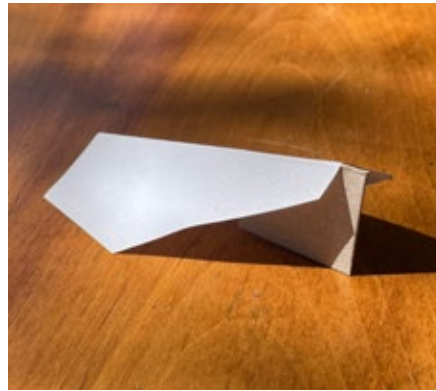
The curve of the roof at the hearth was very important to the design. This curve provides a lightness to the space allowing visitors to feel a sense of enlightenment as they walk into the hearth. A similar curve is located at the bedrooms. The roof curves towards the hearth to help emphasise the relationship between the two buildings.



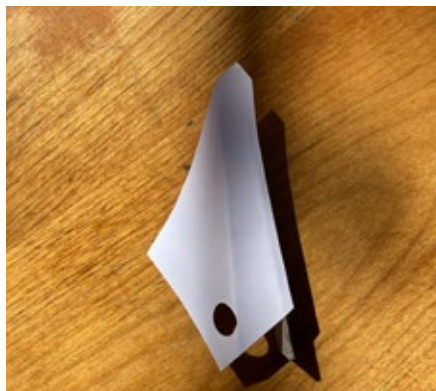
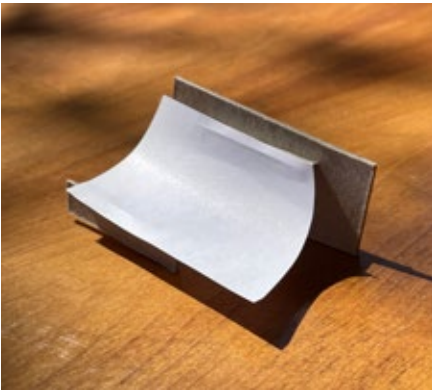
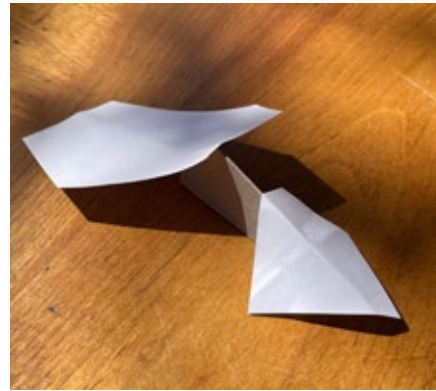
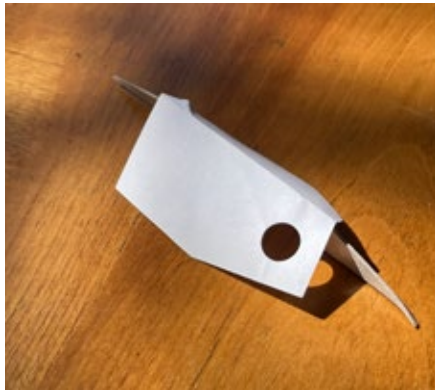
FIG. 33 - hearth sketch

PROPOSAL

The Shelters: Concept



The shelter concept came about during a hiking trip earlier in the year. Leaves that fell from a tree landed on a couple of rocks below. What was interesting was how each leaf landed differently on top of the rocks. The leaves landed in their own unique position creating something of a covering. After closer inspection they started to resemble a type of canopy or roof and the rocks below became the support. This idea started to develop further after creating several *parti* models to see what interesting shapes could be formed.



After experimenting with the *parti* models, the design of the shelters started to take shape. Folding the roof over the stone wall spine allowed the creation of different shapes that would match the surrounding topology of the site. The simple *parti* models represent the fallen leaf which became the shelter design.

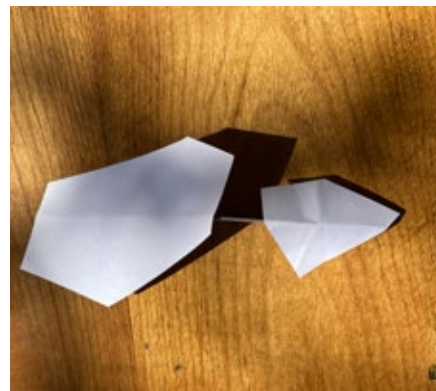


FIG. 34 - shelter parti models

There are two types of shelters for the retreat. The first shown here in an early sketch is intended for stays of up to a week. The folded roof provides protection the elements while also reducing the presence of the shelter in the environment. The stone wall acts as not only visual element that connects it with the hearth but it is also the structural spine of the shelter.

This shelter will house a meditation space, bedroom and bathroom.

In each shelter there will be a fireplace. The fireplace is not only functional as a warming element, but it also brings in an architectural connection to the hearth building.

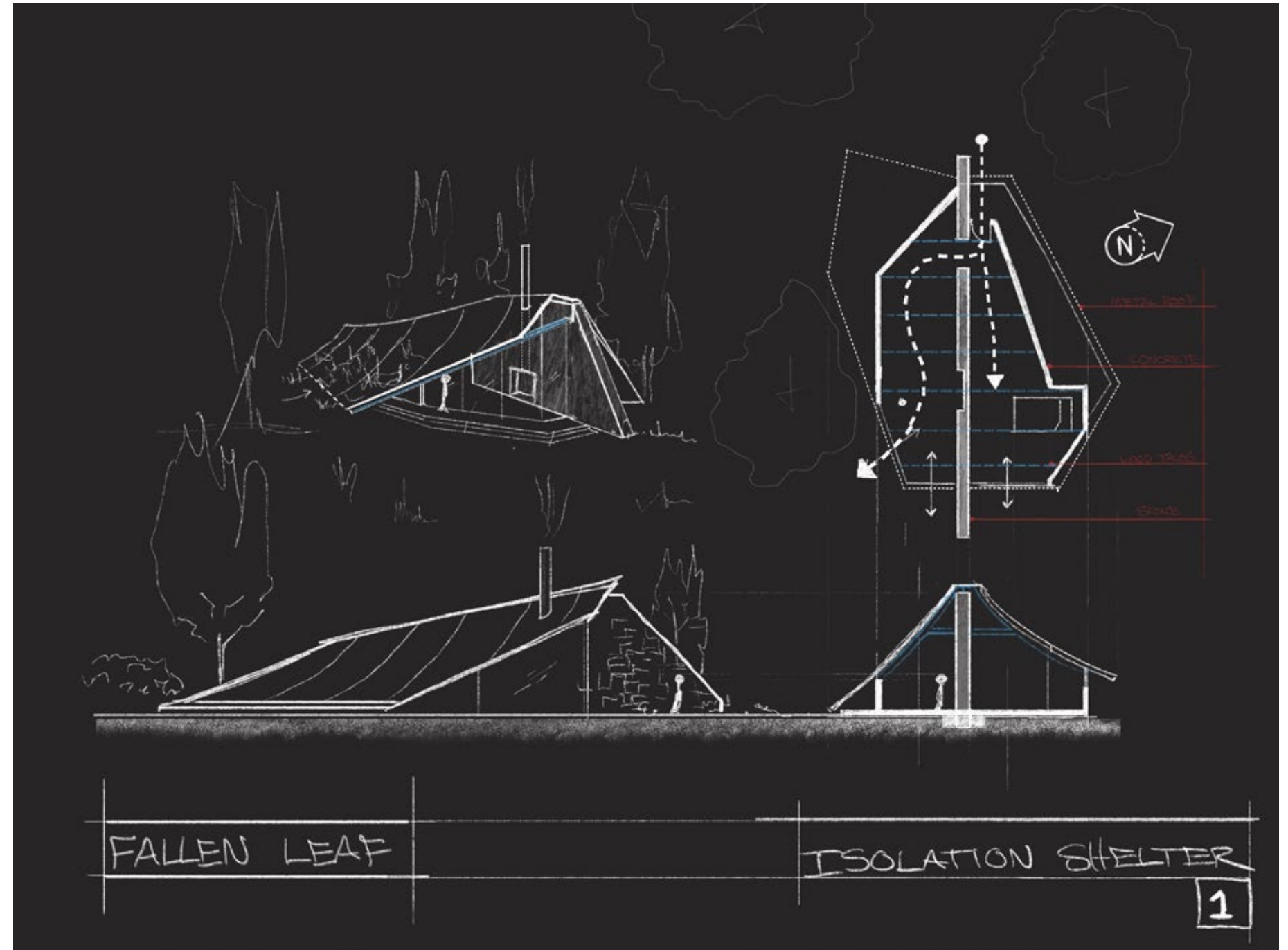


FIG. 35 - shelter 1 sketch

The second shelter (FIG.36) is a smaller structure that will house only a meditation space. This shelter is meant to be used only for a few hours before the visitor heads back to the hearth.

Again there is the folded roof and the stone wall. There is also a fireplace for both warmth.

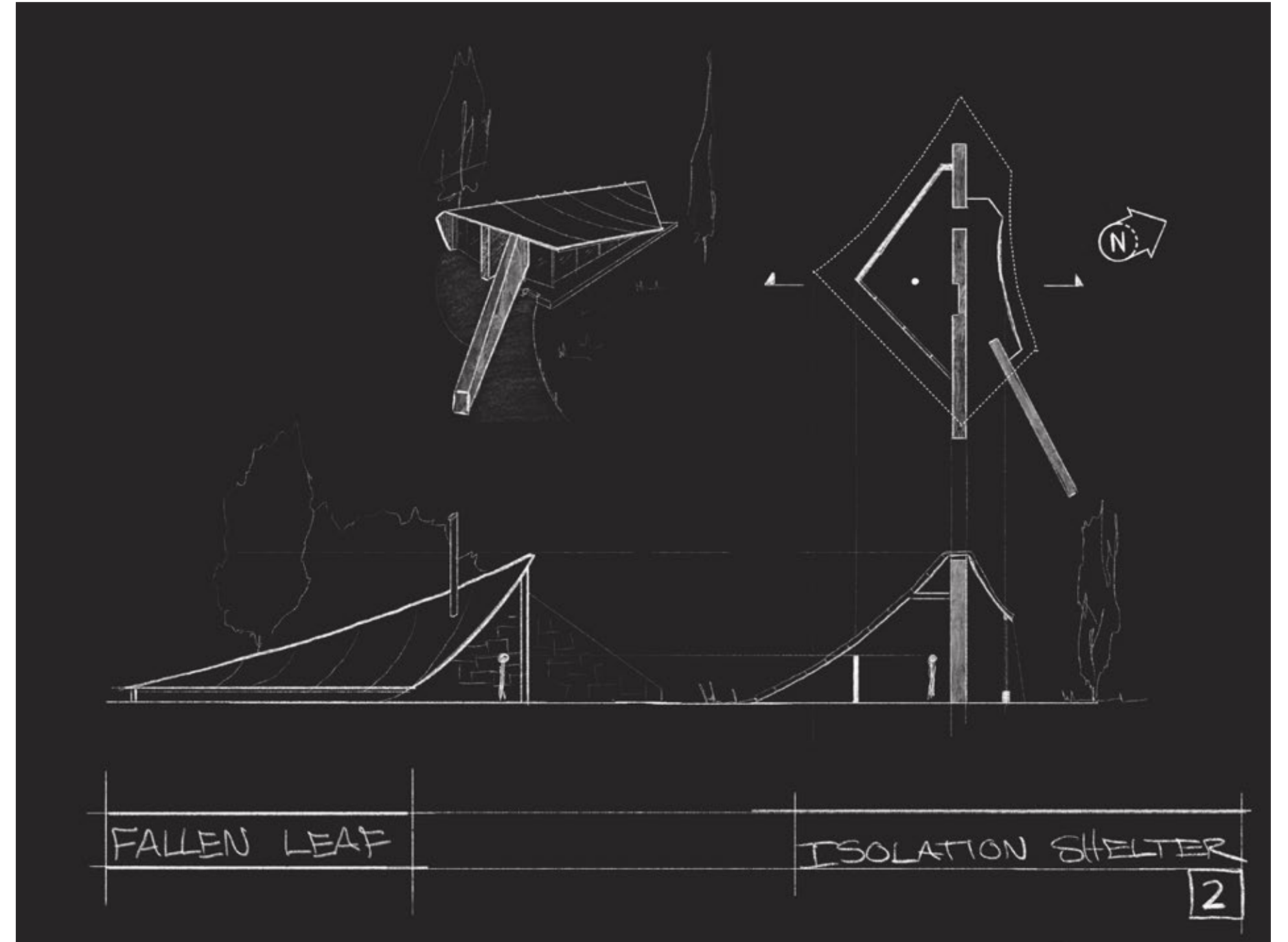


FIG. 36 - shelter 2 sketch

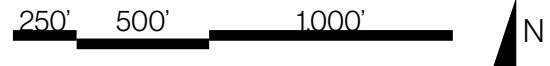


FINAL DESIGN

5

FINAL DESIGN

The Hearth



The Hearth sits in the middle of the valley right on a lake. Because of its location, views surrounding the site are captured in this isolated forested region which brings the visitor closer to nature.

The highest point on the site is 430' from the lake (FIG.37)

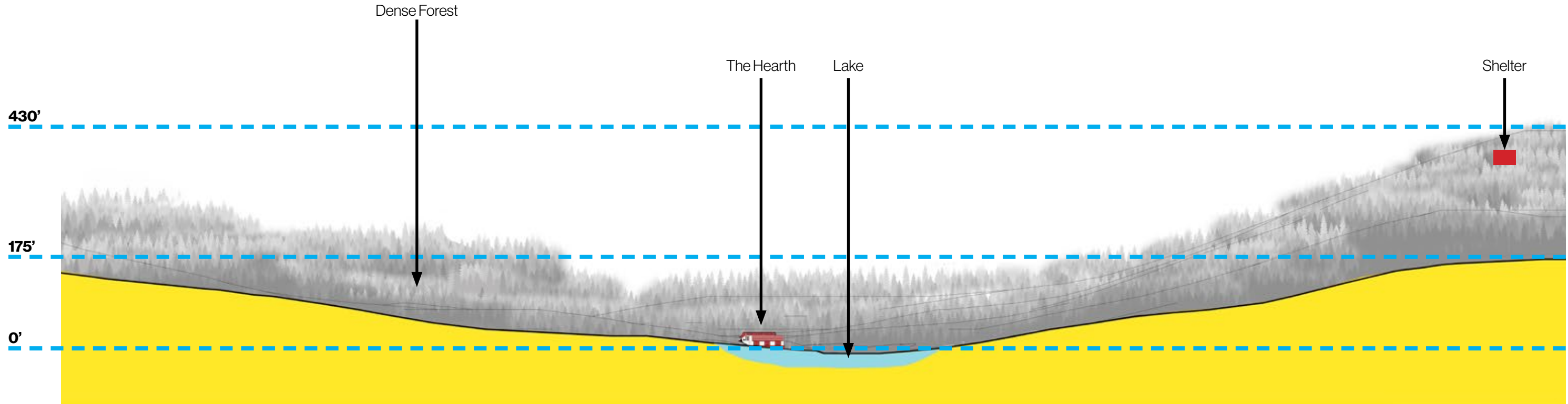


FIG.37 - site section

FINAL DESIGN

The Hearth

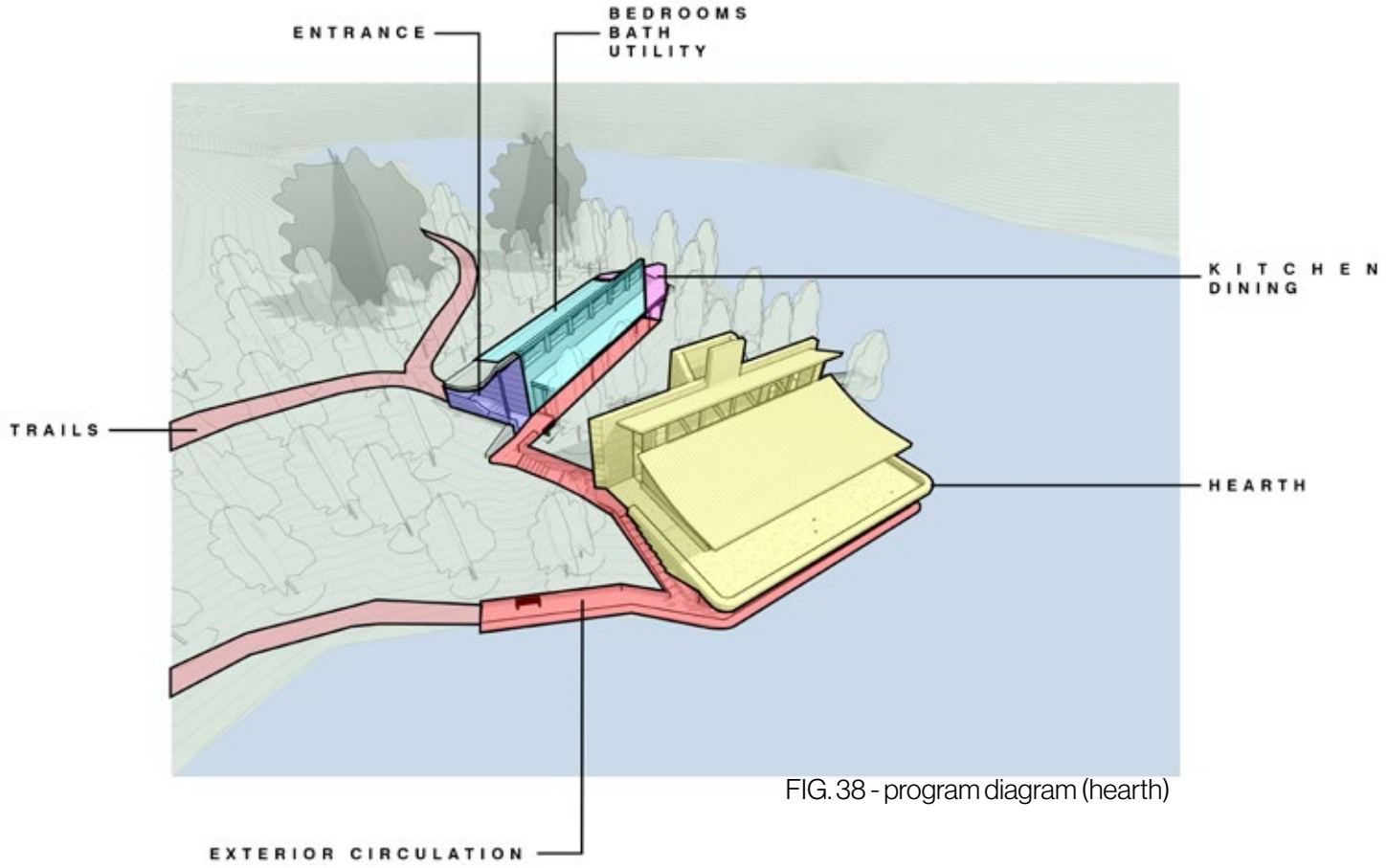


FIG. 38 - program diagram (hearth)



FIG. 39 - enlarged site plan (hearth)

FINAL DESIGN

The Hearth

The core of the wellness retreat are the two buildings that are connected at a hinge. The main path that leads to the retreat splits, with one path leading into the upper building and the other directed towards most of the shelters. The upper building houses the bedrooms, bathrooms, kitchen, dining and utility room. It is where visitors will spend the night if they choose. Below the entrance building, the landscape spills into the hinged gap creating a natural space separating the two buildings.



- 1. ENTRANCE
- 2. BEDROOM
- 3. BATHROOM
- 4. POINT OF REFLECTION
- 5. KITCHEN / DINING
- 6. COURTYARD
- 7. WALK-WAY
- 8. UTILITY ROOM / STORAGE

FIG. 40 - upper level floor plan

The hearth sits lower down on the site resting against the water. This is where the communal seating area will be as well as several points of reflection which the visitors can use for meditation and relaxing.

The hearth is where the visitors will regroup to discuss their personal isolation experiences

The large stone fireplace is built into the stone wall. It is the centerpiece of the project and the main focal point of the space. Facing the water are several windows which pivot open to allow the fresh air to pass into the space. It is also where you can walk onto the overlook to take in the beautiful panoramic view of the site.



- 1. ENTRANCE
- 2. FIREPLACE (HEARTH)
- 3. HEARTH COMMUNAL SEATING
- 4. POINT OF REFLECTION
- 5. OVERLOOK
- 6. COURTYARD

FIG. 41 - lower level floor plan (hearth)

FINAL DESIGN

The Hearth

Below the hearth is a pathway that cuts into the stone and concrete plinth that holds up the building. It is a tight space that is meant for the visitor to get closer to the stone and to the water's edge while allowing for a framed view of the site. This area is accessed by either side of the hearth by a series of steps (1). At this water level there are 3 points of reflection and a small boat dock.

The feeling of being squeezed down by the stone creates a feeling of pressure while the wide expanded view to the water brings relief.



FIG. 42 - water level floor plan

The structural stone wall acts as a spine and is also an architectural element that creates consistency between the buildings.

Photovoltaic panels deliver power to the buildings

Skylights and clerestory windows provide natural light

Slate tile roofing w/ 3/4" sheathing and waterproofing membrane over timber structure

Rain water collection system to underground cistern

A concrete slab provides the room with a solid thermal mass floor to help retain solar heat gain

Operable windows allows air from the lake to cool the space through cross ventilation

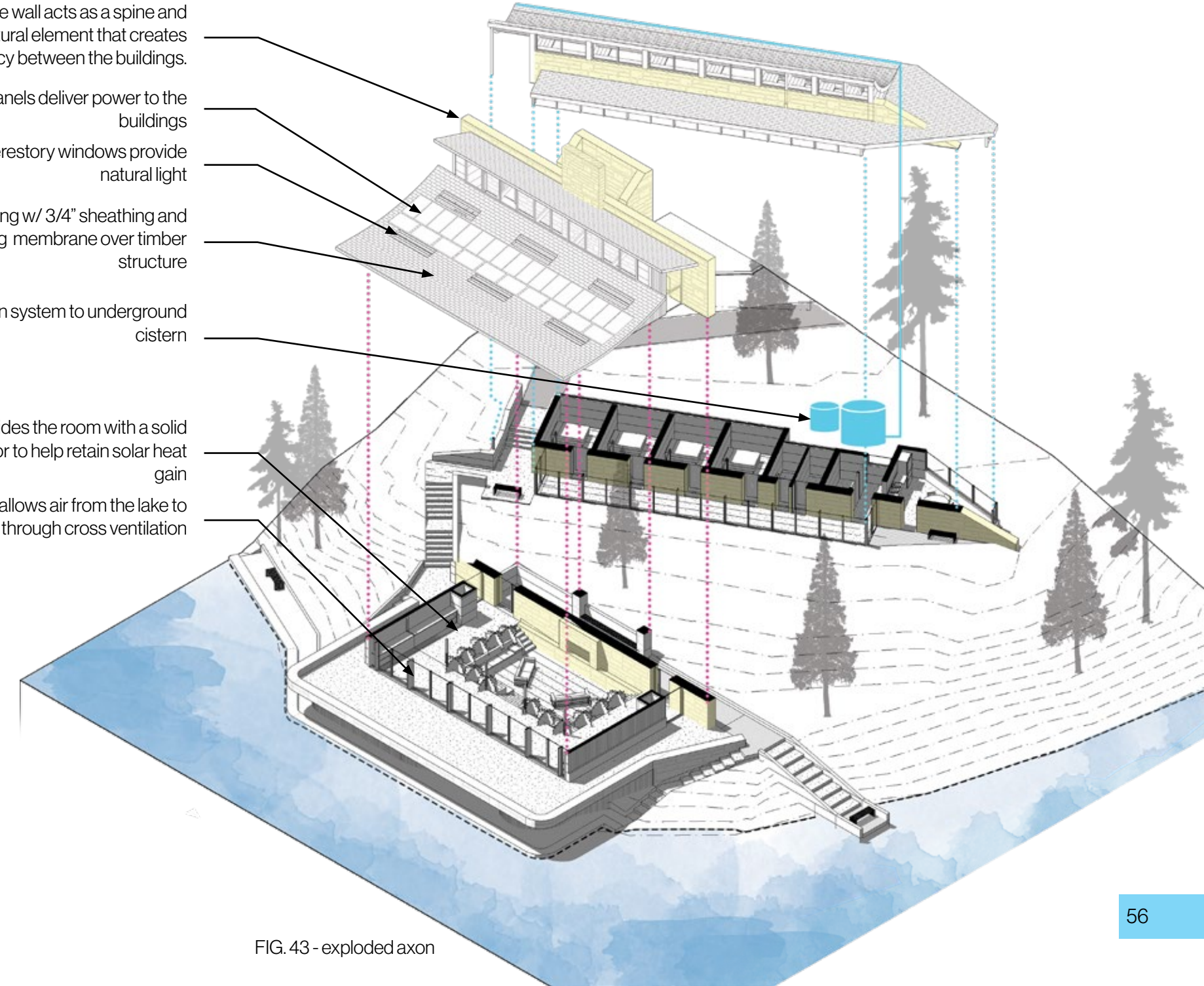
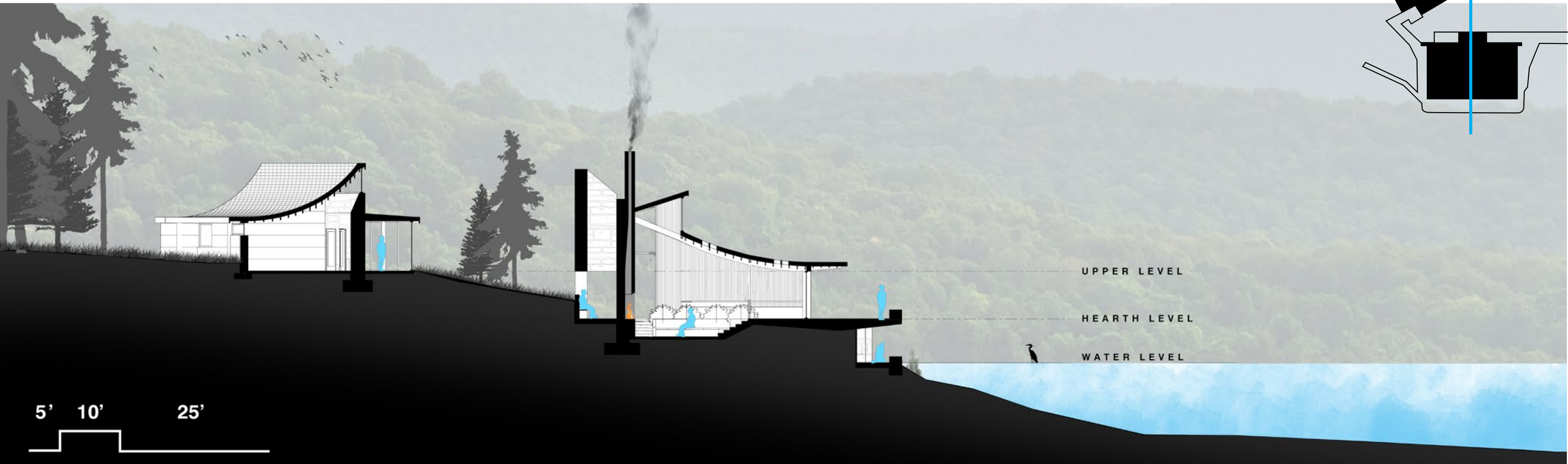


FIG. 43 - exploded axon

FINAL DESIGN

The Hearth



FINAL DESIGN

The Hearth

The structural system for the hearth involves large timber beams that span across the space to help minimize the amount of columns. This helped achieve the feeling of openness closer to the fireplace. The the sloped ceiling that gets higher towards the fireplace was a big part of the initial idea behind the hearth. The space needed meaning for the central most important point of the retreat. A sense of relief is felt when you sit below the tall ceiling.

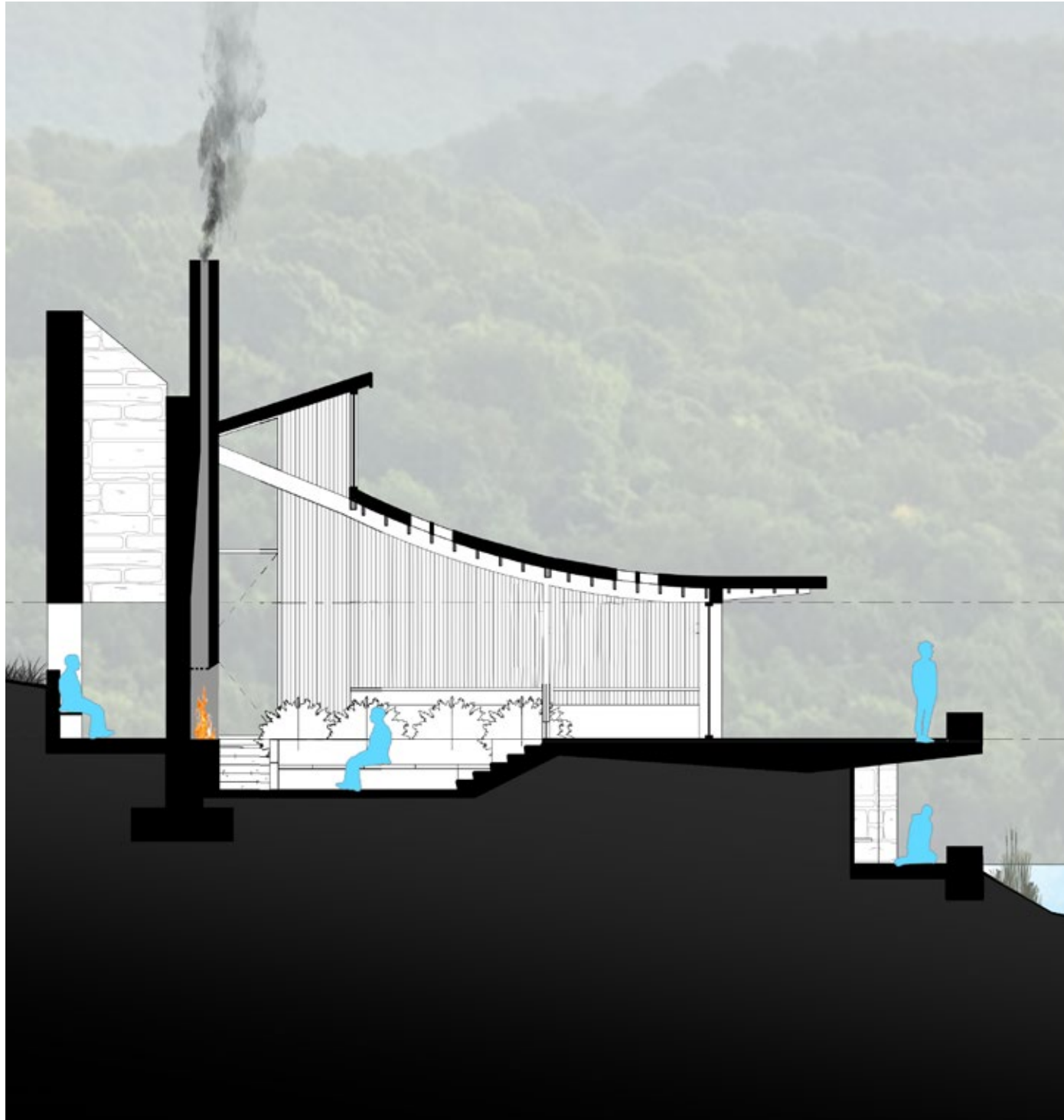


FIG. 45 - section

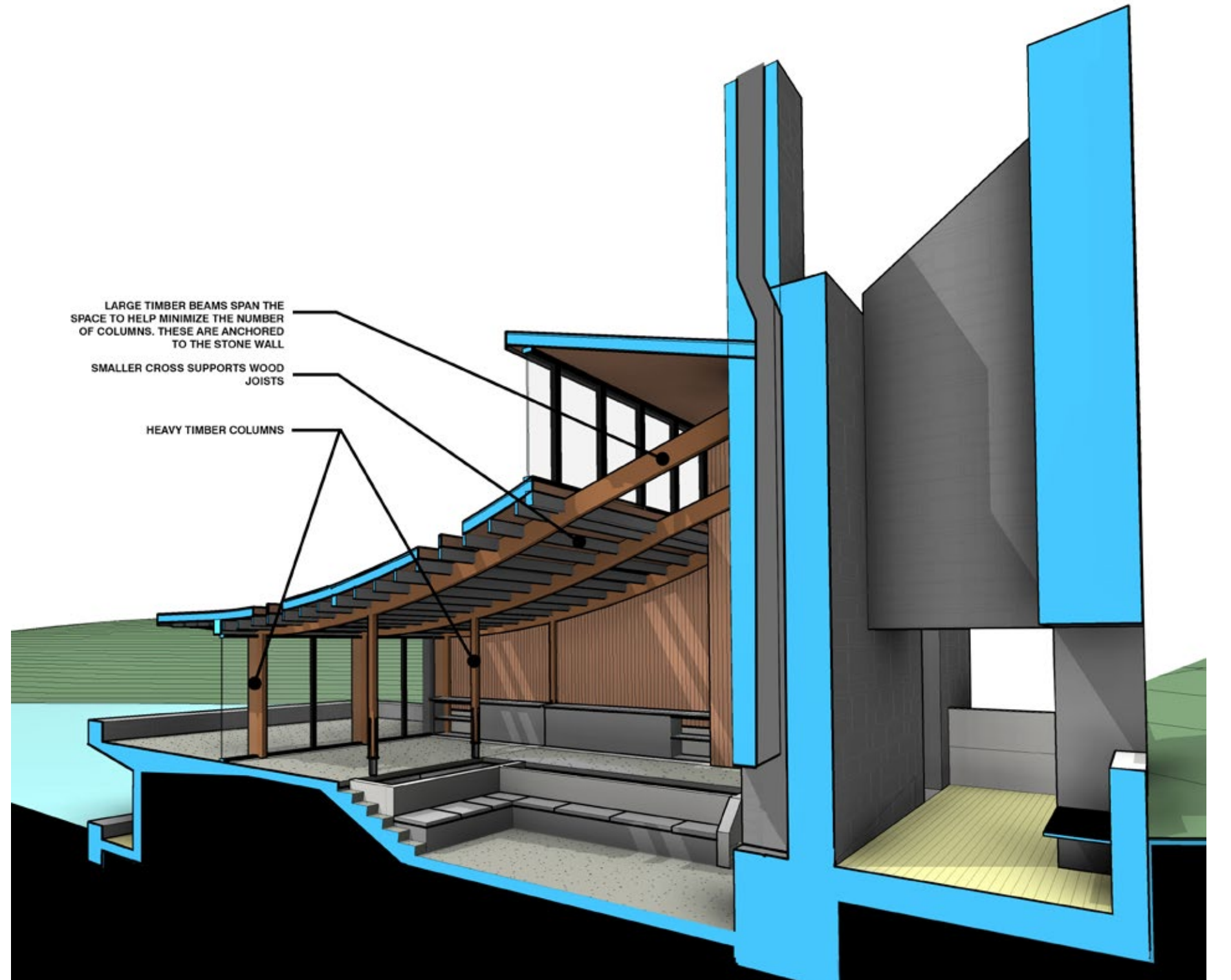


FIG. 46 - section (structure)

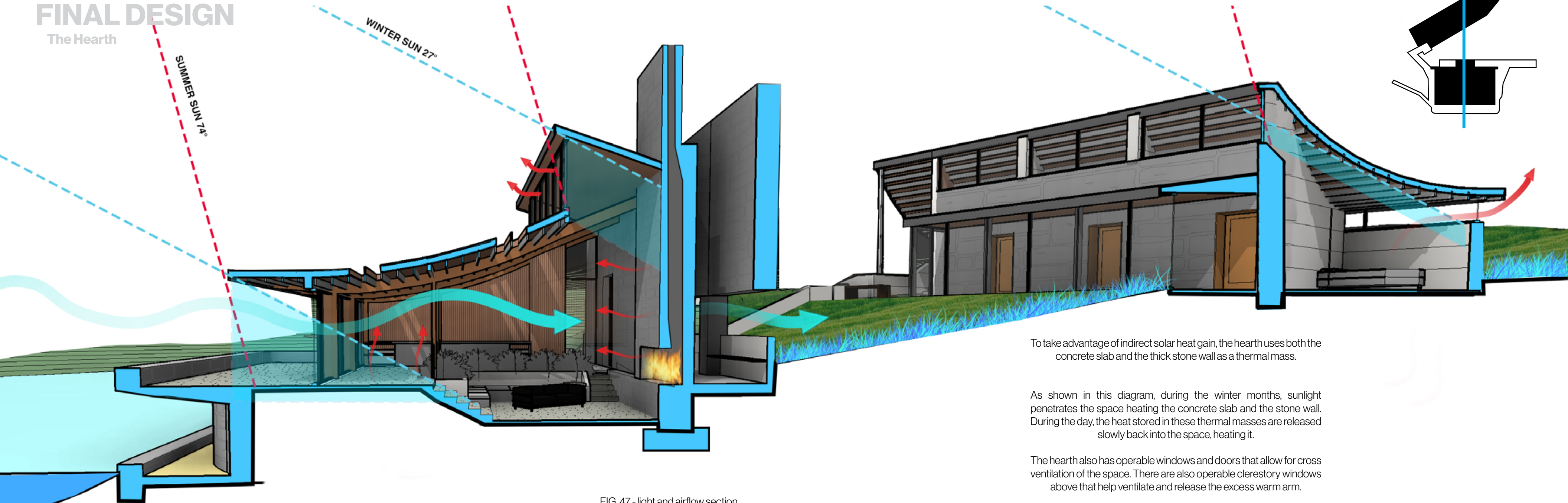


FIG. 47 - light and airflow section

To take advantage of indirect solar heat gain, the hearth uses both the concrete slab and the thick stone wall as a thermal mass.

As shown in this diagram, during the winter months, sunlight penetrates the space heating the concrete slab and the stone wall. During the day, the heat stored in these thermal masses are released slowly back into the space, heating it.

The hearth also has operable windows and doors that allow for cross ventilation of the space. There are also operable clerestory windows above that help ventilate and release the excess warm air.

The fireplace also heats the space in normal use but it also stores that heat energy in the stone wall surrounding it

FINAL DESIGN

The Hearth

A geothermal system will be used to take full advantage of the lake's cooling and heating properties. Geothermal piping will be laid at the lake bed no less than 12' below the lake surface. The piping will run to each building's heat-pump unit. From there cooled/warmed air will fill the space through registers.

Rainwater collecting will also be used for watering the plants around the site and flushing the toilets. The rain water will be collected at the upper building through a built in gutter system. From there the water stored in underground cisterns for later use.

A well will collect water from the underground aquifer. This will provide the building with clean potable natural water.

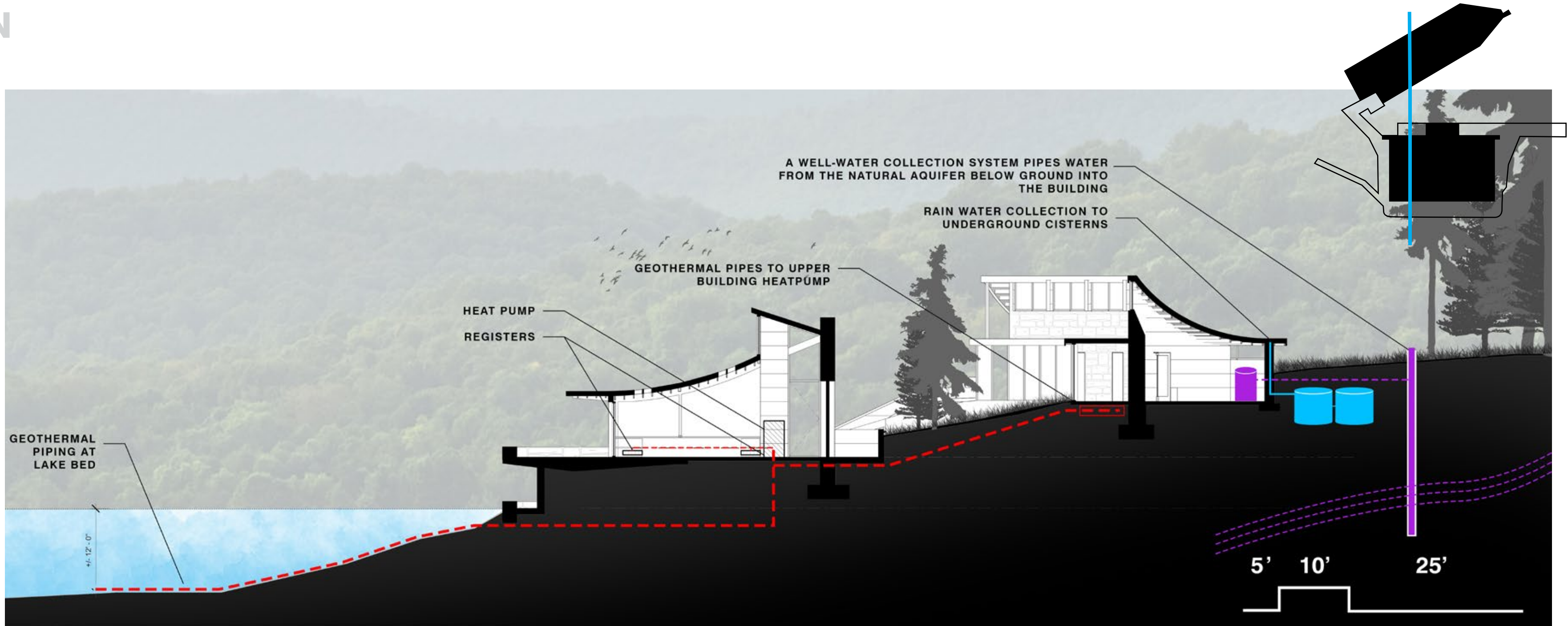


FIG. 48 - sustainable systems section

WEST ELEVATION

SOUTH ELEVATION

5' 10' 25'

SLATE TILE ROOF



BOARD FORMED CONCRETE



SHOU SUGI BAN CHARRED WOOD



GLASS



STONE WALL



FINAL DESIGN

The Shelter

The Hearth is the heart of the project and the shelters are the nervous system. It is the link that bonds all visitors to nature. The Shelters are isolated structures, but they have a connection back to the hearth, both in architectural materiality and in spirit. While staying in a shelter, the experience of being alone with oneself and with nature takes on your entire being. The architecture is there to simply guide the visitor and promote a sense of comfort and protection.

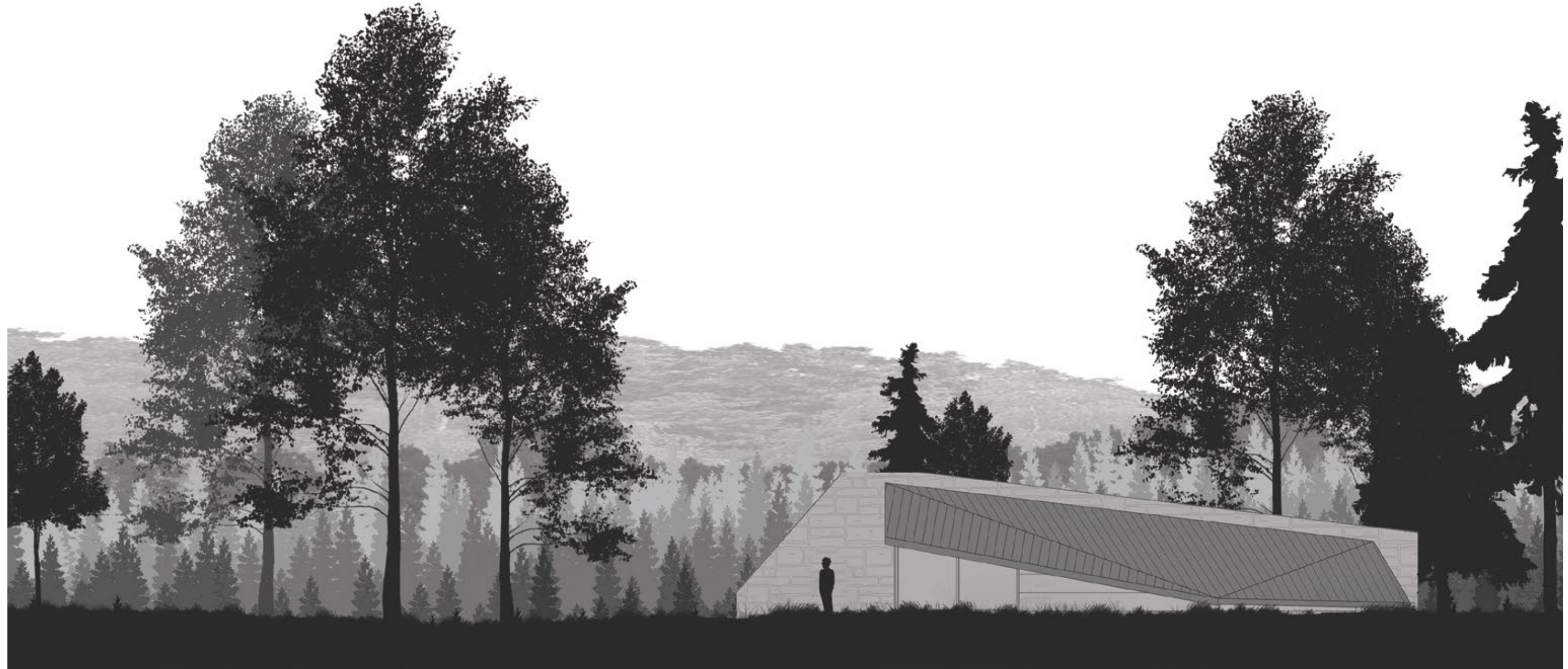
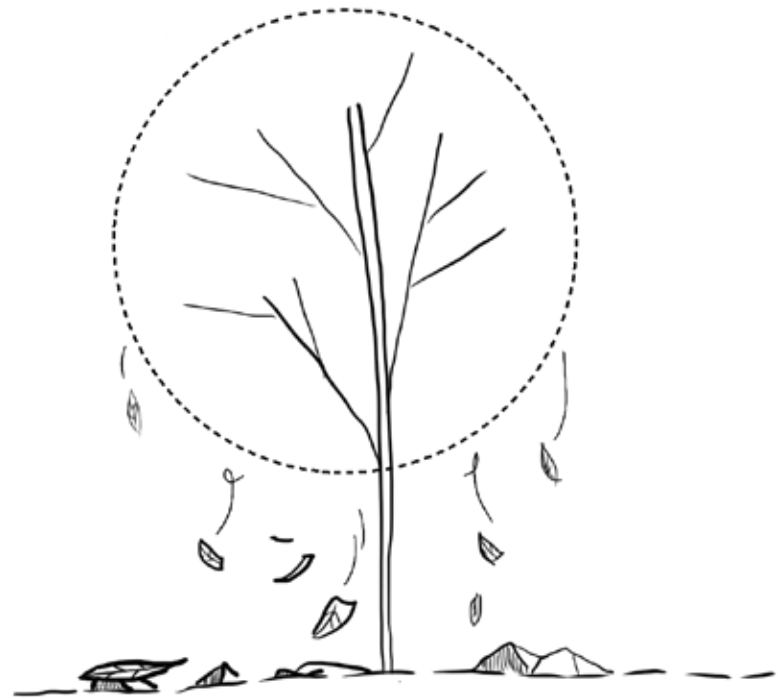
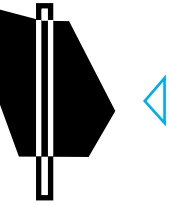


FIG. 50 - side elevation of typical shelter



FINAL DESIGN

The Shelter

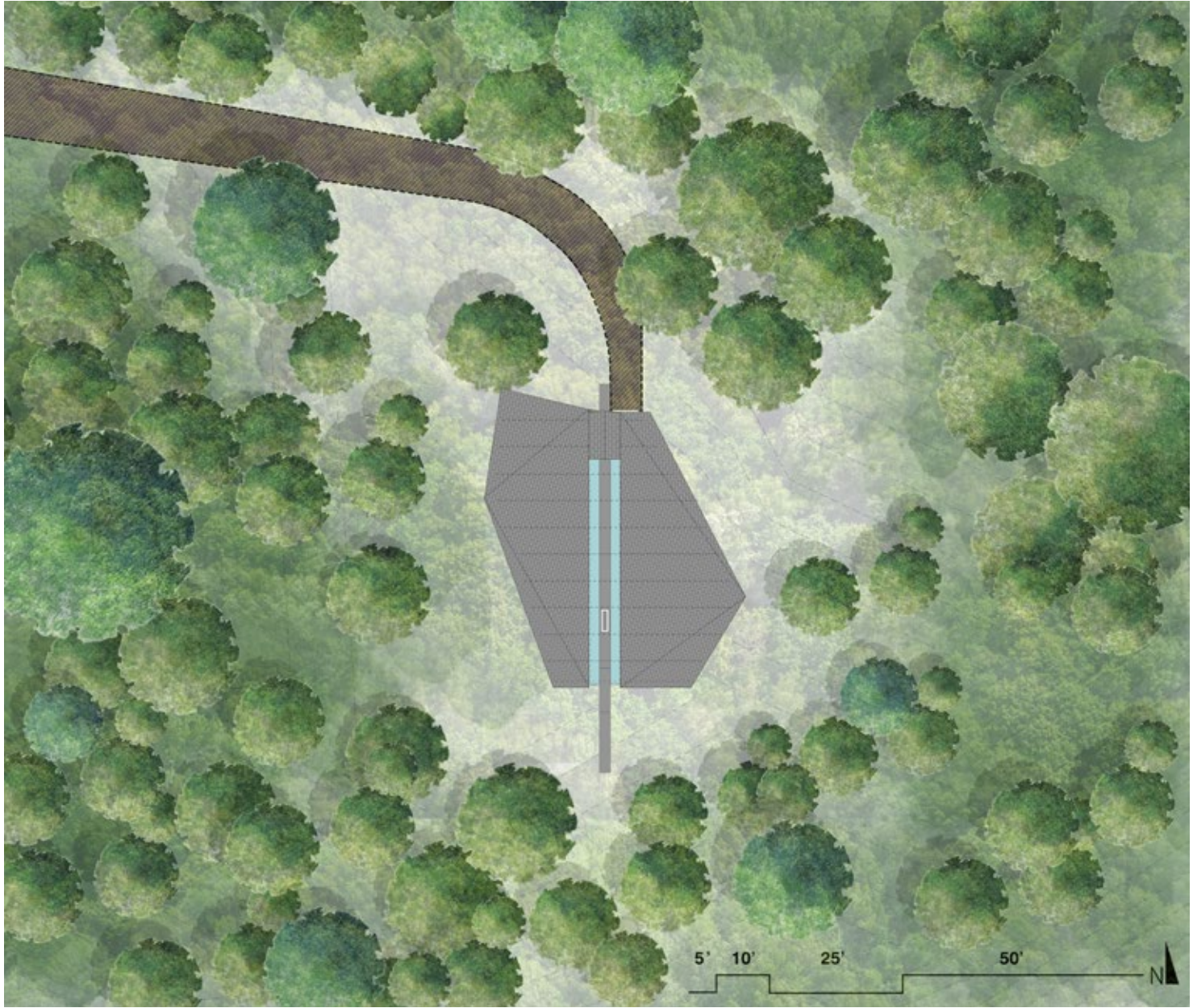


FIG. 51 - roof plan (shelter)

Every trail on the site leads to a shelter. Here you can see a typical floor plan for one of the long term stay shelters. It includes a bedroom, bathroom, small kitchenette and a meditation space.

In the meditation space there is a stone fireplace that is part of the shelters main structural spine. It is a direct spiritual connection back to the main hearth building and creates a sense of unity between the shelters and the hearth.

The stone wall acts as both a structural element and as a divider. It splits the building into two functions. The living and utility spaces are to the right in the plan and the meditative experience is to the left. Both sides can open completely to the outside allowing all the fresh air and smells from the natural environment to penetrate the shelter.

- 1. ENTRANCE
- 2. UTILITY
- 3. BATHROOM
- 4. BEDROOM
- 5. MEDITATION SPACE
- 6. FIREPLACE
- 7. TRAIL BACK TO HEARTH
- 8. KITCHENETTE



FIG. 52 - floor plan

FINAL DESIGN

The Shelter

The shelter is constructed using the same materials found in the hearth. The shelter uses a slate tile roof over a timber framed structure. The timber structure is anchored to the stone wall for support and also on the concrete walls and posts along its perimeter.

The shelter also uses photovoltaic panels for electricity as well as a rain water collection system for stored water.

A well system is also in place to provide water for drinking and bathing.

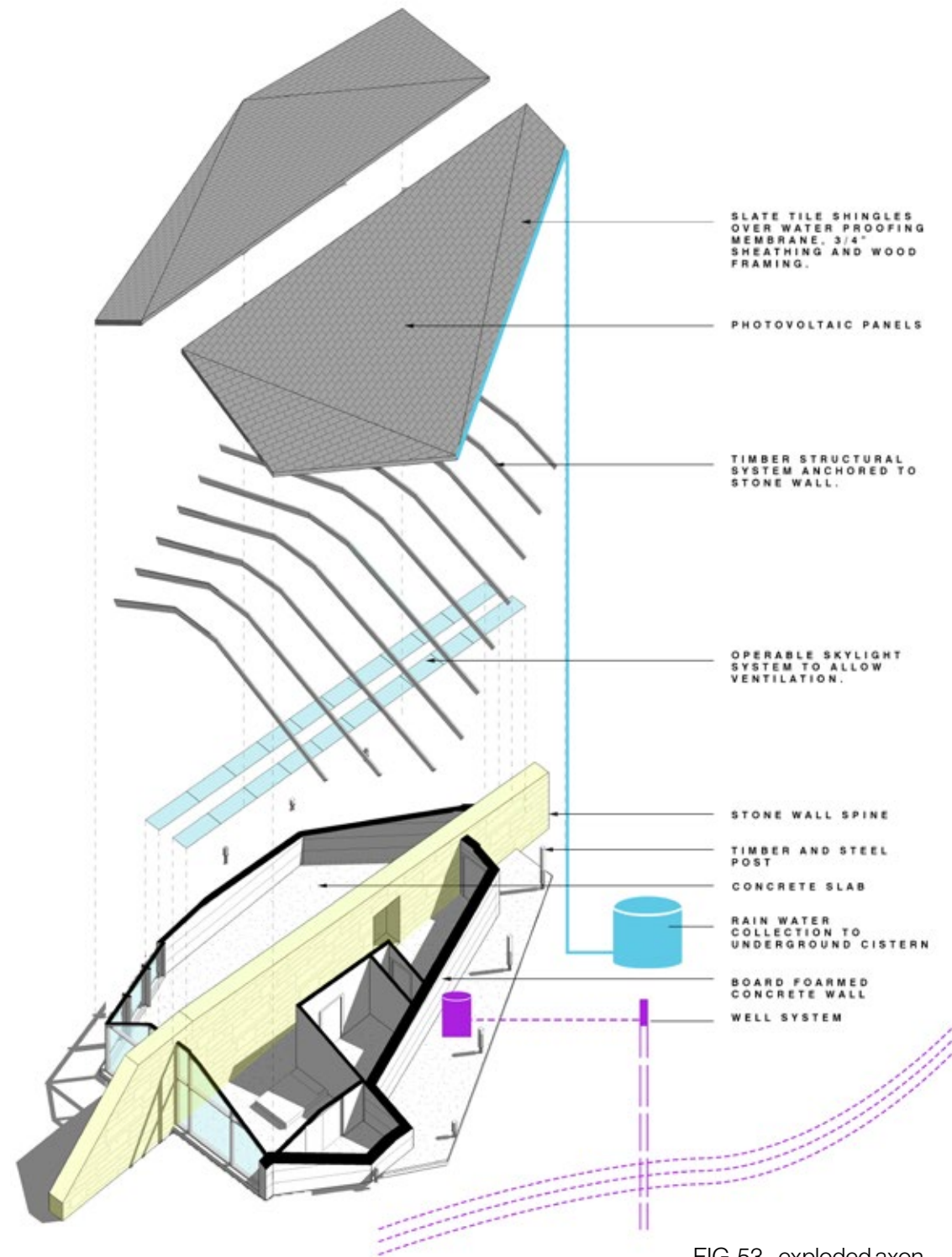


FIG. 53 - exploded axon

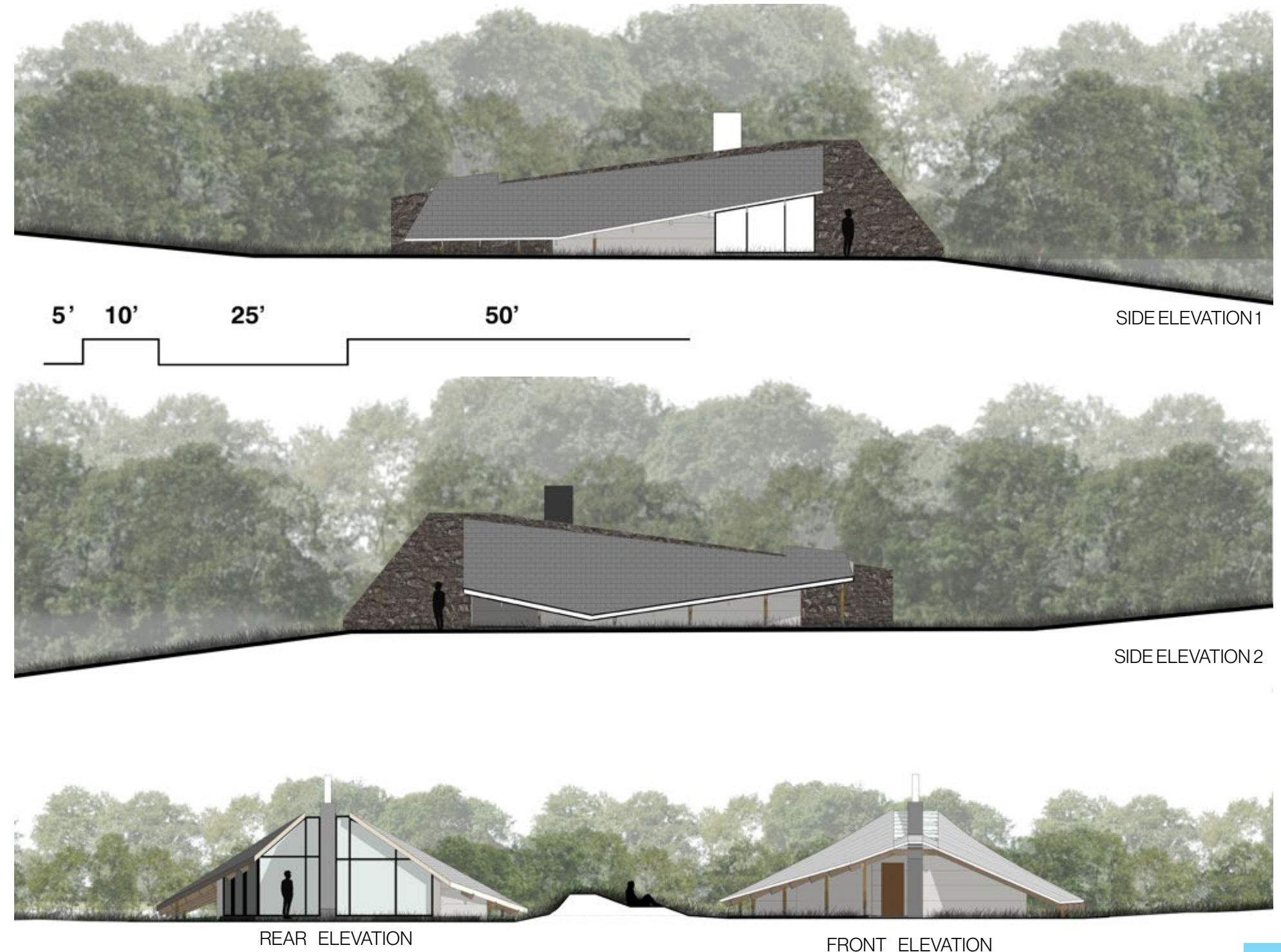
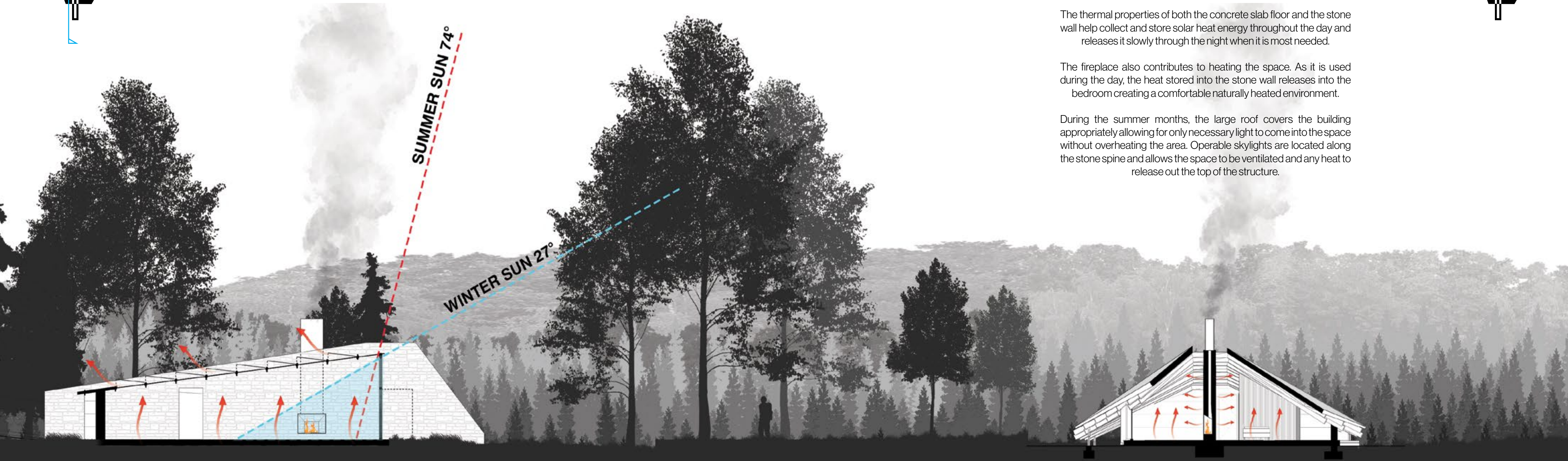
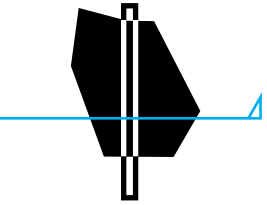
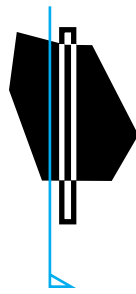


FIG. 54 - elevations



The thermal properties of both the concrete slab floor and the stone wall help collect and store solar heat energy throughout the day and releases it slowly through the night when it is most needed.

The fireplace also contributes to heating the space. As it is used during the day, the heat stored into the stone wall releases into the bedroom creating a comfortable naturally heated environment.

During the summer months, the large roof covers the building appropriately allowing for only necessary light to come into the space without overheating the area. Operable skylights are located along the stone spine and allows the space to be ventilated and any heat to release out the top of the structure.

FIG. 55 - light and airflow section



RENDERINGS

6



FIG. 56 - view looking back at the hearth from a trail



FIG. 57 - view looking back at the hearth from a trail



FIG. 58 - view from the overlook deck towards the upper building



FIG. 59 - view of the upper building from the main trail entrance



FIG. 60 - view of the courtyard space between both buildings



FIG. 61 - a view from inside the hallway in the upper building looking towards the courtyard and lake



FIG. 62 - interior view of the main hearth building



FIG. 63 - interior view of the main hearth building looking towards the lake



FIG. 64 - interior view looking back towards the overlook



FIG. 65 - interior view of hearth looking at the fireplace and stone wall



FIG. 66 - a view from the overlook



FIG. 67 - view from the point of reflection below the overlook

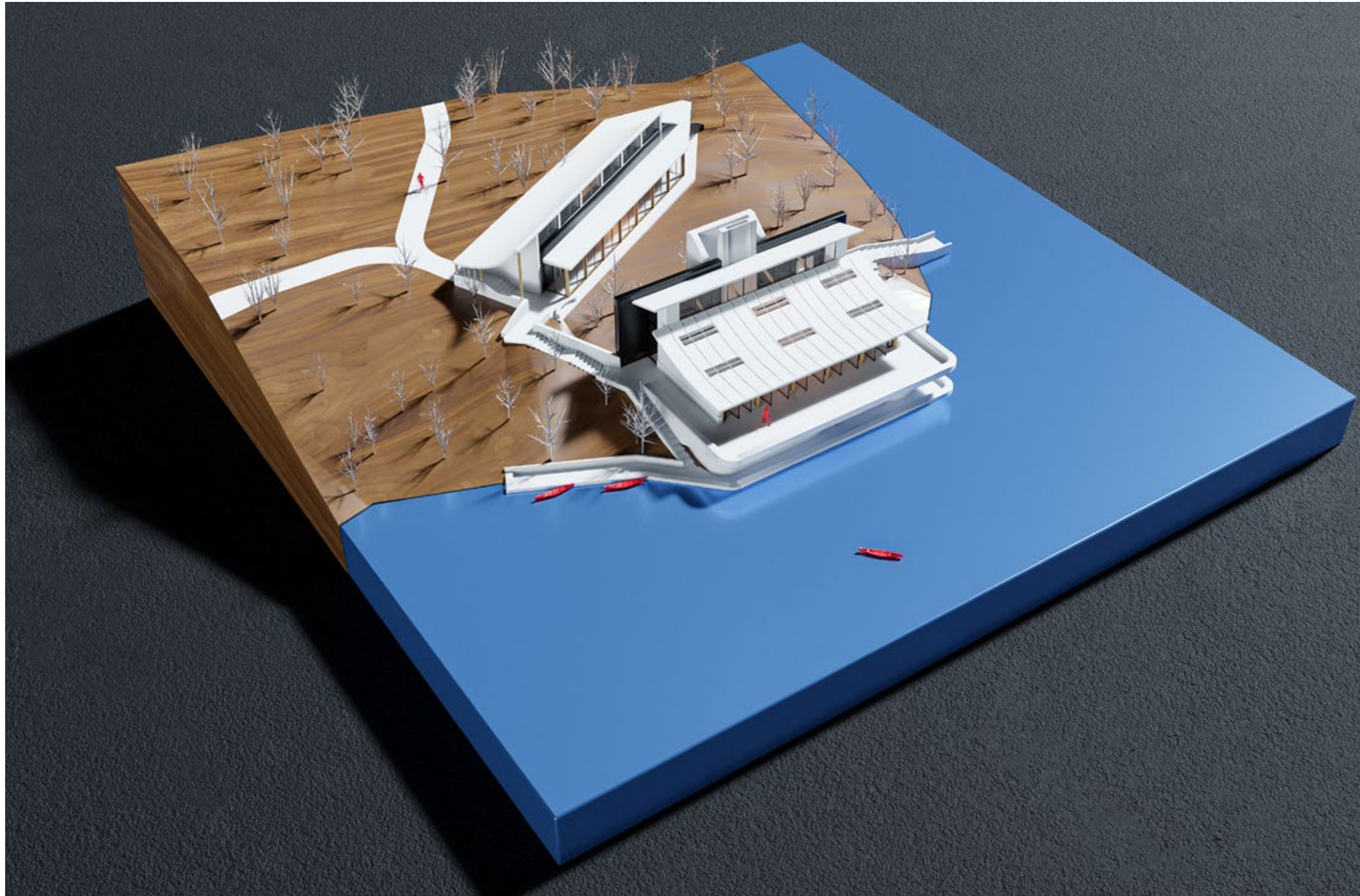


FIG. 68 - A rendered model to show the form and relationship of the two buildings and how they sit on the site





FIG. 69 - A view from the entrance of the shelter



FIG. 70 - An exterior view of one of the shelters



FIG. 71 - A view looking towards the rear of the shelter (bedroom)

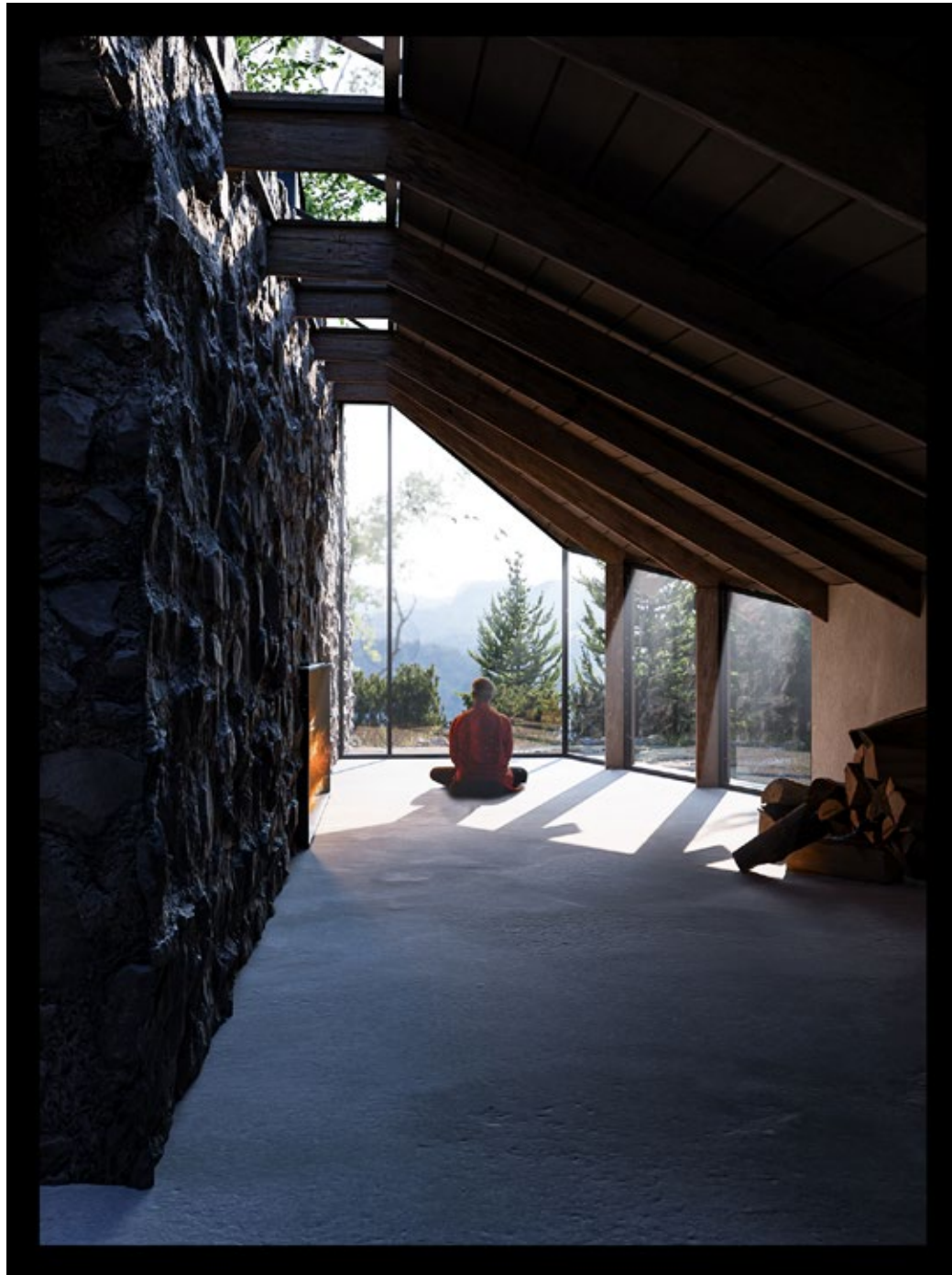


FIG. 72 - A view looking towards the rear of the shelter (Meditation Room)

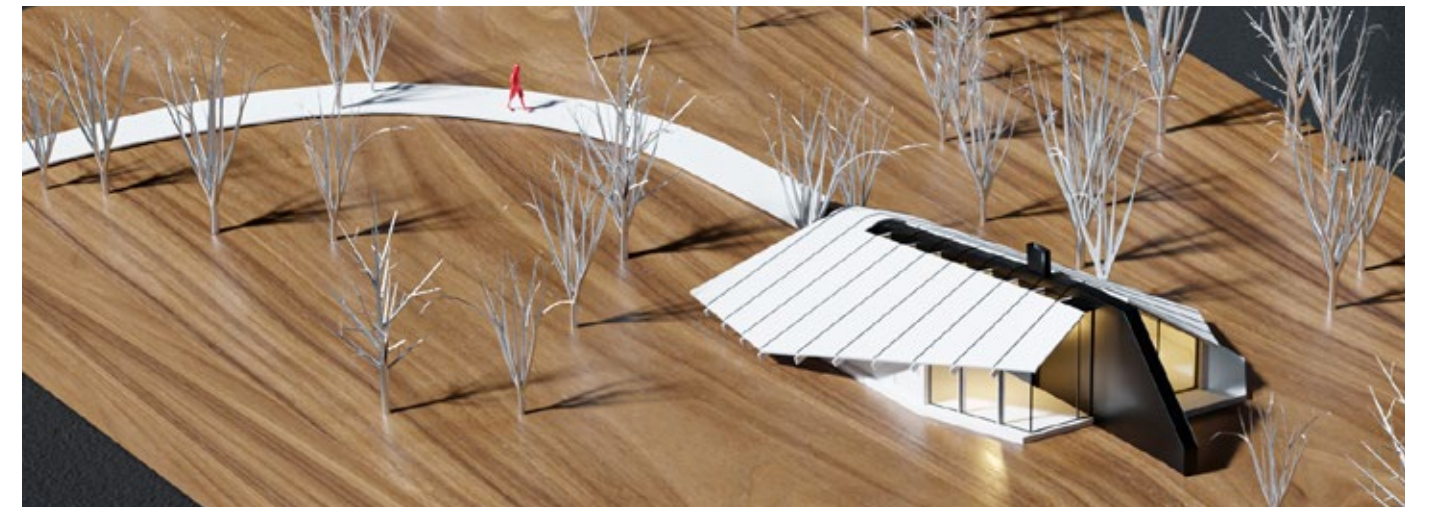
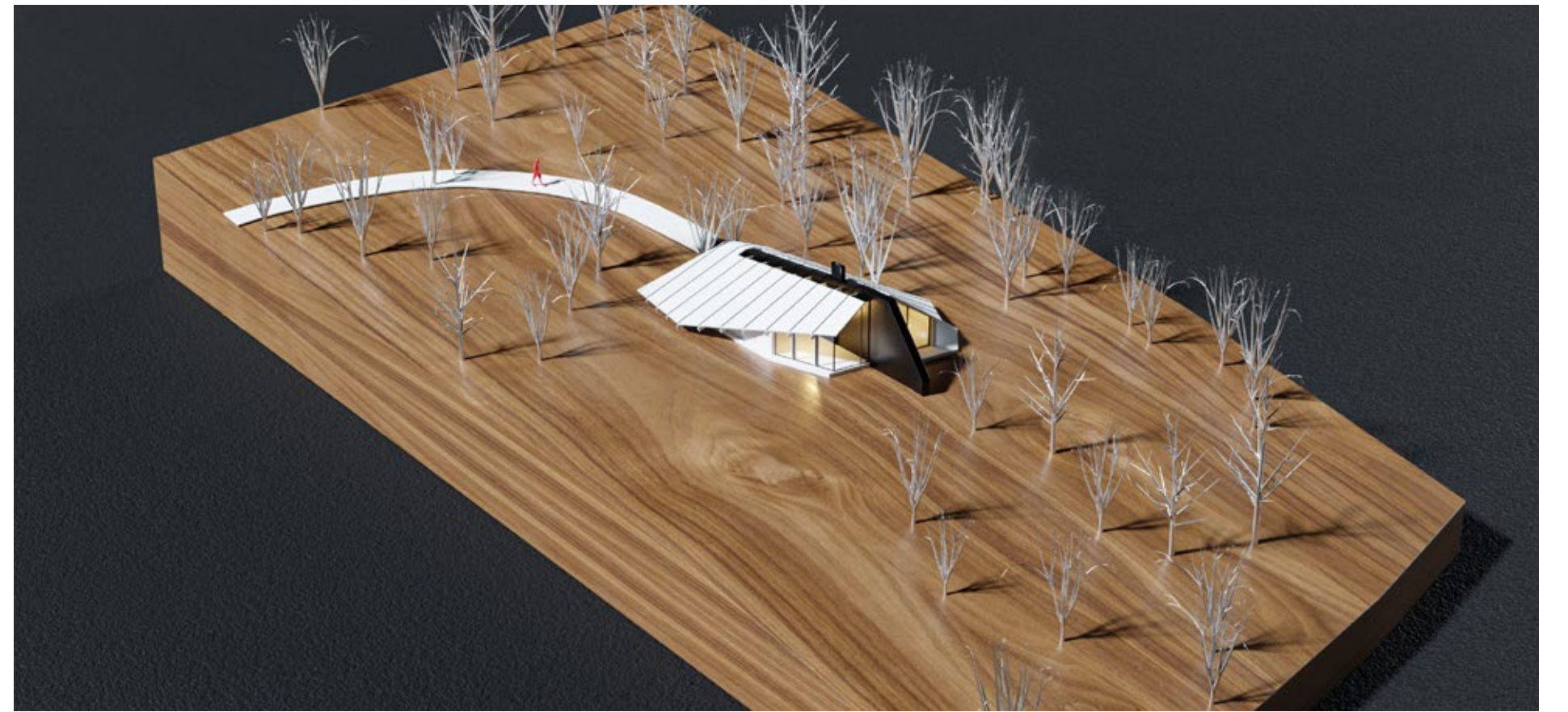


FIG. 73 - A rendered model of one of the shelters to show the overall form

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FIG 19. Google Images
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