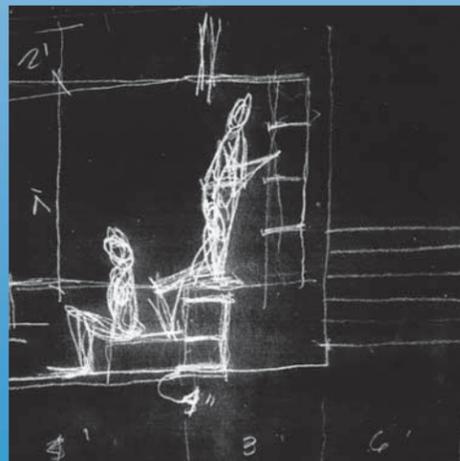
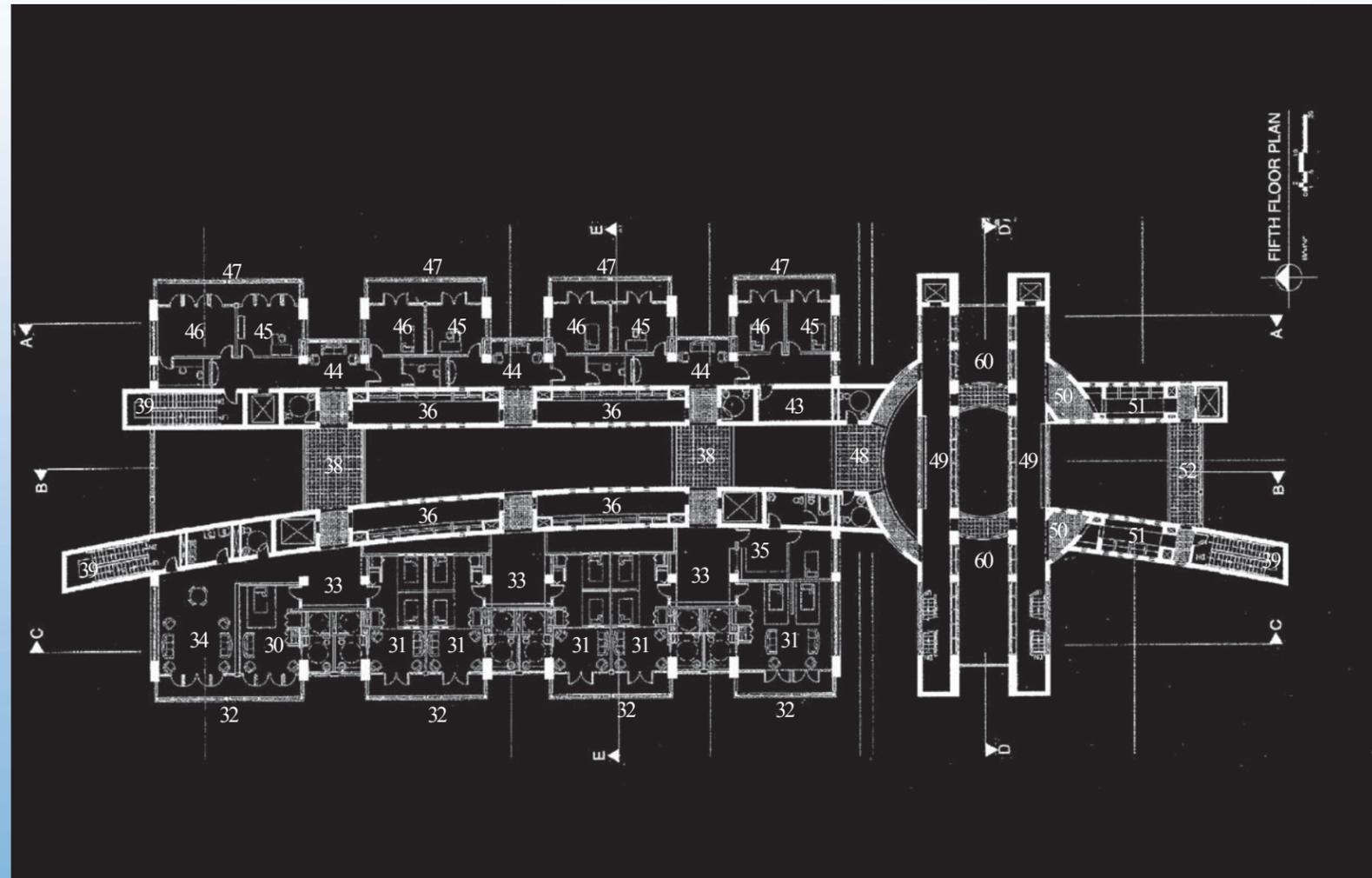


Fifth Floor Plan
Key

- 30 Studio Resident Room
- 31 Double Resident Room
- 32 Resident Wing Balcony
- 33 Resident Porch
- 34 Common Room
- 35 Nurse's Station
- 36 Library Hall/Reading Carrels
- 38 Great Hall Bridge
- 39 Egress Stairs
- 40 Public Toilet
- 43 Storage
- 44 Reception/Waiting
- 45 Doctor/Clinic Office
- 46 Exam/Treatment Room
- 47 Research Wing Balcony
- 48 Quilt Wall Vestibule
- 49 Quilt Wall Hall
- 50 Prayer Vestibule
- 51 Meditation Hall/ Prayer Carrels
- 60 Quilt Wall Bridge
- 62 South Bridge



Library Hall built-in seating and shelving system

Garden - Sacred Space

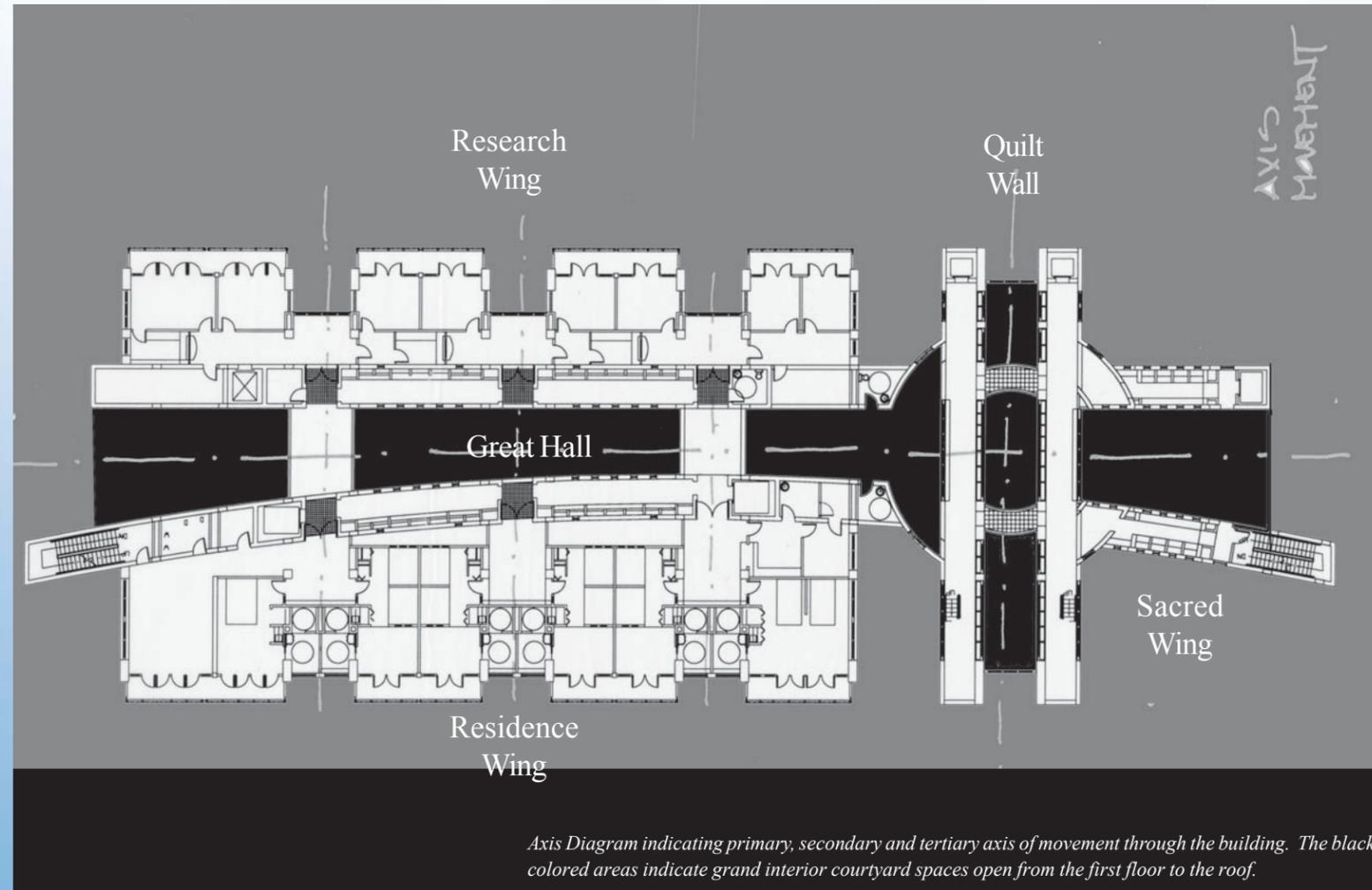
The site I chose is surrounded by gardens two of which are public and two private; believers in Feng Shui will tell you, "This is most auspicious". Gardens bring serenity and provide for a connection to nature. Gardens are places set apart from the larger world and are often seen as sacred or magical. Christians believe life began in a garden called Eden. As our lives draw to a close, what better place to spend our time than in the garden, beneath us the earth from which we sprang.

On the west side, the site is bordered by Rock Creek Park including a grassy knoll along side Rock Creek, known as the "P Street Beach". Rock Creek Park cuts through the west side of the city. It provides a natural refuge for both flora and fauna. Portions of the park are closed on the weekends to automobile traffic in order to give the park back to the people for their recreational enjoyment. Within the park, there are walking and biking paths as well as horse trails.

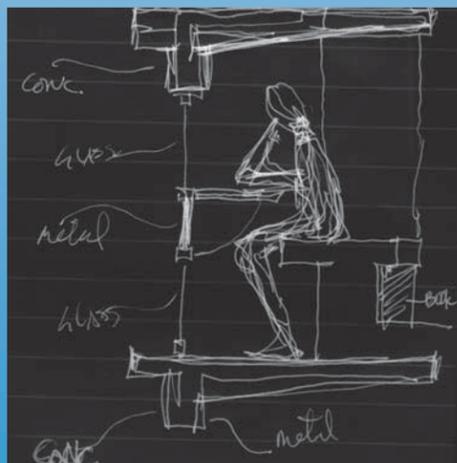
To the North is Shevchenko Park. Although poorly designed and not well maintained, this memorial park provides several elements key for a successful urban park. There are large trees which ring the site providing shade during the summer months. A small fountain drowns out the sound of passing automobiles. Seating encourages neighbors to leisurely enjoy the public space.

The garden deliberately seeks to be different from the ordinary world, holding out to us the possibility of heightened experience - spiritual, sensuous, or both - through communion with the things of earth. These may be invoked with stark reduction or abstraction - a rock, a single tree, a well of light - or with a rich profusion of incident that invites our attention to sun and sky, wind and water, trees, plants, flowers, birds and secret animals, insects and bugs, butterflies, snakes, lizards and worms, stones and soils. ⁶

If patients can be in a garden or look at one, they can maintain their orientation despite medications they may be taking or trauma they may be experiencing. Gardens can calm anxious visitors and give a welcome passage of relief to hospital staff. They make hospitals smell better and are much more interesting to look at than elevators and corridors. They can also be places where patients participate in gardening and thereby get the benefits of occupational therapies. ¹⁵



Axis Diagram indicating primary, secondary and tertiary axis of movement through the building. The black colored areas indicate grand interior courtyard spaces open from the first floor to the roof.



Prayer Hall built-in seating and flip-top desk system

Within the property lines of the site itself, and within the sacred wing of the building, I have designed two garden spaces. Both spaces are “healing gardens”. The healing garden is, “...designed to support the healing process by awakening patients’ senses of sight, smell and touch and prompting body movement by inspiring the patient to explore the garden, if only in a wheelchair”. ^{7(p.71)} In each garden, there is enough room for wheelchair and gurney movement, so that residents can enjoy the space even as their illness progresses. Fresh air, birds singing, wind whistling in the trees and the gurgle of water all aid in the healing process. The gardens offer residents a place for quiet reflection. “Patients need private reflection. They need to process grief, sadness and confusion; and they need to joy.” ^{16(p.4)} The gardens serve as a place of respite and solace for residents, staff and family members.

The garden at the South West corner of the site is a Memorial garden. It faces the setting sun and represents sunset as a time for reflection. This garden includes a pathway paved with memorial bricks and a small pond. At the South East corner of the site is the Meditation Garden. This garden faces the rising sun and is meant for meditation and atonement. This garden includes a clump of fruit trees and a sundial, representing time with the idea “...be mindful that each human life moves from moment to moment ineluctably closer to death”. ⁶

In addition to the gardens, I have designed two courtyards for outdoor dining. Both courtyards are accessible from the first floor east and west entrance vestibules. The smaller east courtyard, located next to the research wing, will mainly serve as a staff dining area. The larger west courtyard serves the residents. Both courtyards are paved with grey slate. Three walls of the courtyard are covered in a mat of lush, green ivy.