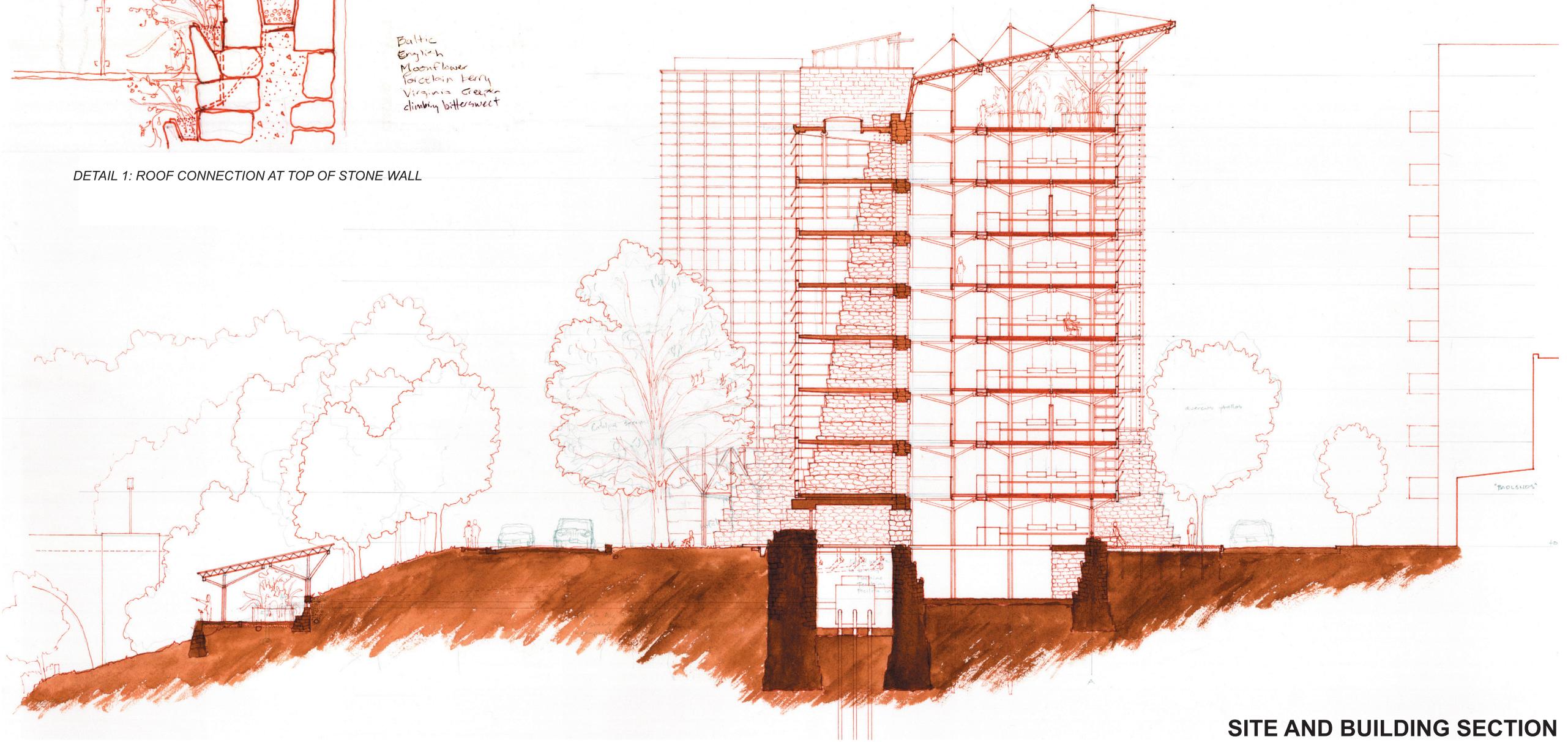


Baltic
English
Moonflower
Porcelain fern
Virginia Creeper
climbing bittersweet

DETAIL 1: ROOF CONNECTION AT TOP OF STONE WALL



photo 8: view north from site



SITE AND BUILDING SECTION



EAST ELEVATION (22nd STREET)

Rock Creek Park and Dupont Circle have always shared a special relationship in the city. As one of the densest areas of Washington, Dupont Circle is made richer by its close proximity to the open, lush and sheltered green spaces within the Park. The Park is a physical and psychological boundary between Dupont and Georgetown, and is used extensively by residents and visitors as a recreation area and pathway north and south through the city. By foot, bicycle and car, the Park is an integral part of the experience of the surrounding neighborhoods.

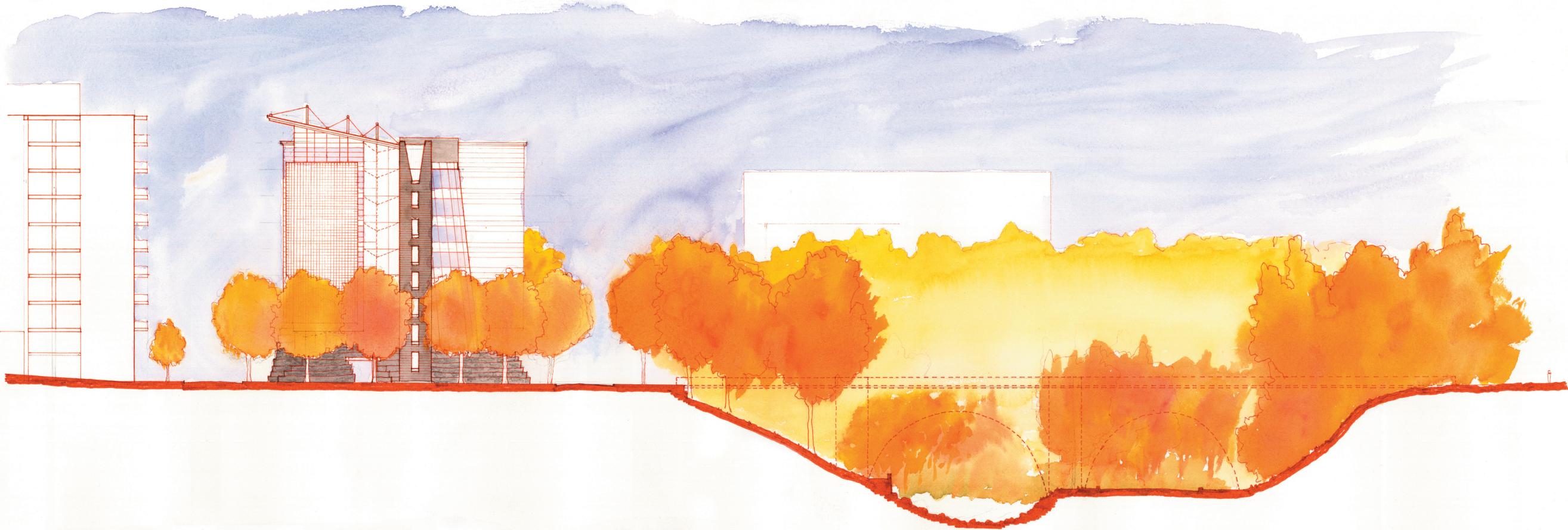
My design for a new building on this site treats these relationships as a major part of the site layout and building orientation. Pedestrians, vehicular traffic, residents and office workers all have needs addressed in the site planning process. Pedestrians need to make connections between the dense urban area and the green space of the park. Car traffic needs to flow smoothly, but not so fast as to present danger to the pedestrians. Emergency vehicles going to the hospital south on 23rd Street need a fast, smooth path past the site. Residents of the area would also benefit from the improved access to the park and traffic calming, with the added aesthetic benefits of a beautiful building surrounded by strong, healthy street trees. Daily users of the building could take advantage of both the street level lawn and shade and the improved views to the north and west across the valley of the park.

The approach to the Institute by road from the north or south is marked by a change of paving from asphalt to small textured granite pavers. Spaced for the wider wheel base of emergency vehicles, two strips of smooth pavers run the length of the site

from north to south on 22nd and 23rd Streets, and east - west on P Street. Current parking restrictions remain, and spaces are marked by rows of textured pavers in a darker color of granite. Runoff from the roads and sidewalks is directed into copper drainage channels around the base of the building which collect the water and carry it to the onsite treatment facility for cleaning and filtration before it enters the park watershed. Brick and granite pavers around the base of the building are patterned after tree canopies that protect the ground below. The surface of the sidewalks is itself a canopy, placed in a steel framework that touches the soil below in few places and protects the ground from compacting and affecting the growth of the many street trees. The locations of planters and benches give many places for people to linger for lunch, await other people or simply enjoy a stationary moment. The lawn on the west side of the building creates a space for building inhabitants to come outside and enjoy the shade and striking appearance of the large catalpa tree.

Entrance into the park is presently a makeshift stair of wood trestles that terrace enough soil and debris to make a usable path down to the grassy hillside of the. At times, this path can become nearly unusable because of rain and muddy conditions. Access at other places along the edge of the park is not controlled in any way, and the soil near the sidewalk has been compacted to the point where it is nearly like concrete. The design here uses the paving patterns established along the roadway and on the sidewalks adjacent to the building to create a seating area along the top edge of the hill, and provide functional stairs down the side of the hill. Additional low

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT



NORTH ELEVATION (P STREET)

plantings would be placed to encourage visitors to the park to take advantage of the provided stairs rather than cut through the treeline and damage the soils.

Street trees carry the column grid of the building out onto the adjacent sidewalk and reinforce the form of the building's structure. The oak tree *Quercus phellos* shades the majority of the sidewalk. It is ideally sized, low maintenance, natural to the region and provides a beautiful yellow stroke of color in the fall, with minimal mess of dropped fruit or leaves. Entrances to the building are marked with the intense red fall foliage of the Red Maple, *Acer rubrum*, another hardy native species.

The path of the sun through the sky during the year helps place elements of the building structure and the surrounding site elements. From paved spots in the park on the west side of the valley, early morning sun can be observed rising up above the buildings in the gap of the large stone walls above the main entrance to the building. The notch in the north stair tower casts its noon shadow across P Street and traces marks in the paving that indicate the months of the year. Seating in the park across P Street is set to take advantage of the available sunlight in the cool months, and provide shade from trees during the spring and summer months.

Similarly, the shadows cast by the existing building logically contribute to the planning for the lawn area and the main entrance to the Institute. In the area immediately adjacent to the existing building, a shade garden of rocks, mosses and

other plants takes advantage of the year-round shade condition. The lawn begins where sun begins to shine, and continues to the point at which the winter sun hits the base of the building entry, where the ground surface becomes stone. The noon equinox sun casts a shadow that marks the base of the catalpa tree.

The stone wall, built of the same stone found throughout the park and along the Potomac River nearby, anchors the building on the site. Folding up out of the ground, it weaves across the central atrium and contains support spaces throughout the building. Its volume is roughly equivalent to the volume of earth excavated on the site to form the foundations for the new building. Site debris would be salvaged, and used as fill inside the stone wall. The intermediate decontamination stage of site development could potentially remove enough toxins from the site's subsoil that the removed earth could be used as fill elsewhere in the park or nearby areas of the city.

The winding stone wall also forms the primary threshold at each of the bridges that reach across the metaphoric gap between city and nature. The crossing surfaces float free of the wall, nearing and responding to the form of the wall, but never touching. The support systems of the building come out from the wall at the crossings and begin to weave themselves into the fabric of the tree/column structure. The stone wall is a living part of the natural metaphor, bedrock to support