


PAIISE



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Michael Andrew Travis

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**Marcia F. Feuerstein, Chair
Paul F. Emmons
Nathan M. Heavers**

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Pause is a necessity within the rhythm of life. There are pauses everywhere around us; we pause when we breathe, we pause when we speak, and we pause when we think. Pause is a crucial part in the most beautiful pieces of music, it is in between our bites of food and sips of coffee. Pause is what makes life beautiful; without it the world around us will consist of a meaningless cacophony.

Architecture, much like other things in life must also contain pauses to be enjoyable. The most memorable and appreciative architecture consist of spaces where once has an ability to pause and have an experience be it much needed rest, peace or a moment to think.

There are many memorable places that create such moments and that I have experienced across places in Europe and United States. This experiences I studied and would like to bring to much needed places closer to home.

I strongly believe that it is very important to have places of pause in our urban fabric. Thus, I searched and found a site which I believe would be most beneficial from a community center filled with opportunities to pause.

The site location is being developed with a cacophony of commercial and residential construction with little consideration to what is needed in between in order to create a beautiful composition of a city; a pause in the urban fabric.

ABSTRACT

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Introduction

What is a 'pause' in architecture?

A 'pause' is a pleasant interruption along a path; followed by an architectural invitation to stop, explore, stand, lean, sit or lay down. A successful place of 'pause' stimulates the senses and possibly alters the mood of the visitors.

The thesis begins with research on the places of 'pause' through exploration and analysis of various public spaces and buildings.

Following the research findings a problem is identified within the fast growing area of Northern Virginia.

After identifying and studying the site, a solution through architecture is explored through the design process. The solution proposed is the 'Pause' Community Center adjacent to McLean Metro Station in Tysons Corners, Virginia.





Researching the Places of 'Pause'

The idea and fascination of pausing in an urban fabric began with a study abroad trip to Europe. I began to wonder what makes public places and buildings particular attractive for people to pause. Research involved spending time to observe places and behaviors of people in those places; taking notes on existing conditions, comfort levels and sensual experiences. I started making design discoveries in places I explored.

The trip to Europe included a total of 14 cities in Italy, Austria, Czech Republic, Germany, Denmark and Netherlands. The collage on the left shows images of some of the places I studied while on the trip.

Upon my return to the United States I traveled to New York, Philadelphia and Washington, DC to further study places of pause.

The following pages include public spaces and buildings elements of which I wanted to capture in my design and are relevant to the project.

- pp 3-5: Mirabellgarten, Salzburg - Czech Republic
- pg 6: Binnenalster, Hamburg - Germany
- pp 7-8: Pantheon & Piazza della Rotonda, Rome - Italy
- pg 9: Orestad, Copenhagen - Denmark
- pg 10: Kultorvet Square, Copenhagen - Denmark
- pg 11: High Line, New York - NY
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- pg 13: Arena Stage Renovation, Washington - DC
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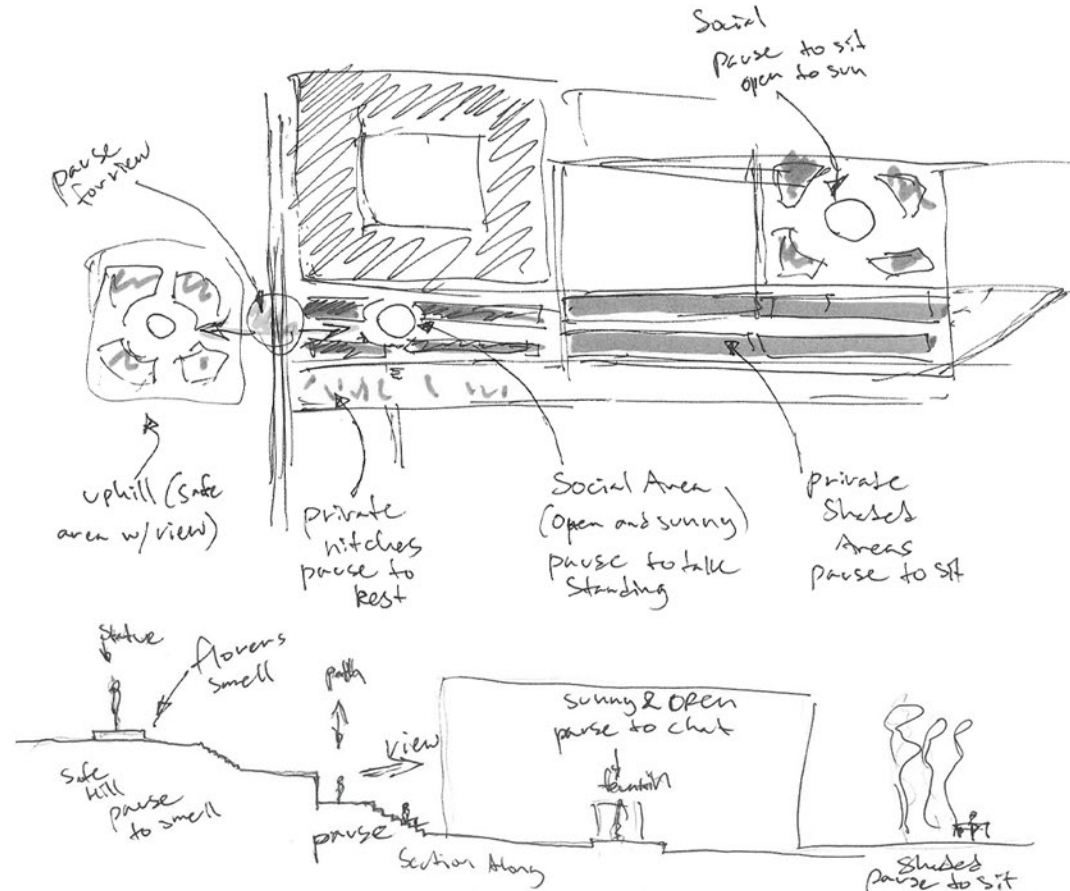


Mirabellgarten, Salzburg - Czech Republic

The park intersects a major pedestrian path which connects two sides of the city. Things that made me stop were the awe inspiring framed views, strong axial orientation, fountains, greenery and shaded paths (photograph from the pedestrian path to the left).

Further exploration confirms several enjoyable spaces that makes one stop; the smell of flowers, the benches, the shaded paths, the private niches and the social areas.

Sketches below show plan view and sections across the park, noting connections of spaces and various experiences.

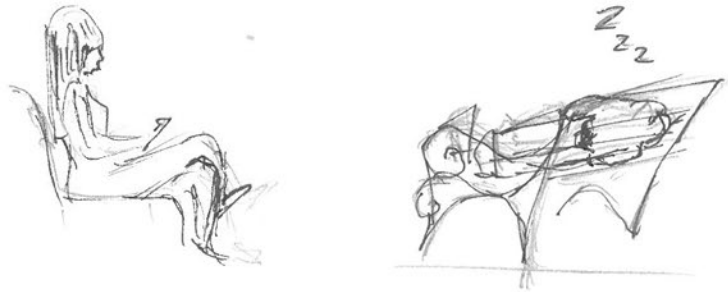


Observation 1:

A woman came alone and sat down by her self just to sit for a while. She seemed like a wallflower and wanted to be left alone. She was checking her phone and writing something in a notebook or a planner.

Observation 2:

A man sleeping inside another niche. He seemed very peaceful and comfortable. Half an hour later he was gone.

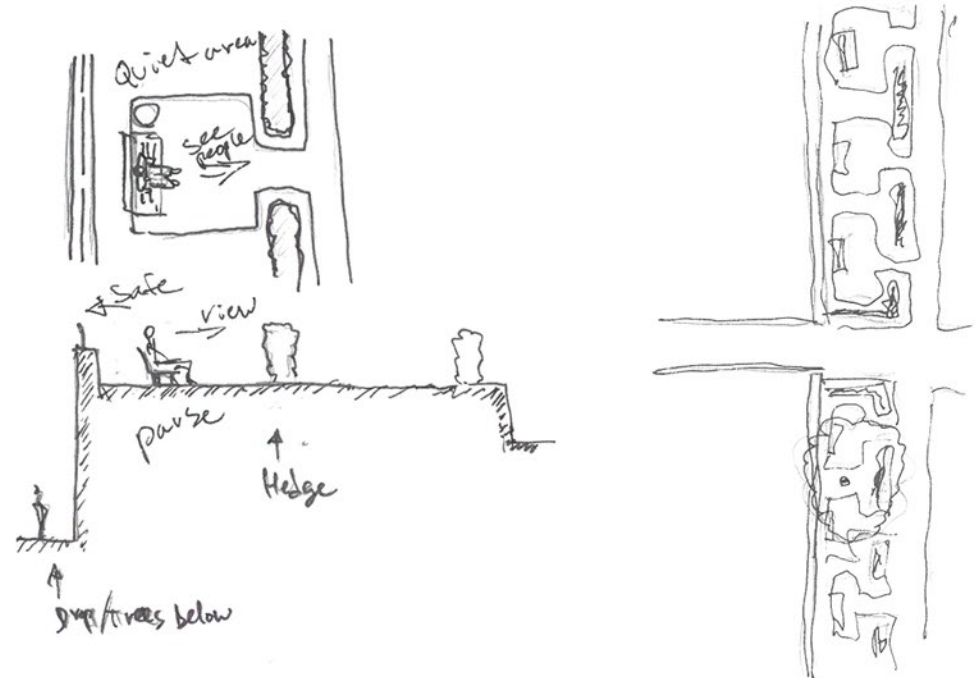


Mirabellgarten is a great example of a design that provides a series of private places that allow the users to stop, pause and refresh.

The private niches (pictured bottom left) in the garden allow a sense of protection and privacy. The niches are located away from the main travel path. Inside it feels quiet and hidden; this is accomplished by the shrub enclosure, forward view and a change in elevation.

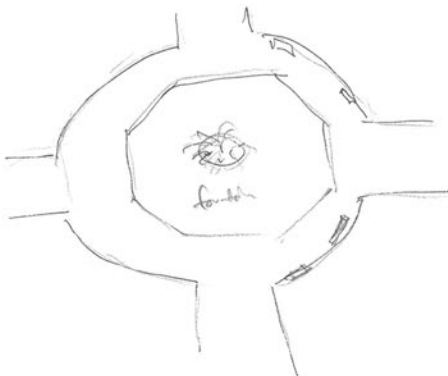
The sketches below show a plan view, section and analysis of the senses while sitting in one of the niches.

To the left are two observations of others using the niches.



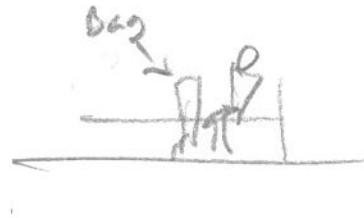
Mirabellgarten contains open areas that allow people to stop and interact with each other. The sunny and shaded areas in the garden beckon you to sit, relax and enjoy the moment. People seemed to be more social where it was sunny, and more private in the shaded areas.

Below an image and a sketch of a central fountain were I stopped to observe people and their use of the benches. To the right are the two observations within this space along with images and sketches.



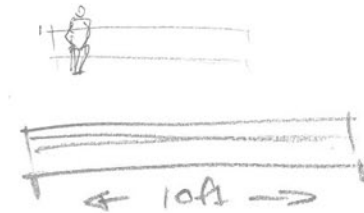
Observation 1:

A woman sat on the bench in way that prevented others from sitting next to her. On one side it was too tight and on the other she placed her bag which became an obstacle. This obstacle prevented others from sitting down and created a signal that this person wants to be private.



Observation 2:

The persons sitting by themselves with most of the bench open and without an obstacle seemed to be more social. I experimented by sitting next to persons sitting this way and striking a conversation. The subjects proved to be very open and conversational. The longer benches allowed for more space for persons to interact.



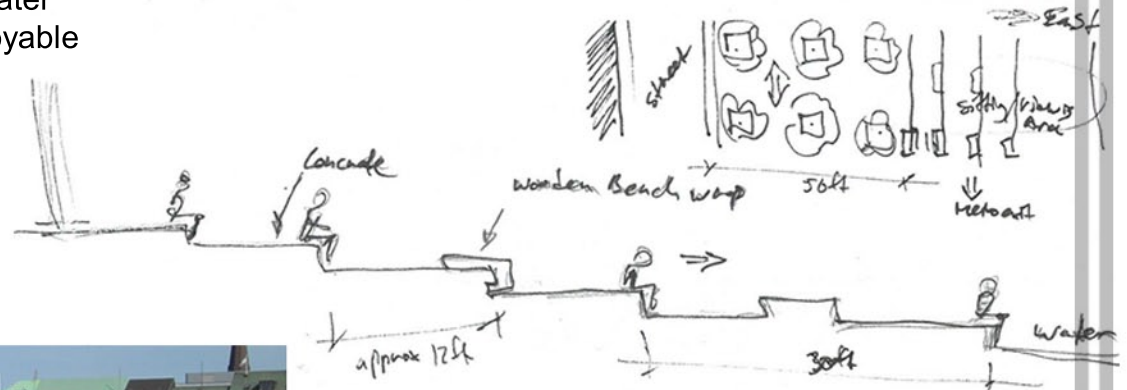
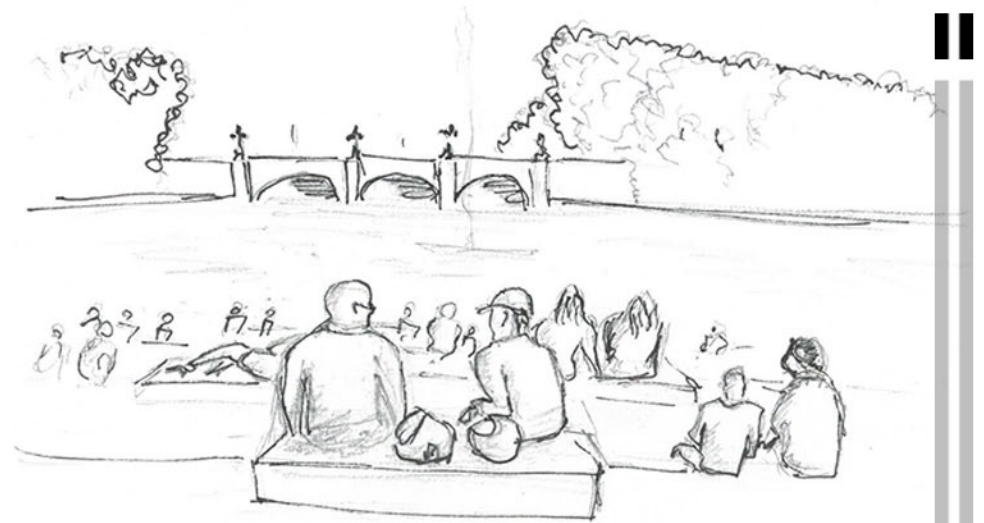
Binnenalster, Hamburg - Germany

Binnenalster is a public plaza located in between the Aubenauster lake and Jungfernstieg street. This area is very busy with pedestrian traffic.

An amazing view of water, openness and a fountain (top-right sketch) made me stop and explore further. The plaza runs east to west and has stepped down seating towards the lake as shown in the middle right sketches.

The sloped site and sound of the fountain cancels out the city noise. The continuous concrete steps are interrupted by more comfortable wooden seating areas.

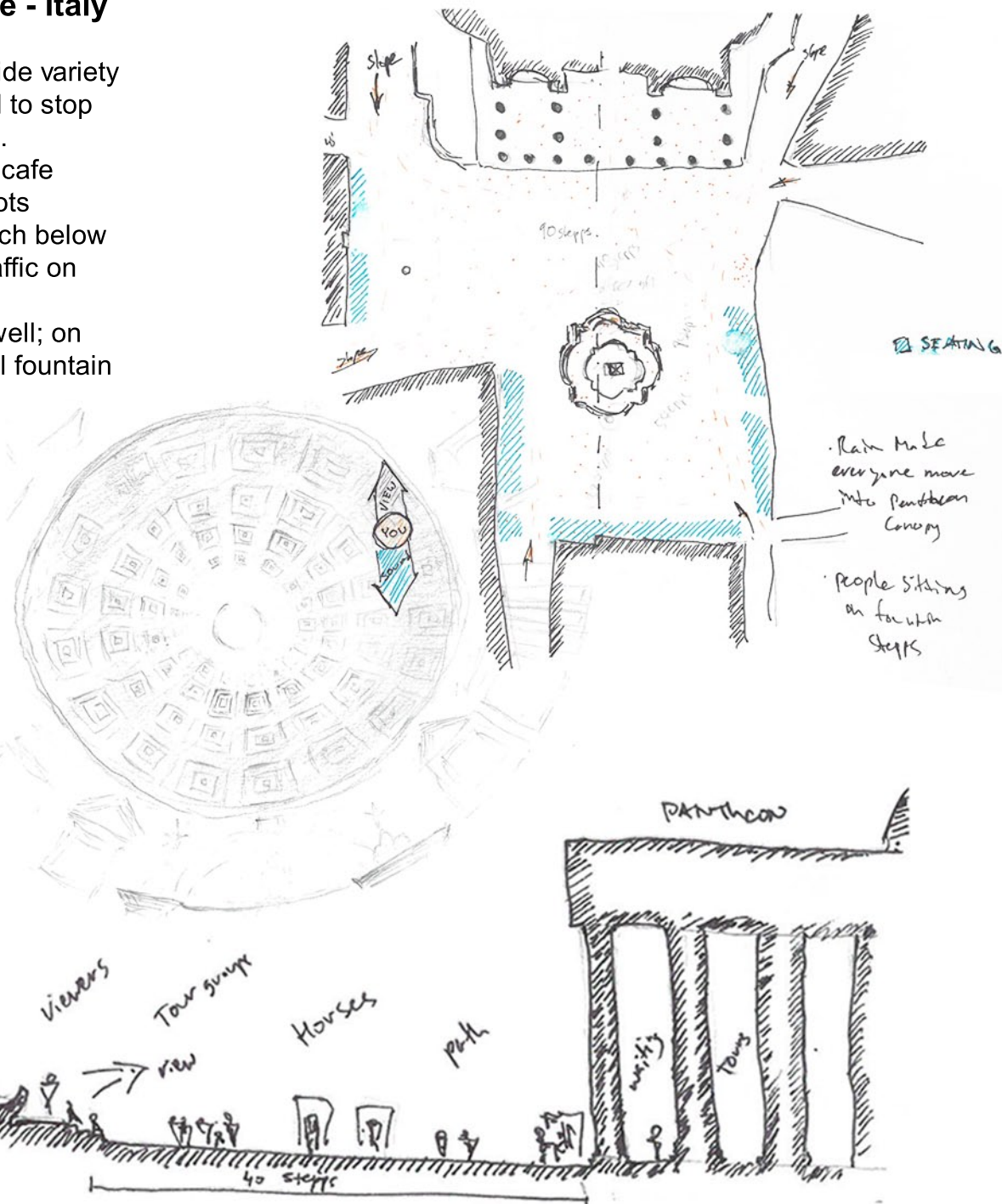
People observed paused in this place to read, study, socialize, snack and enjoy the sun. The view of water and people walking below allowed for a more enjoyable view while sitting down.



Pantheon & Piazza della Rotonda, Rome - Italy

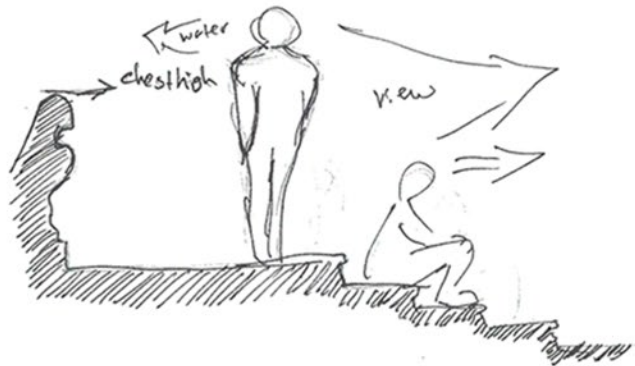
The Piazza and Pantheon (photo below) provide variety of resting and stopping places. Here people tend to stop in front of the Pantheon for the view and pictures. The plan sketch of Piazza to the right shows the cafe seating along the perimeter, slope and orange dots representing the crowd density. The section sketch below shows a section representing the hierarchy of traffic on the Piazza.

Opportunities to stay longer are provided as well; on the perimeter with the cafe seating, at the central fountain on the steps, inside and outside the Pantheon.



The central fountain on the Piazza has a few steps up to it and a change in the paving. This lets people stop and interact longer outside of the main path of travel. People lean over the prophet of the fountain and sit on the steps while viewing the Pantheon and the Piazza as shown in sketch below.

The sound of water behind you while sitting also adds a level of calmness and safety.



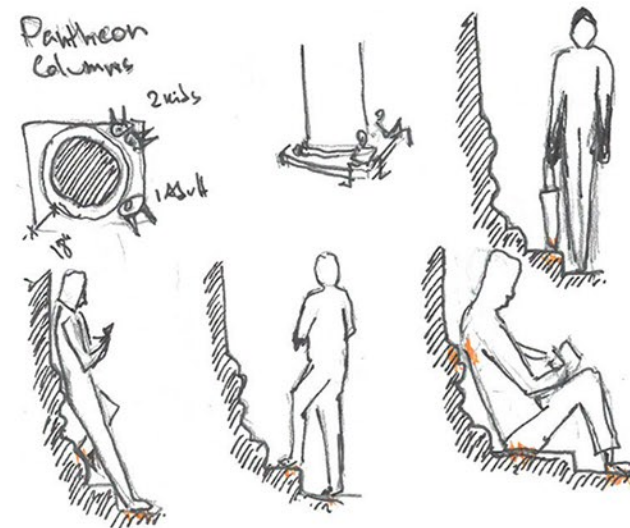
The canopy of Pantheon provides shelter from the rain and the noise. Sketch below shows people heading underneath the canopy as soon as the rain starts and waiting there until it passes.



The columns of Pantheon feel very natural to sit or lean against. While waiting out the rain underneath the canopy I sketched and tested the various ways that people interact with the columns as shown in sketches below.

The base of the column is wide enough to sit one adult or two children at each corner. While sitting or leaning against the column I noticed the support points on the back, buttocks and feet. Those points seem to be perfectly balanced and comfortable in spite of the hard surface of the stonework.

For those standing, the base allows enough height to step onto or place a bag while still holding by the straps.



The Piazza is notorious for pickpocketing. Thus, it is more secure to have your back against a solid surface. This can be accomplished by leaning or standing against the adjacent buildings on the Piazza.

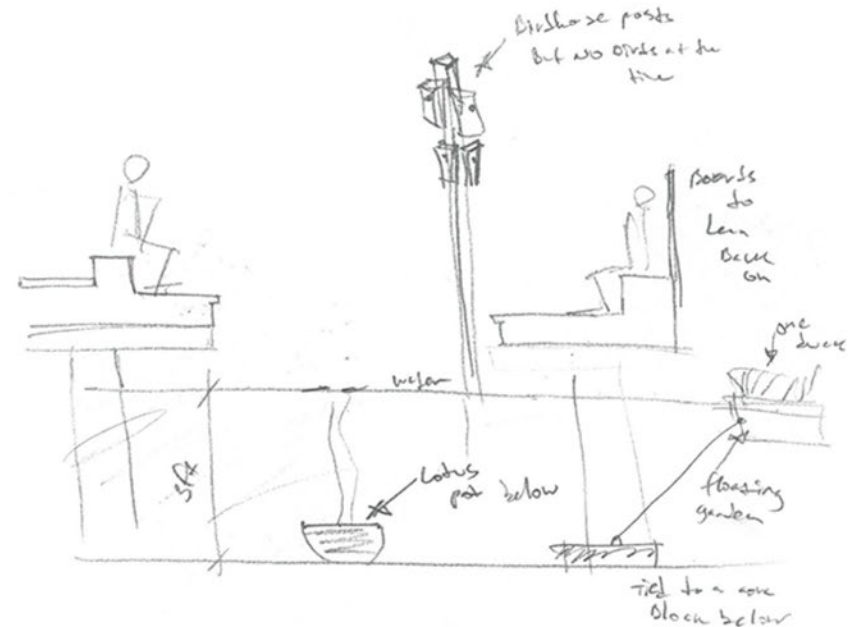
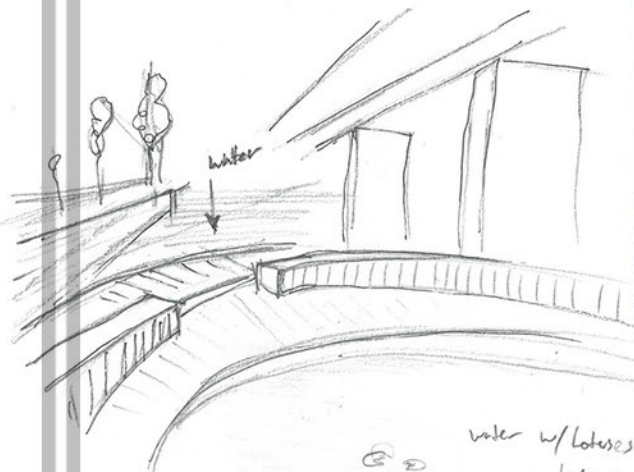


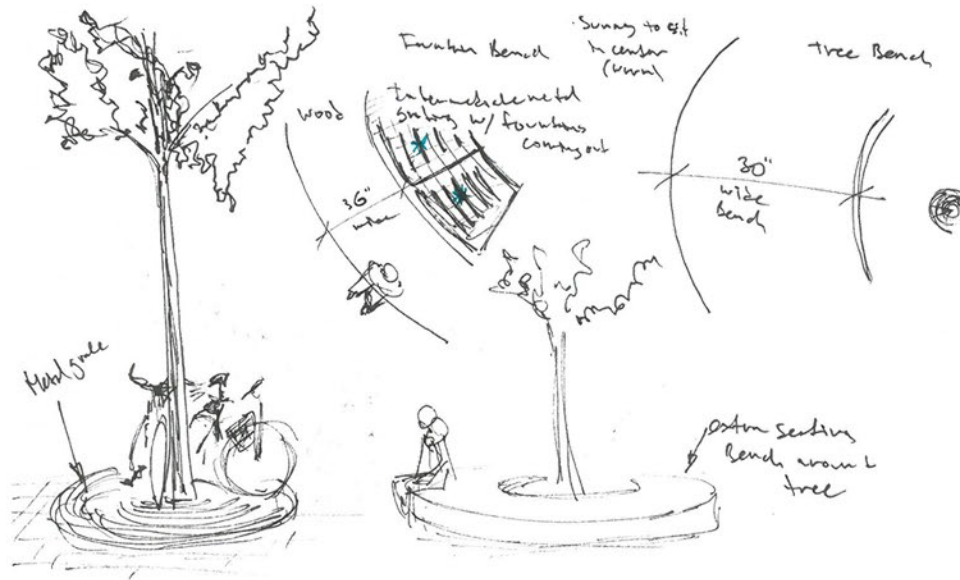
Orestad, Copenhagen - Denmark

Orstead is newly designed town south of Copenhagen. It is connected by an elevated metro underneath of which runs a water canal. The water canal has various man-made islands accessible from the adjacent street. I stopped to explore one of this islands pictured on the right.

Those islands are constructed of wood making them pleasant to walk on, sit and touch. The platform has a central opening to the water which contains lotus pots. Adjacent to which is a ring of wooden seating designed for you to view the water below as you sit. The outside circle contains duckling islands and a birdhouse. Sketches and images below show the design elements observed.

The design of this space create a wonderful place of pause in an urban fabric through use of water, materiality, plants and animals.





Kultorvet Square, Copenhagen - Denmark

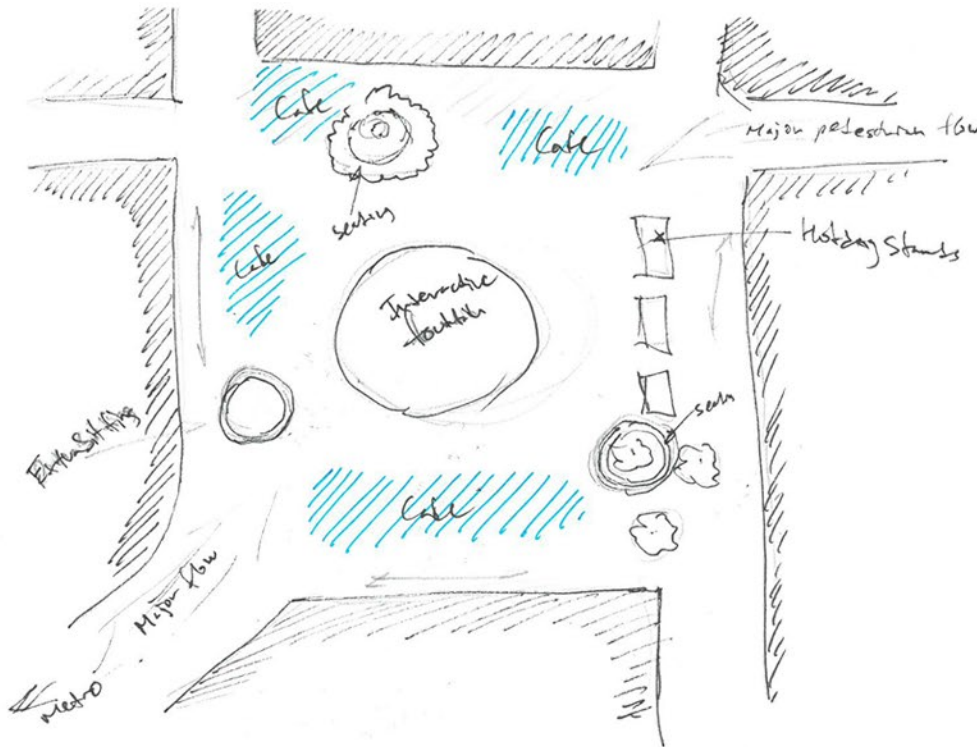
The Kultorvet Square is located along a major pedestrian pathway. It contains an interactive fountain and additional seating along the perimeter. A plan drawing of the square shows the layout in the bottom left of the page.

The fountain acts as a big round seating platform in the center of the square. People can safely sit on the edge while the water spouts shoot out behind them; creating cooling mist and soothing sound. Children enjoy the fountain by climbing up and playing with the water.

The perimeter of the site contains shaded areas, cafe seating, food and flower stands. A wonderful observation opportunity is created from the perimeter; one can view the activity around the fountain and the square as shown in the sketch below.

While sitting at the fountain and a cafe I observed people on the square, noting the design elements and behaviors (top left sketch).

Overall, the square felt very interactive with people talking, tanning, resting with bicycles, eating and enjoying the day. The food and flower stands created aromas which kept me in the square for longer.



High Line, New York - New York

The High Line is a conversion of a previously inaccessible and overgrown part of the city in a beautiful park. The site used to be an old railroad track and has been converted into a pedestrian walkway that runs over the streets and across several blocks. There are numerous design elements that I believe to be very successful; some of which I wanted to capture in the final design.

The stairs to the park are next to the sidewalks; this creates very simple accessibility to the park. The map to the right shows the numerous access locations to the park at an urban scale. The numbers on the map indicate points of interest such as a café or a historic location. Pictured at the top and number three on the map is an urban amphitheater. Here people are able to walk off from the main path and sit to observe cars. I like the idea of a live backdrop, this place kept people there without need of any performance.

Number six on the map and pictured centered is a social café. This place is very social and is surrounded by gorgeous views.

The façade of a dance studio pictured at the bottom right is facing the main path. I liked seeing a rehearsal and was inspired to find out more about the performance or even join a class.

The park is very quiet despite being surrounded by the notorious New York City street noise. This is accomplished by change in elevation and by creating spaces in between thick buildings.





Paley Park, New York - New York

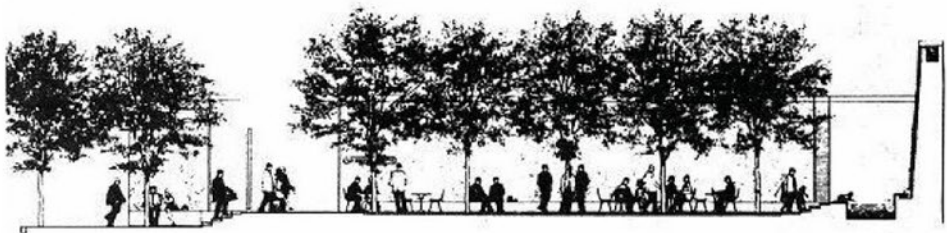
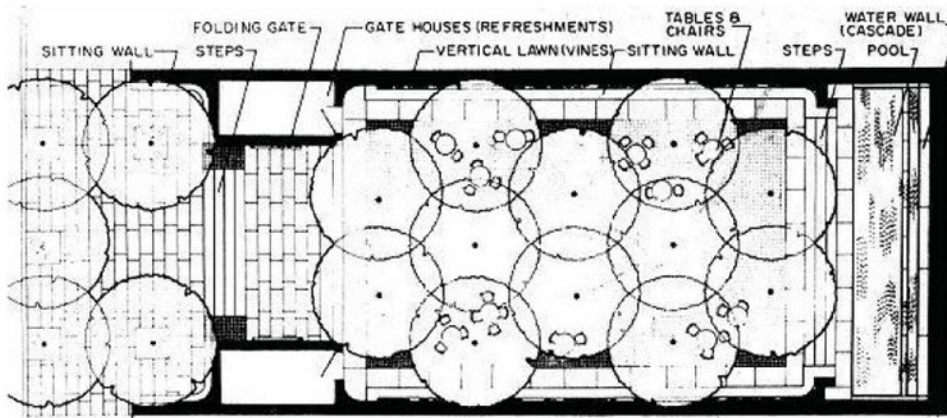
The park is a small urban oasis adjacent to the East 53rd Street and is surrounded by tall buildings.

It incorporates a hardscaped plaza with trees and moveable seating. The side walls growing have vines and permanent planters which can be used to sit on as well. The back wall is a giant waterfall with a pool below.

The running water in this space creates a calm and private feeling by canceling out the city noise. I observed several people in this place who alone to have lunch, read or to just sit for a while.

The park is very accessible because it is just a step away from the street. This creates a perfect time-out space from the busy street of New York.

Top left shows the image facing the waterfall and people having a pause moment. Bottom left shows the plan & section of the park by the designer.



Arena Stage Renovation, Washington - DC

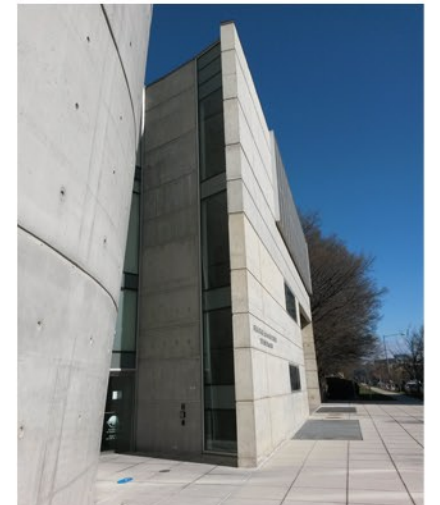
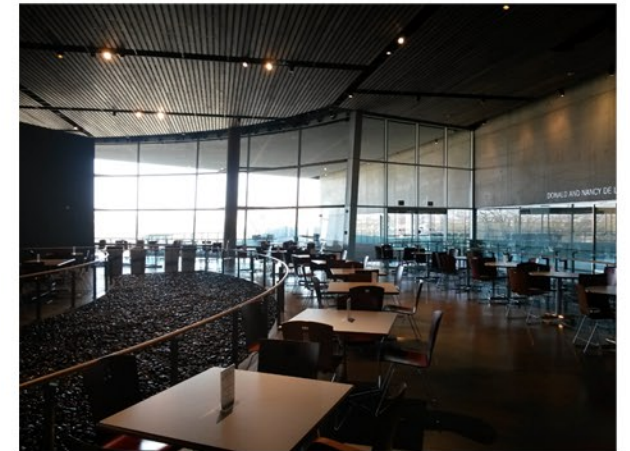
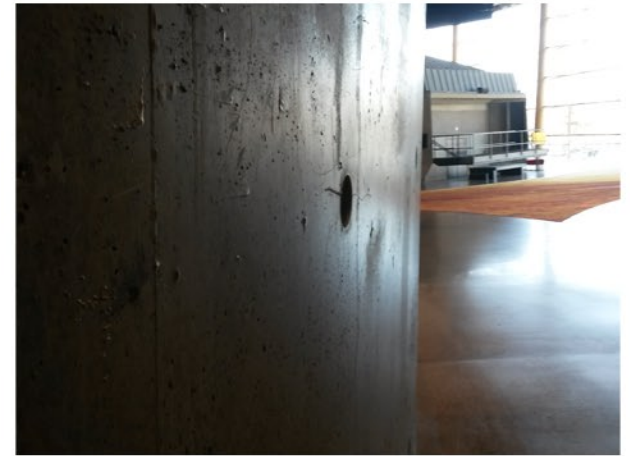
Arena Stage renovation is an all encompassing theater and arts community center. It includes a cafe, breakout areas and space for community classes.

The thick concrete walls are exposed and maintain the remnants of the formwork as shown in the top and bottom right photographs.

The materiality of concrete is interrupted by areas of carpet and wood flooring. The ceiling has large wood panels hung from the trusses with occasional lights in-between as shown in the center photo.

Enormous long span of the ceiling is accomplished with deep structural trusses as shown in the bottom. The structure also allows for full glass facade in parts of the building that opening views to the street and the city.

The combination of structure and materials work very well in this space. The building and the space is inviting for the pedestrians and the community.

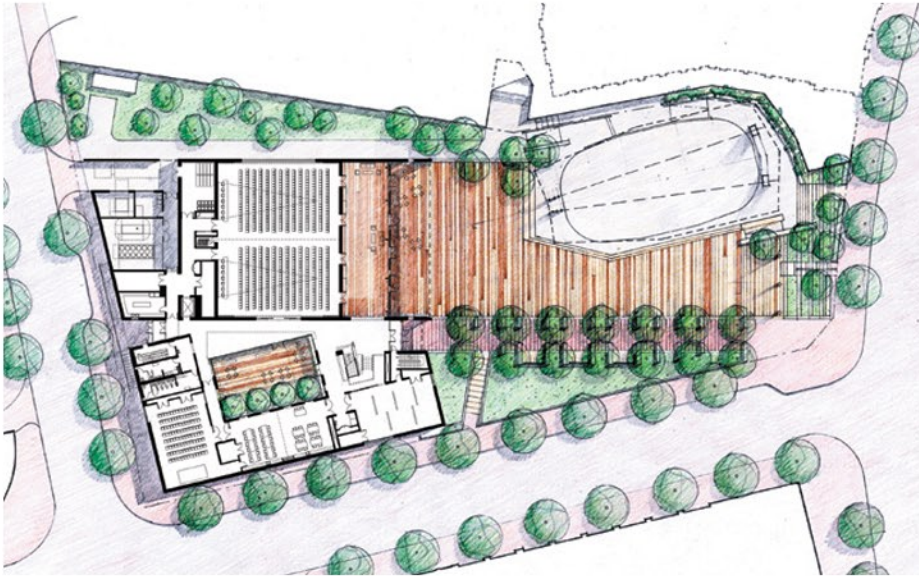


Silver Spring Civic Building, Silver Spring MD

The Silver Spring Civic Building is a community center between an urban and a sub-urban fabric of the city. It brings the two together through the design of the landscape, the great hall, and classrooms.

Drawing to the left shows the plan view by the designer. The exterior design incorporates seating along the pedestrian path. This path begins from the South-East corner and runs through the center dividing the use of the building. To the North-West is an ice rink with a canopy, it is also used as a gathering space and for additional outdoor seating.

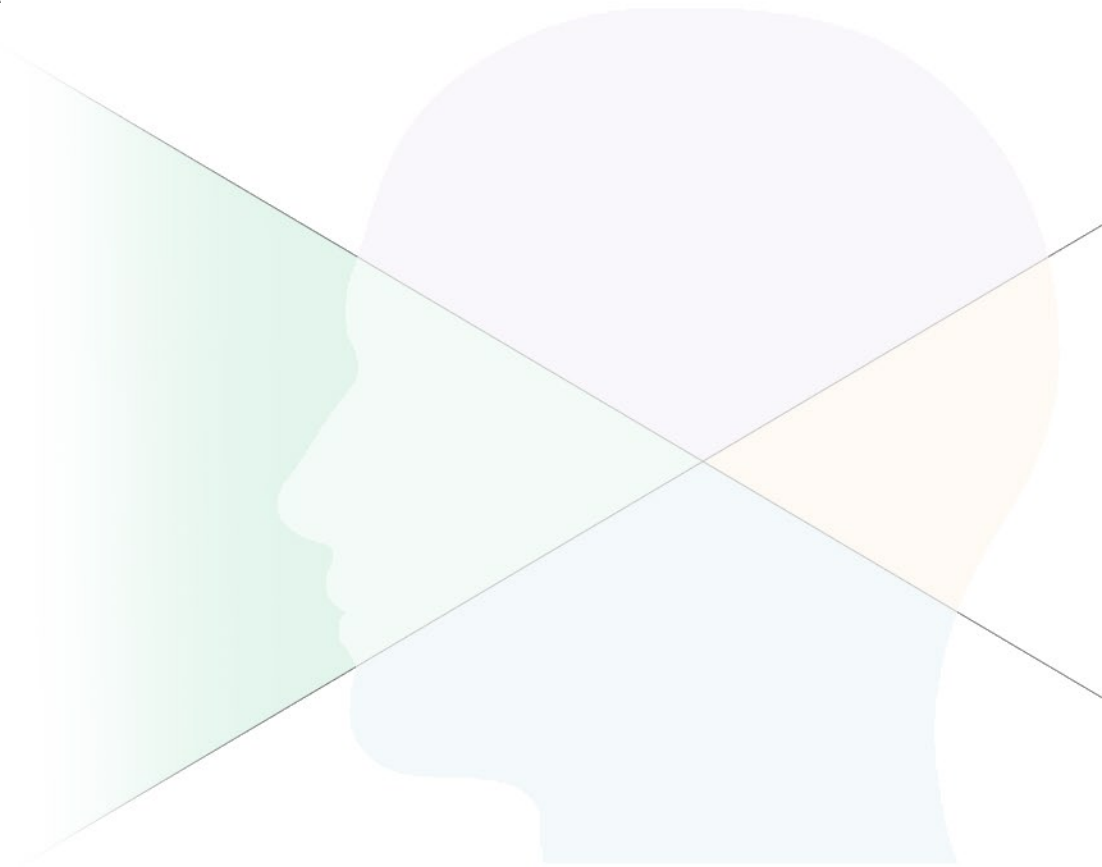
The great hall of the building faces the main exterior plaza; creating a direct access between the two. This allows for flexibility of use by the community depending on an event and the season.

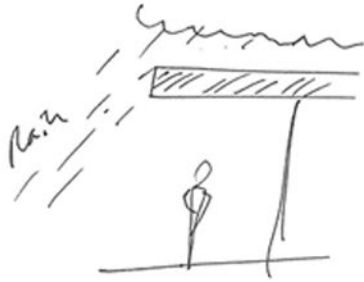


Research Findings

The research has yielded many successful design elements and ideas, which I wanted to explore and incorporate within the final design.

The following three pages include findings based on places studied. Those findings identify seven facets that can influence how and when a person would choose to pause. Those facets are; Changing Variables, Demographics, Emotional State, Personality, Senses, Safety and Comfort.





Changing Variables

Changing Variables are all the global and the local things that can change. They include climate, weather, culture, and political turmoils.

Those things can modify the use of a space depending on the situation. For example; sudden rain might make one seek shelter under an overhang, and chilly weather would want one be exposed to the warm sun.

Demographics

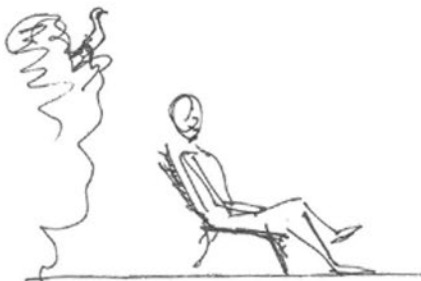
Age and sex of the person also affects where and when he or she may decide to stop. An older person might enjoy a more quiet place as opposed to a younger person. A woman would be more comfortable in a place that is safe from an ambush.



Emotional State

Emotional state of the person can greatly influence the decision to stop and for how long. Emotions such as happiness, joy, distress, sadness, confusion, anger and so forth may or may not make a person want to stop depending on their state at the time.

The beauty of some of the places studied is that they have Emotional State altering properties; which is particularly why those places are necessary. For example an existing state of frustration can change to peace after pausing and spending some time sitting over a lotus pond.



Personality

Personality greatly influences the type of a place a person would rather visit.

A person who is more of a social butterfly would prefer more interactive and social places. A person who is more of a wallflower would rather be alone in a more private space.

Most successful designs have incorporated spaces for both inter vert and extrovert personality types.



Senses

Physical senses can create a need for a person to stop. A great design can greatly affect a person through their senses.

The visual sense is affected by the view; be it landscape, nature, water or a fountain, monument or a building, people or cars. Things that are still and things that are in motion, vivid colors, figure ground and landscape. Those things generally allow for wonder, thought and inspiration. An awesome view will always stop someone, and observing the movement of people or cars tends to keep people there longer.

The aroma of vegetation may be controlled by the landscape design. Trees, flowers and other vegetation may evoke memories and emotions; slowing the movement and eventually stopping the person.

There are odors beyond the control of the designer; they may include food, trash, seasons, pollution or smoke.

The texture of materials, heat and moisture absorption are things that affect the touch sense. People are less likely to sit on something wet, cold or hot. Most successful spaces had both sun exposed and shaded areas; shade is useful in the summer while exposed areas are great in the colder seasons.

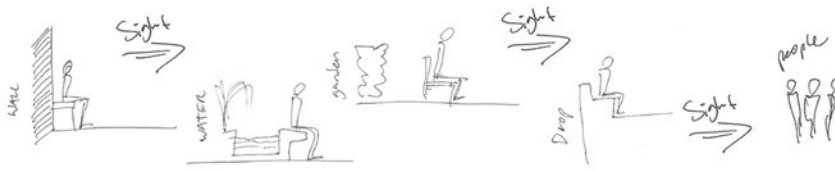
A busy urban fabric benefits from hidden quiet spaces and white noise. Those places are great for getting away from chaos of a busy street. What individuals hear can be controlled by either blocking or masking the sound. Blocking can be accomplished by soundproofing materials such as concrete or elevating/depressing the site. The white noise can be created by rushing water or a fountain.

Safety

People want to feel safe and protected from potential dangers. Those may include extreme weather, possibility of a fall, or hostile persons.

Our feeling of safety in a space comes from an ability to observe and survey our surroundings. It is difficult to see what is behind us; therefore, we feel vulnerable when our backs are exposed.

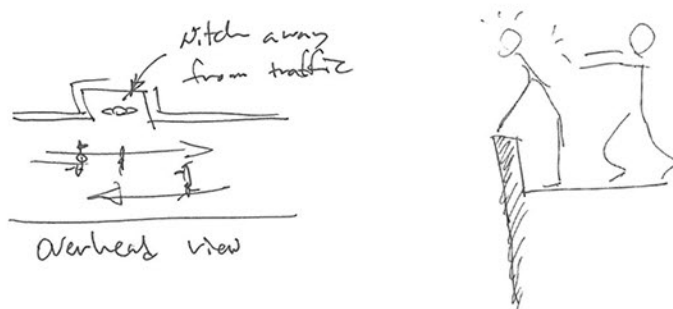
In observed places the safest once had a barrier protecting the back. A barrier can be a wall, a column, water, vegetation or a drop in elevation. Those design elements are necessary to create boundaries for our safety.



An example of a vulnerable place would be the middle of a busy street. Standing in a middle of a street does not feel safe at all; it feels much safer to stand against a wall or in a niche with barriers on the sides.

The possibility of falling can be a factor in places of pause. A rail that is too short might not be as inviting to lean over as the one of a more appropriate height.

Places that provide cover are sought after in an event of turbulent weather. The Pantheon is a great example of this as a place of shelter from a sudden rain.



Comfort

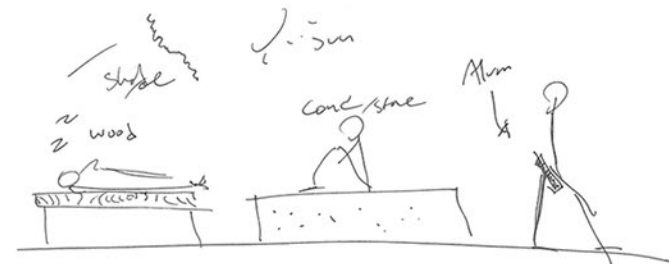
The comfort of a space can be defined by an opportunity for a person to enjoy the space while walking, standing, leaning, sitting or laying down. This includes the specific physical attributes of a place, ranging from materials to light levels.

A comfortable place to walk is one that is not too steep or slippery. Light and shadow are also important when comes to walking pace. In places observed the people tend to walk faster within the lit and exposed areas; while places of strolling and meandering walking pace tended to have more trees and shade.

Some of the most comfortable places observed had support points specific to the body areas while leaning, sitting or laying down. Those ergonomic points are important; because an uncomfortable seat will agitate a person making him or her leave the space.



The material must be appropriate for the intended pause. A warm seat is very comfortable when it is cold out; this can be helped with choice of materials. Concrete and stone retain heat very well, keeping it warm after the sun goes down. A seat made of metal may be too hot if it is exposed to the sun directly. Wood is a naturally soft material; it is very comfortable, but does require more maintenance.

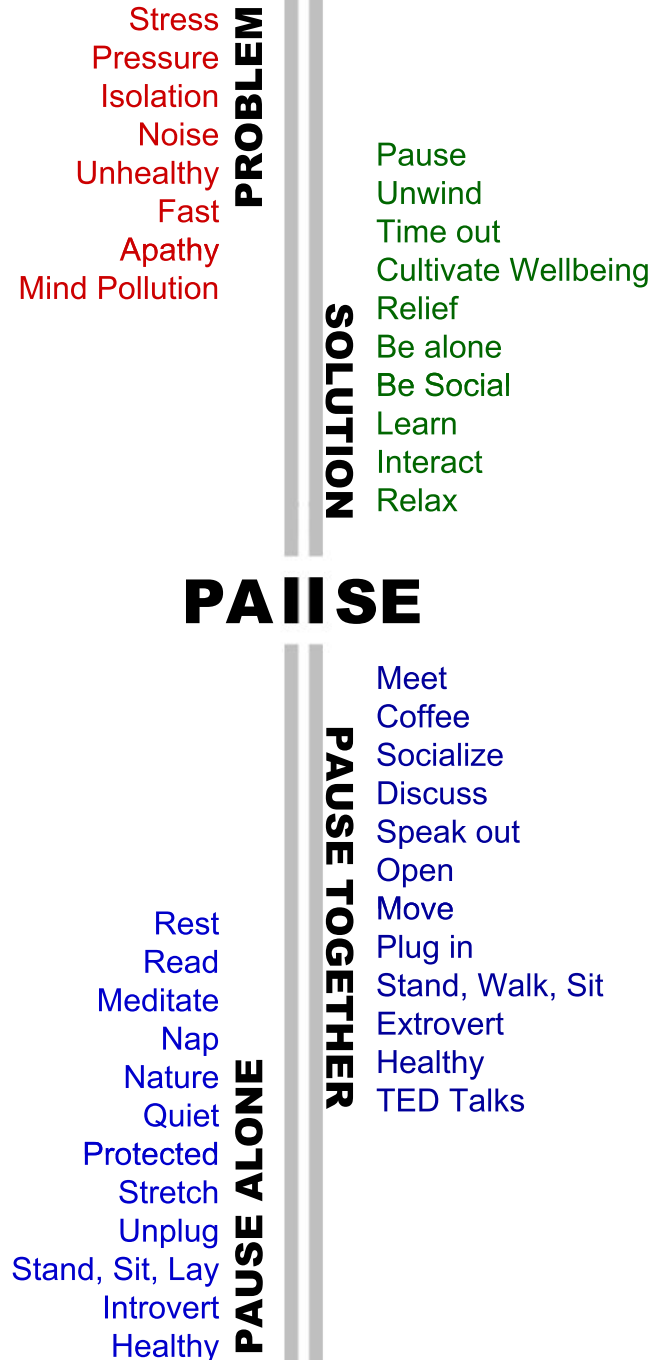


Problem and Solution

Following the research and based upon living in the area surrounding Washington D.C. for over fifteen years I have identified a local problem that I would take upon to solve with architecture and design.

I began with identifying key words of the problem in our local area and proposing possible solution key words and activities that I would propose (Diagram to the right).

The following page describes the identified Problem and Solution in more detail.



Problem

I have identified a problem in our society; the lack of pause in our metropolitan environment.

Most people are agitated and stressed because of the daily routine forced upon them by our modern fast-paced life. The Suburban and Polycentric (city node within suburbia) area surrounding Washington D.C. does not allow for many immediate opportunities to pause. People are often forced to get in their car and drive someplace to find some peace.

Thus, people stay on a couch or go to a noisy and alcohol filled place. Neither of which offer a healthy solution for a stress filled day.

One of the most problematic places in the area is Tysons Corners which is a fast growing Polycentric node in Northern Virginia; about ten miles west from Washington D.C.

This area is filled with tech companies and young people; creating a burn-out type of environment where people tend to work long hours and spend their evenings drinking. Contributing to the issue is the lack of parks, cultural and civic spaces.

The area is scheduled to receive a new Metro line connecting Washington D.C. and Dulles Airport. Tysons Corners will have four metro stops as of Summer 2014; creating more urban chaos in the area.

Additionally this area is scheduled to undergo an urban redevelopment; adding even more office and residential spaces with little consideration to cultural or green places.

Solution

I believe a solution to the identified problem would be to create more opportunities for people to pause along their daily commute; without forcing them to travel significant distances.

An ideal location would be of a short walking distance from the normal travel path, inviting and easily accessible.

The idea behind this solution is to cultivate emotional and spiritual wellbeing. The architectural solution is intended to serve the community in ways of art/craft/studio spaces, exhibition space, gathering rooms, access to nature, places to stop/sit/stand, and a public auditorium.

Through architecture a place like this would cultivate opportunities to pause from a few minutes to several hours depending on the need of each person at that time.

This place would cultivate well-being and an aesthetic inspiration via arts and crafts, TED Talks, speeches, presentations and social interactions.

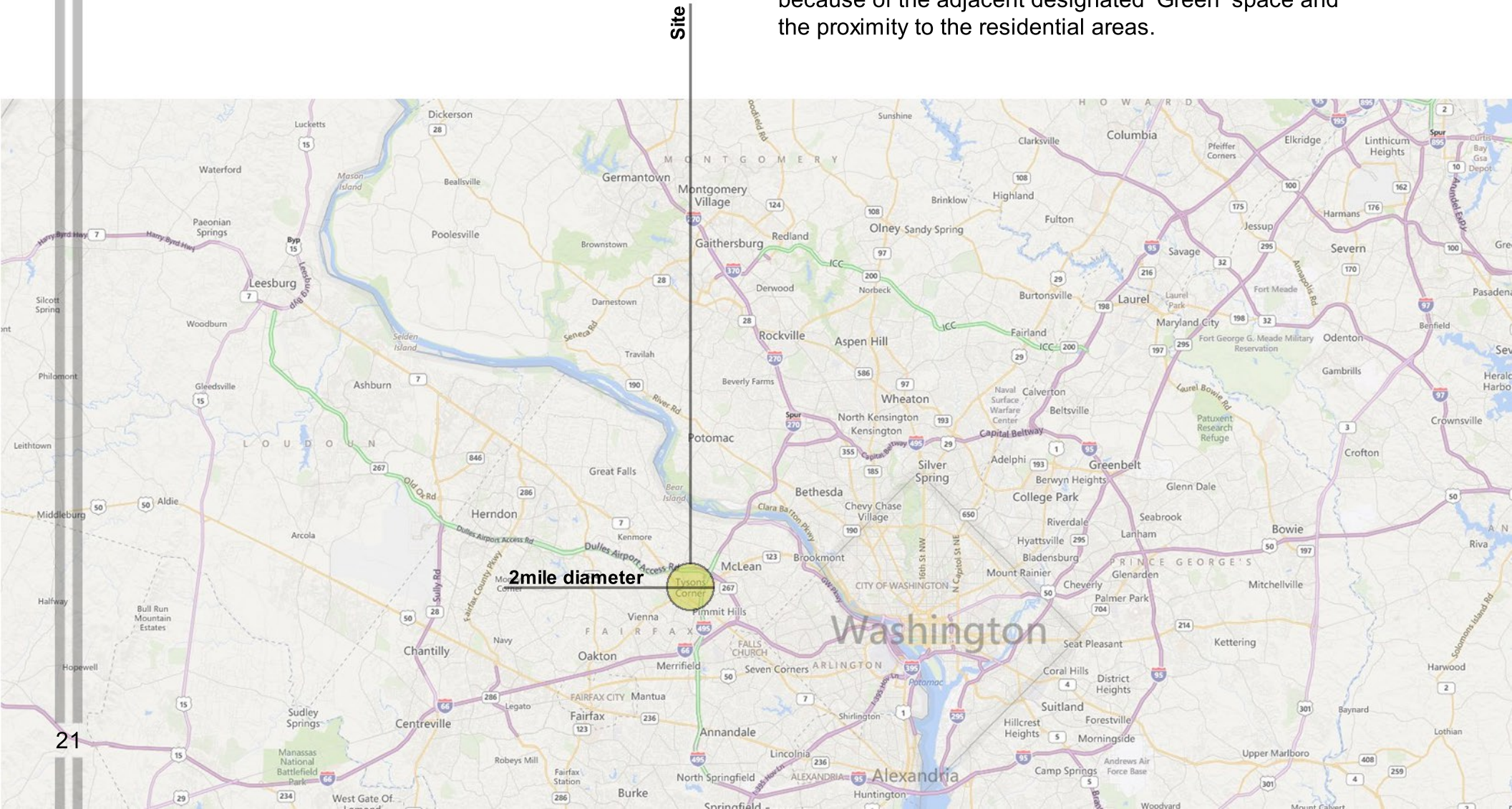
The solution would be a Civic Center capturing the above-mentioned and researched concepts. The 'Pause' Community Center would give people a break within the urban chaos of the area.

Site

The site is located in Northern Virginia within a Polycentric City called Tysons Corners. It is located about ten miles west of Washington D.C. halfway between D.C. and Dulles Airport. The area is full of office buildings and retail spaces surrounded by Suburban Sprawl.

The site plan on the next page shows the proposed zoning plan for the next ten years by the Fairfax County. However, currently the majority of 'Mixed use and Civic' spaces are planned to have office buildings developed and the 'Green Spaces' are overgrown and inaccessible by the public. The four Metro stops have been scheduled to open in Summer of 2014.

I decided that the site location adjacent to one of the new metro stops would be ideal. After looking at areas around the Metro stops I chose the McLean metro station because of the adjacent designated 'Green' space and the proximity to the residential areas.



To Dulles Airport

SITE

TO DC

Future Development Plan

- Mixed use & Civic
- Mall & Retail
- Office
- Residential & Mix Use
- Residential
- Green Space

1/2 MILE

Tysons Corner is located in Fairfax County of Northern Virginia. It is one of the fastest growing commercial areas in the United States. People who live and work here tend to be extremely stressed due to the competitive working environment.

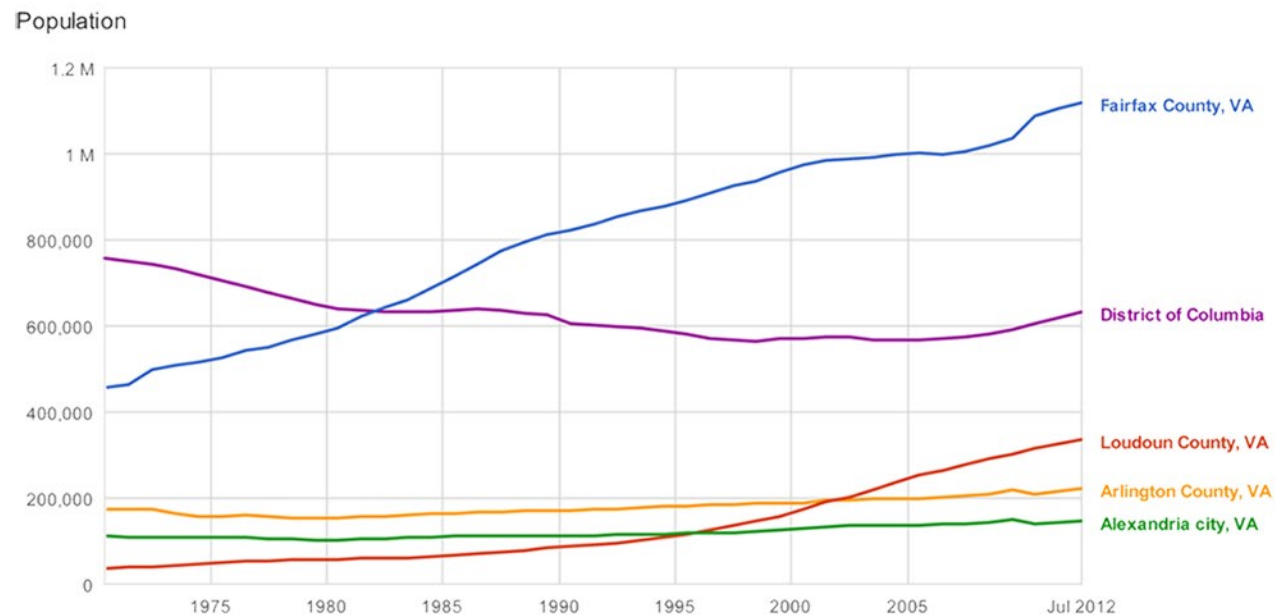
There are very few parks and green spaces immediately accessible by people. In order to find such a peace most people have to get in the car and fight traffic; not an ideal way to de-stress.

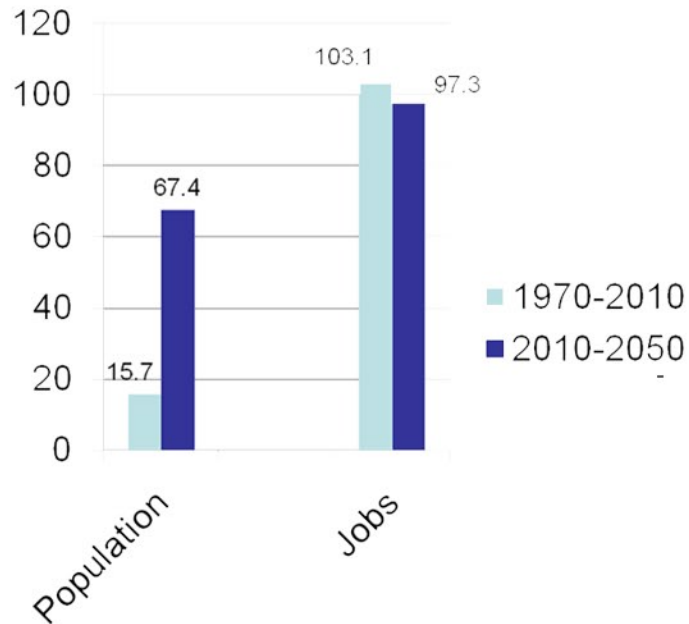
The lack of spaces as identified by the research results in a local urban problem; where people have no other choice but to head to a bar or go shopping when they might prefer a healthier way to unwind.

This problem is bound to expand in the future because of the population growth and the arrival of the new Silver-Line Metro.

As shown in the graph below the population in this area has been growing at a very fast rate. The population of the local county has surpassed Washington DC since 1980 and is continuing to grow.

Another urban issue of Tysons Corner is the connection between the suburbia and the urban fabric. As shown in the top right photo; the scale of urban fabric transition is very dramatic.





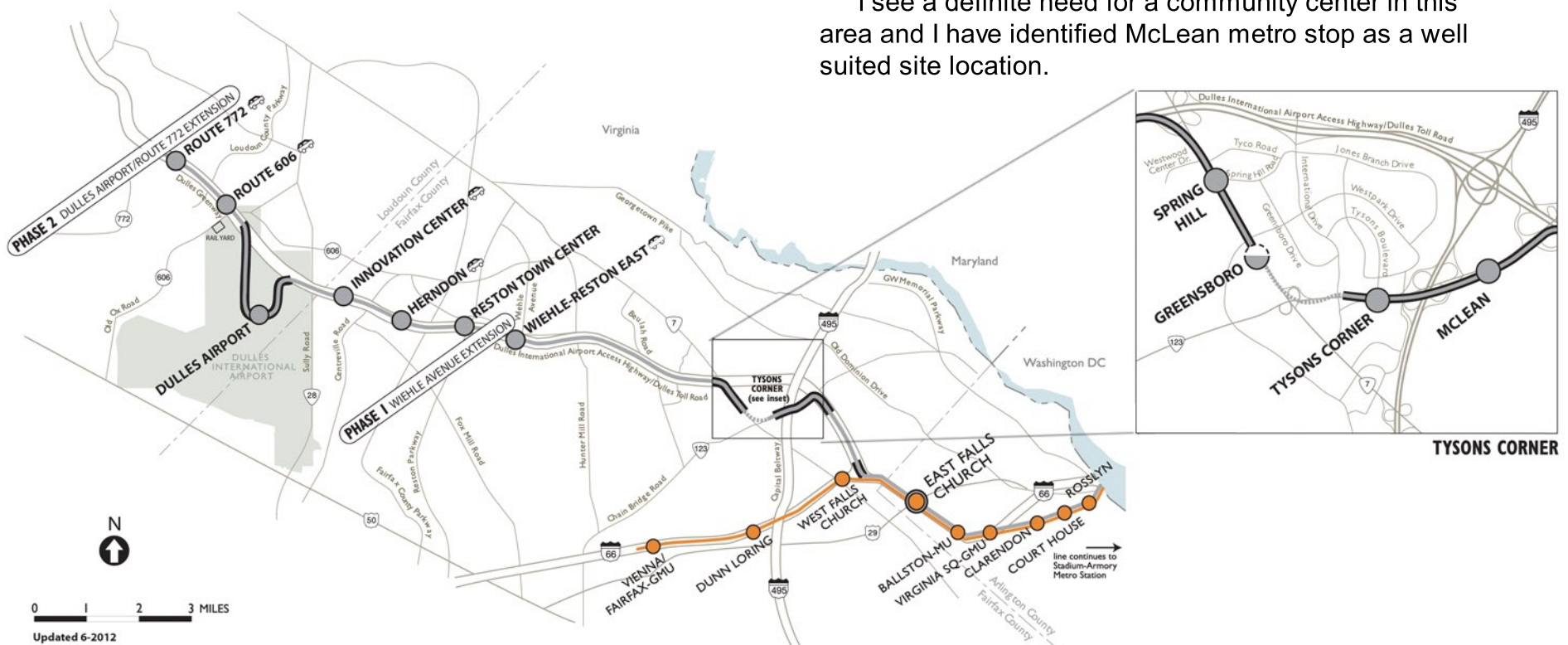
In June 2010 the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors has approved a major urban transformation project for Tysons Corners. The plan is to transform the area into a walkable & green city by 2050.

There have been numerous residential and commercial buildings approved for this area and are under construction. However, as of Summer 2014 no new civic or community type of space has been approved.

The area is even more compromised with the arrival of new Silver-Line Metro connecting Washington DC to Dulles Airport and beyond. Tysons Corners has received four Metro stops; creating an even greater need for the newly re-established community.

Because of those two major factors there is a projected population growth of 364% and the job growth of 86% by 2050 as shown on the graph. Furthermore, 75% of all growth is expect to be within the half-mile radius of the Metro stops.

I see a definite need for a community center in this area and I have identified McLean metro stop as a well suited site location.

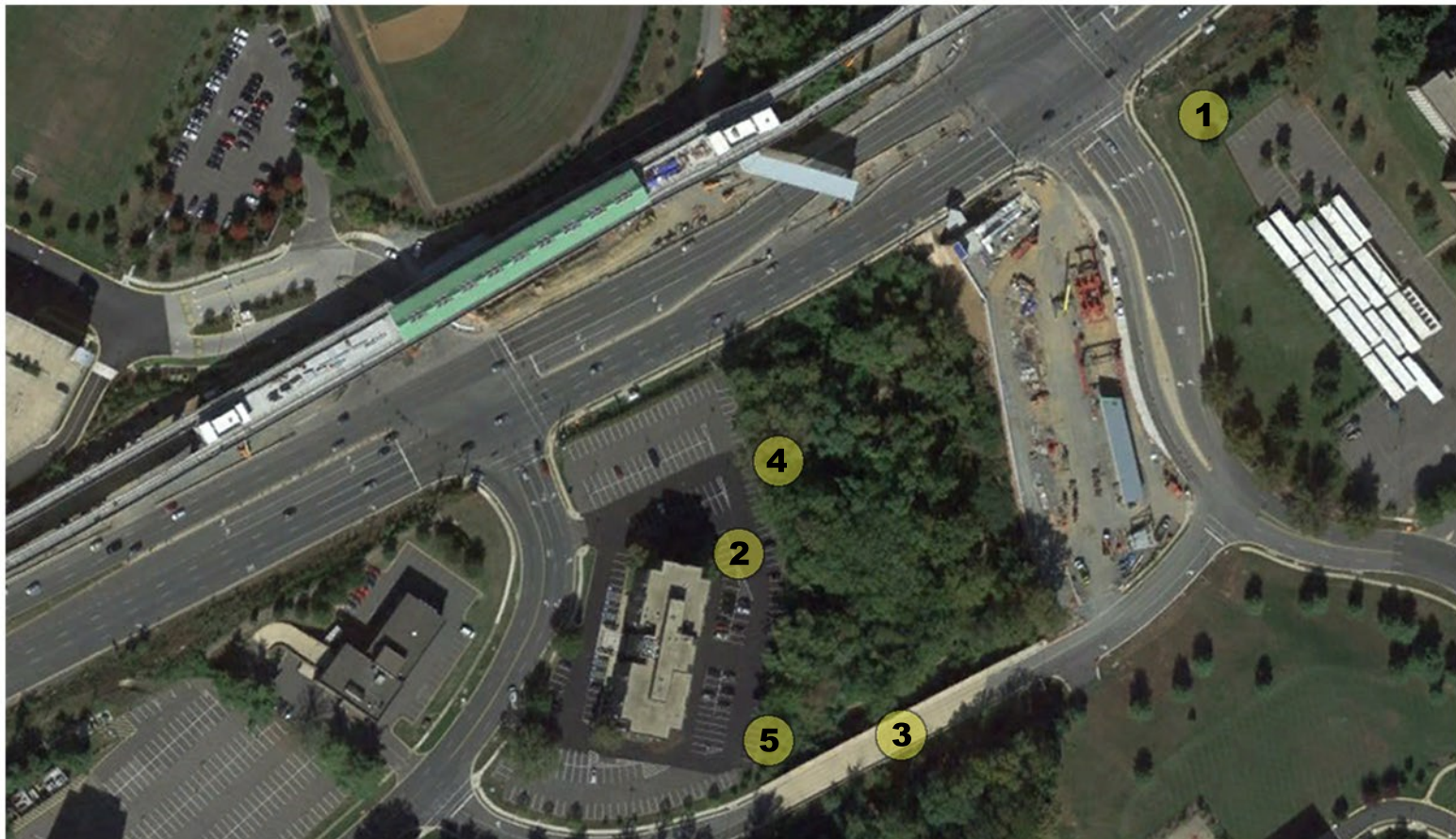


The satellite image below shows the site location. The McLean Metro Station is to the northwest with a metro access to the east along with a Kiss & Ride under construction.

In the center of the site is the green area where Scotts Run creek runs through, going downstream north.

The west side of this block is an existing mid-rise office building surrounded by parking. The Fairfax County Urban Renewal Master Plan calls for this location to be "Civic Use / Public Facility". I saw this site location as a perfect opportunity for a community center.

The numbers on the image show locations where the images on the following pages have been taken from.





Design Process

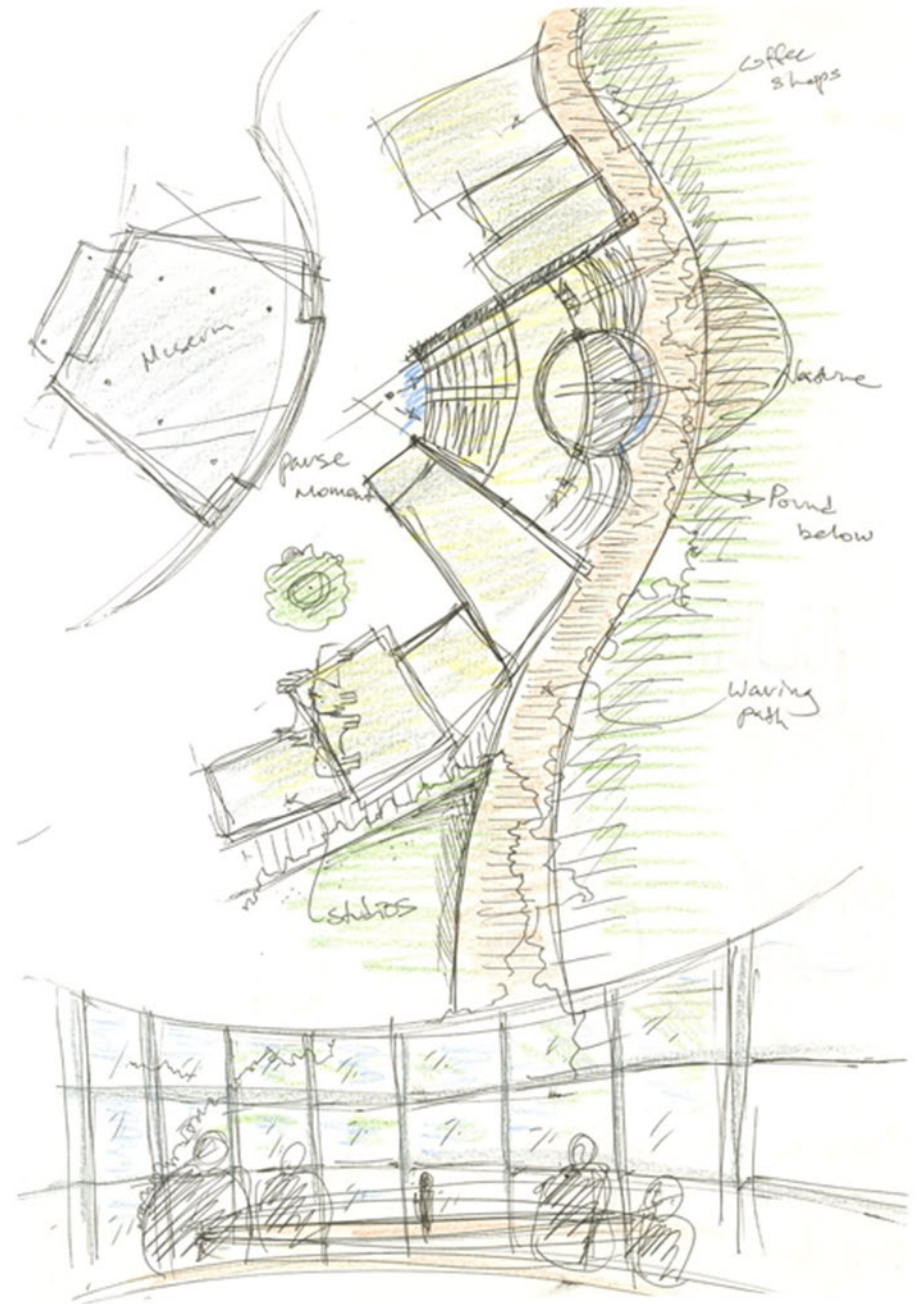
Following the Research, identifying Problem & Solution and exploring the Site I began brainstorming and sketching various ideas for the community center.

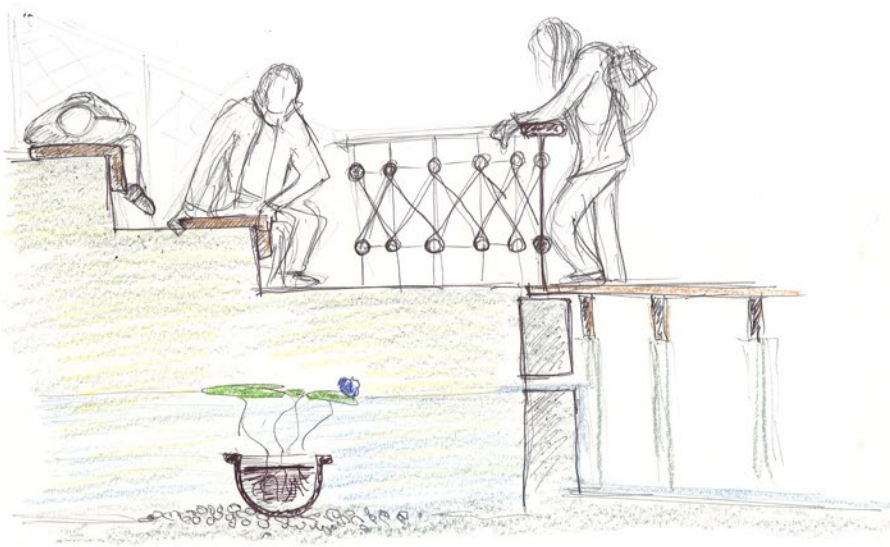
From the beginning I wanted to create various public & private spaces, have an access to the green area and have an aesthetic & community friendly essence.

The following pages show the design process through sketches and ideas; this process has ultimately refined the final design of the community center.

Sketch to the right shows one of the initial master plan ideas. The ideas explored were; having a community museum with immediate access, central path through the site, social and private indoor / outdoor spaces, access to the nature on the site, meandering path and access to nature.

Sketch on the bottom right shows an open facade facing nature which would eventually become an auditorium.

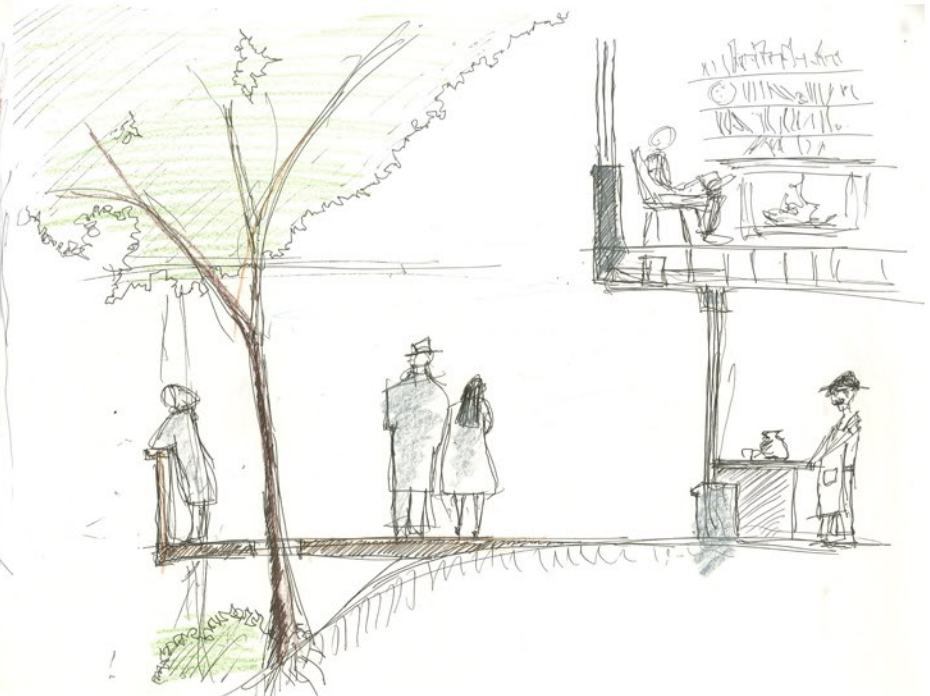
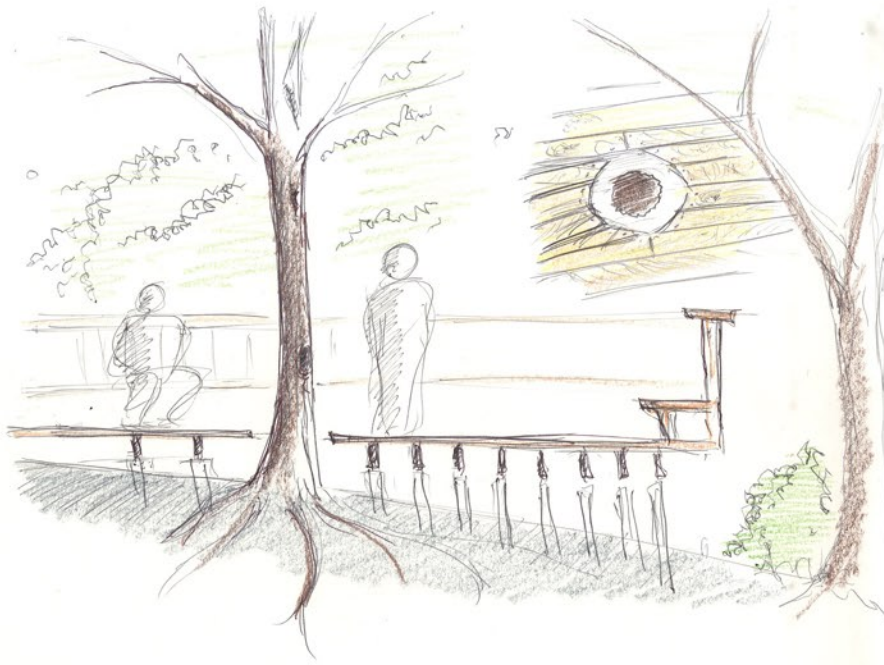


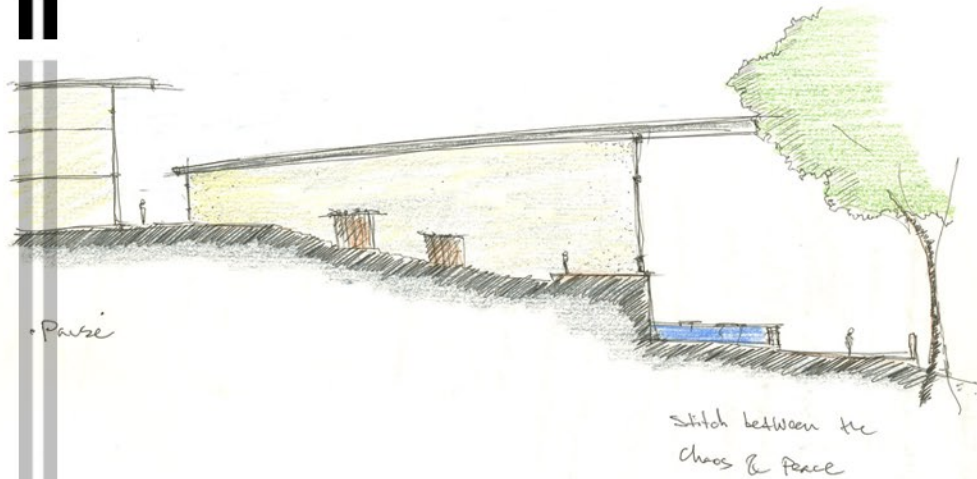


The bottom right sketch shows a section through the meandering path adjacent to Scotts Run creek. I wanted to create an ability for people to access the nature. People while walking on the wooden path will have an ability to interact with the vegetation on one side and the community center on the other side.

Image to the bottom left shows a wooden dock further into nature with trees puncturing through the walkway. I wanted to have moments along the path that allow people to pause.

The image on the top left shows exhausted people stopping and taking a break at a lotus pond. I wanted to create a moment that is inviting and meditative.





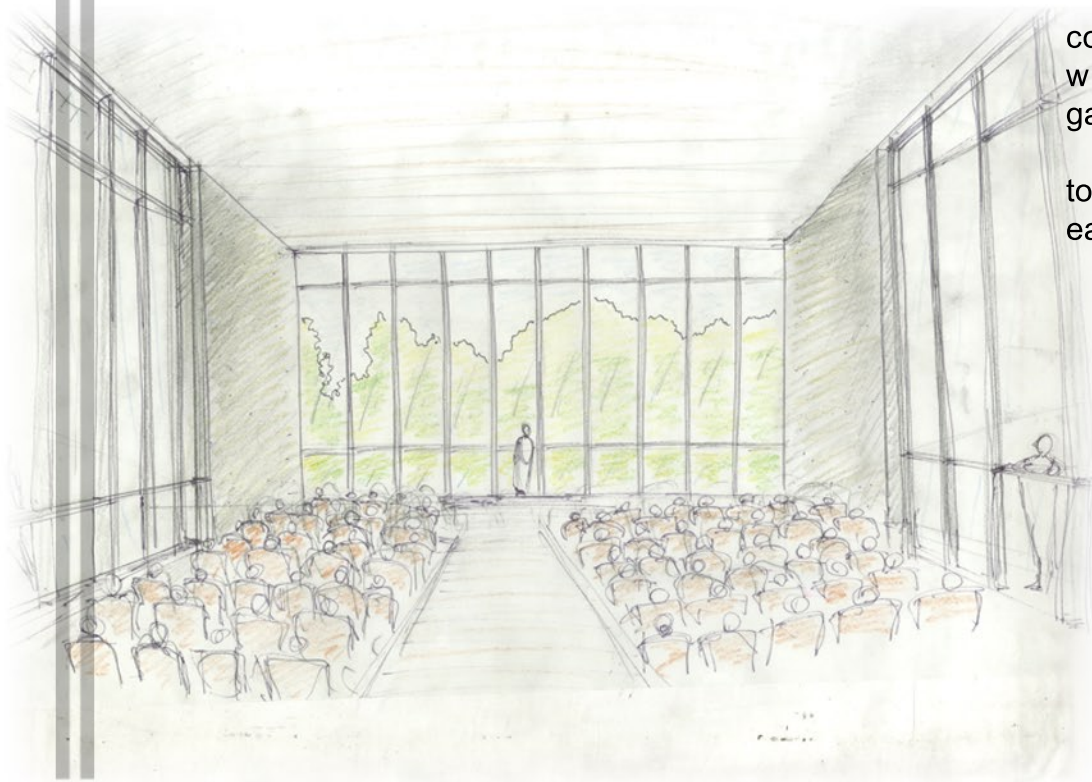
I have identified a natural slope towards the nature on the site. I thought of this slope as the connecting element between the city and the nature. I began to wonder how to create such a connection with architecture.

The central space has to be large enough to have a visual connection from one side to the other. I wanted the space to have flexible use and be accessible by the public. This space would be inviting to the people walking by and would entice them to pause within this space.

I started to picture a community auditorium sketched on the bottom left. This place would have community performances, TED talks and other activities. I wanted this place to be used even if there is no performance at the time; I wanted people to observe the play of nature if when the stage is empty. This I would accomplish with an open facade behind the stage.

I then thought of other types of buildings that could connect the nature and the city. As the result I came up with the community center which would have classrooms, gathering spaces, coffee area and the auditorium.

Naturally, I began to work a lot in the section in order to develop this space further. The sketch on top left is an early idea for this auditorium.

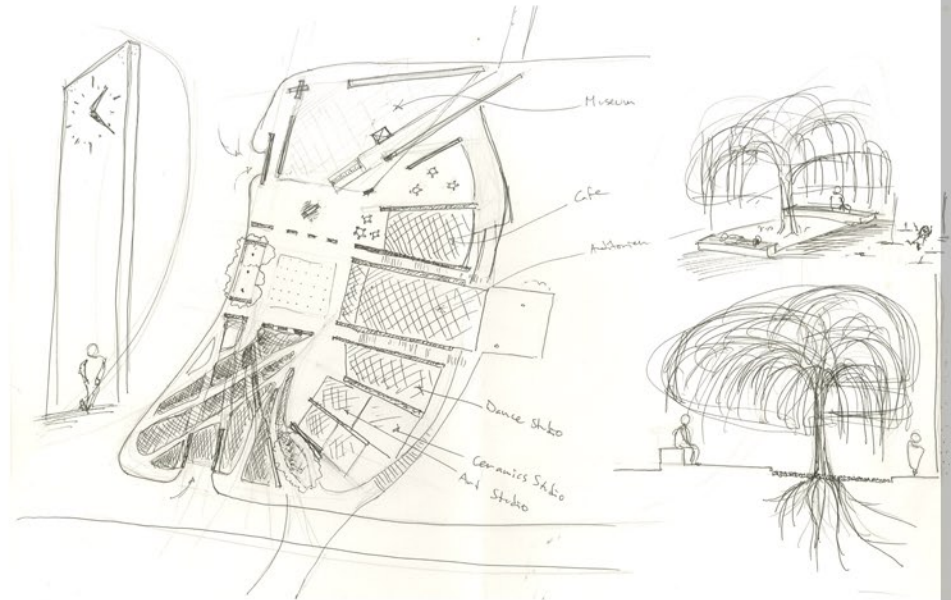
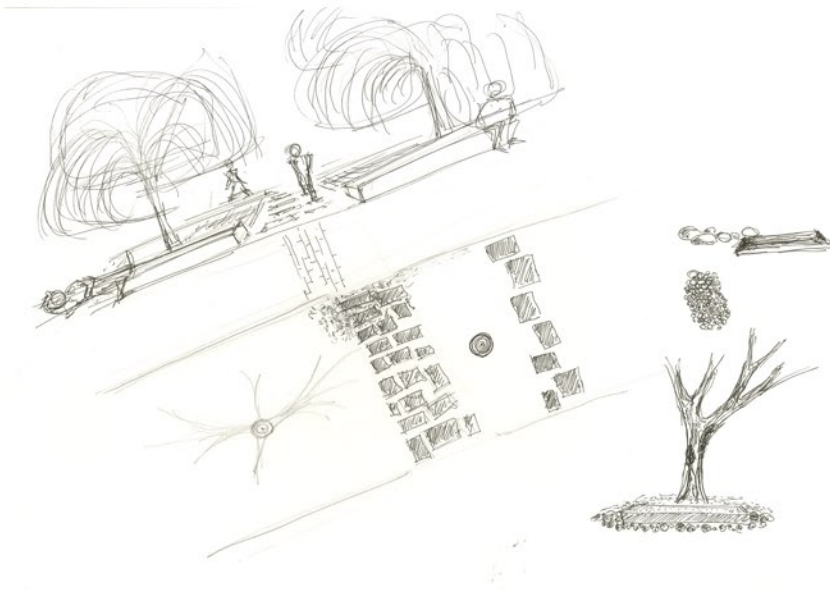
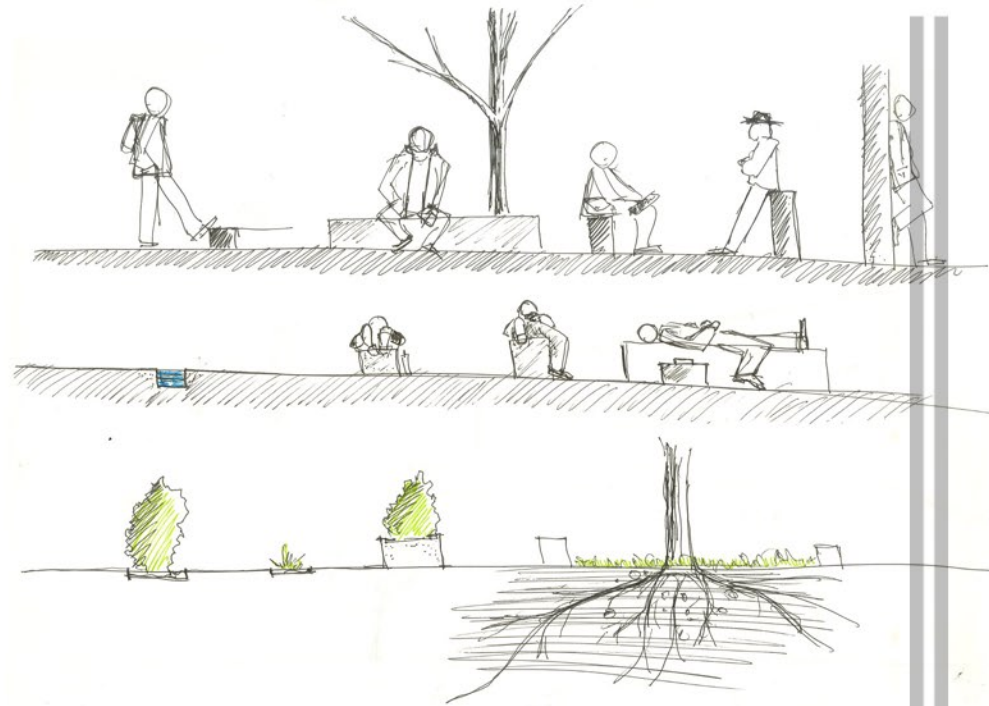


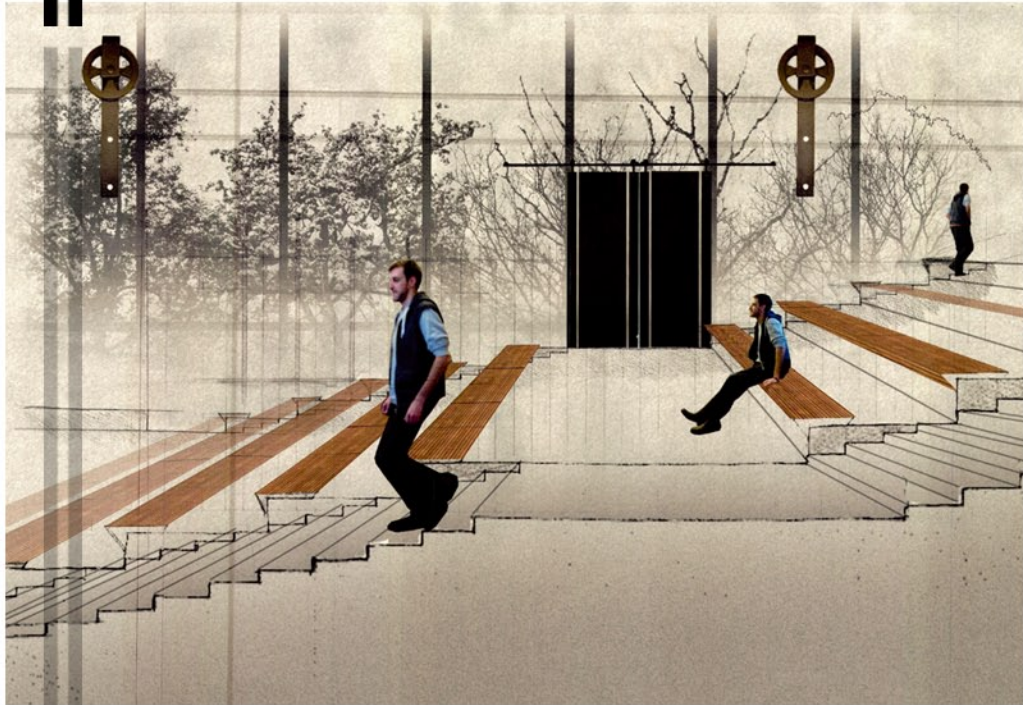
I saw the exterior design equally as important and wanted to develop the site further in a way that is inviting for people to stop.

I began thinking about walls as architectural elements where people can pause by standing, leaning, sitting or lying down. Sketch on the top right shows ideas of those walls being used as pause elements.

Then I began thinking how those elements would work on the large scale and I came up with an idea of stitching the site with pause elements.

Sketches below show some of the further ideas of shaded versus sunny areas, vegetation, and how stitching can work on the large scale.





After working for a bit on developing the site I returned my focus towards developing the auditorium by exploring the senses.

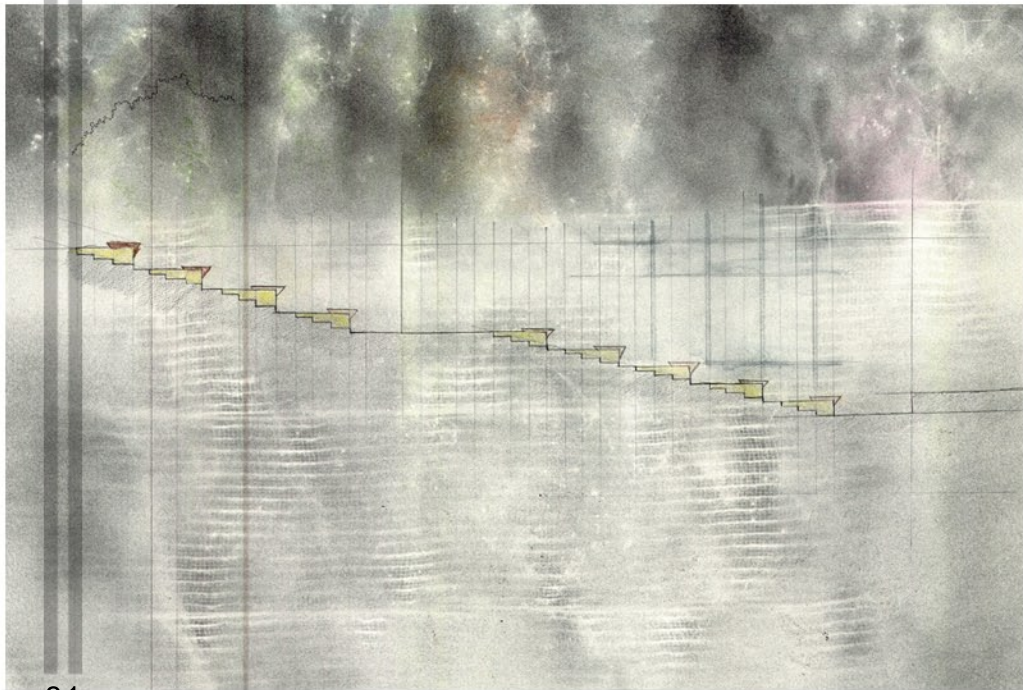
One of the initial drawings was the exploration through the sense of vision. This drawing helped me develop many ideas such as sloped seating, open facade to the nature, light levels and views.

The drawing at the bottom left began with a sentence 'Stair for going down slowly'. I thought about how I could incorporate this sentence into my project and came up with an idea of stairs where you can also sit while stepping down.

Using the slope of the site I began by drawing the construction lines from which the steps and the seating emerged. The construction lines looked like a facade in the background; this made me think of an open backdrop to the nature.

I then used watercolors in order to capture a sense of seasons in the facade. I wanted to create the texture of the ground and the trees; this was accomplished by placing branches over the top and a piece of burlap over the bottom, then spray painting.

The top left drawing is the back side of the drawing with a further interpretation. The stairs and the seating emerge to have depth. The trees in the background start with the leaves in the spring and end with cold branches in the winter. Two heavy ebony doors were added through which one can see a thin line of light as a guidance to exit.

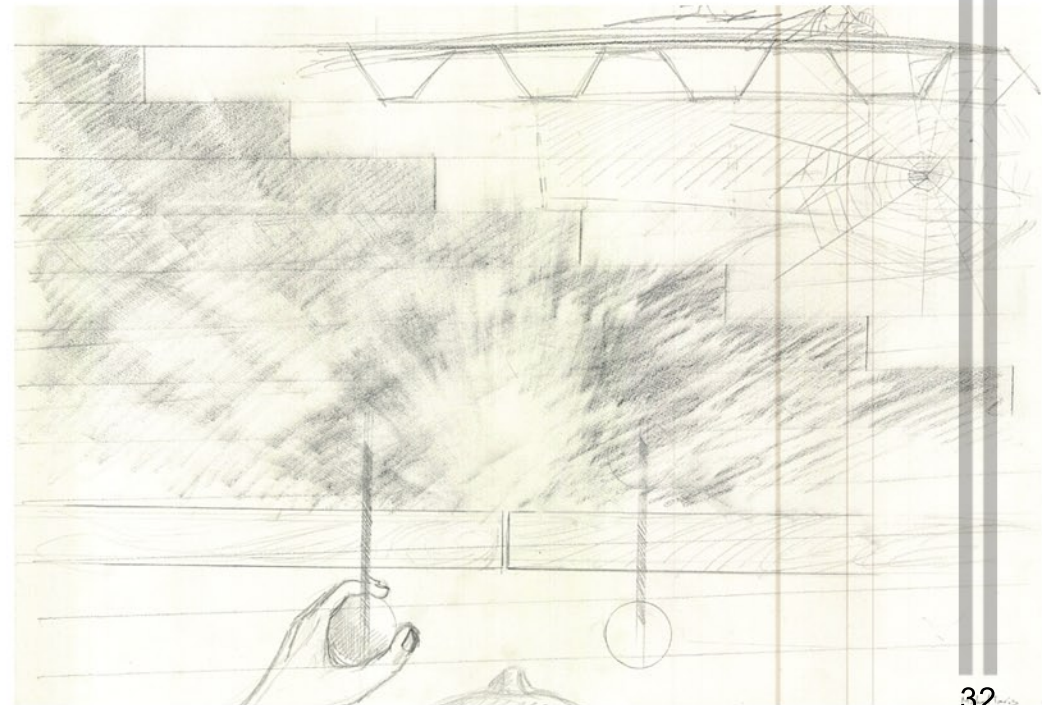
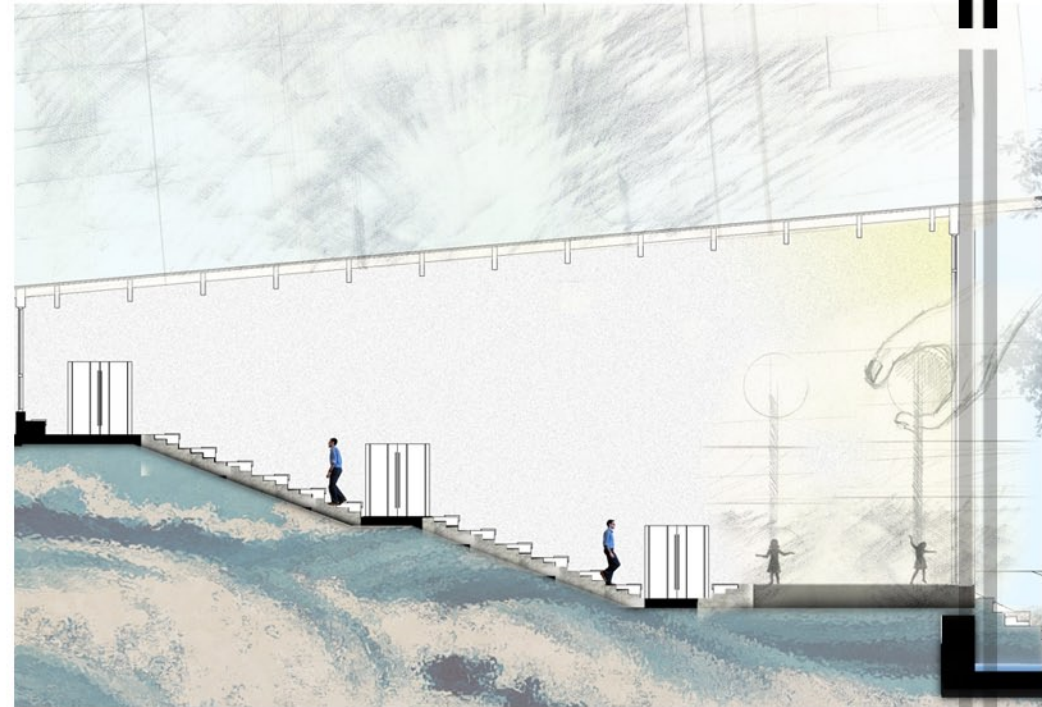


The next drawing was the exploration of the space through the sense of hearing. This drawing helped me define the space further by thinking about sounds, wind, rain and water.

The bottom right drawings shows a plan view of a door being opened by a person. The drawing is sketched with variety of pencil weights to represent the depth of sounds. The smudge at the door represents the sound as the person enters the auditorium.

The top right is the further interpretation of the auditorium in a section. The roof acts as a drum when it rains and the sound of wind is created by the spinning vortex; which I translated into the stage and the spinning dancers.

Underneath the seats I pictured the sound of running water which is shown as waves underneath the building.



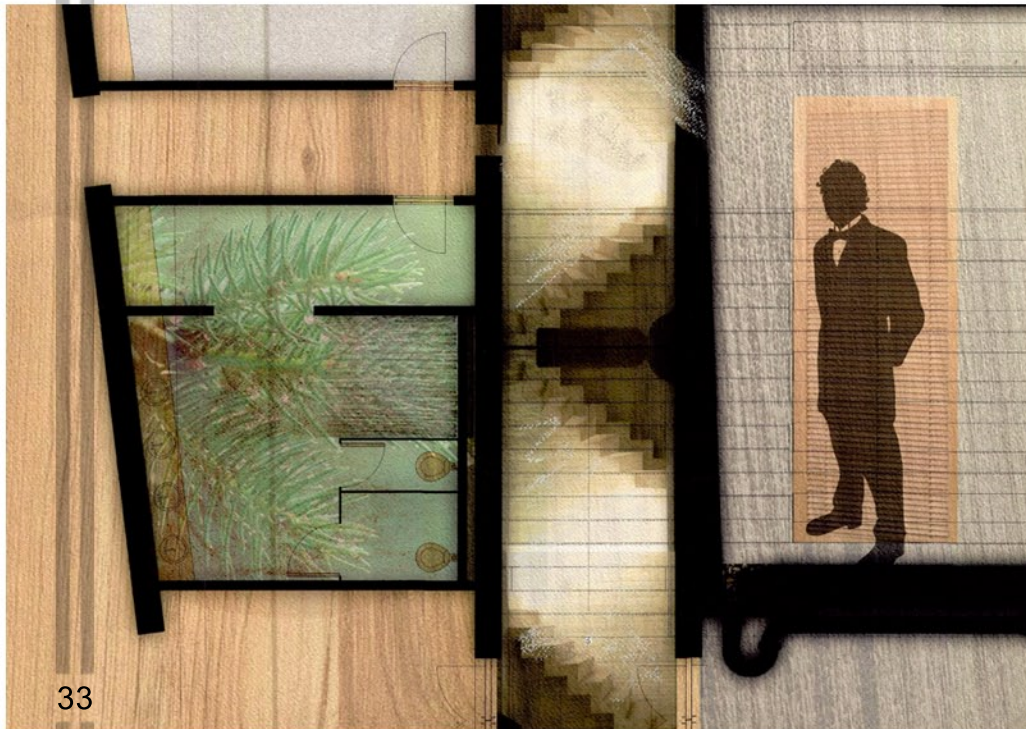


This drawing shows the exploration of smell and environment in the space. The drawing helped me develop intermediate stairs, bathrooms and support spaces.

I wanted to capture a cave and cabin like feeling within the space. The cave smell and feeling was accomplished with the texture of concrete, and the cabin was accomplished through texture of wood. Result was the combination of the two.

I enjoy the smell of pine and intend to incorporate it in the space as flooring and elements in the restrooms.

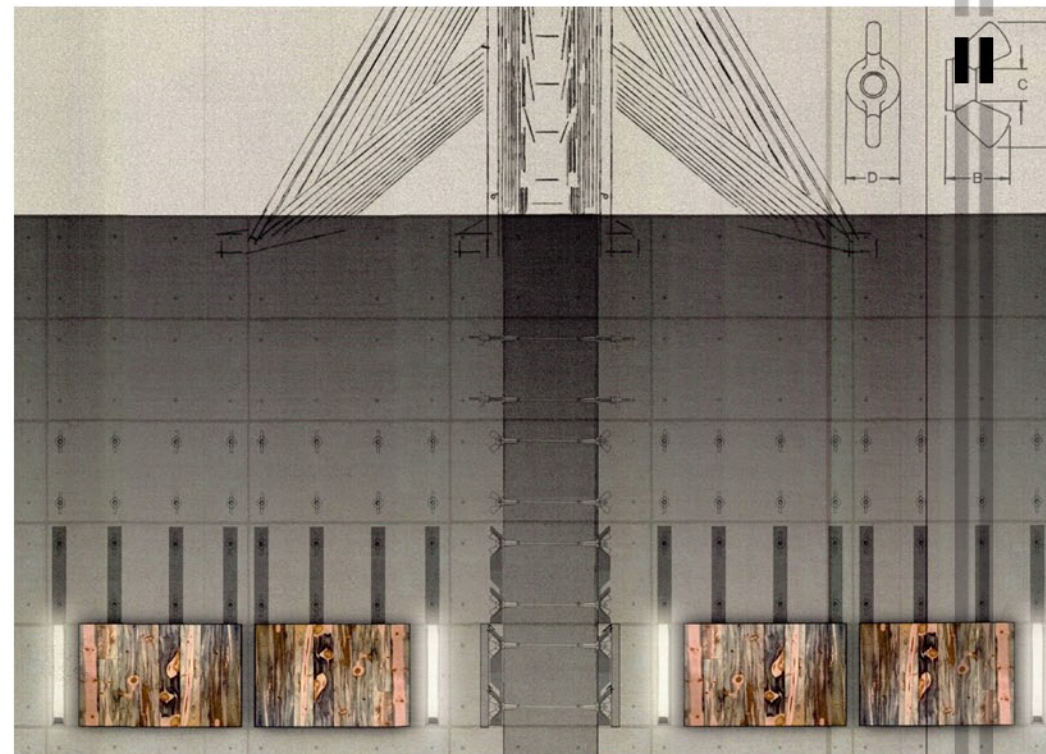
The stairs were colored to show transition of smells. This was translated into transition spaces between auditorium and support area.



This two drawings are the explorations of taste and touch. Those drawings helped me establish the materiality, construction and details of the final design.

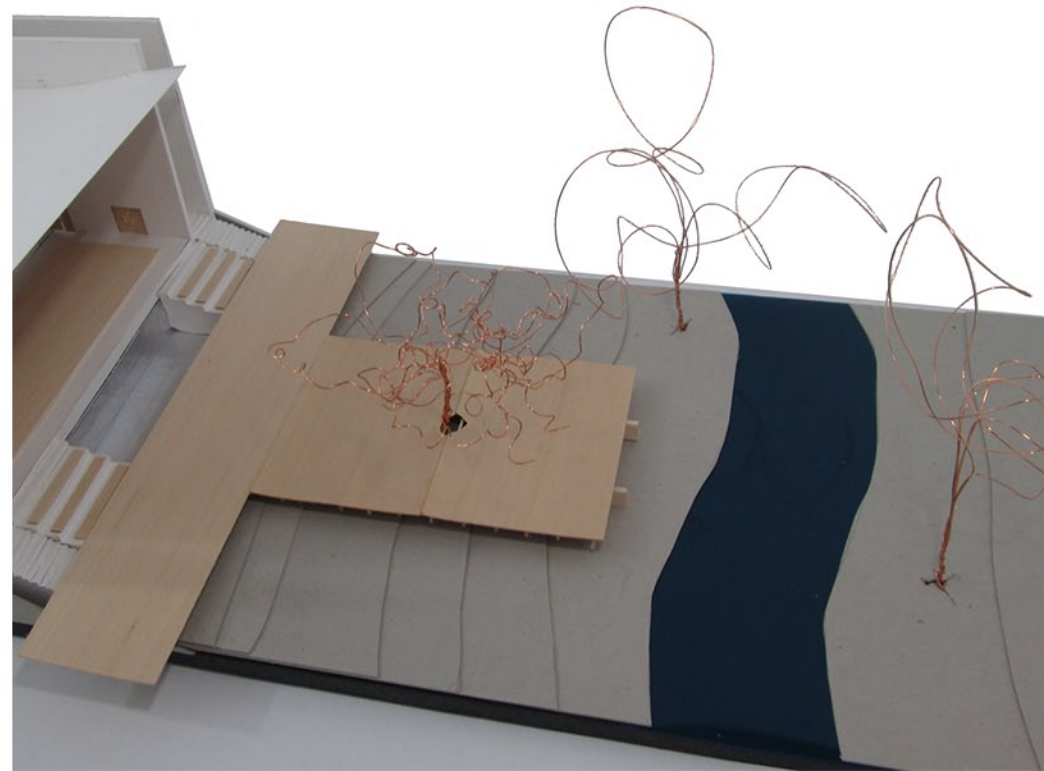
The bottom right drawing is the interpretation of touch. This drawing was created by making the paper wet and then imprinting over it various textures such as wood, wired mesh and footprints.

The top right drawing is an interpretation of construction through taste. The construction of the wall was compared to making of the waffle. The formwork is comparable to the waffle maker; both form the end result and leave the imprint on the outside face. The batter translates into concrete; where ingredients are comparable as a liquid mixture in the beginning and solid in the end. The wood panels and lights are the toppings which anchor to the remnants of the formwork; just like the butter and the pieces of fruit get anchored in the waffle squares.





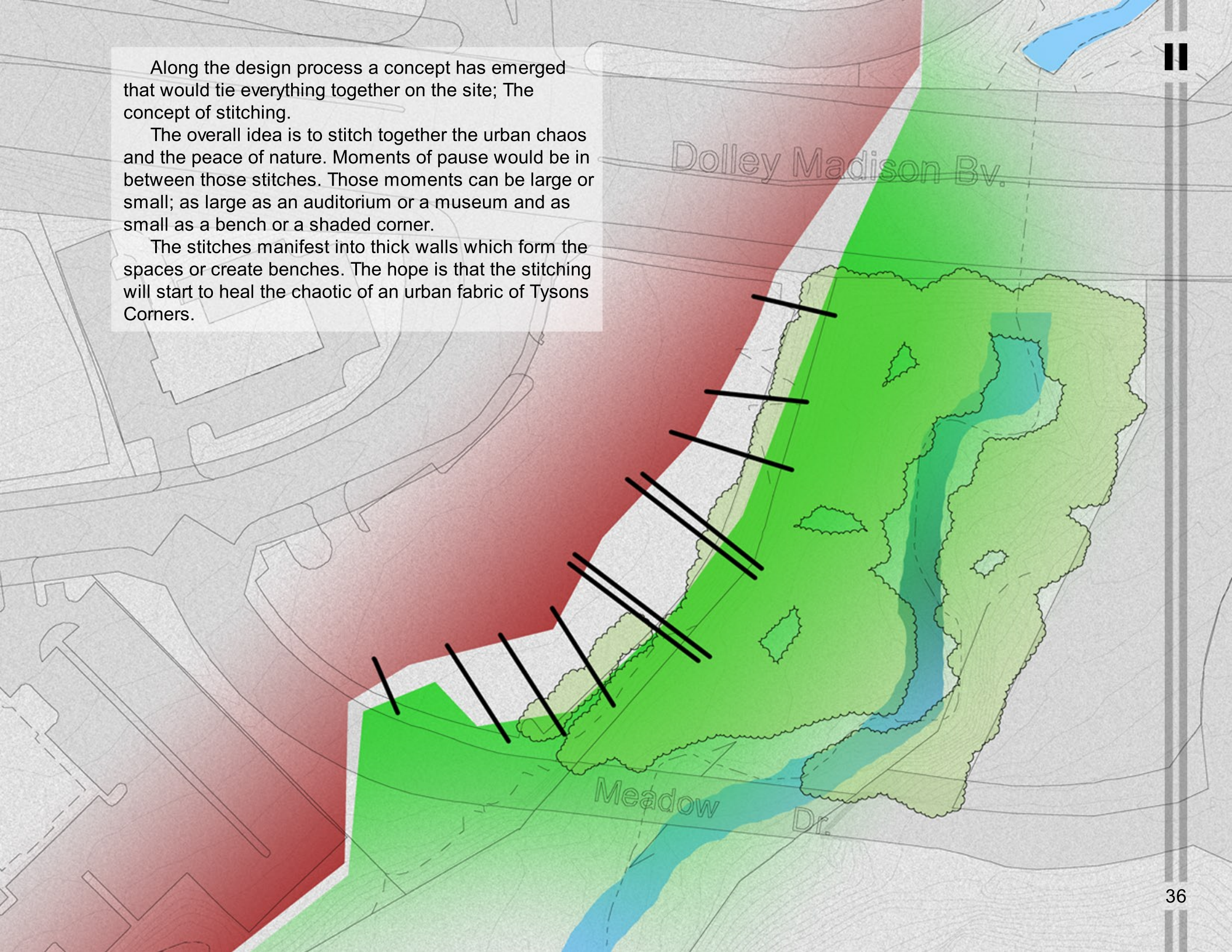
The design process also incorporated a study model of the auditorium. This model has gone through several iterations and was used to study the slope, views, materiality, construction methods and interaction between the exterior and the interior spaces.



Along the design process a concept has emerged that would tie everything together on the site; The concept of stitching.

The overall idea is to stitch together the urban chaos and the peace of nature. Moments of pause would be in between those stitches. Those moments can be large or small; as large as an auditorium or a museum and as small as a bench or a shaded corner.

The stitches manifest into thick walls which form the spaces or create benches. The hope is that the stitching will start to heal the chaotic of an urban fabric of Tysons Corners.



The Pause Community Center

The final design was developed following the design process. The end result is a composition of architecture and landscaping through the concept of stitching with the places of pause.

Images to the right show the conceptual site model which was used in developing the final massing and layout. The model also help in understanding the topography and site approach.

The next page illustrates the final master plan. The final design consists of the new access to the metro, which continues through the community center. The center consists of; the main auditorium, social & breakout spaces, community classrooms and community museum.

The master plan also includes; access to the green area by the proposed meandering path, interactive fountain, hardscaped areas with pause moments, raised seating, on-site and underground parking.



Master Plan



0 20 40 60 80 100 FT

McLean Metro Stop

Shade
Walk
Sculptures
Water

Meet
Talk
Social
Coffee
View
Play
Rest

Dolley Madison Bv.

Meet
Walk
Metro

Pause
Observe
Sit
Meet
Hangout

View
Enter
Pickup / Drop off

Water
Sun
Plaza
Meet
Play
Events
Market

Sit
Watch
Sun & Shade
Pass By
Pause

Park

Make
Build
Interact
Practice
Work with hands
Art

Stop
Rest
Sit
Calm
Water
Relax
Nature

Kiss & Ride
(Under Construction)

Meadow Dr.

Pause
Gather
Listen
Learn
TED Talks
Classes
View

Meet
Pause
View
Coffee
Music
Social

Walk
Bike
Wonder
Lean over
Nature
Explore
(Art/Dance Studios)

Proposed Bike/Walk Trail

The site model below illustrates the pedestrian and vehicular access; on the way to and from the Metro (yellow), by foot or bicycle through the meandering path (orange) and by vehicle or a bus (blue).

Proposed is an additional connection to the Metro which would also run overhead of the Doley Madison Blvd.

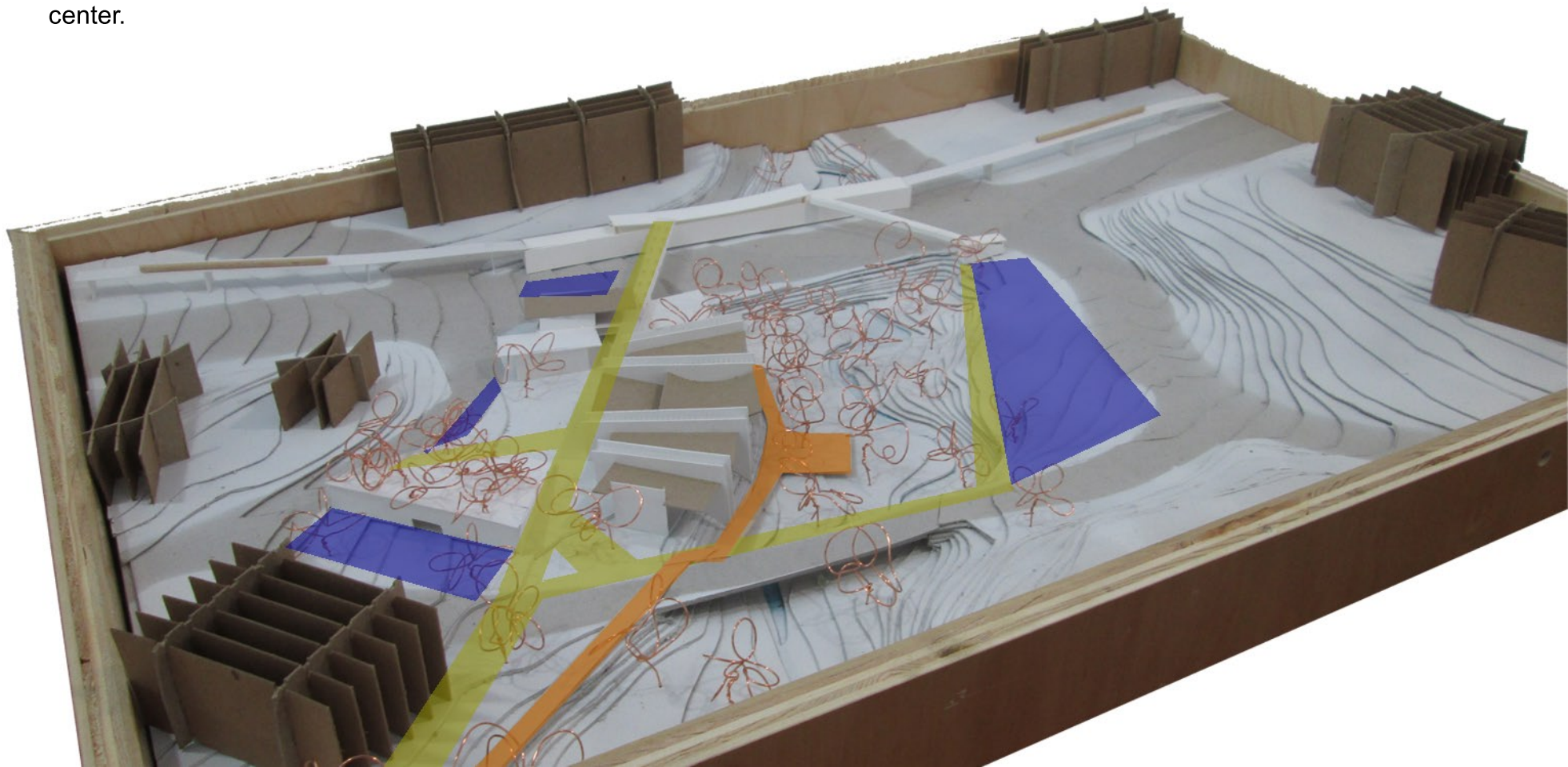
This new connection allows for the arriving and departing passengers to see, access and interact with the spaces and activities on the site along their transit.

Connected to the nature side is a new pedestrian path that follows the Scotts Run creek. This meandering path has visual and physical access to the community center.

The Doley Madison Blvd. is the major vehicular street north of the site. This street has an immediate access to the underground garage to the north.

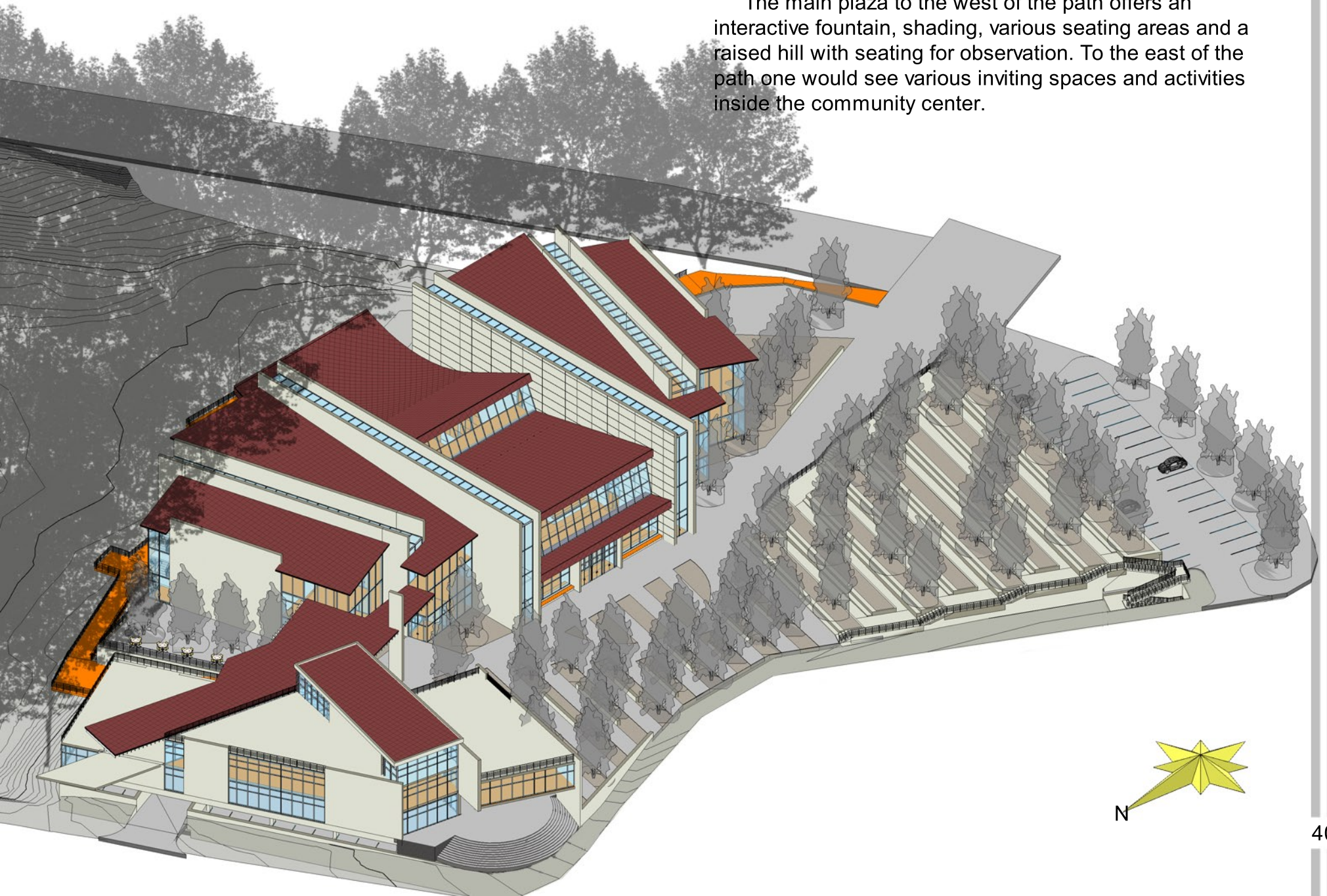
Branching from the Doley Madison are the Old Meadow Road and the Colshire Drive. Connecting the two is the Colshire-Meadow Drive to the south. The Colshire Meadow has the secondary access to the underground garage and temporary exterior parking.

Across the green area is the Metro Kiss & Ride. Proposed is an additional drop off location to the east with a direct access to the site plaza.



To the north of the site the main path to and from the Metro allows the users to see the exhibitions of the museum as they pass by. Further south people cannot help but walk by various opportunities to pause.

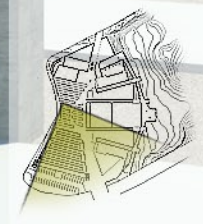
The main plaza to the west of the path offers an interactive fountain, shading, various seating areas and a raised hill with seating for observation. To the east of the path one would see various inviting spaces and activities inside the community center.



The rendering is showing a view of the plaza with seating, interactive fountain and the main entry to the community center. People have an opportunity to pause just a few steps away from the main path.



View from the plaza facing the raised seating to the south. The landscape elements stitch the plaza together creating pause moments in between.



This rendering shows a pause moment adjacent to the Metro tunnel. People can stop away from the path and observe nature or the activities below.

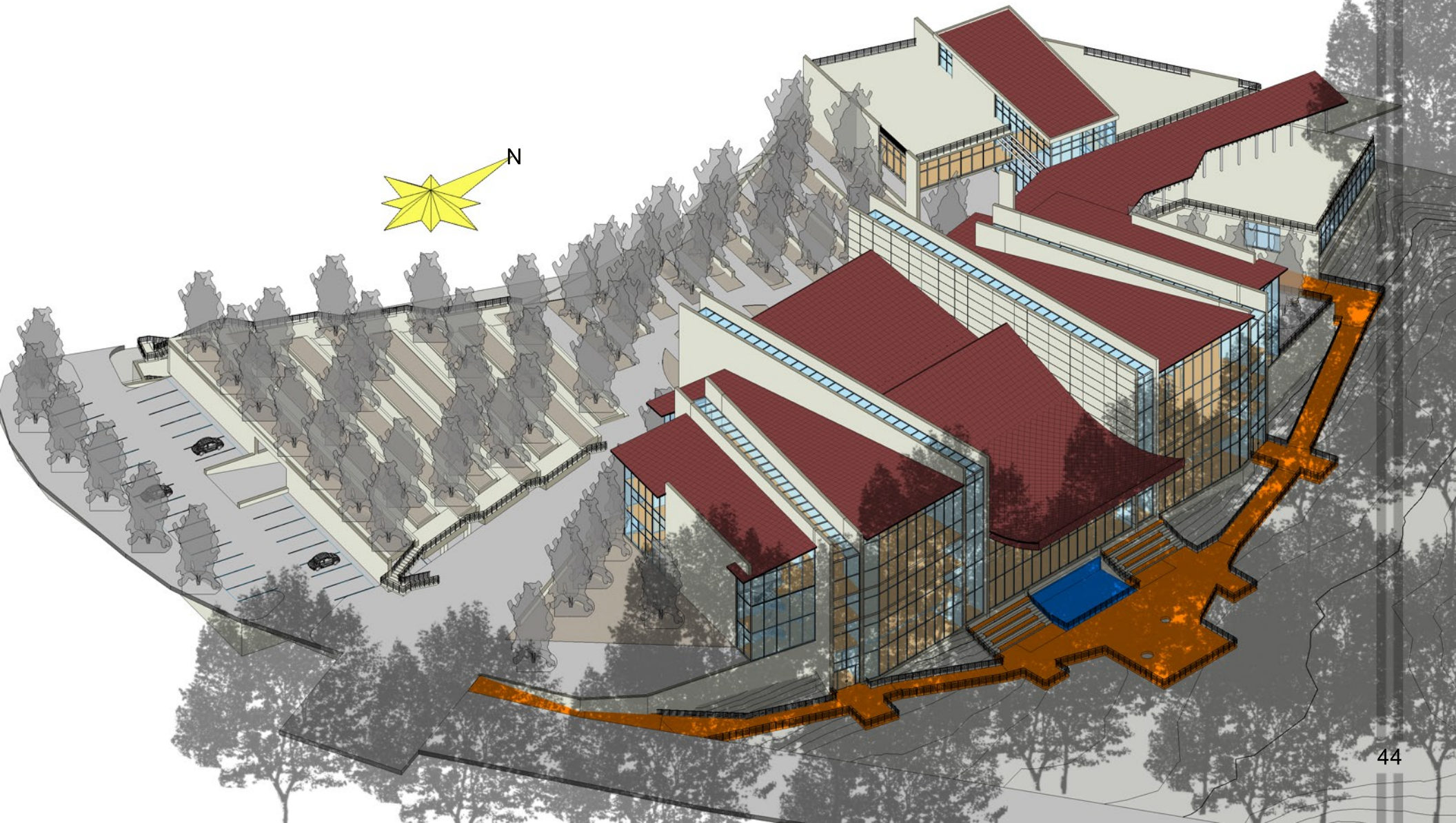
The path from the Metro also has a direct access to the community center shown on the right. The backdrop is a depiction of the future Tysons Corners development.

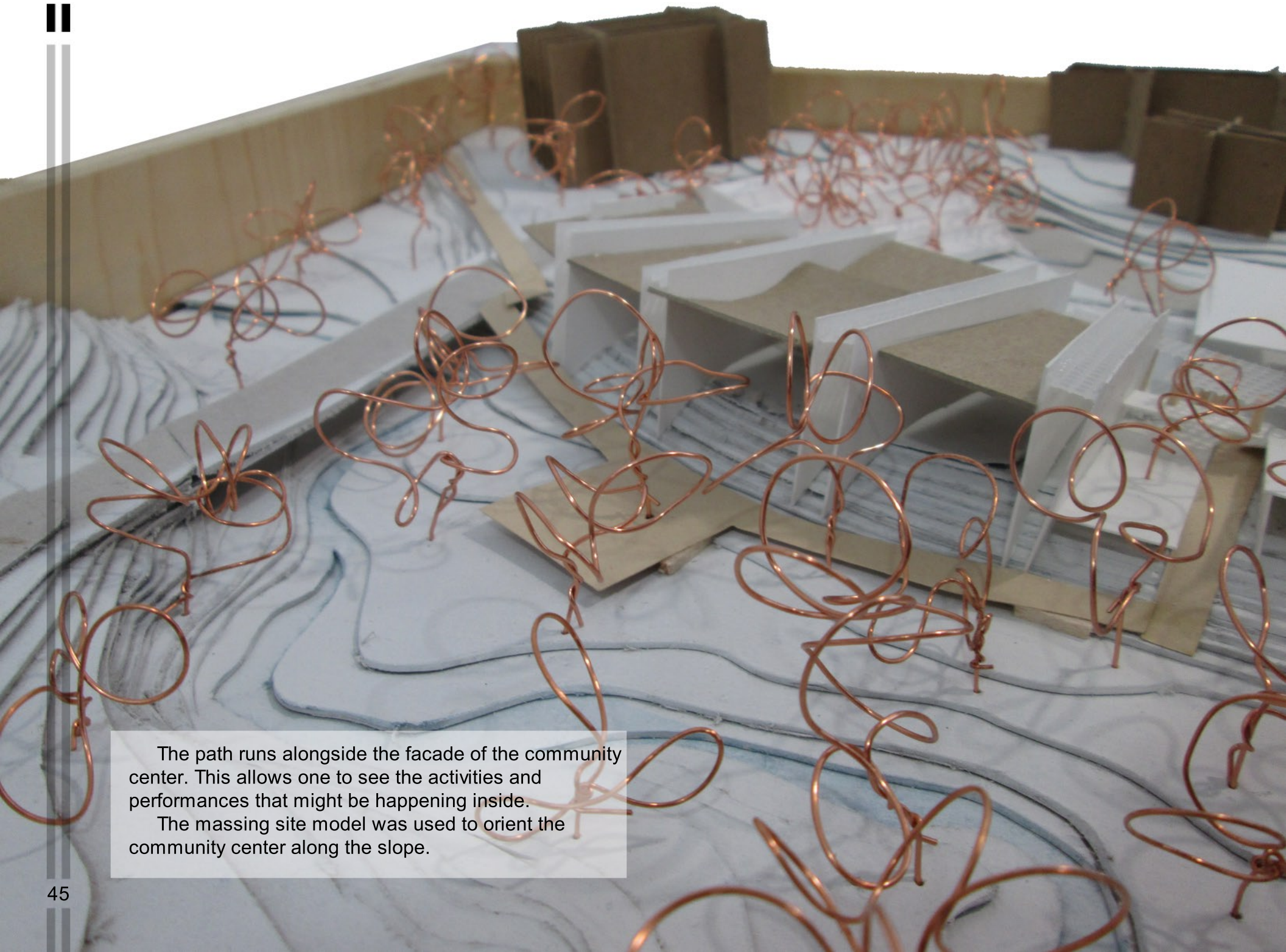


South side of the site offers temporary parking and an access to the underground garage behind the raised seating.

Along the east edge of the site is a meandering path connecting the pedestrians to nature and Scotts Run creek. The path runs along the edge of the slope offering various opportunities to pause and observe the elements.

Against the axis of the auditorium there is are opportunities for a longer stay; accomplished by incorporating exterior seating, a lotus pond and an open area with moveable seating.



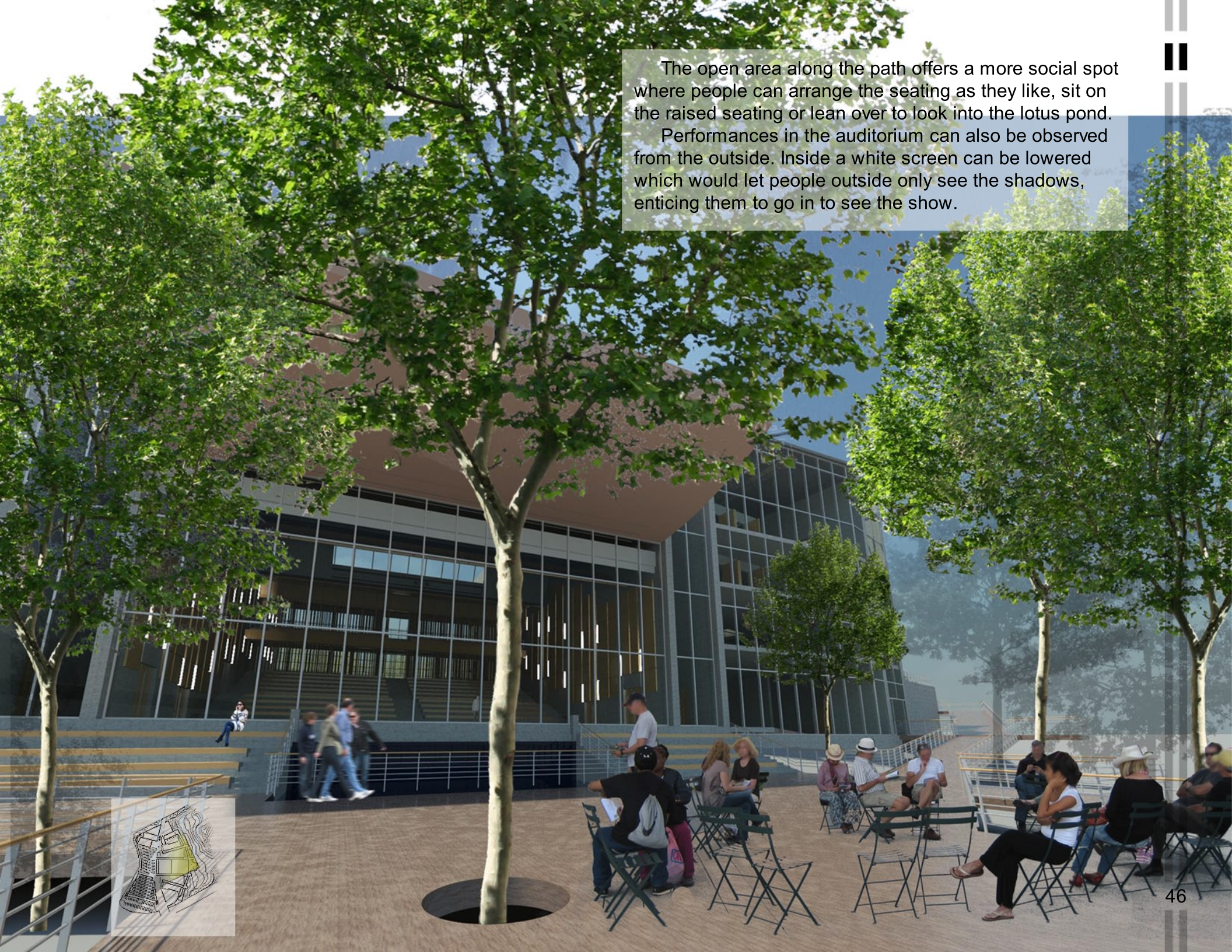


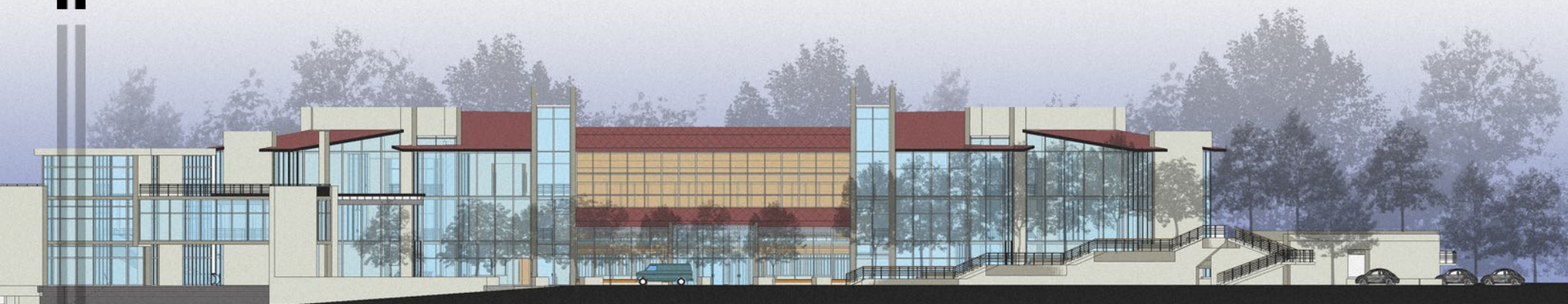
The path runs alongside the facade of the community center. This allows one to see the activities and performances that might be happening inside.

The massing site model was used to orient the community center along the slope.

The open area along the path offers a more social spot where people can arrange the seating as they like, sit on the raised seating or lean over to look into the lotus pond.

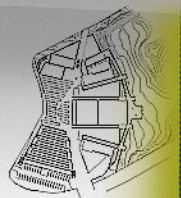
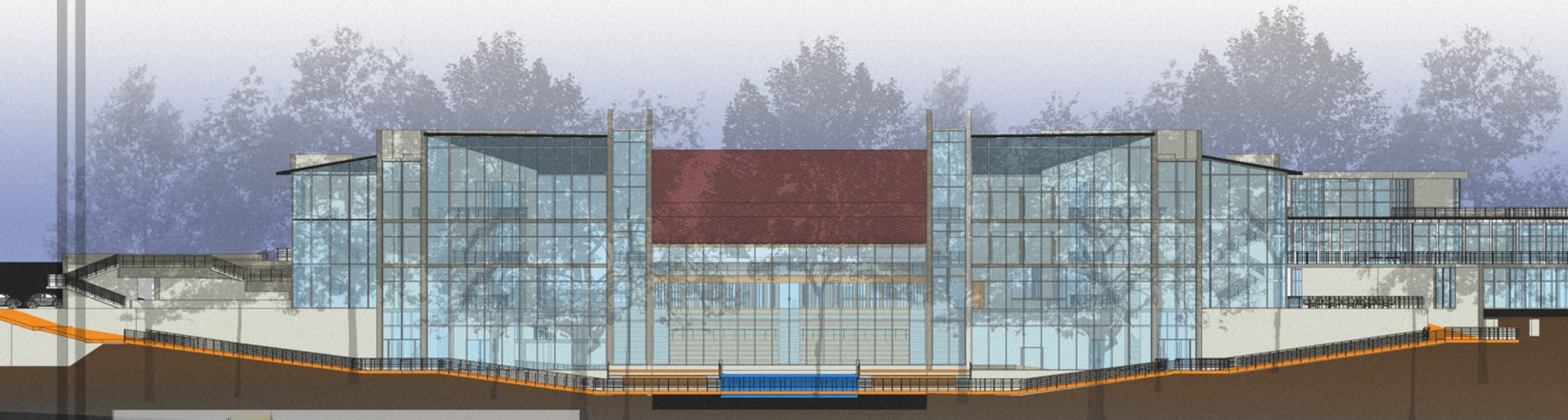
Performances in the auditorium can also be observed from the outside. Inside a white screen can be lowered which would let people outside only see the shadows, enticing them to go in to see the show.





Elevation looking east

0 10 20 30 40 50ft



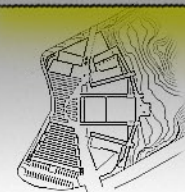
Elevation looking west

0 10 20 30 40 50ft



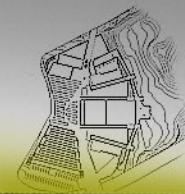
Elevation looking south

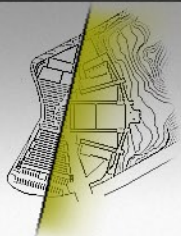
0 10 20 30 40 50ft



Elevation looking north

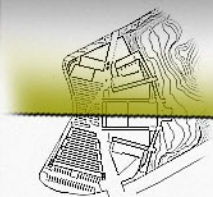
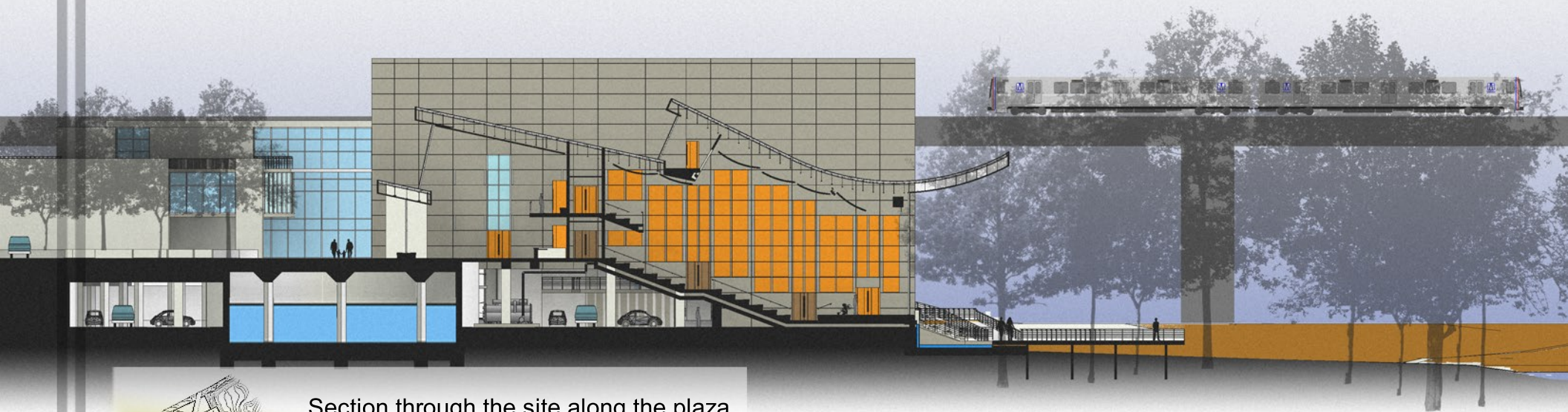
0 10 20 30 40 50ft





Section through the site along the Metro access, plaza and raised seating, looking east.

0 10 20 30 40 50ft



Section through the site along the plaza, auditorium and green area, looking north.

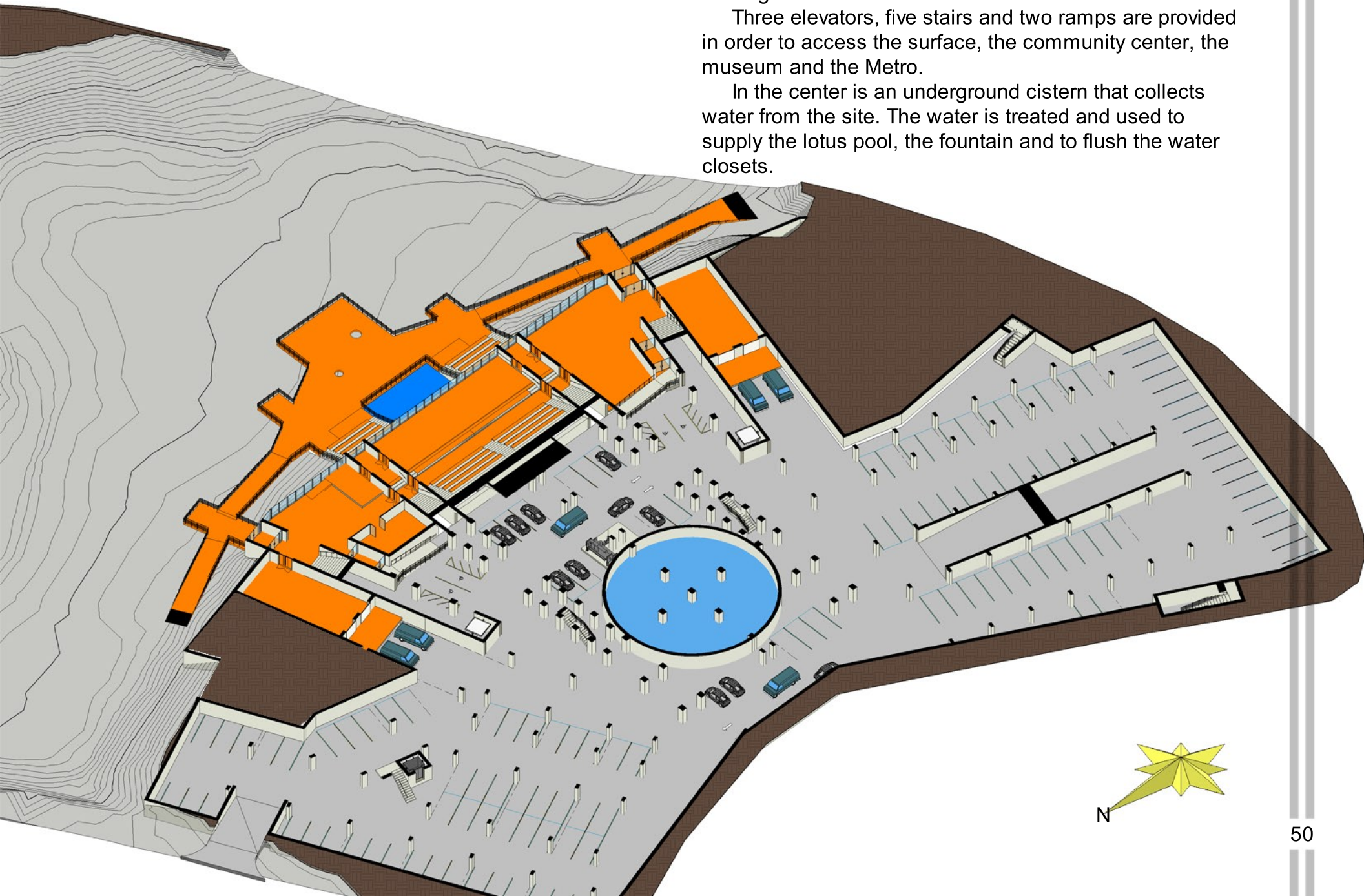
0 10 20 30 40 50ft

The majority of the on-site parking is located underground in order to maximise the pedestrian space on the surface.

The natural slope of the site provides an access to the under-ground garage from the north. A secondary access is provided to the south by a ramp under the raised seating.

Three elevators, five stairs and two ramps are provided in order to access the surface, the community center, the museum and the Metro.

In the center is an underground cistern that collects water from the site. The water is treated and used to supply the lotus pool, the fountain and to flush the water closets.



Ground Level



0 10 20 30 40 50ft

Community Museum

Toward metro

Exterior Seating

Mix Use

Men

Women

Coffee

Pause Moments

Drop off/Pickup

Interactive Fountain

Info

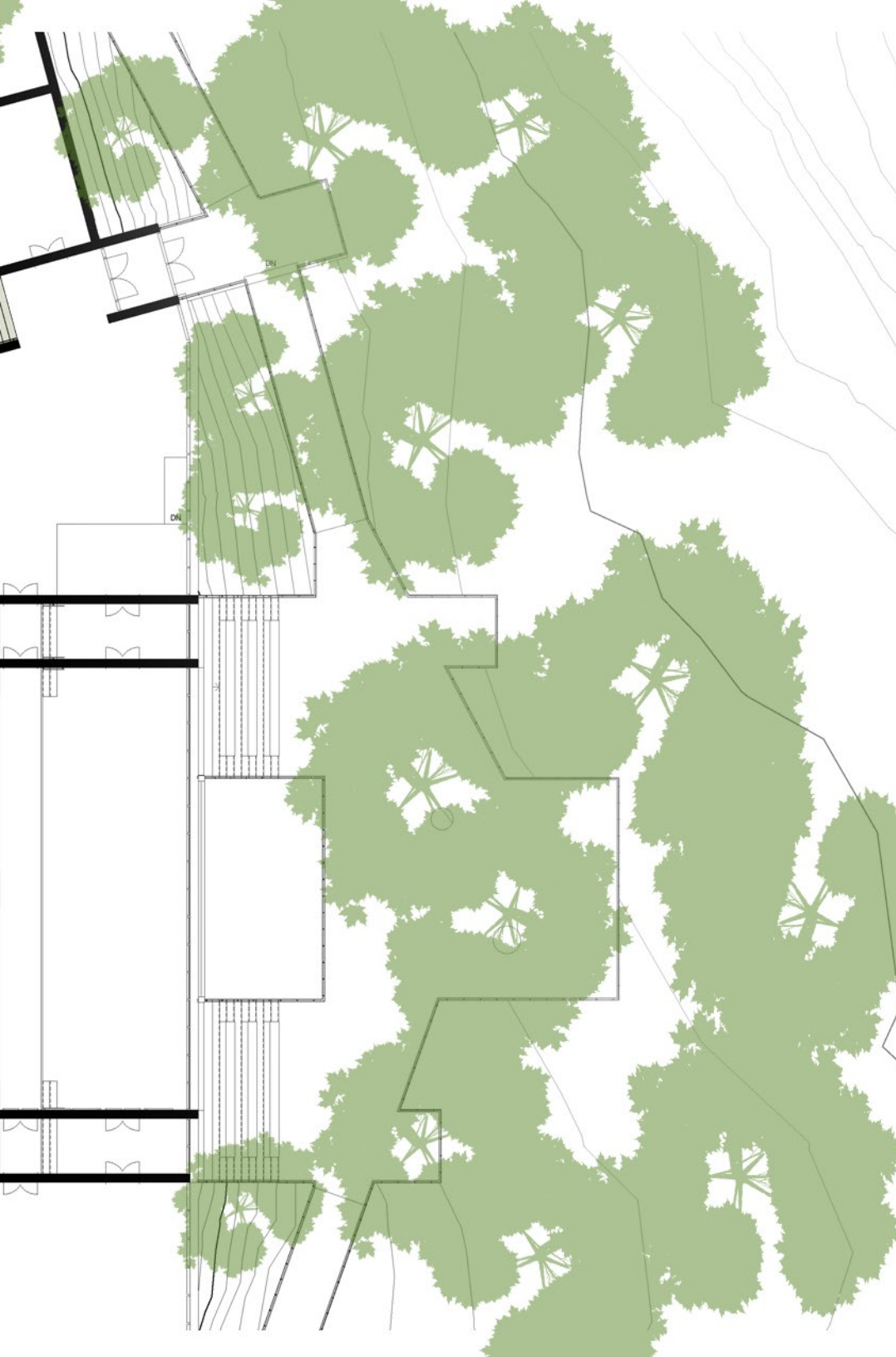
Breakout / Social

Tickets

Multi Purpose Stage

Raised Seating Hill

Community Studios



The community center auditorium is located along the west-east axis in the center of the site. The main entrance from the plaza is along the axis of the interactive fountain and adjacent to the path heading south from the Metro. People outside are able to see the glimpses of auditorium all the way through the open facade.

Passing through the main doors one arrives at the breakout and social area which contains ticket and information counters. This space is very open and has a viewing balcony overlooking the space from the upper floor.

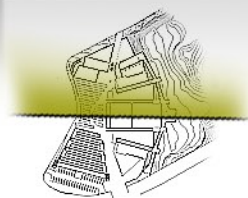
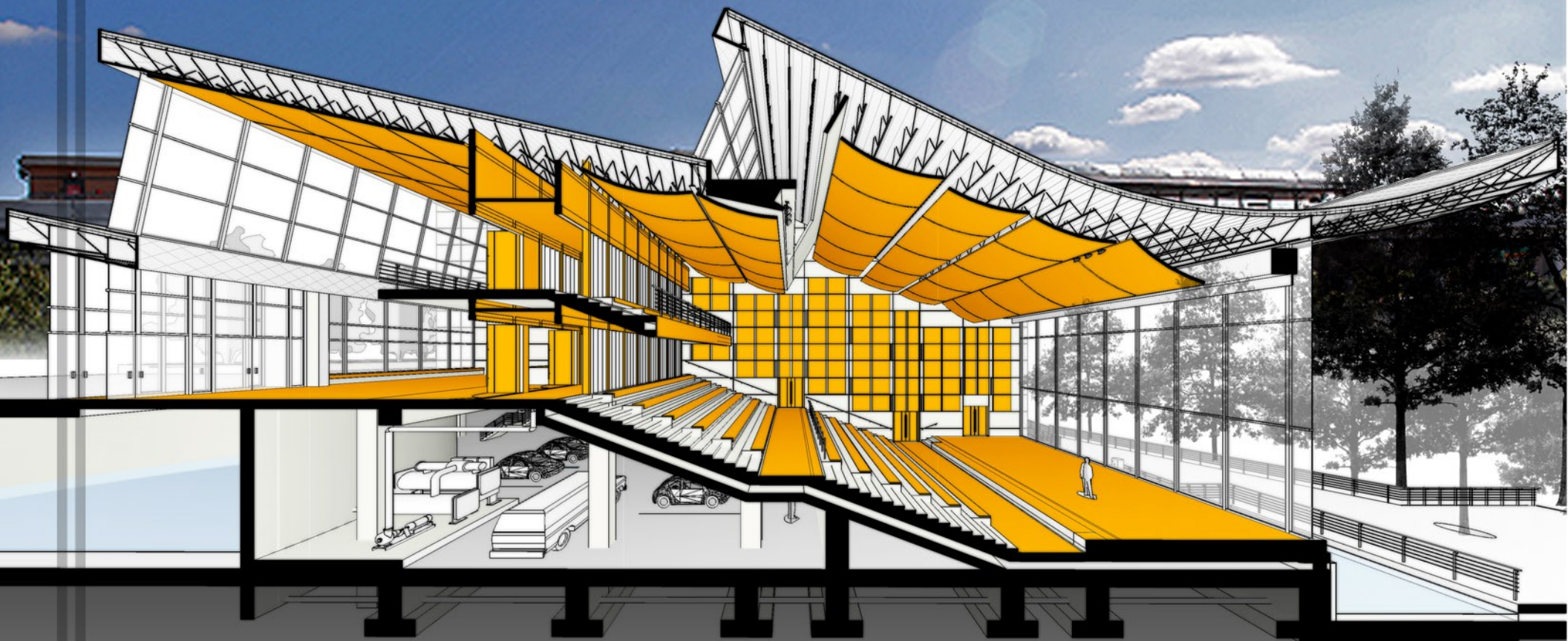
Straight ahead are the large grand doors accessing the intermediate corridor which is adjacent to the auditorium seating. The grand doors can be left open or closed during the performances; allowing flexibility in the use of the space and ticket checking through the adjacent stair-well areas.

Beyond is the auditorium which steps down with bench-like seating. The seating does not have dividers in order to allow for the border-free and flexible use. The seating runs down with the natural slope of the site leading up to the stage. The backdrop of the stage is an open facade facing the green area.

The auditorium is enclosed by two stairwells which serve as the through access to the other floors and supporting areas. The stair-wells are enclosed by thick structural walls which support the roof and divide the areas in the community center.

To the north is a social area along with a coffee shop, restrooms and mix use spaces. This area has an elevator and a grand stair which allows people to access all the levels and exit to the meandering path.

The north building also has a direct access from the metro and exterior seating to the north. The south building is similar to the north except it contains community based spaces, classrooms and stage preparation.



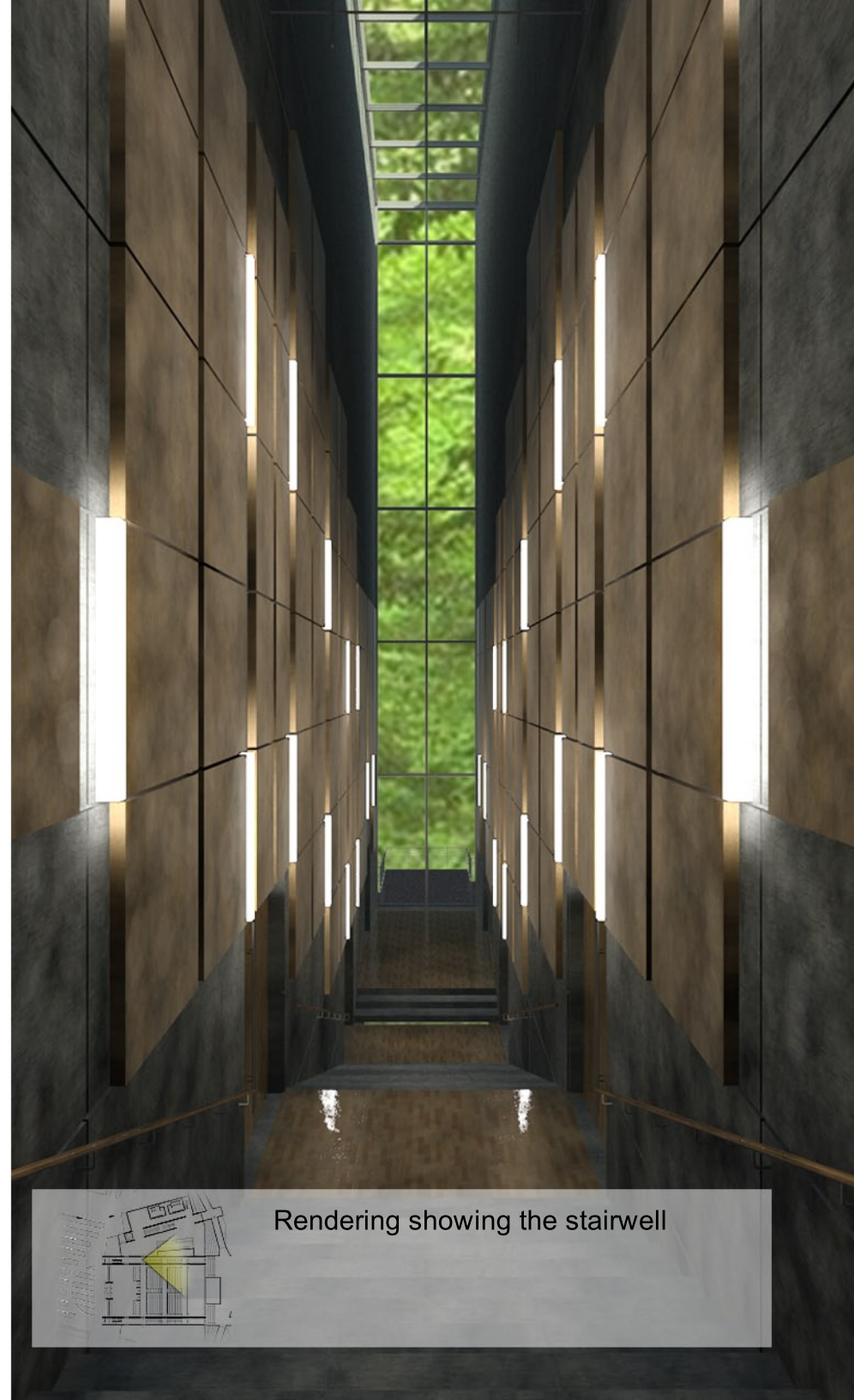
3D Section cut through the auditorium
looking north

A rendering showing interior of the break-out area. The grand doors unite the space wit auditorium if opened. Corridors behind incorporate the mechanical panels which can be closed to block off view and acoustics as necessary.





Rendering showing the cafe area



Rendering showing the stairwell



Rendering looking at the stage and change of seasons as the backdrop.

Museum Parking

Loading / Storage

Gift Shop

Utility

Exterior Seating

Site Water Collection Cistern

Pumps & Filtration

Multi Purpose Stage

Lotus pool

Meandering Path Pause

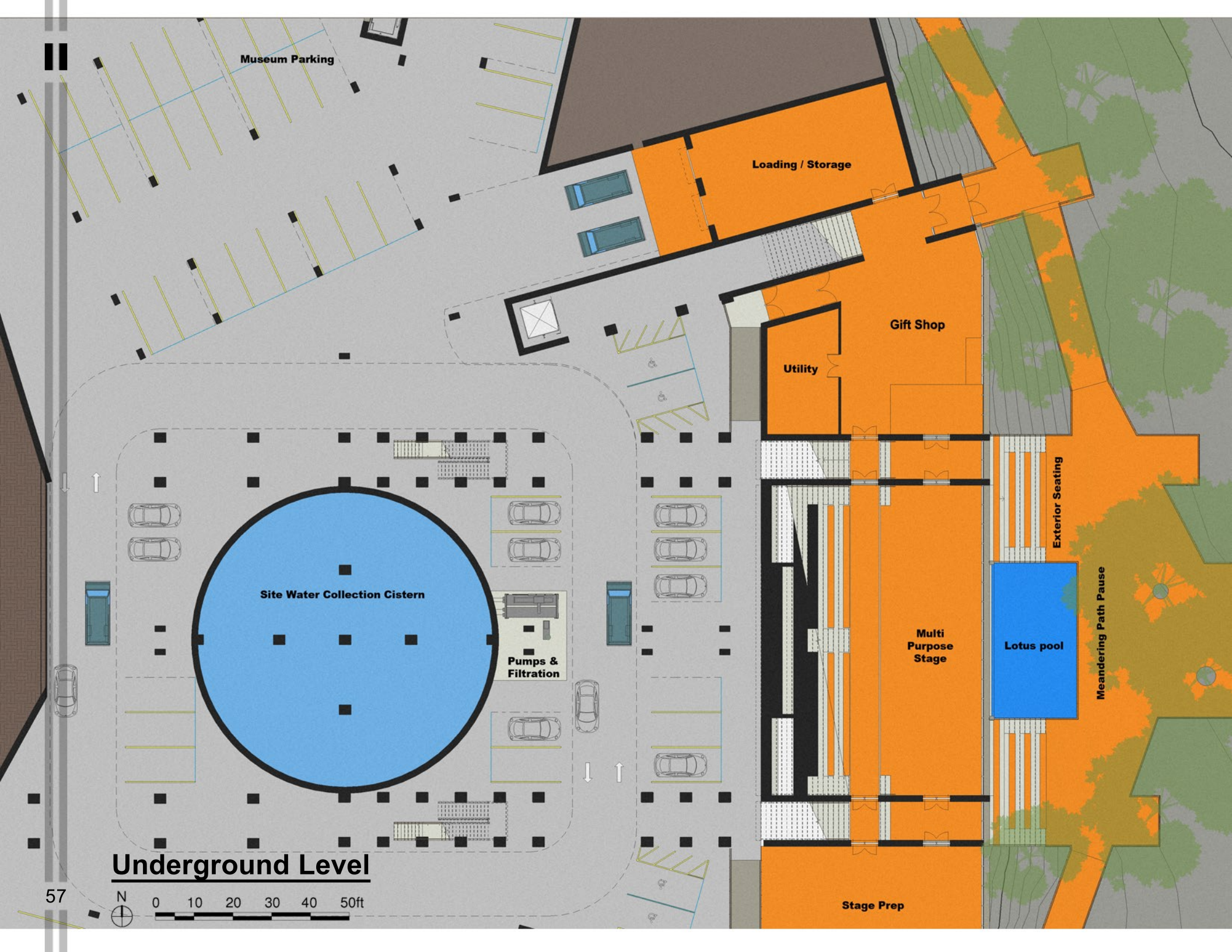
Stage Prep

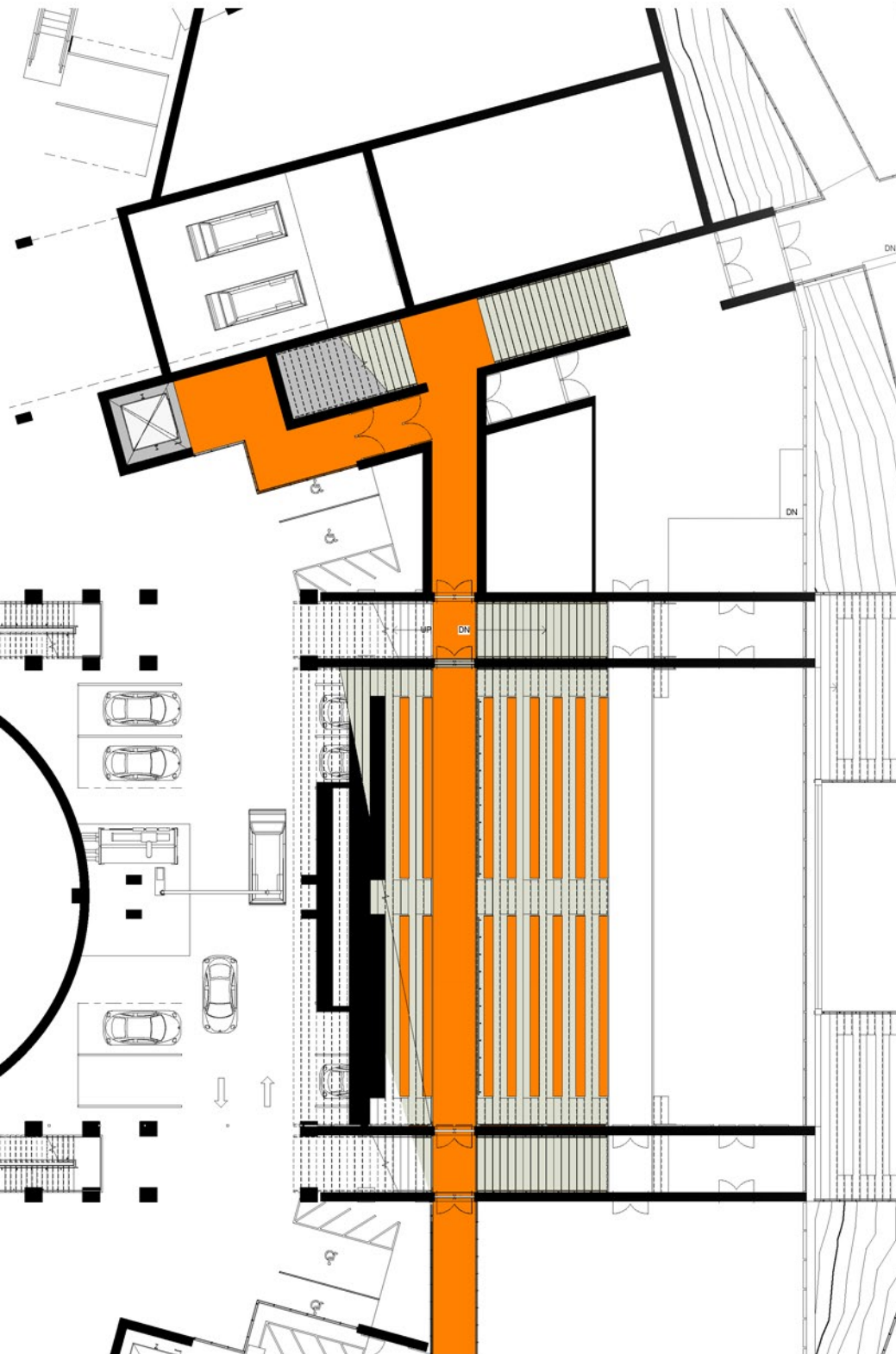
Underground Level

57



0 10 20 30 40 50ft





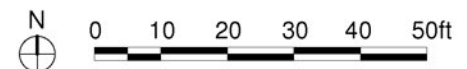
The arrivals from the underground garage may enter the community center in various ways. The adjacent north and south buildings have elevators and ramps. People may also access the stairs leading up to the main stairwell which in turn bring you to the surface, the auditorium, adjacent north and south buildings, and the upper levels. The community center may also be accessed vice versa from meandering path.

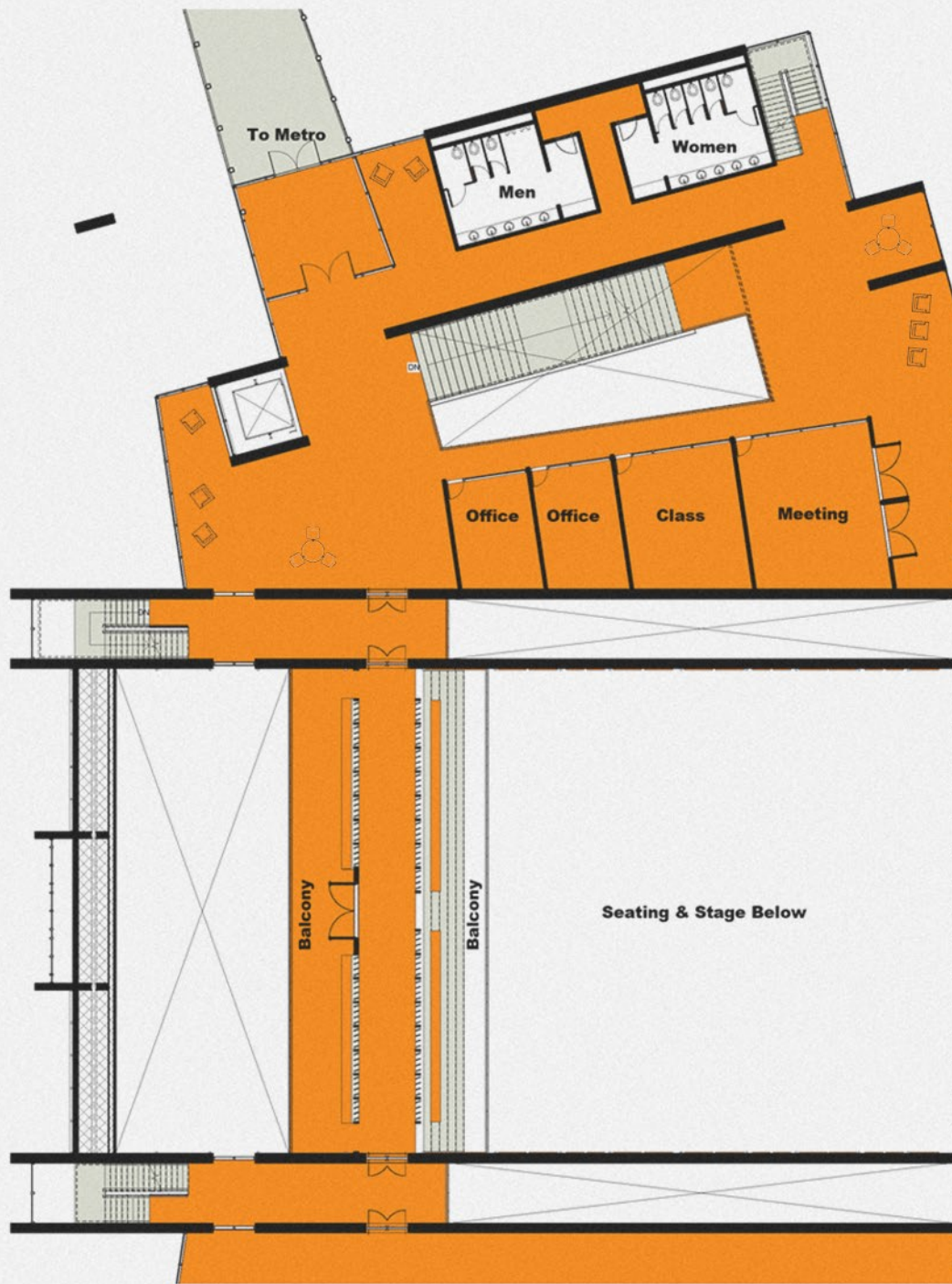
The lowest level of the north building has a gift shop, access to the meandering path, stairs going up to the coffee shop, loading & storage, and utility areas. The south building also has access to the exterior and upstairs as well as stage preparation.

The lowest level of meandering path provides continued seating along the slope and a central lotus pool to the west of the path and adjacent to the auditorium. To the east of the path and along the axis of the auditorium is the more open area with moveable seating.

The intermediate level offers access to the intermediate stage area for persons unable to walk the stairs.

Intermediate Level





The second floor of the community center can be accessed directly from the bridge adjacent to Metro path.

The central stair is open to below offering a light well and openness to the space. This level also offers mix-use areas, a meeting room, class rooms and offices. There are observation niches along the perimeter; people are able to sit in the more private areas where they are able to enjoy the views.

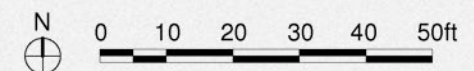
One may access the stairwell and the auditorium from this level. The second level of the auditorium offers a corridor and a double balcony; one facing the stage and one facing the breakout area. Continuing south one would pass through the south stairwell and ultimately enter the upper level of the south building; which offers art studios and classrooms.

Second Level



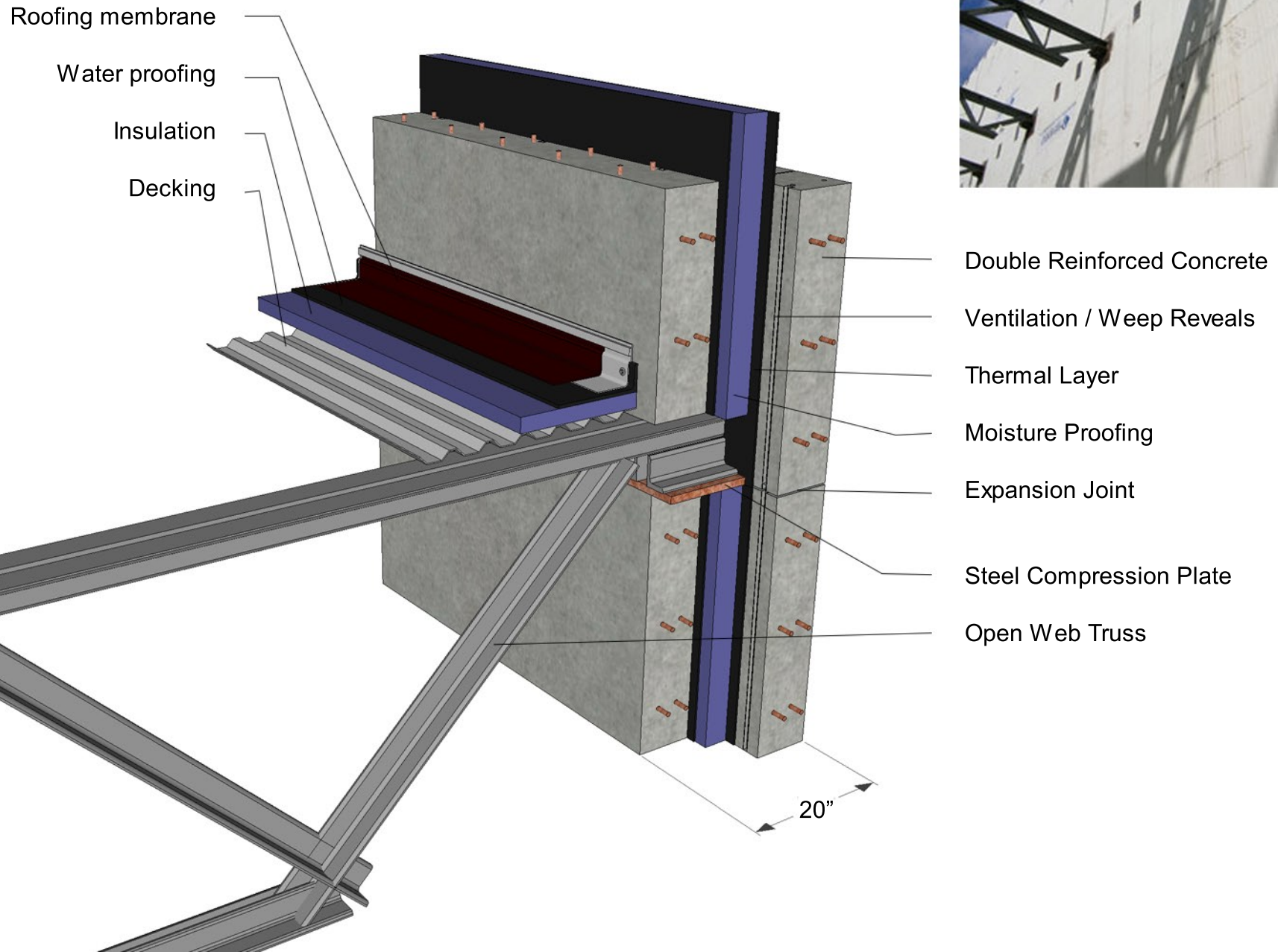
The third level consists of staff offices, production, mixed use and group rooms. The private balcony located over the auditorium can either be used by production or be repropose for private use.

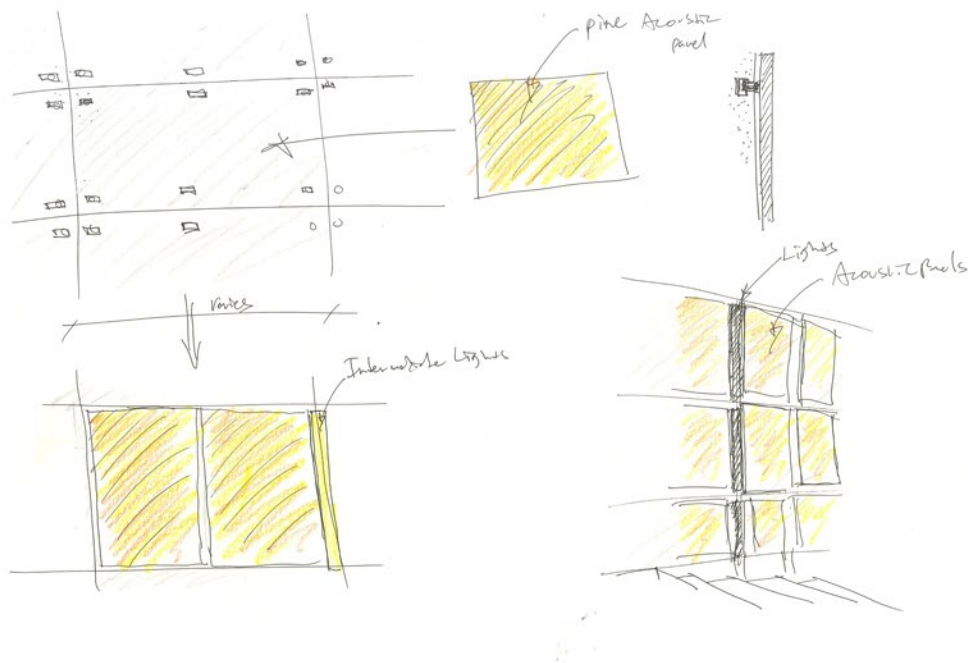
Third Level



Details

The large roof span over the auditorium requires thick reinforced concrete walls and deep open web trusses.





The thick concrete walls are intended to keep the remnants of the construction. The idea is to retain a natural texture of the wood used for formwork on the surface of the wall. An example of this is shown in a middle right image.

The tie-clips used to hold the formwork are intended to be reused in hanging of the acoustic wooden panels and lights. An idea of this is shown in sketches on the left and bottom left.

The acoustic panels are made from the reclaimed beetle killed pine trees (image bottom right). Pine is naturally soft and is perfect for the cabin-like feeling of the space. Pine is also a naturally soft wood and is great to be used for the acoustics of the auditorium.



Credits

- 11 The Highline Neighborhood Context Map, August 2014.
<http://www.thehighline.org/about/maps>
- 12 Paley Park concept sketches, May 2014.
http://www.greatbuildings.com/buildings/Paley_Park.html
- 13 Arena Stage Renovation Image, photograph by Nic Lehoux, August 2014. <http://www.bingthomarchitects.com/project/arena-stage/>
- 14 Silver Spring Building Image and Sketch, Machado Silvetti. May 2014. http://www.machado-silvetti.com/projects/silver_spring/
- 21 Area map by Google, August 2014.
<https://www.google.com/maps>
- 22 Landuse Map by Fairfax County. January 2014.
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/fairfaxcounty/4812123513/in/set-72157624106285751>
- 23 Population chart by Google, U.S. Census Bureau, January 2014. <https://www.google.com/publicdata/>
Tysons Skyline Photograph, August 2014. <http://www.city-data.com/city/Tysons-Corner-Virginia.html>
- 24 GMU Center for Regional Analysis "Forecasts for the Reston/Dulles Retail Corridor and Route 28 Corridor 2010 to 2050. 07/2010
Dulles Silver Line Metro Map, August 2014,
http://www.dullesmetro.com/pdfs/DCP-New-Stations-Map_04-08-13.pdf
- 25 Satellite image by Google, August 2014.
<https://www.google.com/maps>
- 61 Truss Connection Image. August 2014.
<http://www.cement.org/think-harder-concrete-/homes/building-systems/insulated-concrete-forms>
- 62 Beetle Kill Pine, May 2014.
<http://www.sustainablelumberco.com/products/beetle-kill-blue-stain-pine/>
- 62 Formwork Concrete - Image by Paul Tierney, May 2014.
<http://www.archdaily.com/171112/formwork-architecture-republic/>

Projects Mentioned

- 3-5 Mirabellgarten, Salzburg - Czech Republic
Lukas von Hildebrandt, 1721-1727
- 6 Binnenalster, Hamburg - Germany
Renovation by Alsterpavillon, 2006
- 7-8 Pantheon & Piazza della Rotonda, Rome - Italy
Publius Aelius Hadrianus, Rebuilt 126 AD
- 9 Orestad, Copenhagen - Denmark
Ørestad Islands by Open Research Team (ORT), 2012
- 10 Kultorvet Square, Copenhagen - Denmark
Christian Frederik Hansen, 1810. Renovation by Polyform 2014
- 11 High Line, New York - U.S.
James Corner Field Operations (Project Lead), Diller Scofidio + Renfro, Piet Oudolf. 1999-2013
- 12 Paley Park, New York - U.S.
Zion & Breen, 1967
- 13 Arena Stage, Washington D.C. - U.S.
by Bing Thom Architects, Completed 2010
- 14 Silver Spring Building, Silver Spring MD - U.S.
by Machado Silvetti, 2003-2010

Inspirational Architects

Kevin Lynch
Steven Holl
Norman Foster
Carlo Scarpa
Tadao Ando
Bjarke Ingels

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- Michael A. Travis

