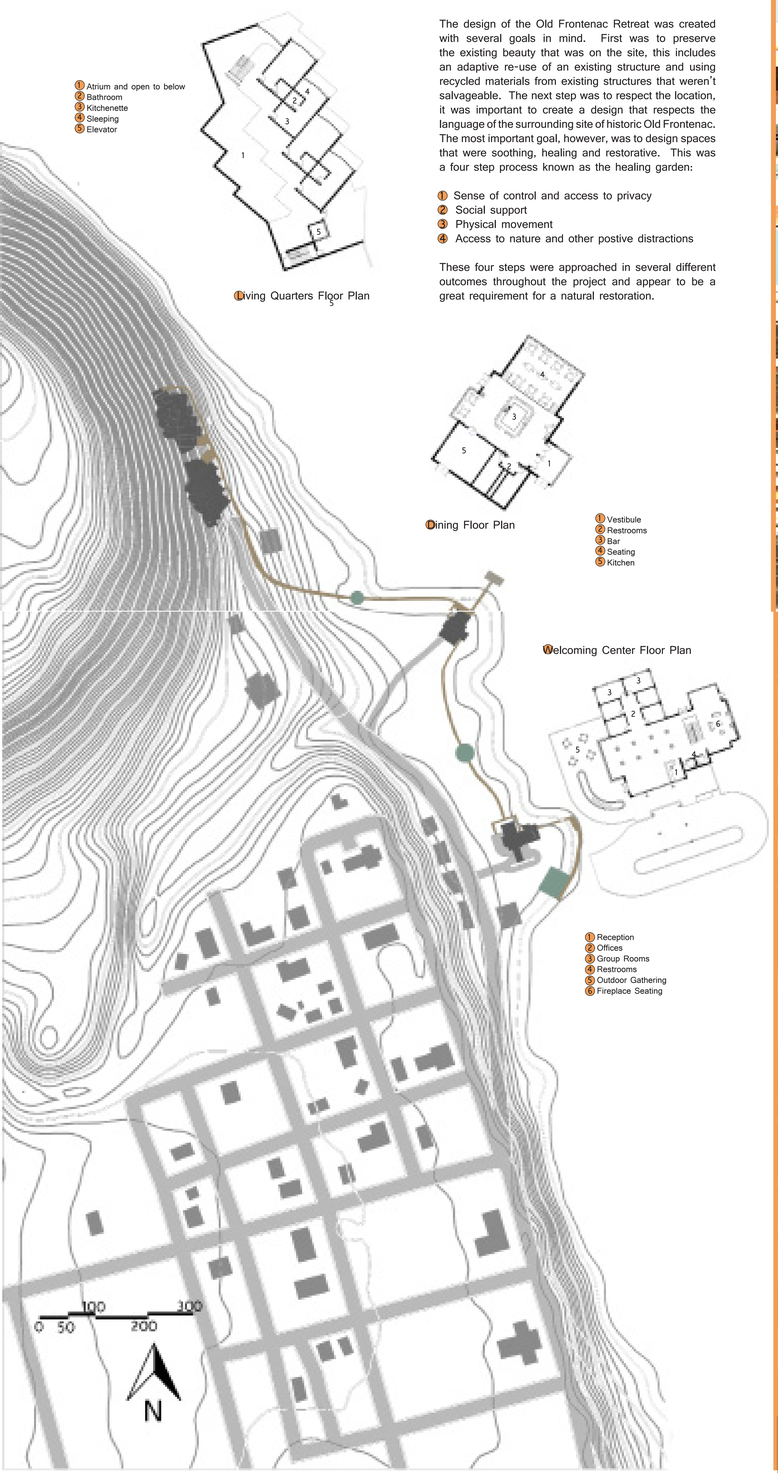
in a restorative nature

a retreat in old frontenac, minnesota

Justin Johnson • Thesis 2011 • Instructor: Bakr Aly Ahmed

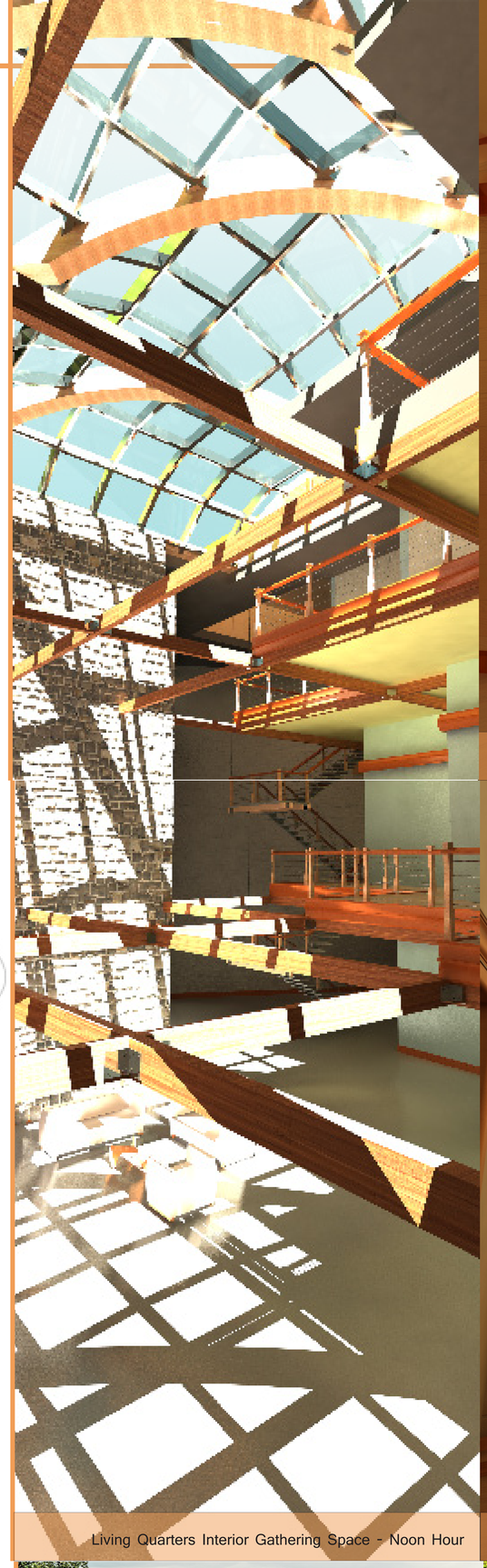
Revit Architecture 2011 • 3DS Max 2011 • Vue xStream 9 • Adobe Illustrator • Adobe Photoshop • Adobe InDesign



The design of the Old Frontenac Retreat was created with several goals in mind. First was to preserve the existing beauty that was on the site, this includes an adaptive re-use of an existing structure and using recycled materials from existing structures that weren't salvageable. The next step was to respect the location, it was important to create a design that respects the language of the surrounding site of historic Old Frontenac. The most important goal, however, was to design spaces that were soothing, healing and restorative. This was a four step process known as the healing garden:

1. Sense of control and access to privacy
2. Social support
3. Physical movement
4. Access to nature and other postive distractions

These four steps were approached in several different outcomes throughout the project and appear to be a great requirement for a natural restoration.

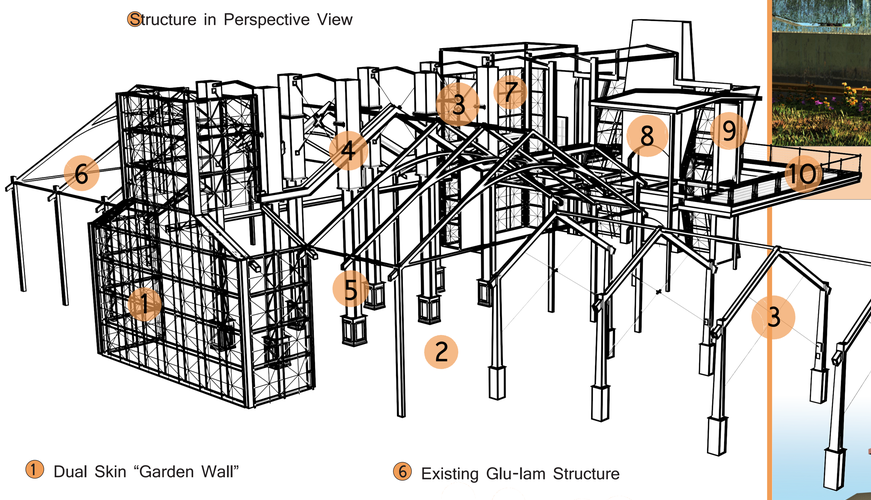


Living Quarters Interior Gathering Space - Noon Hour

Welcoming Center Main Lobby Perspective

Restaurant Interior Perspective

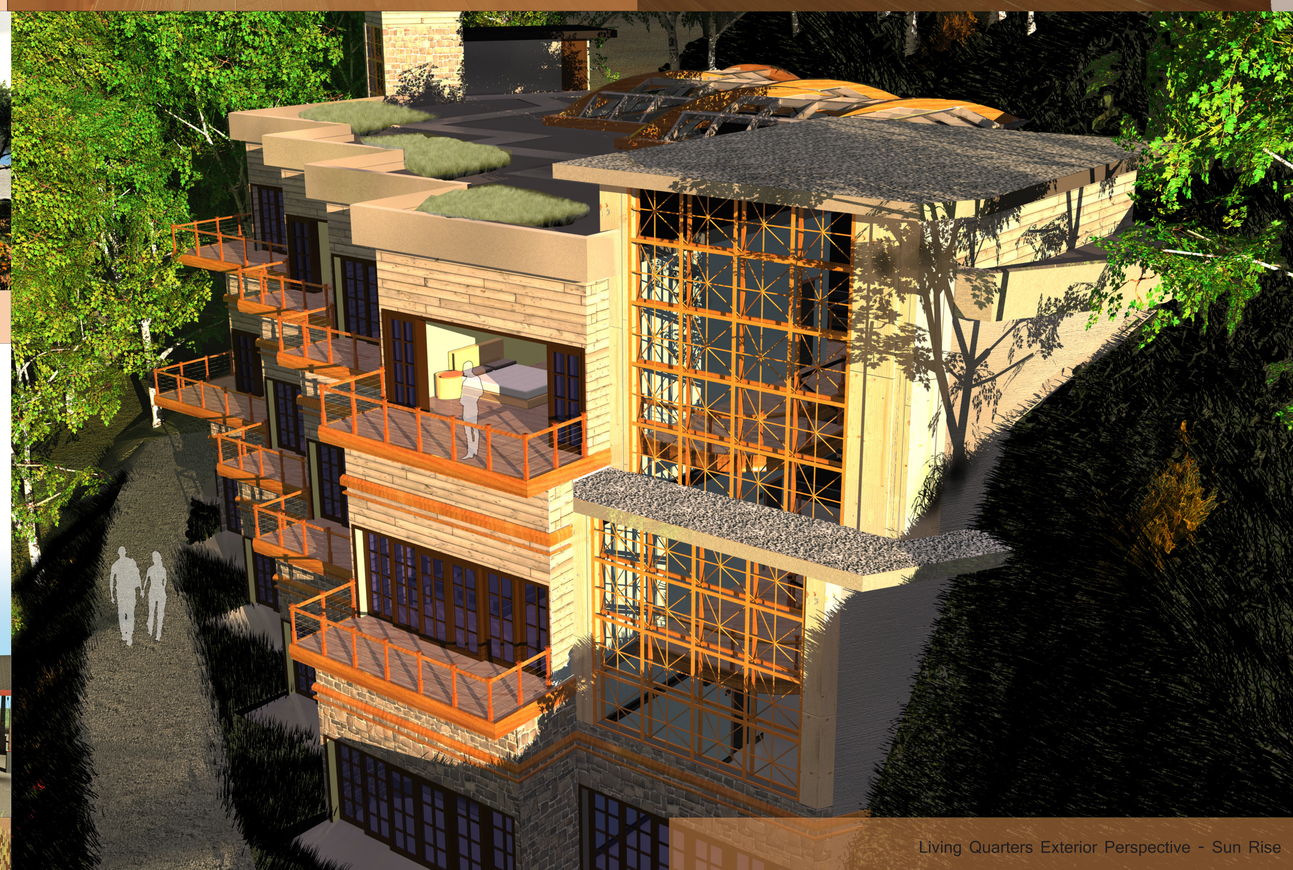
Structure in Perspective View



1. Dual Skin "Garden Wall"
2. Concrete Subfloor with With Wood Flooring
3. Diagonal Tensial Cross Bracing
4. Large Timber Framing
5. Recycled Polished Limestone
6. Existing Glu-lam Structure
7. Dual Skin Curtain Wall Panels
8. Limestone Fireplace
9. Limestone Bearing Walls
10. Cantilevered Balcony

Healing Garden "Node"

Welcoming Center Exterior Perspective



Living Quarters Exterior Perspective - Sun Rise