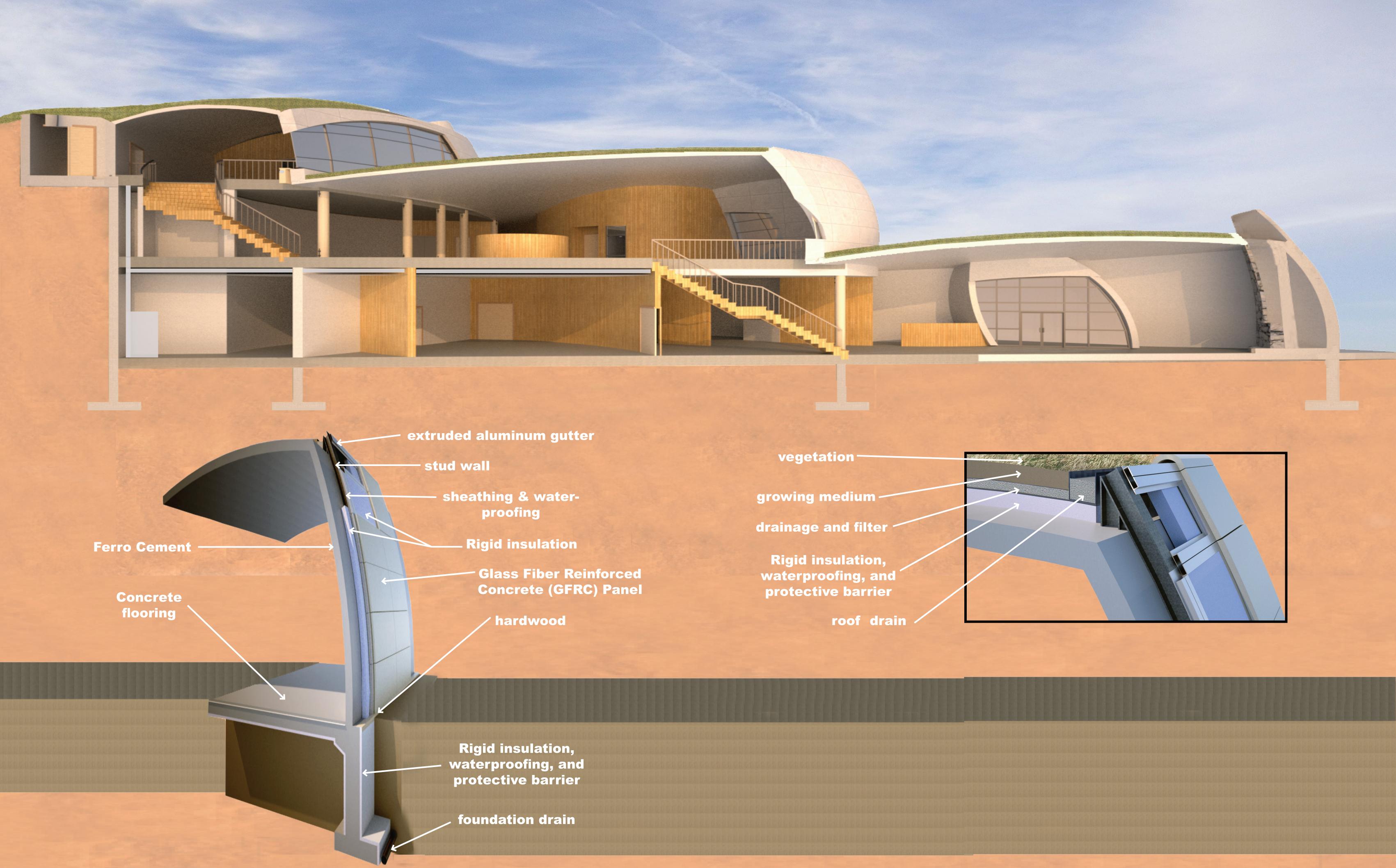




# **Architecture and Cultural Definition**





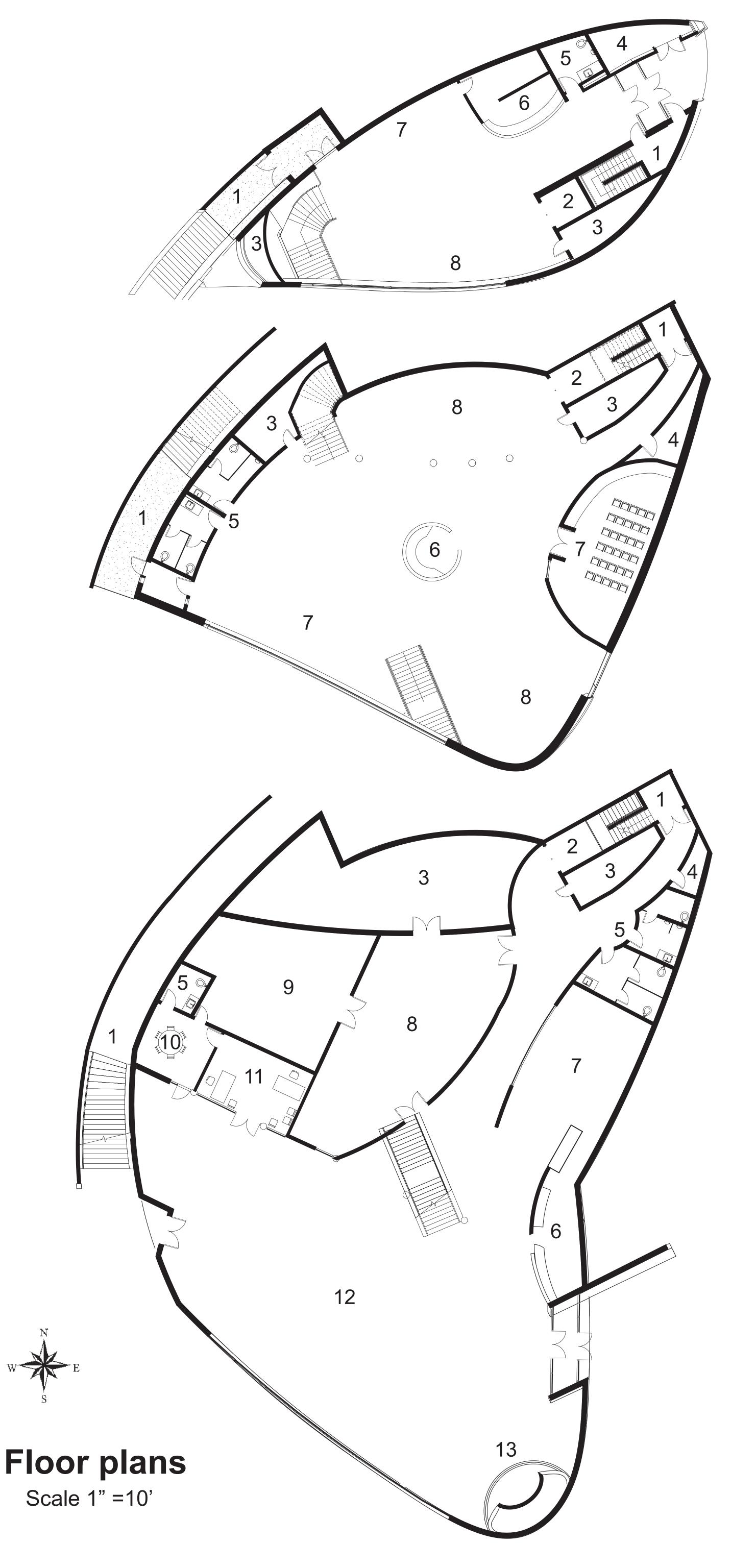
In my thesis I investigated the role of architecture in representing and retaining a culture through its inherent characteristic of being a symbol. In my investigation I focused on the Native American populations within the metropolitan area of Bismarck, North Dakota. Looking to create an American Indian Center which would celebrate the past and present cultures of North Dakotas largest minority group. In this task I strived to develop an artifact sensitive to the local Native American Cultural groups and develop a potential to become a symbol of its continued growth.

In effort to achieve this I researched the values and stories of the multiple tribes within the area looking for shared values and beliefs which might drive my building. In this process I found one such story which told of the beginning of their tribe, how man and deity formed the landscape of the area. In this story man learns the importance of hills and valleys as a tools for survival. This story along with the sites history and physical context inspired a design around a relation to the landscape. Leading to a design which flowed with the land, working to recreate the experience of discovering the landscape. This relation with the landscape can also be a universal tie between all cultures allowing the building to not be tribal specific and relatable to the whole community.

Within the building I developed a program around celebrating the past and present cultures of the areas Native American population. Being a place of community as well as a place of civic involvement, cultural arts, and a historic resource. Striving to bring together the community though cooperation, education, and experience.

ARCH 772 Design Thesis, Spring Semester 2012 John Nelson





### Level 3

- 1 Fire stair
- 2 Elevator
- 3 Mechanical
- 4 Storage
- 5 Restrooms
- 6 Information Desk
- 7 Site and Geological Exhibit
- 8 Meeting area

#### Level 2

- 1 Fire stair
- 2 Elevator
- 3 Mechanical
- 4 Storage
- 5 Restrooms
- 6 Information Desk
- 7 Meeting room
- 8 Gallery

### Level 1

- 1 Fire stair
- 2 Elevator
- 3 Mechanical
- 4 Storage
- 5 Restrooms
- 6 Information Desk
- 7 Gift / Convenience Store
- 8 Storage and Prep area
- 9 Controlled storage
- 10 Employee Lounge
- 11 Office
- 12 Exhibit / Great Hall
- 13 Hearth

## Site plan

Scale 1" = 150'

