

# Architecture and Cultural Definition



In my thesis I investigated the role of architecture in re-orienting and relating a culture through the inherent characteristics of being a "spiritual" or "mythological" I focused on the Native American populations within the metropolitan areas of Blacksburg, North Dakota. Looking to create an American cultural center which would celebrate the past and present cultures of North Dakota, I began my study. In this task I aimed to develop an artifact sensitive to the local Native American cultural group and which is intended to become a symbol of its continued growth.

In effort to achieve this, I reimagined the volume and address of the building within the area looking for shared values and beliefs which might drive my building. In this process I found one such story which led to the beginning of this. The story was very familiar to the landscape of the area. In the story man learns the importance of life and values as a result of survival. This story along with the area history and physical context inspired a design which is related to the landscape. Leading to a design which fused with the land, working to increase the experience of discovering the landscape. This notion with the landscape can also be a catalyst for awareness of culture allowing the building to not be tribal specific, and relate to the whole community.

Within the building I reimagined a program around celebrating the past and present cultures of the area, Native American population. Being a place of community as well as a place of open involvement, cultural arts, and a historic museum. Working to bring together the community through cooperation, education, and experience.

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