## adaptive learning center

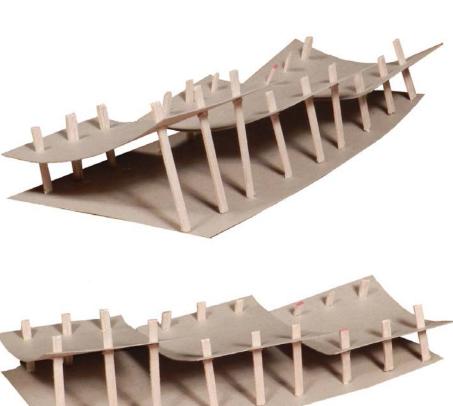
horseshoe park environmental learning center estes park, colorado

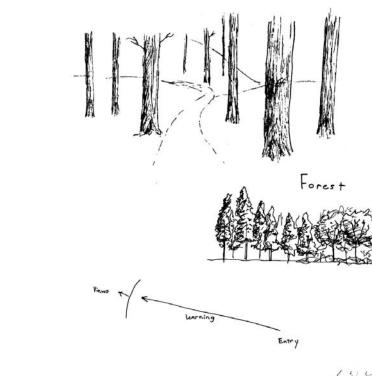


## the idea

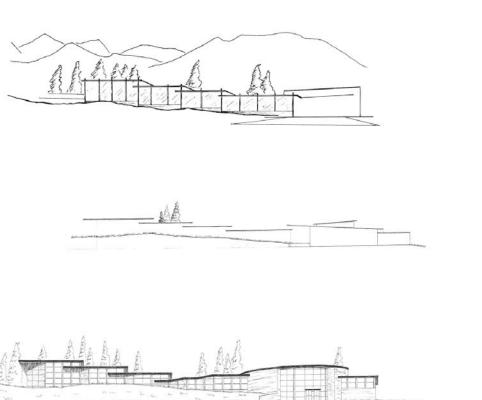
The Horseshoe Park Environmental Learning Center is a place that seeks to educate visitors to Rocky Mountain National Park. Its primary purpose is to examine the changing ecosystems of the region and explore how we can deal with this altered landscape.

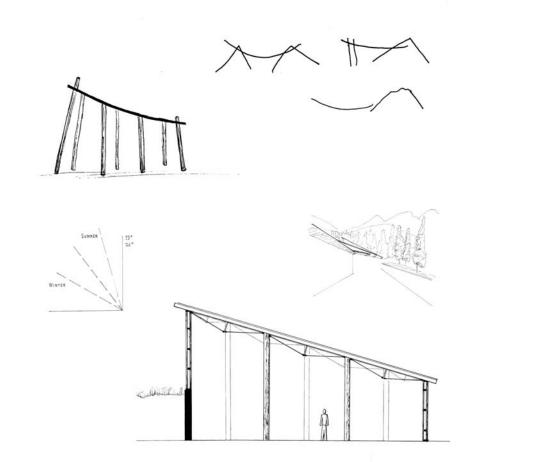
Its design was inspired by the experience of walking down a trail through a pine forest. A meandering path that moves gracefully through a vertical landscape with the topography. It is a design that seeks to adapt to the natural environment surrounding it.

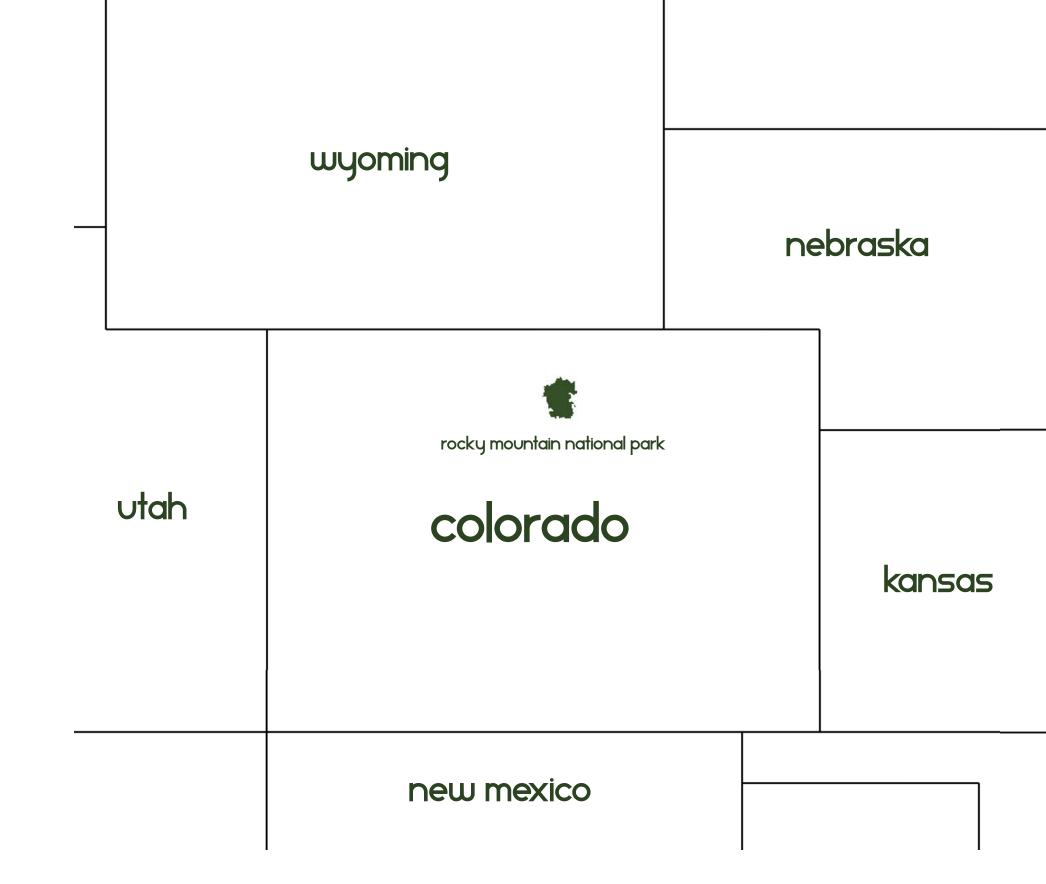












## site design

The learning center adapts to the site's existing charateristics in a number of ways. Its location on the site takes full advantage of the open space to the south of the center, allowing for unobstructed sunlight throughout the year for daylighting and passive heat. Utilizing the topography of the site, the learning center cuts into the hill to minimize its visual impact on this sensitive site. Finally, it exploits beautiful mountain views to the northwest of the site.

## natural and historical architecture

The Horseshoe Park ELC and its design can relate directly to much of the sustainable and natural architecture that the National Park Service "Rustic" style abides by. Using natural, local materials and building techniques that align the rest of the park's historic architecture, this modern structure fits in with local styles while having its own identity.

