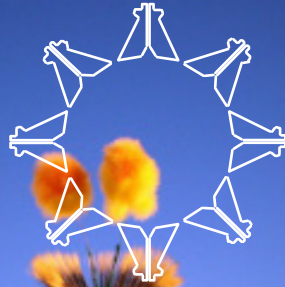


THE PINE RIDGE PROJECT

design thesis 2013
quinn sackreiter-heesch




MAGE COURTESY OF AARON HUEY

THE PINE RIDGE PROJECT

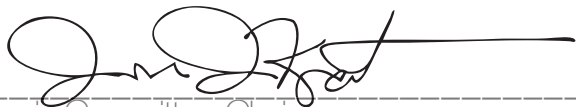
A Design Thesis submitted to the Department of Architecture
and Landscape Architecture of North Dakota State University.

by
Quinn Sackreiter-Heesch

In partial fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Bachelor of Landscape Architecture.



Primary Thesis Advisor



Thesis Committee Chair

May 2013
Fargo, North Dakota

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THESIS ABSTRACT

The project will venture to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation located in western South Dakota. The reservation is home to a rich culture of Lakota Sioux Native Americans that, unfortunately, are living in one of the most impoverished areas in the country. Many are without proper housing and livelihood necessities and many struggle with illness and addiction. The areas that these people inhabit lack any sense of a community; there are no pathways or parks, no meeting areas or sports fields. There is no reason for them to feel like living in a thriving community whilst living in such a disadvantaged state. By addressing the disconnect and poverty issues on the reservation and by specifically focusing on small township and housing revitalization and providing better public amenities such as parks, pathways, and common areas, life and sense of pride of place can be brought back to its inhabitants as well.

PROJECT TYPOLOGY

The topic of research will be addressing the disconnect and poverty issues on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in western South Dakota, with a focus on small township revitalization of housing and providing better public amenities such as parks, pathways, and common areas.

The problem is that the lack of public spaces and urban planning in the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation communities is affecting the residents' health, safety, and ability for economic advancement. How might better living conditions and resident safety be promoted through improving Pine Ridge Indian Reservation housing and incorporating public gathering spaces? (i.e. parks, sports fields, community plazas, etc.)

It's hypothesized that by improving housing conditions and incorporating gathering, activity, and ceremonial spaces, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation can thrive culturally as a working, connected community rather than an unsafe, disconnected housing area.

NARRATIVE

There is a place in the United States that is the most impoverished area in the nation. If asked, not many people would be able to tell you where this is located. Spanning approximately 2,700,000 acres across the southwest corner of South Dakota is the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, home to the nation's most demoralized and forgotten people (Schwartz, 2006). This reservation is home to more than 40,000 Lakota Sioux people, with that number at a constant increase. Over 35% of the residents are under the age of 18. Pine Ridge is the second-largest Native American Reservation in the country, it is divided into 8 districts: Eagle Nest, Pass Creek, Wakpamni, LaCreek, Pine Ridge, White Clay, Medicine Root, Porcupine, and Wounded Knee. The average annual income for reservation members is \$2,600.00 to \$3,500.00 and the unemployment rate is 83-85%, putting 97% below Federal poverty levels and into a third-world country category (Schwartz, 2006). Life expectancy is low (48 years for men and 52 years for women) and suicide and infant mortality rates are nearly 200% higher than the U.S. National average. More than half the reservation's adults battle alcoholism, diabetes, heart disease, and cancer. These poor health conditions are due to improper nutrition and overcrowded, dilapidated housing conditions.

Most of the homes on the reservation are small BIA (Bureau of Indian Affairs) houses built between 1970 and 1979 or low-value mobile homes. There is an estimated average of 17 people living in each family home; some larger homes contain up to 30 occupants. The Tribal Council estimates a need for at least 4,000 new homes in order to combat the homeless situation. Over 33% of the houses lack basic water and sewage systems as well as electricity. Around 60% of homes in Pine Ridge need to be burned to the ground and replaced with new housing due to black mold infestation. Approximately 90% of these homes are located in rural and isolated areas lacking any elements that would make it a thriving community (i.e. parks, playgrounds, pathways, sports fields, common areas, etc.) There are no banks, movie theaters, or libraries. There are also no forms of public transportation and very few own an operable automobile. Predominate forms of transportation are walking or hitchhiking (Schwartz, 2006). All of these statistics lead to ask: How might better living conditions and resident safety be promoted through improving Pine Ridge Indian Reservation housing and incorporating public gathering spaces?

This project holds personal interest to me as a designer because I grew up in South Dakota and spent many summers on Pine Ridge working on service projects. I was drawn here for this thesis project because I felt that it is an area in extreme need and often forgotten.

USER/CLIENT DESCRIPTION

This design caters to the community members of Oglala, South Dakota.

CHILDREN

50% of the community is under age 18 so it was important to design for the children of the area.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS

The young adult, adult, and elderly members of the community.

POW WOW ATTENDEES

Pow Wow attendees, Pow Wow vendors, and the occasional visitor/tourist.

It's important to design for the entire population because the space being addressed is their everyday living surroundings.

CLIENTS

The clients for this project are the tribal government of Pine Ridge Reservation/ the US government and the town of Oglala.

MAJOR PROJECT ELEMENTS

The elements within this project's development all focus on the creation of a centralized community and cultural space. With that as the theme of the project, there are many other elements that support it.

COHOUSING

Cohousing plays a major role in the development of Oglala as it provides residents with a coesive community atmosphere that promotes togetherness. Elements lying within the cohousing are shared park and gardening spaces.

PLAZA + POW WOW RING

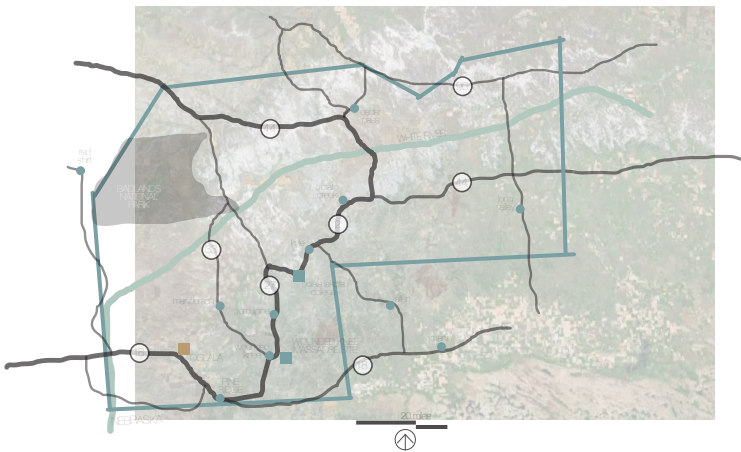
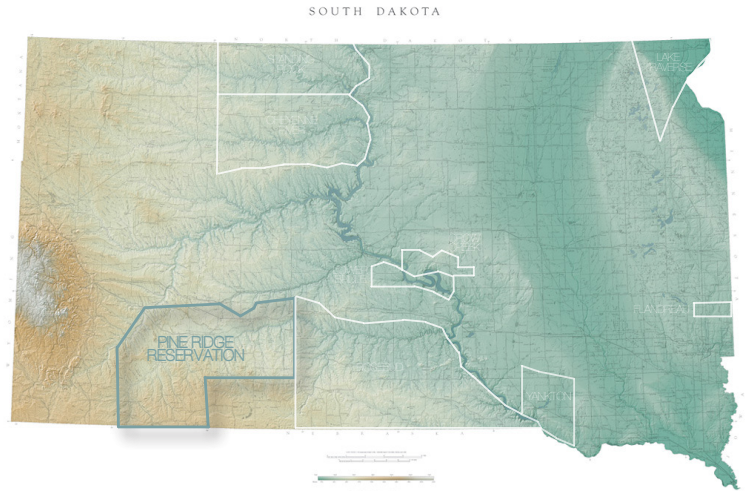
The community plaza space and POW WOW ring provide a centralized gathering area for the residents. The Pow Wow ring plays a key role in the community as cultural activities and traditions are important to this area.

ACTMITY CALENDAR

Providing activities year round for the residents would bring another level of community involvement and cohesiveness.

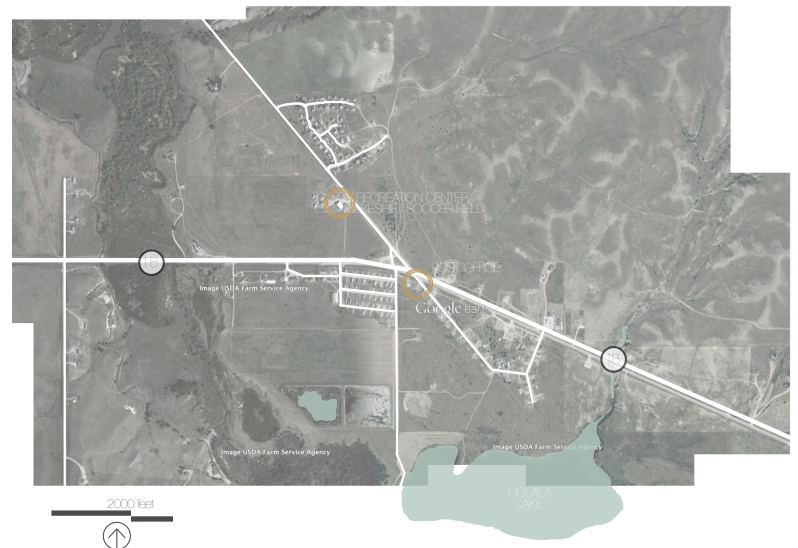
OGLALA, SD SITE INFORMATION

The project site is located in Southwestern South Dakota in Shannon, Jackson, Bennett and Sheridan counties. It's 3,468.86 square miles (2 million acres). Pine Ridge Reservation is one of nine reservations in South Dakota.



Oglala lies in the Southwestern part of the Pine Ridge Reservation. It's 14 miles north of Pine Ridge city and 20 miles from the site of the Wounded Knee Massacre.

Oglala lies along Highway 18 just north of Oglala Lake.



PROJECT EMPHASIS

The primary goal behind this project is to create a cohesive, thriving community that enhances the health and well-being of its residents. There will be a strong focus on cultural elements such as Oglala's biannual Pow Wow and other Sioux traditions. Enhancing the living conditions of the residents by incorporating a cohousing system and redefined residential planning will also strive to revitalize and renew this community.

With those elements in mind, the first step will be creating a centralized gathering space focused around the traditional Pow Wow ring. Creating this space to accommodate the resident's year round and also the vendors and visitors coming for the biannual Pow Wow will be extremely important. The plaza space will be central in the design of the cohousing that will focus radially around it. Cohousing will allow the resident's to live in a more cohesive way, closer to their traditional living situations, and shared park and gardening spaces will create a sense of community.

Because this project seeks to create a cultural and cohesive place for the residents, emphasis will be placed on the cultural and communal aspects of a centralized plaza space and cohousing. While this project will serve mainly the local residents and the biannual Pow Wow tourists, it will hopefully be a catalyst for more positive development in the Pine Ridge area.

A PLAN FOR PROCEEDING...

Although much information is available for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation statistically, it's lacking in information on the elements that are degrading the resident's safety and components that create a good quality of life. In order to obtain information regarding these outcomes, certain experiments will have to be conducted. The proposed methodology involved is advantageous to this project specifically because alternative research methods have not touched on creating community through common places and how this would improve the livelihood of the residents. The following information will need to be gathered: number of residents, occupied houses, size (area) of Oglala, SD, existing roadways, number of adults, number of children, crimes committed, and population density. Other data that will be helpful will be history of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and the Lakota Sioux tribe. History of their rituals, ceremonies, religious beliefs, family beliefs, and traditional way of living will be collected and analyzed in order to integrate an appropriate design fitting to the people and culture of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Another helpful piece of information would be conducting a survey or monitoring activity on site to see what types of day to day activities take place (i.e. sporting events, and the flow of foot traffic). There could be some limitation in the ability to efficiently collect all data (above) needed.

All information may not be readily available to collect, and in order to involve human subjects in research; approval from the Institutional Review Board would be needed. However, this information is crucial in creating a successful design, and will be needed to move forward with the design process. Once the information is collected, it will need to be analyzed; sorting through the statistics and creating appropriate graphics and maps to display the results will do this. The information will then be used to implement appropriate design solutions for the current problems. The site is located in Western South Dakota in the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, specifically the Oglala Township. The area of the site is roughly 13.4 square miles.

RESEARCH RESULTS + GOALS

The lack of acceptable living conditions and public amenities are affecting the safety and livelihood of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation residents. This impoverished section of reservation in western South Dakota is amongst the poorest in the nation. The crime rates are high, along with addiction and disease, and any type of community for reservation residents to call their 'home' is in-existent. There are no parks or playgrounds, pathways or gathering spaces. Homes are in disarray amongst the countryside causing unsafe and unused areas for children and adults alike. It is hypothesized that by improving housing conditions and incorporating gathering and activity spaces, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation can thrive culturally as a working, connected community rather than an unsafe, disconnected housing area. The following seven literature reviews attempt to demonstrate and make relevant the hypothesis. In an article by Anas (2008), a group of architecture students from CU Boulder designed and built a series of sustainable homes for an area of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The group had researched extensively the conditions of the housing arrangements on the reservation and designed a cost-effective sustainable prototype. The students were well researched in their design field and were guided by well-informed professors. They collaborated with a group of people native to the reservation and addressed their housing needs.

Housing is one of the most important things to consider when redesigning a community on the reservation. The dilapidated and un-livable housing is causing the residents health and safety problems along with poor layout disconnecting their community. Since the landscape architecture of the area is what will be mainly addressed in the project, it's important to have a pre-designed housing prototype that meets sustainability and health standards along with supporting the hypothesis of this project proposal. By incorporating the ideas of the CU Boulder students, and their sustainable reservation home prototype, the hypothesis is reinforced and can begin to take shape. In a case study by Most and Lee (2012), the designers created an informative portfolio of the conditions and statistics on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Their goal was to assist the tribal leadership with informing and providing reservation statistics, information, and needs for groups that were interested in providing assistance. Most and Lee worked hard in collaborating with the tribal officials on their needs and took many photographs that documented the people, culture, and terrain. They also organized much information from sources such as books, tribal documents, Census Bureau and other governmental reports, and the Oglala Lakota College archives. The information provided by this case study will help retain evidence regarding the relief efforts that have been implemented on the reservation and regards efforts that have succeeded and failed and how to build from those projects.

continued on page 13...

In a project by photojournalist Huey (2012), documentation was created to portray the lives of the Pine Ridge Reservation members through photographs and personal storytelling. It's an ongoing project, as people on the reservation can submit their stories to the author and he'll continue the project. He has compiled over 100 personal stories, photos, and information of the people of Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. The personal stories and photographs depict everyday life in the culture and leads to what improvements can be made for the betterment of the reservation. It is important to learn the socio-cultural aspects of the people living on the Pine Ridge Reservation in order to know stories and personal need information of the people that experience reservation living daily. In an article by Schwartz (2006), a statistical analysis and information of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation is compiled. It provides demographic and employment information, as well as, life expectancies and health conditions, health care, education, housing issues, transportation, and daily life on the reservation. When conducting a project that could affect people's lives positively or negatively, it's important to know the accurate statistical information of the demographic in order to know what needs to be improved. Through Schwartz's research, conclusions can be made about what areas of the reservation are most negatively affected, and the remedies in landscape architecture and urban design that will need to be implemented.

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation township neighborhoods are most commonly characterized by their poor layout, often a division by a major road or highway with speed limits 55 miles per hour or faster, and, of course, lack of any community or public space. Many homes have recreations of religious ceremonial spaces in front of or behind them because of a lack of designated space for the residents to perform their ceremonies as a community. In a project conducted by the National Center for Craftsmanship (NCC) (2012), the Center collaborated with the Lakota Sioux people of Pine Ridge to foster cultural awareness and build community through the restoration of a traditional Lakota ceremony grounds and facility. The NCC assisted in delivering a program for design, construction, and vocational skills training for this project. It provided an opportunity for training and development of Lakota youth and adults in deconstruction, green building, team problem solving, leadership, and other vocational skills. One of the most important things to the Lakota Sioux people is family and culture. Reinforcing and displaying their culture through traditional ceremony grounds is important in a new community design. It's a tradition the Lakota Sioux Native Americans hold in high esteem and it should be recognized within their community.

continued on page 14...

In a recovery project done by Village Earth (2012), work was done to support the grassroots organizations on Pine Ridge Indian Reservation that are working to reclaim and consolidate tribal lands and access the resources needed for the Lakota Sioux people to live on, protect, and utilize, helping to return the balance between economy, ecology, and culture. This group has also worked on restoring the native buffalo population to the lands through the Adopt-a-Buffalo project. In a project conducted by the Oglala-Lakota Cultural and Economic Revitalization Initiative and Permaculture Guild (Brennan, 2010), a series of projects to create resiliency and self-sufficiency were conducted on the reservation using permaculture design and indigenous tradition. The program taught reservation students about range management, straw bale building, food forests and kitchen gardens, water catchment, greywater, wind power, and high efficiency stoves. Through educating and informing members and residents of the reservation about these practices, and reinstating traditional Lakota Sioux practices, inhabitants of the reservation will begin to develop sustainable practices for the betterment of their livelihood and the life of the community and reservation. As seen through these literature reviews, action has been taken through projects and studies to try and remedy the issues found on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.

Through statistical analysis and personal stories and images, conclusions can start to be made about the needs of the people living on the reservation. It's clear that no apparent research has been made between the relationship of community design and the livelihood of the reservation residents. How might better living conditions and resident safety be promoted through improving Pine Ridge Indian Reservation housing and incorporating public gathering spaces? (i.e. parks, sports fields, community plazas, etc.) It's hypothesized that by improving housing conditions and incorporating gathering, activity, and ceremonial spaces, Pine Ridge Indian Reservation can thrive culturally as a working, connected community rather than an unsafe, disconnected housing area.

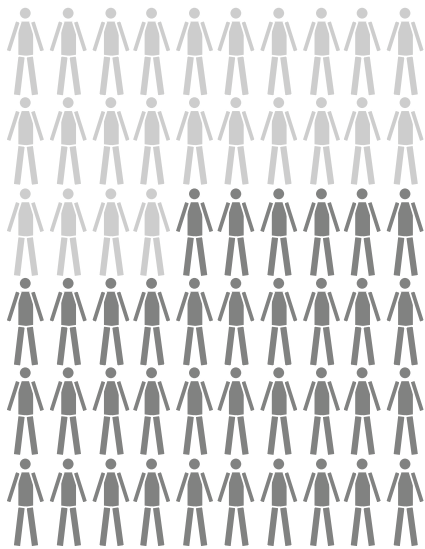
SITE INVENTORY + ANALYSIS

OGLALA LAKOTA SIOUX HISTORY

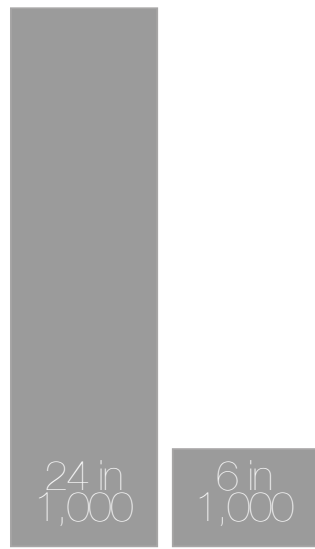
one of 7 subtribes of the Lakota, along with the Nakota & Dakota to make up the Great Sioux Nation
OGLALA 'to scatter one's own'

- 1830 3,000 members in the OGLALA Sioux tribe
- 1820-1830 Band together with 3 other Sioux tribes to form the Sioux Alliance
- 1868 Fort Laramie Treaty guarantees ownership of the Black Hills to the Lakota Sioux people
- 1872 Gold is discovered in the Black Hills
- 1876 The Battle of the Little Big Horn
- 1877 The Great Sioux War ends
- 1889 Pine Ridge Indian Reservation Established
- 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre
- 1974 Attempted to become their own nation
- 1980 Awarded \$122 million settlement in compensation for the Black Hills, wouldn't accept the money
- 2007 Attempted to withdraw from all treaties with the United States Government (appx. 30)

PINE RIDGE RESERVATION STATISTICS



56% of Oglala's population are children (under 18)



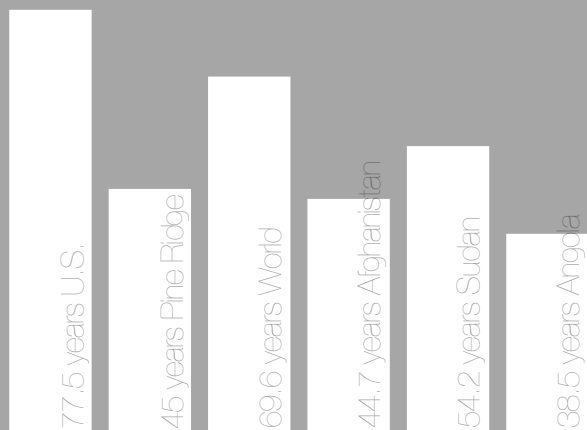
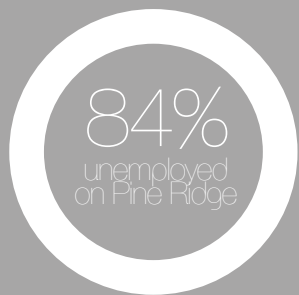
infant mortality rate 300% higher than U.S.



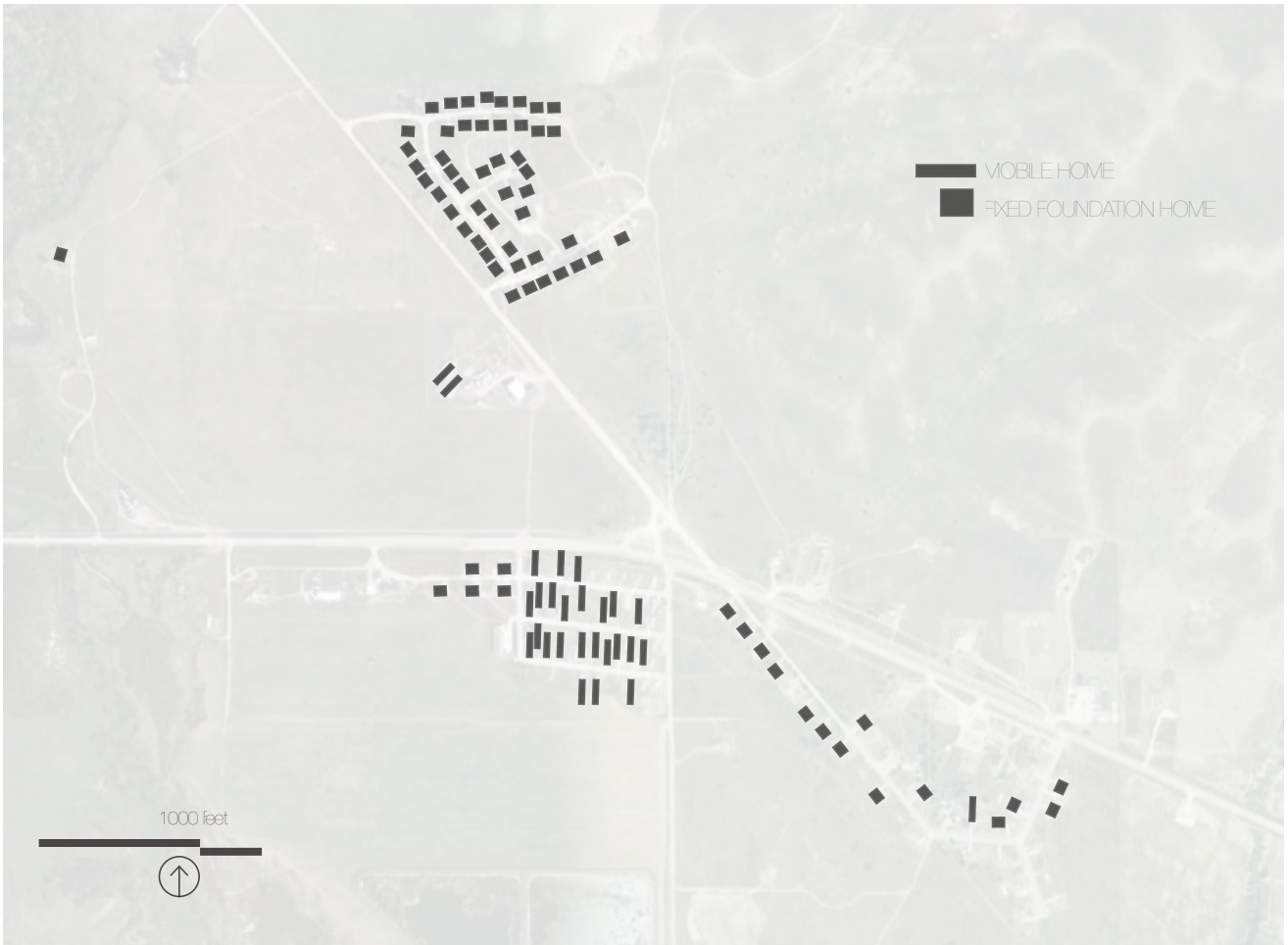
\$45,000
U.S. avg. income



\$3,000
Pine Ridge avg. income



life expectancy is only higher than Afghanistan, Angola, & Mozambique



mobile homes



lack sewer and water



black mold



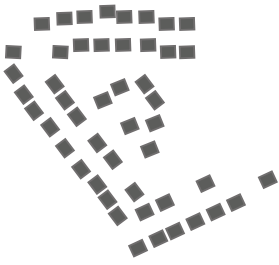
no electricity

HOUSING

current homes built between 1970-1979

in need of 4,000 new homes to combat the homeless situation

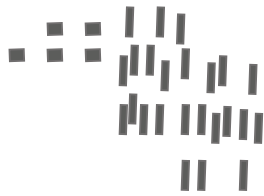




94 current houses
17 people per house



308 projected houses
5 people per house



HOUSING

removing all mobile homes
increasing housing amount by **228%**

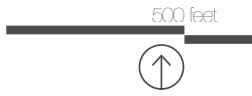
1,229

OGLALA
population

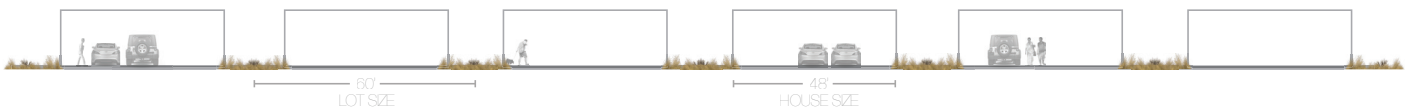
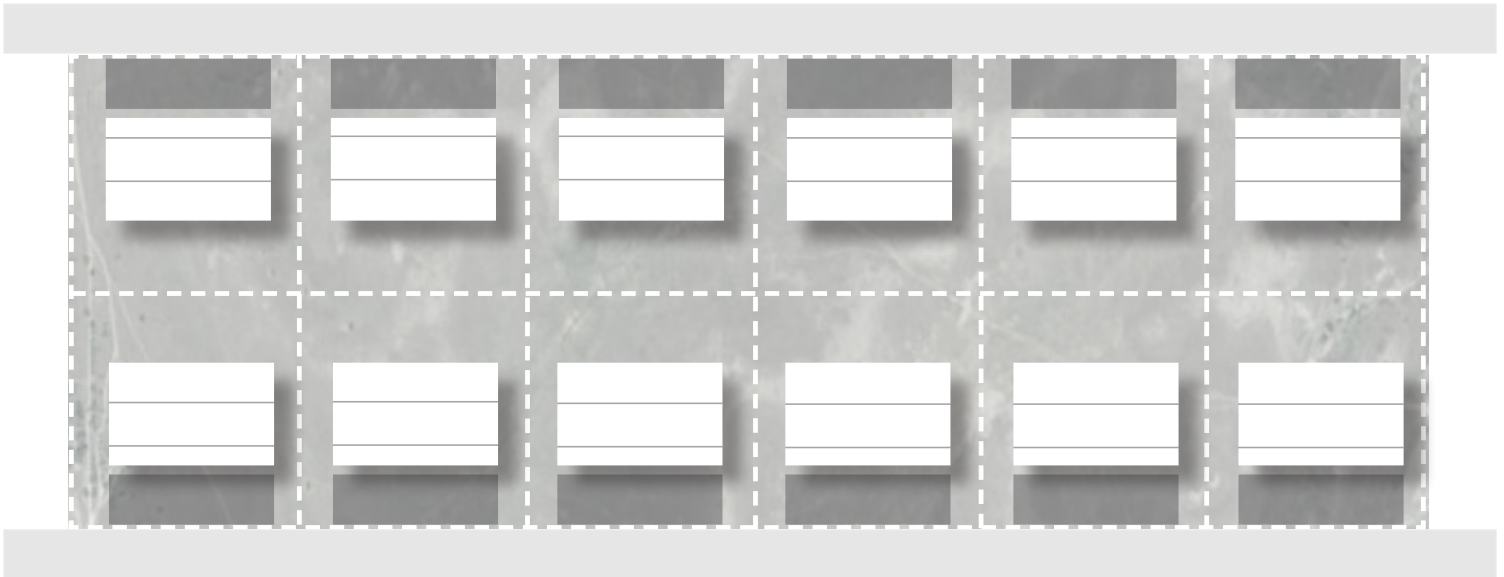
2,878

OGLALA
HOUSING
(acres)

PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION



CONCEPTUAL WORK



1 acre lot layouts
12 homes per acre
shared backyard

CEREMONIAL + CULTURAL SPACE

pow wows, gatherings
powwaw - "spiritual leader"

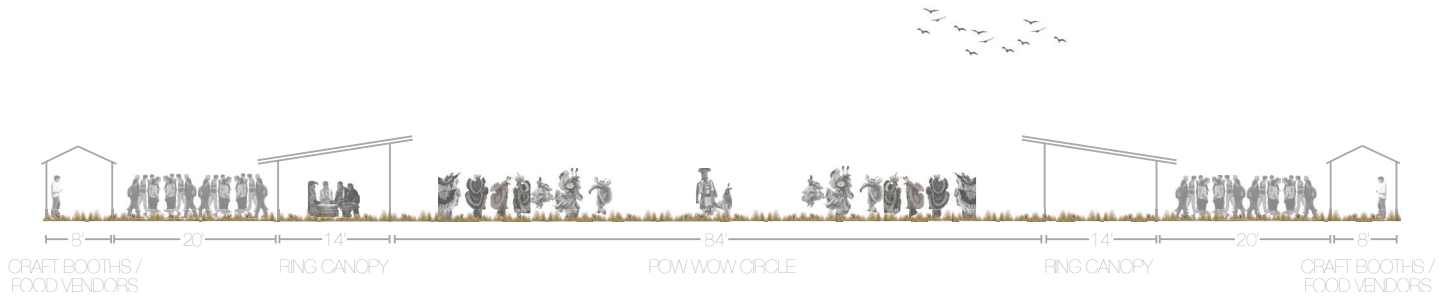
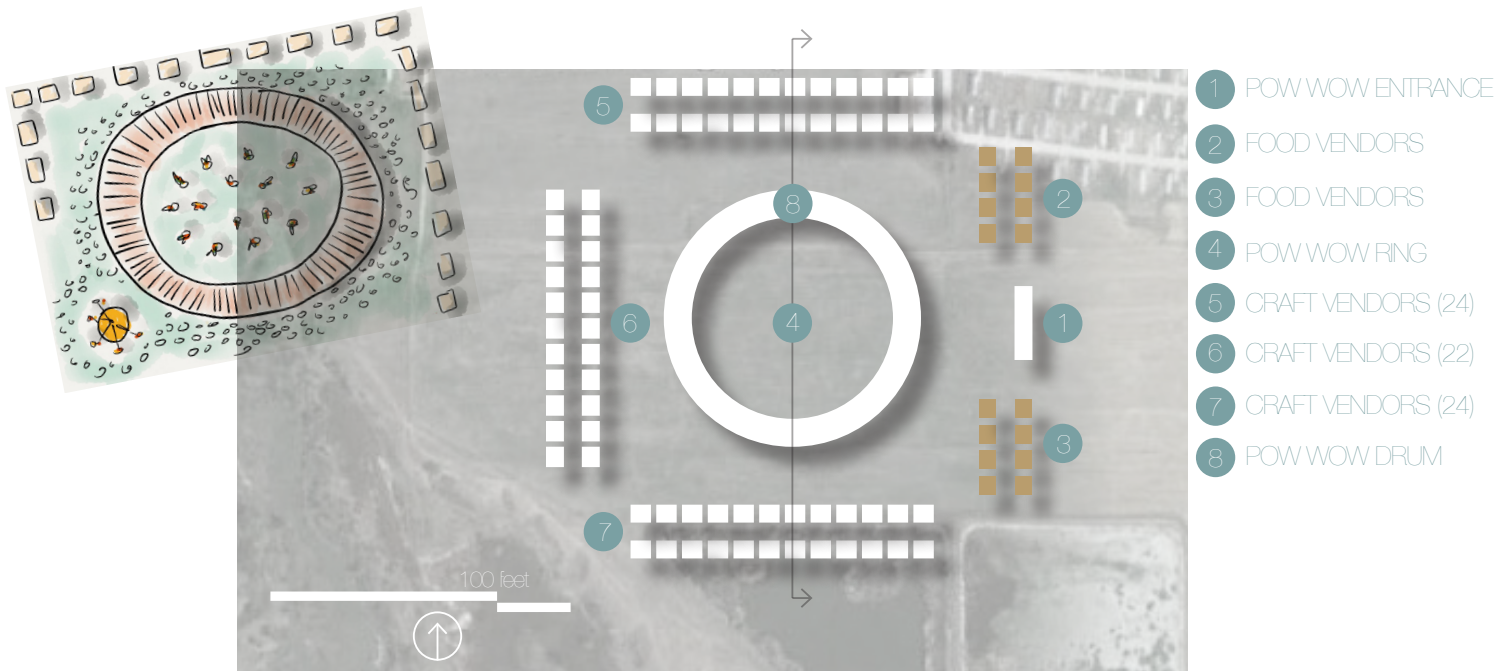
lasting 1 day to 1 week
dance competition honoring Native American heritage

ELEMENTS OF A POW WOW:



POW WOW RING + VENDORS

A traditional pow wow is not only a place for ceremonial dancing, but also a place for crafters to sell their fares. Booths are typically set up around a pow wow ring. The below graphic shows a possible set-up.



CAMPGROUND

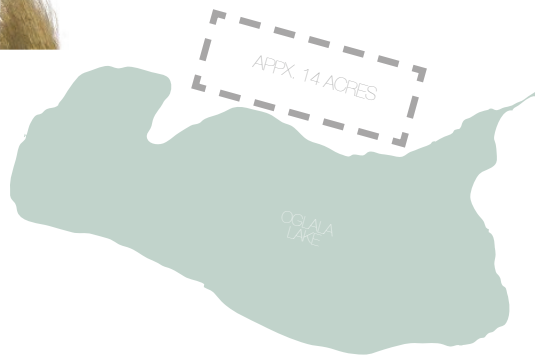
A campground would provide accommodations for pow wow go-ers. The campground could accommodate RV's, tents, and teepee rentals would be available.



EXAMPLE campsite entrance signage

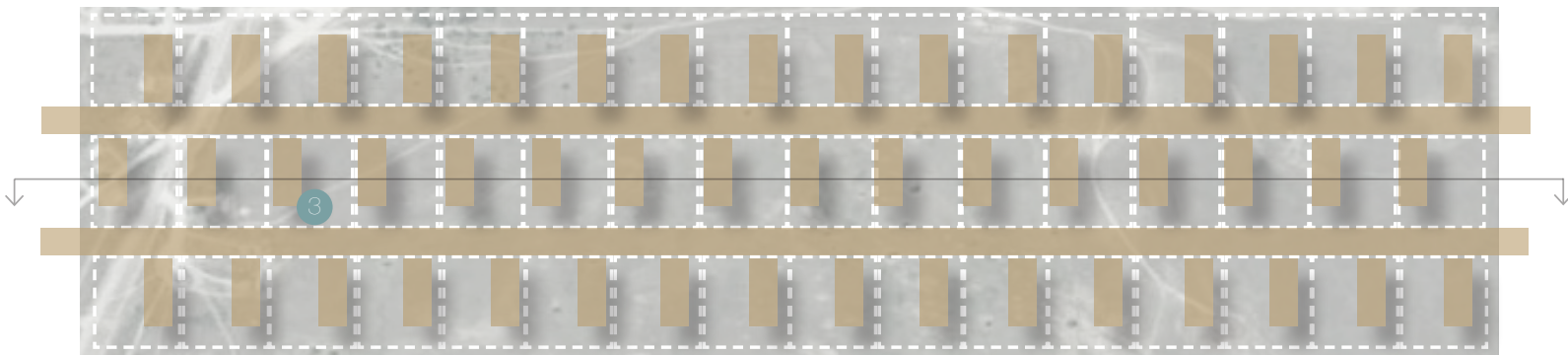
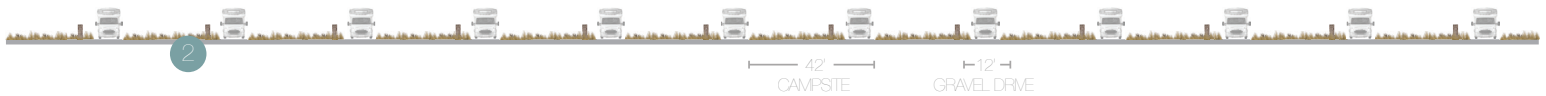


EXAMPLE camping / RV site signage



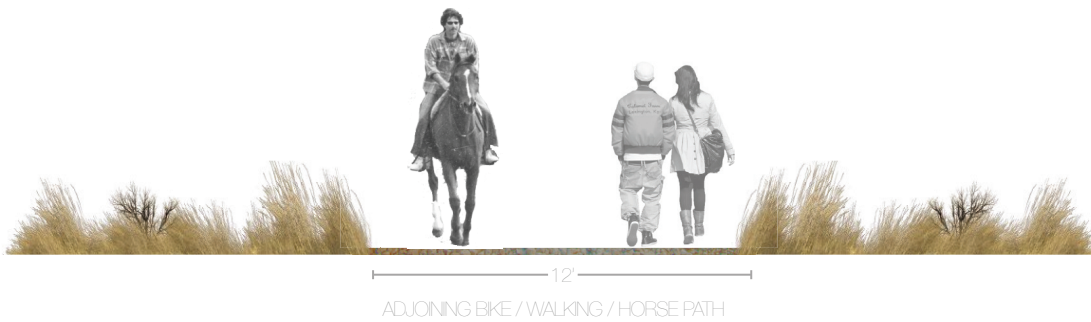
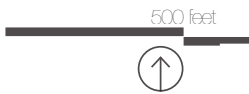
CAMPGROUND LOCATED NORTH OF OGLALA LAKE

- 12' x 40' gravel RV parking ①
- campsite signage ②
- 12' x 20' gravel car parking ③
- tenting sites ④
- tee pee rental sites ⑤

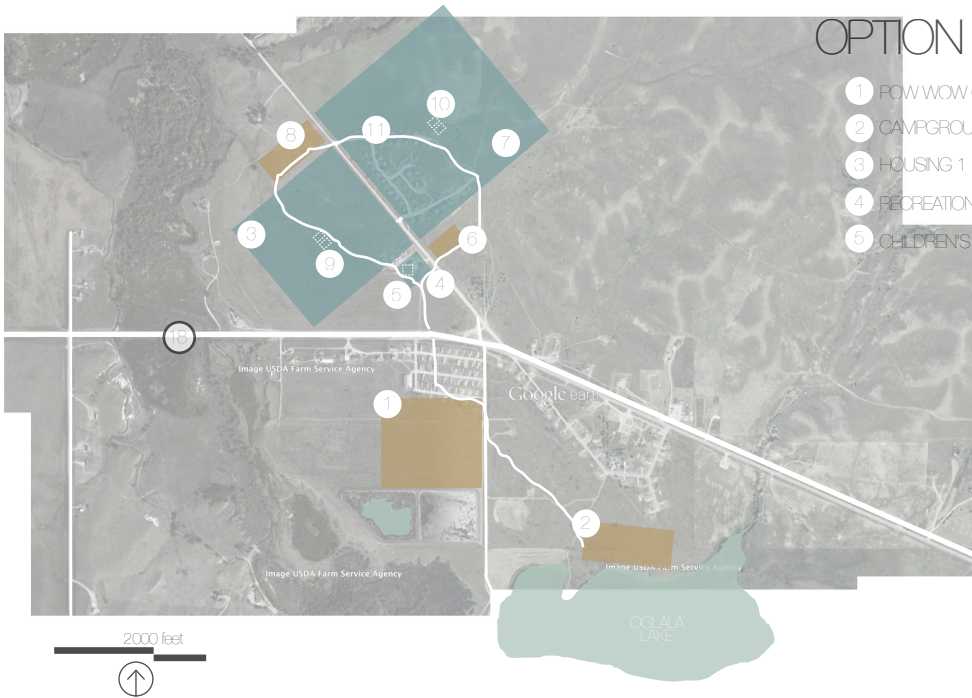


PATHWAY SYSTEMS

PEDESTRIAN CIRCULATION = 10,668 ft

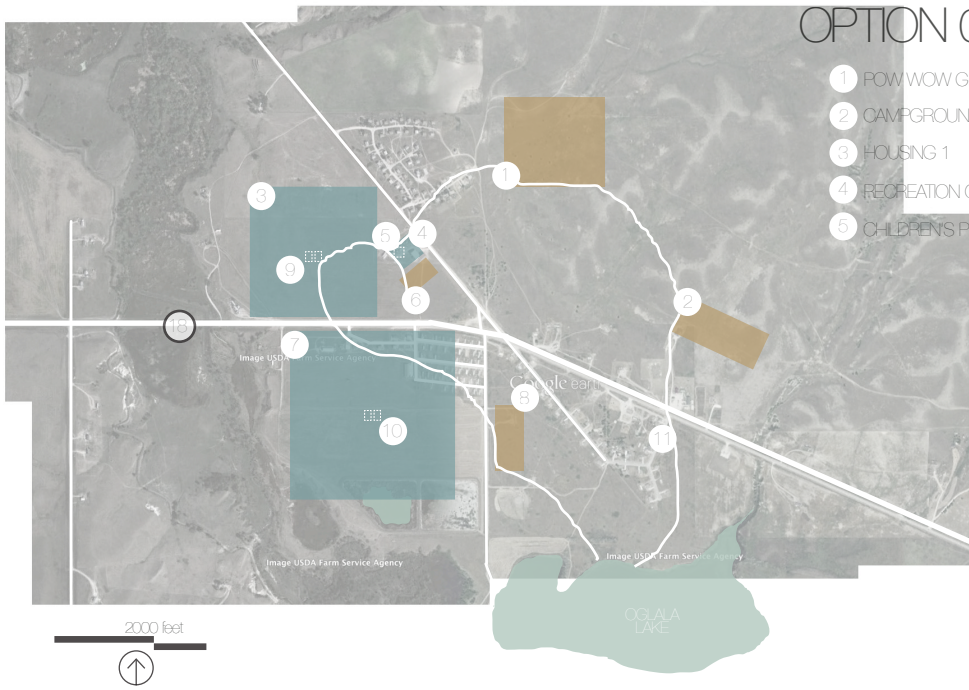


CONCEPTUAL MASTERPLAN



OPTION 01 MASTERPLANNING

- 1 POW WOV GROUND
- 2 CAMPGROUND
- 3 HOUSING 1
- 4 RECREATION CENTER
- 5 CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND
- 6 SOCCER FIELD
- 7 HOUSING 2
- 8 COMMUNITY GARDENS
- 9 2 BASKETBALL COURTS
- 10 2 BASKETBALL COURTS
- 11 PATH-WAY SYSTEM



OPTION 02 MASTERPLANNING

- 1 POW WOV GROUND
- 2 CAMPGROUND
- 3 HOUSING 1
- 4 RECREATION CENTER
- 5 CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND
- 6 SOCCER FIELD
- 7 HOUSING 2
- 8 COMMUNITY GARDENS
- 9 2 BASKETBALL COURTS
- 10 2 BASKETBALL COURTS
- 11 PATH-WAY SYSTEM

FINAL DESIGN SOLUTION

01. COHOUSING

02. CENTRALIZED COMMUNITY + CEREMONIAL SPACE

03. ACTIVITY SPACE + COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

The goal of implementing these 3 key elements is to make a place that is personal to the culture and needs of the Lakota tribe, and in return, mental and physical health conditions will improve along with giving Oglala residents a better sense of community and pride of place.

OGLALA MASTERPLAN

This design is centered around community and promoting togetherness. The Lakota culture is rich with family ties and helping one another out, that's why it was important to create spaces that allowed people to gather together.

The nucleus of this design is the plaza space that's situated in the middle of the residential houses. All paths lead to this space. This area allows for leisurely gatherings and also the biannual Pow Wow that occurs in Oglala. The plaza also has a children's space with playground and fountains. The area is equipped for the hundreds of visitors that come to view the Pow Wow and the vendors that also attend.

Another important part of masterplanning Oglala was creating housing that allowed families to easily interact with one another. Family is extremely important here, and often times homes are multigenerational. By implementing a cohousing system of duplexes situated around neighborhood garden and park space, family members are able to interact with one another with ease and living situations can be improved.



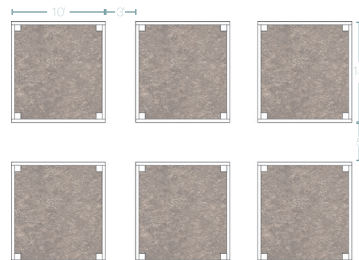
what is COHOUSING?

COHOUSING is collaborative housing in which the residents actively participate in the design and operation of their own neighborhoods. It's created for multigenerational families with lots of open and shared spaces. In Ogala, cohousing was incorporated through the implementation of duplexes. The duplexes are aligned around a neighborhood garden and park space. This space is dedicated to the residents of that particular neighborhood and promotes community and public spaces.



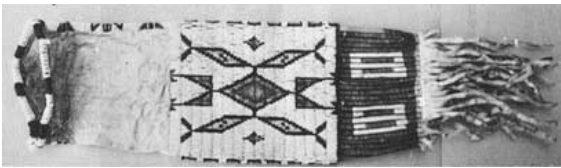
COHOUSING GARDENS + PARK

Each interior green space between the cohousing duplexes provides an intimate place for residents of that neighborhood. The space provides garden plots and 'yard' space.



Planters will be placed in a linear pattern within the greenspace. They're approximately 10x15 with pathways running through at 3 and 5.

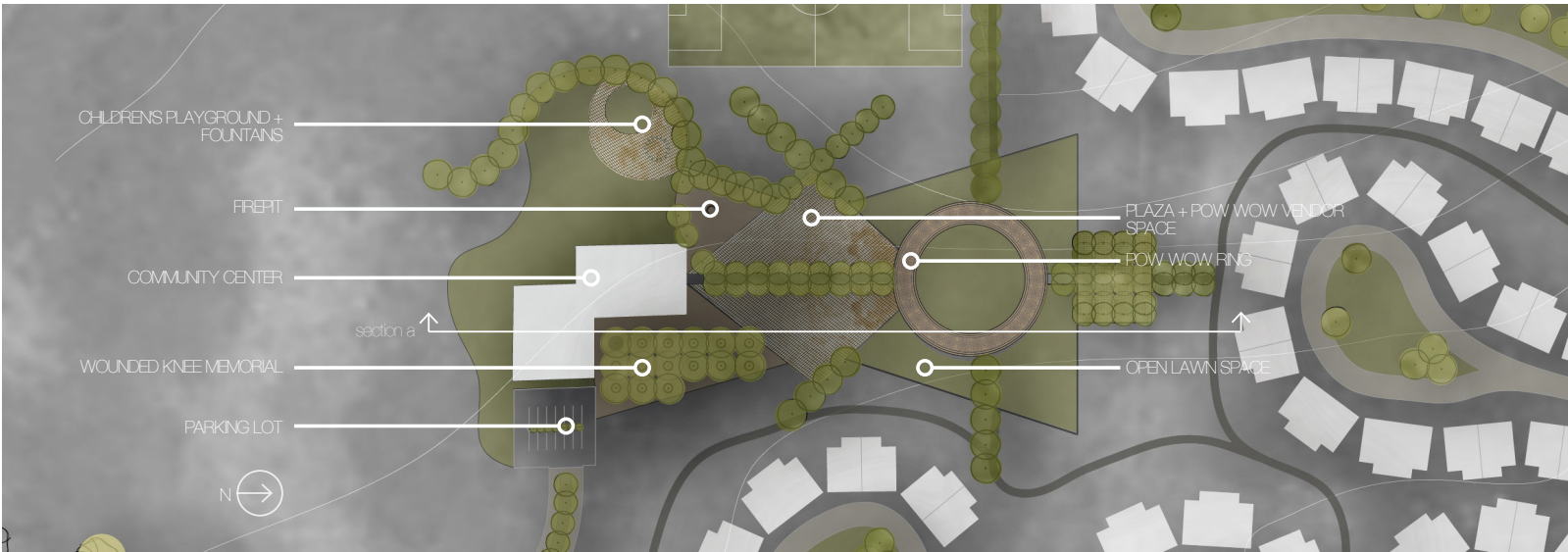




PLAZA DESIGN INSPIRATION
Lakota Sioux beading patterns

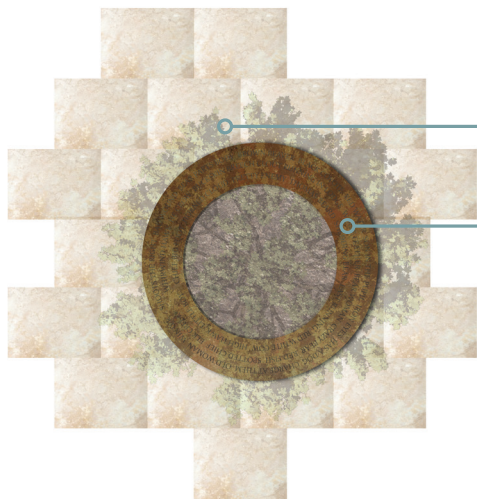
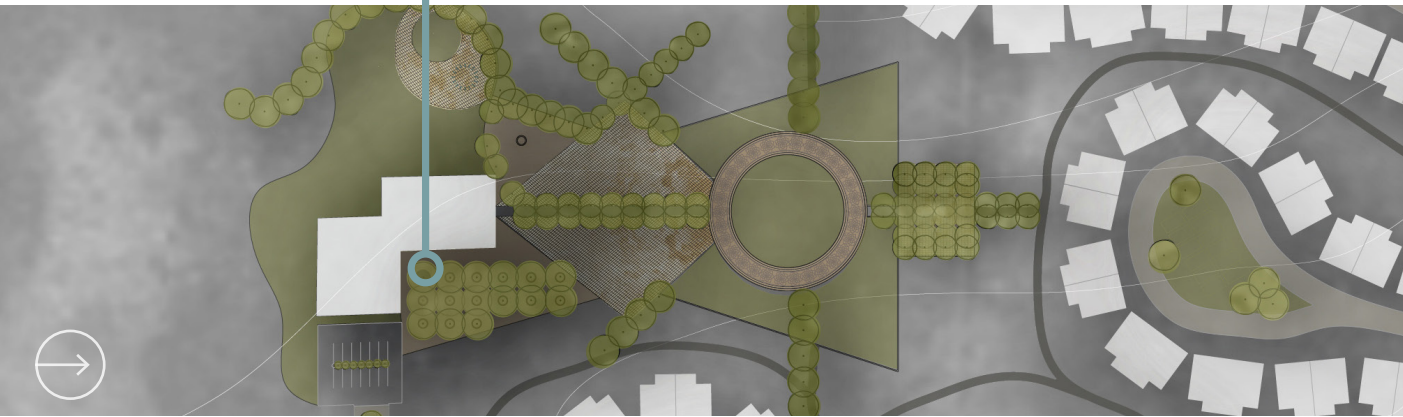
PLAZA + CULTURAL SPACE

The plaza space is the nucleus of the design. It provides meeting grounds and amenities for the residents, and also a space for the traditional Pow Wow.



WOUNDED KNEE MEMORIAL

This is an important area to have in Oglala. Many community members were directly affected by the Wounded Knee Massacre. In order to honor and acknowledge them, their names will be engraved in an aluminum ring placed around the plaza trees.



SANDSTONE PAVERS
2x3'

ALUMINUM TREE RING
victims names etched

AMUR MAPLE
Acer ginnala

ALUMINUM TREE RING
SANDSTONE PLANTER BASE

SANDSTONE PAVERS
PACKED GRAVEL BASE

TREE ROOT SYSTEM



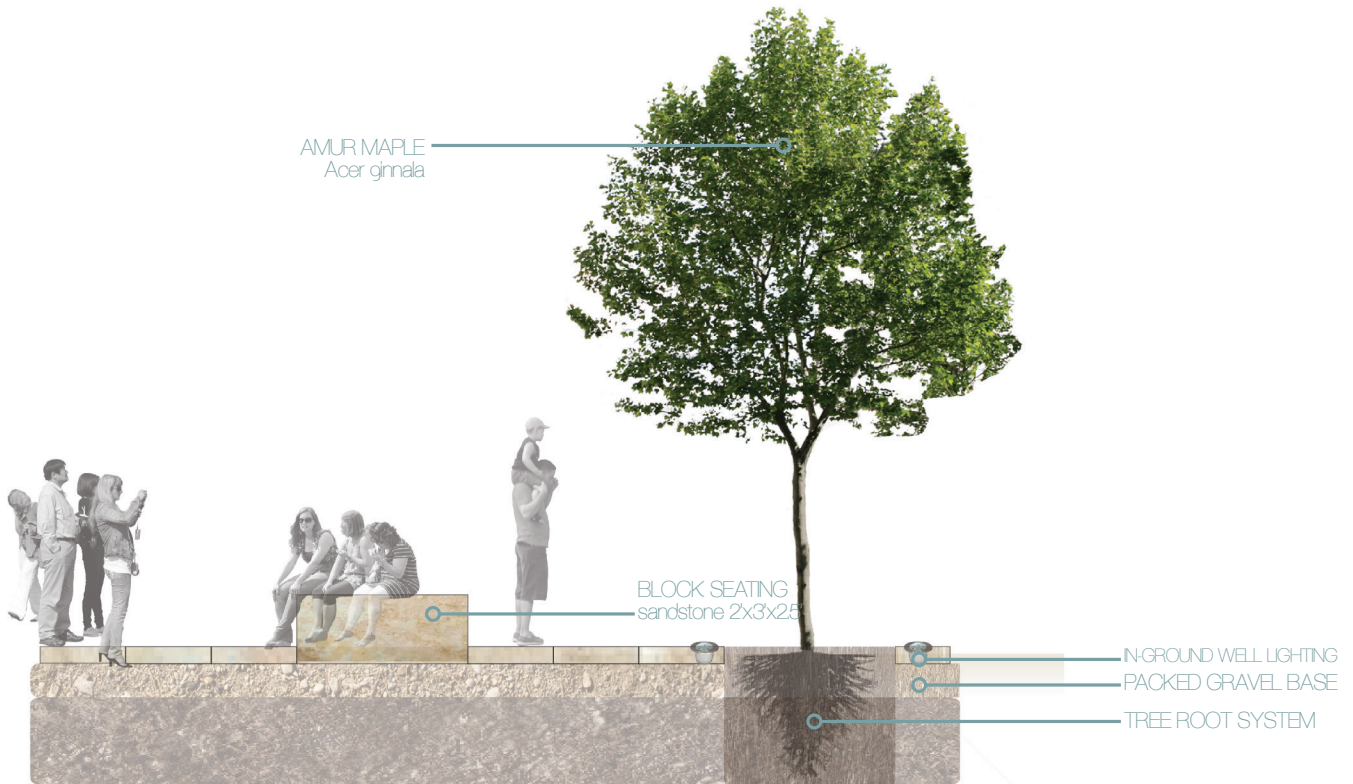
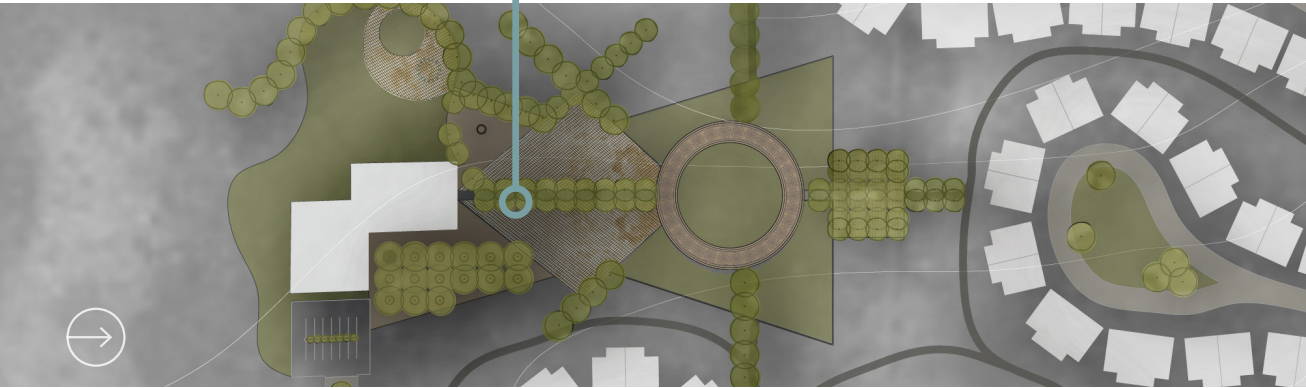


POW WOW PLAZA

This plaza space is an important area for the residents and can be used for a meeting and gathering space for activities and events. It is a space that is available to all residents at all times. During the Pow Wow seasons, the space can be used for vendors to set up their shops, and visitors to relax and enjoy their favorite Pow Wow dances.

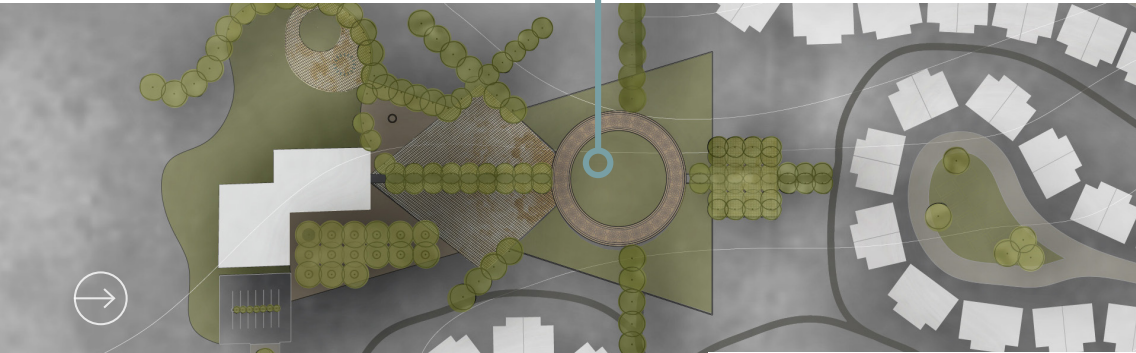
PLAZA TREES + SEATING

Even though the plaza is a mainly open space to accommodate vendors during the Pow Wows, subtle seating and tree plantings are placed throughout.

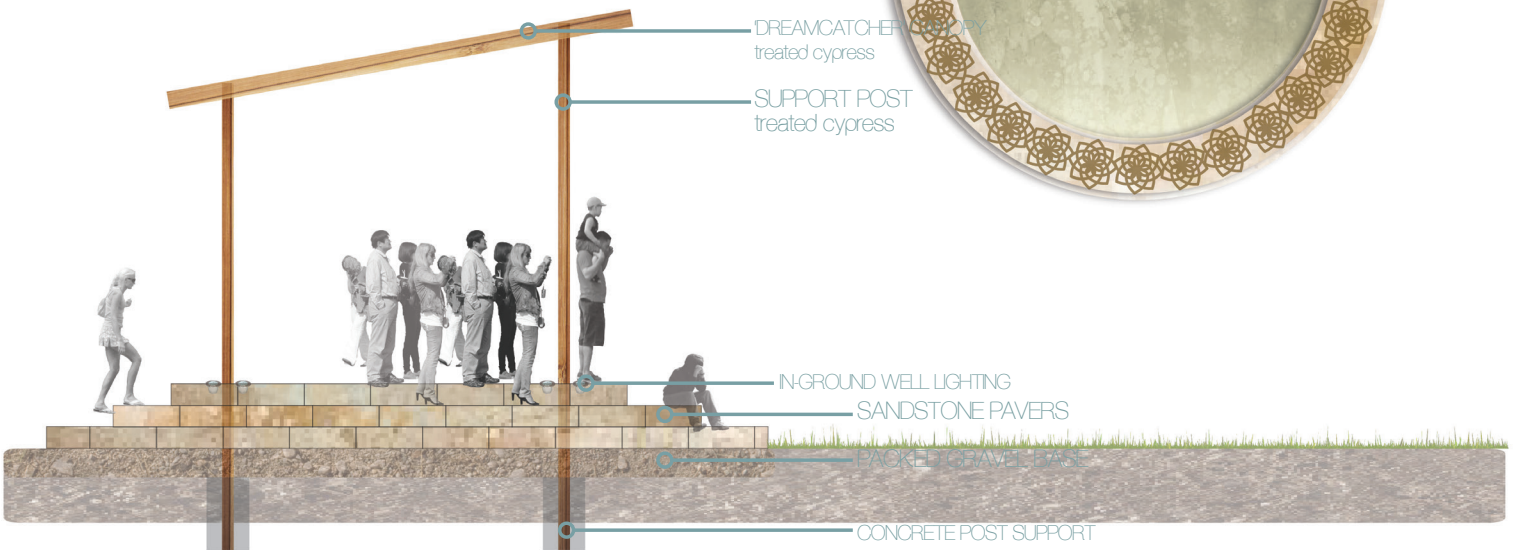


POW WOW RING

The Pow Wow ring is one of the most important cultural elements of this space. It's the nucleus of the community. In this area, residents can gather on the green grass in the center of the ring, lounge on the steps encircling it, and most importantly, host their biannual Pow Wow festivities.

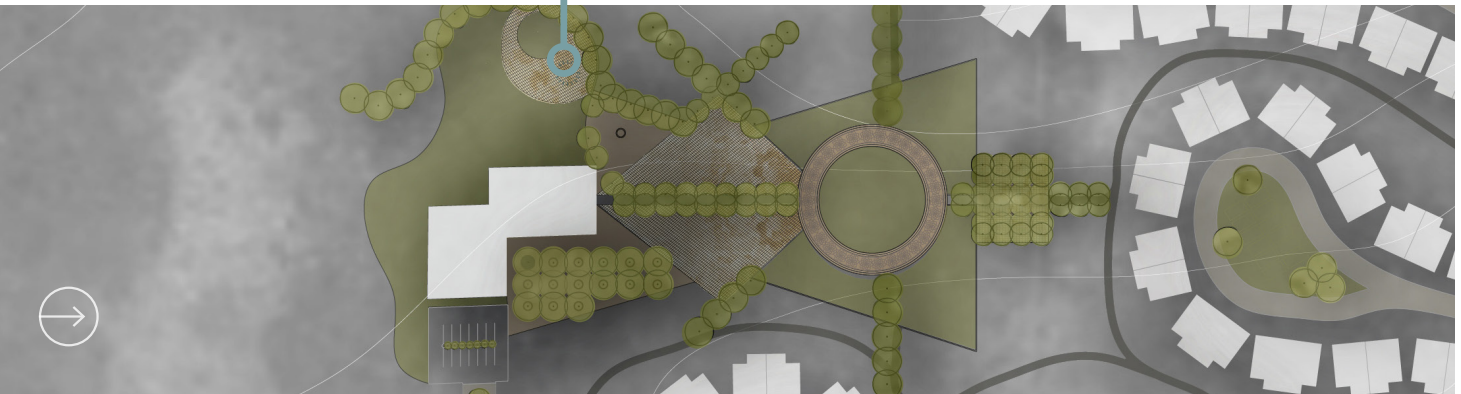


The canopy of the Pow Wow ring was inspired by the pattern created on a traditional dream catcher. This element honors the Lakota culture and will create a unique lighting pattern.



CHILDREN'S PLAYGROUND + FOUNTAINS

Because over half of the population in Oglala is children, it was important to incorporate an area for them to play. Along with the 2 basketball courts and soccer field, an area was created with a playground system and interactive fountains.



PLAYGROUND

SANDSTONE PAVERS

IN-GROUND WELL LIGHTING

INTERACTIVE FOUNTAINS

ACTIVITY SPACES + COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

<p>JANUARY</p> <p>CRAFTING @ REC CENTER INDOOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE @ REC CENTER CHILDRENS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS</p> <p>SCHOOL / WINTER</p>	<p>FEBRUARY</p> <p>CRAFTING @ REC CENTER INDOOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE @ REC CENTER CHILDRENS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS</p>	<p>MARCH</p> <p>CRAFTING @ REC CENTER INDOOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE @ REC CENTER CHILDRENS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS</p>	<p>APRIL</p> <p>CRAFTING @ REC CENTER INDOOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE @ REC CENTER CHILDRENS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS SPRING GARDEN PLANTING</p>
<p>MAY</p> <p>SPRING GARDEN PLANTING BASKETBALL LEAGUES SOCCER LEAGUES CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES @ REC CENTER CAMPING LAKE ACTIVITIES</p> <p>SUMMER</p>	<p>JUNE</p> <p>GARDENING BASKETBALL LEAGUES SOCCER LEAGUES CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES @ REC CENTER CAMPING LAKE ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>JULY</p> <p>GARDENING BASKETBALL LEAGUES SOCCER LEAGUES CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES @ REC CENTER CAMPING LAKE ACTIVITIES</p>	<p>AUGUST</p> <p>GARDENING BASKETBALL LEAGUES SOCCER LEAGUES CHILDRENS ACTIVITIES @ REC CENTER CAMPING LAKE ACTIVITIES POW WOW FESTIVITIES</p>
<p>SEPTEMBER</p> <p>CRAFTING @ REC CENTER INDOOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE @ REC CENTER CHILDRENS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS</p> <p>SCHOOL / WINTER</p>	<p>OCTOBER</p> <p>CRAFTING @ REC CENTER INDOOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE @ REC CENTER CHILDRENS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS TRICK-O-TREATING</p>	<p>NOVEMBER</p> <p>CRAFTING @ REC CENTER INDOOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE @ REC CENTER CHILDRENS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS</p>	<p>DECEMBER</p> <p>CRAFTING @ REC CENTER INDOOR BASKETBALL LEAGUE @ REC CENTER CHILDRENS AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS</p>

Now that a space is provided, activities can begin to start happening that will further community cohesiveness.

PRIMARY ACTIVITY SPACES:
 children's playground
 interactive fountains
 soccer field
 4 outdoor basketball courts
 neighborhood gardens

COMMUNITY CENTER AMENITIES:
 indoor gathering spaces
 indoor basketball court
 large community kitchen

DISCUSSION + LIMITATIONS

From this research, I'm hoping to attain enough vital information to better the living conditions in the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, specifically the Oglala township. By accumulating the above information, conclusions and designs can be made to better housing conditions, social elements, and livelihood of the residents. Housing will be improved to be sustainable and contain appropriate utilities and be free of black mold. Number of residents per household can be reduced to a manageable size because even housing will be provided to accommodate the entire population of the township. Roadways will be improved and maintained, providing the needed connective flow for residents to and from meeting areas, social gatherings, as well as sporting and entertainment events. Pedestrian sidewalks will be incorporated throughout the site creating key connections between developments. Social spaces, such as public meeting areas for elders to hold discussion and idea sessions with residents, will bring back valuable history lessons and traditions of how the Lakota people accomplished goals. Elements of safety will be included to lower crime rates, through the use of simple, proven, and cost effective means such as lighting, distinguished pathways, and buffer zones. Amenities will be provided for children (i.e. parks, sports fields) with proper pathways to reach them so that the feeling of community can be felt throughout all generations.

Common cultural grounds will be created for a unified link for all Lakota Residents to join together and celebrate the Lakota Sioux's rich heritage and traditions. This design will hopefully contribute to a plan to rejuvenate the entire Pine Ridge Indian Reservation with the Oglala township being a prototype that the other Indian nations and reservations could follow. It would be a goal that resident's physical and mental health and safety could be improved through creating a connected community with elements that not only make it a desirable place to live, but a place to immerse themselves back into their culture and become reconnected with longstanding traditions. This research is important because it's not only physically reviving an area that has never been designed, it is linking a culture, a unified people, back together and creating an opportunity for Pine Ridge residents to live in a healthy, thriving, deep rooted community. Since the Lakota people are extremely protective over family, personal connections, and their environment, limitations on the site visit will be attaining appropriate photos and information without disrupting and disrespecting the culture and the lives of the local residents.

PREVIOUS DESIGN STUDIO EXPERIENCE

2ND YEAR STUDIO

FALL SEMESTER 2008

Intro to Landscape Architecture Studio

INSTRUCTOR | Kathleen Pepple

SPRING SEMESTER 2009

Parks and Open Spaces Studio

INSTRUCTORS | Mark Lindquist + Dominic Fischer

3RD YEAR STUDIO

FALL SEMESTER 2009

Environmental Art and Site Design Studio

INSTRUCTOR | Stevie Famulari

SPRING SEMESTER 2010

Community Design Studio

INSTRUCTOR | Kathleen Pepple + Jay Kost

4TH YEAR STUDIO

FALL SEMESTER 2010

Urban Design Studio

INSTRUCTOR | Jay Kost + Niki Carlson

SPRING SEMESTER 2011

Environmental Remediation and Plant Design Studio

INSTRUCTOR | Stevie Famulari

5TH YEAR STUDIO

FALL SEMESTER 2012

Environmental Planning Studio

INSTRUCTOR | Mehran Madani

SPRING SEMESTER 2013

Design Thesis Studio

INSTRUCTOR | Jay Kost

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AARON HUEY, photographer

Aaron spent 7 years amongst the Lakota people of Oglala. During his time there, he documented their stories and took many beautiful photographs. He's an award winning photographer and has had his work on the Pine Ridge Reservation featured in National Geographic. He's a reoccurring speaker at numerous TED talks and is an activist in the 'Honor the Treaties' movement. I'm thankful for the life his photos brought to this project.

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"People -despite their artistic pretentions, their sophistication, and their many accomplishments-
- owe their existence to a six-inch layer of topsoil and the fact that it rains." -unknown-

