project description

The Rural Transitions Thesis is a mixed-use supplemental facility near Galchutt, ND. It was designed as a rural hub to supplement not only Galchutt, but surrounding communities as well that suffer from dwindling populations, and the lack of necessities and conveniences that make rural living possible. Rather than trying to revitalize struggling rural towns by building costly, and underutilized facilities in each town, The Rural Commons serves as a central point to fulfill the needs of multiple communities in one location.

Since the population base is not present in each of these communities to sustain their own building, bringing multiple populations to one rural facility is a more cost effective and efficient solution. The structure was designed to reflect the iconic elevator structure scattered across the agricultural plains. Economics in the area are primarily agriculture based which make the rural setting appealing. The close proximity to major traffic also make the structure a stopping destination for travelers.

As traffic and activity in rural areas is largely seasonal based on the agriculture season incorporating housing into the facility gives the building a constant income so it can sustain itself when traffic is less heavy. Richland Commons is a community center intended to bring the communities and rural dwellers together. The office space is flexible and would most likely be utilized by agriculture related business that would benefit from the central location. Other inclusions are The Forecast Cafe, and Acres Station, a gas station/convenience store.

