

THE ARCHITECTURE OF STIMMUNG

ATTUNEMENT IN A CANCER TREATMENT CENTER

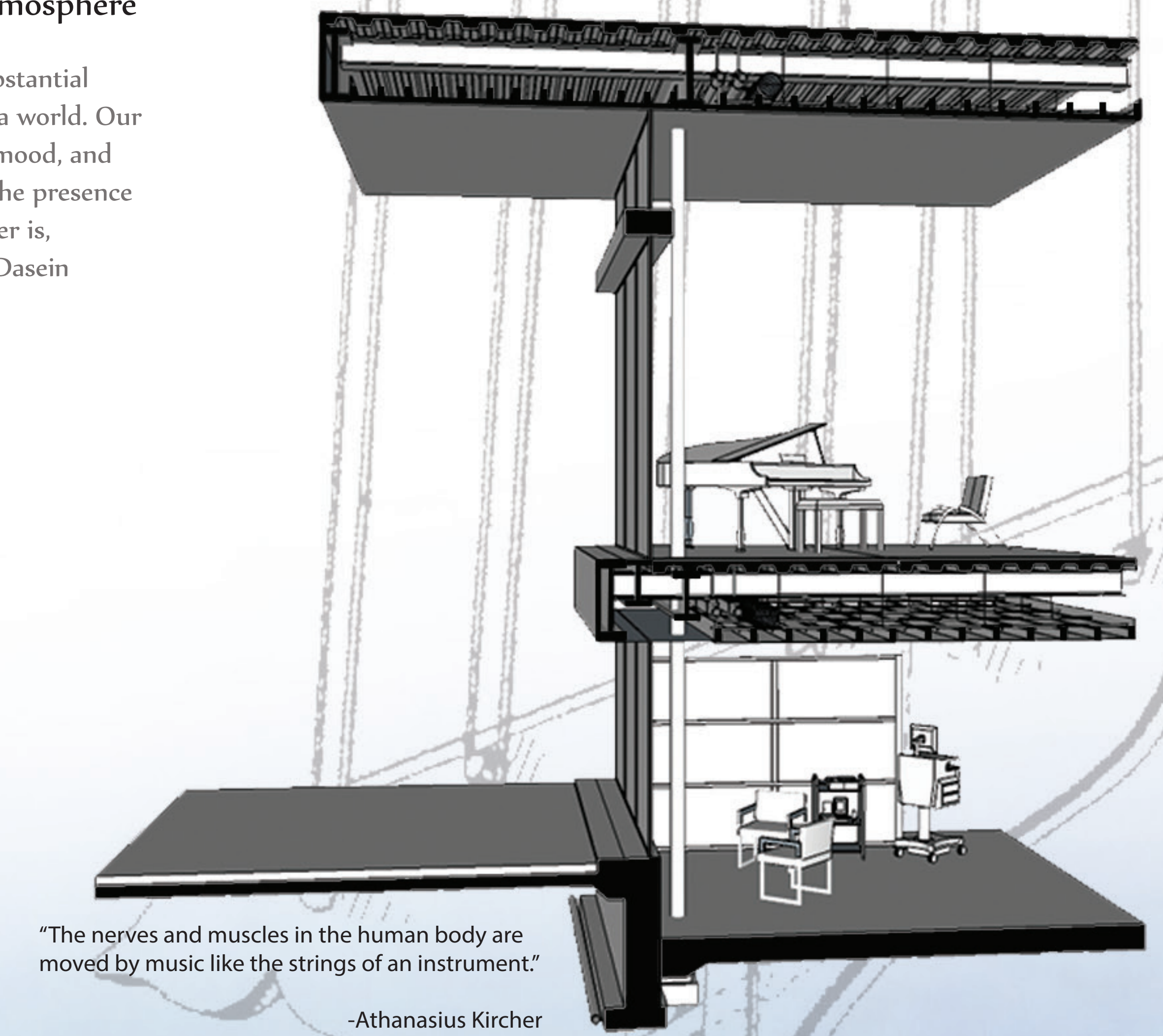
This thesis examines the environment, atmosphere and experience of a patient who has undergone or has been affected by cancer. The design is inspired by Martin Heidegger's concept of "Stimmung" in which mood constitutes how we as individuals experience the world as it is directly related to our feelings, thoughts and understandings. The ability to be in some mood or another is essential to the distinctively human way of belonging to a world.

My thesis looks to help the patient reconnect with the world and their surroundings through synesthesia (the harmonious relationship of the senses) which aids in the healing process and overall health and wellness of cancer patients.

By relating music and architecture to the human body, I have designed a rural cancer treatment and recovery center in Quincy, Washington which explores a synesthetic understanding of harmony in relation to the human body and the patients overall health.

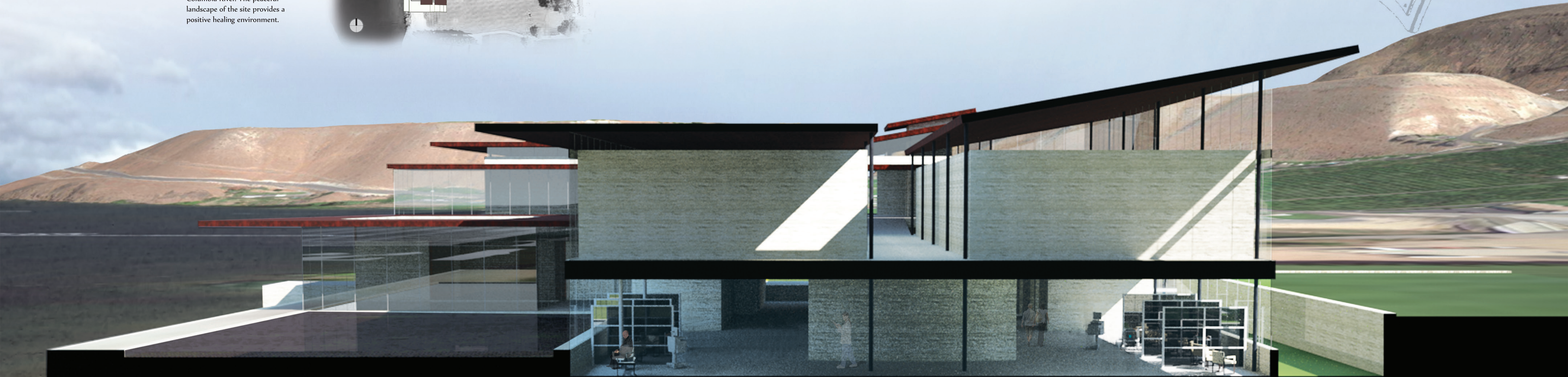
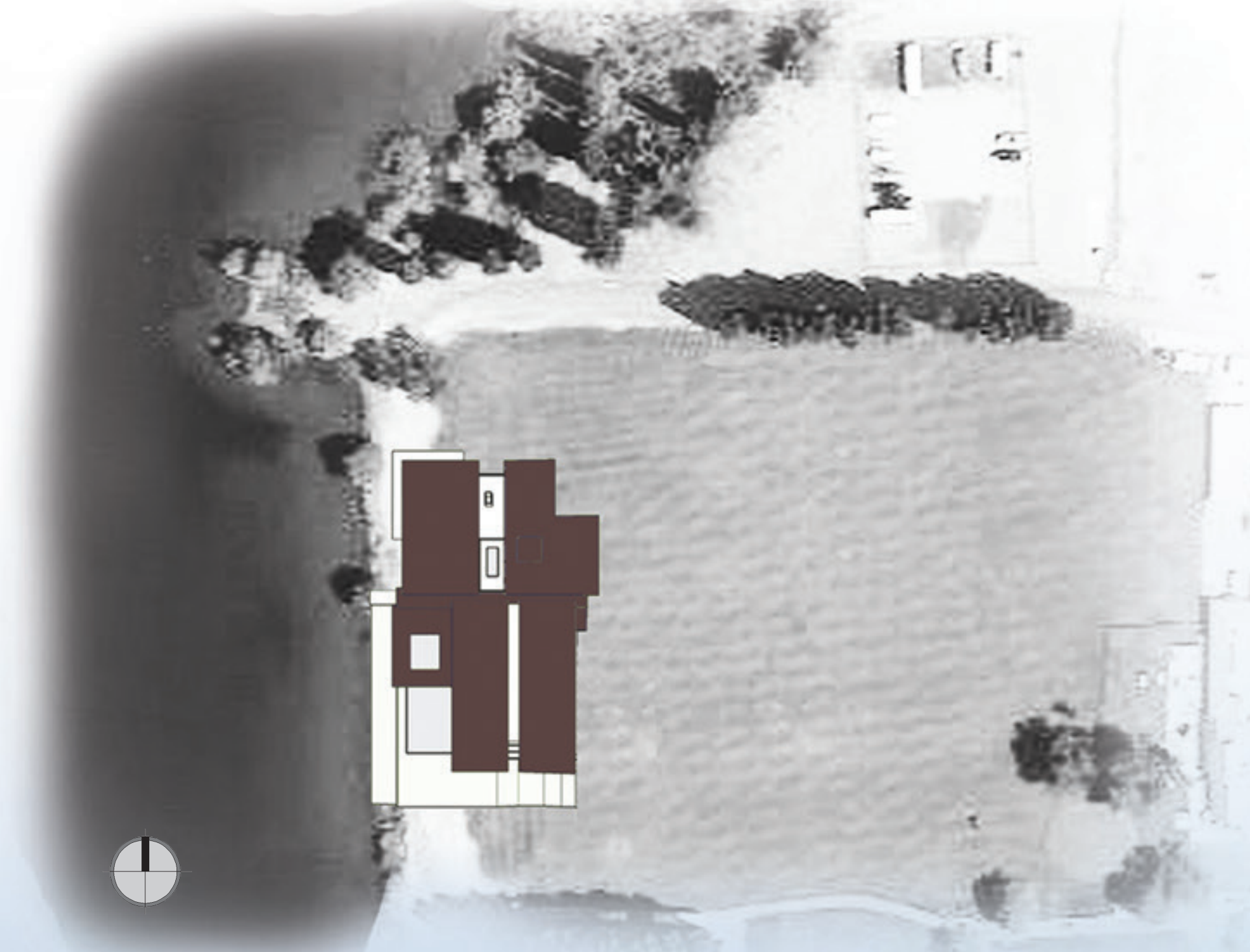
[Stim•mung] : Tone : Mood : Atmosphere

According to Heidegger, mood [Stimmung] makes a substantial contribution to the sense that we have of belonging to a world. Our moods may change but we are always in some kind of mood, and what might seem like the absence of mood is actually the presence of an inconspicuous mood. Being in some mood or other is, according to Heidegger, a fundamental "existential" of Dasein [presence/ being].



"The nerves and muscles in the human body are moved by music like the strings of an instrument."
-Athanasius Kircher

The setting for this cancer treatment and recovery center is located on a small island connected to the Crescent Bar Resort, set along the Columbia River, within the Columbia River Gorge in Washington. The site is centrally located between Spokane and Seattle, where the largest hospitals in the state are located. Towering basalt cliffs surround the site and the Columbia River. The peaceful landscape of the site provides a positive healing environment.



The architecture brings forth a datum between the towering basalt bluffs and the low river, a mediator between sickness and health.

Key - 1st Level

- 1. Waiting
- 2. Check-in/Reception
- 3. Offices
- 4. Records
- 5. Cafe
- 6. Outdoor Atrium
- 7. Community Room/Library
- 8. Staff Toilet
- 9. Staff Lockers
- 10. Staff Lounge
- 11. Mens Toilets
- 12. Womens Toilets
- 13. Lab
- 14. Storage
- 15. Refreshments
- 16. Storage
- 17. Exam Rooms
- 18. Pharmacy Technician
- 19. Clean Room
- 20. Chemo Clean Room
- 21. Clean Storage
- 22. Soiled Holding
- 23. Nurse Workstation
- 24. Medicine Prep
- 25. CSP Ante-Room
- 26. Garbing
- 27. Pharmacy Storage
- 28. Mechanical
- 29. Womens Toilets
- 30. Mens Toilets
- 31. Infusion Bays
- 32. Indoor Pool
- 33. Sauna
- 34. Mechanical
- 35. Womens Changing Room
- 36. Mens Changing Room

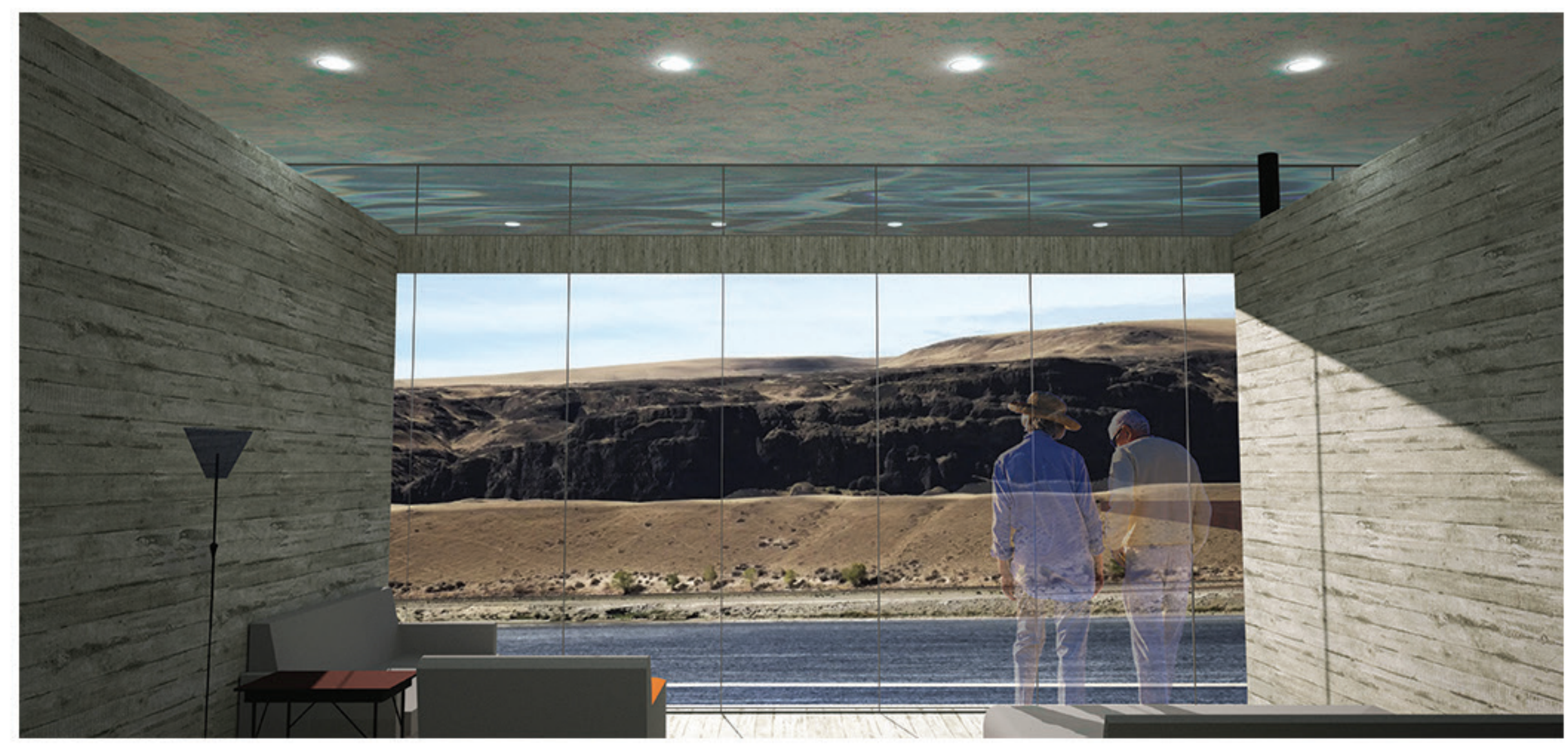


Key - 2nd Level

- 37. Family Room/Multi-Use
- 38. Resource/Library
- 39. Yoga/Fitness
- 40. Massage Therapy
- 41. Acupuncture
- 42. Overnight Rooms
- 43. Piano Area
- 44. Outdoor Pool



Synesthetic Treatment Space
The architecture positions the body within a healing environment which is in a chord with the landscape.



[Syn.es.the.sia]

Synesthesia Comes from the Ancient Greek syn "together" and aisthesis "sensation". We experience atmospheres/moods through the use of our senses in a synesthetic manner, which emphasizes the interconnection of all the senses.



On axis with the Columbia river bluffs, the architecture brings what is far, near. The patients experience an overlapping between materiality and views which may create tension between inside and outside.

An outdoor glass atrium in the center of the building blurs the line between inside and outside, bringing the surrounding natural environment to the interior of the building.

The concrete retaining wall outside the exam rooms echos the nature of the bluffs beyond.

Areas of the building focused on health and recovery suspend visitors and patients not only between interior and exterior but also between sickness and health.



Entrance



Outdoor Atrium



Exam Room



Yoga/Fitness