

THE ARCHITECTURE OF STIMMUNG

“ATTUNEMENT IN A CANCER TREATMENT CENTER”



BY: NICK BRANDT

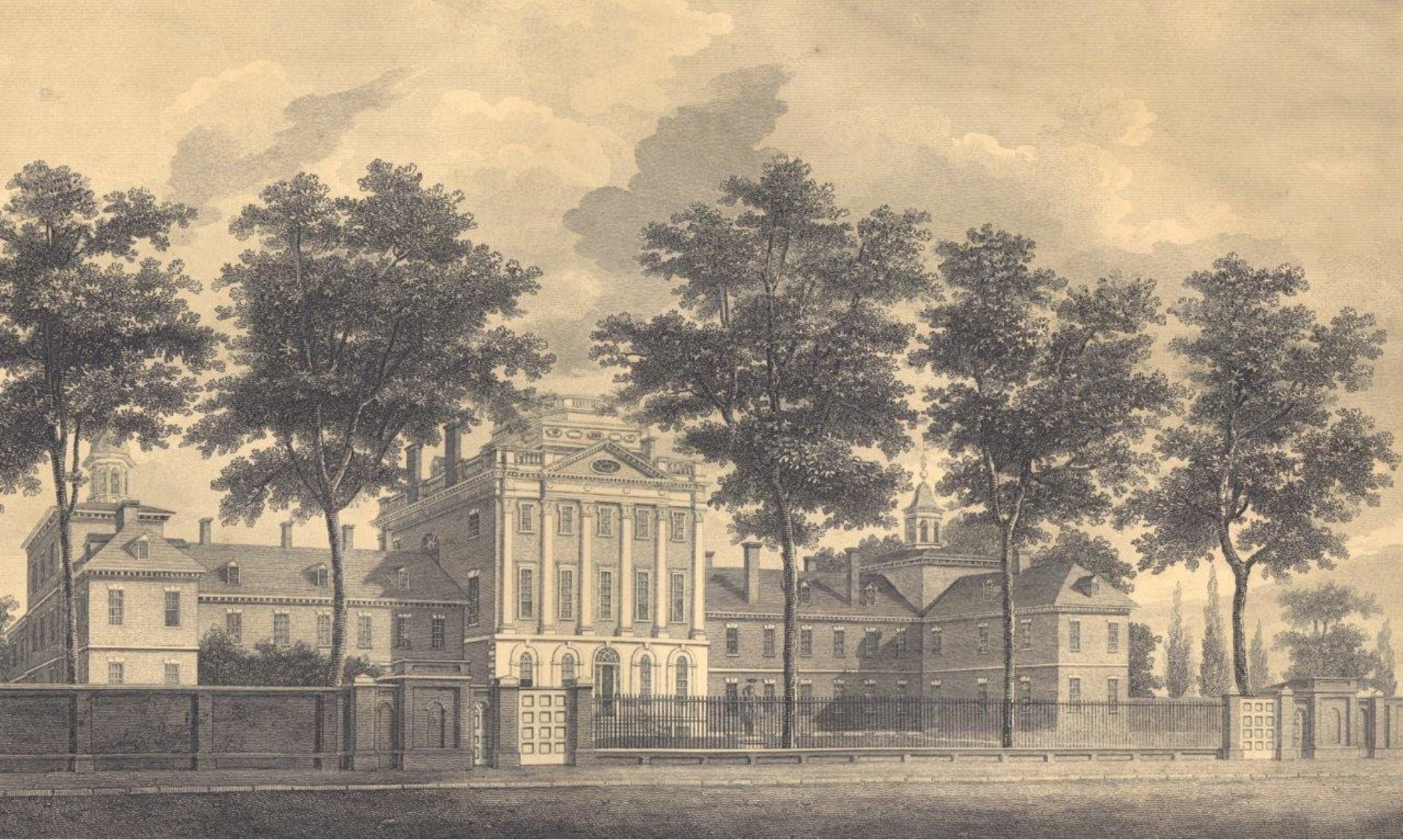
PROBLEM STATEMENT

How can Architecture and the surrounding natural environment create moods [STIMMUNG] conducive to healing for cancer patients?

History of healthcare facilities



Hotel -Dieu de Paris of Paris, France.



The Pennsylvania Hospital founded by Ben Franklin is a teaching hospital which houses 534 beds.



A hotel converted into a hospital during war



Typically, medical facilities are designed to facilitate the interchange between patients and the “specialists” – the doctors and/or nurses.



The idea of conventional healthcare today has become more about the quickest form of treatment possible that show the most immediate results.

“We ourselves are part of nature and it is this nature within us, together with the self-sustaining organic defense system of our bodies, which is capable of sustaining our “inner” equilibrium. This is the unique interplay of functions which constitutes life. We can only oppose nature through being a part of nature ourselves and through being sustained by nature.”

- Hans Georg Gadamer

The "Specialist"



Why moods matter - Martin Heidegger

[*Stimmung*] : Tone : Mood : Atmosphere

According to Heidegger, mood [*stimmung*] contributes greatly to the sense that we have of belonging to a world. An individual can find a sense of belonging to a world by becoming fully immersed within it, rather than looking out upon it.

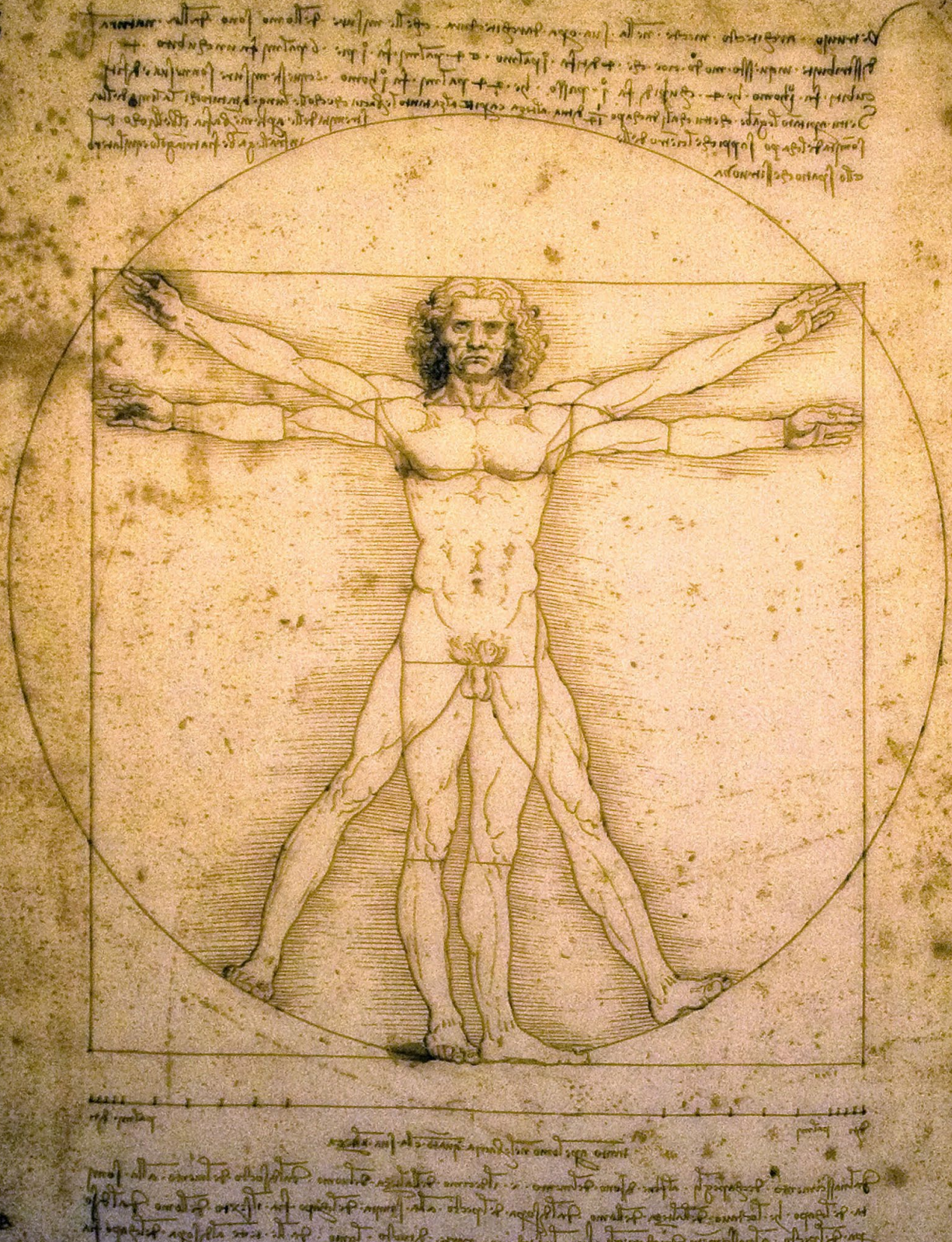
Synesthesia Comes from the Ancient Greek *syn* “**together**” and *aisthesis* “**sensation**”.



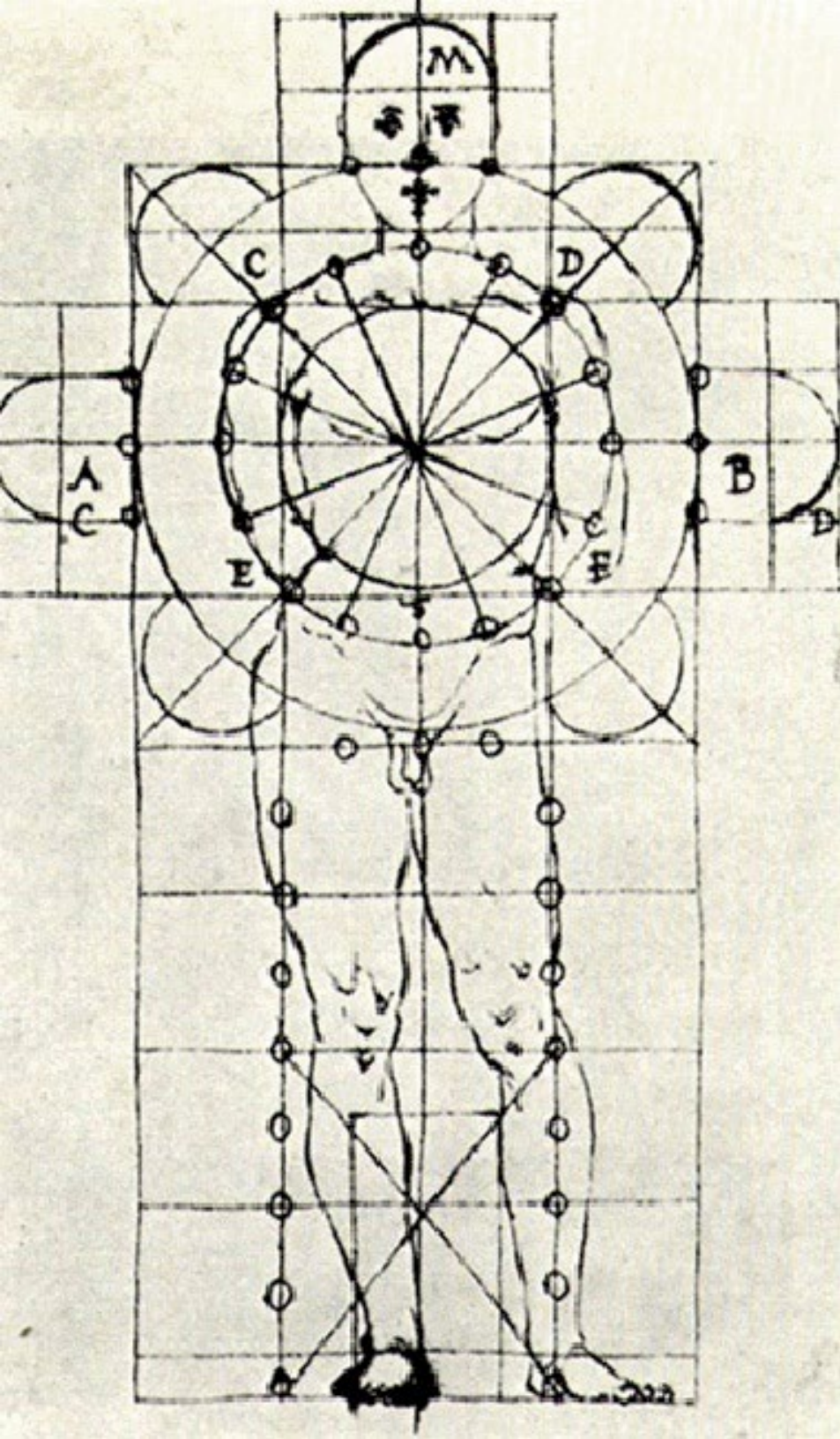
We experience atmospheres moods through the use of our senses in a synesthetic manner, which emphasizes the interconnection of all the senses.

“Architecture is essentially an extension of nature into the man-made realm, providing ground for perception and the horizon of experiencing and understanding the world. Architecture is not meant to isolate our feelings and imagination; it is a vessel that directs our attention to the bigger picture, through the stimulation of our senses simultaneously. The sense of touch helps us relate our bodies to our environments with a greater understanding of our being “in a world”.

- Juhani Pallasmaa



The Vitruvian figure is a drawing by Leonardo da Vinci based on the works of architect Vitruvius describing the ideal human proportions. The figure depicts a man in two superimposed positions with his arms and legs apart and inscribed in a circle and square.



The human body disclosed divine proportions and thus became the plans of cathedrals



Athanasius Kircher – 17th century Jesuit scholar and polymath

“Architecture is essentially an extension of nature into the man-made realm, providing ground for perception and the horizon of experiencing and understanding the world”.

“The nerves and muscles in the human body are moved by music like the strings of an instrument. We experience joy when the spirits of life are extended, and sorrow when they are contracted.”



La Musurgia Universalis
Athanasius Kircher

MIA-AIM Symposium

“Tracings” Composed by Ellen Fullman

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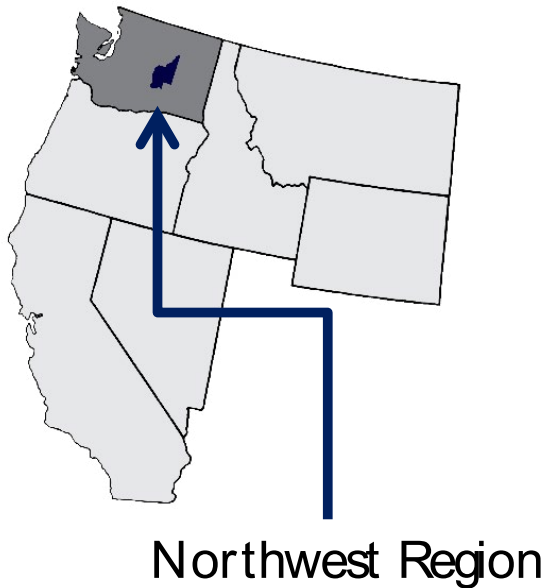
“Composed specifically for the historic building, regenerating ratios found in the design of the building to produce tuned musical intervals”.



“Tracings” Composed by Ellen Fullman

Site Location and Context

- Located in Grant County, 7 miles west of Quincy, Washington on Crescent Bar Island
- Near the Gorge Amphitheater
- Located on the Columbian River Gorge surrounded by basalt cliffs





Columbia
River

Aerial view of site



View from site looking out at
the Columbia River and basalt
bluffs

Views from site



View from site looking north



View from site looking east



View from site looking south



View from site looking west

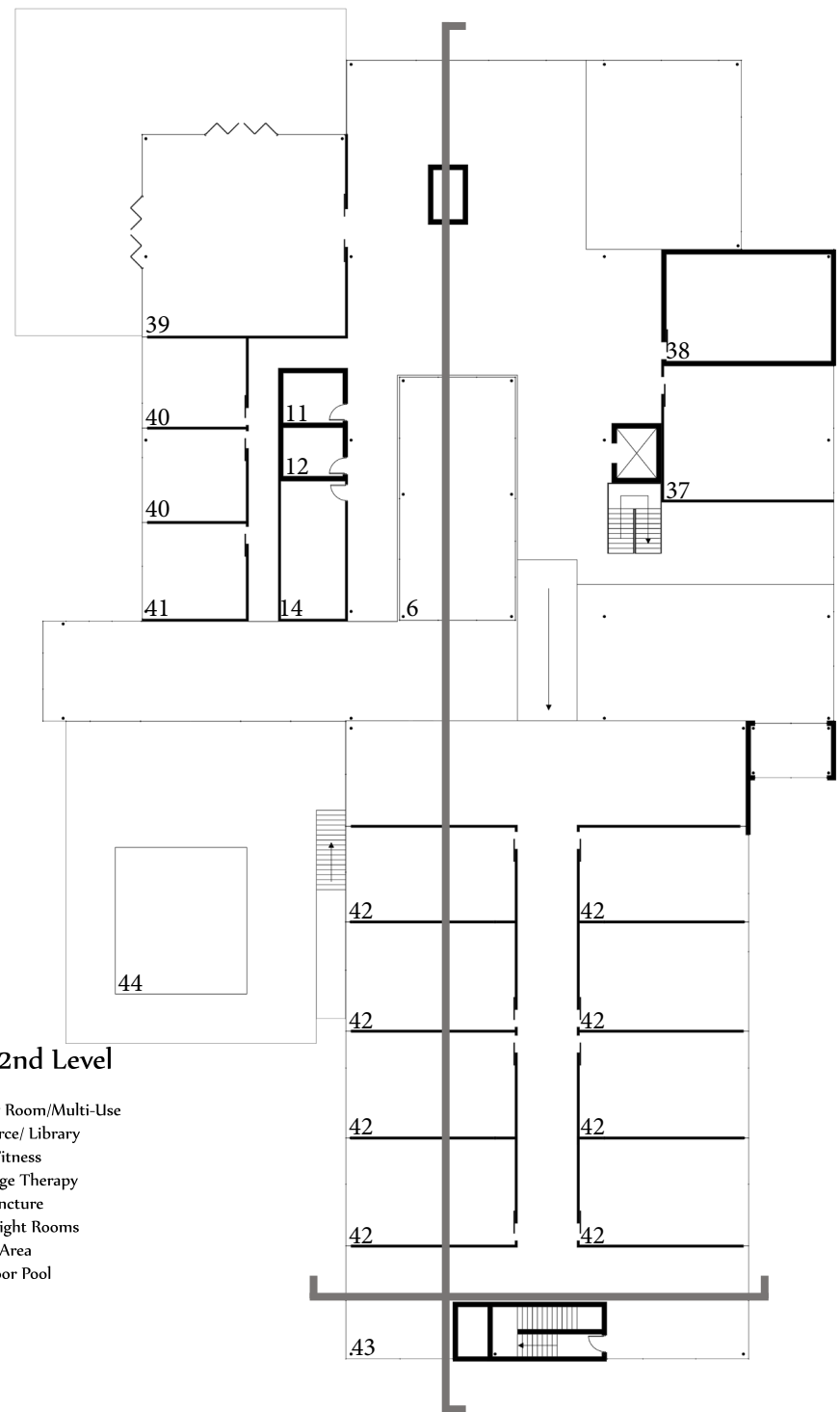


Building Section

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



Main Floor Plan



Upper Floor Plan

Key - 1st Level

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

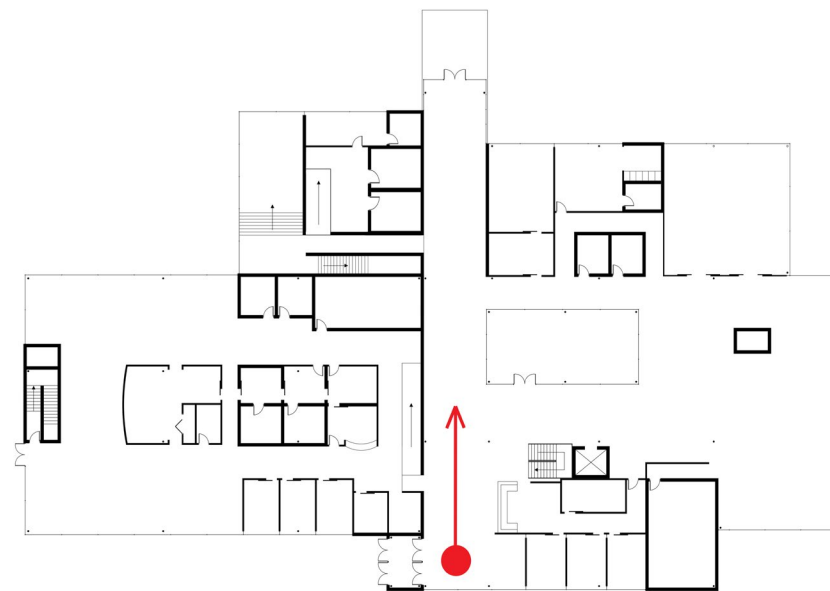
Key - 2nd Level

- 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



Entry Perspective

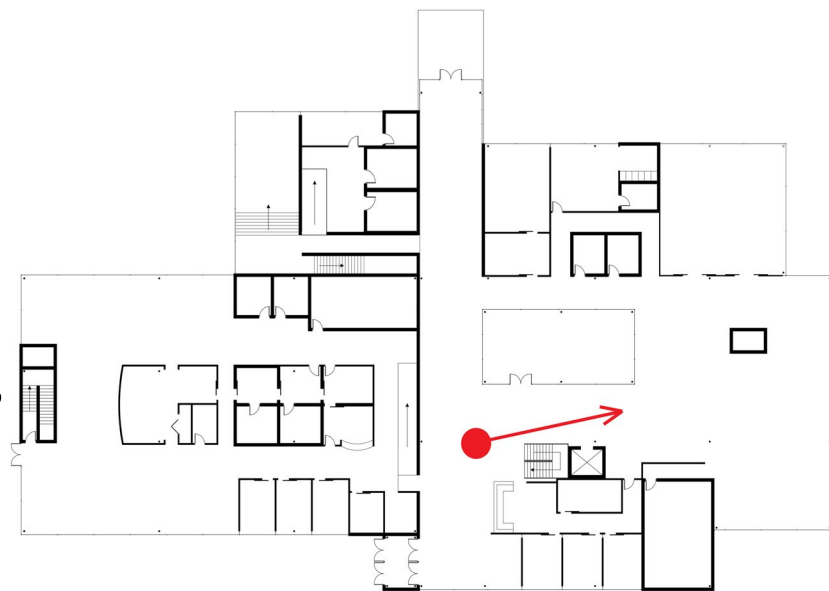
On axis with the Columbia river bluffs, the architecture brings what is far, near. The patients experience an overlapping between materiality and views which may create tension between inside and outside.





Outdoor Atrium

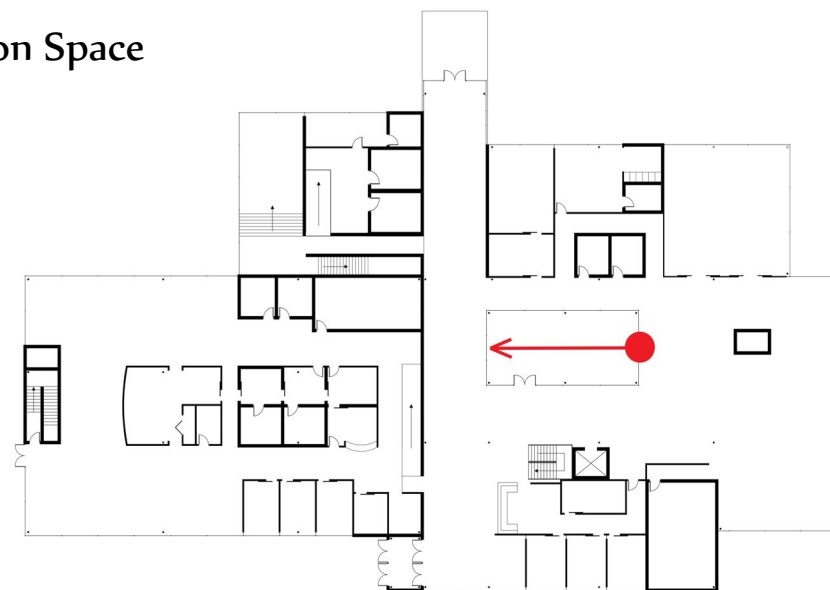
An outdoor glass atrium in the center of the building blurs the line between inside and outside, bringing the surrounding natural environment to the interior of the building.





Outdoor Atrium / Contemplation Space

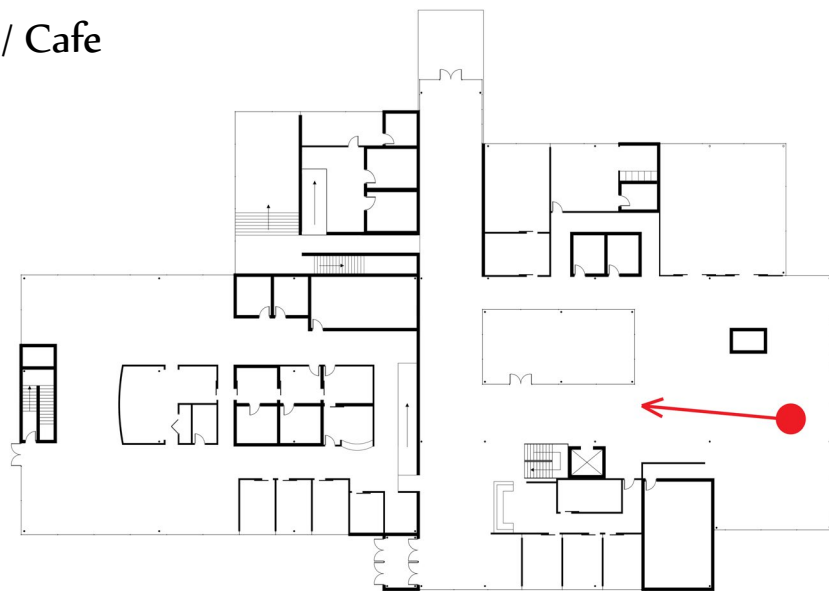
The outdoor atrium at the heart of the building brings all of the surrounding natural elements together in a microcosm, a small world within the larger macrocosm of the surrounding site, which provides a place for contemplation.





Community Gathering Space / Cafe

A hearth and cafe provide a gathering space for conversation and relaxation. The texture and materiality of the interior walls allow one to touch the distant surfaces of the bluffs with their eyes.





Exam Room

While in the exam room, patients will have a view towards the sky and the towering landscape. The texture of the walls echo the nature of the bluffs beyond.

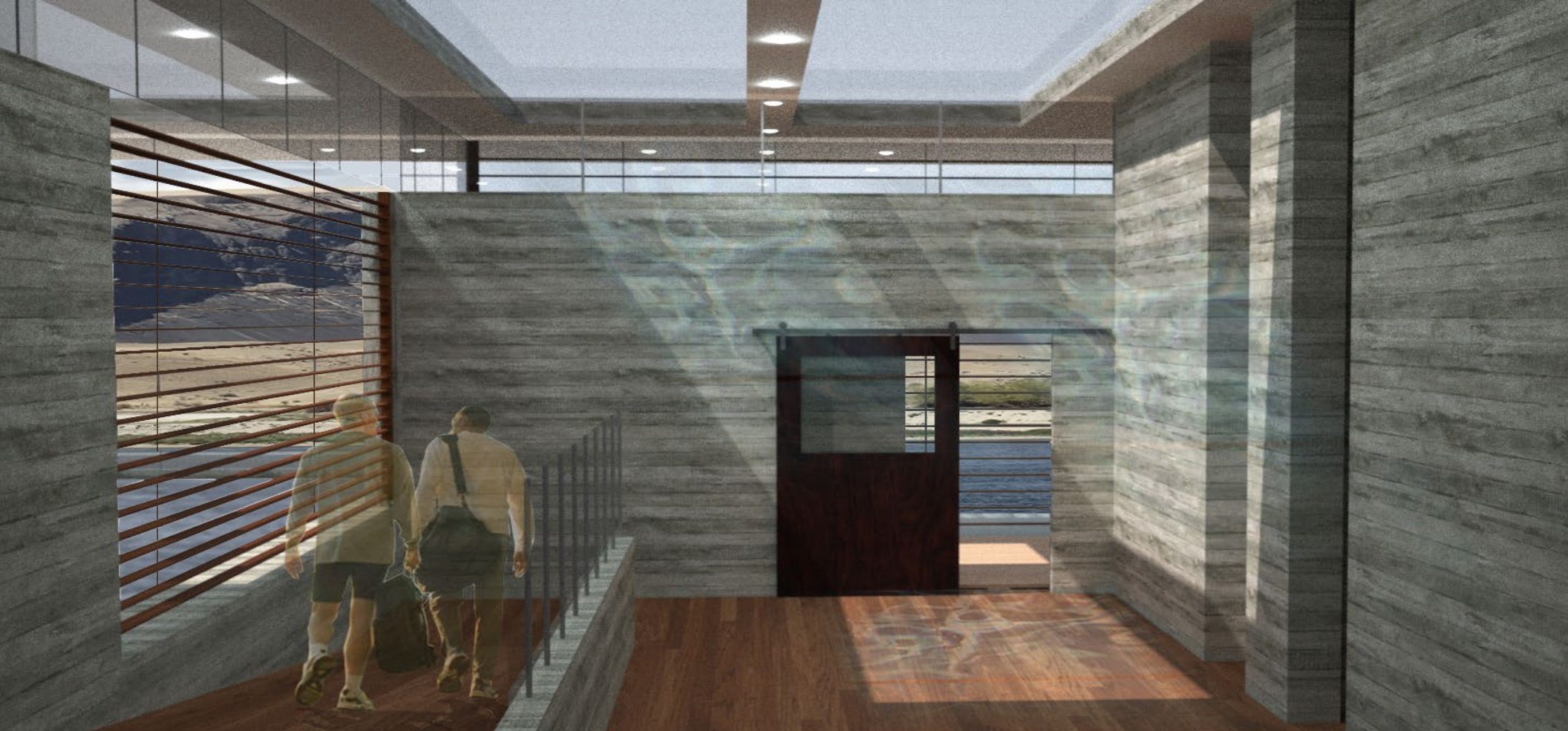




Synesthetic Treatment Space

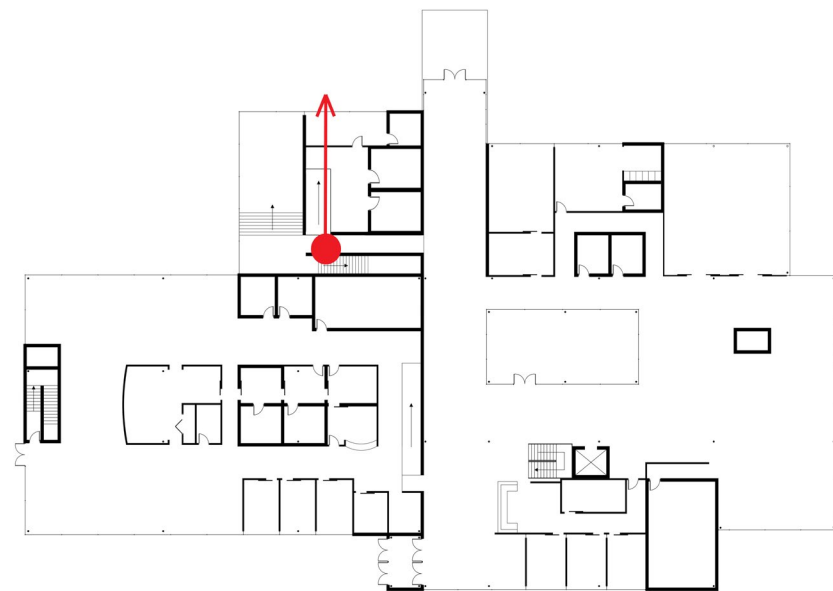
The architecture positions the body within a healing environment which is in a chord with the landscape. The space is lowered into the ground to bring the patient eye level with a shallow pool of water, extending the line of water to the horizon on the basalt bluffs.

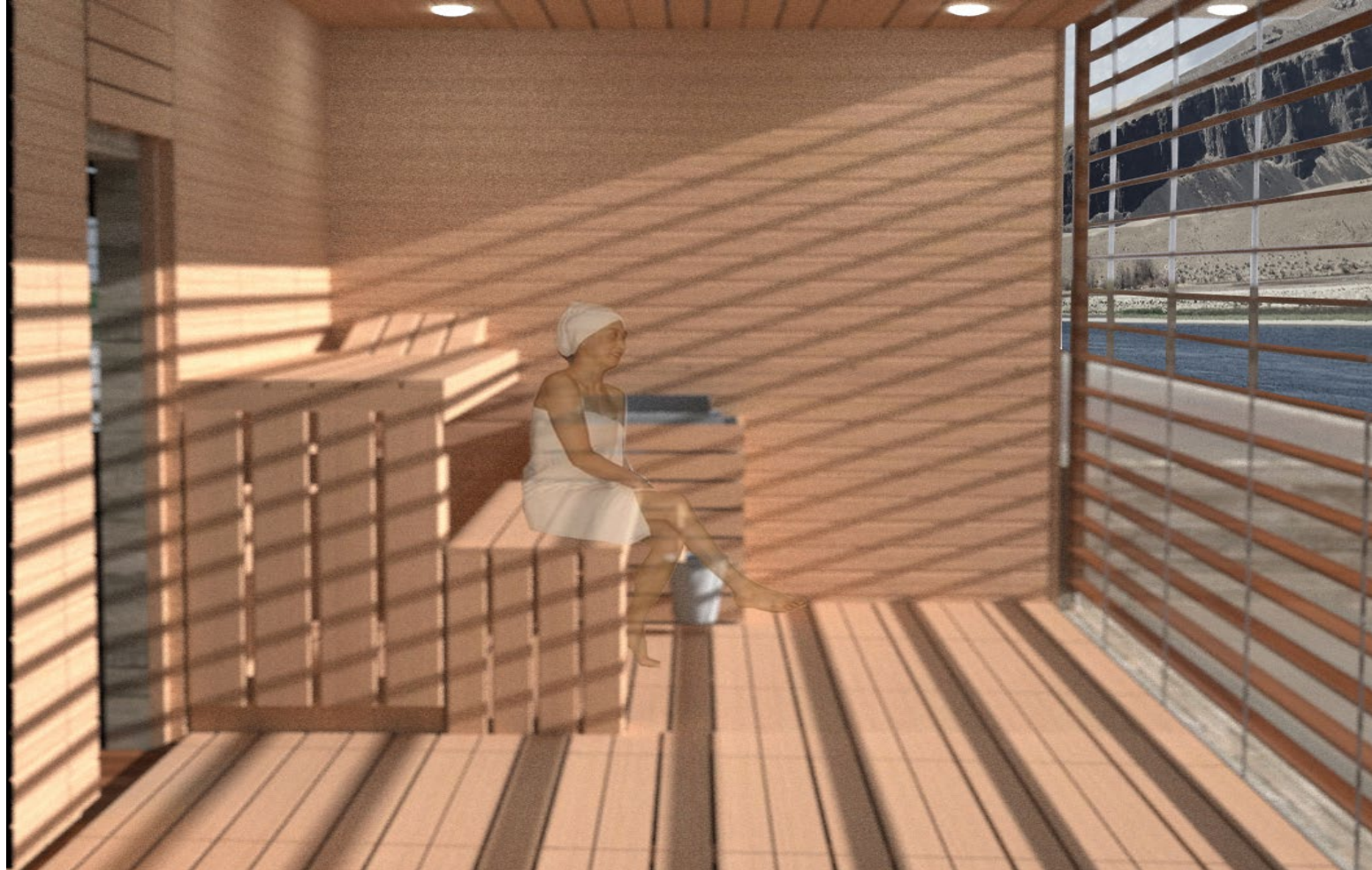




Sauna Entry

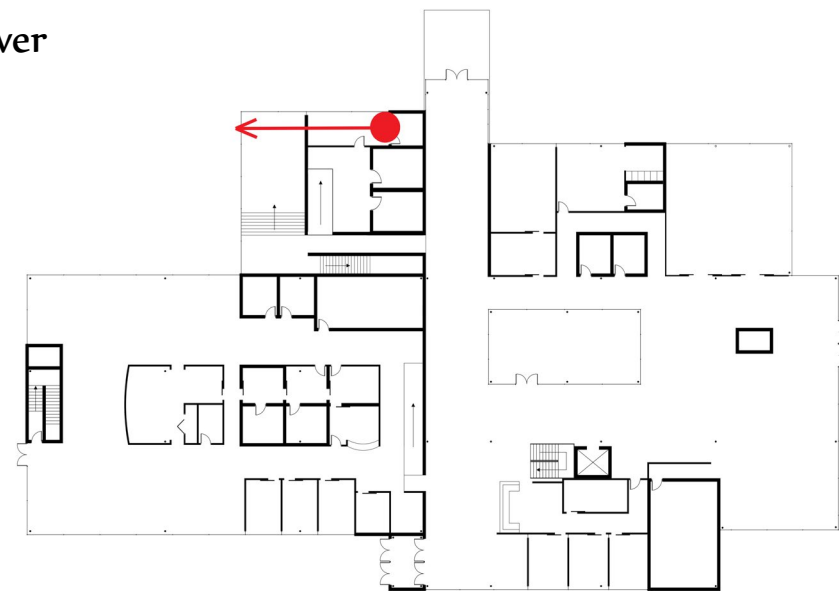
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Sauna overlooking the Columbia River

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Fitness Room

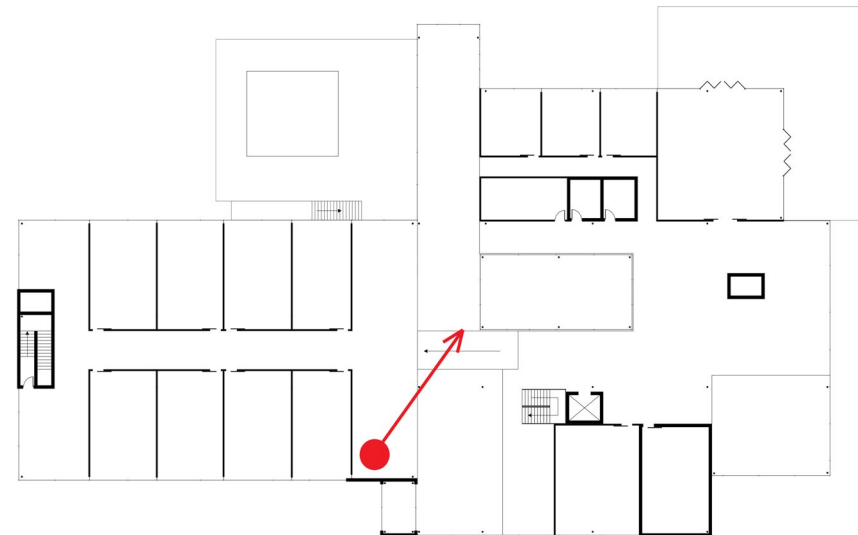
Areas of the building which focused on health and recovery suspend visitors and patients not only between interior and exterior but also between sickness and health. The fitness room provides views to the exterior landscape on three sides, creating a continuous chord with the bluffs and river.





Corner Seating Space

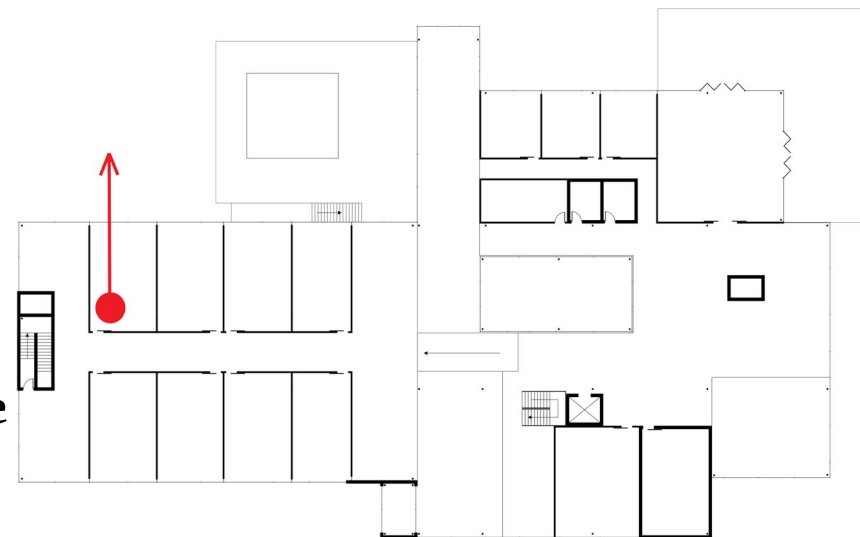
A seating area on the second level provides an opportunity to observe the roof planes of the building like notes on a music staff as they overlap each other and step downward (modulate) between the bluffs and the river.





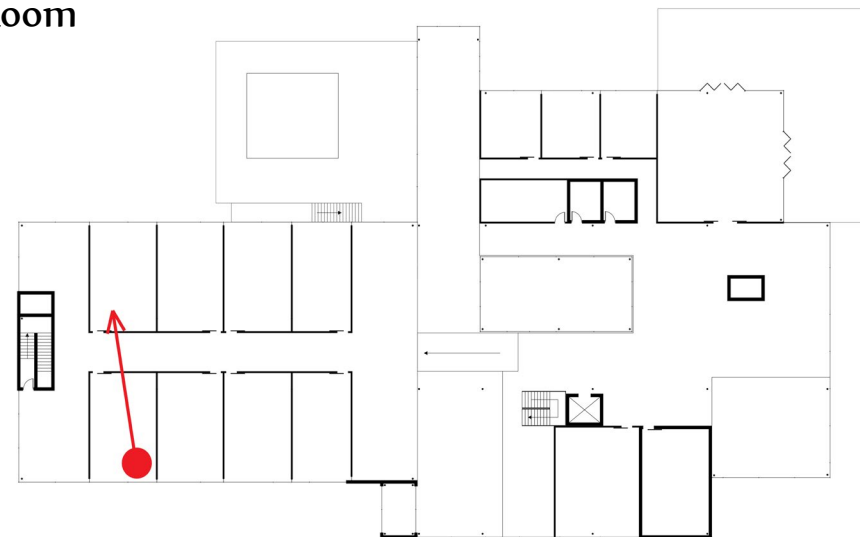
Overnight Room

The light reflection on the overhanging ceiling from the pool below creates an experience where the patient feels connected with the river. The reflection of the water also blurs the line of where clouds and sky end.



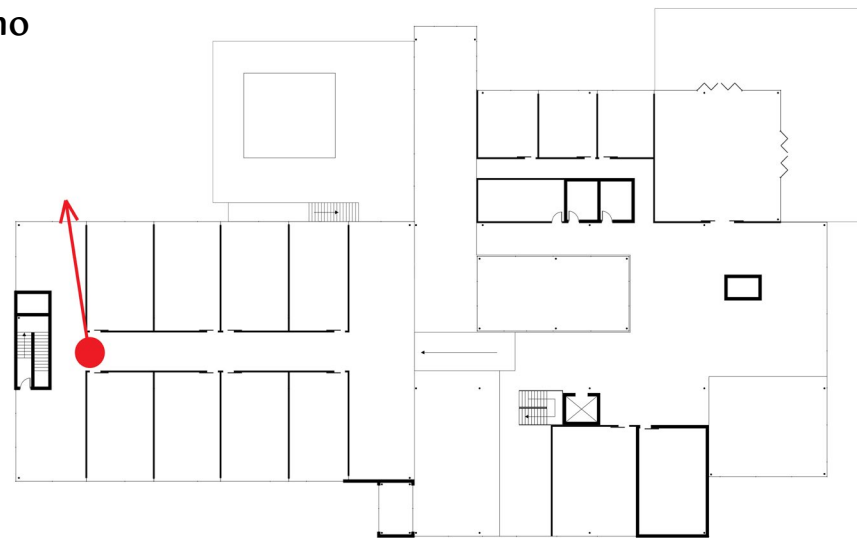


Interior View Overnight Room





View from hallway into overnight room and piano

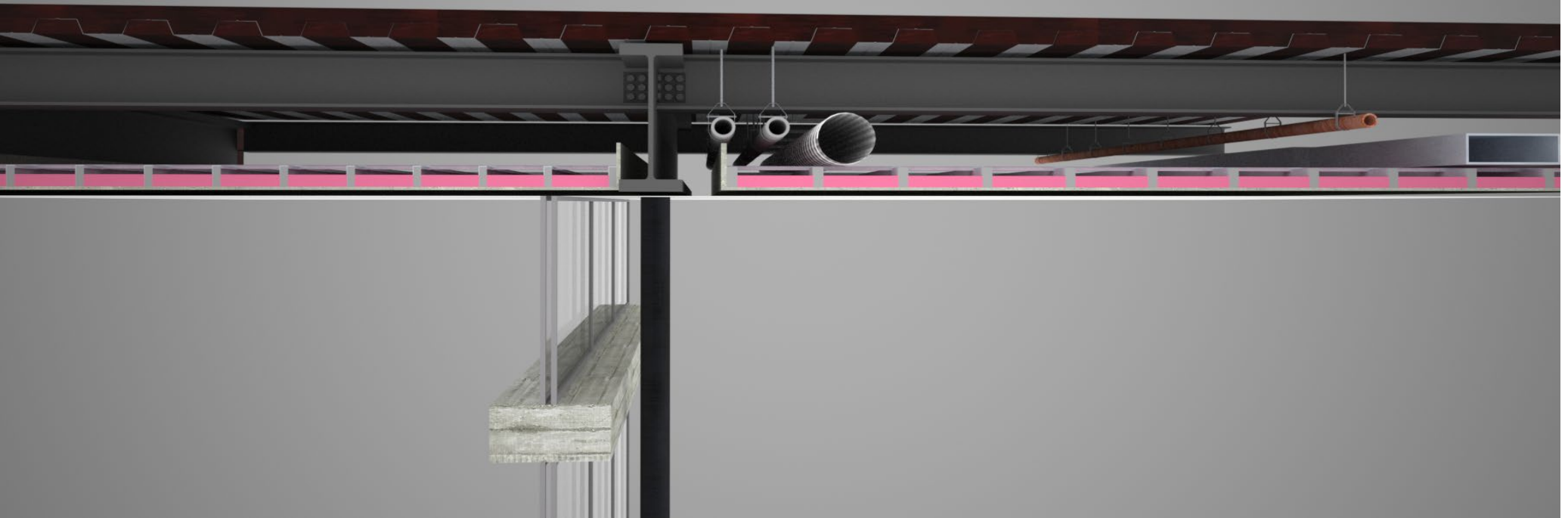




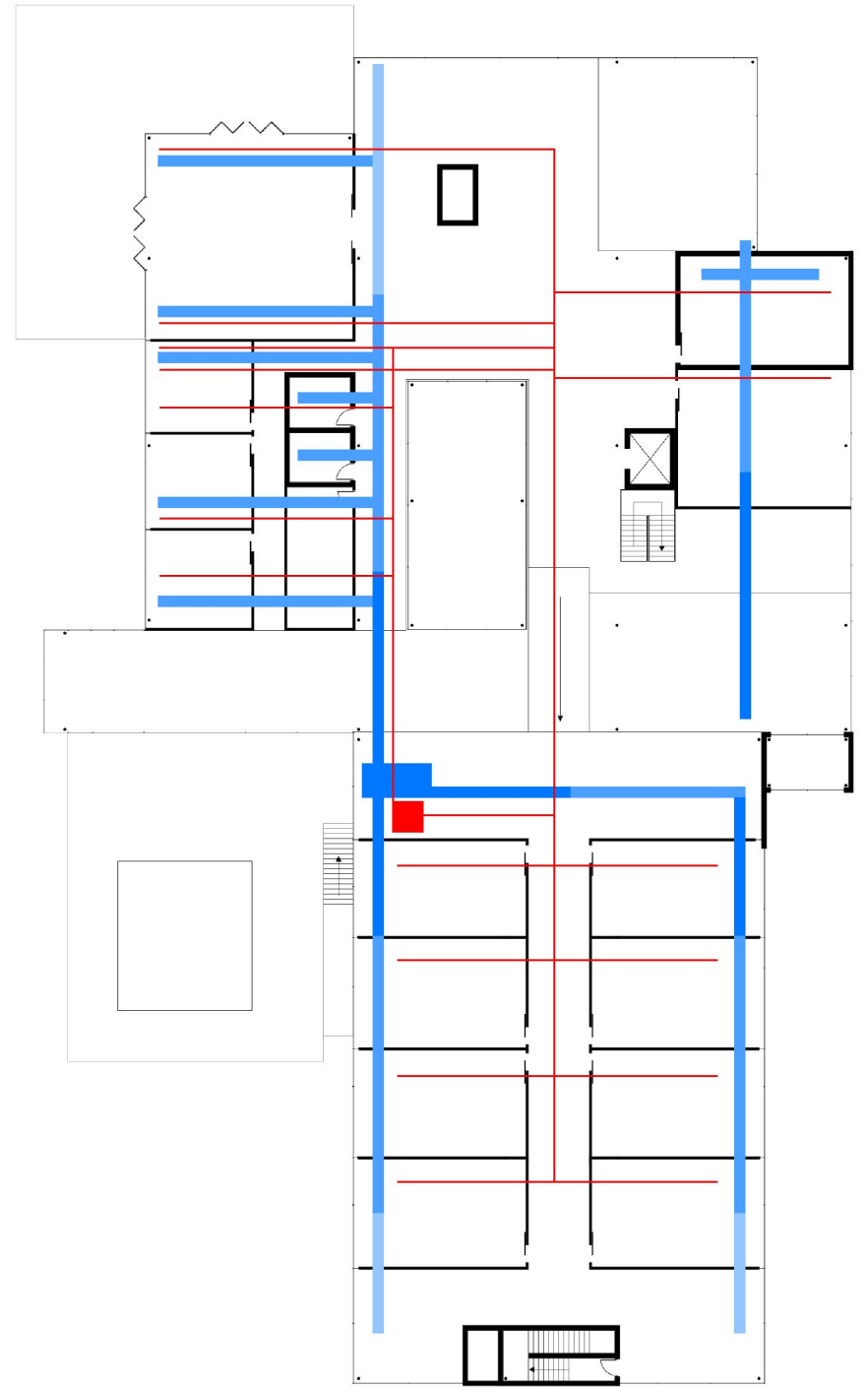
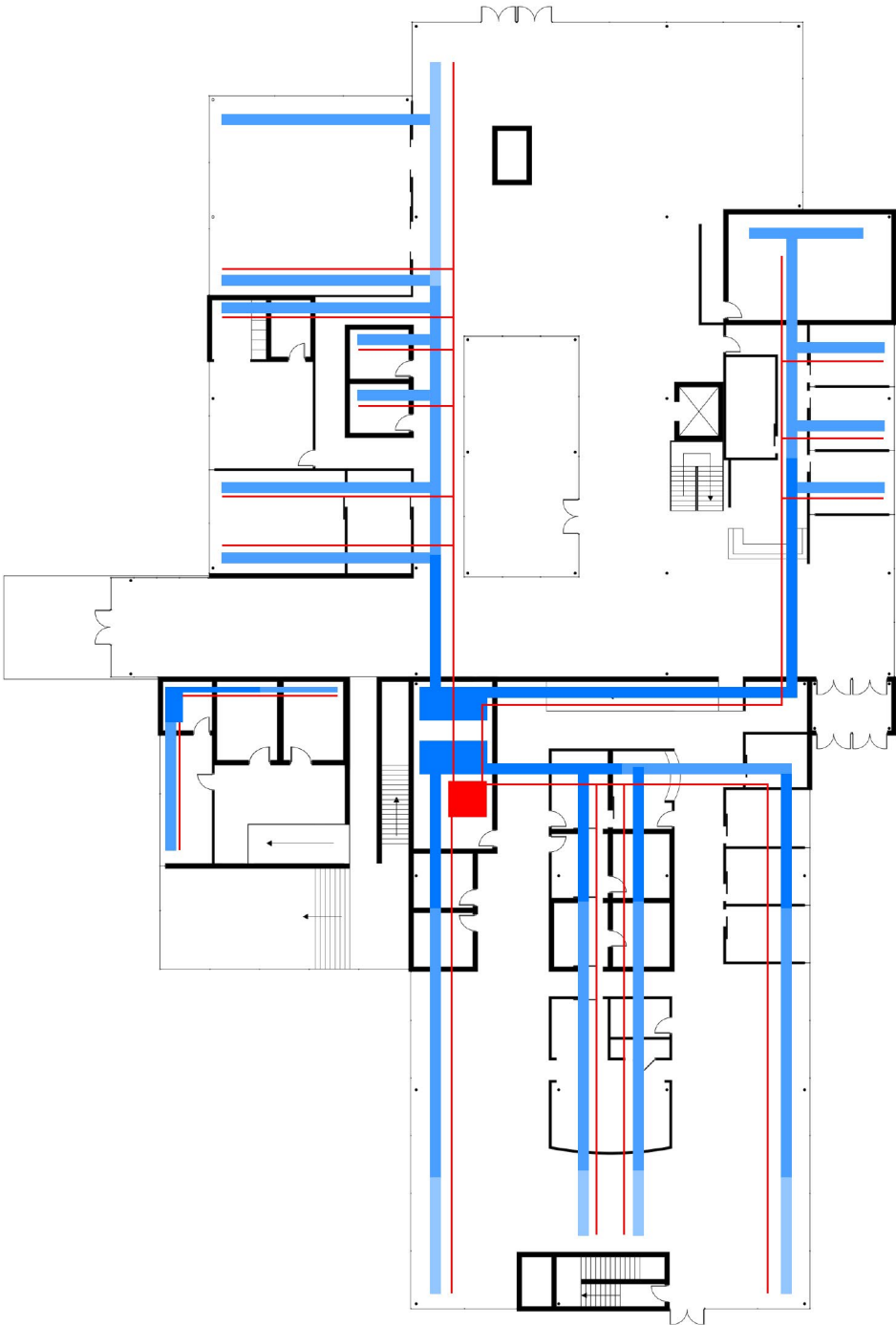
Building Section



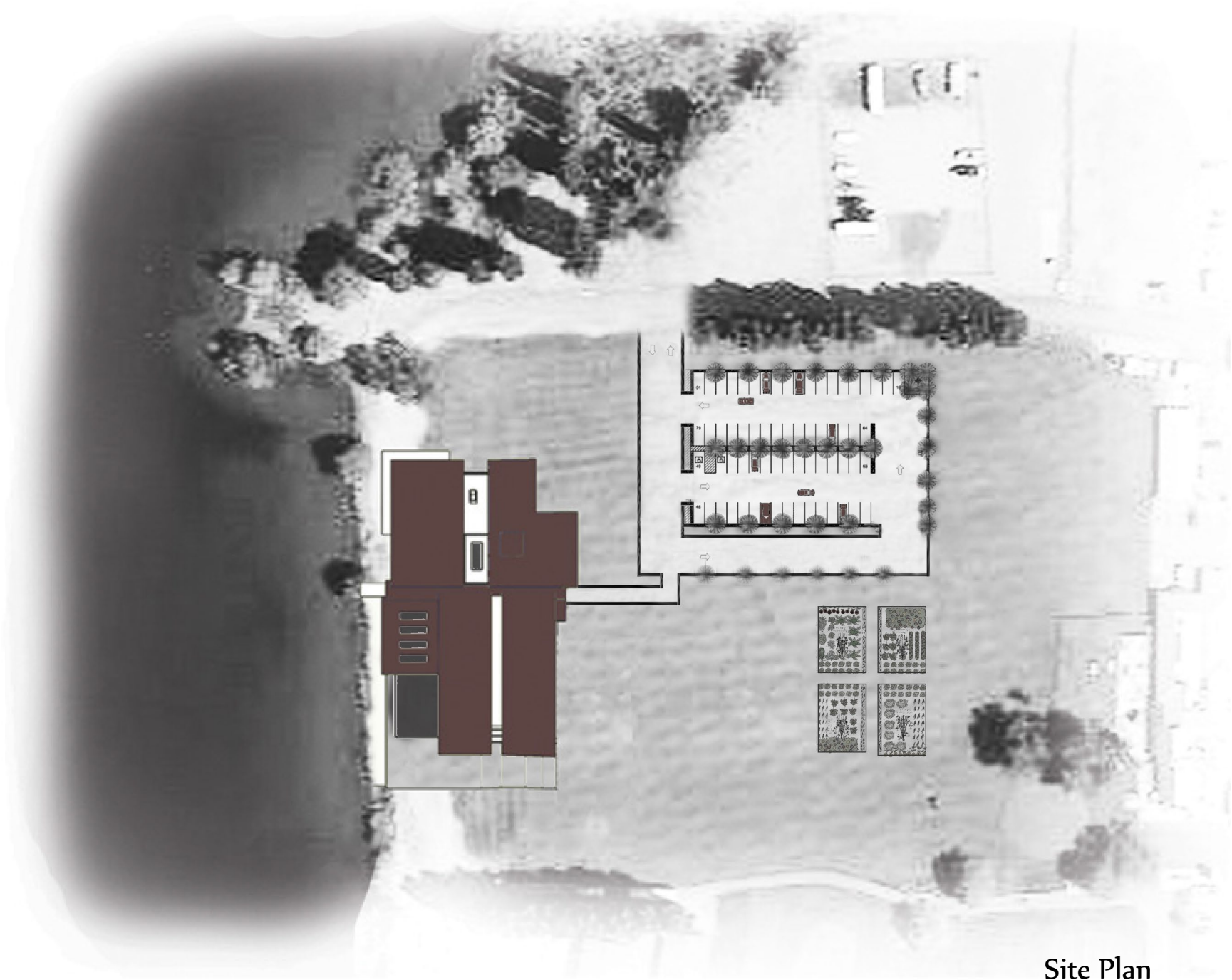
Building Envelope Section



Details



HVAC Plan



Site Plan



Thank you!

