

SHEDDING LIGHT

ON THE END TO NATIVE GENOCIDE

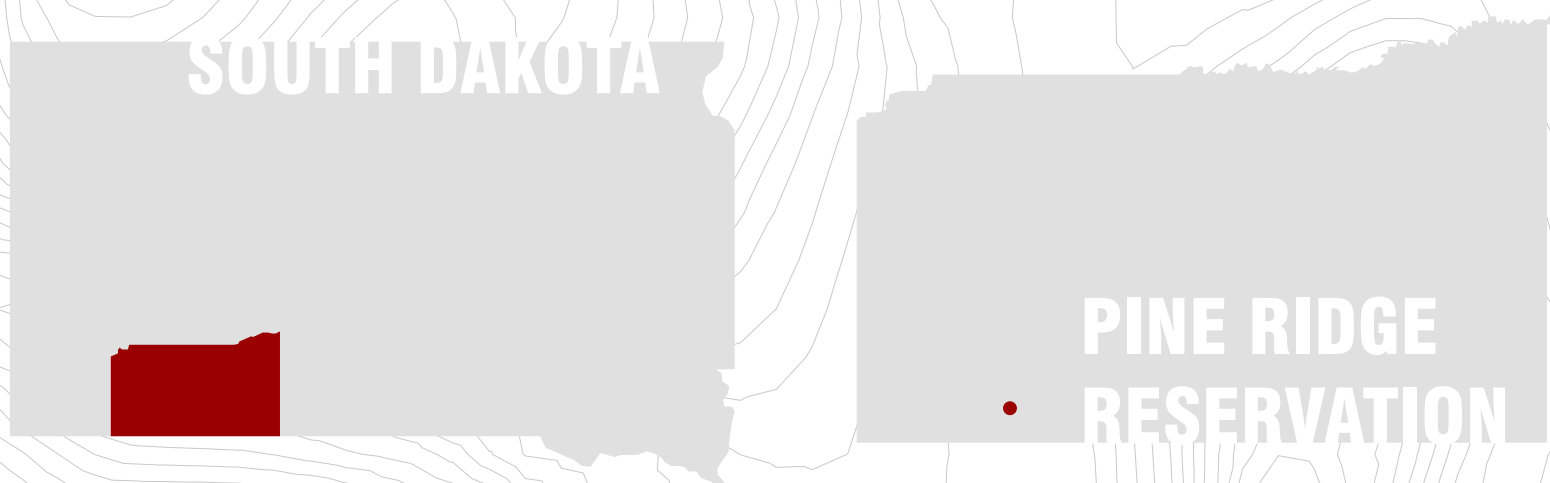
“HOW CAN ARCHITECTURE STOP A GENOCIDE OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE?”



CONTEXT

The Pine Ridge Indian Reservation has seen historical trauma. Located roughly 75 miles southeast of the Black Hills in South Dakota, Pine Ridge has received international attention for its incredible despair. Plagued for generations by a series of broken treaties with the U.S. Government, the Oglala Lakota have been left a mere fraction of their original sacred land and resources. Despair rips through the region as quality of life within Pine Ridge has been overshadowed by severe poverty and an endemic of drug and alcohol addiction. With each passing generation, spiritual and cultural values seemingly become lost as a never-ending battle of conformity to the modern world has left its mark on the indigenous people.

This thesis exposes a bitter truth of historical prejudice while providing a solution to end the ethnocide of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and to restore quality of life within its Native people. A proposed cultural center in the heart of Pine Ridge will seek education and shine light on Native American history. The center will focus on traditional Lakota practices and rituals, combining cultural influences and a safe-haven for those struggling with the long-term effects of forced assimilation. The center will provide a sense of hope and purpose, breathing life back to the Oglala Lakota.



RED CLOUD INDIAN SCHOOL

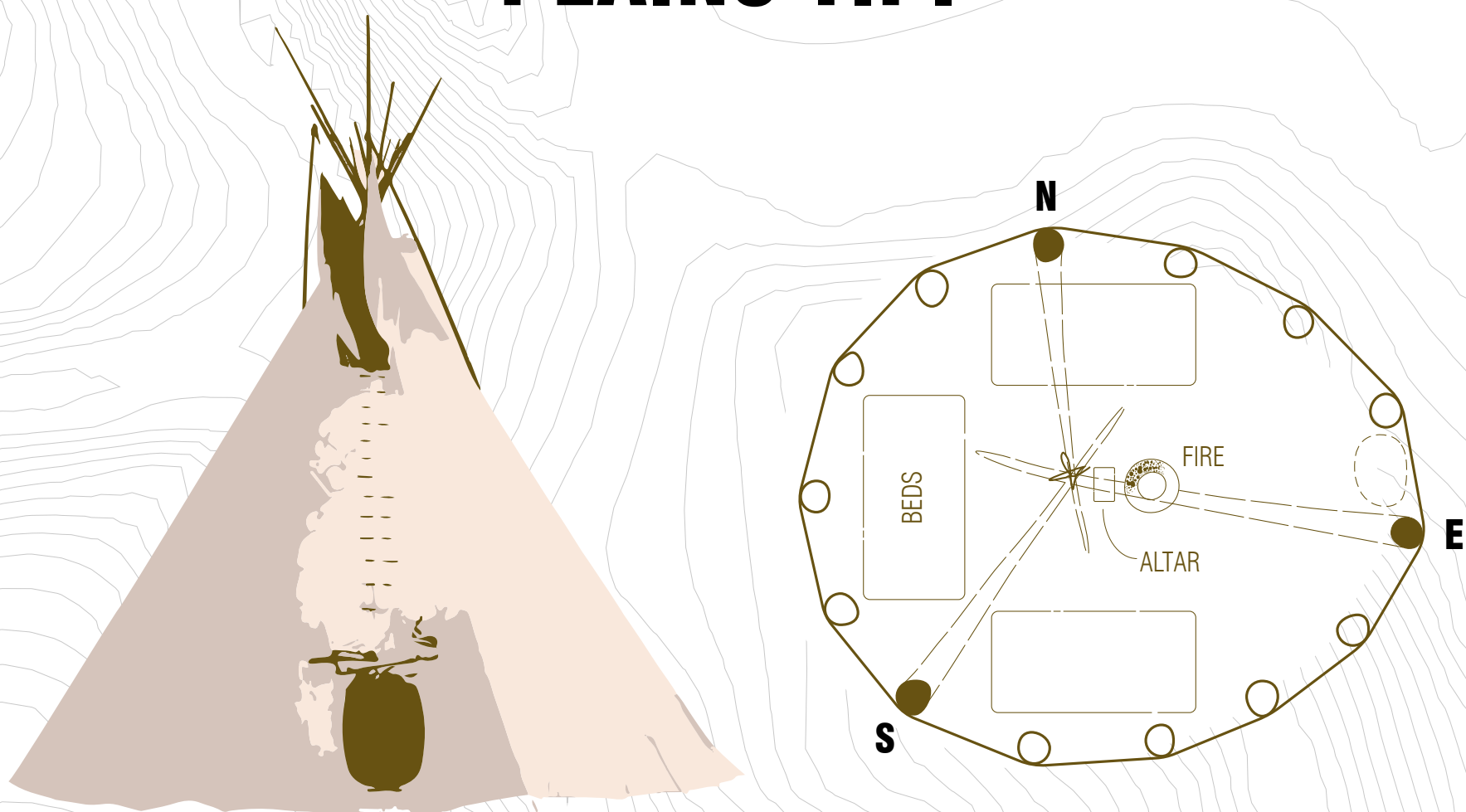
"So often the narrative of the Pine Ridge Reservation is that of deep and immense poverty, of incredible violence or sadness. But Red Cloud is a pocket of hope. I think that's exactly what we provide here, is hope for the future. And the tools in order for our students to open those doors." (Maka Akan Najin Clifford)

The Red Cloud Indian School, located roughly five miles North of Pine Ridge, serves 600 Lakota children and families on the Pine Ridge Reservation in western South Dakota. Extreme poverty is a reality on the reservation and continues to affect the overall development of the Oglala Lakota and their city. As one may expect, the quality of the infrastructure and cleanliness of the reservation is of major concern. However, there are exceptions to this norm and the Red Cloud Indian School campus works diligently to upend this notion.

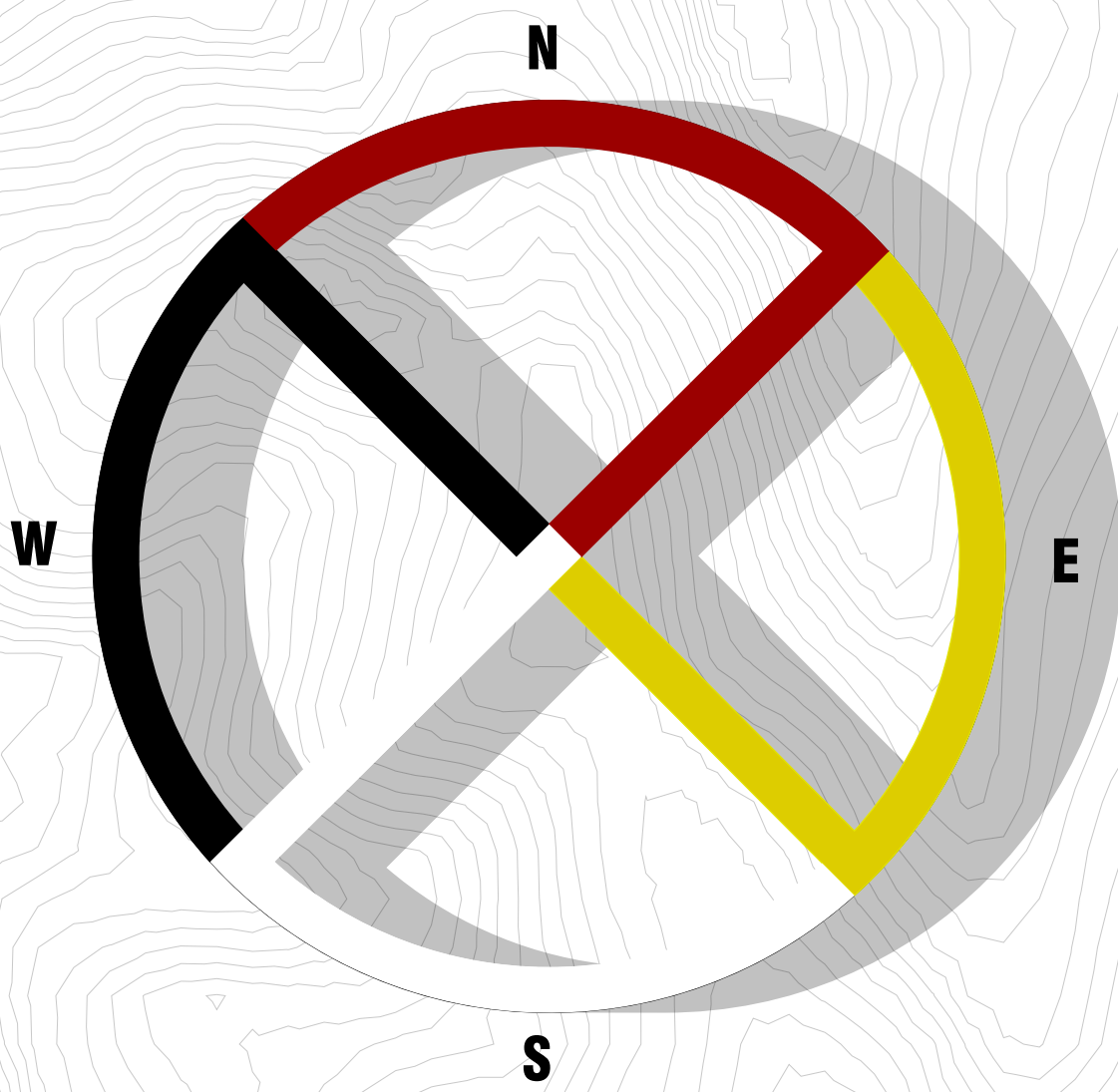
LAKOTA GRAMMAR CHART

LINE	TRIANGLE	SQUARE
STAR 	HOME 	BAG
HORSE TRACK 	CLOUDS 	EARTH
DRAGONFLY 	FEATHER 	
THUNDER 	EARTH 	
LIGHTNING 		

PLAINS TIPI



LAKOTA MEDICINE WHEEL



SACRED BADLANDS

DESIGN INSPIRATION