REINVIGORATING A CONVERSATION ABOUT NATURE THROUGH ARCHITECTURE: MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ECOLOGICAL DISASTER

BECAUSE THE PERCEPTION OF NATURE HAS SHIFTED OVER THE COURSE OF HUMAN CIVILIZATION - FROM A LIVING "THOU" TO AN EXTERNALIZED "IT" - THIS PROJECT SEEKS TO REINVIGORATE A MORE ESSENTIAL INTERACTION WITH THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. THIS SIMPLE SHIFT FROM A LIVING, SHARED WORLD TO A DEAD, USABLE ONE HAS TAKEN US FROM A RAPPORT WITH A LIVING NATURE TO A MODERN ENVIRONMENT THAT IS DOMINATED BY INSTRUMENTS. INDEED, WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY TRANSFORMED "THE STUFF OF NATURE" INTO CAPITAL TO THE POINT WHERE THERE MAY BE NO MORE STUFF OF NATURE TO BE TRANSFORMED. CAN THIS SITUATION BE ADDRESSED BY CURRENT DISCUSSION OF SUSTAINABILITY UNDERSTOOD AS CONCEPTUAL INFORMATION? OR, DO WE NEED TO REENGAGE WITH NATURE IN A WAY THAT IS TANGIBLY FELT -IN A PLACE THAT REAWAKEN AN EXPERIENCE ABOUT OUR CONNECTION TO NATURE AND THE WORLD. THIS THESIS EXAMINES WHY WE, AS MODERN HUMANS, MUST REINVIGORATE A CONVERSATION ABOUT NATURE THROUGH THE DESIGN OF A MUSEUM AND RESEARCH FACILITY THAT DRAWS AWARENESS TO THE ROLE WE MAY HAVE ON MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE. MAKING INFORMATION MORE PALPABLE, MY ARCHITECTURE TRANSFORMS OBSERVABLE FACTS INTO A FOLIATE, EARTHY EXPRESSION OF OUR CONNECTION



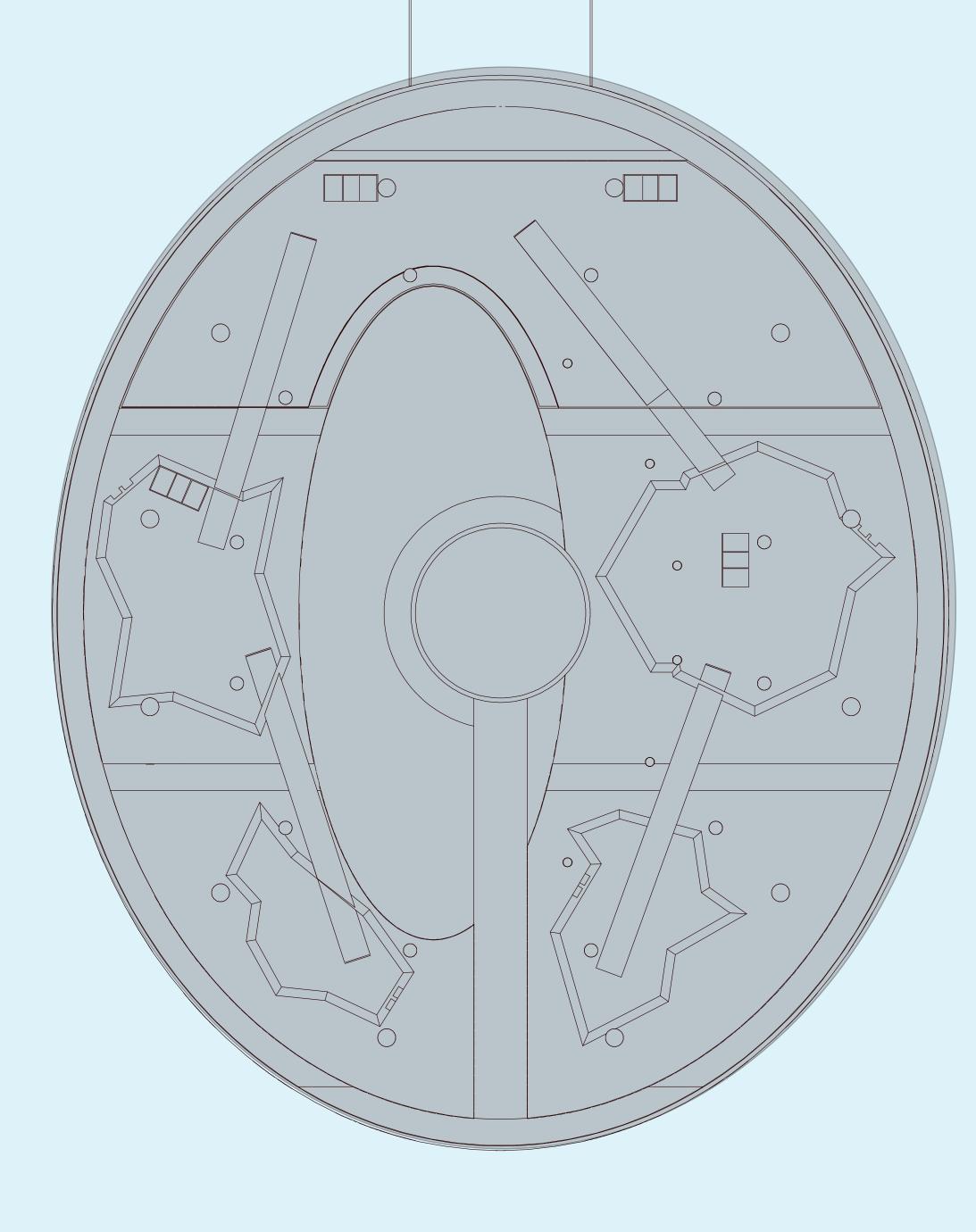
AND DEPENDENCY ON THE NATURAL WORLD. BECAUSE CLIMATE CHANGE IS VERY MUCH A TOPIC OF POLITICAL DISCUSSION, THE PROJECT IS PLACED IN WASHINGTON D.C., BRINGING THE CONVERSATION RIGHT INTO THE GROUND OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITAL.

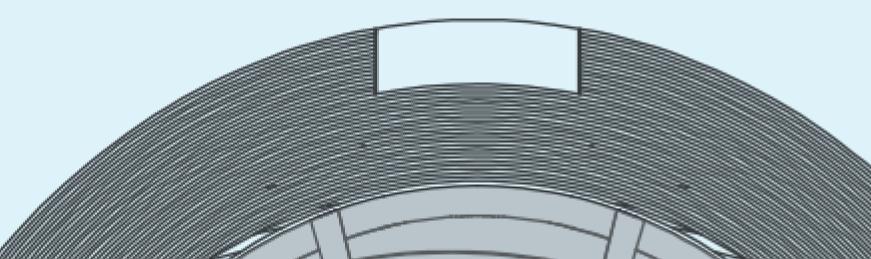


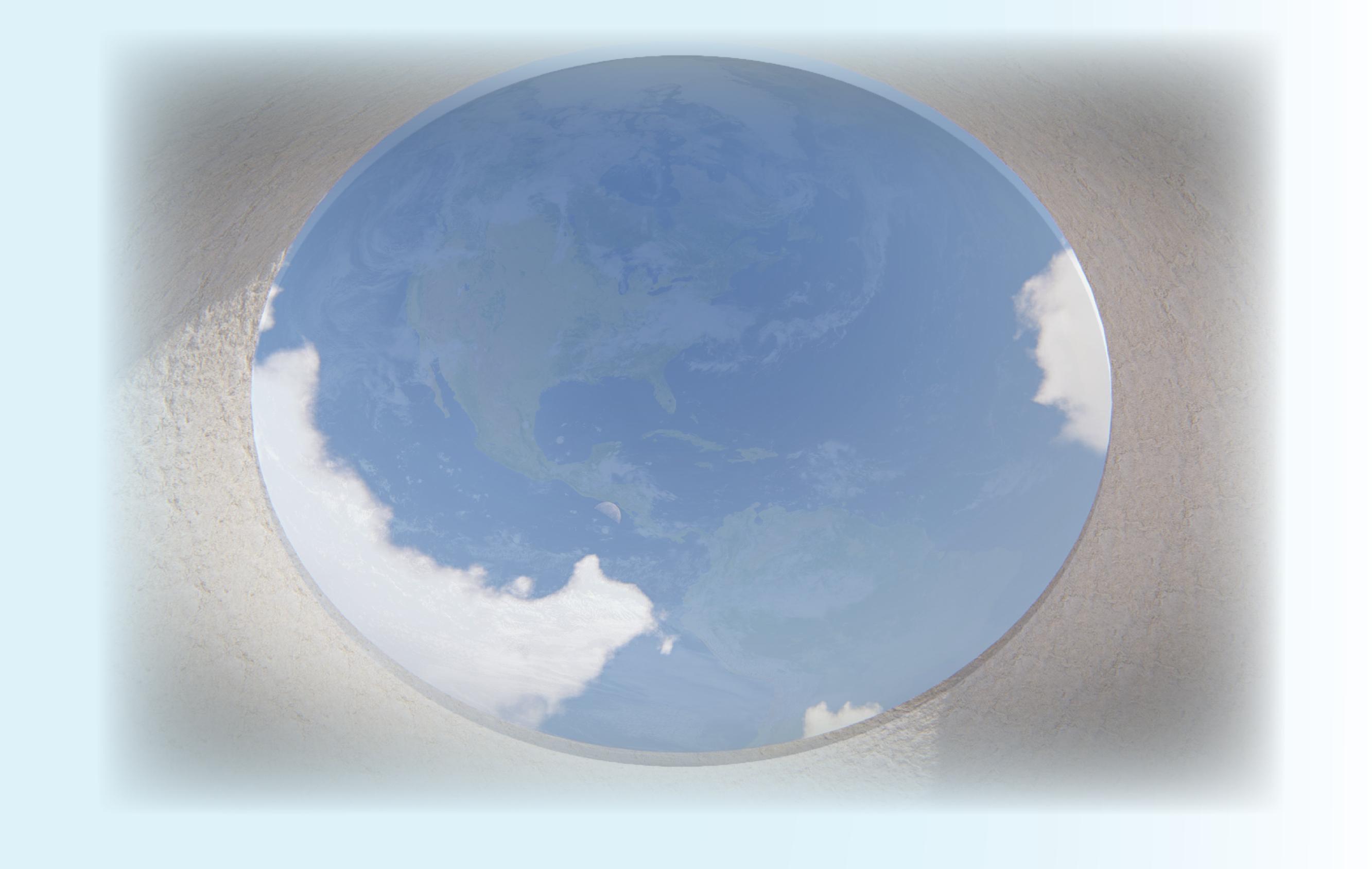
Ancient people lived in nature, they used myth to comprehend what was going ON AROUND THEM IN THE WORLD BY GIVING THE NATURAL WORLD HUMAN CHARACTER-ISTICS. THEY BELIEVED THAT THE GODS WERE PERFORMING AN ACT OF NATURE ON THEM. These myths of the Gods were reality to ancient people. The myths made it possi-BLE TO JUSTIFY WHY SOMETHING THEY EXPERIENCED, HAPPENED. THEY PRAISED THESE GODS BY MAKING OFFERINGS AND BY BUILDING STRUCTURES AND MONUMENTS FOR THEM, WHICH CONNECTED THEM TO THE COSMOS.











This Building would serve as a research facility for climate change, while also be-

ING A PLACE OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC. THE BUILDING AIMS TO MAKE THE VISITOR EXPE-

WILL TRAVEL THROUGH THE BUILDING, SOME BEING A MODERN, EFFICIENT PATH WHILE ALTER-

ING GOES DEEPER AND DEEPER INTO THE GROUND. THERE ARE PURPOSEFUL PATHS OF TRAVEL

RIENCE THE ARCHITECTURE. THERE ARE CHOICES TO MAKE WHEN DECIDING HOW A PERSON

NATE ROUTES TAKE A PERSON ALONG A JOURNEY, LITERALLY THROUGH TIME AS THE BUILD-

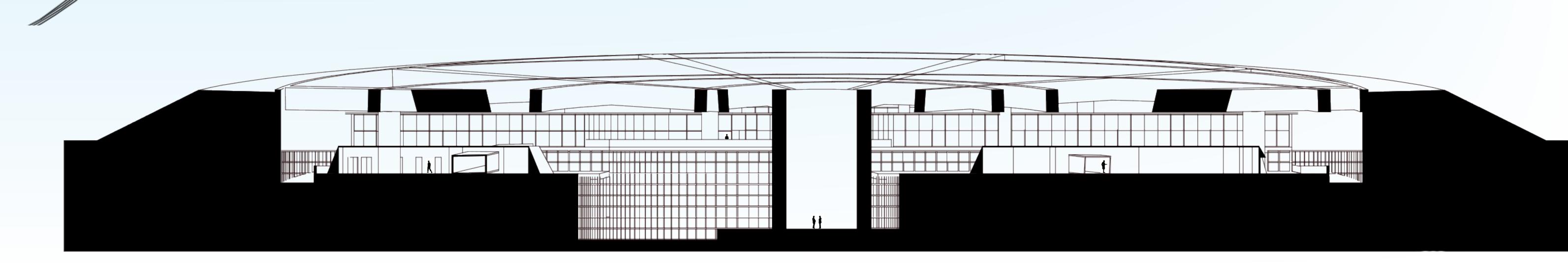
THAT MAKE VISITORS GO IN DIRECTIONS THAT ARE THE OPPOSITE OF EFFICIENT. THE BUILD-

ING IS ALSO INTENDED TO MAKE THE VISITORS INTERACT AND LEARN FROM THE RESEARCH-

ERS THAT WOULD BE WORKING HERE IN ORDER TO GET PAST THE IDEA THAT CLIMATE CHANGE

is conceptual information. The paths taken through the building will lead to a

DEEPER, MAYBE EVEN SPIRITUAL CONNECTION TO THE LIVING, NATURAL WORLD THAT SEEMS



TO HAVE FADED AWAY THROUGHOUT HUMAN HISTORY.

ARCH 772, SPRING 2020