# A Trail Center Reimagined: An Intrinsic Relationship Between Architecture and the Natural Environment



Joseph Berens NDSU 2022 Utilizing the natural landscape as a primary design influence enable a more connected, built architecture that is deeply intertwined with its surrounding environment.



Multi-use community focused structure that acts as a gathering place and gateway to the various recreational opportunities in the Piedmont Park trail system, and the larger trail systems in the Duluth area.

PIEDMONT TRAIL CENTER

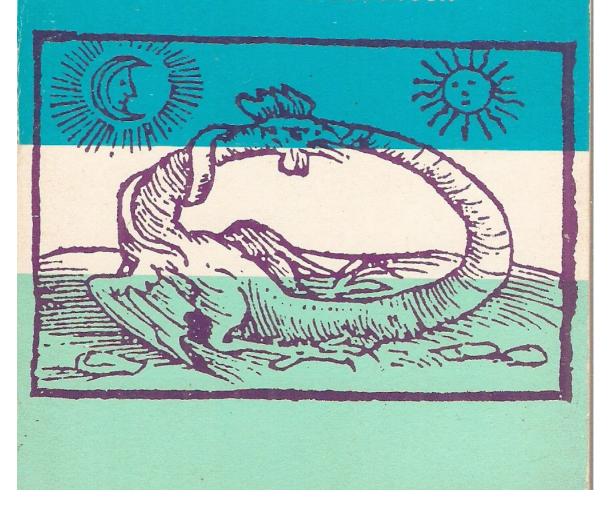


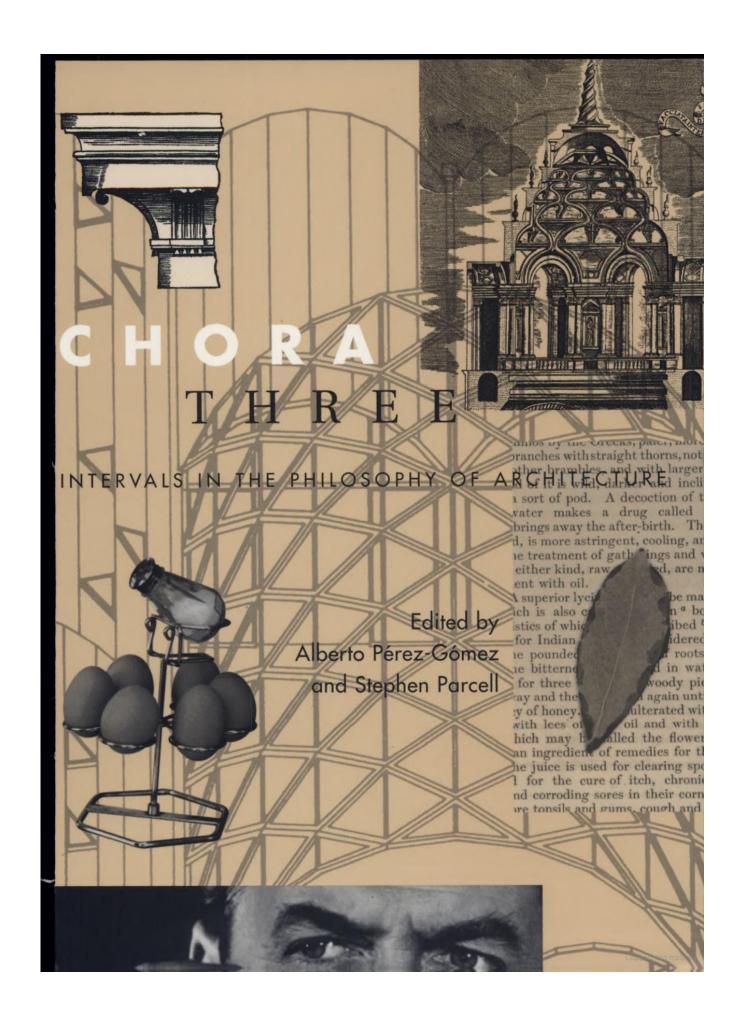
a Pelican Book

## Before Philosophy

The Intellectual Adventure
Of Ancient Man

Henri Frankfort Mrs H. A. Frankfort John A. Wilson Thorkild Jacobsen





## **Native American Communities**

Fon Du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Grand Portage Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

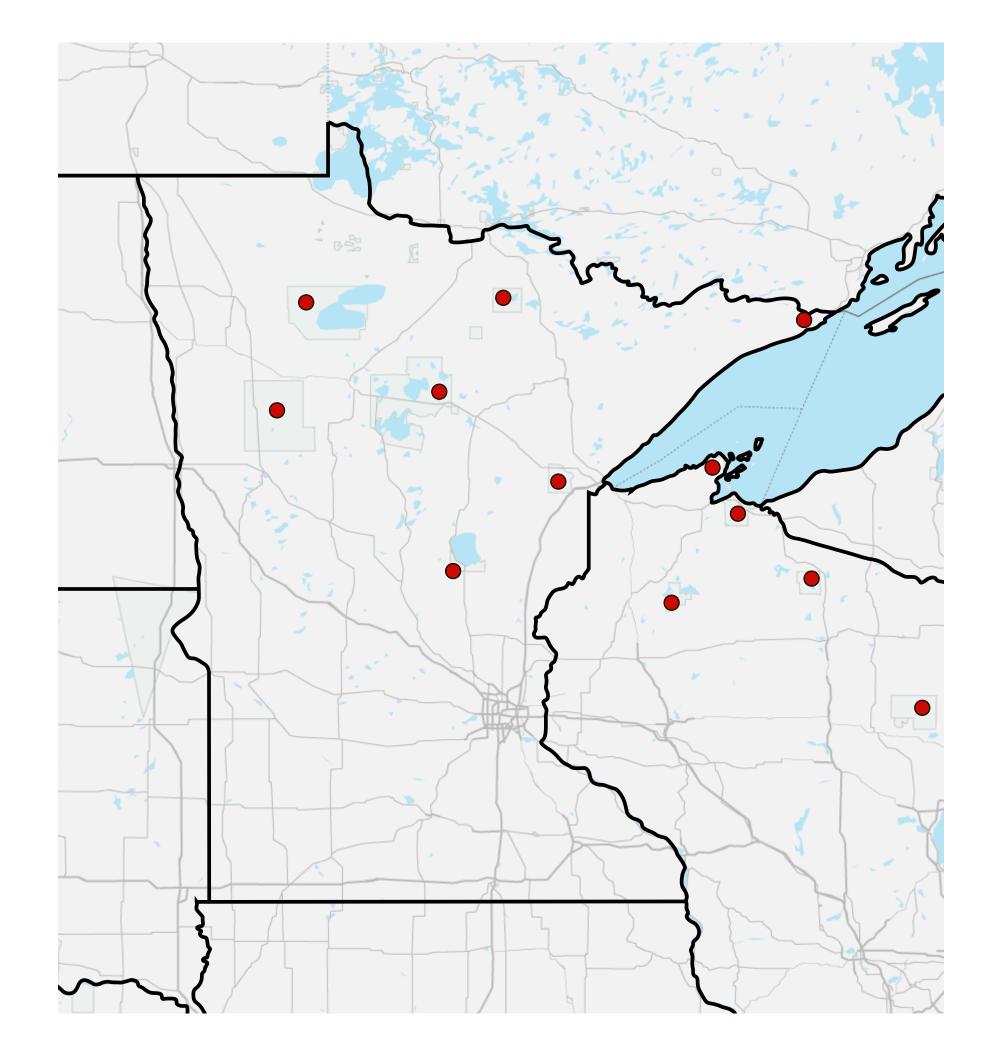
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

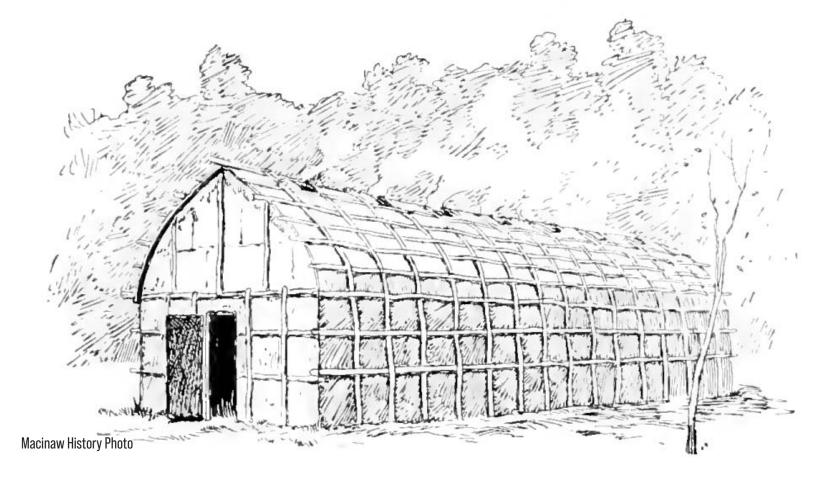
Bois Forte Band of Chippewa

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

White Earth Band of Ojibwe







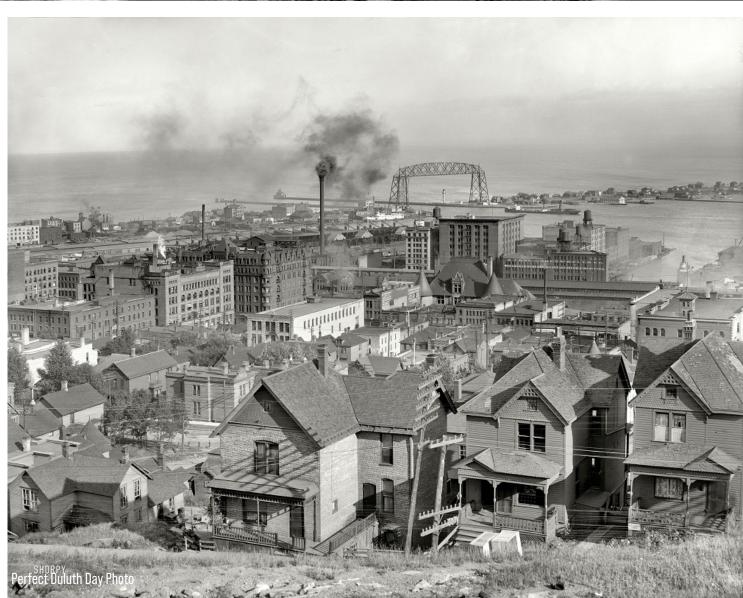




"Contemporary practices of Indigenous design are distinct and unique from the general practice of architecture because of its regenerative purpose. Buildings become the narrative of a community. The building becomes a metaphor for stories that are invested in place and time." - Cynthia E. Smith



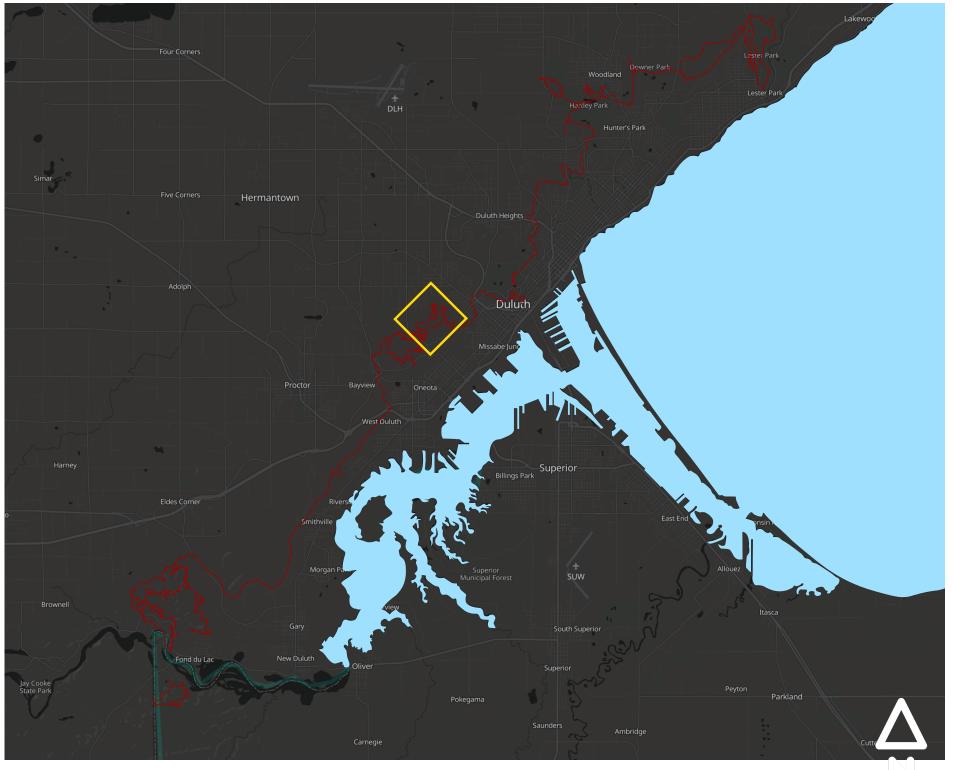




## MOUNTAIN BIKERS



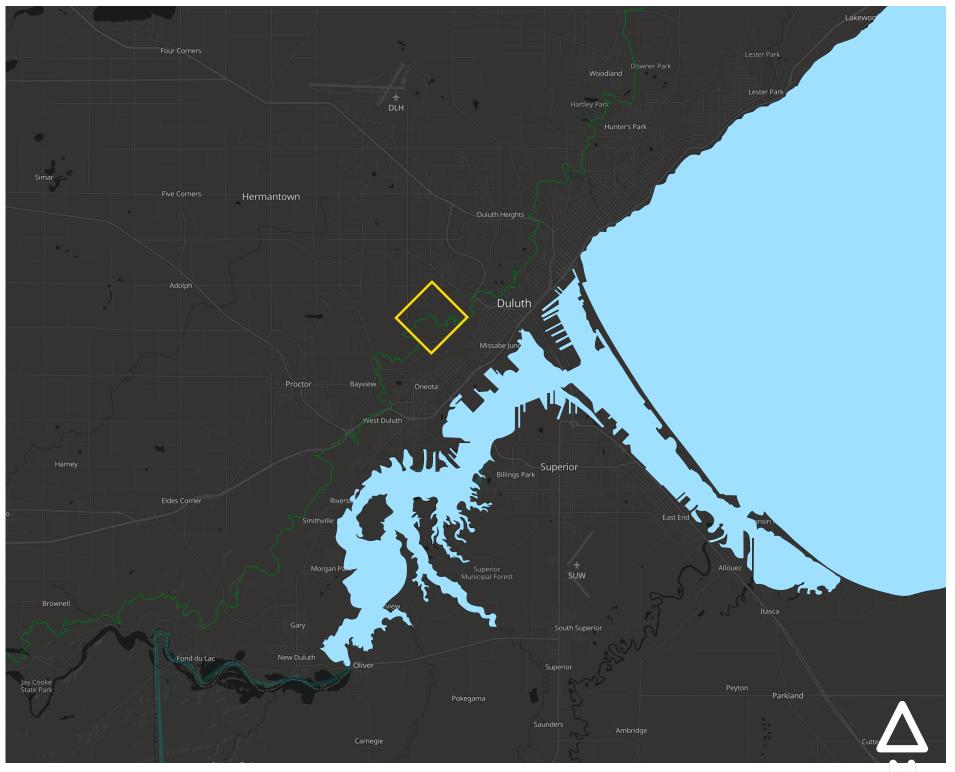
- 600 registered volunteers with COGGS
- 115 miles of bike trails
- Connected by the 42.5 mile Duluth Traverse Trail



## HIKERS



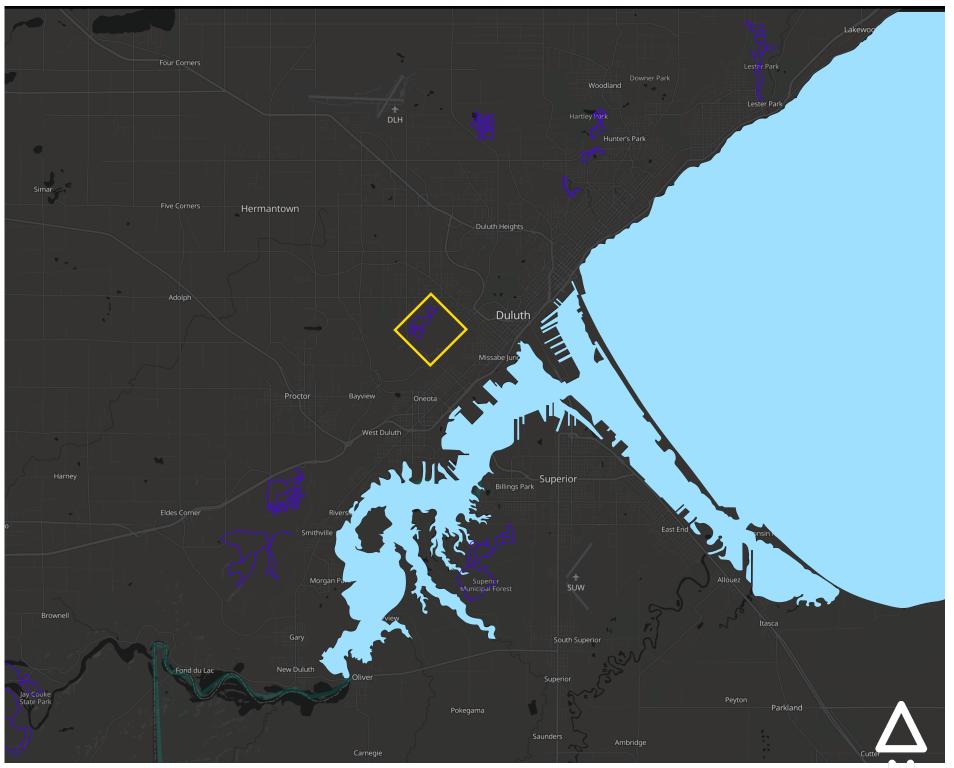
- 150 miles of established trails
- 26 miles of handicap accessible trails
- Superior Hiking Trail | 340 miles of trail along the North Shore



## CROSS COUNTRY SKIERS



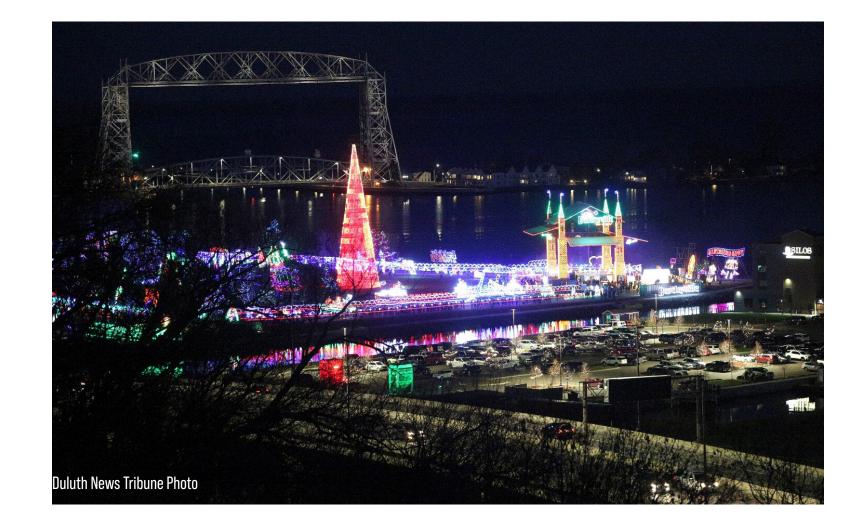
- 35 miles of established trails
- 8 trail centers throughout the Duluth region



## **TOURISTS**

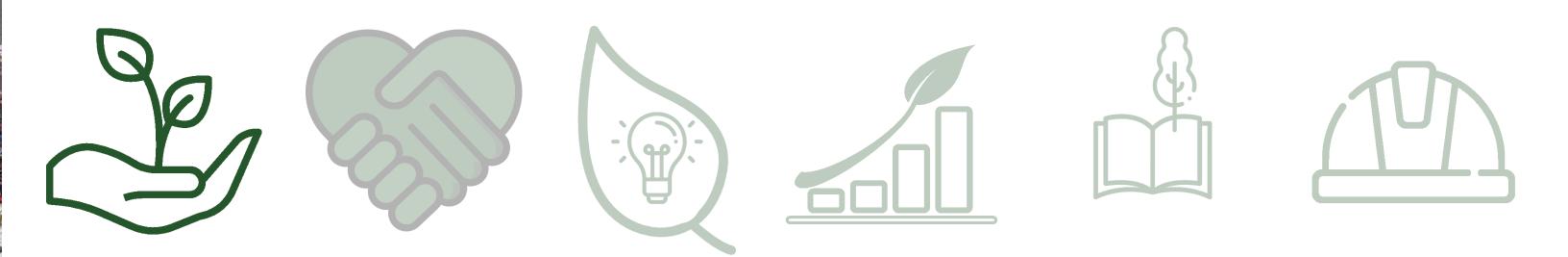


- 6.7 million tourists a year
- \$950 million dollars in economic impact per year





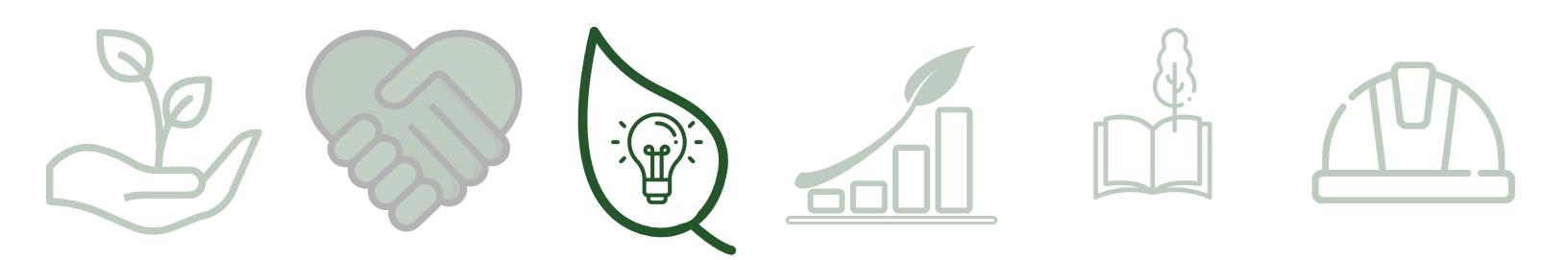




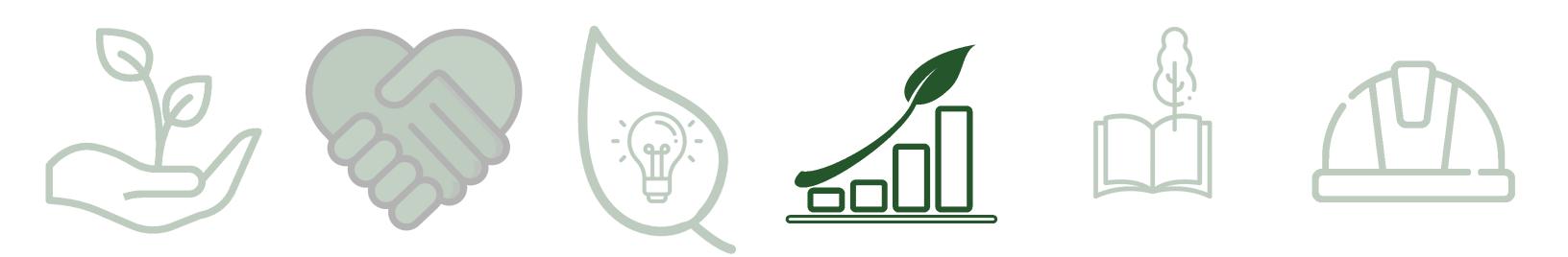
# INTEGRATIVE DESIGN



# COMMUNITY GATHERING SPACES



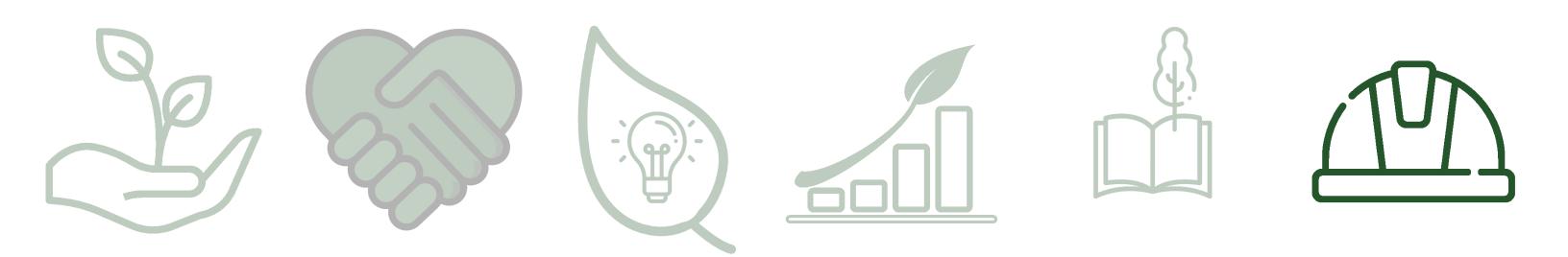
# RESPONSIBLY SOURCED MATERIALS



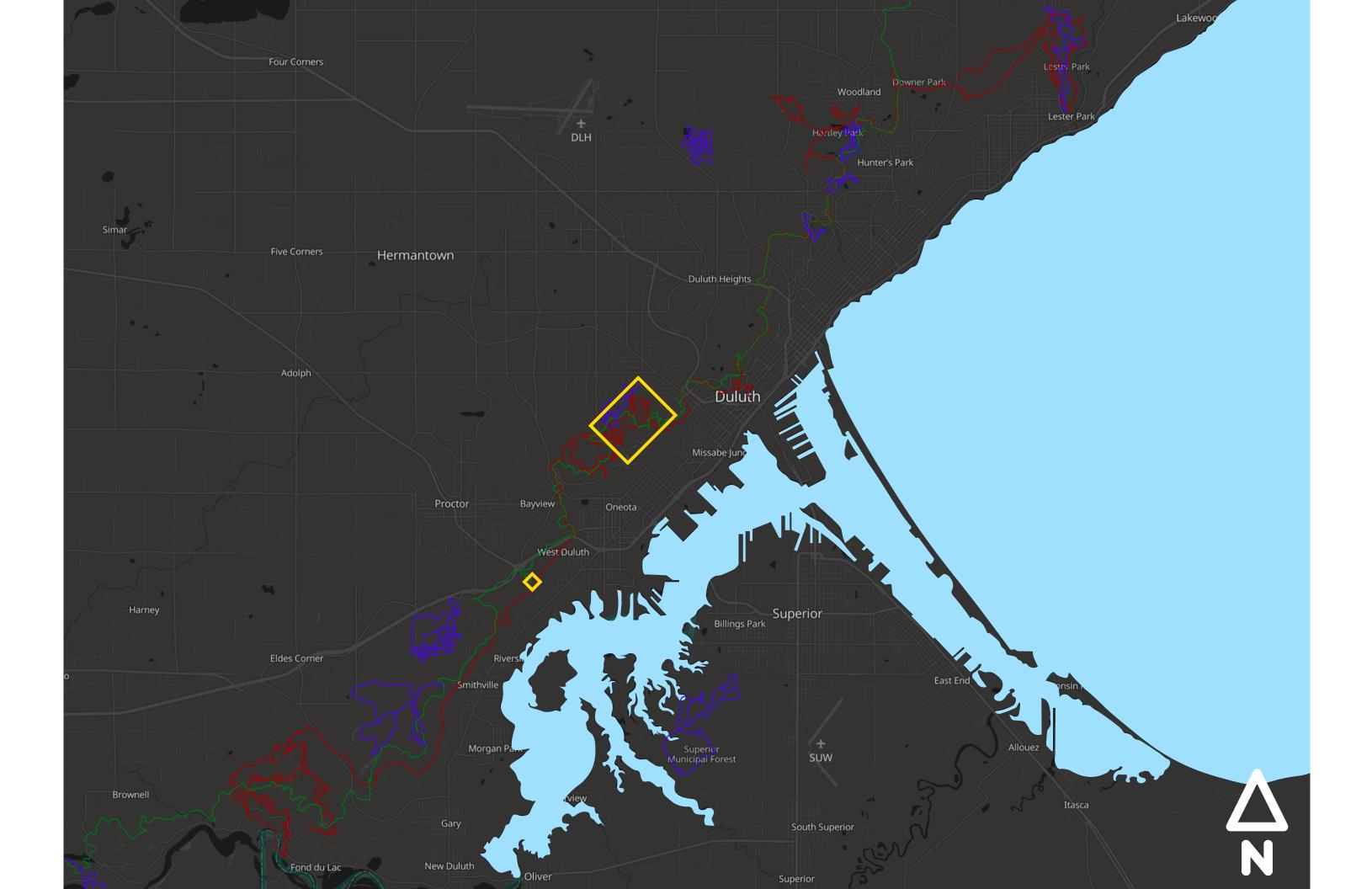
# ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE



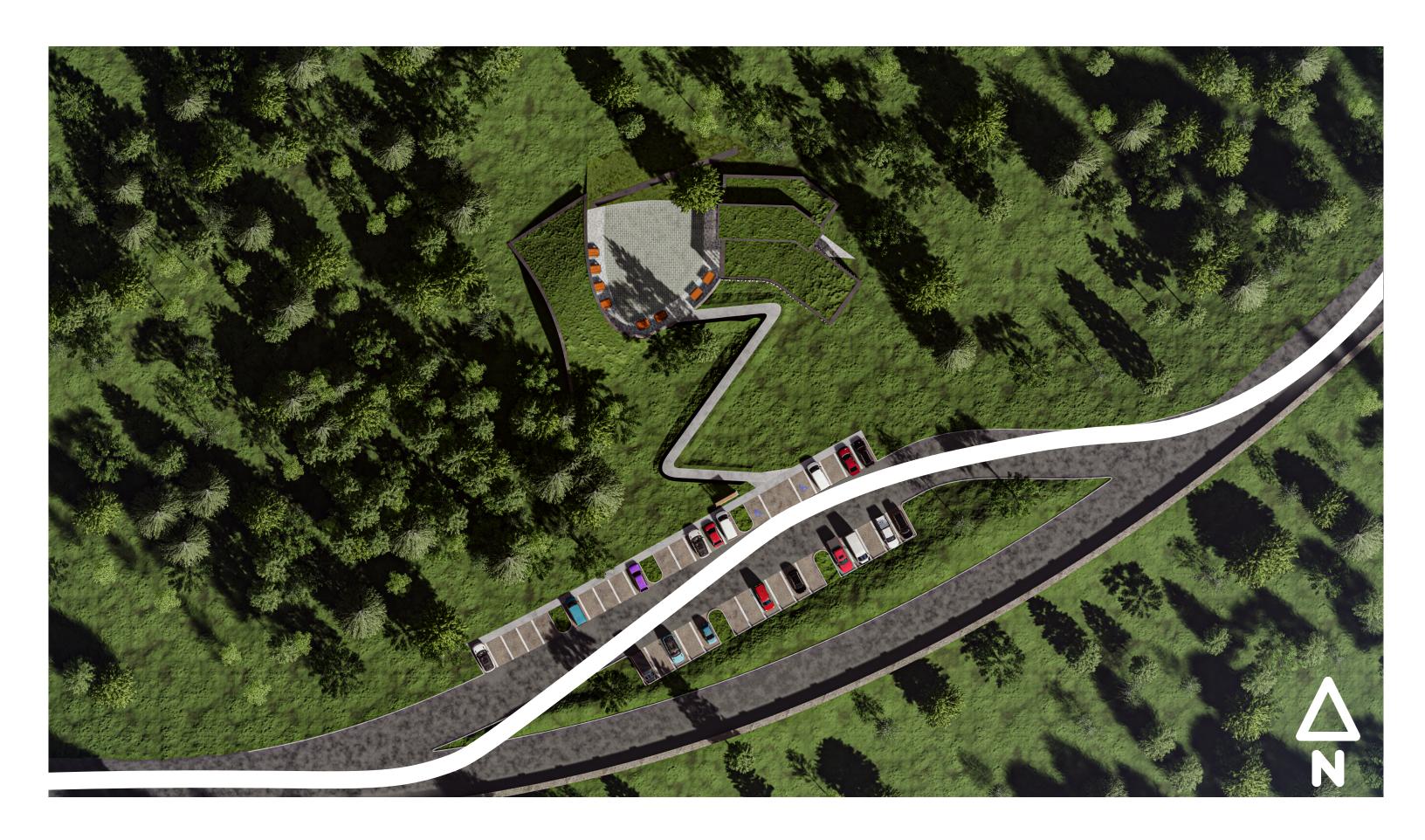
# EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



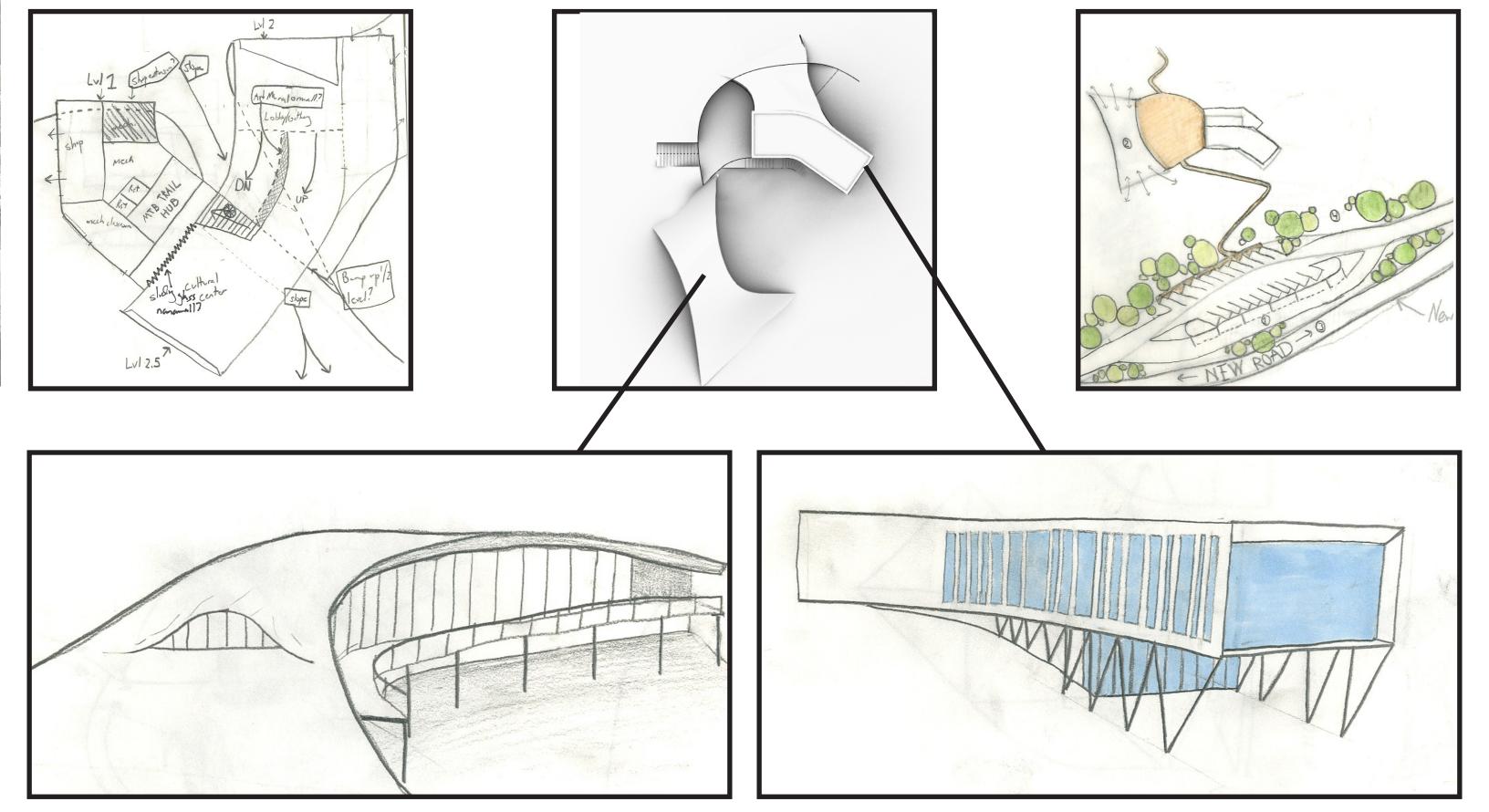
## ACCESSIBILITY AND CODE COMPLIANCE











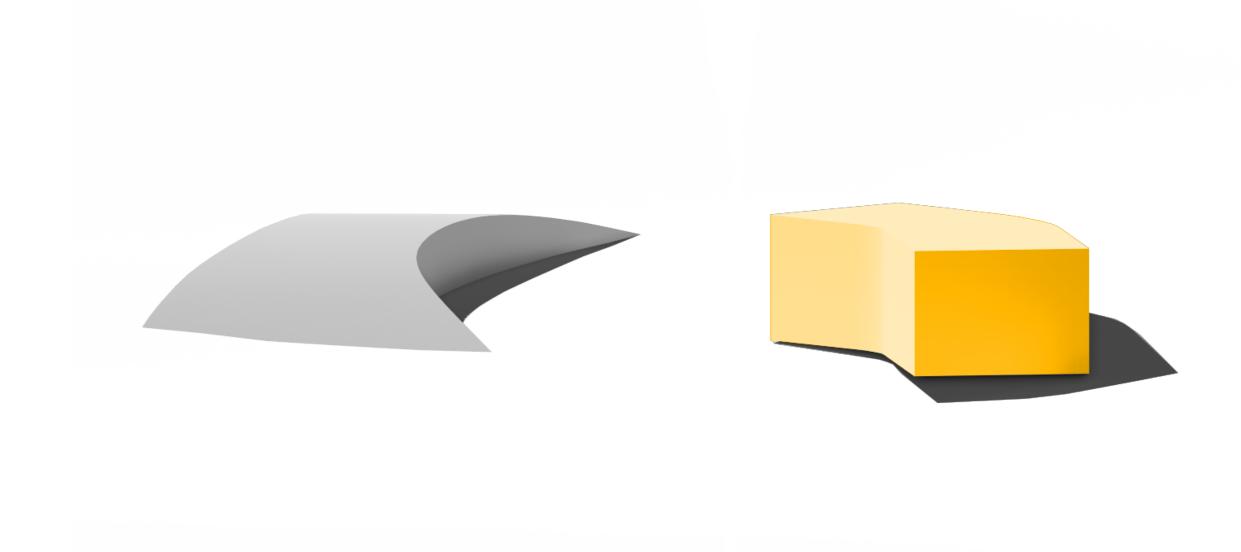
#### **FORM**

The arch building pulls the visitor into the ground plane, while the Canopy Building elevates the visitor in the trees.



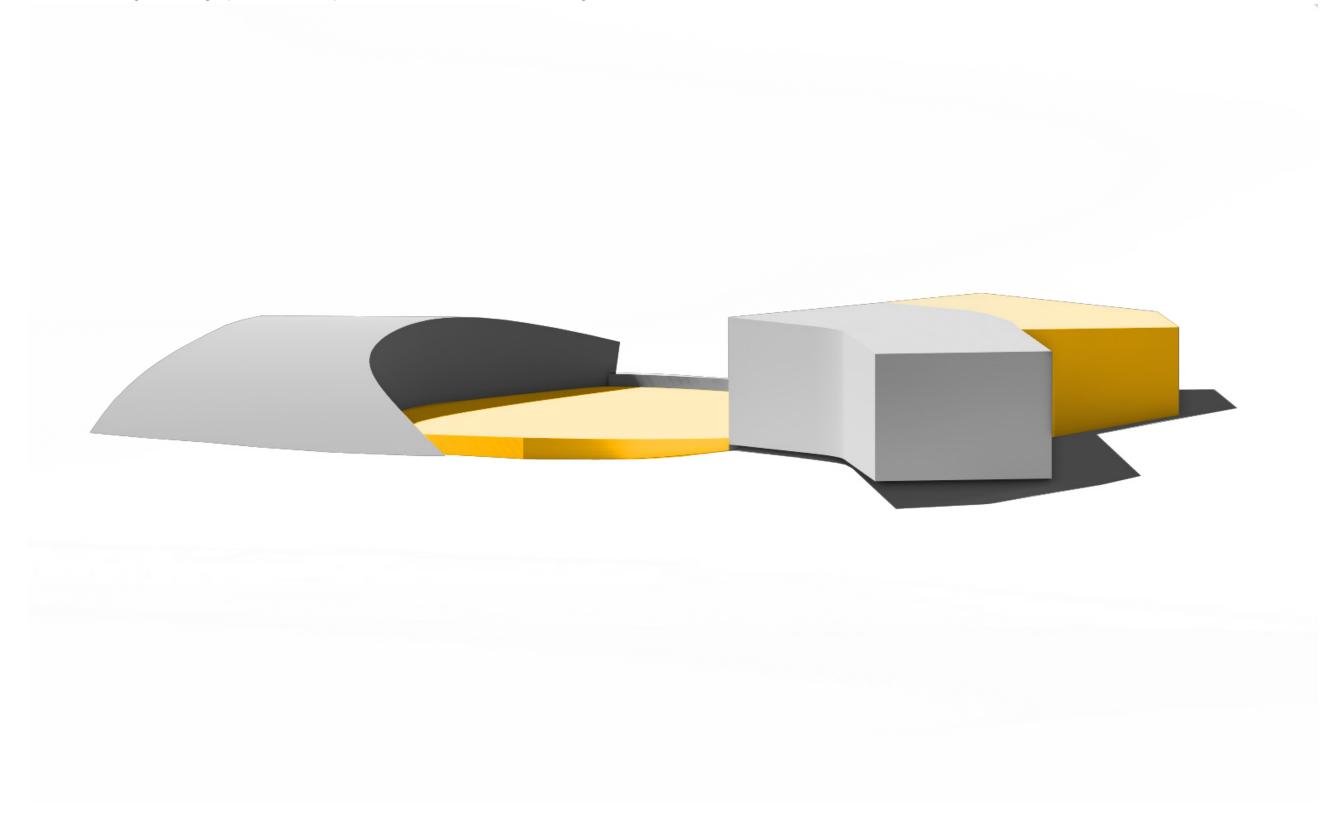


Bending the canopy building towards the St. Louis River Valley reveals impactful views from the bluff.



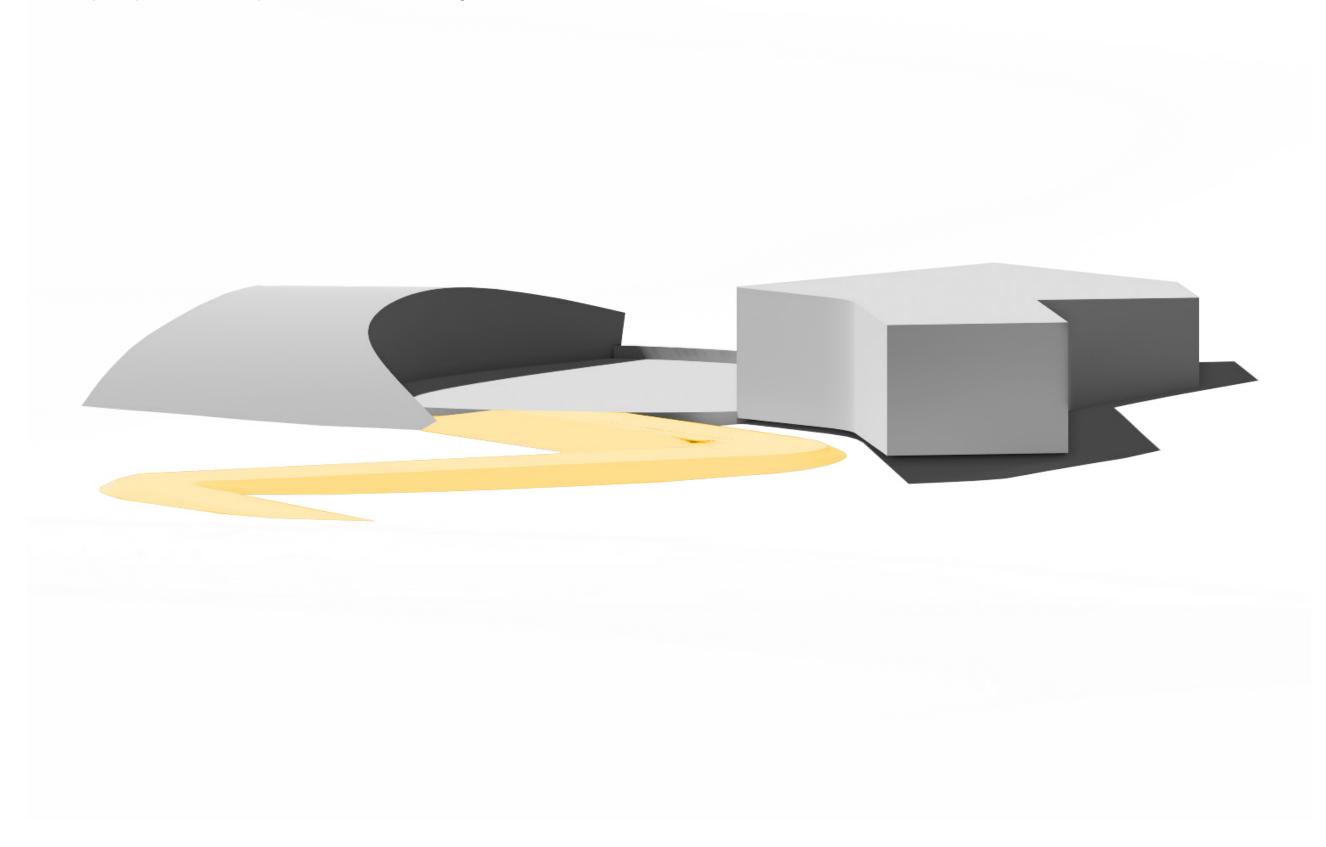
### <u>GATHERING</u>

Large interior and exterior gathering spaces make places for vsiitors to come together and relax.



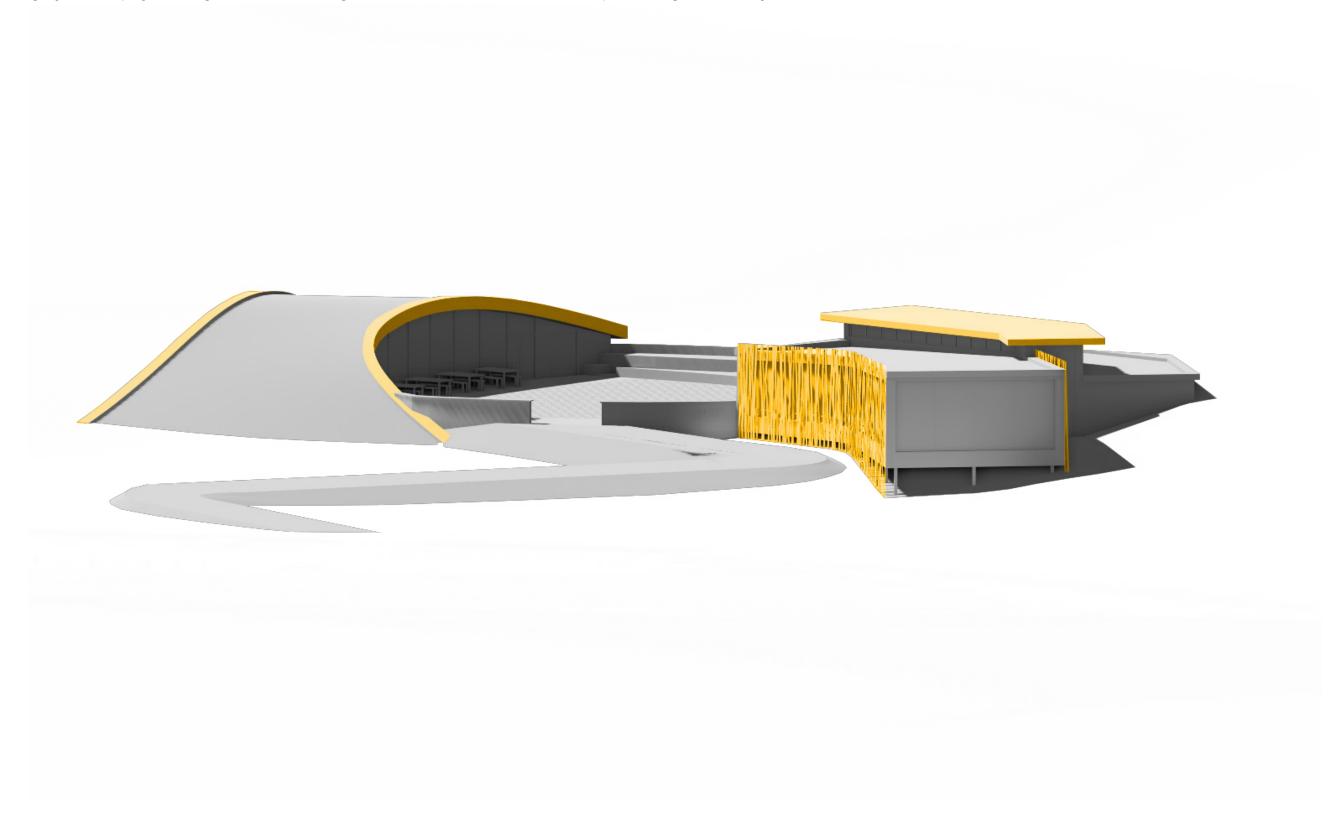
## ENTRY PATH

A handicap accessible path pulls visitors up and across the building exteriors.



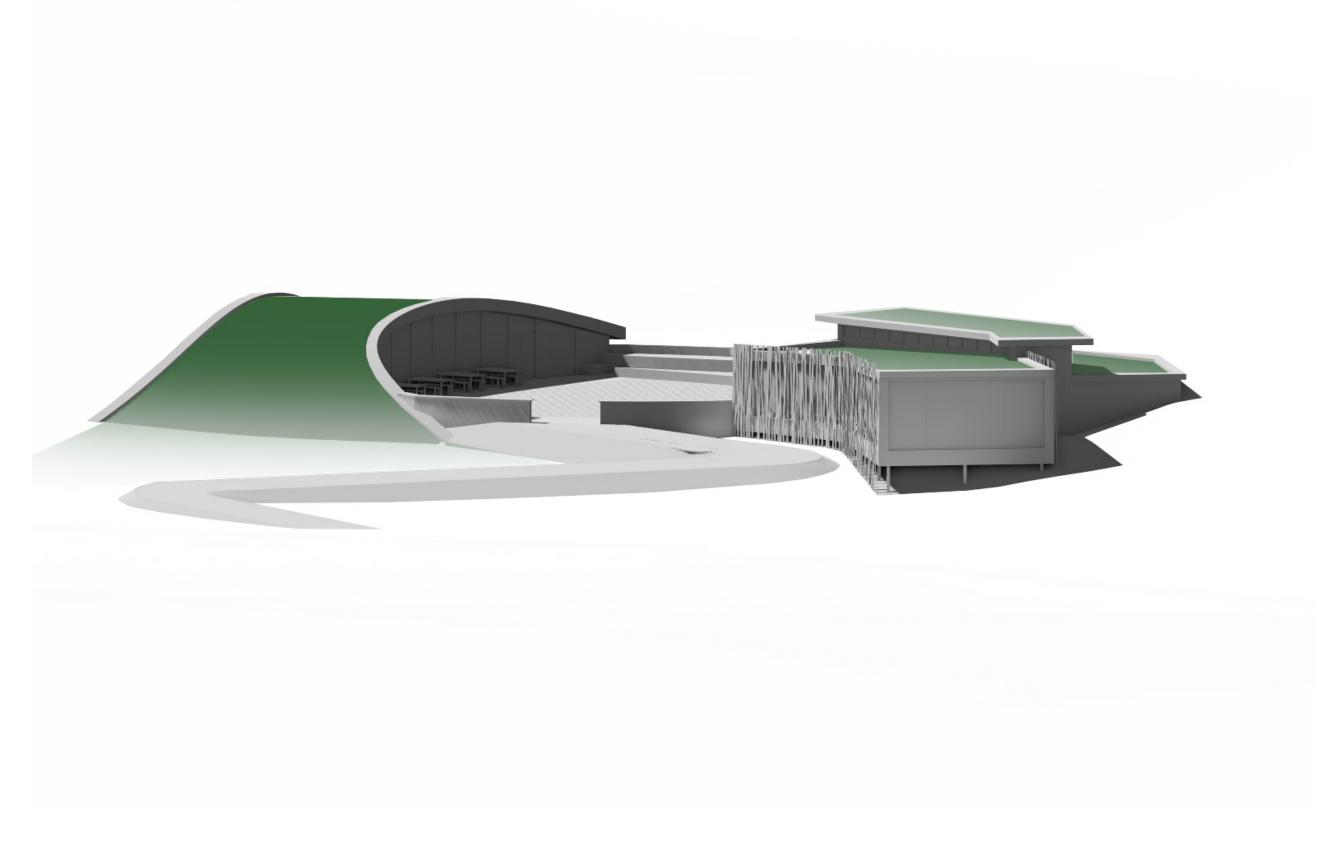
#### **SHADING**

Crafted shading systems pay homage to the buildings forested location, while still providing outwardly views.

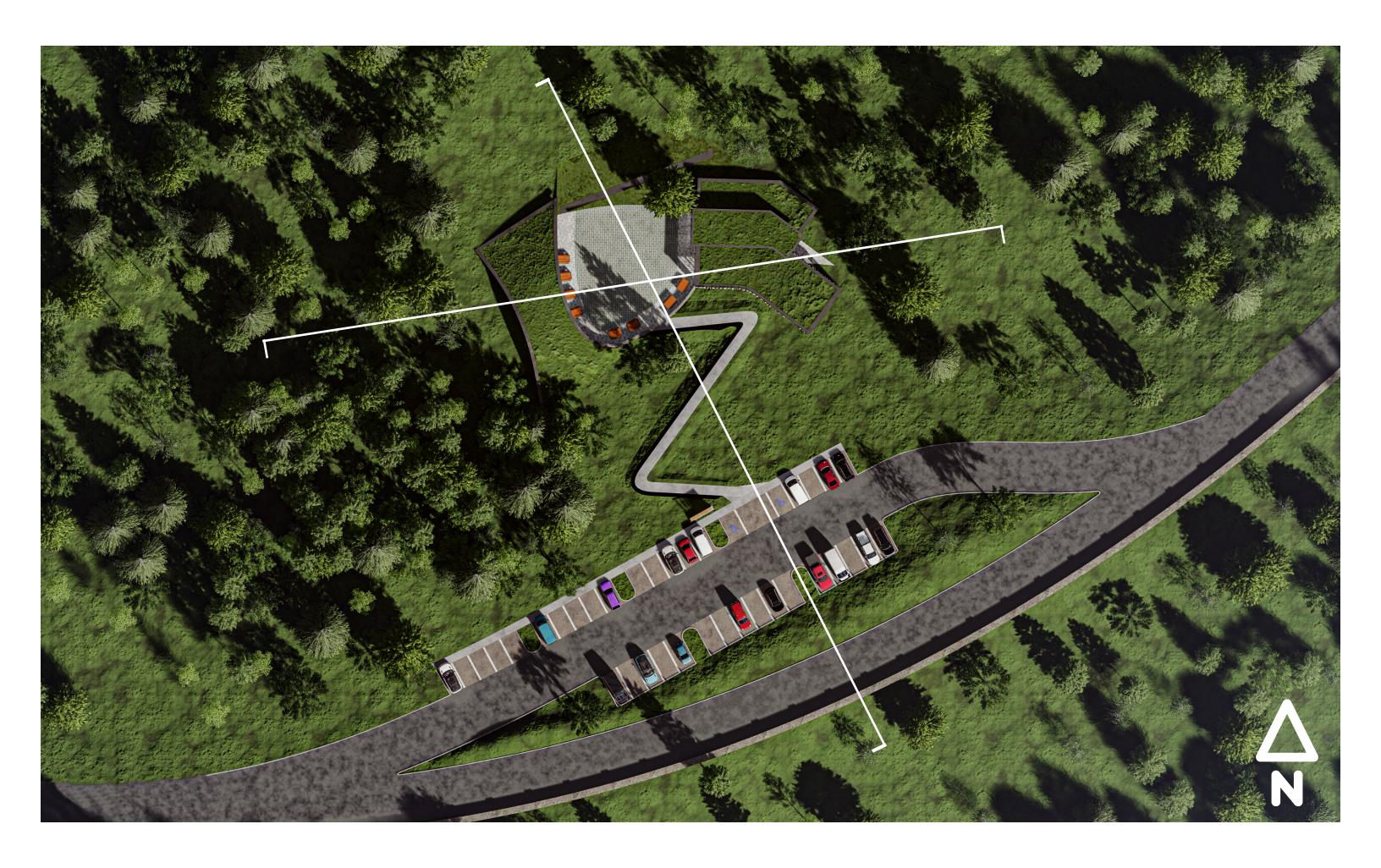


#### **GREEN ROOF**

Green roofs on both the Canopy and Arch building blend the buildings into the site, while reducing visual impact.

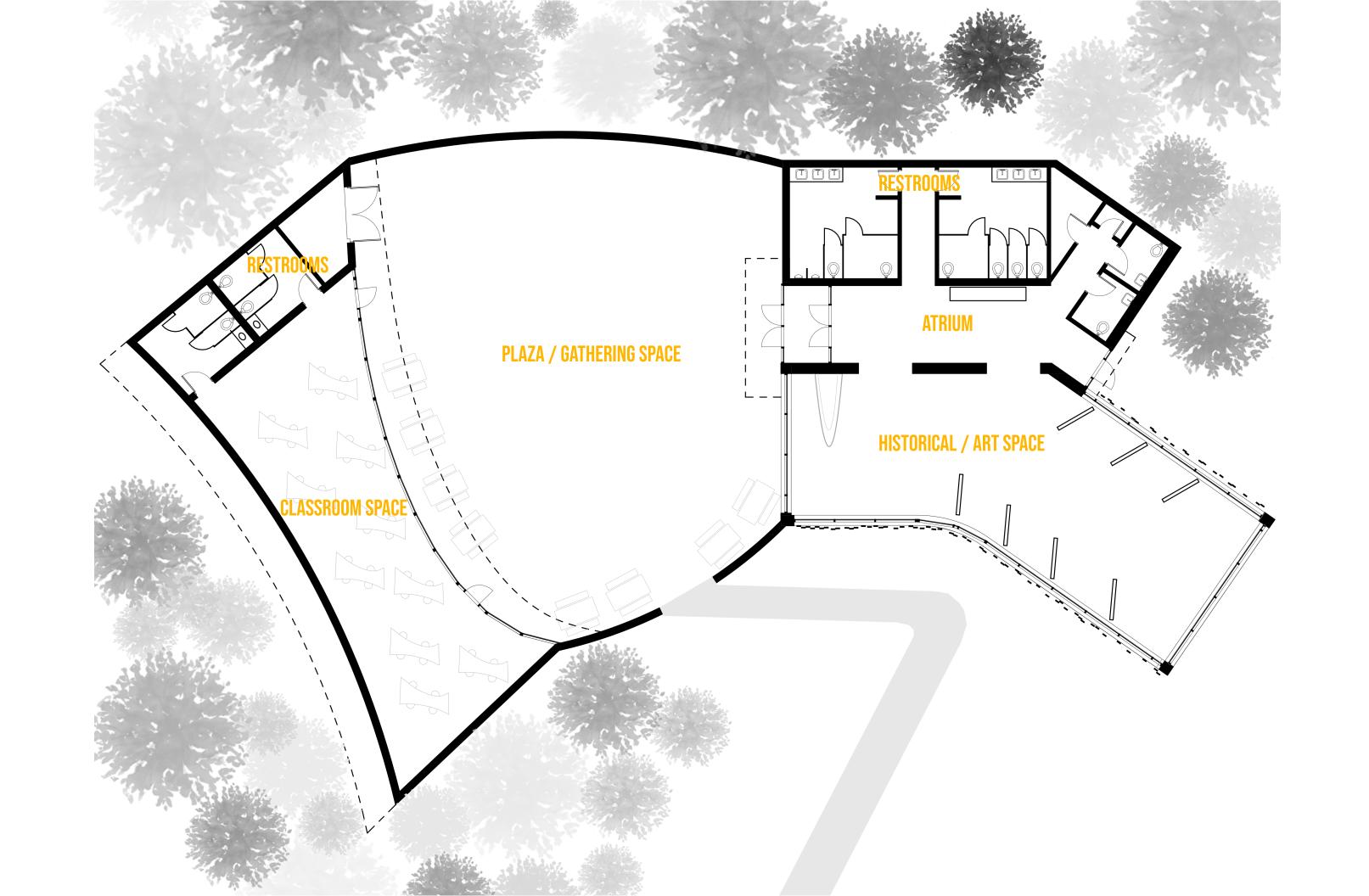














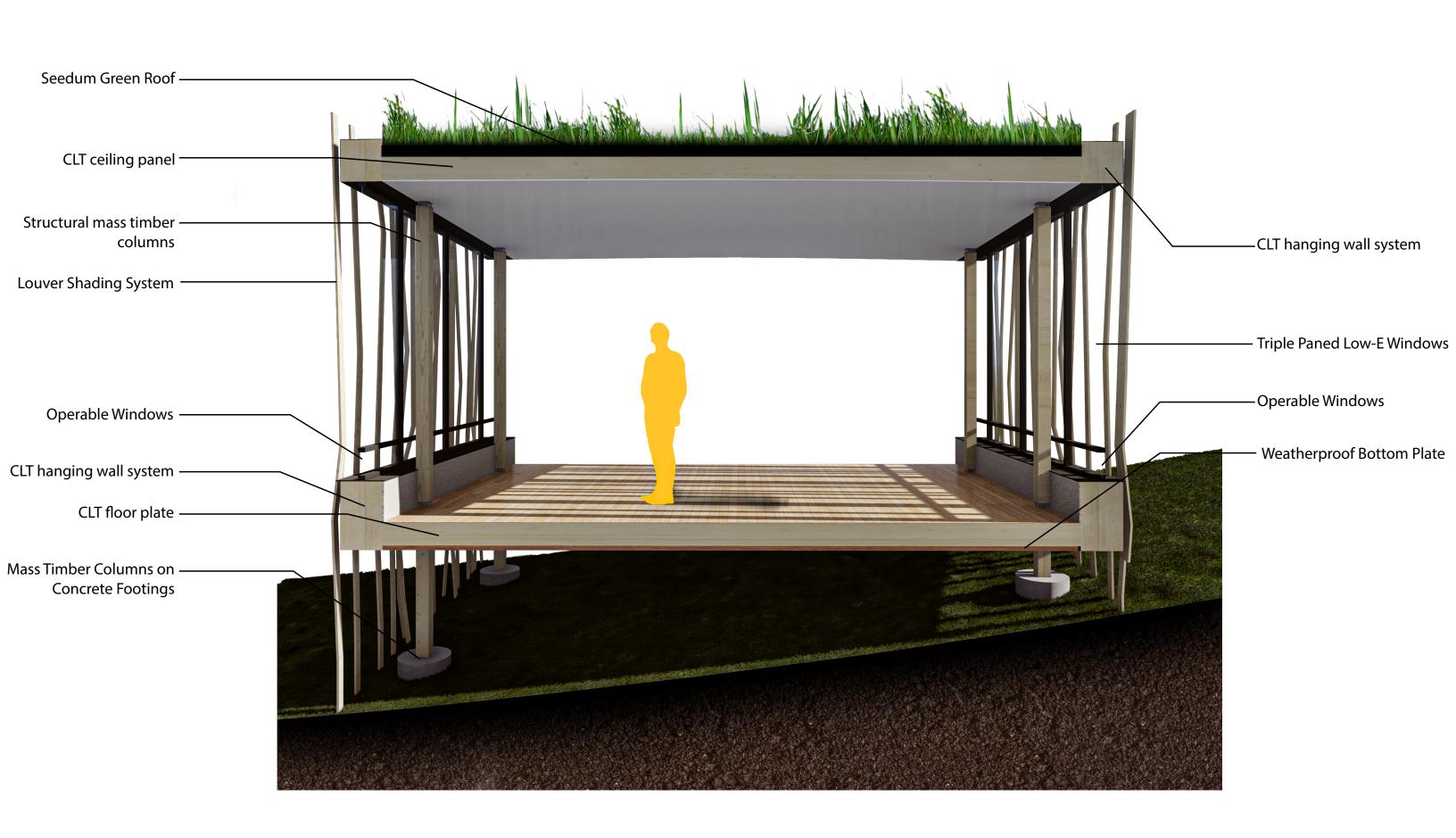










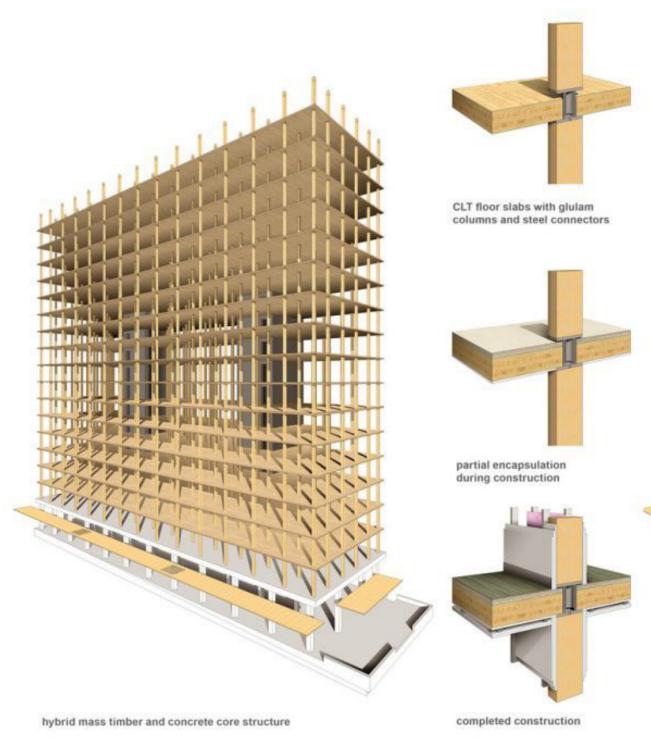


## **CLT PANEL SYSTEM**

Cross Laminated Timber, or CLT, is a prefabricated solid wood panel that can be built into a wide variety of forms. IT saw its beginnings in Europe in the early 2000's, and has exploded in popularity in the northern europe, where timber is plentiful. Its uses in North America are sparse, but it has a huge growth opportunity in the continent. CLT is created by overlapping strands of dimensional lumber and bonding them together. The panels are structurally supportive and can span further distances with less beams to support the floor load. CLT panels can be created as large as needed, pending the availability of transportation. They are commonly ~10 feet wide, and up to 60 feet long.

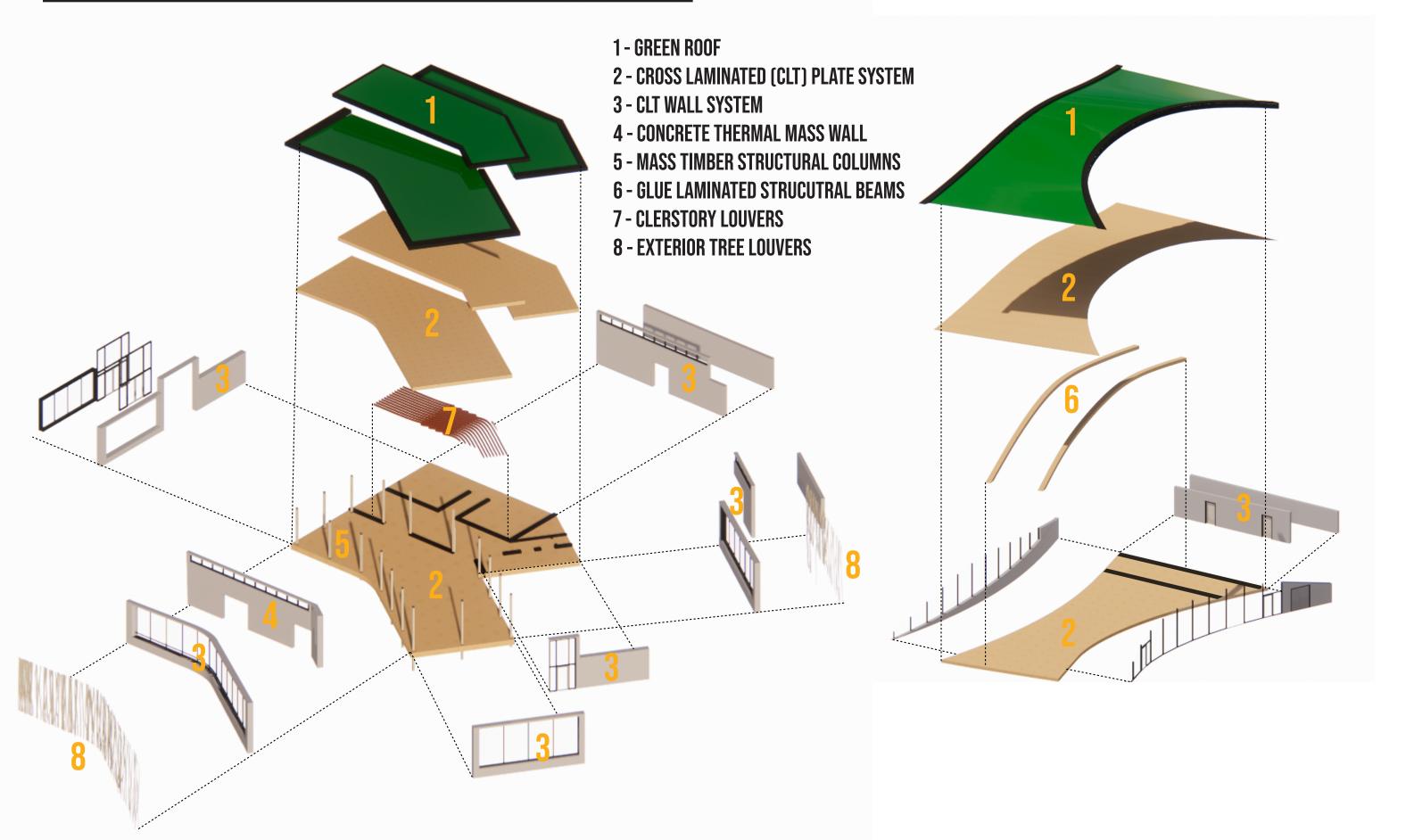


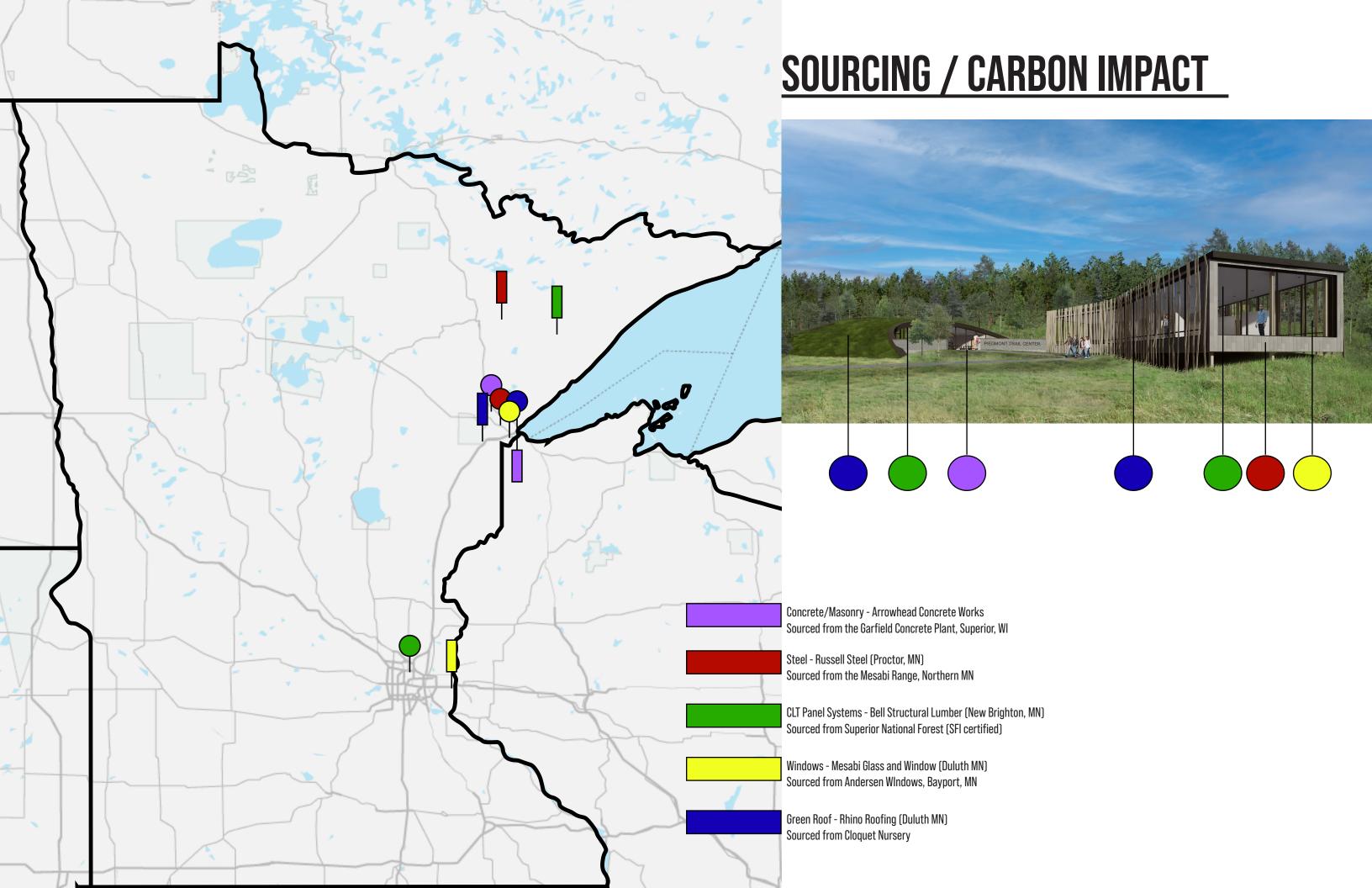




Brockcommons Study - Canadian Wood Council & Woodworks!

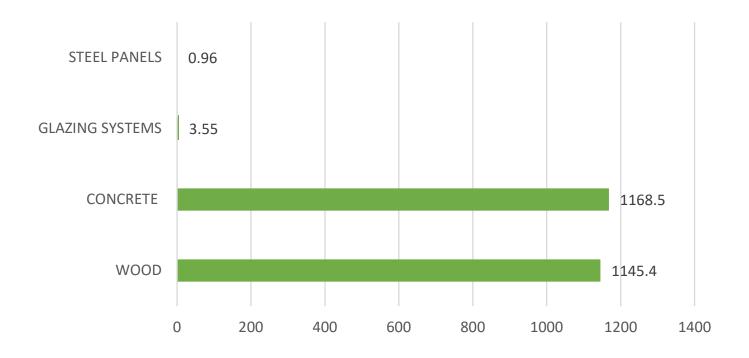
# **AXONOMETRIC CONSTRUCTION DIAGRAM**



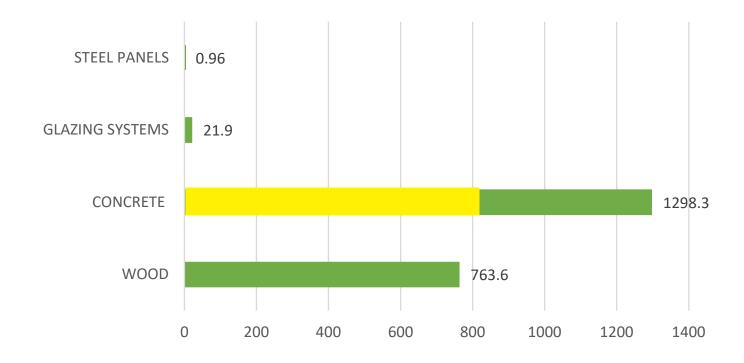


## CARBON IMPACT

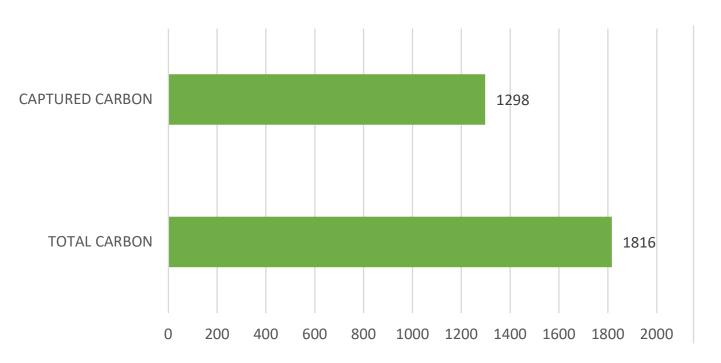
#### MATERIALS USED (PER TON)



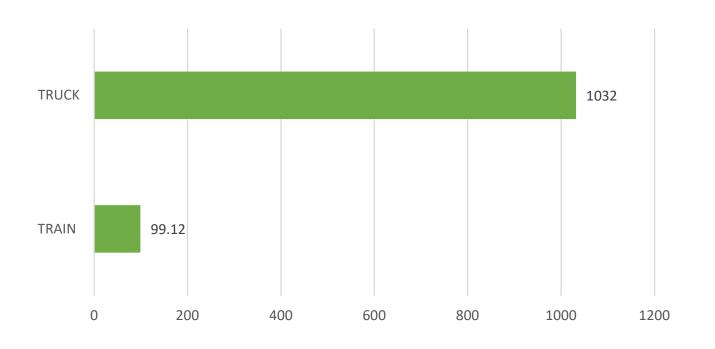
#### EMBODIED CARBON (POUNDS PER TON)



#### CARBON OFFSET FOR WOOD PRODUCTS (TONS)



### SHIPPING CARBON USE (PER POUND)





Y ? N

Credit Integrative Process

1

4	0	0	Locat	tion and Transportation	16
		N	Credit	LEED for Neighborhood Development Location	16
1			Credit	Sensitive Land Protection	1
		N	Credit	High Priority Site and Equitable Development	2
		N	Credit	Surrounding Density and Diverse Uses	5
		N	Credit	Access to Quality Transit	5
1			Credit	Bicycle Facilities	1
1			Credit	Reduced Parking Footprint	1
1			Credit	Electric Vehicles	1

9	0	0	Sustainable Sites		10
Y			Prereq	Construction Activity Pollution Prevention	Required
			Credit	Site Assessment	1
2			Credit	Protect or Restore Habitat	2
1			Credit	Open Space	1
3			Credit	Rainwater Management	3
2			Credit	Heat Island Reduction	2
1			Credit	Light Pollution Reduction	1
			•		

11	0	0	Water	Efficiency	11
Y			Prereq	Outdoor Water Use Reduction	Required
Y			Prereq	Indoor Water Use Reduction	Required
Y			Prereq	Building-Level Water Metering	Required
2			Credit	Outdoor Water Use Reduction	2
6			Credit	Indoor Water Use Reduction	6
2			Credit	Optimize Process Water Use	2
1			Credit	Water Metering	1

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13	0	0	Mater	rials and Resources	13
Y			Prereq	Storage and Collection of Recyclables	Required
5			Credit	Building Life-Cycle Impact Reduction	5
2			Credit	Environmental Product Declarations	2
2			Credit	Sourcing of Raw Materials	2
2			Credit	Material Ingredients	2
2			Credit	Construction and Demolition Waste Management	2

16	0	0	Indoo	r Environmental Quality	16
Y		_	Prereq	Minimum Indoor Air Quality Performance	Required
Y			Prereq	Environmental Tobacco Smoke Control	Required
2			Credit	Enhanced Indoor Air Quality Strategies	2
3			Credit	Low-Emitting Materials	3
1			Credit	Construction Indoor Air Quality Management Plan	1
2			Credit	Indoor Air Quality Assessment	2
1			Credit	Thermal Comfort	1
2			Credit	Interior Lighting	2
3			Credit	Daylight	3
1			Credit	Quality Views	1
1			Credit	Acoustic Performance	1

5			Credit Innovation		
		N	Credit LEED Accredited Professional		
0	0	0	Regional Priority 4		
			Credit Regional Priority: Specific Credit	1	
			Credit Regional Priority: Specific Credit Credit Regional Priority: Specific Credit	1 1	

6

5 0 0 Innovation

91 0 0 TOTALS		Possible Points:	110
.ed: 40 to 49 points,	Silver: 50 to 59 points,	Gold: 60 to 79 points, Plati	<b>inum:</b> 80

Credit Regional Priority: Specific Credit

