

An architectural rendering of a modern building with a swimming pool. The building features large glass windows and a prominent white column. The pool is surrounded by a paved deck with some potted plants. Two people are visible in the pool, one sitting and one standing. The overall atmosphere is bright and airy.

ALEXANDER CANCER TREATMENT AND RESEARCH CENTER

TRANSFORMATIONAL HEALING THROUGH ATMOSPHERIC
ARCHITECTURE

Jared Hunt

Architecture 772

North Dakota State University

Stephen Wischer

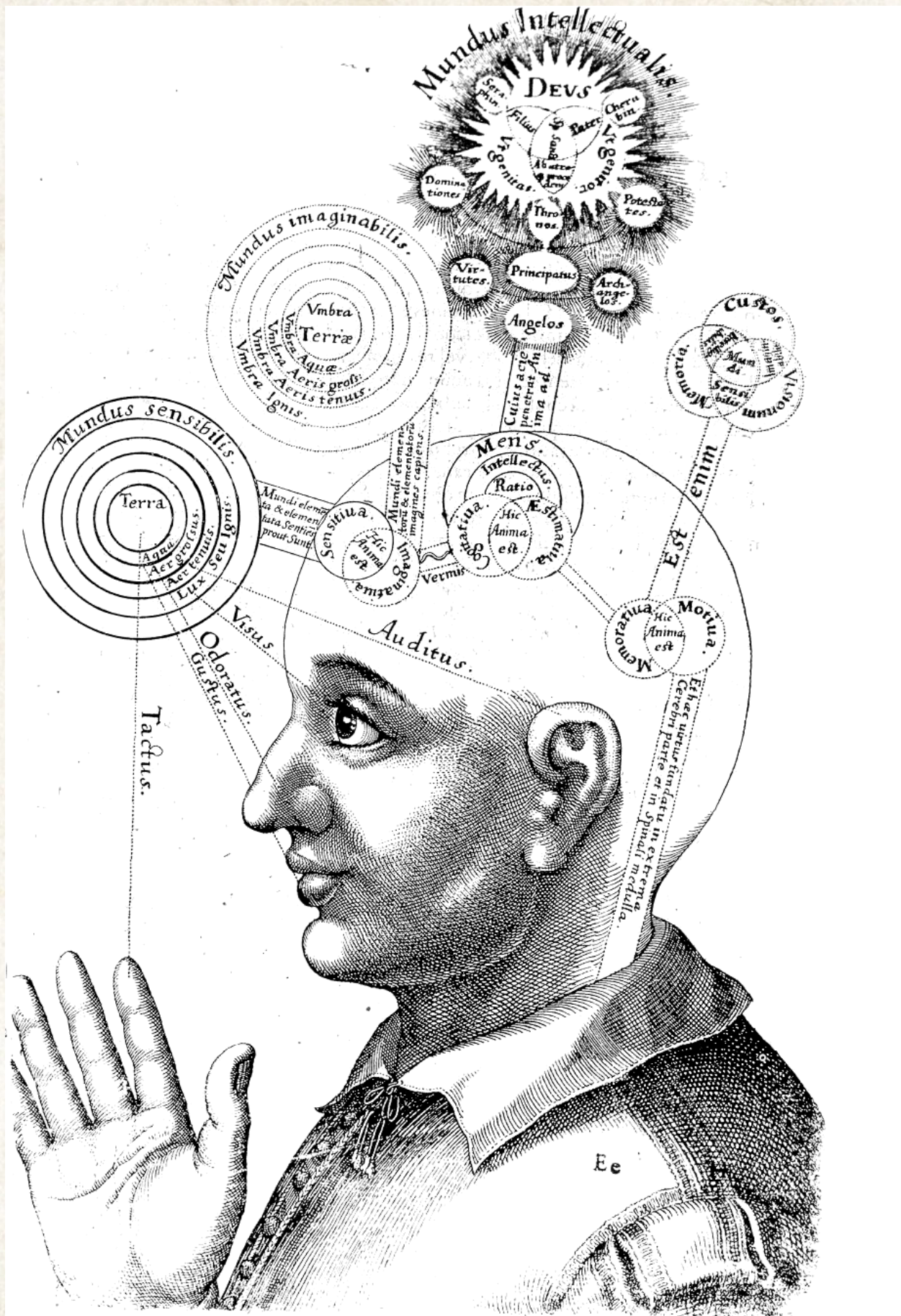
This thesis explores the role of the environment on the treatment and potential healing of those afflicted with cancer – a disease that will affect the individual lives and families of an estimated 1.9 million people in the United States in 2022. Although recent studies in neuro and cognitive science show how the inner and outer worlds are interdependent and co-emergent, architecture, especially in the realm of healthcare, has become focused on functionality, efficiency, and aesthetics due to the rise and development of Positivism which separates mind and body, subjective and objective realms. While such developments inevitably benefit the medical treatment of cancer patients, this thesis questions the emotional and cognitive benefits of spaces that cannot be reduced to rational formulas and control. In other words, we examine how the language of healthcare architecture might create a more attuned atmosphere that can aid in the treatment and healing of a patient through environments that consider the emotional and cognitive aspects of the whole human being.



The ENIGMA *of*
HEALTH
HANS-GEORG GADAMER



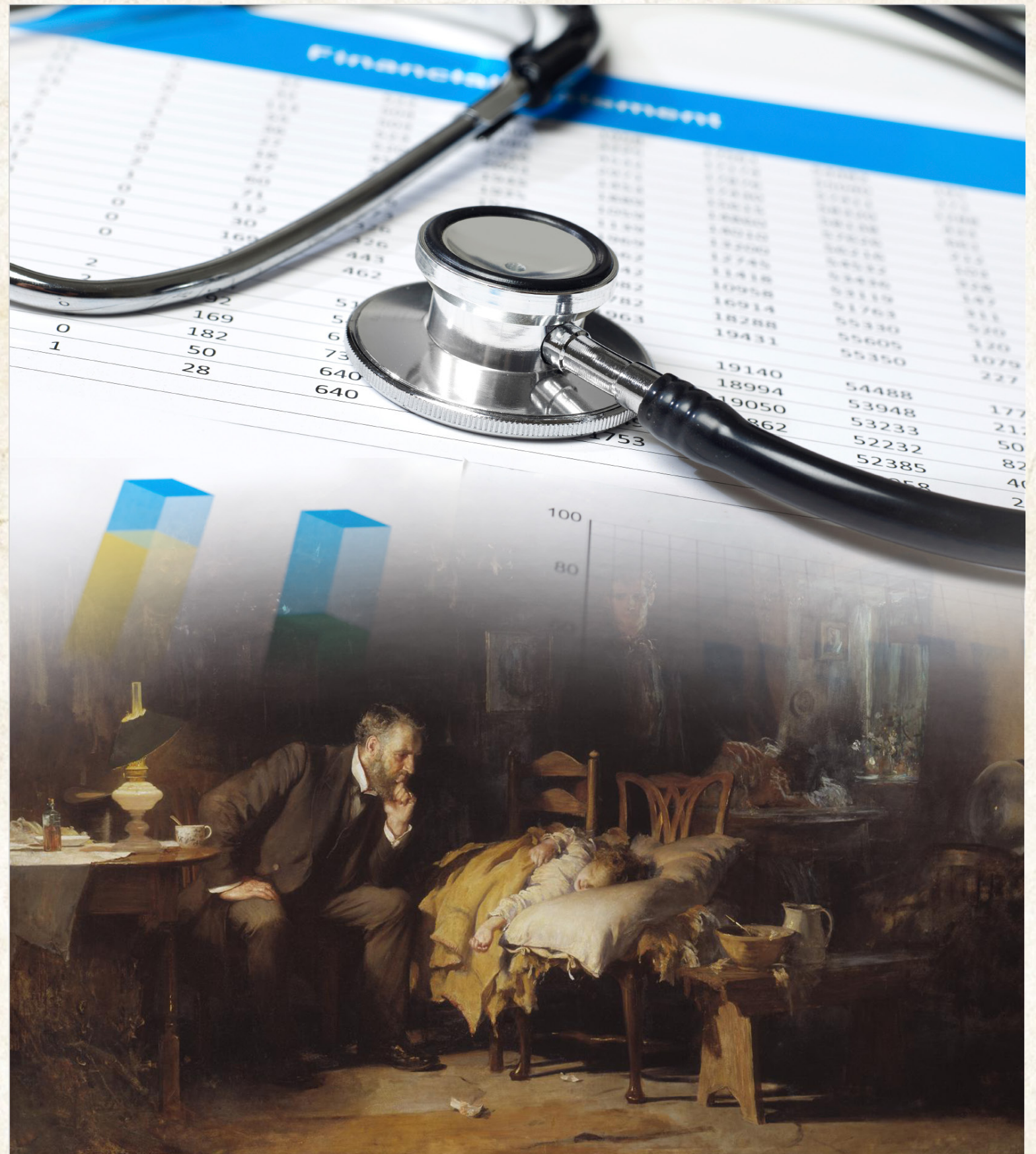
Hans- Georg Gadamer
German Philosopher



“No longer is it (meaning nature) limited to the premodern implications of techne, namely, to filling out the possibilities of further development left open by nature (Aristotle). It has moved upward to the level of an artificial counterpart to reality.” The technical exploitation of natural resources has caused science to “become a new kind of factor in human life, and this is its application to the life of society itself (Gadamer 8).”

“Representation of consciousness.” Robert Fludd, *Utriusque cosmi maioris scilicet et minoris [...]*, 1619t

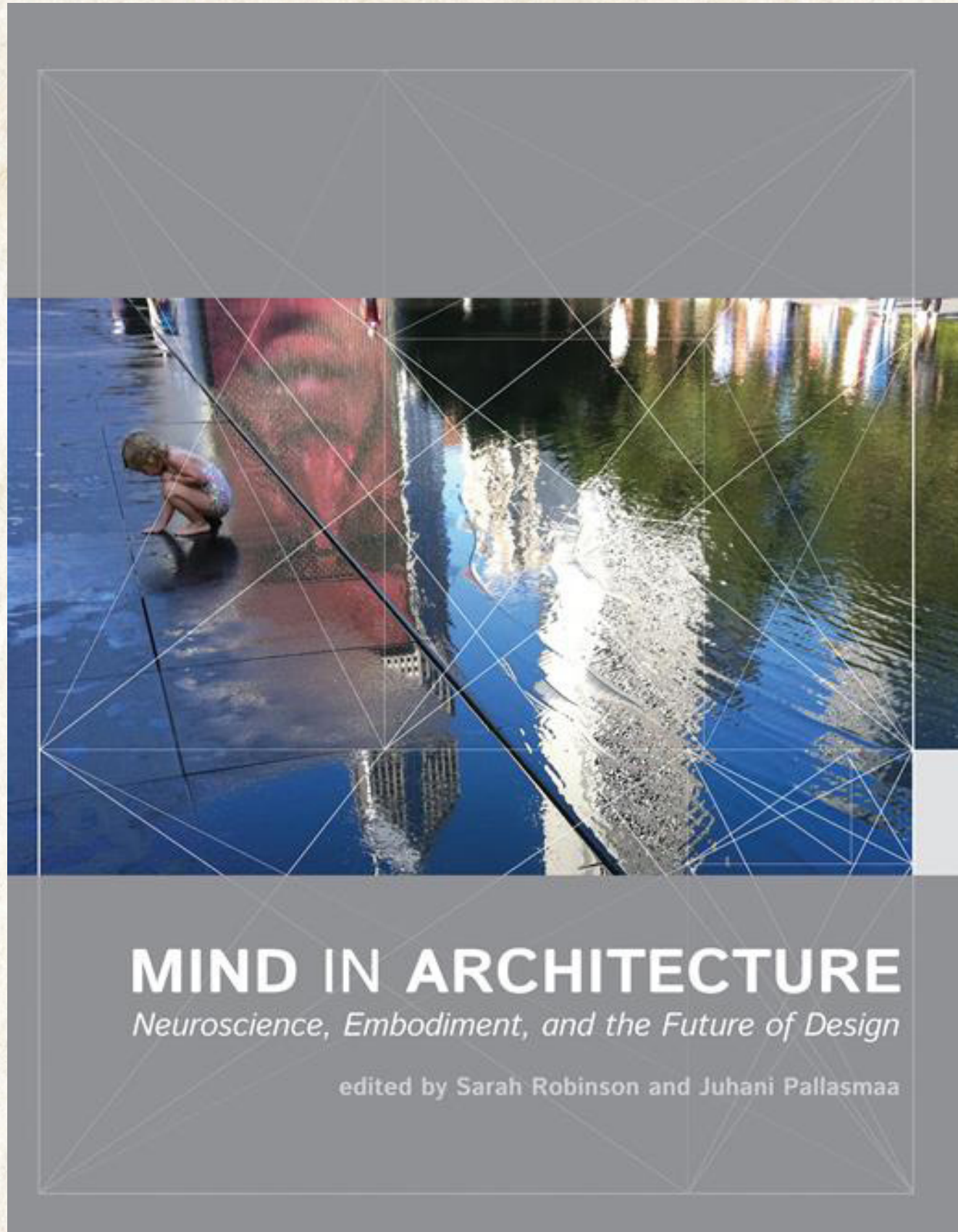
Gadamer suggest a possible way to blend the old and the modern together, “what we need to do is to learn to build a bridge over the existing divide between the theoretician who knows the general rule and the person involved in practice who wishes to deal with the unique situation of this patient who is in need of care.”



<http://www.drollynd.com/>
Fildes, Luke. The Doctor. London, 1981.

The German word *behandlung* means ‘treating’ people and ‘handling’ them with care. “Within it one literally hears the word ‘hand’, the skilled and practiced hand that can recognise problems simply through feeling and touching the affected parts of the patient’s body. ‘Treatment’ in this sense is something which goes far beyond mere progress in modern techniques.”

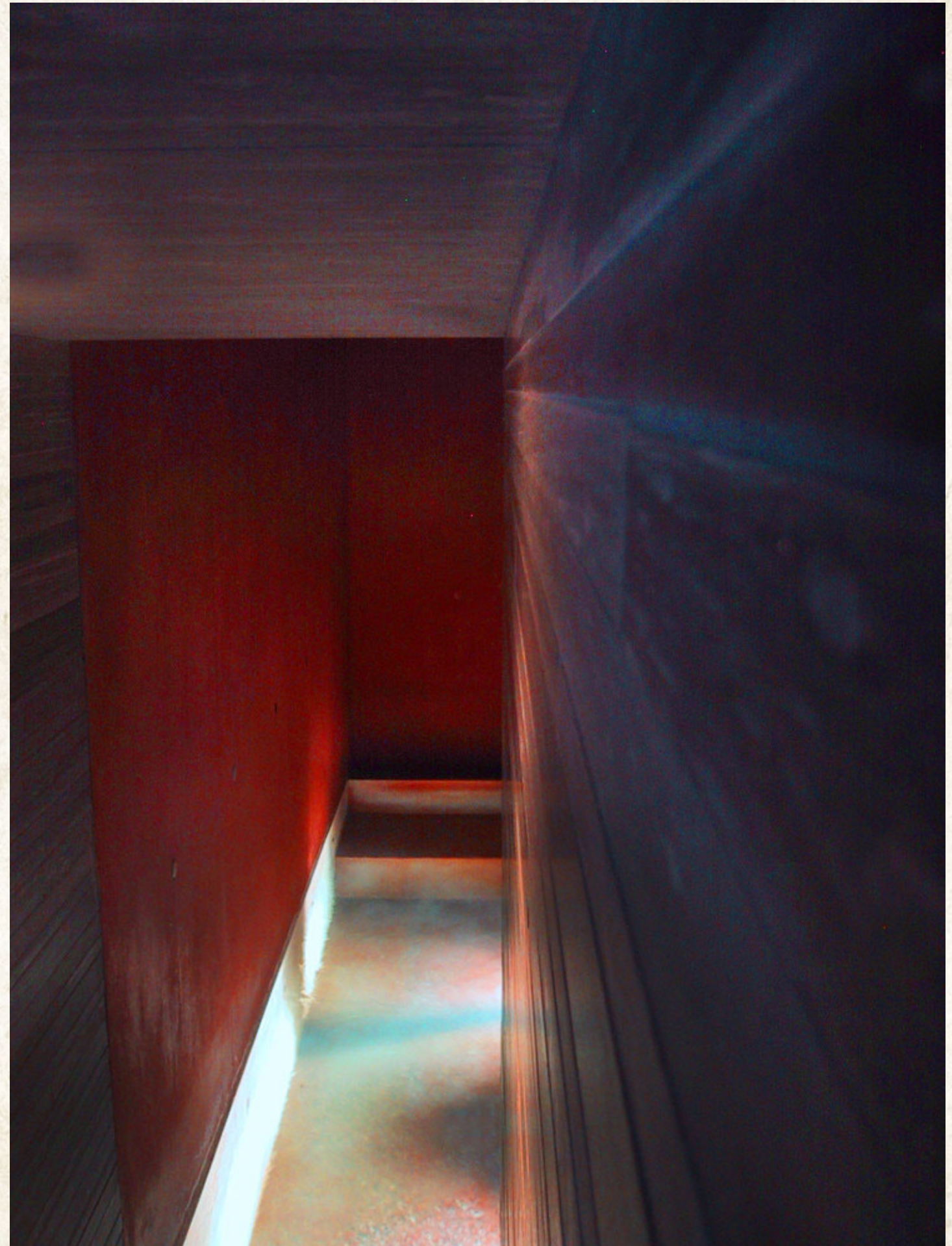


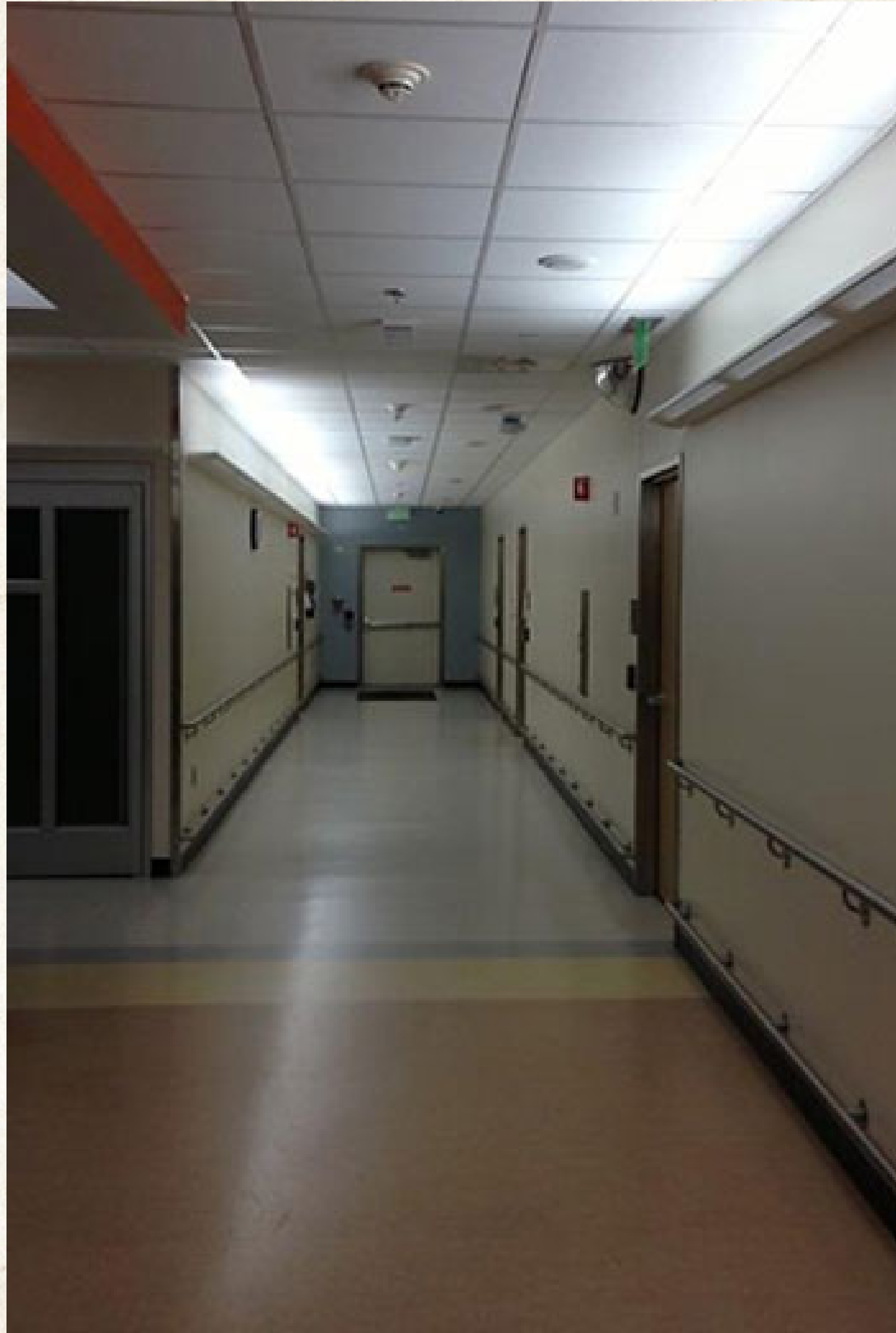


Alberto Pérez-Gómez
Architectural Historian

“This embodied, non-dualistic understanding of reality includes our emotions and feelings; its primary seat of awareness is Gemüt, and its most significant experience is Stimmung: attunement, understood as a search for loss of integrity, health, wholeness and holiness.”

“The external world- i.e., the city and architecture- truly matters, and we do not relate to it as if it were a text in need of interpretation or “information” conveyed to a brain: interpretation comes after we have the world in hand, and in this way architecture affects us along the full range of awareness, from perspective to reflective.”





“it is easy to observe that human actions can change the mood in a room: it can be transformed through a charismatic speaker, lighting effects, artificial acoustics, etc. On the other hand, architects are capable of incorporating in their designed spaces a more lasting mood, one that we may associate with the room itself: solemn, strange, quiet, cheerful, reverential, oppressive, etc.”

THERME VALS- PETER ZUMTHOR

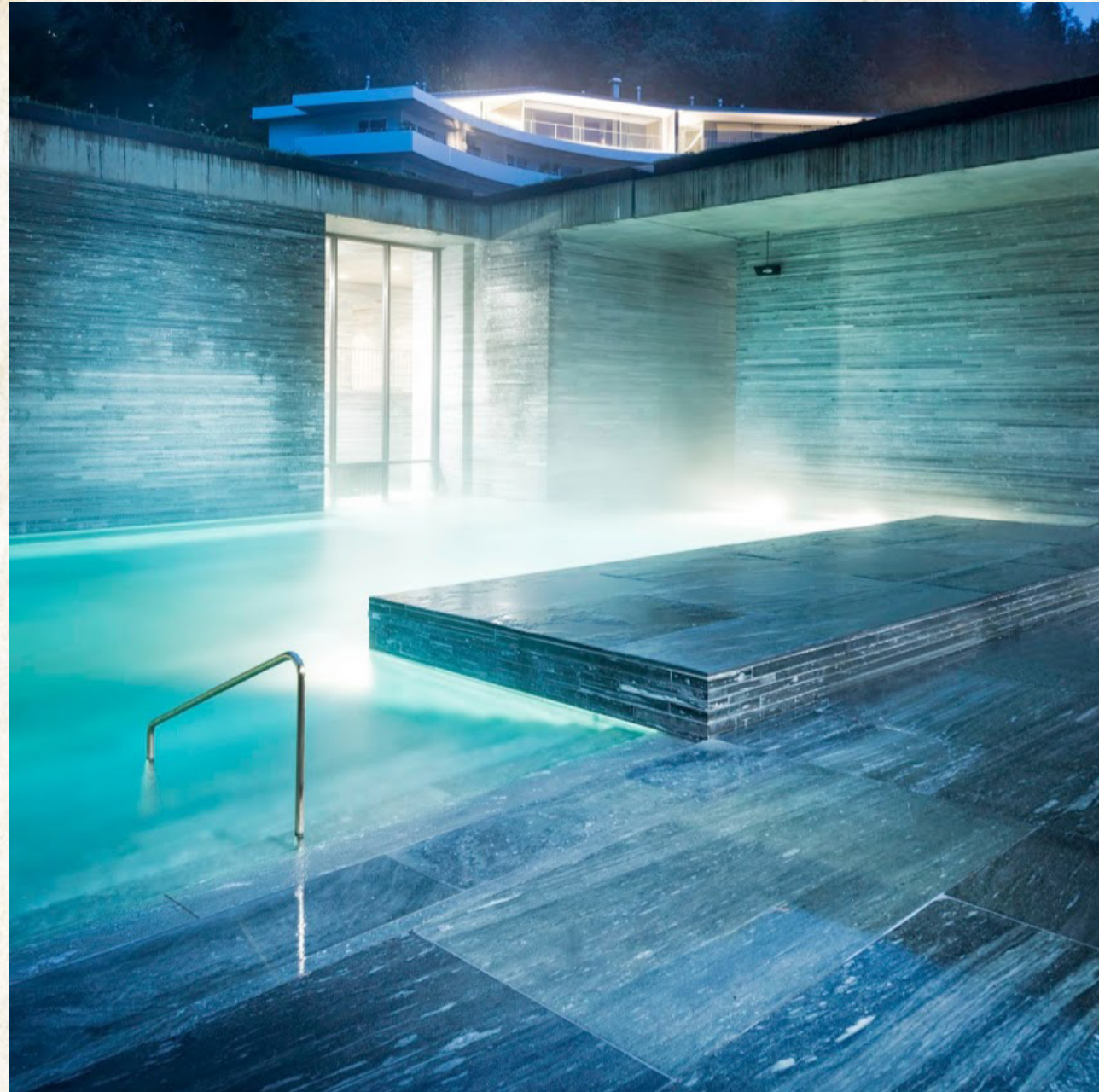


<https://www.westcoastpaint.com/commercial-interior-painting-renton-wa>



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THERMA VALS- PETER ZUMTHOR

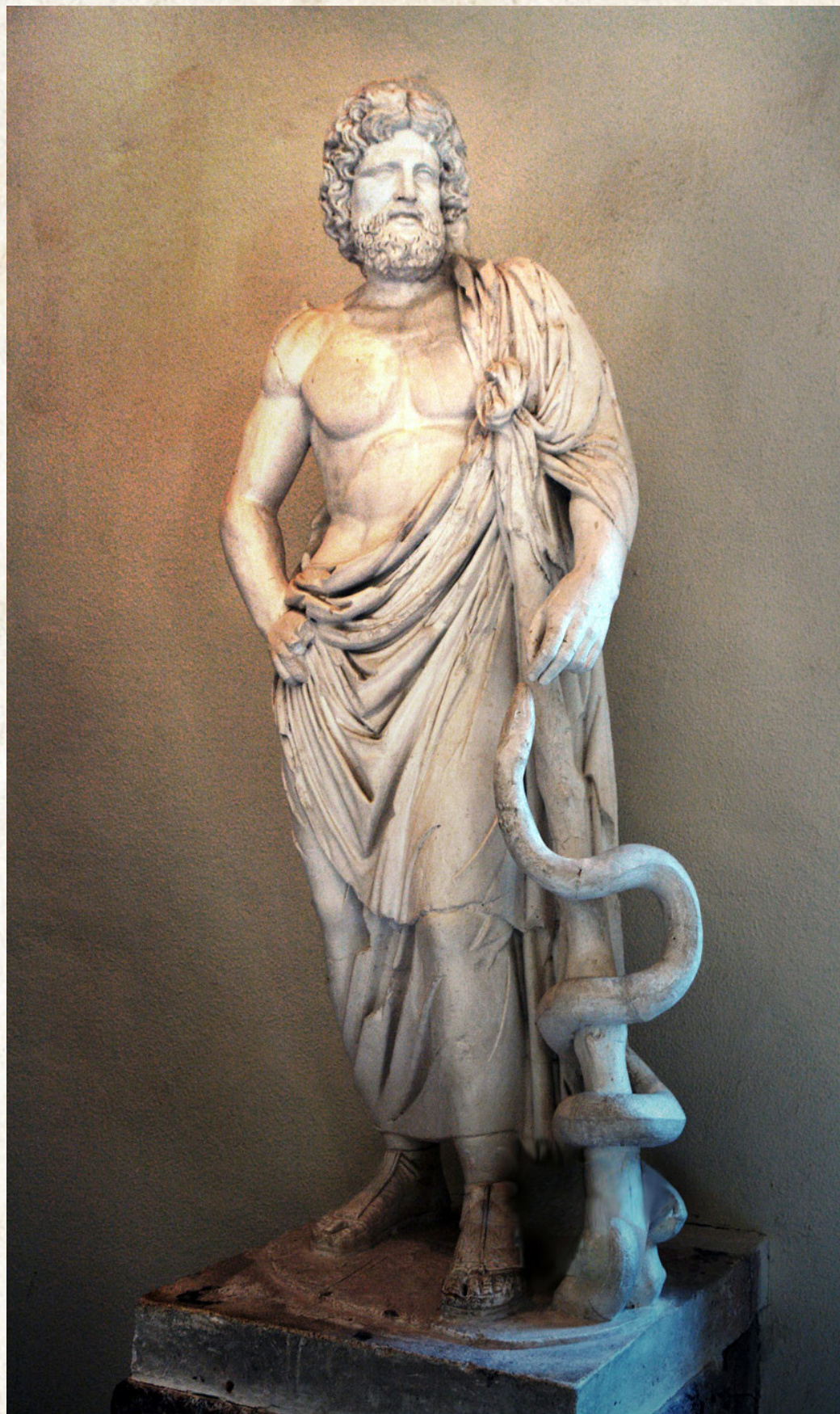


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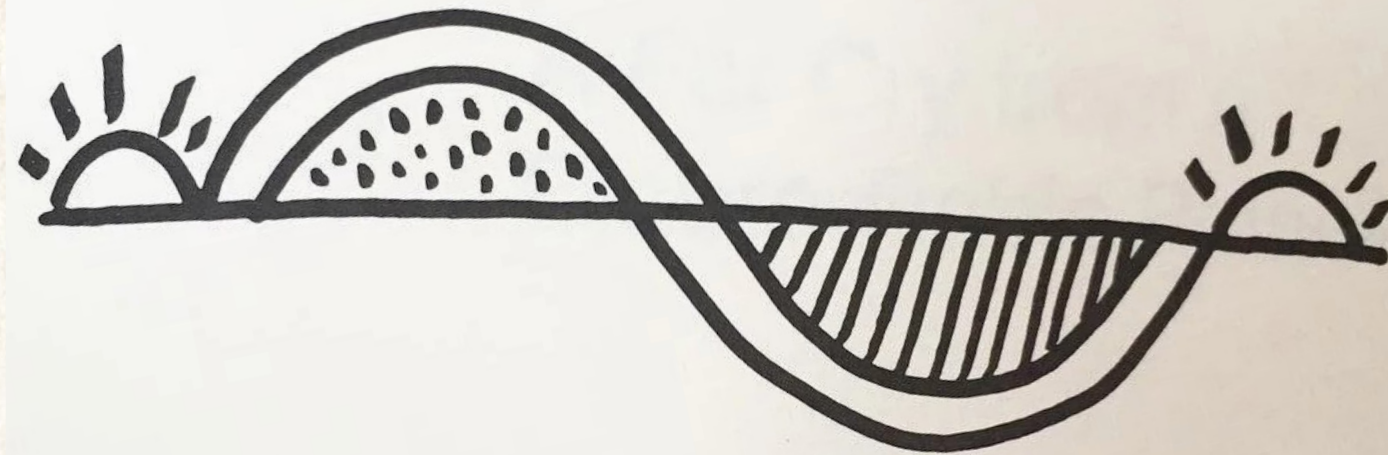
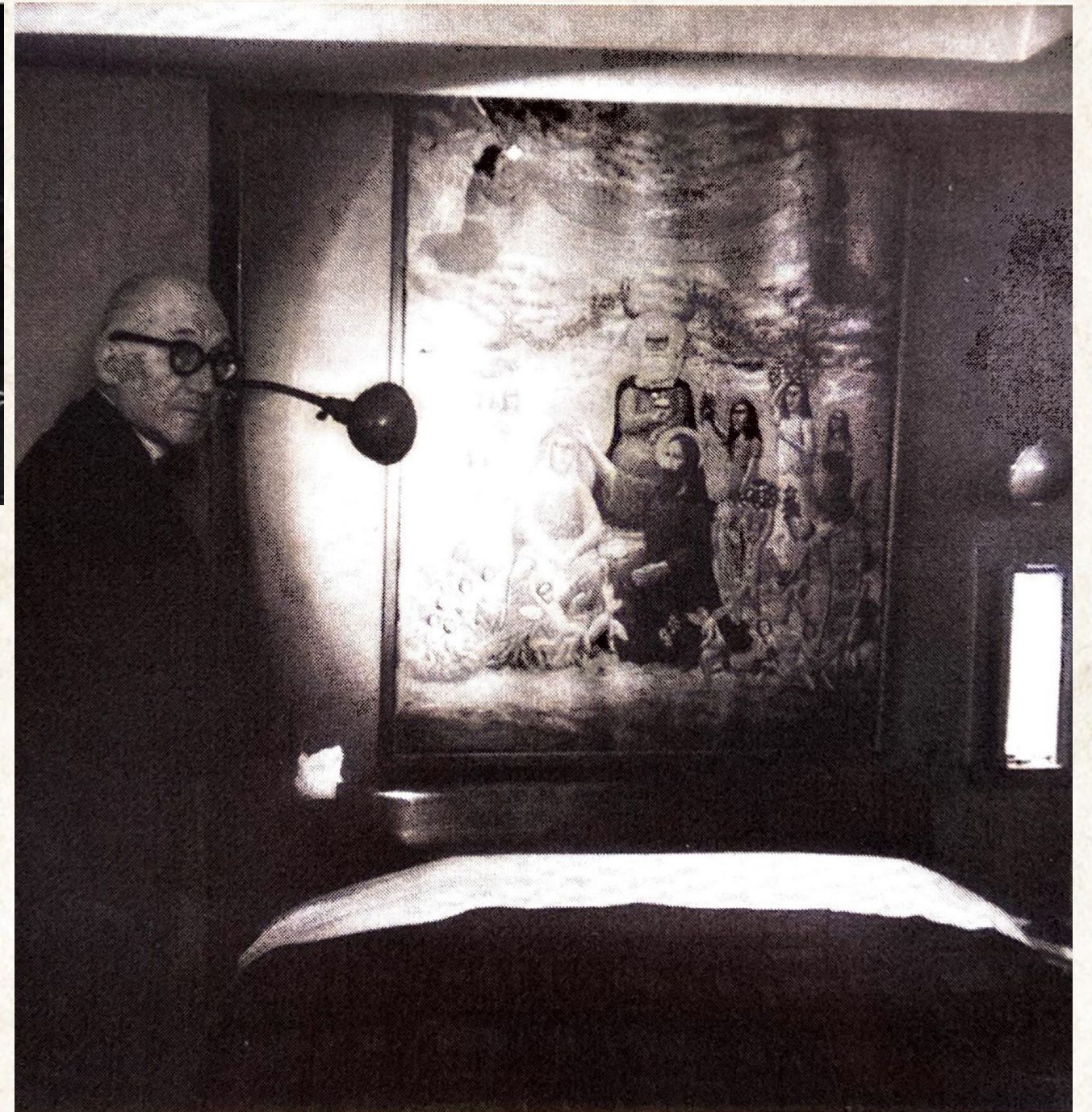
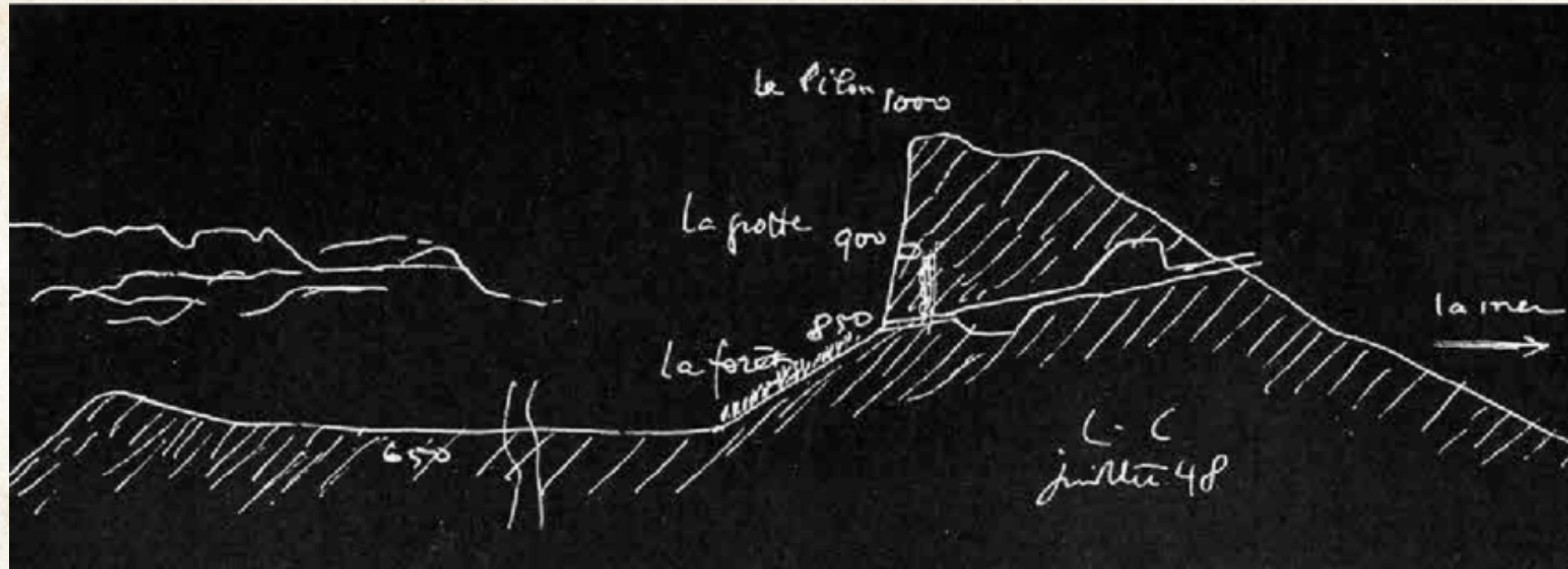


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EPIDAUROS THEATRE



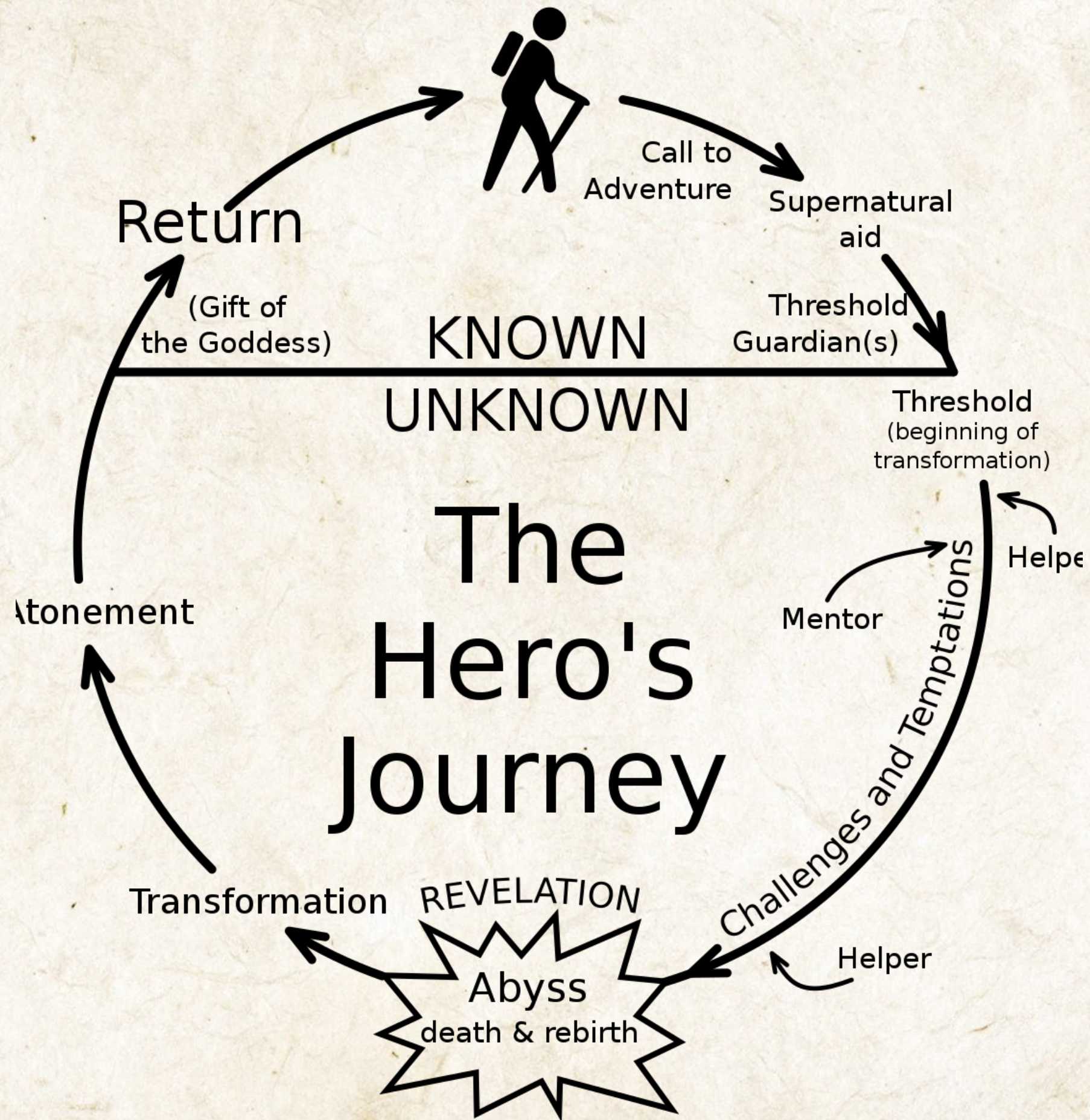
Mehnert, Michael F. Statue of Asclepius, Exhibited in the Museum of Epidaurus Theatre. 2008. https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Asklepios_-_Statue_Epidauros_Museum_2008-09-11.jpg
<https://www.greeka.com/peloponnese/epidaurus/>

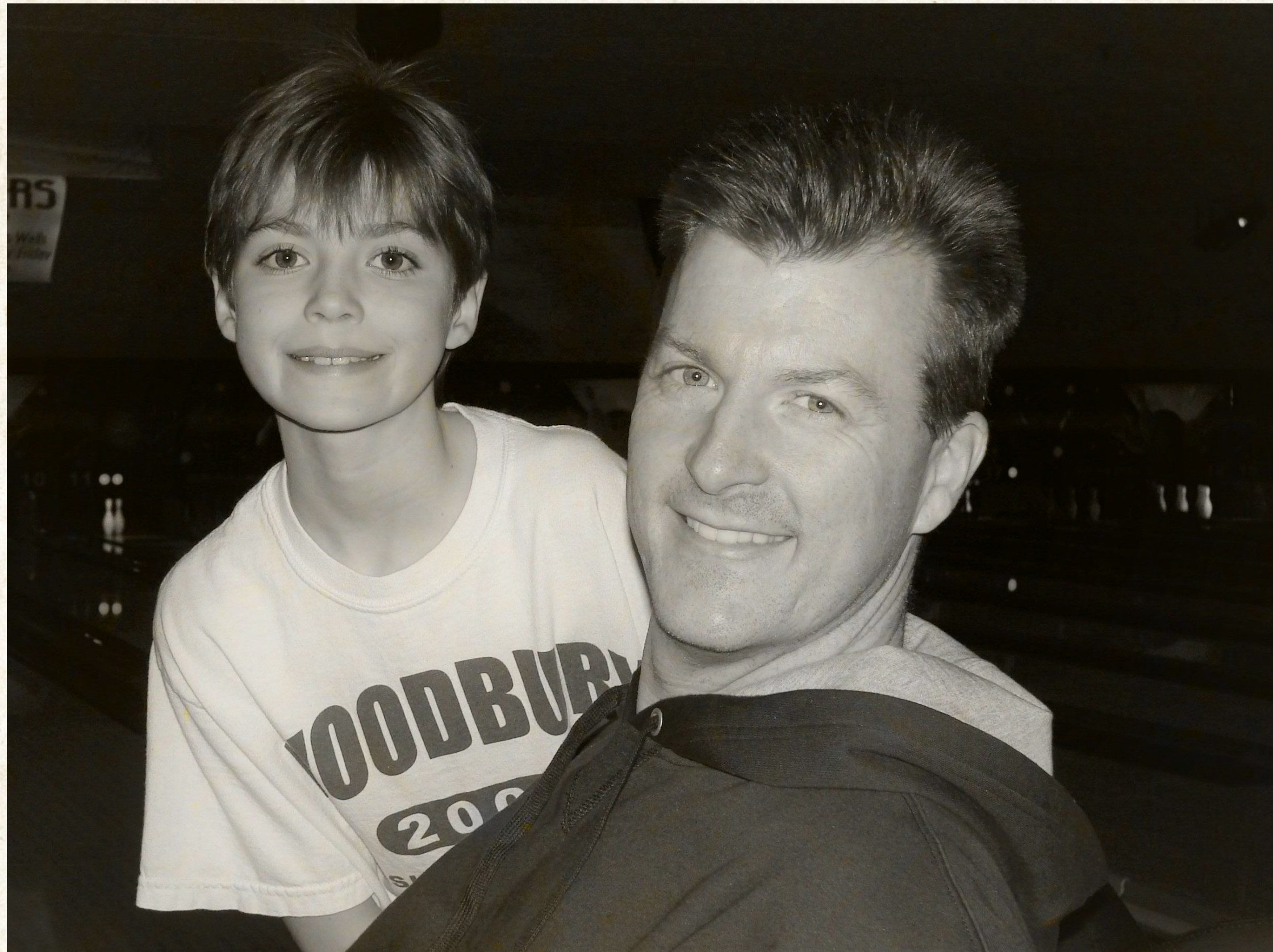


The sun
rises

The sun
rises again

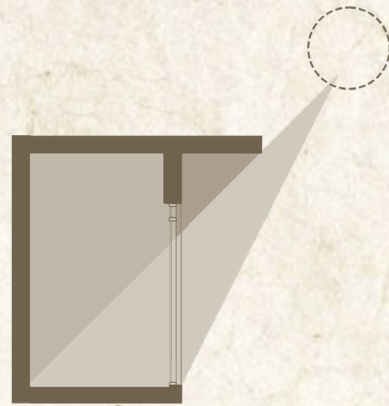
The 24-hour solar day determines the rhythm of human activity







Views



Natural Light



Natural Sounds



Less Surrounding
Buildings

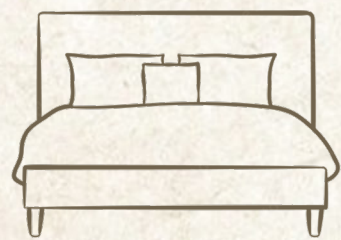


Less Noise

This thesis proposal design creates an environment that reduces levels of pain and stress. The design focuses on the use of views, natural light, and sound, and is separated from busy cities, reducing the surrounding infrastructure and noise.

The goal is to establish a holistic approach to healing that cultivates a gateway to emotional and physical equilibrium necessary for the feeling of hope.

Incorporating spaces that create a unique journey:



Lodging



Spiritual



Meditation



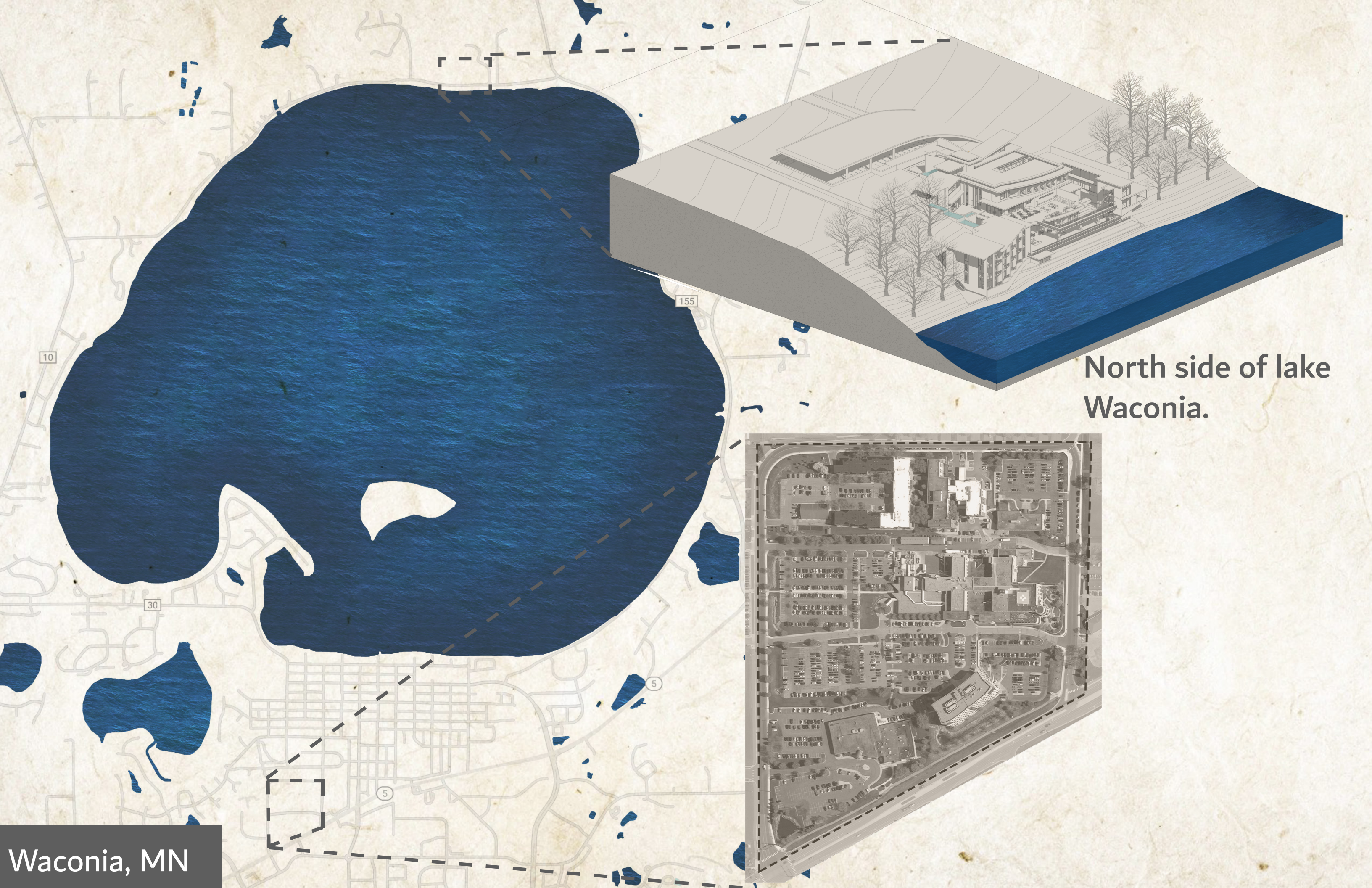
Sensory Spa



Therapy



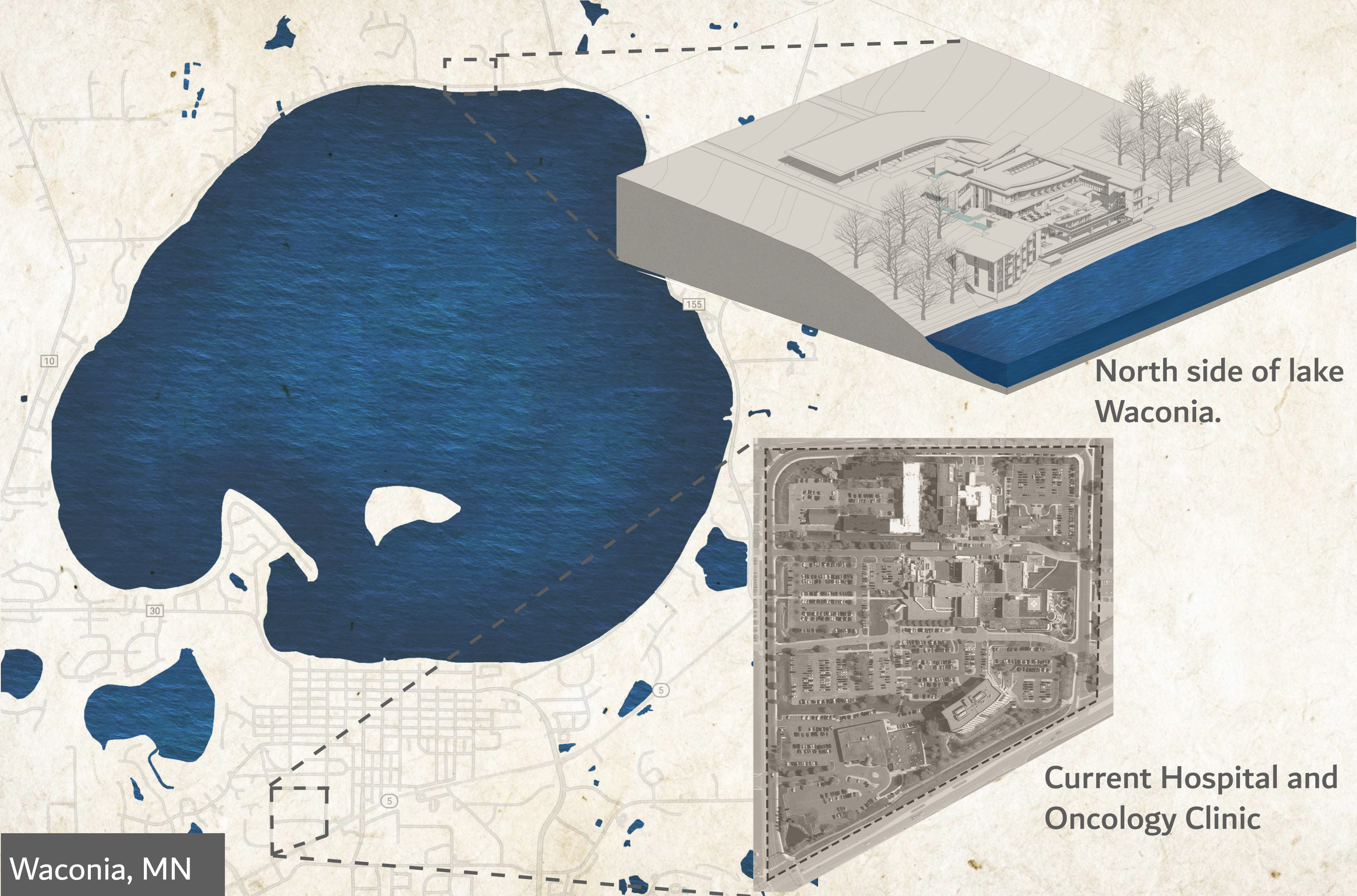
Wellness



North side of lake Waconia.

Waconia, MN

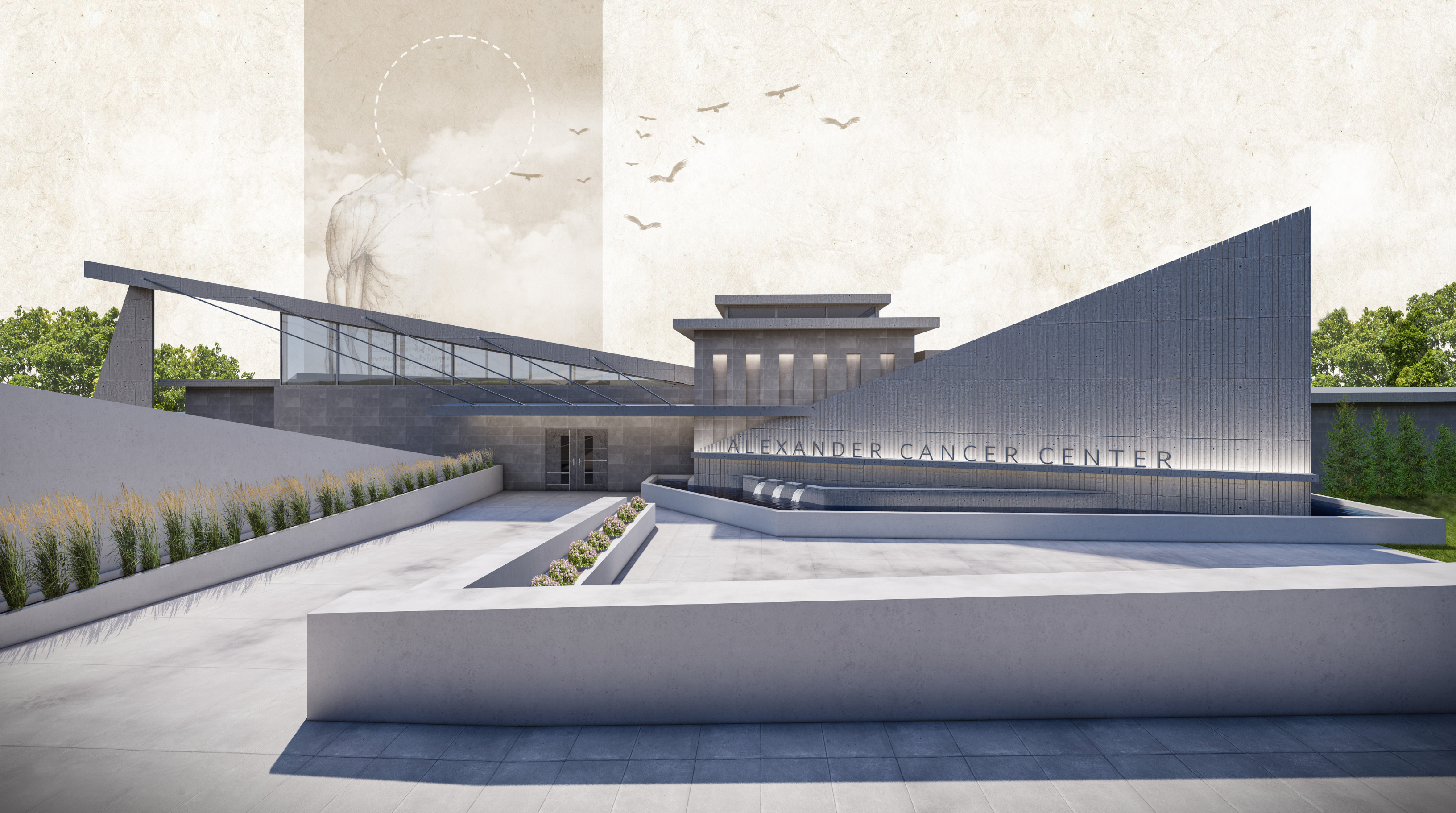




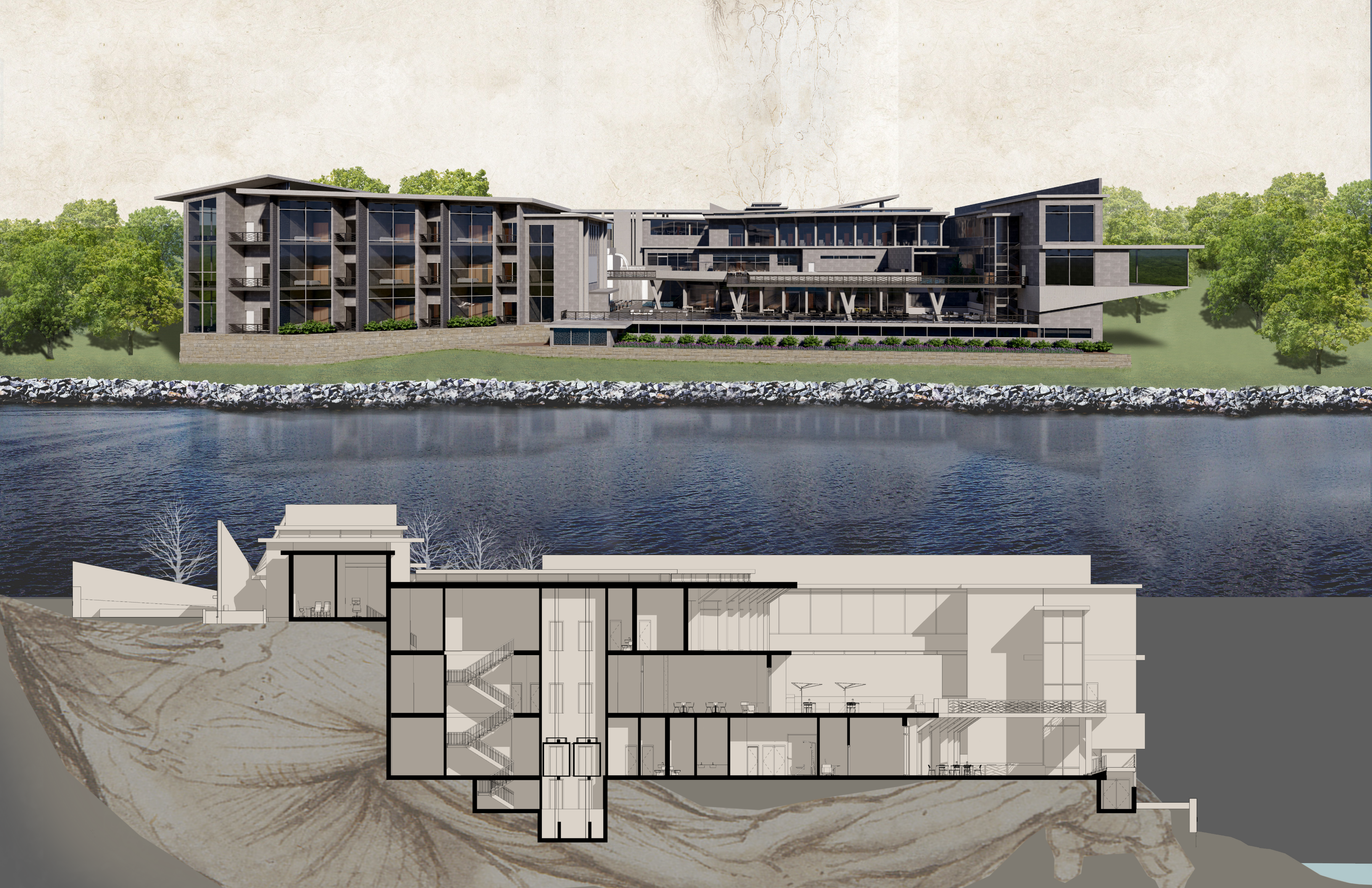
North side of lake Waconia.

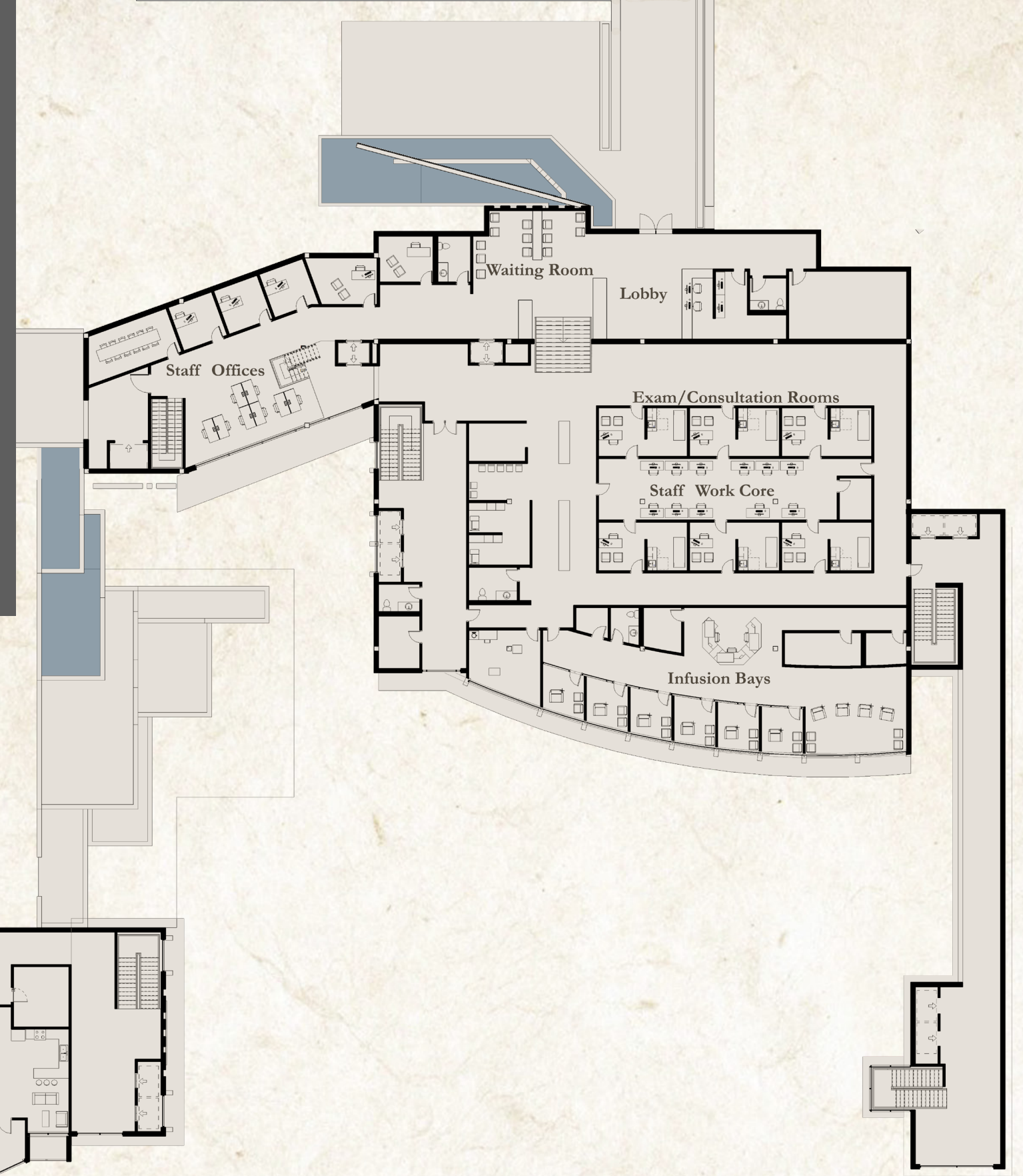
Current Hospital and Oncology Clinic

Waconia, MN



North Entrance





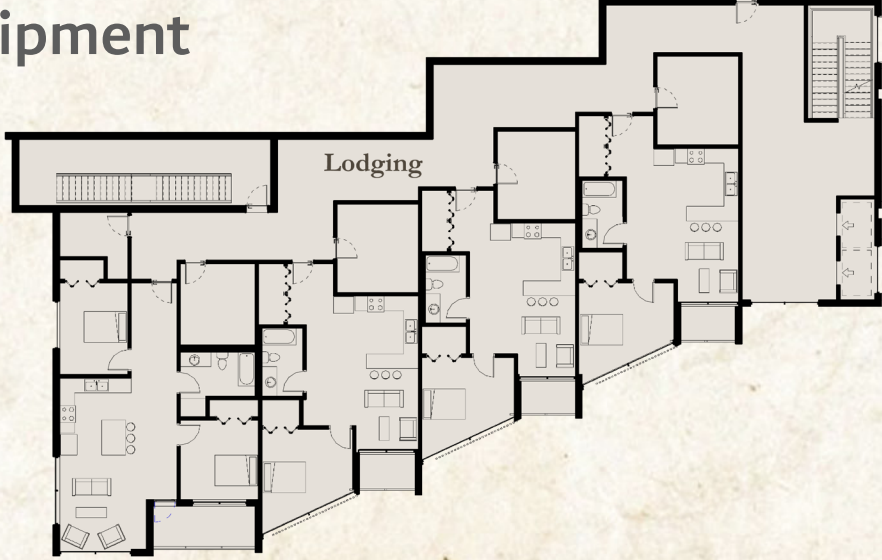
- | Lobby
- | Waiting Room
- | Staff Offices
- | Maintenance
- | Lab
- | Consultation Rooms
- | Exam Rooms
- | Infusion Bays



Level 1 ↑ N



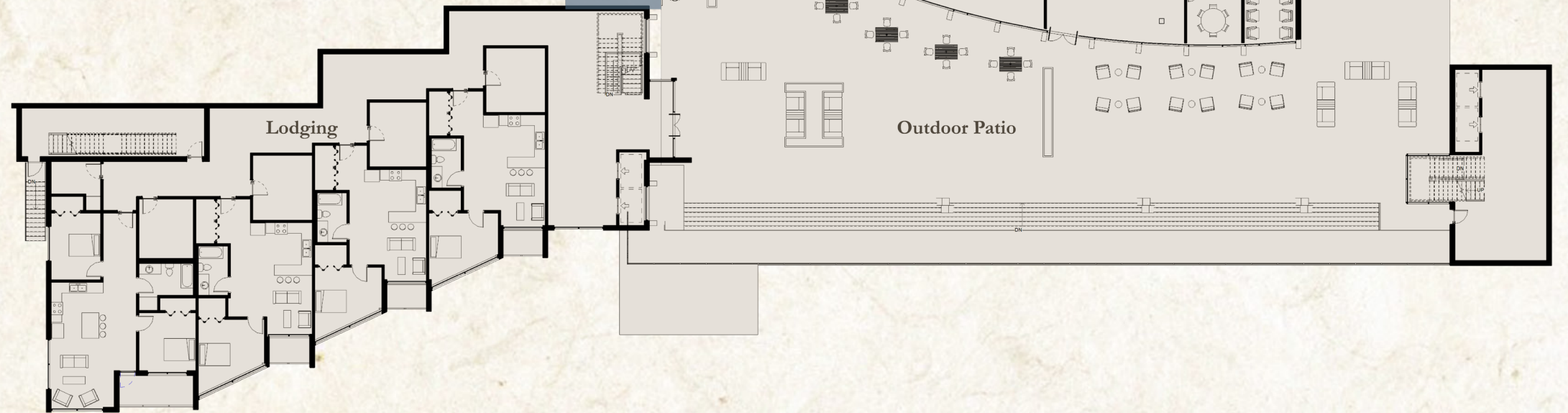
- | Research Lab
- | Staff Break Room
- | Linear Accelerator Equipment
- | Cafe
- | Sensory Spa
- | Meditation Outlook
- | Outdoor Patios



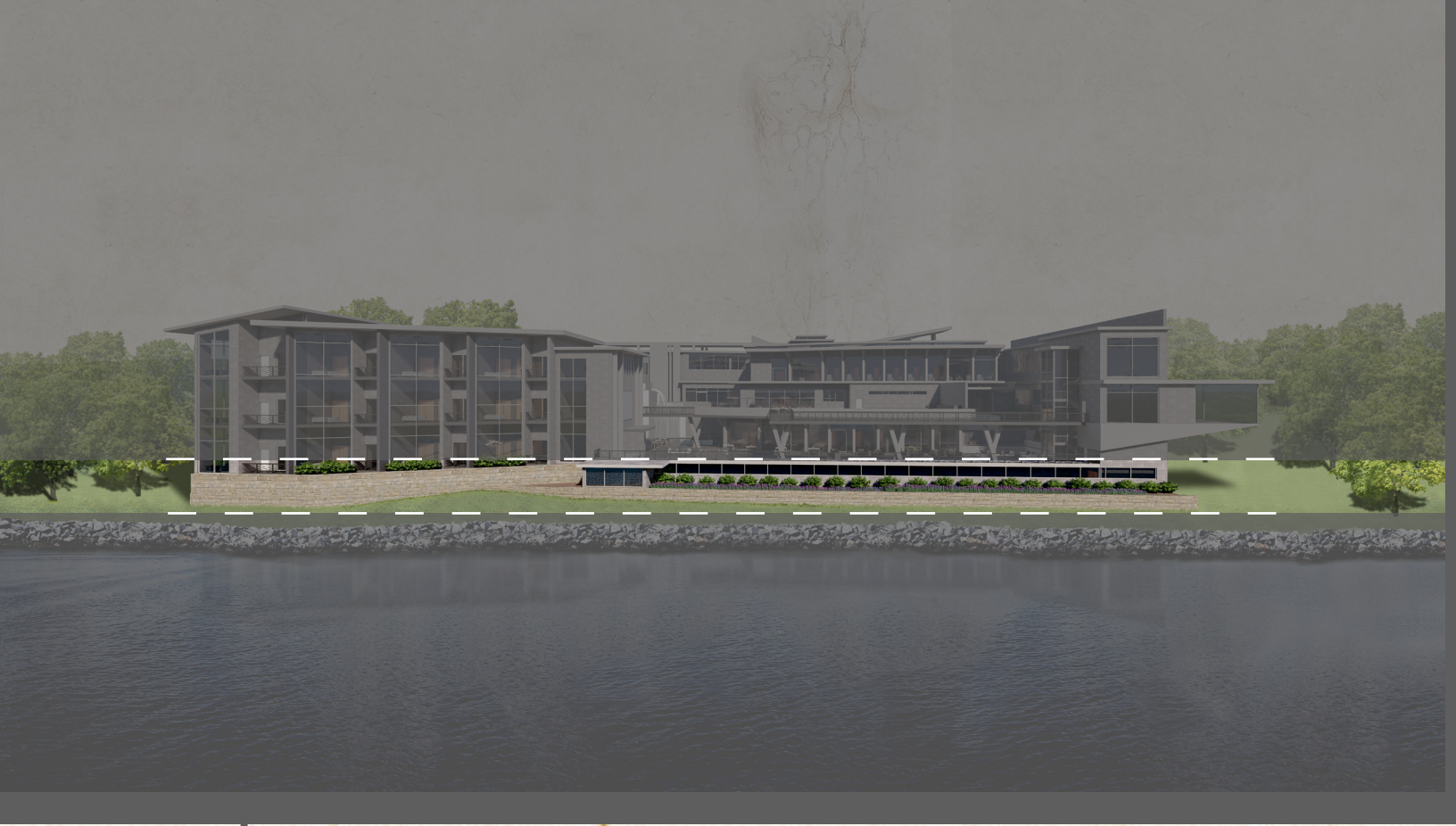
Level 2 ↑ N



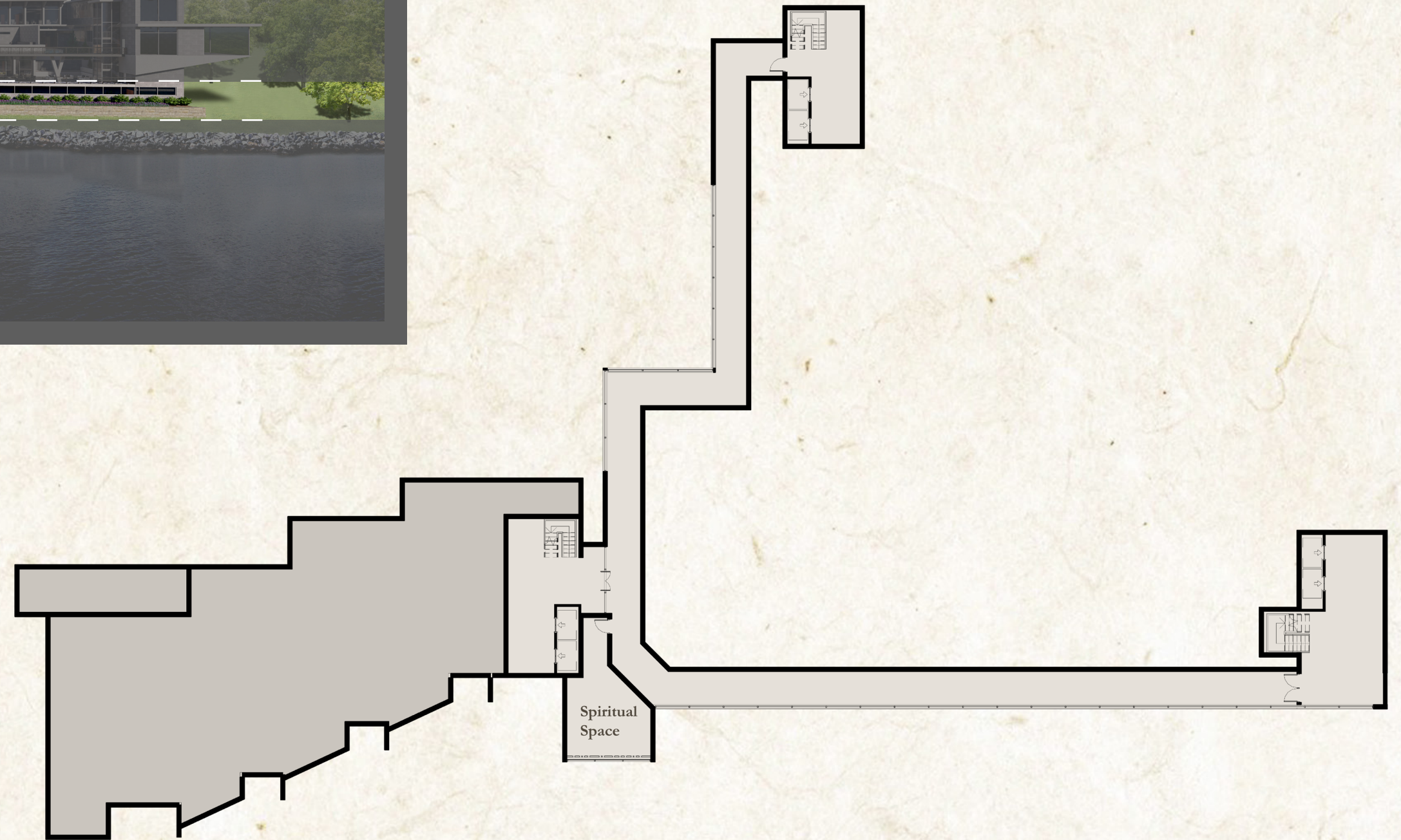
- | Wellness Room
- | Fitness Room
- | Therapy Space
- | Library
- | Outdoor Patio
- | Mechanical Room
- | Electrical Room
- | Spa Maintenance Area



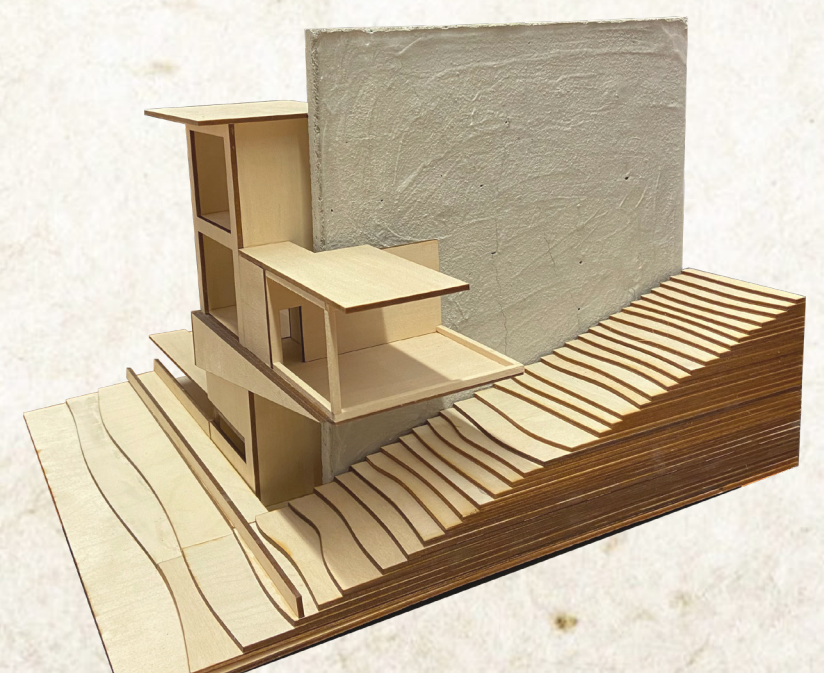
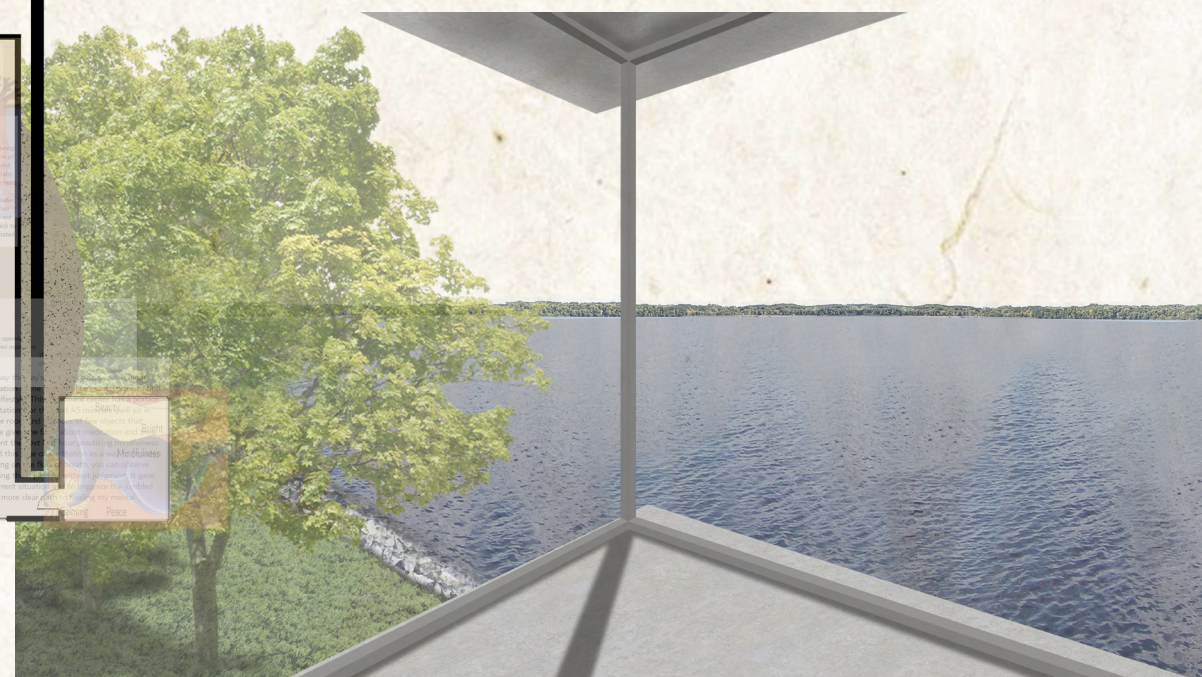
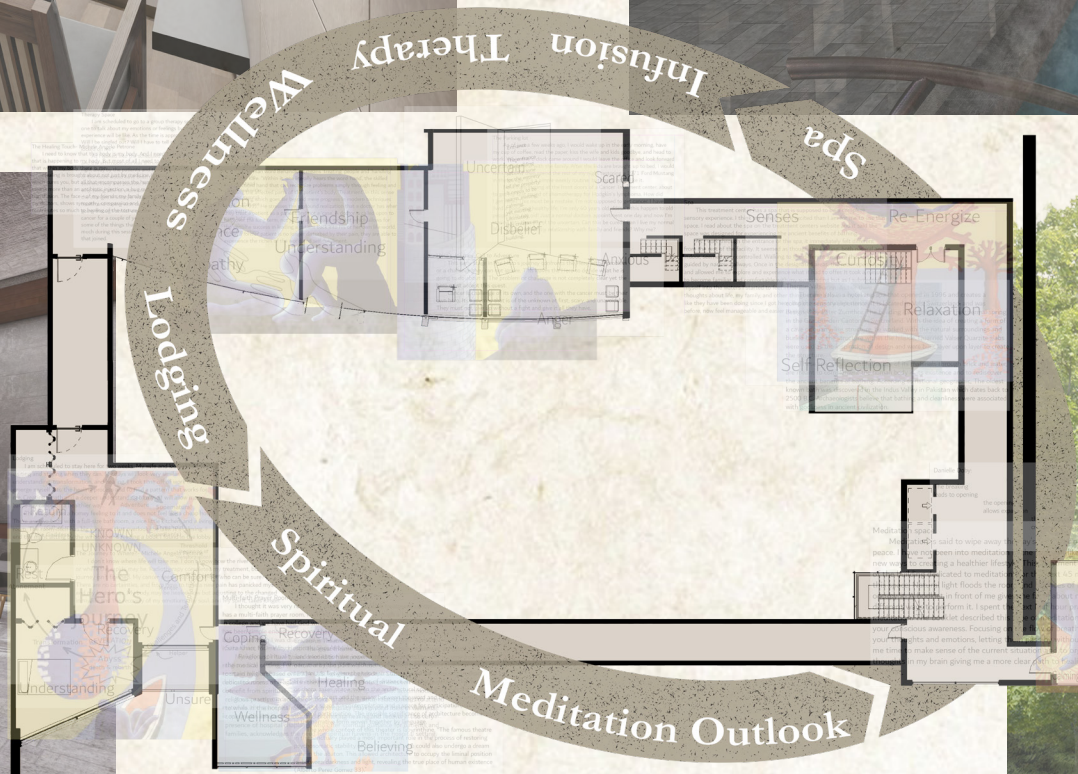
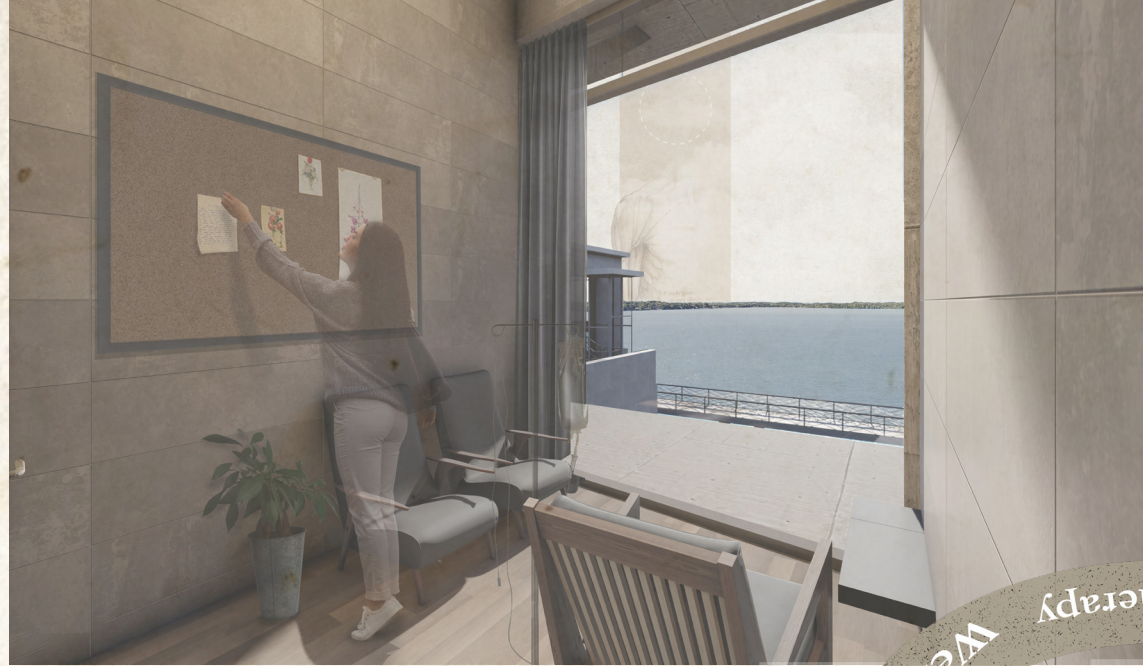
Level 3 ↑ N

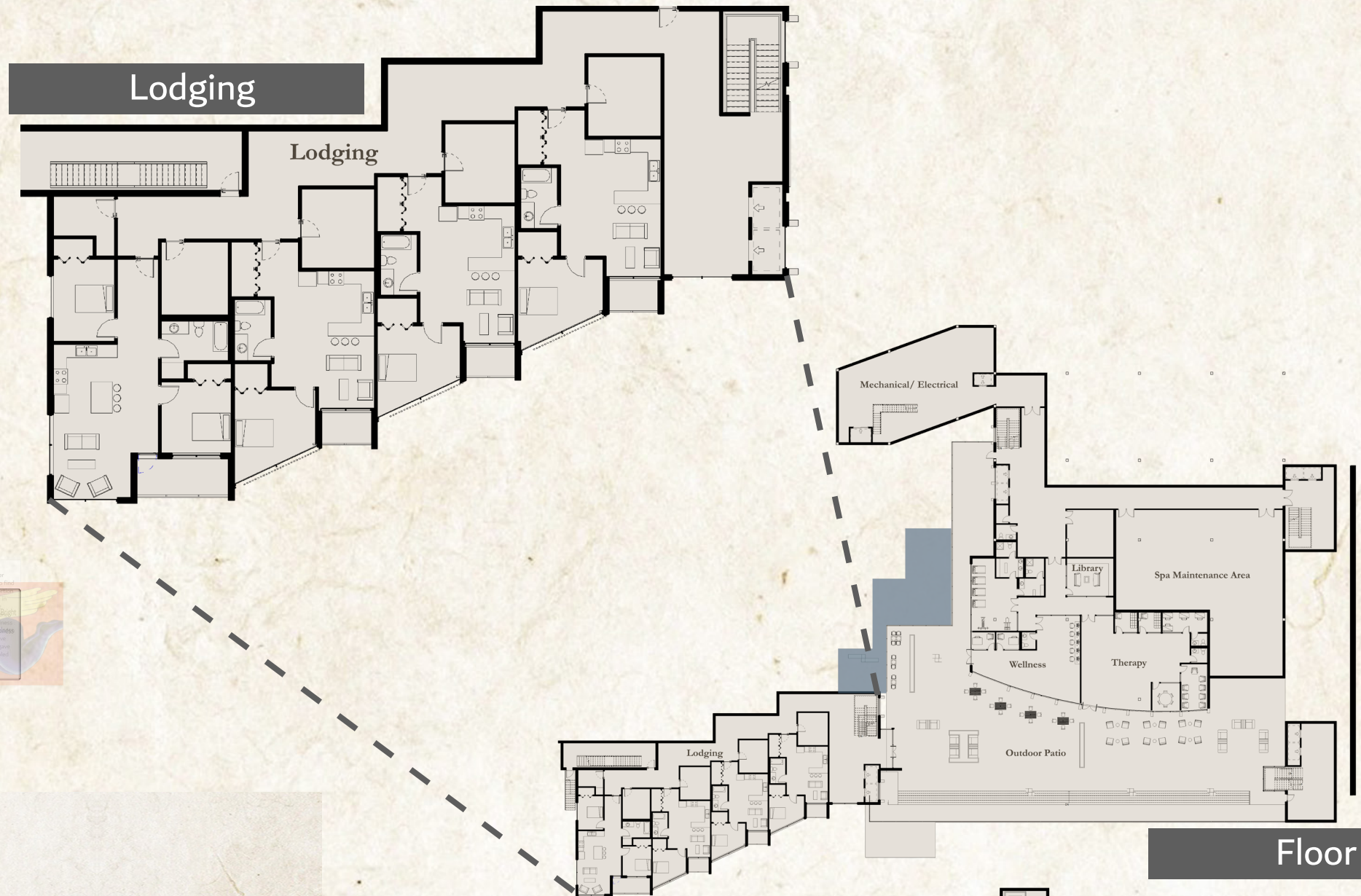
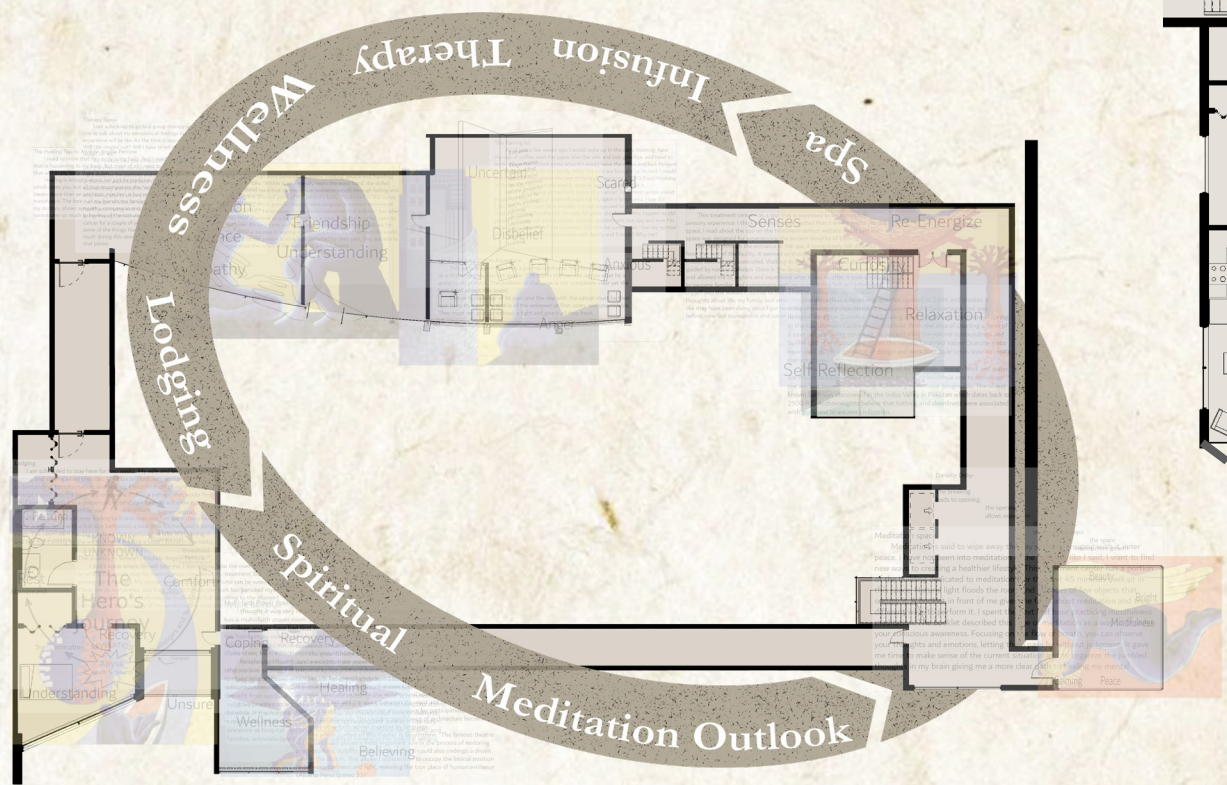


Lodging access
Spiritual Space
Circulation

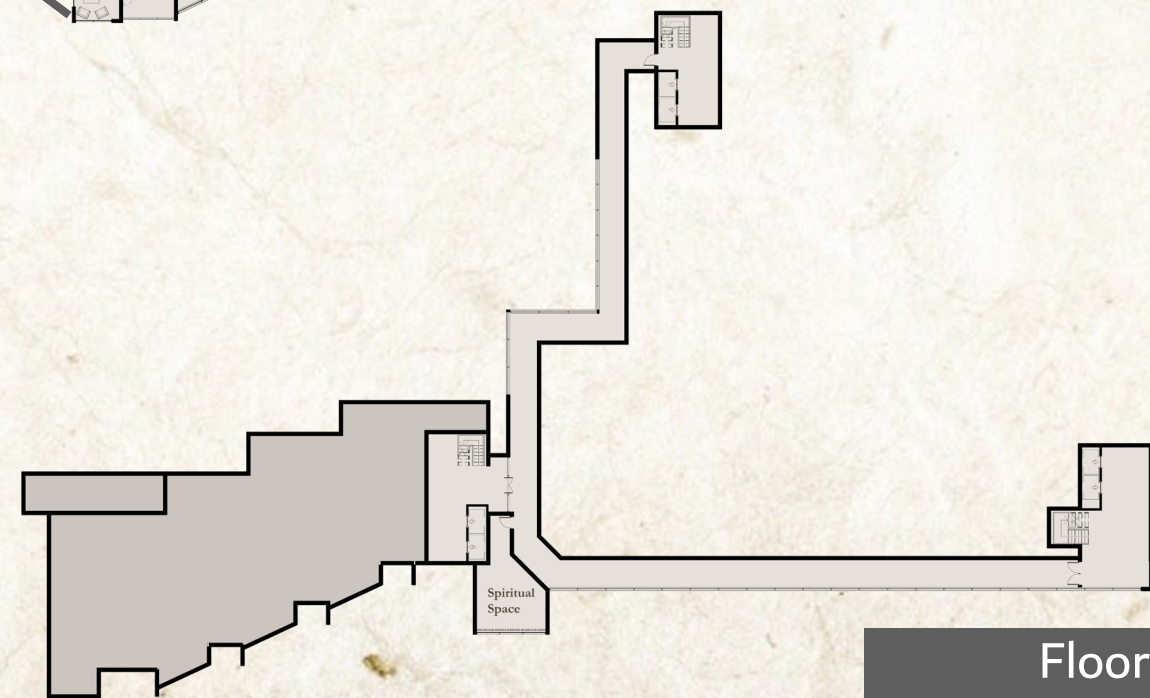


Level 4 ↑ N

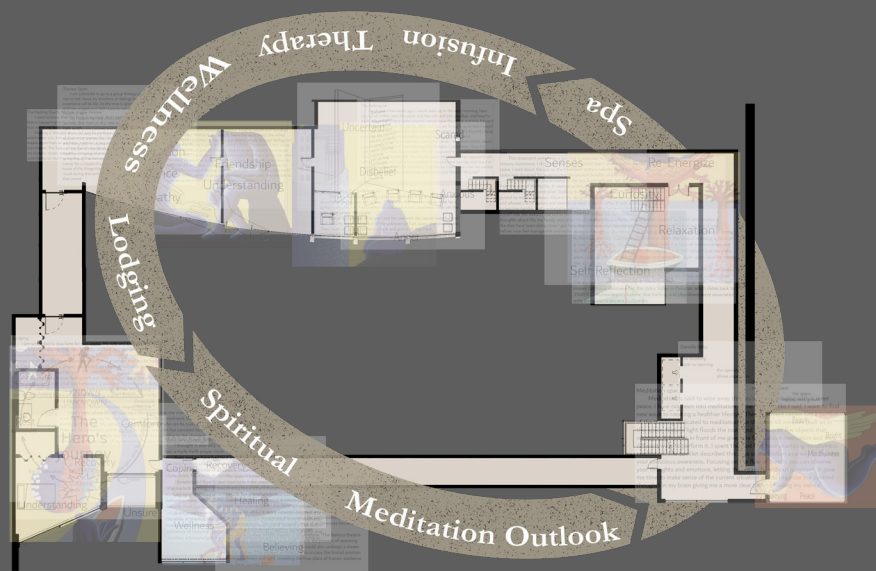




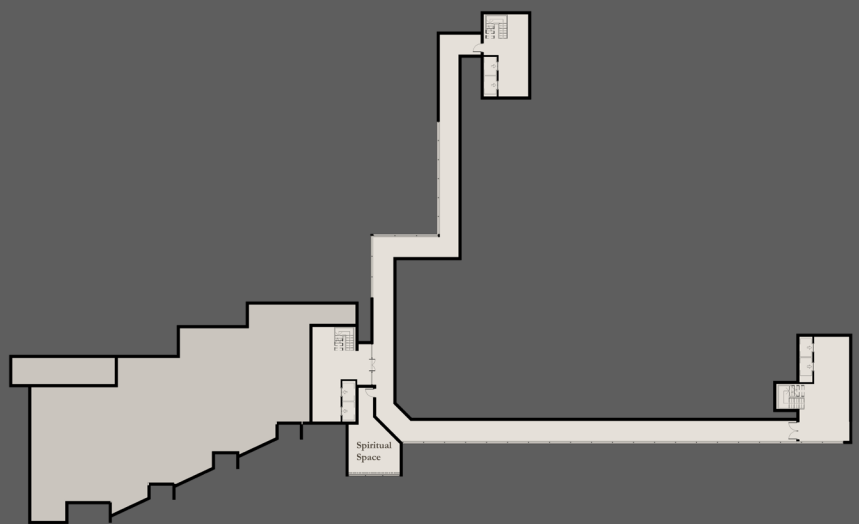
Floor 3



Floor 4



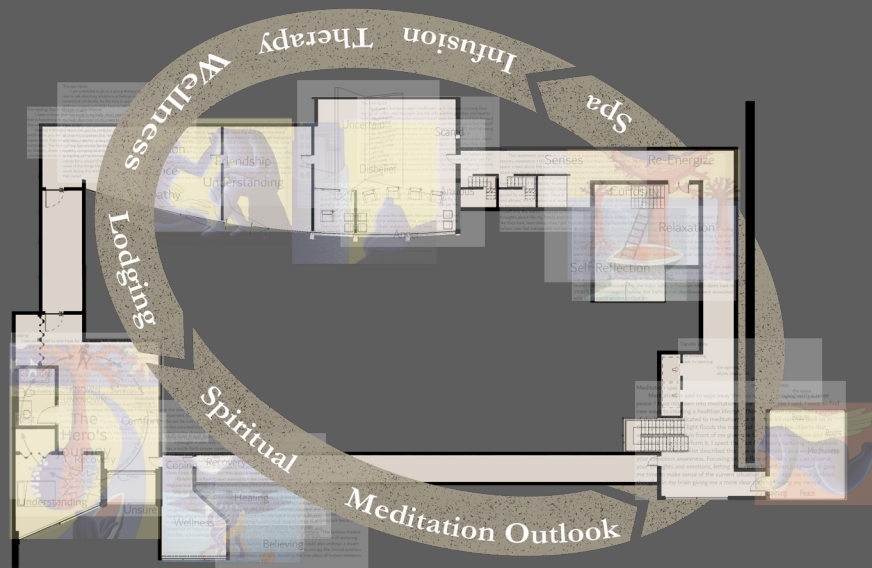
Holistic Cycle



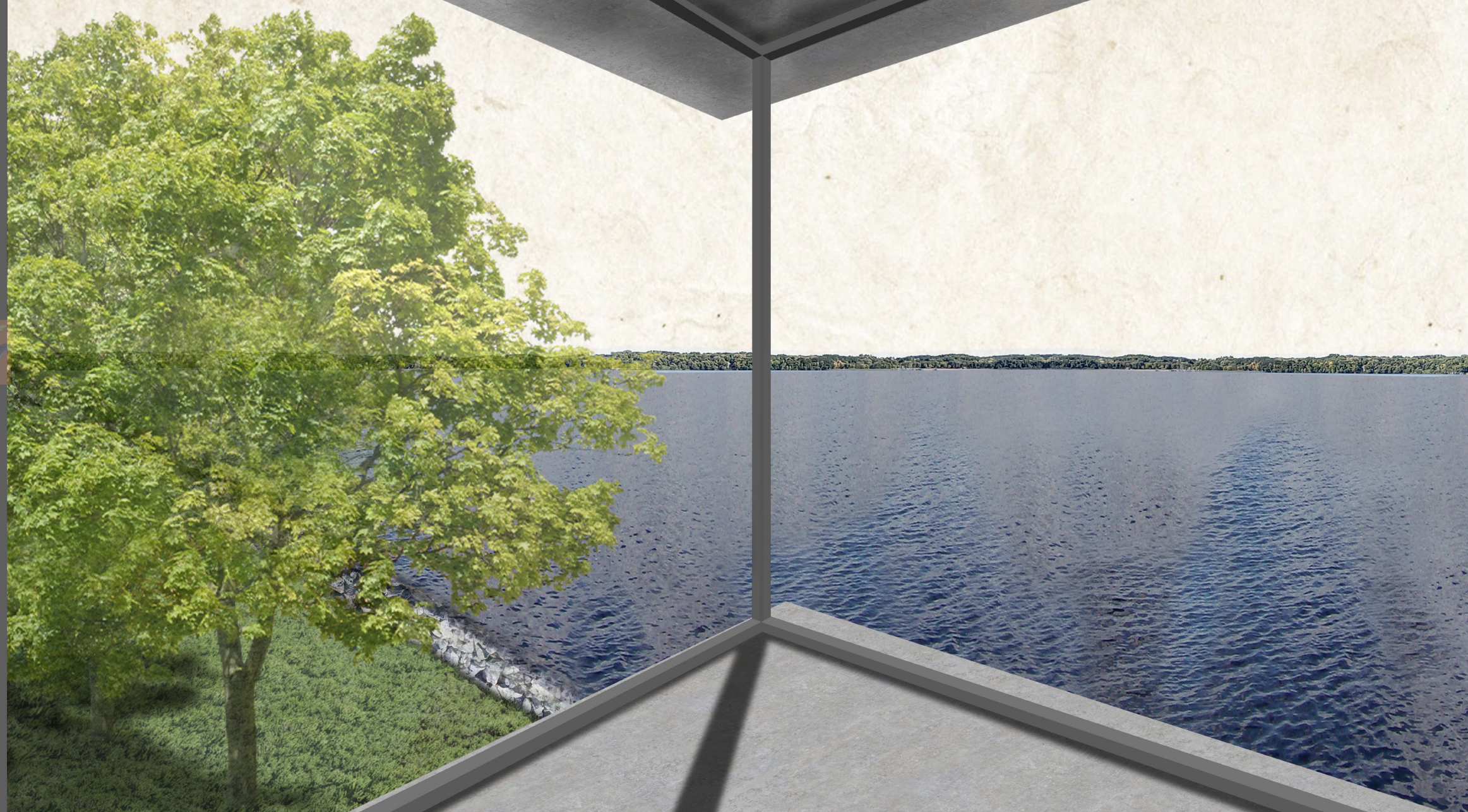
Floor 4



Spiritual Space



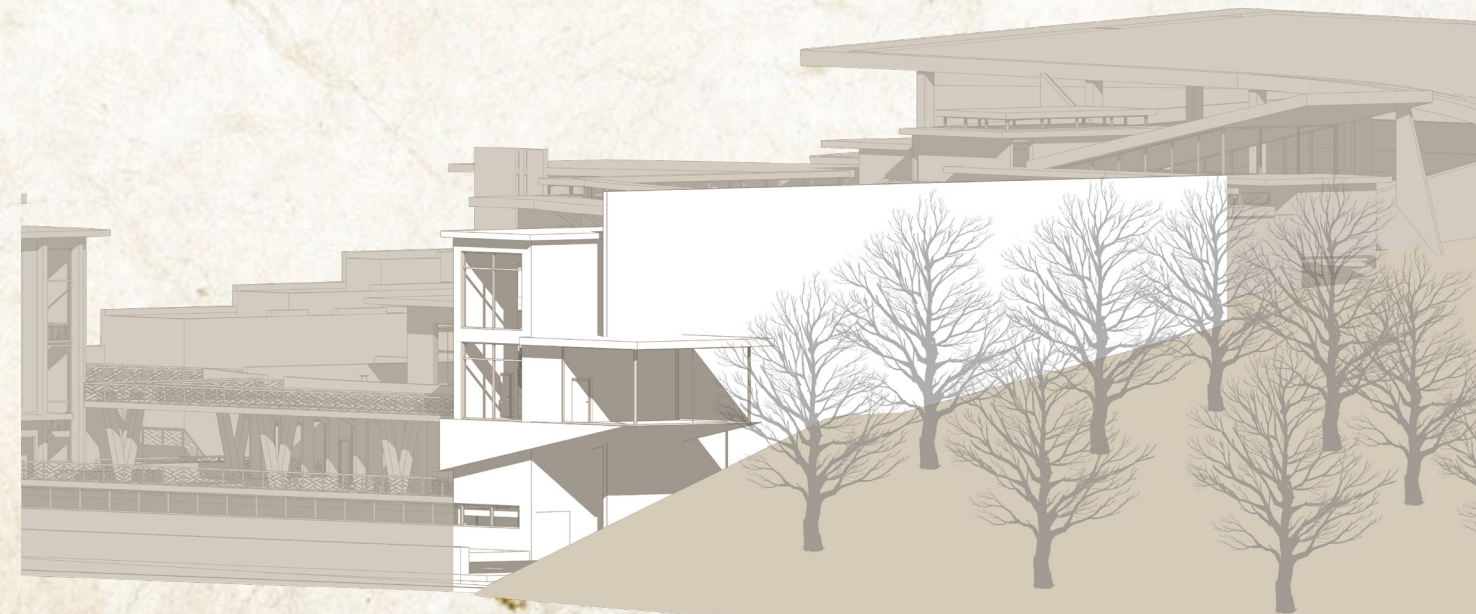
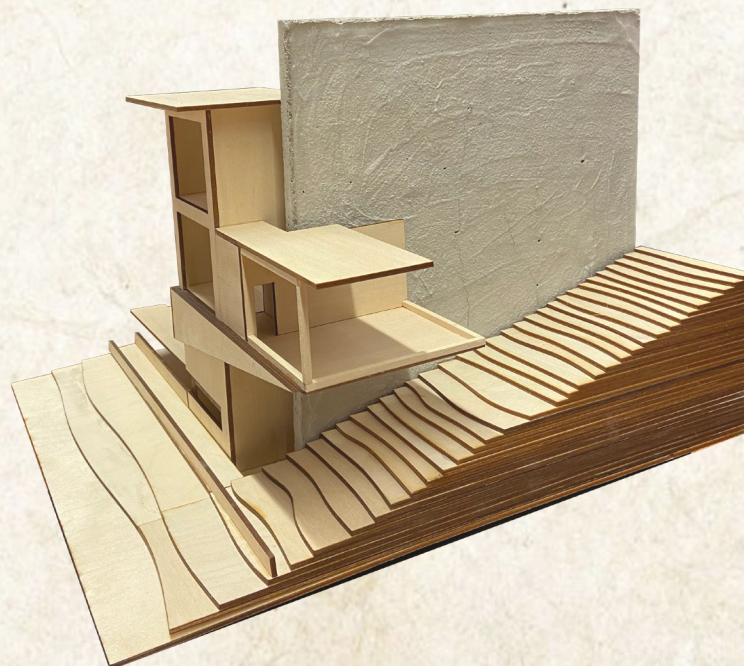
Holistic Cycle

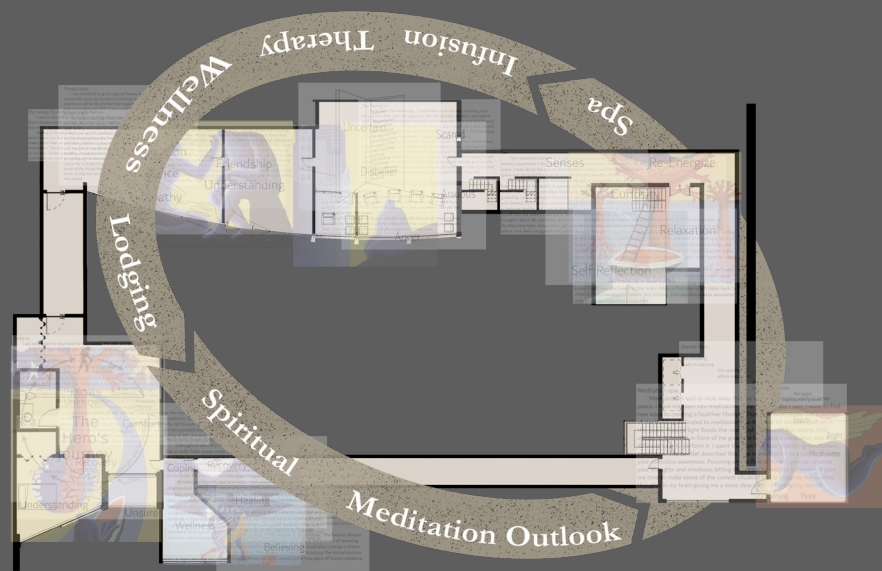


Meditation Outlook



Floor 2





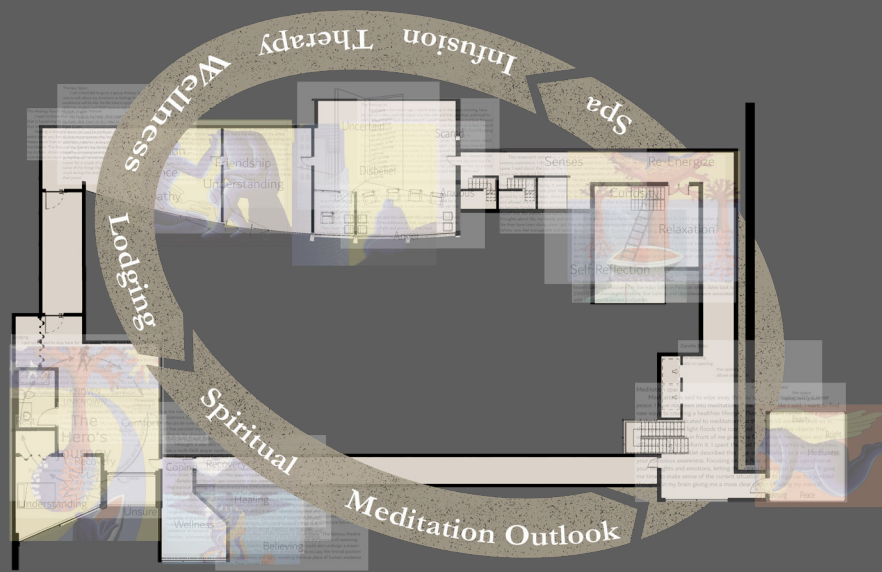
Holistic Cycle



Floor 2



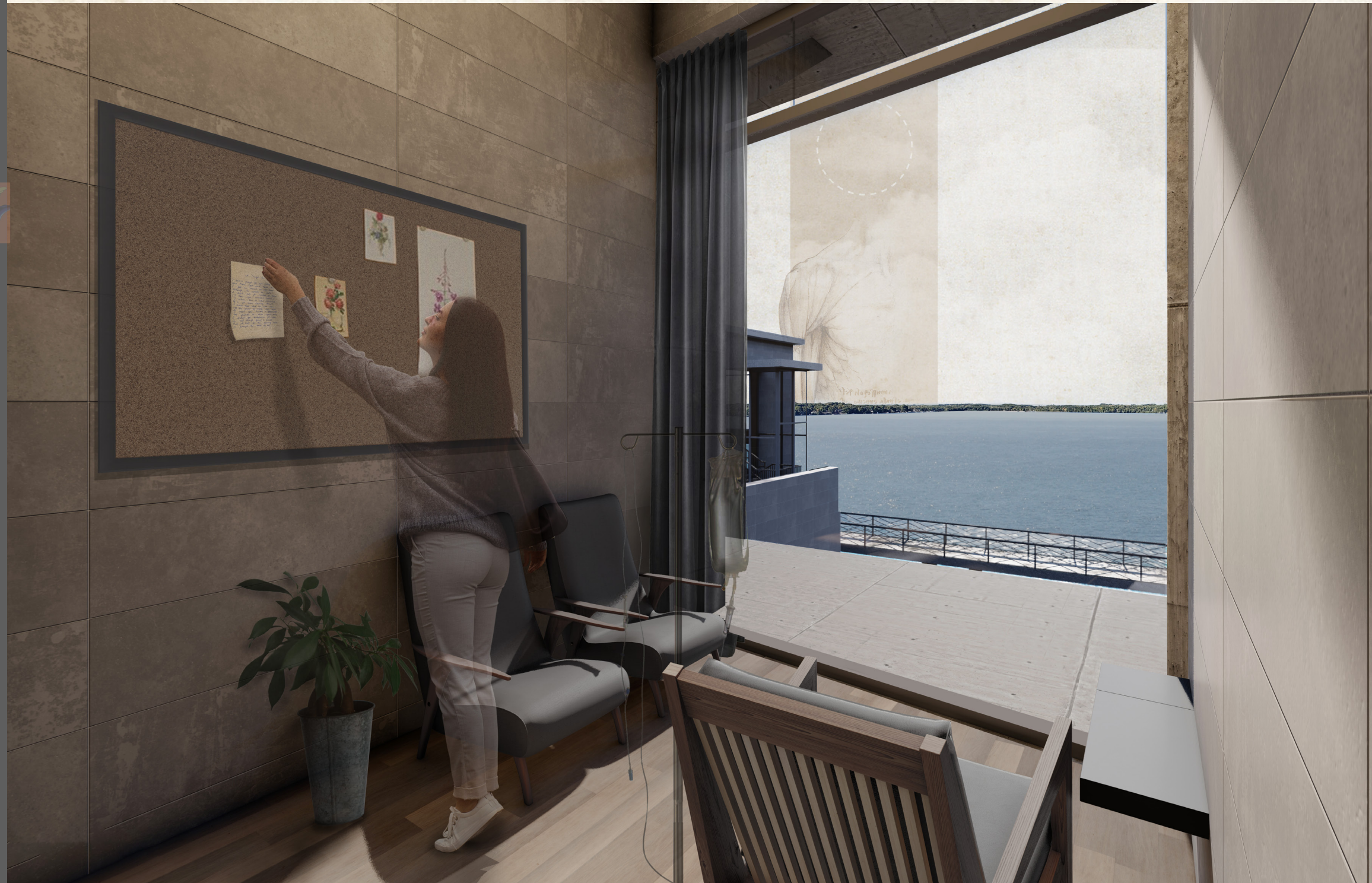
Spa



Holistic Cycle



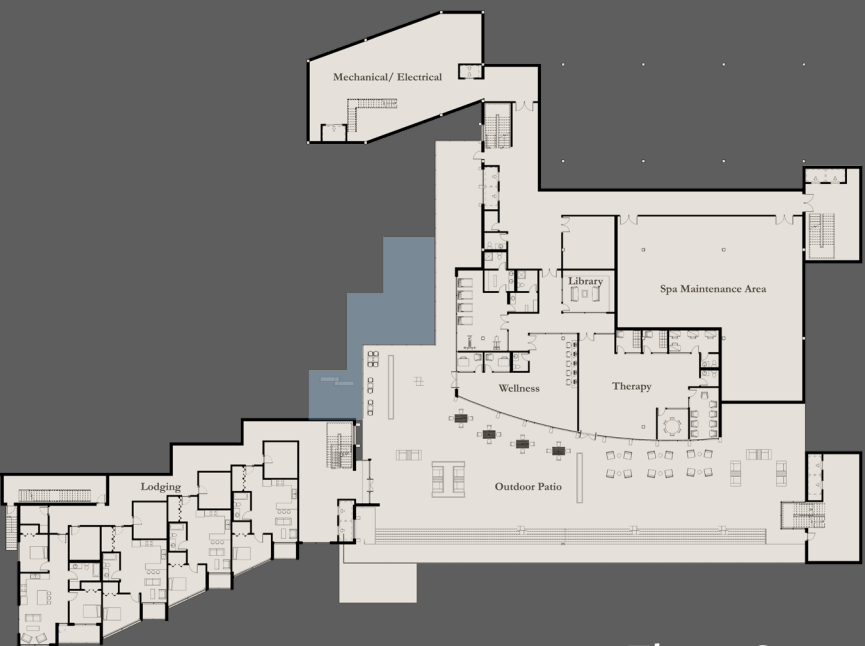
Floor 1



Infusion Bay



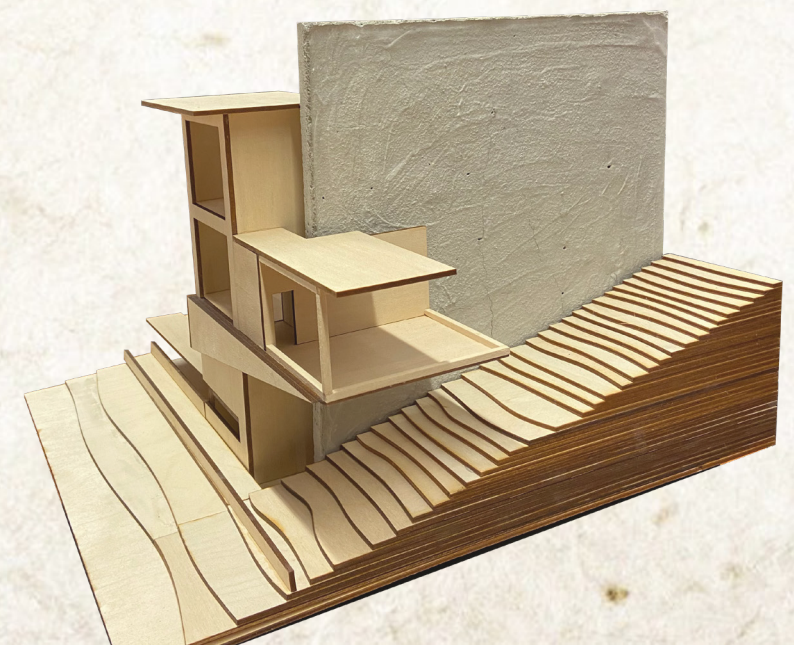
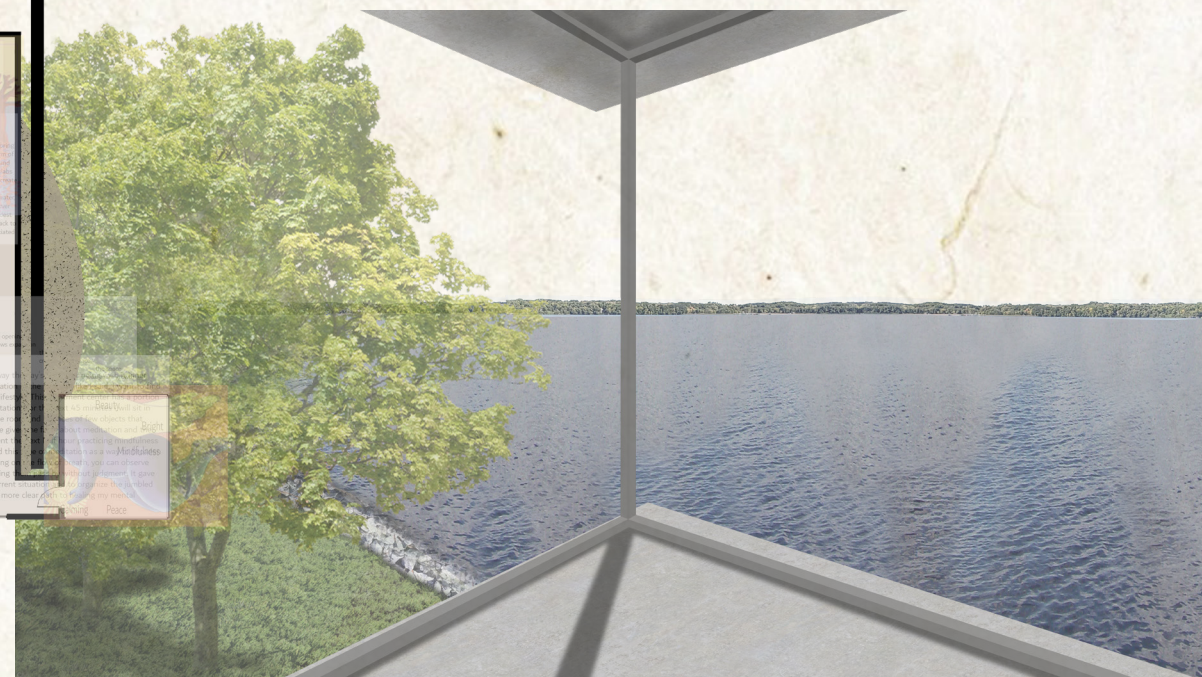
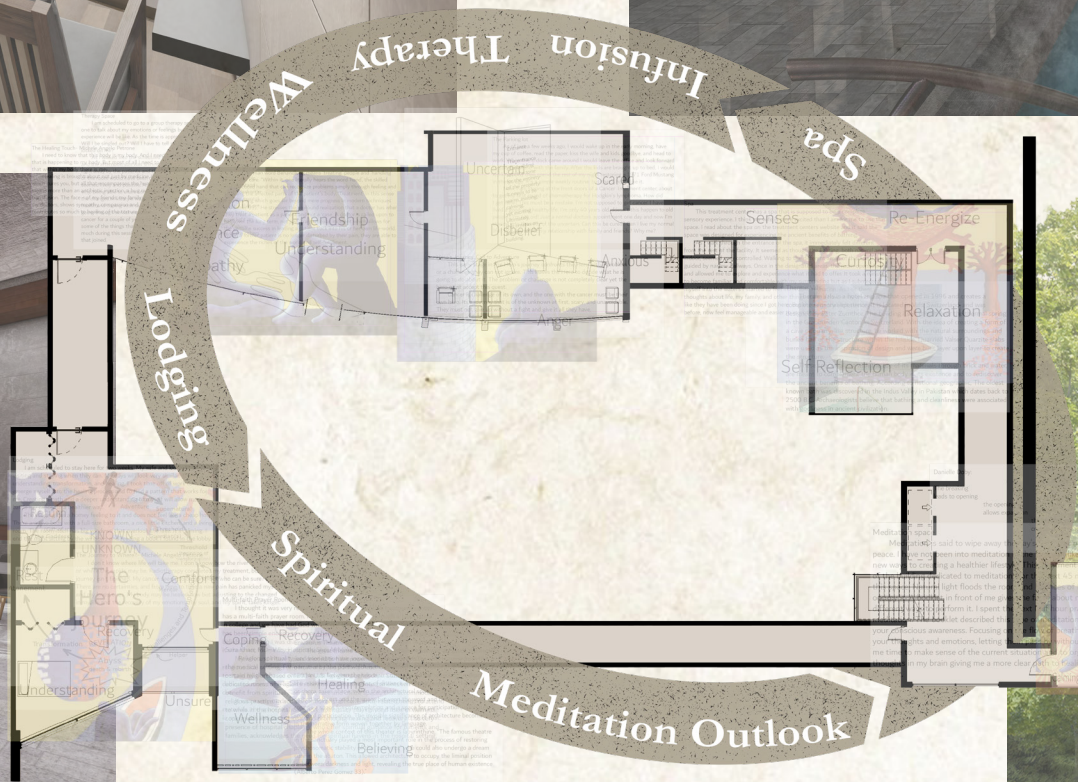
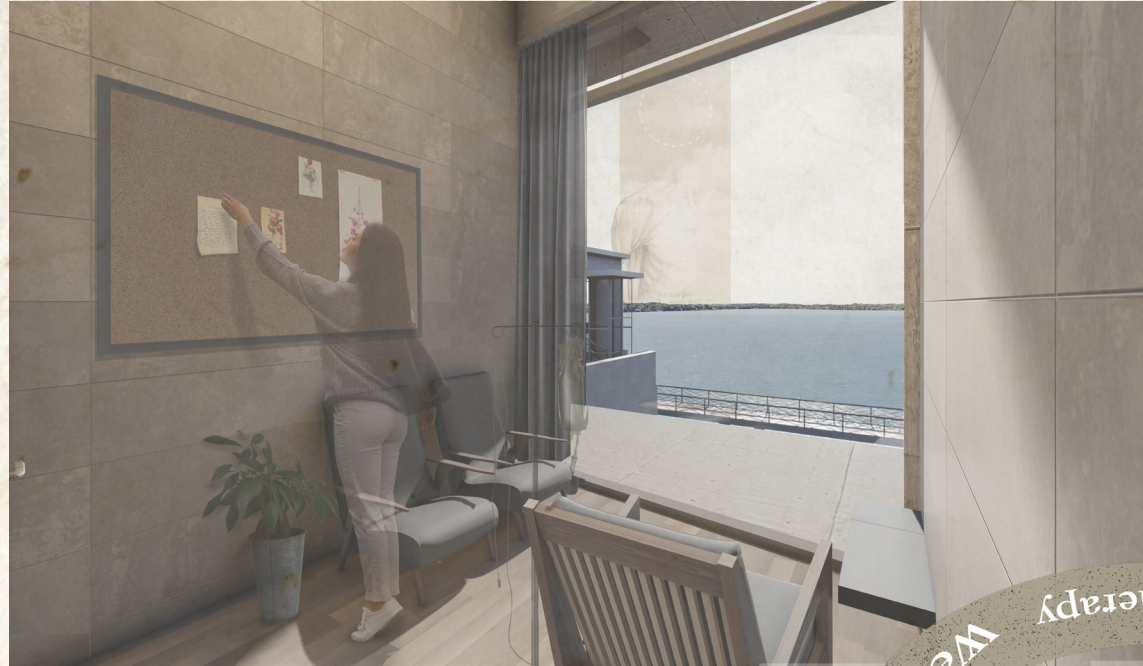
Holistic Cycle

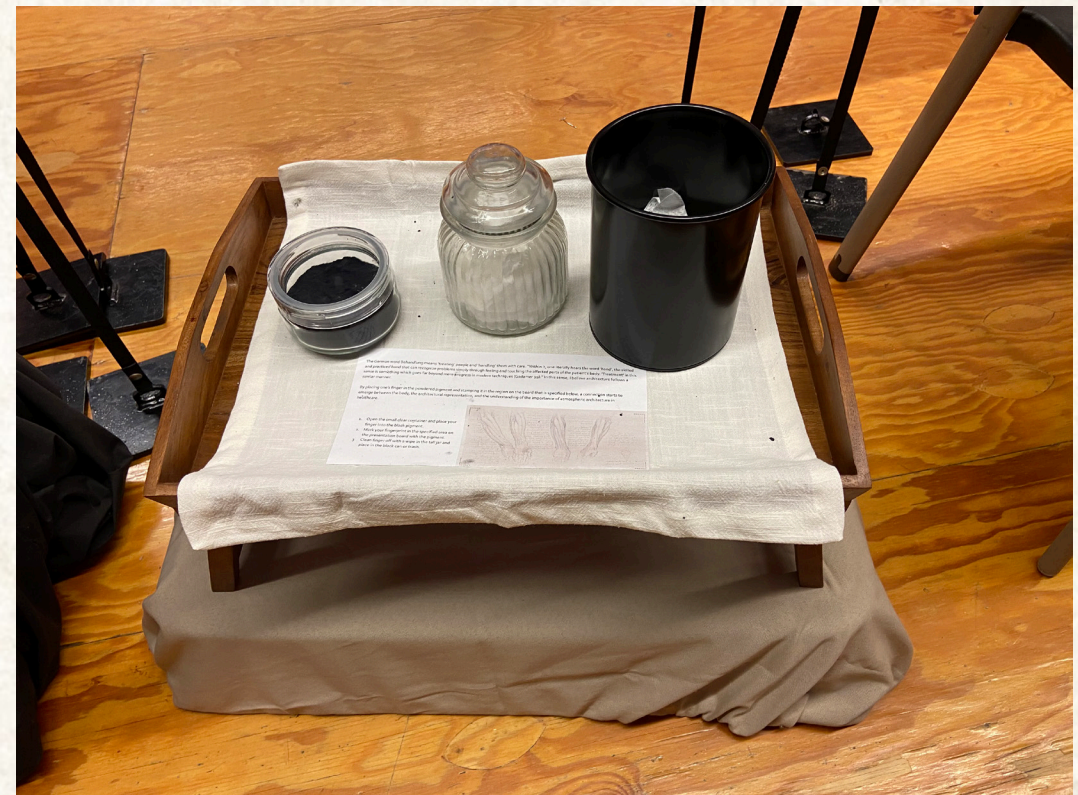
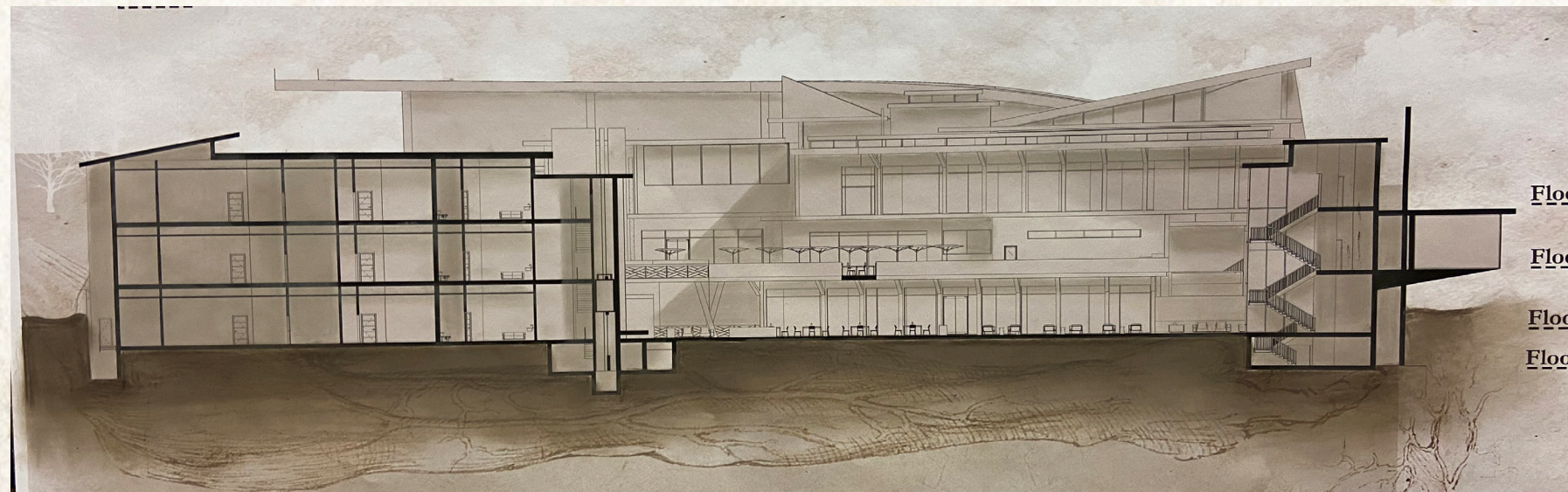
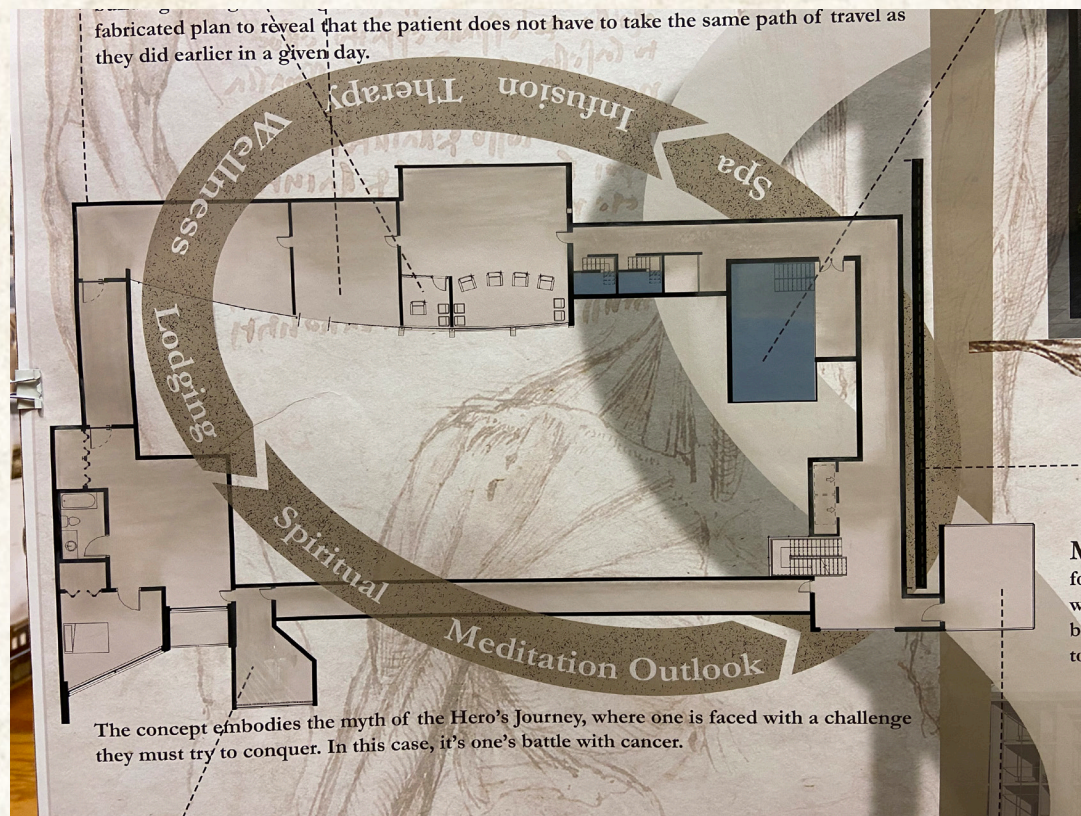
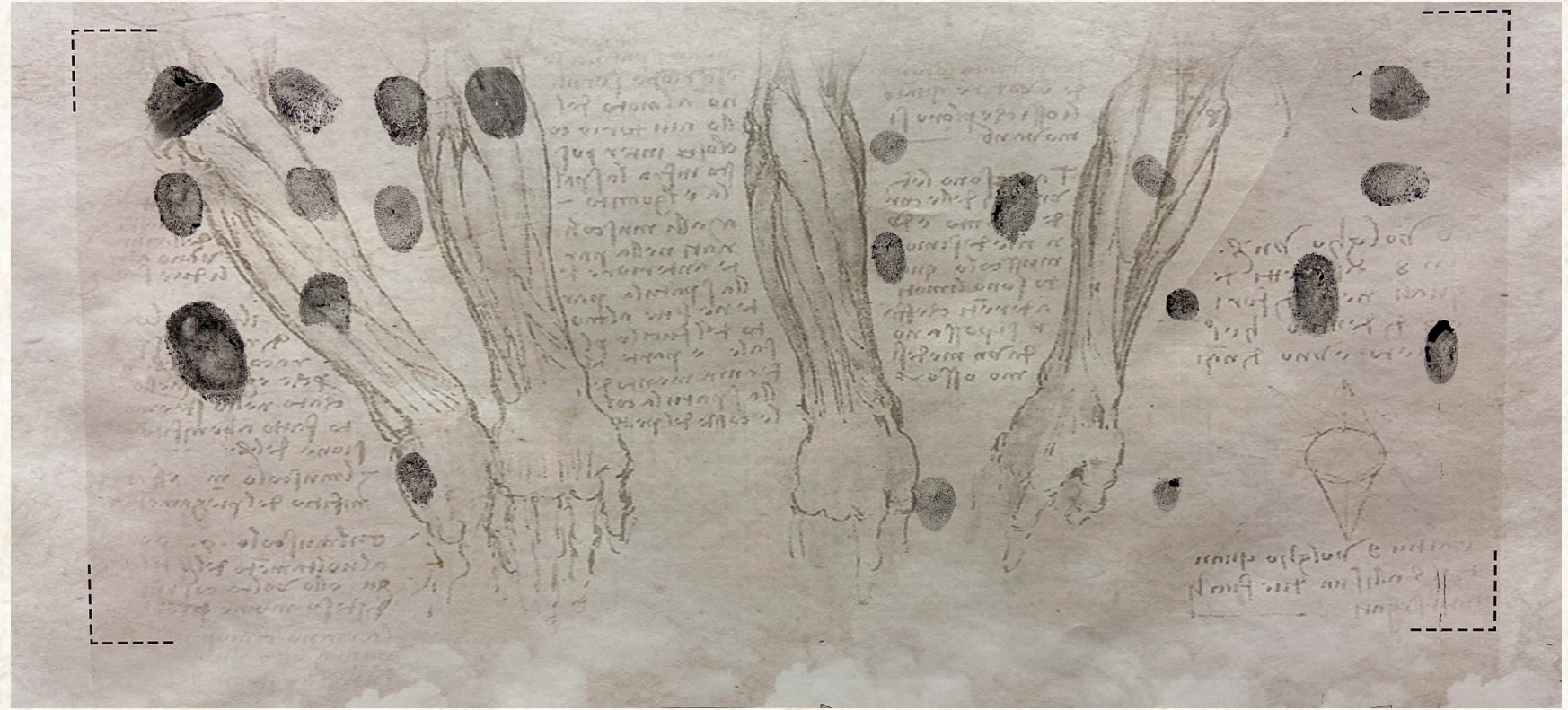
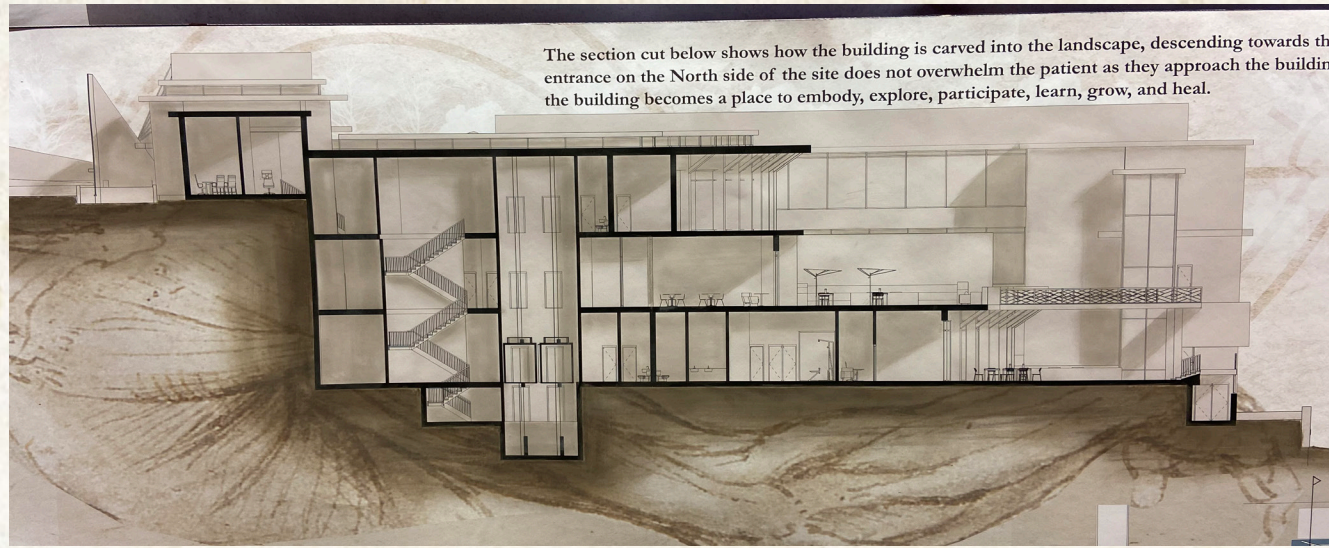


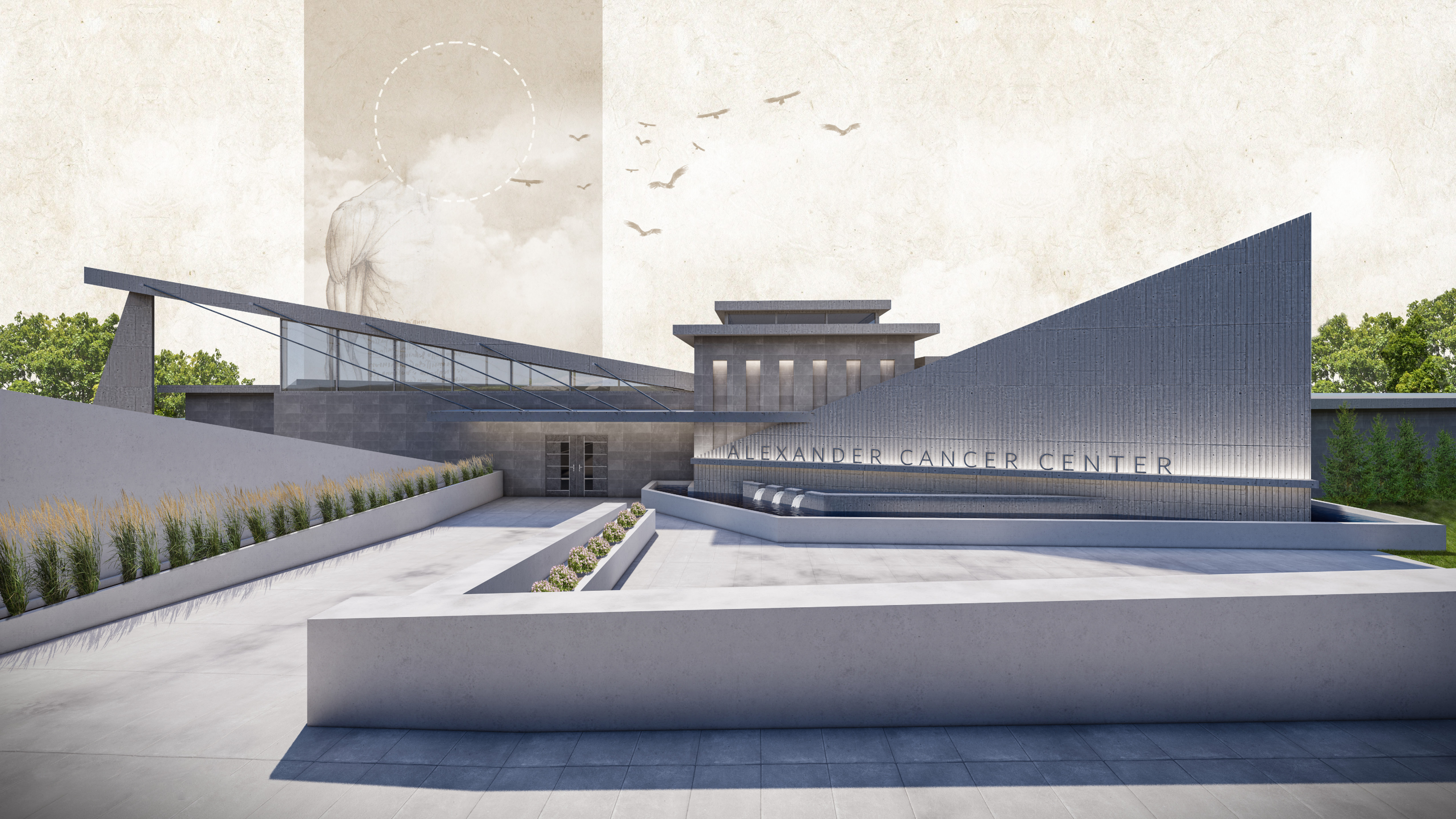
Floor 3



Therapy/Wellness Space







Thank You

