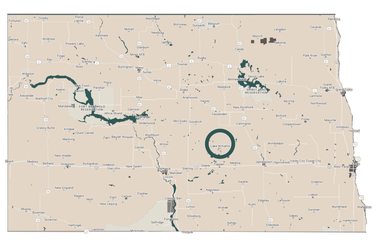


CAMP CONQUERORS

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF ACCESSIBLE DESIGN TO CREATE AN INCLUSIVE SPACE IN AN ALL-EMBRACING ENVIORNMENT

The great outdoors has an accessibility problem, but it doesn't have to. Connecting to nature is beneficial to mental and physical well-being and is a right for all. The design portion of this thesis is a master plan and camp facilities for Camp Conquerors and in collaboration with the Carson Wentz A01 foundation, which provides camping and outdoor experiences for children and teens with disabilities. Camp Conquerors provides its campers with the opportunity to seek independence, develop relationships, and discover themselves through a range of activities.

Moving design past accessibility minimums, this proposal provides equal access and experience to all in a rural prairie landscape. Various areas have been designed to meet the needs of individuals with varying disabilities by taking into consideration the way they move, specific medical needs and personal vulnerability while providing spaces for deep interaction with the outdoors and fellow campers. The camp users will be able to explore and interact with the great outdoors in a whole new way: their way.

User / Client Description

As for the intended client for this thesis, it is the Carson Wentz A01 foundation. As the foundation's headquarters, the building will serve as the home base for its outdoor ministry program, a program that consists of two components: camp conquerors and mountain movers. The mission of each of the programs is to foster a genuine love for the outdoors, and to bring people closer to God through discipleship at camp and once-in-a-lifetime hunting opportunities for children with life-threatening illness, disabilities, and other life-altering conditions. Cole and Lexi Scherbenske will be responsible for running the proposed camp. They serve as the outdoor ministry director and the outdoor ministry strategic coordinator for Carson Wentz A01. The Camp will be designed primarily for the the youth who have or are experiencing the following:

- Children who have or have had life-altering medical situations or diagnosis.
- Children who have or have had siblings/parents with life-altering medical situations or diagnosis.
- Children suffering with anxiety, depression, and suicidal thoughts.
- Children in foster care and single parent homes or who have experienced abuse. (sexual, physical, or verbal)
- Children with a variety of different cognitive disabilities.

Design Through Project Goals

Accessibility/Independence

In designing the Carson Wentz A01 Foundation's Camp Conquerors, accessibility was the top priority. Taking into account that the camp's users were people with physical, emotional, and mental health disabilities, it was designed to be a real summer camp experience for those who attend. The ADA standards were followed and pushed in order to ensure that persons with disabilities had access to the facilities and events. With the packed gravel path and accessible facilities, people who use wheelchairs or have other mobility issues are able to get around comfortably.

Encouragement

It is Camp Conquerors' mission to create spaces of encouragement and upliftment. In the camp, encouragement is implemented through the design of the cabins. As a result, the cabins provide a safe and comfortable environment for a group to be vulnerable and share their experiences, sitting on the floor, around a table and even sitting on their bunks whilst still being part of the discussion.

Self-Discovery and Acceptance

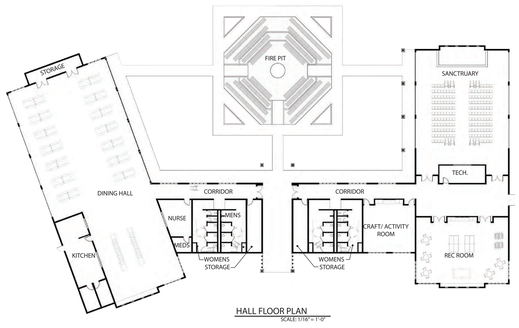
By giving campers the freedom to choose which activities they desire, it provides a tangible way of helping them learn more about themselves and how they can utilize their talents on a global scale. Camp Conquerors offers a variety of activities with leadership opportunities as well as activities with opportunities to fail and succeed. When these opportunities are provided to the children, for example, soccer, football, swimming or making crafts, they learn who they are and what they are and are not capable of.

Connection to the Outdoors

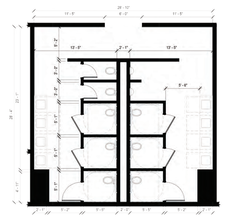
By creating a space that allows people to feel comfortable and to take risks in such a manner that they can conquer fears and overcome adversity. The use of locally sourced materials for the camp's buildings was crucial to being connected to the outdoors.

Community/Relationships

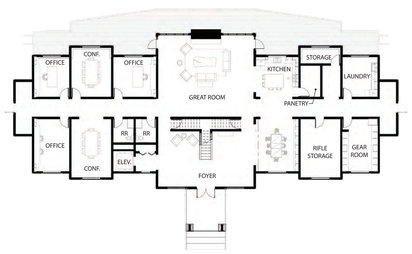
There are a lot of things that the outdoors and a camping environment can provide for us. One of those things is a space where people from all backgrounds can find encouragement, grow, and learn from one another. By allowing the facilities to be flexible, they will be able to host events for the community. In addition, it will serve as a place for the A01 Foundation to host fundraiser events.



HALL FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 1/16" = 1'-0"

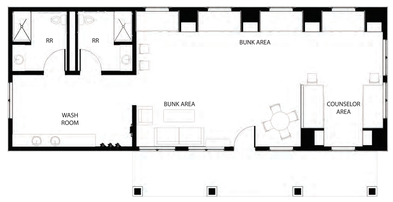


RESTROOM - ENLARGED PLAN
SCALE: 3/16" = 1'-0"

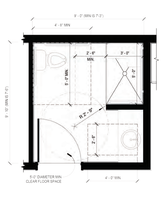


LODGE - FIRST FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"

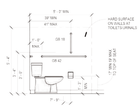
LODGE - SECOND FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 3/32" = 1'-0"



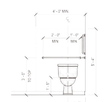
CABIN - FLOOR PLAN
SCALE: 3/16" = 1'-0"



CABIN RESTROOM PLAN - ADA
SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"



RESTROOM ELEVATION
SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"



RESTROOM ELEVATION
SCALE: 3/8" = 1'-0"

THE HALL

LODGE

CABINS