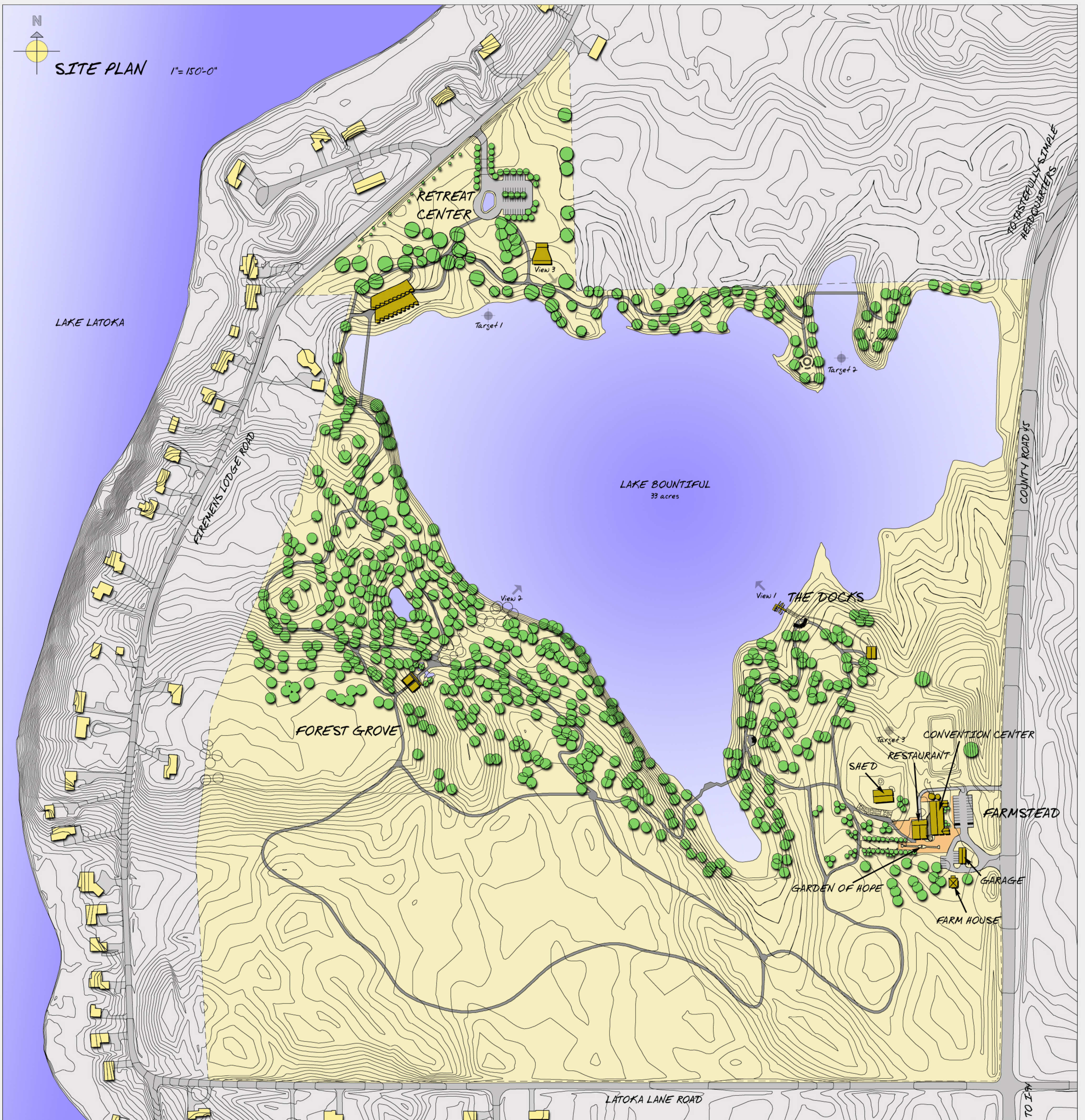


LAKE BOUNTIFUL ECOLOGICAL RETREAT

Transitions from natural to built

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Project Overview:

The project is a convention center/corporate retreat for Tastefully Simple. Tastefully Simple is a corporation that creates and distributes easy-to-prepare gourmet foods through a large group of consultants. Recently this site, which is near their corporate headquarters, was put up for sale. Tastefully Simple decided to purchase it for preservation purposes. The site is located along one of two city bypass roads around Alexandria. Transportation companies and manufactures are heavily developing the area around these roads. This design is intended to be much more than just a convention center for Tastefully Simple. It is also a "active preserve" that will preserve some of the land along this road and also provide a site that the entire community can be inspired by, learn from and interact with. The term "active preserve" seems to be a contradiction in terms, but what this means is a site where the natural state is preserved as much as possible while still encouraging people to interact with the site in an effort to educate.

Why do all this?

Tastefully Simple is an open-minded corporation concerned with preservation. They are excited about developing this site in sustainable manner and what makes this exciting is the amount of people that will have interaction with the site. This will be more than an ominous building with a LEED platinum certification that the community does not learn from. Through class fieldtrips, corporate conventions and retreats a large cross section of the community will have the opportunity to pass through this site. Information will be posted through the site explaining why things were designed the way they were for education purposes and hopefully will excite visitors about sustainable practices. These people will go back to their communities and corporations and hopefully spread the word and hopefully can be transformed into a grassroots effort that will make it way from the visitors to the site to local governments then to the state and finally the federal government. Once that happens the United States might sign on to bills like the Kyoto treaty and pass more stringent efficiency codes.

Site Location

The Lake Bountiful site is located 15 miles south of Tastefully Simple's corporate headquarters in Alexandria. Tastefully Simple's headquarters are located about 3 miles west of downtown Alexandria. Alexandria is located roughly in the middle of Douglas County, which lies in central Minnesota.



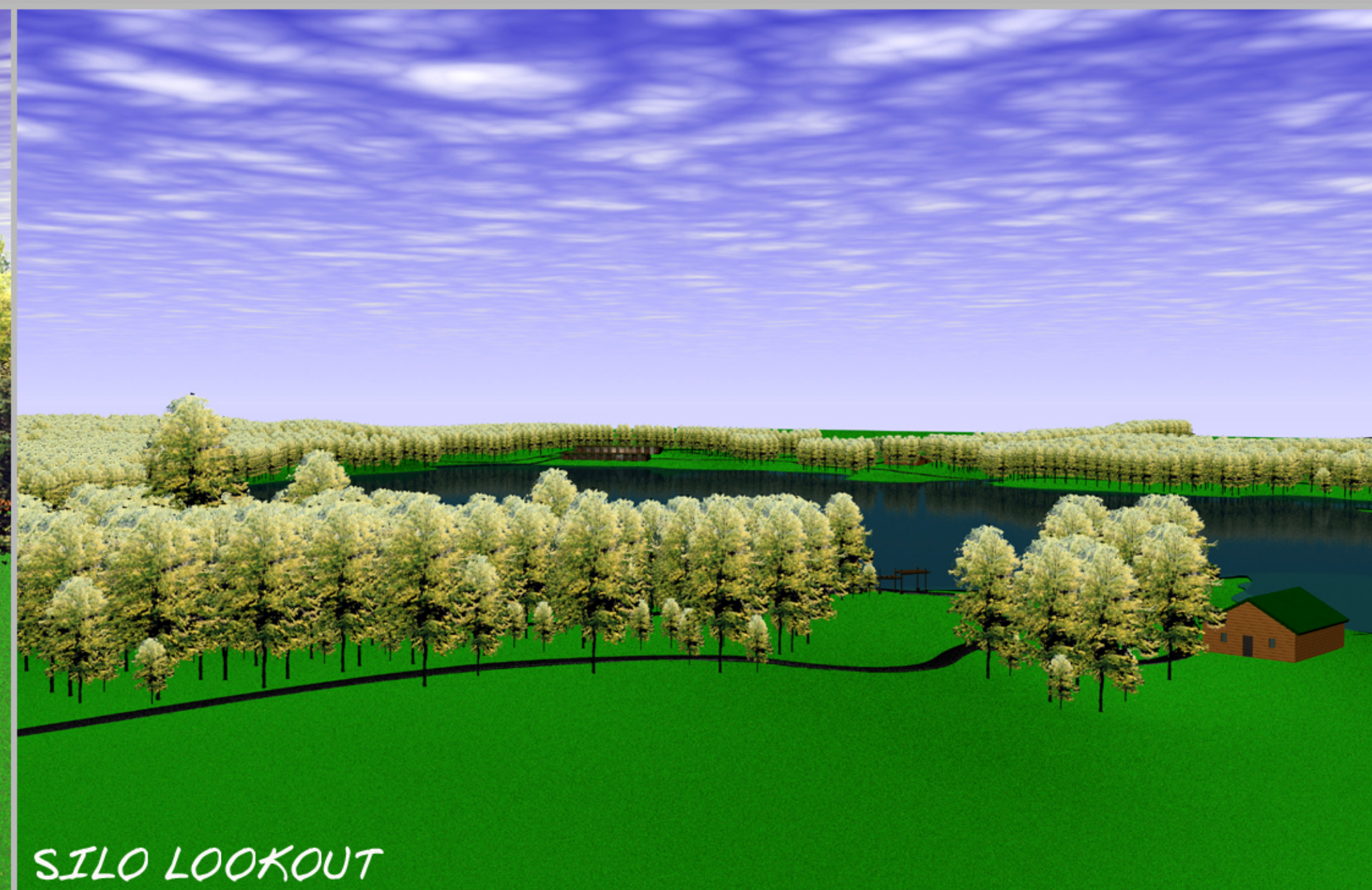
Project Emphasis

The focus of the project is to design buildings that transition into the landscape similar to the way the site itself is a transition zone. To design and construct the buildings in ways that impact the site as little as possible, yet allow for interaction with the site.

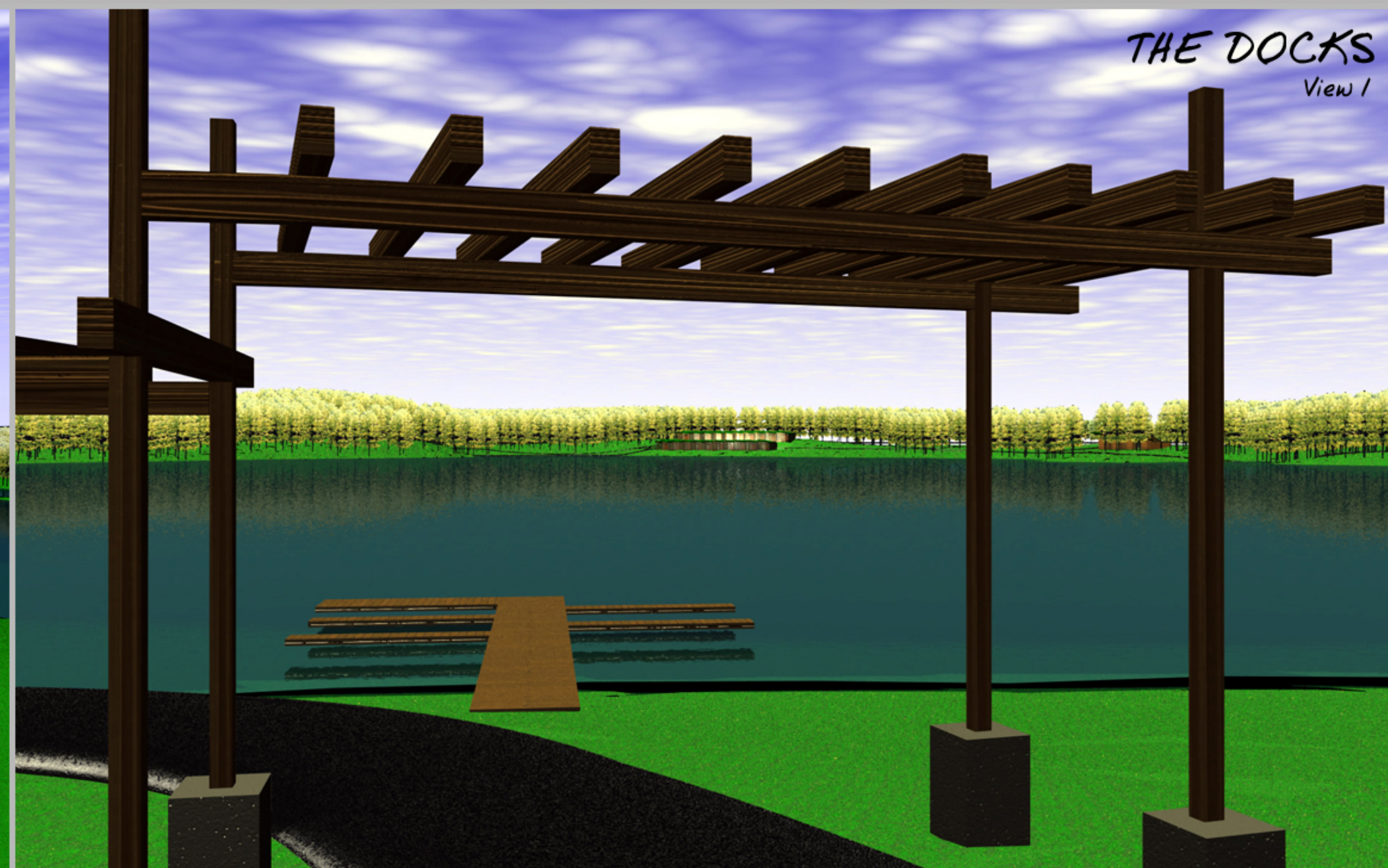
- Fulfill the client's needs for the site while preserving the original sense of place.
- Adaptive reuse of the existing structures on the site.
- Blend the designs of the buildings into the master plan.
- The design of the site should be made self-sustaining, both environmentally and economically. This will ensure that all aspects of the project will be able to thrive and continue being a valuable resource to the community.
- While preserving the historical nature of the site, still provide Tastefully Simple with an icon it, along with the community, can identify with.



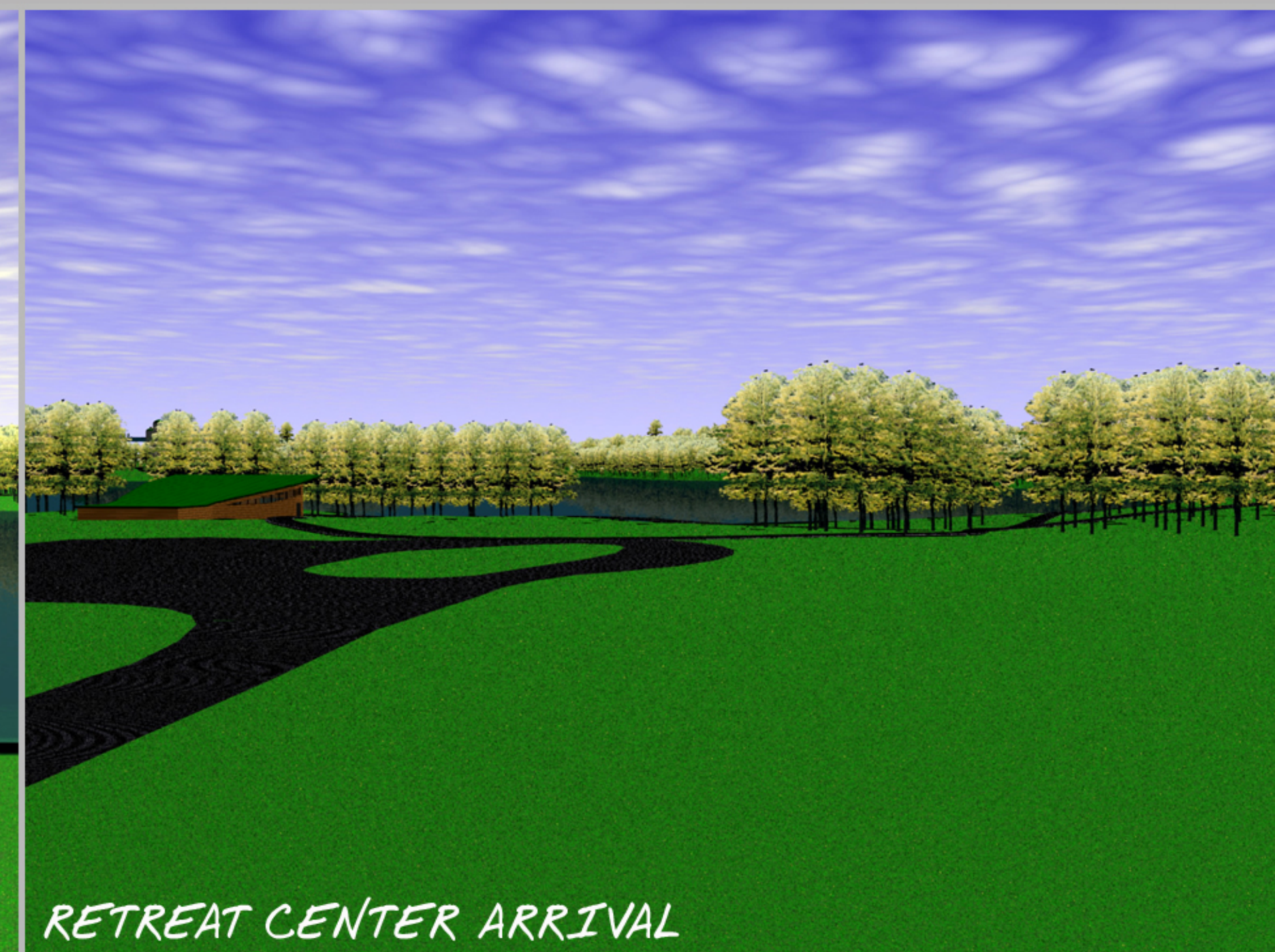
FARMSTEAD



SILO LOOKOUT



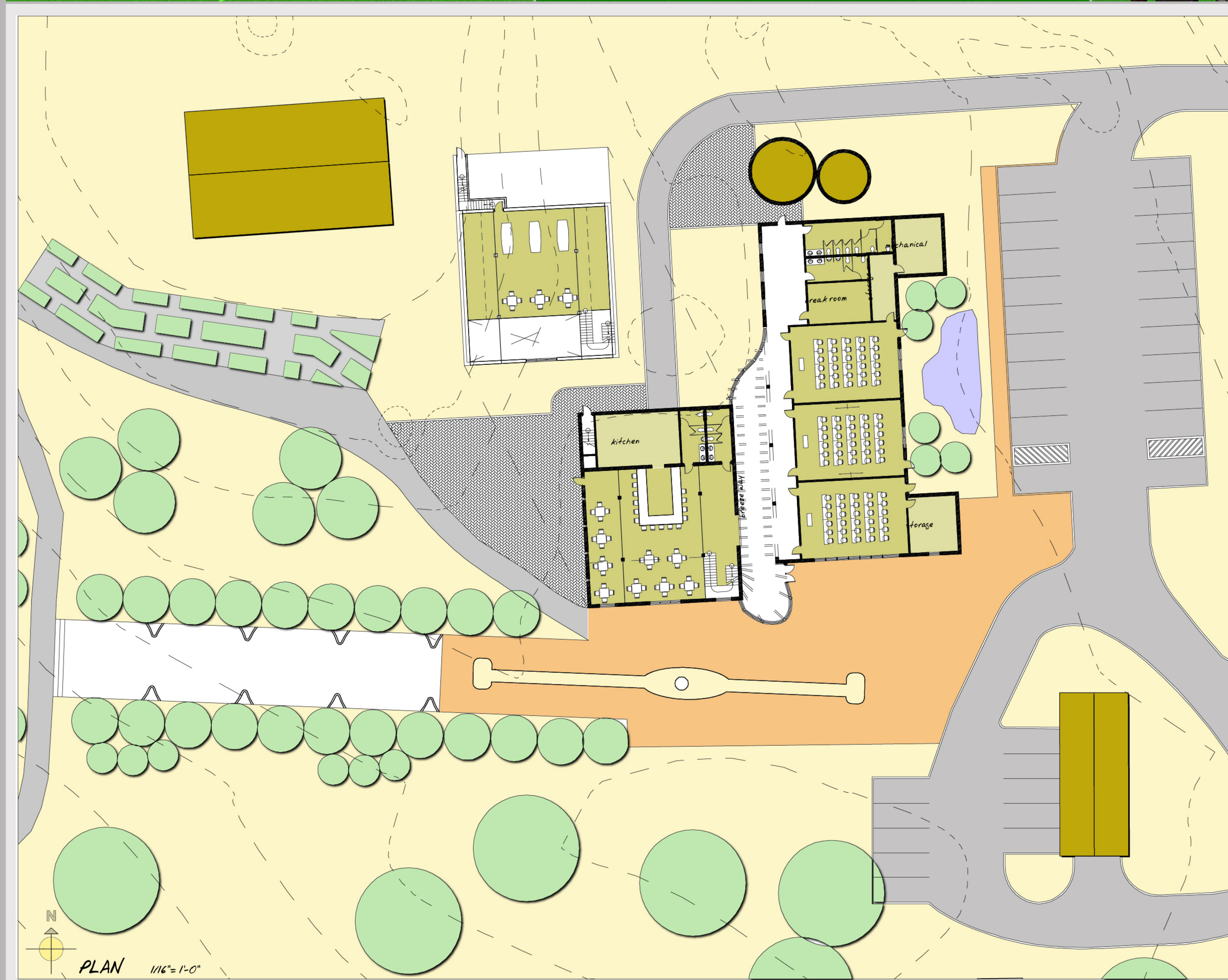
THE DOCKS
View 1



RETREAT CENTER ARRIVAL



GARDEN OF HOPE



Conference Center

Farmhouse:
This building will remain as it is since Tastefully Simple has just recently renovated the interior and is already using it for small meetings. It is a vital part of preserving the original sense of a small farmstead.

Large barn:
This will be used for conventions/meeting area. This is something that Tastefully Simple themselves will not need on a regular basis. Currently they are holding their own annual convention in Minneapolis. They will however be using this space for special occasions they hold for their employees throughout the year. During the times Tastefully Simple itself will not be using the space it will be rented out, during business days by local business for conventions and meetings, weekends and evenings for a variety of uses like: wedding receptions, concerts and anniversaries. The max occupancy of the convention hall is 375 people, which can be broken down to three individual rooms of 90 occupants each. Currently there are only two other venues in Alexandria for such conventions/meetings, which are overwhelmed through most of the year.

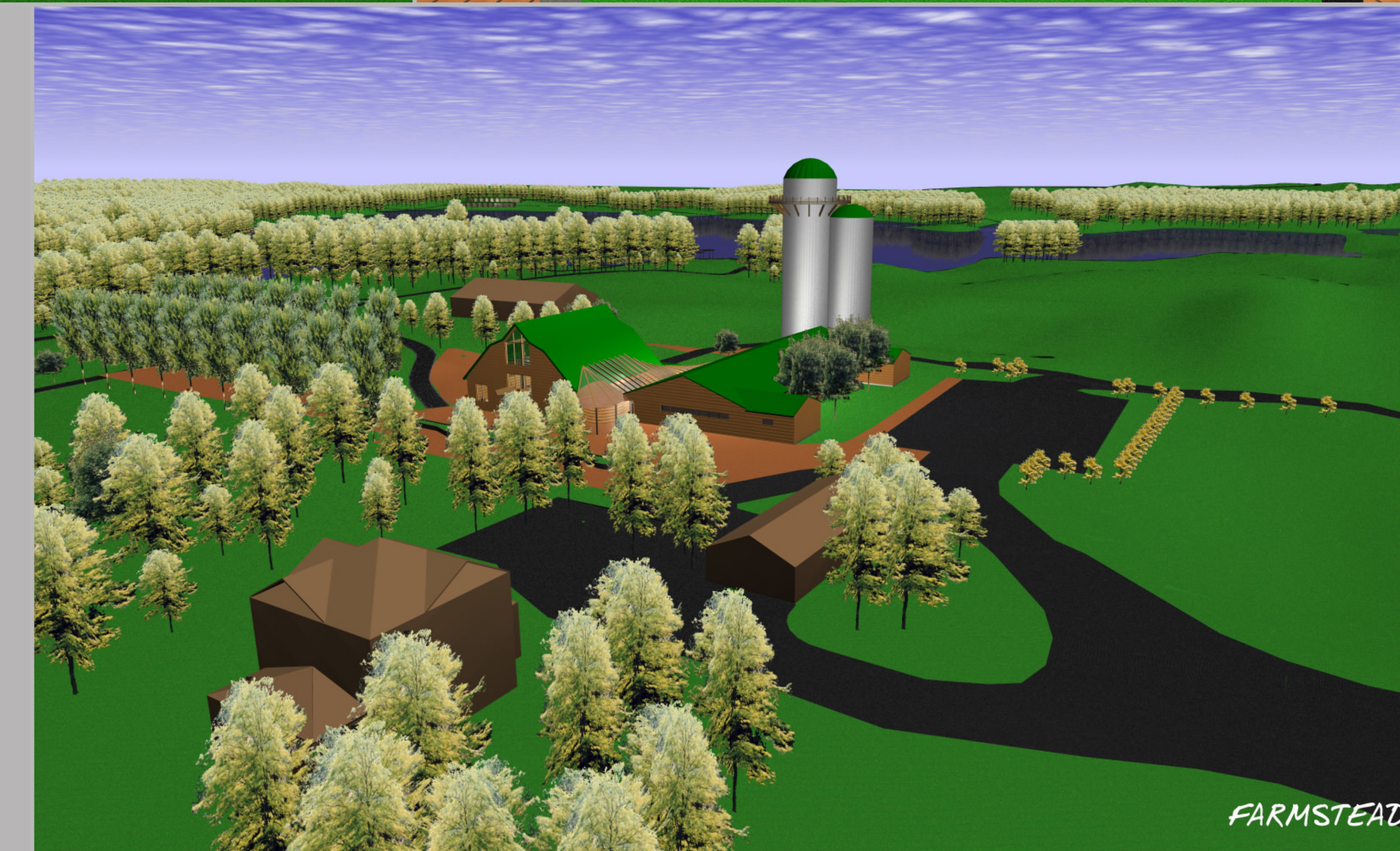
Breezeway:
A breezeway was designed to connect the convention center with the restaurant. This was done to eliminate the need to go outdoors between the two buildings and also to open up the area, making for a more pleasing entry. The extra space will accommodate gatherings prior to entering the convention area and bring in daylight. This element is also intended to add interest and create an icon which the project can be identified with.

Tall barn:
This will be used as a restaurant/bar. The restaurant would be open to the public in the evenings and weekends. During the day the restaurant would support the needs of the conventions, providing everything from refreshments to full meals. The space could also be used for breakouts or small meetings if need be. The attached patio space to the west would be the only one of its kind in the Alexandria area. Other restaurants and bars have attempted patios like this but fail to provide much of a view. The patio would look over the Hope Garden and also be connected to the Silo lookout, providing spectacular sunset views. The menu could also be partially comprised of Tastefully Simple foods to promote its products.

Silos:
The silos will remain on site to preserve the farmstead character and can be converted into a lookout tower. This would add excitement for tours and also provide a comprehensive view of the site.

Garage:
The garage will be consistent with Aaron's designation of storage for garbage receptacles and other maintenance equipment.

Shed:
The shed will also be consistent Aaron's designation for storage and an attached greenhouse.



FARMSTEAD



SOUTH PERSPECTIVE



BREEZEWAY SOUTH



BREEZEWAY NORTH



RESTAURANT MAIN FLOOR



RESTAURANT BALCONY

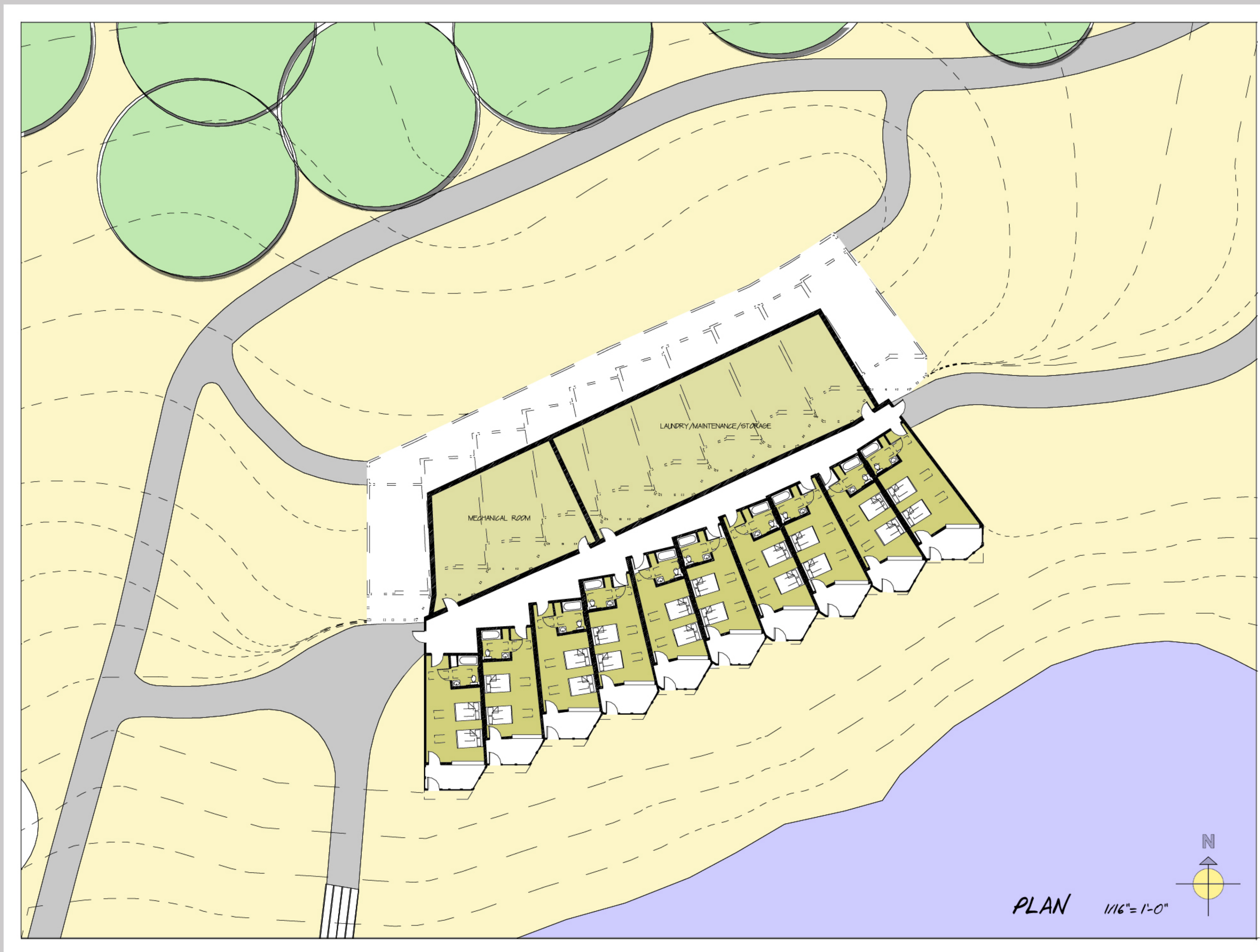




ARRIVAL PERSPECTIVE



LODGING ROOM



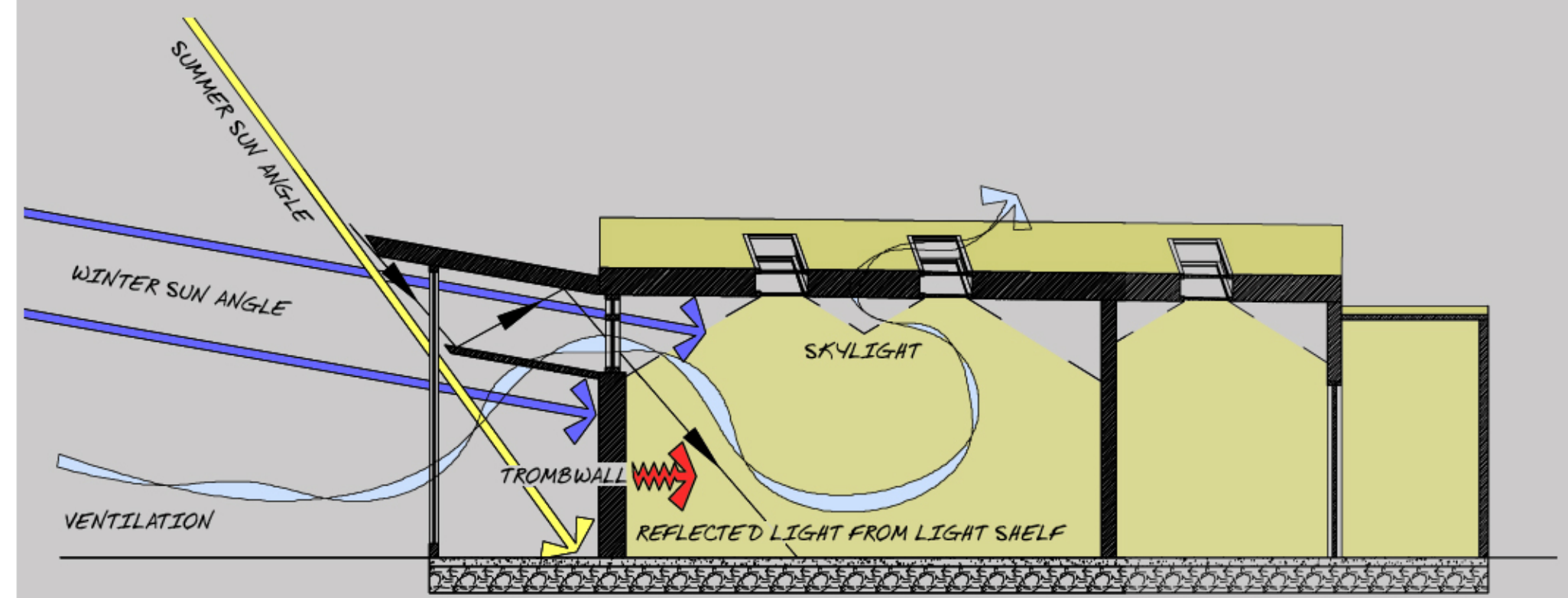
PLAN 1/16" = 1'-0"

Retreat Center Lodging

This building has ten rooms each with two double beds. This is intended to support the convention center allowing guests to stay onsite. Staying on site will allow total emersion into the active preserve making the experience more fulfilling by eliminating commutes, allowing morning and evening walks on the paths and providing an opportunity to truly experience the site, instead of just seeing it.

This building is fully designed with sustainable practices in mind. The goal was to make the building 75% more efficient. This was necessary not only to meld with the master plan but also because the building will not be occupied 100% of the time. Because of this, it would not be feasible for Tastefully Simple to pay high operating costs.

The building was located in such a spot that it will be sheltered from the prevailing winter winds by a small hill and trees which also hide the building upon entry to the site from the road. The shape blends with the contours of the site and also provides maximum access to day lighting, views to the lake and access to summer prevailing winds. Even the shape of the roofs will collect all rain water falling on the building for a gray water retention system, preserving the quality of Lake Bountiful.

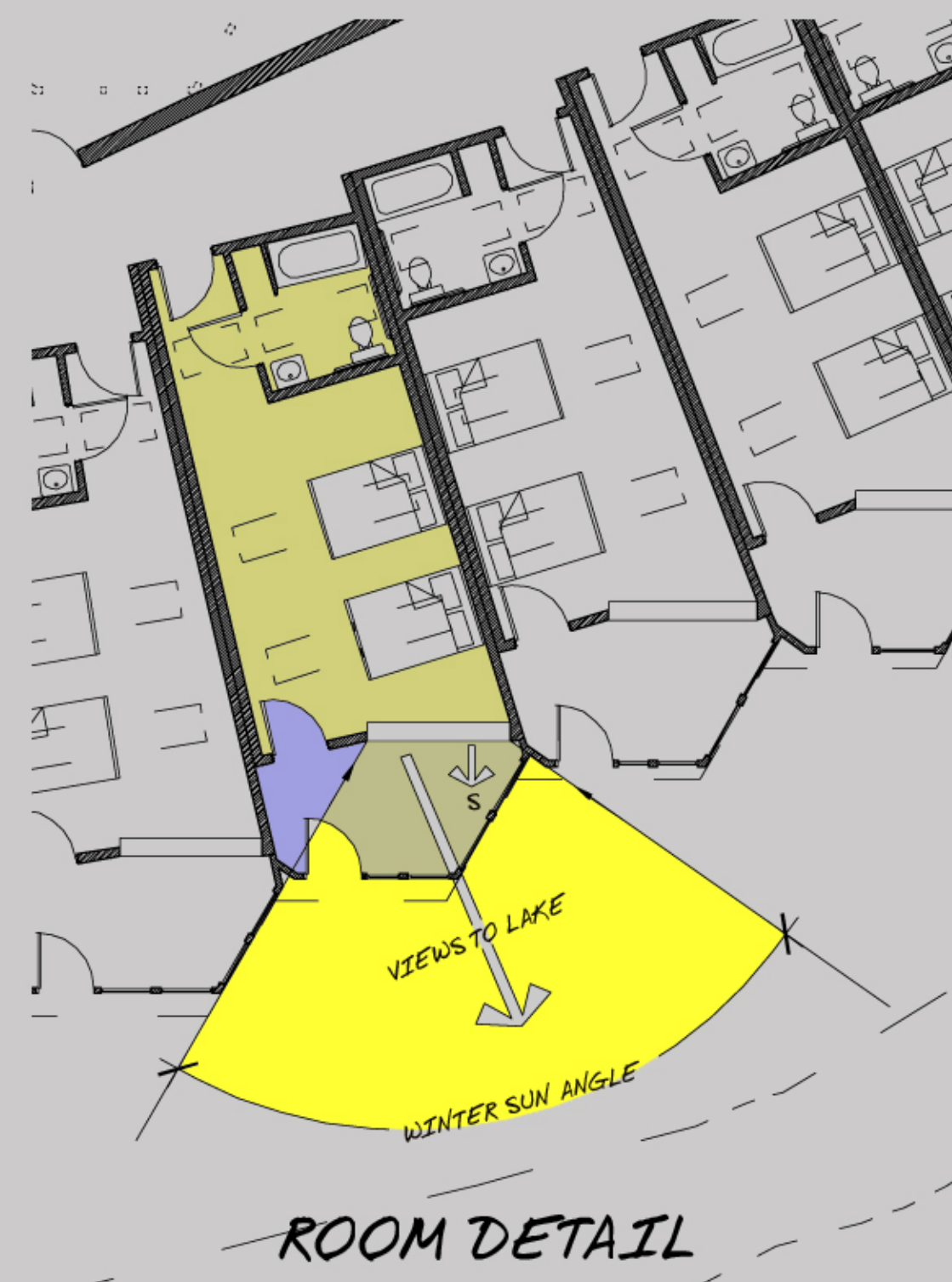


ROOM SECTION

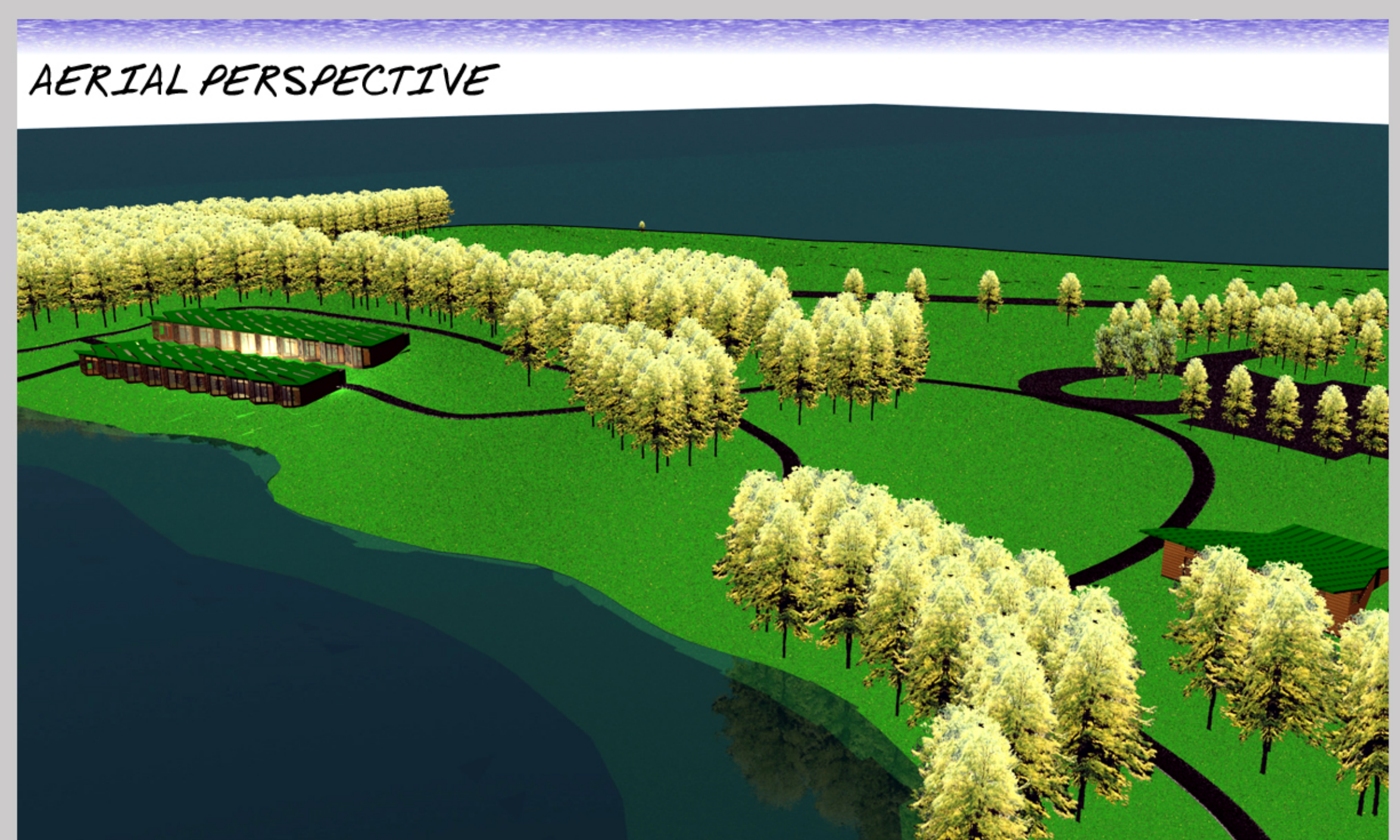
Please see binder for development and support information on the designs of passive systems.



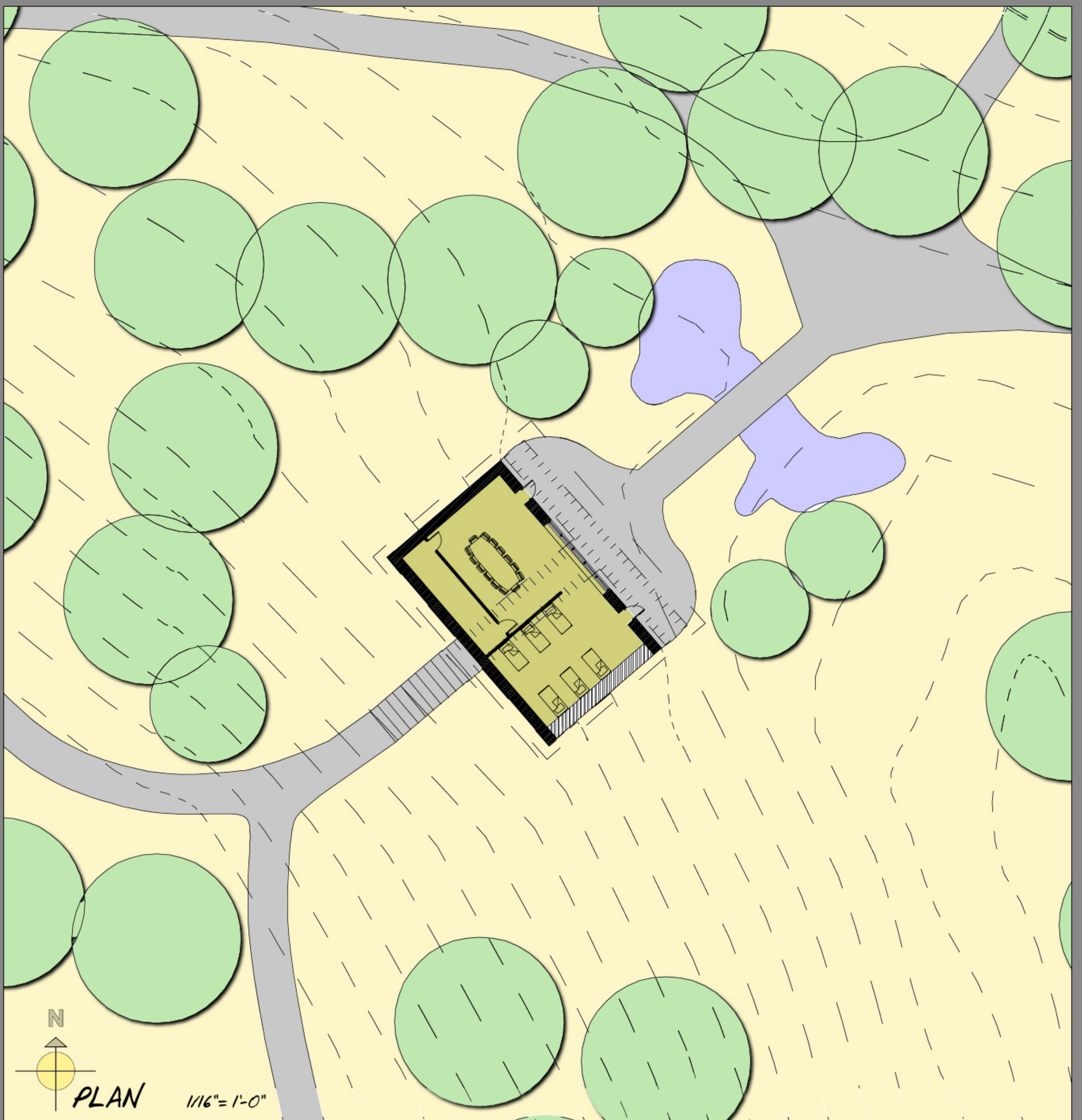
LODGING HALLWAY



ROOM DETAIL

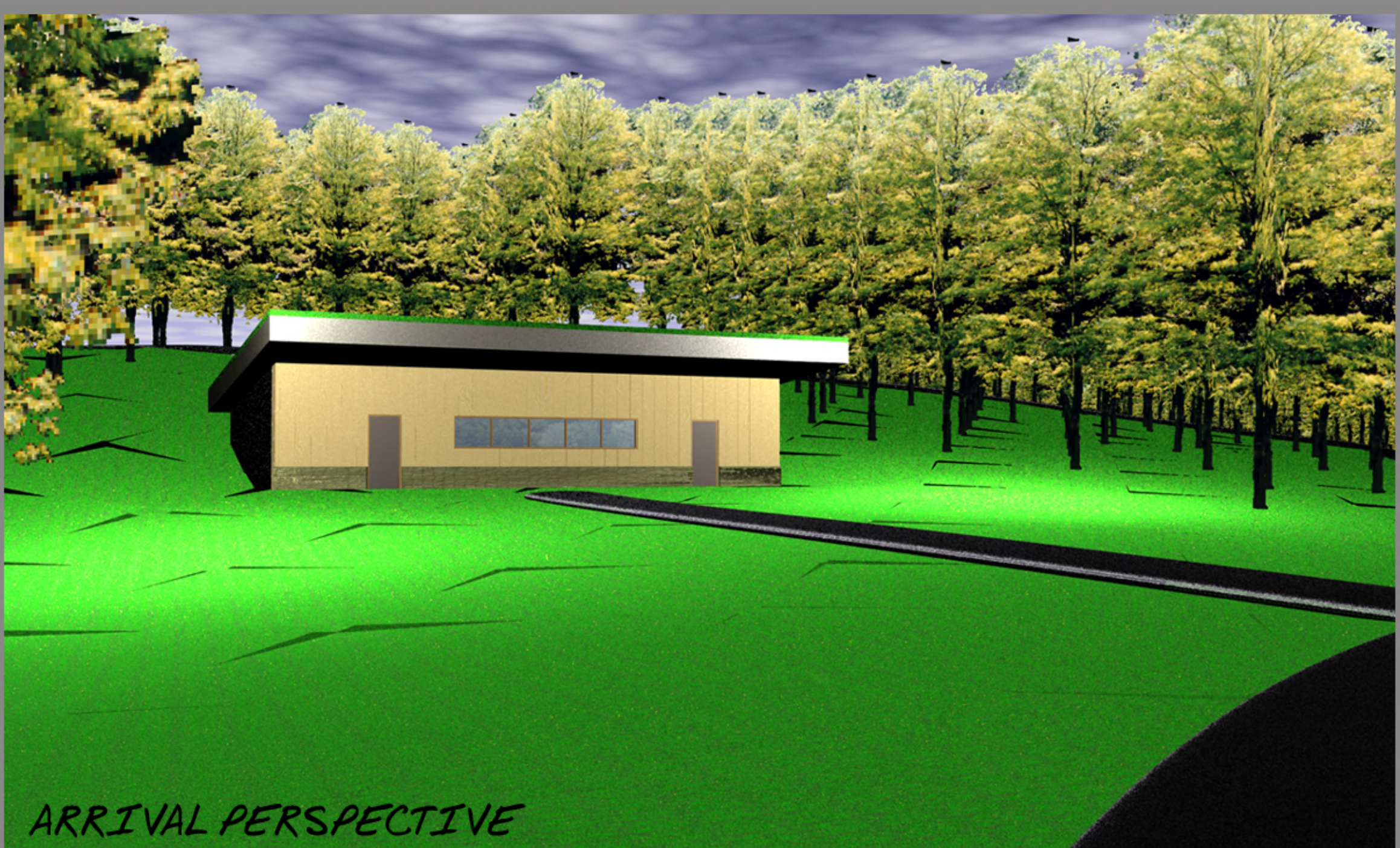


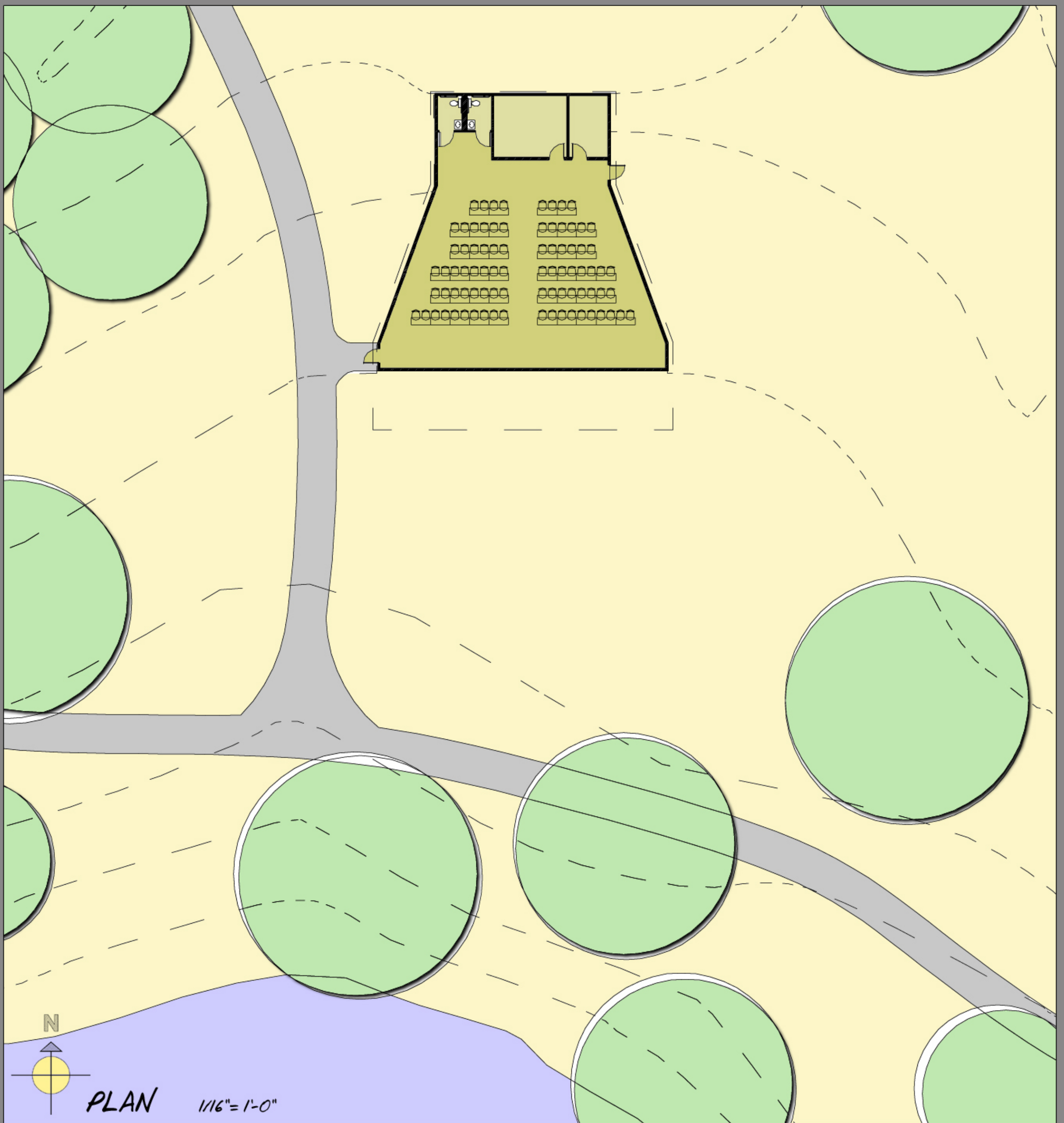
AERIAL PERSPECTIVE



Forest Grove

Forest grove is an interest point along the trail system. It is a dynamic space with a variety of uses from small group activates, overnight camping and a lookout. It would be to great an impact on the site to bring utilities to the building so it needs to be self-sustaining. This will provide the perfect opportunity to illustrate passive systems and show how they work, educating visitors. These systems would include; sky lighting for natural lightings, tromb wall for heat, straw bail construction and eco roof for insulation. This will also enhance the "camp out" nature of the building as it is intended.





Retreat Center

The retreat center is the only building visible on the site from Firemens Lodge Road. This will be the starting point for visitors to the site where they can view a presentation, orienting them to the site. Information can also be given concerning the active preserve and what the goals and intentions of the site are. For the duration of the guest's visits this space can be used for many purposes including meetings, classes and meals. The building will also provide a resting point along the trail with great views to the farmstead. Guest staying in the lodgings building can also use the retreat for a general gathering space when it is

