

# RAIC

- TIMELINE
- RESEARCH & SYNOPSIS
- CONTEXT & SITE
- PROJECT PROGRAM
- THESIS PROBLEM/SOLUTIONS
- FINAL DESIGN REVIEW
  - RAIC DELIVERABLES





The research's area of focus was the architectural material culture of the Acadian Maisonnées of the Chignecto Isthmus pre-deportation (1755). The areas of inquiry included historical texts and depictions, the archaeological records, historical texts immediately following the Acadian's return to the region, and the earliest examples of Acadian homes featured at the Village Historique Acadien, NB. A comparative analysis was also conducted with a focus on British, New England, France, New France, Mi'kmaq, Planters, and Cajun constructions of the same type/scale with the Acadian Maisonnée immerging as a clistinct yet representative of the regional architecture of 18th century Canada.

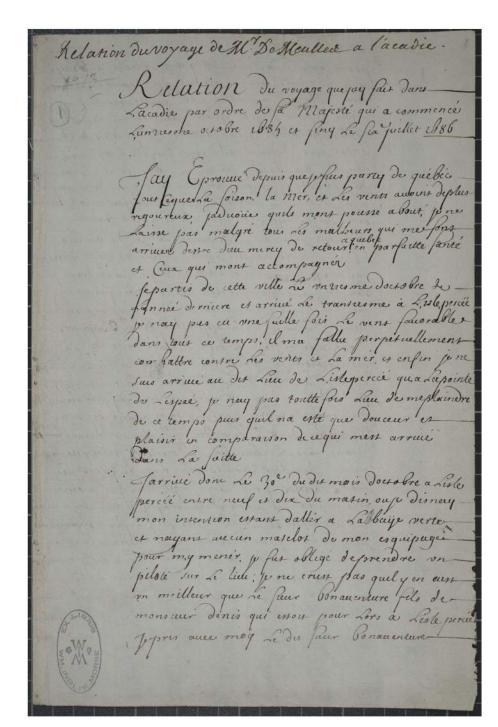
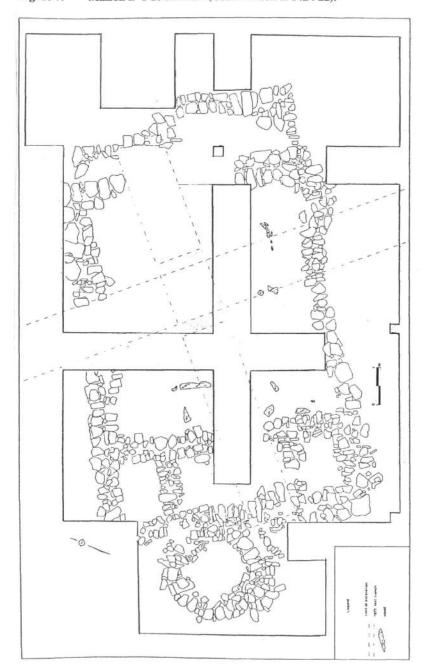
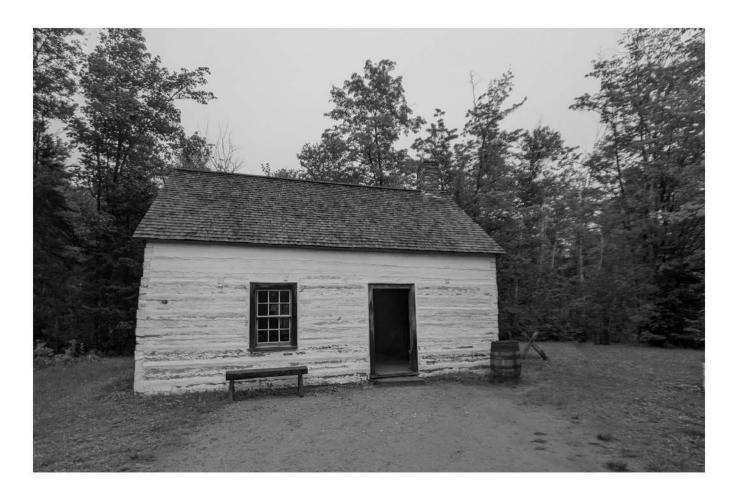
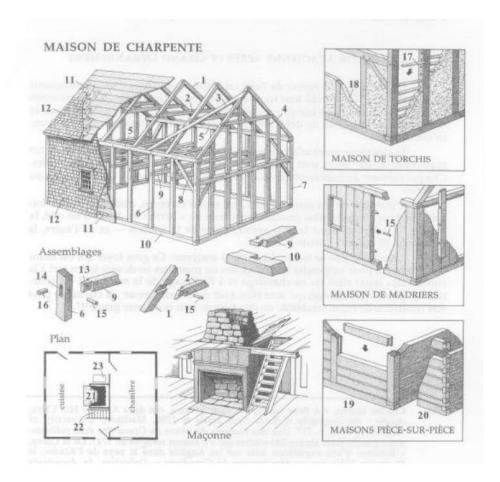


Figure 7. Maison nº 1 de Belleisle (Christianson 1984a : 22).

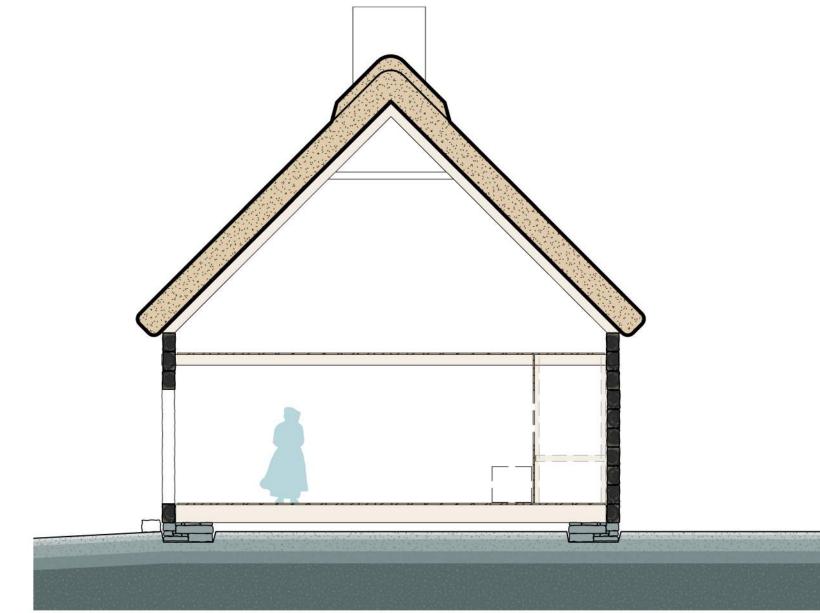


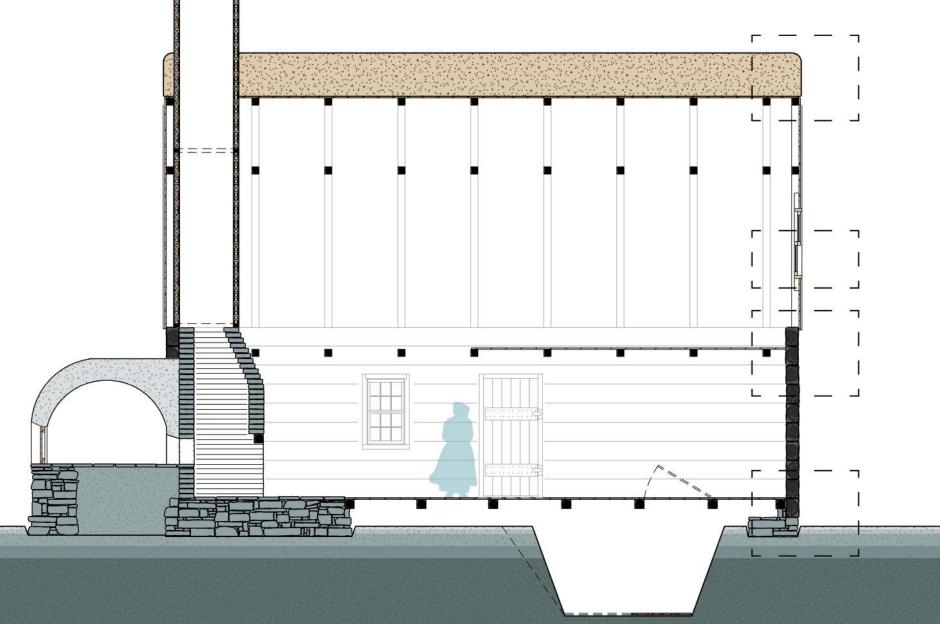


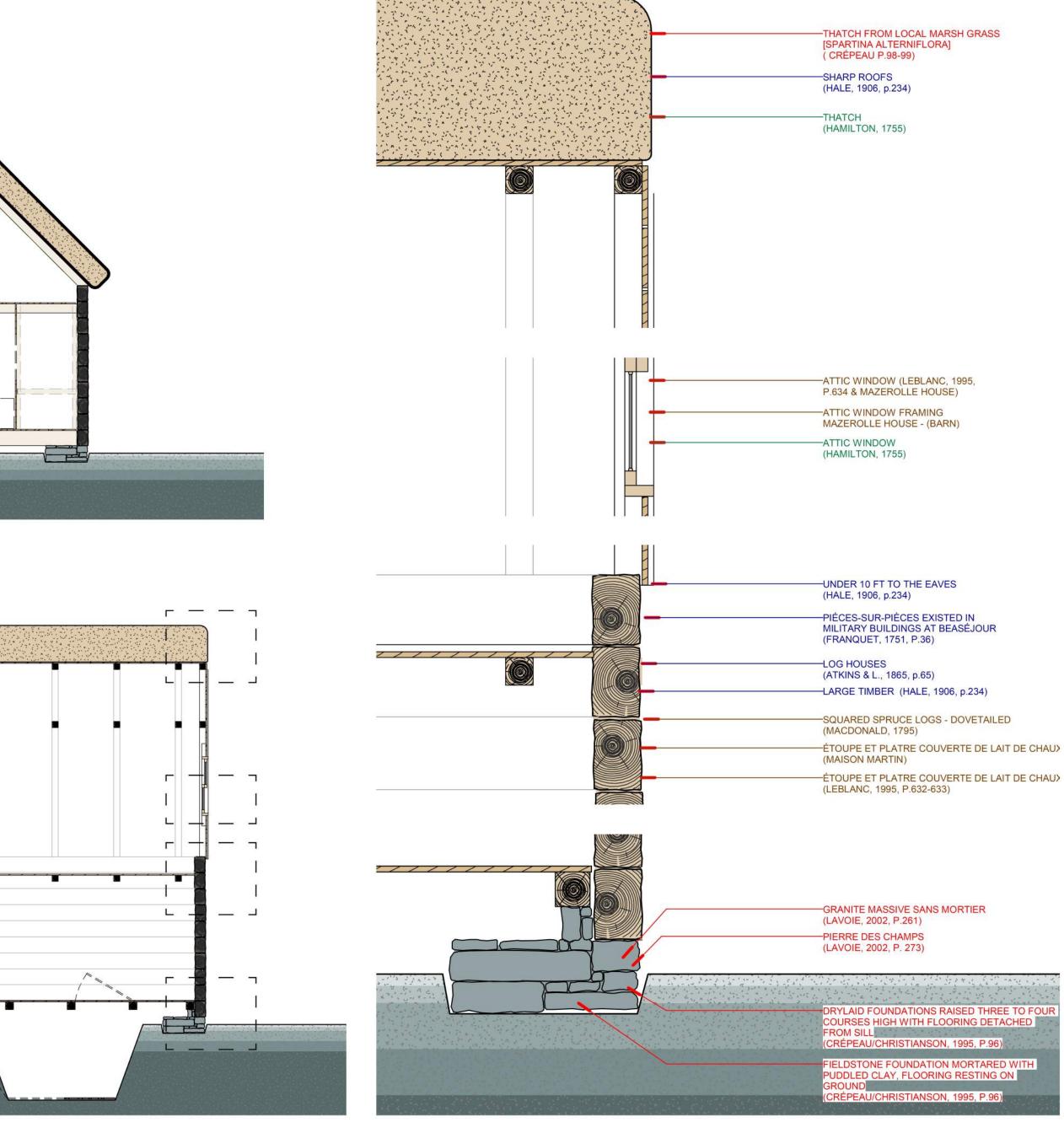




The results highlights the use of pre-medieval construction techniques in New France and New England, in pre-deportation Beauséjour this translates predominantly to a pièce-sur-pièce construction typical of early Canadian construction, with some architectural elements, such as thatched roofs and paper or animal membranes for windows further distinguishing the local Acadian building techniques and construction t from its contemporaries. The Acadian settlement and building techniques at Beauséjour may also be distinguishable from other proto-Acadian regions such as Port Royal and Minas.

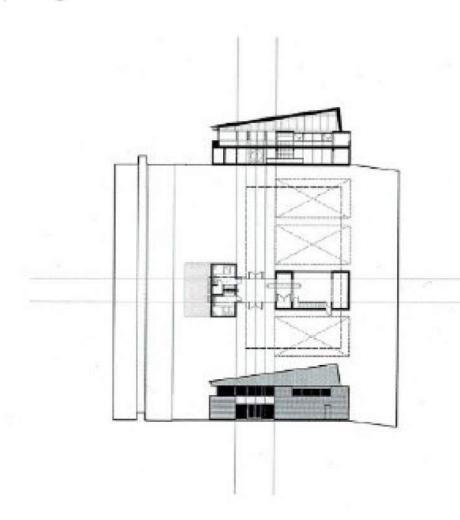


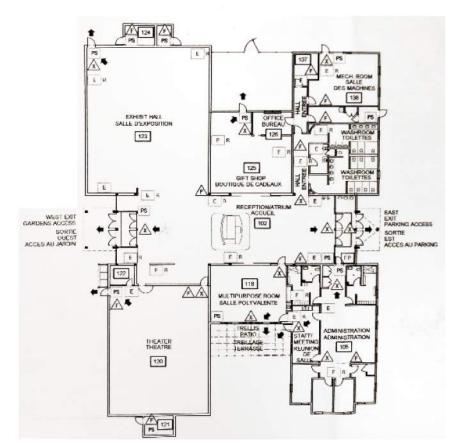






Because the thesis project is the design of an Interpretation Centre, a survey of Acadian historic sites and Living Museums in the region was also conducted with a focus on their welcome centres. My analysis concluded that those centres are more or less successful in supporting the sites and living museums they are tasked with interpreting.











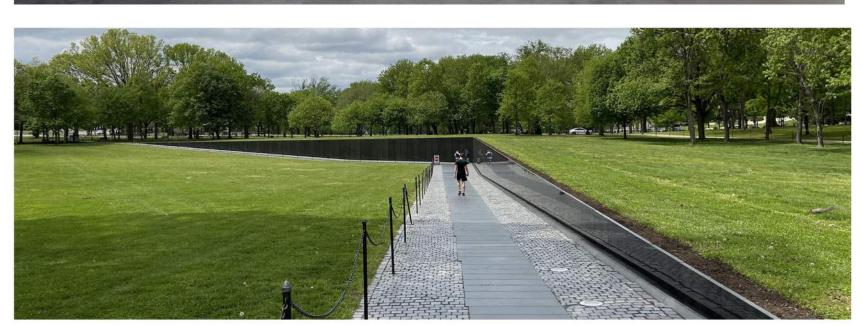
As my brief research of architectural theory revealed, theory of critical regionalism would require that the architecture "maintain a high level of critical self-consciousness" (Frampton, 2008) while Safdy teaches us that architecture is not about prescribing what one "ought to feel or think" (Safdy, 2006).

Leading edge contemporary architecture focuses on place, the special character of a region, with enough self-awareness to be critial of the use of nostalgia...

My research provided the foundational understanding of the site and its historical context. It also provided an architectural codex from which the design of the interpretation centre would have to come to terms with. The research raised the important question of "what is the proper architectural response to building in a special place such as the Chignecto Isthmus, which is layered with multiple cultural histories and heritage?"

Through critical regionalism's approach of mediating between historic/vernacular traditions vs global forces of the day a few design responses begins to form...

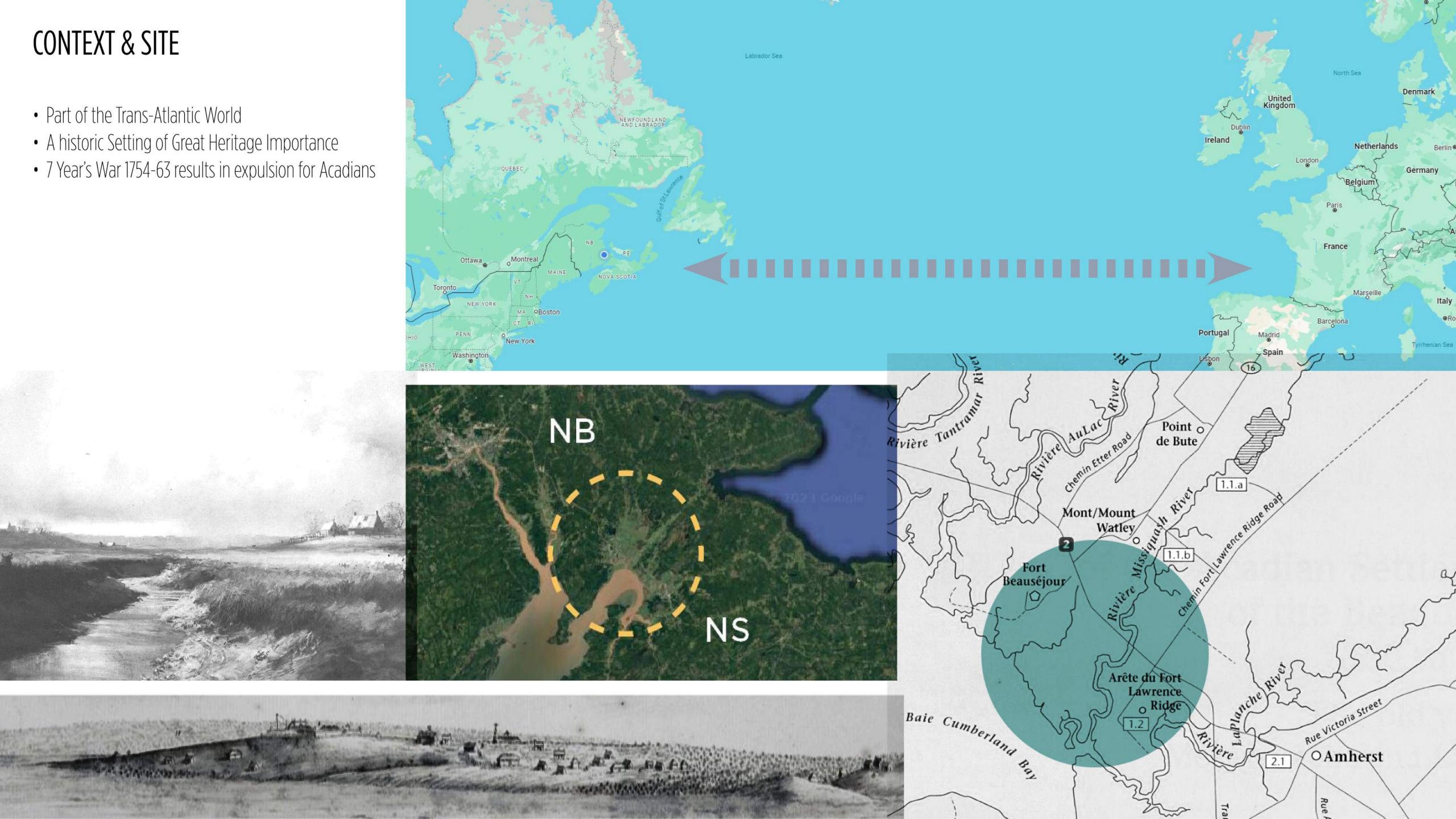








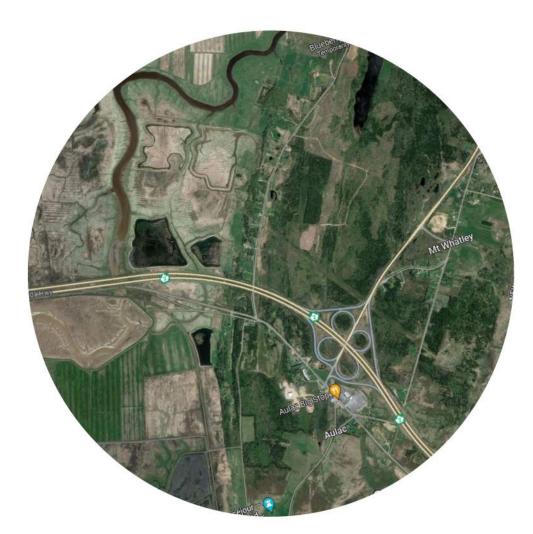




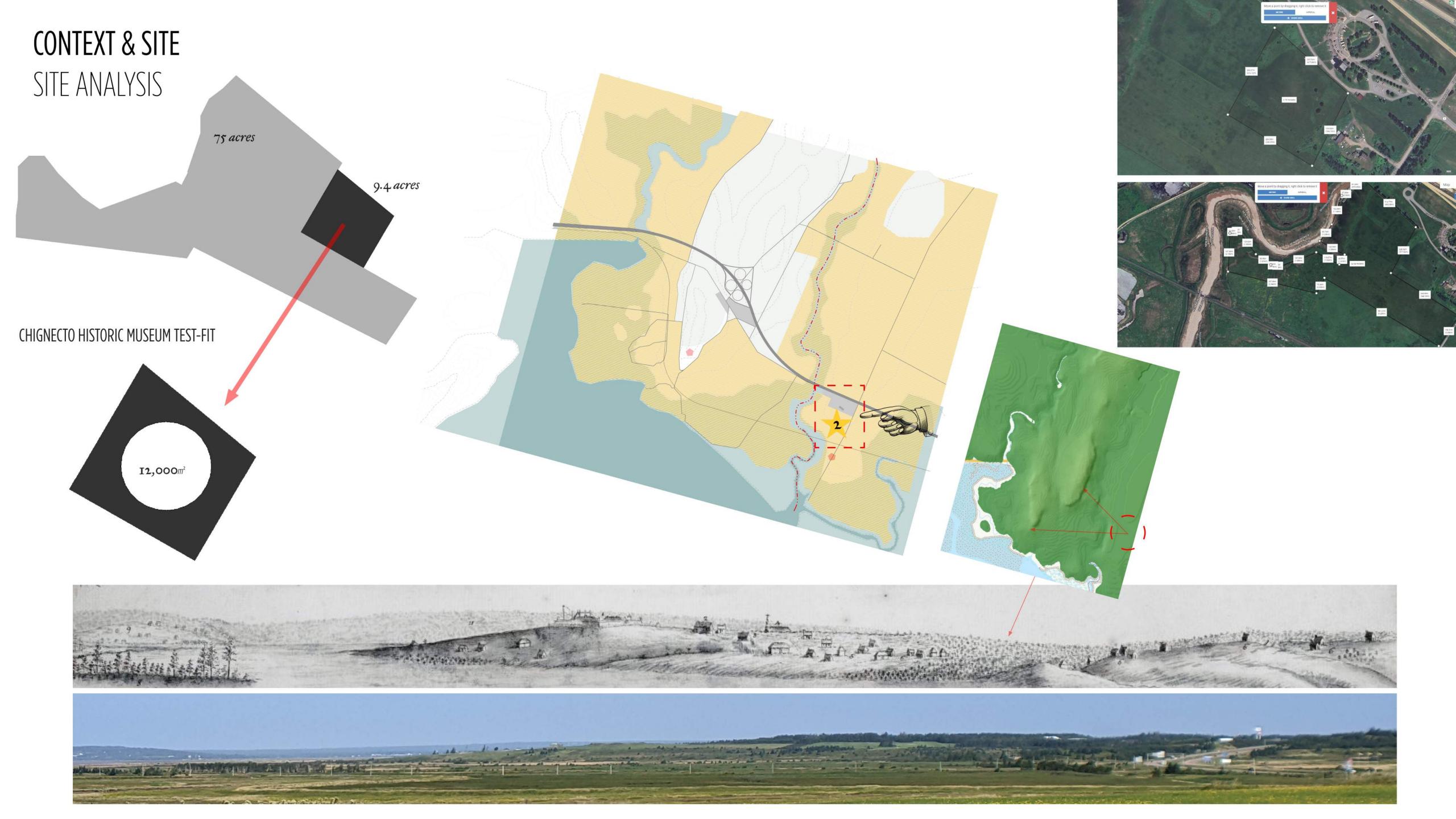
#### **CONTEXT & SITE**

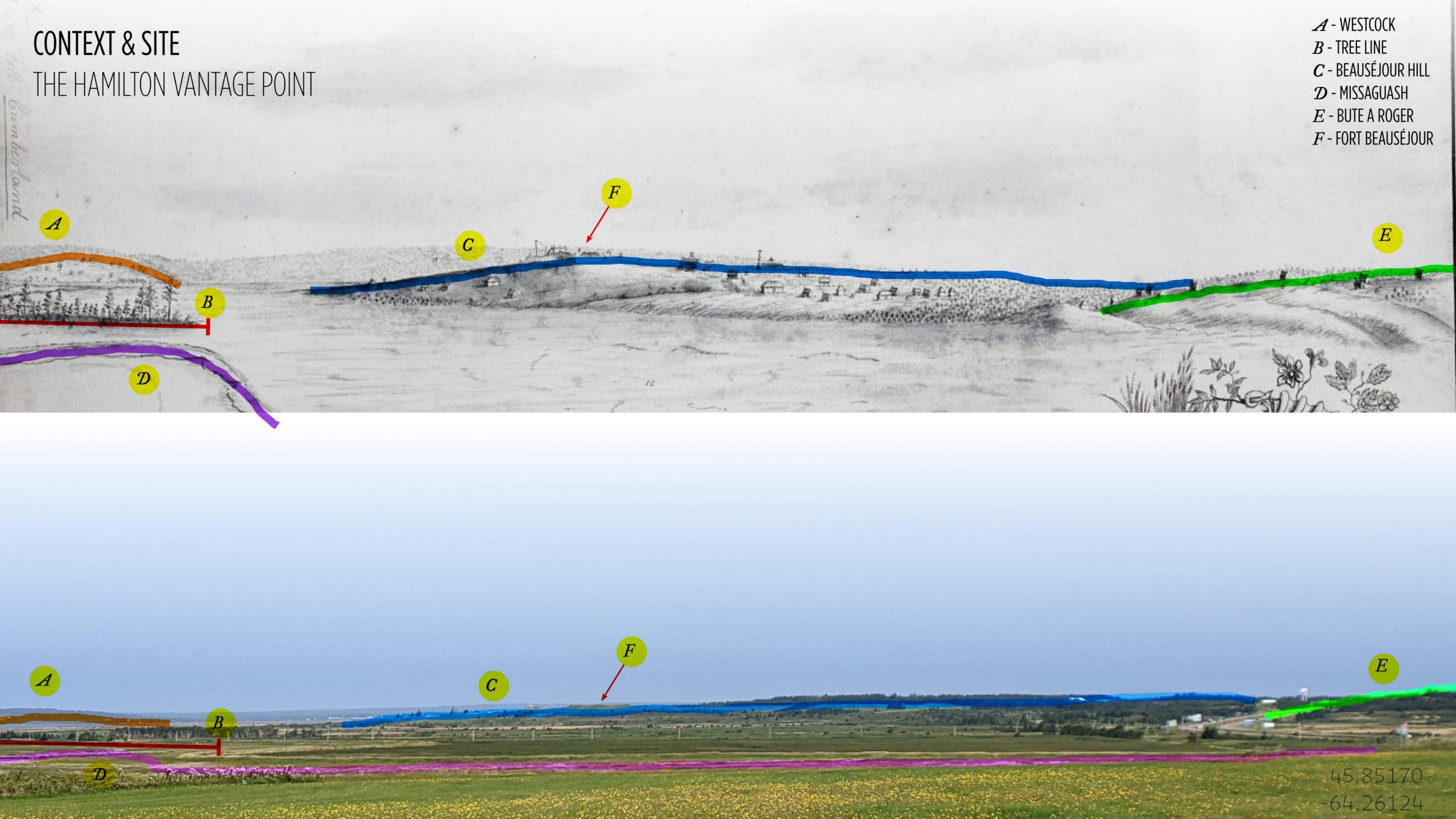
# Project Location & Physical Context



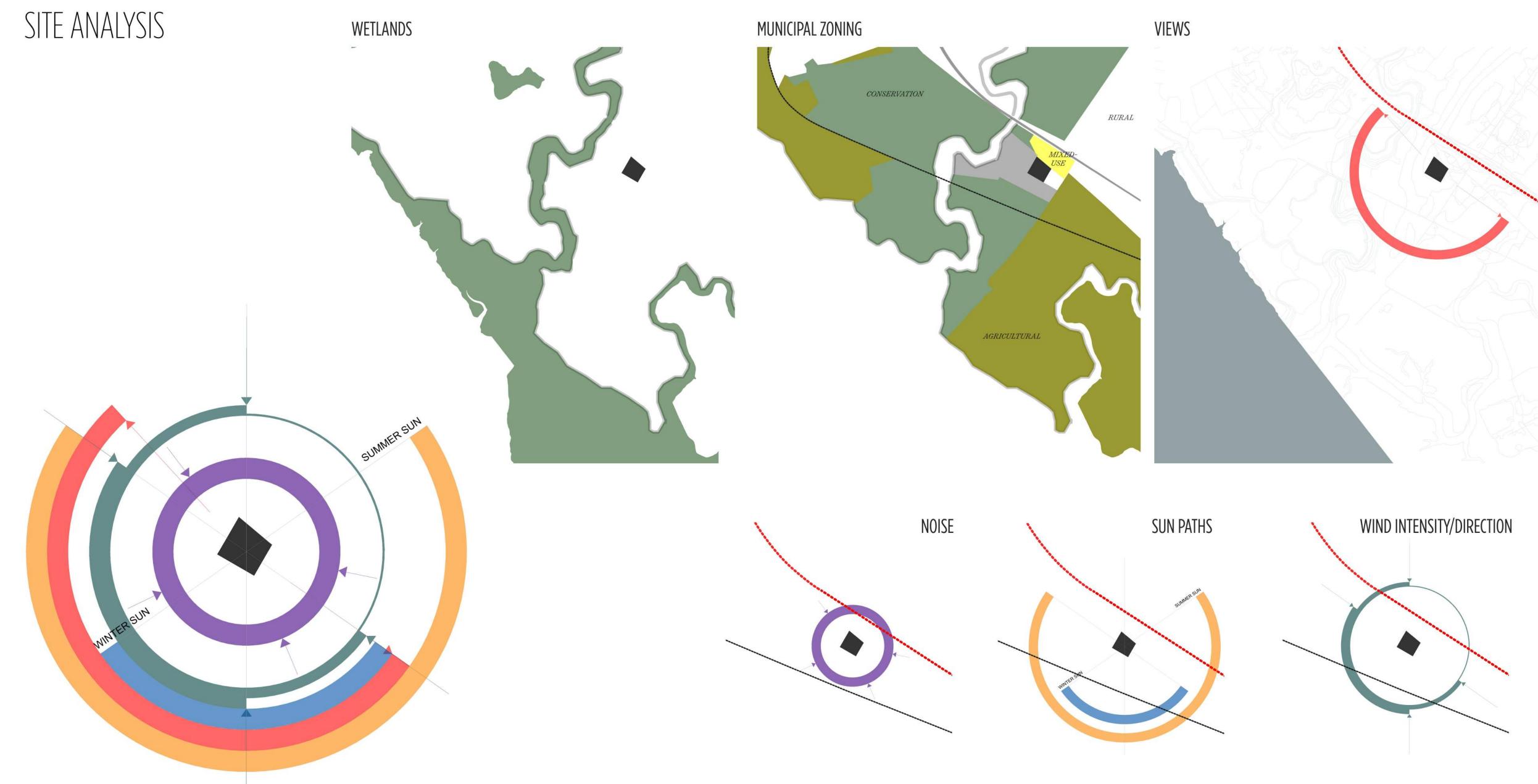






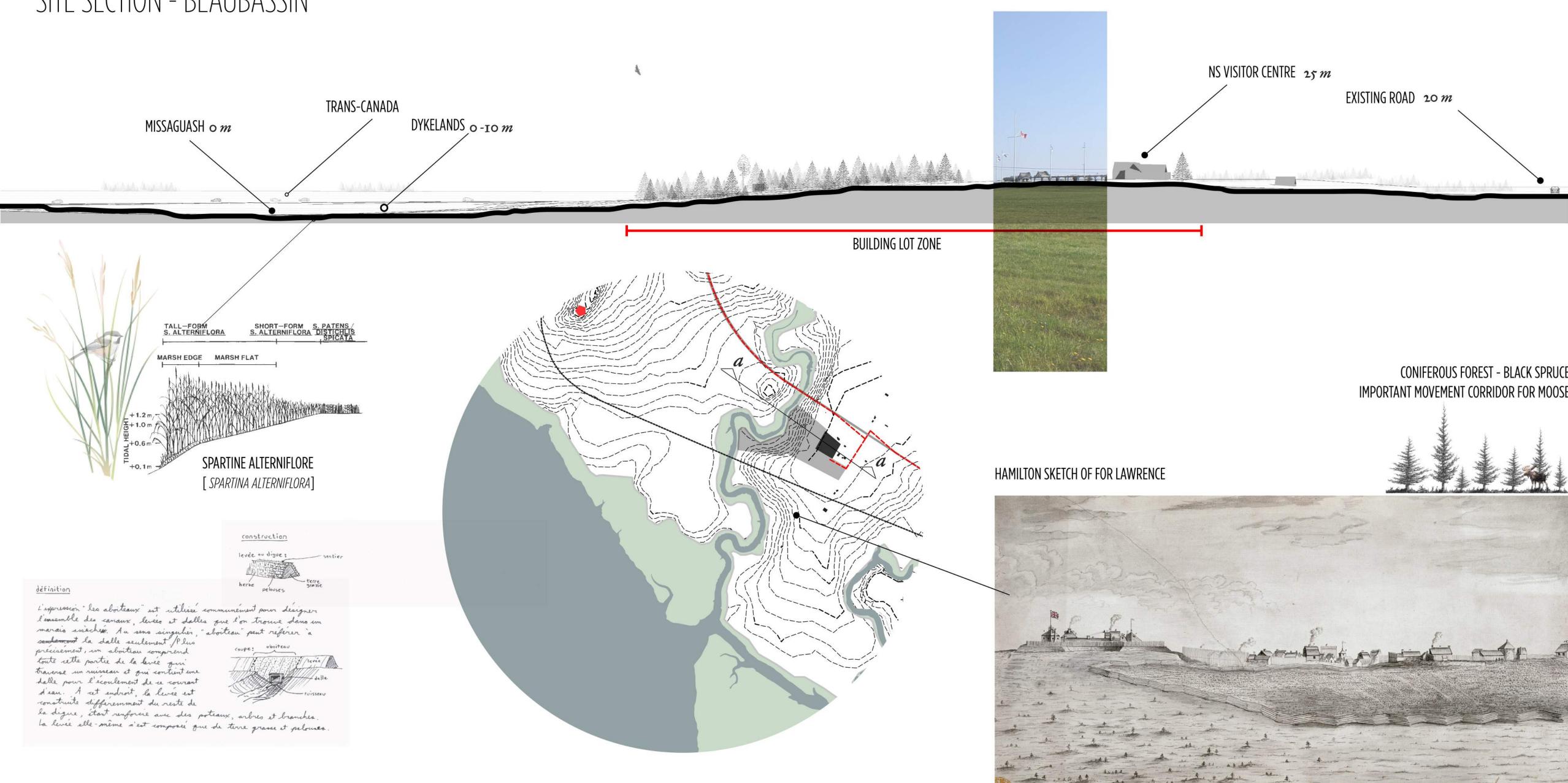


**CONTEXT & SITE** 



#### **CONTEXT & SITE**

#### SITE SECTION - BEAUBASSIN



# CONTEXT & SITE SITE ANALYSIS SUMMARY

The site interpretation was based on historical documents, topographic and map data from GeoNOVA and Viewpoint, as well as site photography+video and in-situ exploration.

The Pre-1755 Acadian settlement of Beaubassin is estimated to have most of it's maisonnées part way up the Northern slope of the hill, which is consistent with other observable Acadian settlement patterns of the time. Shelter from wind was important (Surette, 1946, p.14) and proximity to the dykelands while being elevated enough to avoid flooding can be confirmed when looking at Hamilton's sketches of Beauséjour. Bernard Leblanc notes that Acadian villages usually lined a road.

The English Fort, positioned at the Southern tip of the hill and outside the tree line makes sense for military strategy even though it's position would leave it exposed to the elements, the vista it provides and it's elevation relative to the surrounding dykelands make it an ideal tactical location.

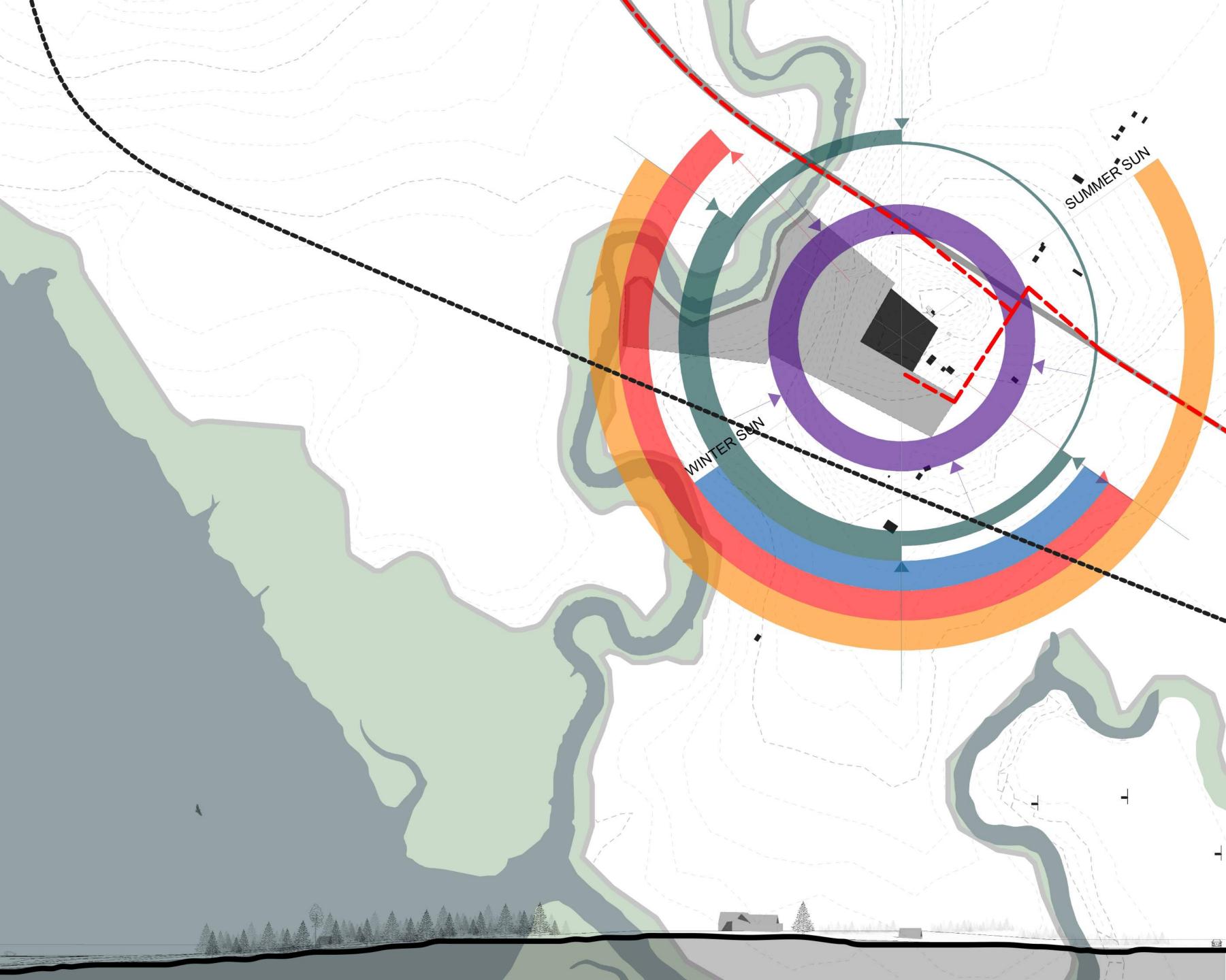
Difficulties with this site includes considerable grade change (0-25m) depending on which areas the visitors are intended to experience:

- The top of the hill for the expansive views?
- The Missaguash at the bottom
- The dykelands
- The dykewalls

The proposed site may be too small requiring the addition of the much larger adjacent site. Access to the site would be complicated from the NS Visitor Information Centre, a separate vehicular access will probably be recommended.

Opportunities are abundant with this site. The vistas from the top of Beaubassin hill are expansive, comprised of wetlands, farmlands, dykelands, Beauséjour hill, the Missaguash, Cumberland Bay and at a distance, Westcock and Minudie. To the South stretches out more dykelands and marshes contrasting with the modern windmill farm beyond.

The opportunity to stand in the very place Hamilton drew his sketches of Beauséjour is a major feature of siting the Chignect Isthmus Heritage Museum here. The addition of the Acadian Maisonné - the basic farm unit of ancient Acadians - to the site as a central element is both of historic importance and a driving design element.



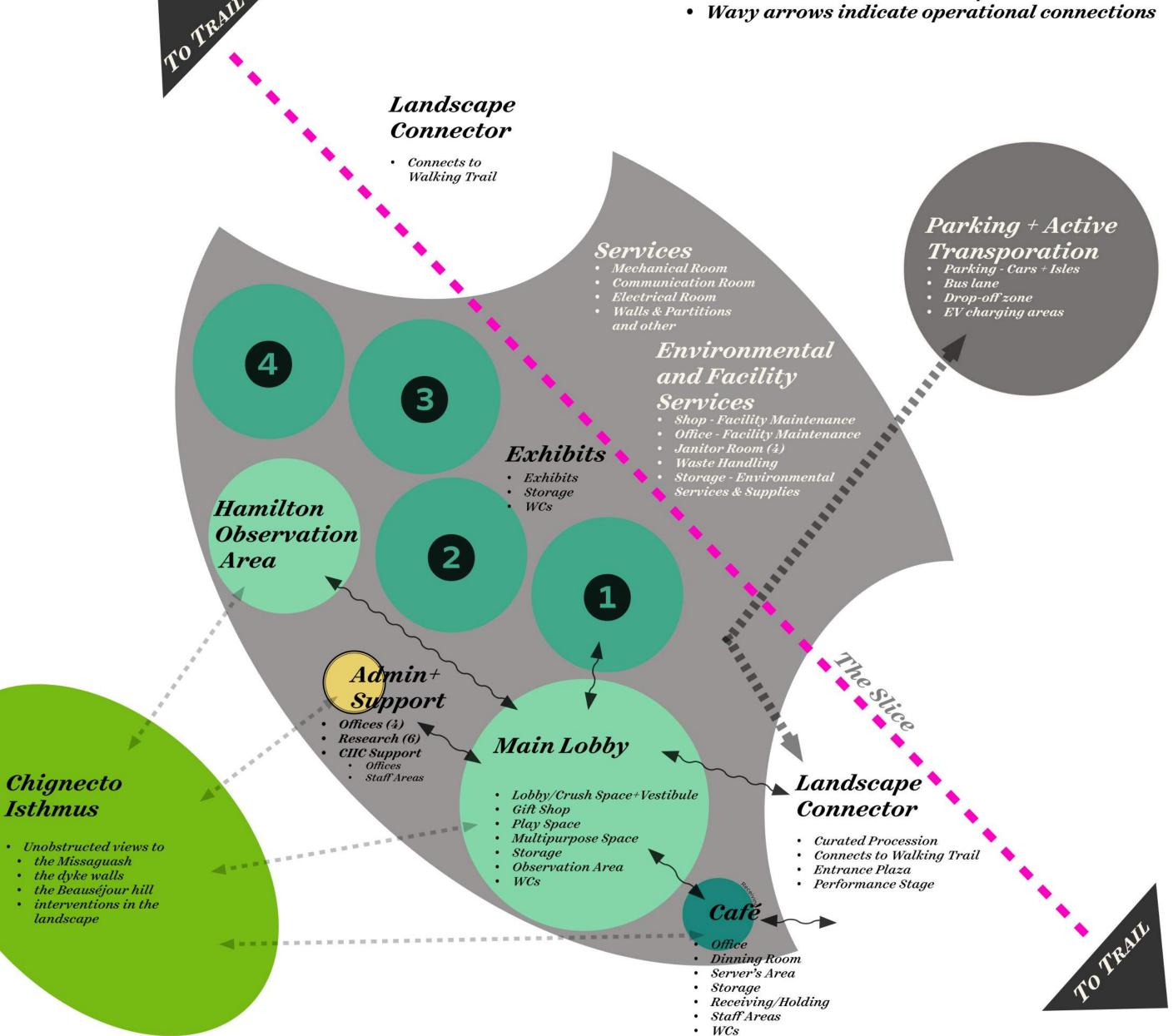
#### PROJECT PROGRAM

Facility Total

Beauséjour Living Museum Visitor Centre Grand-Pré visitors 60,000- 100,000 Visitors to NS by road was 1.2M VHA visitors 90,000 Fort Beauséjour visitors 6,000 Anticipated (designed) number of visitors 12,000 VHANS visitors 5,000 Estimated visitor per day (during 6 months) 200 Area sq.m. Occupancy **Welcome Centre** 1335 Entry Vestibule 25 Welcome Desk Lobby Gift Shop Restaurant 150 50 seats Dining Room Kitchen Cold Storage Dry Storage Receiving/Holding Staff Areas Staff Room Staff WC 100 Play Space 330 Multipurpose Room and Storage **Interpretive Centre** 1576 1000 Exhibit Areas Exhibit 1 200 Exhibit 2 200 Exhibit 3 200 Exhibit 4 200 Exhibit Storage 200 Destination Lounge Spectator Seating (50) 375 Administration Director's Office Marketing Office Office Researchers (6) WC Kitchenette Meeting Room **Buildling Support Areas (BOH) Mechanical Room** 15 Water Entrance Sprinkler Room 15 120 Heating 500 **Electrical Rooms** Electrical Entrance 40 Aux. Electrical Rooms **Building Storage** Waste and Recycling Maintenance Landscape storage Circulation 776 20% of building gross 466 Walls, Shafts, Stairs, Envelope, etc... 5124 **Building total** Parking Visitor Parking for 100 vehicles Staff Parking for 20 vehicles Bus/Shuttle areas **Exterior Court** 1941

7065

• Directional arrows indicate public connections



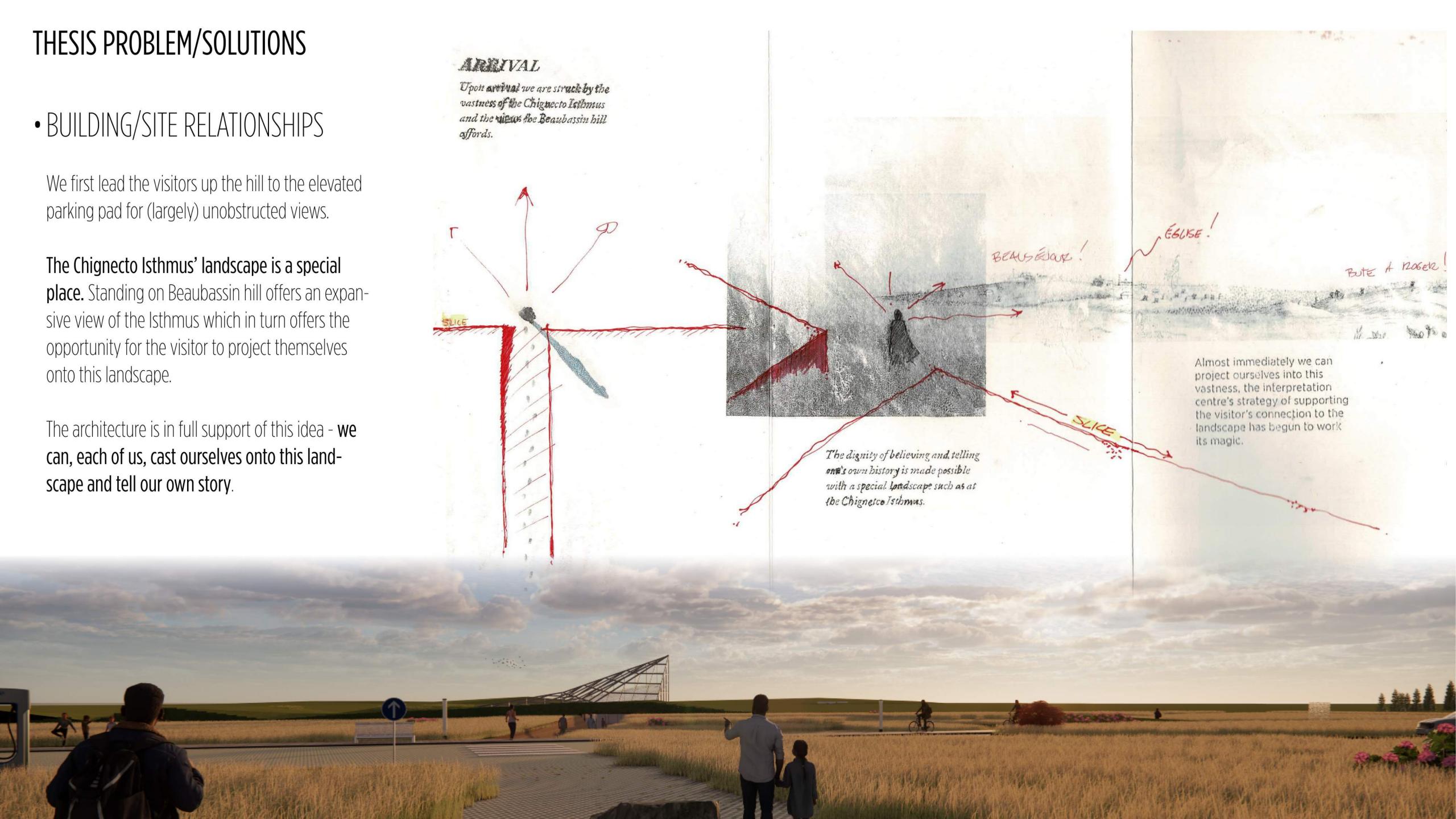
# THESIS PROBLEM/SOLUTIONS

What is a positive architectural response to building in a special place such as the Chignecto Isthmus, which is layered with multiple cultural histories and heritage?

#### **General Assumptions**

- 1. Make the landscape the focus, the visitor will cast their own histories onto the land.
- 2. Getting out of the way is more than building siting and orientation, the design must create it's own sense of belonging.





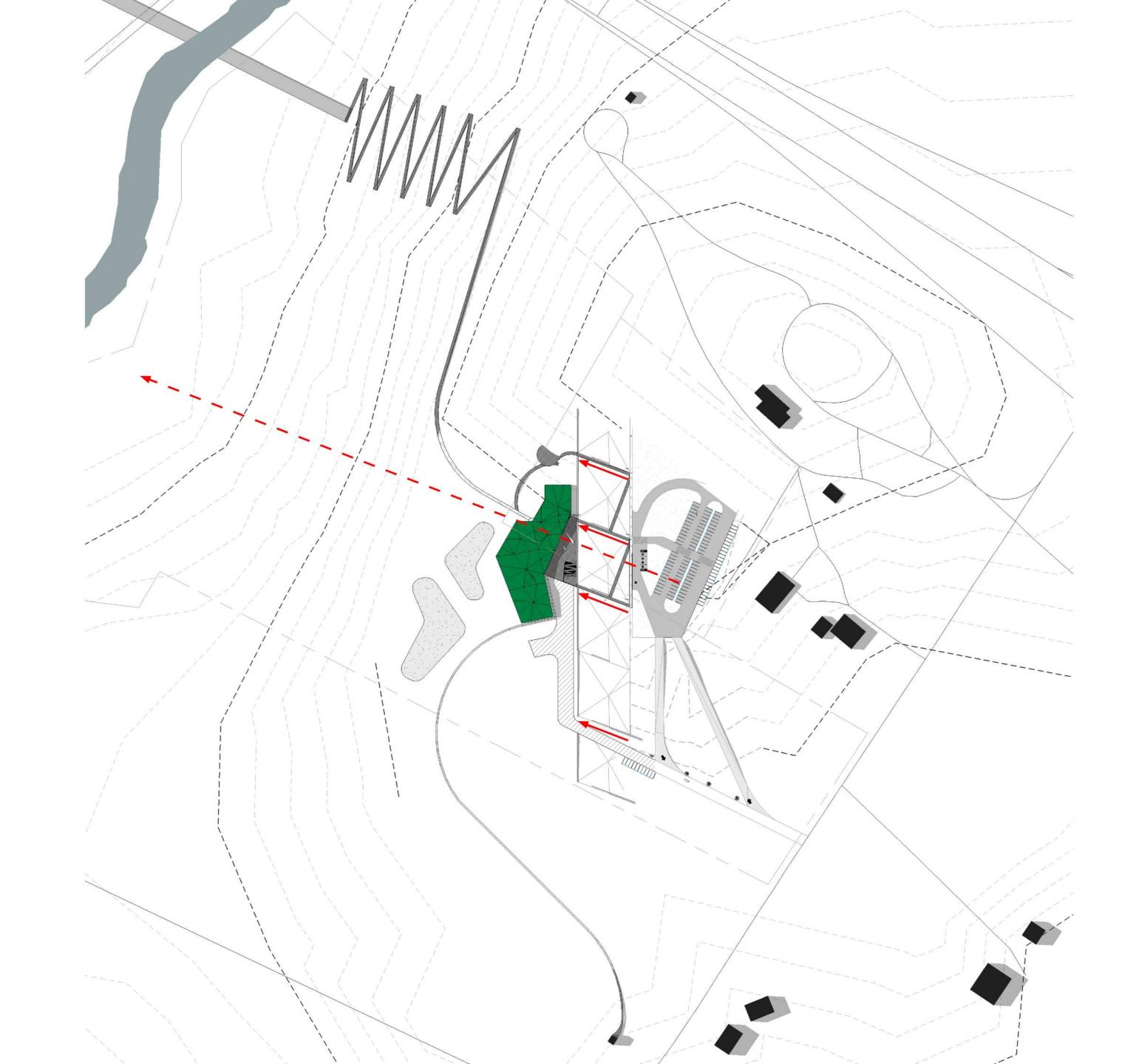
# THESIS PROBLEM/SOLUTIONS

## BUILDING/SITE RELATIONSHIPS

The project topography is sculpted to help lower the building, the visitor can peer over it upon approach.

To enter, we are guided by an intentional intervention in the landsacpe - a cut in the land, with multiple depressions flanked by rammed earth walls. We follow them, at first skirting our ankles to eventually rise above our heads, the entrance to the building is just beyond. The rammed earth walls anchor the building and gives the visitor a sense of direction.



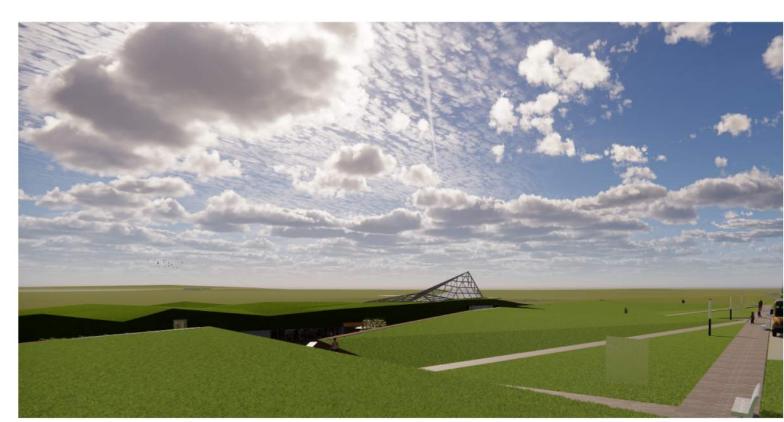


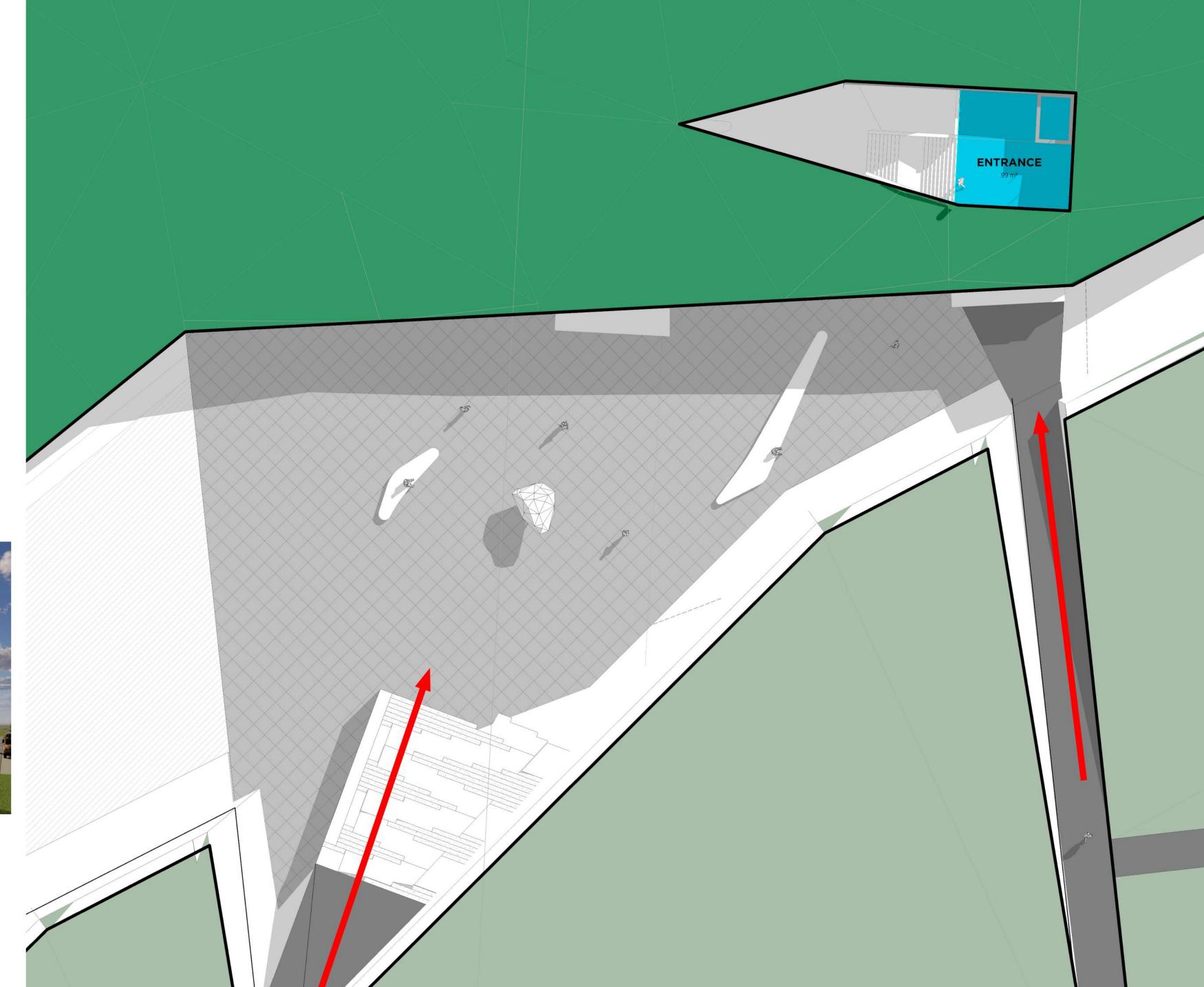
# THESIS PROBLEM/SOLUTIONS

# BUILDING/SITE RELATIONSHIPS

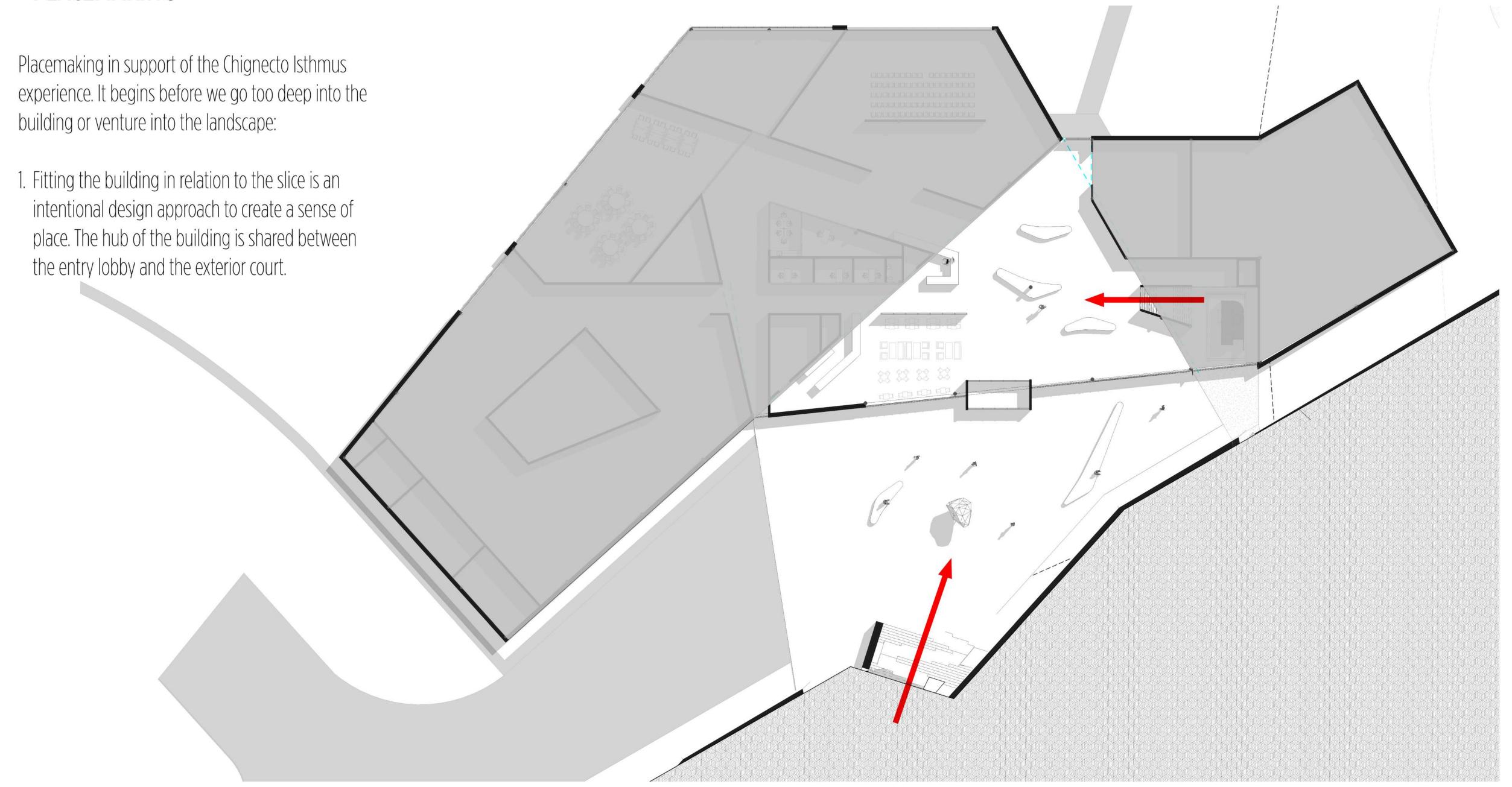
To enter, the visitor must first descend, we all descend together, using one of the approaches. The main entry volume is distinct from the land, a dynamic, energized, yet effacing object.

Architecutral elements begin to dialogue...





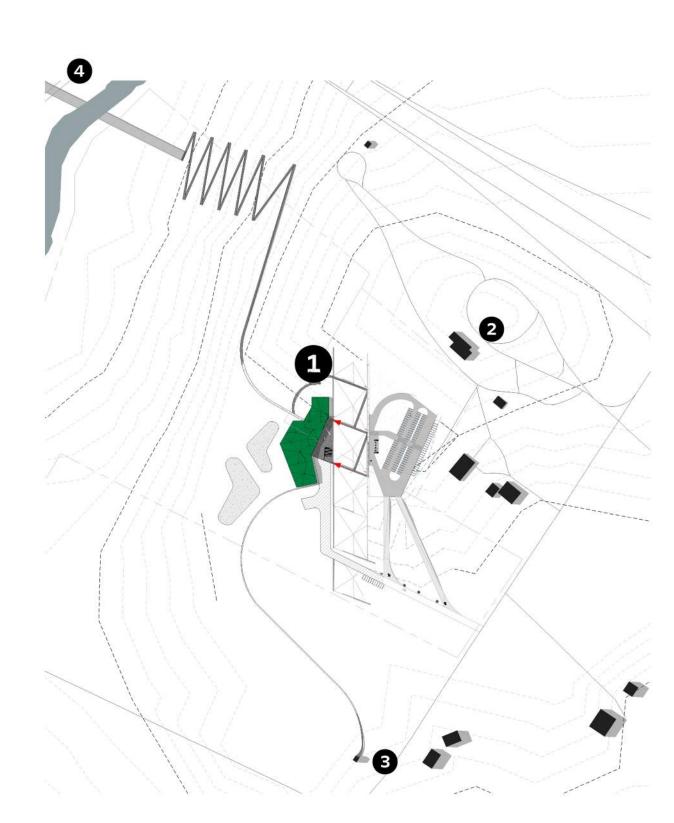
#### PLACEMAKING



#### PLACEMAKING

The hub is central to the vistor experience:

1. The building & site design provides access and linkages to the remainder of the Chignecto Isthmus. From the hub the visitor connects to the various spaces inside and outside the building.

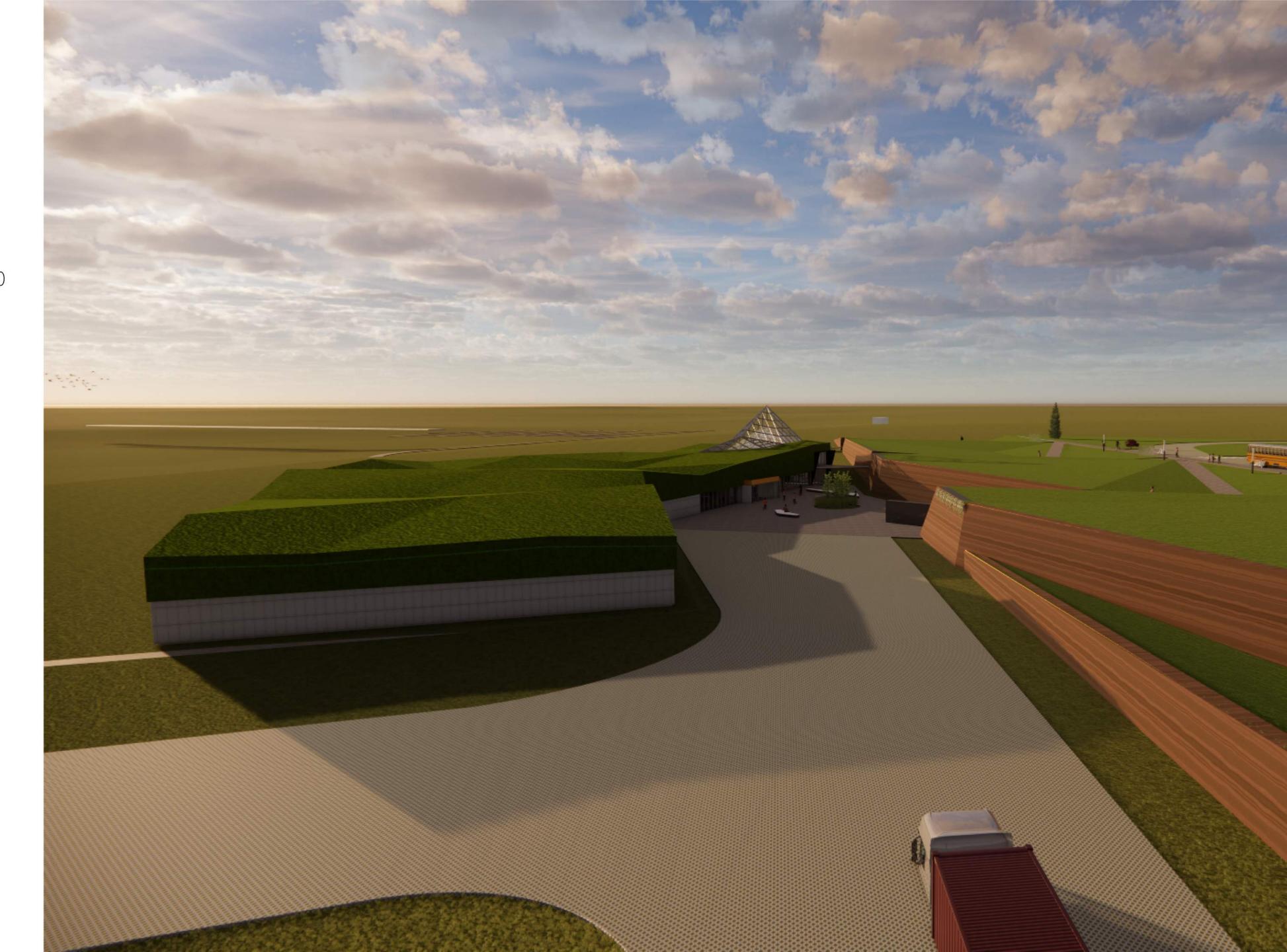




# DIALOG & STORYTELLING

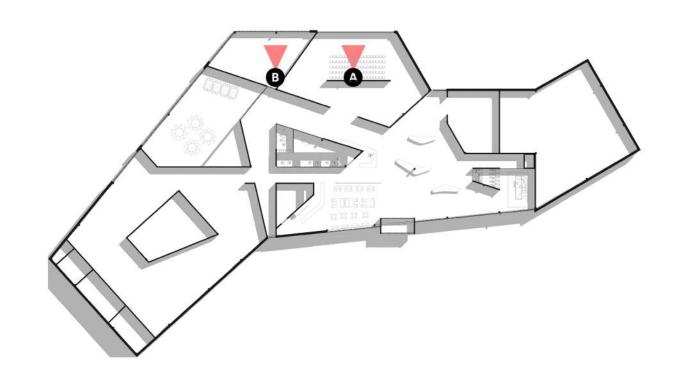
Architectural elements working together to create an inclusive visitor narrative:

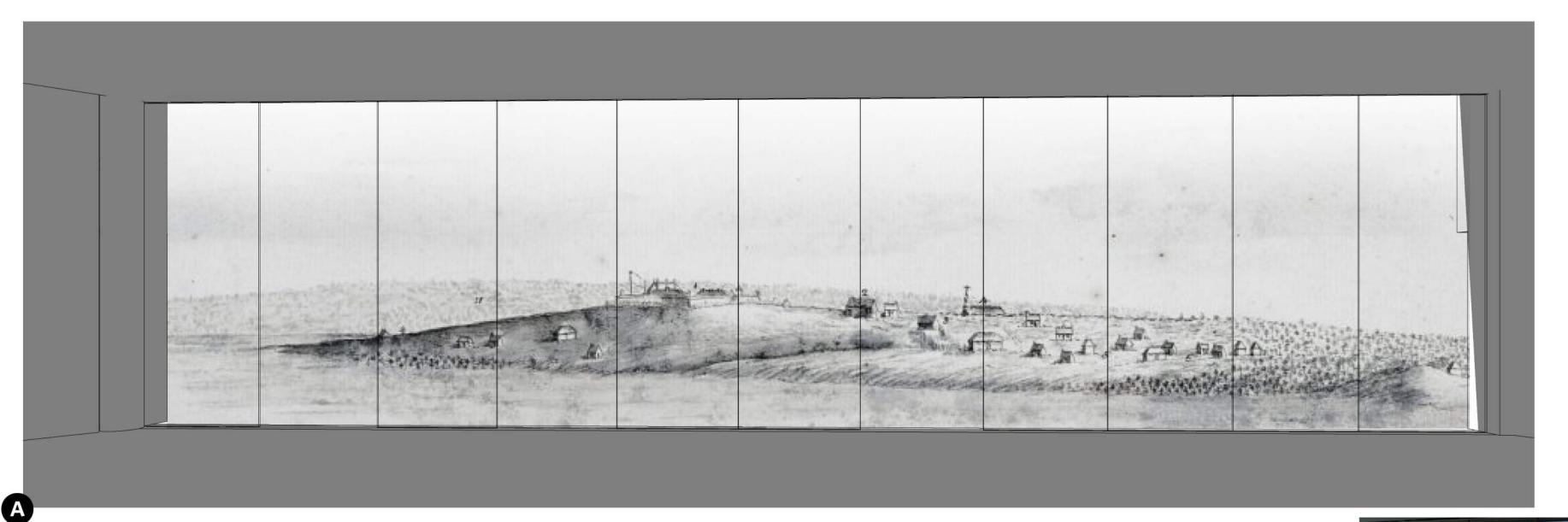
1. The use of rammed earth retaining walls are intended as part of the architectural narrative - representing the multiple layers of the Chignecto Isthmus.



#### DIALOG & STORYTELLING

1. The expansive glazing too is layered to allow for state-of-the-art techniques in screening and projections, allowing for curated storytelling against the backdrop of the Chignecto landscape.



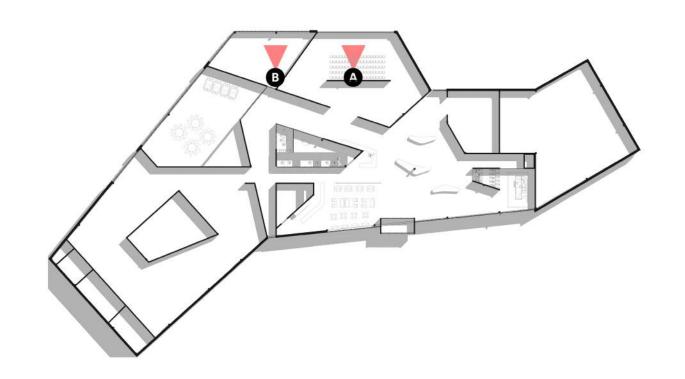






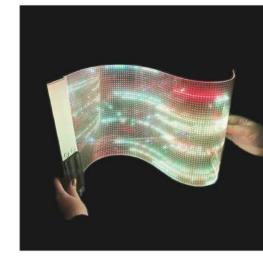


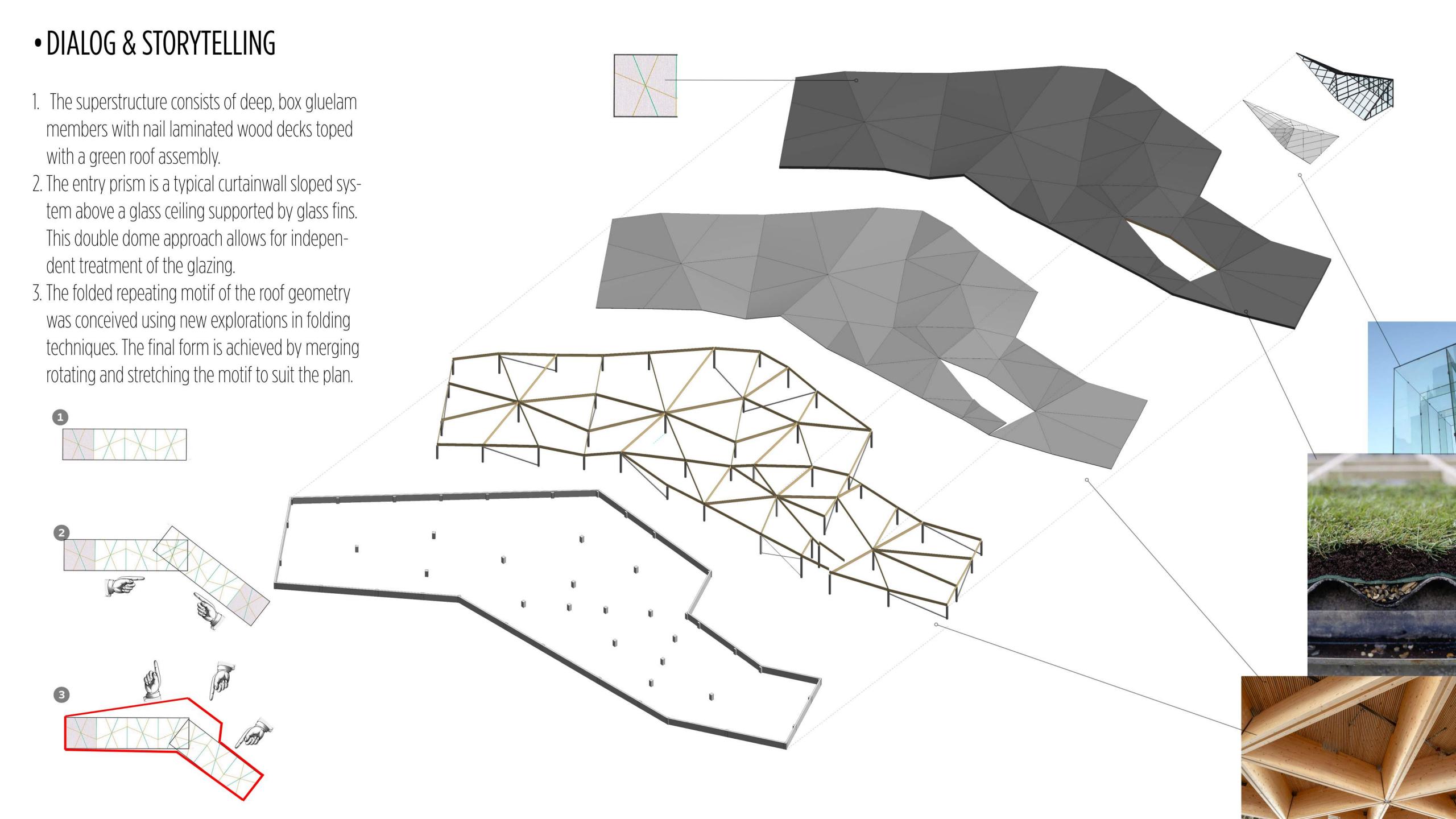
## DIALOG & STORYTELLING







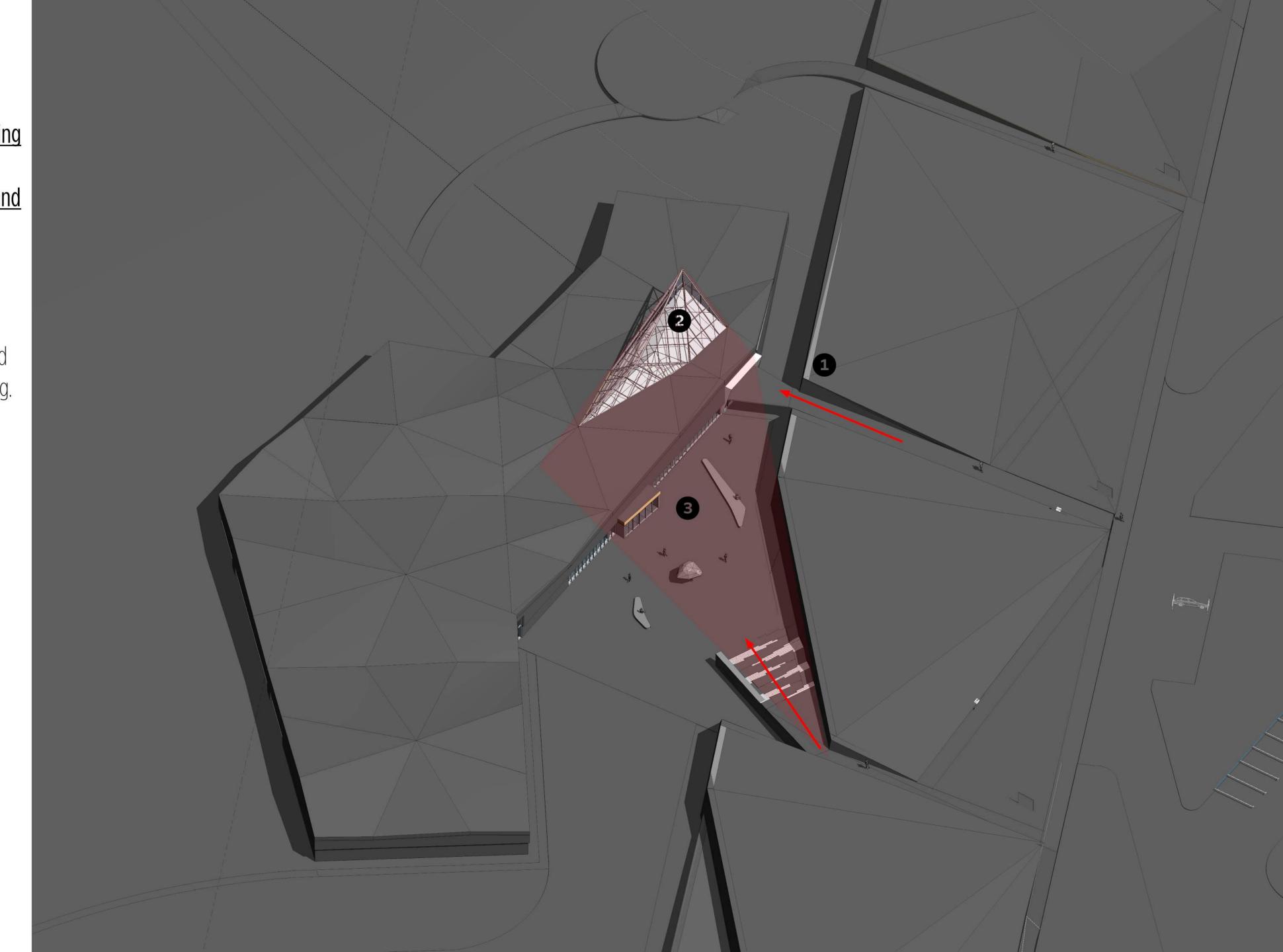




#### SYNOPSIS

What is a positive architectural response to building in a special place such as the Chignecto Isthmus, which is layered with multiple cultural histories and heritage?

- 2. Getting out of the way is more than building siting and orientation, the design must create it's own sense of place as it meshes with the site and landscape. This is epxressed through placemaking. Placemaking elements working together:
  - Rammed earth walls (horz.) •
  - Glazed double dome (vert.)
  - Main circulation culminating at the hub 3
- 3. Supportive Storytelling
  - The many layers of the Chignecto Isthmus



# SYNOPSIS

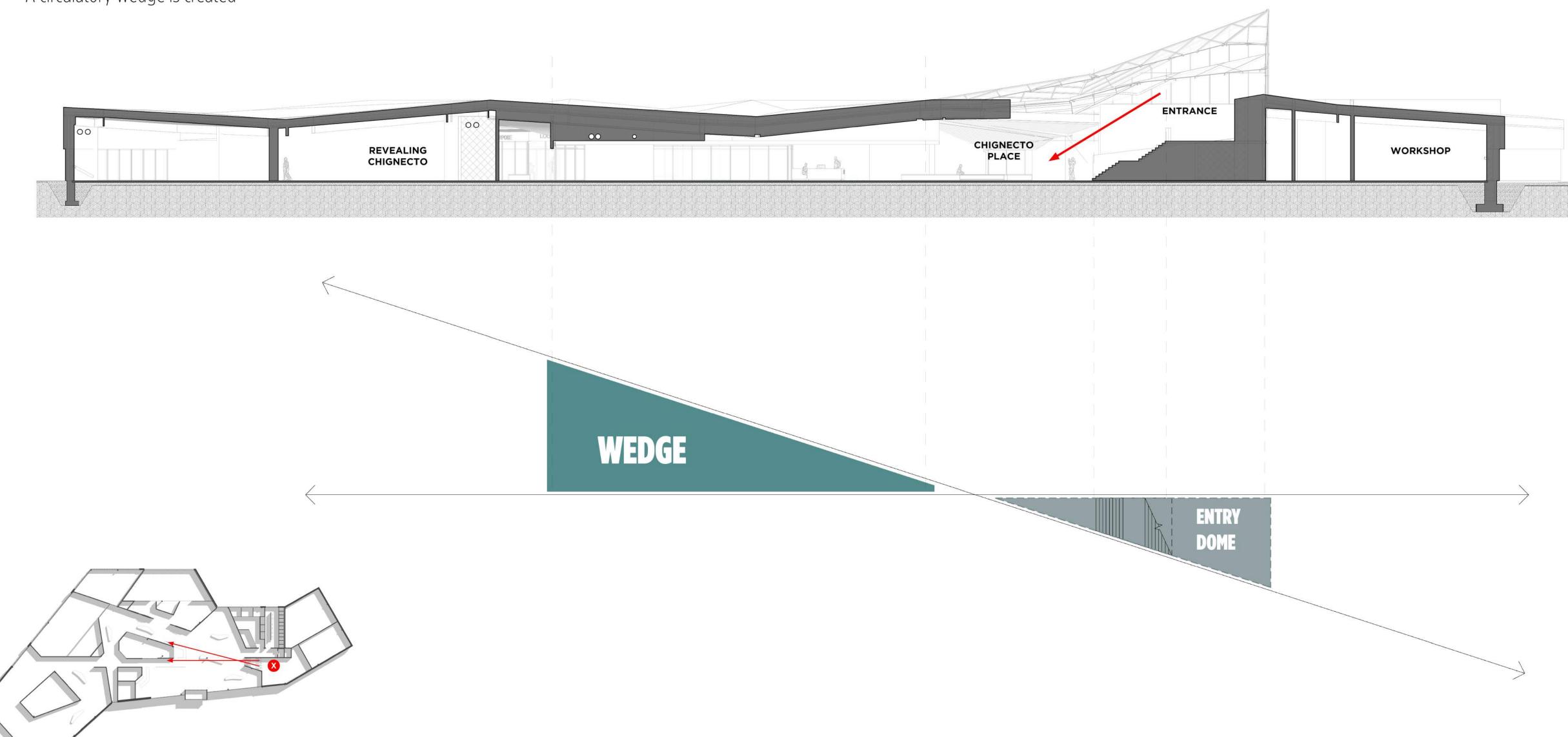
What is a positive architectural response to building in a special place such as the Chignecto Isthmus, which is layered with multiple cultural histories and heritage?

1. Make the landscape the focus, the visitor is afforded the dignity of their own cultural memory. This is expressed through nesting the building in the topography, keeping the roof lines low and covering it with growing medium.



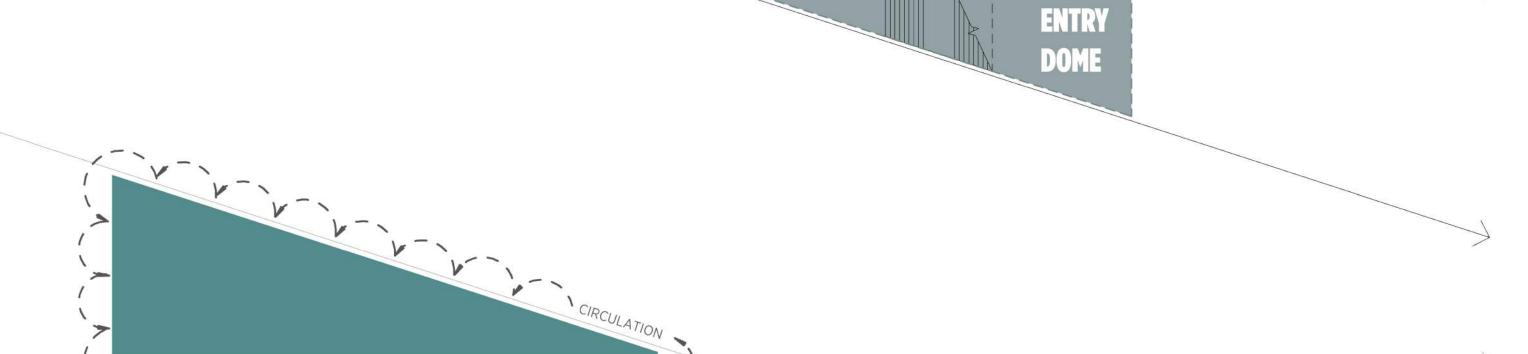
#### INTERIOR EXPERIENCE

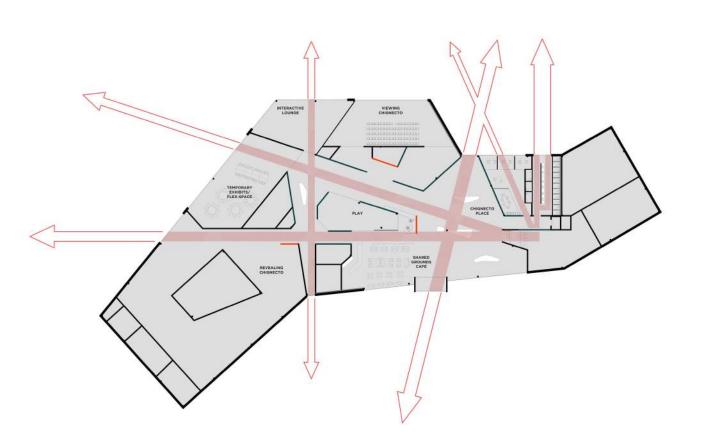
- Organized around the entry transition experience
- A circulatory wedge is created

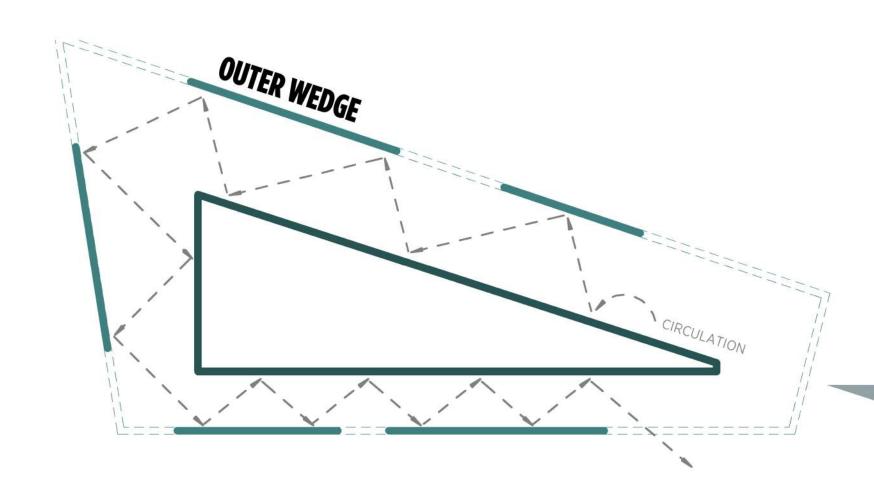






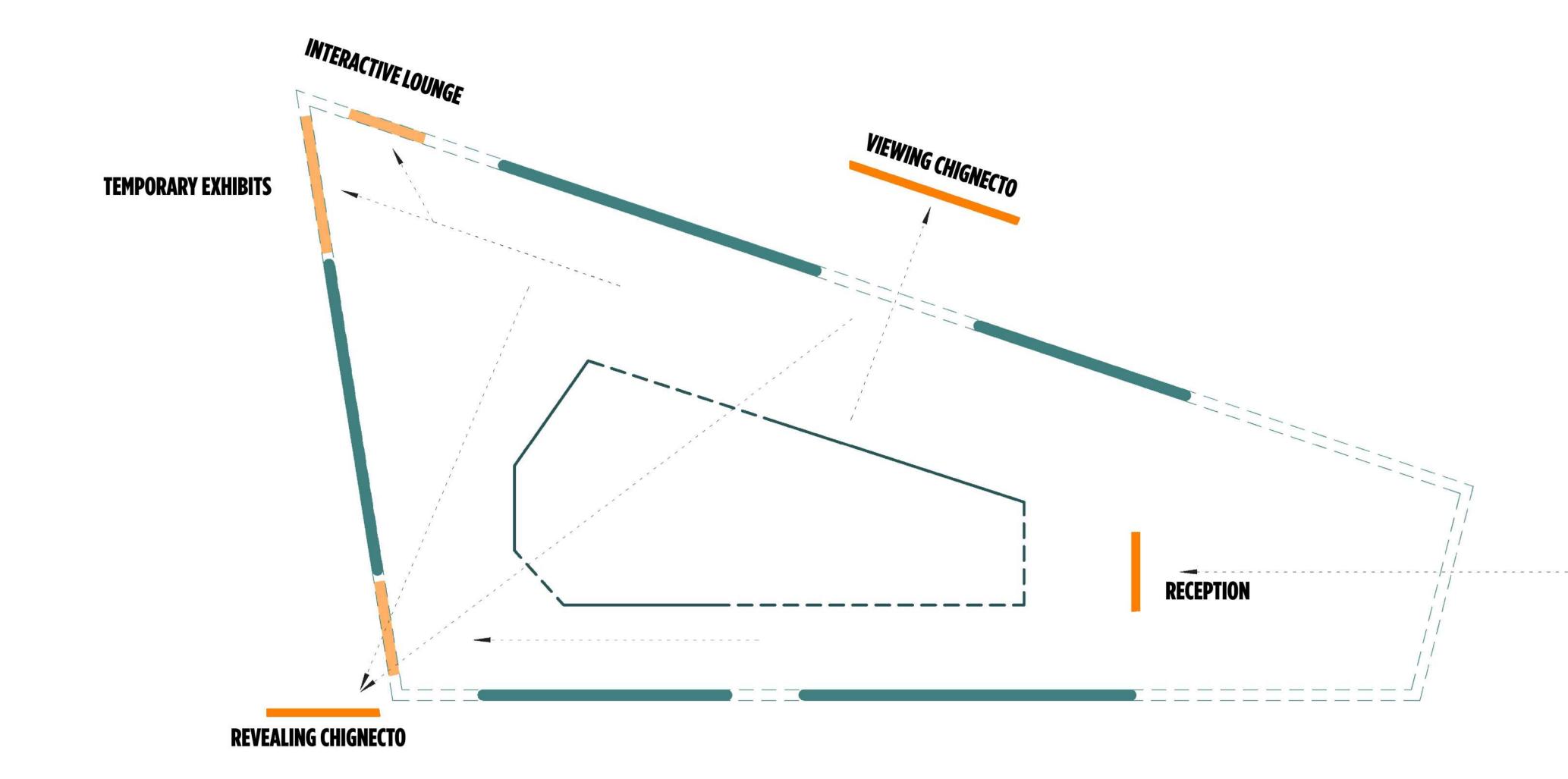






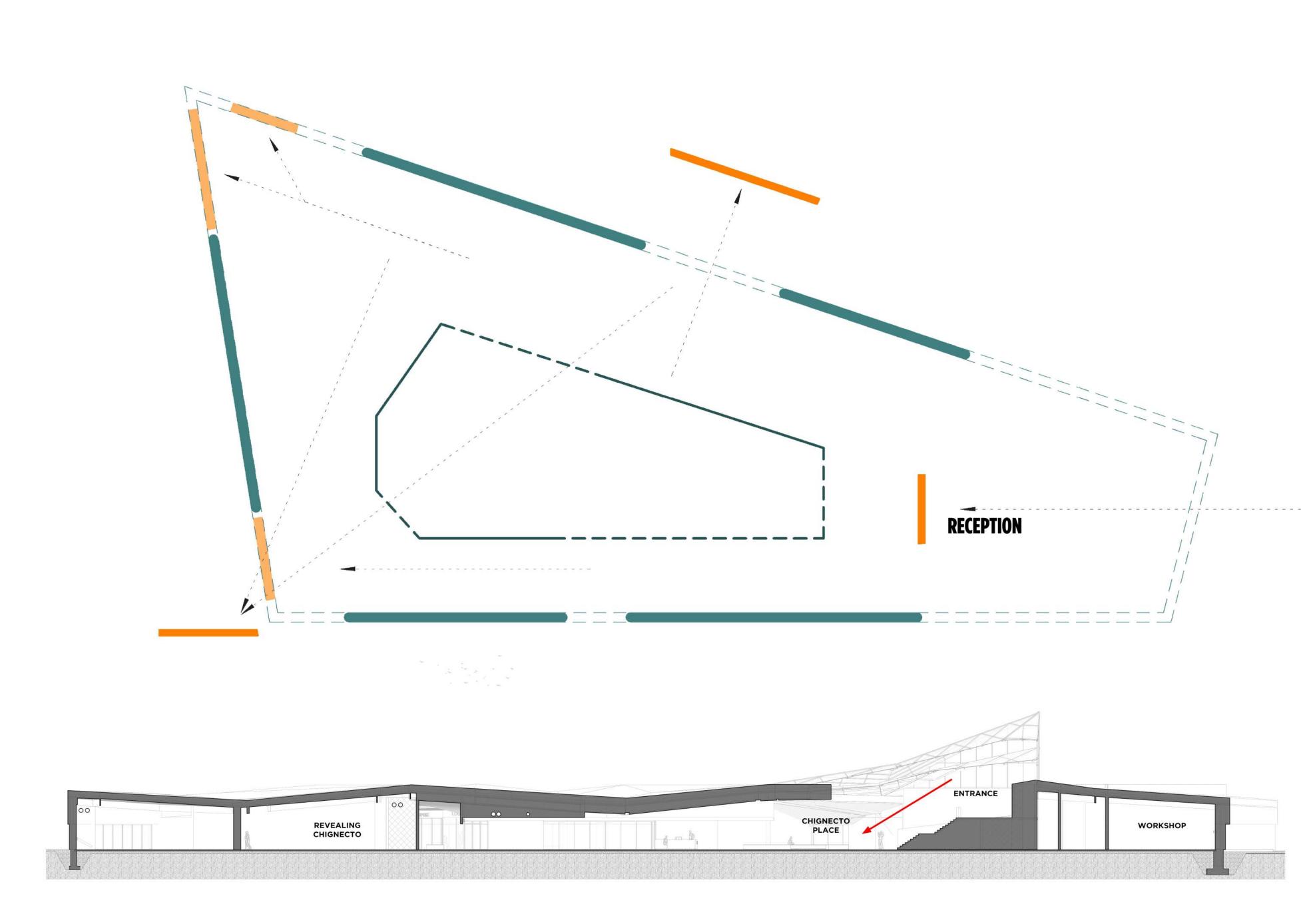
## INTERIOR EXPERIENCE

Destinations











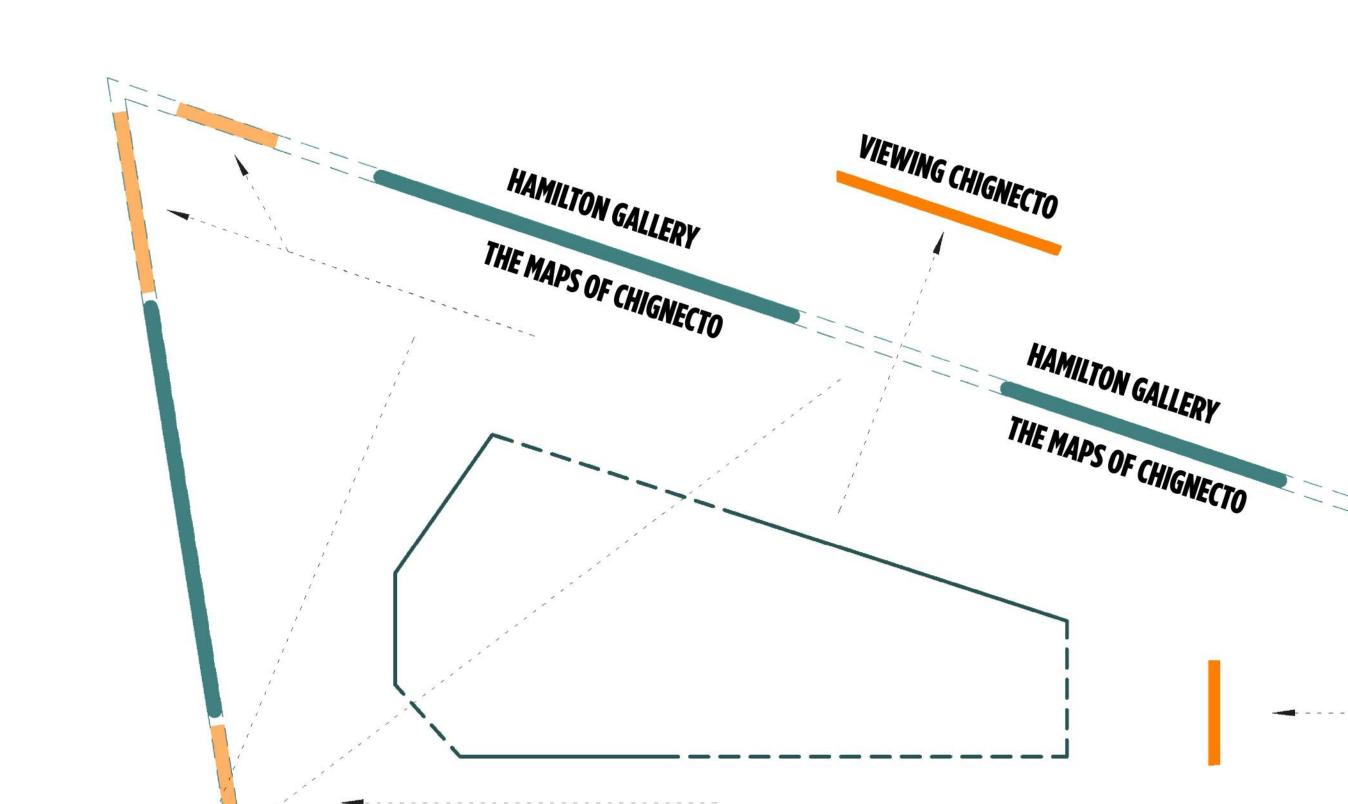


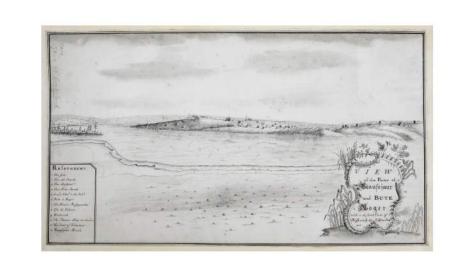












Tien of the French Fort at Beau









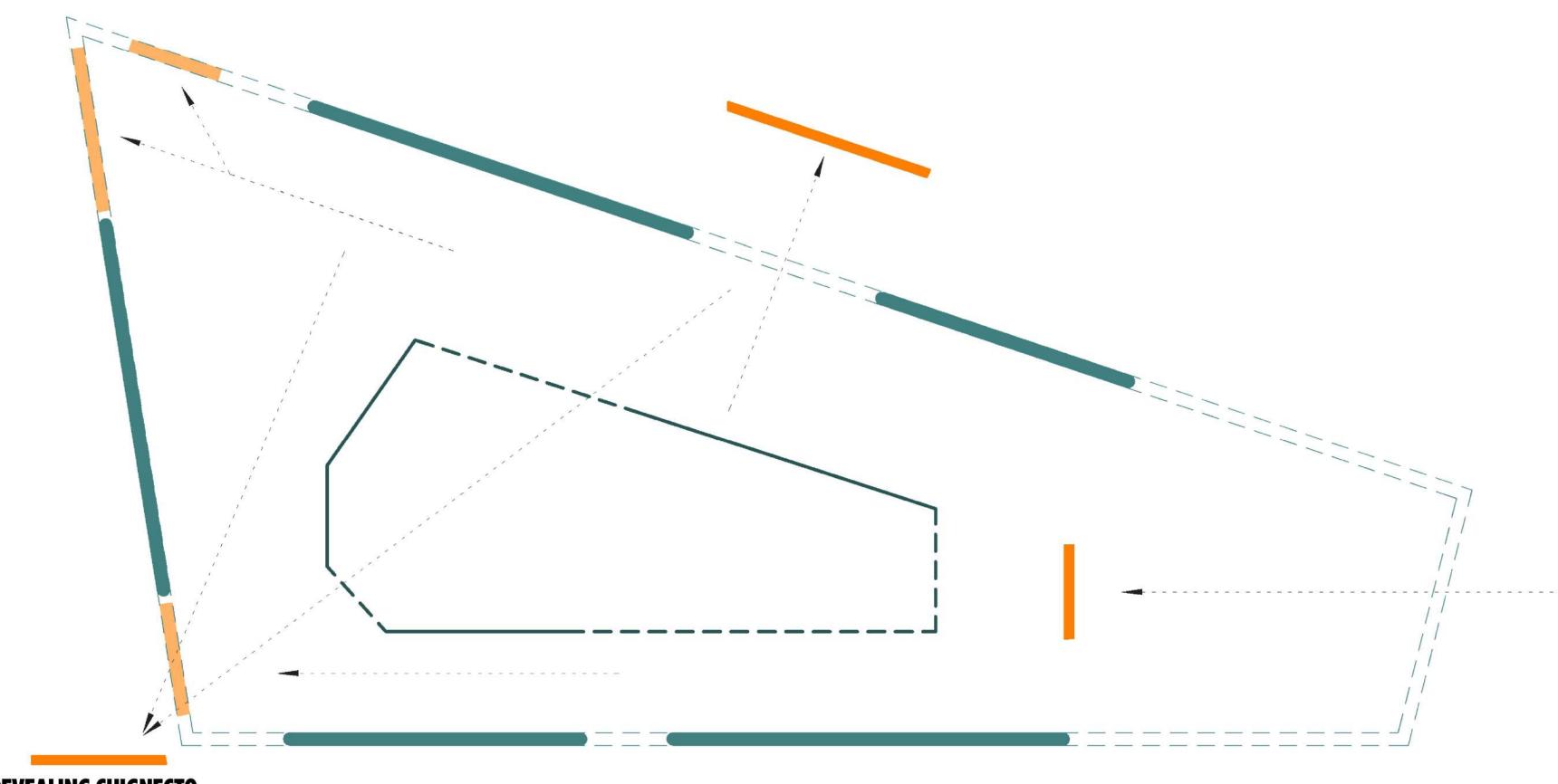




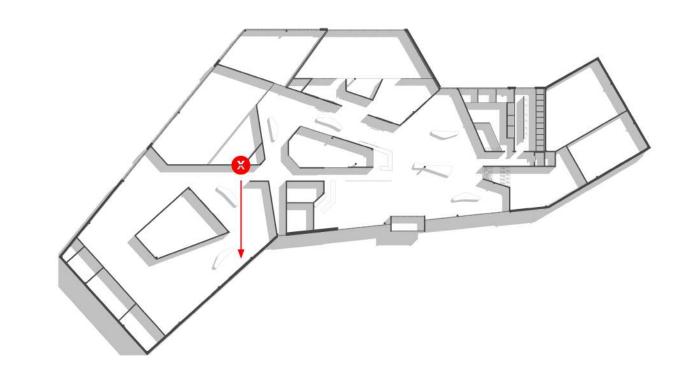










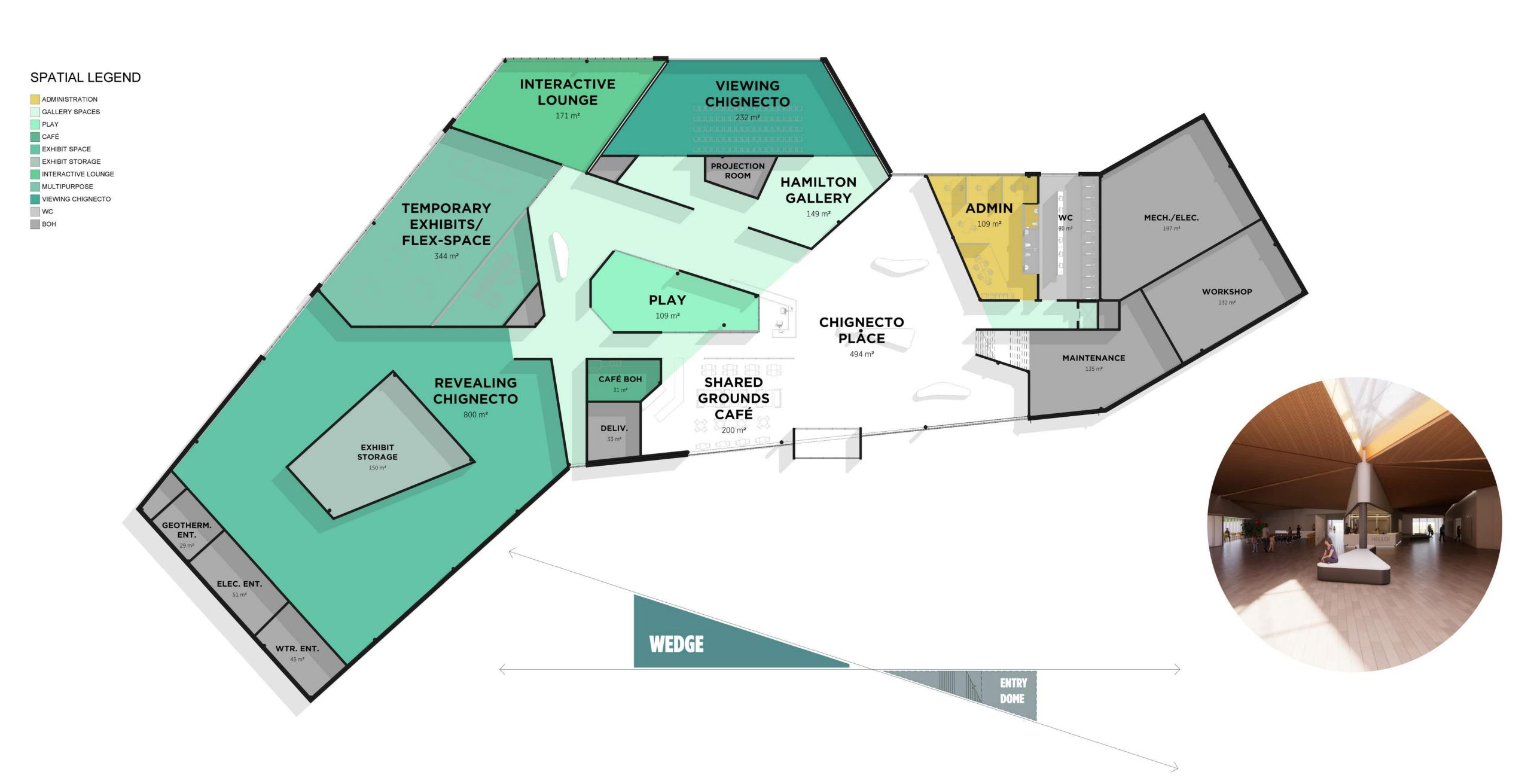


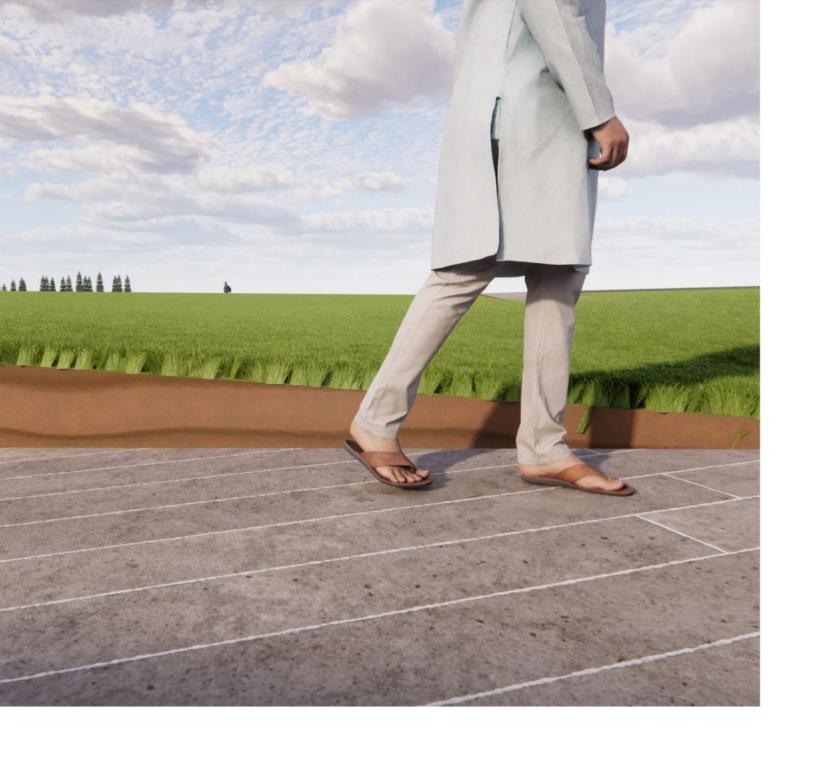
# REVEALING CHIGNECTO

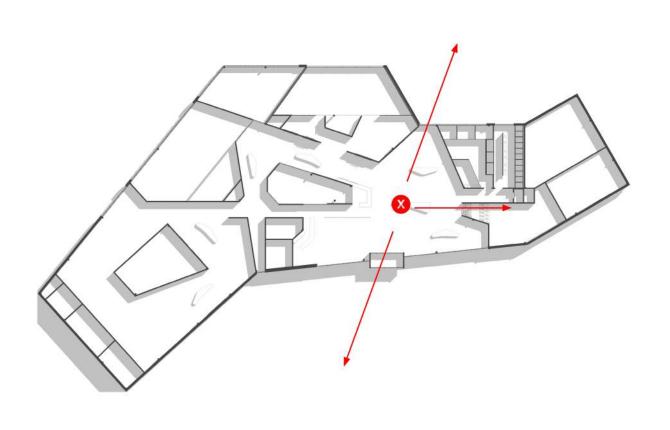






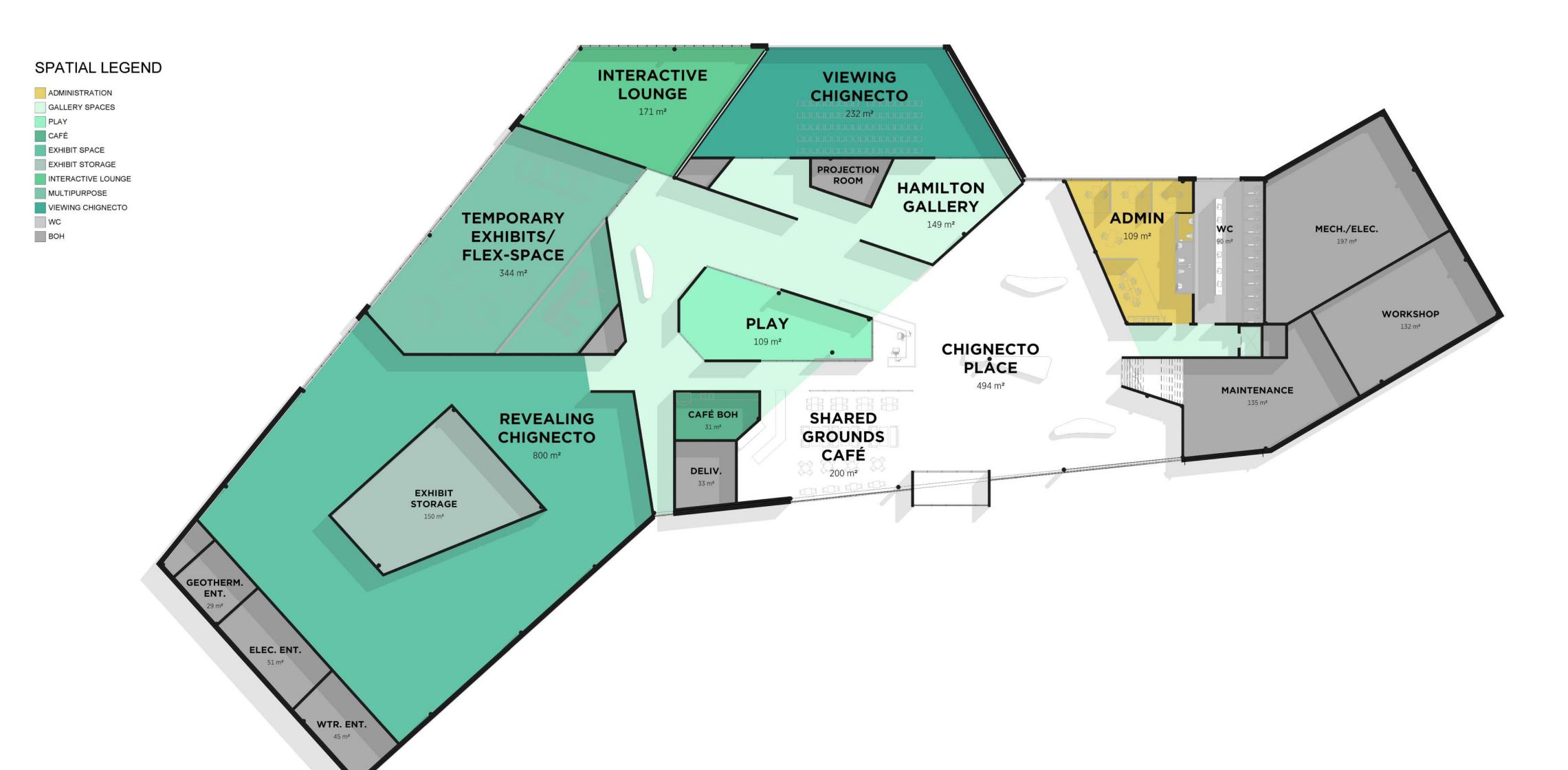








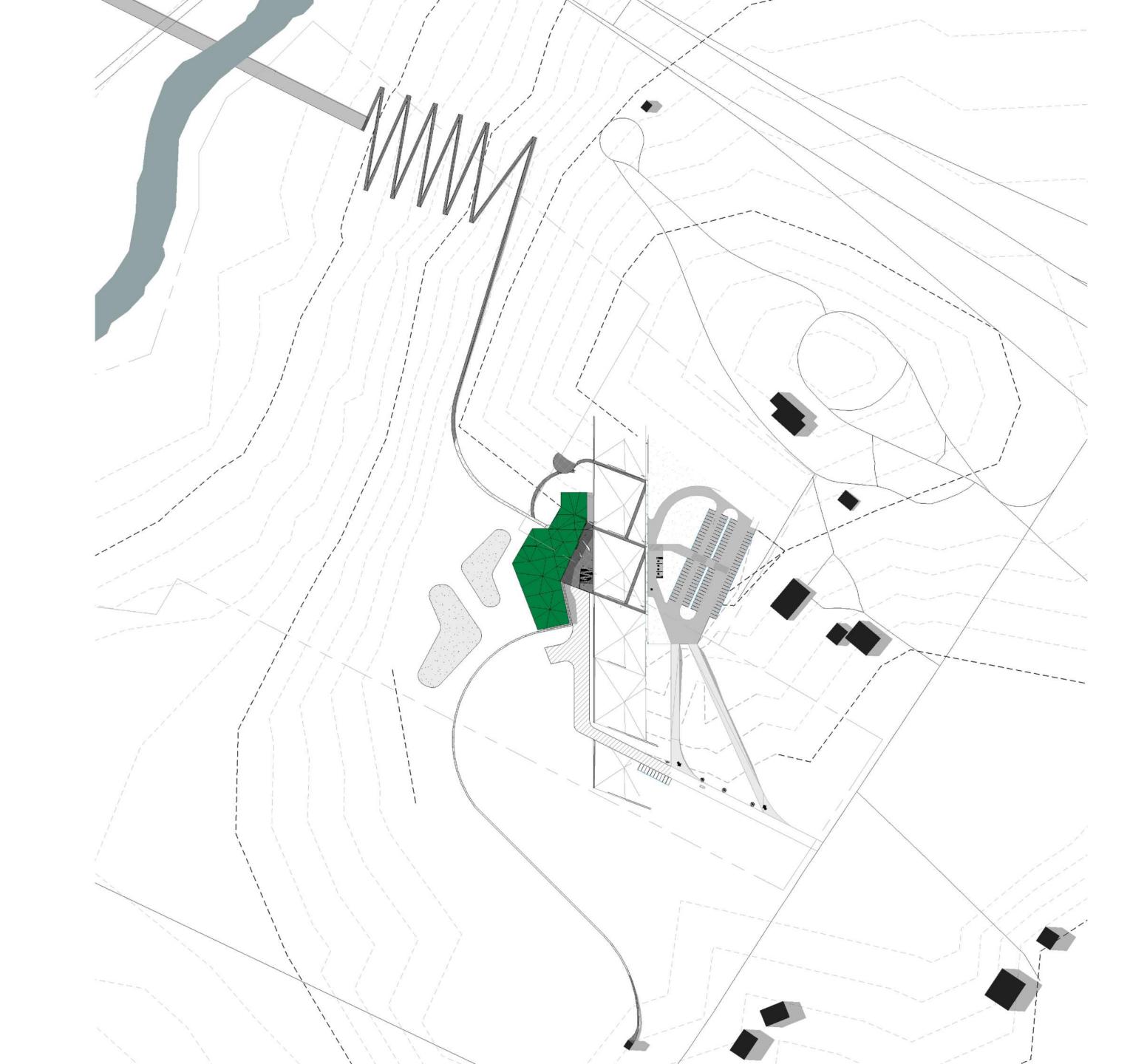
### THANK YOU!



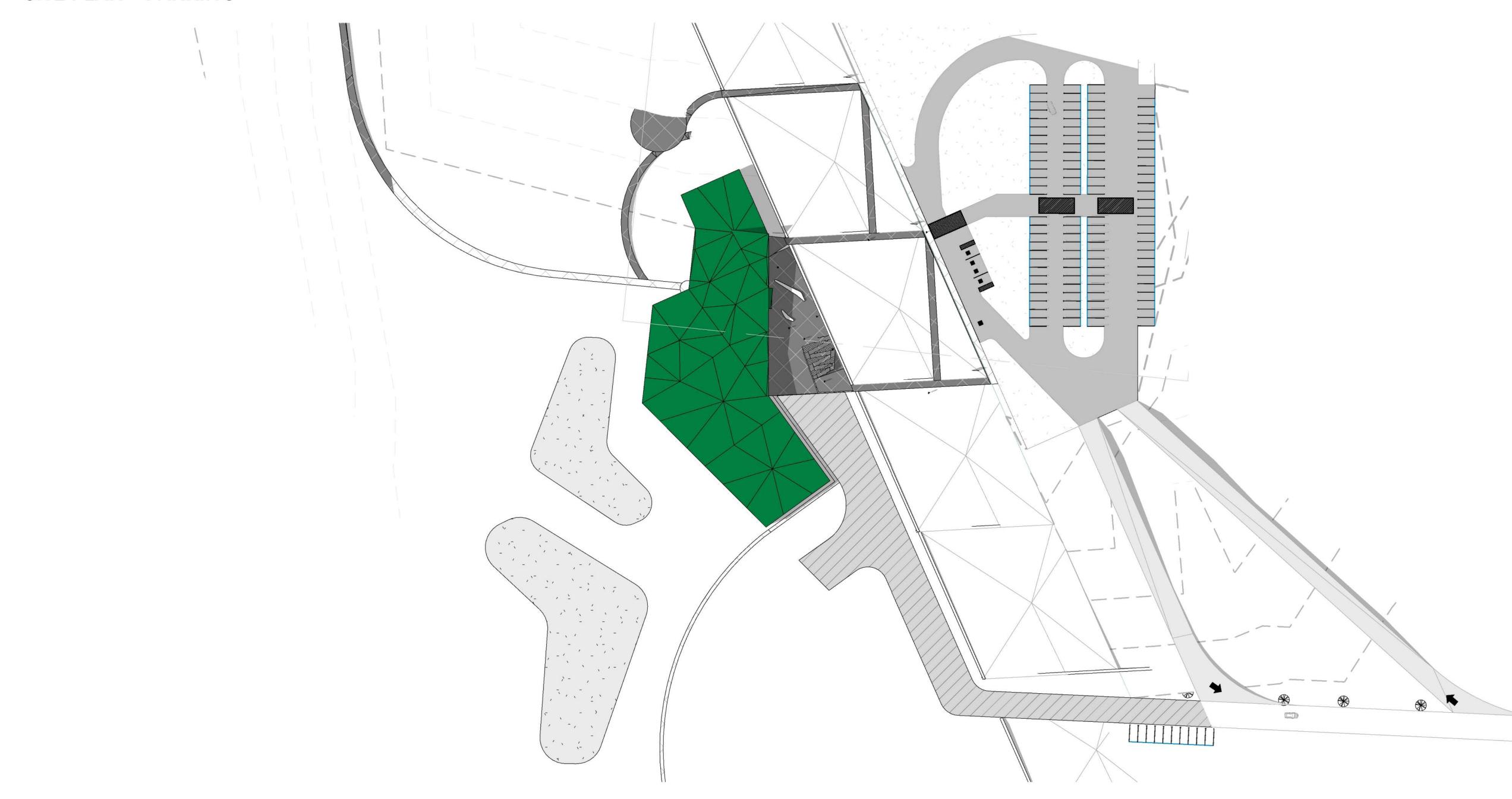
### **DELIVERABLES**

- PLANS
  - SITE
  - ENTRY LEVEL
  - FLOOR PLAN
  - CEILING PLAN
  - SYSTEMS
- ELEVATIONS
- SECTIONS
- 3D
  - STRUCTURE AXO
  - ARRIVAL
  - APPROACH
  - PLACE MAKING
  - RECEP
  - PROJECTION ROOMS

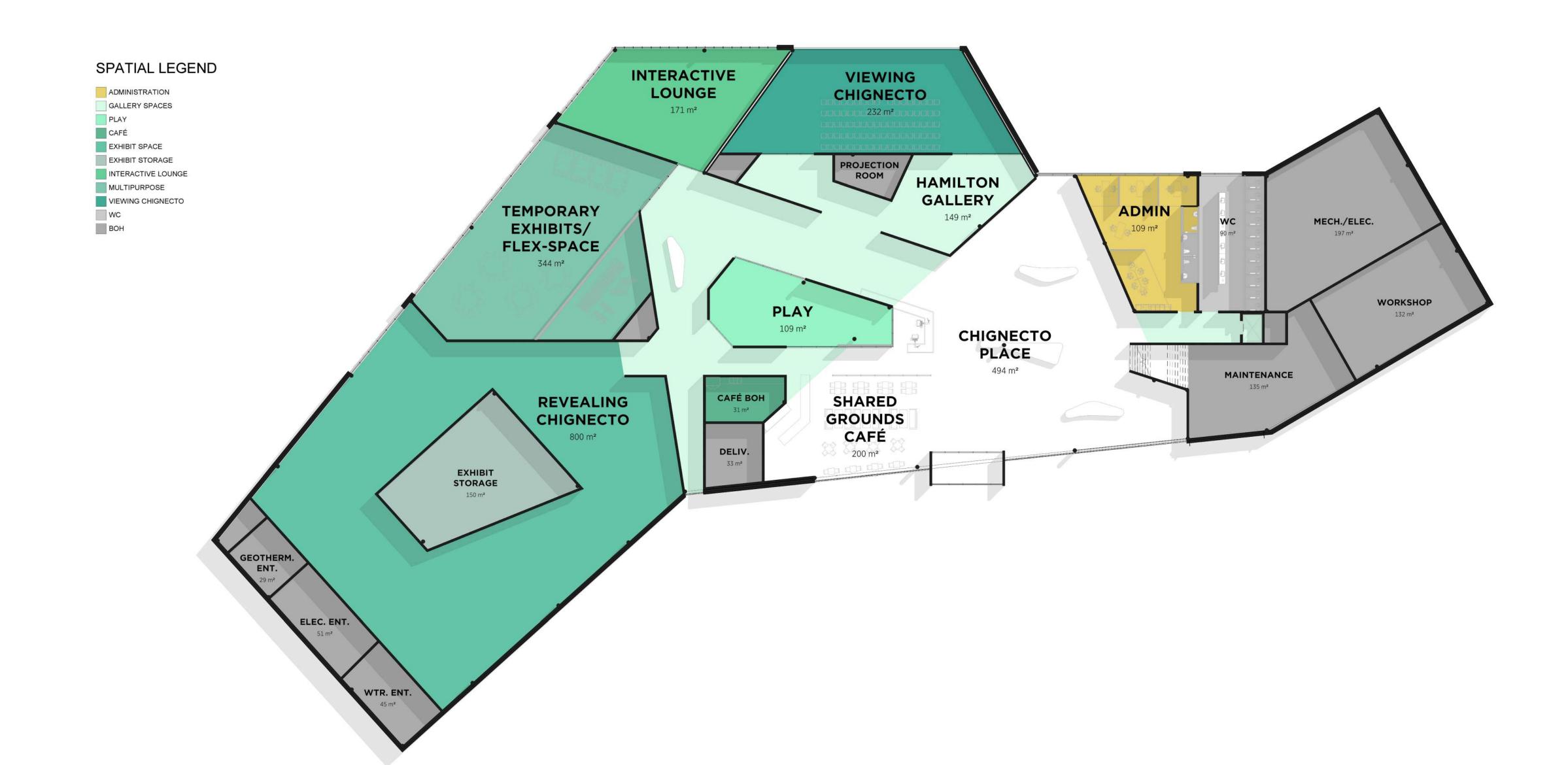
## SITE PLAN - ISTHMUS



### SITE PLAN - PARKING



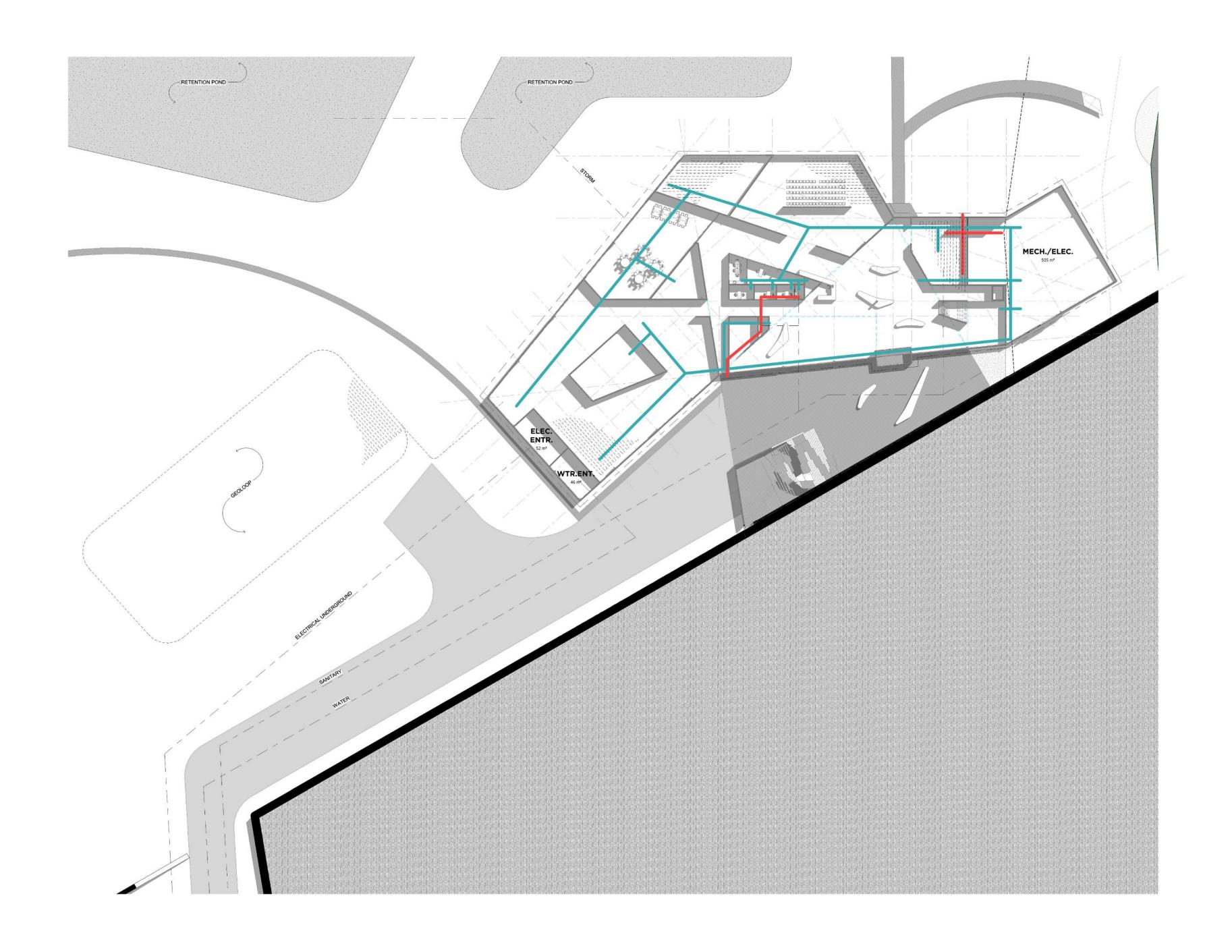
### DEPARTMENT PLAN



### **CEILINGS PLAN**

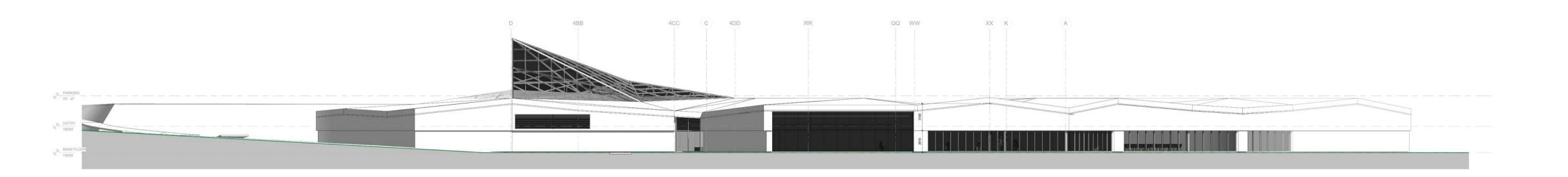


### SYSTEMS PLAN

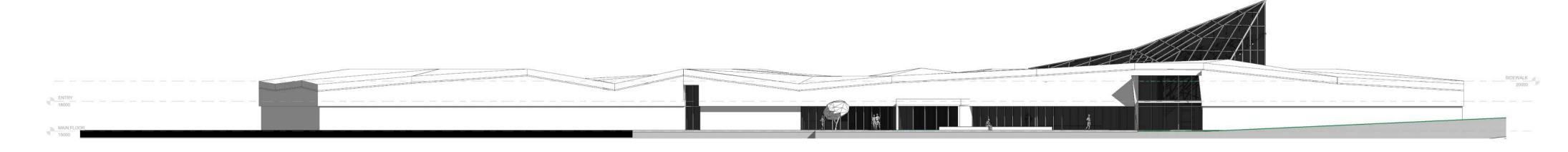


### **ELEVATIONS**

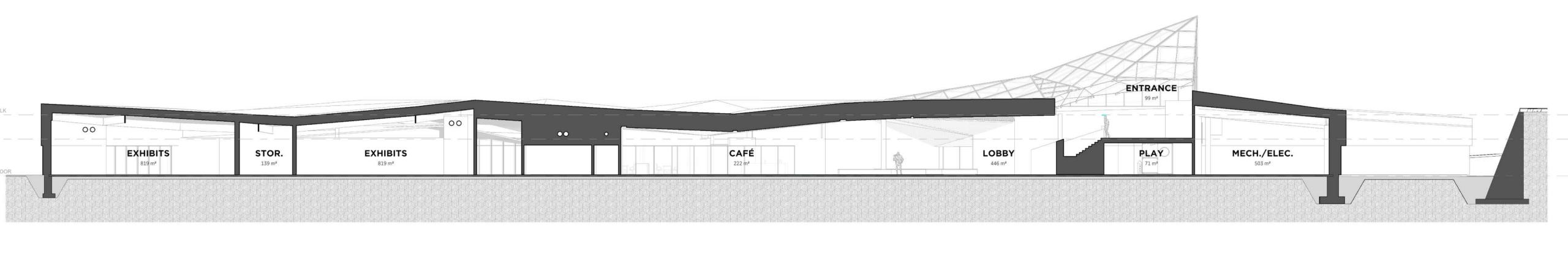
WWR: 20% SRR: <4%

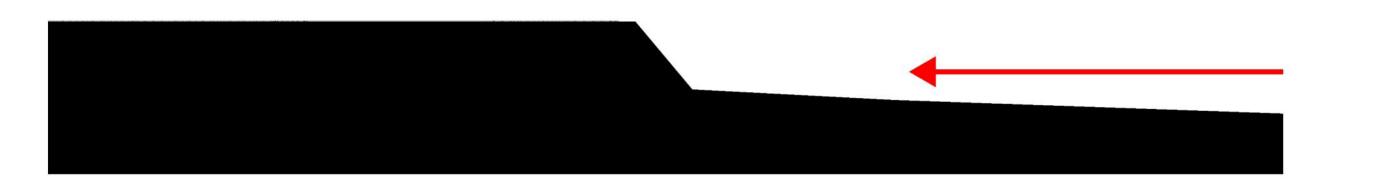


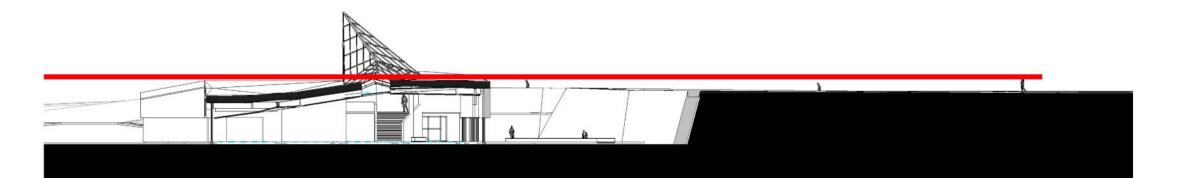
1 ELEVATION NORTH



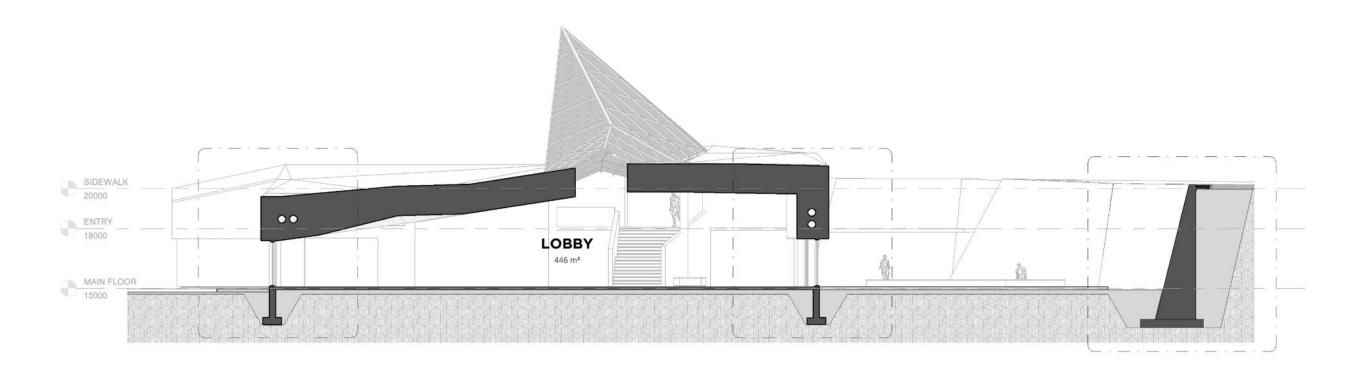
### BUILDING LONG SECTION & LANDSCAPE SECTION

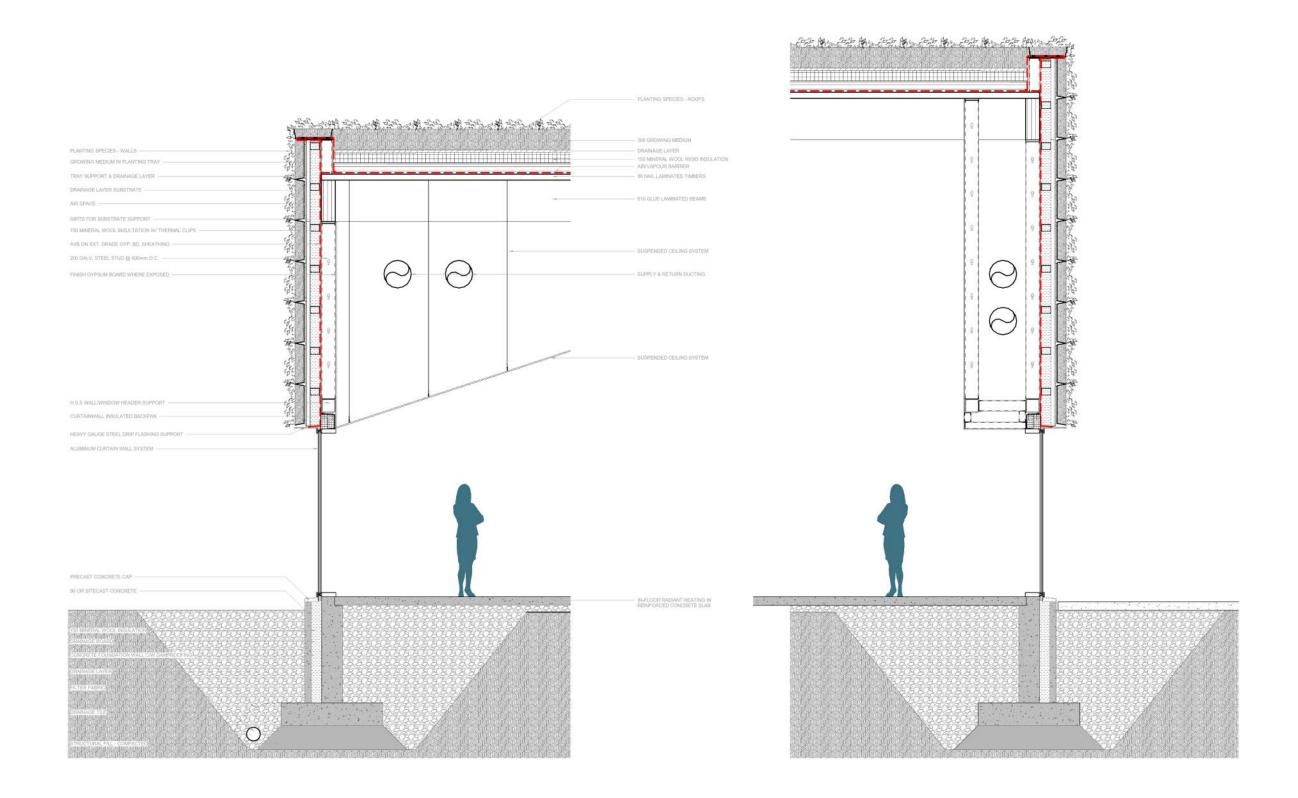


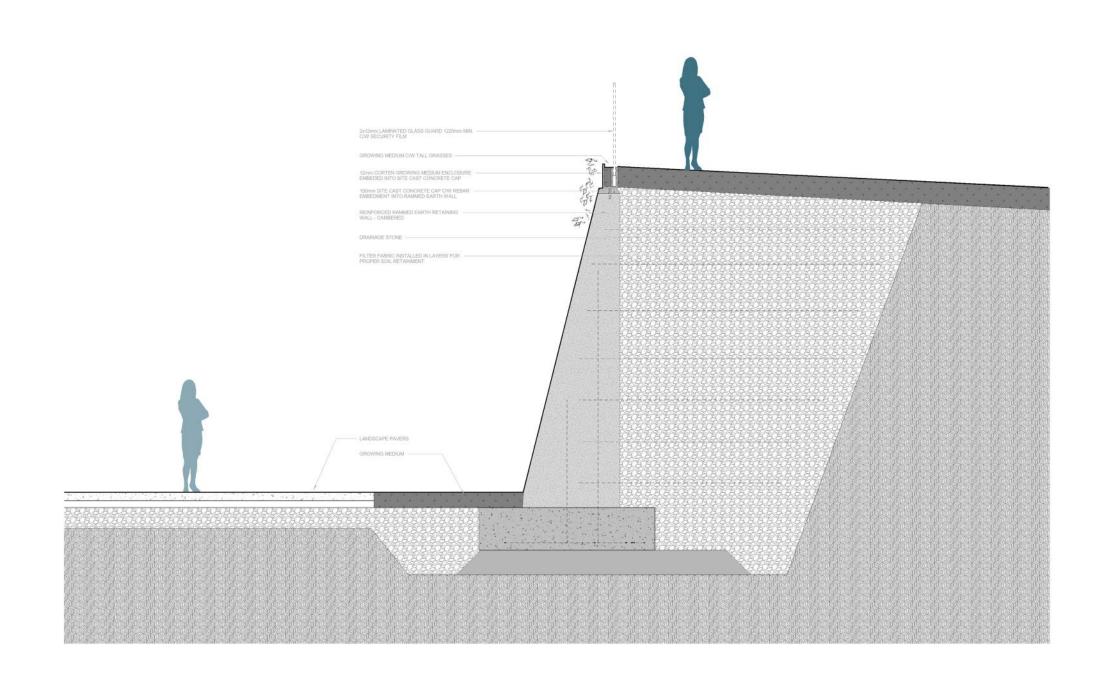




# BUILDING SECTION - SHORT SECTION WALL SECTIONS







# STRUCTURAL AXO

# RENDERS

