



## Education Center at the Wall

## **REGULATORY OVERVIEW**

### **I. CFA**

- a. 09/2005 - SITE APPROVAL
- b. 09/2007 - CONCEPT
- c. 04/2009 - REVISED CONCEPT
- d. 02/2012 - REVISED CONCEPT
- e. 04/2014 - REVISED CONCEPT
- f. 07/2014 - REVISED CONCEPT
- g. 05/2015 - FINAL SUBMISSION / APPROVAL

### **II. NCPC**

- a. 07/2006 - SITE APPROVAL
- b. 11/2007 - CONCEPT
- c. 06/2009 - REVISED CONCEPT
- d. 07/2012 - PRELIMINARY
- e. 07/2015 - FINAL SUBMISSION

### **III. NCMAC**

- a. 03/2005 - SITE APPROVAL
- b. 03/2012 - CONCEPT

# 2003 - Authorizing Legislation

117 STAT. 1348

PUBLIC LAW 108-126—NOV. 17, 2003

Public Law 108-126  
108th Congress

An Act

Nov. 17, 2003  
[H.R. 1442]

To authorize the design and construction of a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

District of  
Columbia.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

## TITLE I—VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER

### SEC. 101. VISITOR CENTER.

Public Law 96-297 (16 U.S.C. 431 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “SEC. 6. VISITOR CENTER.

“(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., is authorized to construct a visitor center at or near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia, or its environs, subject to the provisions of this section, in order to better inform and educate the public about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam War.

“(2) LOCATION.—The visitor center shall be located underground.

“(3) CONSULTATION ON DESIGN PHASE.—The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, Inc., shall consult with educators, veterans groups, and the National Park Service in developing the proposed design of the visitor center.

“(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS APPLICABLE TO COMMEMORATIVE WORKS.—Chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code, shall apply, including provisions related to the siting, design, construction, and maintenance of the visitor center, and the visitor center shall be considered a commemorative work for the purposes of that Act, except that—

“(1) final approval of the visitor center shall not be withheld;

“(2) the provisions of subsections (b) and (c) of section 8908 of title 40, United States Code, requiring further approval by law for the location of a commemorative work within Area I and prohibiting the siting of a visitor center within the Reserve shall not apply;

“(3) the size of the visitor center shall be limited to the minimum necessary—

...construct a visitor center...in order to better inform and educate the public about the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam War.

...shall be located underground.

...shall be constructed and landscaped in a manner harmonious with the site of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, consistent with the special nature and sanctity of the Mall.

...shall not interfere or encroach on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and shall protect open space and visual sightlines on the Mall.

June 1, 2015  
Project Report  
Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center – Education Center at the Wall  
National Capital Planning Commission

a. **Agency Project Manager**

Glenn DeMarr  
Project Manager  
National Park Service  
National Capital Region  
110 Ohio Drive SW  
Washington, DC 20242  
202 619-7027

b. **Narrative Description:**

The revisions to the design proposal included in this Final Submission of the Education Center at The Wall have been carefully considered in light of the suggestions, concerns and criticisms of both the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission. The design team has attempted to incorporate many of the recommendations into the design and to respond directly to the individual issues which have been raised over the course of the review process. The design has been further refined as a result of joint consultation with staff members of both commissions as well as through the public scoping process that is part and parcel of the Environmental Assessment. At the same time, the design team stands confidently behind the belief that the proposal remains a well considered, holistic one that is at once integrated into the landscape, appropriate for the visitor and commensurate of the special nature of the site within the National Mall.

The following is a summary of the design refinements to the Education Center at The Wall since the last submission to NCPC in May of 2012:

- Removal of the retaining wall adjacent to the entry stair, citing concern from the Commission of Fine Arts of the similarity in appearance of the two perpendicular walls at the entry to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial itself. In lieu of this retaining wall, a gradual grass berm at a 3:1 slope has been incorporated into the landscaping.
- Reshaping of the grass berm defined by the surrounding entry ramp to be more organic and less figural than the ellipse included in the former design, thereby bringing the design of the landscape more in line with the language of the National Mall.
- A slight shift of the building within the site toward the North, as required to make the new grass berm feasible in relation to the location of the adjacent National Park Service kiosk.
- A recalibration of the entry stair and the entry doors to the Center such that the stairs end on axis with the doors. Formerly, the entry stairs directed visitors to approach the courtyard and the entry doors were adjacent in a covered “forecourt”.
- Revision of the Entry and Lower Level floor plans to accommodate the changes at the main entry and the adjacent exit stair, required as a result of the removal of the retaining wall described in item 1.

c. **Total area of site bounded by Constitution Avenue, 23rd Street, and Henry Bacon Drive: 5.2 acres**

**Area of site temporally impacted by construction: 2.4 acres**

The combined area of Entry Walkway, Entry Plaza, and Courtyard Roof Opening: 0.33 acres; 14,375sqft

d. **Building’s Net Area:** 37,000sqft. The building’s layout is based on the minimum space required to support the educational goals of the Center.

**Site coverage:** The building is underground and has a green roof that is open to the public as multi-use recreation area. Area of underground building that does not have green roof: 0.2 acres; 9,000sqft

e. **Existing and Projected Assigned Employment:**

**Existing** – None

**Projected** – Approximately 20 full time employees including: Site Maintenance, Building Security, Building Information Desk, Building Manager, Collections Manager/Curators, IT Maintenance, Collections Maintenance, Interpretive Staff for Gallery and Front Desk, Maintenance Staff, and Book Store Manager.

f. **Relation to Agency Master Plan:** The site for the Education Center was approved in August of 2006 as an underground building with mitigations, as authorized by P.L. 108-126, and is to be located “at or near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial” as described by Congress and President. The authorizing legislation goes on to state that Center will be treated in the approval process as a commemorative work to preserve open-space and integrity of the comprehensive design of the MacMillan plan.

Since the authorizing legislation, the proposed location of the Education Center has been acknowledged in the National Mall Plan.

g. **Status of coordination with affected local, state governments, and Council of Governments:**

The Education Center has been presented and approved in its concept stage by the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission and has been reviewed and approved at the preliminary stage by the National Capital Planning Commission. In addition, the DC State Historic Preservation Office (DCSHPO) has been engaged through the Section 106 consulting process, and the project design team has met and will continue to coordinate with the following DC area public service agencies: DC-DDOT, DC Fire Marshal, US Army Corps of Engineers, DC-WASA, DDOE, US Park Police and DCRA.

**h. Status of Community Participation:**

The community has been involved in the development of the Education Center's site selection and design through the Section 106 consultation process, the Environmental Assessment public scoping process, and presentations to government commissions.

o The Section 106 process began in February of 2005 when DC SHPO and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation were notified as part of the site selection process. The following is a list of Section 106 consultation meetings that have been held,

- May 2005: Review of potential sites
- September 2007: Review of Education Center's concept design
- October 2007: Review of Education Center's concept design
- May 2009: Review of the Education Center's revised concept design
- May 2011: Review of the Education Center's revised design
- March 2012: Review of the Education Center adverse impact mitigation. This meeting concluded the consulting parties' phase of the Section 106 process.
- April 2012: Staff agency review of the Education Center design elements. At this meeting additional materials were presented to the agency staff to clarify the design of the horizontal rail at the edge of the roof waffle slab.
- October 2014: Distribution via electronic media of design refinements

The following is a list of issues that were identified through the Section 106 process.

- Visibility
- Entry to site
- Relationship to existing food service kiosk
- Lighting
- Identification of historic resources
- Preservation of open space
- Size
- Conflict with Memorial experience
- Pedestrian Safety
- Climate Change

Further explanation of these issues can be found in the Environmental Assessment.

The Section 106 process has been formalized in the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that was executed on June 25, 2012.

o The formal Environmental Assessment public scoping process began August of 2011 with the distribution of notification letters to cooperating agencies and stakeholders, posting of notices on the National Park Service's Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website, and additional distribution through VVMF's 10 state mailing list. A public scoping meeting was held in September 2011. The public commenting phase was closed October 2011. Comments from the public review process were considered in the development of the Environmental Assessment.

o The Commission of Fine Arts, National Capital Planning Commission, and the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission have reviewed the design of Education Center at following dates,

CFA: Concept Review, October 2007 (Approved with comments)

NCPC: Concept Review, December 2007 (comments)

CFA: Revised Concept Review, April 2009 (Approved with comments)

NCPC: Revised Concept Review, June 2009 (Approval of comments)

CFA: Updated Concept Review, February 2012 (Approved with comments)

NCMAC: Updated Concept Review, March 2012 (Approved)

NCPC: Preliminary Review, July 12, 2012 (Approved)

CFA: Revised Concept Review, April 2014 (comments)

CFA: Revised Concept Review, July 2014 (Approved)

CFA: Final Review, May 21, 2015 (Approved)

**i. Schedule for Construction and Occupancy:**

Ground-breaking: November 2018

Substantial Completion: November 2020

**j. Total Estimated Project Cost and Funding Status:**

Estimated Construction Hard Costs: \$69 million

Estimated Project Total Cost: \$86.7 million

Funding Status: \$40 million raised

**k. Transportation Management Program:** Not Applicable.

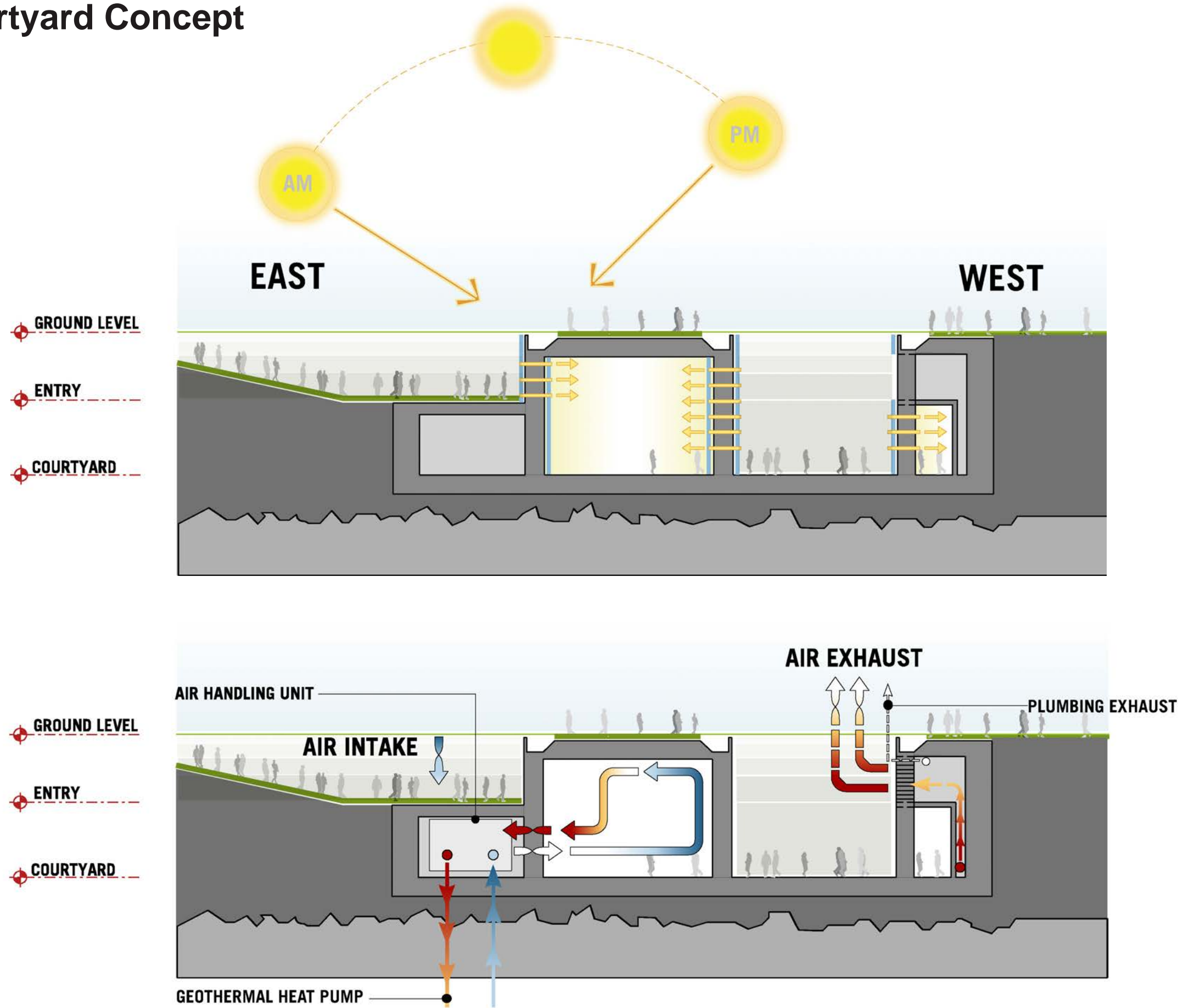
# 2005/2006 - Site "A" Approved



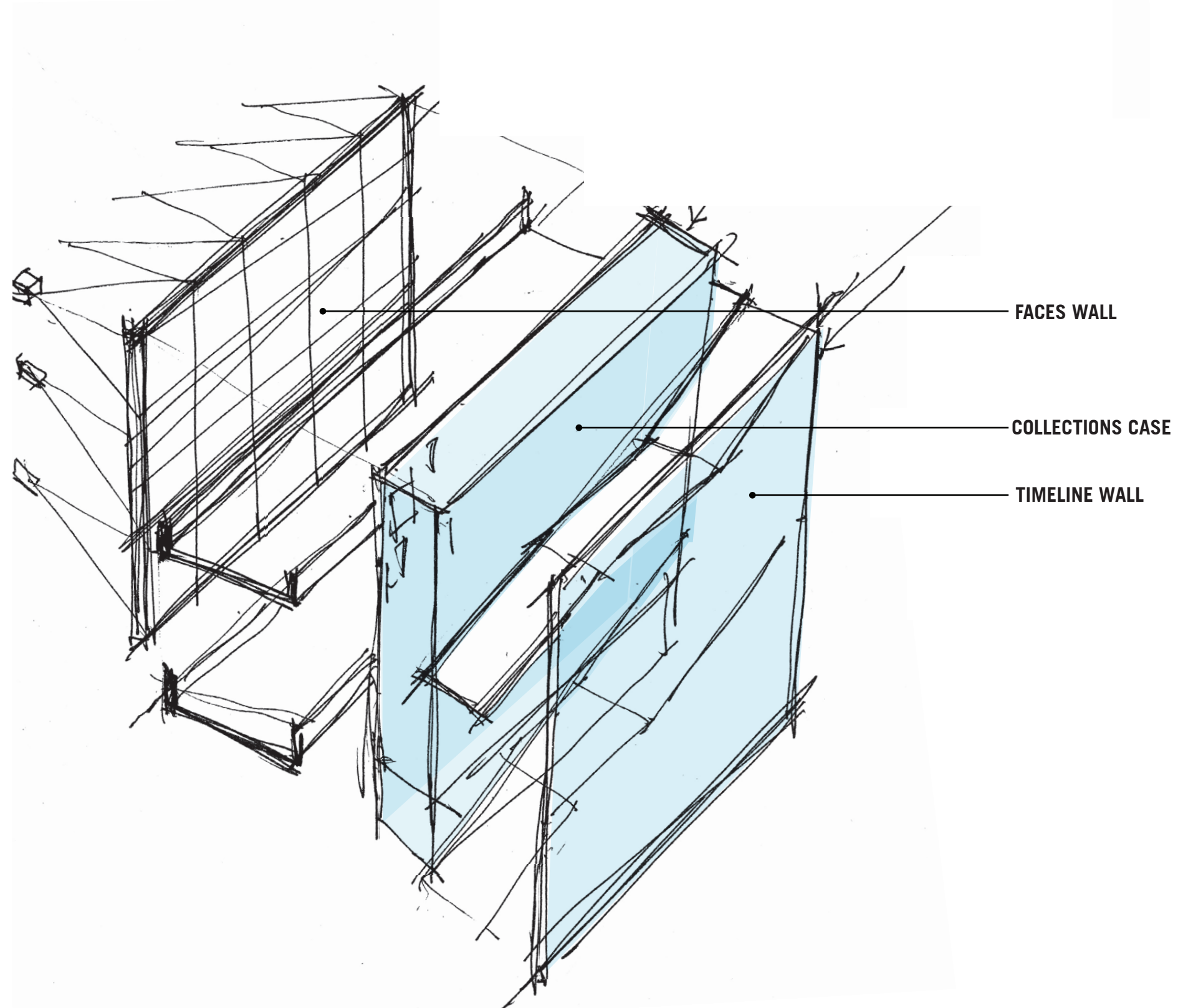
# July 2006 - Joint CFA/NCPC Design Guidelines

1. The Visitor Center will be constructed underground as required by the authorizing legislation for the project with no portion of the building or related building elements visible from any portion of the Lincoln Memorial steps and podium, from Constitution Avenue, and from within the axial viewsheds of 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, N.W. and Henry Bacon Drive, N.W.
2. The Visitor Center's entrance will be only minimally visible from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial to satisfy the project's purpose and need, but in accordance with the authorizing legislation will not interfere with or encroach upon the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
3. To maintain the character of the historic landscape, the Visitor Center's design will maintain the existing grade as much as possible, and any new slopes will be gradual. The project will raise the existing site grade only minimally to allow for an accessible entry ramp.
4. The Visitor Center will be designed such that light emanating from the Center's interior will not be visible from any portion of the Lincoln Memorial, from Constitution Avenue, and from the Vietnam Veterans Memorial so as not to interfere with or encroach upon the Lincoln Memorial or the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
5. The Visitor Center will not intrude into the landscape. No protrusions, such as skylights, monitors, light wells, or sunken areaways, will be visible from the sidewalk surrounding the site.
6. The Visitor Center's site lighting for public safety will not interfere with or encroach upon views to and from the Lincoln Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.
7. The Visitor Center's design will provide only the paved area reasonably necessary for visitors to enter and exit the building and to provide service access, and will not include additional paved area for gathering space or queuing.
8. The project will not include new vehicle parking areas.
9. The Visitor Center will have a single entrance for both visitors and service.
10. The Visitor Center's associated pedestrian street crossing points will be designed to address traffic impacts effectively and to protect pedestrian safety.
11. The Visitor Center will be constructed only on the portion of the site that lies outside of the critical root zone of existing elm trees. The applicant will develop a tree protection plan to protect and preserve the trees both during and after construction in accordance with standard design and construction procedures.
12. The project will place new landscaping on the site in accordance with the National Park Service's Cultural Landscape Report for the Lincoln Memorial referenced in the Environmental Assessment and will maintain the open grass panel on the site surrounded at the site's perimeter by elm trees.
13. The Visitor Center design will not impede the use of the site for multi-purpose recreation on the site.
14. The Visitor Center will be designed without guardrails or perimeter security elements.

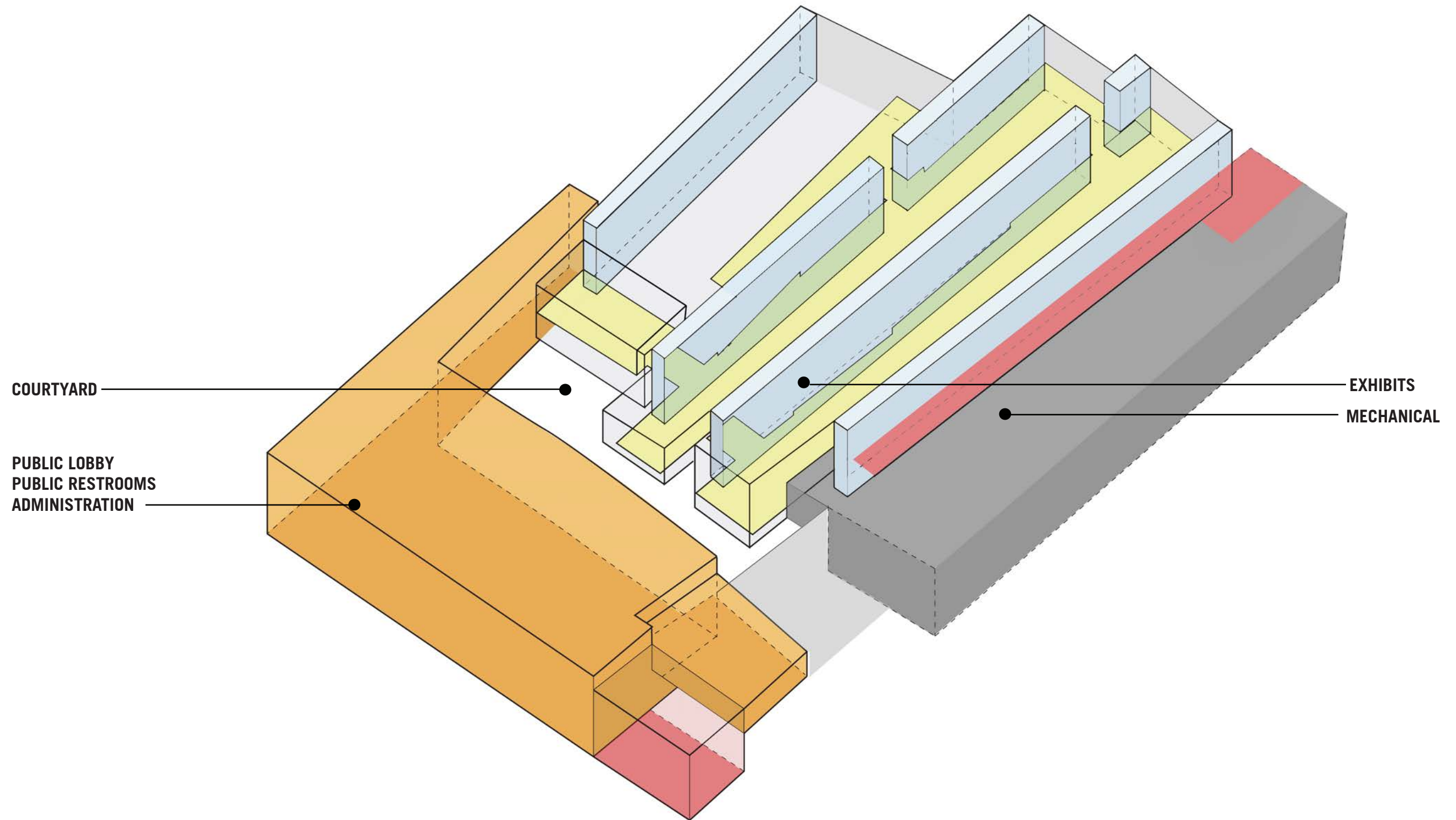
# Courtyard Concept



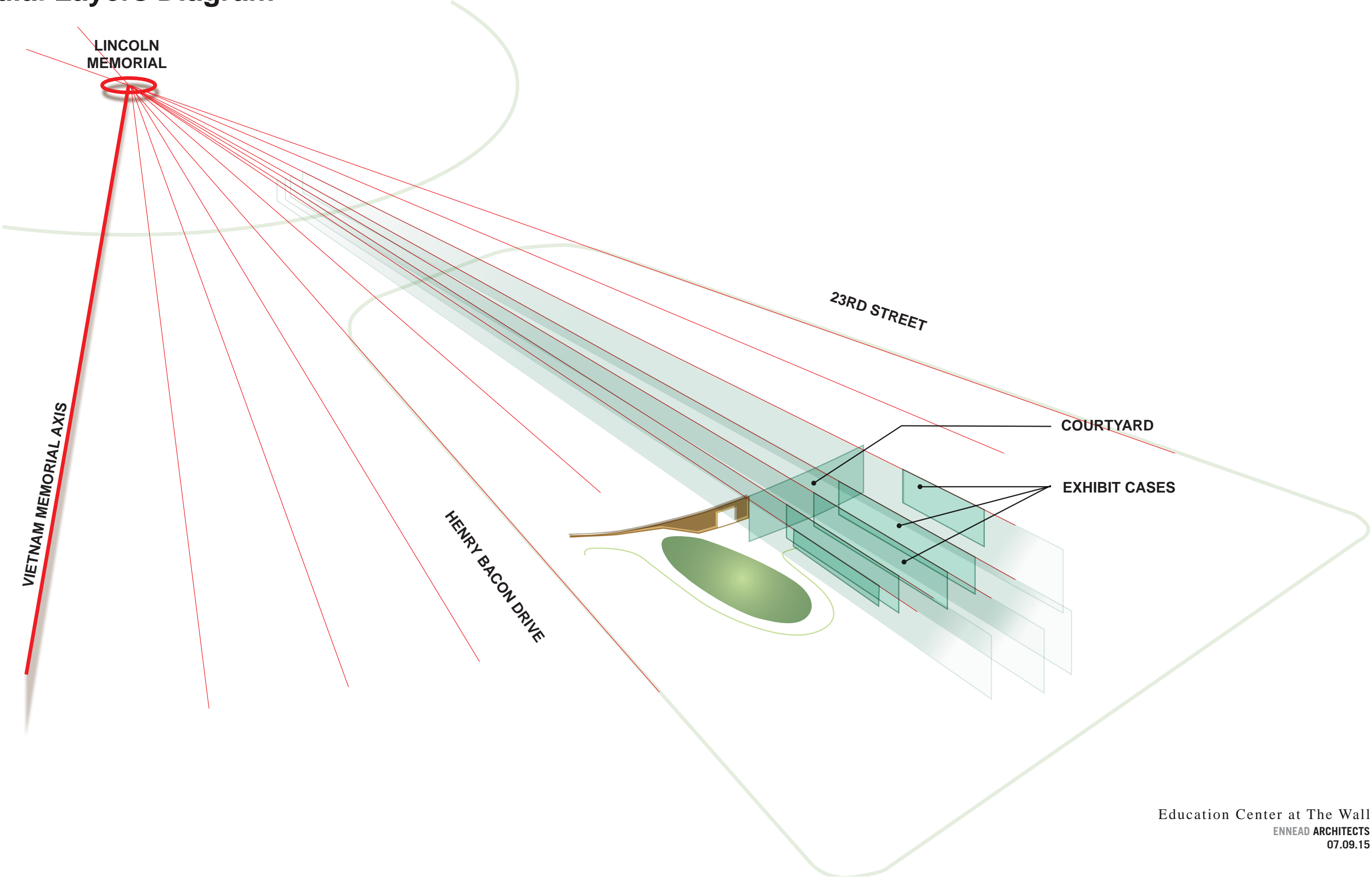
# Exhibit Concept



# Building "Parti"

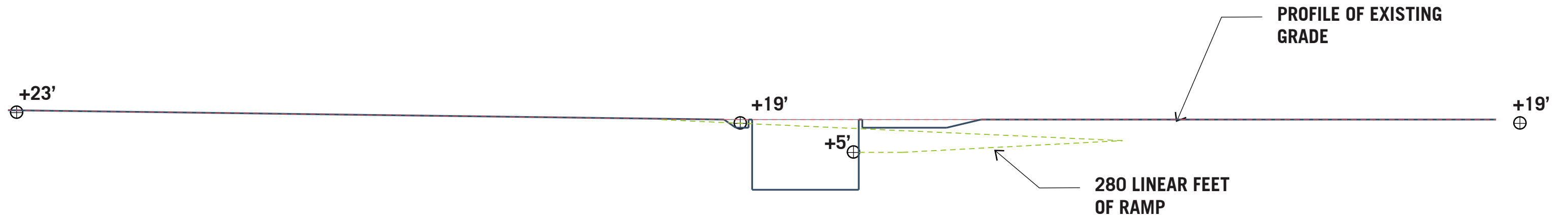


# Radial Layers Diagram

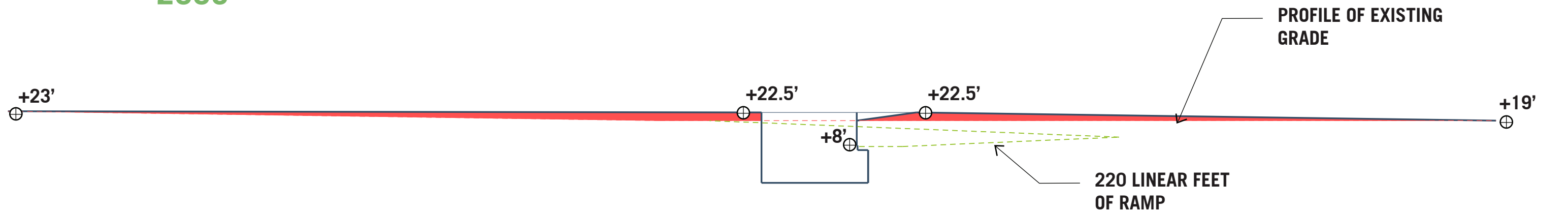


# Concept Design - Site Section Diagrams

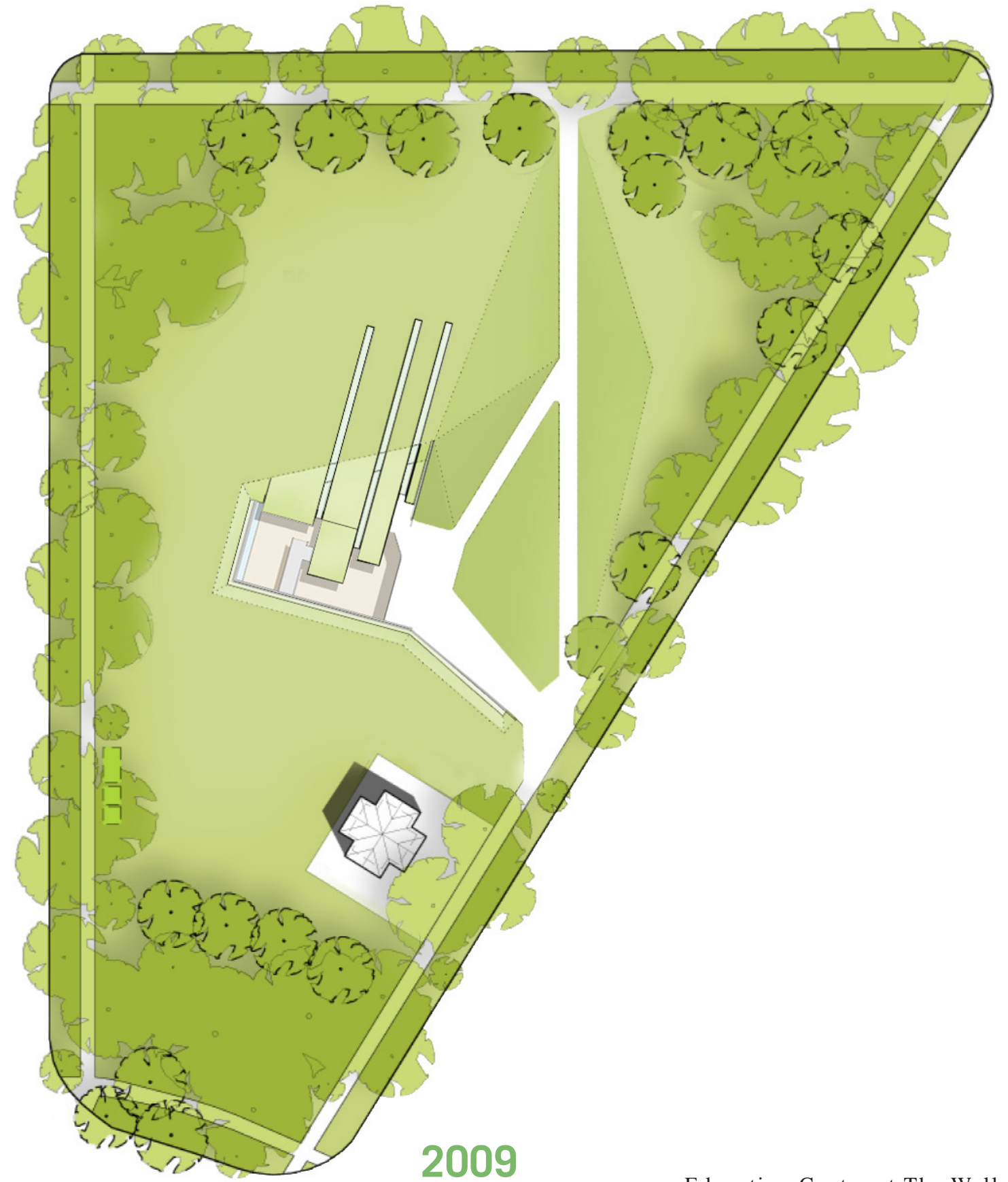
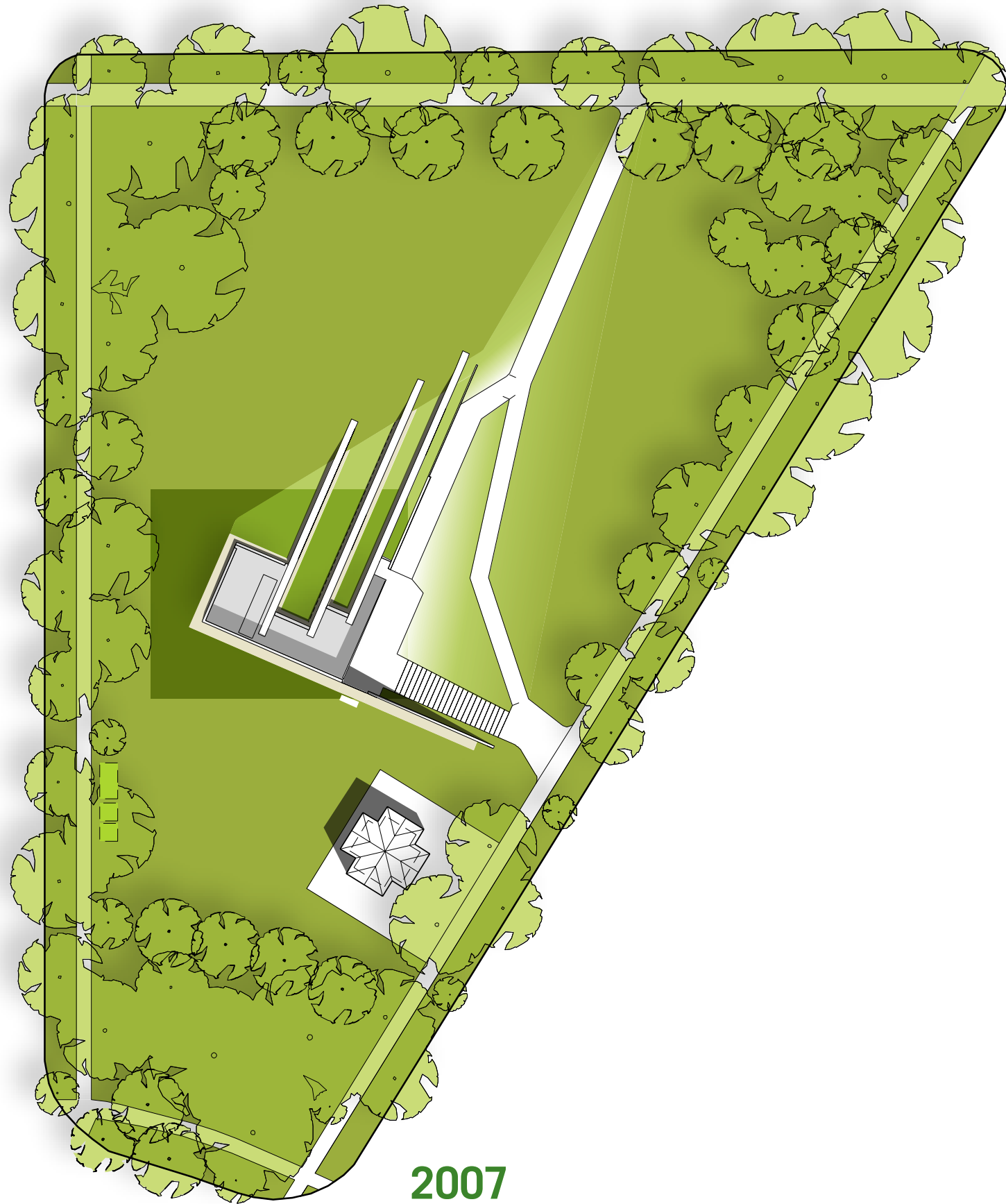
2007



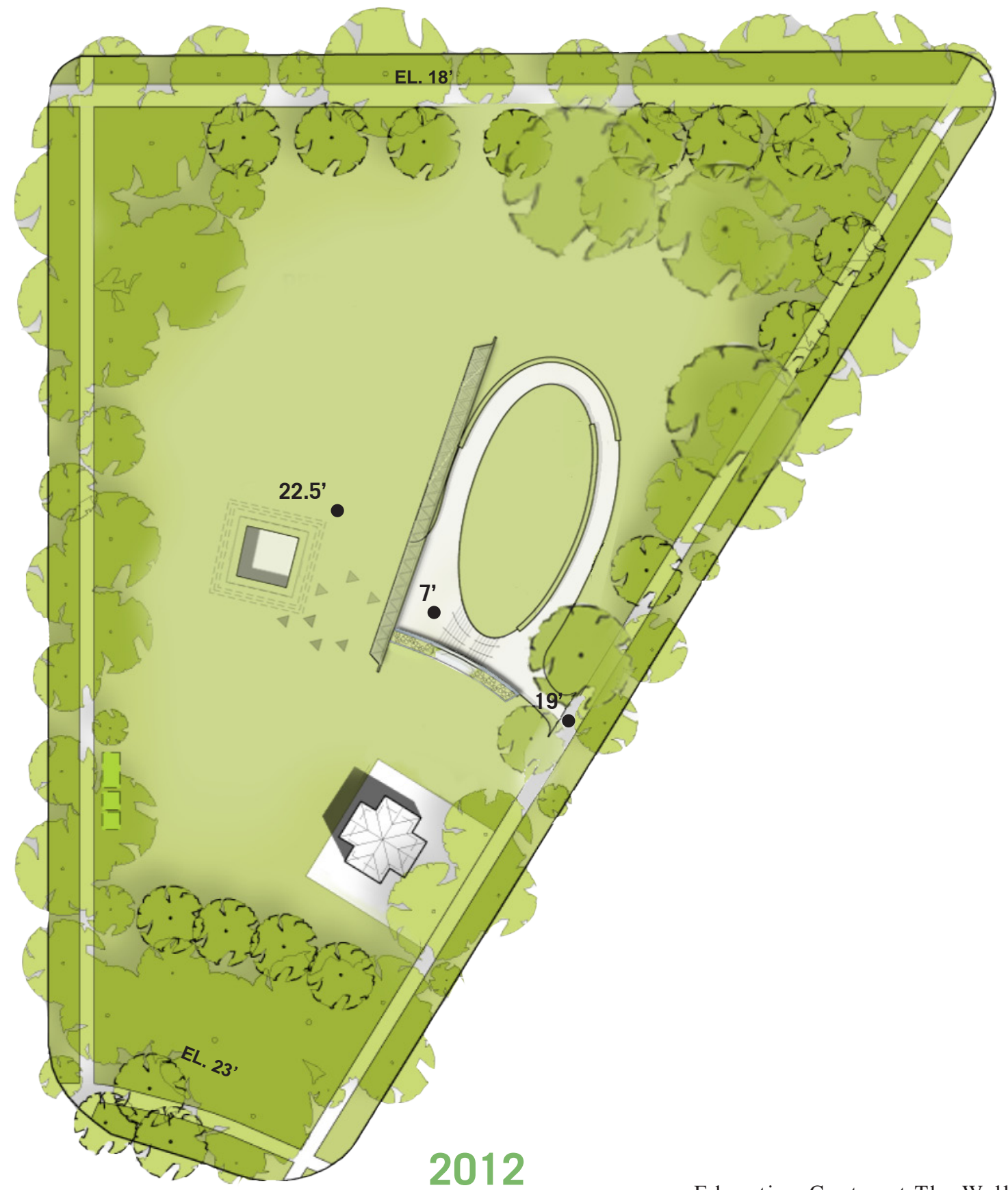
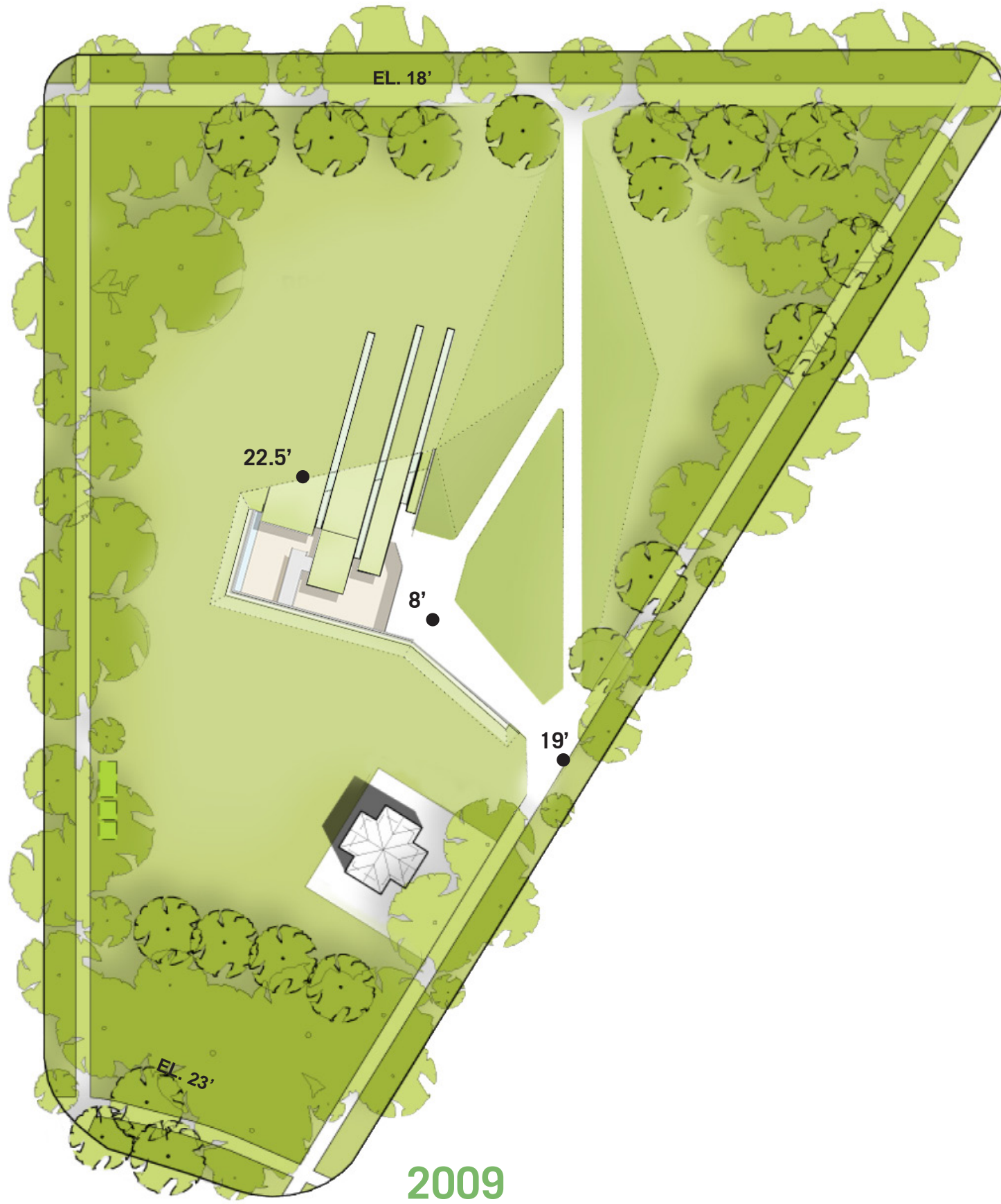
2009



# Concept Design: Previous Site Plan Options



# Design Development: Comparative Site Plans



# Construction Documents: Comparative Site Plans



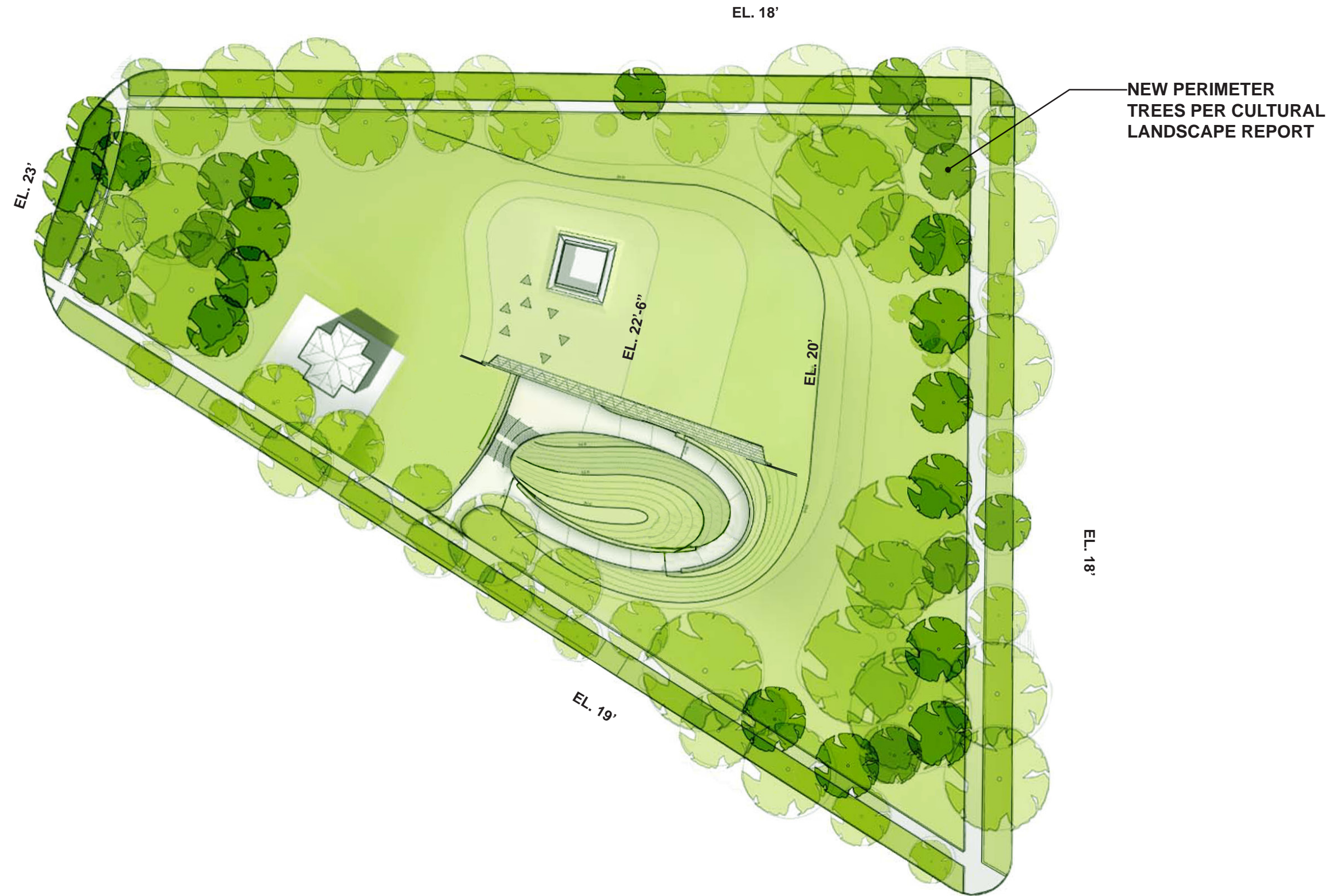
2012



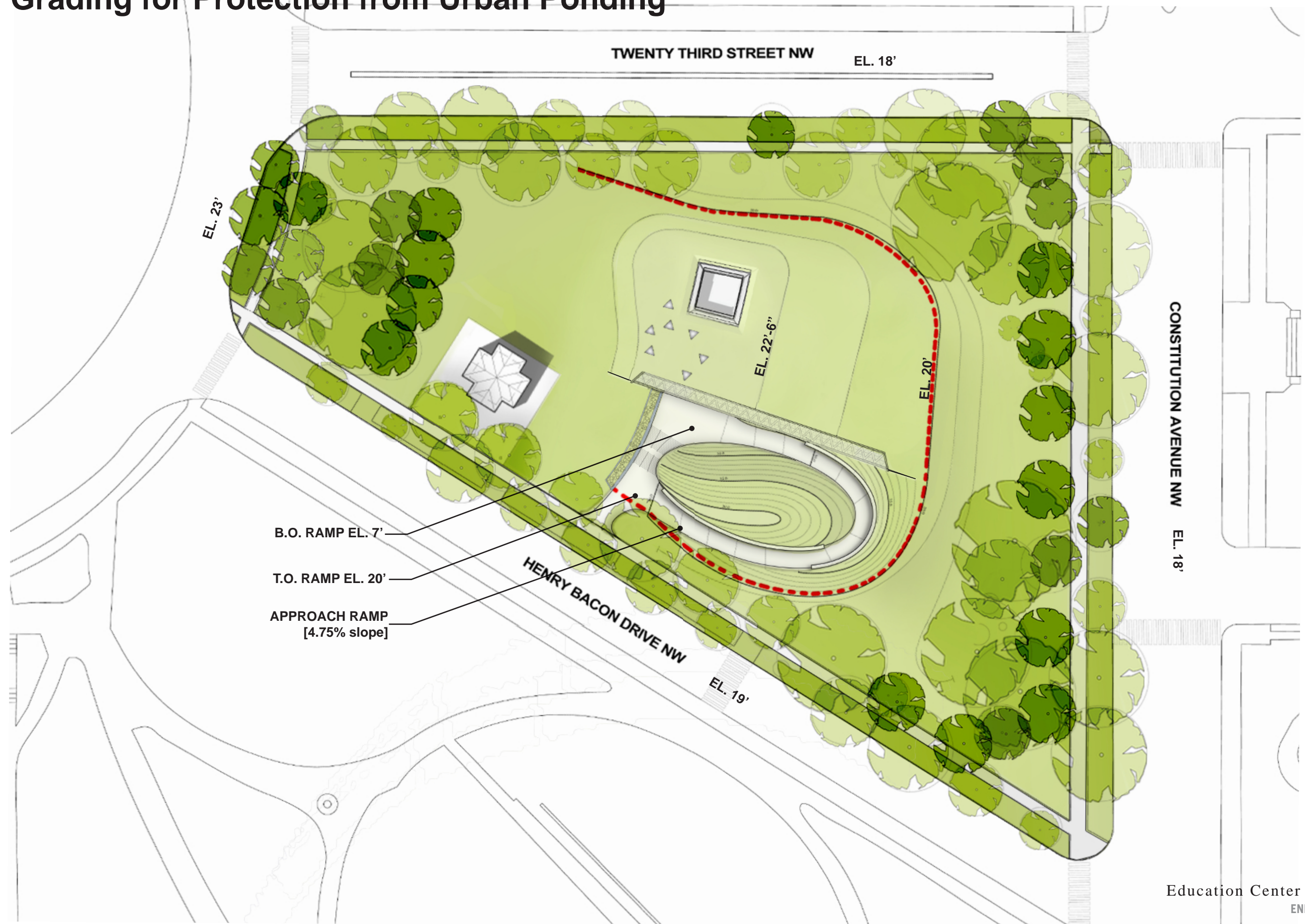
2014

Education Center at The Wall  
ENNEAD ARCHITECTS  
07.09.15

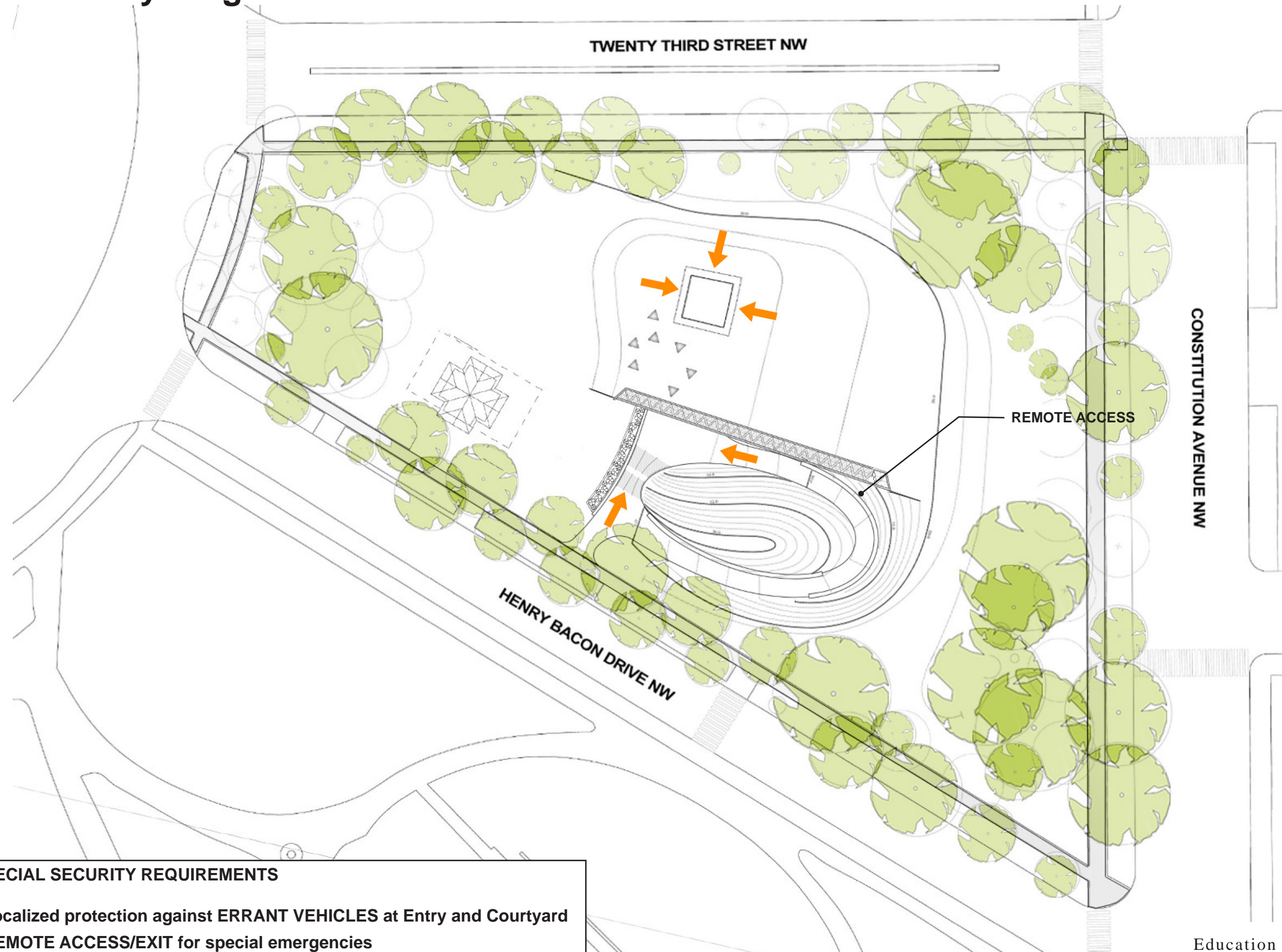
# 2014 Landscape Grading & Planting



# 2014 Grading for Protection from Urban Ponding



2014  
Site Security Diagram - US Park Police



- SPECIAL SECURITY REQUIREMENTS**
- Localized protection against ERRANT VEHICLES at Entry and Courtyard
  - REMOTE ACCESS/EXIT for special emergencies
  - Option to implement VISITOR SCREENING at Lobby

# Tree Root Protection and Geothermal Well Field



1' - 0" of radius x Tree DBH =  
Root Protection Zone

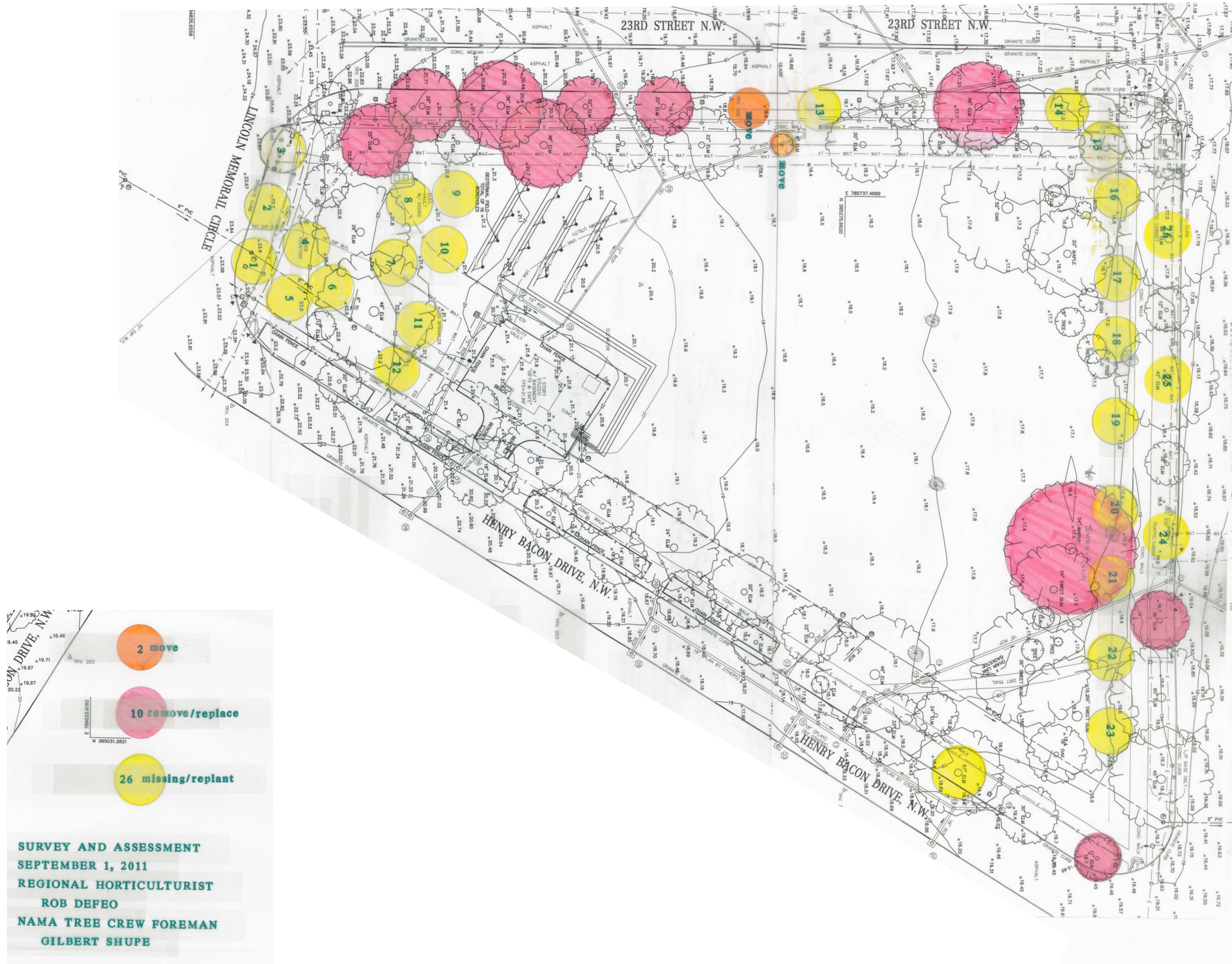
--- Trees to be Removed and Replaced per the CLR Historic  
Planting Plan and in consultation with NPS

Geothermal Well

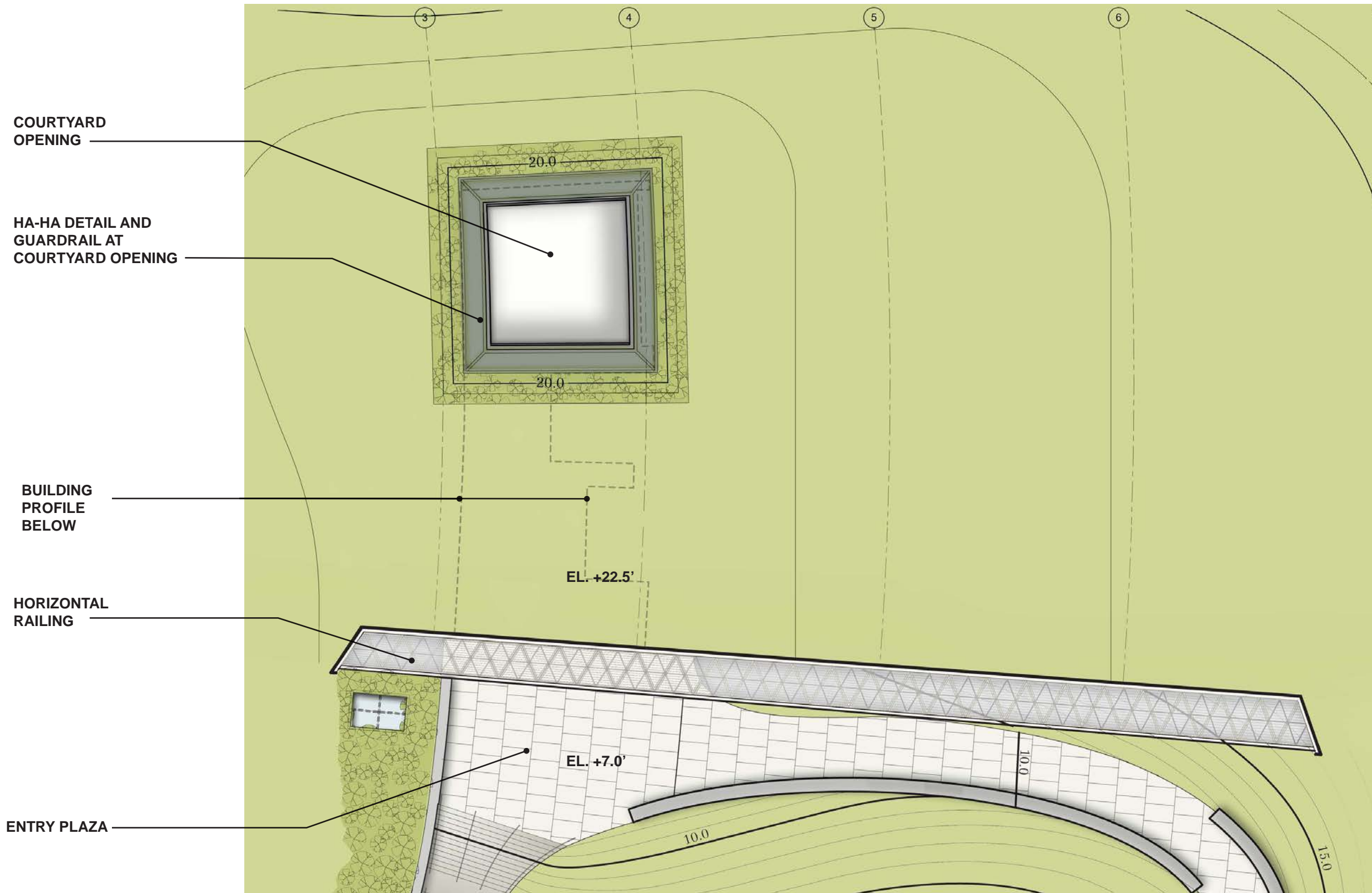
Required Spacing Between Wells

Supply and Return Piping

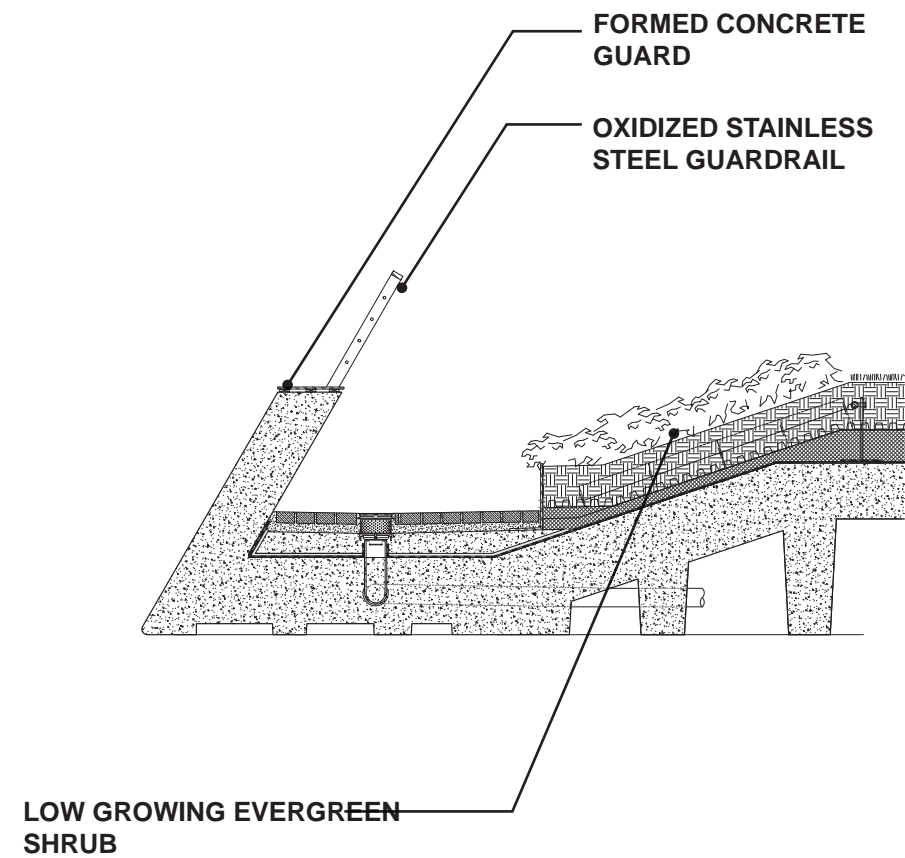
# 2011 NPS Horticulturalist Tree Survey and Assessment



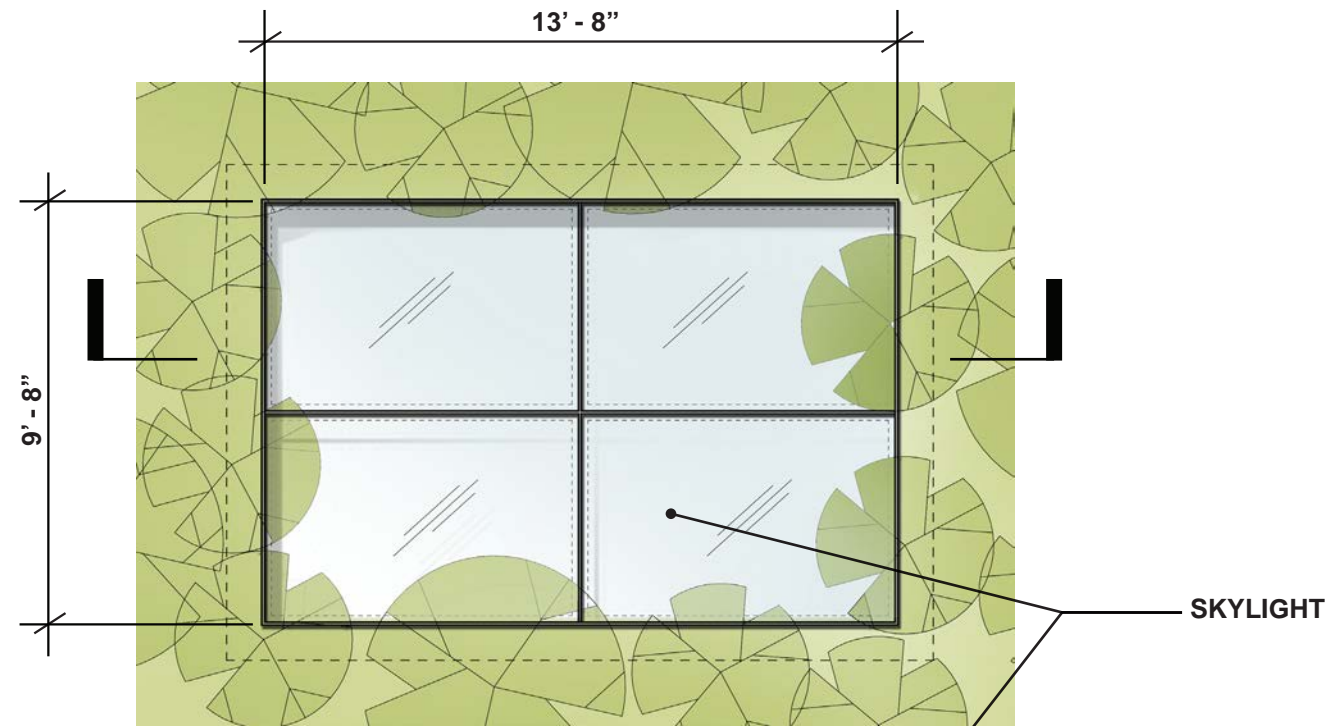
# Partial Site Plan at Courtyard Opening/Planted Roof



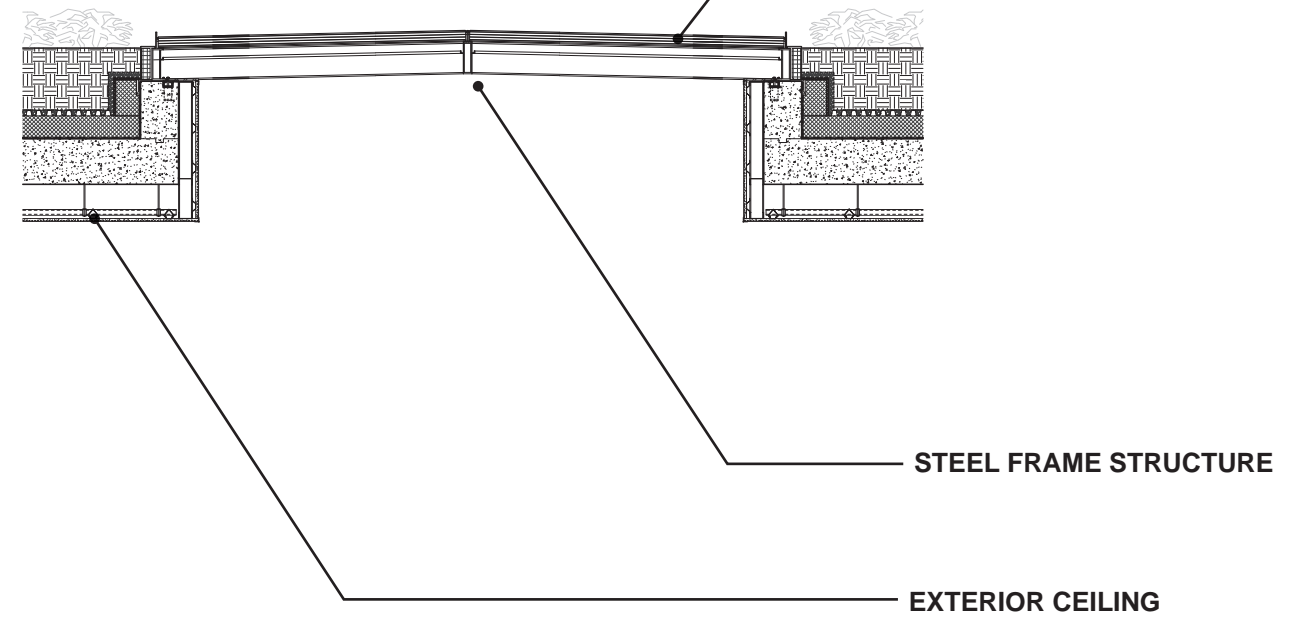
2014  
Roof/Ground Plane Details



Ha-Ha at Courtyard



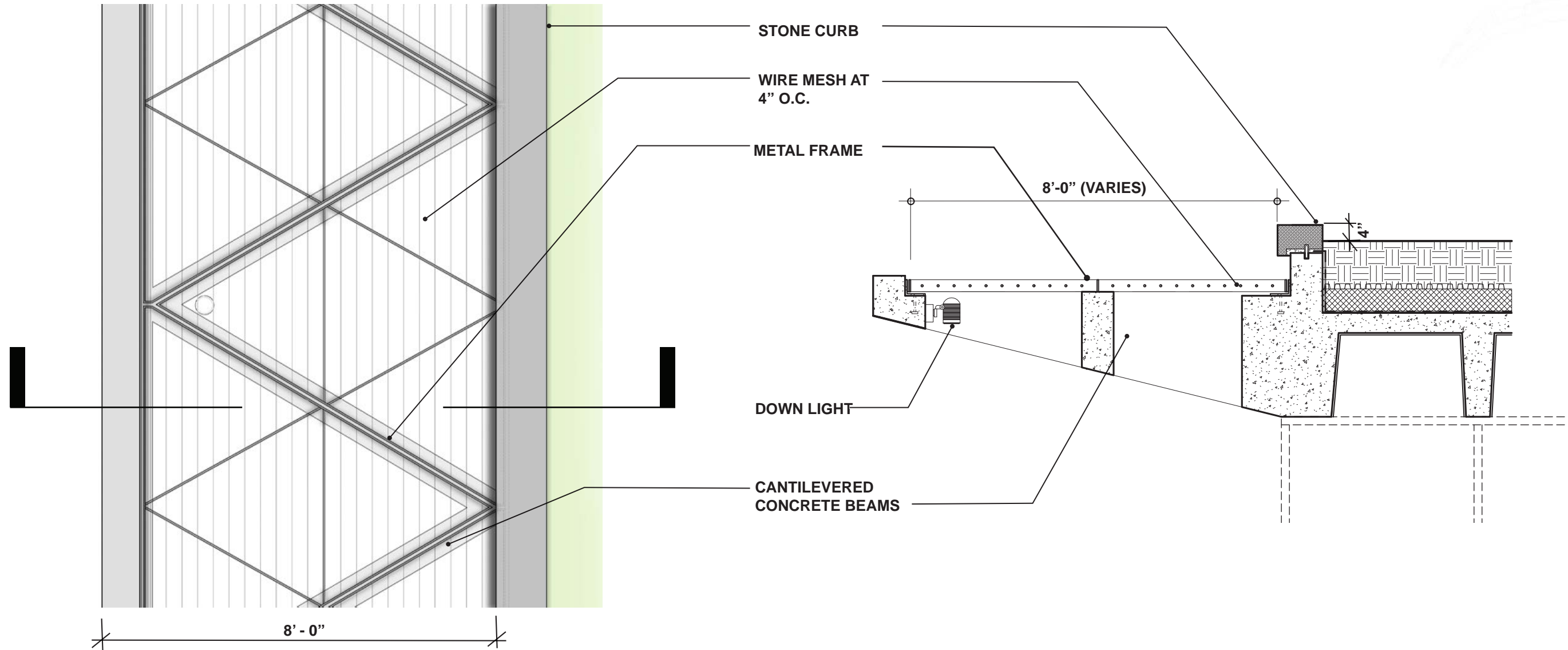
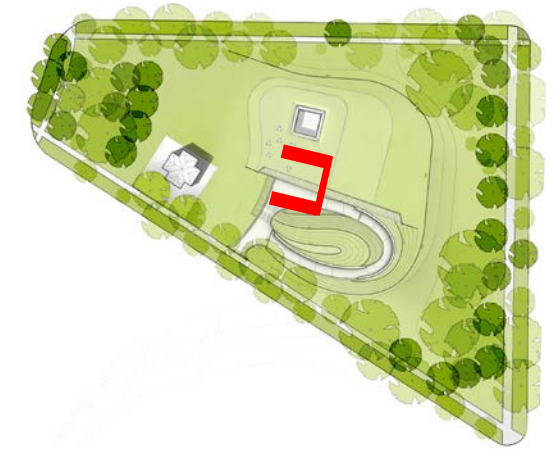
PLAN



Entry Skylight

SECTION

# Horizontal Rail at Waffle Slab

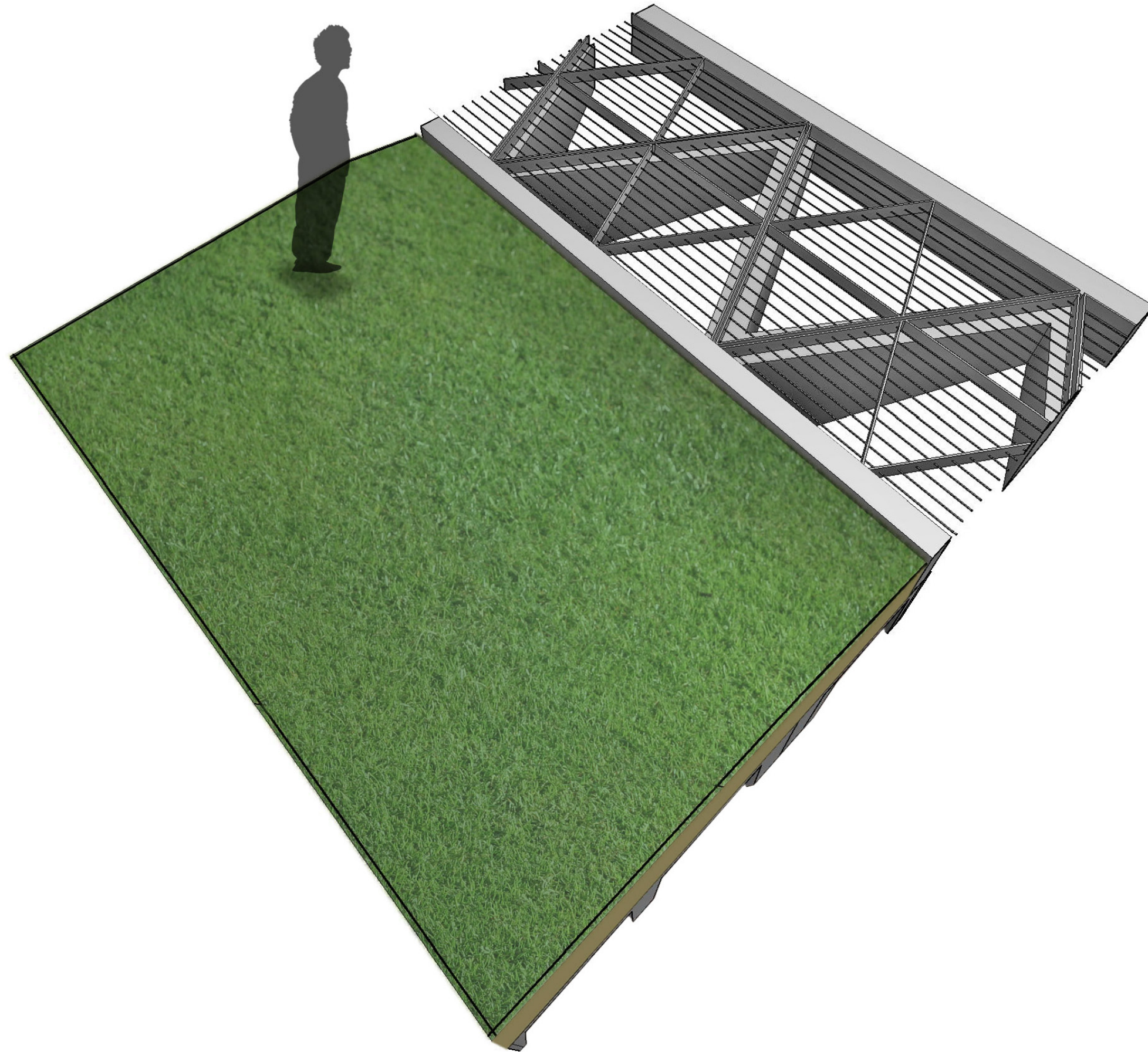


PLAN

SECTION

2014

# Horizontal Rail View from Planted Roof

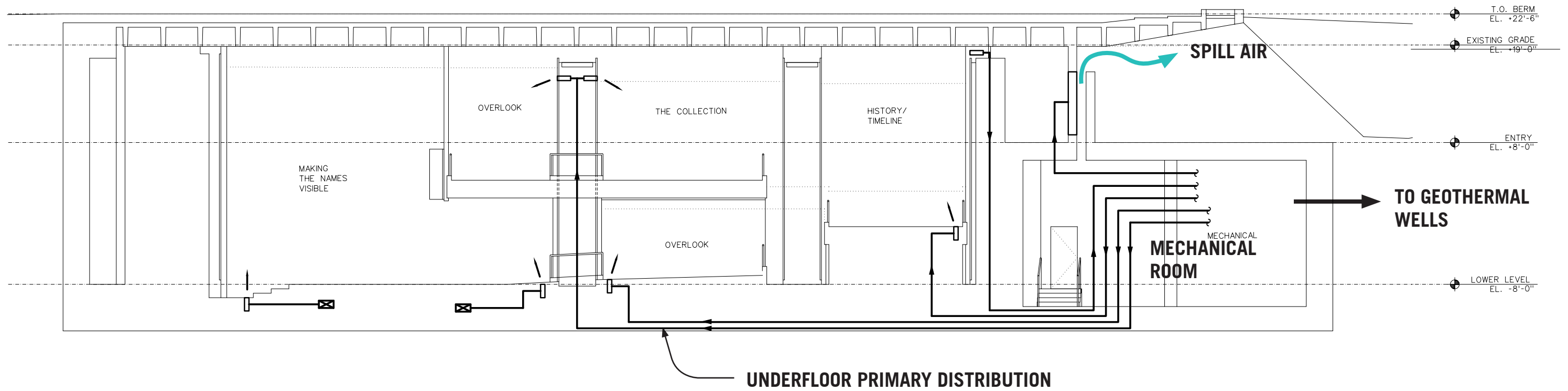


2014

## Horizontal Rail View from Entry Plaza

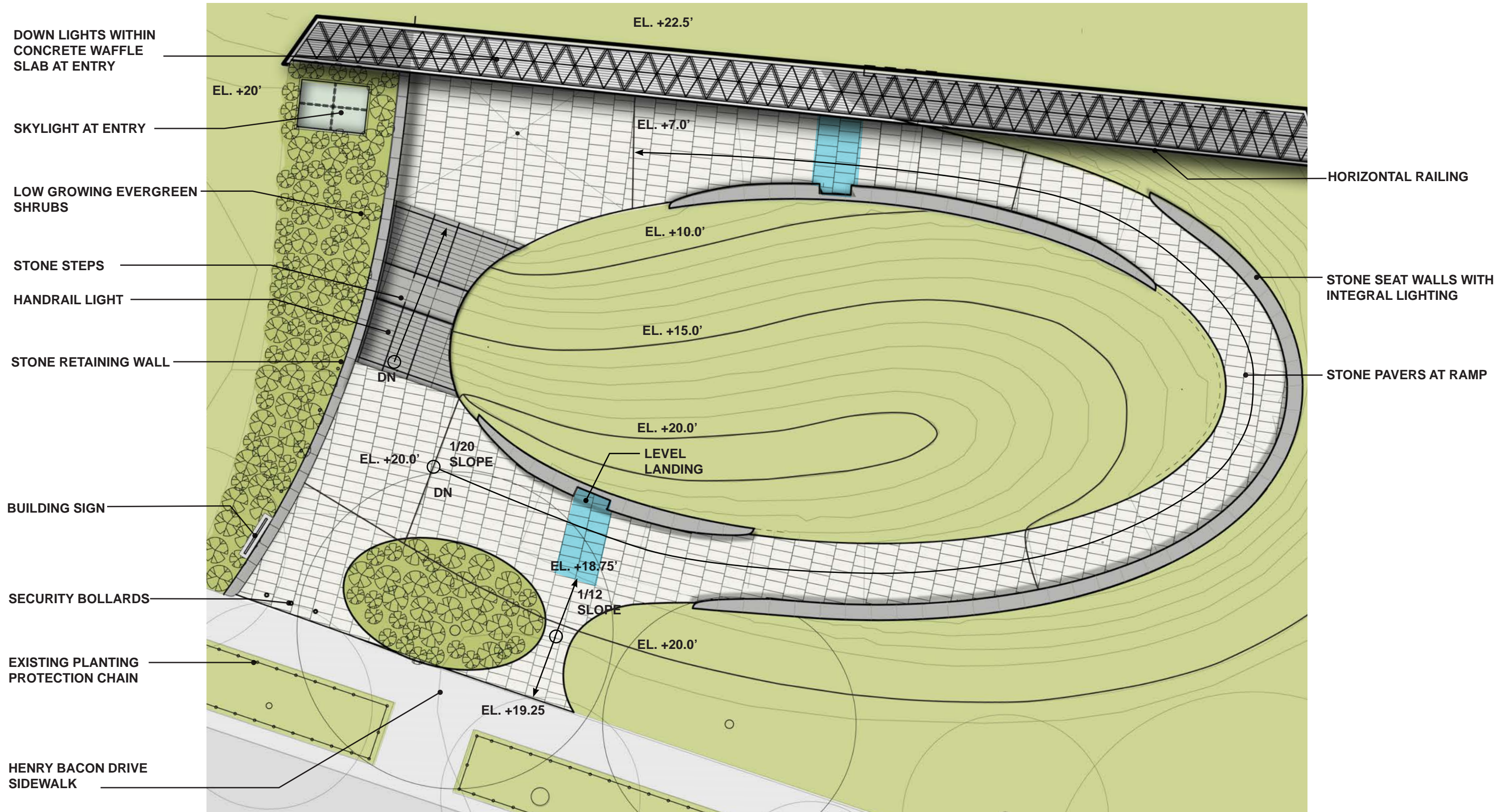


# East/West Section at Entry - Mechanical Systems

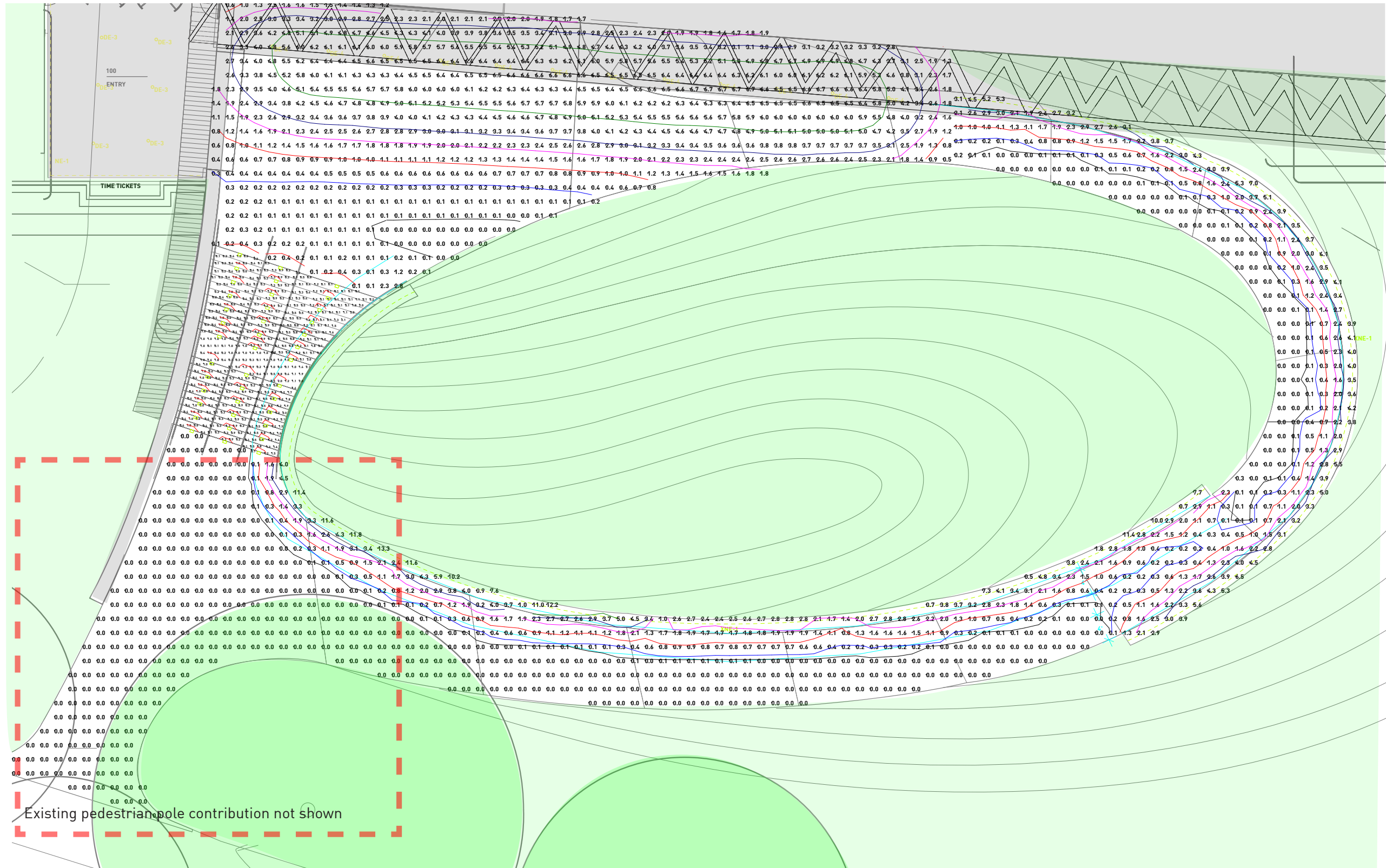


- OUTSIDE AIR INTAKE AT COURTYARD
- EMERGENCY POWER - BATTERY INVERTERS
- CLOSED LOOP GEOTHERMAL SYSTEM WITH HEAT PUMPS

# Partial Site Plan at Approach

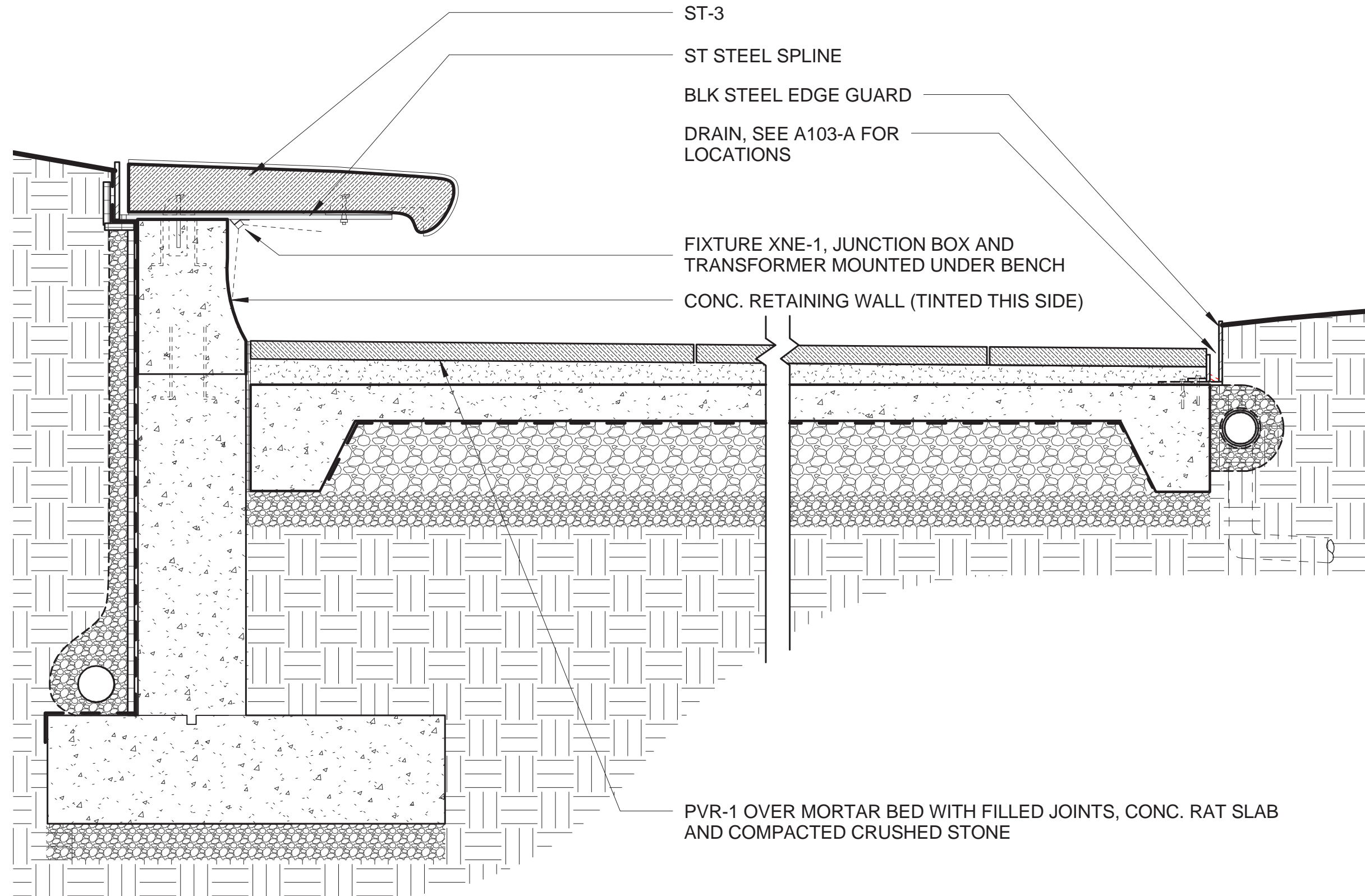


# 2012 Luminance Analysis at Entry Plaza



LANDSCAPE PLAN - Illuminance Values Unit: foot candelas (fc)

# Section Detail at Exterior Site Bench



# 2014 Material Palette



STONE TYPE 1: SLATE



STONE TYPE 2: GRANITE



GLASS TYPE 3: LOW IRON  
ACID ETCHED GLASS WITH A  
MIRRORED BACK PAN



ACID ETCHED MIRROR  
BACKED GLASS



LAMINATED SKYLIGHT  
GLASS



GLASS TYPE 1: LOW IRON  
INSULATED GLASS UNIT

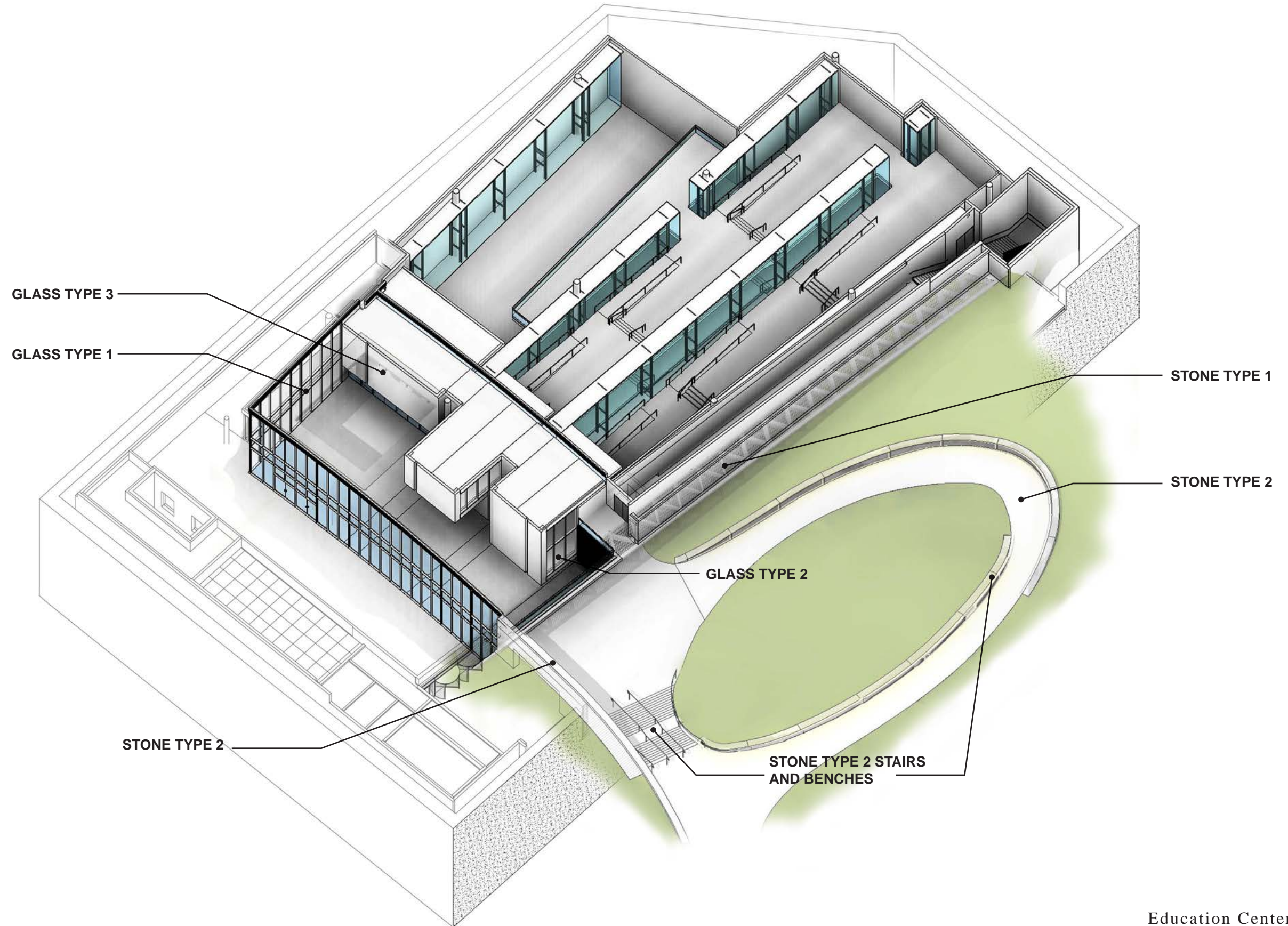


GLASS TYPE 2: LOW IRON  
INSULATED GLASS UNIT  
WITH CERAMIC FRIT



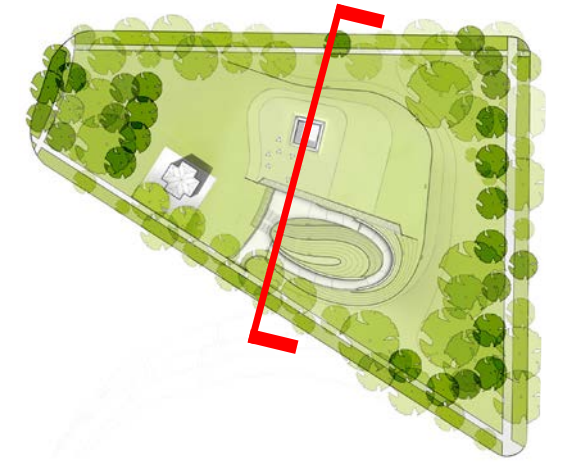
OXIDIZED STAINLESS STEEL

# 2014 Exterior Materials



2014

# Section Perspective at Courtyard

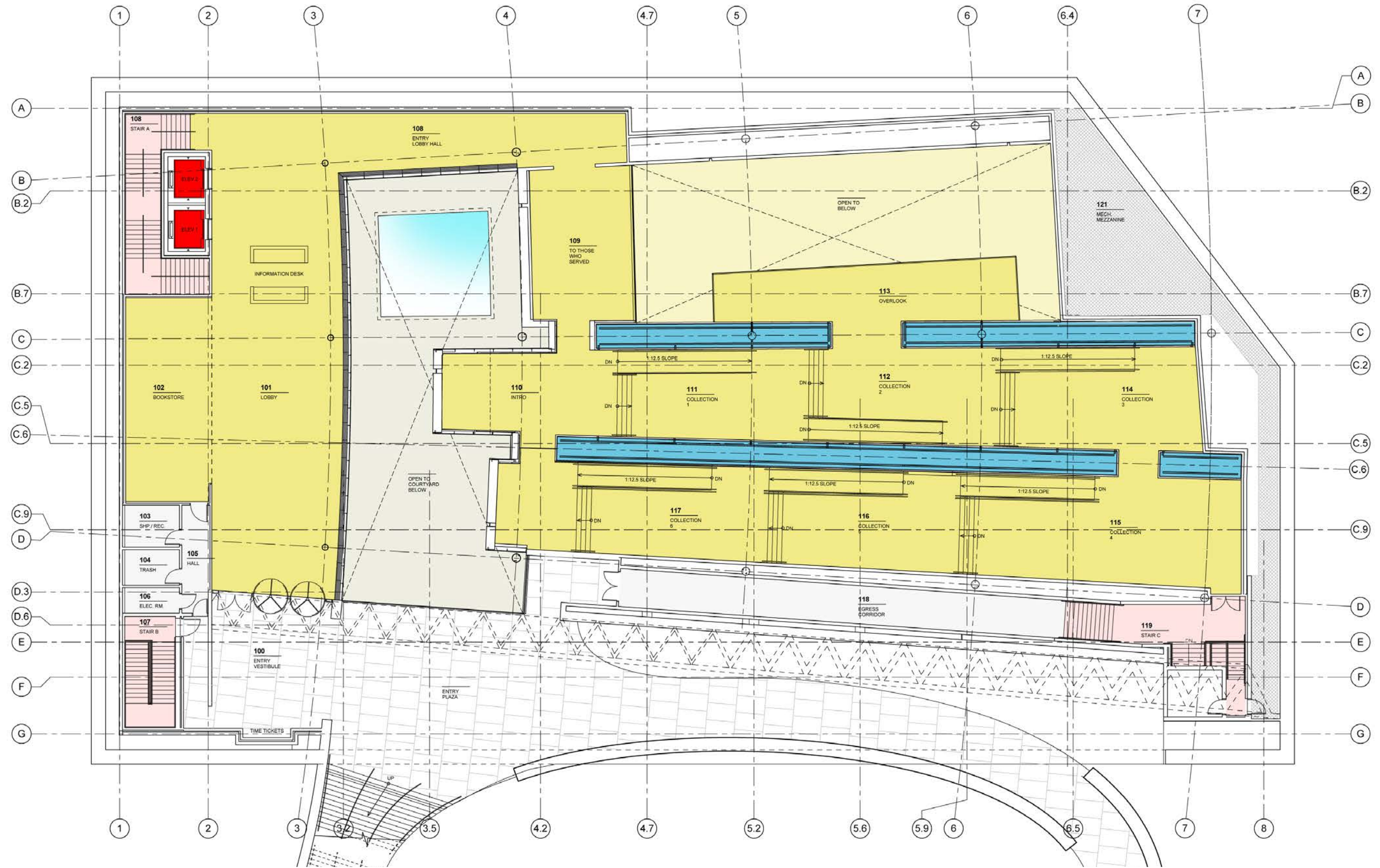


Education Center at The Wall  
ENNEAD ARCHITECTS  
07.09.15

**APRIL 2014**  
**View from Bottom of Entry Ramp**



# APRIL 2014 Entry Level Plan



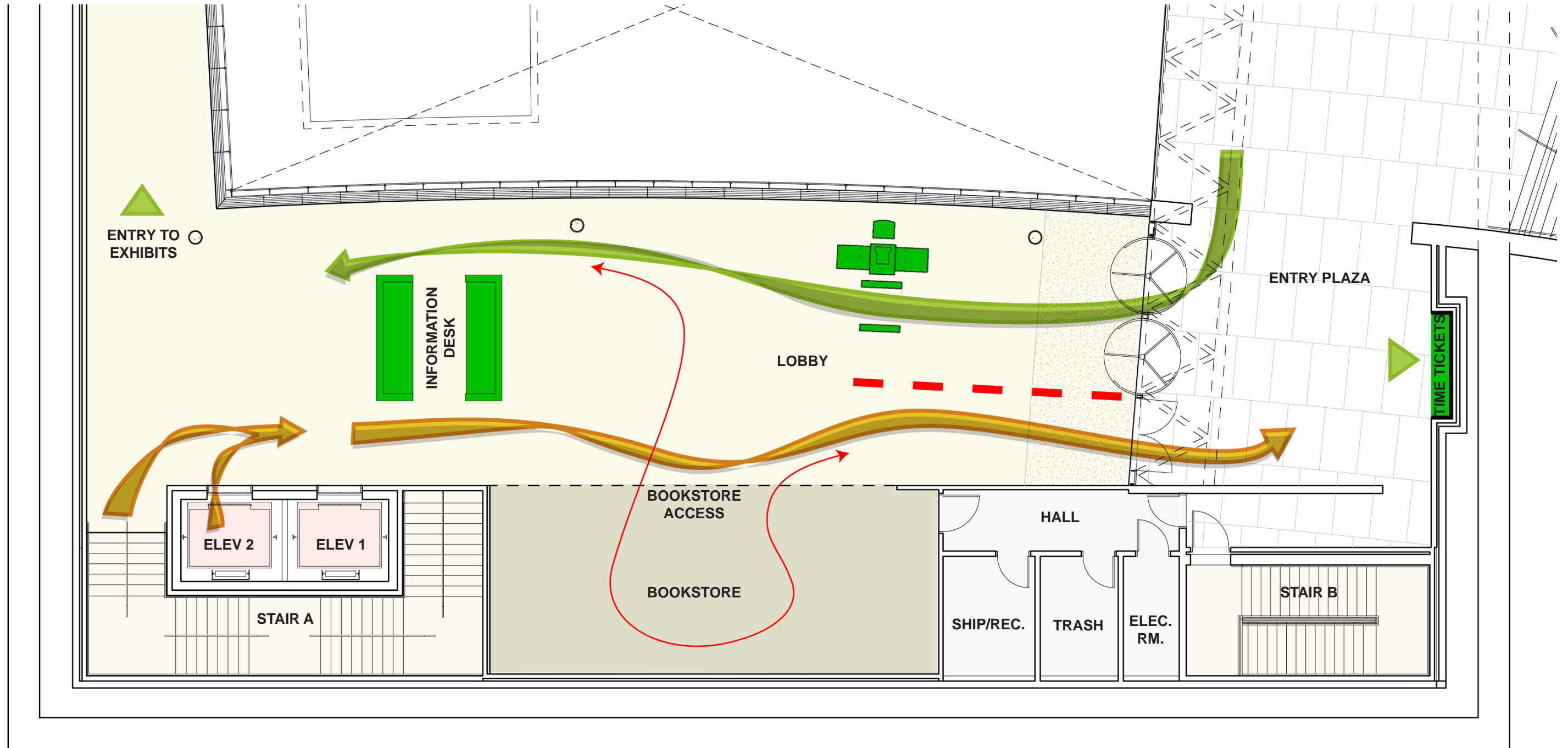
# APRIL 2014

## Lower Level Plan

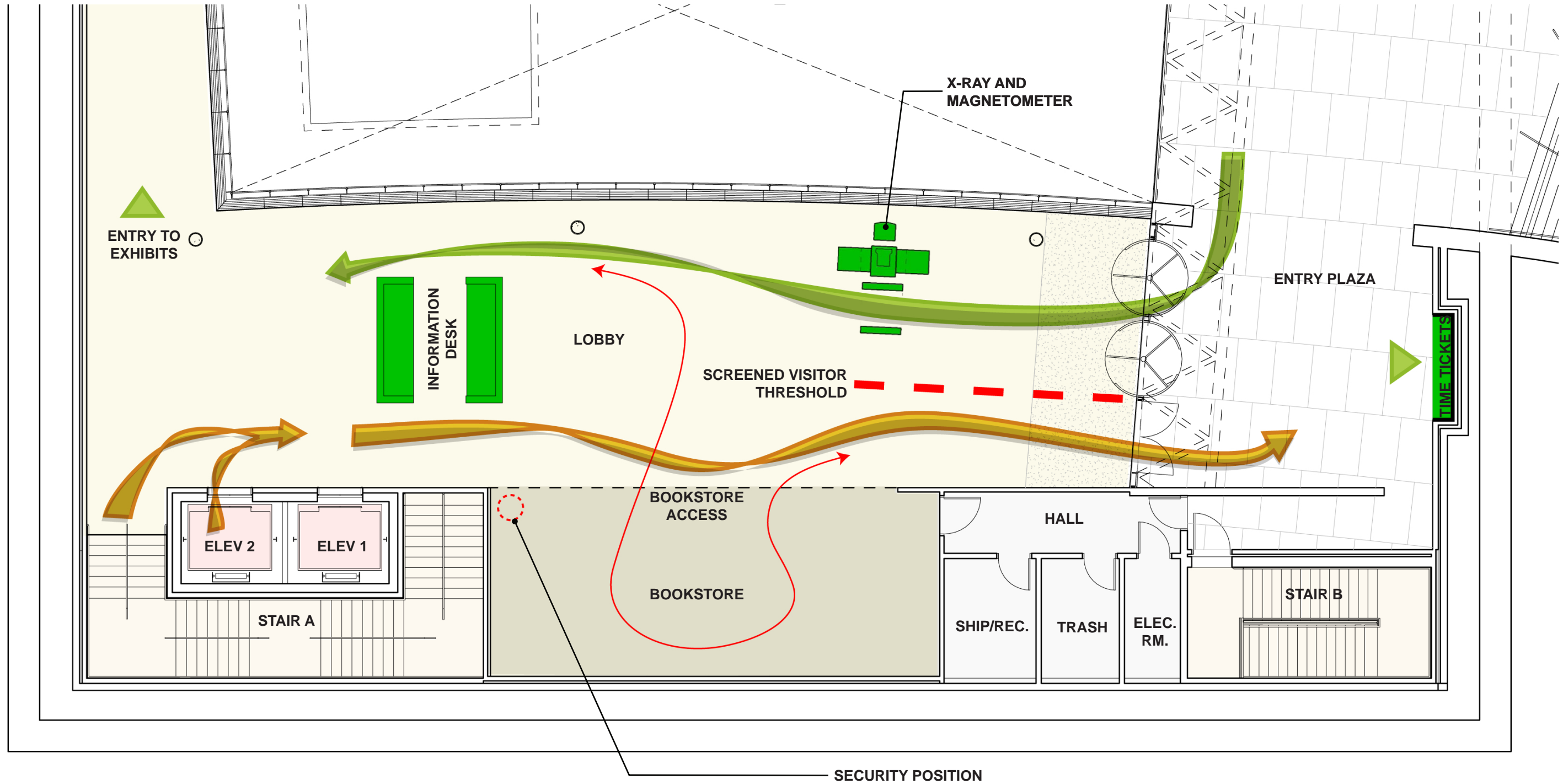


# APRIL 2014

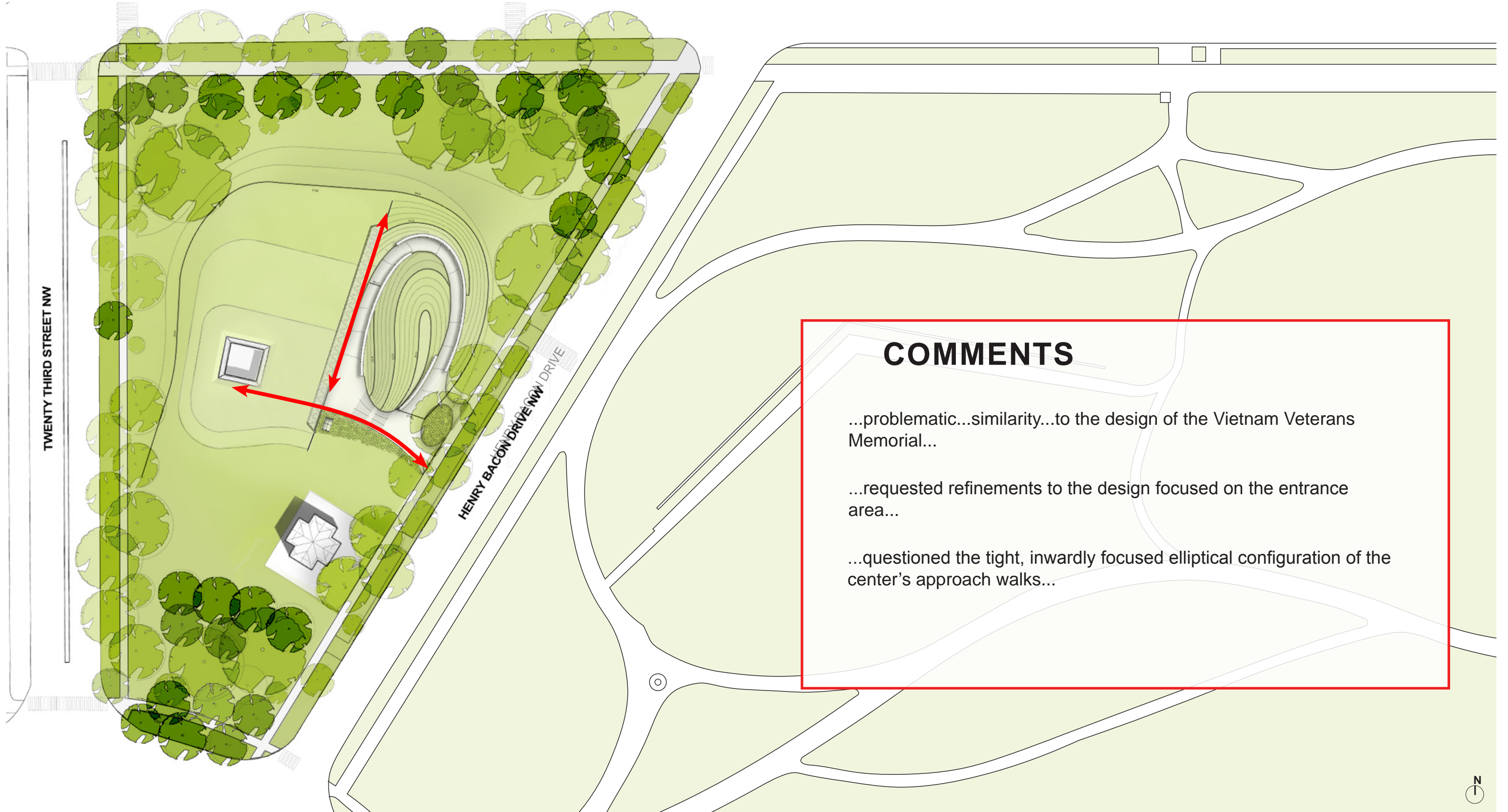
## Entry Lobby - Visitor Flow



APRIL 2014  
Entry Lobby - Secure Mode



APRIL 2014  
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS - COMMENTS



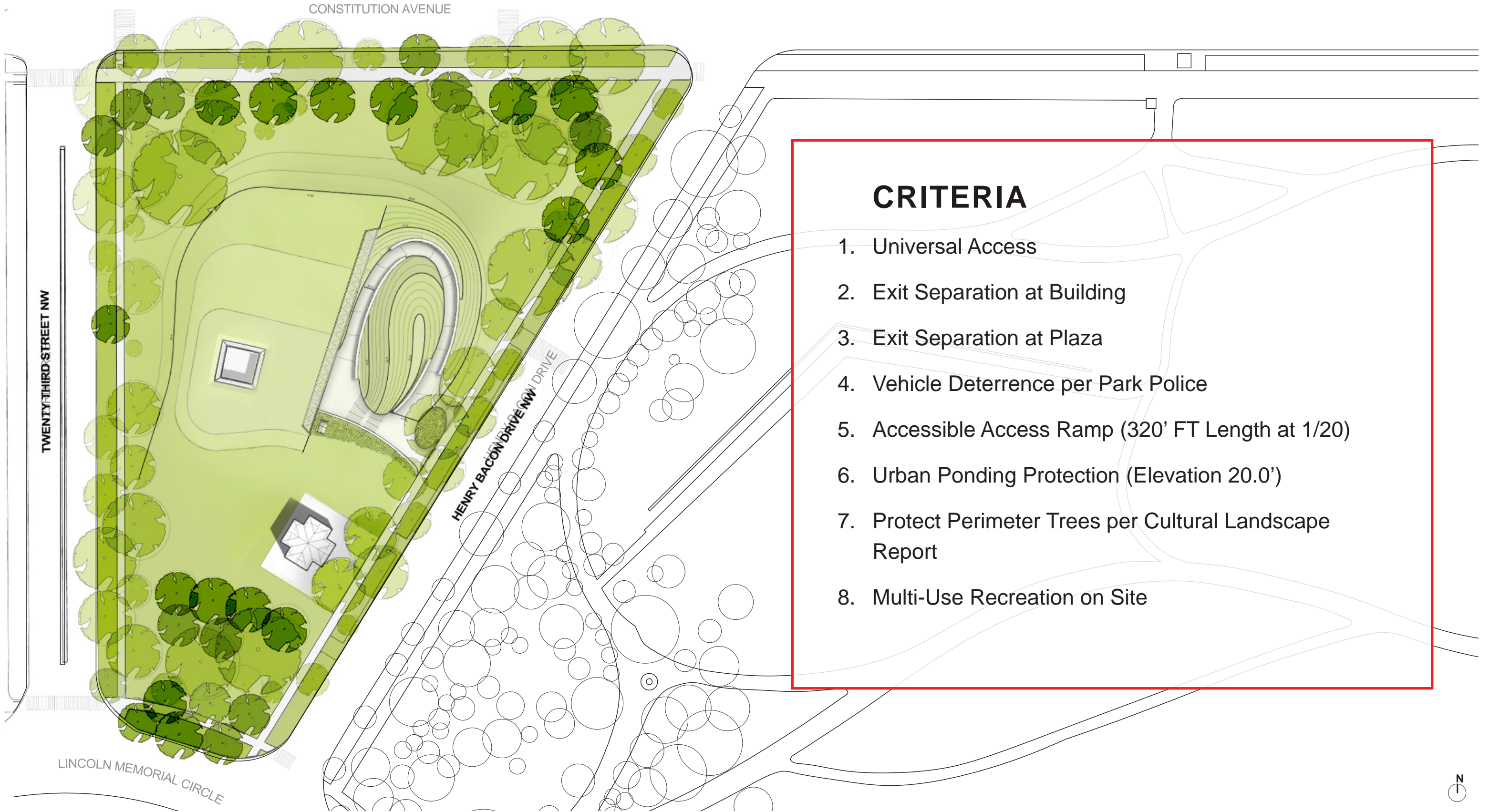
**COMMENTS**

...problematic...similarity...to the design of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial...

...requested refinements to the design focused on the entrance area...

...questioned the tight, inwardly focused elliptical configuration of the center's approach walks...

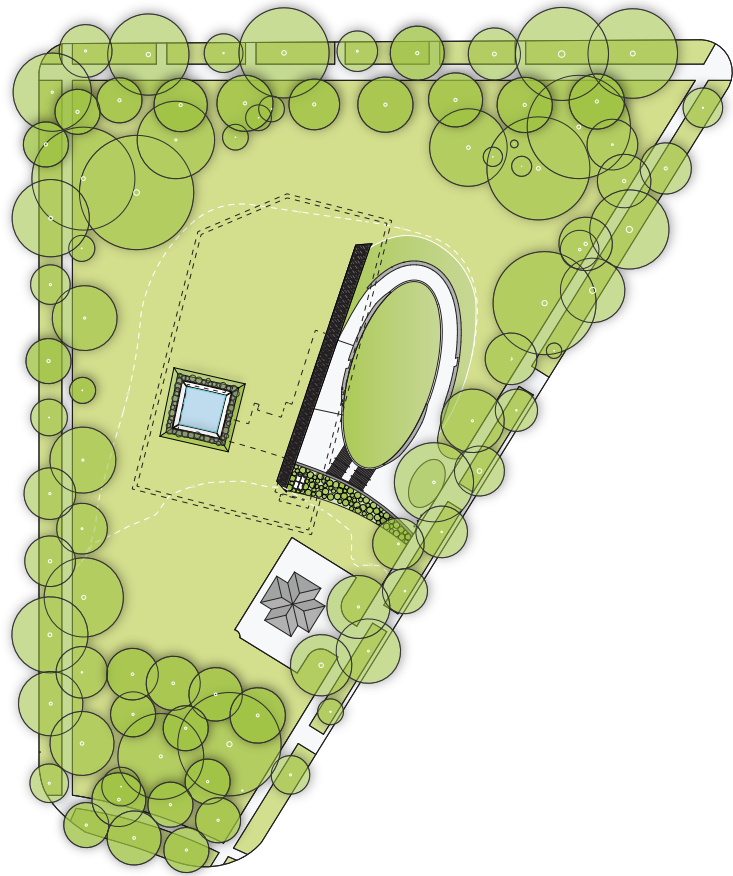
APRIL 2014  
COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS - COMMENTS



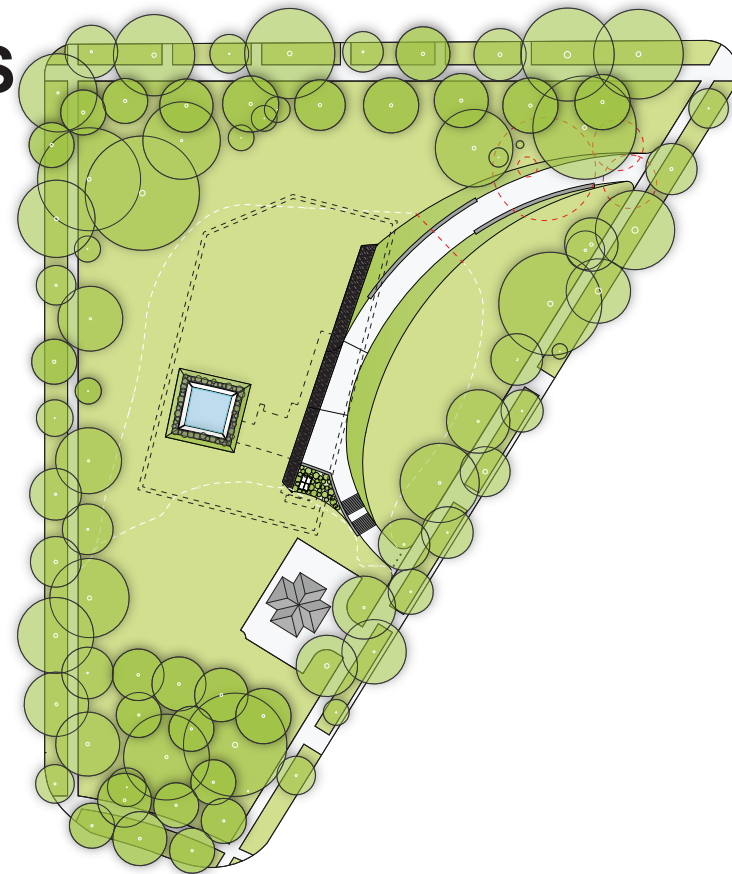
**CRITERIA**

1. Universal Access
2. Exit Separation at Building
3. Exit Separation at Plaza
4. Vehicle Deterrence per Park Police
5. Accessible Access Ramp (320' FT Length at 1/20)
6. Urban Ponding Protection (Elevation 20.0')
7. Protect Perimeter Trees per Cultural Landscape Report
8. Multi-Use Recreation on Site

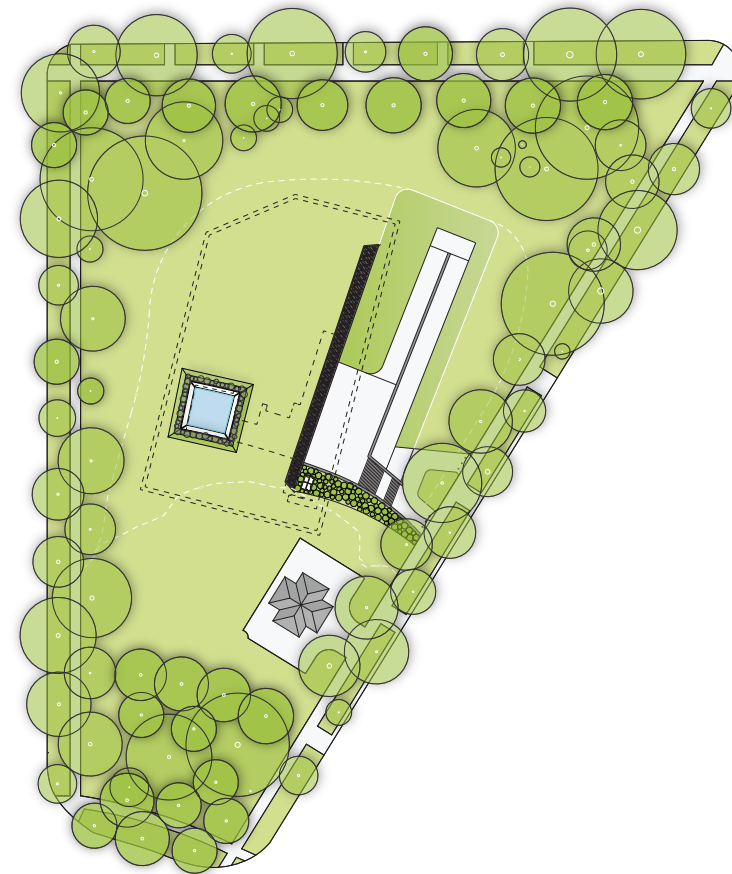
**JULY 2014**  
**DESIGN STUDIES**



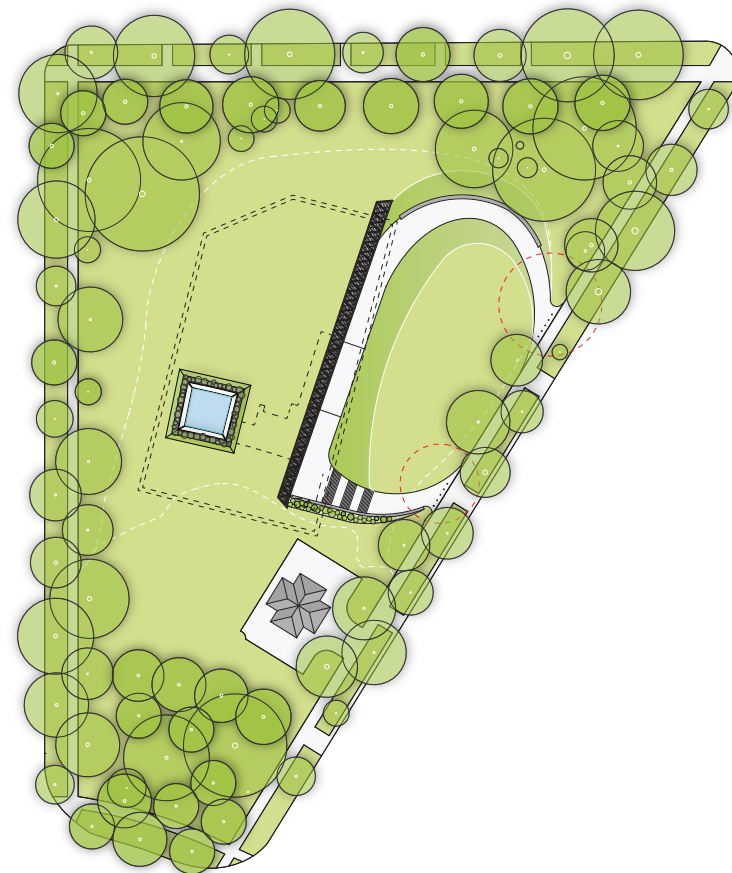
**CURRENT DESIGN: Ellipse**



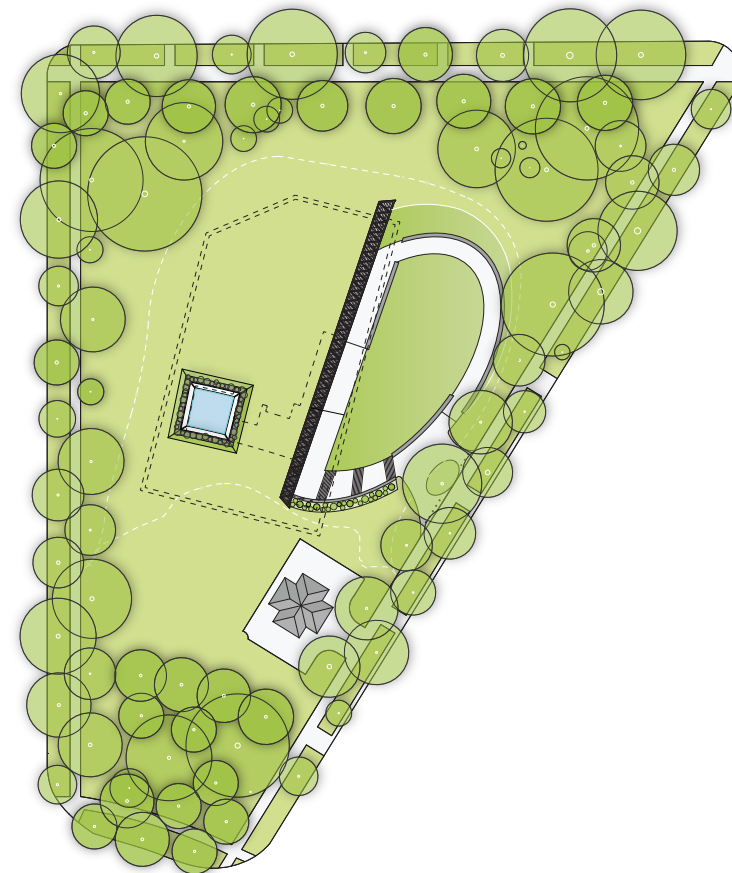
**OPTION A: Arc**



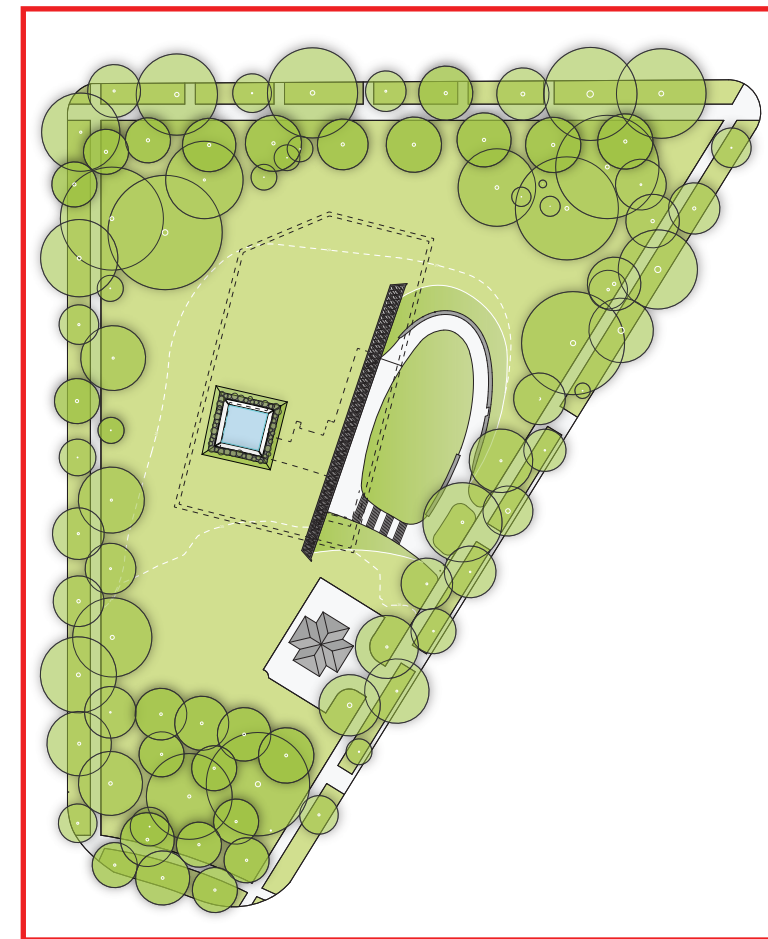
**OPTION B: Switchback**



**OPTION C: Sidewalk**

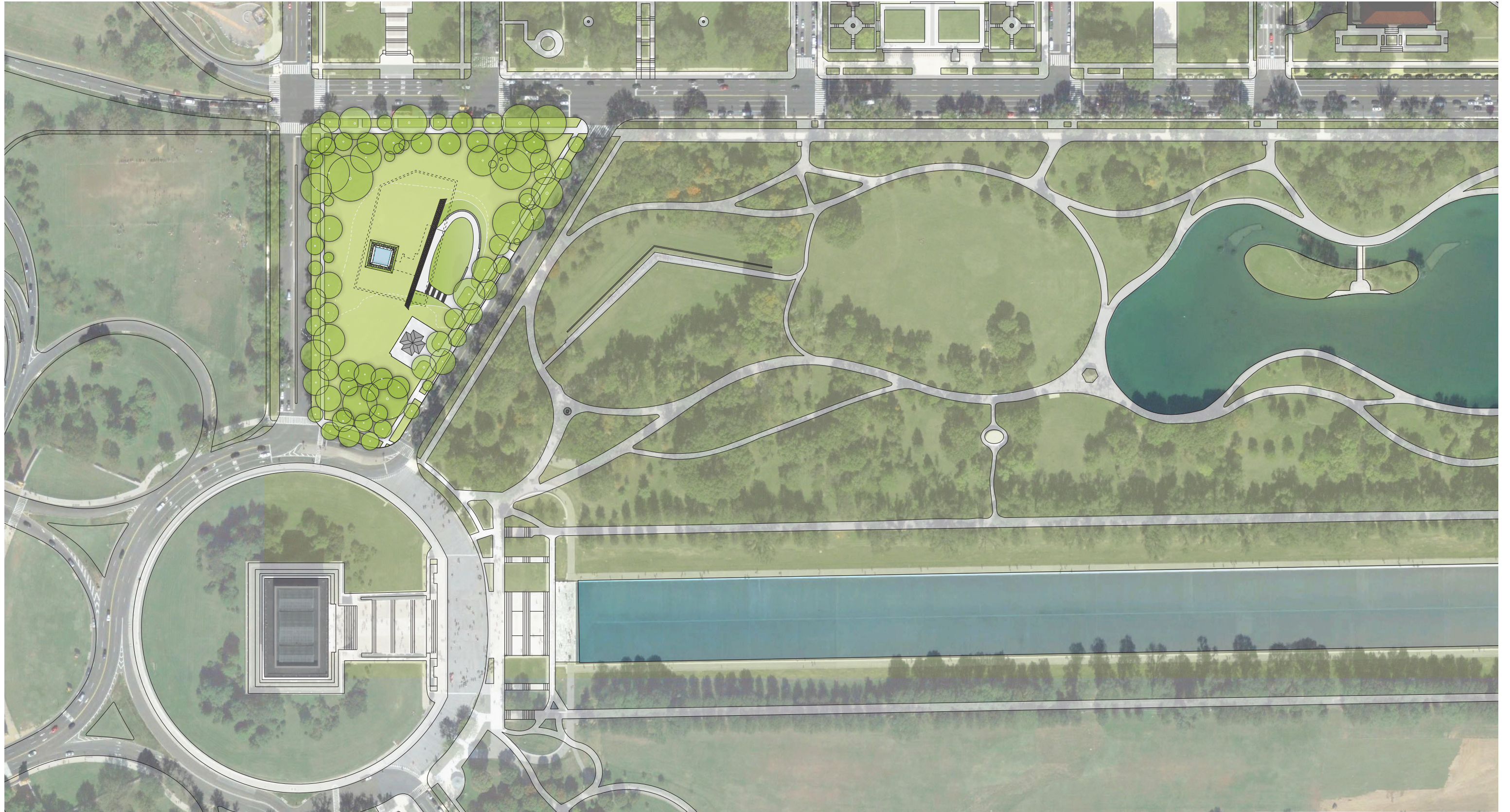


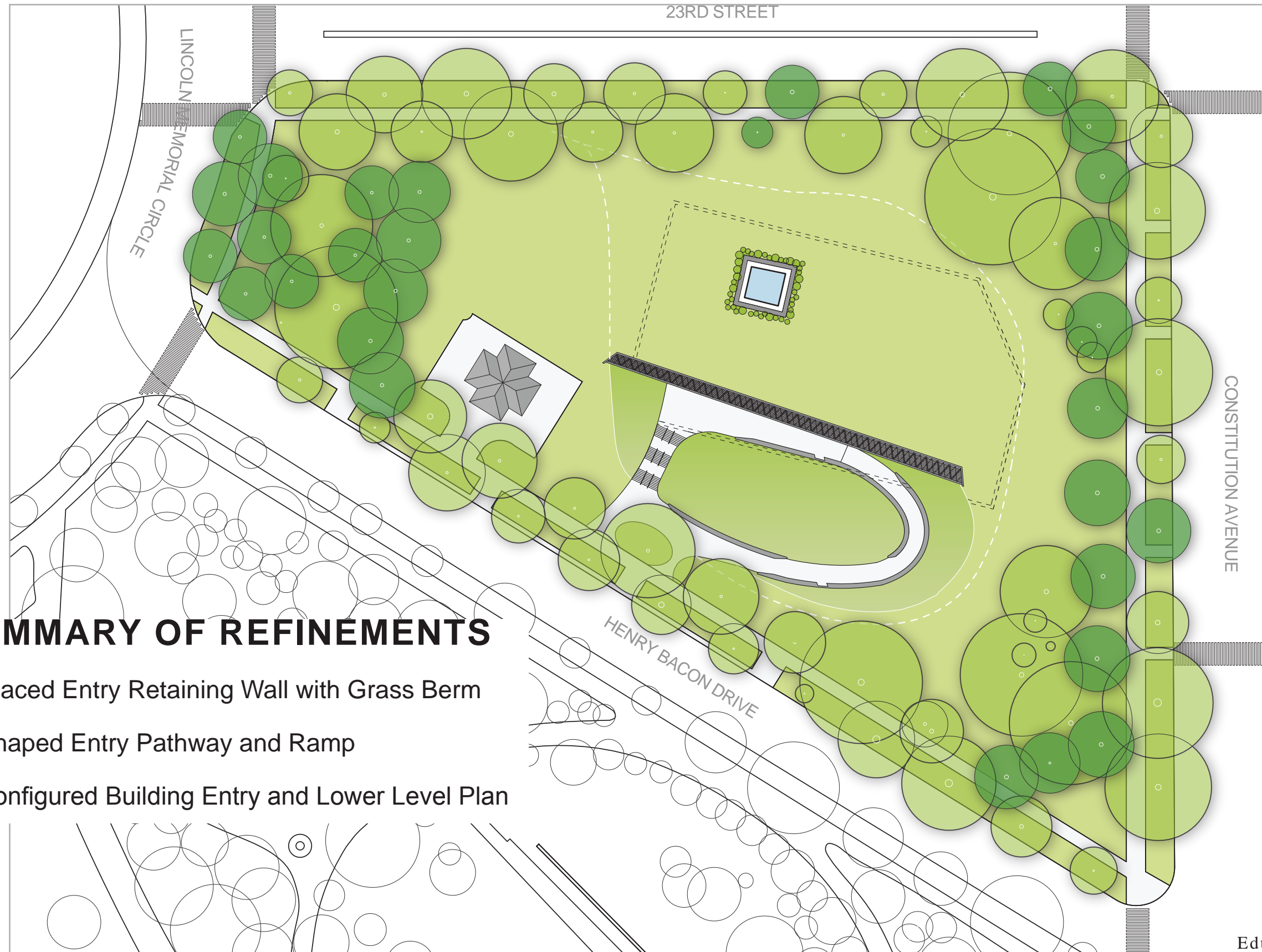
**OPTION D: Semi-Ellipse**



**RECONSIDERED DESIGN**

2015  
Site Context Plan

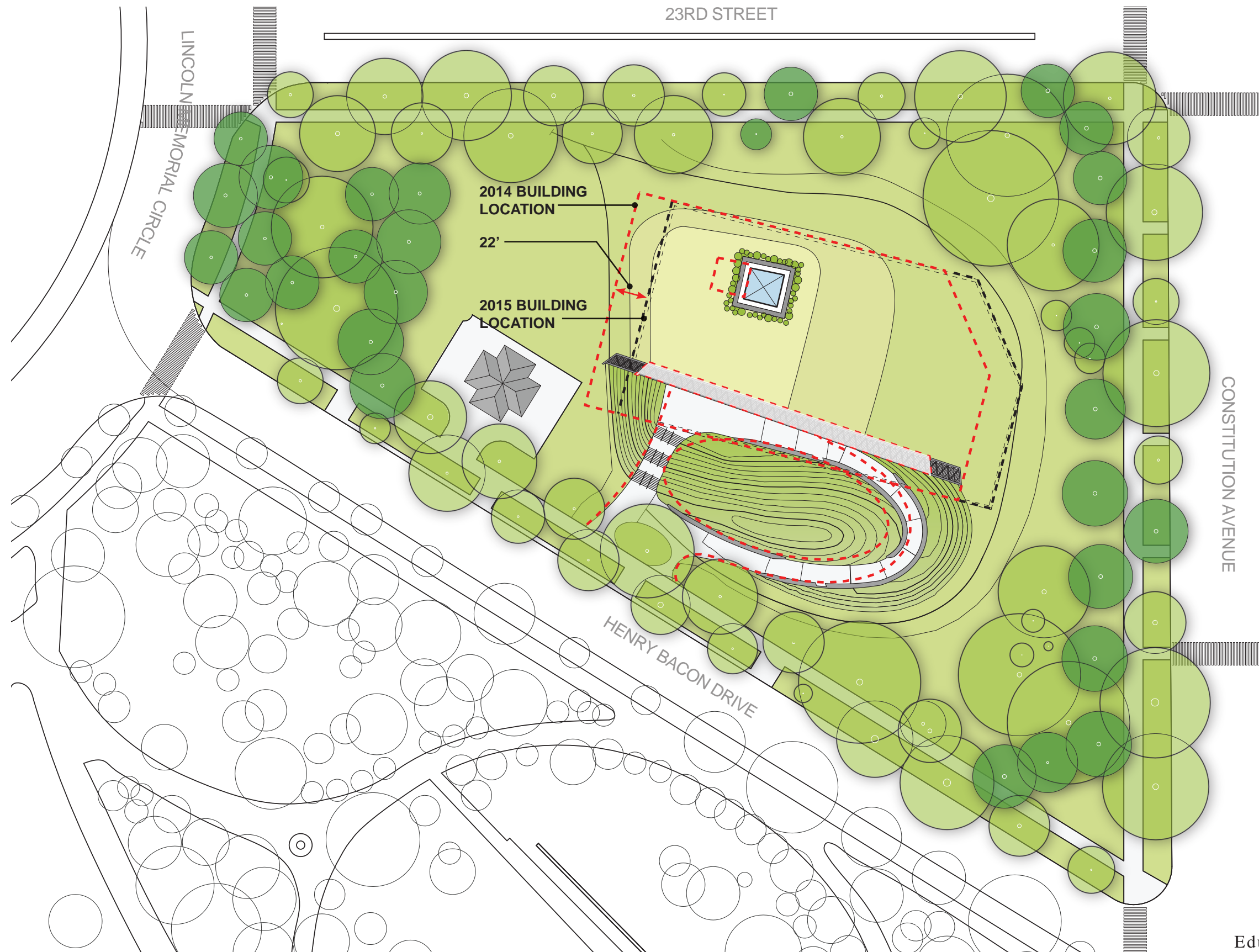




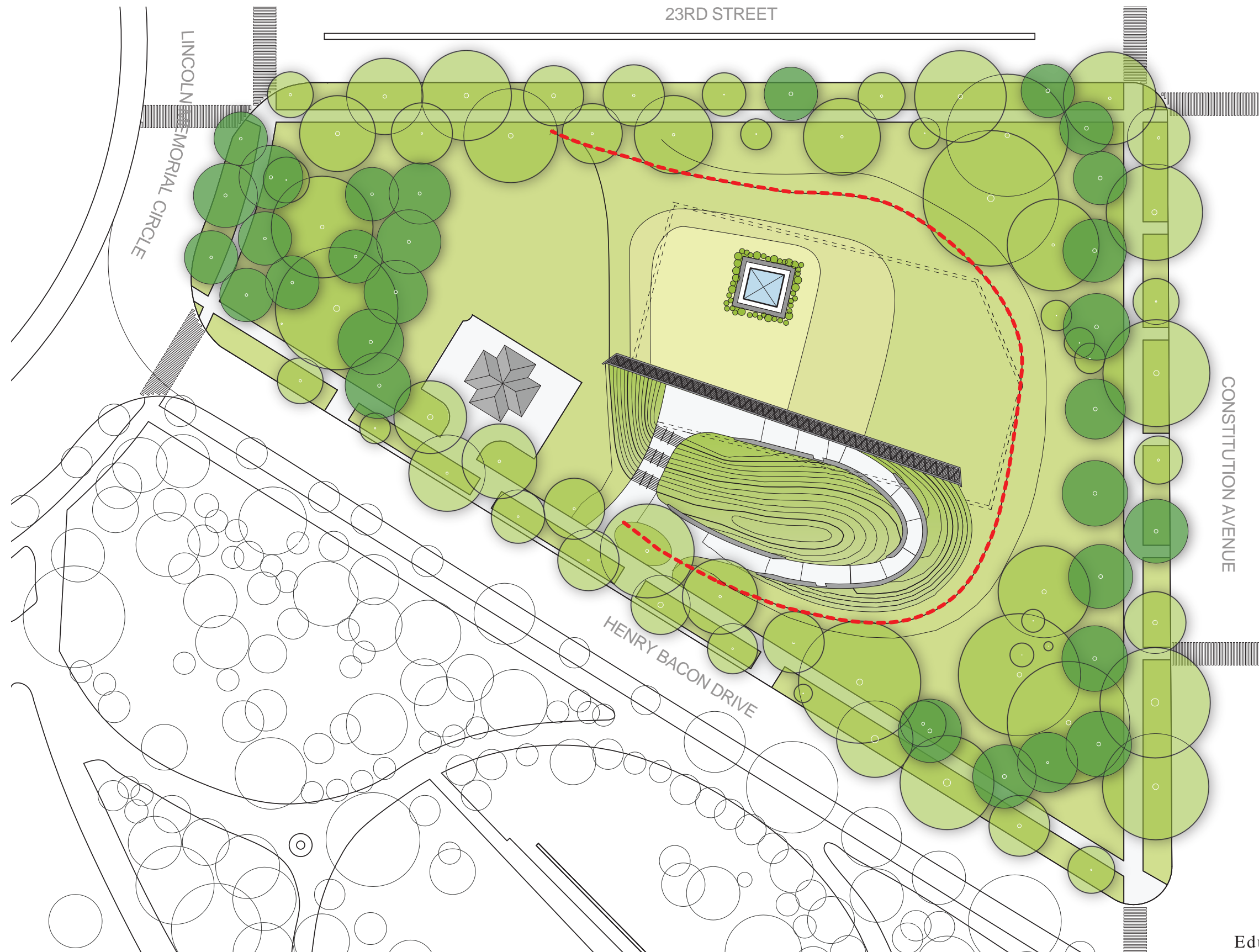
## SUMMARY OF REFINEMENTS

1. Replaced Entry Retaining Wall with Grass Berm
2. Reshaped Entry Pathway and Ramp
3. Reconfigured Building Entry and Lower Level Plan

# 2015 Site Plan Comparison



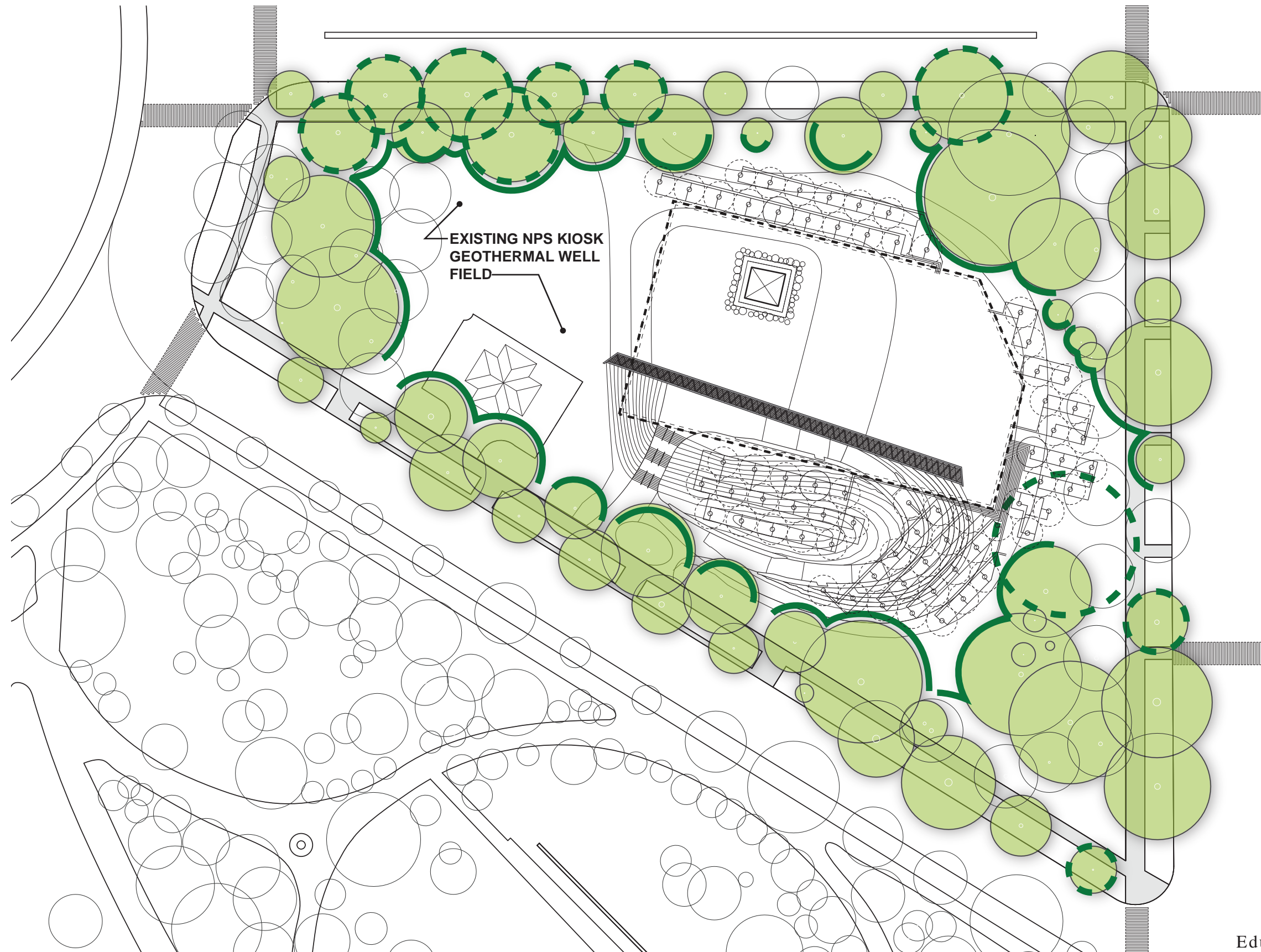
2015  
Grading for Protection from Urban Ponding



Education Center at The Wall  
ENNEAD ARCHITECTS  
07.09.15

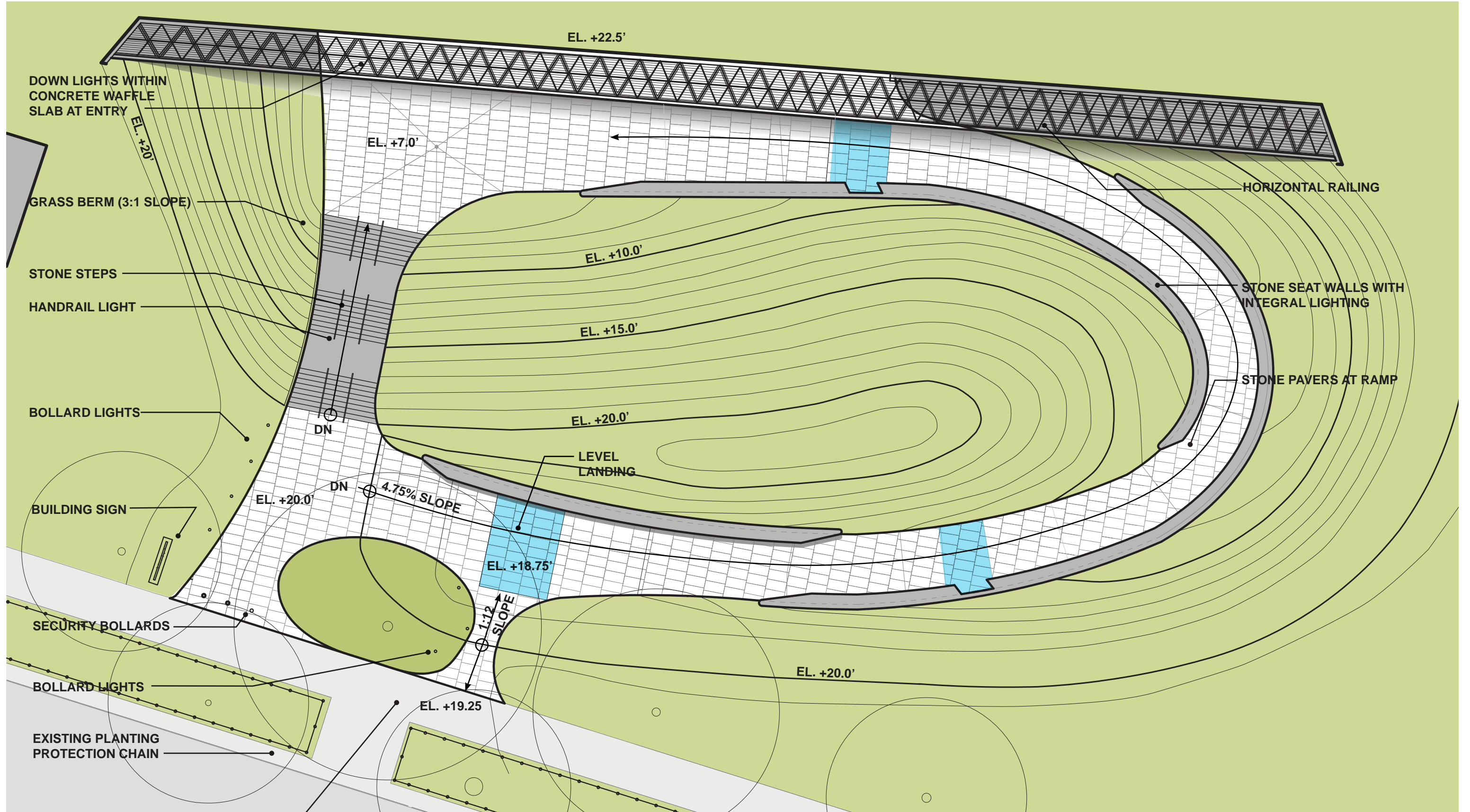
2015

# Tree Root Protection and Geothermal Well Field



2015

# Partial Site Plan at Approach



DOWN LIGHTS WITHIN CONCRETE WAFFLE SLAB AT ENTRY

GRASS BERM (3:1 SLOPE)

STONE STEPS

HANDRAIL LIGHT

BOLLARD LIGHTS

BUILDING SIGN

SECURITY BOLLARDS

BOLLARD LIGHTS

EXISTING PLANTING PROTECTION CHAIN

HENRY BACON DRIVE SIDEWALK

EL. +22.5'

EL. +7.0'

EL. +10.0'

EL. +15.0'

EL. +20.0'

LEVEL LANDING

EL. +18.75'

4.75% SLOPE

1:12 SLOPE

EL. +19.25

EL. +20.0'

HORIZONTAL RAILING

STONE SEAT WALLS WITH INTEGRAL LIGHTING

STONE PAVERS AT RAMP

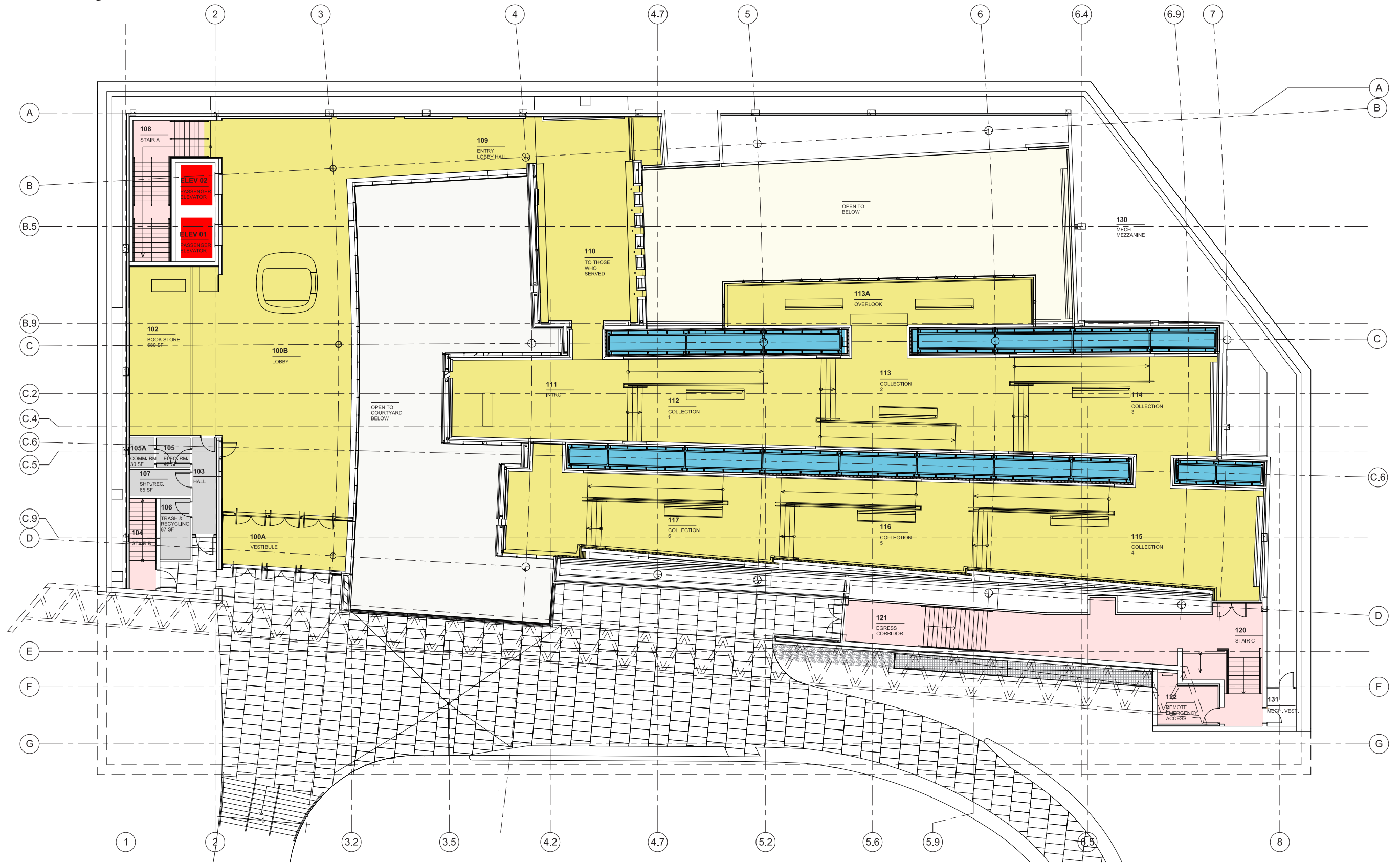
Education Center at The Wall

ENNEAD ARCHITECTS

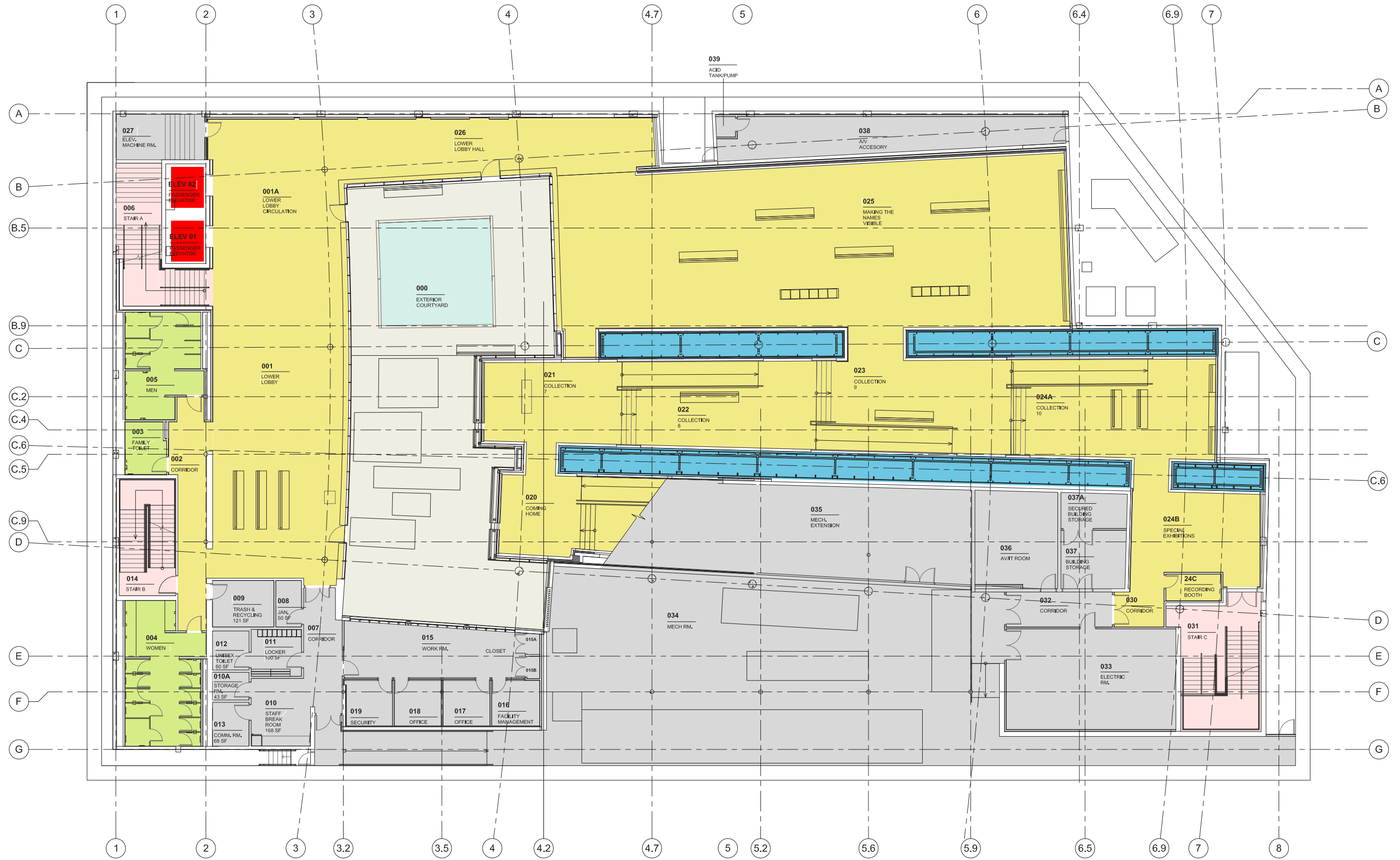
07.09.15



# 2015 Entry Level Plan

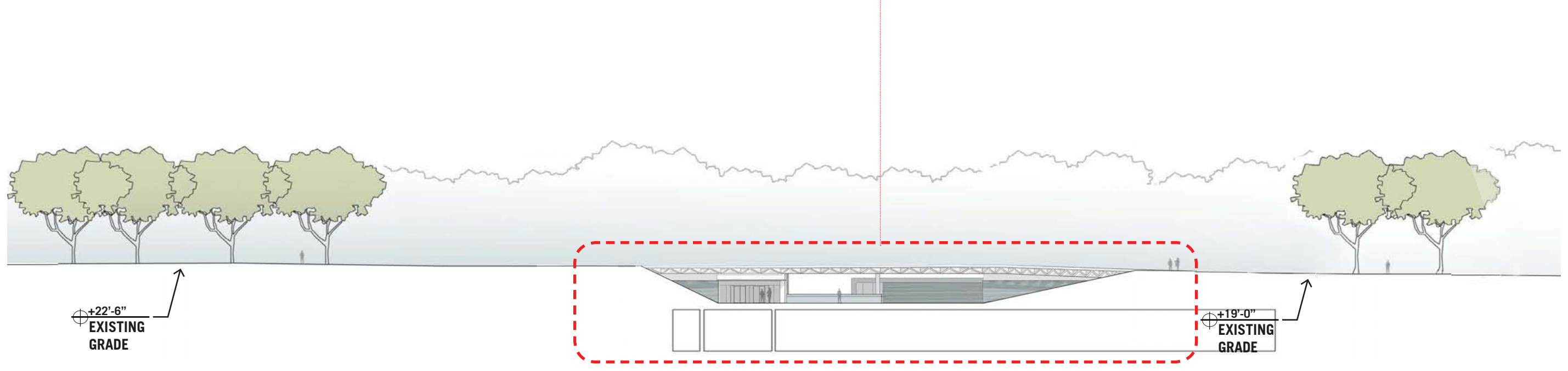
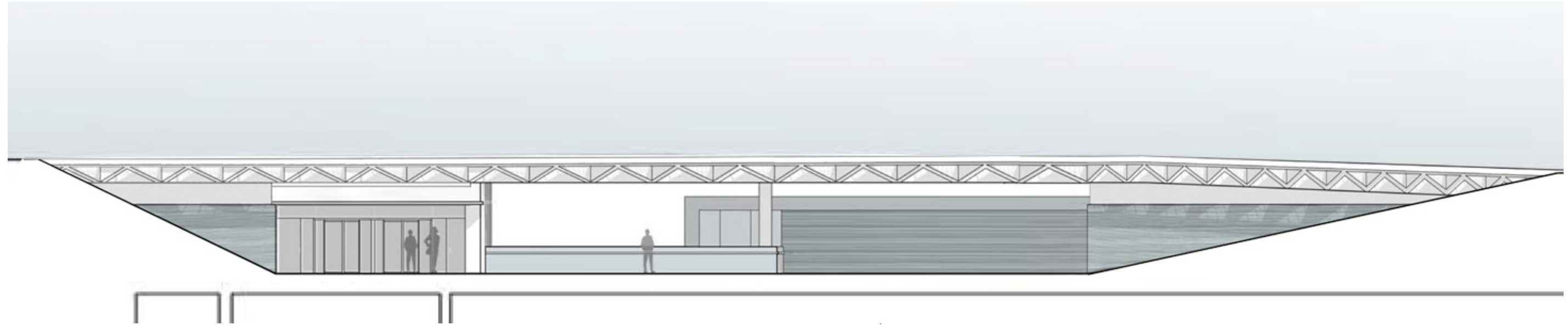
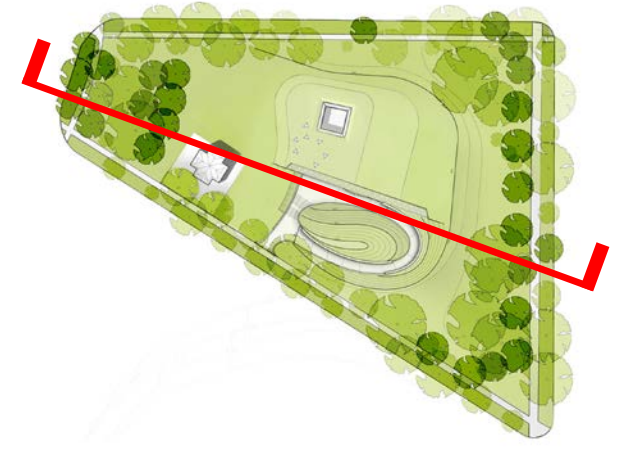


# 2015 Lower Level Plan



2015

# North / South Section at Entry

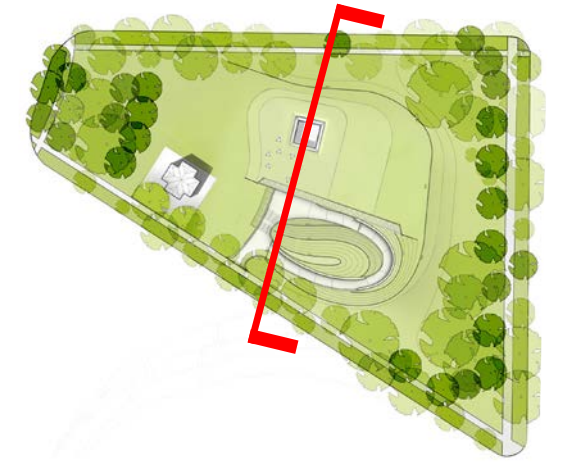


+22'-6"  
EXISTING  
GRADE

+19'-0"  
EXISTING  
GRADE

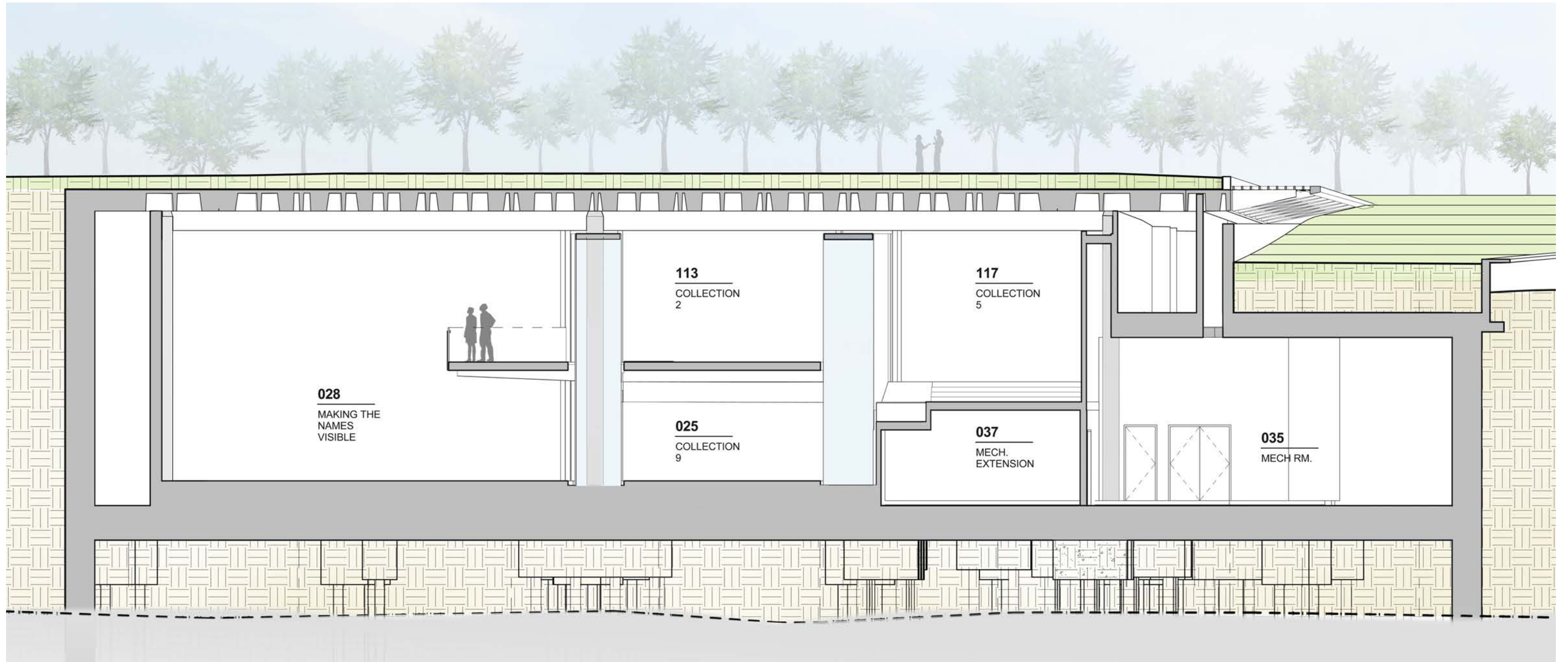
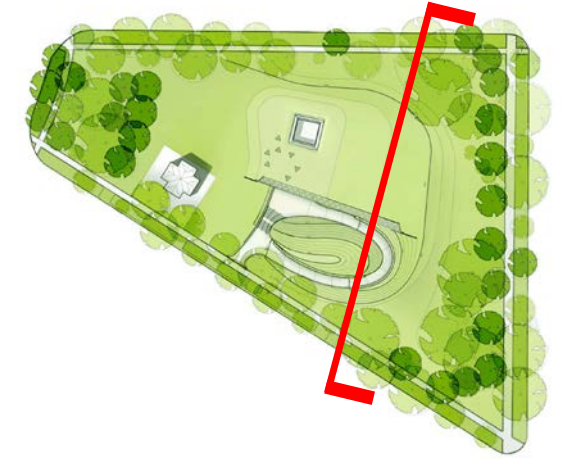
2015

# Section Perspective at Courtyard

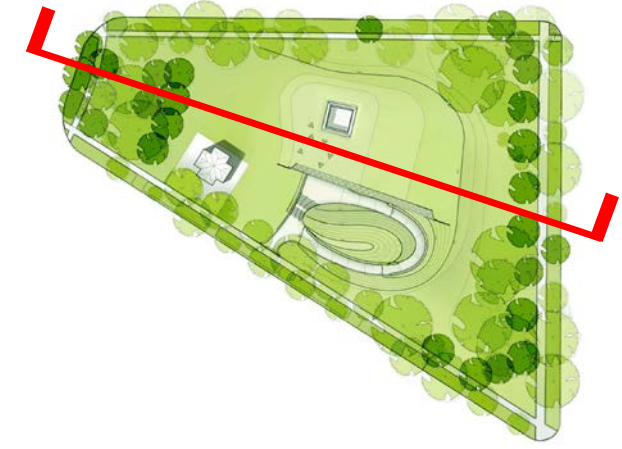


Education Center at The Wall  
ENNEAD ARCHITECTS  
07.09.15

# 2015 Cross Section



# 2015 Longitudinal Section



2015

# Aerial View from North East



Education Center at The Wall  
ENNEAD ARCHITECTS  
07.09.15

2015

# View from Henry Bacon Drive Sidewalk

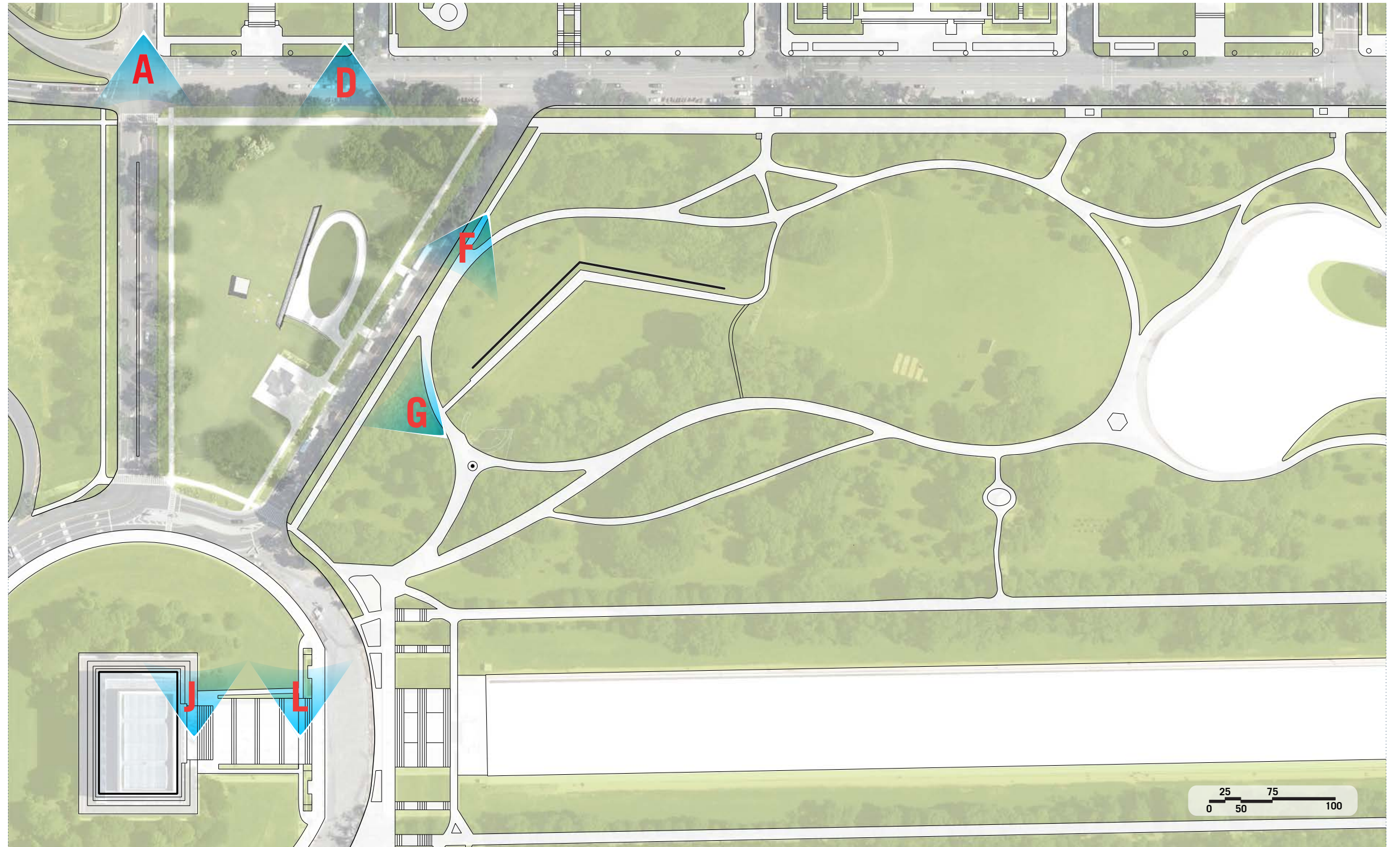


2015

# View from Bottom of Entry Ramp



# 2015 View Simulations

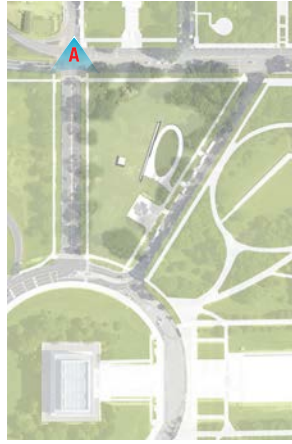


VIEW SIMULATIONS

Education Center at The Wall  
ENNEAD ARCHITECTS  
07.09.15

2015

# View A - View From Constitution & 23rd St Looking South



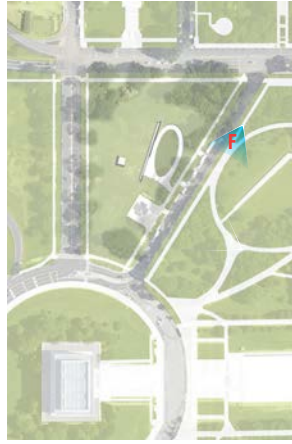
2015

# View D - View From Crosswalk At 22nd Street And Constitution Avenue



2015

# View F - Henry Bacon Drive Looking South



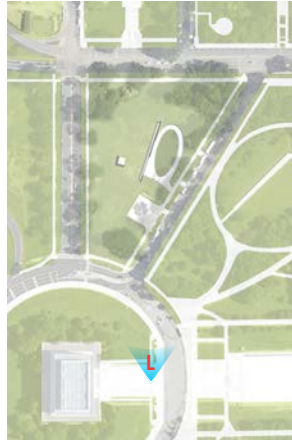
2015

# View G - Vietnam Memorial Path Looking West



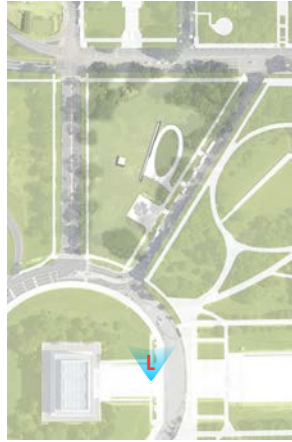
2015

# View L - From Base Of Lincoln Memorial Looking North



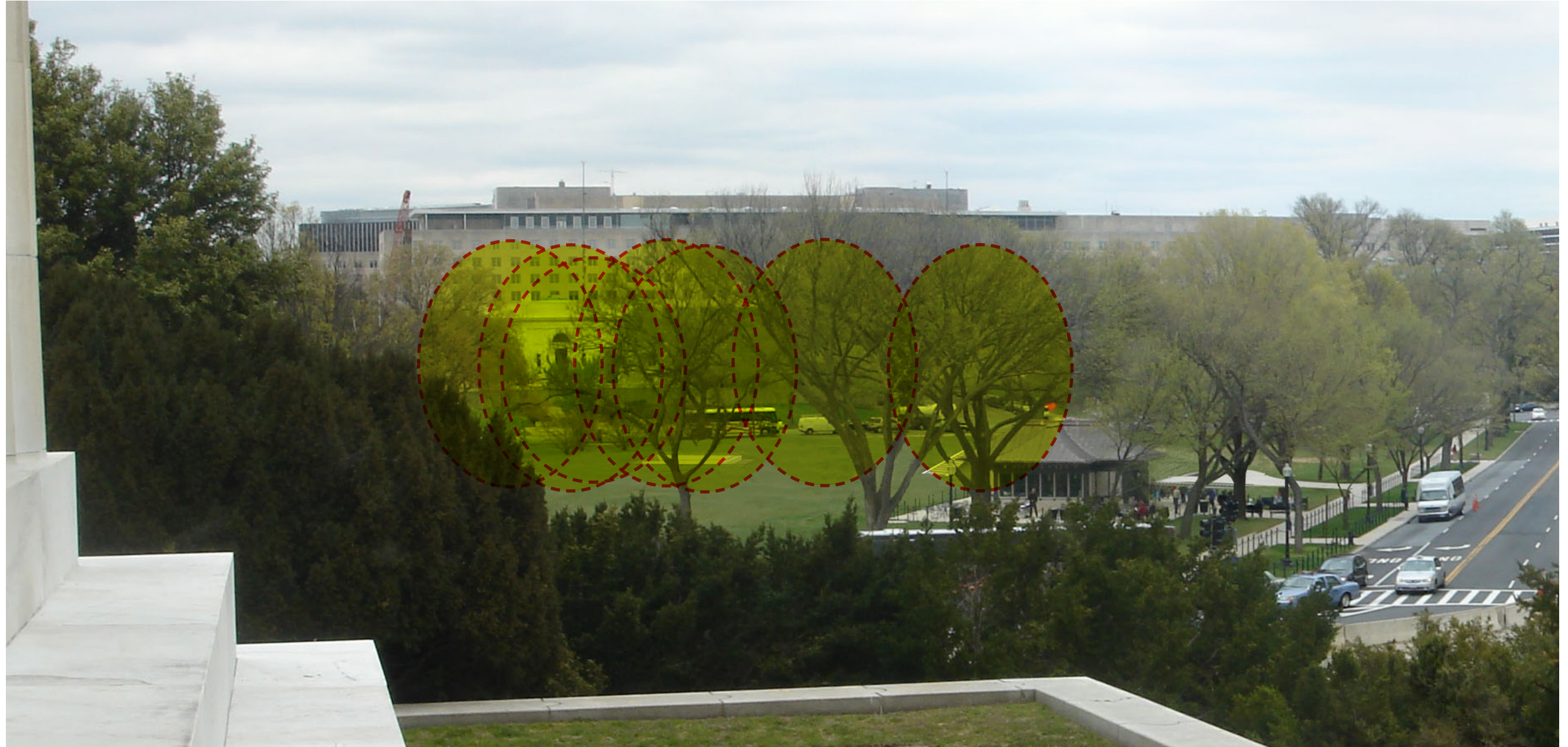
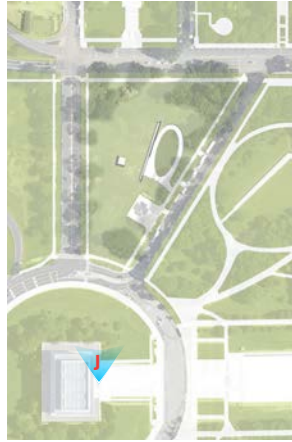
2015

# View L - From Base Of Lincoln Memorial Looking North



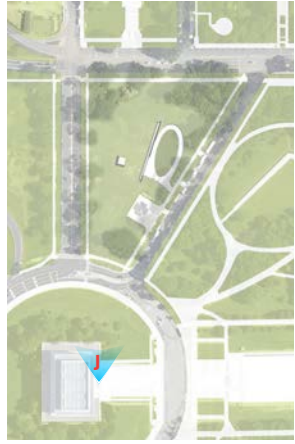
2015

# View J - View From The Top Stair Of The Lincoln Memorial Looking North



2015

# View J - View From The Top Stair Of The Lincoln Memorial Looking North



# 2014 - SHPO Approval

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER



October 6, 2014

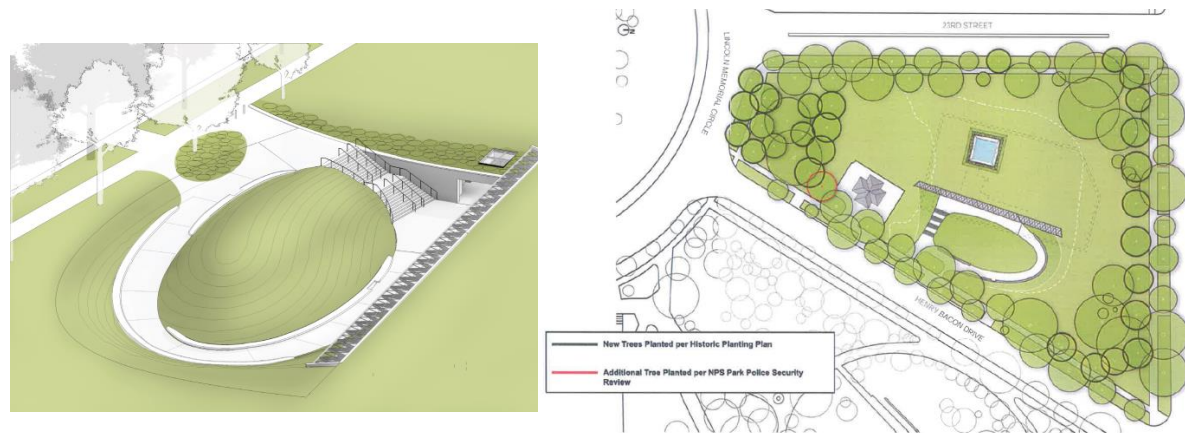
Mr. Robert A. Vogel, Superintendent  
National Mall and Memorial Parks  
National Park Service  
900 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20024-2000

RE: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center; Revised Design to Eliminate Entryway Wall, Eliminate an Additional Skylight, Simplify Ground Plane Planting & Relocate One Tree

Dear Mr. Vogel:

Thank you for continuing to consult with the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) regarding the additional revisions proposed for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center as required by the project Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that was executed on June 25, 2012.

Based upon our review of the most recent plans, we understand that designs which we commented upon on January 16, 2014 (image below on the left) have been revised so that the wall along the entryway and one additional skylight will be removed, the ground plane planting plan will be simplified and one additional tree will be planted for security reasons (image below on the right). As before, we concur with the NPS determination that these additional revisions will not result in any new or intensified adverse effect on historic properties. Therefore, no further consultation with our office will be necessary regarding the revised designs.



If you should have any questions or comments regarding this matter, please contact me at [andrew.lewis@dc.gov](mailto:andrew.lewis@dc.gov) or 202-442-8841. Otherwise, thank you for providing this additional opportunity to review and comment.

Sincerely,

C. Andrew Lewis  
Senior Historic Preservation Specialist  
State Historic Preservation Office

12-061

cc: Jennifer Hirsh, NCPC

1100 4<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Suite E650, Washington, DC 20024 Phone 202-442-7600 Fax 202-442-7638

Education Center at The Wall  
ENNEAD ARCHITECTS  
07.09.15

# 2015 - U.S. CFA Final Approval

## U.S. COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

ESTABLISHED BY CONGRESS 17 MAY 1910

401 F STREET NW SUITE 312 WASHINGTON DC 20001-2728 202-504-2200 FAX 202-504-2195 WWW.CFA.GOV

29 May 2015

Dear Mr. Vogel:

In its meeting of 21 May, the Commission of Fine Arts reviewed the final design submission for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center, to be located in West Potomac Park along Henry Bacon Drive. The Commission approved the proposal with the following comments.

The Commission members expressed appreciation for the careful attention to design details throughout the lengthy development of the project, as well as for the thorough presentation. They commented that the elimination of the retaining wall beside the entrance is an improvement that simplifies the design and lessens the visual similarity with the actual memorial. They supported the proposed design for consistent, even slopes generally in the areas of turf surrounding the center's entrance area.

The Commission of Fine Arts congratulates the project team for its perseverance and responsiveness over many years in creating this important public facility to enhance the experience of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. As always, the staff is available to assist you with future submissions.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Luebke, FAIA  
Secretary

Robert Vogel, Regional Director  
National Park Service, National Capital Region  
1100 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20242

cc: Tom Wong, Ennead Architects  
Ken Haines, Hargreaves Associates



Education Center at the Wall