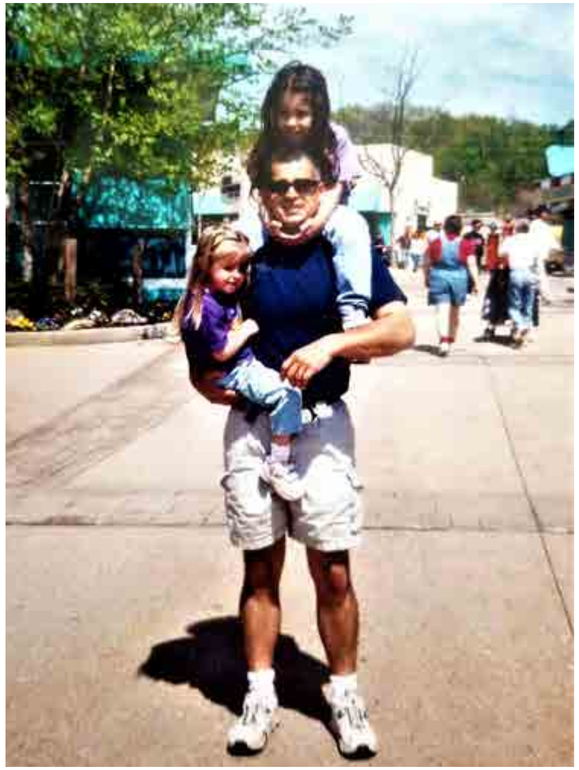
THE RETREAT AT GEAUGA LAKE

Kate Jackson



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

To my parents who grew up going to Geauga Lake and also took me when I was a child. Your nostalgia of this park, are what inspired this project. Thank you for your unending love and support. I love you both so much and I hope this project brings some justice to this park.

To my God, who has given me far more grace and mercy than I could ever hope to deserve.

To my professors, whose guidance and support has been invaluable throughout this entire process.

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HISTORY

SITE HISTORY

Originally named Giles Pond, after settler Sullivan Giles, Geuaga Lake became a scenic destination to visitors of Aurora, Ohio. In the 1880's this land became designated as picnic space, dance hall, and cottages for vacationers to enjoy.

In 1887, the park opened under the name Geauga Lake. The name itself comes from the Native American word "Sheauga" which means raccoon. Before the turn of the 20th century, the park expanded to include small rides, roller rink, photo gallery, billiard hall, and bowling alley, and a hotel on the far side of the lake.

In the 1920's the park saw the erection of the park's first roller coaster, the Big Dipper.

Overtime, the park changed hands, and SeaWorld opened across the lake. The park would later change ownership again after being purchased by the Six Flags franchise. Then, becoming what was the largest contiguous park at the time, Geauga Lake (known as Six Flags Ohio at the time), merged with SeaWorld to become Six Flags Worlds of Adventure.

After a huge investment into the park, Six Flags sold to Cedar Fair. Many consider this a strategic move by the Cedar Fair corporation to eliminate competition from nearby Cedar Point, because Geauga Lake was closed within a few years of the purchase. The water park in the former SeaWorld location remained open until the final closure in 2016. Since then all rides were sold or demolished, leaving the park abandoned.

TIMELINE

1887 Park opened

1889 Park gets its first ride, a steam-powered carousel

1925 The Big Dipper roller coaster opens. The tallest and fastest of its time.

1927 Olympic swimmer sets world record in park's pool

1969 Geauga Lake is sold and purchased by Funtimes inc.

1970 SeaWorld is opened across the lake

1999 Geauga Lake becomes Six Flags Ohio

2000 Six Flags invests $40 million into the park

2001 Six Flags merges with SeaWorld to become the largest amusement park at the time

2004 Six Flags sells to Cedar Fair and the park is renamed Geauga Lake

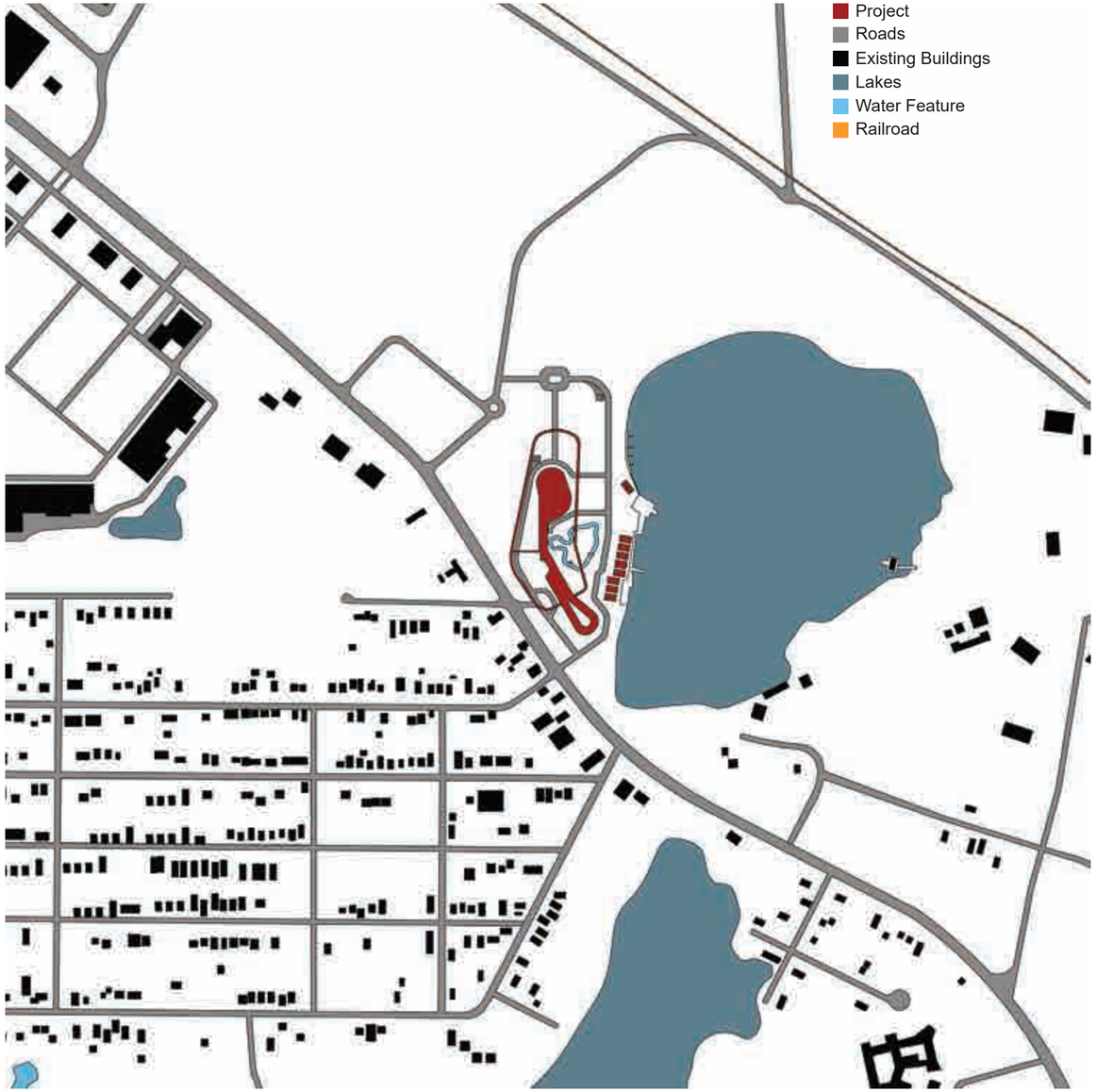
2005 Former SeaWorld site becomes Wildwater Kingdom water park

2007 Geauga Lake is closed, Wildwater Kingdom remains open

2016 Wildwater Kingdom is closed, rides are demolished or sold

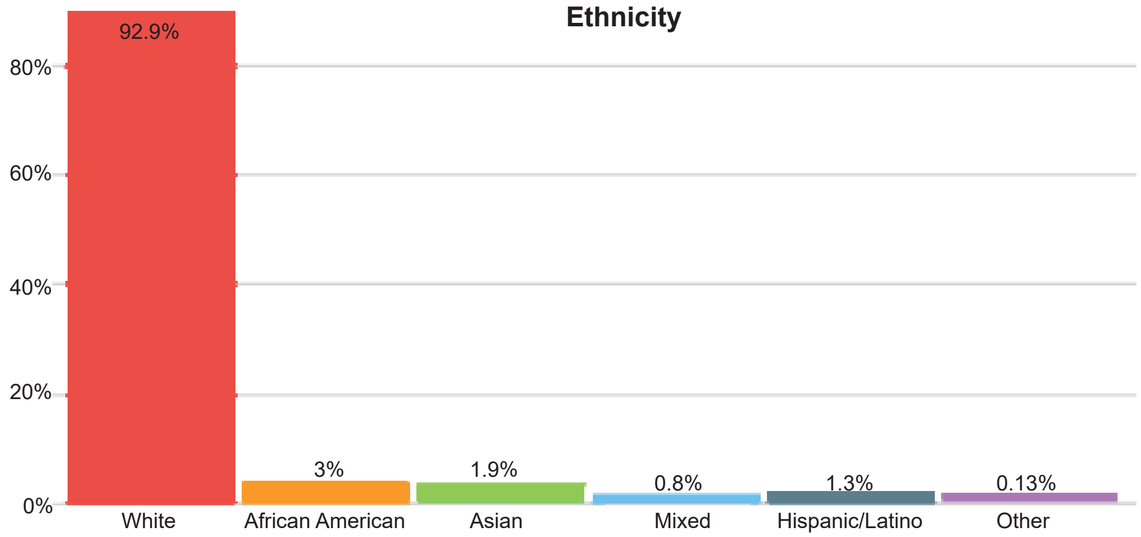
2018 The last of the rides, including the Big Dipper are removed

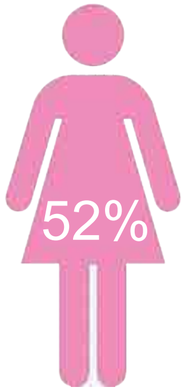
THE SITE

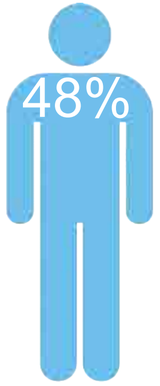


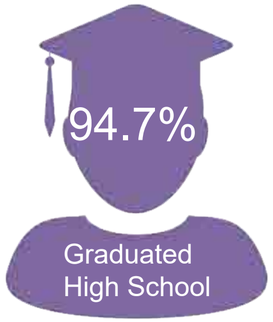
SITE LOCATION

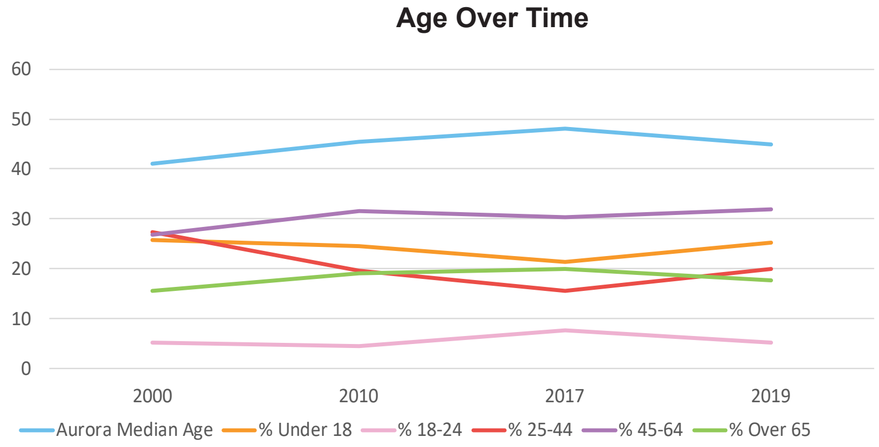
This site is located in the city of Aurora, Ohio, about 30 miles southeast of Cleveland via Route 43 which runs along the southern boarder of the site. Additionally the site is bordered by the 50 acre lake to the eastern side. The site is currently owned by Cedar Fair Entertainment and totals at 500 acres (although the scope of this project focuses only on 24 of those acres). The site is zoned commercially, as are the strip of businesses that boarder Route 43. Outside of that are large areas of residential neighborhoods and development.

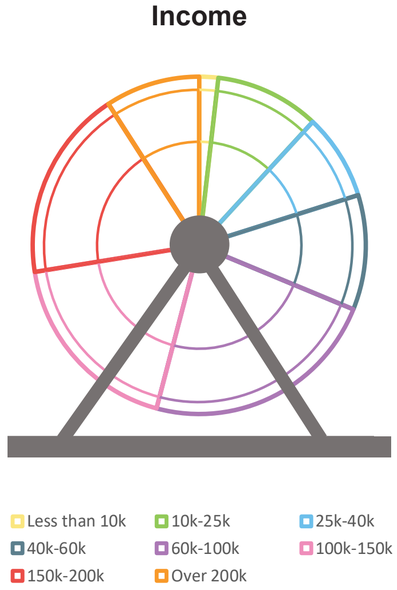












SITE DEMOGRAPHICS

Aurora, Ohio has a population of 15,712 people, with a population density of 686 people per square mile. This city is a relatively affluent area. The majority of the residents make over $60,000 a year in salary and the average property value is $246,200. However, this is also an aging population. The median age is 46, and some of the largest industries in this area are healthcare, particularly senior living. Since the park closed there has been a decrease in the amount of young people living and working in this city as there is no draw here for them anymore.

2019

2000

2016

1920's

1960's

1970's

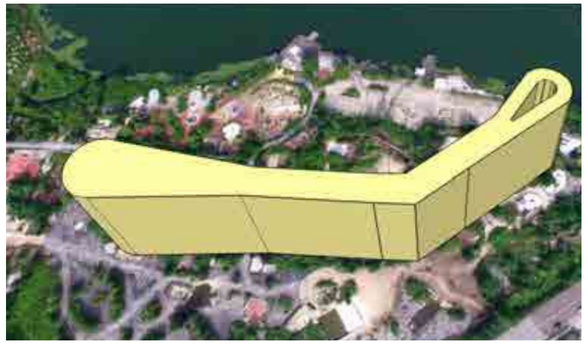
SITE CONDITIONS

The entirety of the Geauga Lake Property encompasses 500 acres. However, this project aims to focus on only 24 of those acres within the most historically significant portion of the site, the area extending from the park's former entrance, down to North Aurora Road (Route 43). The main focus of this project is the footprint of the Big Dipper roller coaster as this was the first true landmark of the park, and the last ride to be removed.

DESIGN

Step 1:
Utilize outline of the “Big Dipper” the first roller coaster erected in the park, and the last to be demolished.

Step 2:
Elevate to provide space for the hotel rooms and to recall the height that the roller coasters had previously given the site.



Step 3:
Step the form upwards in an abstraction of a roller coaster, creating terraces. Additionally, create an interesting, undulating form in the roofline of the event center that further mimics the roller coaster shape.

DESIGN ABSTRACT

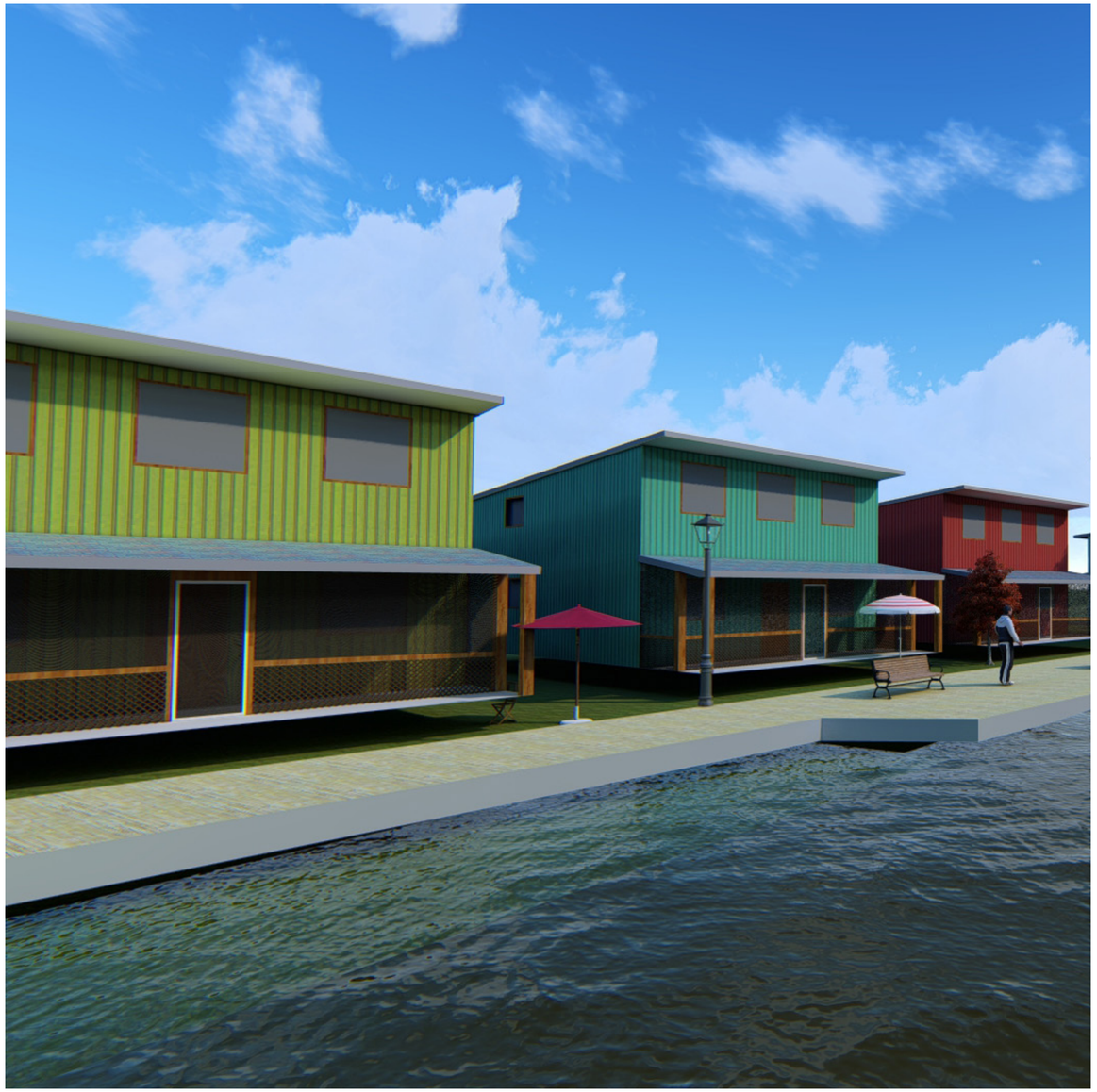
To bring new life to this amusement park by creating a new place for people to gather and enjoy. Including a hotel, event center, and park with walking trails. As this is an adaptive reuse project, the aim is to preserve as many of the original landscape features as possible including the original hardscape, the former lazy river, and the original boardwalk. The project aims to emulate the original form of the roller coaster and include many sustainable features, such as solar panels, green roofs, and a louvred facade. Furthermore, the majority of the natural landscape that has been allowed to take over in the park’s absence will remain untouched to give the effect of nature reclaiming the park.

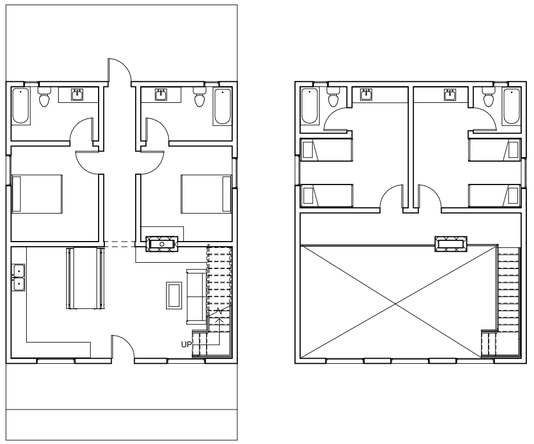
1 Hotel
2 Event Center
3 Lazy River
4 Cottages
5 Original Entrance to the Park
6 “Monorail” Elevated Walkway
7 Restaurant
8 Original Hardscape Walking Trails
9 Parking
10 Solar Panels
11 Marina
12 Boardwalk

SITE PLAN

“MONORAIL”

From the 1960’s until the year Cedar Fair bought Geauga Lake, a monorail ride encircled the Big Dipper, providing views across the park. To mimic this, there is now an elevated walking trail in the space where the monorail was. From here you can see the lazy river, cabins, and the allowance of nature to reclaim the site.





COTTAGES

As a callback to when this area was known as Giles Pond, the decison was made to include new cottages in the program. The cottages were placed on the former boardwalk, which had been void of buildings since the park's closing, and mimic the bright colors and scale of the shops formerly in their place. Each cottage is four bedrooms, and four bathrooms, enough for two families to share.

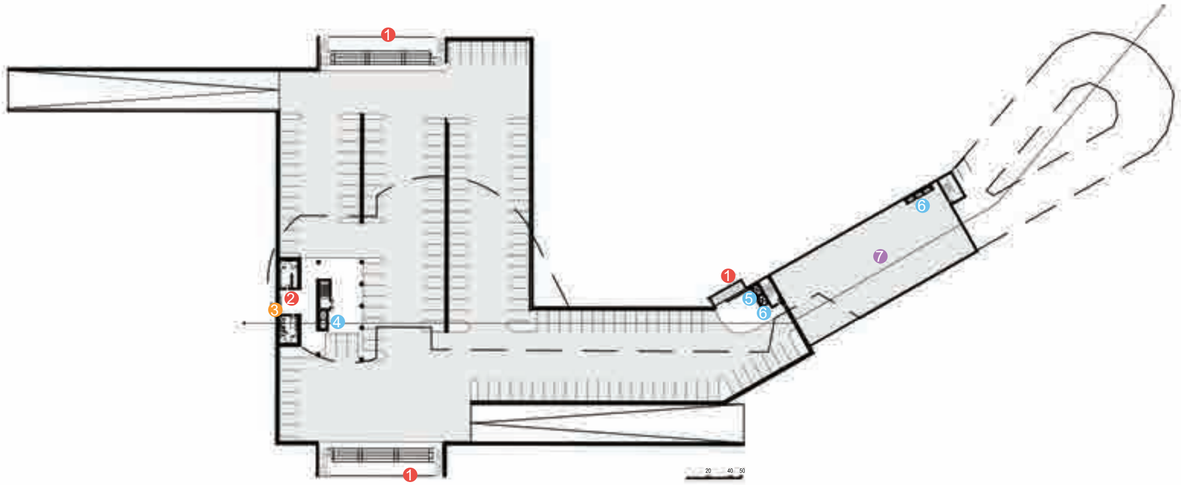
INDEX

Entertainment
- 1 Park Access
- 2 Vending Machine

Restrooms
- 3 Event Restrooms

Elevator
- 4 Event Center Elevator
- 5 Hotel Elevator
- 6 Staff Elevator

Storage
- 5 Mechanical/Storage



PARKING GARAGE

In an effort to not impede walkability of the site, the majority of the parking was brought underground. Additionally, this serves to mitigate the heat-island effect. The underground parking garage can hold 153 cars and has access to the park with two ramps and staircases that go straight outside. Additionally, there are stairs and elevators that access the hotel and the event center.

INDEX

Entertainment
1 Ballroom
2 Restaurant

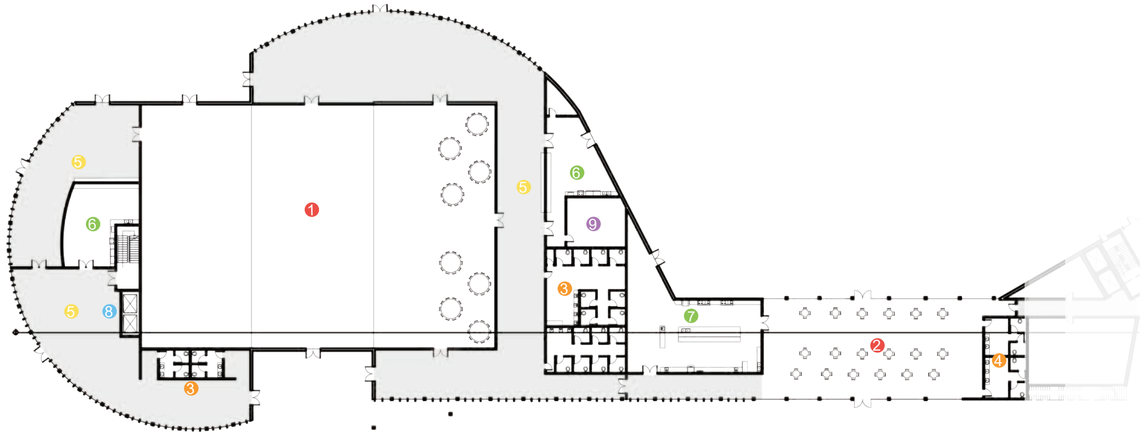
Restrooms
3 Event Restrooms
4 Restaurant Restrooms

Lobby
5 Event Lobby

Kitchen
6 Caterer's Kitchen
7 Restaurant Kitchen

Elevator
8 Parking Garage Elevator

Storage
9 Storage



LEVEL 1

The first half of the level 1 consists of a 15,000 square foot ballroom that can be sub-divided into three additional rooms, as well as the restaurant. Both of which are designed to encourage public enjoyment of the space.

INDEX

Guest Rooms
1 Single Room
2 Double Room
3 XL Double Room

Entertainment
4 Fitness Center
5 Breakfast
6 Conference Rooms

Restrooms
7 Lobby Restrooms
8 Conference Restrooms
9 Staff Restroom

Lobby
10 Hotel Lobby

Green Space
11 Courtyard

Kitchen
12 Hotel Kitchen

Elevator
13 Guest Elevator
14 Staff Elevator

Administration
15 Reception
16 Office
17 Laundry
18 Dressing

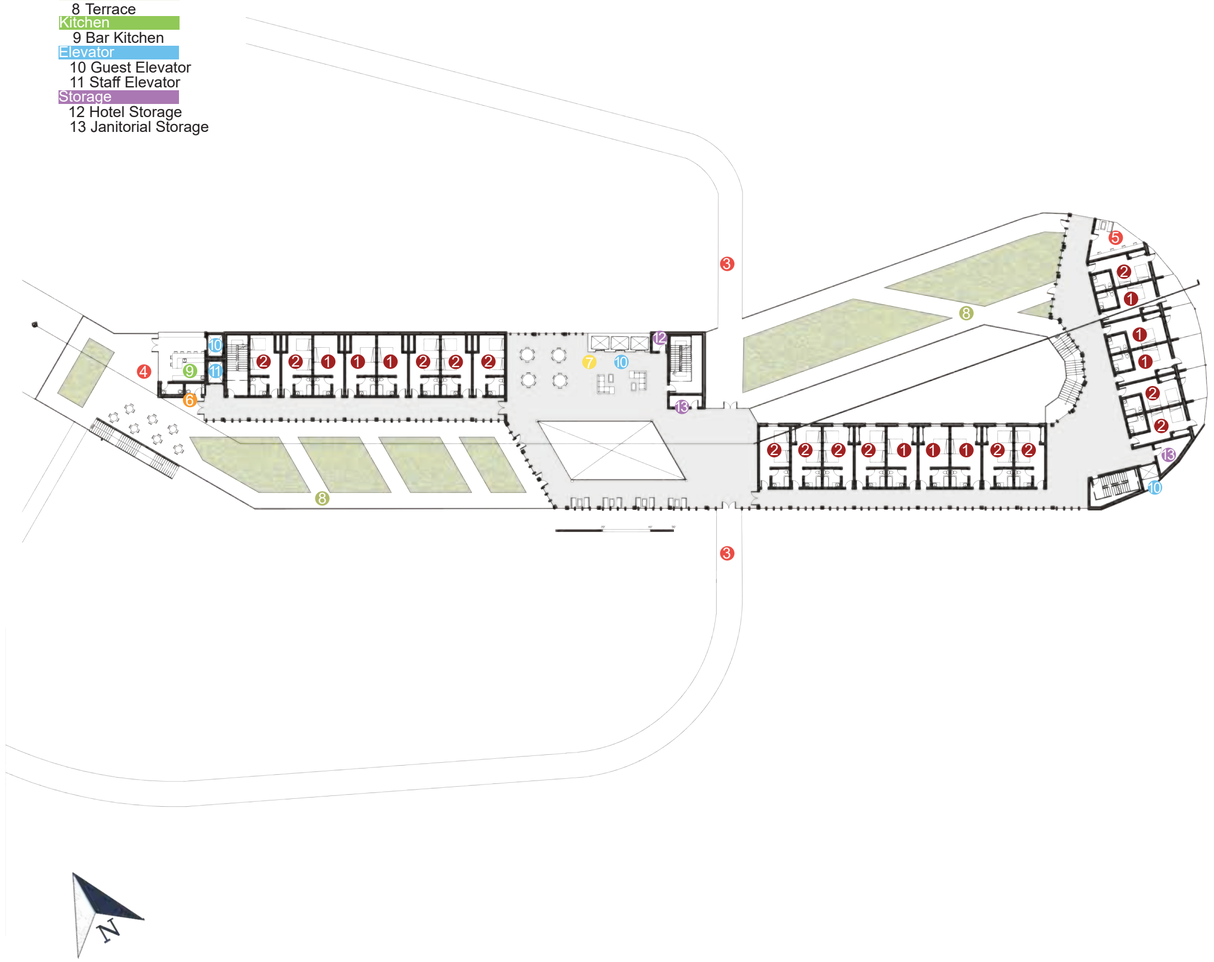
Storage
19 Hotel Storage
20 Janitorial Storage

LEVEL 1 Continued

The second half of the ground floor consists of the hotel portion of the building. The hotel side contains a lobby, breakfast area, conference rooms, fitness center, and 16 guest rooms, enough to sleep 57 guests.

INDEX

Guest Rooms
1 Single Room
2 Double Room
Entertainment
3 “Monorail” Walking Trail
4 Rooftop Bar
5 Quiet Room
Restrooms
6 Restrooms
Lobby
7 Second Floor Lobby
Green Space
8 Terrace
Kitchen
9 Bar Kitchen
Elevator
10 Guest Elevator
11 Staff Elevator
Storage
12 Hotel Storage
13 Janitorial Storage



LEVEL 2

The 2nd floor contains 23 rooms, enough for 92 people, a seating area adjacent to the elevators for waiting and socializing, and a lightwell that reaches from the 4th floor down to the lobby on the 1st floor as well as two terraces that connect to the “monorail” an elevated walking trail that perforates the building.Additionally, there is a rooftop bar that can be enjoyed by guests and the public alike.

INDEX

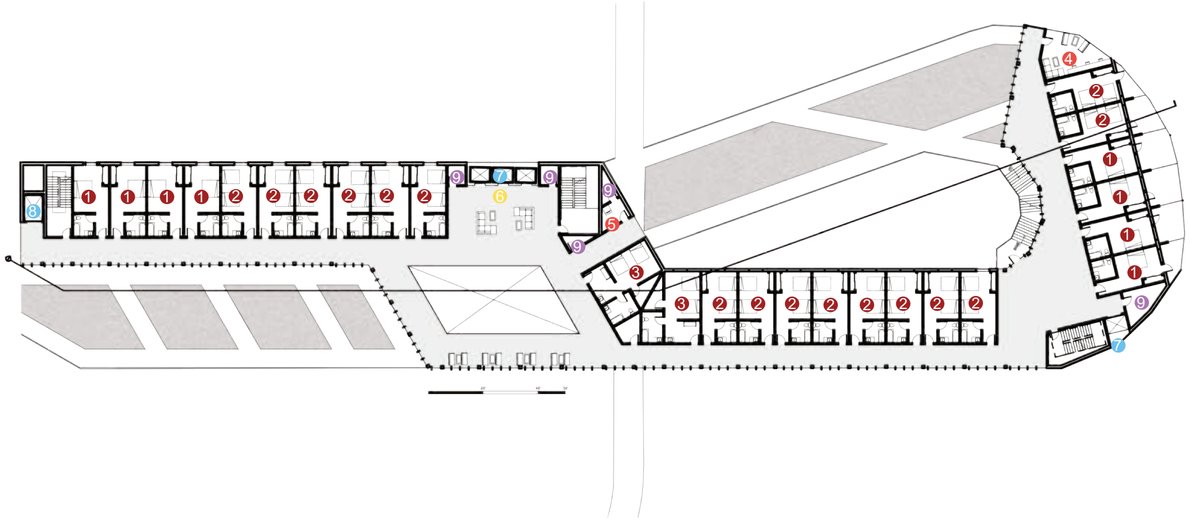
Guest Rooms
1 Single Room
2 Double Room
3 XL Double Room

Entertainment
4 Quiet Room
5 Ice Maker

Lobby
6 Third Floor Lobby

Elevator
7 Guest Elevator
8 Staff Elevator

Storage
9 Janitorial Storage



LEVEL 3

The 3rd floor hosts 26 rooms, enough for 90 people, a seating area adjacent to the elevators for waiting and socializing, and a lightwell that reaches from the 4th floor down to the lobby on the 1st floor.

INDEX

Guest Rooms
1 Single Room
2 Double Room
3 XL Double Room

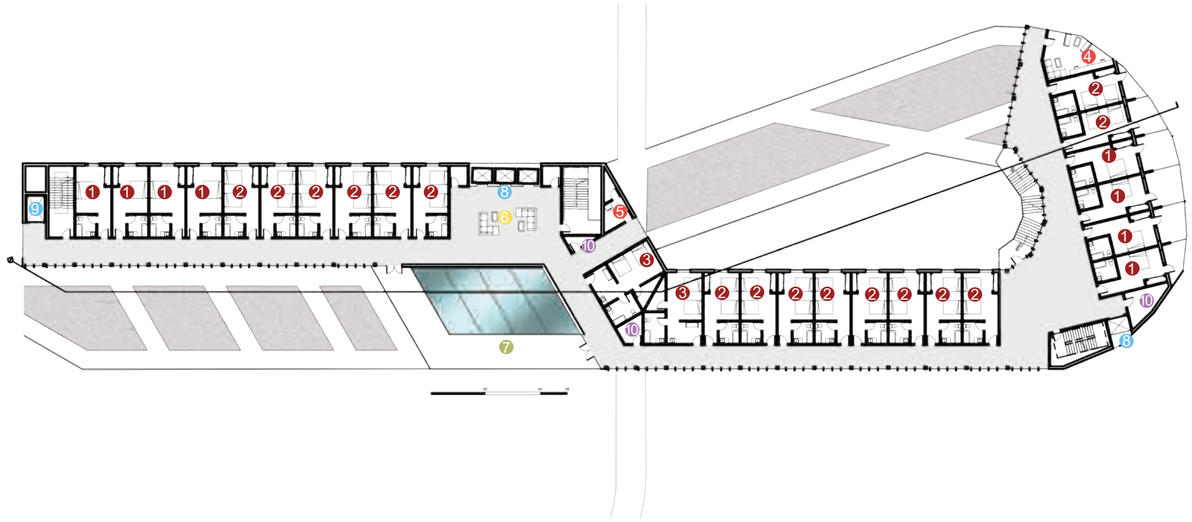
Entertainment
4 Quiet Room
5 Ice Maker

Lobby
6 Third Floor Lobby

Green Space
7 Terrace

Elevator
8 Guest Elevator
9 Staff Elevator

Storage
10 Janitorial Storage



LEVEL 4

The 4th floor contains 26 rooms, enough for 90 people, a seating area adjacent to the elevators for waiting and socializing, and access to a green terrace that has a skylight that looks down to the 1st floor.

INDEX

Guest Rooms
1 Single Room
2 Double Room
3 XL Double Room

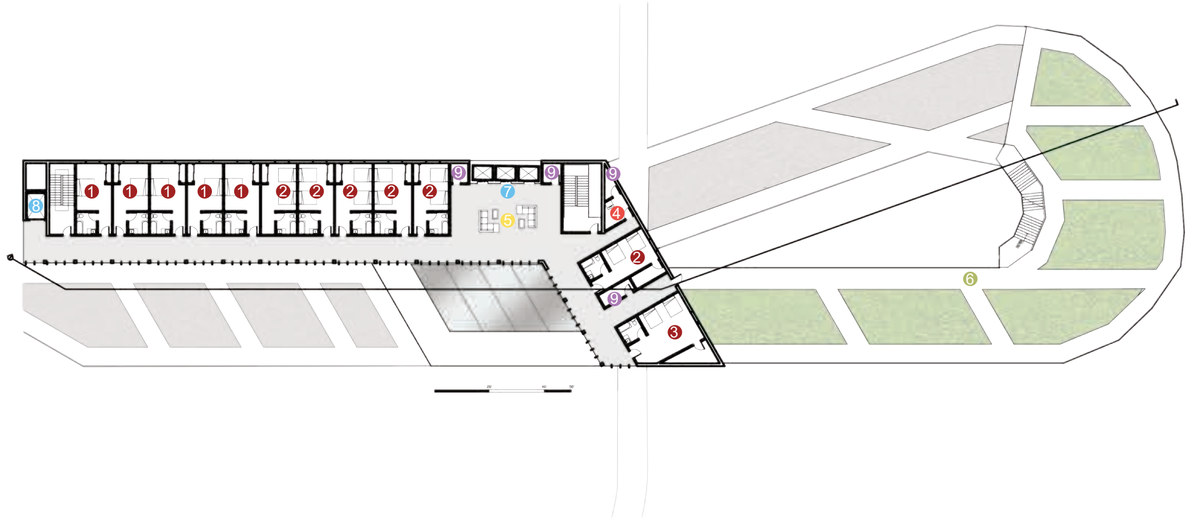
Entertainment
4 Ice Maker

Lobby
5 Third Floor Lobby

Green Space
6 Terrace

Elevator
7 Guest Elevator
8 Staff Elevator

Storage
9 Janitorial Storage



LEVEL 5

The 5th floor contains 12 rooms, enough for 39 people, a seating area adjacent to the elevators for waiting and socializing, and access to a green roof terrace

INDEX

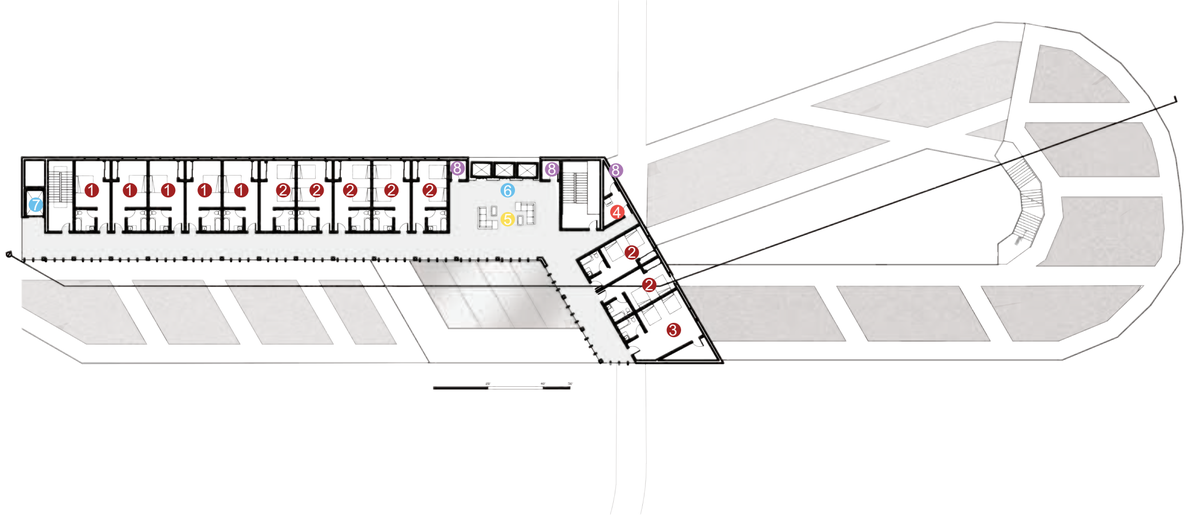
Guest Rooms
1 Single Room
2 Double Room
3 XL Double Room

Entertainment
4 Ice Maker

Lobby
5 Third Floor Lobby

Elevator
6 Guest Elevator
7 Staff Elevator

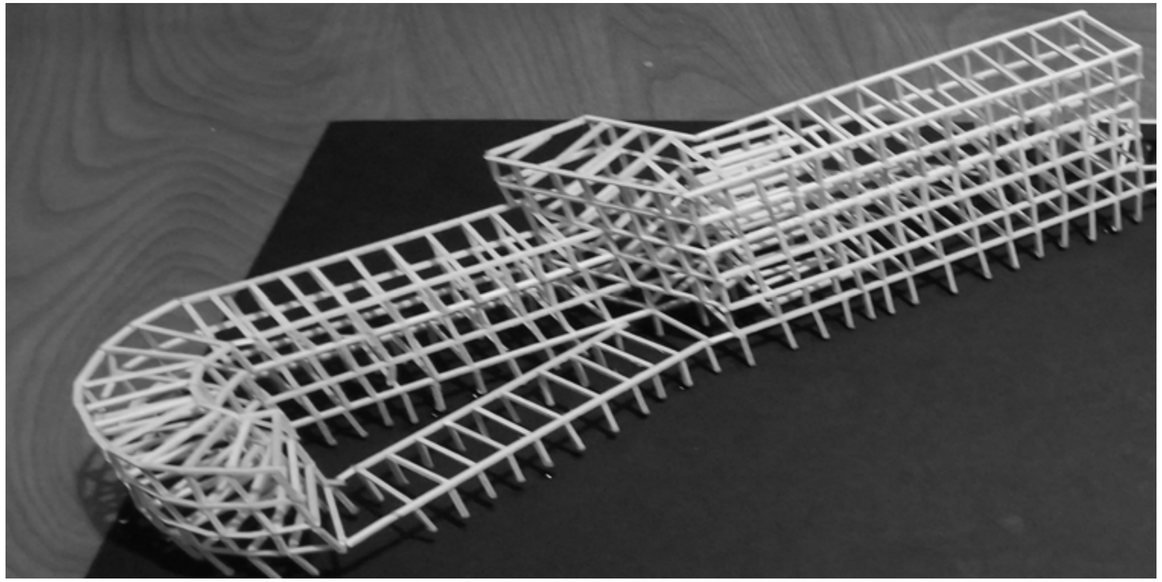
Storage
8 Janitorial Storage

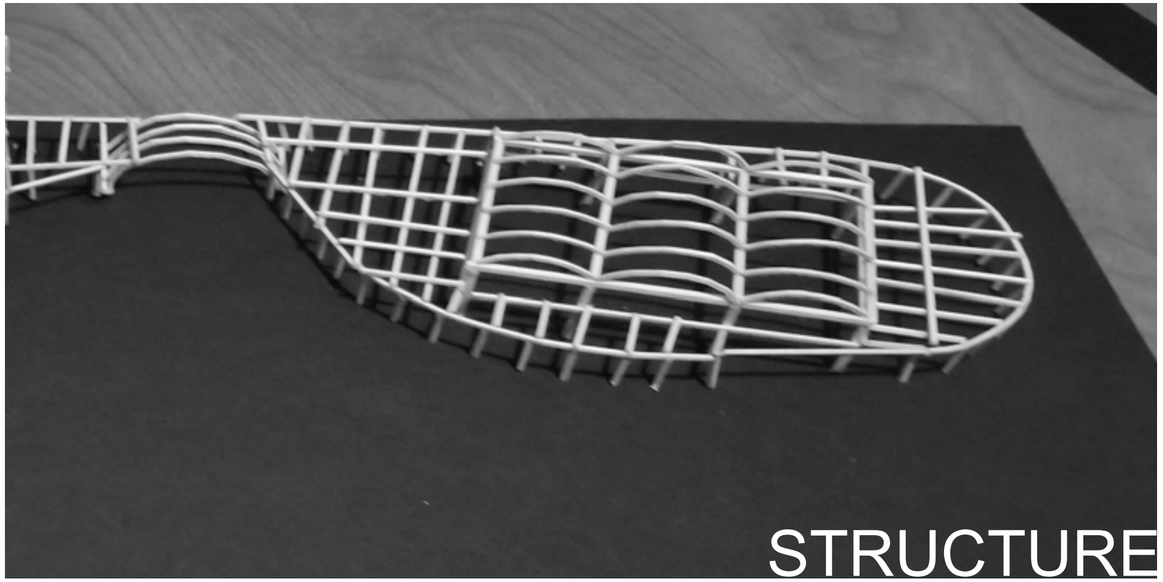


LEVEL 6

The 6th floor contains 13 rooms, enough for 43 people, there's also a seating area adjacent to the elevators for waiting and socializing.

SECTION

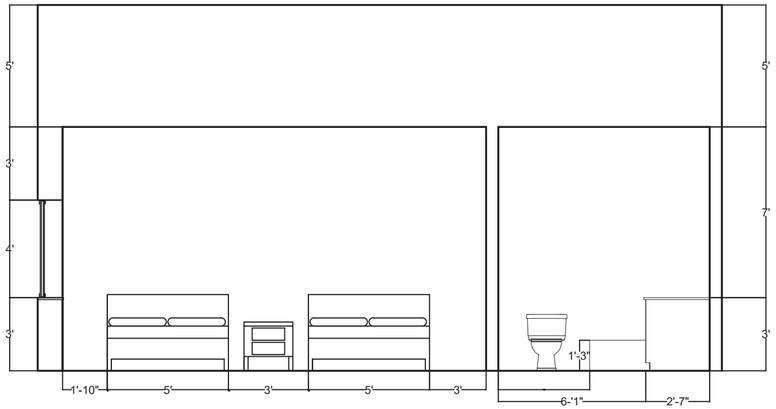


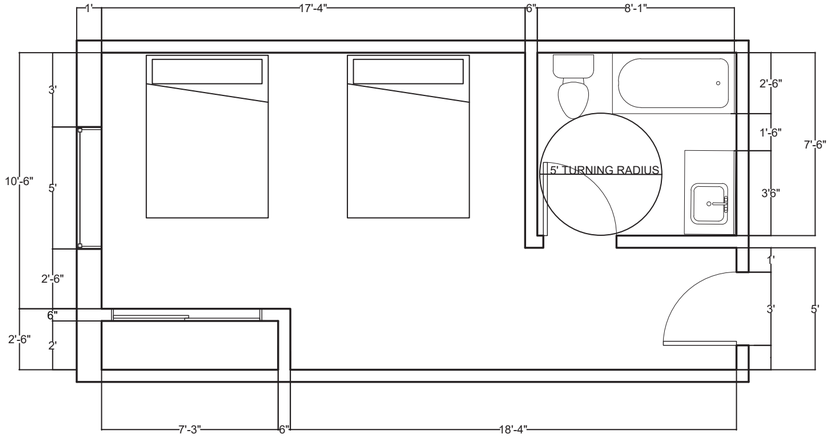


STRUCTURE

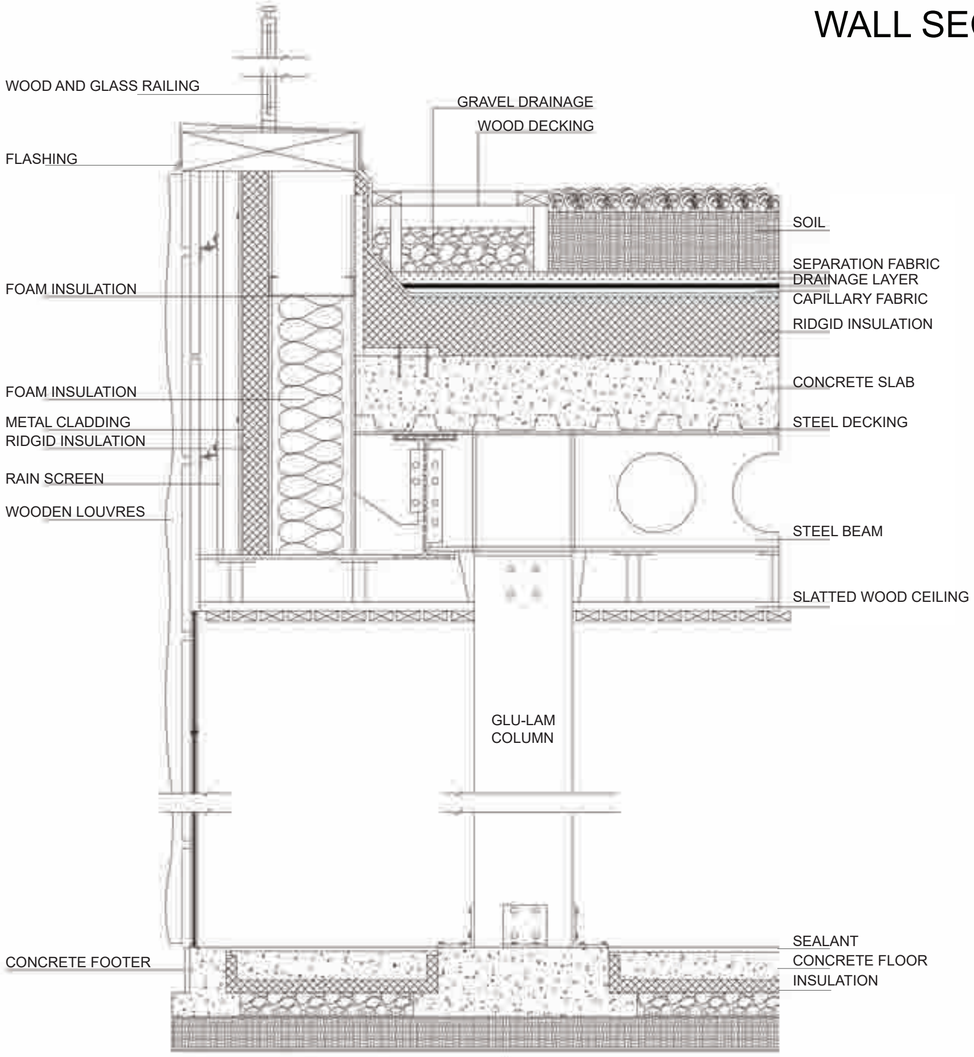
In an effort to mimic the Big Dipper that once stood in its place, the exposed vertical members as well as the arches of the restaurnat and event center are made of glue-laminated timber.

DOUBLE ROOM DETAILS

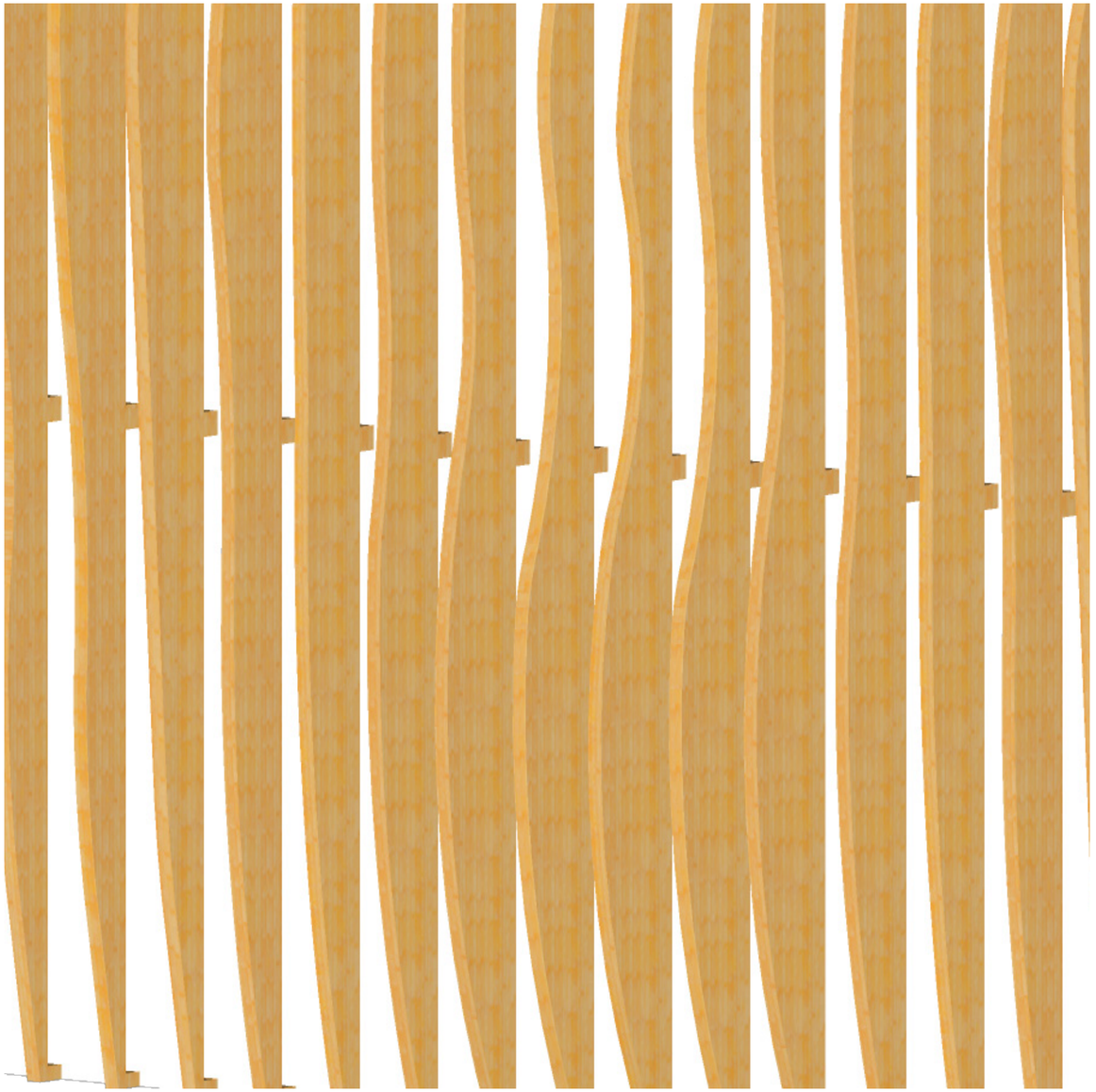




WALL SECTION



DETAILS

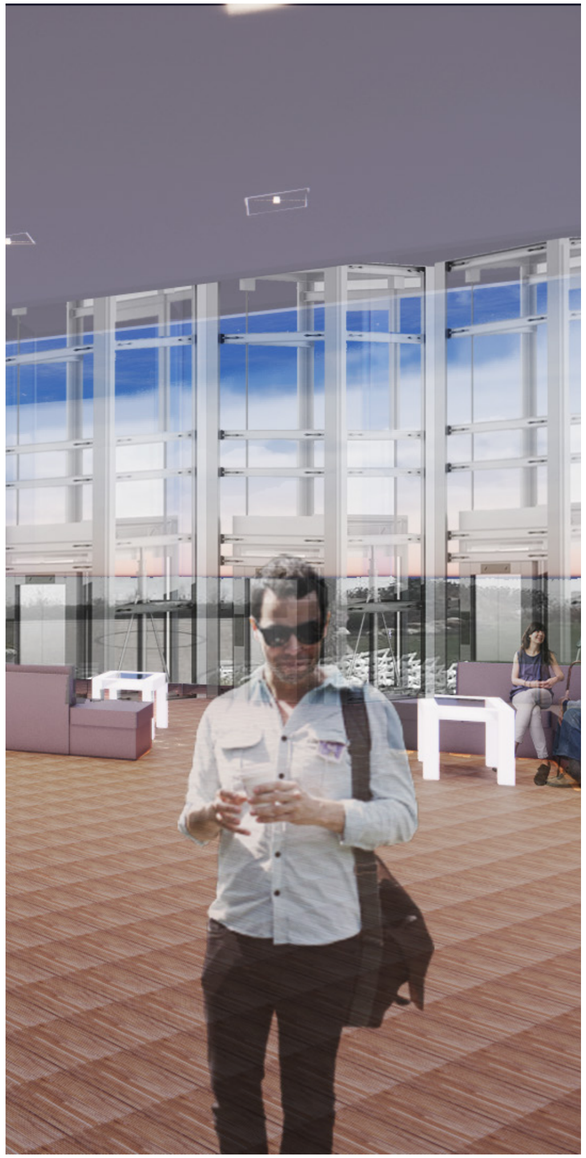


DETAILS: LOUVRES

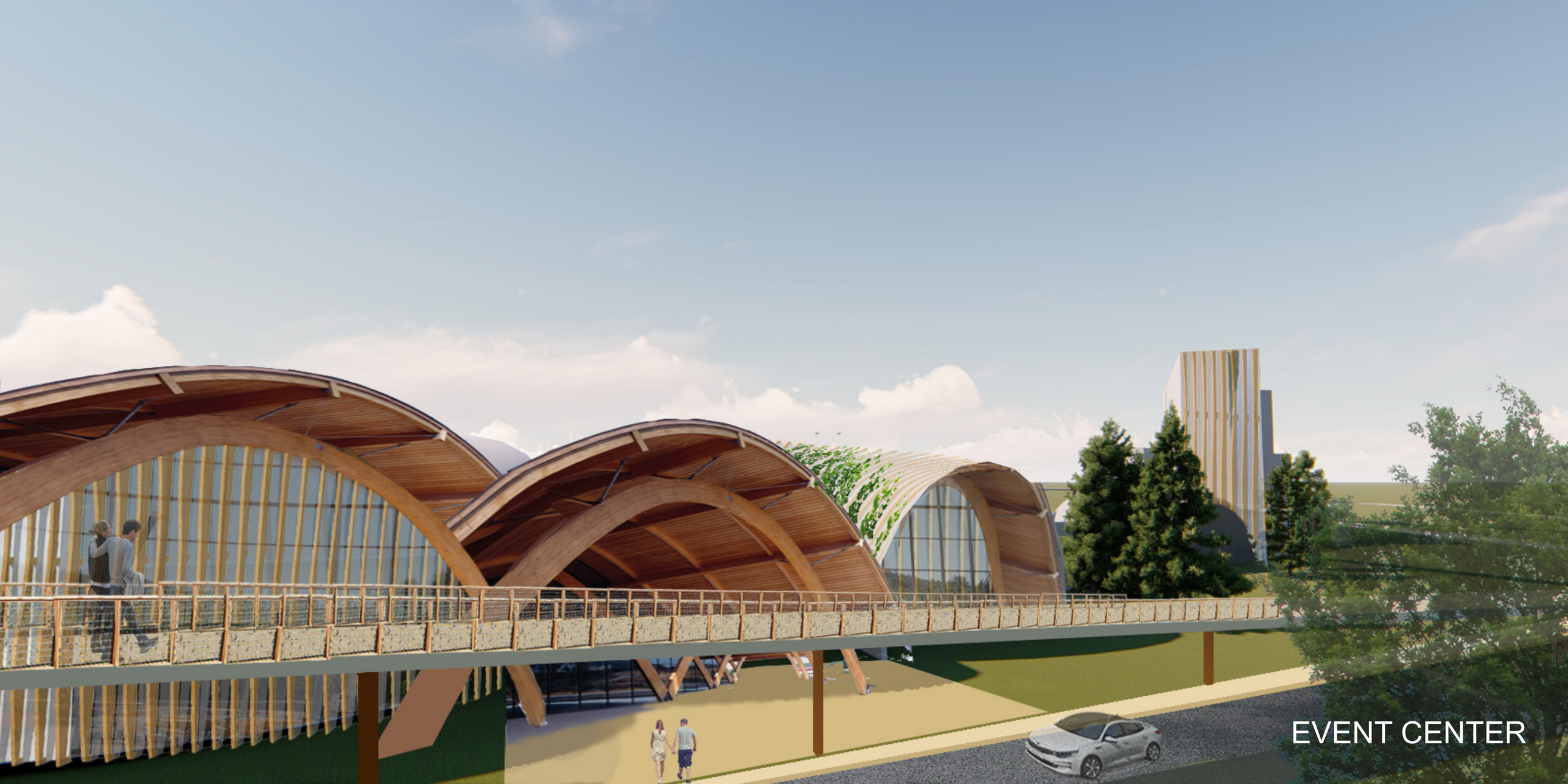
These louvres are the main shading and facade treatment of the building. Although this is a cool climate, because the majority of the building faces to the west, which could create excess heat in the summer and thereby create large cooling loads. Therefore, to offset this heat, and the create the effect of nature reclaiming an old wooden roller coaster, vines would grow up these louvres. In the winter the vines would become dormant and the leave would fall off, allowing for the sun to enter the building when it is most needed, thereby reducing heating loads in the winter.

2nd FLOOR TERRACE

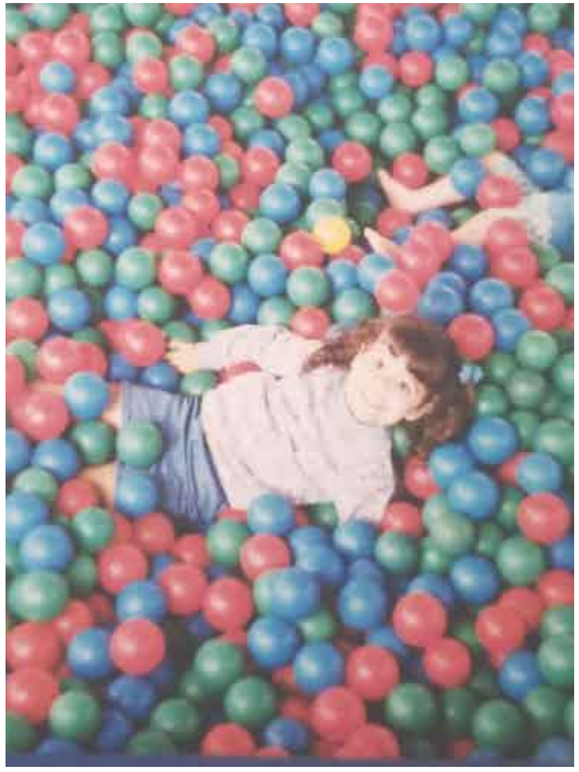
2nd FLOOR INTERIOR



1st FLOOR LOBBY


EVENT CENTER

APPENDIX



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BIBLIOGRAPHY

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