## WORLD VERNACULAR EXHIBITION & FORUM: Flint Hills

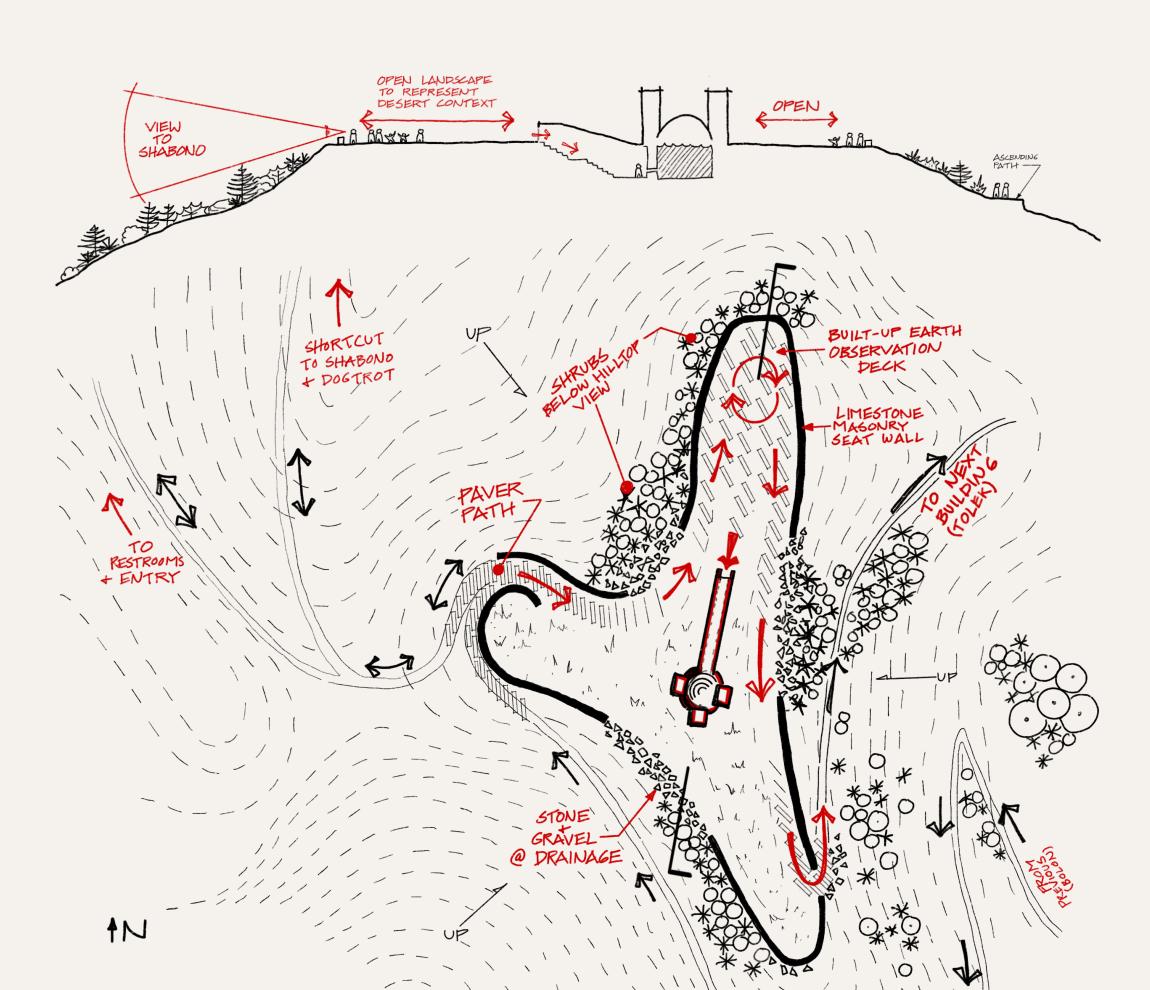
## Tom Murillo Fall 2024

ADS7 Prof. Schwartz

The World Vernacular Exhibition & Forum's entry building serves as the gateway to an architectural gallery dedicated to vernacular architecture from around the world, located on the north end of Manhattan, Kansas in the Kansas Flint Hills. Positioned on University-owned land, the project introduces visitors to a three-mile exhibition path that guides them through historic structures, each showcasing their unique design responses to specific climates and landscapes. The entry building anchors this journey, offering a space for learning, reflection, and connection, with features such as galleries, an auditorium, and a reading room to explore both local and global vernacular traditions.

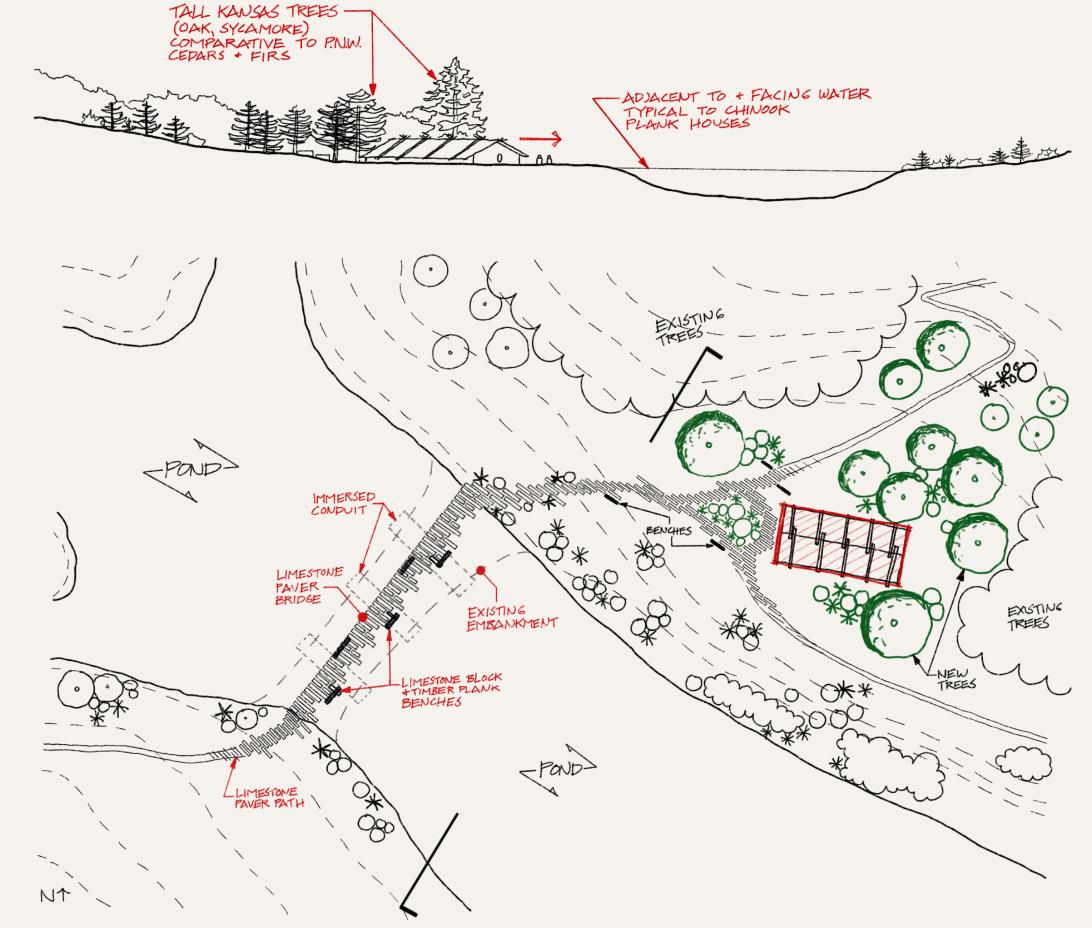
At its core, the building reflects the ethos of vernacular architecture: a design that is deeply informed by and responsive to its environment. Inspired by the Flint Hills' natural forms and materials, the design draws from site-specific elements, such as the existing slope and the geological character of the region, to create a structure that harmonizes with its surroundings. The use of rammed earth walls and cobbled limestone echo the area's natural textures, while timber elements provide a sense of warmth and craftsmanship.

The building welcomes visitors into a space for exploration and learning while extending outward to frame and engage with the surrounding landscape in which visitors will embark upon. This entry building is not only a threshold to a unique architectural collection but also a contemporary expression of the same principles of environmental respect and responsiveness that underpin the vernacular structures it celebrates.



## AB ANBAR SECTION & PLAN

Above and below are two examples of the buildings within this exhibition and their respective site designs. Key to the strategy is a thoughtful integration of the existing topography and ecology. The hiking paths are composed of spaced limestone pavers that allow native grasses to grow between, blending built elements with the natural environment. Each exhibit is situated in a contextually analogous space: The Ab Anbar crowns a hilltop with minimal vegetation, enclosed by a limestone masonry seat wall that reflects both local materials and its original construction. (See Fig. 2)



PLANK HOUSE SECTION & PLAN

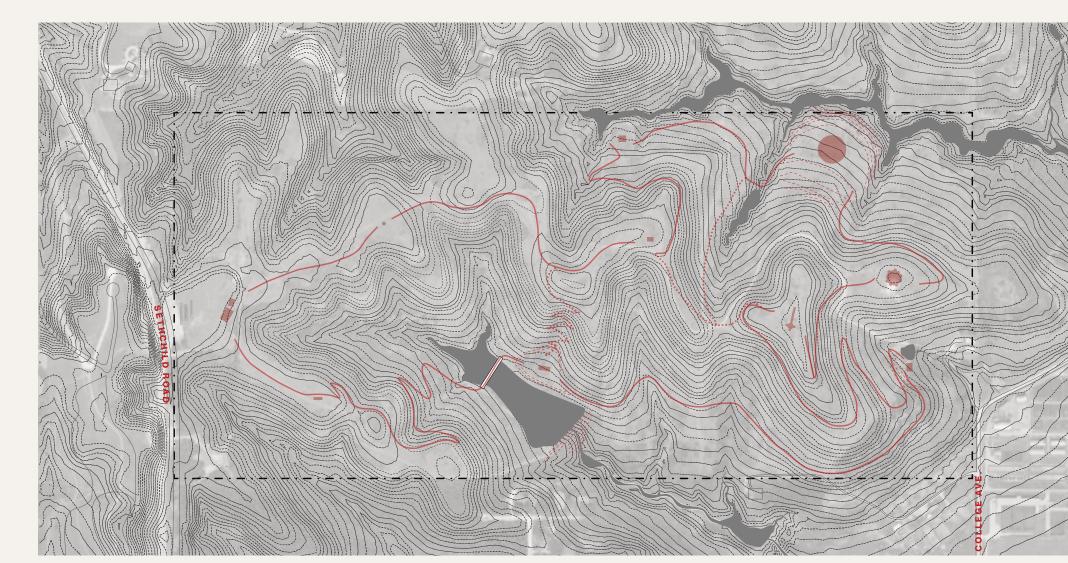
The Chinook Plank House nestles by an expanded pond at the base of a hill, surrounded by native oaks and sycamores to mirror the tall forests of its origin. These interventions balance environmental stewardship with evocative placemaking. Expressive utilization of path, pavers, and existing site is extended to bridge design. (see Fig. 1)



SITE - MANHATTAN, KANSAS

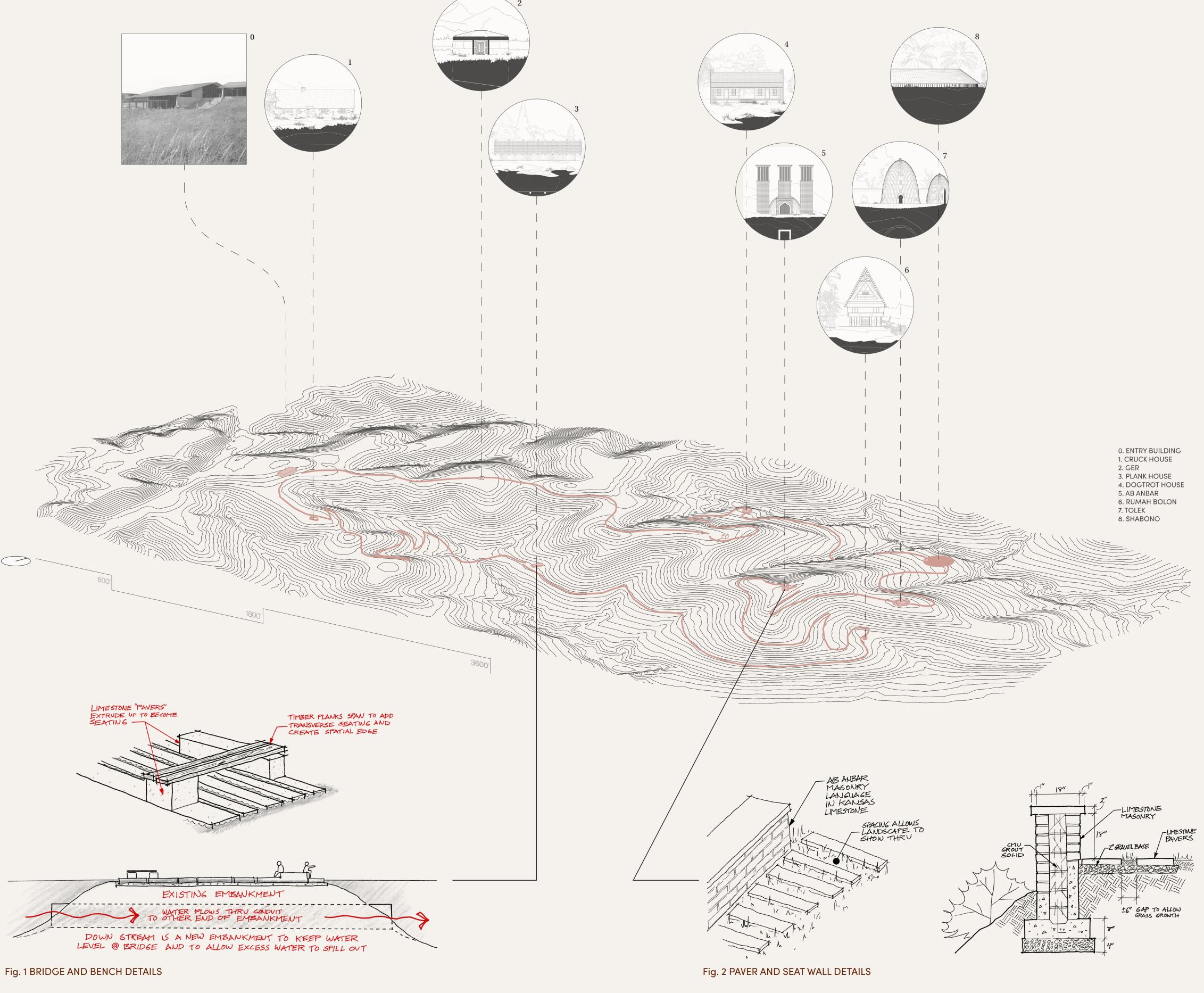
## A NOTE ON SITE AND DESIGN

The Flint Hills, a region of rolling tallgrass prairie, represents one of the most ecologically significant landscapes in North America, known for its unique biodiversity and natural beauty. Manhattan, Kansas, nestled within this region, provides an ideal backdrop for a project dedicated to vernacular architecture, as the area's cultural and environmental history is rich with place-based design. Kansas State University's College of Architecture, Planning & Design brings a wealth of expertise and a commitment to exploring contextually driven design solutions and the university's adjacency ensures that the project is not only an exhibition of global and local architectural traditions but also an educational initiative, promoting dialogue about how architecture can respond to specific environmental and cultural contexts. The site, located on University-owned land near Top of the World Park, was chosen for proximity to the city, its diverse

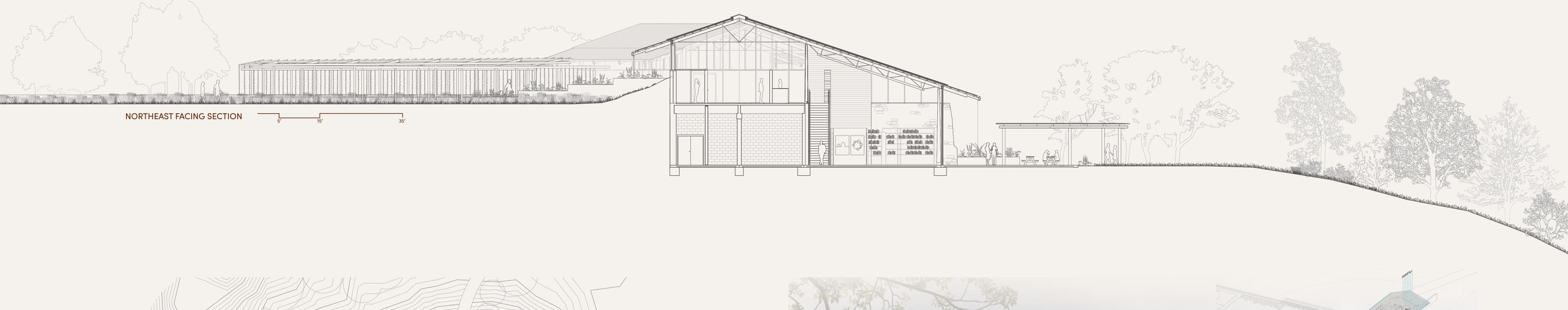


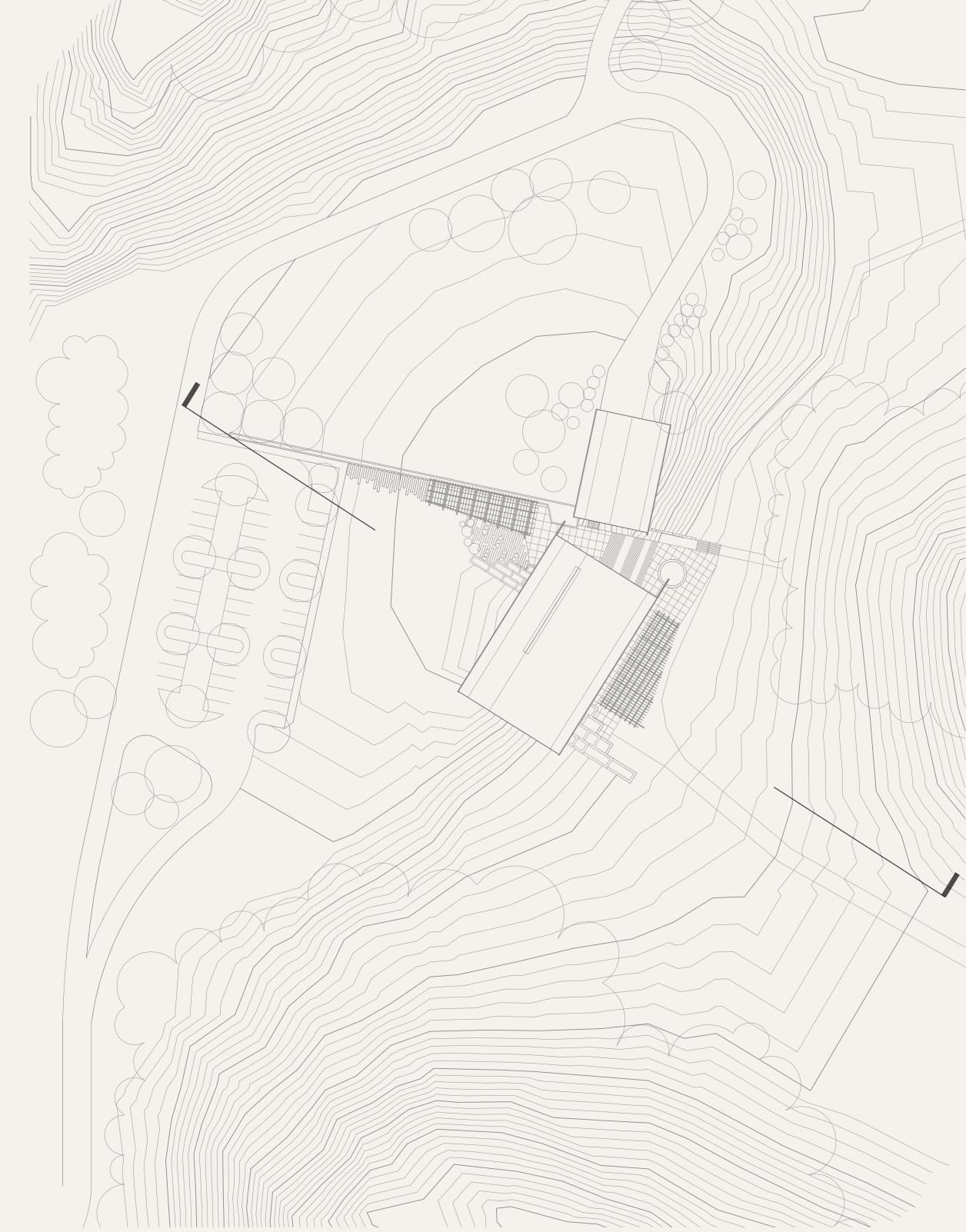
SITE - OUTDOOR BUILDING EXHIBITION

topography, and its ability to reflect the prairie environment, making it a fitting home for a project that bridges global architectural traditions and the unique character of the Flint Hills. The architectural gallery's site design seeks to honor the lessons of vernacular architecture: how structures adapt to their unique climates, landscapes, and cultural needs. This philosophy extends to the site design, which balances the preservation of the Flint Hills' natural beauty with contextual adaptations for each exhibit. Rather than artificially mimicking the buildings' original environments, the design works with the site's inherent qualities to evoke the spatial and environmental essence of each structure while respecting the local ecosystem. The site becomes a dynamic dialogue between global vernacular traditions and the distinctive Kansas landscape, offering visitors a meaningful connection to both.







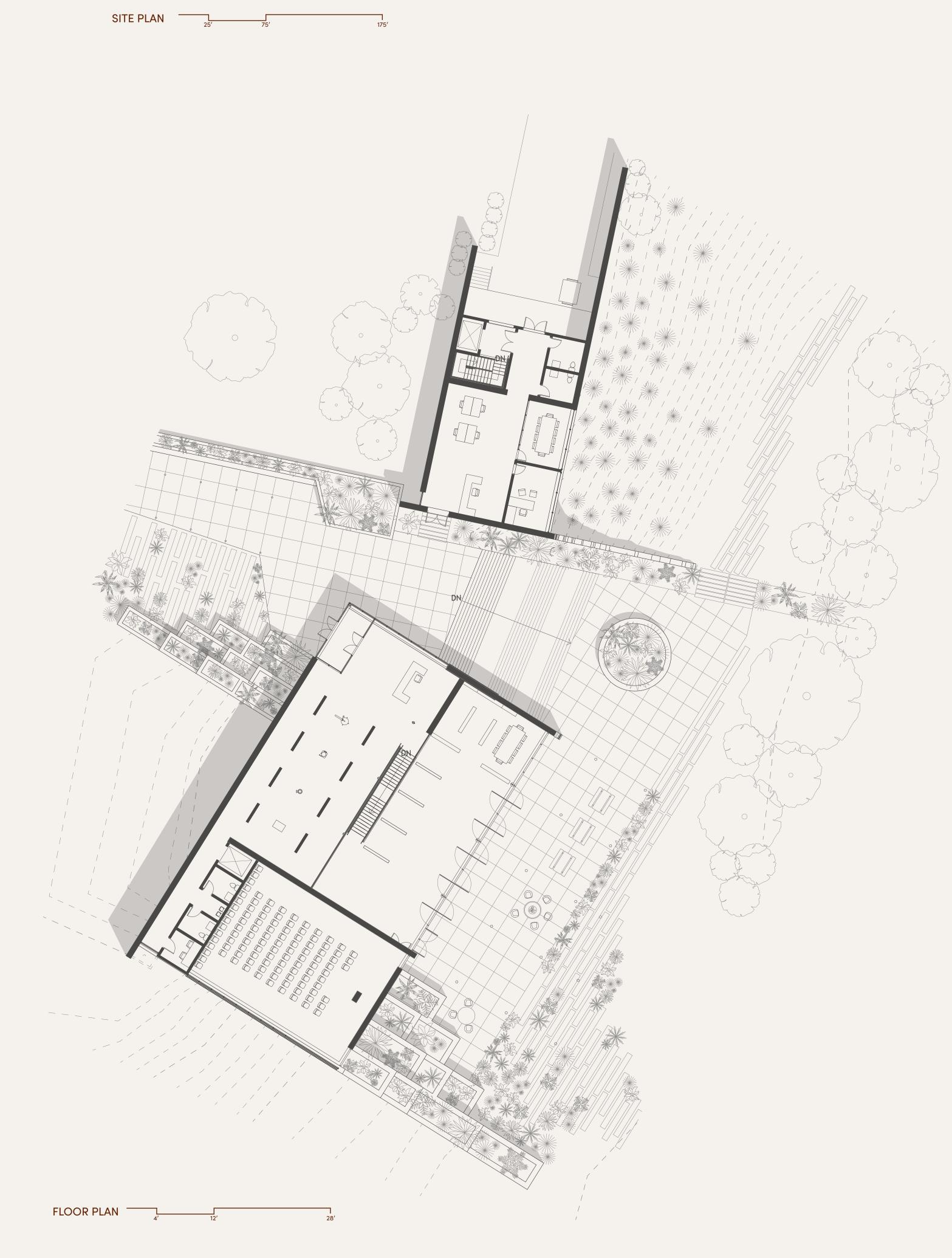


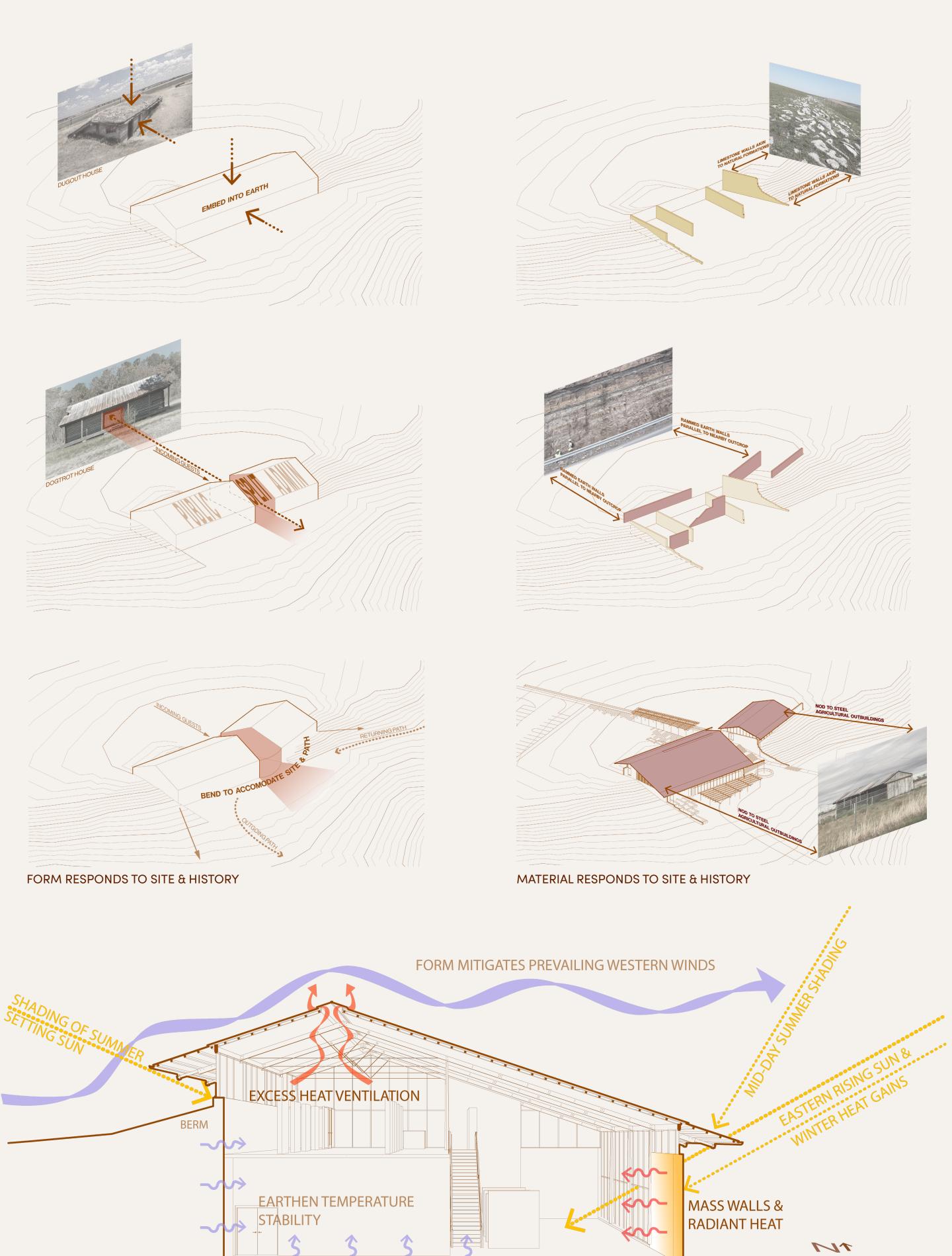


VIEW OF SOUTHERN FACADE



VIEW OF GALLERY





FORM AND MATERIAL RESPONDS TO REGIONAL CLIMATE