Sacred Soil

journeys of the unsuspected modernpilgrim



MastersofArchitecture KendallCollegeofArt&Design

AnneSchnitzenbaume May2016

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### **ABSTRACT**

The importance of faith within the members of society in the United States has been diminishing slowly over the last one hundred years. Although there are pockets of revitalized communities of faithful, more and more Americans now claim no religious affiliation. In the 21st century, the Catholic Church experiences this decline specifically in its youth and young adult populations.

While Catholics still make up the largest religious group in the United States, many have been inadequately taught the doctrines of the faith in their youth and subsequently no longer faithfully practice their faith. Furthermore 88% of Catholics enter the Church and develop through the reception of its seven sacraments throughout their youth and young adult years of life. Yet 80% leave the Catholic faith before the age of 23. If the Church is to grow in the 21st century, a new approach to evangelization needs to reach all peoples and new generations will need to better equip themselves to be ambassadors for the gospel.

The Catholic Church seeks growth in its evangelization efforts and it has begun initiatives to expand the catechesis and sacramental preparation for youth and young adults. A specific teaching method utilized around the world includes immersive retreats. These offer a place to rejuvenate and strengthen communities and can be powerfulteachingtools.

This specific retreat center is a place where groups of young teens can be led on retreat in preparation for the sacrament of confirmation and to build community. It is a place where engaged couples couldbeledinamarriageprepretreat. It also could

be a place of intimate personal retreat or where one could come to discern a religious or priestly vocation. The center's focus is to be an environment that fosters someone's ability to learn, prepare, and engage with the sacraments of the Church, with themselves, and with God. Furthermore, it encourages communal growth leading others to a deeper understanding of their faith and inspires them to pass it onward. Most importantly, this is a place not solely focused on Catholicism but promotes inclusion of the unsuspecting passerby.

In Colorado, Boulder and Denver are attracting the younger millennial generation with their vast natural playground, vibrant cities, and environmentally sensitive culture. Yet their percentages of Catholics by population are low compared to other US dioceses. The existing Boulder and Denver young adult communities are small but vibrant, and they work hard towards connecting with existing high school and university studentgroups. Withadequateresources, waysto connect, and an inspiring place centered within the natural creation, these communities would grow.

This thesis engages the opportunity and potential forhowthedesignofaretreatcentercouldfostera faithstrengtheningexperienceamidanincreasingly secular world. It explores the ways sacred space and a place for retreat can employ material and sensual qualities to develop a renewed sense of community and belonging and enhance one's connection with the environment. Through the principles of approach, engagement, immersion, and nourishment, this retreat center seeks to provide a fresh and authentic response to the responsibility of evangelizing in the 21 stcentury.

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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INTRODUCTION

Committee

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### THECHURCHINTHE21STCENTURY

"In young people is founded the **hope** forthe future of the Church and society. I ask you to intensify your attention toward this special and promising portion of your dioceses. Looking to the future, you must put in the first place the formation of the new generations. Urgent and irreplaceable is the care you must take in announcing Christian truth to youth. Especially through updated, modern, persuasive, and attractive catechesis; the teaching of religion in the schools; sacramental pastoral work conducted in depth, especially in regard to the Eucharist and Penance, for the journey of faith and conversion; in missionary promotion; in the *proposal of a life*thatis distinguished from mediocrity and tends toward the difficult heights of evangelical consistency, because young people are very demanding and will not settle for mediocrity. Particular sectors are also to be considered, so that the evangelization willed by the Synodmightreachallspheresofyouth: lamthinking in particular, about university students, young workers, and those in the military or armed forcesing eneral."

### St.JohnPaullII

Compendium on the New Evangelization 2015, 313

### THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN AMERICA

### THE SITUATION

For an organization that was instituted over two thousand years ago, the Roman Catholic Church has seen its fair share of history – of changing cultures and mainstream ideologies, wars and disputes, internal corruption and reform, discovery of new lands, and the pressures of a secularized world. Yet it has endured through these changes, albeit sometimes more gracefully than others. As the Church enters a new millennia, it finds itself in a position not too dissimilar from periods of its past.

Our ever increasingly secularized culture promotes a rugged individualistic, hyper-sexualized, selfinterested lifestyle. The American culture is a place where death and violence sees more media attention than good will and life. The last 100 years has witnessed the bloodiest years in the history of our world due to war and the rapidly increasing effectiveness and accessibility of weaponry. The Church has experienced new waves of scandal, the effects of which still pervade and affect many who grew up in and around the church or witnessed it through media. While a new continent hasn't been discovered for a few hundred years, our whole world has become radically accessible through the rapid growth of technological advances, which continue to change and reshape how people connect not only to each other but also to the world. The societal pressures upon this age-old institution continue with demands for them to "get with the times" and update their doctrines on marriage, abortion, contraception, and the role of women in the church. All of these factors, combined with the lingering effects the last century brought us, shows that the Church is at odds with the world. Furthermore, it has drastically affected those who identify with the Catholic Church and the religiosity of its people.

In 1990, the late Pope John Paul II exhorted to Catholics that everyone is called – lay and religious alike-to spread the news of the gospel to all peoples. The term the "New Evangelization" was coined; not in a way that meant the message being taught was new in its essence, but the approach in which it is taught needed to be renewed and refreshed. It similarly responds to the lack of effective catechesis in the 20th century and the re-evangelization or reteaching of the faith that needs to occur. The 21st century of the Church ushers in this renewed role of the laity, leading every lay person to the universal call of holiness and to spread the Gospel within a secular society.1 The last 25 years has already seen an influx of lay movements of evangelization that define themselves within the secular sphere rather than under structured ecclesiastical leadership.

One of the larger deficits or challenges the Catholic Church still has is religious education at every level. This is especially true in preparations for the sacraments of confirmation and marriage. When reform of Catholic liturgy happened during the mid 20th century under the Second Vatican Council in 1965, many within the Church took personal liberties at editing or reinterpreting Church doctrine or teachings that were not in fact aligned with the Vatican. This in conjunction with the social movements in the secular society of America in the 1960s and 70s, led to many baptized Catholics being poorly taught the doctrines of the faith. This had an important effect on Catholicism in America. It takes only one generation from inadequate adult catechesis to non-church attendance, and then it only takes one more generation from non-church attendance to unbelief. The result: a series of generations that have lost connection with the visceral teachings of the Church and the inquisitional drive to seek truth.2

<sup>1</sup> Compendium on the new evangelization 2015

<sup>2</sup> Smith, Longest, Hill, Christofferson 2014

### THE YOUNG CHURCH

At the heart of this situation are the hearts of youth. While some people may grow up with a familial connection to the Church, most find themselves lost as they reach young adulthood as to what the Church really teaches and why. 84% of Catholics enter the Church as infants through Baptism, a choice made by their parents to commit to raising their children in the faith, 7% of Catholics are received into the Church as adults, 48% of which do so between the ages of 18 and 29. That results in about 88% of Catholic entering the Church and developing spiritually through the reception of its seven sacraments throughout their youth and young adult years of life. Yet 80% leave the Catholic faith before the age of 23.3 This points to a key relationship between sacramental preparation and long term retention. If the Church is to grow and flourish in the 21st century, a new approach to catechesis and evangelization needs to reach all peoples, but those already particularly within the Church's educational influence. Furthermore, new generations will need to become better equipped to be ambassadors for the gospel and examples within their workplaces, homes, and families.

3 Gray, Perl 2008

### Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Church







7-8 years





12-15 years





young adult- adult



varies



88% of Catholics enter the Church and are spiritually formed through reception of 7 sacraments in their youth and young adult years of life



80% of those who leave the Catholic faith do so by the age of 23

### RETREAT

Retreats are important as they provide a time of rejuvenation, a time of rest for the mind, for the body, and for the soul. These are all elements sought after in people's daily lives but are found hardtoachieve. They psychologically are goodfora person's well being. It is a time of pause, one that causes a higher degree of interior introspection and contemplation. In the current society of instant information, people experience information overload daily. Physical environments impact our capacity in restoring attention functioning. If environments can restore attention and refocus the mind, these same environments can foster restfor the soul. Upon achieving this, an individual's heart and mind can be come more opentogrowth.

A special place set apart from the normal throws of life allows for a removal of daily life distractions and opens the mind to breathe. Even the most disciplined or intelligent person can become stagnant and need a new place, new scenery. An example of this is Dr. Jonas Salk, the inventor of the polio vaccine. After feeling burnt out on research, he decided to go away on retreat to the basilica in Assisi to rest, rejuvenate, and reflect. He attributed his time away and in such an exquisite architectural setting with eventually helping him make the intellectual breakthrough. <sup>3</sup>

1 Sullivan2015

TakingalookwithintheChurchasamodeloflearning and growth, HolyScripture points us to Jesus Christ. Evenhecompelledhisdisciplestoretreatandsolitude in order to rejuvenate their minds and bodies. "He [Christ] said to them, 'Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.'" (Mark 6:31) Stepping out into nature, into a natural setting of beauty, it allows for a new poverty of worldly cares to exist.

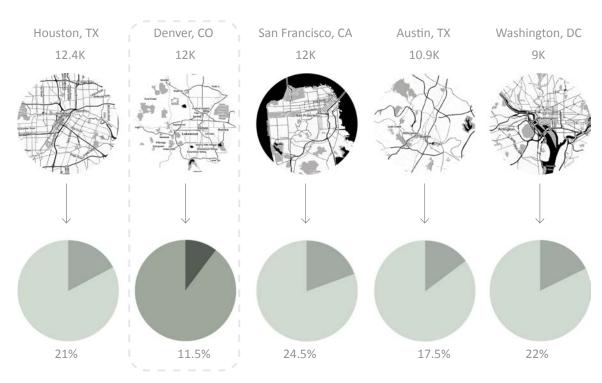
Complimentarytothisimageryistheclassicalmilitary definition of retreat which is this: to leave the front, return to your own people, and then once healed and restored, re-enter into battle again. This mental image is a clear example of a response to the need presented in the situation: our world is a battlefield of distraction, busyness, power struggles, violence, oversexualization, and more. For a young person to leave their sports teams, video games, annoying siblings, jobs, homework, and internet to trade for a weekend long retreat - the removal of those distractions will open up opportunities for internal growth. Providing great spaces for community building also allows for re-lationships to build with others and a support network to flourish. In this example, it is accurate to portray the Church – and more specifically this retreat center – as a field hospital. It is a place that fosters healing, safety, challenges, and support throughout change. A well designed and well crafted environment can enrich a person's neurological experience of space, of the place in which they are, better relate to othersandtotheirowninteriorlife.



<sup>2</sup> Sullivan2015

<sup>3</sup> Eberhard2015

### **LOCATIONSTATISTICS**



Top 5 cities showing population growth of Millenials since 2010

Percentage of Catholics by population

### WHY COLORADO & WHY ARCHDIOCESE OF DENVER?

Denver is among the leading cities attracting the younger Millennial generation<sup>1</sup> yet their percentage of Catholics by population is on the lower end compared with otherUnitedStatesdioceses. <sup>2</sup>

The Archdiocese of Denver is home to growing and vibrant groups of youth and young adults as well as flourishing new nationally known institutions such as the Augustine Institute and the Fellowship of Catholic UniversityStudents.

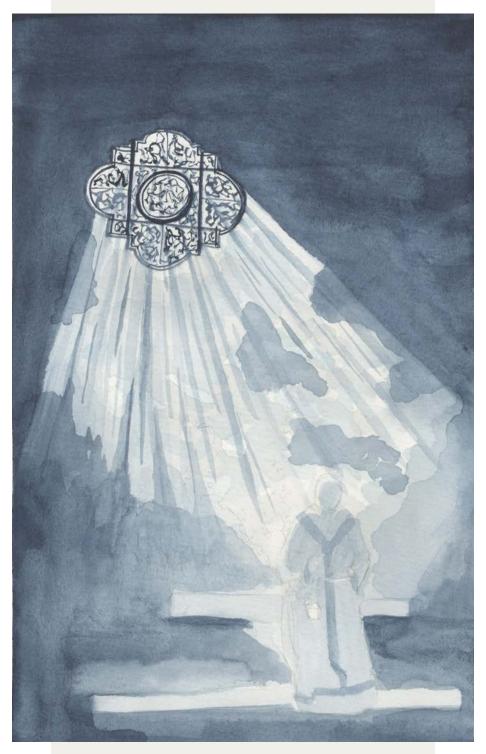
Colorado is a naturally beautiful areawithadiversityoflakesand topographychanges, sereneand set apart from the hectic lives of the average everyday person. It is a great outdoor playground in allseasons.

<sup>1 (</sup>Stewart 2015)

<sup>2 (</sup>Cheney 2015)

# **HISTORICALANALYSIS**

the development of Catholic sacred spaces



Sacred | A. Schnitzenbaumer

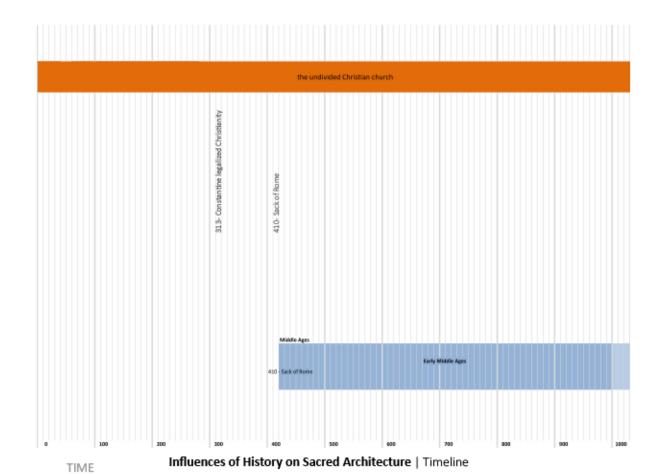
### THE EARLY CHURCH

30-300 A.D.

### A GATHERING SPACE

The infancy of the Christian Church was a time full of persecution and trials, yet tremendous growth. Although Romans were adamant about hindering the Christians' ability to gather together in community, gather they did in small private homes or in underground catacombs.<sup>1</sup>

1 Kilde 2008, 18-33



14

### CONSTANTINE

### 300-700 A.D.

### PROCESSIONAL ARCHITECTURE

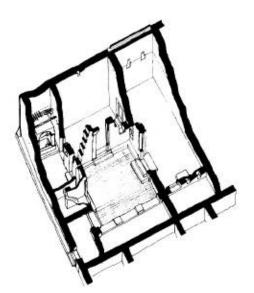
In 313 AD Constantine legalized Christianity and became the first major patron of large, Christian churches. He structured these buildings off of the imperial Roman Basilicas as it was associated with dignity, it was imperial in concept, & the dominance among its surrounding buildings set it distinctly apart.

The location of where the emperor was known to sit became the place of the tabernacle and the

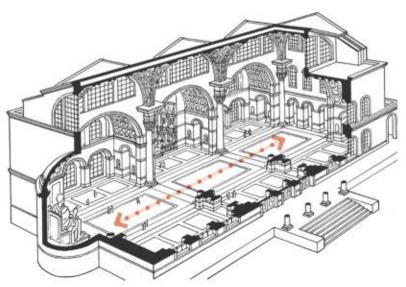
altar, signifying with symbolism the importance of the Christian doctrine of the Eucharist which taught Christ's presence body, blood, soul, and divinity.<sup>1</sup>

This processional architecture of colonnaded naves and apsed sanctuaries set an important precedent of an archetypal vocabulary adopted by Christian sacred spaces that has pervaded each architectural period after it and is continued into the present day.

1 Kilde 2008, 39



Early Church | Example of a House Church Figure 15.1



Constantine | Basilica of Macentius Figure 15.2

### 1000-1180A.D.

### **DAWNOFTHEPILGRIMAGE**

In the 11th & 12th centuries many people began to travel in large numbers as traders, soldiers, and groups of Christians on pilgrimages.

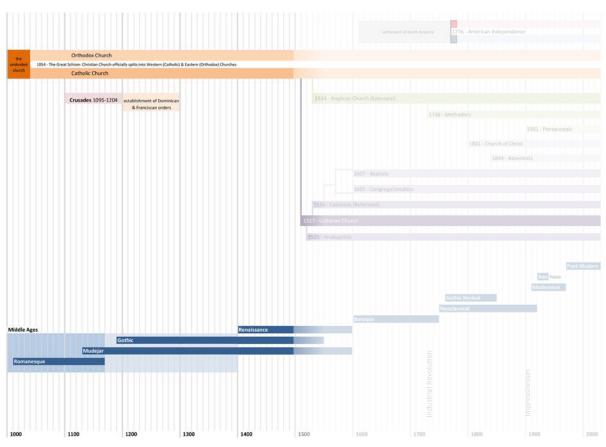
Churches began to be epicenters within towns and larger in scale so as to be easily spotted from a distance.

To accommodate the faithful and instruct them in Church doctrine, many new churches along highly traveled routes were built with grand altars, and

a magnitude of sculptures and paintings on the walls to illustrate important religious stories and doctrines.

To capitalize on the ways of the pilgrim, many Romanesque churches developed side aisles and apses with radiating side chapels for the pilgrim to process through the church, viewing everything withinit. <sup>1</sup>

### 1 Stokstad2005,516



**Influences of History on Sacred Architecture** | Timeline

TIME

### MEDIEVAL GOTHIC

### 1200-1500 A.D.

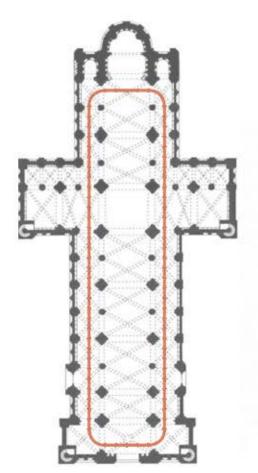
### **DIVINE LUMINOSITY & THE STORY OF STAINED GLASS**

Towns and cities saw significant growth as urban centers and stimulated intellectual life and great centers of artistic patronage.

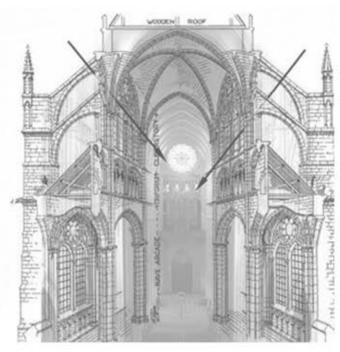
Romanesque architecture was adapted to reflect this concept of divine luminosity into the walls of the church. This led to soaring vertical heights and large expanses of stained glass. This offered a greater chance to tell the story of Christ and the early Christians through the medium of colored glass. People still recognize they are affected by the soaring heights of these structures paired with the beauty of its acoustics and its fostering of a phenomenology of light.

Due to political events, primarily the crusades, of the 12th & 13th centuries and the destruction of fires, a boom of church building took place.<sup>1</sup>

1 Stokstad 2005, 556



Romanesque | Durham Cathedral Figure 17.1



Gothic | Amiens Cathedral Figure 17.2

### 1400-1600 A.D.

### IMPORTANCE OF THRESHOLD

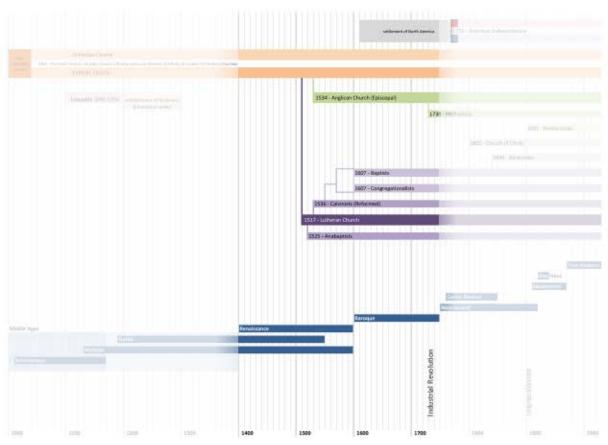
The Renaissance ushered in the introduction of printing, a substantial growth within cities, and a culture embracing a rapid secularization. It's architecture returns to a classical influence with an added emphasis to the design of facades.

Important since they are multifaceted in their function and role for sacred architecture, facades

should invite the visitor in, inform or tell a story about the place, and act as a threshold between the world and the sacred.

Churches, such as the Church of San' Andrea, develop depth to their facades, increasing it's role as a threshold from outside to inside. <sup>1</sup>

1 Kilde 2008



Influences of History on Sacred Architecture | Timeline

TIME

### 1600-1750 A.D.

### RE-EMPHASIS ON APPROACH

In response to the Protestant Reformation of the early 16th century, the Roman Catholic Church embarked on a program of renewal that became known as the Counter-Reformation.

During this time, the Church employed the use of art to encourage piety among the faithful and to persuade those who left the Church to return.

The opulent taste and spectacular visual effects aimed to heighten the emotional involvement of worshipers.<sup>1</sup>

Counter-Reformation art was intended to be both doctrinally correct and visually and emotionally appealing so that it could influence the largest possible audience. The growing use of baldachinos, or a large sculptural canopy located above the altar, was employed to emphasize the doctrine of the Eucharist.<sup>2</sup>

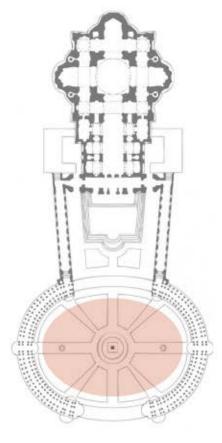
Along with the undulating facades and ornamentation, the emphasis on approach toward the church and developing plazas outside the entry grew in importance.

1 Stokstad 2005, 619

2 (Kilde 2008, 91)



Renaissance | Church of San Andrea Figure 19.1



Baroque | St. Peter's Basilica square Figure 19.2

ROOTS OF CHRISTIANITY

### 1750-1920 A.D.

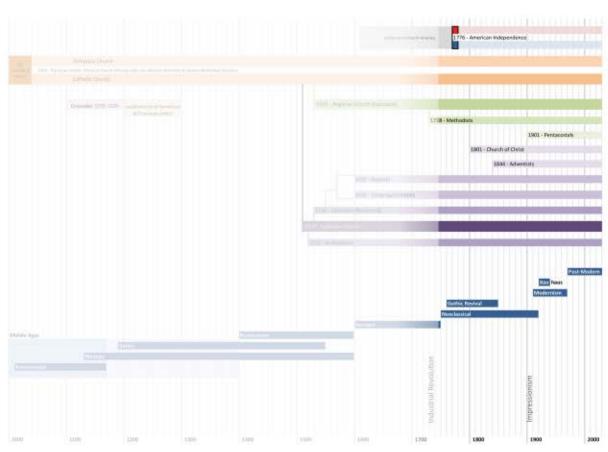
### OLD FORMS, NEW PLACES

A revival of the classical orders in Neoclassical and Gothic Revival occurs as an influence of colonizing nations seek to spread their faiths in the "New World".

In earnest attempts at legitimizing their roots and latching on to the beauty and splendor of the older orders of architecture, many new churches were built in America to remind immigrants where their roots stemmed from.

The Protestant and Catholic churches really begin to impacting each other. The meetinghouse and auditorium plans developed in colonial America end up further impact the design of Catholic churches, eventually leading to deviations from the basilica plan.<sup>1</sup>

### 1 Chiat 2004



Influences of History on Sacred Architecture | Timeline

TIME

### 20thCENTURY

### 1900-2000A.D.

### **BIRTHOFMODERNISM**

1

The 20th century witnessed the birth of modernism and a search for a new architectural vocabulary as a response to the rigidity of the 19th century and the Victorian era. It also was a booming age of new technologies and new ways to utilize building materials.

Reforms in liturgical practices come about in many ways throughout this time period. A movement began in the early 20th century to remove the kitsch statues and "distracting" ornamentation so as to allow worshippers to be more focused on the Eucharistic sacrifice of the mass. Much like the Reformers of the 16th century it was believed by removing these extraneous things, people could find more focus in the purity of space.1

Early modernists, like Le Corbusier, while drastically changing the appearance of the Christian church, still retains the depth and richness of important ecclesiastical architectural elements.

With another wave of drastic social change and increasing secularization of society, reinterpretations of Christian sacred spaces are made, heavily diversifying the landscape of church design.

# McDannell1995,171

Revival | St. Joseph's Church, Detroit, MI Figure 21.1

**Modern** | NotreDameduHautchapel Figure 21.2

### **SACREDSPACESTUDIES**

### learningcommonelementsofsacred

### **SEQUENCINGOFSPACES**

The sequencing of spaces is important two-fold. First, it is a way the architecture can give cues to the visitor that they are entering a different kind of space, and one that requires contemplation and introspection. Second, this allows for varying functions of size, scale, or social items to happen within the greater context of the space. Ordered architecturalelementsdirectyourgaze. <sup>1</sup>

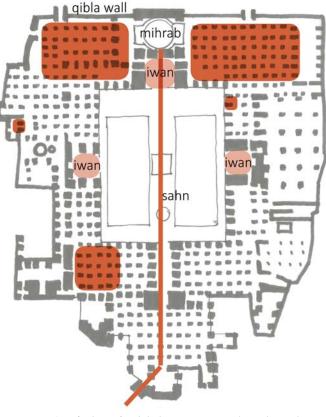
### **QUALITATIVEVSQUANTITATIVE**

Thesacredspacesofmanymajorreligionsevidence a common importance given to the physical experience of the space and how that affects a person.

### 1 Mohebbi2015



**Muslim** | Qibla wall in Vakil Shiraz Mosque Figure 22.1



**Muslim** | plan of Vakil Shiraz Mosque describing the sequencing of spaces & sense of approach

QUALITATIVE	QUANTITATIVE				
warmth	light				
richness	proportion				
transcendence	ratio				
harmony	symmetry				
fullofawe	edges				
reverence	scale				
contemplative	sound				















Catholic | St. Laud

Catholic | St. Ignatius

**Protestant** | LaGrave Figure 23.1

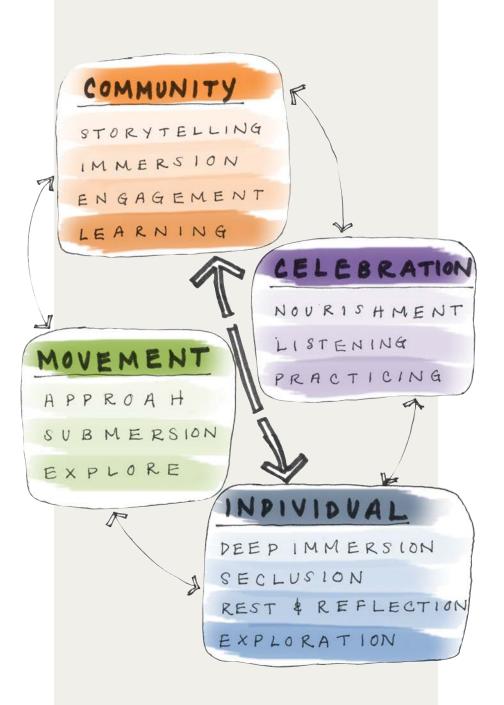
**Mosque** | Vakil Shiraz **Synagogue** | OrchardSt.

### A STUDY OF OVERLAPPING ARCHITECTURAL PROGRAMMATIC FUNCTIONS

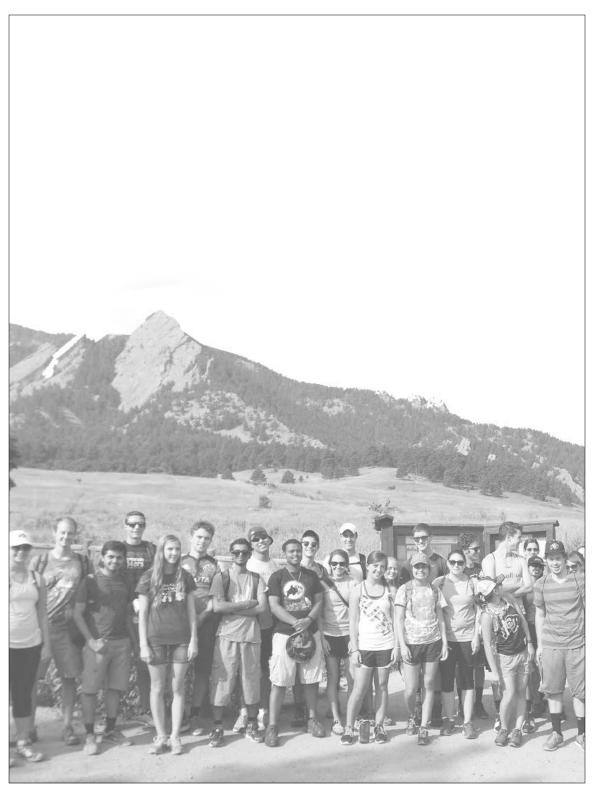
	Catholic Church	Protestant	Mosque	Synagogue
directional focus	altar	altar/stage	mihrab	ark
element containing important sacred item	tabernacle		qibla	aron hakodesh
architecturale element signifying importance	baldacchino		maqsurah	rabbis seat
proclamation of sacred scriptures or messages	ambo	pulpit	dikka	bimah
main funcion of space	nave & transept	sanctuary	prayer hall	sanctuary
place for side chapels	apse & ambulatory			
penitential thought	confessional		sacred corners	
place of preparation for spiritual leaders	sacristy			
entrance into sacred space	narthex	narthex	patio/courtyard	lobby
	vestibule		iwan	
water for ritual washing/symbolic of washing	baptismal font	baptismal pool	sahn	
ritual supported by art/architectural element	stations of the cross			
	choir loft	choir		
	crucifix	cross		
visual focal point & used for the call to prayer	bell tower	steeple	minaret	
dome/cupola/ornamented vaulting	dome/cupola		muqarnas	

## PEOPLE, PROGRAM, & PRINCIPLES

thedevelopmentofCatholicsacredspaces



**Schematic Programming** | relationships between qualities of space



 $\begin{tabular}{ll} \textbf{People} & | & \textbf{University students gathered at the base of the Chautauqua Trailhead} \\ & & \textbf{Figure 26.1} \\ \end{tabular}$ 

### **PEOPLE**

The location of this retreat center is within the foothills of the Flatiron Mountain range in a section  $of public landowned by the {\it Cityof Boulder within}$ their Open Space and Mountain Parks land area. This location provides a great opportunity to utilize the well-maintained pre-existing trail systems that are well populated by Boulder citizens, visitors, and outdoorenthusiasts. Asthisretreatcenteris focused towards promoting and enriching spiritual growth and understanding of the Catholic faith, this is a place open to the engagement of all people: young and old, rich and poor alike, from the passer by to the intentional seeker. Specifically addressing both the deficit in effective sacramental preparation and catechesis of the Church's young adult populations, thefocalpeoplegroup of this retreat center is the youth and young adult populations.

As mentioned previously, the Archdiocese of Denver has become a growing epicenter for many various organizations that began in the last twenty years with the focus of engaging in the call set for by Pope John Paul II for a New Evangelization. The Archdiocese's primary retreat center, Camp Malo, suffered incredible damage to its facilities due to a large fire in 2011 and a landslide in 2013 causing it to close its doors. <sup>1</sup>Since then, not only has the Archdiocese been in need of a new retreat center but these emerging new flourishing organizations need a place to bring not only their staff for training and foundational faith development but the young adult populations which they serve.

FOCUS – the Fellowship of Catholic University Students – is a growing national and international

organization based out of the Archdiocese of Denver which trains and leads many college students throughout the country to grow more in their understanding of the Catholic faith faith. The Augustine Institute is a new college founded in 2005, also in response to the New Evangelization and they offer a variety of degree programs for faithministersaswellasclassesandmanylectures accessible for the education and access by the laity.<sup>3</sup> In Boulder and located within a mile of the location of this retreat center is the Catholic university student group for the University of Colorado Boulder called Buffalo Catholic. This retreat center allows access to each of these organizations to a premier location nestled within their beloved mountain range to lead, engage, and participate in personalandgroupretreats.

This specific retreat center is a place where groups of young teens can be led on retreat in preparation for the sacrament of confirmation and to build community. It is a place where engaged couples couldbeledinamarriageprepretreat.Italsocould be a place of intimate personal retreat or where one could come to discern a religious or priestly vocation. The center's focus is to be an environment that fosters someone's ability to learn, prepare, and engage with the sacraments of the Church, with themselves, and with God. Furthermore, it encourages communal growth leading others to a deeper understanding of their faith and inspires them to pass it onward. Most importantly, this is a place not solely focused on Catholicism but promotes inclusion of the unsuspecting passerby.

Filby 2014

1

2 FOCUS 2016

3 Augustine Institute 2015









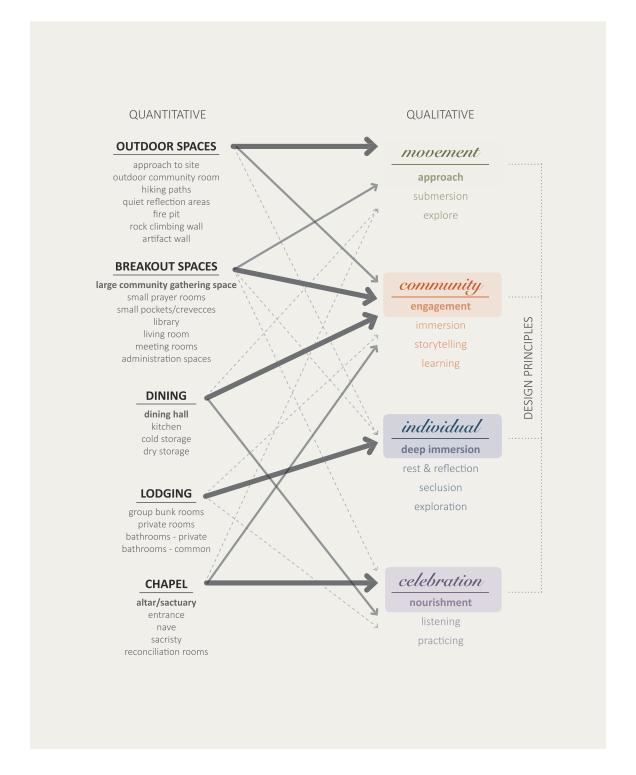






**Stakeholders** | Organizations based within Boulder and Denver and have regional and national reaches. Figure 27.1

### **PROGRAMRELATIONSHIPS**



### **DESIGNPRINCIPLES**



### **APPROACH**

The approach will provide a sense of anticipation by creating vistas, respite, and curious mystery. It will communicate a sense of arrival and a reflection of yourjourney.



### **ENGAGEMENT**

The site's landscape naturally engages the person, yet this project will capitalize on the natural beauty of the land, intrigue the passerby through occupying the public realm, attract someone through wonder and be inclusive of all people.



### **IMMERSION**

The immersive experience begins at the base of the Flatiron Mountains and continues as someone begins the ascent of trails before them. A place set apart allowing for moments of solitude, reflection, sacramental celebration, and an immersion of sensoryengagementandthenaturalenvironment. The immersion brings on physical, mental, and spiritual challenges allowing one to experience growth.



### **NOURISHMENT**

Nourishment is targeted towards rejuvenating and challenging the body, mind, and spirit.

This center will serve the needs of bodily nourishment through food, areas for rest, relaxation, and engaging exercise. It serves the needs of mental nourishment through removing a person from their daily life and placed in community with fellow retreatants to learn and grow. It serves the needs of spiritual nourishment through provisions of the sacraments and spaces to grow in fellowship, individual introspection and contemplation.

# PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

Number of participants	60						
		SF per		COMMUNITY			
PROGRAMMED SPACE	# of people	person/space	TOTAL SF	storytelling	immersion	engagement	learning
Breakout Spaces							
1 large group community gathering space	60	15	900				1
2 small prayer room	10	10	200				
places for individual time -							
8 pockets/crevecces		70	560				
1 library	-	10.00	250				
1 living room	30	20	600				
5 meeting rooms	7	10	350				
administration spaces	2	80	160				
Chapel							
entrance							
narthex	75	11	825				
altar/sanctuary	18,75	20.5	200				
sacristy			150				
2 reconciliation rooms	2	40	160				
Lodging							
5 group bunk rooms (sleeps 8)	40	250	1,250				
10 private room (sleeps 2)	20	200	2,000				
10 bathrooms - private	20	70	700				
bathrooms - common	50	20	1,000				
Dining							
1 dining hall	65	15	975				
1 kitchen	60	7.5	450				
storage - walk-in fridge, dish storage,							
dry storage			260				
Outdoor Spaces							
approach to site							
1 outdoor community room	25	20	500				
hiking paths			existing				
quiet reflection areas	4		aniseing.				
- interventions along a path	•						
fire pit			600				
rock climbing wall	•		150				
NET SQUARE FEET (NSF)			10,990				
grossing factor		0.5	5,495				
GROSS SQUARE FEET (GSF)			16,485				
			100000000000000000000000000000000000000				

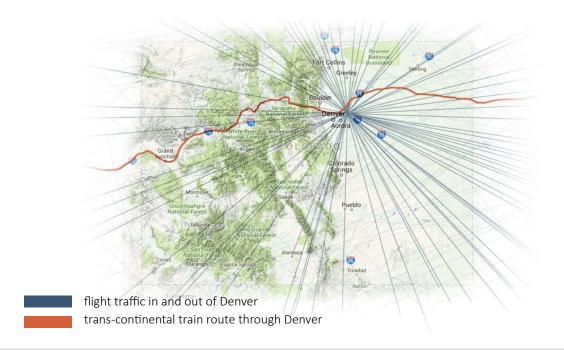
### **KEY QUALITATIVE ATTRIBUTES OF SPACE**

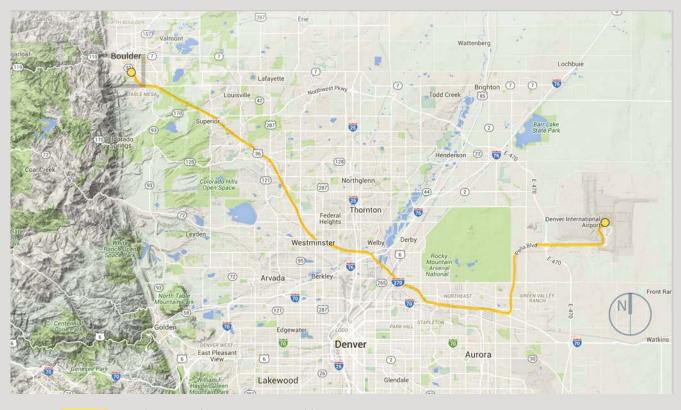


# **STRUCTUREOFLANDSCAPE**



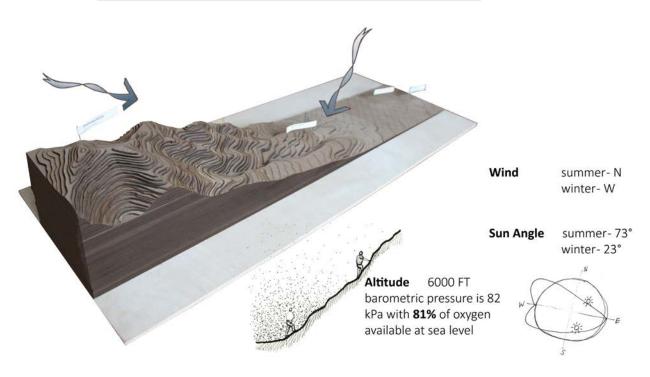
# LOCATION

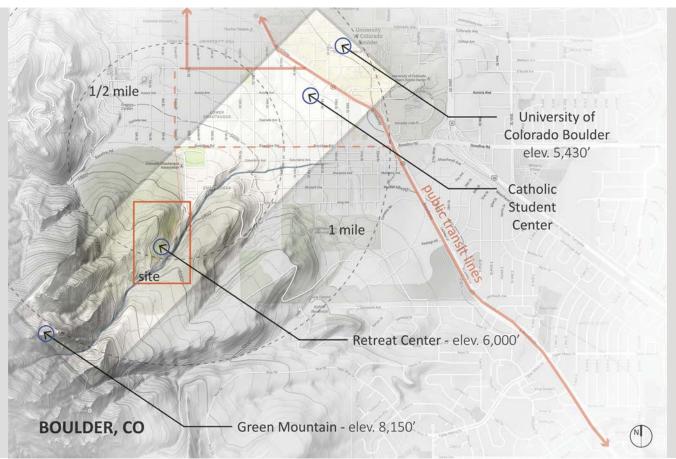




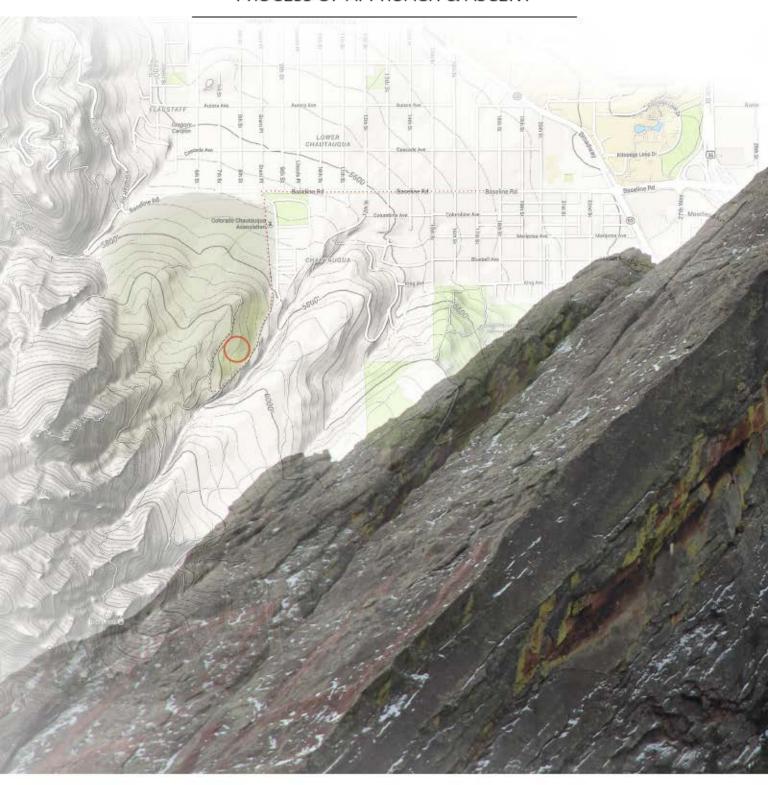
RTD bus route from Denver to Boulder

## **ANALYSIS**





# PROCESS OF APPROACH & ASCENT





aneighborhoodofhighendhomes reachingtowardstheoutskirtsoftown theinclineeverincreasing asyoucomeupon

the Flatirons the culmination of your view fromthecity, visible theirmystery, invisible

myeyes,mybody, drawn forwardtothemountains mypointofreference

witheachstepforward youareonestepremoved onestephigher onebreathshorter

yourlungsaskforreprieve, leg muscles tire buttheheartquickenswithexcitement as the journey continues

theairafreshwithscentsof removal,ofnature the sounds of which softly sift through the trees

new elevation, senses heightened alookoveryourshoulder clearviewoffromwhereyoucame reflection, arrival.



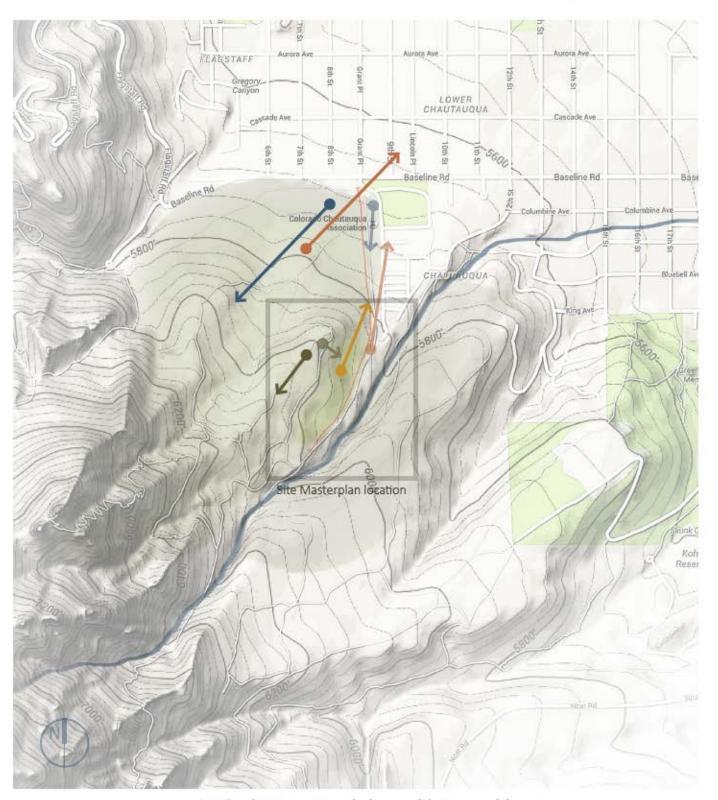
# experiential site section along Bluebell Road

The approach will provide a sense of anticipation by creating vistas, respite, and curious mystery. It will communicate a sense of arrival and a reflection of your journey.

mountain 
$$\longleftrightarrow$$
 city



# **ENVIRONMENTAL CONTEXT**



Site Ethos | Site area map with photograph locations and directions







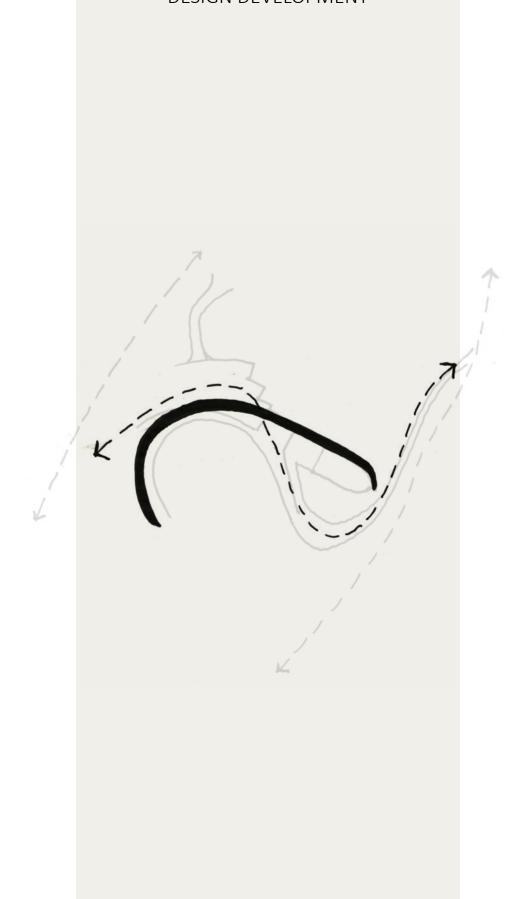








# DESIGN DEVELOPMENT



# SITEPLAN



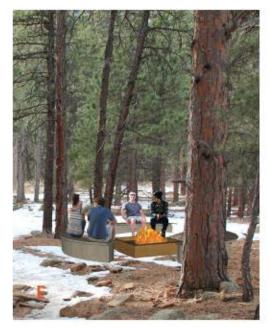
#### **EVENT TERRITORIES**

#### **ENGAGEMENT & PATH**

The location of the site was aimed towards the ability to leverage the public realm with a goal of developing various touch points allowing some element of inclusion for all passing by. There are multiple entry points, but the primary one (A) takes you along a snaking pathway the both dives into and submerges itself into the landscape before bringing you upward and to an opening that reveals a pristine view of the mountains. At this similar area, a kinetic memory wall (B) leads you up the earthen ramp towards the main entrance (C). The concept of the memory wall was to allow people to leave an imprint onto a place which hopefully impacted them. Further up the Bluebell Road path, if you turned back around from the direction you came from, you would have this view (D). Further along the upper Bluebell Spur and Mesa trails is a rustic outdoor chapel space overlooking the city of Boulder as well as an outdoor firepit nestled near a path.







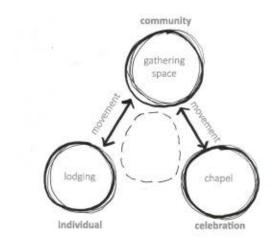




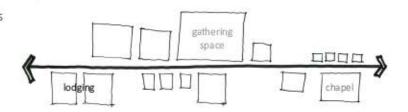
# PARTI DEVELOPMENT

The building's program is linked with four qualitative attributes:

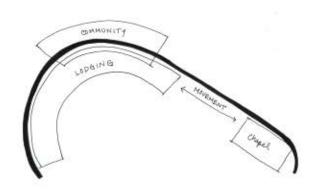
MOVEMENT INDIVIDUAL COMMUNITY CELEBRATION

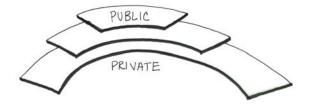


The functions are organized along a main axis to reinforce journeying along a path.

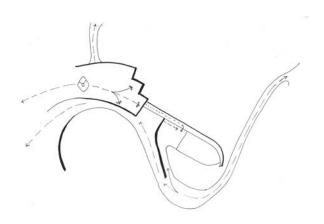


The central axis becomes a heavy rammed earth wall creating a clear path of circulation & intriguing sense of journey.





To optimize the topography of the site, the program was then layered in three tiers: private, semi-private, & public. A central core of community spacelinks the three of these layers together.



The building is then nestled into the landscape creating views back to the city & to the mountains. Furthermore, the earth begins to ramp up & into the building, allowing the retreat center to become one with the path.



The heavy rammed earth wall signifies the rich foundation of tradition in the Church and the embodied experience we can have with itshistory.

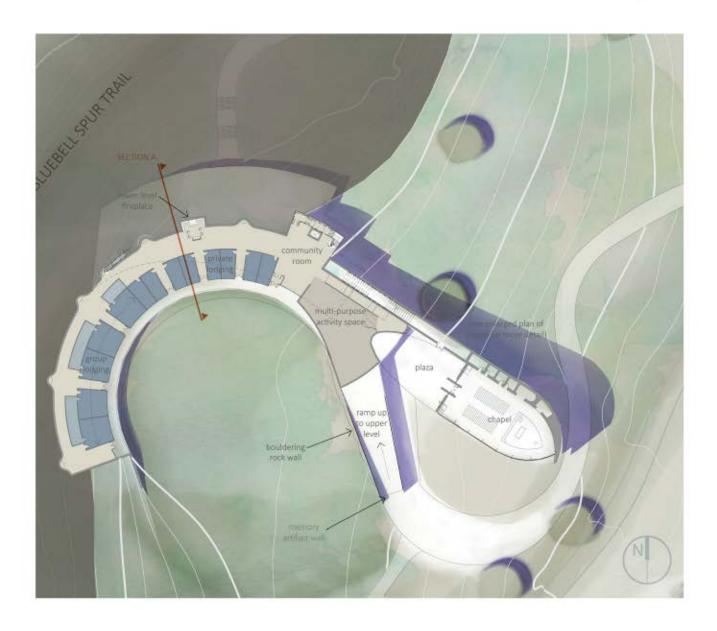


View F | Vista from Bluebell Spur Trail looking north-northeast towards the retreat center with the view of Boulder, Colorado in the distance.



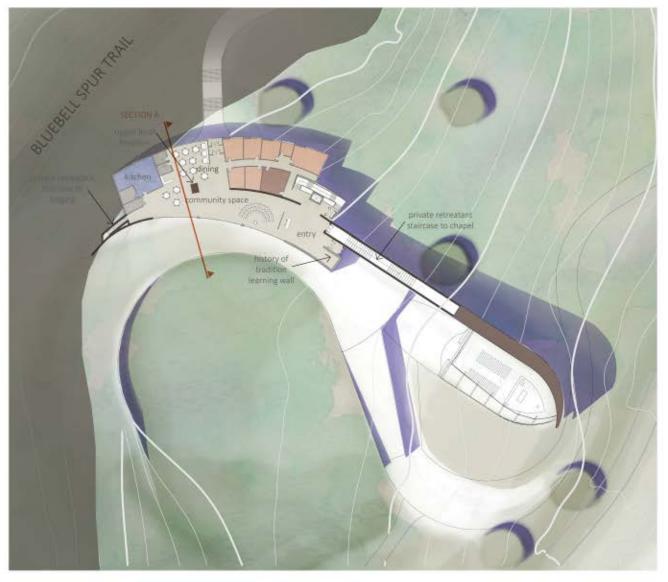
# LOWER LEVEL PLAN

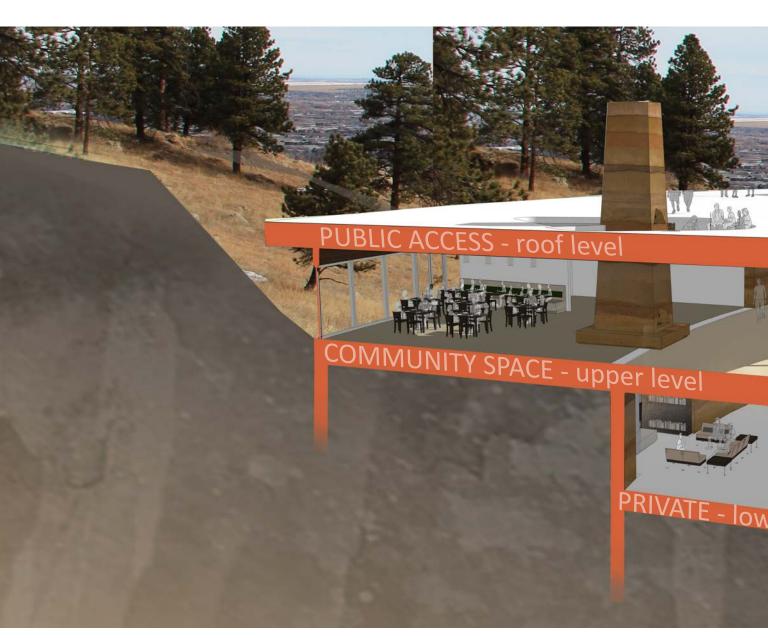
# circulation & community space lodging- group rooms & private rooms private bathrooms kitchen meeting rooms administration



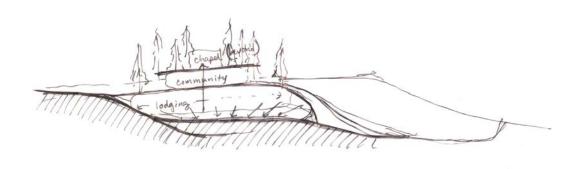
# UPPER LEVEL PLAN







**Section A**|Buildingcutshowsthewaytheretreatcenterwasnestledintothelandscapeandhowthethree community spaces- private, community, & public- are stacked upon each other and linked spatially with gathered seating opportunities and fireplaces on each level.





The upper level's deck area directs views back towards the Flatiron mountains while the roof deck level provides360viewsspanningfromthecitytothemountains.

## **RENDERINGS**



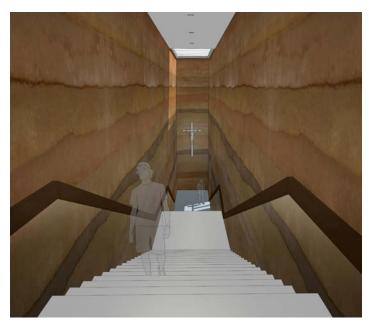
**FireplaceandLibrary** | Asyoutraversethelowerleveltogettoyourlodgingroomsorto make your way to the chapel, a fireplace and library nook nestled within the earthen wall compels small groups to take a seat and rest while building community.



**BoulderingWall** | Awholewalldedicatedtooutdoorplayandadventureexistsonthe protectedwestsideoftheentranceramp. Asaplacethatopensoutontotheshared multipurpose open green space, it acts as a catalyst for fun and is an intriguing element for those hiking on the trails above.



**WallNichesofSaints** | Alongtheearthenwallthereareafewnichesthatexisttodepict the lives of vivacious and lively saints. It is a way for youth to be inspired by other holy people and to deepen the connection of the whole body of Christ.



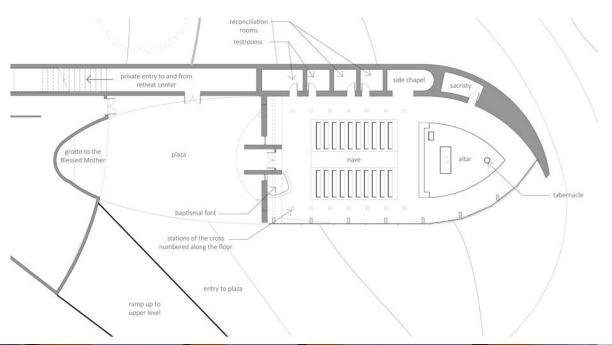
**HiddenStaircases** | Therearetwosecretstaircasesmadepredominantlyfortheexclusive use of retreat participants. This stairway allows you to walk the embodied expiernce withintheearthenwallfromthecommunityspaceonthemainleveltothechapel.

### **CHAPELPLAN**

The chapelengages a dialogue between earth and sky, between the secular and the sacred, between things created by man and things created by God. The design of the retreat center and chapel reflects this intricate relationship between earth and sky. The project is situated along a path, yet becomes part of the path in and of itself. The heavy rammed earth wall signifies the rich foundation of tradition in the Church and the embodied experience we can have within it. It guides a person's journey throughout the whole retreat center. Juxtaposed on the others ide of this earthwall are glass façades representing en lightenment, transparency, and mystery. The beauty of the stained glass façade at the chapel is activated only through the penetration of light from the sky.

Atthecenteraxis of the chapelis where the earth and sky meet behind the altar, symbolic of the incarnation of Christ when God becomes man. The statiosn of the cross are embedded sculptures into the earthen wall and are along the wooden glu-lam beams. Reconciliation rooms are embedded within the earthen wall, symbolizing this doctrine's strong teaching throughout the traditions of the church.







## **SITESECTION**

# Nourishment is targeted towards rejuvenating and challengingthebody, mind, and spirit.

This center will serve the needs of bodily nourishment through food, areas for rest, relaxation, and engaging exercise. It serves the needs of mental nourishment through removing a person from their daily life and placed in community with fellow retreatants to learn and grow. Itserves the needs of spiritual nourishment through provisions of the sacraments and spaces to grow in fellowship, individual introspection and contemplation.





**DiningandCommunity** | Nourishment happens not only in spirit but also in body. Eating together is an age old tradition of growing in communion with one another, strengthening the bonds of friendship and family.



# PROCESS thejourney PUBLIC PRIVATE upper roof deck

# APPENDIX A: RETREAT FOCUS GROUP







## **SUMMARY**

#### **RETREATIS:**

- a withdraw from day to day motions of life
- time to slow down, seek out silence and reflection
- a time of community building with those whom youarewith
- a time to learn
- a time to be challenged
- exercise intentionality with those around you have meaningful conversations, ask the hard more compelling questions

#### WHAT DOES RETREAT MEAN TO YOU:

peace, stillness, rest

nature, beauty

spiritual, prayerful, contemplation

removed, solitude

safe

rejuvinating & strengthening

challenging

communitybuildingspace

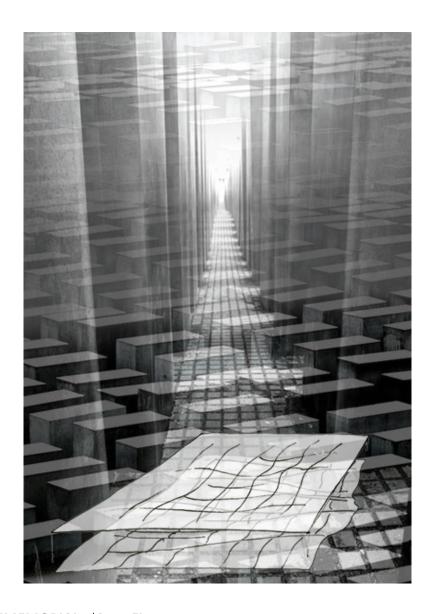
# APPENDIX B: PRECEDENT STUDIES



# THERME VALS | Peter Zumpthor

- spa that emulates a secular retreat experience
- embedded into the landscape of the mountainside
- highly sensual experience grounded in the materiality of place
- form of the building functions as a frame directing your gaze to the landscape across the valley
- the volume of space accentuates the sounds of the open-air pool just behind it





## **THEJEWISHMEMORIAL** | PeterEisenman

- a secular project that aims to impart the importance of not losing the significance of the Holocaust
- powerful spatial experience incorporating strong concepts of overview and embedment
- Eisenman designed two topographies, one of the ground, the other of the mass of blocks- neither of which ever come together as a single entity



## NK'MIP DESERT CULTURAL CENTRE

by Hotson Bakker Boniface Haden architects + urbanistes

- use of rammed earth to indicate solidity with ground and concern for sustainability due to the fragility of the landscape
- use of varigated entry sequence through a narrow path
- plaza used for collecting medium to large groups
- channel of water draws people towards the entry







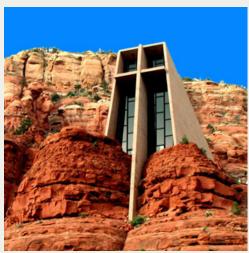




# **CASADERETIROESPIRITUAL** | by Emilio Ambasz

- submerged buildings within the landscape
- use of light crevaces to build intrigue and guide the process of what is happening below



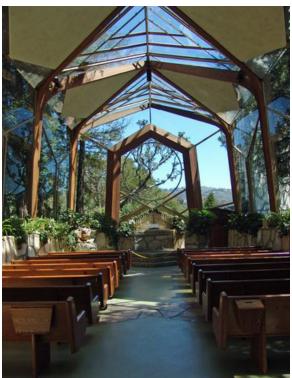




# **CHAPELOFTHEHOLYCROSS** | by Richard Hein

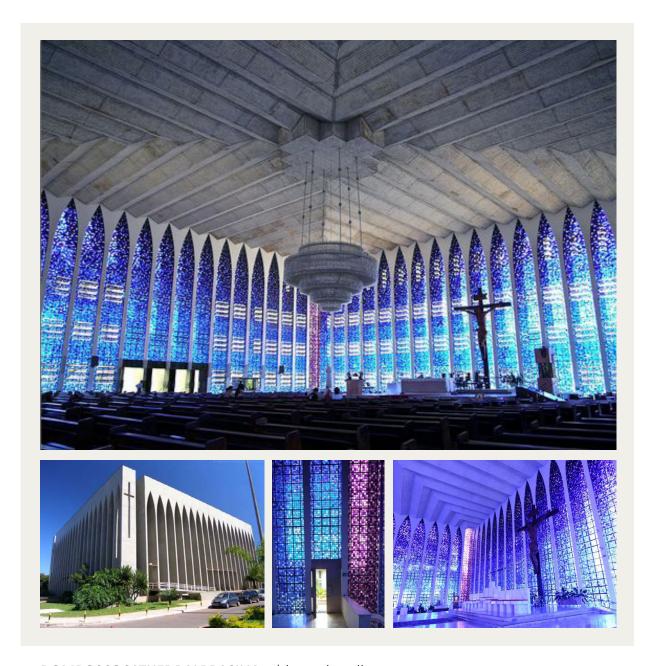
- -small chape lin Sedona, Arizona with a view overlooking the town
- placed up among the rocks, embedded into the landscape
- winding, vertical approach





# WAYFARER'SCHAPEL | by Lloyd Wright

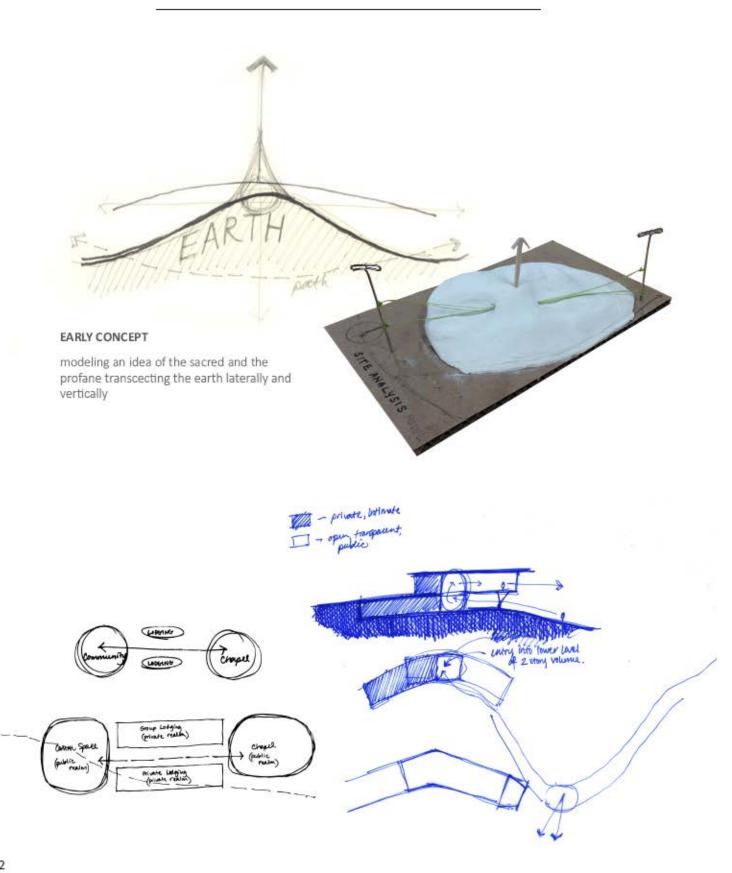
- partially submerged into the landscape with elegantglassroofstructure
- allows for high sense of transparency and connection to nature
- long approach towards chapel from parking areaengagingwithlandscape,paving,andviews glimpsingthechapel

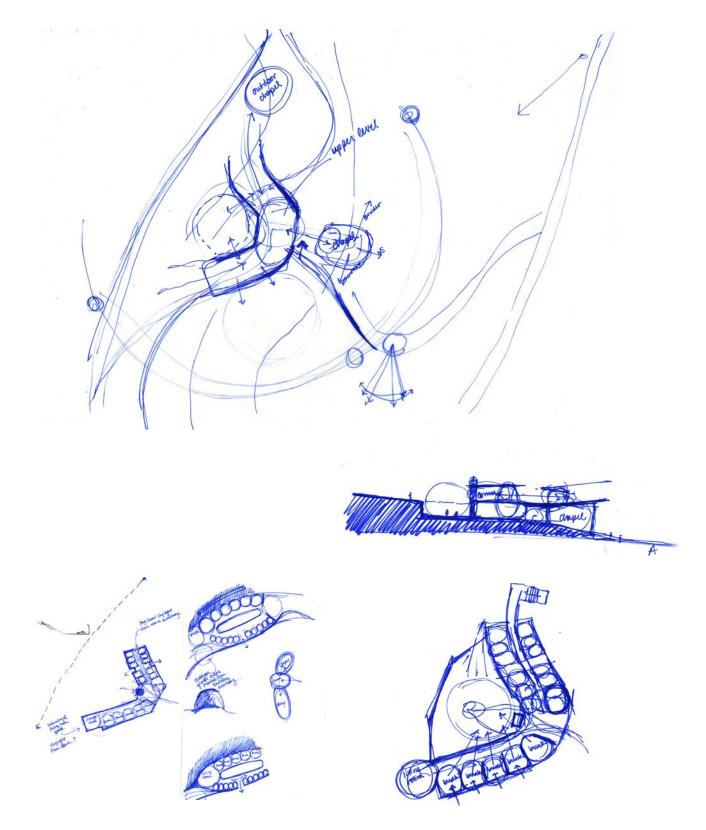


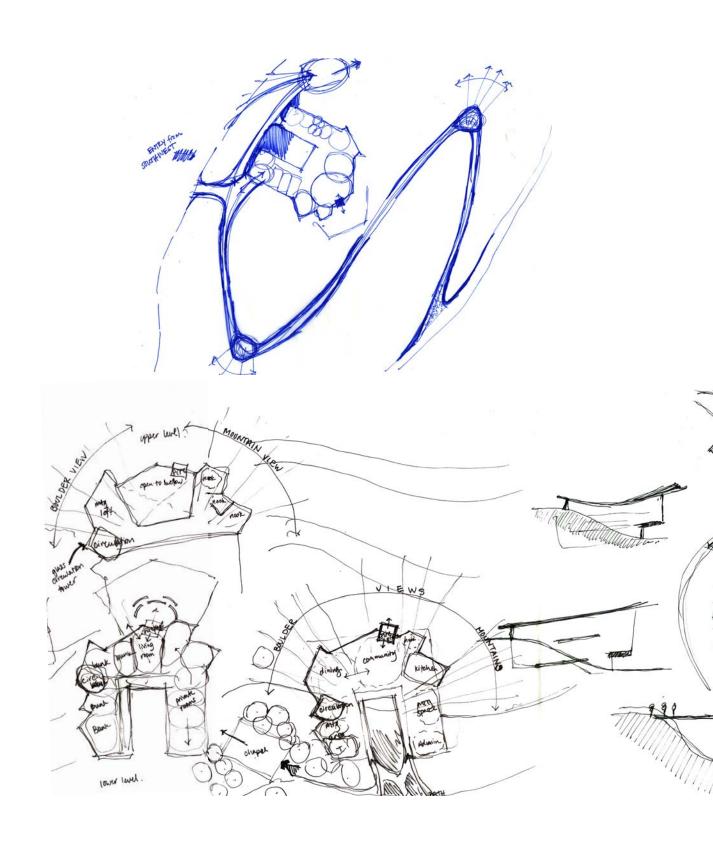
# **DOMBOSCOCATHEDRALBRASILIA** | by Carlos Alberto Naves

- modern church that incorporates use of traditional Gothic forms within its window design
- facade of glass lets blue light flood the interior of the space and act in a powerful way
- large corpus of Christ on the corss directs your attention to the altar

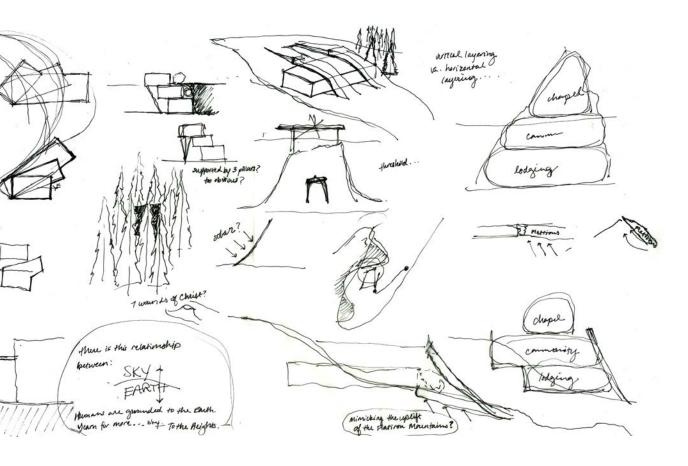
# APPENDIX C: DESIGN PROCESS & ITERATIONS



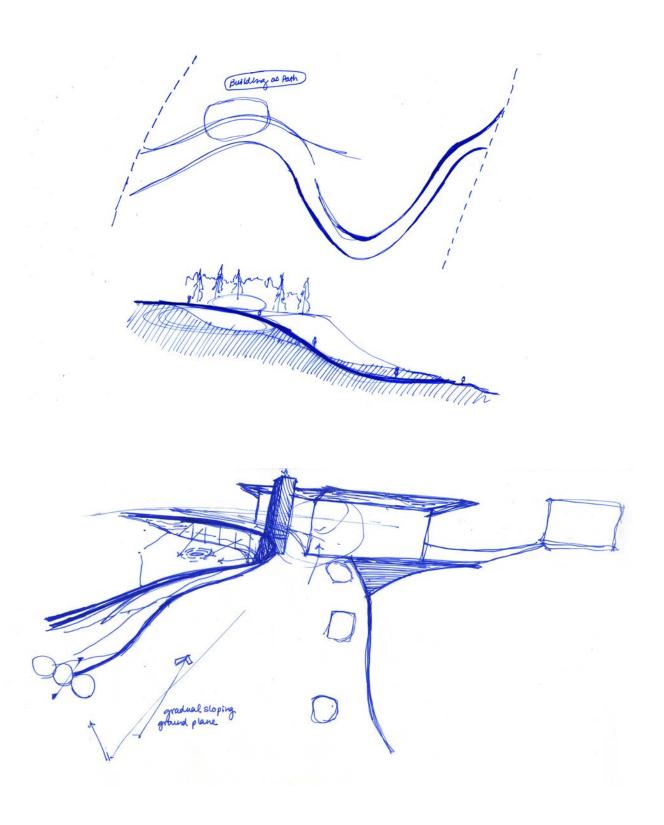




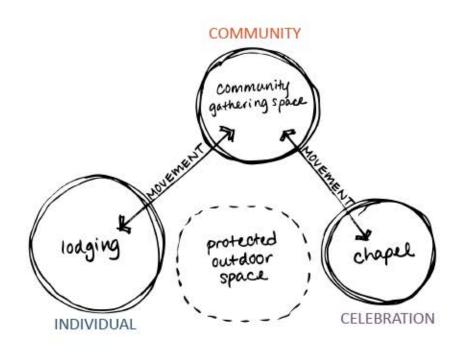


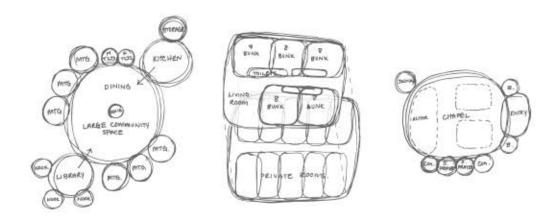


# CONCEPTOFBUILDINGASPATH

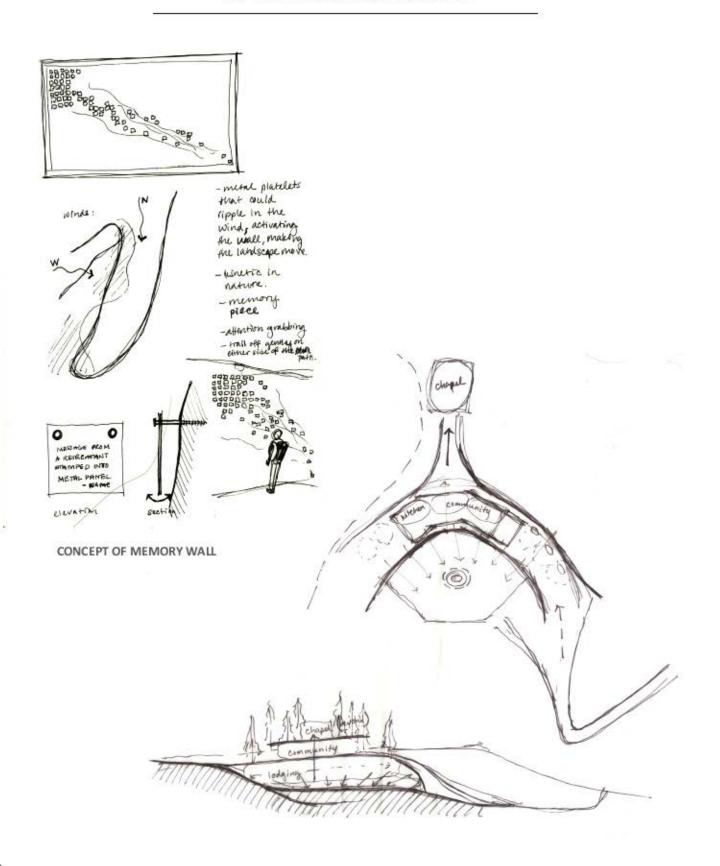


# INITIAL PARTI DIAGRAM DEVELOPMENT

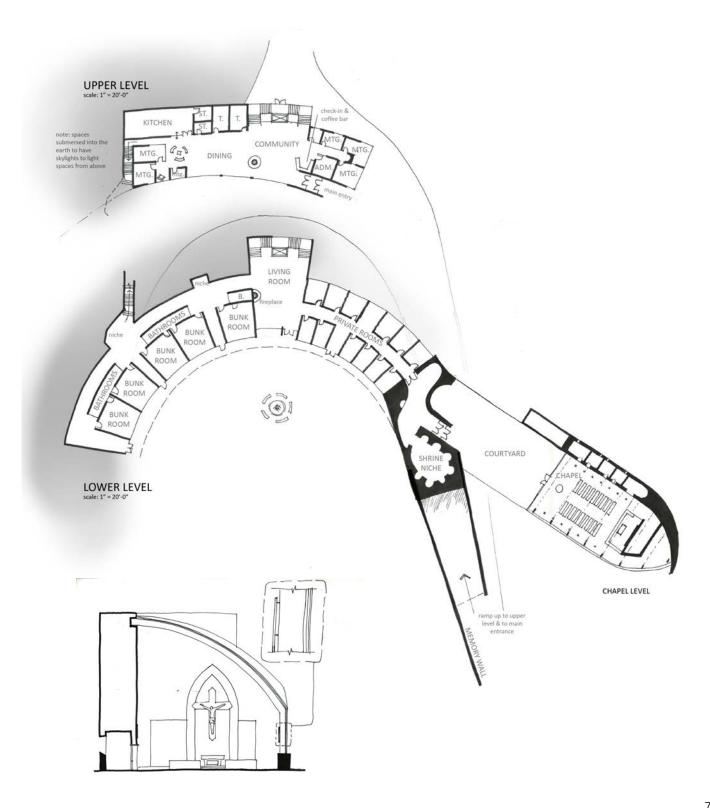




# **EXPERIMENTAL EXPERIENCES**



# **PENULTIMATEPROGRESS**



# APPENDIX D: FINAL PRESENTATION



Final Defense | Figure 80.1



Final Exhibition Space | Figure 80.2

## **JURY**

### JURY PANEL

## MeganFeenstraWall

architect

#### SarahRowse

architect

## MickMcCulloch

PhD, architect, urban designer

### ErikaLindsay

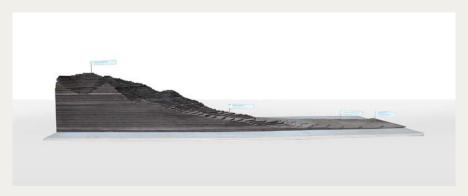
architect

## CaseyVliet

professor

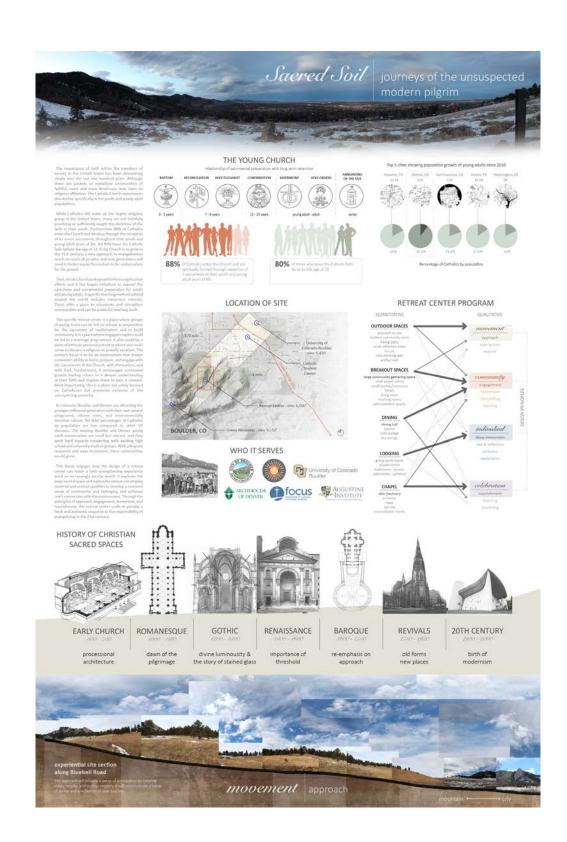
## PaulLong

architect, professor



**Topographicalmodelofsite** | Figure 81.1

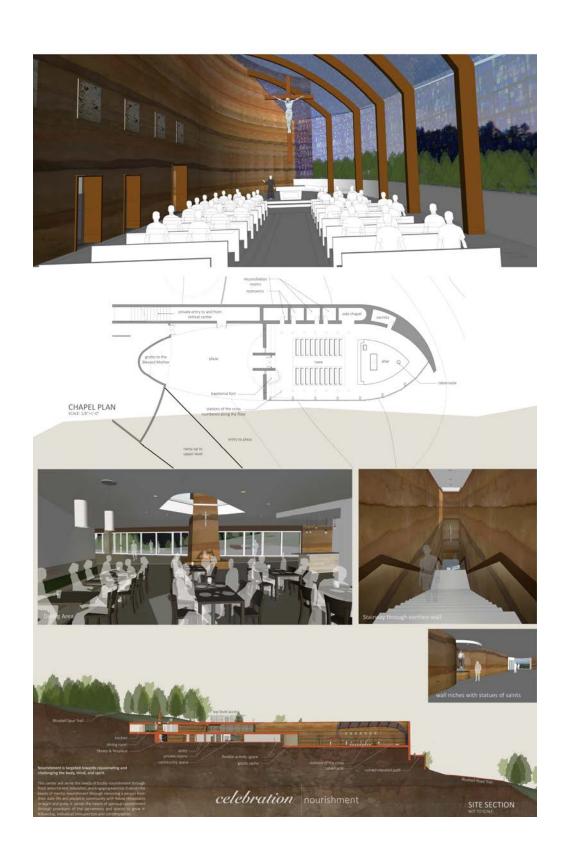
## **FINALBOARDS**





# **FINALBOARDS**





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## **IMAGESOURCES**

Figure 15.1 | Example of a House Church Kilde 2008, 18

**Figure 15.2 | Basilica of Macentius** Constantine Basilica. Digital image. Web. Apr. 2016. http://ssmith.people.ysu.edu/ecbyzwebpage/constantine\_basilica.jpg.

- **Figure17.1|DurhamCathedral** DurhamCathedral.Digitalimage.Web.Apr.2016.http:// instructional1.calstatela.edu/bevans/Art101/Art101B-8-Romanesque/WebPage-ImageF.00030.jpeg.
- Figure 17.2 | Amiens Cathedral Fletcher, Banister. Amiens Cathedral: Section. Digital image. 4 June 2007. Web. Apr. 2016. <a href="https://www.flickr.com/photos/psulibscollections/5835822595/in/photostream/">https://www.flickr.com/photos/psulibscollections/5835822595/in/photostream/</a>.
- Figure 19.1 | Churchof San Andrea Stokstad 2005, 619.
- **Figure19.2|St.Peter'sBasilicasquare** St. Peter's Basilica Plan. Digital image. Web. Apr. 2016. <a href="https://www.pinterest.com/pin/353884483197086782/">https://www.pinterest.com/pin/353884483197086782/</a>.
- **Figure 21.1 | St. Joseph's Church, Detroit** St. Joseph's Church in Detroit. Digital image. Te Deum Laudamus! Web. Apr. 2016. http://te-deum.blogspot.com/2014/03/st-josephs-church-in-detroit going-all.html.
- **Figure21.2|NotreDameduHautChapel** Notre Dame Du Haut. Digital image. Dezeen. Web. Apr. 2016. <a href="http://www.dezeen.com/2014/01/22/le-corbusier-notre-dame-du-haut-chapel-at-ronchamp-vandalised/">http://www.dezeen.com/2014/01/22/le-corbusier-notre-dame-du-haut-chapel-at-ronchamp-vandalised/</a>.
- **Figure 23.1 | St. Laud** A. Schnitzenbaumer 2012

St. Ignatius -A.Schnitzenbaumer2015,

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