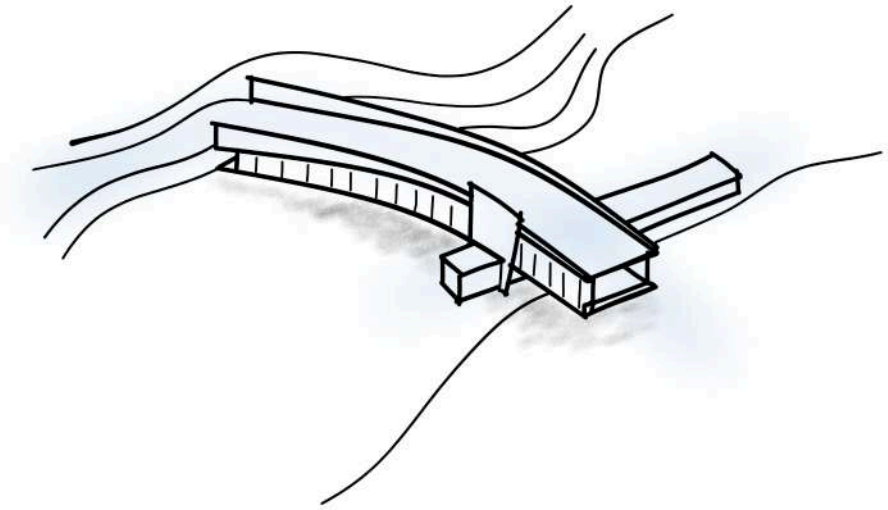
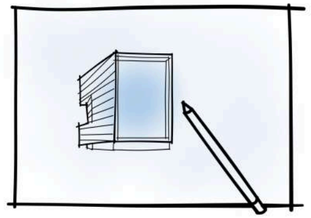
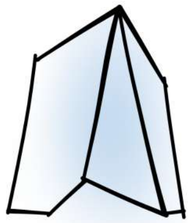
Louis Peiser

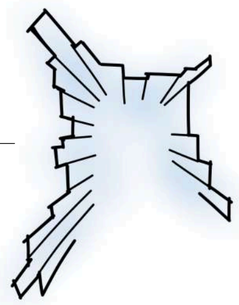
Architect

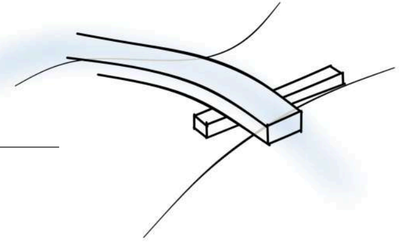


Design Portfolio - Spring 2024









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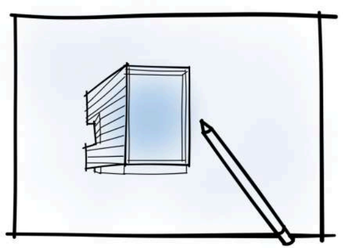
Rainier, Digital Sketch

Part I: **Process**

There is no one process which defines my design thinking. But if there is any common thread it is the influence and effect from natural forms and feelings that permeate into every concept I conceive.

I find that my strongest emotions are felt among the raw beauty of mountains, forests, deserts, and beaches, and I look to those living ancient landscapes to bring emotion into my work.

Additionally I feel responsibility in my built work to protect the natural environment however possible. I've dedicated much of my time as a practicing Architect to understanding the tools we have to reduce our impact though site regeneration, energy reduction, and many other areas.



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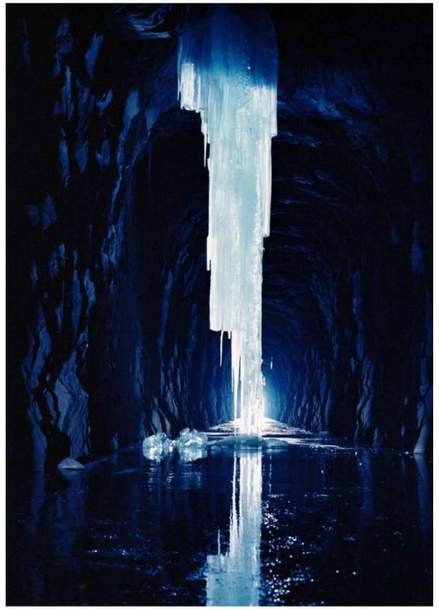
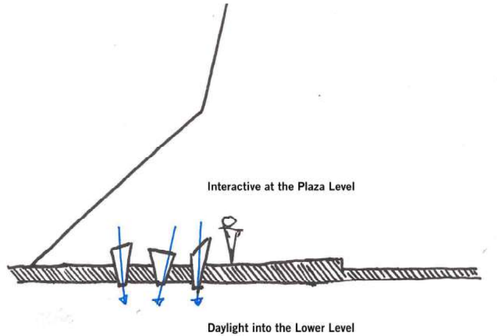
I almost always look first to the natural surroundings of my site for inspiration. This plaza in Anchorage, Alaska is snow-covered much of the year with a landscape of glaciers and ice breaking the horizon.

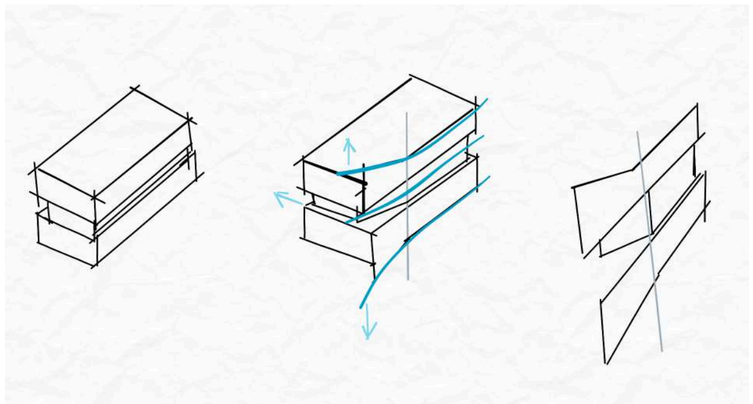
An Initial idea imagined a spread of shattered ice shards, spreading light into the basement below and glowing above the plaza on endless winter nights.

Shown in the bottom right, the eventual construction would retain the symbolism in plan but would be revised to lay flush with the top of the plaza paving. Pictured here are concrete curbs that will be buried in insulation with laminated glass placed on top.





Process: **Drawing Inspiration**



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Left: This facade study for a life science building in Seattle began with an emulation of the nurse log, a once-towering tree which falls to becomes a flourishing new home on the forest floor.

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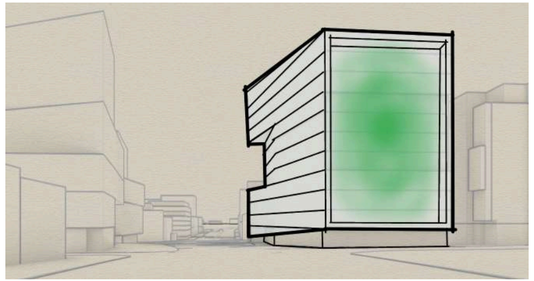
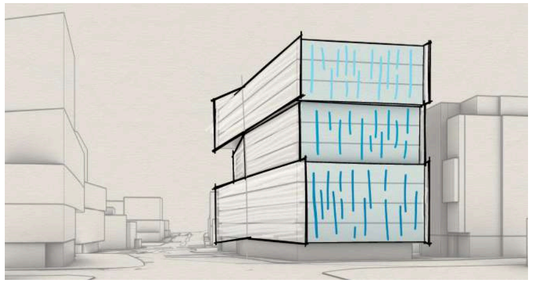
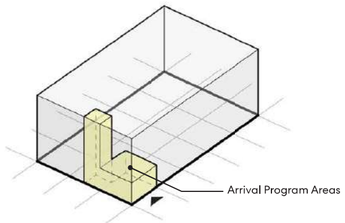
Right: Sketch iterations of the facade concept, as inspired by the nurse log.

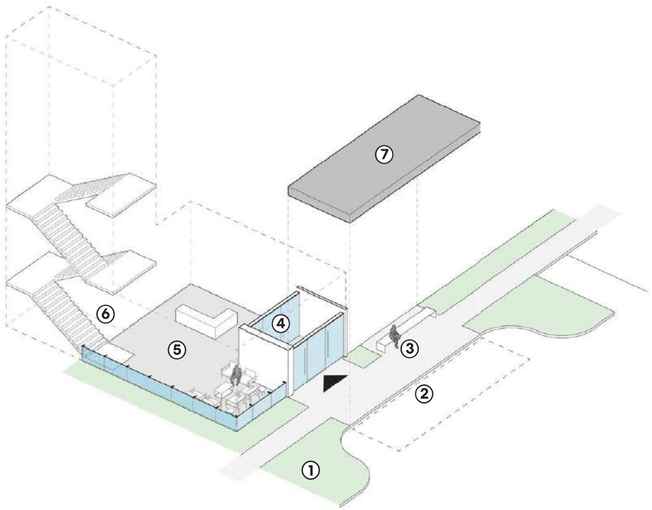
Bottom Right: The final facade design of the project. Rendering by Methonia.





Process: **Graphic Communication**





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Left: Creating a warm welcome was a top priority for this medical office project, thus the arrival experience was given more attention to detail than any other area of the building in our presentations

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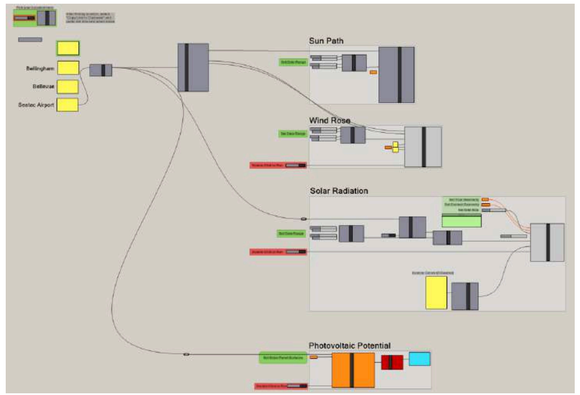
Right: We rendered the arrival experience at mutiple times of day to understand the emotions that would take place in times of different weather and light.

Process: **Environmental Design and Analysis**



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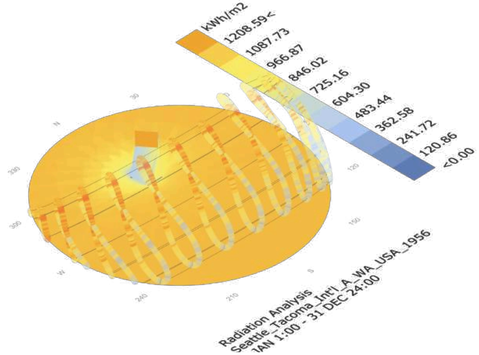
Left: This grasshopper template I created can quickly analyze multiple environmental factors for a building and its site.

Right: I use solar radiation studies as an important reference to create comfortable exterior spaces and to plan facade elements that can work symbiotically with the sun.



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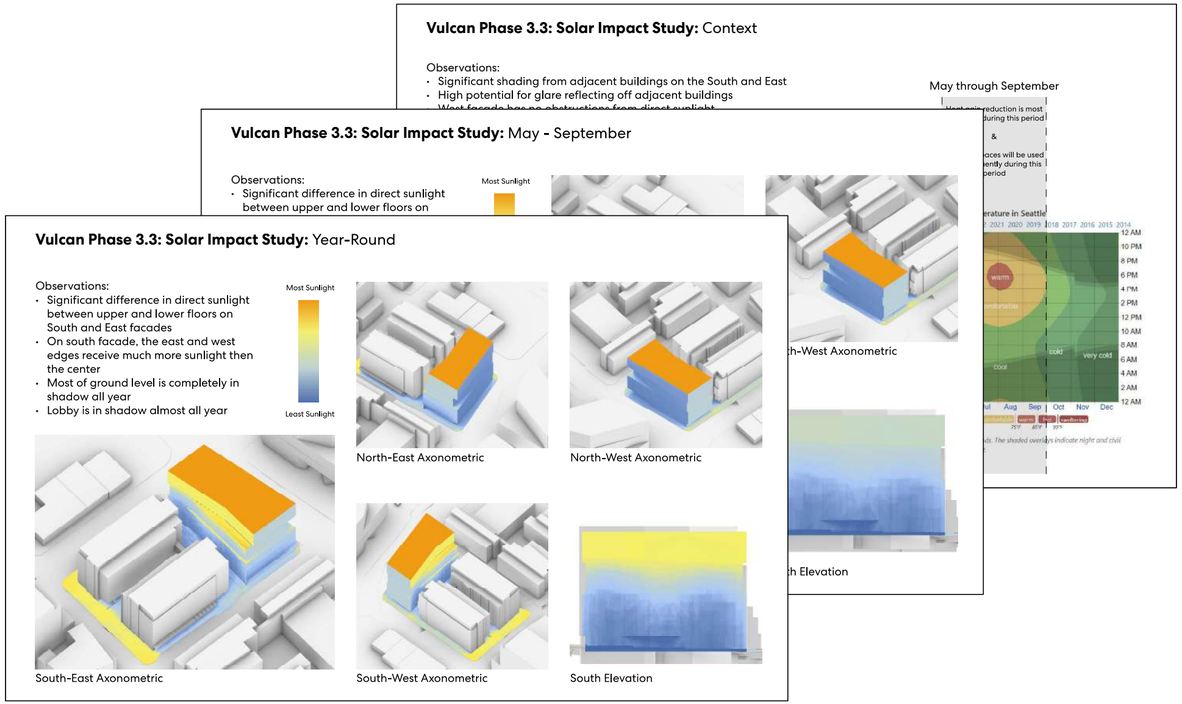
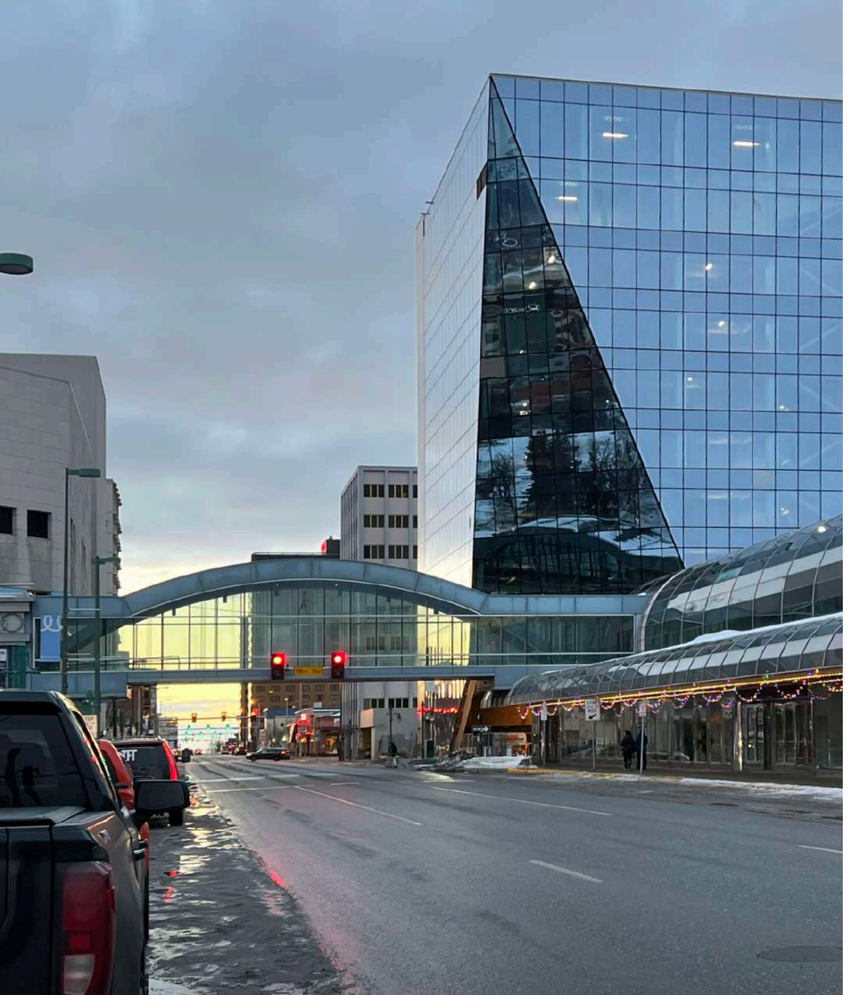
A typical solar study I will put together in SD to inform massing decisions and facade design.



My favorite part of the process:
No writer's block can
survive a weekend
alone in the mountains

>

Home in the Mountains, Photograph



Part II: **Scale**

Project Name: **601 W 5th Ave**

Project Type: **Office Building, Adaptive Reuse**

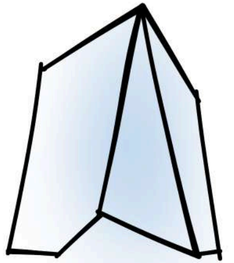
Location: **Anchorage, AK**

Dates: **June 2019 - June 2023**

Size: **130,000 sf**

Nature-inspired design at an urban scale. After 45 years, the Key Bank Tower building was condemned following an earthquake cracking its structure and stairs. Our team at Perkins&Will set out to not only structurally retrofit the original form, but to rebuild the floors and facade as a modern landmark for the city. A triple-glazed curtain wall now wraps around a new geometry that was inspired by the ice and glaciers that linger in the mountains only a few miles from this downtown site.

I joined the project team at the end of SD, and was a full time team member all the way through the end of construction, eventually becoming the project architect and making regular visits to Alaska to manage the construction administration.



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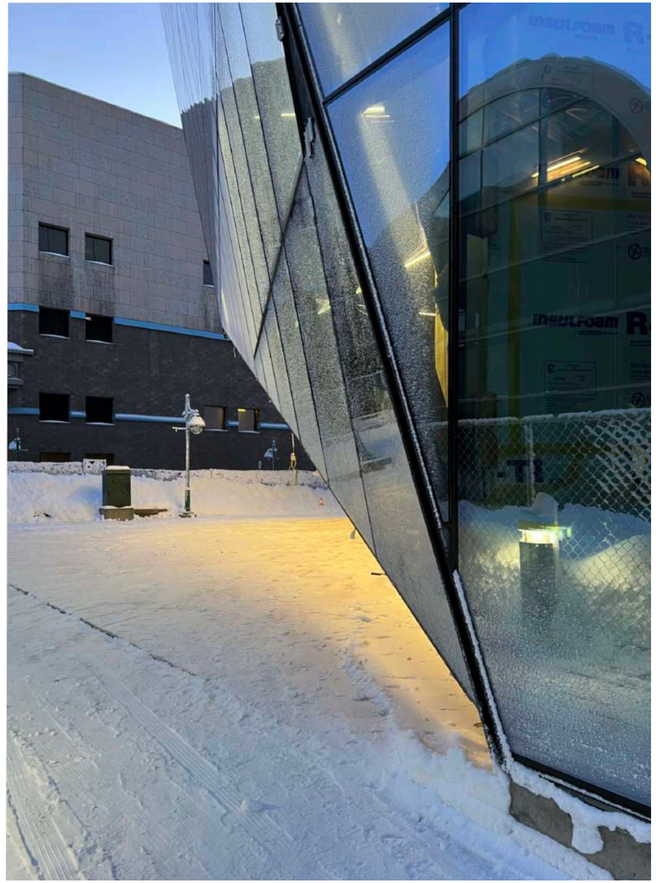
Inspiration images the team referenced from early concept design through construction for all major design decisions



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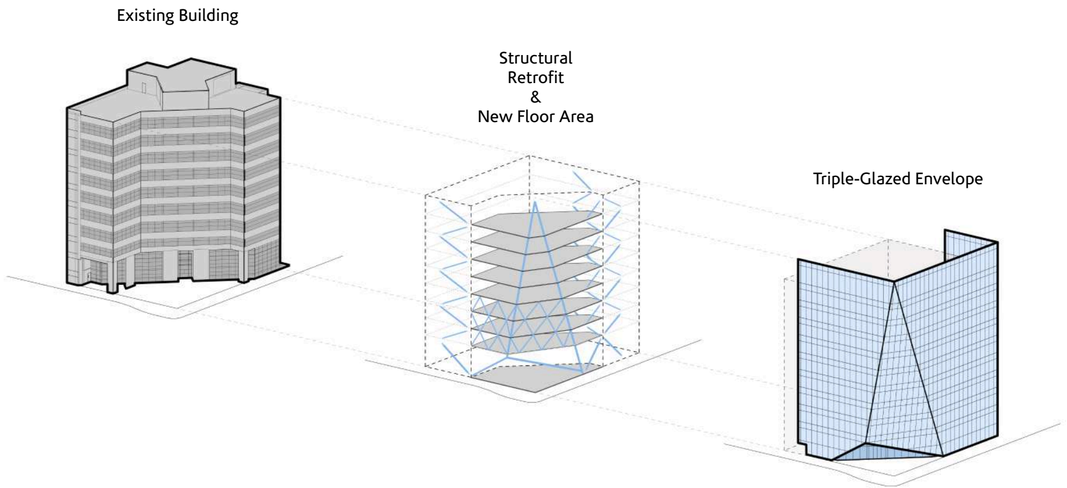
Approaching the entry plaza on an especially frosty morning



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Left: Diagram illustrating the steps to transform the building through the adaptive re-use process

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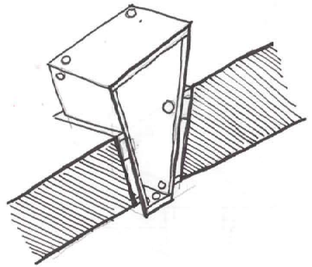
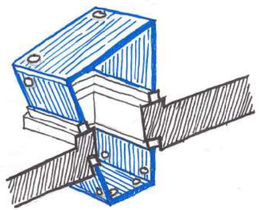
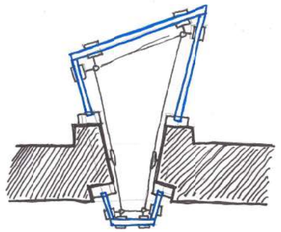
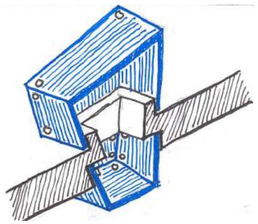
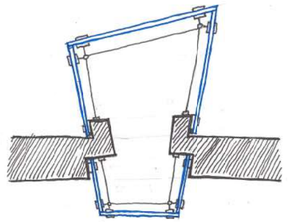
Above: Construction photos illustrating the rebuilding and re-skinning process











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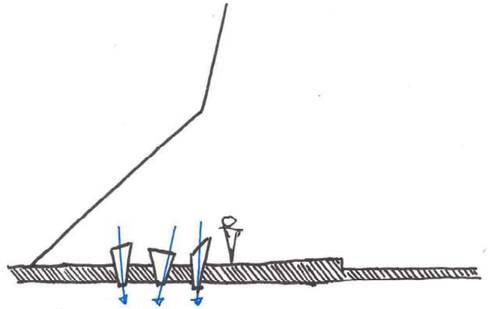
Left: Constructability sketches for 3D “ice shard” skylights. The intent was for an interactive glowing top, however the final design was simplified to being flush with the plaza paving.



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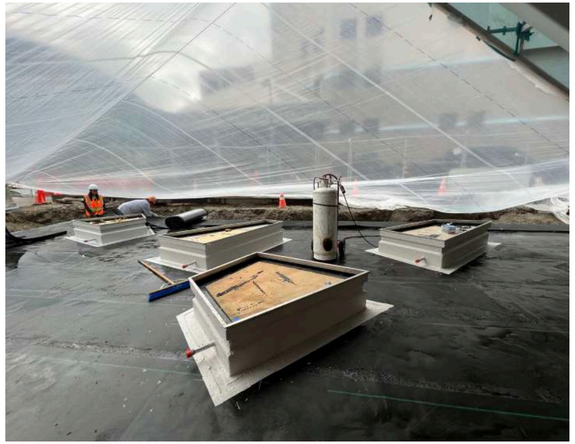
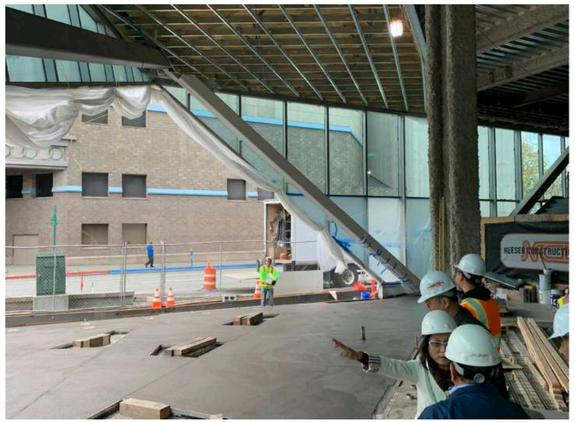
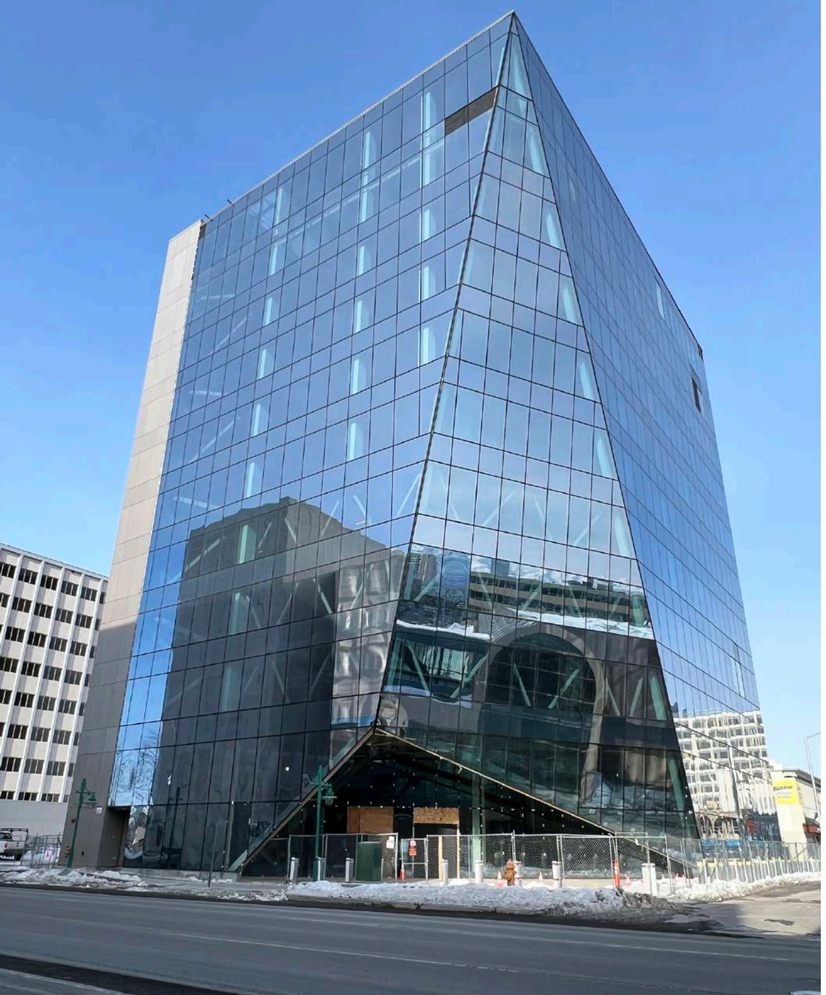
Above: Initial concept sketch of the skylights for them to appear to have fallen off of the building.

Top Right: Skylight curbs just after hot-rubber waterproofing. These curbs will be surrounded by insulation and concrete and topped with laminate glazing.

Bottom Right: Final touches to the concrete pour of the plaza slab. Outlines of each of the skylights can be seen awaiting their glass.







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Right: Tourists line up for a scenic trolley ride on a “warm” day in Alaska, while on the building many layers of insulation and waterproofing are being installed to survive the cold winters ahead

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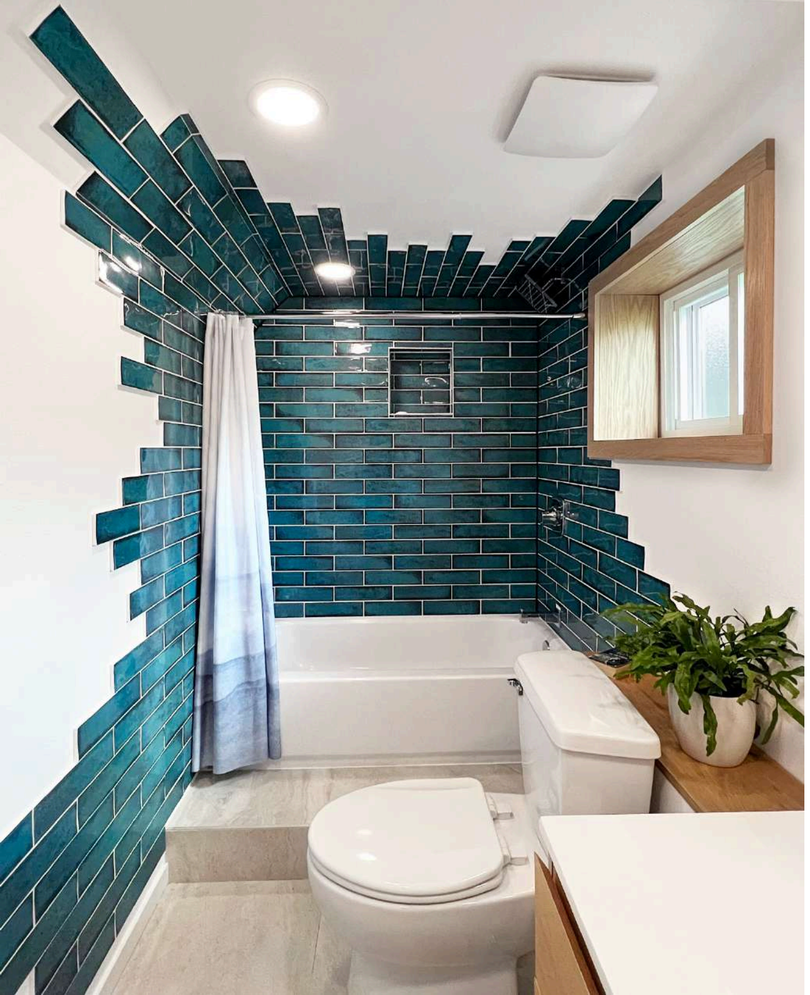
Left: The pedestrian view of 601W approaching the main entry plaza



Part III: **Intimacy**

Project Name: **Robin Lakes**

Project Type: **Bathroom Addition**

Location: **Seattle, WA**

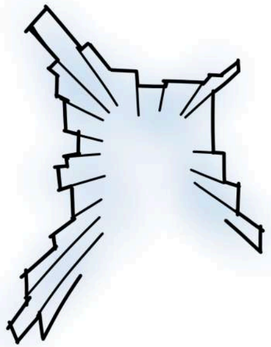
Dates: **January 2021 - March 2022**

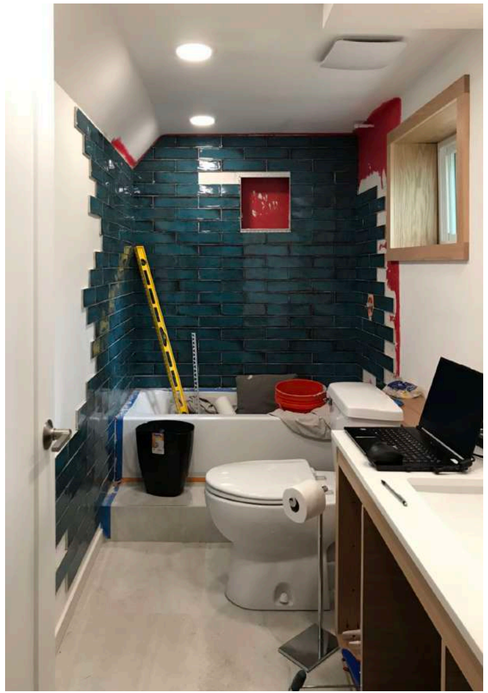
Size: **53 sf**

Very few architecture projects allow you the opportunity to shower in them afterwards. This renovation project in my own home provided me with the experience of being a designer, client, project manager, and craftsman all wrapped together.

Inspired by an unforgettable backpacking trip to an alpine lake in the cascades, the intent of the bathroom was to splash an overwhelming sensation of water upon the occupant from the moment they step foot inside.

The general contractor hired was Haynieman Construction, and all design-work, as well as the tile and woodwork, was performed by myself.





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Left: This photo of Robin Lakes by Nathaniel Wise served as inspiration for the material palette

Right: “Flow of consciousness” Getting ideas on the fly, testing them in the Rhino model, then cutting tile on the ground and immediately adhering them to the wall. This in-the-moment trial and error allowed me to find the perfect balance of tile in the right places

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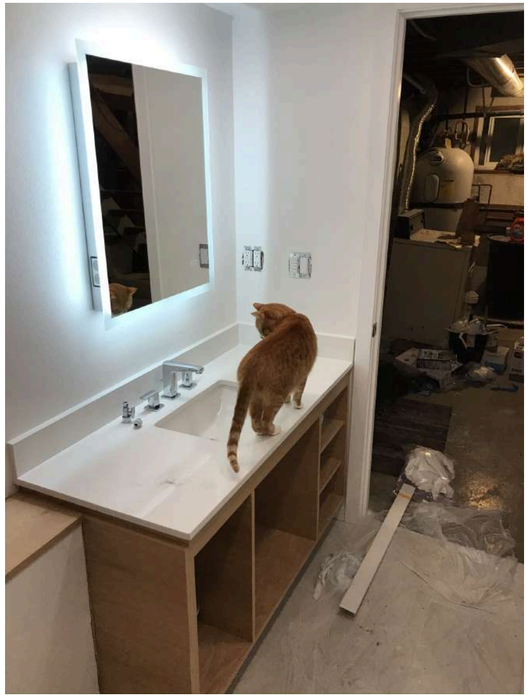
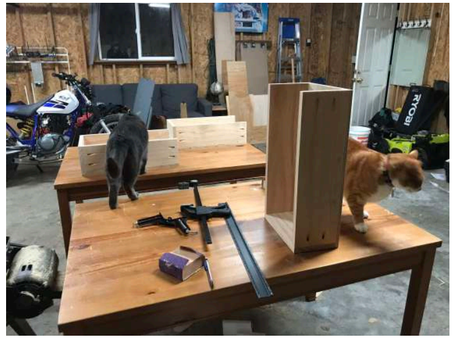
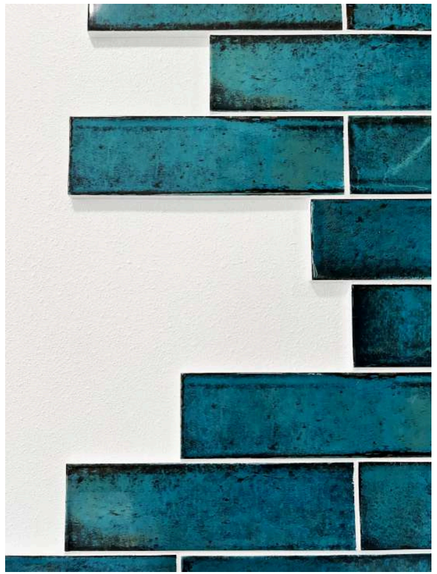
Left: My assistant Nacho takes as-built measurements of the vanity in progress

Top Right: Nacho and Taquito inspect craftsmanship on the vanity drawers

Bottom Right: Drawers and doors awaiting their finish coat







Part IV: **Experiments**

Project Name: **The Trailhead**

Project Type: **Visitor Center, Competition**

Location: **Tiburon, CA**

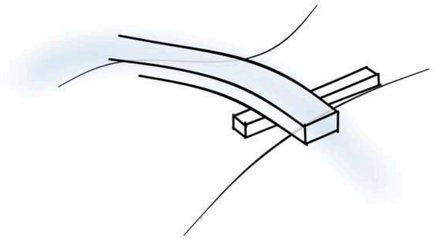
Dates: **September 2017 - January 2018**

Size: **10,000 sf**

Following a night of aspirational discussion around buildings that could give more to a site than take from it, two friends and I decided it was time to test our ideas. The Architecture at Zero competition provided the platform and constraints we needed.

Our design's primary objective was net-positive energy, and we achieved that through solar-oriented massing, and a series of complementary energy-generating systems on the building.

Additionally, we intended to create an educational experience where sustainable design was on display. All of the energy-saving and energy-generating systems are placed in up-close tangible locations for visitors to observe and learn from the building.



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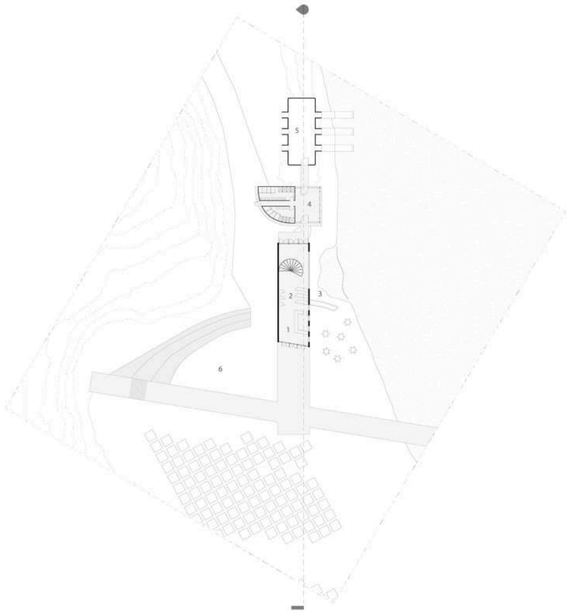
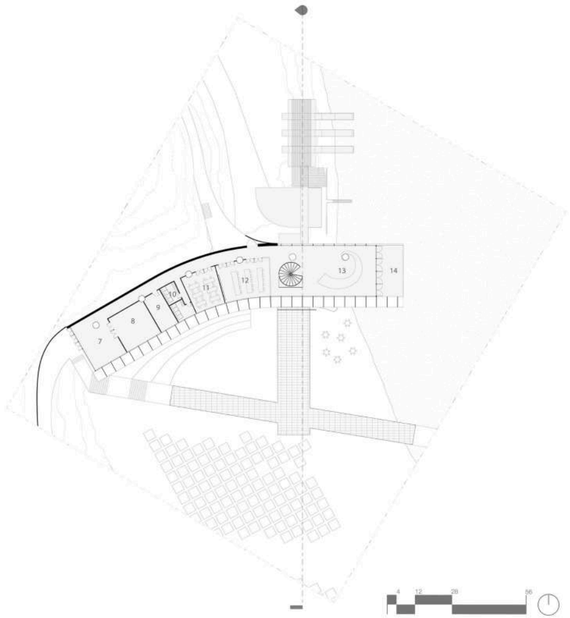
Left: Section perspective by Austin Pollard. Our "sustainability on display" concept places the energy-generating objects within reach of the building's visitors. Wind turbines are placed at the top of skylight tubes for visibility from within the exhibit hall.

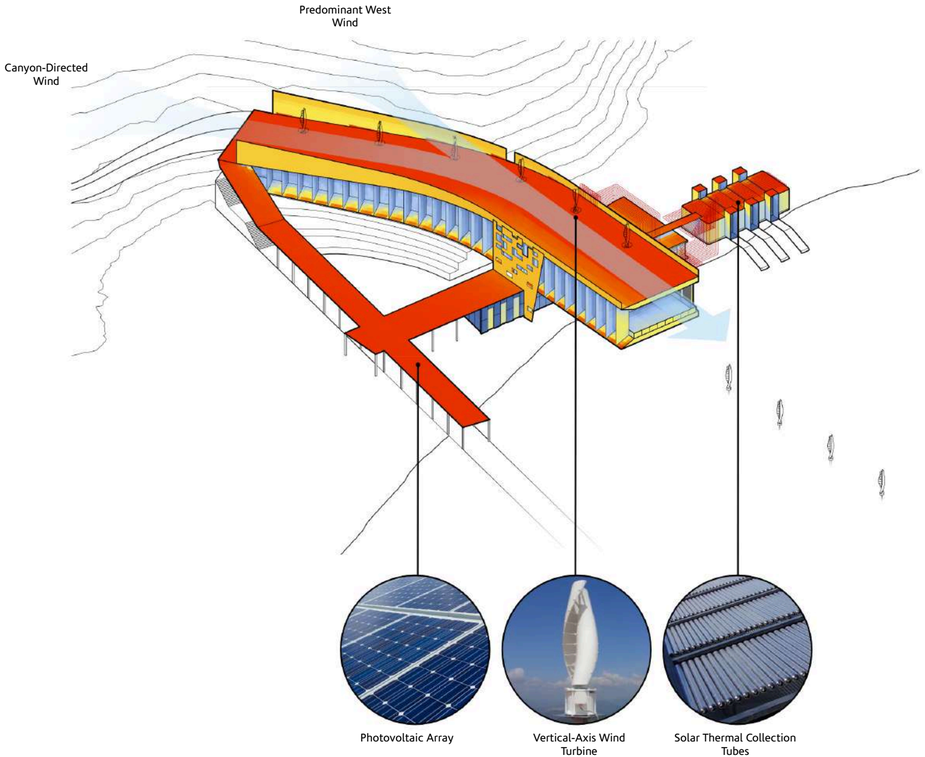
Floor plans and site plan by Matt Kopp. The ground floor is parallel to the coastline and the 2nd floor lifts off the grade to allow unimpeded coastal access for humans and wildlife. The bend in the massing transitions the topography of the adjacent hill with a pure east-west bar for maximum solar control.



Ground Floor Plan



2nd Floor Plan



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Left: Orientation and sculpting of the mass allows for solar heat gain during the cold winter days but the sun is completely blocked in the warm summer.

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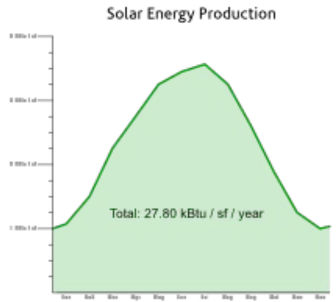
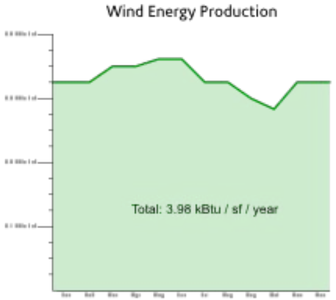
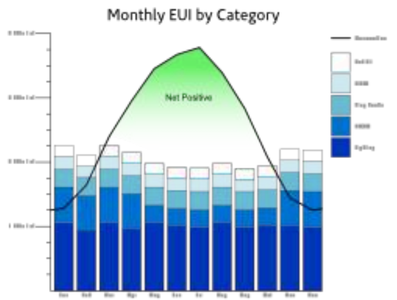
Right: Graphs and calculations shown here illustrate the energy use and energy generation of the building throughout the year. While wind power surprisingly had little value, the solar energy generated was more than enough to power the visitor center operations.



Annual EUI Summary

	Calculated Energy Use (kBtu/sf/year)
HVAC	4.92
Lighting	12.13
Appliances and Plug Loads	3.31
Domestic Hot Water	2.39
Total Building Consumption	22.75
Total Exhibit Consumption	2.00
Gross EUI	24.75
Renewable Energy Production	31.78
Net EUI	-7.03





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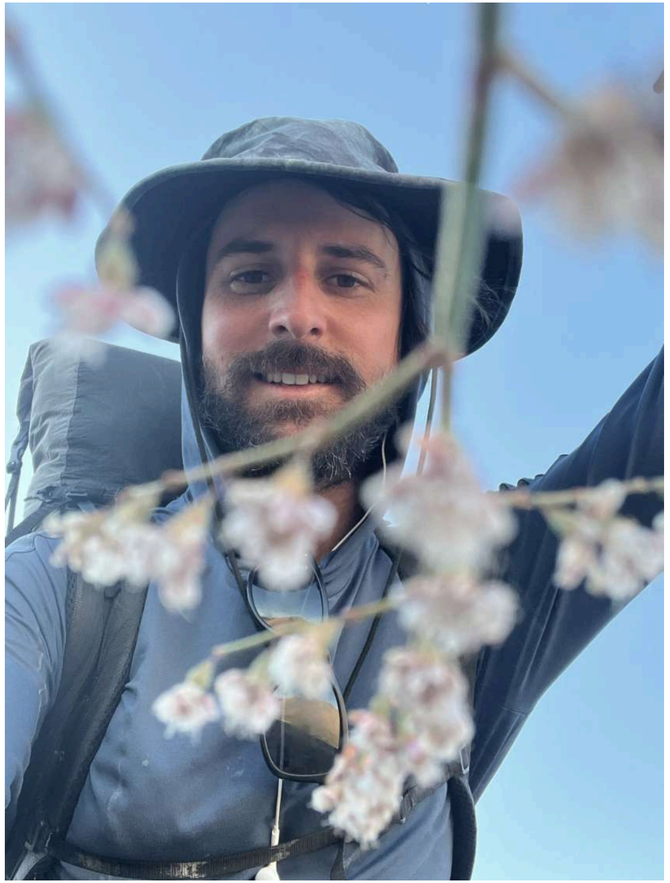

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Appreciating upside-down flowers somewhere on the Pacific Crest Trail