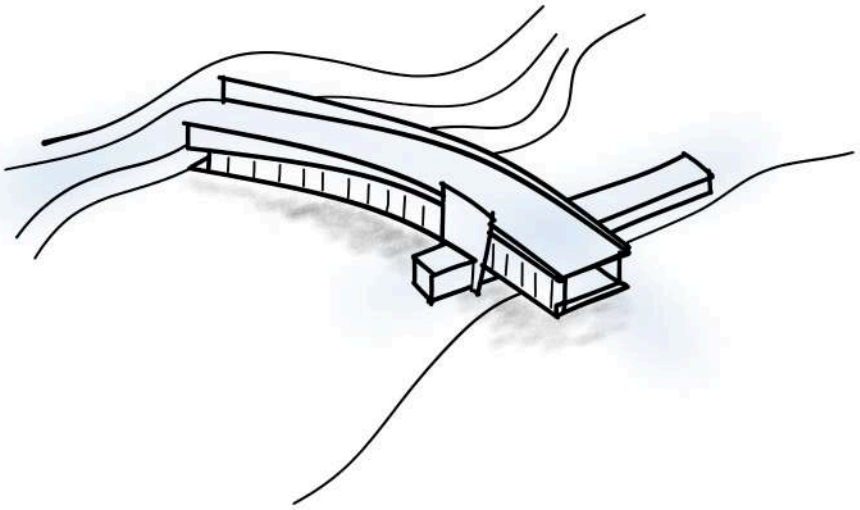
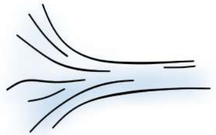
Louis Peiser

Architect

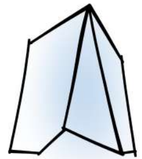


Design Portfolio - Spring 2026

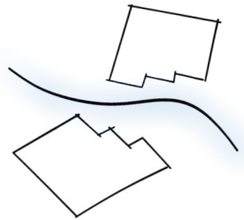
1. **Process:** Designing with Nature



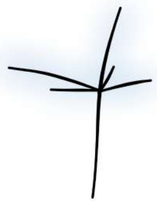
2. **Scale:** 601 W 5th Ave



3. **Civic:** MI Operations Facility

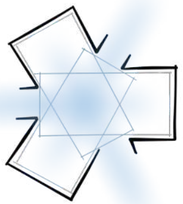


4. **Culture:** Destination Crenshaw



5. **Remote:** Eielson Visitor Center

6. **Experiments:** Aperture



All content produced by myself unless noted otherwise

< Previous

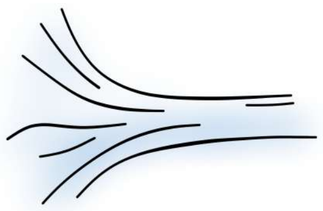
Rainier, Digital Sketch

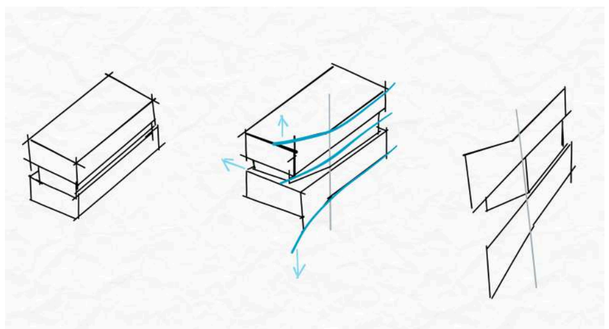
Process: Designing with Nature

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 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 for inspiration in how 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 through site regeneration, energy reduction, and many other areas.





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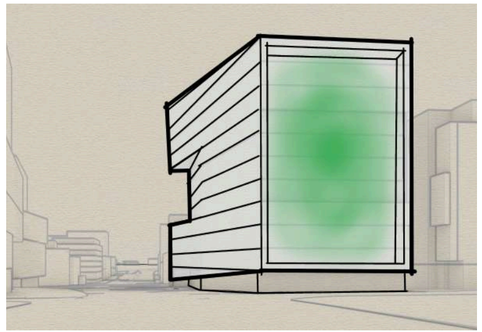
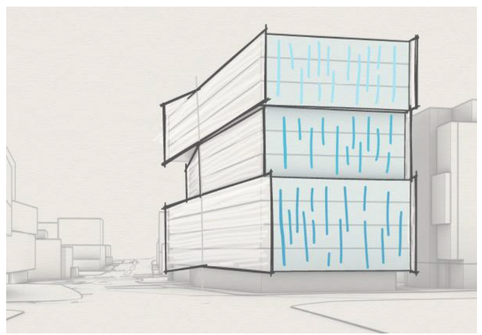
Left: This facade study for a life science building in Seattle began with an emulation of the **nurse log**, a once-towering tree which falls to become a flourishing new home on the forest floor.

>

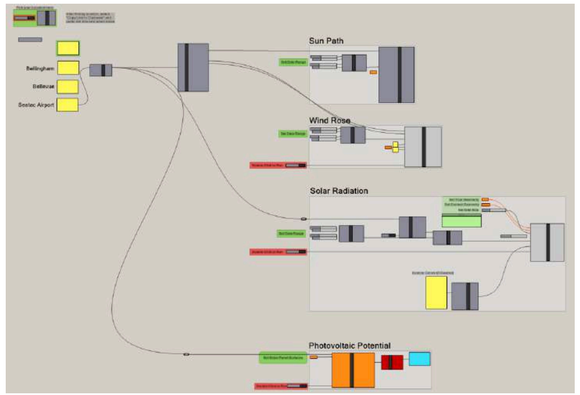
Right: Sketch iterations of the **facade concept**, as inspired by the nurse log.

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



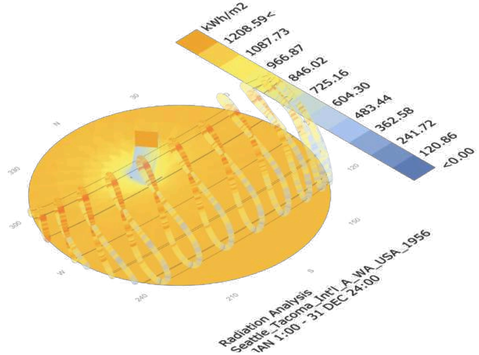


Process: **Environmental Design and Analysis**



^
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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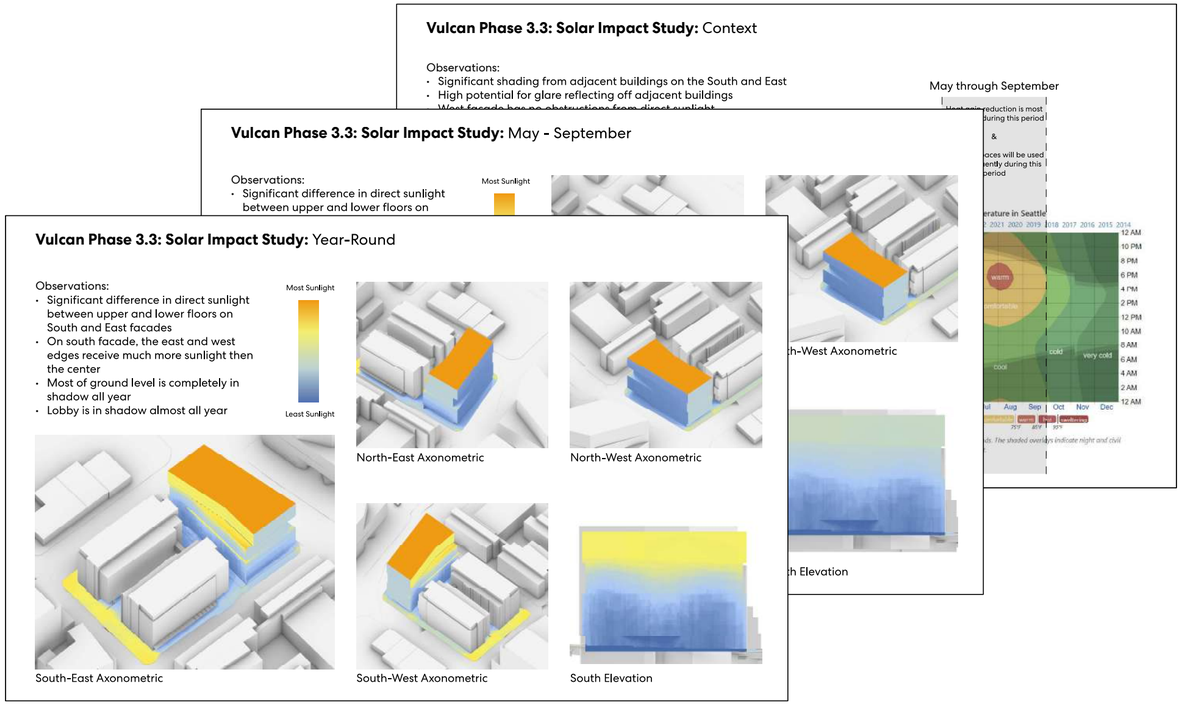
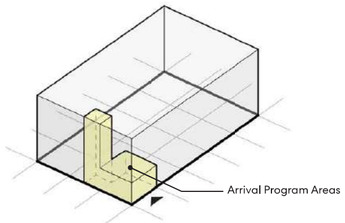
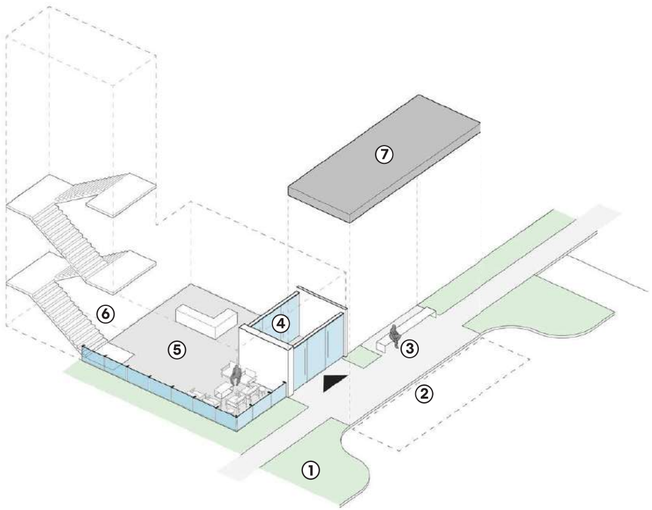
A sample solar study I will typically assemble in the SD phase to inform massing decisions and facade design.



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.

>

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

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

>

Home in the Mountains, Photograph

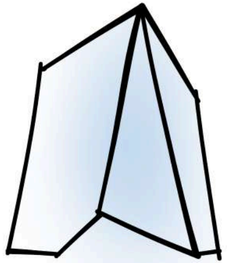
Scale: 601 W 5th Ave

Project Type: **Office, Adaptive Reuse**

Location: **Anchorage, AK**

Dates: **June 2019 - June 2023**

Size: **130,000 sf**



Project Roles:

- Project Architect during Construction
- Designer / Production during SD - CD
- Unique Experience:
    - Monthly site visits to Alaska during construction
    - I presented this project at the Facades+ Conference in 2022

Points of Interest:

- 60% reduction in embodied carbon and 77% reduction in demolition waste when compared to a tear-down and rebuild
- Triple-pane curtain wall

Software Used:

- Revit, Rhino, Grasshopper, Lumion, Tally, EC3, Adobe Suite

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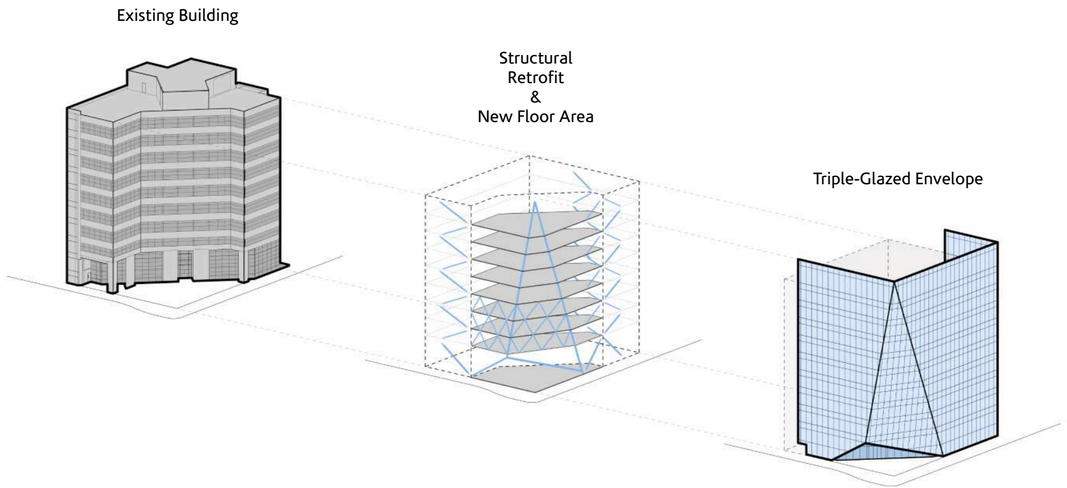
Left: Photo by Mike Kelly



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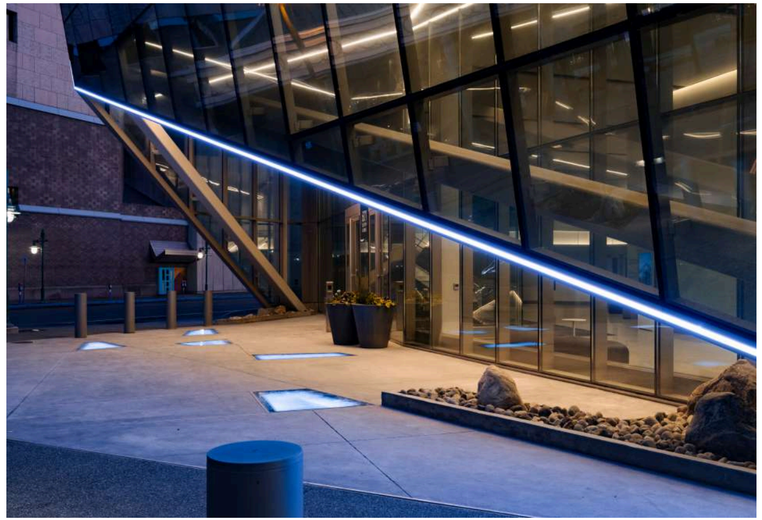
Left: Diagram illustrating the steps to transform the building through the **adaptive re-use** process.

^

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

^

Natural inspiration from glaciers and their sharp and sleek geometry.



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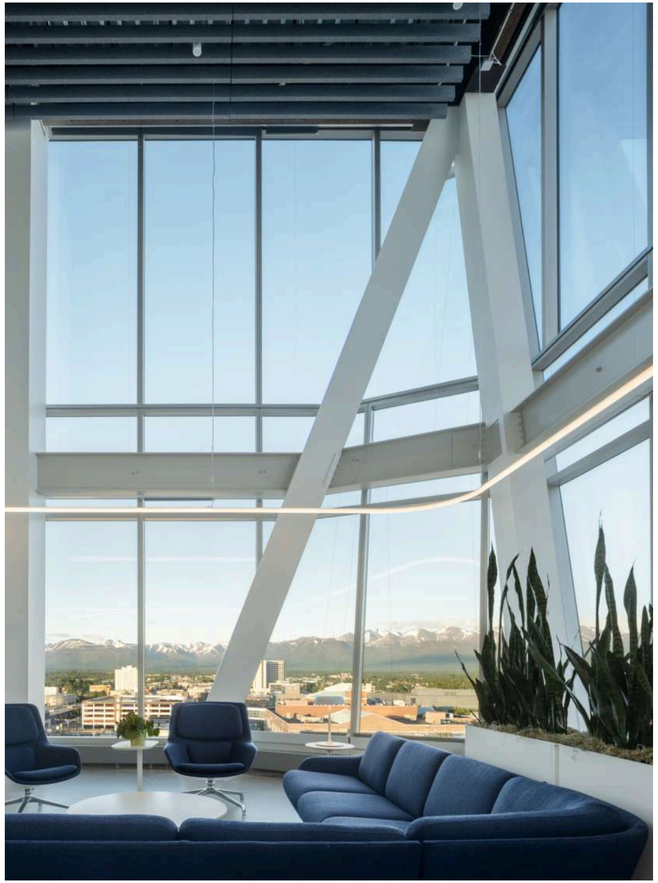
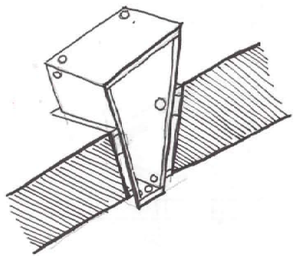
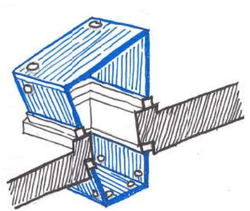
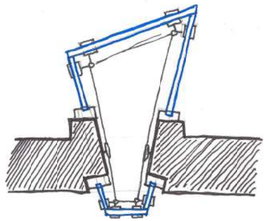
Right: Photos by Mike Kelly. Approaching the entry plaza on an especially frosty morning.

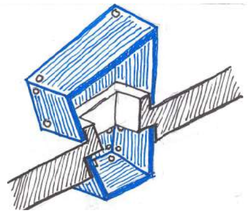
Mountain views from the top floor.

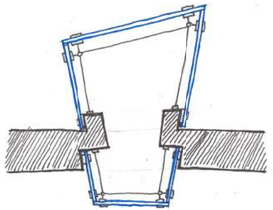




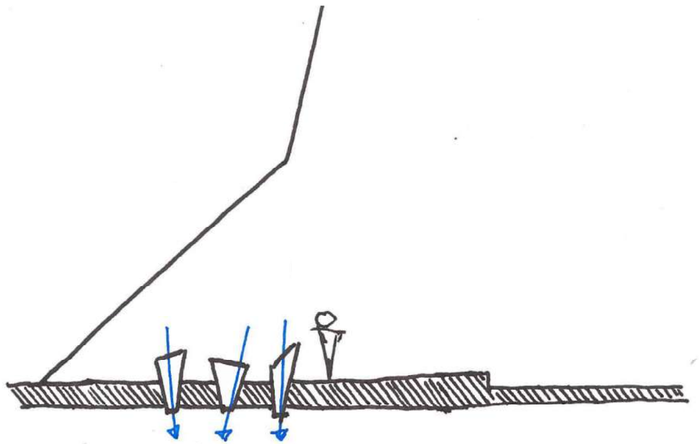


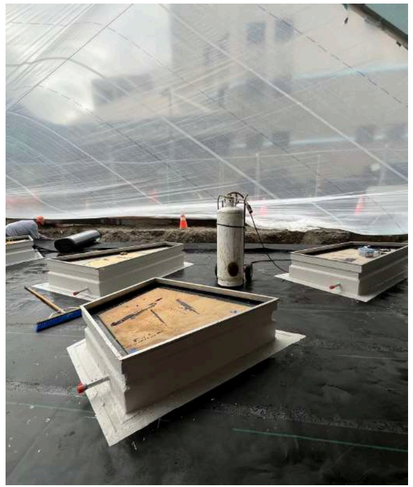






Above and Right: Initial concept sketches of the geometrical **ice-shard skylights**. Reinforcing to the project's theme of glacial inspiration, the intent for the skylights was for them to appear to have fallen off of the building.





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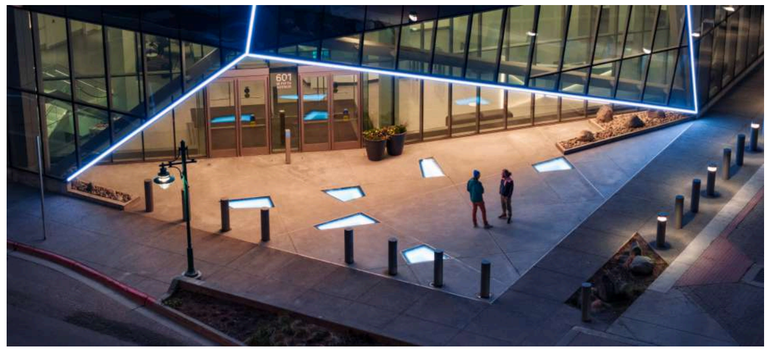
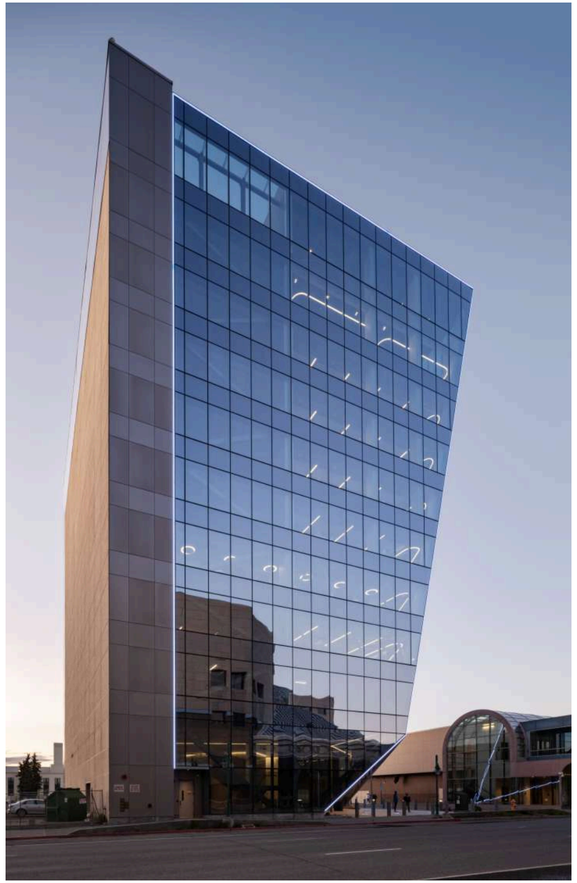
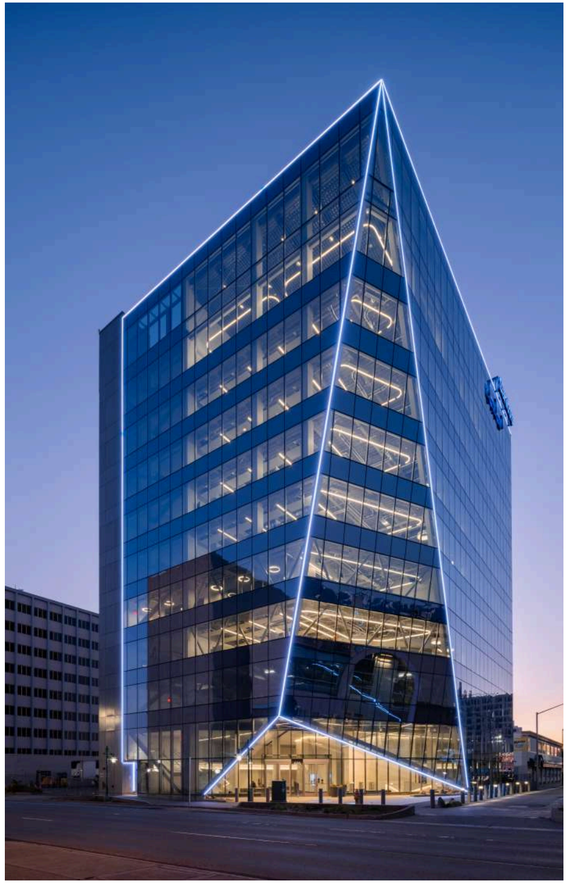
Top Left: A moment of glacial beauty we fell in love with while designing the skylights.

Top Right: Construction of the skylight curbs in progress. A thermal model was run to anticipate and eliminate thermal bridging in these frames.

Bottom: Final photography of the skylights. Photo by Mike Kelley.







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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 for the cold winters ahead.

<

Left: Two pedestrian views of 601W. Photos by Mike Kelly.

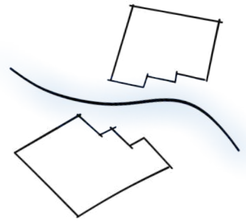
Civic: Mercer Island Operations Facility

Project Type: **Public Works Campus, Emergency Operations, Police Station, New Construction**

Location: **Mercer Island, WA**

Dates: **March 2024 - May 2025**

Size: **40,000 sf**



Project Roles:

- Project Architect in Programming - SD
- Unique Experience:
  - City Council presentations
  - Document preparation for bond measure

Points of Interest:

- Heavy site constraints due to streams, wetlands, steep slopes, and hundreds of mature trees
- Mass timber buildings, stormwater collection and re-use

Software Used:

- Revit, Rhino, Grasshopper, Enscape, Adobe Suite

>

Right: Concept render of the public-facing elevation.

<

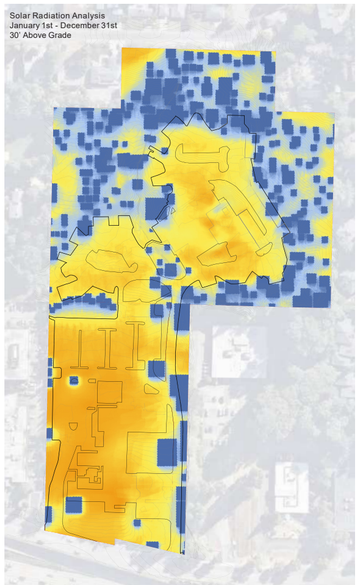
Left: Aerial rendering of the **operations campus nestled into the forest**, including a public works yard, emergency operations center, and police station.

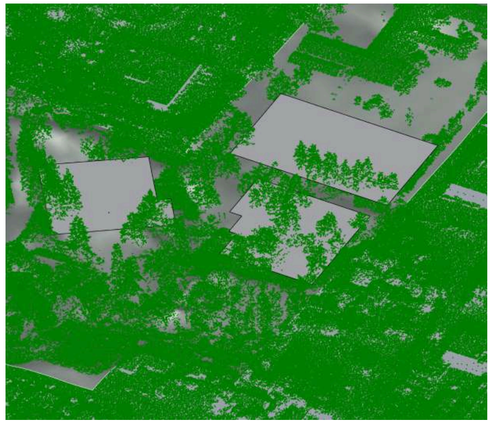
>

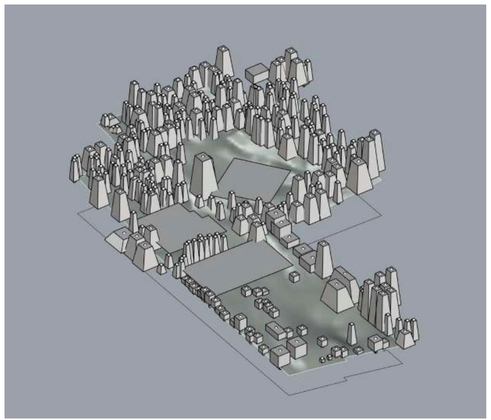
Above Right: Understanding the sun's impact on the site was challenging due to the amount of trees. **LIDAR scans** produced an incredibly detailed point cloud model of the existing tree canopy.

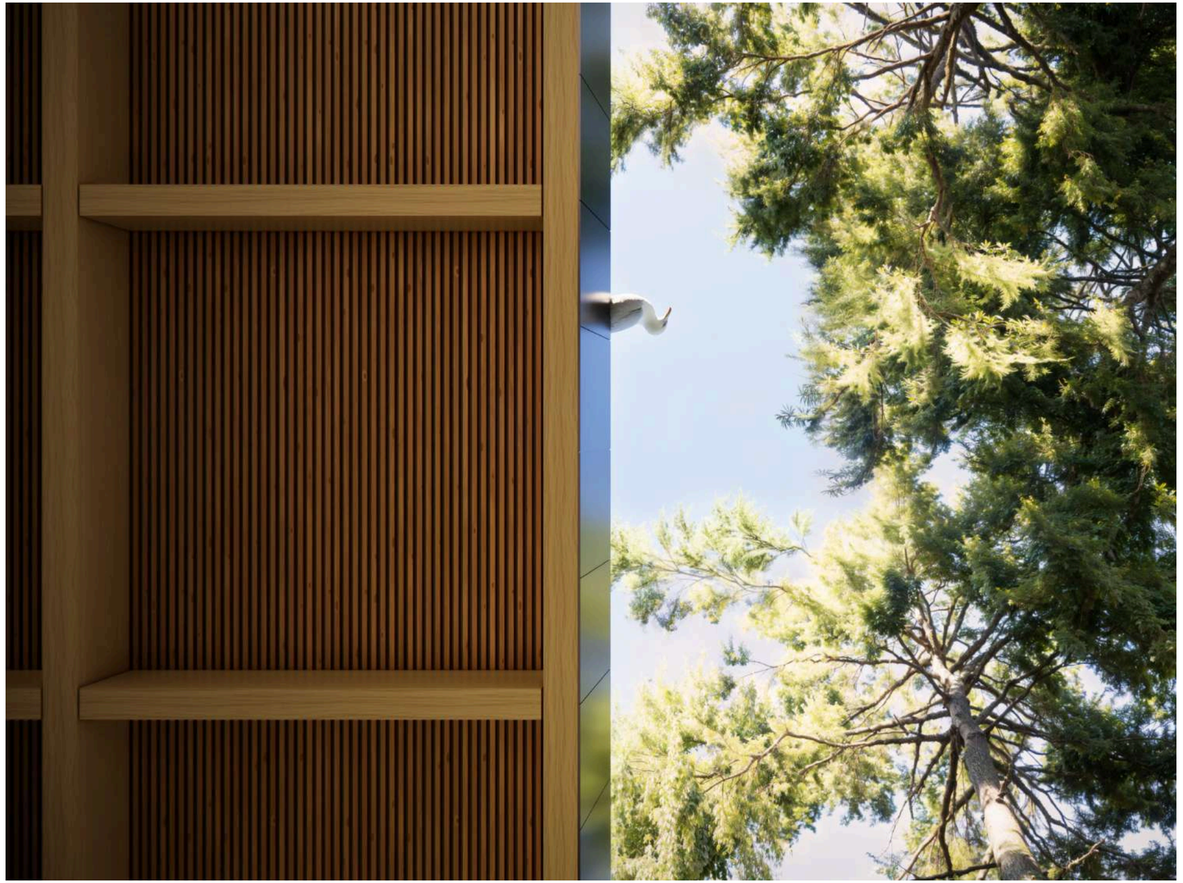
Lower Right: I converted the LIDAR point cloud into usable tree-polygons, which could be read by the solar analysis software.

Below: Final **solar radiation analysis**, which was used to both locate the buildings and plan for photovoltaic locations.









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Left: Rendering of a glulam and DLT **mass timber roof canopy**, and a seagull.

>

Right: Rendering of a fully-engaged emergency operations center.

>

Right: Rendering of a fully-stocked public works warehouse.

Culture: Destination Crenshaw

Project Type: **Museum, New Construction**

Location: **Los Angeles, CA**

Dates: **March 2018 - June 2019**

Size: **1.1 Miles**

Project Roles:

- Project Designer during SD-CD
- Unique Experience:
  - Art installation coordination
  - Community outreach events

Points of Interest:

- 1.1 mile long “outdoor art museum”
- 10 pocket parks and 1 plaza connected by urban fabric installations

Software Used:

- Revit, Rhino, Grasshopper, Enscape, VR, Adobe Suite

>

Right: Rendering by Perkins&Will.

^

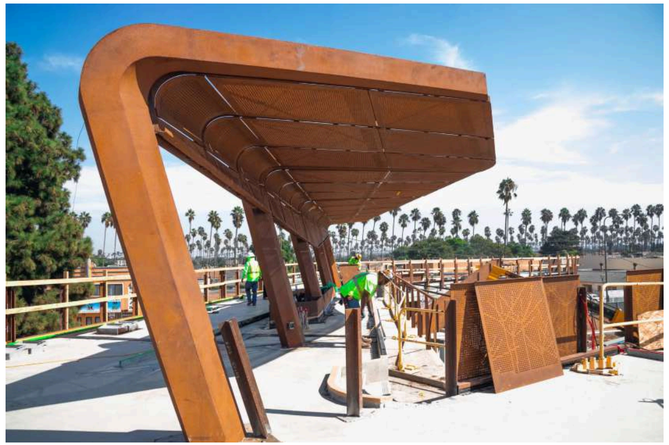
Above: **Natural inspiration** from African Star Grass.

>

Right: Blackened steel shade canopies inspired by star grass. Renderings by Perkins&Will.

Left and Below: Sankofa Park, the corten-clad centerpiece of the museum.

Renderings by Perkins&Will.



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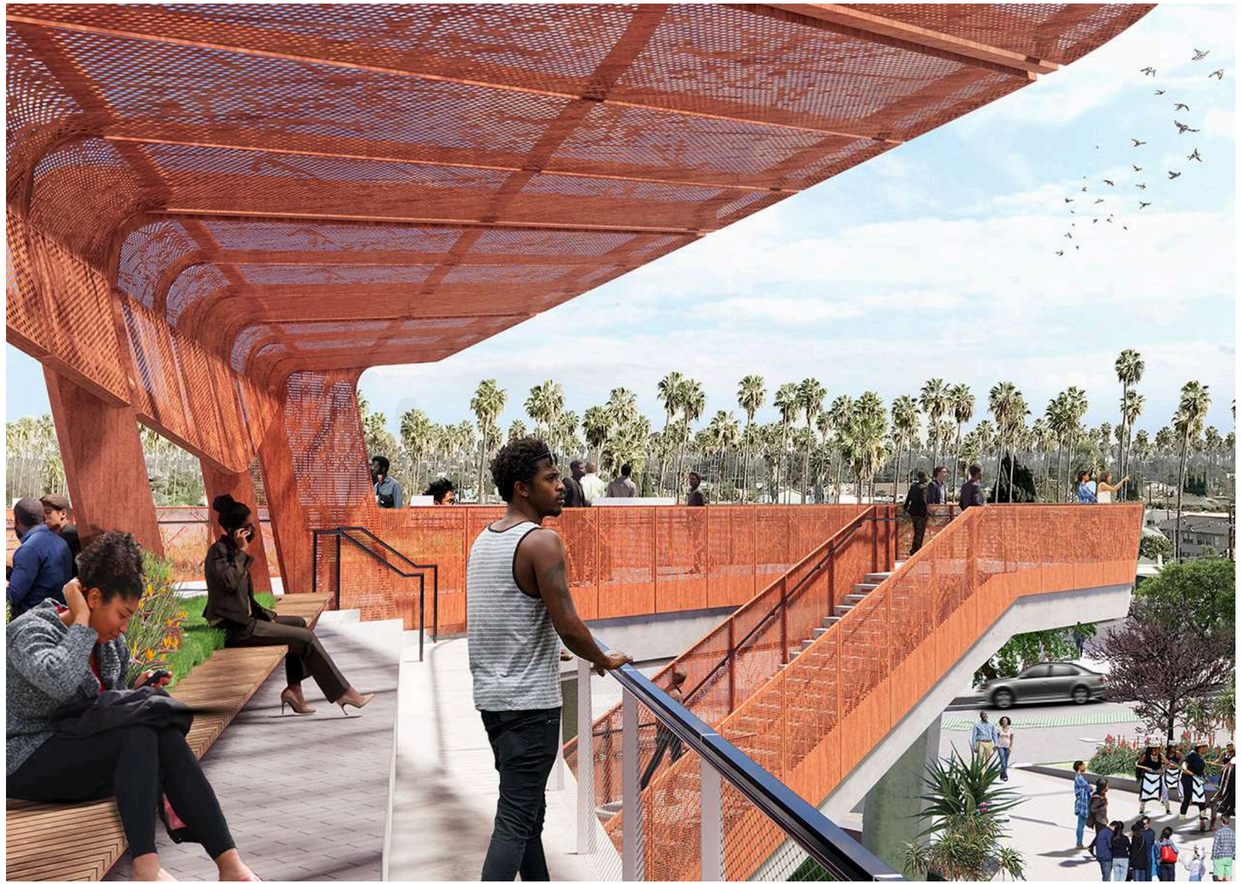
Left: Construction progress of Sankofa Park.

Photos by Dissimilar Metal Design.

>

Right: The observation deck of Sankofa Park.

Rendering by Perkins&Will.



Remote: Eielson Visitor Center

Project Type: **Visitor Center, Renovation**

Location: **Denali National Park, AK**

Dates: **February 2022 - April 2022**

Size: **7,500 sf**

Project Role:

- Technical Lead during DD
- Unique Experience:
  - Exhibit Design
  - Collaboration with GSA

Points of Interest:

- Green roof replacement along with energy and waterproofing retrofit
- Unique construction delivery due to intense seasons and remote site

Software Used:

- Revit, Rhino, Enscape

>

Photo by Benjamin Benschneider

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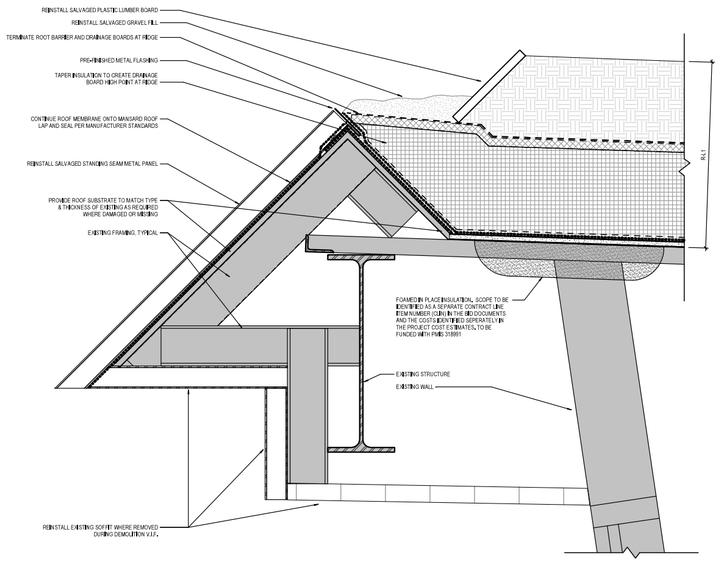
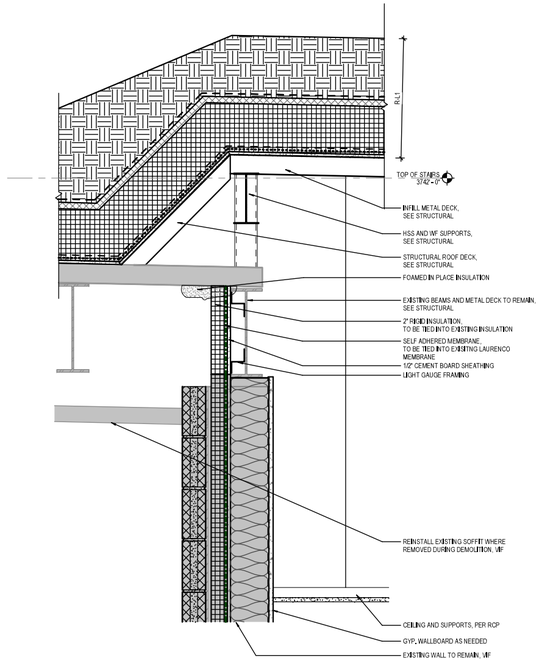
Left: Aerial view of the subterranean visitor center after the green roof renovation. Rendering by Perkins&Will

>

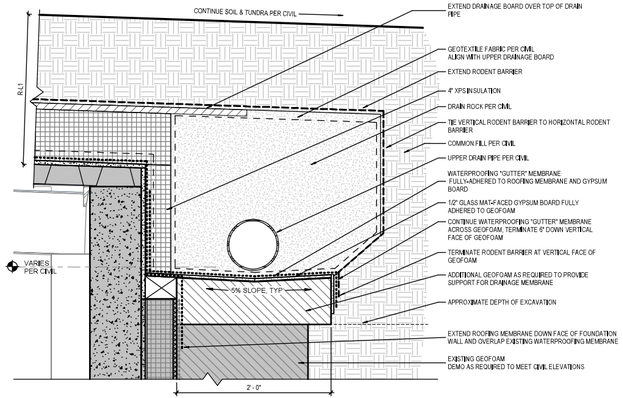
Right: Detail of a typical edge condition. **As much of the existing material was salvaged as possible**



1 EXTERIOR DETAIL - MANSARD ROOF FASCIA - TYPICAL



3 EXTERIOR DETAIL AT WING WALL - SOUTH OF STAIRS



2 LIVING ROOF DRAINAGE DETAIL

<

Left: Photo by the National Park Service.

^

Above: Green roof details.

Experiment: Aperture

Project Type: **Emergency Housing, Competition**

Dates: **November 2025**

Size: **267 sf**

Project Role:

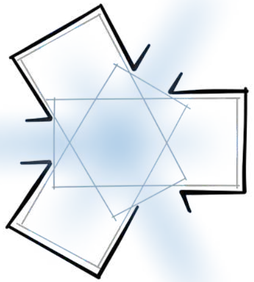
- Project Designer

Points of Interest:

- Winner of 2025 Microhome International Competition
- Nature as the focus of living, while maintaining privacy in dense housing
- Requirement to stay under 25 m² (269 ft²)

Software Used:

- Rhino, Enscape, Adobe Suite



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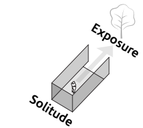
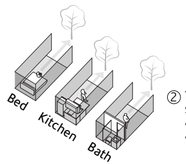
Left: Rendering at the entrance to one of the Aperture microhomes.

<

Left: Interior rendering of one of the three apertures.



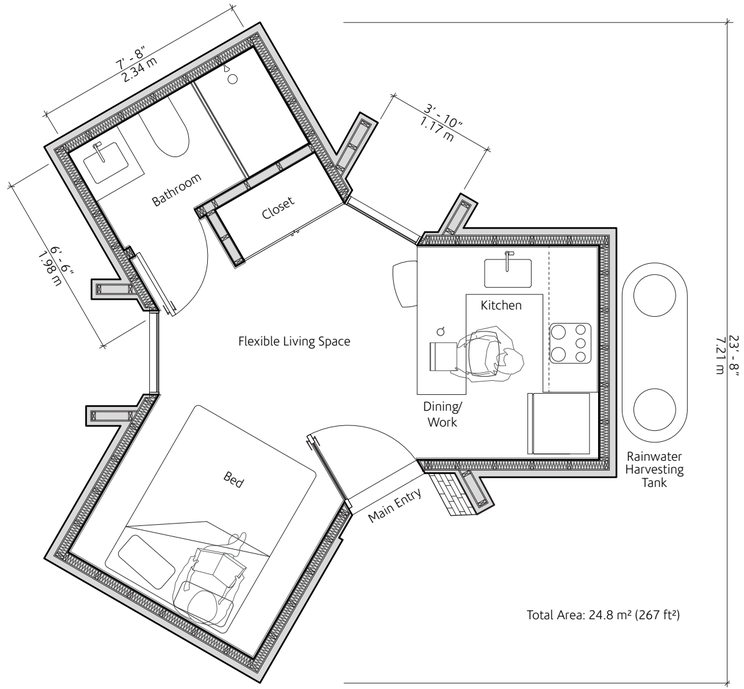
① The core form of the home is created from the simple **balance between exposure and solitude**



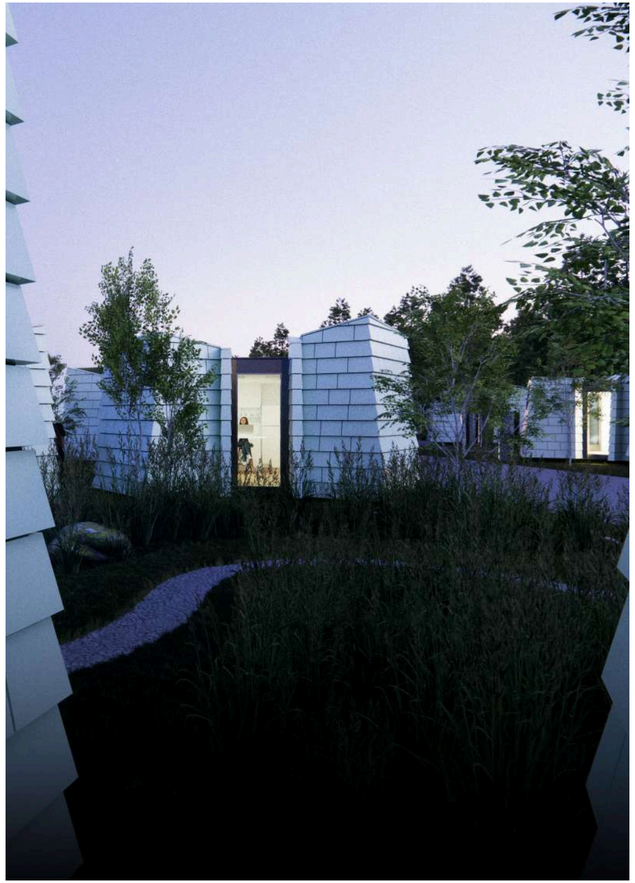
② The three fundamental spaces of the home are all arranged in this same alignment

③ The three spaces are then reoriented to share their common areas while still leaving an unobstructed aperture for each one

④ An opaque outer skin is added to create solitude for these three spaces, then peels away at the apertures to create additional privacy and a more focused view outwards



Floor Plan



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Left: Rendering at one of the lush nooks between homes

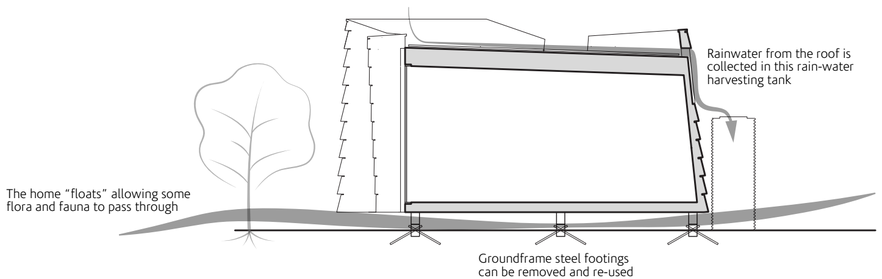
>

Right, Top: Aerialrendering of a community of Aperture microhomes.

Right, Bottom: Section through the Aperture.

The home's design and installation is an embodiment of **regenerative design:**

- Each home generates it's own power from photovoltaics and captures rain water for re-use.
- The home floats above the ground, preventing compaction of the soil and allowing some flora and fauna to pass underneath.
- The home's footings are reusable, allowing the home to be removed from the site and subsequently little trace of its existence will remain.
- These features, along with the vegetated nature clumps between homes, would allow the site to be a habitat for nature while in use, and allow the site to return to it's natural condition quickly following the end of its use for the homes.



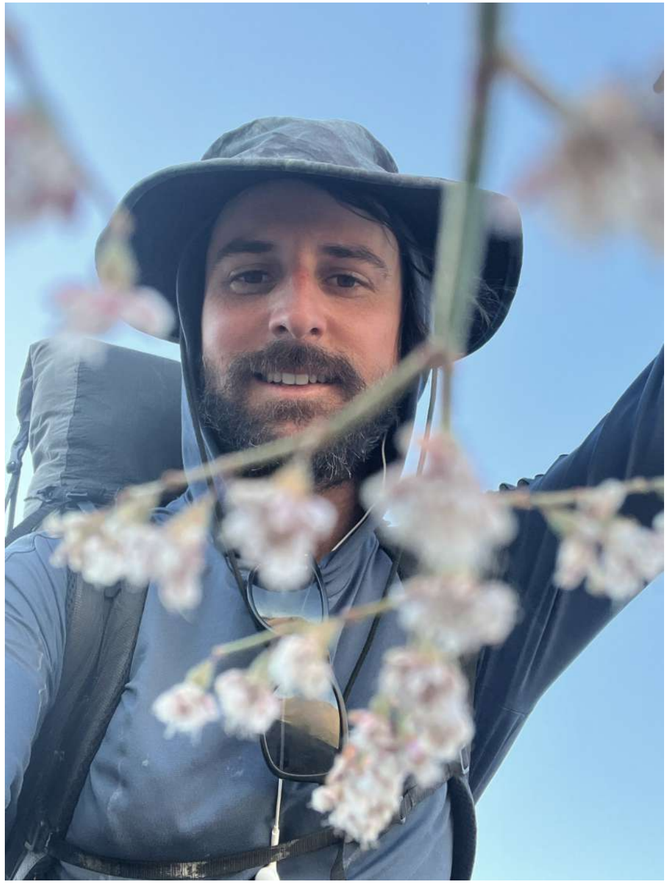
Louis Peiser

Contact:

Online: www.LouisPeiser.com

Email: Louisgpeiser@gmail.com

Phone: 760-703-4479



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Appreciating upside-down flowers somewhere on the Pacific Crest Trail.