



The Southern Ute Indian Cultural Center & Museum

CONCEPT PHASE REPORT

February 2, 2006



Jones & Jones Architects and Landscape Architects, Ltd.
Seattle, Washington



The Southern Ute Indian Tribe

PO Box 737

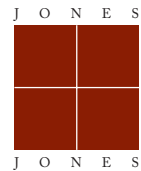
Ignacio, Colorado 81137



Southern Ute Indian Cultural Center and Museum

14826 Hwy 172

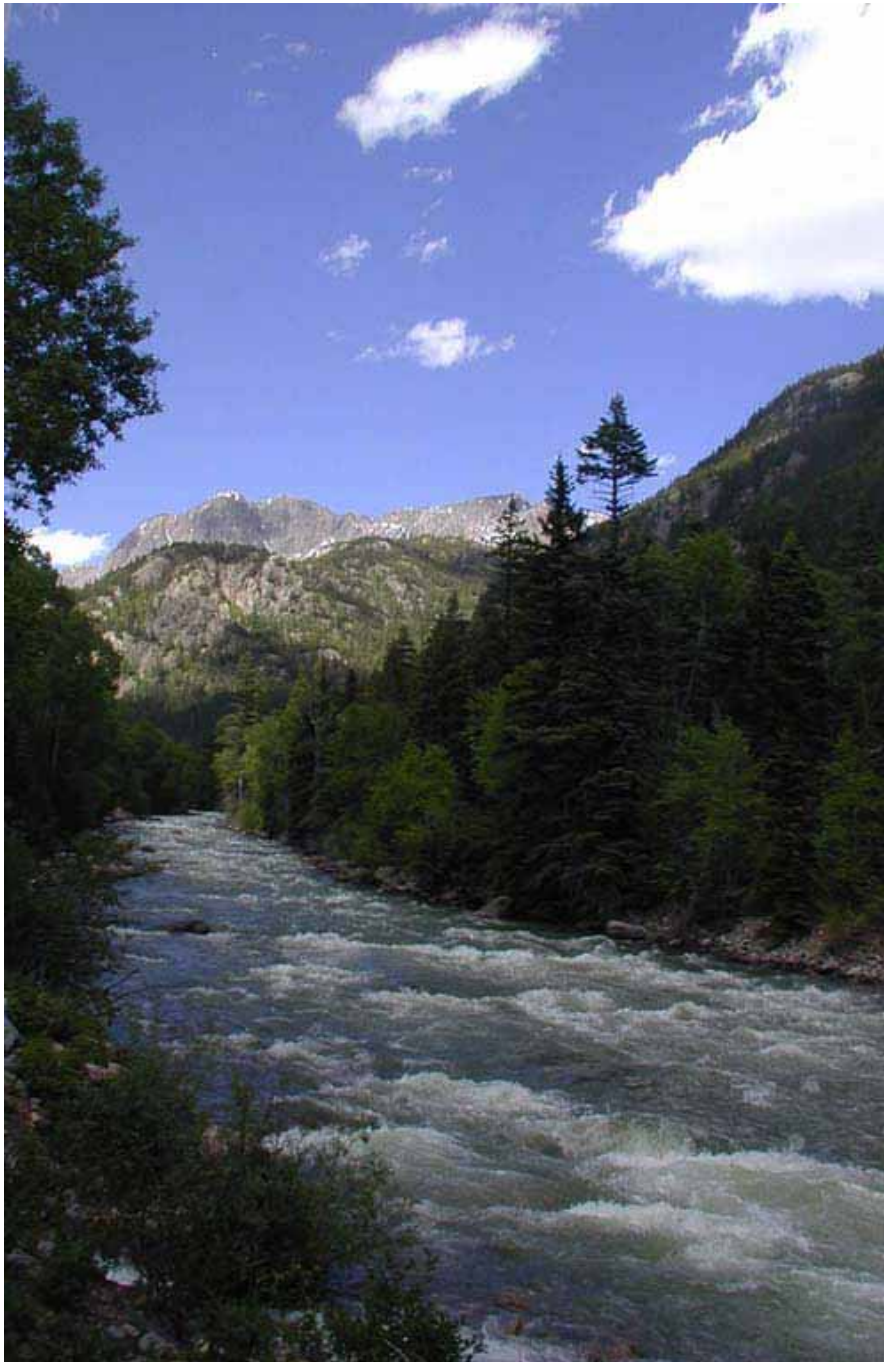
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Introduction

The new Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum will create a place which celebrates the heritage and culture of the Southern Ute Indian Tribe. The Southern Ute community has identified the need for a new facility which will preserve, protect, and revitalize the traditions, history, and art of their unique culture. It will create a dynamic forum to assist with the transition of knowledge as tribal elders pass on their culture to younger tribal members. By strengthening this living history, countless generations of tribal members will forever have a place to honor the past, present, and future of the Southern Ute.

While the primary audience of the Cultural Center and Museum will be tribal members, it will also provide the general public with the opportunity to learn about the history and culture of the tribe. Through educational programs, permanent and changing interpretive exhibits, and special events, out-of-town guests will become more knowledgeable about the Ute stories and respectful during their visit to Ute lands.

There is hope that all guests of the new Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum may find inspiration and gain understanding before their return home.

Project Goals

The Cultural Center and Museum design is inspired by the ways, traditions, and ideas of the Southern Ute. The project team members have embraced a participatory approach, carefully listening to tribal elders and their children and grandchildren whom the new Center will serve. The indigenous values and ways of the Ute people will form the foundation upon which the Cultural Center and Museum continues to be planned, designed, built, and interpreted. The project will:

- Create a place that enriches the understanding and cultural lives of those who visit the Cultural Center and Museum.
- Create a place that expresses fundamental indigenous cultural values, where learning and sharing are emphasized.
- Create a place that clearly honors and defines the Southern Ute for all those who come to the Cultural Center and Museum.
- Create exemplary facilities that meet functional and programmatic requirements while also being sustainable.



Cultural Preservation

The Southern Ute Cultural Center and Museum will honor the cultural legacy of the Southern Ute Tribe as well as other Ute people that once inhabited the broad territory of Ute lands. It will tell the story of Southern Ute and provide educational opportunities for all people to learn about the rich heritage associated with the seven bands of the Ute people. Traditional ways will be preserved and revitalized through arts and crafts programs such as beading, hide-work, and storytelling. It will be a contemporary expression of culture: one which is inspired by the past while fulfilling the promise of the future.



Flexibility and Efficiency

Various elements of the site and building will need to adapt to a variety of different use patterns, including public educational groups and large and small tourist groups as well as private tribal events. This characteristic is consistent with the larger project goal of establishing a Cultural Center and Museum—a dynamic place that can change and be adaptable to the emerging realities of the living culture.

Future Expansion

The facility will accommodate the tribal collection of artifacts and art. It will be designed in a manner which allows for the future growth of the collections area with minimal impact to any pre-existing facility. This provides the opportunity to satisfy both short-term and long-term needs and the ability to build certain elements of the facility over time to meet changing or expanding facility needs.

Sustainable Design

The project will take advantage of different sustainable design strategies to co-exist with its natural environment in an ecologically friendly manner. The site will be designed to restore area habitat, represent traditional use, native plantlife and eliminate any unwelcome invasive plant species. The building will minimize energy consumption to help reduce operating costs in the future. Materials will be selected which are both culturally significant and environmentally appropriate.



Design Approach

The Southern Ute Nation Cultural Center and Museum will represent a living history, telling a comprehensive and compelling story of history, landscape, culture, and community. By weaving the depth of cultural understanding into the design approach, we create an experience that communicates the natural history of the Southern Ute Nation. The design therefore becomes one voice in the chorus of cultural interpretation. Because the lives of the Southern Ute are so tightly woven into the fabric of the Rocky Mountains, the design must be a strongly connected to the landscape. Native vegetation, running water, aspens, pines, and open meadows offer clues into the representation of a deep history and meaning of the Ute people. Understanding and interpreting these natural systems, cultural traditions, and historical realities in the design will communicate appropriate messages to those who visit the Cultural Center and Museum. This requires ongoing careful interaction and exploration between the design team and Southern Ute tribal members. Therefore, we will continue our efforts to work with tribal elders, tribal children, and all tribal members to ensure that the messages expressed in the design of the new Cultural Center and Museum encompass the full identity of Southern Ute people.

Inclusive

- Inclusive collaboration to achieve consensus
- Communicate effectively
- Be proactive and identify issues
- Offer alternatives for consideration
- Invest in community

Integrated

- Artfully weave together design, natural systems, and culture
- Connect people with the land and the environment
- Multi-disciplinary, client-centered approach
- Immersive experiences harmonize with their surroundings

Contextual

- Rooted in Community
- Informed by Nature
- Expressive of Culture and Values
- Solutions grow from Place
- Heal the landscape
- Timeless, built to last

Sustainable Design

The new Cultural Center and Museum will be designed as an integral part of the land and its place. Understanding climate characteristics, such as wind and solar exposure, is paramount to the making of a holistic, ecologically balanced building.

By developing a “green toolbox” for the project, the design team and client teams will be able to set goals for the overall sustainability of the building and site.

Create a Building That Will Last

- Understand the life cycle capacity of materials and systems
- Durable, natural materials age well and retain beauty without excessive maintenance
- Design the buildings and site so they may serve as a “teaching tool”
- Consider LEED™ Certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design)

Minimize Energy Consumption

- Natural ventilation, passive heating and cooling
- Utilize energy-efficient lighting

Create a Zero-Emission Building

- Utilize an energy-efficient mechanical system, or consider passive ventilation
- Exceed standards for Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)
- Limit use of materials that rely heavily on synthetics, polymers, and plastics
- Specify low-VOC (volatile organic compounds) finishes and paints



Protect Water & Habitat

- Use on-site detention to allow stormwater to mitigate directly back into the soil
- A Living Roof System will aid stormwater management, create habitat, and lower heating and cooling loads.
- Native plantlife will help the natural ecosystems sustain themselves
- Explore greywater systems for flushing toilets or site irrigation

Material Selection

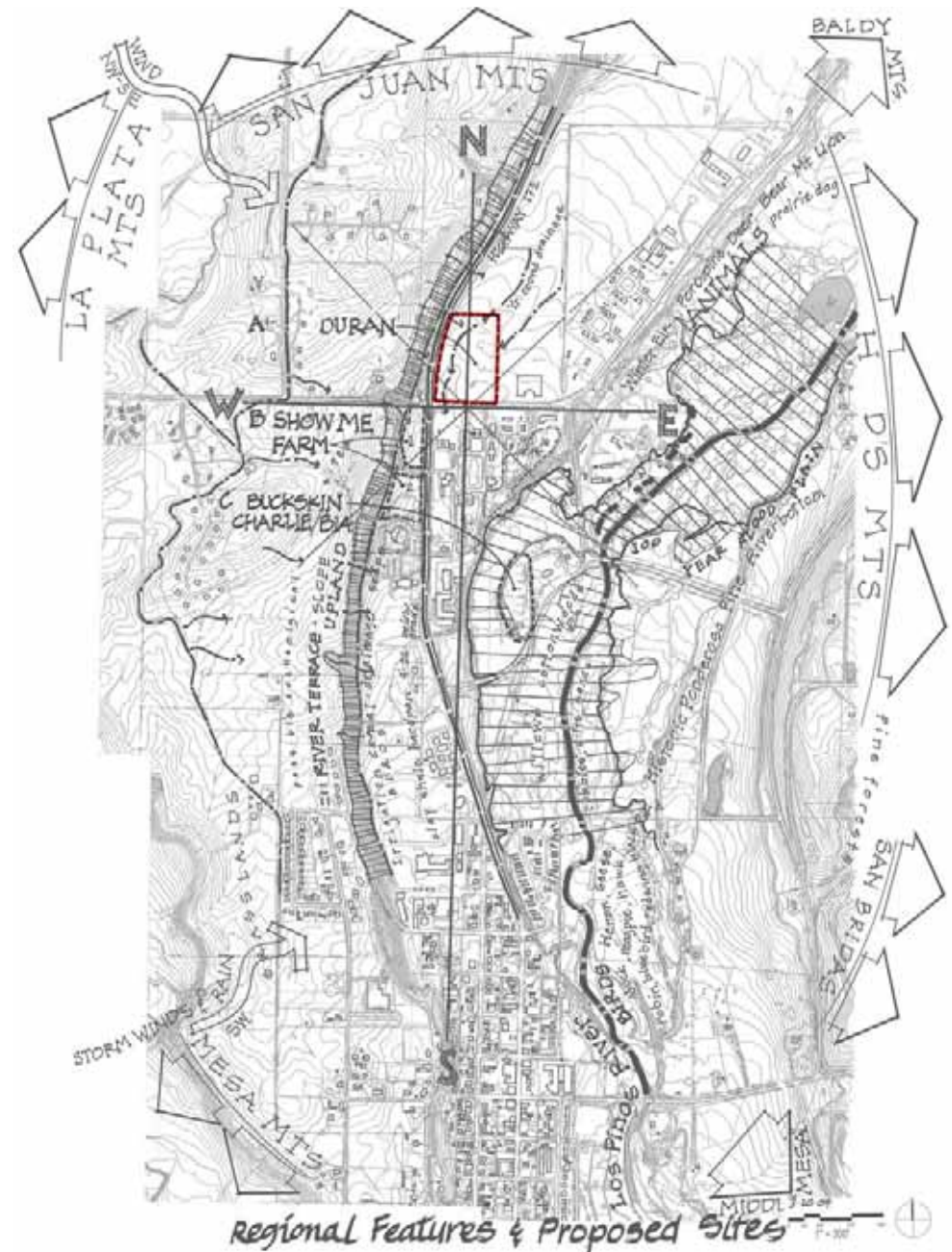
- Choose materials that are reused, recycled, or recyclable: avoid “eternal trash”
- Use materials found in nature from certified, sustainably harvested sources.

Develop in Harmony with the Environment

- Orient buildings and spaces for natural lighting and ventilation
- Utilize vegetation and topography for seasonal shade and wind protection
- Re-establish plantlife native to the region to reduce irrigation and maintenance requirements
- Incorporate vegetation that provides habitat for resident and migratory animals



Site looking North





Aerial photograph of project site

Existing Site Conditions

The site of the Southern Ute Indian Cultural Center and Museum occupies a prominent gateway position for the native community in the area. It is in full view from Highway 172 as the highway descends the upper river terrace and enters Ignacio from the north.

Views and Geography

The site occupies a low river terrace. Currently, its open pastureland provides a sense of the expansive landscape once formed by the Los Pinos River. The Los Pinos is approximately 1600 feet to the east. The site offers views to the HDs on the east, the San Juan Mountains to the north, and south views to the Mesa Mountains.

On the west, Highway 172 separates the river's upper terrace from the site. Elevation change across the 6.5-acre site drops about 10 feet from northeast to southwest.

Drainage

Existing drainage flows primarily along the west portion of the site. The lowest portion of the site, the southwest corner, is seasonally inundated (May to October) with irrigation water from land uses up the valley. This water gradually disappears into the groundwater system of the river. Clay soils occupy this low area. There is no existing piped utility drainage system at this location.

Utilities

Utilities are available in the county road or at the site.

Adjacent Land uses

The Justice Center building, and its parking lot and exercise yard, are the east neighbor of the site. A temporary building for the Justice Center moved onto the site in the fall of 2005. It is located on the community center/museum property. Removal of the building is necessary for development of the project site.

Future development of the property to the north of the site includes a new Casino and extensive visitor day and overnight accommodations. These facilities are being planned in similar timeframe to the community center/museum.

Infrastructure coordination with the Casino development, especially drainage and storm water runoff and traffic/pedestrian circulation, is very important to the success of the community center/museum project, which is downstream from the proposed Casino development.

Vehicle and Pedestrian Access

Vehicle access to the site is recommended from County Road 517 to extend the existing campus street pattern. Pedestrian walkways from the Academy area do not exist to the Justice Center or to the community/museum site and are proposed in the concept plan.

Environmental Studies

There is an Environmental Assessment for the entire Duran Assessment, which includes the Cultural Center/Museum site and Casino development in process (December 2005).

Sun, Rain, Snow, and Wind

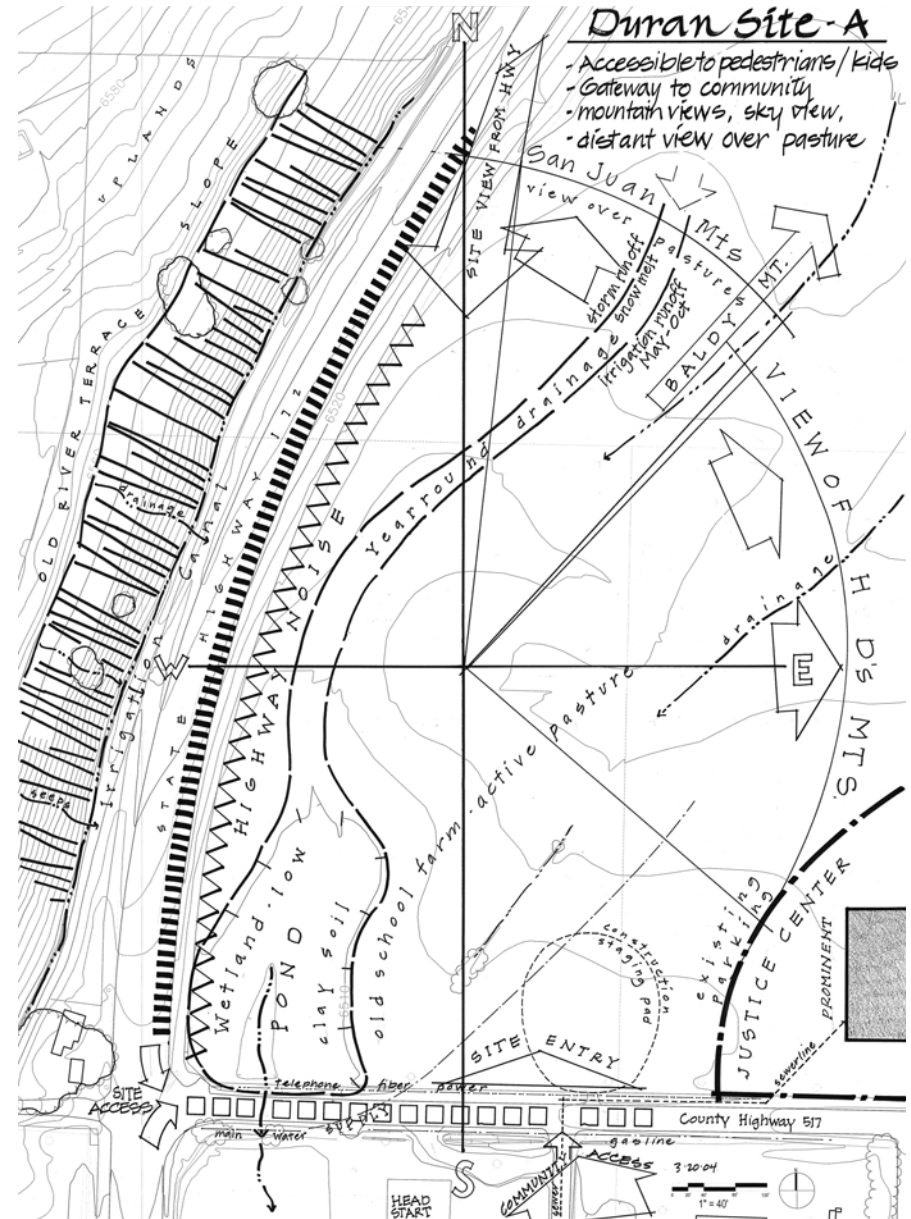
The average maximum summer temperature for Ignacio is 87.5°F in the months of June and July. The community's minimum temperatures are in January, averaging 7.1°F.

The average snow depth is greatest in January, with 4 inches. Locals recall knee-deep snow can occur in the winter months.

The average rainfall is greatest in August during summer storms. Summer through October generally can see 1½ inches per month. The area has been experiencing drought conditions for a number of years.



Statistically there is wind blowing at sometime during each month, all year long. March sees west, south, and west-southwest winds. West-southwest, southwest, south, and east-southeast winds blow in June. Southwest, west-southwest, west, north, and northeast winds blow in September. In December the winds blow from the west-southwest, west, and then swing to the northeast, northwest, east, and southeast. The locals report storm winds come from the southwest and northwest.





Concept Phase Site Program

	Program Requirements	Sq. Ft.
Welcome and Gathering		
Welcome East Entry		
Marketplace, Sculptural Court		
West Gathering		
Terrace		
Outdoor Café Area	16-20 people	750 sf
Meadow Lawn with Trellis/Arbor	—	1,775 sf
Story Circle	20 people	
Large Amphitheater	100 people	
South Terrace		
Multi-Purpose Terrace	200 people ?	2,200 sf
Outdoor Cooking Area	—	
Education Areas		
South Outdoor Classroom	60 kids	600 sf
TP Camp Circle	—	2,300 sf
Horse Corral/Circle	—	2,575 sf
Drumming Area	—	1,980 sf
Gardens		
Traditional Plants Garden	—	1,700 sf
Interpretive Garden at West Gathering	—	
Crop Garden Area	—	
Storage Building	—	100 sf
Plant Nursery	—	
Unprogrammed Habitat Areas		
Pine Forest	—	
Lowland	—	
Drainage Retention Basins	—	
Existing Drainage-Irrigation Run-off Area	—	
Aspen Forest	—	
Site Paths	—	
Vehicle Entry/Parking/Delivery		
Turnaround/Drop Off	2 bus spaces	
Parking		
Bus/RV Parking	2-3 spaces	
School Bus Parking	2 spaces	
Staff Parking	18 spaces	
Visitor/Community/Elder	—	
Loading Dock Area	1 semi-truck & 1 delivery truck	400 sf
Site Acreage Total		6.5 acres



Concept Site Design

The concept for the Southern Ute Indian Cultural Center and Museum site will be to “[Tell the Ute Story](#).” The project goals—Preserve the Culture, Provide for Flexibility and Efficiency, Provide Opportunities for Future Expansion, and Share Cultural Values Through Sustainable Design—are represented in the Site Concept.

[Three distinct habitats](#)—pine forest, aspen forest, and open lowlands—form the site structure. They represent the landscapes of the seasonal round journey. The pine habitat will provide a buffer screen to the adjacent Justice Center and future casino development. The lowland habitat will provide naturalized stormwater management opportunities. The aspen forest offers seasonal change in the landscape. Birds and animals will return to the newly vegetated areas of the site.

[Site paths](#) link the habitats and outdoor activity areas. The site paths will provide visitors with opportunities to experience the native landscape and connect adjacent properties, parkland, schools, and the river corridor.

The [Welcome Entry](#) to the Southern Ute Indian Cultural Center and Museum reflects the traditional east entry recognized by the Southern Utes. The entry area is accessed by crossing over a spring water/stream. Stones, wildflowers, grasses, and woodland plants follow the stream. A door to the Gift Shop opens onto the Welcome Entry. Pedestrian walkways from the campus community and parking areas lead visitors to the Welcome Entry.





The **West Gathering Area**, including the **Terrace and Meadow-lawn**, honors the activity of community gathering. The circular form of the building embraces the West Gathering Area. The Terrace and Meadow-lawn provides views to the extended landscape on the southwest, west, and northwest. The Terrace provides outdoor café seating and activity space shaded by trees.

The **Interpretive Garden** at the Terrace will be planted with traditional food plants and medicinal herbs.

The **Trellis/Arbor** around the Meadow-lawn will screen activities from Highway 172. A story circle by the Meadow-lawn will be a small group meeting area. Walkways around the Meadow-lawn lead to the lowland habitat areas and site paths.

The **South Terrace, Gardens, Outdoor Cooking Area**, and **Outdoor Classrooms** support educational activities and traditional lifeways. These areas surround the community center “wing” on the south and southwest.

An **Outdoor Classroom** sits in the aspen forest. Openings in the pine forest provide teepee camp circles on the east area of the site.

An **Outdoor Cooking Area** with fire pit and ovens are adjacent to the facility kitchen. A garden space extends to the lowland habitat area where shelter and basket-making plants will naturalize the lowest part of the site.

Opportunities for a **crop garden** and garden storage for tools and equipment are on the south side of the community center.

The **Multi-Purpose Terrace** is adjacent to the community center’s multi-purpose room and extends west and south to accommodate a variety of outdoor activities (including banquets and fashion show). Access to the terrace for banquet setup is provided off the south parking lot.

The **Outdoor Amphitheater** maximizes views to the northwest and mountains. It is associated with the large Events Area and is buffer planted from Highway 172.

The **Horse Corral** and shelter (feed storage and water areas) provides temporary quarters for the horses, a part of the education program of the community center. The corral is situated in a clearing of the pine forest adjacent to the Event Area. It has road and path connections nearby.

Vehicle Parking and the **Turnaround/Drop-off** is off County Road 517. Three tourist bus/RV parking spaces are provided at the turnaround. Vehicle parking is in an arc along the east and south sides of the building. A driveway for deliveries and garbage/recycling pickup is on the north. A road connects to the casino development. An extended curb cut will allow for event use of the west Justice Center parking lot. The curb cut also provides two school bus parking spaces.

All parking areas will have stormwater run-off basins.



Building Concept



Building Form

The building is centered on a tall, conical entry space that serves as a Welcome Hall for all visitors. Flanking sides curve away from the Welcome Hall, encircling a large outdoor courtyard which is open to the west. Steep roof slopes alternate along these flanks, allowing for an efficient, two-story design. These alternating roof slopes also serve to give the building form jagged, peaked rooflines that direct visitor's eyes up and suggest the profile of mountains against the sky. The circular shape of the overall facility suggests many cultural and natural images for visitors while effectively marking the land, creating a welcoming place for learning about the Southern Ute Indians.



Building Organization

The Cultural Center and Museum will function as a series of building program elements joined together under large roofs and a connected via an interior, glazed gallery that functions as the primary public corridor for the facility.

Visitors enter the circular Welcome Hall from the east where they are introduced to the larger circle that encompasses the entire facility. This space allows visitors simultaneous views to the sky and to the circular courtyard beyond. From here visitors move to the left or right through the glazed gallery to the various exhibit galleries or educational areas that deliver the Center's mission. As visitors move in and out of these various rooms from the glazed circulation gallery, they are continually reconnected to the large, outdoor courtyard at the center of the design. This round courtyard serves to remind visitors, as they move throughout the public areas of the facility, of the cultural significance of the land and natural systems for the Utes. As visitors move towards the ends of the glazed gallery, they get a new view of the courtyard with the Welcome Hall aligned with the cardinal directions, which does double duty by reorienting them to where they are in the facility while also reminding them of the long history of the Ute people on this land.

All public areas of the new facility are located on the Main Level with the exception of a viewing area that surrounds the Welcome Hall on the Upper Level. This Upper Level gallery is designed to support small temporary exhibits while also allowing visitors to step outside and gain long distance views to the landscape beyond, and hopefully, mountain ranges on the horizon. The remainder of the Upper Level is reserved for Staff Offices and is restricted to the public.



Building Materials

The primary materials of the public architecture for the new Cultural Center and Museum are stone, wood, metal and “living systems.” Exterior walls will be clad in local stone and wood siding, with some areas of cement stucco and glass. Both large diameter and smaller, round-wood, pine poles will be used for many structural elements throughout the facility. The roof-scape will be composed of metal roof panels and “living roof” systems. Living roofs are a time-tested system of placing soil and native plants atop a conventional roofing membrane to realize several goals: grounding the design in the site, animating the roofscape, lowering operational energy costs by the increased insulative qualities of the system, improving storm-water performance and water quality all while expanding habitat for native species. Together these materials represent a select palette that ground the building to the region, express cultural traditions and ensure a long service life for the facility.

Concept Phase Building Program

Visitor Services	
Welcome Area	2,950 sf
<i>Information & Ticketing, Chair & Table Storage</i>	
Gift Shop	1,400 sf
<i>Shop, Storage, Office</i>	
Café	500 sf
<i>Seating Area, Kitchen, Storage</i>	
Exhibit Galleries	
Permanent Exhibit Gallery	7,000 sf
Temporary Exhibit Gallery	2,000 sf
Education Center	
Entry Area	200 sf
Classroom	1,000 sf
Craftroom	1,000 sf
Education Administration Offices	700 sf
<i>Education Director, Education Assistant, Volunteer Coordinator, Storage</i>	
Multipurpose Room	2,300 sf
<i>Multipurpose Room, Kitchen, Storage</i>	
Library	2,250 sf
<i>Reference Books, Librarian Office, Research Room, Computer Lab, Workroom, Archives Storage, Storytelling</i>	
Curatorial Suite	
General Storage	500 sf
<i>Bulk Storage, Temporary Gallery Staging Area</i>	
Collections Storage	2,000 sf
Curatorial Offices	500 sf
<i>Curator, Museum Associate, Museum Assistants (2)</i>	
Collections Management	950 sf
<i>Workshop, Curatorial Workroom, Conservation Laboratory, Exhibits Workroom, Isolation</i>	
Administrative Suite	
Administration Offices	1,300 sf
<i>Reception, Executive Director's Office, Development Office, Accountant Office, Human Resource Office, Storage, Mail / Print / Copy / Fax, Staff Restrooms</i>	
Board Room/Meeting Room	400 sf
Staff & Docent Lounge	300 sf
Net Assignable Square Footage	27,450 sf
<i>Plus Circulation, General Building Support, and Mechanical Spaces</i>	
Total Concept Phase Gross Square Footage	± 42,000 sf

Concept Phase Building Program Elements

Welcome Area - MAIN LEVEL

Visitors enter the building at the Welcome Area, a large circular space that projects the strong identity of the Southern Ute community to all. It conveys cultural traditions of space making through a bold shape abstracted from traditional teepee forms. Large scale wood poles support the structure and add warmth to the material vocabulary. The space is flooded with natural light from a large skylight above. In addition its function as the Welcome Area, the space will serve on occasion as a special gathering area allowing an audience to encircle performers on two levels.

Gift Shop - MAIN LEVEL

The Gift Shop creates a retail space for the sale of traditional arts and crafts at the Cultural Center and Museum. It builds upon the existing Museum retail operation by expanding opportunities for indigenous artisans to show and sell a wide array of goods including artwork, crafts, jewelry, and clothing in addition to the typical types of merchandise sold at museum stores. The shop will help generate revenue for the operational costs of the facility.

Cafe - MAIN LEVEL

A small Cafe will be included as part of the retail component of the facility. It provides visitors with a small coffee bar menu to refresh themselves as they continue to explore the entire facility. A small seating area will be provided, as well as an adjacent outdoor seating area.

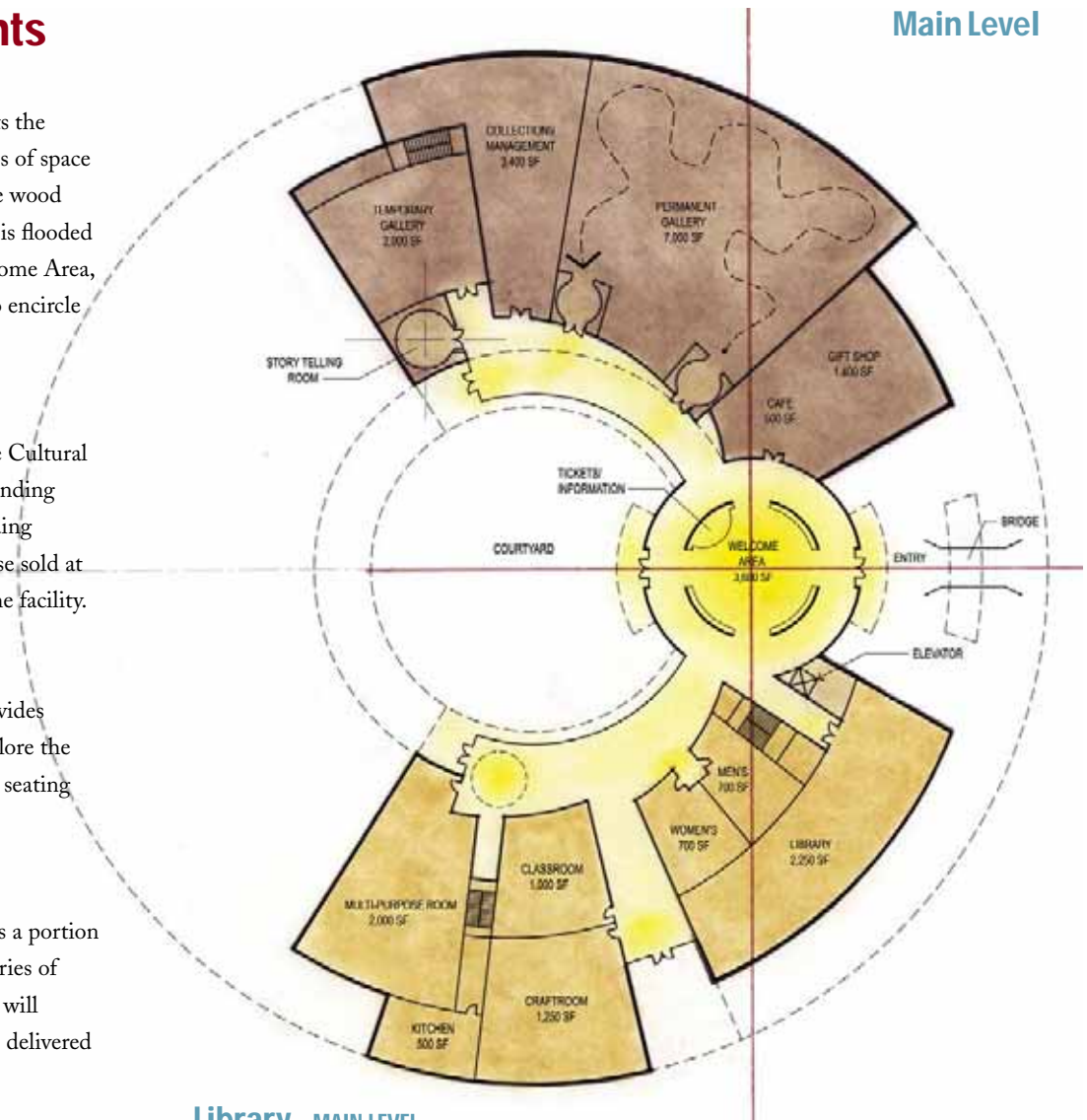
Permanent Exhibit Gallery - MAIN LEVEL

As one of the main focal areas within the building, the Permanent Gallery displays a portion of the Museum collection and tells the story of Southern Ute people. Though a series of interpretive exhibits, visitors learn about the past, present and future of the Ute. It will contain a variety of exhibits displaying artifacts, crafts and other educational items delivered through both static and interactive exhibits.

Temporary Exhibit Gallery - MAIN LEVEL

This gallery space will be very flexible to accommodate a host of rotating or traveling exhibits that help the Cultural Center and Museum meet its mission. Generally, it is an open space which can easily adapt to typical gallery requirements traveling exhibits may have.

Main Level



Library - MAIN LEVEL

The Library will be a place for both public and private research into Southern Ute culture and history. The Library will house more than reference books: it will also contain a computer lab, a children's library, a reading room, and Library offices. An Archives Storage Room will protect and preserve important documents and media for the future. A Storytelling Room will be designed to maintain oral history traditions by offering an intimate, comfortable, and culturally appropriate setting for the transfer of knowledge.

Craftroom and Classroom - MAIN LEVEL

The Craftroom provides an ideal setting for Tribal Elders and Museum Staff to teach younger Tribal Members the time-honored methods of traditional craft work. Activities in this space may include hide preparation, carving, beading, and drum-making. Large doors will lead to an outdoor area, which extends the instructional area outside. The Classroom serves more as a typical learning space for school age groups. Together, these two spaces allow the new Cultural Center and Museum to deliver its messages to schools around the region.

Multipurpose Room - MAIN LEVEL

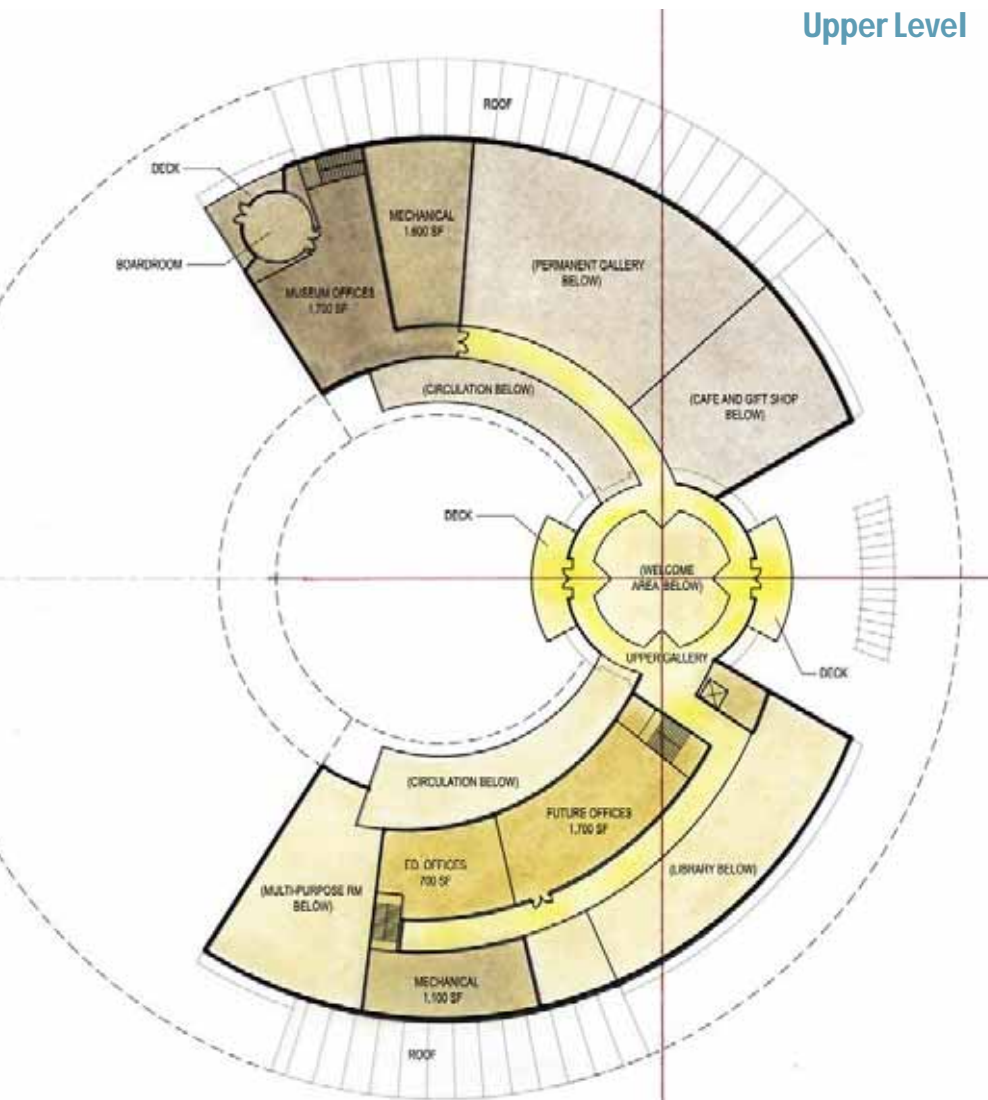
The Multipurpose Room provides an assembly space capable of hosting approximately 120 people for meetings, presentations, or other special events. It will feature a large, open space with movable seating and tables to permit maximum flexibility. It would also include a kitchen and storage room for tables and chairs. The room is connected to a terrace that extends its use outside. During regular operations, it will serve as a welcoming space for school groups.

Curatorial Suite - MAIN LEVEL

The Curatorial Suite consists of several different spaces that allow for the proper care of objects and artifacts. A Collections Storage Space is provided to accommodate the Tribes' current collection and allow for future growth as more artifacts are obtained. This area is located and configured to permit future expansion of the building as the collection grows. Other spaces in the suite include an Isolation Room, Curatorial Workshops, Curatorial Offices, and various types of storage. This suite will be located near the loading dock and the Temporary Exhibit Gallery to better facilitate efficient operation.

Administrative Suite - UPPER LEVEL

The Cultural Center and Museum Staff will be located in an Administrative Suite. It will contain offices, storage rooms, a copy/print/fax room and a Board Room which will also serve as the principal staff meeting room for the facility.



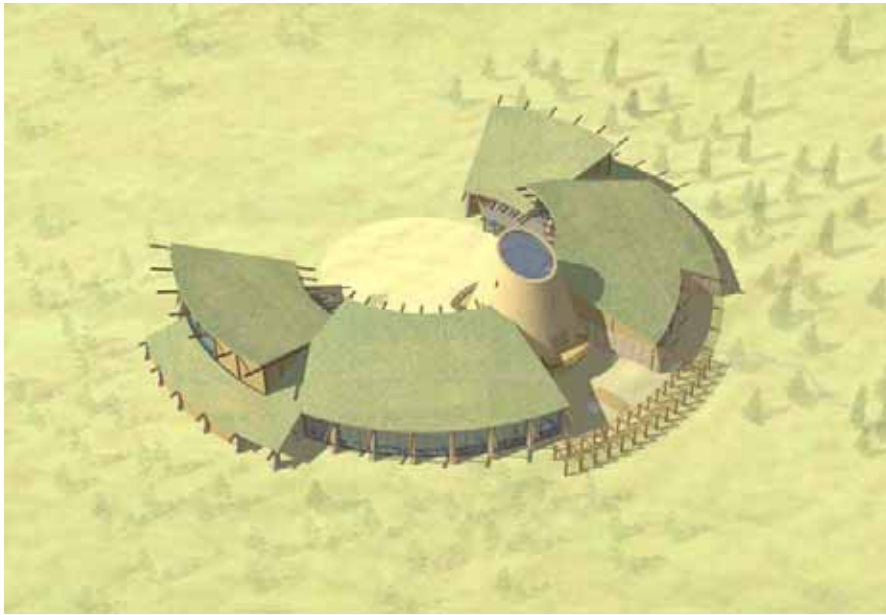
Miscellaneous Spaces - MAIN & UPPER LEVELS

Other spaces required to support the facility will include: a central plant and various mechanical rooms, technology rooms, custodial spaces, restrooms and storage rooms. A loading dock is necessary to support both collections and general material flows and must be designed with this consideration in mind to keep these two material flows separate from one another.

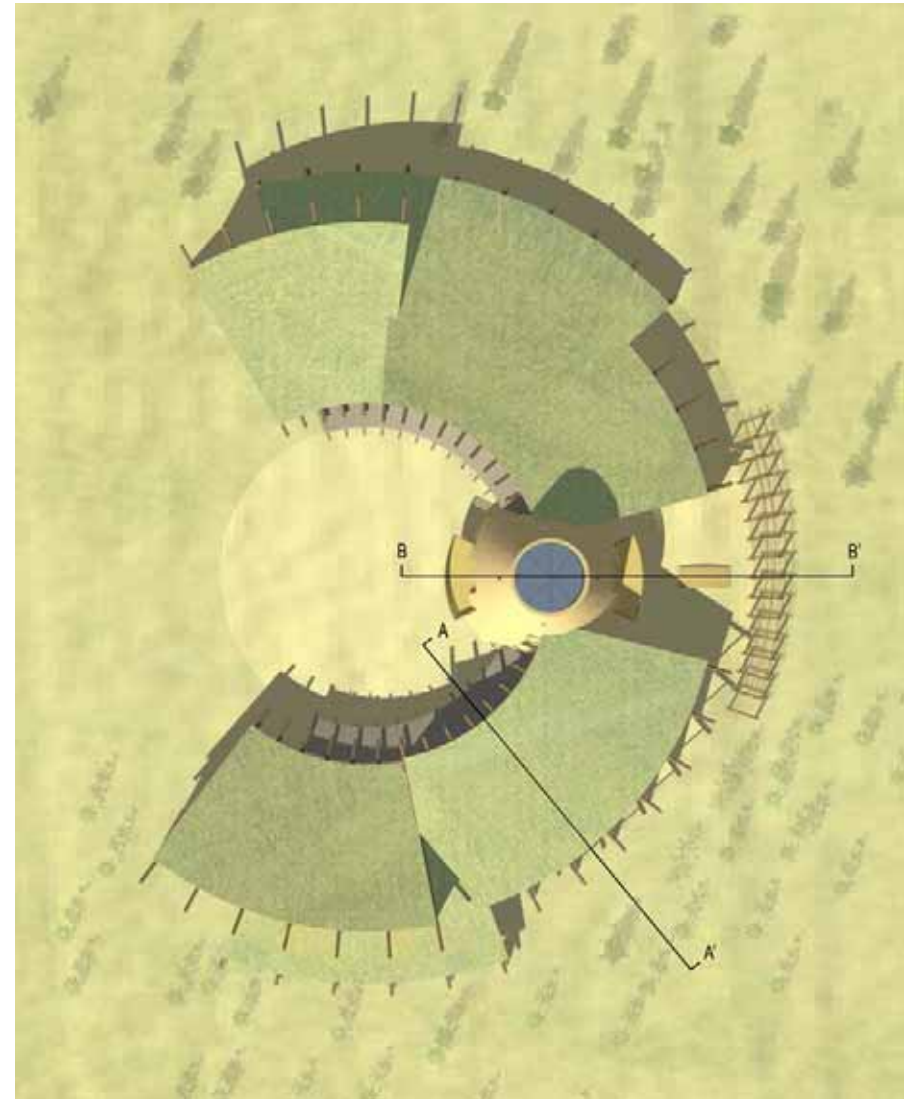
Renderings & Elevations



Entry Perspective



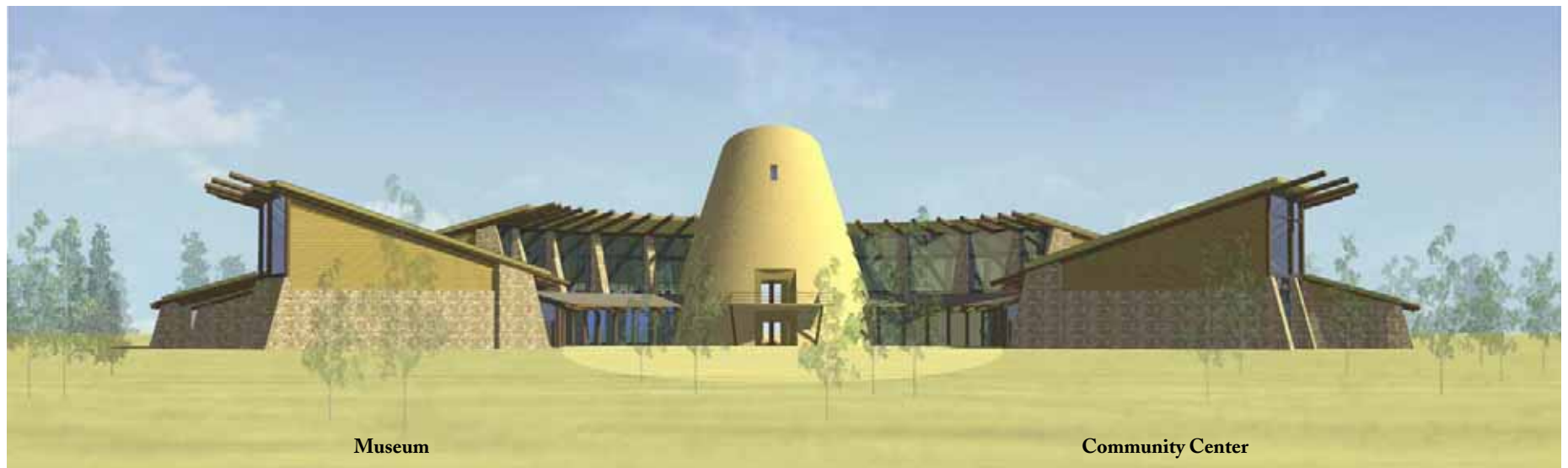
Aerial View



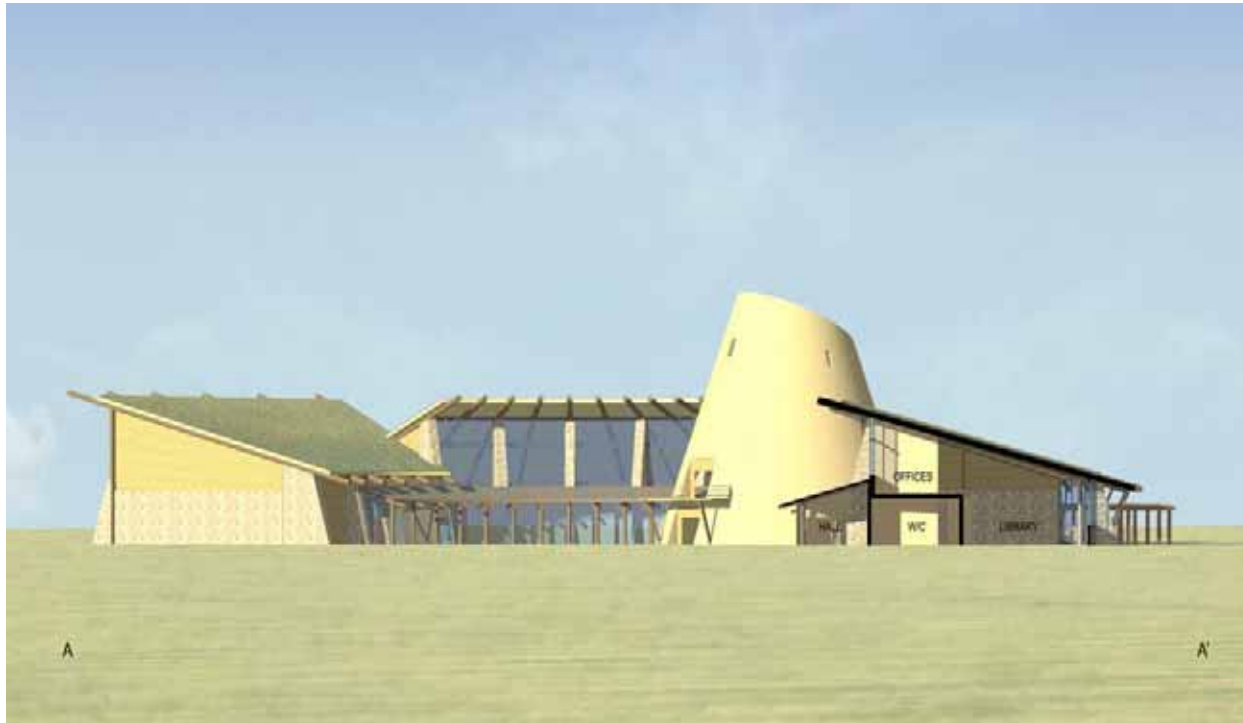
Plan View



Section at Welcome Gallery



West Elevation



Section at Library



East Elevation

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