STEPHEN COOK

ARCHITECTURE PORTFOLIO

32° 01' 22" N
80° 52' 48" W

WORK & OBSERVATIONS | 2015 - 2026



STEPHEN COOK

Licensed architect with 10+ years of experience leading commercial, civic, and residential projects through design, documentation, and construction. Experienced in consultant coordination, technical detailing, construction administration, and complex project delivery across cultural, worship, historic preservation, and public-facing project types.



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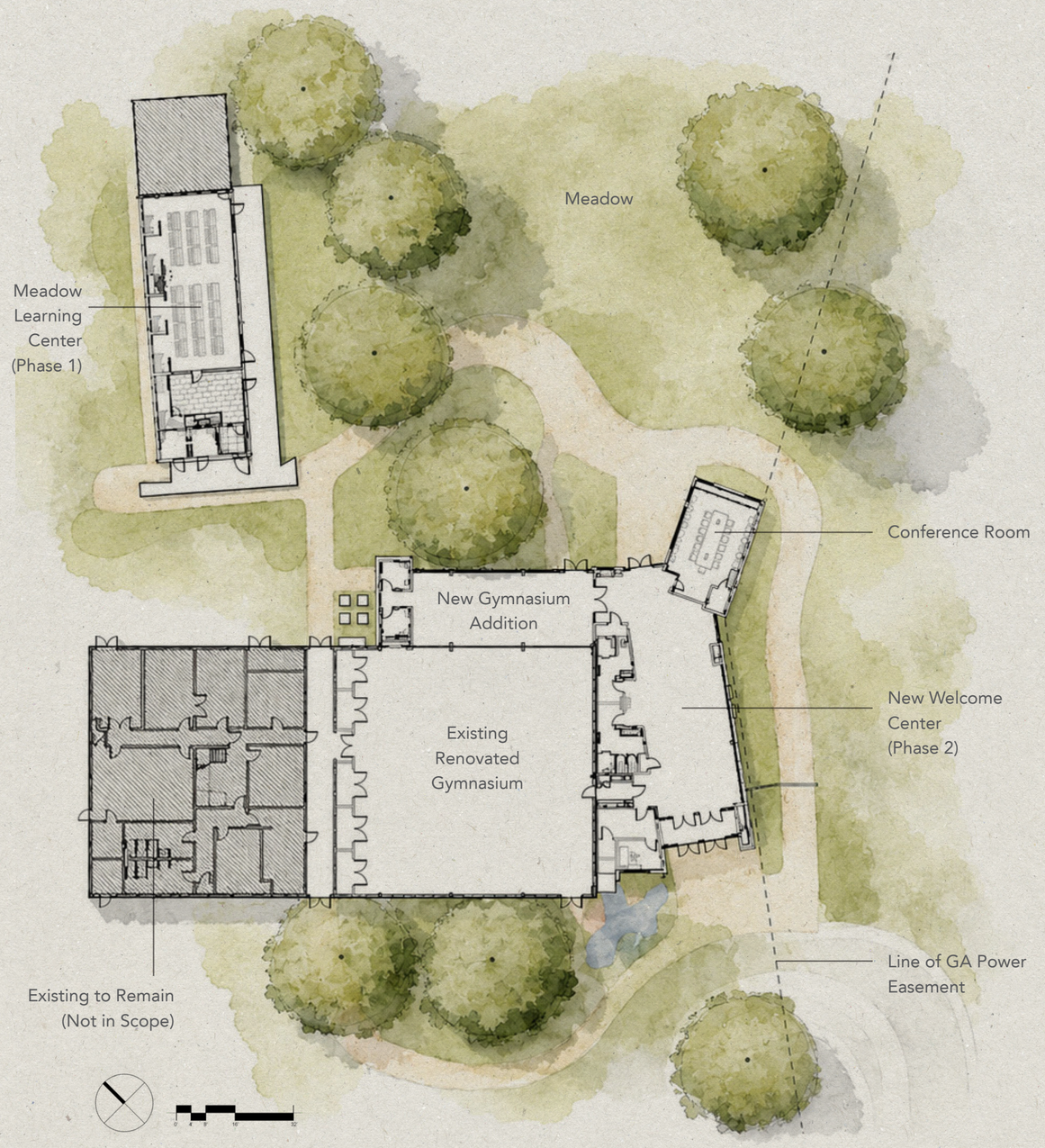
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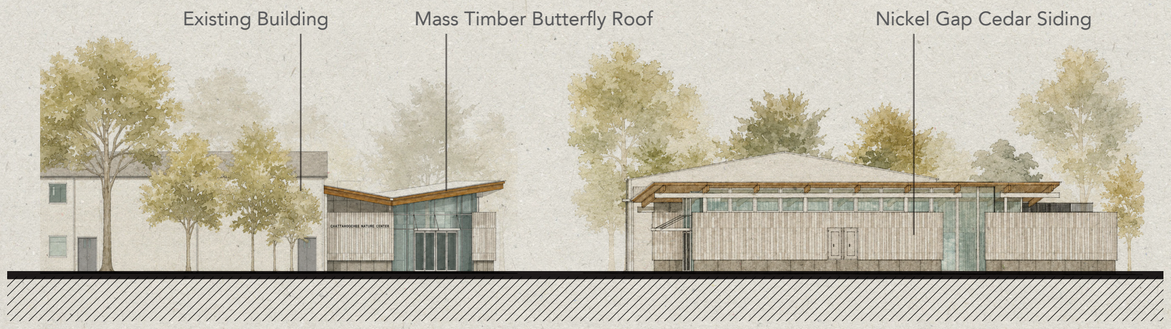
CHATTAHOOCHEE NATURE CENTER

Renovation & New River Welcome Center
Roswell, Georgia

The Chattahoochee Nature Center (CNC) is an interpretive center on the Chattahoochee River in Roswell, Georgia that provides a wide range of educational and conservation programs, including wildlife rehabilitation, summer camps, and a community garden. The campus also serves as a year-round destination for community gatherings and family-oriented events within a picturesque natural setting. The project includes a new River Welcome Center, renovations to existing campus facilities, and improvements to the surrounding landscape and circulation systems.

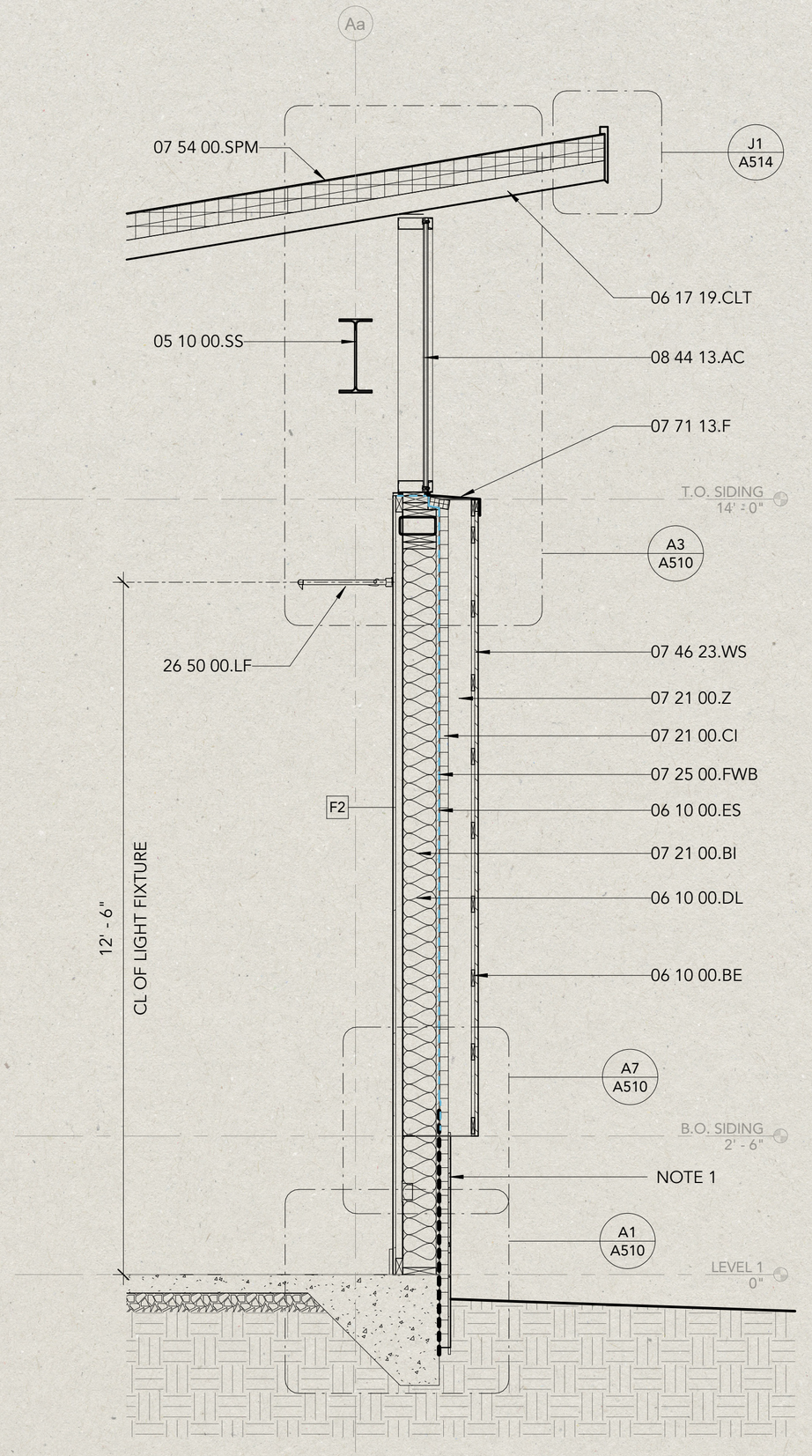
As Project Architect, responsibilities included leading concept design, consultant coordination, overseeing technical documentation and detailing, and supporting construction administration throughout the design-build delivery process. Architecturally, the project is defined by a mass timber butterfly roof structure that creates a warm and expressive interior environment while drawing natural light deep into the building. Natural cedar siding and restrained material selections were used throughout to reinforce the center's connection to the surrounding woodland landscape and to create a quiet architectural language rooted in the character of the site.





Southwest Elevation

Southeast Elevation



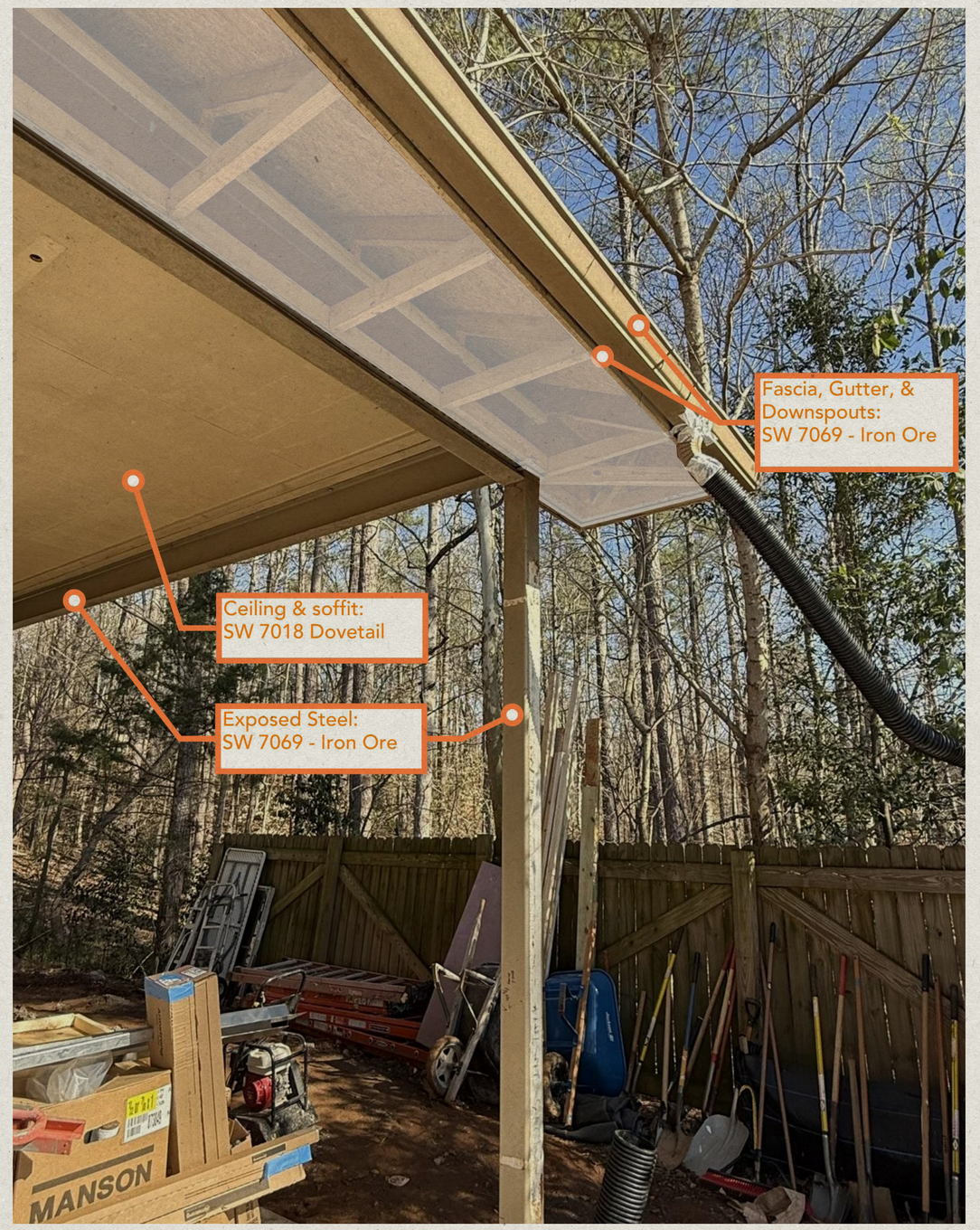
Wall Section at Clerestory Window

CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION

PROJECT EXECUTION & COORDINATION

Provided construction administration oversight throughout the project, including submittal and RFI management, field coordination, and resolution of constructability issues to maintain design intent and ensure quality execution.

These images document the construction of phase 1 of the project. Phase 2, the new mass timber welcome center is currently beginning construction.



SUBMITTAL & RFI MANAGEMENT

Managed the architectural submittal process and RFIs using Procore and Bluebeam to track reviews, coordinate with consultants, and maintain project schedule during construction.

Spec Section	Submittal Number	Title	Type	Responsible Contractor	Issue Date	Response	Status
08 7100 - Door Hardware	08 7100-1	#30 Door & Hardware Schedules & Product Data (Phase 2)	Product Information	Tebarco Door & Metal Services, Inc.	05/07/2026	05/21/2026	Open
08 4413 - Glazed Aluminum Curtain Walls	08 4413-1	#024 Curtainwall Shops & Door Hardware Product Data (Phase 2)	Shop Drawing	Architectural Glass & Waterproofing, Inc.	03/17/2026	04/09/2026	Closed
08 4413 - Glazed Aluminum Curtain Walls	08 4413-1	#024 Curtainwall Shops & Door Hardware Product Data (Phase 2)	Shop Drawing	Architectural Glass & Waterproofing, Inc.	02/26/2026	03/12/2026	Closed
08 4313 - Aluminum-Framed Storefronts	08 4313-1	#007-Aluminum Storefront Shops & Door Hardware Product Data	Shop Drawing	Architectural Glass & Waterproofing, Inc.	12/22/2025	01/05/2026	Closed
08 1113 - Hollow Metal Doors and Frames	08 1113-1	#008 Door & Hardware Schedule & Product Data	Product Information	Tebarco Door & Metal Services, Inc.	01/05/2026	01/09/2026	Closed

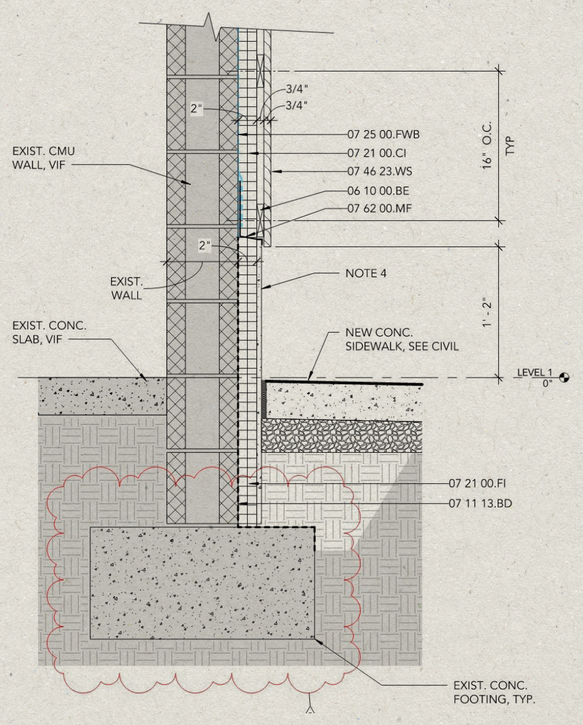
FIELD COORDINATION

Left: Bluebeam markup of a construction photo taken during a site visit highlighting coordination items and required direction on paint selections and locations for the exposed steel, soffit, and gutter system to align with design intent.



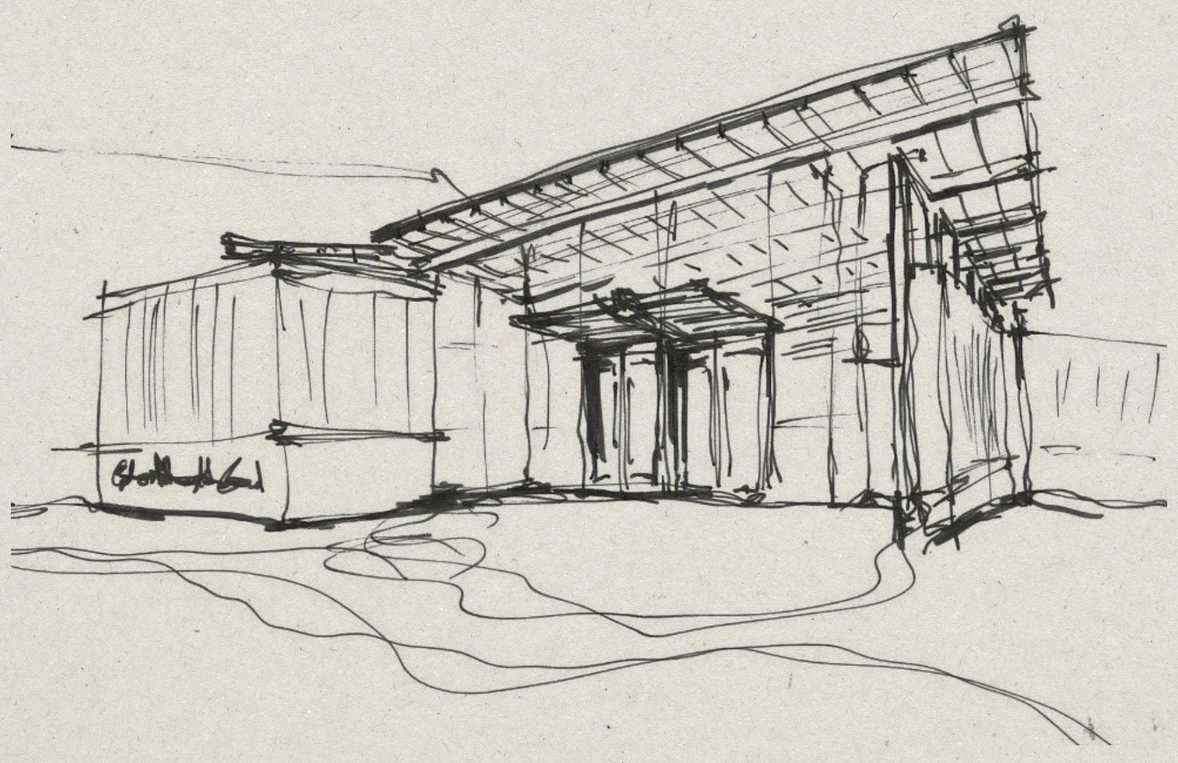
DETAIL TO BUILT

Below: Foundation and wall base detail coordinated in the field to address waterproofing continuity and the transition between wood siding and concrete foundation.



PROJECT INFORMATION

Firm: Houser Walker Architecture
Role: Project Architect
Phase: Phase 1-completed, Phase 2-Under Construction
Construction: Mass Timber & Steel
Contract: Design-Build project delivery method
Contractor: Gay Construction Company





02

LAWRENCEVILLE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

New Performing Arts Center for Aurora Theatre
Lawrenceville, Georgia

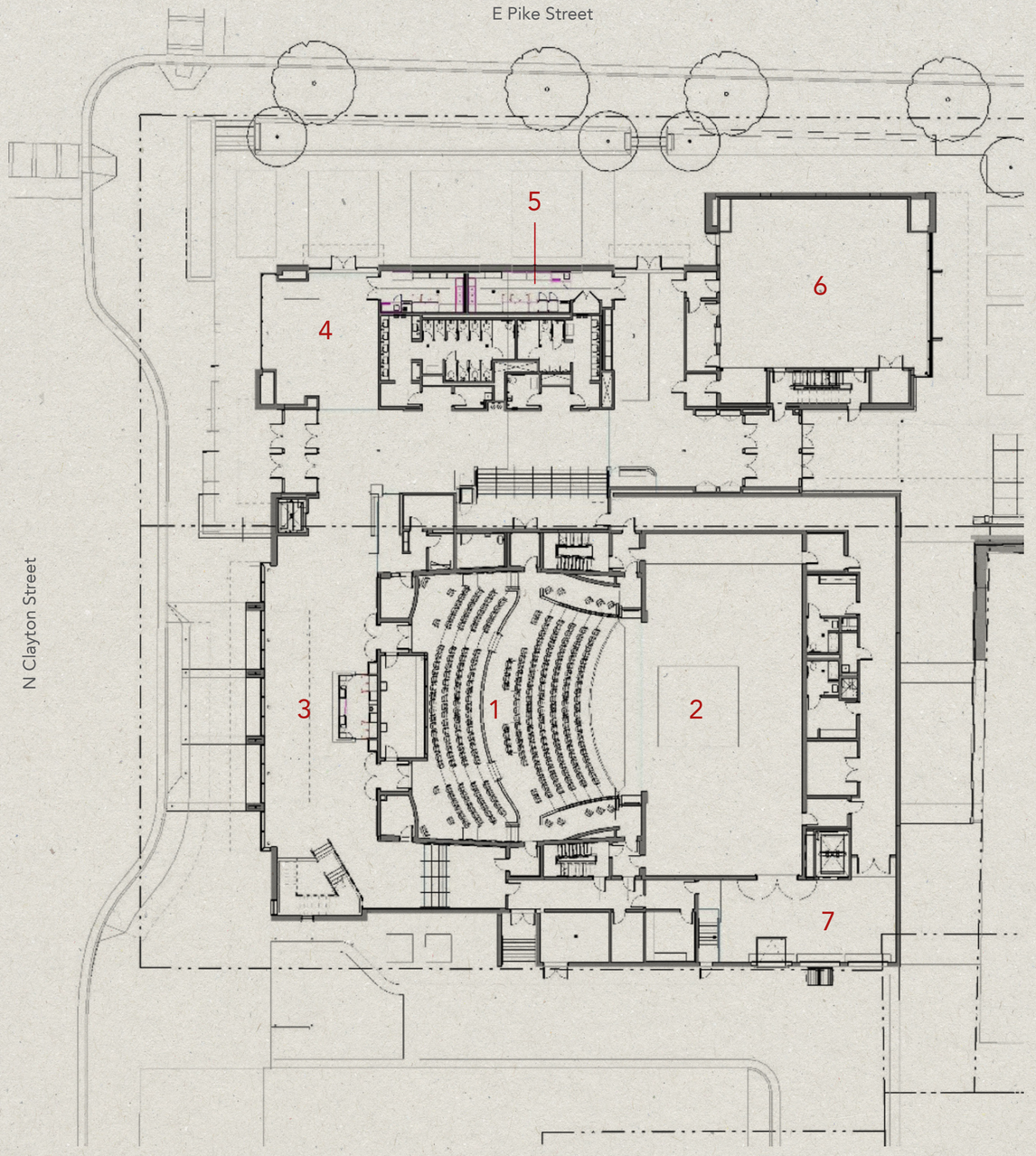
At approximately 50,000 square feet, the Lawrenceville Performing Arts Center is a landmark cultural investment for the City of Lawrenceville and the new home of the Aurora Theatre. Anchored by a 500-seat grand theatre and one of the largest stages in the Southeast, the facility was designed to support a broad range of performances, productions, and community events while strengthening the region's growing arts presence.

The program includes an intimate cabaret black box theatre, expansive rehearsal spaces, indoor and outdoor gallery areas for local artists, a flexible outdoor performance venue, and a full-service catering kitchen. The second floor was also planned to accommodate future expansion for Georgia Gwinnett College, reinforcing the center's role as a long-term cultural and educational hub within the community.

As part of the project team, my role involved supporting the Project Architect and Project Manager throughout the design process, construction documentation, and construction administration phases of the project. Being involved in a civic and cultural project of this scale and type early in my career was deeply formative, providing invaluable experience in large-project coordination, technical documentation, and the integration of complex performance and public assembly spaces. The opportunity to contribute to a project so significant to the City of Lawrenceville further strengthened my interest in thoughtfully designed civic and cultural architecture and continues to influence my approach to design today.

LAWRENCEVILLE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

NEW PAC FOR AURORA THEATRE, LAWRENCEVILLE, GA

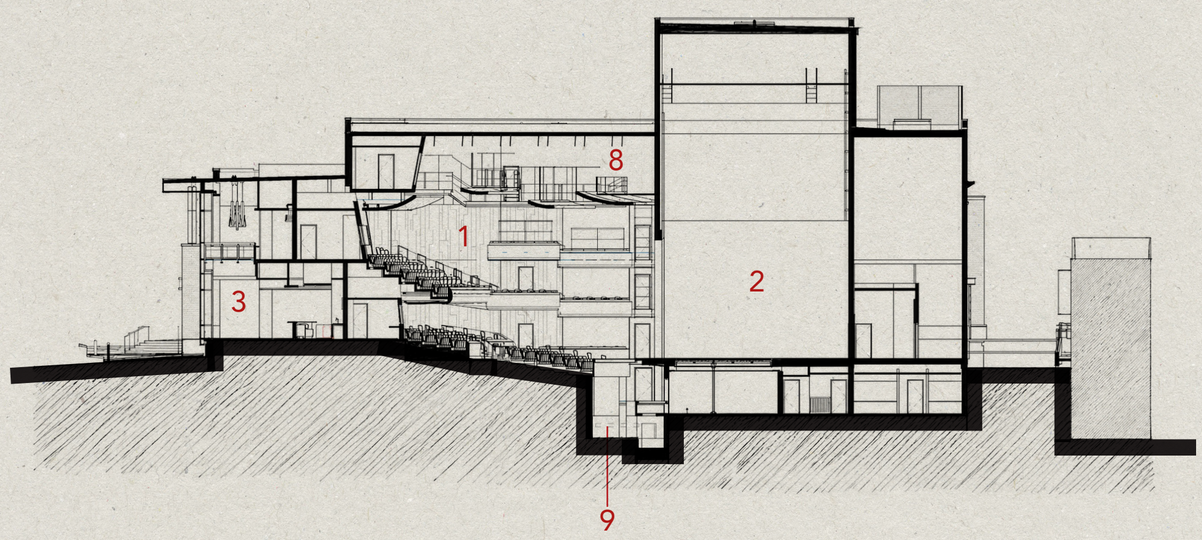


PROJECT INFORMATION

Firm: Stevens & Wilkinson
Role: Architectural Design Staff
(Responsibilities included design development, visualization, documentation support, and coordination as part of the project team)
Phase: Completed
Contractor: Carroll Daniel
Photography: Rion Rizzo

DRAWING KEY

1 Theatre House
2 Stage & Fly Tower
3 Prefunction
4 Art Gallery
5 Catering
6 Cabaret Theatre
7 Loading Dock
8 Catwalk
9 Orchestra Pit & Lift



Left: Ground Floor Plan
Above: Building Section

View of the 500-seat grand theatre, constructed with large precast concrete panels and featuring an orchestra pit with integrated lift system. The precast concrete was designed with a textured relief to enhance the acoustic performance of the space.





Atmospheric hand sketch for personal enjoyment. View of front facade looking toward the main entry of the theatre



03

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Birmingham Civil Rights Museum • Freedom Riders National Monument

"If you win in Birmingham, as Birmingham goes, so goes the nation."
Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth

This body of work explores the rehabilitation and reinterpretation of historically significant sites connected to the American Civil Rights Movement. Through the preservation of structures such as the A.G. Gaston Motel in Birmingham, Alabama and the Greyhound Bus Depot in Anniston, Alabama, these projects seek to honor the individuals, events, and collective courage that shaped a pivotal chapter in the nation's history. The work balances historic preservation with contemporary intervention, carefully integrating new architectural elements and exhibition spaces in ways that preserve the authenticity and emotional weight of the original sites. Together, these projects reflect an approach to preservation that views architecture not only as the protection of physical structures, but also as a means of sustaining memory, storytelling, and cultural legacy for future generations.

BIRMINGHAM CIVIL RIGHTS MUSEUM

Birmingham, Alabama



MLK JR.

Press conference with MLK Jr.



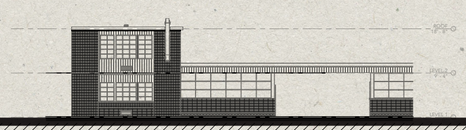
1963 BOMB

Blast damage at west facing wall, below 2nd floor war room suite.



WAR ROOM

A large suite, dubbed as “The War Room”, on level 2 of the motel where MLK Jr. often stayed.



Southeast Elevation

ABOUT

The rehabilitation of the A.G. Gaston Motel seeks to preserve and commemorate the site’s pivotal role in the 1963 Birmingham Civil Rights Movement while creating a meaningful place for reflection, education, and public engagement. As one of the movement’s most historically significant landmarks, the project is designed to provide contemporary visitors with a deeper understanding of the events that unfolded there and their lasting impact on Birmingham, the region, and the nation.

The interior rehabilitation transforms the existing structure into a world-class interpretive monument featuring exhibition spaces, restored historic architectural elements, and programming typical of a national historic site. The project balances preservation and reconstruction, carefully restoring portions of the building to reflect the period of significance while adapting other areas to support contemporary use. The first level accommodates administrative offices, while the second level houses exhibition and interpretive spaces that guide visitors through the history of the Civil Rights Movement and the motel’s role within it.

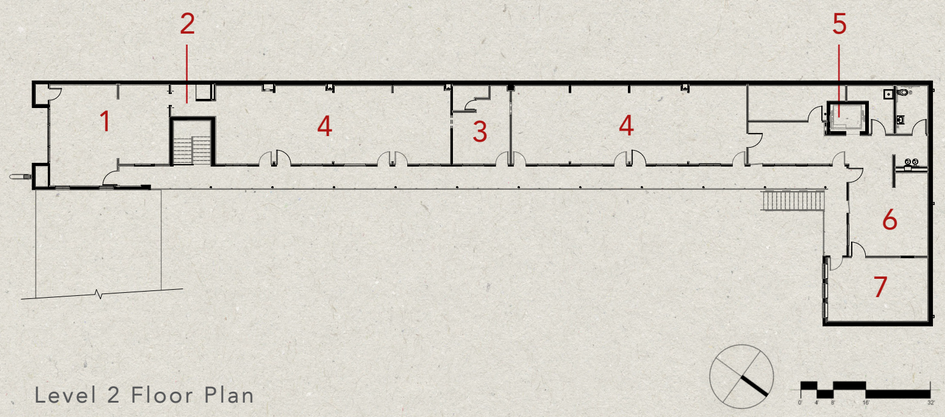
In addition to the restoration work, the project introduces new accessible routes throughout the building, along with updated restroom facilities and a new elevator to ensure the site is fully accessible to all visitors.

PROJECT INFORMATION

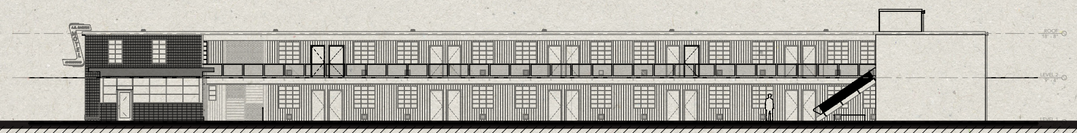
Firm: Houser Walker Architecture
Role: Project Architect
Phase: Under Construction

DRAWING KEY

1 Restored War Room Suite
2 Restored War Room Bathroom & Shower
3 Restored Typical Motel Room
4 Exhibit Space
5 New Elevator
6 Prefunction Space
7 Conference Room



Level 2 Floor Plan



Northeast Elevation

FREEDOM RIDERS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Anniston, Alabama

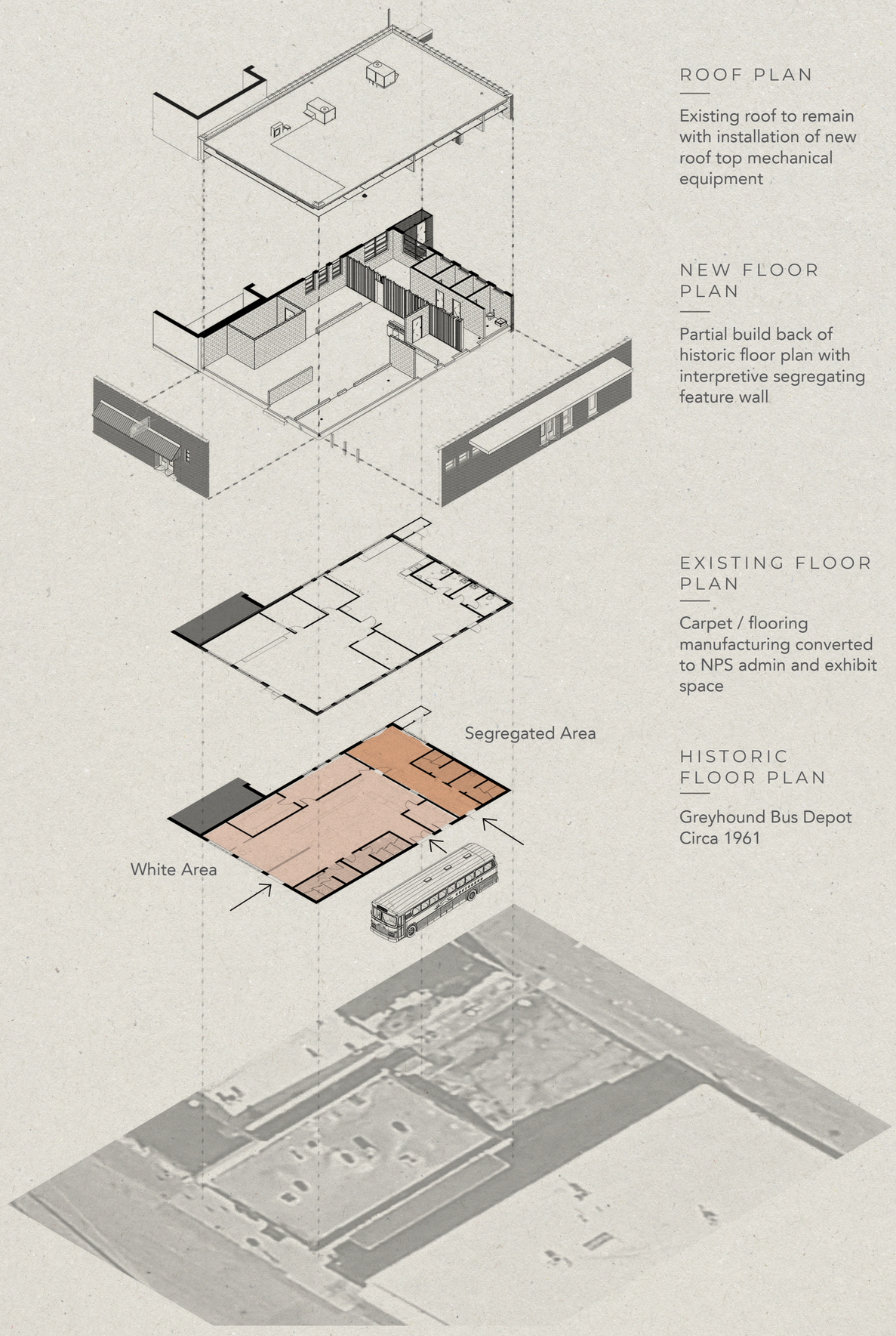
On Mother's Day, May 14, 1961, angry white mobs descended on two coach buses containing peaceful civil rights protesters in Anniston, AL. They harassed, beat, and forcibly segregated the multi-racial group, eventually disabling one of the busses and set it ablaze. The event, captured in graphic detail by journalists and broadcast across America, awoke the nation to the continued racism and violent segregation throughout the country's South and galvanized efforts to make meaningful changes to the treatment of its black citizens.





The Freedom Riders were interracial groups of activists who traveled by bus throughout the segregated South to challenge the non-enforcement of federal rulings that prohibited segregation in interstate travel facilities. Through acts of nonviolent protest, they confronted deeply entrenched systems of racial injustice and became a defining force within the Civil Rights Movement.

This project is a rehabilitation of the greyhound bus depot and the neighboring mural building. The depot will serve as an exhibit space commemorating the brave freedom riders and the mural building will serve as an admin support space (not shown).



ROOF PLAN

Existing roof to remain with installation of new roof top mechanical equipment

NEW FLOOR PLAN

Partial build back of historic floor plan with interpretive segregating feature wall

EXISTING FLOOR PLAN

Carpet / flooring manufacturing converted to NPS admin and exhibit space

HISTORIC FLOOR PLAN

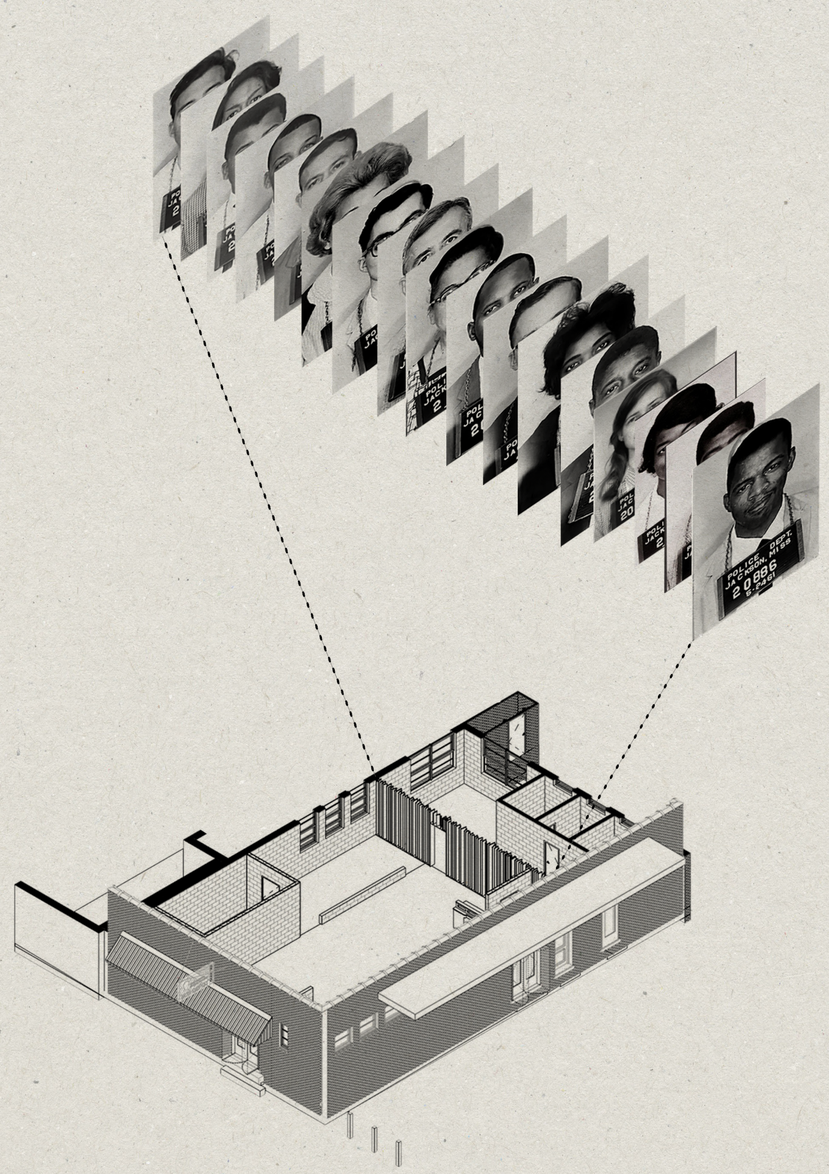
Greyhound Bus Depot Circa 1961

PROJECT INFORMATION

Firm: Houser Walker Architecture
Role: Project Architect
Phase: Not Yet Constructed

CONCEPT

The feature wall, standing in place of the historic segregating wall, serves as a celebration of the men and women whose courage challenged a divided system and sought to bridge what had been separated. The vertical fins symbolize the individual Freedom Riders—each standing independently, yet together in collective strength and unity. Positioned between spaces, the installation embodies both division and connection, transforming a former boundary into a symbol of reconciliation and progress toward healing.





04

JOHNSON FERRY BAPTIST CHURCH

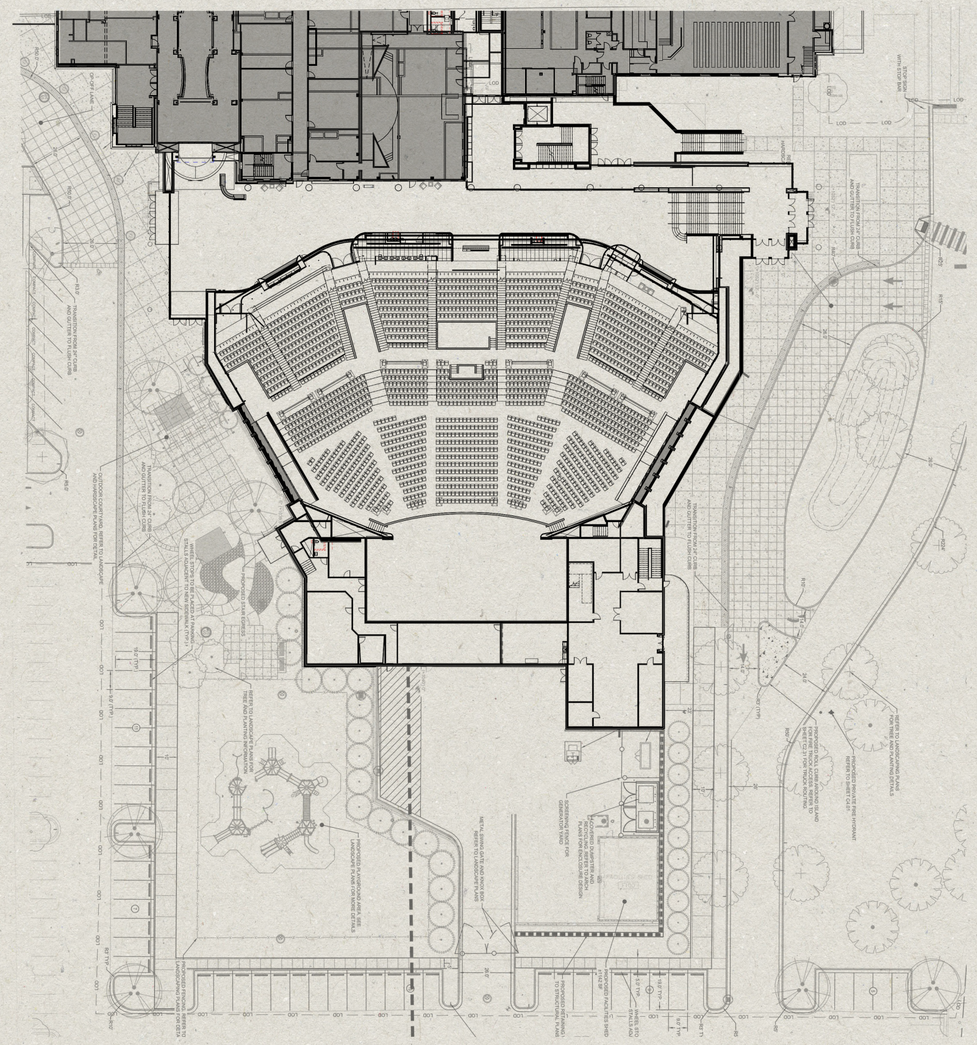
New Worship Center for Johnson Ferry Baptist Church
Marietta, Georgia

The project consists of a new Worship Center addition for Johnson Ferry Baptist Church, including front-of-house assembly spaces, back-of-house support areas, and a central circulation concourse that serves as the organizational spine of the campus. Conceived as both a place of movement and connection, the concourse stitches together the new worship center and the existing campus while creating a central hub for gathering and fellowship. The project also includes a new three-story stair and elevator tower, selective interior renovations at key connection points, and associated exterior site improvements. Portions of the existing campus will remain occupied and operational throughout construction, requiring careful coordination and phased integration of new and existing systems.

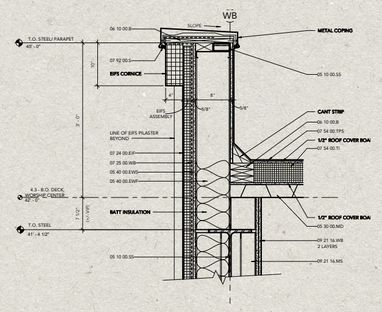
Serving as Project Architect, responsibilities included leading the technical design and detailing of the exterior building envelope while actively coordinating with structural, MEP, lighting, acoustical, and specialty consultants to ensure seamless integration of building systems and overall project goals. The following pages highlight the overall floor plan, a rendering of the central concourse space, and a series of technical wall section and envelope details developed as part of the project's construction documentation.

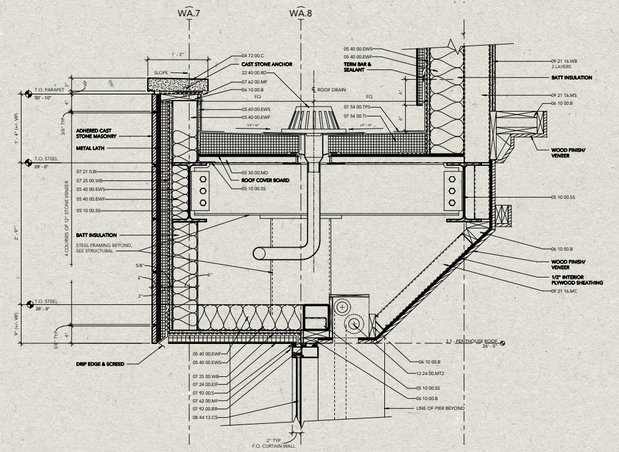
The project is currently progressing through the Construction Documents phase under a CM at Risk project delivery method.

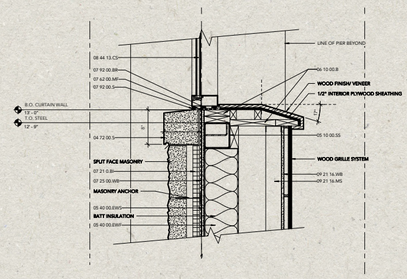
The new Worship Center at Johnson Ferry Baptist Church is designed to serve as both a spiritual gathering space and a central hub for community connection within the campus. At the heart of the project is a 2,500-seat worship venue conceived to create an atmosphere that feels both expansive and intimate. The room is organized to maintain strong visual and acoustic connections between the stage and congregation, while a palette of warm wood tones, textured materials, and soft architectural lighting establishes an environment that is welcoming, reverent, and contemporary. Tall volumes, layered ceiling elements, and carefully placed glazing introduce natural light and reinforce a sense of openness and inspiration throughout the space.

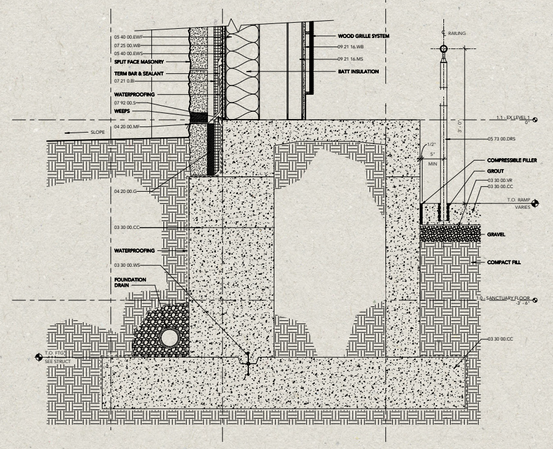


Supporting the worship venue are front-of-house assembly spaces, back-of-house support areas, and a central circulation concourse that serves as the organizational spine of the building. The concourse encourages intuitive movement and creates opportunities for fellowship and interaction before and after services. Selective renovations at key connection points integrate the new construction into the existing campus, while exterior site improvements enhance accessibility, pedestrian circulation, and the overall arrival experience. Together, the project creates a cohesive and enduring addition that supports worship, community, and the evolving needs of the congregation.



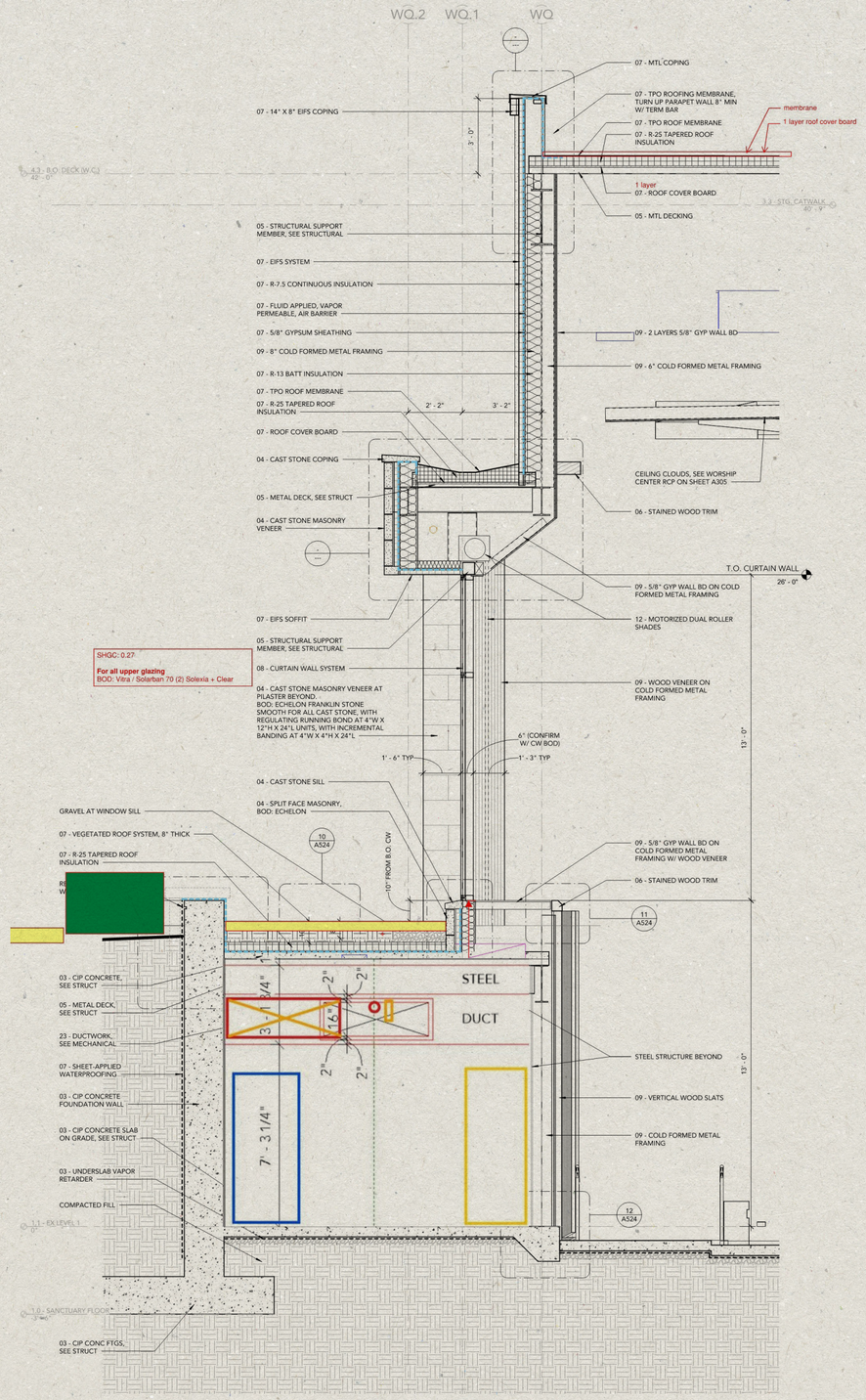






CONSULTANT COORDINATION

Coordination with structural and MEP consultants at critical areas along the service corridor at the east curtain-wall wall section where head height clearances are minimal.





05

RESIDENTIAL WORK

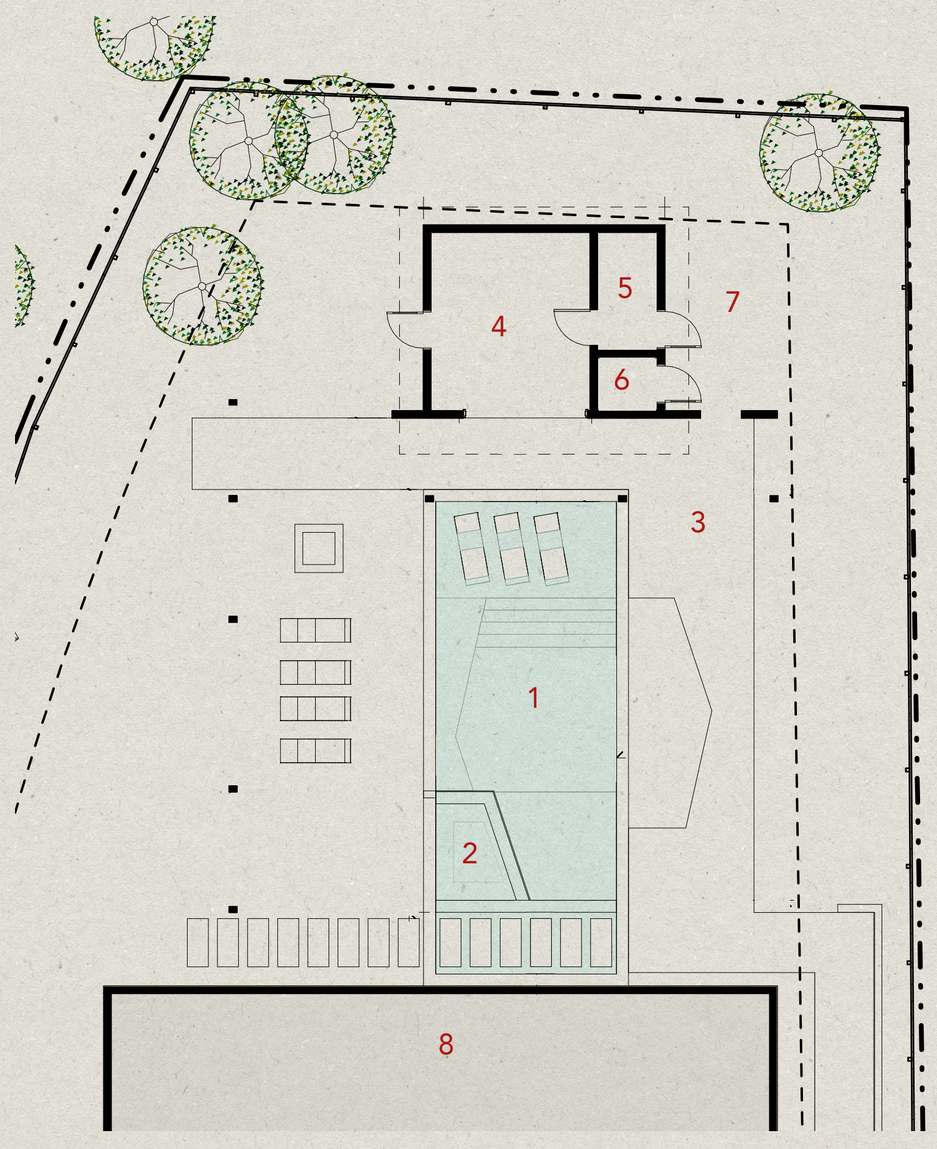
Pool & Outdoor Living Areas • Home Remodel & Addition

This selection of residential work explores the relationship between architecture, landscape, and everyday living through a series of additions, outdoor environments, and small-scale interventions. Though varied in scale and scope, each project is rooted in a careful consideration of light, materiality, proportion, and the seamless transition between indoor and outdoor space.

Serving in a senior design and architect role, responsibilities included developing conceptual design direction, shaping spatial organization, coordinating architectural intent through documentation, and guiding projects from early vision through technical execution. Working within the constraints of existing homes and sites, these projects emphasize thoughtful spatial planning, restrained detailing, and the creation of warm, livable environments that enhance both daily life and connection to the surrounding landscape.

PEKHTEREVA RESIDENCE

NEW POOL, POOL HOUSE, & OUTDOOR LIVING SPACE - ATLANTA, GA



ABOUT

Refined, modern, elegant, and sophisticated, this understated project creates an intimate backyard retreat tailored to a young professional client's lifestyle. Designed for both relaxation and entertaining, the space provides a seamless setting for hosting friends and business acquaintances in a comfortable yet elevated atmosphere.

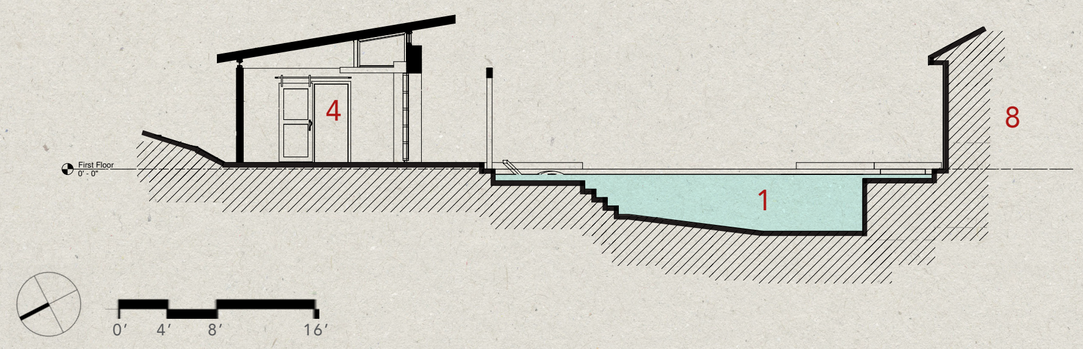
The project features an expansive deck, pool, fire pit lounge, and a thoughtfully designed pool house complete with space for game nights, a small bathroom, and an outdoor shower for rinsing off after a swim. Together, these elements create a cohesive outdoor living experience that balances functionality with contemporary design.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Firm: Cosmic Design Studio
Role: Senior Designer
Phase: Under Construction

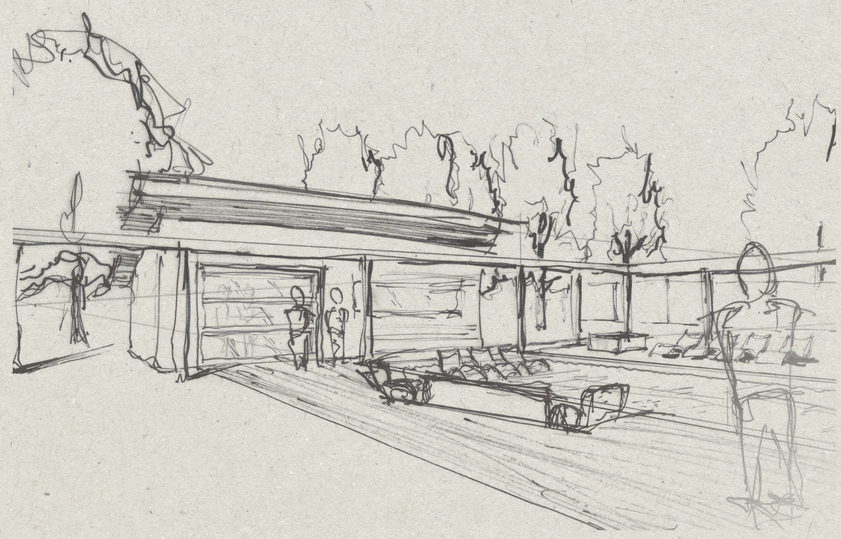
DRAWING KEY

1 Pool
2 Spa
3 Pool Deck
4 Pool House
5 Restroom
6 Shower
7 Garden
8 Existing House



Left: Floor Plan
Above: Section







WHITT RESIDENCE

NEW POOL & OUTDOOR LIVING SPACE - MILTON, GA

ABOUT

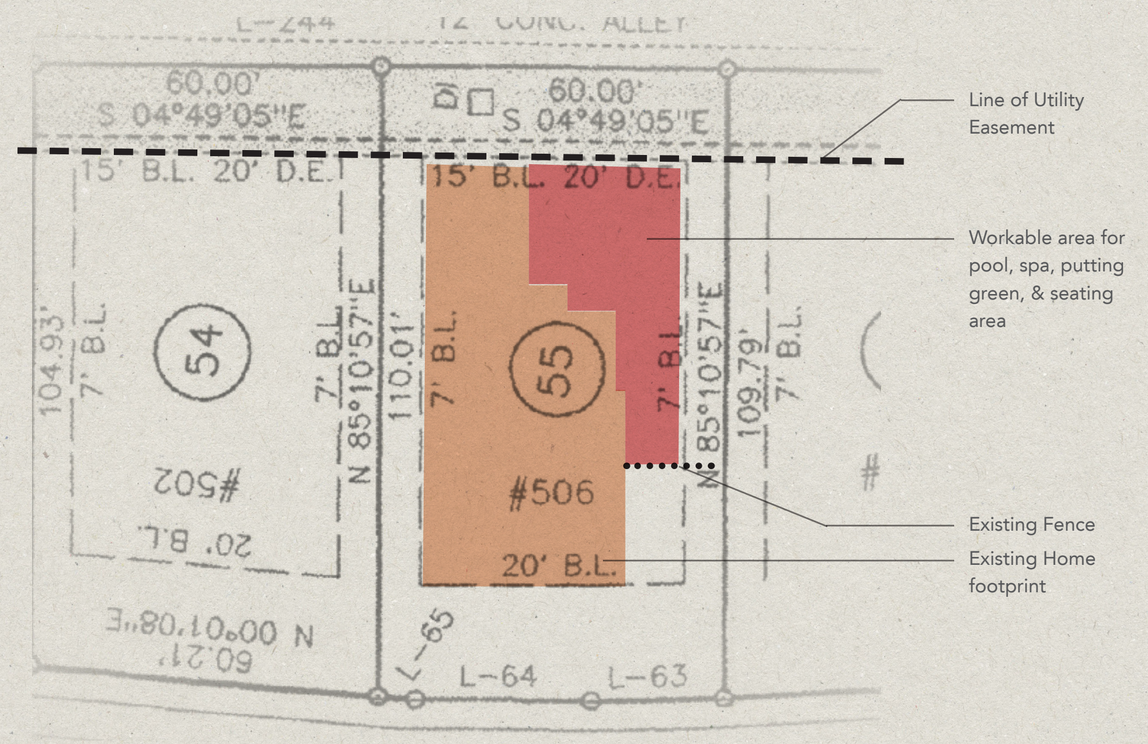
This compact backyard retreat transforms a tightly constrained residential lot into a refined and highly functional outdoor living environment. Working within strict setback limitations and spatial constraints, the design strategically integrates a pool, spa, putting green, and multiple outdoor seating areas into a cohesive composition that feels both open and intentional. Careful attention was given to circulation, proportion, and the relationship between hardscape, water, and landscape elements to create a comfortable and intimate setting for relaxation and entertaining.

PROJECT INFORMATION

Firm: Cosmic Design Studio
Role: Senior Designer
Phase: Completed

CONSTRAINED TO BUILT

Below: Plat showing lot boundaries and easement restrictions
Right: Built work







MEIER RESIDENCE

HOME REMODEL & ADDITION - MARIETTA, GA

ABOUT

This home addition and renovation transforms the existing residence into a light-filled contemporary retreat while preserving the character of the original architecture. Central to the redesign is a dramatic two-story window wall that fills the interior with natural light and strengthens the connection between the indoor living spaces and surrounding landscape. A monumental stair serves as both a functional circulation element and sculptural focal point, while the new open floor plan re-imagines the home into a seamless flow of interconnected gathering spaces designed for modern living and entertaining.

PROJECT INFORMATION

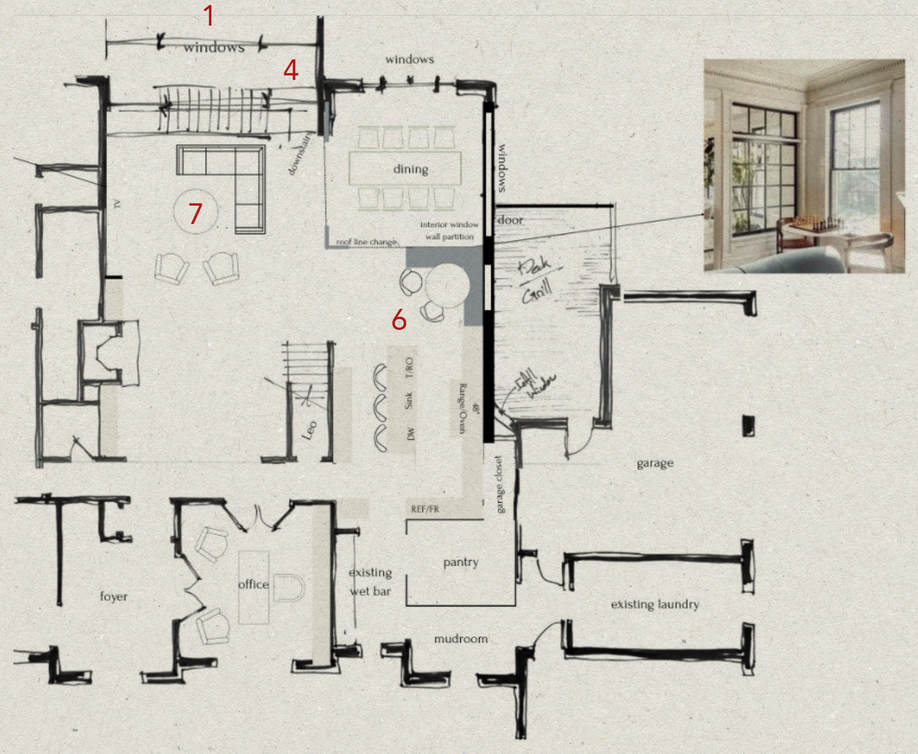
Role: Sole Architect
Phase: Under Construction
Contractor: Artisans of Atlanta

DRAWING KEY

1 Double height window wall
2 Stone Piers to match front elevation
3 Shed roof over new addition
4 New stair to basement
5 Modified window at gable
6 Rearranged kitchen & dining area
7 Area of new addition where existing deck was demolished







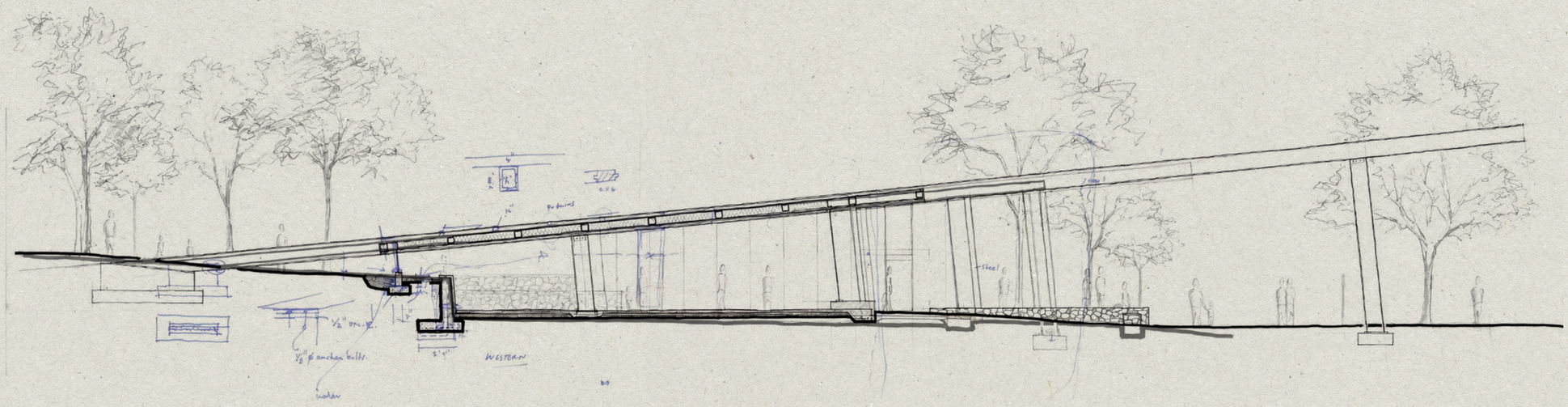
Above: Existing
Right: New

06

ADDITIONAL WORK

The following pages present a selection of projects and creative work from my academic studies and personal pursuits that reflect the early development of my architectural thinking and evolving design philosophy. Included among these works are excerpts from my academic thesis, explorations in furniture design, and selected photography and filmmaking projects that have contributed to my understanding of composition, atmosphere, materiality, and the built environment.

RESEARCH & EXPLORATION
FURNITURE DESIGN
PHOTOGRAPHY



RESEARCH & EXPLORATION

ACADEMIC THESIS PROJECT

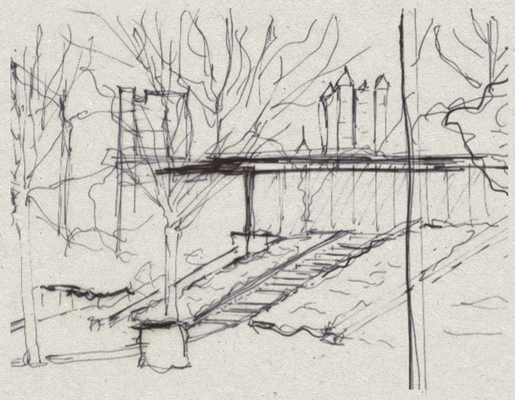
THE THIRD SPACE

Art gallery for local artists and corresponding lake-side artist residences
Piedmont Park - Atlanta, GA

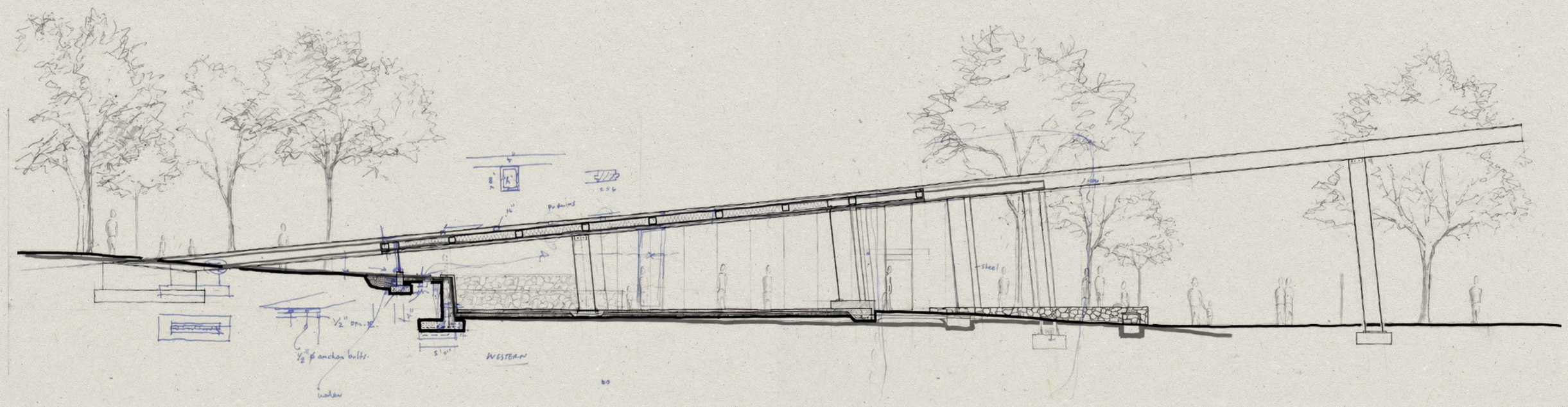


This research exploration investigates the relationship between architecture, landscape, and the transitional space between interior and exterior environments. Rooted in the idea of the threshold, the project examines how architecture can dissolve conventional boundaries between building and site to create spaces that feel simultaneously sheltered and deeply connected to the surrounding landscape. Influenced by the spatial sensibilities of traditional Japanese architecture and the organic principles of Frank Lloyd Wright, the work seeks to create architecture that feels less like an object placed within nature and more like a continuation of it. Through a series of conceptual studies, sectional investigations, and atmospheric sketches, the project explores procession, layered thresholds, filtered light, and framed moments of connection between people and nature. Central to the research is the idea of expanding the threshold beyond a singular dividing line and transforming it into an inhabitable spatial condition — a "third space" that exists between enclosure and openness.

Rather than treating architecture as a singular enclosed object, the project proposes a sequence of spatial experiences that gradually transition between compression and release, intimacy and expansiveness, interior and exterior. The resulting studies emphasize restraint, material warmth, and the careful orchestration of movement, light, and atmosphere as fundamental components of the architectural experience.







FURNITURE DESIGN

DESIGN PHILOSOPHIES EXEMPLIFIED - CHALLENGING THE EXPECTED



BIRD HOUSE

This birdhouse explores composition, structure, and form through principles inspired by early twentieth-century architectural movements such as Russian Constructivism and De Stijl. Conceived as both an artifact and architectural exercise, the project investigates how geometry, proportion, and tectonic expression can shape even the smallest inhabitable object. Through abstract spatial relationships and layered compositions, the birdhouse challenges expectations of how such an object might traditionally appear, becoming a study in craft, topology, and the intersection of art and architecture.



NAPKIN/LETTER HOLDER

This napkin holder explores the idea of making the seemingly impossible possible through balance, tension, and the careful relationship of form and structure. Composed of simple geometric planes, the object challenges expectations of stability and weight while transforming an everyday item into a sculptural study of precision, proportion, and craft.

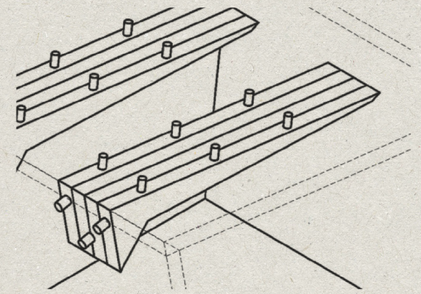


PICTURE FRAME

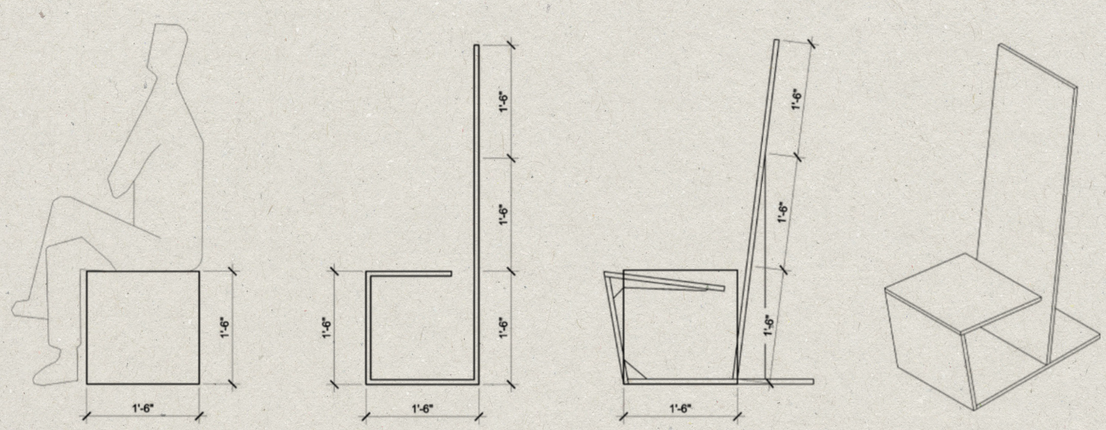
This picture frame draws inspiration from the ordered geometry of historic city grid layouts, translating urban structure into an abstract architectural composition. This piece challenges conventional expectations of balance, proportion, and how a grid should “behave” while transforming a familiar household object into a study of rhythm, hierarchy, and spatial tension.

HIGH-BACK CHAIR

This chair explores balance, structure, and tectonic expression through a composition that challenges conventional expectations of how a seat is supported. Inspired by Gerrit Rietveld’s Zig-Zag Chair of the De Stijl movement, the design begins as a simple box before selectively breaking and extending its planes to form the seat and backrest. Rather than relying on a continuous corner connection, the chair uses wood brackets and a cantilevered structure to create a sense of tension and visual lightness, transforming the object into a study of geometry, proportion, and structural perception. What seems to be impossible has become possible.



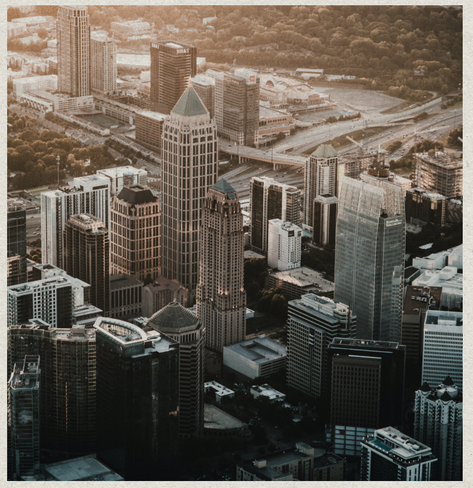




PHOTOGRAPHY

MOMENTS CAPTURED









https://www.studio124.tv/photography
Instagram: @_stephencook

FILMMAKING

PHOTOGRAPHY IN MOTION





https://www.studio124.tv/videography

STEPHEN COOK

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

My experience in the building industry began long before entering professional practice, working in both construction and architectural offices throughout high school and college. These early experiences provided a foundation in residential construction, project documentation, and the realities of the building process that continue to influence my approach to architecture today.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Houser Walker Architecture (2023–Present)
Project Architect

Cosmic Design Studio (2022–2023)
Senior Designer

Stevens & Wilkinson (2015–2022)
Architectural Designer

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Architecture
Minor in Construction Management
Kennesaw State University, 2015

BIO

Stephen Cook is a licensed architect based in Atlanta, Georgia, with over a decade of experience contributing to a diverse range of projects including cultural, civic, educational, historic preservation, and residential work. His professional experience spans all phases of project delivery, from early design and planning through construction administration, with a particular interest in the integration of design intent, technical execution, and the craft of building.

Raised with an appreciation for both design and construction, Stephen's interest in architecture began early through work on residential projects while still in high school and college. He earned a Bachelor of Architecture degree with a minor in Construction Management, establishing a foundation that continues to inform his balanced approach to design and technical problem-solving.

Beyond architecture, Stephen is an avid photographer and traveler whose experiences exploring different landscapes, cultures, and built environments have profoundly influenced his perspective as a designer. His work is guided by a belief that architecture should foster meaningful connections between people, place, and nature. Drawing inspiration from the work of Frank Lloyd Wright, Japanese architecture, and the experiential qualities of the landscape, he is particularly interested in the creation of spaces that blur the boundary between interior and exterior, structure and site, building and environment.

Whether designing a performing arts center, rehabilitating a historic landmark, or crafting a residential retreat, Stephen approaches each project with a commitment to thoughtful design, technical rigor, and the creation of memorable human experiences.

