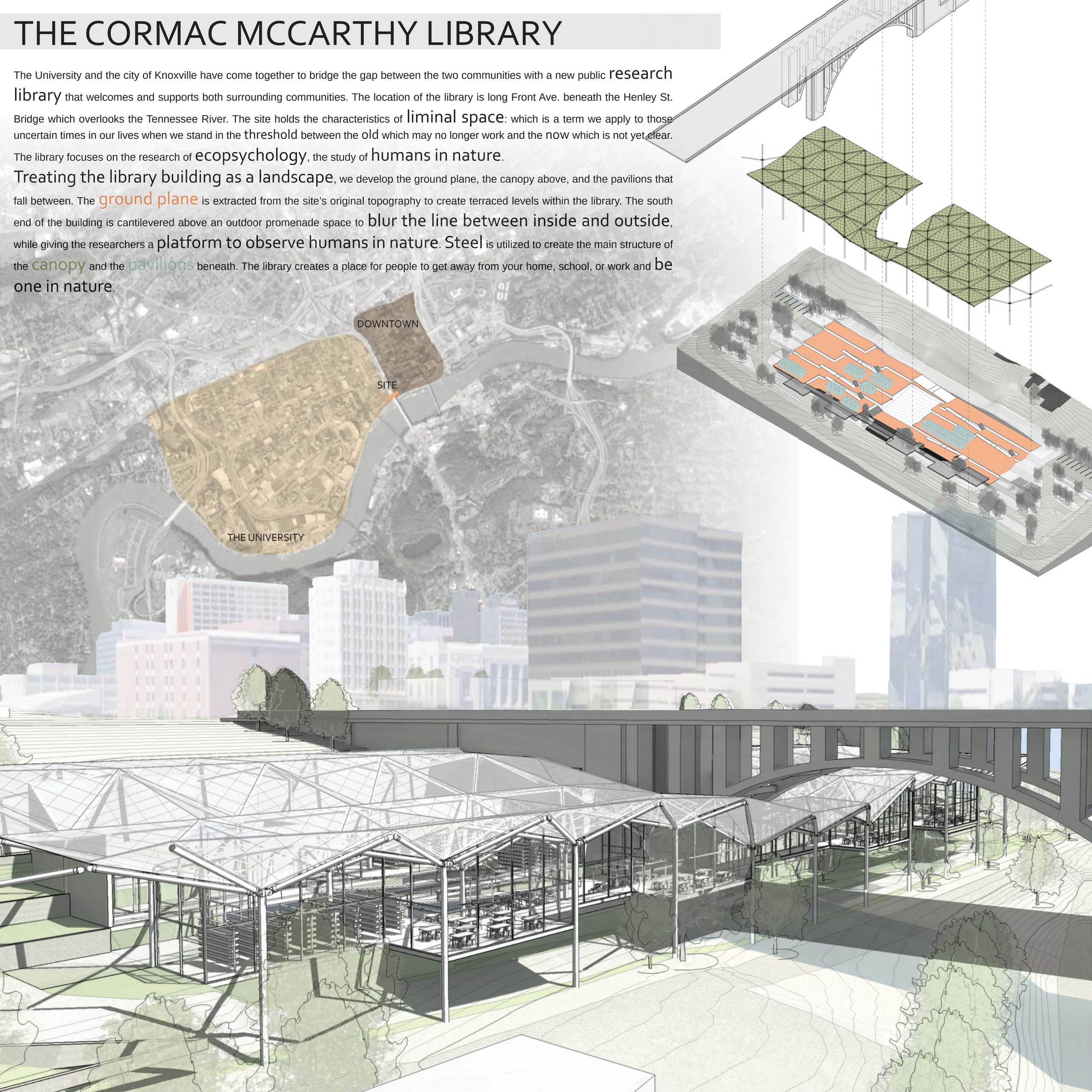
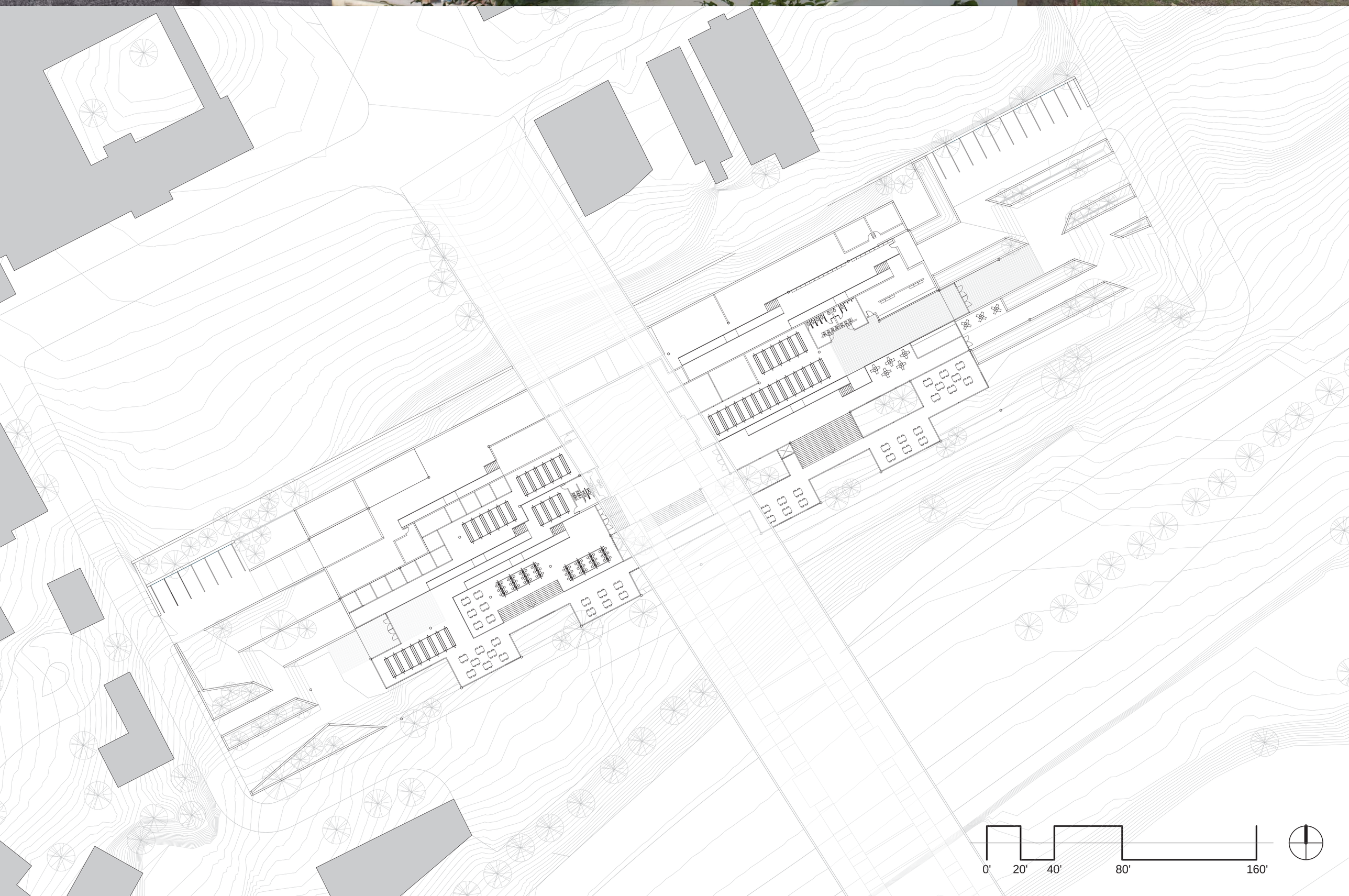
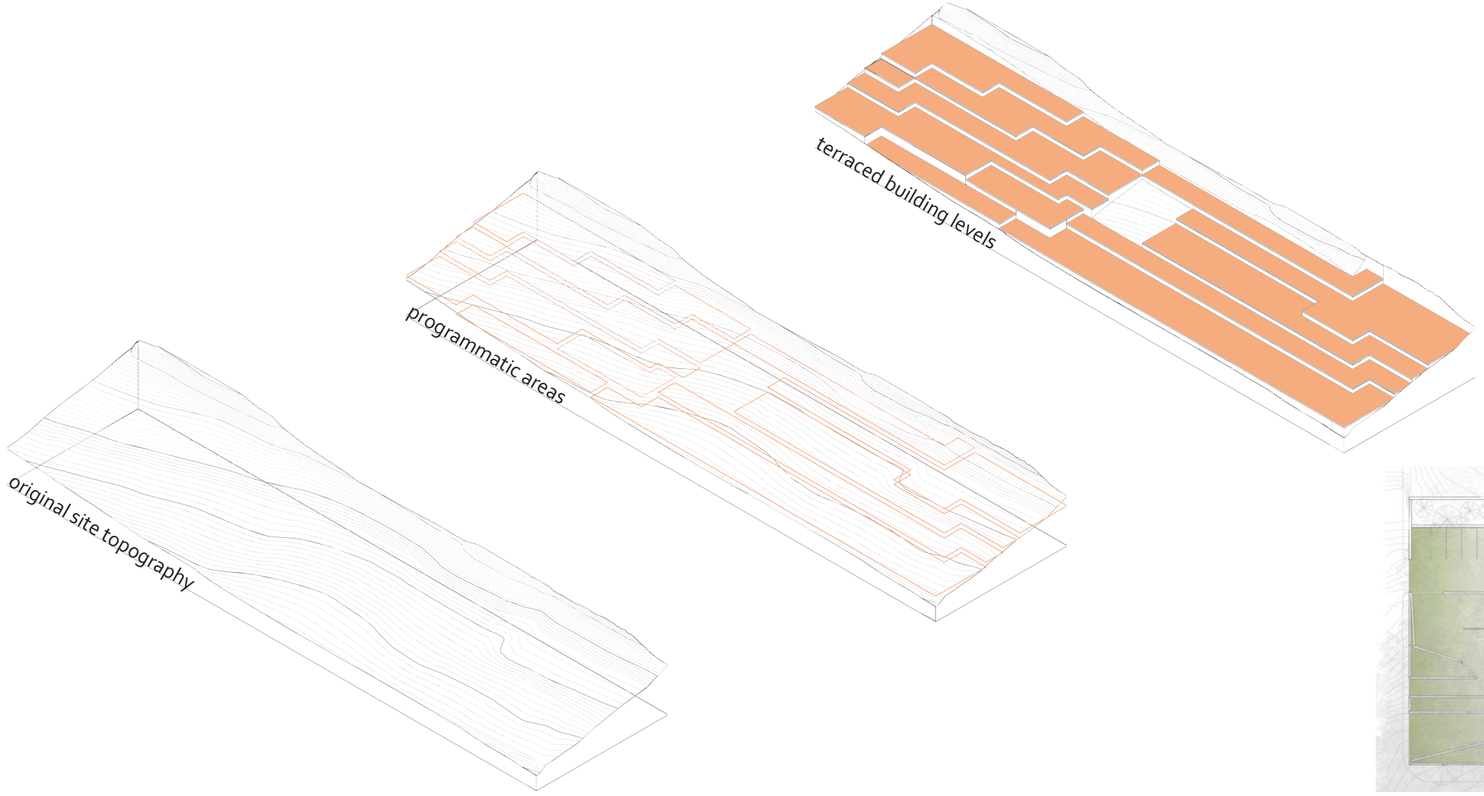
THE CORMAC MCCARTHY LIBRARY

The University and the city of Knoxville have come together to bridge the gap between the two communities with a new public research library that welcomes and supports both surrounding communities. The location of the library is long Front Ave. beneath the Henley St. Bridge which overlooks the Tennessee River. The site holds the characteristics of liminal space: which is a term we apply to those uncertain times in our lives when we stand in the threshold between the old which may no longer work and the now which is not yet clear. The library focuses on the research of ecopsychology, the study of humans in nature.

Treating the library building as a landscape, we develop the ground plane, the canopy above, and the pavilions that fall between. The ground plane is extracted from the site's original topography to create terraced levels within the library. The south end of the building is cantilevered above an outdoor promenade space to blur the line between inside and outside, while giving the researchers a platform to observe humans in nature. Steel is utilized to create the main structure of the canopy and the pavilions beneath. The library creates a place for people to get away from your home, school, or work and be one in nature.



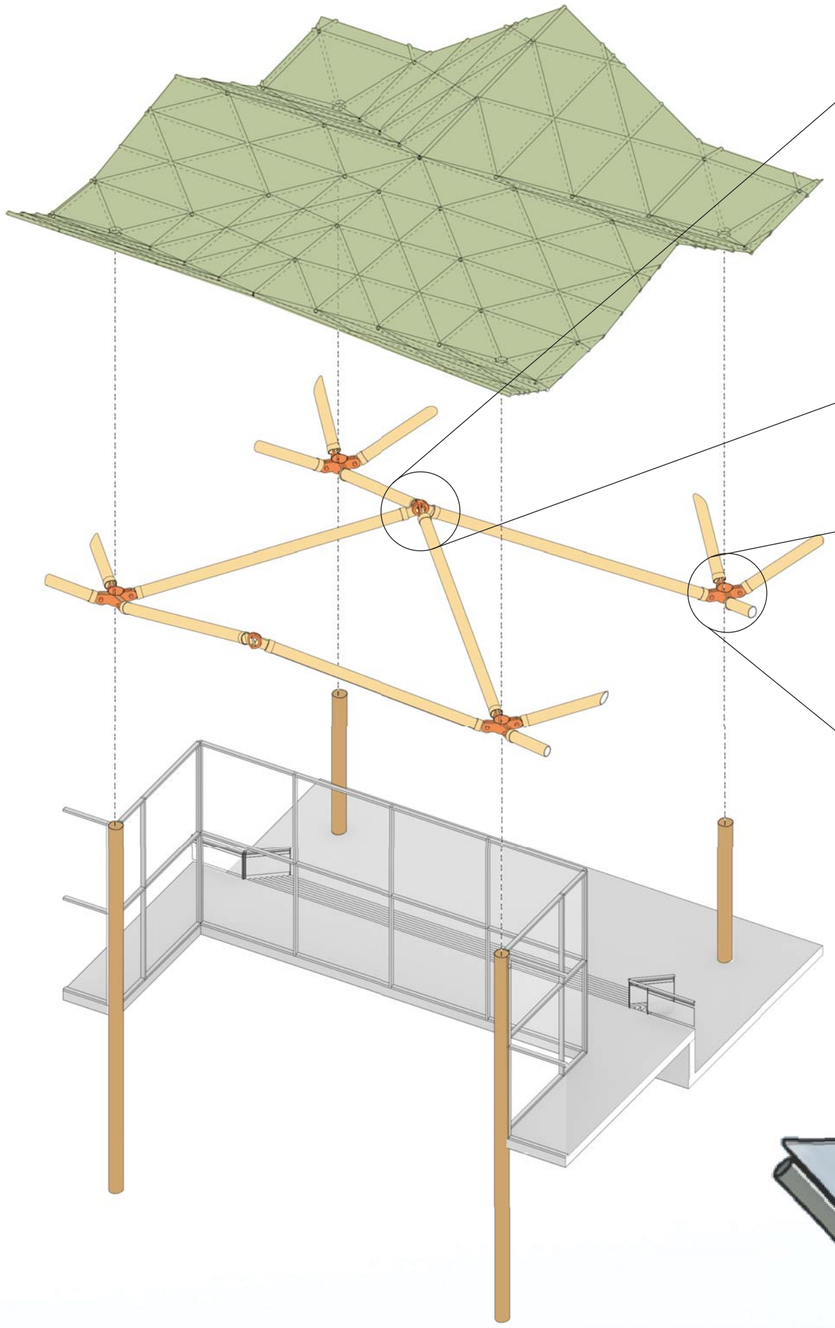

0'
20'
40'
80'
160'

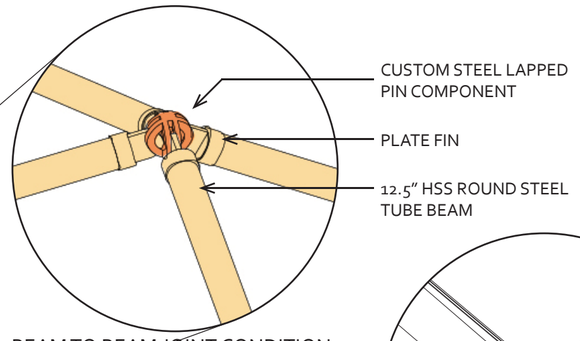


GROUND PLANE TRANSFORMATION

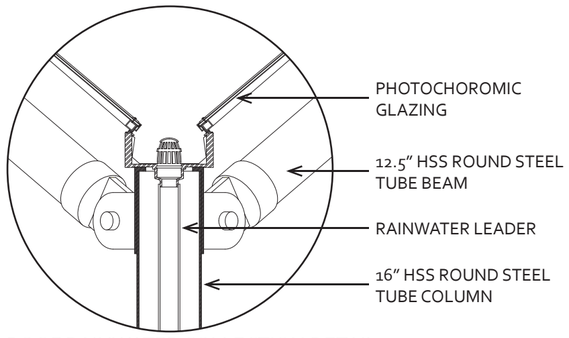
VIEWS TO STUDY HUMANS IN NATURE

THRESHOLD CONDITION - BLURRING INSIDE TO OUTSIDE

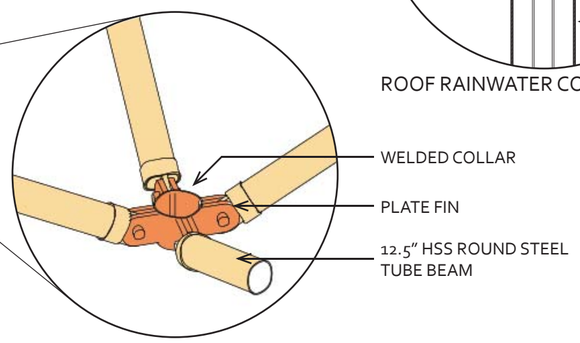




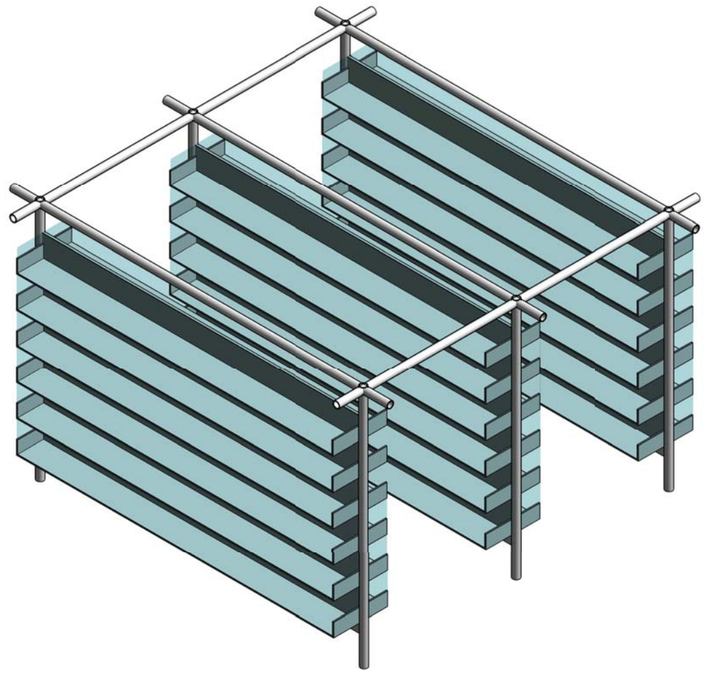
BEAM TO BEAM JOINT CONDITION



ROOF RAINWATER COLLECTION DETAIL



BEAM TO COLUMN CONNECTION



STEEL BOOK SHELVING SYSTEM

ENTRANCE

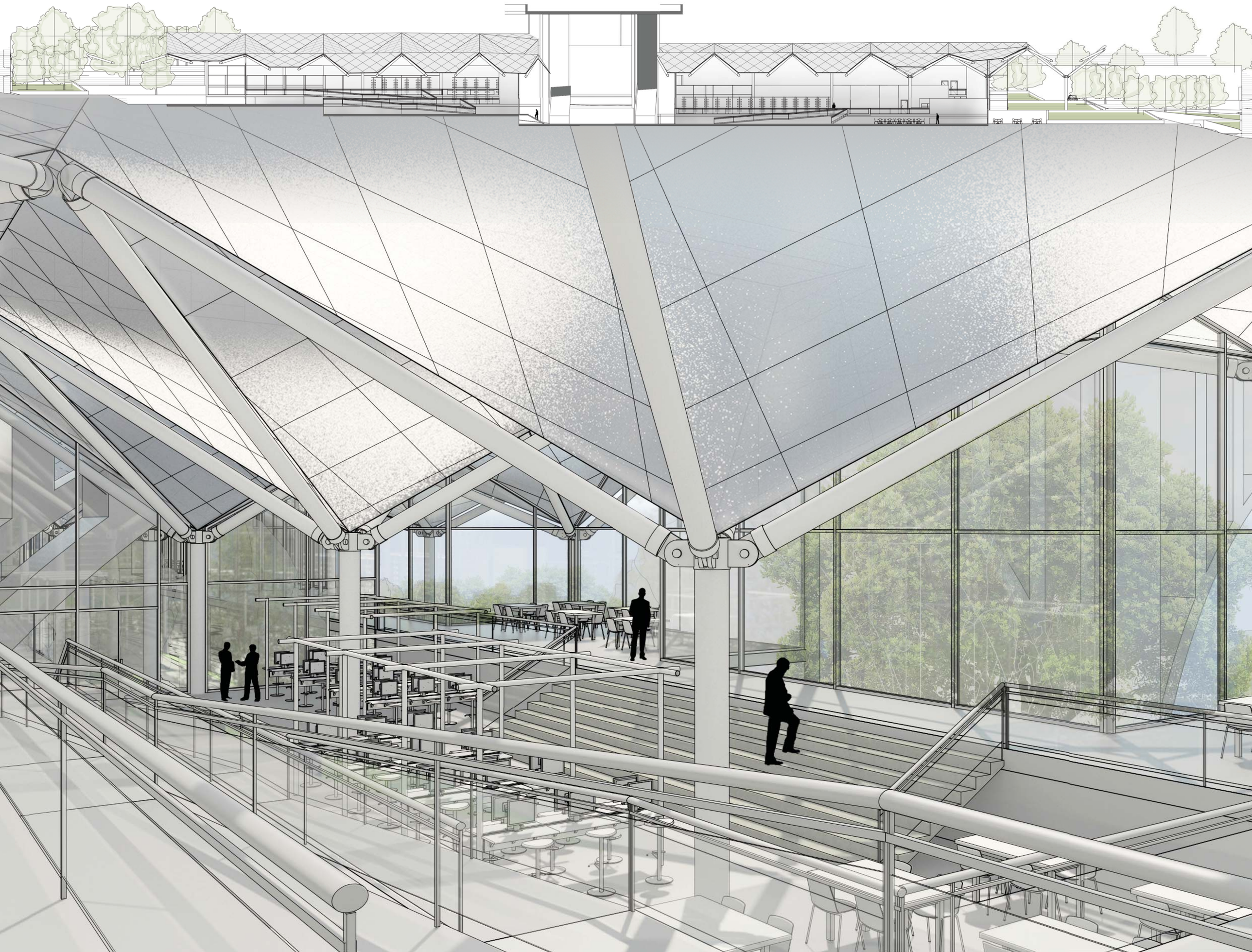
COLLECTIONS / PAVILIONS

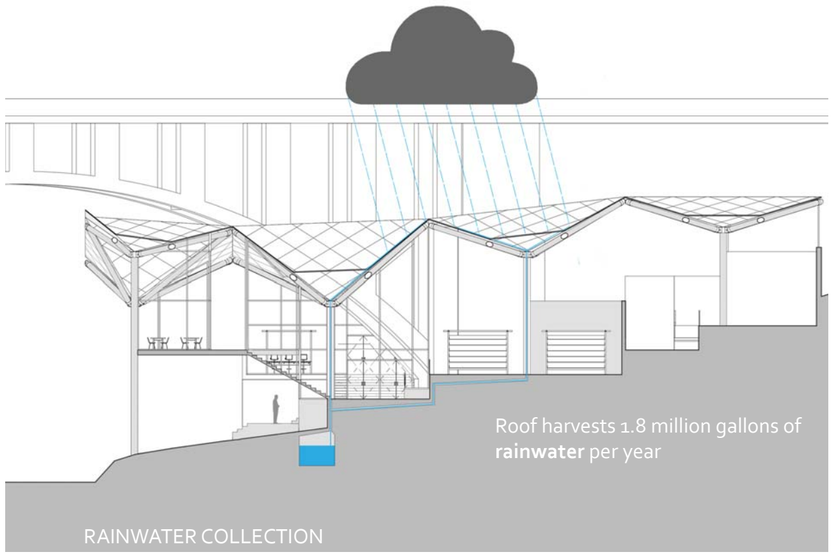
ACTIVE / STUDY SPACES

EXTERIOR SPACES

LIBRARY STAFF FACILITIES

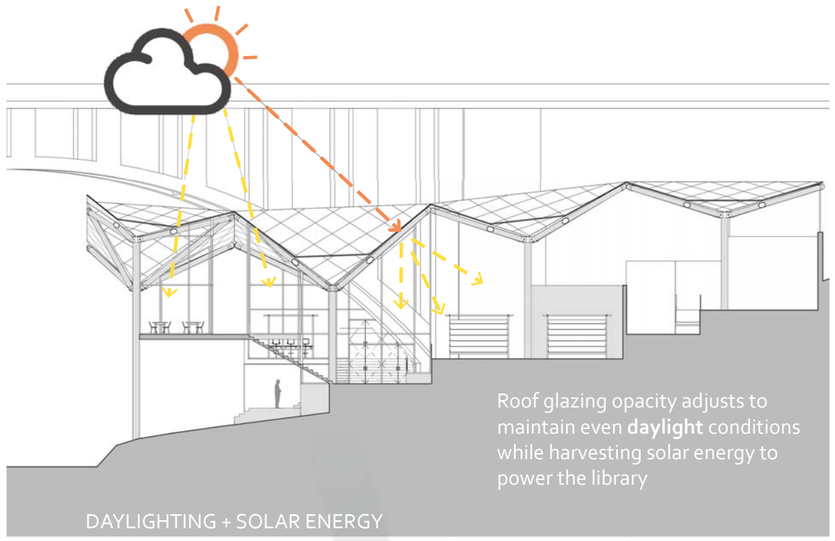
BUILDING SUPPORT





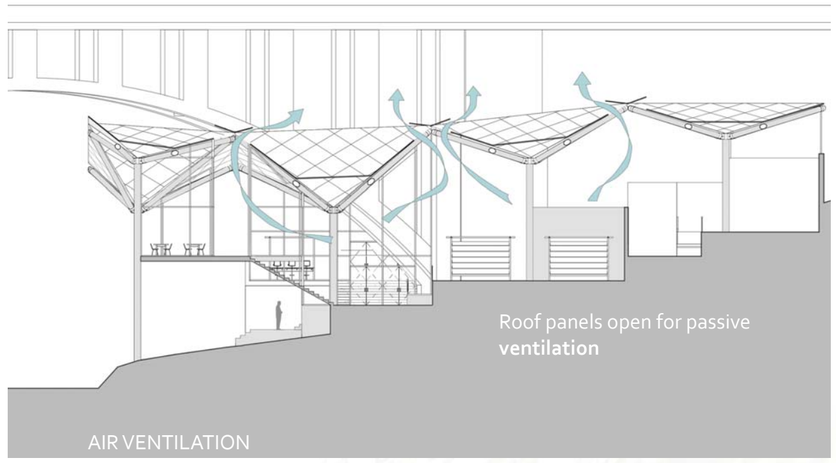
Roof harvests 1.8 million gallons of **rainwater** per year

RAINWATER COLLECTION



Roof glazing opacity adjusts to maintain even **daylight** conditions while harvesting solar energy to power the library

DAYLIGHTING + SOLAR ENERGY



Roof panels open for passive **ventilation**

AIR VENTILATION