

Capstone Final





The summer of 2023 was the hottest in recorded human history. Over the past 40 years, insect populations have declined by 45%. The journal, Environmental Science and Technology published a study concluding that rainwater is no longer safe for human consumption, globally. There is a severe insufficiency in how we as a species view and interact with the environment. We do not exist in a vacuum and it is essential that we, as a society at large have a deep understanding of our relationship and reliance on preexisting ecological systems. Franklinton is a fantastic example of a failure to understand our relationship to these systems. Constructed on a floodplain in 1797 the neighborhood has been inundated by regular floods not fully understood until the 20th century. Today, the construction of levees, dams, and floodwalls has alleviated the impact these systems have on humans, helping to stabilize the lives of thousands of individuals. As a side effect, the native habitats of the plants and animals that were there before have been destroyed. In order to engage and educate people on the complex relationships between humans and nature my capstone project will create a nature center in Franklinton with a focus on the surrounding river and floodplain ecosystems that have been disrupted by human activity. The center will help to foster a multifaceted view of nature bringing attention to the ways we currently view and exploit it as a resource.



Before



After

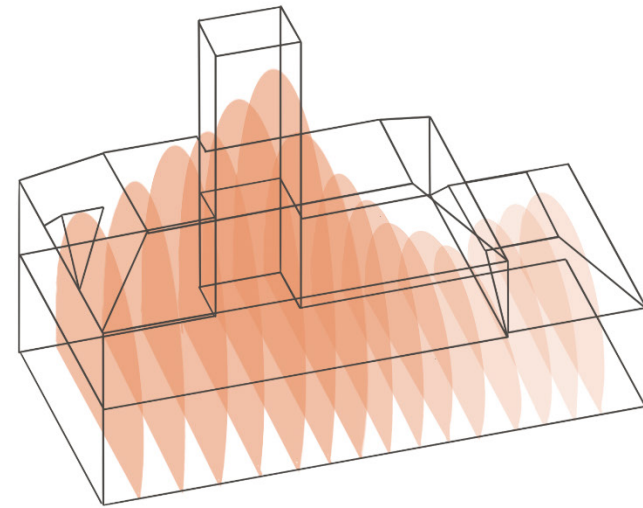




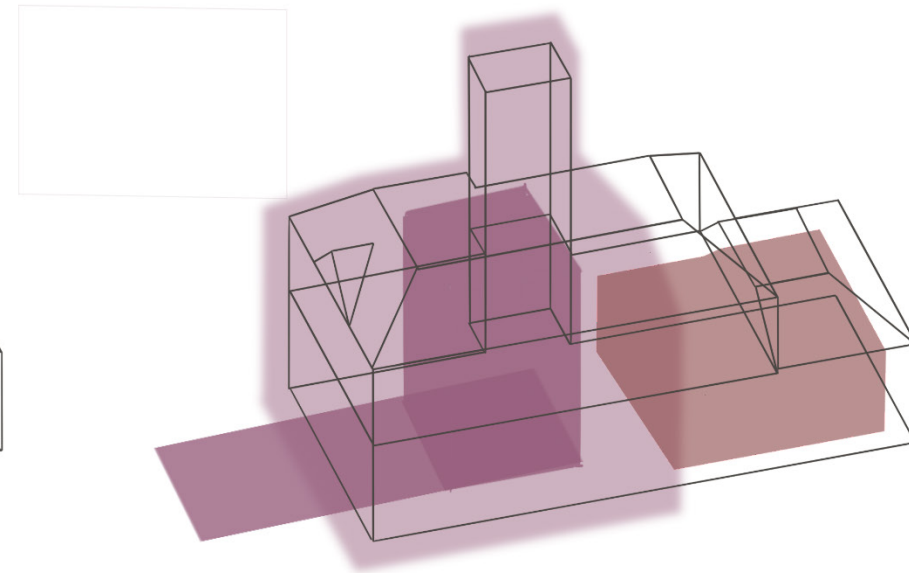
The Franklinton Urban Ecology Center will connect its guests with the everyday nature around them. As an adaptive reuse building as much as possible of the original architecture of Engine House 6 has been preserved. Guests enter into a grand open space showcasing a lush array of local flora. The central room doubles as a showcase of the beauty of nature and as a cultivation space where matured plants will be relocated into the neighborhood. A curving grand stair leads into an indoor plant grow laboratory. Guests will be encouraged to take free native seeds or purchase young native plants. Bisecting the building are two concrete walls, these create a void fully connected to the outdoors. Traveling along this corridor signage details Franklinton's history situated in a floodplain as well as the environmental impact the flood walls have had, emphasizing Franklinton's inexorable relationship to nature. The back of the building serves as a dedicated rehabilitation space, appearing underground as if entering into a animals den. Working with local veterinarians to house injured local fauna, showcasing them for guests until they are ready to be released. Behind the building an event patio will host local artists, Volunteer groups, Classes and other events. The center's emphasis on experiential quality will stick with its guests and invite them to think deeper about how they interact with the complex world of nature around them. The building is as passive as possible featuring daylighting systems and airflow to reduce its carbon footprint.



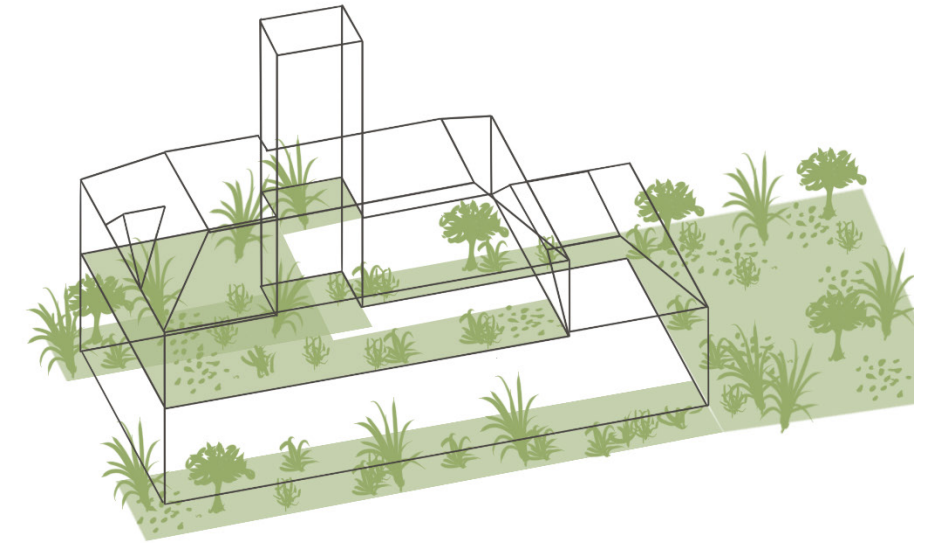
Energy Level



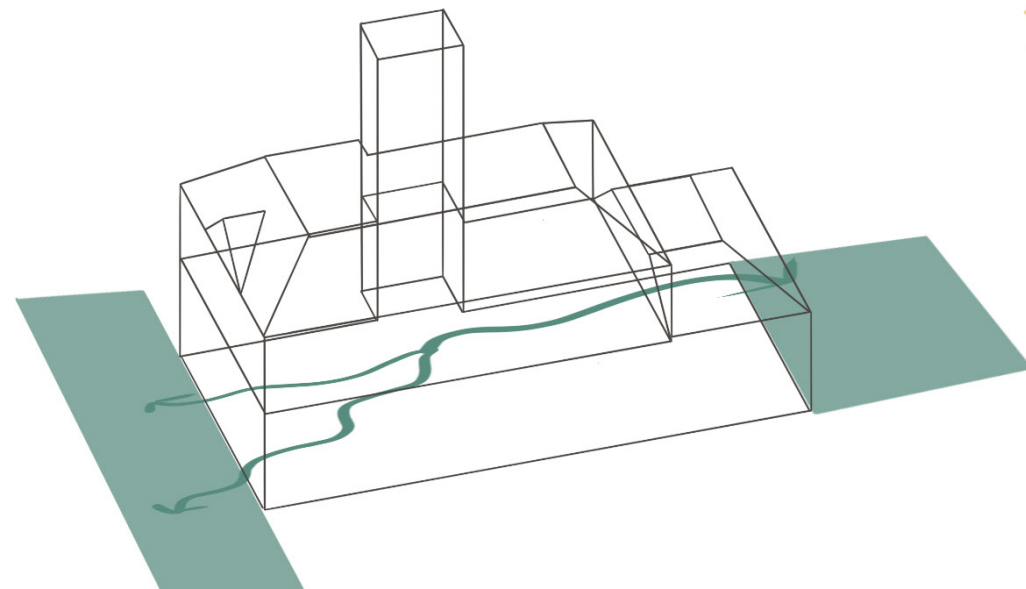
Outdoor Connection / Indoor Connection



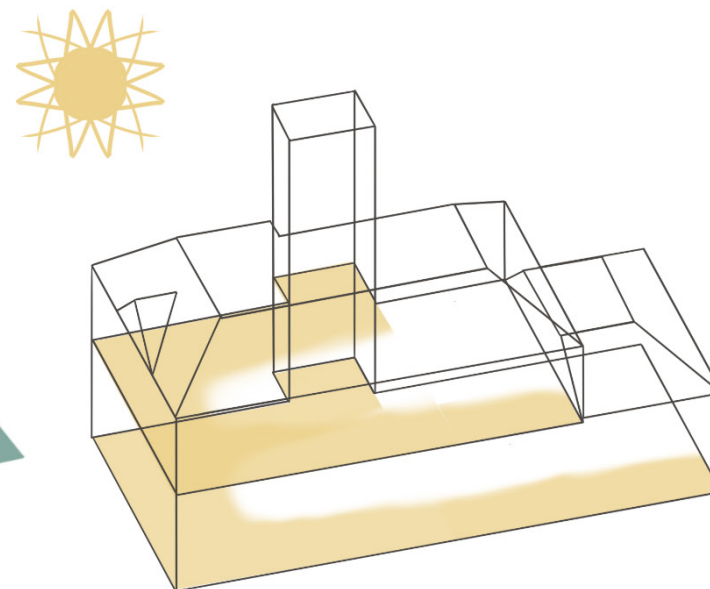
Plants



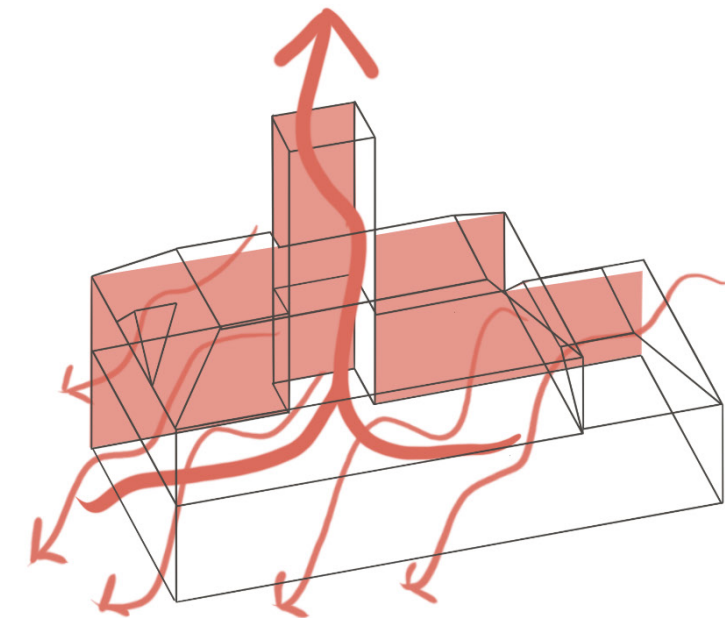
Circulation

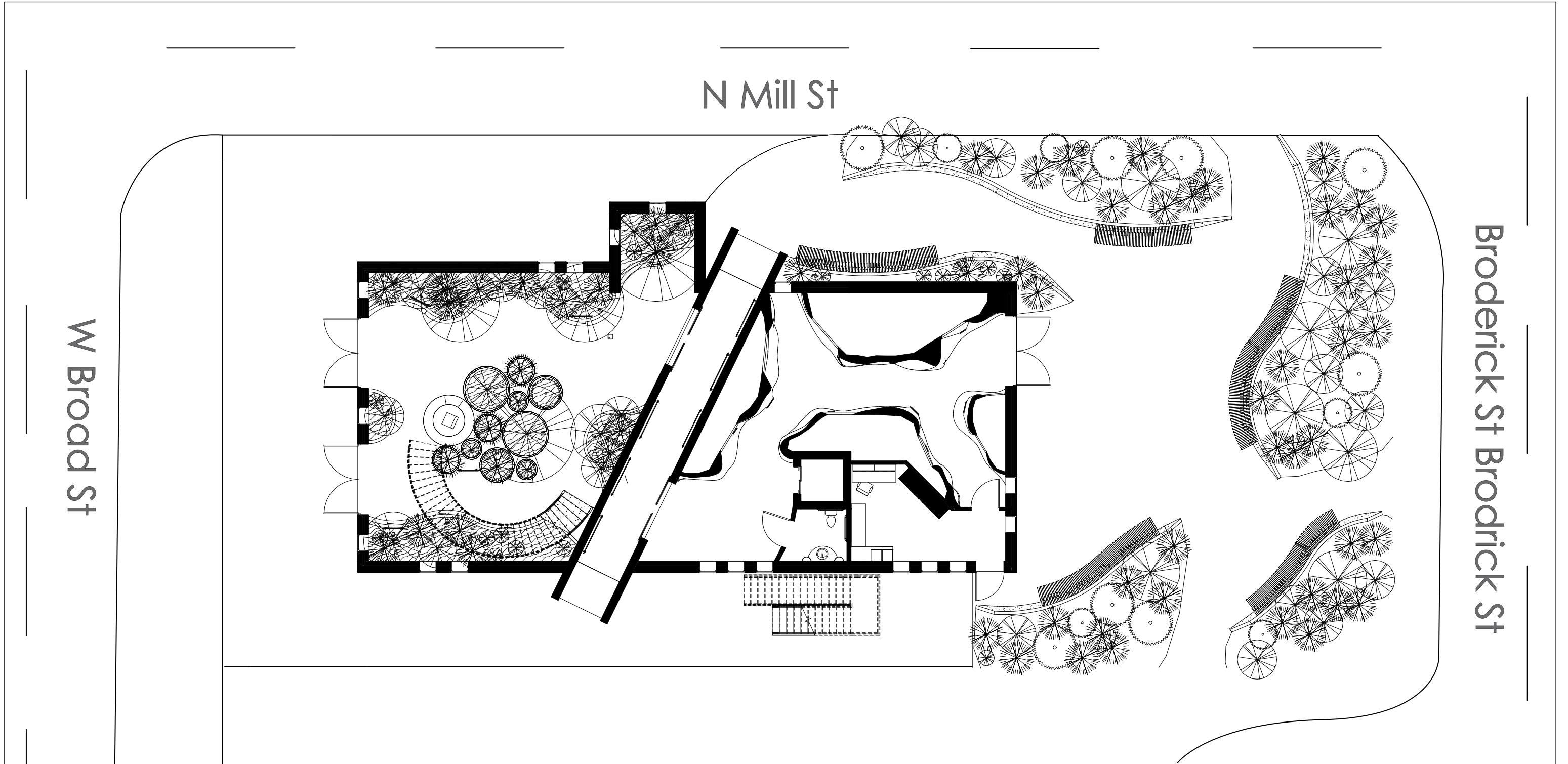


Daylighting



Wind





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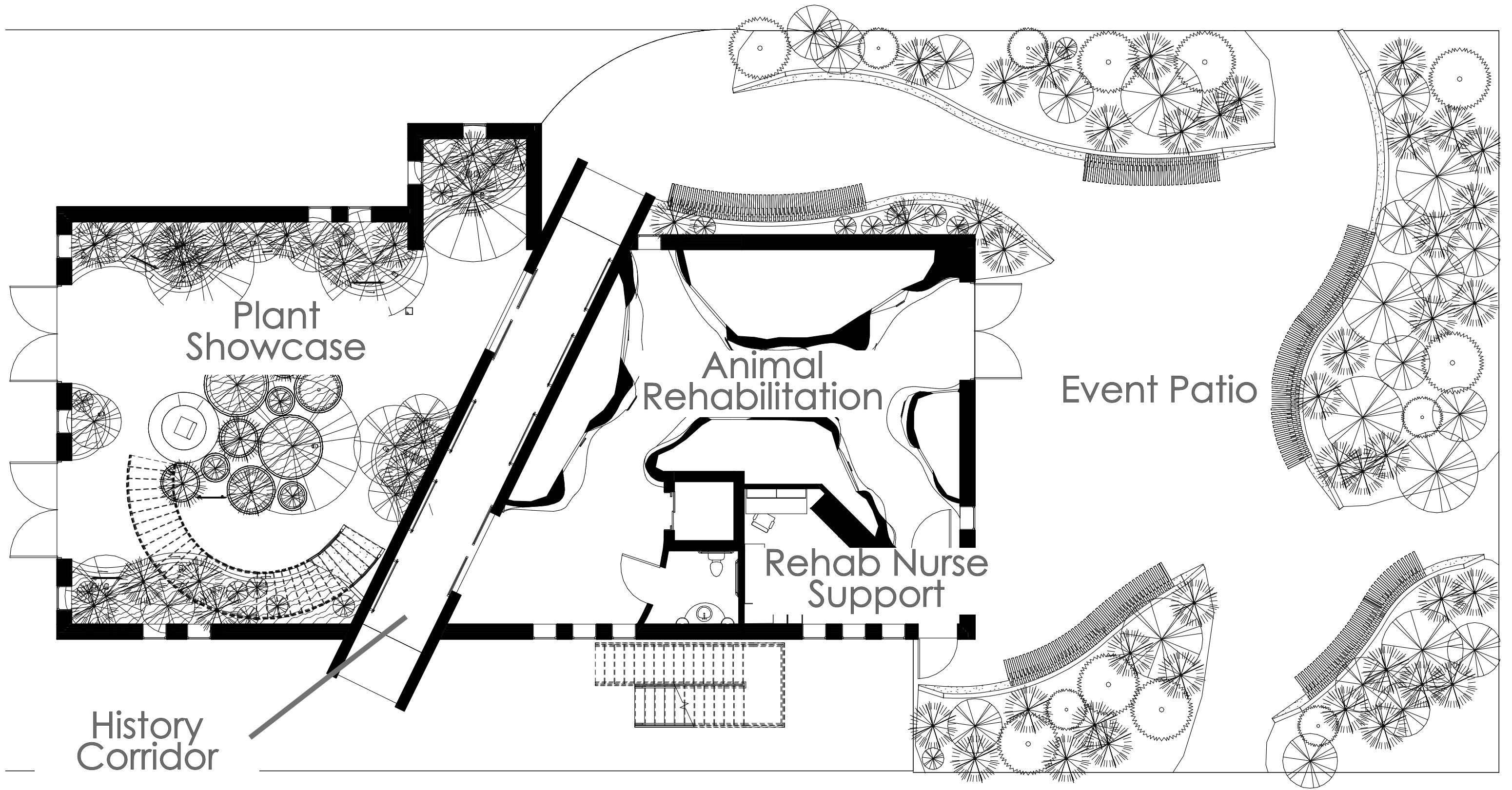
N Mill St

Broderick St Brodrick St



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN

First Floor Plan + Site



Plant Showcase

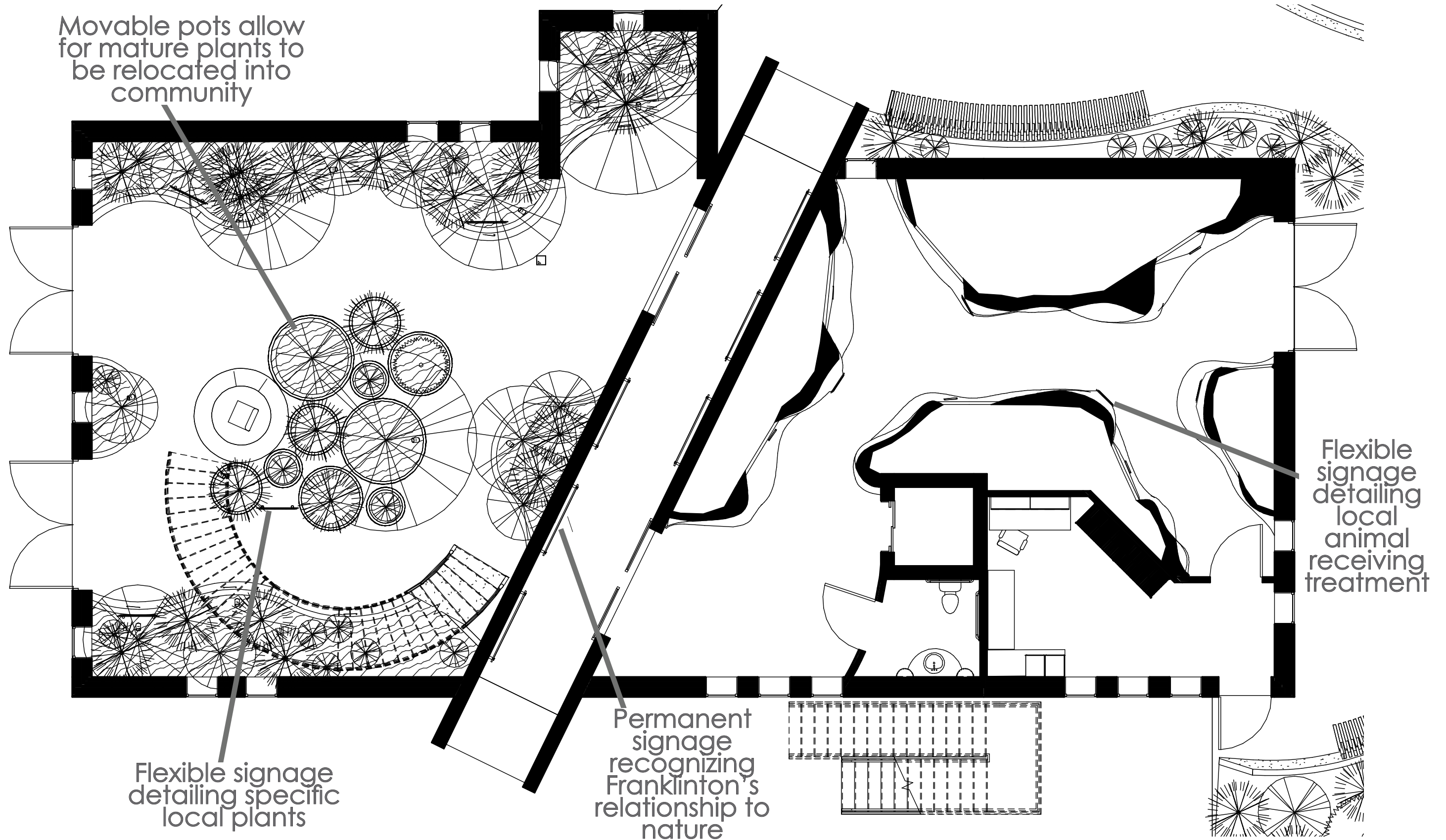
Animal Rehabilitation

Event Patio

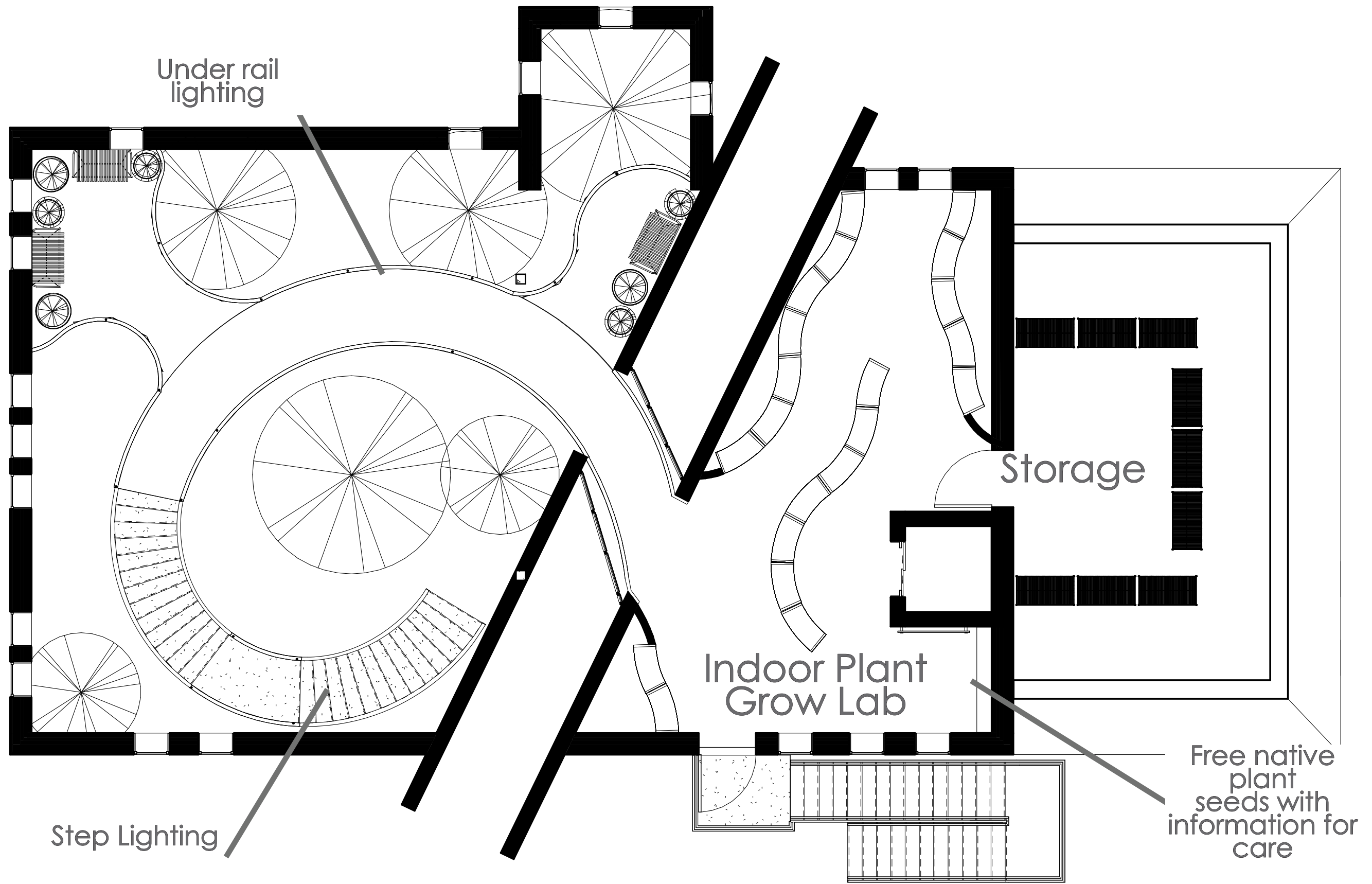
Rehab Nurse Support

History Corridor



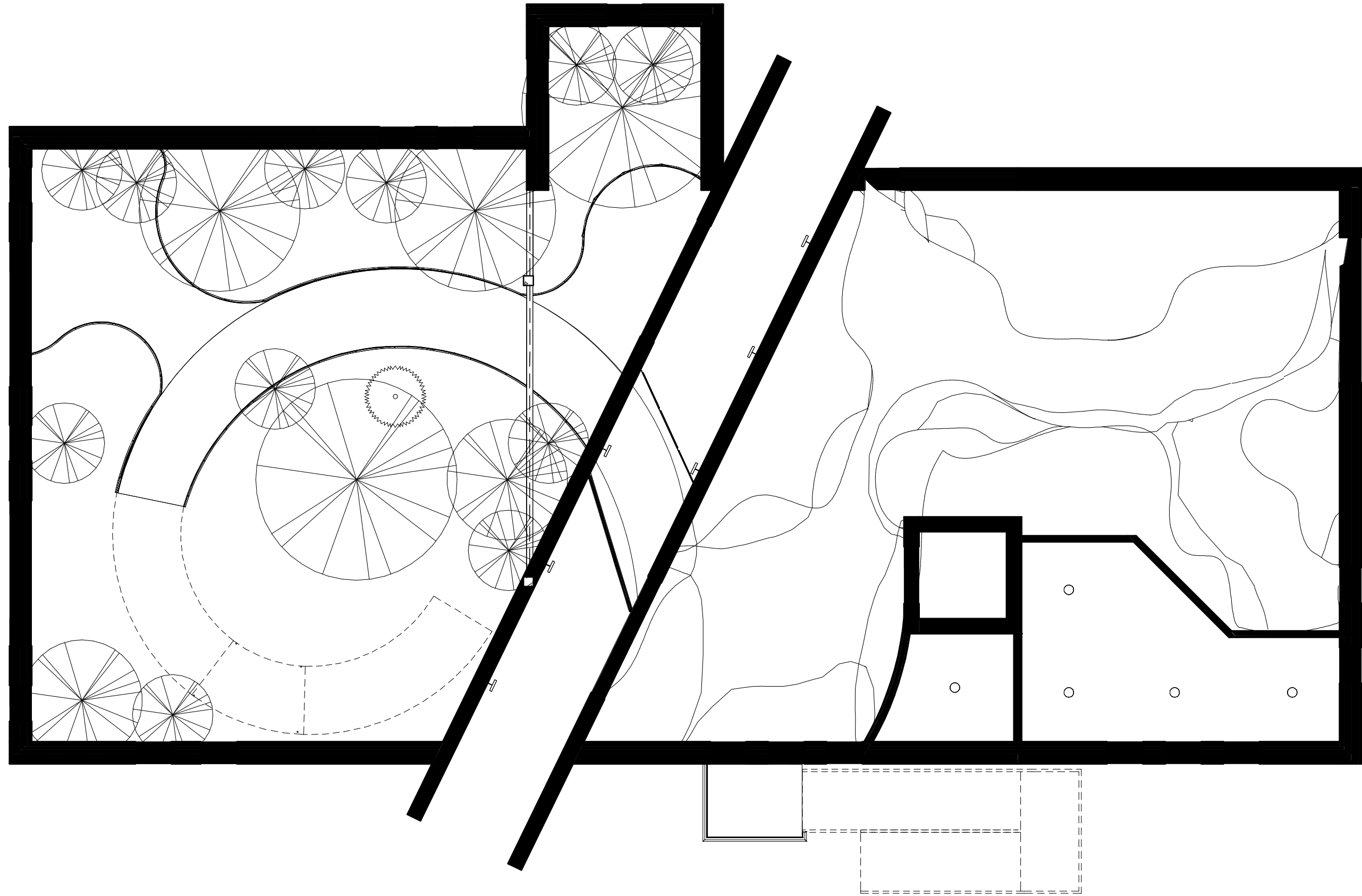


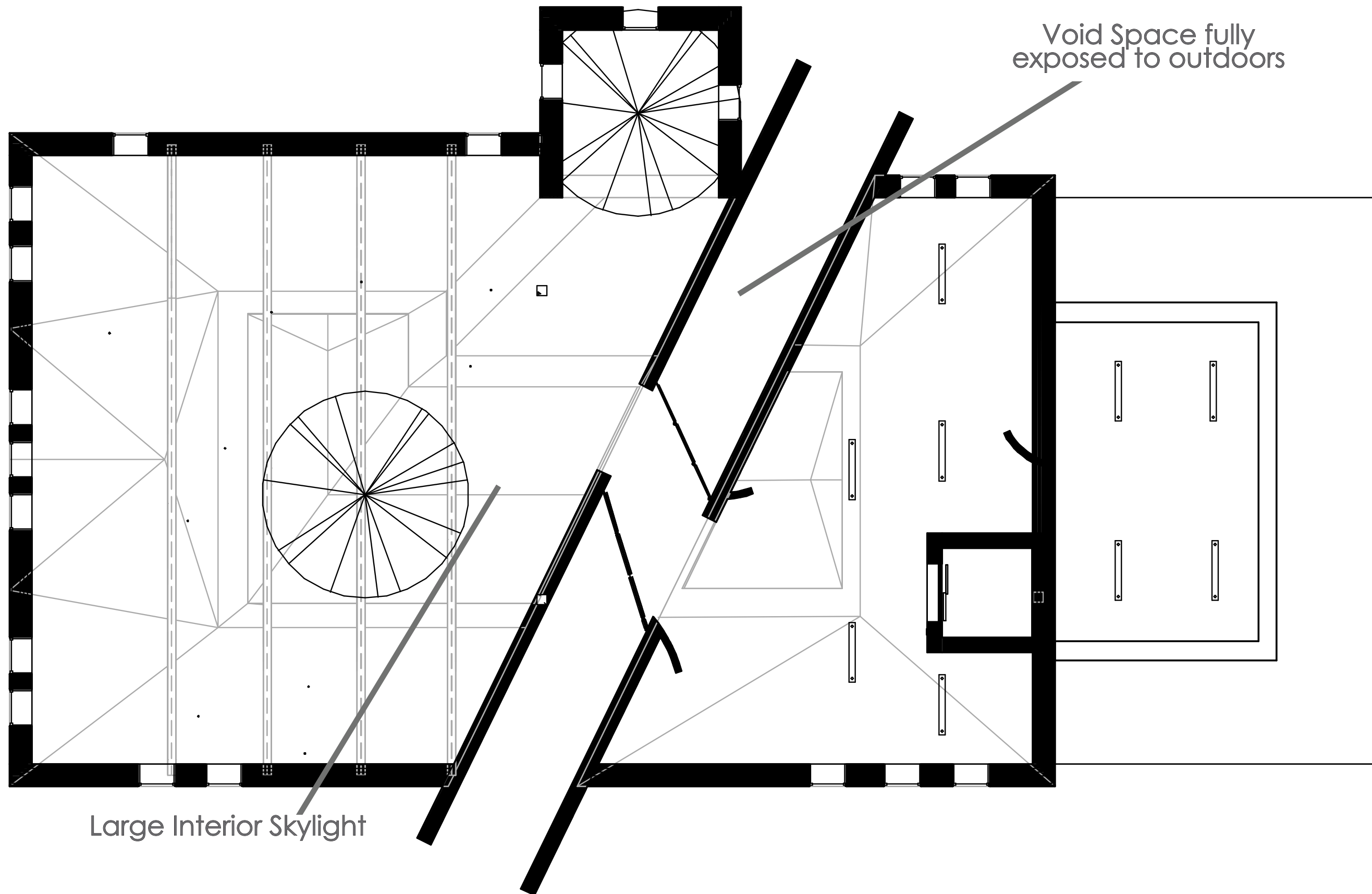
First Floor Plan

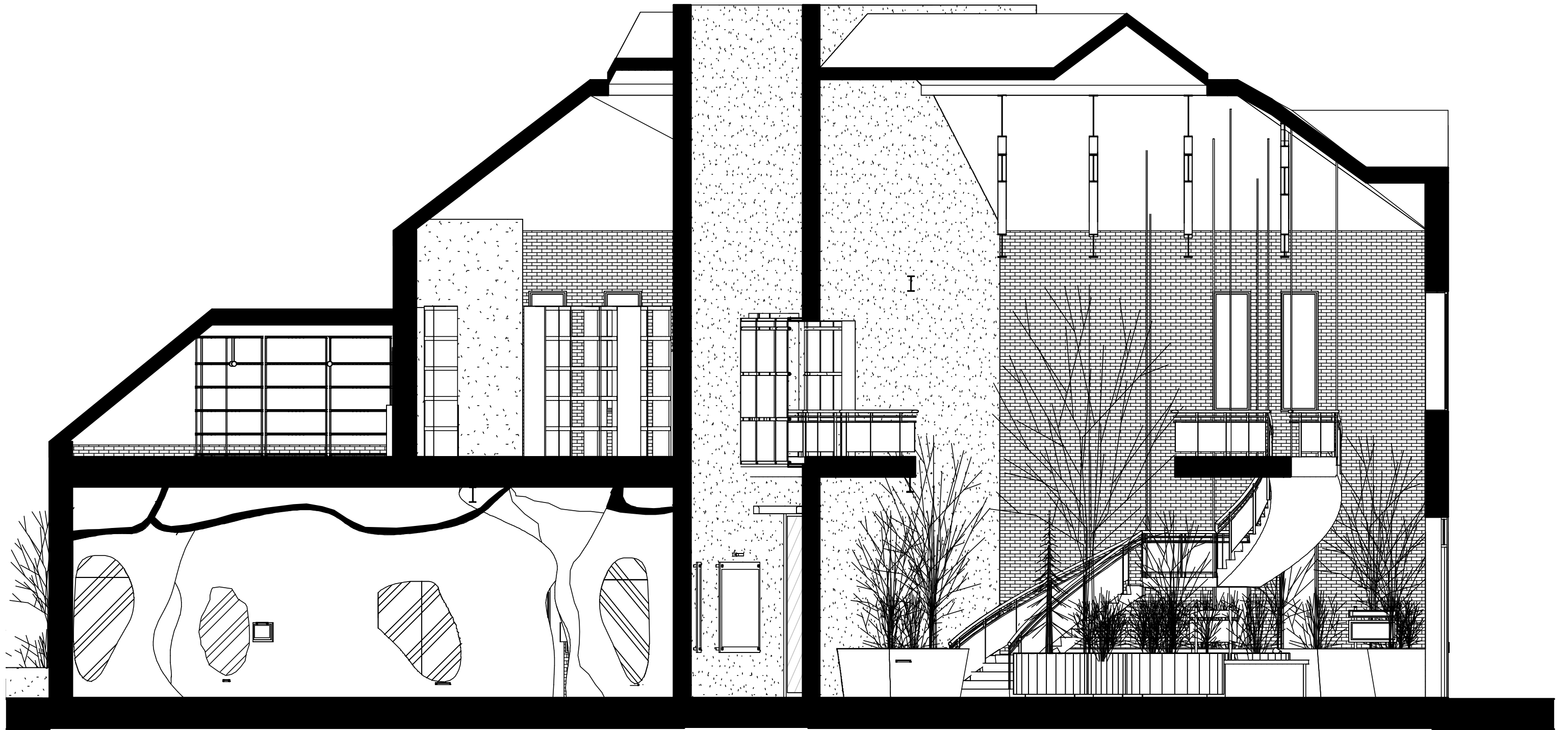


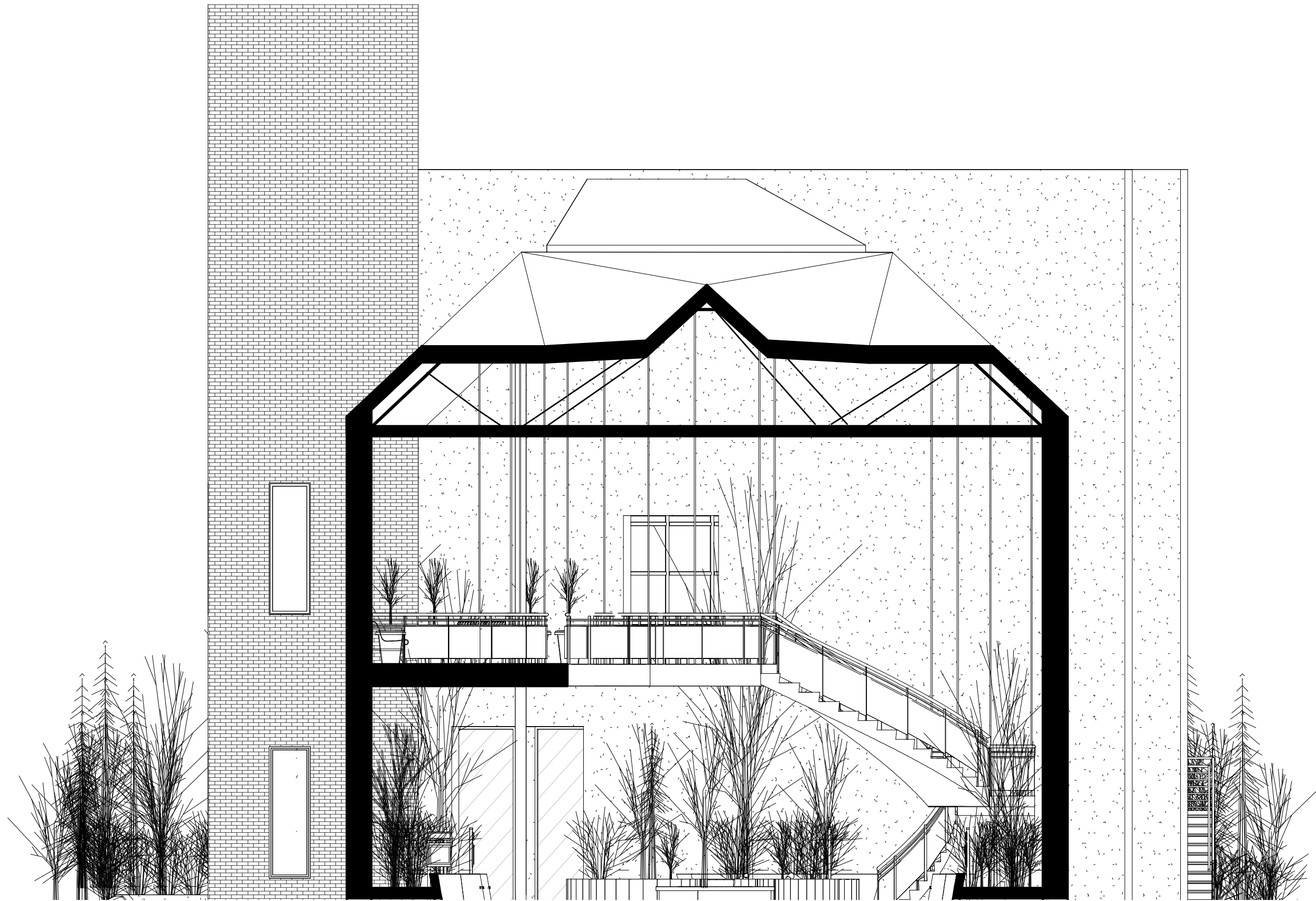
2nd Floor Plan









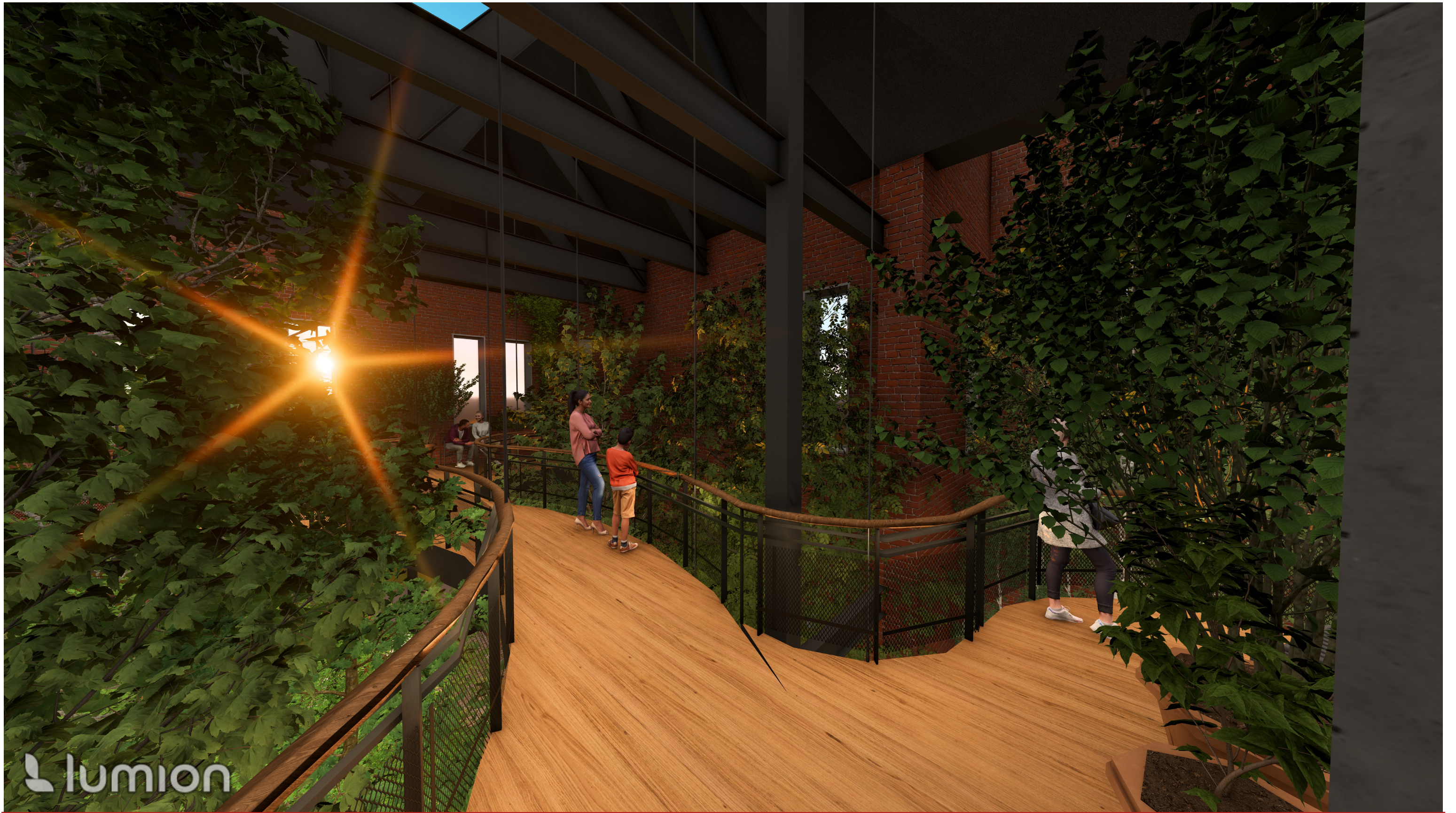


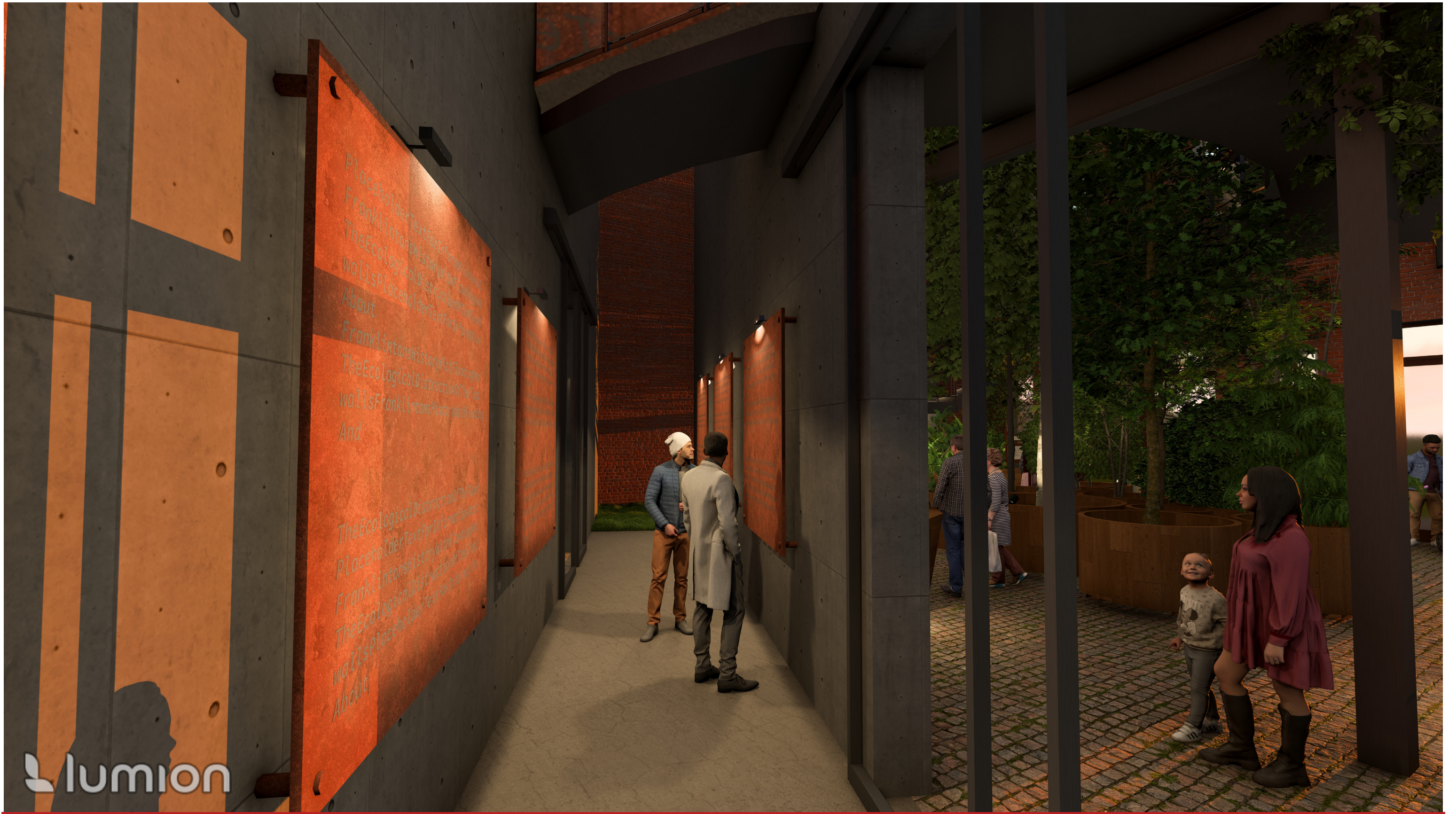


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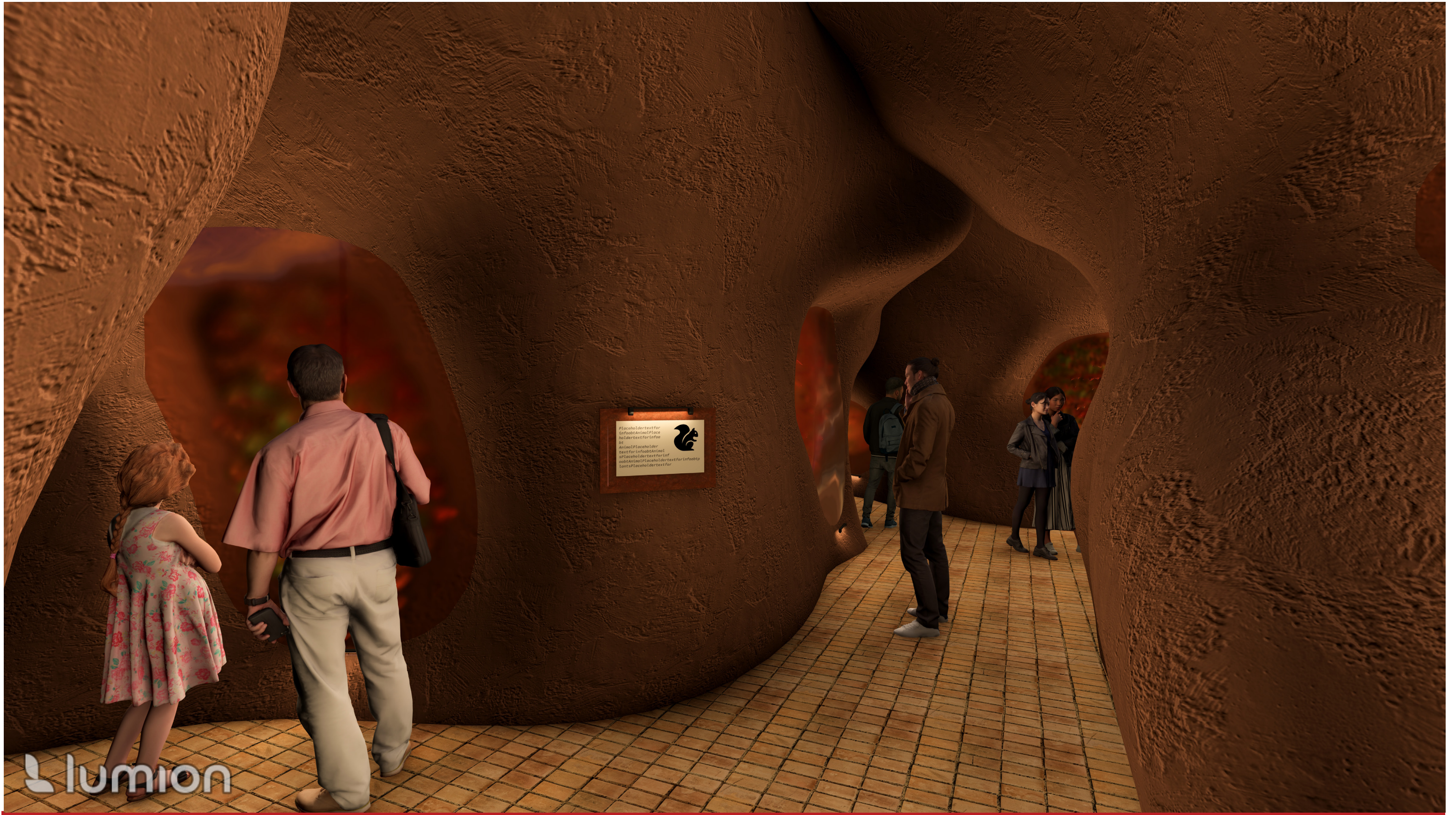


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