NESTED WITHIN

OAA HEADQUARTERS LANDSCAPE DESIGN COMPETITION

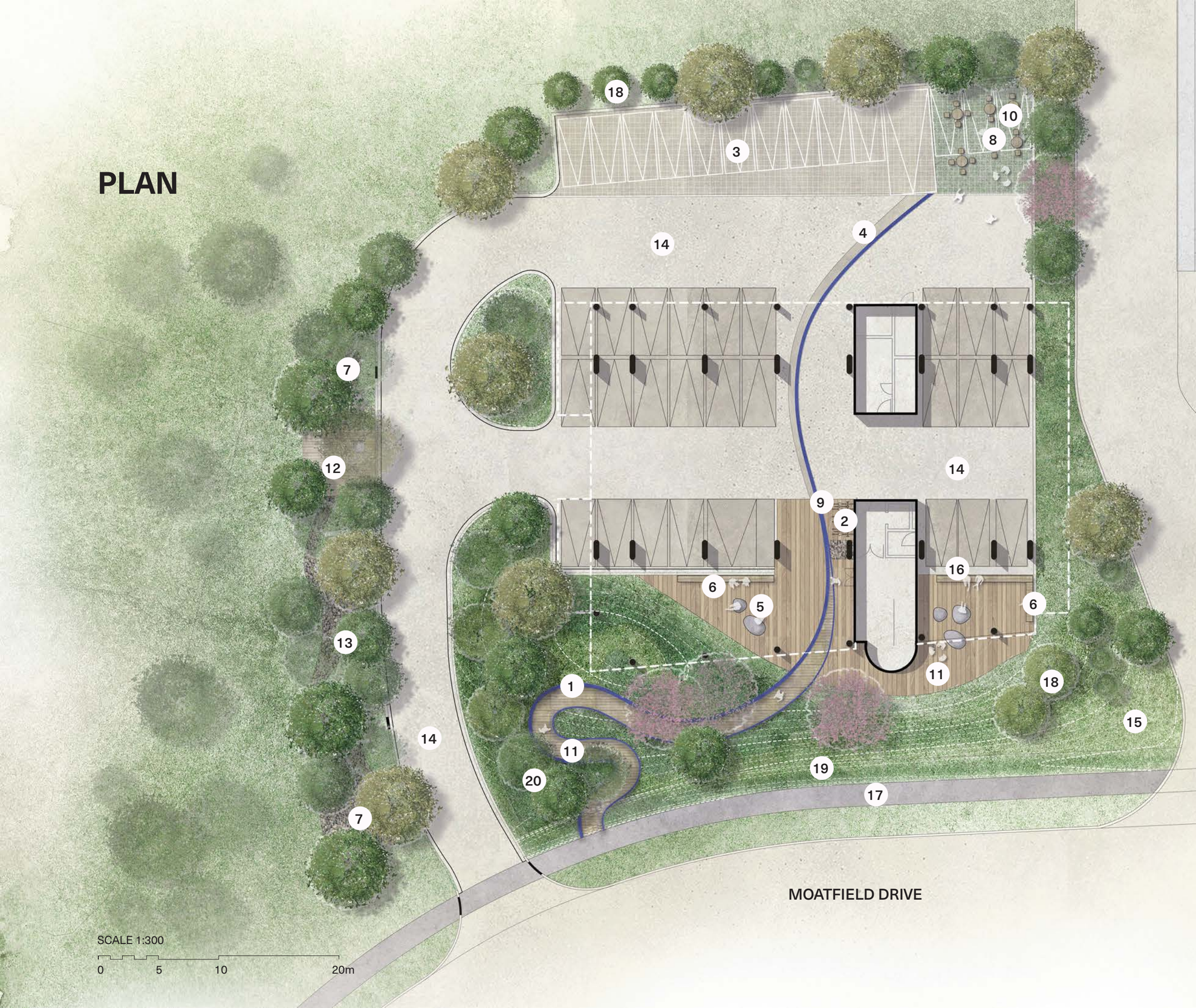
Perched above the vital ravine system of Wonscotonach (Don River) is a building where visionaries of the modern built world convene to imagine a more sustainable architectural practice. The building's raised footprint implies a light touch on the ground below, yet this same pedestal acts to separate it from its context. It retreats from the earth, flying over lands known as traditional Indigenous village and burial grounds, separated from the rich cultural history and the life-giving ecology of the river. Today, borrowed views of the river valley are its main connection to the surroundings.

This design proposal asks how we might nest the OAA Headquarters into the Don River in order to encourage a reckoning with erased history and represent a forward-thinking professional practice. We propose mounding up earth along the building frontage that reckons with the stripping away of land from traditional territories. An iconic pathway winds from the sidewalk to the entry along a blue anodized aluminum channel, prompting a contemplative arrival sequence. The design intertwines water cycles with the human experience, showing dedication to the health of the watershed.

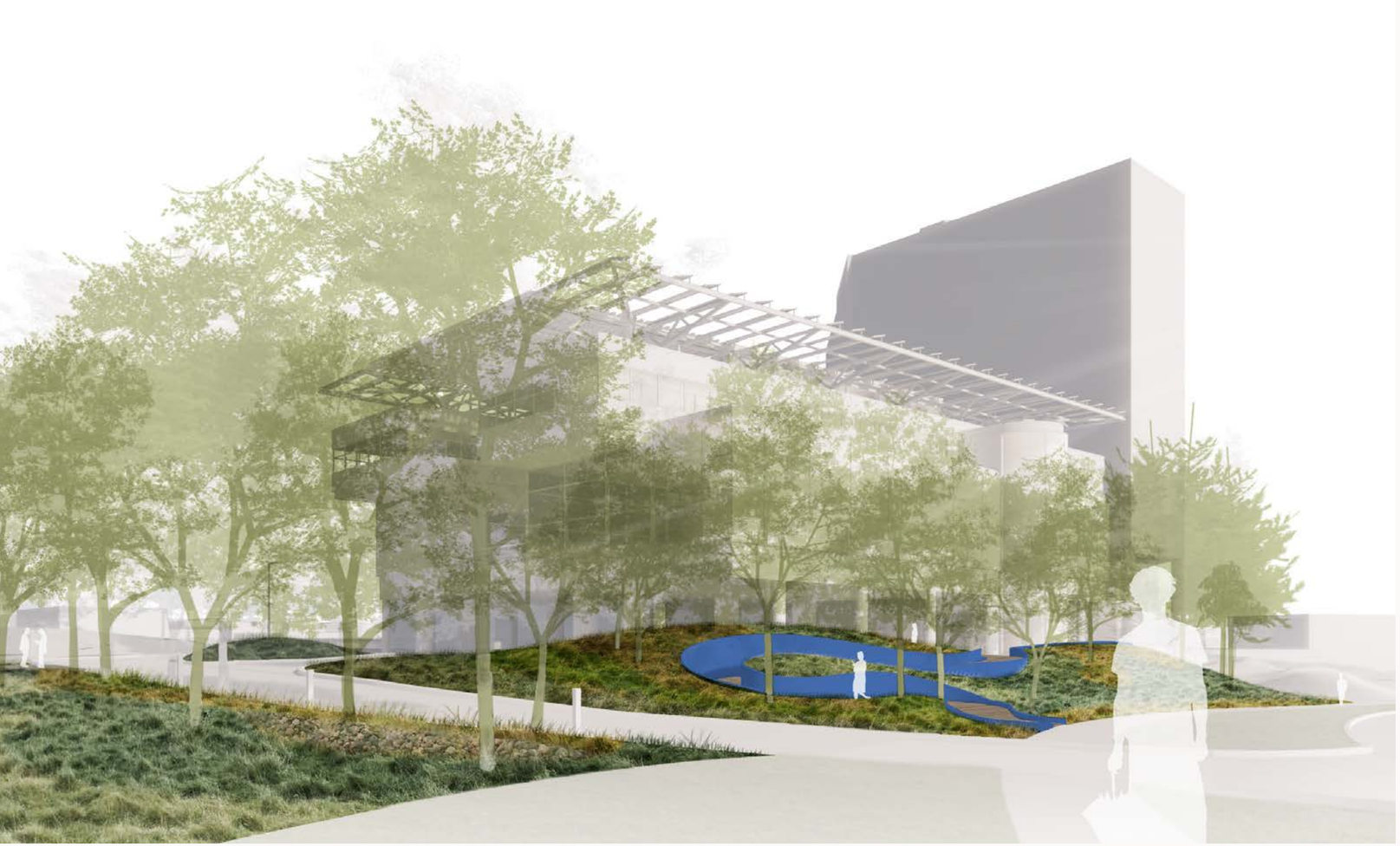
16.05.24

TEAM CEDAR

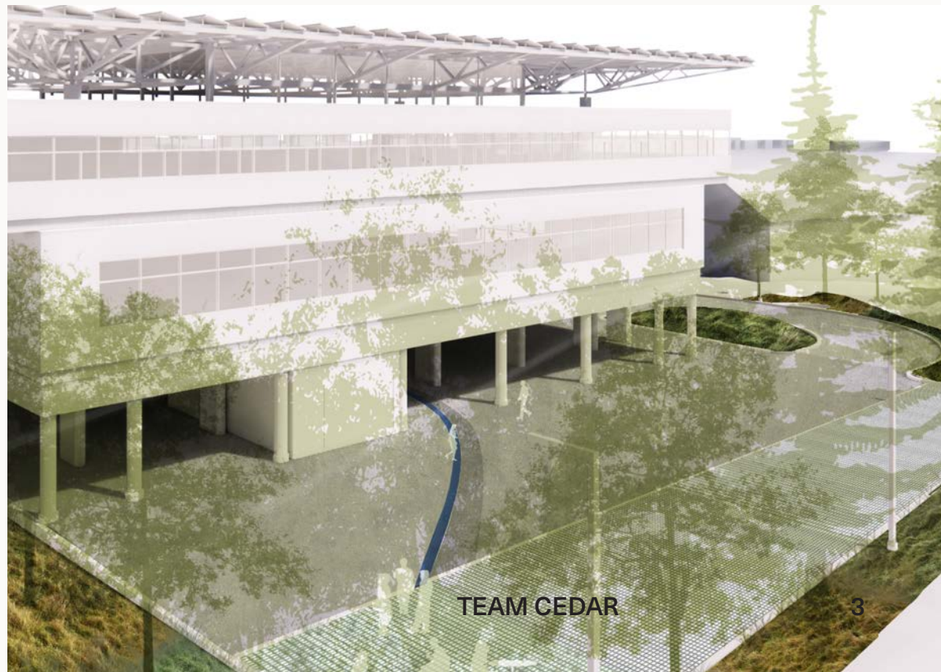
PLAN



1. ALUMINUM RETAINING WALL
2. BIKE RACK
3. GRAVEL GRID PAVING WITH INFILTRATION BLANKET
4. BONDED AGGREGATE PAVING FROM CRUSHED SALVAGED UNIT PAVERS
5. PRECAST CONCRETE SEATING
6. BENCH WITH INTEGRATED LIGHTING
7. SWALE WITH BALLAST FROM TUMBLED SALVAGED UNIT PAVERS
8. GRASS GRID PAVING
9. GRATE WITH LED STRIP LIGHTING
10. MOVABLE OUTDOOR FURNITURE
11. THERMALLY MODIFIED WOOD DECKING
12. LEARNING DECK
13. FOOD FOREST
14. POROUS ASPHALT
15. LOW MAINTENANCE ECO-LAWN
16. FUTURE EV CHARGER
17. EXISTING SIDEWALK
18. EXISTING TREES TO REMAIN
19. GRASSED SWALE
20. SITE SIGNAGE

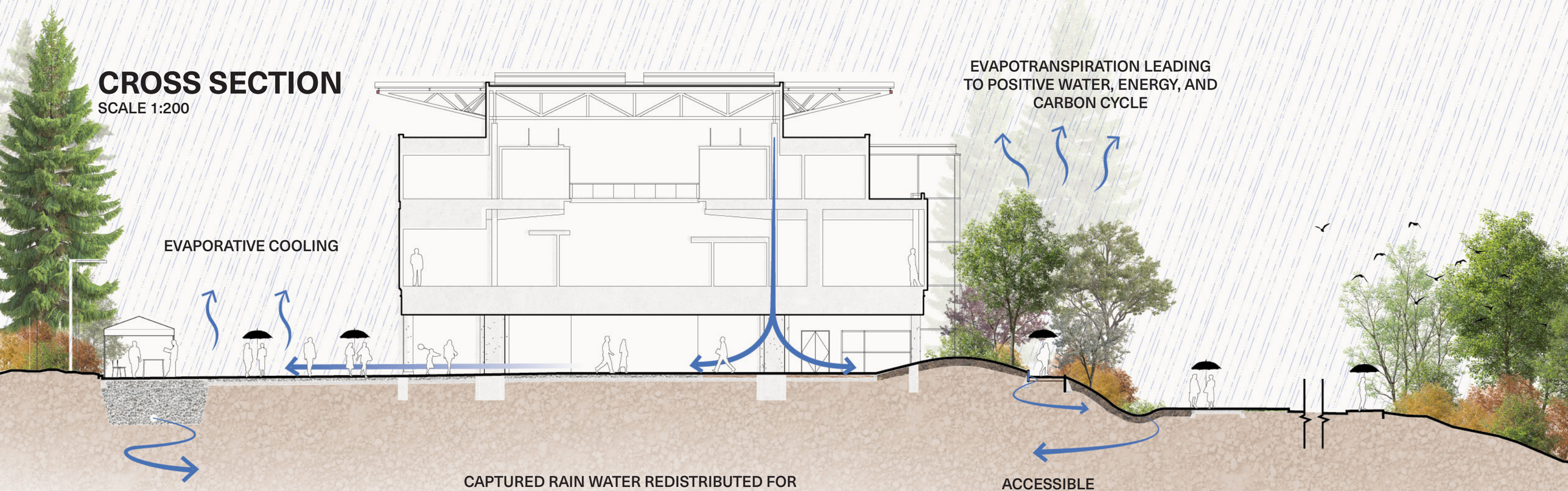



AN ENTRY SEQUENCE
THAT ORIENTS US
TOWARDS THE RIVER



CROSS SECTION

SCALE 1:200



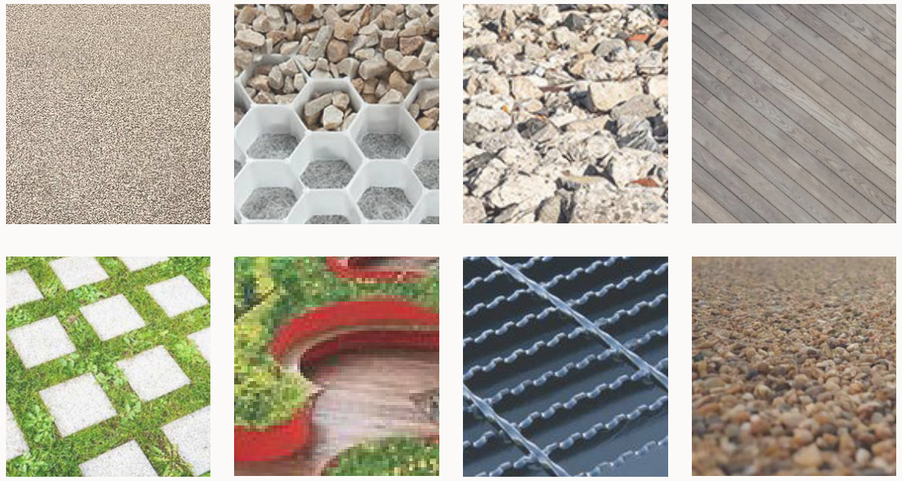
CLIMATE POSITIVE DESIGN

Through planting strategies and materials, we are transforming the site towards climate positivity. As we start to allocate our carbon budget within our construction projects, it becomes crucial to think effectively and innovatively on drawing down carbon and increasing carbon sequestration.

The “Nested Within” design introduces a strategic enhancement to carbon sequestration by integrating additional vegetation and promoting biodiversity on the site. The transformation of the high-maintenance lawn into an eco-friendly space, featuring biodiverse species, ensures minimal to no maintenance. Furthermore, this approach yields multiple benefits, including improved stormwater retention and a reduction in the urban heat island effect. Strategies to minimize the embodied carbon within the hardscape were explored, including:

- Circular Thinking: Reuse existing materials found on-site. For instance, consider re-purposing pavers as ballast. This can significantly reduce the embodied carbon of new construction.
- Timber Products: Opt for timber decking and site furnishings. Timber stores biogenic carbon, making it a unique material.
- Low Carbon Materials: Any concrete that will be used on this site will include a higher Supplementary Cementitious Content (SCM) and any steel will have minimum recycled content.

The OAA is setting an example of how climate positivity can be achieved.



WATER CYCLE

BY PROVIDING 57M³ OF ON-SITE STORAGE, THE OAA SITE WILL GO BEYOND THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE WWFMG BY PROVIDING 100-YEAR STORM PROTECTION TO THE SITE AND PROVIDING ADDED FLOOD RELIEF TO THE BROADER NEIGHBOURHOOD