



Solace | ARC1012
Ontario Association of Architects' Scholarship (EDI)
Submission
Christopher Law 1004922248

Solace

Course Coordinator: Assistant Professor Behnaz Assadi

Studio Instructor: Assistant Professor Mauricio Quirós Pacheco

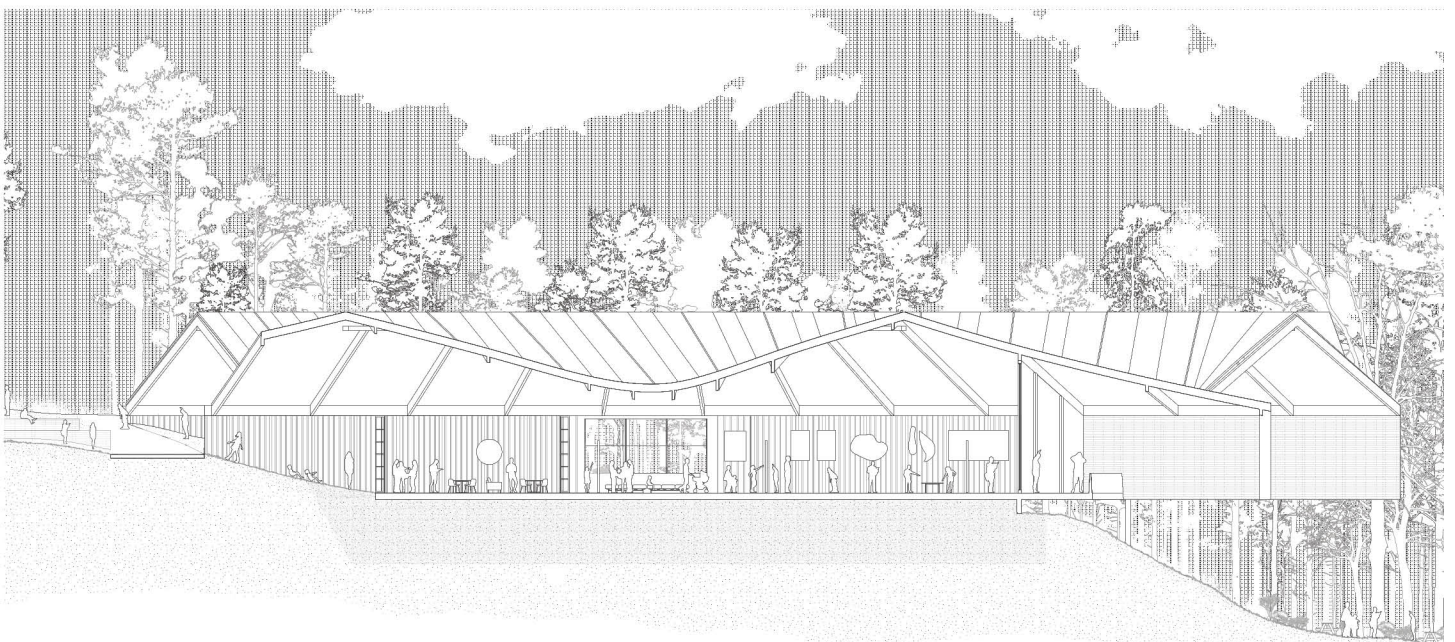
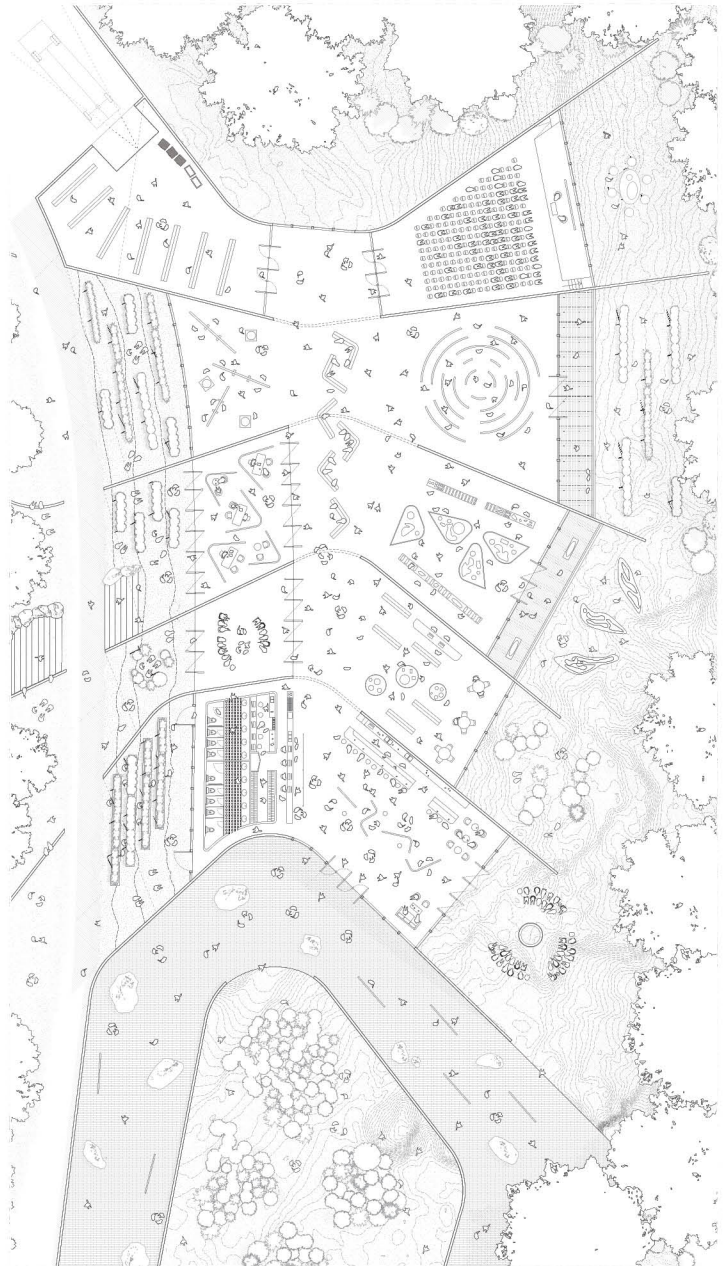
In this Indigenous Studio course, I demonstrated leadership by leading my drawing team of 20 graduate students to create the official base plans, sections, and elevations for the cohort to be used for their projects. I made sure that our team was organised and on track to deliver the work that everyone can easily use.

Within my own project (Solace), I aimed to convey the concept of finding light within darkness through the use of mass timber; Indigenous structural techniques (derived from the forms of birch bark canoes), and the landscaping of the retaining walls that gradually sweep into the museum itself.

Partially buried within the landscape and amid the trees, the museum blends into its surroundings while facing east towards the forest, allowing adequate sunlight and creating a connection to Indigenous culture. Guided by the retaining walls, the formal logic is derived from the positioning of the longhouses, the direction of pathways, and the landscaping of the topography. This design allows the cultural museum to extend beyond its official boundary and form a relational connection with other parts of the site, such as the continuation of the retaining walls guiding towards the lake. Since a deaf and hearing school often visits the conservation area, the retaining walls serve a tactile function to guide visitors and provide spaces to rest and sit.

As one wanders through the museum, the attention to detail is evident in its relationship with the landscape and the lake, the formal structure of the building, and the selection of materials. This creates a form of Indigenous storytelling that is carried forward, allowing a sense of solace as one finds light within darkness. This project further propels the Architectural Indigenous discourse, empowering the relationship of architecture and its strive for equity, diversity, and inclusion within a space.

This project is currently featured twice at the Daniels End of Year Show and the City of Toronto Doors Open 2024 Event.





Drawing Group: Christopher Law, Cassandra Santaguida, Mudabber, Abida Rahman, Ming Yin, Julie JooYoung Lee, Marly Ibrahim, Susan Xi, Nour Fahmy, Yibo Wang, Li Xu, Peter Wang, Meraet El Nahal, Simon Newbigging, Kathy Zhou, Amanda Nightingale, Scott McCallum, Yawing Chen, Noel Sampson, Wenjing Zhang

