

R O T O  
ARCHITECTS

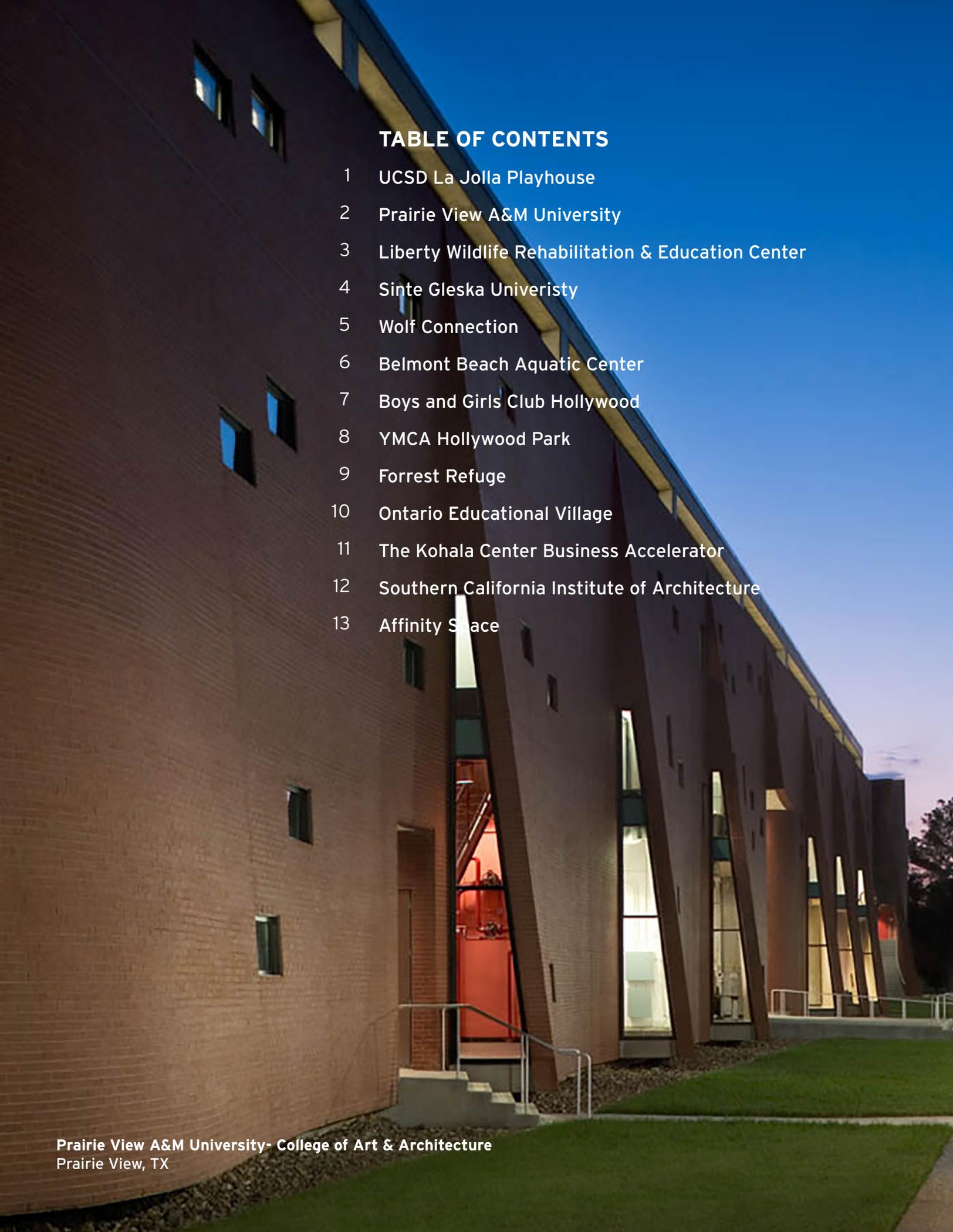
## EDUCATIONAL PORTFOLIO

*Life gives form to Architecture.  
Humans are learning organisms.  
Curiosity is a pretext for learning.*

600 Moulton Ave. Suite 405, Los Angeles, CA 90031

T 323.226.1112

[contact@rotoark.com](mailto:contact@rotoark.com)



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1 UCSD La Jolla Playhouse
- 2 Prairie View A&M University
- 3 Liberty Wildlife Rehabilitation & Education Center
- 4 Sinte Gleska Univeristy
- 5 Wolf Connection
- 6 Belmont Beach Aquatic Center
- 7 Boys and Girls Club Hollywood
- 8 YMCA Hollywood Park
- 9 Forrest Refuge
- 10 Ontario Educational Village
- 11 The Kohala Center Business Accelerator
- 12 Southern California Institute of Architecture
- 13 Affinity Space

## STATEMENT BY PROFESSOR ROTONDI, FAIA

### **On Education**

Change is inevitable, at every scale, at ever increasing speed. The world has been undergoing foundational shifts for a generation, since the widespread advances in science and technology. Trans-disciplinary learning, first principles, rapid absorption, and a synthetic mind are now our most valuable assets, social media is the new format for Civic engagement.

Institutional teaching formats must keep pace with the ways students actually learn, with greater open mindedness, play, and student centered, experience-based learning. Powerful teaching and learning occur in any number of settings beyond school, in affinity spaces. Affinity spaces are loosely organized social and cultural settings in which teaching is shared by many people, in many locations, connected (in-person or virtually) by a shared interest or passion (Gee, 2007). A growing body of scholarship suggests potential benefits of these new forms of participatory culture: peer-to-peer learning, a changed attitude toward intellectual property, the diversification of cultural expression, the development of skills valued in the modern workplace, and a more empowered conception of citizenship and governance.

The discussion about 21st century skills directs our attention to the role technology plays in learning. Subjects are now expanded to include new media literacies, critical and systems thinking, and the nature of interpersonal and media-based communications. Learners are self-motivated and self-directed, and with oversight and mentoring, have a greater sense of Independence, self-awareness, and agency within a greater collective. This new 'culture of learning' demands new skills, literacies, and architectural expressions. RoTo Architects has envisioned, designed, and built a wide range of project types of varying scope and complexity, locally, nationally, and internationally, for both informal and formal learning. We have been engaged in design research for Learning Futures, the future of work, and giving structure to informal everyday learning. Our deep knowledge of learning models and their architectural expression began with the founding of SCI-Arc (Southern California Institute of Architecture) four decades ago. Prof. Rotondi has been a witness to and participant in an unparalleled educational and social experiment.

As a firm, our knowledge and experience come from educational and professional-based practice. Teaching (SCI-Arc and ASU) is the research part of the broader practice, where unique projects are invented to explore and test more experimental ideas and techniques addressing local and global challenges with focus on the future of work and learning. In the professional studio, RoTo Architects, these projects are mined and ideas implemented in real time, at full scale. One project that has come from this process is the Affinity Space, a place for game-based learning, that will integrate multimodal learning and entertainment.

***“What if we are currently preparing students for jobs that do not yet exist, using technologies that have not been invented, to solve problems that have yet to be identified and defined.”***

- Bernard Trilling, *21C Skills: Learning for Life in our Times*

PRINCIPAL **MICHAEL ROTONDI, FAIA**

RoTo Architects

IN PRACTICE

Michael Rotondi is an architect/educator, recognized internationally. He has practiced and taught for thirty-five years, and defines both as one activity. Teaching is the research part of the broader practice, where more experimental ideas, hypothetical projects, and techniques are tested. The professional studio RoTo Architects, Inc., is where these ideas are implemented in real time and at full scale. He has always been based in Los Angeles, co-founding 2 international practices, as a partner of Morphosis, (1975-1991) and currently, RoTo Architects (1991-present). His longtime work as a cross-disciplinary educator-practitioner is the basis for an open-minded approach that produces outcomes as unique as the variables that define the projects. Since its founding in 1991, RoTo Architects has designed a wide range of projects of varying type, scope and complexity. As a body of work it represents a expertise in solving any one of a kind as well as more conventional problems with precision, economy and invention. Mr. Rotondi has experience working with a diversity of forward thinking clients in a wide range of fields; education, culture production, civic and government leadership, entrepreneurs, conservationists, indigenous people, and spiritual teachers. The portfolio includes the following project type:

- CONTEMPLATIVE - Spiritual Retreats, Temples, Monasteries
- INSTITUTIONAL - Education, Black box Theaters, Health Care (Cancer Center, Dialysis)
- ENVIRONMENTAL - Restoration-land planning, Animal Sanctuaries, Wildlife Center and Hospital
- CULTURAL - Native American, Hawaiian, and Tibetan
- RECREATION/SPORTS - Aquatic center, Gymnasium, Sports Complex, YMCA
- COMMERCIAL - Restaurant, Retail, Hospitality, Entertainment, Re-purposed Industrial, Shopping Centers
- RESIDENTIAL - Single Family, Extended Family, Co-Housing, Multi-Unit, Meditation Hermitages
- CIVIC - Civic Center, Public Broadcasting, Public Plaza

IN EDUCATION

Prof. Rotondi is an educator with an international standing. He was a co-founder of SCI-Arc in 1972 along with 50 other colleagues. In his various leadership roles over the forty years since its founding, he has participated in creating and growing a school that is recognized internationally among the best. He succeeded Founding Director Ray Kappe as the second Director after creating and directing the Graduate Program. His charge was to reinvent the school after the first fifteen years, providing leadership in formulating an educational vision that would give the Institute, the faculty, and the students a platform to participate in defining the discussion-debate emerging within the Discipline internationally. He is currently a Distinguished Faculty and Trustee Emeritus at SCI-Arc and Professor of Architecture at Arizona State University (ASU). Prof. Rotondi has taught and lectured throughout the world for many years on Architecture, Education, and Creativity. He has been recognized and awarded many times for design practice and teaching. Among the awards are, Progressive Architecture P/A, AIA Awards, American Academy of Arts and Letters for Architecture, AIA College of Fellows, LA/AIA Gold Medal, AIA/SFV Lifetime Award, and in 2013, he was voted by his peers, among the “30 Most Admired Design Teachers in America.”

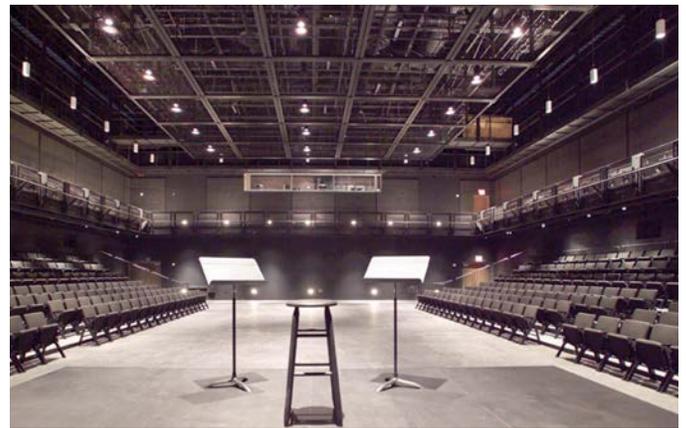


# 1 UCSD LA JOLLA PLAYHOUSE

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

RoTo Architects worked with the renowned La Jolla Playhouse and University of California San Diego (UCSD) in a partnership, to plan and build the Play Development and Educational Center for the La Jolla Playhouse and UCSD Department of Theatre and Dance. The project consists of a flexible “Black Box” theatre for an audience of 450, a lab theatre, two large classroom/ rehearsal spaces, technical support, set production, warehouse spaces, restaurant, creative studio, and administrative offices to provide a permanent artistic and administrative home for the Playhouse.

LEARNING FOCUS	A state-of-the-art facility for creating and producing one-of-a-kind plays and theater events, complete with a full basement for conventional and hi-tech production. It serves as an experimental laboratory with performance spaces for artists, educators and the public.
SCOPE OF WORK	Public-Private partnership, assisted in fund raising, designed flexible theater, teaching and performance spaces, private use and public access.
STATUS	Complete
SIZE	43,000 SF
CLIENT	University of California, San Diego





## 2 PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

PRAIRIE VIEW, TEXAS

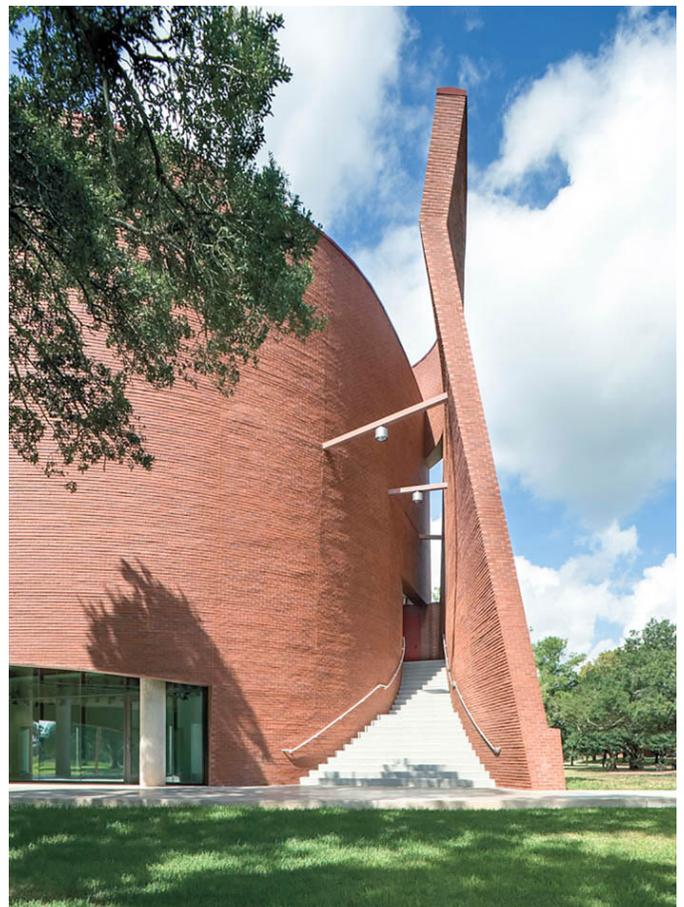
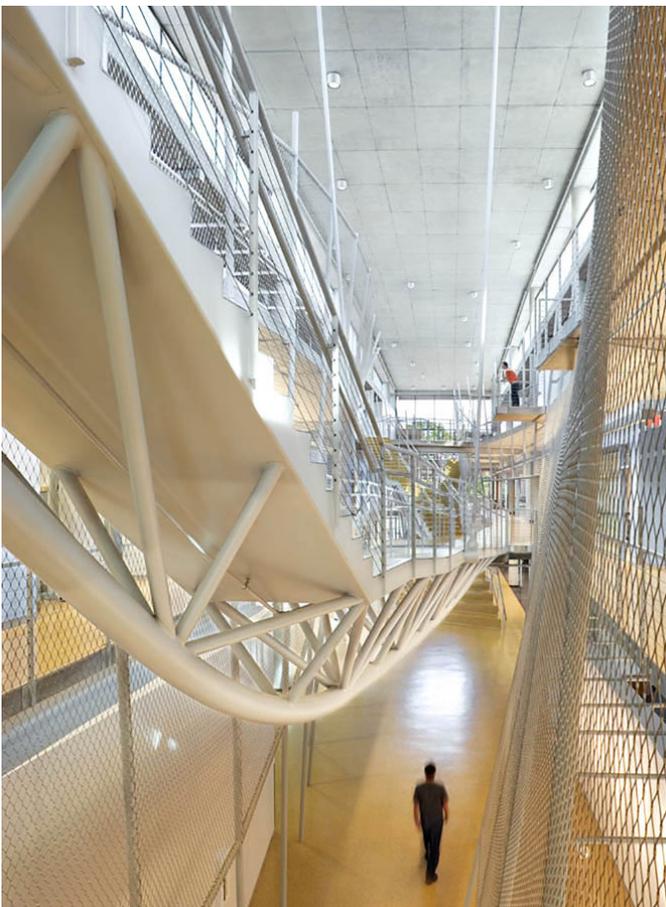
The building is a gateway to the campus, serving as a landmark expressing the new growth of this historical school, one of the Historic African-American Universities. It is the new home of the College of Art and Architecture, the Cultural Center (research archives and museum of African-American History), Community Development, Construction Science, and an interdisciplinary satellite Business School to expand the curriculum.

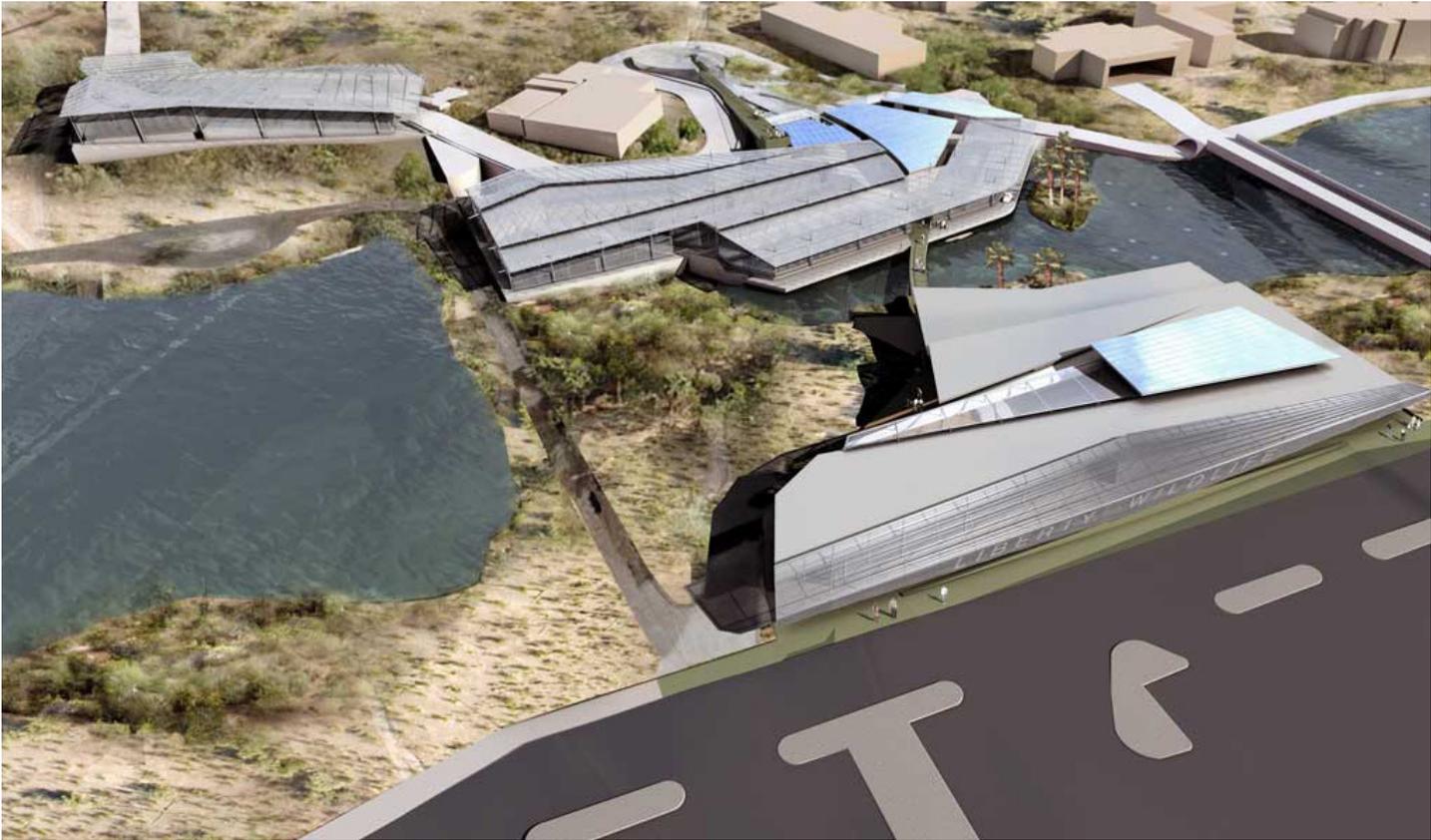
**LEARNING FOCUS** The creative, production, and delivery process for this project were used to teach students. Michael Rotondi was a faculty member for three years.

**STATUS** Complete

**SIZE** 110,000 SF

**CLIENT** Prairie View A&M University





### 3 LIBERTY WILDLIFE REHABILITATION AND EDUCATION CENTER

PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Liberty Wildlife, a leader in wildlife protection in Arizona, is a non-profit organization that treats, rehabilitates, and releases native Arizonian wildlife and educates visitors. The new 30,000 square foot facility will feature a rehabilitation center for injured wildlife, an administrative and visitor's center, and an expanded educational area including classrooms and an auditorium. This expansion will allow Liberty Wildlife to increase the number of animals they treat and enhance their outstanding educational programs. The initial analysis and design were used to clarify their mission and enhance internal operations.

LEARNING FOCUS	The educational zone will house an interactive display area, and an interactive trail will move throughout the Wildlife Center for visitors to view educational animals, the aviary, eagle feeding station, and library/research room.
STATUS	Concept
SIZE	3.5 Acre Site, 50,000 SF Buildings
CLIENT	Liberty Wildlife, Megan Mosby, Executive Director





## 4 SINTE GLESKA UNIVERSITY

ROSEBUD SIOUX, SOUTH DAKOTA

Sinte Gleska University, the oldest tribal university in the Americas, was founded fifty years ago in Rosebud, South Dakota, by the Sicangu Band of the Lakota Nation. RoTo worked with Tribal members to develop a long term strategic and master plan for an entirely new campus on a prairie adjacent to a lake. New infrastructure and multiple buildings were planned and three were built. The Elders asked us to listen to their stories as we designed the land plan and the architecture, metaphorically instrumental in teaching cosmology, spiritual and physical geography, energy harvesting, and construction.

### SCOPE OF WORK/ LEARNING FOCUS

Cultural resilience, Education, Economic development, education programming, creation of an education village based on their cultural traditions and collective practice, design of class rooms, laboratories for STEM education, media facilities for distance learning, multiuse facilities for teaching, learning, and administering education, public access performance spaces.

### STATUS

Complete

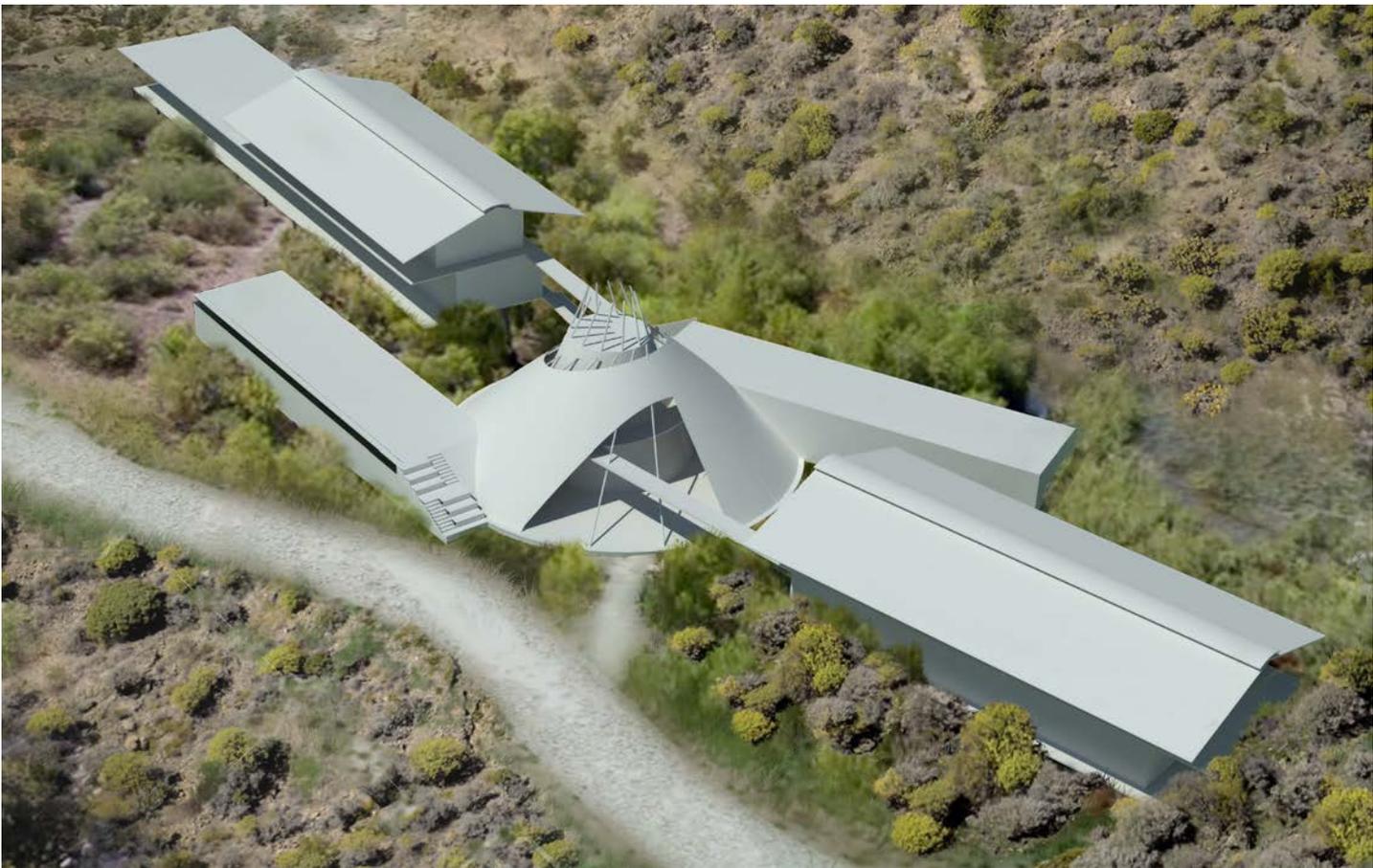
### SIZE

80,000 SF for 3 buildings on 50 Acres

### CLIENT

Sinte Gleska University  
Lionel Bordeaux, President  
Rita Means, Chair BOD  
Lannan Foundation-Patrick Lannan, President





## 5 WOLF CONNECTION

ACTON, CALIFORNIA

Wolf Connection is a sanctuary and a learning environment for a youth education and empowerment program with wolf-dogs as the centerpiece. With the help of these magnificent animals, young men and women from all walks of life learn about nature and conservation, work through the challenges in their lives, learn to be of service by responsibly caring for another living being, and work towards becoming the kind of person they want to be. The presence and natural balance of these deeply intuitive animals inspire and educate at-risk youth in a supportive environment.

LEARNING FOCUS	The new campus will include programs for retreat and conference, housing for staff and students, a farm, a village of classrooms, workshops, general store, a 200 seat performance theater and a large amphitheater.
SCOPE OF WORK	Village-type creation, conservation land planning, unique facilities for education program
STATUS	Construction of Phase 1 of 4 is complete, planning and design of subsequent phases
SIZE	168 Acre Masterplan
CLIENT	Teo Alfero, CEO





## 6 BELMONT BEACH AQUATIC CENTER

LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

The location for this Natatorium is an iconic site where the city meets the sea. A significant challenge has been to work towards an Architecture that integrates in unexpected ways, light, air, water, earth, and horizon, in an elegant and economical way. We were asked to enhance communal life (urban public space) and to honor aquatics, beach life and sailing. The objective is to produce a memorable experience and Architecture for high performance competition and community recreation and to revitalize this segment of their shoreline. Lightness and weight, grandeur and human scale, processional and meandering, formal and informal, practical and poetic are intended to be materialized and experienced in the new place created. The Belmont Pool is intended to be a great attractor for a diverse urban community.

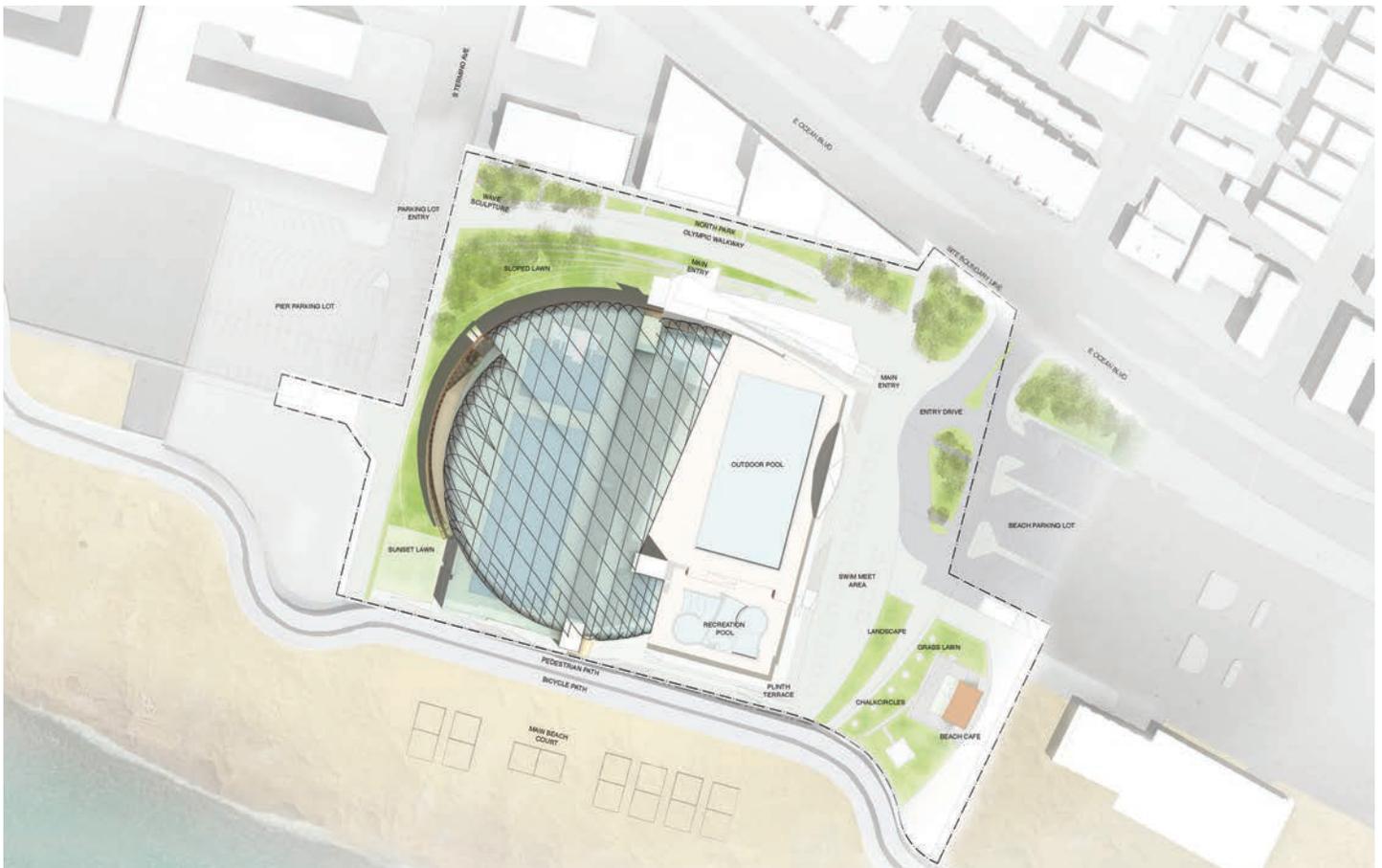
LEARNING FOCUS Aquatic sports lessons

SCOPE OF WORK Programming the site and a public sports-recreation facility venue for 2000 people, complex technical infrastructure, diverse simultaneous uses and needs, high aspirations with public funding, community outreach.

STATUS Design Development

SIZE 120,000 SF Building, 250,000 SF Site

CLIENT City of Long Beach, Tideland





## 7 BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF HOLLYWOOD TEEN CENTER HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

The club has served the children of Hollywood for 75 years. The new facility will make it possible to enlarge BGCH member base with this new teen center, to be situated 1 block away from the main facility. Proposed is a new gymnasium, learning center, dance/exercise studio, cafe and lounge, reception-office, a roof play deck, and a ground level parking lot used as a playground. The entire building will be filled with balanced natural light all day, this will eliminate glare and shadows, and reduce energy costs. The main body of the building is lifted to provide playground and parking.

LEARNING FOCUS	There will be a learning center and exercise classes offered for formal learning. The open play areas, inside and outside, offer informal learning space for teamwork, cooperation, and healthy competition.
SCOPE OF WORK	Community and sports facility for active teens. Active learning center.
STATUS	Designed and waiting for funding
CLIENTS	Boys and Girls Club of Hollywood



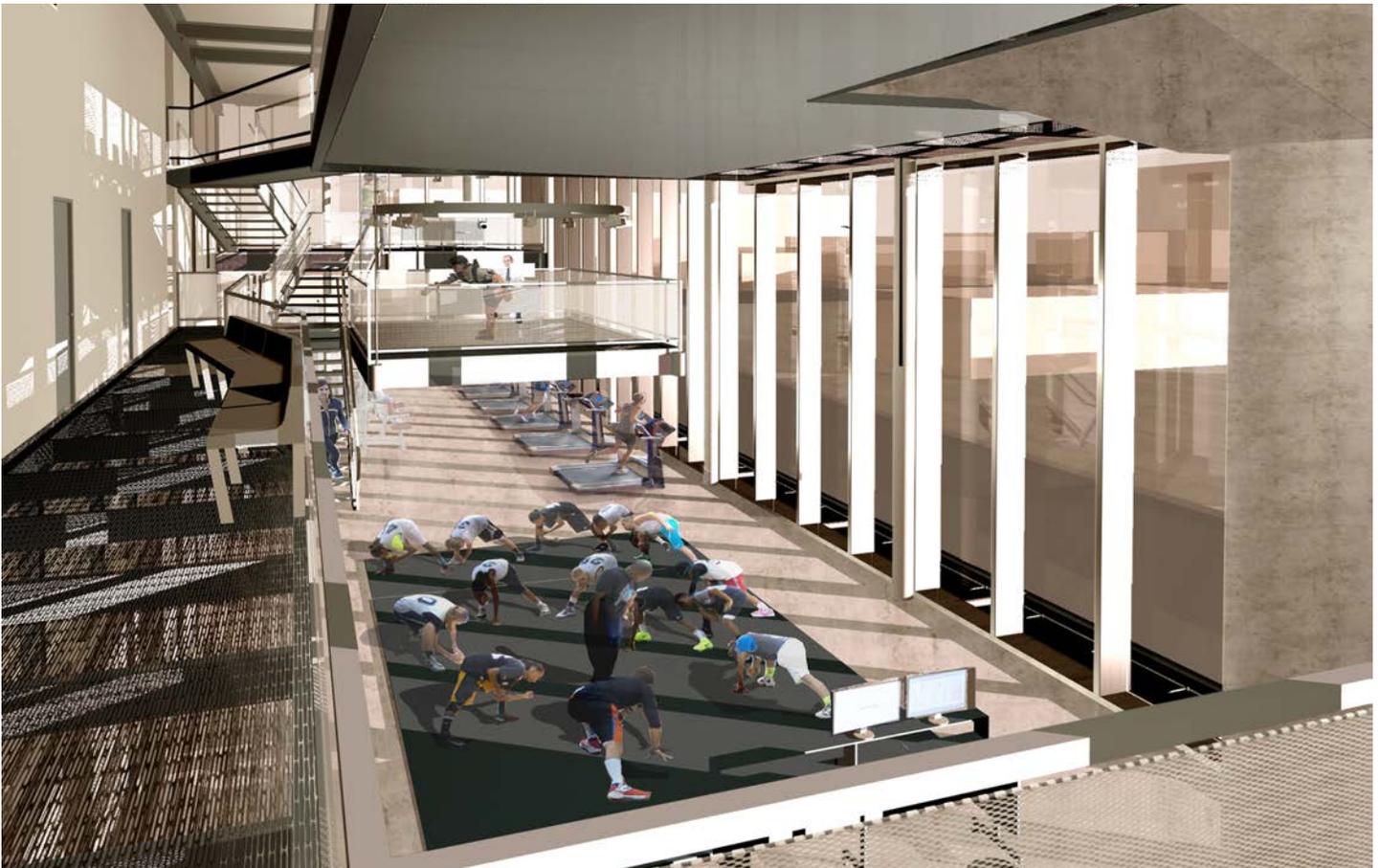


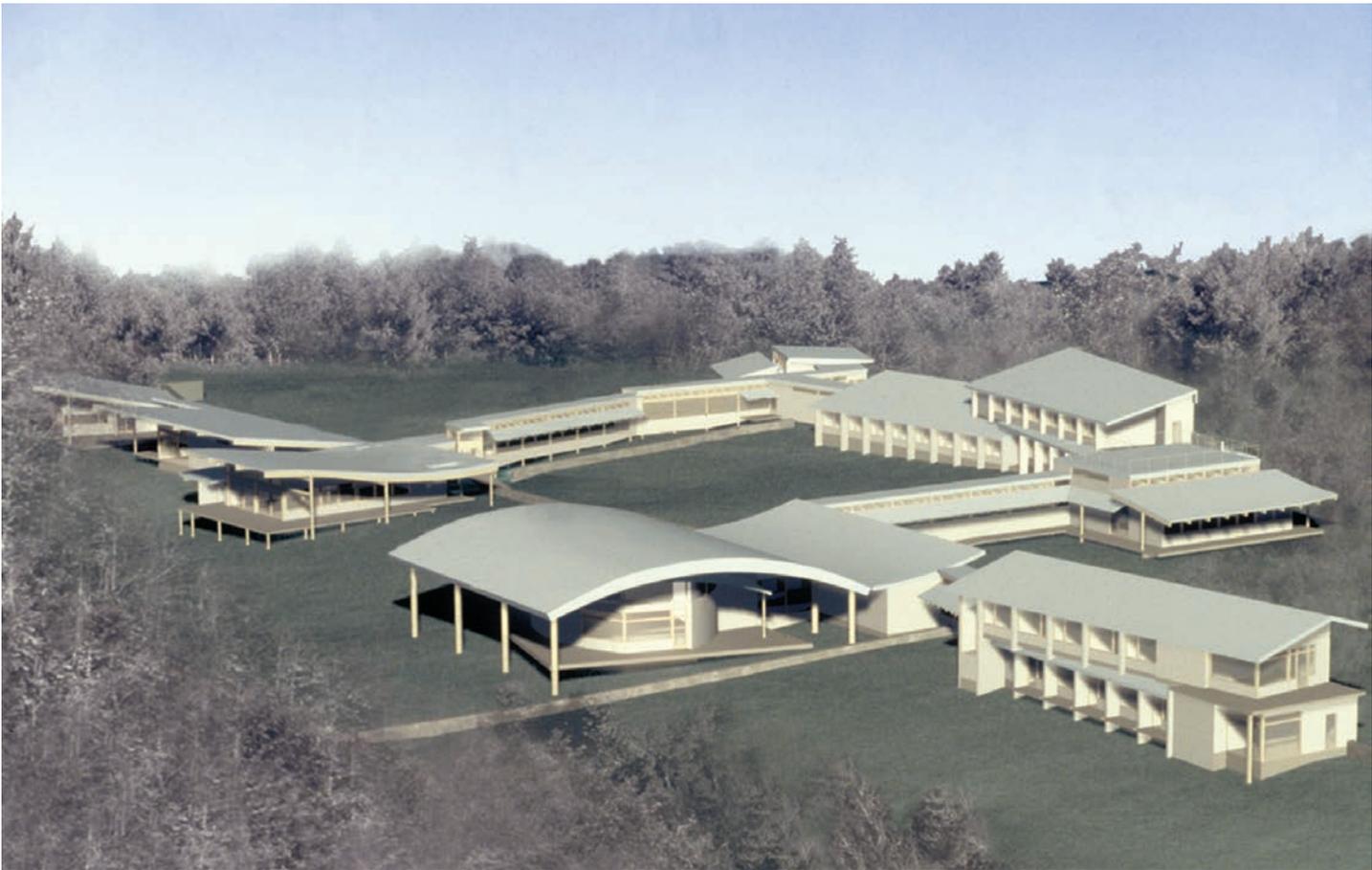
## 8 YMCA HOLLYWOOD PARK

HOLLYWOOD, CALIFORNIA

YMCA Hollywood Park and Sports Center will expand its programs and play places to attract a wider demographic while providing a park for the neighborhood and commercial facilities to earn income. In partnership with the city and adjacent property owners, the plan is to build a 400 car parking structure (4 levels) with a rooftop park for active sports, a teen and senior centers, restaurant, and a sports research laboratory where athletes, scientists, engineers and designers converge to develop the key performance insights that improve health practices and athletic performance. Two buildings bookend the structure and park/athletic fields and connect the street to the upper field.

LEARNING FOCUS	Inter-generational learning and fitness spaces, and a SARTT lab to study health practices and optimum athletic performance.
SCOPE OF WORK	Programming, urban and architectural design for multi-activity communal facilities, sports performance labs, classrooms, sports and recreation fields.
STATUS	Designed and waiting for funding
SIZE	800,000 SF Building plus Parking
CLIENT	YMCA & Hollywood Park LTD





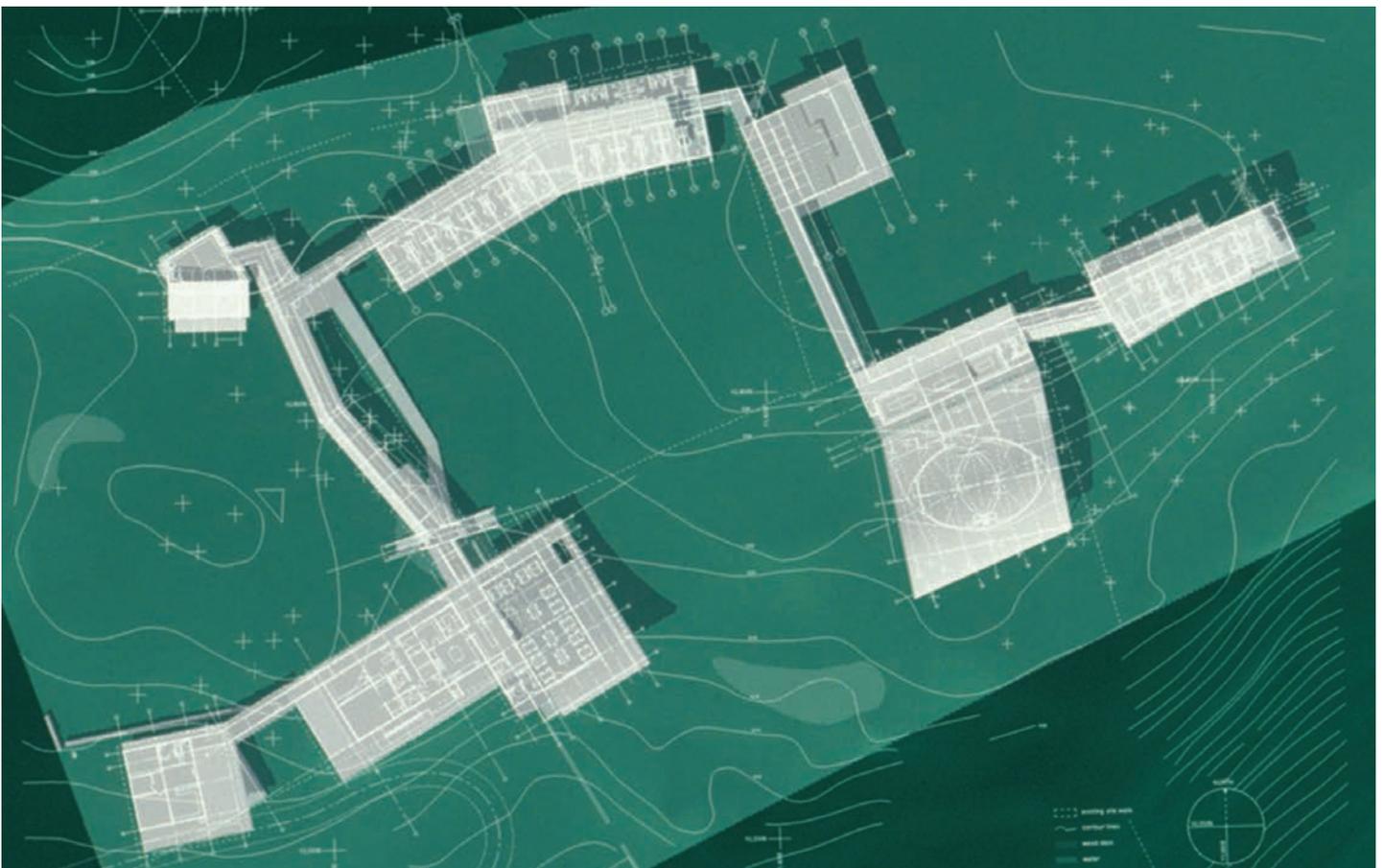
## 9 FOREST REFUGE

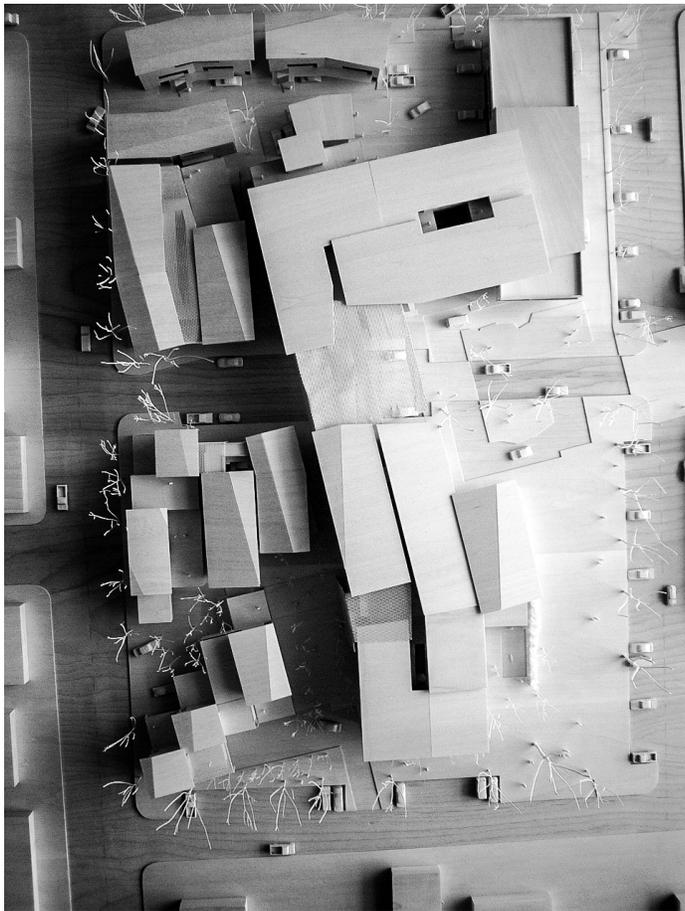
BARRE, MASSACHUSETTS

This Buddhist retreat, on a forested hilltop 7 acre site in central Massachusetts, is a place for intensive long-term meditation practice in silence, while living in a community of 60 people. The objective was to create an architecture that embodies the principles and protocols of this unique practice of being in solitude, and community.

The site is a second growth forest with several big fields and a natural moss garden. The concept was to begin with a traditional courtyard monastery transformed by the unique spaces and topography of the site. The practice is equally in and out doors so the entire site is used for the meditation practice. The buildings are organized and designed to enhance best environmental practices and with an economy of means.

LEARNING FOCUS	The yogis spend 3 months to 3 years in silent retreat. Being in a forest site is integral to their experience and insight. "Nature is the source of all true knowledge. She has her own logic, her own laws, she has no effect without cause nor invention without necessity" (Leonardo da Vinci). The entire 7 acre (within 350 acres) is conceived, in its restored state, a resilient teaching landscape. Functionally, it operates as a Monastery School.
SCOPE OF WORK	Ecologic mapping and analysis, site plan, programming for residents and, diverse communal programs
STATUS	Concept
CLIENT	Insight Meditation Society



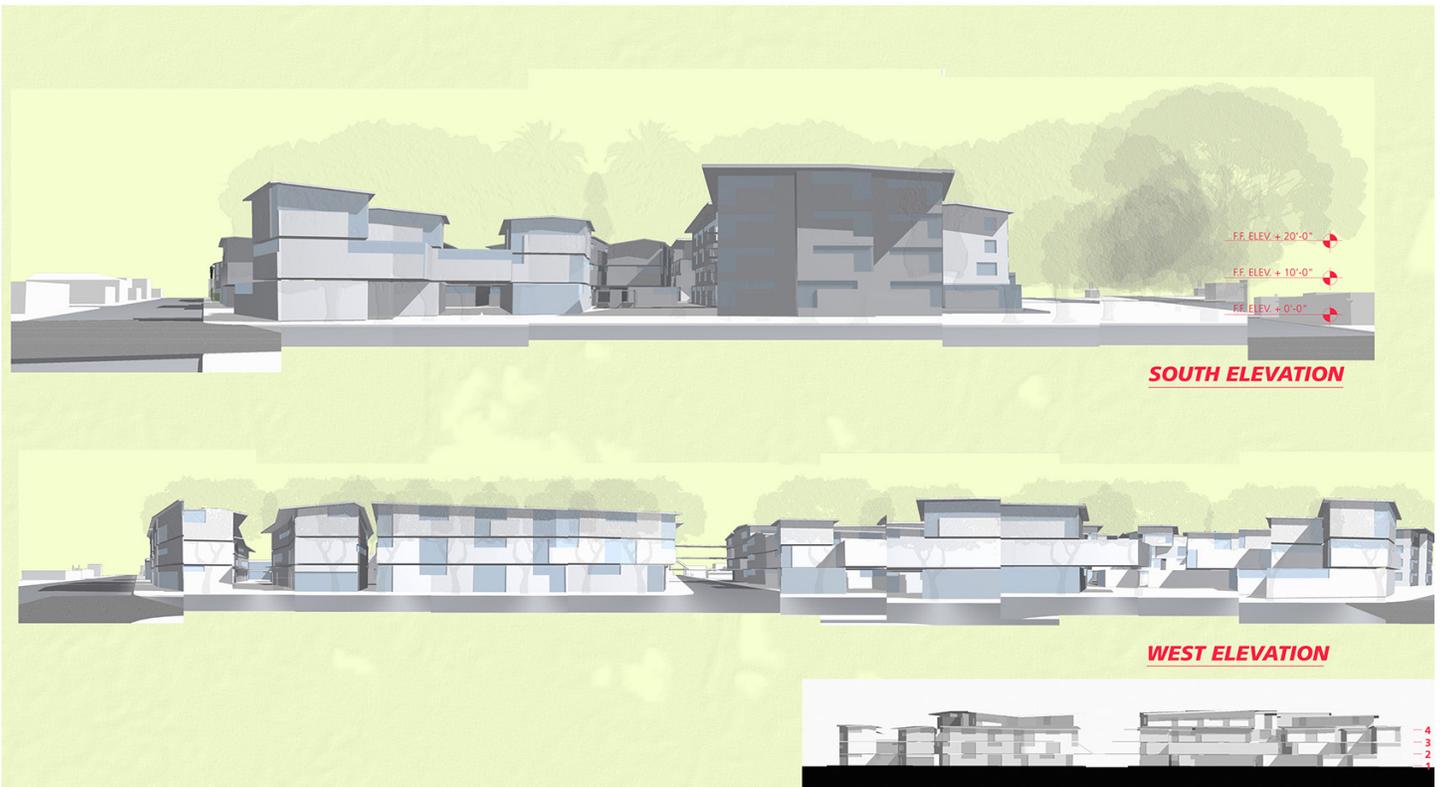


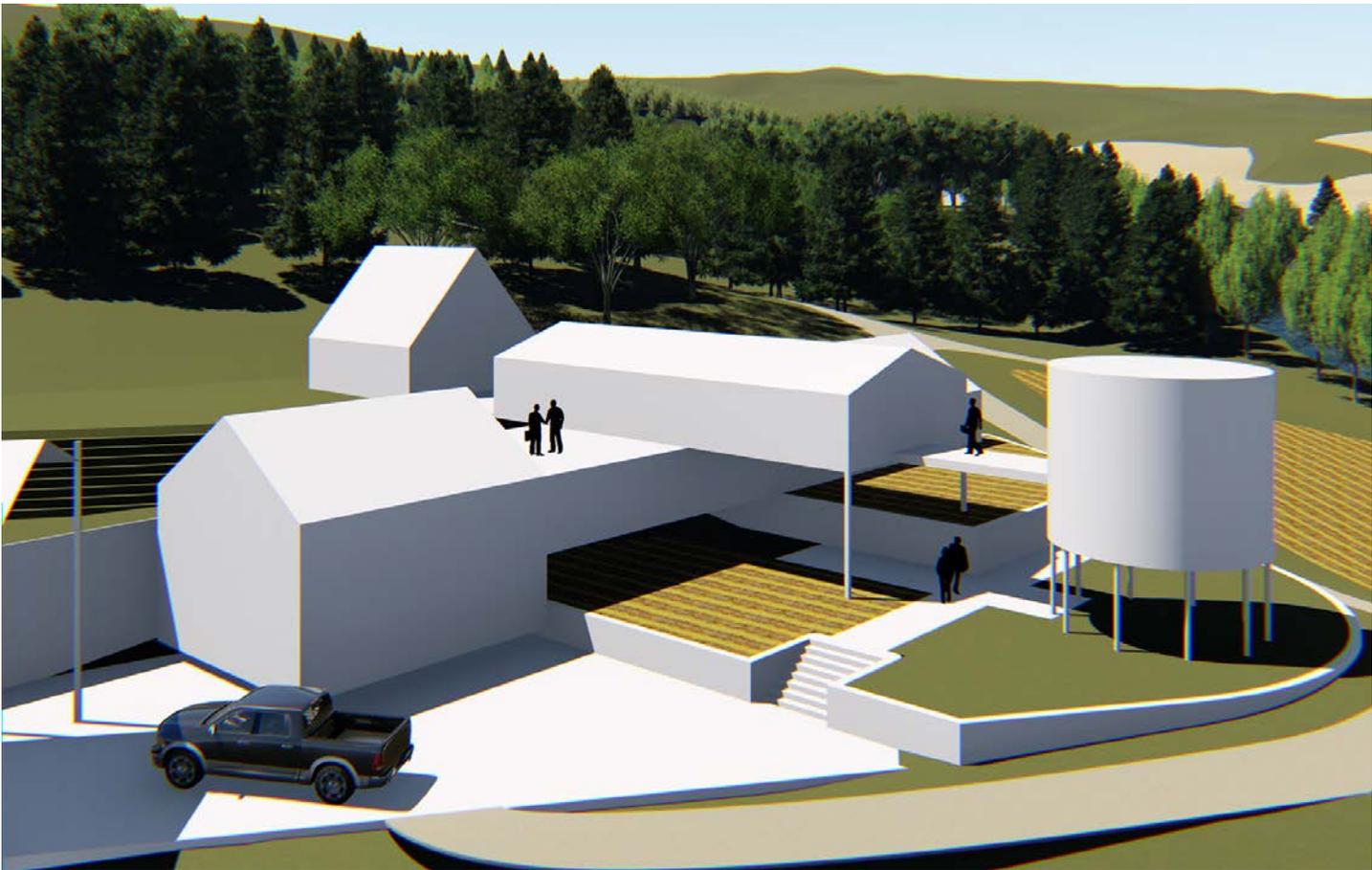
# 10 ONTARIO EDUCATIONAL VILLAGE - LINC ELDERS HOUSING

ONTARIO, CALIFORNIA

This project is a public-private partnership between the City of Ontario, LINC Housing, a non-profit developer of affordable Senior Housing, and Pitzer College. LINC commissioned RoTo, as an Architect and Educator, to develop a concept for the program and design, for a 2 city block development of a multi-generation, multi-use urban campus with residential, local commercial, and classrooms. It will be a place where students, teachers, elders, and artists will live, work and learn together. Learning will be formal and informal.

LEARNING FOCUS	To blend learning and life in real time, in a place that integrates students and elders, similar to an extended family. Elders are active life-long learners engaged with students and faculty teaching each other and giving meaning to their lives through storytelling, edible gardens, and other activities.
SCOPE OF WORK	Urban and architectural design, education-spatial programming
STATUS	Concept
SIZE	20 Acre Masterplan
CLIENT	Ontario Educational Village LTD



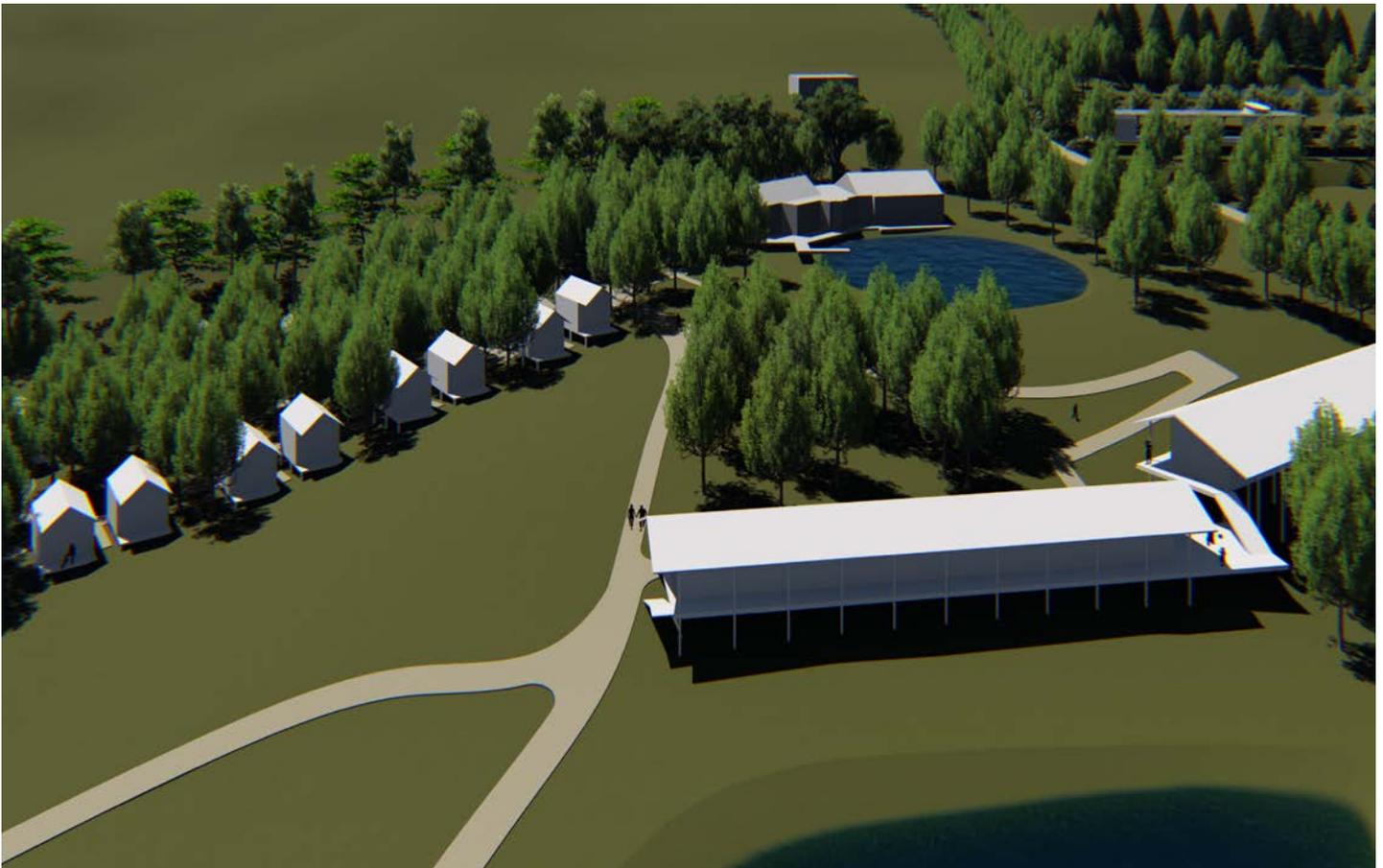


# 11 THE KOHALA CENTER BUSINESS ACCELERATOR

WAIMEA, HAWAII

It is proposed that a 60+ acre Ranch on Kohala Mtn., in Waimea, HI, be repurposed into a new campus for Kohala Center, and be their beta testing site for their programs focused on environmental, cultural, and economic resilience. It will house administrative offices, and facilities for a Research and Conference Center for Scholars, Scientists, Cultural Leaders, and Contemplatives. The objective is to create a physical environment that embodies the philosophy of the Center. We are working on a master plan and concept designs for multiple buildings to serve their mission.

LEARNING FOCUS	A non-profits' headquarters, a business accelerator, conference center, and farm for experience based learning, research, and knowledge exchange focused on Human resilience
SCOPE OF WORK	Environmental analysis, site and building programming, architectural services
STATUS	Phase 1 construction for a business accelerator is under way, Special use permits, master-environmental planning, facility design.
SIZE	60 Acre Master Plan
CLIENT	The Kohala Center





## 12 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTURE

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

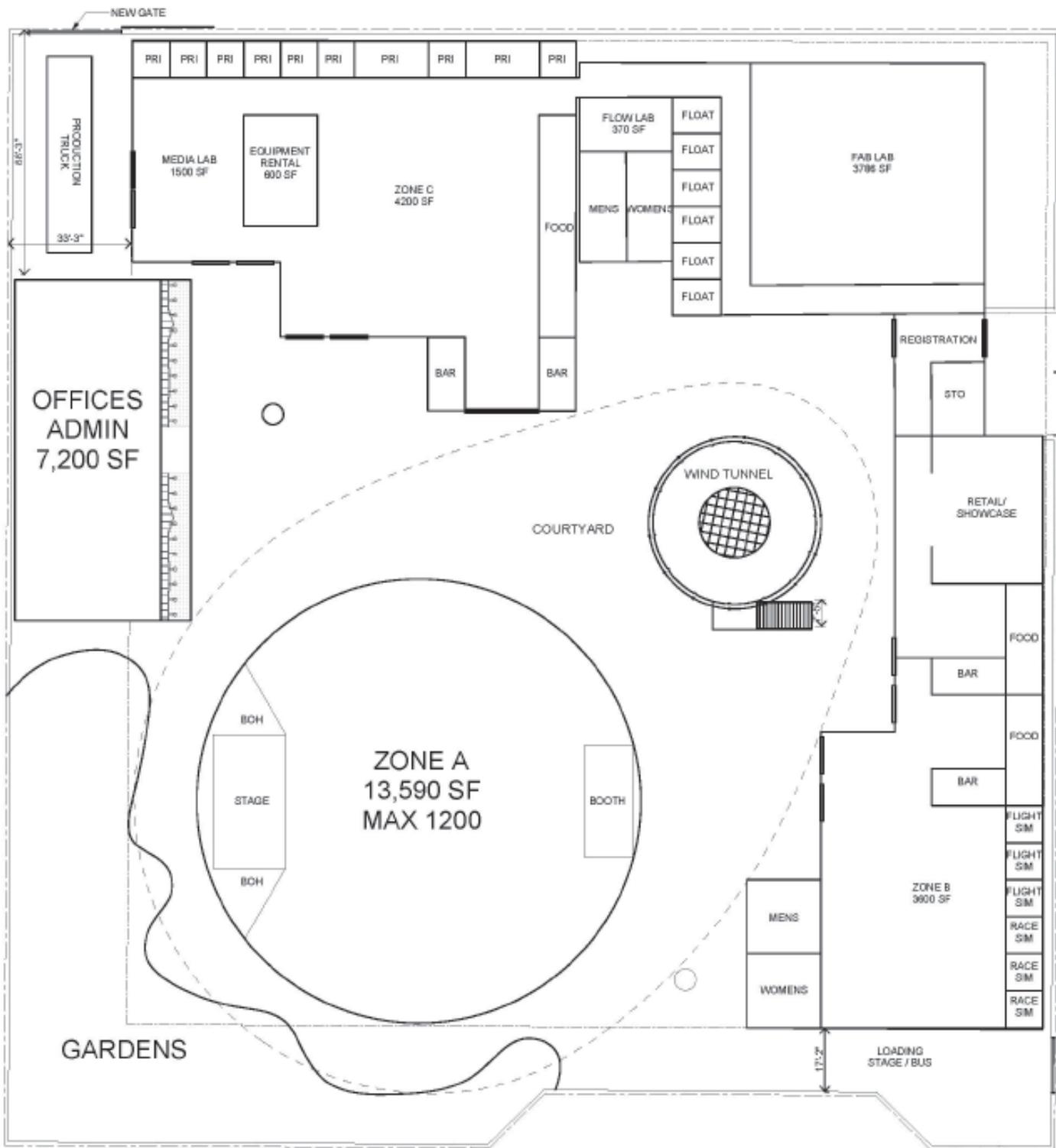
**SCI-Arc is presented as an example of Prof. Michael Rotondi's experience in co-founding, conceiving, building, and leading an institution for higher education in Architecture.**

The facilities were designed by SCI-Arc faculty. Prof. Michael Rotondi, a co-founder of SCI-Arc, has been a faculty member, program director, institute director, and is currently on the board of trustees. He has direct experience conceptualizing and developing all aspects of an educational institution. He was responsible as 2nd Director for leading the process of a regional school becoming an international presence with a positive influence. He has been a teacher, and administrator and an institution builder.

Prof. Michael Rotondi's long time, multi-faceted experience with SCI-Arc has given him the type of insight that is needed in working with higher education.

LEARNING FOCUS	A school of architecture, still considered to be among the best, and most experimental in the world.
ROLE	Co-Founder, Former Director, Distinguished Faculty
TYPE	Institution





## 13 AFFINITY SPACE

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

A Communal play space, marketplace, research lab, and informal learning prototype centering on Games. It is estimated that people of all ages are engaged in playing online, 6 billion hours a week. Games tend to integrate strategic thinking, social interaction, and technology, into a learning experience. Affinity Space is scalable in repurposed or newly constructed 'big box buildings' and warehouses and anticipates the future Third Space serving the Millennial generations' urban need for social connectivity, entertainment, wellness, entrepreneurship and skills training.

LEARNING FOCUS	Affinity Space will be a place for game-based learning that integrates play, learning, and games. This is intended to be a place for multi-generation, exploring their interests and curiosities in multimodal ways.
STATUS	Prototype construction to begin in 2020
SIZE	5,000 - 20,000 SF
CLIENT	RotoLab



## SELECTED HONORS & AWARDS

2014	<p><b>The 2014 Richard Neutra Award for Professional Excellence</b> College of Environmental Design / Department of Architecture, California State Polytechnic University Pomona</p>	1998	<p><b>AIACC Design Award</b> Warehouse C</p>
2013	<p><b>Design Intelligence 2013 30 Most Admired Design Teachers in America</b></p>		<p><b>AIACC Design Award</b> Teiger House</p>
2010	<p><b>Los Angeles Business Council Architectural Award for Retail</b> Madame Tussauds</p>	1997	<p><b>FAIA - College of Fellows inducted for Design and Education</b></p>
	<p><b>Hollywood Arts Council Architectural Arts Charlie Award</b> Madame Tussauds</p>	1996	<p><b>American Wood Council's Design Award</b> Nicola Restaurant</p>
2009	<p><b>Southern California Development Forum (SCDF) Award for design</b> Madame Tussauds</p>		<p><b>AIALA Award, Honor Award</b> Carlson-Reges Residence</p>
	<p><b>AIA/LA Award, Gold Medal Award</b></p>		<p><b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Sinte Gleska University</p>
2008	<p><b>Los Angeles Business Council, Community Impact Award</b> CD7 Neighborhood City Hall</p>		<p><b>AIACC Award</b> Carlson-Reges Residence</p>
2007	<p><b>AIACC Design Award</b> Prairie View A&amp;M University</p>	1995	<p><b>AIACC Award</b> Dorland Mountain Arts Colony</p>
	<p><b>AIA Los Angeles Twenty-Five Year Award</b> 2-4-6-8 House</p>		<p><b>Sunset Magazine Honor Award</b> Carlson-Reges Residence</p>
2005	<p><b>AIALA Award</b> Prairie View A&amp;M University</p>		<p><b>LA Business Council Urban Award</b> Nicola Restaurant</p>
	<p><b>AIALA Award</b> CD7 Neighborhood City Hall</p>	1994	<p><b>AIACC Award, Honor Award</b> Nicola Restaurant</p>
	<p><b>Concrete Masonry Design Awards Merit Award</b> UCSD La Jolla Playhouse</p>		<p><b>AIA Certificate of Appreciation</b></p>
2002	<p><b>AIACC Award</b> View Silo House</p>	1993	<p><b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Citation Circolo Restaurant</p>
	<p><b>Wood Design Award</b> View Silo House</p>	1992	<p><b>American Academy of Arts &amp; Letters Award in Architecture</b></p>
1999	<p><b>AIA National Design Award</b> Carlson-Reges Residence</p>		<p><b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> CDLT 1, 2 House Addition</p>
		1991	<p><b>AIACC Award</b> Salick Health Care Corporate Headquarters</p>

1991	<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Yuzen Vintage Car Museum		<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Kate Mantilini
1990	<b>AIACC Award</b> Politix Retail Stores		<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Prototypical Restaurant
	<b>Interior Award</b> Leon Max Showroom	1986	<b>AIALA Award</b> Angeli Restaurant
	<b>AIACC Award</b> Leon Max Showroom		<b>National AIA Award, Honor Award</b> Bergren Residence
	<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Arts Park Performing Pavilion		<b>AIACC Award</b> 72 Market Street
	<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Higashi Azabu Tower	1985	<b>AIALA Award, Merit Award</b> 72 Market Street
1989	<b>AIACC Award</b> Cedars-Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Center		<b>AIALA Award, Merit Award</b> Lawrence Residence
	<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Arts Park Performing Arts Pavilion		<b>AIALA Award, Merit Award</b> Bergren Residence
	<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Crawford Residence	1985	<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Venice III House
	<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Higashi Azabu Tower	1984	<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Hermosa Beach Commercial Center
1988	<b>AIALA Award</b> Cedars-Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Center	1982	<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Western-Melrose Office Building
	<b>AIACC Award</b> Kate Mantilini Restaurant	1981	<b>AIALA Award</b> Sedlak House
	<b>National AIA Award, Honor Award</b> Kate Mantilini Restaurant	1980	<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Flores Residence
	<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> 6th Street Residence	1977	<b>Competition Honor Award</b> Sacramento Energy Efficient Office Building
1987	<b>AIALA Award, Honor Award</b> 6th Street Residence		<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Riedel Medical Building
	<b>AIALA Award</b> Kate Mantilini Restaurant	1974	<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Sequoyah Educational Research Center
	<b>Progressive Architecture Award</b> Cedars-Sinai Comprehensive Cancer Center		