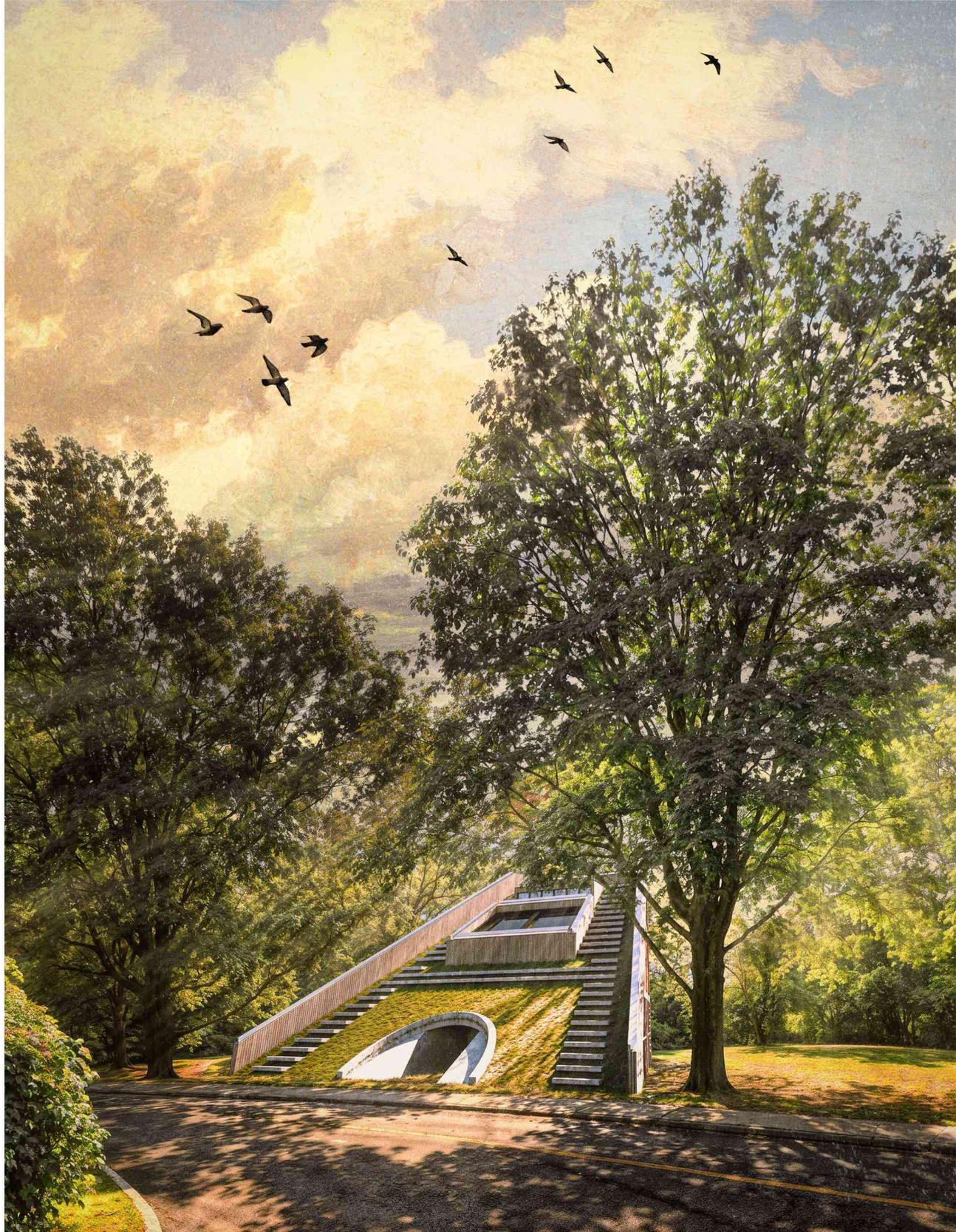
The Ornithion

A bird observation center in High Park, Toronto.

This was my second project in Architecture school. The project called on us to design a birdwatching facility where people can go and birdwatch but also learn about birds and birdwatching. It is situated in the historic High Park of Toronto, Canada. The design seeks to create a building that sits harmoniously within nature. The natural materials such as wood used extensively on the facade prove this. So does the grass roof that resembles a rising hill. The project improved my modeling skills and taught me how to design buildings that don't fit the mold of the regular boxy buildings we find in cities.



High Park, Toronto

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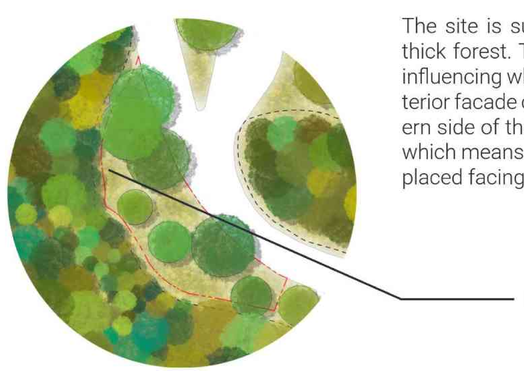
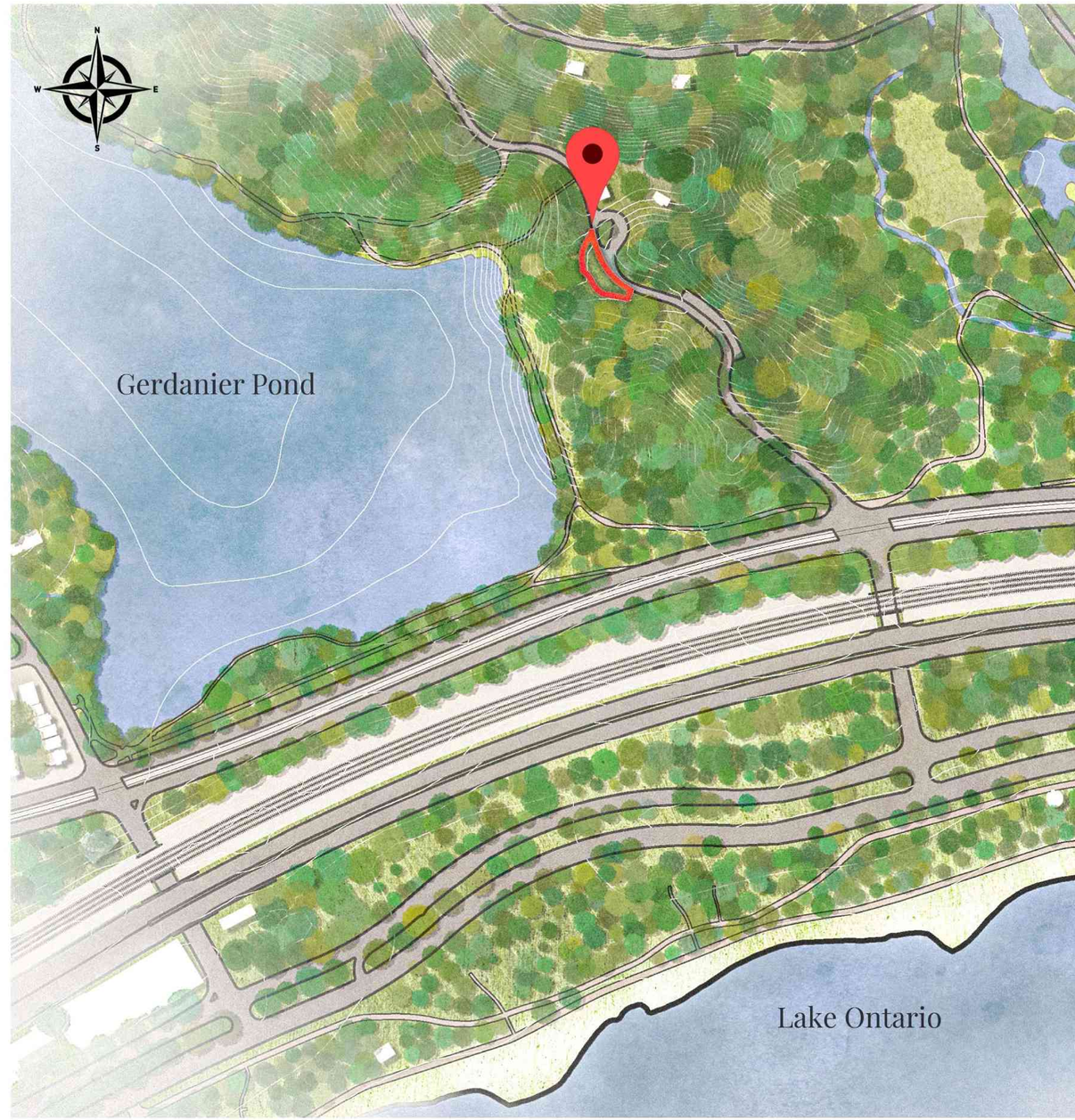


The site is surrounded in all directions by a thick forest. This will influence my design by influencing what materials I will use for the exterior facade of the design. At the South-Western side of the site, the trees are the smallest which means that the ground hides should be placed facing that directions.

Shortest trees are located here.



Context Plan

1:4000

High Park, Toronto

The Queensway

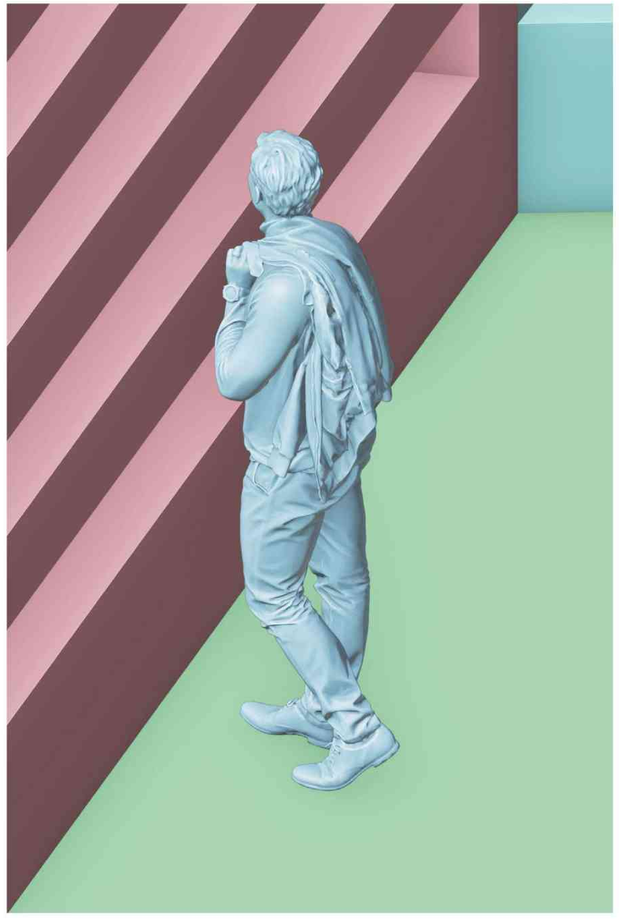
Train Tracks

Gardiner Expressway

Lakeshore Boulevard

Toronto Shoreline

Different Spaces Required By The Design Brief

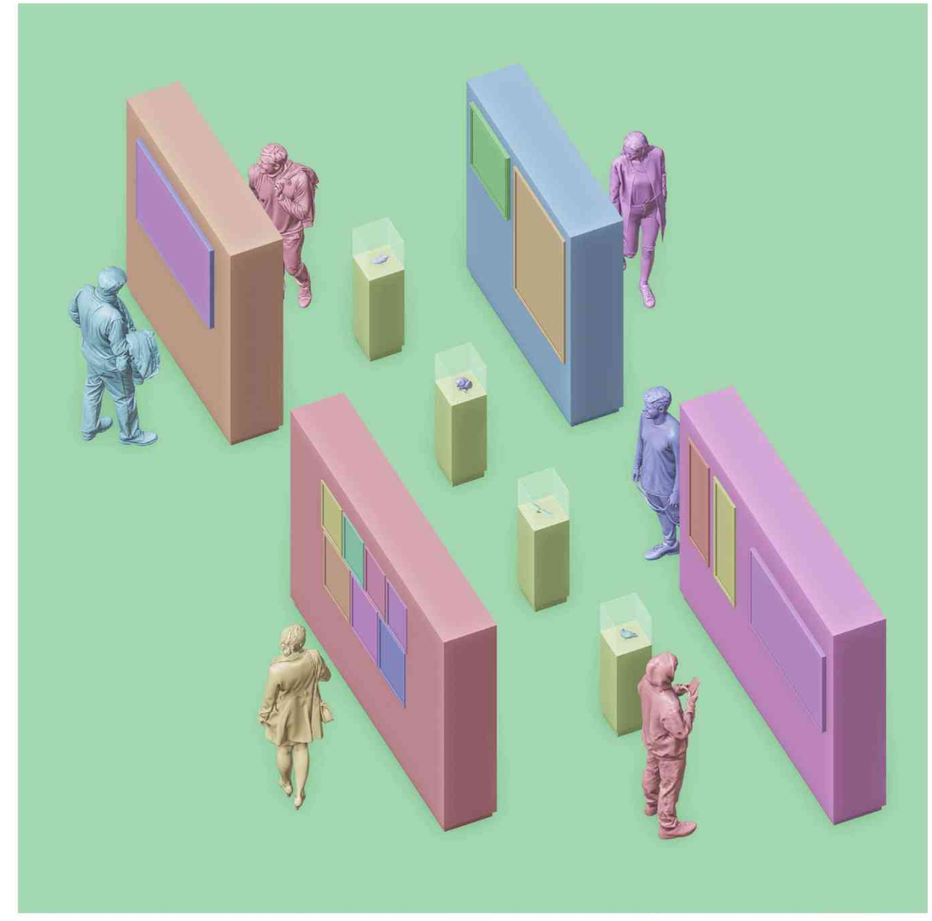


Ground Hide

A ground floor bird watching area where people can look for birds indoors. This space can be utilized when its raining or snowing outside.

Raised Hide

This space is three stories up and will be where most people will go to birdwatch. It provides an excellent view of the park as well.

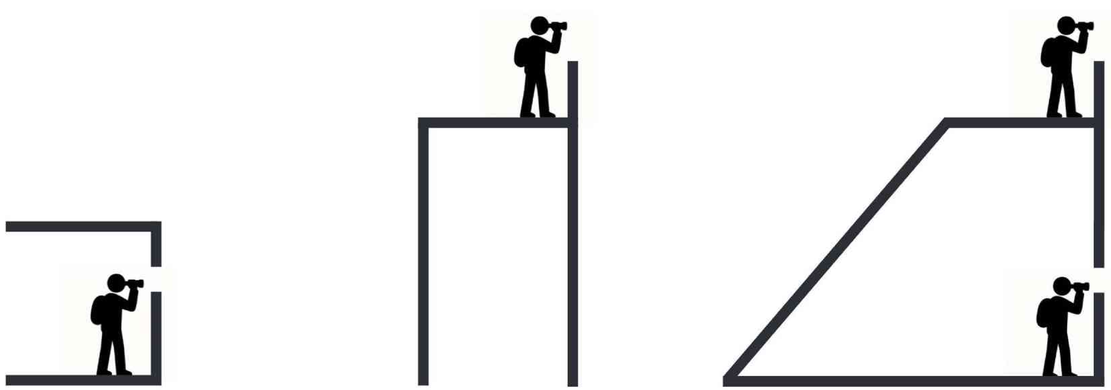


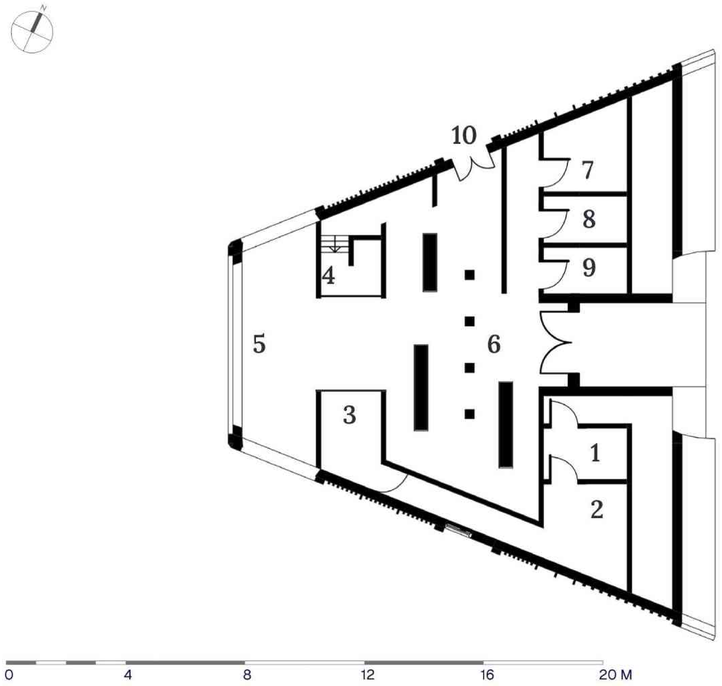
Gallery

This space will serve as a museum and an information center for birdwatchers giving the building much more utility.

Design Process

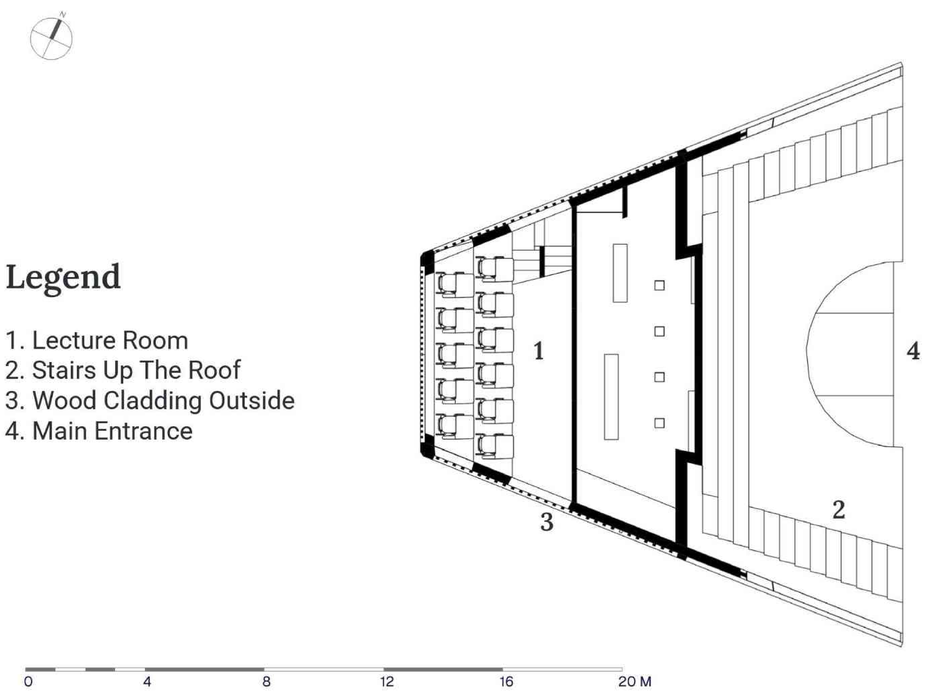
The design called on me to incorporate a raised bird hide and a raised bird hide which was around three stories high. I decided that a pyramid-resembling building which placed one hide ontop of the other would create an interesting walkable roof that would take you up to the raised blinds from which you could view the entire park but also keep a close eye on birds. The design would also incorporate a green roof that would make the building look like it rises up from the ground. Stairs were given to allow for movement up the roof. Due to the harsh slope, the space at the bottom are wasted.





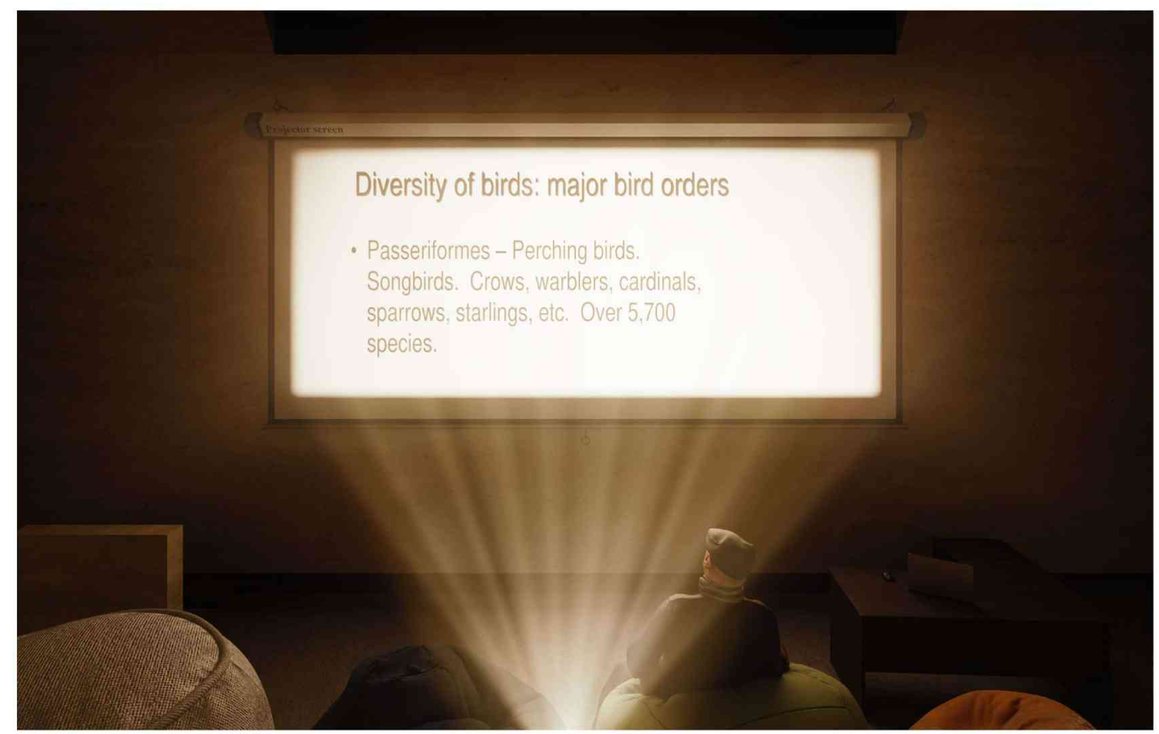
Legend

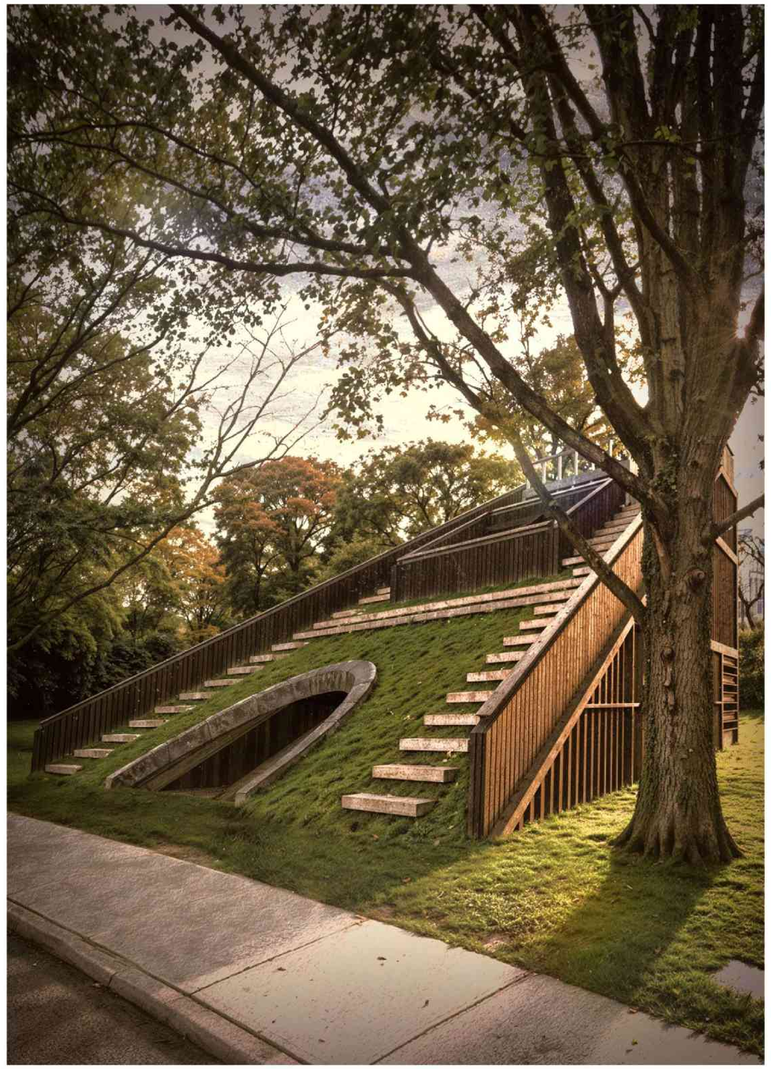
1. Management Office
2. Kitchen
3. Cafe
4. Stairs to Lecture Room
5. Ground Blinds
6. Gallery
7. Accessible Toilet
8. Male Toilet
9. Female Toilet
10. Side Entrance

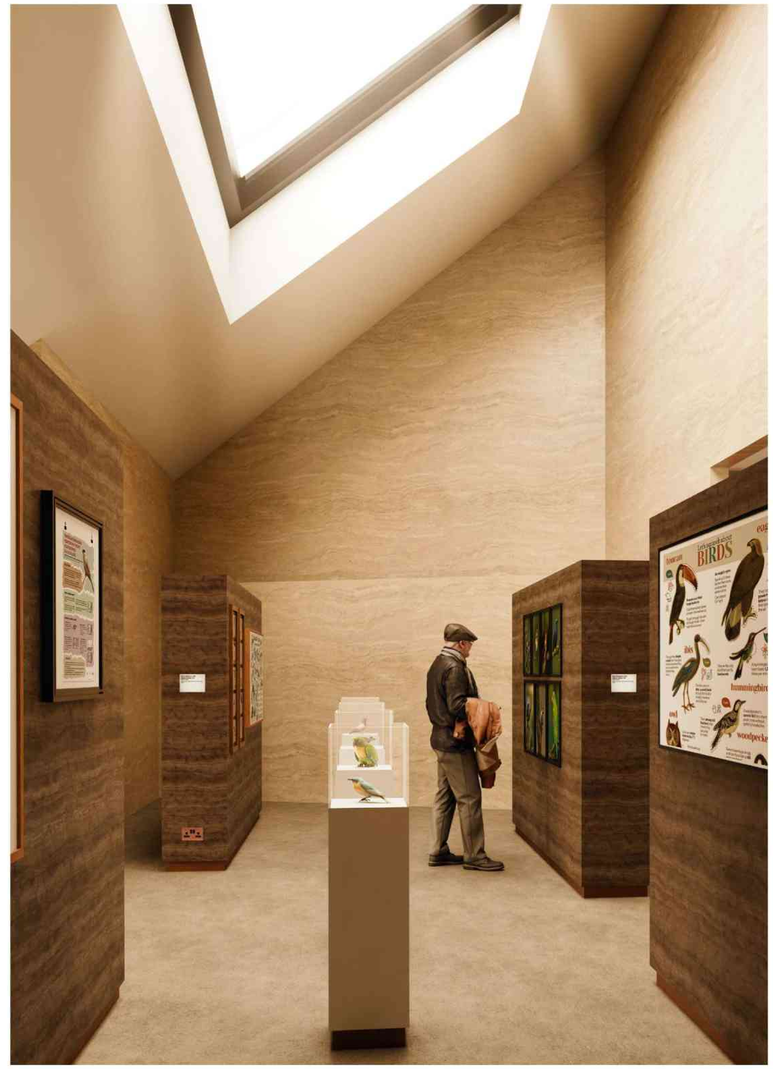
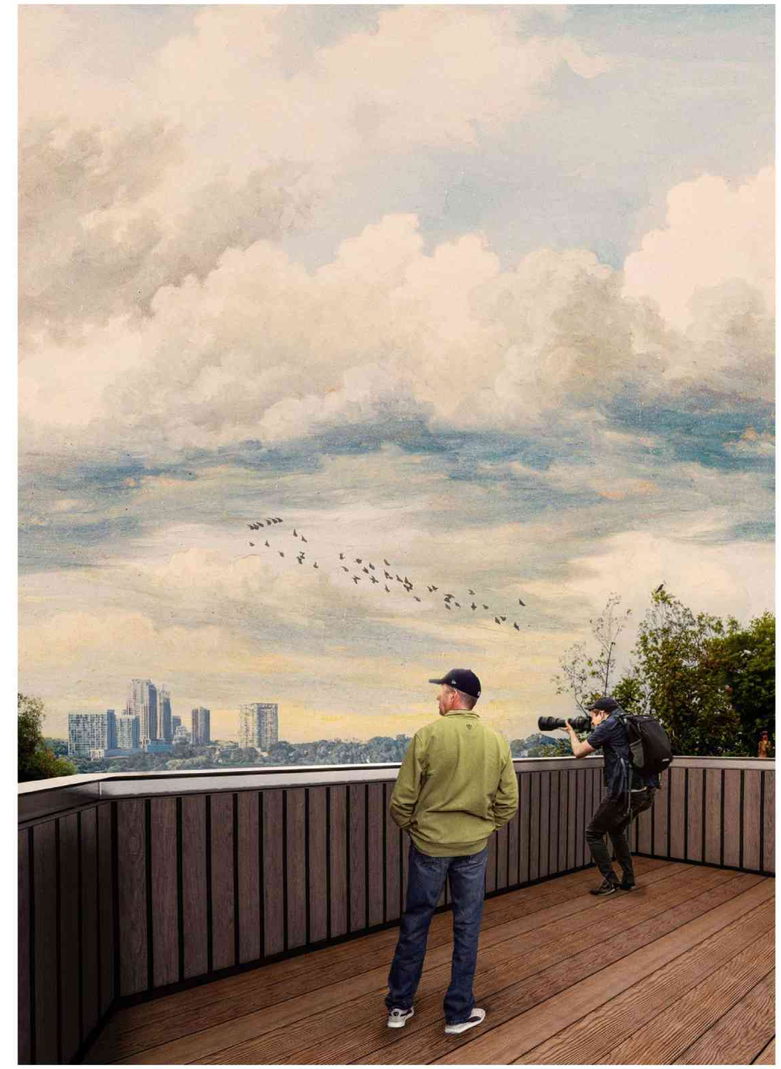


Legend

1. Lecture Room
2. Stairs Up The Roof
3. Wood Cladding Outside
4. Main Entrance






BIRDS