Program Summary:

Built of durable simple materials, the Museum Pavilions read as a unified family of structures while expressing cultural differences of the bonsai and penjing within.

Program Statement:

The design for this museum recognizes the extensive collection of some of the finest trees and viewing stones from across the globe. It's conceived as an immersive garden experience intended to evoke wonder while drawing connections to the larger landscape. The design for the Museum defers to the power of the bonsai & penjing. The architectural expression is subtle—comprised of elemental components that respond to the unique environmental conditions of the site. We wanted the visitor to embark upon a journey that created a sense of mystery, where the boundaries between the landscape and the architecture are blurred, inviting people to reflect upon these unique cultural artifacts within a lush garden setting. The architecture is restrained and practical, deferring to the power of the bonsai, while creating an elegant backdrop that allows generous air circulation to mitigate the heat. Charred wood posts and trellises rise above the exhibitions to filter light and shape a sense of enclosure. The pavilions read as a unified family of structures while framing subtle cultural differences of the bonsai and penjing. The concept design organizes the Museum's program around a central court, which orients the visitor to a network of paths that lead to the four exhibitions, expanded classroom, and administrative services. The exhibitions, conceived as gardens rather than buildings, blur their boundaries with the more extensive, surrounding garden to offer a continuing revelation of surprise and discovery.

UP-180.01

Building Area: (sf)

- **6,450 GSF North American Exhibition (open air)**
- **6,680 GSF Chinese Exhibition (open air)**
- **6,960 GSF International Pavilion & Exhibits Gallery**
- **14,815 GSF Classroom, Administrative, & Service Building**
- **34,905 GSF Total Project Area**

Cost per Square Foot:
Unbuilt - TBD

Construction Cost
Unbuilt - TBD

Date of Completion:
Concept Design Completed June 2020

UP-180.02

Aerial

Conceived as a master plan within a master plan, the new National Museum is a series of gardens defined by buildings. The new cultural museum campus core reinforces the larger master plan by providing a clarified user experience and network of circulation that ties directly into the central spine of the larger Museum.

UP-180.03

Site Plan

The site is organized around layers of public and private access. With an existing landmark structure to the West and steep natural embarkment to the East, the site solution embraces the constraints by expanding the Museum's service and administrative functions along the North edge and clarifying and opening the public exhibitions to the South and South East. The historic meander was retained by the Landscape Architects with a new central courtyard provided as an organizing destination. From the central courtyard, the pavilions are accessed by a series of garden walks that purposefully turn and reorient the visitor–further reinforcing the concept of slowness that is deeply embedded in the bonsai and penjing traditions.

UP-180.04

Diagrams

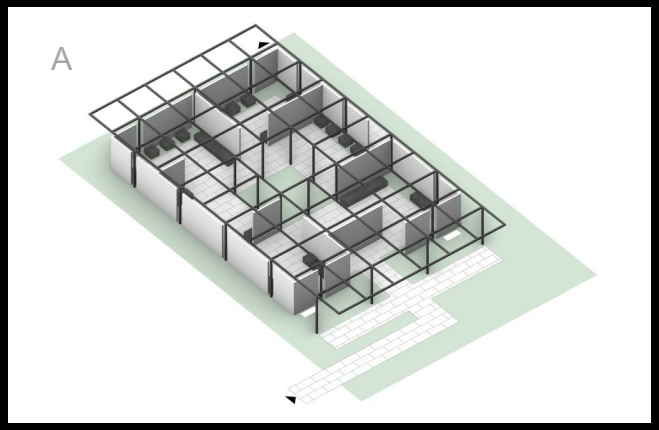
A: Chinese Exhibition

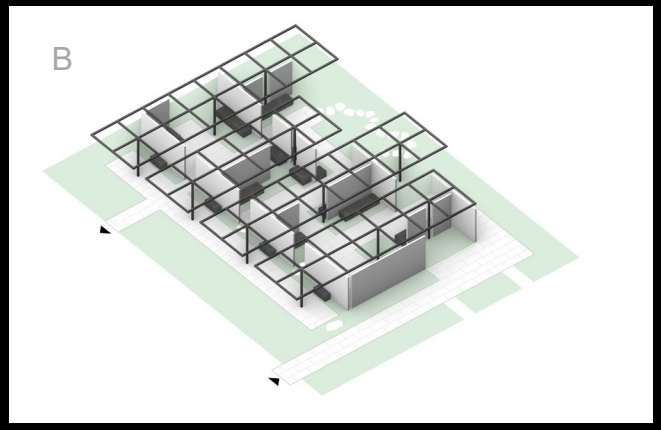
B: North American Exhibition

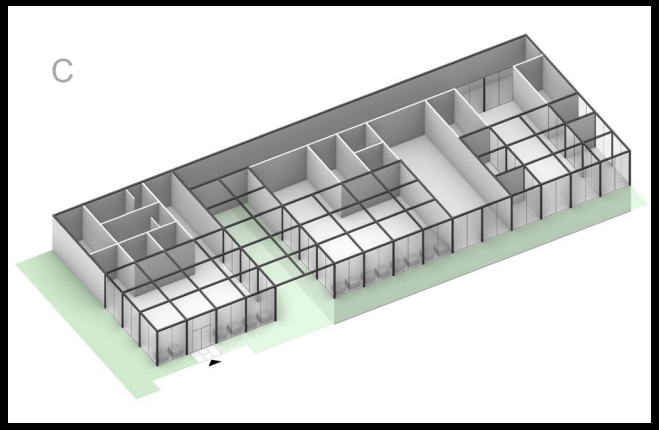
C: Classroom, Administrative, and Services Building

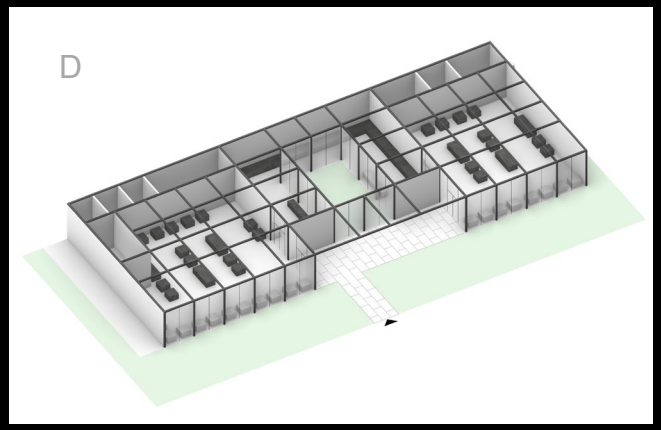
D: International Pavilion and Exhibits Gallery

The architectural system is comprised of Shou Sugi Ban charred wood columns and trellis, free standing concrete planes, and purposeful encapsulation of the landscape. Each structure is customized to its purpose and function–creating a distinct solution–but also reads as a more unified set of pavilions to signify to the visitor that they are still within the Museum's grounds.





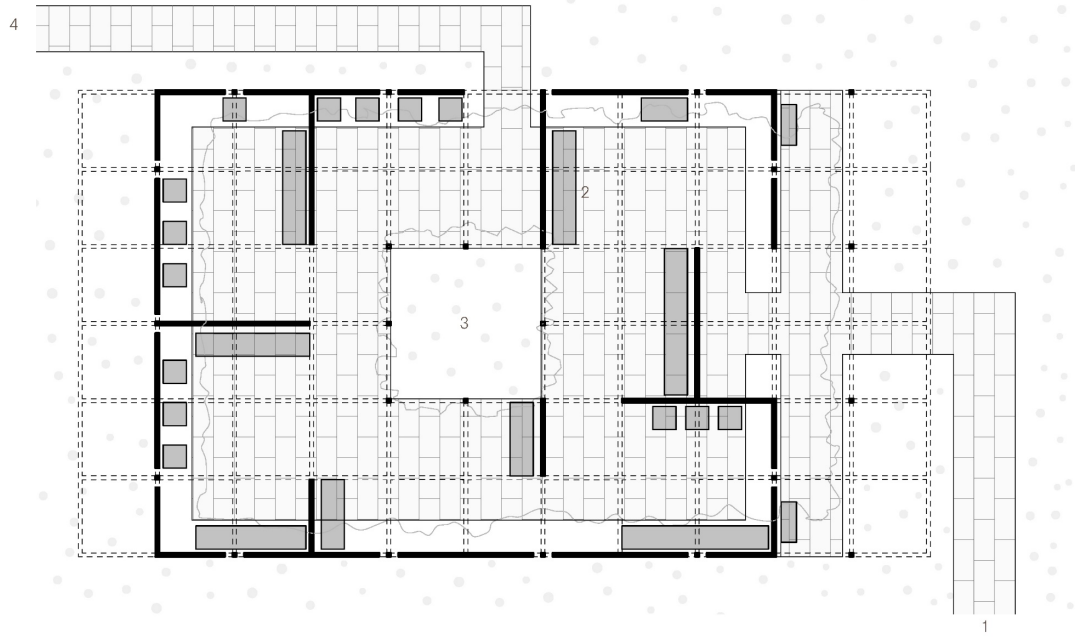




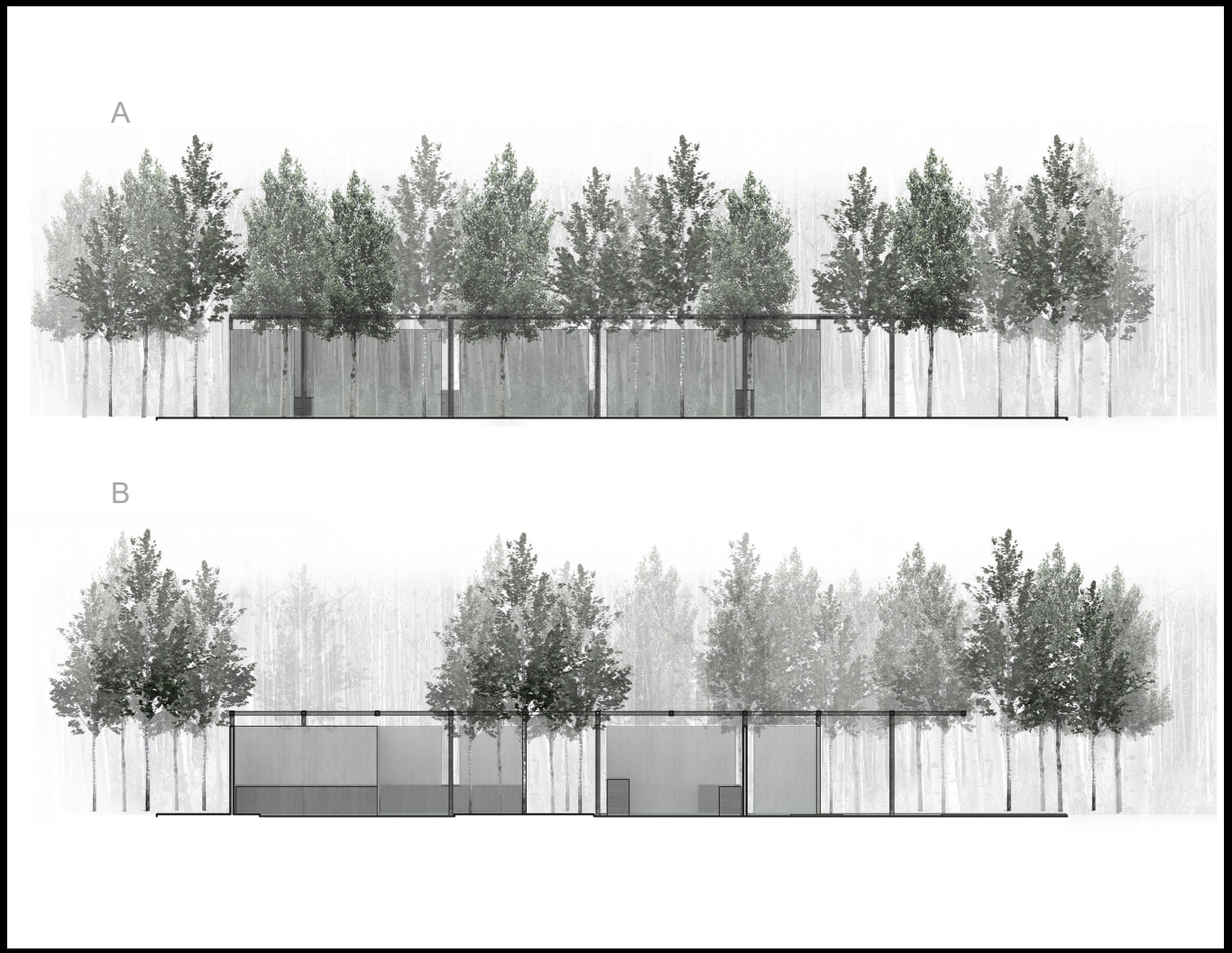
UP-180.05

Chinese Exhibition

The Chinese Exhibition plan is conceived as a contemporary interpretation of a Chinese tea house–set around a central courtyard. The visitor is guided by a single path through the pavilion to a terminal exit along the North edge– the sequence of compression and release was also derived from notable Chinese architectural elements.



1 Entry Path | 2 Bonsai Display | 3 Central Courtyard | 4 Exit Path



UP-180.06

Chinese Exhibition

A: South Elevation

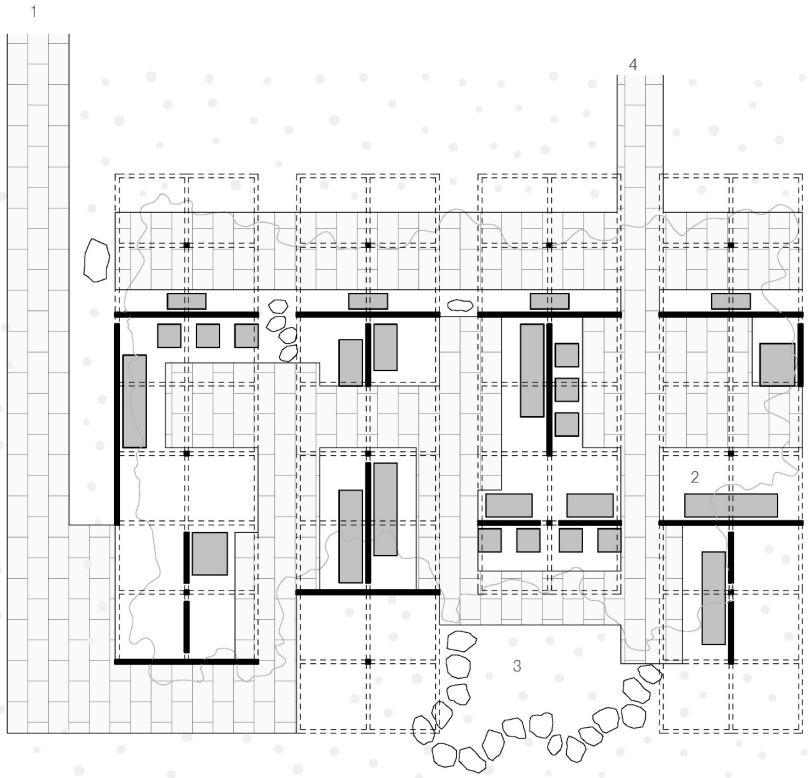
B: East/West Section

The trellis datum is purposefully set at the base of the understory tree canopy, reinforcing the strength of the Landscape Architecture.

UP-180.07

North American Exhibition

The North American Exhibition is defined by a serrated Southern edge and a more open-ended circulation path. These features are meant to signify to the visitor that they are viewing a bonsai tradition that is distinct from those found in China or Japan.

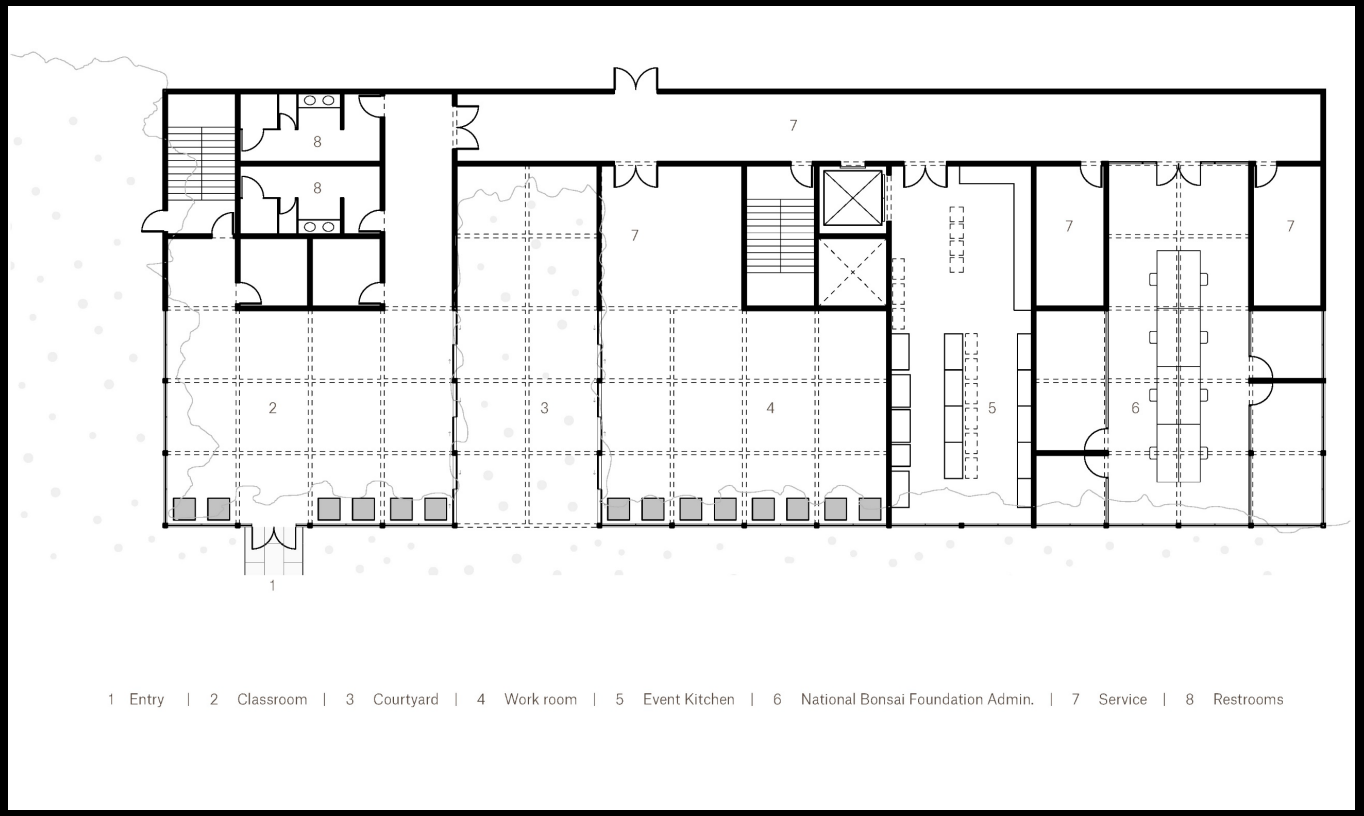


1 Entry Path | 2 Bonsai Display | 3 Stone collection | 4 Exit Path

UP-180.08

Floor Plan – Classroom, Administrative, and Services Building

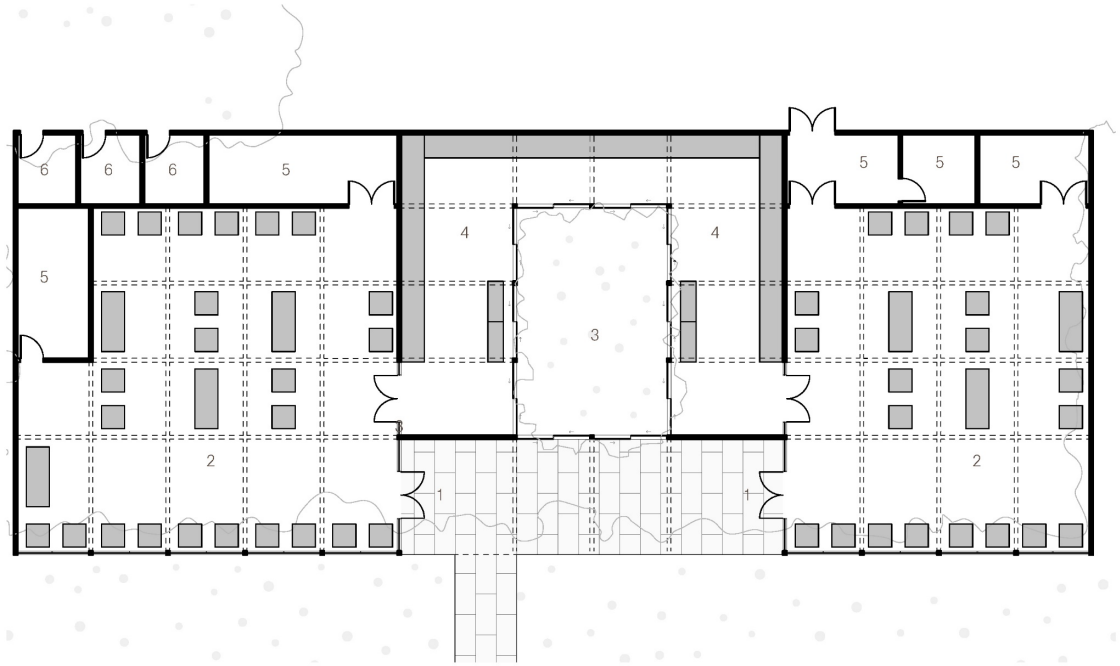
This structure is conceived along an infrastructural spine that defines the North service edge of the site, while opening the building up to the gardens to the South. A courtyard partially divides the building into two visual elements providing the public with visual access to the classroom pavilion set within the garden path network.



UP-180.09

Floor Plan – International Pavilion and Exhibits Gallery

Conceived as a flexible space with two wing galleries, this exhibition pavilion will host a series of rotating exhibits throughout the year. In the winter, the bonsai trees will be moved indoors for care and maintenance. Set around an open-air courtyard, this functional, simple, and beautiful building will provide high quality exhibit space year-round for the museum.



1 Entry | 2 Gallery | 3 Courtyard | 4 Formal Exhibits | 5 Support | 6 Restrooms

UP-180.10

Central Court

The central court is an organizing feature of the new master plan. Here, visitors arrive at a singular point of entry where they can then embark upon a garden journey to explore the interior and exterior exhibitions.

UP-180.11

North American Exhibition

In celebration of the less rigid horticultural traditions of North America–rich with experimentation by a new generation of artists–the North American Exhibition is a dynamic set of open-ended fingers that directly engage the natural edge of the site. The orientation of this structure fosters the creation of a natural micro-climate that aids in the care and support of the bonsai.

UP-180.12

North American Exhibition Interior

Bonsai and penjing trees are beautifully nuanced cultural treasures. Our team of experts worked to craft a simple but effective display strategy that allows visitors to confront these priceless artifacts in a garden setting. The landscape and architecture are symbiotic elements that create natural micro-climates that are optimal for the care and longevity of these living pieces of art.

UP-180.13

International Pavilion and Exhibits Gallery Interior

The material pallet utilized on the exterior open-air pavilions is adapted to provide a flexible and functional set of gallery spaces for the Museum interior.