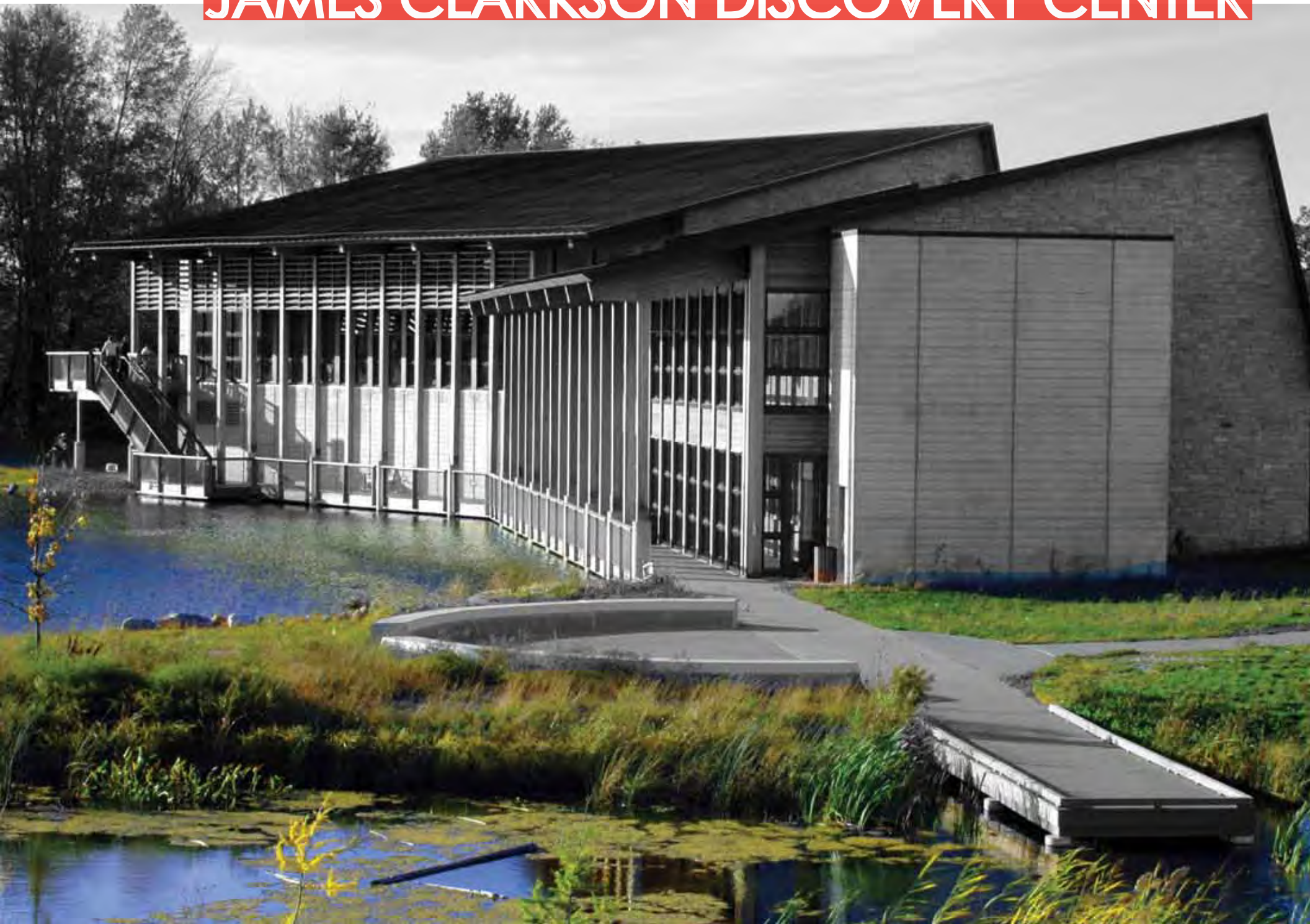


# JAMES CLARKSON DISCOVERY CENTER







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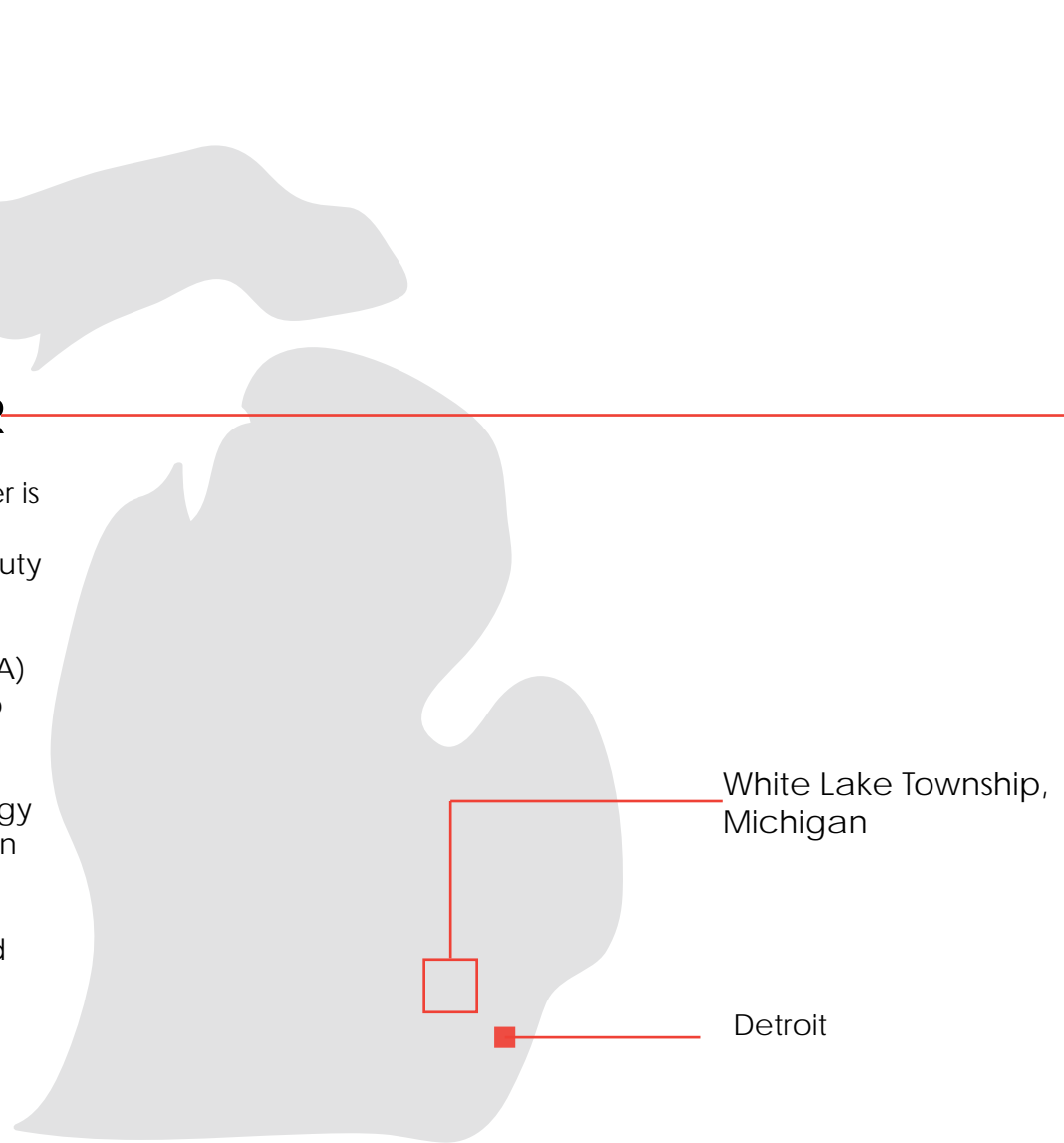
## PROJECT STATEMENT

The James Clarkson Environmental Discovery Center is dedicated to the exploration and celebration of the natural environment, educating users on the importance of biodiversity, native habitats, and environmental protection.

Restored ecosystems and their associated wildlife inhabitants are within an arm's length, optimizing interaction with the natural world, while preserving and protecting its sensitive ecological areas and endangered species. Interpretation of the area's hydrology is articulated through the rehabilitation and creation of wetland, prairie, and forest ecosystems. And kids think it's really cool, too.

## THE LOCATION OF THE CENTER

The James Clarkson Environmental Discovery Center is envisioned as a place of learning, play, and gathering that seeks to open a window on the beauty and diversity of the natural world that exists in Southeast Michigan. The 70-acre center, located within Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's (HCMA) 2,215 acre Indian Springs Metropark is dedicated to the exploration and celebration of the natural environment. Situated at the headwaters to the Huron River, the interpretation of the area's hydrology is articulated through the rehabilitation and creation of wetland, prairie, and forest ecosystems. These ecosystems establish an ecological vocabulary, revealing the influences and processes that shaped the Midwestern landscape.



# THE SITE

## 1. James Clarkson Discovery Center

-- located on the edge of the Kettle Lake, and South of the parking, the center provides spaces and opportunities for kids and people to learn about the surrounding environment.

## 2. Parking site

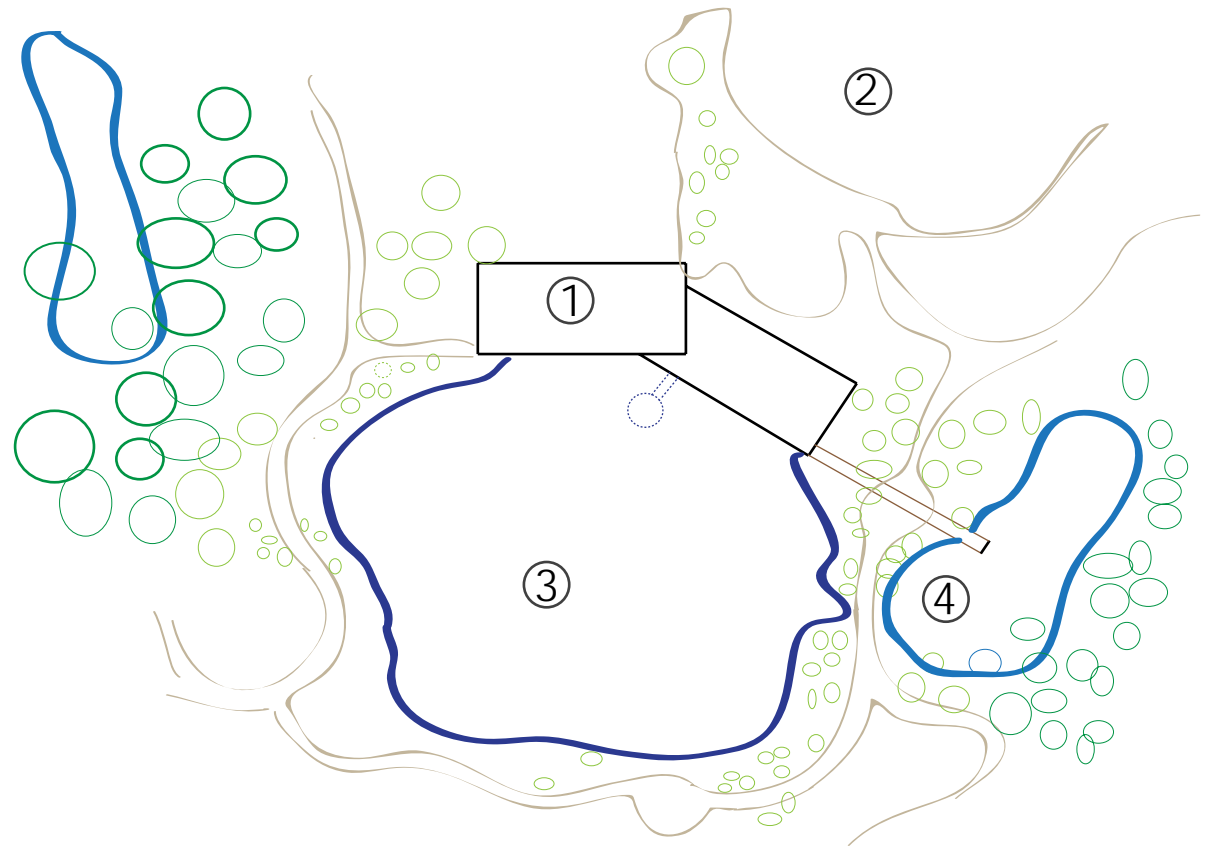
-- simple area for people to park in. To get to the entrance of the building, visitors walk through the landscape and experience the environment before entering the building.

## 3. Kettle Lake

-- The lake is a main focal point of the site. The center surrounds the lake and interacts with it.

## 4. Wetland Marsh

-- provides another environment for visitors to experience.





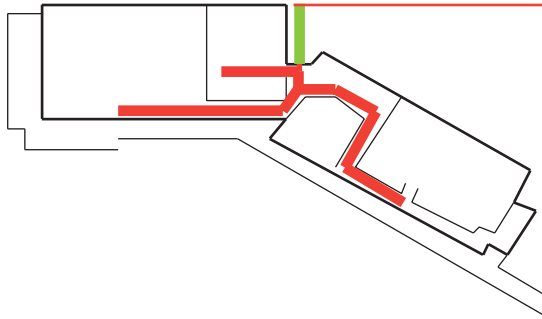


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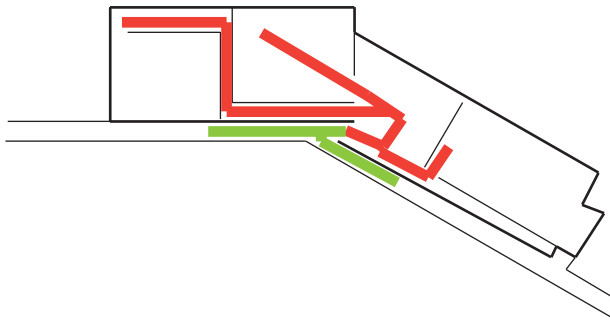
## THE CONCEPT OF THE SITE

The Environmental Discovery Center is intrinsically integrated in to the site, tucked into the hillside. The building is designed as an extension of the site with the landscape architect locating the building as a continuation of an existing ridgeline, visually separating the parking area from the restored ecosystems.

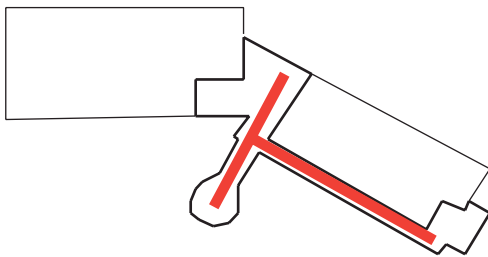
# FLOOR PLANS AND CIRCULATION



THE ENTRY on the ground floor leads to the banquet room and operational spaces. This floor leads you down to the next floor on the water



THE NEXT FLOOR is right on the water with a dock running along the building. This floor contains a lab for learning and other educational spaces.

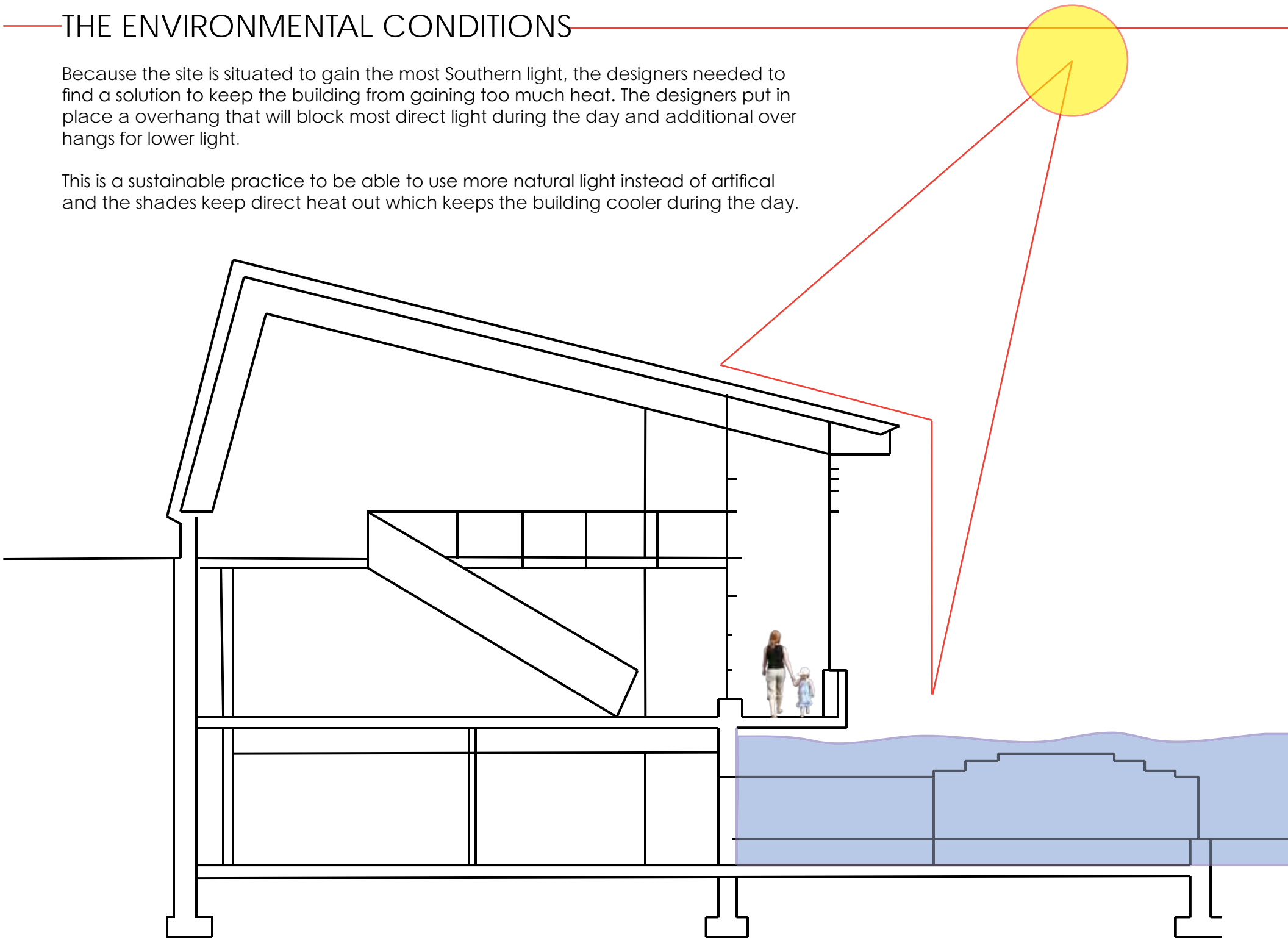


THE BOTTOM FLOOR goes below the water. This is a very interactive space for the kids to see the lake and the organism that live in it.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS

Because the site is situated to gain the most Southern light, the designers needed to find a solution to keep the building from gaining too much heat. The designers put in place a overhang that will block most direct light during the day and additional overhangs for lower light.

This is a sustainable practice to be able to use more natural light instead of artificial and the shades keep direct heat out which keeps the building cooler during the day.



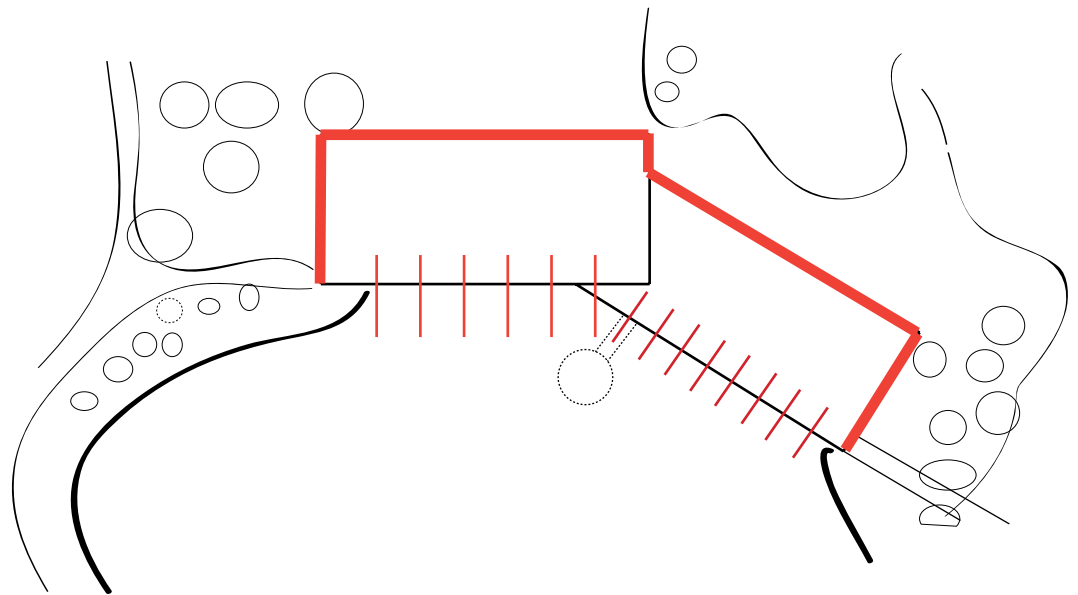


## THE MATERIAL CHOICES

Because of how the building is situated on the site and the concept the designers have, the side of the building that faces the non natural materials (like cars) uses Opaque materials and the other side that faces nature is Transparent. Making the focus of the building towards the views and environment.



OPAQUE



TRANSPARENT



## OBSERVATION SPACES

The Center is divided into three stories: the Ground floor consists of a banquet room and the entry, the floor below it consists of classrooms and a deck out on to the water, and finally the bottom floor has the interactive classroom under Kettle Lake.

