Ground Floor Conceptual Programming

The building design proposes the redesign of the ground floor to accommodate new uses while retaining the dining facilities much as they are. The new Nature Center and the dining hall/café/kitchen occupy the ground floor. The Dining Hall and the kitchen remain largely unchanged. The large dining room can accommodate a variety of public and private events.

The Nature Center occupies exhibition and office/storage spaces. In the space beneath the existing chapel, the existing non-load-bearing walls are removed to create a large exhibition hall for a variety of exhibits and educational stations. Nature Center educational rooms, offices, and storage occupy the remaining spaces on this level.

Lowering the courtyard to ground floor level provides a new access to the outdoor courtyard from the dining room and the exhibition space.

Other ground floor areas are closed to public access to accommodate service and staff needs. The plan maintains public elevator access while creating separate uses. The west wing is preserved for staff and service access, work spaces, shops, boiler room, and garages. The Seed Farm would use this area extensively. Other staff involved in restoration work on or off site would use these facilities for storage and shop/machine needs as necessary.
**GROUND FLOOR PROGRAM**

*FFE: @ 886*

Maintenance Garage: Landscape & Seed Farm

Well Room

 Boiler Room

 Tool Room

 Machine Shop/Workshop

 Employee Room

 Kitchen Delivery Bay

 Storage

 Workshop

 Specialty Rooms

 Storage Space

 Hallway: Service Only

 Kitchen

 Nature Center Office & Storage

 Education Space

 Restaurant/Cafe/ Dining Hall

 Restroom

 Coat Room

 Control Point: No Public Access

 Elevator TYP.

 Nature Center Exhibit Space

 Storage Spaces

 Service Access TYP.

 Service Areas for Nature Center and Seed Farm

 Public Access TYP.

 Public Use

*FFE REFLECTS AN APPROXIMATION*
Facility: First Floor

First Floor Conceptual Programming

The new Visitor Center is located on the first floor with space for displays, exhibits, information, and a store that also serves the nature center located on the ground floor. By removing non load-bearing walls, a large open space is created to serve these uses. The multiple offices provide a visible location for Chamber of Commerce staff. An observation room is provided with views over the Three Biomes Court and the Nature Preserve. The chapel has been preserved as a large gathering, performance, and presentation space.

Circulation is organized to provide public access to elevators and create private office and conference use. Existing dorm rooms are converted to larger office/conference spaces. By raising the site grade to the first floor, pocket gardens provide “out door” rooms for the conference and offices spaces on the building’s south side.
Second Floor Conceptual Programming

The dorm rooms and apartments are on the second floor. Facilitating potential partnerships with the Minnesota Conservation Corps and other groups are 14 bedrooms that sleep 28+ students/workers, large bathrooms, wash facilities, and a spacious living room area. The living room overlooks the courtyard, and the outlying landscape.

The former choir balcony and pipe rooms for the pipe organ have been redesigned into a library and study loft. The southern exposure and unique space would serve as a resource to the nature center, other tenants, and the public. During major events at the great hall, this balcony could accommodate additional seating.
SECOND FLOOR PROGRAM

*FFE: @ 910

- Storage Rooms
- Sun Room below first floor FFE
- First Floor Great Hall
- Living Space for Dorm Occupants
- 2 Dorm Rooms: Sleeps 2 per Room
- Storage
- Restrooms
- 9 Dorm Rooms: Sleeps 2
- Storage Room & Roll Access
- Stairway
- Great Hall Balcony: Library, Study and Research Area
- Elevator TYP.
- Storage Room
- Public Access Control Point

Proposed Access & Use

Dorm: Potential MCC Access and other Transient Stay
Public Use
Facility: Ground Level

Ground Level Conceptual Programming

As a result of the split-entry to the building a variety of spaces and additions connect the building to the existing outdoor grade. Public access is maintained through the existing entrance to a stairway and elevator. Access to service garages is also maintained but, reserved for private use. The existing priest quarters is converted to long-term/transient stay for those administrators, naturalist experts or executive persons in need of lodging. The area would accommodate up to 4 people.

The Sun Room has been maintained to provide a sheltered space in the Three Biomes Court. New terraces, plantings, and patio preserve views over the nature preserve landscape.
GROUND LEVEL BUILDING PROGRAM

PROPOSED ACCESS & USE

Sun Room With Patio Terrace Access

Half Flight of Stairs to Ground and First Floors

Stairway Access to Ground & First Floors

Entrance

Hallway

Public Use

Nature Center & MCC Use

Service & Facilities

Public Use

Executive Room for Transient or Long Term Stay

Storage Room

ADA Elevator Access from Ground Level to All Floors

Service & Delivery Garage

*FFE: @ 892

*FFE REFLECTS AN APPROXIMATION