ILLUSTRATIVE DETAILS

These drawings convey the “vision” for the Northern Prairie Visitor’s Center by depicting the experiences a visitor would have at key locations.

Prairie Arrival:
The arrival sequence culminates at the Center’s building. The prairie mound acts as a focal point, structures the circulation, and acts as an infiltration area for storm water runoff.

Northern Prairie Interpretive Scene:
A resting niche and information areas are arranged as a series of different experiences that tell a story. The active and the resting place modules accentuate the human/built realm with a naturalized landscape.

Three Biomes Court:
This view looking east from the building into the courtyard depicts the spatial quality of the courtyard. The modular design elements define the space.
Northern Prairie Interpretive Scene

Three Biomes Court
Illustrative Details

The details for the Center are derived from the “modular forms that define the visual and experiential character of the Marywood building. The module was used to develop design details for places of rest, information, and interpretation. Each module is a composition of cubic volumes that tie built and natural environments together. The details use a colored concrete to match the building’s brick materials and the natural colors of the prairie. Wood is used to soften the hard edge of the concrete masonry and to connect with the natural material of the nature preserve. Each element is designed for use by all ages and provides various levels for sitting, standing, and viewing the landscape.

Rest Module: Seating & Viewing
The design of the rest module reflects the horizontal quality of the prairie and of the Marywood building. Constructed of concrete with 2 x 6 detail for seating and standing surfaces, its horizontal surfaces are at 1.5 and 2.5 feet high. Designed to straddle the edges of constructed and naturalized environments, the module provides a resting place at the edge of the interpretive areas.

Active Module: Information & Interpretation Kiosk
The active module uses the materials and the horizontal design of the rest module while inserting a vertical timber element that reflects the building modules. The horizontal elements provide places to stand and/or sit. Information panels are provided at various heights and are designed for specific age groups. As an extension of the constructed/built environment of the visitor center, the active module integrates elements of the natural prairie landscape while providing information and interpretation.
Seating & Viewing Module

Colored Concrete

Timber Inlay: 2 x 6

Interpretive/Kiosk Module

8 x 8 Timber

Interpretive Panel

Colored Concrete Bench