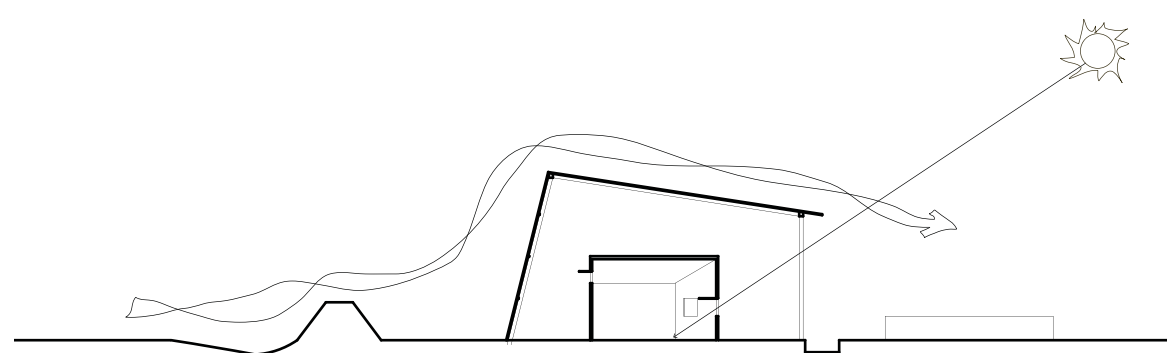
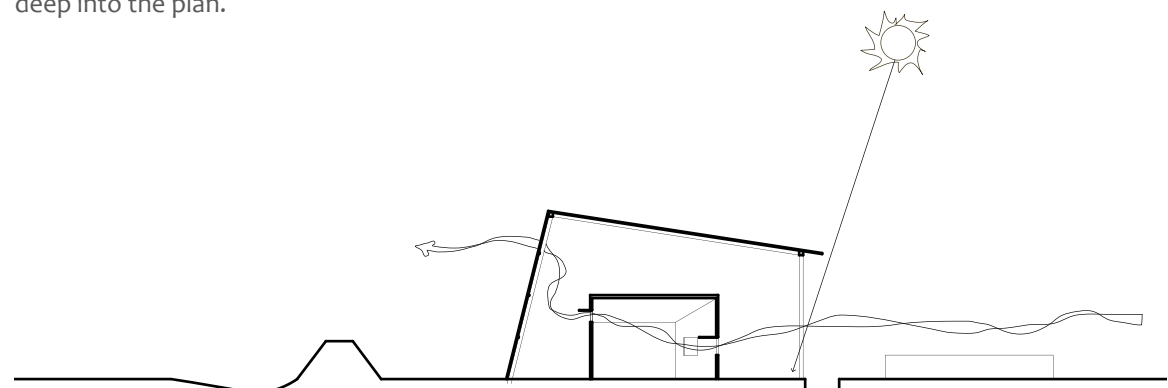
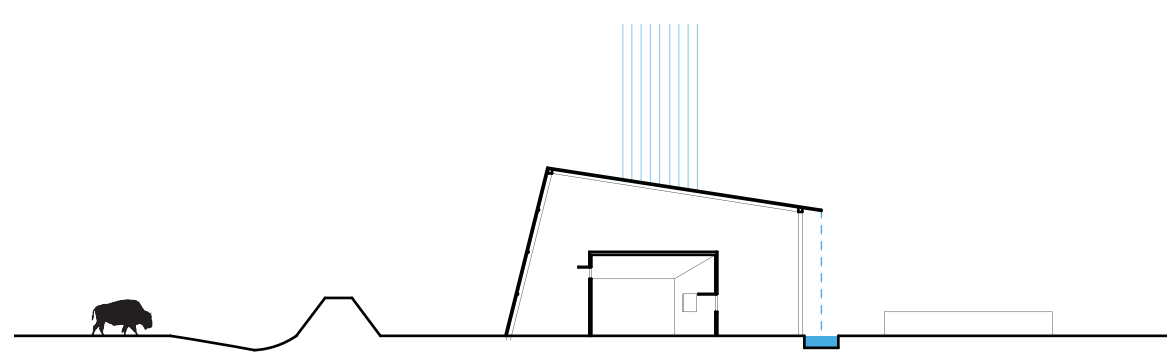




WINTER
In the cold months, the station blocks the harsh northern wind and admits warm southern sun deep into the plan.



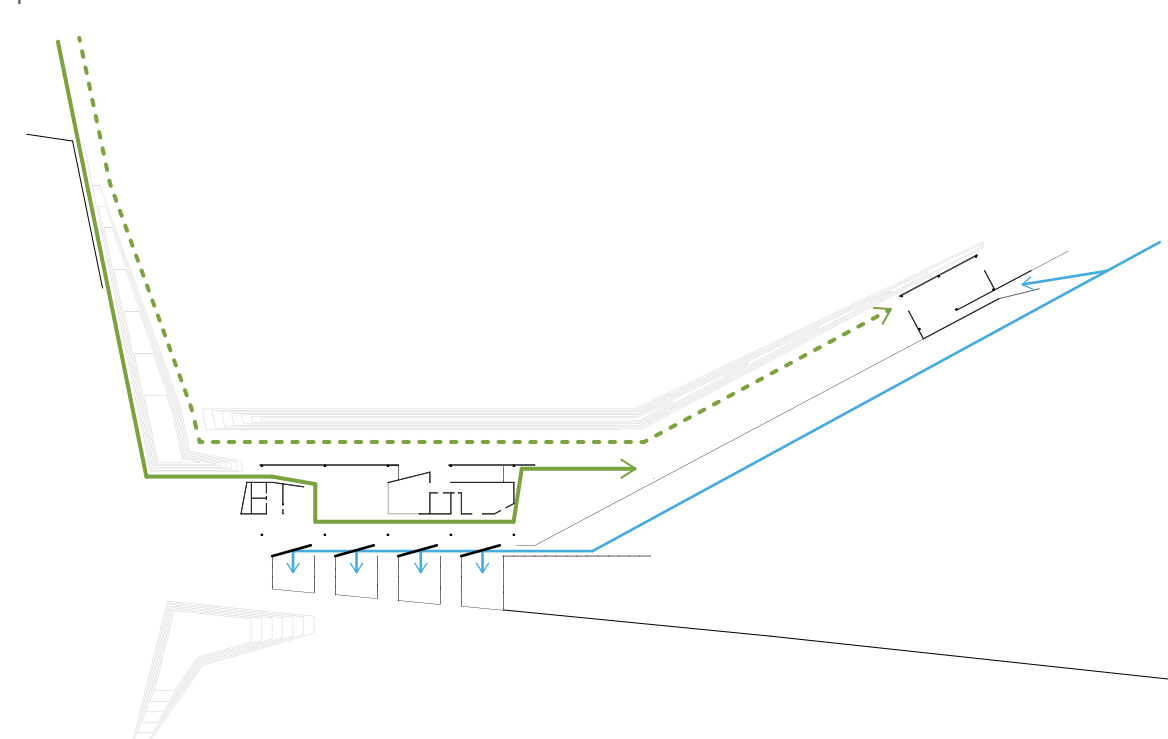
SUMMER
In the warm months when many visitors are present, the station admits the cool southern wind and blocks the harsh sun.



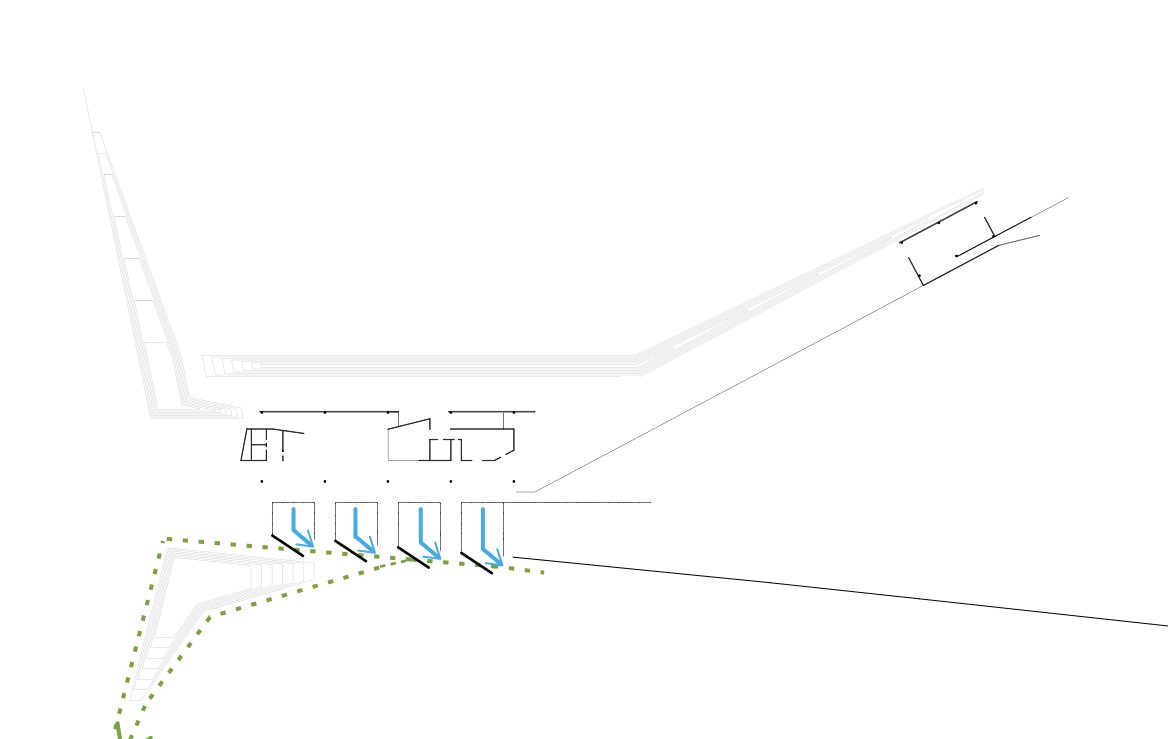
WATER / LANDSCAPE
rainwater is collected in troughs and given to bison in pens
bison kept from station by burns in landscape



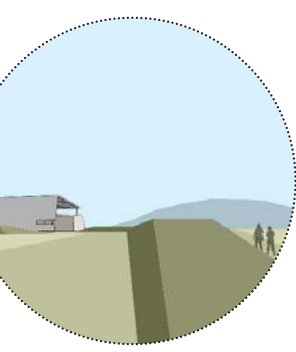
PUBLIC / PRIVATE
Some aspects of the program like loading and slaughter are shielded from the public eye in some places.



CIRCULATION
In the area near the station, the paths of the hiker, bison, and vehicle are kept fairly separate.

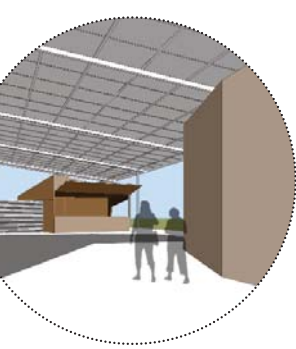


AUCTION
Trucks come from the south and move around the burn and line up in front of the bison pens. The pens are then opened up and the bison are loaded into the trucks.



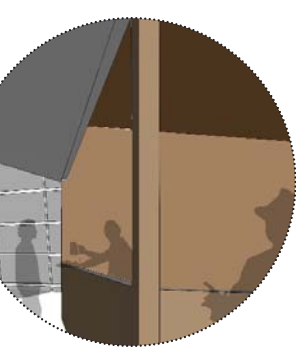
APPROACHING

As one approaches the station, a burn rises out of the plains and separates the vehicle path from that of the hiker. Sculptural wooden boxes begin to appear beneath the angular geometry of the shed metal roof.



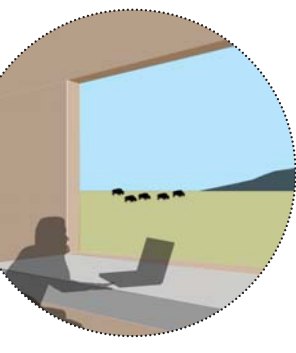
ENTERING

Upon entry, the form of the wooden boxes peels back to reveal the central space of the station. This is the place for communal eating and storytelling, as well as the annual bison auction.



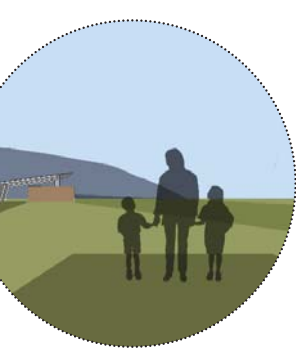
PARTAKING

Visitors buy some bison meat or other fare from the cafe, then cook it over a fire while sharing stories with fellow travelers. Local natives here to get bison products for rituals share about the significance of these animals to the indigenous culture.



INQUIRING

Park staff are busy doing research to aid in the preservation of the bison species. Visitors begin to understand the vital role this work plays in the persistence of the bison they have admired during their hike to the station.



BEHOLDING

Families move along a path that extends from the station a short way into the prairie. From this vantage point one can see the shed used for the slaughter of weak or sick bison. Adults and young children alike are confronted with the reality that death is a necessary part of nature and natural processes.



TELLING

After nightfall, before returning to their dwellings, visitors gather to tell stories of their travels. A campfire serves as a foil to the darkness of the plains.

BISON STATION

The design of the bison station aims to strengthen the existing Lakota cultural narrative and serve the resurging bison population.

Visitors and gather in the communal space to listen to stories and enjoy food from the canteen. This space is also used to host the bison auction at the end of each round-up. During this time, visitors can interact with indigenous people who have come to get bison. In this way, role of the bison is on display in both ecological and cultural ways.

- 00 hiking trail
- 01 sculpted burns
- 02 restrooms
- 03 administration
- 04 communal space
- 05 canteen
- 06 service road
- 07 cold room (food / research storage)
- 08 firewood
- 09 service area
- 10 research
- 11 bison pens
- 12 viewing path
- 13 service parking
- 14 slaughter

SITE PLAN

1/16" = 1'0"

The plan shows the how the station blurs the line between interior and exterior. The paths of people, bison, and vehicles respond to the way the landscape is molded. In this way, the burns serve to bring the rolling prairie down to the scale of architectural procession, while still fitting into the larger context. The wooden boxes are sculpted to create and shield views. A skylight over the communal space provides a connection to the heavens. A small solar panel over the cold room aids in its use of electricity.

SOUTHERN ELEVATION

1/16" = 1'0"

A metal shed roof wraps up and over smaller wooden boxes that hold the semi-public aspects of the program.