

# Archive of the Earth

Preserving Story, Science, and Spirit at Mount Shasta

"Then Skell, spirit of the Above-World, hurled fire and molten rock from the mountain,  
driving away Llao, the spirit of darkness below."— Klamath Legend of Mount Shasta

# Who Decides What We Remember?

This archive addresses a growing cultural gap: while scientific institutions preserve data, community stories are often lost. The building proposes a shared structure for preserving diverse types of memory—scientific, oral, ancestral, and emotional.

## What Counts as Memory?

We typically see records as scientific data—numbers, dates, and statistics. Yet, the communities around Mount Shasta have preserved memory differently for thousands of years, through oral histories, rituals, and stories. The overlapping boundaries illustrate how multiple tribes see Mount Shasta as central to their lands and identities. These Indigenous stories are essential; without them, any archive remains incomplete. The map shows five recorded volcanic eruptions, each preserved as physical samples within our archive, physically embedded in the rammed earth walls enclosing the building.

### Legend

- Mt Shasta Ash Deposit Regions
- Extent of Pleistocene Age Debris
  - Shastina Flow
  - Hotlum Flow
  - Misery Flow
  - Sargents Flow

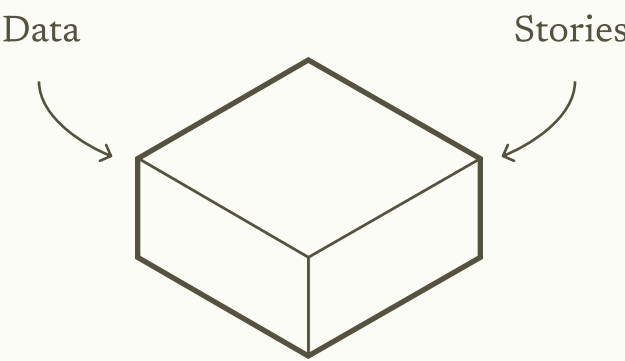
- Tribal Lands\*
- Shasta
  - Modoc
  - New River Shasta
  - Nom Ti Pom Wintu
  - Winthu Pom (Northern Wintu)
  - Winnimem Wintu
  - Pit River

\*Colors multiplied at overlapping territories. Source: Native Land Digital. Does not attempt to represent official or legal boundaries.

## Concept Diagrams

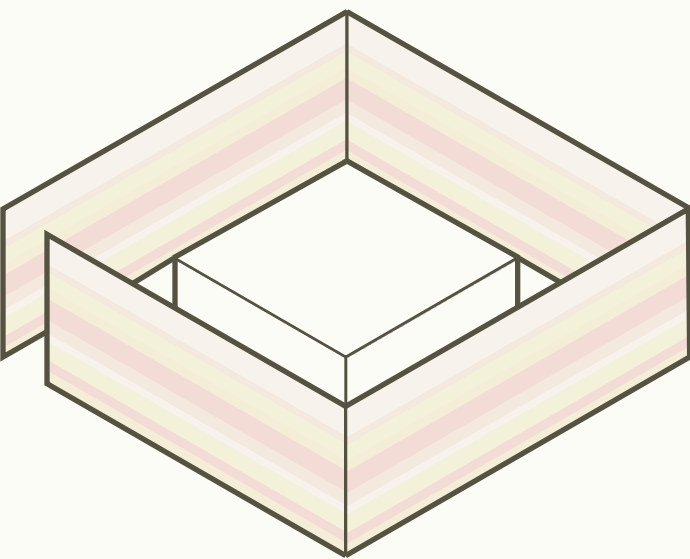
### 1. Archive

This center is dedicated to preserving the layered memory of Mount Shasta—Indigenous stories, volcanic histories, tectonic movements, weather data, and wildfire records. It is an open archive, welcoming information from those who hold it.



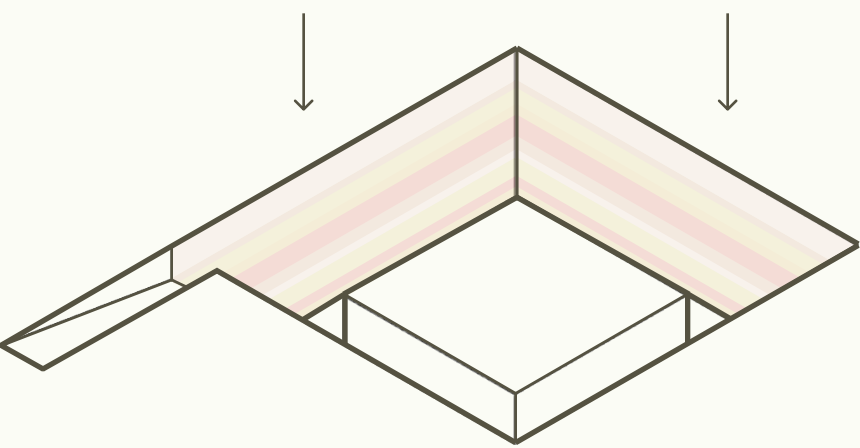
### 2. Enclose

Visitors, students, and researchers experience volcanic history while physically surrounded by it. The building's walls are formed from rammed earth made with ash collected from five eruption sites.



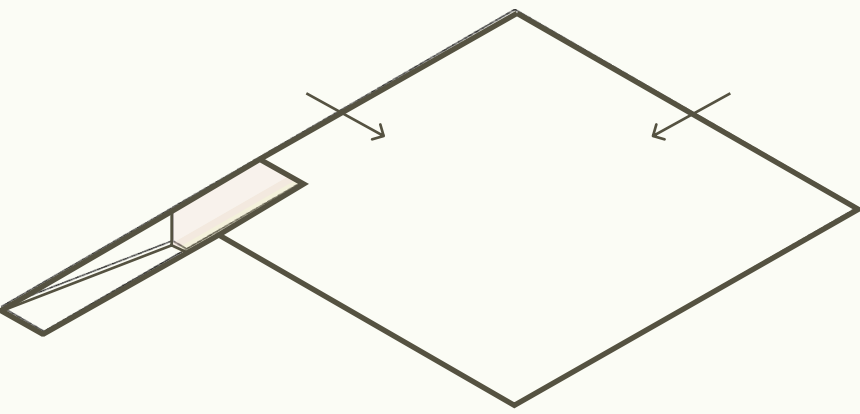
### 3. Submerge

To withstand future eruptions, the archive is buried and reinforced. It also functions as a refuge and emergency shelter for the campus and community.



### 4. Return

The submerged archive is covered by a sculpture and story garden. The garden lifts memory to the surface, allowing students and the community to engage with stories inscribed in stone, host events, or quietly reflect outdoors.



# Preserving Memory Through Place

The archive becomes the campus’s place for refuge, orientation, and reflection. Its visible architecture aligns with existing buildings, and the garden invites students and community members to gather in daily life. In moments of urgency, the archive offers shelter and support.

Emergency Response Path

View to Mt Shasta

Campus Emergency Shelter Path

Midcentury Modern Western Campus

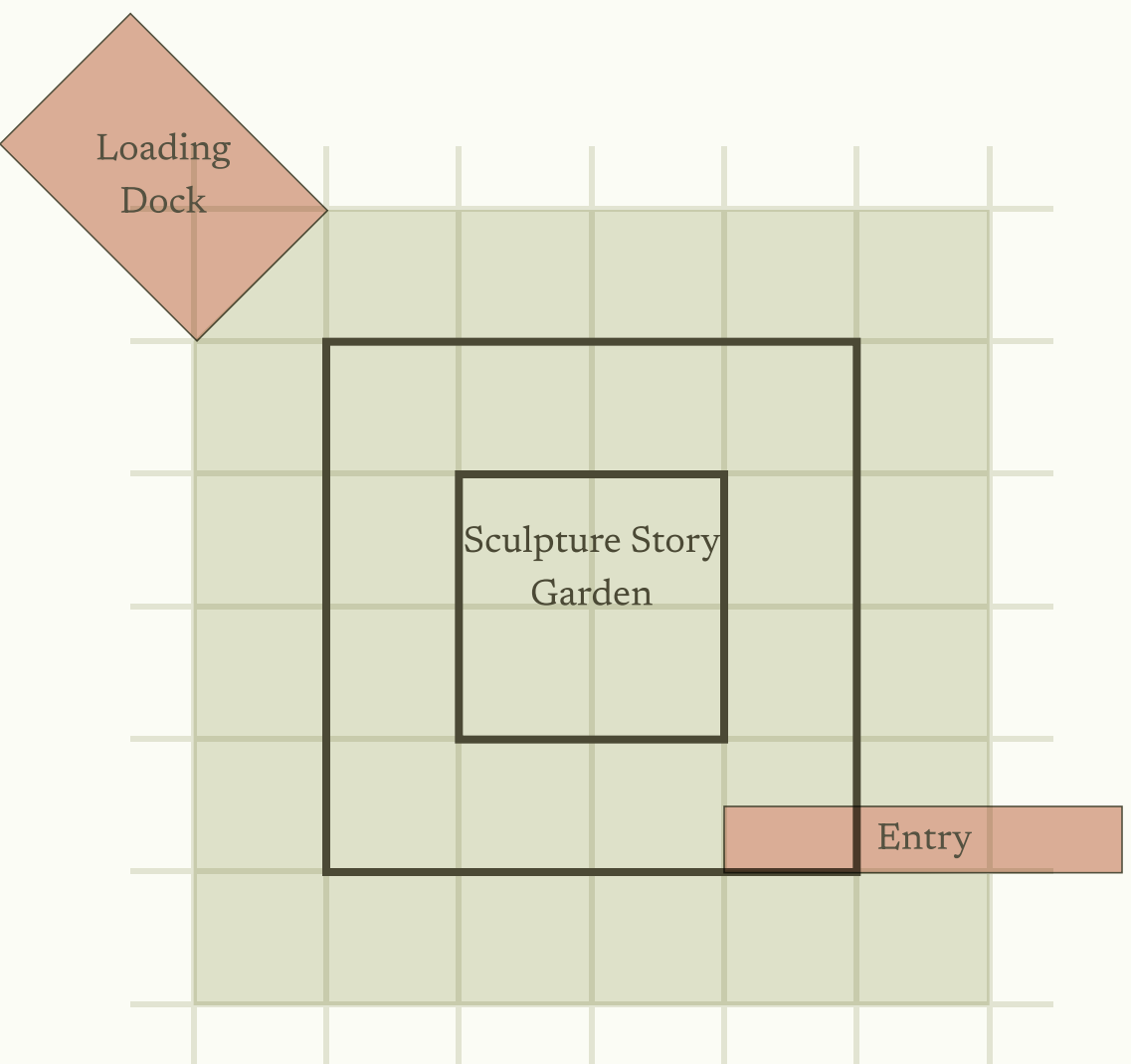
## Site Plan

▲ N Scale 1" = 60'

Each level offers a different way to preserve memory:

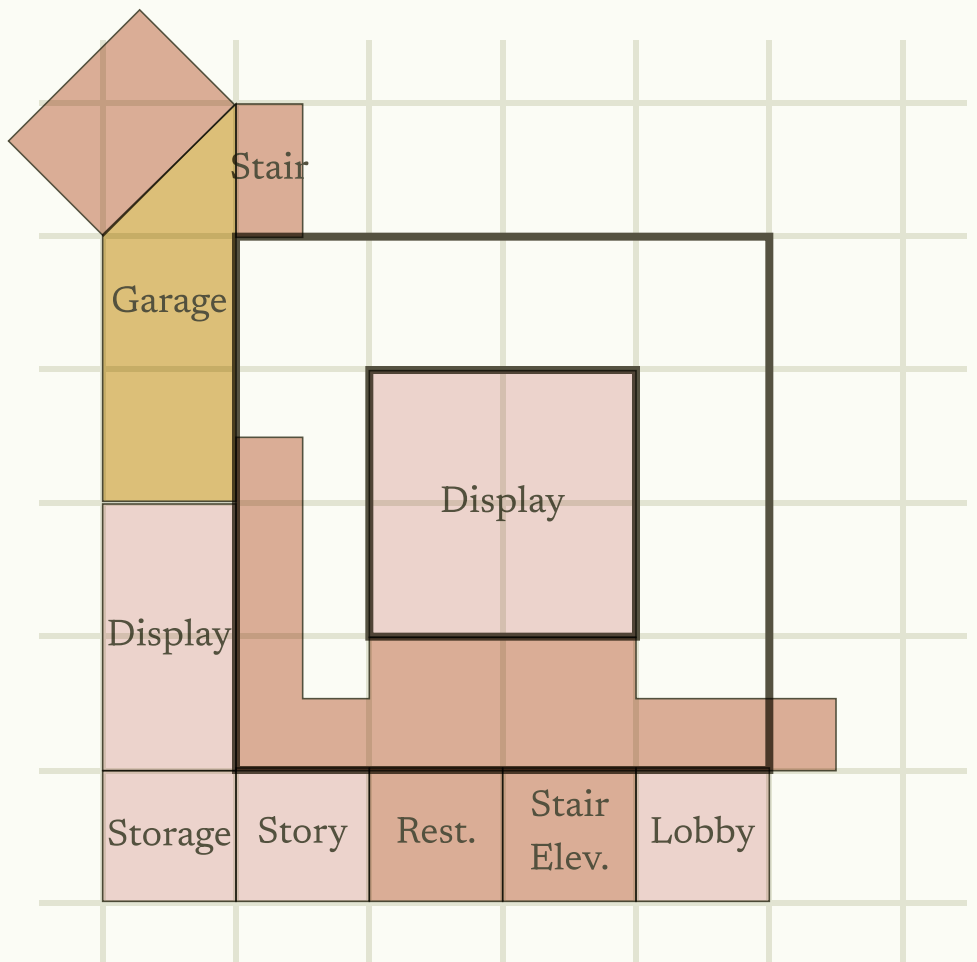
### Level 1

The garden stores stories in stone.



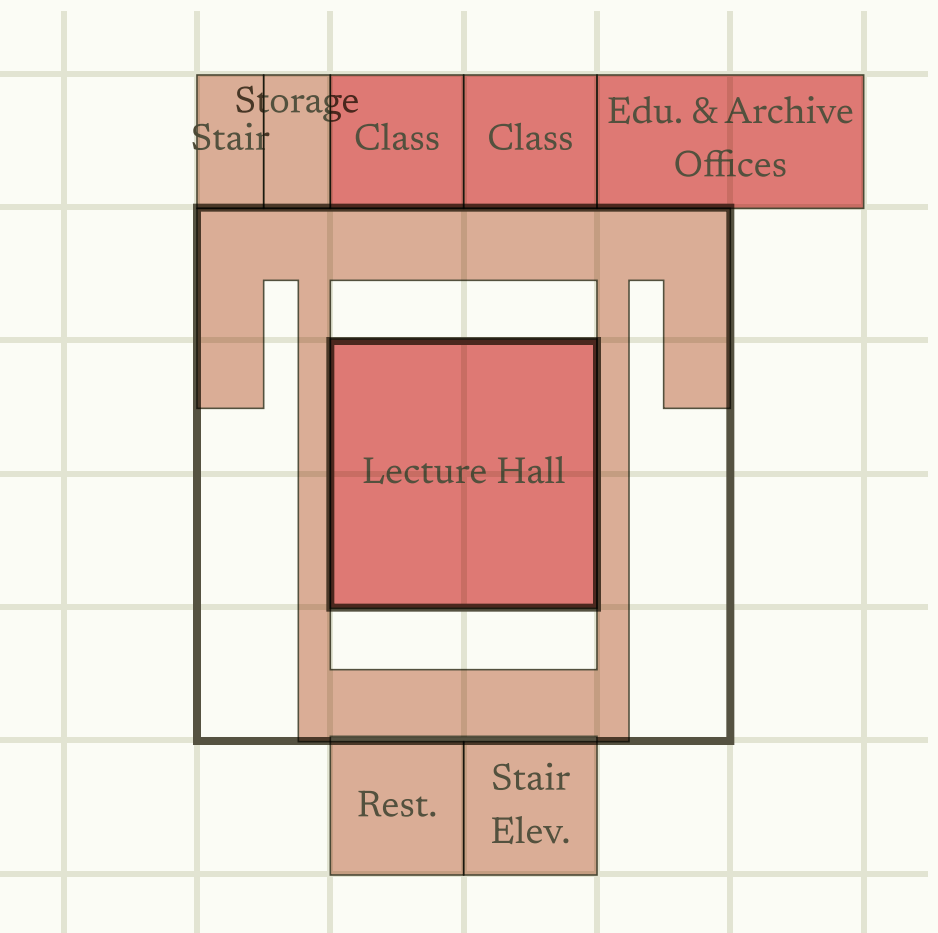
### Level 0

The display and story exhibits bring histories to life.



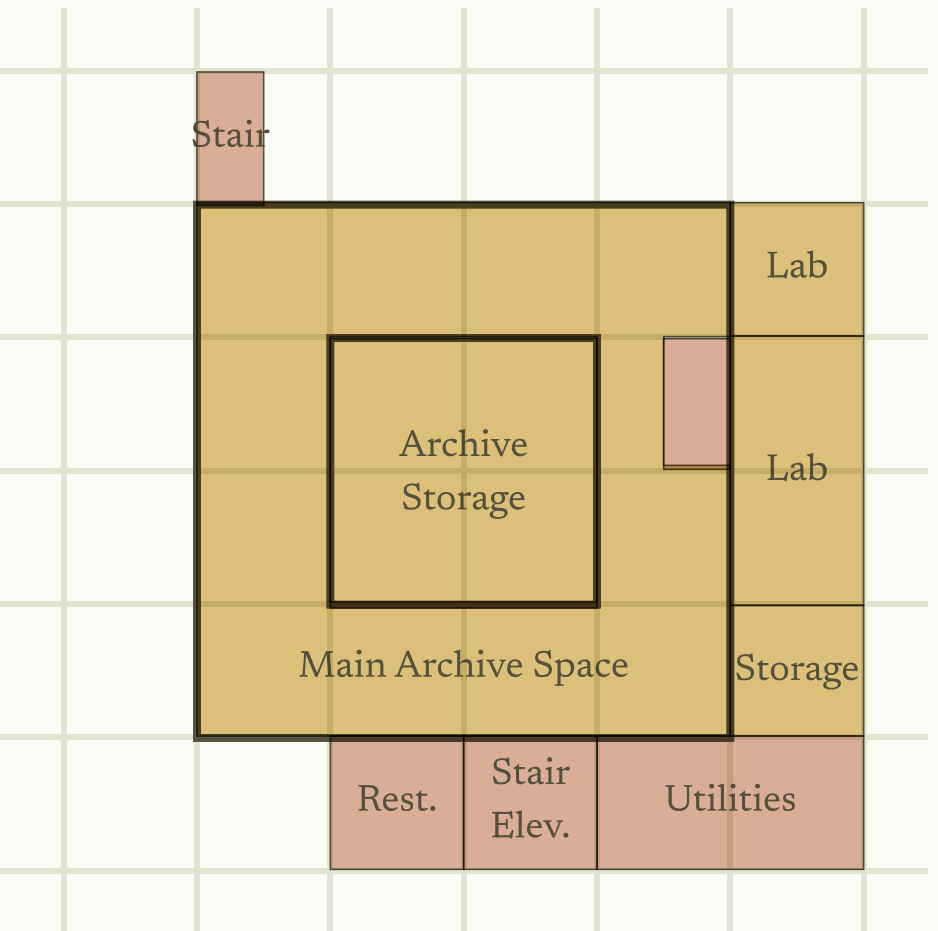
### Level -1

The classrooms pass knowledge forward.



### Level -2

The archive keeps it safe.

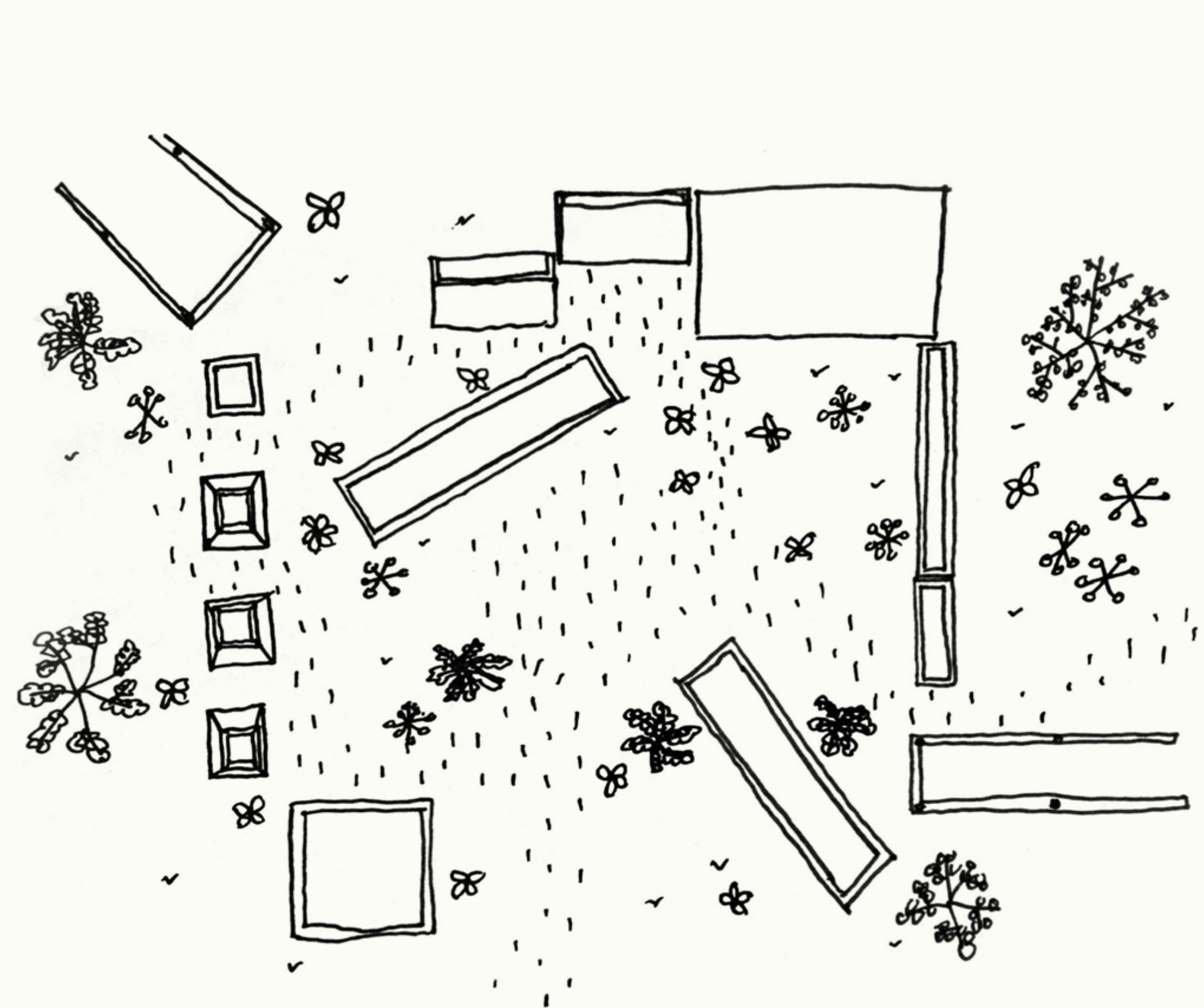


#### Legend

- Public Spaces
- Education Spaces
- Circulation & Support
- Research Spaces
- Sculpture Story Garden

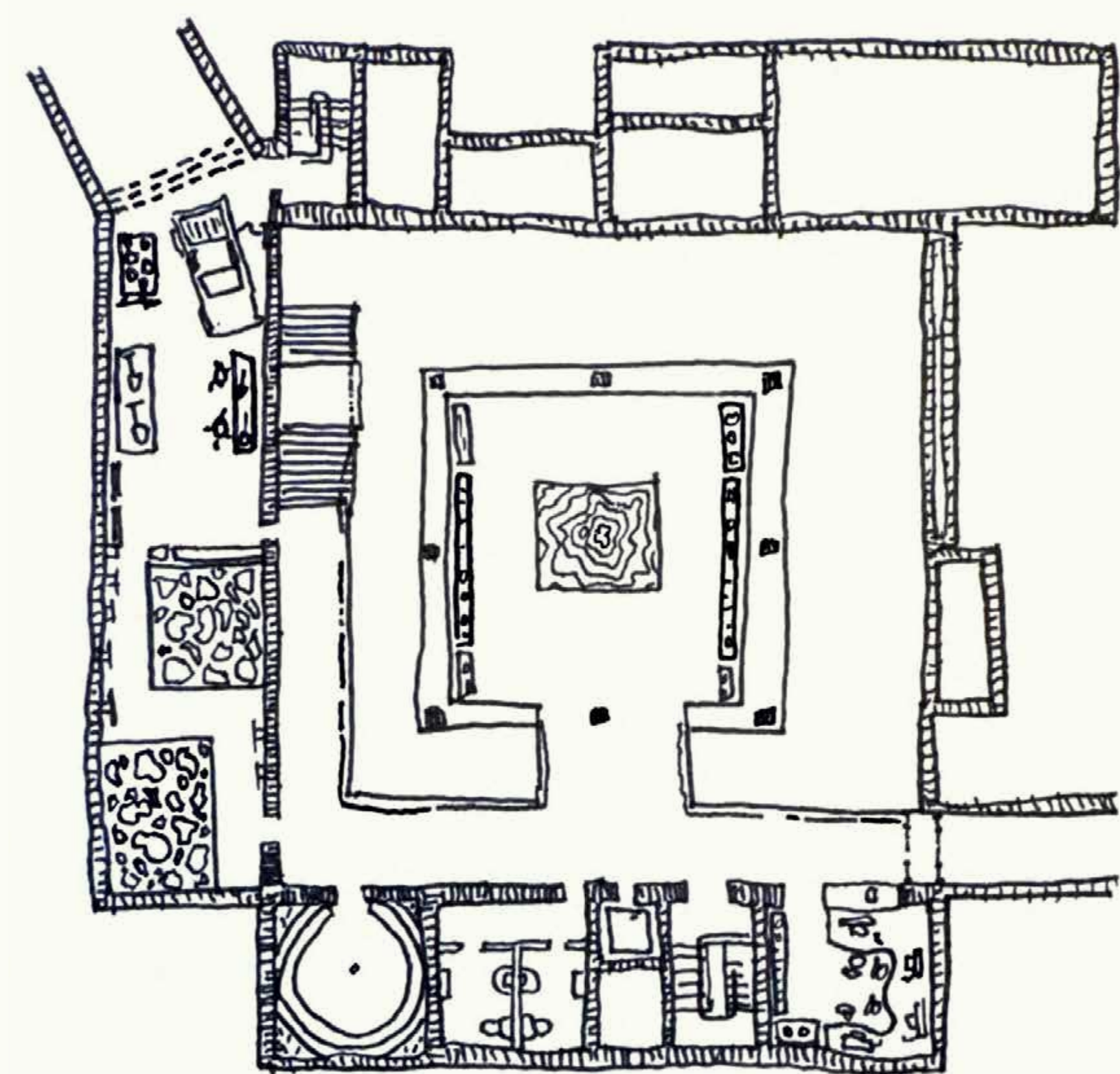
# Life Within the Archive

Each floor embodies a different aspect of community life. Together, they create a range of spaces for gathering, reflection, collaboration and solitude.



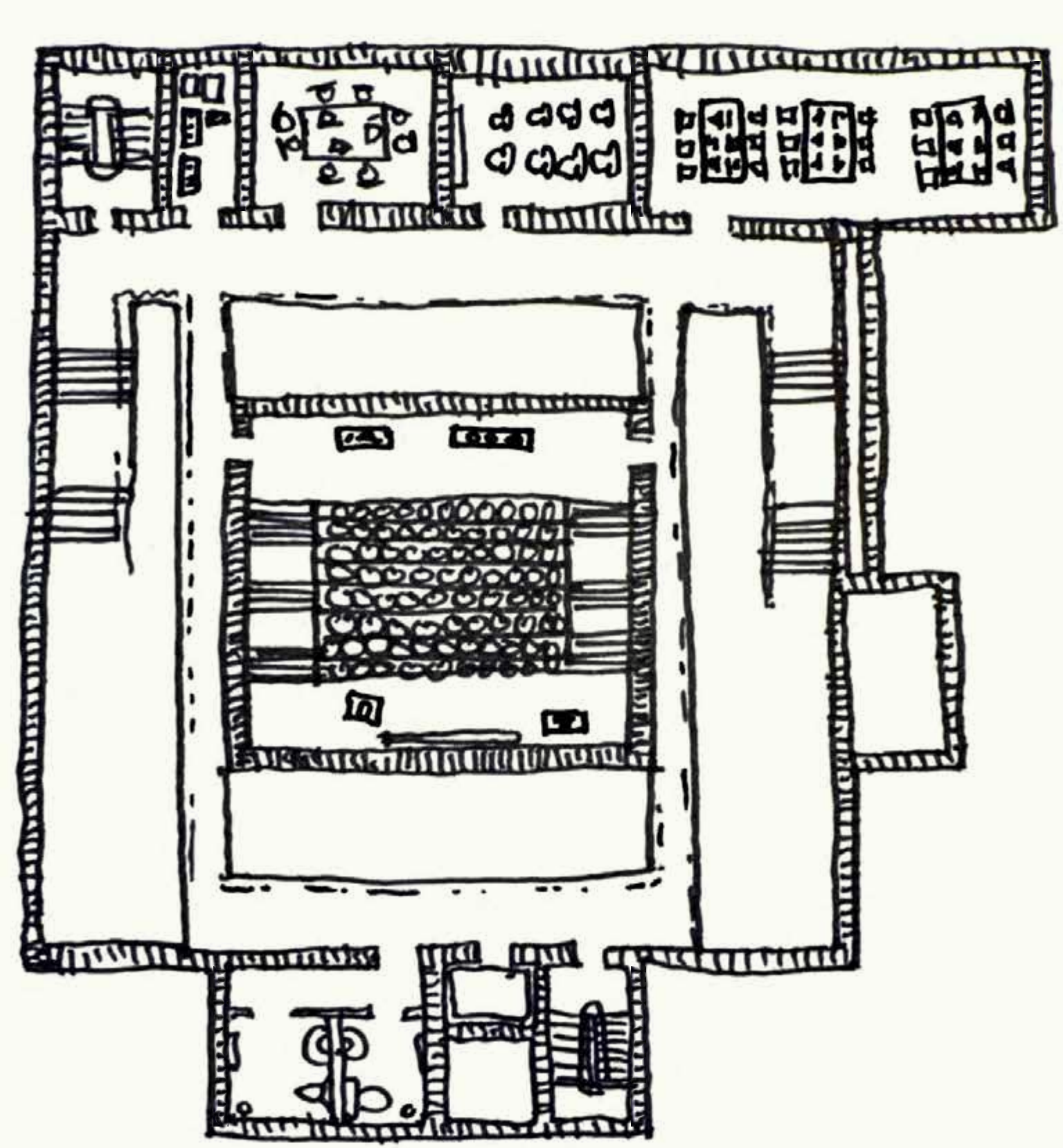
Level 1  
Wandering and Remembering

▲ N Scale 1" = 40'



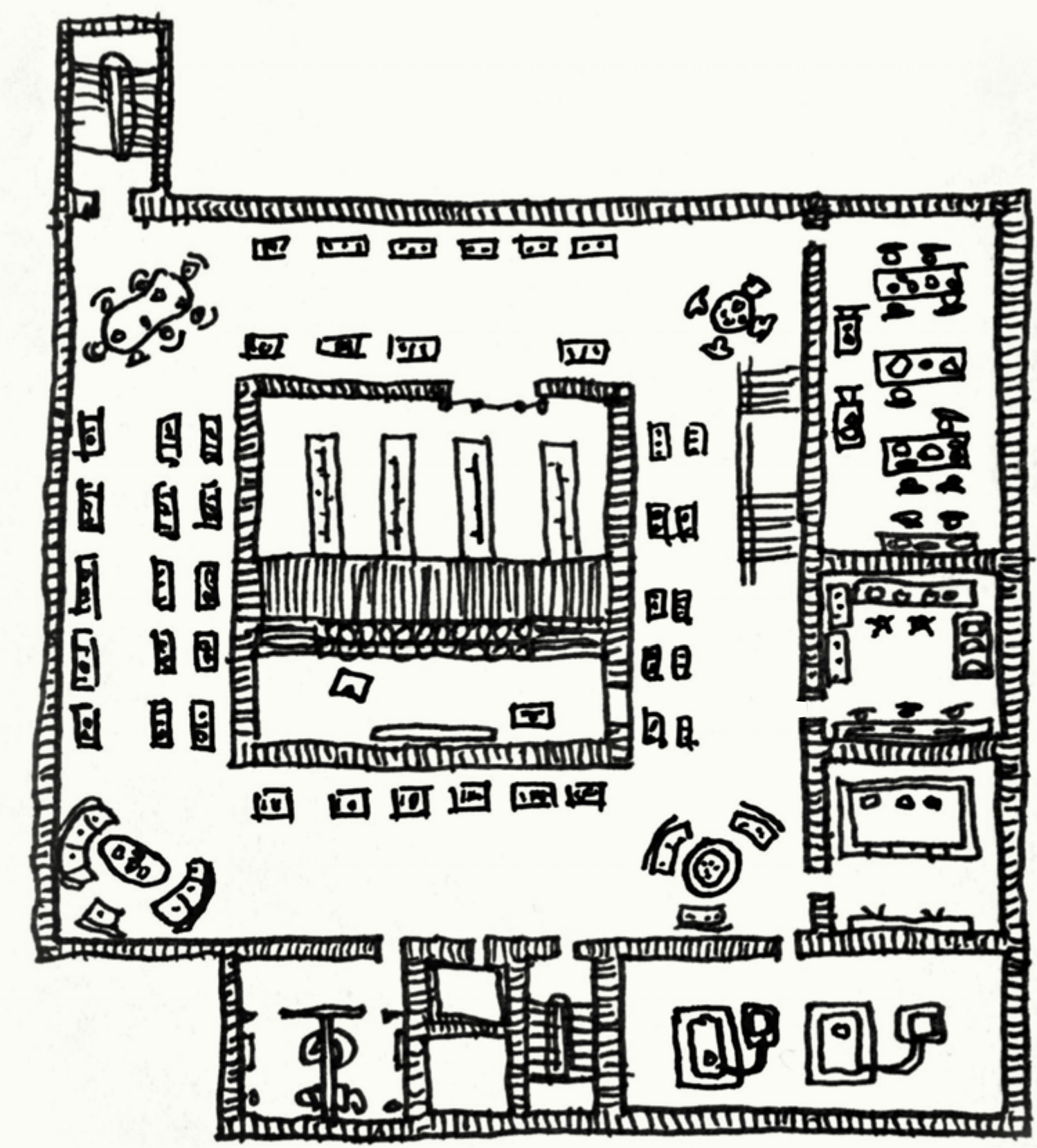
Level 0  
Discovering and Sharing

▲ N Scale 1" = 40'



Level -1  
Learning and Collaborating

▲ N Scale 1" = 40'

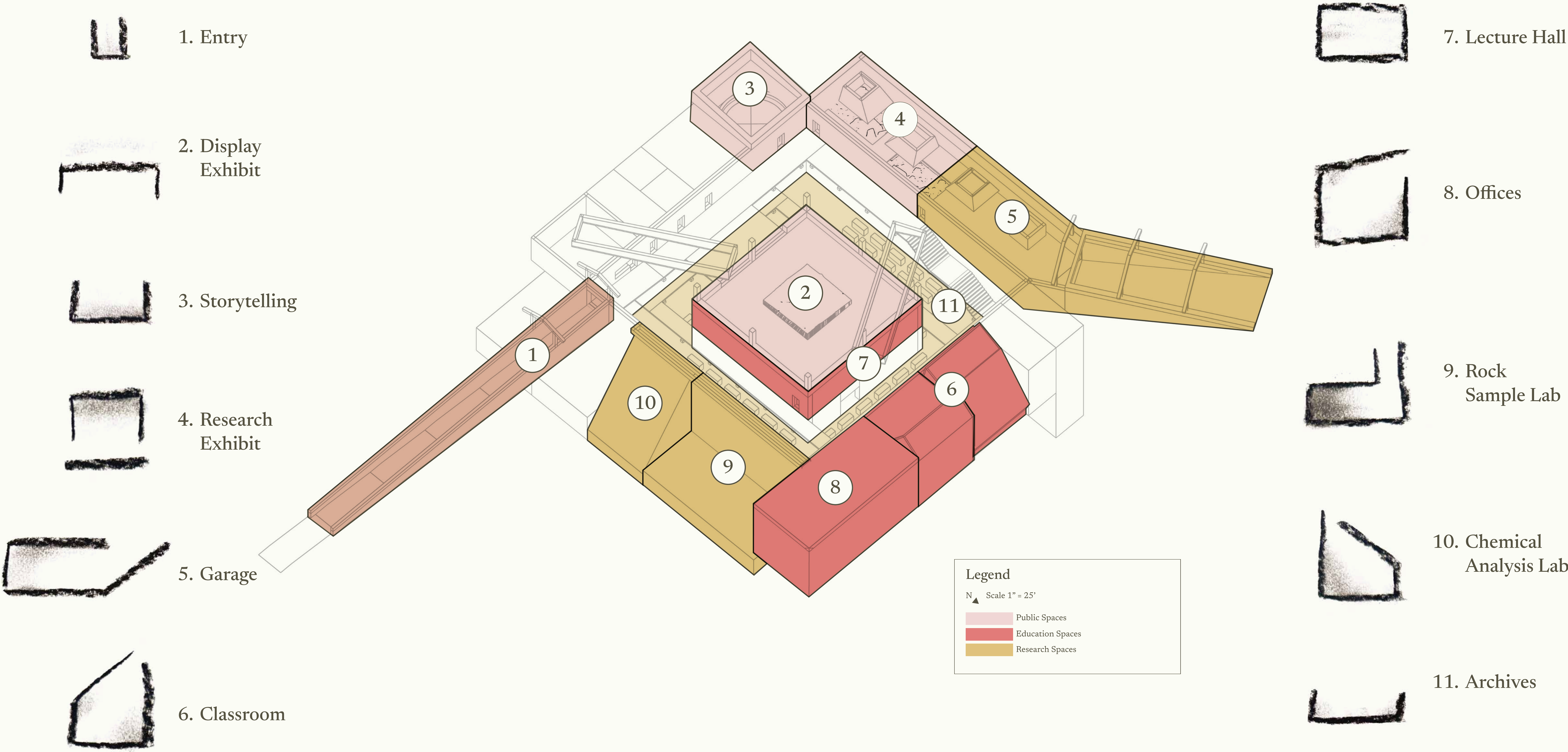


Level -2  
Protecting and Researching

▲ N Scale 1" = 40'

# Shaping Space by Use and Light

Each room in the archive is shaped by its use—its size, material, and light defined by what it holds and how it’s used. These charcoal studies and axonometric view show how light, shadow, and form create spaces that feel right for reflection, research, gathering, and work.

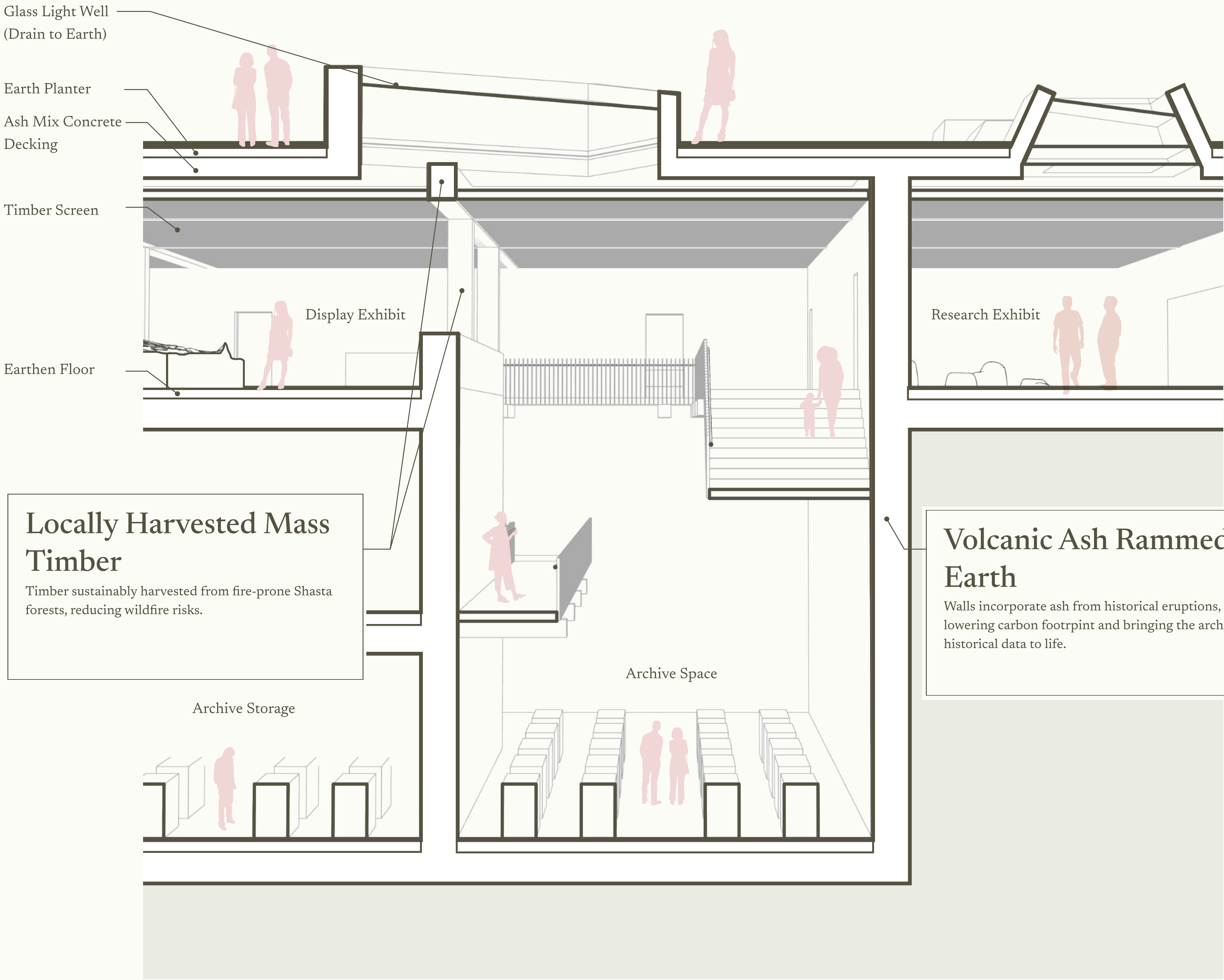


# Built from the Mountain

The archive is built from materials drawn from the mountain itself—volcanic ash, local timber, and earthen finishes. These sections show how the building is shaped by climate, constructed for longevity, and powered by the energy beneath it.

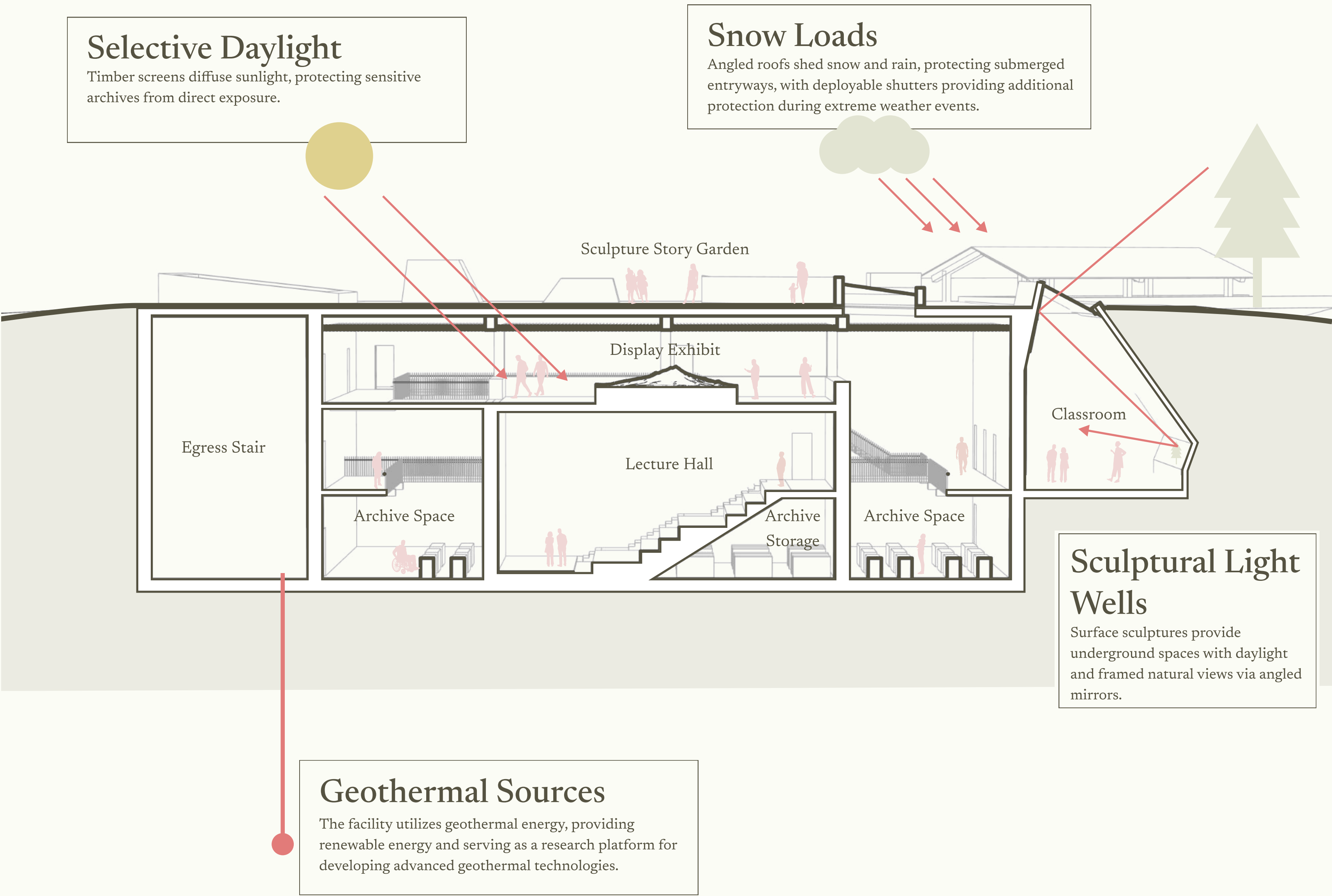
## Wall Section

N Scale 1/8" = 1'-0"



## Building Section

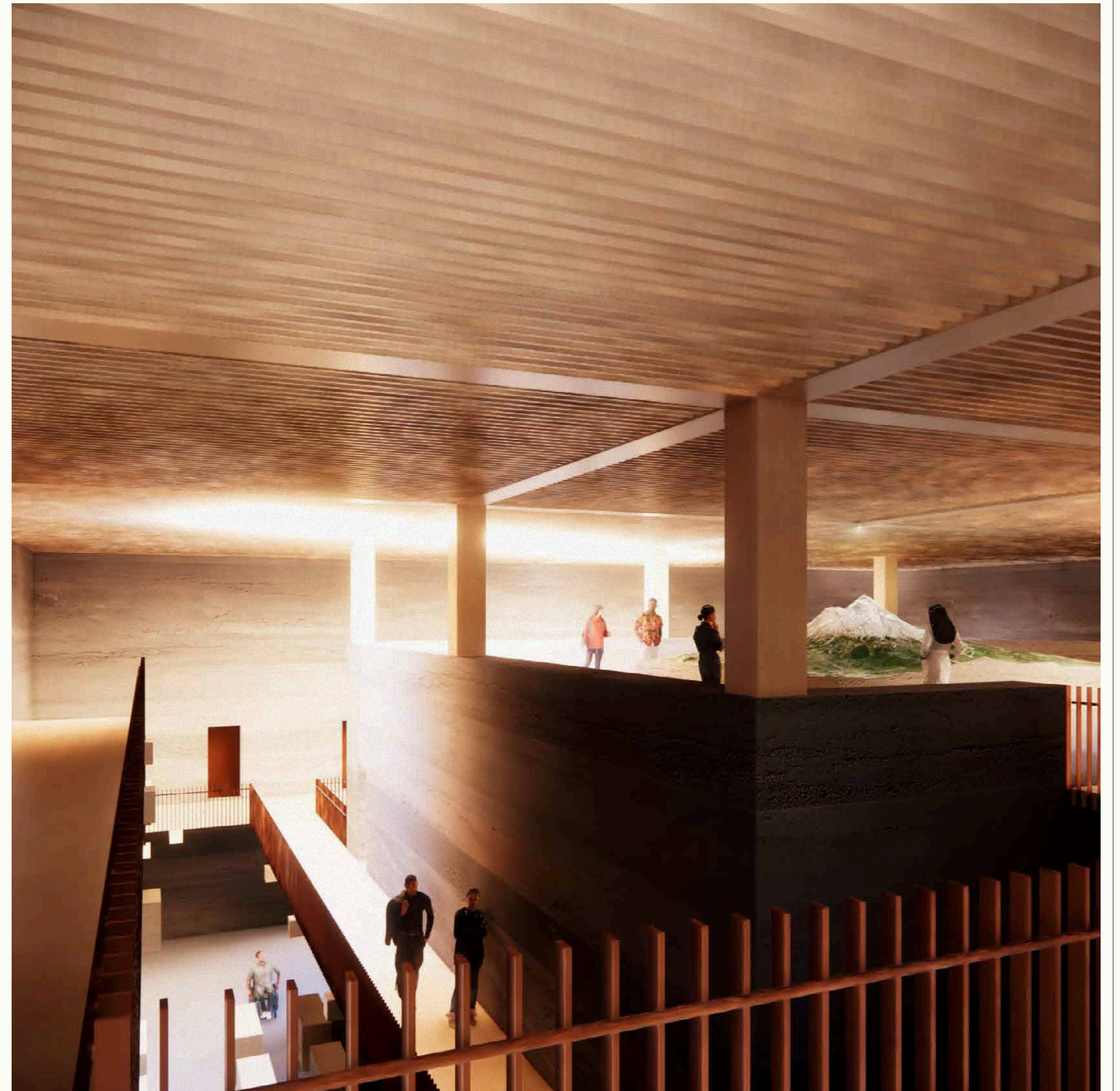
N Scale 1" = 25'



## Journey Through the Archive

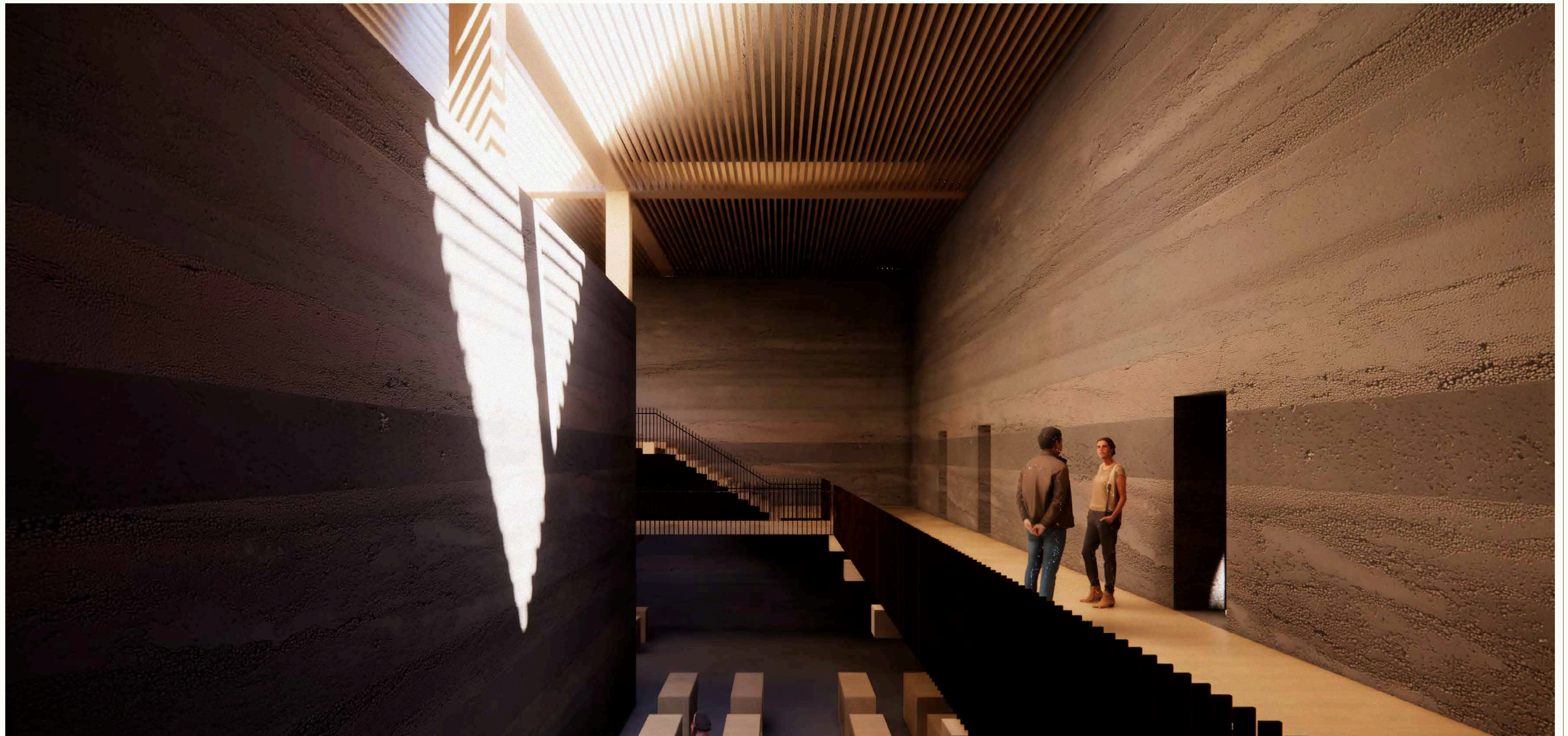


Visitors descend into the earth, passing beneath low walls of rammed earth—guiding them inward toward the archive.



Visitors gather around the model of Mount Shasta, exploring the many maps in the archive's collections projected onto the model.

## Journey Through the Archive



A researcher and teacher meet along the shared circulation path—pausing to exchange ideas. Inspired by the conversation, the teacher adjusts their next lecture to include the lab’s recent findings. The archive fosters these moments of overlap, where proximity sparks collaboration.

## Journey Through the Archive



Students and visitors gather above the lava floor—practicing remote sample collection using drones and core sampling tools. The space makes research visible, hands on, and shared.



A geologist works in quiet focus deep in the earth, studying stones at the same depth from which the samples came.

## Journey Through the Archive



In the chemical analysis lab, angled walls and passive ventilation systems draw steam upward from the work stations.



Emerging from the archive, visitors look out to Mount Shasta.