2017 MERIT

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LYCEUM
A traveling fellowship in Architecture
The proposed library occupies the only site on the terrace where a natural environment exists. An outcropping of Manhattan Schist supported by a grouping of trees shapes the change in elevation between the upper terrace and 156th Street below. In honor of this condition, the new library is organized around a series of stone walls that define directionality and frame a vertical space for vegetation. At the 156th Street level the building appears solid, stable and reassuring while offering dynamic views up to the terrace above. Rising through the building, the presence of stone becomes more strongly defined until, at levels above the terrace level, it disappears completely into something light and ethereal, a garden that echoes the natural environment that once existed before.