

2021 MERIT

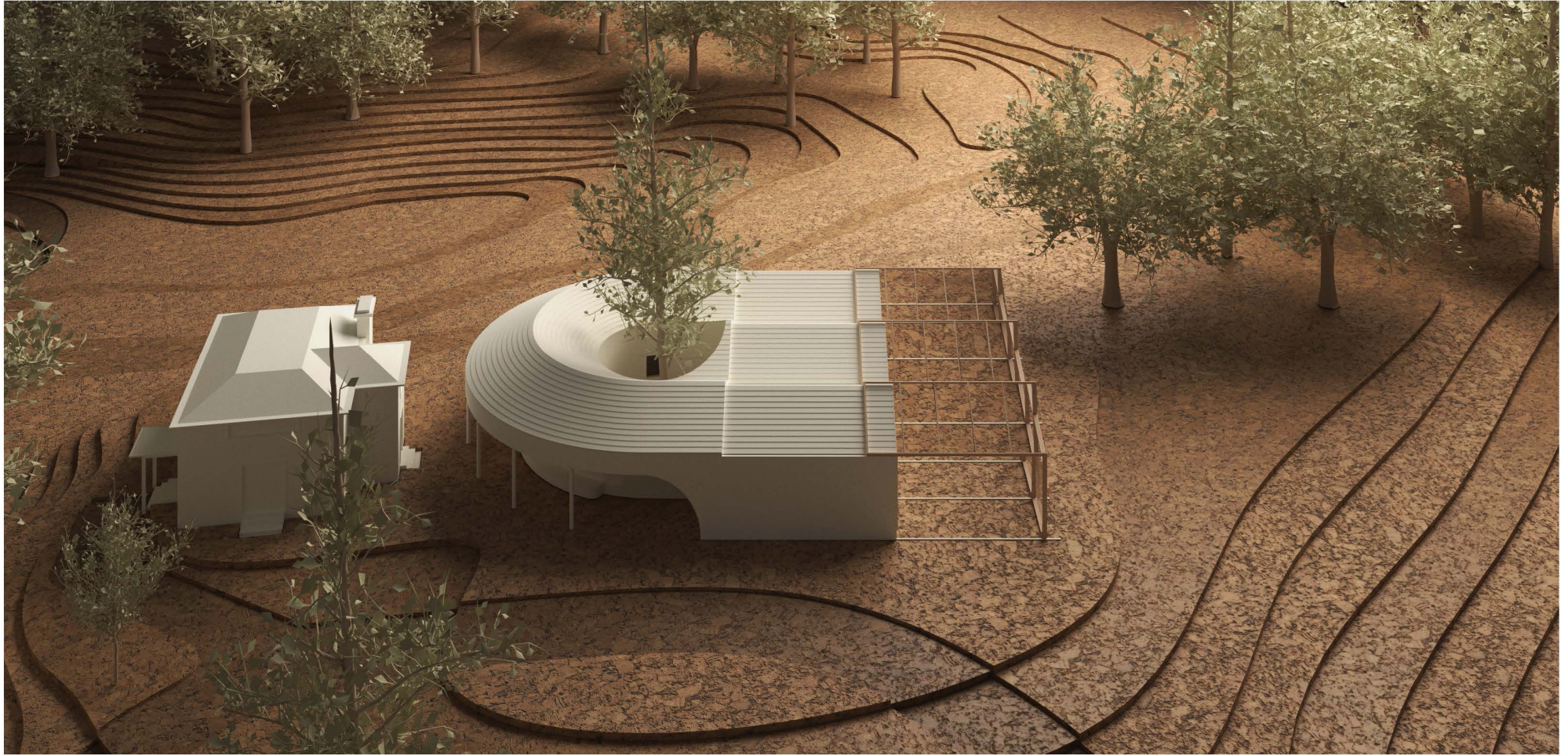
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LYCEUM

A traveling fellowship in Architecture



PROJECT TITLE: OUTSIDE IN, INSIDE OUT

THE LYCEUM FELLOWSHIP 2021

SUBMISSION ID: *LF-8766*

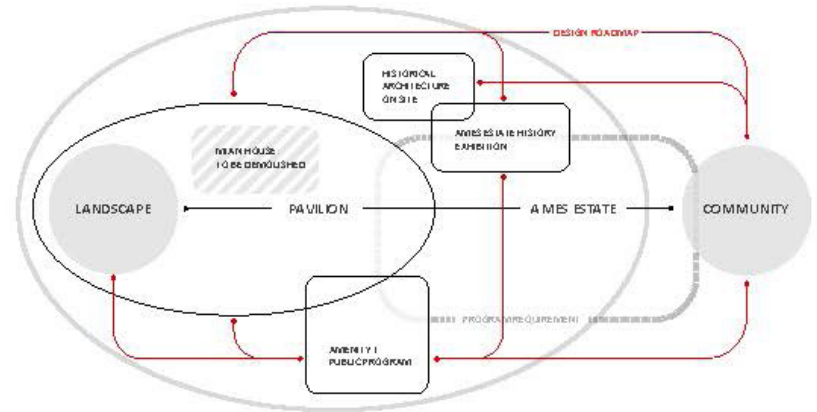


Governor Ames Estate Historical Photo

Top Image: Ames Shovel Shops, after 1857 | Bottom Image: Ornamental Pond at Governor Ames Estate, before 1890, mansion and carriage house behind. (Resource: Easton Historical Society collection)

Project Statement

The project reimagines the visitor experience by proposing a multi-use pavilion with abundant public amenities to support various communal events. In the meantime, the pavilion celebrates the property's rich history of arboriculture and horticulture, as well as drawing connections to the property's industrial past.

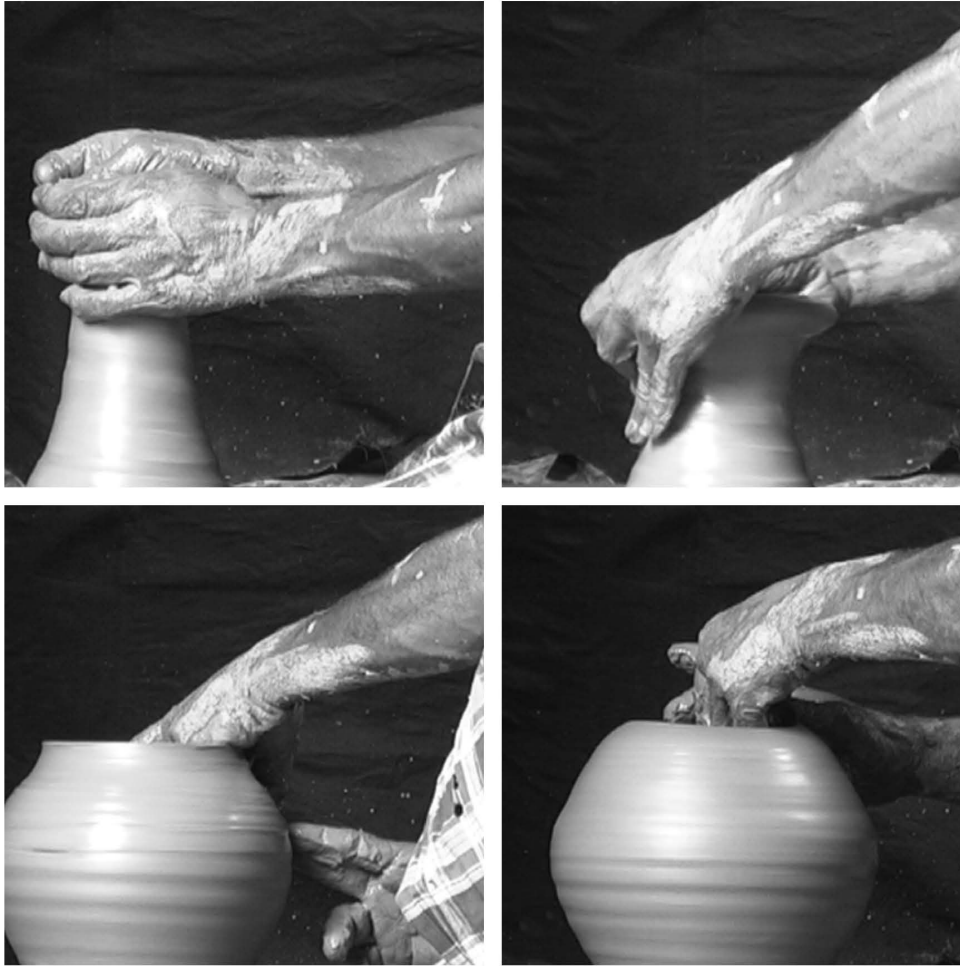


(Design Concept Diagram)

The serene landscape at the Governor Ames Estate represents the site's most valuable asset. It keeps reminding us of the golden age of public parks and landscape master architect Charles Eliot's legacy. The new pavilion refrains from making any iconic architectural move to overshadow nature's beauty; instead, it focuses on calibrating a balanced relationship between public programs, event space, and the existing landscape under a unified architecture language.

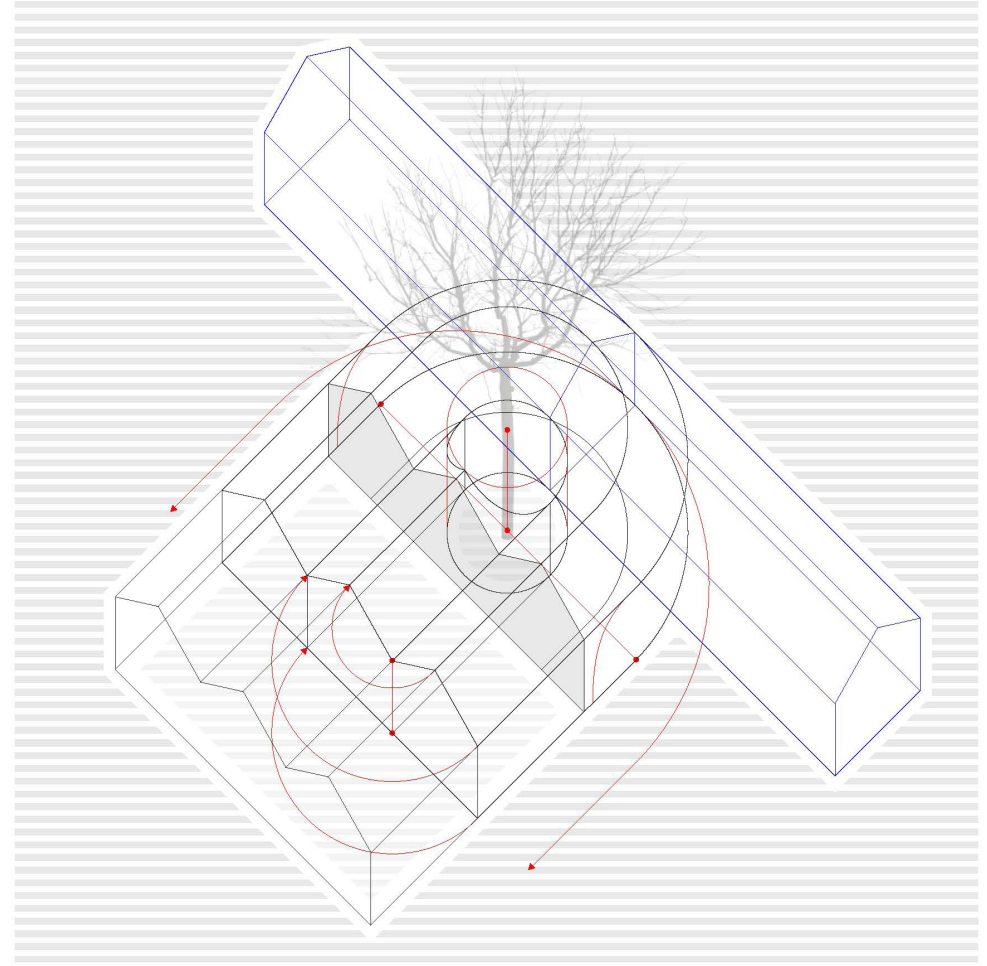
Sitting on the footprint of the main house, the pavilion encompasses most of the required programs, which enables the historical carriage building to be preserved fully and transformed into an exhibition space for the history of the Governor Ames Estate. The siting strategy also allows for serene views of the greenhouse ruin and its surrounding artificial landscape to be preserved and maintained.

By adopting existing material palettes, local vernacular architecture features, and integrating the greenhouse typology that once existed on site, the pavilion appears subtle, humble, and easily relatable to all the visitors. At the same time, it remains highly flexible and operable to accommodate different communal events and managed to blur the boundary between the inside and the outside. The pavilion manifests into the museum of nature as it mediates between the community and landscape, the present and the past.



Concept Image

The design takes inspiration from artifacts involved in gardening and the horticultural process, particularly focusing on the flowerpots as vessels to contain nature and displace it in the indoor environment. Similarly, the pavilion serves as a humble vessel within the landscape containing our social activities. The exchanging role between artificial and natural and the pursuit of the dissolved boundary between the inside and outside lays the foundation for the pavilion design. (The set of images depicted the process of making a terracotta vessel.)



Molding the Pavilion

The pavilion is shaped by bending and turning an extended gabled profile when the north end forms a semicircular ring, hosting the amenities, and the south end tripled the bay, which became the main event space. The entire building serves as a metaphor for a flowerpot with a tree planted inside the winter garden. An operable shed canopy buttressed against the pavilion, and once it opens, the pavilion fully opens to nature and doubles its size to offer flexible use.



Site Plan

Situated right on top of the razed house, the pavilion reoccupies the prominent position in the landscape with its front facing façade capturing the best vantage points of the park toward Shovelshop Pond. The north end of the pavilion engages with the view of Fish Pond and dropping terrain with a sheltered colonnade.



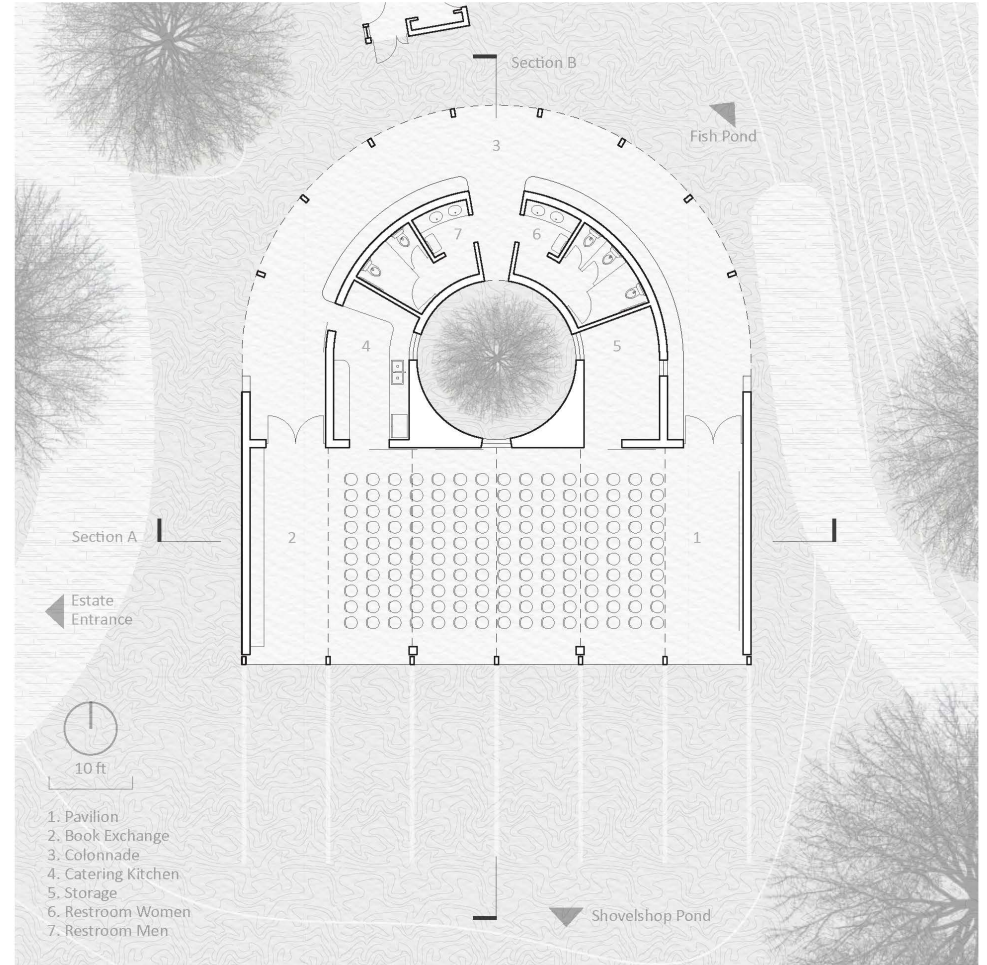
Site Model

The current siting strategy minimizes impact on the landscape and smoothly integrates the new structure into the Ames Community Park's existing pedestrian path network. As a result, the unique artificial landscape north of the carriage house is maintained. (Foreground: proposed pavilion | Background: historical carriage house)



Pavilion as a Lecture Hall

The design takes inspiration from the demolished greenhouse that once stood on the property. A movable shed canopy sitting on rails is integrated into the exterior facade and roof of the pavilion. When closed, the main space transformed into a multi-use room for public or private gatherings, offering prospects and refuge for all visitors.



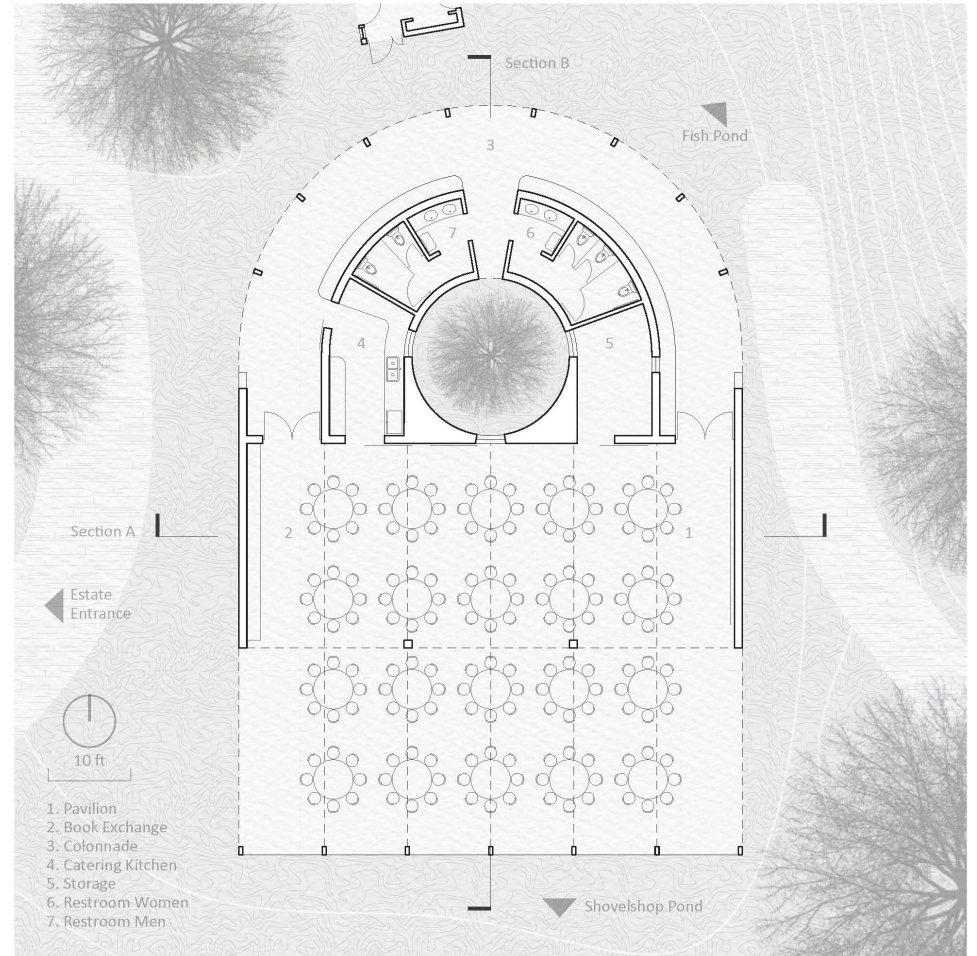
Building Plan A

A radial grid turned into orthogonal grids and regulated the planning of the programs. All the amenities, including ADA restrooms, catering kitchen, and storage space, form a semi-circle enclosure with the centroid indexed by a tree in the winter garden. The outside turns into the inside.



The Book Corner

The west wall of the pavilion hosts a built-in bookshelf; during free hours, this space can easily be converted into a community reading room for visitors. One person can operate the movable shed by turning the steering wheel depicted in the view.



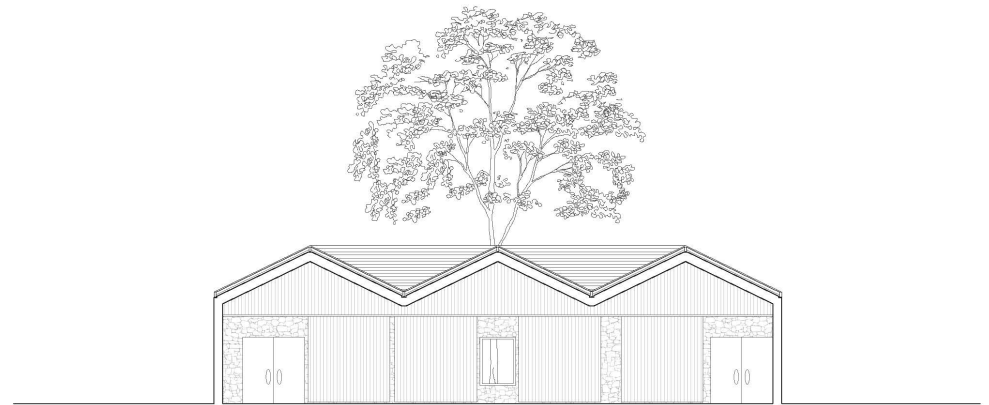
Building Plan B

Once the shed fully opens, the main pavilion space doubles its size and offers the maximum flexibility to support more populous events like performances or weddings. It also changes the nature of the pavilion by erasing the boundary of the room and fully embracing the landscape. The inside turns into the outside.



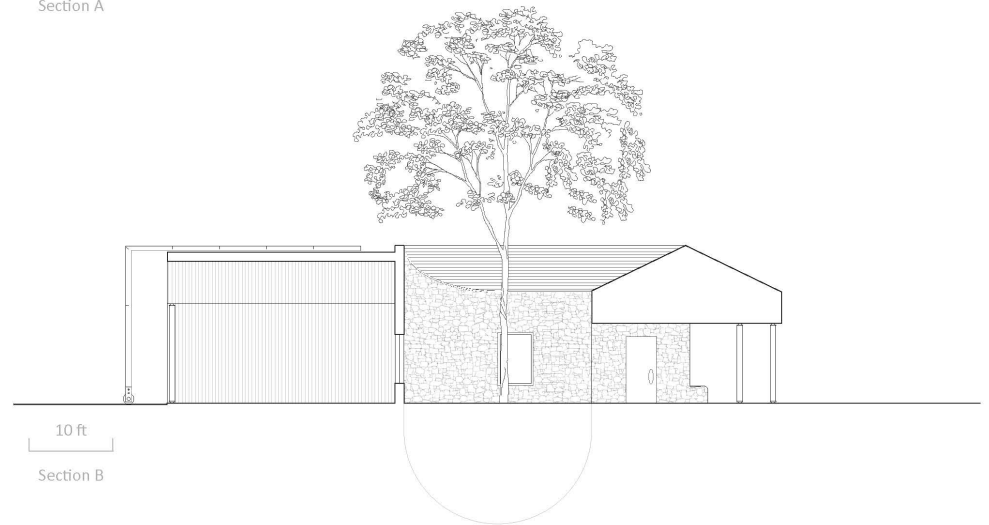
Winter Garden

Drawing links with the context, circular shapes that regulate the formal language of the building are inherited from the horseshoe windows from the historic carriage house, and similar stone masonry was applied to further blur the boundaries across time. The visitor follows the material hint and moves from the winter garden to the carriage house, as they eventually discover the exhibition of the Ames Estate's history.



10 ft

Section A



10 ft

Section B

Building Section

The pavilion celebrates the historical vistas on the property including water features, rolling terrain, and idyllically designed landscape by offering different modes of engagement on each facade. The entire building appears to be a flowerpot hosting a tree, emphasizing Ames Estate's profound history in arboriculture and horticulture.



Panorama View from Pavilion

"Lovers of nature will rally to endow the Trustee with the care of their favorite scenes, precisely as the lovers of Art have so liberally endowed the Art museums," - Charles Eliot.

We envision the pavilion as a museum for nature.



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