

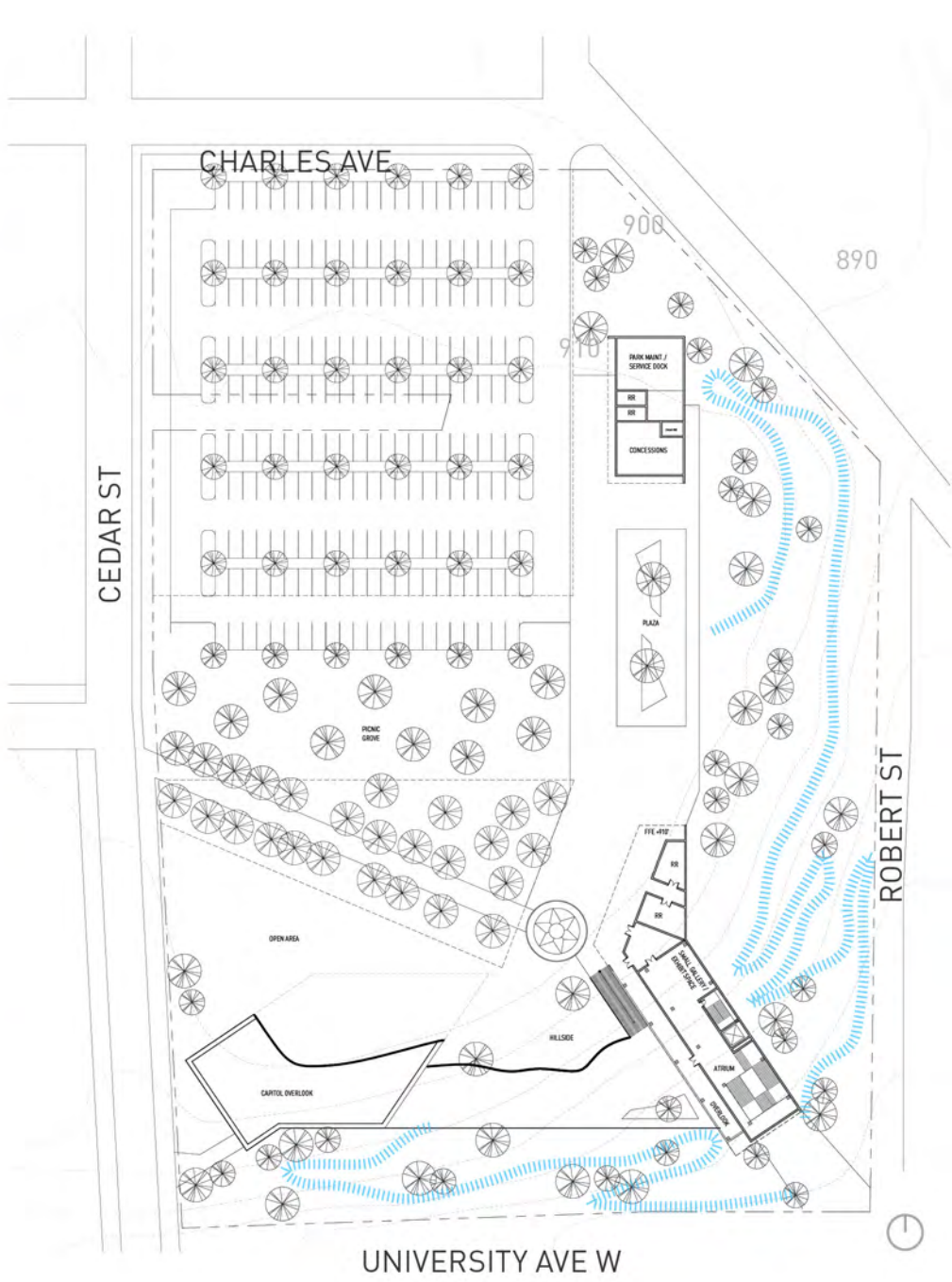
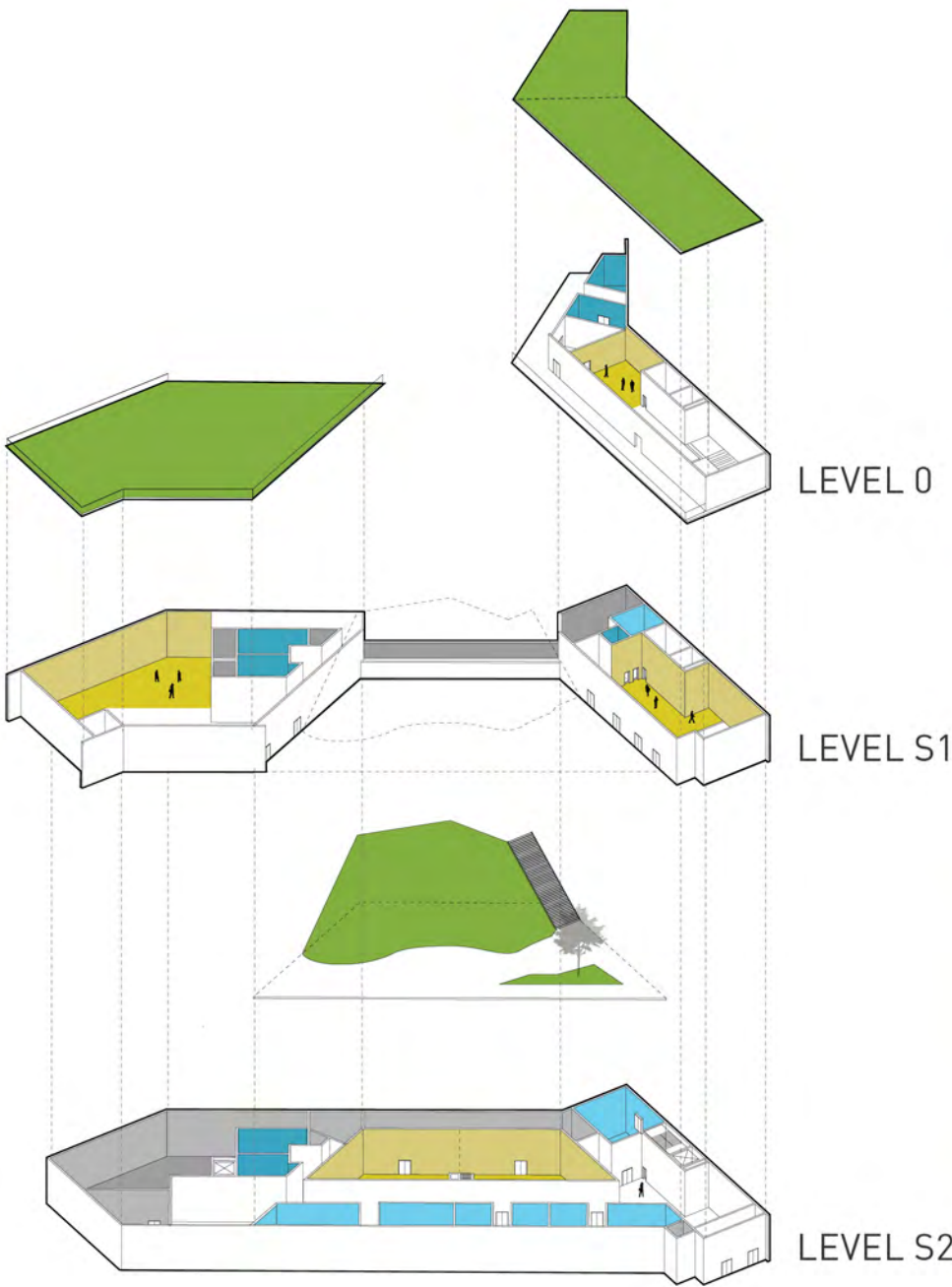
“The design prompt for the 2022 Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Competition suggests that societally we need the performative aspects of show, tell, and play to pursue a shared perspective on truth.”

The design prompt for the 2022 Ralph Rapson Traveling Study Competition revolves around the evolving concept of theater, performance and the experiential reception of the viewer. At a time where information & science appear to be subjective, this project aims to provide a platform for clarity, to provide a grounding of not only the performers and the audience but also for the civic realm and to reinvigorate the existing park that occupies the site currently.

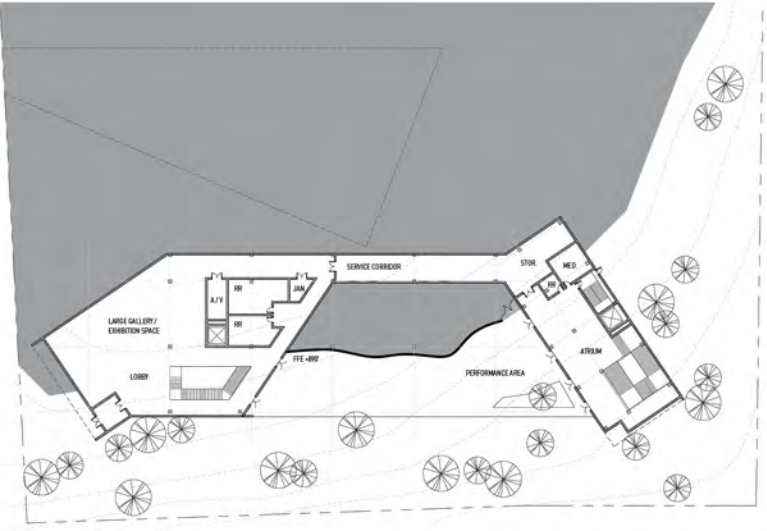
The site, Cass Gilbert Memorial Park, currently sits relatively under-utilized due to the substantial grade change that occurs towards the south and the east. From the location of the existing look-out, named 'Merriam's Overlook' - a reference to the ghost of mansions past, to the southeast corner at University & Robert Street there is approximately 60' of drop. Due to this extreme terrain perhaps only 10% of the entire 6.8 acre lot was truly dedicated to usable green space.

The substantial grade change provided the opportunity to sink several levels into the site, minimizing any impact on clear vistas while creating layered accessible exterior spaces. The 60,000 sf of built area is primarily comprised of three architectural elements - a tower that branches out from the central park node towards downtown views (mediating the largest cross-slope of the site), a small earth-sheltered lobby & exhibition space to the west framing views of the capitol & an outdoor performance plaza connecting the two. The lowest level ties the forms together with spaces for public engagement & activity, including classrooms, meeting rooms & a flexible multi-purpose space for more traditional performances. Throughout the project (interior & exterior) there are elevated areas to orate from &/or to - allowing for a wide variety from which to see, be seen, or simply be.

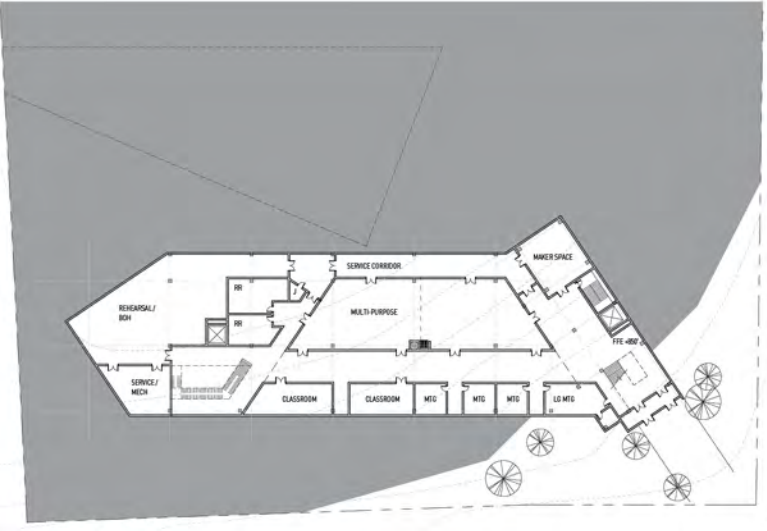
By utilizing green roofs (occupiable and otherwise) the functionality & usable space of the park increased to over 50%, including approx. 1/3 of a mile of accessible trails which traverse the landscape & connect to various points throughout the built environment. There is a small accessory building adjacent to the surface lot, providing space for park maintenance, service & delivery - as well as public concessions & plaza area. A new picnic grove spans between the existing tree allée & surface lot with area to spread out and retreat from the sun.



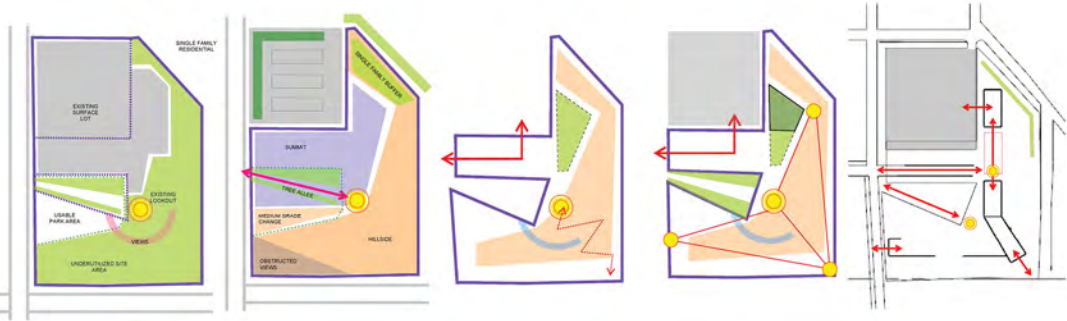
LEVEL 0 PLAN



LEVEL S1 PLAN



LEVEL S2 PLAN



SITE ANALYSIS





