At the core of Dakota belief is the intrinsic connection of the sky and land - as above, so below. This design seeks to place inhabitants within the convergence of land and sky - grounded in a place of cultural and historical significance, while looking upward and outward to an unknown future.

This convergence is happening on an ever changing timeline - honoring the heritage of the people and place, meeting the needs of the current community, and laying the groundwork for a healthy environment for future generations to enjoy.

PUBLIC ARTWORK /
The public art installation at Bde Maka Ska can be extended on paving, site walls, and as sculptural pieces in the public plaza.

RESTORED LAKE SHORE /
Paving, pathways, and vehicular routes have been pulled away from the shoreline to protect the natural ecology.

GATEWAY PLAZA / Sheltered outdoor space creates a public gathering area while providing direct access between the lake and Lake Street.

OCULUS / Skylights create a visual connection between land and sky and provide natural light within the public dining space and interpretation center.
EMBEDDED IN THE LANDSCAPE / The building is embedded in the ground allowing the bike path to pass above the pedestrian traffic to mitigate site circulation congestion. The green-roof of the building minimizes storm-water runoff on the site.

REFLECTION POOL / Storm-water retention pond

GATEWAY / The gateway visually frames Bde Maka Ska while creating a sheltered public space within. The concept of the gateway as a means to welcome people to the lake is embodied in a symbolic form that becomes a place for events and community gathering.