the living community

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SEKISUI HOUSE

PRINCIPLES

site and infrastructure development for community integrated in ecology

BIOREGIONALISM

Connecting the community to its regional setting is at the core of our design. The site itself acts as an infrastructural component within the greater regional landscape. Biocorridors run through our site, essentially linking Suwa-Nagayama to larger scale habitats and ecologies.

STREAM RESTORATION

Restoring a major stream from its currently culverted pipe reinforces our intentions to integrate our site within its regional context. Daylit waterbodies provide room for habitat growth and movement, as well as water filtration fucntions for the community and ecology at large. In addition, stream restoration creates a recreational and visual setting for the community to enjoy and celebrate.

COMPLETING THE HYDROLOGICAL CYCLE

Through the use of retention ponds, street canals, and swales, we plan to collect, hold and direct water throughout the site. This collected water will in part be used to feed agriculture and natural habitat. These hydrological features will also be used for bioremediation of greywater and stormwater. In addition, this hydrological infrustructure reinforces the community's awareness of its relationship to natural systems.

PASSIVE HOUSING & CLIMACTIC POSITIONING

Retaining maximum southern exposure both for building placement and agriculture is central to our site design. Streets have been designed to open to the south to draw in and funnel summer wind through through to the north. In addition, a barricade of trees has been installed to protect the site from unwanted winter winds emerging from the north.

AGRICULTURE AS LEARNING

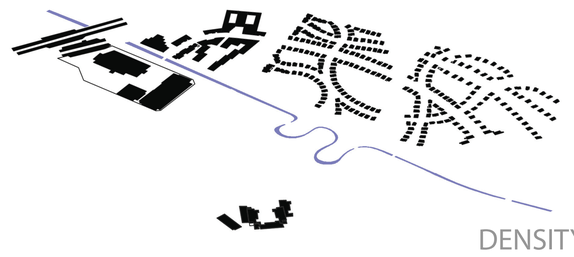
The integration of agriculture into our community as a means to relearn how to manage the land around us is central to our design. The agricultural learning center at the southern end of our site is a means for community experimentation, learning and showcasing technological advances in small scale agricultural farming and individual/community-level urban gardening.

DENSITY PROGRESSION

The design emphasizes the need for a variety of lifestyles within one community. By drawing from the building scale and density of uses near the existing train station, we have created a neighborhood extention to this hub. We use natural boundaries to transition from high density and mixed uses to a lighter residential scale.

THIRD PLACE

The central spine acts as the major boulevard connecting the neighborhood to the two nodes: the commercial and mixed-use corridor to the north, and the agriculture learning center to the south. The spine will act as the center of the community, within which everyday living will occur in tandem with temporal events and community festivities.



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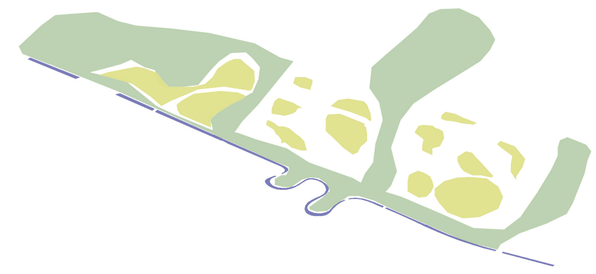
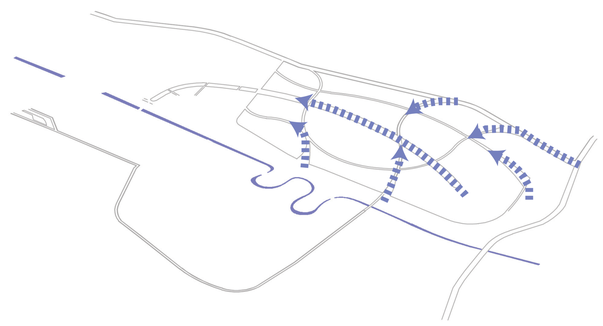
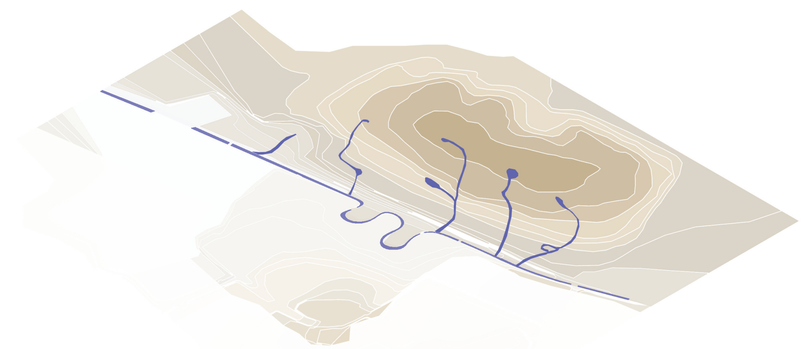


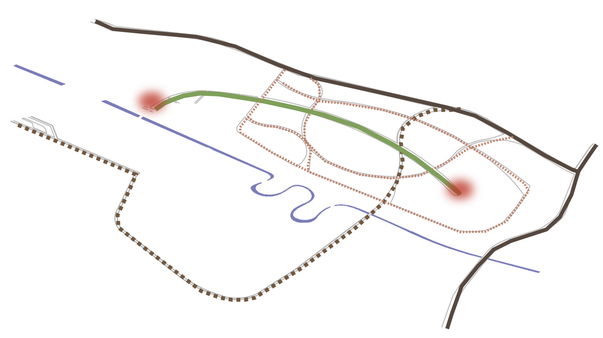
(AGRI)CULTURE BIOREGIONALISM



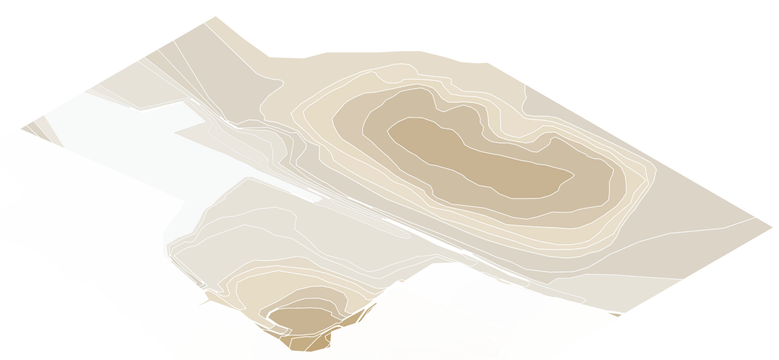
CLIMACTIC DESIGN



HYDROLOGICAL CYCLE STREAM RESTORATION



THIRD PLACE



TOPOGRAPHY