

## Program Summary:

Deliberately embedded in the landscape, this welcome center establishes an entry to a botanical garden and museum campus while framing, heightening, and revealing the site.

## Program Statement:

The 6,500 SF welcome center, with 3,000 SF of covered outdoor space, serves as the primary point of arrival to a historic 440-acre campus that functions simultaneously as a public botanical garden, museum, and active research landscape.

The architecture draws directly from the rural, picturesque character of the campus, taking cues from vernacular structures. The building unfolds through a sequence of thresholds, creating moments of compression and release that heighten awareness of the surrounding gardens. Time-honored sustainability strategies anchor this experience: shaded porches and courtyards with deep overhangs and breezeways that allow air to move naturally through the building.

The design is deeply informed by water, both as a functional system and a visible teaching tool. Roof runoff is collected via an expressive roof scupper and directed into rain gardens and permeable gravel, where water is slowed, observed, and released back into the regional watershed.

Programmatically, the building accommodates a range of experiences from everyday visits to large-scale events while remaining intuitive and accessible. A generous foyer supports orientation and interpretation, connecting directly to a flexible event space/gift shop. Restrooms are separated by covered outdoor space, supporting independent operation and extended use.

Material choices reinforce the project's emphasis on craft, durability, and responsible stewardship. Locally sourced cypress celebrates regional building traditions while reducing embodied carbon and reinforcing a commitment to resource conservation. Polished concrete floors, hardy board, and a limited material palette support durability, ease of maintenance, and economic efficiency, ensuring the building can serve the public in the future.

# A-70.01

**Building Area: (sf)**  
6500 total SF  
3000 SF of covered  
outdoor space

**Cost per Square Foot:**  
\$646 / SF

**Construction Cost**  
\$4.2M

**Date of Completion:**  
2026



## A-70.02

The 6,500 SF welcome center, with 3,000 SF of covered outdoor space, serves as the primary point of arrival to a historic 440-acre campus that functions simultaneously as a public botanical garden, museum, and active research landscape.

Deliberately embedded in the landscape, this welcome center establishes an entry to a botanical garden and museum campus while framing, heightening, and revealing the site.

# A-70.03

Located on land once stewarded by a local horticulturist, preservationist, and civic leader whose lifelong cultivation shaped hundreds of acres of gardens, forests, and agricultural fields, the site carries deep cultural, agricultural, and ecological significance.

The design was informed by the goals of a prior campus master plan that advanced a future-forward vision for land stewardship, reconnecting visitors to the relationship between everyday life and regional landscapes.



- |                      |                     |                          |
|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Main Entry Road    | 7 Rose Garden       | 13 Entry Plaza / Dogtrot |
| 2 Orangerie          | 8 New Parking Entry | 14 Rear Plaza            |
| 3 Conference Center  | 9 Drop-Off          | 15 Event Lawn            |
| 4 Outdoor Pavilion   | 10 Parking          | 16 Loading Zone          |
| 5 Greenhouse         | 11 Rain Garden      | 17 Future Building       |
| 6 Butterfly Pavilion | 12 Bridge           | 18 Future Meadow         |



## A-70.04

Architecturally, the project draws from the rural and picturesque character of the campus, referencing existing dogtrot structures, porches, courtyards, and informal building placements found throughout the museums and surrounding campus spaces.

These precedents informed a composition that is intentionally modest and grounded, allowing the landscape to remain the dominant presence.



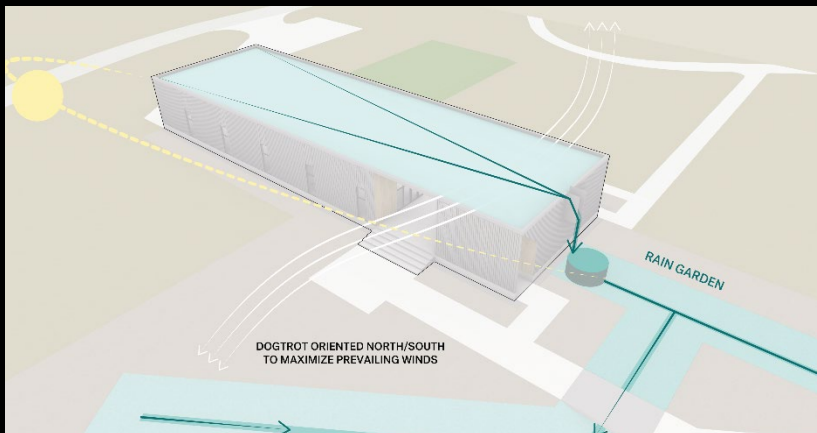
## A-70.05

The building unfolds through a sequence of thresholds—entry porch, foyer, and framed views beyond—creating moments of compression and release that heighten awareness of the surrounding gardens while reinforcing the landscape as the dominant presence.

## A-70.06

The design is deeply informed by water, both as a functional system and a visible teaching tool. Roof runoff is collected and directed into rain gardens, where water is slowed, observed, and released back into the regional watershed. Permeable gravel parking supports stormwater management while reinforcing the agricultural values of the site.

A large, expressive roof scupper on the east façade visibly discharges stormwater onto a splash block at the building's base, turning rainfall into a moment of discovery and revealing the volume and movement of water by reinforcing the project's connection to research, stewardship, and land-based learning.





## A-70.07

Programmatically, the welcome center accommodates a range of experiences from everyday visits to large-scale events while remaining intuitive and accessible.



## A-70.08

A generous foyer supports orientation and interpretation, connecting directly to a gift shop and a flexible event space capable of hosting lectures, banquets, and weddings.

Restrooms are separated from the interior program spaces by covered outdoor space, allowing those portions of the building to operate independently and extending usability beyond traditional operating hours. Adjacent outdoor lawns and shaded gathering areas expand capacity and support the site's role as a community destination, doubling the income potential of existing event venues.



## A-70.09

Material choices reinforce the project's emphasis on craft, durability, and responsible stewardship, a set of values that mirror the mission of research, education, and service to the citizens of the state. Locally sourced cypress is used extensively throughout the interior, celebrating regional building traditions while reducing embodied carbon and reinforcing a long-term commitment to resource conservation.



## A-70.10

Polished concrete floors, limited material palettes, and upscaled residential construction techniques like the use of hardy board support durability, ease of maintenance, and economic efficiency, ensuring the building can adapt, endure, and event space continue serving the public in the future.



## A-70.11

Ultimately, the welcome center is less about creating a singular architectural object and more about shaping relationships—between building and landscape, history and future, discovery and respite.



## A-70.12

By embedding architecture within the land and prioritizing flexibility, accessibility, and environmental responsiveness, the project honors the site's legacy while positioning the campus to serve generations of visitors, researchers, and community members to come.



**A-70.13**