

# EUROPEAN PEACE FORUM & CENTRE FOR CONFLICT RESOLUTION

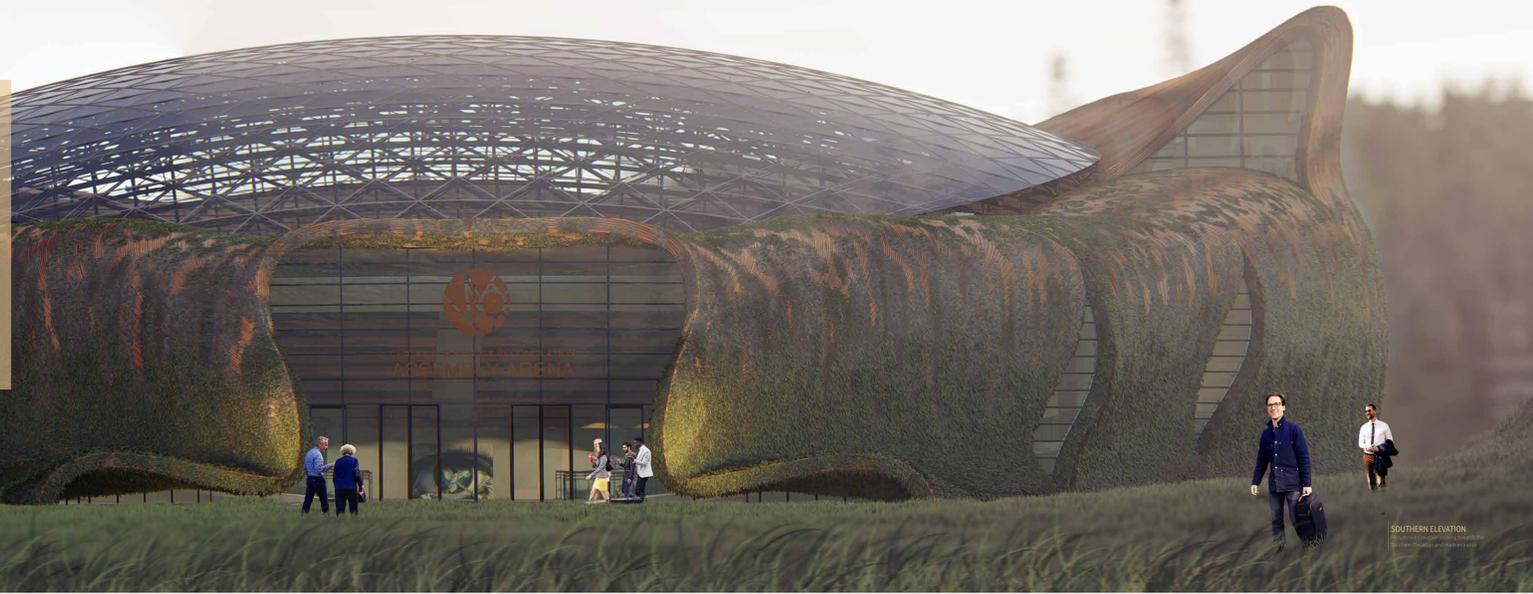
Creating a complex for diplomatic, public, private and educational groups to come and discuss, debate, retreat and reconcile conflict.

The European Peace Forum and Centre for Conflict Resolution is a purpose-built complex to facilitate in the process of reconciliation and peace. The idea grew from an interest in European conflicts and unresolved tensions between Czechs and their neighbors (particularly Germans) and Polish (Germans). There were few examples of architectural that had attempted to aid in the process of peace or reconciliation. Large monumental events held by the EU, UN or conflicting parties are rarely held in appropriate spaces. The reason is that there are few available. Instead, conference centers and hotels are often the venue for such monumental events. This is despite the fact that Architecture influences the psyche in such a way that it could inhibit or aid in the communication, resolution and negotiation process.

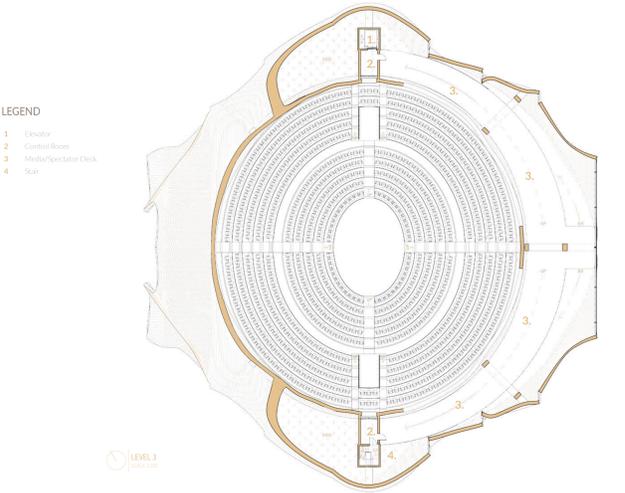
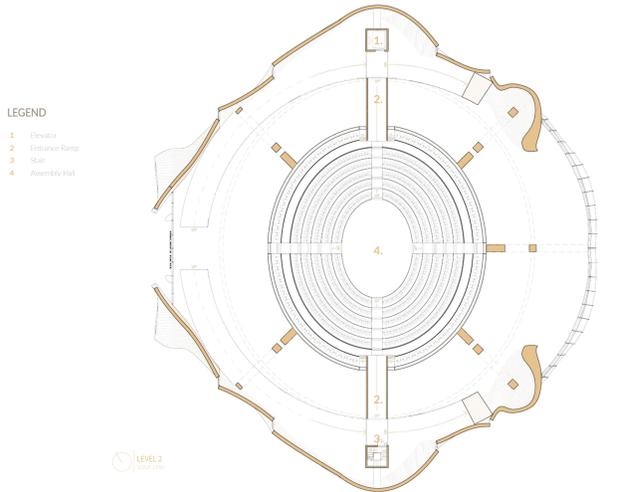
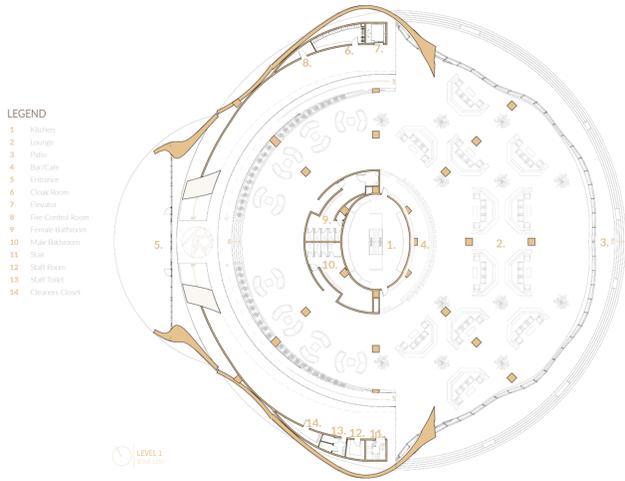
The concept of taking something conflicting and making it "whole or good" again is something that was translated into an architectural language. The idea of seeing a cracked whole and healing it using nature and expressing those cracks or repairs is something accustomed to farmers of Japan who repair cracked or damaged pottery with molten gold. The Gold decorates and expresses the crack-making them ornamentation.

Looking at Nature and understanding how it influences us as human beings is an interesting topic. The incorporation of organic design and biomyicry can have positive effects on people when used in architecture. The design borrows its form from the trees that surround it. Starting with taking trees from their own roots in the world, a mold form can then be filled by other living organisms and plants. The building is like that tree. It has pushed and pulled to create a mold in the world, and then after time the world begins to fill that mold. Vines will cover the timber facades and birds will nest in the cracks. Returning the building back to the natural world in an important gesture in terms of reconciliation and peace. The site being in an abandoned quarry works at restoration only, reconciling the open wound using architecture and nature.

Project by Nathan Beer

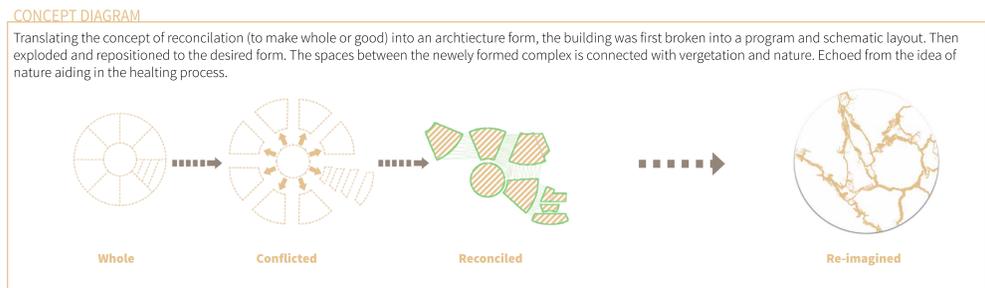
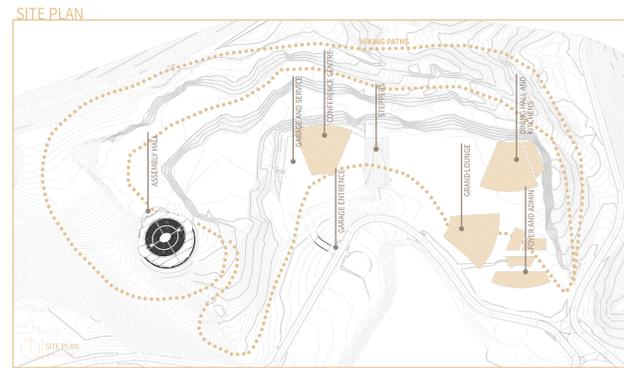
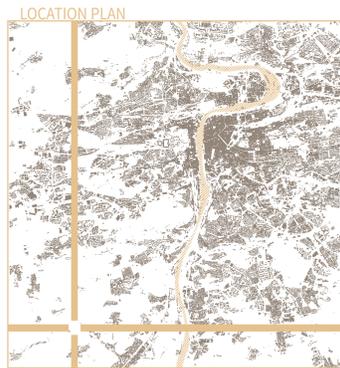
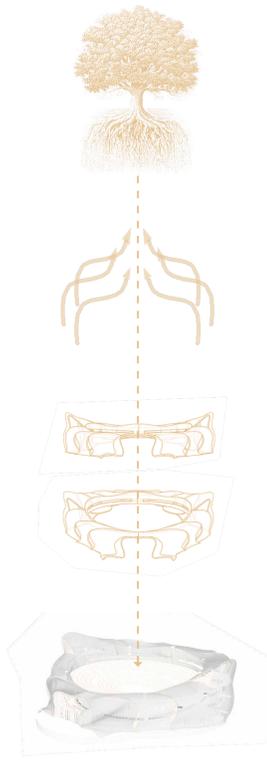


SOUTHERN ELEVATION



**ORGANIC FORM**

Using bio-mimicry and organics to derive a building form helps orientate the project towards the natural. The tree root system is a complex system of stabilizing limbs that draw nutrients and moisture from the earth. These roots carry an immense responsibility for without the roots there would be no tree. Surprisingly the root systems are rarely appreciated for their organic beauty and complexity. This design aims to acknowledge and mimic the peaceful symmetry and fluidity of the tree root in the hope that the form will help inspire peaceful and tranquilizing thoughts.



**ARCHITECTURE IN NATURE**

Preparing the Architecture and Nature for a coherent relationship the facades of the buildings are carefully planned so that they attract the growth of vines and other vegetation. The building will over a period of years begin to disappear, and the landscape will return to a sense of normality. The entire brown field site will be regenerated with a healthy layer of top soil. The surrounding woodlands will be used to seed the site and a sustainable and steady forest will regenerate. The forest will form the connective tissue between the buildings while the buildings themselves will host the native vegetation and in turn appear secondary or invisible.

