

WORK SAMPLES
Claire O'Connor



On the cover.

WORKSHOP HOUSTON CAMPUS | HOUSTON, TEXAS

The client, Workshop Houston, is a non-profit in Houston's Third Ward that conducts creative after-school programs for middle and high school students. The first phase construction of the Beat and Style Shop alleviates pressure in the crowded existing duplex and establishes the language and spatial arrangement for the rest of the site.



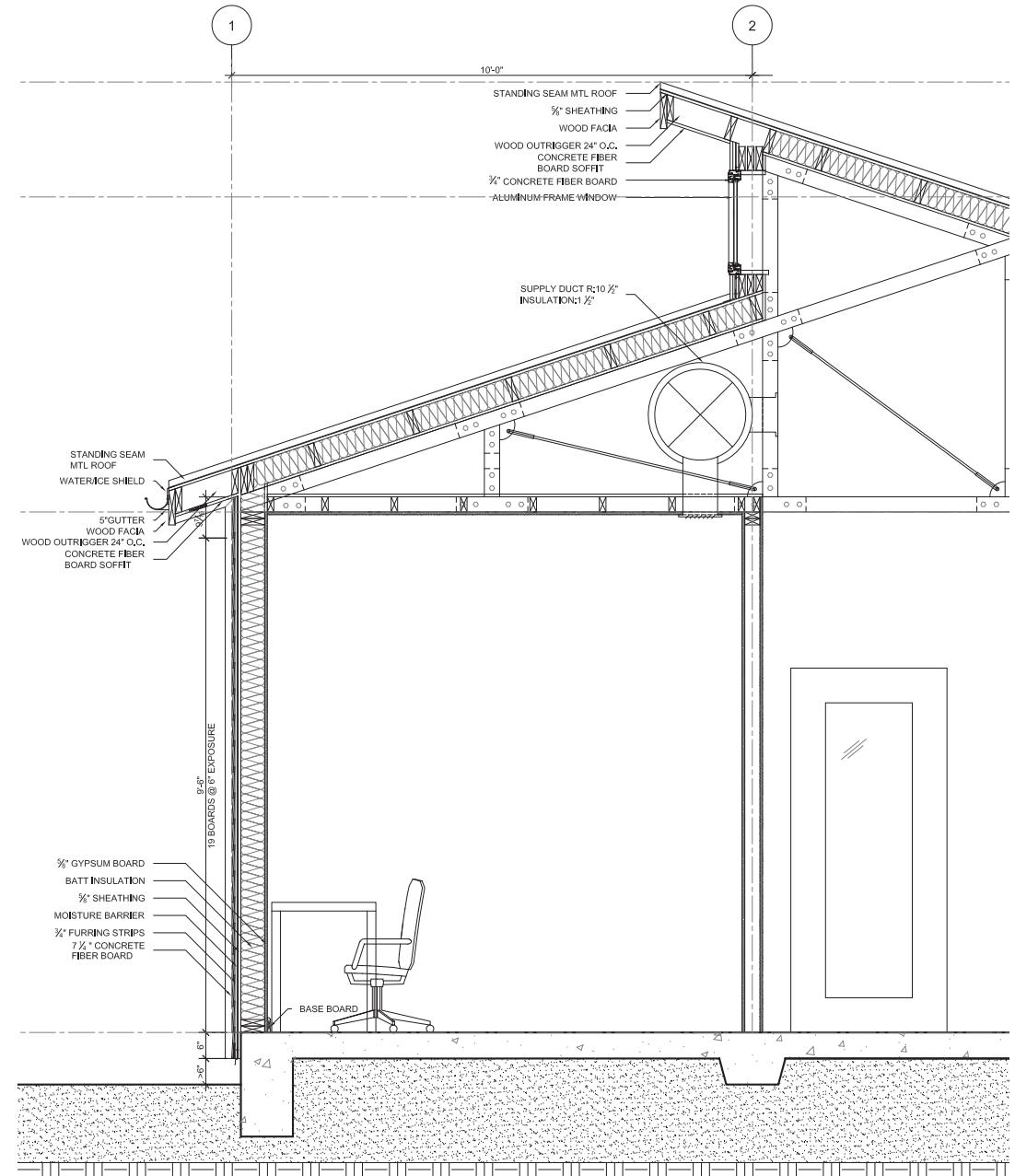
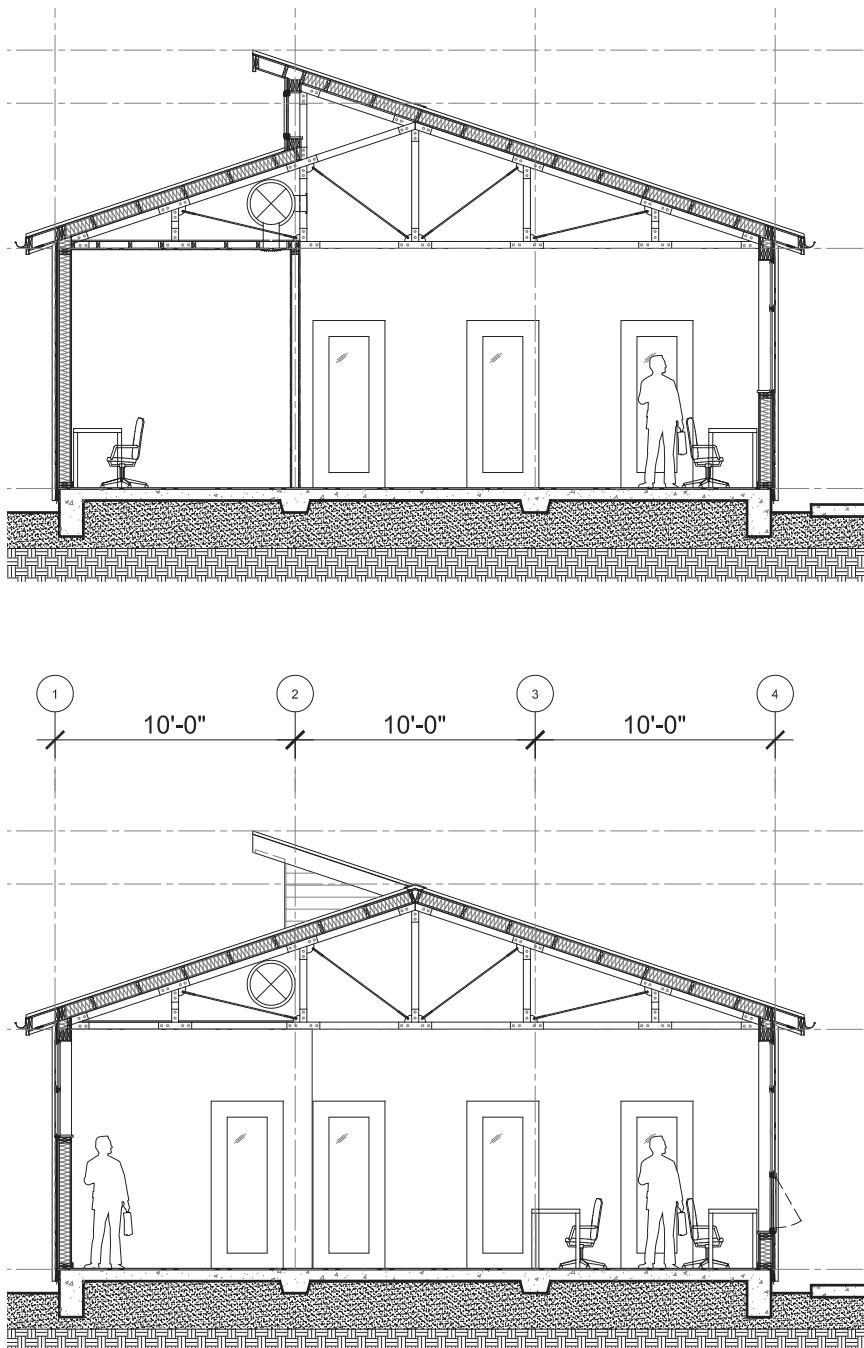
The Scholar Shop responds to the Beat and Style Shop, defining the main outdoor space and heart of the campus. The building on the site's panhandle houses the high school and administrative offices, enjoying some separation from the noise and activity of the workshops.

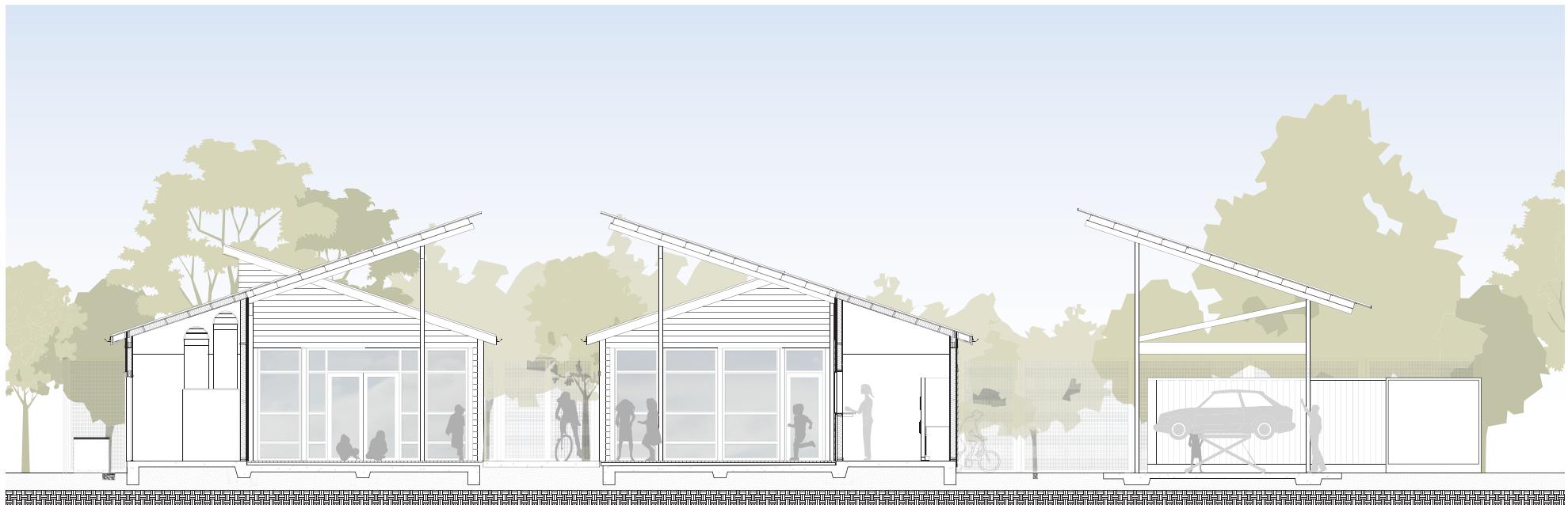




Current site conditions and proposed final elevation

Inside, wood and steel cabled trusses repeat on an 8 foot module, taking a cue from the scissor trusses of the existing Chopper Shop. Also, the trusses pop up at intervals to create clerestory windows and allow north light into the main workshop spaces.





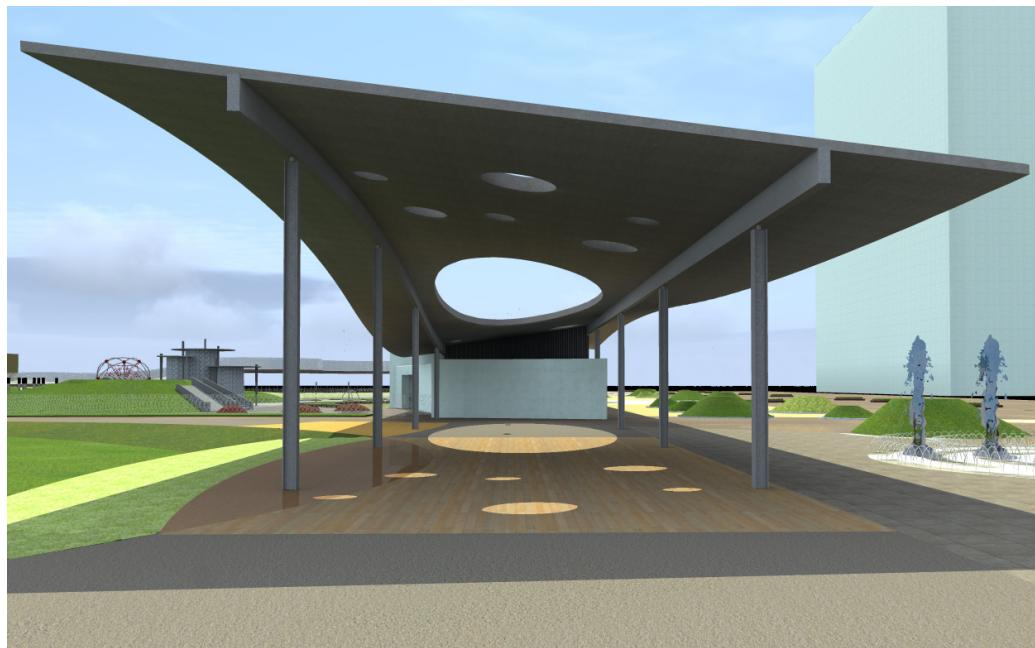
The large roof pop-ups denote and privilege the special outdoor spaces: the main communal space and the covered workyard.

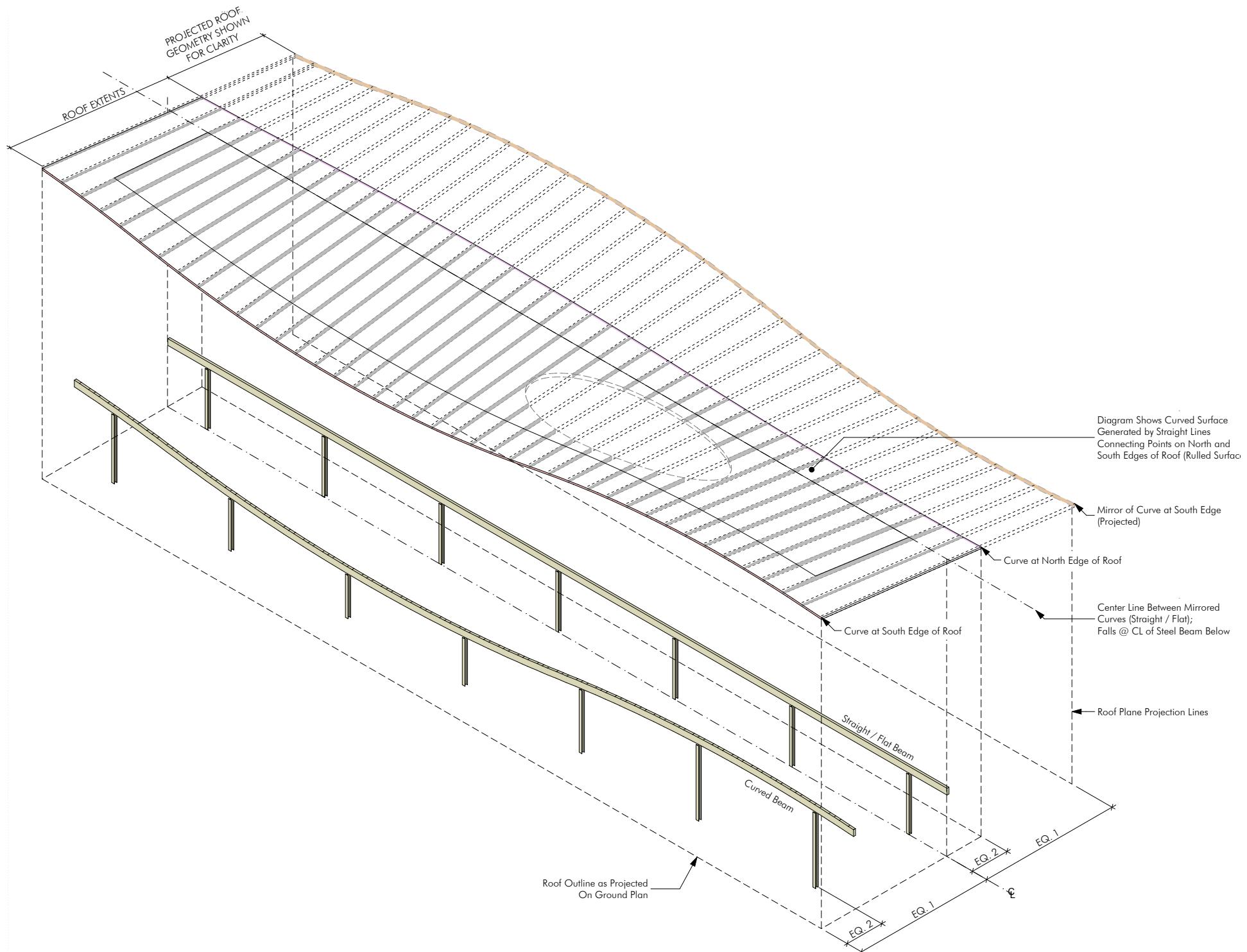
The careful adjacancies of the indoor workshop spaces with the main outdoor space create both a unified campus whole, and preserve unique space and character for each shop.



LEVY PARK | PERFORMANCE PAVILION | HOUSTON, TEXAS

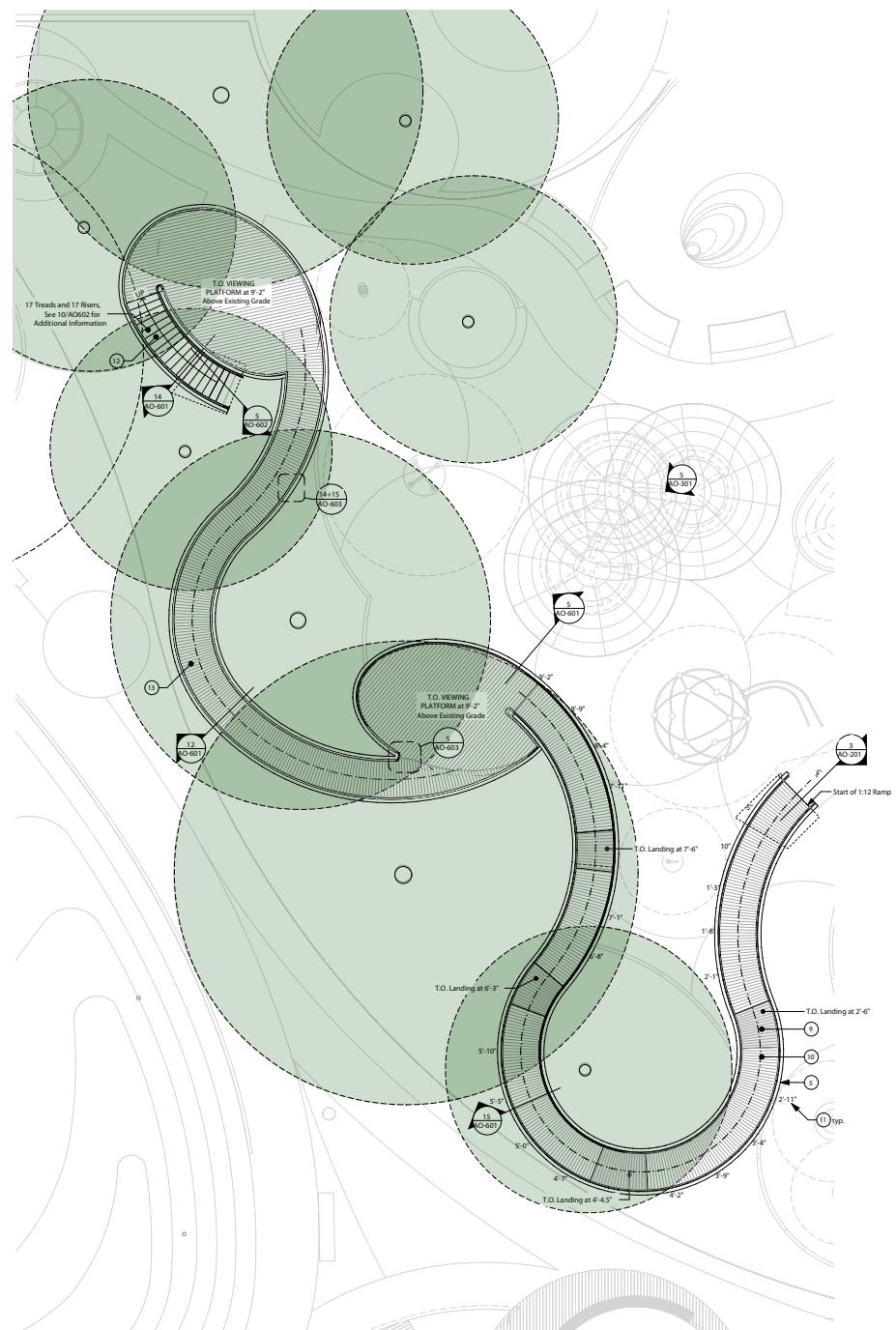
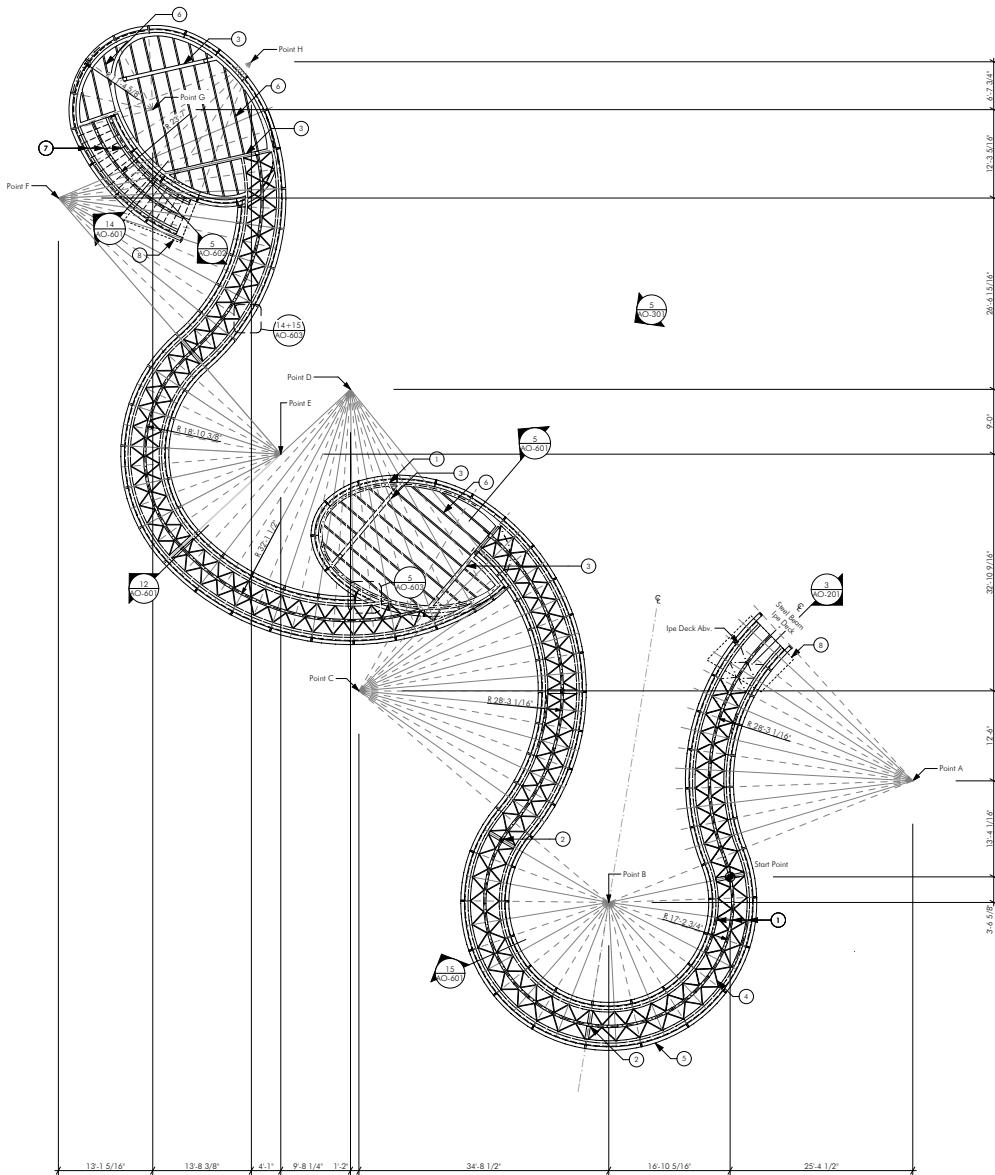
The Performance Pavilion responds to the abundant curvature of the ground plain (designed by the Office of James Burnett), yet remains a rational, buildable geometry. The roof is a ruled surface, generated by straight lines connecting mirrored curves. The entire roof is completely flat at the line of symmetry between the two mirrored curves, allowing for a standard straight beam. Just one custom curved beam will be required. Similarly, the formwork for the concrete roof can be built without any curved members—it can go according to the straight lines connecting the mirrored curves. The roof's underside will reflect this, as the imprints of the boards will texture the concrete.



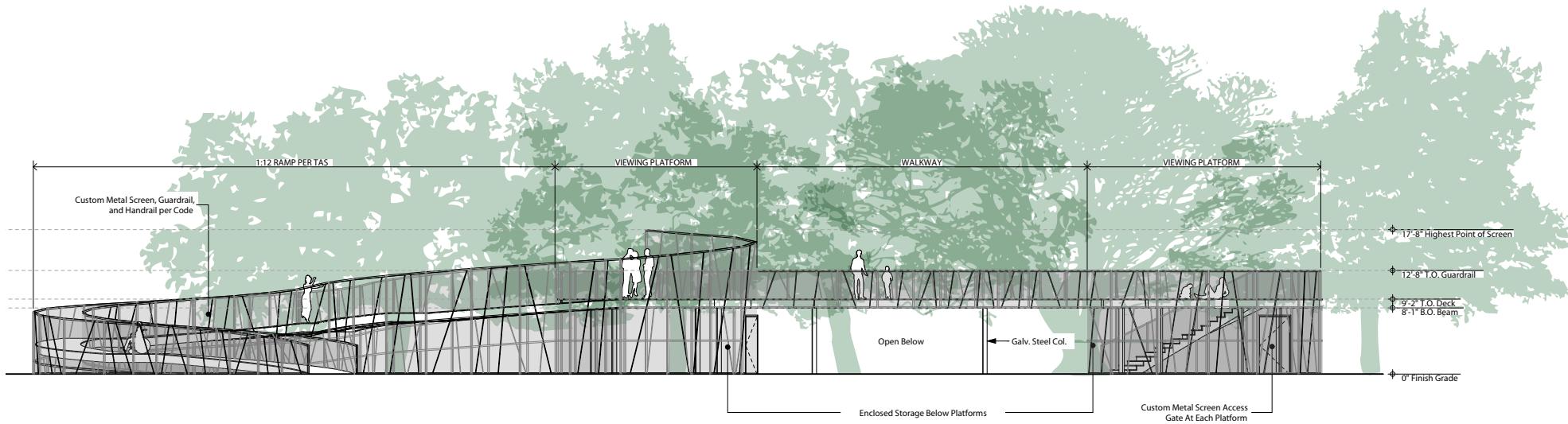
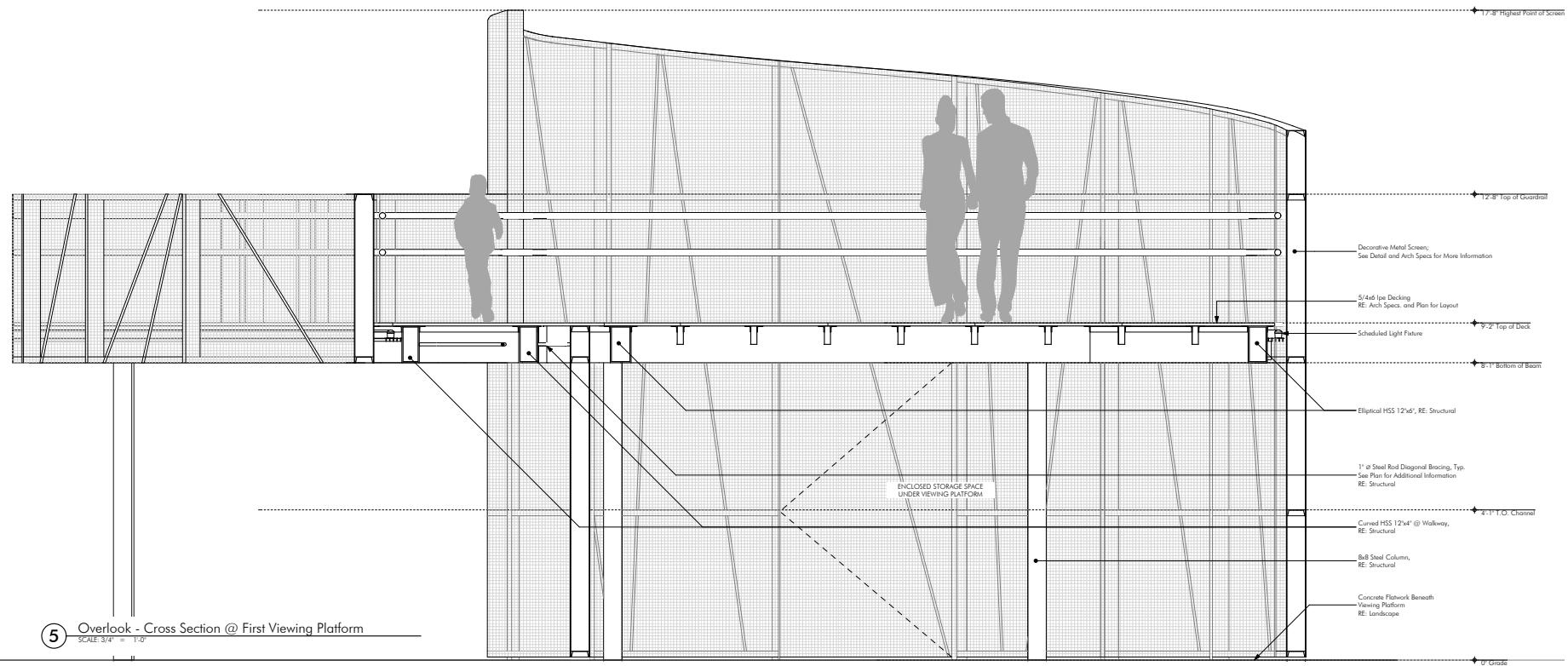


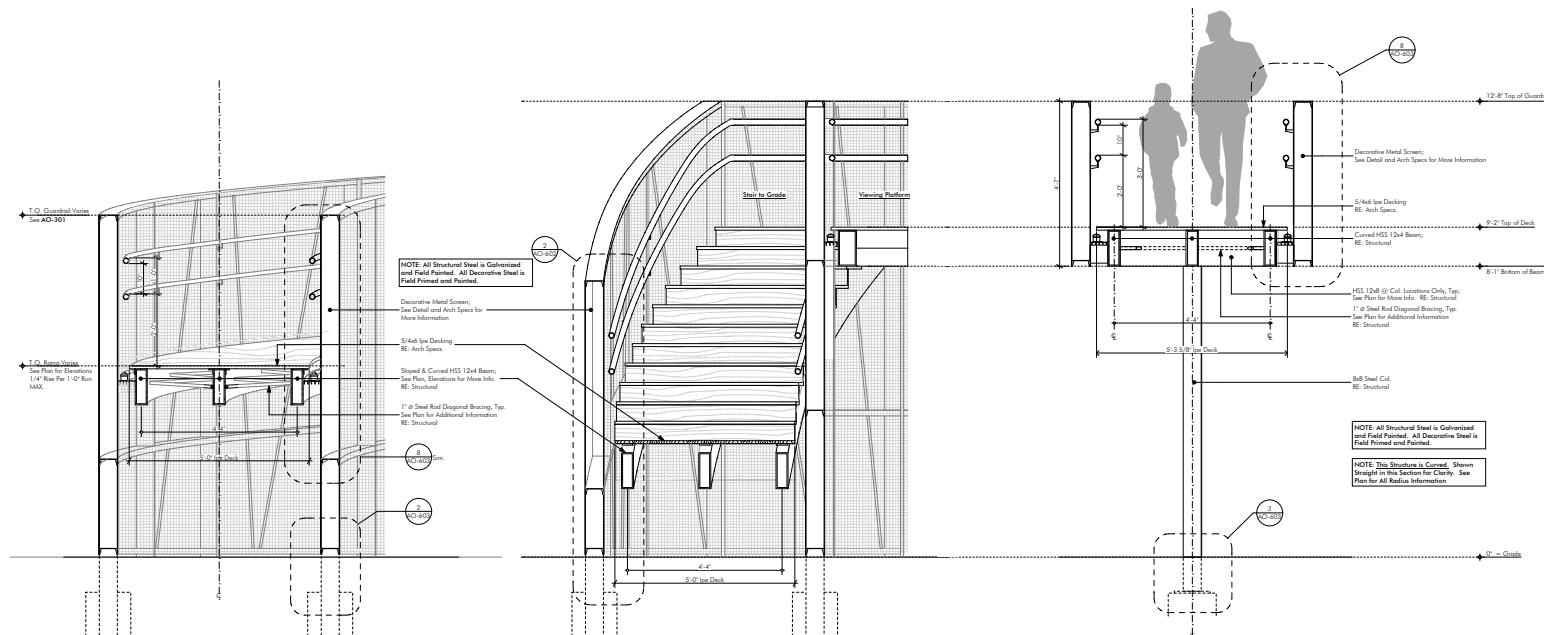
LEVY PARK | TREEWALK | HOUSTON, TEXAS

The landscape architects at the Office of James Burnett supplied our office with general curvature of the plan they envisioned for the Treewalk. I then adjusted their curves so that tangential curves at consistent structural increments wove through the grove of live oaks.



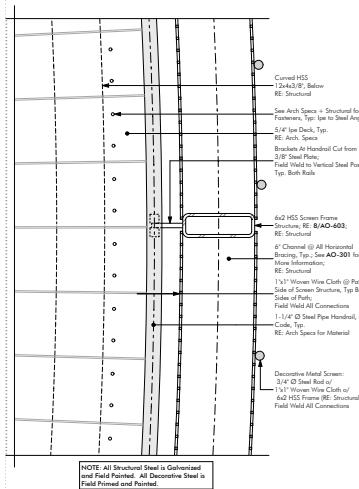
The curving ramp and walkway lead visitors to oval platforms nestled in the canopies of the surrounding trees. The smallest number of columns as possible hold up the Treewalk, and are carefully located so as to avoid the root balls of the existing live oaks.



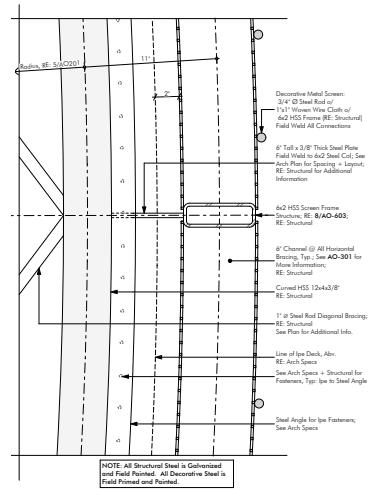


Ramp, stair, and walkway sections.

A custom screen and handrail system correspond to the spacing of the diagonal structural members below the deck. The screen is framed out of steel channels and tube columns, which are welded to the main structure. Wire mesh is welded to both sides of the channel frame, and decorative metal rods are then welded on the outside of the frame assembly to create a pattern repeated elsewhere in the park.



Typical detail at handrail.



Typical detail at steel beam.

