portfolio

ethan s parker

2025

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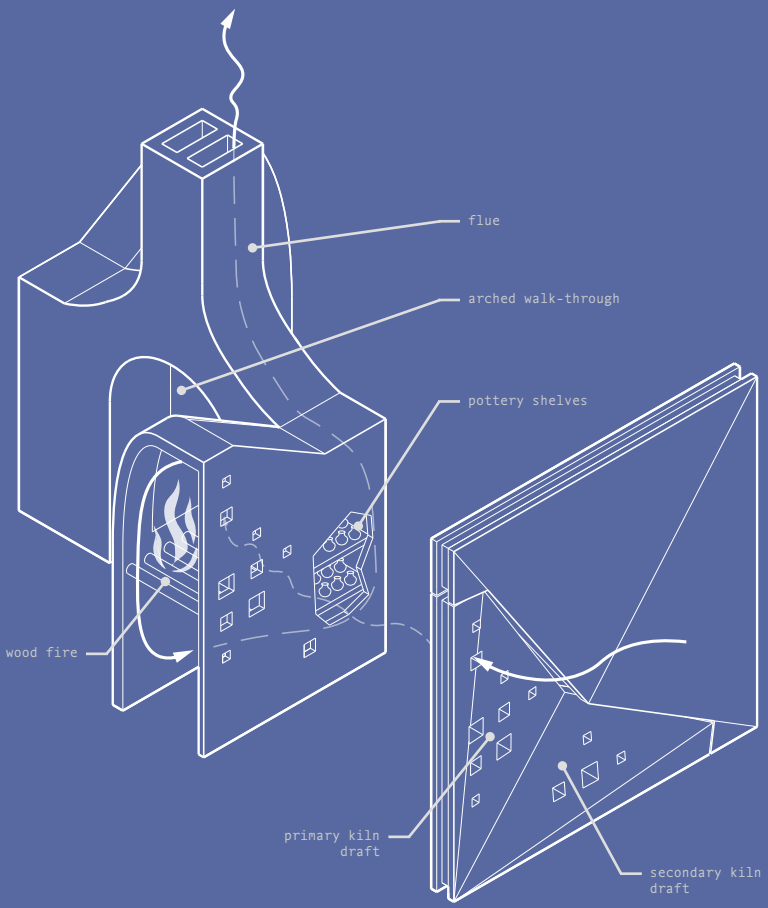
manzanita

Desert Pavilion Design - 2025
Woodbury University - Studio 8

In a remote desert stretch, Manzanita named for the red-barked, resilient tree rises a ceramics studio where visitors mold clay and witness its firing. A lean, 10-by-50-foot bar of terra cotta-colored concrete, the building is crafted through tilt up construction, with panels cast on-site and raised to form a space for creation. The facade splits into two distinct halves: one pierced with square openings, varied in size to filter light and guide wind to the kiln at the building's end; the other half folds outward, thinning to form a side opening that appears precarious yet stands solid. Custom channels and connectors unite these halves, echoing the fusion of clay and fire in ceramics. The kiln room, positioned at the structure's far end, is where raw earth transforms into lasting forms. Manzanita blends function and presence, its warm terra cotta hue tying it to naturally resourced clay. Here, visitors shape clay, connect with craft, and leave with vessels imbued with the spirit of this rugged, enduring studio.

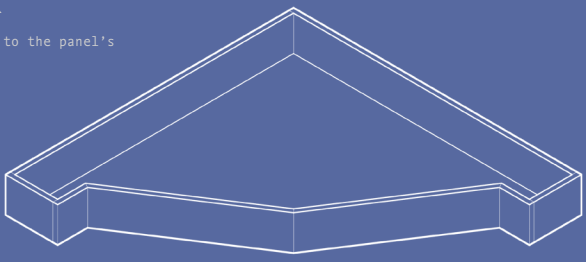
ceramic kiln



concrete panel

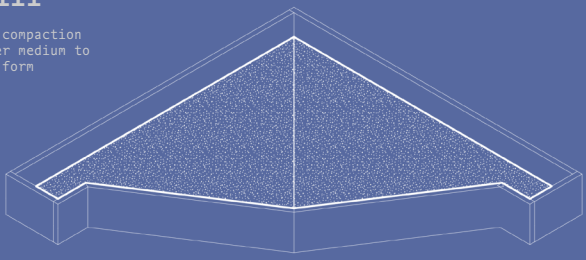
form-work

plywood is formed to the panel's perimeter



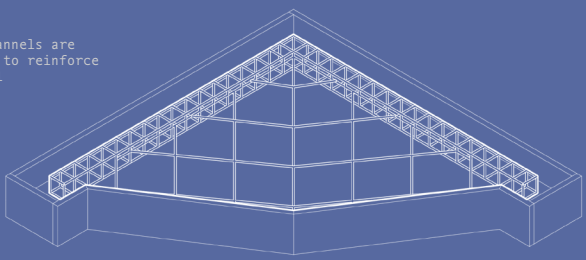
earth infill

earth is formed by compaction allowing for another medium to create the panel's form



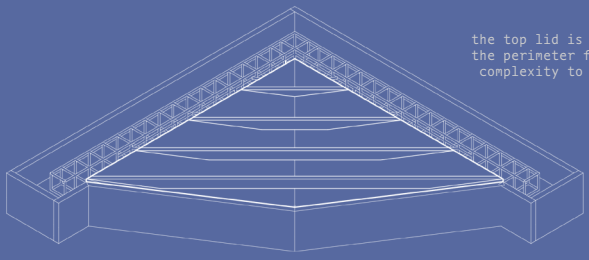
rebar

rebar grid and channels are added to the form to reinforce the concrete panel



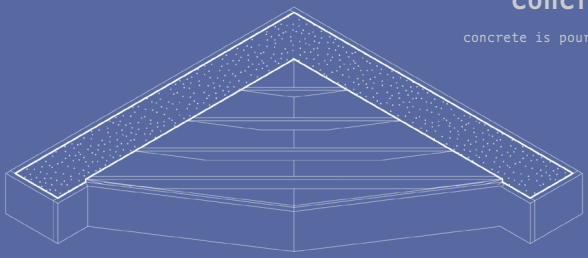
top lid

the top lid is a form braced to the perimeter form to allow for complexity to the panel's form



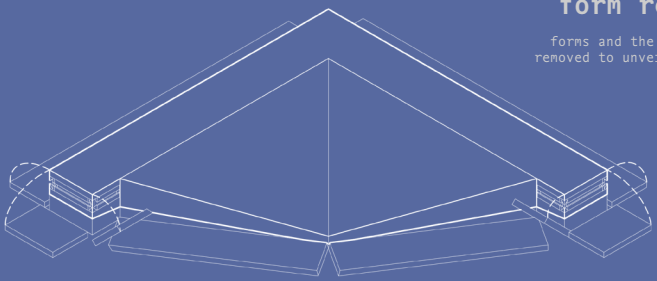
concrete pour

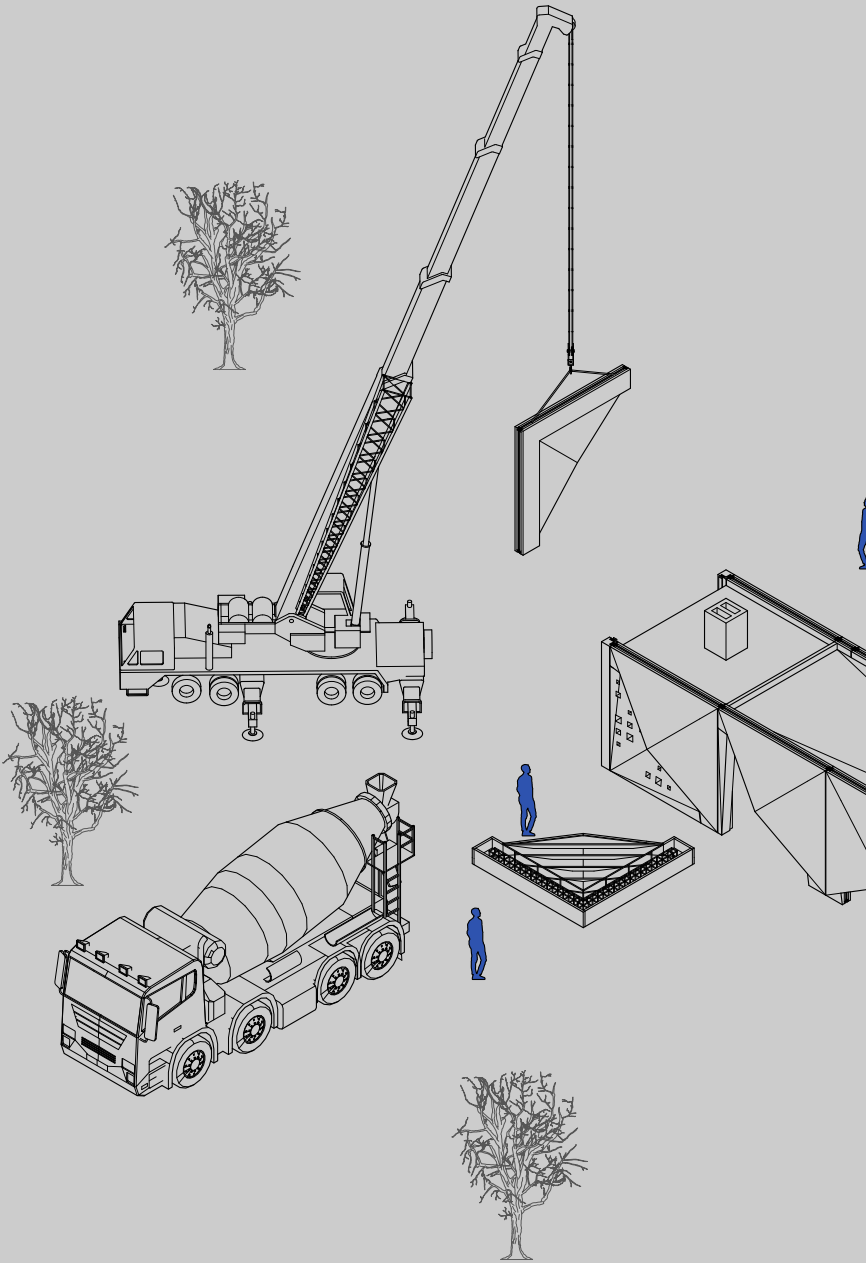
concrete is poured into the form and left to cure

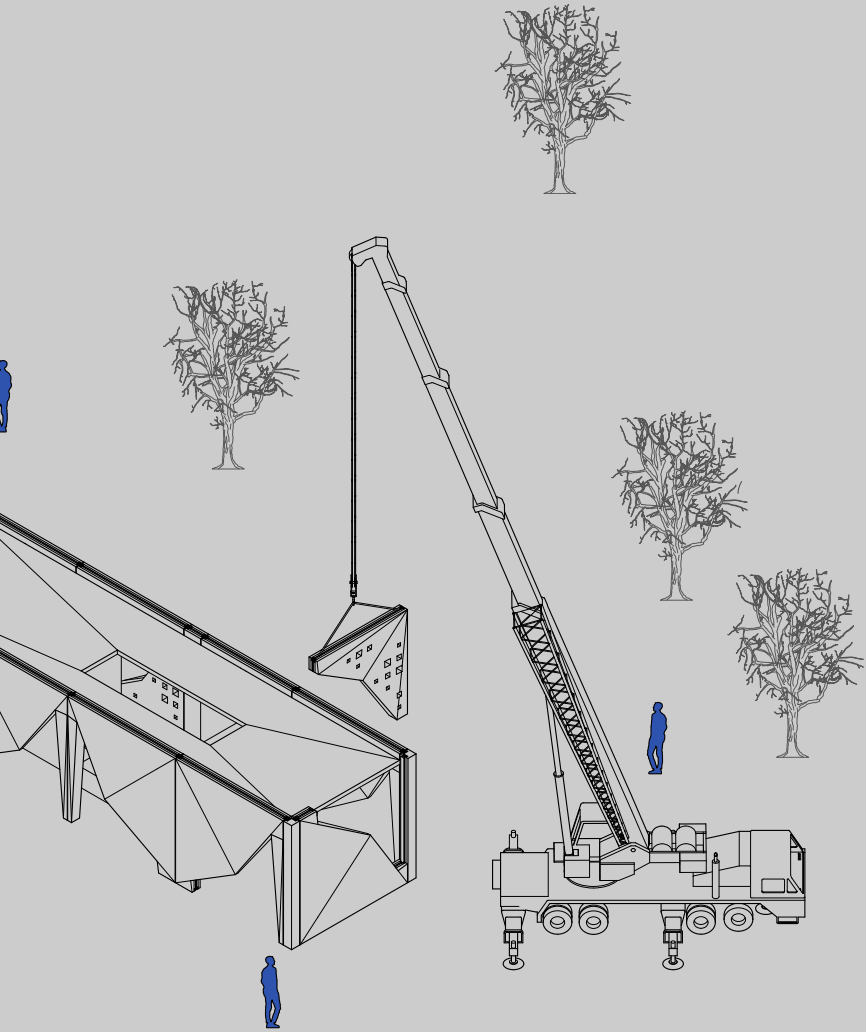


form removal

forms and the top lip are removed to unveil the panel







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