



Thematic Design Guidelines





The Spirit of Midewin
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Cultural Context
Responses:
 Siting
 Base
 Wall
 Roof/Profile
 Structure
 Materials
 Colors
 Sustainability

Synthesis
Adaptive Use
Signage/Graphics

*Grasses are the greatest
single source of wealth in the
world." Agnes Chase*



The Spirit of Midewin

The Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie represents a major effort to renew 15,080 acres of farmland and industrial land as a native American landscape. This restoration is unprecedented not just because of its scope, but also because it recognizes the subtle beauty and ecological importance of the American prairie. Although Carl Sandburg and other poets have celebrated this landscape, it has been so underappreciated by the general public as to be driven near extinction.

The name Midewin comes from the Potawatomi term for "healing society." It was chosen to express the theme of regeneration over time at the nation's first National Tallgrass Prairie. This renewal involves a long-term commitment that may not come to fruition within our lifetimes. In fact, it may take a century to revive the native prairie's complex diversity of flora and fauna.

Although Midewin exists to restore and protect a unique natural resource and landscape, it also must serve such human needs as education and recreation, while providing research opportunities. These needs require the construction of a built environment, including interpretive and administrative buildings, shelters, trails, parking areas, and facilities for the professionals and volunteers who will work on prairie restoration. Because of the fragile ecology and subtle visual qualities of the Midewin landscape, the built environment must be sensitively designed and constructed.

This guide will help the U.S. Forest Service produce a built environment for Midewin that can evolve logically over generations. Midewin's built environment (including buildings, shelters, signs, roads, and trails) must be sympathetic to the natural environment and to the visual qualities of this landscape. This guide should also help create a cohesive architectural theme and a "sense of place." The built environment should generally be low in profile, hewn in colors and materials that complement the



"The once Great Prairies with their fruits and wildlife nourished our nation through its weak infancy... The nation has now reached a maturity which should make it capable of recognizing that the prairie can no longer give what it does not have..."
Eugene M. Poirot, "Our Margin of Life"

land and native vegetation, and fit into the contours of the natural topography.

To express the environmental philosophy that guides Midewin, the design of the built environment also must be sustainable. Sustainable design grows from principles of conservation and stewardship that are integral to the identity and mission of the Forest Service. A sustainable built environment meets the following goals:

- ◆ Minimizes the use of resources, including energy, building materials, and tax dollars
- ◆ Conserves ecosystems and preserves wildlife habitat

- ◆ Creates healthy built environments and landscapes for present and future generations

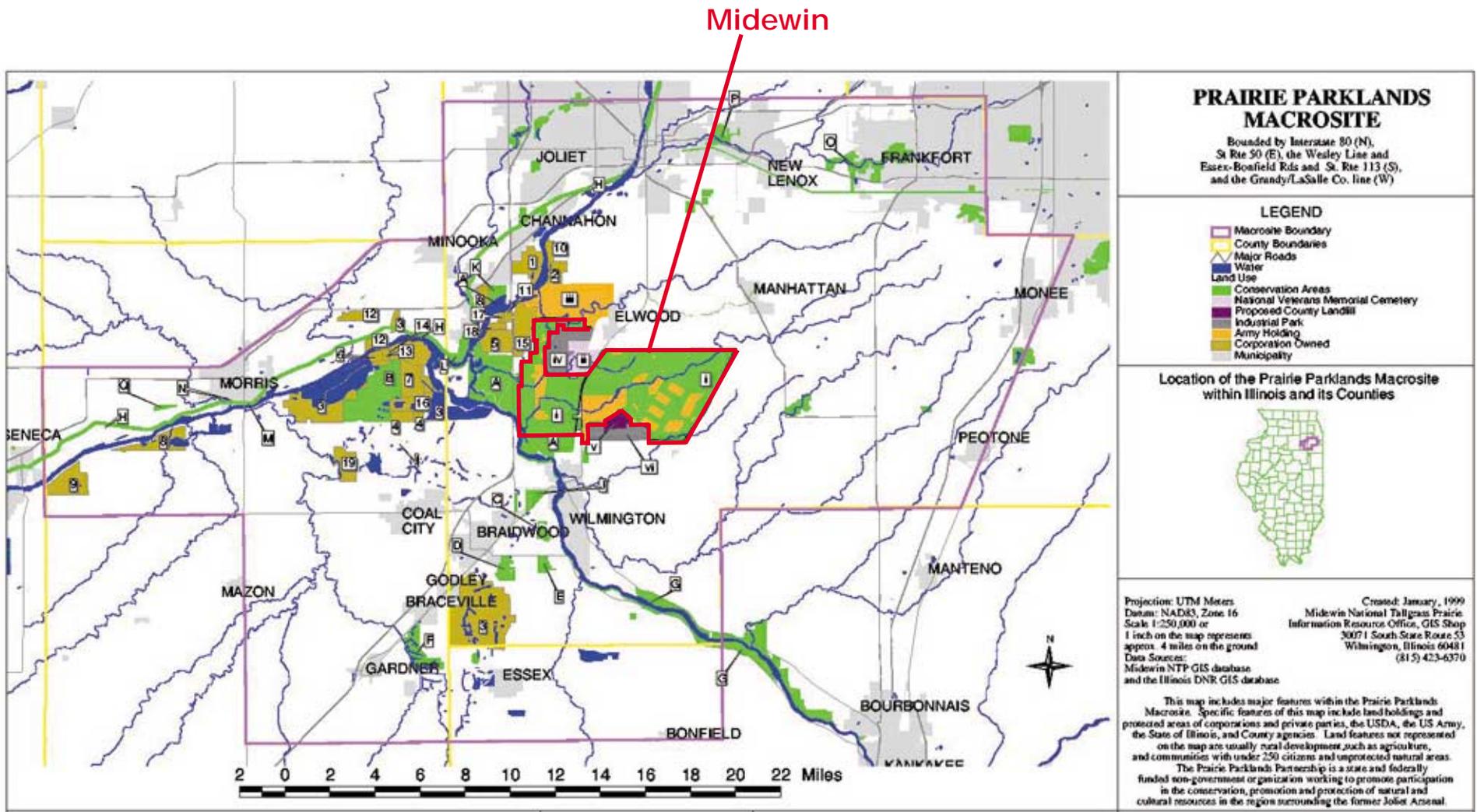
As conceived, Midewin is a place that intertwines complex yet compelling narratives. The foremost one is the story of the native American prairie. Midewin's complementary landscape and built environment will allow visitors to experience what Eliza Steele described in her 1840 book *Summer Journey in the West*: "A world of grass and flowers stretched around me, rising and falling in gentle undulations."



The built environment must honor and illuminate Midewin's cultural past in two important ways. The first is to preserve Midewin's pre-20th century sites, including its Native American heritage, pioneer sites, and farmsteads. The second is to adapt and interpret important structures from the era of the Joliet Arsenal (1940-1997).

Midewin's built environment provides both a refuge and a buffer from increasingly urbanized surroundings. Will County is expected to double in size from its 1990 population of 357,000 to 723,000 by 2020. In that time, Midewin will become both a national and local treasure.

As a prairie island within growing suburbs, the Midewin built environment must be durable to accommodate heavy visitation and increased security needs. The edges of Midewin must be carefully designed so adjacent development does not intrude on the sense of the endless space of the prairie.



Midwin also is the centerpiece of the Prairie Parklands, a group of private and public landowners working toward cooperative management of related ecosystems and complementary recreational opportunities.



Purpose and Method

The guide results from intensive study of Midewin's landscape and its history. It will encourage and steer the creation of a built environment that is visually appealing, sustainable, and subservient to its context.

All structures, from wheel stops in the parking lots to the visitor center, should relate to each other within a family of design themes connected by form, line, color, and materials. At the same time, the guidelines are flexible to allow for design creativity and variations.

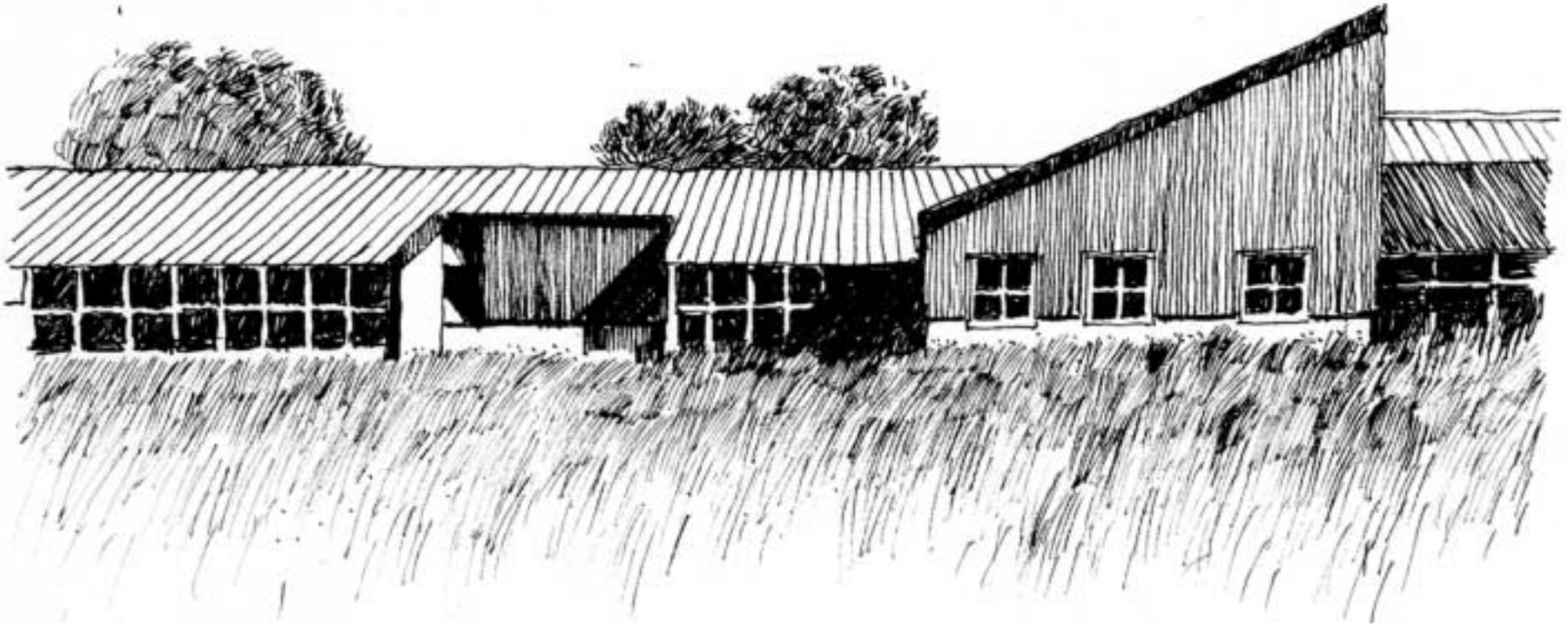
There are two important influences on Midewin's built environment. These are the **natural context** and the **cultural context**.

The **natural context** includes climate, landforms, geology, wetlands, uplands, wind, and the character of the sky and light.

The **cultural context** includes the site's Native American heritage, the historic farmsteads, and the history and extensive remains of the Joliet Arsenal. Regional factors such as the development of the I&M Canal and the history of architectural styles in northeastern Illinois also are important to the cultural context.

The guide recommends suitable responses to these influences. Responses are expressed as recommendations for each element of the built environment, such as:

- ◆ **Siting:** Placing buildings, structures, roads, trails, and parking within the landscape while preserving views, vegetation, habitat, and other natural features
- ◆ **Plantings/Landscape Design:** Selecting and careful placing native grasses and trees



- ◆ **Base:** Designing the visible portion of a structures foundation to relate to landforms and plant life
- ◆ **Walls:** Choosing suitable size, scale, materials, patterns, and shapes
- ◆ **Roof/Profile:** Designing building heights and roof forms that complement landforms
- ◆ **Structure:** Choosing and expressing building structure (exposed roof trusses, for example) that reflects the natural environment and cultural heritage of the site
- ◆ **Materials:** Selecting durable materials traditionally used in the immediate region; those that weather well and are easy to maintain in the local climate; that contain colors that match the landscape; and that are manufactured, selected, or recycled in a sustainable fashion
- ◆ **Colors:** Selecting colors found in the natural landscape, including the colors of plants, soil, and exposed geology
- ◆ **Signage and Graphics:** Creating themes, including forms, colors, and type styles, for all signs; ensuring that signs and graphics fulfill the goals of education and wayfinding while complementing the landscape.

Finally, through the process of synthesis, the guide demonstrates how to assemble these components and elements into prototypes of architectural character.



"In all my life, I never saw or dreamed of so beautiful a sight as the rolling prairies." Ellen Bigelow, 1835

Ecological Context

The prairie environments of Midewin are grasslands characterized by dark soils populated by 348 species of native and exotic flora. These include grasses, forbes, and wildflowers with root systems that extend as much as 20 feet below ground surface. When these roots die, they enrich the soils by adding humus. Tall grasses reach their greatest heights in autumn and flatten out over the winter. Midewin's six endangered plant species reside mainly in prairie remnants.

Some 104 bird species breed at Midewin. Another 68 species migrate through or use Midewin as a winter range. Threatened species include the Henslow's sparrow, loggerhead shrike, and upland sandpiper. Some 27 mammal species and 53 species of fish also have been documented at Midewin.

Ecological factors in summary:

- ◆ Less than 0.01 percent of Illinois's original tallgrass prairie of 21 million acres remains
- ◆ A vast, uninterrupted sky dominates the horizon
- ◆ Strong winds prevail in all seasons, from the northwest in winter and from southwest in summer
- ◆ Summers are hot and humid, while winters are extremely cold
- ◆ Snow can remain on the ground for months
- ◆ Annual precipitation varies from 10 to 29 inches



Prairie Creek and Dolomite Limestone



Burr Oak

- ◆ Four slow-moving creeks bisect Midewin
- ◆ Soils are slightly alkaline and very fertile
- ◆ Ground vegetation is relatively coarse and matted
- ◆ Topography is glacially-formed with about 100 feet of elevation change across the Refuge
- ◆ Small “erratic” boulders exist from glacier deposits
- ◆ Bur oak — “the guardian of the prairie” — is the signature tree of the savanna. Bur oak has thick, corky bark that helps it survive fires
- ◆ The underlying geology is primarily dolomite limestone
- ◆ Earth tones form the palette of plants and geology



Potawatomi artifacts



A typical farmstead on Midewin's edge is a complex of building types with varied forms and rooflines within a complementary color scheme.

Cultural Context

Northeastern Illinois Prairie

From early settlement until the arrival of European pioneers, Native Americans lived close to rivers, where they could catch fish and grow crops. They used prairie grasslands for hunting and gathering.

After displacing the Indians, early European settlers grazed livestock on prairie grasslands. Prairie soils proved too tough for their light wooden plows. Later, breaking prairie sod became a business conducted by men who traveled with heavy oxen-drawn plows. After an Illinois blacksmith named John Deere invented the steel plow in 1837, individual farmers began the large-scale replacement of the prairie with plowed fields.

Construction of the 97-mile Illinois & Michigan Canal commenced in 1848. This canal helped build Chicago into an industrial power and allowed local agricultural

products to be shipped around the world. The canal also introduced the widespread use of native dolomite as a building material. Also known as Joliet limestone, this was quarried from beds of the Des Plaines River. Through 1900, the Joliet region was a large producer of cut stone. Ultimately, Joliet limestone proved less durable than desired and was replaced by Indiana limestone and other building materials. By 1920, the quarrying industry around Joliet was nearly dead.

The region's agricultural building types include grain elevators and balloon-frame farmhouses and barns. In addition to the arsenal, industrial building types include the canal's walls, locks, and lock houses; ironworks; steel mills; and power plants. Residential and commercial buildings were constructed in styles derived from European precedents, such as Greek Revival (1820-1840), Gothic Revival (1840-1880), Second Empire (1855-1885), and Queen Anne (1880-1910).



Located a few miles from Midewin, the I&M Canal corridor generated distinctive architecture and other built forms made from local limestone.



Early in this century, Frank Lloyd Wright invented Prairie-style architecture while working in Oak Park, Illinois. Prairie School architecture includes strongly horizontal facades and decorative designs derived from native plants of the prairie. It is part of Midewin's cultural context.

In the second half of the 20th century, Joliet underwent decline typical to Rust Belt communities. Will County agriculture faced pressures typical to farmers everywhere.

In the early 21st century, the region seemed poised for economic recovery based upon suburban expansion from Chicago. This growth presents both challenges and opportunities for Midewin.

Cultural influences in summary:

- ◆ Native American use of area for hunting, fishing, and gathering dates back 2,000 years
- ◆ Native building forms in the greater region range from simple huts to elaborate mounds

- ◆ The first European settlers were farmers who drained the prairie wetlands starting in the 1840s
- ◆ Settlers built in European-derived styles such as Greek Revival, Italianate, and Gothic Revival
- ◆ The I&M Canal promoted industrialization and yielded local limestone as a major building material
- ◆ Because the regional population is rapidly increasing, suburban development will encroach on Midewin's boundaries within decades



Midwin's cultural context includes nearly 1,500 buildings and other structures from the era of the Joliet Arsenal. Remnants include miles of warehouses, utility poles, roads, and railroad right-of-way. These structures overlay a right-angle grid onto the sinuous, natural contours of Midwin's landforms, wetlands, and waterways.

The Cultural Context

Joliet Arsenal

The creation of Joliet Arsenal was part of one of the greatest mobilization efforts of modern military history. As World War II approached, the U.S. government created a network of government-owned, commercially operated munitions plants (almost all in the Midwest for rail access and protection from aerial bombing) in just a few years. At its peak, the Joliet Arsenal employed thousands of area residents at the world's largest TNT manufacturing plant. The remnants of the arsenal and the presence of a national cemetery on Midwin's borders create opportunities to interpret this period of American history.

Summary:

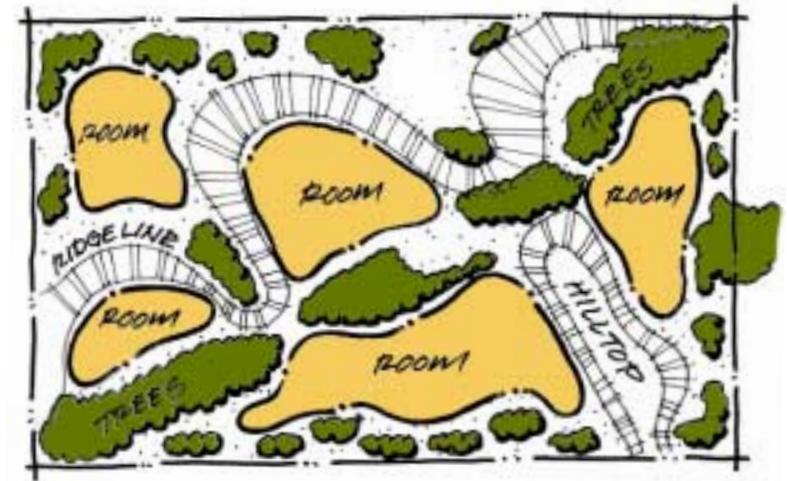
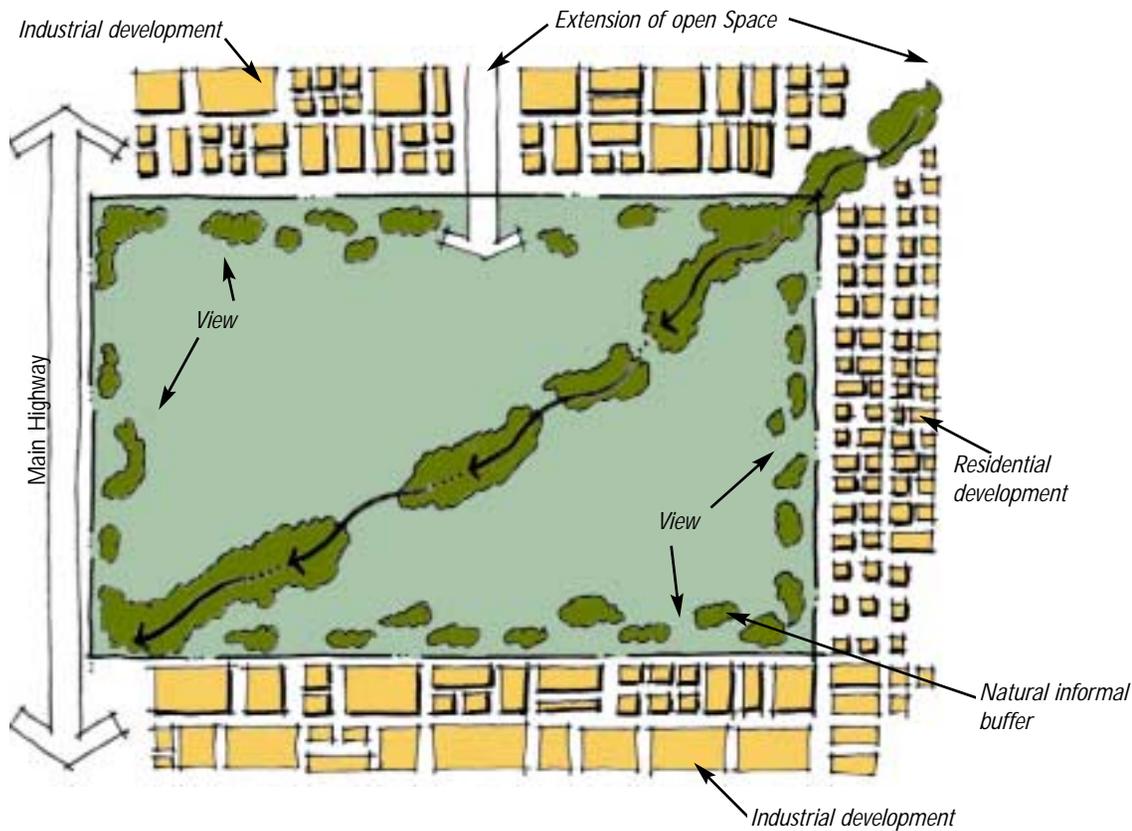
- ◆ The Joliet Arsenal includes nearly 1,500 buildings and structures, with a grid of 200 miles of roads, 166 miles of rail lines, and 37 miles of fencing overlaid on the natural topography
- ◆ Repeating elements and patterns dominate the Arsenal. These include train trestles, light standards, railroad tracks, and the rows of 392 "igloo" bunkers
- ◆ The Joliet Arsenal is located on site of 150 former farms
- ◆ The Joliet Arsenal is a historic artifact. As the world's largest TNT plant, it played a major role in World War II and other war efforts of 20th century.



Concrete TNT-storage bunkers arranged in grided fields comprise nearly 400 of the arsenal's remaining structures.



Midwin's cemeteries contain the graves of early European settlers and their descendants. Set within shady groves overlooking the prairie, these sites are to be cherished and preserved.



Conceptual diagram of Midwin

Responses to the Influences

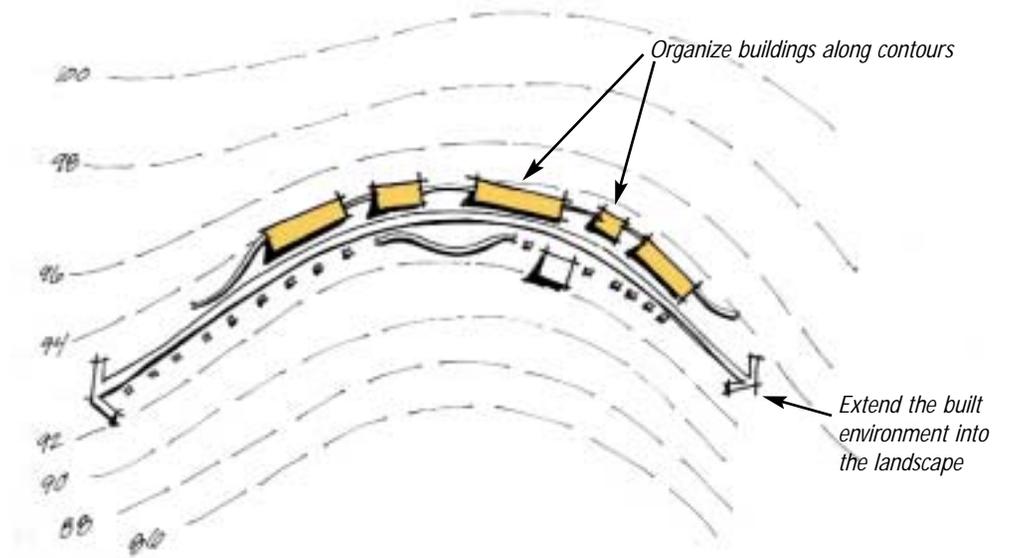
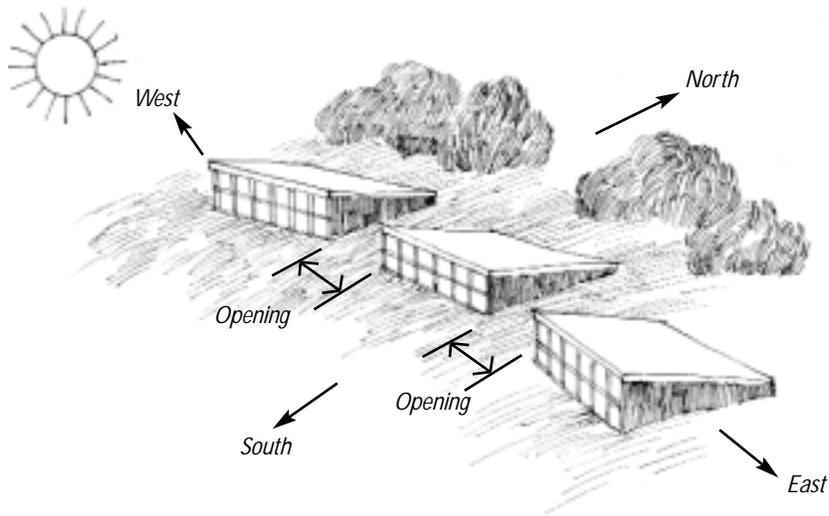
External Influences

Development patterns surrounding the site will be one of the greatest factors influencing a visitor's perception of Midwin. Currently the surrounding landscape is dominated by large farmlands and small clusters of farm buildings. Within the next 20 years, this area will experience an explosion of development consisting of both residential and industrial uses. What a visitor drives through, whether it is an industrial complex, or an apartment complex, becomes part of the Midwin experience. The more the arrival sequence from Interstate 55 and State Highway 53 can be maintained in a natural state, the more memorable the visitor experience will be. Perimeter development becomes even more important once the visitor is within Midwin. Do the views beyond the perimeter extend uninterrupted, or are they dominated by warehouses, and industrial uses? The establishment of perimeter buffers along the site access roads, and around the site itself, are critical to the Midwin experience. If buffers are not possible around the site perimeter, groves of tree plantings should be

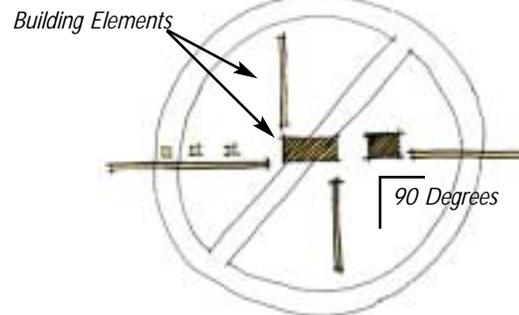
developed around the perimeter of the site, which help minimize views beyond the site boundary.

At Midwin, the primary siting issue involves preserving the solitude and sweeping vistas of the natural setting. As surrounding farmlands are converted to subdivisions and industrial uses, the perimeter of Midwin may be screened with native vegetation. Conversely, Midwin may positively influence its context by encouraging open-space preservation and prairie restoration on adjacent lands.

One way of understanding Midwin's site character is through the analogy of a house. Midwin's boundaries represent the walls of the house, and the trees, hills, ridgelines, and water bodies combine to form rooms and hallways within the house. Each room has its own character, and function. A room may be devoted to a buffalo herd, or prairie cone flowers. Some rooms will consist of utilitarian function which require



Organize buildings linearly, following contour lines, ideally those running east-west to optimize southern solar orientation. Separate building components where possible to minimize mass and promote continuous views and natural drainage



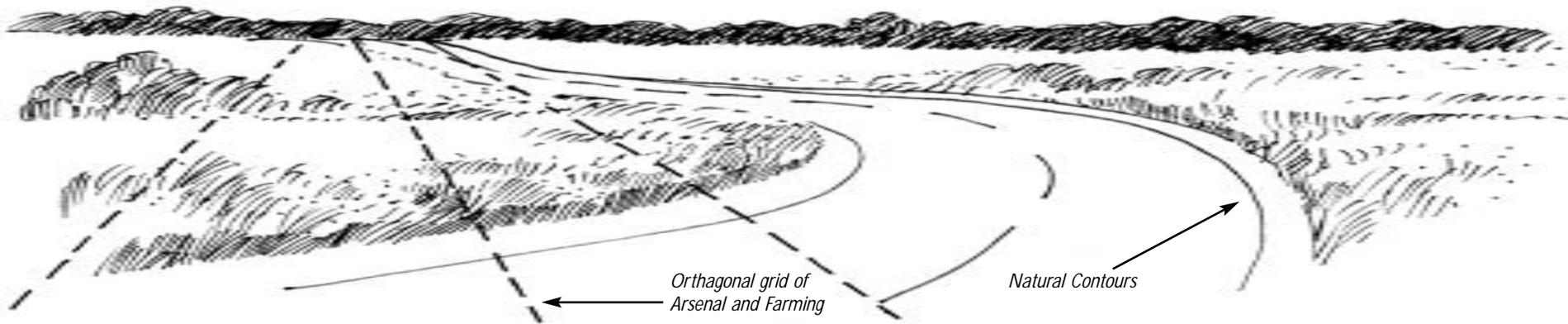
Avoid centrally-located clusters of buildings

screening and separation from the "living" spaces of the house. Roadways, buildings and utility structures represent the furnishings within the Midewin house. How these elements are organized can create a sense of harmony with the land or a sense of discourse.

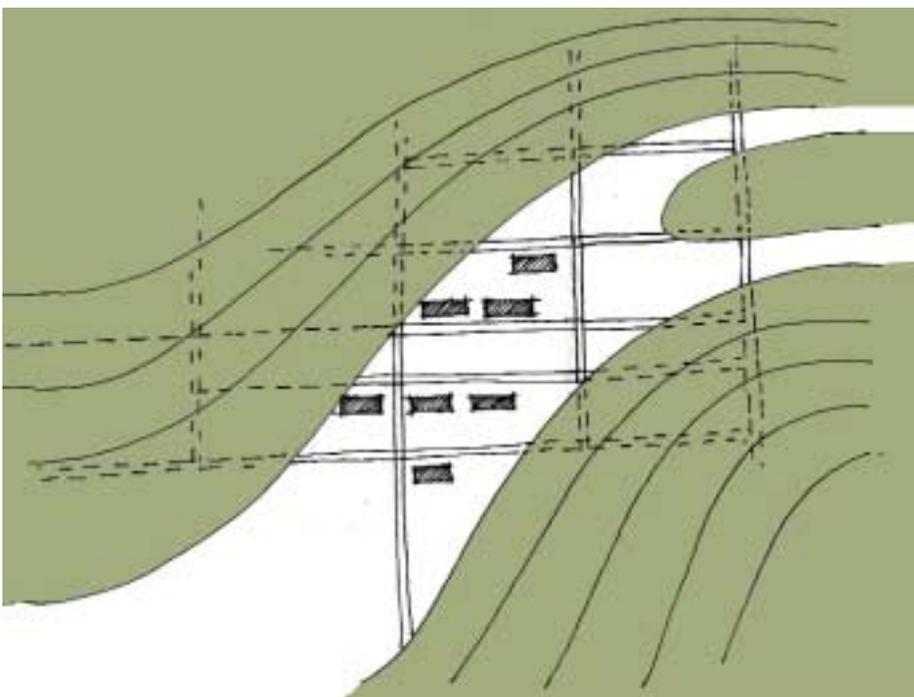
Siting

Currently the site is divided by a network of grid of roads that are reflective of a system used to define property ownership rather than experience the wonders of the prairie. Roads and trails should be designed to follow the natural landforms, thus allowing the visitor to experience the subtle variations in surrounding landforms, while providing continually changing vistas rather, than long endless views to nowhere. Roads function as hallways, connecting the various rooms of the Midewin home. Roads and trails should be located so that they follow the edges of tree lines,

the base of hills or are set back from water elements, thus allowing the prairie to be dominate feature rather than the roadway. Buildings and utility corridors should follow the same guidelines, allowing the prairie to remain the focus of the visitor experience.



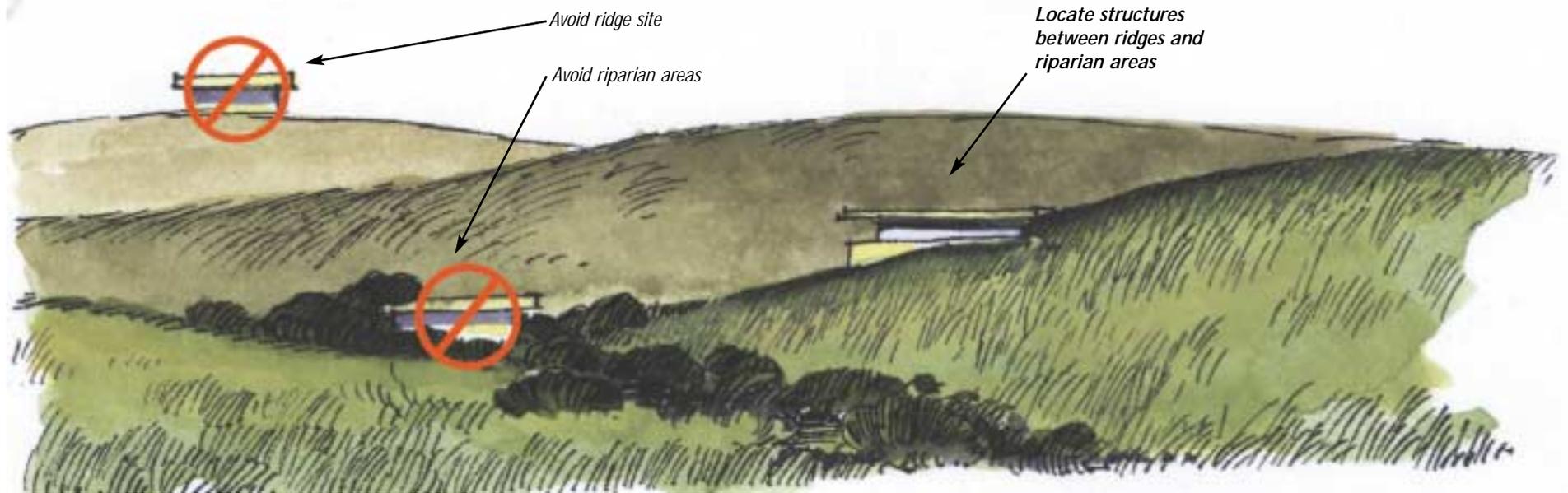
Align roads to follow natural landforms, not the arsenal's right-angle grid.



At interpretive opportunities, natural landforms may overlay, but not fully conceal, the arsenal's grid and structures.



Interpretation of the process of prairie restoration may be heightened by lining roads with propagation efforts.

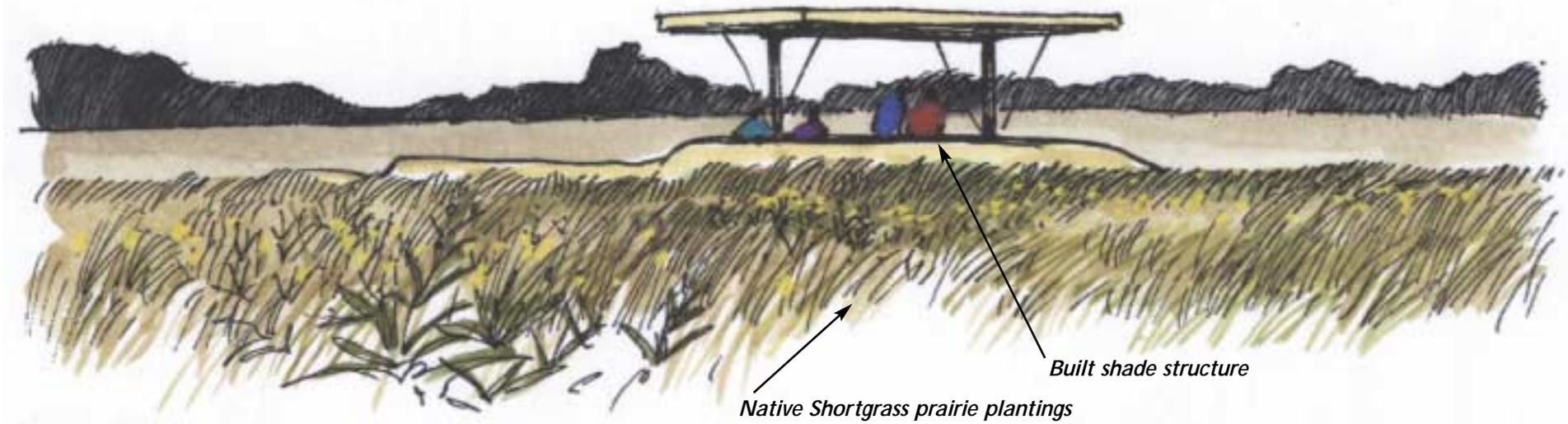


To preserve vistas, locate structures on the slope below the ridge, not on top of the ridge. Avoid placing structures within riparian areas.



Place structures at the **edges** of trees, rather than **within** groves.

Structure located at edge of trees and opening



Plantings

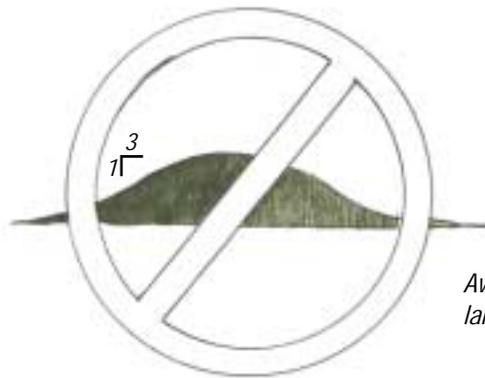
The predominant landscape design material should be native prairie grasses. native trees such as the Burr Oak may be introduced, with care given to limit the planting of isolated specimens.



Limit solitary shade trees

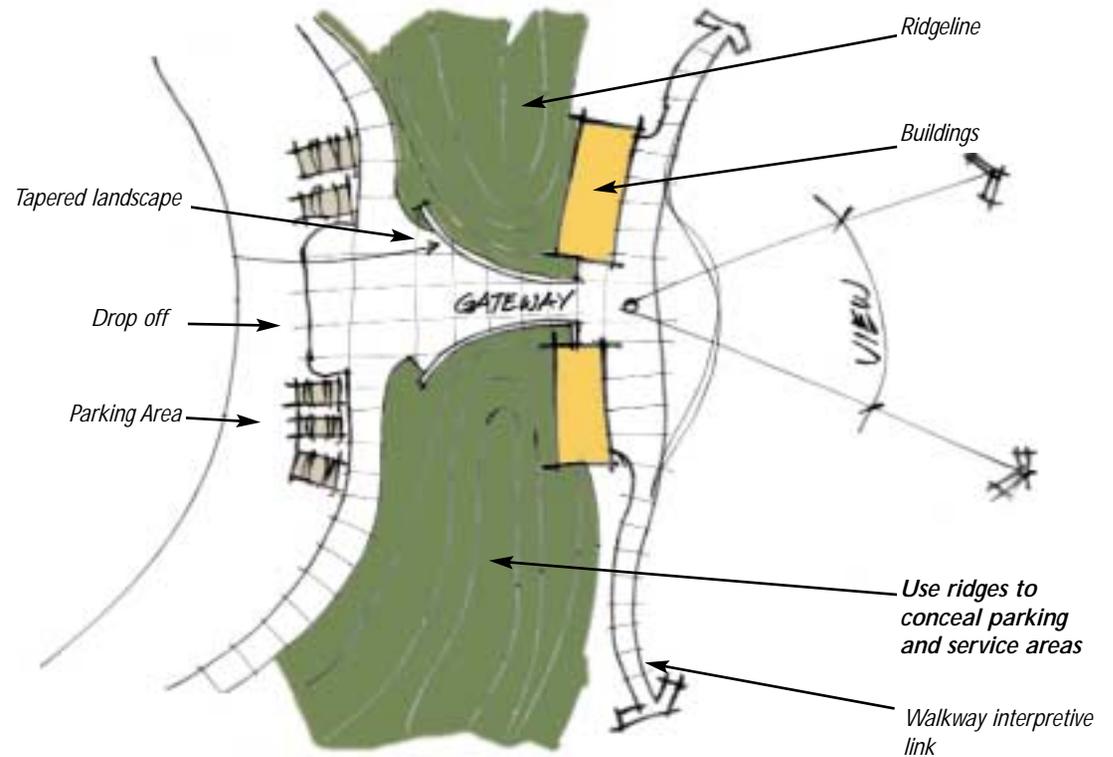


Gentle land form that echoes natural rolling prairie land

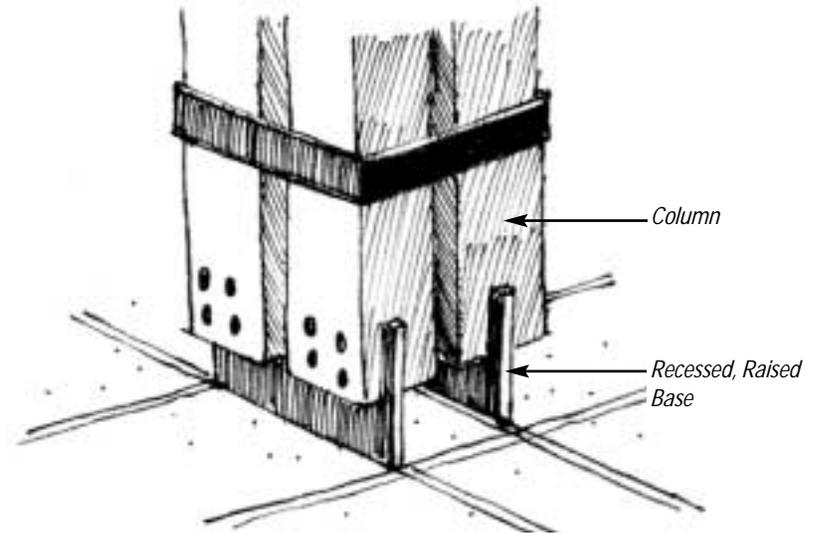
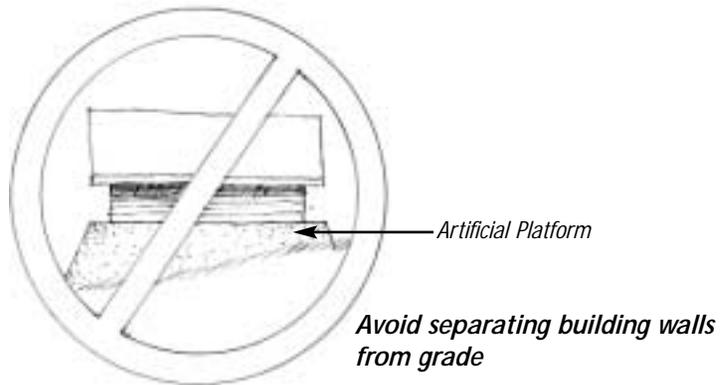
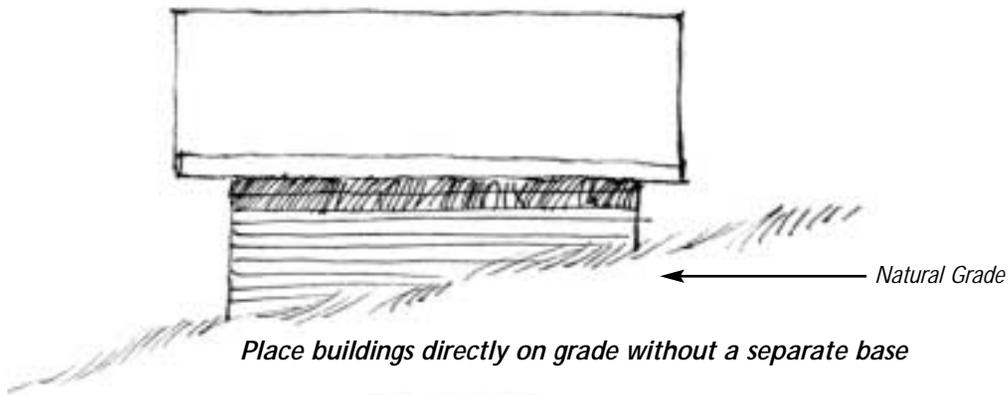


*Avoid steep forms
land forms*

Use berms to screen parking areas. Care must be taken to not interrupt the natural flow of the prairie landscape. Berms should be long and low, with no more than a 5:1 slope.



*Orchestrate pathways to interpretive structures so visitors are drawn **through** the landscape to a point offering an expansive view. Begin this sequence with well-designed parking areas and drop-offs. Continue through pathways leading through tapered landscape walls. This sequence should climax with the appearance of the vista. The structure functions as a "gateway" that draws people through and out into the landscape.*

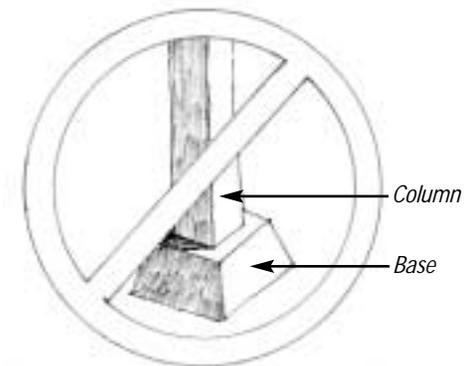


Building Components

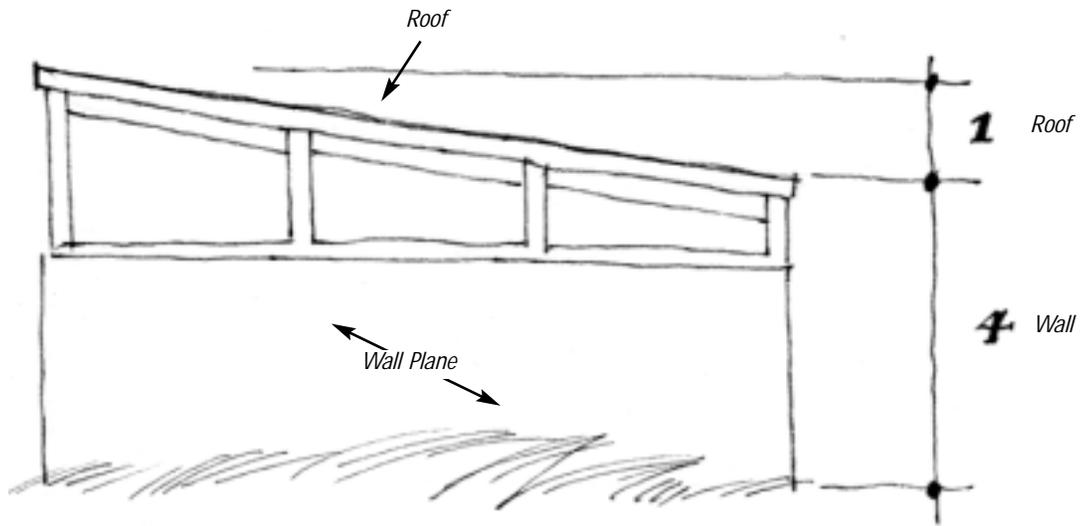
Base

Structures should appear embedded in the earth rather than raised on a platform. Extend natural vegetation to the building wall.

Avoid prominent bases created by grade separation or a change in materials from the wall. Do not create a separate prominent bases for columns or posts. Further, use gaps in stone or concrete central joints to control joints and integrate columns with the ground surface.



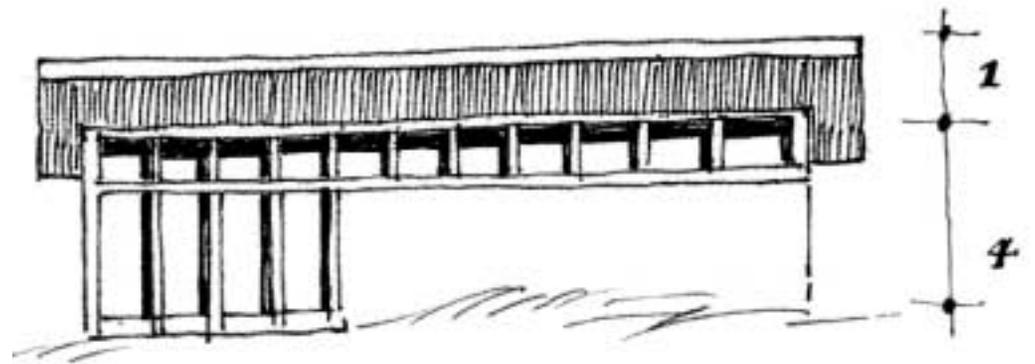
Avoid prominent, projecting bases



Ideal proportion of wall to roof

Walls

Walls should dominate a building's composition. The proportion of wall to roof should be about 4:1.





Arched openings



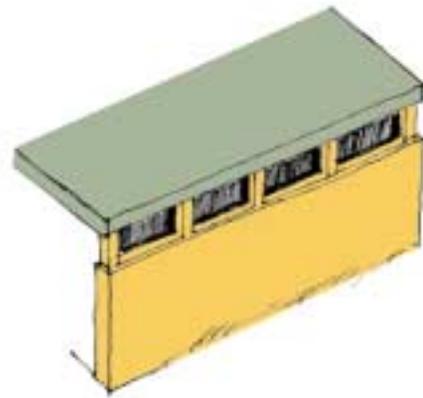
Separate, vertical windows



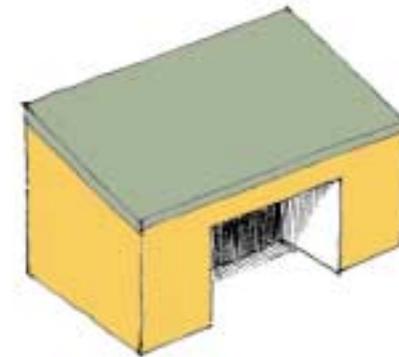
Additive entry element



Windows below top of wall



Banded windows at top of solid wall



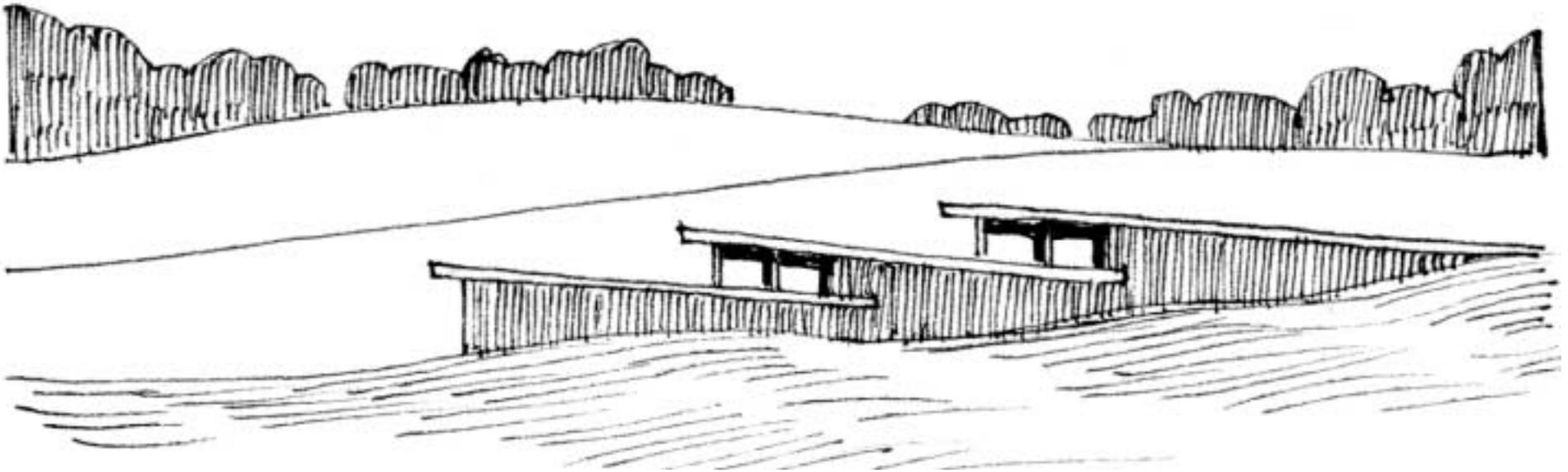
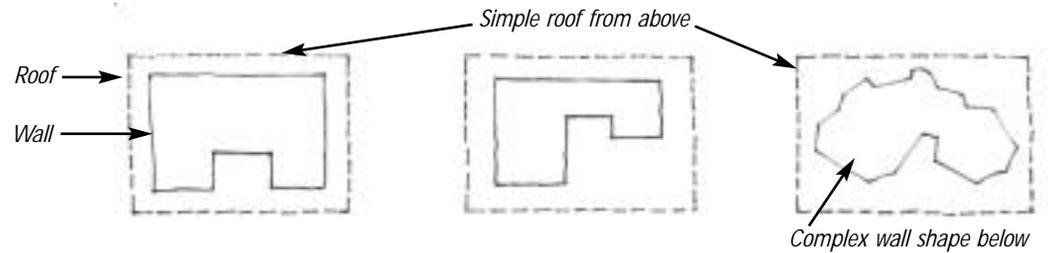
Subtractive entry element

Windows/Openings

- ◆ Horizontal bands of windows are suitable. They can separate the wall from the roof.
- ◆ Avoid arched windows and doors.
- ◆ Avoid separate, vertical, double-hung windows.
- ◆ Avoid solid walls above windows.

- ◆ Extensive glass can be used to reflect surroundings.
- ◆ Avoid "added" entry elements.
- ◆ Subtract space from volume of building to create vestibules.

"I saw that a little height on the prairie was enough to look like much more--every detail as to height becoming intensely significant, breadth all falling short." Frank Lloyd Wright

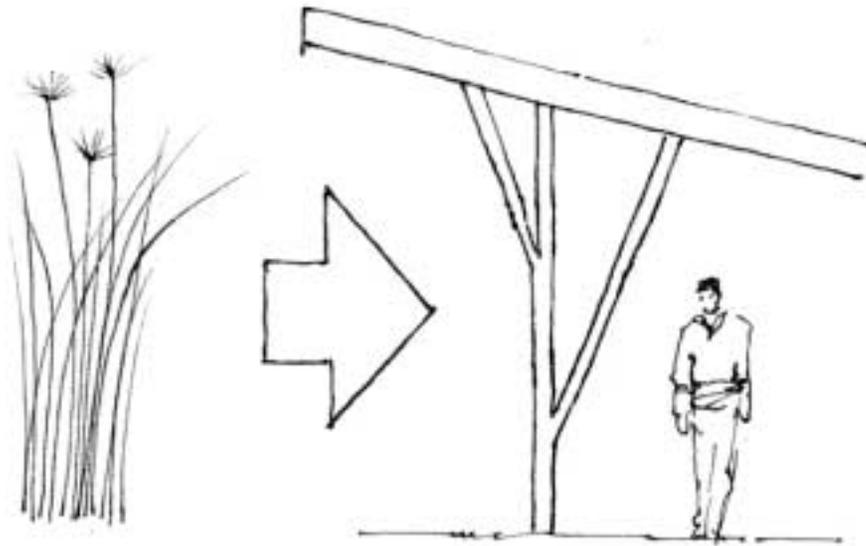


Roof/Profile

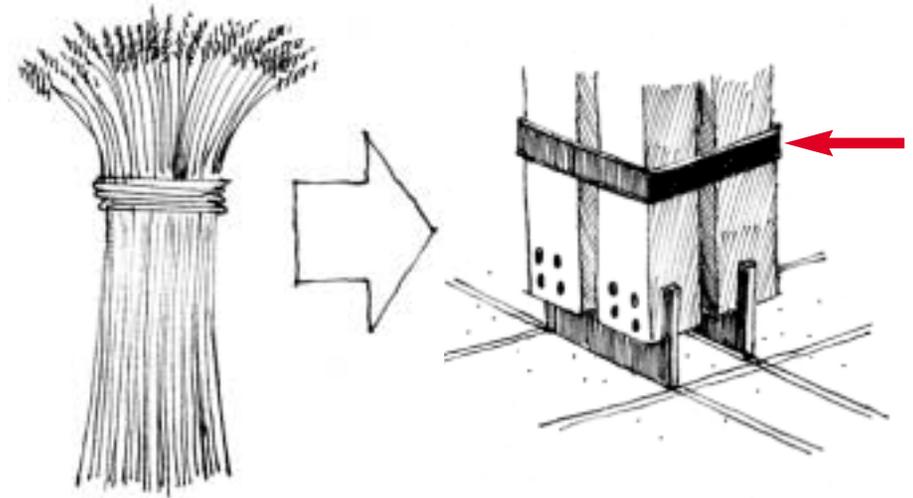
- ◆ Avoid isolated tall structures in the landscape
- ◆ Low structures, set into the landform, are preferable
- ◆ Avoid hipped roofs or the overuse of flat roofs.
- ◆ Simple shed roofs are preferable.
- ◆ Adjust the roof slope to match the profile of the landform.
- ◆ Avoid complex roof forms.
- ◆ Simple roofs may encompass complex building shapes.



Avoid isolated, vertical structures with steeply pitched roofs.



Light, slender structural elements echo structure and scale of prairie grasses.



Structural connections echo the bundling of grain.

Structure

- ◆ Structural elements should be relatively light and slender, like the prairie vegetation itself.
- ◆ Make structure visible by expressing the structural frame and its elements (posts, beams, brackets, etc.).
- ◆ As a theme, use opportunities to “bundle” slender steel or wood structural elements of columns, as grain would be bundled.



"Stone was a noble material, but not just because it was used for noble purposes, noble buildings. It was noble because it had been extracted from the earth and was timeless."

J.B. Jackson



Materials

- ◆ Use dolomite limestone or carefully matched concrete for low walls, chimneys, and as an accent material.
- ◆ Salvage building materials from existing arsenal structures when demolished.
- ◆ Include fiber-cement composite panels and boards, and natural wood from sustainable sources. Avoid wood however in areas managed by fire.
- ◆ Sod is an energy efficient, sustainable, and aesthetically suitable roof material.
- ◆ Roof materials should include tern-coated stainless steel, lead-coated copper, corrugated metal, and epoxy-painted standing-seam steel.
- ◆ Avoid cedar-shake shingle or asphalt shingle roofs.
- ◆ Well-placed glacial boulders can provide seating.



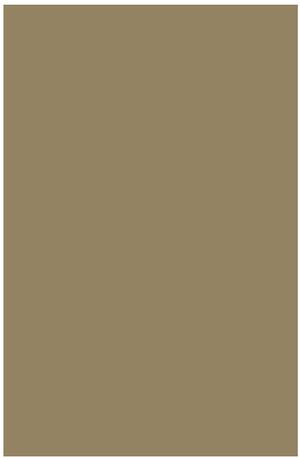
Colors

- ◆ Natural colors found within Midewin's landscape should predominate.
- ◆ These include muted earth tones, such as the ochre of dolomite limestone and accents derived from prairie forbes and grasses.
- ◆ The colors of Midewin's wildflowers — gold, yellow, and purple, primarily — can make suitable accents.



Local Wildflowers

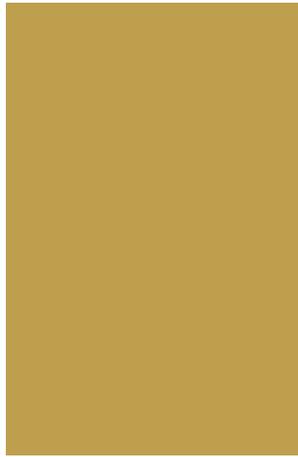




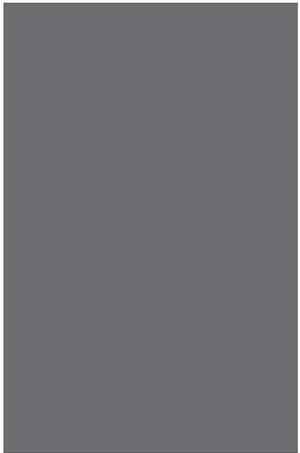
*Benjamin Moore
999*



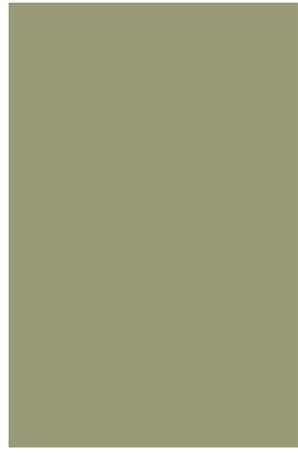
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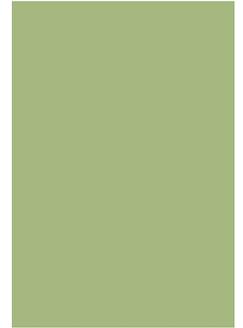
Base Colors



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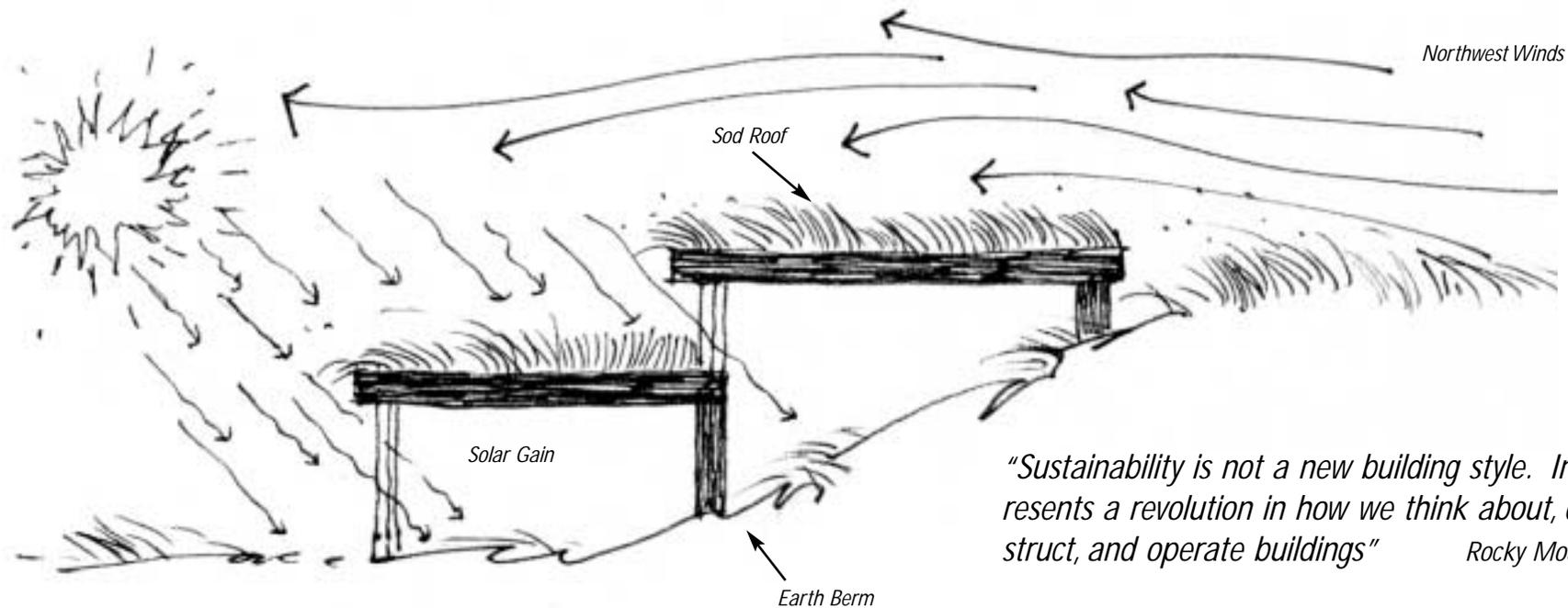


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Accent Colors



"Sustainability is not a new building style. Instead it represents a revolution in how we think about, design, construct, and operate buildings" Rocky Mountain Institute

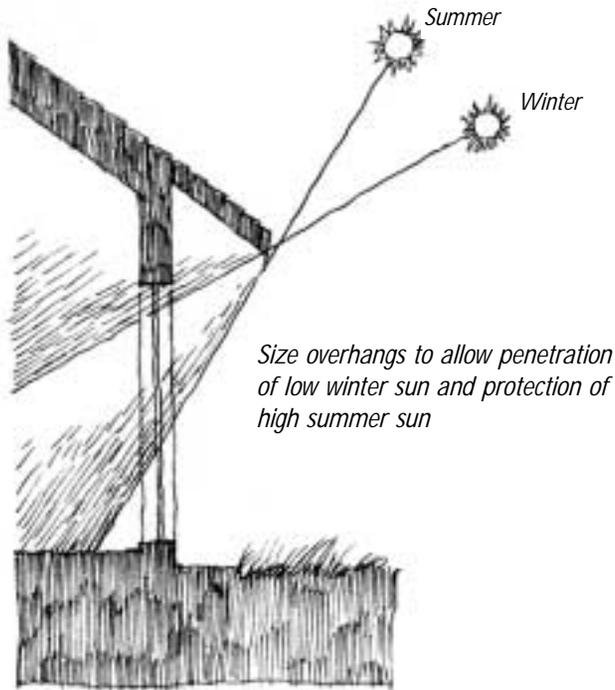
Sustainability

Sustainability grows from principles of conservation and stewardship that are integral to the identity and mission of the Forest Service. A sustainable built environment meets the following goals:

- ◆ Minimize the use of resources
- ◆ Conserve ecosystems
- ◆ Create healthy buildings and landscapes

Our forests are the ultimate "renewable" resource -- one that, if managed with care, will meet the needs of people and wildlife indefinitely. It is our mission to demonstrate to all Americans how to conserve these resources. As the construction, maintenance, heating, and cooling of structures consumes an ever-increasing portion of our natural resources, sustainable design becomes more and more important.

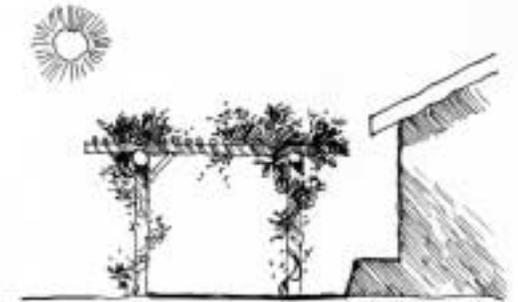
- ◆ Orient buildings to provide shelter from wind.
- ◆ Place buildings on east-west orientation to maximize southern solar gains.
- ◆ To save energy, increase insulation by berming buildings and/or using sod roofs.
- ◆ Use native plantings that are generally less dependent upon artificial irrigation.
- ◆ Recharge the aquifer by installing porous paving or retention pond/wetlands.



Shading south side of fixed overhang

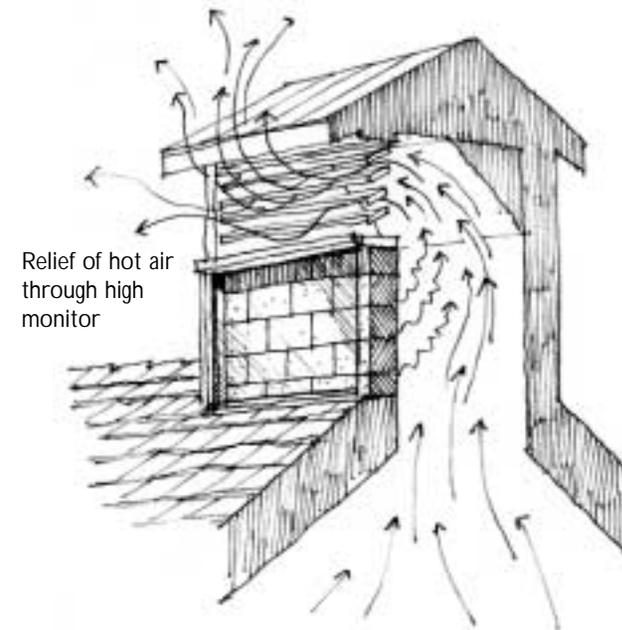


Locate vegetation to South and West for shading



Place shade structures to South and West

- ◆ "Harvest" rainwater for irrigation.
- ◆ Recycle existing building materials from the site.
- ◆ Select materials requiring minimal maintenance. For example, choose materials with integral color over those that must be painted and repainted.
- ◆ Use indigenous materials for walls. These can include rammed earth or agricultural products such as straw bales.
- ◆ Use low-energy mechanical systems such as ground-coupled heat pumps.



Solar Chimney



Shelter/Blind



Shelter

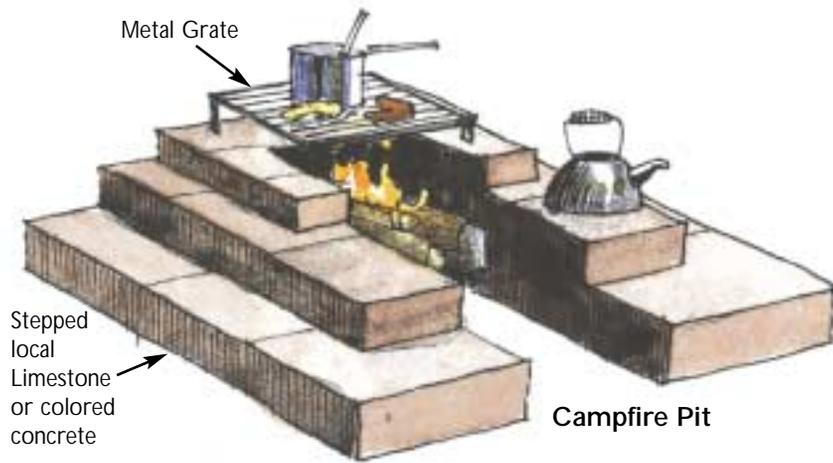
Synthesis

Syn*the*sis (sinthisis) n. *The process of or result of building up separate elements, esp. ideas, into a connected whole (Oxford Dictionary).*

The following illustrations demonstrate how the context, influences, and responses can be synthesized to create a consistent built environment. These examples should not necessarily be copied exactly. Instead, they demonstrate how recommendations for the built environment can be creatively combined.



Toilet Facility



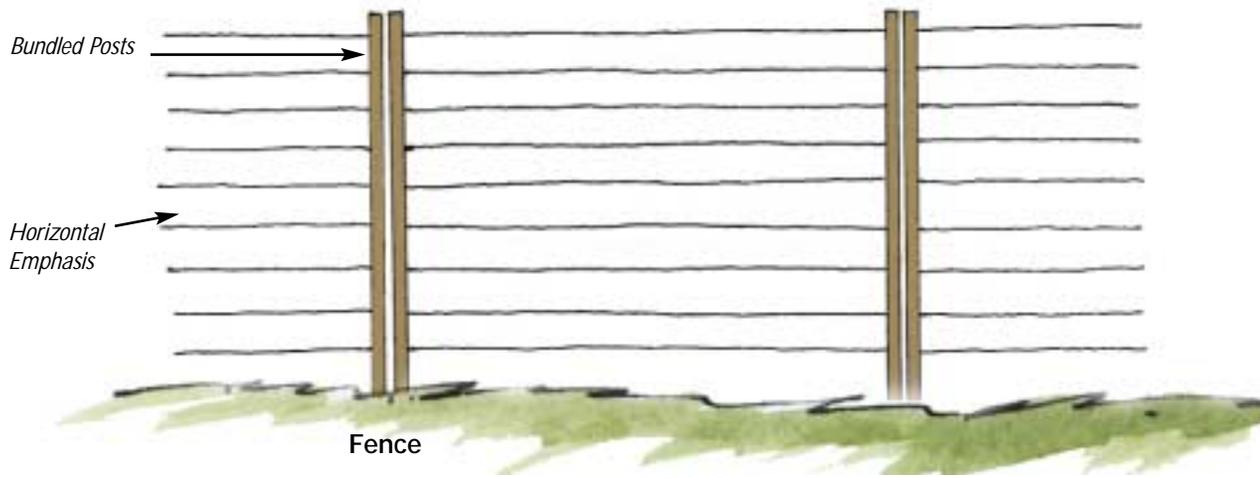
Metal Grate

Stepped local Limestone or colored concrete

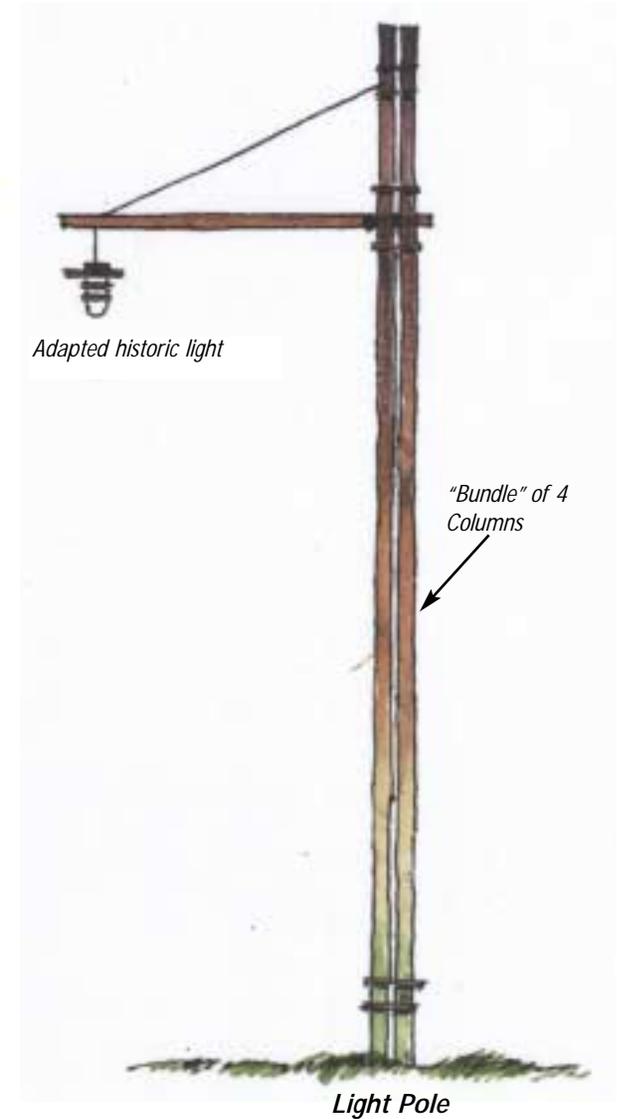
Campfire Pit

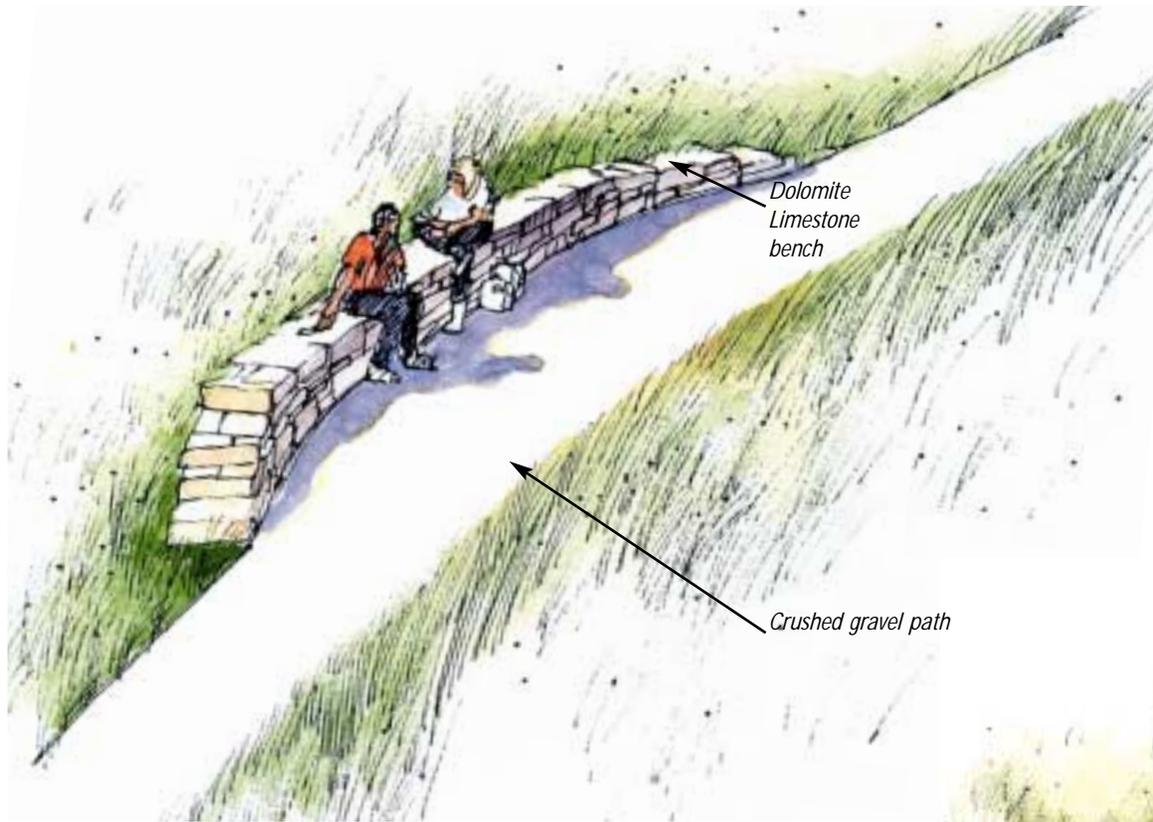


Toilet Facility



Design details for new fences, light poles, and other landscape structures at Midwin can be adapted from precedents at the Joliet Arsenal and themes developed herein.



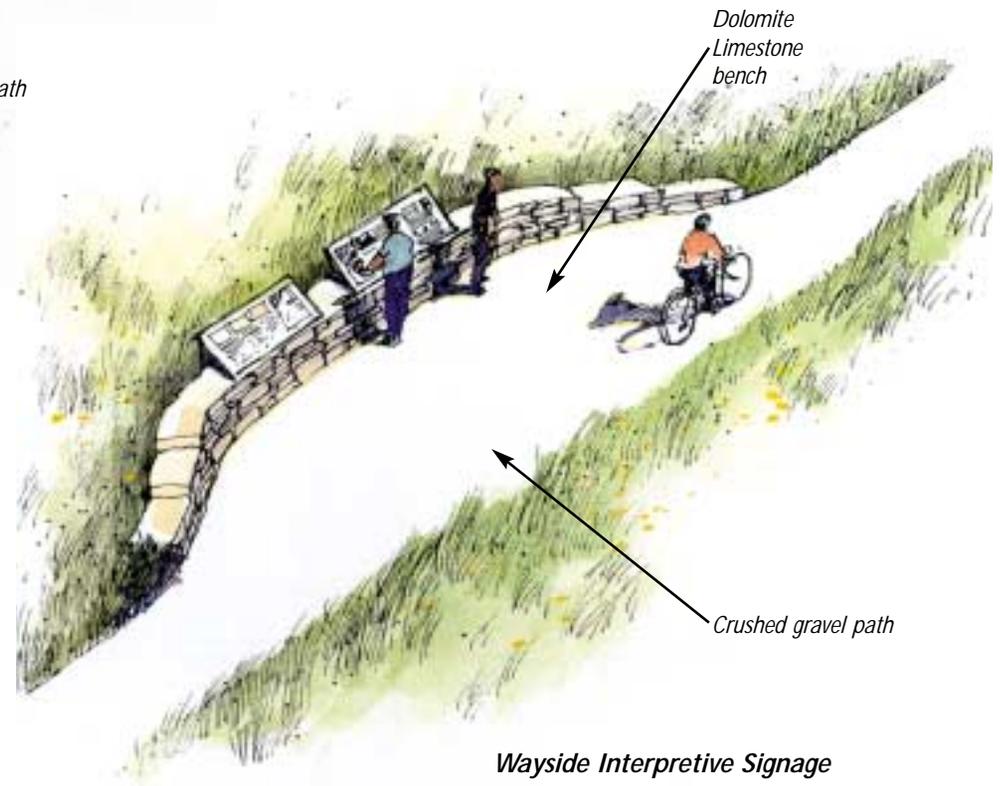


*Dolomite
Limestone
bench*

Crushed gravel path

Trailside Seating

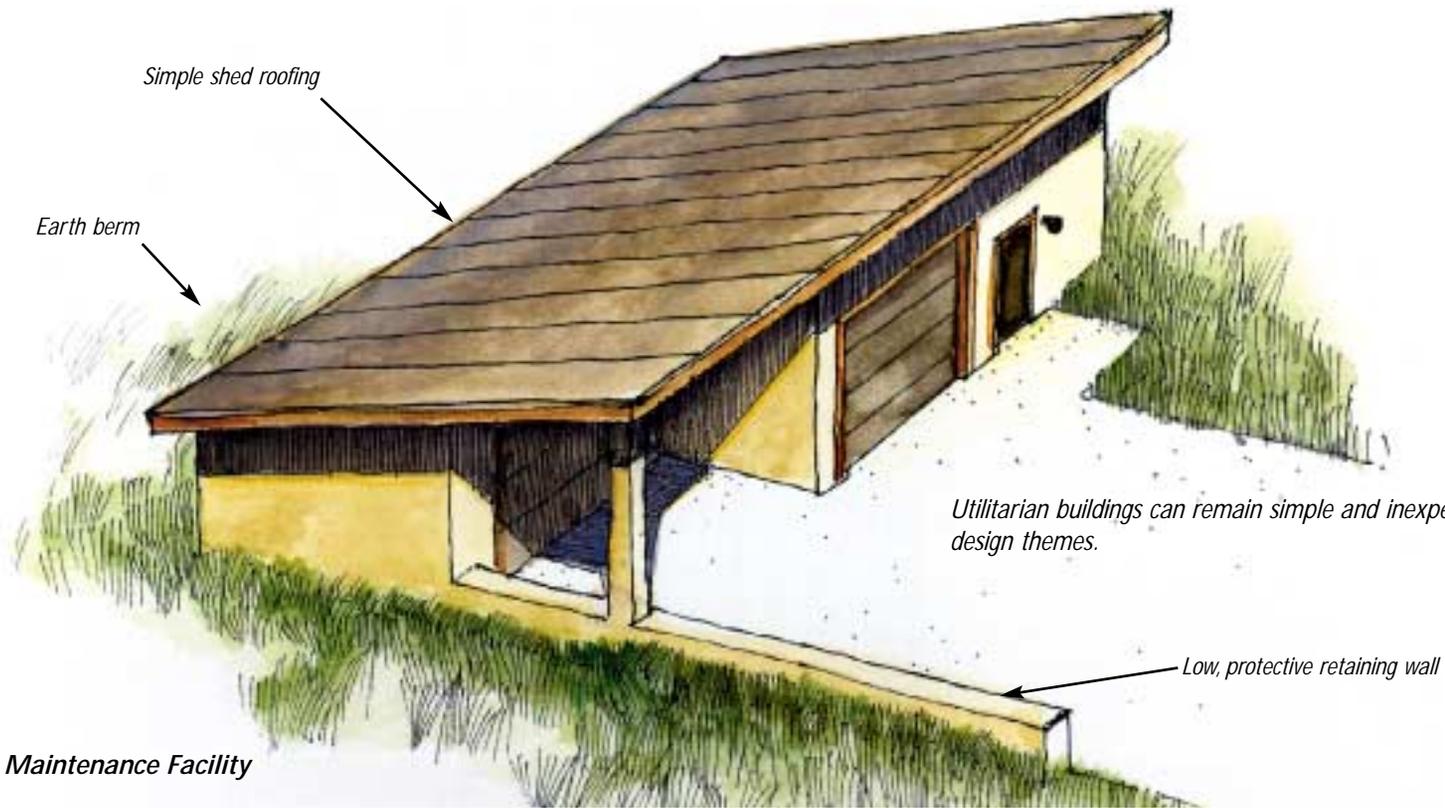
Natural elements such as limestone outcrops (or uncut limestone placed to look as if found in nature) can double as built elements, including signs and benches.



*Dolomite
Limestone
bench*

Crushed gravel path

Wayside Interpretive Signage



Utilitarian buildings can remain simple and inexpensive while complementing Midewin's design themes.

Public buildings can be designed with more elaborate forms and more expensive materials.





Adaptive re-use of arsenal buildings & infrastructure

Adaptive Use Of Arsenal Structures

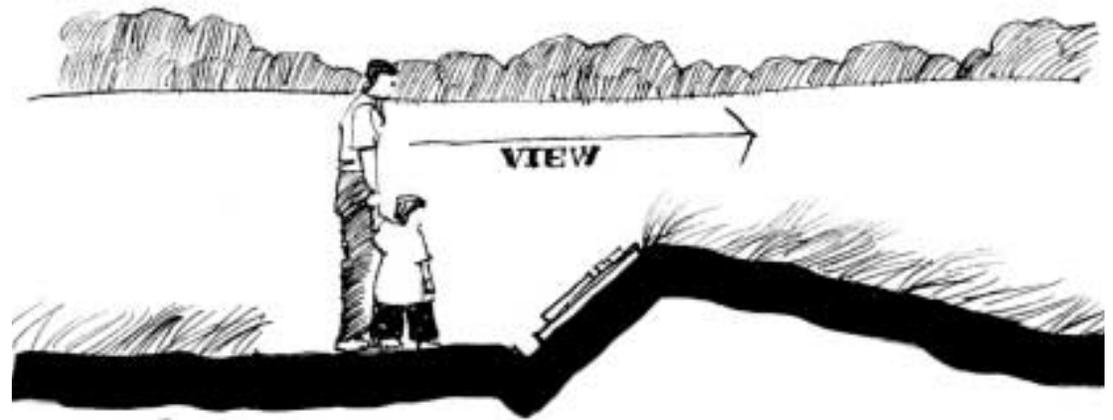
Although the Joliet Arsenal is an important part of Midewin's past, the arsenal should not direct the future image of the built environment at the tallgrass prairie. Instead, portions of the arsenal should be preserved and interpreted. Interpretive signs and other facilities for these historic resources can take design cues from arsenal structures. For example, interpretive signs might be rendered in Cor-Ten steel or another manufactured material. Light standards might replicate distinctive arsenal designs.



Adaptive re-use of bridge



Avoid isolated, vertical sign elements



Especially at natural areas, maintain views of the landscape by placing signage low, ideally integrating it within land forms

Signage/Graphics

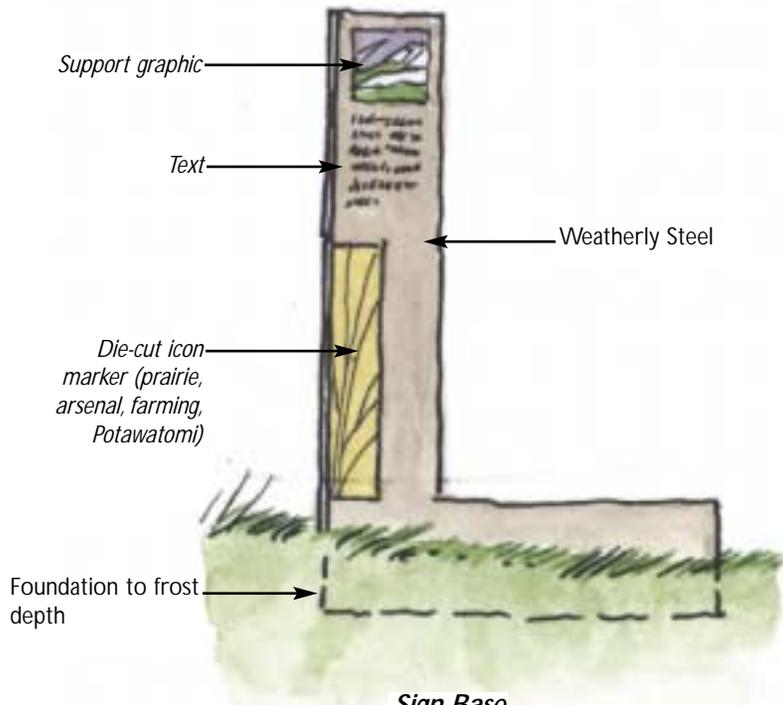
Midwin's signs are needed for wayfinding and to explain layers of natural and cultural history. To achieve these goals while complementing the landscape, the design of signs and graphics must remain consistent within a family of styles, materials, and construction techniques.

To create consistency, construct interpretive signs for prairie natural areas from the same materials as signs used to interpret the arsenal. They should share typographic styles, sizes, and formats. But they will also contain variations tailored to the ecological structure and human needs at each site.

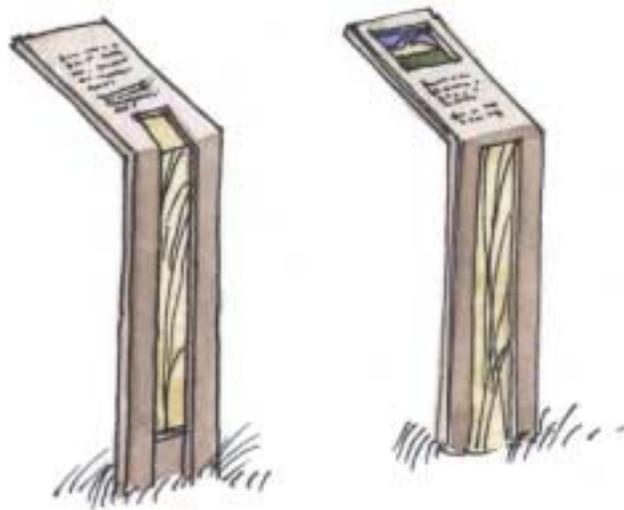
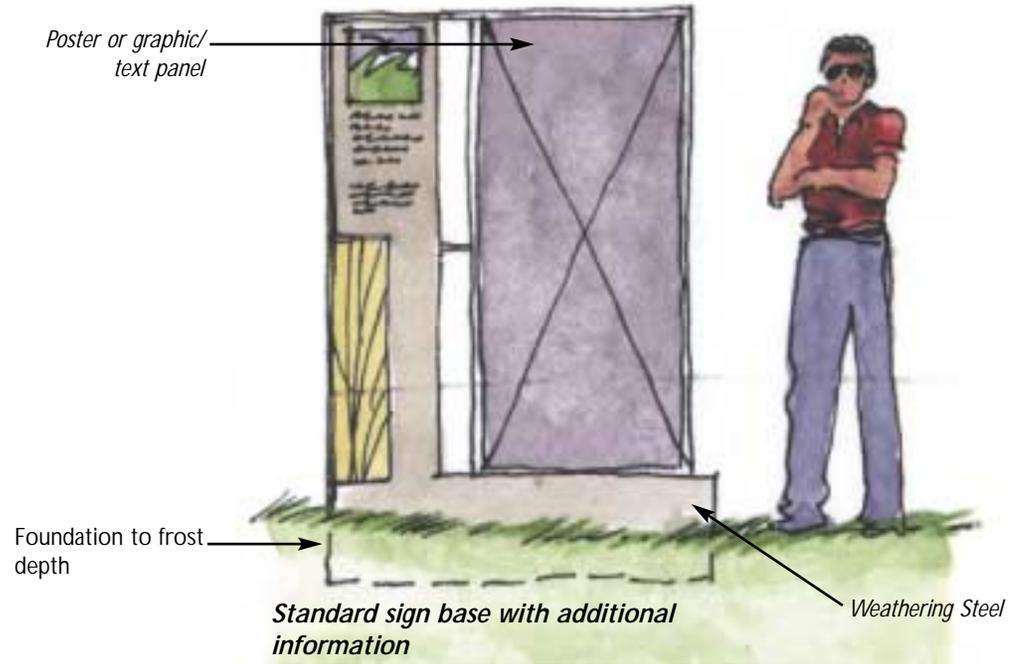
For example, people visiting the prairie seek solitude within nature. They may stand or sit in one spot for a time to observe flora and fauna and changes in the sky. Hence prairie signs should recede into the background. They should be "low profile" and made from materials similar to those found in the landscape. These signs may resem-

ble objects found in nature (or handcrafted objects) with information inscribed into them.

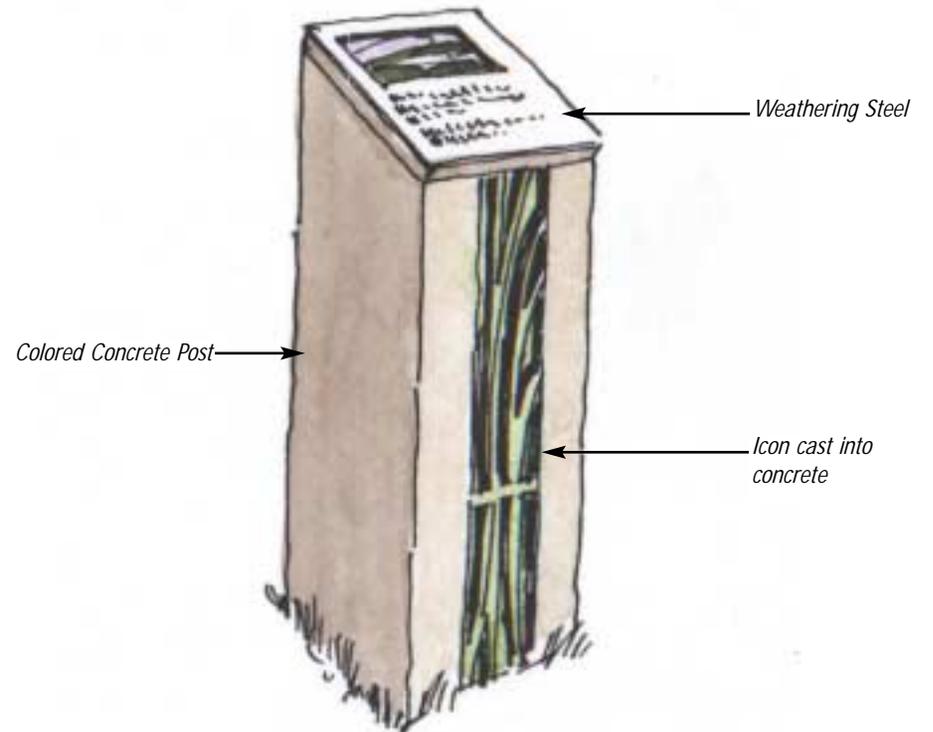
People visiting arsenal sites expect to see artifacts and to learn about a period of history. These visitors may observe the interaction of man and nature, but are less likely to seek or experience contemplative solitude. Hence signs around arsenal sites may be larger, more prominent and direct, and more obviously manufactured.



Sign Base



Variations of Standard sign base

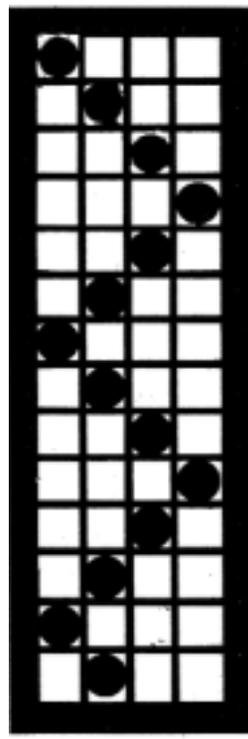




Prairie



Farming



Native American



Arsenal

Midewin

Papyrus Typeface

ARSENAL

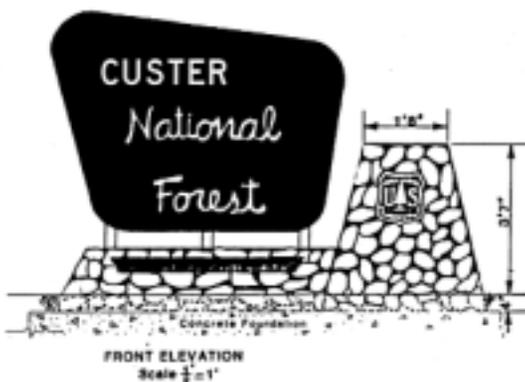
Futura Typeface

TYPOGRAPHY

GRAPHIC ICONS

Icons & Typography

The previous signage systems rely upon supporting graphic information. It is important that this information is consistent with both the context and the message of the sign. The icons and typeface styles shown above are not solutions per se, but simply examples of how this integration may be assured.



Standard Forest Boundary Entrance Sign



Adapted Forest Boundary Entrance Sign

Adaptation of Standard Signs Guidelines

The U.S.D.A. Forest Service “Sign and Poster Guidelines #EM-7100-15” shall be followed. However, certain aspects may be adapted to reflect Midewin’s specific cultural and ecological influences. For example, the Standard Forest Boundary Entrance Sign (FE) may use a panel that is elongated to reflect the prominent horizon of the prairie. Further, the base of the sign may be formed with layers of local dolomite limestone that gently emerge from the ground. Lastly, the text may be adapted to reflect both the natural (undulating hills and grasses) and the cultural (arsenal/military elements) heritage of Midewin.



Prepared by OZ Architecture in collaboration with the USDA Forest Service, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and the following:

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