



**BUILDING SECTION**

SCALE: 1/8"=1'0"

ARCH 341 ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN  
 FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY  
 FALL 2013 - PROFESSOR D. NAGELKIRK  
**RACHEL CRANE**

The objective of this project was to design a Visitor's Center for the Land Conservancy of West Michigan. The Center is to serve as an educational center and promote recreation activities. The building program required the following spaces: an exhibit area, lecture hall, gift shop, snack area, restrooms, and an office.

The concept of growth directed all aspects of my design. Growth occurs in nature in many ways, and although all growth has a very calculated outcome, each and every growth develops in a different way. The form of my building directly represents the evolution of nature. Each rectangular form was based on a grid that increased in size, and grew up from the form preceding it. The tilted roofs and walls express the fact that growth, whether physical, emotional, or intellectual, is never perfect and can sometimes face defects or obstacles that must be overcome, or accepted.

There were also many sustainable features developed into the design of the nature center. Site orientation and location allowed for some increase in day-lighting and ventilation. The incorporation of extensive green roofs will help to increase the life of the roofs and keep the building insulated. The green roofs will also slow down, collect, and filter rainwater to be used for irrigation. Solar Panels will provide some extra power, and the use of energy efficient plumbing fixtures will help to reduce energy costs. The nature center also makes use of local, Dri-Design aluminum panels, reclaimed ash flooring, and sustainable concrete.

