



## Weeksville Heritage Center

Caples Jefferson Architects



Weeksville Heritage Center is a unique urban design project in which a modern architectural syntax of simple forms, strip windows, and glass passageways is impacted by repeated African riffs. The riffs are variations that provide a visual counterpoint. The riffs are embedded in construction, in structural elements, such as the joints in paving and stone, in the choice of colors and materials, and in the details like the fence posts and the frit in the sunshading glass. The modern syntax and African riffs, although independent from each other, harmonize when experienced as an entirety.

Placed within the historic site of Weeksville Heritage Center and its evocative landscape, the new work redefines the context of Weeksville at this specific time and place.

Weeksville Heritage Center is a sustainable modern building that serves as the gateway to a 19th Century African-American Freedman's Settlement. In the 1960's, 4 remaining buildings from this Brooklyn settlement were rediscovered. Through 40 years of impassioned community support, the site eventually grew to serve as a focal African-American heritage site. Weeksville Heritage Center is the latest manifestation of that history coming alive.

The primary purpose of the new structure and landscape is to serve as a gateway to the historic houses on the premises - remnants of the 19th century free African American community of Weeksville - with state of the art exhibition, performance and educational facilities, as well as to provide a green oasis for visitors and the local community. The main lobby will include introductory exhibits, and leads to a gallery for changing shows, a lecture and performance space for 200, classrooms for visiting groups and for community education, and a library resource center for visiting scholars. Administrative offices are to be located on the second floor, and the cellar is to include archival storage space as well as a room for recording oral histories.

The landscape is the dominant element in the composition. This space creates a transitional distance between the historic houses and new center. Movement through the recreated farmland links

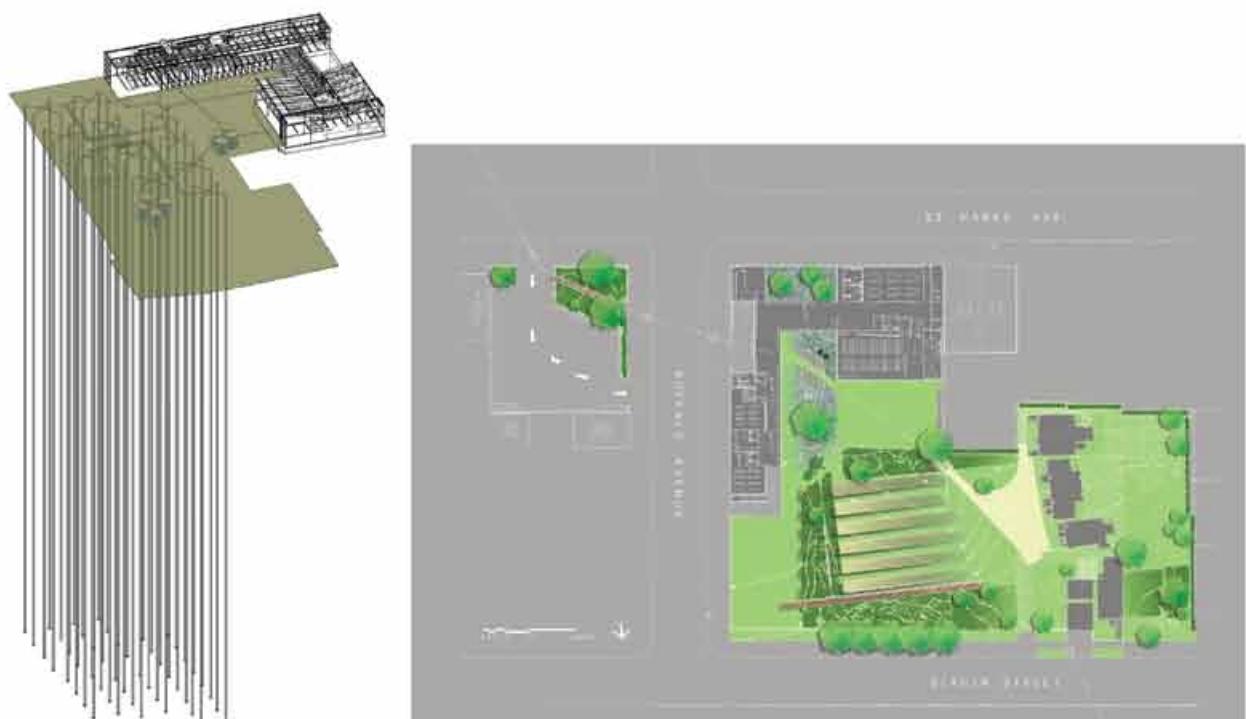
the present to the past, between the now and the then. The rolling mown field, and areas of wildflowers evoke the community's agricultural origins.

The old trail "Hunterfly Road" disappears and reappears before the houses in a "ghost landscape" extrapolated from old maps.

In deference to the historic structures, the building is kept intentionally low, sited to protect the view of the old houses, while providing the broad portal gateway along the old Indian trail to the houses and long open views of the historic site through the transparent corridors.

The building enclosure consists of a composition of wood rainscreen, slate rainscreen, and insulated glass window walls and horizontal ribbon windows. The wood rainscreen consists of specially milled ipe boards, with open joints, attached to aluminum clips over a continuous air barrier. The slate rainscreen consists of 1-1/4" thick custom-cut slate panels mechanically attached to load-bearing metal studs with stone anchors, over a continuous air barrier. The laminated insulated glass roof includes a specially designed frit pattern, echoing African patterns, for solar shading. The subliminal perceptual stimuli decoration and sculpture unique to Africa, the architectural ideas of repetition, movement, rhythm, and proportion are revealed by sunlight. Natural light enriches these riffs by adding shadows, moods, and ever-changing perspectives.

The Weeksville Heritage Center organization maintains deep ties to the local community, including the 2400 residents of the neighboring Kingsborough Houses public housing development. During summer months, Weeksville hosts community farmers markets every Saturday and stages a free summer concert and film series. The new building includes a 40,000 square feet open landscaped area for community use. The project site is immediately adjacent to several municipal bus lines, a 10-minute walk to three subway lines, and a 20-minute walk to the nearest regional rail station.





#### 역사를 투영시킨 웍스빌 혜리티지 센터

오늘날 우리는 도시 곳곳에서 과거와 현재가 공존하는 모습을 심심찮게 발견할 수 있다. 특별한 민족의 문화가 익숙한 이곳, 뉴욕 브루클린 지역에는 이러한 역사적인 특성을 살려 주민과 소통하고자 하는 건물이 있다. 바로 웍스빌 혜리티지 센터다.

기하학적이고 조직적이다. 생동감 넘치는 아프리카 전통 문양은 건물의 길고 평평한 유리창과 현창에 그대로 드러난다. 뗏빛 가리개 역할 뿐 아니라 때론 뗏빛의 도움으로 시시각각 색과 그림자를 바꿔가며 재미를 더하기도 한다. 또한, 목재와 석재를 적절히 사용함으로 토속적인 분위기를 연출하는데, 이 때 전통 장식이 새겨진 울타리는 '현대 건축'과 '아프리카의 전통'이라는 서로 다른 별개의 주제가 하나의 공간 안에서 조화를 이룰 수 있도록 돋는다.

畢竟 아니라 센터는 역사적인 유적지를 포함한 주변 대지를 아우르면서 특정 시간과 장소의 의미를 되새겨보게 한다. 대지는 19세기 노예제도에서 해방된 아프리카계 미국인들이 모여 살던 곳으로, 40년 동안 끊임없는 지원 속에 그들만의 주요 문화 유산자로 거듭나게 되었다. 이 작업을 통해 과거에 갇혀있던 이러한 역사를 깔집어놓으로써 센터는 마지막 19세기 주거 유적지로의 시간 여행의 관문이 된 듯한 느낌을 준다.

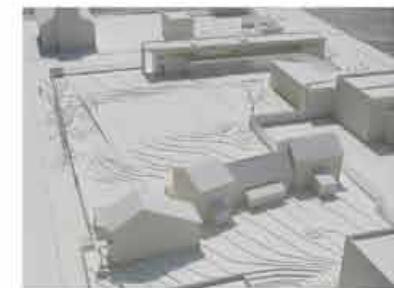
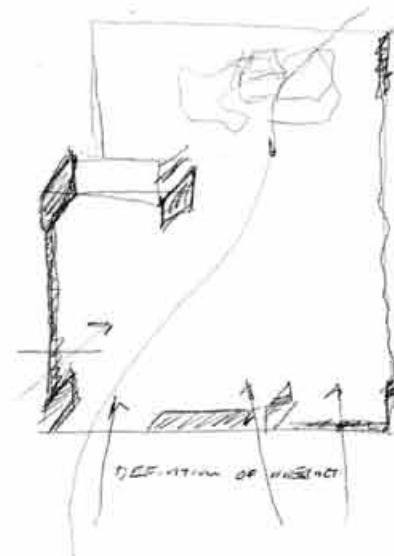
이러한 작업이 쉽지만은 않았다. 서로 다른 시공간인 역사를 지난 옛 주택

과 새로 지어진 건물에 충분한 거리감을 두면서 동시에 두 세기만큼의 시차를 극복해야 했기 때문이다. 해결책으로 약 3,700m<sup>2</sup>의 농경지 풍경을 재현하여 자연스러운 움직임을 연출하였다. 그때나 지금이나 앙상화가 가득한 풀밭에서 주민은 새로운 농촌 공동체를 이룬다. 이곳에는 매주 토요일마다

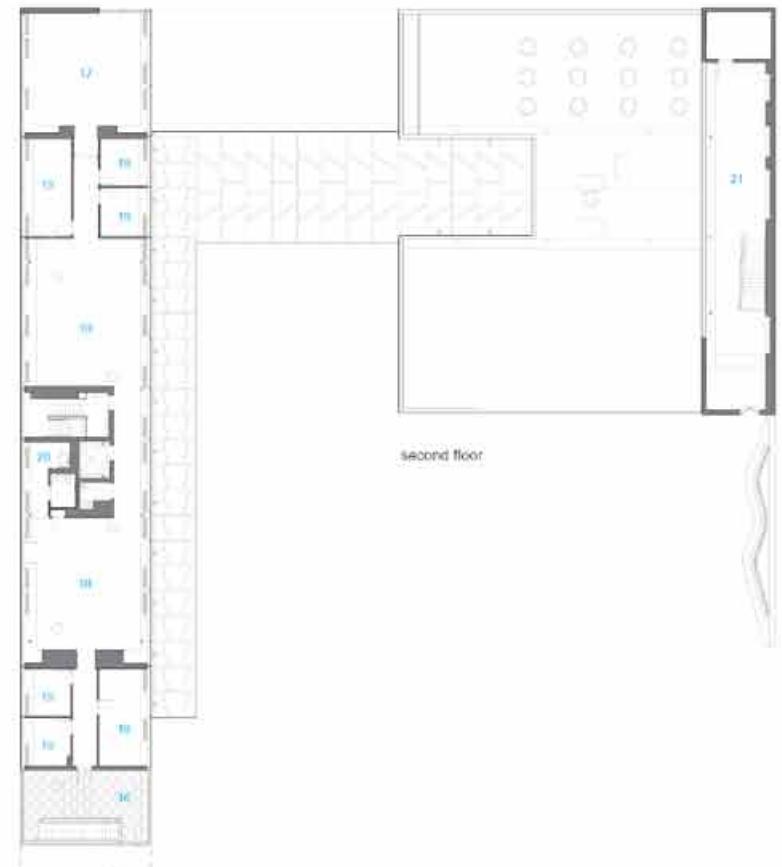
바자회가 열리고, 각종 음악회, 영화 상영과 같은 다양한 행사를 열린다. 또한, 농촌 풍경에 고지도에서 유추한 옛길을 새로 열어 유적지의 잊혀진 기억을 다시금 불러내는 등 다양한 방식으로 건물에 접근할 수 있도록 한다. 이러한 경관을 고려하여 건물은 의도적으로 낮게 계획되었다. 내부 역시 전망을 향해 넓게 열려있다. 복도 또한 부드럽게 처리함으로써 방문객은 아름다운 풍경을 만끽할 수 있게 되었다.

센터는 전시실과 함께 공연장 및 교육시설을 겸비하고 있으며, 방문자와 지역 공동체를 위한 녹지 공간도 갖추고 있다. 주 출입 현관에서는 상설 전시와 더불어 다양한 기획전시를 위한 공간이 마련되어 있고, 각종 강연과 공연을 위한, 약 200명을 수용할 수 있는 강당도 있다. 또한, 1층에는 여러 방문 단체와 지역 교육 활동을 위한 교실과 학자에게 필요한 자료와 정보를 제공하는 종합 자료실이, 2층에는 행정 사무실과 자료 보관소 및 구술 자료 녹음실 등 주로 관리자를 위한 공간이 있다.



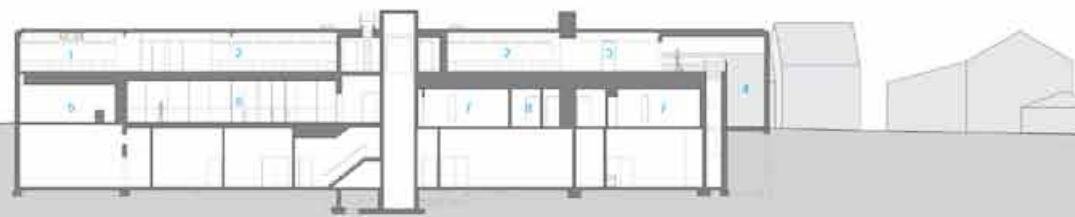


Project: Weeksville Heritage Center  
Location: Brooklyn, New York, United States  
Architects: Caples Jefferson Architects  
Construction manager: Hill International  
General contractor: Brinkers Construction  
Structural engineer: Sevrukd Associates  
MEP engineer: Loring Consulting Engineers  
Civil & Geotechnical engineer: Langan Engineering  
Geothermal engineer: P.W. Grosser Consulting  
Lighting design: Berg-Howland Associates  
Landscape architects: Elizabeth Kennedy Landscape Architects  
Cost estimating: Faithful + Gould  
Acoustics & Audio visual: Shen Milsom + Wilke  
Theatrical lighting: Cline Bettridge Bernstein Lighting Design  
Building department: Metropolis  
Specifications: Heller + Metzger PC  
Curtain wall: Gordon Smith Corporation  
Sustainable Design & Commissioning: Virdan  
Security: Duobella Venter & Santore  
Museum programming: Dial Associates  
Clients: David Burney, Victor Metoyer, Pamela Green  
Site area: 3,600m<sup>2</sup> Bldg. area: 1,370m<sup>2</sup>  
Gross floor area: 2,140m<sup>2</sup>  
Design: 2008 Completion: 2013.8  
Photograph: ©Nic Lehoux (courtesy of the architect)

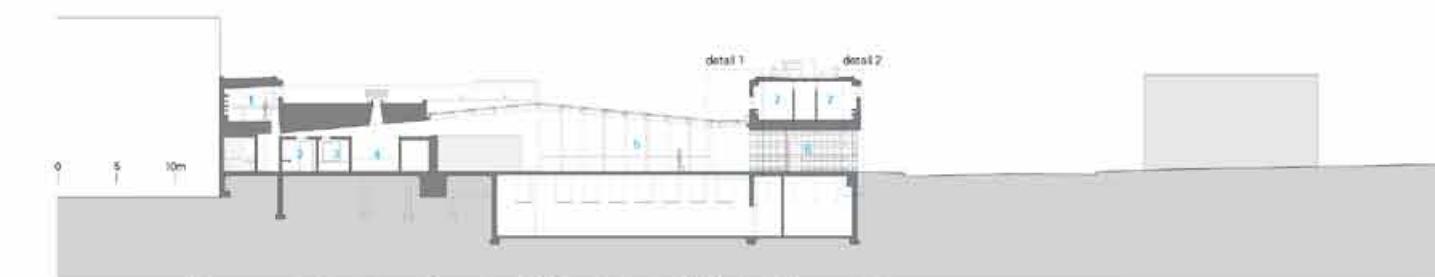
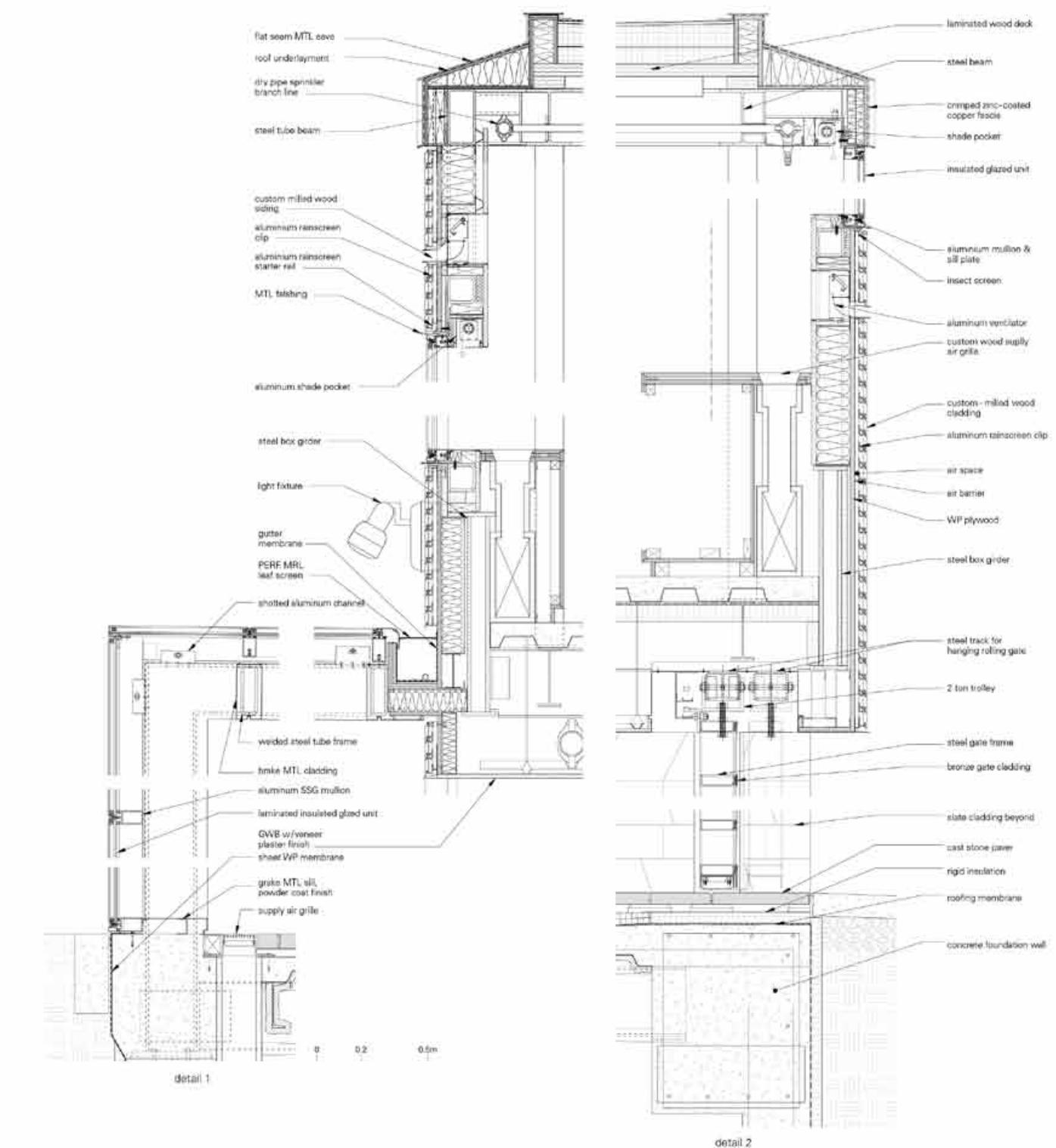


1. entry portico	11. dressing room
2. glass link lobby	12. loading area
3. gift shop	13. security office
4. workshop	14. recycling room
5. media center	15. staff entry
6. exhibition room	16. porch
7. multipurpose performance room	17. conference room
8. food service	18. open office
9. library	19. office
10. staff room	20. staff pantry
	21. library mezzanine





1. conference room 2. open office 3. office 4. porch 5. gift shop 6. entry porcico 7. workshop 8. media center  
section A-A'



1. library mezzanine 2. dressing room 3. control room 4. food service 5. glass link lobby 6. exhibition room 7. office  
section B-B'

