Buffalo, NY is a city struggling with vacancy; having lost nearly half of its population over the past fifty years. As the city clears itself of the many blighted and abandoned properties, the result is a pockmarked urban fabric. Western New York has a strong agricultural tradition and within Buffalo’s urban landscape, a number of grass roots urban farming organizations have emerged. Nonetheless, access to fresh, affordable, and healthy food remains an issue for many of Buffalo’s residents.

Despite Buffalo’s eroding urban fabric, there remains a robust stock of urban manufacturing buildings, many of which are out of use. Leveraging this condition, the project is sited in a former cheese factory in Buffalo’s East Side.

Using bees as envoys throughout the city, the Buffalo Bee Stable tasks itself with ameliorating some of Buffalo’s most pressing issues—Vacancy and Food Access—while fostering the widely beneficial emerging Urban Farming movement. Enlisting a three-tiered approach—MEND, GROW, PROVIDE—a fleet of bees contributes to each of these efforts, whether by bee lending service for crop pollination of urban farms, preparation of vacant lots for future farming use, or access to local honey products. The building as well supports the production and teaching of urban agriculture with classrooms and a greenhouse for year-round growing. It engages both the surrounding community with a small fresh market and the broader city with a farm-to-fork restaurant and farmer’s market.

The project program serves as an infrastructure and support for the urban farming movement; in much the same way, the architectural intervention is envisioned as an infrastructure for the existing site. By embracing and maintaining the character of the existing structure, both the physical and cultural value of the building is leveraged. The building boasts of its new purpose, while retaining its heritage.
Within the existing masonry shell, new installations contribute to a more productive and efficient building. Attention to daylighting was a driving force in this project. Sawtooth skylights pull diffuse northern light into the large atrium used for farmer’s markets, events and loading into the honey processing area. These skylights, as well as the sweeping greenhouse roof over the restaurant and nursery can be vented to exhaust warm air through the stack effect.

Dating from 1920, the selected site is a former cheese factory. The large lot is in fact a conglomeration of buildings built over time. Parti walls are left as artifacts and serve to define programmatic spaces.
The strategy of this project is to leverage the Bay Area’s temperate climate and approach building as a support system or site infrastructure rather than enclosure. The project is responsive to site conditions and local climate and is articulated in a family of components; each serving to modulate the site and climate. All these built elements work in conjunction with modifications to the existing landscape. Coniferous Eucalyptus trees have been removed to the south of the site and in some cases replaced to the west by deciduous trees to increase the site’s solar access. The trees to west provide further wind break. Bioswale to north assists in water retention and prevents soil erosion along the site’s slope. The organization of the plan aims to optimize the site’s micro-climate, with the classroom and productive landscape capturing morning sun. Ultimately the aim of the project is to calibrate climate through built elements so as to define a space that feels enclosed yet maintains an open connection to its surrounding nature.

**SILVER TREE DAY CAMP**

preschool and summer day camp  
glen canyon park  
san francisco, ca  
fall 2012 | arch 201  
roddy creedon
1. CLASSROOM
2. CUBBIES
3. KITCHEN
4. RESTROOMS
5. STORAGE
6. OFFICE
7. COVERED PLAY AREA
As an annex to the Deutsche Kinemathek (German Film Archive) in Berlin, Germany this project celebrates the archive, taking it to be its primary formal expression-defining an infrastructural spine. The canted planes of this archive reference the shifting urban street grid of Berlin. The spatial quality of the project draws inspiration from the unique and powerful conditions that buildings experience as they move through cycles of decay and rebirth: the abrupt cut of building; the unexpected layering of different materials and spaces; the new penetration of light.

Claiming the neighboring empty lot, a terraced landscape ramps up to meet the cafe on the second floor. The space transitions from a field of native wildflowers and grasses into a more structured landscape which accommodates seating for outdoor film viewing projected onto an existing parti wall. Adhering to Berlin’s strongly defined street edge, a structural facade lines the property line. This system of scaffolding structures programmatic space that bridges the interstitial space, emerging from the archive wall.
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Draped in fog and reaching towards the Golden Gate Channel, Point Bonita is well situated to serve as a fog harvest site. A veil of mesh netting gathers the fog's condensation, while a network of cistern carved into the rockface stores the collected water. The ephemeral qualities of the netting recall the fog's presence even when the sky has cleared. Building upon historical cultural significances of water collection sites, the fog harvest site also plays host to a gathering site for artists in residence at the Marin Headlands. Much like the traditional wells’ role as community social hubs, a large occupiable cistern – a swimming hole of sorts – provides a place for artists to gather in an informal setting, strengthening social as well as creative connections.

An exploration into phenomenological marking within architecture, the design aims to embrace and bring to the surface the experiential qualities so inherent to the Point Bonita site. The architecture is in dialogue with its surroundings.