



## MARYLAND AND CHESAPEAKE HOUSE

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**Location** Harford County and Cecil County, Maryland

**Category** Commercial Architecture

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### Synopsis

The Maryland House and Chesapeake House travel plazas serve more than 5 million visitors per year on Interstate 95, the most heavily traveled highway on the East Coast. Deterioration of the original buildings from constant use led the Maryland Transportation Authority to seek replacement designs.

The design team saw the project as an opportunity to reintroduce the travel plazas in a sustainable way, transforming the concept of the isolated and prototyped node along a state highway from a “drive-in, drive-out” user mentality into an opportunity for millions of visitors to engage with high performance buildings that are intimately tied to Maryland culture and ecology. The sustainable buildings demonstrate the State’s commitment to the ongoing renewal and development of Maryland.

Sited within the existing buildings’ footprints to preserve trees and green space, the architects looked to regional architectural forms and the Chesapeake Bay, the largest estuary in the United States, as a source of inspiration. The bold designs respond to the scale and speed of the highway, yet provide a memorable sense of pause. The facilities are restful, convenient, and fresh and take every effort to preserve and enhance the existing natural features of the sites. Strong and persistent connection to the outdoors creates legible and well-oriented public space.

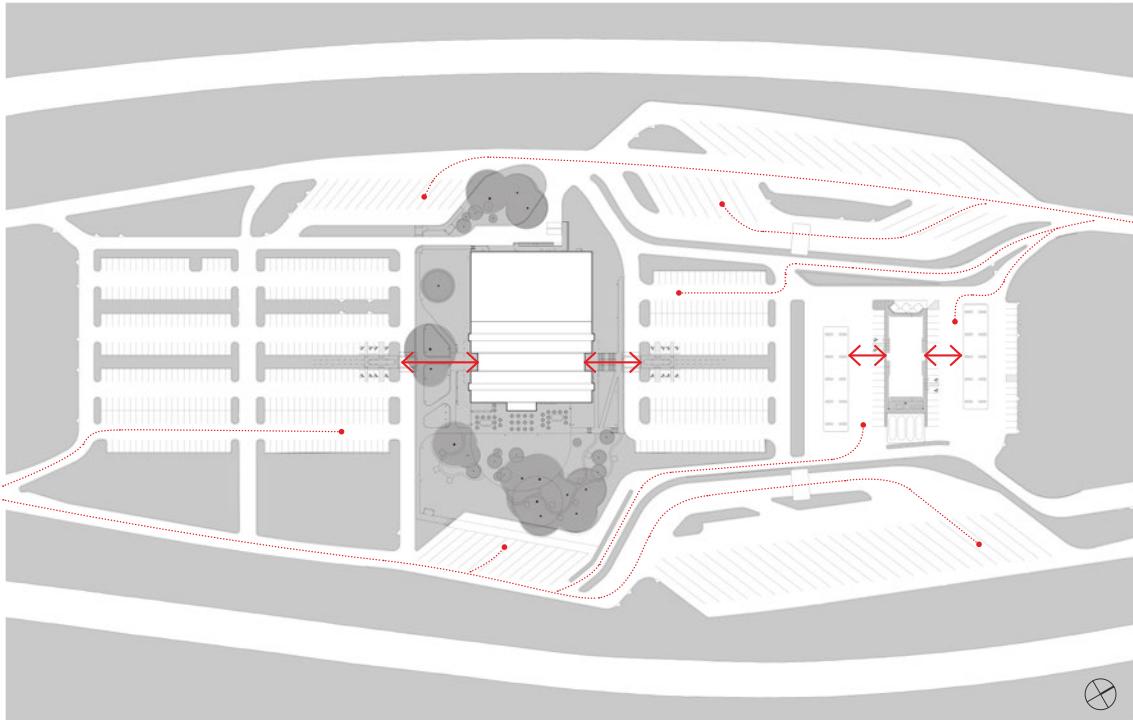




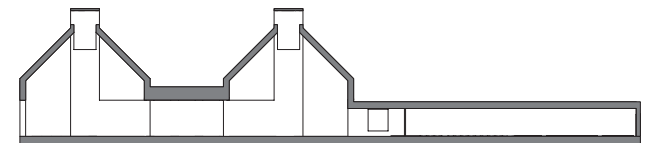
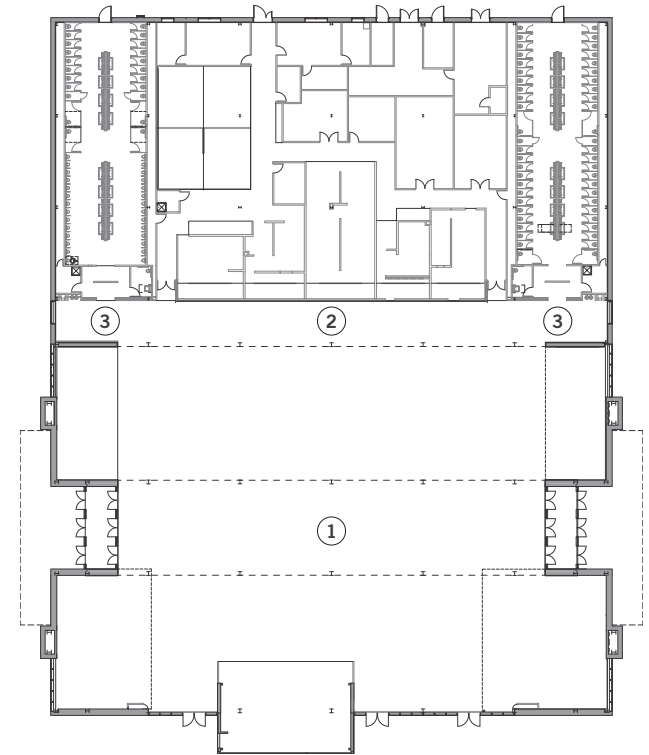


Regional architectural forms and materials are reinterpreted with a contemporary sensibility to create a highly transparent and welcoming modern facility.



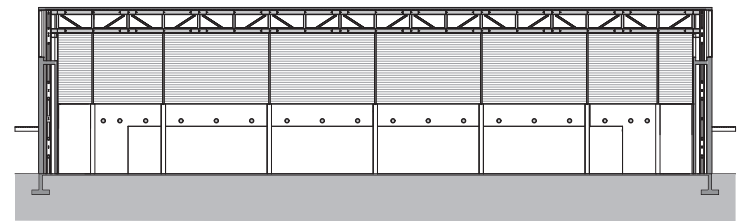
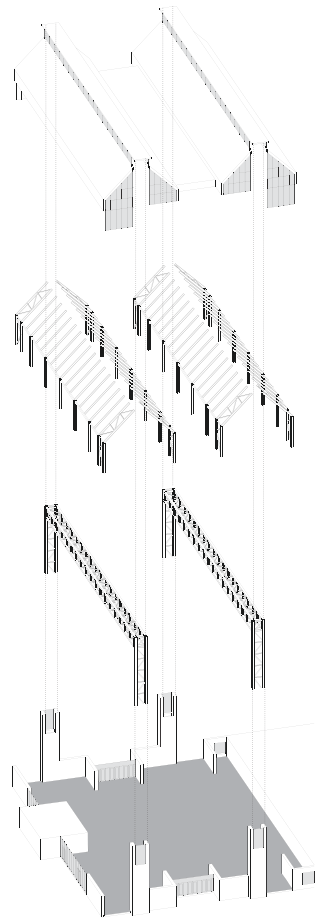


Clear and legible vehicular circulation and pedestrian access were fundamental design drivers. The single open space for dining and rest is visually connected to the outdoors and public amenities. Overhead, the undulating and sheltering roof form creates a central spine through which north and south-bound travelers enter and interact.



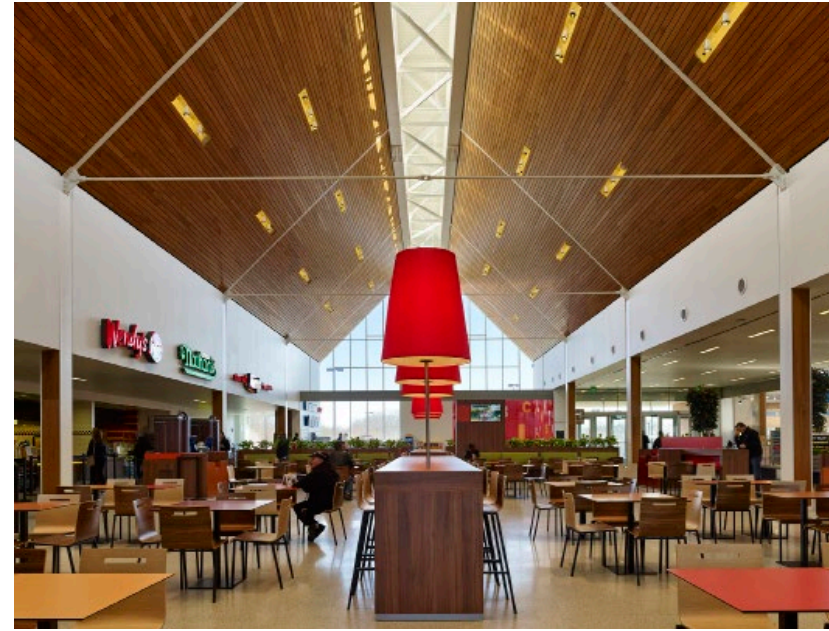
#### KEY

- 1 Dining
- 2 Food Vendors
- 3 Restrooms



Two 180 foot-long box trusses, which recall truss bridges of the Mid-Atlantic region, support the roof over the dining and rest area and serve as clear story elements that bring in light from north and south.





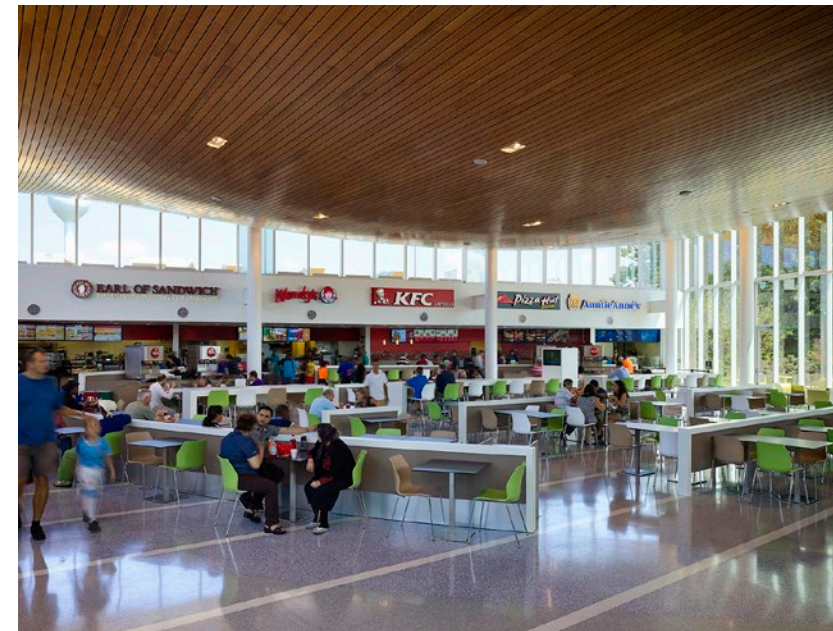
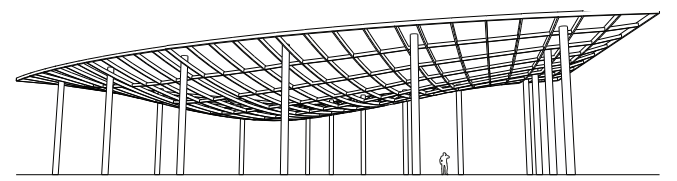
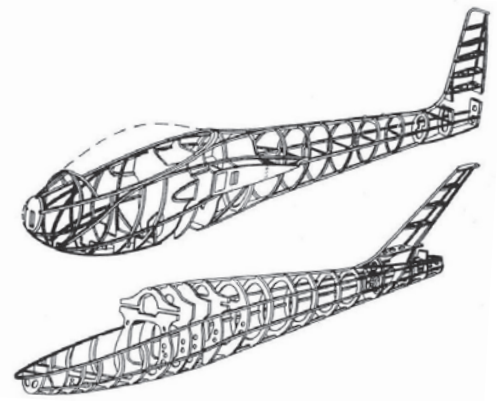
Voluminous and welcoming interior space clad in wood creates a warm and welcoming space day and night.





Chesapeake House's smooth and flowing building form and use of wood and glass evoke all things nautical – a concept carried through the interior space, which is capped by a hull-like wooden ceiling. The curved rain-screen facade imparts a warm materiality to welcome travelers.



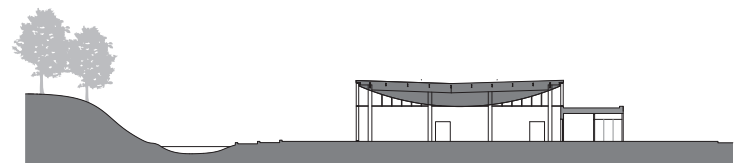


A doubly curved singular wood ceiling unifies a variety of retail and dining areas underneath. Below the clear story, vendor graphics and colors are given priority.

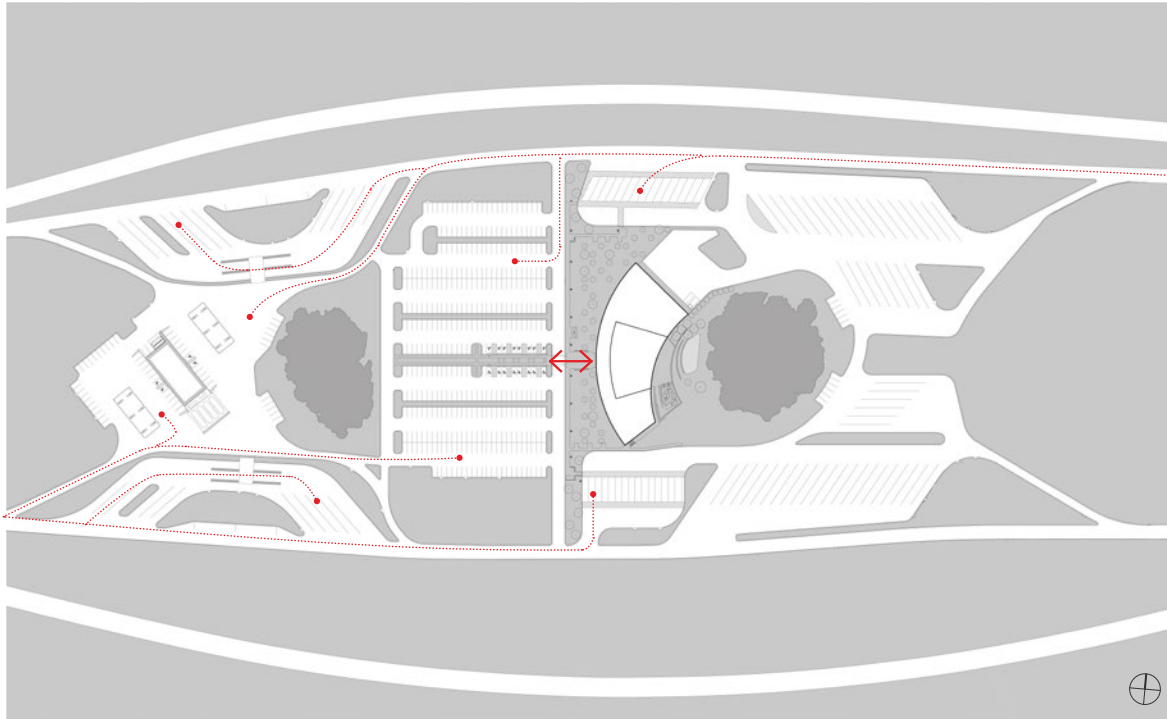




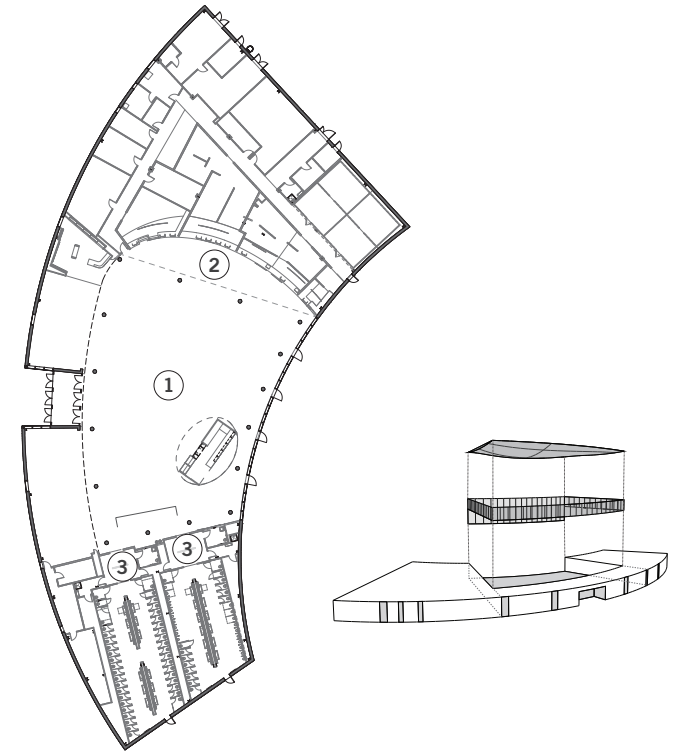
The exterior dining space is a natural respite from the highway, formed as an outdoor room between the building and an existing hill – a remnant of the Appalachian Trail. High performance glass provides sweeping views of the outdoor garden and pond.







Travelers arriving on the site are reminded of the region's watershed environment. Landscaping around the water feature and throughout the site is designed to preserve and enhance local landscape and wildlife. The interior is a simple and highly legible space that provides immediate understanding to first-time visitors.



**KEY**

- 1 Dining
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The LEED Silver-projected buildings demonstrate the State's commitment to the ongoing renewal and development of Maryland. The team implemented new BMP stormwater management facilities and significantly reduced impervious cover from existing conditions. The site redesign improved the surrounding habitat and watershed through a remediation effort that cleaned up contaminated areas, rebuilt existing subgrade storage tanks at service stations, and introduced engineered site design facilities.

**23%**

IMPERVIOUS SURFACE ELIMINATED

**26%**

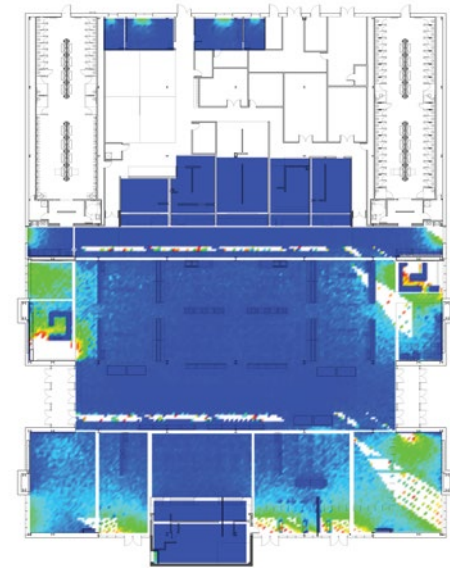
REDUCTION IN ENERGY COSTS

**42%**

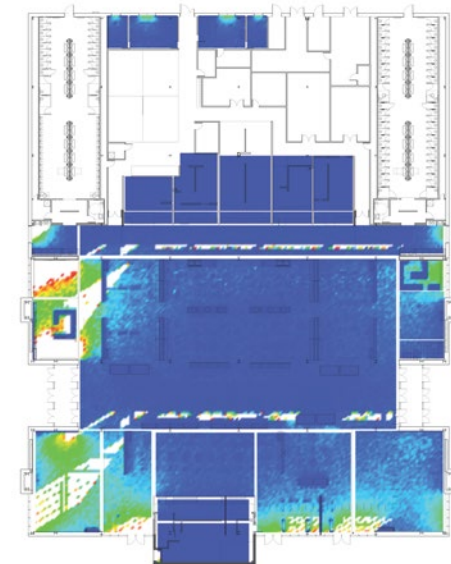
REDUCTION IN WATER USAGE

**42%**

REDUCTION IN ENERGY CONSUMPTION  
VERSUS BASELINE



MARYLAND HOUSE DAYLIGHT SCENARIO - 9:00 AM



MARYLAND HOUSE DAYLIGHT SCENARIO - 3:00 PM

The designers identified targeted areas to use daylight control strategies including roller shades, tinted glass, and applied optical films to achieve effective and consistent daylighting in public spaces.