



# Meeting Barn

College of Charleston  
Dixie Plantation  
Hollywood, SC  
Institutional Architecture

Sited on the banks of the Stono River in the South Carolina Lowcountry, historic Dixie Plantation is an ecological treasure of diverse landscapes. Its 881 acres are owned by the College of Charleston Foundation and used as a living laboratory for research and education.

The architects developed a comprehensive master plan, including the meeting barn, a 4.3-mile nature trail, and renovation of an existing studio.

The following principles guided the meeting barn's design:

- *Work with a light hand and leave the minimum footprint on the site.*
- *Build with the least disturbance and best enhancement for place and experience.*

The architectural intent was that the building be simple and reflect the values of local vernacular structures.

The meeting barn sits on the site of an earlier barn that was in disrepair. The building intentionally draws inspiration from its predecessor. The barn adheres to the Lowcountry aesthetic with copper standing-seam roofing, western red cedar exterior siding that resists decay, mahogany windows and doors, and a two-story screened porch that takes advantage of climate and views. Operable cedar shutters serve a practical purpose during hurricane season. The vaulted cypress great room has exposed wood roof trusses and reclaimed pine flooring.

The meeting barn provides a multipurpose space for social events, oyster roasts, lectures, conferences, and banquets. The overlooking mezzanine level leads out to the screened porch with views to the Stono River.

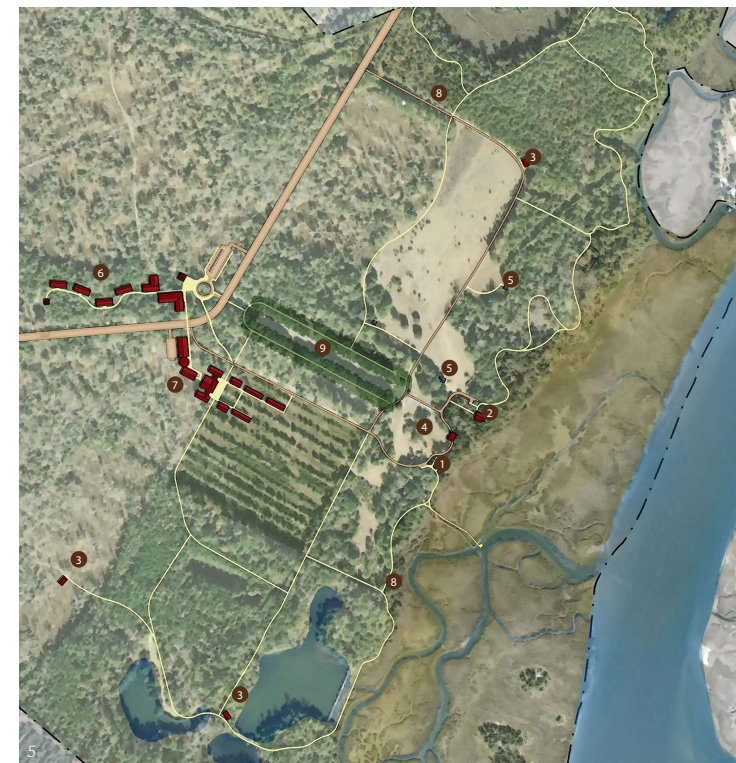
The meeting barn is designed to LEED Silver requirements, and demonstrates water efficiency, optimized energy performance, and sustainable site design.

1 River, oaks, studio, and meeting barn

2 (next page) Land side meeting barn entrance among the live oaks



# Lowcountry Setting



3 Nature trail map

4 Aerial view of Stono River marshes and the saltwater pond; Barn site is upper right, northeast of pond

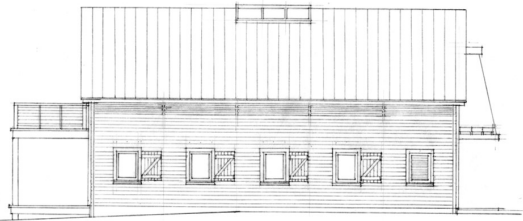
5 Dixie Plantation Master Plan showing proposed development including meeting barn (2), nature trail, and existing oak alley

6 Site plan detail showing partial trail, meeting barn and renovated studio. The property was previously owned by renowned wildlife artist and naturalist John Henry Dick.

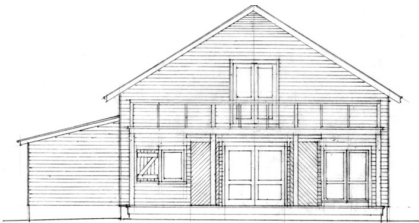
# Design and Context



West (land side)



North



East (water side)



East (water side)

7 Design development sketches illustrating early exterior elevations (before two-story screened porch, entry porch, and fireplaces)

8 View from east with majestic oaks and old corn crib

9, 10 Views of preexisting barn



## Vernacular Form and Materials

The unique cultural landscape and the simple building form resonate as symbols of Lowcountry heritage. Clarity and restraint in the choice and articulation of materials result in a setting of high visual impact.



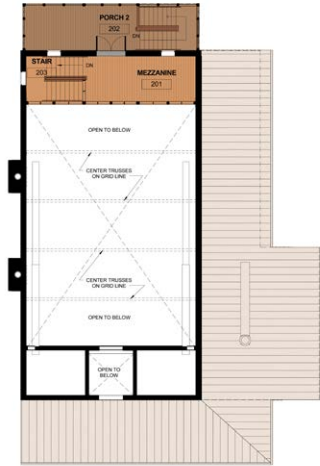
11 Meeting Barn elevation drawings

12 View of two-story screened porch from east; porch affords views to the Stono River and Intercoastal Waterway

13 Screened porch façade from south; cedar siding and shutters, copper roof



## Barn Interior (Great Room)



Mezzanine



First Floor Plan

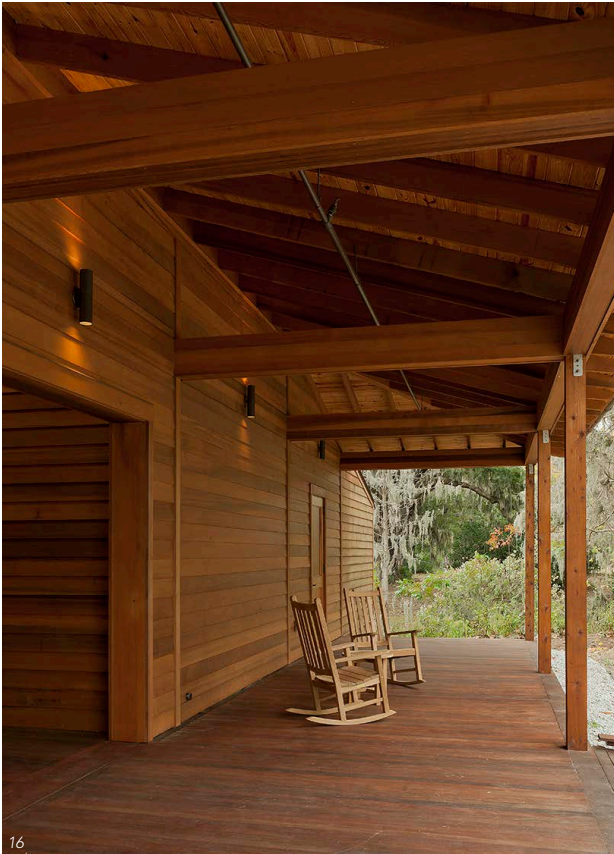


14 Floor plans

15 Interior view of great room and mezzanine overlook leading to two-story screened porch; cypress wall boards, reclaimed heart pine flooring, wood roof deck, and scissor trusses

## Porch and Views

The two-story screened porch provides views of the ancient live oaks and the Stono River and marshes. The slat rail design reflects the construction details of existing nearby farm buildings. A porch stair connects the two levels.



16 View of land side porch



17 View from upper level porch through screen to live oaks and Spanish moss



18 View of lower porch; stair connects lower and upper levels

## Integrated Planning and Design

The meeting barn is an integral component of the Dixie Plantation Master Plan, also completed by the architects. The master plan and its implementation preserve the serene beauty of the landscape and the history of wildlife artist John Henry Dick's legacy. As a teaching tool, professors and students find themselves immersed in an environment where they become field biologists and conservationists, just twenty minutes from main campus. Every day is different in the field.



19 Dixie Plantation Master Plan (aerial view)

20 Nature trail and interpretive signage

21 Meeting Barn

22 Renovated John Henry Dick studio

23 (next page) View from north of waterside porch demonstrates craftsmanship of board and batten shutters, lapped cedar siding, slat railings, and screened porch

24 (next page) View of meeting barn at dusk (entrance porch), Stono River beyond







