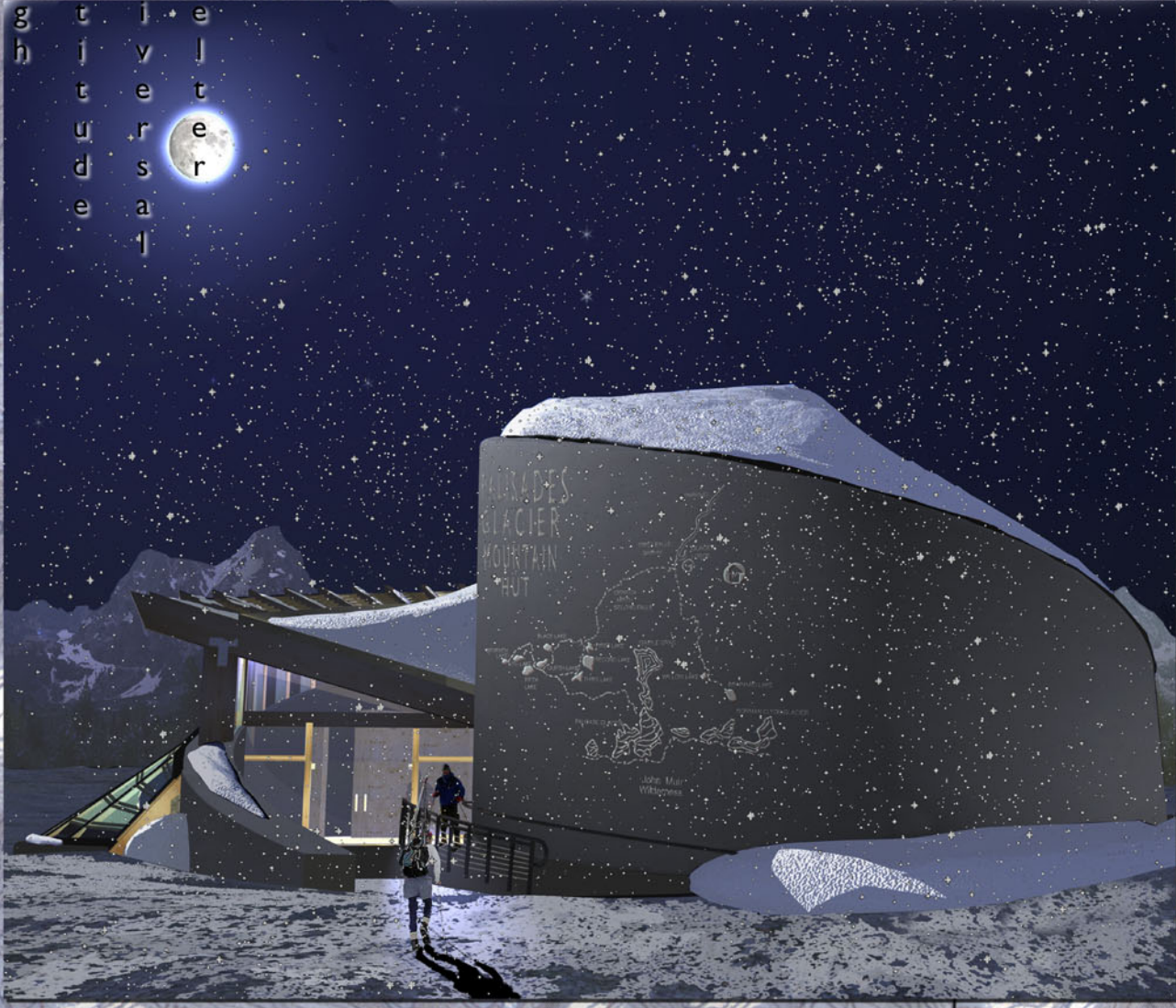


# E C O H A U S

n o n r g  
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3700



The design for the Palisades Glacier Mt. Hut consists of a new approach to wilderness lodging where users engage with each other, nature and technology through the architecture. The dynamic interactions of man kind and the natural world lead to an ever changing context transpiring into forces, energy and understanding. The building form, materials, and systems are guided by these integral relationships. Inherent to the design is the use of only materials, spaces and functions necessary to the needs and functions of the building and its users. Every surface and space is an essential component for the buildings purpose. Elements serve multiple functions, contributing to an integrated, cohesive living environment, equally dependent on its users, the building, and the natural environment.

The project goal is to produce a prototype of an ecologically sensitive mountain shelter through the examination and expression of mankind's connection to the natural environment. This co-dependent relationship must be constructive to both, rather than detrimental to either. The Mountain Hut will serve not only its practical function as a shelter, but also as an educational center promoting sustainable design through its success.

The structure encourages the practice of Leave-No-Trace, an ideology of minimum human impact on the environment and at the core of responsible mountaineering. The project itself promotes more structured and less invasive interaction with the sensitive natural ecosystem. When the building has come to the end of its life cycle, it too will be removed and recycled with nothing left but nature.

While this design focuses on the Palisades site, the building also functions as a paradigm to be constructed anywhere. With considerations to solar orientation and the selection of materials, the building would continue to promote sustainable construction, sensible energy consumption, and energy production at any location.

The building form derives from the study of naturally occurring spiral structures and the classical use of the Golden Rectangle in proportional development. The spiral form is repeatedly found in nature from flowers and pinecones, hurricanes, and even galaxies. The compact form allows for optimal interior space with minimal impact on the surrounding environment, greater heat retention, and less energy consumption.

