

The Bale Center
st. edward gathering center



south render

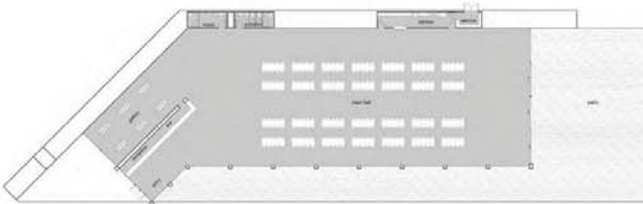


interior render



south deck

the project's foundation is based on the use of straw bale construction specifically with the northern wall of the structure. the northern wall is thick not only to protect the building from northern winds, but also to create a thermal mass as well as house utilitarian services for the building. from the north the building's cladding is designed to age naturally and blend in with the environment over time. on the south side the building is meant to be more open and public and create a sense of entry with the 45° bend that welcomes the community from the downtown area of st. edwards. the space inside is intentionally left as open as possible to allow for multiple uses. expanding on that, the east wall is composed of sliding glass that can open to the deck and make a connection between the interior and exterior to further expand the usable space. further expanding on the idea of straw bale construction, twice a year the community comes together, once at the beginning of the summer to construct a half height wall on the south side to protect from excess solar gain, and once in the winter to deconstruct. through this technique the building is made more efficient through cheap and easy means, and it also helps to build connections and maintain a strong sense of community within st. edwards.



north render

