Ying and Yang is the “concept describing how seemingly contrary forces end up being complementary, interconnected and interdependent in the natural world. It can also describe two sets of opposing and complementing principles or cosmic energies that can be observed in nature”. Nauso Hostel, which stands for nature and society in Alberta, Canada was designed to bring the belief of Ying and Yang and intertwine it with society and nature.

The balancing seesaw above was created during our parti, this helped us to see how society and nature balances each other out in the world.

Below are two models that were created in order to see how we could achieve our “ying and yang” shape but still make our hostel functional.

The “nature” section features a biophilic design which incorporates light and vegetation, two key components in nature.

Aerial view of the top of the building.

The “society” section of Nauso does exactly what a society does, it aggregates people. This side features room and board where each room bears immense windows that allows for ample views of the northern lights.
Nauso was designed specifically with sustainability in mind. From the 3” closed-cell rigid foam insulation foundation walls to a roof that requires minimal maintenance and won’t contribute to environmental degradation. Even the windows feature triple glazing and thermally efficient frames for the long winters and bone chilling temperatures. Concrete, which is considered a friend of the environment was chosen as our primary material because of its durability, thermal mass and the fact that it produces minimal waste. Green building was Nauso’s primary focus and through its materials we hoped that was achieved.