2020-39 | Oasis Peaks | Youth Hostel at Elk Island National Park in Alberta, Canada

Concept
We were driven by a focus on sustainable and organic materials, a welcoming and mindful environment, and stark geometry that contrasts the surrounding national park. Our goal was to evaluate and meet the needs of the hostel’s users with the most efficient and comfortable exterior and interior design.

Design
The design centered around a few primary elements of sustainability. We incorporated solar panels, water collection cisterns, geothermal heating and cooling, and permeable pavers on roadways. The structure is made up of concrete throughout the exterior, allowing for passive heating and cooling technologies. The interior of the youth hostel places an emphasis on relaxation, natural materials such as wood and stone, and simplistic design.
Throughout the interior layout we wanted to keep the spaces open and welcoming, allowing each room to flow into another and maintain a sense of unity. We separated the public spaces such as the dining hall, lobby, and patio area from the public spaces such as showers, the laundry room, and bedrooms.

Parking lot and road leading into the site are made with permeable pavers which allow for easy drainage during wet seasons whilst maintaining a quality road for cars or bicycles.