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ANDERSONVILLE
NATIONAL PRISONER OF WAR MUSEUM
Traveling Exhibition

March 25, 2009

Schematic Design II
Museum Design Associates

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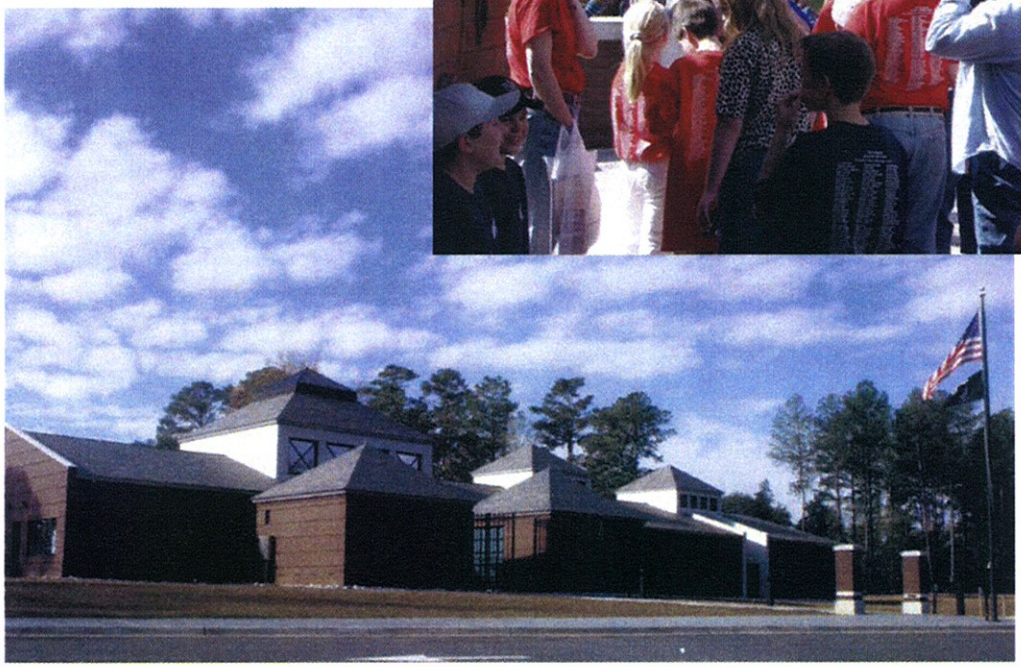
"Who is a POW ?"

Telling the story of American POW's in history is the job of Andersonville and it is done well reaching over 150,000+ visitors a year.

But what about those who will never visit the park because they are too far away ?



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What Is a Traveling Exhibition Experience ?

A traveling exhibit, like those shown here, will take the Andersonville story and that of all POW's in American history on the road to museums and venues far from Georgia, where visitors can be inspired by the park's story.

Estimates are that this could increase exposure to the POW story by an additional 50,000 visitors per year.

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Conceptual Approach

- Defining The POW Experience, Not A Chronology Of War
- Interpretive Emphasis on *"Telling stories that are not told in the permanent exhibit."*
- Reliance on the Power of Personal Account Narratives (contained in a searchable database)
- Exhibition Layout Able to Accommodate Classroom Group

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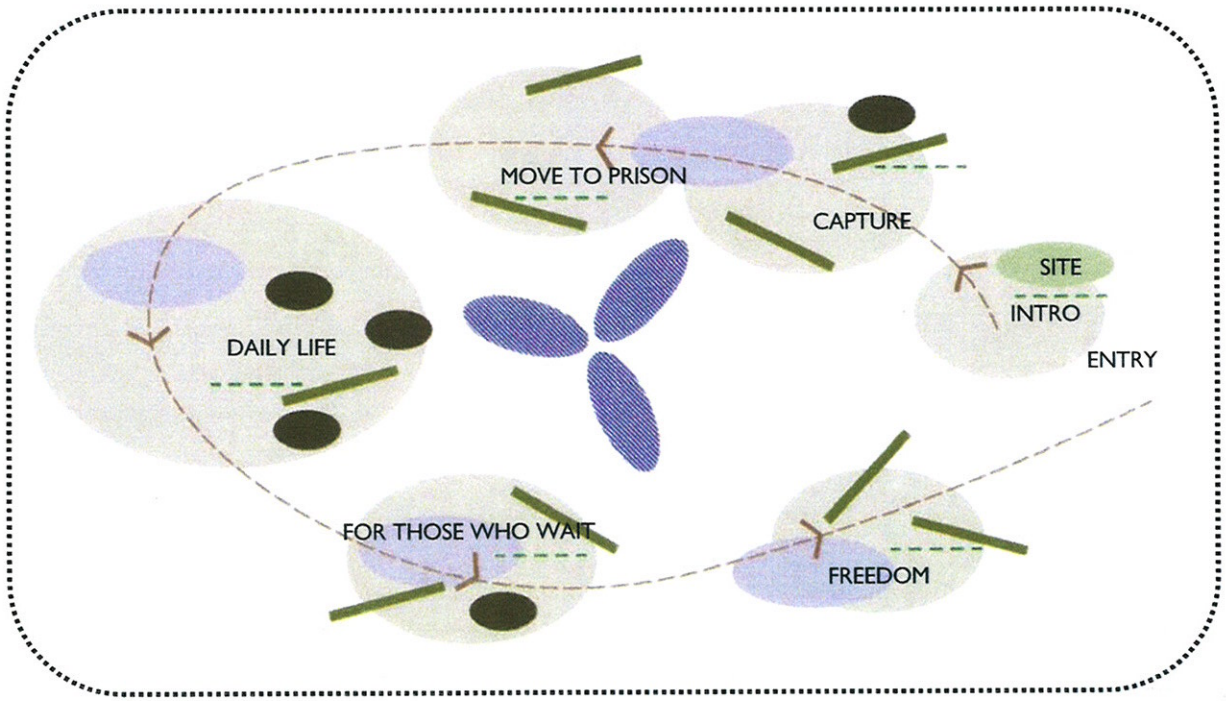
Organizing the Exhibition Experience



Exhibition Organized Into (6) Modules of Information

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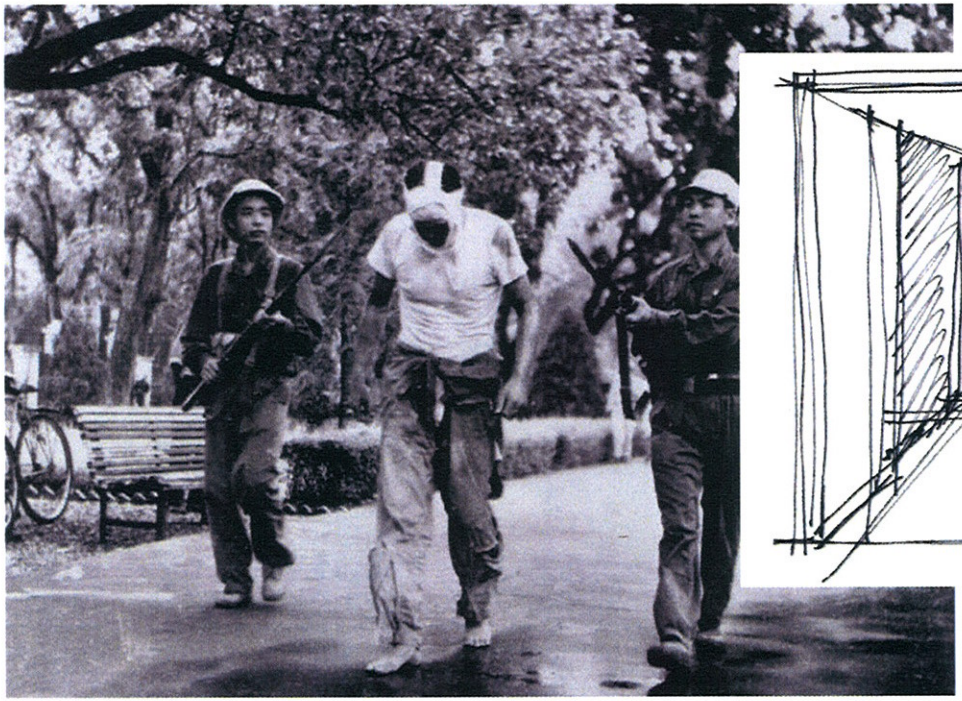
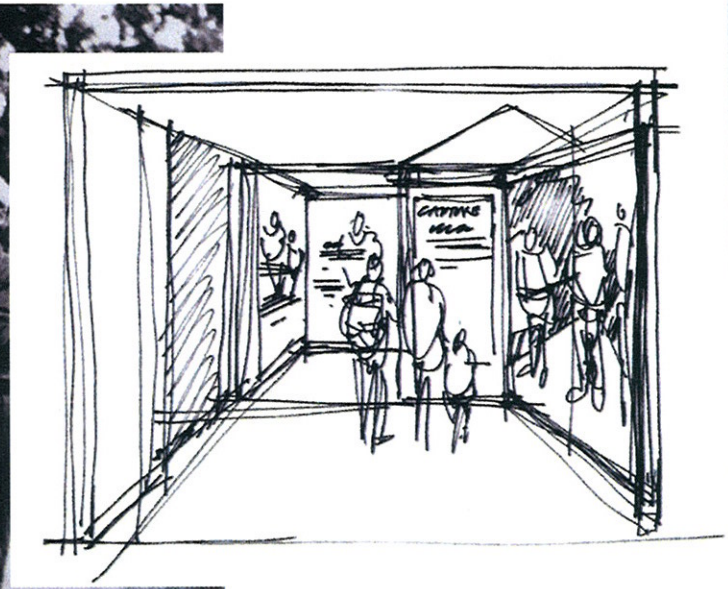
Defining the Exhibition Experience: Capture

"It gives one a sickening feeling to hand one's life, liberty and pursuit to the enemy unconditionally."
-PFC Thearl Mesecher, U.S. Army





Narrow confined spaces - evocative of the experience of confinement, transport the visitor, providing insight into the shock and uncertainty which accompany capture.

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Defining the Exhibition Experience: Move to Prison

*"War was supposed to be clean … all crisp and decisive.
Instead I felt like I was some helpless cornered prey."*

Evocative large format photography confronts the visitor as they enter the exhibit.

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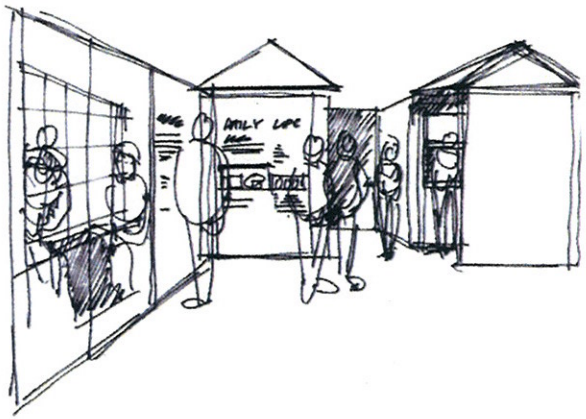
Defining the Exhibition Experience: Daily Life

"You tried to keep alive. Luckily for me I got into a group. That was the only way to survive."



The use of A/V kiosks and evocative images documents daily life in various camps, revealing the common experiences of the POW throughout history.

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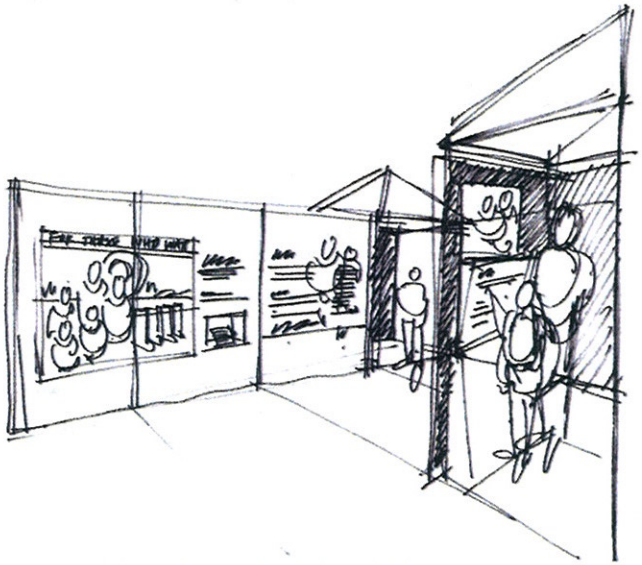
Defining the Exhibition Experience: For Those Who Wait

"News was the most sought after thing. And news from home was the answer to a dream."



Experience first-hand the significance of news from home, and the value of contact with fellow prisoners in POW life thorough the use of audio narratives, paired with reproductions of letters, postcards and small artifacts.

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Defining the Exhibition Experience: Freedom

"After over three years of hell … I realize just how sweet life is."

Evocative large format photography and object dramatize the initial joy of liberation, and the subsequent challenges of repatriation.

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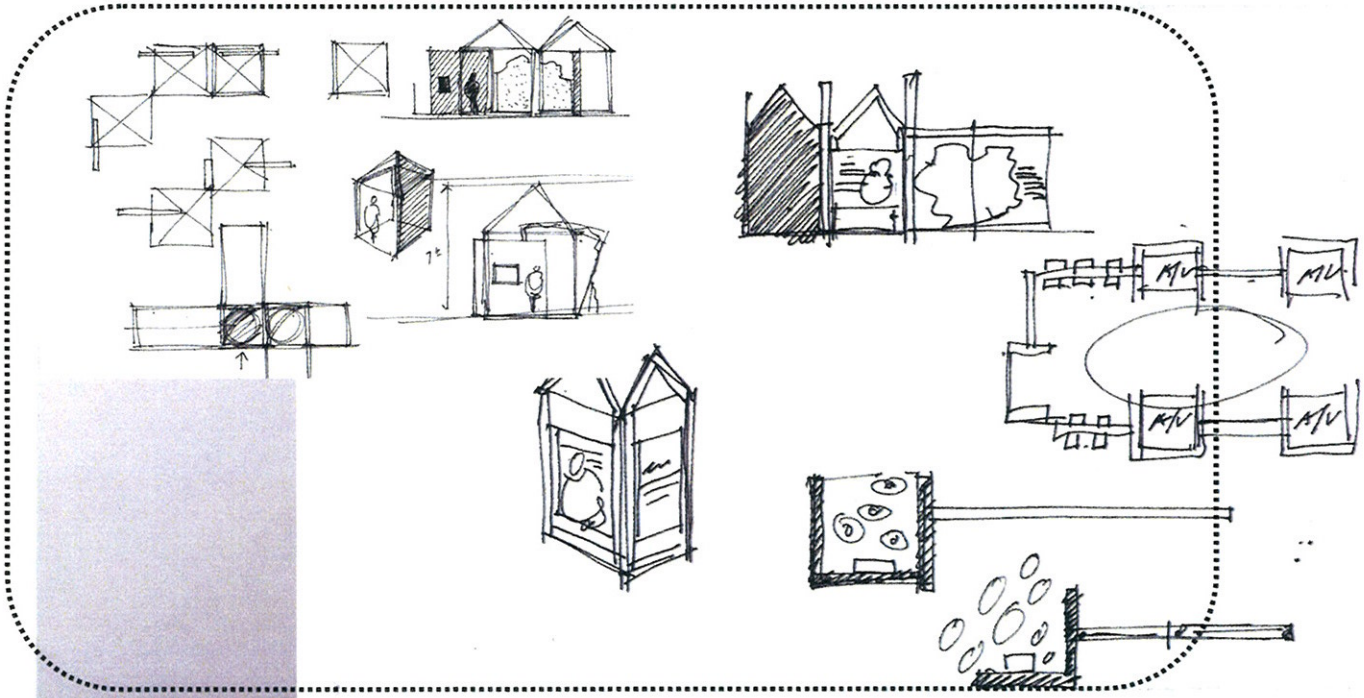
Plan / Elevation View



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