

MERCY VIRTUAL CARE CENTER (VCC)

Architectural Design Statement

Forum Studio

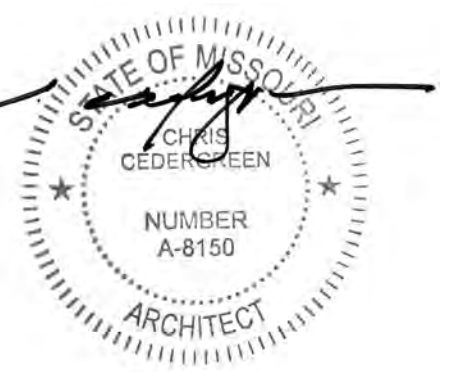
Designed by Forum Studio, the Mercy Virtual Care Center will be an interactive and collaborative work place that will accommodate the needs of a forward thinking healthcare provider for its most innovative programs. Set in a natural setting in Chesterfield, MO, the building will integrate sensitively into the lush woodland landscape of the site. The single, four story building will accommodate two floors of flexible work space devoted to virtual care, a pioneering demonstration lab linked to executive office space, and grounded by active amenities such as a café, gym, and conference facilities on the first floor. These programs, along with their support spaces, total 124,000 square feet of building area. As the first phase of development on the site, the proposed building will be a catalyst for its future sustainable development.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SITE DESIGN

- **Site Relationships:** The project is set on a portion of the 43.35 acre site across from Chesterfield Mall, Drury Plaza and Hyatt Place Hotels at the southeast corner of I-64 & Clarkson Road. The building is placed such that it is visible as an icon from I-64 & Clarkson but still is nestled within the wooded areas of the site. This site was selected for development not only for the direct access and visibility from one of the busiest intersections in the St Louis area but also for the natural features including an existing water body and mature woodlands. Thus careful consideration was given to place the building within the surrounding natural environment.
- **Circulation System and Access:** The site is initially accessed by an improved entrance off Clarkson and a second entry from Chesterfield Parkway. Future improvements planned for this development include by two entrances off of the improved South Outer Forty Road. The easternmost entrance off of the Outer Road will become the main entrance and leads to the building drop-off. This entrance would be heavily landscape and would include signage to provide a pleasing aesthetic upon arrival. The second employee and service vehicle entrance is located at the northwestern portion of the site off of the Outer Road / Elbridge Payne Rd. Pedestrian circulation and access is provided via a sidewalk from the Outer Road sidewalk as well as sidewalks providing direct access from parking areas to both the north and south entrances into the building. Additionally the beginnings of the campus wide path accessible system would be installed. These soft surface paths would allow the user to engage the natural surroundings.
- **Topography:** The building was sited such that it is relatively level or just below the level of the Outer Road providing for visibility from I-64 and Clarkson Road. The finish floor elevation of the building was selected at an elevation which allowed for little cutting of existing grade along the northeast and southern portions of the site. The site has an overall elevation change of 7' from the Outer Road to the building and 16' from the southwestern corner of the parking to the building. Parking was laid out such that minimal grading was necessary along the wooded perimeters.
- **Retaining Walls:** The finish floor elevation of the building was set to allow for users to be "in the tree canopy" or elevated within the preserved woodlands to the northeast, southwest and southern elevations. Therefore a terrace retaining wall will be provided along the eastern and southern elevations to minimize the fill extents at the existing trees. The terrace wall which varies in height would consist of an architectural finish with a metal guardrail where appropriate. To preserve other woodland areas both within the parking lot as well as the site perimeters modular walls will be constructed given their flexibility of alignment and design aesthetic. Screen walls would also be constructed at the loading/service area of the building. These screen walls would be clad in a stone veneer which integrates with the building elevations.
- **Storage:** There is no permanent on-site storage of goods or equipment for sale or service.
- **Utilities:** All utilities will be buried underground.
- **Parking:** The site consists of 409 parking spaces which includes 10 accessible spaces. Parking is provided such that there is a smaller lot at the northern portion of this site intended to lessen the impact of surface parking from Clarkson Road and the remaining surface parking along the western perimeter of the site. The current parking was laid out to avoid loss of significant mature woodland canopy. At the southwest portion of the parking lot parking was configured to avoid and protect a large portion of significant woodland trees.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR BUILDING DESIGN

- **Scale:** The scale of the sleek four story building is compatible with the varied context formed by nearby buildings. The massing of the building is sculpted to create appropriately human scaled spaces at all levels of the building. Setbacks, balconies, projections, and a rooftop terrace serve to articulate the building elevations. The building is set back at the ground floor to create a protected entry and exterior gathering spaces. The second and third floors are articulated by balconies that provide a direct connection between the exterior and interior. Finally, the fourth floor includes a significant roof overhang with an integrated trellis covering a large terrace.
- **Design:** The design of the building expresses Mercy's forward thinking vision for the VCC while integrating materials consistent with the site. The highly efficient and technologically advanced work space is articulated on the exterior through thoughtful material and formal elements that link the interior and exterior. The strong horizontal lines of the façade represent the strength of Mercy's platform. Floor-to-ceiling glass between these bands optimizes day-lighting, engages the natural setting, and reinforces Mercy's transparency. The glass wall undulates to form entries at the ground level and balconies above. This formal articulation adds a dynamic fluidity and progressiveness that is a reflection of the VCC program. It is most evident on the top floor as the enclosure shifts back from the building edge to create a large covered terrace. At the ground floor, stone walls ground the building into the site while columns and pilasters lift the upper floors to float above the site. Recesses at the ground floor create cantilevered projections that provide a protected pedestrian experience. Finally, the consistent language of the building is punctuated at its center by a glazed, vertical lantern that marks both the main entry and vertical connectivity. It is accentuated by a recess at the entry and a projected canopy that welcomes pedestrians.
- **Materials & Colors:** The materiality of the project is dictated by the desire of the project to be highly sustainable while providing expansive views, exposure to natural light, and integrating materials consistent with the natural setting. In order to meet these goals, the glazing is highly efficient and clear in order to maintain a direct connection to the exterior from the work space. The horizontal elements at the floor slabs are rendered in sandstone textured precast panels in two warm tones. These projections also serve to shade the glass, especially on the South elevation. On the West elevation, vertical precast fins further mitigate challenging solar conditions and enliven the façade. At the ground floor, warm stone wall masonry grounds the building while brick pilasters and columns in a similar tone add texture and definition at the pedestrian level. The glazed lantern and canopy are framed in painted steel, wood cladding on its inner surface, and copper panels on the exterior face. The wood also lines the soffit and serves as the deck surface at the balconies and the 4th floor terrace. The terrace, supported by steel and wood columns, is covered by a painted steel trellis framed in precast panels.
- **Landscape Design & Screening:** The building is sited to take advantage of the physical attributes of the property. The site plan preserves old growth trees that envelop the new building while setting up an advantageous relationship with a future pond. It provides a main entrance consisting of a naturalized landscape that integrates existing trees and is supplemented by new native plantings. The effect is to screen the building from the highway. This entrance experience extends to the arrival drop-off and ends in a paved plaza terrace that wraps the North, East and South of the building. The ground level terrace is framed by large, existing trees and a native, sustainable woodland landscape. The east overlook provides views to the pond and south side includes a café with exterior seating that activates the employee entry. The raised terrace provides access down to a path network that provides nature walks as well as circulation to parking areas separated from the building by lush landscapes. Stone masonry walls screen mechanical and service areas at the Western end of the building.
- **Lighting:** Site lighting will provide illumination along pedestrian walkways including guest parking. It is deployed in a sensitive manner that assures security while not contributing to light pollution in this natural environment. Subtle building lighting that will accentuate significant features including the lantern, cantilevers, and terraces are included.
- **Facades & Exterior Elements:** The building is strategically arranged in a manner that takes advantage of solar orientation, optimizes both views and experience of the surrounding landscape. The longest building faces have a favorable southern exposure and the shortest faces have the less favorable eastern/western exposures and feature an environmentally responsive envelope consisting of high-performance glazing, horizontal projections, shaded overhangs, vertical fins, and a horizontal trellis. Collectively, they form a consistent high performance skin that wraps the building in a carefully considered approach to both sustainability and form. These systems supplement the environmental advantages of preserving old growth trees adjacent to the building, specifically along the Southern face. The result is a forward-looking building that expresses Mercy's vision for the VCC by utilizing clean detailing and honest expressions of program, form and material to create a dynamic architectural language based in performance and efficiency.

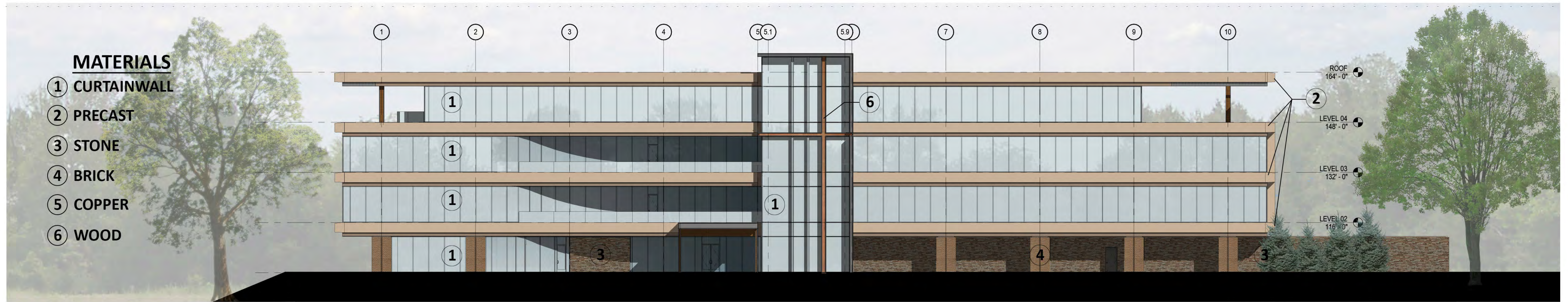


1/24/2014

MERCY VIRTUAL CARE CENTER

CHESTERFIELD HEALTH CAMPUS





ELEVATION - NORTH



ELEVATION - SOUTH



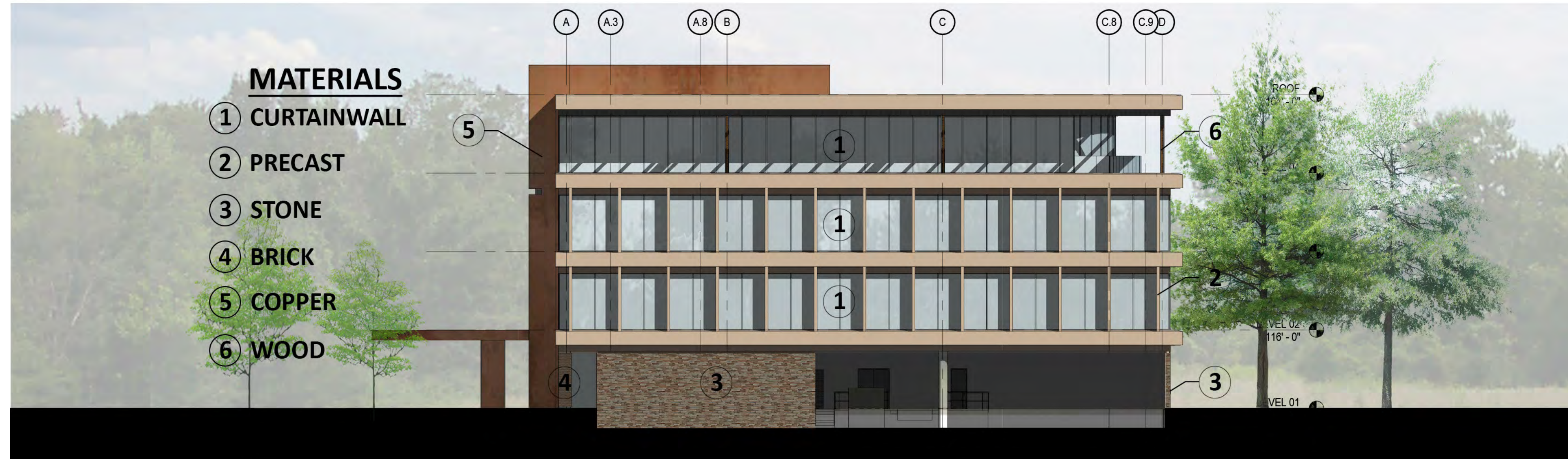
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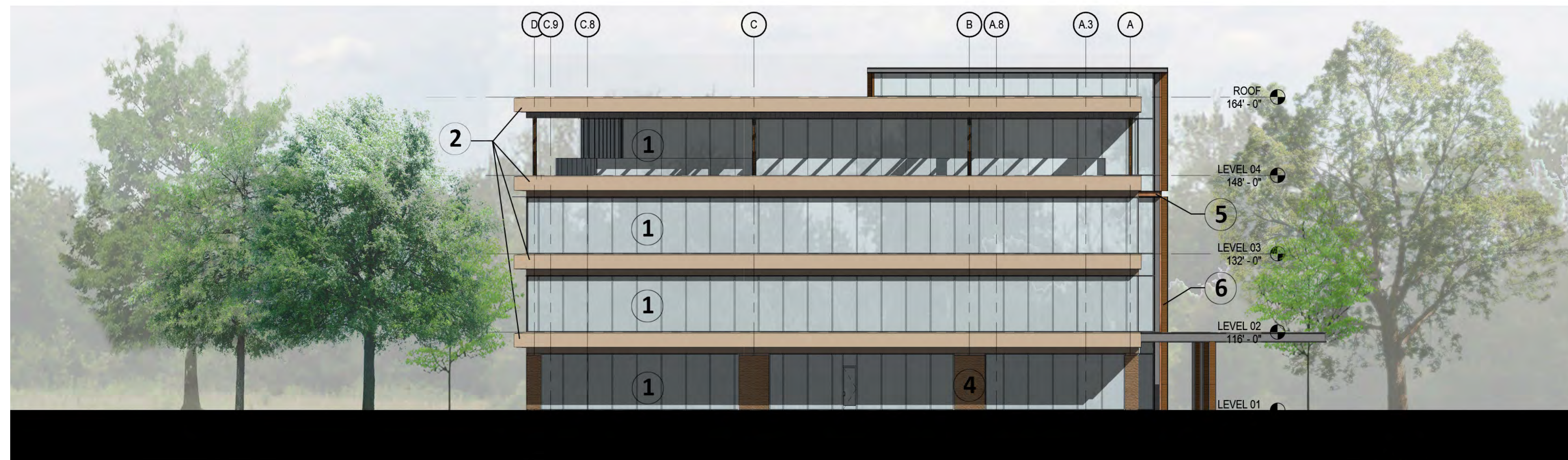
CHESTERFIELD HEALTH CAMPUS
 South Outer Forty
 Chesterfield, Missouri 63005



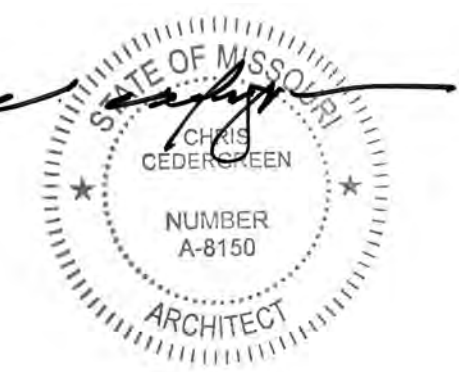
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WEST ELEVATION
1/16" = 1'-0"



EAST ELEVATION
1/16" = 1'-0"



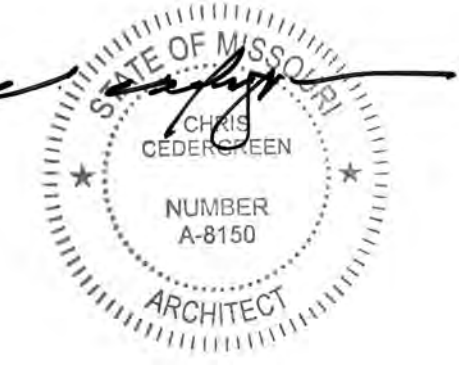
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MERCY VIRTUAL CARE CENTER

BUILDING ELEVATIONS

CHESTERFIELD HEALTH CAMPUS





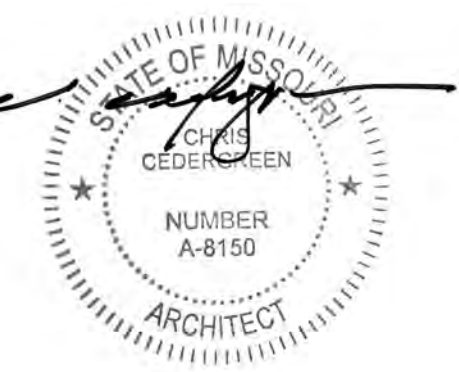
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MERCY VIRTUAL CARE CENTER

CHESTERFIELD HEALTH CAMPUS

EXTERIOR RENDERING -
VIEW FROM NORTH





1/24/2014

MERCY VIRTUAL CARE CENTER

CHESTERFIELD HEALTH CAMPUS

EXTERIOR RENDERING -
VIEW FROM SOUTHWEST

