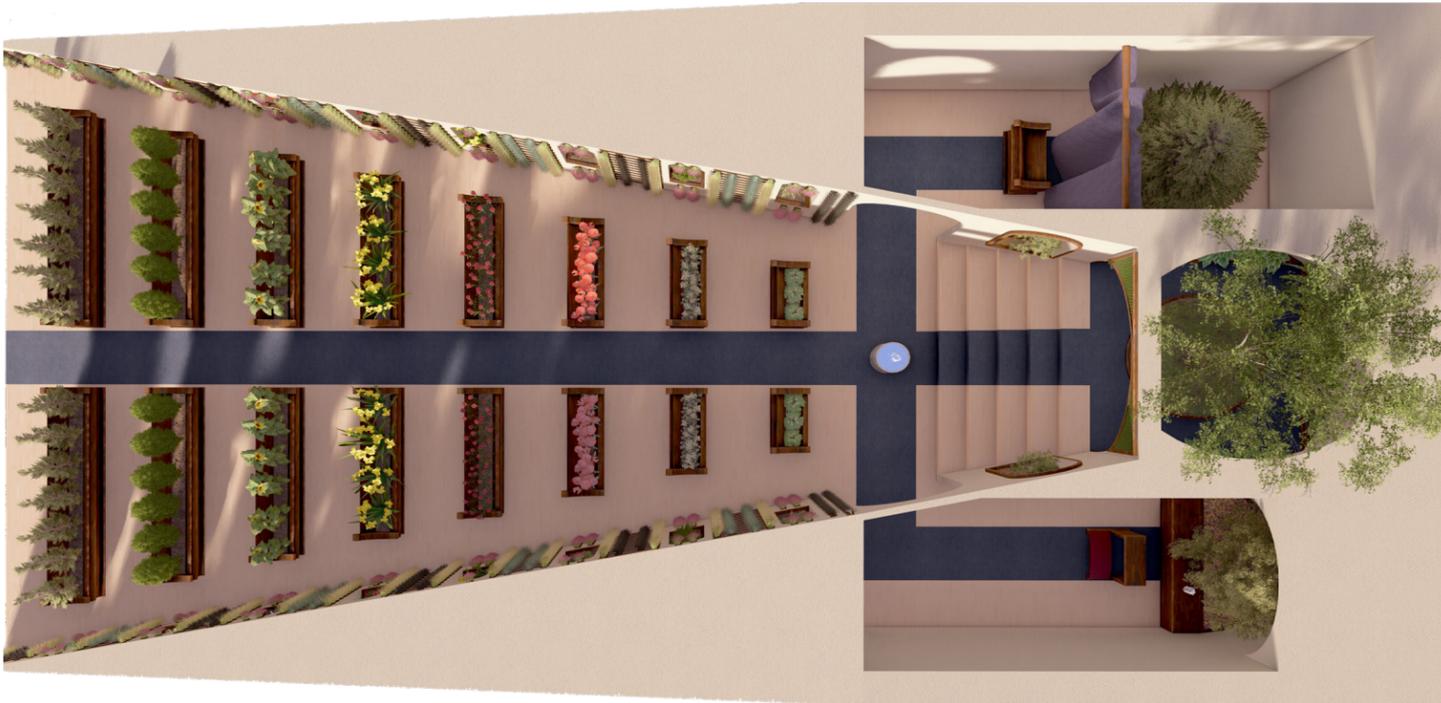


# The Holy Sacrifice of Mother Nature

Scale: 1/100



## Concept

The Holy Sacrifice of Mother Nature is a highly structural, formal space, which plays off the archetype of a traditional place of Christian worship. Rather than depicting the son of God sacrificing himself for humanity's sins, this garden opts to present the natural environment as the true martyr, who has paid a great price for our needs and desires.

The 'church' structure is designed to encompass the entirety of a 10m x 20m allotment, and is laid out as a traditional chapel would be. Visitors will enter through a central axis, flanked by 'planter pews' which hold specimens of decreasing height as one walks through the space. After travelling through eight rows, one is met with the traditional 'crossing', which hosts a water pool at its center, as well as paths into rooms to the left and right.

At the end of the central axis lies the 'apse', located on the East-Northeast end of the site. Instead of the focal point of the space being the saviour on the cross, this design showcases *Ulmus americana* as a representation of nature's sacrifice.

'Transepts', the rooms to the left and right of the crossing, hold more intimate spaces, where visitors can truly reconcile with their role in the interconnected systems of the earth. To the left lies a sort of 'confession booth' where one can atone for their misdeeds against nature with a plant specimen shrouded in a curtain. To the right is a private altar where one can give gratitude to the natural world for all that it provides, and can water the specimen within with a drop of water to symbolize their commitment to giving back to the earth.

## Plant Selection

Aside from *Ulmus americana*, the plant selection can be quite arbitrary, as the arrangement is primarily determined by specimen height.



*Ulmus americana*: A specimen with a height of 2-4 meters and a strong central leader is preferred. Place a single specimen in the center of the apse.



For the left transept, a conifer with height not exceeding 3 meters is key. The right transept should be a deciduous tree (preferably some sort of *Acer*) not exceeding 2.25 meters in height. The rear row of pews, as well as the front pair of exterior opening arches, should have a specimen not exceeding 1.5m height. Moving from row to row or from one pair of arches to the next, specimens should decrease in height 15-50 cm.



After the first 2-3 rows of pews/pairs of arches, switch to perennials, also with decreasing height, respectively. Around the edges of the apse, there are planting areas which should house ferns/hostas/shade tolerant plants.

