**Relief Sculpture as Infrastructure**

For thousands of years, this land has been home to animals and the Numi

people. Each lived lightly in concert with the land. Vistas stretch to the mountains under a limitless sky. Water rises from the earth.

To create art here, the scale must be large. This proposal considers Fly Ranch as a relief sculpture. Taking inspiration from clay tiles by Frank Lloyd Wright and Arcosanti, infrastructure elements make large scale art. **Solar Spines** provide power and shelter, **Landforms** and **Shade Groves** define and animate gathering spaces, **Earth Shelters** provide residence or maker spaces - each by incising the land or raising its profile. In addition, each element invites participation by Burners.

**SOLAR SPINES** consist of long rows of shipping containers stacked three high to support Solar Sails which face South at a 40 degree angle. Made by Pvilion ([pvilion.com](http://pvilion.com/)) and already in production, the sails consist of a frame and fabric incorporating photovoltaic cells. A custom design will result from meetings between Burners and local Paiute tribal members. The PV cell layout shown refers to indigenous basketmaking.

Assuming 30% PV coverage, each sail (estimated cost: $50,000) could produce 24 KW per day, enough to power 24 houses. Sails not needed for power generation could be inexpensive plain fabric with Burner art.

The 20’ shipping containers are readily available and house a variety of uses: e.g. ground level hydroponics, second level residential, third level energy storage.

The surfaces of the containers await transformation by Burner art and the shaded common space created by the Solar Sail is available for agriculture, maker space, and communal activity.

**LANDFORMS** and **SHADE GROVES** are geometric interventions in the centers of the North Site (near Fly Geyser) and the South Site. Huge berms covered with Sweet Grass focus on the center of the gathering spaces and provide elevated viewing. Large groves of Mountain Mahogany define edges and create a shaded microclimate for humans and plants.

The North Site features the geyser viewing water tower. Constructed of recycled steel, its precise shape will depend on the steel available.

The water tank (reminiscent of the tank in central Gerlach) will provide water pressure throughout the ranch and the framework structure of the ramp allows for display of large Burner artwork.

**EARTH SHELTER** elements are constructed of parallel bearing walls of rammed earth or stabilized compressed earth bricks with suitable waterproofing. Roofs are thin multi-layer timbrel type vaults. Specific design consultation and use of their Rhinovault program could occur with the Block Research Group at the ETH in Zurich. Covered by Sweet Grass covered berms, these units resemble indigenous cave dwellings and utilize the native peoples’ and Soleri’s passive solar strategies. Used for short term residency or maker spaces, Burners will create the enclosing walls themselves and use the forecourt for planting or small group activity.

One section of the Solar Spine could be mocked up on site.