It is now time to grow. As designed, the Grove should offer a stable microclimate where plants, insects, birds and fish can grow while nourishing one another as well as the Flyers. The water basins are fed by the nearby stream and allow for slow-moving surface irrigation of the garden. Fish in the basins fertilize the water used to irrigate the plants, while bee colonies pollinate the flowers and create their sweet Fly Honey.

To ensure stable soil temperatures throughout the annually days and seasons, the Grove is excavated eight feet deeper than the surrounding plain. The stepped planters are formed once again using rammed earth, creating variable conditions for different crops, and in places collecting water to irrigate, humidify, and further temper the space.

Once the shell is cured, the earthen formwork is then dug out to reveal the generous space within. This formwork can then be repurposed over and over to create other gardens or community structures. By building out of and only with earth, there is minimal environmental impact should these structures be decommissioned.

The shell of Fly Haven is built of the surrounding earth and gravel. By adding cement and water, the mixture can be poured, reinforced, and rammed onto the formwork. This traditional construction method blends seamlessly with the landscape and provides thermal mass to balance out extreme temperature swings. And by using existing on-site materials, we can limit the production, transportation and insertion of foreign building products on the ranch.

The design of Fly Haven was refined through a cyclical process of hand crafting and digital modeling. Sculpting in clay, the shape was molded, discarded, remolded, adjusted, over and over. The form was then digitized and optimized for light exposure, wind flows and engineering.

The formwork for Fly Haven is a carefully constructed mound of compacted earth. Workers equipped with VR headsets can assess the form as it emerges from the earth and adjust accordingly.

To ensure that Fly Haven is respectfully integrated into the landscape, augmented reality headsets can overlay the project on the chosen site. This allows the project team to assess precise environmental impacts, coordinate site preparation, and evaluate potential water reserves.

In the ethos of using only site-sourced materials for construction, the framework for Fly Haven is a carefully constructed mound of compacted earth. Workers equipped with VR headsets can assess the form as it emerges from the earth and adjust accordingly.

To ensure stable soil temperatures throughout the annually days and seasons, the Grove is excavated eight feet deeper than the surrounding plain. The stepped planters are formed once again using rammed earth, creating variable conditions for different crops, and in places collecting water to irrigate, humidify, and further temper the space.

EARTH BOURN
BUILDING FLY HAVEN
Fly Haven is conceived as an adaptable system that can propagate organically across the grounds of Fly Ranch—infrastructure and community nodes rising from the earth, changing form and scale as needed. For this first garden, a site was chosen between the ranch settlement and Fly Geyser, the main community hub and attraction.

As you walk from ranch to geyser, you can stop at Fly Haven to grab a snack, rest your feet, or seek shelter from sun, wind or rain. The microclimate inside is an extension of those that have already emerged along the pond and bourn, further tempered by the careful positioning of the oculus to control sun exposure, and the gentle curves which shield from the north-westerly winds.

Fly Haven works with nature and for nature, consuming no energy in its operation, providing its bounty for us to enjoy without sacrificing the surrounding beauty: a completely passive structure born of the earth, bound to it inextricably like us all. Thank you for visiting Fly Haven!