Burning Man is all about the human experience: a group of people coming together and trying to live better, to do better, serving as a contrast to this dysfunctional world we live in. Fly Ranch needs to do this in a more permanent way by creating a sustainable infrastructure that honors the planet and treats people well... designing a better future for our planet, and for one another. This is an opportunity to take a stand, to show the world that there is another way. Humanity is destroying our planet, and our relationships with one another in the process. But we can change this.

Respite is about living right with the world, and right with one another... designing for the human experience in a sustainable way. We’ve all been broken in one way or another, but the Japanese art of Kintsugi teaches us that this brokenness is not something to hide. Instead it is what makes us human, what shapes us into who we are. To deny our brokenness is to deny our humanity. But to accept it and understand it, is where we find commonality, where we begin to find healing. When we embrace this brokenness within ourselves, we begin to have compassion for others. Let the brokenness in others break your heart so that in place of judgement you find love.

Nobody can be forced to explore their own brokenness, but Respite is meant to provide space for reflection and healing. A momentary respite from the rest of the world in order to understand one’s brokenness. Whether seeking solitude or community, this is a safe place to find it. The shape of the pods emulates the cracks in the ground found on the Playa and Fly Ranch from the severe temperatures of Black Rock Basin is a symbolic representation our collective of “brokenness”. There are three primary components to the design: contemplative steam rooms, sleep pods, and gathering spaces.

The steam rooms are designed for both physical and psychological respite. They improve circulation, clear congestion, promote skin health, boost immune system, loosen stiff joints, and reduce stress. But the intended healing goes much deeper, it’s a place of contemplation. In the same way that sensory deprivation tanks remove one’s sense of reality, the steam rooms are designed to remove unnecessary distractions and allow a heightened sense of self awareness. This combination of steam and opaque colored planes will create an environment well suited for deep reflection to better understand one’s “brokenness”.

The sleep pods are aesthetically minimal providing a solitary space for both sleeping and contemplation. Distractions are minimized in these pods allowing for deeper thought. Rest and isolation are a key aspect of the healing process.

Community spaces are designed to allow for connection, with no requirement of it. Comfort can be found in sharing our brokenness with one another, but this should never be forced. The space is minimal with gathering spaces for only a small group of people.