

ARCHITECTURAL THEME

U.S. Department of the Interior
National Park Service



PREFACE

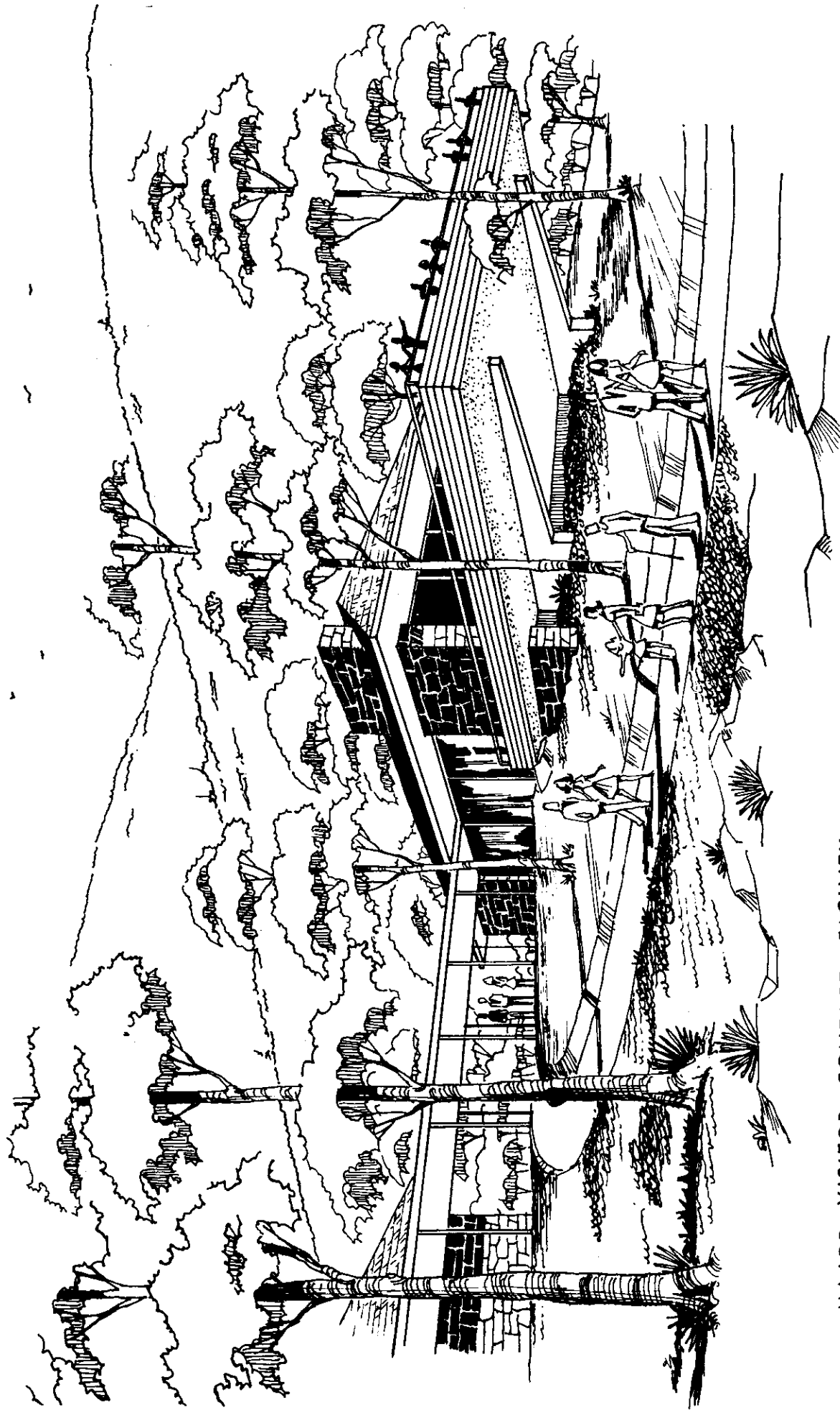
ARCHITECTURAL THEME

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

The purpose of the following theme is not only to inspire quality architectural design in new NPS developments at Delaware Water Gap, but to join the Tocks Island Regional Advisory Council and others in generating wide-spread interest in understanding of and demand for excellence in all design in the region to be affected by the Federal development of the Tocks Island Projects along the upper Delaware River.

A good summary of the function of Design was made at the TIRAC Design Action Conference, October 8-12, 1967:

1. To save the heritage and character of the Region.
2. To give quality, shape, form and guidance to all new developments, regardless of purpose, size or cost.



MAJOR VISITOR CONTACT FACILITY

ARCHITECTURAL THEME

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area represents two widely divergent sets of design criteria that might influence an architectural theme.

In heritage and in fact, it is quiet country area steeped with history. The nostalgia of early days literally encompasses one's senses when observing the remaining structures, landscapes, villages and towns. The panorama includes Indians, 17th Century Dutch Miners, early farming, river commerce and Victorian vacation resorts. These are the historic criteria.

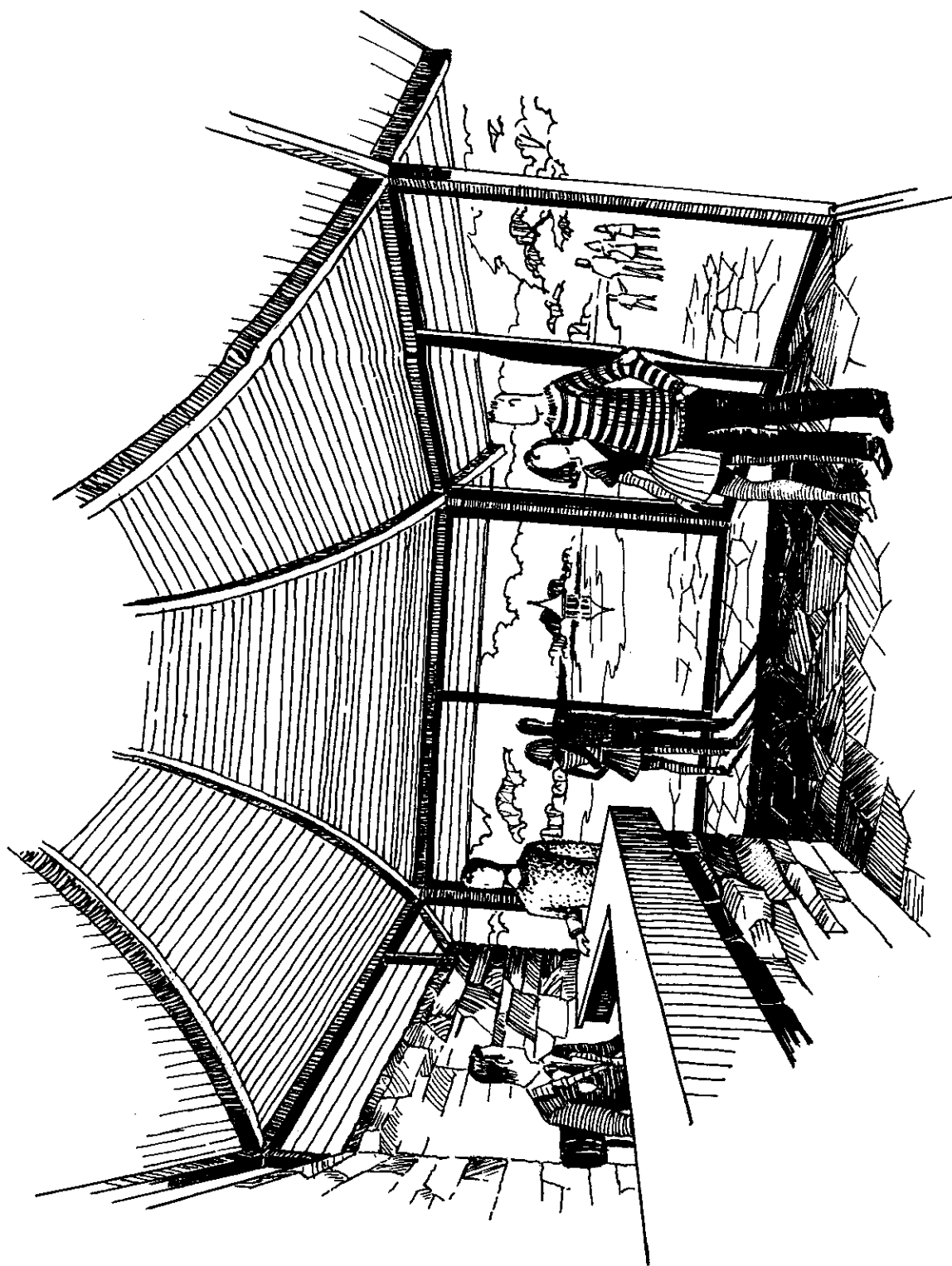
The second set of criteria are of the current and immediate past 20th Century. They are the existing resorts and super highways and above all the anticipated influx of visitors, services, new roads and facilities necessary to sustain them. They are today's youth and the trends in music, clothing and activities they represent in contrast to the past. These are the nonhistoric and recreational criteria.

Since this is a recreational area, quick judgment might indicate an architectural theme expressing only today. But upon absorbing the many facets of the area, it becomes evident that the theme must be a wedding of past and present, of passive study and reflection and active recreational participation.

The major existing basic architectural characteristics of the area are historic and can be resolved into:

1. Simple 1½ story houses with combinations of bevel and flush horizontal siding, slate covered gable roofs and eyebrow windows tucked under the eaves.
2. Farm complexes of house, barns, sheds and spring houses, further enhanced by stone walls, wood fences and the ever present field stone fences tying all to the land forms. A fine example of the farm complex is the Shingle Farm House, Dingman—Newtown Road, Sussex County, New Jersey.

INFORMATION KIOSK, LAKE LENAPE



Other architectural characteristics to be considered are evidenced in the historic structures of picturesque towns such as Millford, Pa., and the now nearly extinct Victorian resort style of the Gap expressed most notably in the existing hip roofed railroad station, memorabilia of long gone hostleries and gazebos with tent-like Regency style roofs strategically placed along the Water Gap heights.

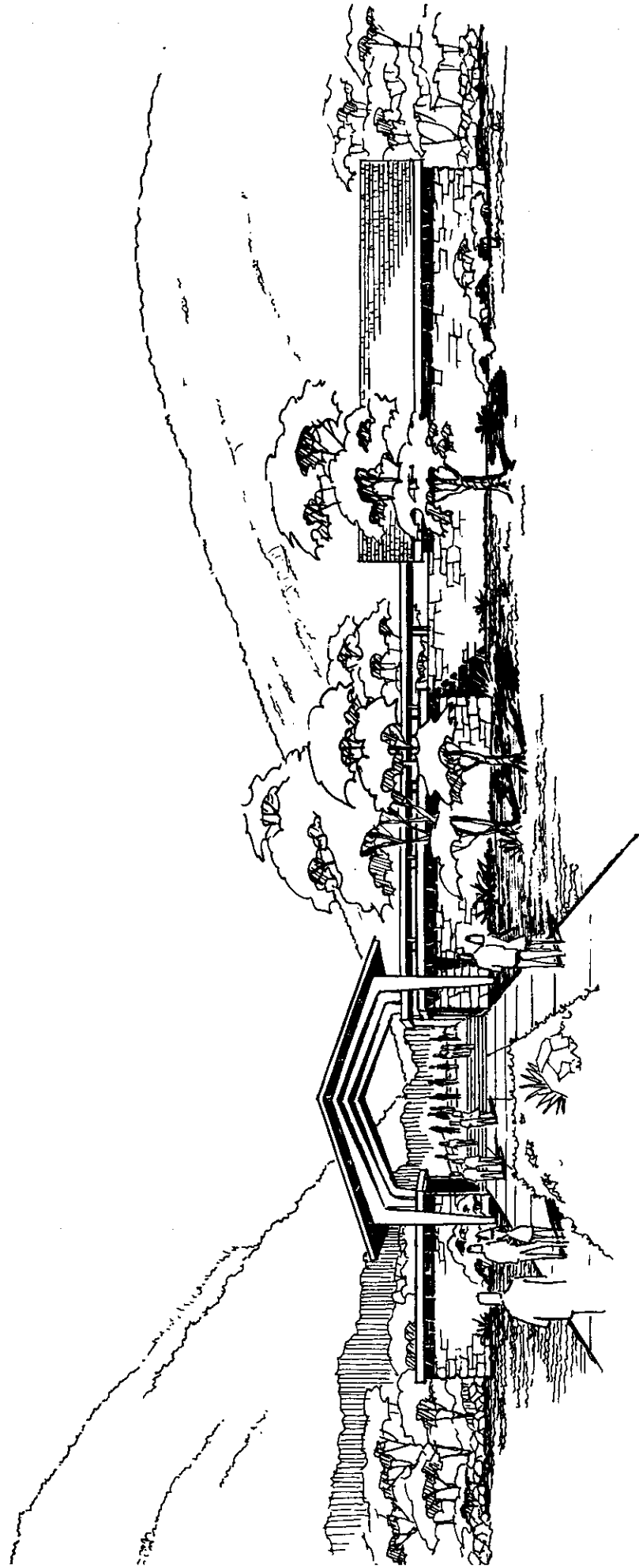
With no attempt at copying old buildings, yet with sympathy for basic form, textures and materials existent, we should base our architectural theme on the better examples of local stone, varied types of wood siding and roof forms of such configuration that slate roofing is applicable. Although the older buildings probably had wood shingles originally, the fact that this is and has been a slate quarrying area for many, many years makes it a most important material to consider in a theme.

Modern materials can and should be used with care and in good taste. Bright metallic accents must be suppressed. If, for instance, aluminum window and door units are used, they must have a "Duranodic" or similar finish in the subtle bronze, brown and black tones available.

Because of the variety of proposed use, primarily recreational but flanked by the interpretive needs of historic and natural resources, there is reason for appropriate variation in architectural expression. This variation might be reflected in the contrast between the frolicking atmosphere of a bathing beach or marina and the historic atmosphere of a restored village. The festive mood of visitors actively enjoying the reservoir related facilities should probably predominate, but the mood inspired by the preservation of the historic and natural qualities should also be expressed.

Roof forms reflecting the configuration and slope of the hills as well as roofs of historic structures in both material and form would further enhance the credibility of an architectural statement.

Consideration should be given to all aspects of the land forms and how our structures complement them. Retention of existing stone fences, open fields, fence rows, old roads, etc., which contribute to the recreational environment whether in the form of close, small scale intimate detail or in distant vistas where only fields are discernible is imperative. This approach will coincide precisely with programs for wildlife habitat



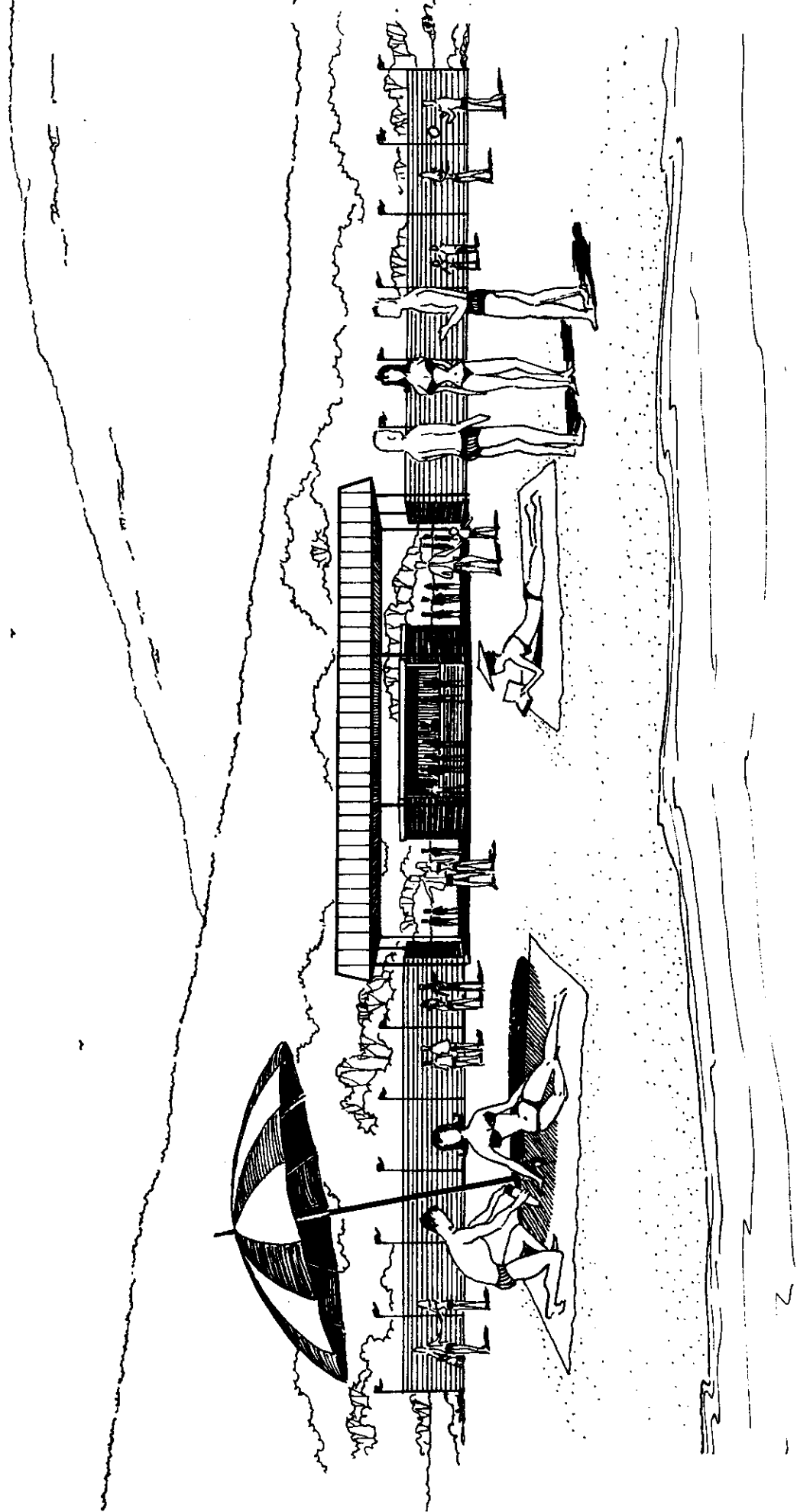
INTERPRETIVE FACILITY

management and timber production. It is also a design concept which will mesh with interpretive programs, environmental education and management of land and water resources to sustain a high level of visitor capacity.

Materials, texture and form are readily acceptable as basic references, but color is also an important part of an architectural expression. Again variations from the natural weathered look, the red of barns and white of the houses will be necessary and appropriate for the water oriented developments. Additional color used with discrimination can add the needed recreational feeling.

Although architectural emphasis will change from one part of the recreation area to another, it is essential that a definite thread of recognition be evident, an architectural theme that identifies all development with dignity and unobtrusiveness.

The following sketches illustrate water oriented facilities:



TYPICAL BEACH FACILITY

FLOATING MARINA FACILITY

