



Site Plan Option 1: Parking and drive were reorganized to allow for a pedestrian core that provides contemplative spaces at the Conference Center.



The design maintains the historic barn and relocates the mission-important veggie garden into a site feature.



Lenape Rocks will be reorganized into a council ring amphitheater.

Cranaleith Spiritual Center Conceptual Plan

The Cranaleith Spiritual Center is a non-profit organization providing services to “those at the center of need and those at the center of influence”.

Cranaleith, a Gaelic word meaning “sanctuary of trees”, was formally established in 1998 and occupies a 10 acre site with many historic trees, a large Victorian house, barn and auxiliary buildings. In addition to programs directly serving those in need, Cranaleith provides retreat and conference space to a wide variety of organizations throughout the year.

Cranaleith approached the Community Design Collaborative with a plan for a new 10,000 sf building located in the area of the existing barn. The original proposal involved demolishing the existing barn, which is a unique and recognizable part of the Cranaleith site. The design team and client felt strongly that the disposition of the existing barn should be thoroughly studied. After reviewing program needs and analyzing the site the team developed a plan that provides the desired program spaces, maintains the existing barn, provides outdoor gathering spaces and relocates an existing vegetable garden integral to the mission of the organization.

The plan calls for a “three building” scheme of structures similar in scale to existing buildings: a Conference Center (the existing barn plus an addition); a Bedroom Building and a tiny Chapel. The Conference Center and Bedrooms are sited to form a new terrace. They overlook the vegetable garden. The Chapel, slightly removed from the other buildings, is sited to take advantage of views over an existing pond providing a contemplative setting. The approach road was simplified and parking reorganized to reduce impervious cover. Important existing trees were preserved. Site features include the restructuring of the “Lenape Rocks”, stones believed to be part of a Lenape Council ring, back into a council ring/amphitheater. The plans allow for phased construction in concert with fundraising efforts.

Location: Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Client: Cranaleith Spiritual Center
Size: 10 acres
Cost: \$200,000
Status: Completed 2006