## UNDER THE ROOF WHERE PUBLIC MEET RECYCLING

North Seattle Recycling and Community Center

In Europe, Scandinavia, the U.S. and elsewhere, recycling facilities are seen as opportunities for community engagement, educational outreach and transparency. However, the existing North Seattle Transfer Station is completely separated and hidden from the neighborhood. To date, several specific proposals of





transfer station and recycling center have been put forth by the city's consultants, but all of these proposals have no relationship to the spaces around them.

In contrast, the project proposes a more seamless transition between the recycling center and its surrounding community by utilizing a continuous roof form that oscillates above the sloping topography of the site. The roof form is both a continuous gesture and a site specific response. The form of the roof allows the building to open and engage the community at the northeast and southeast corners of the site. At the same time, the recycling drop-off opens to the transfer station to the west while it is designed to cover and minimize the visual impact of the recycling activities underneath it.

A public "boardwalk" along the east edge of the building doubles as an outdoor gallery and invites passers-by to view the activities taking place within. The oscillating roof form and rhythm of the steel structure supporting it enhance the sense of movement through the site. It is the seamless transition from public to recycling arts, and eventually to the recycling activities. Here, the neighborhood is gently exposed to the world of recycling.

## **Gently Open up to the Community**

- 1. Artist-in-Residence Studios

- /Trash Drop Off













**Open Up to the Transfer Station while Covering the Recyling Activities** 



## Tectonics

The site slopes downward from north to south and from east to west. This slope enables the structure to animate along the site as it climbs up or goes down the slope.

The main structure of the building is the moment-resisting rigid steel frames which are tied to the concrete shear walls. The curved roof is made out of straight members which includes corrugated metal sheets supported by round steel beams. The rigid frames are painted to represent rusty metal which celebrates the beauty of old metal and the notion of recycling.



