VALLES CALDERA
CENTER FOR VISITORS INTO THE MOUNTAIN

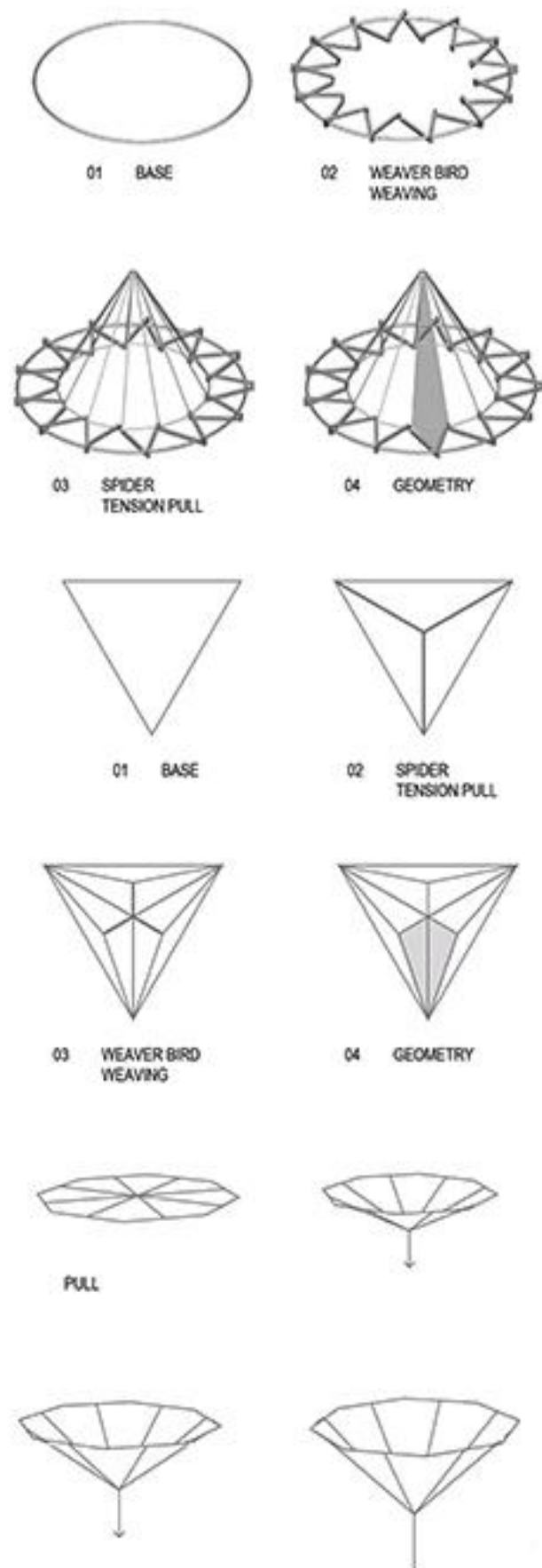Section A-B   1/8" = 1'-0"

Section A-C   1/8" = 1'-0"

entrance

into the mountain

With inspiration from the weaverbird's nest, the Valles Caldera Visitors Center interweaves itself with the mountain. By entering the earth of the mountain, visitors are able to immerge themselves into the earth of the mountain that they will likely soon explore. The visitors center prepares visitors of the mountain by providing an experience that can teach each visitor the unique nature of the mountain as well as its history and geology.

The weaverbird concept informs the movement of the building and of its circulation. The building weaves into the mountain and pockets reach back to the surface to allow for light and ventilation. Circulation uses a number of ramps to create a gradual climb which leads to a re-emergence to the surface with an explosive view—similarly to how one may feel when climbing to a mountain's peak. A series of small exhibitions run tangent to the gradual climb of ramps, allowing for small breaks between walking as well as exhibiting.

Because visitors are likely to arrive via motor vehicle, the visitors center becomes a powerful passageway into the mountain. As the entrance to a visitor's stay in the mountain, walking into the earth at the visitors center enables each visitor to realign their psyche to the speed of their own movement. The transition between moving in a car at seventy miles per hour versus hiking up a mountain can be abrupt, but the visitors center allows the mountain's guests to become one with the land. By understanding the earth in which one treads, the re-emergence to the surface may bring about curiosity and admiration. Each individual may be able to reach a mental state which enables them to explore the mountain with more interest than when they first arrived.

01 BASE

02 WEAVER BIRD WEAVING

03 SPIDER TENSION PULL

04 GEOMETRY

01 BASE

02 SPIDER TENSION PULL

03 WEAVER BIRD WEAVING

04 GEOMETRY

PULL

Merging diagrams

Using weaver bird's weaving technique and combining it with spider web third point for stability , the geometry would be a diamond shape that is used in designing the truss.

Plan 1/8" = 1'-0"

concept : into the mountain

SHUTTLES

PARKING

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SITE PLAN