

Archaeolink Visitor Centre

Location: Aberdeenshire, UK

Client: The Archaeolink Trust

Completed: 1997

Combined Construction Cost: £2.5M

Combined Size: 11,502sqm

Awards:

- Design Council Millennium Product
- Scottish Design Awards Commendation for Best New Building

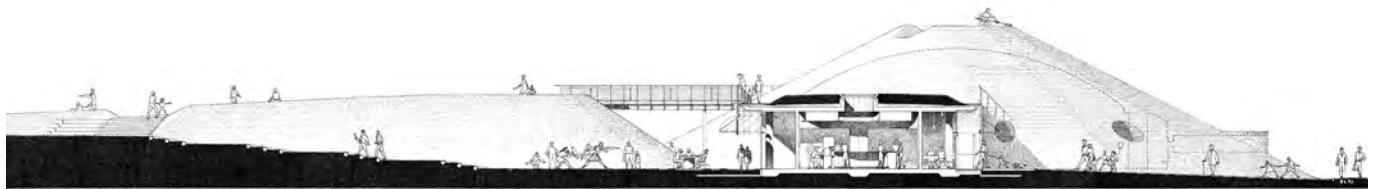
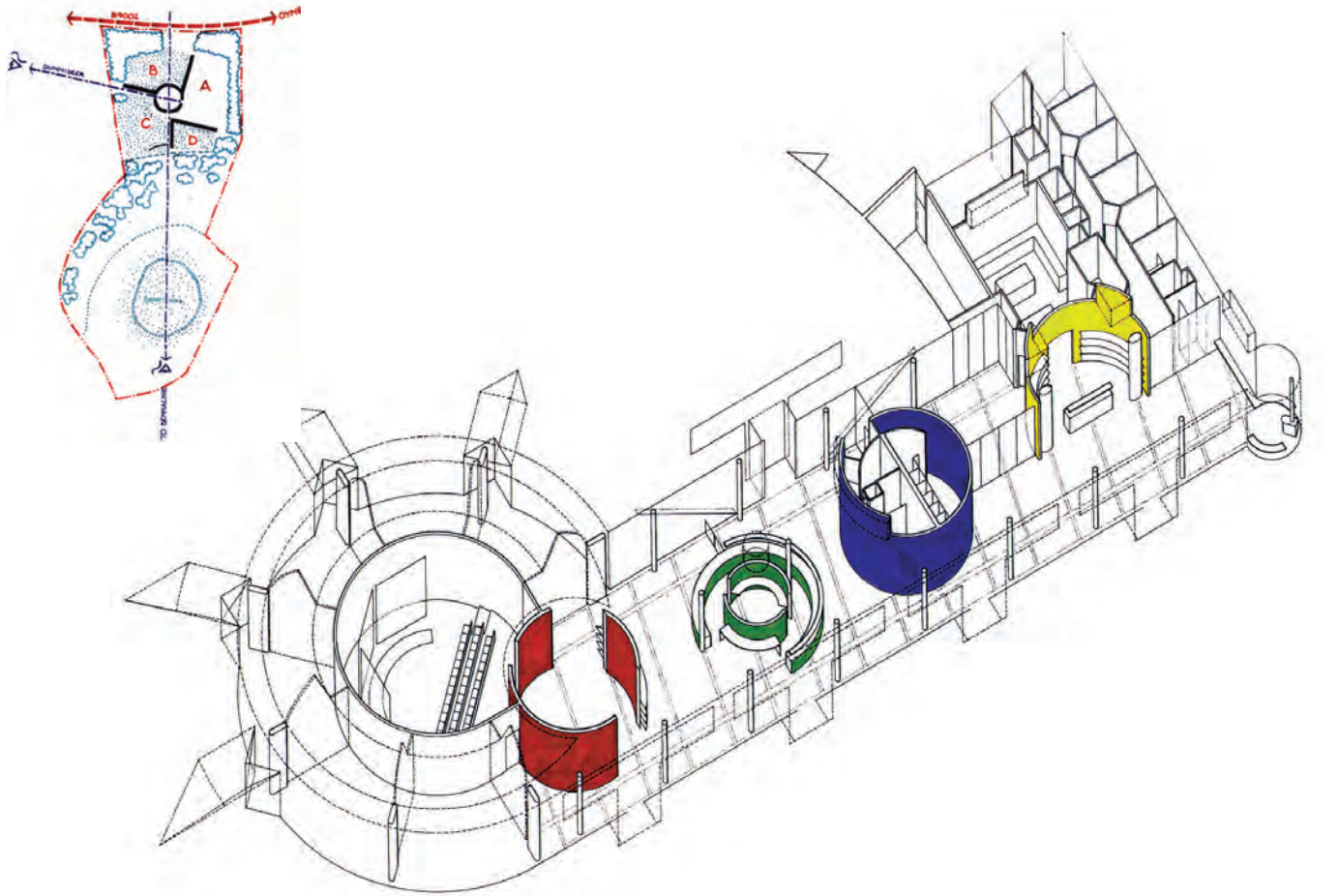
We worked with the Archaeolink Trust to secure funding from Local Authorities, Scottish Enterprise and ERDF for this **tourism development project**, and to design a visitor centre, which could both house an exhibition relating the story of the rich archaeology of the region while also providing a starting point for visits.

The design combines an experience of the landscape of the site together with a circuit of indoor and outdoor exhibitions. The building has a grass roof rising as a conical hill over the exhibition galleries providing a platform from which to view local sites. The land is “folded” to form a sunken courtyard and entrances, with glass walls providing light and views to the restaurant and shop within; a building made of grass and glass.

Taking advantage of the large thermal mass of surrounding earth, the building has a very low energy consumption topping up heat losses by solar heat gain through the glass walls.

The Centre was recognised for its lead in innovation and creativity with its inclusion as the only building out of 202 Millennium Products announced by the Design Council in 1998.





Above: Currently unoccupied and awaiting a new use, the landscape has begun to reclaim the building.

