Designing with Traditional Culture of the Navajo People.

Upper Fruitland is located in the four corners region of New Mexico on the Navajo Nation Reservation. The project was to assist Upper Fruitland Chapter to co-create a design of a cemetery guided by Chapter Officials and the community. The design was derived from respectively incorporating traditional culture and the surrounding landscape. The cemetery is to span across 40.6 acres to accommodate approximately 9,000 burial plots, reception building, and maintenance building.

**Traditional Navajo Hogan**

The design inspiration is taken from the traditional Navajo Hogan. The ASU design team has done multiple studies of the tectonics of the Hogan, materiality, and the cultural representation of direction. The final design reflects the Hogan throughout the project, as well as the traditional beliefs of the importance of directionality.

**Balance between Modern and Traditional Culture**

One of the design challenges was the balance between modern and traditional Navajo culture. Upper Fruitland wanted the culture represented in the design but still maintain a modern appearance. There have been many iterations of the interpretation of the Hogan, the ASU design team concluded that using the shape as the drive for the design was the best respectively use of the Hogan. Along, with more modern materials that created the clean exterior appearance.

**Deriving Inspiration from Surrounding Landscape**

Upper Fruitland is surrounded by many rock formations and natural vegetation. During the study of forms for the project, a rock formation with steep slopes of sharp-crested ridges inspired the roof form of the reception building.