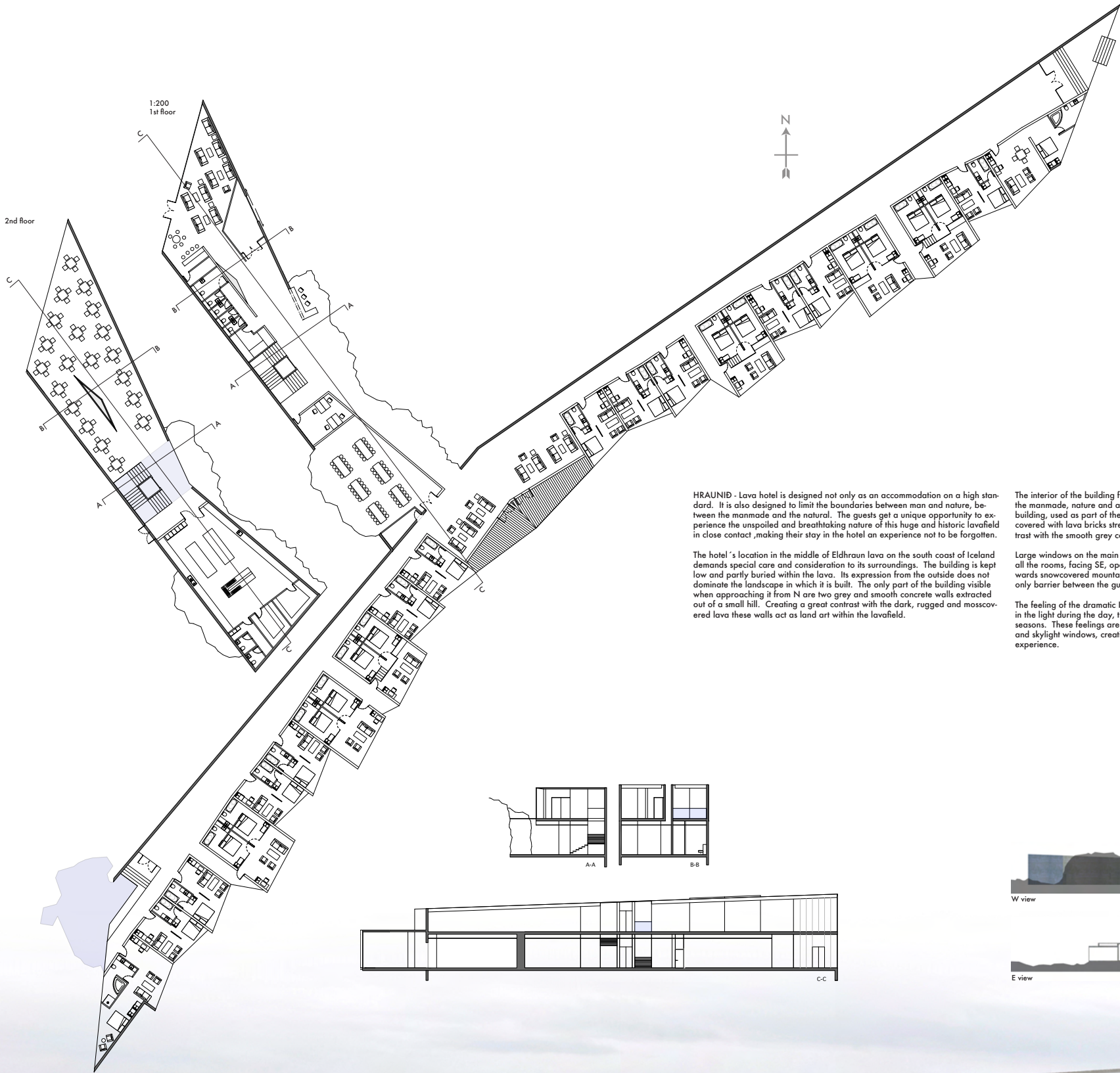
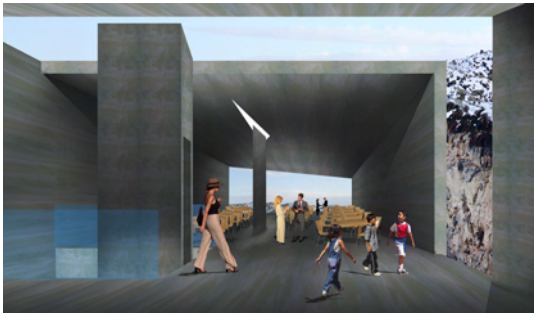


Hraunið

- Lava hotel in Iceland

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AOD10|ARK21 2009



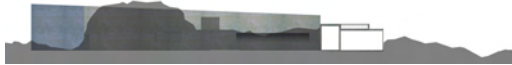
HRAUNID - Lava hotel is designed not only as an accommodation on a high standard. It is also designed to limit the boundaries between man and nature, between the manmade and the natural. The guests get a unique opportunity to experience the unspoiled and breathtaking nature of this huge and historic lavafield in close contact, making their stay in the hotel an experience not to be forgotten.

The hotel's location in the middle of Eldhraun lava on the south coast of Iceland demands special care and consideration to its surroundings. The building is kept low and partly buried within the lava. Its expression from the outside does not dominate the landscape in which it is built. The only part of the building visible when approaching it from N are two grey and smooth concrete walls extracted out of a small hill. Creating a great contrast with the dark, rugged and moss-covered lava these walls act as land art within the lavafield.

The interior of the building focuses on the interaction between the natural and the manmade, nature and architecture. The natural lava rock is brought into the building, used as part of the exterior walls. Some of the interior walls are also covered with lava bricks strengthening this connection while creating a great contrast with the smooth grey concrete walls.

Large windows on the main building, facing NW and NE, and large windows in all the rooms, facing SE, open the view, overlooking the enormous lavafield towards snowcovered mountains and glaciers in the distance. The glass being the only barrier between the guest and nature.

The feeling of the dramatic Icelandic nature constantly changes with the change in the light during the day, the ever changing weather and the changing of the seasons. These feelings are taken into the building by the use of open ceilings and skylight windows, creating different moods and expressions for the guests to experience.



W view



E view

Cross section of lava covering the building, 1:500

