The visitor center is located in a desert environment where two distinct desert ecosystems come together in Joshua Tree National Park. The area has a variety of activities such as climbing rock boulders and sightseeing hiking trails. The structure’s design came from intersecting three C-shaped ramps that create easy circulation for the visitor. The walkable roof resembles the prominent hiking trails located across the park. The structure sprawls horizontally allowing circulation to flow outwards. The lookout points are essentially large window openings placed at the end of the ramp’s highest point. The lookout points draw attention to the visitor center and adds a key element to the structure. This element controls the views, providing the viewer with a learning experience of the site. The direction of the openings are facing north, south, and east.

The curves of the ramps create a central courtyard, which is perfect for an outside learning space or picnic area. The tallest ramp of the visitor center was oriented along the south, which produces shade for the courtyard.
The structure is made up of two and a half ramps. The ramps range in heights from 10 ft. to 13 ft. tall, and they all have a slope of 1:1’. All ramps intersect each other creating interactive spaces for the visitors. Guests are able to walk on the ramps that direct them to the roof, in order to get the best views of the site. The ramps curves as the visitor walks, creating a unique experience. The facade has two main functions for the structure, it provides shade and acts as a railing for the roof. The facade is made up of a durable metal frame and white metal mesh which provides natural daylight for the adequate interior spaces such as the lobby and exhibition areas. The metal mesh also blocks the sun from overheating the thermal mass of the concrete building. It adds an interesting feature to the building that draws the eye to its design. The main element of the visitor center is to provide easy circulation through accessible ramps. The sub-element are the lookout points integrated in the design. The lookout points give the view of the outdoor landscape from the interior space.