BALANDRA BEACH:
Found outside the city of La Paz in Baja California Sur, Balandra Beach is known for its natural beauty and breathtaking views. With the inherent ability of beachfront visitors closer to nature and the environment around them, the project strives to strengthen the connection between visitors and the natural environment by using the architecture and indoor/outdoor areas as a primary way between the many natural features found on the site.

Wave/Ripple Concept:
The formal and organizational idea of the project derives from the natural formation of a ripple in water or sand dunes similar to a ripple in water. The walls of the building move radially away from the water and towards the mangroves behind the building.

Connection to Site:
Stretching from the water to the mangroves, the building provides a path and connection between the many features found around Balandra Beach. The building frames natural lines of sites and views to the surrounding environment and creates a guide pathway for movement and interaction between the mangroves, the building, and the ocean.

Sustainability:
The building uses multiple passive and active methods such as solar panels, rammed-earth walls, natural ventilation, and thermal mass walls in order to reduce its impact on the surrounding environment. The thermal mass wall and natural ventilation provide natural ways of heating and cooling the building while the rainwater collection and solar panels on south-facing roofs provide efficient means of reducing cost of water and energy.

Materiality:
Similar to the surrounding mountains, the heavy rammed-earth walls throughout the project are of the site and environment. The walls rise directly from the site in a minimally invasive manner and are an integral part of the building and design.