CHAPTER 3
THE INN AT CLARENDON

The inn and the street-front retail are developed in more detail based upon the master plan. Similar to the geology below, the inn structure consists of several different veins of material. There is a central curved vein of granite ashlar representing the original igneous rock that forms the central corridor. The granite vein is intersected by numerous concrete veins representing the sedimentary metamorphic rock. The concrete veins act as secondary corridors and service spaces. The concrete is poured from several mixes using different aggregates, then surface scrubbed to reveal the aggregate layers in the concrete. The final finish of the open spaces, between the concrete veins and outside of the granite vein, consists of limestone tiles of differing coloration on the floors and ceilings, which are laid out in a ringed pattern that resembles deposits of sand and gravel left by the changing levels of the Potomac river.

The scale of the existing commercial retail buildings is carried through the site to form the terrace. The terrace is actually the roof of the commercial spaces. This is similar to the terraces formed by the fallen rock from the protective geological cavities that the Anasazi adopted for their establishments. The curved mass of the inn is reverse-terraced to form a similar concavity sheltering the terrace.

A model, above, shows the protective massing to the northwest, the right side, and the sheltering overhang over the terrace on the southeast.

A model of another concrete vein, above, shows the massing diminish and hollow out towards the more hospitable west side, on the right.
The central granite vein and the concrete veins intersect, defining larger spaces in between.

View looking southwest.

View looking north.
The nature of the open spaces between the harder veins of material was studied. The spaces can follow geological, meteorological, urban, or organic forms. Ultimately, the idealized forms, like lines and rectangles, that people use seem the most appropriate to represent, like the Anasazi, urban inhabitation of a natural geological formation.
The scale of the storefronts at street level is consistent with the existing retail buildings in the area. The inn rises above in the background. This is similar to the relationship between foothills and mountains.
The east/west entry and lobby space is etched away like a canyon left with stone arches above, designating a natural passage, allowing light through, and emphasizing the connection from sunrise to sunset.

This section shows the east/west passage that creates the lobby and entry.
The model segments are splayed apart and viewed from the south-east.

The model segments are splayed apart and viewed from the north-west.
A water fountain issues forth from one of the concrete veins in the plaza and empties through seams in the concrete, cascading down the eroded space between the veins exposing geological layers of parking below.
View the west entrance of the lobby and the drop-off driveway.

View looking east.