



HDC-25-15	Primary Location	Applicant
Historic District	218 WILSON ST	Phil Szostak
Certificate of	CHAPEL HILL, NC 27516	919-302-0034
Appropriateness	<b>Owner</b>	@ pszostak@szostakdesign.com
Status: Active	NORTH CAROLINA STATE	310 1/2 W Franklin
Submitted On: 7/12/2025	OF	Chapel Hill , NC 27516
	1321 MAIL SERVICE	
	CENTER RALEIGH, NC	
	276991321	

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## Certificate of Appropriateness Form

**Historic District \***

Cameron-McCauley

**Application Type**

Check all that apply

**Minor Work** is exterior work that doesn't involve any substantial alterations, additions, or removals that could impair the integrity of the property and/or the district as a whole. See Chapel Hill Historic Districts Design Principles & Standards ("Principles & Standards") (p. 9-11) for a list of minor works.

**Major Work (Historic District Commission Review)** includes all exterior changes to structures and features other than minor works.

Contact HDC Staff Liaison(s) if you're unsure of the application type.

**Maintenance or Repair Work****Minor Work (Staff Review)**

**Major Work (Historic District Commission Review)****COA Amendment****Briefly describe the proposed changes.\***

20 ft x 20 ft solar shade structure will be added to UNC's Community Garden

**Is this application for after-the-fact work?\* **

No

**Is this application a request for review after a previous denial?\***

No

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## Applicant Authorization

**Applicant Signature\***

 University of North Carolina  
Jul 12, 2025

**Relationship to Property Owner\***

Other

**If other, please explain relationship to property owner.**

\*

Szostak Design is the architect for the project.

**Town of Chapel Hill****Planning Department**

405 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd

Phone: (919) 968-2728

Email: [planning@townofchapelhill.org](mailto:planning@townofchapelhill.org)[www.townofchapelhill.org](http://www.townofchapelhill.org)**Property Owner Authorization Form****Staff Use Only**

Application Number:

The current property owner must complete and sign this authorization form if someone else applies for a Certificate of Appropriateness on their behalf. Please submit a separate form per property owner.

Project Name: Community Garden Solar Shade

Property Address: 218 Wilson Street

Parcel Identifier Number(s) (PINs): 9788350684

Property Owner Name: The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Property Owner Address: 103 Airport Drive, Chapel Hill, NC 27599

Email: [evan.yassky@fac.unc.edu](mailto:evan.yassky@fac.unc.edu) Phone: 919-843-5103

Relationship to Applicant: Client

If the property owner is an entity, provide detailed information regarding the principals of the entity.

**Property Owner Authorization**

The undersigned property owner hereby certifies that, to the best of their knowledge and belief, all information supplied with this application is true and accurate.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: June 30, 2025

Print Name: Evan Yassky

## **History and Character of the Subject Property and Historic District**

### **UNC Community Garden – Proposed Solar Sunshade and Equipment Storage Project**

#### **Location:**

The UNC Community Garden is located on property owned by the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The garden site lies adjacent to or within proximity to the **West Chapel Hill National Register Historic District**, near the McCauley-Cameron historic inventory area. The property is within the review jurisdiction of the **Chapel Hill Historic District Commission**.

#### **Historic Context:**

The West Chapel Hill Historic District is characterized by its early- to mid-20th-century residential development patterns. The district's fabric reflects a mix of architectural styles including Craftsman, Colonial Revival, and Minimal Traditional, with homes generally built between 1900 and 1950. The district is notable for its tree-lined streets, modestly scaled homes, and proximity to the UNC campus, which has influenced patterns of growth, land use, and social activity.

The garden site, while part of a university-owned parcel, is currently open green space. The site does **not contain any historic structures** and is used as a **community-accessible agricultural space**, which contributes to the evolving civic and educational use of university land. The UNC Community Garden was initiated in the early 2010s by the university's sustainability office and local volunteers to improve access to healthy food and foster engagement with environmental stewardship.

#### **Construction History:**

There are no recorded structures or historically contributing buildings currently located on the garden site. The property has not undergone any previous additions, demolitions, or alterations requiring historic district review. The only improvements to date have been temporary: moveable sheds, raised garden beds, and compost bins, installed and maintained by volunteers.

#### **Associated Persons and Events:**

The UNC Community Garden is not associated with a specific historic architect, builder, or family. It is, however, a notable contemporary example of UNC's commitment to sustainability, public engagement, and social equity. While not historic in the traditional architectural sense, the project aligns with broader themes in Chapel Hill's history around land stewardship, education, and civic participation.

#### **Sources Consulted:**

- **Orange County Real Estate Data:** Confirmed parcel information and land use (UNC-owned parcel; no private residential structures).
- **NC Preservation Office GIS Map:** Identified location within the review boundary of the Chapel Hill Historic District.
- **West Chapel Hill Historic District National Register Nomination** (accessed via NCDCR): Reviewed contextual information for contributing properties and character.
- **UNC Office of Sustainability Archives:** Provided timeline and background for the garden's creation and programmatic goals.
- **Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps:** No prior structures identified on the garden site as of most recent available maps (1930s–1950s).
- **Historic Photographs / Chapel Hill Historical Society Archives:** No historic buildings or structures found at this site.

- **Newspaper Articles / The Daily Tar Heel Archives (2011–2016):** Documented the formation and mission of the community garden.

# UNC Community Garden Solar Sunshade and Equipment Storage Structure

## Design Narrative for Certificate of Appropriateness

### Project Overview:

The proposed project introduces a new solar-powered sunshade structure and an adjacent garden equipment storage unit at the UNC Community Garden, located on university-owned land within the Chapel Hill Historic District. The Community Garden is a vibrant hub that produces over 4,000–5,000 pounds of fresh produce annually for university staff and community members. The proposed structures support the mission of the garden while demonstrating principles of environmental stewardship, community well-being, and sustainable design.

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### 1. Existing Site Conditions

The current garden site is a cultivated open green space bordered by informal paths, native planting beds, and small-scale composting areas. It includes basic, non-permanent features such as trellises and tool sheds. The area where the proposed structures will be located is relatively flat and has been previously used as a shaded gathering spot with portable canopies and tables.

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### 2. Proposed Structures and Architectural Features

#### Solar Sunshade Structure (20' x 20')

The sunshade structure will serve as a gathering, workspace, and educational area for volunteers, students, and visitors. The open-air pavilion is designed to harmonize with the landscape while providing durable, low-maintenance protection from the sun and rain.

- **Structure:** Constructed using locally sourced, sustainably harvested timber beams joined with exposed timber joinery.
- **Roof:** A shallow gabled canopy supports bifacial, transparent solar panels, which allow dappled sunlight to filter through while generating electricity on both sides.
- **Footings:** The structure will be supported on minimal-impact concrete piers or ground screws to avoid disturbing root systems and maintain natural drainage patterns.

#### Equipment Storage Unit (4' x 12' footprint; 10' height)

Adjacent to the pavilion will be a compact storage structure, integrated visually with the larger shade structure.

- **Structure:** Wood-framed with vertical cedar siding left to weather naturally to a silvery gray.

- **Roofing:** Standing seam metal roof with a modest overhang, designed to minimize rain impact and protect the contents.
  - **Doors:** Solid wood access door with padlock hardware.
  - **Ventilation:** Passive ventilation louvers near roofline for airflow.
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### 3. Previous Additions or Alterations

There have been no permanent additions, structures, or utilities installed on the site to date. The existing garden structures are temporary, non-permanent sheds and open trellis systems.

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### 4. Description of Proposed Physical Changes

- Installation of a **20' x 20'** off-grid solar sunshade pavilion
  - Construction of a **4' x 12' x 10'** equipment storage shed
  - Minimal site disturbance using pier or ground-screw footings
  - Installation of solar panel system (approx. 16 bifacial panels), battery bank, inverter, and off-grid lighting and power outlets within the structure
  - **No excavation, grading, or utility connections\*\* required**
- 

### 5. Material Specifications

Component	Material / Product Detail	Notes
Structure (Framing)	Douglas Fir or Southern Yellow Pine, kiln-dried	Exposed joinery; rough-sawn finish
Roof	Transparent Bifacial Solar Panels (e.g., Lumos LSX)	Allow filtered light; 72-cell; UL 1703 certified
Storage Siding	Vertical 1x6 tongue-and-groove Western Red Cedar	Left unfinished to weather naturally
Storage Roof	24-gauge Standing Seam Metal (Color: Galvalume)	Sloped for drainage, low reflectivity
Decking / Floor	Reinforced gravel pad or permeable pavers	Allows water infiltration; no permanent slab
Doors / Trim	Solid wood, painted or natural finish	Simple detailing to match context
Electrical Components	Victron or Sol-Ark inverter; LiFePO4 battery bank	Housed inside shed; UL listed components
Light Fixtures	Off-grid LED fixtures with motion sensor & solar timer	Downcast, shielded to avoid glare

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## **6. Compliance with Chapel Hill Historic District Design Principles & Standards**

The design aligns with the following relevant standards:

- **Siting and Orientation (Standards 1.1–1.4):**  
Structures are sited to avoid impact on adjacent properties or public view corridors. The 20' x 20' shade structure is placed in a flat area within the interior of the site and is screened by landscape elements.
  - **Materials and Texture (Standard 3.1–3.3):**  
Natural wood siding and structural timbers are consistent with the character of vernacular agricultural and utility structures. Transparent solar panels provide a modern feature but remain visually understated due to their muted framing and dappled light transmission.
  - **Roof Form and Materials (Standard 4.1–4.3):**  
The sloped roof and exposed framing detail reflect traditional forms, while the standing seam metal on the storage structure aligns with contemporary rural utility buildings.
  - **Outbuildings and Site Features (Standard 6.1–6.4):**  
The storage structure is scaled and detailed as a modest, visually subordinate feature appropriate to a garden context. No fencing, paving, or permanent utilities are proposed.
  - **Sustainability and Innovation (Guiding Principle):**  
The project exemplifies the Chapel Hill Historic District's commitment to sustainability by being completely off-grid, self-sufficient, and built with durable and renewable materials.
- 

### **Conclusion**

This modest, thoughtfully designed solar sunshade and storage structure will serve a vital functional and educational role in support of the UNC Community Garden. The structures are designed to be respectful of the natural and cultural setting, require no connection to public utilities, and provide an environmentally responsible model of how architecture can support community wellness, food access, and sustainability in harmony with the surrounding district.





# SZOSTAK DESIGN

# UNC CHAPEL HILL COMMUNITY GARDEN SHADE

SCO#: 25-29815-01

218 WILSON ST. & 305, 307  
CAMERON AVE

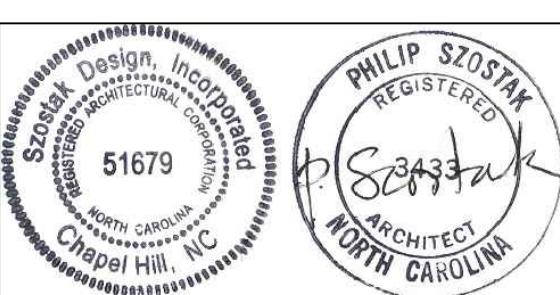
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**SZOSTAK DESIGN, INC.**  
ARCHITECTS  
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Fax: 919.960.7967  
[www.szostakdesign.com](http://www.szostakdesign.com)

## GENERAL NOTES

1. INFORMATION BASED ON  
SURVEY BY THE JOHN R  
MCADAMS COMPANY, INC.  
DATED APRIL 11, 2022

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30 JUNE 2025

## SITE PLAN

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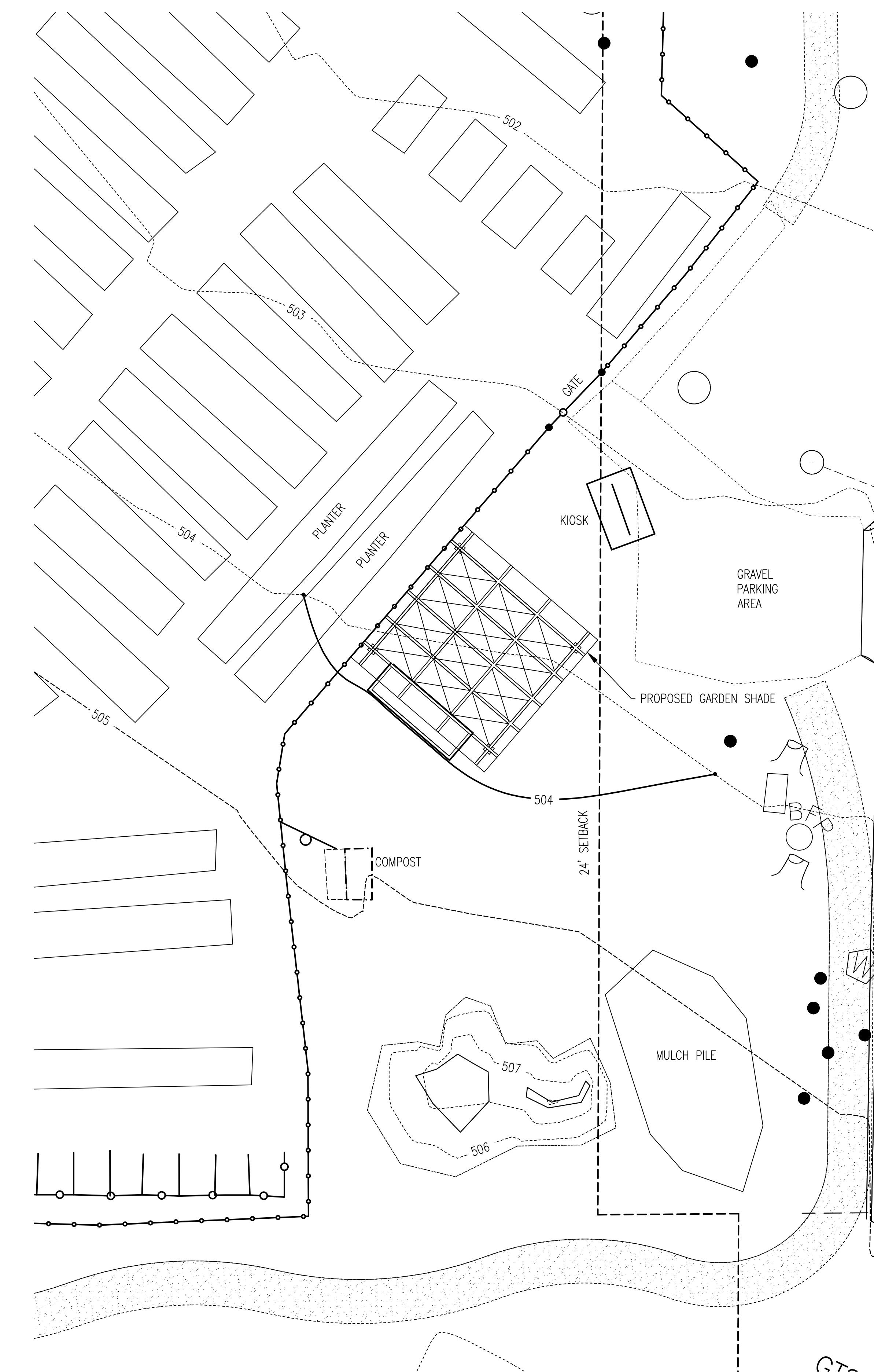
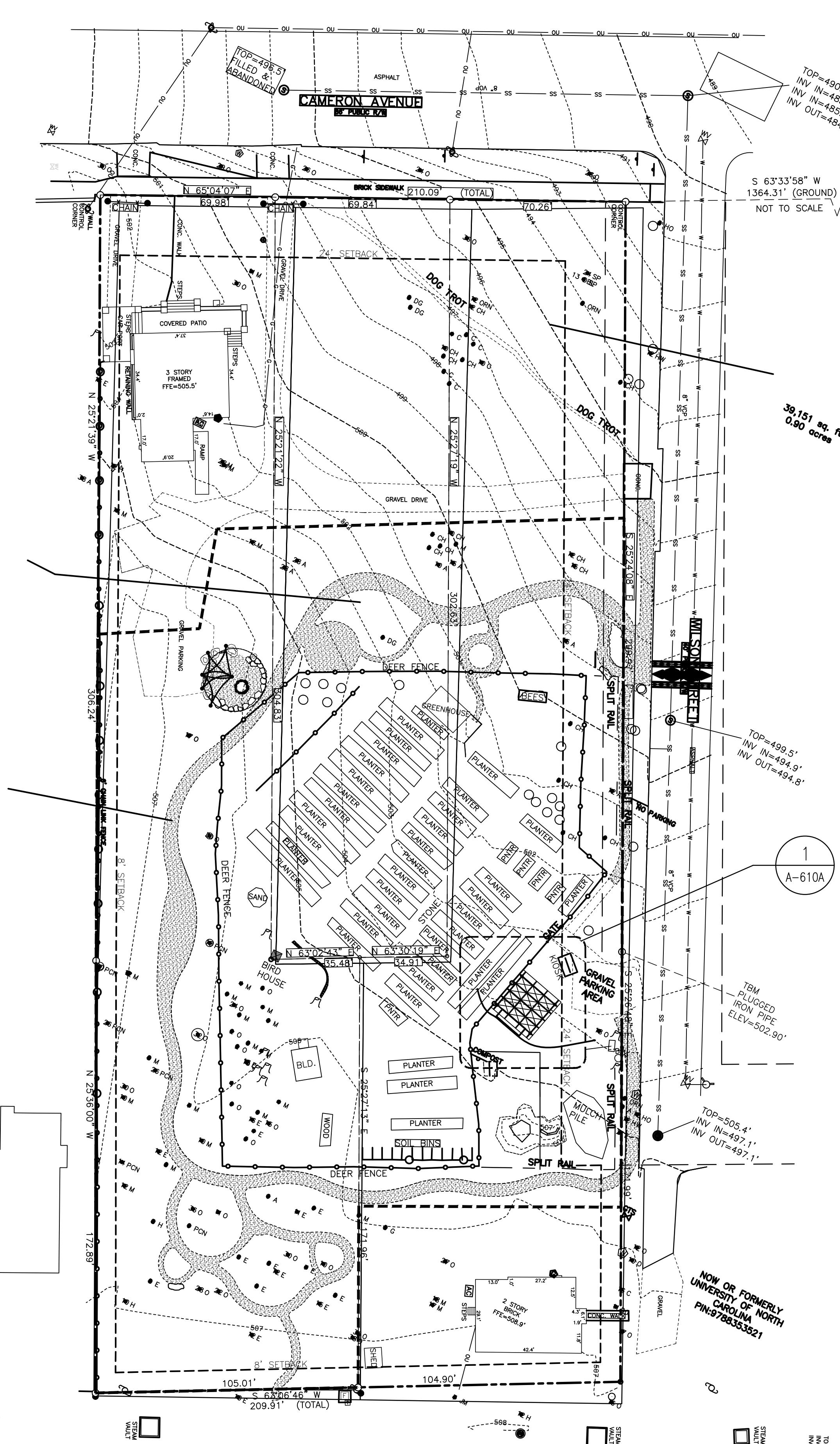
## CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENT

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# C-1.1

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 SCALE: 1" = 30'-0" OVERALL SITE PLAN

 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0" PARTIAL SITE PLAN

UNC CHAPEL HILL  
COMMUNITY  
GARDEN SHADE

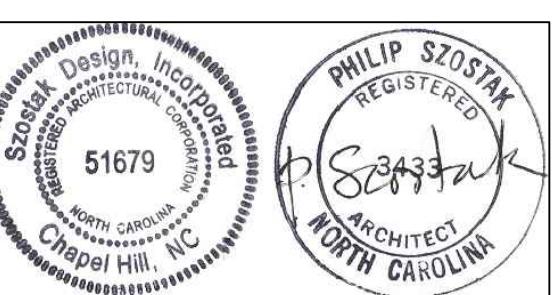
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FOUNDATION/GROUND  
PLANS

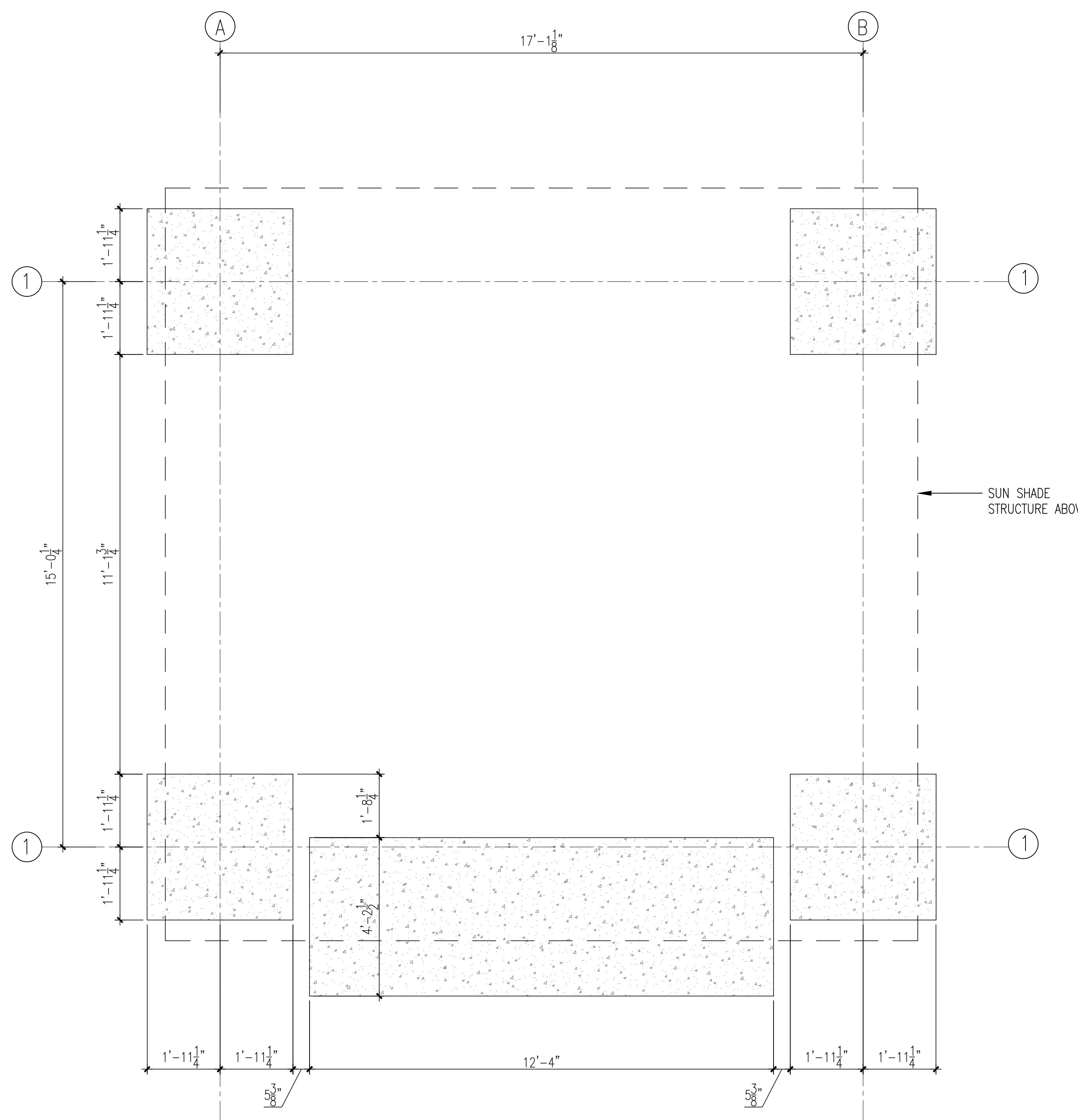
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CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENT

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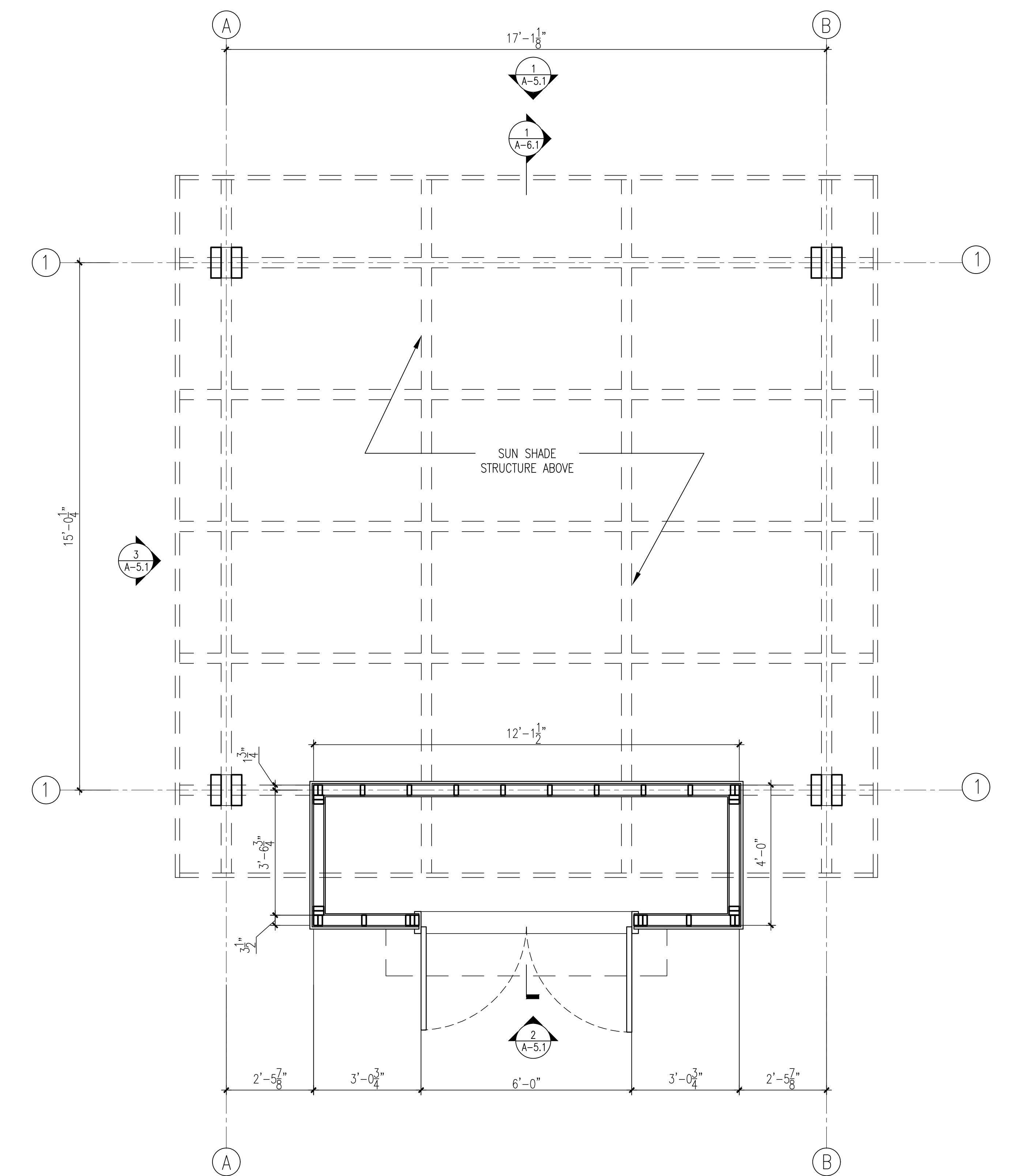
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FOUNDATION PLAN

2



GROUND PLAN

1

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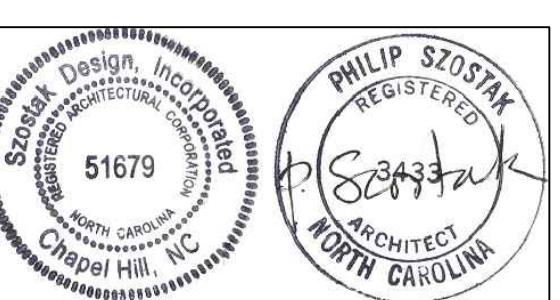
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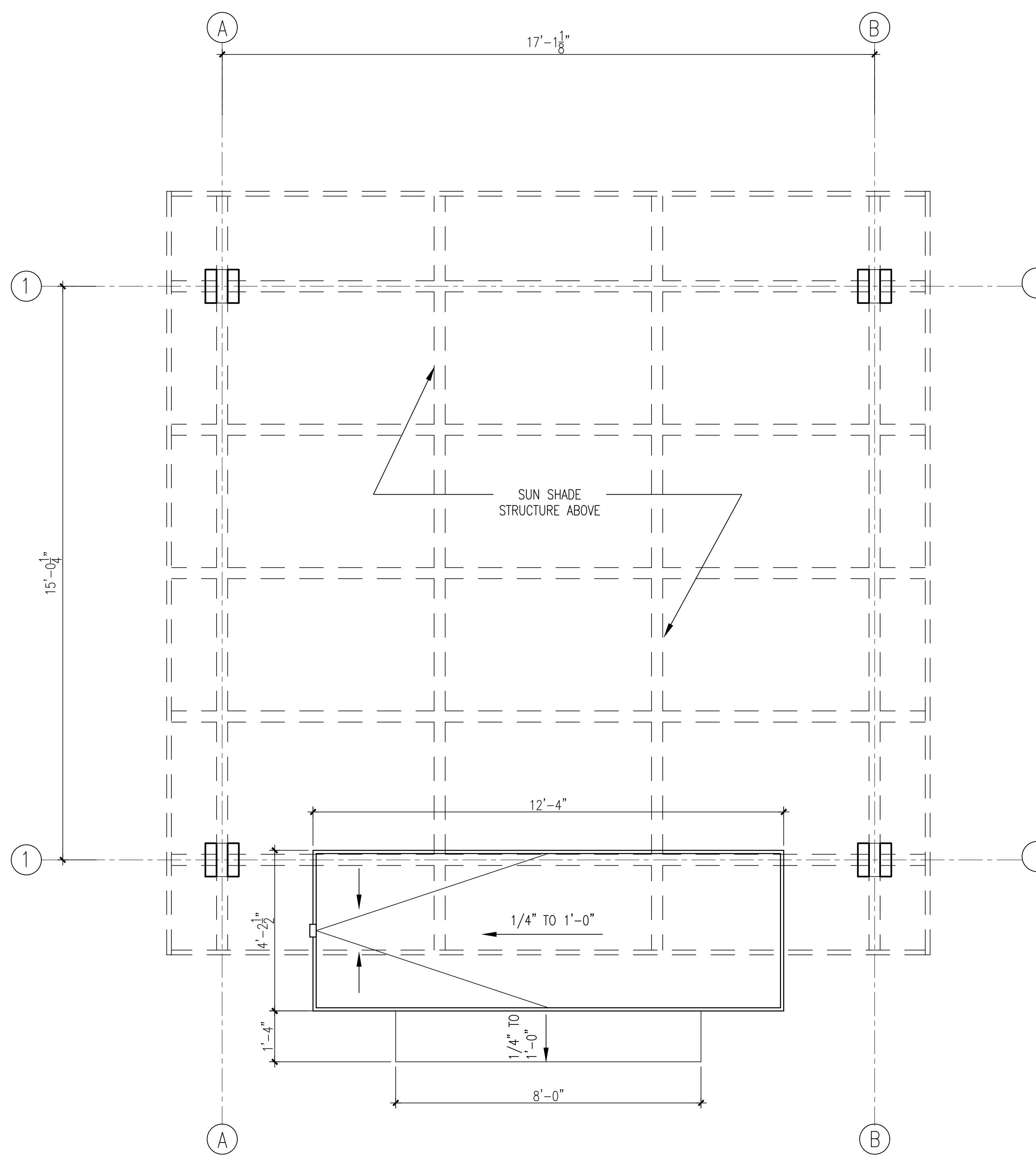
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ROOF PLANS  
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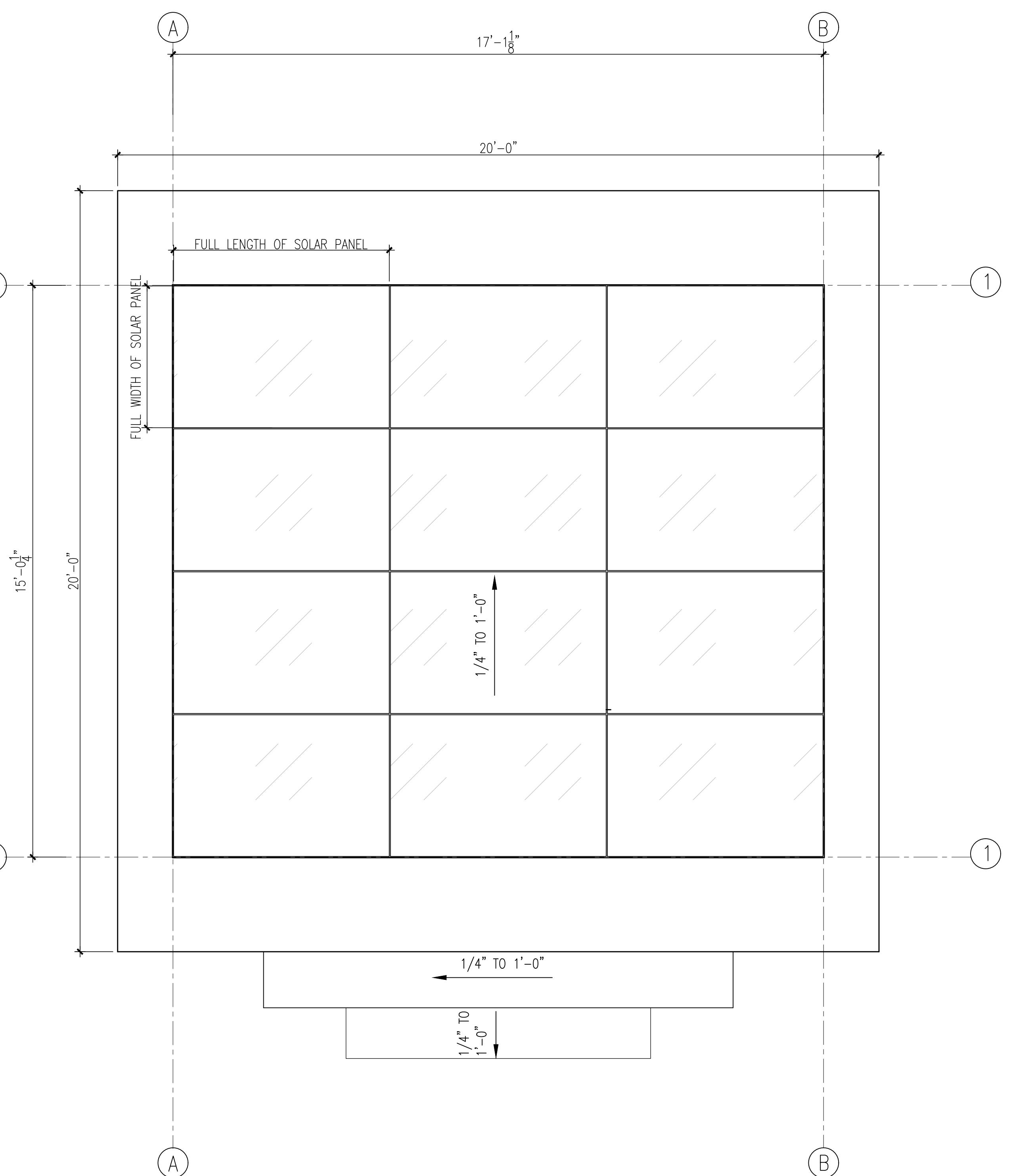
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ROOF FRAMING PLAN

2



ROOF PLAN

1

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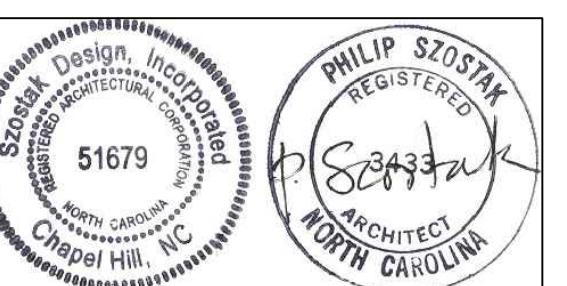
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ROOF FRAMING PLANS

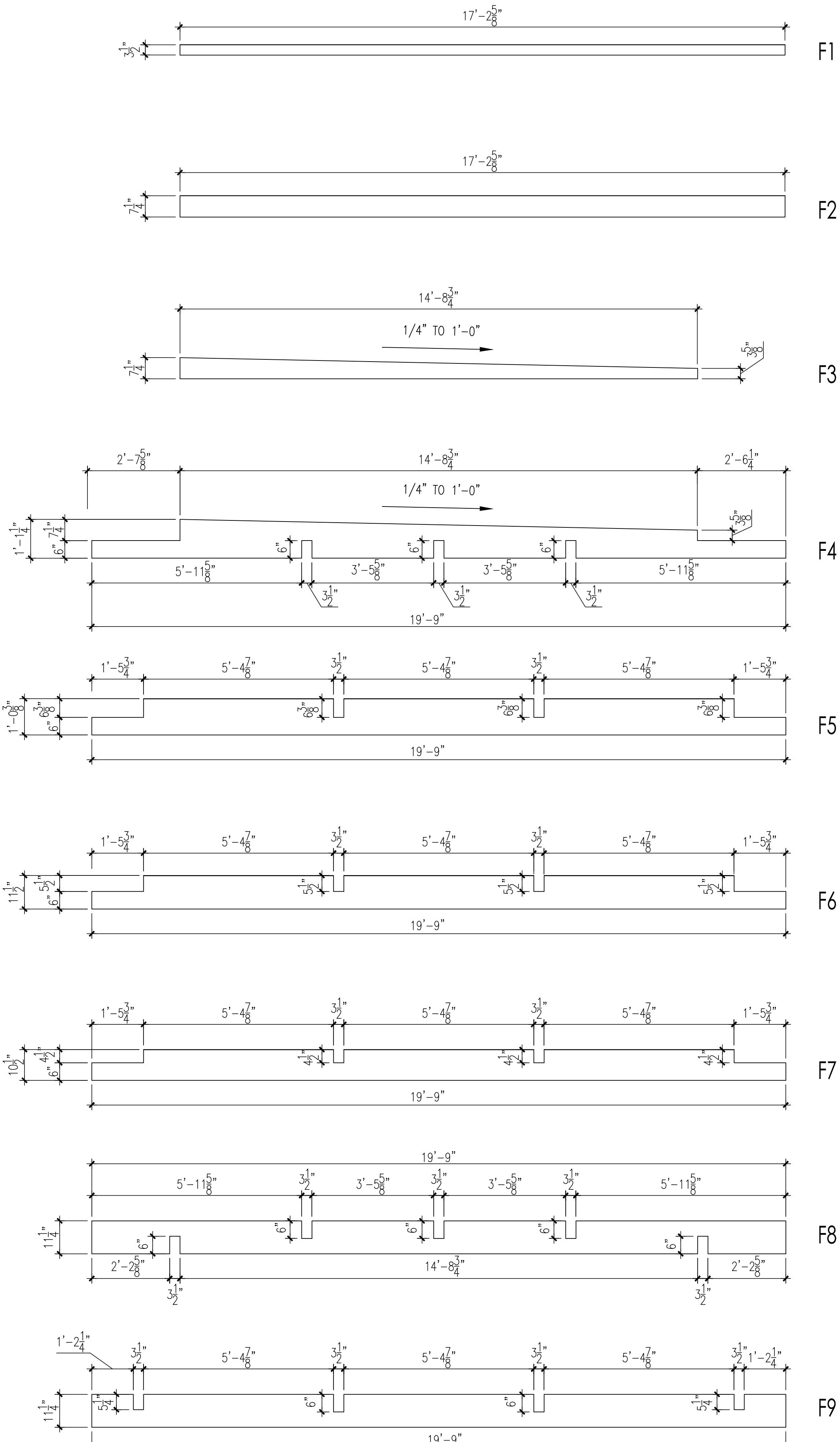
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CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENT

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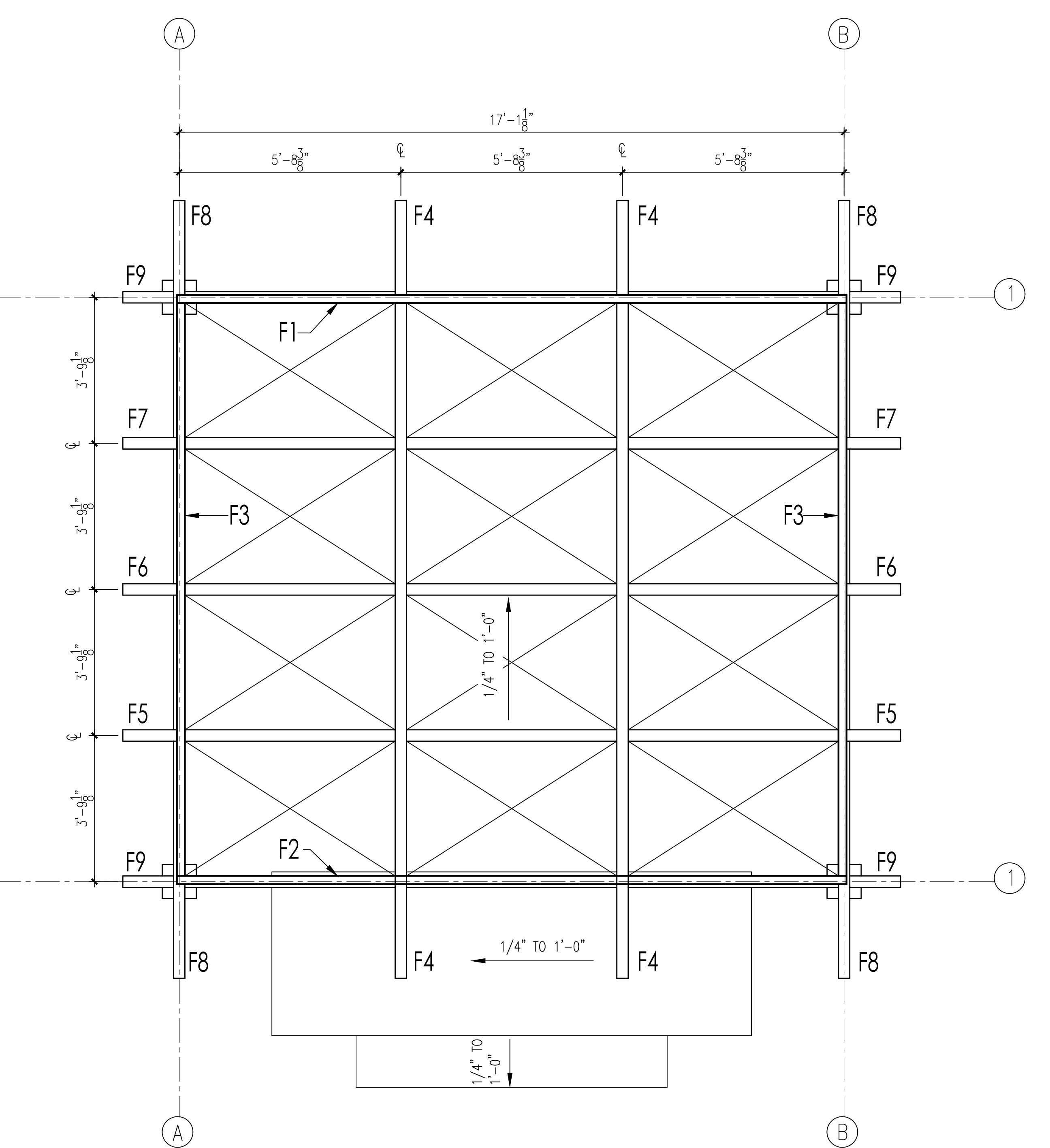
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ROOF FRAMING PROFILES

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ROOF FRAMING PLAN

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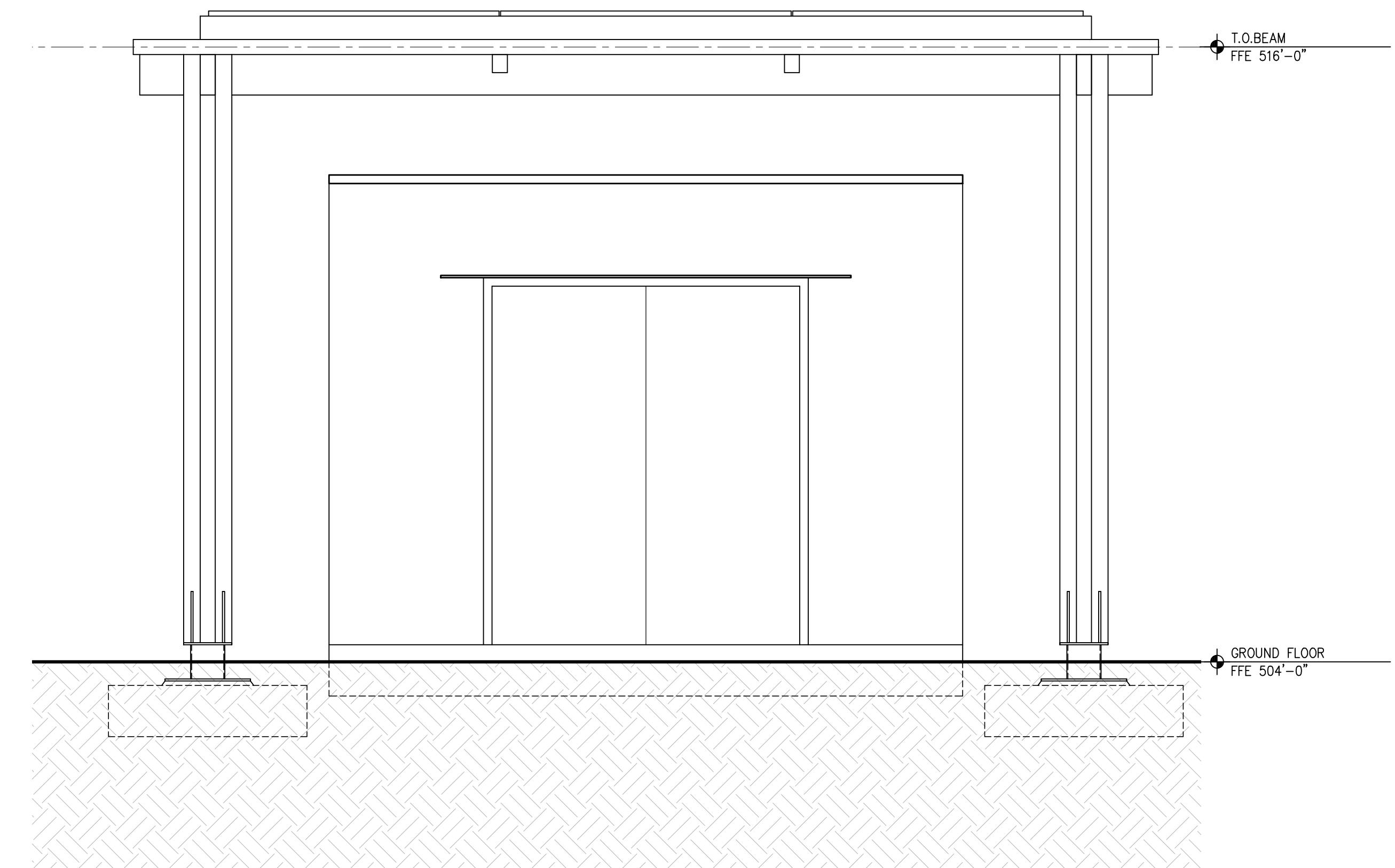
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GARDEN SHADE

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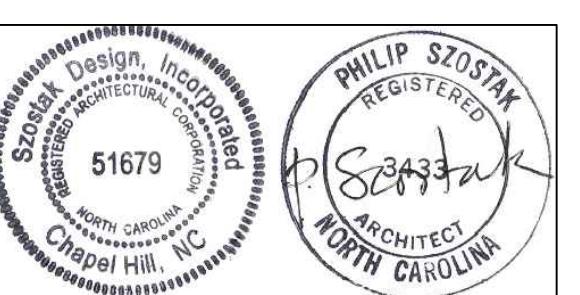
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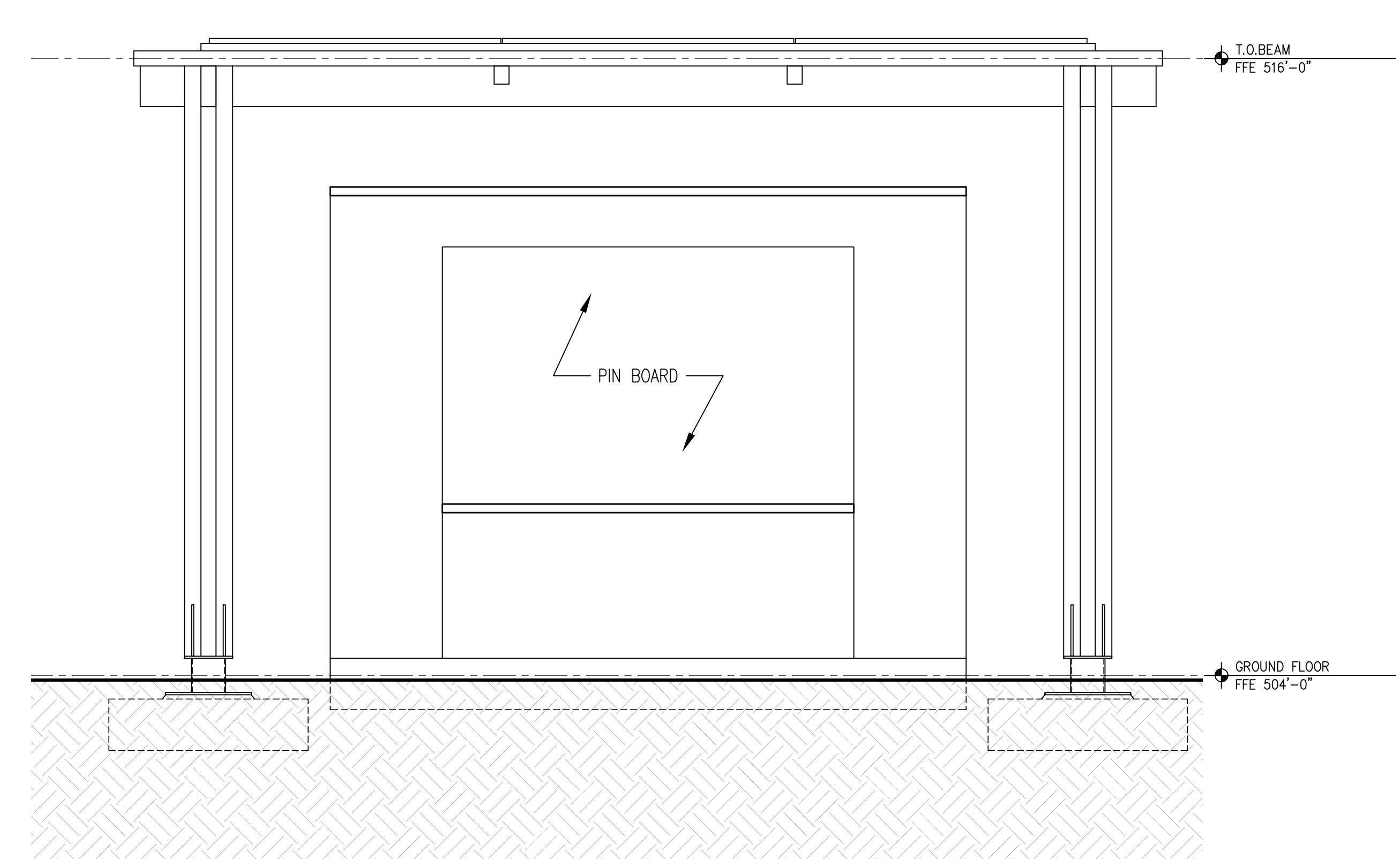
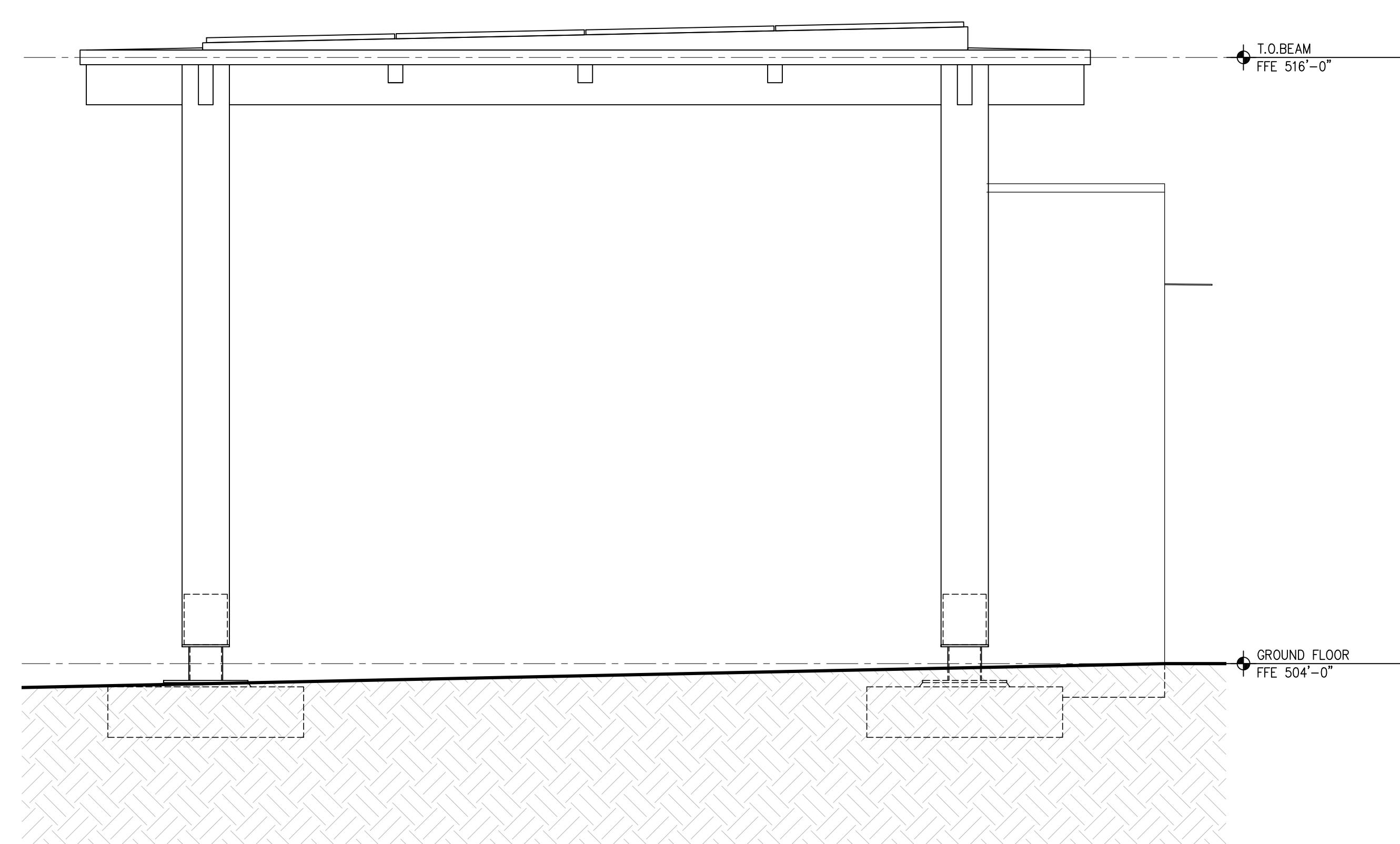
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EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS  
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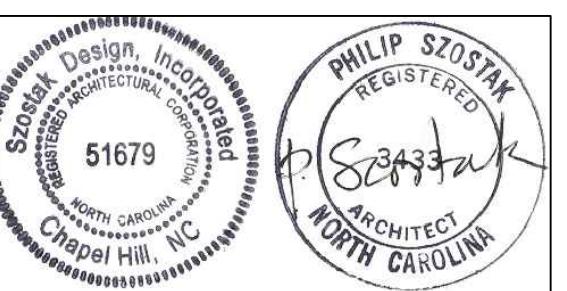
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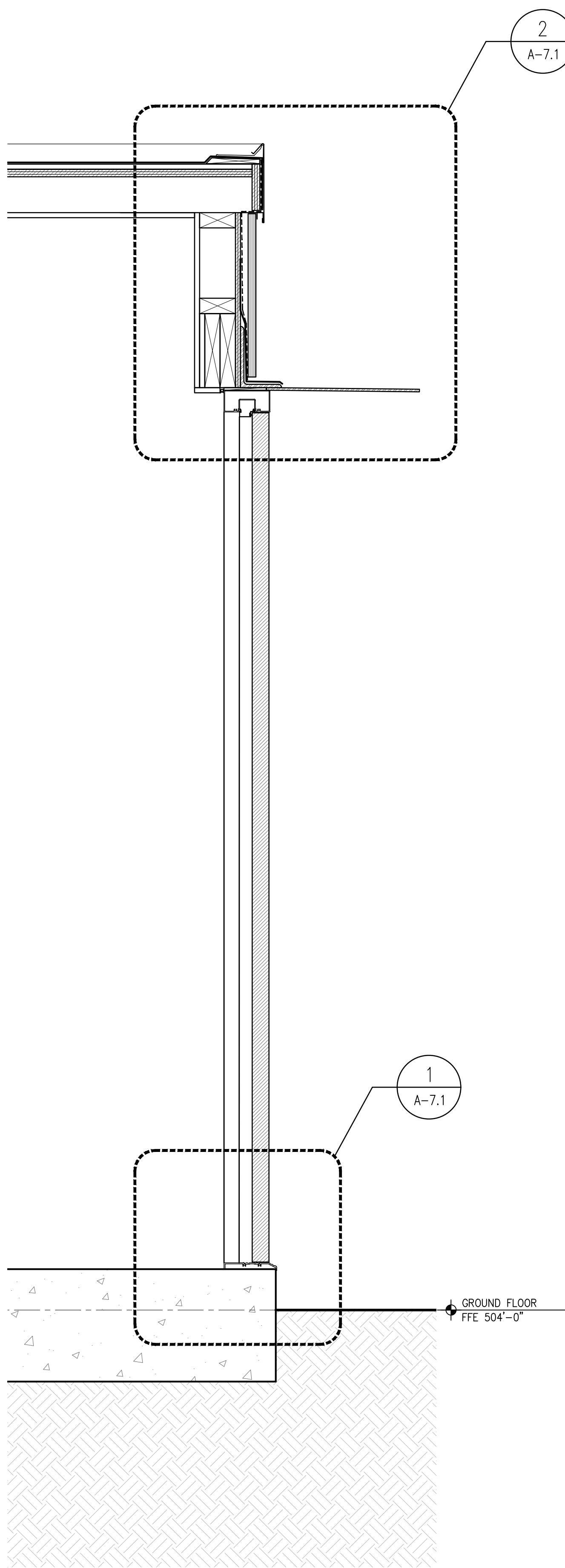
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BUILDING/WALL  
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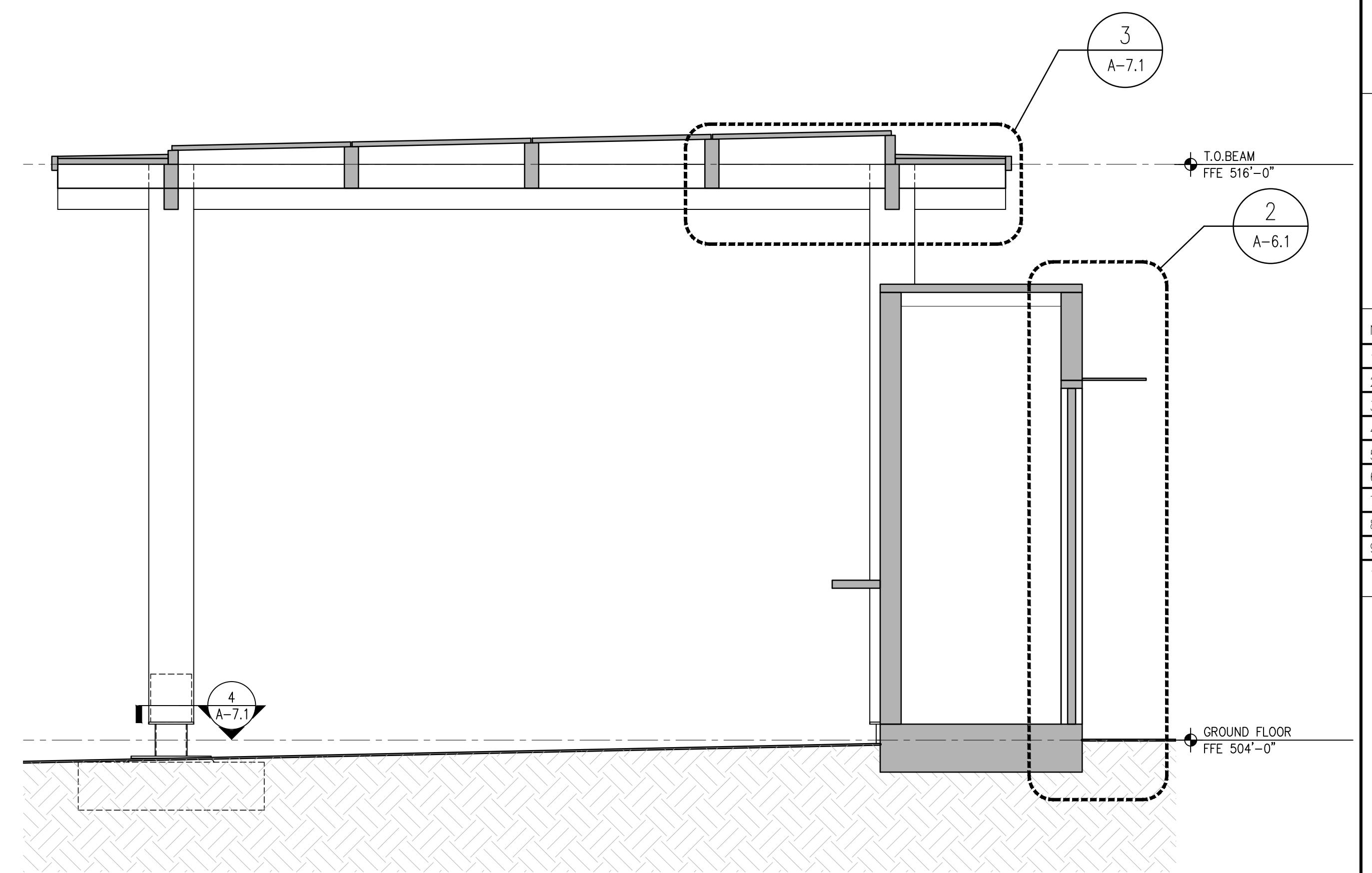
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WALL SECTION @ STORAGE DOOR

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SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

CROSS SECTION

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SZOSTAK  
DESIGN

UNC CHAPEL HILL  
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GARDEN SHADE

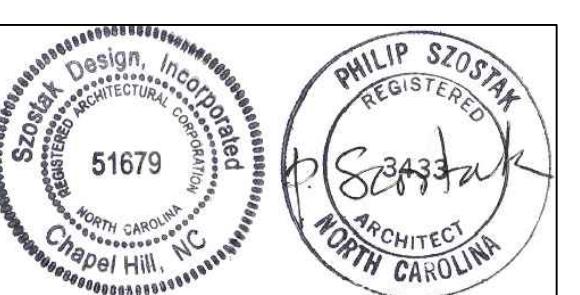
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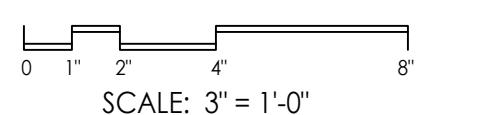
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DETAILS



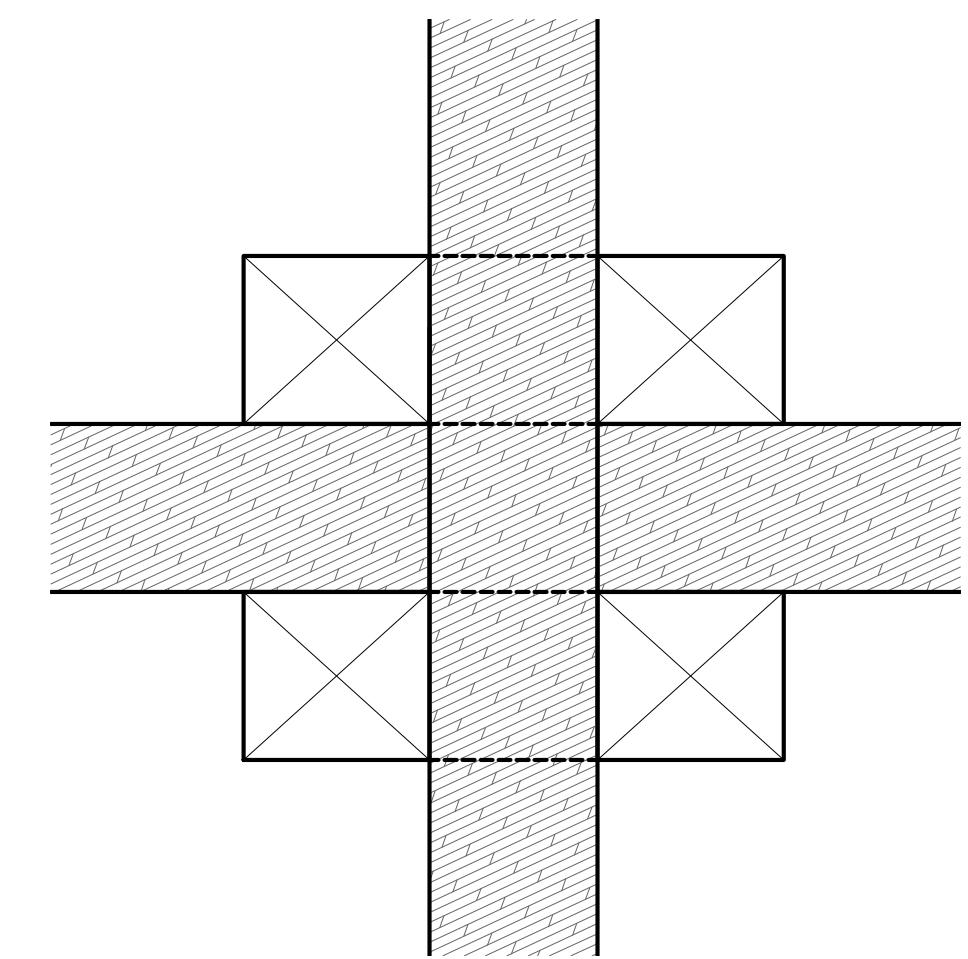
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CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENT

A-7.1

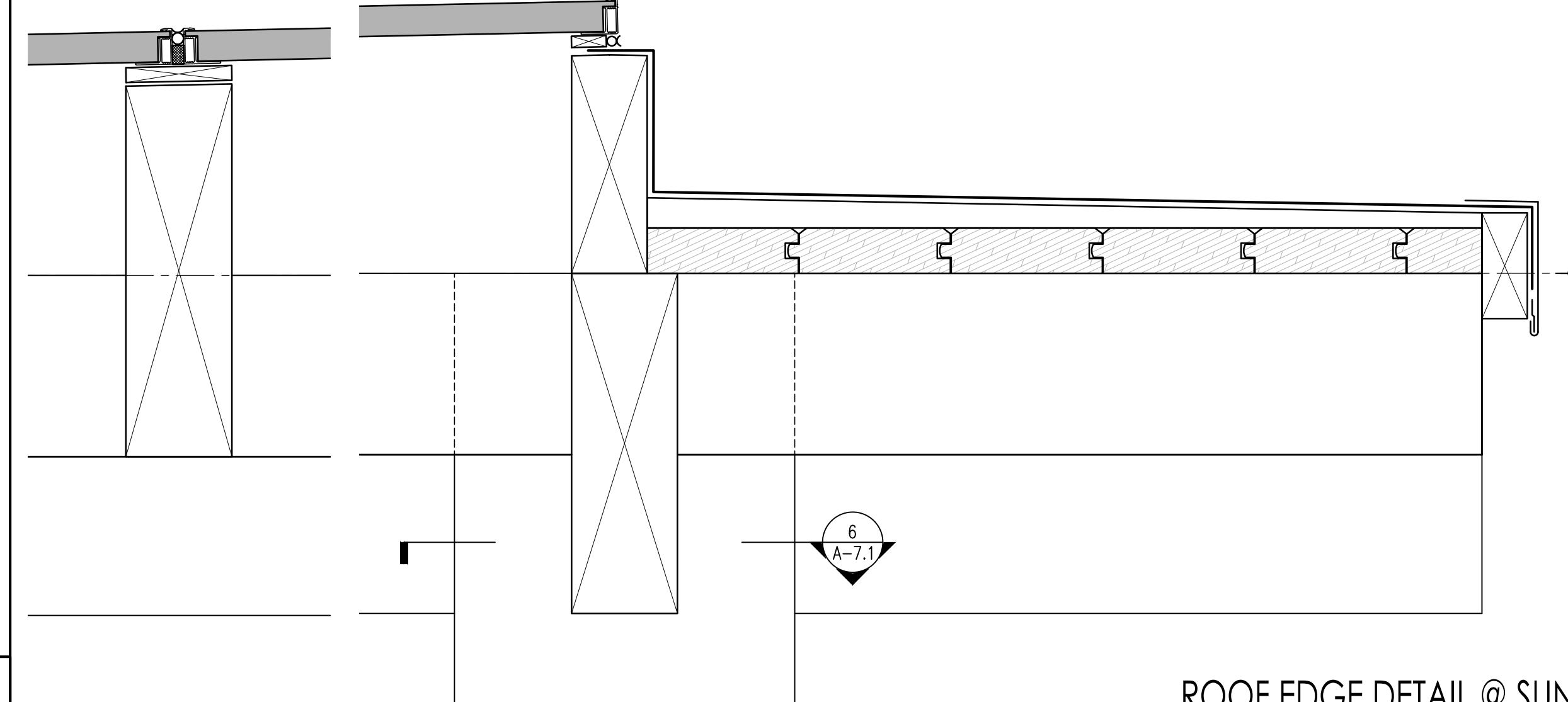
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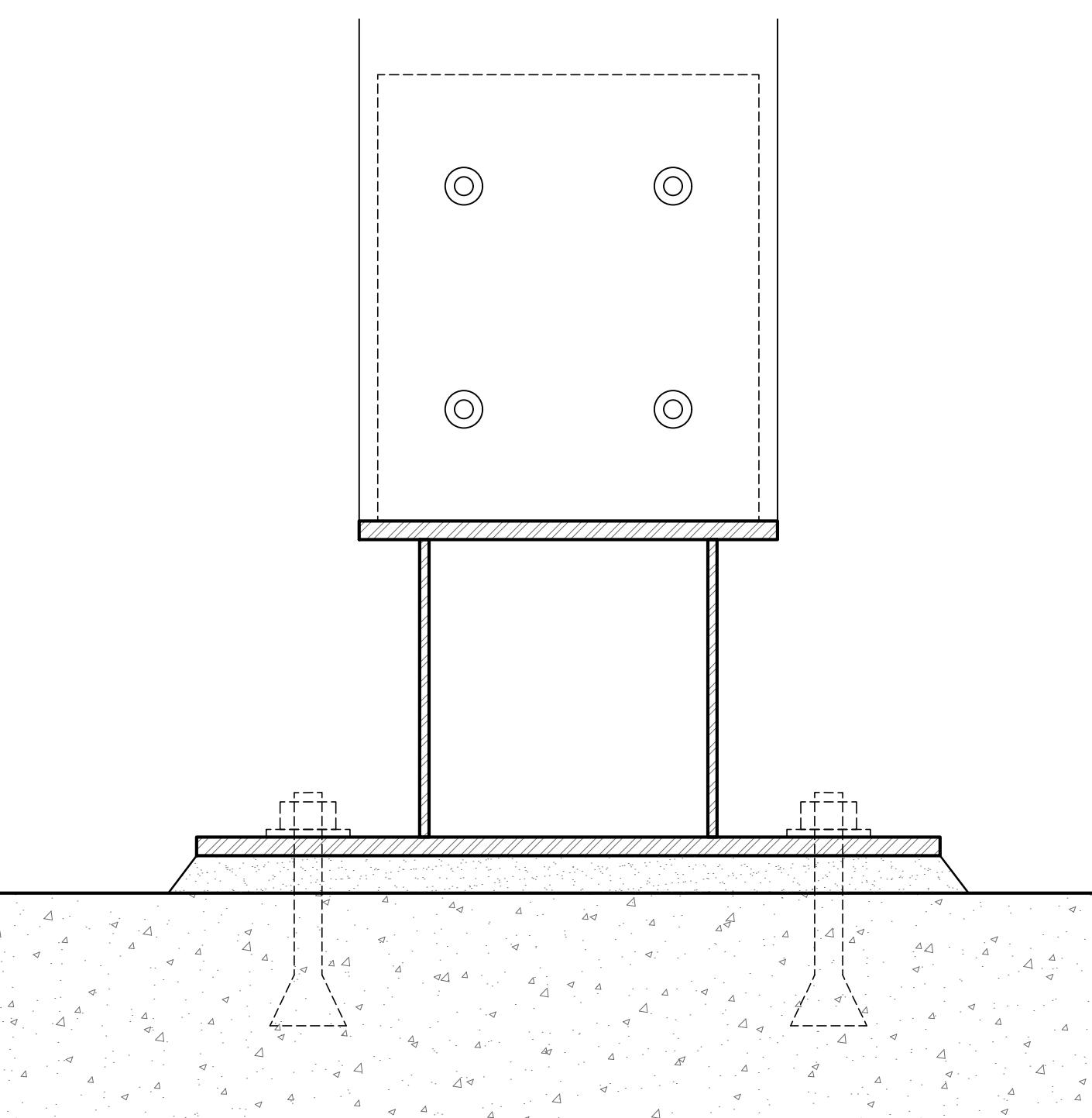
COL & BEAM CONNECTION DETAIL @ SUN SHADE

6



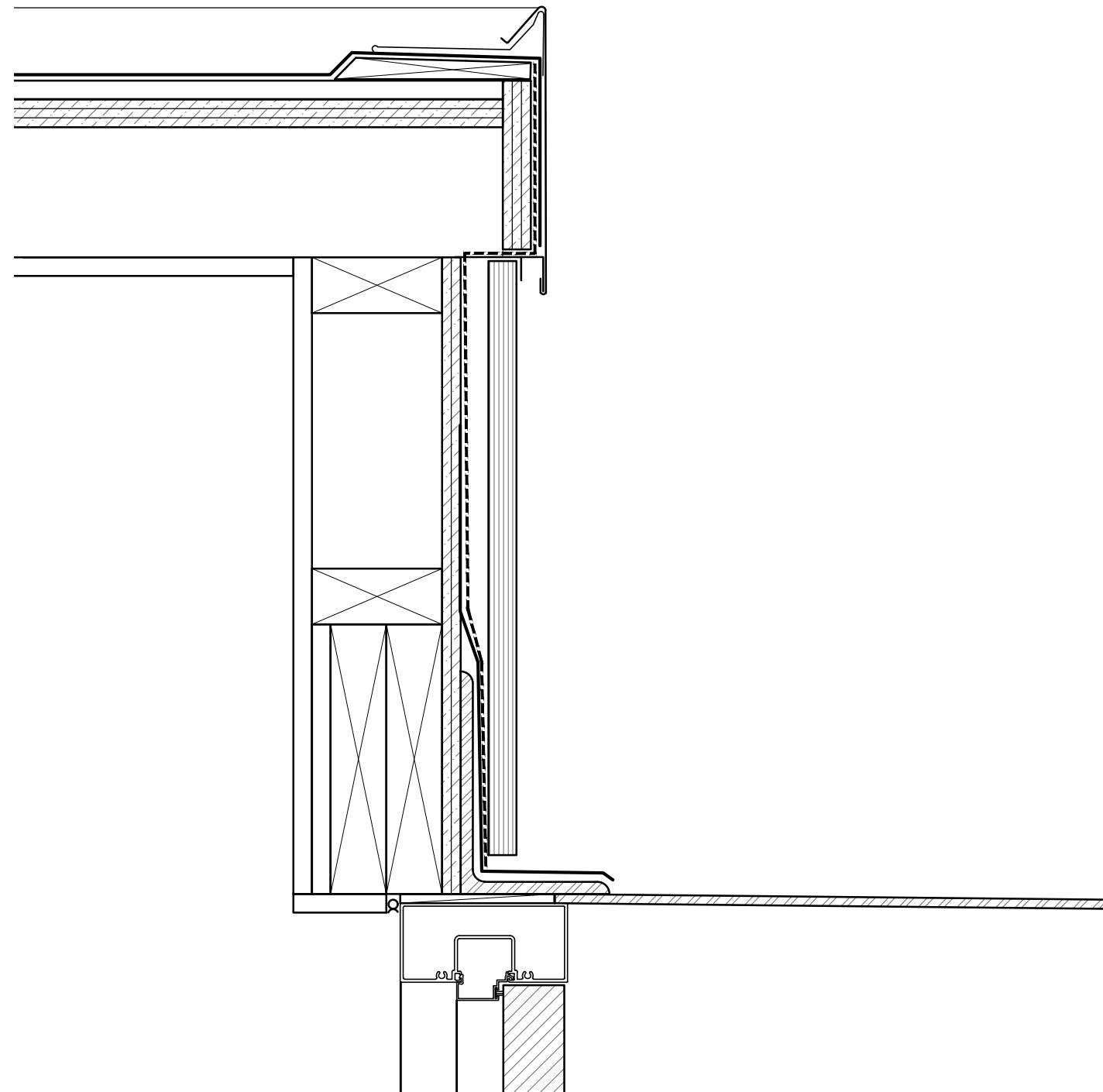
ROOF EDGE DETAIL @ SUN SHADE

3



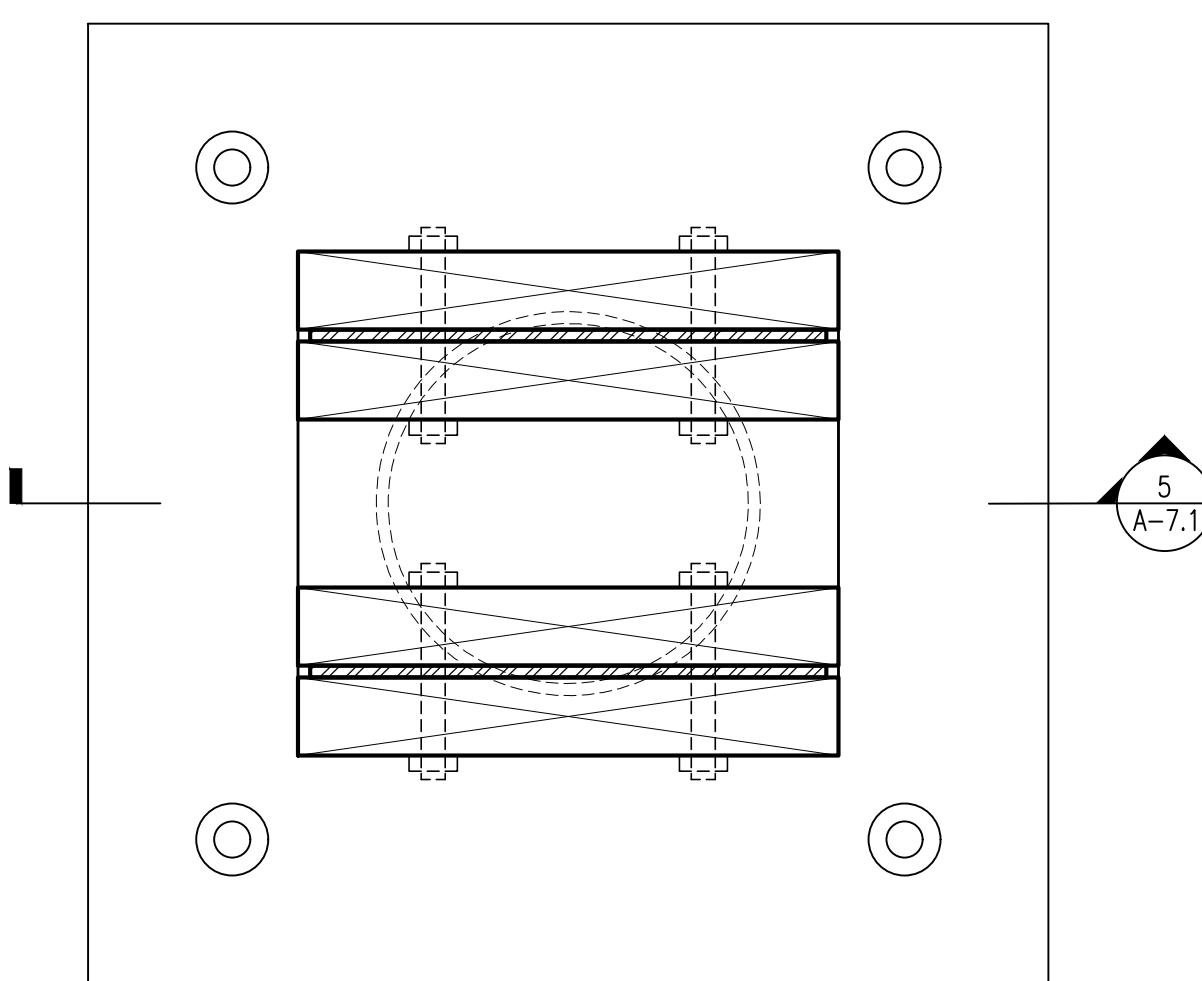
SECTION DETAIL @ SUN SHADE COL BASE

5



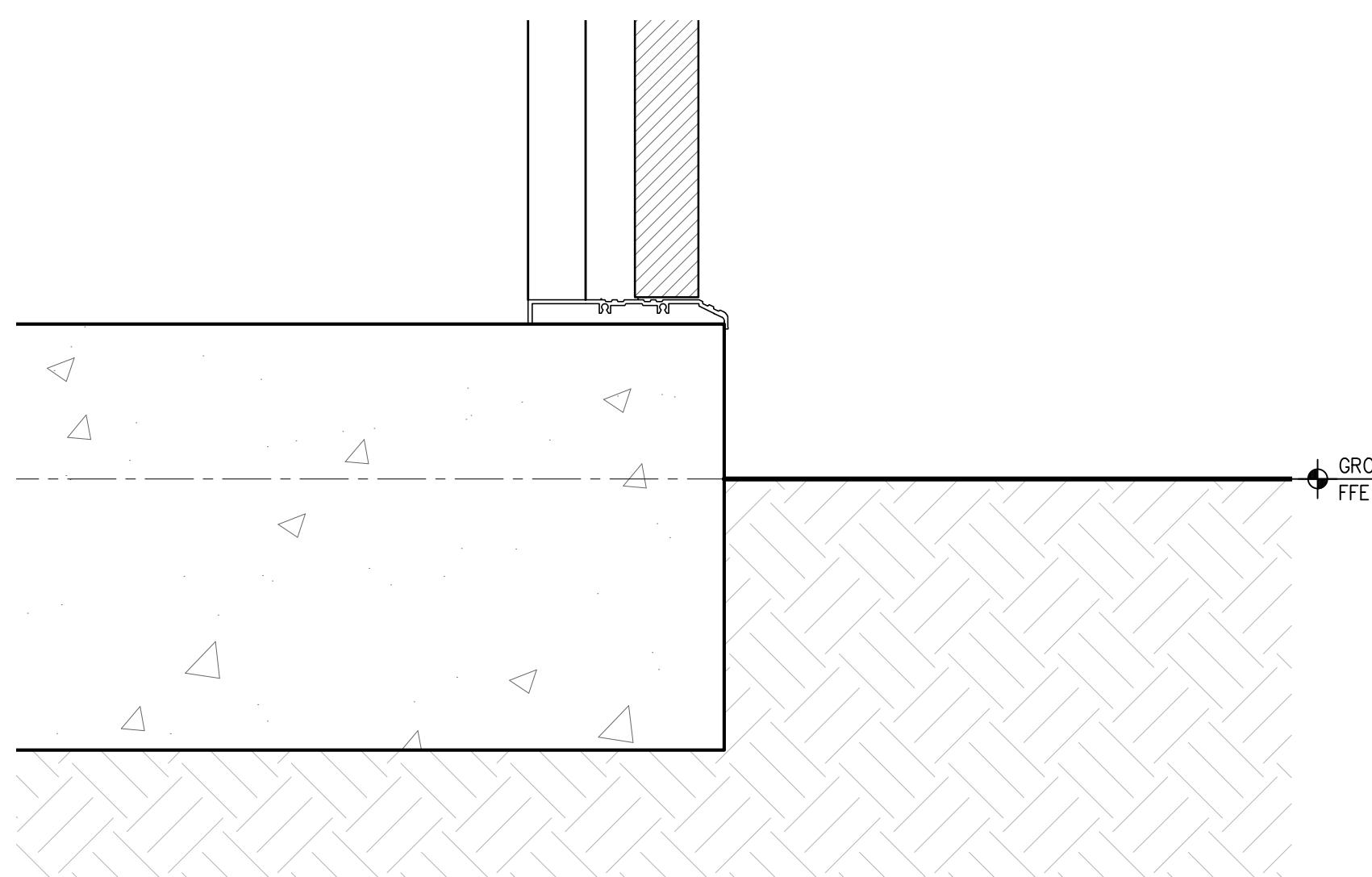
HEADER DETAIL @ STORAGE DOOR

2



PLAN DETAIL @ SUN SHADE COL BASE

4



THRESHOLD DETAIL @ STORAGE DOOR

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5  
A-7.1

GROUND FLOOR  
FFE 504'-0"

T.O.BEAM  
FFE 516'-0"