

SANAA • New Canaan, Connecticut

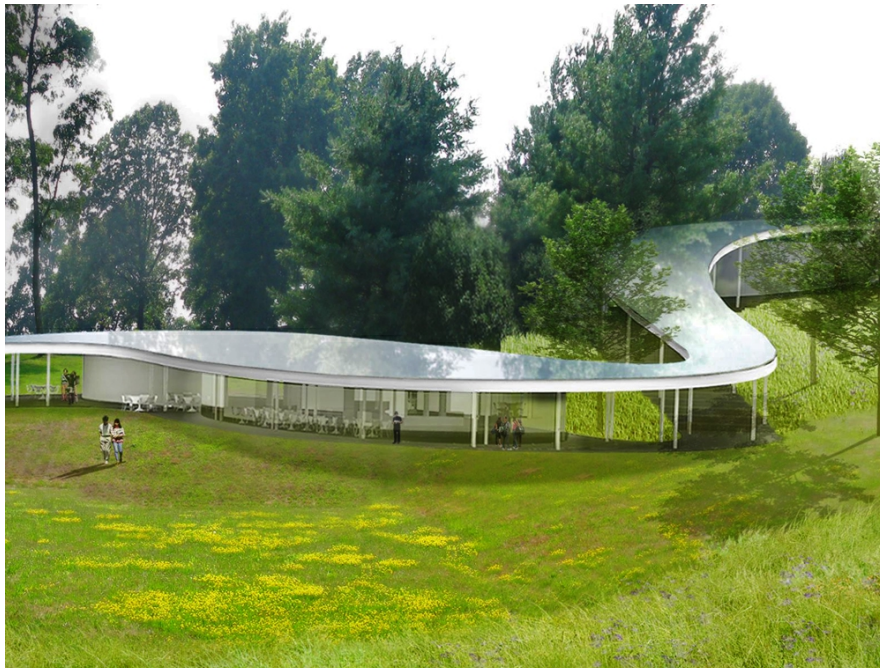
2012-09-25



[SANAA](#) has designed *The River*, a glass-and-steel community building in New Canaan, Connecticut. Image: SANAA

"The River" will be a new spiritual and community center building, in New Canaan, Connecticut, designed by Japanese firm [SANAA](#) for the Grace Farms Foundation. The firm's designs for the sinuous building were recently submitted to the local planning and zoning commission for review.

The building is designed as a continuous sequence of glazed pavilions connected by covered breezeways all unified by a single, curvaceous roof that winds around the one-acre (0.4-hectare) building site on the 75-acre (30.4-hectare) grounds of Grace Farms. Near one end, the River contains a space that will serve as the sanctuary for Grace Community Church. Other spaces will accommodate a range of community center functions, including a library, dining room, gymnasium, and spaces for children.



Overview of the sanctuary space of The River. Image: SANAA

The 50-to-60-million-dollar building's material palette will include glass, wood, steel, and concrete. The River's landscape was designed by Philadelphia, Pennsylvania-based OLIN.

The Grace Farms site, formerly approved for a 10-lot residential subdivision, was approved in 2008, by the local zoning and planning body, for the community-center use case. A ruling on the building's design and site plan is expected by the end of 2012.



Another glass-walled pavilion of The River. Image: SANAA