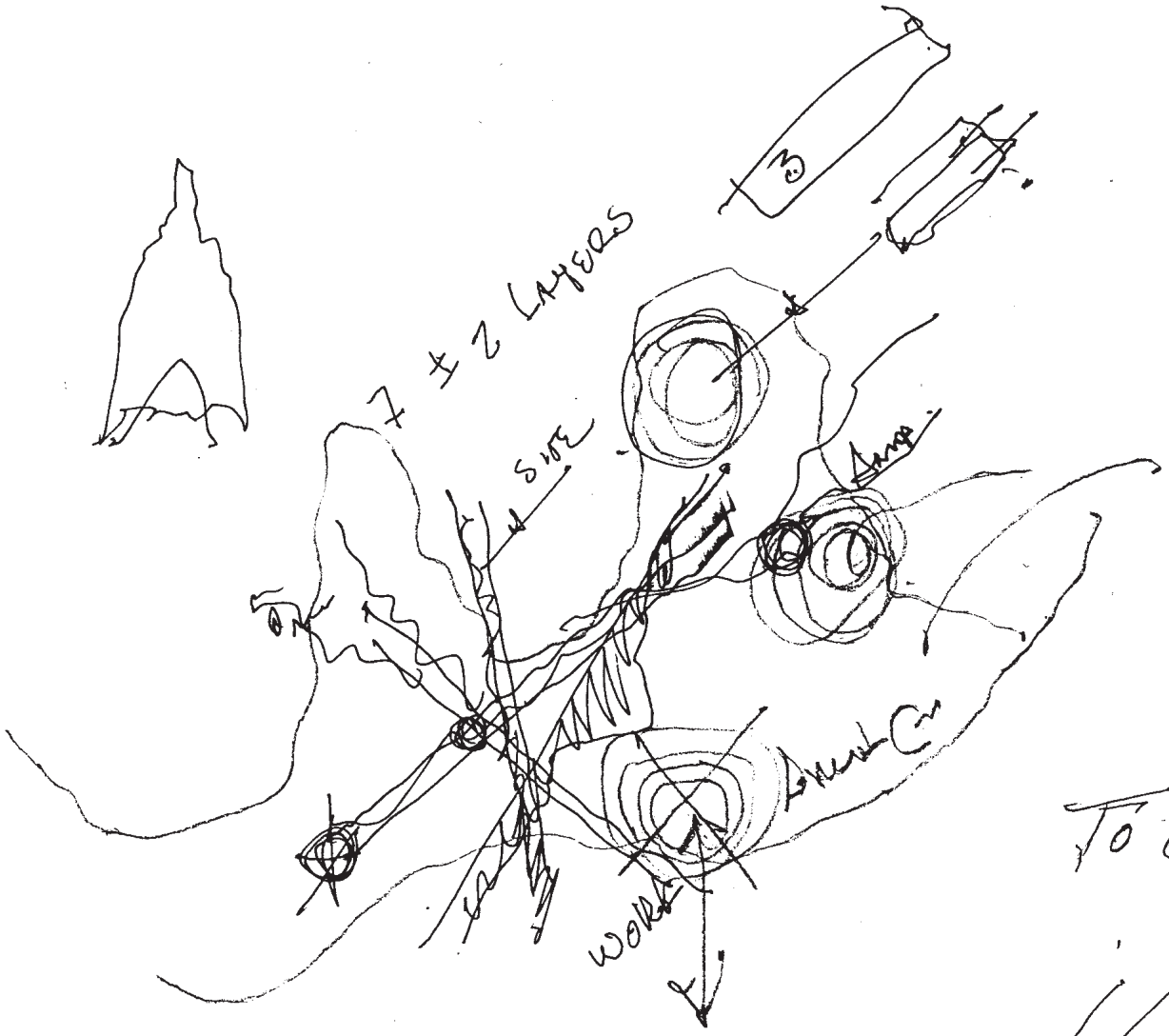


Craig E. Podalak II
Graduate Study Portfolio

Comment on Cover Sheet

The sketch on the cover was the visual portion of a discussion I had with Professor Edward Deam, F.A.I.A., Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois, on the fabric of architecture as I entered my senior year at University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Professor Deam has taught architectural design for the University of Illinois for 44 years between the Urbana-Champaign and Chicago campuses. His excitement about architecture was still evident after a lifetime of teaching. His insight on how architecture needs to be interwoven with today's issues was very interesting, but he then reminded me that the basic fabric of architecture must always be maintained. His words still echo in my mind each time I look at his sketch on 'The Fabric of Architecture.'

content

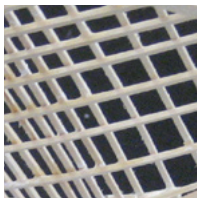
public_s[h_2o]re_3/10

boutique_hotel_11/16

urban_observatory_17/20

one_IBM_plaza_21/22

train_stop_23/26



expodach_27/28

temple_buell_hall_29/30

hand_sketches_31

School of Architectu
Current Status - Ser
Architectural Cla
Design, Landsca

DESIGN PROGRAI
- AutoCAD
- Revit

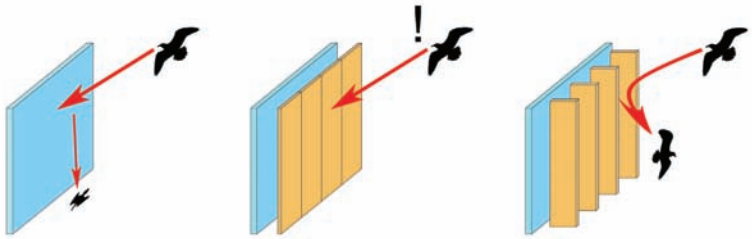
resume_32

public_s[h_2o]re

One of the major attractions of the city of Chicago is its lakefront. There are all kinds of attractions along Lake Michigan. Museums, parks, Navy Pier, beaches, marinas, and more all are public areas; the whole lakefront is public besides the northern 4 miles of the lakefront. As you walk through these public areas one main difference from place to place is the setting. A city like Chicago changes very quickly and normally people do not notice the dramatic differences in the setting, such as buildings and parks adjacent to one another. Making these settings very apparent throughout the site evokes different emotions and activities to the everyday passerby. Walking from the street/city-scape setting into grass & trees; then onto concrete, wood, sand, pebbles, gravel, and rocks. By using these materials and characteristics of the lakefront, the last 4 miles of Lake Michigan can be created into a small site with dramatic setting differences.

site_plan

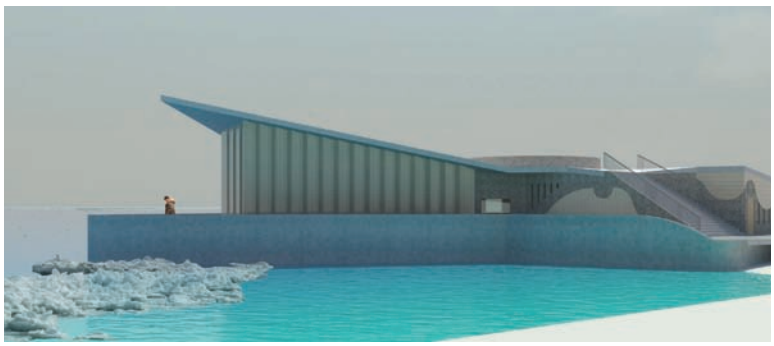
1_water_shutes
2_soccer field
3_comfort_station
4_kayak facility
5_parking
6_valet_parking
7_lifeguard/mini_comfort_station
8_restaurant/cafe
9_bird_watching_platform
10_secluded_beach
11_existing_buildings



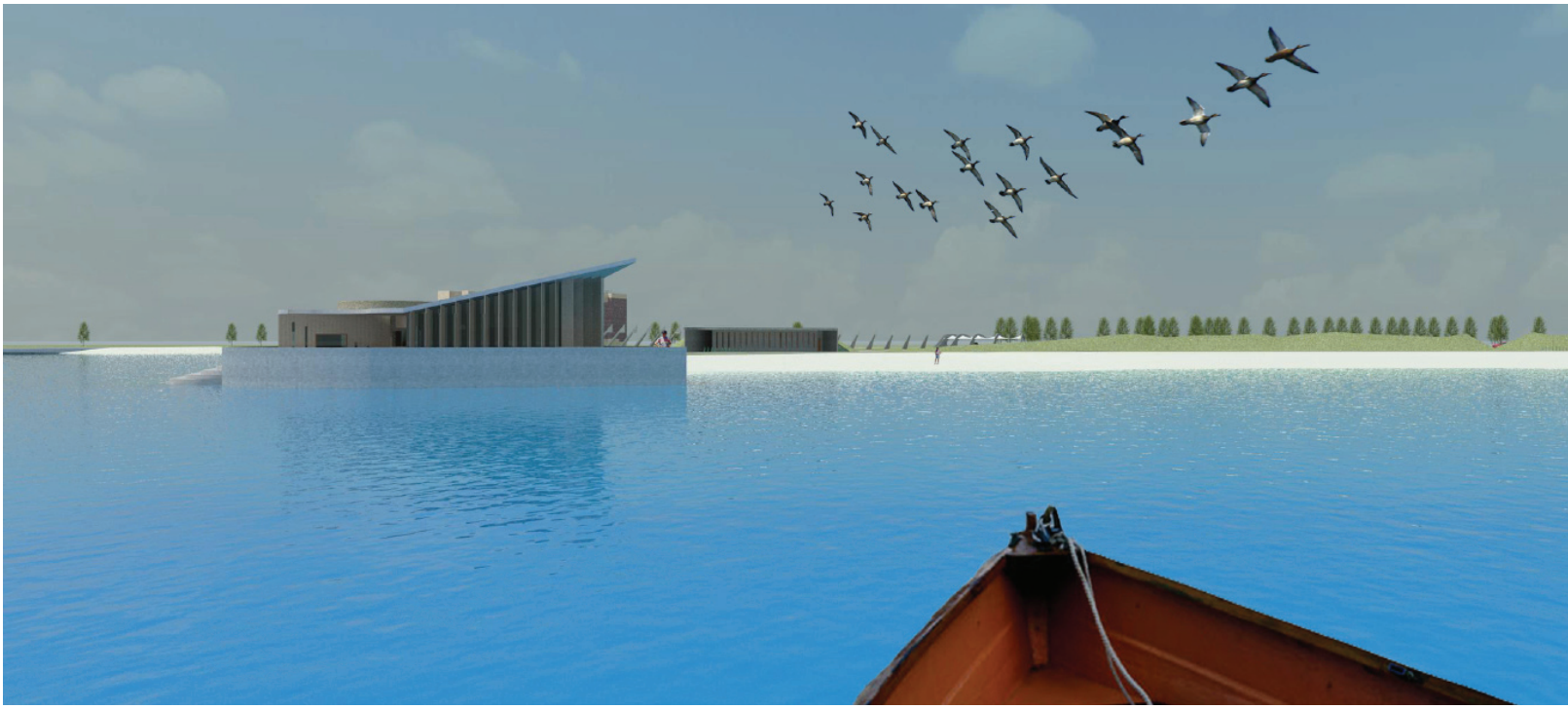
restaurant/cafe_floor_plan

north

cafe_summer perspective



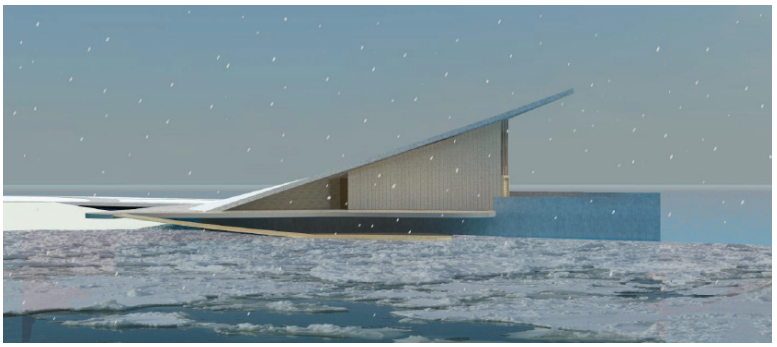
cafe_winter_perspective



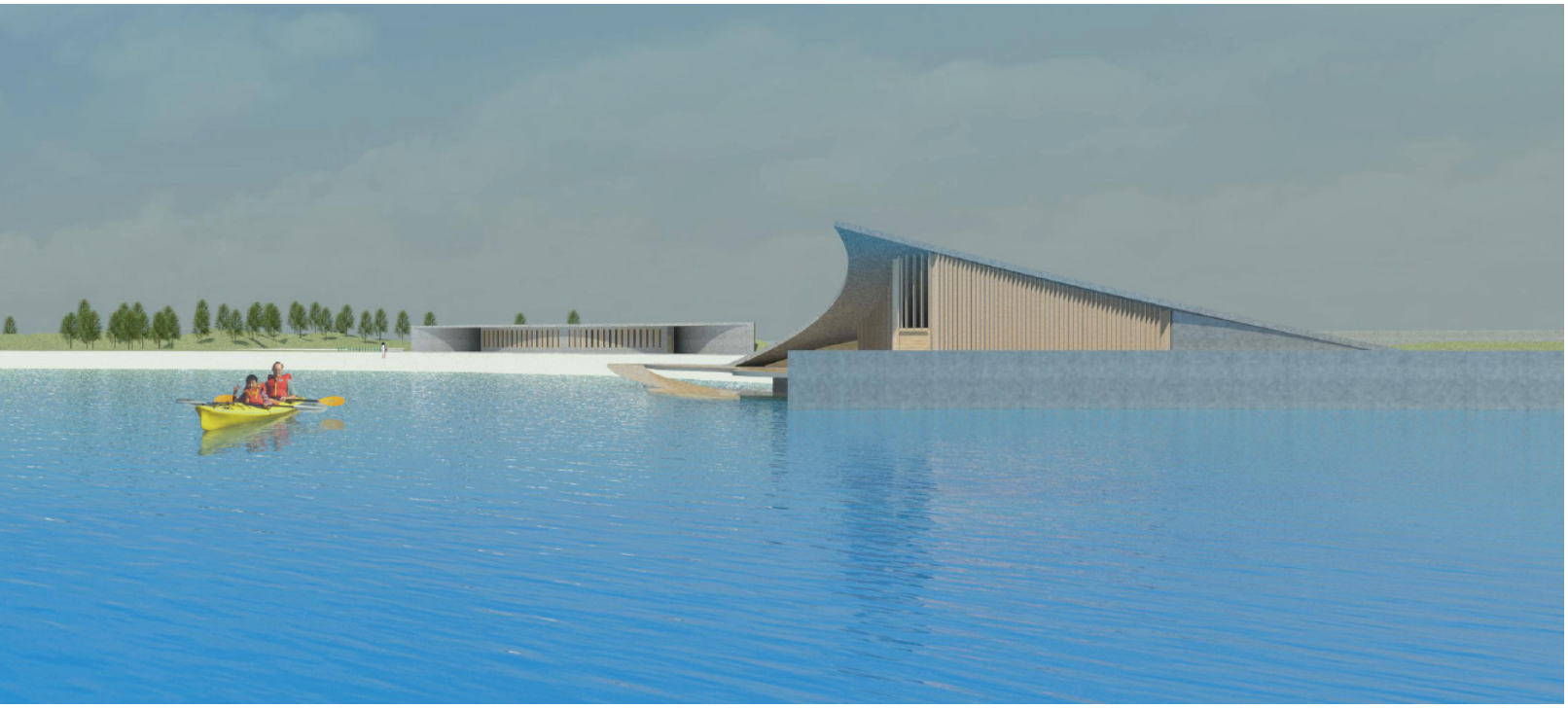
kayak_storage_floor_plan

north

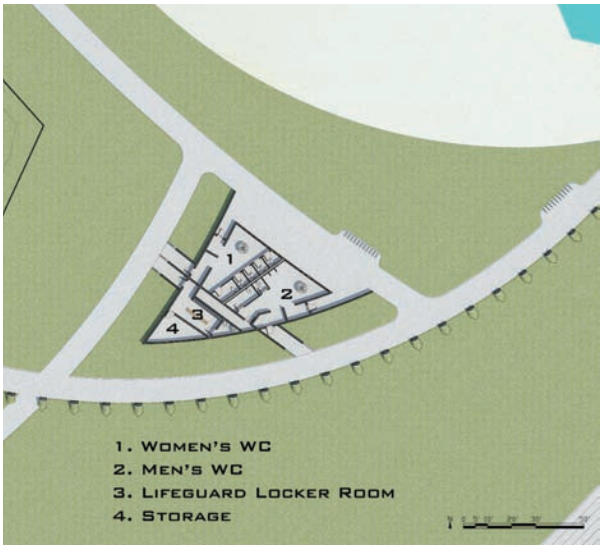
kayak_storage_night_perspective



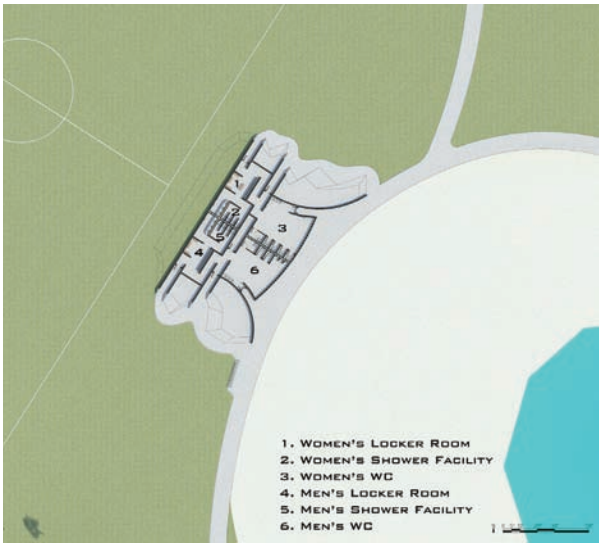
kayak_storage_winter_perspective



lifeguard_station_floor_plan



lifeguard_station_perspective



comfort_station_floor_plan

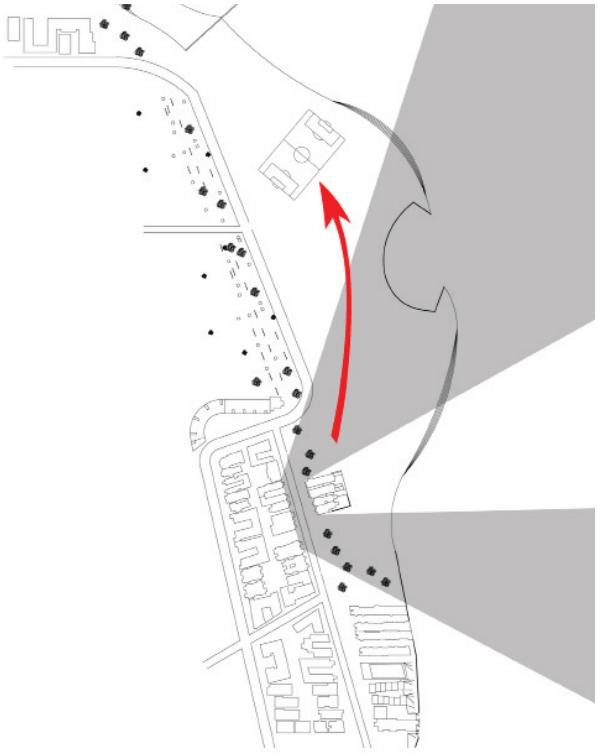
north

comfort_station_perspective

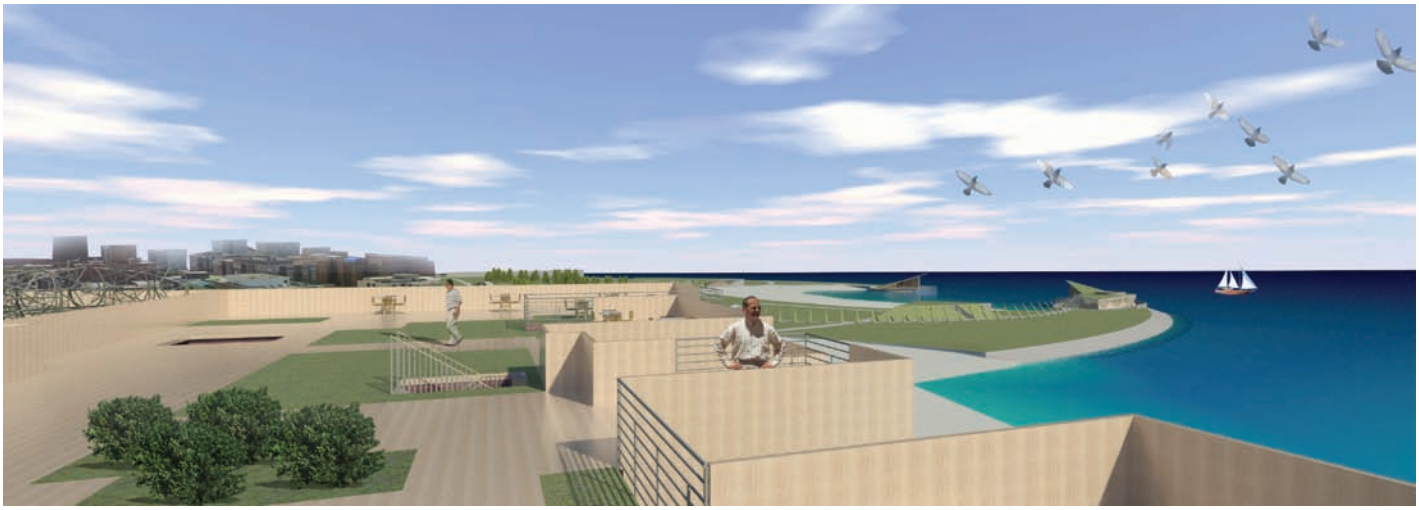
current_apartment_renovation

LARGE OPEN SPACES NEXT TO THE APARTMENTS ATTRACTED UNWANTED NOISE FOR THE TENANTS.

PLANTING TREES IN THESE SPACES REDUCED THE NOISE, HOWEVER OBSTRUCTED THE BEAUTIFUL VIEWS FROM THESE "LAKE SHORE" APARTMENTS

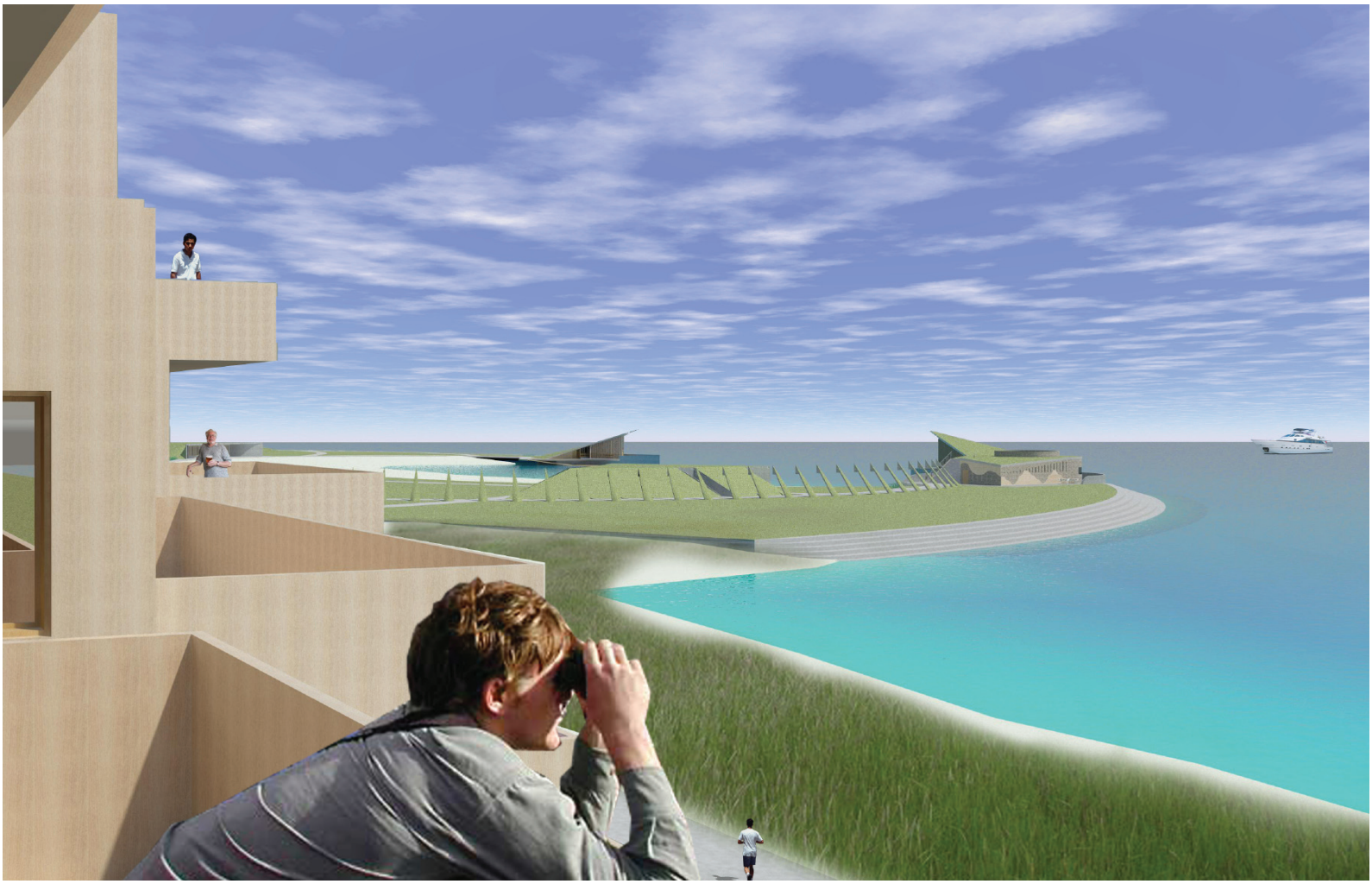


BY PLACING ACTIVITIES AWAY FROM THE APARTMENTS VIEWS CAN BE RESTORED.



The apartment complex has a very normal traditional brownstone entrance very similar to many of the surrounding buildings. By covering the rear facades with wood a completely new setting is provided simply by walking from the entrance to the rear rooms of the apartments. Each balcony has its own unique view out to Lake Michigan and the the sidewalks below are hidden from site to provide total privacy for the residents.

All the apartments in this area are considered "lakeshore" apartments even though there is around 400 feet to the actual lakeshore. The apartment in between planted many trees, blocking other apartment's views of the lake, because of children playing soccer and other activities around their apartment. In order to provide views for these apartments a soccer field is placed on the northside of the site to take activities and noise away from these residents to provide an intimate, solitary location.

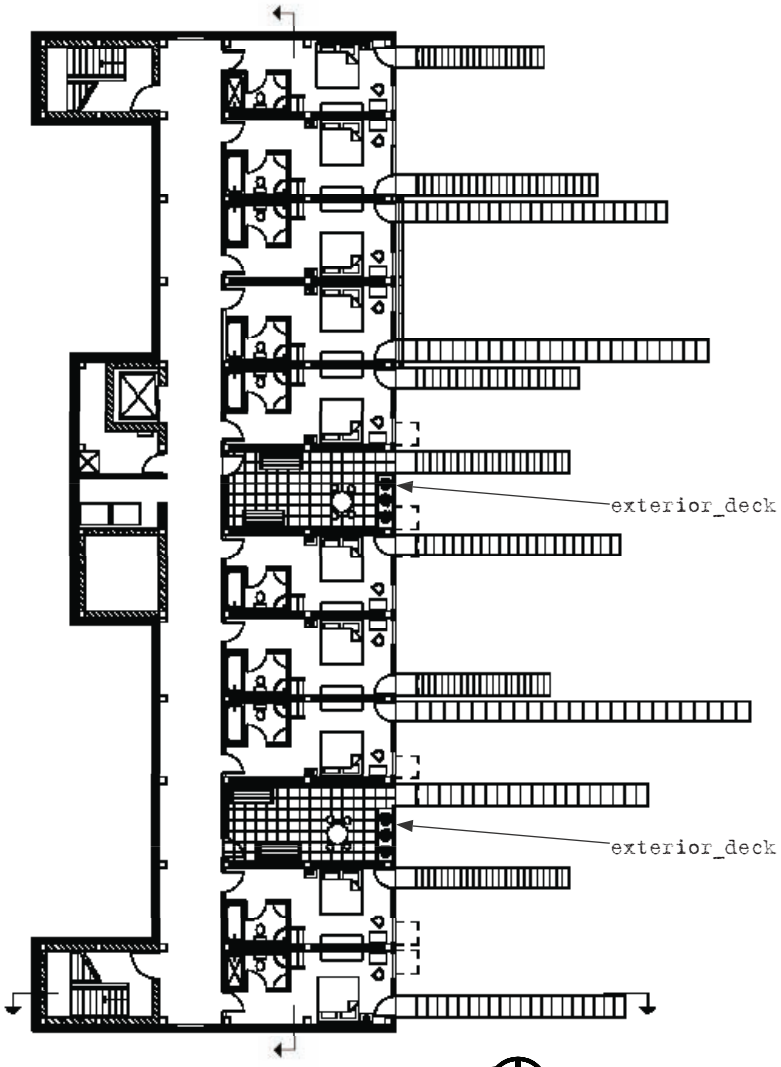


boutique_hotel_senior thesis

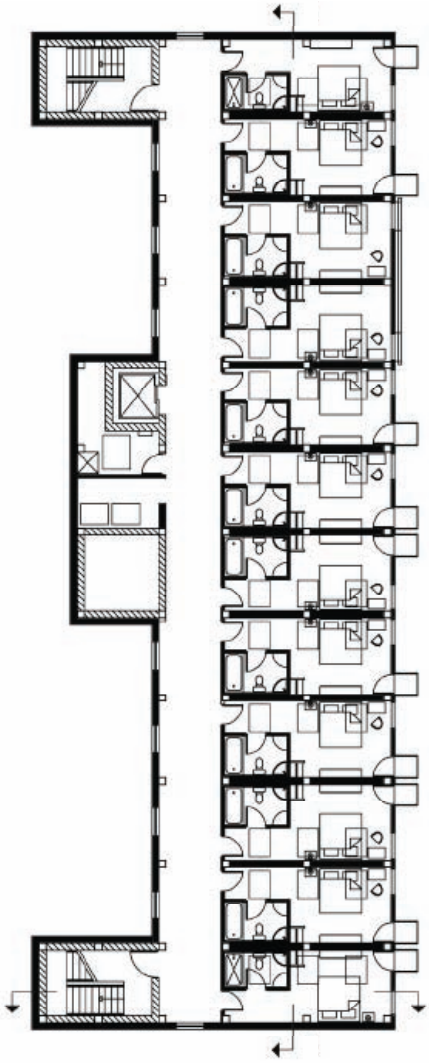
A Boutique Hotel offers an individualistic experience to its patrons. This building is designed to be a unique redefinition of a hotel as it joins the surrounding environment through a creation of its hallways, lobbies, and individual rooms. If a hotel lobby is simply a staging of standard components, then how can this be an individualistic experience? Every hotel guest would receive the same experience when walking from the lobby, through the hallways, and eventually then into their own separate room. Where is the uniqueness? How can a hotel still consists of all the normal functions of a hotel, without becoming simply a place to stay? The solution to this problem can be found by incorporating the design concept of buildings constructed since the early 20th century in Chicago. Brownstone buildings on the north side of Chicago are free standing houses, originally built for a single family. Entry and exit to the rooms of these Brownstone buildings are located directly on the street. Even though multiple families may live in a single brownstone building, each has an individual entrance from the street. Neither a main corridor, a place of gathering, or an entrance to individual rooms is necessary. By removing the "hallway," this hotel allows each room to have its own separate unique experience of passage.

site_plan/ground_floor_plan north

sheridan ave. (east) elevation



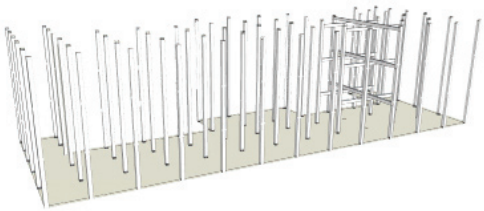
second_floor_plan

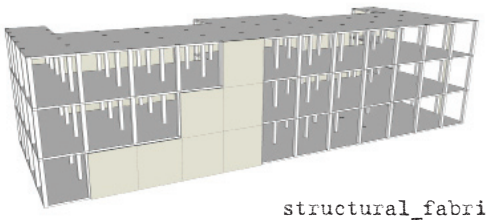


third_floor_plan

Rooms on the 1st floor open directly to the site so occupants can enter without ever having to pass through a "controlling" lobby area. Singular stairs rise from the site up to the 2nd floor rooms, which in turn acts as a hallway for these rooms. By allowing an individualistic experience, guests do not have to move through an enclosed hallway as in standard hotels. Each guest enters directly from the street fabric into his or her own room, achieving a unique experience for the duration of each individual's stay.

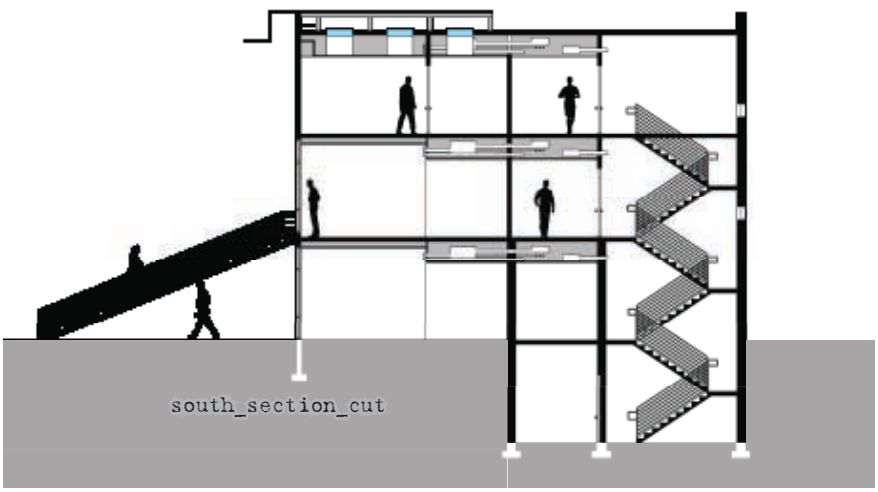
west_section_cut



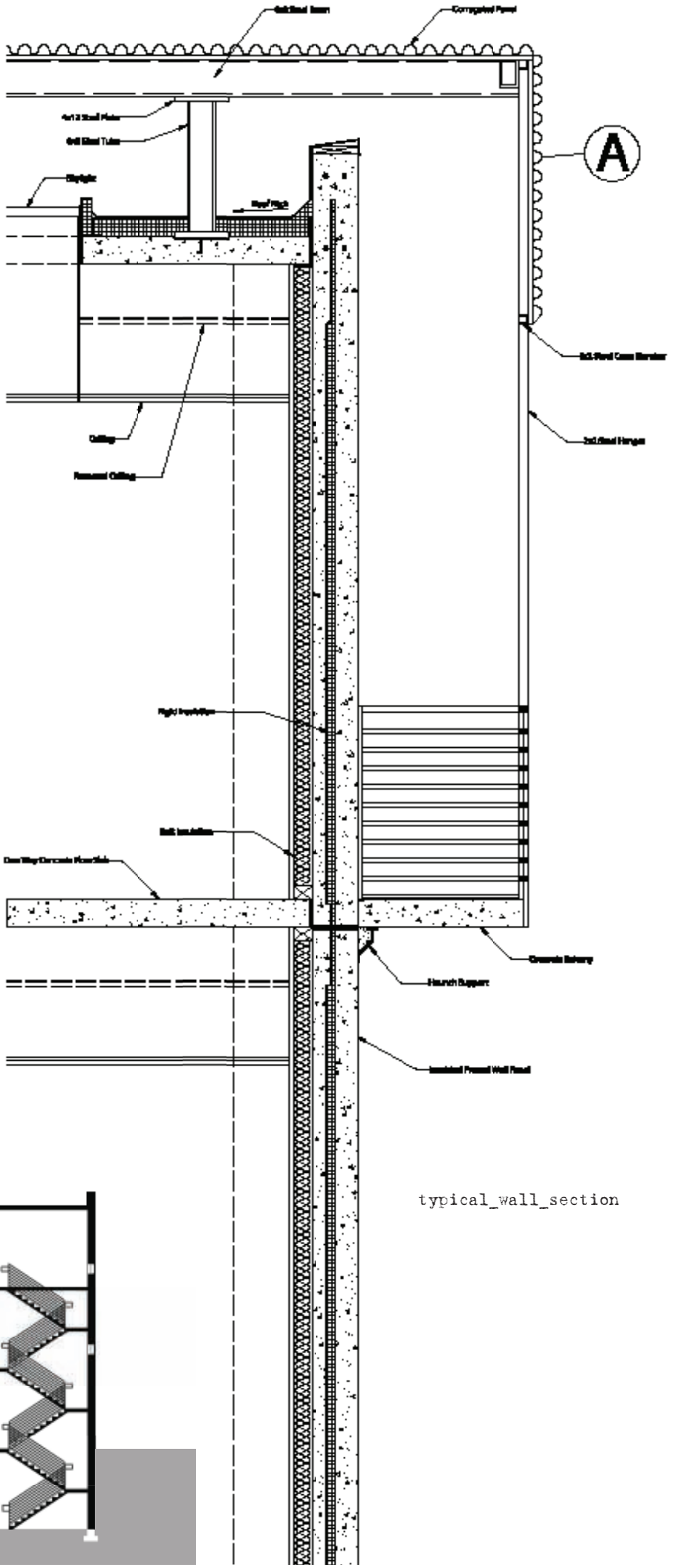


structural_fabric

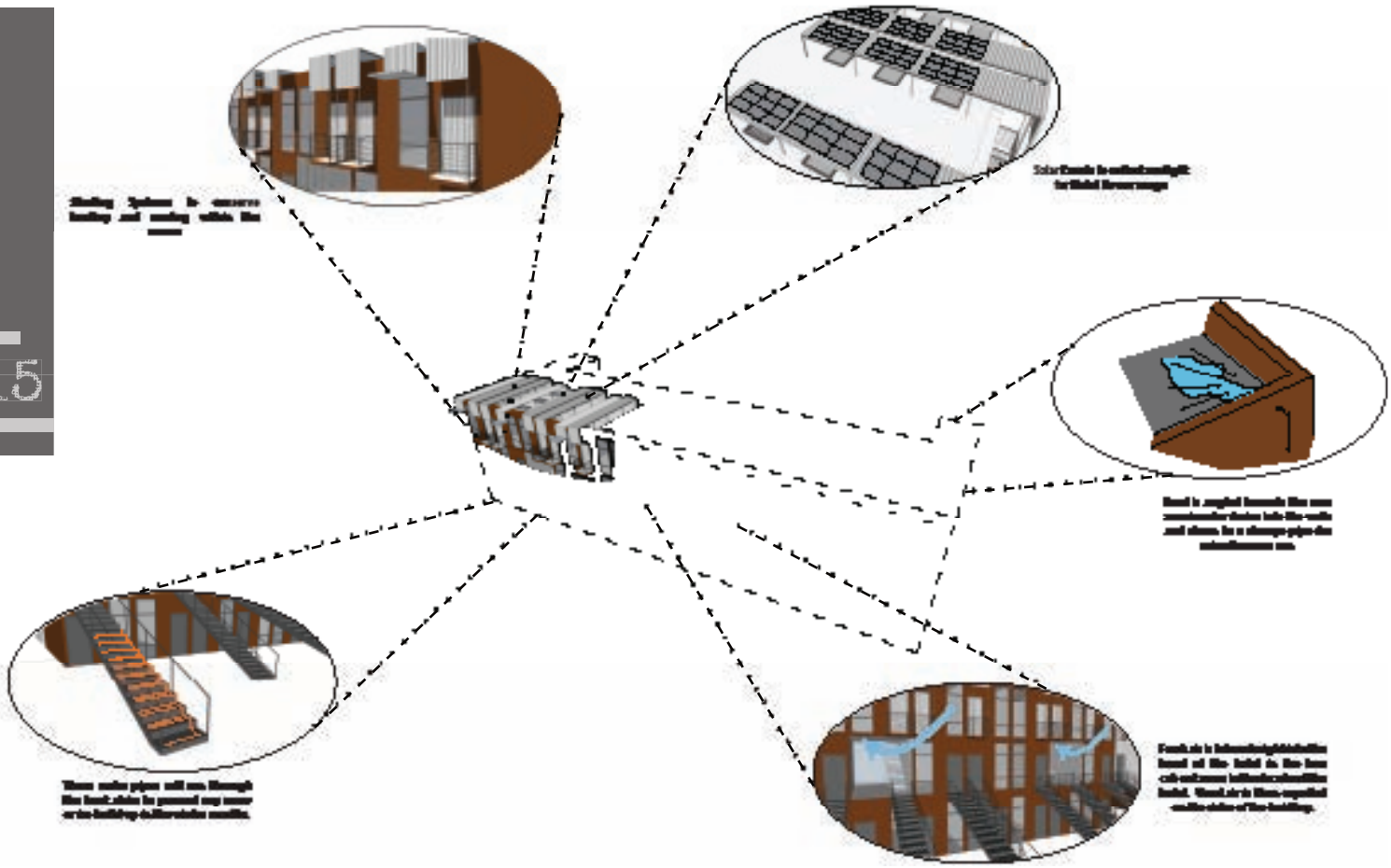
The 3rd floor rooms have balconies that extend out from the front facade of the building, creating a separate entry experience from floors 1 and 2. By overlooking the site, these rooms allow the patrons to enjoy an elevated view of the street fabric experience.



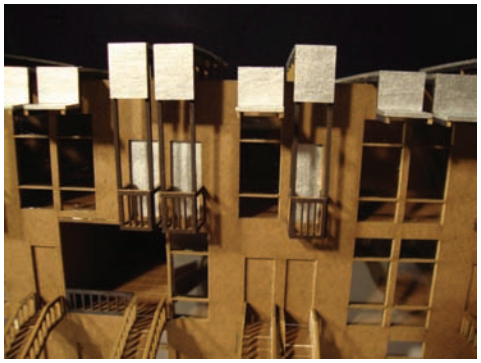
south_section_cut



typical_wall_section

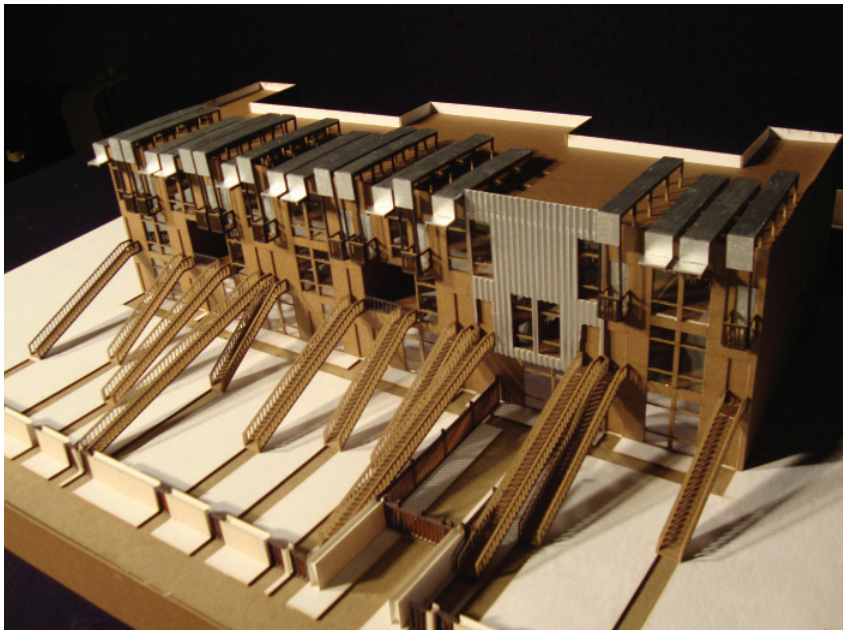


Extended balconies are cantilevered from the roof and the front stairs, serving as a climactic purpose for the building in the sense rooms enjoy shade and thus heat reduction from the afternoon sun. The window shading systems act as a shield to the large windows of the 3rd floor rooms in order to assist in blocking the sun during the warm summer months. In turn, the balconies and stairs aid in heat reduction of the 2nd floor rooms and the 1st floor windows, respectively.

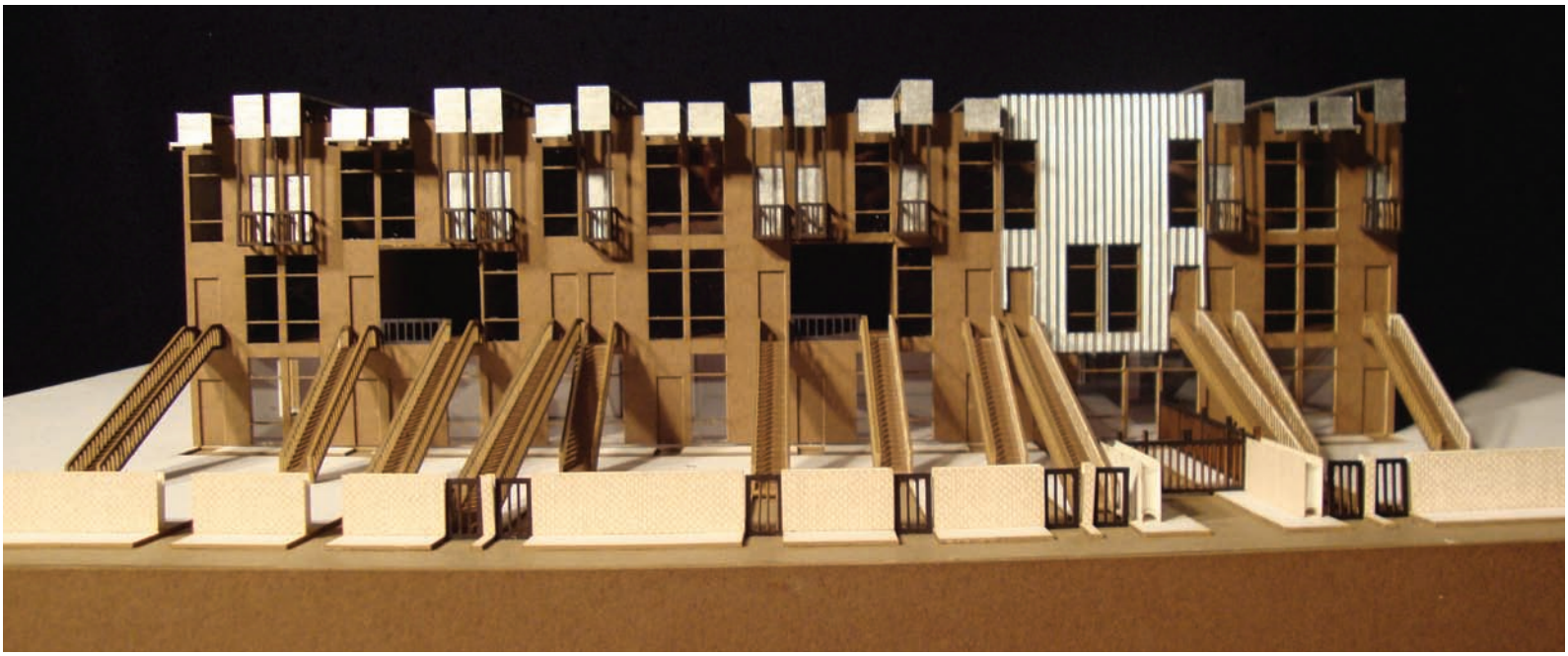


Model showing the front entrance and shading systems.

Model showing the rooms stairs and entrance.

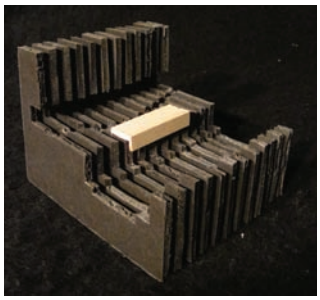


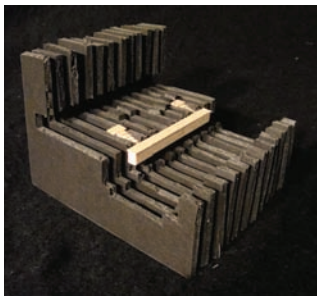
Front (east) facacde

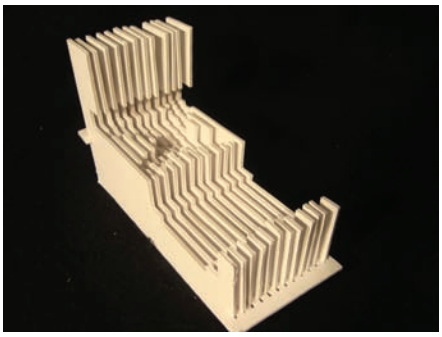


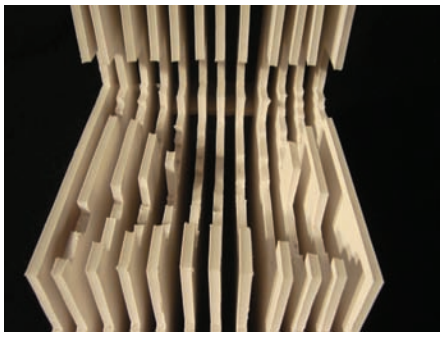
urban_observatory

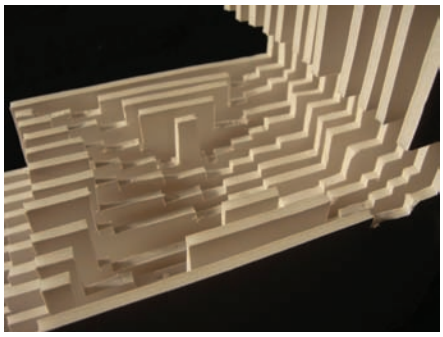
The plaza outside the One IBM Building in downtown Chicago is a flat courtyard separating it from the Chicago River. Creating a media center in this space provides for an extended threshold of the site, where news media is consumed while the space remains transitional. Two main forms of media, local and global, exist at this intersecting point. Local news is found within viewing distance and is easily viewed by the people as they walk through the plaza. Because global news needs to be more comprehensive, it is shown on screens and in newsstands inside the plaza. Global news is projected on four large screens suspended on the bridge across the river. Even though global news does not immediately affect local viewers, a display of universal news shows an effort to include the entire population. Studying the building, plaza, and river in section cuts allows for better visualization of travel and the appearance of eye level views.



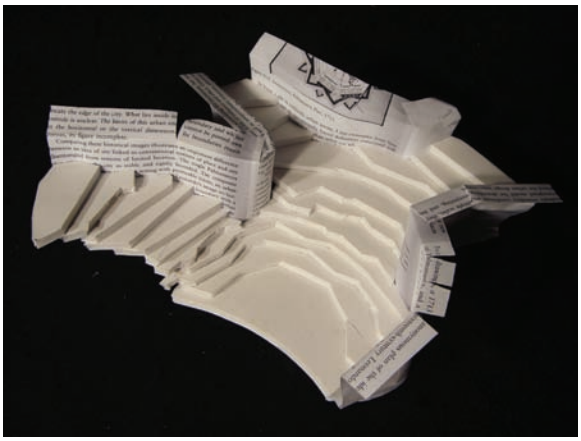


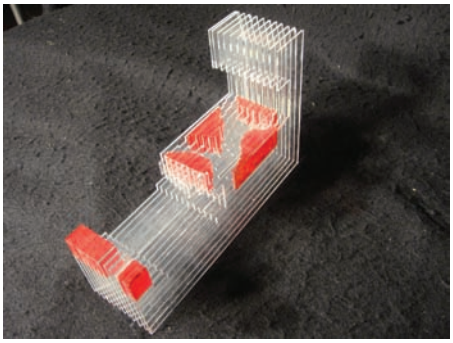


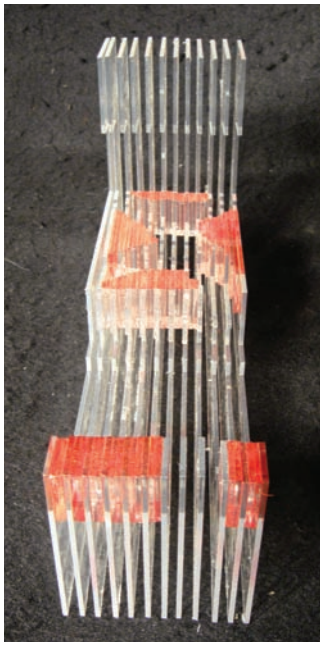


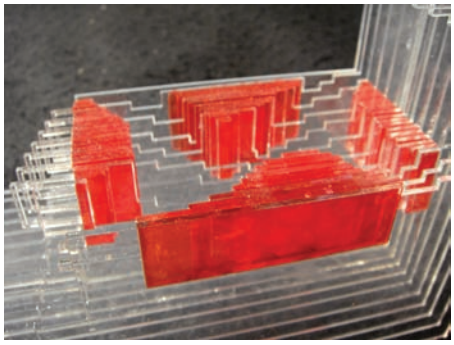


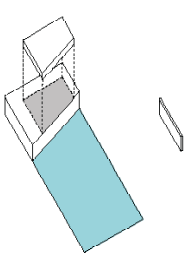
Study models highlighting the paths of travel through the site.



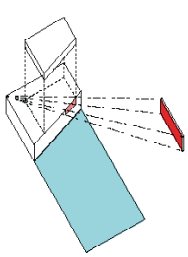




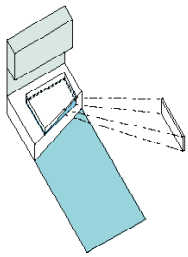




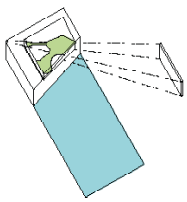
original_shapes



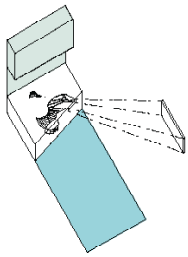
directed_visional
_path



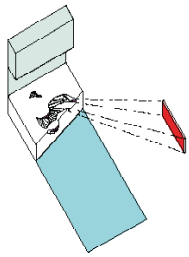
compressing_shapes
_together_to_reform_plaza



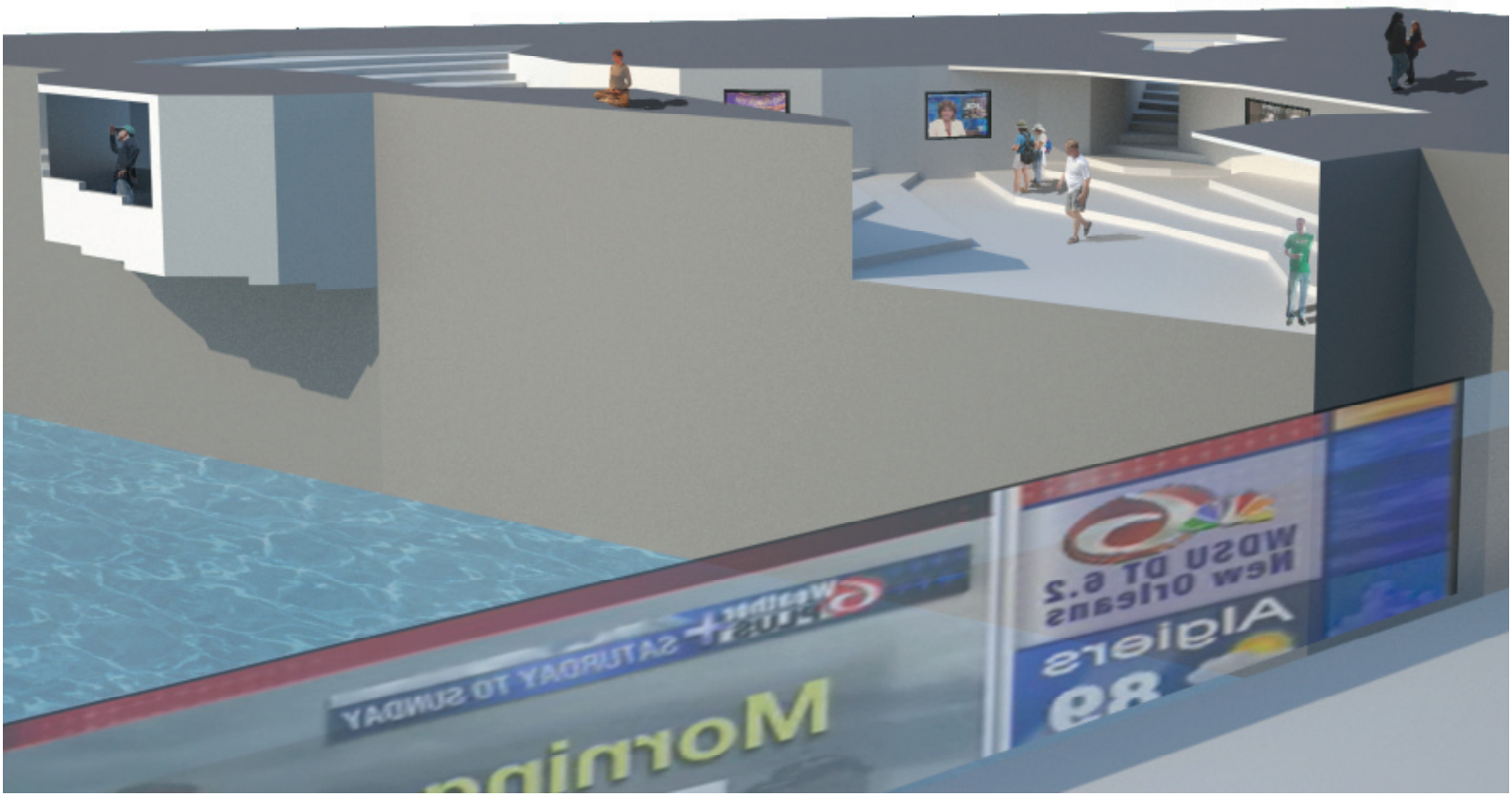
beginning_idea



redefined_idea



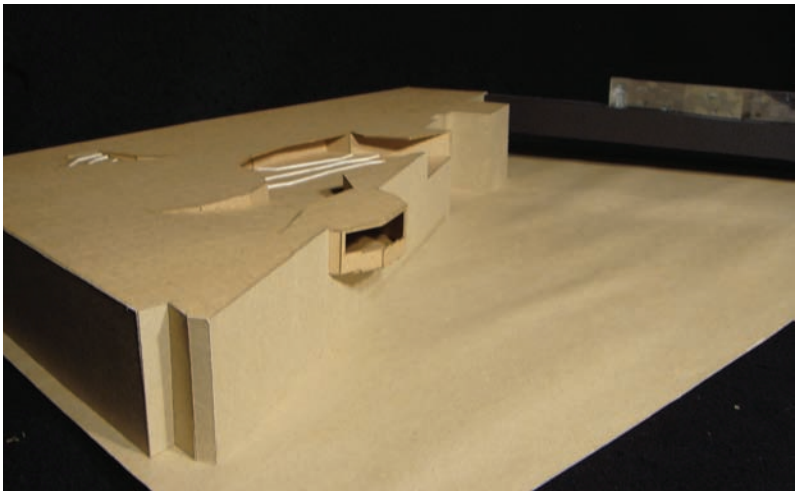
separate_media
_centers

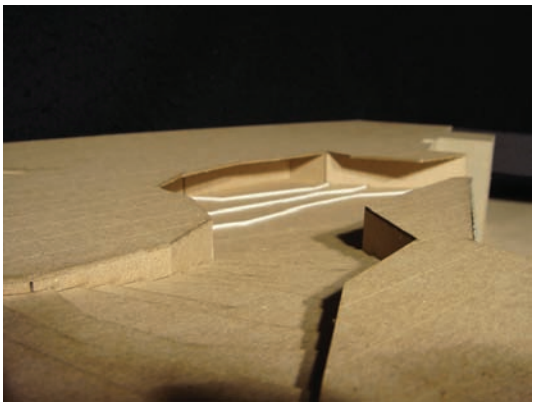


site_plan

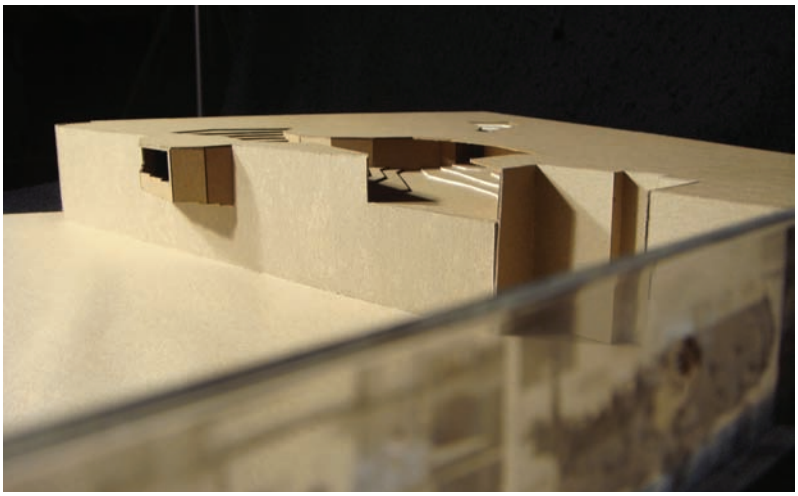
north

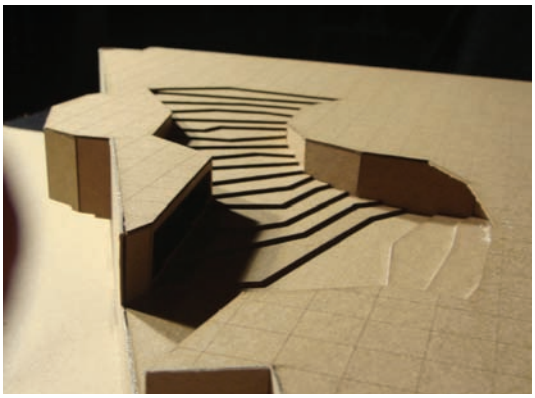
The plaza is formed based on paths and levels of travel. Two entrances to the media space are located on the east side of the plaza, where most of the pedestrian traffic occurs, in an attempt to "pull" the audience into the site. Local news stations are displayed on all monitors throughout the site, while newspapers/magazines are sold in these same areas. The plaza wraps around opening up not only to four large screens, but allows individuals to roam freely to witness the Chicago River and a backdrop of the entire site. Whether an appreciated media space, or even a shortcut to the other street, information is presented throughout and no final destination is necessary in order to appreciate the site itself.



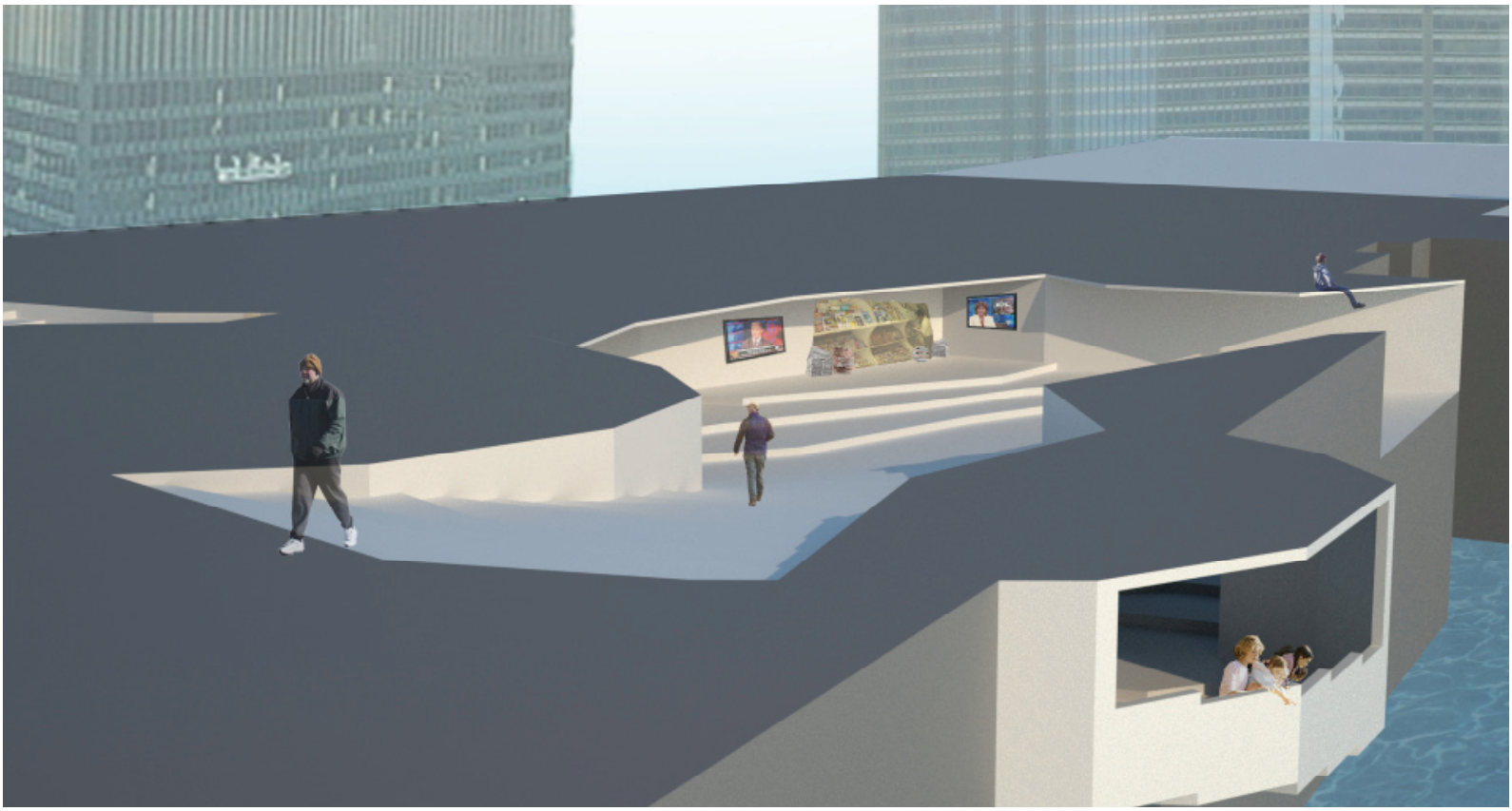


Model showing the view looking east.





Model showing the view from the bridge.

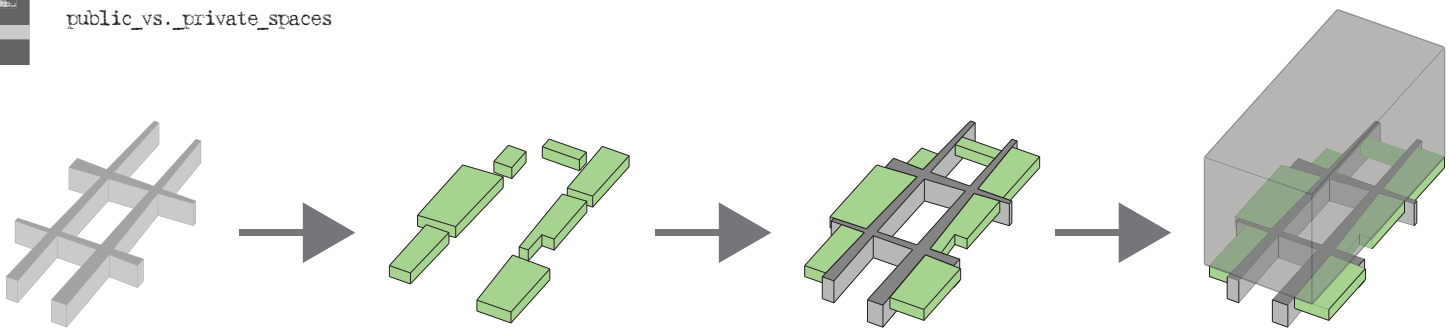


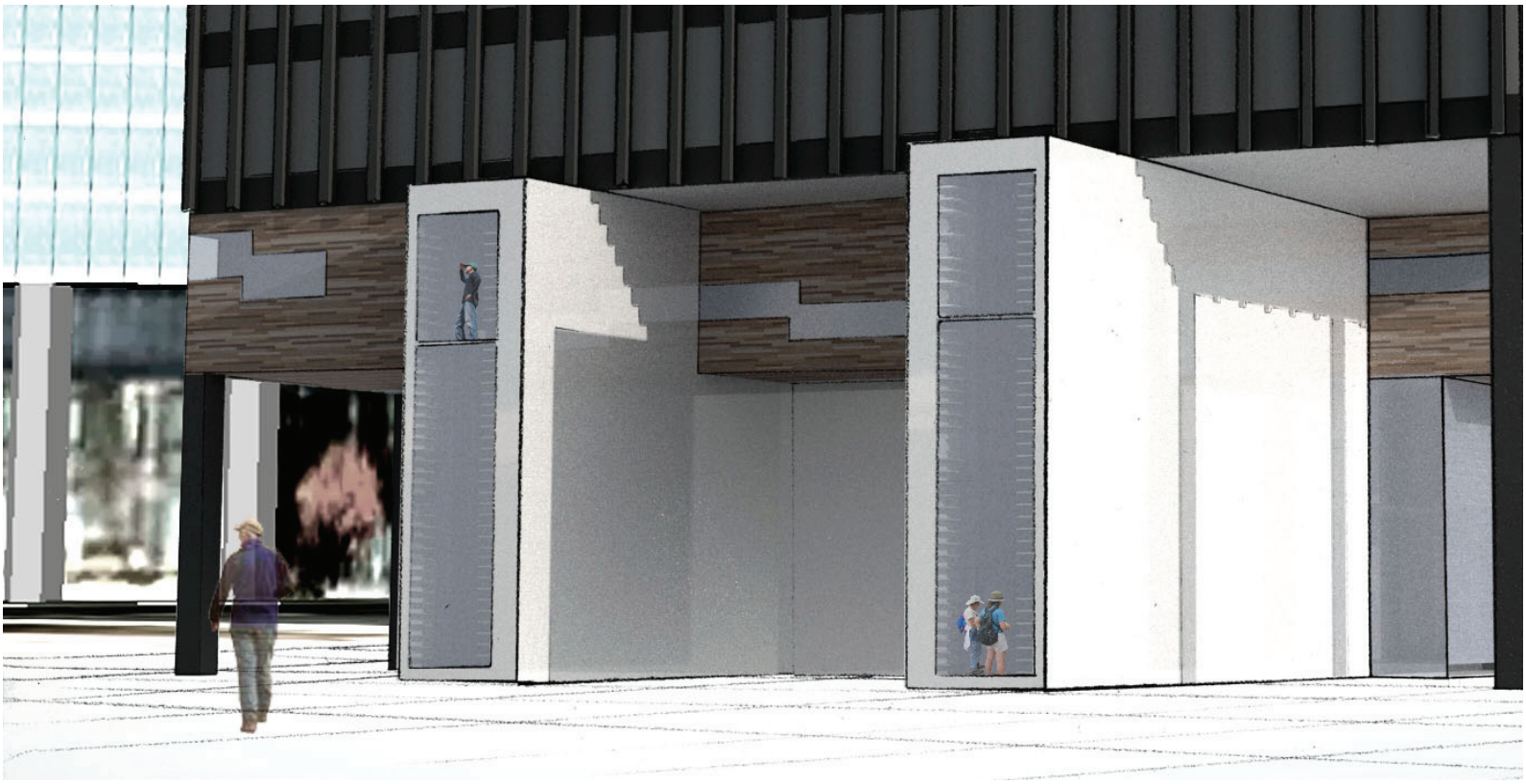
one_IBM_plaza

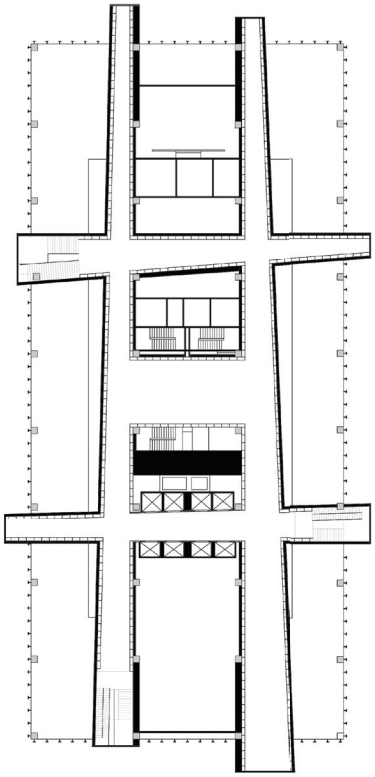
The north side of Chicago has one of the largest collections of art galleries in the country. Hundreds of public and private galleries are located just north of the Chicago River. No galleries exist to combine the creation process and the presentation of work in the same space. Galleries located here are mainly used for exhibits only.

Within the last 15 years, the lower floors of the IBM Tower in Chicago have been stripped down and currently are completely vacant. Since this building is in the middle of the art gallery area, a proposed modern library would be an essential addition to this location. Designed within the lower floors, this modern library will not only bring local people together, but will allow the current art community to share information as well. The proposed library is an information overload with stacks of books, magazines, movies, and documentaries throughout the hallways. In the hallways, windows allow the view into auditoriums and offices. During each performance inside the auditorium, coordinating materials in the hallways will be displayed including CDs, magazine, or articles relating to that performance. The first few floors will be projected in or out and faced with wood to show on the outside that this is a performance space, whether it is public or private.

public_vs._private_spaces

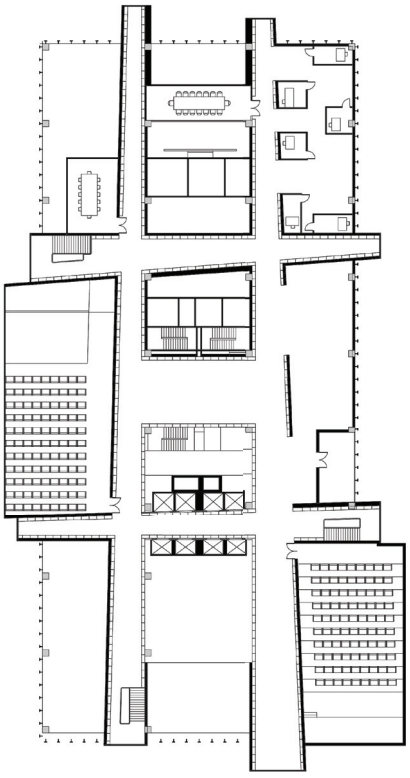




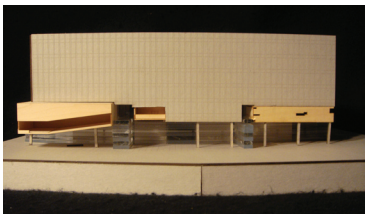


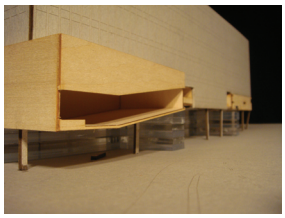
first_floor_plan

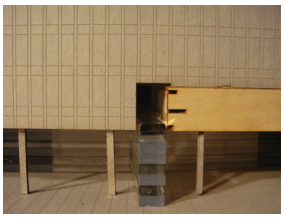
north

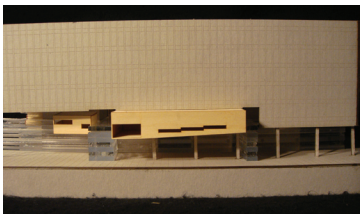


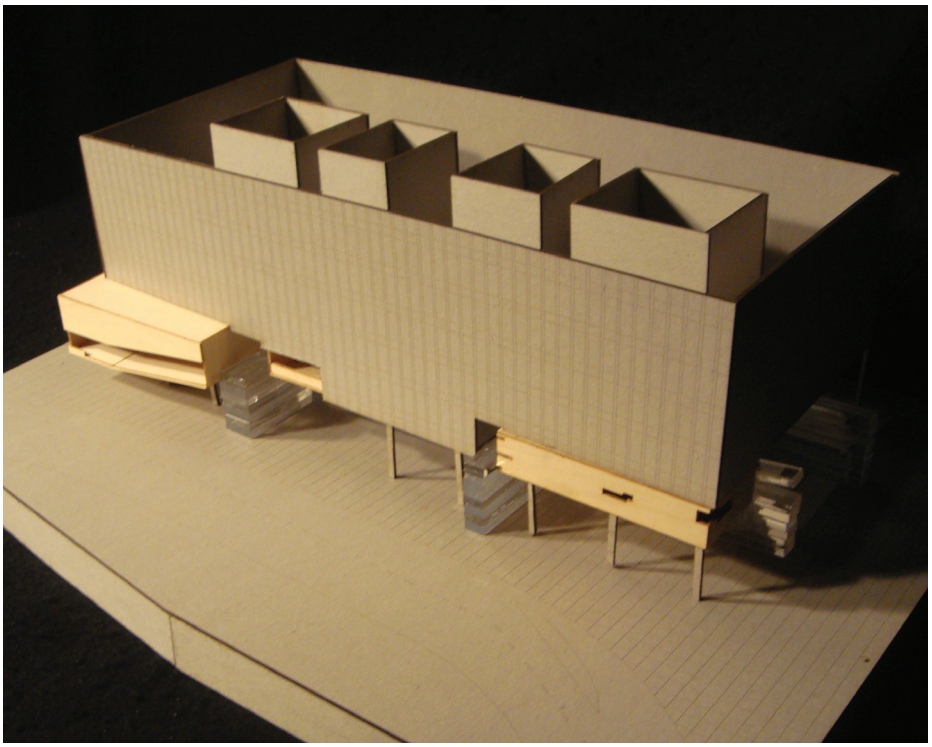
second_floor_plan

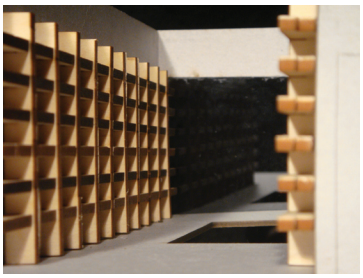




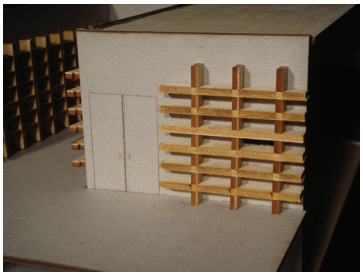






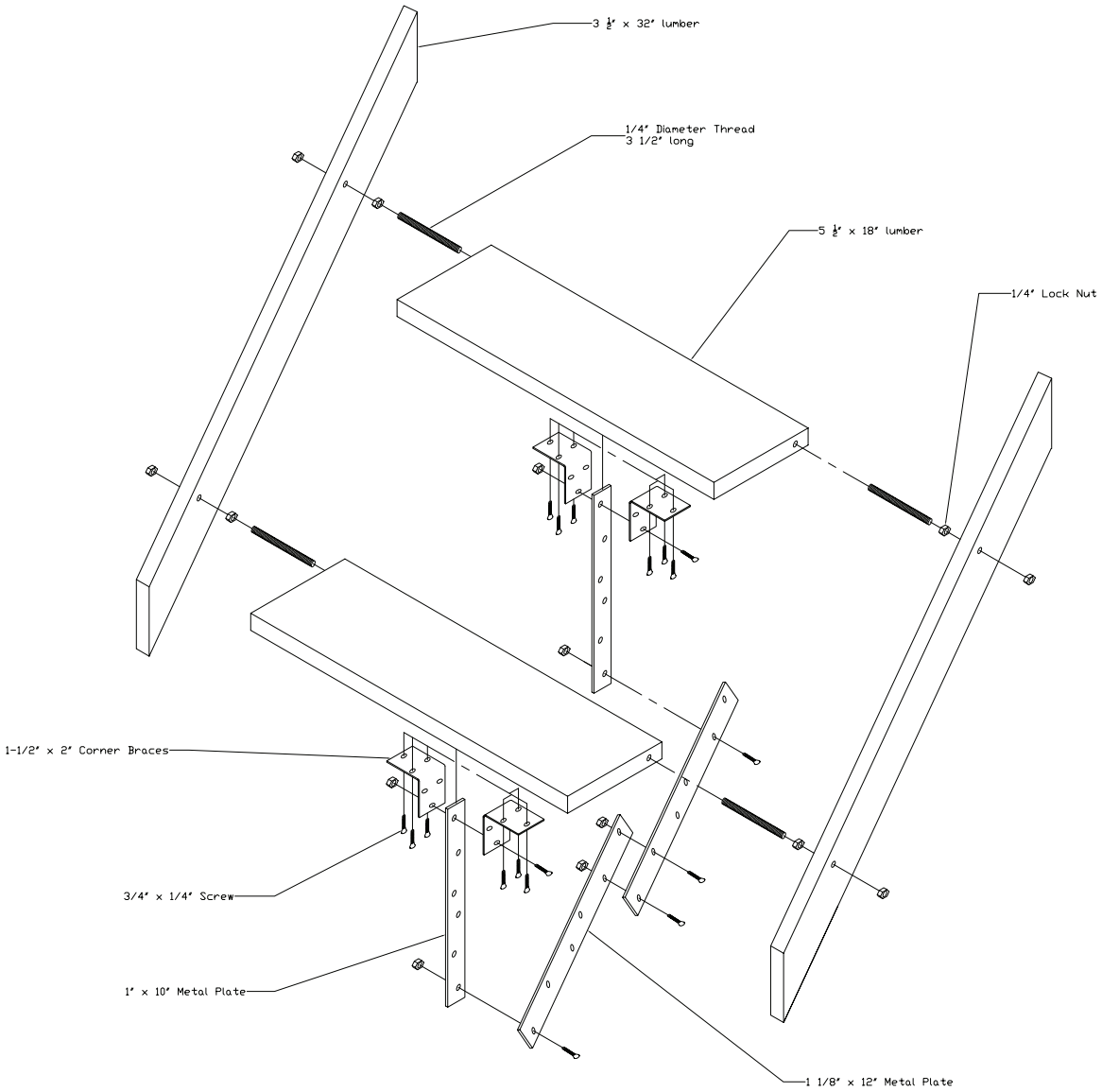


Model views of external facades and internal hallways with shelving.

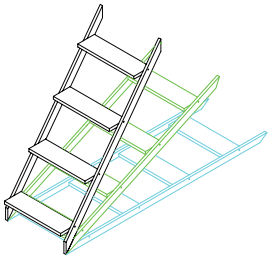


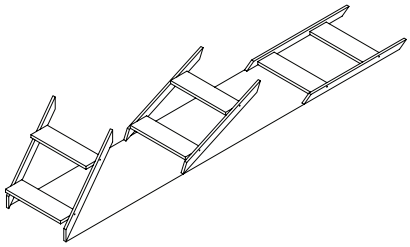
train_stop

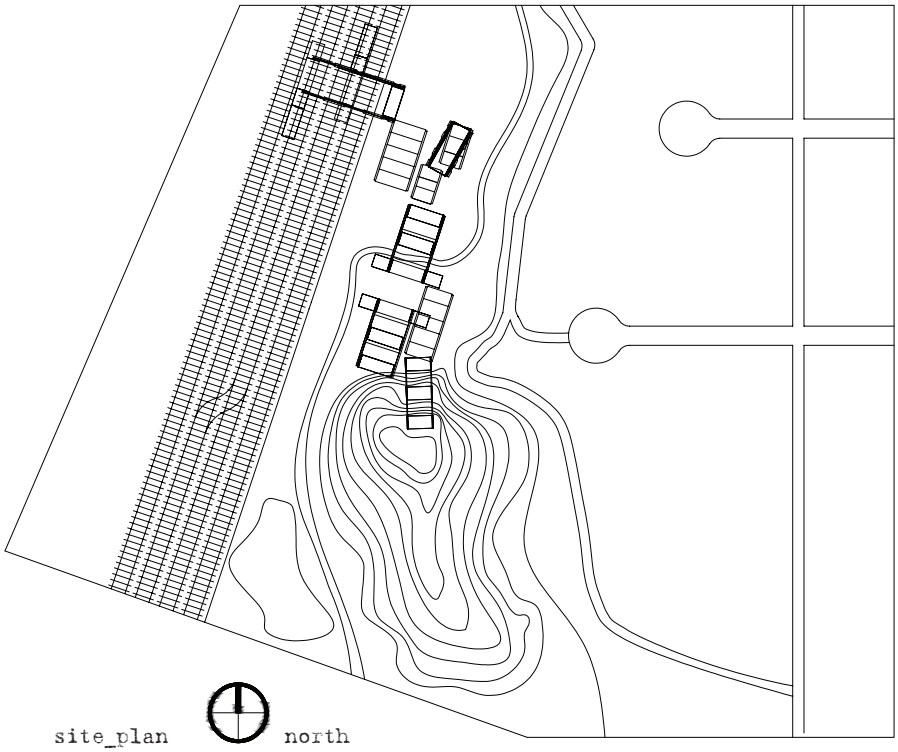
Providing a public space next to a transportation mode generates a social interaction where there was none before. Train tracks running throughout the state of Illinois are a necessary element in the transportation fabric. Occupiable locations are located directly next to the tracks; however the land is vacant because of the noise and pollution associated with trains. A structure created in these locations can be used by a variety of people for different reasons is key in repopulating the area. Placing a train stop at this location can also make the site more accessible for easy transit. Beginning to work at 1:1 scale allows for the creation of a real, moveable construct. This design concept is then related and carried into use throughout the actual structure of the site.

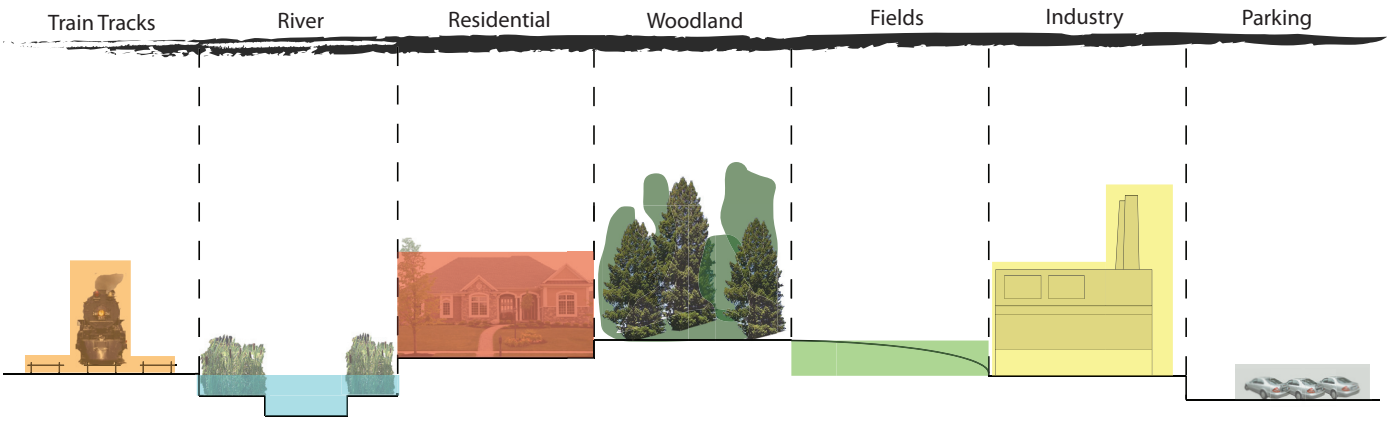


full_scale_exploded_axonometric

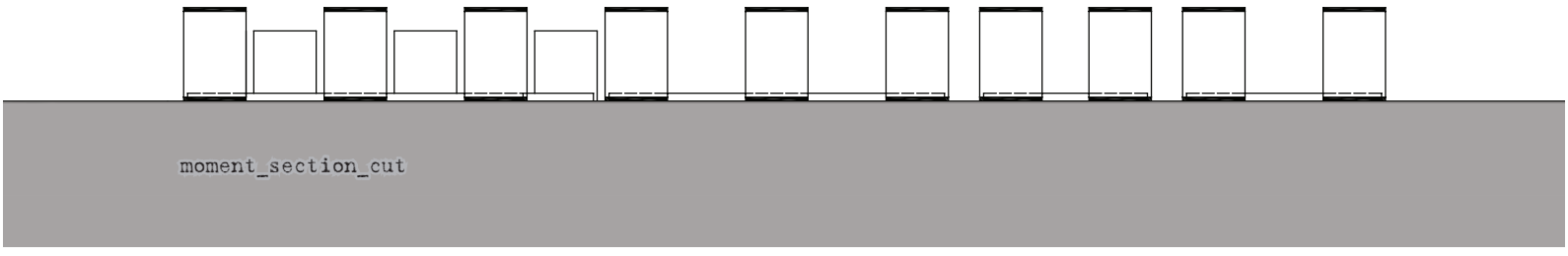


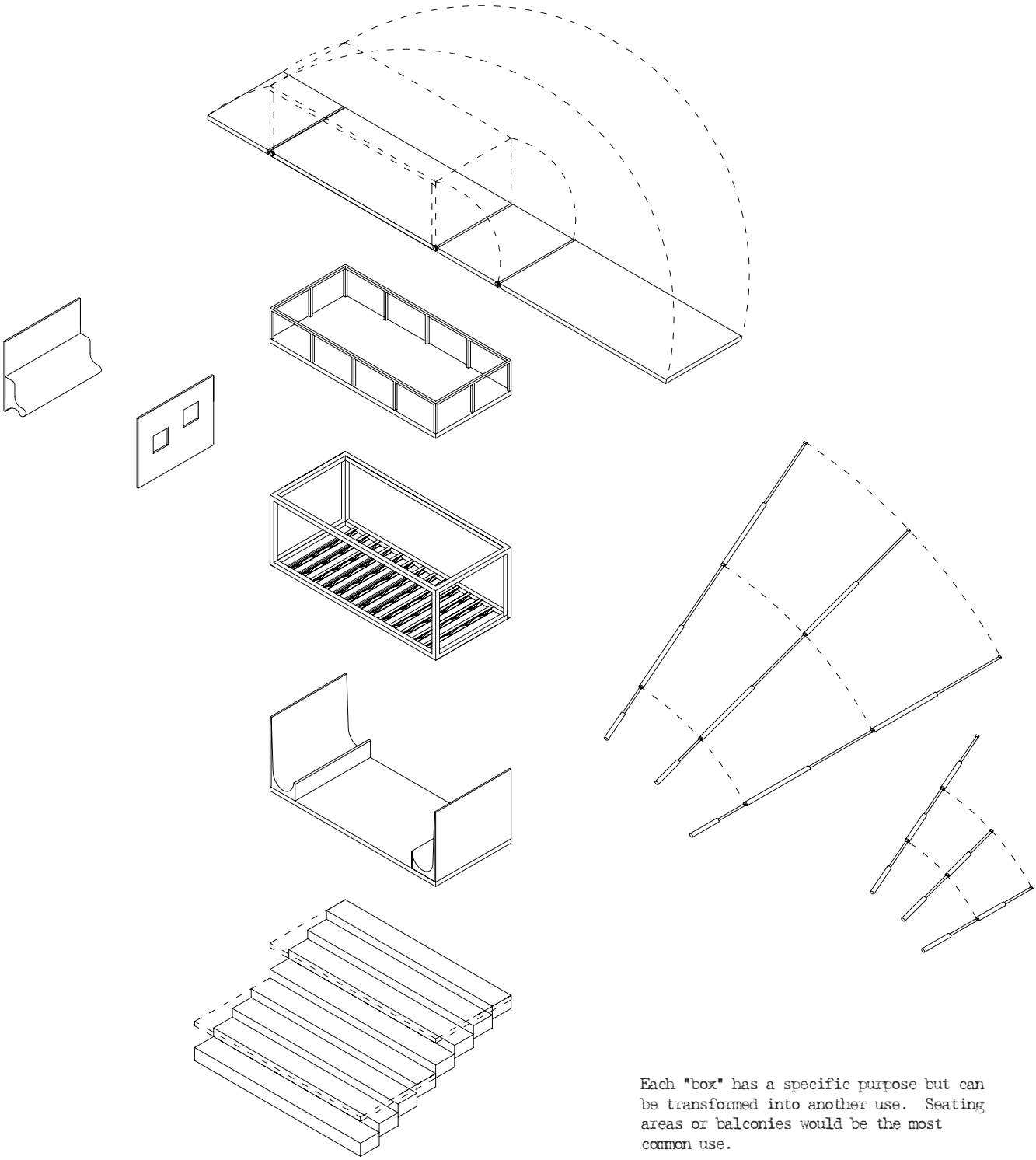




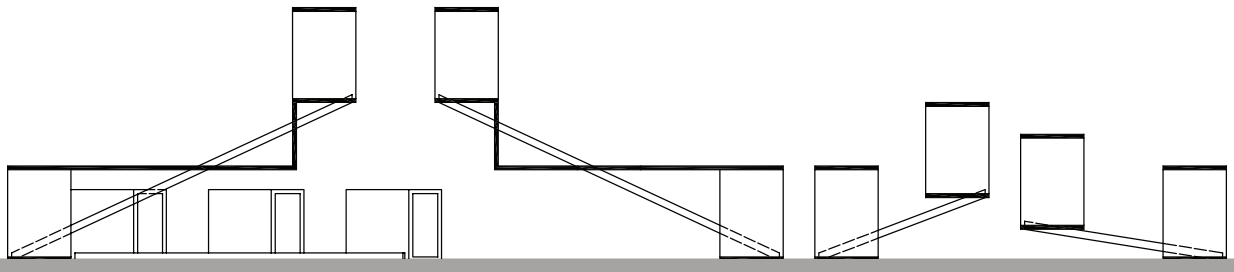


The use of simple "boxes" allows for a variety of uses and functions. These blocks can be shifted into various directional formations depending on the needs of the people using the location. Whether a traveler is taking a nap while waiting for the next train, or local residents come to sit down and eat, this train stop can be transformed to provide individual needs. Even lectures, concerts, or shows can be performed in the middle section, which can be transposed into bleachers/seats. A section of the structure rises above the tracks just high enough so that an oncoming train passes underneath. This gives a first hand view of trains becoming a part of the re-occupation concept, which was not witnessed on a daily basis before this uniquely designed train stop existed.

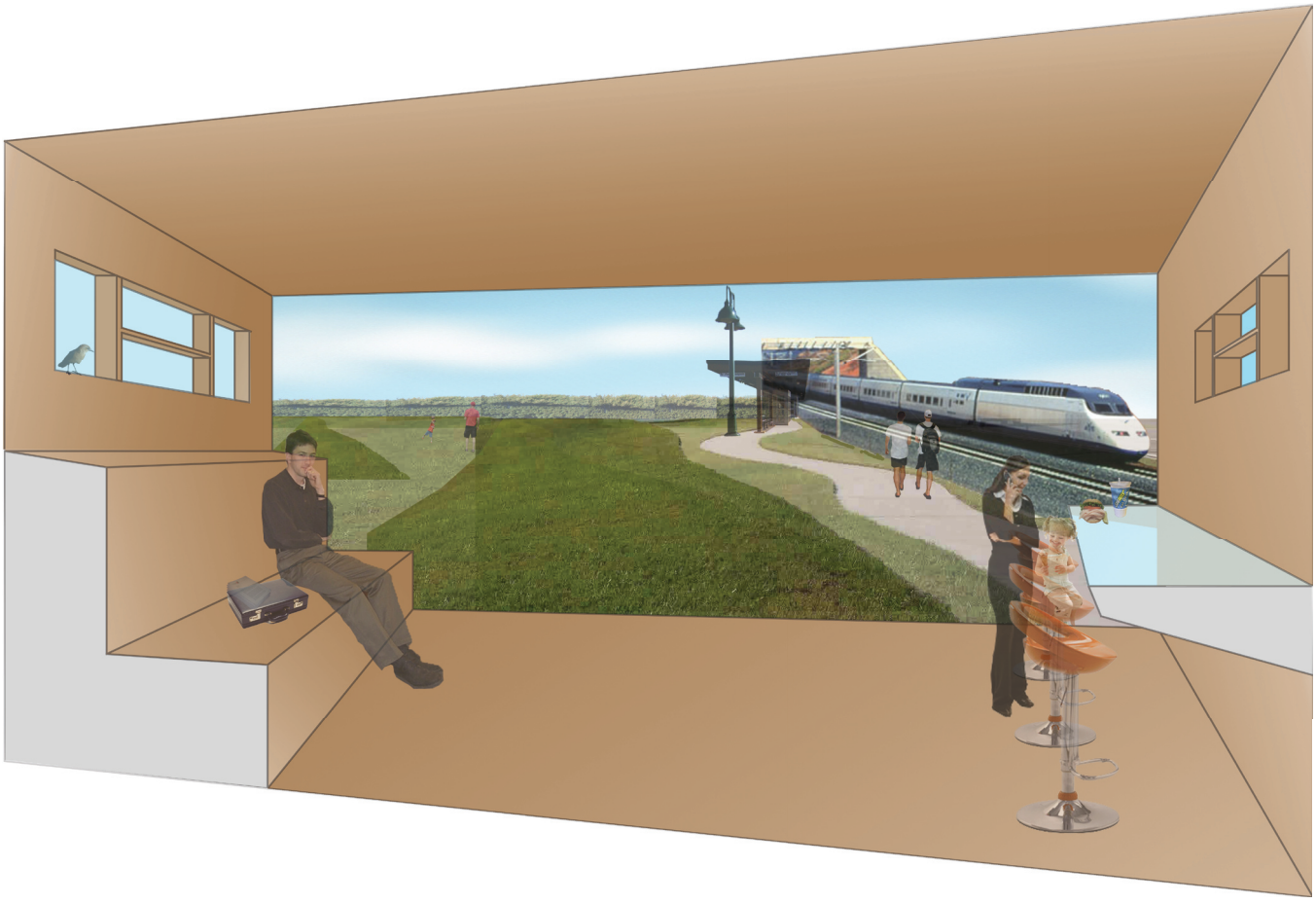


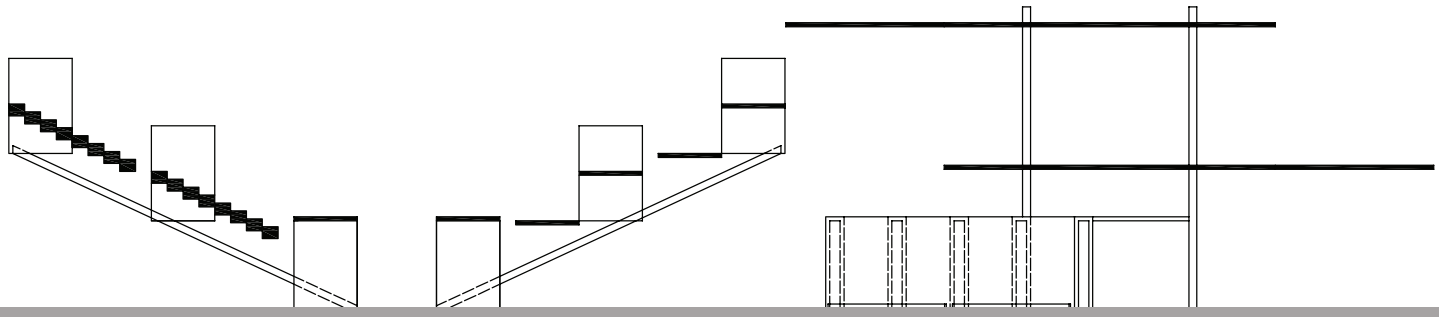


Each "box" has a specific purpose but can be transformed into another use. Seating areas or balconies would be the most common use.



moment_section_cut



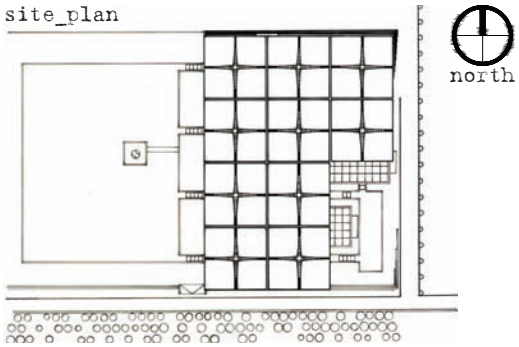


moment_section_cut

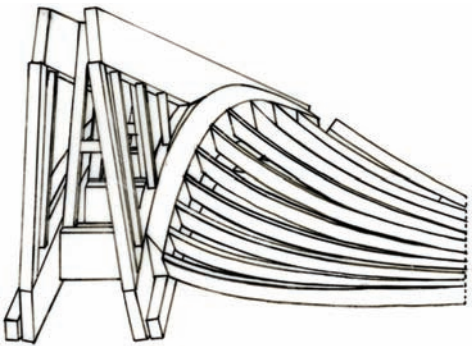
expodach_project study

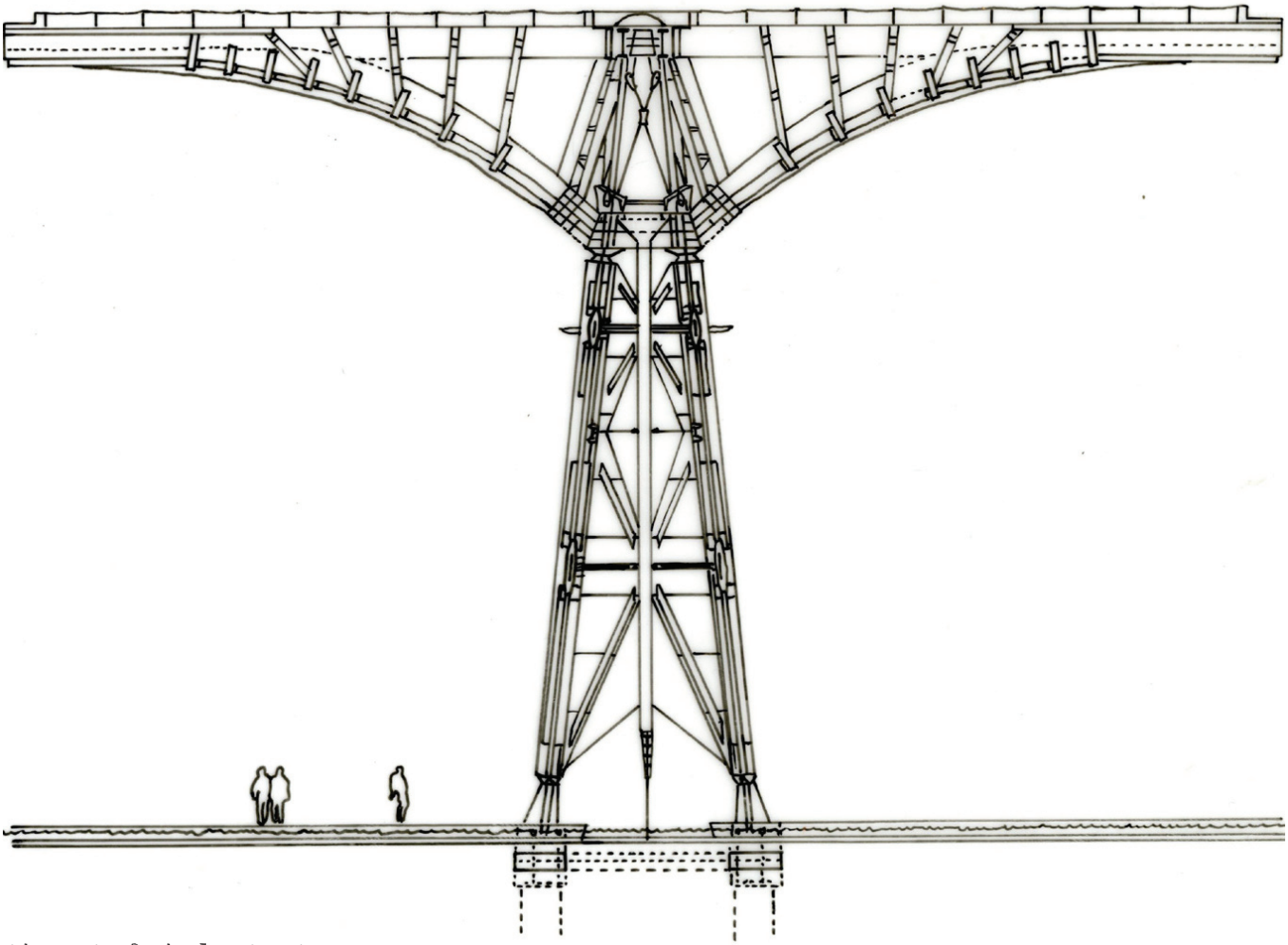
The Expodach, designed by Thomas Herzog for the Expo 2000 in Munich, Germany concentrates on finding solutions for the current problems in the environment and structural development. Herzog proves that even a huge structure can be made of reusable materials. Therefore, a properly designed roof shelter of wood and recycled materials can be a viable solution.

Projects solving different structural and environmental problems are very important to our environment. Many buildings are becoming "green" today, and the study of these projects help to show attempts of using reusable materials with the proven strategies of structures.

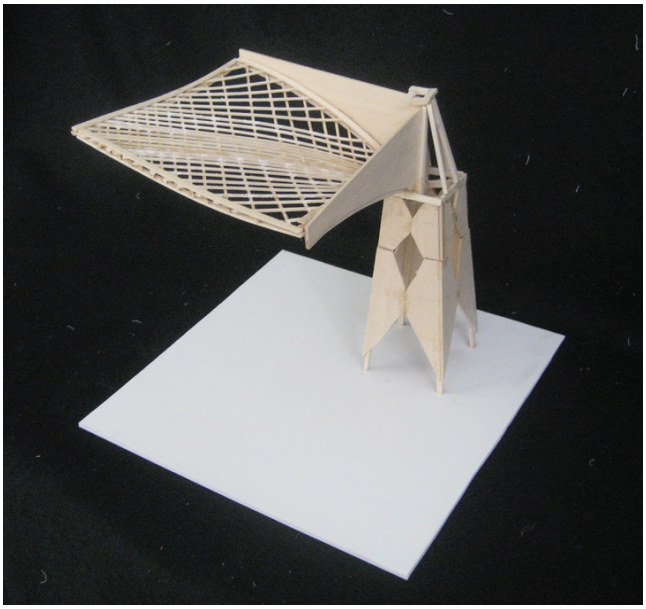


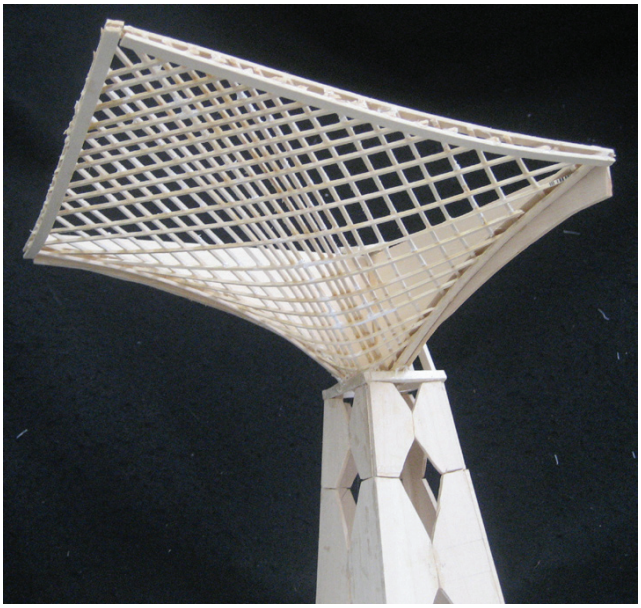
site_plan



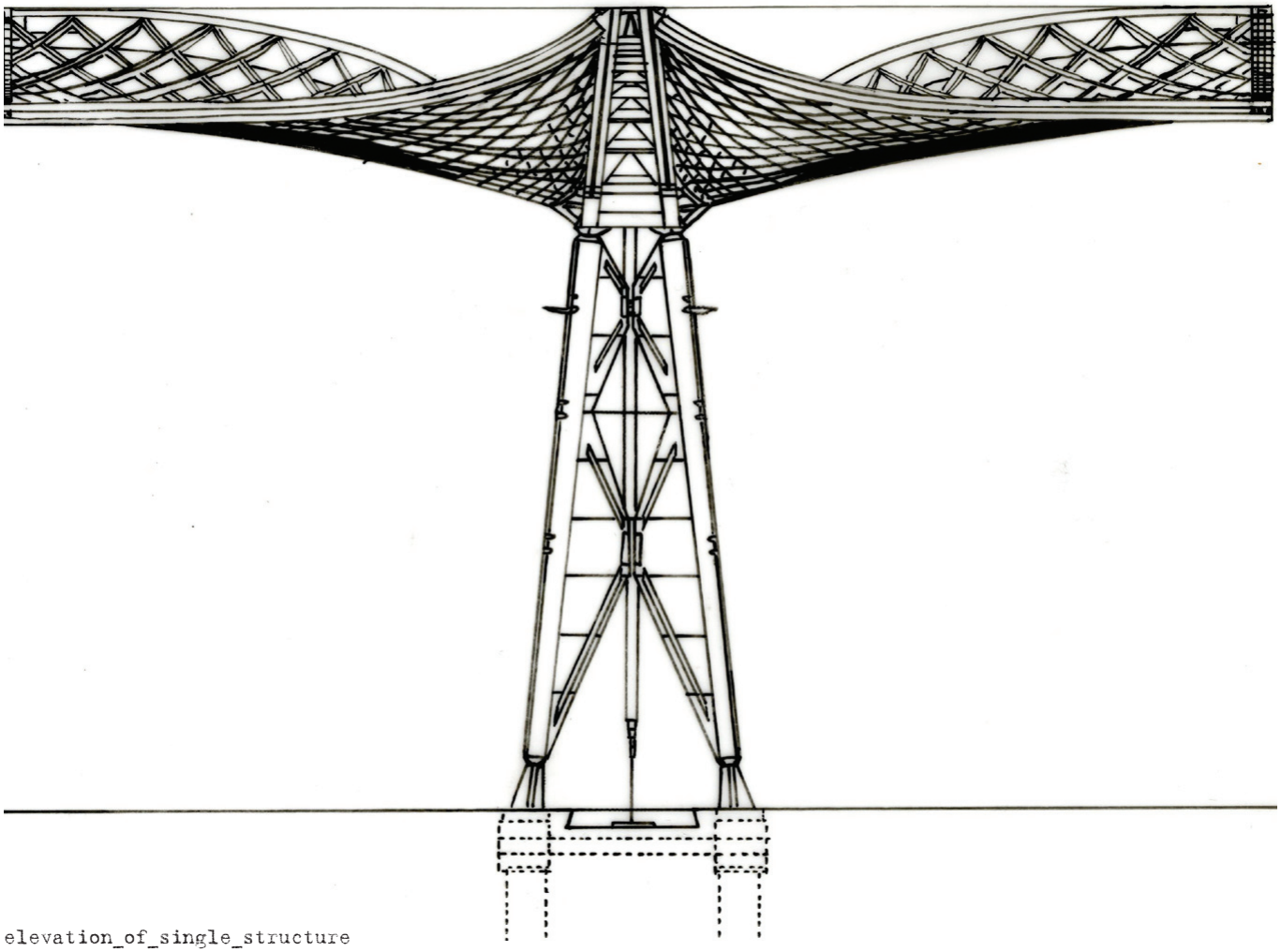


section_cut_of_single_structure



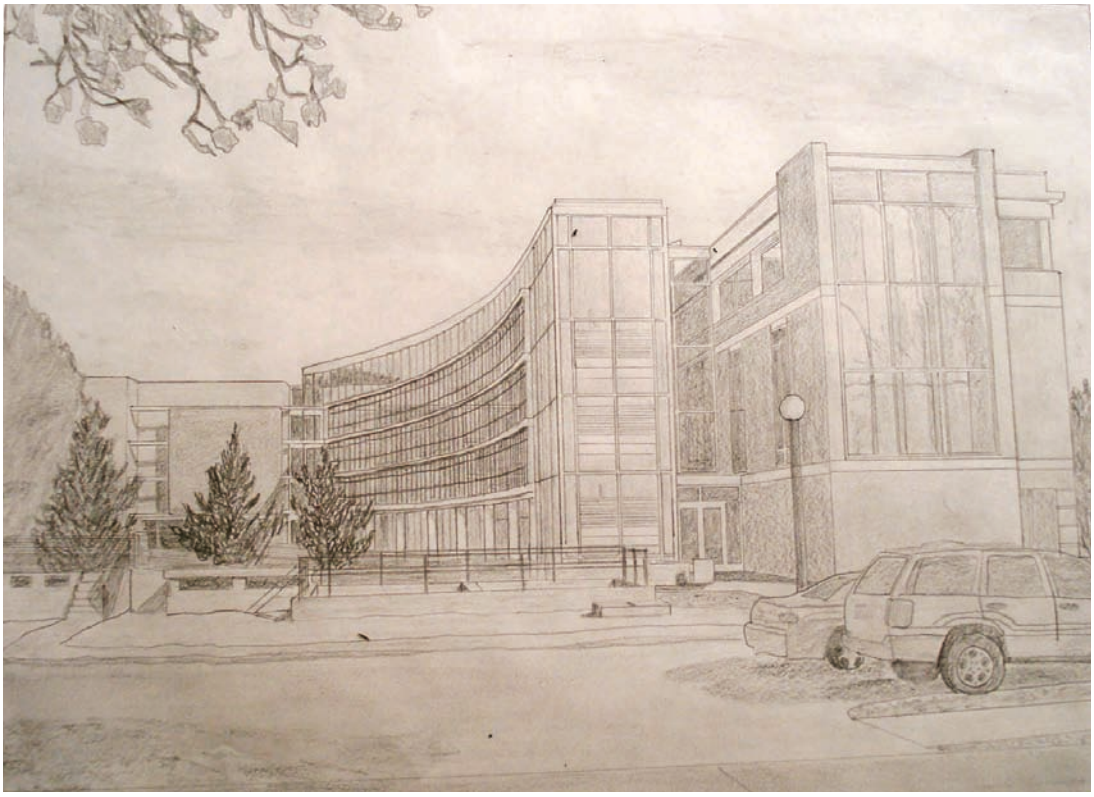


Model showing one quadrant of one of the roof structures.



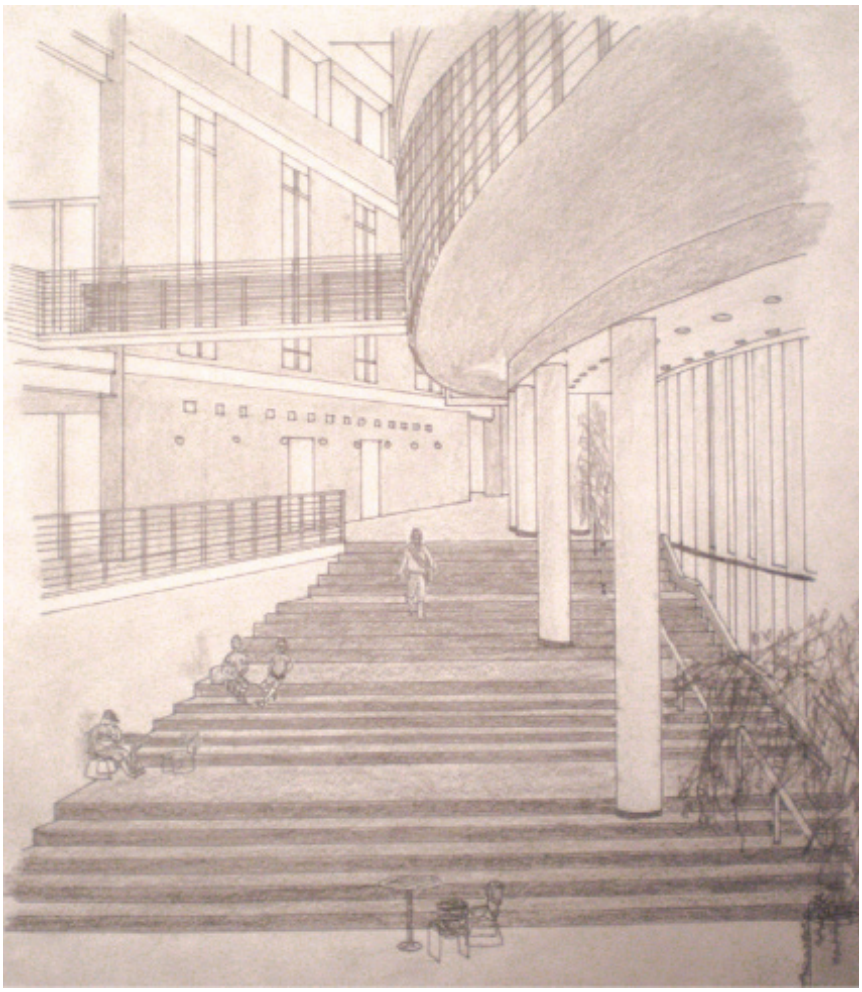
elevation_of_single_structure

temple_buell_hall_facade



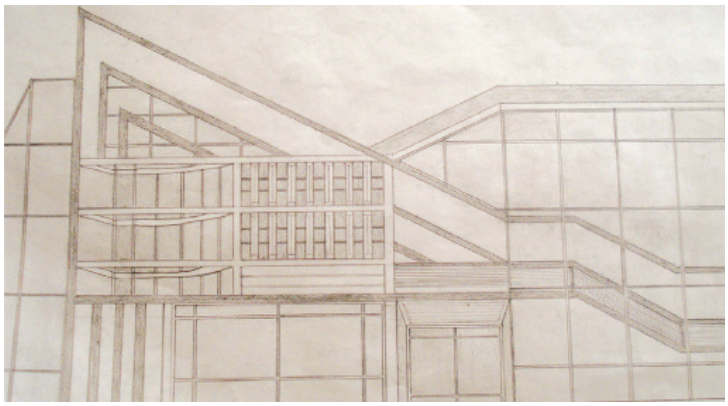
exterior_perspective

interior_perspective



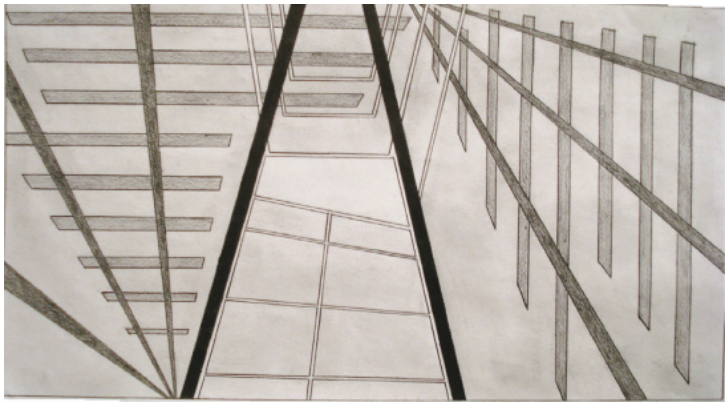
Creating ideas through computer generating programs is not only very important to architecture today, it is essential to speed up the design process. Yet, hand drawings will always be important facet of the design process. By allowing others to "feel" a design as it is created, the individualistic approach of drawing by hand is receptive to clients in an informal environment as opposed to the precise computer printout coming from an architect's office. By using hand drawings to create an addition to the façade of Temple Buell Hall at the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign, one can study and exploit the moves that the firm Perkins + Will originally used to design the building.

Studying the flow and rhythm of Temple Buell Hall's structure assists in the creation of an addition to the façade. The exterior and interior perspectives help the study of these individual features. By creating collages, the distinctive features of the current façade, can be included in the creation of a new abstract façade addition. The curvilinear lines and grid like appearance of the facades are the two main features which are incorporated in the new façade. Hand sketches help to show how the façade can further exploit the characteristics of the current, more indiscernible features.

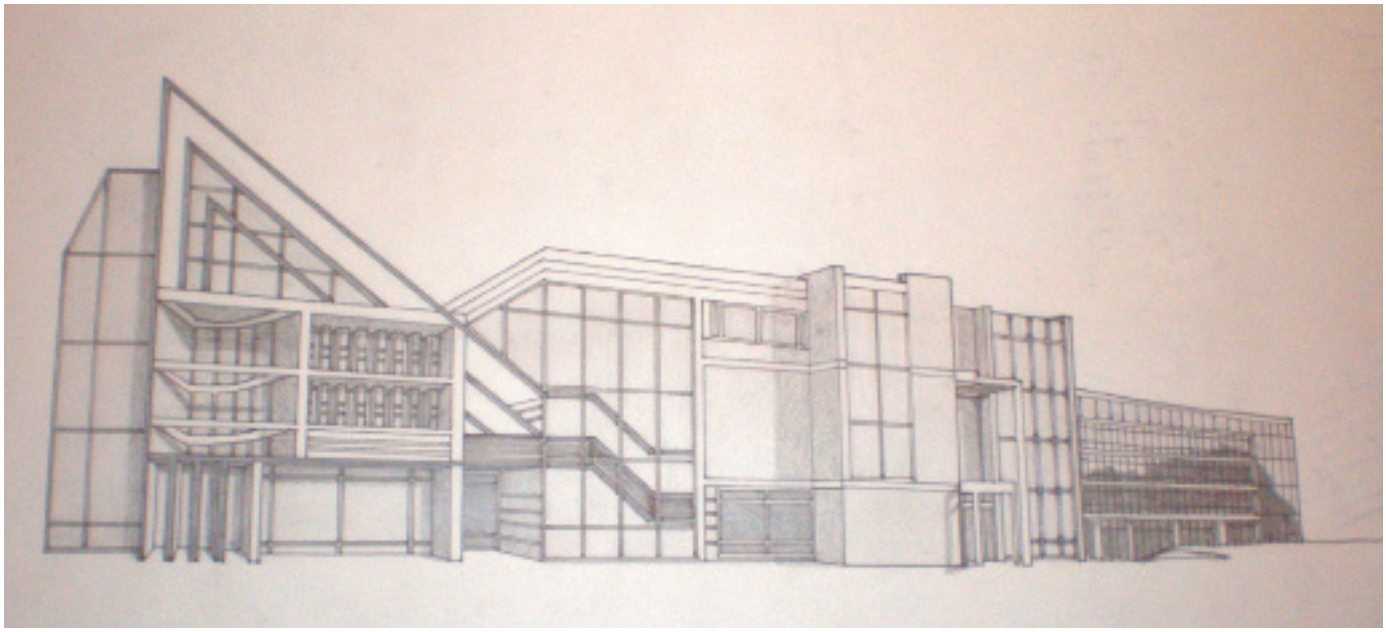


collage_1

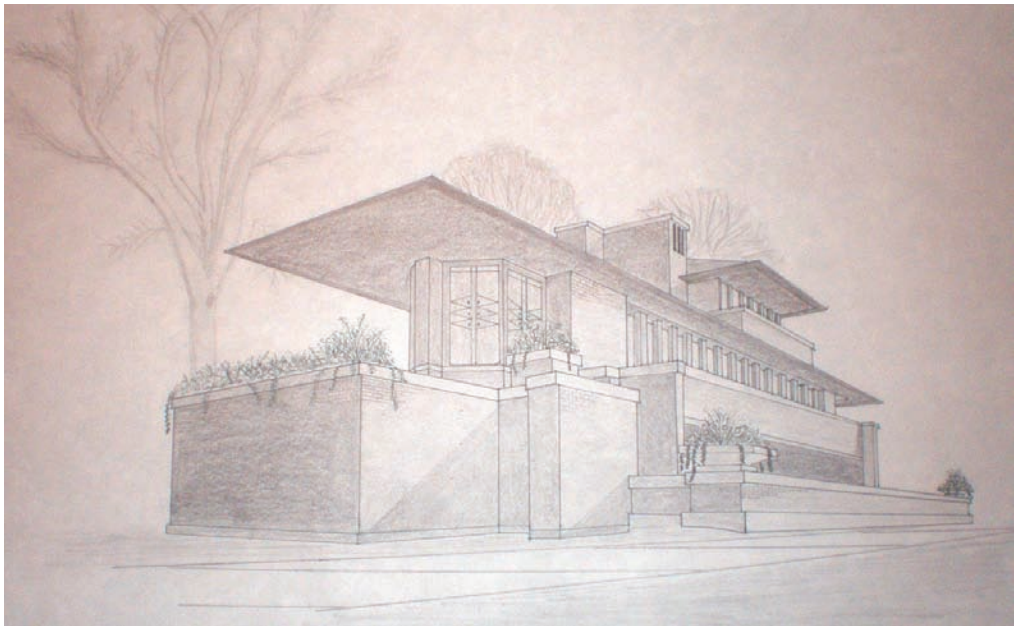
collage_2



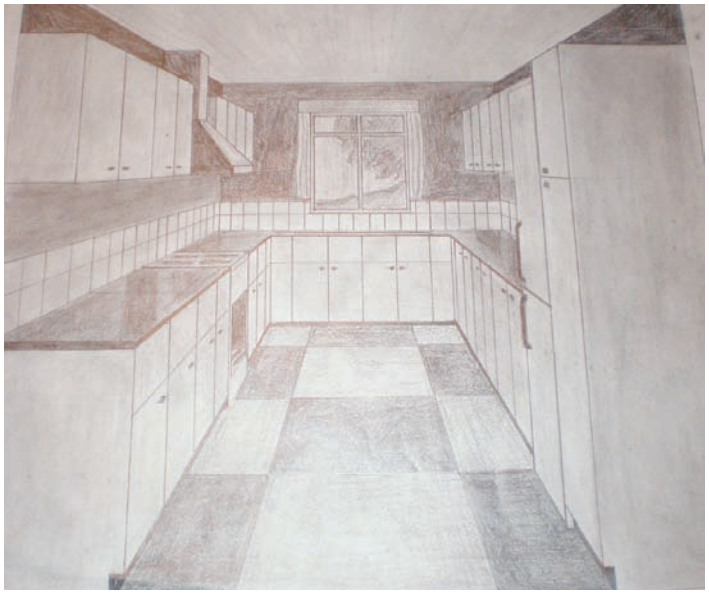
new _facade_perspective



hand_sketches



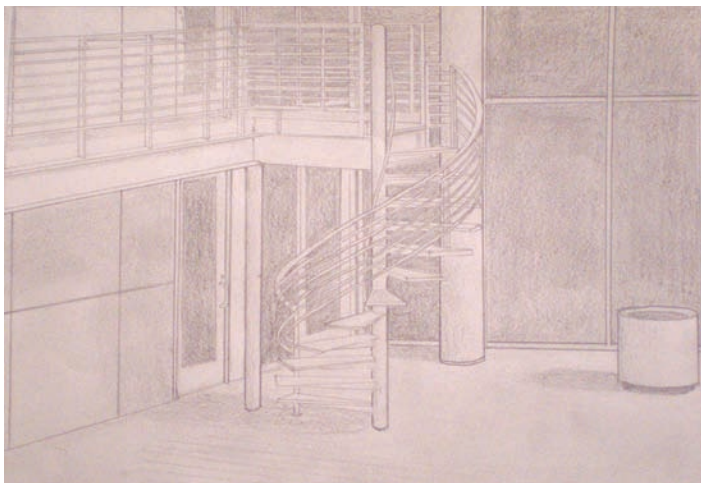
traditional



one-point_perspective

rhythm

two-point_perspective



CRAIG E. PODALAK, II

cpodal2@illinois.edu

Present Address (School)
304 East Daniel Street - #301
Champaign, IL 61820-6168
708/638-3337 (Cell)

Permanent Address (Home)
12410 South Nashville Avenue
Palos Heights, IL 60463-1761
708/389-3333 (Home)

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS - URBANA/CHAMPAIGN (2006-Present)
School of Architecture, GPA - 3.31
Current Status - Senior (121 Credit Hours Completed to date)
Architectural Classes studied include Anatomy of Buildings, Graphics, Building Construction, Design, Landscape, Statics & Dynamics, Studio, and Art History.

DESIGN PROGRAMS/SKILLS
- AutoCAD
- Revit
- Adobe PhotoShop, Illustrator, InDesign
- 3-D Studio Max
- Rhino 3D

AWARDS RECEIVED 2006-Present
- TIC (The Illinois Club) - Make-A-Difference Service Scholarship — Urbana/Champaign
- University of Illinois President Award - Merit — Urbana/Champaign
- EIC American Institute of Architects Award
- National College Dean's List
- National Society for Collegiate Scholars
- Sigma Alpha Lambda Honor Society
- Eagle Scout Award - Project: Created Rotating Library for Rehabilitation Facilities
- 12 years Perfect Attendance - Grade School and High School

EMPLOYMENT

CRAIG A. PODALAK ARCHITECTS (708/389-3333) 2006-Present
Intern, Responsibilities Include: Palos Heights, IL
- Miscellaneous Drafting and Filing
- Verification of Field Conditions

PREMIER CONSTRUCTION (708/772-4500) 2005-2007
Construction Laborer Orland Park, IL

ST. THOMAS MORE HIGH SCHOOL (217/721-6600) 2008-Present
Volleyball Coach. Responsibilities Include: Champaign, IL
- Jr. Varsity Head Coach, Assistant Varsity Coach
- Teaching basic skills and strategies
- Travel Coordination
- Statistic Calculation and Reporting
- Planning and Presenting Parent Meetings

115 BOURBON STREET (708/389-8881) 2008-Present
Server, Responsibilities Include: Merrionette Park, IL
- Food/Drink Distribution
- Replacement of Supply Inventory

ACTIVITIES

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS MEN'S CLUB VOLLEYBALL 2006-Present
- Gold Medal, National Collegiate Libero (2008), Individual Award
- National Collegiate All-Tournament Team (2008), Individual Award
- 3rd Place at National Competition (2008, 2008), 300+ teams
- Midwest Libero of the Year (2007), Individual Award
- Travel to Midwest Tournaments and Represent UIUC in National Competition

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS 2007-Present
- Library Volunteer — Urbana/Champaign
- Habitat for Humanity

TRAVELS - Architectural Tours, Buildings and Galleries
- United States
- Canada
- Mexico
- Europe (France - Paris, Versailles; The Netherlands - Amsterdam; Belgium)

REFERENCES

Will be provided upon request.