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30 April 2007

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Abstract

Is nature really right outside the window? When someone says, "I'm going to go enjoy the Great Outdoors this weekend," everyone knows that they don't mean their backyard; they mean the lake or the mountains or the cabin up north. Where, along the path, lies the threshold between the human realm and the natural realm? This threshold, either perceived or real, exists between the world of human artifacts and the natural world. What signifies the change?

To quote Mary Catherine Bateson from her essay: 'On the Naturalness of Things,' "Everything is natural; if it weren't, it wouldn't be."¹ She is right, of course, but there is a spiritual connection people perceive with nature that this quote cannot quite address. It is the individual relationship with nature that drives the dichotomy between natural and artificial.

Everything is natural, yes, but human culture is seen as apart from nature. Perhaps it is in search of an intimacy with nature that nature is sought, and in this pursuit, culture serves only as an interference in a private relationship.

Project Summary

It is a common belief that we were once a part of nature, but that through our social and technological developments, we have grown apart. This historical feeling that we used to belong manifests itself in many different social behaviors from camping to hiking to visiting zoos. We value nature for these and other reasons, and we seek to protect it and encapsulate it as if we had never touched it. In fact, we treat nature much like we treat our own history; only touch it when we need it and can draw information from it. Our culture has effectively constructed barriers to keep us from tampering with nature as well as our history.

When we look at the evolution of a site, it is pretty easy to say when nature ceases to exist, but, it isn't as easy to identify when nature has reestablished itself. In much the same way, there is a break in the way history is viewed. Is what we did yesterday history? Is it less valuable because it just happened and is older history more valuable by the same extension? We link ourselves with nature in a historical sense and we value the lessons that can be learned from both of them, but we don't recognize yesterday's relationship with nature worth valuing.

We also recognize the tendency of nature to conceal our past from us. Often times we battle this tendency by creating historical societies that attempt to encapsulate the history of a particular place for people to experience later. There is little, if any, dialogue with history when this takes place.

There is a better solution. What if we had a historical site that is no longer in use and is slowly decaying because nobody is allowed to touch it. What if, rather than restore this site to its previous condition, an outdated condition that is no longer applicable in our lives, we evolve the site? Rather than creating boundaries that separate us from its past and its natural process of decay, we embrace these qualities and insert ourselves in them.

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Is Man a part of Nature, or does Man exist apart from Nature? Intrinsically, Man must be a part of Nature, a product of millions of years of evolution, but the role that he has prescribed himself places him at the head of Nature, something separate due to the fact that he is in charge. Man's unwillingness to view himself as a part of nature only keeps him from seeing himself as another piece in a greater puzzle, but rather to see himself as the puzzle maker.

Before the relationship between man and nature can be explored further, a working definition of Nature must be established:

1. The material world and its phenomena.²
2. The world of living things and the outdoors: the beauties of nature.²
3. A primitive state of existence, untouched and uninfluenced by civilization or artificiality: couldn't tolerate city life anymore and went back to nature.²
4. Theology. Humankind's natural state as distinguished from the state of grace.²

The first definition does not distinguish between man and nature. This definition describes the ideal situation where man does not define himself outside of nature and nature does not seek definition in opposition to man. The two are in ideal harmony and understanding of each other.

The second definition is the easiest to accept offhand. It has all the elements that summarize the basic feelings toward nature. It defines nature as outside therefore defining the human domain as inside. It also alludes to the idea that 'nature' is that beautiful landscape or sunset, while those oth-

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er natural artifacts, such as street trees and well maintained lawns, are somehow tainted by human presence. However, not all outdoor spaces are nature, and not all indoor spaces exist in opposition to nature. Another interesting point in this definition is that it defines man, living beings, as a part of nature while excluding man's creations. Somehow mans' intentions are not pure, or rather man has alternative aspirations than that of the natural world.

The third definition speaks of a place that is 'uninfluenced by civilization'. Is there a space on the planet that is truly uninfluenced by human civilization? Even aside from global warming, there isn't a place on earth that man or his devices has not been. This definition would lead us to believe that nature ceased to exist when people developed into a global community, if not earlier. The most important aspect of this definition is that it makes reference to a point in time when human culture did not impede on the health of the globe. Was it perhaps industrialization that led us to grow apart from nature?

The forth definition takes a uniquely religious perspective on the situation. The natural state of man is different than that of Nature's, and that is the root of the problem that causes people to view themselves as separate from nature. The Christian take on this is the problem of original sin that got mankind removed from Eden and God's presence. This moment separated us from being a part of nature. However, the even more basic difference was that of free will and being able to choose the wrong thing if we so desire. This is not to say that animals are not free, but rather, that animals have no moral values to consider when making their decisions.

Underlying all of these definitions is a struggle to define what Nature is and what Human is without referencing each other. This problem is derived from trying to impose

one overall idea onto a broad continuum of human-nature interactions. People are not always in control of nature, nor are we always at its mercy.

The Human relationship with nature exists on several levels. There is raw, untouched nature, such as is found in tropical rainforests and deep ocean trenches. There are National Parks, places designated by people as natural areas worth preserving. Without preservation efforts; these areas would be at a high risk of being destroyed by human traffic. Moving more toward the pedestrian end of the spectrum are public trails where people are invited and encouraged to explore a distinct part of the outdoors. Following this are individuals' lawns surrounding their houses. Trees and bushes are carefully placed in these areas to ensure privacy and a certain aesthetic appeal to accent the dwelling. Finally, we have city parks and green spaces where it has been recognized that a little greenery could enhance the quality of life in the endless stretches of concrete, steel and glass.

In each of these five paradigms, the expectations that a person puts on the surroundings are different. Likewise, the behavior of a person in each of these different surroundings will change. A person would be much more comfortable running carelessly across a lawn or a park because people understand that that kind of activity will be supported by the surroundings. On the other hand, one would be much more cautious in an unfamiliar terrain, particularly one that is potentially hazardous. Each of the five paradigms supports different actions, from barbequing to exploring.

The one similarity in each scenario is that a border or an edge exists between Man and Nature. The edge between the lawn and the house tells people whether they are in the human domain or the natural domain. A city park is typically surrounded by buildings and sidewalks, again, the edge. Hiking trails and signs serve to tell people where they are allowed

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to go and where it is expected of them not to go. Finally, in the most extreme conditions, the border is pushed all the way back onto our clothes, the single barrier that separates us from the wild animals.

Edges serve several purposes. The first role is that they separate one entity from another. A fence erected in the middle of a single field defines two fields. A fence erected at the edge of a property defines what is owned and what is not owned. The edge between a farm and a forest define what has been tamed and what is left untamed.

People use these edges to define who they are, where they belong, and how they fit in. Recently, though, these edges have led to the bifurcation of man and nature into two opposing forces. The solution is not to attack boundaries, but to create a dialogue across the edge.

Due to this separation that is acknowledged, and because man places himself at the head of nature, a somewhat recent phenomenon has occurred: nature preserves. The creation of nature preserves is an admission by people that humans are a corrupting force and do not belong existing in the same place as nature. These preserves are typically patrolled by park rangers and natural scientists who, along with enforcing park rules, also maintain the health of the park by regulating forest fires, keeping the predator prey relationship in the balance and understanding the natural behaviors of the park animals to further the human knowledge base.

In contrast to parks and nature trails, nature preserves have far more regulations and expectations of their visitors. Permits may be required to access certain areas of the park as well as park fees and perhaps a guide may even be necessary.

It is this data base of human knowledge and experience that people also seek to protect against the decay of time. It is the fight to preserve our own history from natural decay. This obviously stands in the face of what a natural

preserve begins to stand for. If nature must be preserved from people, and human history must be preserved from nature, what is the real issue?

The issue is that people idealize the past for its simpler values while critiquing themselves for falling away from that life. As an after effect of that, people set nature aside to be preserved for a later generation so that they may use it as they say fit.

The solution is not to set aside chunks of land and not touch them, but rather to relearn the mysteries of nature, how and why things happen and what it means to interact directly with the land, rather than through the tools and interfaces of today. Many historical and natural preserves have areas where visitors can learn how things used to be, essentially how our relationship with nature used to be. Often times, the period represented is only one hundred to one hundred and fifty years ago and, it is viewed and experienced more as a form of entertainment than for true education.

This inability to comprehend relatively recent human history is most evident in peoples' fascinations with historical entertainment. Facilities that offer the experience of living like people used to only emphasize the disconnect between the past and the present.

Through exploring the relationships between man and nature and deliberately constructing a habitat for these interactions to take place, the program will serve as an aid for rediscovering an intimacy between people and their surroundings.

The goals and expectations of this project are not to eliminate the edges between man and nature, but rather to explore, define and explain the purposes of the boundary.

By layering the relationships of history, nature and people into a single, intentional focus area, the three separate entities can begin to speak to each other through a variety

of means. Just as the vines begin to envelope the existing structures and create something new, so can people begin to intertwine themselves among history and nature.

Precedent Studies and Analysis



There is a tendency to overlook nature in urban environments. For whatever reason, when we find ourselves in a city, or even in a park in a city, we tend to think of the landscape as part of the buildings rather than the buildings as part of the landscape. Perhaps it is a 'critical biological mass' that is missing. For example, one tree planted in the sidewalk just doesn't qualify as nature in the way that one tree in the middle of the plains does.

Another thought is that when we are in a city, we recognize it as a purely human domain, and as such, it is not a part of nature, no matter how many tree plantings and green oases we find. We even overlook the wildlife that makes itself at home in the city. Pigeons, falcons, coyotes and squirrels have all adapted quite successfully to the concrete peaks and valleys our cities provide, but they are viewed as unwanted trespassers rather than cohabiters.

Central Park reinforces these feelings on a grand scale. Surrounded by a cliff of buildings ranging anywhere from 50' to 500', New York's Central Park truly is a natural valley in an inhospitable artificial environment. People flock to it at lunch breaks to 'get out' and relax. Weekends are host to different events and gatherings as well as simple casual relaxation.

The most fascinating thing about Central Park is that, although it is the most nature-like part of New York, it is no more natural than the buildings that surround it. Everything from the dirt to the trees were brought in and sculpted to create what there is today. Even the lakes and rivers are a man made phenomenon. The only difference between Central Park and the buildings that surround it is the types of materials used.



Arial View of Central Park



View down the border between Central Park and 5th Avenue



Central Park in the Winter with the surrounding buildings



Main walkway through Central Park



Arial View of the Gates in Central Park



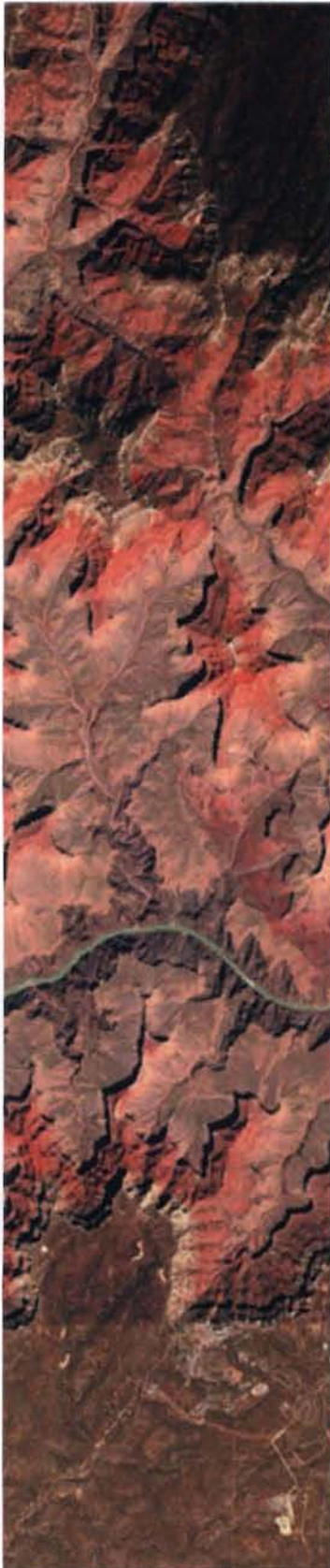
Image of Gates marching down a Trail in Central Park



Elevation of Gates in Central Park

The saffron colored Gates stand out in stark contrast to the February color palette used in Central Park at that time of year. Making themselves known in such a fashion emphasizes their artificiality, while at the same time bringing out the park's normalness. At every 12' interval along every path in Central Park, a saffron Gate is raised. This segmentation of not only the paths of the park, but also of the views afforded results in a framing of everything that is seen and experienced in the park.

While we know the park is an artificial creation, and the surrounding landscape of skyscrapers and office buildings only emphasizes this, the Gates, in their stark contrast to the winter colored grass and trees, bring out the naturalness of their immediate surroundings. In creating a continuous edge through every path, the Gates are drawing a distinction between where man and nature dwell.



Over the last 40 million years, the Colorado River has been cutting away at the land around it. The result that we see today is 277 river miles of 4000 foot deep canyon that can be up to 18 miles across. It has been host to many types of human development over the years including from Native American structures carved into the canyon walls to rafting adventures down the river.

It has been recognized as one of the 7 natural wonders of the world, and as such, it has become a huge tourist attraction. Due to the huge tourism industry, an area called Grand Canyon Village has sprung up. It serves as a safe lookout to view the canyon from as well as an area with good access to trail heads and other means of emersing one's self in the canyon.

While a development such as the Grand Canyon Village is in no way suprising to us, it is interesting to look at the reasons surrounding its development. Our culture loves to travel. The idea of 'getting out of town' and 'seeing the world' is one that many of us hold near and dear to our hearts. The funny thing is, though, that in leaving our cities and urban developments behind us to 'go see the great outdoors' we must find another development to aid us in that endeavor. At the very minimum, we need a gas station, grocery store and hotel to accomodate our travel. Ofcourse, we also want tour guides and airplane rides and a museum of history about the place.

Rather than creating natural places within our communities to support our well being and sense of peace and balance, we create communities within the natural places to support these same functions. We want to get outside and feel as if we are small and insignificant, and yet, to do so, we must impose these supporting communities right on top of that pristene landscape.



Looking across the Grand Canyon

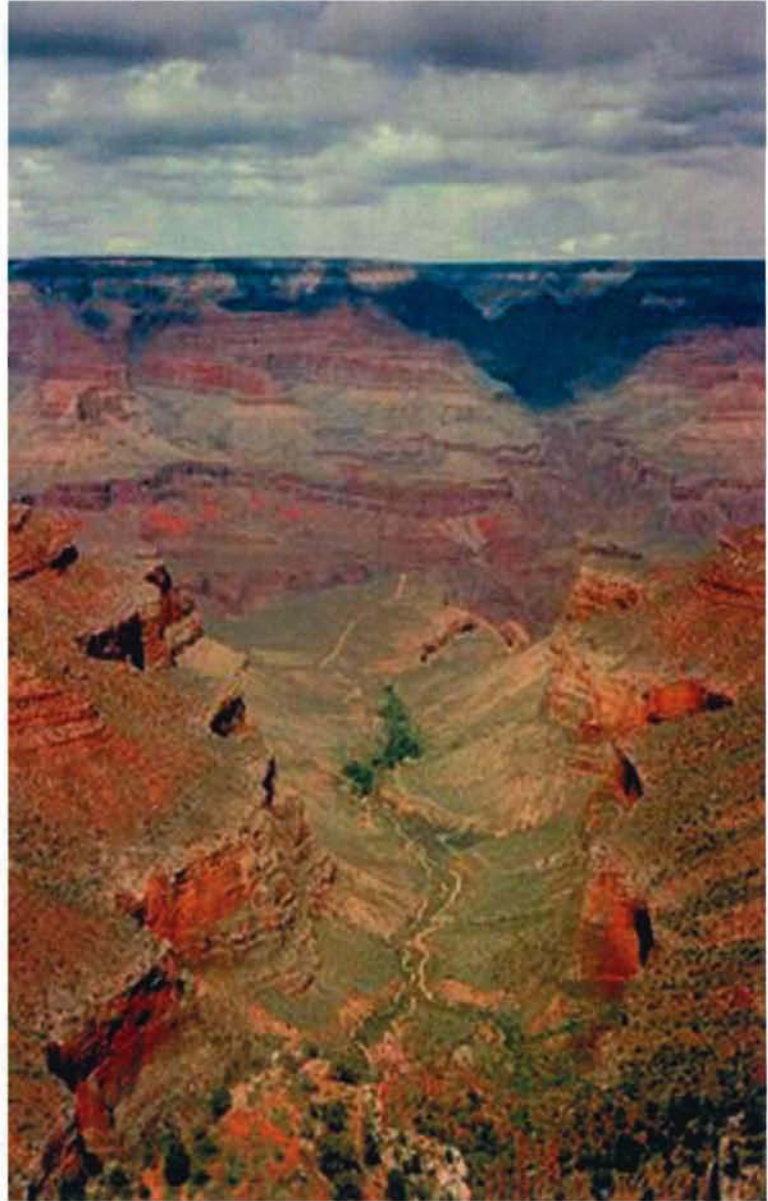
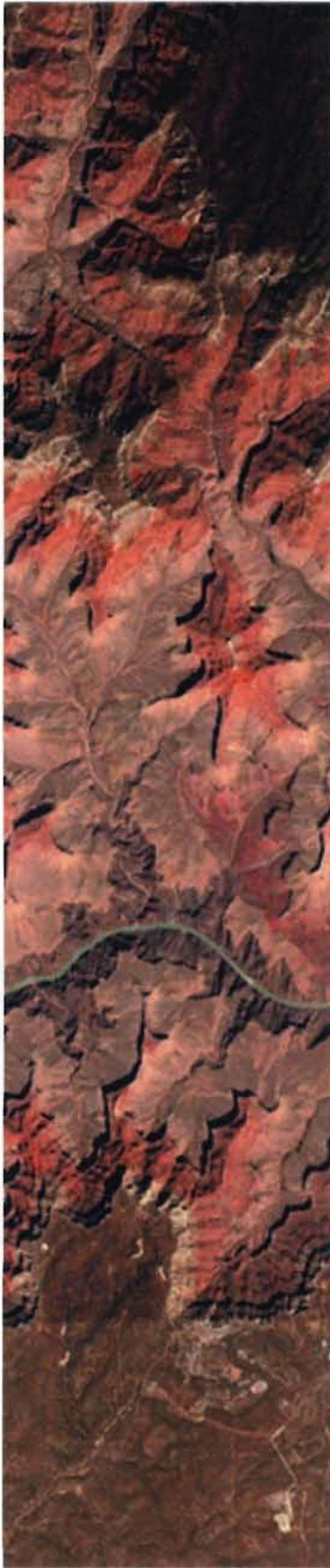


River Level view of the Grand Canyon



Each of these pictures emphasizes the edge that exists between the human and natural realms. In each of these, we can see where there has been a guard rail enforced on the landscape to protect people from themselves. If you will venture past this rail, you are on your own. Even the term 'look-out pont' implies that you've reached the edge and now you may gaze upon the 'other' but you may not touch. Again, we are fascinated by the juxtaposition of what we are told to be comfortable with and what we are told is beyond.





Arial view of the Grand Canyon



For \$25 a person, you will be able to walk out over the Grand Canyon and experience the deepest elevation drop in the man made world. Although the edge between the human and natural realm in this case, is 4" of structural glass, there is no less of an edge.



Central Park and Grand Canyon Village are really the same thing simply mirrored. Where one is a natural space that supports the people of the city's needs, the other is a city space that supports the people who would visit the Grand Canyon's needs.

A second correlation is that each, in its own way, can be seen as a natural valley surrounded by artificiality. If we look past the fact that Central Park is a man made oasis, and accept it as nature, we can see this clearly. Both have a distinct edge between natural and artificial; the cliff edge with the guard rail and the wall surrounding the park.

The main difference between the two is for whom the supporting is being done. Central Park, although it can be seen as a tourist attraction, exists primarily for supporting the local population who live and work in New York. Grand Canyon Village, on the other hand, exists primarily to support people who are not from the area whatsoever. Beside its small population of residents who run small shops and cater to the tourism, its primary function is to allow people to pass through and stock up on supplies. Both exist to help people find excitement in their lives.

The two precedents demonstrate the importance of nature in our lives. Whether it is a grand vacation to break up the monotony and reconnect with our place in the world, or if it is just a quick jog during a lunch break, each is sought out to fulfill some need in our mind.

In his book The End of Tradition, Nezal Alsayyad claims that we are a culture obsessed with endings, but each end, is, in its own way, a new beginning. At the Grand Canyon we find in the end of where we are comfortable, and the beginning of the unknown. At Central Park, we find the edge of the everyday business world and the excitement of the unknown.

This is important because without a distinctive edge, the world tends to bleed itself together. On one hand, I would like to believe that everything is nature and that everything we do is just as natural as what any animal would do. On the other hand, however, I find that we do draw a distinction in our mind, and the simple fact that we do this discounts the first. These edges between the wild and the artificial are important to us because it gives us a sense of who we are and why we are here. In essence, we define ourselves by what we are not just as much as by what we are, and in doing so, we find that perhaps we don't fit in as well as we used to in today world.

Documentation of Site Possibilities

Site Criteria:

Nearby Community; is necessary to create an applicable project

Topography; helps to inspire form and speak to the design

Water; always represents rebirth, whether that is implied or subconscious or direct.

Domesticated - Wild Edge; gives play and helps speak to the instinct of the person

Brownfield or Rundown Area; will provide a chance to rehabilitate a damaged area.

Educational Value; instilling an understanding and appreciation for the role that we play in nature at a young age is very important.

Historical Value; portraying an accurate account of the role that people have played on the particular site increases the educational value.

Existing Architecture to Engage; goes back to topography and water. The more I have to work with, the more the project can engage in a dialogue with site, history and nature.

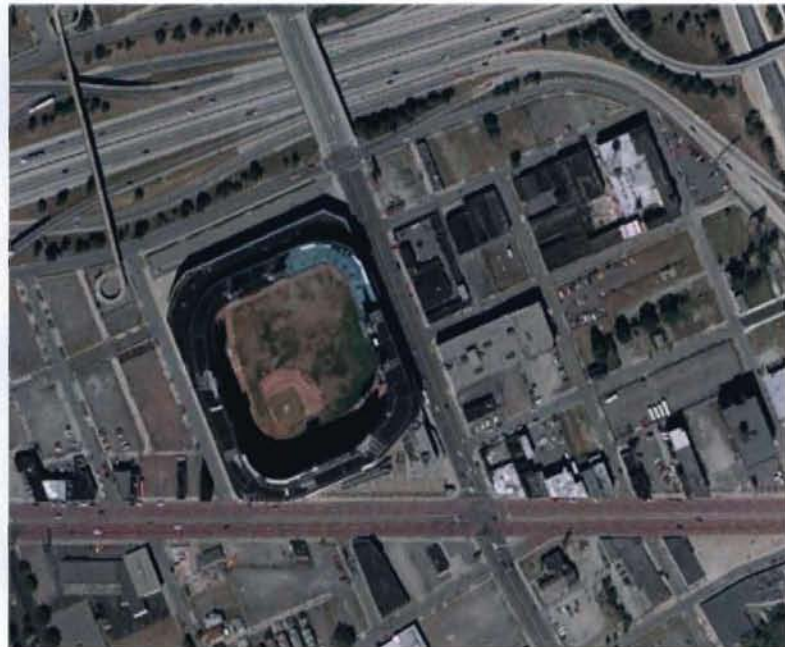


If any building can be said to be the embodiment of Detroit, it would be Tiger Stadium. For my purposes, this is both a good and a bad thing. When dealing with a site that has reached the iconic level that Tiger Stadium has, one must be careful about whose toes to step on, because you can't avoid them all.

One of the greatest aspects of this site is that it is already walled off from its surroundings. Infact, it is essentially a green space that has been segregated from the community so that it can be privatized and enjoyed by only a select few. The process of natural reclamation has already begun with trees and shrubs growing in the stands as noted during the super bowl events held there.

The most pressing drawback for this site is that it has already been decided that demolition will begin this fall. Besides that, tampering with it by changing its function will always bring criticism from someone.

The thing that I fear the most about using Tiger Stadium, is that no matter what is done to it, short of demolition, it will always remain Tiger Stadium with whatever program is super imposed on top of it.





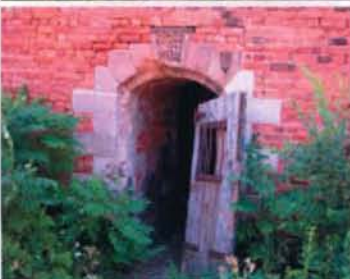
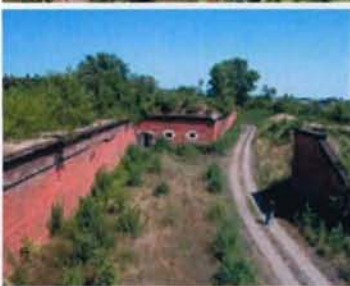
Having given two possible sights that reflect the Central Park Precedent Study, I thought it fitting to include the mirror image. While the city sites mentioned before require a natural center to enrich their human aspects, icebergs would require a development of some sort to make them more accessible to people.

Icebergs provide a unique space for marine mammals to rest while either migrating or hunting. Penguins and seals congregate on them to avoid larger predators while some arctic birds actually nest on them.

While an 'Iceberg Visitor Center' seems a bit on the ridiculous side, I'm sure that the Native Americans who inhabited the Grand Canyon would have said the same about the Grand Canyon Village.

Because of its essentially 'disposable' nature, an Iceberg makes an ideal place for human dwelling in the form that our culture has evolved it to. There is no need to worry about minimal impact on site or site preservation, because by the end of the season, the site will be no more. Rather, it is a chance to explore how far the pursuit of a connection with nature will take us.





Fort Wayne was built in 1845 in anticipation of a British Canadian attack to the United States. Although hostile fire never came, the fort continued serving the United States Armed Forces through the Vietnam Era. It was slowly given over to the Detroit Historical Society between 1964-1971. In 1992, it was closed to the public. Besides routine lawn care, the fort has fallen into disrepair. Many of the buildings are beginning to collapse as trees and shrubs start eating into them.

Fort Wayne's historical relevance to the city as well as its rich architecture and placement on the water makes it an ideal location for a natural development into the true archeological wonder that it is.

Today the Fort is host to the occasional reenactment accompanied by a flea market as well as youth soccer leagues held out on the parade grounds. It has become nearly forgotten today, despite efforts by the Detroit Historical Society to establish small museums and visitor centers on the site. It would be interesting to develop a program that could enhance one's desire to rediscover it.





Fort Wayne provides some interesting situations to explore in the context of an urban nature center. The concept of reversing the role of a fort by bringing the outside in and walling it off against the potential threats of society is, at the very least, a fun idea to entertain.

On top of that aspect is the issue of all the buildings located outside the fort and their potential uses in the transformation. Many have begun an irreversible transformation on their own and perhaps that process can only be enhanced rather than reversed. Decaying walls and roofs are especially dangerous, but they do lend themselves well to encouraging exploration by the more daring people out there. Perhaps in rehabilitating the site, a rehabilitation center for people could be included.

Fort Wayne has lots of opportunities to engage a rich history and a unique space that has unfortunately slipped into a state of disrepair. Luckily for us, this state of disrepair encourages a new spirit to inhabit the space and transform it into something that stimulates the discovery of the past.



Site Analysis

Fort Wayne is an ideal site to explore the relationship between history, nature and humanity. As time flows, pieces of our past are consumed by nature. Some relics survive and become a curiosity to people today because they no longer apply to our lives and we have difficulty relating to them. Historical Societies and Recreation Departments find themselves at odds between historical restoration and recreational activities due to the fact that neither addresses the needs of both the past and the present.

In the case of Fort Wayne, there are three distinct issues that need to be addressed. First is the historical significance of the site. The fort and all of the buildings surrounding it are absolutely rich with stories and artifacts, but nobody can currently enjoy them because of the lack of funding. The typical solution is to pump the required money into fixing the problems and making the buildings habitable, about 90 million dollars.

While this approach has its appeal, that appeal is based in the idea of restoring the fort to the state that it was in during its use as a military base and using it to reenact military scenes. The problem with this approach is that it takes the fort out of its own context and twists it into something that it doesn't want to be. The fort does not want to pretend to be what it used to be.

By accepting that the Fort is no longer a military base, but rather a retired military base, it becomes easier to modify and adapt the program.

The next issue with Fort Wayne is the natural reclamation process that has begun with vines creeping through the abandoned buildings. This process has created a physical representation of a symbiotic relationship between history and nature.

The last element that needs to be taken into account at Fort Wayne is people. Currently, the majority of people that come to the fort come to play soccer in the open parade ground. Already, adaptive reuse is happening on the fort through the needs of the surrounding community.³

I propose a program that will define and strengthen the

edge between history, nature and humanity. This program will celebrate the passage of time through acknowledging the natural process of decay and nature reclamation. Like the installation art piece, 'Gates' in New York's Central Park, this program will emphasize the role that the person plays in the natural world.

The Living Classroom, a college focusing its studies on historical and natural arts, particularly landscape architecture and horticulture, will provide a center for kids with these interests to develop their skills and meet likeminded students. Any number of conservation and education programs touching on both historical and natural preservation can be incorporated into the studies. The program will provide spaces for a number of outdoor activities in a site that is rich with anthropological and natural history. One can imagine climbing through an abandoned building following a fox or quail and stumbling upon a photograph from the WWI era. These are the moments that this program will make possible.

By layering the existing conditions with the spirit of the past and the energy of the future, Fort Wayne can once again become a site alive with activity and meaning, but, more importantly, it can begin to serve as a model for rediscovering and renewing the relationship between man, nature and history.

Project Program

The Living Classroom

Learning through exploration.

The program would provide a series of rich spaces that hold a wealth of information on many levels. Modeled after a walk through the woods and stumbling upon small clearings, openings in the canopy, creeks and streams and occasional wildlife, the program could weave together a story through a rich media of historical and natural elements.

Teaching about harmony through example.

The program will provide spaces that clearly define the edge between people nature and history. Unlike a typical historical entertainment program or a Nature Center Program, both of which blur the edge between people, nature and history, this program will seek to emphasize it. Sharp edges between human spaces and natural spaces are just as important as stark modern spaces adjacent to, or even as extensions of, historical buildings. Providing this juxtaposition will allow for a better understanding of blurred spaces that are encountered on a daily basis, some of which will inherently occur in this program as well.

A historical preservation approach might find this inappropriate to do its apparent disrespect to the events that shaped and formed the original walls. However, it will instead lead to a better understanding of who we are and what nature is by creating spaces that both reflect our past and look into the future. There is no better way to honor the past than to give it a place in the future.

Celebrating history through acknowledging the passage of time and decay.

While a certain degree of historical preservation is desired on this site, particularly in the fort itself and some of the other support buildings, many of the buildings are too far gone to be effectively restored. Rather than leveling these, this program

would propose to embrace the decay and find different ways to engage those spaces that can be reclaimed.

These spaces could be small, defined paths or even tunnels that meander around or through an abandoned building. There is a certain poetic effect that dissecting one of the abandoned buildings with a series of cut planes and paths could have.

The program seeks to integrate a growing population of out of touch young adults into a site rich in history and nature in a setting that creates a dialogue between the three through the study of landscape architecture.

Spaces:

Classrooms 14 rooms x 1000sf

22,500sf

Existing Commissioned officer housing.

15 students, 1 teacher

These spaces would interact with existing structures on the site by inserting themselves inside a renovated officer housing floor. These spaces will overlap what is currently existing with a new edition that intertwines with the historical and natural elements on the site. Classrooms feel like they ought to have low ceilings that reinforce the horizon and create spaces that stretch to reach it. New construction will puncture, intertwine and reveal the original construction.

Teacher Offices 8 rooms x 300sf

2,400sf

Existing Commissioned officer housing. Similar with the classrooms, the faculty offices will be inserted into the existing rooms of the officer housing and look out upon the work area of the students.

Administrative Offices	One Existing Officer House
5,000sf	
8 staff	

Administrative offices for the school of landscape architecture will exist in the eastern house of the commissioned officer housing on both levels.

Meeting Rooms	2 x 600sf
900sf	

Rich textures like brick and thick carpets accompanied by rich natural views. Long, tall rooms exposed to rich views. Rooms can double function as classrooms for camps.

Lobby	200sf
200sf	

A space with a lot to look at and engage. This space would be located in one of the inserts between the existing structures.

Waiting room	150sf
150sf	

Located directly off lobby with access to bathrooms and snacks and other info.

Public Bathrooms	4x150sf each
600sf	

Also located in the inserts between the existing structures.

Dormitories	150 units x 200sf
30,000sf	

Existing new barracks.

The two newer barracks near the mess hall would provide ideal space for students staying on the campus during the school

An area around the fort, perhaps the demilune or the wall adjacent to the parking lot would be appropriate. The stage area would be accessible from the fort while the existing counter berm could be modified to seat a number of people.

Enclosed Paths

7ft x 1 mile

These paths dip underground, pass through buildings and above other areas of the program. These paths act almost like an elongated gallery space as they wind their way through the past, explaining and engaging the site.

Exposed Paths

7ft x 2 miles

These paths are to be freely engaged by any type of user. These would wind through the ruins with many side branches to go and explore different areas.

Outdoor Creative Centers

15ft x 15ft

225sf

Small scattered centers to draw attention to particular areas of the campus. These should feel very grounded and use solid, earthen materials like bricks, earth berms and wood when necessary.

Preserved Spaces

The Fort

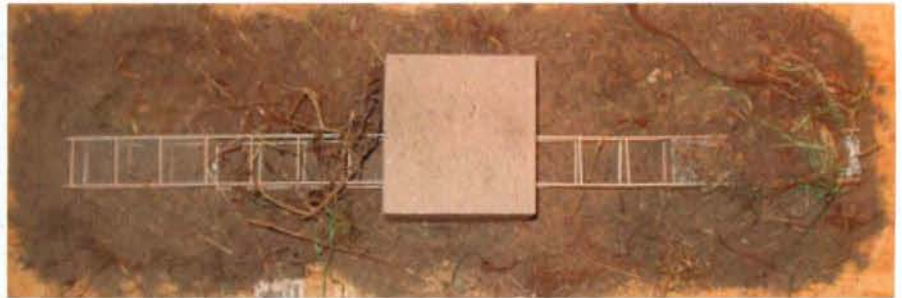
Old Barracks

Powder House

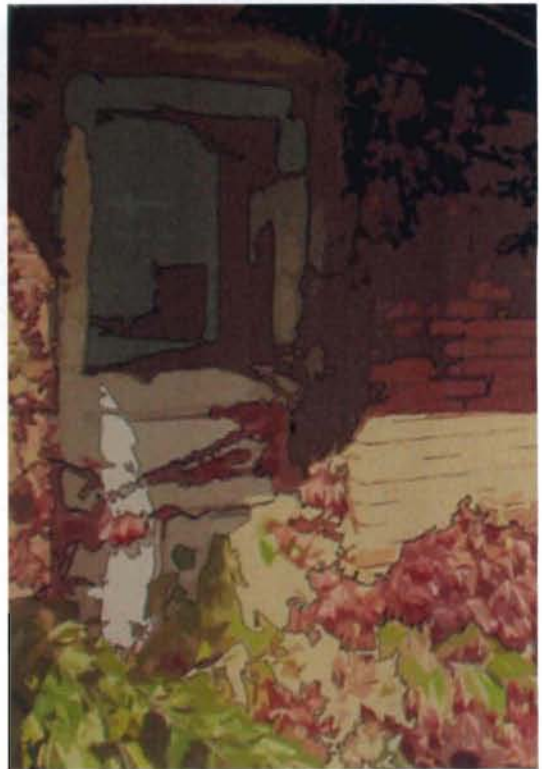
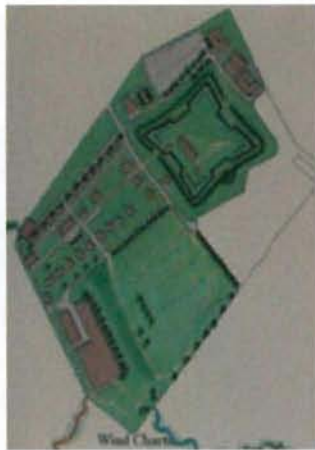
Warehouses of historical artifacts

Design Development

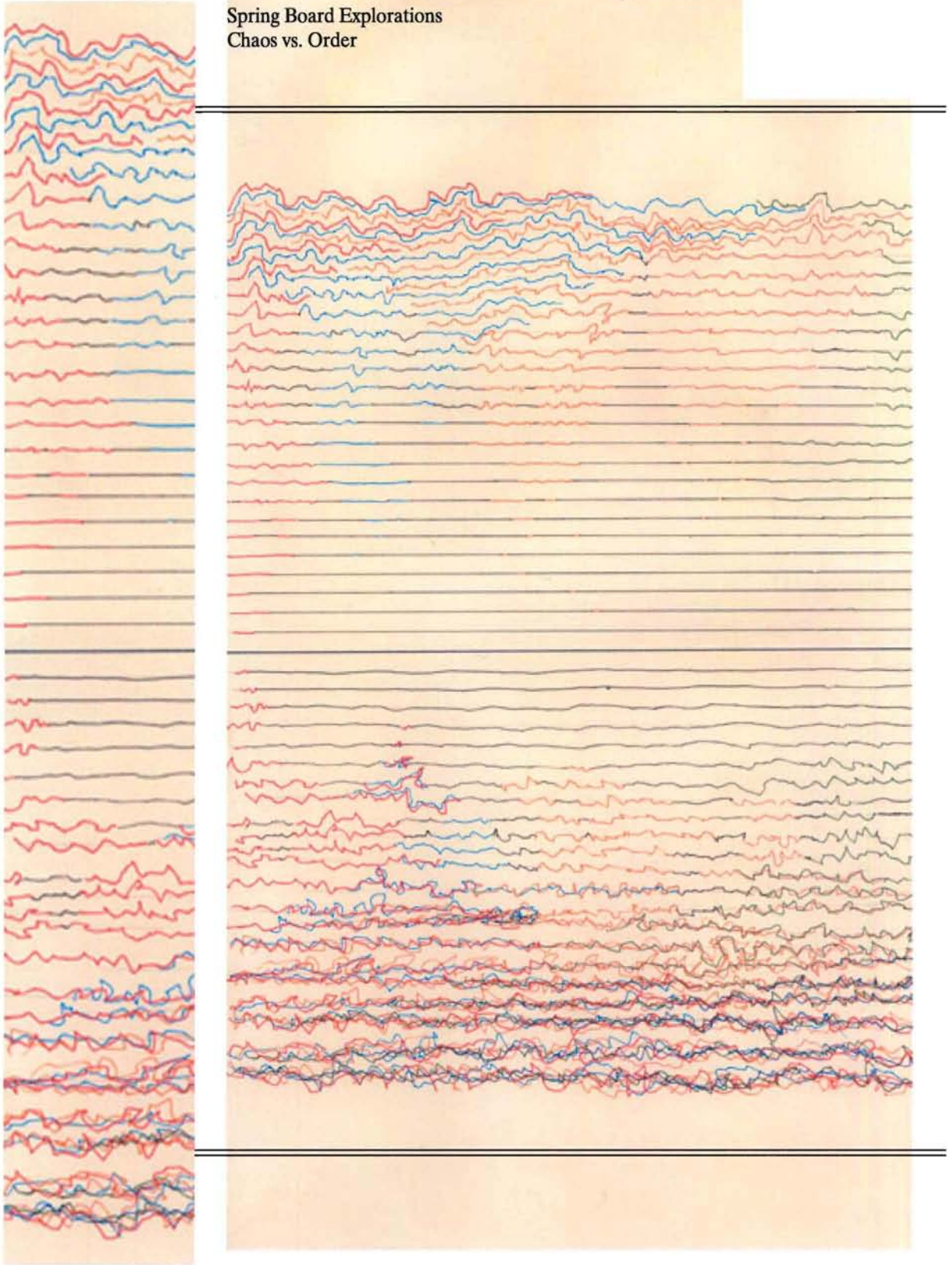
Spring Board Explorations
Dirt Models
Relationship between earth and building studies



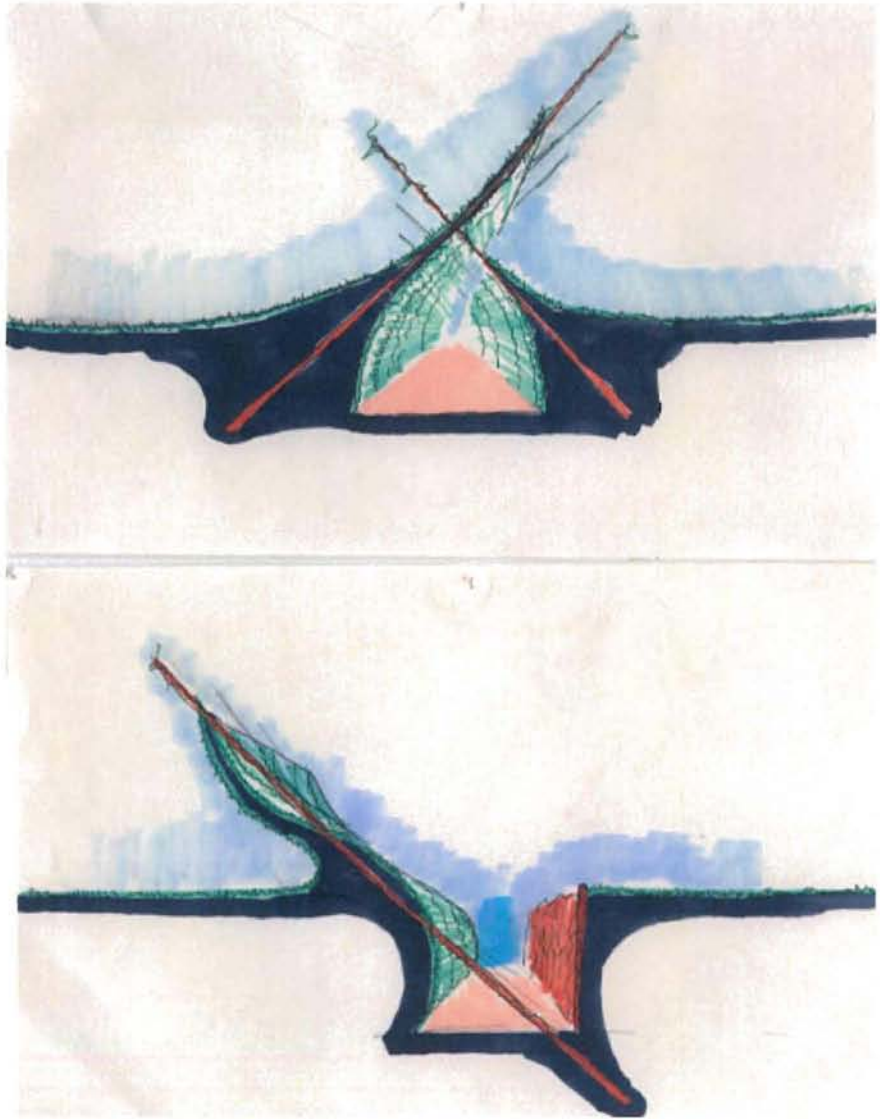
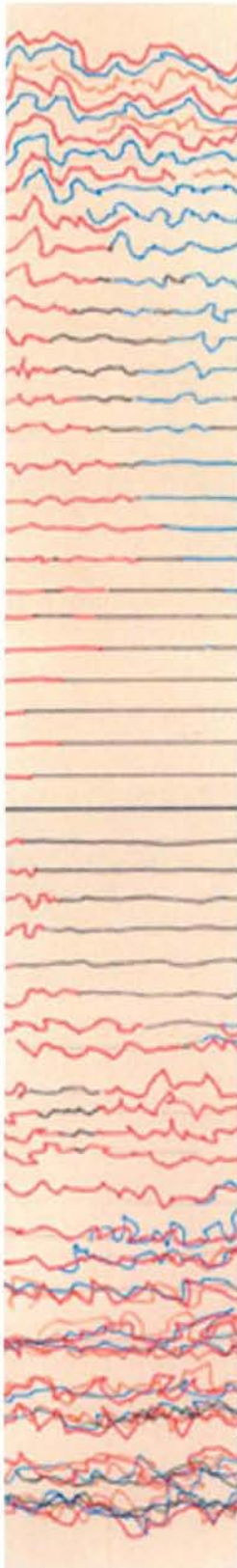
Spring Board Explorations
Site Development Presentation



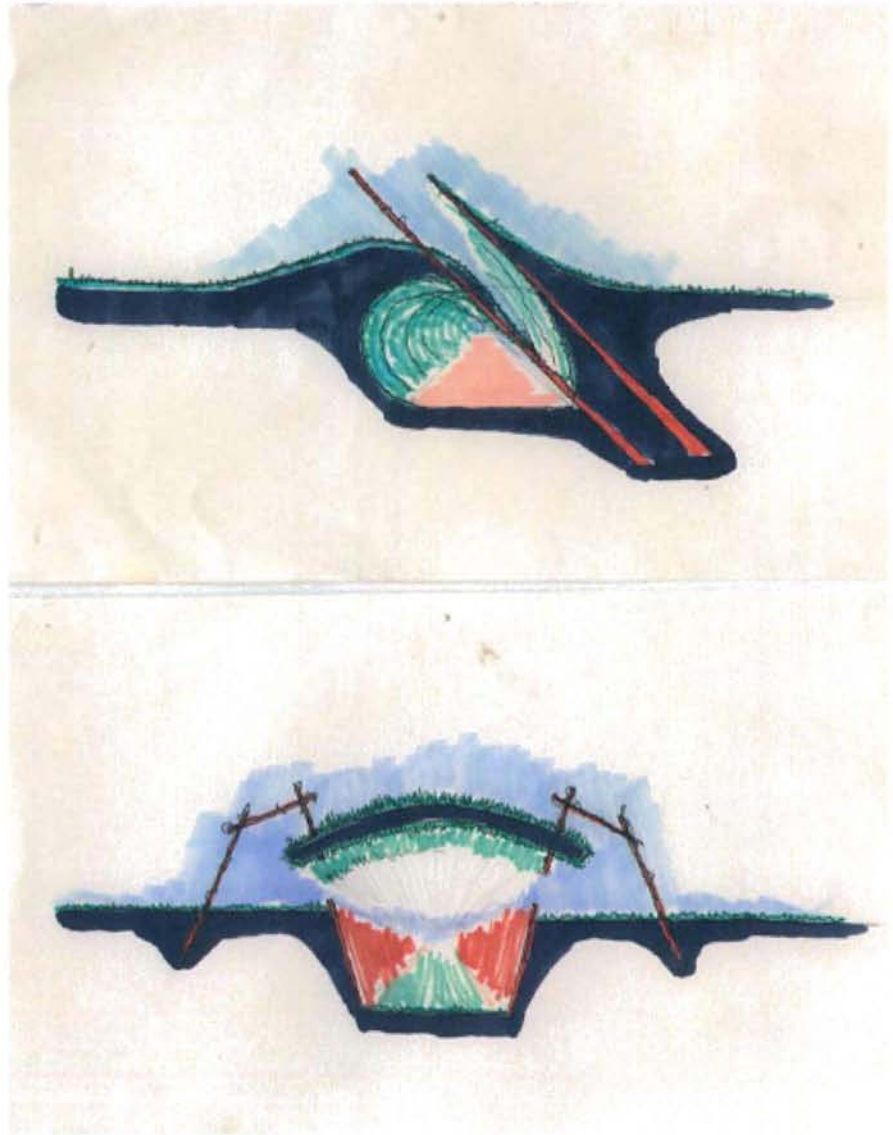
Spring Board Explorations
Chaos vs. Order



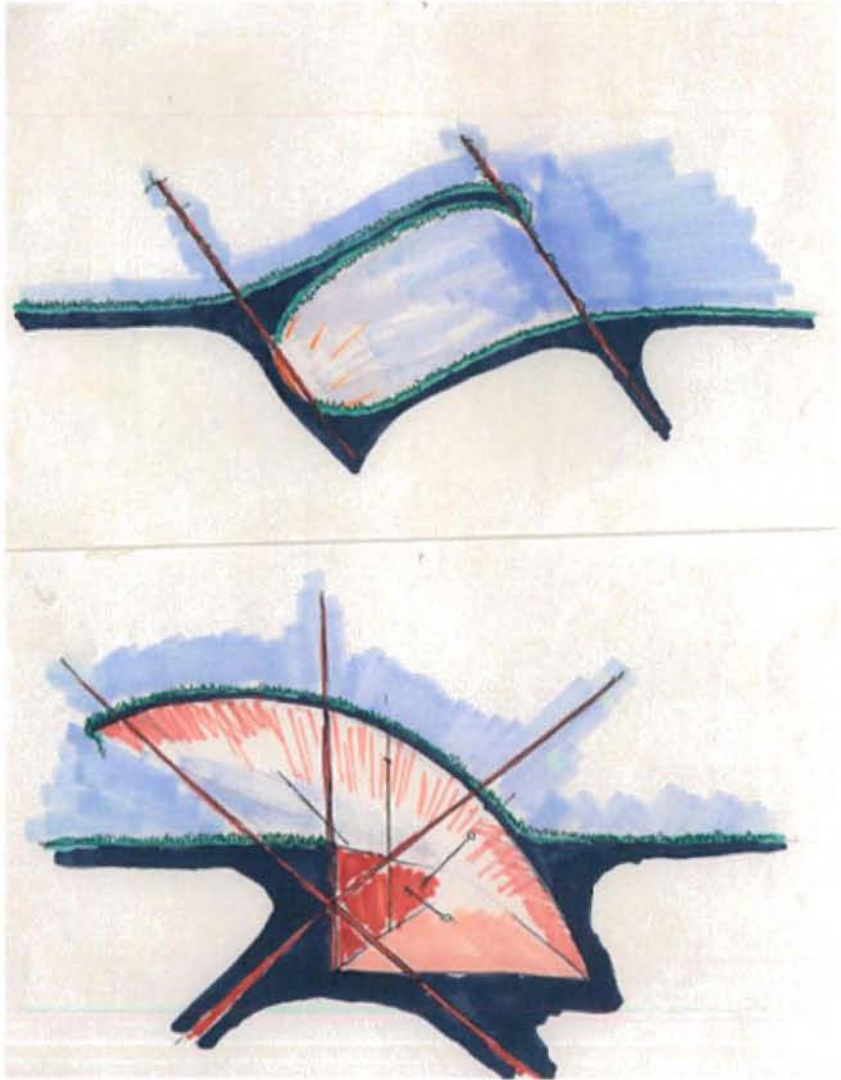
Spring Board Explorations
Earth Cutting Sections
Relationship between human perspectives and earth



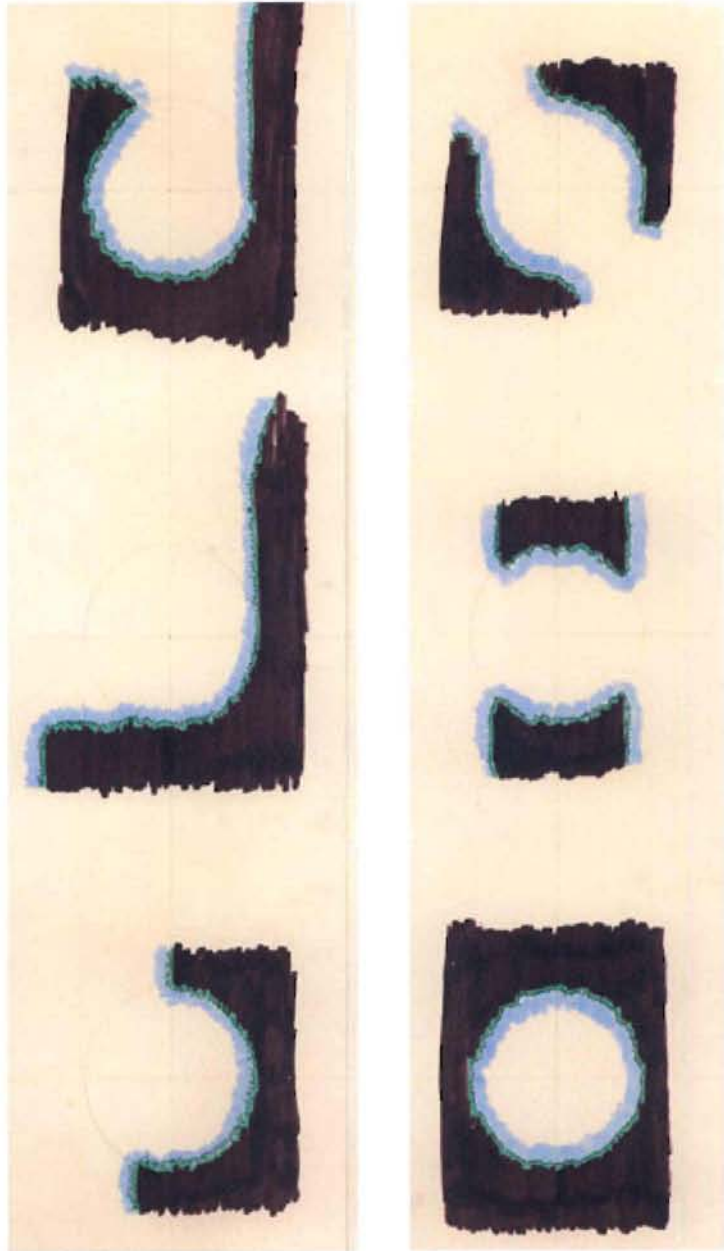
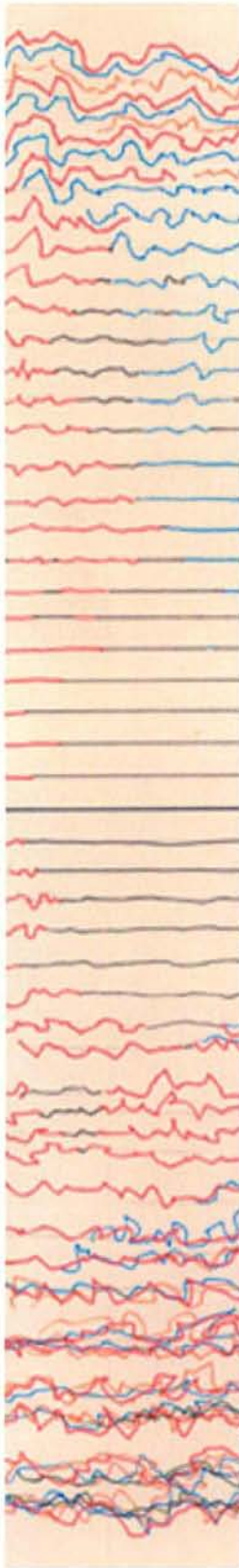
Spring Board Explorations
Earth Cutting Sections
Relationship between human perspectives and earth



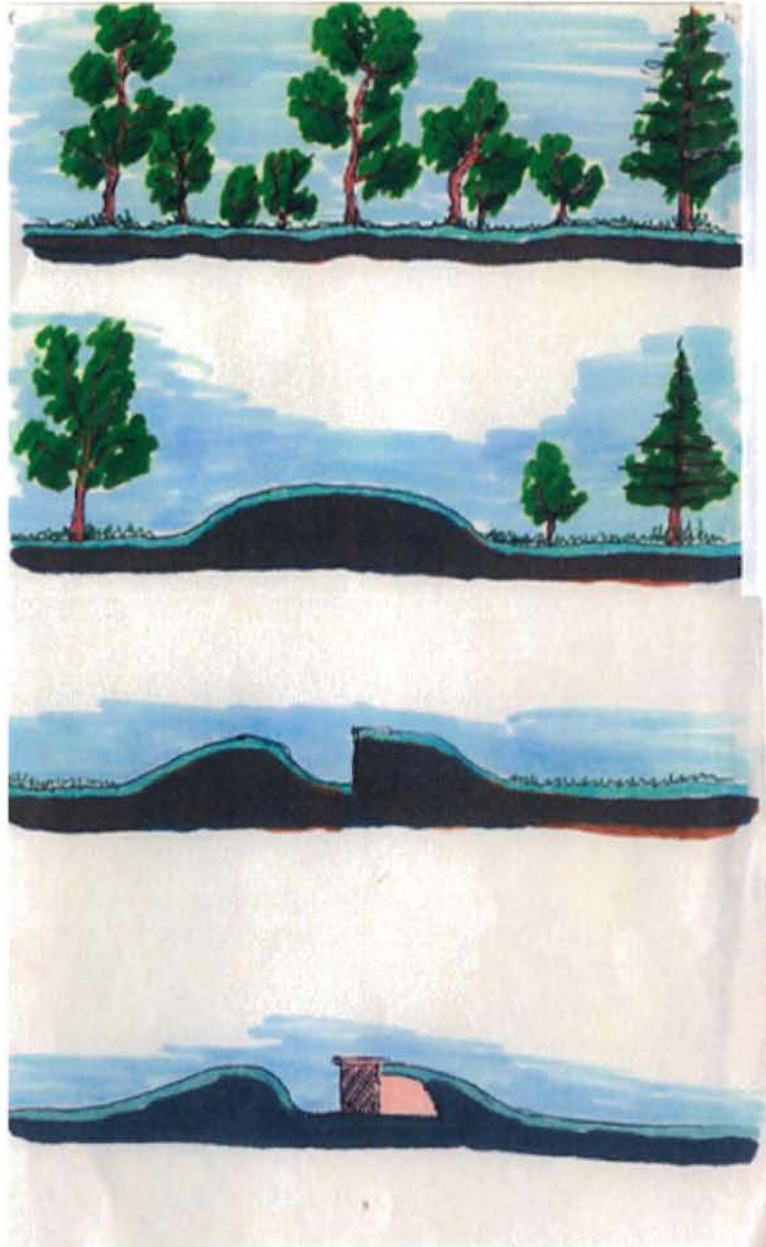
Spring Board Explorations
Earth Cutting Sections
Relationship between human perspectives and earth



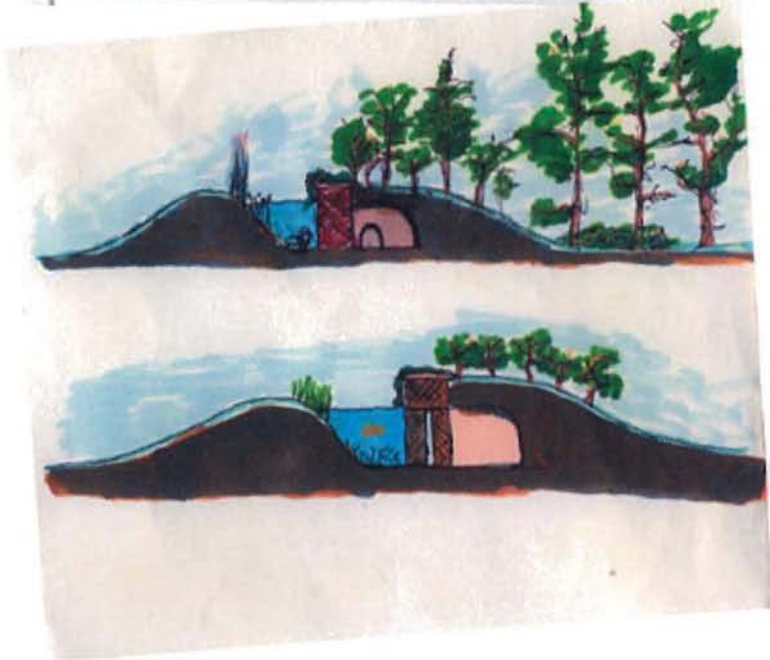
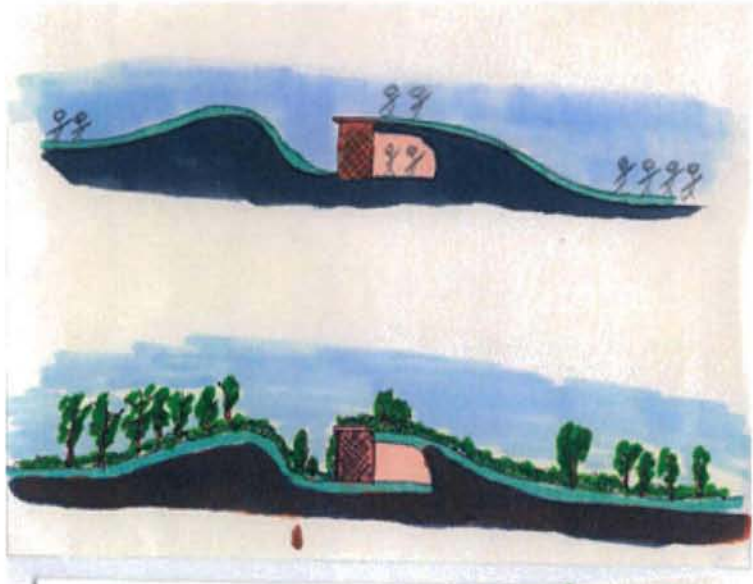
Spring Board Explorations
Earth Cutting Sections
Relationship between human perspectives and earth



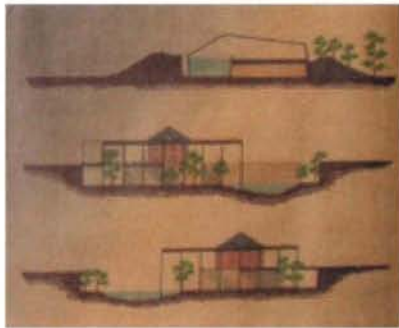
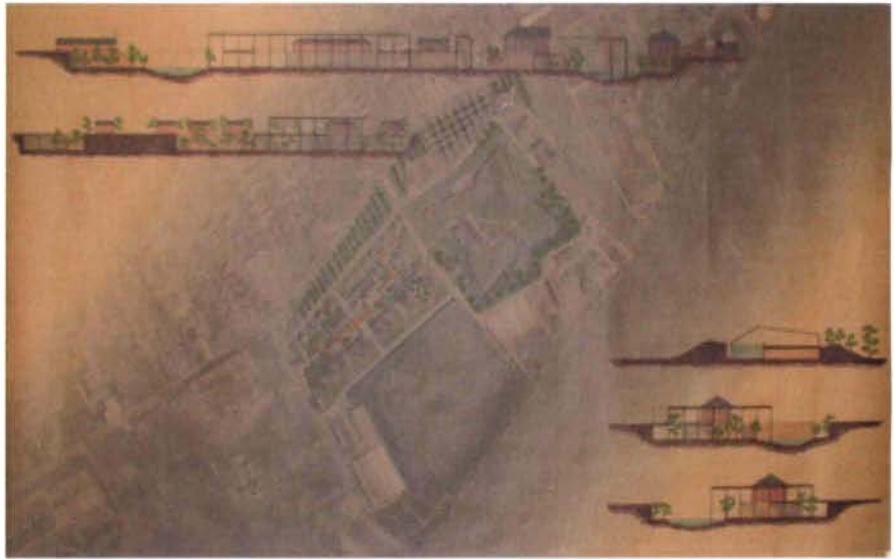
Spring Board Explorations
Site Evolution



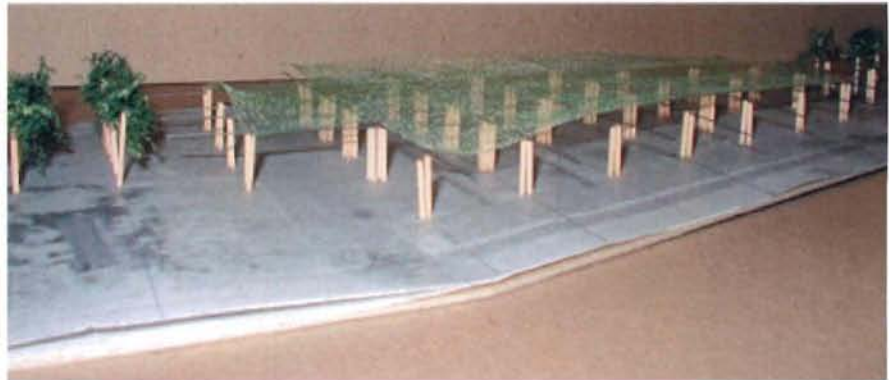
Spring Board Explorations
Site Evolution



Spring Board Explorations
Final Presentation
Site Plan



Spring Board Explorations
Final Presentation
Site Model
Parking Lot and Dorms



Spring Board Explorations
Final Presentation
Site Model and Parade Ground



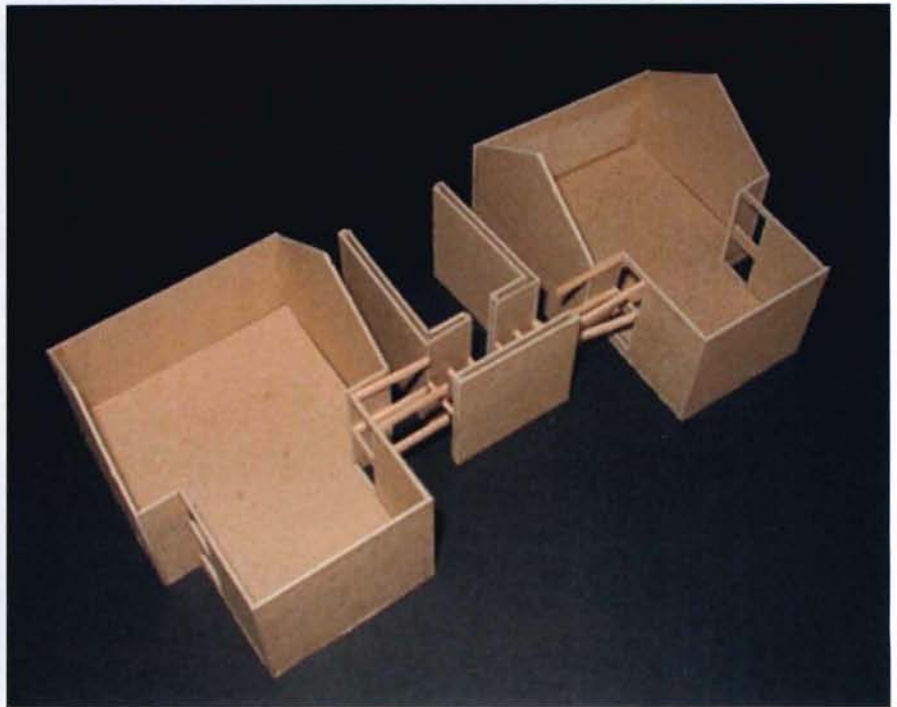
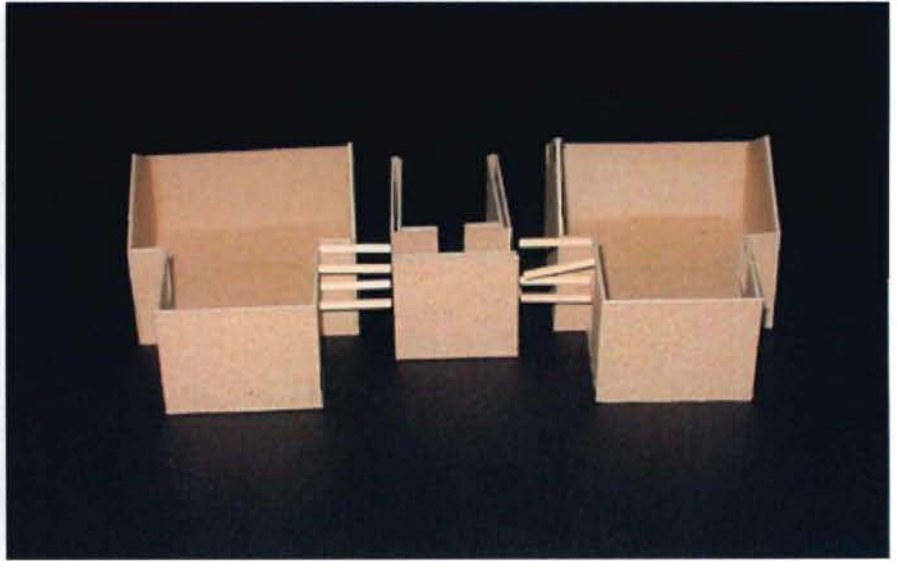
Spring Board Explorations
Final Presentation
Site Model
Fort Model



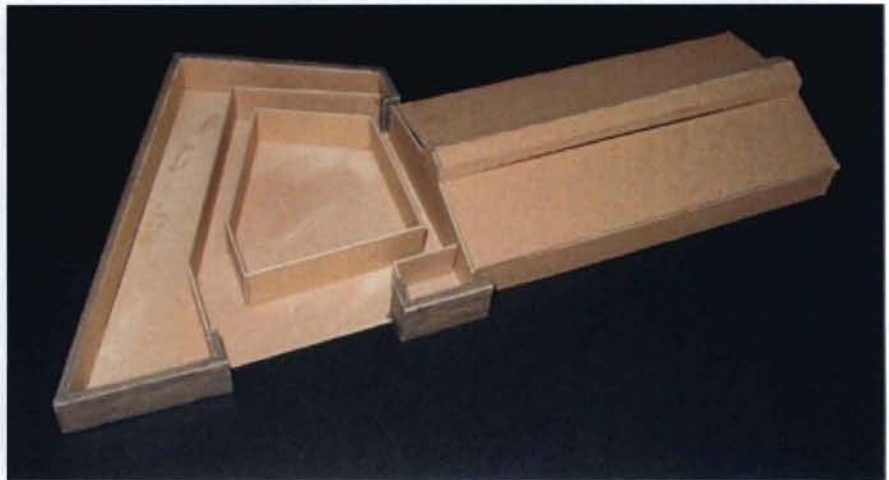
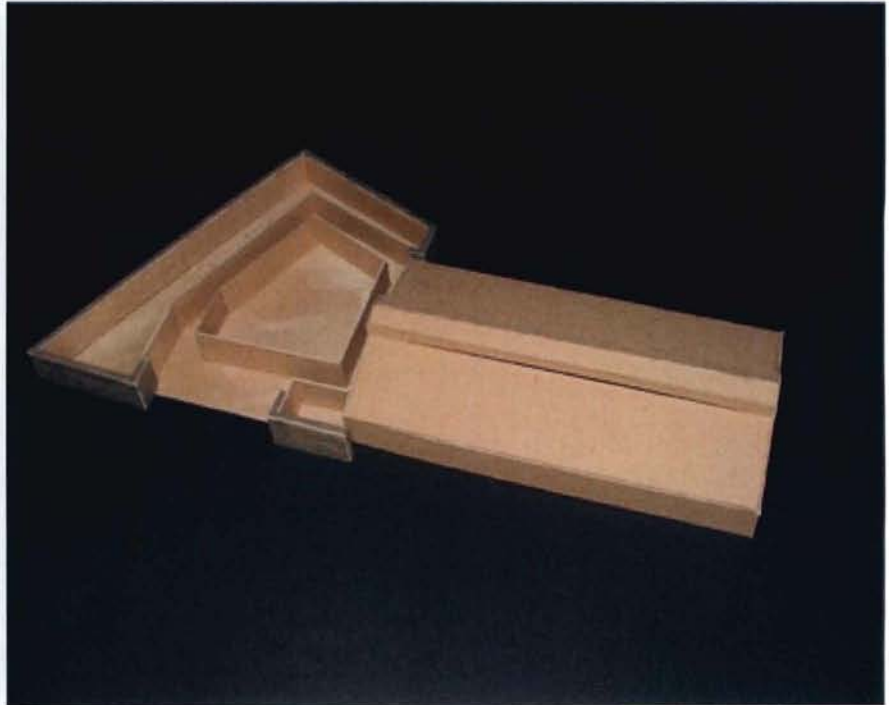
Spring Board Explorations
Final Presentation
Site Model
'Living Classroom'



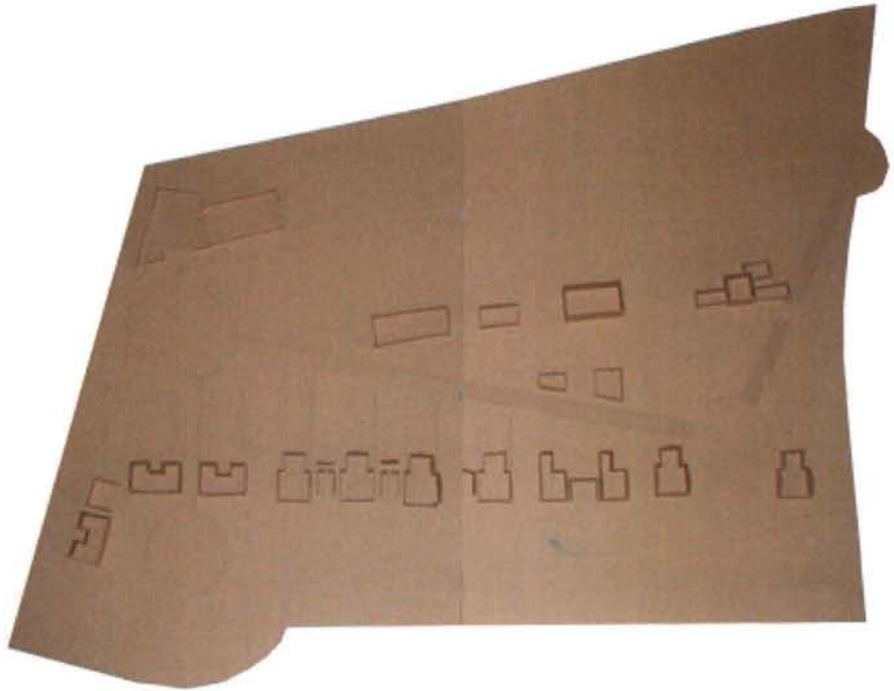
Design Development
Building Insertion Studies



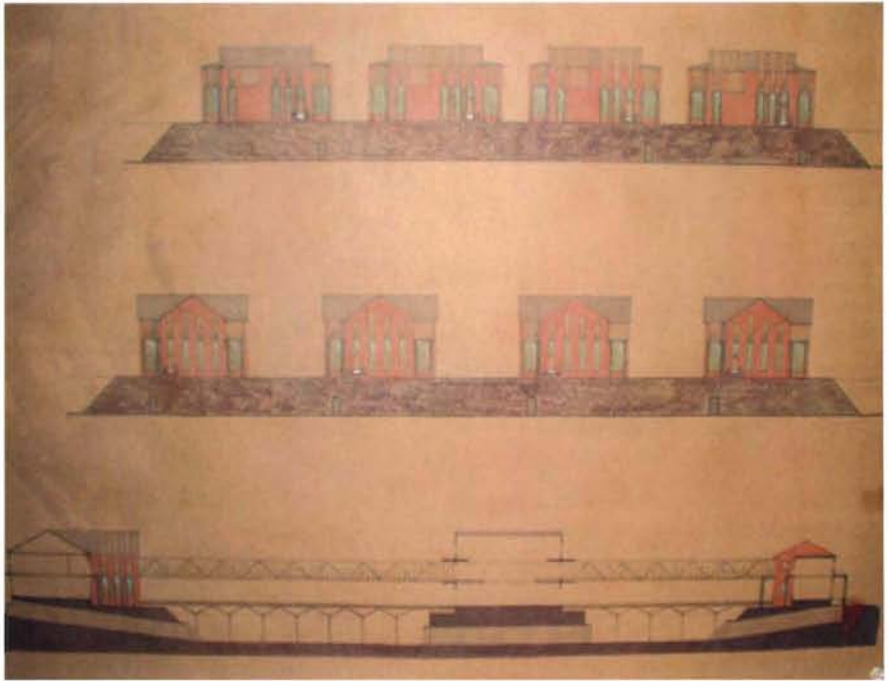
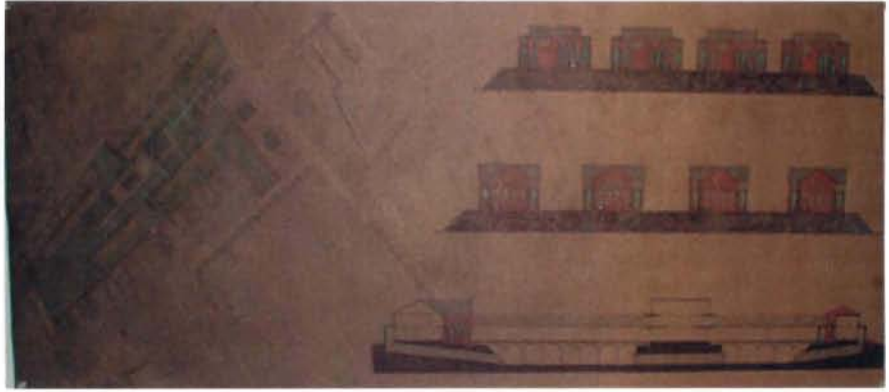
Design Development
Building Insertion Studies



Design Development
Site Studies



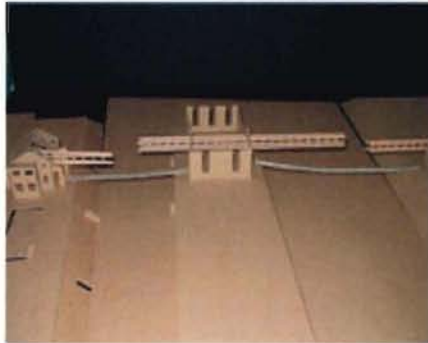
Design Development
Site Studies



Design Development
Site Studies



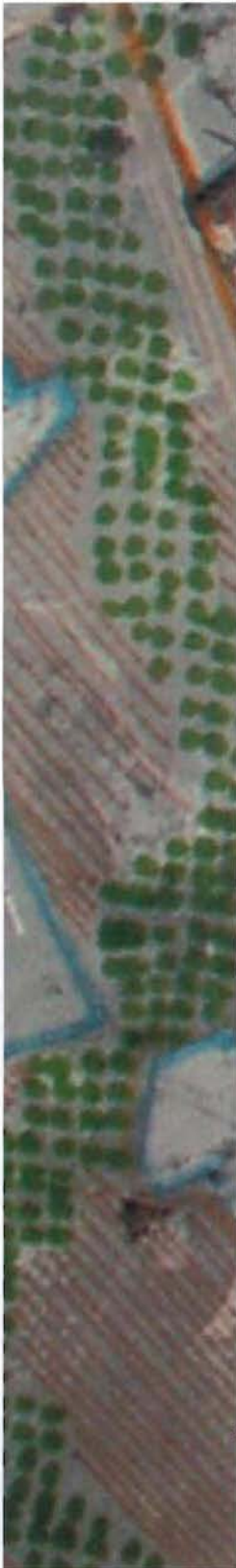
Design Development
Site Studies



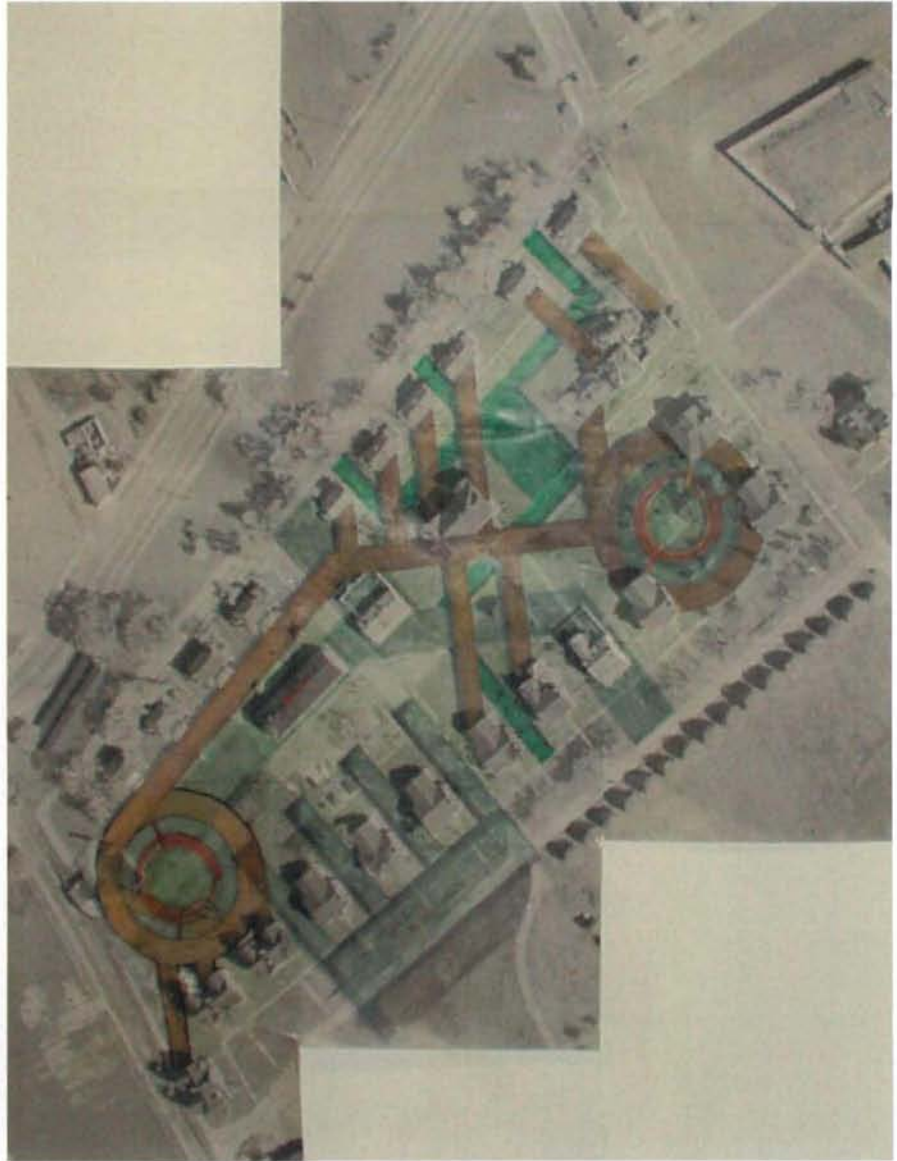
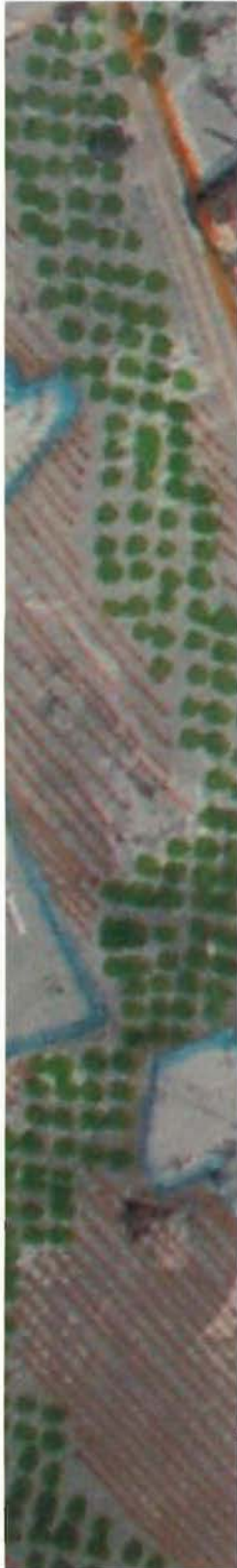
Spring Board Explorations
Site Studies



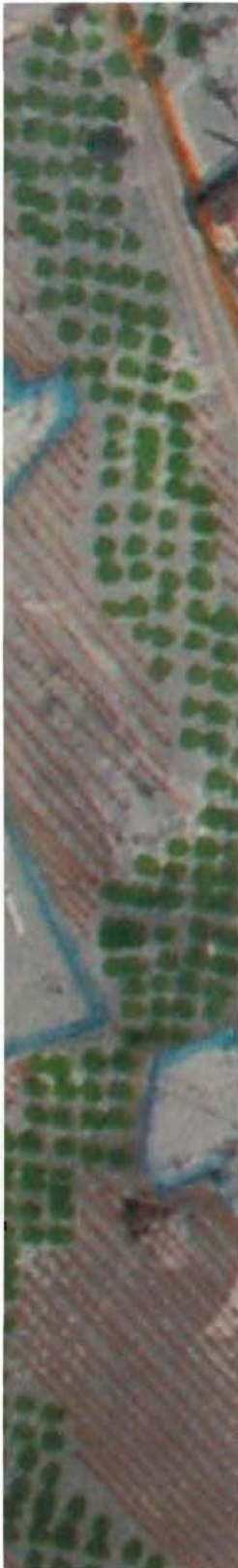
Design Development
Site Studies



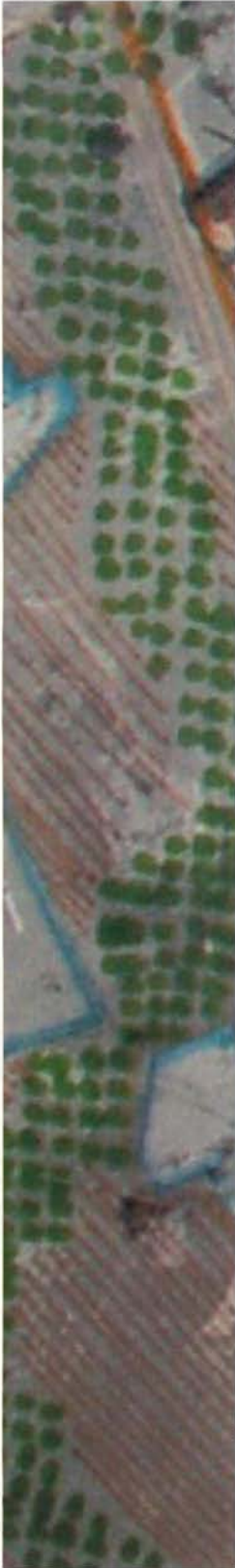
Design Development
Site Studies



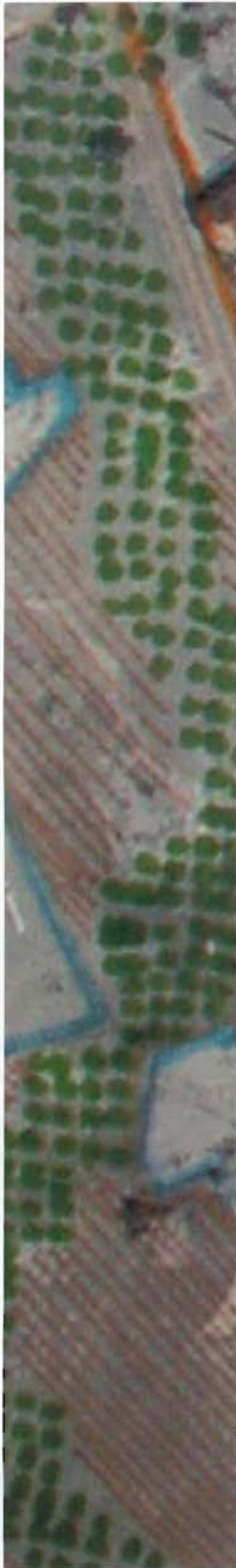
Design Development
Site Studies



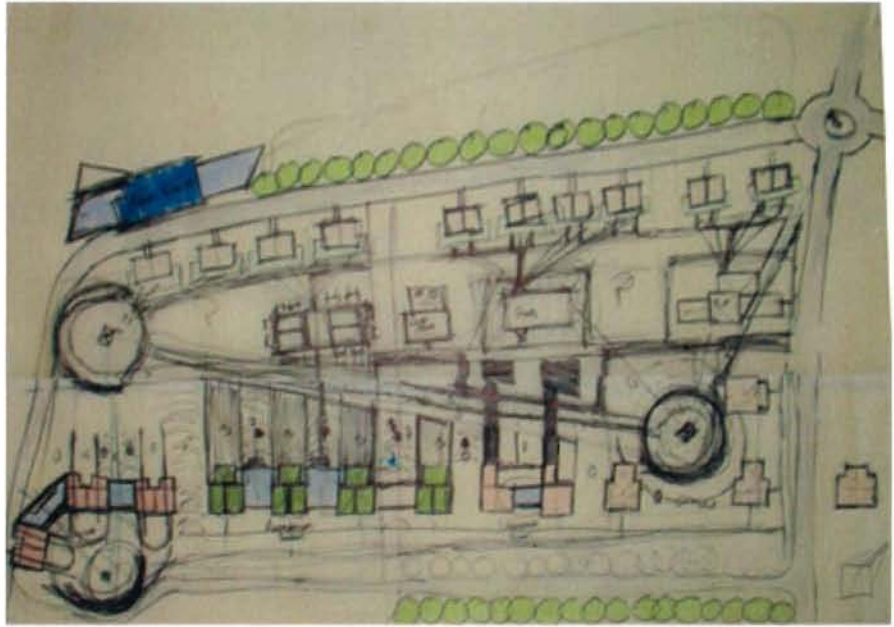
Design Development
Site Studies

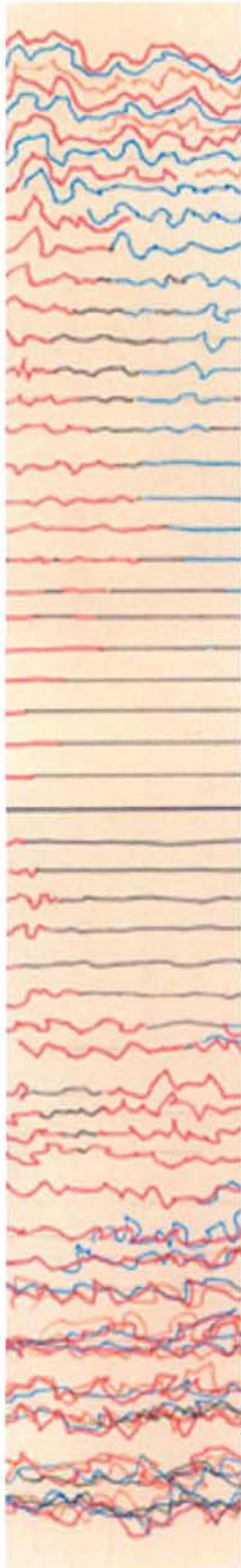


Design Development
Site Studies

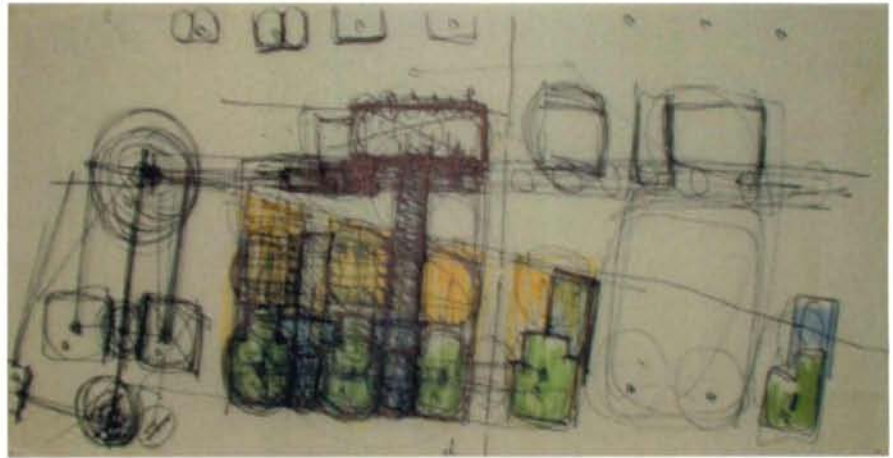


Design Development
Site Studies





Spring Board Explorations
Dirt Models
Relationship between earth and building studies



Final Project

Final Model



Final Model



Final Model



Final Drawings



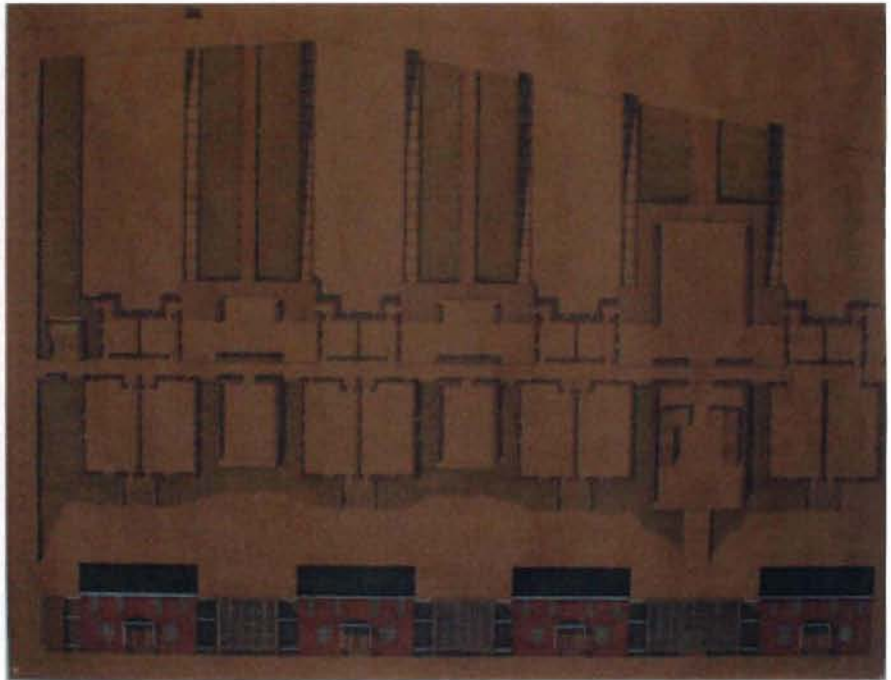
Spring Board Explorations
Dirt Models
Relationship between earth and building studies



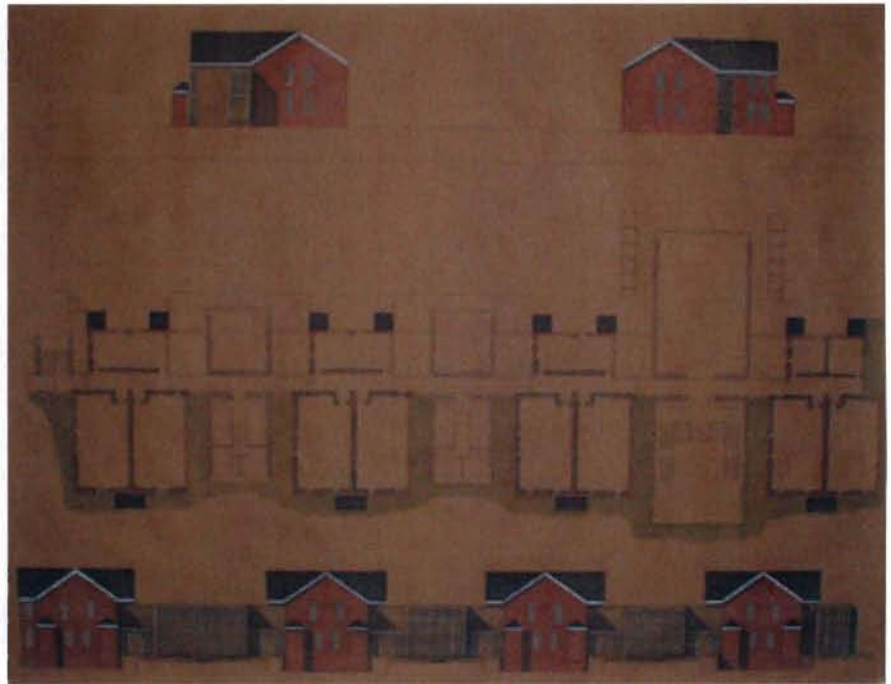
Final Drawings



Final Drawings



Final Drawings



Conclusion

They say that in the end, it is common to start thinking about the beginning, and in this project, I have found that to be particularly true. Looking back at the ideas that were introduced in the beginning of the year and seeing the end result leaves me feeling that the project didn't ever get there. Part of this feeling comes from the fact that the drawings were not rendered properly to give the right feel for the final project. The other part of this feeling comes from the fact that somewhere during the process, the ideas took a back seat to the act of designing the building.

The latter fact is far worse than the first. If the thesis concept should inform all parts of the process, then it is quite obvious where the project went awry. I got caught up in making a building and I forgot what was really supposed to be happening; that is, an in depth exploration of the thesis question. Perhaps I had presupposed ideas of what a building was supposed to be and I couldn't break away from that.

One of the biggest struggles I got caught up in was dealing with the history of the site. On one hand, I feel good about tackling the issues of Fort Wayne and approaching the project with the goal of restoring much of it. Now, looking back, I can see that what attracted me to Fort Wayne in the first place was its wildness. It was nature reclaiming what she lost and man losing what he could not maintain any longer. The answer was never to restore anything, it was to sharpen the edge between nature and man, and had I defined every single building on the site as nature, then I could have easily inserted a new building without feeling as if I had abandoned the fort.

Essentially, I got hung up on dealing with what would happen in the real world and forgetting that a proper exploration of the thesis should probably find solutions that would push the boundaries of 'acceptable'.

Now, as far as the drawings not properly showing my intentions, I can live with that, but it does leave a bad taste in my mouth. There should have been vines on the existing buildings,

and the 'lawn' should not have appeared to be a green manicured patch. However, this isn't something I'm going to worry too much about since these two lacking issues don't change the fact that the final project do not raise the same issues as the thesis does.

If the goal of a thesis project is to gain a complete understanding of the process involved in exploring a particular idea through rigorous exploration, then I feel that I achieved the goal. I can look back and identify where I went wrong and how I would change the process in the future.

End Notes

¹ Mary Catherine Bateson. 10/1/2001.
<http://members.nbci.com/Templarser/natural.html>

²“nature.” *Dictionary.com Unabridged (v 1.1)*. (Random House, Inc.) 29 Apr. 2007. <Dictionary.com <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/nature>>.

³ Jim Conway. Personal interview. 1 February 2007.

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