



Public Spaces as Destinations.

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Abstract:

Public realm has been a part of human society. It has been evolved through time. From the primitive stage of human society to the current stage, public realm has been changing much. During the past century, the public realm has been declined throughout many cities, countries. This thesis study is an investigation of the public realm and identity. Why the traditional public spaces are more successful than the new one? What are the elements and the trend of public realm characteristic? This would an intensive study with will help to understand more about the public realm.

Project Summary:

Since the beginning of civilization, public places have been the most important aspect of architecture and human society. People gather to create public places. Public places are the common grounds that people from all ages and cultures could come and enjoy the meaning of civilization.

Throughout the development of human society, public places become the identities of the societies. For example, Notre Dame cathedral of Paris or Time Square of New York, they are well known to the world. Public places have many functions such as entertainment , recreation, education, or monumental purposes...etc. but the general purpose of public places is to serve the people within the community.

The Goal for this project is to study public places and look for the potential common realms for the residents within a city. Public places are very complex because they are always the focal points or center of attention within a city. How are we identify the public place? Is it just simply an open space or could it be inside a structure? Is there a way to understand the complexity of public places? This study will be an investigation of these topics.

According to the book: " Life Between Buildings" of Jan Gehl, the main factor that effect a public place is the people. Without the people a place will not exist. It will become a desert between buildings. To make a place alive, it needs the people. In return, the people will also benefit from the physical environment. of the place. They will have opportunity to connect, to experience and to learn more about the world around them.

After define the main factor, a developer needs to figure out the other conditions. First is how to get people to the place? This is a common question that everyone will ask. Define the level of activities will be the next factor. A successful public place needs to be flexible with multiple activities for all the people. Third condition is location of the project. Do you want to put a public place in the middle of no where? or would you prefer a denser setting like city. Last condition is the annual events that are tradition to the community.

These are guiline of the project. Base on them, the project will expanse and the investigation will go deeper into many thing, like site analysis, programing, precedent study, but the main focus is to study the connect and what people really need from the public realm of society.

What is public place?

A public place is a place that accessible by everyone without any distinguish differences. A place where people could use to gather, to recreate, and to celebrate the community life. It is a place that you could come anytime you want without anyone to tell you to leave. It could be an open space or an interior of a structure (shelters, buildings...). There are also semi-public places where you have to pay to get in or follow certain restrictions.

It is a place that opens to everyone, but when you enter a public place, you also give up some of your private rights. Everyone will hear and see you. That means there are some social conducts that one must follow, like respect other.

Timeline: The Idea of Evolution.

Prehistorical people gathered around fire to create the first idea of public place.



Today, public places are needed, especially within urban context.



Until Roman empire, public place was more defined and had hierarchy.

Thesis Research Paper

Introduction: A Sense of Public

Since the beginning of civilization, humans gathered together and created the sense of community. The bond between people forms the unique relationship that called society, which separates human specie with the others. The fact of being among other people helps individual feels safer, and feels as a part of the community. From the first gathering, humans created a community, where individual will be a part of a larger picture. It makes individual feels the important of his or her within the community, society. Evolving through time, humans celebrate the ideal of this bond by create common places or public realm. Everyone could shares the spaces and interact with each other. These places help people to involve and also strengthen the bonds within the society. The concept of public space is an evolution through generations. It is not a new thing but rather a traditional concept. Many examples like Notre Dame of Paris or Central Park of New York. Public places may have many functions such as entertainment, relaxation, education, political, monumental, etc... In General, public spaces serve the body of a society or a community.

A public space is a place is a place accessible for everyone without any differences. It is a place that people could use to gather, to create, to celebrate the bond of society. It is a where you could come anytime and leave when you want. It is not necessary outdoor or indoor spaces. The true public space has more complex identity and depends on different cultures. This is a study of public space identity, the



Central Park, New York, designed by Olmsted.

need and the question of many architects, planners, urban designers, and the people who live in the cities.

II. Historical and Cultural Aspect of Public Spaces:

To identify the public realm, one needs to understand the history and culture of public spaces. America is a young country with a young history, but it is a nation built up on democracy. This land was colonials of many European countries. Through the influences of them, America has many quality of European culture. That includes the public spaces. Traditionally, public space is commonly defined as a place created and maintained by public authority, accessible to all citizens for their use and enjoyment. This definition does not tell anything about different functions, but there are a variety of functions to variety of public spaces.



Historically, American public spaces were based on European tradition, which is the urban squares that surrounding with public facilities or buildings or a fancy garden that maintain by the government body. These influences could be finding everywhere along the east coast of America such as in Boston, Philadelphia, or most important Washington D.C. Much has changed in America in the last century after many technology revolutions. The ideal public realm serves for some collective civic actions had decline tremendously. Looked back into the eighteen century, majority public spaces in America were controlled by the authorities or government. They were meant to serve the public institution rather than individuals. From market places to town square, these are

typical European setting of traditional public realm. They serve the main civic function. People were present in them to perform some public service or play some public role, such as political speeches, gathers, informal encounters, or public meeting.

During the nineteenth century, the ideal of traditional public space from Europe had changed. The town squares were not the same function as before. The market places were just a place to show passive public activity. The middle class was created during this age and quickly dominated American culture. Many middle class families felt the attraction of the suburbs or of the independent homestead. They moved off the city and created a new sense of privacy. The public spaces were only served as an old existing space and represent the old generations. The new wave of immigrations came during this era. Many newcomers came to the center of city, which were dominated by the poor. The struggling of classes in America created a larger problem for public space. Segregation became visible within this space. The newcomers turn away from these places because they felt left out, while the established middle class families continue the ideal of American dream to move off city (1).



Mt. Auburn Cemetery.

To adapt with the changes, public spaces in America transformed into open spaces in nineteenth century. The story of the development of the so-called rural cemetery in America is familiar to anyone who knows about urban history. It began in 1831 with the designing of Mt. Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, as a picturesque landscape of



Mt. Auburn Cemetery.

wooded hills, winding roads with paths, and rustic compositions of lawn and stream with pleasant views over the Charles, all in the style of the landscaped gardens fashionable in England at that time. This new type of cemetery immediately became a popular goal of excursions from the city. To quote Norman Newton's account, Mt. Auburn "soon became very popular as a quiet place in which to escape the bustle and clangor of the city-for strolling, for solitude, and even for family picnics. Following its success other cemeteries of the same type began to spring up." (1)

The paragraph above shows a new trend within American idea of public space. People seek solitude, private spaces and immerse with nature. The quickly growth cities put too much pressure to American people. Everyone demands for new type of public space, which is closer to nature but also celebrate the unique culture of America. Flocks of people went to outer edges of city to hang out or simply enjoy the quiet moment must need from the crazy life of city. This trend became more visible through the work of Frederick Law Olmstead, who created Central park in New York and many prospect parks across the East and Midwest regions of America. His intension was to create a public space for the people of the cities, a space that is closer to nature and completely contradict with traditional public spaces in Europe.

Ironically, not only America faces this decline problem of public realm. Within the past 50 years, many European countries were losing public identity. Great Britain, for example, used to be acclaimed for leading the world in civilized urban living-in trans-

port, housing, health and culture. It had a very rich public domain. Yet we are now witnessing a serious decline of this rich domain. At the same time that the public realm has declined there has been a corresponding flourishing of the private realm-with an emphasis on privacy, retreat, personal comfort, private consumption and security.

Although there are many changes that have affected the public realm identity. There are still traditional existing European public spaces. These traditional towns and cities are the most attractive in Europe. They represent a sense of public order and connection to the old path of human society. They are work better because they have certain essential qualities, like recognizable patterns and complexity within order. Sometimes it is because they are smaller and therefore easier to take in and become familiar with. The public spaces are also the most dominant features of these towns and cities. They are the center of activities and cultures. These are the identity of one town, one city to another.

They are more attractive to people because they tend to be those in which a contextualist approach has prevailed, which means the process of examining the town or city as a whole and relating changes or new development to it in a sensitive and careful manner. The traditional towns and buildings are better because they have a richness, intricacy and user-friendly quality that have evolved from years, even centuries, of adaptation. Towns and cities are more than just collections of buildings crisscrossed by roads and augmented by the occasional park. They



Spanish Steps, Rome.



A Square in London.



Busy street in Copenhagen.

are essentially for and about people. It is not an accident that ancient cities were built around a major open spaces or public realm. Nor is it an accident that the tradition survived in the form of the square, “place”, plaza or piazza, usually dominated by a church or the town hall, in many more recent towns and cities. Most important is they were created for pedestrian scale and not for automobile. (2)

Four-fifths of Europeans live in towns and cities. Car ownership is rising. Places are losing their individuality. It is all too easy for a city to destroy its heritage and lose what is unique to it, in favor of a car-oriented, tower-block dominated place that can be seen anywhere in the world. Urban areas are sprawling and land uses are separated in a manner that makes the provision of transport facilities difficult and expensive. This is a serious issue that everyone needs to pay attention before it is too late.

II. The profession of design and public identity:

Although, it is easy to say this is a public place. That does not make a place or space belong to the public. The concept of public space is a mystical thing that is generalized by the people. The definition of public space could be totally different from one culture to another, because every place has its own identity or rather things to associate with the place. For example, if you are living in Detroit and someone asks you about the Masonic Temple, then you will immediately thinking about the Cass corridor and Woodward Avenue. This is like a live painting of the place when someone shares a special experience or

identity with it.

Within the design profession, public space is the most difficult concept to design. The space serves the public and everyone within the community could be a potential client of the project. To satisfy the quantifiable aspect of the project, the designer works to make sure that spaces relate properly to each other or that people can easily find their way through an urban square or a public site. There are many considerations that the designer has to make to meet the needs of all the clients, which is the public body in this case.

According to James S. Russell, a piece of public art does not become meaningful if it is only decorative. The “art” of design is the synthesis of aesthetic and functional issues-of beauty and meaning (). Many architects, designers try to achieve the ideal places that fulfill both aesthetic and meaning. Before anyone could achieve this ideal concept, they should have known the true clients of the projects that they work for. A designer may propose a solution that makes some people uncomfortable because it strays far from their own aesthetic sensibilities or does not seem to fit into the community. This is a pitfall to many public spaces. They do not have the sense of the community or identity of the place. The only things they have are the mindset of the designers without multiple considerations to the public. Public spaces must find a means to express the idea of people coming together. That is the ultimate goal for any designer (3)

A public space is more complex than just a

word: public. It is involving both socially and morally according to Richard Sennett. A city is not just a place to live, to shop, to go out and to have kids play. It is a bigger version of public space. It is the grandest example of a diverse public space. It implicates that way in which people desire their ethics, how one develops a sense of justice, and, most of all, how they talk with and learn from people who are unlike themselves-which is how a human being becomes human. This is an ultimate debate battle for the real definition of public. Richard Sennett defines public as a moral and social term (). Based on the meaning of the word “public” from the ancient Greek, he stated that it not only describes putting people together, but the term literally means to bring people with different desires into one place that they all agree to share something in common, and to be with other individuals.

The meaning of the word public space has been the topic of debate throughout the past and now. Today, many people think of it as a place to hang out. For example, teenagers think the mall is a public space, but it is actually a privatization public space more. Why is it debatable? Because the new generations are living in many places that do not have the sense of formal public spaces. Many places in America either have no real identity or completely placeless. People do not question why the place is created or what purpose it is for. What type of uses and what is the benefit to the public?

According to Margaret Kohn, the author of the book “Brave New Neighborhoods, the privatiza-

tion of public space”, there are three main points that show the complexity of public spaces. The first point is political activity, which means the space could serve as a rally point for political party. It could be use as a place to practice free speech, one of the freedoms promotes in the constitution of America. It could serve as a site of political debate and informal encounter between the people. The disappearing of public space makes political communication between groups more difficult. It is hard to say that public spaces are dying out because of the privatization of spaces within the city.

Many corporations of private owners control a large portion of public spaces. For example, New York City gives permissions for skyscraper developers in exchange for public plaza. Many great public spaces were created because of this action. The Seagram plaza of Mies van der Rohe is one of the most successful spaces. Everyday many people use the space to gather. People sit on the steps or by the fountain. The place is full of life from the city. A diverse group of people from many different backgrounds meet and interact with each other or just simply being with other humans. This is a space that serves the public and promotes the idea of free speech. People could discuss many different issues without interference from others. This is the place to see and being seen between person and person ().

The second point that she mentions was segregation within the privatization spaces. This is a reality of many spaces within the city. There are many limitations to enter the space, which is name as



Seagram building plaza, New York.

a public space but actually operates by a private entity. She also challenge the notion that public spaces are actually own by government body, which also be treated as a private own space. The government is actually the private owner of many public spaces. They do what the power holders think important to them and sometime completely ignore the powerless citizens. Many political figures created spaces that are only important to them or to their party. Hitler is an example to this concept. He visualized a whole city that fit his point of view. He created many monuments that serve his political party but not truly embrace the public. There are many government buildings or agencies that named as public buildings but have limit access to the people, the military base, the state offices...

Public space is made up more than just parks, plazas, and sidewalks; it is a shared world where individual can identify with one another and see themselves through the eyes of other's eyes. It maybe a first step towards recognizing one's own privilege and, perhaps, critiquing structures of systematic privilege and deprivation. The third point is very critical. It is the last stand to identify between a public and private owned. This is a very complex issue. The concept of private owned derived around the seventeenth and eighteen centuries. England agriculture and local lords divided the lands into the hands of people and fenced off the common lands for their personal enrichment. This created a whole new concept throughout the society. People tended to see the common ground for public serves such as razing the cattle.

Today, the issue is harder to recognize which is public or private.

Privately owned public spaces are not obliged to allow many practices such as religious activities or political speeches. This is a connection to the previous point above that decreasing the meaning of public spaces. As more of people lives are lived in privately owned places, the opportunity for certain types of political expression decreases.

There are many criteria to make a place truly public. But to identify a public space does not mean that the space needs to meet every single criterion. The notion that public spaces are owned by the people once again resurfaces within this investigation. The public body is so large that to fulfill one's desire does not mean to mean the need of other. A public space should rather meet a general basic need of the public.

Today, the private and public realms are becoming increasing intertwined. People could go to a coffee house or bookstores and still be able to find many characteristic of public space. The mall is a larger image of a privatization public space. Old people come to the mall to spend time walking, strolling or chatting with others. Teenagers make the mall become the place to hang out. They touch a new dimension of public space. The spaces in the mall are all privately own by stores, but they all agree to give up some privacy privilege for the larger public body. People go there not just for shopping but also for the pleasure of being seen and see by acquaintances and strangers.

The debate about whether to define social



Coffee houses are example of the semi-public space.

spaces as public or private is not merely an academic question. There are legal consequences and a higher level of complexity than the traditional definition of public spaces. To really classify a general public space, a place must have these characteristics. It does not matter who is the owner of the space, as long as they want to serve the public. It must be accessible to everyone, although there are always regulations in some way. That is also true to many government owned public spaces. The place also needs to have flexibility. This means it must have multiple functions to serve multiple needs of the people.

Ultimately, public spaces are the place where people could see familiar faces or interact with complete strangers. This is where people of the city come together as one body. It is a place to celebrate the ideal of being with others. Public space can be attractive, vital, fun. They are desirable places that most people cannot afford to provide for themselves or places that they prefer to share with others. Even Margaret said that she met most of her friends at public spaces during her first year living in Toronto. She met interesting people that are different to her in public places such as neighborhood parks, community centers, or dropped in centers....They are different people with different background but share the same ideal and appreciation for the place still call public.

IV. Conclusion: The Revolution of Public Space.

In conclusion of this investigation, there are many things to draw out from the study of public spaces. They are like living organisms that evolve through time. Many generations affected the identity



People gather in Toronto, Canada.

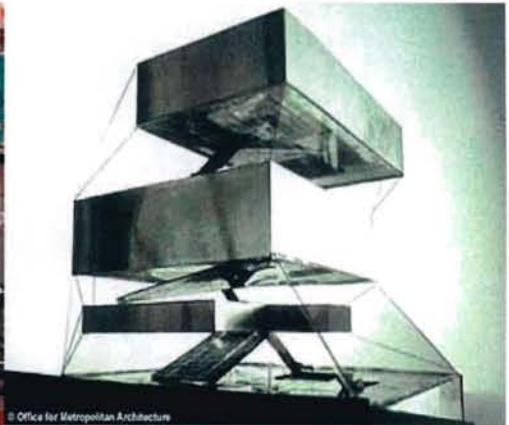
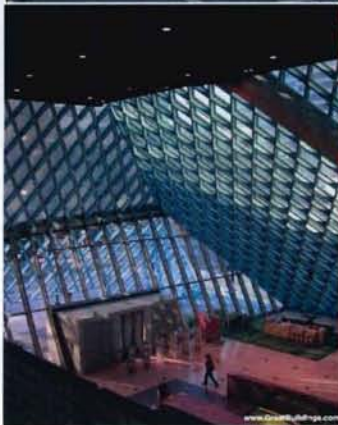
of public space. It is a continuous process as long as human still exist. Within the modern world, the functions of public spaces are changing dramatic. They become more passive rather than active. They are not use as a place to gather for a big group, but rather become a passive node before people move to the next destination. Many public spaces became destinations themselves. Public space enters into the new age, which is dominated with technology. The internet serves people as information center. People do not have to go outside to learn about other thing. They spend a lot of time with the computers or television. The excessive usage of cell phones also replaces the function of gathering to meet friends or other people of public spaces. The identity of public space once more time evolves to adapt with the new culture. The age of universal culture has begun since the whole world connects with each other through technology. This new culture spreads to everywhere quickly. At the same time, it demolished the local culture slowly.

Throughout the investigation, public space constantly adjusts itself. Today, public space is like the transitional space between the destinations. They serve with a small function and define as the spaces in between, from exterior to interior. They are the connections within the public realm of the society.

Precedent Study Research

Precedent Study:

Seattle Public Library Architect: Rem Koolhaas.



General Information:

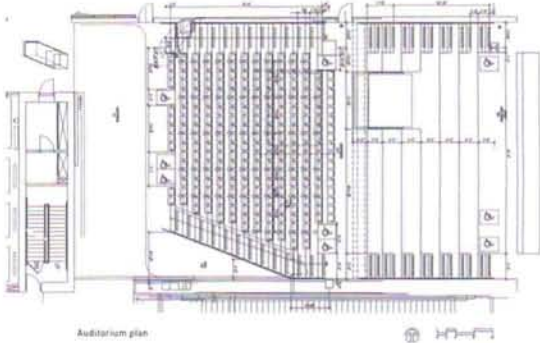
- Total area: 362, 987 sf.
- Purpose: to replace the central library with overloaded books.
- Location: Downtown Seattle.
- With multi-functions, this new library will be represent the new icon view for public uses.
- Rem Koolhaas applies natural light design by using the glass exterior.
- Big lobby floor could serves as gathering space for the public. people could use it as a relax partial open space within an urban setting or use it as temporarily shelter from the weather.

Precedent Study:

Seattle Public Library
Architect: Rem Koolhaas.

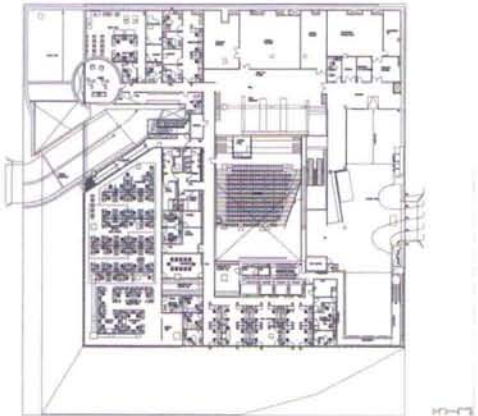


Parking



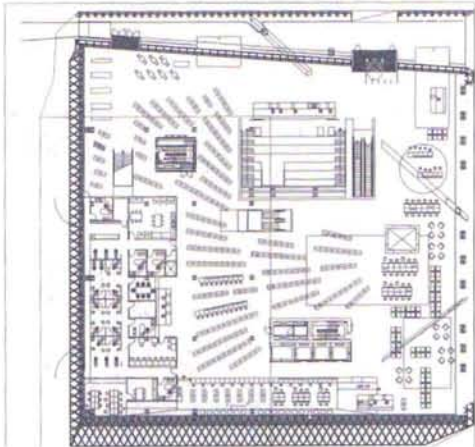
Auditorium plan

Auditorium Plan

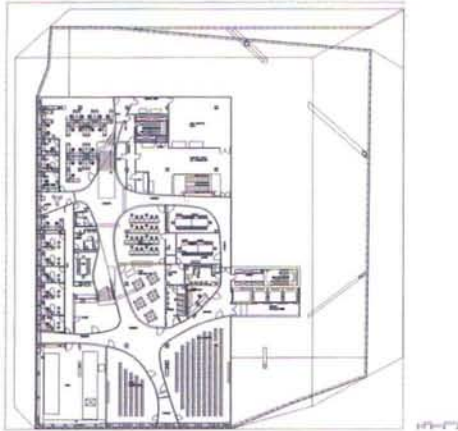


Staff level plan

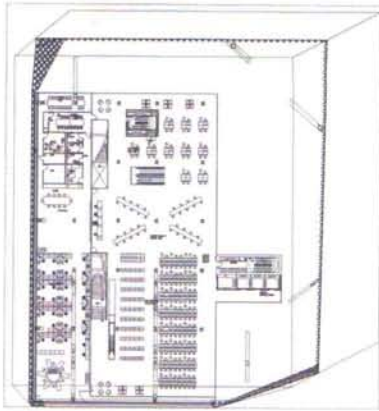
Staff Level



Living Level



Meeting Level

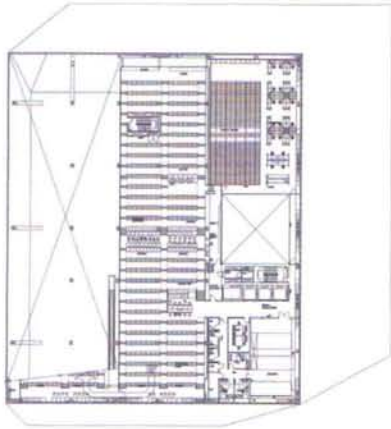


Mixing Chamber plan

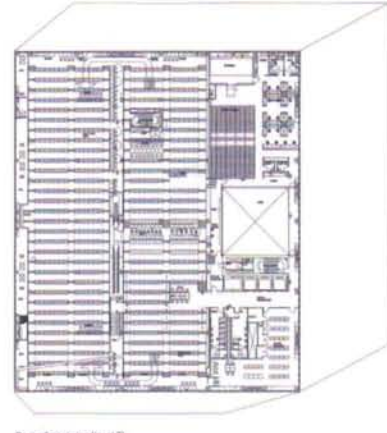
Mixing Level

Precedent Study:

Seattle Public Library
Architect: Rem Koolhaas.

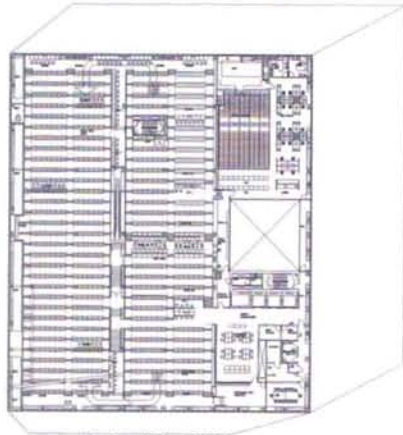


Spiral book 6

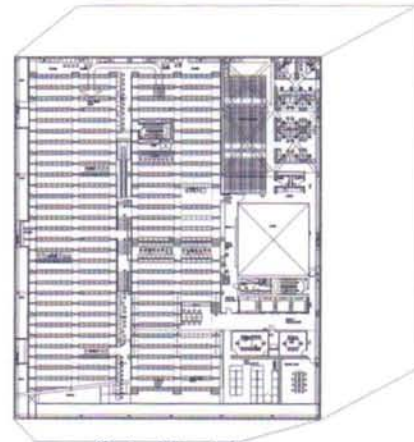


Books Spiral plan level 71

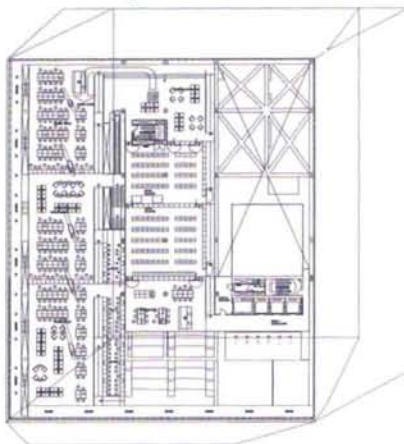
Spiral book 7



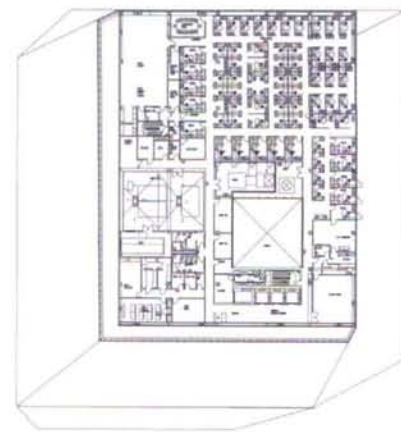
Spiral book 8



Spiral book 9



Reading Level



Headquarter

Precedent Study:

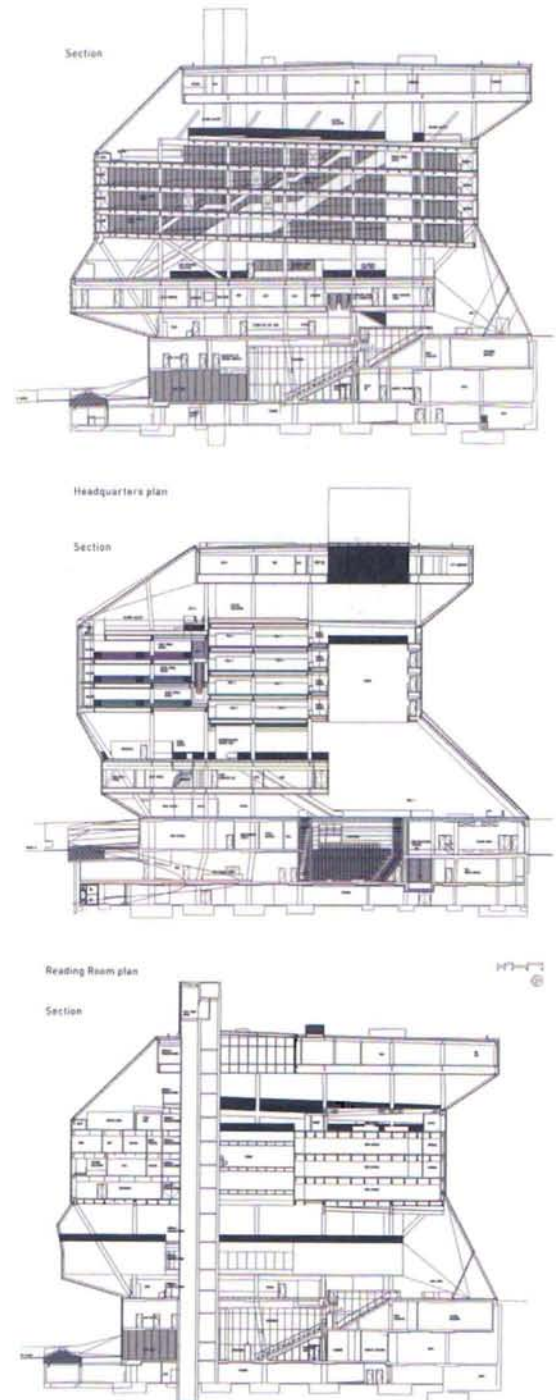
Seattle Public Library

Architect: Rem Koolhaas.

Significant:

Seattle public library is a new addition of public space in Seattle. Seattle wants to become a world class city. This is a new move of Seattle to create an icon of a new public place.

It is relevant to my thesis because it deals with the public in an urban setting. A new look and the idea of public place needs to be stand out from the surrounding.



Precedent Study:

Seattle Public Library Architect: Rem Koolhaas.



Strength:

- Good view to the city
- This is a new step for a new library of the 21st century
- Create connection to the outside through the glass exterior
- Using natural light to create an attractive place in the urban setting.
- Tall open atrium creates open space within the building and the city

Weaknesses:

- A little confuse to get around because too many levels and changes
- Many criticisms against the look of the building because it does not have the traditional elements of a library

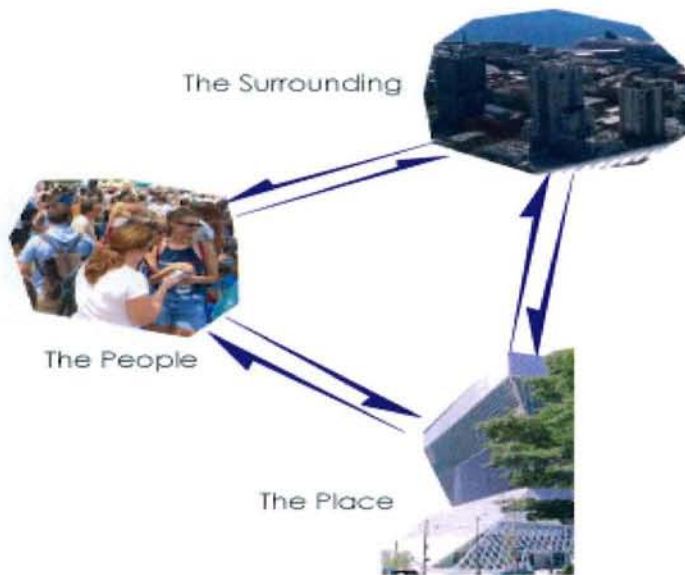
Precedent Study:

Seattle Public Library Architect: Rem Koolhaas.



It is important to a public place to have good views. Either from the surrounding or from the inside out.

The reading room locates on the top has good views of the world outside through the glasses.



A good public place needs to have a strong relationship between people, the place and its surrounding.

Precedent Study:

Singapore National Library

Architect: T.R Hamzah and Yeang



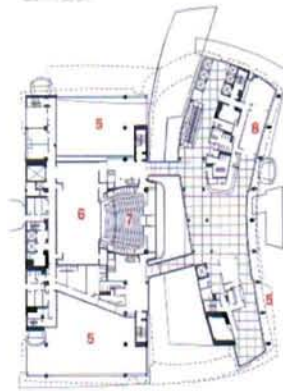
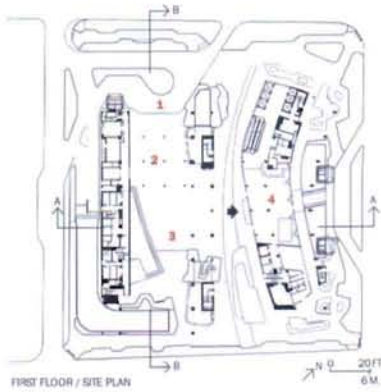
General Information:

- Total area: 630,000 sf. 16 stories high
- Purpose: As Singapore changing from industrial base to one driven by information technologies and services, the government wants to create a new iconic institutional building.
- Location: Singapore
- This is a green design with many green spaces inside and outside.
- The "pod" on top of the building offers views and spaces for special events. This building is housing not just books. It is a center of events for the community.



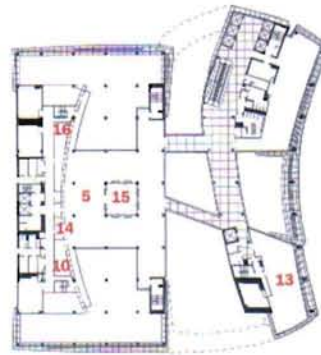
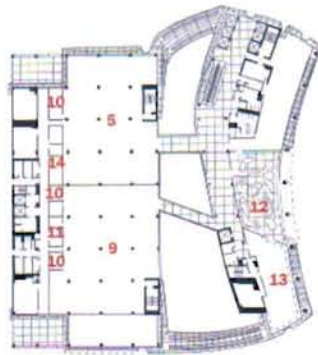
Precedent Study:

Singapore National Library Architect: T.R Hamzah and Yeang

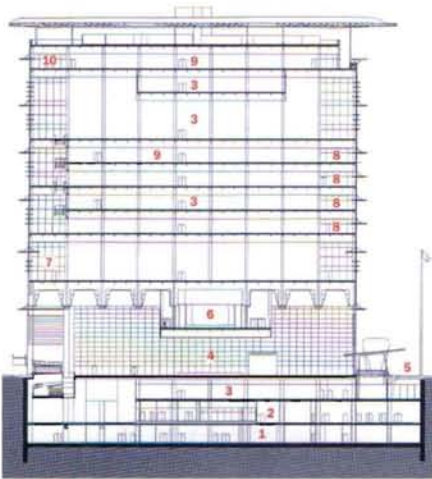


Index:

1. Drop-off
2. Covered plaza
3. Outdoor dining
4. Information
5. Library collections
6. Drama center
7. Theater
8. Training
9. Offices
10. Meeting
11. Prayer
12. Skycourt
13. Exhibition
14. Staff
15. Rare books
16. Storage



PLAN 2/F



10N-B



Index:

1. Parking
2. Loading
3. Library collections
4. Covered plaza
5. Main drop-off
6. Theater
7. Theater administration
8. Reading
9. Library offices
10. Terrace
11. Skycourt
12. Periodicals

Precedent Study:

Singapore National Library Architect: T.R Hamzah and Yeang



Significant:

With the new concept of green design becomes more popular, the national library of Singapore is a new frontier for public application. It creates a new environment for users with much better psychological well being.

This is an example of a public institution could use as an attractive icon. This is also a way to show the public about the concept of green design.



Precedent Study:

Singapore National Library Architect: T.R Hamzah and Yeang



Strength:

- Natural light creates with the use of lite shelves
- Intergrated of green spaces to an urban setting
- The green spaces within the building also help to purify the air and attracted people.
- It also has multiple functions
- Good ventilation control
- View to the whole Singapore, part of Malaysia and Indonesia

Weakness:

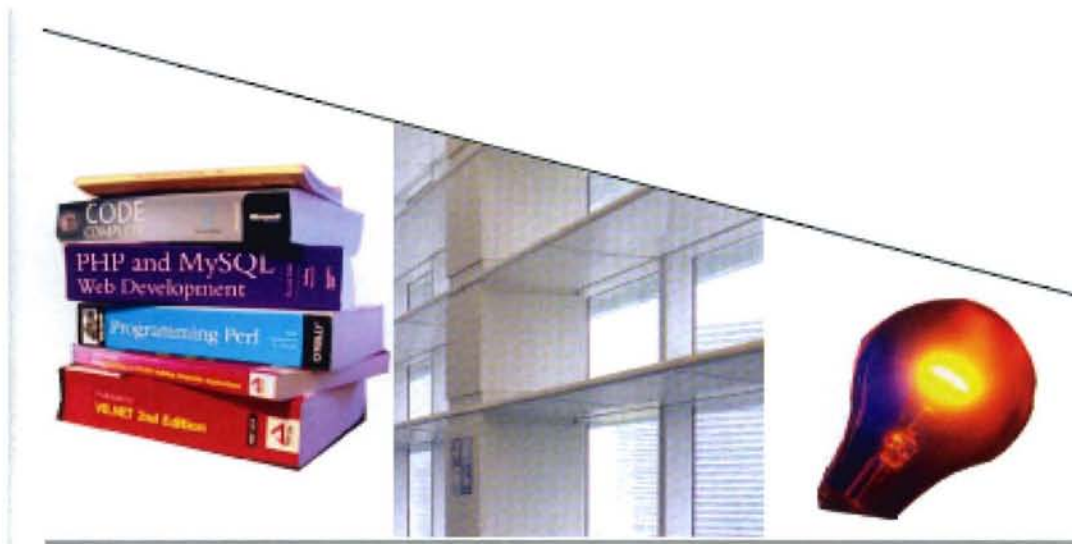
- Costly construction

Precedent Study:

Singapore National Library Architect: T.R Hamzah and Yeang



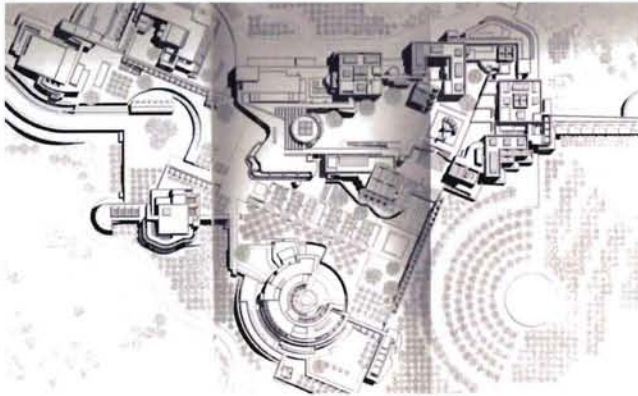
The idea of create open green spaces within a public building is very significant. Bring in the element of nature will help the perception of people about the place. It makes everyone more happier.



With the use of lite shelves, Yeang helps to minimize the use of electricity. Plus, the source of natural light also help to enhance reading activity.

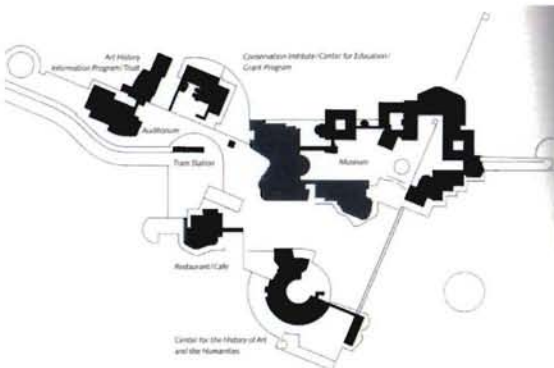
Program Precedent Study:

The Getty Center, Los Angeles Architect: Richard Meier & Partners



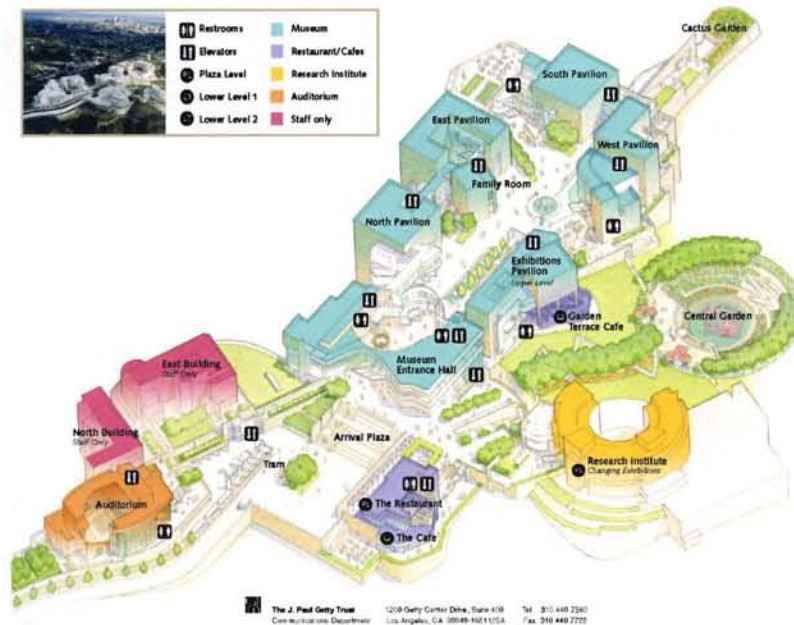
This is a great precedent study for the thesis. This complex has a very similar program with my thesis. It has multiple functions, such as exhibitions (Museum), restaurants, auditorium, etc...

Beside, the complex also create a center public space. Richard Meier breakdowns the scale of the complex into multiple little parts, which creates a nice enclosure for the public realm. With many natural elements like water and green spaces, this complex blended well into the site. It is locate on top of a hilly area outside of Los Angeles, and overlook down to the city.



Program Precedent Study:

The Getty Center, Los Angeles Architect: Richard Meier & Partners

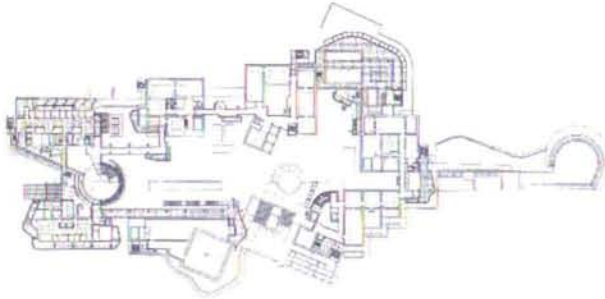


Program Spaces: Museum only

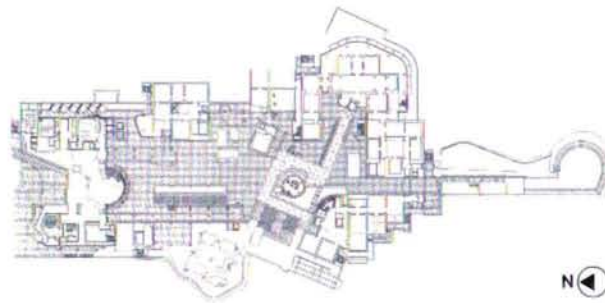
- Total: 360,000 sq. ft
- Exhibition Spaces: 155,000 sq. ft
 - There are total 5 exhibition spaces (North, South, East, West and Exhibition Pavilion)
- Main Entrance at Museum: 31,000 sq. ft
 - Administration: 7,000 sq. ft
 - Toilets: 1,000 sq. ft
 - Storage: 1,000 sq. ft
 - Main Lobby: 9,000 sq. ft
 - Auditorium: 4,000 sq. ft
 - Circulation: 9,000 sq. ft
- Outdoor Spaces (Museum area only): 96,000 sq. ft
 - Circulation: 54,000 sq. ft
 - Fountains, Green Spaces: 38,000 sq. ft
- Lower level (Administration, Mechanical, Storage, ect...): 48,000 sq. ft
- Other Spaces: 30,000 sq. f

Program Precedent Study:

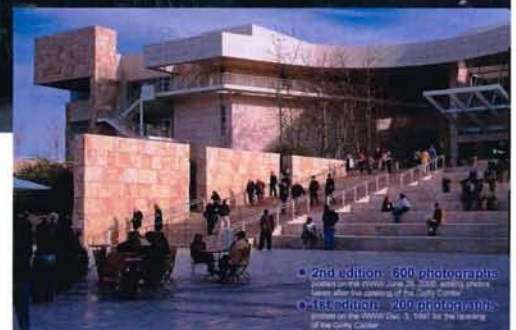
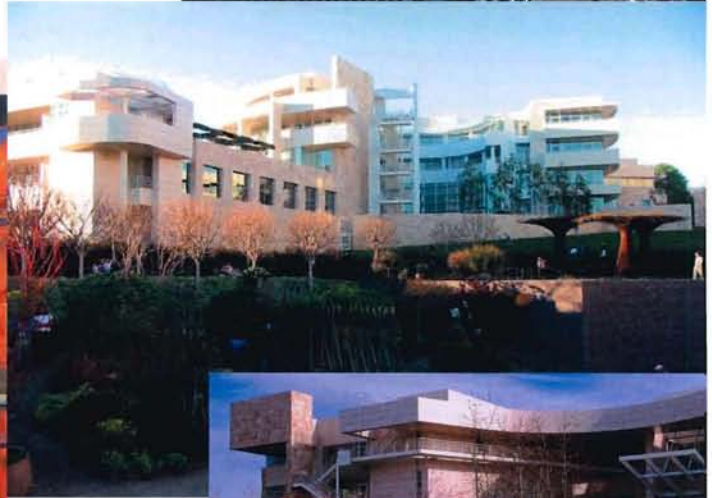
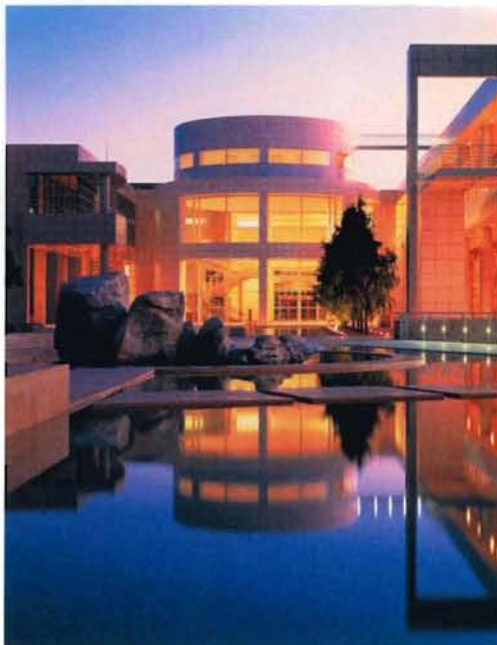
The Getty Center, Los Angeles Architect: Richard Meier & Partners



Upper Level Museum

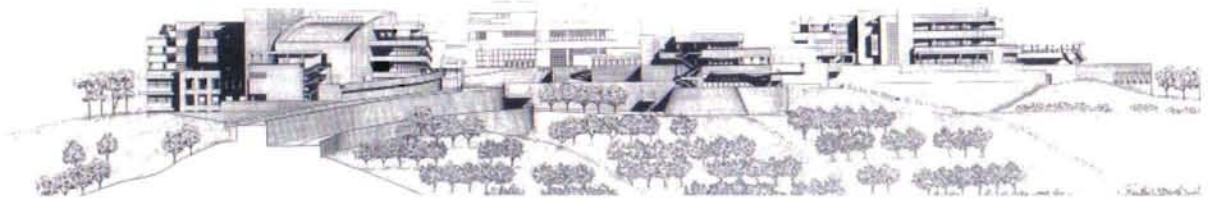


Lower Level Museum



Program Precedent Study:

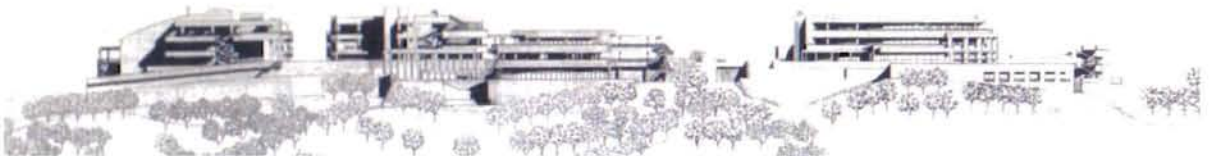
The Getty Center, Los Angeles
Architect: Richard Meier & Partners



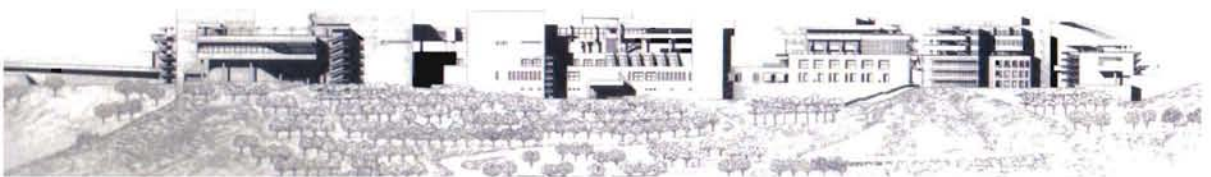
North Elevation



South Elevation



East Elevation



West Elevation

Independent Research

Study: Psychological Effect

Lifes Between Buildings Jan Gehl.

Attraction within a public place is very important. It is the element that draws people together. Within a society, social life is very important. It will strengthen the bond between the people. Without it, the people will be alienated. No one will talk to another.



- According to Jan, Activities are the main attraction to any public place.



- People also love to see other people in actions. Such as a painter does work or a musician plays music.

People gather to create the sense of public. It is the public spaces that people within a society connected with each other. The psychological effect has a big impact on how human perceive things. Human perceives the essence of spaces through senses, visual, texture, smell, ... Public space is a great place to experience all the senses of human. Through the use of it, human feels more comfortable being with other people around.

Study: What are the Needs?

Civic Realism Peter G. Rowe

According to Peter Rowe, Human needs could be classified into three categories. They are “Necessary, Optional, and Social needs”.



- Necessary: things that you do daily, such as working or schooling.



- Optional: Thing that people do for pleasure such as walking.



- Social: The need to be with other people.

Site Analysis

Site Criteria:

This is the next step of a project. After identify the circumstance, an architect needs to make a site selection. the Site Criteria is a process to narrow down the choices.

Consideration:



- 1) Location: It is in urban setting or rural. Are there any natural elements? Are there local attractions?



AMTRAK'S ACELA has been sidetracked with mechanical woes, but if run right, high-speed regional rail is the answer

- 2) Accessibility: How people will get in and out of the site? Any public transportation near by?

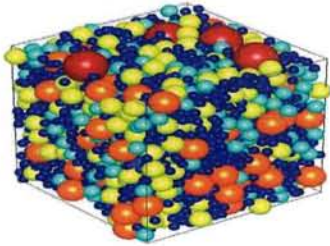


- 3) Connectivity: How the site connects to the surrounding? This is important because a public place is always the center of attention.



- 4) Visibility: Are the site visible to others? Can you see other places from the site? this is critical because it will help to attract more public users.

Site Criteria:



5) Density: Is the site surrounding with activities? or city fabric? This is a supportive element for the design. The denser the better for a public place.



6) Activity: What type of activities would it be? This will effect the size and other element of the site. Public place addresses the 3 basic needs of human defined by Peter Rowe.



7) History: What is the background of the site? Any existing structures? Any new development around?

Site Selection: Holland, Michigan.



Located in west Michigan, Holland is a small city. With the population of 34,000, Holland is a quiet town. The downtown area is very typical European setting with continuous infill buildings. The whole downtown is focus more on pedestrian scale. The street fabric is no more than 4 stories.

During the weekends, downtown Holland is full of people. With multiple stores, people come to downtown for a nice home made meals or some traditional ice creams. The campus of Hope college also located within the walking distance to Downtown Holland. Many college students strolling along the main street. This is one of a pontential site for my thesis project.



Hope College campus.

Site Selection: Cass Park, Detroit.



Second potential site is Cass Park, Detroit. It is located in the Cass Corridor of Detroit. Isolated by the freeway, the area is run down park of town. Around the park, there are still great buildings around. The Masonic Temple is an icon of this area.

The park is quite problematic with drugs dealers, but i think it is a great opportunity to improve the park and the area with a great project. The new Cass Tech high school is the latest edition into the area.



The park only 5 minutes away from downtown Detroit. The site is accessible from Woodward ave. and also Cass street. The lack of occupants is the biggest issue to this site.



Site Selection: Detroit Riverfront.



Last but not least on the site selection process, is the Detroit riverfront. It is located east of the Renaissance center. Through the pass 10 years, Detroit has been in a slow transition. There are many new developments around the downtown area.

With the advantages of the river and the view. This site is a suitable site for my thesis project. The area. The long riverfront only occupies by a lot of parking structures and surface parking lots. The site is visible from the other side of Windsor, Canada. There are also new public development along the river. The Detroit Conservancy has create a new riverwalk which will connect the whole riverfront together.

This is a great site for my investigation. The site is more suitable compare with the other two.



A view from Windsor, Canada.

Final Site: Detroit Eastside Riverfront



- Location: Detroit Riverfront.
- The site is surrounded with multiple developments along the river.
- The site is right next to the Renaissance center.
- It is a great site for the investigation because of the location and the view to downtown Windsor on the other side of Detroit river.
- The new proposal would be a new destinations along the riverfront of Detroit.



Panorama view from the site to the riverfront



Panorama view of the site from outside in



Panorama view of the site from outside in

Final Site: Detroit Eastside Riverfront

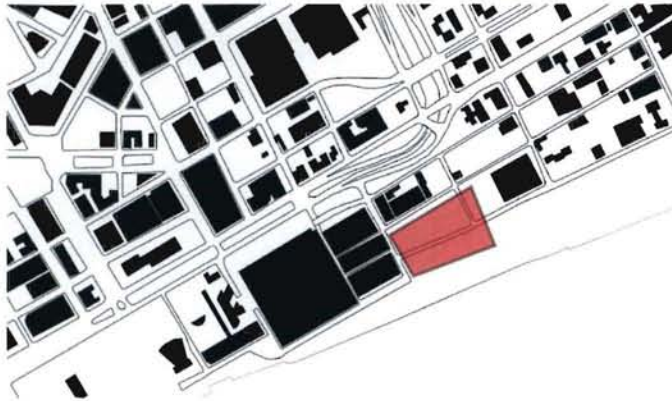


Figure Ground Study



Summer



Traffic Map of the area.



Winter

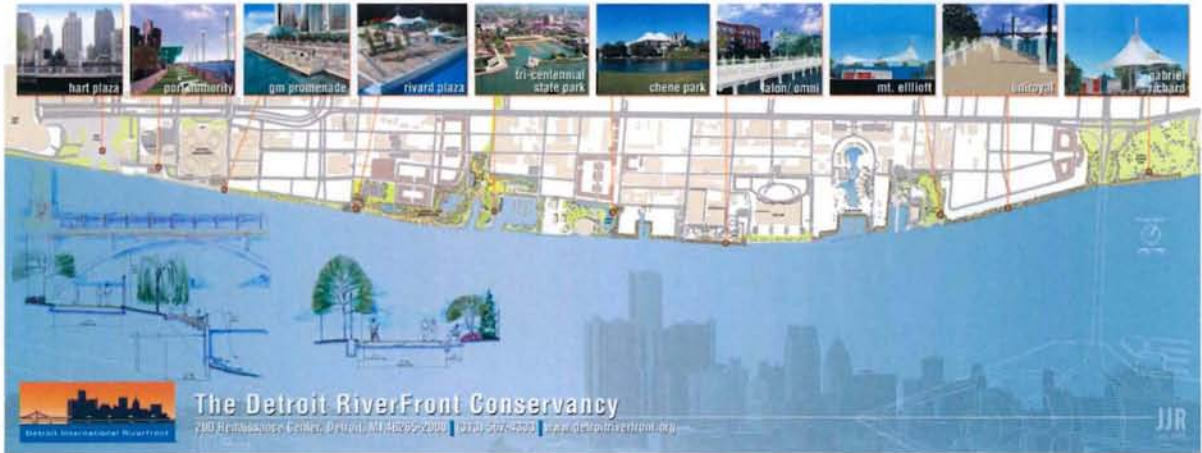
Windcharts Study: Mostly from Southwest up.



Existing Site Traffic Analysis:

- : Busiest
- : High
- : Medium
- : Low

Final Site: Detroit Eastside Riverfront



The Detroit riverwalk is a new creation of The Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. This is an effort of the city to reclaim the river. This is a new system of parks along with the riverwalk to reconnect everything along the Detroit river. This development is the first phase of the riverfront development within the next 10 years.



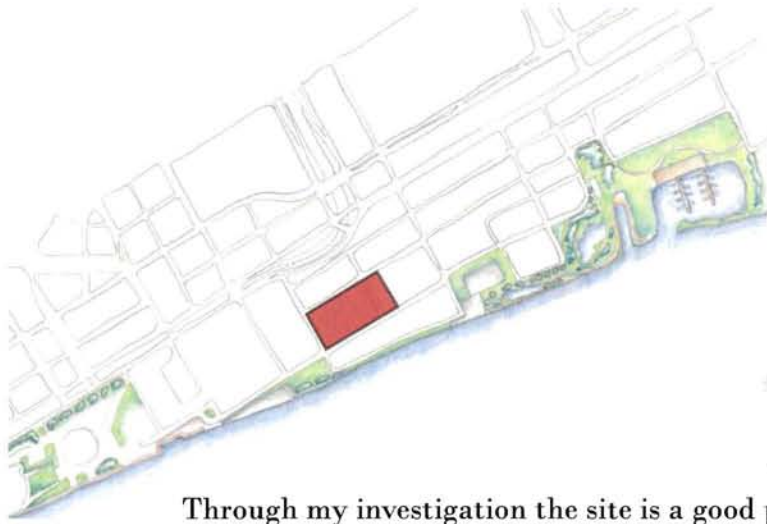
The Riverfront also belongs to the GM corporation. They also propose many developments. Majority of the proposal is for residential development.

These are the hatching areas of the site plan to the left. The white areas as right now are still under development phase.

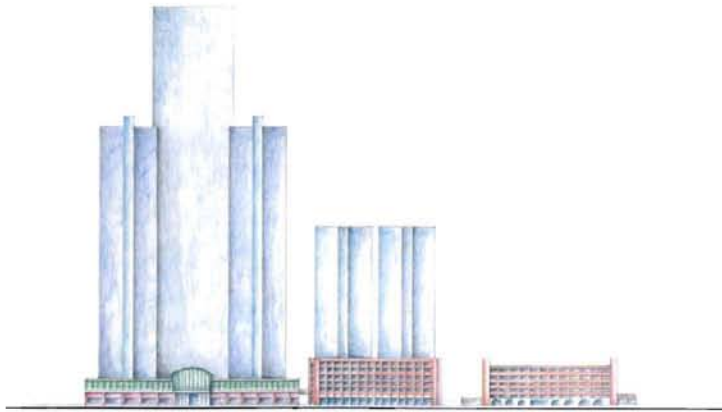
GM also wants to create a new gateway into the riverfront with the new proposal of a boulevard.

My site proposal is the red transparency part of the siteplan.

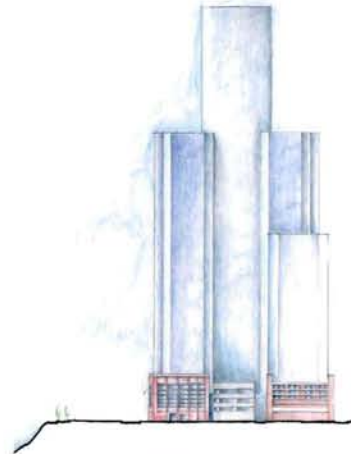
Final Site: Detroit Eastside Riverfront



Through my investigation the site is a good place to continue. This will be part of the destination to the riverfront, which will be open to the general public. This will create a new dimension of development into the riverfront.



Elevation of the site, look from the river



Elevation of the site



Panorama view at night

Program Proposal

Project Program: Statement.

Reflecting through my thesis research, I want to create a program that helps me to future my investigation. From what I learned about public spaces. They are the attractions or destinations to all the people. The program will be more like a Destinations, activities approach. The proposal will be include multiple functions and levels of activites, which will draw people into the site. The experiences of public transitional spaces are also a main focus for this design. Today, the public spaces are more evolving as passive spaces and in between destinations, where people use as a gather spot before they go to their destinations.

Project Program: Functions and Activities.

Overview:

During the previous year, Detroit Riverfront has been redeveloped. The new river walk along the Detroit River has been built. There are also open green spaces with sitting areas for people. The general concept is to reclaim the riverfront of Detroit for activities.

Functions:

This project will be focusing on public spaces and uses. It will be the integration between indoor and outdoor public spaces. A public place should be accessible and useable by everyone. The design will be separate into two functions: Destination and Transition.

The new project will also support the activities at the waterfront of Detroit. It will be a new node for the development, which will provide people a place to go and hang out besides walking. It will be a part of the development along the river. This project will be connected indirectly to the riverwalk, and other public spaces along the Detroit river.

There are many new residential and commercial developments along the river front. It is necessary to add a new public spaces and institution besides parks. It will give the people a variety of activities.

Activities:

These are the thing that would be part of the general program:

- **Museum/Exhibition:** this is a space for public use, such as contemporary art museum. This space will be open to the public. This could also be use as a place to display local artist's works. This is one of the main function to serve as a Destination.

- **Exhibition Showrooms:** This will be serve as interior public spaces. The investigation is to connect the inside and outside. Majority of this will serve as gathering spaces and activities on the first level.

- **Offices:** This will help to create more interaction with other activi-

Project Program: Functions and Activities.

ties and bring in the must needed occupants. It also help to relate with the surrounding .

- **Entertainment:** This will serve as a part of attraction. This could also be a theater for performing art. There are also a youth activities center, where the younger generations could come and play games.

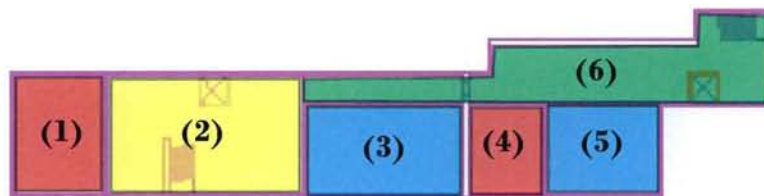
- **Indoor spaces:** This will be serving as gathering spaces for the public or temporary shelter from the weather for walkers, strollers. There will be reading spaces and other indoor activities such as recreation center, coffee house, etc.

- **Outdoor open spaces:** these spaces will be created around the building. It create more outdoor interactions. Plus, the open spaces will help to enhance other activities within the building. These spaces will become the transitional spaces in between the Destinations within the site.

- **Retails:** incorporate with the public uses will be retails. This could be food kiosks to restaurants, bookstore and coffee houses. These will be supportive elements to the project. Plus, this will help to bring more activities to the building at night. People could stop to eat before the meeting or show. This project also serves the new residential developments along the river.

Project Program: Quantitative Summary.

General Function	Specific Area	Area
Basement:	- Mechanical Room (1) This will be house the mechanical function for the museum and offices.	1700 sq ft.
	- Common Loading and Storage (2) Include freight elevator This area is the share semi-storage of both theater and museum.	3800 sq ft. 120 sq ft.
	- Storage for Museum (3)	2250 sq ft.
	- Mechanical Room 2 (for Thearter) (4)	1080 sq ft.
	- Storage for Theater (5)	1610 sq ft.
	- General Circulation (6) Mostly for the theater to connect with	3600 sq ft.



Basement diagram is not to scale.

Project Program: Quantitative Summary.

General Function:	Specific Area	Area
Retails:	- Restaurant 1 (1)	3300 sq ft.
	- Sitting space	2000 sq ft.
	- Storage (food)	280 sq ft.
	- Kitchen	560 sq ft.
	- Toilets	200 sq ft.
	- General circulation	250 sq ft.
	- Restaurant 2 (2)	2400 sq ft.
	- Sitting space	1500 sq ft.
	- Kitchen + Storage	670 sq ft.
	- Toilets	230 sq ft.
	- Coffee House (3)	2760 sq ft.
	- General Area	530 sq ft.
	- Cashier	480 sq ft.
	- Storage	150 sq ft.
- Sitting space	1400 sq ft.	
- Toilets	200 sq ft.	
	Total of Retail:	8460 sq ft.
Exhibition	- Common Exhibition/ Conference Room (4)	3700 sq ft.
	Function as a typical common area to display small show (reptile shows, Career fairs...)	

Project Program: Quantitative Summary.

General Function:	Specific Area	Area
Activity	- Youth Center (5)	
	- 1st Floor	10550 sq ft.
	- Common Lobby and Circulation	5400 sq ft.
	- Gaming area	3600 sq ft.
	- Food Kiosk and storage	950 sq ft.
	- Toilets	600 sq ft.
	- 2nd Floor	5000 sq ft.
	- Activities Areas	4400 sq ft.
	- Toilets	600 sq ft.
	Total:	15550 sq ft.
Exhibition	- Local Exhibitions (6)	12000 sq ft.
	This space is use for local artists and artworks from local schools. This is a general area that shares the common atrium space with museum.	
	- 1st Floor	6000 sq ft.
	- 2nd Floor	6000 sq ft.
Destination	- Museum and Office Spaces Complex (7)	
	- Museum of Modern Arts	
	- 1st Floor	26000 sq ft.
	- Exhibition 1	9900 sq ft.
	- Indoor Green Space and Lightwell	2800 sq ft.
	Include the vertical circulation	
	- Public Toilets	1000 sq ft.
	- Public Atrium (include sitting spaces)	6100 sq ft.
	- Storage and Loading dock	2500 sq ft.
- Office Vertical Circulation	800 sq ft.	

Project Program: Quantitative Summary.

General Function:	Specific Area	Area
	- General Indoor Circulation	2900 sq ft.
Destination	- Museum of Modern Arts	
	- 2nd Floor	27100 sq ft.
	- Exhibition 2	14000 sq ft.
	- Vertical Circulation (share)	900 sq ft.
	- Common Share Area	5300 sq ft.
	- Toilets	1000 sq ft.
	- Museum Administration	2500 sq ft.
	- Outdoor Gathering Space	2600 sq ft.
	- Office Vertical Circulation	800 sq ft.
	- 3rd Floor	24000 sq ft.
	- Exhibition 3	14000 sq ft.
	- Vertical Circulation (share)	900 sq ft.
	- Common Share Area	5300 sq ft.
	- Sitting Spaces	2000 sq ft.
	- Toilets	1000 sq ft.
	- Office Vertical Circulation	800 sq ft.
	- 4th Floor	22000 sq ft.
	- Exhibition 4	14000 sq ft.
	- Vertical Circulation (share)	900 sq ft.
	- Common Share Area	5300 sq ft.
	- Toilets	1000 sq ft.
	- Office Vertical Circulation	800 sq ft.
	- Office Level	
	- 5th Floor	20500 sq ft.
	- Office Spaces	7500 sq ft.
	- Outdoor Roof Space	5800 sq ft.
	- Office Lobby	4500 sq ft.
	- Vertical Circulation (share)	900 sq ft.
	- Toilets	1000 sq ft.

Project Program: Quantitative Summary.

General Function:	Specific Area	Area
	- Office Vertical Circulation	800 sq ft.
Destination	- Office Level	
	- 6th Floor	14700 sq ft.
	- Office Spaces	7500 sq ft.
	- Lobbies	4500 sq ft.
	- Vertical Circulation	900 sq ft.
	- Toilets	1000 sq ft.
	- Office Vertical Circulation	800 sq ft.
	- 7th Floor	14700 sq ft.
	- Office Spaces	7500 sq ft.
	- Lobbies	4500 sq ft.
	- Vertical Circulation	900 sq ft.
	- Toilets	1000 sq ft.
	- Office Vertical Circulation	800 sq ft.
	- 8th Floor	14700 sq ft.
	- Office Spaces	7500 sq ft.
	- Lobbies	4500 sq ft.
	- Vertical Circulation	900 sq ft.
	- Toilets	1000 sq ft.
	- Office Vertical Circulation	800 sq ft.
	Total:	163700 sq ft.
Destination	- Theater Complex (8)	
	- Theater Space	15100 sq ft.
	- Sitting Spaces (1000 seats)	12100 sq ft.
	- Stage	1700 sq ft.
	- Backstage	1300 sq ft.

Project Program: Quantitative Summary.

General Function:	Specific Area	Area
Destination	- Theater Complex	
	- 1st Floor	16130 sq ft.
	- Ticket Booth and Administration	1300 sq ft.
	- Toilet Spaces	1350 sq ft.
	- Food Kiosk (Storage, Kitchen)	1800 sq ft.
	- Public Lobbies	6000 sq ft.
	- General Circulation	1080 sq ft.
	- Storage	1100 sq ft.
	- Technical Room	1000 sq ft.
	- Backstage Circulation and Preparation	2500 sq ft.
	- 2nd Floor	9930 sq ft.
	- Administration	1200 sq ft.
	- Office	1800 sq ft.
	- General Circulation	2750 sq ft.
	- Toilets	700 sq ft.
	- Storages	2080 sq ft.
	- Rehearsal Rooms (3)	600 sq ft.
	- Big Rehearsal Rooms	800 sq ft.
	- 3rd Floor	8650 sq ft.
	- Office	1800 sq ft.
	- General Circulation	2750 sq ft.
	- Toilets	700 sq ft.
	- Storage	1100 sq ft.
	- Instrument Storage	900 sq ft.
	- Rehearsal Rooms (3)	600 sq ft.
	- Big Rehearsal Rooms	800 sq ft.
	Total:	49810 sq ft.

Project Program: Quantitative Summary.

General Function:	Specific Area	Area
Transitional	- Outdoor Spaces	110000 sq ft.
	- Water Fountains area (1)	18600 sq ft.
	- Water Lanscaped area (2)	4200 sq ft.
	- Small Water Walk (3)	10000 sq ft.
	- Lanscaped Spaces (4)	7300 sq ft.
	- Pathwalk with Partio Cover (5)	17500 sq ft.
	- Front Office Spaces (6)	2400 sq ft.
	- Sitting Spaces by the Exhibition (7)	3400 sq ft.
	- Covered Gather Space (8)	2600 sq ft.
	- Outdoor Coffee Area (9)	4000 sq ft.
	- General Circulation	40000 sq ft.
	- Public Lobby (10)	4700 sq ft.h
	- Sitting Spaces	1250 sq ft.
- General Circulation and Gather Spaces	3450 sq ft.	

* See Diagram of Transitional Spaces.

Project Program: Diagram of Spaces.

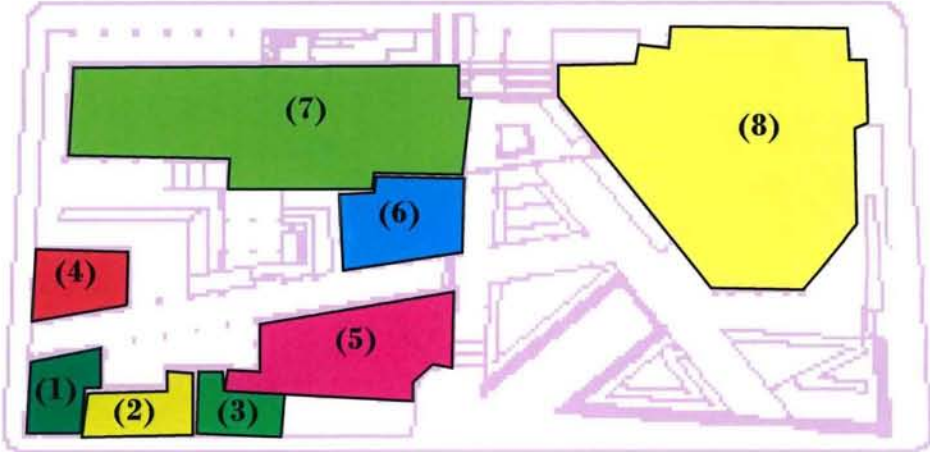


Diagram of Destination Locations

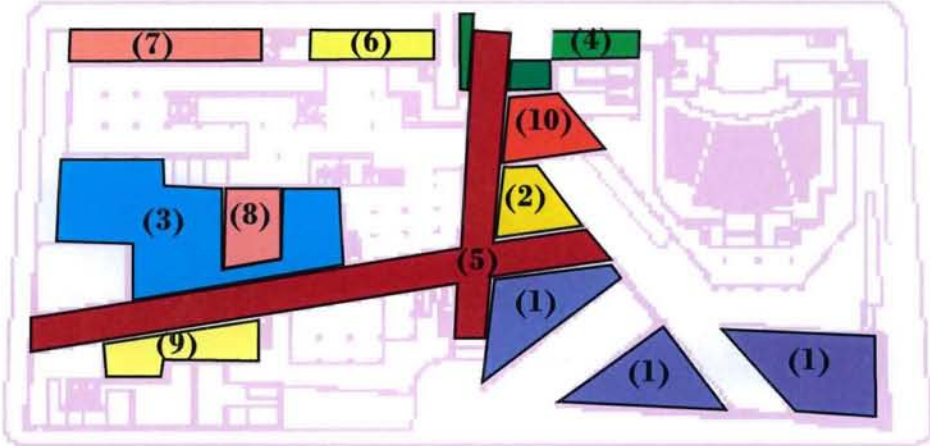
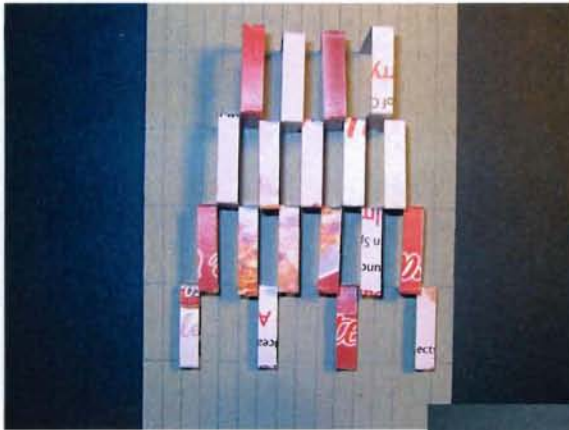


Diagram of Public Transitional Spaces

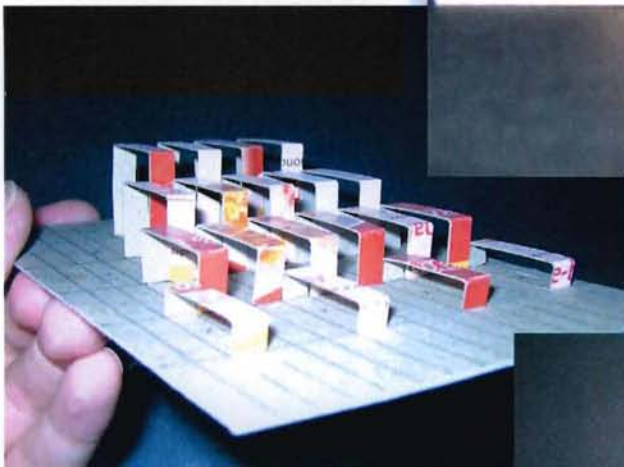
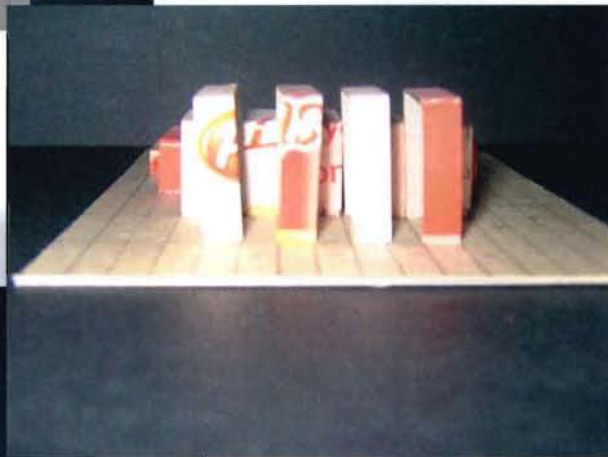
All Diagrams are not to scale

Documentation: Springboard/
Schematic Design Process

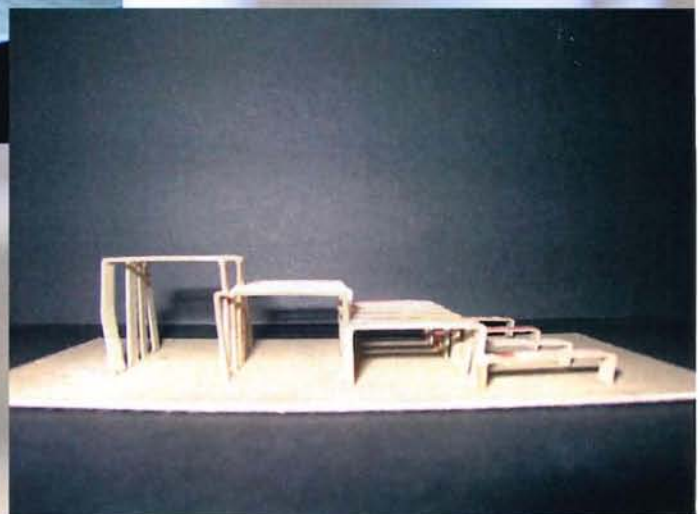
Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.



This first series of study is the experiment of spaces and shapes. This object show order, form, and open spaces in between.



Openness is important to any Public related project. The relationship between open and enclosed is a part of my investigation. I want to experience the spaces in between of this model.



Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.

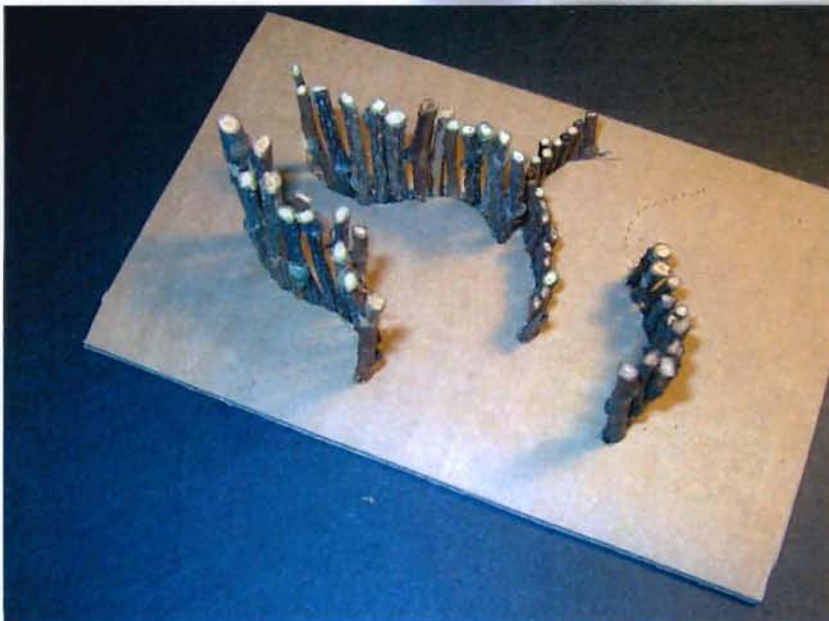
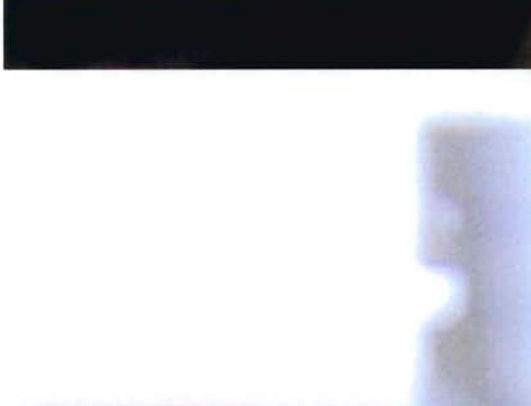
Natural element is essential to the use of public. This model is making out of tree branches. A study of spaces and shape. As the lights break through the branches, they create a dynamic sensation to me. It is like a part of nature capture within the structure itself.



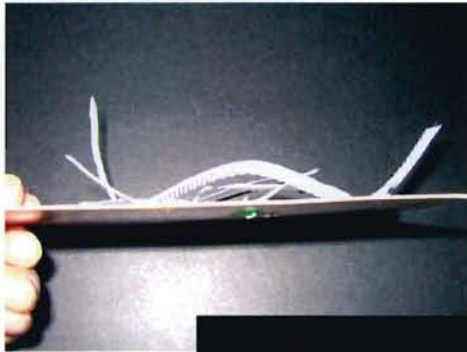
Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.



space is an important element with in a public domain. This study is a part of the series study of spaces.

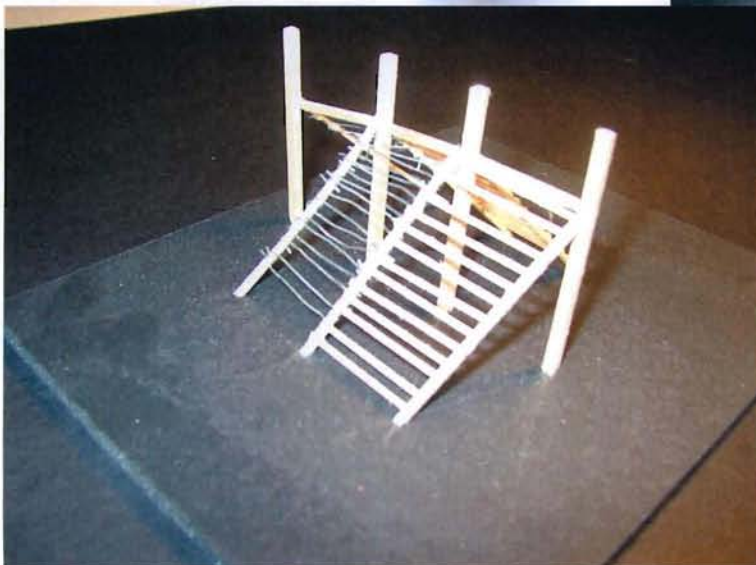
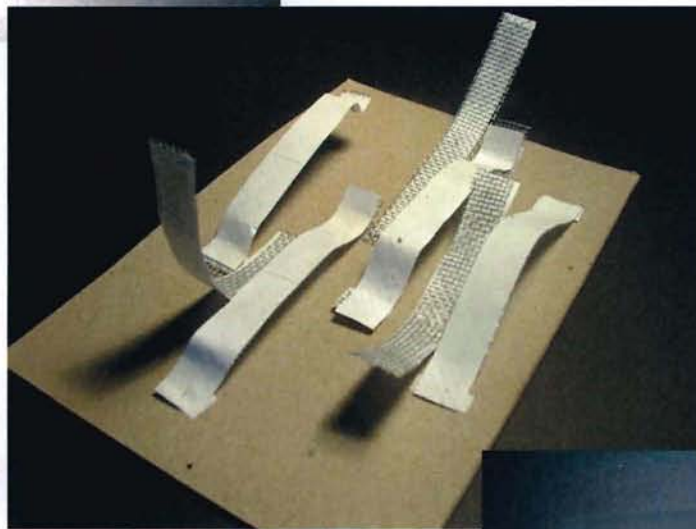


Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.



These models are part of the experimental process.
The forms suggest the structure and spaces within.

The curves lines express the playfulness shapes.
While the other one is more structural experiment.



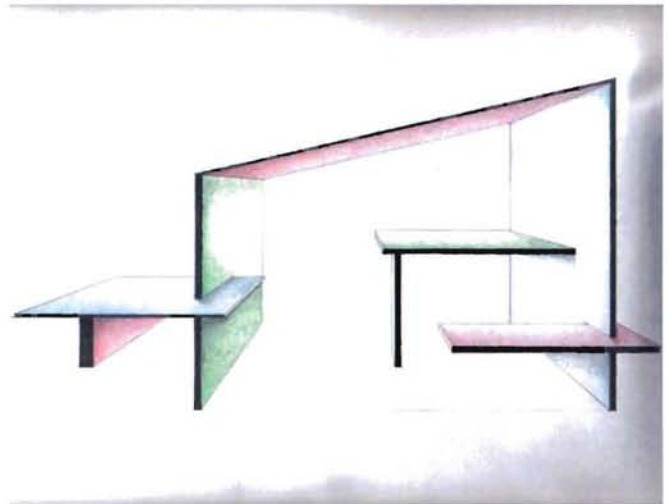
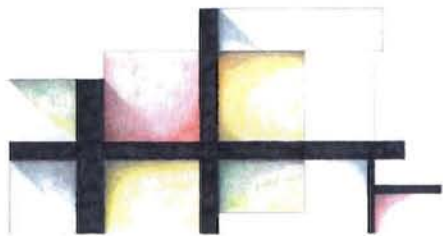
Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.



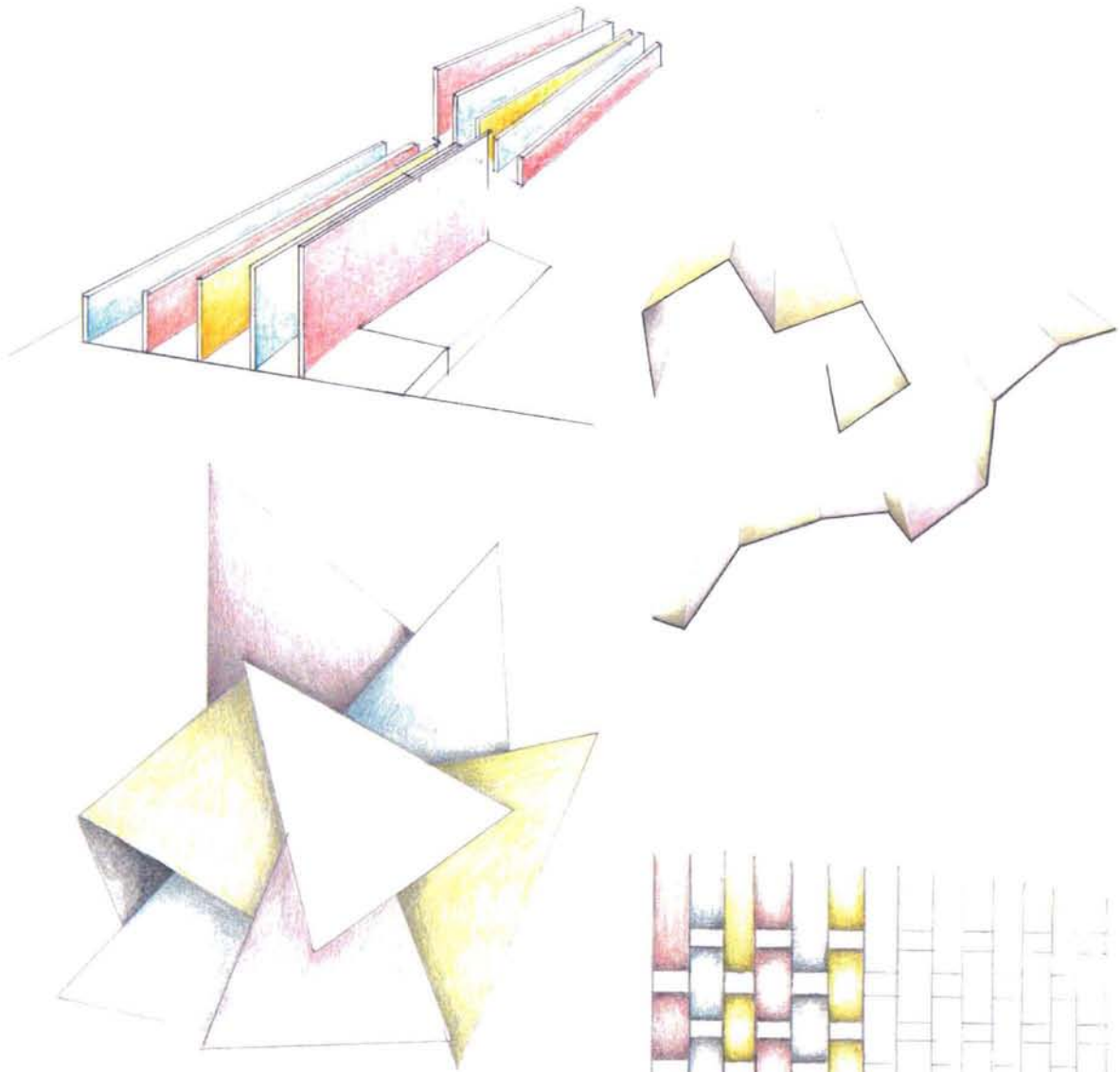
This study is a 2D form of lines. This study express a different approach from above and somewhat more rigid structure.

The 2D black lines represent main circulations around the functions.

The perspective drawing is another form of study derived from the initial black line.



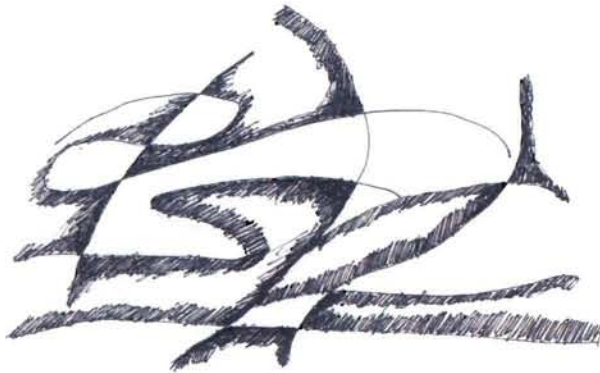
Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.



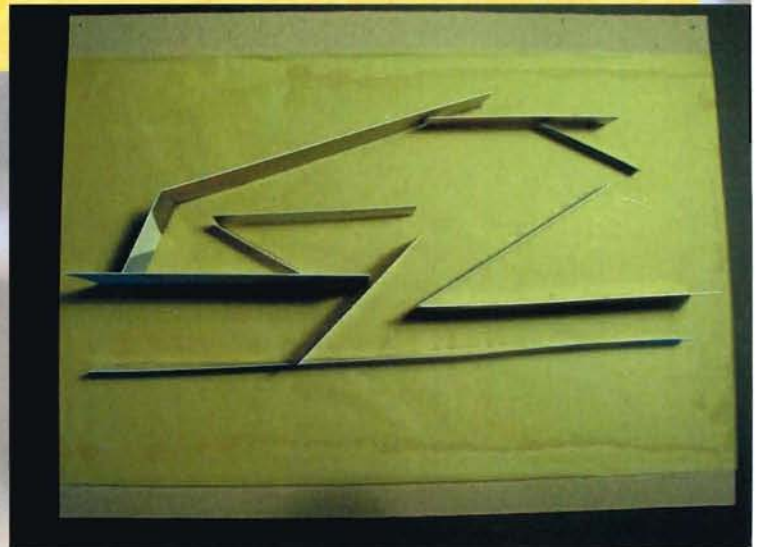
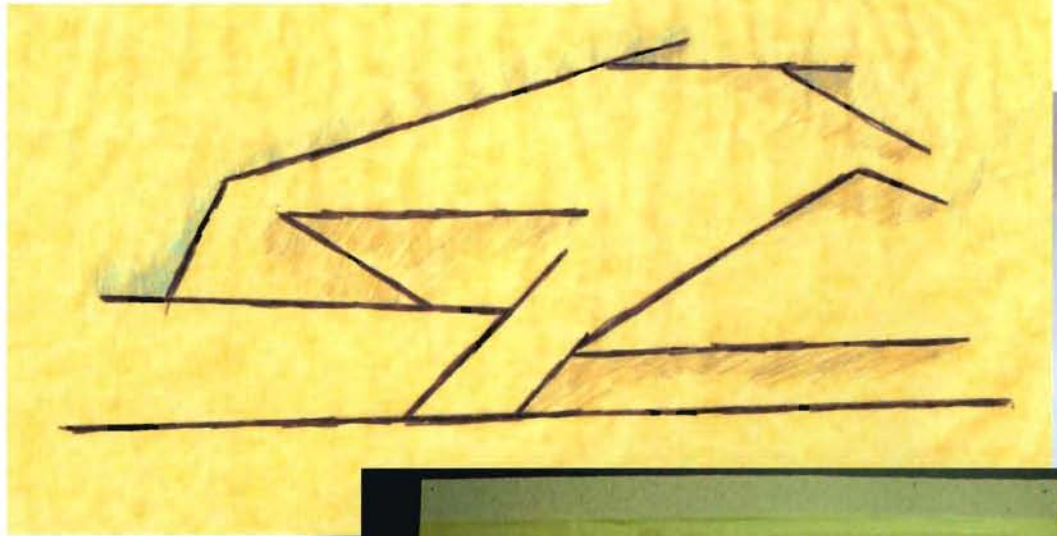
These are variety study of forms and spatial order. These are pencil drawings with color pencil rendering.

Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.

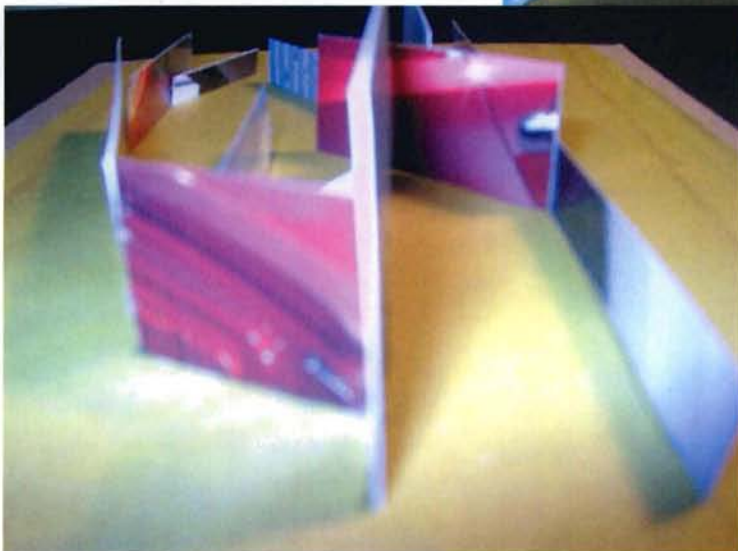
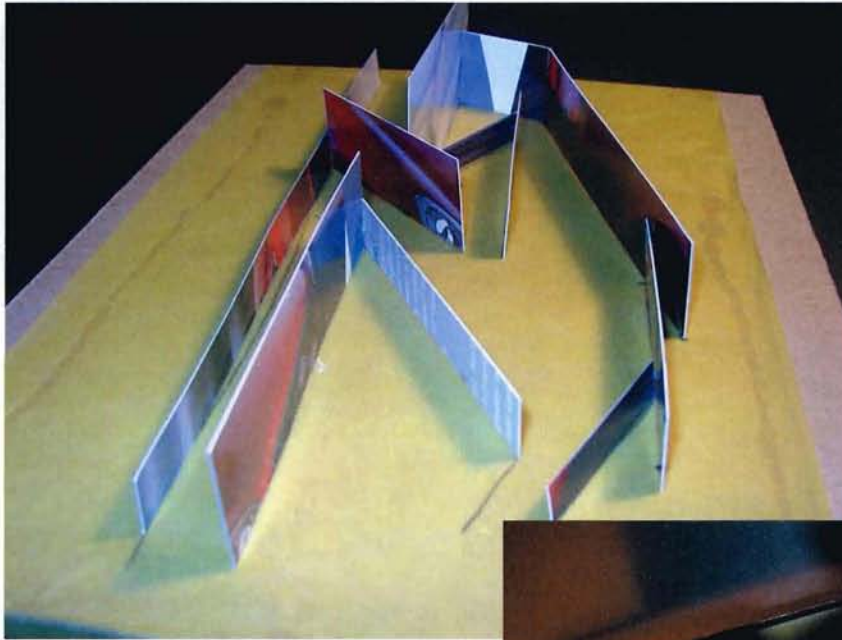
The first drawing is part of a cliché in class. The idea of simple curve lines.



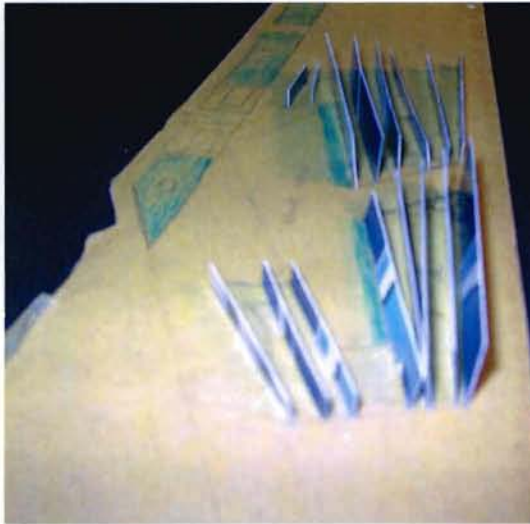
Then it is transformed into the straight lines and a section model study.



Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.

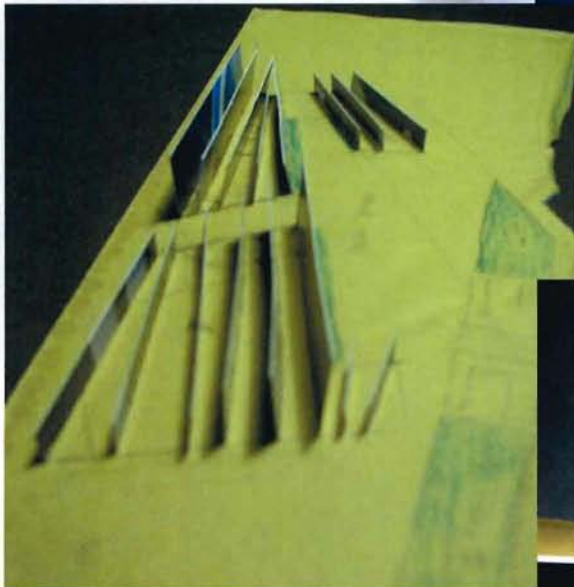


Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.

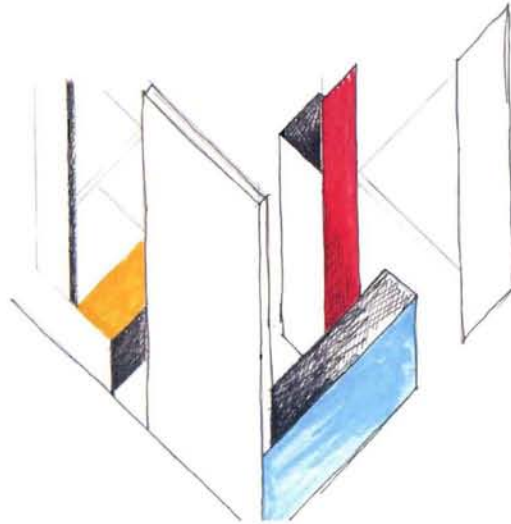


This study is derived from the axis or lines. I was accidentally create it.

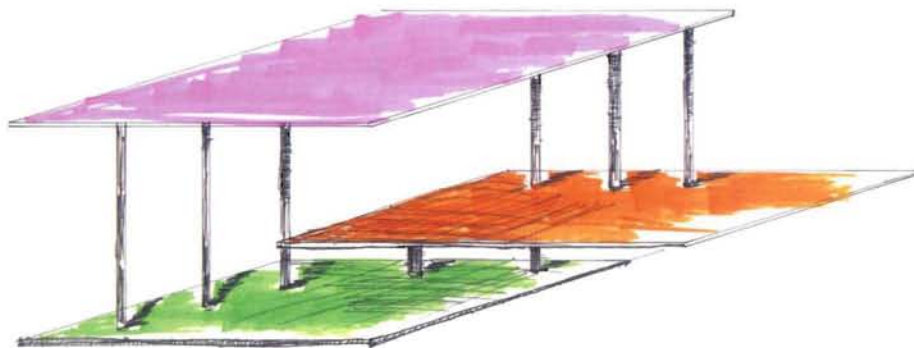
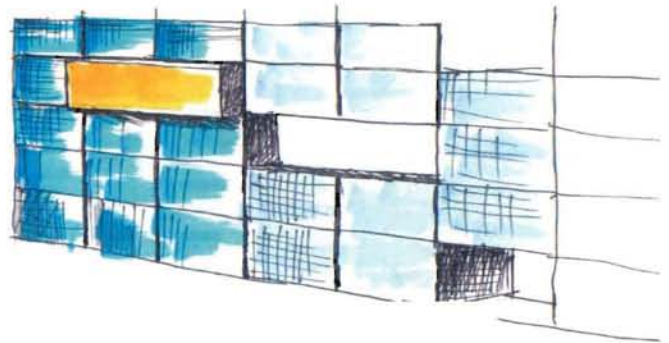
From the lines, i transformed it into a quick mass study.



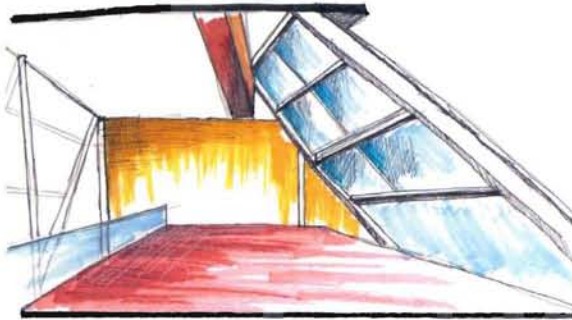
Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.



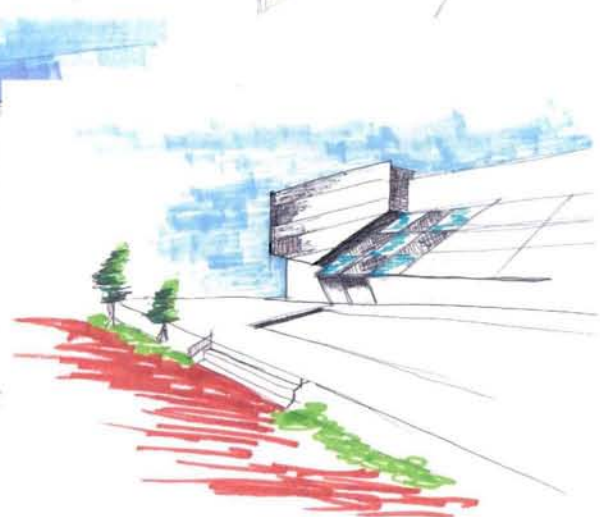
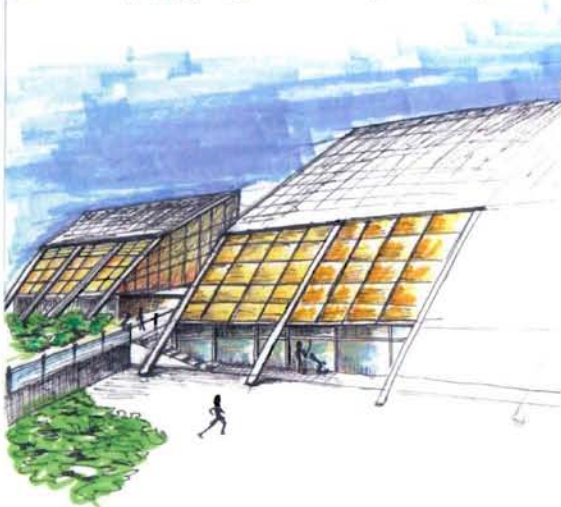
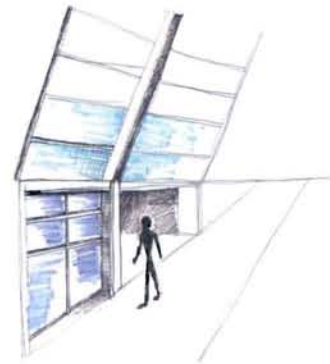
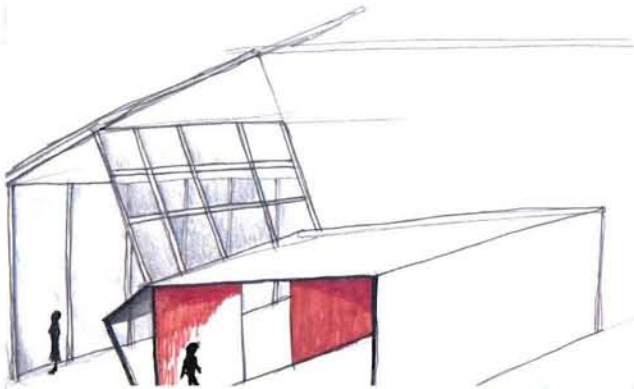
These are just wall studies. I want to experience the modern approach. These studies more related to exterior perception of the skins.



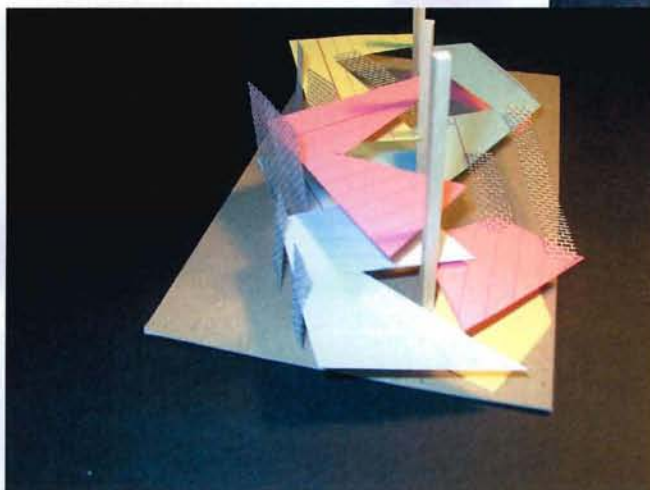
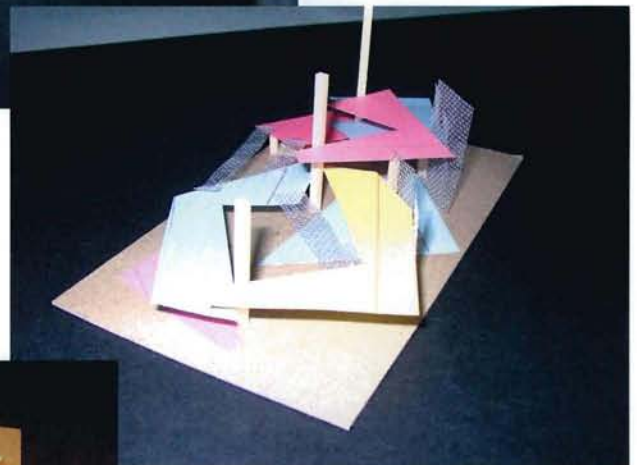
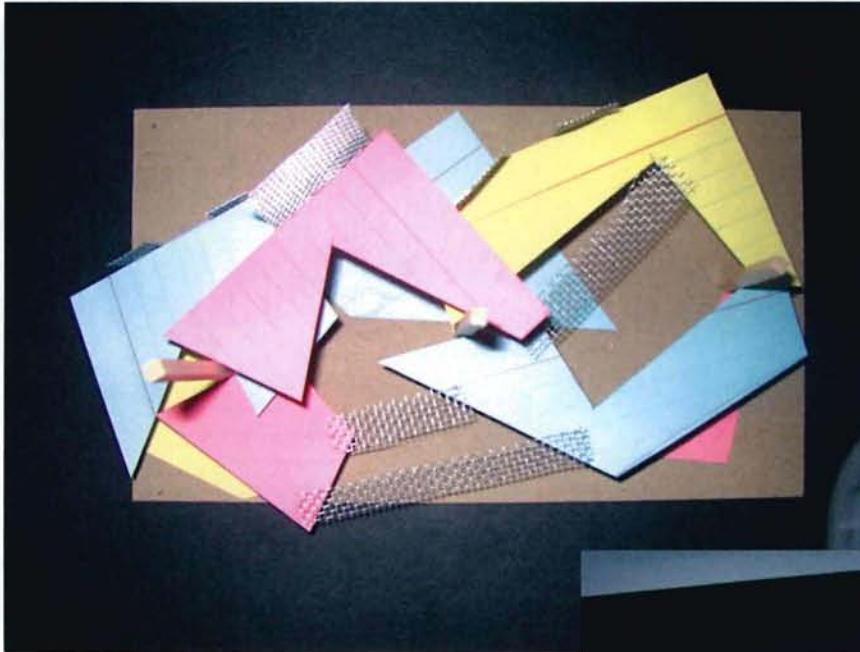
Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.



These drawings are quick sketches series that i did to help me experience the spaces and human scales. Since human are the main users of public spaces. These study help to experience it.

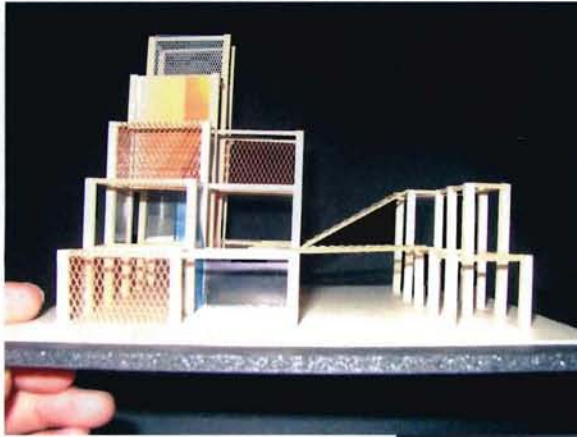


Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.

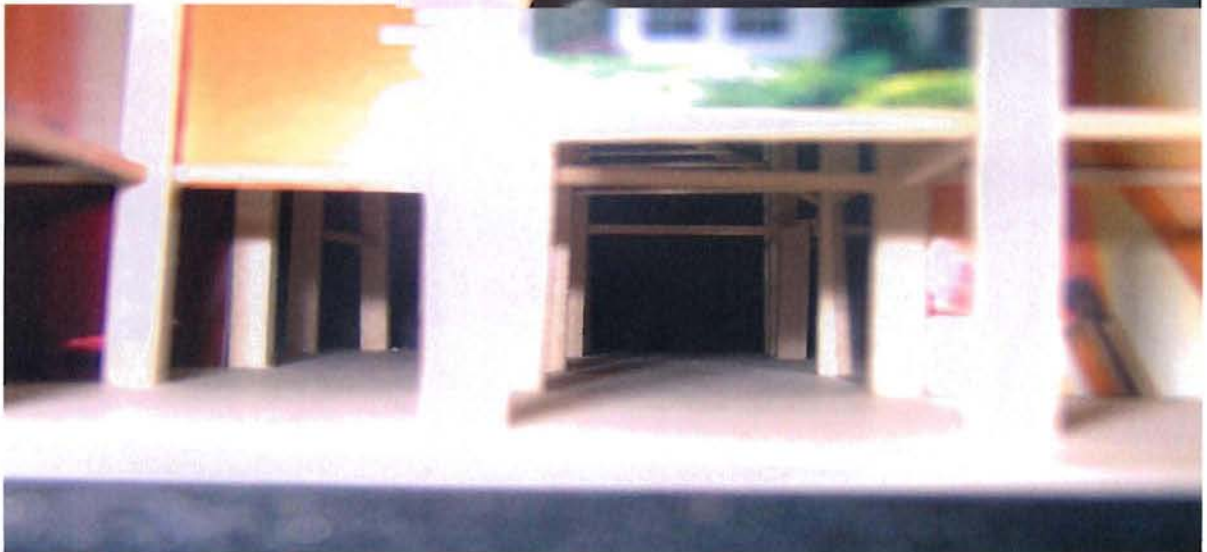
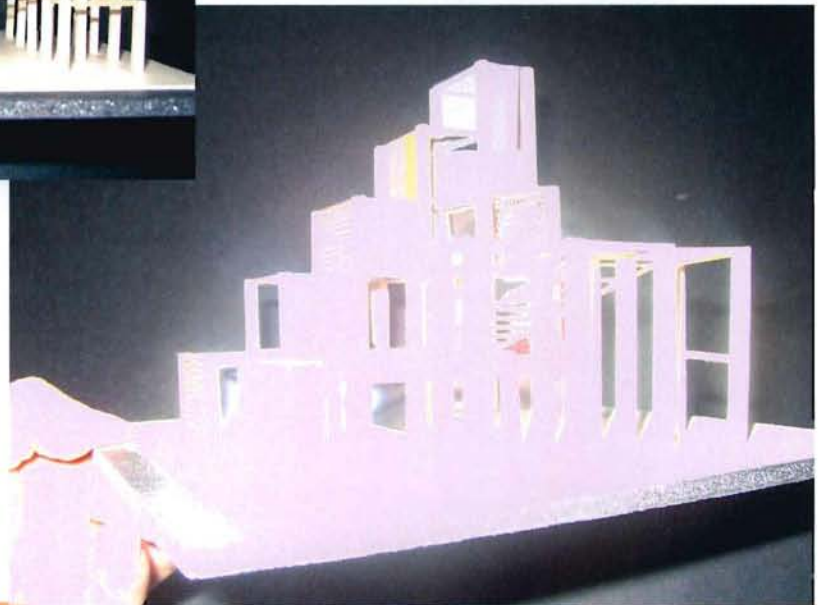


This is a floor plan study. I want to create a sense of playfulness. This model give me a the idea of irregular shapes.

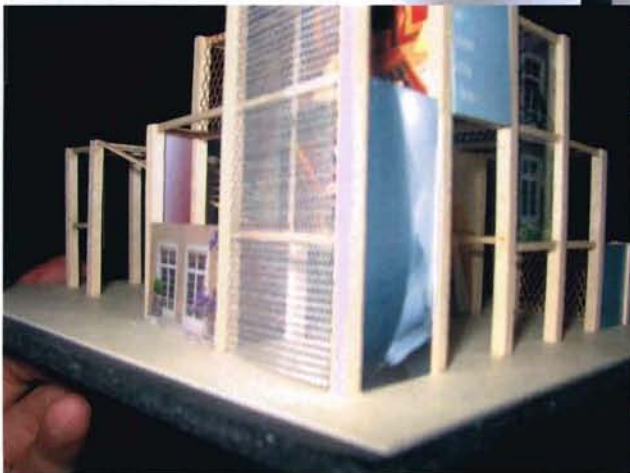
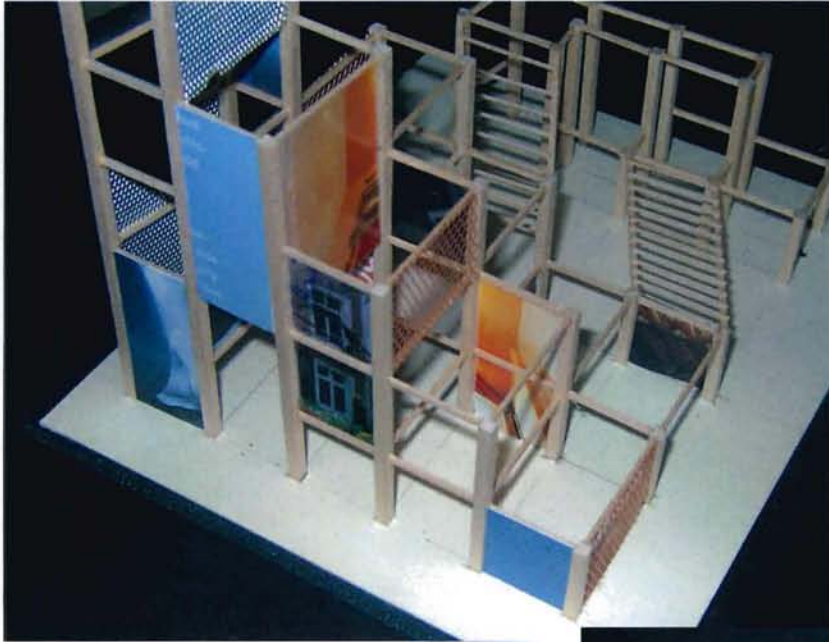
Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.



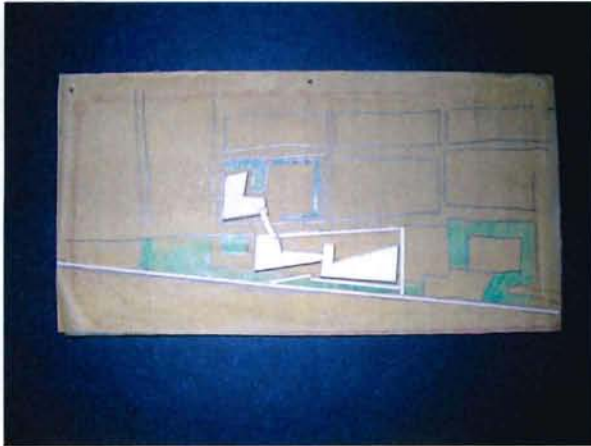
This is a more formal setting. I created this using the idea of cubes and open spaces in between the structure.



Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.



Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.

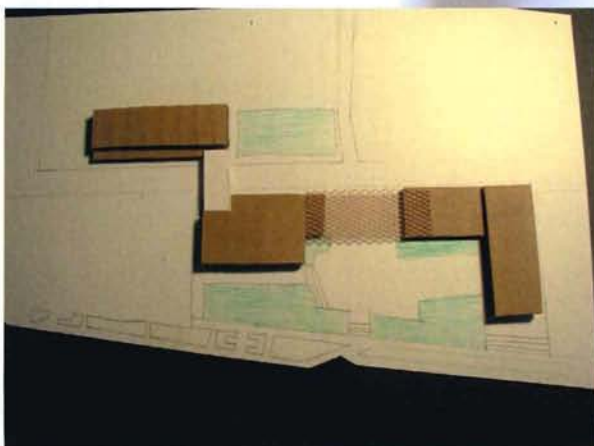


To focus more on the site, I started to make a series of study model related with the site.

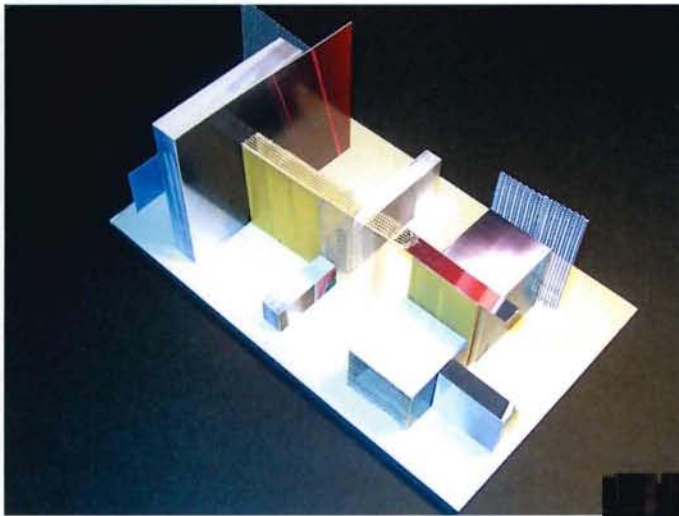
The first one i want to connect both sides of the street.

The second model is focus on the side of the river more.

The third model is bigger in scale and i try to create a public space in between the structure.



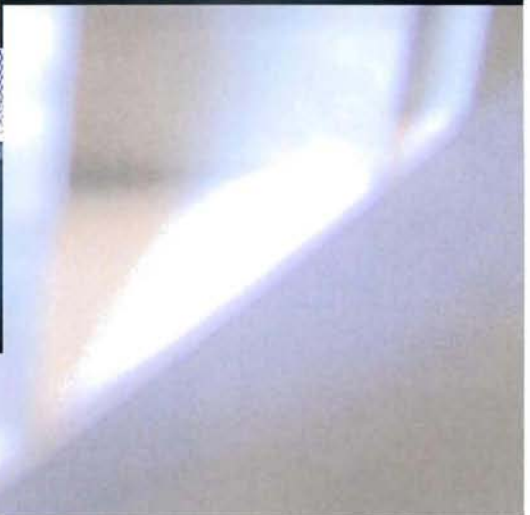
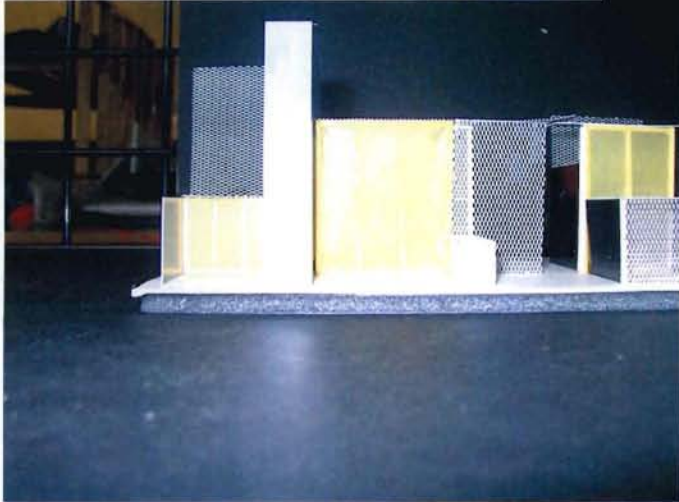
Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.



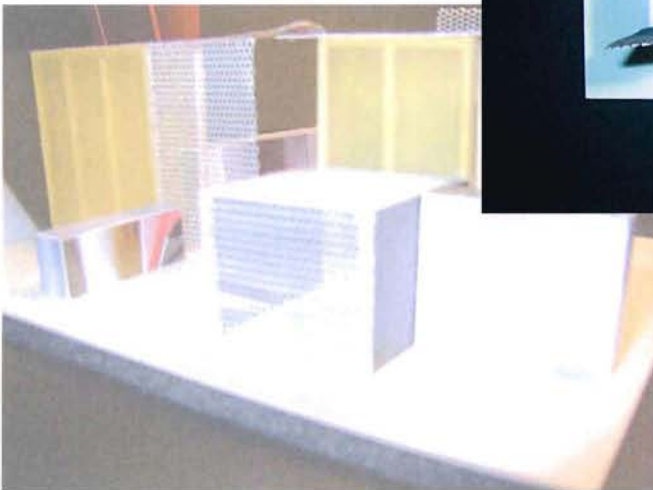
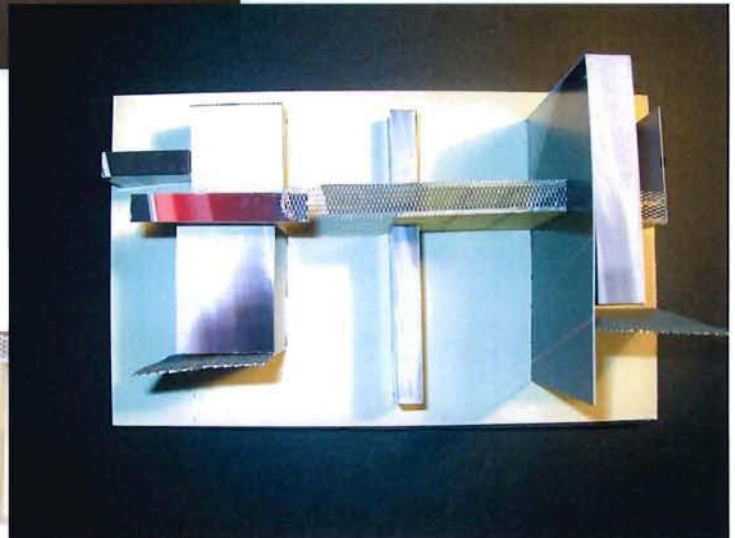
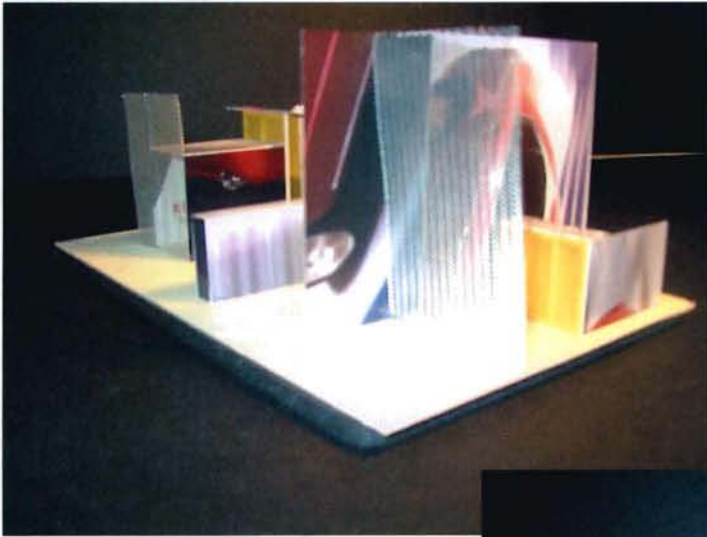
This is one of my study model. I want to experiment the idea of connection and variety sizes of the objects.

There are solid elements and non-solid also.

The center core is the idea of connection from one side to the other. It is also stand for the main circulation

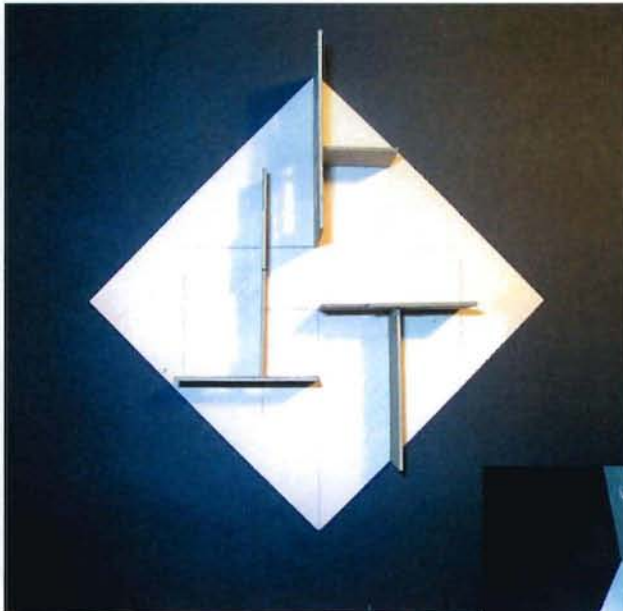


Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.



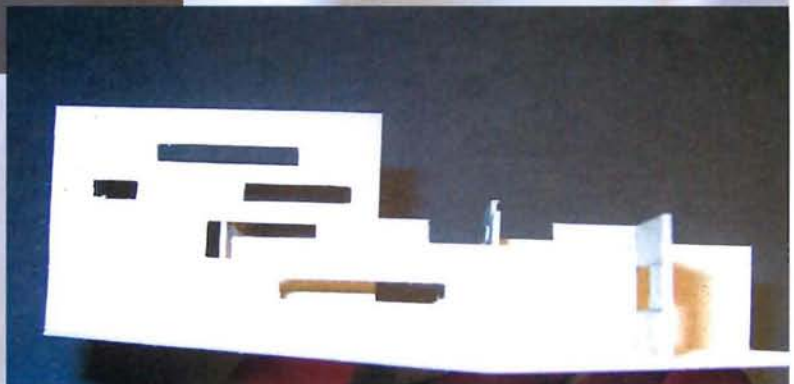
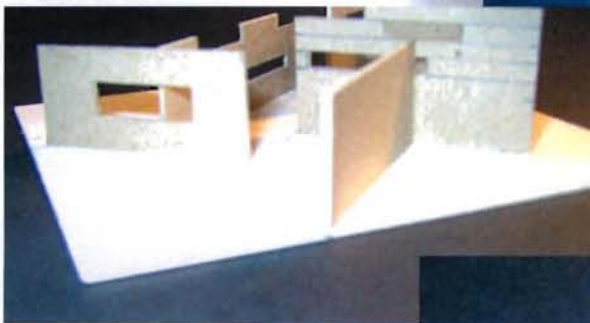
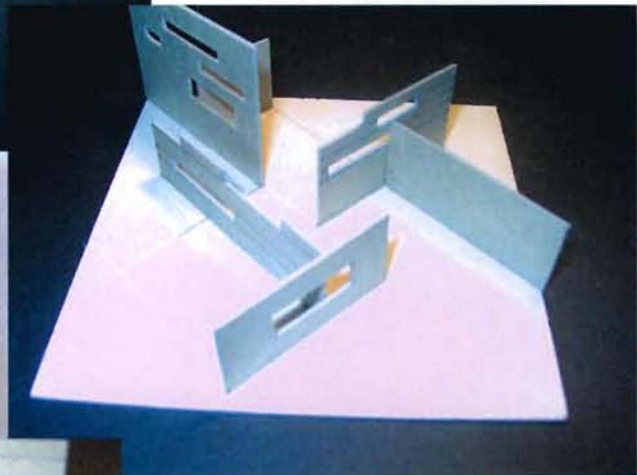
As my study continue, The model show the stretching relationship of spaces. The different texture and materials aslo reveal in this study model.

Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.

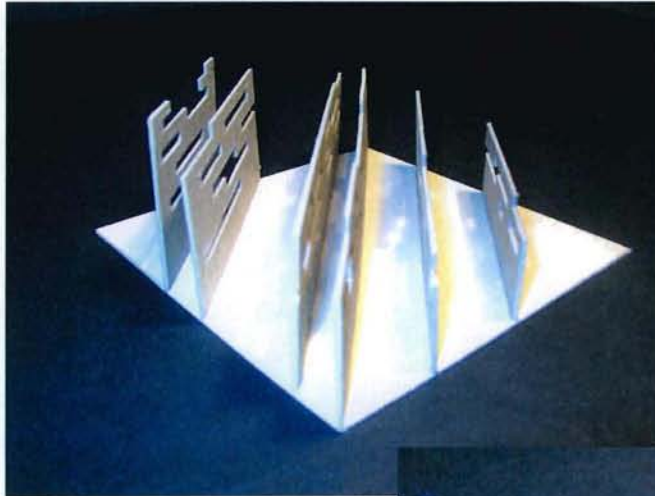


These are series of wall stud. The spaces in between the forms create the sense of public and celebrate the random encounter of spaces.

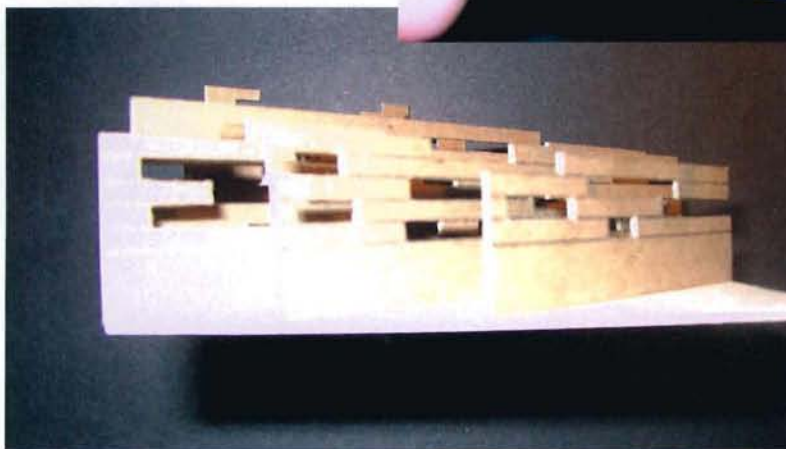
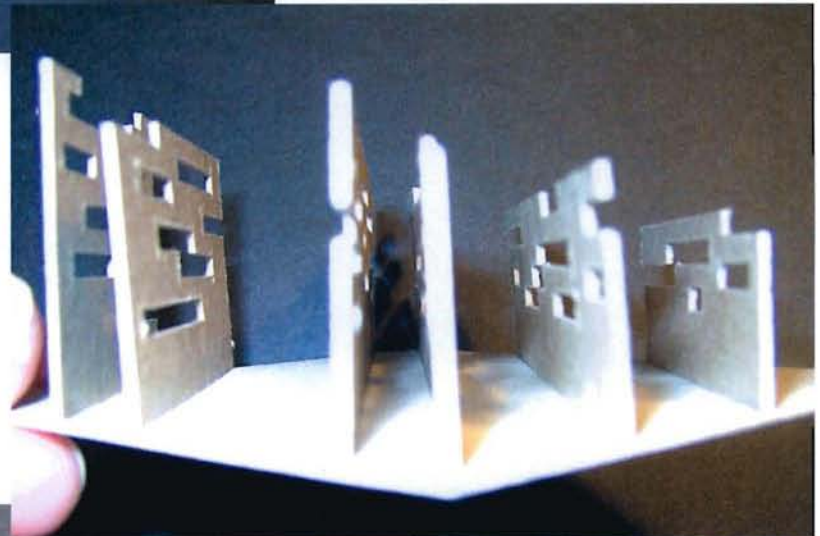
This also generate the ideas of intertwine spaces for me. I look at this study as the skin study for my design.



Springboard: Experience Through Spaces.

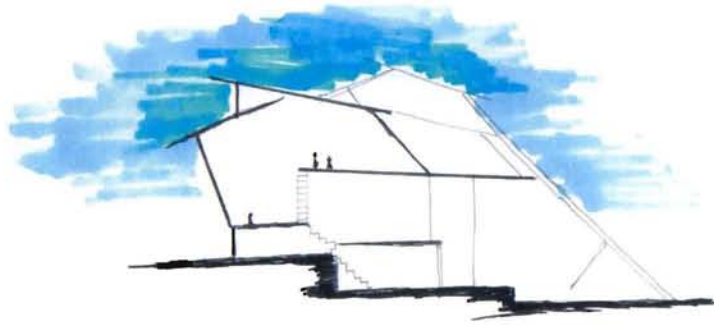


Like the study above, this study also reflect the exterior texture of my design. It is also an attempt to see the spaces in a linear way, the inbetween spaces.

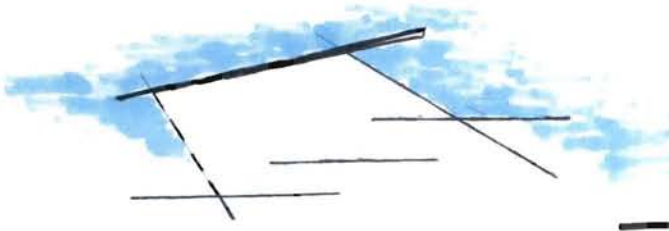


Springboard: Study of Sections.

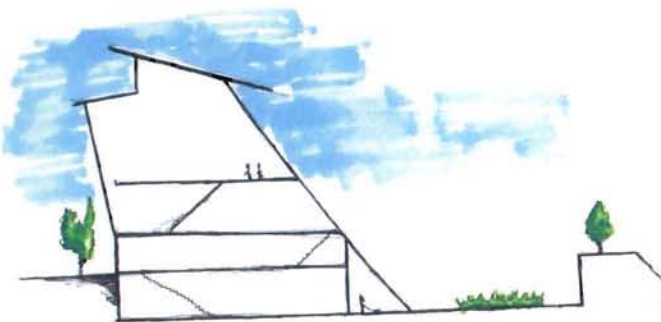
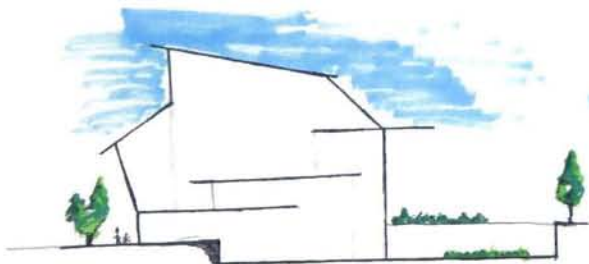
These are the sections studies.
They help to see the process of
my thinking in a different way.



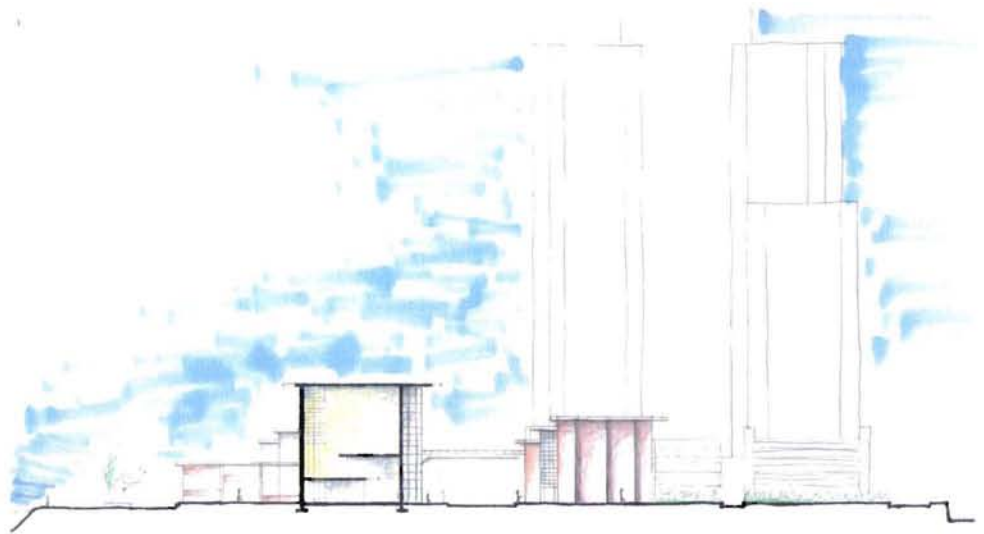
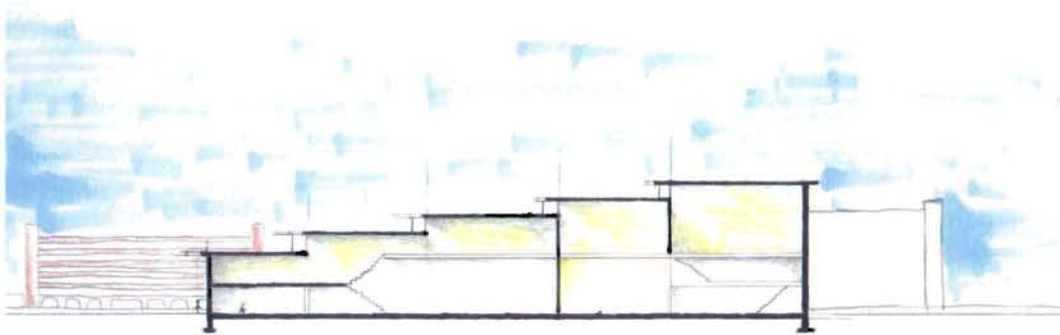
The drawings are just quick
stretches with pens and mark-
ers. My intention here is to
investigate the indoor and out-
door relationship.



This shows the process of tran-
sitional meanings of my thesis
research.

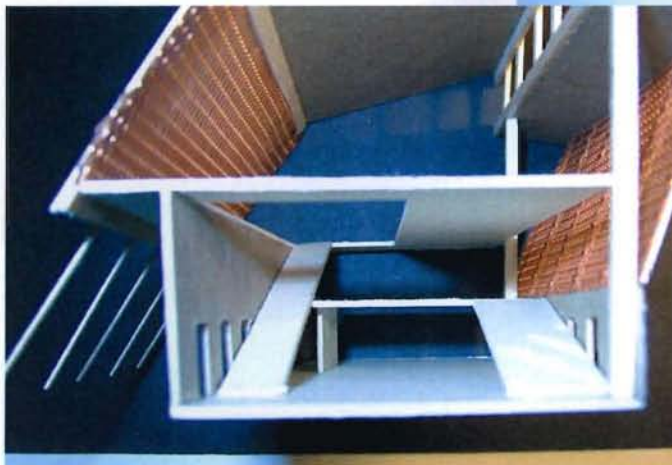
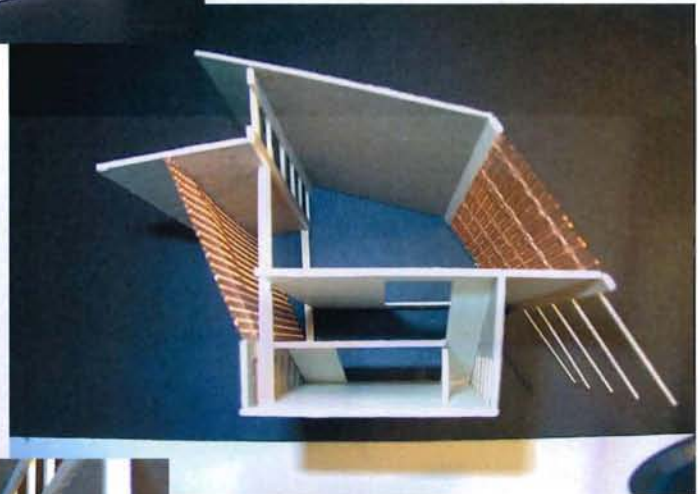
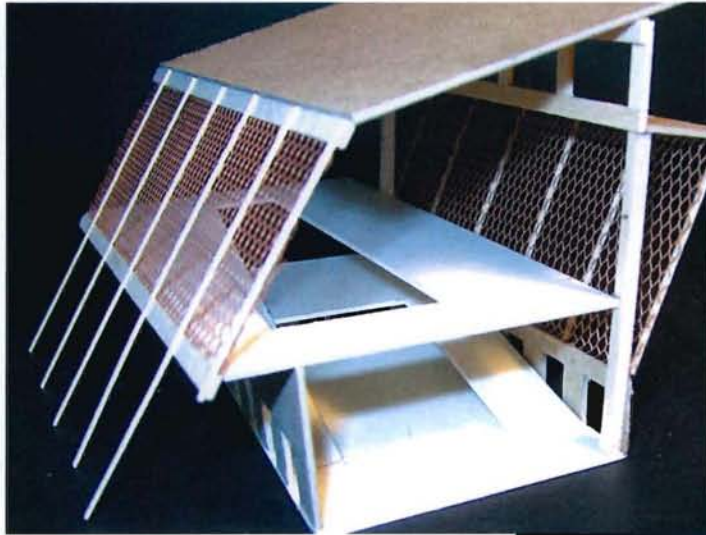


Springboard: Study of Sections.



These study is more developed than the sections before. They also show the site context behind. This is the part of my investigation design process. The design at this stage is still very minimal and undevelop in term of spaces and relationship.

Springboard: Study of Section.



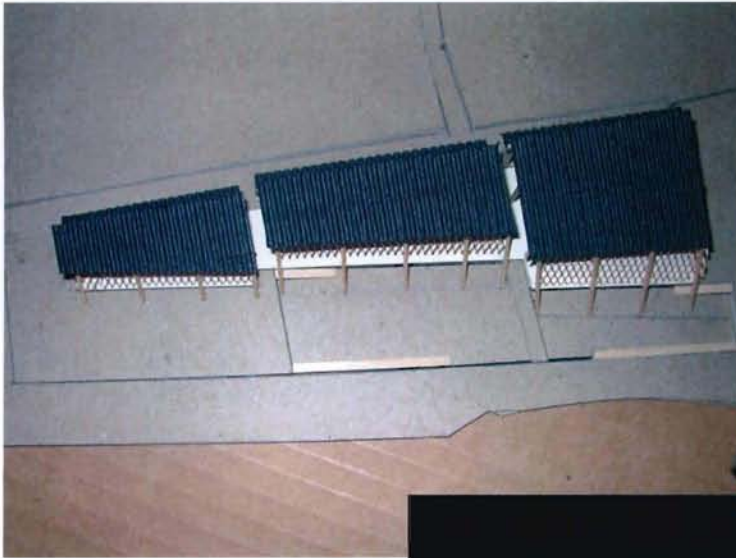
This is a section study model of the schematic design. The model helps to organize the thoughts and experience the design in 3D

Springboard: Schematic Design.

This is the first attempt to design. The design is a quick process within a week. The preliminary design is the next step of the project. The drawing below is the site plan of the project. My intensity was to connect the new proposal with the waterfront at this stage. It is a challenge because the nature of the site.



Springboard: Schematic Design.

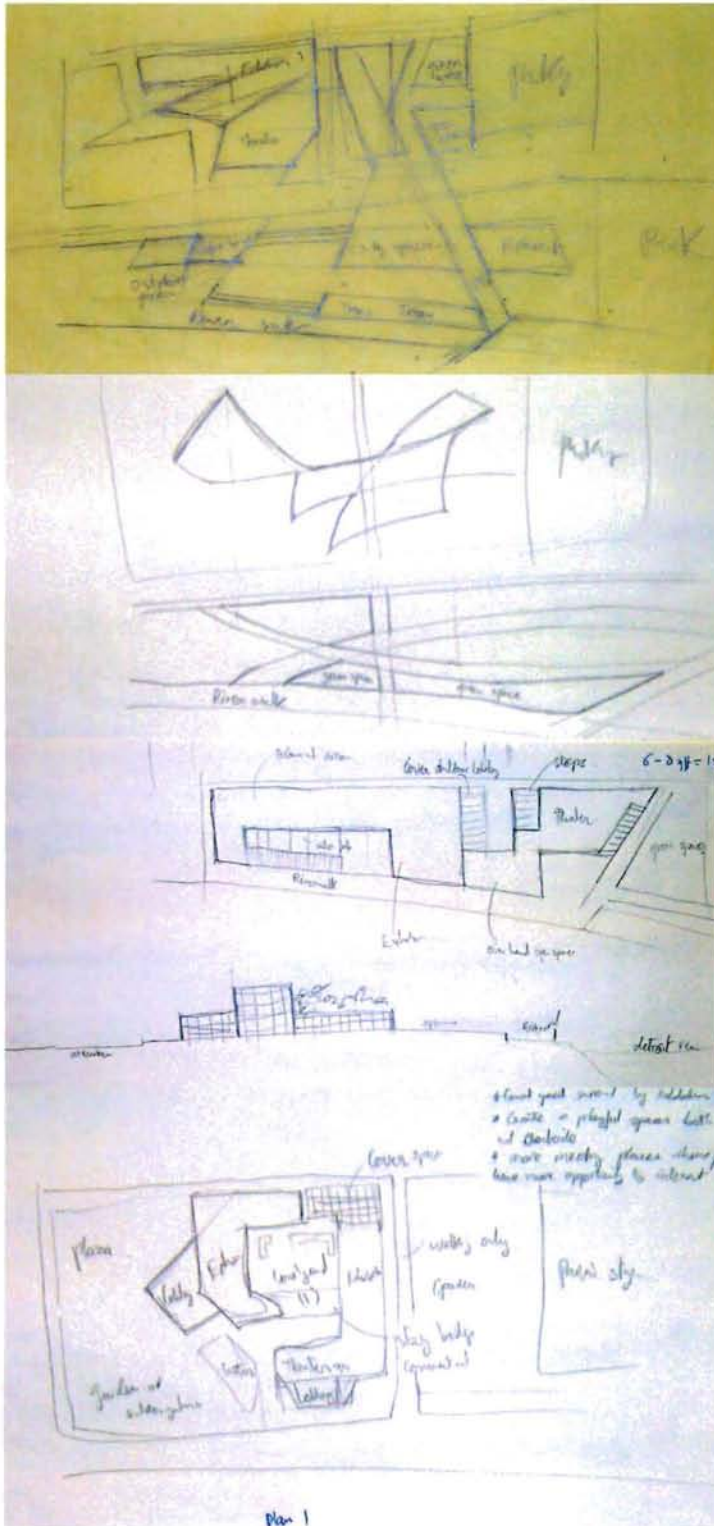


The proposal is a complex structure with multiple functions. There will be exhibition spaces, gathering spaces, retails, and a theater.

These are a study model of the first designing process.

Design Development Phase

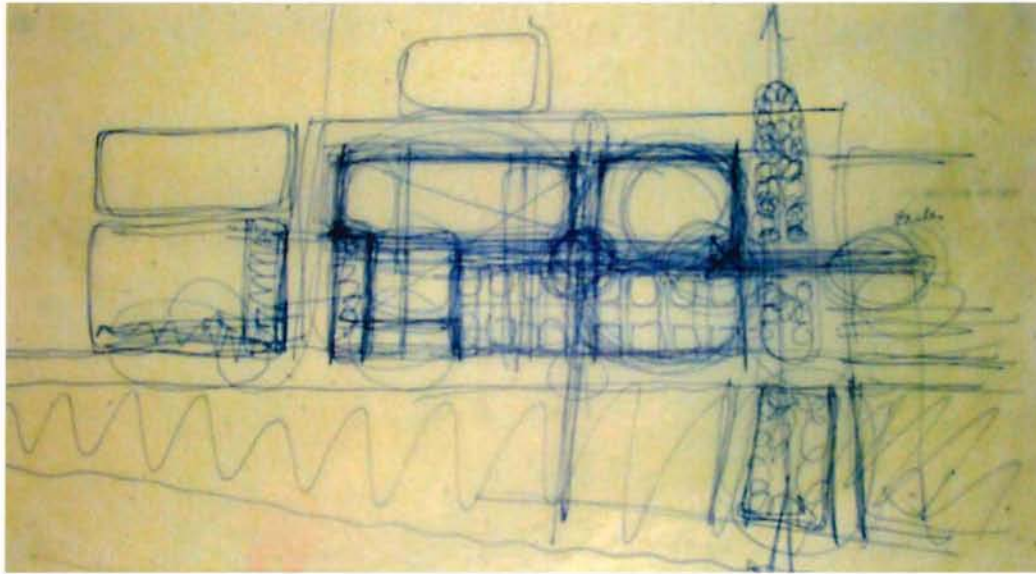
Preliminary Design: Diagram.



These are a series of diagrams which help to see the connect between the activities. They help to see the relationship and make decision of the functions.

Base on these Diagram analysis, I started to break away the massive design from beginning. At the same time, they help me to rethinking the relationship of the activities levels.

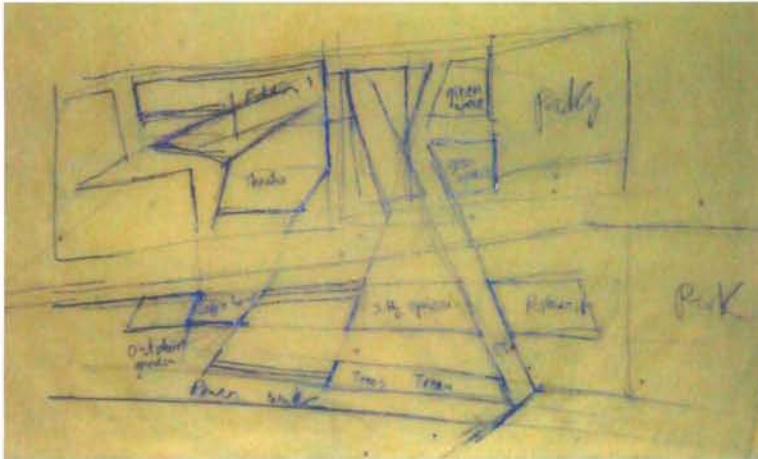
Preliminary Design: Design Analysis



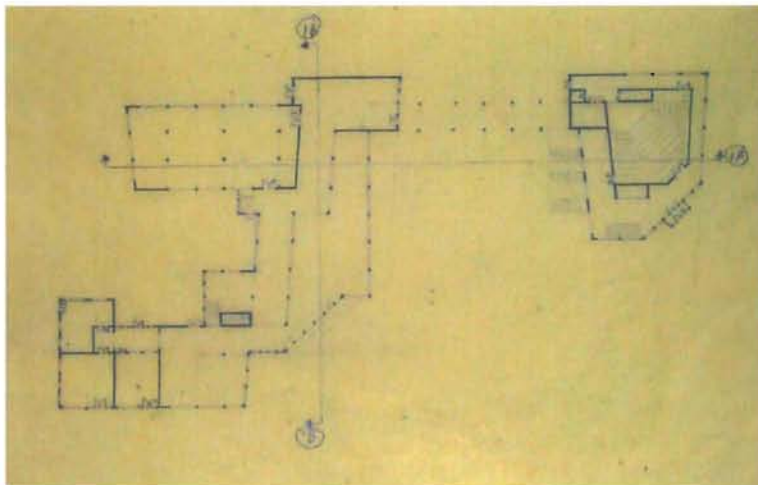
With the proposal of a new boulevard by GM, the riverfront of Detroit will be revised. It will serve as a gateway to the riverfront. The new proposal will connect directly to I-75 and Jefferson Avenue. The diagram above shows the potential of activities and entry. The lower corner is for retail, which is closer to the existing retail already. The map below is the master plan proposal of GM.



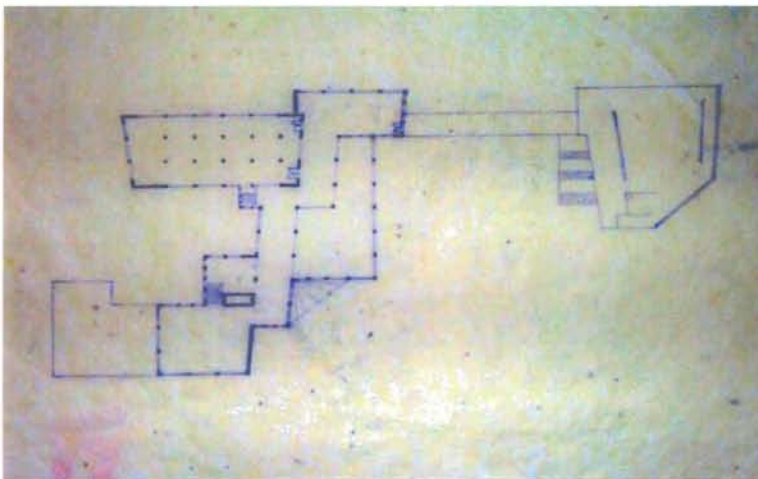
Preliminary Design: Stretch Floor Plans



This work is part of the early design stage. Based on the diagram that I developed before, my design start to take shape. These are the study floor plans, that I did during a charrette during the class.



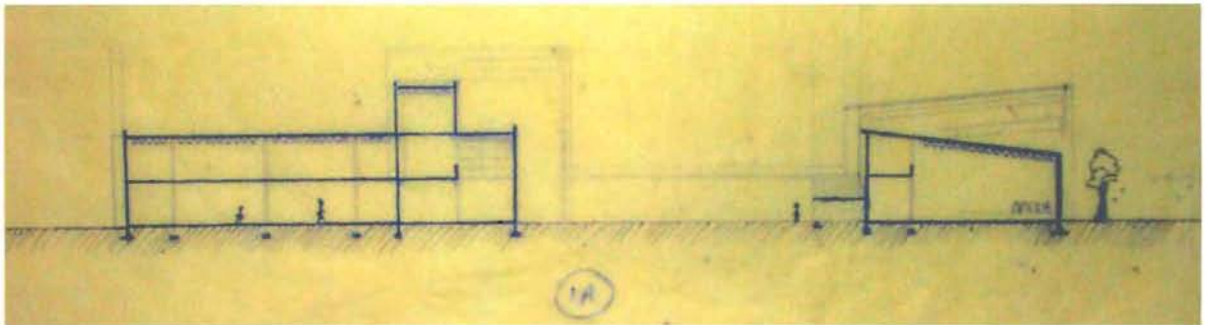
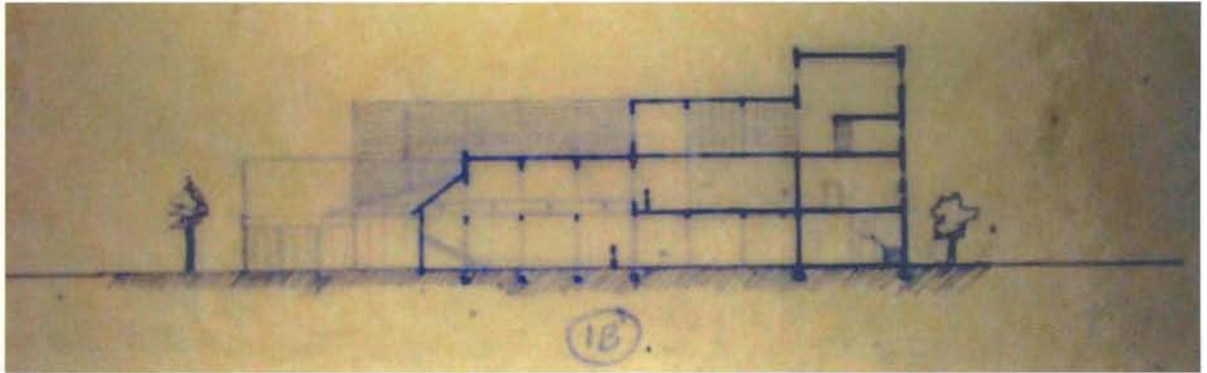
The functions of my program start to show. My intention is to separate the main functions, which are the Destinations of the proposal.



When the second semester began, i decided to move the site from the river to the more urban context. The other side of At Water Street.

This is a big challenge because the area is surrounding with parking structures, but it also has better enclosure.

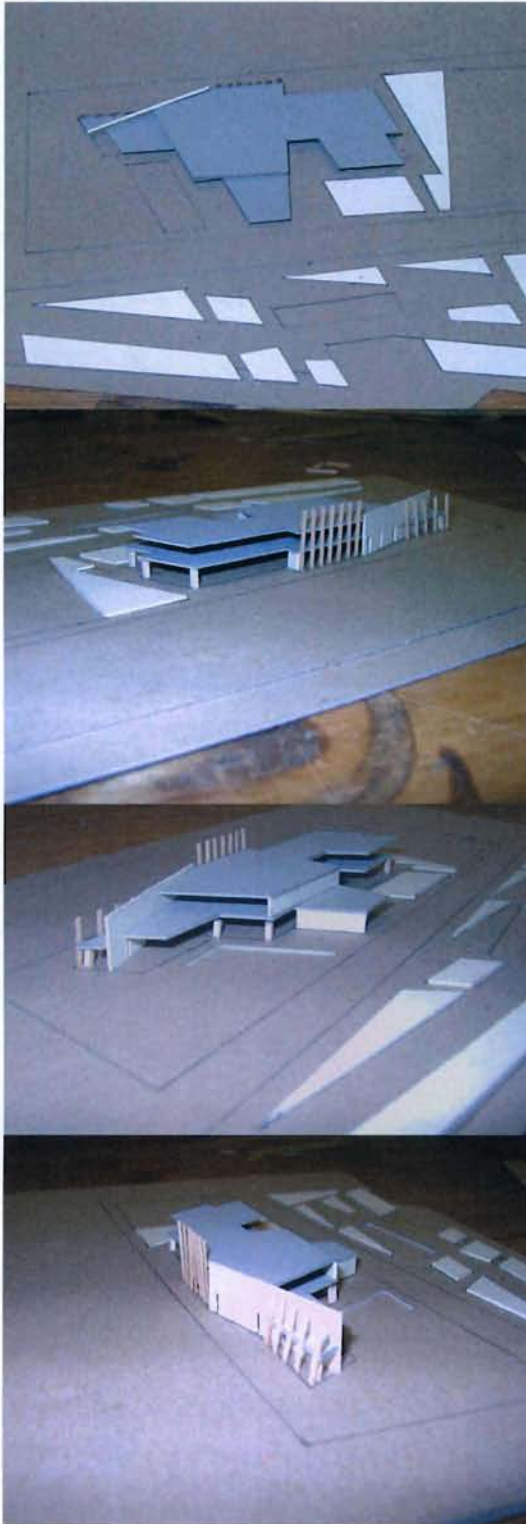
Preliminary Design: Sections



These are couples of sections of my first design attempted. They show the level of details of the development. They are relatively small scale but have some sense of human scale.

With the new issues of the site, the high is a concern for the development. The area is surrounding by parking structures that more than 70 feet tall. The Renaissance Center is towering over everything within the area. At the same time, i think it is a great opportunity for me to express the design in the vertical dimesion as well as horizontal.

Design Development: Study Model

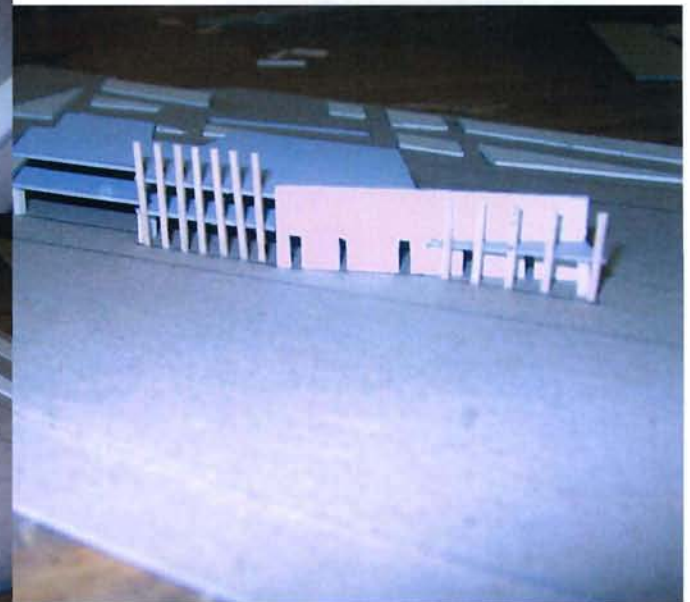


This is a massing study model of the proposal. I want to create a Destination to bring people into the area.

The linear shape is the reflection of the site. It is a long site over 750 feet long. It is a challenge to deal with such a big site. This is my first time to design for a site this big with a lot of issues.

The building is started out more confidence because of the influence of the city and surrounding.

There is also an attempt to design the elevation and skin of the project.



Design Development: Study Model

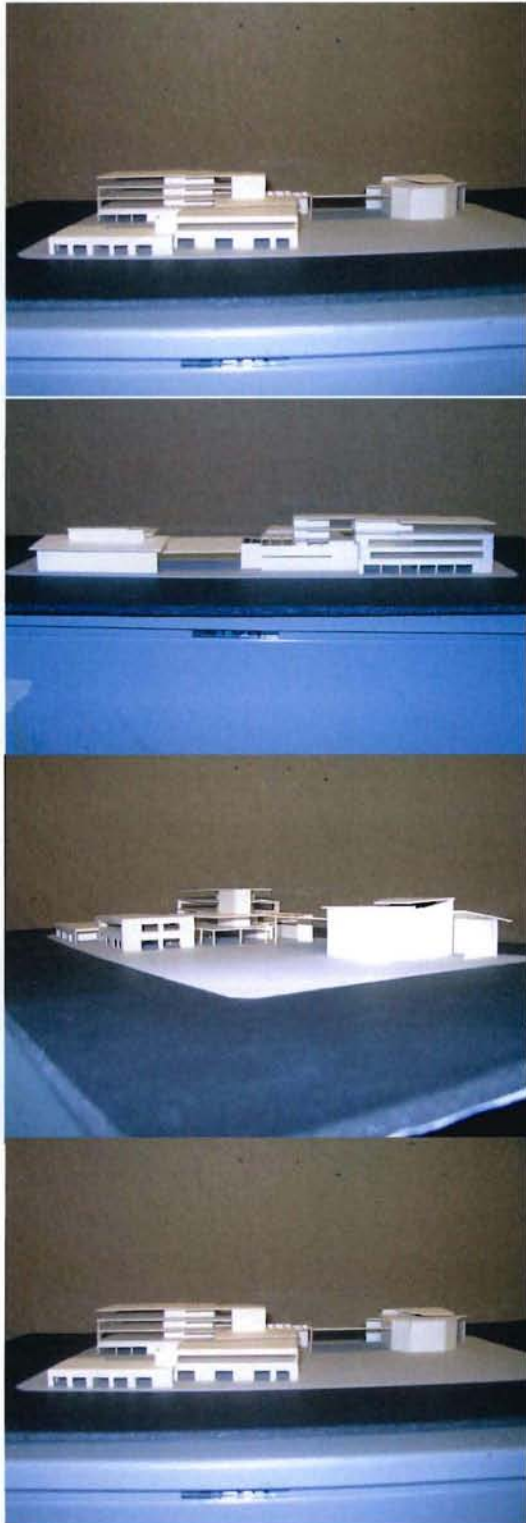


Continue with the investigation, I developed more study model and the design start to stretch out once again like the beginning instead of solid.

This design here starts to show some sense of public spaces. The enclosure starts to show in the design. There is also attempt to design some landscape around the site.

Lanscaping is another challenge for me as my design moving along. I never had any experience with lanscape design.

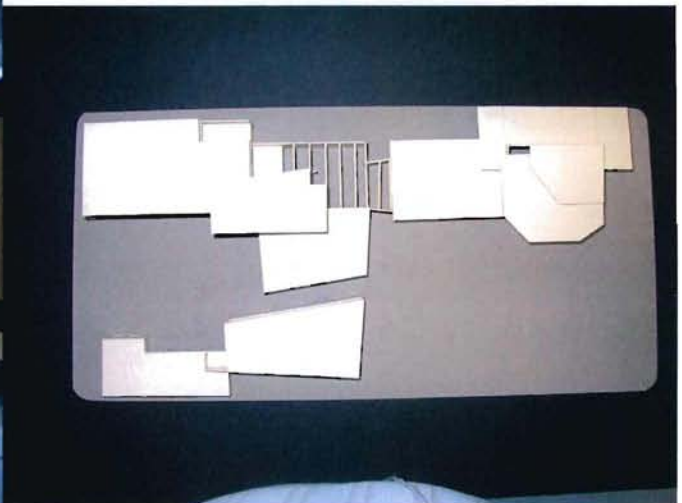
Design Development Phase 1



This is another developed model of my design. The design is moving along at this point. The massing model starts to take shape as a building more. The functions are divided into three areas within the site. They are the Destinations within the site themselves.

The proposal also cover more spaces of the site. Which is revealing a new attempt to develop throughout the site of my proposal.

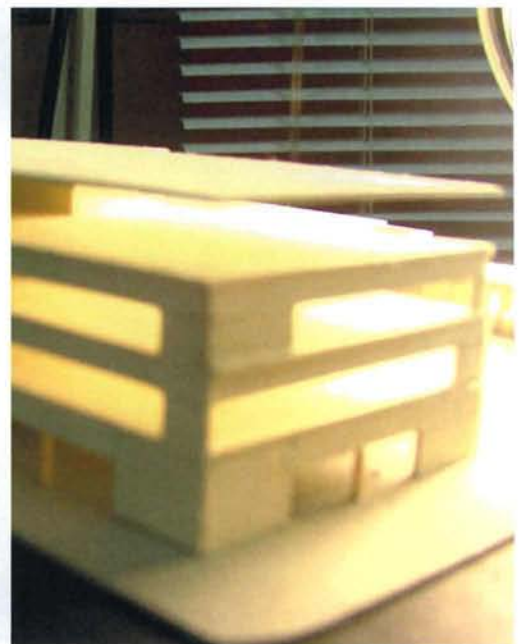
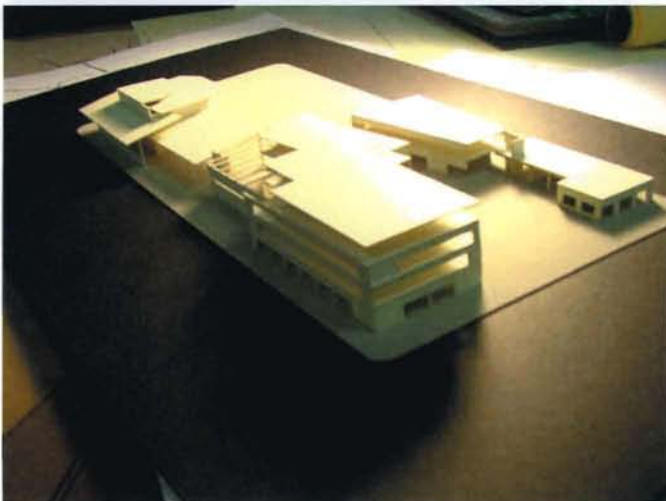
This is also the first review of *Design Development phase*.



Design Development Phase 1



The sense of enclosure and public space start to surface here. My design starts to create a scenario of a plaza. The space surrounds with museum, retails and exhibitions.

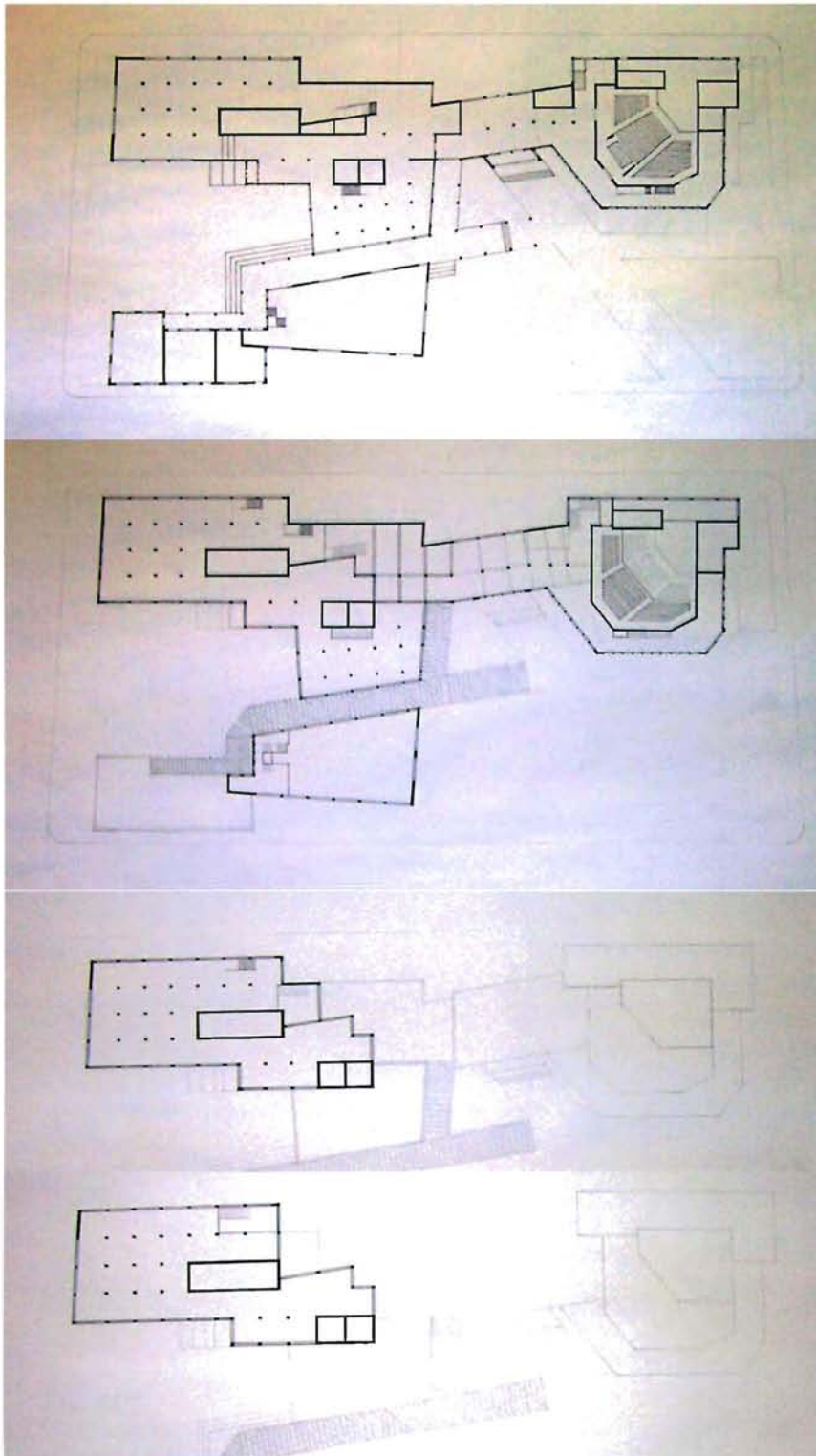


Design Development Phase 1



These are the site model to show the context of the site

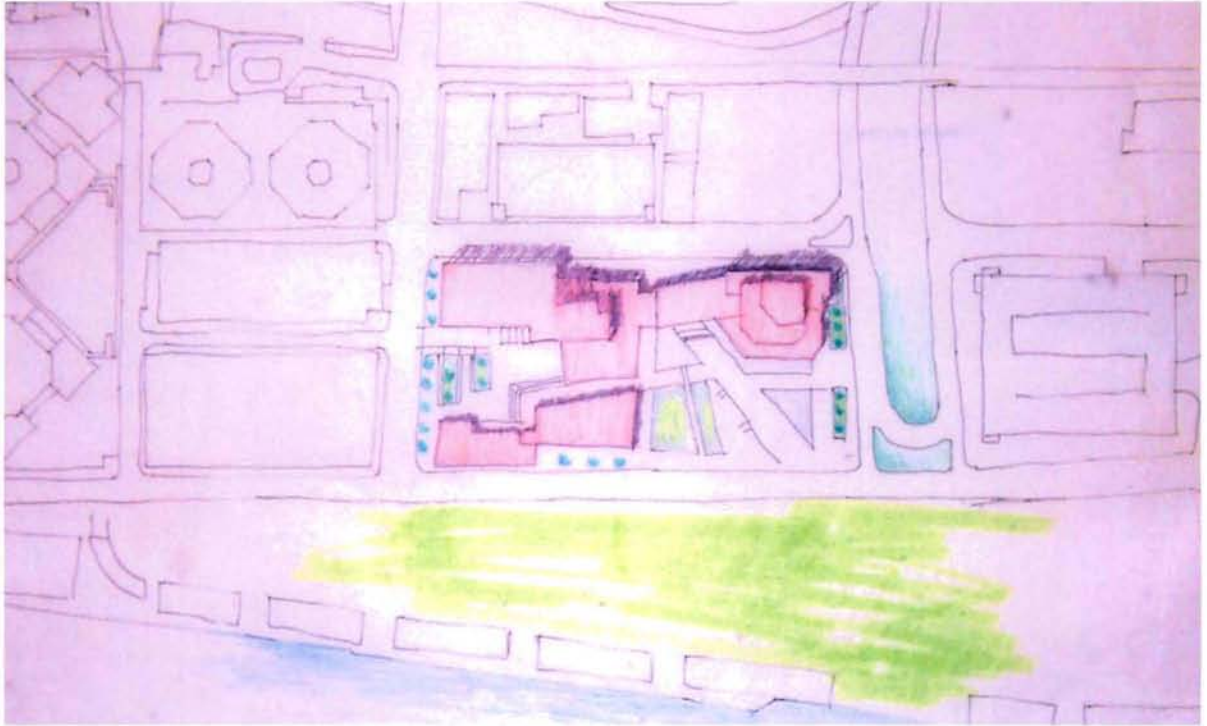
Design Development Phase 1



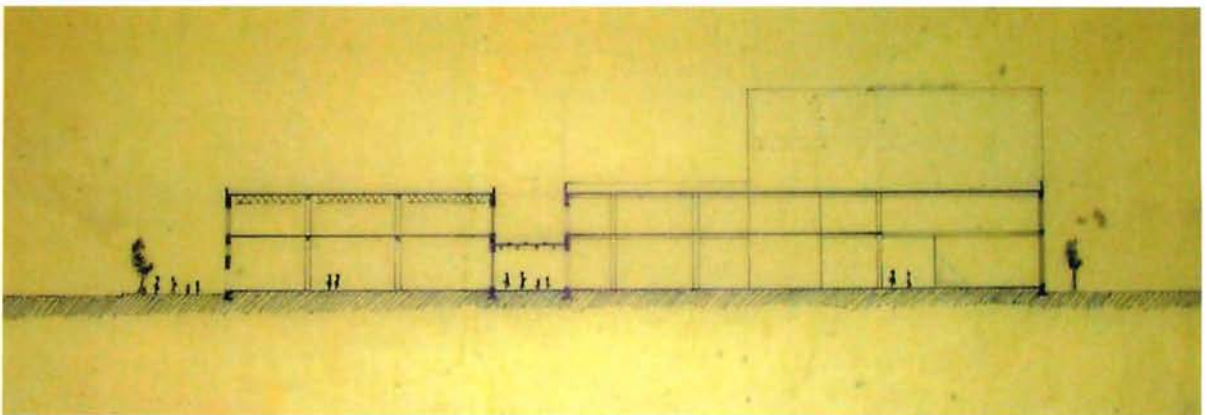
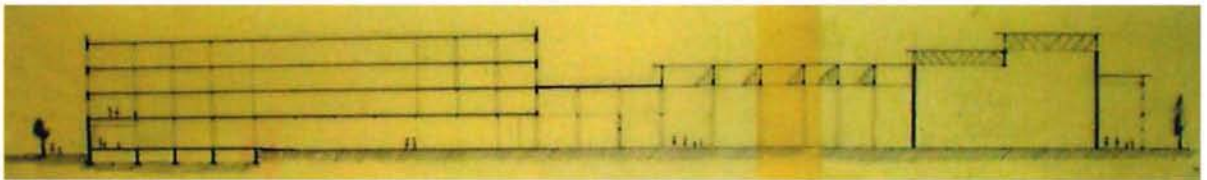
These are the series of Floorplans of my development.

Three main functions are now separated. They become the destination within the site, which help me to develop the next concept of transitional public spaces.

Design Development Phase 1



Siteplan drawing with some landscaping



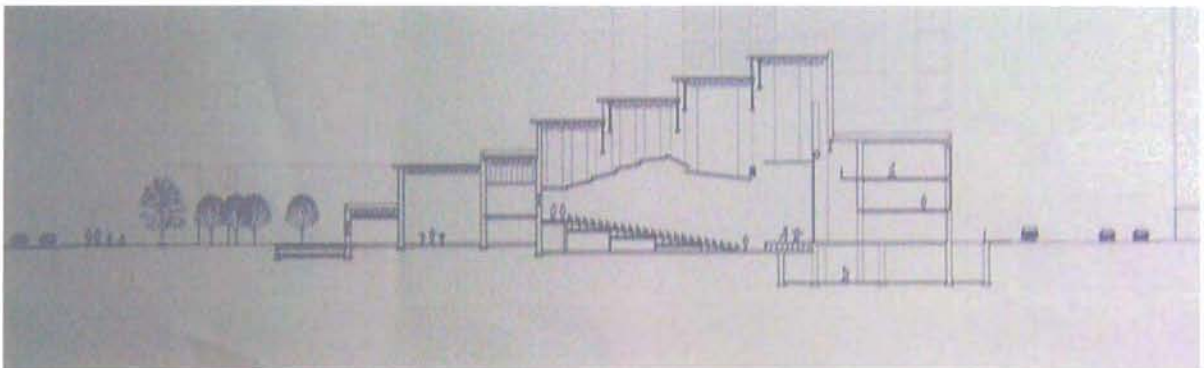
Section drawings

Design Development Phase 2

During this stage, the design is getting closer to complete. It is more develop. My focus at this point is the Destination definition of public space. At the same time, I want to experience some design with landscape and transitional spaces.

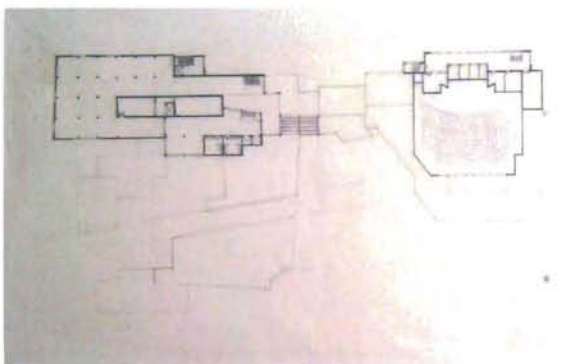
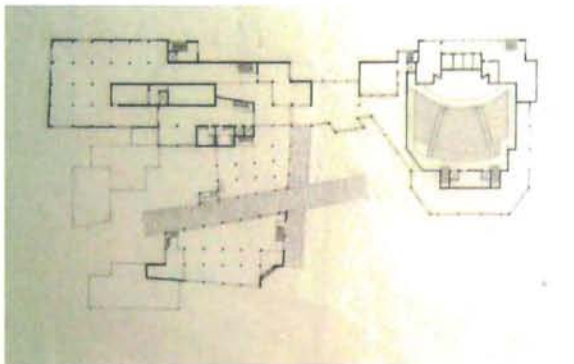
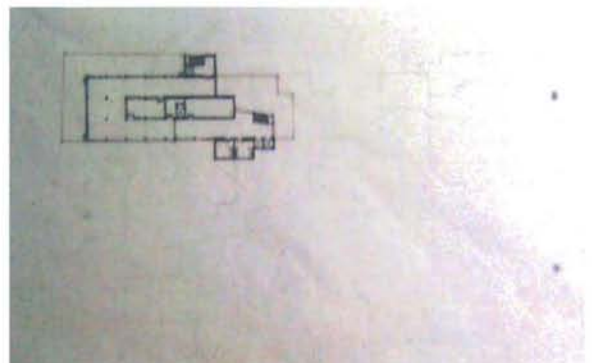
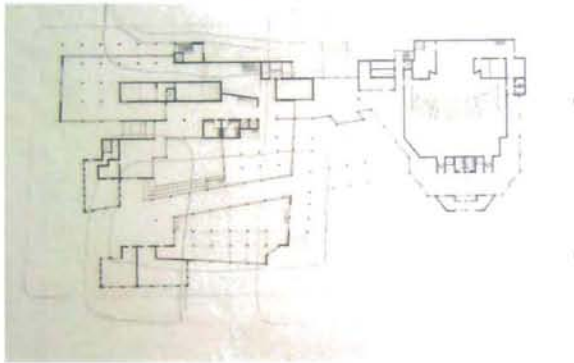
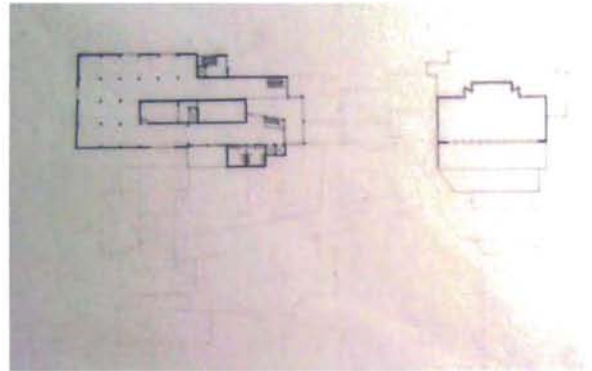
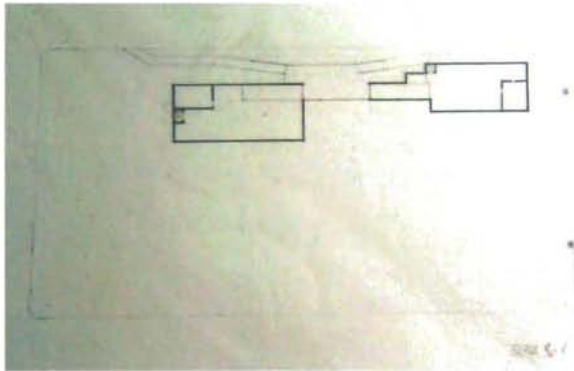


Siteplan of the second phase of design, This time i want to create a connection with the riverwalk through the green spaces. The main Destination is still at the other side of At Water street.



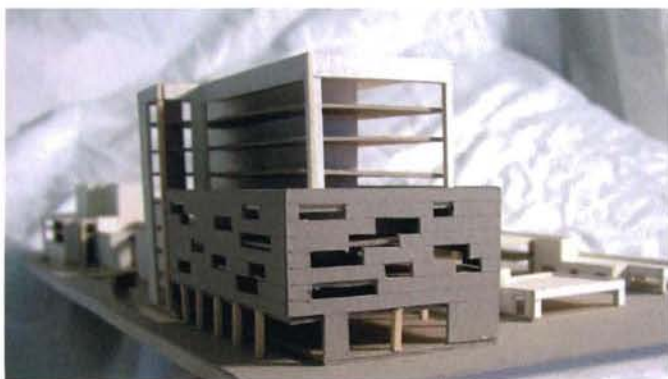
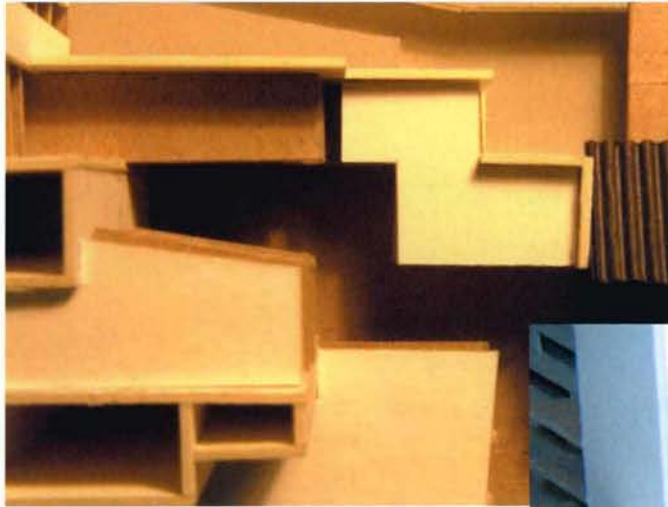
This part is a section drawing cuts through the theater space of my proposal.

Design Development Phase 2



These are Floorplans of the Design Development Phase 2. They are more developed than before. The functions start to show and level of design.

Design Development Phase 2:

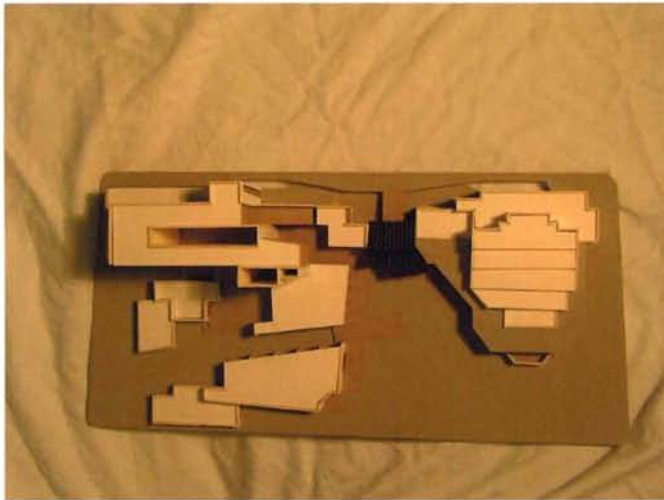


These are the images of my developed detail model of the proposal. The museum is at the middle part with the offices on top. Public spaces become more clearer with the shared atrium space images above. The image on the left also show the outdoor public spaces for relaxation or strolling.

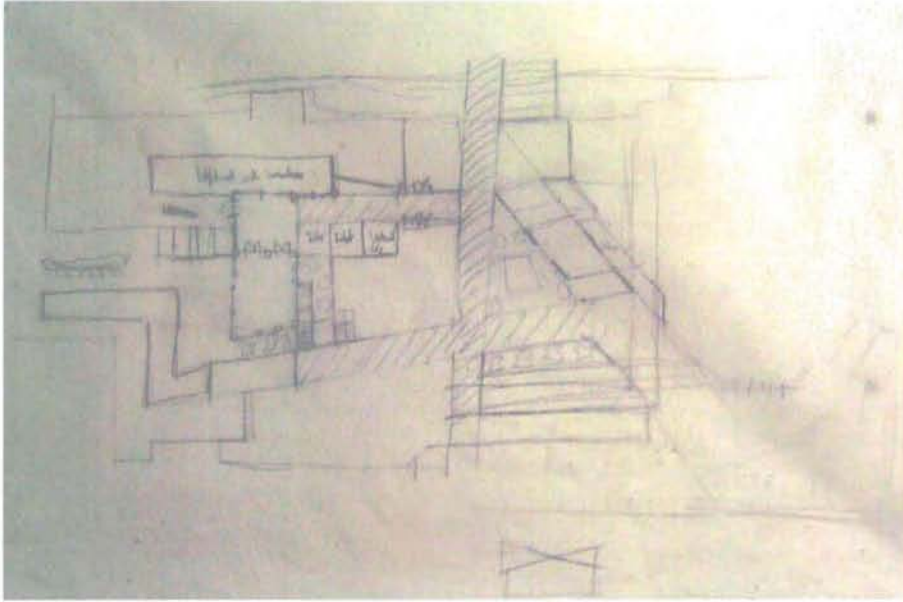
Design Development Phase 2



The images to the left are the full view of my detail model. At this stage, the skin design of my proposal also reveal. There are influences from the springboard sections such as the exterior details of my museum.



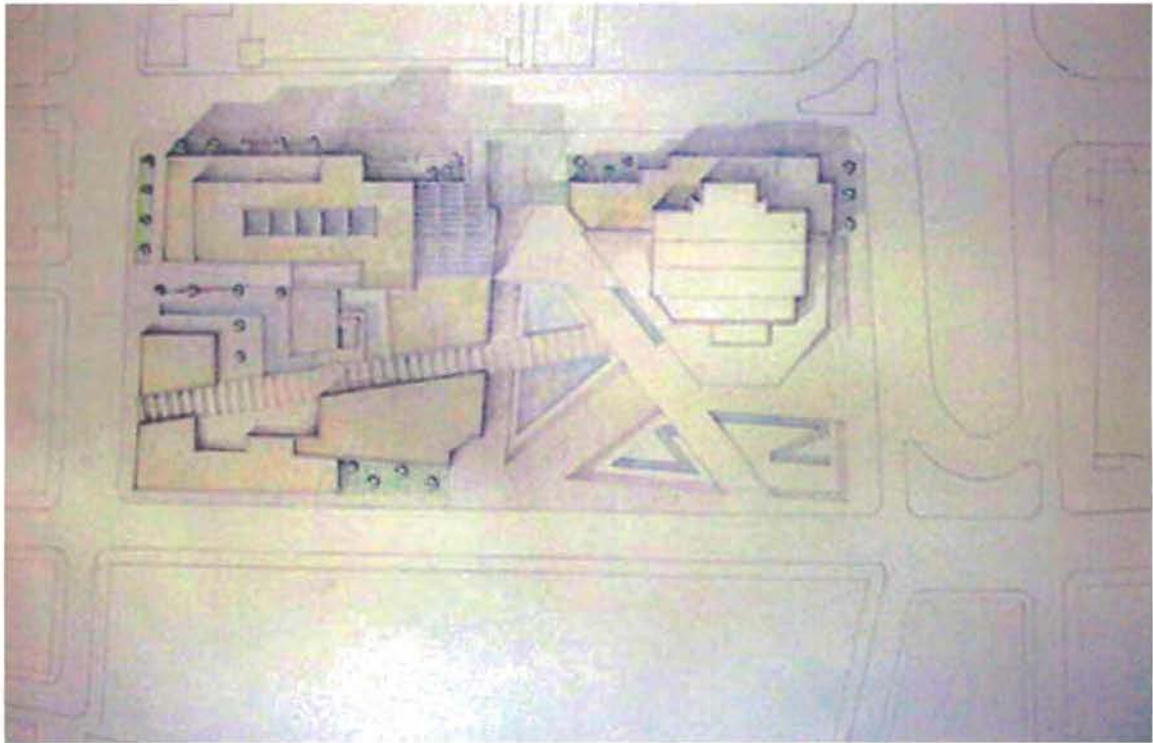
Design Development Phase 2



During this phase, I also develop the transitional and outdoor public spaces. The two stretches above are the process of my thinking.

Final Design Phase and Final
Presentation Documents

Final Design and Final Presentation

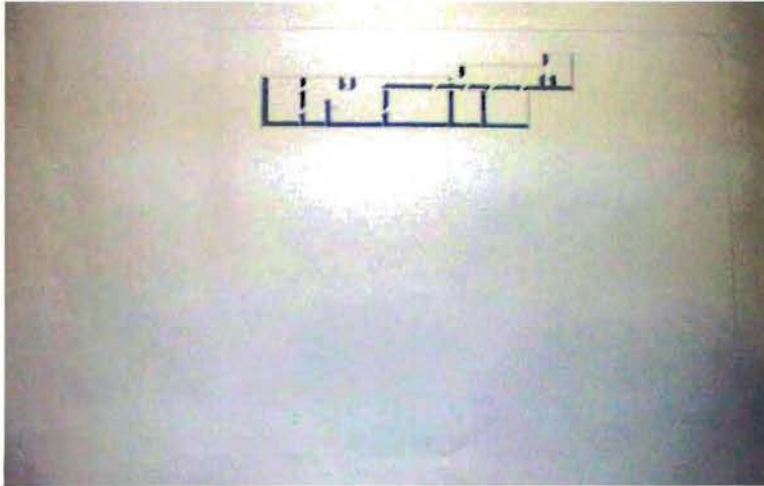


This is the final stage of my investigation of this year. The proposal has been developed. The idea of public space as a destination and transition spaces are revealing within the design.

With the new development along the riverfront, I hope that my Proposal will become a Destination to draw activities into the riverfront. It will serve as a gateway of the new neighborhood. Surrounding by GM proposals of residential development. This Proposal of mine will be a place for local people and the same time for visitors to come and enjoy the riverfront of Detroit.

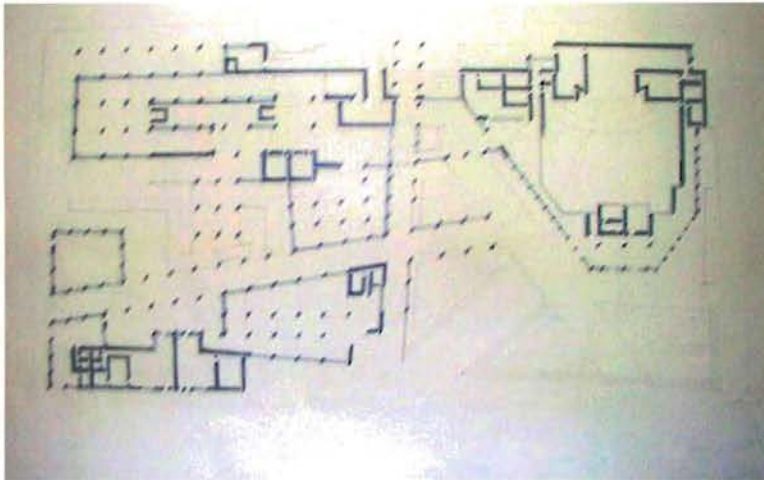
The design in some way influenced by the nature of the site. It is quite inward oriented because the domination culture of Renaissance center. But at the same time, it is also celebrate the open spaces, the gesture of the open water fountain area at the right corner above suggest there are opportunity for bigger open public spaces. There are many parks that have been developed along the river. My proposal is like a transition complex from a complete inward culture of Renaissance into the new outward focus of the public realm along the Detroit river.

Final Design and Final Presentation

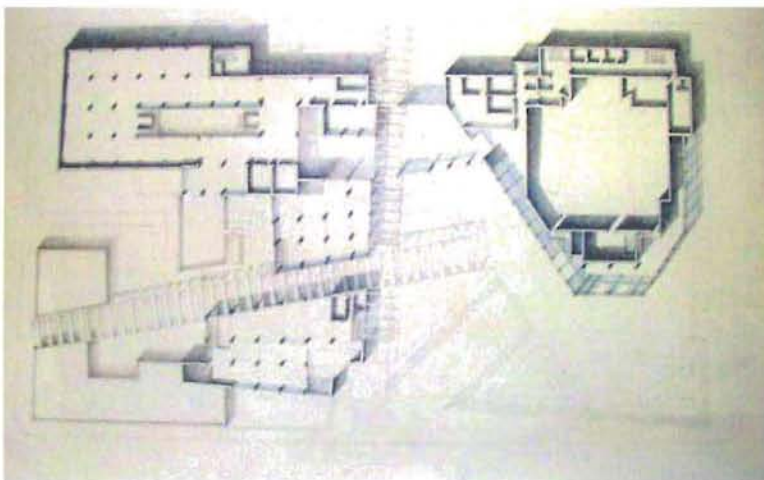


These are final drawings of the final proposal. I rendered the shadows of all the solid elements. The drawings are combine of pencil colors and regular 3 H Faber Castel pencils. These floorplans are like a sequence from the first one to the last.

Basement Plan

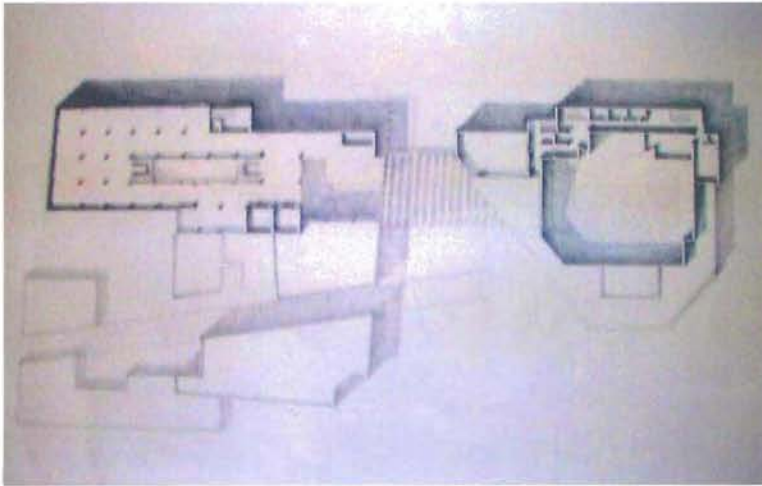


First Floorplan

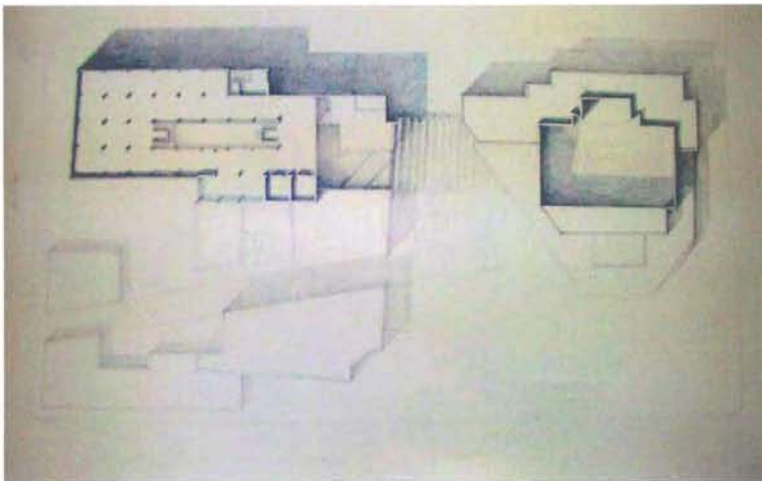


Second Floorplan

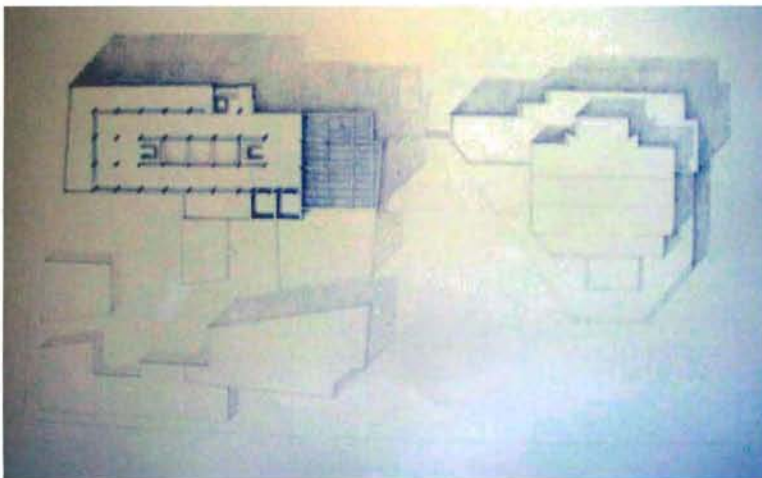
Final Design and Final Presentation



Third Floorplan

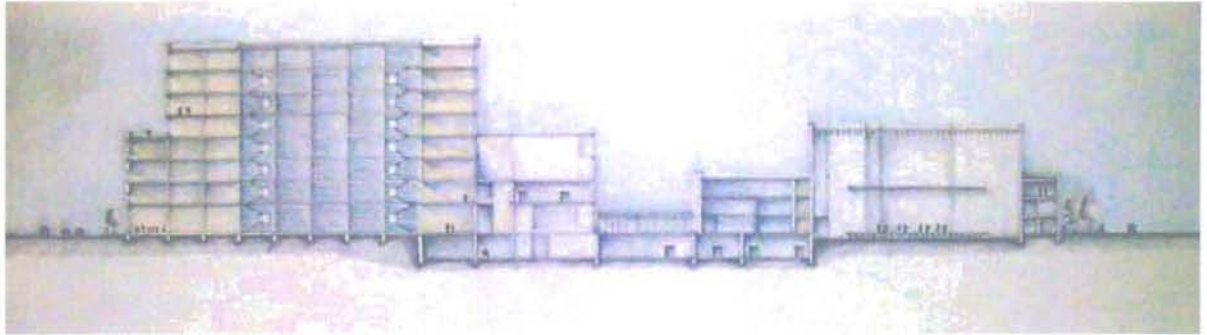


Fourth Floorplan

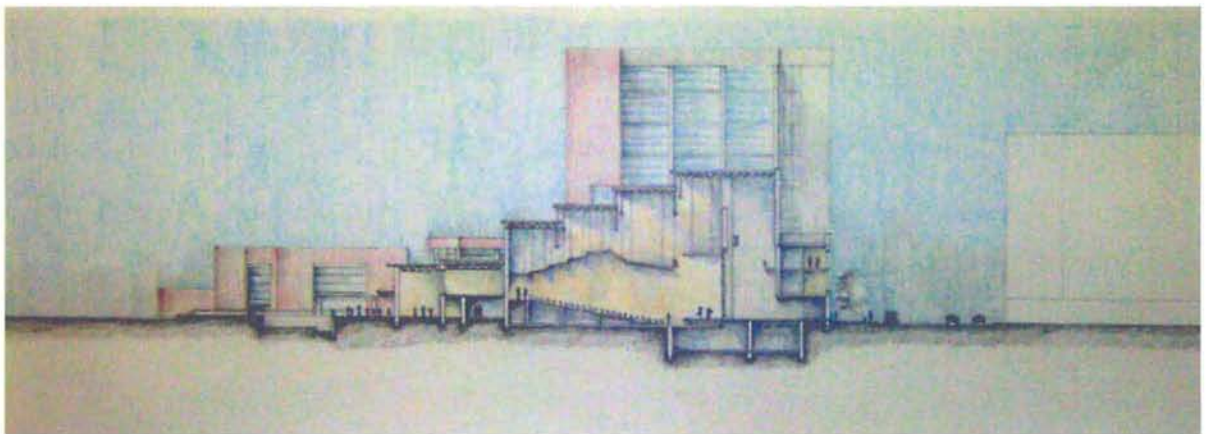
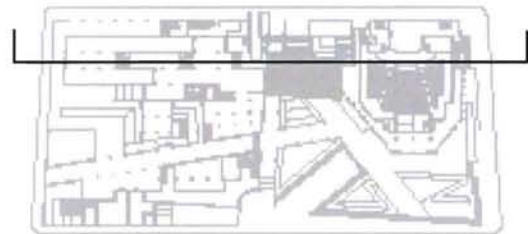


Fifth Floorplan (all the floors above are typical)

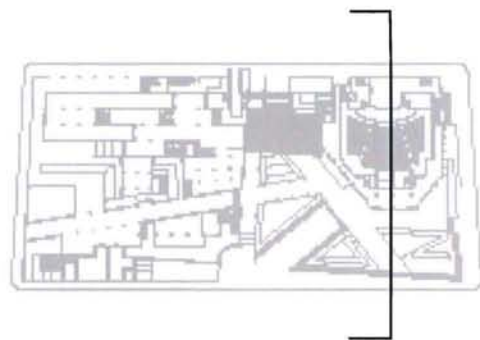
Final Design and Final Presentation



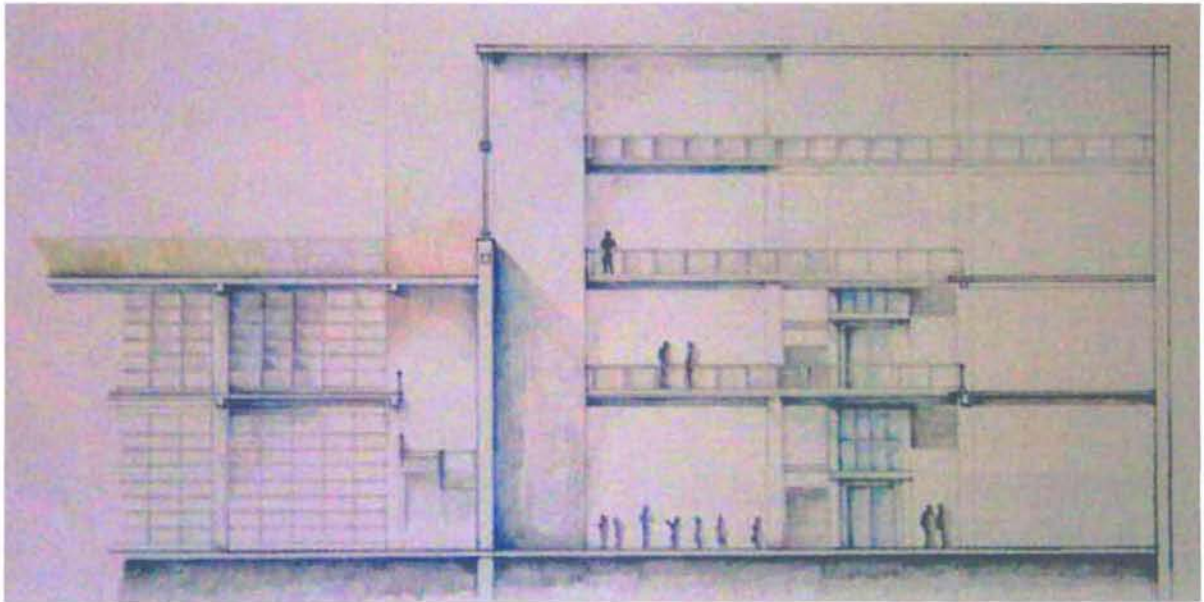
Section drawing of the entire complex



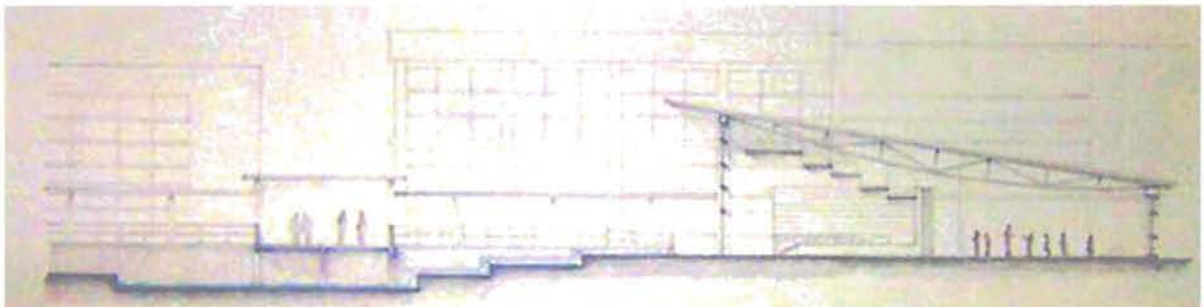
Section drawing that cut through the theater



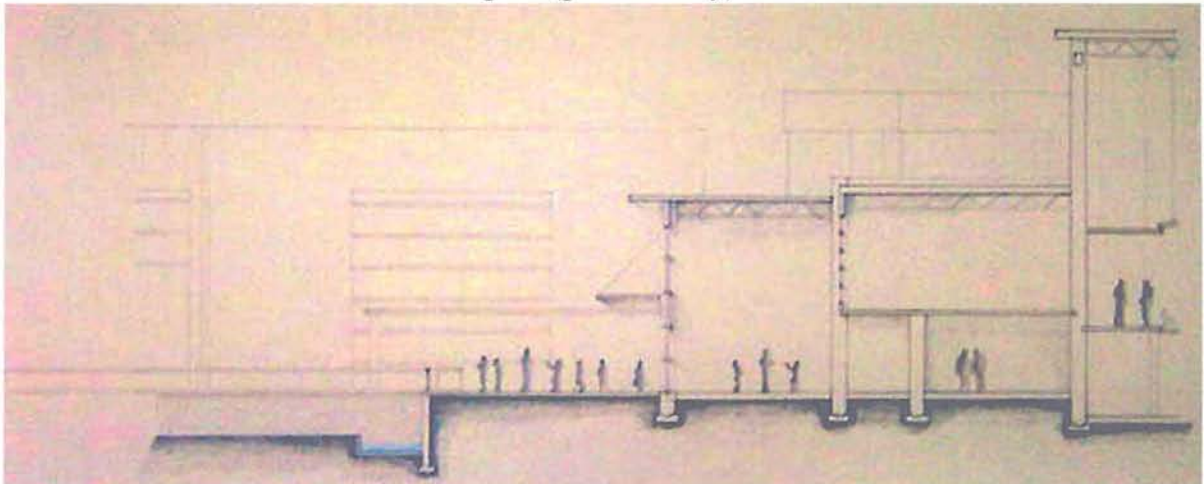
Final Design and Final Presentation



This section shows the shared atrium of the museum and office

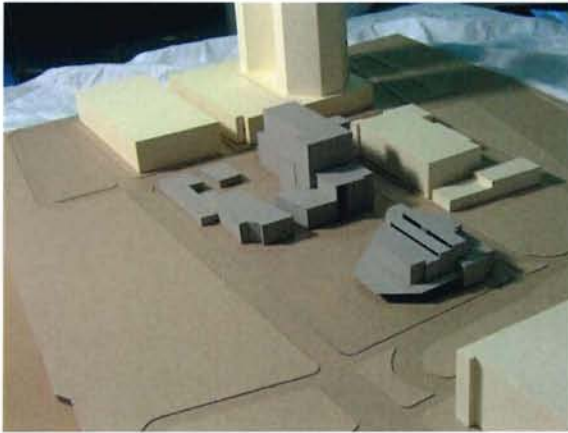


This section shows the transitional space (public lobby) between the museum and theater



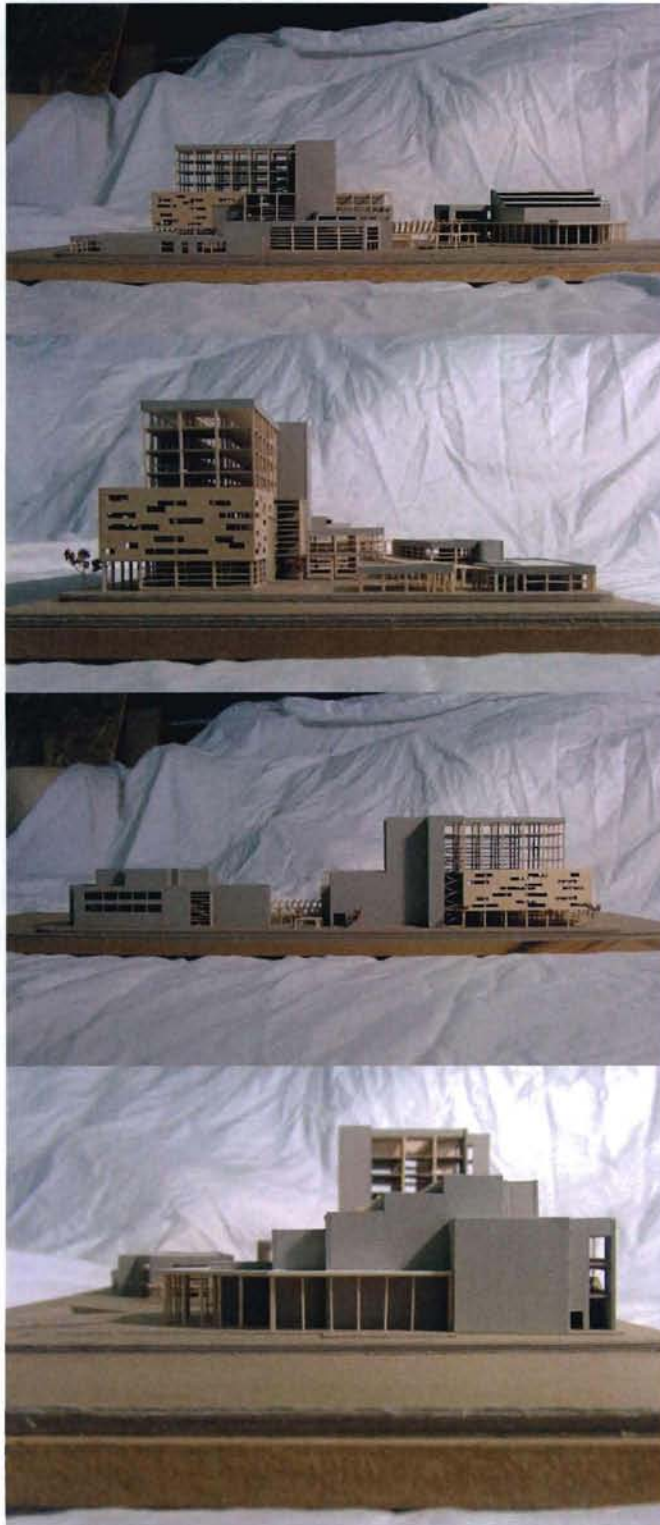
This section shows the theater lobby and the front public space.

Final Design and Final Presentation



These are images of the massing model with in the site context.

Final Design and Final Presentation



These are images of the elevations of my proposal. They are pictures of my final detail model at 1/32 scale.

Final Design and Final Presentation



These are perspective view of my design



Final Design and Final Presentation



These are the images details from my models. They are the zoom in of the public transitional spaces.

Conclusion of Research and
Project

As the year long research ended, there are still many questions to ask about public spaces. The whole year long has been a challenge to me. I have been questioning myself many times about the process of the thesis. Sometime it is like a dry lake without any water to draw. There was time of frustration but I am happy with what I have.

The thesis is an attempt to study the public spaces and identity of it. It began as a curiosity about the new culture that I am living in. Public spaces are a very diverse topic as I am moving along with my research. There is no clear indication of what are public spaces. They are varying from cultures. Through my research, I learned that public spaces are entering into the new evolution of itself. The advanced of technology quickly changing the identity of public space. They become more passive than active, which mean they are serving as a node and not the place to go. The real example of this is more fit with the open spaces within the urban context. At the same time, the interior public spaces also transform themselves into Destinations. They are the main attraction of the public realm. This is also influence my thesis project. Based on the study, I developed my thesis proposal with the idea of a Destination with multiple transitional spaces in between.

According to my independent study of effect of public spaces with human life, we all need public space to strengthen the relationship with each other and to be a part of the society. Public spaces are very important with human life. When we are among other people that are when we learn about life and how

to interact with other human being. Today, there are many younger people struggling with this relationship. Most of the younger generations are depending too much on internet and technology (Cell phone...) they are not interact enough in the public spaces to learn about the basic human function. Technology if not careful will dehumanize us. But what is really the draw of people into the public space. From the study of Ian Gehl, the real attraction is activities because activities will create more interesting interaction between humans.

From the study of psychology effect, I want to create the attraction within my proposal, which also help to explain the concept of destination. I proposed a museum of modern art, a theater, offices and retails. It is also an application of mix use because that will continue to keep the activity level up.

When the design process at the final stage, there are still many questions I want to ask but time is running out. To really answer the question of public space, I have to address the real issue of the culture, which I was lack of on my research. The site that I chose also gives me a lot of problem. There are a lot of issues within the site because the GM Corporation is a very complex entity. To finish this research is impossible because what I learn from the thesis project is that it is like an evolution of a living organism. It will continue to change as long as human still exist, especially with the thesis of public spaces topic.

Endnotes

(1) Jackson, J.B. *The American Public Space*. Please see the Annotated Bibliography for more details. published 1987.

(2) Tibbalds, Francis. *Making People-Friendly Towns, Improving The Public Environment in Towns and Cities*. The Pedestrian and human are what make a place public. published 1992.

(3) Russell, James S. *The Mayor's Institute Excellence In City Design*-the design professions. This is an essay critic of the view of design profession with the view of public. published 2002.

(4) Sennett, Richard. *The Mayor's Institute Excellence In City Design*-the "civitas" of seeing. The declination of public spaces. published 2002.

(5) Kohn, Margaret. *Brave New Neighborhoods, The privatization of public space*. A new view of modern public spaces. What is public space and the real meaning of being in public. published 2004.

For more details information see Annotated Bibliography.

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