[TRANSITIONS] and architecture

Mark See

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CHAPTER I

Thesis Paper

An individual has not started living until he can rise above the narrow confines of his individualistic concerns to the broader concerns of all humanity.

- Martin Luther King, Jr.

[THESIS] abstract

The intent of this thesis is to propose that the world is experienced through a series of transitional elements that give way from one event to another. As objects/events begin to reveal themselves, a new set of circumstances present themselves. Events in ones unfold in a similar fashion. The methods by which an architect celebrates such events through the choreography of material, objects, spaces technology and emotions can create dramatic spaces that lend themselves to an expression much stronger – theoretically and emotionally – than we have grown accustomed. Whether the transition is sudden – as we enter a door from the outside and immediately feel a rush of cool air – or gradual, as in the ivy that grows on an exterior wall, linking two fundamentally similar but drastically different worlds to one another – the way in which these events are arranged begin to draw our emotions. Revealing the circumstances surrounding these events – or transitions – that provoke such a strong and dramatic presence will be the key to creating architecture of the same caliber. Similarly, celebrating these events – as historical precedence, or hinting in anticipation towards the future – can allow architecture to maintain a strong presence in both physical and theoretical realms.

[THESIS] examined

A person often views the world – in a subconscious manner – as if they were looking through a picture window; each edge defined by enclosed borders. Such an allegation can be supported by evidence found even within the anatomy of the human eye; the vertical orientation limited by ones eyelids and the horizontal edges blurred outside of the eyes cone of vision. Outside of these borders lies a composition only realized when we realign our focus. There lies a world around us not realized until we shift our attention.

It may be interesting to note that the human mind is limited in a similar way. Sigmund Freud spoke of different levels of consciousness, including the conscious, subconscious and preconscious. Similar to the window as described in the previous paragraph, the conscious mindset speaks of that in which a person is aware of his/her thoughts, environment, and/or surroundings. Conversely, the subconscious mindset speaks to a condition where the mind holds information that is not available in a conscious state without intense coercion. Finally, Freud recognized the mental state of preconscious. Crudely summarized, one could suggest that this covers the "in between" area, where information not immediately accessible through the conscious mind can be quickly called to memory.

> "We have attributed three qualities to mental processes; they are conscious, preconscious, or unconscious. The division between the three classes of material which have the qualities is neither absolute nor permanent. What is preconscious become conscious, as we have seen, without any activity on our part; what is unconscious can, as a result of our efforts, be made conscious, though in the process we may have an impression that we are overcoming what are often very strong resistances."[1]

A person often views the world as if it had suddenly appeared; un-surrounded by creation or demise. Similarly, within the constant rush of daily life we tend to view people of the world as if their current circumstance was/is a direct result of personal choice; as if life is free from un-controllable circumstance. Often the mind views unfamiliar existence as it is seen at the current moment in time; like a still image from a camera. The images – frozen in time – arranged in a composition not by chance, but because a conscious controlled decision had been made to create such an image. Granted we all understand that circumstances arise that are beyond our control, as it never has been more apparent than in the eyes of the newly homeless due to Hurricane Katrina in August of 2005. The truth remains that inherent within human nature (at least in modernity) lies the flaw of judgment without reason or just cause.

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[1] "An Outline of Psychoanalysis" [1940], translated by James Strachey. N.Y.: Norton

Aside from the generalizations blatantly stated in the previous paragraphs, it is understood that ignorance is not a universal characteristic. It is not assumed that people do not understand the aforementioned conditions of human life, only that it is not recognized on a constant, conscious level. Within the haste and unwarranted generalization [as plainly realized in the previous paragraphs of this section] inherent in stereotypes, an irrational decision is subconsciously made and carried through within our actions. The truth behind the matter is that we do understand that there is more to life than what we see in our visual realm; we realize that life makes some decisions for us – beyond our realm of control. However, beyond the recognition of all previously mentioned conditions, one last condition must be addressed. Understanding that this section speaks in generalities and that the human level of self-awareness varies [sometimes greatly] within members of society the self-absorption and compartmentalization of daily life leaves no room for impending conditions that may inconvenience or distort ones efficiency of his/her daily routine. The statement is harsh – but the realization within oneself – the personal self-discovery – is alarming to the very core.

In response, we all have exceptions. No one really portrays such characteristics, and - individually – everyone is the "exception to the rule." The logic remains however; "the whole is the sum of its parts." Although we would all become self-assured in the notion that "I" am different, again, if we all were convinced of the notions set forth by this thesis, this thesis would not exist – as the problem being addressed would not exist. Perhaps the sarcasm is a bit harsh and undeserving, but such an approach is required not to demean, but to draw emphasis to a problem which will be further addressed.

The nature of a thesis is one that must be called into question – especially in regards to the fact that thus far only societal conditions have been addressed – or brought into question – within the context of an architectural problem. The true nature of a thesis is not to exhibit skills learned thus far, nor is it intended to create an architectural composition as if it were a collage of images and technologies found in this month's version of Architectural Record. On the contrary, the intent – as well as the true challenge – is to pose a question in context of a problem. Thus far it can be easily deduced that this thesis ventures to propose a question – a problem – that maintains its existence in a realm in which pertains to society. The intent chosen herein, ventures to call into question – in a confrontational manner – not only collective mannerisms of society's majority, but the way in which certain realities are suppressed in interest of a false utopian quest. It is seemingly natural that as architecture is comprised from a problem posed by societal needs, that questioning society seems to be a natural avenue for exploration – albeit an incomplete one. It seems only natural that since architecture takes on a personality dictated by the aforementioned members of society, architecture will therefore be called into question as well. Although architecture is a byproduct of the society that creates it, it is also an art; as with any great artist, architecture has the ability – if not the duty – to question and challenge norms through a thoughtful expression and striking statement. As any great art addresses unfavorable conditions of society in an intellectual "controlled rebellion", where the idea attempts to provoke though and conversation.

[FAILED] transitions

As previously discussed, events occur in ones life that are beyond our realm of control. These events are inherent in the "nature" of life. The real test – the true catalyst for disaster – occurs when the event spawning change leaves behind a situation in which one cannot reclaim control. The event produces a condition in which a person is unable to transition into a role of recovery, and realign to a path of reclaimed prosperity. Within the context of the discussion at hand, we will label such an event as a "failed transition." The label, seemingly appropriate, speaks of not only and event – or catalyst – that produces such a catastrophic change of circumstances, but it relates to an inability to recover from such an event and transition into a role to aid in the needs of society. Appropriately, the basis of this thesis will explore problems set forth by these failed transitions, and question the methodologies in which society chooses to address [or not address] the issues surrounding these "failed transitions"

A common theme has appeared in the lives of society's majority. We have become a population to take at will, use at our leisure and cast aside to our convenience. As we deem something "unfit" for future use or exploitation, we simply throw it away; but where is away? The fact is, our remnants remain as scars amongst our society. The theory – so popularly subscribed to – has become a lifestyle. People are treated the same as our waste. A person that is not useful to a society is thrown out to the very place that we throw our trash, and in return, we build structures to house ourselves in, and block others out. This thesis ventures to propose a program that will intervene. Rehabilitation will become a concurring theme, as people and place – with a previously unfortunate fate – will transition into a prosperous entity in society. Architecture can create "place" to foster the advancement of people – individual and society. It can become a catalyst for new lives and new trains of thought.

[Homelessness] Inability for people to transition:

Society creates architecture of an elitist quality. We marvel in our creations, and visit them for various purposes – at our leisure. As an aspect of a collegiate education entails, one must learn to question the norms that society has implemented. To gain comfortability and acceptance in ones society, to internalize existing circumstances that we have inherited as holistically or universally "correct" – or ethical – is to suggest that we live in a utopian society, which is of course an outrageous falsity. The very evidence negating this inaccuracy can be found wandering aimlessly throughout public spaces and living within society's infrastructure. The minute we [as members of such a society] loose sight of these facts suggest that we have grown accepting of an unacceptable problem [as one can be sure that no one actually believes that we live within a utopian society.] The very fact that a homeless population exists, separate from society, suggests that

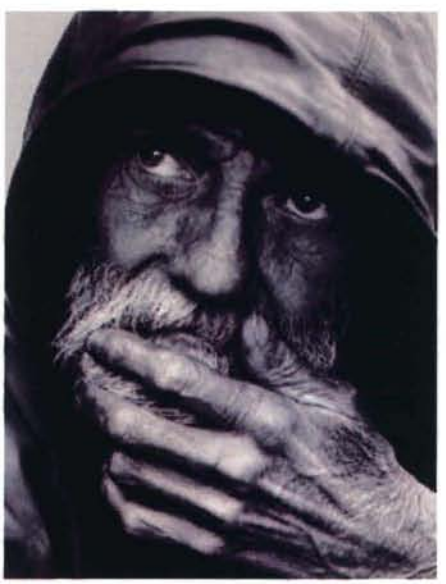


Figure 1.1 – Homeless Man

the problem not only exists, but remains a predominant one. As we remain static, comfortable in our daily routine, others have a less fortunate circumstance. We think of these people from time to time; perhaps we toss a few pennies in their hat, or make an annual donation. Somehow, we feel better as if we are making a difference, and simply return to "our" routine with a clear conscious. However, for the majority of time, we shoo these people away and seek refuge in our cars, or within the walls of "our" buildings.

What if we [society] were to create a "place" – an architectural typology – to not house ourselves in, nor wall others out, but to embrace the people we shun. What if we were to institute a program that would allow people who do not share in our luxuries to investigate an option? The fact is, several preconceived notions exist. Somehow we believe that homelessness is a choice, that somewhere along the line a conscious decision had been made to lead toward their current circumstances. We believe that these people do not want to work; after all, if they did they would have a job right? The fact remains, these people do want to work, but there are underlying circumstances that are preventing them for doing so.

> "The vast majority of people with mental illness, including those with a history of homelessness, want to work and need to work. For many, work is an adjunct to their recovery from a serious mental illness" [2]

The fact of the matter is, not only do homeless and mentally ill people want a job; they have the ability to not only work, but also maintain a job with the proper support. "The experiences of mental health consumers who have been homeless reveal that even people with significant barriers can be employed successfully with the right blend of respect, encouragement, and support." [3] However, this want for employment – alone – is not enough. The fact remains that there are significant factors prohibiting their ability to not only get a job, but to maintain one as well. The first and most prominent problem is the "lack of decent, affordable housing" [4] Without the ability to bathe, cook for ones self, or even sleep with a roof over their head, the ability to not only maintain a job, but subscribe to a schedule is quite impossible. Further, they become discourage from this reoccurring cycle of homelessness, so much so in fact that a significant portion of the homeless population suffer from mental illness and/or substance abuse problems. On a given day, an estimated 600,000 people are homeless [5], approximately one-third have a serious mental illness [6], and about one-sixth suffer from co-occurring mental illness and substance use disorders [7]. A multitude of problems not only contribute to homelessness, but serve as a catalyst for new problems. The problems may start out small, but the inability to manage these problems lead towards a downward spiral ending at poverty, homelessness, and in some cases, mental illness.

[2] "Work as a priority: A resource for employing people who have serious mental illness and are homeless." Homelessness/Housing 08/2003. U.S. Demparment of Health and Human Services. ,Http://mental health.samsha.gov/publications/allpubs/sma03-3834//default.asp. 1

[3] Work as a priority. 1

[4] Work as a priority. 2.

[5] Interagency Council on the Homeless: Priority: Home! The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness. Washington, DC: US Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1994.

[5] Federal Task Force on Homelessness ans Severe Mental Illness. *Outcasts on Main Street: Report of the Federal Task Force on Homelessness and Severe Mental Illness.* Washington, DC: Interagency Council on the Homeless, 1992.

[7] Fischer, P.J., and Breaky, W.R. The Epidemiology of Alcohol, Drug, and Mental Disorders Amont Homeless People. American Psychologist 46(11): 1115-1128, 1991

[8] Work as a priority. 3

Some hope, however, may exist. Historically, programs and research have examined the ability for the homeless (even with sever mental illness) to transition back into a profitable lifestyle. These programs aid in the recovery of homeless and mentally ill people with features that may offer the following:

- Integration of employment services with other mental health rehabilitation services;
- Emphasis on consumer preference and practical assistance with finding jobs;
- Ongoing assessment and support based on individual needs and preferences; and
- Services that are flexible, and consistent with individual preferences and long-term vocational goals [8]

In fact, a significant program has been manifested in Chicago. This housing project allows for the rehabilitation of homeless through a program that not only aids in job placement, but also offers a variety of services including vocational training, job coaching and career planning.

Facilitating Worker Role Recovery [9]

Lakefront Single Room Occupancy (SRO) in Chicago, Illinois—the Midwest's largest provider of supportive housing for people who are homeless—owns and operates 892 units of SRO housing on Chicago's North Side. Founded in 1986, Lakefront provides individuals with an affordable, permanent place to live, life skills, ongoing support for drug and alcohol addiction, as well as job training and employment opportunities. Lakefront SRO Employment Services provides individual employment assessment, career planning, pre-employment training, resources to reach job goals (including interview-appropriate clothing), job placement, job coaching, and a job bank for nearly 350 program participants, 67% of whom are African-American. Lakefront SRO tenants who express interest in finding work may enroll in a program to help prepare them for employment. In addition, a literacy program has been integrated into the program, and various partnerships have been developed with the business community to provide job training and placement.

Lakefront's success in facilitating job placement largely is attributable to its strong relationships and collaborations with area employers. For example, the agency has worked extensively with hotels in the Chicago area to develop industry-standard training with job placement and post-placement supports. Furthermore, the City of Chicago contracts with Lakefront to bring employment services to people living in public housing, many of whom have mental illnesses. The majority of Lakefront's tenants are enrolled in the employment services program; and nearly half of its participants work either full- or part-time. Tenants are eligible to receive employment services for as long as they wish, even if they move from the Lakefront housing.

[9] Mercy Housing Lakefront, "More than a roof." Near North SRO. Mercy Housing. 3 Jan 2007 <http://www.lakefront.org/housing.html>.

Figure 1.2 – Rendering of Lakefront SRO

The Mercy Housing Lakefront (MHL) is the newest project to the Lakefront SRO. The new project maintains 46,000 Square Feet and includes 96 living units. Each unit will contain their own facilities including kitchens, bathrooms, and central air systems. Further, the new building maintains principals of sustainable design including water cisterns to collect rainwater, solar thermal reflectors, and wind turbines to harness renewable energy and the city's first grey water system.

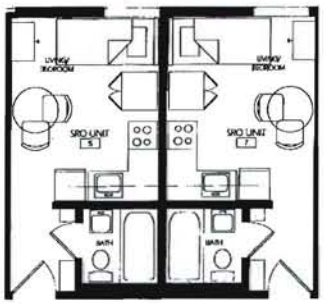


Figure 1.3 – Sample floor plan showing multiple SRO units

Figure 1.4 – Sample floor plan showing a single SRO unit

The outcomes of projects implemented for the sake of homeless, like Lakefront SRO, return favorable results. The proof resides in the statistics. A program called ACCESS had been implemented to provide such results.

> "This federally funded study examined the effect of service system integration in helping homeless people with serious mental illness exit homelessness and improve their health status, service use, and quality of life." [10]

This program reported significant success within this study.

> "Individuals who reported receiving job training services were two-and-one-third-times more likely to be working, while those who reported receiving assistance with finding a job where two-and-one-third-times more likely to be working for pay at 12-month follow-up. Vocational services were associated with positive outcomes regardless of severity of mental impairment or substance abuse difficulties" [11]

The fact remains, as the issues of homelessness increase, society continues to ignore them. However, hope remains, as illustrated by 'Lakefront SRO'. Employment remains an important aspect for means of maintaining housing, but to aid in mental illness as well. The days of simply throwing money at a problem are over, this hasn't been successful historically, and the statistics continue to remain the same.

[10] Randolph, F., Blasinsky, M., Leginski, W., Creating integrated service systems for homeless people with mental illness: The ACCESS program. *Psychiatric Services* 48: 369-373, 1997

[11] Work as a priority. 5.

"Employment is an important, but often neglected, goal for people who are homeless and have serious mental illnesses. The remedies to employing this population do not lie in formulaic solutions, but rather require existing service programs to make employment as high a priority as are housing or treatment. By receiving vocational services within a comprehensive system of care, homeless with serious mental illnesses may attain the resources they need to remain permanently housed." [12]

[Placeless] Inability for a site to transition:

"The Romans believed that places, like people, had inner spirits that determined their essences" [13]. This is to suggest that like a person, a place maintains a soul as well. The intent of this thesis is not to argue for or against metaphysical philosophy, however, the nature of the program will draw upon phenomenological aspects of the site to maintain a foundation rooted in the sites experiences. That is to say, the term "soul" is not to be thought of as a disembodied spirit; the intent is to suggest that a place houses an embodiment of experiences: history, functions – past and present - and mystical allure. As a "place's" site remains a large consideration in the design process, it will become the foundation of this thesis. Remaining congruent with the ideas previously outlined the place that is to become the stage for this examination will be a further study in failed transitions.

As it has never been more apparent, the urban – and even sub-urban – landscape has fallen victim to an inability to adapt to an ever-changing economy. Many contributing factors are to blame including the decline in the "boom" of the industrial revolution, the shift from an industrial base economy to a service based economy, and perhaps the biggest culprit: urban sprawl. The result: A building that is unable to make a transition to a place to house a new modern function. Like a spirit stuck in purgatory, these places are fixed in a state between a once-thriving member of the community, and a date with the wrecking ball. All to often, the historical significance has been so influential that the community's icon is rotting in a state of dismay.

Figure 1.5 – An abandoned structure in Detroit

[12] Work as a priority. 7.
[13] Thompson, I.H., Ecology of Community and Delight: Sources of Value in Landscape Architecture. London: Spoon, 2000.

Aside from being an aesthetic burden on ones community, abandoned architecture has somewhat of a dramatic presence. Buildings that are no longer able to function in society have become a breeding ground for crime, as well as a quite handsome target for arson. Appropriately, abandoned structures have become the new home of the homeless – a quasi-permanent residence – offering little relief from the elements, but masking a more serious issue at hand. As these structures weave themselves into the urban fabric, they are a constant reminder of a failed utopian ideal – and the irony of an abundant homeless population with an abundance of unused abandoned structures.

"Besides being the physical foundation, the site serves a building as its metaphysical basis where intentions are accumulated and tangibly expressed [14]." Alone, either idea [the inability for people to adapt, or the inability for place to adapt] would lend themselves as a respectable foundation for a thesis exploration. However, in quest of a thorough investigation, the idea of both person and site – in an attempt for a mutual rehabilitation – provides a more complete [physically and theoretically] investigation. The idea of a person in a role of rehabilitation, transitioning to a life of prosperity, on an arbitrary site would be considered a half-hearted attempt to a deeper problem; not to mention an investigation in a societal problem lacking the basis for an architectural exploration. The site that will be chosen should have a fate similar to that of the inhabitant.

> "A figure carved in stone is a fine carving when one feels that not the figure, but the stone through the medium of the figure, has come to life. Plastic conception, [modeling] on the other hand, is uppermost when the material... from which, a figure has been made appears no more than as so much suitable stuff for this creation."
>
> -C.W. Stokes

[ARCHITECTURAL] response

As previously mentioned, our society's elitist architecture not only houses us in from the outside world – but, respectively, blocks others out. This is understandable for residential purposes, but our public and civic spaces remain questionable. We construct a wall to be impenetrable to those whom we do not grant access. The truth is, we shoo these people from our civic places, and have them removed from the front steps of commercial structures. "Our" architecture takes on the personality similar to our own, which is obvious being that society creates architecture. Furthermore, architecture (at least good architecture) is like art, as it subscribes to circumstances of society. However, like great art, great architecture is not only symbolic of society's conditions, it begins to question the norms in which it is built within. According to Washington State University:

[14] Menin, Sarah. Constructing Space, Mind and Matter 1. NY, New York: Rutledge, 2003

> "Architecture has as its principal function organizing the space of human actions: eating, cooking, speaking, praying, etc. More than anything else, the language of architecture is permeated with a culture's sense of what humans should do, where they should do it, when they should do it, how important it is, and how these actions relate to the rest of the community, the material world, ant the super natural world. Read that last sentence a second time. All architecture communicates to the members of a community the meaning of their actions, that is, how their actions relate to the rest of the human, material, and spiritual worlds." [15]

If architecture in fact communicates societal actions, is it not the duty of architecture to bring forth these issues otherwise ignored? It could [and has been] criticized that this thesis ventures to propose a condition independent of an architectural condition – as a main focus has taken the position of aiding in the rehabilitation for a large homeless population. The response, of course, being that as architecture is a direct representation of societal views, such an investigations has the overwhelming ability to address not only a problem of how to meaningfully house a function, but simultaneously be able to call into question the norms that society has implemented. Clearly visible by the mere fact that third world conditions have been allowably assigned to citizens of a first class country, the norms that we have inherited are in drastic need of revision. Furthermore, this thesis has a unique ability to create a symbiotic relationship between place and program, where both dreads can be rehabilitated into a prosperous entity profitable in society. The program, as the architecture, hopes to create a relationship with the site that will allow in an existence that will feed off of each other's energy, while harmonizing the contrasts.

> "A work of architecture does not encroach upon the landscape so much as it helps to reveal and explain it."
>
> - Martin Heidegger

[15] Hooker, Richard. "A Baseline Definition of Architecture." A Baseline Definition of Architecture. 14 July 1999. Washington State University. 9 Oct 2006 <Http://www.wsu.edu/~dee/archi/baseline.htm>

CHAPTER II

Site Selection

What is true of the whole is also true of each part, so what is true – painfully true – of environment is also painfully so – of most buildings. Now if making a good building (one that is not a bad building) has become too difficult, the dilemma is indeed complete. But is it really all that difficult? Does it really require a genius to avoid the mean and meaningless – or a sage to bypass foolishness? Is there nothing between a fool and a genius – nobody in between to do the job nicely – well?

-Aldo Van Eyck

[SITE] circumstance

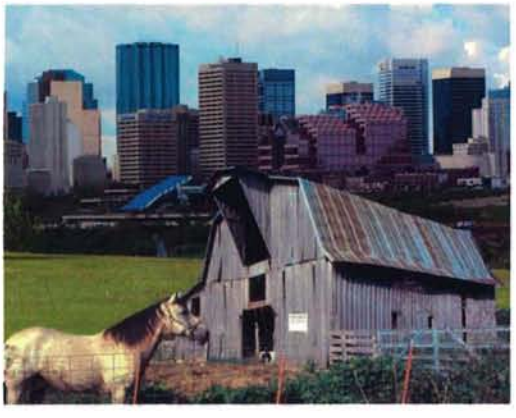
If this thesis is to materialize, the site – as previously mentioned – must consider certain elements that will later become significant in the design process. The most crucial element to be analyzed is that the site **must** have *historical* and perhaps *cultural* significance. It is imperative – that with respect to the thesis – the site undergoes similar transformations, or transitions, as the occupants who will be exposed to it. Only a site with a deeply rooted historical precedence, that is well known and – at one point – well established among its community, will offer its fullest potential to this investigation. Paying respect to the idea of "transitions" [as explained in the thesis abstract, not limiting itself to the dictionary definition], the history of the site will incorporate itself into the new design considerations. The architecture itself, as well as the functions within the buildings, must have a strong relationship with one another, as well as the chosen site. Architecture, built and natural, must adapt along with the people that are to inhabit it. Without this ability, both remain static. Only these three elements, site, architecture and those who will inhabit both, analyzed side by side, will justify a complete and thorough analysis.

In addition to the above mentioned, the site must exhibit a certain number of *physical features*. Varying elevations within the site may be valuable. Change will become important in future investigations, without change, one cannot value idea of stability – and vice versa. The theoretic evaluation of the program to come will draw from a number of physical features to serve as metaphoric gestures. Similarly, a site with the ability to experience all four seasons will become essential. This idea of change, must not only be acknowledged, but accepted and embraced. Natural resources will become essential as the design progresses. Primarily, the need for an on-site natural water source would prove beneficial; however in its absence man-made modifications would suffice. Further, the site must have the ability to bear crops and be farmed. The necessity of the site to become self-sustainable is not a primary concern; however, certain elements of sustainability will carry over into the program of both the site and the thesis.

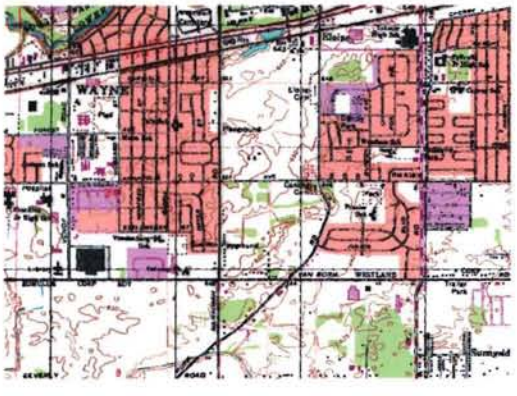
Giving clues as to the amount of space required, the site must be large enough to support many buildings and functions. Further, it must be large enough in *scale* to accommodate both recreational and occupational functions. The specific site that is to foster these new programs and ideas should be located within an urban, or better, a sub-urban context. The idea of contrast will later become important. To support this idea, the intent to showcase these differences is not "shun" its surroundings; however, it is important that the thesis is viewed as a different approach to conventional thought and design

[SITE] criteria

Historical significance will prove to become the most essential consideration in site selection. If a significant program is to manifest itself through this design process, the site must maintain a symbiotic relationship with not only architecture that it embraces, but the program in which the architecture embraces as well.



The location of the site will also become a primary concern. The specific site should be located within an *urban, or sub-urban context*. This will become important in its metaphoric symbolism, to show contrast to conventional thought and design.



The *size* of the site must work side by side with the location. As challenging as it may be, the site must be large enough [in quantity and infrastructure] to support a multitude of buildings. Further, there should be ample room for a large quantity of people, as well as areas for recreational and occupational functions.

Change will become an important aspect of the design criteria. It is important to the program that change is recognized, accepted and embraced. These ideas will be represented physically as well as metaphorically in various aspects of the program. For this reason, it is important that the site experiences all four seasons in their fullest potential.

If possible, the site would benefit from a location in or around *Detroit*. The infrastructure of Detroit – political, physical and emotional – would foster dramatic results for the program. Detroit would be specifically valuable due to the circumstances following the industrial revolution; a damaged city [physically, economically and socially] that fell into near disrepair, which is making great strides toward once again becoming a world-class city. Further, the rich history of Detroit would fall in line with the first requirement as noted above.

The presence of *historical architecture* on site would prove to be a great benefit to the new program. The first criterion suggests that the site should maintain some historical precedence; however, with the addition of nostalgic architecture, both the site and the existing structure would serve to *compliment* each other. However, the site will also require the addition of new architecture; the two should work in contrast to one another without damaging the overall ideologies of the program or vernacular.

[SITE POSSIBILITIES] Allied Paper Mill – Kalamazoo, MI

Latitude: 42°16'16.89"N
Longitude: 85°34'43.45"W

Location: The site sits between Portage Street and S. Burdick Street in the East/West orientation, and Lake Street to the North, and W. Cork Street defining its South boundary.

Predominant Site Features: Portage Creek runs in the North/South direction, dammed up to create Bryant Pond. Conrail railway lines split the site in two halves.

Located in downtown Kalamazoo Michigan, Allied Paper was one of five mills in Kalamazoo. The company was formed in 1925, and specialized in recycled and deinked paper, including carbonless copy papers. However, the products that the company had produced are not the reason that this site is an interest for this thesis. Portage Creek splits the site into two halves, and – south of East Cork Street - dams up to produce Bryant Pond. This pond has historically served as a dumping cesspool for all of the byproducts produced by Allied Paper. Currently, the structure remains abandoned, but its contaminants remain a thriving part of the community. Four areas along the river served as dumping points for leftover byproducts, including PCB's, polychlorinated biphenyls. These chemicals have been known to be a human carcinogen, and a fish advisory has been in place since the 1970's. Today, the Environmental Protection Agency has made attempts to remove the contaminants, and programs continue.

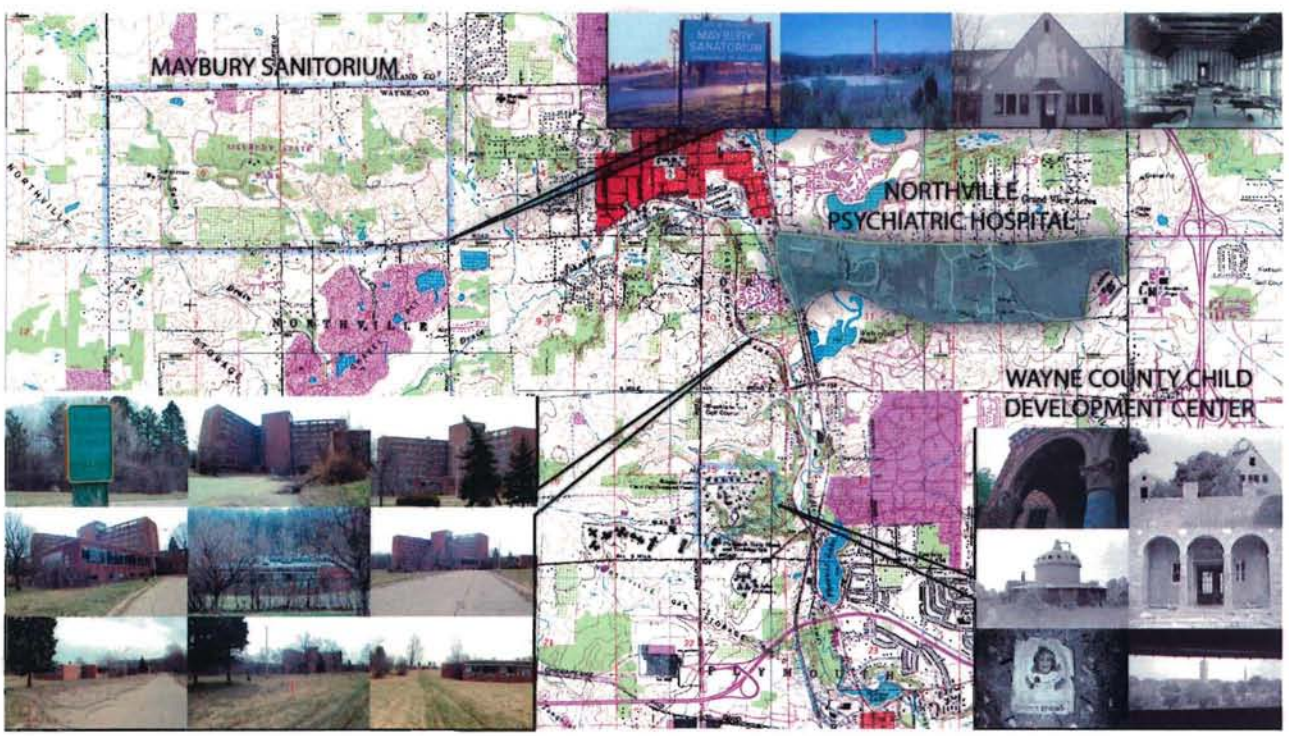
The structures that remain on site speak of a spirit long forgotten. Smoke stacks litter the skyline along one of Kalamazoo's most natural features. However, they now present themselves as shambles of a once thriving industrial park. The site provokes possibilities of how not only the architecture can be rehabilitated - or transition back to a "responsible" society - but the site may redeem itself for years of misuse.

[SITE POSSIBILITIES] Psychiatric Hospital – Northville, MI

Latitude: 42°25'20.64"N
Longitude: 83°26'58.79"W

Location: The site sits between Northville and Haggerty Road in the East/West orientation, and Six Mile Road to the North, and Seven Mile Road defining its South boundary.

Predominant Site Features: For approximately ½ mile, beginning at Haggerty Road and working its way west, a heavy dense forest conceals a large portion of the compound.



Northville maintains a prestigious reputation among Michigan's towns. However, its secrets can be found amongst the ruins located within a two mile radius. Although Northville Psychiatric Hospital is the site that is being proposed, the adjacent sites maintain a similar history, but have had a grimmer fate.

Located approximately a mile and a half south of the hospital was a site historically known as "Wayne County Child Development Center." This site had been the home for a compound that lent itself to the rehabilitation for mentally disabled children. However, in reality, the title the compound had been more commonly known as – The Center for Feeble Minded Children – tells a more realistic tale. Upon its demise in 2001, a child exploring its grounds had ventured his way on top of the roof and fell to his death – ultimately forcing Wayne County to tear down the old structures. The land had been sold to help finance Ford Field and Comerica Park, and the site today is the home for a residential subdivision.

A mile north-west of the hospital, now, is a park complete with nature trails and horse stables. However, at one point, it had lent itself as Detroit's tuberculosis sanitarium. A common reoccurring theme throughout these programs is intended towards the rehabilitation of people, however, horror stories would suggest otherwise.

Northville Psychiatric Hospital, the site that this thesis proposes as a possibility, has historically been the source for controversy and debate. The grounds had once been the home of many mentally challenged members of society, however today; the site is in need of as much attention. The grounds are overgrown and unkempt, the buildings facades are deteriorating, and the city pays a security company to stand guard 24/7.

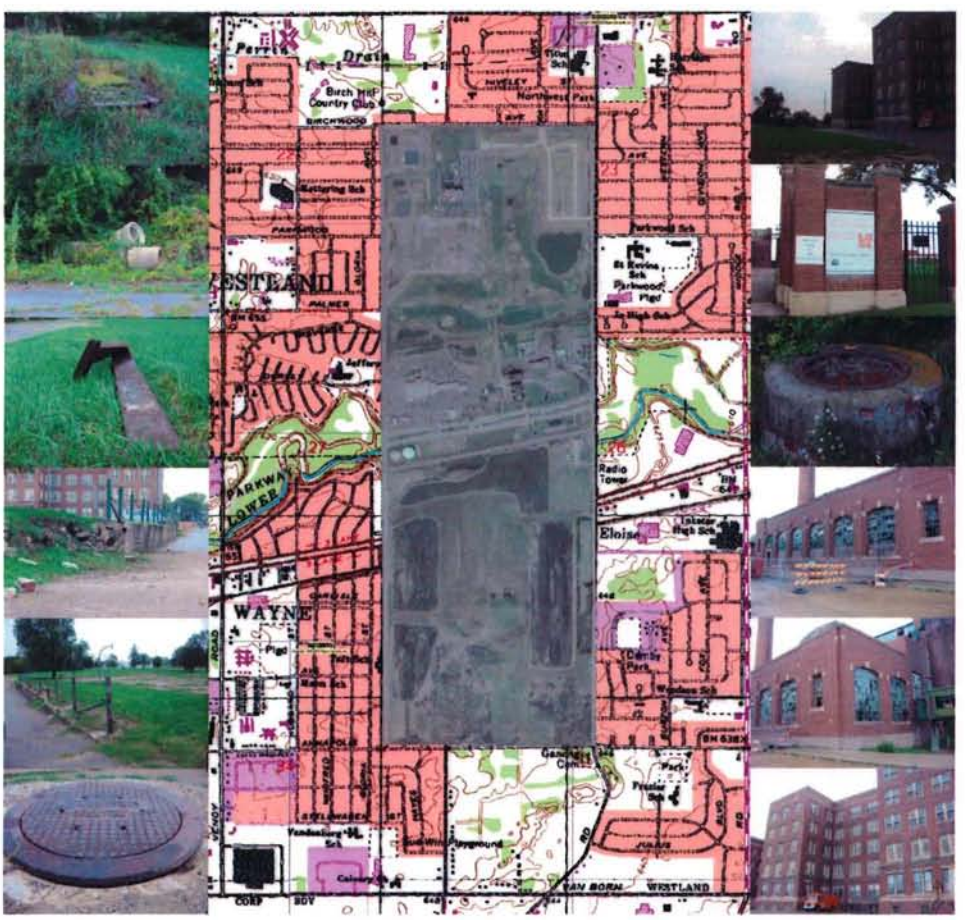
The interest that this thesis would have in this site lies not only within the rehabilitation of the specific site, as a model for the city. One would find it disheartening to discover that historical landmarks amongst our communities are being neglected, and ultimately demolished to make way for more residential parks. Our history is being written over, and the process is cyclical. The site would be incorporated into the thesis program; supporting the thesis program, it would further serve as a model of how to gracefully transition back into a workable, livable, thriving site that would better represent the history and culture of the city.

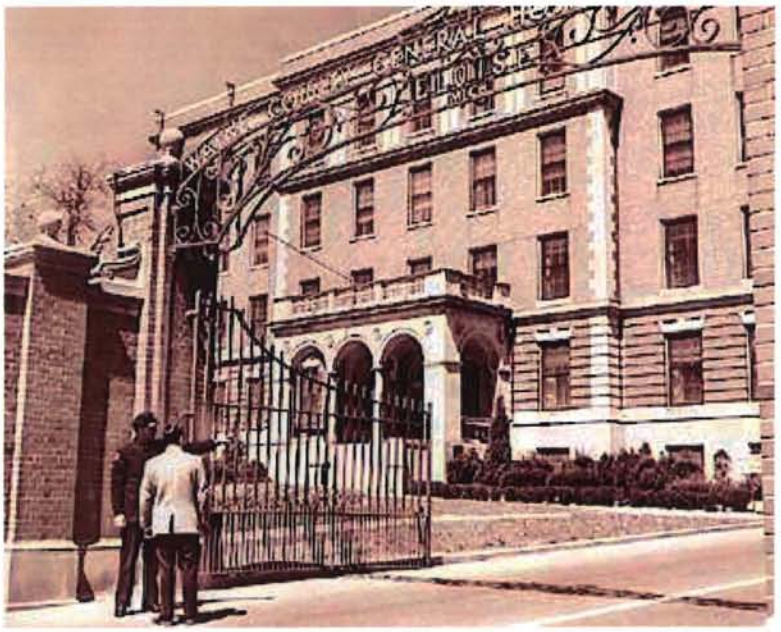
[SITE POSSIBILITIES] Eloise – Westland, MI

Latitude: 42°17'17.15"N
Longitude: 83°20'43.64"W

Location: The site sits between Merriman and Henry Ruff Roads in the East/West orientation, Palmer Road to the North, and backs up to a mobile home community [who's entrance is off of Van Born Road] defining its South boundary.

Predominant Site Features: Two retention ponds hold water run-off, one located approximately midway through the lot north of Michigan Ave, the other forming directly south of Michigan Ave. Railroad tracks split the southern portion directly below Michigan Ave. Finally, the Rouge River cuts the northern site in half north of Michigan Ave.





Eloise's history dates back from 1839, and maintains a story far from mundane. Constructed in 1828, the site now referred to as "Eloise", had originally been home the "Black Horse Tavern" - a stagecoach stop between Detroit and Ypsilanti. In 1834, due to a cholera epidemic, many children were left without parents, ultimately sending them to the poorhouse. The existing poorhouse located at Gratiot and Mt. Elliot had become over-populated, leading to the purchase of the Black Horse Tavern for $800. The existing site was added on to, and renovated to make way for the overwhelming poor population. Later, the site south of Michigan Ave had been developed into farmland to support the inhabitants of the poorhouse. In 1876, the two poorhouse structures had been converted into a psychiatric hospital to house the city's "infirm". During the Great Depression, the compound hit its peak with the massive influx of people. The site grew to 904 acres, and ultimately 70 buildings, including (but not limited to): a general hospital, multiple sanitariums, an infirmary, a power house, laundry house, police station, fire hall, piggery, bakery, amusement hall and storeroom, as well as several cottages for low rent housing, a benefit of working for Eloise. Currently, four buildings are left standing, the powerhouse, the Kay Beard Building (one of the original structures dating back to the poorhouse), the fire hall and lastly, the general hospital (now converted into a psychiatric hospital).

There is no doubt that the history of this site runs very deep. However, not all of the events that took place on campus were actions of a "responsible society". Patients were beaten, experimented on, and housed in an uncivil manner. On the south side of Michigan Avenue lies a cemetery filled with approximately 7,100 people, with their number representing their identity. The tombstones bear nothing more than a number etched within its stone.

The purpose of choosing this site as a possibility is that some believe that a site maintains a soul. The soul of this site remains very rich, but also disturbed. The ruins of old buildings riddle the landscape and serve as scars for those who had been mistreated. The ultimate goal is not to merely create a program that will in some way become a transitional element in society, but to explore the possibilities in their greatest depths. The tortured soul of this site can be rehabilitated, and reintroduced to society, as can the souls of the very members of our society who find "place" in structures like this.

CHAPTER III

Site Analysis

To build, to plant, whatever you intend
To rear the column or the arch to bend,
To swell the terras or to sink the grot;
In all, let nature never be forgot.
Consult the Genius of the place in all...."
- Alexander Pope

[ELOISE] site conditions

Given the circumstances previously stated, the Westland site, "Eloise" will prove to be the most promising choice to develop the greatest potential. The history of the site has become the prime determinant in the decision. Further, the presence of nostalgic architecture on site will allow for direct representation of the sites historical contest. Preliminary investigations led to the ill conceived notion that the best results could be derived from the constructive demolition [while preserving components for future use] of the existing structure; allowing recycled components to be reused in a manner fitting of a new architectural typology. However, later investigations had proven otherwise.

Further investigation into the existing buildings will be required for a through analysis. "The Kay Beard Building" remains the most prominent building on site. Although historical precedence had proven otherwise, the main center of attention lies within the brick and limestone facades. Once part of seventy other buildings on site, The Kay Beard Building is now only remaining patient affiliated building, housing a senior citizens service, veteran's affairs, and the Wayne county head start program. These functions will be relocated in the interest of the project. The once labeled 'D' building was erected in 1931 for the sum of $960,265 and had housed the psychiatric admission functions for the complex, as well as administrative functions, a post office, patient wards, two apartments for employees and housing for attendants. The 100,000 square foot facility was designed in a Georgian Colonial style and had meticulously maintained landscaping. The interior was lavishly designed with Tennessee marble cladding the walls and columns and spared terrazzo flooring. Much of the building is abandoned, with only the first remaining in active use. The general public is allowed to visit the facility's "museum" – amounting to a series of randomly arranged artifacts lining the main corridor – during hours of operation, and the facility grounds are open for exploration, minding the "no trespassing" signs posted on vacant buildings.

Figure 3.1 – West Elevation of the Kay Beard Building

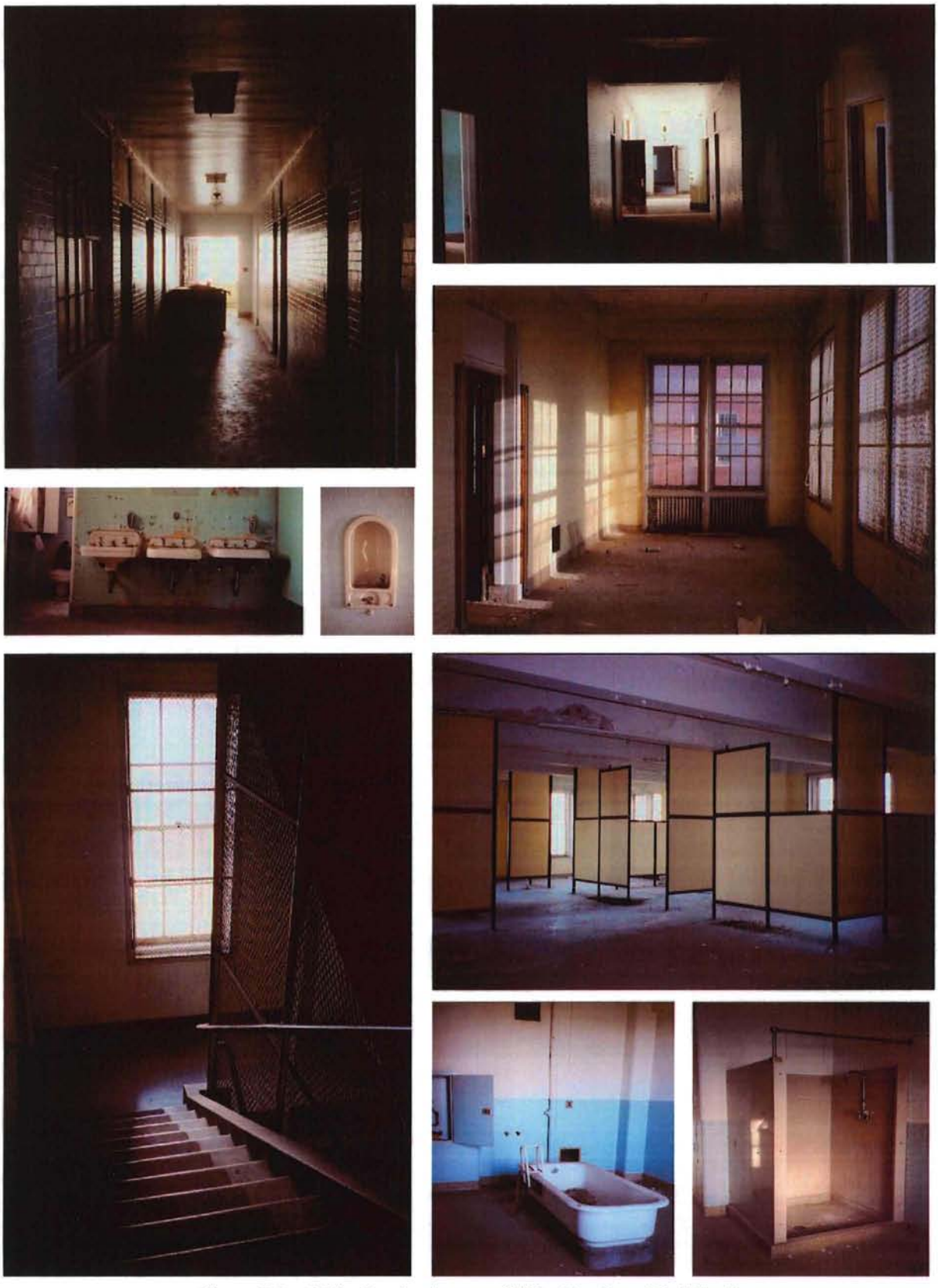


Figure 3.2 – 3.10 – Interior images of "The Kay Beard Building"

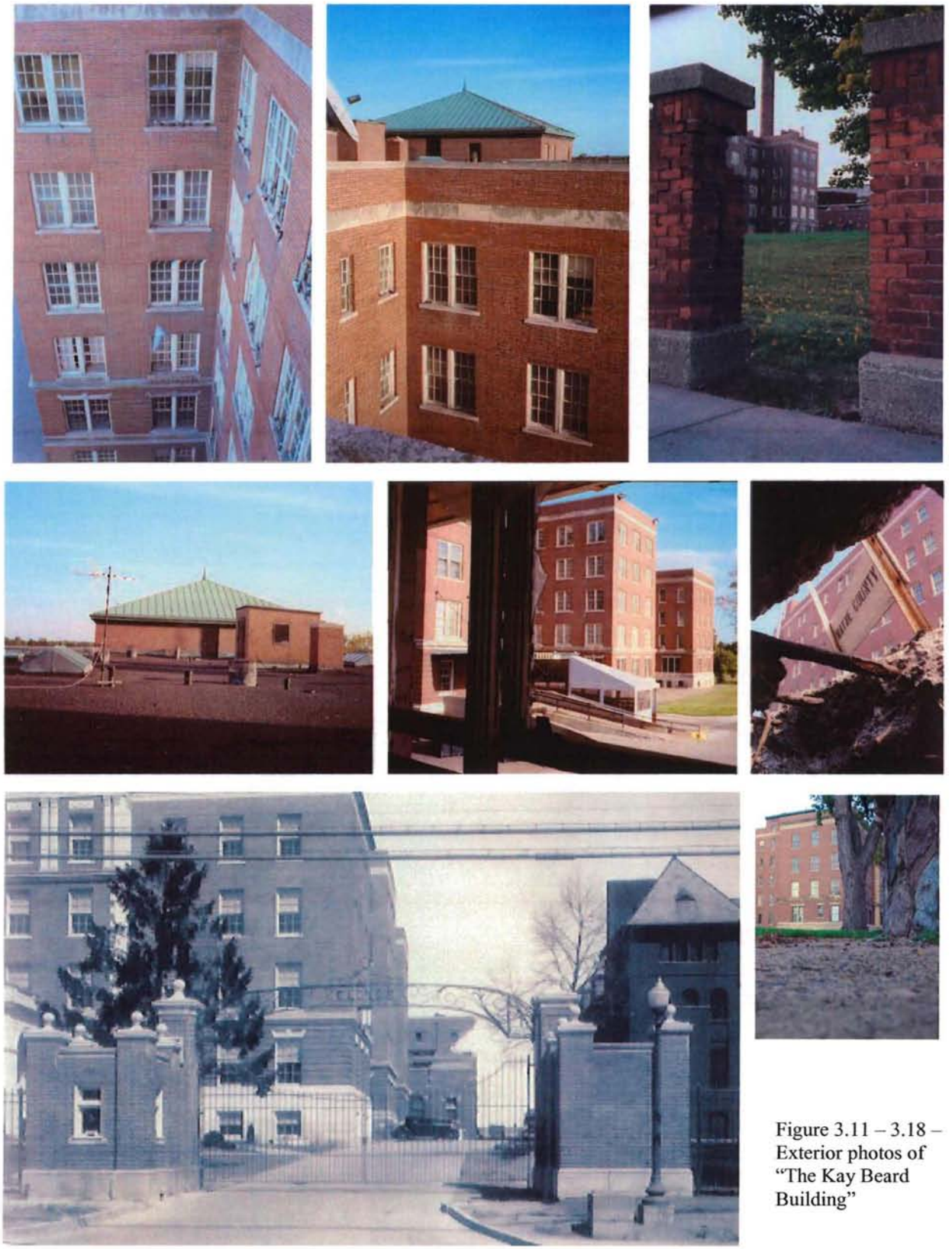


Figure 3.11 – 3.18 – Exterior photos of "The Kay Beard Building"

Eloise had remained a complex almost completely independent from city infrastructure. As this was such a large institution, a powerhouse was required to provide utilities to the 70 buildings that once had flourished on site. An original powerhouse – powerhouse 1 – was built in 1894 to provide such demands. Later, as the institution grew, the need for an enlarged power plant with more efficient capabilities became a primary concern. In response, power plant 2 [one of the four buildings left on site] was built to surround the original power plant, which was then dismantled after fully engulfed by the new plant. To supplement the evacuation of spent resources, a 200-foot high smokestack was constructed with the sites name "Eloise" expressed within the brickwork. This soaring smokestack could be seen for miles and had become almost iconic for the existence of the institution. The smokestack [measuring 28 inches thick and 17 feet in diameter at the base tapering to 8 and five-eighths inches thick and 12 feet 5 and a half inches in diameter at the top] has had the recently unfortunate fate of being demolished from the Westland skyline. Fore some time, the top of the smokestack had been deteriorating, leaving bricks plummeting to the ground due to lack of care and maintenance. Wayne County budgeted over $120,000 for the demolition, but lost a precious piece of Michigan's history. September of 2006 had spelled disaster for the 200ft icon – a truly dreary day for the site. Now all that remains are the memories that once had towered over the facility.

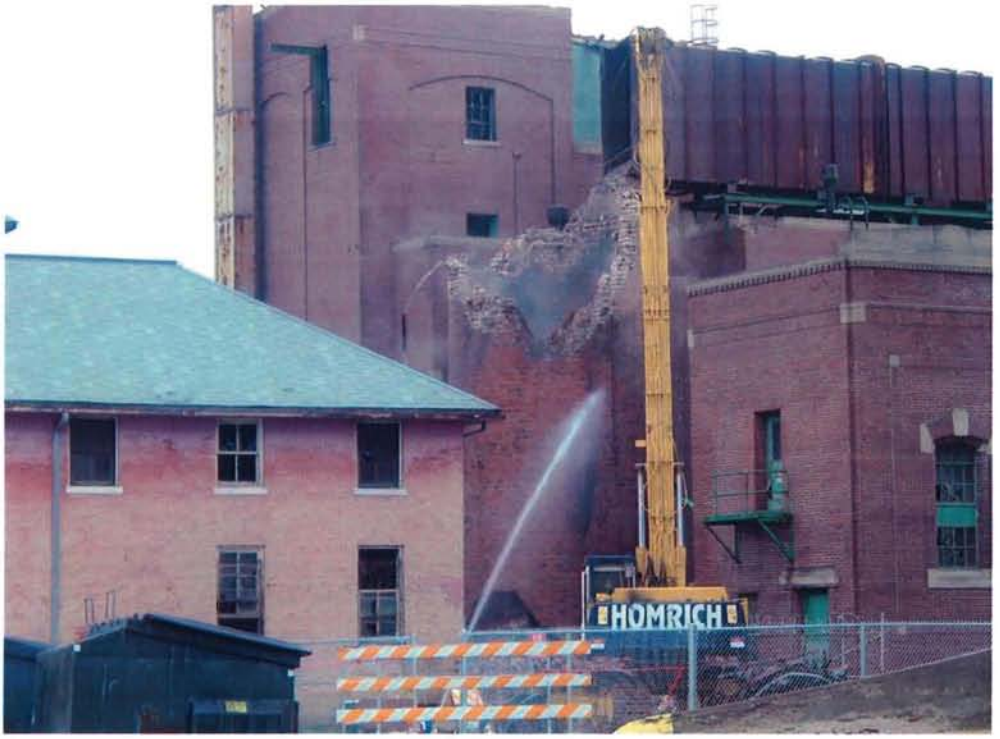


Figure 3.19 – The demolition of the power plant's smokestack

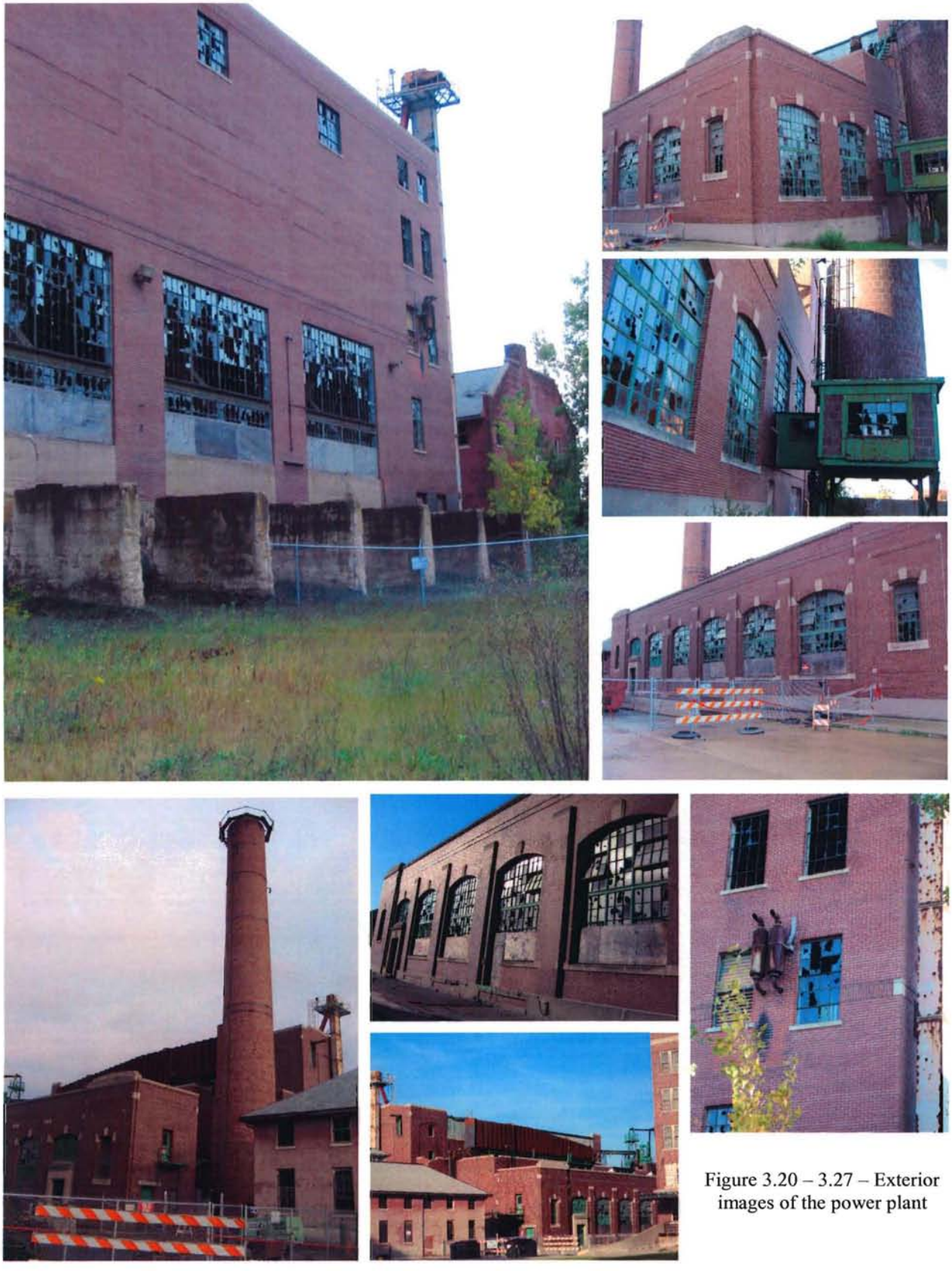
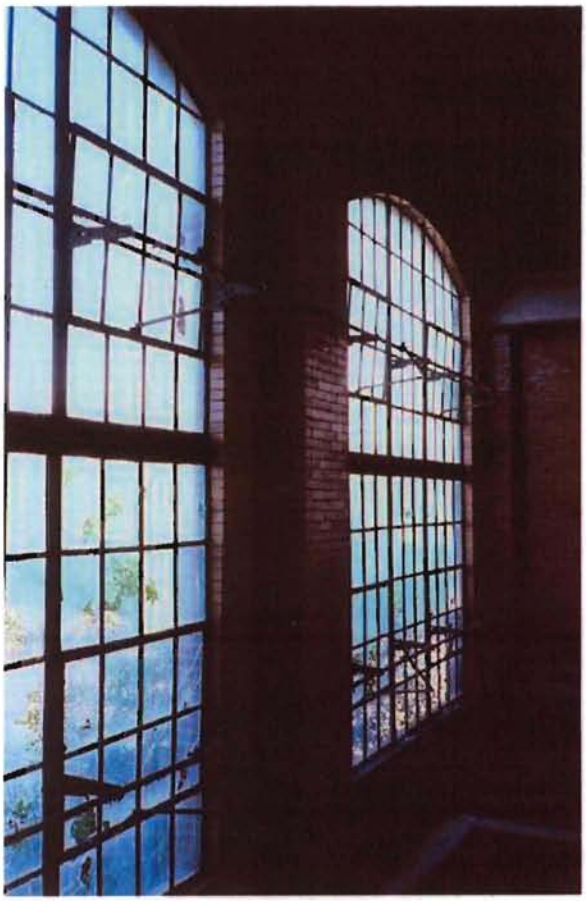
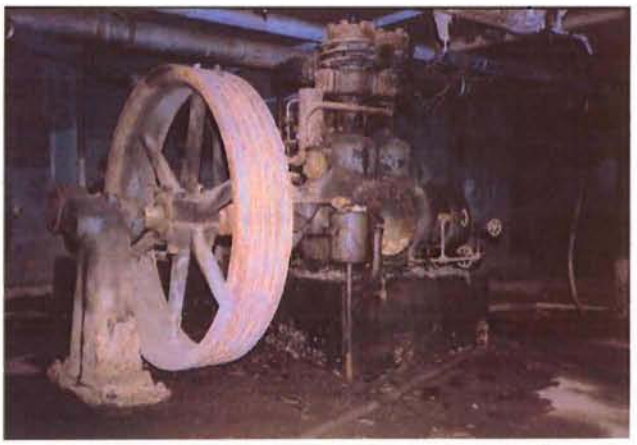
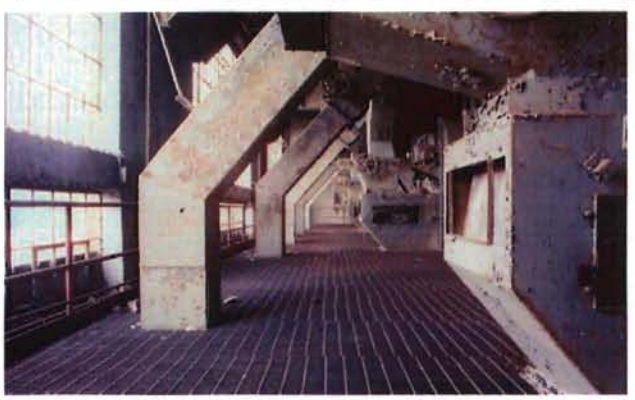


Figure 3.20 – 3.27 – Exterior images of the power plant







CHAPTER IV

Project Program

"The architectural profession gave the public 50 years of modern architecture and the public's response has been 10 years of the greatest wave of historical preservation in the history of man."

-George E. Hartman

[PROGRAM] Statement

In response to a neglectful society, the thesis ventures to propose an alternate lifestyle. But as architecture serves as the most masterful art, a simple structure to house a specific program will not be acceptable. The architecture that is to materialize shall be nothing short of a thorough investigation, and thoughtfully articulated response to conditions that we have grown accustomed. However, as this is to be a thorough response and investigation, a program to simply "fit" into the architecture of this thesis would be a lesson in "Wasted Gain."

Aldo Van Eyck (1918 – 1999), a prominent Holland architect, wrote on the theory of "Wasted Gain". The theory, so popularly subscribed to in modernity, suggests that architecture takes up a physical presence – some sort of construct volume – among our urban and sub-urban landscape, but contributes little or nothing to society. Such an idea has never been more visible than as seen in today's commercial sector. A field of concrete and composed building materials monopolizes a majority of our public sector, but does so in a redundant and wasteful manor. In every city one could wager that around nearly every corner a drug store or supermarket would serve as a scar upon the city's landscape. It is not uncommon to find two or three of the same buildings offering the same goods and/or services – sometimes even the same name. In the never-ending quest to seek efficiency in a fast-paced lifestyle and a piece of an economic market, the redundancy and irresponsibility of our urban fabric has become a plague upon society and architecture. Cities have lost their center and people have lost their identity, as we have become a faceless and placeless society.

This thesis intends to suggest a response to this idea of "Wasted Gain" in not only an architectural manor, but that of a societal manor as well. As the program and the architecture are to share in a symbiotic relationship, it is only natural that the essence of the program is to subscribe to a similar theory. One could harshly suggest that homelessness can similarly be categorized under the blanket of "Wasted Gain". A primate belonging to the homo genus – a species that has the overwhelming ability and architecture to think, create, reason, invent, socialize, interact etc… has an opportunity unique to all other mammals of the animal kingdom to maintain an existence to support not only their own lifestyle, but to create a meaningful existence in ones society. The very idea of a person that does not have the ability to exercise such abilities, or to be limited and restricted in his or her own ability to practices such liberating freedoms is a direct representation of the theory of "Wasted Gain." A person with inadequate opportunities to express such god-given abilities is such a wasteful expression of human ability. However, the theory that this thesis subscribes to is that with the proper support and initiative,

people of such an undiscovered ability can have the chance to rehabilitate and prosper amongst the "economically fortunate" members of society. The program intends in no way to force ones hand, on the contrary, it shall act as a supporting agent to those whom wish to advance their life and wellbeing to a state of discipline and stability. It is understood "our" way of life does not necessarily maintain the position of being the "correct" and a universally appropriate avenue for everyone's lifestyle – and although societal norms will be called into question – it does however, serve as a measuring tool and base line for the ability to maintain a self-supporting existence.

The program set forth shall serve in aiding this ability to rehabilitate and maintain – in a supportive fashion – ones newly-found position within society. A person – with a previously unfortunate fate – shall have the ability to transform oneself into a position of permanent housing with the added benefit of maintaining a stable source of income. In no way will the program serve as a charitable organization, nor will it simply distribute handouts to those in need. On the contrary, the program will support the idea of teaching new lifestyles and vocations to those who wish to transition into a new standard of living. Simultaneously, the soul of "Eloise" shall be rehabilitated to a similar prosperity. The dread that was the history of this "place" shall be restored to an early epoch – one of care for human consideration, and wellbeing for the sum of society. The program shall further aid in this ability for the site to reclaim a position of livelihood and support for human conditions.

The following pages represent an outline for the program herein. The nature of this program shall remain flexible to allow not only the program to expand into what it "wants" to become, but to allow the site and facility to transition in future years.

[QUANTITATIVE] Program

Community Education Center	Quantity	Sq. Ft.	Total
Basement			
Library			
Lobby	1	600	600
Computer Catalog Kiosk	2	166	332
Circulation Desk	1	280	280
Periodical Stacks	1	930	930
Classroom/Seminar	1	1150	1150
Bathrooms	2	275	550
Study Areas	1	650	650
Stacks/Study Areas	1	3600	3600
Circulation	1	550	550
Auditorium	2	1500	3000
Loading Dock	1	1500	1500
Construction Vocation	0	0	0
Workspaces	2	925	1850
Material Storage	1	1500	1500
Changing	2	343	686
Viewing Area	1	500	500
Construction Area	1	6000	6000
Circulation/Bldg. Functions	1	1964	1964
		TOTAL	25642
First Floor			
Lounge	1	800	800
Retail	1	800	800
Restrooms	2	270	540
Café	1	1300	1300
Museum/Memorial	1	1300	1300
Winter Garden	1	2100	2100
Drafting Lab	1	1100	1100
Technology Lab	2	1900	3800
Computer Lab	1	900	900
Lounge/Kitchenette	1	700	700
Open To Below	1	5400	5400
Circulation/Bldg. Functions	1	3902	3902
		TOTAL	22642

Second Floor

Classrooms	9	505	4545
Financial Aid	1	1035	1035
Counselors/Career/School	1	2382	2382
Lounge/Waiting	1	256	256
Bathrooms	4	210	840
Lounge/Kitchenette	1	600	600
Open To Below	1	11211	11211
Circulation/Bldg. Functions	1	1773	1773
		Total	22642

Third Floor

Classrooms	4	500	2000
Lounge/Kitchenette	1	700	700
Bathrooms	2	190	380
Open To Below	1	250	250
Circulation/Bldg. Functions	1	1180	1180
		TOTAL	4510

Fourth Floor

Classrooms	4	500	2000
Lounge/Kitchenette	1	700	700
Bathrooms	2	190	380
Circulation/Bldg. Functions	1	1430	1430
		TOTAL	4510

Fifth Floor

Classrooms	4	500	2000
Lounge/Kitchenette	1	700	700
Bathrooms	2	190	380
Circulation/Bldg. Functions	1	1430	1430
		TOTAL	4510
		BLDG. TOTAL	84456

Transitional Housing	Quantity	Sq. Ft.	Total
Basement			
Undeveloped			
Future Development	1	3500	3500
Building Storage	1	1470	1470
Tenant Storage	1	1500	1500
Library Storage	1	1630	1630
Mechanical Rooms	1	2966	2966
Building Support/Circulation	1	3000	3000
		TOTAL	14066
First Floor			0
Bank	1	1200	1200
Registration	1	1070	1070
Lobby/Info Kiosk	1	1105	1105
Security	1	215	215
Bathrooms	2	245	490
Lounge	1	402	402
Cafeteria	1	2830	2830
Kitchen	1	1270	1270
Banquet/Comm. Room	1	1490	1490
Building Support/Circulation	1	2364	2364
Outdoor Portico	1	1630	1630
		TOTAL	14066
Second Floor			
Family Housing	1	3295	3295
Lounge	1	200	200
Restrooms	2	540	1080
Clinic	1	1660	1660
Sun Room	1	1420	1420
Open To Below (Cafeteria)	1	3000	3000
Circulation/Bldg. Functions	1	1781	1781
		TOTAL	12436
Third Floor			
Transitional Housing - Mens	1	3365	3365
Transitional Housing - Women	1	3236	3236

Bathrooms/Shower	2	540	1080
Security	1	200	200
Circulation/Bldg. Functions	1	1555	1555
		TOTAL	9436

Fourth Floor

Transitional Multi Dorms - Men	1	3365	3365
Transitional Multi Dorms - Women	1	3236	3236
Bathrooms/Shower	2	540	1080
Security	1	200	200
Circulation/Bldg. Functions	1	1555	1555
Skywalk	1	800	800
		TOTAL	10236

Fifth Floor

Transitional Dorms	1	3236	3236
Bathrooms/Shower	2	540	1080
Security	1	200	200
Circulation/Bldg. Functions	1	1555	1555
Skywalk	1	800	800
		TOTAL	6871

BLDG. TOTAL	67111
KAY BEARD TOTAL	151567

SRO'S & Family Units	Quantity	Sq. Ft.	Total
Single Resident Occupancies	50	450	22500
Bathroom			
Kitchen			
Coat Closet	Included in SRO Sq. Ft.		
Laundry Facilities	6	500	3000
Maintenance Shed	1	5000	5000
Club House	1	7000	7000
Reception			
Business Office			
Sitting Room			
Game Room			
Toilets			
General Offices	Included in Club House Sq. Ft.		
Family Units	25	650	16250
Bathrooms			
Coat Closet			
Kitchens	Included in Family Unit Sq. Ft.		
Sub Total			31250
Public Space		20%	6250
Mech. Space		5%	1562.5
Incidental Space		10%	3125
Total			42187.5
PROJECT TOTAL			193,755

[BUILDING] Detail Summary – Transitional Housing (Kay Beard Building)

The true heart of this thesis is rooted in providing both shelter and an education to those in need. The Transitional Housing Building (also known as The Kay Beard Building) will provide a semi-permanent residence for those students whom are otherwise homeless. As the intent is to allow individuals lacking permanent housing a place to grow roots, the Transitional Housing Building will provide such a foundation.

As homelessness has become a physical and emotional battle on certain unfortunate individuals, the buildings intent is to provide support not only physically – as in a place to lay ones head – but emotionally as well. It is very important that the building has a presence that enforces healthy lifestyles, as well as maintaining a comfortable demeanor. Historic architects have long understood the difference between "space" and "place." The intent of this building is to allow itself to become a "place" or a dwelling as opposed to a home. As specific design decisions will be elaborated upon later, it is important to understand certain aspects a bit broader in scope.

The entrance to the facility is perhaps one of, if not the, most important elements in terms of its presence. The psychological mindset of a homeless person – upon "normal" standards – is that of embarrassment and dismay. Such a facility can further enhance these emotions if not designed for properly. This type of emotional mindset is further amplified upon the registration process. As this is very often a new experience for a homeless individual, the building must maintain a certain level of comfort to sooth some of the fears and anxiety associated with a change in ones lifestyle. Further, a simple plan in terms of way finding must maintain a strong presence; if one gets lost upon entering the facility they may easily become frustrated and either give up or lash out.

The registration desk shall be located near the front entrance. As one enters the facility, this will become the "face" or the starting point of the rest of the building. Further, this process is one that should be celebrated. As one crosses the threshold, they should be reminded of the lifestyle change that they are embarking on; further, this should act as an emotional reminder that by crossing over this threshold, one is choosing to leave a certain type of life in hopes of a new more prosperous lifestyle. In this stage of ones journey, through having experienced the idea of this threshold, they will begin their relationship with the building. In essence, the building will become a part of their rehabilitation therapy is it becomes a support member both physically and emotionally.

As this section has exploited the idea that the building is to become as emotionally supportive as it is physically, one must understand the idea of dignity. One of the leading factors in homeless individuals not wanting to attend a "facility" is the idea that they will be

relinquishing all of their ideas of freedom, safety and dignity. Instead fighting this notion, the thesis suggests that it would be best to exploit this concept. The building can use these ideas to its advantage in that certain elements of the program can be arranged in a way where it creates incentive to those individuals as they progress through the program. This will be further discussed in the design portions of this thesis.

Lastly – in terms of broad-based design guidelines – it is important that the occupants of this facility not only dwell in this building, but also interact and socialize within it as well. Again, due to the emotional mindset of some of the individuals that would reside at this facility, this often becomes an element of increased anxiety. Again, the building itself can aid in calming – while simultaneously promoting – some of the rehabilitation requirements. As one cannot force an individual to become socially adept, the building can be designed in such a way that interaction is inevitable, however remaining on the terms and conditions of the individual.

[SPACE] Detail Summary - Bank

A. Purpose/Functions:
The bank is an important function in aiding ones ability to [re]claim prosperity. Often times an individual has either a lack of – or ruined – credit history, which will become an important feature later in his/her life as they graduate past this program and advance toward a life of being self-sustainable.

B. Activities
These activities are self-explanatory. There will be areas available for kiosks where occupants may save/deposit money, as well as private offices for financial counselors.

C. Spatial Relationships
The Bank shall be located near the registration desk and near the security station. This should be at a convenient location near the front door that will be accessible to all of the buildings occupants.

D. Special Considerations
Certain security features will be required.

E. Equipment/Furnishings
Built in millwork will comprise the majority of the banks kiosks. Further furniture will be similar to that of an office setting.

F. Structural System
As the bank will be located within an existing building, structure will be dictated by existing conditions.

G. Mechanical/Electrical Systems
The existing mechanical system will removed, and the building will be retrofit with an all air system. This system will meet the rooms with a DDC controlled VAV box with reheat coils to supply the room with a sufficient amount of conditioned air. The mechanical components will be fed through a suspended ceiling. The electrical requirements will need to provide enough power for general outlets; however, in some areas (i.e. the computer kiosks) a larger amount of power will be required to operate equipment.

H. Site/Exterior Environmental Considerations
None are applicable

[SPACE] Detail Summary - Registration

A. Purpose/Functions:
The registration desk will be the first function within the building. All inhabitants will register with the building through this office. Further, as mentioned in the building detail summary, this will serve as an calming device for anxious individuals as the desk will be well staffed – suggesting that the facility is well maintained – and will further serve as a way finding station for individuals who may be lost.

B. Activities
These activities are self-explanatory. There will be areas available for kiosks where occupants will check in with the building. Further, paperwork on individuals of the program will be kept here for safekeeping.

C. Spatial Relationships
The registration desk will be the first and most prominent function as one enters the primary door. This will be on the ground level and accessible to all who enter or exit.

D. Special Considerations
Certain security features will be required. Further, being that personal occupant information is being stored in this area, security devices shall be designed to prohibit unauthorized access.

E. Equipment/Furnishings
Built in millwork will comprise the majority of the registration desk. Further furniture will be similar to that of an office setting.

F. Structural System
As the registration desk will be located within an existing building, structure will be dictated by existing conditions.

G. Mechanical/Electrical Systems
The existing mechanical system will removed, and the building will be retrofit with an all air system. This system will meet the rooms with a DDC controlled VAV box with reheat coils to supply the room with a sufficient amount of conditioned air. The mechanical components will be fed through a suspended ceiling. The electrical requirements will need to provide enough power for general outlets; however, in some areas (i.e. the computer kiosks) a larger amount of power will be required to operate equipment.

[SPACE] Detail Summary – Cafeteria/Kitchen

A. Purpose/Functions:
As one would assume, the Cafeteria/Kitchen will prepare and distribute meals to inhabitants. Further, seating areas will be provided for dining in.

B. Activities
A buffet style serving line will allow residents food as well as a place to gather in a community fashion for lunch and dinner.

C. Spatial Relationships
The kitchen will be located immediately adjacent the cafeteria for convenience. The cafeteria will be located on the first floor and will be accessible to all residents.

D. Special Considerations
No special considerations are required with the exception of barrier free design guidelines.

E. Equipment/Furnishings
The kitchen will require major fixed equipment, however, the scope is too exhaustive and specialized to list.

F. Structural System
As the Kitchen will be located within an existing building, structure will be dictated by existing conditions. The cafeteria will be constructed – within the new addition(s) using structural steel framing with both a glazing curtain wall as well as brick facades.

G. Mechanical/Electrical Systems
In the cafeteria, the existing mechanical system will removed, and the building will be retrofit with an all air system. This system will meet the rooms with a DDC controlled VAV box with reheat coils to supply the room with a sufficient amount of conditioned air. The mechanical components will be fed through a suspended ceiling. The electrical requirements will need to provide enough power for general outlets. The kitchen will require demanding resources in both mechanical and electrical. Such systems are too specialized to list and would be dealt with through consultants.

H. Site/Exterior Environmental Considerations
The cafeteria will be located along the perimeter of the building allowing the natural site and vegetation to be exploited visually.

[SPACE] Detail Summary – Clinic

A. Purpose/Functions:
The clinic will be a facility allowing occupants access to healthcare and vaccinations. The clinic will maintain general features including an x-ray unit, blood draw lab and general exam rooms.

B. Activities
Doctors and nurses will meet with patients – or building occupants – to provide if not free, discounted health care to occupants.

C. Spatial Relationships
The clinic has the ability to be located in an area with less foot traffic. For convenience, it will be located on the second floor, opposite the family housing unit.

D. Special Considerations
No special considerations are required with the exception of barrier free design guidelines.

E. Equipment/Furnishings
The clinic will require specialized equipment, including but not limited to: exam beds, x-ray table and buckey, lab equipment and accessory devices. Further, infrastructure requirements may include medical air, suction and gas to be fed through a medical gas manifold.

F. Structural System
As the clinic will be located within an existing building, structure will be dictated by existing conditions.

G. Mechanical/Electrical Systems
The existing mechanical system will removed, and the building will be retrofit with an all air system. This system will meet the rooms with a DDC controlled VAV box with reheat coils to supply the room with a sufficient amount of conditioned air. The mechanical components will be fed through a suspended ceiling. The electrical requirements will need to provide enough power for general outlets.

H. Site/Exterior Environmental Considerations
The cafeteria will be located along the perimeter of the building allowing the natural site and vegetation to be exploited visually.

[SPACE] Detail Summary – Transitional Housing

A. Purpose/Functions:
This area will become the main living quarters for those who choose to enter the program. These units will become the purpose for the Transitional Housing Building – also know as the Kay Beard Building.

B. Activities
These facilities will serve as the sleeping quarters to the building's occupants.

C. Spatial Relationships
The housing units will be separated to men's and women's facilities as well as providing incentives the higher one travels in both the program as well as in elevation through the building. The first level of transitional housing – which occupies the second floor of the building – remains similar to traditional transitional housing. The floor plan shall be left open to allow a high concentration of housing. The second level of transitional housing – occupying the third and fourth floor – will be comprised of dormitory style living with up to three occupants per dormitory. The last level in the program will be – again – a dormitory style arrangement but with one occupant per dorm. This is to be the last housing function before a person is to graduate to a SRO.

D. Special Considerations
No special considerations are required with the exception of barrier free design guidelines.

E. Equipment/Furnishings
Furniture will vary from floor to floor. In the first level as previously mentioned, movable furniture will become the primary furnishings. This will allow a versatile and efficient use of the space at various concentrations. Multi residents dorms as well as single resident dorms will make use of fixed furniture which may become lockable in certain circumstances.

F. Structural System
As the housing units will be located within an existing building, structure will be dictated by existing conditions.

G. Mechanical/Electrical Systems

The existing mechanical system will removed, and the building will be retrofit with an all air system. This system will meet the rooms with a DDC controlled VAV box with reheat coils to supply the room with a sufficient amount of conditioned air. The mechanical components will be fed through a suspended ceiling in the dorms – and in areas with an open floor plan, exposed mechanical systems will become dominant. The electrical requirements will need to provide enough power for general outlets.

H. Site/Exterior Environmental Considerations

The transitional dorms will have direct access to day lighting through the perimeter walls on the unit. This will later become an important design feature.

[BUILDING] Detail Summary - Community Education Center

To maintain a direct relationship with the essence of this thesis, one of the primary functions of this thesis is to propose a structure that will lend itself in aiding in the rehabilitation of people into an occupational position. "The Community Education Center" shall allow its occupants the opportunity to learn life skills – in relation to not only occupational conditions, but societal ones as well. Further, as this thesis suggests that it will offer support to the homeless and their surrounding communities, the building will offer functions that may double as support for the surrounding community. Classrooms will comprise a large portion of the buildings interior, which will allow the homeless population inexpensive opportunities to obtain a high-school equivalent education for a well-rounded curriculum. Further, as one works on such an endeavor, vocation-specific classes will be offered to place an individual in a field as it relates to the working world. The aim – of course – being that through such a facility, a person with little educational background can obtain the education needed to rehabilitate and transition into a position in society's working class. After hours, the classrooms have the ability to double as community oriented spaces allowing classes to further education oneself in disciplines as they relate to matters of daily life. For example, classes in economics, retirement planning, person finances and habits of a health lifestyle will allow the facility to bring in the surrounding community, as well as generate revenue supporting the organization.

Supporting functions will further accommodate the ability to provide a sufficient education. A library will allow further education beyond that which can be found within the classroom and again, allow the facility to provide functions to the neighboring community. Rentable lecture halls and auditorium space will allow the community to interact with the site and people aiding in the rehabilitation process for both the homeless population and the site's recovery from years of dread. The more interaction that the rehabilitating homeless and site have with the surrounding community the further the two can progress in their transition.

One of the more important features of "The Community Education Center" is the career-counseling center. As vocations are taught and learned job placement will become an important next step. Although this is an ultimate goal for the occupants, more importantly is the ability to maintain a job and advance respectively. The career counseling office can help aid in such manors; from tasks such as interview skills to clothing rental, this will become an invaluable asset to aid in the rehabilitation process.

Most importantly, the construction vocation will become the centerpiece of the facility. Later, the construction of a series of "SRO" [single residence occupancy] facilities and family residences will populate the site. These will become cost effective permanent residences for homeless rehabilitants. The construction vocation – located within – will provide the means to accomplish this in a very cost efficient manor. Further – this will provide both hands-on

experiences for the vocational trainees and a possibility for job placement following vocational training. Lastly, the construction vocational center has the ability to reach out to the surrounding community – including the immediate neighborhoods in disrepair – and offer services in home rehabilitation and perhaps even neighborhood seminars in do-it-yourself repairs and community development.

[SPACE] Detail Summary - Library

A. Purpose/Functions:
The library will be constructed to support the educational requirements dictated by this facility. This space will allow the "students" of this facility the ability to be self-guided in maintaining educational goals outside of a classroom setting. This will become an important aspect of ones education in that this "school" is to serve as a starting point in learning a new lifestyle.

B. Activities
As the functions of a typical library would suggest, the functions herein will support both book display and storage, a method of sorting and finding books, seminar rooms as well as study areas. Students will have the ability to both read and review books on the premises, as well as having the opportunity to utilize the facility as quiet personal – and social – study areas. Students will have the opportunity to view and checkout both books and periodicals in their self-guided search for educational advancement.

C. Spatial Relationships
The Library is to be located in a central area with access from the main circulation corridors; however, it should be remote enough to be free from distractions of a main thoroughfare. For this reason, it has been located in the basement (split level) allowing access from the main lobby. Further, the library will benefit from windows higher in elevation to allow natural daylight to penetrate deep into the study area while leaving opaque walls to filter harmful UV rays to prevent book damage.

D. Special Considerations
As previous suggested, the library should maximize daylight in study area spaces, and minimize direct sunlight (for UV purposes) to minimize book damage. Artificial lighting shall be introduced in areas without day lighting such as the book and periodical stacks.

E. Equipment/Furnishings
As the function would suggest, the library will be fairly demanding in terms of furnishings. Large bookshelves will be required to accommodate storage of books, as well as a cataloging system to serve as an organizing device. The design shall mind required dimensions for circulation through the stacks, as well as elevation heights as dictated by human dimensions.

F. Structural System
As the library will be located within an existing building, structure will be dictated by existing conditions.

G. Mechanical/Electrical Systems

The existing mechanical system will removed, and the building will be retrofit with an all air system. This system will meet the rooms with a DDC controlled VAV box with reheat coils to supply the room with a sufficient amount of conditioned air. Further, being that the library will be fairly open, this will be fed through a suspended ceiling system in portions, while the remaining will be comprised of exposed mechanical components. In some areas of large quantities of equipment, the mechanical system will need to make up this air with conditioned air, as well as exhaust or return "spent" air. The electrical requirements will need to provide enough power for general outlets; however, in some areas (i.e. the computer kiosks) a larger amount of power will be required to operate equipment.

H. Site/Exterior Environmental Considerations

None are applicable

[SPACE] Detail Summary - Auditorium

A. Purpose/Functions:
The auditorium will serve the educational center in aiding both classes with a larger audience, as well as community type functions requiring spaces to support a large number of occupants. Guest lecturers, as well as community type functions will utilize the space with regards to both community affairs as well as serving educational purposes.

B. Activities
For activities requiring a large number of audience members, the auditoriums will fulfill the requirements of a larger gathering facility. Audience members may be presented with multimedia presentations as well as live lectures from both faculty members as well as guest presenters.

C. Spatial Relationships
The auditoriums will be accessed through the basement level of the construction vocation. This will allow a tiered auditorium to maximize visibility as well as showing the construction vocation as a centerpiece of the facility.

D. Special Considerations
To maximize the ability to maintain a large number of occupants, as previously mentioned, the auditorium will take on a tiered floor plan allowing the chairs to be stacked in elevation. Further, the tiers will be accessible from a ramp maintaining barrier free design guidelines. Special consideration will be taken into account to minimize reverberation as well as using sound absorbent materials to maximize the acoustical performance of the space.

E. Equipment/Furnishings
Auditorium style seating will make up the largest demand for furniture within the space. Further, for lectures/guest speakers, a podium will be required to aid in presentations. Public Address type equipment with mechanical amplification will be required to project audio presentations deep into the section. Lastly, a computer system connected to a projector will be required to aid in visual presentations.

F. Structural System
The auditorium will be constructed – within the new addition(s) using structural steel framing with both a glazing curtain wall as well as brick facades.

G. Mechanical/Electrical Systems

The existing mechanical system will removed, and the building will be retrofit with an all air system. This system will meet the rooms with a DDC controlled VAV box with reheat coils to supply the room with a sufficient amount of conditioned air. Further, being that the auditorium will be fairly open, this will be fed through a suspended ceiling system in portions, while the remaining will be comprised of exposed mechanical components. Throughout the auditorium, large quantities of people will make up the majority of the space, therefore mechanical system will need to make up this air with conditioned air, as well as exhaust or return "spent" air. The electrical requirements will need to provide enough power for general outlets; however, in some areas (i.e. presentation podium) a larger amount of power will be required to operate equipment.

H. Site/Exterior Environmental Considerations

Natural day lighting will be maximized through a Kalwall system. This will allow daylight only to penetrate the space, while leaving the auditoriums free from distractions outside.

[SPACE] Detail Summary - Classroom

A. Purpose/Functions:
The classrooms will become the primary space within the facility. These spaces will serve the educational needs of the students as it provides a space to allow the students a setting in which they can be taught various elements of an education.

B. Activities
Students will interact with their instructor as they are taught both basic educational elements, as well as vocational trades. As an education entails, the need for multimedia presentations will be accounted for. Further, small class projects may be required; therefore, the use of movable furniture will make up the interior of the classrooms.

C. Spatial Relationships
The classrooms will maintain a presence adjacent to other classrooms of a similar genre. They will be located on the upper levels, accessible by both egress stairwells as well as elevators. Each floor will maintain support functions such as bathrooms as well as a vending/lounge/kitchenette area.

D. Special Considerations
Since the classrooms will be a fairly high noise generator, the use of acoustical engineering will become necessary. At a minimum, sound insulation shall be placed in the marriage wall between classrooms. Further, the classrooms will be designed in such a way to maximize both the shear number of classrooms, as well as the occupants within them.

E. Equipment/Furnishings
Moveable furniture will make up the majority of the interior. Further support elements will be required however. White/black boards will be required, as well as a computer connected to a projector providing means for multimedia presentations.

F. Structural System
As the classrooms will be located within an existing building, structure will be dictated by existing conditions.

G. Mechanical/Electrical Systems
The existing mechanical system will removed, and the building will be retrofit with an all air system. This system will meet the rooms with a DDC controlled VAV box with reheat coils to supply the room with a sufficient amount of conditioned air. Further, the mechanical equipment will be fed through a suspended ceiling system. The classrooms will maintain a fairly typical demand on the system.

[SPACE] Detail Summary – Construction Vocation

A. Purpose/Functions:
The Construction Vocation will serve as the "centerpiece" of the facility. This will become one of the primary functions of the building, allowing instructors to provide hands-on training to students as related to construction issues.

B. Activities
Real-life projects will be composed within the vocation and assembled offsite. For this reason, the space should support a fairly open floor plan allowing building assemblies to be composed and constructed within the facility. Support areas will be required, such as workbenches, material storage as well as classrooms to facilitate in-class learning requirements.

C. Spatial Relationships
The construction vocation will be located in the existing power plant, and will occupy the majority of the buildings footprint on the basement level. In this portion of the building, grade slopes down in such a way allowing for the basement level to be at grade level, facilitating the need for large rolling doors for equipment and project ingress and egress.

D. Special Considerations
To maximize the ability to maintain a large footprint, support functions will be pulled to the perimeter of the building. Further, high ceiling heights will be required to accommodate taller assemblies. In some instances, a rolling crane will be required; therefore allowing space for a trolley hoist attached to a structural beam will be required.

E. Equipment/Furnishings
Equipment will be high in quantities as well as demand. Major equipment may be compressors, welders, a trolley crane, as well as specific equipment as entailed by the construction trades. Please note that this list is not exhaustive.

F. Structural System
As the construction vocation will be located within an existing building, structure will be dictated by existing conditions. However, modifications will be made to support a column free area, as well as the addition of a trolley crane.

G. Mechanical/Electrical Systems
The existing mechanical system will removed, and the building will be retrofit with an all air system. This system will meet the rooms with a DDC controlled VAV box with reheat coils to supply the room with a sufficient amount of conditioned air. Further, being that the construction vocation will be open in nature, the mechanical components will be exposed. Throughout the area, large quantities of people and equipment will make up the majority of the space, therefore mechanical system will need to make up this

air with conditioned air, as well as exhaust or return "spent" air. The electrical requirements will be demanding in nature as well. Major as well as minor equipment will be required and dictated by the construction trades. This space will be required to be extremely flexible in terms of demand and resources.

H. Site/Exterior Environmental Considerations

As previously mentioned, this space will be required to have direct access to the exterior. For this reason, the construction vocation takes up nearly the entire footprint of the power plant, allowing large rolling doors to be installed to transport supplies, equipment as well as construction assemblies.

[BUILDING] Detail Summary – SRO's

As addressing the issues of homelessness remains the underlying theme for exploration, this thesis must address the issue of permanent housing. As can be expected, homelessness is cause – by majority – from a lack of decent affordable housing. To supplement the functions described herein, a series of SRO's – or Single Residence Occupancies – will dominant the "permanent housing" sector of the site. However, it is further understood that those with families share in a staggering portion of the homeless population. As a response, the site anticipates the erection of a series of inexpensive, permanent housing units that will lend aid to those who have successfully graduated the program – or simply wish for a more sustainable lifestyle.

Further, as the architecture of the site is to remain congruent with the process of rehabilitation that the program has set forth, these housing units will act as a transitional step in reinforcing the ideas suggested by the program. For example, this thesis maintains the position that a simple handout serves to be in no ones "best interest." The idea of simply giving a person a place to rest his or her head on a permanent basis does not support the idea of transitioning into a self-supportive lifestyle. However, if a person – or family – were to have the ability to rent a permanent address, roof, "place" – the idea of becoming self-supportive is further ingrained into a daily routine – along side being taught in a classroom. As it is understood that one who is faced with the decision of inhabiting such a place [as this thesis ventures to set fourth] may not have the resources to "pay rent," the housing units are designed in such a way to be efficient and affordable.

The 500 square-foot footprints remain tight; however with creative methods implemented into the design process, space-consuming functions such as storage, kitchen areas and circulation spaces shall be designed to be integrated with major spaces such as living rooms or bedrooms. For example, the interior perimeter wall may be lined with storage and become integrated within the structure of the wall. Pull-out drawers or hinged cabinets can occupy a large portion of the perimeter while only consuming three linear feet of interior space. Further, two story units can have "rollable" ladders that – while not in use – slide into the storage cavity, and out when required for use. The family units are to be designed in a similar way to the single units however growing in elevation. As the nature of the structure is to be as efficient as possible, it become more 3economically – and environmentally – friend to "build up" rather than out. The second story space will include two additional sleeping units as well as closet space for personal storage. The challenge of the spaces, and the architectural problem, is essentially to design a space efficient in every possible way, including aesthetically, economically as well as spatially.

As the units remain relatively small, other functions shall be shared in a community setting. Laundry facilities will be distributed in central locations to allow access to multiple residence, as well as community centers to allow for socialization and recreation. As kitchens and bathing facilities shall be included in each unit, the need for centralized facilities of this nature is not required; however, accommodations will be made for central dining facilities to be utilized by all residents. The theory these central spaces will subscribe to will be similar to that of the dwelling units. Efficiency will remain a key component; however economic efficiency does not suggest sacrificing aesthetic values. On the contrary, the architectural problem within seeks to create a design that is both economically and spatially efficient, whole maintaining a strong aesthetic quality. This thesis assumes to position that an alluring space can be constructed through good design, not through capital ventures.

As previously mentioned, the construction vocation within the "Community Education Center" will become responsible for a large portion of this construction. Keeping the functions "in-house" allows profits to be generated for the facility, as well as real-life hands-on training for those who wish to enter the construction vocation. Similarly, a sense of pride and understanding will become inherent with this construction in that a number of the students may actually occupy these facilities. This sense of pride will become an integral component to aid in homeless rehabilitation, as allowing a person to create and maintain leads to pride in ownership; supportive of the want to remain self-sufficient.

CHAPTER V

Precedent Studies

"Human beings, who are almost unique in having the ability to learn from the experience of others, are also remarkable for their apparent disinclination to do so."

-Douglas Adams

[PRECEDENCE STUDY] Hubertus House

Project Title: Hubertus House [nicknamed "Mother's House"]
Year of construction: 1980
Location: Plantage Middenlaan 33-35, Amsterdam
Architect: Aldo Van Eyck

Background:

The Hubertus House, designed by architect Aldo Van Eyck, was constructed in Amsterdam in 1980. The house serves as a refuge for battered women and children, and has become a safe haven for many 'fallen women'. The building had been constructed in the intermediate space between two pre-existing 19th century structures, as if the buildings itself turns to them for support. As can be seen in plan on the following pages, the structure maintains a strict module, adopted from the adjacent buildings; however, the house is indeed quite different. The adjacent buildings maintain a classic façade, which is typical of the 19th century typologies. However, Van Eyck's structure has taken on a bold – yet successful – strategy of incorporating a "rainbow" of colors to the steel façade. In an article entitled "Wasted Gain", Van Eyck justifies his daring use of color amongst the traditional façades.

> "Steel and paint are closely allied: one tends to forget this, taking it for granted. Ships, railway engines, motor cars, bicycles, bridges – a host of things – are painted and repainted for protection according to custom, tradition or, if they happen to be pipes like those which run, up, down, along and across the Beaubourg, just for fun: so where there are no pipes there is no fun!" (Van Eyck, Wasted Gain)

Immediately, one could questions Van Eyck's motives in the daring, attention grabbing façade, and suggest that he is merely ignoring historical precedence. However, Van Eyck has not simply ignored his surroundings; he had in fact been aware of his statement and offered the following:

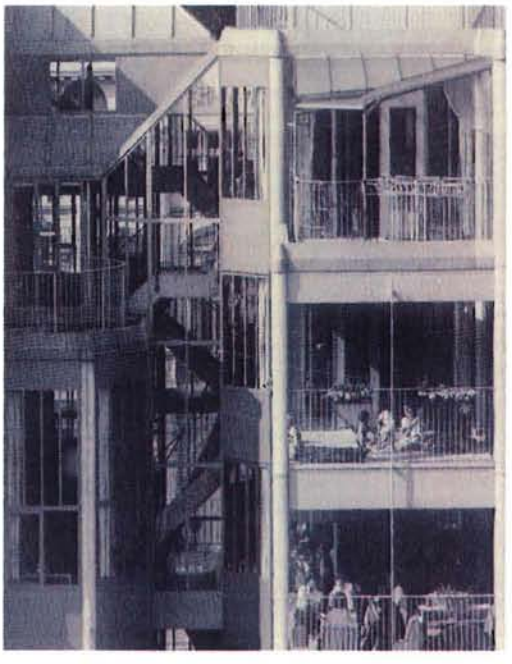
> "A building doesn't need to look like its neighbours in order to avoid alienation through incongruity, but it should take heed nonetheless. Response through mimicry is faint-hearted and in every way futile. That is why the 'typology' addicts of today are such a liability!" (Van Eyck, Wasted Gain)

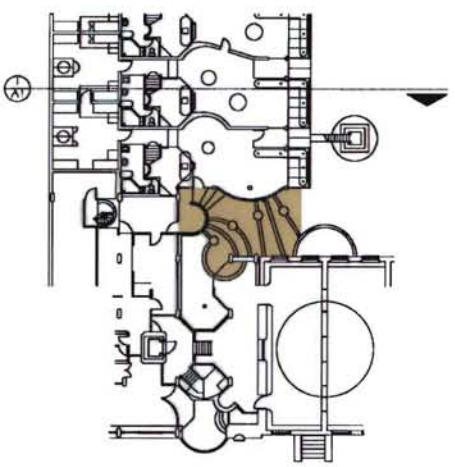
Successful or not – legitimate or not – he has in fact captured our imagination even passed the brightly colored façade. The buildings itself serves as a catalyst for emotion. The interior spaces have been masterfully designed to aid in transitioning 'fallen women' back into society. The entrance becomes an important metaphor for not only the building, but the program within as well. Where new construction meets old, Van Eyck has left the central core as open as possible. The glass façade that encloses the primary circulation corridor has been

constructed as if the building was itself welcoming and embracing those who are need of its services. The entrance of this building is a critical component; this space serves as the location where inhabitants of the structure both enter, and eventually leave.

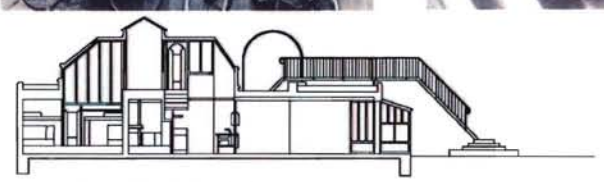
Relevance:

The entrance also serves as a primary area for analysis regarding this thesis. The circulation atrium not only allows the building to transition to the pre-existing structure, it perhaps serves as a metaphor for the program defined within. Architecturally, it connects the pre-existing 19th century structure to the new construction, but it also maintains a strong theoretic presence. The entrance of the house is an essential design element in that it represents a threshold. More than merely a transition between exterior space and interior space, women and children who cross this threshold are in the beginning stages of creating new – or rehabilitating old – lives and relationships. Similarly, the architecture is following suit. As the entrance marries the pre-existing architecture with the new construction, the threshold marries a past life with the new chances to come. Both, drawing from and recognizing the past, celebrate new chances and opportunities in both life and architecture.





Of primary importance regarding the architecture of the Hubertus House is found within the sequence of spaces. The front façade maintains a constant connection with the street. Beyond the Steel and Glass envelope – along the urban streetscape – resides the parent's quarters. This feature allows parent's to be in constant visual communication with their surroundings. Safety is amongst the primary concerns for this building, and this ability allows for piece-of-mind. Further, this acts as an intermediate space between the urban façade and the children's quarters. An important aspect of this building is the rehabilitation of trust with parents and society. Allowing parents to maintain a connection with the street, as well as the ability to shelter and watch over the children in the spaces beyond, helps to transition the inhabitants of the space back into society. This can further be seen when the building is analyzed in the third dimension. The elevations within the building allow for parent's to not only maintain contact with the societal surroundings, but also with their children. Second floor spaces overlap first floor spaces – as can be seen in the floor plan below - allowing this visual link between families.



BUILDING SECTION
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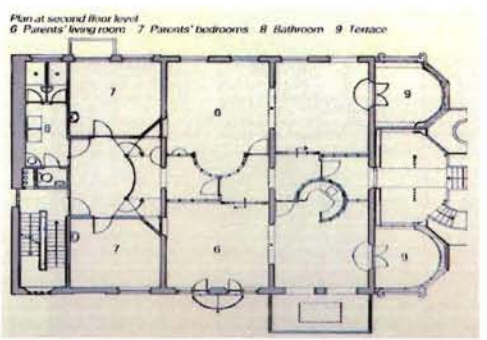
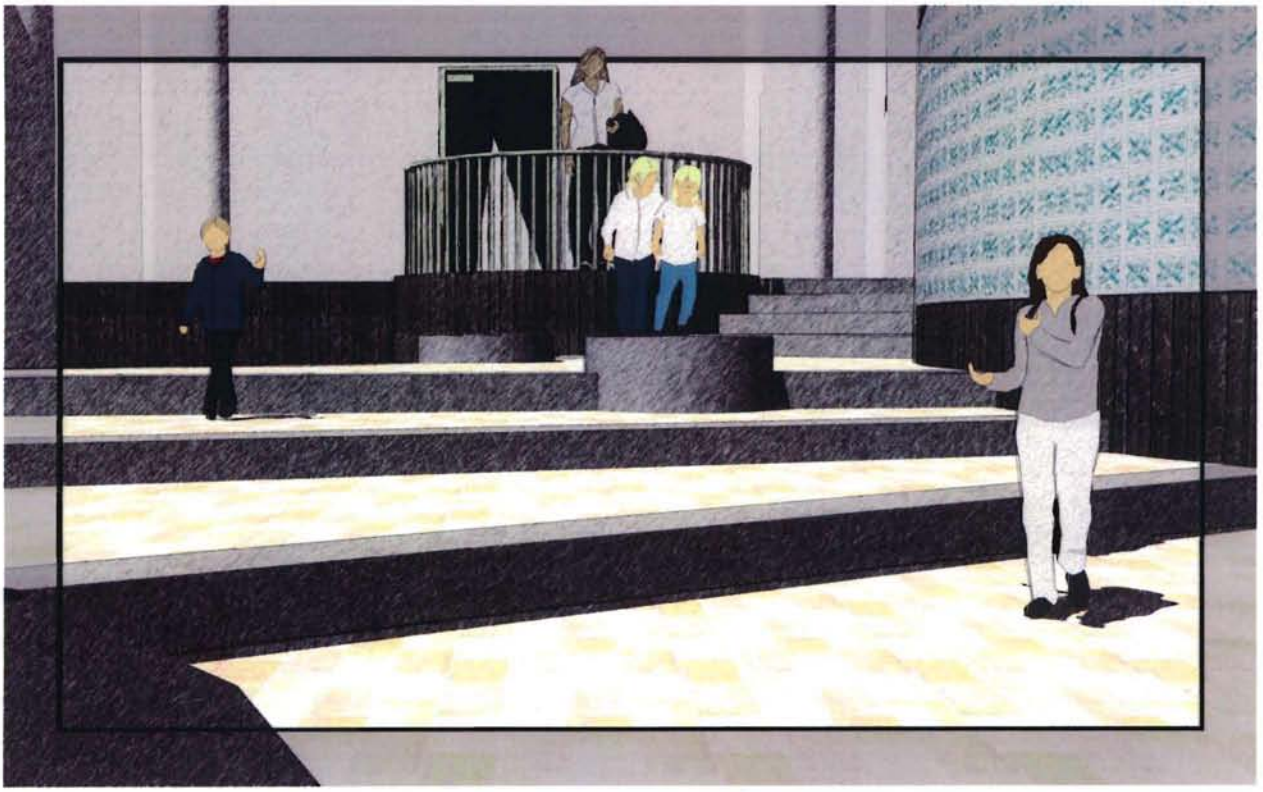




[Sketches illustrating different vantage points]

Critique:

The progressions of spaces, designed by Van Eyck, are masterfully choreographed. Through the architecture alone, the structure creates a haven for battered women and children. It is vital to a program as sensitive as the Hubertus House, for the inhabitants to become not only as comfortable as possible in the structure, but the architecture must create an environment the enables the families to transition back into society. Multiple vantage points throughout the buildings elevation help facilitate these requirements. Allowing both women and children to maintain constant visual communication with one another, Van Eyck's architecture allows for security as well as comfortably within the space as well as the program. However, amongst the transitions of space within the building, the façade seems a bit contradicting to the program. Although Van Eyck's intentions were to show visual interest in the alliance between the steel structure and colored surfaces, however, it seems that the attention attracted by the façade would be counterintuitive. The added attention to the building seems like it would be an unwanted feature to those who may be seeking comfort within a building's camouflage.

[PRECEDENCE STUDY] Graffiti

Project Title: Graffiti
Year of completion: Varies
Location: Varies
Artist: Varies

Background:

When one imagines the earliest form of communication, cave paintings come to mind. Whether one could associate these paintings with graffiti is debatable, however, fundamentally, the ideas behind both art forms are similar. Granted, there are drastic differences between the inherent nature of the two studies, they both represent a way of communicating in which no other forums are available. Preceding verbal communication, cave paintings existed as a form of communication when no other means were available. Similarly, graffiti in today's urban culture takes root in a similar fashion. In the 1960's, graffiti – as it is known today – had made its debut on the streets of New York. Artistically and politically, it had made its way around the world sending whatever message the artist deemed necessary to be within public view. Originally, it had started within, and confined itself to neighborhoods within the city. It was an outcry, a response directed to those who either did not know, or did not care, regarding the political conditions of the city. Further, suburbs were built on the edges of the city, and designed to remain in the background. This was seen as a way to confine, or exclude certain cultures from the centre, making rebellion even more inevitable, and graffiti a primary means of communicating discontent.

As with all other forms of art with historical precedence, graffiti too has evolved since its political debut. Today, though some graffiti still is a response to political or societal issues, it has become something more of an art form, or a possessive marking. However, inherent within the nature of graffiti, it still challenges societal ideals.

> "Certainly, graffiti contests the semiology of the city and in doing so it challenges the values and beliefs that preserve the status quo. Thus, some structure may feel threatened by the ideology of this activity and the need to 'clean' that discourse becomes a matter of "survival". Likewise, to clean the walls means to leave the walls with no messages and 'cleanliness' of dominant ieas. Miserably, a blank space denotes the absence of debate or the expurgation of facts." (Appel, Ghetto Art)

Lastly, one must look at graffiti as a way to define physical and perhaps cultural boundaries. Signatures of the artists, otherwise known as "tags" became a way for the artist to be represented within his/her city. This has ultimately evolved into a battle in and of itself. Through an artists "tag", (s)he becomes not only visible in society [although by these standards, it is no longer representing a political agenda, but rather fame], his/her face, body, attitude, essence and soul become linked to their environment. This – today – is represented in a battle for territory in which the "writer" (graffiti artist) claims. The more "tags", the more fame, and in order to gain fame, his/her work must be displayed. Ultimately, this idea makes places within public view a desirable canvas, and further, the more dangerous and/or inaccessible a place the more credit towards fame he/she earns. In the end, we are left with defaced buildings and – at times – amazing artwork challenging to conventional thought. However, it is imperative that this study does not be misconstrued as a debate on either whether or not graffiti is art, nor will it speak to the idea of graffiti being damaging to society or not. It should however, be viewed strictly as a way of examining a persons link with his/her environment.

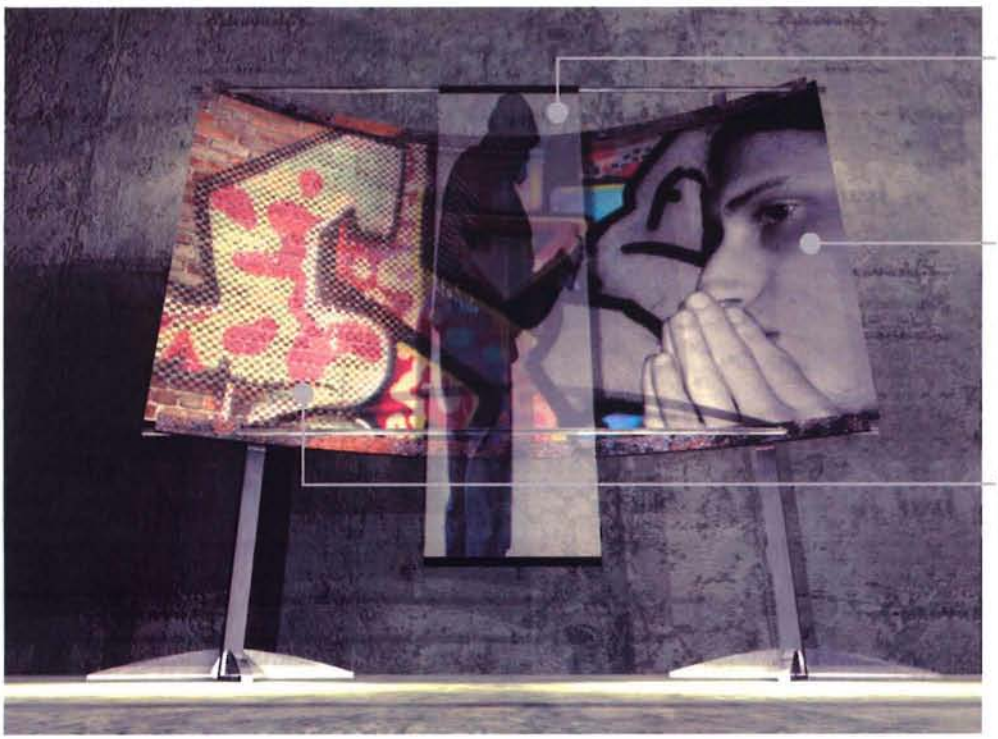
Relevance:

Graffiti becomes an important area of study with respect to this thesis. It represents a transition, or link between two separate realms, person and society. As mentioned previously, it originated as a method for people to speak out, and created a forum for them to do so when none was available otherwise. In order for one to examine the link created between a person and his/her environment, one must first look at architecture as the canvas. Why is it that buildings become a primary target for this rebellion? The wall becomes a vital aspect of this analysis. Historically, the wall has served as the agent to this oppression; it is constructed to either hold in, or keep out. Defacing such a medium for containment is a politically charged statement, and conscious act of rebellion. To an artist – at least originally – this was the only way his/her voice can be heard, regardless of who's listening. Regardless of who the audience is, the statement is made, and the otherwise transparent soul within society permanently makes its mark and becomes one with his/her environment.

"... It is not by chance that graffiti finds mainly in walls its best canvas, since walls are symbols of spatial introversion, contention and fortress like constructions. Graffiti has the ability to transform

walls of protection/exclusion into walls of 'fame'" (Appel, Ghetto Art)

Lastly, the idea of graffiti – in terms of a medium to create fame – will become relevant in this thesis. 'Tags' become a method in which artists create territories or domains, and defining spaces. One could define space as an area, or volume, within some boundary, physical or other. In this case, it is the spot of "other" that graffiti maintains. Theoretically speaking [although in the interest of time, the following investigation was not performed] one could create a map of "territories". Within this map, one could follow an artist's tag and define the limits of his/her fame. This is interesting to architecture in that one could see the immediate area that a person of society can have influence on. Obviously this will vary depending on the level of "fame" an artist has reached, however hypothetically – through tags- an artist dubs a spaces as "theirs", similar to the way conventional society uses walls to demarcate boundaries.



Amongst society, a person remains virtually transparent as his/her voice goes unheard. In what forum does a person speak out against physical and political conditions of his/her environment?

As an alternative, graffiti artists find refuge in their work. not only does their work give them the forum - otherwise non-existant - the artist becomes, in a sense, part of their work. It becomes an embodiment of ideas, inner thoughts and personal expression.

As the artists graffiti begins to weave itself thorught its canvas, the artist becomes one with the canvas - his environement - as he does with his work.

CHAPTER VI

Springboard

The definition of the design problem comes from understanding the essence of the variables, but the solution evolves through the application of constants, principles of design that hold true in every case. The resulting design should be a marriage of the constants and the variables.

-John Portman

[SPRINGBOARD] Site

The purpose of the "Springboard" process is to generate design ideas based upon conditions of site circumstances and design decisions. This type of process does not necessarily produce the final outcome of a project; however, some vignettes or ideas generated may become important design features later in the process. Although one could suggest that this process could be classified as busywork – the intention is to "mass produce" work as related to the project selected. The standpoint that this thesis maintains is that meaningful sessions in the style of the springboard spirit would be more important and beneficial than "mass producing" work – and finding a meaning at a later point.

As previously suggested within the section entitled "[Site Possibilities] Eloise," the history of the chosen site remains overwhelmingly rich in history and significance. This will obviously become an important source of inspiration later in the design process. Merely listing features of the site would not do justice to the complex layers Eloise has built upon over time – therefore two independent studies have become an important area for study.

[SPRINGBOARD] Photo Montage

The first study of the "springboard" series was a graphic that had been prepared – capturing the spirit, emotions and layers that the site portrays today. Countless site visits – at different times and seasons – had generated a multitude of moods that seem reminiscent of the sites history. The prominent elements of the site had been photographed from different perspectives to allow the thesis to view the project from another angle. Instead of an outsider, looking in upon the site with only a topical understanding of the existing site, this had began a series of studies and considerations that provided a new dimension to the project.

Often time, one can look at a series of images and deduce that based upon these conditions, the site would benefit from a certain series of actions. The problem remained however, that Eloise had a somewhat deceitful past – which shows through even in its physical appearance today. Probing deeper into the site, one can find that the existing conditions bear scars from past decisions [which seems quite appropriate to the nature of this thesis, further justifying Eloise as the appropriate site for this thesis to explore.] The images within this section remain so important in that they had given life to the building; they remain such a prominent element of the sites composition it almost feels as if the architect had meticulously designed the scars to be a part of the building. Of course this would be an absurd assumption, however the fact remains that without these elements the site would not feel half significant as history would suggest that it is. Even debris seemed meticulously placed to create a composition of a true to life, living, breathing example of the tragedy that is "Eloise."

Figure 6.1 – View to powerhouse

The remaining portions of this section will outline the photo essays and the significance that each image has to the overall composition – and further – significance to this thesis. The first image [Figure 6.1] is an existing condition looking to the rear of the power house. The fence can be found running throughout the site. Whether prohibiting entrance to, or exit from the site, one is forced to envision conditions of a previous generation. The human mind always gravitates to what cannot be obtained. Further, one cannot help to wonder what the texture of the steel reinforcing posts feels like, or what the ground beyond feels like beyond the fence line. This fence line series makes one feel like they are not quite free to experience what the site has to offer – quite an

opposite viewpoint than that of the early occupants of this site. Ironically in a way the fence offers no

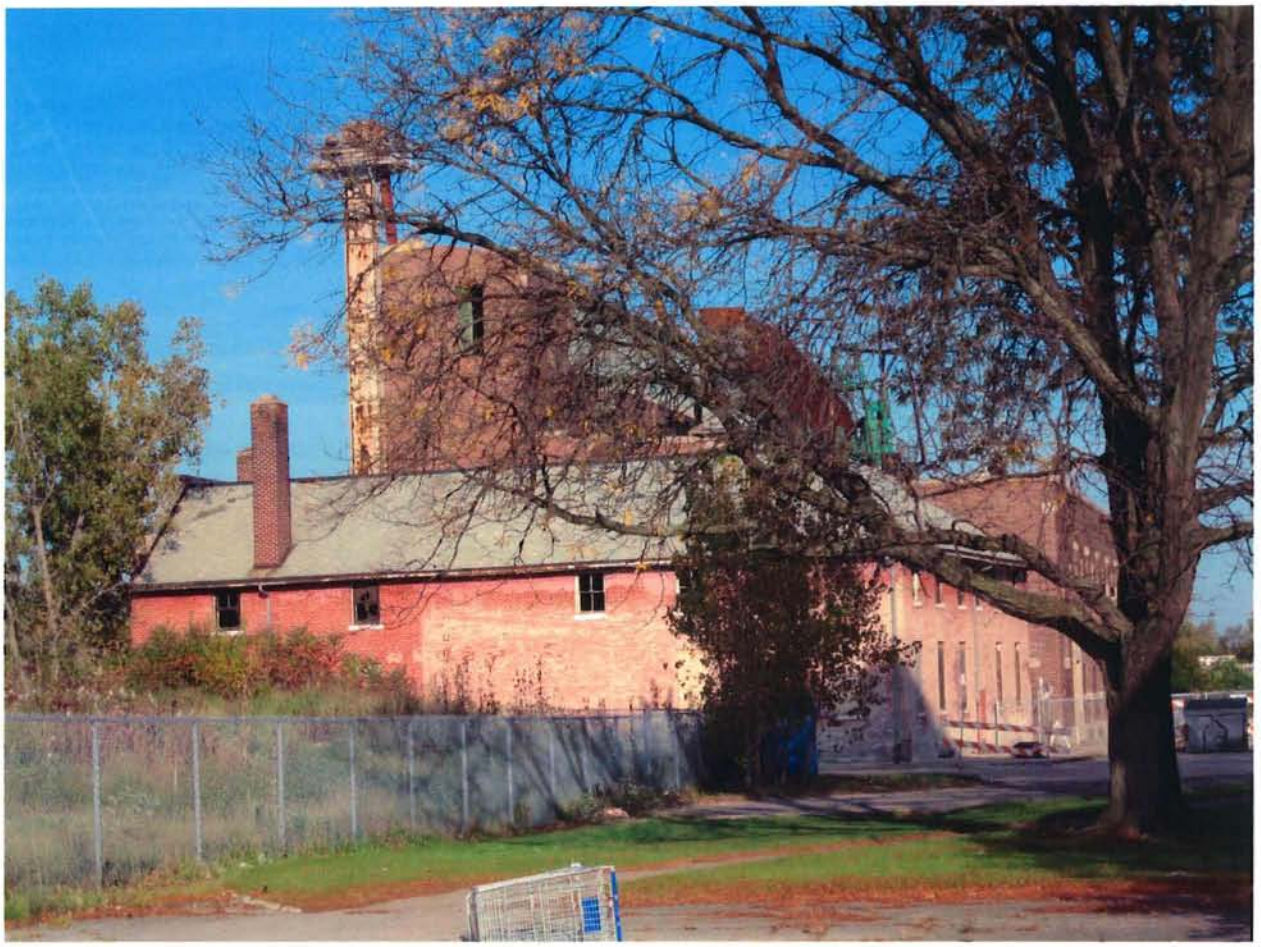


Figure 6.2 – View of the power plant behind the Bakery

difference today than that of its original intentions. Today, the fence is used in a way to prevent the general public – or overzealous ghost hunters – of today's generation from being harmed by the site. As most of the buildings are abandoned, one could be injured by what the site contains. Similar to years prior, the fence had blocked the inhabitants in, however, for similar reasons in an attempt to keep the general public safe from the occupants that had inhabited the site. In essence, no matter what side of the fence you are on, it suggests that even today, not everything in life is tangible. Whether a historian, or an early inhabitant of the site, even today "Eloise" still attempts to mask her identity.

Perhaps the most important image in this series is found in image 6.3. One of the most amazing experiences that "Eloise" has to offer is what she doesn't say – what she doesn't offer. The psychology of the human mind allows one to envision what the future may have in store, or conversely, revert to a time not quite tangible. "Eloise" offers clues to guide our minds through this process. As mentioned throughout this thesis, the history of the site had been filled with dread. The time was quite a bit different than today – people with mental deficiencies where

Figure 6.3 – Nearby vegetation grows through a chain-linked fence

treated as if they were sub-human; "Eloise's" history is proof of such a mindset. Published books – as well as forum articles suggest that considerable mistreatment of patients had not been uncommon. Rapes and beatings were a common occurrence, as well as experimental procedures. Electric shock therapy as well as experimental drugging had been considered common practice prior to more stringent laws in health care. Figure 6.3 – as previously mentioned – had become

an incredible though-provoking composition. Realistically, the image consists of nothing more than a series of branches overgrowing through the openings in a chain-linked fence, however, one could image a population reaching through the fence of the facility trying to free themselves from experiments and torture. Although these thoughts may seem a bit questionable, the aura surrounding the site is conducive to getting lost to ones own mind – imaging snapshots of a previous life for the site.

The next series of images both explain a story of existing conditions, as well as offers a series of viewports into the past. In a day where heavy masonry structures populated the [sub] urban landscape, design principles had been developed to make facilities as "livable" as possible. Simple rectangles took on an "I" or "E" shape – and in the case of "Eloise," a "double E" mirrored about the letters backbone. The intent had been to create a series of courtyards where spaces that would otherwise be lost in the interior, could pull out to a perimeter wall to allow natural lighting to penetrate deeper into the buildings section. The result was a large quantity of oversized windows to permit the light's trespass. Today, theses windows are perhaps the most dominant feature of the building's exterior. Most have been victim to juvenile antics – as most abandoned buildings sympathetically have in common – where one can be certain that a pile of rocks line the interior spaces. However – fully glazed or partially broken – these windows both

Figure 6.4 – Eloise's wall of windows

further attempt to conceal "Eloise's" history, as well as offer further glimpses of the past as if they were time traveling viewports. Figure 6.4 attempts to illustrate this notion, however as one could suggest of all architectural imagery – the two-dimensional representation of actual built construction has offers no hope for an emotionally charged experience. Perhaps what is most interesting [and later condemning for this thesis] is the scale of the building. To offer perspective – the windows depicted in figure 6.4 are approximately 7'-0" tall. The overall height is overwhelming for the site introducing an odd dynamic mixing an unsettled anxiety with a touch of subconscious fear. Standing next to the building, an average height individual would come close to the height of the lower edge of the first limestone band. Peering up along the buildings façade introduces a variety of emotions – none of which seem settling. Further, the current state of the building offers a variety of interior conditions. The first two floors are occupied by current programs; however the remaining levels have been closed and sealed due to the presence of asbestos. The mix of these factors, coupled with the prior knowledge of the site allows one's mind to further become lost in the site's history where one could easily envision interior occupants peering down upon you as you look up.

Figure 6.5 – Side Perspective of The Kay Beard Building

The power plant creates emotions along the same level as that of the Kay Beard Building, however under different circumstances. As "Eloise" had been nearly [if not completely] independent from any city infrastructure, the remaining buildings on site have been left in a state of blight as they are no longer in use. These viewports offer not snapshots of individuals, but of the infrastructure and architecture of the site. Again, as these areas are sealed off to the public, ones mind cannot help but wonder about the possibilities and spatial articulation that lies beyond the opaque walls. This idea will become important as it remains a lesson of the tangible situated in a way where it is in fact intangible.

Figure 6.6 – Perspective view of the Power Plant

Figure 6.7 – View of the rear elevation of the Power Plant

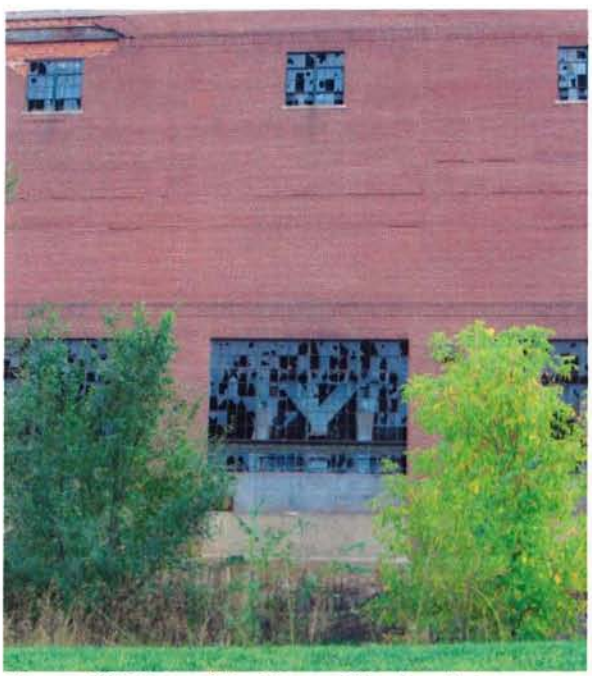


Figure 6.8 View of the Power Plant's windows

Figures 6.7 and 6.8 depict conditions that can be found on the rear elevation of the power plant. Areas of stained translucent glass coupled with areas of true transparency are articulated in a truly random pattern. Exposed ductwork from the mechanical equipment that fills the interior of the space can be seen in the background of the broken glass punctures within the façade. Thankfully, the glazing is high enough in elevation to spare one the site of his or her own reflection in the building's façade.

The last series of graphics that had become largely influential in understanding the layers and emotions that the existing building offers is that of the physical scars that the structures display. It is easy to internalize a certain animistic quality for a building of such caliber; as the human body is incapable of concealing physical scars without some type of artificial alteration, the buildings of "Eloise" display disfigurement in a similar fashion. Primarily displayed in the reinforced concrete foundation and abutments, the cover layer has eroded away exposing rebar reinforcement that had been embedded within the construction assembly. Figure 6.9 depicts a

Figure 6.9 – View of concrete bridge

concrete bridge that has fallen victim to the scars of whether and time. At one point in time, the bridge traversing the change in terrain had continued along the exterior elevation of the power plant. Currently, only a portion of the bridge and its supports remain. The following pictures represent further proof of the buildings' extensive past.

Figure 6.10 [above]– View of spalling concrete from the bridge's structure
Figure 6.11 [below] – view of brick peeling away to expose structural steel

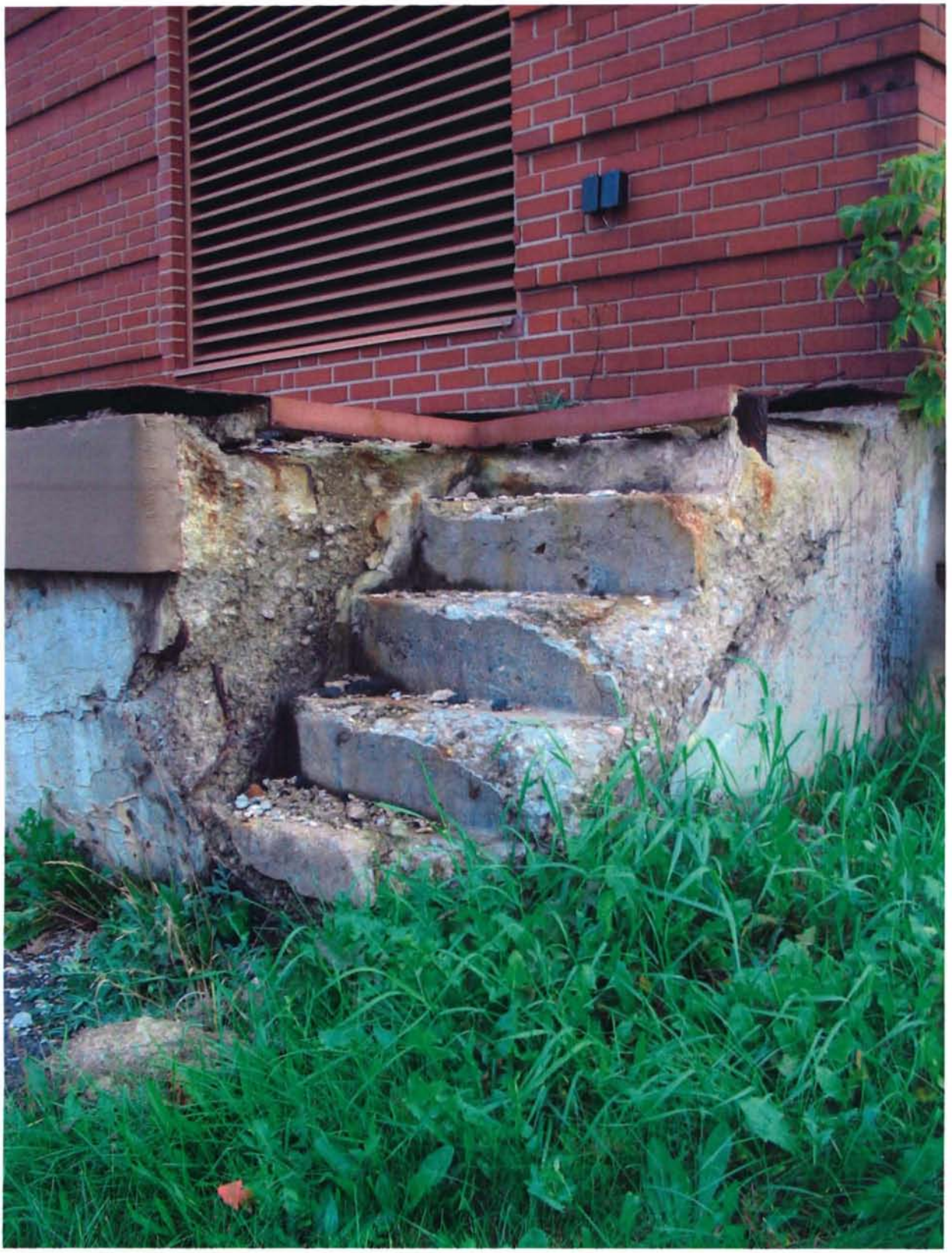


Figure 6.12 Weathered stairs

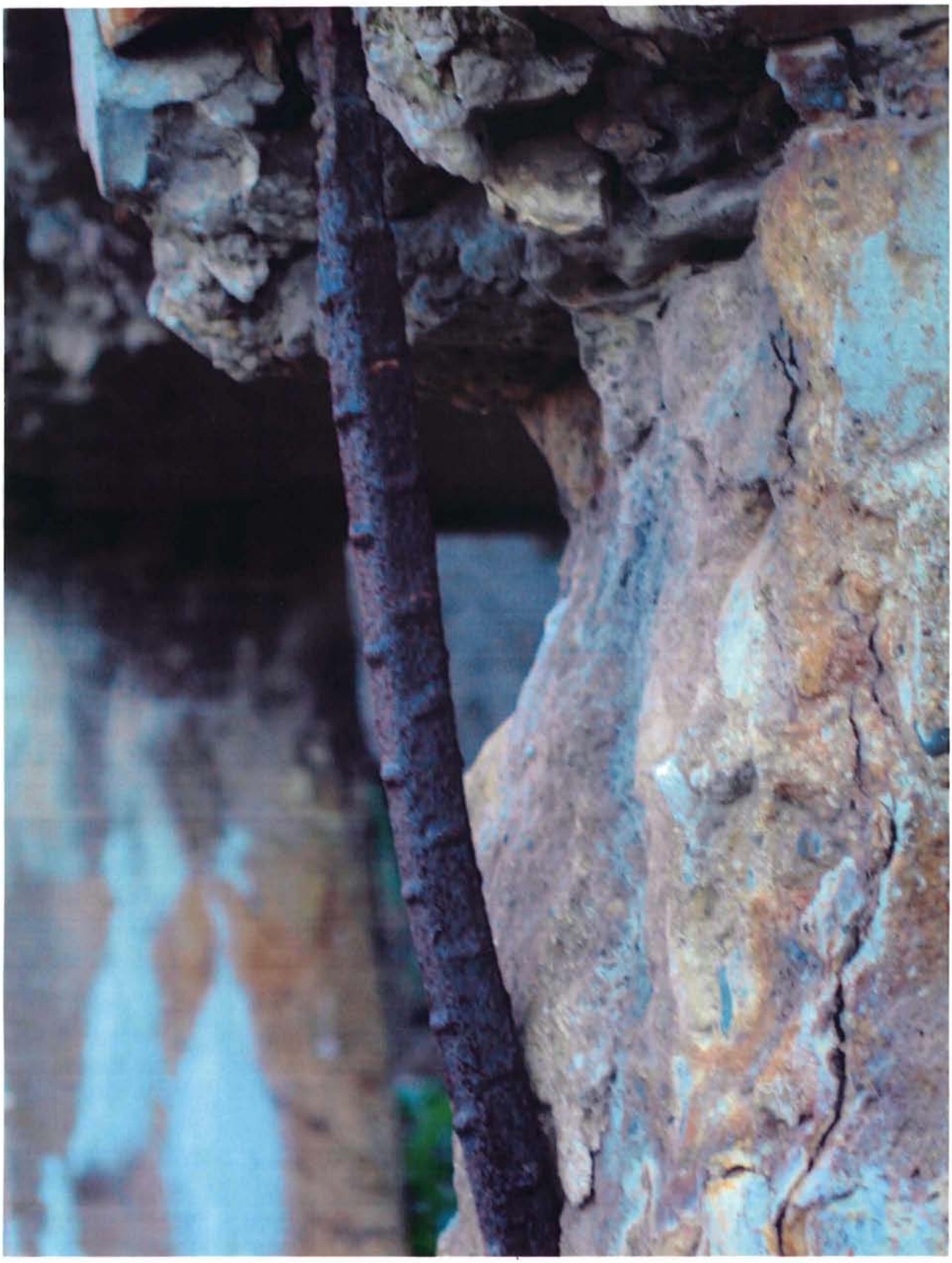


Figure 6.13 – Exposed concrete reinforcement in the Power Plant's bridge

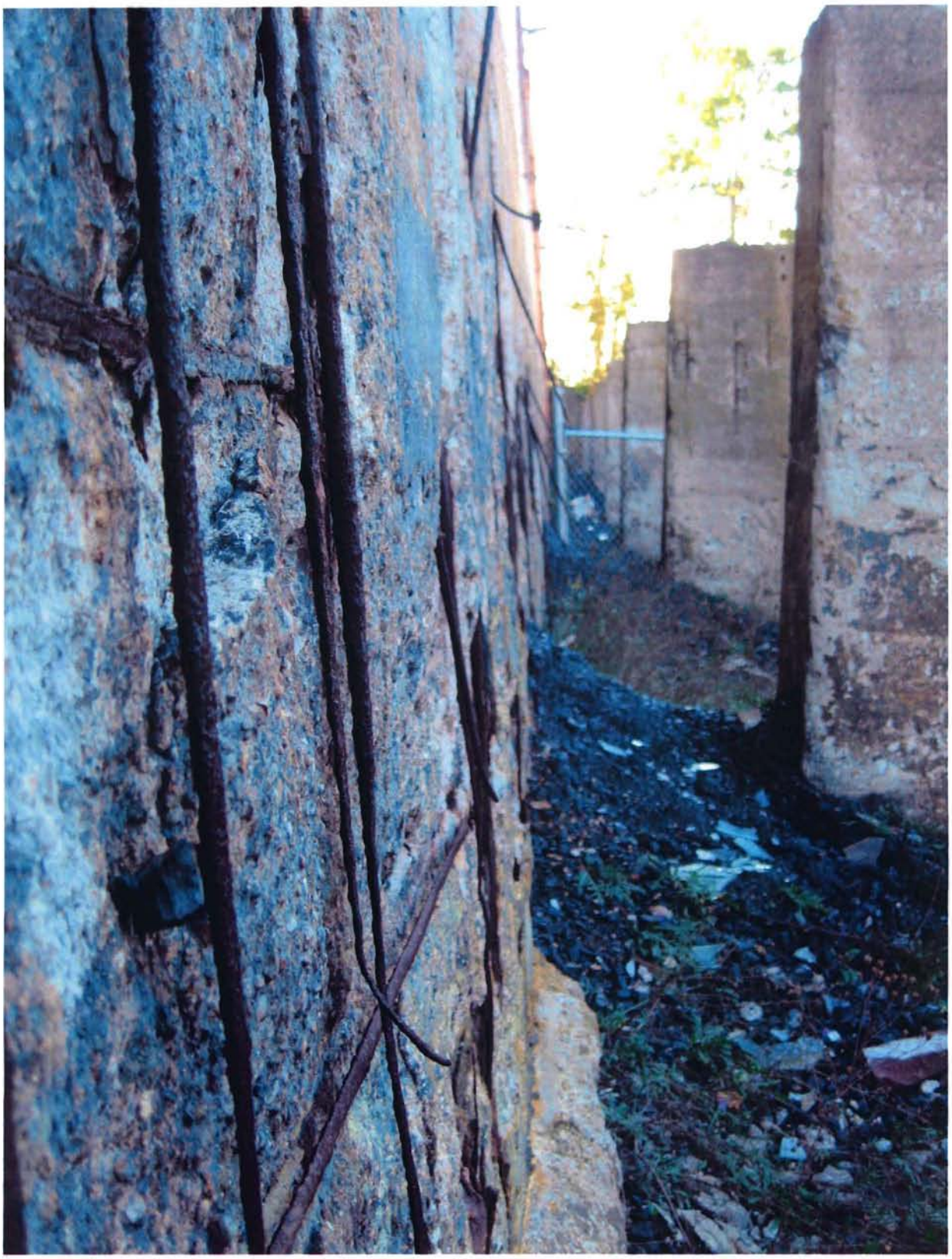


Figure 6.14 – Exposed concrete reinforcement in the Power Plant's Foundation

Separately, these images tell the tale of a building whose now scar burdened façade had supported a multitude of functions over many generations. However, simultaneously, as the pictures remain vignettes of an overall composition, it is seemingly natural that they would not suffice as an architectural investigation. Figure 6.15 depicts a montage of photos that make up nothing short of a ghostly image of the existing conditions. As layers will become an important aspect of the overall design, it is seemingly natural that individual vignettes make up only a "snapshot" of what is an overall composition. As a good architect understands that simply responding to individual conditions will not suffice for a "good," sound architectural investigation, one must take into account not only displayed conditions that a site may offer, but the emotional response that one's audience will encounter. Using a series of computer generated techniques; the images have been overlaid atop one another with a varying degree of transparency to generate the overall composition.

One cannot help but notice the drama and emotion apparent in the montage. In terms of a photo-essay, the overall image has become quite successful in capturing the emotional imagery that the site maintains. Perhaps the most apparent idea is that of the different viewports that are offered amongst the constructed scenery. The chain link fence posing in the foreground offers snapshots of the overall image. The background imagery further displays ghostly viewports to what has been witness to the actions that the building has housed. The lower quadrants of the image pay tribute to the scars that the building discretely bears primarily along the southern elevations of the power plant.

Lastly, the image pays tribute to the iconic smokestack razed mid summer of 2006 [ironically at the time that this montage had been created.] Although it is portrayed emitting smoke from its hollow masonry cavern, the smokestack had not been operable for quite some time. Months before, a large portion of the top of the masonry structure had came tumbling to the earth below – causing concern for the semi-occupied building. The decision had been made; the smokestack would be torn down to prevent another life from falling victim to the facility. One cannot help but reiterate the irony of timing. The smokestack had bore the name "Eloise" in dark clay masonry down the front of the smokestack. As the site sits in seemingly irreversible damage due to vandals, Mother Nature and time, the fall of the iconic smokestack seems to be the first step in sealing the fate of the facility.

Figure 6.15 – Site photo montage

[SPRINGBOARD] Constructed Montage

To echo the montage created in the previous section it is seemingly natural that the next stage would entail constructing a physical representation of the ideas expressed. Simply arranging a series of images in a composition is –although a telling story – a bit short of an architectural investigation. The next step in the conceptual investigation is to use building materials similar to that of the actual site. Note however, that actual materials from the site have been left in place both out of respect for the site and to preserve its history in place. Instead, actual materials have been used, however found amongst a stockpile of materials that can be found at a lumber yard.

To further exploit the different layers of transparency and emotions that the site offers, a series of images have been plotted on backlit paper and overlaid atop one another. Similar to the conditions found within the existing window frames, the edges of the images – mounted on acrylic – had been originally an unfortunate mistake; however, the mistake had turned into a seemingly appropriate design decision. Wire lathe – as can be found within floor slabs or as the base to plaster applications – tie the composition together. Along the bottom edges – as well as scattered halfway up the lathe, concrete serves as mortar for the glass particles that shimmer along side the images. Lastly, rebar similar to that which can be found exposed along the foundation wall of the power plant and bridge construction serves as the foundation for the composition. The rebar have been welded together to for a self-supportive base which allows the model to stand independent from any other support.

Lastly, to allow the layers to interact with one another, the entire model is backlit with a halogen spotlight. Once the light is turned on, a surprising series of shadow lines adjacent walls. The model is to serve as both a tribute to the site, as well as an important schematic-type investigation where a two-dimensional graphic can be brought to life with a three-dimensional quality; similar to the way a building becomes more than just a series of segments filling an otherwise empty sheet of white bond paper.

Figure 6.16

Figure 6.17

[SPRINGBOARD] A simple Gesture

One must understand that taking on a project of such a caliber would result in a project that must be rich in not only quality but in conceptual theory as well. One the ideas that surround this thesis is that the gesture of the project does not have to be elaborate or complicated. In fact, the idea is very simple – to create a facility where a homeless individual can both establish a semi-permanent residency as well as having the opportunity to learn a vocational trade along with a self-sustaining education. Such a concept – although understanding that "simple" can easily become complicated – must be captured.

In the following series, a simple gesture has turned into an architectural concept. When looking back upon what it is that this thesis is attempting, the simple gesture of helping someone to their feet seemed to be a rudimentary decision; however, the fact remains, even a problem as complex as homelessness can be answered by a simple offering. This idea had spawned into an in depth investigation into what it means to help someone in need. As one person helps another to their feet, the process is reciprocal. The person helped up can soon become the person helping others. This will later become the basis of the Construction Vocation as outlined in the building detail summary.

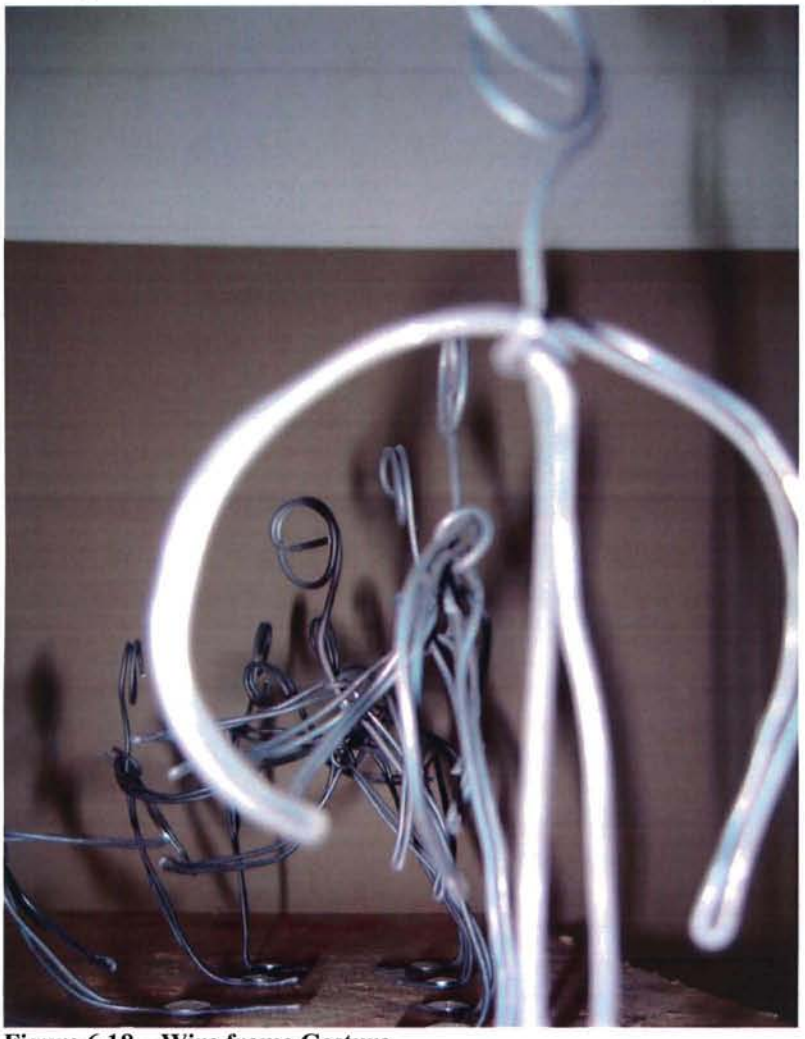


Figure 6.18 – Wire frame Gesture

The first step in the series had started with a wire frame investigation of one figure helping another – literally – to their feet. Although the model is quite elementary, the idea will soon spawn into a more appropriate investigation. Figure 6.18 illustrates the process.

The next step investigated the idea of extruding the motion of the gesture along an unscaled timeline to capture to motion created by the process.

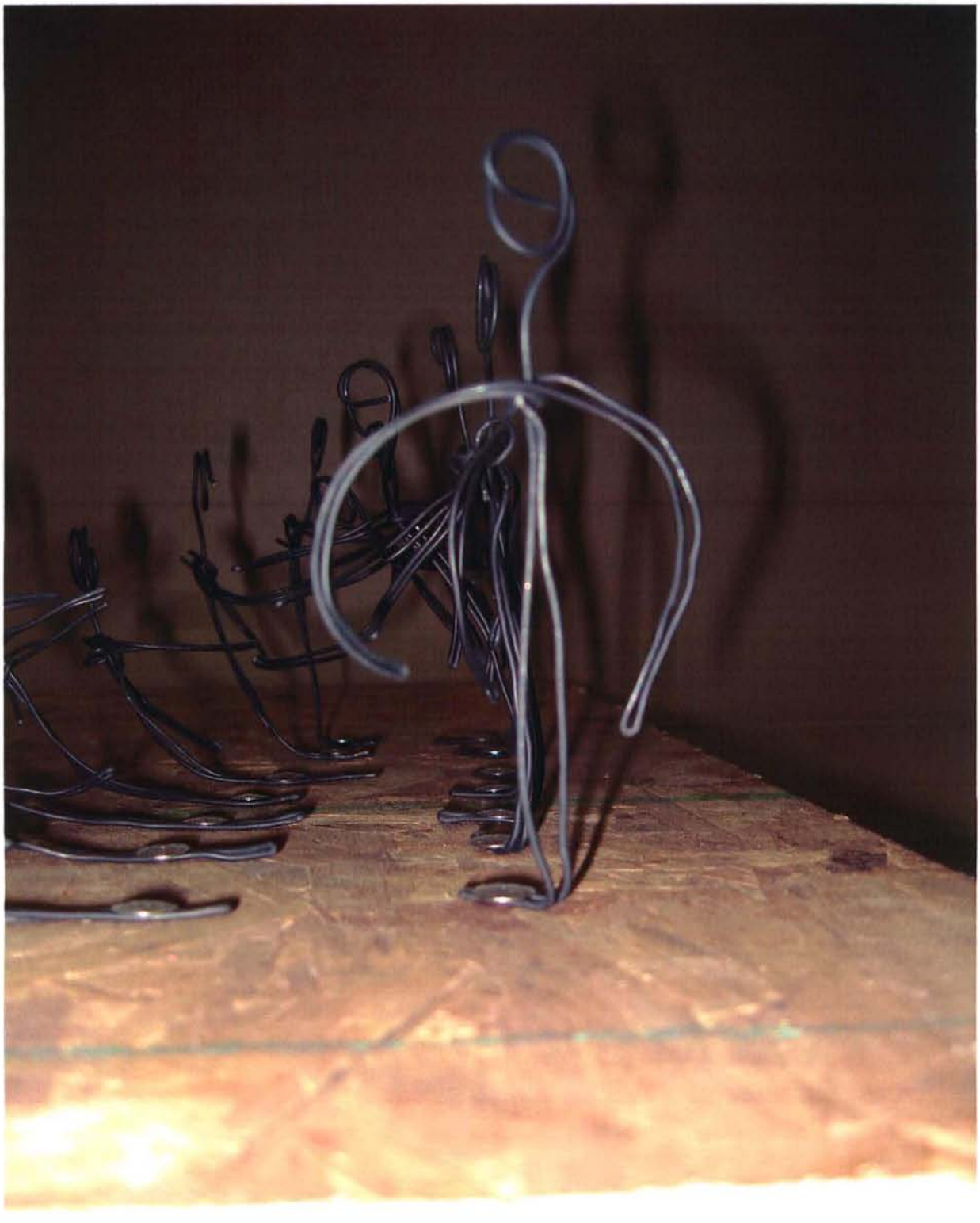


Figure 6.19 – Gesture Model

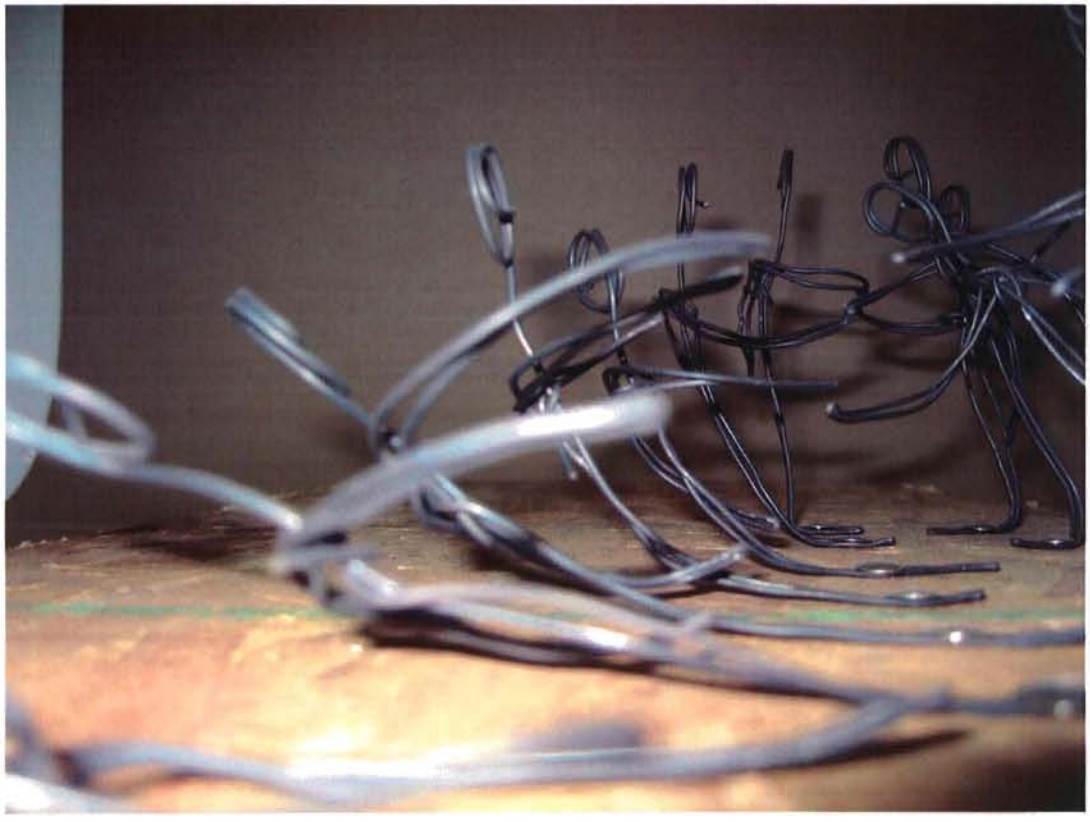


Figure 6.20

Figure 6.21

Figure 6.22

The previous images display a dualistic quality. The ability of an intangible idea to become tangible is perhaps the duty of an architect. However, being able to capture the spirit of a project such as this one in a single gesture model in a way becomes more successful that the architectural project itself.

The next series included a slight abstraction from the quite literal model outlined above. As architecture that becomes a literal representation of a series of events can be classified as nothing short of "Disneylandish," a model of such literal intent would come upon high scrutiny. The intent of an "architectural" investigation is to draw upon the essence of what the model is trying to capture. To abstract upon such a literal element, however, has become the source of many architectural marvels. Pulling apart model suggests that the motion can be captured in two separate halves. One half represents the one who helps up the other figure, while the other represents the figure who is being helped up. The model shown in white [Figure 6.23] depicts the figure who is helping up the other model. The motion captured a simple sweeping curve whose bend begins a third of the way up in elevation. The model is constructed on a wood base of construction shims where a series of threaded rods penetrate the wooden base. Upon the threaded rods, a simply nylon mesh is carefully laced along the skeleton which will allow the structure to take on a natural form whose shape is dictated purely through the skeletons coercion.

Figure 6.23 – Conceptual model – The helper

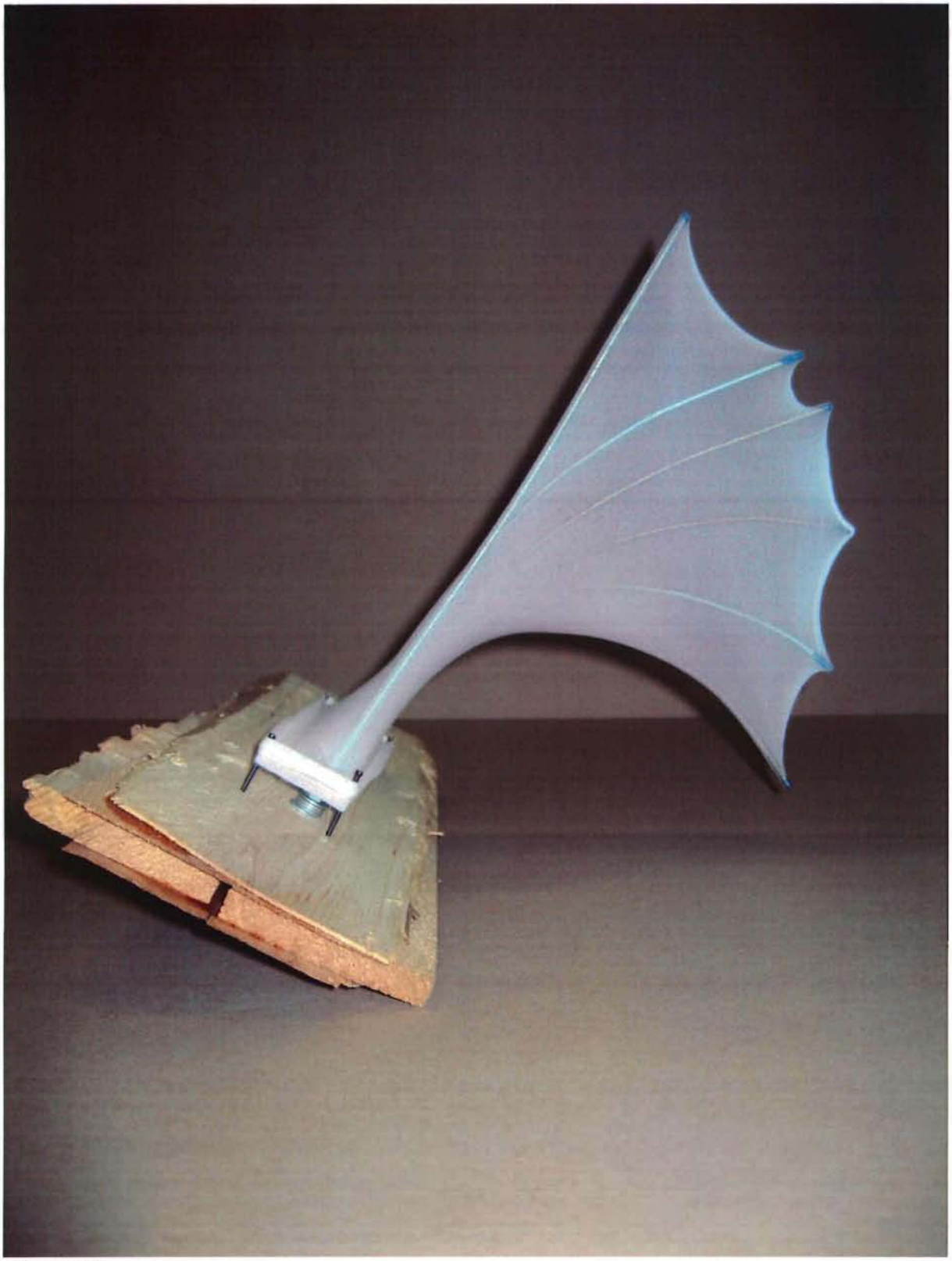


Figure 6.24

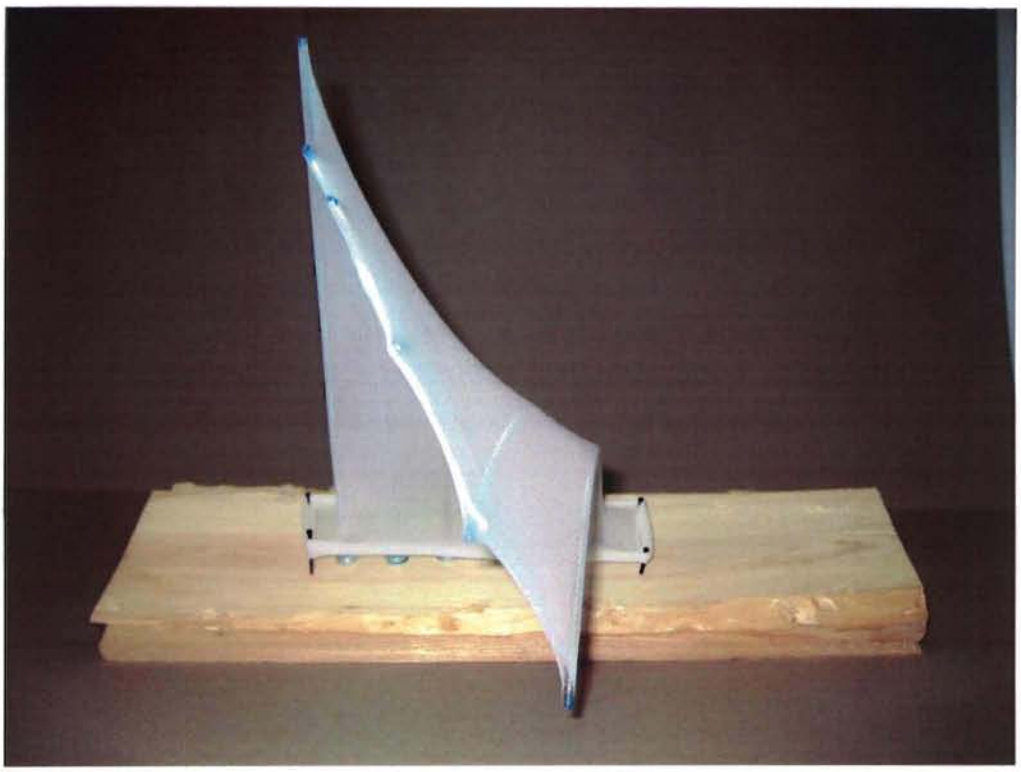


Figure 6.25

The second half of the model represents the model that is being helped up. Construction of the vignette is similar to that of the helper; this model is shown in black.

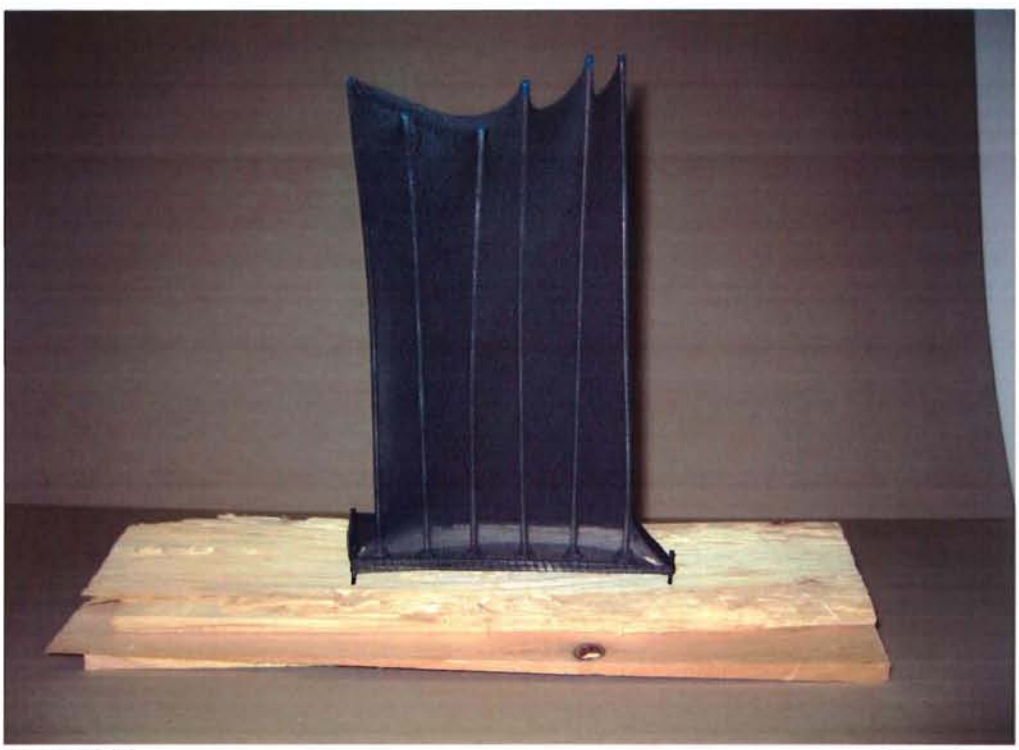


Figure 6.26

Figure 6.27

Figure 6.28

As stated in the site montage, simply supplying a series of vignettes would account for a half-hearted attempt at an architectural investigation. By combining the two separate models, one can be offered a multitude of compositions of which to draw inspiration. Figure 6.29 displays such a theory.

Figure 6.29 – Gestural Composition

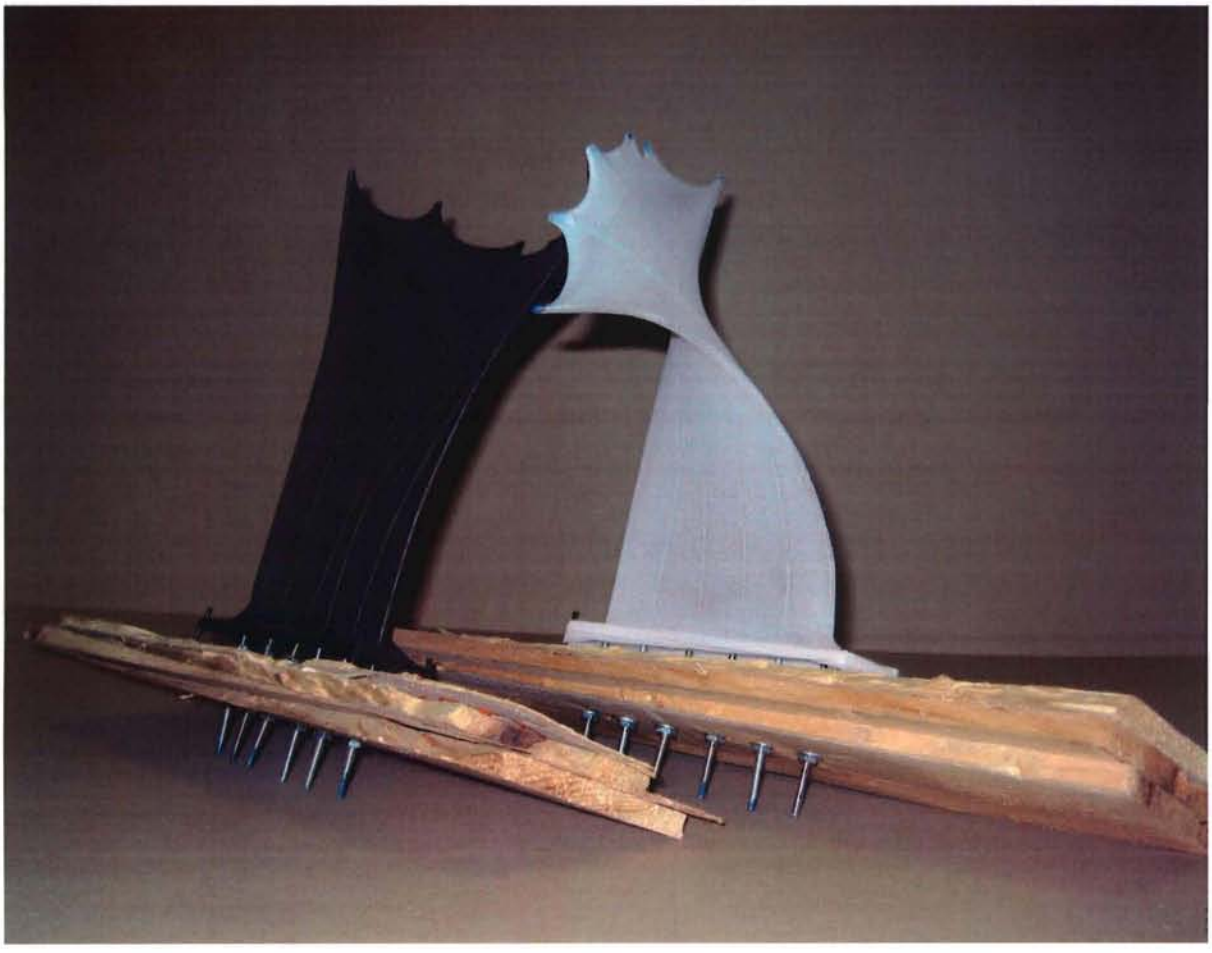


Figure 6.30

Figure 6.31

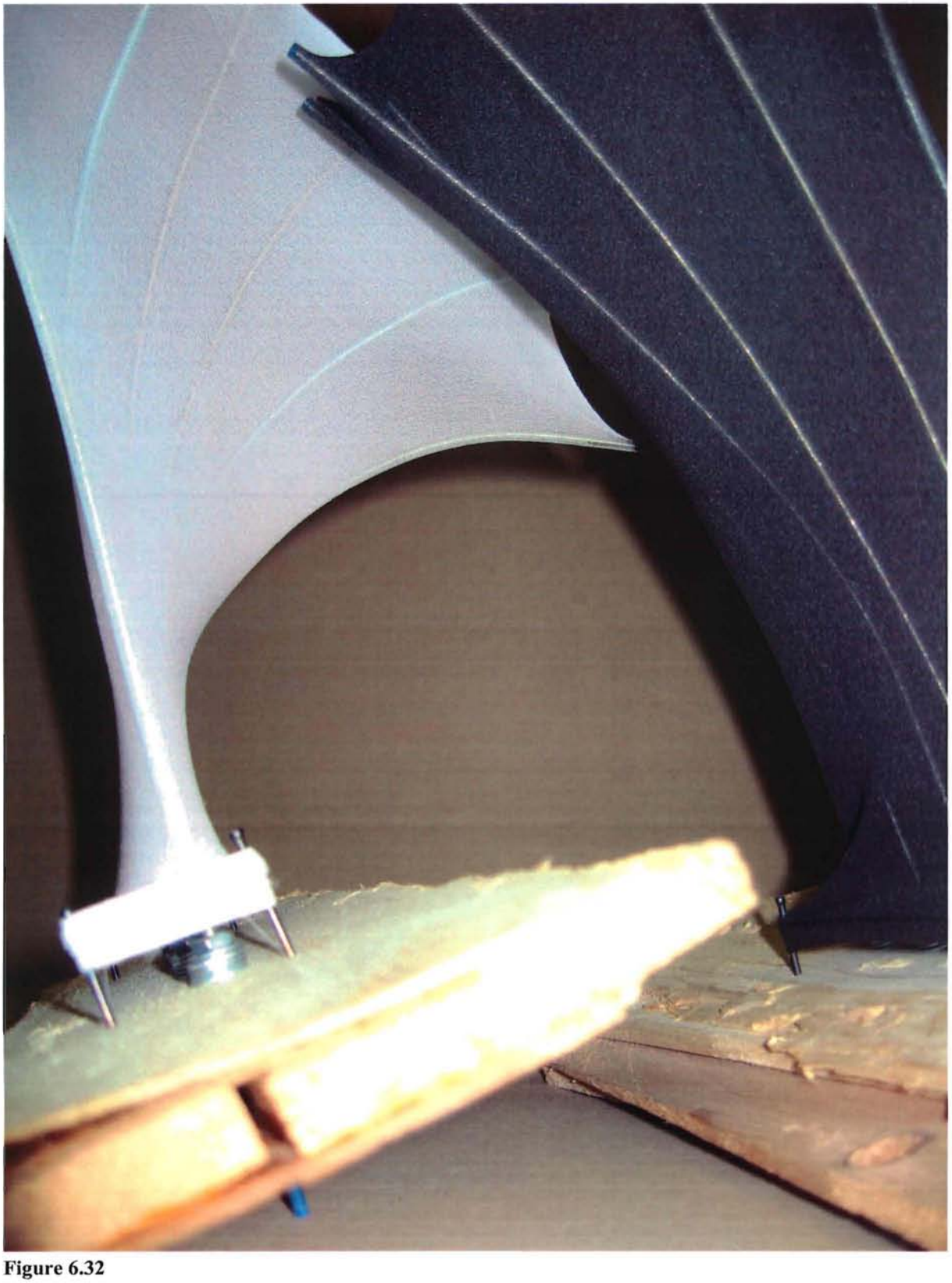


Figure 6.32

Figure 6.33

Building upon these elements, the models were documented in the form of graphic illustrations to capture the compositions shown in the above images. The renderings were created with dry pastels on black Strathmore. In an attempt to capture the spirit of the idea, the illustrations were meant to capture the drama and emotion of the gesture. The first image of each series represents the skeleton system to which the mesh façade had been applied to in the later illustrations.

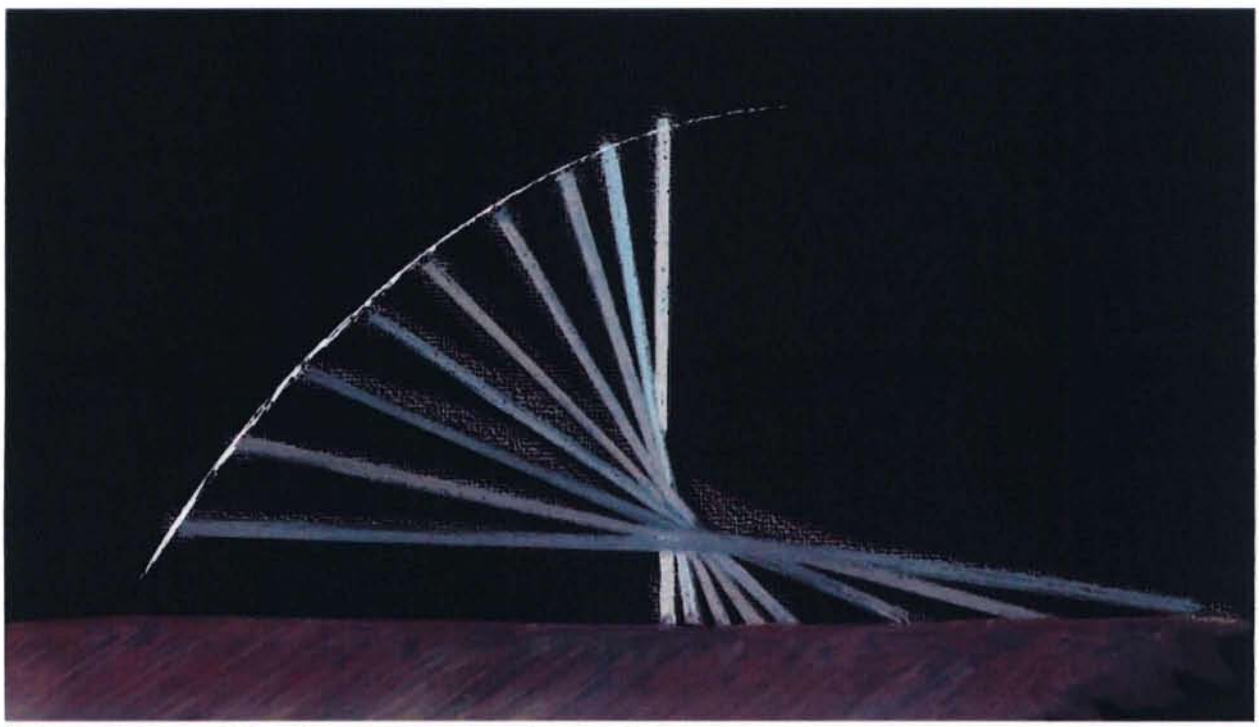


Figure 6.34

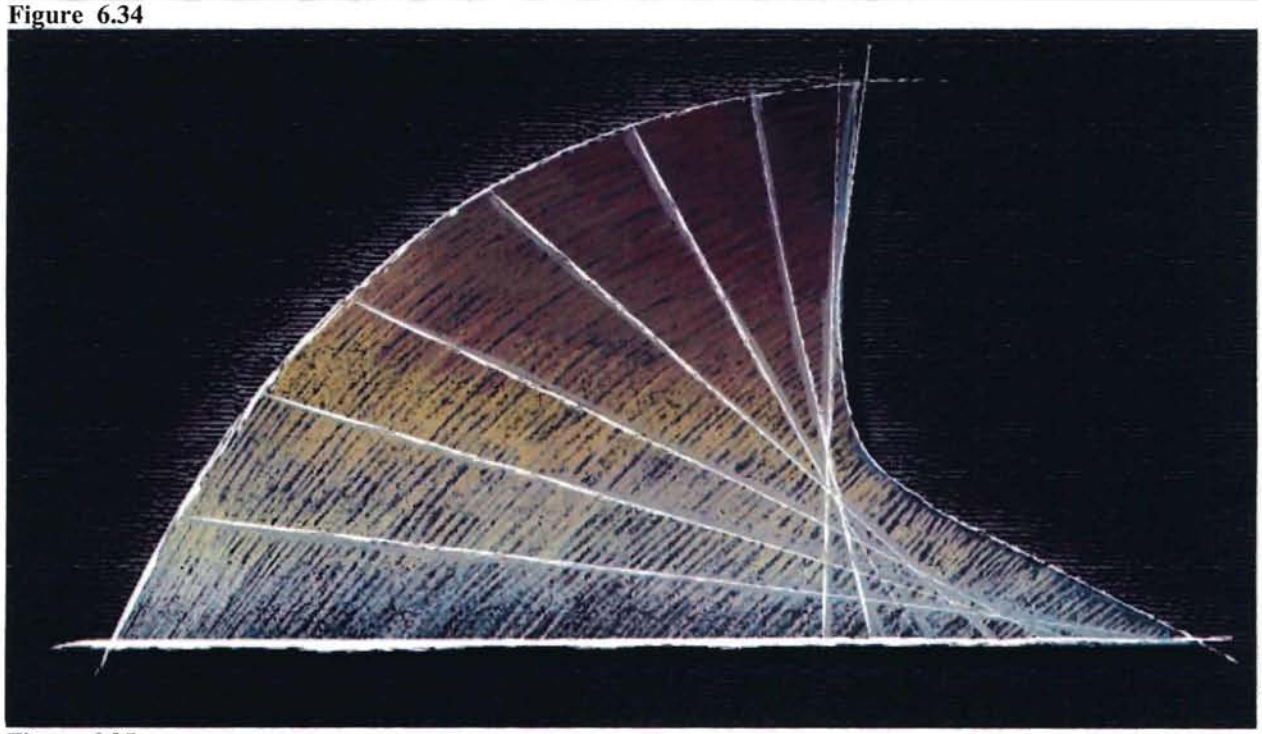


Figure 6.35

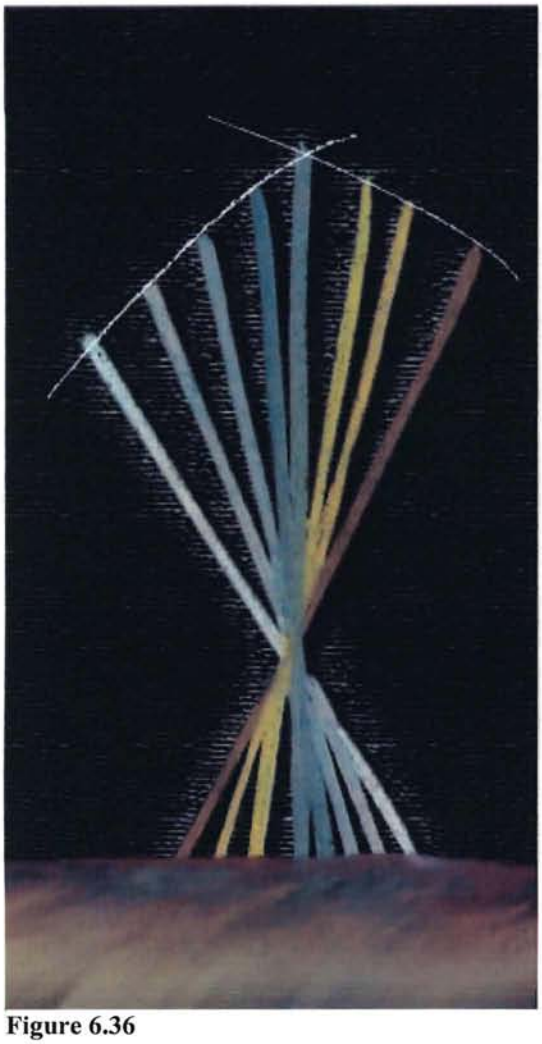


Figure 6.36

Figure 6.37

The final composition once again combined the two models. The following image has been rendered n a way to highlight interior spaces of the model – if in fact it were to become an architectural decision. However, later critiques and analysis will prove this to be merely a conceptual model for a program decision for the final design. Although these figures maintain visual interest and dynamism, the idea of using these forms as an architectural design remains trite in the spirit of the thesis. A much stronger decision sill be made to allow the idea of this gesture to be transferred through to the final design in the spirit of offering aid to those in need. In turn, those individuals will have the opportunity to give back to surrounding communities where in the end, they in return become the helpers.

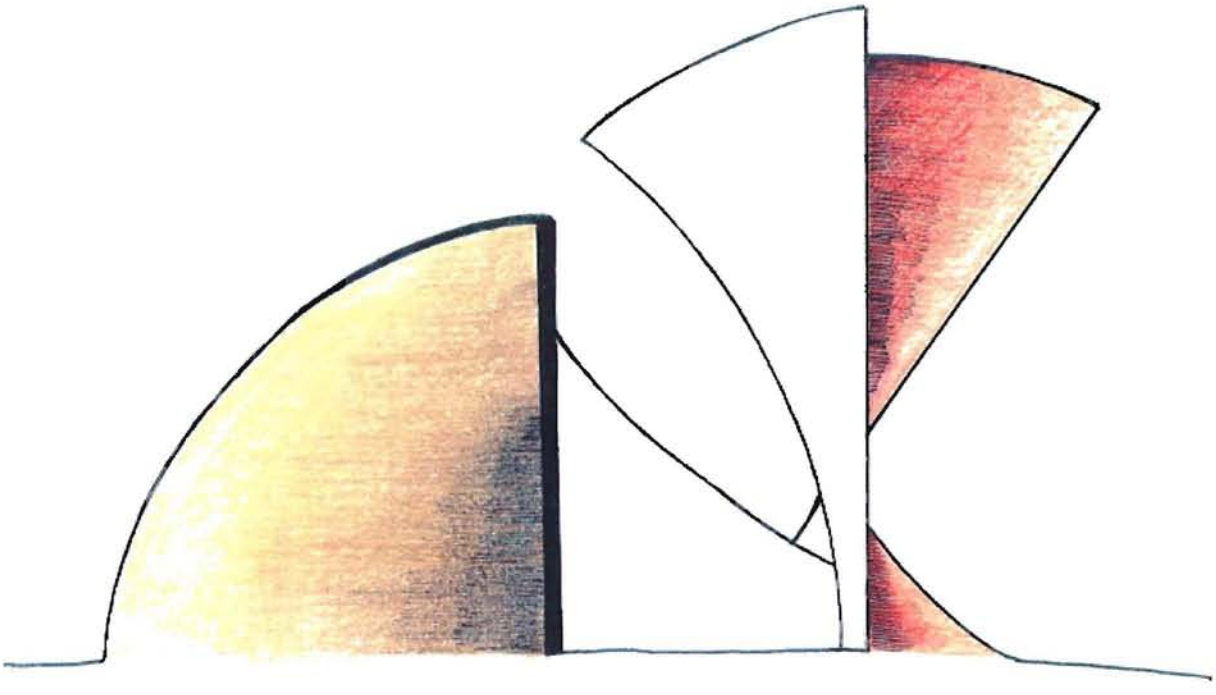


Figure 3.38

Finally, the last step in the process had entailed polishing the overall design of the gesture in the form of a final model. The following model had been created using metal fabric samples arranged in such a way to capture the overall gesture shown in the preceding pages. The model sits on a foam core base where the center diamond had been hollowed out to allow the polished metal center to sit flush with the remaining base. From above, the metal center mirrors the model suggesting the reciprocal process where one figure acts as the helping agent and the other as those in need of help. When peering into the polished metal center, the process is repeated. However, with one caveat, sandblasted stripes dissect the panel into different sections suggestive of the idea that for every situation the process may take on a different image. With the introduction of the thesis described herein, the process is repeated, however altered in such a way to serve the best interest of those in need.

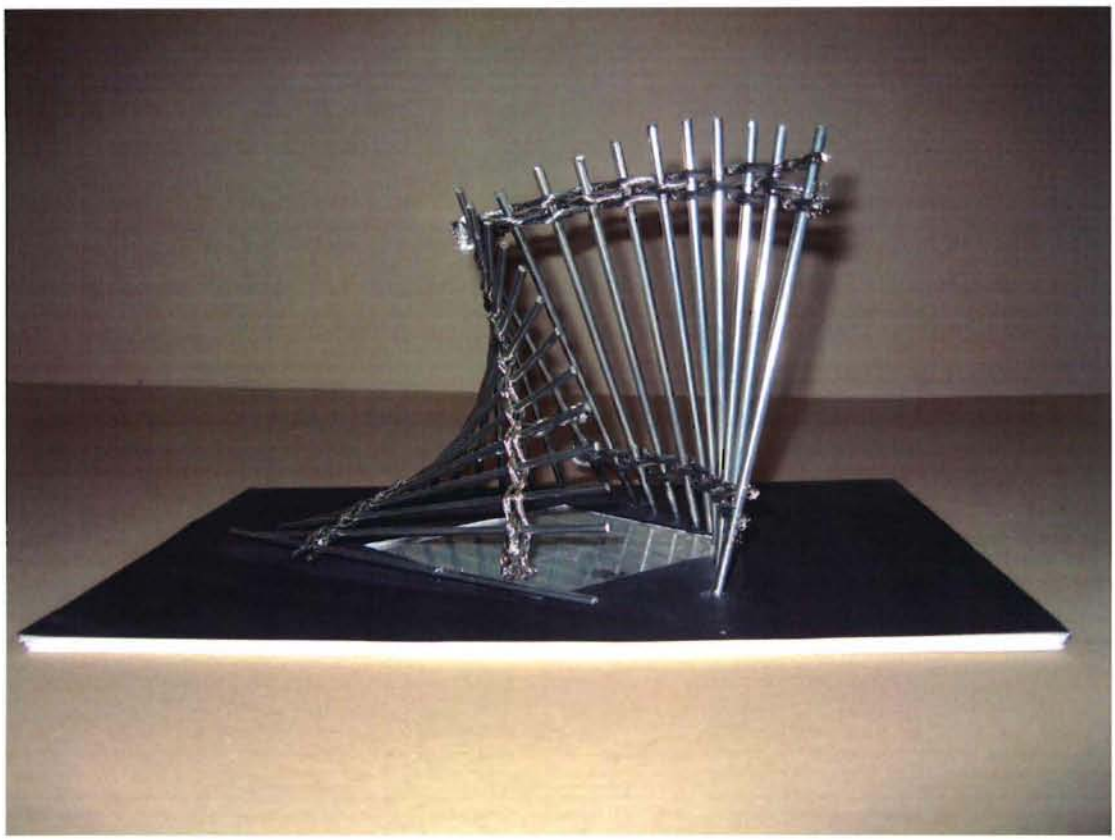


Figure 6.39

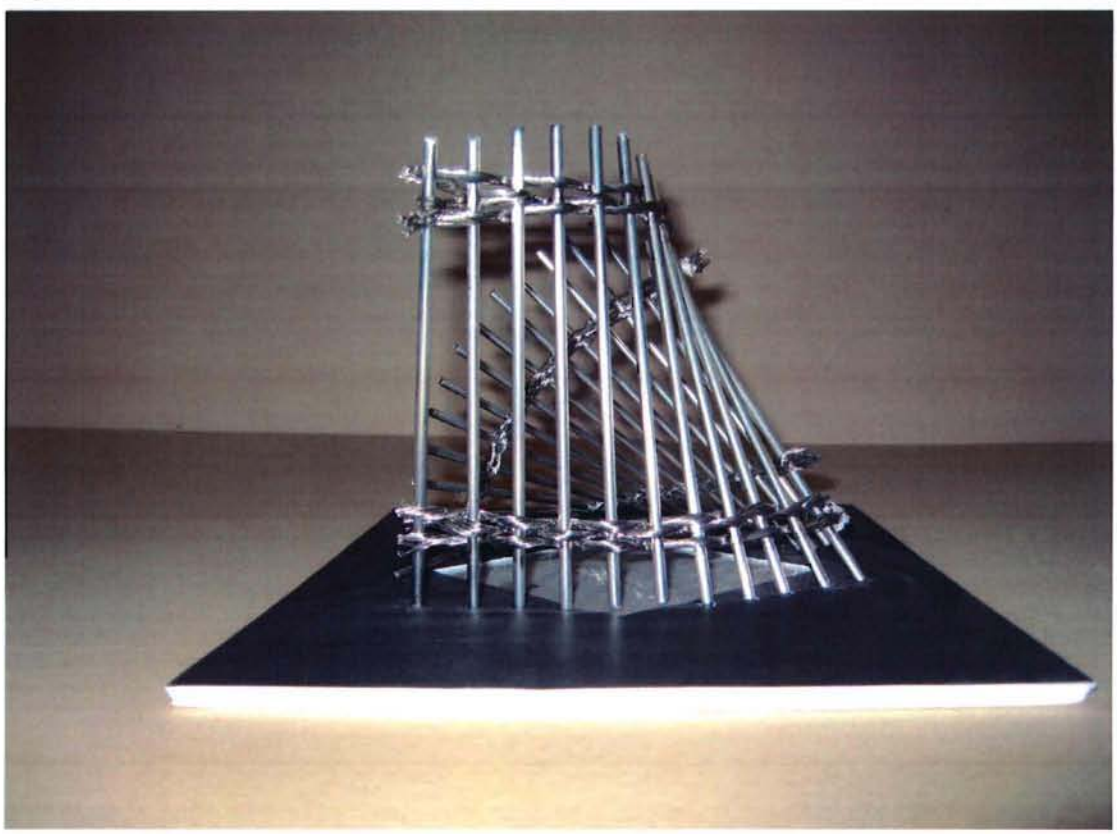


Figure 6.40

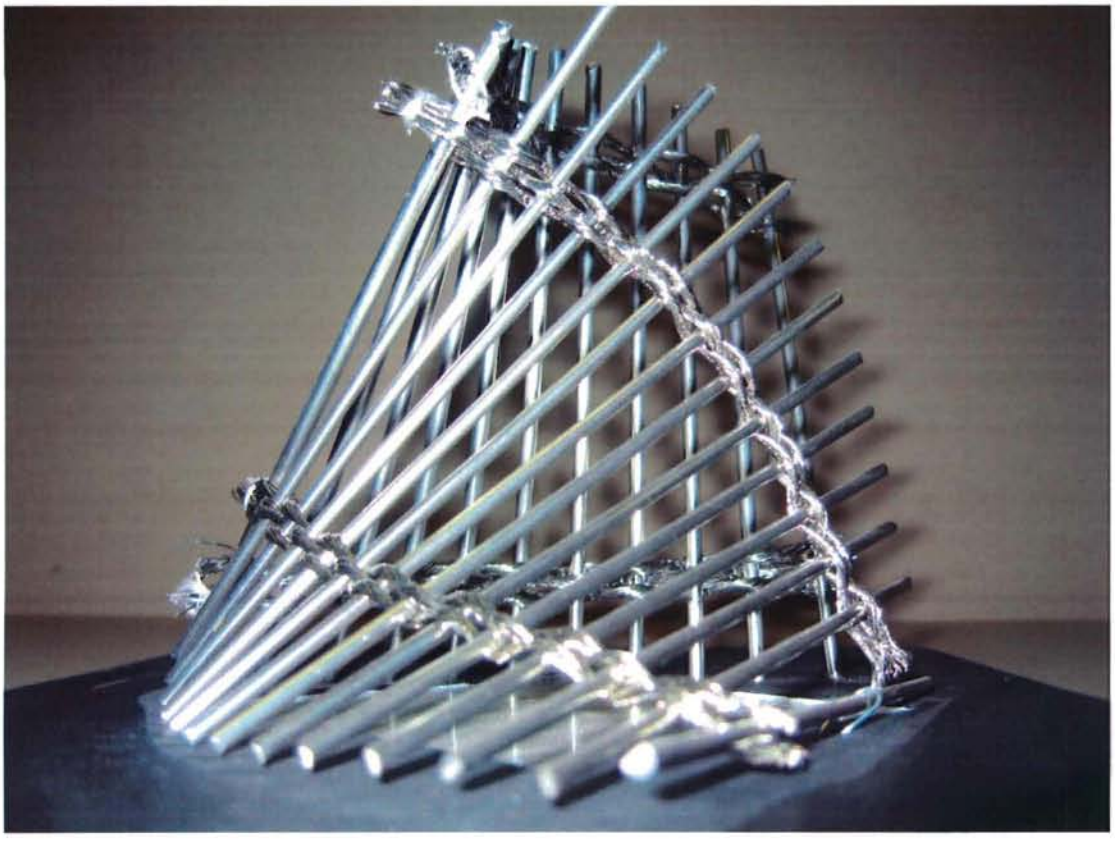


Figure 6.41

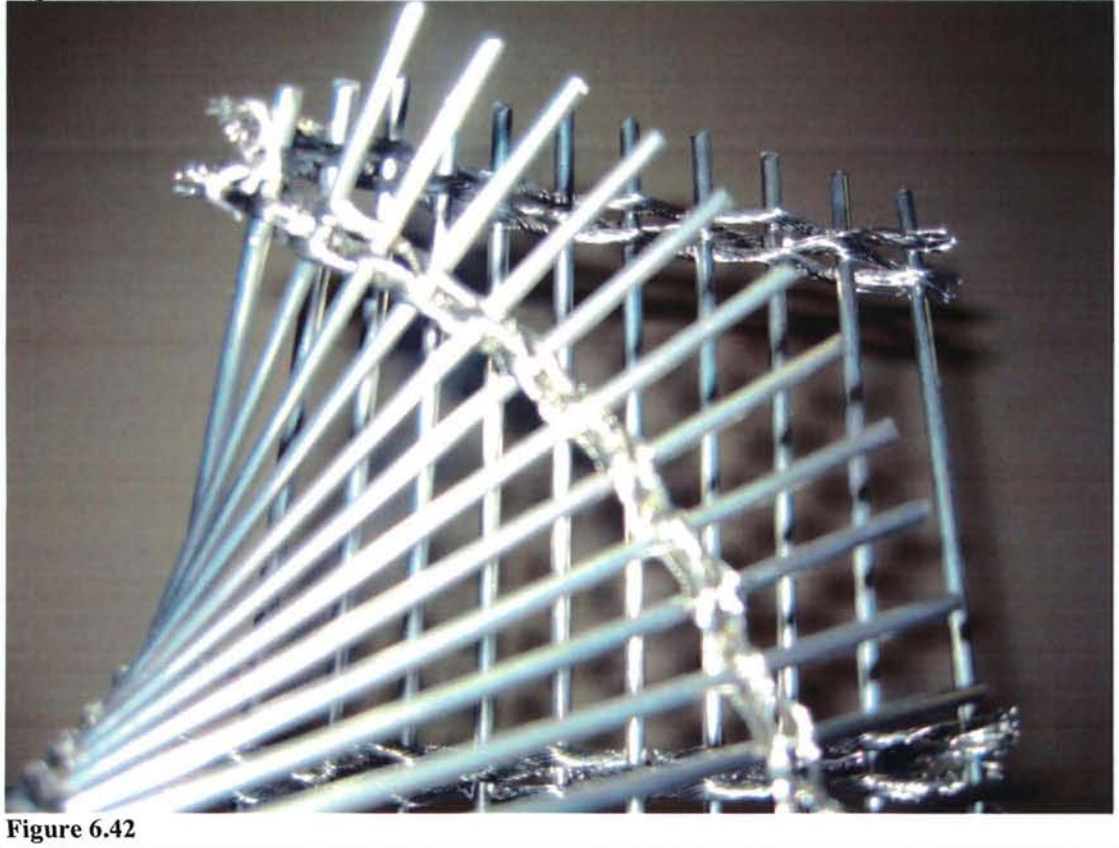


Figure 6.42

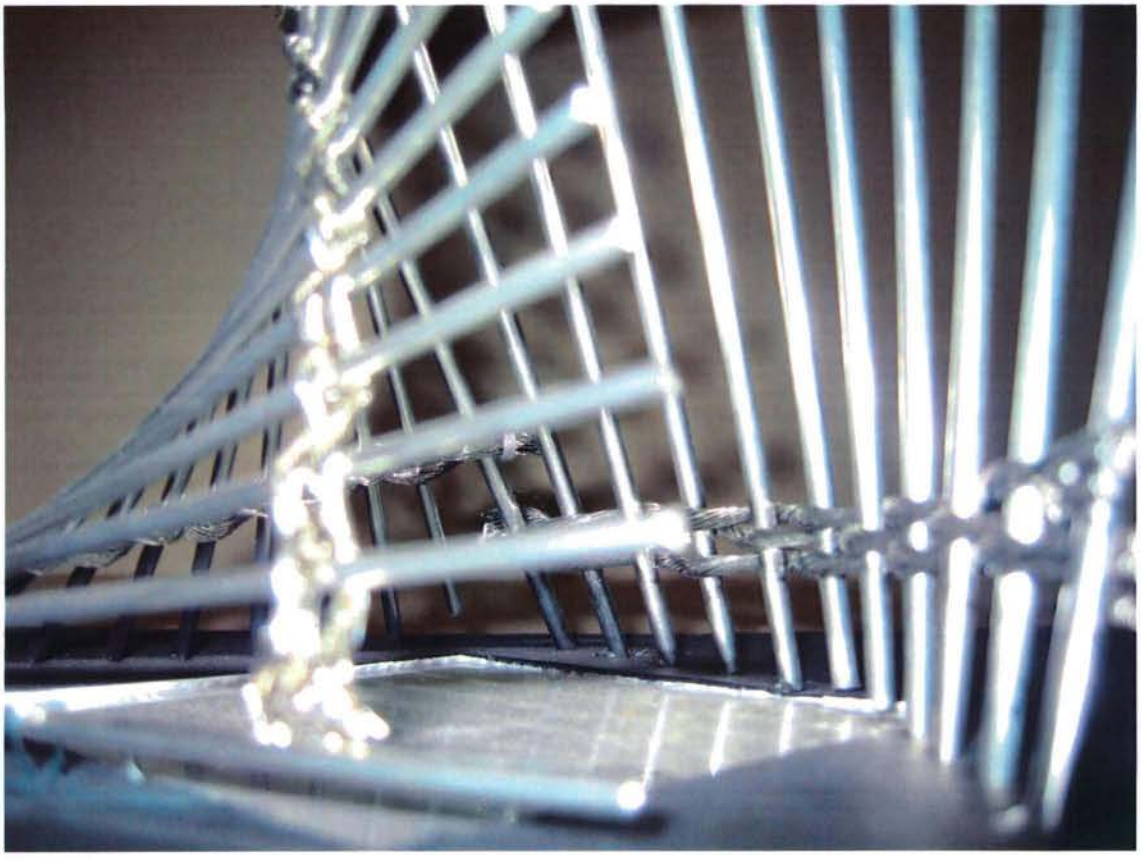


Figure 6.43

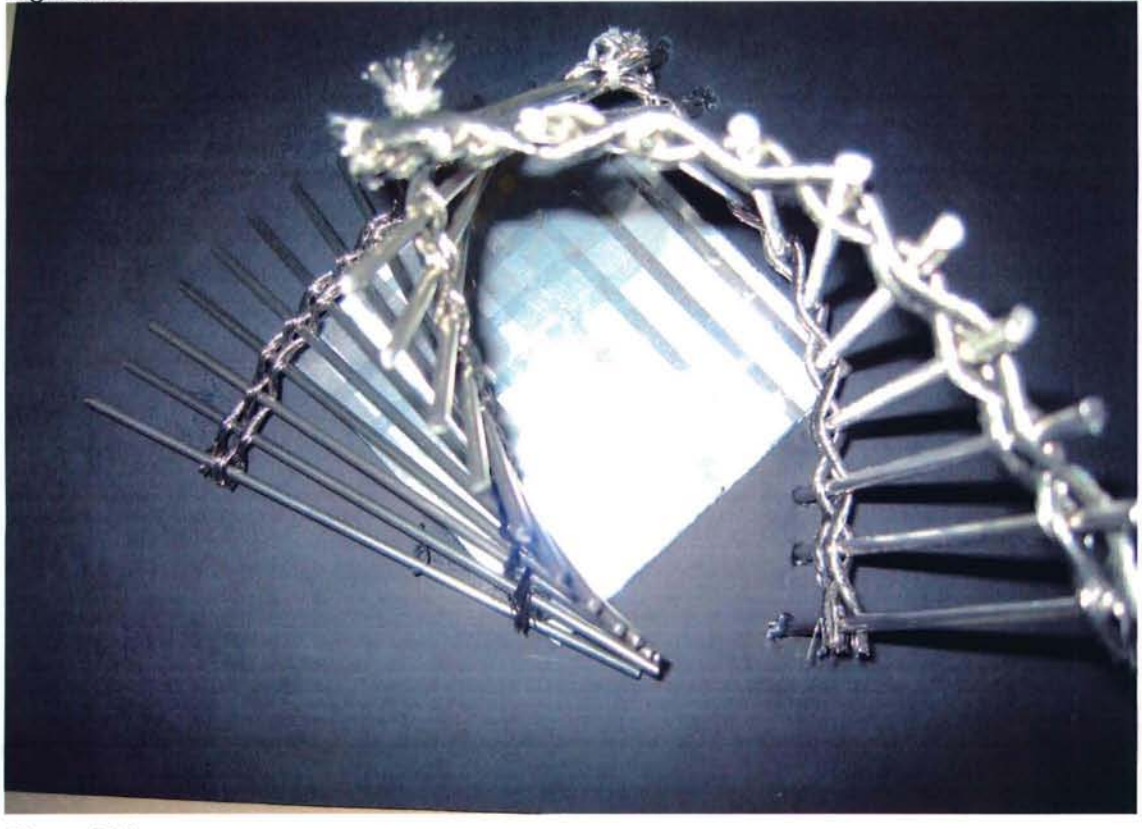


Figure 6.44

[SPRINGBOARD] Material Composition

Prior to executing any architectural work as one would typically expect, two conceptual models were created to examine different materials – and their effect on a construction assembly. For this investigation, one could suggest that any section of the building could serve as inspiration for the construction vignette, however, it had become important that it would not become an arbitrary decision, later this if these principals were to be used in the overall design, it had seemed only appropriate that they bore some significance as opposed to an arbitrary decision.

These vignettes had been created similar to the photo essay. Sifting through images of the existing site, coupled with the research performed in the springboard section entitled photo montage, it had become an appropriate decision the existing window assembly could become a significant source of inspiration. Perhaps what became some enthralling about the windows – primarily those of the power plant – are the series of frameworks that are naturally produced. They are simply nothing more than what they are. They exist upon their own circumstances. Granted some external force allowed for existence, however there internal structure – the surface tension in which each pane maintains – allowed their shape to come into existence upon their own will. Each

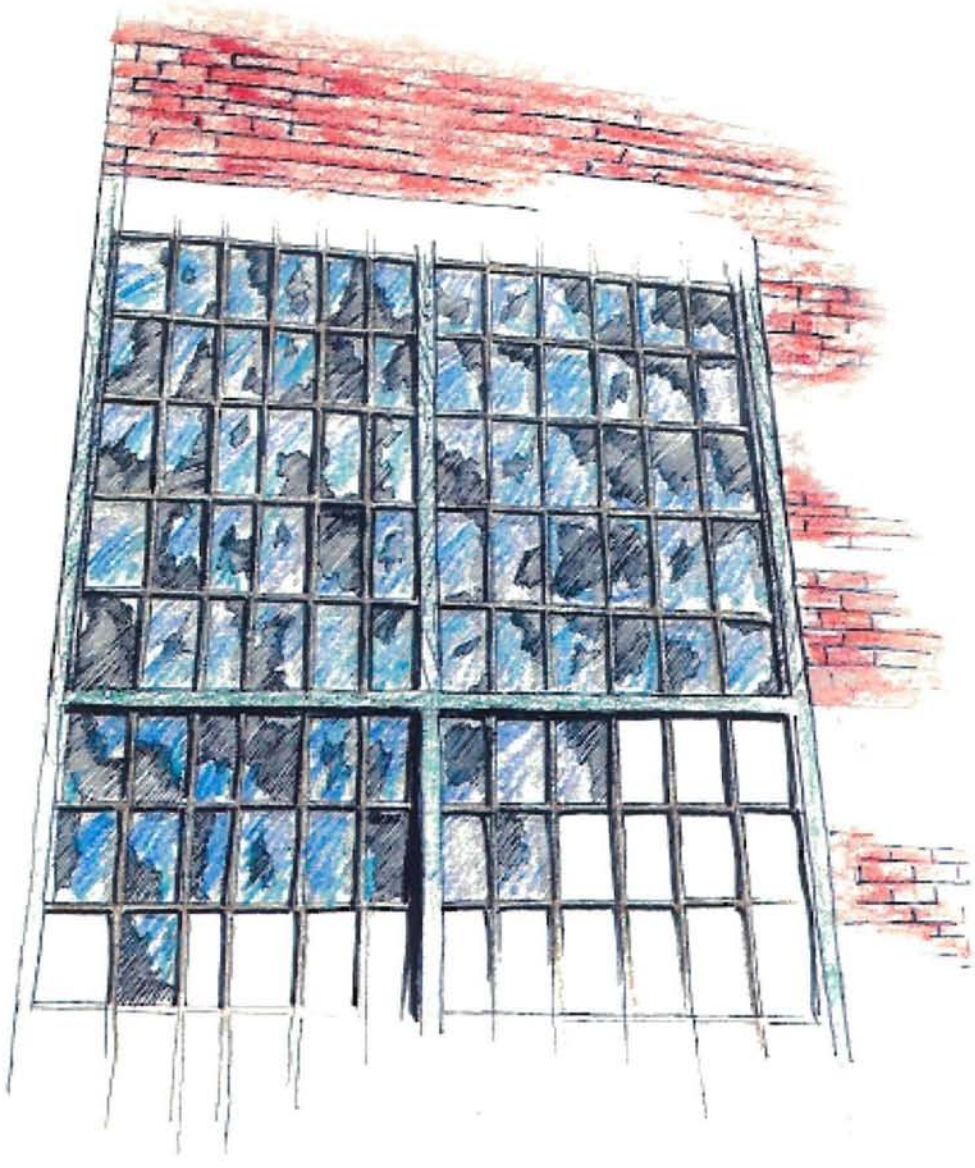


Figure 6.45

abstract frame allows for a clearer view of the interior spaces – while the positive space of the individual glazing panels serves to abstract the interior of "Eloise." The next viewport created by the composition is that of the window mullions. The orthographic arrangement of mullions allow a shift from the organic creation of the glass viewports, however their boundary lines serve as a more rigidly arranged type of "kid sister" to the overall framework. The quadrant partitions divide the window vertically in half as well as horizontally to add yet another dimension to the assembly. Lastly, the entire assembly is surrounded in clay masonry bricks - quite a shift in rigidity and density – however further representing the importance of this assembly. Perhaps what one could most gravitate to is the embodied suggestions that windows inherently maintain. Again – a typical undamaged glazing surface would be yet another representation of the tangible world being made intangible. One is forced to wonder the emotions behind the blank faces of the facility's early occupants as they would stare out their window at night praying for a release from such a place. However, to enhance this idea of tangibility, the windows of the power plant maintain voids in the structural integrity. It is almost as if the building is taunting the historian who wishes to gain access – or the visionary who imagines him or herself inside the facility peering out at the outside world.

Although figure 6.45 represents a very slight abstraction from the original window assembly, figure 6.46 attempts to capture the essence of the assembly, drawing from its most essential elements to create an actual construction assembly as suggested from the previous image.

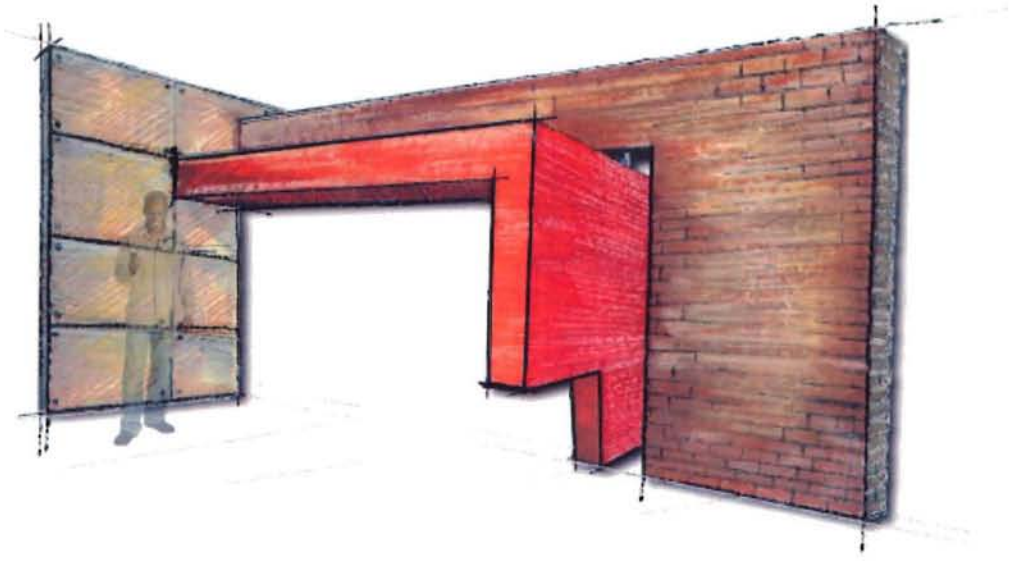


Figure 6.46

As figure 6.46 displays, the support – or bearing walls – are constructed from the same brick as in figure 6.45. As four buildings remain on site, only two will remain as inhabitable space. The remaining buildings will be razed, and keeping with the theme of the thesis –

salvageable building materials will be saved for reuse in new assemblies. This theory allows rehabilitation to remain an important theme even in these simple construction vignettes. Within the framework provided by the brick façade, a series of viewports will be provided by glazing surfaces to delineate interior from exterior spaces. Figure 6.47 displays a similar assembly with slight variations and abstractions to further investigate the articulations of material and space.

Figure 6.47

CHAPTER VII

Design Development

And sometimes I'm criticized. But I think that if those who criticize us will look at the reason why the shape is this, well then, I think that they would not object so strenuously.

-Minoru Yamasaki

[DESIGN] DEVELOPMENT Schematic

The first chapter in this section will review a purely schematic approach to this thesis. As it is the first attempt at fulfilling the requirements, its purpose had remained in the realm of an investigation into a building type, as well as beginning to articulate spatial adjacencies. As these investigations remain topical, there review will remain somewhat broad in scope. It should be further noted that the plans found within this section deviate from all previous program requirements as this investigation had taken place early on in the design process, and the thesis had undergone a variety of changes in both program and use.

The first notable item that must be stated in an attempt to explain these schematic designs is that the buildings did not represent the project in context of the existing buildings. The intent originally had been that the Kay Beard Building, as well as the Power Plant, were to both become transitional housing facilities. As such, they were to be assumed as being a part of the project, however, the design was to focus on the addition of new structures to house a cultural exhibition center [a museum and memorial for homelessness,] a health lifestyle center, and finally, the community education center and SRO's [which both found their way into the final design]

Early on in the springboard process, as mentioned in the previous text, an addition of two new structures had intended on finding themselves within the final design. These two new buildings were to be erected south of Michigan Ave. The intent had been to create a ritualistic process where every day, one was to cross over Michigan Ave, which served as a threshold, initiating the process of organizing ones day around a series of events. One was wake and get prepared for their day. Then, they were to cross the threshold via an underpass that was to be renovated from an existing viaduct that ran under the highway. This ritual was to be celebrated as a threshold, where everyday, the students of the program were to recognize the difference between living arrangements and vocational duties. The crossing under the highway was to be a celebrated event where ritual found itself in time and logistical displacement.

In the North-East sector of the site, a series of SRO units were to be erected to serve as permanent housing for individuals in the graduate and post-graduate years through the program. The layout will be further elaborated upon in following text. However what is important to the site is the fact that the overall arrangement had taken on a shape inspired by historical architecture of the site. In previous sections the shape of existing structures had been discussed. The 'E' and 'double E' shapes allowed light to penetrate deep into the buildings section, however, when researching original site maps of the over 70 buildings that had at one time populated the site, the shapes had an overwhelming presence. In the spirit of the design, the SRO's ha taken on a similar approach. The arced shaped spline was to resemble that of the circulation corridors – or central spine – as exemplified in the existing structures. Figure 7.3 illustrates [in the SRO's, the details inspired from] one of the previous site maps.

Figure 7.1 – Original site context

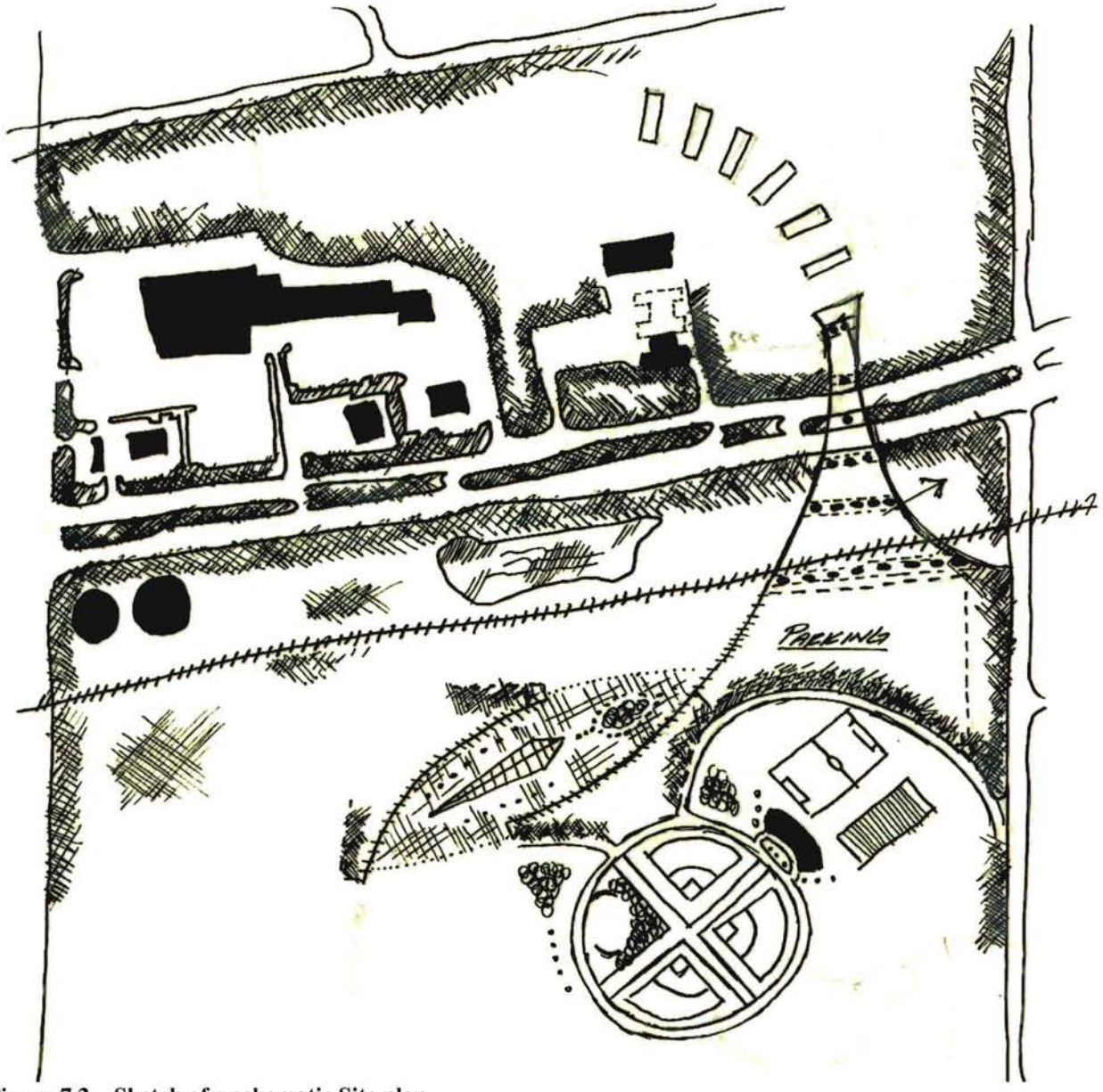


Figure 7.2 – Sketch of a schematic Site plan

Figure 7.2is a preliminary sketch depicting the elements of the site. However, this had been intended as a starting point for the layout as shown in the final schematic – Figure 7.3

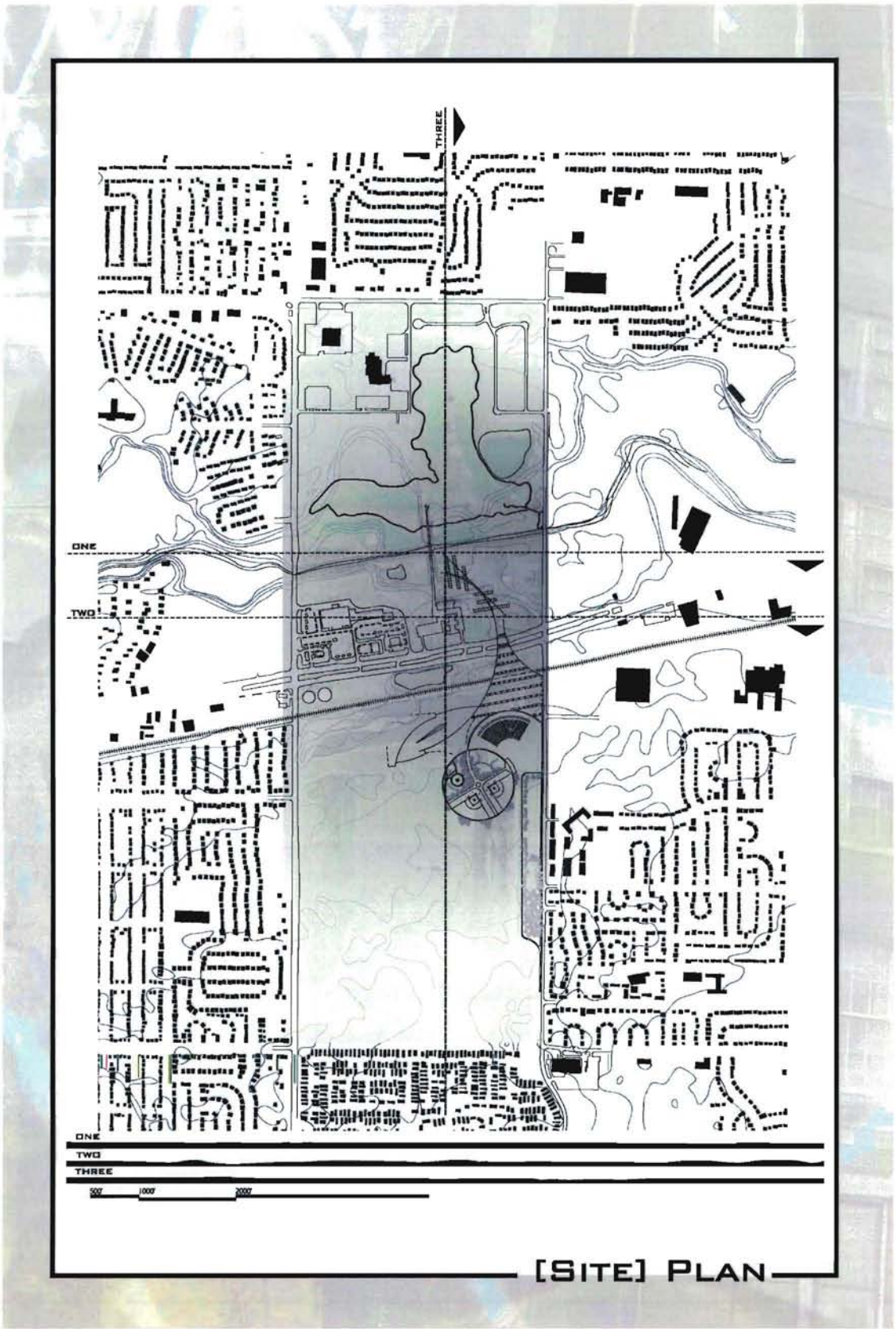


Figure 7.3 – Schematic Site Plan

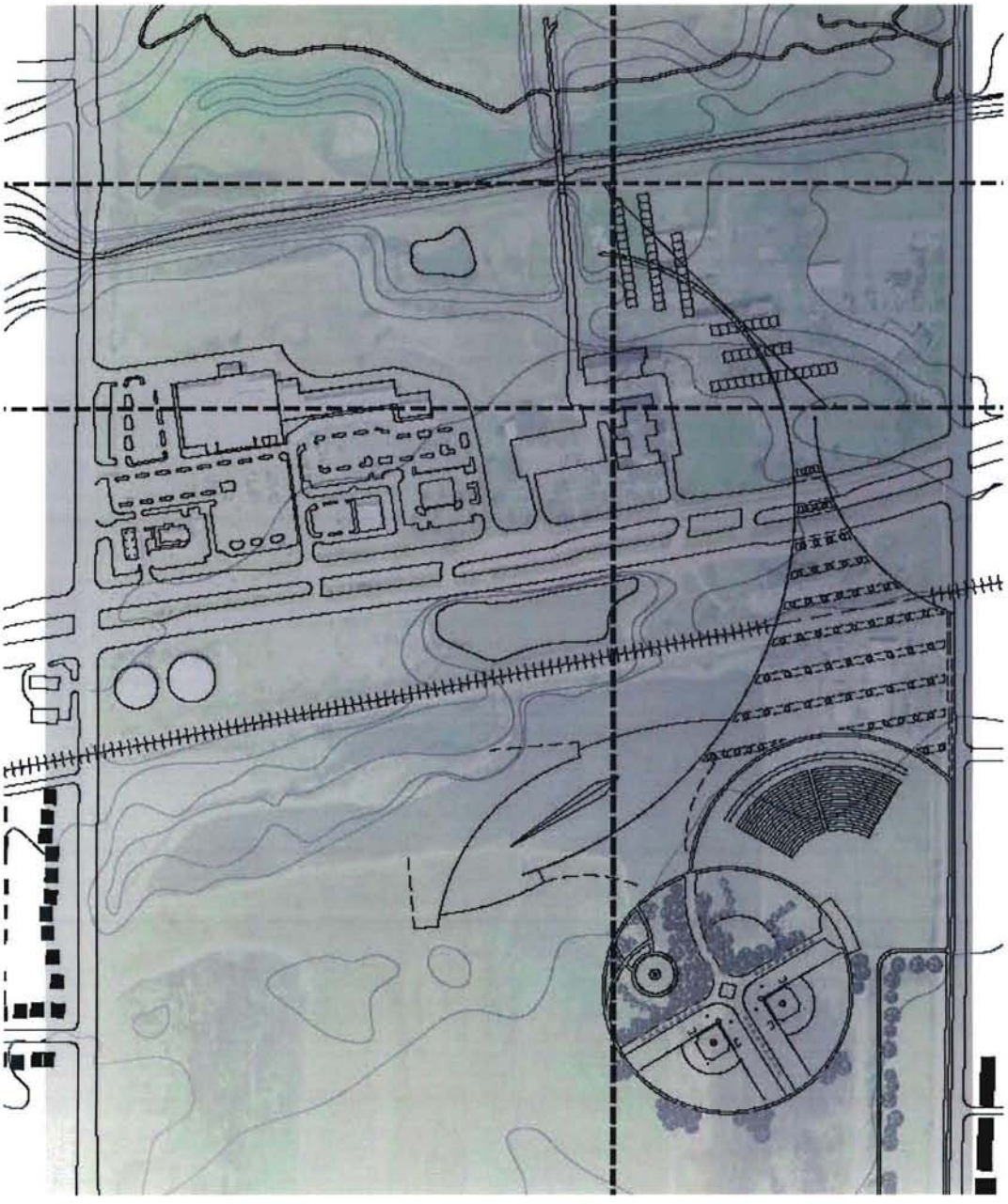


Figure 7.4 – Enlarged Site Plan

Figure 7.4 shows the site in a bit more detail. The upper right quadrant of the image depicts an arc with a series of units emitting from its origin. The units represent the SRO's which `will be constructed in the spirit of the original site map. Deep courtyards – like that of the original building – allow natural light to penetrate each unit while simultaneously allowing green space for each unit. Again, the overall plan had been abstracted from the original "E"

shape to pay tribute to the original architecture. Following the arc as it makes its way South of Michigan Ave., the existing viaduct was to be renovated as previously discussed. The next two buildings which interact with the same arc is the Healthy Lifestyles Center and the Community Education Center.

Both of the buildings South of Michigan Ave. had originally been planned in a way that would literally adopt the gestures as shown in the previous section entitled "[Springboard] a simple gesture." Each building was to emerge from the ground as if the very earth that had supported it parted for its emergence. One building was to take on the form of the helping agent where the other was portrayed in the opposite light. Although there is no graphic that supports its schematic existence, the interior of the building was to maintain a humble approach, where half of the building's exterior was to be masked by an earth berm – which accounted to for its wedge shape floor plan. The opposite façade was to be pulled from eyesight were a series of horizontal louver units were to run parallel the buildings façade forming a quasi-double envelope.

Figure 7.5 – Plan for Addition

The two buildings had been arranged in such a way that a courtyard would be formed between the two gestural buildings allowing room for the entrance to an underground cultural center – accessible from a crystal glass entrance. Figure 7.5 had become the primary source of inspiration for the new design. A plan for a new building had been compiled as displayed. A series of buildings surrounding a central support building had been planned displaying prominent utopian ideas. Simply stated, the plan displayed too much of a utopian ideal for the site to support its existence. As the new plan displayed in this section was to allow the site to endure a more favorable existence, this utopianism seemed as if it were an appropriate solution to the new plan. The idea of a center, with fuctions being spawned from its center was skewed in the idea that no existence is in fact utopian, the only option that bears a chance for such a utopian quest was to capture the spirit of what the plan had intended. The arrangement of conditions can be seen as illustrated in the lower quadrants of image 7.5. The building plans take shape as displayed in the following images.

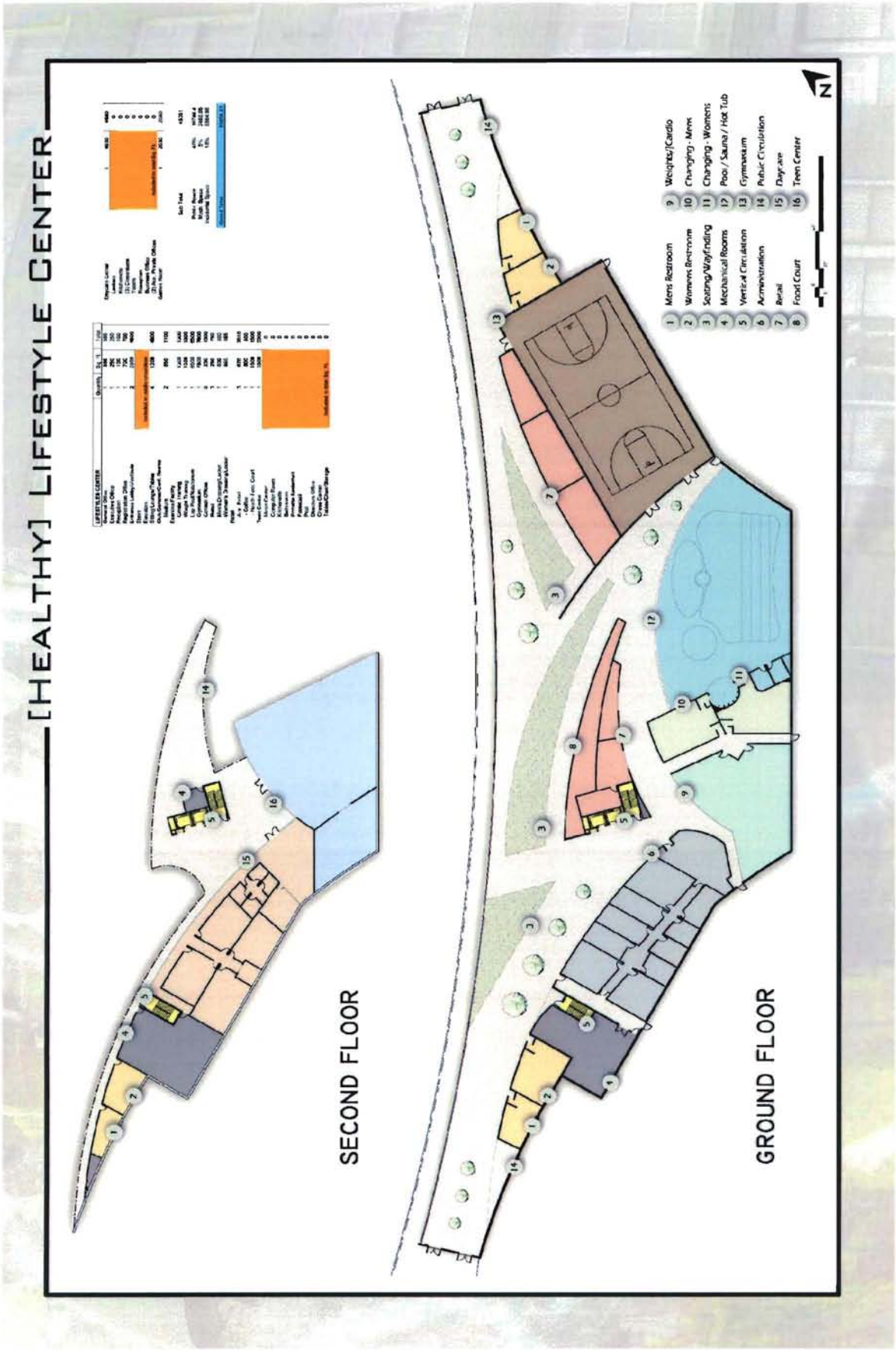


Figure 7.6 – Health Lifestyle Center

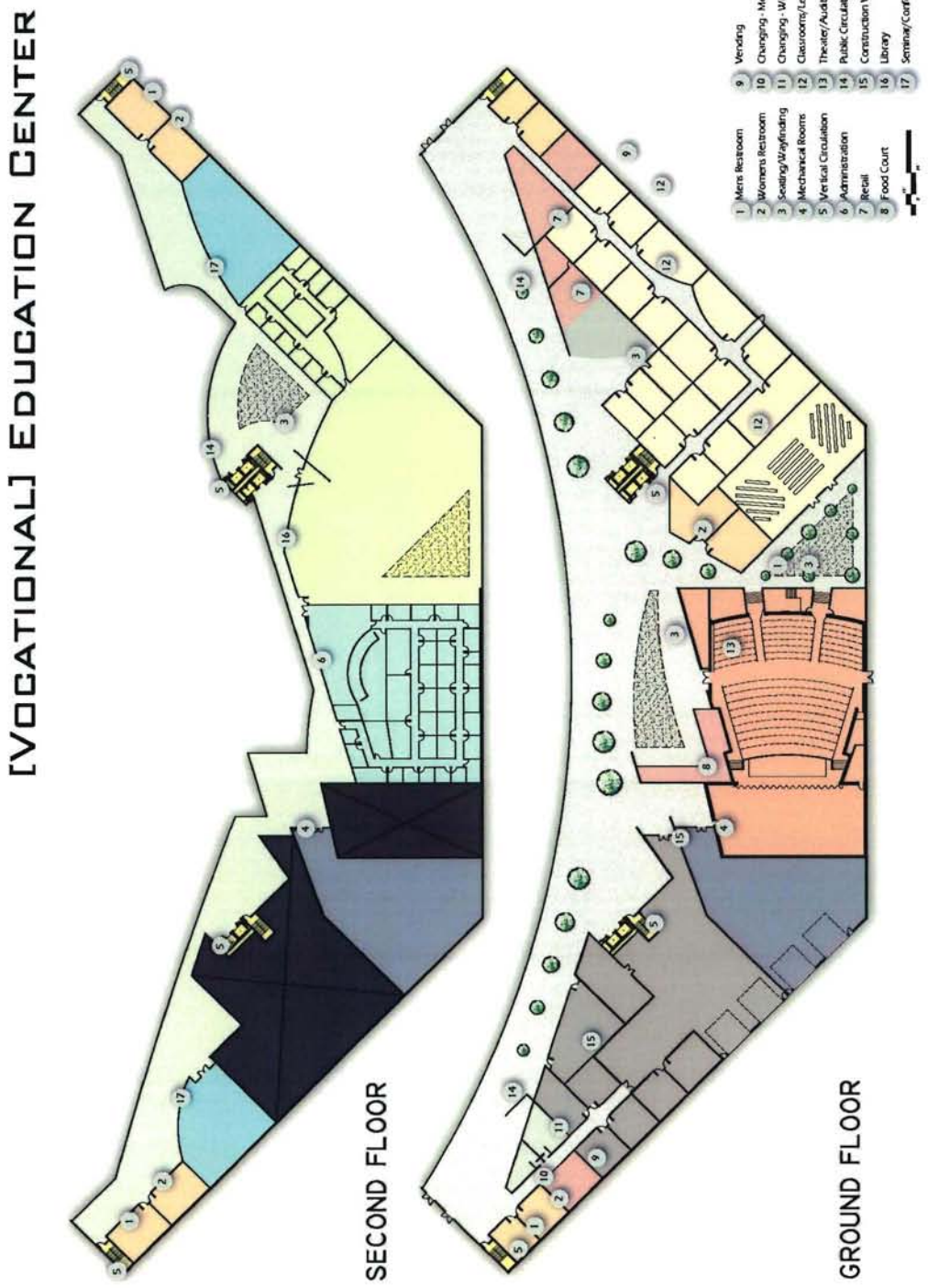


Figure 7.7 – Vocational Education Center

[DESIGN] DEVELOPMENT Final Design

The final design attempts to incorporate the design decisions as outlined throughout this thesis. As can be found within various sections, the psychology and emotions of a space had become the primary design factor. However, upon the final design process, an unexpected result emerged that may have hindered the possibility of this thesis from ever becoming an appropriate design. The dynamics of such a project may very well have been condemning from the beginning.

To maintain a symbiotic relationship with the intent of the thesis, the design demanded an approach to architecture that maintained a humble façade. Further, the thesis had been asking one institution to become another, all the while begging it not to be one. As the previous fate of the original building was rooted in the very fact that it was an institution in every sense of the word, nearly any design decision short of systematically disassembling the buildings and saving their components for reuse, would become a harsh lesson in futility. This thesis speaks with undertones of resentment for various reasons. It is understood that design decisions of ones own thesis project could only be dictated by he or she who holds the pencil. However, a simple critiqued laced with undertones of disappointment can easily convince an individual otherwise.

Although attempts of justification will be further elaborated upon in later discussion, this introduction will become important to design decisions found within this section. The first element [to follow suit from previous sections] which the design process demanded was for some clarification on site conditions. Upon critique and outside analysis of the schematic phases, criticism was focused upon the fact that the thesis attempts to discuss issues as they relate to rehabilitation. Based upon this assumption, the general consensus had suggested that an extremely important opportunity had been missed in the fact that the Kay Beard Building, as well as the Power Plant, had been left to the background with only suggestions of future functions. Surrendering to the missed opportunities within the thesis, the design had undergone intense reconsideration.

The decision following further critique and investigation led to the assumption that the most through analysis and investigation would point to the existing buildings as housing the functions dictated by the thesis. Further, it had also been decided that as the project asks to maintain a humble existence, spanning Michigan Ave. was somewhat wasteful of the land resources available. Therefore, the project was to utilize the Kay Beard Building as the Transitional Housing Building and the Power Plant would become the new home of the Community Education Center. The site plan, as shown in figures 7.8 and 7.9 display such decisions. The entire scope of the project remains north of Michigan Ave. allowing the entire Southern portion to be free for future expansion.

Figure 7.9 begins to speak of decisions made for the basement level.

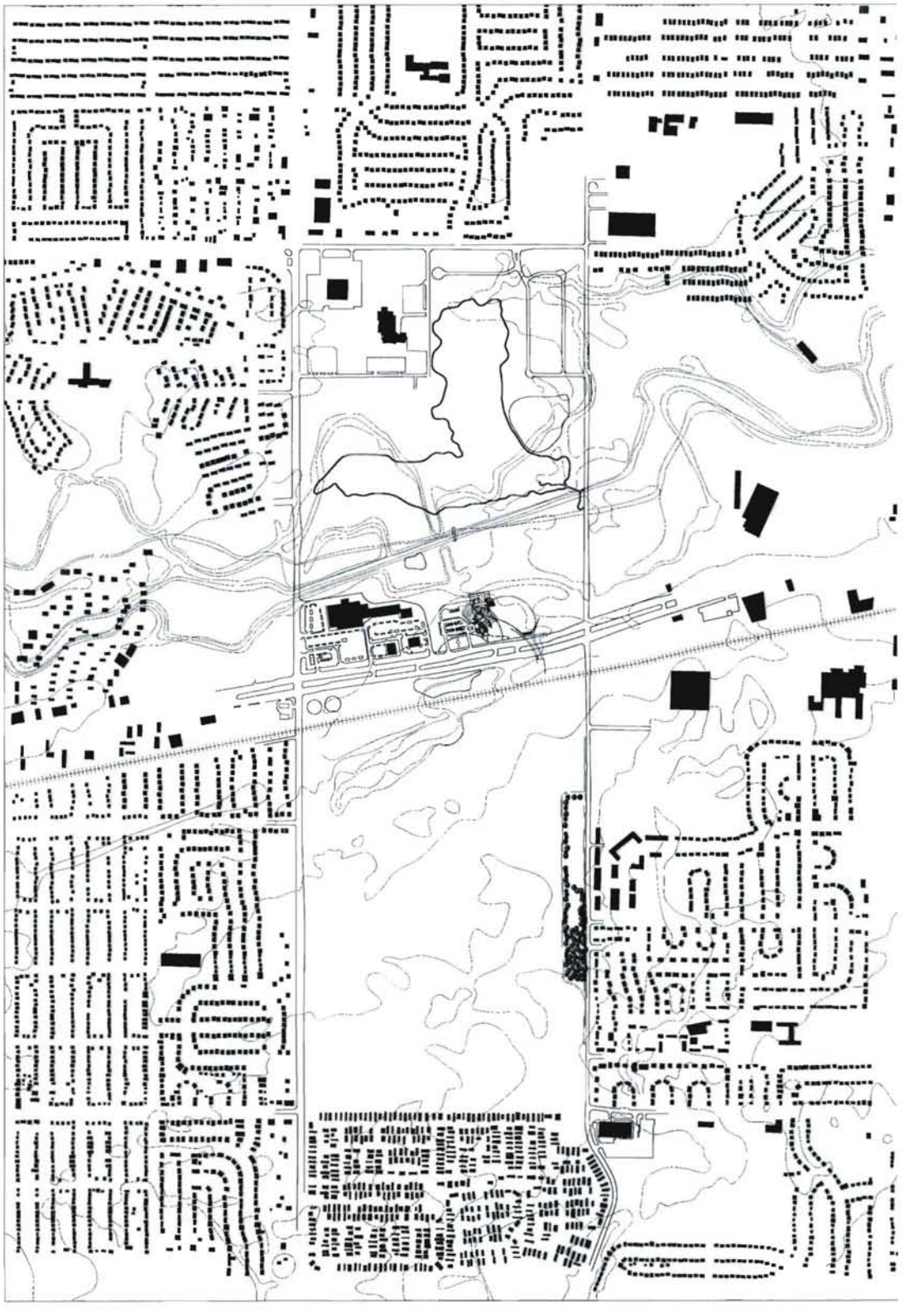


Figure 7.8 – New Site Plan

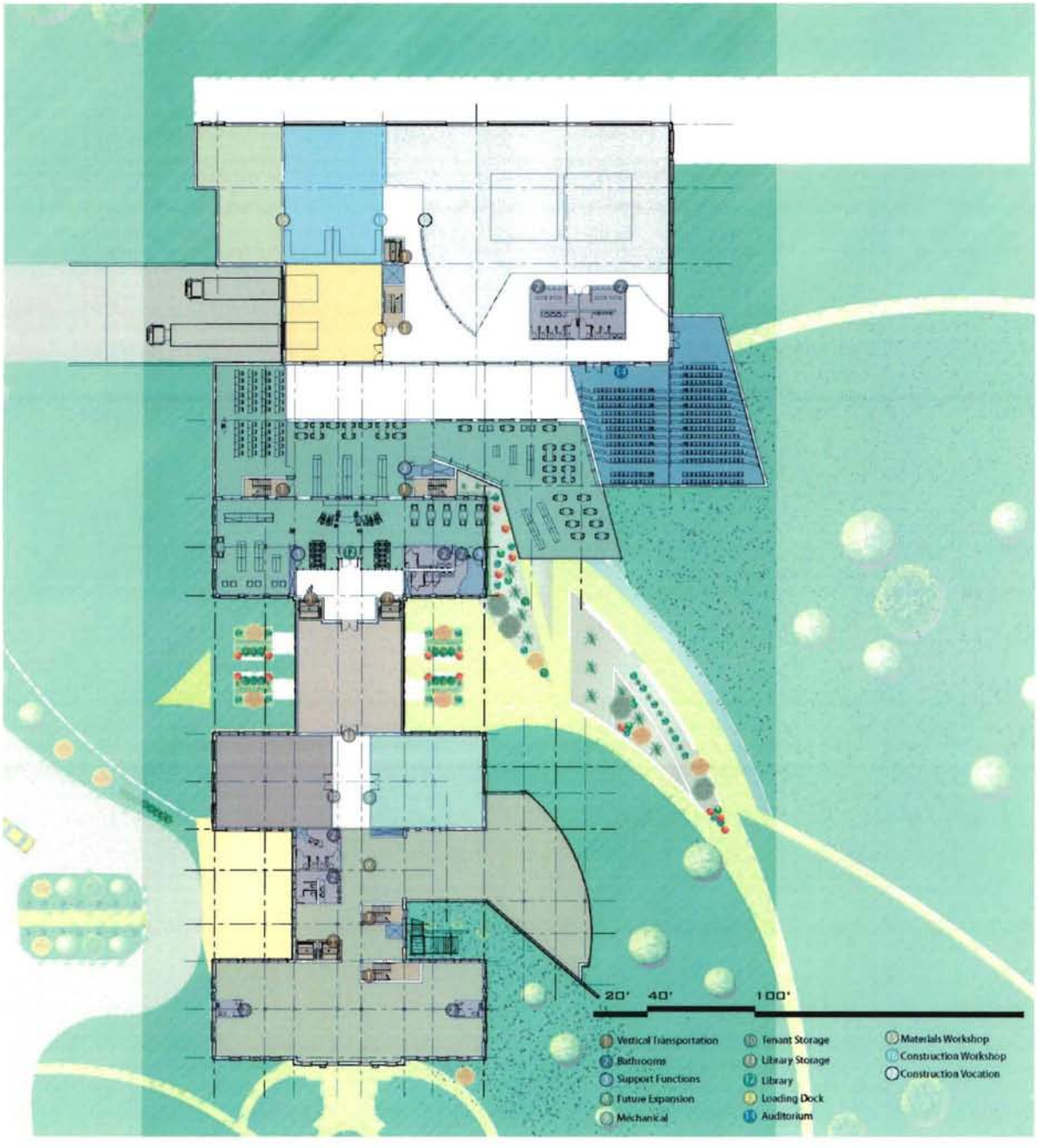


Figure 7.9 – Basement Plan

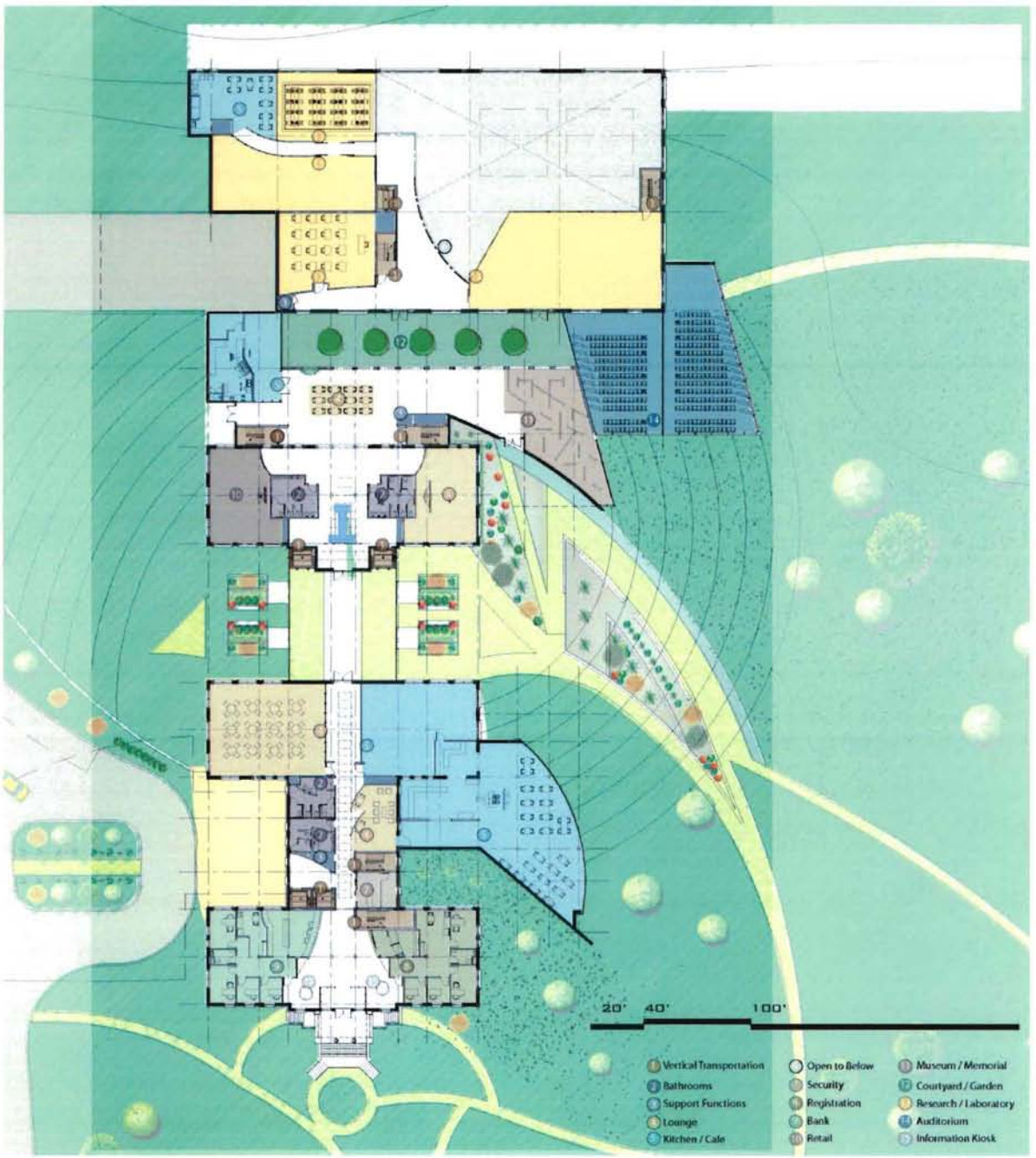


Figure 7.10 – First Floor Plan

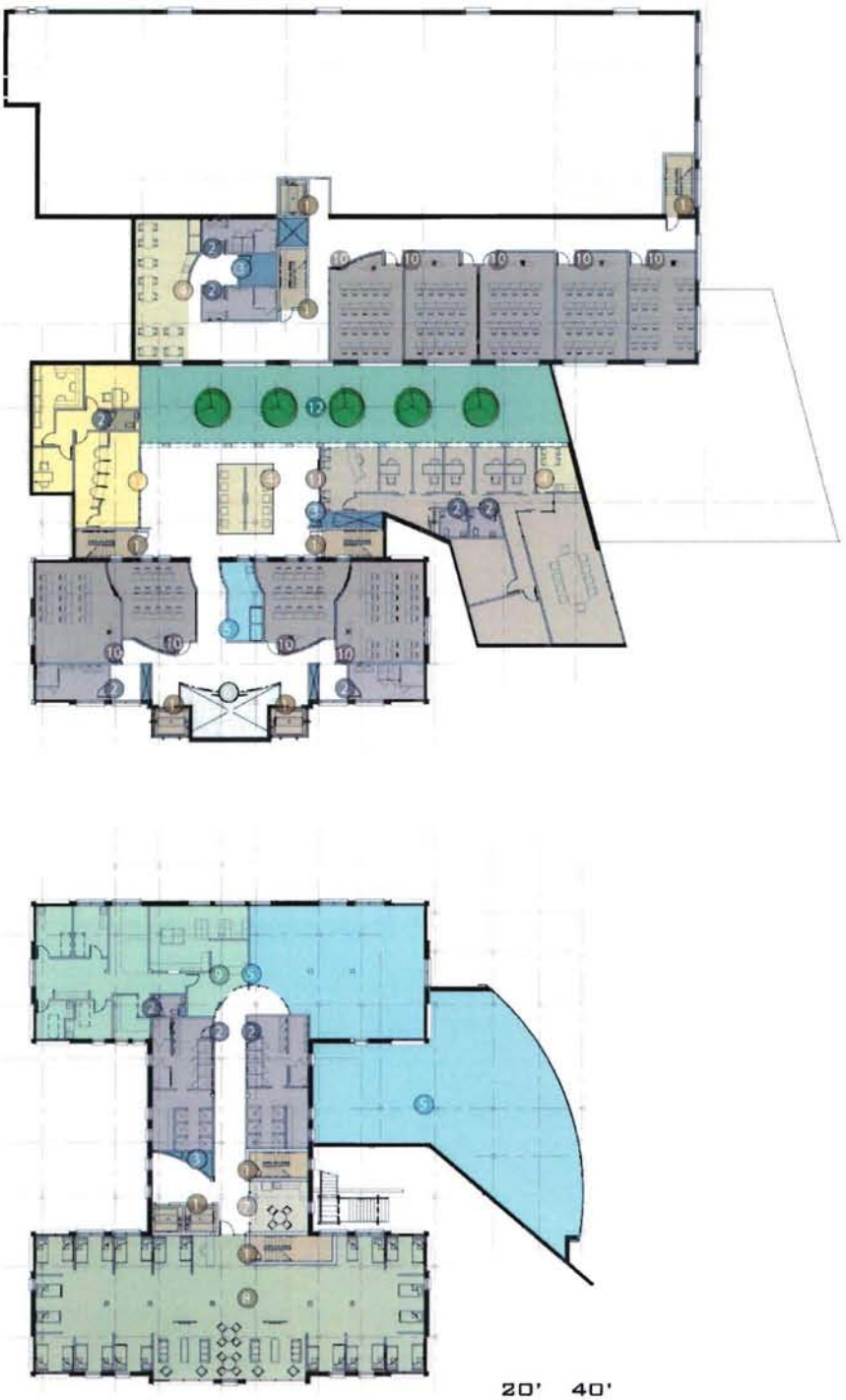

20' 40'
Vertical Transportation
Bathrooms
Support Functions
Lounge
Kitchen / Cafe
Open to Below
Security
Family Housing
Medical Clinic
Classroom
Accounting Office's
Courtyard / Garden
Financial Aid

Figure 7.11 – Second Floor Plan

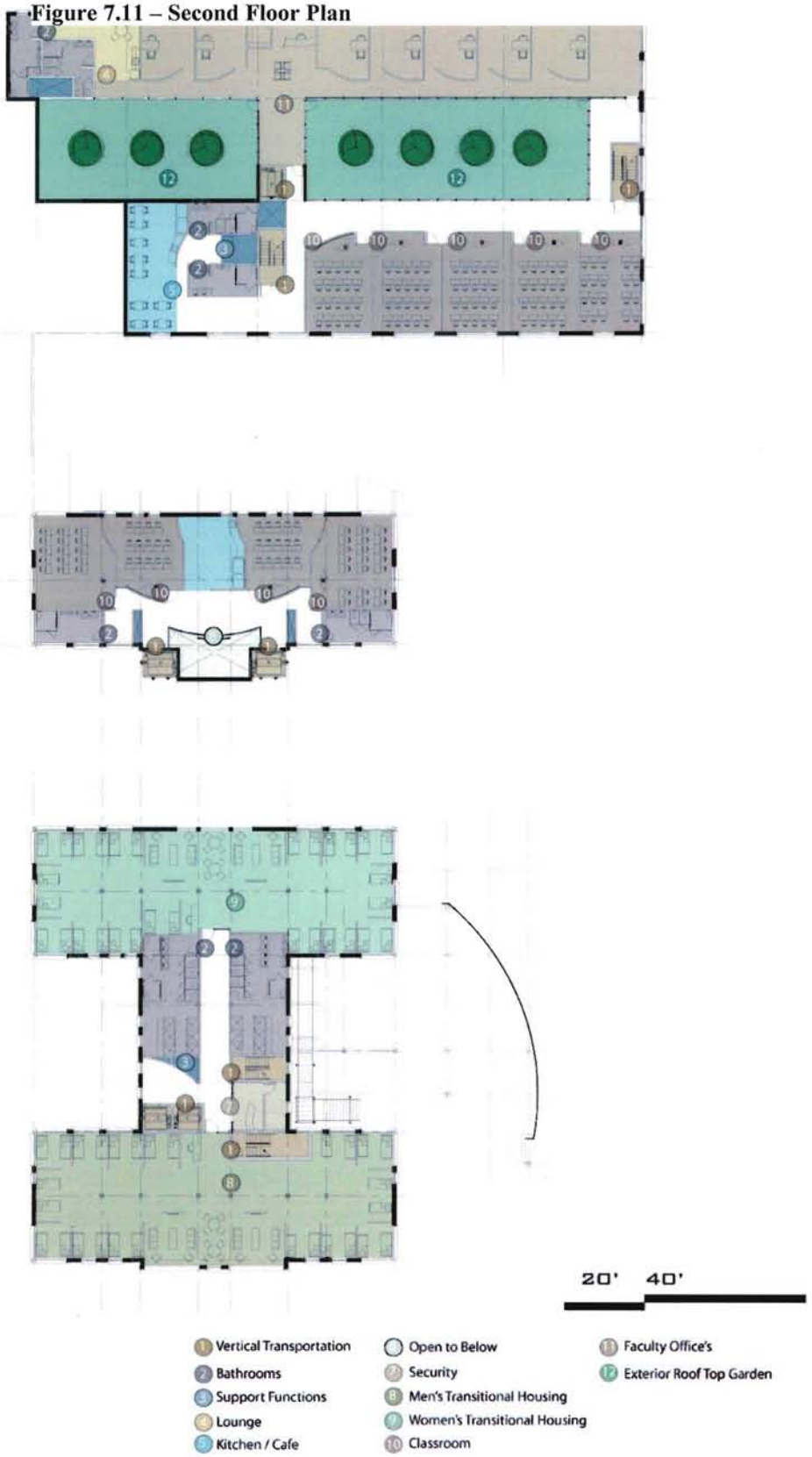


Figure 7.12 – Third Floor Plan

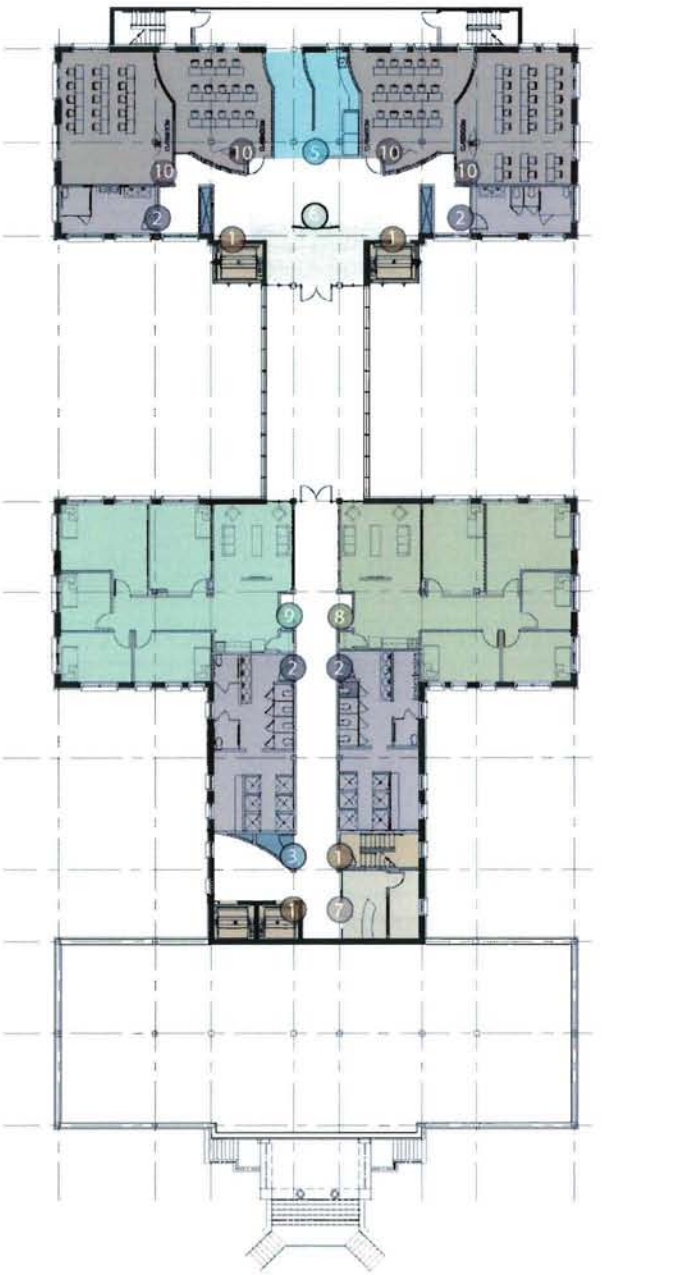

20' 40'
1 Vertical Transportation
2 Bathrooms
3 Support Functions
5 Kitchen / Cafe
Open to Below
7 Security
8 Men's Transitional Housing
9 Women's Transitional Housing
10 Classroom

Figure 7.13 – Fourth Floor Plan

Figure 7.14 – Fifth Floor Plan

Figures 7.9 through 7.14 represent the floor plans created in context of this thesis. The floor plans will be discussed comprehensively as opposed to elaborating upon each individual plan. The first plan shown – represented in figure 7.9 is that of the basement. As this plan sits half exposed, while the other half is submerged below grade, the floor serves as the best opportunity to warehouse the extensive quantity and size of the mechanical equipment that would be required to operate the facility. The floor also supports a variety of storage functions, including tenant storage. Here, students can store personal belongings that otherwise would not be allowed, or are too bulky to fit on the transitional floors. Below the Power Plant, however, the basement level becomes the main floor. Although patrons would still enter via the second floor entrance, at this level the library and construction vocation occupy the footprint.

The construction vocation serves as the heart and soul of the Community Education Center. As previously alluded to in the section entitled "[Springboard] A simple gesture," instead of the facility actually taking on physical characteristics of the gestural model, the thesis chose to allow this idea to manifest through program functions. The purpose of the construction vocation is to satisfy the needs for two different realms. The students will have the ability to learn through actual hands-on experiences with construction assemblies, while at the same time, the facility has the ability to perform actual construction projects incorporated with nearby communities. As shown in Figure 7.8, the neighborhoods exhibit poverty stricken characteristics. Both trailer parks as well as apartment complexes line the perimeter, however their appearance leaves much to be desired. The construction vocation could very well act as an actual construction company, entering these blighted neighborhoods and hold seminars on housing maintenance, as well as perform actual maintenance tasks. As the gesture model suggests, the "helpee" quickly becomes the "helper."

The first floor represents the main entrance to the facility. It is very important that the entrance maintains a prominent existence upon entering the facility. As the thesis previously spoke about thresholds, the line that the entrance represents is often a hard one to cross. As many homeless individuals are hesitant to make the decision to attend or surrender to a homeless shelter, it is vital to the facility that the entrance bears psychologically significant – yet calming – characteristics. The thesis is not concerned with the way the cold metal of the door handle feels the first time a person reaches for it. It is, however, concerned with the fact that this line represents a significant, life-changing celebration. This celebration is not to be ignored, for it represents a portion in ones life where he or she chooses to give up previous lifestyles in hopes for a more prosperous one. Neither the decision, nor the path will be easy; however the hope is that the result will be well worth the sacrifice.

As one enters the facility the most prominent area is that of the registration desk. The desk was kept at a fairly large scale, and is to be well staffed giving the facility the appearance that it is well maintained [even though future generations may prove otherwise.] On the opposite side, a bank is enclosed in a glass store front. The bank is an important aspect in that the new students to the facility usually are recovering from bad credit, or simply lack credit all together.

Once a student reaches the end of his or her journey through the facility, the hope is that over time they have been able to develop some type of savings account as well as having the ability to gain good credit. The remaining portions of the Transitional Housing Building are comprised of a cafeteria and kitchen to provide meals to the residents, as well as a banquet/community room for special affairs.

The Community Education Center, on the first floor, houses functions related to the research and development of economical and sustainable ideas. As learning preconceived knowledge is only a portion of a real education, being able to implement learned knowledge and challenge established norms will become the key to creating a future independent from conditions that had spawned the need for such a thesis. The portion of the floor plan that is above the construction vocation is left open, both to provide clearance for taller equipment, as well as to display the jewel of the building.

The second floor of the Transitional Housing Building takes on a new function. As this thesis also recognizes that many families are homeless, the second floor provides space for multiple residents. The floor plan has been left fairly open, allowing movable furniture to be arranged in a way that the residents and hall residents best see fit. Lastly, the building houses a medical clinic for the benefit of the occupants within the building. As many homeless individuals have illnesses that prohibit them from functioning based upon an ordinary lifestyle, the clinic can both dispense medicine to the occupants, as well as ensure that they do not spread illness to the rest of the floors. This clinic provides facilities for general exam rooms, blood draw stations as well as basic capabilities as related to radiographic imagery.

The second floor of the Community education center offers both classrooms for general education, as well as administrative functions for the staff. The floors offer (4) classrooms arranged adjacent to one another, with a vending/kitchenette for amenities. One of the more important functions of the facility is that of the career counselors. As this thesis recognizes the fact that support does not end once one leaves the facility, these counselors offer assistance, advice and guidance to all community members to ensure a prosperous future.

Lastly, the remaining portions of the Transitional Housing Building are comprised of the actual housing units. The program is set up in such a way that it offers incentives for an individual to stay with the program despite hardships, as well as offering small steps in transitioning into their new lifestyle. The second floor houses the first floor for the units. These are set up in a way that is reminiscent of traditional shelters. Mobile furniture makes up the majority of the interior, where the space can be adjusted as necessary to maximize efficiency as well as the shear number of occupants. The second level of transitional housing takes on a slightly different variation. Instead of having an open floor plan, inhabitants that are enrolled in the program are given a dormitory style space in which they share with 2 other occupants. These units promote the idea of community interaction, as well as offer slightly increased privacy. Dignity is one of the main components in a successful transition. As homeless individuals are completely stripped of all dignity, rebuilding these elements of ones life will lead to successful results. The building has been arranged in such a way to capitalize on such effects. The further

up one goes within the program; they gain a bit more privacy and security. This offers both incentives to the individuals, as well as a way to boost the students' confidence in undertaking a lifestyle different than what they are accustomed. The last step that the Transitional Housing Building offers is that of a dorm arrangement, similar to the previous floors, however only one occupant inhabits the space. This is the last step in the process before he or she is ready and able to move into a permanent unit.

The design of the facility, however, is best exemplified through the articulation and experiences of spaces within the building. The spirit of this is best shown in elevation. One can easily understand the complications of such a building by simply viewing the elevations as illustrated in figures 7.15 through 7.18. Although the building maintains a prominent stance amongst the landscape of Westland, it remains nothing short of institutional. The heavy opaque walls offered by the brick façade are reminiscent of nothing more than a [sub] urban fortress; such an aesthetic is of course not appropriate to the thesis, or further, an architectural investigation. The first solution being posed is to begin dematerializing the heavy brick façade. An architectural historian would of course frown upon such drastic measures; however, the intent of this thesis suggests that a simple compromise would become more fitting. Although certain elements have been removed, the materials from demolition will be saved for reuse in new additions. Such a compromise deems itself worthy of a site in rehabilitation. To remove and discard these portions would suggest that there are certain elements of the site that are deemed unworthy for future existence; this of course being the antithesis of the projects intentions. Rehabilitation suggests that the process of [re]creating new uses and possibilities becomes a much more sound decision – rather than turning ones back on what an element [person or place] really is.

Comparing the front elevations shown in figures 7.15 and 7.19, the proposed building takes on a lighter façade. The base and front porch remain the same; however the exterior corners of the upper levels are constructively deconstructed, infilled with a structural glass insert, and shielded from the sun with a series of operable louvers. The system continues through the East elevation as depicted in figure 7.20

To further break apart the density of the brick barricades, the last courtyard façade, again, has been systematically disassembled to make way for a new exterior portico. This will allow the two buildings to maintain a clear delineation between dwelling and educational functions, as well as create an exterior gathering space to further promote communal interaction. Lastly, overhead the installation of a new bridge links the upper dormitory levels to the classroom levels of the Vocational Education Center.

Figure 7.15 – North and South Elevations of the existing Kay Beard Building

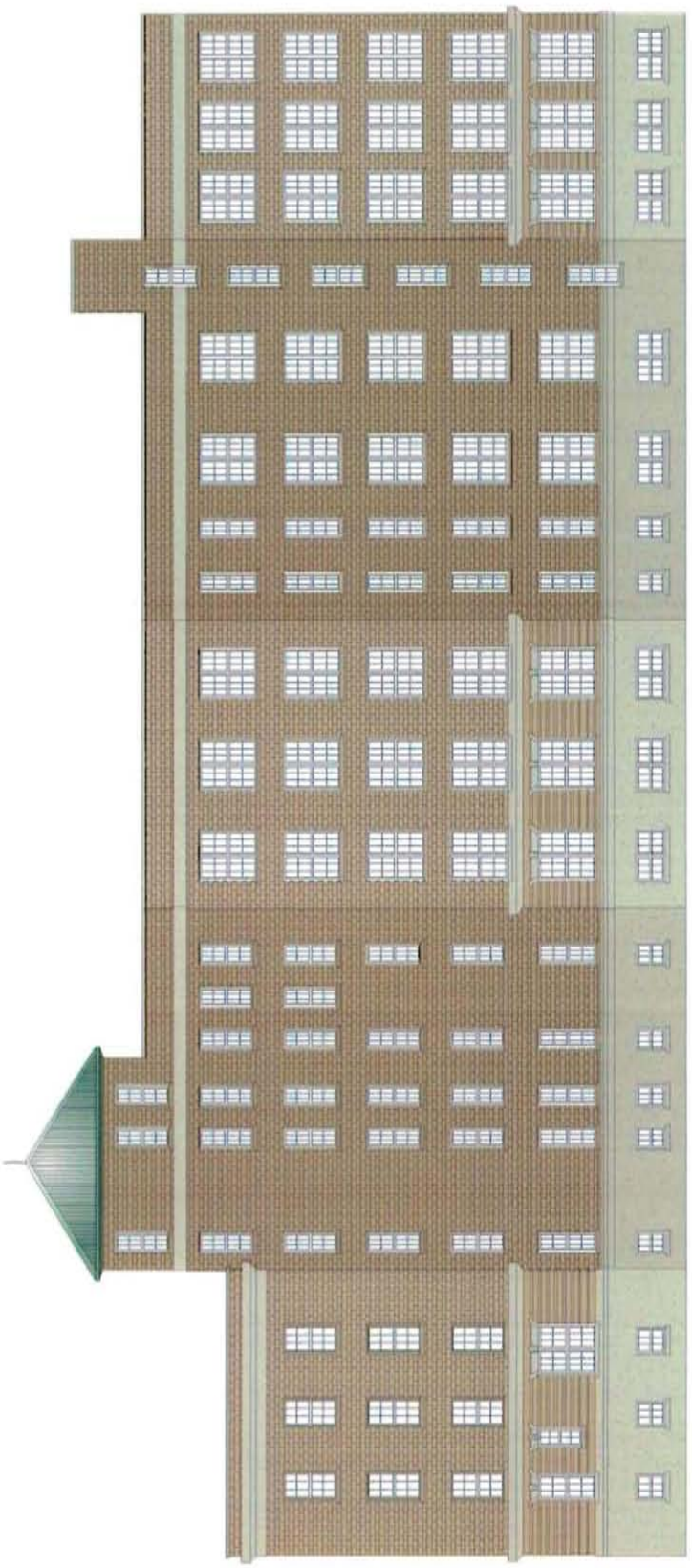


Figure 7.16 West Elevation of the existing Kay Beard Building

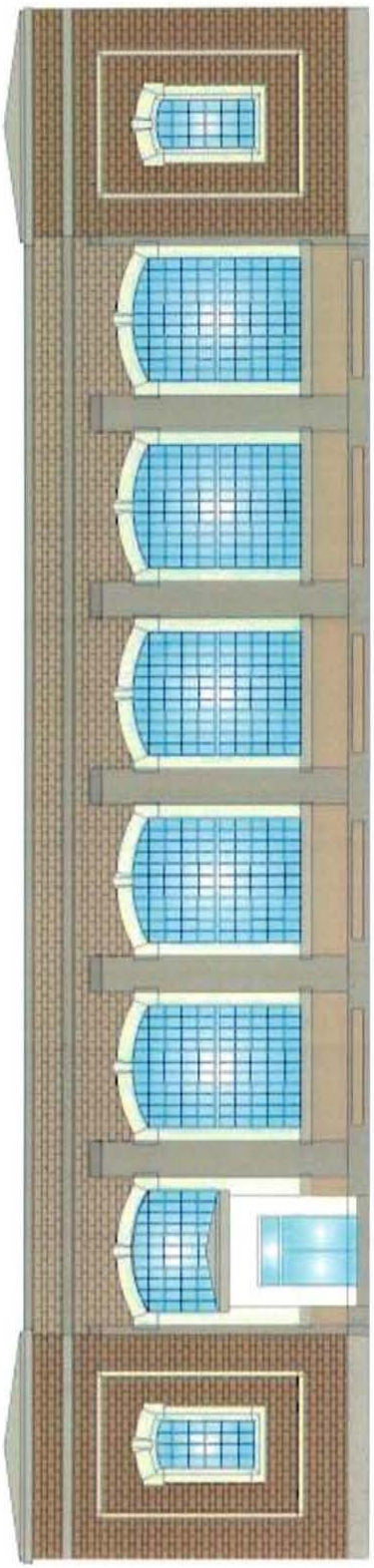


Figure 7.17 – North Elevation of the existing Power Plant

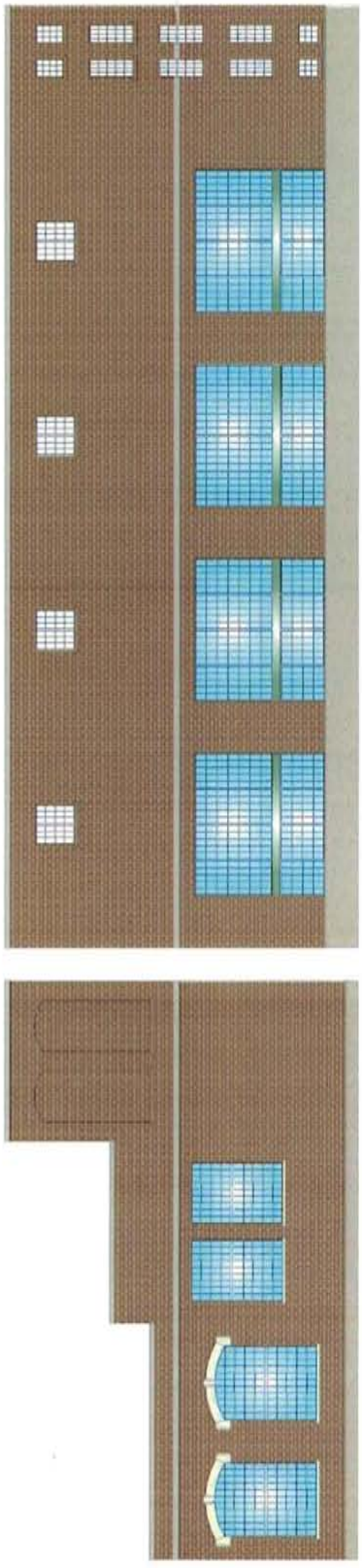


Figure 7.18 – East and South Elevation of the Power Plant

Figure 7.19 – North elevation of the proposed Kay Beard Building

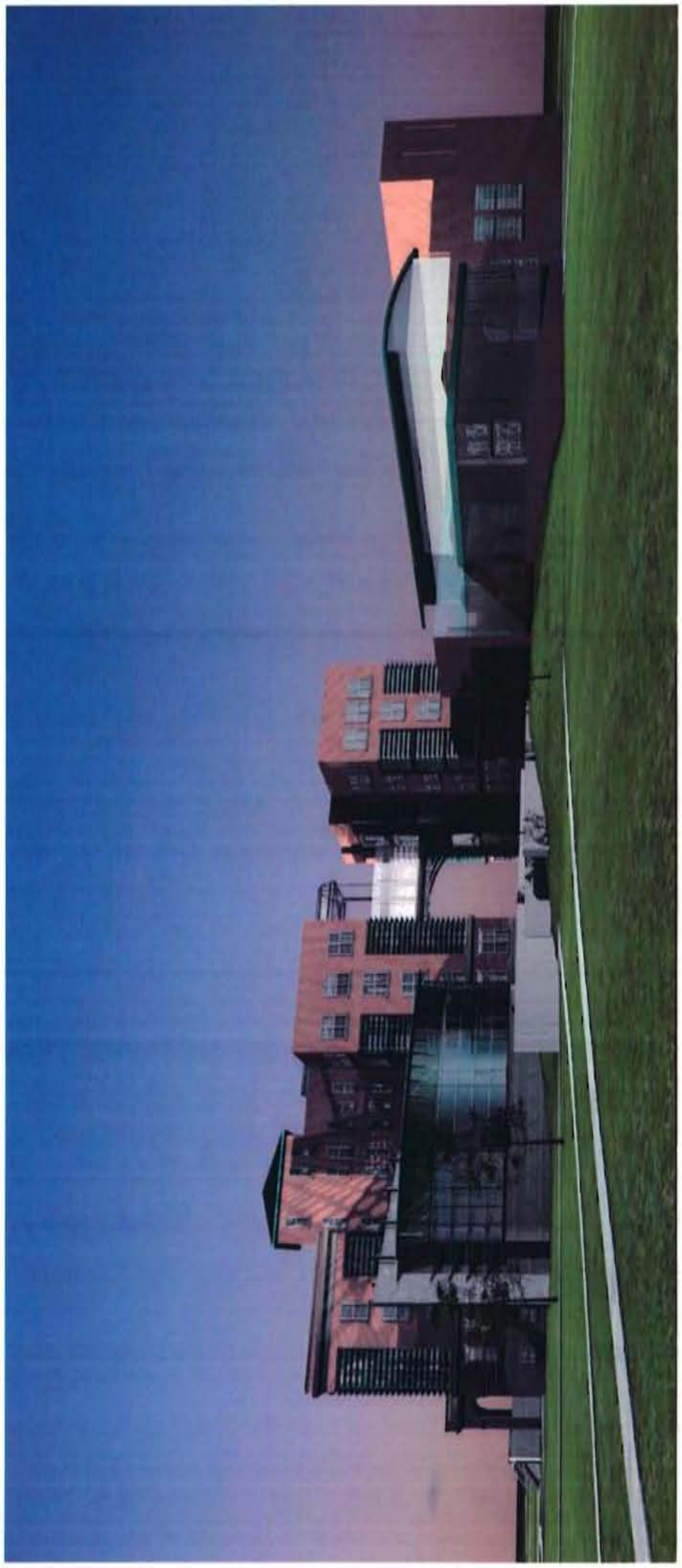


Figure 7.20 – East elevation rendering of the proposed Kay Beard Building

Upon further examination, one may also notice the addition penetrating the landscape shown near the front entrance in figure 7.20. The curtain wall system is comprised of tinted glass to help eliminate penetrating sun light, as well as a "Kallwall" system which accounts for a portion of the lower half of the façade. Allowing different qualities and quantities of light to penetrate the cafeteria has proven to become an important decision both in psychological and aesthetic qualities. One may notice that the primary construction material being used in the additions is glass – or transparent materials. The irony is in the fact that the homeless population spends a vast majority of their time fleeing external conditions; of course suggesting the opposite of what the proposed building provides with the new glazing. However, the glass becomes yet another transition – or layer – in the psychological rehabilitation of the sites occupants. The glass represents a control device. By changing ones lifestyle, one can learn that they have the ability to control their exposure to the outside elements; the facility proposed in this thesis offers this ability.

The last addition to the building can – again – be found in figure 7.20. Atop the existing Power Plant, a series of classrooms have been proposed to account for a shortage of space. The classrooms offer spaces dedicated to construction knowledge, where larger more open plans become spaces with the ability to construct small projects. To accent the construction system introduced in the cafeteria addition, the exterior walls have been proposed with a "Kallwall" system to allow diffuse natural daylight into the space. Further, these classrooms allow for a semi-enclosed courtyard between the new addition and the existing Power Plant where the building changes in elevation.

Lastly, the use of vegetation to accent the new proposed changes has been introduced. This notion is perhaps most apparent in the living wall that shields the parking lot from the street. Inserts of natural vegetation provide both a change in texture, as well as adding another layer into the project. As the building begins to grow with the site, the two separate elements begin to share in a symbiotic relationship. In certain areas, the site will begin to grow on the structure as illustrated in the living wall, as well as a large green screen located on the front wall of the cafeteria. The screen will allow for ivy and other sprawling vegetation. The spirit of such a gesture suggests that the site will begin to accept the building that it had previously rejected. As the two begin to rely on one another for support they can grow together into the future.

The rooftops both the new cafeteria and the parking shelter will further benefit from the addition of vegetation. Green roofs have been added, with the additional structure to support an "incubator garden." This will further introduce sustainable ideas into the new facility while allowing the occupants a chance to begin a relationship with their new surroundings. Students within the facility have the opportunity to tend to these new gardens in a way that will allow their spirits to grow at the same time. As the structure supports 30" of soil for the roots of the trees to take root, once the trees reach10 – 12' in height they will need to be transplanted to support further development.

Figures 7.21 through 7.35 further depict the new building proposal

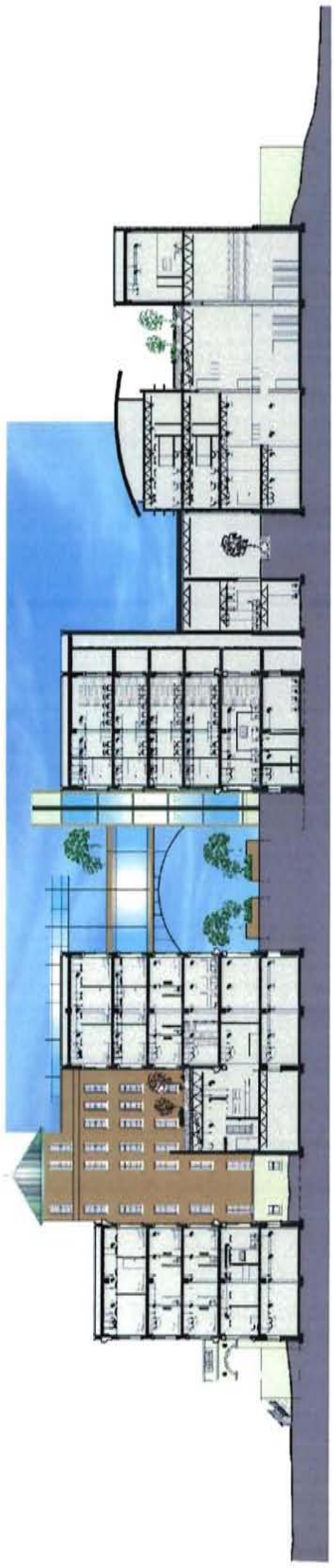


Figure 7.21 – Transverse building section

Figure 7.21 & 7.22 Physical Model Images

Figure 7.23 & 7.24 Physical Model Images

Figure 7.25 & 7.26 Physical Model Images

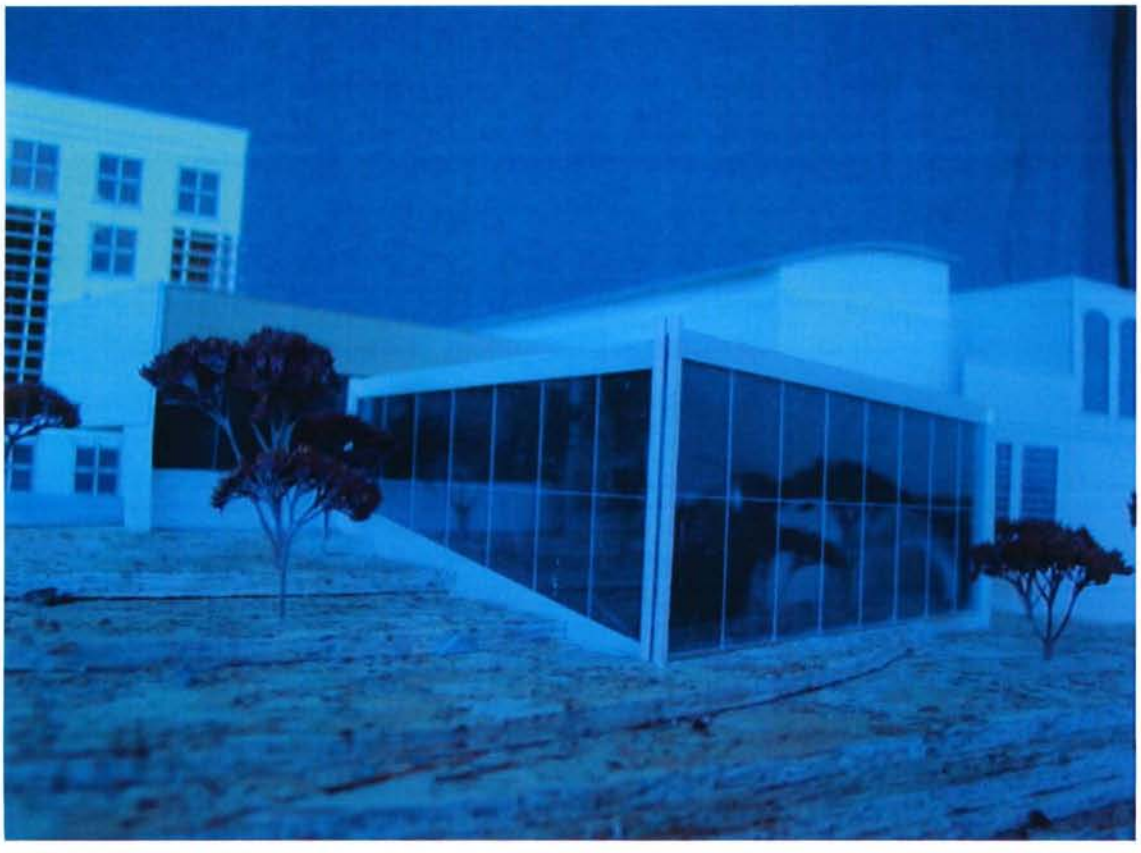


Figure 7.27 & 7.28 Physical Model Images

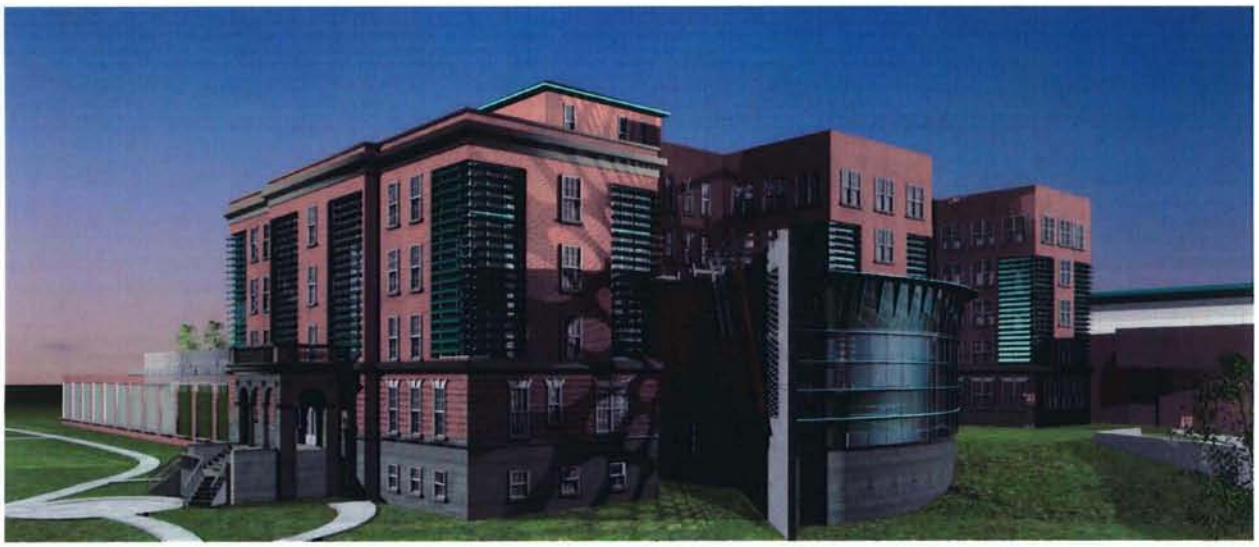


Figure 7.29, 7.30 & 7.31 – Digital Model Renderings

Figure 7.32, 7.33 & 7.34 Digital Model Renderings

Figure 7.35 – Digital Model Rendering

The last program that the thesis offers is the addition of the Single Family Residents. The spirit of these facilities was to create economical and efficient housing, intended for occupancy from both post graduate students of the facility, as well as the general population who wish to simplify their impact on the environment and the economy. The 500 square-foot footprints remain tight; however with creative methods implemented into the design process, space-consuming functions such as storage, kitchen areas and circulation spaces shall be designed to be integrated with major spaces such as living rooms or bedrooms. For example, the interior perimeter wall may be lined with storage and become integrated within the structure of the wall. Pull-out drawers or hinged cabinets can occupy a large portion of the perimeter while only consuming three linear feet of interior space. Further, two story units can have rolling ladders that – while not in use – slide into the storage cavity, and out when required for use. The family units are to be designed in a similar way to the single units however growing in elevation. As the nature of the structure is to be as efficient as possible, it becomes more economically – and environmentally – friendly to "build up" rather than out. The second story space will include two additional sleeping units as well as closet space for personal storage. The challenge of the spaces, and the architectural problem, is essentially to design a space efficient in every possible way, including aesthetically, economically as well as spatially

SRO FLOOR PLAN

FAMILY HOUSING
FLOOR 1

FAMILY HOUSING
FLOOR 2

Figure 7.37, 7.38 & 7.39 SRO Floor Plans

Figure 7.40 & 7.41 – Digital Model Renderings

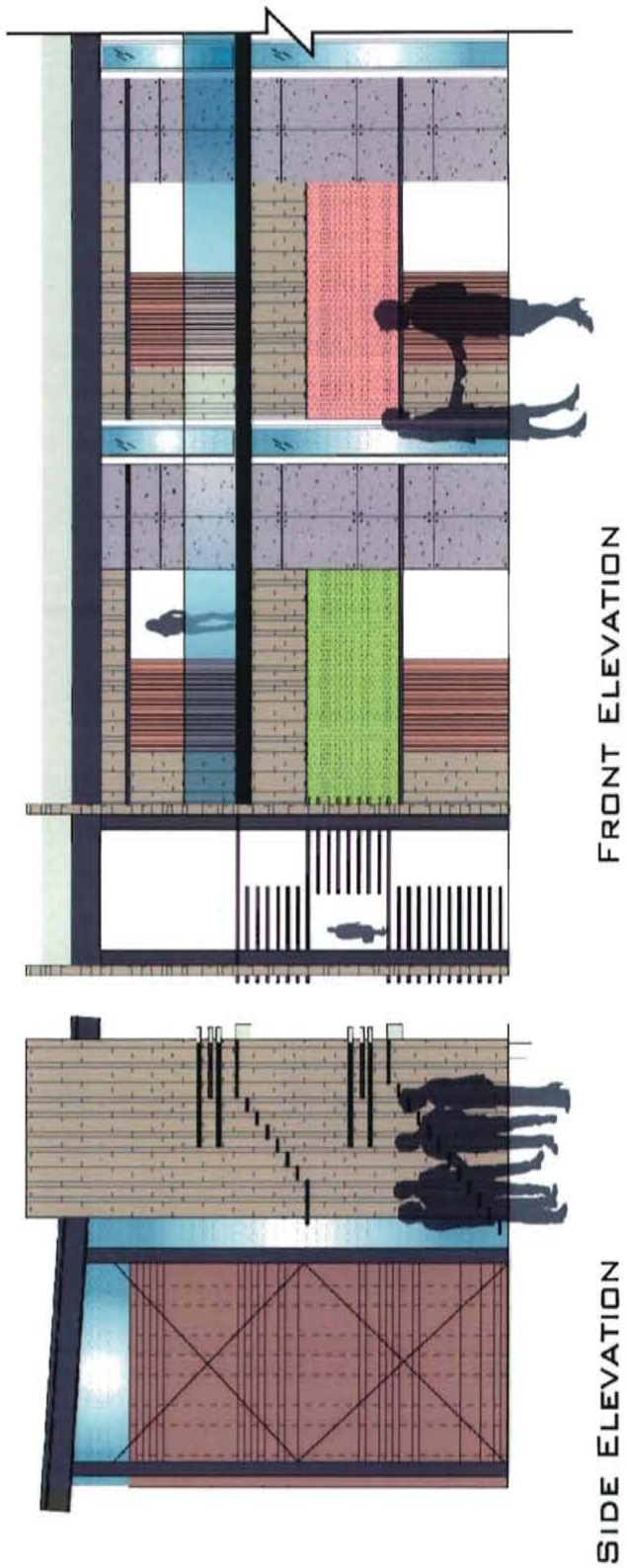


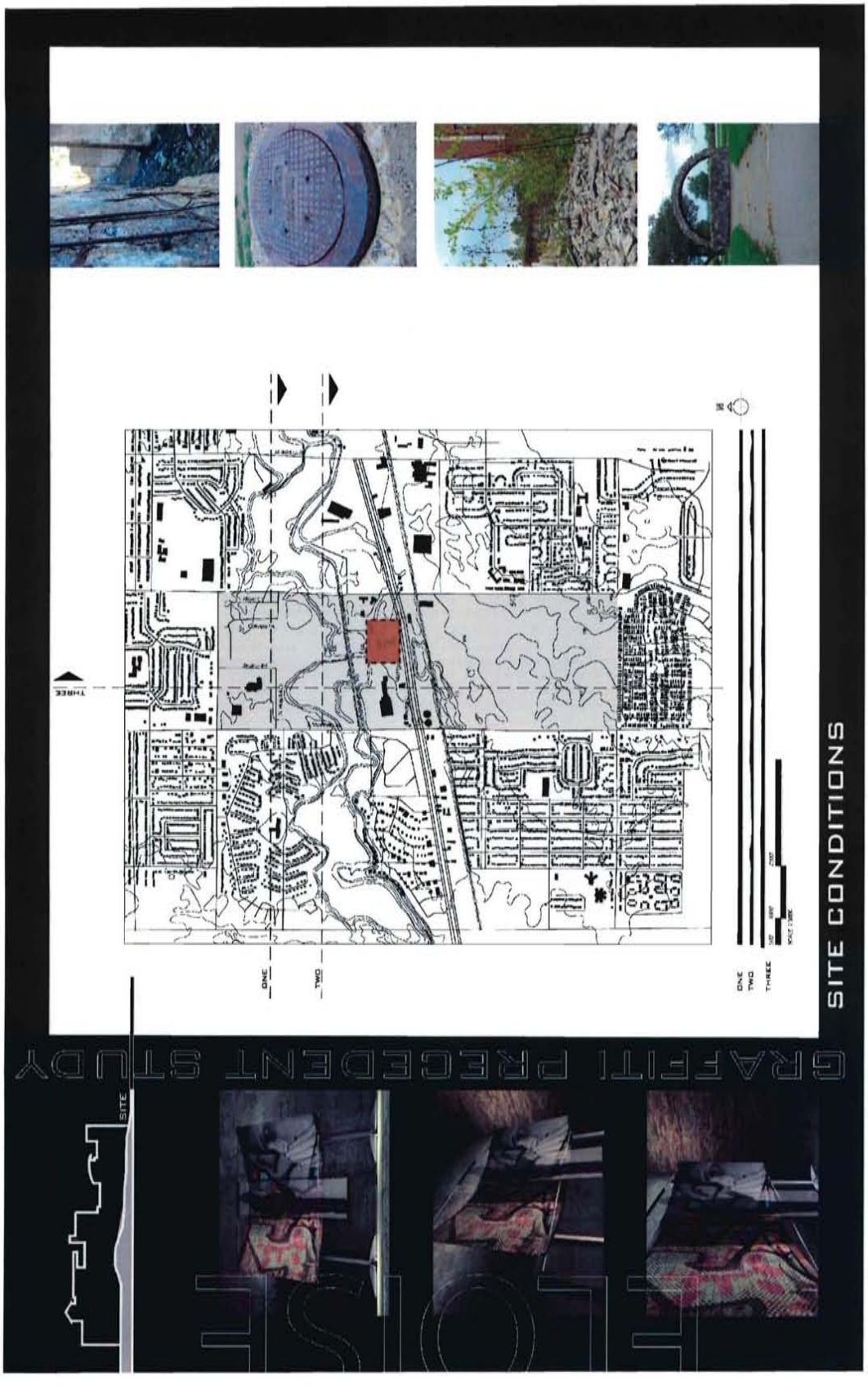
Figure 7.43 SRO Elevations

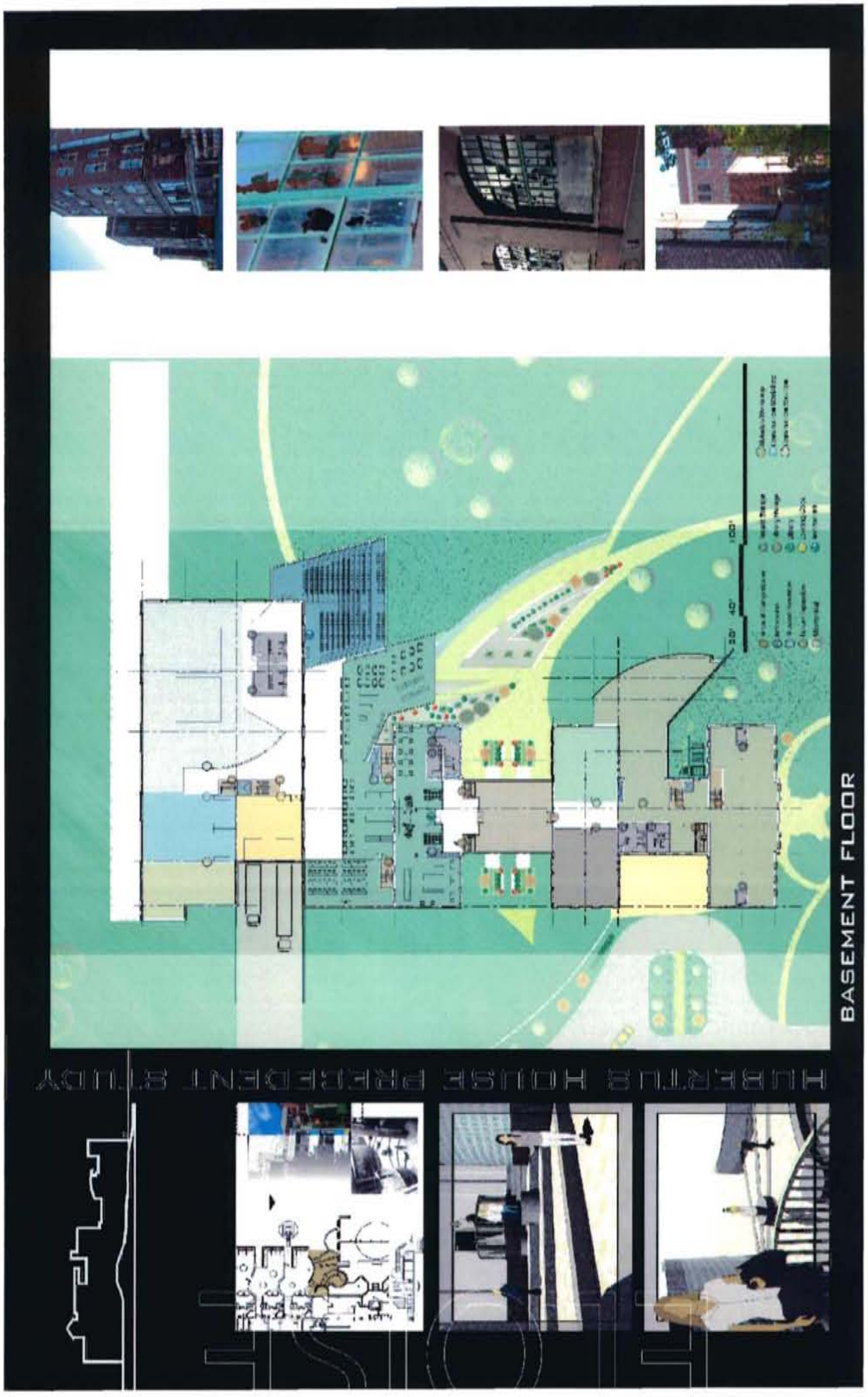
[DESIGN] DEVELOPMENT Critique

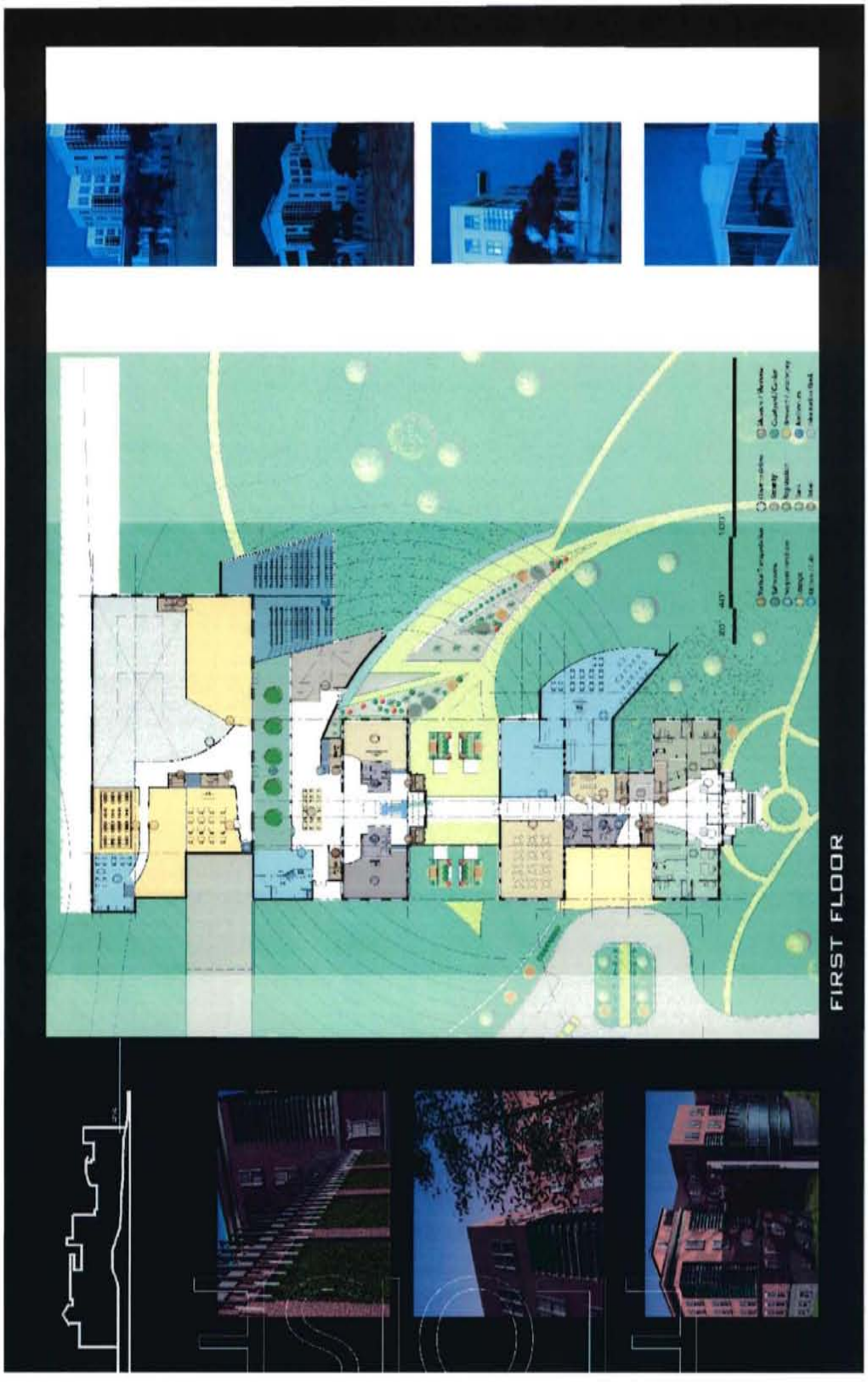
The overall project has certainly met its share of criticism. Upon the final critique an unexpected series of suggestions emerged. This is not to suggest that the advice has gone unheard, or that the viewpoints were illegitimate; nonetheless, frustration is apparent. Perhaps the most significant source of frustration had been the result from ambiguous advice from one critique to the next. The results of previous critiques had always found their way into the next sequence of work. The thesis –unfortunately – failed to sift through the advice and apply it as the thesis deems necessary - as opposed to immediately implementing design decisions as if they were holistically and universally appropriate to the thesis. Nonetheless, the criticism suggested that the project would be better suited to exist in context of a campus plan. Further advice suggested that confining all of the functions within one facility may cause the very same conditions that the thesis intends to avoid; institutionalization. One could agree that the thesis would benefit from being inserted into a campus context; however, again ambiguous advice could have been the source of frustration. Prior critique suggestions included focusing on either the Transitional Housing and Community Education Center, or the SRO's – in interest of time and development. The conclusion was to focus on the housing and educational facilities, assuming that the technologies of economic and efficient housing could be taught and developed within the confines of the facility. This seemed to focus more on the root of the issues, allowing the facility to act as a model for cities worldwide; although fairly optimistic, the intentions were pure. The last bit of criticism – seemingly not applicable, included "blowing apart" the existing buildings and rebuilding around their remains.

The remaining images depict the final storyboards used in the final critique. All being said and done, whether or not the thesis was successful is somewhat of a moot point. The real benefit of the thesis is the knowledge gained through both success and hardship.

CONCEPTUAL MODEL STUDIES
SITE MONTAGE


SITE CONDITIONS
ONE
TWO
THREE
GRAFFITI PRECEDENT STUDY
SITE


HUBERTUS HOUSE PREREDENT STUDY
BASEMENT FLOOR

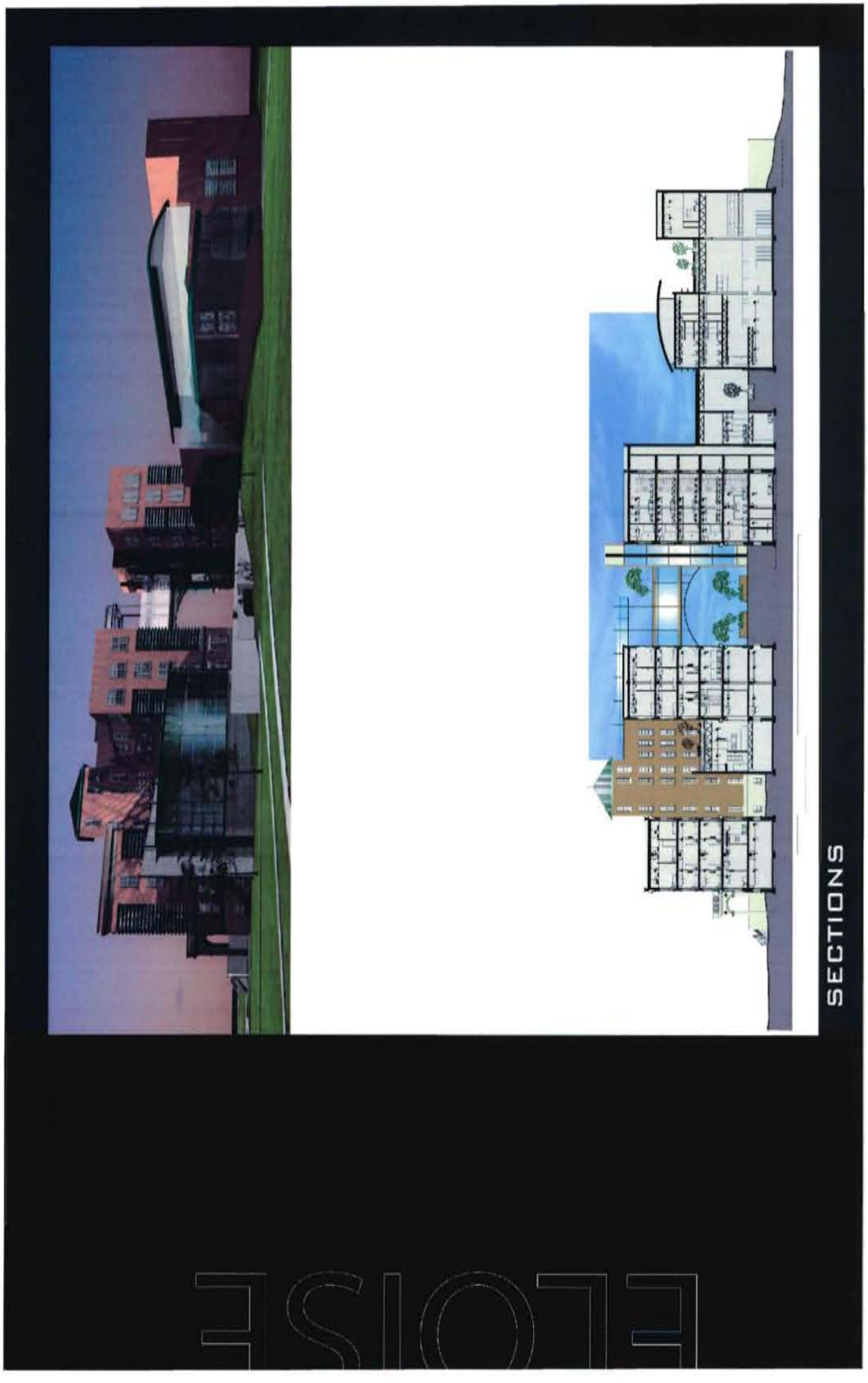

FIRST FLOOR


THIRD FLOOR
SECOND FLOOR


FIFTH FLOOR
FOURTH FLOOR


SRO'S [SINGLE RESIDENT OCUPANCY]
FRONT ELEVATION
SIDE ELEVATION
SRO SITE LAYOUT
FAMILY HOUSING FLOOR 2
FAMILY HOUSING FLOOR 1
SRO FLOOR PLAN
EXTERIOR COURTYARD
INTERIOR RENDERING


KAY BEARD BUILDING ELEVATIONS
POWER PLANT ELEVATIONS
NEW ADDITION ELEVATIONS
ELEVATIONS
ELOISE


SECTIONS
ELOISE

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