

THERE, HERE AND INBETWEEN

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Masters of Architecture

The University of Detroit Mercy School of Architecture

AR 510 & AR 520

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1 May 2006



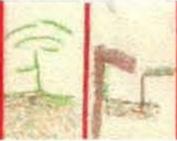
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This study intends to investigate design techniques that can be used in overlaying architectural structure to the program of a facility. The program consists of a center for women and children who are or have been affected by domestic violence. The goal is to create an environment that allows for escape, meditation, interactions and conversations. What creates relationships and experiences that would occur between women, children, professionals and the community in order to raise awareness. The architecture creates the opportunity for interaction and intervention. How can spaces assist in the development or redevelopment of social, emotional, mental, and physical problems?

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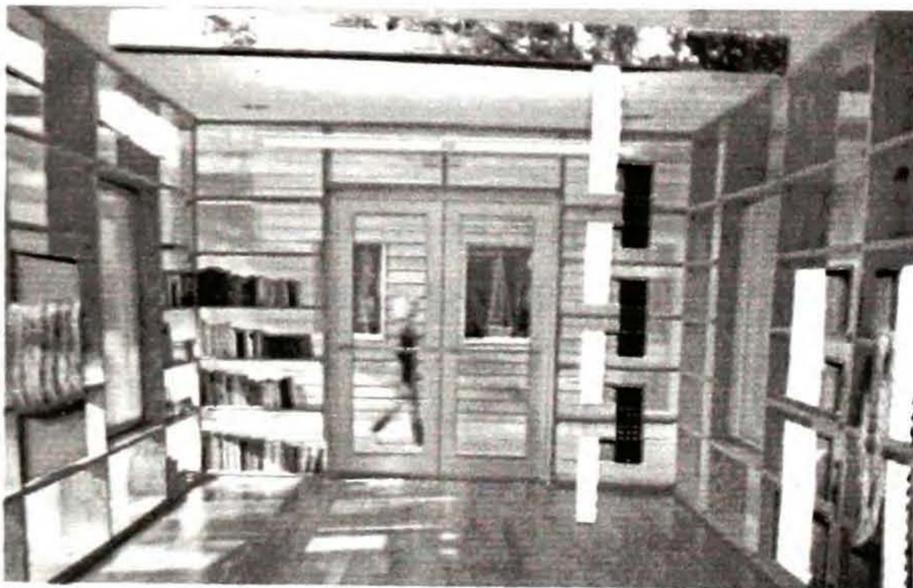
APPENDIX A

This thesis study hopes to explore the relationship between occupant and environment in order to define or redefine a form of "social" architecture. The Architecture would be the center for opportunity where opportunities and possibilities can take place. Many social issues go unresolved due to the lack of focused environment needed to educate those affected and to begin resolving these issues head on.

This study should also be carried out in a permeable urban environment that could allow for those on the outside of this habitat to gain exposure to these issues and assemble a foundation for testing and exploring these therapies in a larger context. If successful, this facility could also serve as a model for mediating other social issues. The goal would be to create an experience or environment that would restore the women and their lives. There are many places that give that discreet shelter for women, but then show them the door. For example:

"I felt unwelcome. I was told I could stay overnight and arrangements would be made in the morning to get me a lawyer and a place to stay. I had been told women could stay up to 10 weeks, and when I asked why I had to move out so quickly, there was no answer. I was asked to sign an agreement saying I would never divulge the address, and I left. All of the women I saw were members of visible minorities." 1

In this investigation of battered women, the project would seek to reinforce stability and their life goals through healing acts or methods influenced by a variety of qualities found in architectural spaces. A prime component needed in order to achieve this would be to create an environment that encourages women sensibly and would classify the women as individuals rather than label them as a group. One of the key factors would be trust; these women have to sense the trust in order to feel that they can break away and progress.

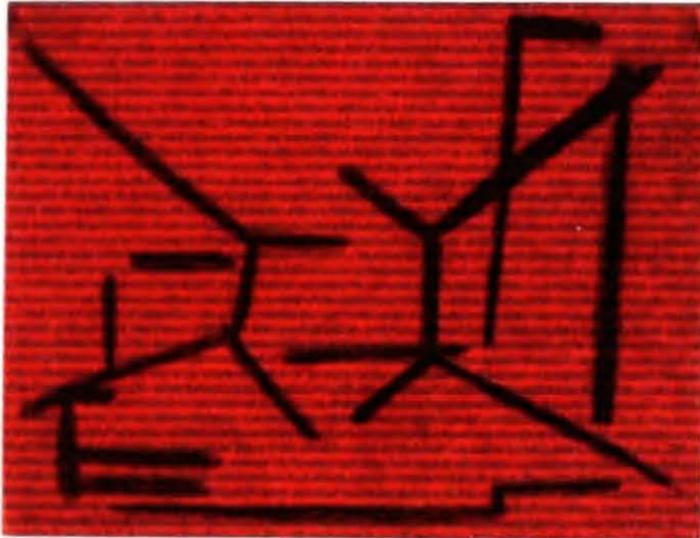


This study will begin to evaluate and test a range of conceivable methods that would be needed in order to evoke these feelings from its occupants. A change in environment may be the first approach to the escalation of emotional, mental and physical strength. In order to better understand the process to recovery it could be useful to examine current methods of rehabilitation and therapy. Some examples

being: healing gardens, shelter, workshops and conversation spaces. In researching

some healing gardens I summarized what some qualities are found in them: sense of security, physiological comfort, privacy or gathering, engagement with nature.

Some main program approaches that I have read and seem to flow as a pattern for women centers are programs that allow shelter and counseling for a 28 day period. These centers contain programs such as: 24 hour crisis line, counseling, emergency shelter, intervention programs, a Nurse examining program, advocacy, community awareness and a volunteer program. All of these are helping and raise awareness, but I am interested in community spaces and how the women can become one within the public and private spaces in the center.



“Opportunities for quiet meditation and reflection while at work are very important. It has been said “Half an hour’s meditation is essential, except when you are very busy. Then a full hour is necessary.” The stresses of everyday life can become debilitating without relief.” 2

How can the relationship and setting of a bedroom and a kitchen affect the comfort or environment for these women and their children? Connections and

interactions can create these pieces or spaces for relationship or interventions with each other and individuals.

“Some sorts of places, like a widening in a corridor with a window seat, induce casual social meetings; others, like lifts, stifle such interplay. Similarly, some shapes, like round tables, bring people into community, and others, like uninterrupted corridors or long rooms, don’t.” 2

The surroundings should bring healing with different activities and environments for different moods. Every space and door should accommodate the activity. Different lighting and temperatures that are inviting can make one feel at ease. “Forcing ideas on people doesn’t make them healthy – it’s more likely to make them ill. Likewise, architecture won’t be health-giving, if imposed. Much architecture is shaped by style. This prioritizes time-bound fashion over place-appropriateness for particular places and the people of those places.” 2

In finding the ideal location for this women’s center I focused on these key terms: retreat, education, community, security, opportunity and transportation. Chicago has a great transportation system and the surroundings of my site have access

to the bus system. Education came to play in having access to interns and volunteers through the social service program at the University. Also a university is a great community in itself; it offers the security and emergency blue lights that access public safety. The site also allows one to interact with events and activities that occur at the Midway Plaisance. Keeping all those terms in mind I looked at locating this center within a campus. I choose University of Chicago due to its Social Service Administration program along with the history of the site and the possibilities within its surroundings.

While researching that university I came across lots of information about the Midway Plaisance and an overall plan of adding a children's play area, an herbal garden and exterior elements that can be useful to the program. While on a site visit I narrowed my visit to observe elements such as: police and public safety, pets, parks, libraries, building types, recreation and areas of relaxation. I have documented my observations and this site was ideal for the size and intent of the facility.

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(1) Brown, Dave. The Ottawa Citizen: Women's shelters under veil of secrecy.

<http://sharedparent.www2.50megs.com>

(2) Day, Christopher, Places for the Soul: Architecture and Environmental Design as a Healing Art, The Aquarian Press, 1990, ch.1 pg.13.

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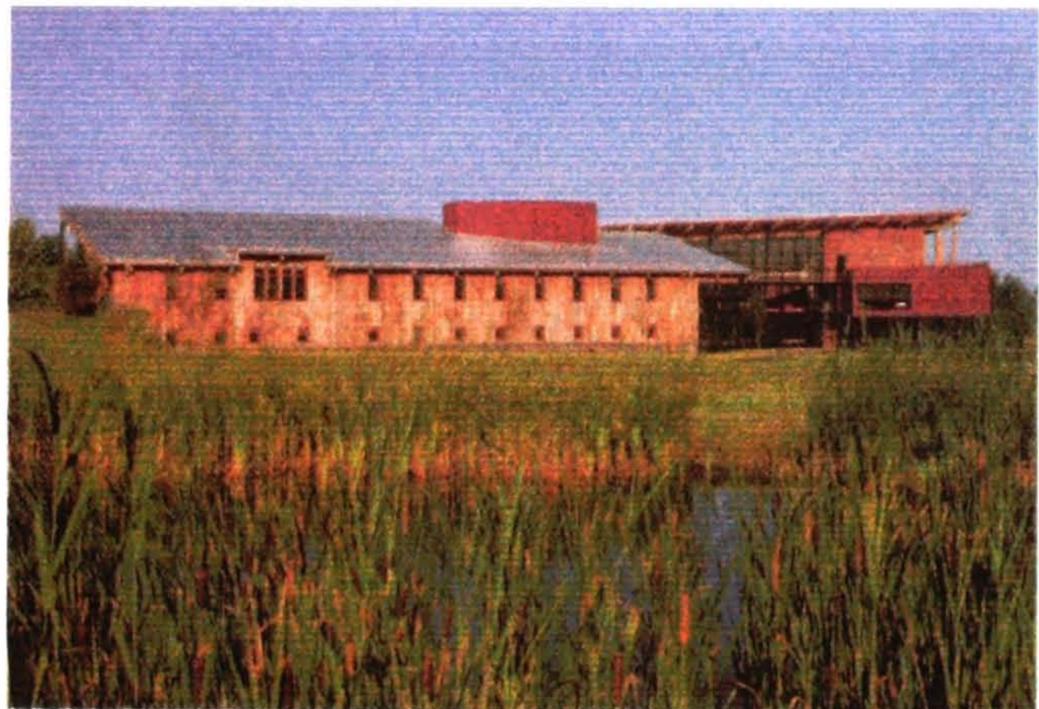
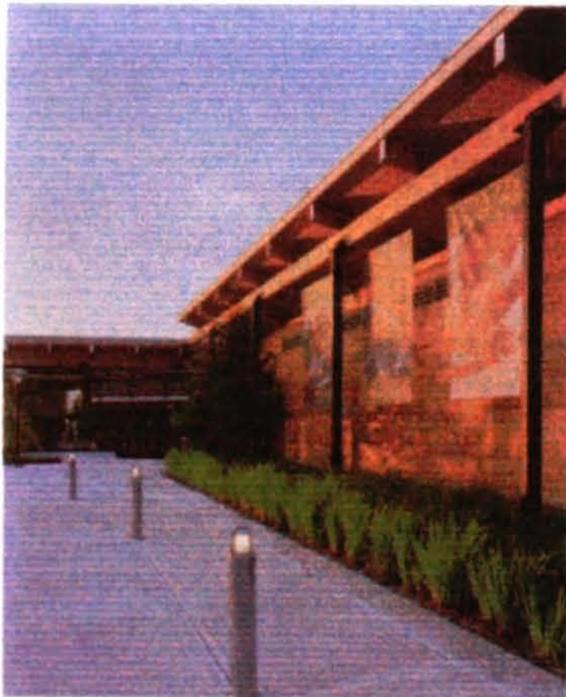
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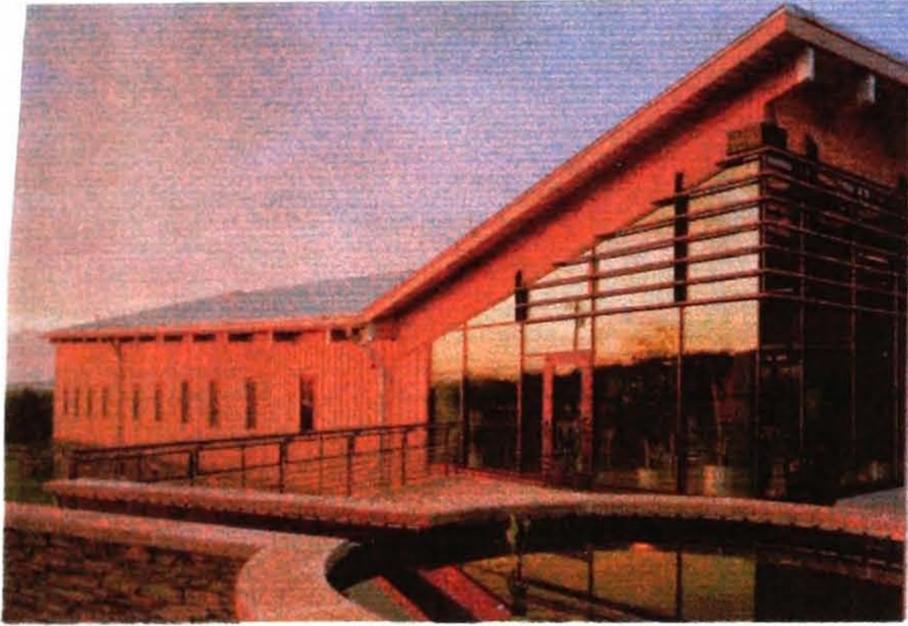
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The Patrick H. Dollard Discovery Health Center  
Harris, New York  
Guenther 5 Architects, PLLC  
January 2003  
The Center for Discovery  
27,000 sq. ft.

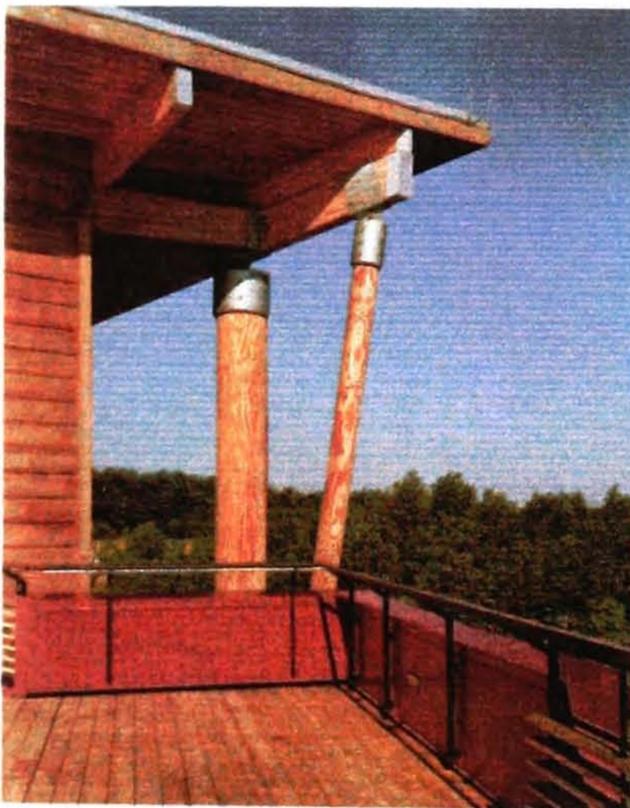
The Patrick H. Dollard Discovery Health Center is a newly constructed, 28,000 square foot diagnostic and treatment facility in rural, upstate New York. It is the first licensed medical facility built by The Center for Discovery, a 350-acre residential school campus and nonprofit agency, and the largest employer in Sullivan County. The school is an oasis, nurturing both the livelihoods and lifelong needs of children and adults with profound neurological and development impairments. The new Health Center offers outpatient primary /specialty medical and dental services to residents, saving them the extreme discomfort of traveling elsewhere for routine medical care. Moreover, as deeply humanitarian agency, it pushes one step further by welcoming the surrounding community, attracting local residents to drop by on a neighborly basis, whether for the Center's farmer's market to purchase produce or the on-campus "bed-and-breakfast" for harvest-baked bread and planned social events. These programs provide meaningful work opportunities for adult residents of the school, as well as others in Sullivan County.

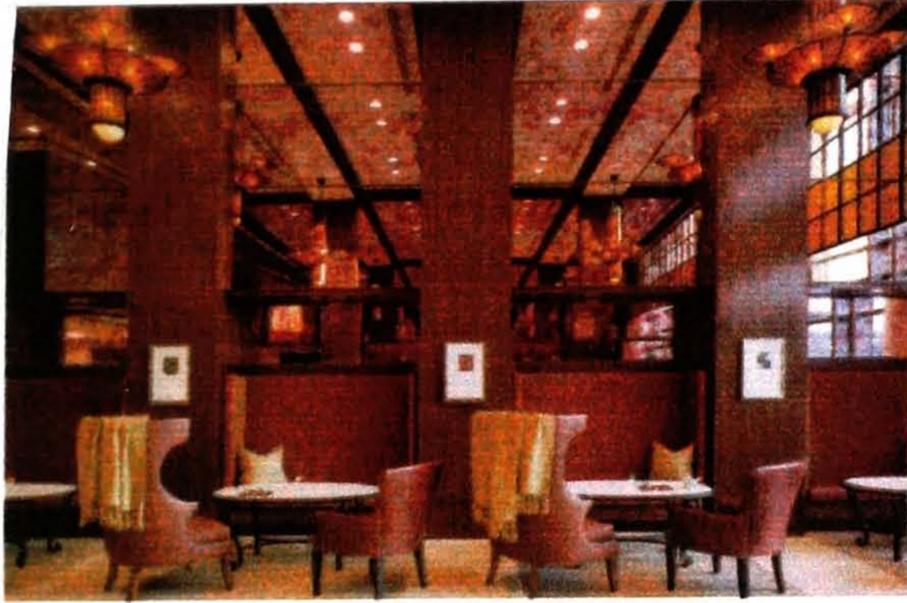




The Patrick H. Dollard Discovery  
Health Center  
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In respect to the ideas I am exploring project definitely was a great example of sustainable design. I think that it is important to design in respect of the natural environment and the surroundings of the site. Its strengths lie within the sustainable design to reduce toxic emissions, minimize energy costs by certain design strategies, solar gain and water re-use. These strategies are not only environmental friendly approaches but aesthetic also. The site was one of the main reasons why I choose this project. The building was built for the site and in respect to the site. The previous occupant of the site was not as pleasant as this one. There is not a large area of pavement and the roof is not flat. The building was placed so that it takes advantage of the New York climate. It is oriented to reduce heat gain in the summer and allow for passive gain in winter. My only critic would be to have more going on outdoors, the site is beautiful which should make for more outdoor activity or landscape. The interior allows many spaces for conversation but the outside does not accommodate for outdoor seating.



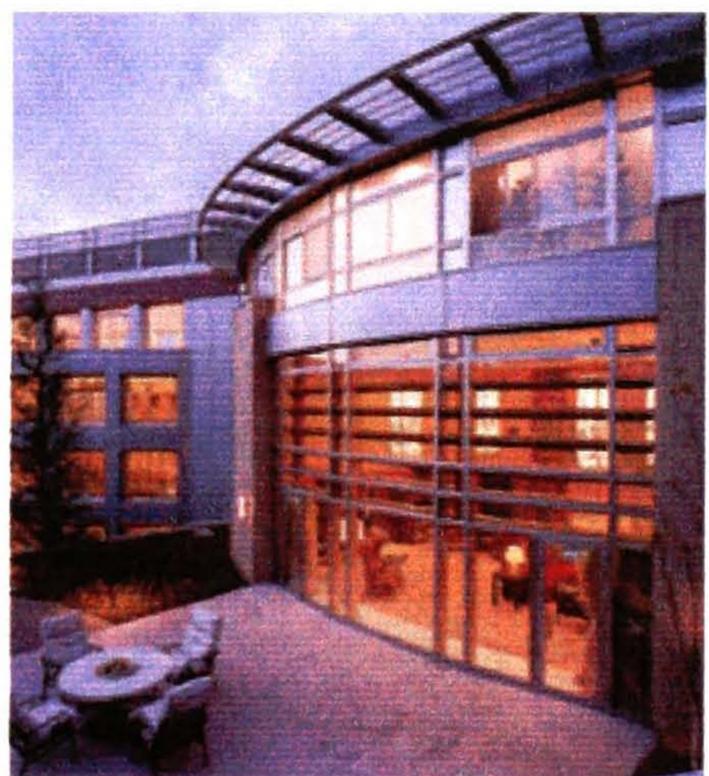
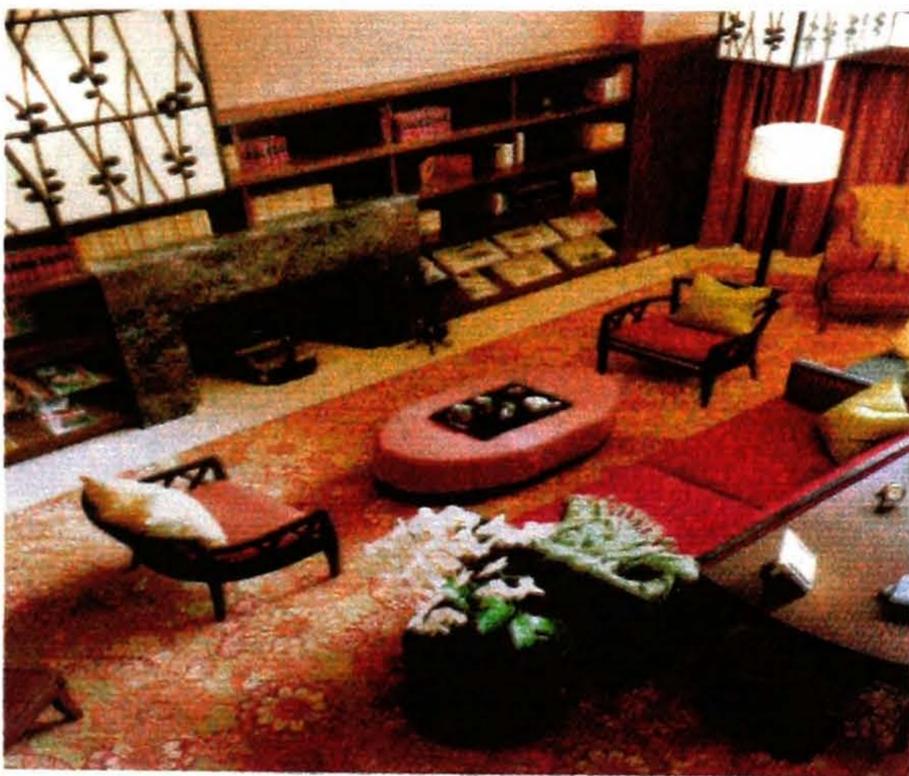


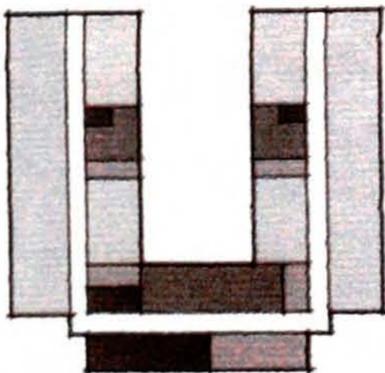
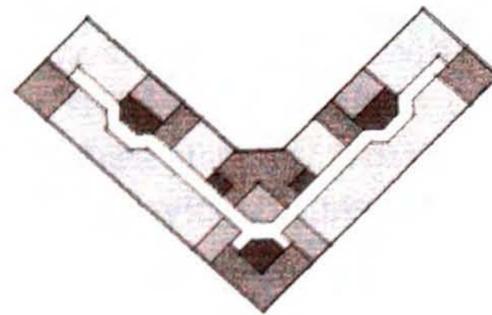
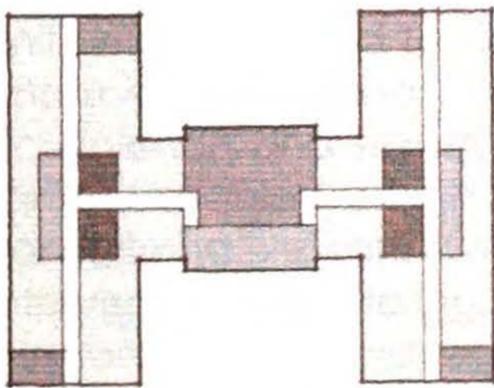
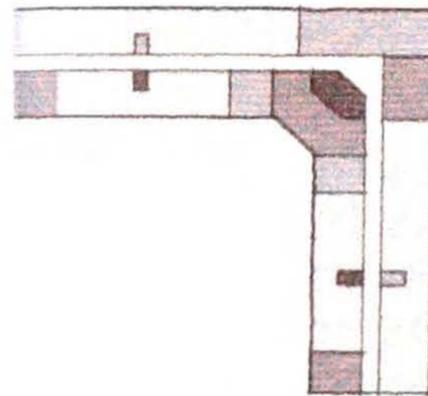
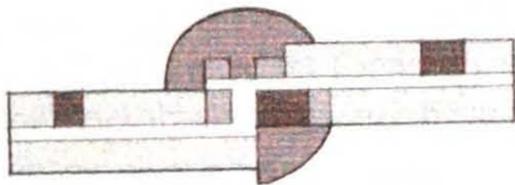
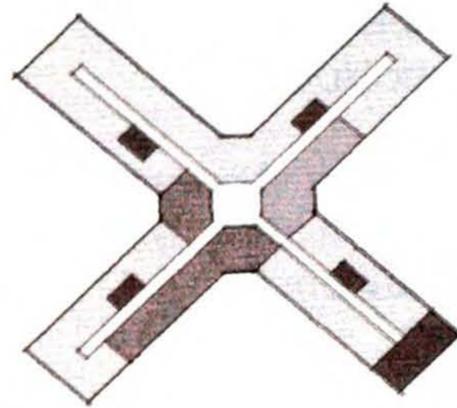
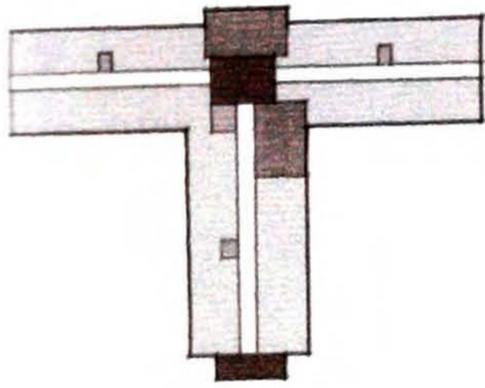
Sun City Takatsuki  
Takatsuki, Japan  
Perkins Eastman Architects PC  
Sun City / Half Century More Co.  
170,000 sq. ft.

Sun City Takatsuki offers the Japanese aging population an opportunity for community retirement living that combines American programs and developments with Japanese culture. The facility provides high levels of service in a contemporary, senior living-like setting. The 170,000 sf facility offers 24 assisted living and 91 Independent living apartments, with 68 specialized nursing/dementia rooms. The building plan utilizes the U.S.-based cluster design concept of small-scale neighborhoods off a main promenade. Public spaces include a traditional Japanese tea room, roofed terraces, traditional Japanese ofuros, library, and double-height entertainment salon/lounge.

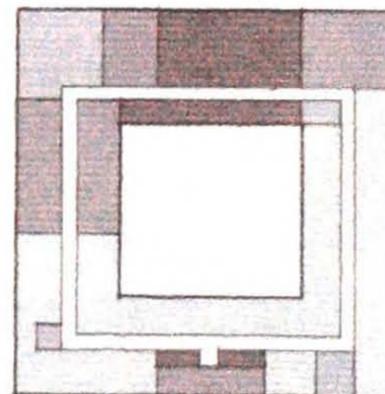
#### Strength / Weaknesses

I choose this project because it is the first multi-level care facility in Japan. It is very classy and blends western and eastern cultures. This design has many custom made details that use traditional Japanese patterns. I think that it was successful in including and embracing culture in the architecture. Although the interior screams culture, but I am not so sure about the exterior I think that they missed an opportunity for Japanese Gardens.





-  Major Circulation
-  Resident Rooms
-  Service
-  Common Area
-  Therapy/  
Nurses Station





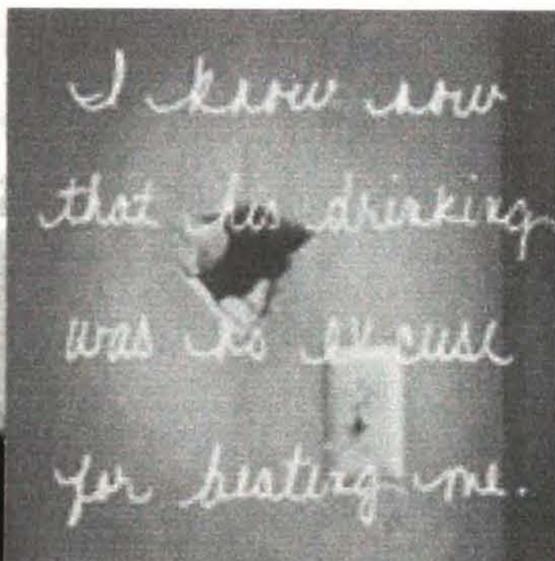
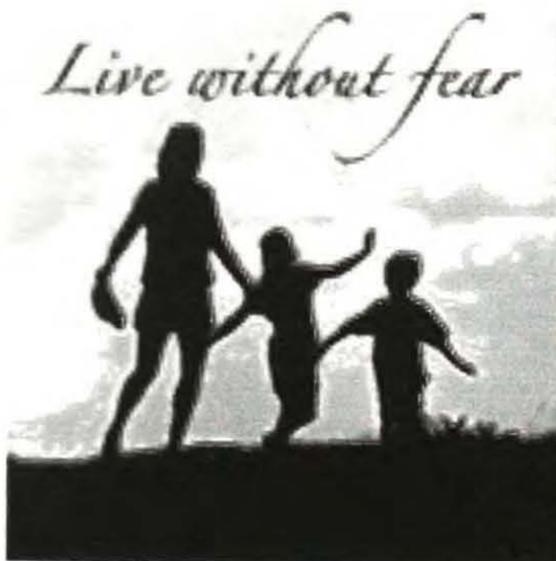
Haven Oakland County  
Oakland County, MI  
30 years

30 Community leaders in business,  
social services, law, media, education  
and volunteer sector  
App. \$3 million

### Mission

To eliminate domestic violence and sexual through assault through treatment and prevention services across Oakland County and surrounding communities. HAVEN is a nationally recognized non-profit leader in Oakland County and surrounding communities providing comprehensive solutions and innovative programs that promote violence-free homes and communities. Provide direct services to child and adult victims and families experiencing domestic violence and sexual assault. Provide direct intervention services to perpetrators of domestic violence in order to prevent future occurrences. Work toward eliminating domestic violence and sexual assault through prevention education services. Serve as a systems change agent for community efforts related to domestic violence and sexual assault. There are two operating hotlines in Oakland County and this is the only one dealing with the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. Access to the shelter for victims and their children is only available through the support line. If the shelter is full they are assisted in finding an alternative safe housing shelter. Programs provided are: Counseling Program, Intervention in Battering, Residential, Supervised Parenting Time Program, Advocacy Program, Safe Therapeutic Assault Response Program, Community Education and Prevention, Intern and Volunteer Program

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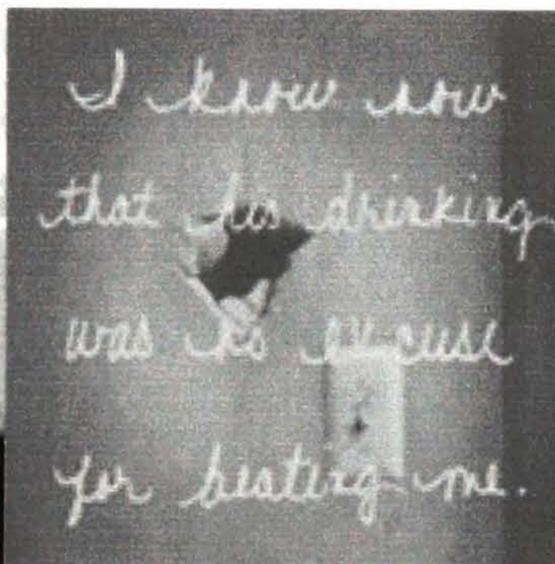
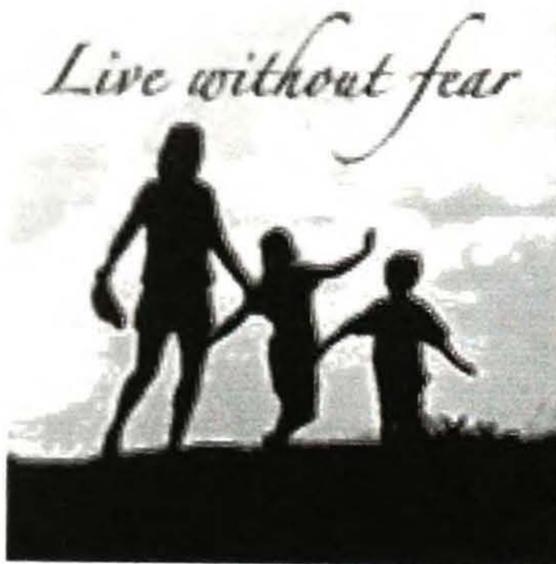
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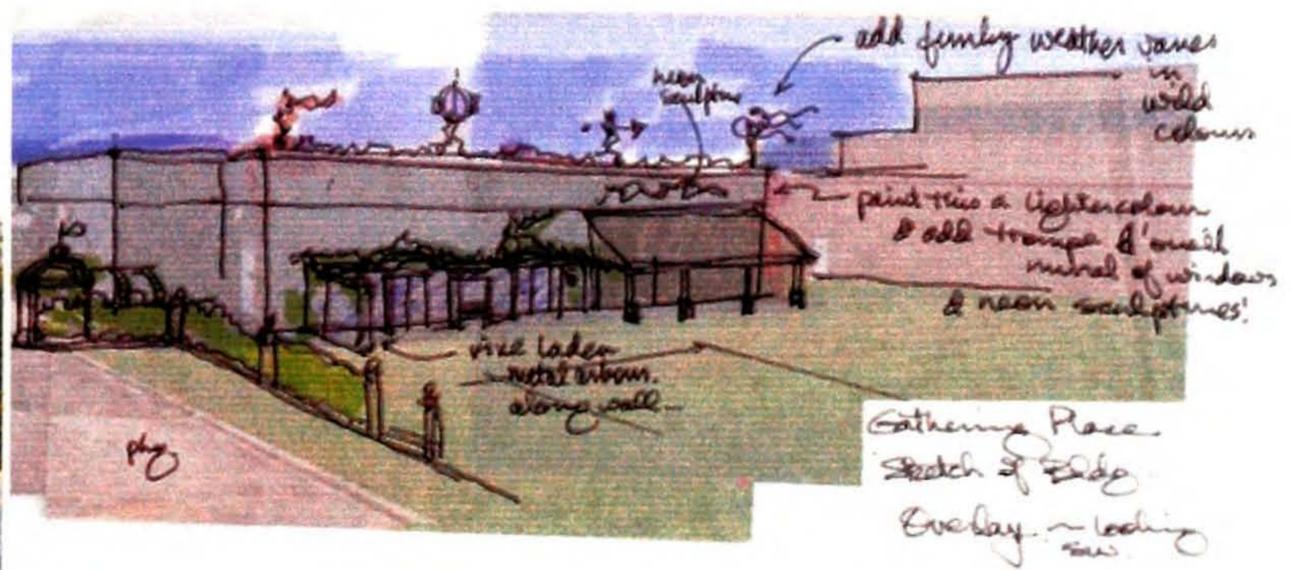
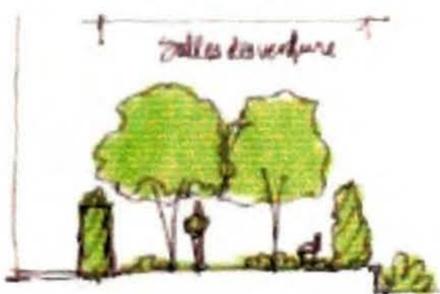
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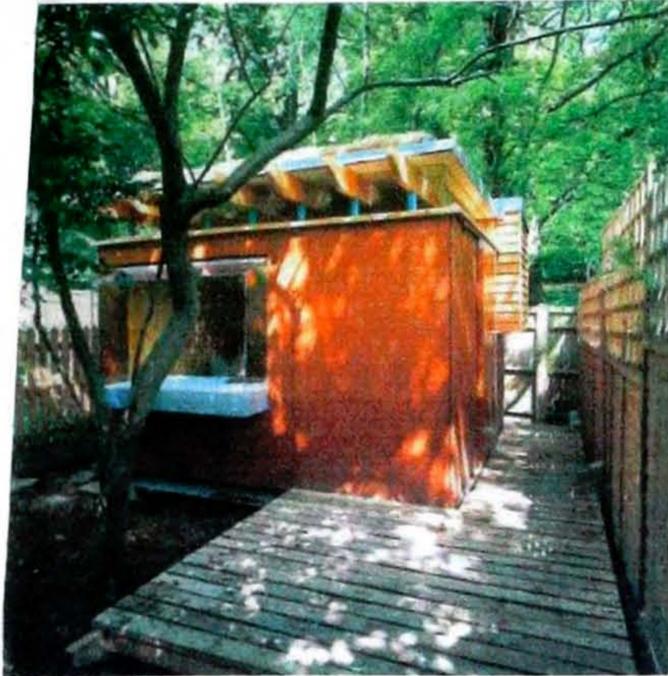




Norma's Garden  
 Cleveland, Ohio  
 April 25, 2005  
 Virginia Burt  
 The Gathering Place  
 9 individual Spaces

The Gathering Place is a nonprofit, community-based wellness center, serving the social, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of individuals with cancer and their support network. Services offered include: Art Therapy, Nutrition Classes, Life Planning, Massage Therapy, Pilates, Tai Chi, Yoga, Journaling, Medical Library, Feel Better Workshops, One on One Counseling. In our safe, homelike environment, people with cancer and their family and friends share experiences and challenges in the spirit of hope and community. Programs and services offered by The Gathering Place focus on healing the mind, body, and spirit. The Gathering Place supports individuals to actively manage the impact of cancer in their lives and improve their quality of life. Trained, licensed professionals provide programs that meet the highest therapeutic standards. The Gathering Place serves all individuals with cancer and their family and friends regardless of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or sexual orientation. The Garden's Rooms Entry and Walk of Friends, Gathering Terrace, Pool of Grass, Pavilion, Edible



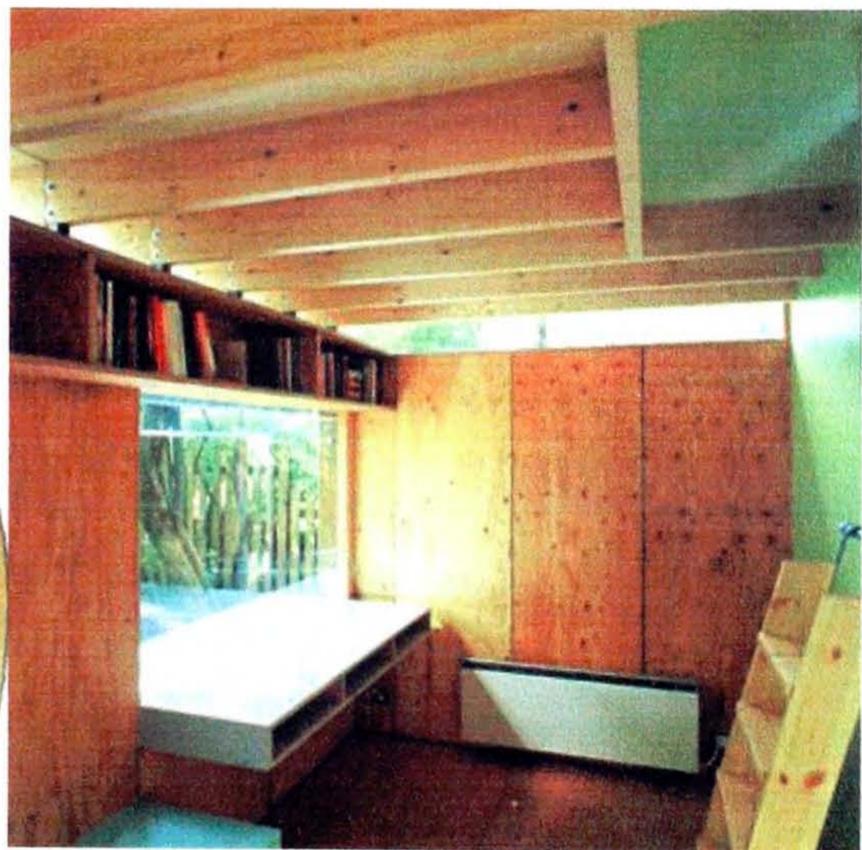
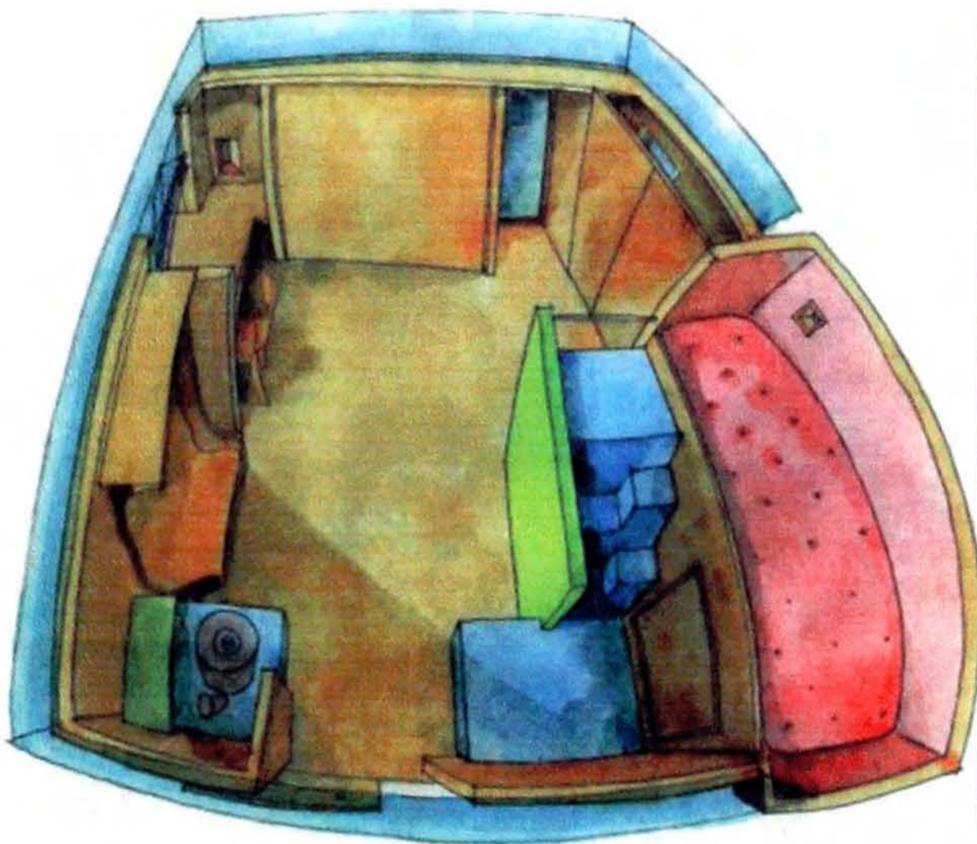


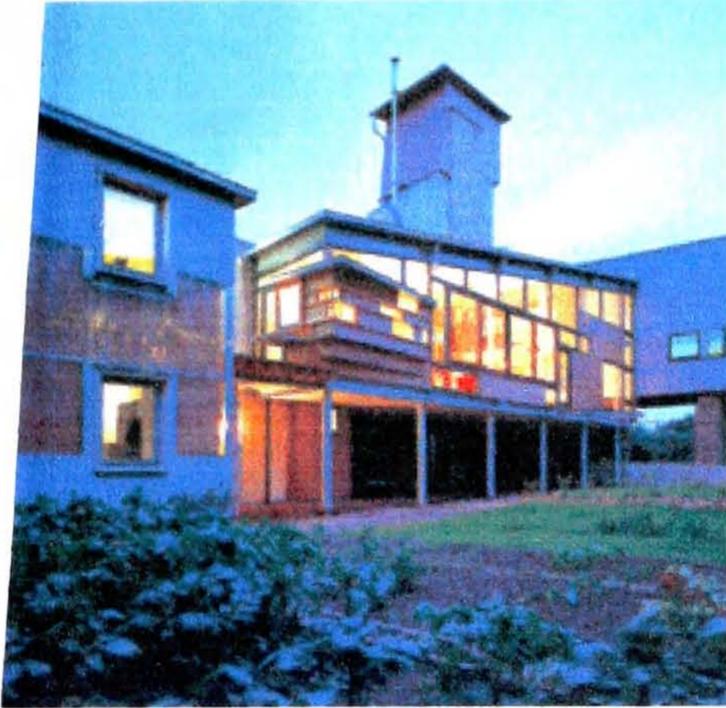
Writer's Retreat  
Regno Unito, London  
October 1999  
Sarah Wigglesworth Architects

Made from prefabricated parts, this summerhouse serves as a writer's workspace

A timber summer house used as a workplace for a writer living in Highgate, north London. The client wanted a place to work away from the house surrounded by nature. The structure, which is made of prefabricated timber elements assembled on site, plays on the idea of the shed at the bottom of the garden, a retreat from domestic life. The design frames multiple views of the woods which surround it and allows light to penetrate the interior from all directions. The cabin contains a variety of places for sitting, thinking, writing and reading, including a daybed perched high up in the rear wall. The cabin also contains a small kitchenette and storage.

All the construction is timber, including plywood walls both inside and outside. The roof is grass.





9/10 Stock Orchard Street  
London, 2001  
Sarah Wigglesworth Architects

A combination of a house and the architects' offices, the building employs unorthodox materials such as concrete-filled sandbags, straw bales, and quilted cloth

Stock Orchard Street uses such energy-efficient materials as straw bales and recycled concrete, but contrasts them with slick, clean lines in other parts of the structure. All of these solutions address specific building problems, as well. For example, a wall that faces the main rail line between London and Scotland is covered in concrete-filled bags, which dampen the sound of the trains that rush by every ten minutes.

#### Creative spaces, materials and ideas

What interests me about these projects is that they are designed with imaginative, sustainable construction, creating practical results and taking account for the life-cycle maintenance requirements. They use materials in new and exciting ways.



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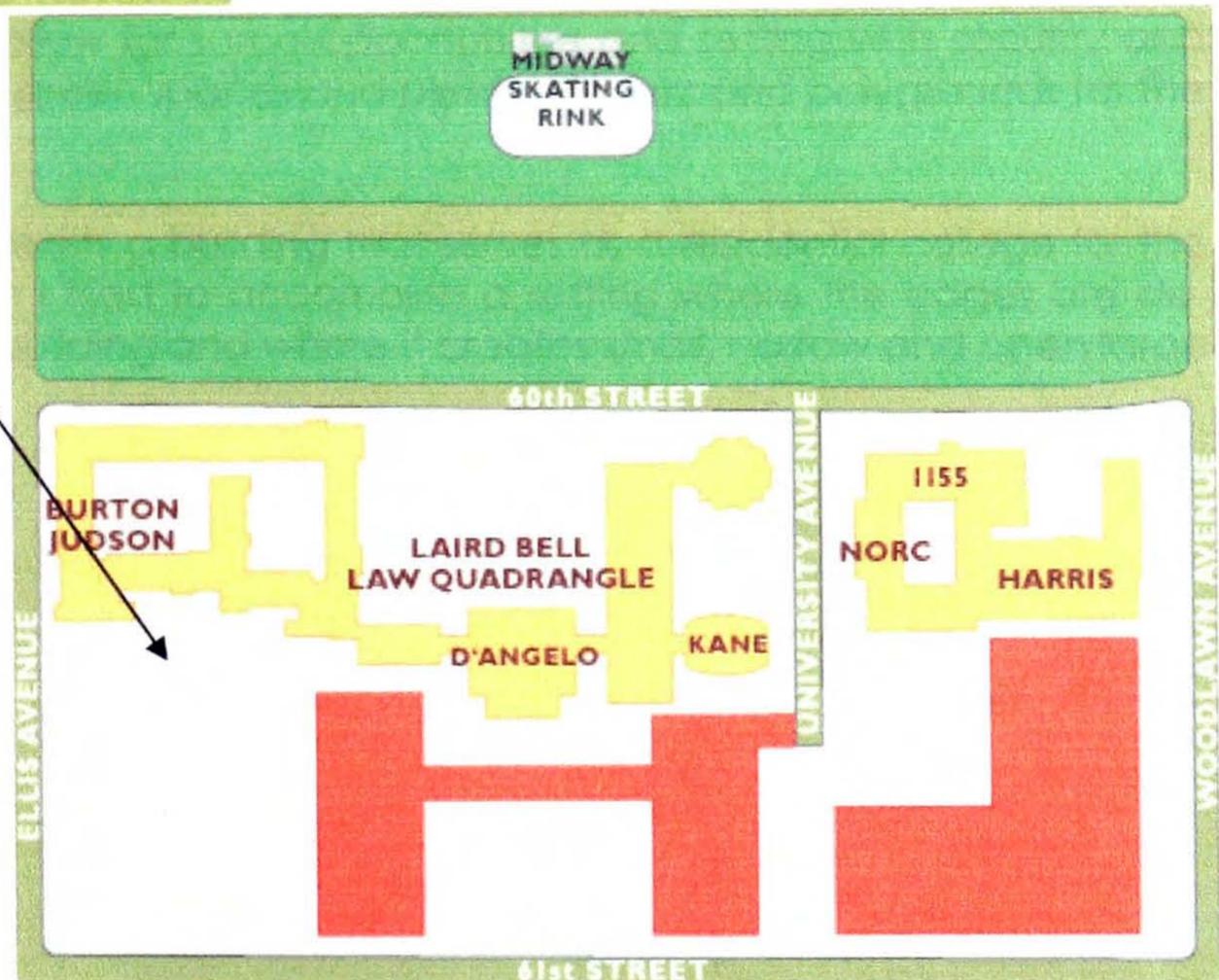


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program 20

endnotes

annotated bibliography





This site was chosen for a number of reasons. I choose the one that had the most of the settings I would like it to have. A community setting was an important factor, an educational setting would allow for some opportunities and setting with security and patrolling also a setting with green spaces and plenty of parks and playgrounds for the children.

Within the site itself already exists a building that serves as a residential college for the university. In the final design I tried to accomplish a setting where the edges are defined by the borders of the building and where it creates small, narrow and open large courtyards.

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Safety ~ Important to feel safe to build trust

Support ~ A needed shoulder

Reinforce ~ Reestablish strength

Therapy ~ Reinststate physical emotional strength

Counseling ~ Reinststate mental / emotional strength

Public Interactions ~ Not alone

Communication ~ Let it all out

Private Reflection ~ Confirmation

Community or Social Service ~ Helping others to lift spirits

Shelter ~ Home without home

Short-term shelter ~ Emergency beds and shelter

Long-term Housing Program ~ Assist in finding an economic new environment

Legal / Intervention Programs ~ Possible endangerment of life

Employment / Education Program~ Fulfill financial needs of woman or family

Community Education ~ Raise public awareness

Transportation ~ Limited access to the site

Children's Workshop ~ activities

Personalizing Areas ~ a place for private reflection

Human Scale Areas ~ Mental Getaway



iving Quarters

20 total Family Units

Unit capacity: 5 (woman and baby) 15x15 225 sq ft

Unit capacity: 5 (woman and 2 children) 15x20 300 sq ft

Unit capacity: 10 (woman and 3+ children) 25x25 625 sq ft

Total 8875 sq ft

15 total single women units: (which may be able to house a woman/child)

10x10 100 sq ft

Total 1500 sq ft

1 or 2 large emergency beds space

25x80

Total 2000 sq ft

Purposes / Functions: This space is a private place for the family to sleep and a place they consider to be like their bedroom at home.

Activities: This space would fall in between a bedroom, living room and a small kitchen with a bathroom. So resting, showering, and watching TV, any private or personal conversations and private reflection or gathering.

Spatial Relationships: It should be at the same level and have the same orientation as the other living spaces. A laundry room is needed on the same floor, and I feel a close relationship or access to the main kitchen is needed.

Special Considerations: These spaces will have restrooms, a stove, and a sink. There needs to be a window in this space and a close relationship to an exterior area. Natural light is a must and a warm home like atmosphere with a comfortable temperature.



Private Counseling and Therapy sessions

Units: 6 spaces 8x8 - 10x10 sq ft

Total 384 - 600 sq ft

Purposes/Functions: This is a prime component to the program of the facility, these spaces are essential. It should be apparent or visible that these spaces are private.

Activities: This space is a room that should seem relaxing and where one feels comfortable and enough to have a one to one conversation.

Spatial considerations for this space: this space should be unified and not have a sense of hierarchy.

## Children's Quarters

1 large space

24x40

Total 960 sq ft

**Purposes / Functions:** This is a space where the children will find refuge, and take part in activities with each other.

**Activities:** This is a space where one can play, run, explore and communicate in many ways whether verbally or artistic. It is a space that has no boundaries, the children will make and are a main aspect of the space.

**Spatial Relationships:** It should be in relation to a courtyard, in order to allow for the opening and sharing of exterior spaces.

**Special Considerations:** A sink is needed in this area with close proximity to restrooms and open to observation from the courtyard and lounging areas. This would allow for their mothers to observe them while they lounge or take part in an activity.

## Education spaces

Units: 3 spaces

20x35 sq ft

Total 2100 sq ft

**Purposes/Functions:** These spaces are gathering spaces for educational purposes. They can also be housed by large groups needing to meet or discuss issues as a group. These rooms should be able to house a group of up to 20 at a given time.

**Activities:** these rooms should serve the purpose of a classroom where information is exchanged with in a group.

**Spatial considerations for this space:** These spaces should lie in close proximity to the library and storage areas.

## Library

1 large room

25x35 sq ft

Total 875 sq ft

**Purposes/Functions:** The library is a component and prime element of information, it is a place where the women can find books and information to share with there children and a place where they can read journals.

**Activities:** Reading, sitting, using a computer, reading to their children, journaling

**Spatial Considerations:** This space should be surrounded by natural light and have spaces where one can relax and read or use the internet.

## Visiting/Lounging

large but intimate space at each level

15x25  
Total 375 sq ft

**Purposes / Functions:** A space that has tables and small spaces where individuals can converse privately or spaces that allow for private visiting. A couch lounging area where the women and children can play games or watch TV with each other.

**Activities:** Talking, playing games, watching TV and even relaxing in a space that is public and community space.

**Spatial Considerations:** This should be around a central area so that it falls within circulation and public areas, and one should be in close proximity to the children's workshop and the courtyard.

## Dining area

**Purpose/Function:** A space that is used as a great gathering space that would be able to hold everyone in the center all at one time. A space where dining and conversation and exchanges of different foods and recipes happen.

Tables, chairs, storage, buffet tables, cutlery area (max. 85 people)

1 @ 1500 sq. ft. =1500

## Nurse Station

**Purpose/Function:** A space where check ups or emergency assistance can be given, it is also a place where medication can be given or stored. A space like this is also needed for the children if they are sick or get hurt.

Storage, lock-up area, fridge, medical equipment, first aid

20x30+ 1 @ 650 sq. ft. =650

## Kitchen

Dish area, fridge, stove, oven, counter with stools

20x30+ 1 @ 650 sq. ft. =650

## Offices

Full time, part time, relief staff

Desk, table, shelves, computer, chairs

10x10+ 4 full time @ 150 sq. ft. =600

10x10 4 part time @ 100 sq. ft. =400

20x20 1@ workroom for relief staff @ 400 sq. ft. = 400

## Reception @ main entrance

Desk, waiting area-8 chairs, information bulletin

1 @ 200 sq. ft. =200

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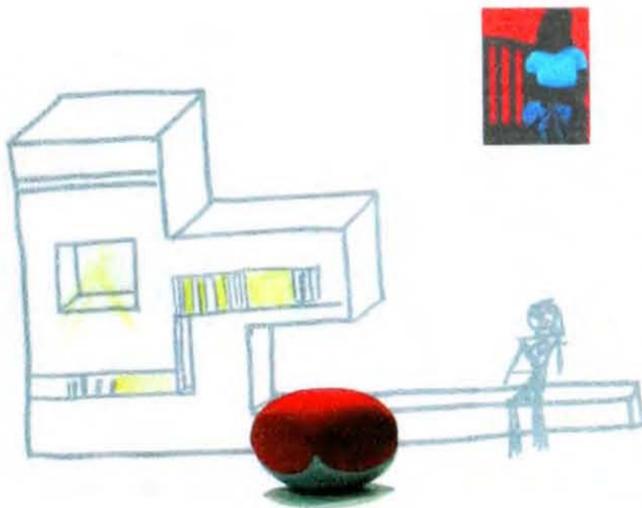


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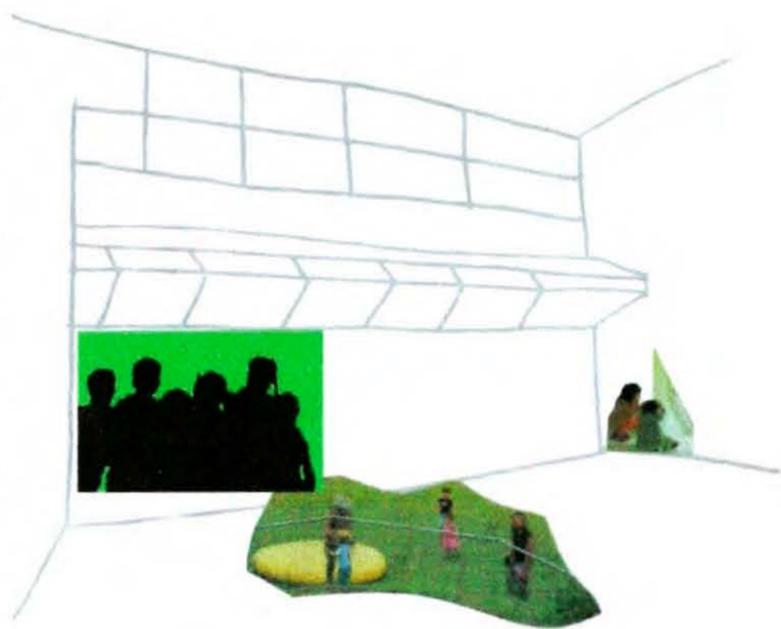
The conclusion of the thesis was designing an environment that providing spaces for self meditation and spaces of social conversation. An environment that provides spaces for children to interact with each other. The design has also allowed for spaces where information and books is key and a library that allows for some interactive activities and personal spaces for reading, journaling or drawing.

The living quarters are designed to meet different conditions and situations and each allow for privacy. The units each have a kitchen and a bathroom, bedrooms and laundry services are provided on each floor. The circulation around the living quarters occurs around the units and in an enclosed but open air space that brings one to their front door. The front door and circulation area allows for personalizing. The hallway or circulation widens up when approaching a door to allow for personalizing or for someone to sit or for conversation where someone can pull someone off to the side to have a conversation without being in the way of others.



Amongst the public spaces there is a public dining area where large dinners or lunches can happen with everyone plus community. This space can open up into a courtyard to allow for outdoor seating or air which can also open up on both sides. The dining area is in between two open green spaces, the courtyard and a herbal garden.

The library space is a space with a skylight that light the interior and balcony space that circulates around the second floor of the library. The space below allows for a comfortable pillow area that is surrounded and enclosed by shelves of light. The shelves that surround the edges at the corner which faces the residential side of the site has costumed book cases. These allow for light to seep through voids which allows for light to pour through a room when the books are being read and off the shelf.

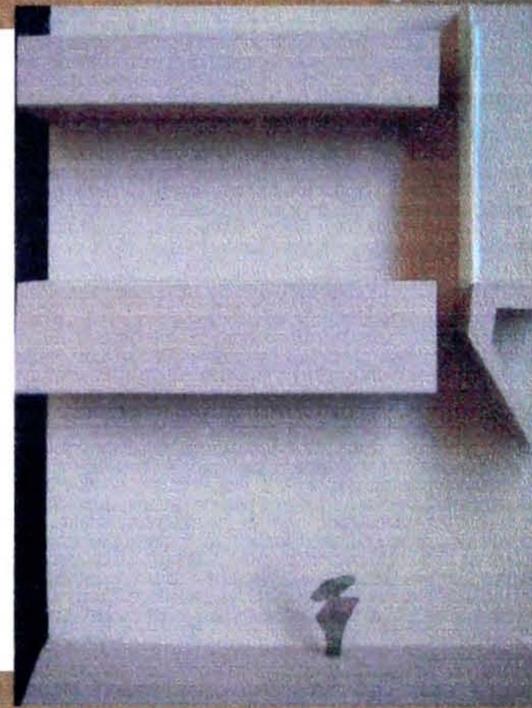
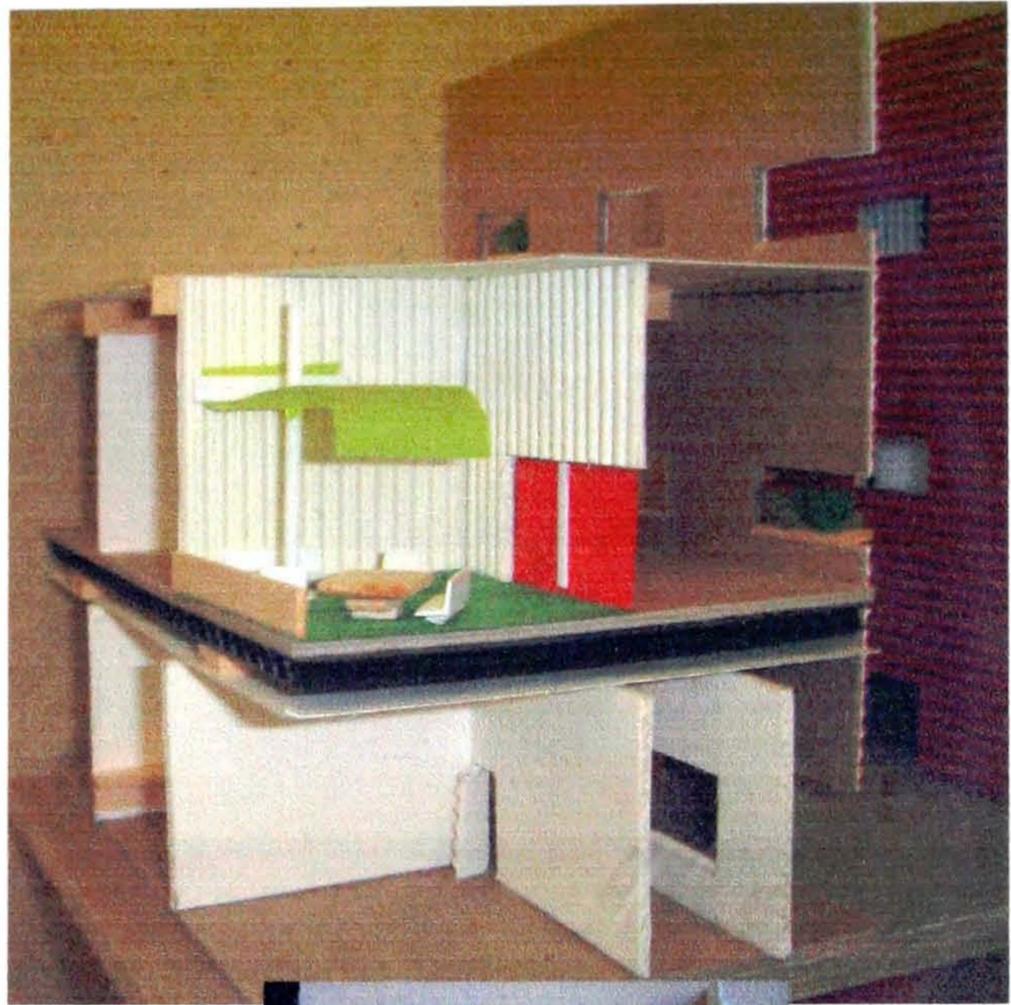
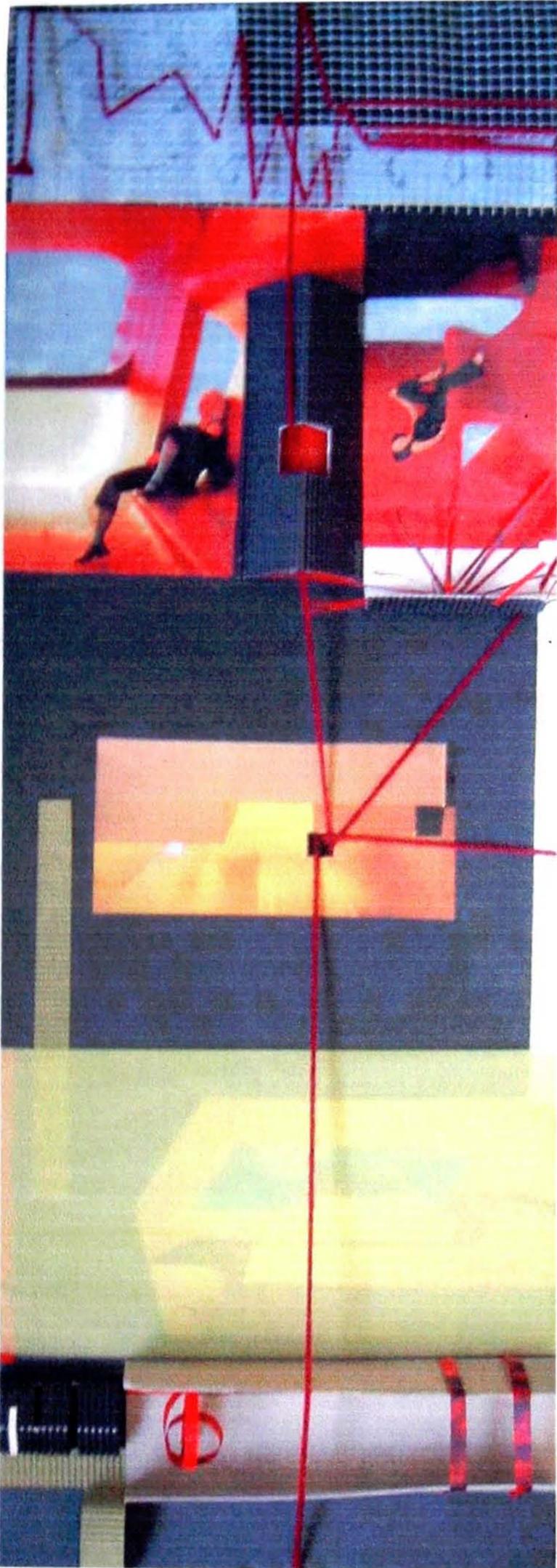


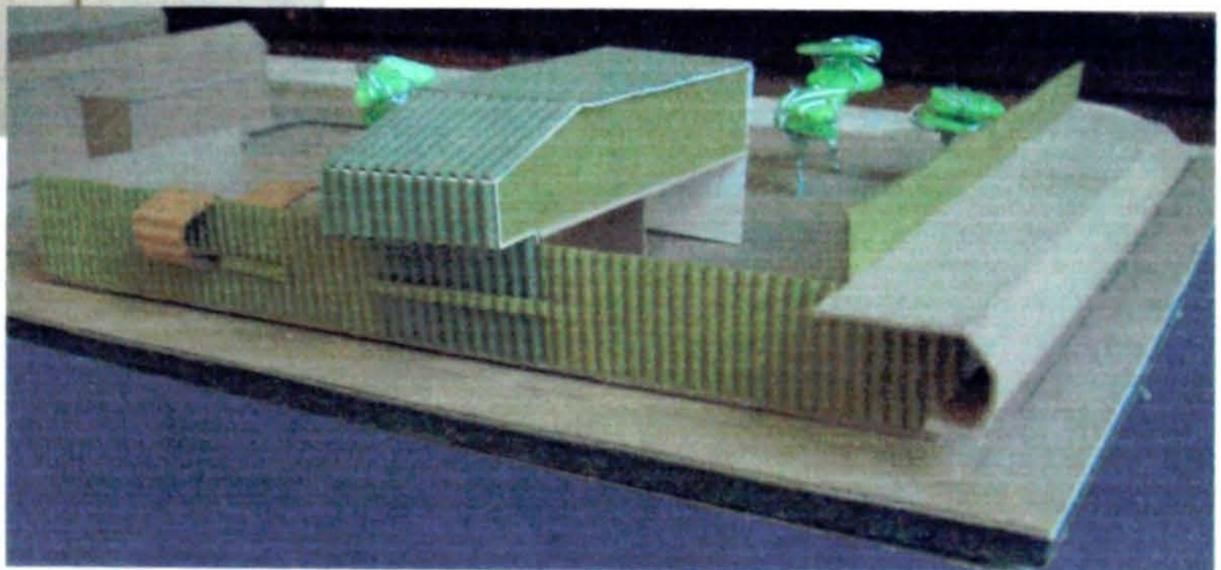
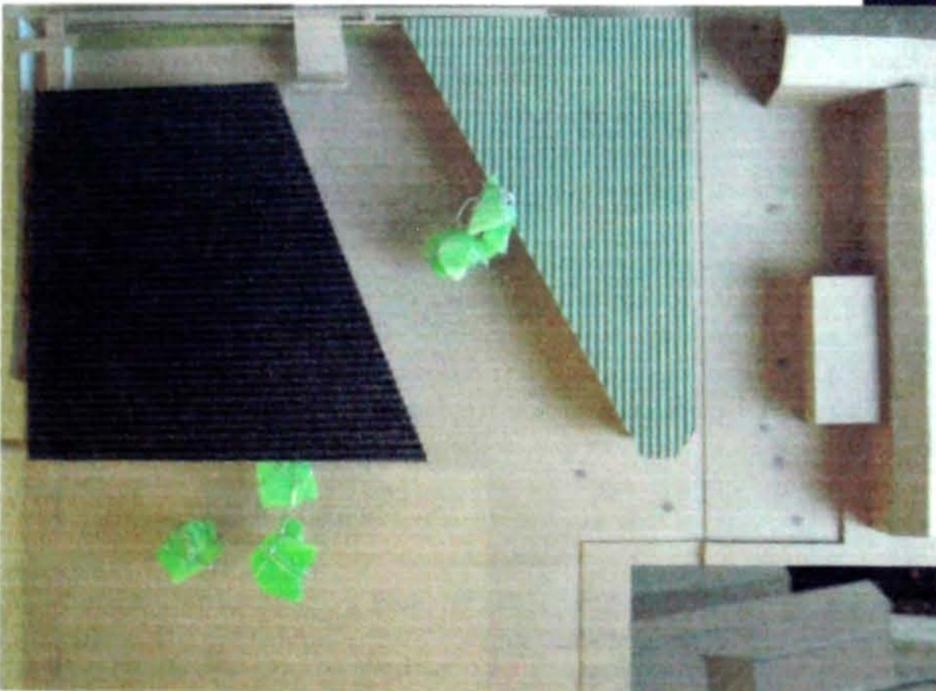
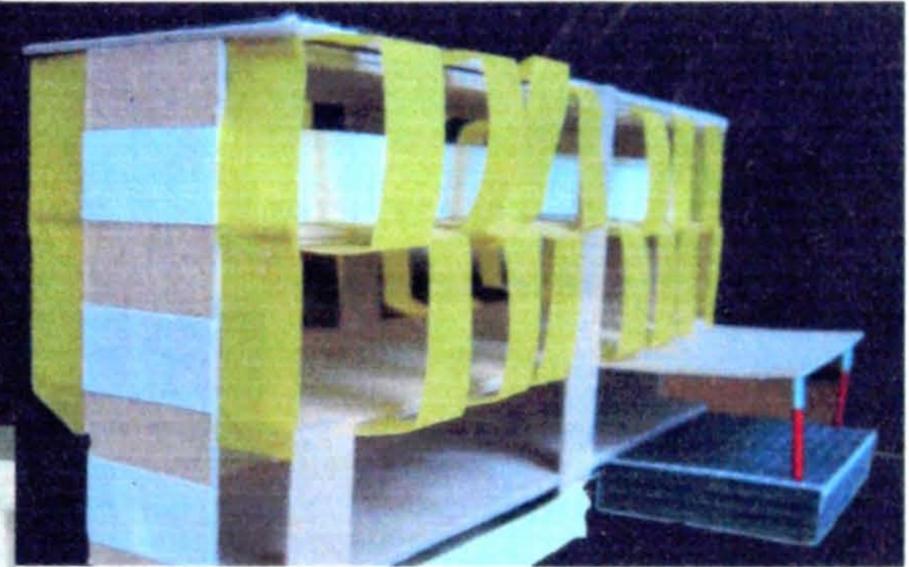
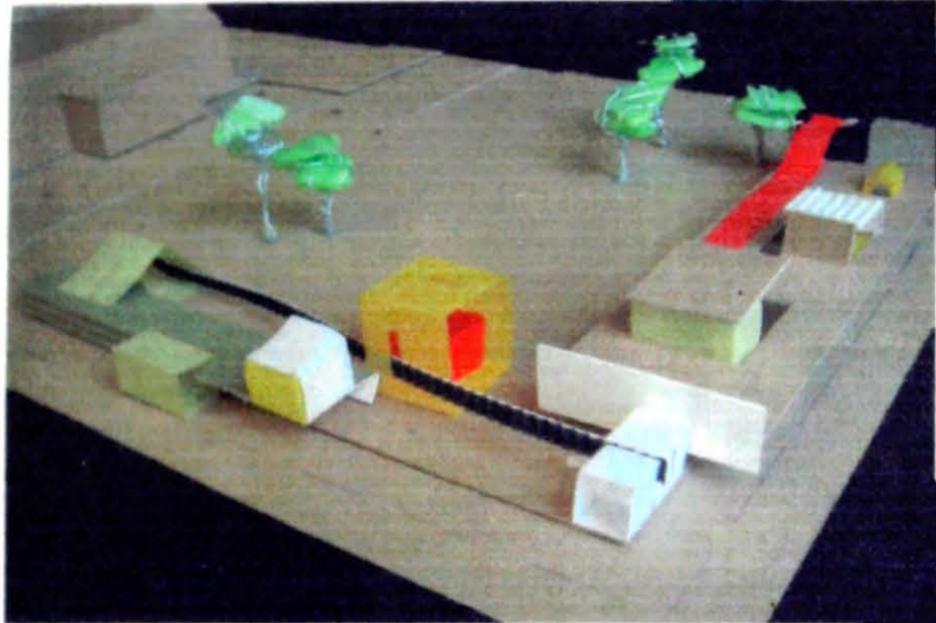
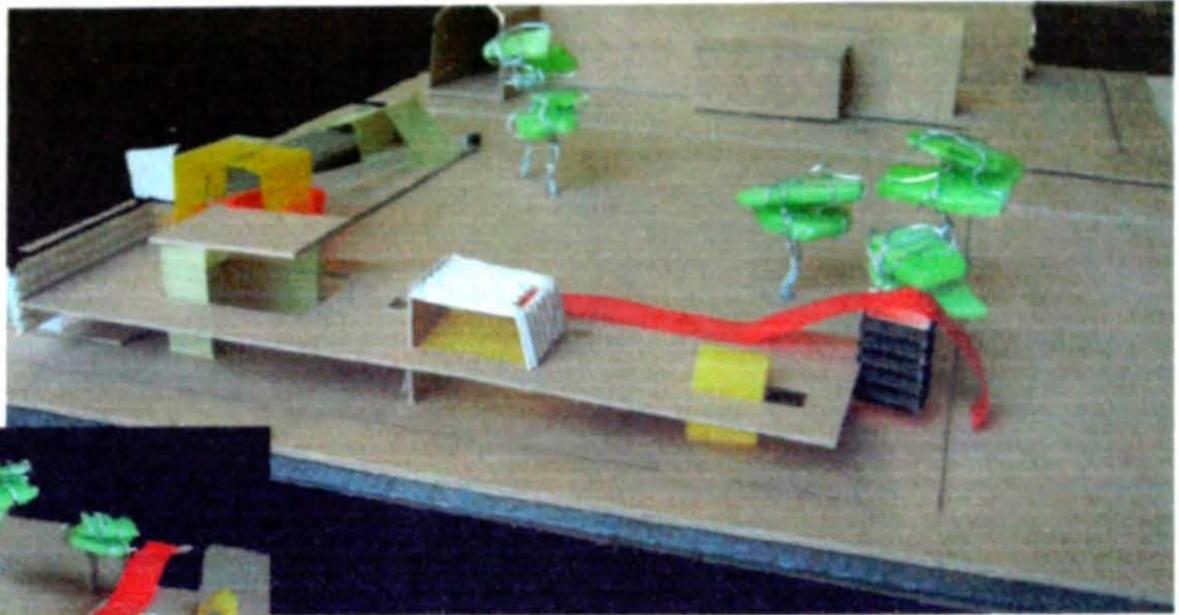
The children spaces have interactive walls which allow for the children to have spaces where they can play and have chairs and walls at their own scale. A space that they can personalize and draw on because only they have access to it. Although it does have windows and openings where mothers and siblings can peek into.

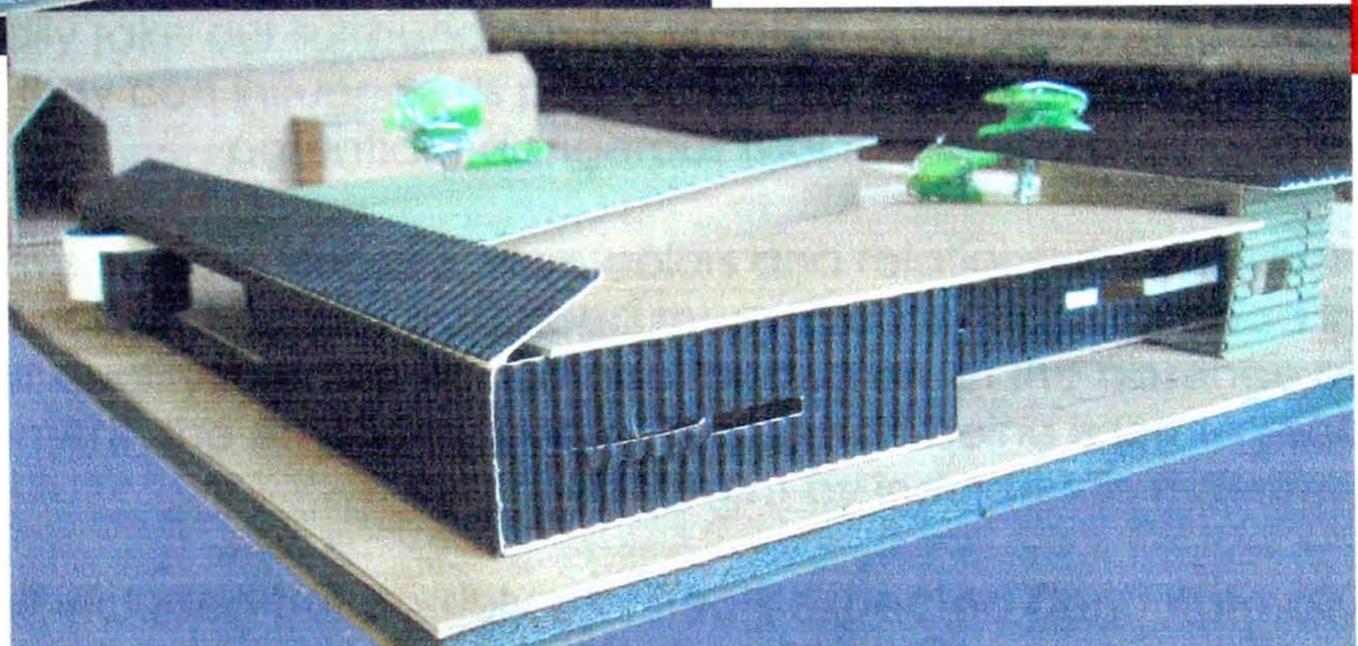
Along with all these spaces their lies many areas that allow for meeting with professionals to seek out help or intervention. There is a nursing station, on the ground floor. Also on the ground floor there are offices for the professionals and the community to take act or part in the fight against domestic violence and the fight to raise awareness, educating in order to show that these women are not at fault and will gain the strength to fight and



helping other women and to raise awareness.







I felt unwelcome. I was told I could stay overnight and arrangements would be made in the morning to get me a lawyer and a place to stay. I had been told women could stay up to 10 weeks, and when I asked why I had to move out so quickly, there was no answer. I was asked to sign an agreement saying I would never divulge the address, and I left. All of the women I saw were members of visible minorities.

(1) Brown, Dave. [The Ottawa Citizen: Women's shelters under veil of secrecy.](#)

<http://sharedparent.www2.50megs.com>

In good health, I have taken my son to hospital clinics but, after sitting for hours in rectangular grid-patterned, vinyl-smelling, florescent-lit, over-heated corridors, felt only half alive. The brutal vandalism of buildings unfeelingly imposed can have the same effect. In some places we feel a trapped statistic, not a valued member of society; in others, buildings tower over us as though with menace.

We only need to live briefly in a different environment to recognize how much our surroundings have formed us and society in sensitivities, in values, in way of life.

Architecture, however, is the frame in which we live. We don't just look at architecture, we live in it. For architecture is for much more than the eyes. It is for life. And that is why it's such a powerful tool- often devastating, but potentially health-giving.

Because we so readily take our surroundings for granted and rarely bring them to full consciousness, they can influence us powerfully. This makes architecture a potentially dangerous tool to manipulate people.

Quite a lot of the forms, spaces, shapes, lines, colors and relationships between elements around us don't nourish us; indeed many are life-sapping, dead in quality. And to this air quality, electric fields, noise, and so on. In the absence of aesthetic nourishment, the emotional part of the human being is left to seek fulfillment by indulgence in desires.

Most people, myself included but possibly architects expected don't normally look at our surroundings. We breathe them in. We look at picture postcards or at

views from viewing platforms and these can be interesting. However, the experience only touches our hearts when it becomes an ambience we can breathe. Most of the time we don't notice our surroundings and then they can work upon us without any conscious resistance on our part. As these surroundings are mostly built environments. Architecture can significantly affect US.

Without consciously looking at them, we breathe in our surroundings with all our senses. In some places, the outer, communal, world only makes us feel exhausted and unwell. No wonder some people seek inner, private, relief by artificial stimulants.

Architecture has responsibilities to minimize pollution and ecological damage, responsibilities to minimize adverse biological effects on occupants, responsibilities to be sensitive to and in harmony with surroundings, responsibilities to the human individualities who will come in contact with the building.

Focusing ideas on people doesn't make them healthy-it's more likely to embitter them, and make them ill. Likewise, architecture won't be health giving, if imposed. Much architecture is shaped by style.

To understand sickness and healing, whether medically or architecturally, we need to understand something of the different levels of the human being.

Some sorts of places, like widenings in a corridor with a window seat, induce casual social meetings; others, like lifts, stifle such interplay. Similarly, some shapes, like round tables, bring people into community, and others, like uninterrupted corridors or long rooms, don't.

In our surroundings we also make distinctions as to what we like or dislike. We can be nourished by artistic qualities which go beyond mere psychological techniques. To uplift the spirit, places must, in some way, be artistic.

Healing means transformation at the inmost level-something individuals can only do for themselves. How then can this be accomplished? What has it got to do with architecture?

(2) Day, Christopher, Places for the Soul: Architecture and Environmental Design as a Healing Art, The Aquarian Press, 1990, ch.1 pg.13.

Gentle spaces that leave you free to choose are more welcoming than abrupt, compelling ones, apparently, designed for object storage. Curves and bends are softer than straight lines and right angles; interactive daylight gentler and more alive than single window walls; obtuse angles more inviting than right angles; approachable natural materials and textures more welcoming than sterile synthetic ones.

Central to healing is growth towards wholeness. Wholeness means a balanced integration of the four levels of our being- body, life-energy, soul, and individuality. Inner growth is a process of spiritual development – spirit raising matter – whereas wholeness also requires grounding balance – matter anchoring spirit.

Although much design is appearance led, our ergonomic needs are normally well catered for. The postural and movement inductive effects of scale, proportion and gesture also get some attention.

Harmony is healing, but harmonious environment isn't enough on its own. The pressures of daily life tend to be destabilizing. They cause tension and exhaustion. We develop psychological defenses and programmed responses reactive inner states which can lead to illness. We need surroundings which can de-stress, renew, re-integrate and enliven us – especially places of tranquility, delight, human-vitality, and social warmth.