

project 2: assignment 2

02.28.06. W issued

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materials as spatial definers (be prepared for group discussion by 3 March 2006. Craft is not an issue)

We will continue working at multiple scales parallel in development. For the larger scale, we will take one programmatic component, a reading room to investigate how materials can define space. We will aim to go beyond merely the surface qualities of a material to explore how given materials define programmatic elements and contribute to the overall experience for the user.

You are asked to design a reading room in scale with your library from your program research/study. Begin to decide/explore the appropriate size and number of seating spaces, tables, chairs or built in seating spaces to serve your library. Carefully consider scale and proportion.

From the components listed below (or choose your own), compose a **space** that defines a reading room, one that will have an *identity* even if it is completely open to the other spaces. Consider such items as volume, structure, ceiling and floor planes, solid/void, and texture.

- How does use of one material suggest a given form? What happens when two are combined?
- Do you challenge this?
- How does the form suggest a space for reading?
- Are there any precedents to consider? How will this look towards the future?

Consider joinery, connections, edges, corners, transition as expressive elements. Think about adjacent spaces (either interior or exterior) but do not model or draw them. If your proposal borders an exterior surface in your mind, do not concern yourself with weather or enclosure. Just define the reading room space.

Suggested components (choose 2 or 3 maximum) or choose from your own list of **wood** or **metal** components:

- 4" or 6" or 8" diameter steel columns (or similar size square tube columns)
- Aluminum rectangular tubing (2" x 4", or other sizes)
- Stainless steel tubing (research size availability)
- 4" x 6" steel angles, 8" steel channels, 12" wide flange beams or similar steel sections
- Perforated metal or corrugated metal sheets (aluminum, stainless steel, galvanized, corten steel, etc.)
- Corrugated steel decking, steel, copper or similar metal plates

- Standard lumber studs/joists (2x4, 2x6, 2x8, 4x4, 4x6, etc.) any species suitable for visible exposure
- Standard lumber planks (1x4, 1x6, 1x8) any species
- Engineered lumber members (TJI joists, glulam beams, LVL beams, etc.)
- Hardwood plywood sheets (3/4" x 4' x 8' sheets...Baltic birch comes in 5' x 5' sheets)
- Engineered wood sheet goods (MDF board, particle board, wheat board or other recycled wood products)

While you are considering components to use to define your space, continue your material research by researching conventional methods of attachment or joinery of these materials. As you design your space, consider alternative methods of joining the materials or explore creative ways to incorporate conventional methods.

This exercise is intended to assist you on the development of your final proposal, but the final proposal does not necessarily have to look like the results of this assignment.

