

Instructor: G. Damiani

Temporary Library: 8 x16 = ARCHitecture

Last semester concentrated on the study of space and the search for an architectural idea. This project is to concentrate on basic architectural materials and how materials directly influence volume, surface, space and how natural light be used as a material.

As part of this studio, we will participate in an competition sponsored by the National Concrete Masonry Association. Students in both this studio as well as students in the Calisti studio will participate. The competition is intended to show the capabilities and aesthetic power of utilizing concrete masonry as a primary building material.

Basic Construction System: Concrete block bearing walls and prefabricated concrete plank floor system.

Loadbearing Walls: 12" Thick Concrete Block w/ insulated foam filled cores and reinforcing  
Maximum span between walls 12'-0" Maximum  
Width of Openings 8'-0" maximum  
Minimum Pier Dimension 2'-0" minimum  
Parapet on flat roof 1'-0" minimum  
Maximum height 21 courses

All party walls are to remain solid without any openings  
All concrete block and openings are to be on a 8" module  
All load bearing walls are to remain parallel unless the designer presents a strong and clear architectural spatial strategy as an alternate method

Non-load bearing walls: 8" thick concrete block  
All concrete block and openings are to be on a 8" module  
All non-load bearing walls are to remain parallel unless the designer presents a strong and clear architectural spatial strategy as an alternate method  
Maximum height 21 courses

Floor/ roof system: Prefabricated concrete plank  
Maximum span of concrete plank spanning from wall to wall is 12'-0", 8" nominal floor depth includes: 4" concrete plank, topping, finishing and or insulation as required.

Secondary infill material of your choosing is for items such as doors, windows, skylights etc.: All opening are to be on a 8" module or work within the dimensional properties of the masonry material.

Program: (500 sq. ft) The project should include an entry, reading space, shelving, check-out/ librarian area, study carrel(s) and ADA accessibility and fireplace or firepit. Furniture, shelving etc. are to be used in architectural ways in order to define space. A factor of 15% for circulation can be added to the 500 sq. foot maximum if required.

Outdoor Spaces: Special attention should be given to the design of outdoor spaces. No program is specified for outdoor spaces but one could imagine reading spaces, areas for small public readings, contemplation, etc.

Street Facades: Maintain a continuous wall along East Carson Street. Opening in the walls cannot exceed 30% of the wall area. Maximum height 21 courses.

Process Goals:

Research all intended materials and their properties.

Look inside and outside the standard uses of these materials to find new forms of expression for these materials.

Create drawings and models which celebrate the qualities of the materials and the spatial effects of their assembly.



Beth David Synagogue,  
designed by Werner  
Seligmann, Binghamton NY,  
1963.