

Architecture, Design & Materials Studio

Spring 2007, CMU, Arch #48-205, M/W/F 1:30-4:20
Class Website: www.andrew.cmu.edu/course/48-205

Coordinator: Kai Gutschow

Email: gutschow@cmu.edu

Off. Hr: M/W 12:30-1:30pm & by appt. in MM307

(2/23/07)

PHASE II: NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY & GYM

MINDSET:

This project should continue your research and creative process from Phase I, the “Temporary Library.” We shall deepen our investigations on the role that diverse materials and innovative assembly methods can play in creating a small piece of architecture, with a more complex program. We will maintain the focus on the scale of the human body encountering the physical presence of building, and continually explore how we can elevate ordinary construction to poetic expression, how real materials, structure, enclosure, joinery, building and craft techniques can lead to the creation of significant architectural experiences. As a capstone to the 2nd year studio, we will extend the length of this project in order to allow for a more thoroughly detailed exploration of your design, both in how the materials are used, and the power of the final presentation.

PROJECT:

Based on the success of your “Temporary Library” on the South Side, the Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh (CLP) has commissioned you to design a combination neighborhood library and gym, on a nearby site. Your design should integrate 1) a small, fully-functioning, modern library that inspires the discovery of knowledge for all residents of the South Side, with 2) a covered ½ basketball court that will supplement the neighboring public park. The project is meant to build on, and update, the CLP’s long tradition of combining important social and cultural functions to serve and appeal to a broad section of the community (including a library, gym and theater in the first CLP). An important part of your charge is to establish how and why two disparate functions can strengthen and reinforce each other through a careful and thoughtful use of materials, assembly and architecture. How body and mind can both be exercised to achieve a whole greater than the sum of its parts.

PROGRAM:

Primary Functions:

Library (2500 sq.ft max):
Circulation Desk
Computer Terminals
Stacks/Special Collections
Reading Areas
1/2 -Court Gym:
Court to be 47'x50'
Easy access to park

Support Spaces:

Men’s toilets (1 handicap accessible stall, 1 urinal)
Women’s toilets (1 reg. & 1 handicap accessible)
Staff space (a common workspace)
Small storage space for gym equipment.
Circulation space, including handicap accessibility to all spaces, 2 means of egress from all floors, and “controlled” entry and exit points.
Parking will occur on the street.

SITE

The site is parcel #15 on the corner of Carson & 12th Street. The building must fit entirely on the site. Students should establish a firm position regarding the building and its relationship to the sidewalk, the park, and the larger urban context. How is the context for this site different than the one a block away for the temporary library? How does your building engage the particular context? Why?



PROCESS / REQUIREMENTS

In order to promote a synthetic and integrated design process that constantly works at multiple scales (from the site plan to the construction detail), as well as in multiple modes of representation (model, plan, section, perspective), and strives to integrate conceptual ideas with physical construction, students will be asked to come to an early resolution about their basic library-gym concept, building parti, and detailed materials selection. Throughout the design process, the building must be designed alongside its presentation to the public!

DESIGN SUMMARY:

All students must prepare and submit a "Design Summary" of their designs as part of the first mid-review on **Mar. 26 & 28**. The 2pp. "Design Summary" should be submitted as a printout and a pdf to coordinator & instructor. It should indicate the design of the building, and begin to indicate the most clear and effective means of presenting the idea and details. It must include at least: a) a site plan; b) a 3D massing drawing; c) plan and sections; d) a 3D construction drawing; and e) a 100 word statement about the central concept for the library, especially the use and meaning of the materials and assembly.

CARTOON:

The rest of the semester will be spent flushing out, intensifying, detailing and communicating designs with ever greater clarity, depth and creativity. Substantial deviations from the first "Design Summary" will impact the depth to which you can carry out your design intentions. Since this project represents the culmination of the 2nd year studio experience, you will be expected to consider more independently than before what drawings and models will best represent your idea at all phases of the project. In discussions with your instructor and the coordinator, you should work to determine your own "Final Requirements." Work to create a memorable presentation with respect to effort, composition, knowledge about M&A, creativity, and inspiration of your work. For the 2nd mid-review, on **Mon. Apr. 9**, every student will be required to submit a detailed "Cartoon" of their final presentation. It must contain miniaturized versions of the actual drawings (NOT just a rectangle indicating drawing size), showing relationship between drawings, and indicate what the particular contribution is of each drawing.

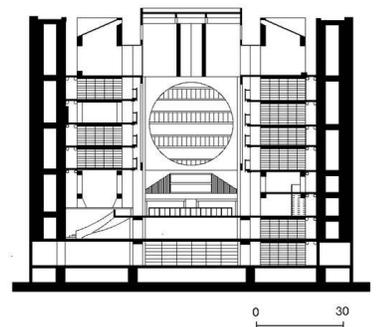
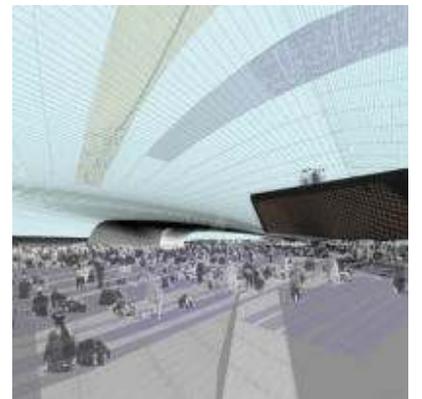
In parallel with this project, all students enrolled in Prof. Steve Lee's "M&A" class will be required to consult Steve in order to strengthen their understanding of structure and the construction process of their particular design, and to communicate these through large-scale details, mock-ups, and assembly drawings. In addition, all students will be expected to submit a thorough "Project Documentation" for use on the class website and School Archives.

Louis Kahn:

"A man with a book goes to the light. A library begins that way"

"Architecture is the threshold where silence and light meet, Silence with its desire to Be, and light the giver of all presences."

"A great building must, in my opinion, begin with the unmeasurable and go through the measurable in the process of design, but in the end be unmeasurable."



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(4/7/07)

PROJ. 3: NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY & GYM GUIDELINES FOR FINAL PRESENTATION

DUE: Sun. Apr. 29, 10:00pm **COMPUTER PRINTS DUE: Sat. Apr. 28**

- No working after deadlines; only complete work will present
- All students must attend the entire review. Be there to support and learn from your peers and the process. Email Kai if you can't!
- Electronic "Documentation" due Sun. May 6

PRESENTATION REQUIREMENTS:

OVERALL PRESENTATION LAYOUT

Compose an overall, effective, coherent layout to show off your design intent!
All presentations should FILL the 44"x88" vertical board.

- NO small, random paper sizes. 22"x22" minimum. Unite your presentation!!!
- HIERARCHY: Feature the most important parts, make them BIG, and put them in the center. Avoid "meaningless repetition": too many views of one kind are not as useful, unless they show a process, or a cinogram.

DESCRIPTIVE WORK

- Plans - show ALL plans, though not all need be at equal scale. Show bookshelves, circulation desk, all doors, overhead items (dashed), basketball court lines. See drawing examples on line for stairs. Orient north UP.
- Sections: at least two sections, show how space and experiences are related to M&A. Show thickness, ground line, and human scale figures!!
- Elevation(s): at least one elevation, along Carson street, including the context, scale figures & "background"; may be done as collage.
- 3-D "Component" Drawing - See "Temp. Library" req's for explanation. Examples: 1) exploded axonometric; 2) cinogram or storyboard of the construction sequence; 3) sectional perspective or cutaway.
- Details or Wall Sections: A large scale (1½" = 1'-0" or bigger) wall section or other construction-related detail to reveal how your "big idea" and intent could be "translated" in material reality. See Steve Lee for help, but we encourage you to *research*, *speculate* and *innovate*. Do not resign yourself to commercial or conventional solutions unless they are part of your intent.

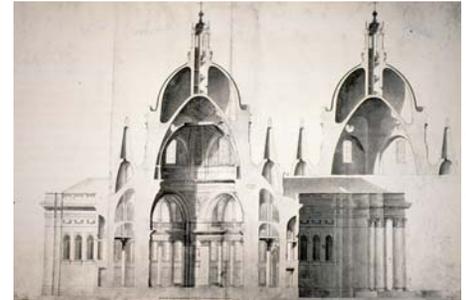
EXPERIENCE or QUALITATIVE

- Interior perspective of a HIGHLIGHT moment in design, w/ books & figures.
- Exterior 3-D drawing (perspective, axo, collage, etc.)
- Other drawings or computer models to reveal EXPERIENCE!

MODEL / DIAGRAM / OTHER

- 1/4" model (should fit in Lubetz or Calisti site model), with clear indication of how the building is made, especially in regards to STRUCTURE and THICKNESS. There is no need to "imitate" materials, abstractions are encouraged!!! Model should show exterior and interior; it MUST COME APART to reveal interior spaces. Consider alternates to just "lifting the lid" of the roof, such as "sectional models". Show bookshelves!
- URBAN context drawing or analysis (more than a site plan!)
- Sketches or models to explain PROCESS!
- Other diagrams (parti, concept, geometry, library functions, community...

These are suggested requirements for all studios; individual instructors may require more or bigger drawings. Your own design may require more; be sure your PRIMARY design INTENT is CLEARLY represented in your visual presentation! Drawings and models should be carefully crafted using effective techniques to reinforce the content and communicate the meaning, materiality, and experience of your design without much verbal introduction.



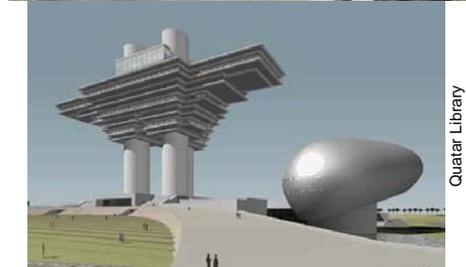
Soufflot, Ste. Genevieve



Lebbeus Woods



Boullée, Library



Quatar Library



Boullée, Cathedral

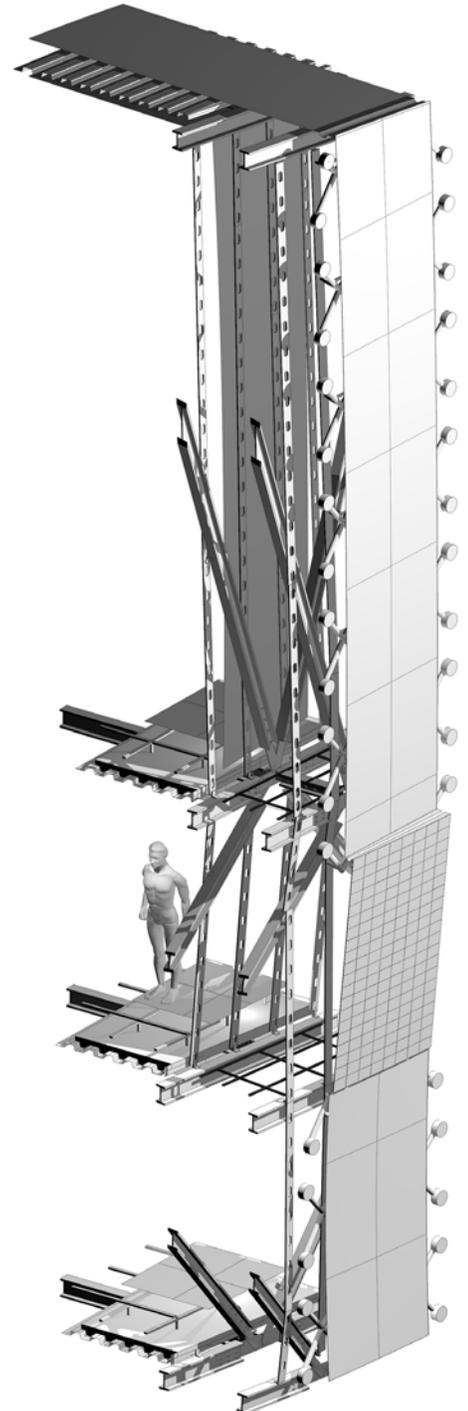
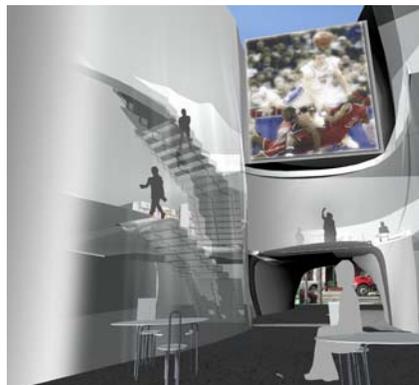
REMINDERS on Deadlines & Completion:

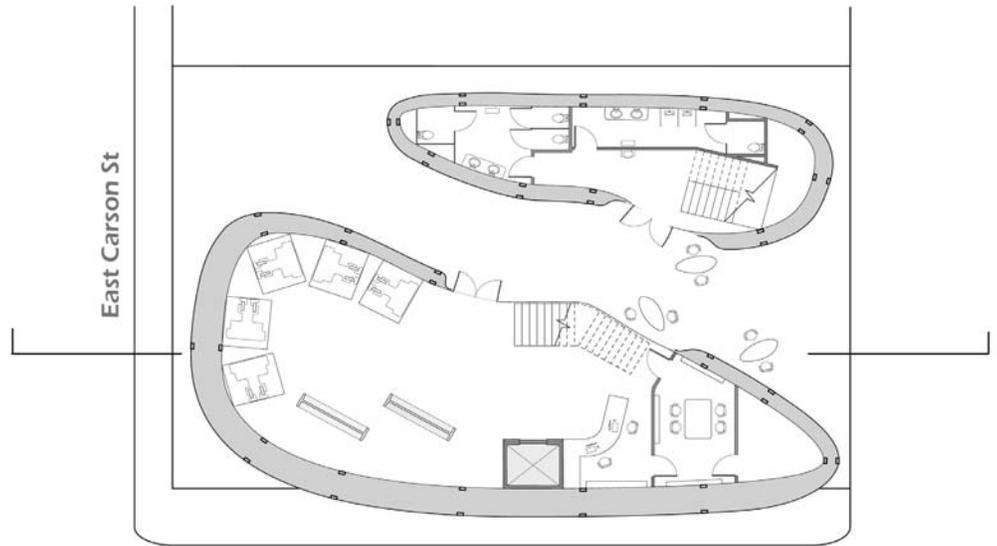
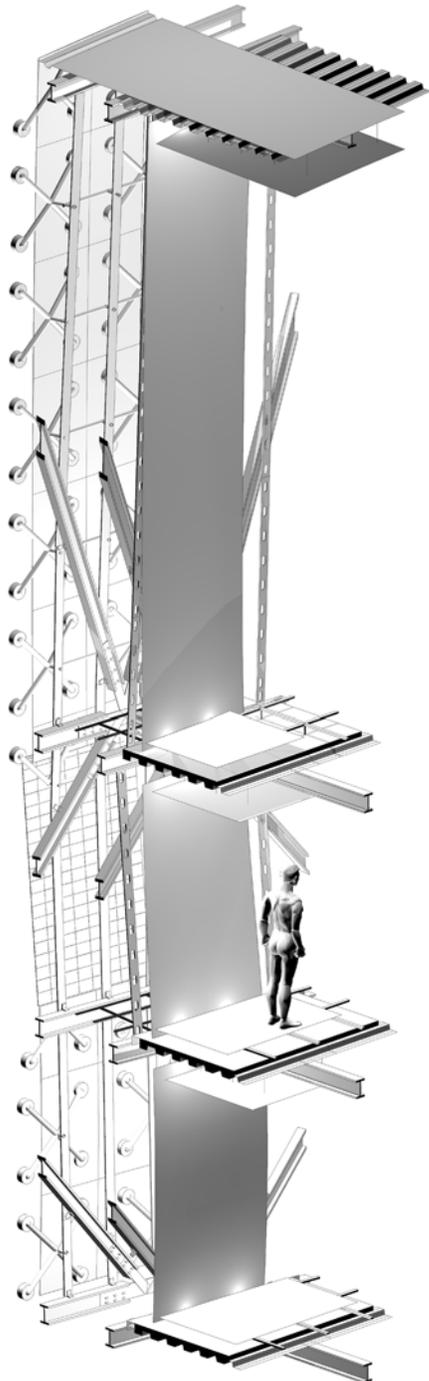
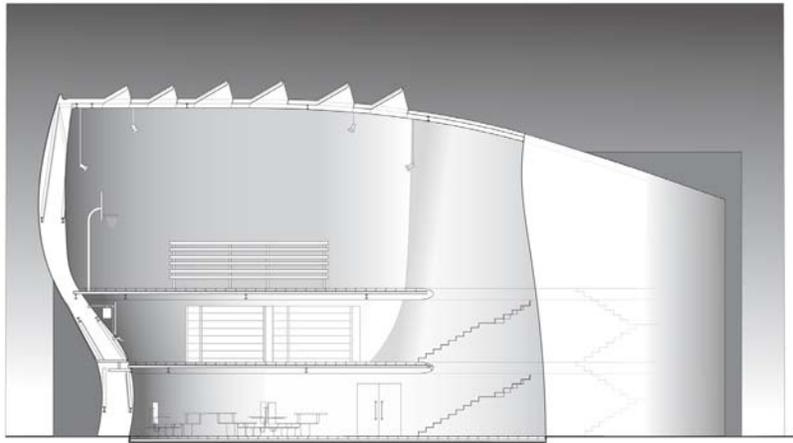
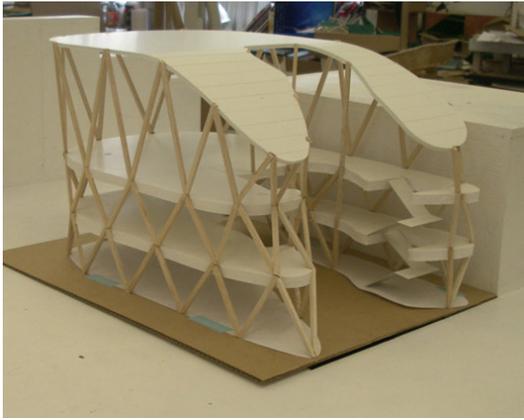
- No working after the Sunday deadline!
Cheating will lead to failure!
- In the final push, respect your peers,
respect your work environment.
- All work must be COMPLETE in order to
present your project at review

NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY-GYM

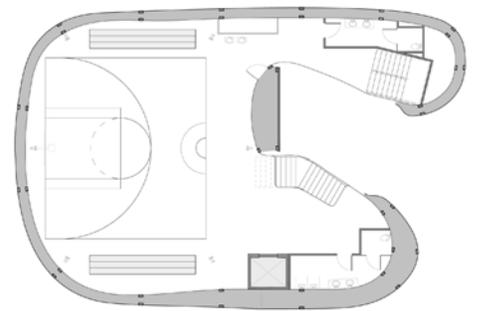
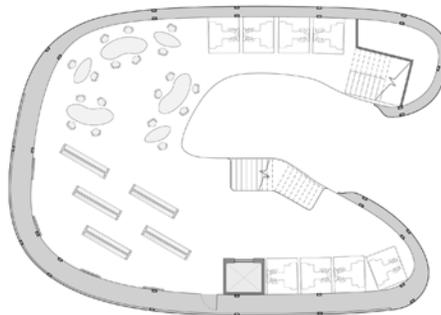
Pittsburgh, PA

Misha Varshavsky
48-205 Materials Studio / S07
Instructor: Gerard Damiani
CMU School of Architecture





South 12th St



STATEMENT

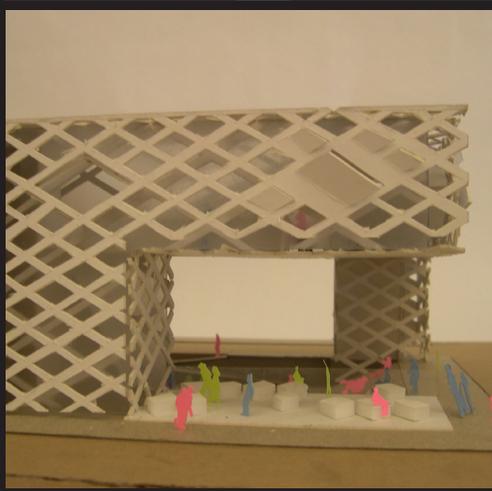
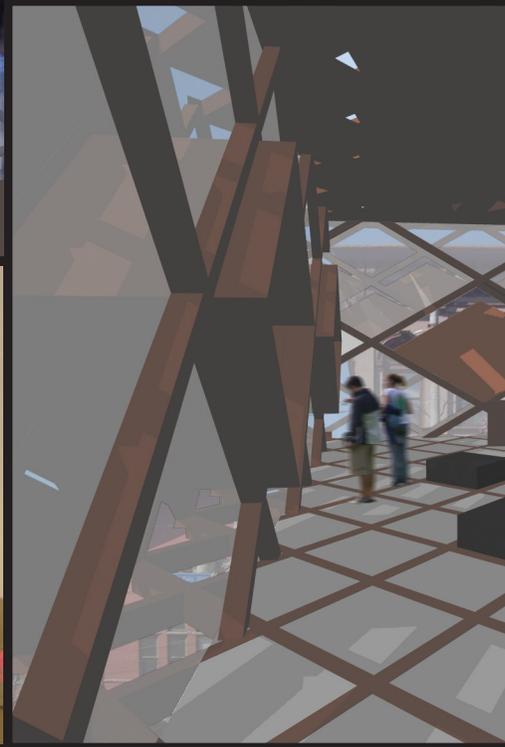
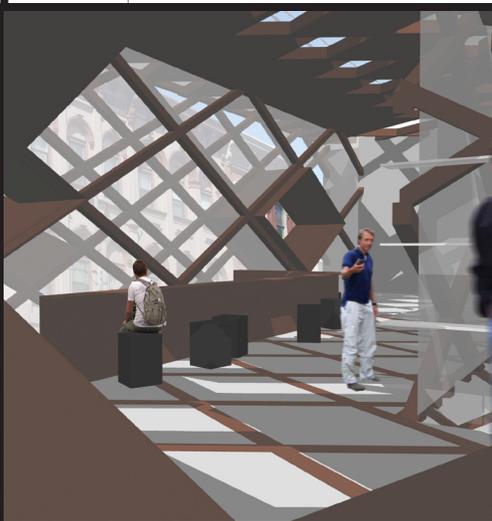
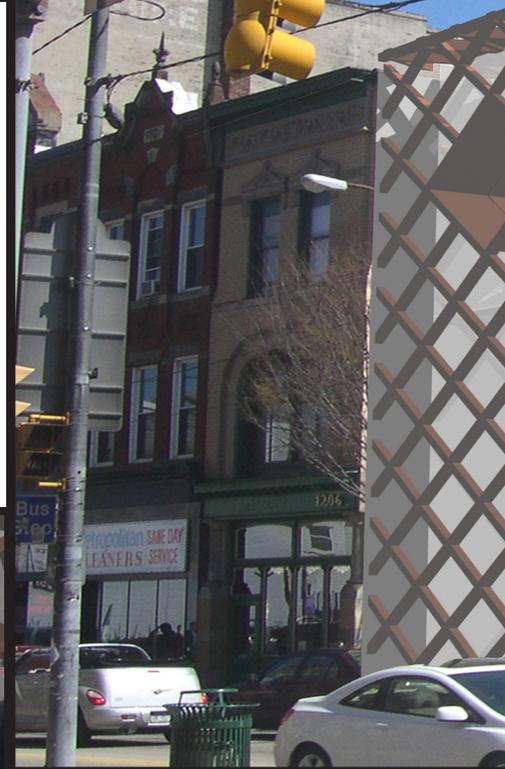
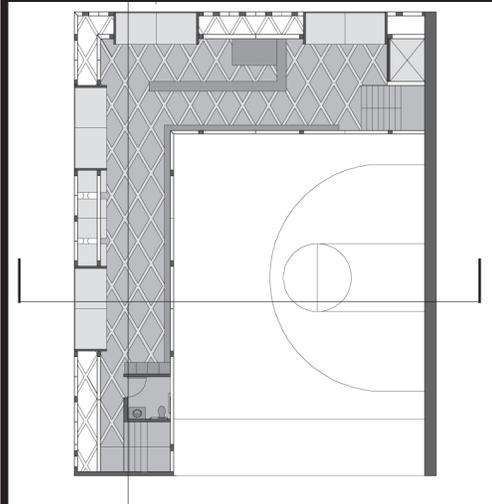
Surfaces are the focus in Pittsburgh's Southside Library-Gym. An exterior of mirror-finished stainless steel panels sparks a new awareness of the immediate corner condition to passersby. This reflective surface is then interrupted by a band of LCD panels displaying virtual images of signage, neighborhood announcements or events, activities occurring inside, or views to locations around the world. The architecture thus attempts to connect both on a local and global scale.

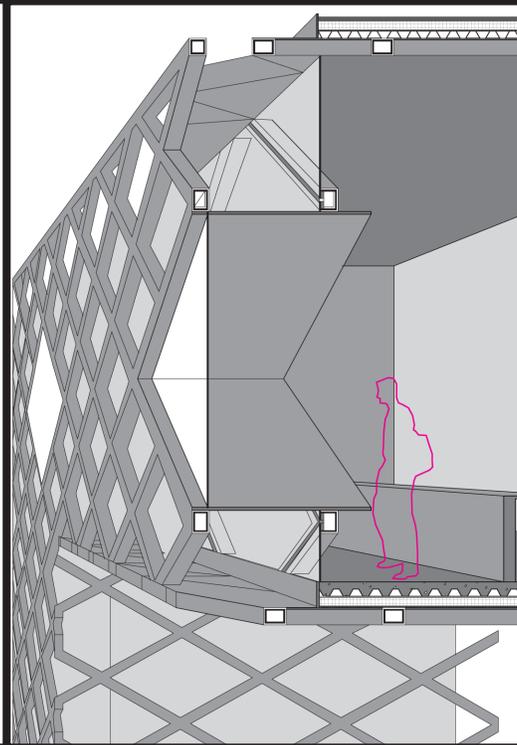
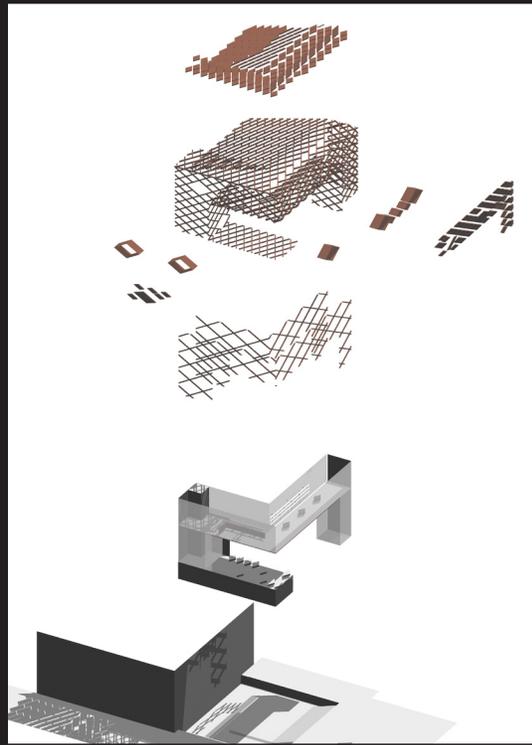
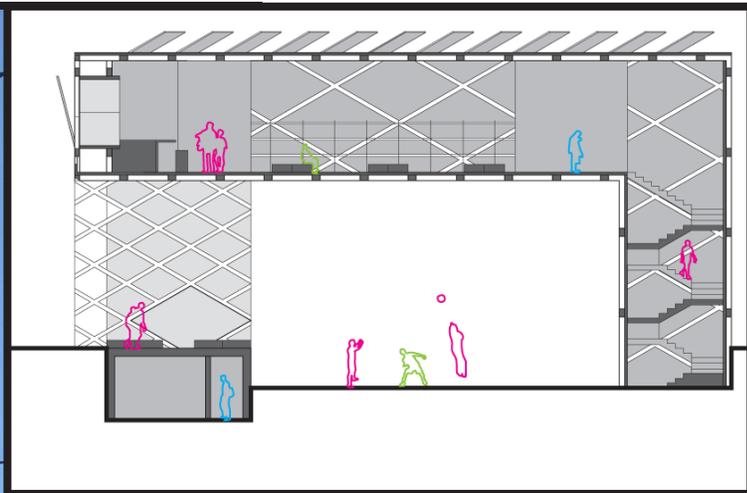
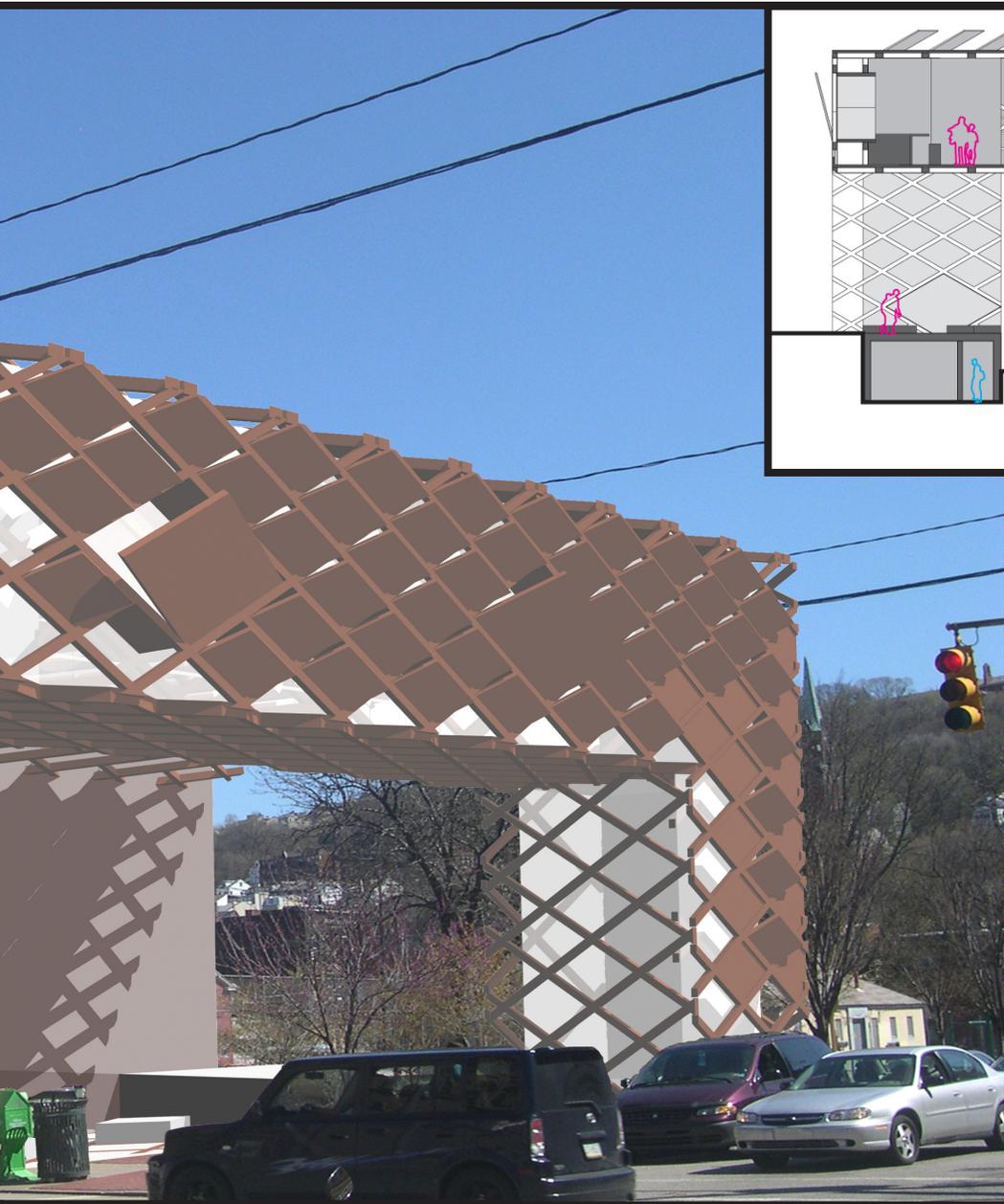
Virtual surfaces are also found inside physical private reading spaces and stacks. These trigger spontaneous interactions between visitors by providing surveys, quizzes, and image projections to acquaint two strangers with each other and hopefully prompt them to read together at the public tables. Clear acrylic panels painted matte white constitute the interior surfaces to maintain continuous curvature. The paint on this surface fades away for light to penetrate in from the courtyard form intrusion. Detail considerations aim to hide all structure such that the surfaces prevail both conceptually and experientially.

NEIGHBORHOOD LIBRARY-GYM

Pittsburgh, PA

Craig M Rosman
48-205 Materials Studio / S07
Instructor: Art Lubetz
CMU School of Architecture





PROJECT STATEMENT

The culture of media has shifted from a one-way stream from author to publisher to library to public, to become open source, where the public creates its own media. Steve Jobs calls this a switch from "sit back to lean forward" forms of media and entertainment. Responding to this, I believe that physical libraries should not just disperse information, but instead collect and exhibit the information and knowledge of the community. For this library, this equates to including other programming, 1. Allowing the gym to be used as a performance space 2. Providing a recording studio, and 3. Creating a "micro-press" in addition to traditional functions. As the functions of Internet libraries and physical libraries begin to overlap, the question becomes: How does the physical library stay relevant? I believe the library needs to become a place where idea development and quality interaction are the focus.

Translating this into an experience, the library will become a machine for documentation. The steel exoskeleton encased with copper acts as mediator between the library and the outside, capturing views and light, and transmitting information back out through a filter.

Craig M Rosman