



Jack McManus

Portfolio of Craft and Design

Led to design by a compulsion to create and curiosity about my everyday surroundings, architecture school helped me grow significantly as a craftsman, answered some of my questions about the construction of physical world, and it has helped me interrogate and understand the creative process that I improvised intuitively as a boatbuilder and writer. Significantly, it has also introduced me to a pantheon of creators whose ideas have tangibly influenced my own approaches and ambitions, and it has shown me ways that my driving forces of Art, Nature and Technology can be factored into the changes I aspire to make in the world around me.

Not only do all of these principles overlap significantly, but the ideas of Art, Nature and Technology are so intertwined that my favorite architects could feasibly have been included in any of the three categories. Explaining this inseparability requires a more holistic view of these principles as a means to a common end, and I believe that this overarching goal is to create architecture that reflects a genuine understanding of our world.

Factoring the inherent nature of a place into a building project requires a deep understanding of our position as an exceptional animal species in a larger natural order; appropriate use of technology requires understanding of the problem to be solved, as well as the capabilities and limitations of our tools; and great design requires an understanding that the ultimate goal is to create a space that evokes emotional and psychological response like a true work of art.

While the term is wisely avoided by those without his ego, this speaks directly to Frank Lloyd Wright’s assertion that “the term ‘genius’ simply means a man who understands what others only know about.” —an ambitious but ultimately admirable goal for any architect.

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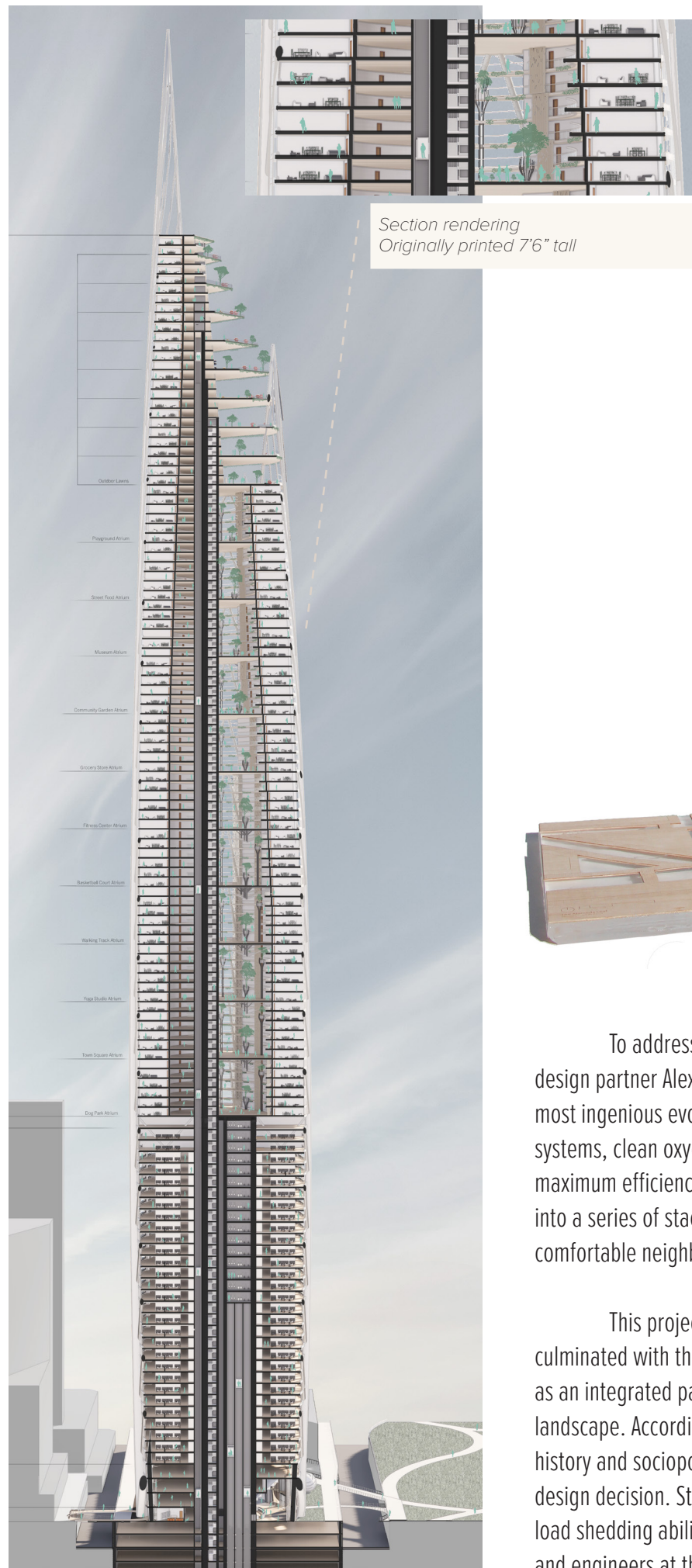
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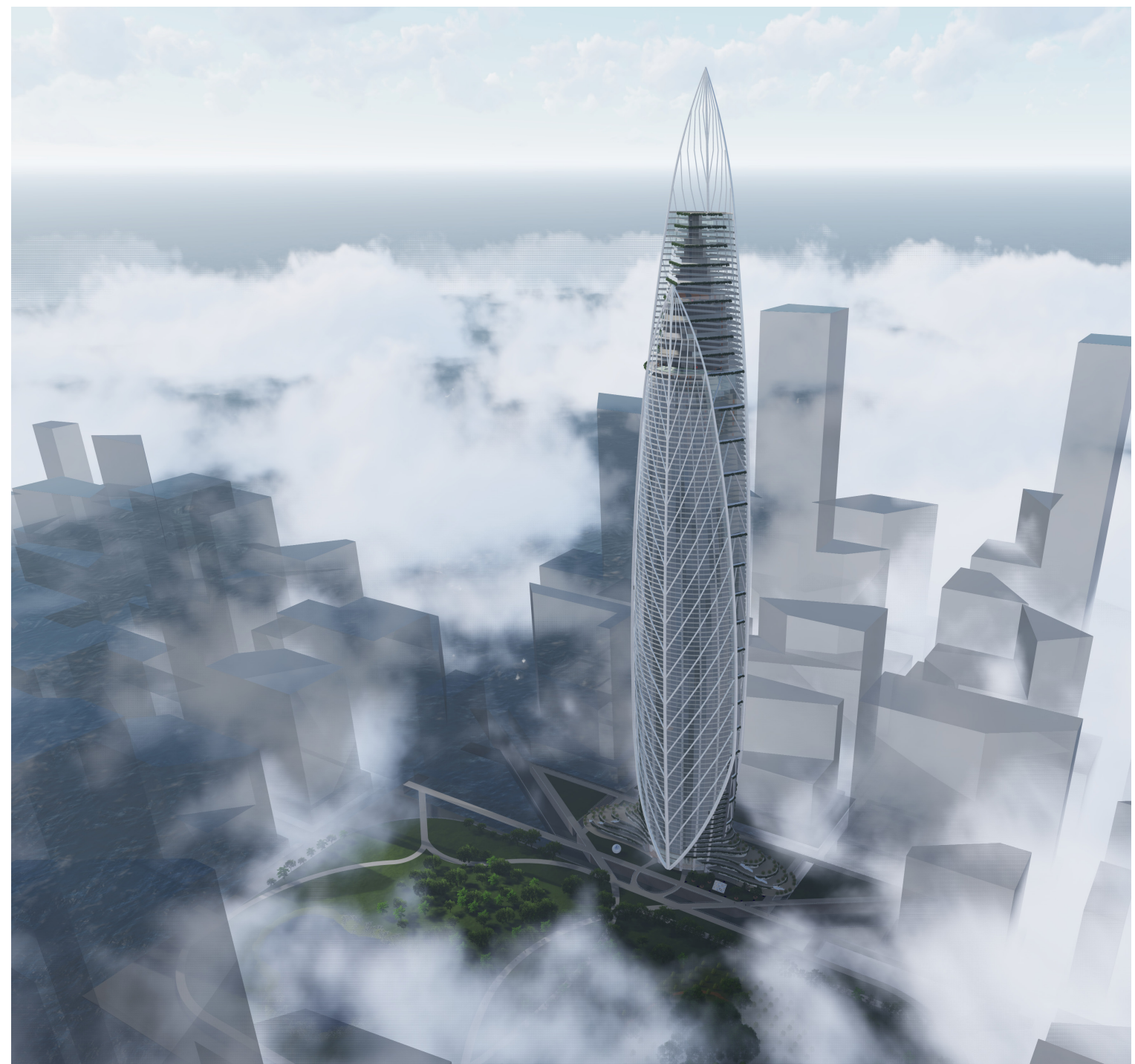
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To address the complex requirements of a supertall tower, my design partner Alex Buck and I studied trees to learn from some of nature's most ingenious evolutions in gathering solar energy, centralized delivery systems, clean oxygen exchange and concentrating structural material for maximum efficiency. The residential interior of the building is organized into a series of stacked atrium spaces, breaking down the social scale into comfortable neighborhoods that encourage interaction between residents.

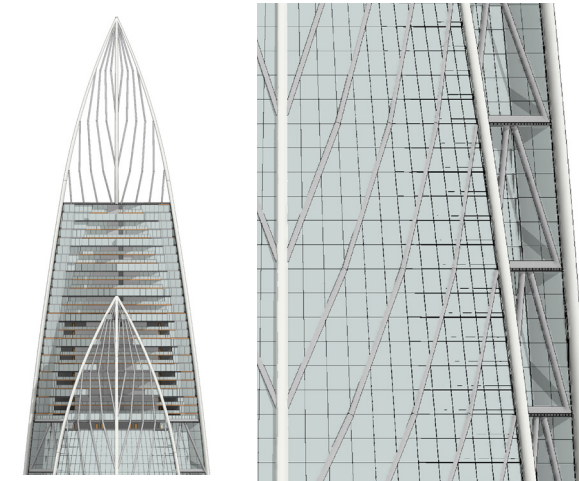
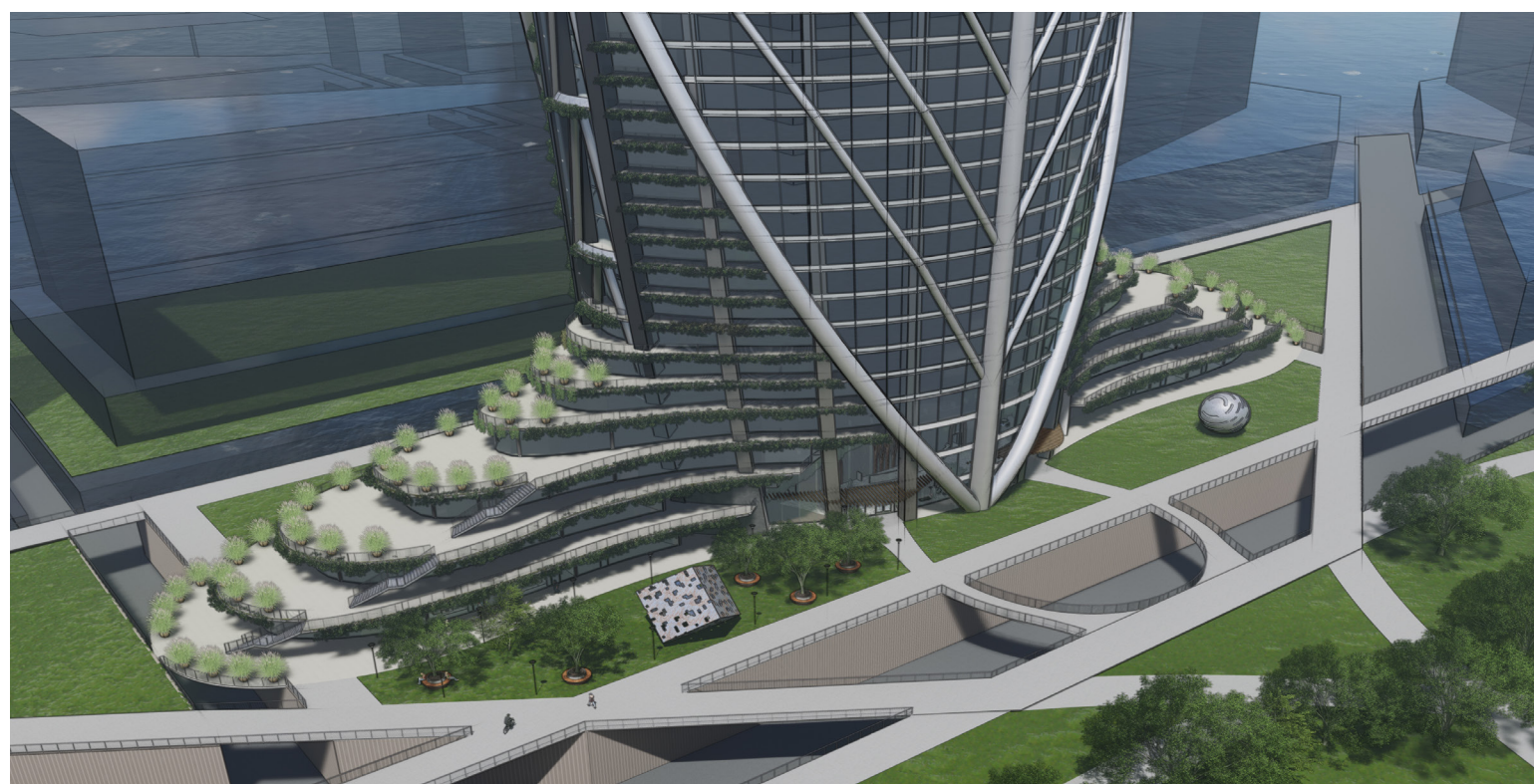
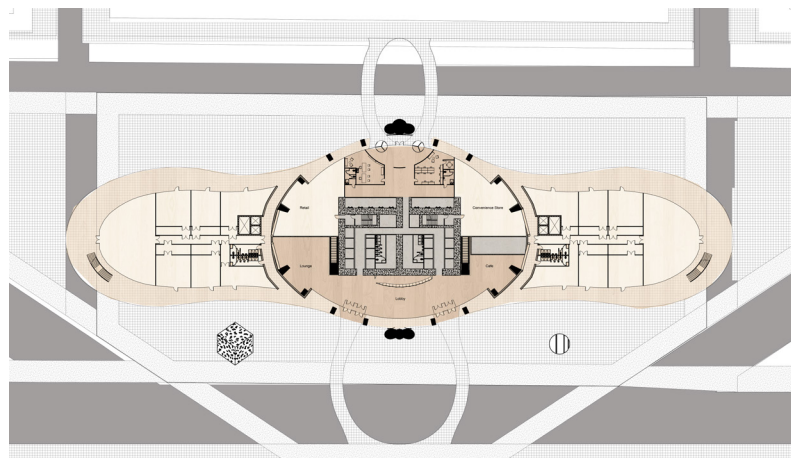
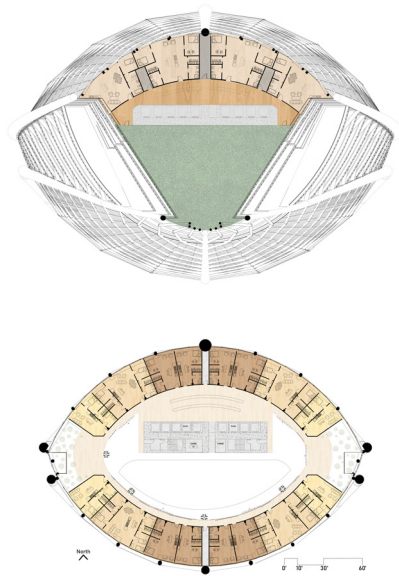
This project began with the design of a city master plan and culminated with that city's central tower, helping the building function as an integrated part of its site rather than an object within a separate landscape. Accordingly, the real forces of wind, weather, climate, economic history and sociopolitical position of the East Bay all influenced every design decision. Structural member arrangement and sizing as well as wind load shedding abilities were all designed in consultation with architects and engineers at the San Francisco and Chicago offices of SOM.

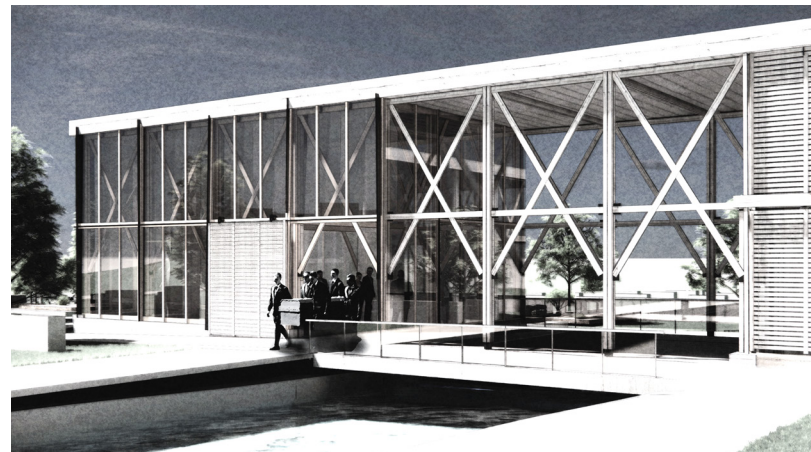
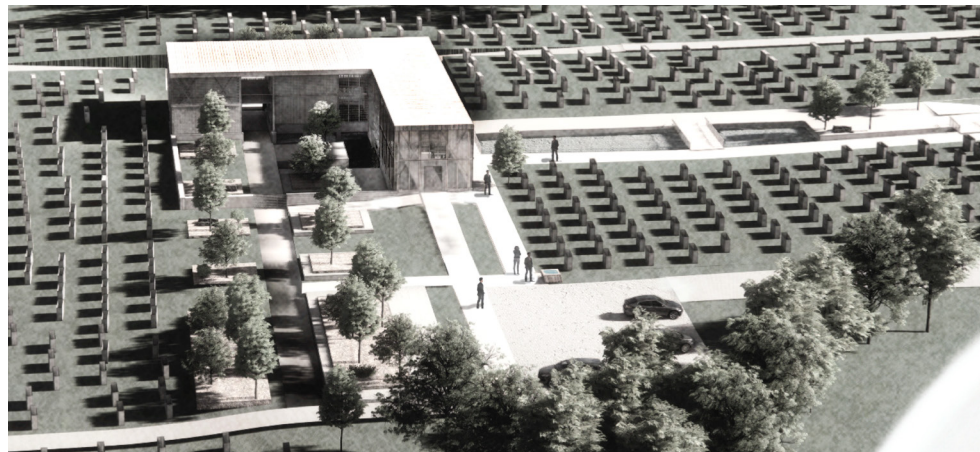


The Alameda Leaf

*Mixed-use Supertall Tower — Bay Area, CA
Designed with Alex Buck '20 for Tall Building Studio, Fall 2019*

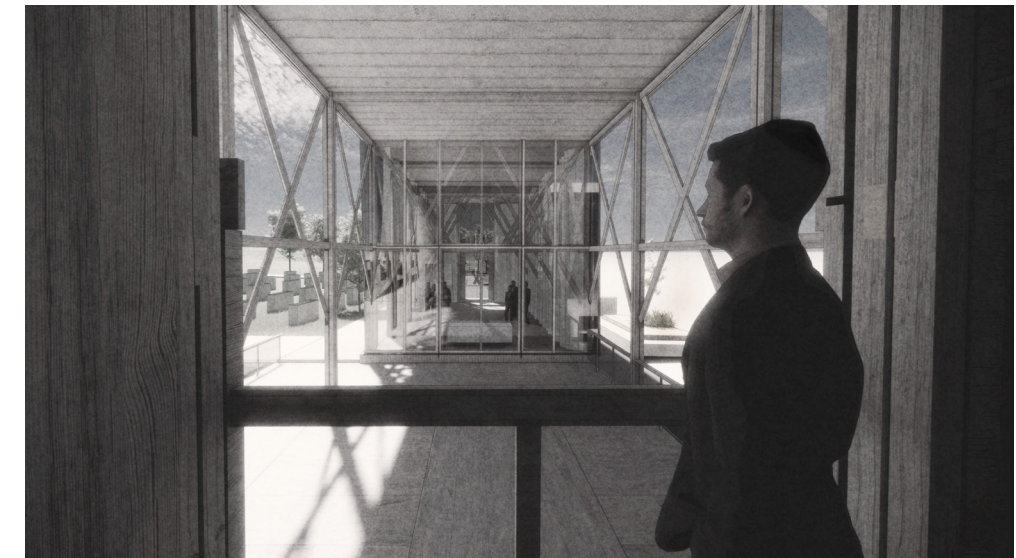
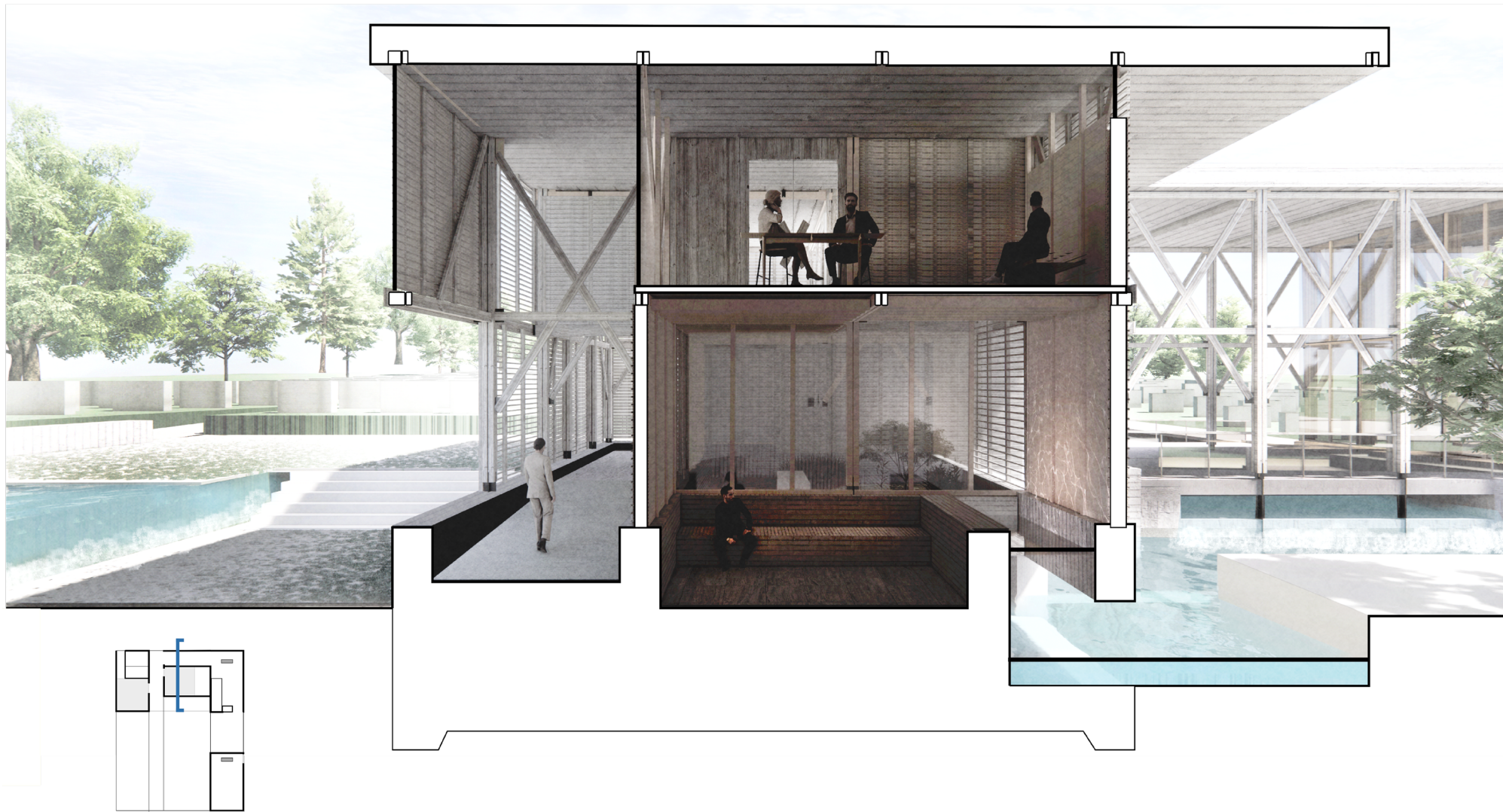
2020 AIA Triangle Scholarship Merit Award Winner





Raleigh Hebrew Cemetary

*Funerary Ritual Temple — Raleigh, NC
Griffith Elective Studio Project, Fall 2020*

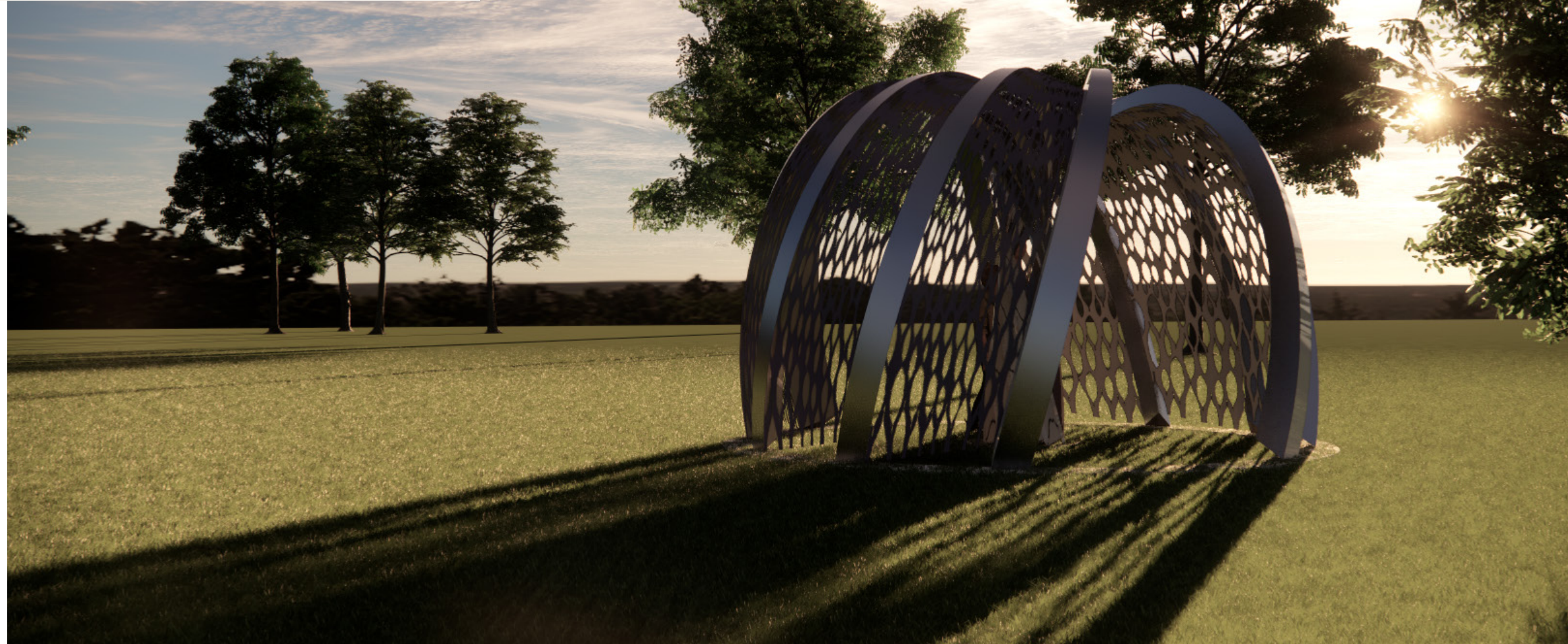


This sequence of spaces was developed specifically in response to the requirements of traditional Jewish funeral rituals, creating solemn atmospheres appropriate for every step of the burial process. Utmost respect for the dead and sensitivity to mourners are carefully preserved using familiar natural materials, carefully layered enclosure and apertures for privacy, and connecting adjacent spaces through non-visual connections like the continuity of natural light between rooms, which reinforces the comforting presence of family and friends without distraction or interference.

Translucent curtains fill the timber-framed public funeral chapel with ephemeral light during the body's final minutes before burial, and the porous enclosure reminds mourners that the experience of death is a constant part of human life.

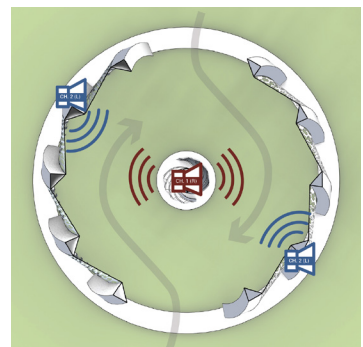
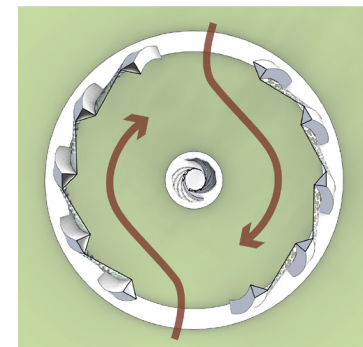
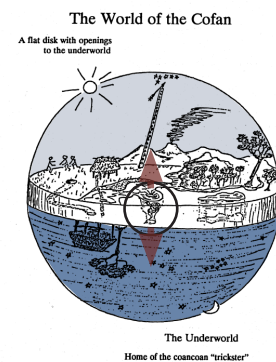
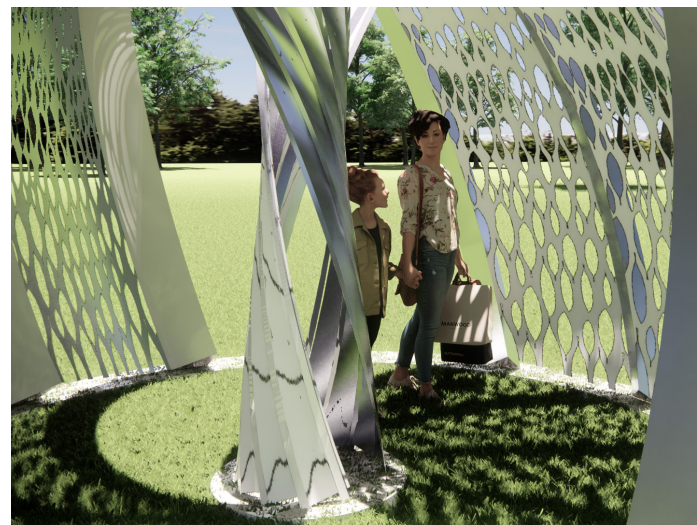
Architecture of Sound Pavilion

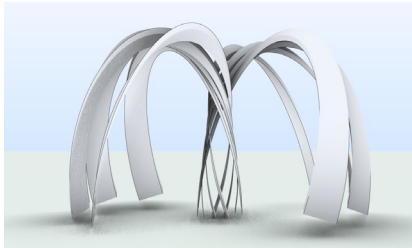
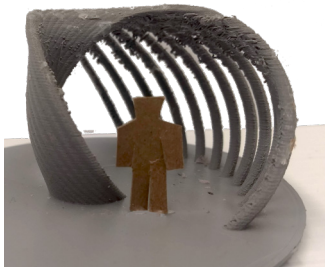
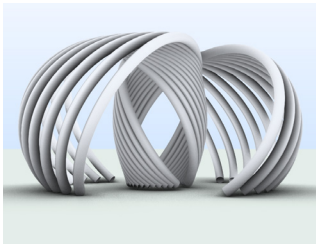
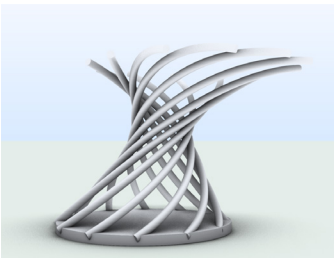
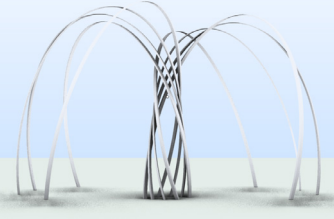
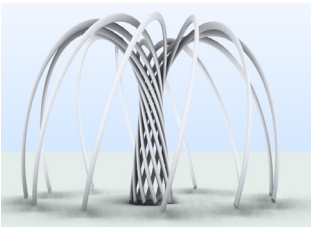
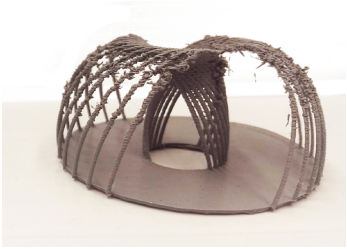
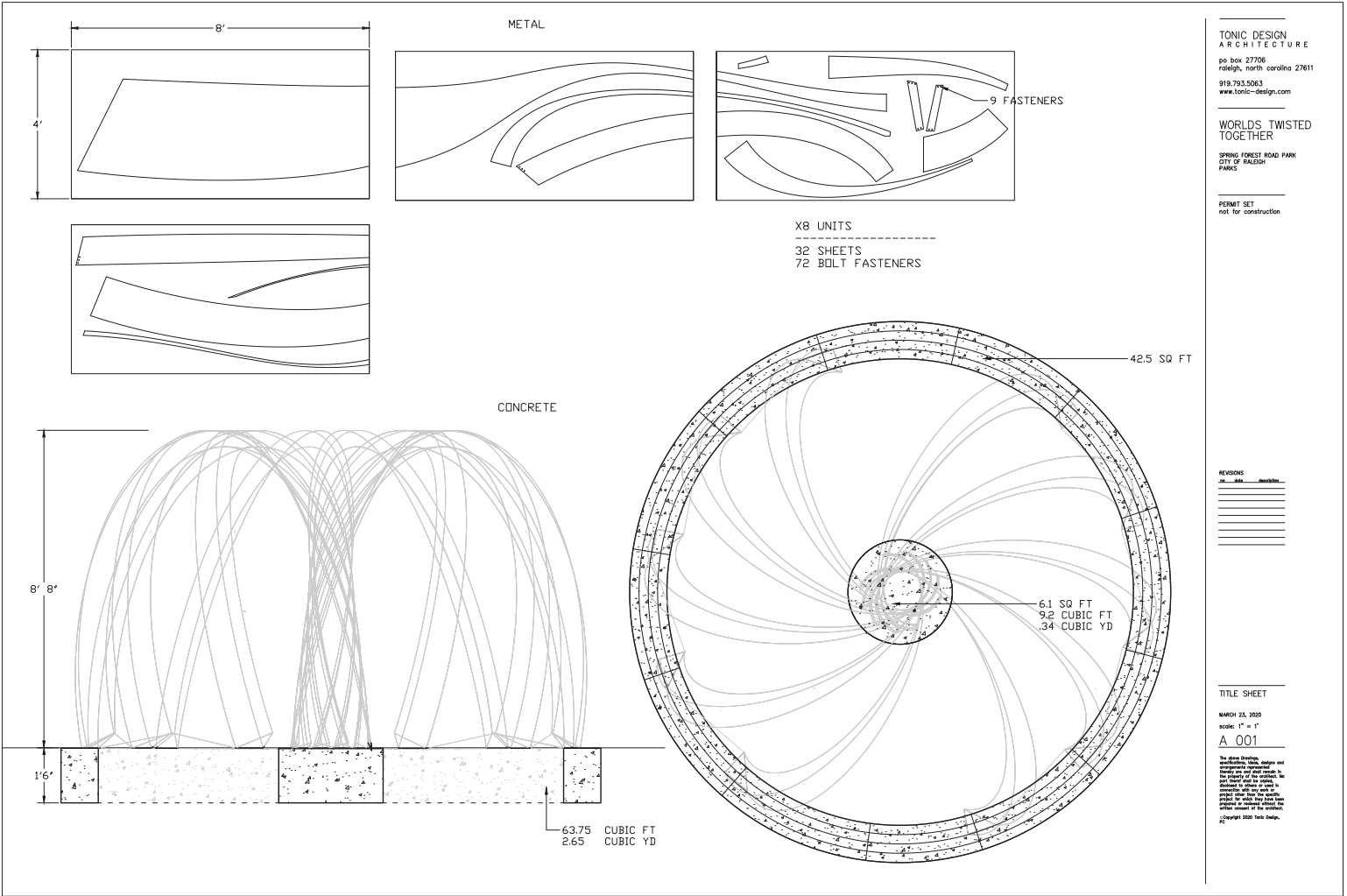
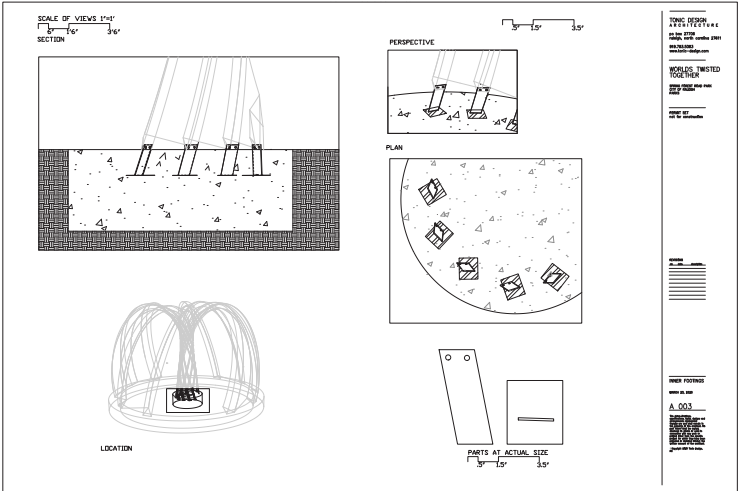
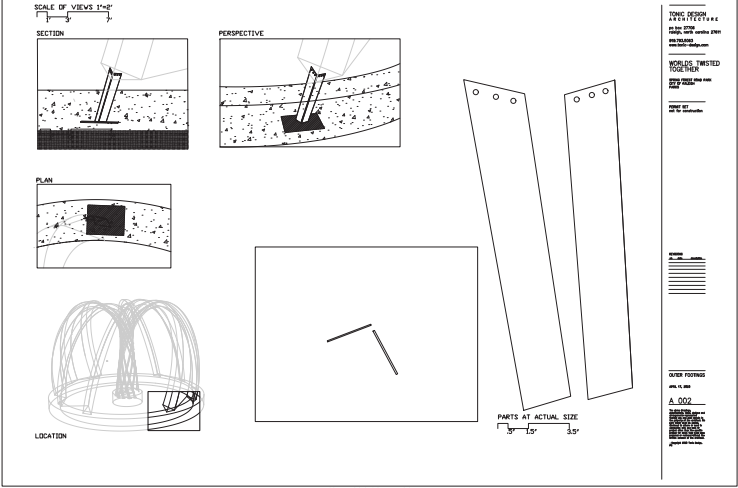
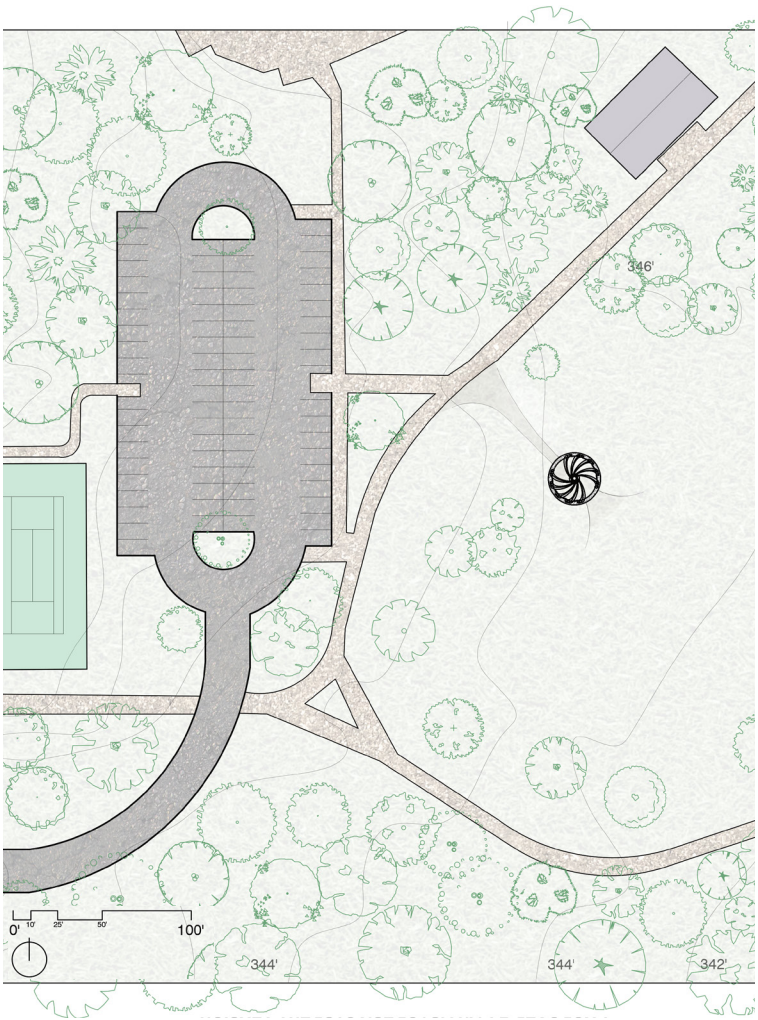
Park Installation — Spring Creek Park, Raleigh
Petrarcha Elective Studio, Spring 2020



Originally intended as a design-build project for Spring Forest Road Park in Raleigh, this pavilion was designed in collaboration with local sound artist Alyssa Miserendino, who learned about the start of the pandemic after returning from a audio gathering trip to the Ecuadorian jungle. Incorporating her recording from the trip and the indigenous folklore that influenced her there, the form expresses the idea of an aquatic portal between worlds and is fabricated from a series of identical curved metal panels that evoke a whirlpool.

Designed with buildability in mind with Vinnie Petrarcha of Tonic Construction, this scheme was presented to Raleigh Arts as a proposal for temporary installation. More information on the collaboration available at raleighartssoundpavilion.com

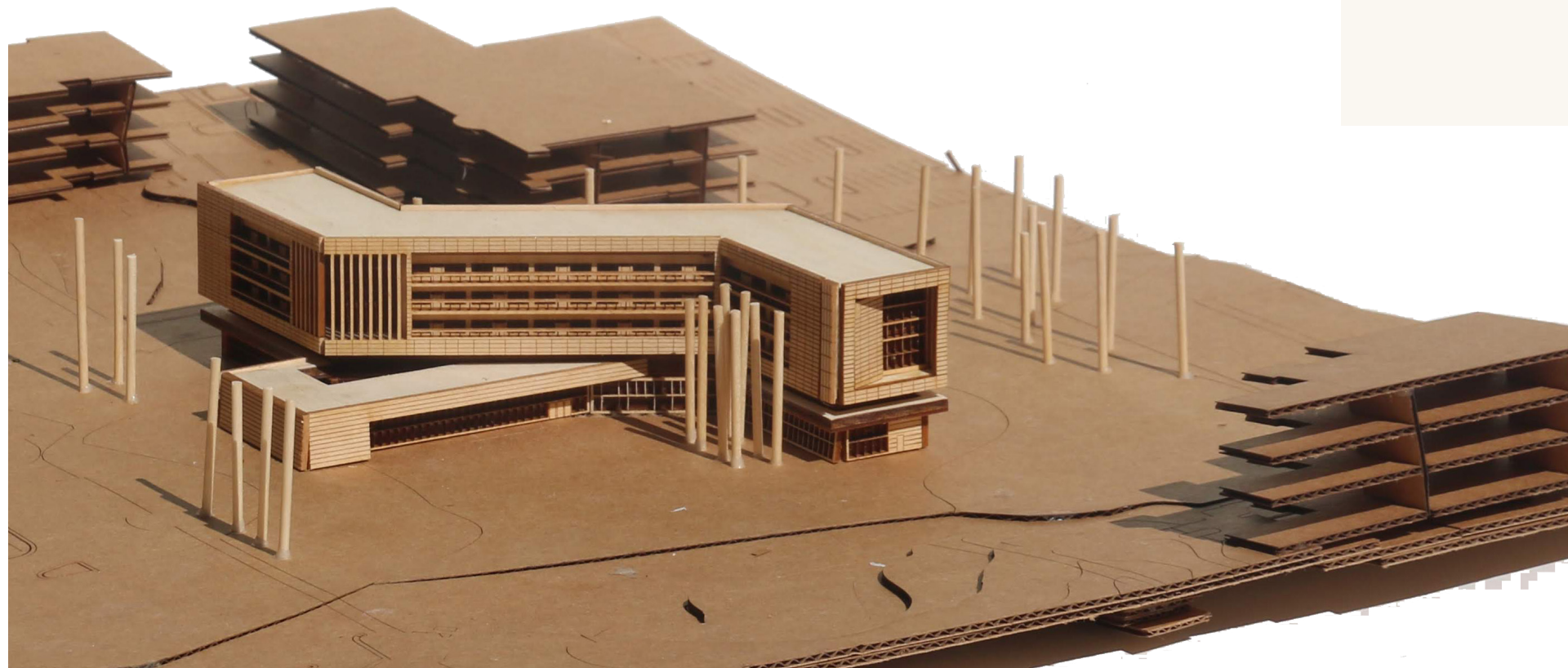


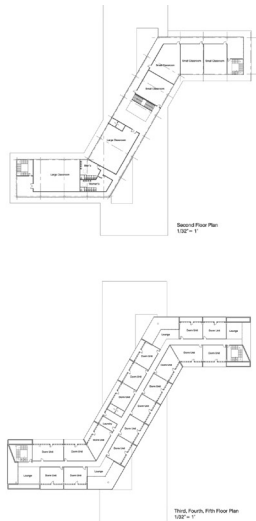




Bragaw Commons Residence Hall

*Classroom + Dining + Residence Hall — NCSU Central Campus
Comprehensive Studio, Fall 2018*

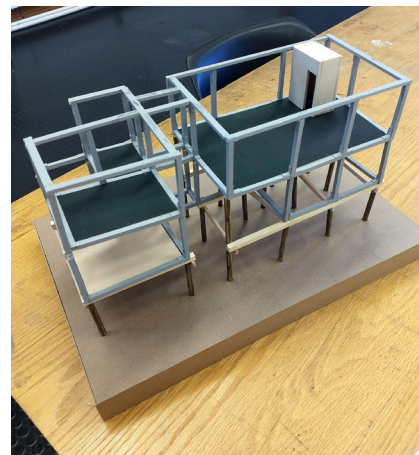
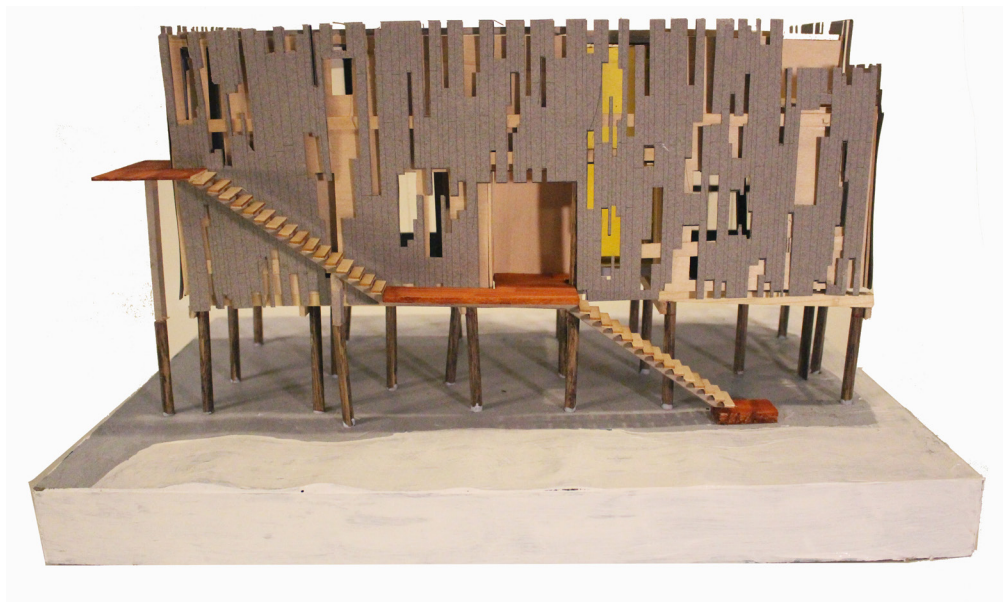
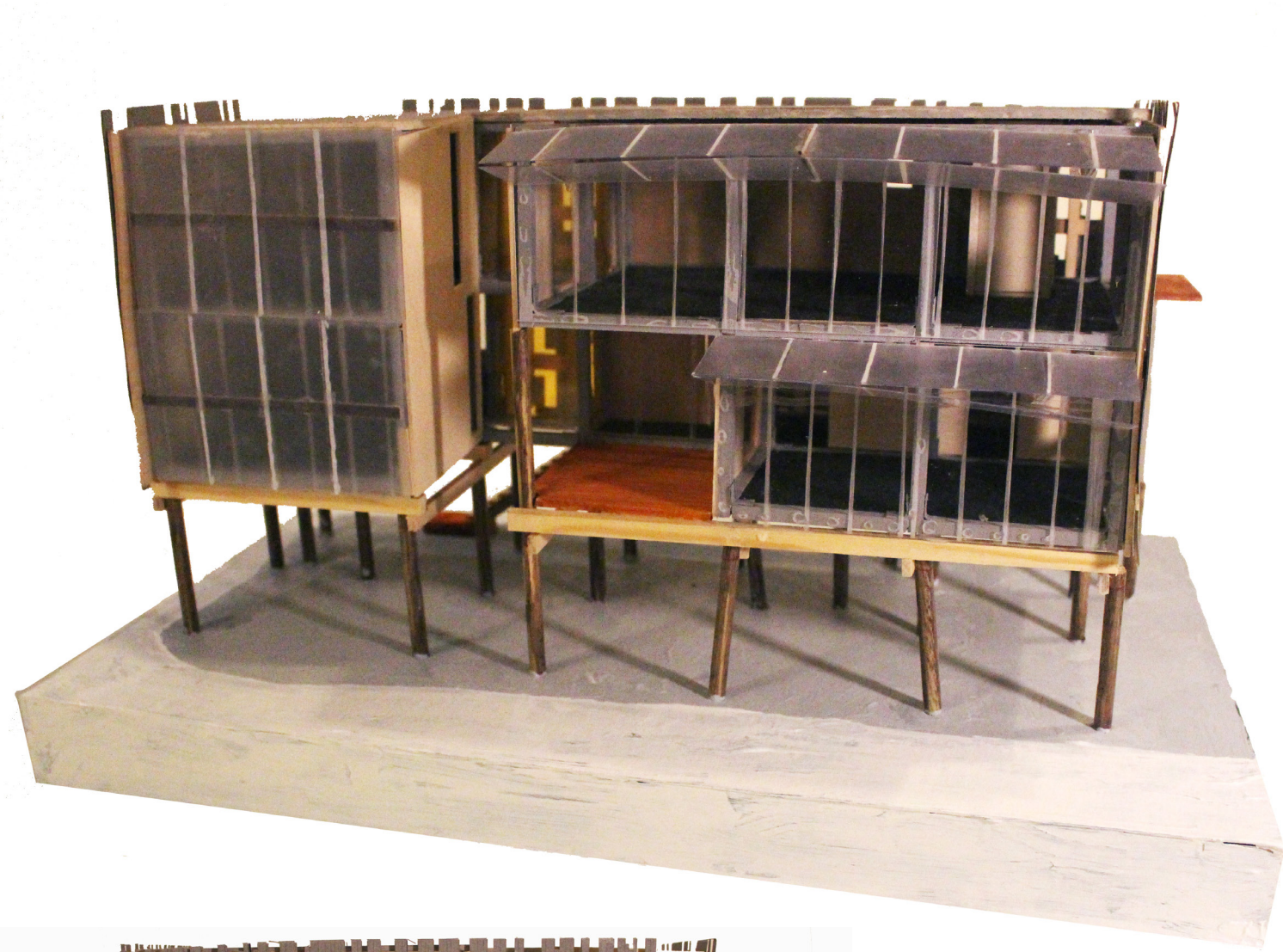




This design for NC State fits naturally into the surrounding context and advances the campus' established architectural vocabulary while replacing a midcentury dormitory that abruptly interrupts movement across campus.

The form and footprint create a series of open-sided public plazas positioned helpfully along a busy footpath between central campus and the large high rise dorms, creating welcoming streetfront locations for dining and gathering spaces. Interior arrangements also create helpful adjacencies between public, high-visibility gathering spaces on the campus level as well as classroom and residential levels in the elevated mass.

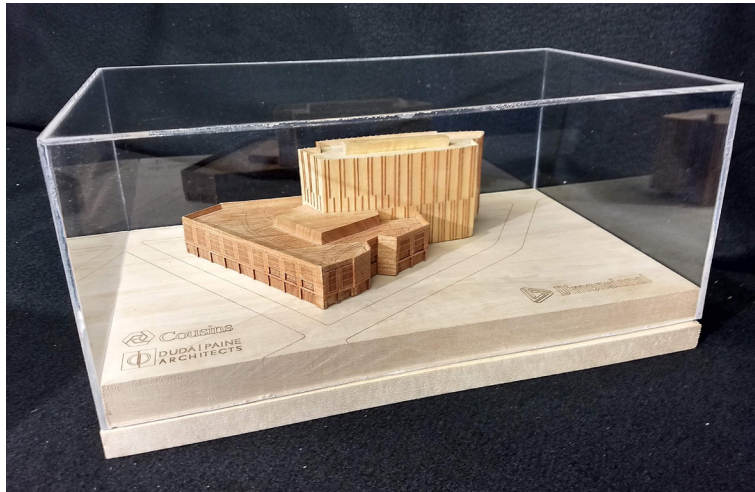
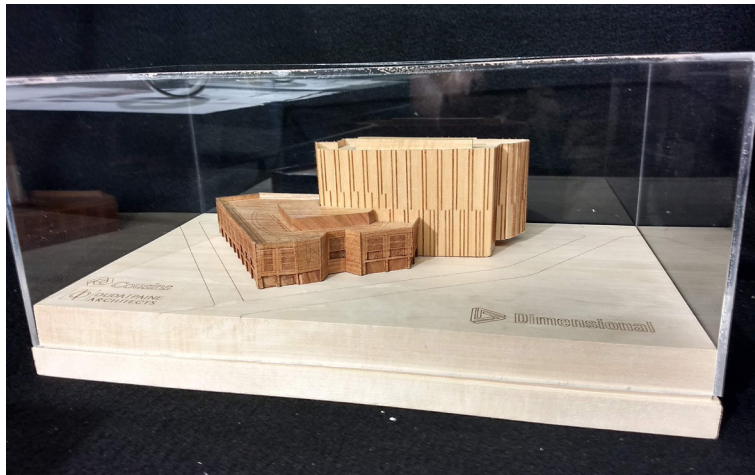




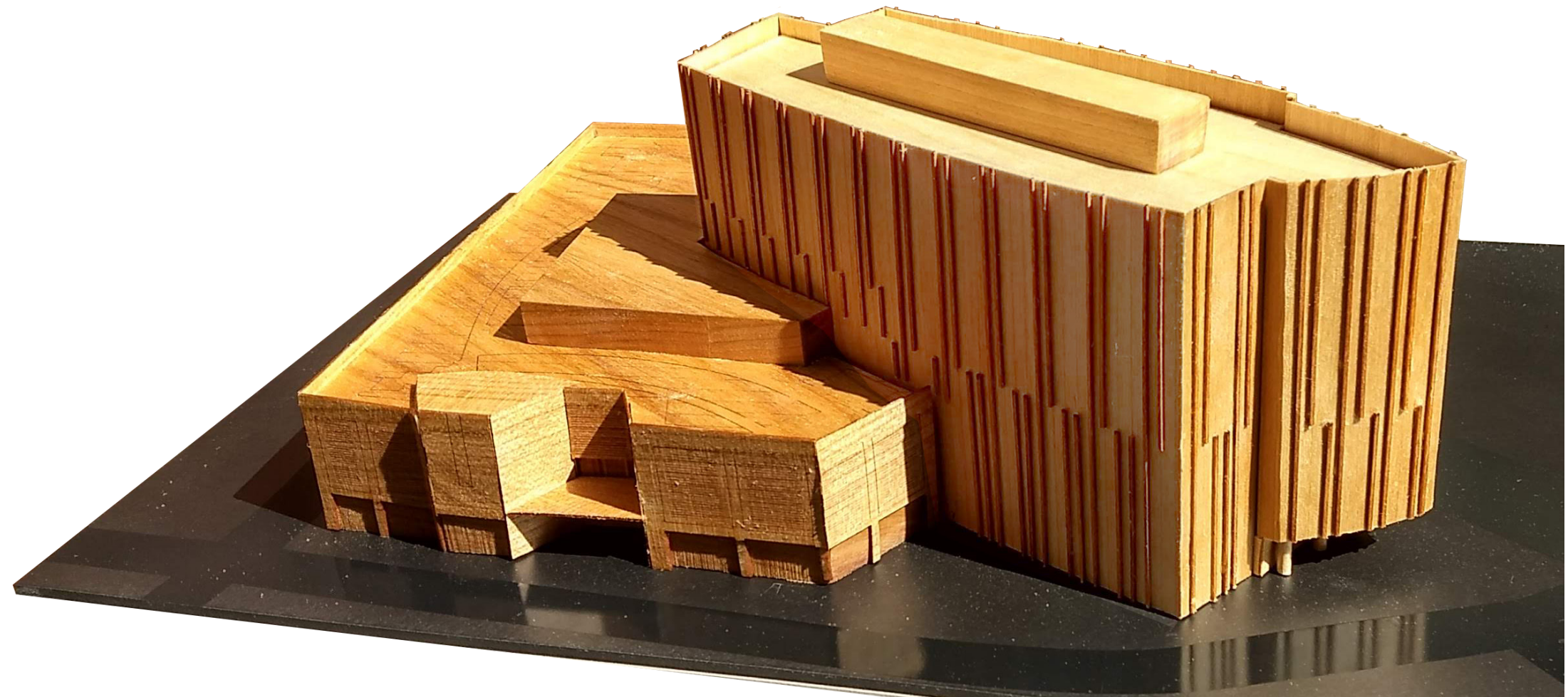
Precedent study: Loblolly House
KieranTimberlake Architects — Taylors Island, MD
Form Studio Project



Precedent study: Ryerson Student Learning Center
Snøhetta— Toronto, ON
Tectonics and Craft Project



1/32" = 1' Model, Gifted to Project Developer



Models for Duda Paine Architects: Dimensional Place

Office Building Models in Basswood and Cherry — Charlotte, NC



1/16" = 1' Model, On display in building lobby

Bent, Not Broken: The Natural Process of Shaping Fantastic Wooden Forms

06:00 - 7 June, 2018 | by Jack McManus

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Even as technology advances—leaving many of the old ways of building obsolete—certain traditional crafts and building techniques continue to captivate our imaginations with their simple ingenuity and unimpeachable effectiveness. Although used for millennia, the process of temporarily turning rigid members of wood into pliable, twistable, bendable noodles of lumber remains a favorite woodworker’s trick, capable of producing whimsical transformations and otherworldly forms from the most natural of materials.



10 Boathouses That Take Architecture Over the Edge of Dry Land

08:00 - 14 June, 2018 | by Jack McManus

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Whether lining a river bustling with rowing crews or sitting calmly at the edge of a lake, boathouses have a storied history and an inexplicable romance to match their unusual program. Designed for use as a training facility for elite rowers, a vacationer’s waterfront playground, shoreline retreat, or even as a historical preservation project, boathouses captivate the imagination as they transcend the limits of the land-form relationship on their site.



History's Most Notorious Unfinished Buildings

09:30 - 9 July, 2018 | by Jack McManus

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Both today and in centuries past, it is a reality of building that not every project is destined for success. Financial issues or unrealistic timetables can complicate a building’s construction but, while usually the final result eventually meets the initial expectations, other times the worst-case scenario of a building being abandoned during construction becomes a nightmare come true. Unfortunately, these failed projects have an extensive history. Economic factors are the most common cause of unfinished construction, but buildings have also been stranded in limbo by wars, geopolitical shifts, epidemics of disease and other unpredictable obstacles, leaving partial structures as haunting reminders of what might have been.

Whether partially completed and left as ruins or still under construction decades (or centuries) after initial groundbreaking, unfinished buildings offer an alternative history of our built environment, promising long-delayed gratification or examples of design so ambitious that they prove impossible to realize. Initiated by civilizations across the globe, the following list details just a few examples of history’s most interesting and infamous unfinished construction projects.

Published Writing: Archdaily

All published articles available at archdaily.com/author/jack-mcmanus

7 Shout-Outs to Architects in Rap Lyrics

09:30 - 23 July, 2018 | by Jack McManus

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About a month before he unveiled his eighth album *Ye* in June, Kanye West re-entered architectural conversation with the unexpected and mostly unexplained announcement that he intends to hire architects and industrial designers to staff an architecture practice connected to his Yeezy brand. An outspoken fan and admirer of contemporary architecture, Kanye’s fashion and design projects have been a major focus for him since shortly after the prodigious producer started making his own rap albums. Kanye’s architectural ambitions have been an interesting factor in the relationship between architecture and rap culture, which seems to be just coming into focus through programs like the Hip Hop Architecture Camps organized by Michael Ford’s Urban Arts Collective, and the research of Sekou Cooke. Architecture and rap music have influenced each other in ways we’re just starting to notice—with the connection between the two even revealed as consciously and conspicuously as rappers including references to notable architects in their lyrics.

8 Treasured Historic Architecture Sites That Have Hosted Huge Rock Concerts

09:30 - 22 June, 2018 | by Jack McManus

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Thanks to their loud, brash, and nocturnal nature, rock concerts are often held in dark bars and nightclubs designed to withstand the abuse of rowdy fans and guitar-smashing rockers. But as musicians earn a following, they eventually graduate from beer-soaked basements to prestigious theaters, outdoor amphitheaters, arenas, and stadiums. For performers and music fans alike, playing or attending a show in a space like Carnegie Hall, the Royal Albert Hall, Madison Square Garden or Colorado’s Red Rocks Amphitheater can be a momentous, once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that ties together the sublime power that great music and architecture can both evoke. As rare as these opportunities are, an exclusive group of iconic musicians have managed to reach an even higher level of prestige by organizing one-off performances amid humanity’s most treasured historical sites—from the Acropolis and ancient Mayan cities to the Colosseum and the Eiffel Tower.

While these special concerts have given fans the chance to experience music history firsthand, many have also been mired in scandal as local officials and residents have raised concerns about potential damage to the sites or inappropriate commercial misuse of treasured cultural landmarks. Despite these legitimate and often justified concerns, these nine iconic sites have hosted some of the most ambitious concerts in the history of popular music:

10 Unconventional Plywood Projects That Show The Bright Future of 20th Century Materials

08:00 - 27 July, 2018 | by Jack McManus

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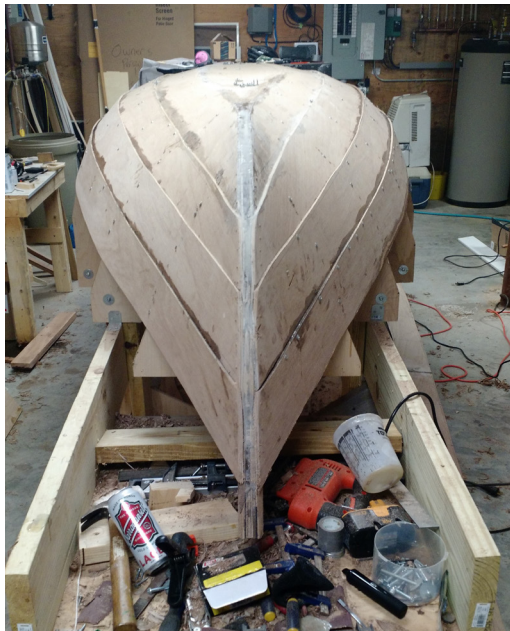


Sold in standard 4 foot wide sheets since 1928, plywood has been a staple of conventional construction for nearly a century. Dimensionally strong, easily cut, lightweight and capable of creating an effective barrier, plywood and other engineered panels like OSB, particle board, and MDF is ubiquitous, particularly for their use as sheathing material in balloon and timber frame construction systems. Boats, airplanes and even automobile frames have historically been built out of plywood, predating (or replacing) steel, aluminum, and fiberglass. As a simple material capable of being manipulated and shaped in a wide variety of ways, sheet ply was also favored in furniture and architectural designs by modernists including Charles and Ray Eames, Eero Saarinen, Alvar Aalto, and Marcel Breuer.



Boatbuilding

FOG FISH | 15' Peapod for Sailing and Rowing



Built by myself from marine plywood and khaya mahogany according to plans by wooden boat designer Doug Hylan of Camden, Maine.

