Architectural Design

Award of Distinction

Project Title: **Inhabitable Book Library for San Francisco, CA**

Student Name: **Sarah Jester**

Level, Course: **Third Year**

Advisor/ Instructor: **Thomas Fowler, IV, AIA**

Principal Investigator: **Thomas Fowler, IV, AIA**

Department: **College of Architecture, California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, CA**

Summary Description of project

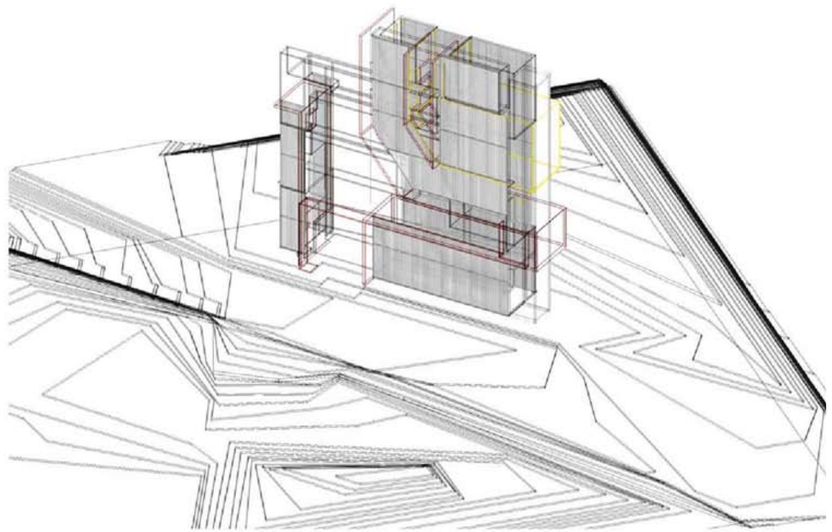
The site for this project is located on the coast off the Great Highway, adjacent to a wastewater treatment plant. The form of the project was discovered through an analysis and interpretation of a series of inhabitable book studies and the building was sited based on a study of the voids and cuts made through out the site. The building is purposely made tall and thin to create a hulking inhabitable book presence on the site. The entrance side is opaque, containing the program that is considered to be internal functions to the building (administration, utility spaces, etc). The opposite side, facing away from the highway, is more transparent and opens itself up to the site since these functions are considered more external to the building (circulation desk, interactive reading spaces, etc). The narrow ends of the building sit in the void of the site and selectively frame the views out to the ocean.

The Inhabitable Book Concept: An individual makes a choice by reading. The reader acknowledges the power of books and becomes connected to the larger society while engaging in a highly introspective and reflective activity, of reading as a deeper understanding of self through this process of reading. This library is a place to honor the power inside books and the energy created by bringing them together with readers who can investigate, wonder, and give back.

The Program: This library is a place for the public to get away from downtown and to experience the coast. The book collection hangs over the larger, more open reading spaces, which wraps through the entire building. The entry level, containing most of the administrative spaces, is connected to the major atrium,

POWER OF BOOKS

Traveler gathers
knowledge from books or daydreams:
exhales and returns.



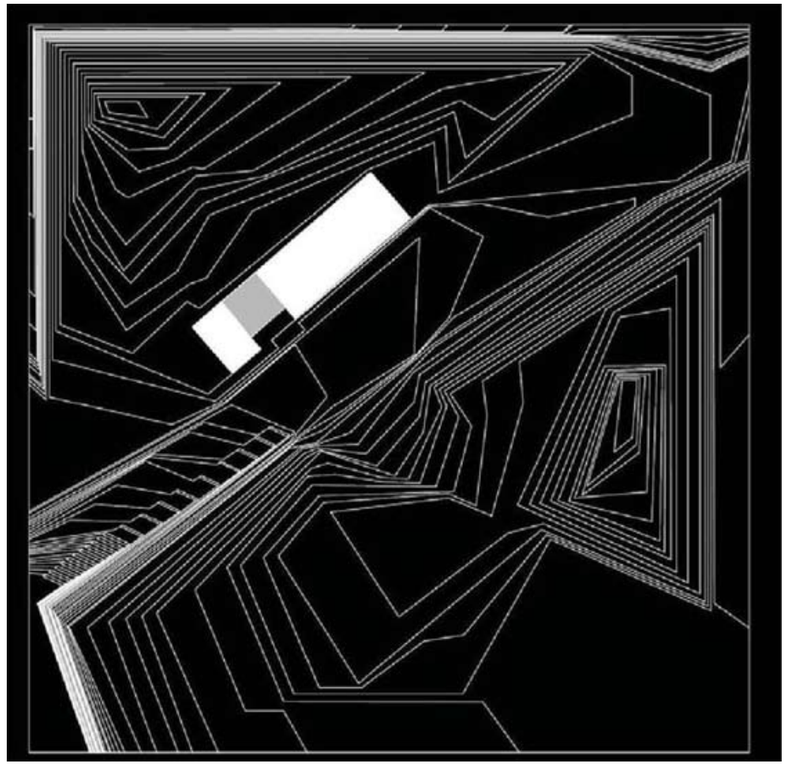
intended to be the place with the highest level of noisemaking activities. Opposite these wrapping spaces, is a core of small, intimate reading rooms, allowing intensive, individual focused thought, while having the only view out to the ocean. The circulation sequence of the building attempts to focus the reader on seeing selectively framed views of the ocean as one moves in and out of spaces in the building.

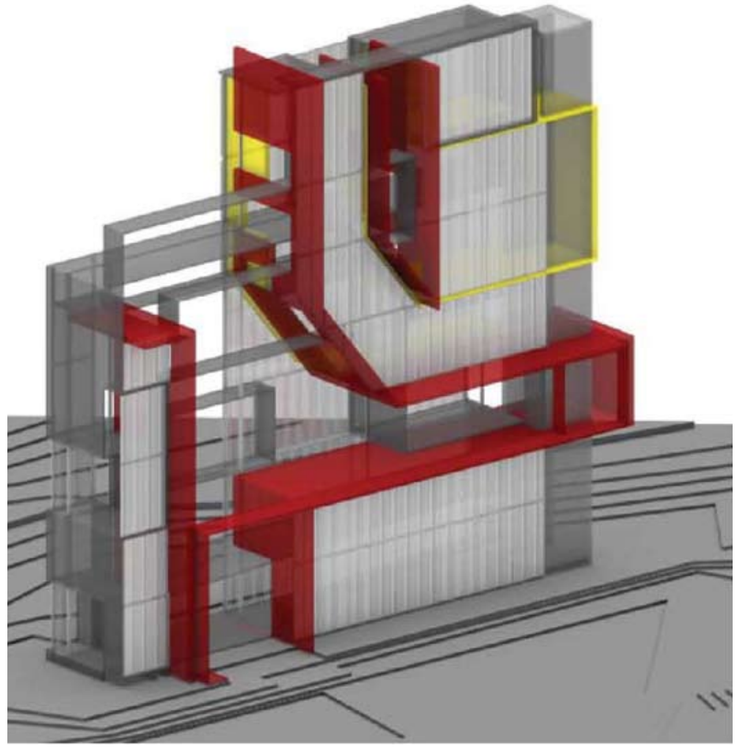
Reasons for which this student should be awarded:

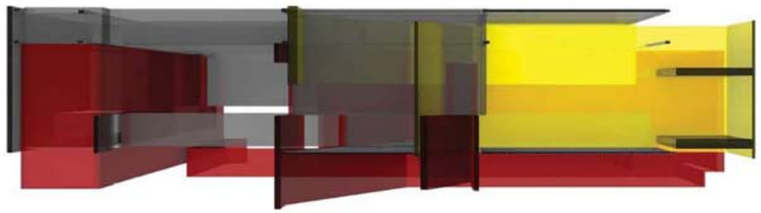
It was amazing to see the transformation of this student's very beautiful and thoughtful painting and model studies and to see how these artifacts helped to inform her building design process. She only had a limited exposure to digital modeling before this studio and also harbored MUCH bitterness towards using digital modeling to inform the project during the design process, but I think this skepticism was an advantage and helped her balance the use of form•Z with the other components of her design process. As you look at the entire 9 week process for this project there is a very clear and compelling thread that you can see between all of the media that she used to inform the evolution of the project's very strong vocabulary. Form•Z became the glue that linked all of these components together and allowed her to test the wrapping of the spatial volumes of the building as she sorted out the details of the cladding system, vertical volumes of space, and how all of the components melded together into one cohesive project.

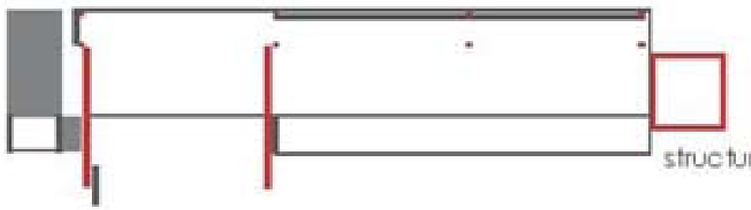
Jury Comments:

In the days we see the computer being used to produce all kind of plastic forms that hardly relate to some pre-established usage, this project is refreshing as it allows the digital tools to more or less directly translate given programmatic functionalities into forms that are persuasively usable and constructable. The design is well developed and clearly organized. The presentations make good use of graphics to illustrate the various building components and design strategies. Overall very well executed. The simultaneous use of both digital and manual model making techniques should be commended.

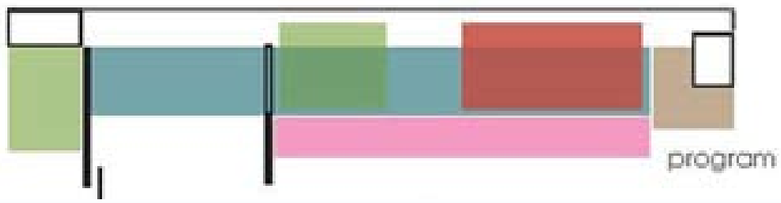


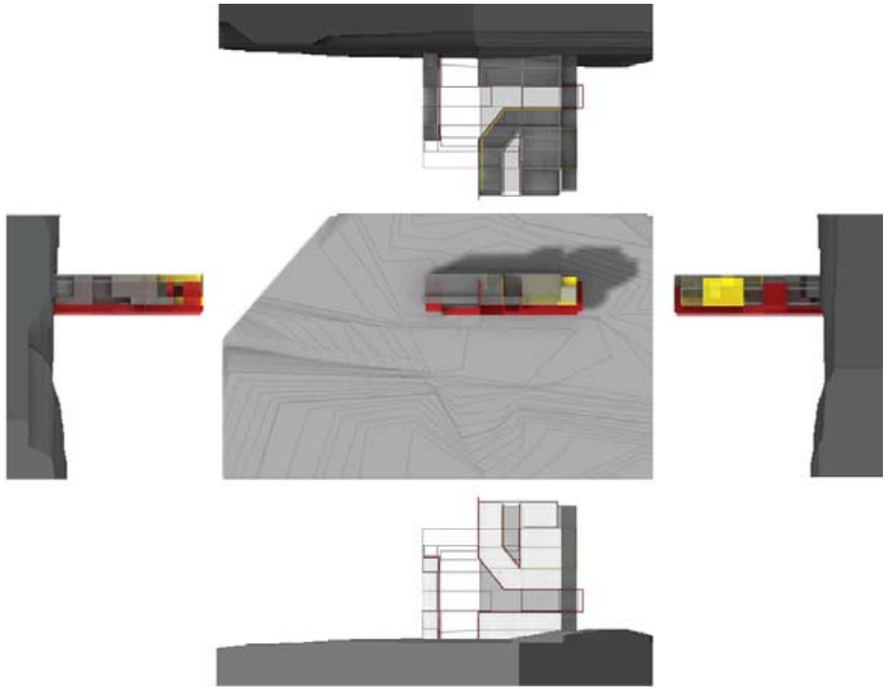


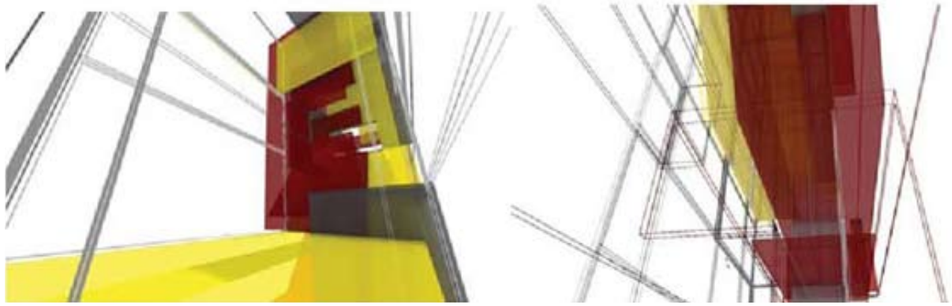


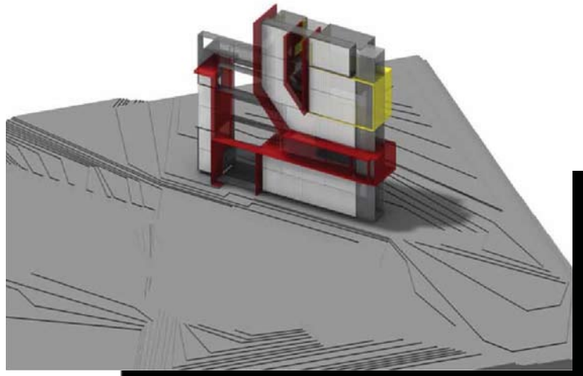

structure

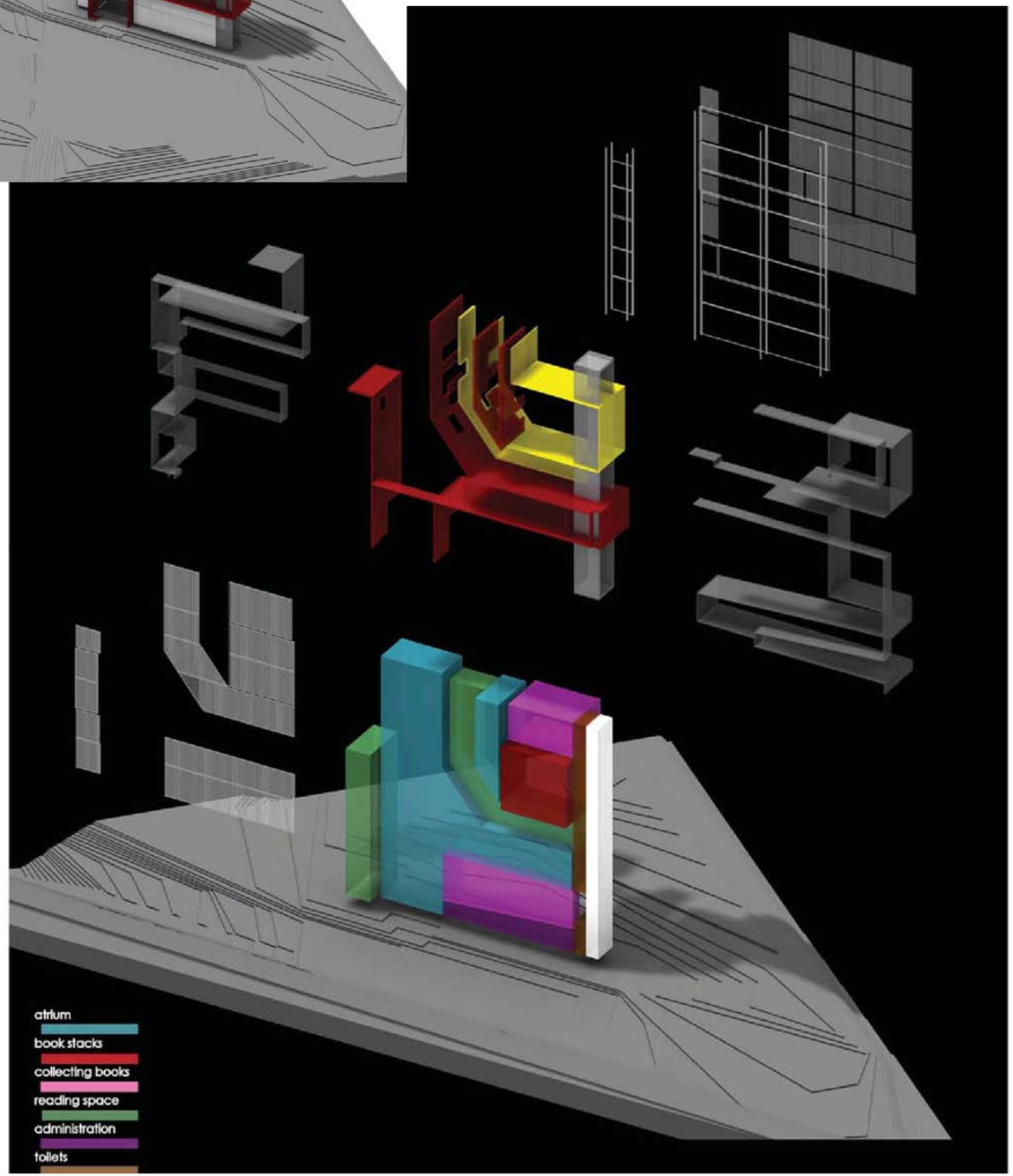
circulation

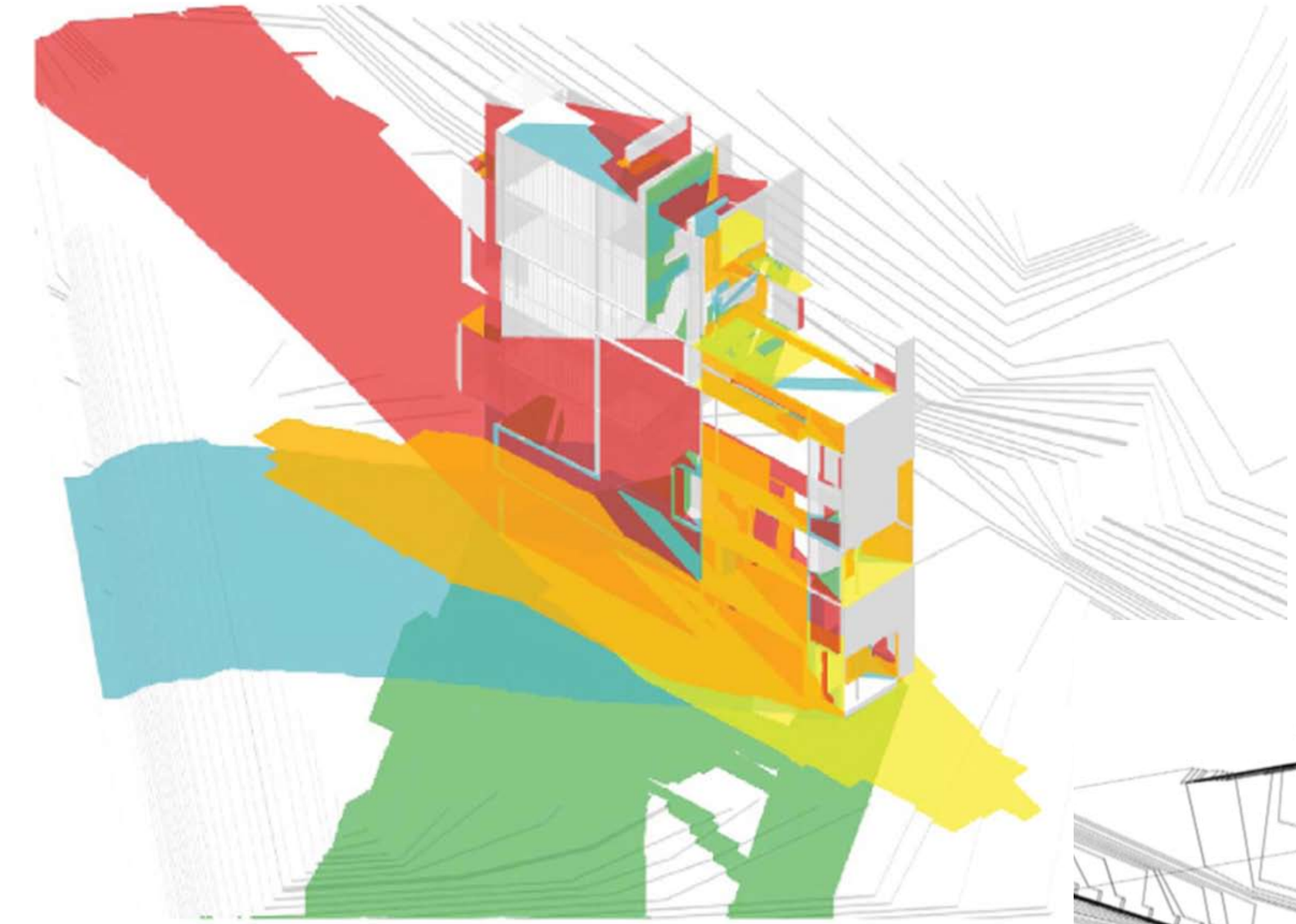

program

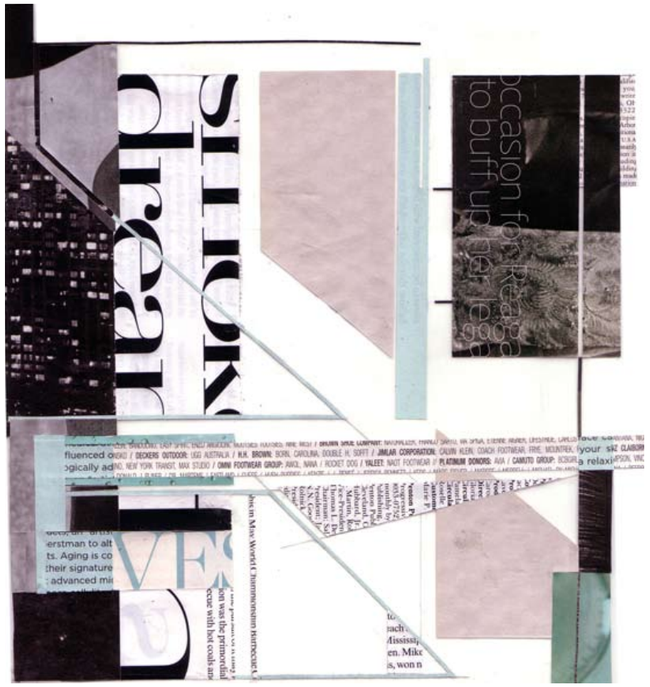
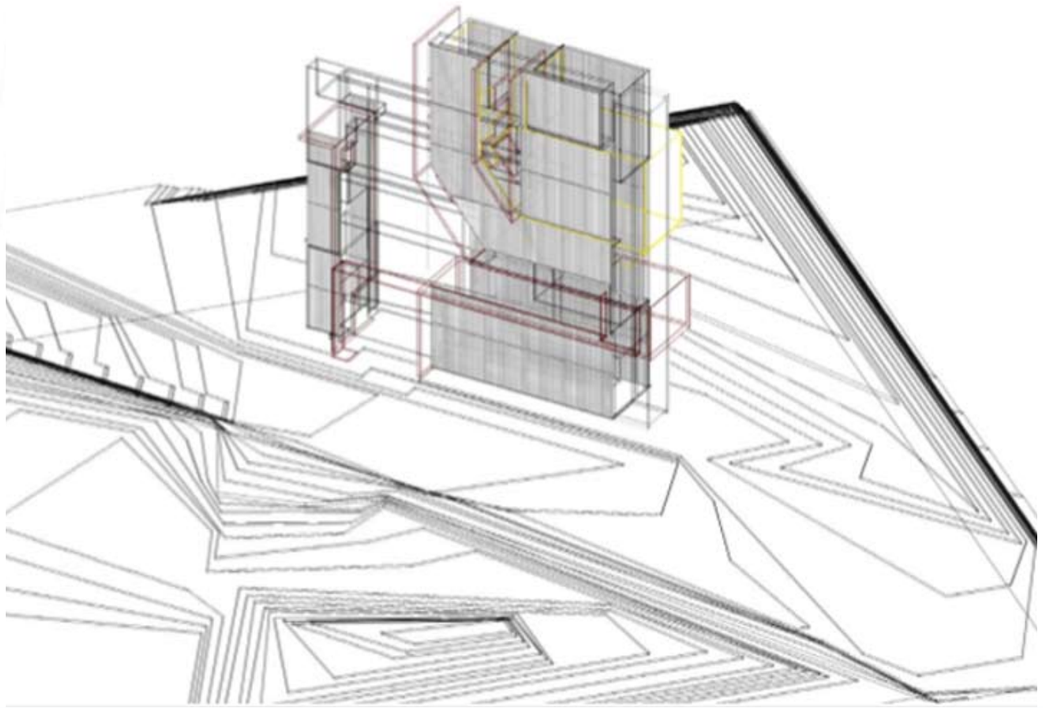
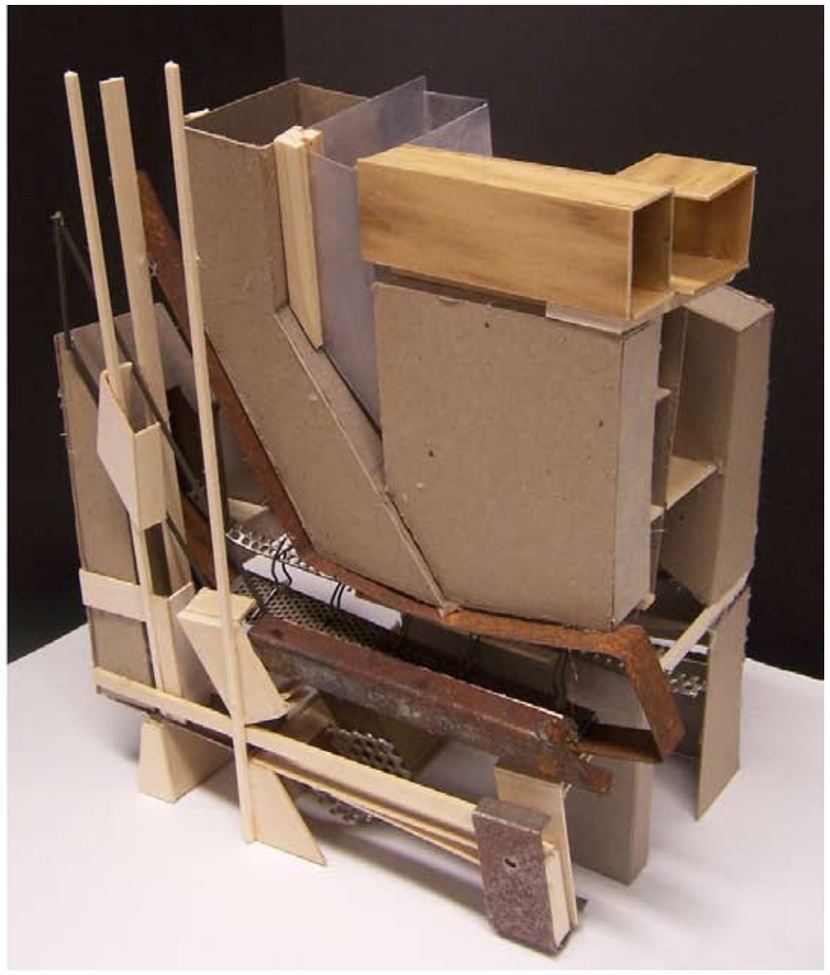







atrium
book stacks
collecting books
reading space
administration
toilets



SUN SHADING STUDY _north

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