

LIFE AND WORKS OF AARON J BLAHA



ARCHITECTURE

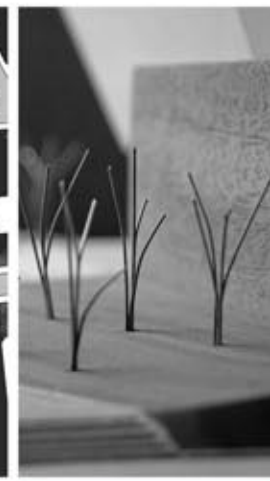
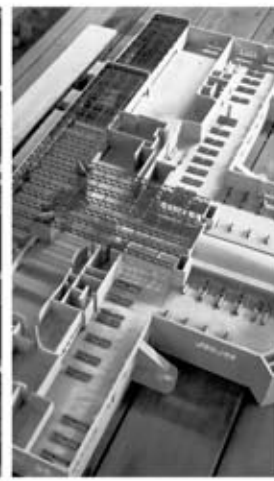
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ARCHITECTURE



Residential Redux is an idea. It's an idea that one day when suburban expansion reverts to urban infill and we truly see the revitalization of our most dilapidated cities, that with it we bring a greater understanding of community and neighborhood and hold in higher regards the importance of both.

Through architectural and sociological means, this is an attempt to bring people together by understanding the social mechanisms that have formed in our modern societies, respecting the barriers of public and privacy, and implementing a sensitive solution to the problems that occur when they are not achieved.



THESIS | RESIDENTIAL REDUX

Arch 772 | Professor: Mark Barnhouse | Spring 2013

4

View of courtyard

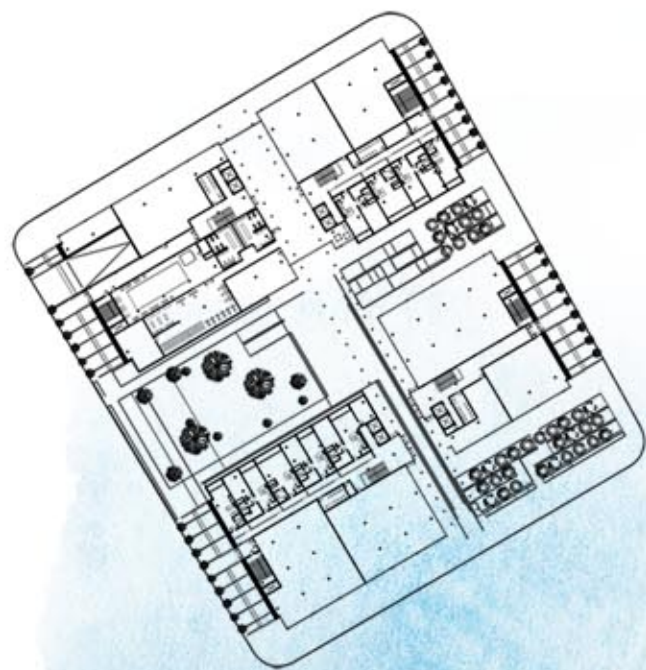


Interior of bridge



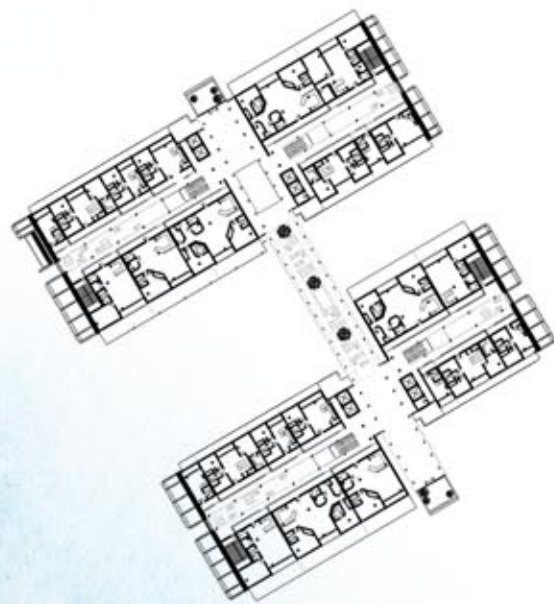
Interior porches





1

Retail + dining
Apartments looking over street
Entrances to sub-buildings
Public greenspace + seating



2

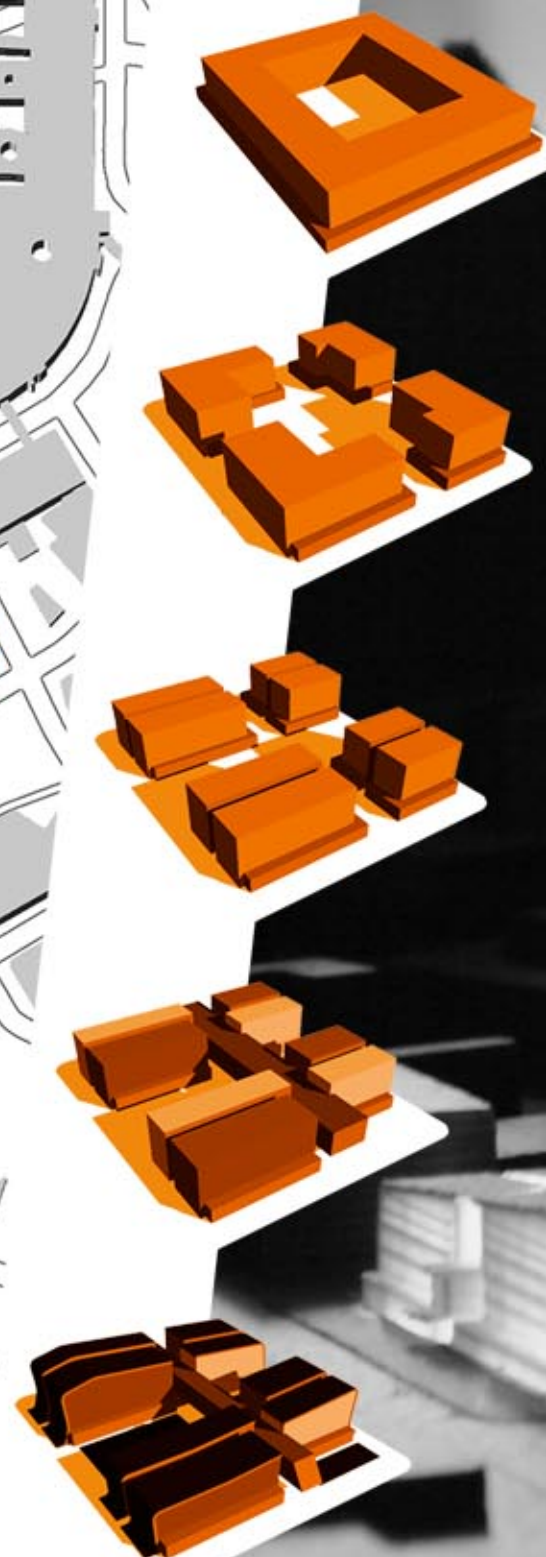
Bridge connecting sub-buildings
Seating in each sub-building
Apartments + condominiums
Exterior greenspaces



4

Exterior greenspace along bridge
Atriums linking sub-buildings
Apartments + condominiums

Hennipin Avenue
Minneapolis, MN

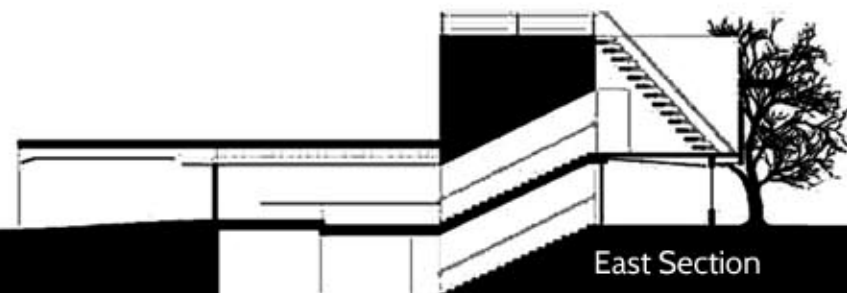


Section/Elevation

5

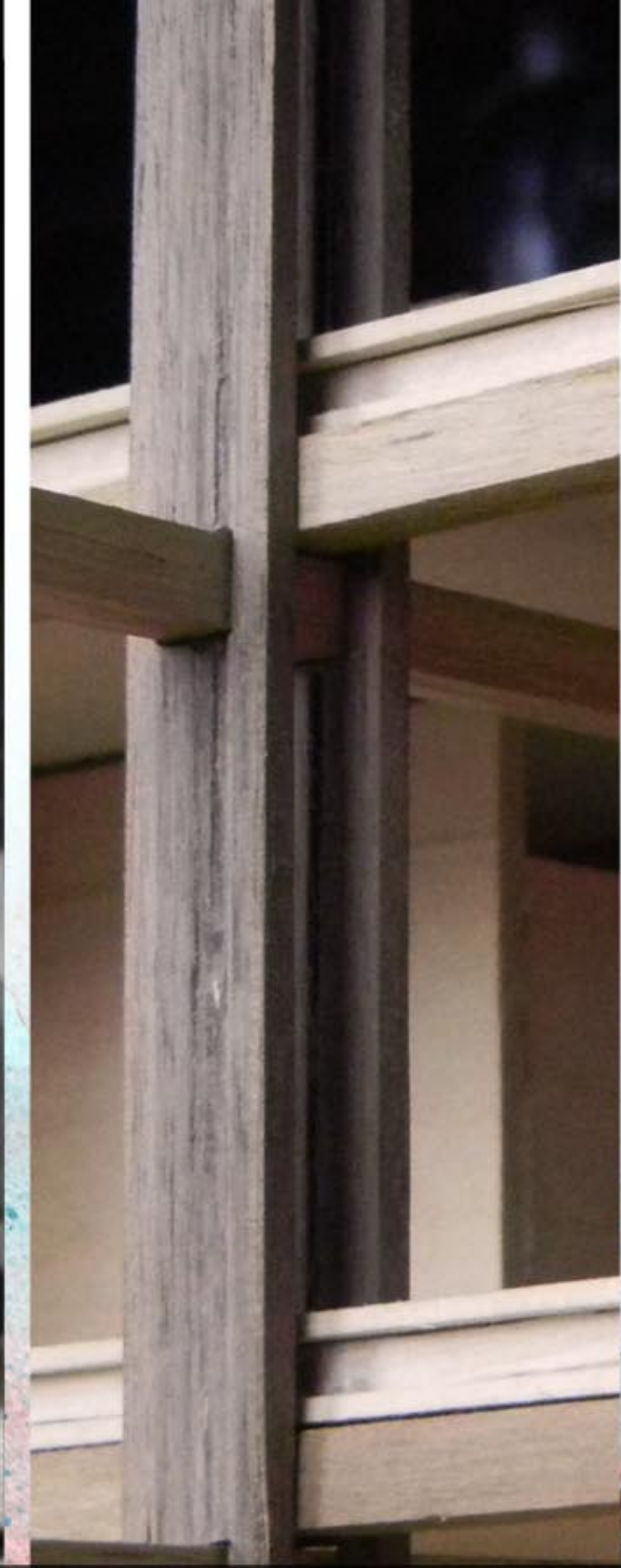
Allison and Kenneth are the names of two middle-aged fraternal twins and compose the fictive narrative that define this residential architecture. The two have been brought together due to the sister's detrimental ailments which restrict her mobility. Having lived lives as different as their personalities, the house is a mergence of reunited siblings.

The artefact is the physical manifestation of their relationship and sets itself between the poetic interpretations of the story and the final design. The metaphors presented inspired a strong yet tipsy concrete wheel that when moved, epitomizes the relationship between the twins. This linear and radial dynamic thusly inspired a home revolving around the daily schedules of each.

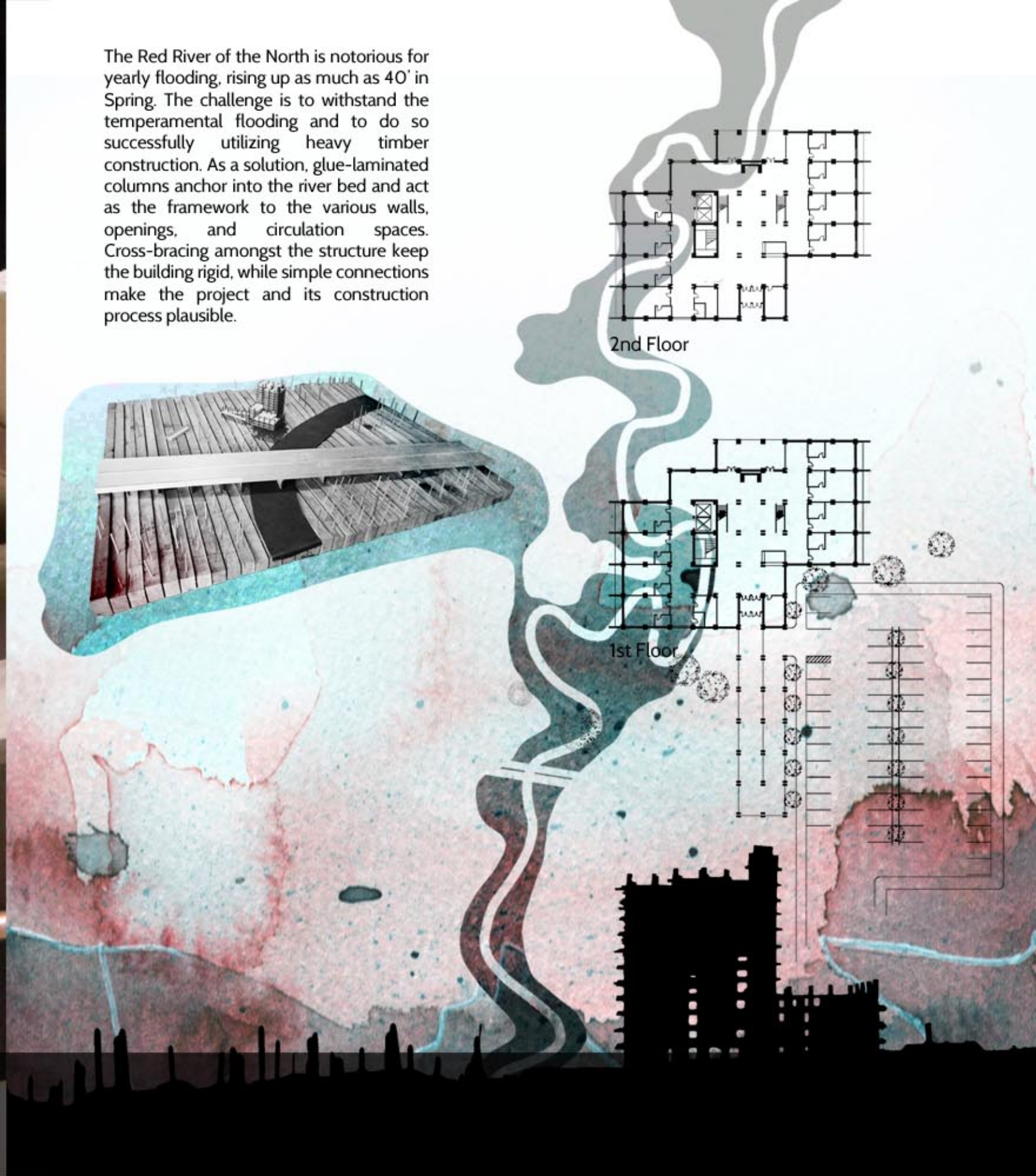


A HOME FOR TWINS

Arch 272 | Professor: Stephen Wischer | Spring 2010



The Red River of the North is notorious for yearly flooding, rising up as much as 40' in Spring. The challenge is to withstand the temperamental flooding and to do so successfully utilizing heavy timber construction. As a solution, glue-laminated columns anchor into the river bed and act as the framework to the various walls, openings, and circulation spaces. Cross-bracing amongst the structure keep the building rigid, while simple connections make the project and its construction process plausible.



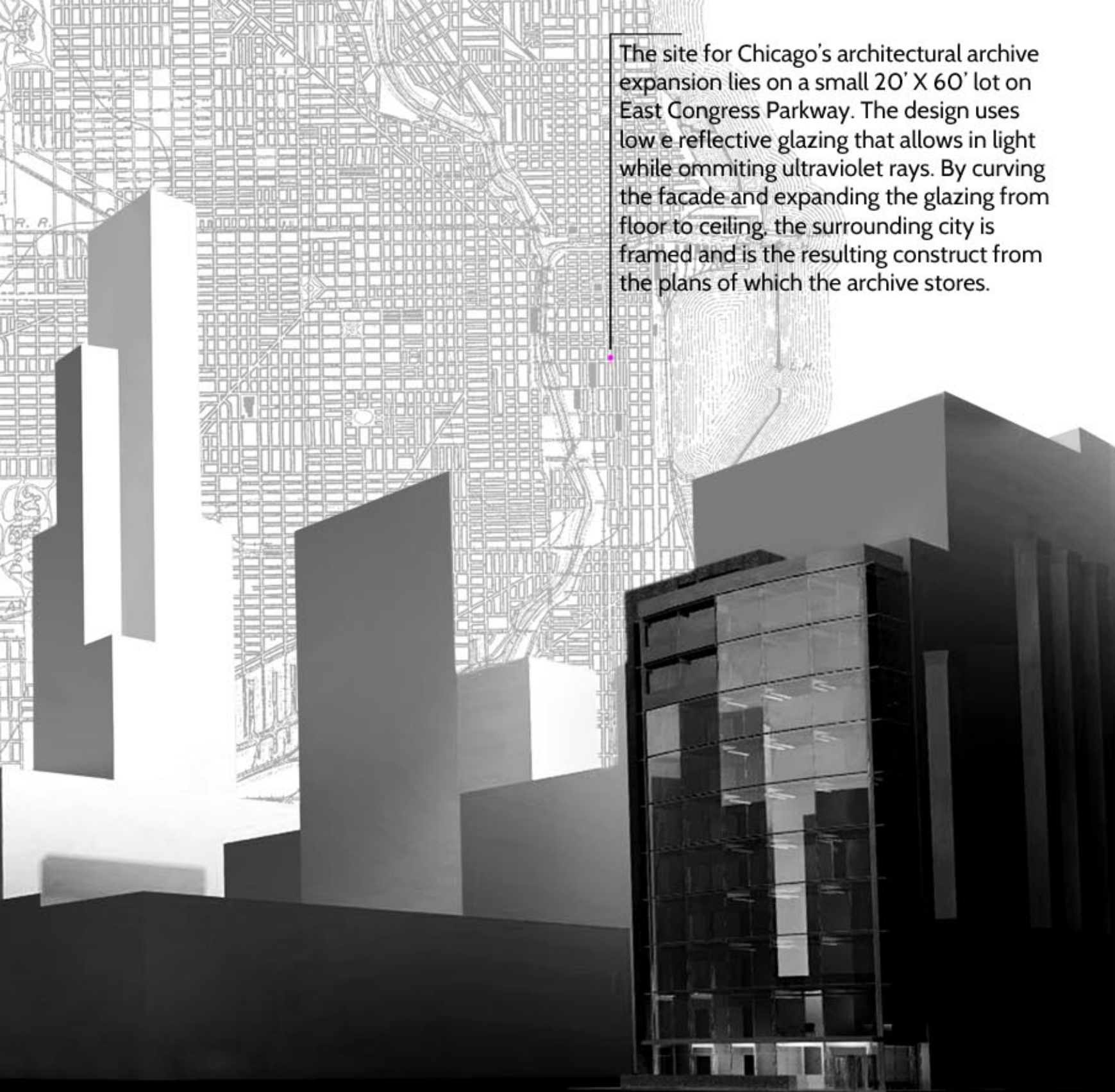
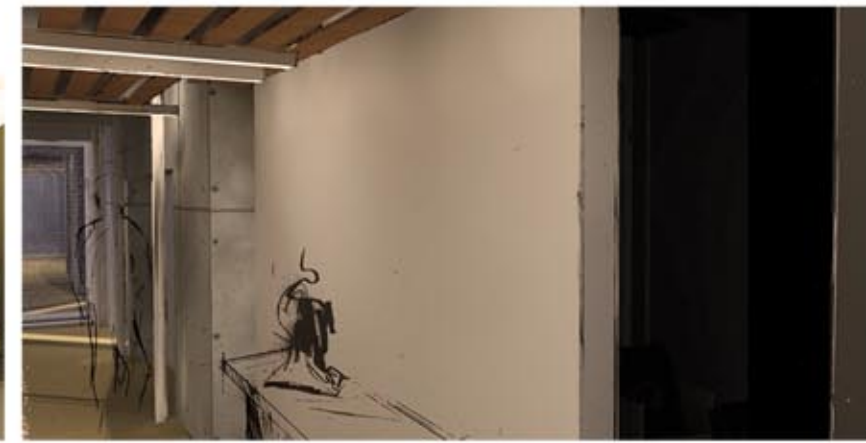
2nd Floor

1st Floor

HOTEL ON THE RED RIVER

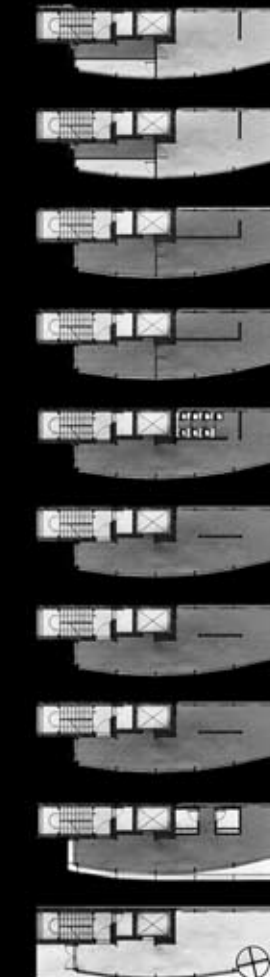
Arch 371 | Professor: Regin Schwaen | Fall 2010

The site for Chicago's architectural archive expansion lies on a small 20' X 60' lot on East Congress Parkway. The design uses low e reflective glazing that allows in light while ommiting ultraviolet rays. By curving the facade and expanding the glazing from floor to ceiling, the surrounding city is framed and is the resulting construct from the plans of which the archive stores.



West Elevation

South Elevation

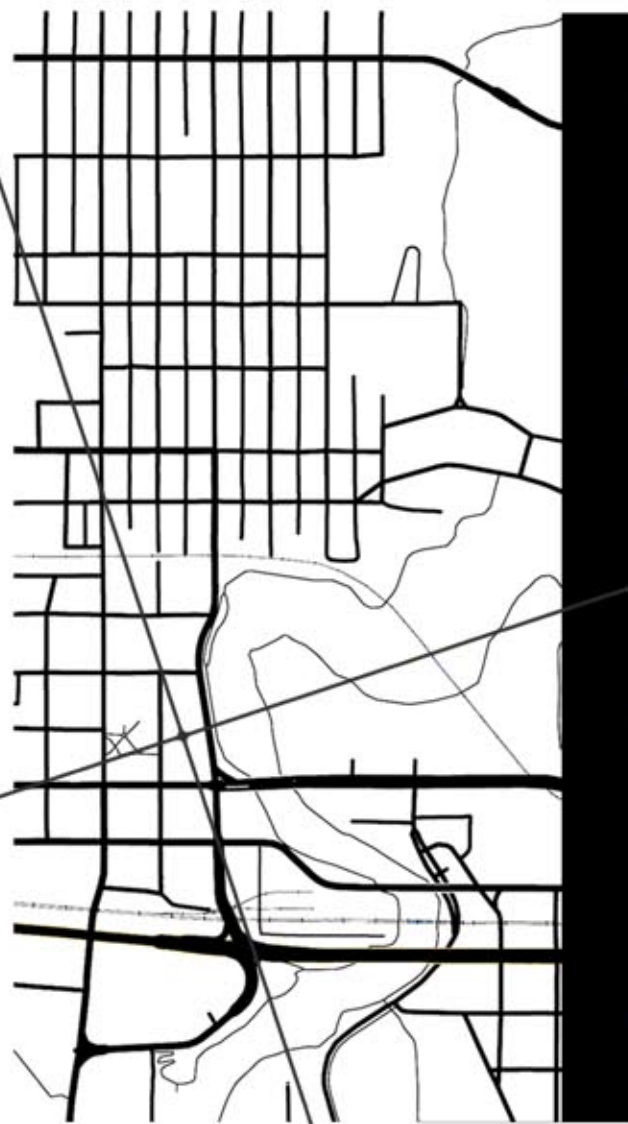


ARCHITECTURAL ARCHIVE | MUSEUM

Arch 372 | Professor: Ronald Ramsay | Spring 2011

With a newfound attraction to Fargo's historic downtown, the city needs to meet the demands of its current and future population with a diversified center. A new and much needed performing arts center will be a welcomed addition to the surrounding area.

This center will not only be an iconic landmark to Fargo's skyline, but it will help to gain interest in further eastern development with its added retail, residential, and office spaces. The goal of the project is to aid in rekindling the city's connection to the river and to the neighboring city of Moorhead, collectively opening up more development



CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS

Arch 771 | Professor: Paul Gleye | Fall 2012

RELATED WORK

In addition to architectural design, I love to draw and frequently incorporate it in my works. Drawing is a practice has been a professional development of mine for many years and has turned into an extensive portfolio of its own.

In addition, these works have not only developed on paper, but have helped to convey ideas and intangible constructs in the design process. From sketches to detailed renderings, the pencil is my chosen medium for transference of thoughts, ideas, and imagination.



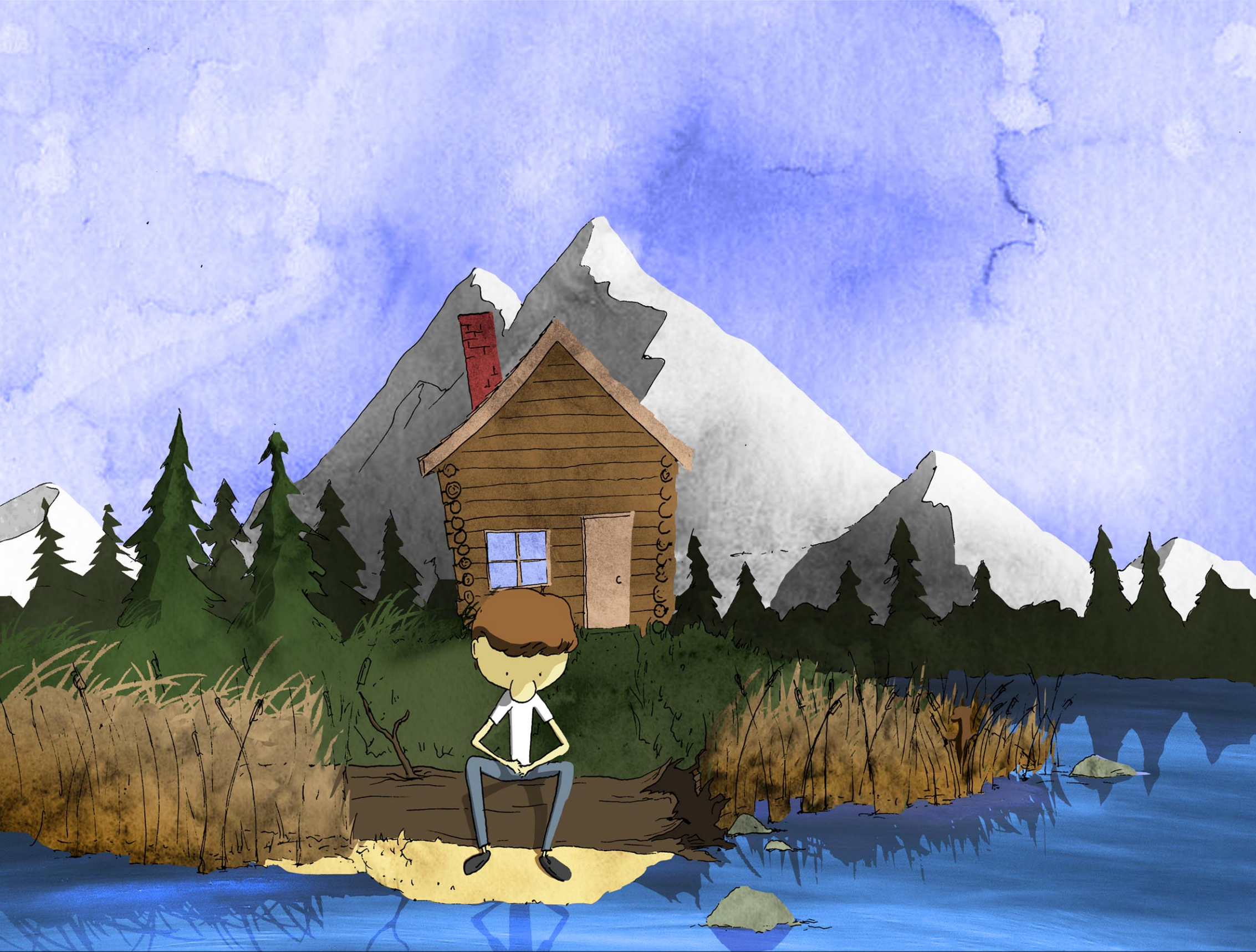
DRAWING

Pencil | Charcoal | Scratch Art



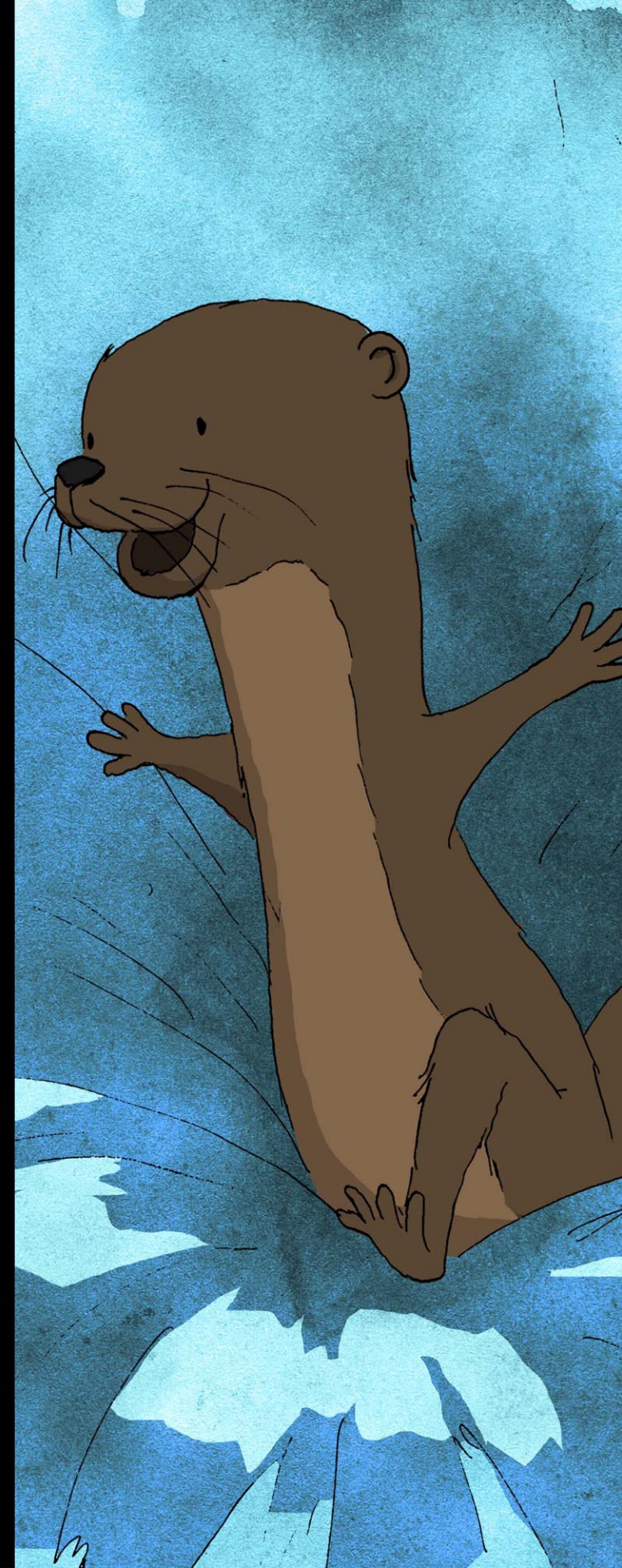
Through photography, the nature of tonal values and contrast can be explored in the built environment. By playing with light and dark, we perceive space as not static space, but as a hierarchy of layers. In the day, natural lighting speaks much more to the senses than artificial lighting while conversely, at night the same lighting can act as a beacon in the void of darkness. Understanding the principles to our perception of light allows for more thoughtful and beneficial architecture.

While the artefact is the closest that we can get to the essence of architecture without actually inhabiting the space, photography is the most commonly interpreted medium. Thusly, its importance lies in its prevalence. Through light, shadow, form, and lines of sight, spaces can begin to rhyme with the poetics of the architecture and make syntactic connections that lie outside the realm of Cartesian space.



ILLUSTRATIONS

Pen | Watercolor | Digital Textures



Through pencil, pen and ink, watercolor, and digital mediums, I enjoy creating illustrations and/or conceptual ideas for myself and for others. Whether it be for a children's book or for no particular reason at all, illustrating has better helped me to better draw out inspiration balancing many different media in the process.



AARON J BLAHA

612.751.0546

aaronjblaha@yahoo.com

blahadesign.com