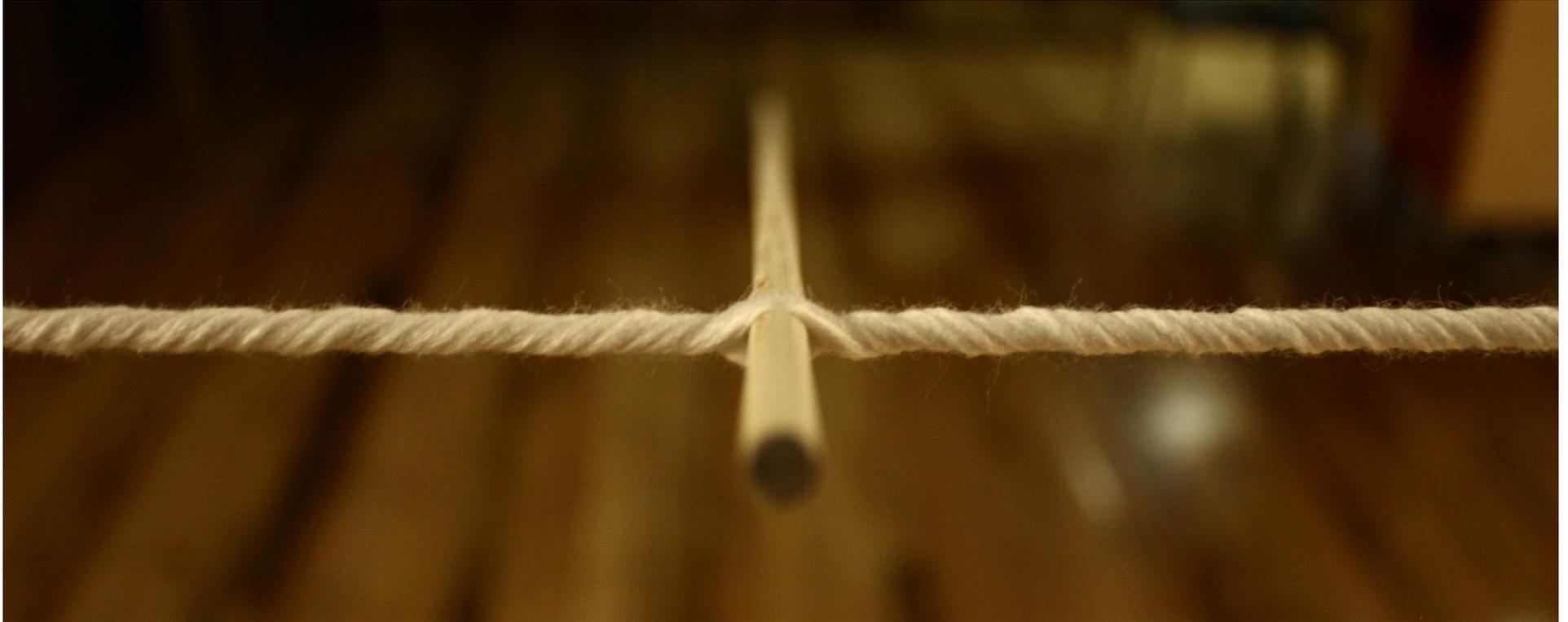


Luis Angel Acevedo  
Arch 771

The artefact presented embodies the essence of a sigh, via a metaphor. A sigh is a human's physical action and metaphysical reaction to the releasing of tension. Whether the tension is a physical or psychological force, the sigh is an indication (prelude) that tension is being released, and that the body wishes to be in a relaxed state.

This artefact began as a way to explore the relationship between troubled students and their teachers at an alternative high school in Moorhead, MN. The tension created between teachers and students is one that most of the population do not challenge. However there exists a sect of students who challenge this system and fall into a category associated with other negatively charged words such as crime, poverty and poor health. This association is created as a direct consequence of not attaining a high level of basic education. This is a plague affecting all major cities in the U.S. For a first-world nation, this problem can no longer be swept under the rug, but must be dealt head-on with a considerate and experiential approach in high school architecture.

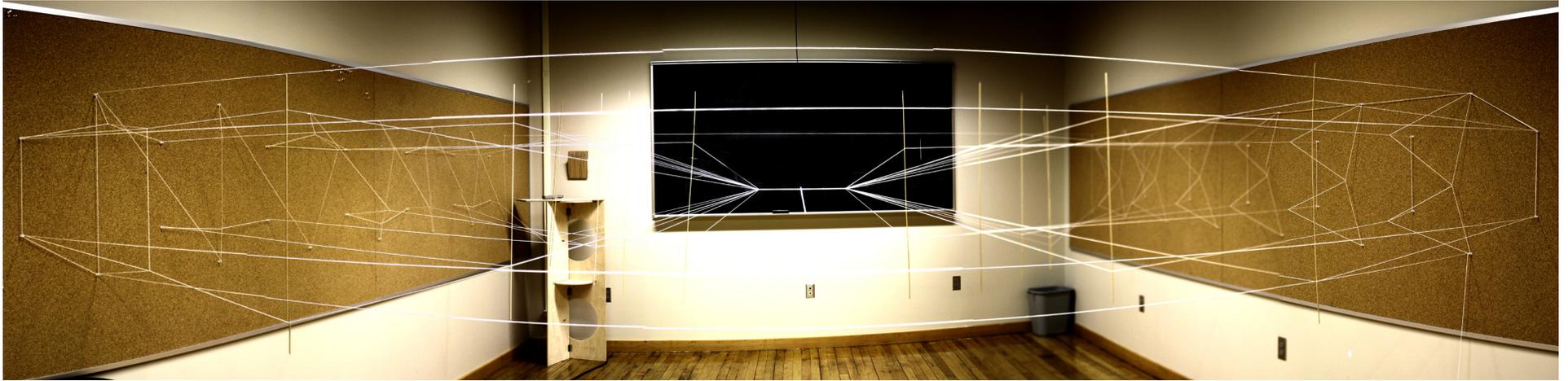
One of the first steps to get troubled students to succeed academically is by creating a mentor-type relationship between student and teacher based on reciprocity and trust rather than on assumed authoritative conventions. It is proposed that this may be achieved by becoming more comfortable and relaxed in the same way in which patients relax at the start of a therapy session with a psychologist. This is imperative since these students must also relax in order for them to fully benefit from the education system. This aspect could be incorporated into the overall architecture of the alternative high school.



The dowel cantilever holds the entire web like structure in a state of tension.

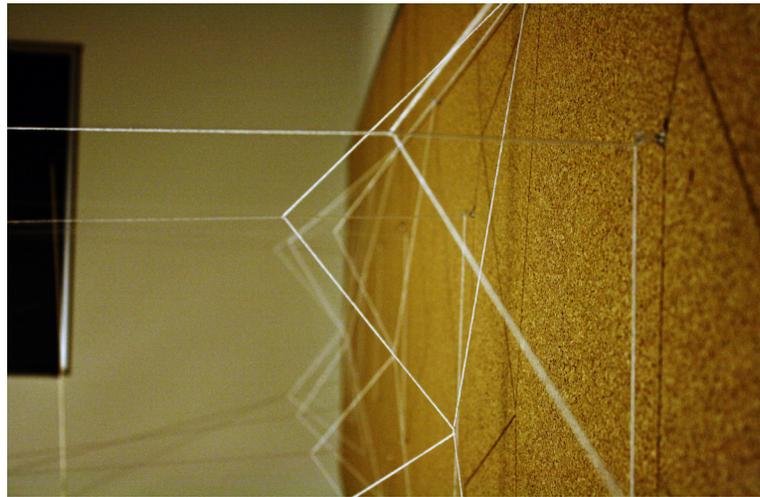
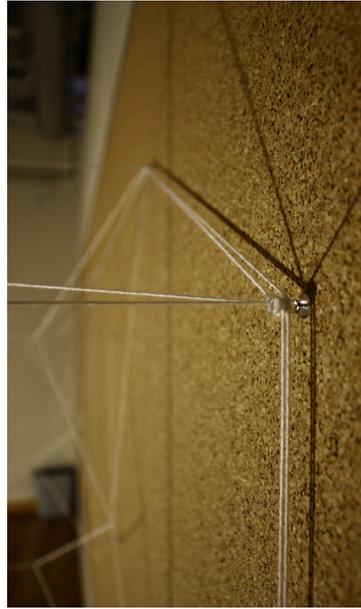


Tension is created by winding, and hence tightening, the web like structure from one central point.

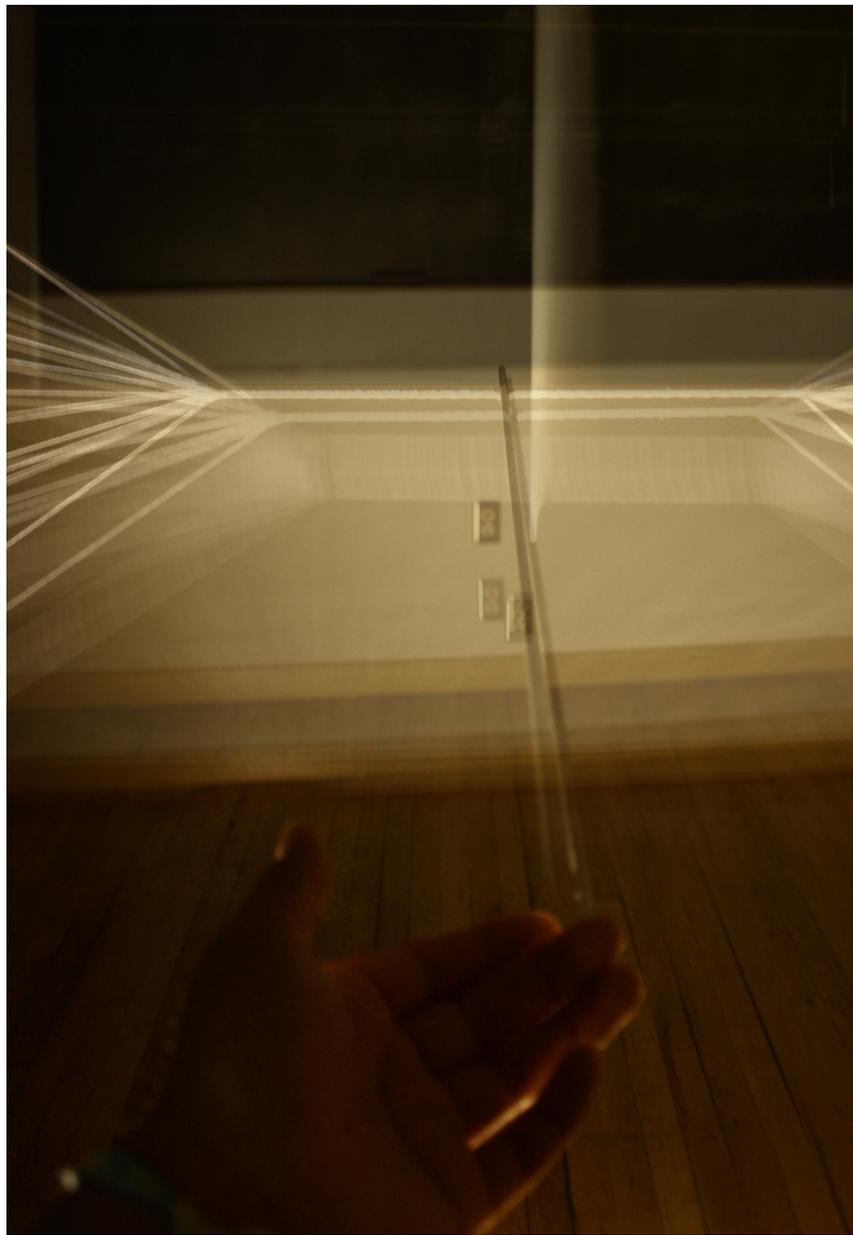


The artefact: made with one continuous piece of yarn intricately connected with pushpins, and 15 dowels, So that all the parts and connections are interstitial.

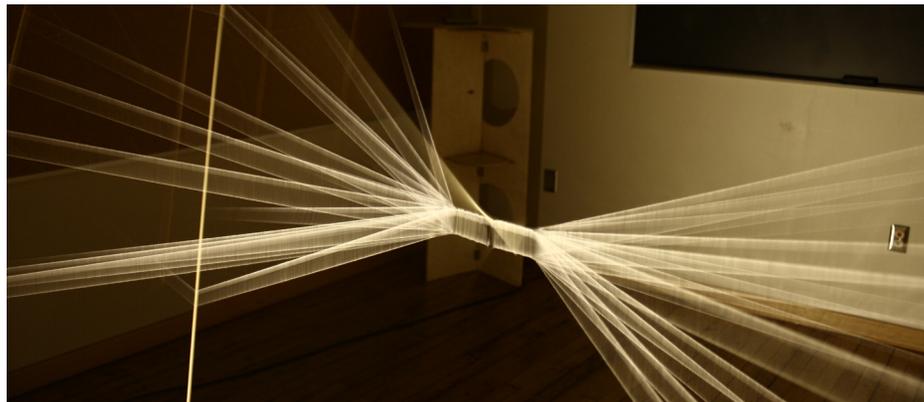
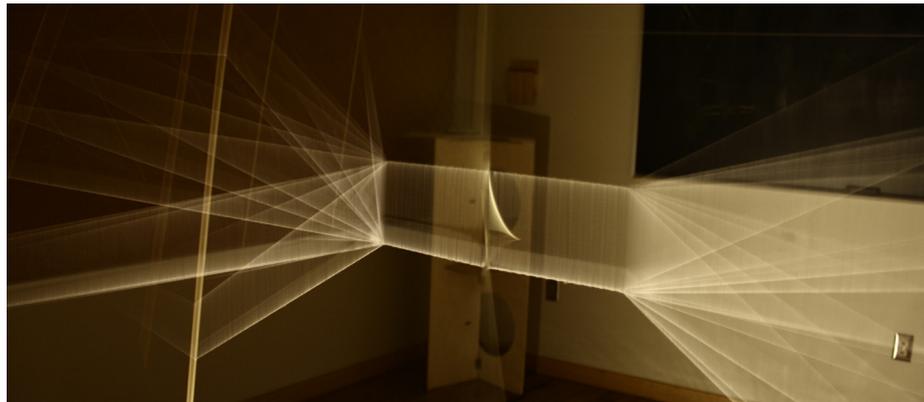
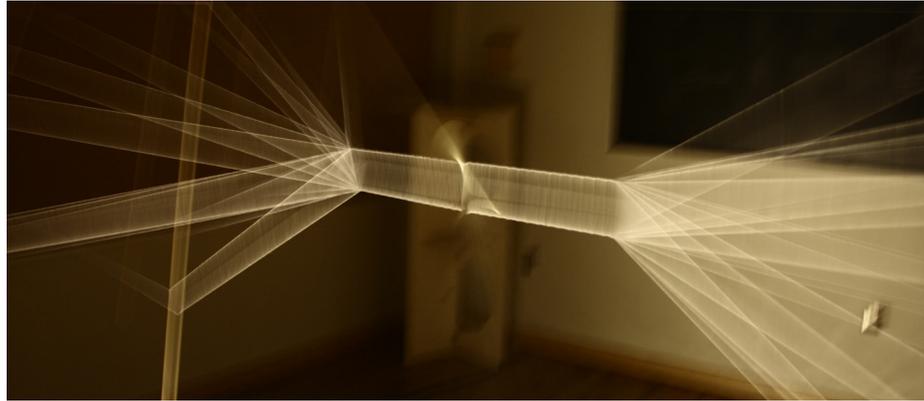
I have sought to explore the architectural potential of achieving relaxation via a metaphysical sign through my artefact. Taking the form of an installation, the participants stand in the spaces created by the web-like structure prior to its performance. This evokes a feeling of being surrounded by a delicate structural tension. Once the artefact is engaged, it slowly releases the tension in such a manner that evokes the feeling of a relaxed state via a metaphysical sigh. Turning the essence of this creation into architectural spaces may better serve the complex relationship between teacher and student, to improve academic performance in a sect of students that would otherwise fail in the conventional school system.



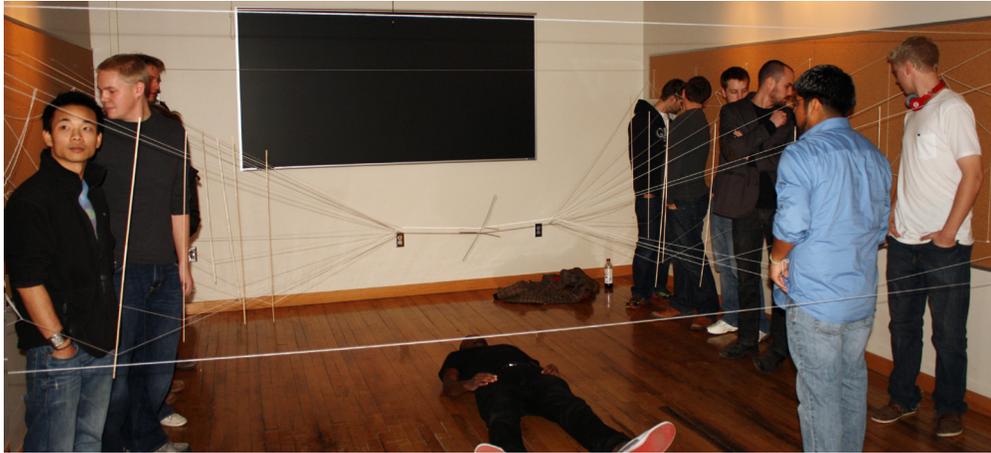
Details of the interstitial connections.



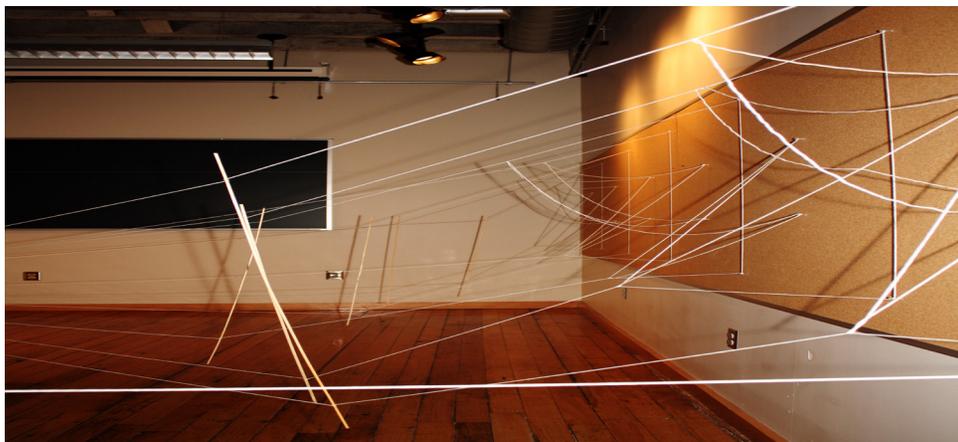
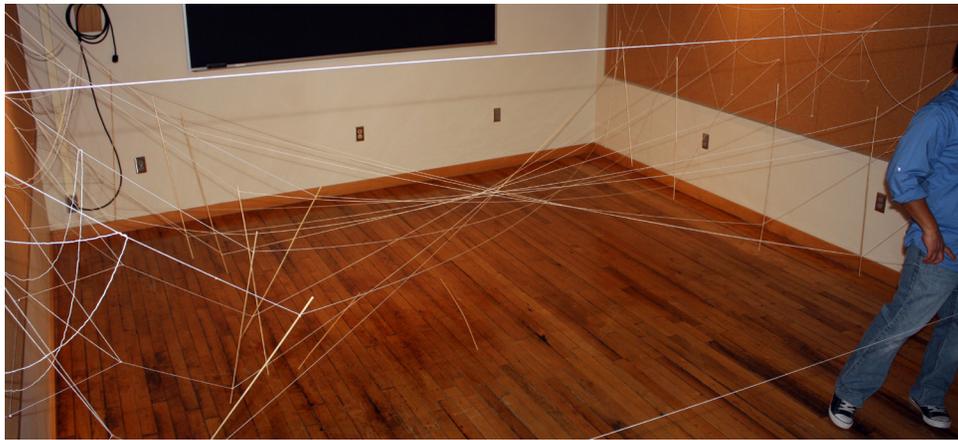
A gentle tap upwards on the cantilever engages the artefact and unwinds the tension of the web-like structure and creates a sigh-like feeling.



These pictures were captured with a slow shutter speed to reveal the subtle releasing of tension.



The participants are transported via the artefact from a state of tension, to a state of relaxation through the experience of a sigh.



A visual remnant of a sigh after the "Performance."



The architecture uses the same technique of subtle tension to create a sigh-like feeling as one moves throughout the spaces.



This new alternative high school is designed in such a way that those students whom would normally fail in the conventional system, can succeed in a system that is simultaneously aware of their strong points and negative behavioural tendencies. An example of this would be large amount of flexible open spaces (easily observed and regulated by administration) where students can learn useful trades. The hope is that once they have completed their training, they will be able to find a steady source of income. This will directly reduce the tendencies to rely on illegal forms of obtaining money to provide for themselves and their families which in turn also improves the overall quality of an urban city.