Alleyway Perspective

A pedestrian alleyway was developed between the Center of Creativity and the adjacent office building. It has seating that looks onto a sculpture. As a shared space between the two buildings, it would encourage interaction between the two. The area could also be used for small performances. The Center of Creativity has many balconies full of greenery overlooking this alleyway. Not only does this benefit the people in the art museum, but it also benefits the office building. The workers in the offices can look out and see greenery rather than just a building.

Outdoor Sculptural Garden

The many outdoor spaces located throughout the building make up the museum's sculptural garden. By having it dispersed throughout the building, people must explore the whole building to view all of it. This gives the viewers opportunities to discover new places or new insights on their way.

Classroom

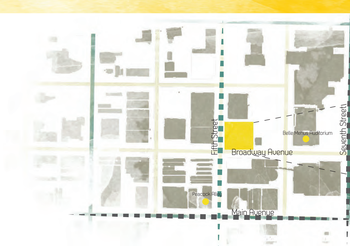
A major element in the programming of the art museum is the incorporation of spaces where people can be creative through painting, drawing, sculpting, and other means. This classroom for painting and drawing faces north, giving the space indirect, controlled natural lighting. This is ideal for painting. The artificial lighting which consists of both track lighting and fluorescent lighting can be adapted to the current use. The classroom leads out onto an outdoor space that can be used for outdoor classes on nice days.

Gallery

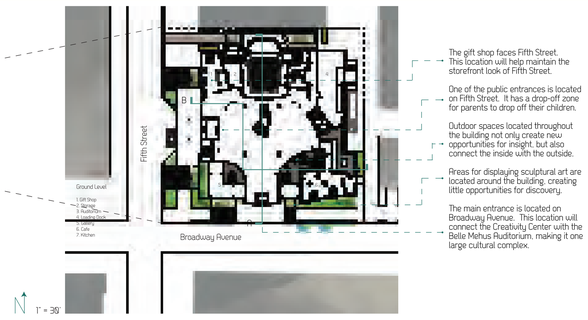
One of the most important elements of an art museum is the gallery space. The Center of Creativity consists of galleries for professional artists as well as student galleries. This specific gallery is a student gallery that looks into the sculptural classroom. The view from this gallery is directed to the Belle Mehus Auditorium. The walls in this gallery and the other galleries are movable in order to adjust to the changing needs of the space.

Entry

This perspective of the main entrance shows two of the sealed outdoor spaces. The outdoor spaces not only connect the viewers with the outdoors, but they also give the building a light feeling to balance out the heaviness of the concrete structure. This open space can be used for special exhibitions, or other events.



The site is located on the intersection of Fifth Street and Broadway Avenue. It is located just off of Seventh Street and Main Avenue, two major streets in Bismarck. Fifth Street is developing into an entertainment destination. Peacock Alley, one of the most notable buildings of Bismarck is located along Fifth Street. Belle Mehus Auditorium, another notable building of Bismarck, is located on Broadway Avenue. Because of the site's location on Fifth Street and Broadway Avenue, it will connect the entertainment life of Fifth Street with the cultural happenings at the Belle Mehus Auditorium. It will become a cultural center of downtown.



The gift shop faces Fifth Street. This location will help maintain the storefront look of Fifth Street.

One of the public entrances is located on Fifth Street. It has a drop-off zone for parents to drop off their children.

Outdoor spaces located throughout the building not only create new opportunities for insight, but also connect the inside with the outside.

Areas for displaying sculptural art are located around the building, creating little opportunities for discovery.

The main entrance is located on Broadway Avenue. This location will connect the Creativity Center with the Belle Mehus Auditorium, making it one large cultural complex.

Site Information

How does the experience of an environment contribute to one's ability to be creative?

> Architecture must be integrated with its place to create a stimulating experience that will give its users opportunities for new insights and ideas.

"Creativity" is often seen as diverging from the norms or standards which the place and culture set. People's experiences are a major influence on their creativity. Creativity correlates with an openness to experience. Those who are able to adapt to new experiences and are open to exploring and engaging new things or ideas are more likely to be creative. Although environments cannot make an individual opposed to new experiences less opposed, it can cater to those who are open by providing new and engaging experiences.

Architecture has the potential to enhance the human user's creativity by providing stimulating environments that engage his or her senses. Architecture becomes embedded with its place to create environments that people inhabit and experience. Because architecture is something that people experience rather than merely observe, it has the potential to engage multiple senses of its users. The creativity of an individual involves exceeding traditional ideas and proposing new ideas. New ideas are often sparked by experiencing new insight or discovery. Architecture combines with its surroundings to create a stimulating experience that will give its users opportunities for new insights and ideas.

This art museum is a collage of different experiences. Those different experiences are formed by different materials and different spaces. As people move through the building, they will get hints of other spaces to explore and discover. A bunch of different experiences throughout the building combine to form one experience. The different parts of this building combine with the surrounding environment to form one composition.

Basement

1. Art Storage
2. Art Storage
3. Mechanical

Second Level

1. Reading Room
2. Library
3. Administration
4. Classroom
5. Gallery
6. Gallery

Third Level

1. Permanent Collection Gallery
2. Art Storage
3. Outdoor Sculptural Garden
4. Exhibition Gallery
5. Permanent Collection Gallery

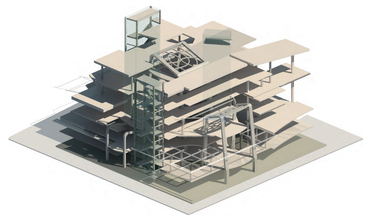
Unifying Idea

Creating for Creativity

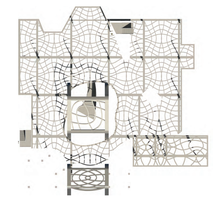
Creativity is seen all around us, whether it is in art, science, or another field. Many artists are considered "creative" after creating a new piece of art unlike anything before it. Scientists can be "creative" when they develop new ideas or solve problems by a new means. "Creative" is generally used to describe someone who has come up with something new, but what sparks this creativity? *How does the experience of an environment contribute to one's ability to be creative?*

This thesis, Creating Creativity, examines the impact an experience of an environment has on its inhabitant's creativity. The typology of this project is an art museum and design center located in Bismarck, North Dakota. Stimulating experiences create opportunities for discovery and insight which can lead to the increase of one's creativity. Architecture can be used to help create those stimulating experiences that would encourage the human users to live in the physical world rather than the virtual world.

The site of the art museum and creativity center is located in downtown Bismarck, North Dakota. Downtown Bismarck was once a place full of activity and excitement. However, much of that activity faded with the addition of the interstate. Downtown Bismarck was no longer a destination until recently. Today the downtown is transforming into a place reminiscent of its early years - a place full of excitement. The addition of an art museum and creativity center downtown would help in the transformation. It would make it a cultural center, not only for the city, but also for the state.



Creativity is often thought of as diverging from the norms. In order to inspire creativity, the concrete superstructure diverges from the normal waffle slab structure. The grid lines are molded to follow isostatic stress lines. The resulting structure not only shows the plasticity of concrete, but it also has a meaning behind the form. The atrium form is structured in the same way. The mullions follow the stress lines and are formed to resist the strong northwest wind.



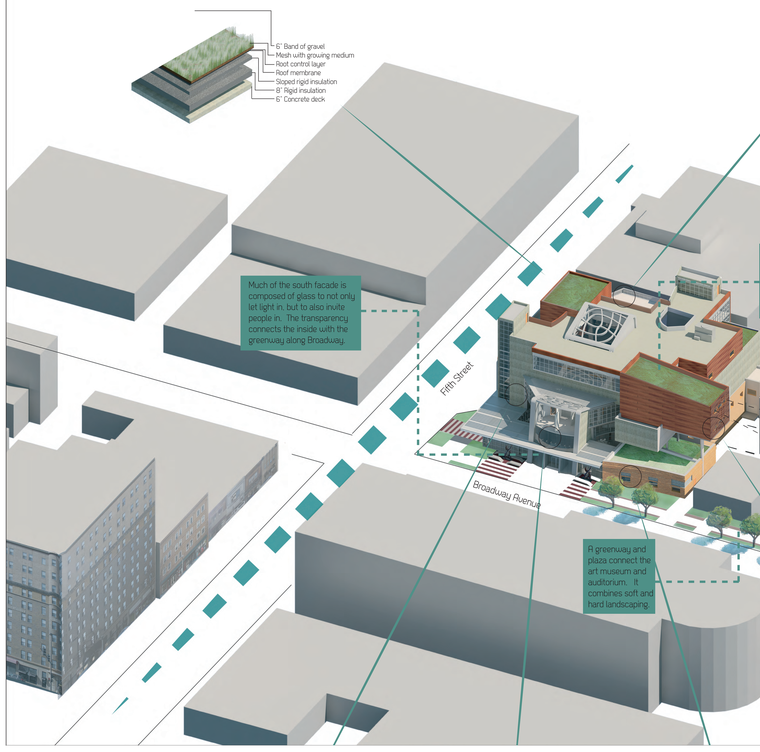
Structure

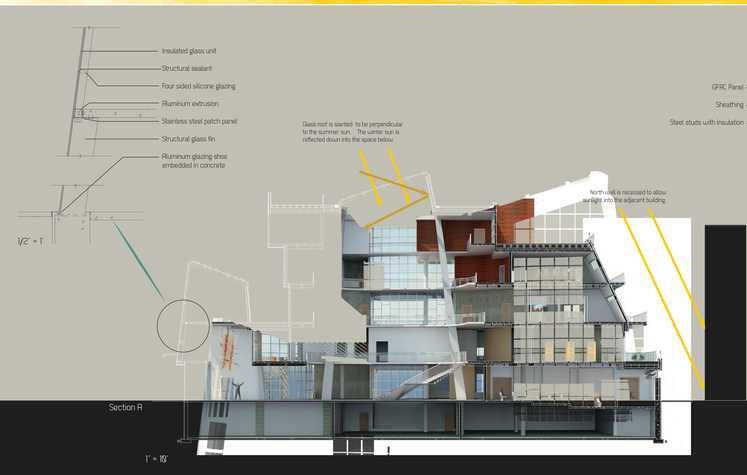
Fourth Level

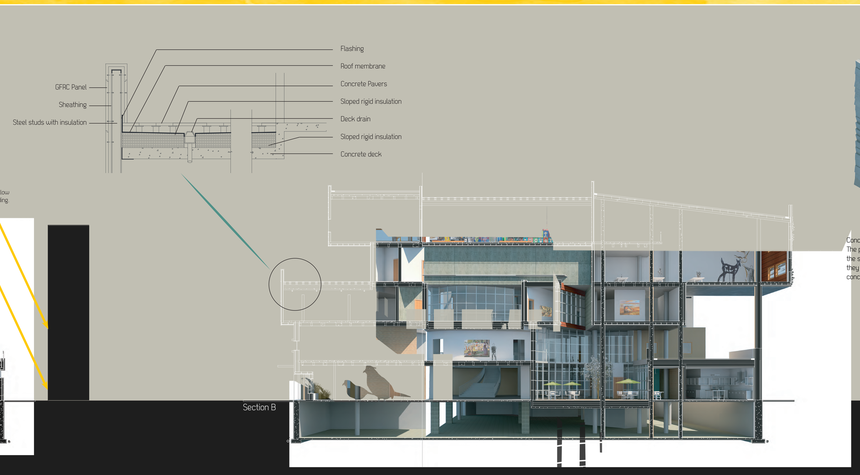
1. 2D Classroom
2. Restoration Workshop
3. Woodshop
4. 3D Classroom

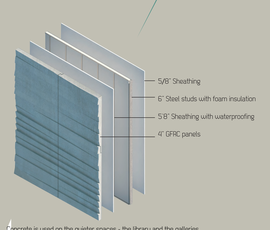
Fifth Level

1. Artist Studio
2. Artist Studio
3. Student Gallery
4. Student Gallery

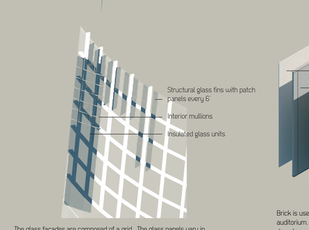




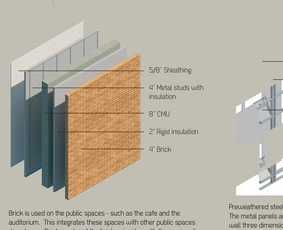




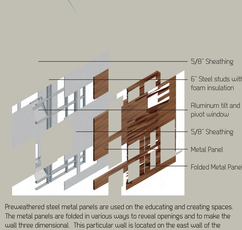
Concrete is used on the quieter spaces - the library and the galleries. The precast panels used on the museum are subtly different than the surrounding buildings. Instead of being a flat, smooth surface, they are molded into a varying surface. This shows the plasticity of concrete and provides an opportunity for discovery.



The glass facades are composed of a grid. The glass panels vary in texture and opaqueness, forming a subtle collage. The base of the entrance uses glass fins to resist the lateral wind loads. Using glass fins gives the entrance an inviting transparency. The upper level has mullions only on the interior, giving the exterior a clean, sleek appearance.



Brick is used on the public spaces - such as the cafe and the auditorium. This integrates these spaces with other public spaces downtown. The tan color of the brick coincides with the surrounding context of downtown.



Preweathered steel metal panels are used on the educating and creating spaces. The metal panels are folded in various ways to reveal openings and to make the wall three dimensional. This particular wall is located on the east wall of the cantilever. The panels on the lower level are folded back slightly to allow light into the space while blocking direct glare. It gives a glimpse of the view to the greenway and plaza, but the full view is not revealed until one goes to the upper level.

Material Assembly

The materials used are common materials to the Bismarck area. The way in which they are represented are slightly different than the normal way, creating opportunities for insight. The assembly uses current technology to push the limits of the material, while enhancing the true nature of that material. The materials work together to form a collage. The different materials represent different functions of the spaces within.

ARCH 772, Design Thesis, Spring 2014
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