One function of the earthen dike is that it will help to insulate the northern face of the building from the cold winter winds.

The concept of strata or layers is used throughout the design. It is an aesthetic element that conveys both a connection to the surrounding environment as well as an appreciation for Fargo history. It is advocated through the city hall and how are they accomplished?

- A connection to the environment and the river
- River overlook on the third floor
- Riverfront gateway created through the earth dike
- Flood protection dike serving multiple functions
- The concept of strata throughout the design

Preservation of history and our culture:
- Renovation of existing City Hall
- Fargo History Gallery
- Refocusing on the river and the strata of the land

Creating valued public environments:
- Using durable, sustainable materials
- Choosing to renovate rather than destroy
- Create outdoor public spaces that enhance walkability
- Inappropriate passive and active sustainable technologies
The site is located on a parking lot just east of the existing Fargo City Hall, and the Red River lies just a few hundred feet to the east of the proposed addition. The river provided service and drop-off entrance.

The current City Hall, lies perpendicular to the addition, it was completed in 1958, by well known architect, Ralph Rapson. The modernist design was one of the first of its kind in Fargo.

In the form of an earthen dike, it allowed me to create a gateway for the river front while also providing sheltering from the cold north winds. Not only the inspiration for the project, but also added challenges worth embracing. It was clear from the beginning that permanent flood protection is a necessity for this project.

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