Nesting: Dwelling through Surrealistic Spaces within the Urban Fabric of Minneapolis
“overwhelming presence in contemporary life enhances our propensity to forget that we are our mortal bodies whose very flesh is also that of the world, a common element that grants the light of reason and immortal thoughts, while pulling us down into the darkness of the earth. We forget that love and death, pleasure and pain are inextricably linked through our embodied consciousness.”

- Alberto Perez Gomez

Built Upon Love
“well planned, easy to keep, attractively cheap, open to air, light, and sun” though they may be, hold no “guarantee that dwelling occurs in them”

- Heidegger

Lessons of a Dream
Downtown Minneapolis

Heidegger's Cabin
"is the natural habitat of the function of inhabiting. For not only do we come back to it, but we dream of coming back to it, the way a bird comes back to its nest, or a lamb to the fold. This sign of return marks an infinite number of daydreams, for the reason that human returning takes place in the great rhythm of human life, a rhythm that reaches back across the years and, through the dream, combats all absence. An intimate component of faithful loyalty reacts upon the related images of nest and house."

-Gaston Bachelard
The Poetics of Space
“reinstate the imagination as the distinctive attribute of human existence,” and to complete this task, “the surrealist texts reveal a non-perspectival space which is conducive to the evocation of their poetic world.”

-Dagmar Motycka Weston
Surrealist Paris
NADJA

ANDRÉ BRETON
“The more finite a thing is, the more it is charged with life, emotions, joy, fear, compassion. For infinity is not terribly lively, not terribly emotional...passion is the privilege of the insignificant.”

-Joseph Brodsky

In Praise of Boredom
“I do not live happily or comfortably
With the cleverness of our times.
The talk is all about computers,
The news is all about bombs and blood.
This morning, in the fresh field,
I came upon a hidden nest.
It held four warm, speckled eggs.
I touched them.
Then went away softly,
Having felt something more wonderful
Than all the electricity of New York City.”

-Mary Oliver

Yoke
“On the inside the instrument that prescribes a circular form for the nest is nothing else but the body of the bird. It is by constantly turning round and round and pressing back the walls on every side, that it succeeds in forming this circle.”

-Jules Michelet
The Poetics of Space
“when we dream, we are phenomenologists without realizing it... and so when we examine a nest, we place ourselves at the origin of confidence in the world, we receive a beginning of confidence, an urge toward cosmic confidence.”

- Gaston Bachelard

The Poetics of Space
“for the solitary there comes from
time to time a something wonderfully
beneficent. It is no sound, no
splendor, and also no voice. It is the
smile of women who have passed away,
which, like the light of dead stars, is
still on its way to us.”

- Rainer Maria Rilke
Letters to a Young Poet
Minneapolis Lightrail Map
Green Line Highlighted in Red
Downtown Minneapolis

Site 1

University of Minnesota Campus

Site 2

Light rail
Greenline Lightrail
Bike Lines
New Park Construction
Site 1

New & Proposed Construction
Site One: Architecture
Downtown Minneapolis
Parking Structure within the Cellar of the City
Enclosing into the Entrances of Public and Private Space in Pockets of Light and Shadow
Floating through Architectural Layers into the Depths of the Exhibition Space
Experiencing Art from Above and Below in the Hanging Exhibition Spaces
Artistic Section Through Parking Structure into Exhibition Space
Below the Rafters of the City in the Auditorium Space
Site 1 Exterior
Site 2 Exterior

Underground Study Spaces
As seen by the topography lines, the site is fairly flat. On a micro scale there is slight puddling; however, drainage should not be a major issue in this site location. The new park will help with drainage once in place.
These sun studies were conducted using SketchUp. The buildings surrounding the site do not cast a large shadow. Development on the south west side of the site may change if a planned development occurs; however, the site will never experience a shadow from another building on the west due to the new park development. The Vikings Stadium’s shadow does not reach the site. Overall, the site has great access to sunlight. Natural daylight will be directed into the space in a controlled manner. The canopy from the transit station casts a minimal shadow on the site. Possibly integrating the transit station design into the site may provide a strong connection between it and the station.

June 21st 9am
September 21st 9am
March 21st 3PM
December 21st 3PM
Site Two should not experience a drainage problem. The current site is covered in permeable pavers, but the sidewalks are not. Meaning, the site currently absorbs most of its water instead of distributing it into the city drainage system. Part of the site could be used for snow placement in the winter to open up the roadway.
These sun studies were conducted using SketchUp. The site is covered in shadow during the colder months of the year which could be connected to the low use of the site in the winter. The site may be used for snow piling and a contrast of the site at night and add warmth. A lighter material will create a safer atmosphere on the street at night.
The sites receive snow in the winter and moderate amounts of rain in the spring and summer months. Minneapolis has a large amount of heating degree days meaning larger amounts of insulation. The envelope of the build will be crucial in creating a comfortable space. Summer months are less of a concern; however, the architecture will need to include a form of natural shading. A micro-climate may occur due to the distance between the site and the Mississippi River, meaning the humidity may vary and the wind may be stronger.
1. Site Location Next to Downtown East Platform
2. Old Armory (Currently Being Restored)
3. New Vikings Stadium Location
4. Mississippi River: St. Anthony Falls
5. Government Center Plaza
6. New Park Construction (Under Demolition)
7. New Residential Towers & Parking Ramp
8. Future Development Site
9. Mill City Ruins
10. Guthery Theatre
11. Mill City Museum

12. Government Run Buildings
13. East Bank Station
14. Site Location
15. McNamara Alumni Center
16. TCF Bank Stadium
17. Weisman Art Museum
18. Ford Hall
19. Grace University Lutheran Church
20. Dept. of Chemical Engineering and Material Science
21. Lillehei Heart Institute
22. Jackson Hall
23. Molecular & Cellular Biology
Modeling making has played a major role in the development of the final architecture. A series of models were made for each site location. Alternating between sites allowed for the project to grow in an extremely unique way.