ADDITIVE + SUBTRACTIVE: REIMAGINING THE WORK OF A MID CENTURY MASTER

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This Thesis is an exploratory process in the adaptive reuse of Eero Saarinen's iconic IBM campus in Rochester, Minnesota. It seeks to develop design ideas which suit new uses while being congruous with the existing architectural language. The size and scale of the site lends itself to additive + subtractive design strategies. Its iconic form provides a strong framework to build upon.

Since the scope of the project is so large, it has been broken into 3 main programmatic elements from East to west; IBM/ high tech industry, multi-family residential, and a technology campus for the University of Minnesota- Rochester.

The image at left is a culmination of the primary aspects of this thesis including; history of the site, new program uses, the focus on the residential component, integration of the additive + subtractive design, materiality, and the preservation of the Saarinen influence.

PROBLEM STATEMENT
Eero Saarinens' iconic IBM campus in Rochester, Minnesota is underutilized and faces an uncertain future. The needs of IBM have changed and the space is now too large to be fully utilized for its original purposes. Without careful thought for how to properly adapt the space, the architecture is in danger of being unrecognizably changed or lost.

THESIS STATEMENT
How do we build upon someone else's work in way that is meaningful and relevant while respecting the original character of the place?