

COMMON
CULTURE
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COMMON CULTURE

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The influence of public spaces in urban life is an issue that has been apparent since the development of ancient cities. Opportunities to socialize, interact, and exchange ideas in these spaces allow members of a community to participate in the development of their city. These opportunities occur more frequently when public space is accessible to everyone.

In American cities, the impact of public space has been diminished and limited due to the overabundance of automobiles and has directed civic life to the streets and privately controlled areas.

By understanding the relationship between civic architecture and public engagement, this thesis aims to provide spaces which incorporate civic pride, civic dignity, and the common ground of a city's citizens in relation to different scales of user interaction. The goal of the design is to provide spaces which collectively contribute to a sense of community, expression of diversity, and the discovery of a city's common culture.

THESIS NARRATIVE



Figure 02

Today, the idea of public space has become an illusion. Much of the areas people assume to be public are actually owned by the private sector. True public spaces are provided by the city government; however, much of the public spaces provided by the city are limited to streetways and sidewalks. To benefit a community, a public space must be provided to re-initiate a democratic atmosphere.

In large cities, the local zoning codes started allowing private entities to build taller buildings if the company or developer provided public space on the ground level. Many projects began to implement this idea into their designs with good intentions; however, the designs often included ways to limit access of occupancy to certain categories and classifications of city residents. Common practices include sprinklers that go off at nightly intervals and specially designed seating to steer the homeless community from coming to the space. Other methods involve reducing certain seating on the site to avoid having members of society who just wish to enjoy a meal on their property.

This thesis is an approach to giving people back their voice. A voice that has been lost in the privatization of public spaces in American cities. By providing truly democratic spaces, cities can provide their citizens with a place to speak, share ideas, and place to identify as their own. This thesis aims to reconnect residents of Chicago to the public realm which has been eroded by the private sector.

Humans are social beings and need to be provided with spaces to interact with people who share the same values and ideas as well as with people who may not. This melting pot of interactions begins to show the true representation of a city and reveals an urban areas common culture.

PROJECT TYPOLOGY

Chicago Civic

Center

Typology: Civic Space

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Facilities Include: Outdoor public space, information area, indoor atrium, small shops, staging area for multiple purposes, electronic displays, venue space, and green rooms for guests.

The project serves the public by providing public plazas on the exterior of the building as well as the interior of the building. The public is also provided with information about the city, its events, and an area available for informative reception from citizens.

The project provides spaces open to the public, allowing them to circulate throughout the multiple venue spaces while experiencing different events and displays which collectively represent the common culture of Chicago.

PROJECT EMPHASIS

Public Engagement

The ability to influence and facilitate public engagement is an emphasis produced by this project by allowing public to occupy space that would otherwise be developed into a private space. Public engagement must be the prime motivator to produce a successful public space because without people, the building would serve no purpose. Public engagement occurs on multiple levels of user interaction so the design must effectively accommodate to all scales.

Public Availability

Public availability creates the backbone of this thesis project. Without the availability to the public, the project would be condemned worthless. If the public has no viable access to the site, the public won't be allowed to utilize the services the thesis aims to provide to the people of Chicago. This emphasis relies heavily on the carefully selected site which has access to multiple ways of transportation.

Aesthetics & Poetics

A place provided by the city to the public should have certain aesthetic qualities. The main design will reflect how the city sees its residents so quality must remain a number one priority.

Poetically the project must represent the people well. This is done through site selection within the middle of the city center, providing a space for Chicagoans to claim as their own and be displayed as the keystone of the metropolitan area.

GOALS

PLAN

One of the main goals of this thesis is to effectively plan how to re-identify the public to the Chicago area. This plan would include a set series of ideals for public architecture within a metropolitan area as a model which could service several other cities.

PROVIDE

Providing the public with its own space is major aspect of this thesis; however, providing space is not enough to justify the project. In order to truly give the site to the people of the city, the project must include ways common civilians may use, utilize, and benefit from the building and site. These benefits include services offered by the city itself as well as protection from any outside interference of any legal demonstrations that may occur.

PROTECT

Protection of human rights becomes a major emphasis of the project and a goal worth achieving. Protection does not just mean physical protection, it means protection of peoples civil liberties such as demonstrations, speeches, expression of ideas, and rights to occupy.

Providing the public with their own space to socialize and identify comes with necessary measures to make sure citizens are not stripped of their right to do so. The disappearance of public space from a city threatens its residents and threatens the concept of democracy. This thesis project intends to protect both.

ACADEMIC

The academic goal of this thesis is to present an improved understanding of the need for proper public spaces. It also seeks to provide the writer with research experience to help advocate for a historical understanding of the suppression of the public realm.

PROFESSIONAL

This thesis seeks to improve the authors understanding of public and civic architecture as a future career choice. Many firms seek individuals with the interest in public architecture because it is a very specific portion of the architectural realm. A firm with an emphasis on public study will benefit from a new employee who has an understanding for their design philosophies.

PERSONAL

Photographs, renderings, and research material will provide the author with portfolio material and experience for future uses. A personal goal of the project is to treat the quality of the project as inventive as possible as quality is a reflection of ones self.

USER & CLIENT DESCRIPTION

CLIENT

This thesis provides an interesting clientele as it is not intended to serve one client or company, it is intended to serve an entire city. The client is the city of Chicago and will be in contact with city officials; however, the project itself is lent to the people in the city.

USERS

Although owned and operated by the city of Chicago, the intended use of the building is for the general public. The public has full access to the outdoor courtyard, indoor spaces, and to any available venue space that is currently open to the public on that particular day.

Other users may include faculty which help maintain, run, and manage the spaces. Guests who are there to give speeches, host demonstrations, or present themselves will also have spaces allotted to them.

PROJECT DESIGN

The project is intended to be designed for the public as well as the officials and workers who will also utilize the building. Because the building is used for the public, there must also be employees who serve the public. The service providers must also be considered during the design phases.

RESEARCH DESIGN PLAN

DESIGN METHODOLOGY

A design research methodology shall be used throughout the proceedings of this project. A research question should be asked to stimulate a design statement followed by a system of inquiry, or an approach to solving the question. Strategies shall be chosen based on the type of research that is required. Examples of research strategies might include interpretive research or qualitative research. Research techniques will be chosen appropriately based on the topics being researched. A literature review may be appropriate for any type of theoretical backgrounds.

DOCUMENTATION

Documentation of design process shall take place throughout the semester as appropriate. A journal should be kept to provide research references and a sketchbook should be used to show ideas and early design concepts. The documentation process should guide the project and not follow its course. Documentation is explained in further detail later in this book.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

The project schedule for the Spring semester will include multiple topics to analyze and implement from the end of December through the end of May. Topics may overlap each other and conclude at different times appropriate to the schedules layout.

Spring Topics:

Context Analysis	Passive Systems Analysis
Conceptual Analysis	Active Systems Analysis
Theoretical Premise	Floor Plans
Site Analysis	Structural Modeling
Design Strategies	Envelope Design
Schematic Design	Deliverables
Environmental Analysis	Final Exhibit

Precedent Analysis

Learning from the past can drive a designer progress learning what does and doesn't work with a specific typology. The projects studied for this thesis were chosen based on their merit of interaction with the public, sustainability goals, relation to site, and interaction between the spaces provided within the building. The study of failure is often forgotten in the world of design and must be appropriately surveyed as often as design accomplishments are. The following projects either provide the public with a place to gather and feel connected to the community, provide an insight to innovative sustainability practices, or both.



Figure 03

POMPIDOU CENTER

TYPOLOGY AND PROGRAM

The Pompidou Center is a museum in Paris, France that is mostly noted for its innovative facade design. The program of the building includes circulation on the outside of the building and a large open center with many different spaces for exhibits.

The exterior loans itself to the public by opening the site to a large plaza that facilitates interaction on a multitude of levels which is a main inspiration for this thesis. The effectiveness of people utilizing the space is a goal.

CONTEXT & COMPOSITION

The museum is made of steel and glass and has a very obvious escalator and staircase crawling up the side of the building. The high-tech modern architecture loans itself to its architect, Richard Rogers who wanted to set the building apart from the rest of Paris.

HUMAN INTERACTION

The large plaza outside of the building is highly utilized by both the people about to enter the building and the people who just want to utilize the public space. Although the interior is highly utilized, it costs money to enter so many people on the outside do not try to enter and utilize the space which is provided to them. Richard Rogers argues that an architect has two clients: ones who utilize the building and ones who experience the building from the outside.

CONCLUSION

The exterior court is the prime element which should be studied in this project and how it provides different spaces for user interaction. It provides a large space for large crowds, but also smaller spaces for a more intimate setting. The interesting exterior of the building allows users to interact with the architecture which should be another goal for the project.



Figure 04

THE ROMAN FORUM

TYPOLOGY AND PROGRAM

The Roman Forum is argued to be the most celebrated public space in the history of the world. At the peak of the Roman Empire, it was the center of commerce, religion, and politics. The ability to utilize multiple spaces at once is a strong influence on this thesis. The ability to have intimate spaces to occupy while having the freedom to also occupy the center of the forum is another element worth considering.

CONTEXT & COMPOSITION

The Forum is located in Rome, Italy and is made almost entirely of stone which was common during that era. Classical buildings surrounded the entire site and classical columns were common on the exterior of these buildings.

The use of one style of architecture contributed to the overall sense of community within Rome and should be considered when designing in Chicago.

HUMAN INTERACTION

People who wished to utilize the space were allowed to do so as it was a purely public space. The forum offered a variety of spaces at all scales whether it was a temple, a market, or a speech. Interaction occurred at the comitium, or stage for speeches, where demonstrations and presentations were given.

The ability to provide multiple spaces for users should be considered in the design phase.

CONCLUSION

The Roman Forum was the most successful public space in the past and its ability to interact with the public makes it a perfect case study to provide different scales of interaction. The classical architecture collectively attributes to the sense of community within the city and humans were able to interact with a multitude of spaces.



Figure 05

TARGET FIELD STATION

TYOLOGY AND PROGRAM

Target Field Station is a transportation hub near Target Field in downtown Minneapolis., MN. The space aims to provide different areas for public engagement. It is used for pre-game events for the Minnesota Twins as well as a place to utilize while waiting for your transportation method to arrive.

The spaces involved are a large urban green with the to project onto a large screen, a train station, a large amphitheater, and concession area.

CONTEXT & COMPOSITION

The architects who design the space used steel, glass, and concrete for the transportation hub and limestone for other areas of the site. The limestone matches Target Field and contributes to a sense of community because of the materials abundant use around the city and in its civic architecture.

HUMAN INTERACTION

Users are provided with multiple spaces to interact with and are able to occupy the space as on a personal scale as well as in a large group. The amphitheater and the events which it hosts draws users to the site. The urban grass and viewing area draws people to the site and allows people to experience it at different levels of interaction.

CONCLUSION

Target Field Station is a perfect case study because of its goal of providing spaces for multiple types of events. The goal of creating a new civic culture is what this thesis aims to do, and the success of this site will help influence successful design.



Figure 06

Site Analysis

The thesis site is located in downtown Chicago, Illinois at a location known as Wolf Point. Wolf Point is known as the first trading post in the city of Chicago and housed many firsts for the urban area such as first church, pharmacy, and ferry port. Around the site lies important features to the Chicago community such as the federal postal building, the fork of the Chicago River, and several access ways by public transportation. An area so rich in history and easy access to the public yearns itself to become a place for the public, an area the community can define as their own. Geographically the site lies in the center of the city, poetically displaying the place of the people.

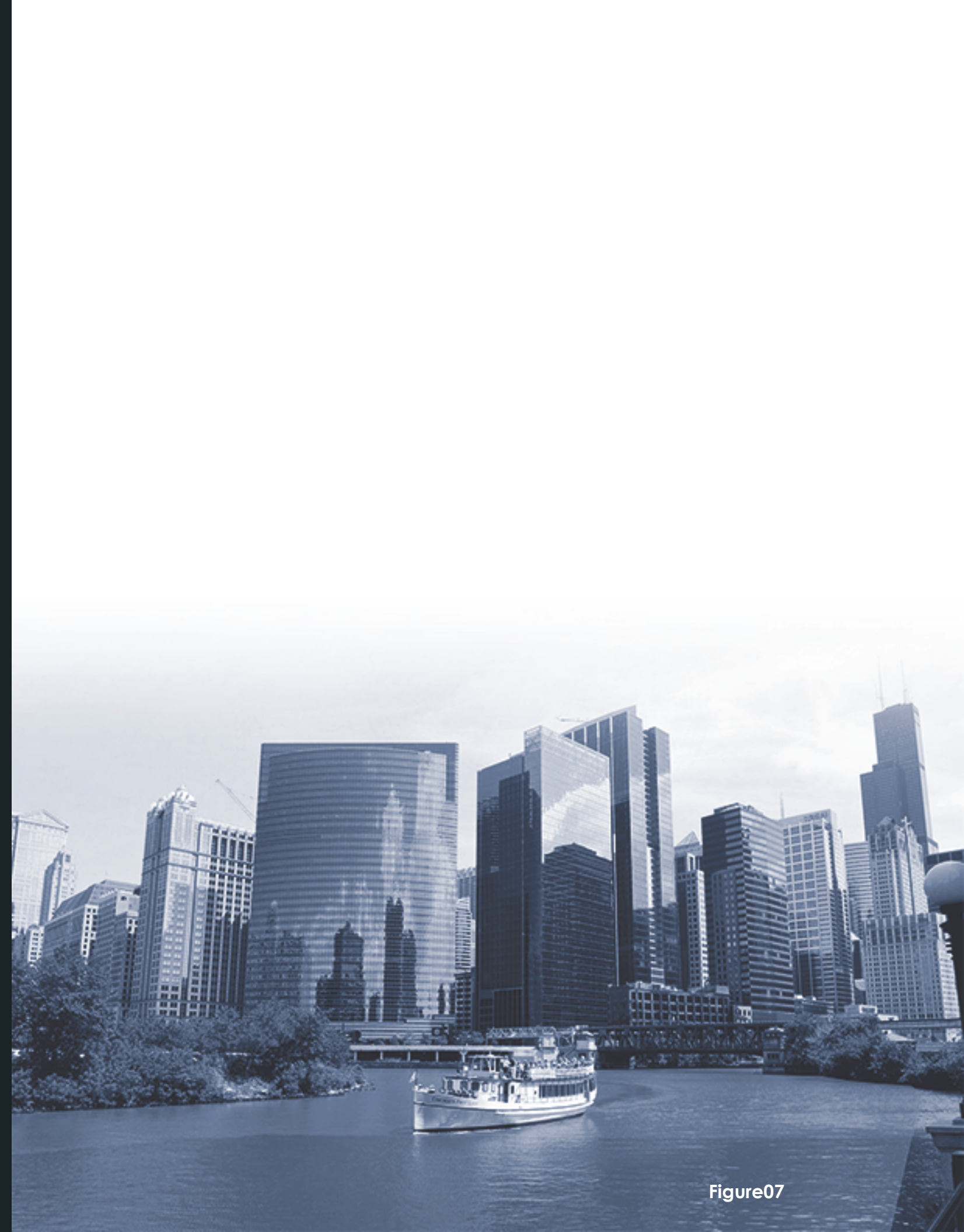
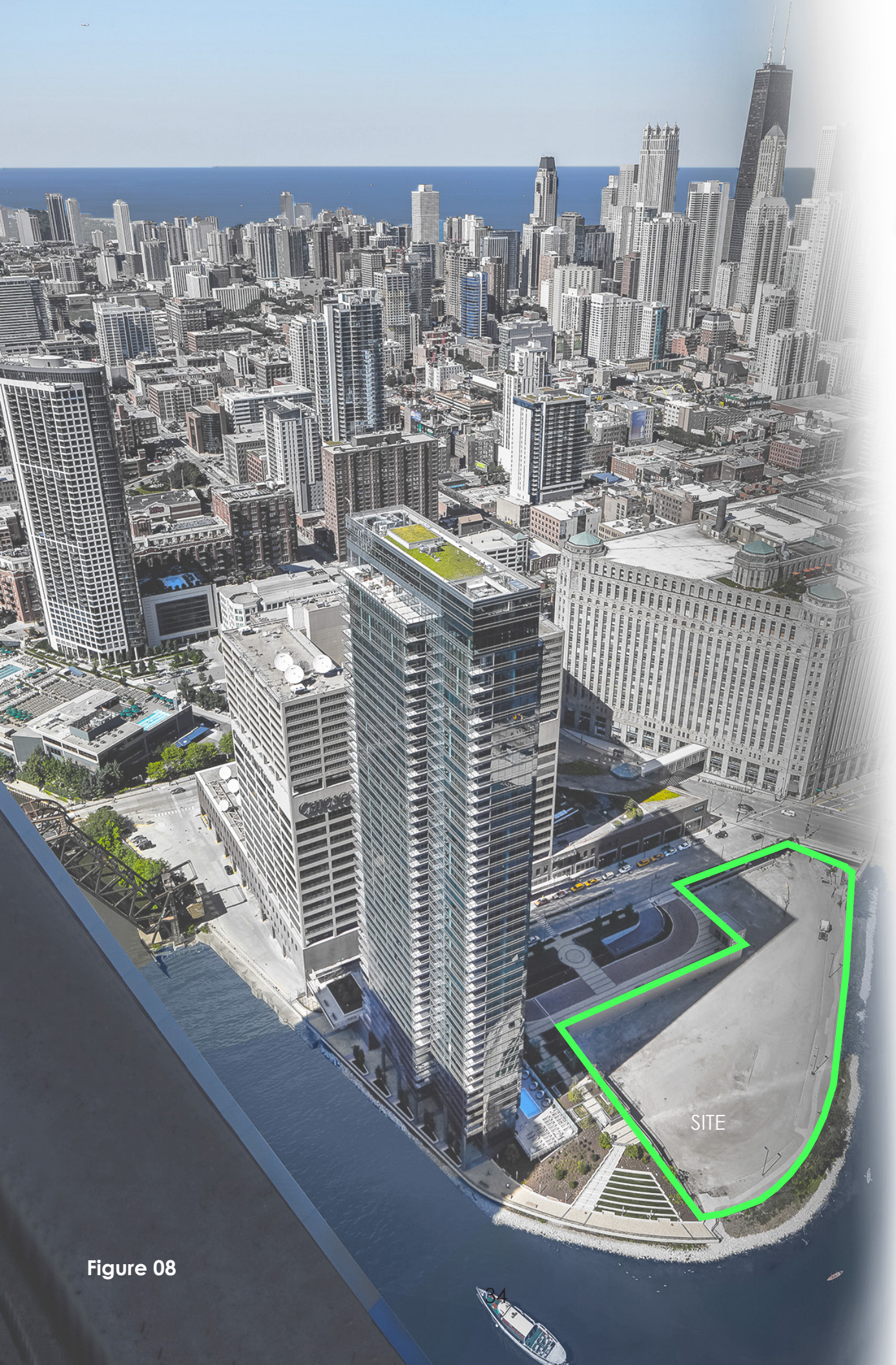


Figure07



LOCATION

The site is located in downtown Chicago at the fork of the Chicago River. The cross streets are West Wolf Point Plaza and North Orleans Street.

HISTORY

The site sits on a point in Chicago called Wolf Point. The point is important in the development of the city as it was the location of the city's first three taverns and the first hotel. It was also home to its first ferry, drugstore, church, and first bridge across the Chicago River.

Currently the site is used as parking and is owned by the Kennedy family.

CONCLUSION

Because the site has such a deep history for Chicago, it is important to treat the site with respect. As it is a current parking lot, it might be ideal to keep the parking and build up from it. Because the Kennedy family currently owns the lot, it might be a smart to offer a project that would benefit the owner.

Figure 08

CLIMATE

The temperature in Chicago ranges from an average high of 74 degrees to an average low of 42 degrees. The city experiences cold wet winters and moderate summers.

Hours of sunlight during January average four hours a day compared to twelve hours a day in July.

The wind primarily comes from the South and West during the winter months and from the North and East during the spring and summer.

CONCLUSION

Because of the amount of sunlight in the winter, solar gain may not be a major focus, but because of the excess sunlight in the summer, sun shades should be used on the East, South, and West facades.

Wind patterns should be treated with respect. The project should try to avoid the South and West winds during the winter, although they may be warmer than the Northern winds during the winter. The North and East winds in the warmer months allows the project to utilize the cooler winds to help cool the building.

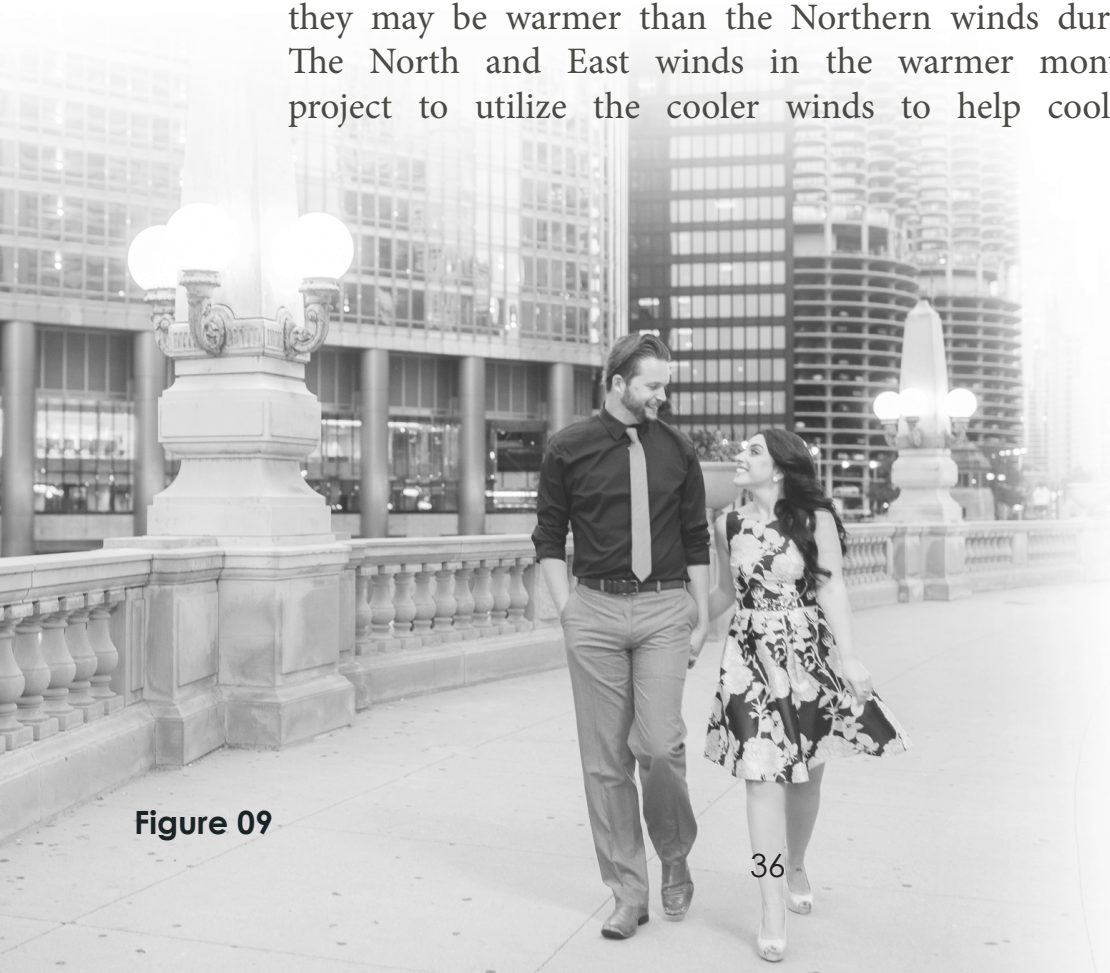


Figure 09

POINTS OF INTEREST

One of the major points of interest near the site is the federal post office building to its East. The building is quite large and attracts many visitors due to the market that is also located within the building.

The most important points directly affecting the site is the Chicago River and the river-walk system that the city of Chicago has implemented.

CONCLUSION

The river-walk would require a thirty foot set back from the river to allow pedestrians to walk. This would be a great opportunity to attract visitors to the site. An entrance to the building from the site may be utilized depending on the design process.

The river itself is available to use for boaters so a small dock or port could be utilized to connect the site and building to a natural feature of the city.

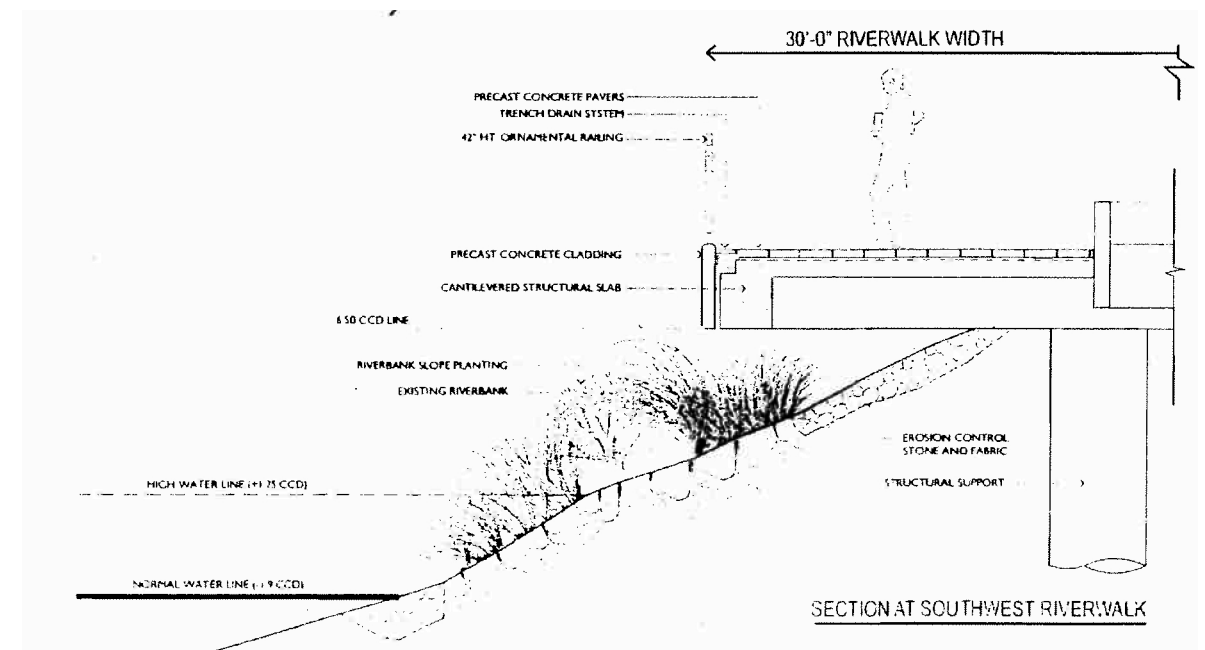


Figure 10

Code Analysis

Codes exist for the safety of its inhabitants. These protections range from hallway widths to allowable square footage for the selected form of fire protection. The international Code Council provides architects with codes that need to be followed; however, they do not cover all necessary local codes as well. This analysis of codes seeks to find the codes necessary for the thesis project. Because the project is located in Chicago, Illinois, the project must oblige to the Municipal Codes of Chicago as well as the ICC.

Along with specific codes the building must follow, exceptions can typically be made so long as they are appropriately safe.

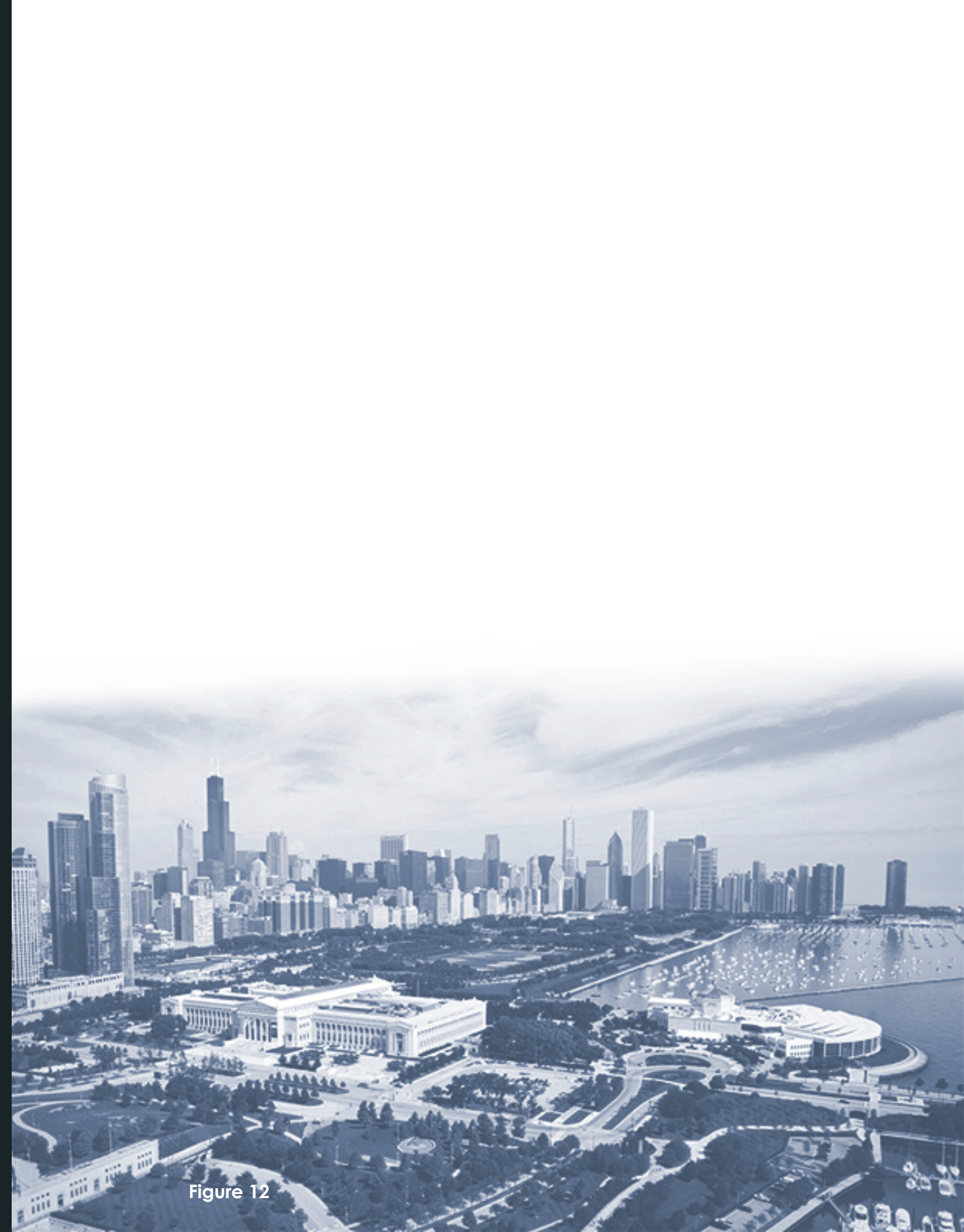


Figure 12

CLASS E BUSINESS

Under the Municipal Code of Chicago, this project will fall under the category of Class E Business for its utilization of office space, civic administration, and professional services. ICC records this classification as Group B under Section 304. The MCOC lists this typology under Division 3 Section 13-10-010.

TYPE II CONSTRUCTION

Type II Construction, as seen by the ICC, is combined with Type I. These types are identified as construction made of noncombustible materials. The Municipal Code of Chicago separates these two categories. Type one refers to fire resistive material used in construction whereas Type II refers to construction with a noncombustible material. The building will be using an SM sprinkler system as required to cover two or more floors.

DIVISION 6 SECTIONS
13-60-050
13-60-051

100 GROSS OCCUPANCY LOAD

Maximum floor area allowance per occupant is determined by the function of the space. The entire building shall serve as office space, civic services, and professional services. As a result, the floor area allowance maximum is one-hundred square feet per occupant.

DIVISION 3
SECTION 13-30-030

MAXIMUM HEIGHT 12 STORIES

150 FEET

ICC allows up to twelve stories to be built upon the site with a maximum height of 150 feet. The Municipal Code of Chicago allows for a few exceptions. Parapet walls up to three feet, penthouses, roof tanks, bulkheads, chimneys, and any similar roof structures are exceptions to the height restrictions so long as they do not exceed 1/3 of the total roof square footage. Any floor below four feet grade level shall not count as a story. Mezzanines do not count as a level so long as it does not exceed twenty percent of the floor area or exceed 8,000 square feet. A spire, with no occupied space may extend sixty feet above height restrictions so long as it does not exceed 1/3 of roof area.

MAXIMUM EXIT WIDTH

11.75 FEET

Maximum corridor width for emergency exiting shall not exceed level and three fourths feet. This figure is found by using an estimated occupancy of 700 people.

DIVISION 10
SECTION 13-50-080

MAXIMUM SQUARE FOOTAGE

UNLIMITED

The maximum square footage of the building is unlimited due to the construction type and the sprinkler system used. Square footage on the ground level is unlimited; however, according to the Municipal Code of Chicago, floors must reduce square footage with the increase of floors as such:

- 1ST FLOOR - BASE SQ. FT.
- 2ND FLOOR - 100% OF BASE
- 3RD FLOOR - 90% OF BASE
- 4TH FLOOR - 85% OF BASE
- 5TH FLOOR - 80% OF BASE
- 6TH FLOOR - 75% OF BASE
- 7TH FLOOR - 70% OF BASE
- 8TH AND UP - 65% OF BASE

TYPICAL BATHROOM CODES

Figure 14

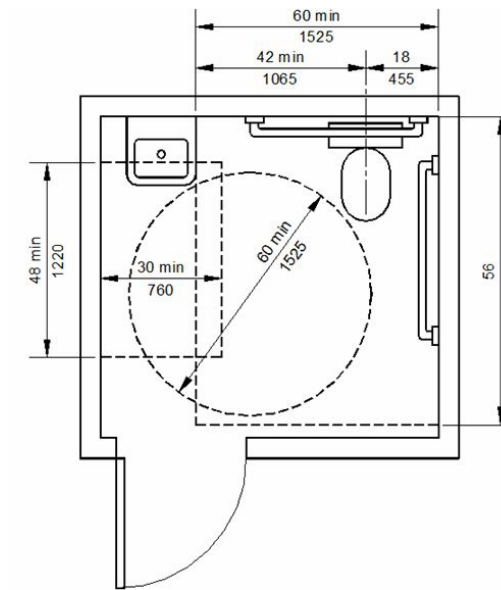
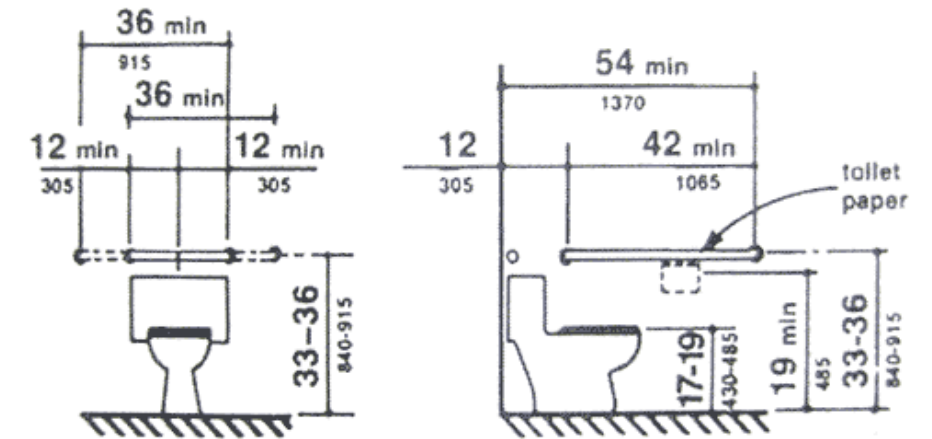


Figure 15



ADA DOOR CODES

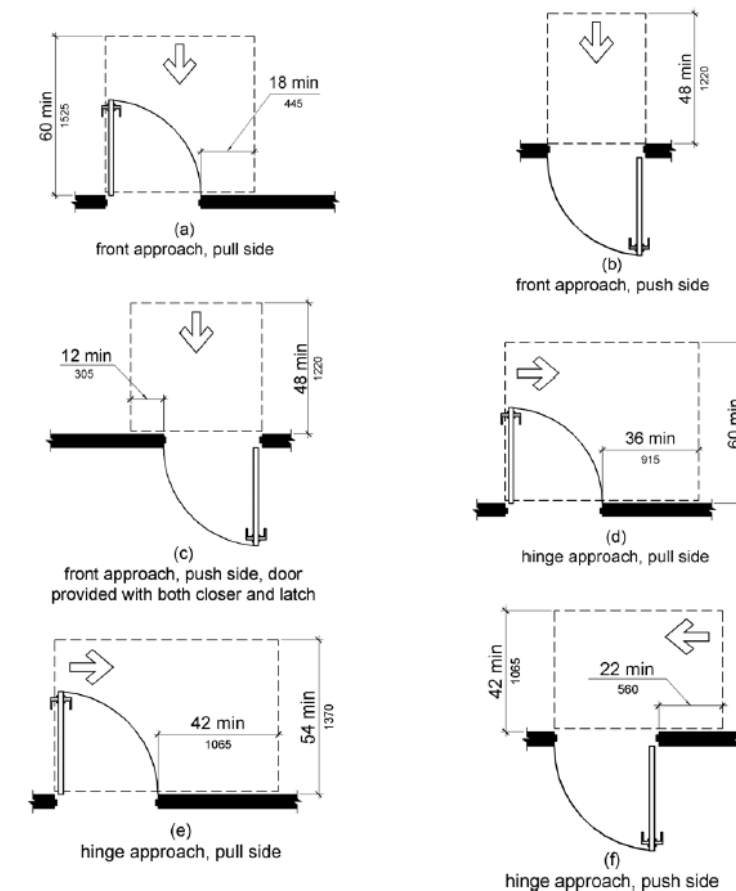


Figure 16

PROJECT RESEARCH DIRECTION

This project is not a design based project as much as it is a research based design. The direction of the research should be directed at enhancing the design and the overall thesis. Research will justify the project and create a premise for every decision making. Research is the skeleton of the project the actual design is the shell. The research will be guided in the direction of howtohelppeoplethroughtheunderstandingofpublicspacesandservices.

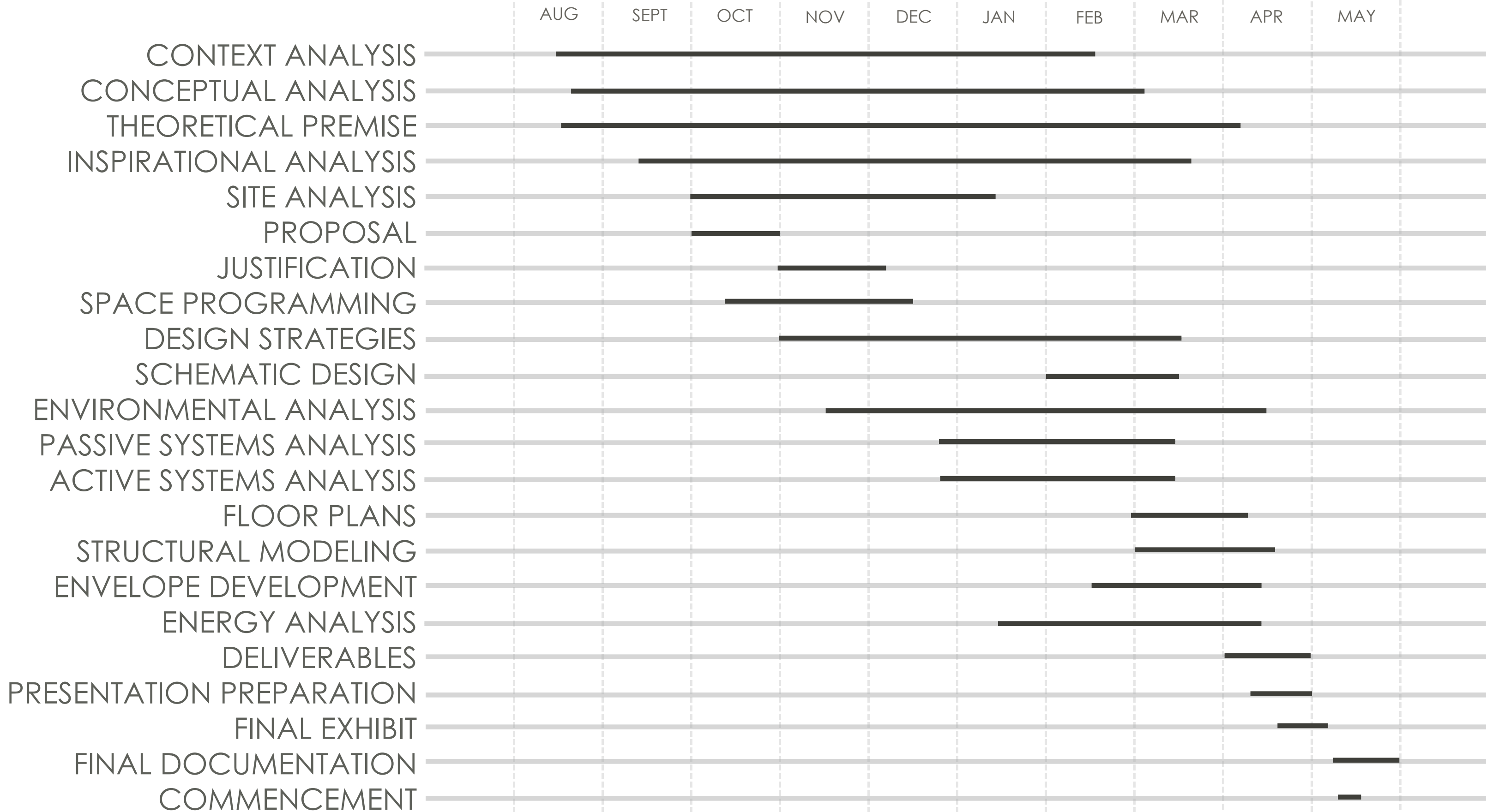
DOCUMENTING THE DESIGN PROCESS

A weekly submittal to an InDesign document will be used to facilitate the documentation of process. This document will include sketches, writings, photographs, and ideas. All research will be reported on, whether or not it makes it into the final book or not. Interpretations of any research may be useful for future references and justifications in the thesis project. All pieces within the process document that had significant leverage on the design will be included in the final thesis book. All pieces within the process document that did not influence the design shall be saved in the process book as a reminder of what did and did not affect design decisions. Documentation will follow the project schedule accordingly.

DESIGN METHODOLOGY PLAN

To produce a design solution to the problematic statement, this thesis will utilize multiple design methodologies. Using an emancipatory world view, the strategies used will include interpretation of historical precedence as well as qualitative research for answers regarding sociological questions.

Unless warranted, the primary technique for research based design will be literary reviews. These sources shall come from contemporary or recognized books and scholastic journals. Websites should be avoided; however, the sources from where the website received its information may be used if reliable. Avoiding unreliable sources shall come as a high priority when dealing with literary reviews as well as any other form of research.



Thesis Research

Areas of Investigation

Public Engagement

Sense of Community

Social Life in Urban Spaces

Summary

The research portion of this thesis aimed to understand the civil and social aspect of civic architecture. Divided into three separate sections of investigation, this thesis aimed to discover various perspectives on architecture's ability to facilitate public engagement. The first research category was public engagement, the second was an overall understanding of a sense of community, and the third was discovering successful spaces and the social life of urban spaces.



Figure 07

Public Engagement

Public engagement can be easily associated with three common terms: transmission, reception, and collaboration. Transmission is described as transmitting material or information to the public which they can utilize, reflect on, and reiterate. Reception is receiving the feedback from the information that was originally given out to the public and examining and analyzing it to its fullest potential. Collaboration is the collaboration of the two and finding common ground between the city and the public. To collaborate, information must first be shared and then understood in order to mediate agreements between city officials and the public.

In architecture this used by providing spaces where these social exchanges can occur. Public engagement can also be seen happening between the public and the public. The ability to observe people is a way of passing information as well as having the ability for people to see yourself. Architecturally, one must design with the intent of providing those spaces.

Public engagement occurs on a multitude of scales so providing spaces that accommodate to different user interaction is important. These levels need to be identified on the personal, small, and large scale in order to fully achieve social sustainability which will allow visitors to the site to develop a common ground or common culture.



Figure 18



Figure 19

Sense of Community

The ability to provide a sense of community comes from a multitude of elements in a design. Site selection can contribute to a sense of community. Architectural style can contribute to a sense of community. People can contribute to a sense of community. Because there are so many ways to connect to one's community, this topic has been discussed and researched for decades.

Sense of community is a study architects often try to find the answer to, but it is moreover a sociological issue. Once one truly understands a sense of community can he or she start designing with the intent of contributing to that sense.

In order for a person to feel like a member of a community one must have emotional safety, a sense of belonging, and personal investment in ones community.

Architecture can contribute to the overall sense of community by its placement, aesthetics, and function. The placement of a building can have a positive or negative impact on a places sense of community. Buildings positioned near the street, sidewalk, or public access have been shown to contribute to a sense of community; whereas a building that is surrounded by open space does not. The aesthetics of a building can also contribute to a sense of community be either utilizing the vernacular of the area or contributing to a common style of the area.

Social Life in Urban Spaces

This portion in the research section comes mostly from the writings and films produced by William H. Whyte. Whyte uses objective observation to notice trends in successful, or popularly used, public spaces. Whyte also observes and examines unpopular public spaces and addresses the issues as to why these spaces are so unsuccessful.

Overall the themes that occur in the successful public spaces are contributed to certain elements which are available on the site. These elements include sunlight, water access, food, ability to observe, trees, sittable spaces, and access to the road.

Elements that occurred in unsuccessful spaces include blockades, large open spaces with now separate spaces, and an attempt to kick out the “undesired citizen”.

From these observations one can start making claims about them. For instance, when discovering that people tended to gather in areas near water sources, it is safe to say that people enjoy water features within a public space.

The conclusion from this aspect of the research was to incorporate multiple levels of scale along with the elements that are frequently seen in successful public spaces.



PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

This project is important to society because it presents the importance of reintroducing the public realm to the city. The thesis aims to protect citizens rights and restore their ability to uphold democratic expression.

Because of the privatization of public spaces, much of what people assume is public space is actually owned and operated by the private sector. This privatization allows for the control of societal groups allowed on the site as well as restricted access by the public. This thesis aims to provide a space for all community members and establish a clear sense of public belonging and identity.

This thesis will introduce a new public square to the city of Chicago as well as public services through a civic center. The civic center will not just introduce a space for city residents to use, it will provide a space which will service them.

The disappearance of true public space reduces the amount of social interactions that people in a city would regularly experience. The solution to a lack of human interaction is to introduce a space which is conducive to such interactions.

Without public squares or land truly designed for people, citizens lose their voices. One should never underestimate the power the public realm has when their ideas, expressions, and concerns can be displayed. The loss of spaces that provide these opportunities to people creates a major concern. The erosion of public space not only threatens the well-being of humans as social creatures, it strains the thought of free expression. When the public realm is erased, our democracy deteriorates.

Historical Context

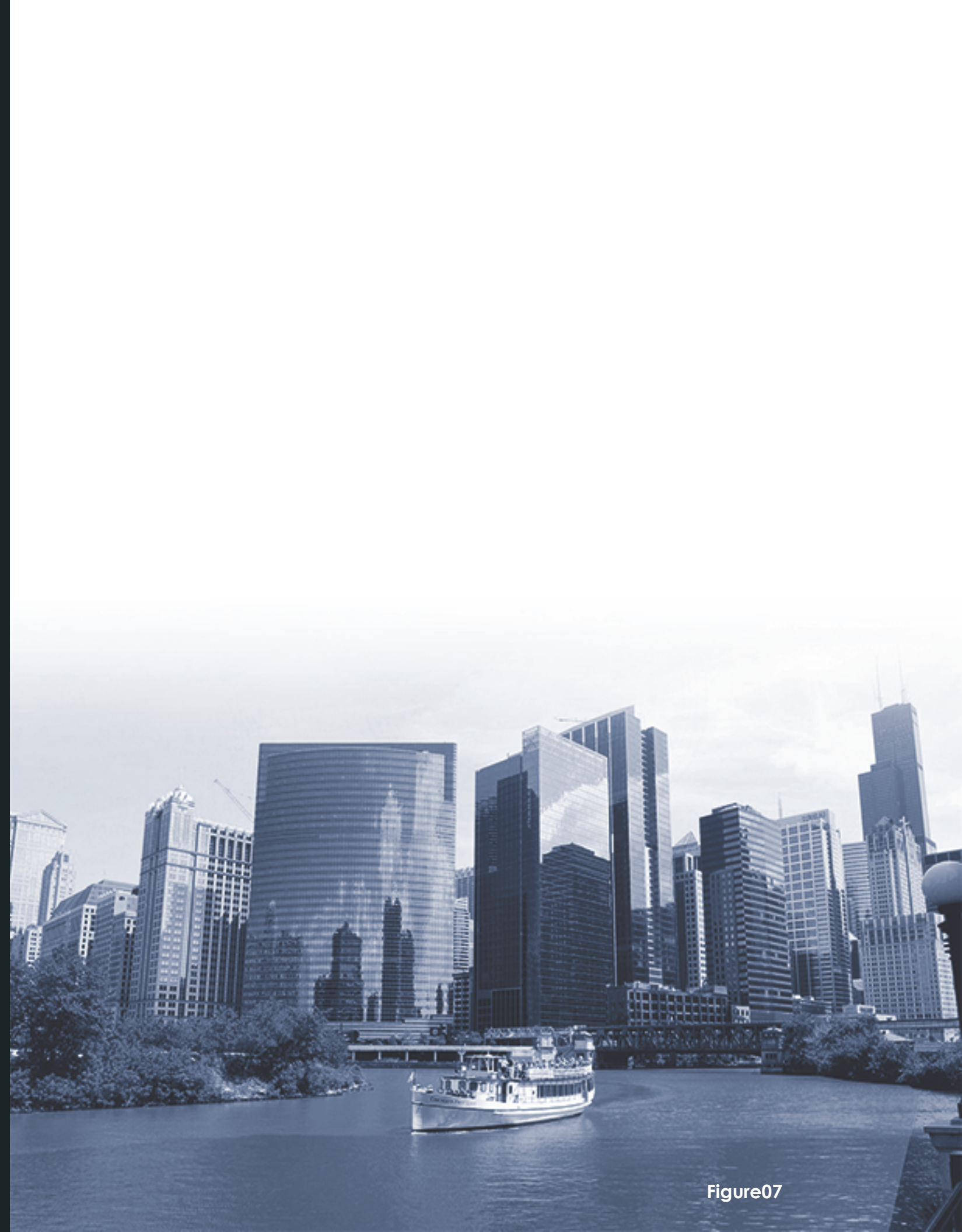


Figure07

Site History

The site chosen for this thesis is commonly known as Wolf Point. The historic location sits on the north side of the fork in the Chicago River. The fork in the river is an important feature in the development of the city.

Wolf point was the site of the first three taverns, first hotel, first ferry terminal, drug store, church, and bridge in Chicago.

The name wolf point came from it having a resident of an Indian named "Moa-way" which translates to "the Wolf". Other explanations for the name of the site was because of a soldier stationed at Fort Dearborn who claimed it was the point where wolves gathered during the night time.

The plot of land is known to be owned by the Kennedy family who also own and operate the Merchandise Mart across the street from the site. Currently the site sits idle as a parking lot that is only accessible from Lower Kinzie Drive.

The site also sits across the river from the second oldest L line and has stops to the south as well as directly to the north of the site.





Chicago Riverwalk System

Chicago Riverwalk is an open, pedestrian walkway located on the Chicago River and extends from Lake Michigan to the fork in the river where the site for this thesis is located. The Riverwalk was developed in the early 2000's, renovated in 2005, and continues to see additions and upgrades up unto today.

The Riverwalk system is expected to extend passed the site so Wolf Point will in fact become a keystone of the river walk system. The overall design contributes to the utilization and connection to the river.

This system opens up many opportunities for public engagement and circulation throughout the city be foot travel. The river walk allows pedestrians to reach sites, buildings, and parks while allowing travelers to avoid vehicular traffic.

The Great Chicago Fire

The Great Chicago Fire was a large urban fire that killed over 300 people and left 100,000 people homeless. The start of the fire began in a small barn and spread to most of what was known as downtown Chicago.

When firefighters had arrived to the scene the fire had already spread to multiple surrounding buildings and was seemingly headed to the central business district. The firemen were unable to extinguish the fire and it soon spread to dense areas of the city.

The fire destroyed up to 17,500 buildings and up to \$222 million in damages. Aid was given to Chicago in the form of money, food, and supplies from across the globe.

The fire had led to discussion on the development of American cities. Because Chicago expanded so rapidly, people argued against the industrialization of America and that the fire was a sign to return to a more traditional and modest way of living.

The fire would eventually lead to many architects flocking to the area as it became a playground of architectural experimentation. The reputation of the architecture in Chicago today was influenced by the potential which was given to developers by the Great Chicago Fire.



Figure 23

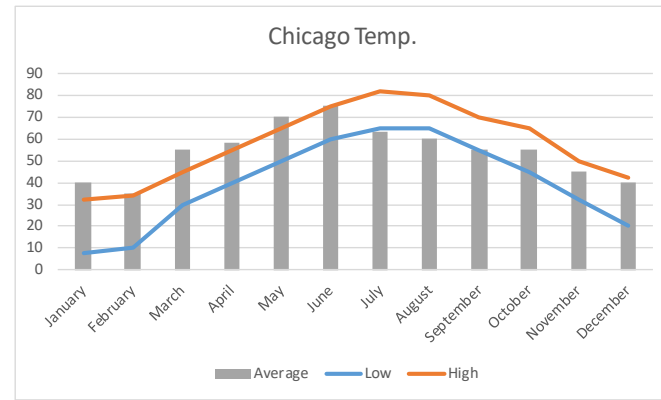
Site Analysis



Figure 02

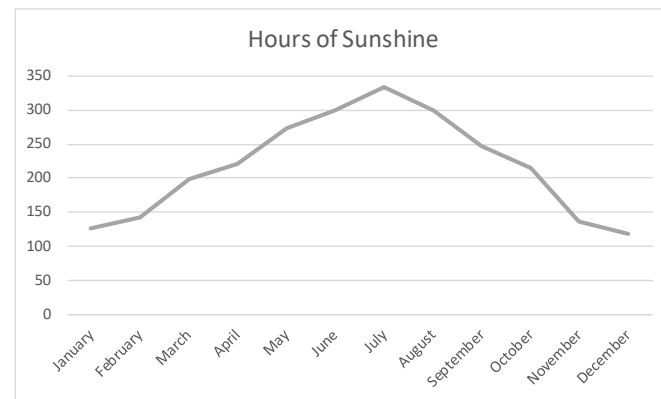
Average Temperatures

Figure 24



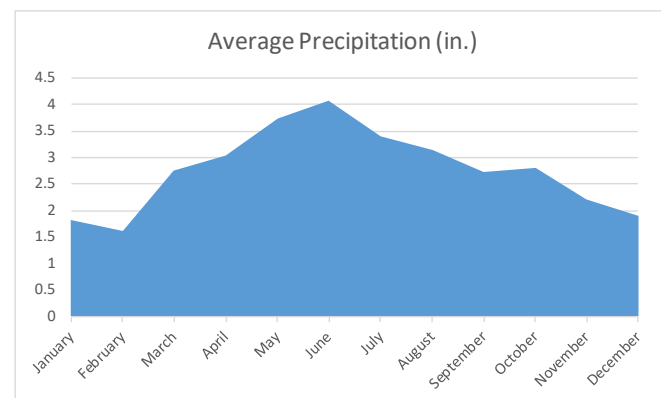
Hours of Sunshine

Figure 25



Average Precipitation

Figure 26



Annual Wind Direction

Figure 27

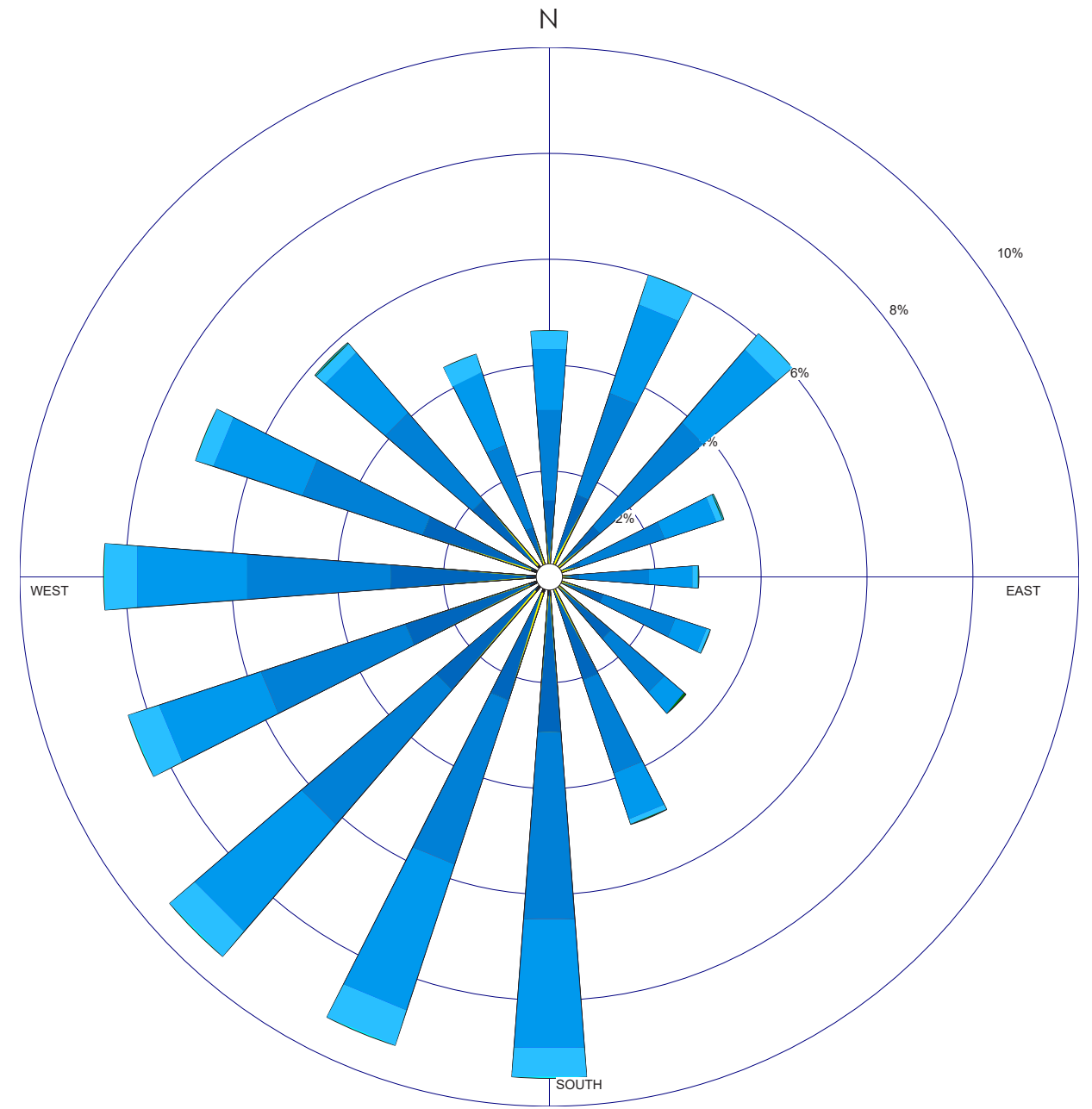




Figure 28



Figure 29

Site Photos



Figure 30



Figure 31

LOCATION

The site is located in downtown Chicago at the fork of the Chicago River. The cross streets are West Wolf Point Plaza and North Orleans Street.

HISTORY

The site sits on a point in Chicago called Wolf Point. The point is important in the development of the city as it was the location of the city's first three taverns and the first hotel. It was also home to its first ferry, drugstore, church, and first bridge across the Chicago River.

Currently the site is used as parking and is owned by the Kennedy family.

CONCLUSION

Because the site has such a deep history for Chicago, it is important to treat the site with respect. As it is a current parking lot, it might be ideal to keep the parking and build up from it. Because the Kennedy family currently owns the lot, it might be a smart to offer a project that would benefit the owner.

POINTS OF INTEREST

One of the major points of interest near the site is the federal post office building to its East. The building is quite large and attracts many visitors due to the market that is also located within the building.

The most important points directly affecting the site is the Chicago River and the river-walk system that the city of Chicago has implemented.

CLIMATE

The temperature in Chicago ranges from an average high of 74 degrees to an average low of 42 degrees. The city experiences cold wet winters and moderate summers.

Hours of sunlight during January average four hours a day compared to twelve hours a day in July.

The wind primarily comes from the South and West during the winter months and from the North and East during the spring and summer.

CONCLUSION

Because of the amount of sunlight in the winter, solar gain may not be a major focus, but because of the excess sunlight in the summer, sun shades should be used on the East, South, and West facades.

Wind patterns should be treated with respect. The project should try to avoid the South and West winds during the winter, although they may be warmer than the Northern winds during the winter. The North and East winds in the warmer months allows the project to utilize the cooler winds to help cool the building.

Deliverables



Figure 02

The primary objective of this design was to first and foremost have it based off of evidence based research. To do this, literary, peer reviewed sources were used in the research portion of the project.

From the research portion a site needed to be selected. The site was selected based on its potential to provide public engagement to the city of Chicago.

Once a site was selected it was time to find inspiration from historic precedents. The precedents were used to develop sketches, plans, and ideas at a schematic level. The schematic portion of the design was a long role in the design face to effectively analyze multiple iterations of the project. When discovering what did and did not work with the schematics, certain portions of the design were either discarded or reintroduced.

The overall design developed from the sketches, iterations, and site selections and was put into 3D software which would help further the permanence of the design. The program helped develop the right angles, sizes, and scales used that the sketching and drawing lacked. The use of software helped emphasize the design in terms of functionality, circulation, and poetics. From the completed model, plans, drawings, and renders were used to display the overall design.

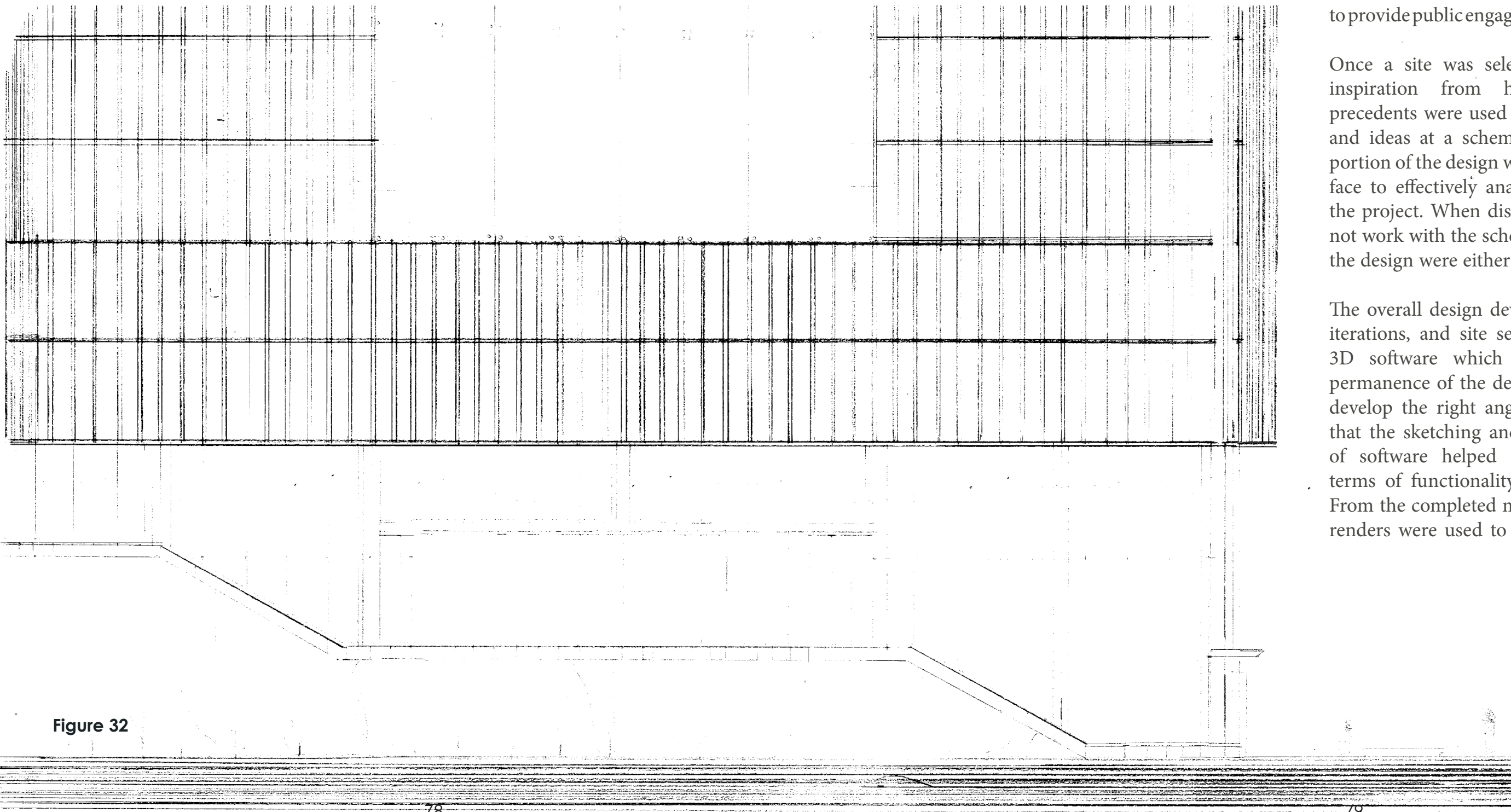


Figure 32


Project Solution Documentation

Project Installation

COMMON CULTURE



CHICAGO, IL



PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

●	●	●	●
●	●	●	●
●	●	●	●
●	●	●	●

SITE LOCATION

The site of the project is located at the fork of the Chicago River on a plot of land historically known as Wolf Field. The site was selected based on a list of criteria derived from library research and narrative analysis.

"To obtain access to sustainability, in relation to site selection, one must consider the manner in which one is able to change groups within a community." - Dana Tappan, *Building Other Public Parks, Space and Cultural Diversity*

"Public space is best utilized when placed in areas where people have easy access to perform their cultural and life activities. This is often a contradiction because within a city." - Peter E. Rowe

- Research for Common Community
- General Research for All Clients

RESEARCH CONCLUSIONS

Civic architecture must incorporate clear goals, user dignity, and experiential aesthetics to effectively build common ground within a community.

Civic architecture must accommodate to small groups, large groups, and the personal user to fully embrace citizens quality of use life.

Civic architecture can influence and facilitate public engagement through social opportunities and the discovery of a city's common culture.

Successful public spaces include outdoor space, access to the street, but exposure, food availability access to water, trees, landscaping, and the ability to people watch.

Successful public spaces exclude barriers, scaled features, and noise of the neighborhood.

THESIS NARRATIVE

The influence of public spaces in urban life is an issue that has been apparent since the development of ancient cities. Opportunities to socially interact, and to engage citizens in their own development of a community to participate in the development of their city. These opportunities occur most frequently when public spaces is accessible to everyone.

In American cities, the impact of public spaces has been diminished and limited due to the monopolization of architecture and how it is used. Use of the streets and privately controlled areas.

By understanding the relationship between architecture and public engagement, this thesis aims to provide spaces which promote social goals, user dignity and the personal growth of a citizen. Citizens in relation to different scales of user interaction. The goal of the design is to provide spaces which collectively contribute to a sense of community, respect of diversity, and the discovery of a city's shared culture.

RESEARCH NARRATIVE

How can civic architecture influence and facilitate public engagement within an urban environment?

The research for this thesis had the goal of using an interdisciplinary system of inquiry to understand the multiple reasons that driving through historical, social, cultural, and experiential events. The research was used to allow the architecture to apply to a research method.

Research strategies included primary legal of arguments, research, and interpretive and qualitative research.

Research techniques used were legal research, a site selection as well as a large dependency on library research.

TARGET FIELD STATION

Target Field Station and the Davis share common goals with areas to inspire a new civic identity and community pride in its setting of urban, central location and civic design. The public domain is a primary program for large pre-game events, community events, and seasonal celebrations.

The Davis team inspiration from the project's early inspirations for community events and shared spaces of public spaces.

CENTRE GEORGES POMPIDOU

Designed by Richard Rogers, the Pompidou Centre's design left itself to the public, even though it was a private building. The Centre gave itself to the public, and embraced the ideas through workshops and an architectural program which brought the public to the building. The architecture of this building contributes to the civic and the team has been inspired to design for people who utilize the building and people who experience the building from the outside, a building with a program in the Chicago space.

THE ROMAN FORUM

One of the most successful public spaces in the world, the Roman Forum was analyzed for its multiple uses of use interaction. The incorporation of the "Forum," the "Courtyard," and the "Auditorium" in the Roman Forum became the inspiration for spaces incorporated in the programming phase of the design.

WILLIAM H. WHYTE

William Whyte is a professional sociologist, urbanist, and author who has had a significant influence on the field through his books "City People," "The Way of Zen," and "The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces." Along with his other publications, the author's research observations of successful and unsuccessful public spaces have created a theoretical of city life through the social.

RICHARD ROGERS

Richard Rogers, the 2017 Pritzker Prize Laureate, became a large inspiration for his work within the public realm and the resulting as a civic center for Chicago. Rogers' philosophy and approach to civic life, which is to create and to improve the public life by being active in a multitude of ways, has become a support for this thesis.

"The city is a public space to be worked out, not one which is given, even its boundaries." - Richard Rogers

POETICS

The design of the architecture is framed by the poetics of Chicago's city life. The building's poetics will be the connecting between the design and the city. The design of the building will be the result of public ownership of their community.

The spacing between the two forms acknowledges the distance between architecture, often resulting with one nearby and one nearby group. The design also synthesizes the use of public space which can be used for an array of events, ceremonies, and activities.

Charles L. Gwathmey, *The Social Meaning of Civic Space*

The building's program is designed to be utilized for nearly any event possible. The flexible space allows for a multitude of events to

CIRCULATION

Because there is not one specific program for any type of event, the program of a city will do for the people is to provide flexible space which can be used for an array of events, ceremonies, and activities.

Charles L. Gwathmey, *The Social Meaning of Civic Space*

The building's program is designed to be utilized for nearly any event possible. The flexible space allows for a multitude of events to





FIRST FLOOR- RIVER LEVEL



SECOND FLOOR- PLAZA LEVEL



THIRD FLOOR- STREET LEVEL



FOURTH FLOOR



FIFTH FLOOR



SIXTH FLOOR- SOUTH WING



SEVENTH FLOOR- SOUTH WING





COMMON CULTURE
 4001 172 Design Studio
 Author: James Figliuzzi
 Client: Commonwealth
 Role: Architectural

Figure 33

Project Solution Documentation
Presentation Setup



Figure 34

Deliverables

Response To Site

This project is important to society because it presents the importance of reintroducing the public realm to the city. The thesis aims to protect citizens rights and restore their ability to uphold democratic expression.

The site selection was a large section of the design phase as well as the research phase of this thesis. Multiple site selections were chosen throughout the city of Chicago and different iterations were produced on each one. After analysis, site selection became easier, but after narrowing it down to a few sites which had similar qualities and high potential, the site actually started to develop what this project was actually going to be.

Before site selection, this thesis didn't have a specific typology. Would architecture best facilitate public engagement as a presidential library or a civic center or a art museum?

The final site chosen was chosen based on a few criteria. Wolf Point, the site used for this thesis, had a deep history within Chicago. The site also was currently barren and used primarily for parking so the potential was great. Wolf Point has access to multiple transit stations as well as a high pedestrian count.

The location really allows the architecture of this project to be fully recognized. The fork in the river makes it a keystone in the city and its central location helps facilitate engagement with a large quantity of people. Its accessibility allows more people to experience the site and the positioning of the building allows for viewers to see the building by up to a half mile away down the river line.

The design responds to the site by using elevation differences from the river and the street, effectively allowing a smoother path from the "city" to "nature". This aspect also works in reverse order as it can bring people from nature, or the river, to the street scape.



Deliverables

Response to the Typological or Precedent Research

The project differs from the precedent analysis in many ways, but still retains the positive aspects taken from each study. The program of the building, for the most part, is nothing like that of the precedents; however, the successful elements of each case study were used in the design.

The Roman Forum inspired the outdoor space which allowed commerce and the ability to provide a space which would stage speeches, demonstrations, and presentations.

Target Field Station inspired the urban green which was separated into different parts which can be utilized for events more suitable for the site and city.

Pompidou Center was used to inspire the juxtaposition of the building to the site. Because the Pompidou Center is not placed on the center of the site, it opens the site to the public. This project follows this notion.

All three of these precedents use a large amount of space, but provide several different spaces throughout the entire site. These different spaces allow for different scales of user interaction and the architecture influences that interaction. This thesis uses that notion and provides all scales of spaces to be utilized and allows the architecture to become interactive with the public whether it be by its large electronic displays or by the positioning of the building to the central circulation of the site.

The program was not inspired by a precedent; however, the research portion of this project brought the evidence for the program of the actual building and surrounding site design.



Deliverables

Response To Goals and Project Emphasis

The primary goals of this thesis were originally to plan a reintroduction of public space to a community, provide an adequate space for public interaction, and protect the rights of the common citizen within that public space. On an academic level the goal was to produce a research based design and that research must be evidence based.

It is my belief that I have met and maintained these goals throughout the project. The project effectively planned out how to reintroduce public space to a city which has lost most of it through strenuous research on the topic.

The thesis goal of providing space for citizens was also met by doing literally that; however, the goal also included not only providing that space, but providing the best space to accommodate to visitors and influence a large amount of public interaction.

Finally, the goal of protecting citizens rights was met by turning a site that would otherwise become private property into civic space. Site selection was key for this goal because developing on an already public space would really give public space back to the citizens of Chicago, it would only enhance or destroy engagement with an existing space.

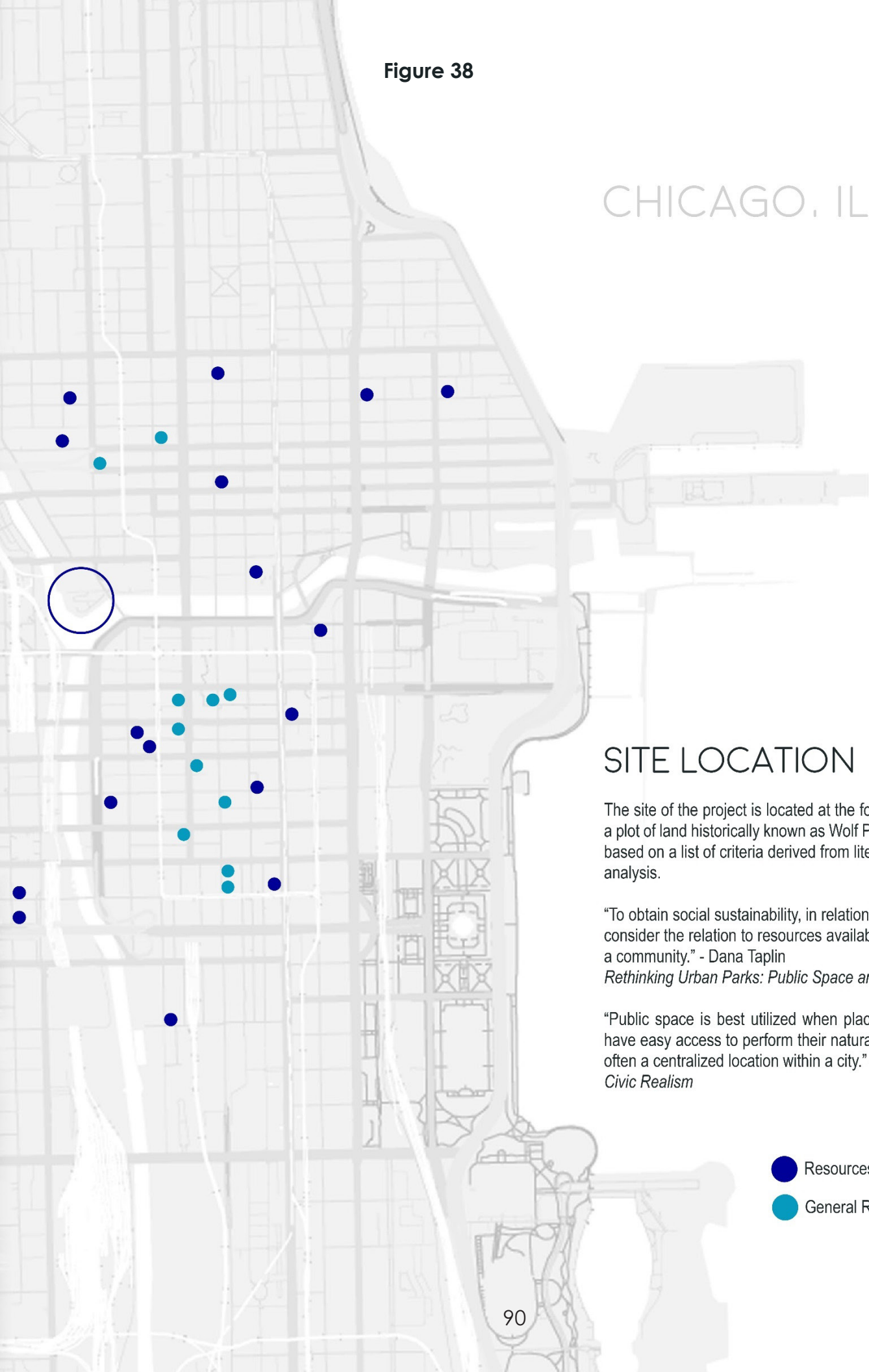
On an academic level the thesis provided a design that was heavily based on research and that research was evidence based rather than assumption based.

On a personal level, the goal was to create a thesis that provided me with the ability to research and design accordingly while providing professional level renders, plans, and images. These goals were met based on a personal stand point.



Figure 38

CHICAGO, IL



SITE LOCATION

The site of the project is located at the fork of the Chicago River on a plot of land historically known as Wolf Point. The site was selected based on a list of criteria derived from literary research and iterative analysis.

“To obtain social sustainability, in relation to site selection, one must consider the relation to resources available to diverse groups within a community.” - Dana Taplin
Rethinking Urban Parks: Public Space and Cultural Diversity

“Public space is best utilized when placed in areas where people have easy access to perform their natural civic life activities. This is often a centralized location within a city.” - Peter G. Rowe
Civic Realism

- Resources for Diverse Communities
- General Resources for All Citizens

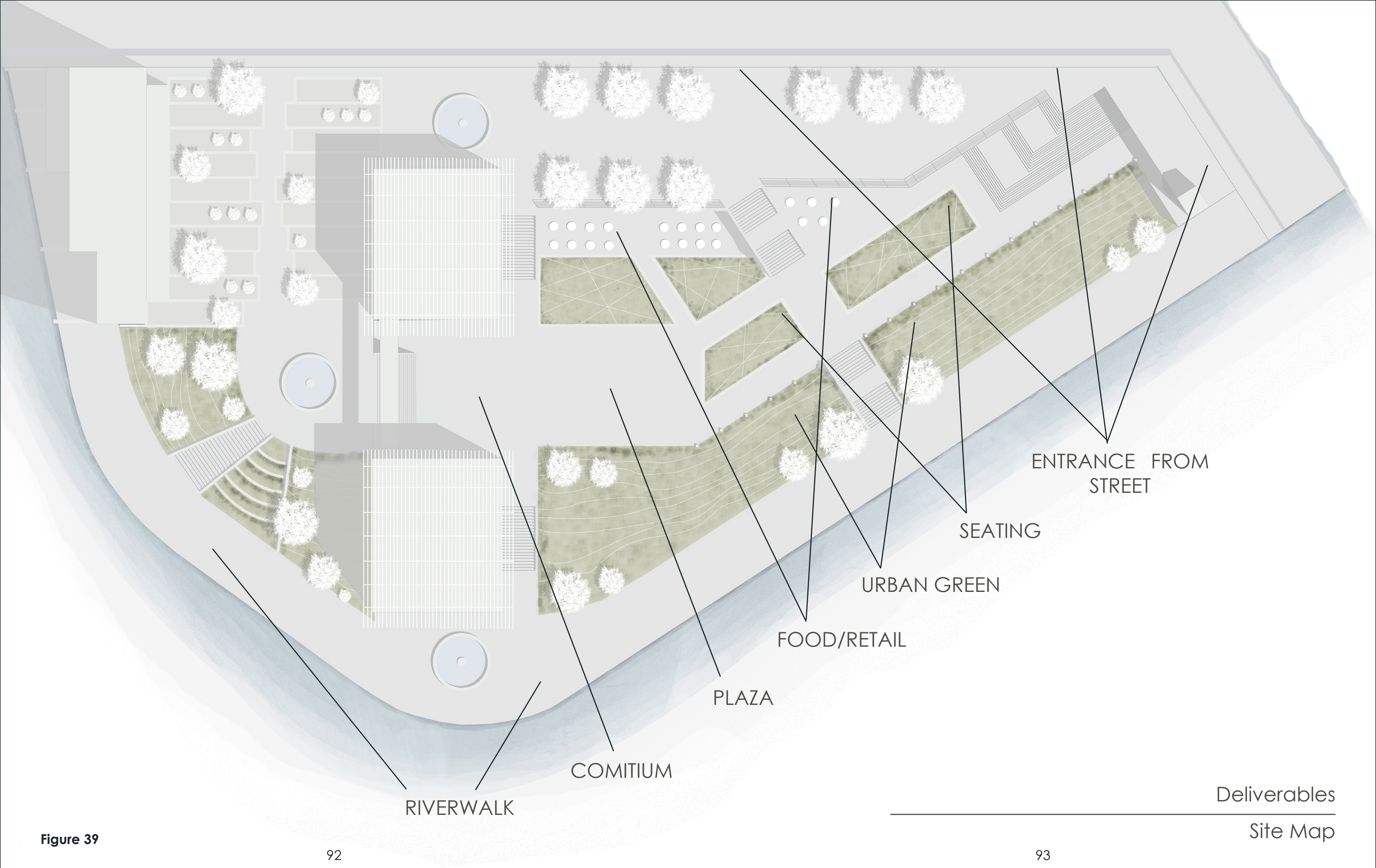
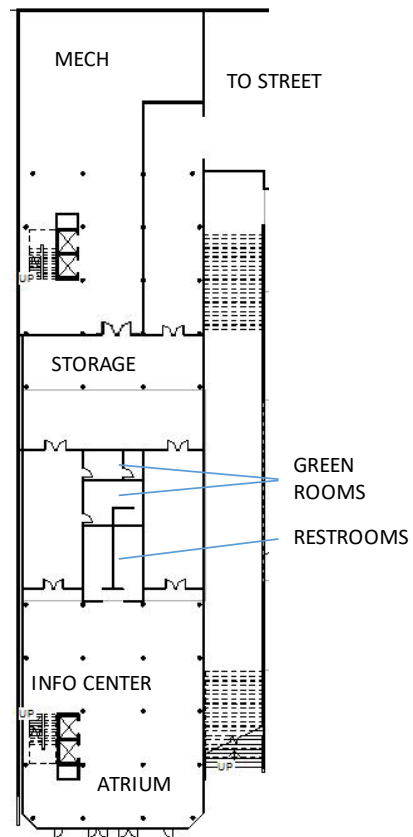
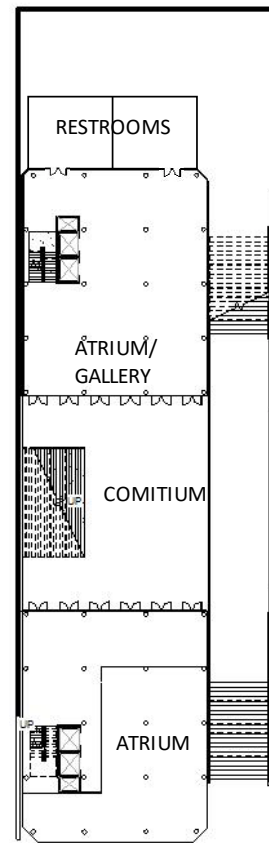


Figure 39

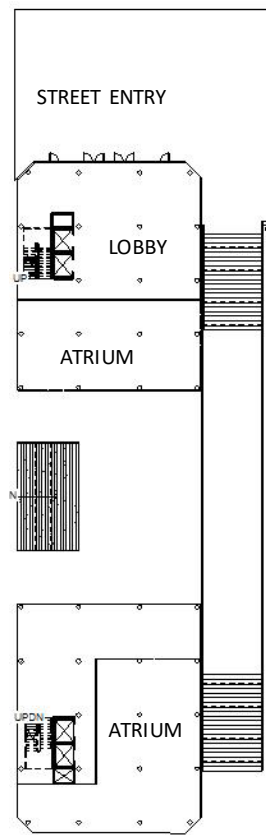
**1ST FLOOR
GROUND LEVEL**



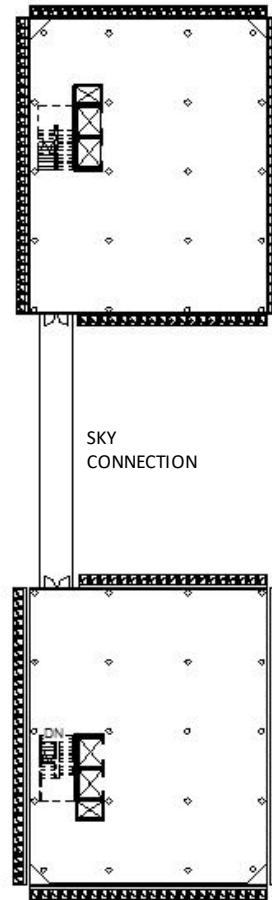
**2ND FLOOR
PLAZA LEVEL**



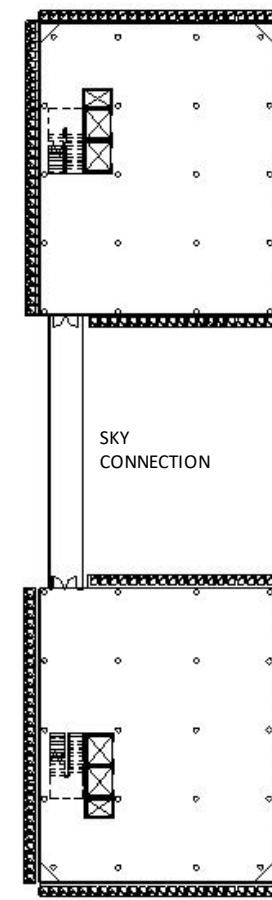
**3RD FLOOR
STREET LEVEL**



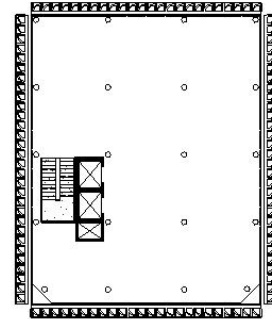
**4TH FLOOR
VENUE SPACE**



**5TH FLOOR
VENUE SPACE**



**6TH FLOOR
SOUTH WING**



**7TH FLOOR
SOUTH WING**

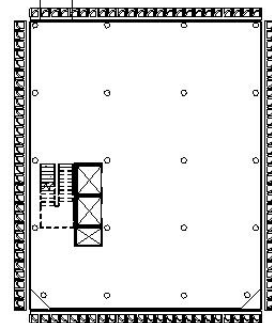


Figure 40

The shape of the architecture is formed by the poetics of Chicago's civic life. The reaching rooftops and the descending staircases create the angles referencing public life being relocated from the streets and extended out into the city. The stoic stance of building hints to the notion of public ownership of their community.

The opening between the two forms acknowledges the division between dichotomies, often resulting with one majority and one minority group. The divide also symbolizes the ever important role of transparency between the city and the people it serves, mediating the connection between opposing forces and creating common ground.

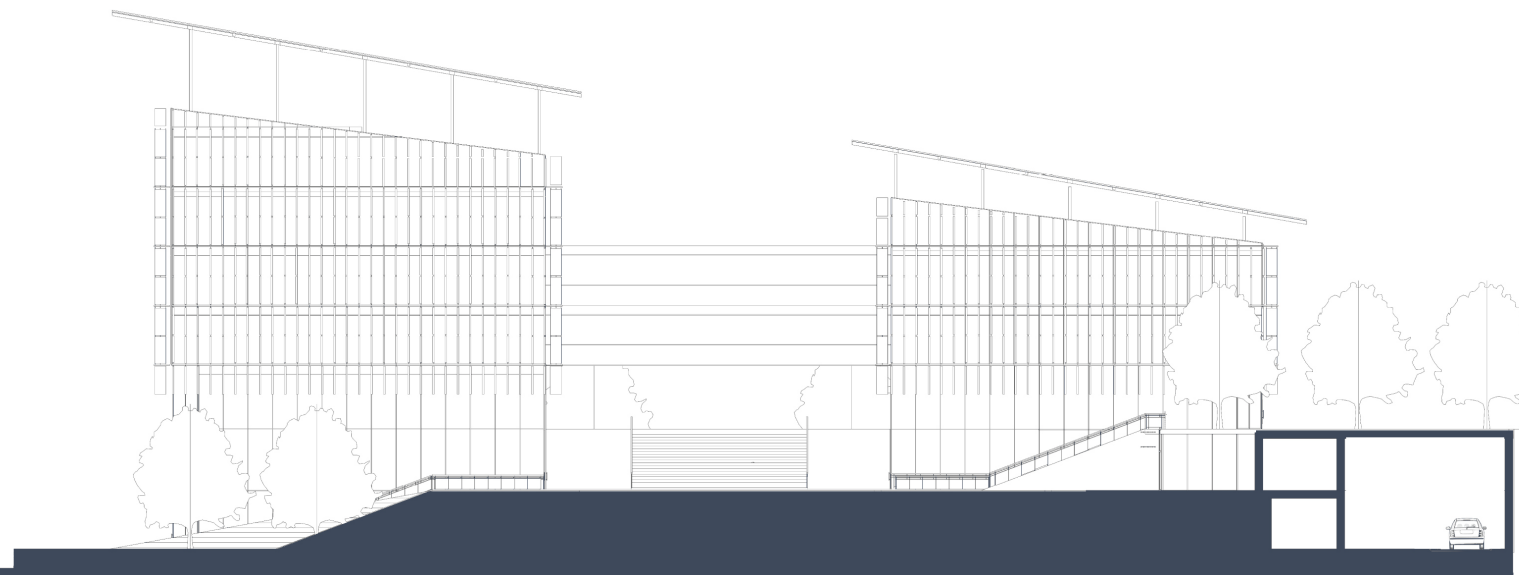


Figure 41

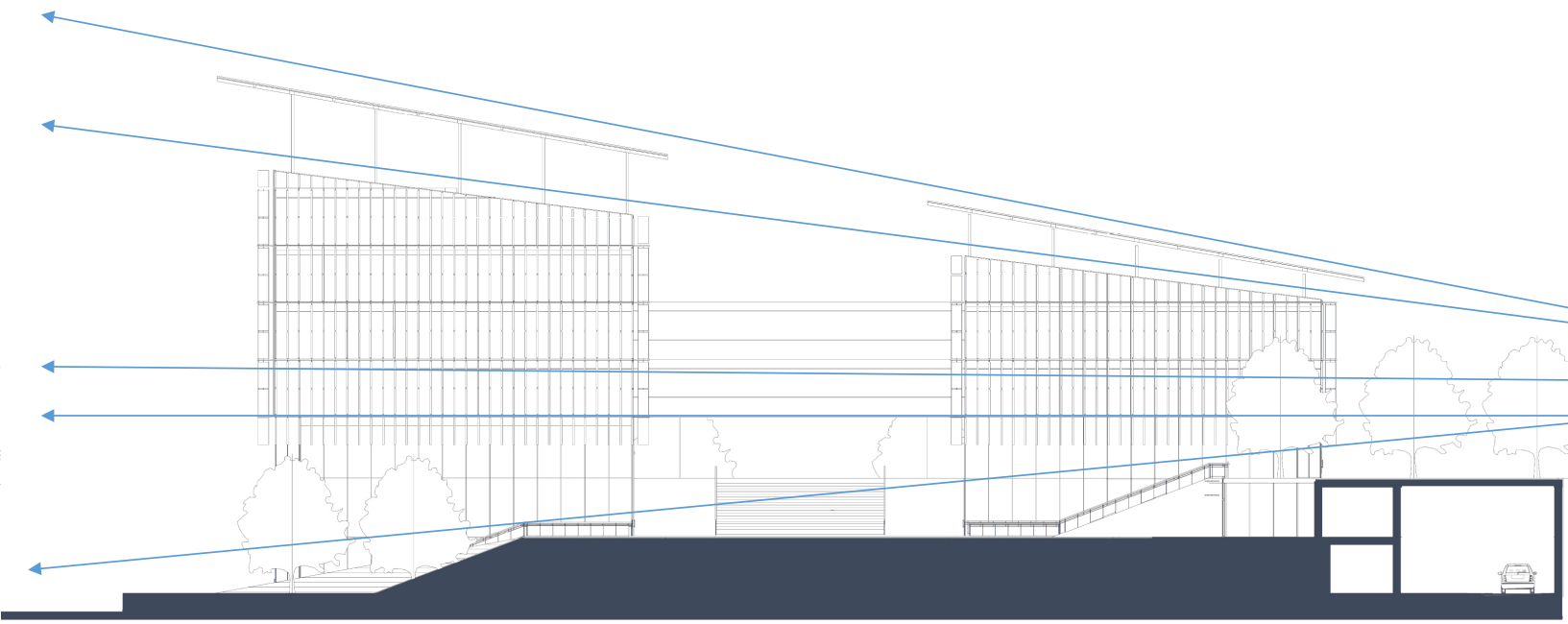
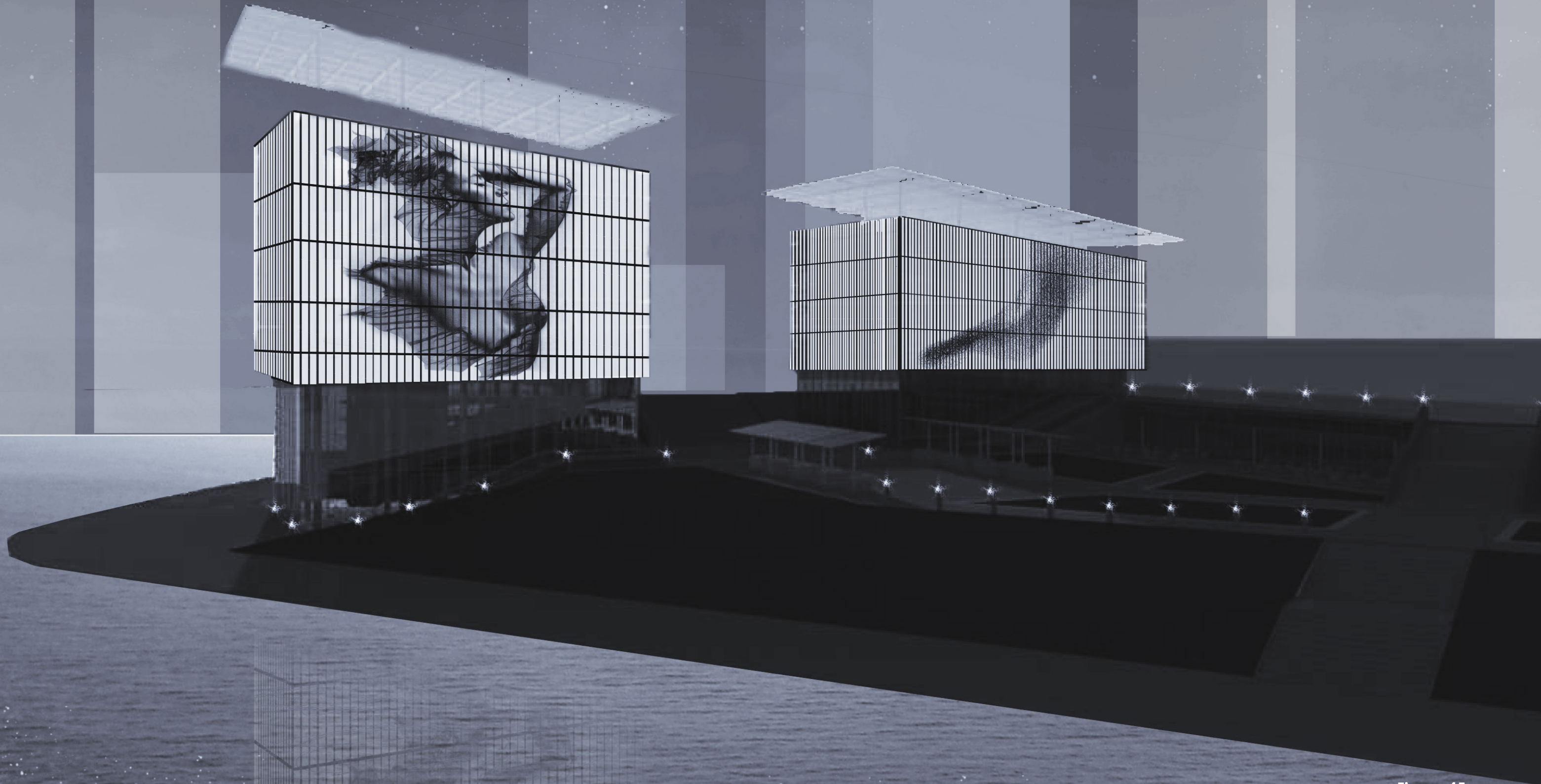


Figure 42





Figure 44



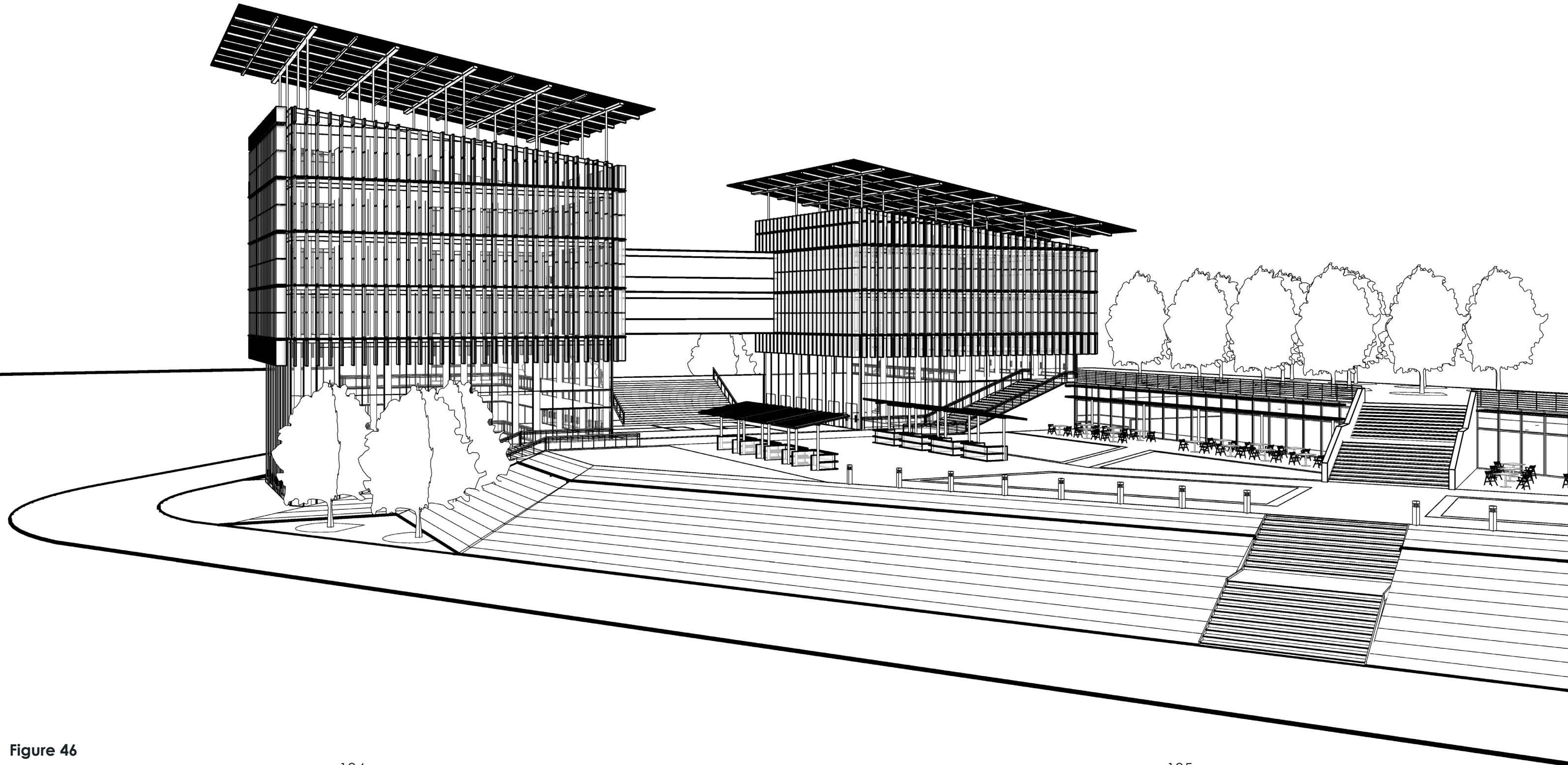


Figure 46

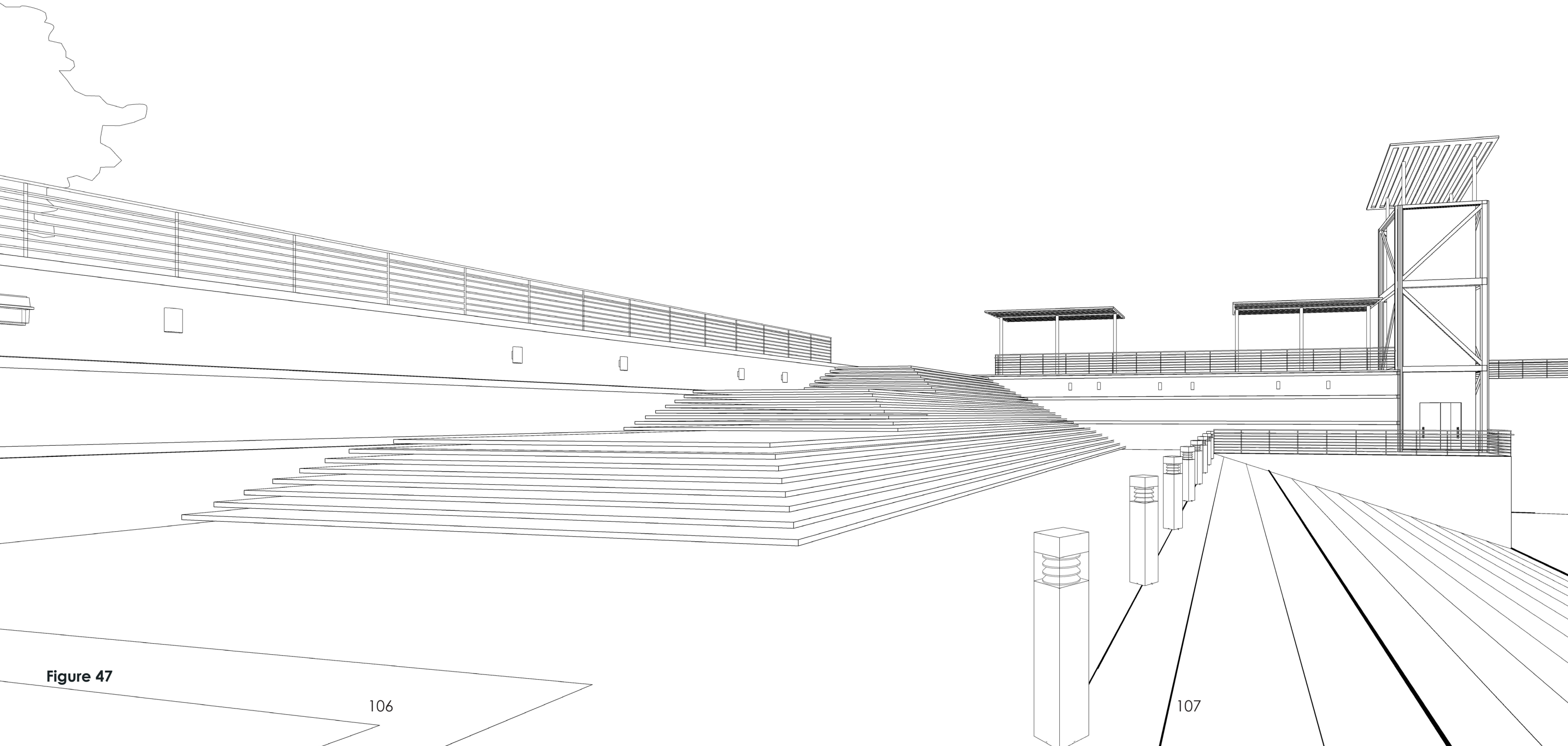
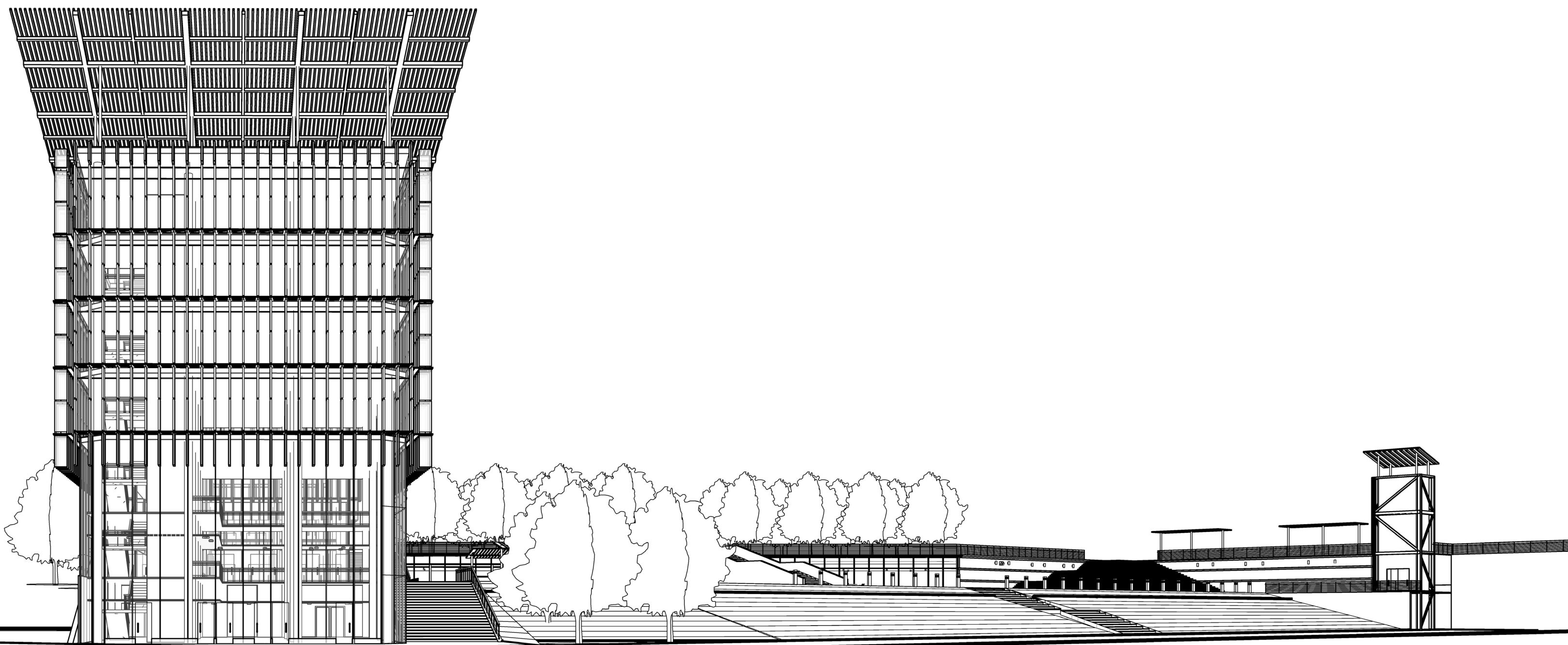
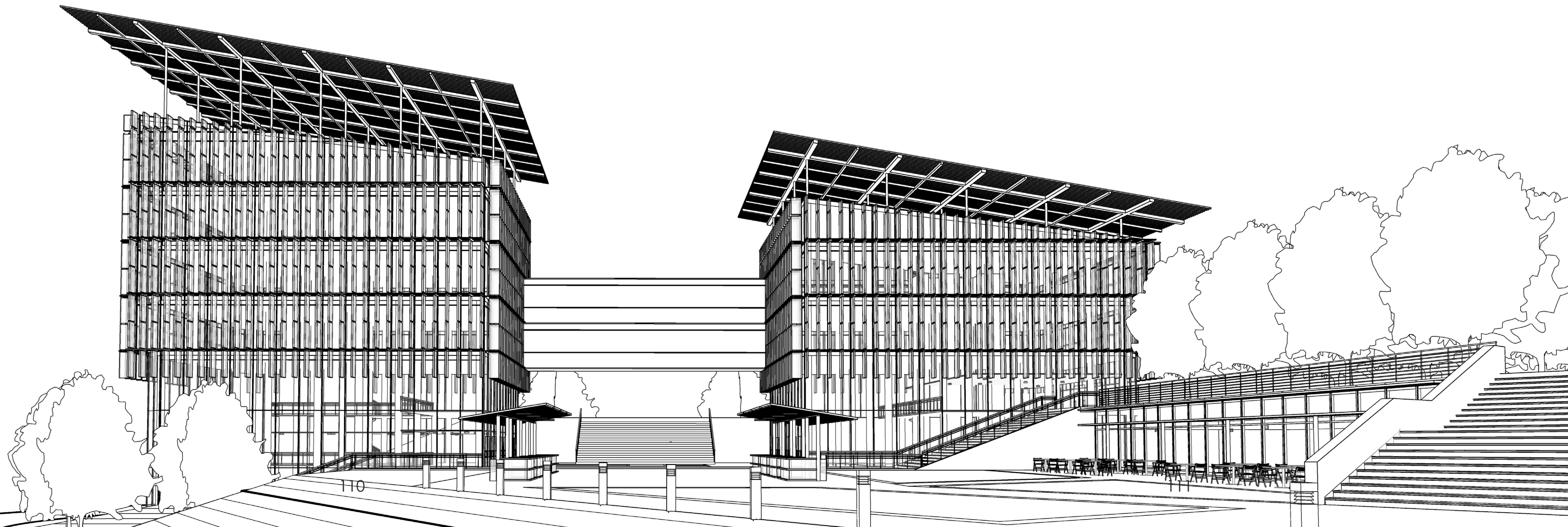


Figure 47

106

107





APPENDIX

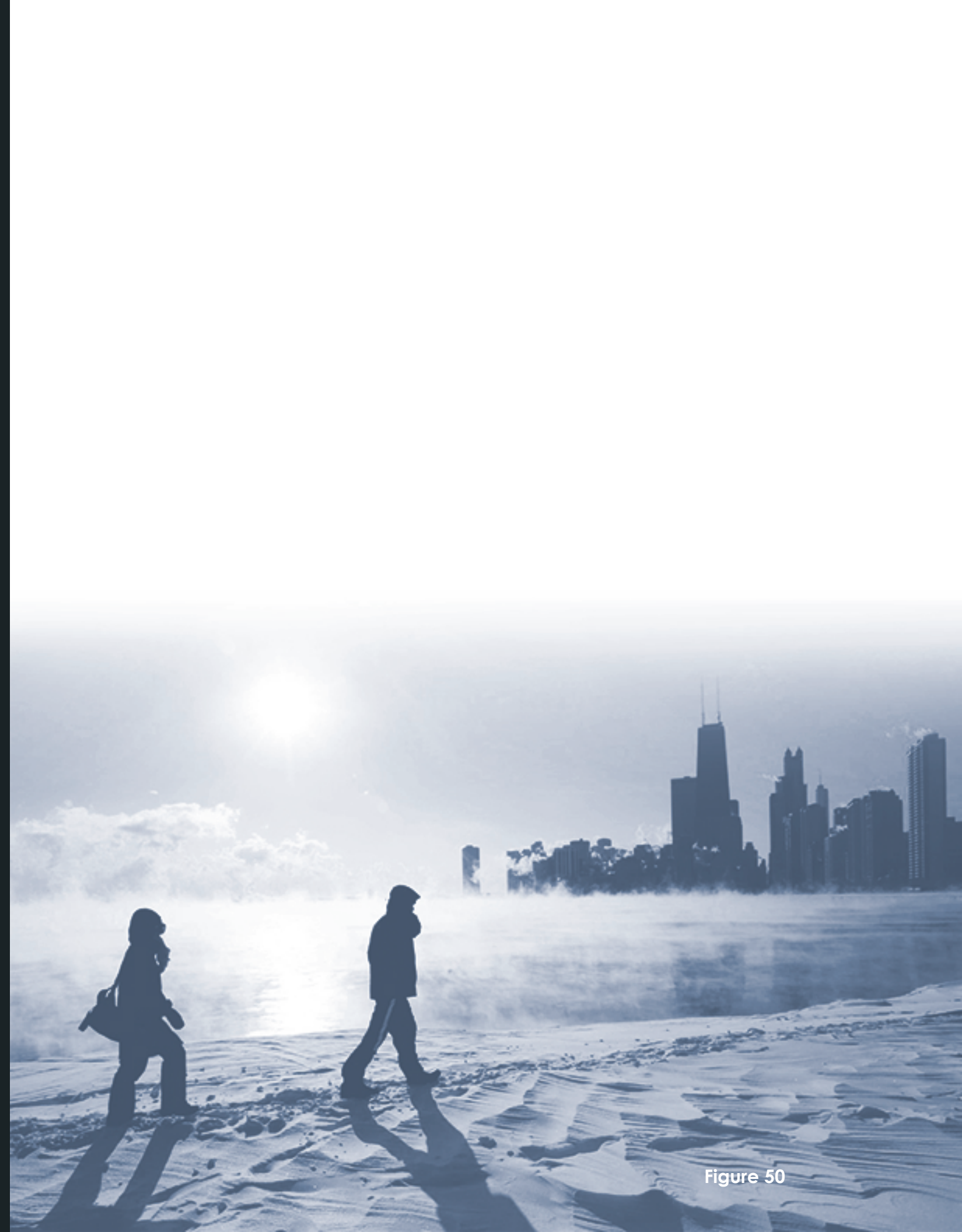


Figure 50

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ARCH 271 - Fall 2013 | Booker, Darryl

Tea House - Fargo, ND

ARCH 272 - Spring 2014 | Urness, Cindy

Dance Studio - Moorhead, MN
Dwelling - Cripple Creek, CO

ARCH 371 - Fall 2014 | Ramsey, Ronald

Cat Mausoleum - Buenos Aires, Argentina
Shaker Barn - New Lebanon, NY
Kraus Iron Works - Agincourt, IA

ARCH 372 - Spring 2015 | Crutchfield, David

NDSU Library - Fargo, ND
SC Johnson Laboratories - Racine, WI

ARCH 471 - Fall 2015 | Faulkner, Don

High Rise - San Francisco, CA

ARCH 472 - Spring 2015 | Faulkner, Don

Mon Louis City Design - Mon Louis, AL

ARCH 771 - Fall 2016 | Ramsey, Ronald

Paris Bath House - Paris, France

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