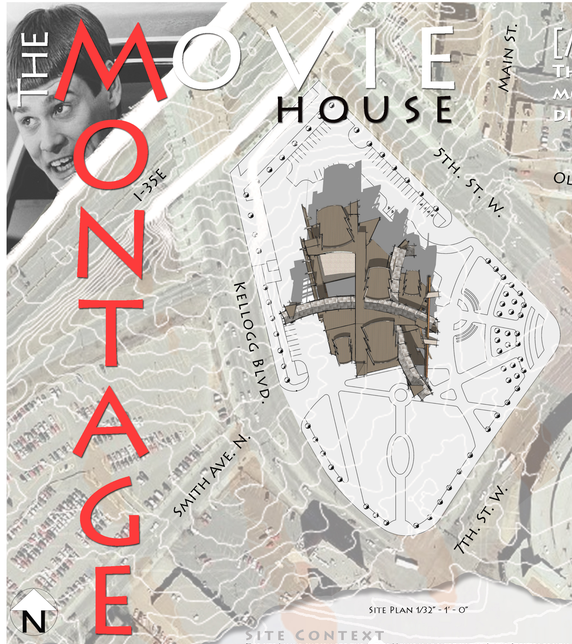
THE MONTAGE MOVIE HOUSE

[montazh]

The art of conveying an idea and/or mood by the rapid juxtaposition of different images and camera angles.

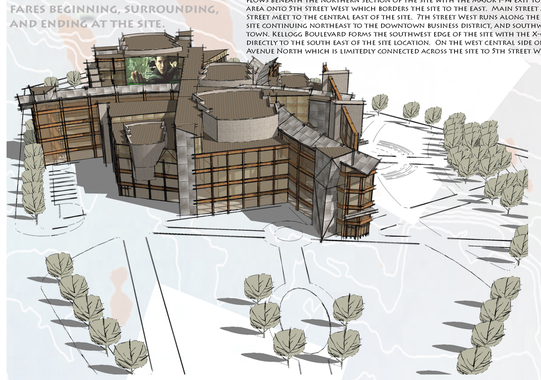


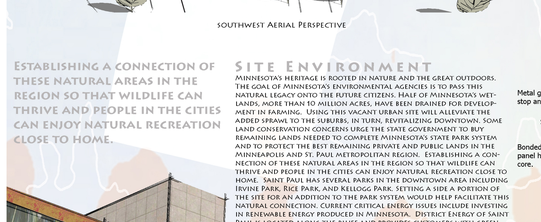
Site Plan 1/32" - 1' - 0"

Site Context

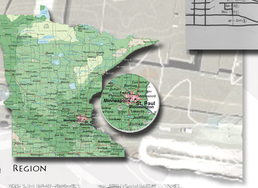
The site I have chosen for the Movie House is located in the Seven Corners region of downtown Saint Paul, Minnesota. Compared with Minneapolis, Saint Paul is not over screened right now. The site borders the Summit and Grand Avenues and the west Seventh Street neighborhoods. The site location is encompassed within seven major thoroughfares beginning, surrounding, and ending at the site. The Seven Corners area lends itself to open and amazing opportunities for the Movie House. These thoroughfares encircle the site which gives this energetic area of downtown Saint Paul its Seven Corners name. Interstate I-35E flows beneath the northern section of the site with the major I-94 exit to the downtown area onto 5th Street west which borders the site to the east. Main Street and Old 6th Street meet to the central east of the site. 7th Street west runs along the southeast of the site continuing northeast to the downtown business district, and southwest to lower town. Kellogg Boulevard forms the southwest edge of the site with the X-cel Energy Center directly to the south east of the site location. On the west central side of the site is Smith Avenue North which is limitedly connected across the site to 5th Street west.

The site location is encompassed within seven major thoroughfares beginning, surrounding, and ending at the site.





Southwest Aerial Perspective



Region

Site Information

The site is currently being used as a metro area transit stop for the buses, parking area for the downtown area, and events for the X-cel energy center. The northern edge of the site is a pedestrian walkway with lighting, trees, and benches, supported by a retaining wall. There are currently no existing buildings on the site.

Cass Gilbert designed the master plan for Saint Paul which has been Minnesota's capitol for 150 years. His master plan surrounds the capital and projects down and across the site I have chosen for the Movie House. The Capital Area and Architecture Planning Board (CAAPB) have designed these objectives for future development around the capital:

1. Create a compelling vision for future development in the Capitol Area.

2. Restore the continuity of urban fabric that has been disrupted by land clearing for urban renewal in the 1950s, the construction of the freeway, and occasional inappropriate developments.

3. Recognize the diversity of the component neighborhoods or areas within the Capitol Area and define the relationship of each to the principal Capitol Campus.

4. Define the urban character, predominant use patterns, and desirable density of development for each sub-district in the Capitol Area.

5. Reinforce connections of the Capitol Area to its neighbors, particularly downtown and the Mississippi River.

Site Context Map

Neighborhood Context Map

Using this vacant urban site will alleviate the added sprawl to the suburbs, in turn, revitalizing downtown.

Aerial Photo Looking East

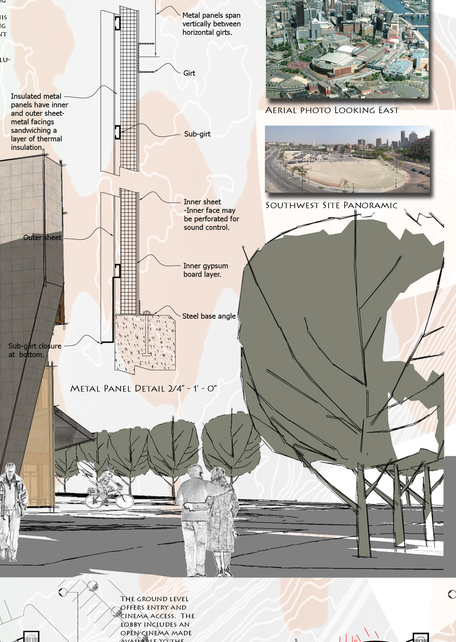
Southwest Site Panoramic

Establishing a connection of these natural areas in the region so that wildlife can thrive and people in the cities can enjoy natural recreation close to home.

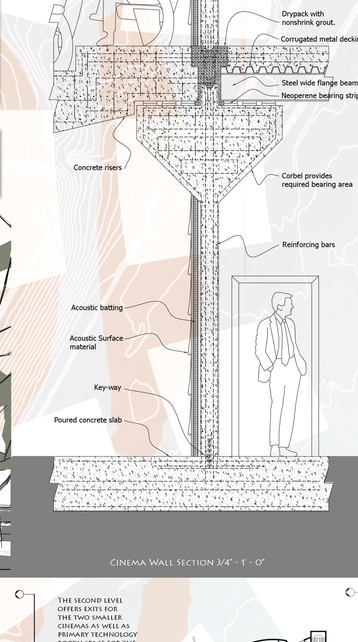
Site Environment

Minnesota's heritage is rooted in nature and the great outdoors. The goal of Minnesota's environmental agencies is to pass this natural legacy onto the future citizens. Half of Minnesota's wetlands, more than 10 million acres, have been drained for development in farming. Using this vacant urban site will alleviate the added sprawl to the suburbs, in turn, revitalizing downtown. Some land conservation concerns urge the state government to buy remaining lands needed to complete Minnesota's state park system and to protect the best remaining private and public lands in the Minneapolis and St. Paul metropolitan region. Establishing a connection of these natural areas in the region so that wildlife can thrive and people in the cities can enjoy natural recreation close to home. Saint Paul has several parks in the downtown area including Irvine Park, Rice Park, and Kellogg Park. Setting a side a portion of the site for an addition to the park system would help facilitate this natural connection. Current critical energy issues include investing in renewable energy produced in Minnesota. District Energy of Saint Paul is located along the bluff and provides customers with green energy. The plant generates electricity for the Twin Cities metro area while heating and cooling downtown Saint Paul. This is a valuable asset to the future of downtown Saint Paul, the well-being of citizens and the earth; also a wonderful asset to the Movie House.

Entry Perspective



Metal Panel Detail 2/4" - 1' - 0"



Cinema Wall Section 3/4" - 1' - 0"

Administration and Movie Lounge Entry Perspective

Project Introduction

The focus for this thesis project is the need to represent the real and fantasize the ideal in an urban environment with the design of the multi screen movie house. The design of a revolutionary multi screen movie house would expand cinematic entertainment to the wonderfully energetic St. Paul Seven Corners area. Saint Paul has established the downtown as a regional industry destination with major new visitor attractions including the Science Museum, River Centre, and the X-cel Energy Center. These area attractions draw over 2 million visitors downtown. Driven by the critical mass of visitor traffic, the Seven Corners Gateway is emerging as Saint Paul's new entertainment district. The imagined is confronted with reality and reality with the imagined; two dimensions with three dimensions; the fantasy with the every day. The use of cinematic language was used in the design development of the Movie House. The elements of cinematic language: scene, montage, frame, cut, movement, image, illusion and depth of field have a dialectical relationship to the tectonics of designing. People go to the movies to escape. This transition will relate to the existing context and transfer into the spaces throughout the movie house. One is able to escape into the "real-filmic" space, enjoy themselves and act out their fantasies. The magic of film comes to life. Cinematic architecture and solid, tangible architecture are brought together within the confines of exclusive hideaways (AD, 1994.)

Project Objectives

In Saint Paul, Minnesota, the concept of the compact, mixed use 'urban village' is widely supported at many scales, from the city's comprehensive plan to specific redevelopment plans for large sites, to small-scale infill guidelines for commercial nodes and transit corridors. The plan advanced a compelling vision: A series of interconnected mixed-use urban villages in and around downtown, nestled in the lush green of a reforested river valley (Rhees, 2004.)

Evoke a sense of place Restore and establish the unique urban ecology

Invest in the public realm

Broaden the mix of uses Improve connectivity between neighborhoods, downtown and the river

Ensure that buildings support broader city building goals

Build on existing strengths

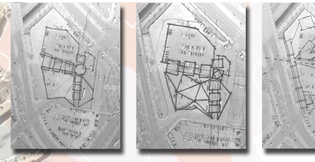
Preserve and enhance heritage resources

Provide a balanced network for movement

Foster public safety

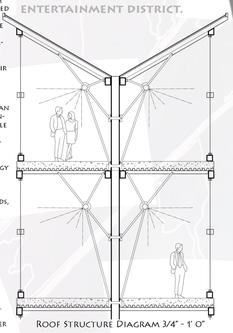
Conceptual Design Process

The theoretical premise of the transition from the real world into one where space and time have been temporarily suspended corresponds to the powerful effects of movies. People go to the movies to escape. This transition relates to the existing context and transfers into the spaces throughout the movie house. One is able to escape into the "real-filmic" space, enjoy themselves and act out their fantasies. The magic of film comes to life. Cinematic architecture and solid, tangible architecture are brought together within the confines of exclusive hideaways (AD, 1994.) The imagined is confronted with reality and reality with the imagined; two dimensions with three dimensions; the fantasy with the every day. Architectural construction can be perceived as part of a performance. The idea that the movement of a body through a constructed space and participating in its narration lends itself to a more intimate union between film and architecture. Through work with shape, form, light, balance, color, movement and depth this transition became possible. Cinematic language was used in the design development of the Movie House and designing around the movies' social and physical dimensions. Movies take us away from every day life and into a story. This powerful phenomenon relates to my main emphasis of the transition from the real world into one where space and time have been temporarily suspended. The elements of cinematic language: scene, montage, frame, cut, movement, image, illusion and depth of field have a dialectical relationship to the tectonics of designing. Architectural construction can be perceived as part of a performance. Montage includes elements such as reoccurrence, inversion and substitution, which suggests an architecture of collision. Intricately connected building units providing differentiation in use and design. The construction and layering of extraneous material builds up the dramatic situation. The idea of creating a balanced network for movement and investing in the public realm. The design focuses on people looking outward rather than primarily inward to see the energy involved with the city moving around it. The design was laid out using montage to create dynamic spatial sequences defined by tangents and diagonals along with primary axes towards the cathedral, capital and the river.



Concept Sketches

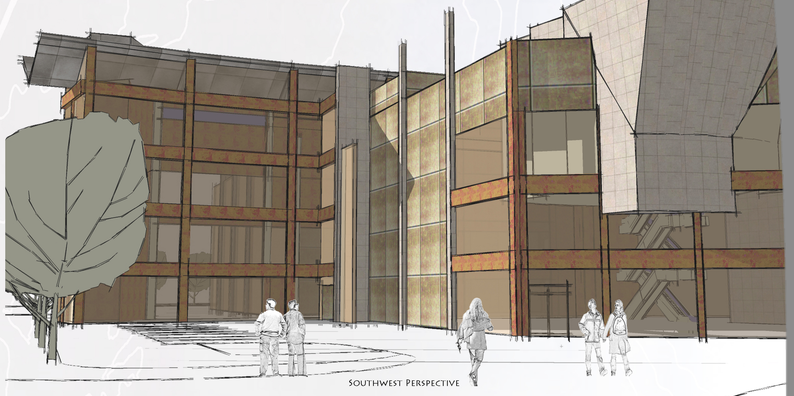
Driven by the critical mass of visitor traffic, the Seven Corners Gateway is emerging as Saint Paul's new entertainment district.



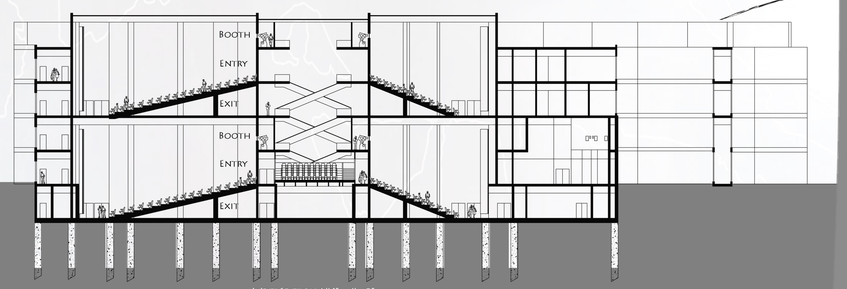
Roof Structure Diagram 3/4" - 1' 0"

The idea that the movement of a body through a constructed space and participating in its narration lends itself to a more intimate union between film and architecture.

Perspective From Excel

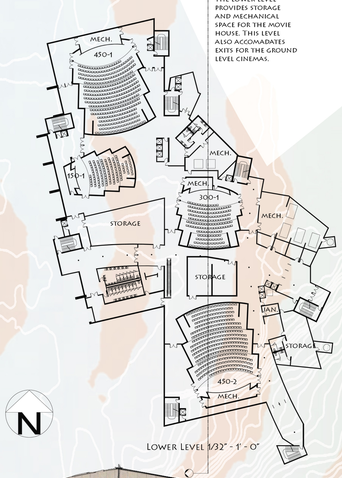


Southwest Perspective



West Section 1/16" - 1' - 0"

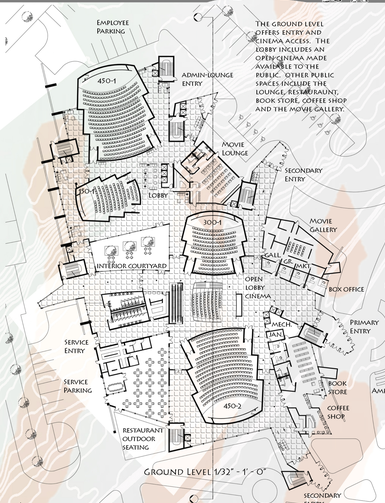
The lower level provides storage and mechanical space for the movie house. This level also accomadates exits for the ground level cinemas.



Lower Level 1/32" - 1' - 0"

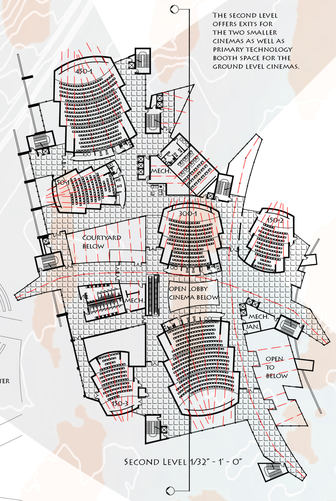
Employee Parking

The ground level offers entry and cinema access. The lobby includes an open cinema made available to the public. Other public spaces include the lounge, restaurant, book store, coffee shop and the movie gallery.



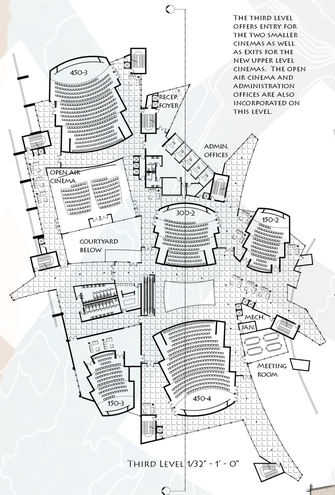
Ground Level 1/32" - 1' - 0"

The second level offers exits for the two smaller cinemas as well as primary technology booth space for the ground level cinemas.



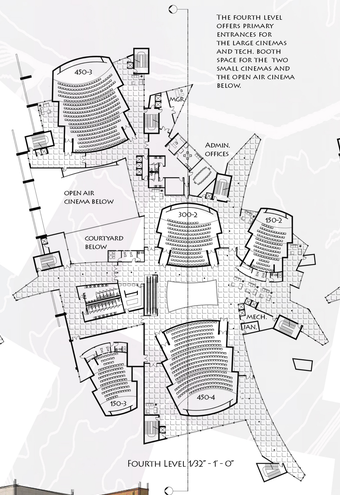
Second Level 1/32" - 1' - 0"

The third level offers entry for the two smaller cinemas as well as exits for the new upper level cinemas. The open air cinema and administration offices are also incorporated on this level.



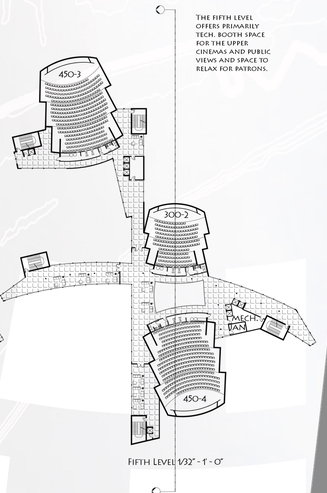
Third Level 1/32" - 1' - 0"

The fourth level offers primary entrances for the large cinemas and tech. booth space for the two small cinemas and the open air cinema below.



Fourth Level 1/32" - 1' - 0"

The fifth level offers primarily tech. booth space for the upper cinemas and public views and space to relax for patrons.



Fifth Level 1/32" - 1' - 0"

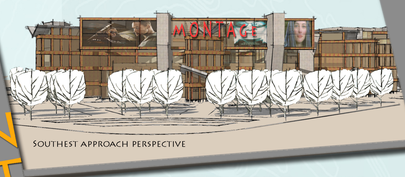
Northwest Perspective

"Although a cinema's heart is the darkened auditorium in where a movie flickers, its face is the lobby."

Space Planning

The Movie House will be comprised of 9 auditoriums, with a movie lounge, open lobby cinema and an open air cinema, for a total of 12 screening spaces. The mix of the auditorium sizes is desirable within a cinema in order to handle large crowds for initial film presentations and then back off into smaller auditoriums as the demand dwindles. Multiple screens allow the cinema to hold a movie longer than 4 or 8 weeks, with options for some films up until their release in video stores. Premium reserved space in the movie lounge will be available for the VIP or elite guests, where a light meal and alcohol may be served. The lobby and other service spaces will be considered public, reacting as an extension of the street. General spaces include the screening spaces, administration, sales and service/support programs. "Although a cinema's heart is the darkened auditorium in where a movie flickers, its face is the lobby." The lobby will support guest services and amenities including concessions, restaurant, lounge area, movie gallery, coffee shop and a book store. Supporting mechanical and technical projection booth spaces. Other project elements include management offices, employee lounge, restrooms, support lobbies, storage, service entrance, sign design, crowd circulation, egress, and acoustic design for each screening space. This site location also offers wonderful options for exterior plaza spaces and exterior spatial connections, along with the addition of an interior courtyard space.

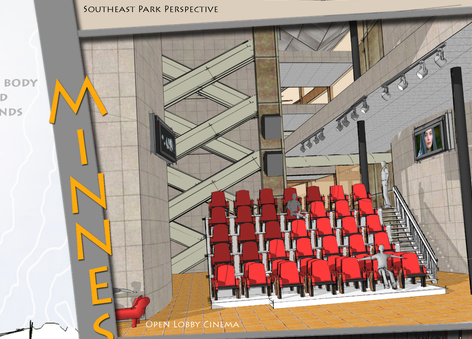
Southeast Perspective



Southeast Approach Perspective

SAINT PAUL MINNESOTA

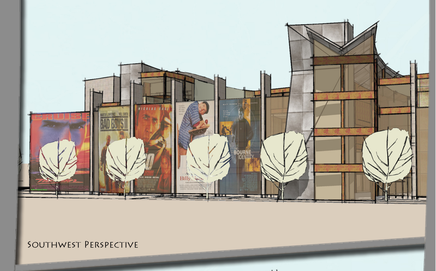
Southeast Park Perspective



Open Lobby Cinema

Main Cinema Interior

Southwest Street Perspective



Southwest Perspective

Open Air Cinema Perspective

Northest Perspective

Southeast Night Perspective

TRAVIS BEAN