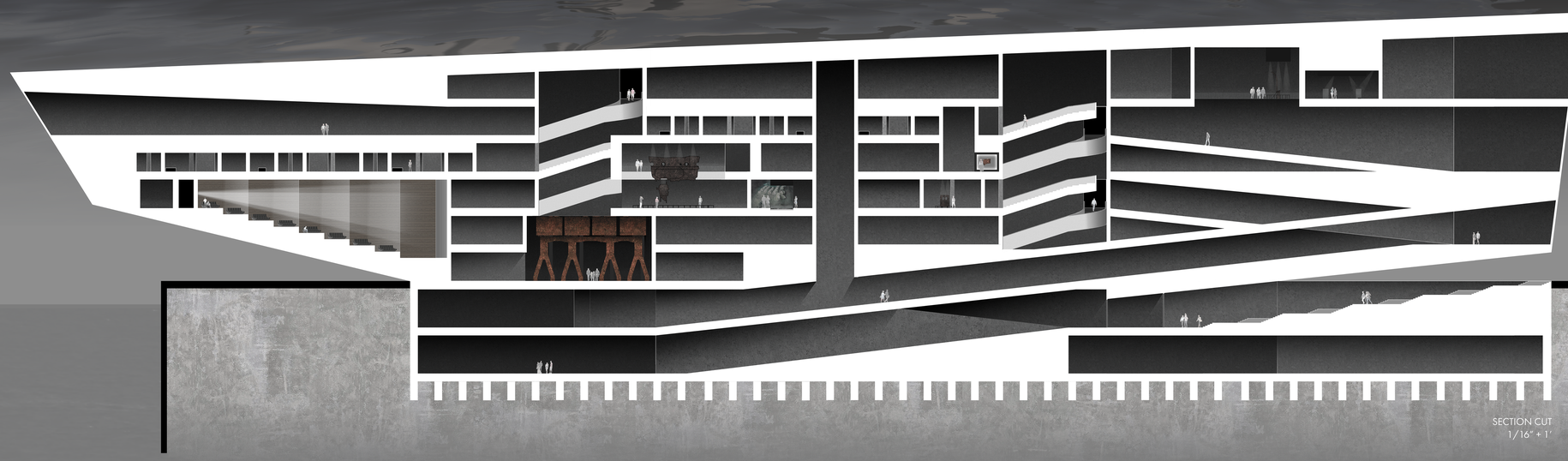
RE-IMAGINING THE RMS TITANIC THROUGH THE USE OF ARCHITECTURAL FRAGMENTATION

Architecture often presents itself as a gateway to how we understand the past, whether through monuments, museums, or installations. There are many instances where architecture impacts how we perceive major historic events with the idea to immortalize the past. However, some instances are not as successful as others. My question is: How does architecture influence how we understand history? More specifically, how can architecture aid in thoughtfully articulating a historic tragedy such as the sinking of the RMS Titanic?

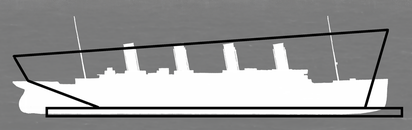
Designing a museum to house the physical and linguistic fragments of the sinking of the RMS Titanic means transforming many personal stories into a collective cultural milieu as well as understanding the connection between the structure and its site. Located at the Titanic's original destination known as Pier 59 in New York, the site of the museum displays the thousands of artifacts that have surfaced over the past century. This project aims to create an environment that not only transforms how the sinking is perceived, but to bring back a sense of empathetic storytelling that is currently lacking at the other Titanic museums around the world.

SITE PLAN
NEW YORK, NY

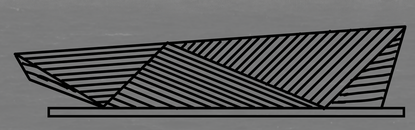


SECTION CUT
1/16" = 1'

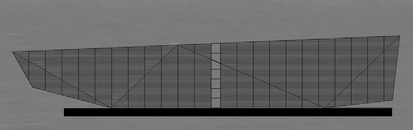
USING PIER 59 IN NEW YORK, I HAD TO ENVISION THE TITANIC AS IF IT WERE DOCKED LIKE IT WAS INTENDED. IT IS AS IF THE SHIP IS A PHANTOM OF AN AMPUTATED LIMB, THE TITANIC BEING THE LIMB AND THE PIER BEING THE BODY EXPERIENCING THIS SENSATION.



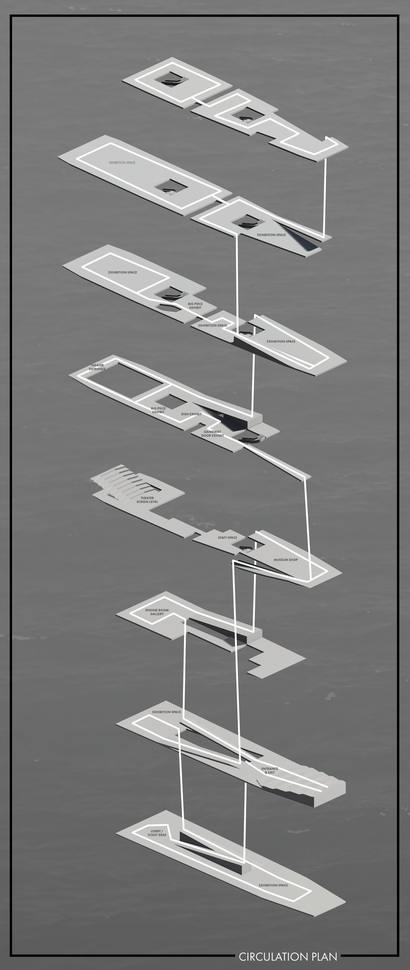
KEEPING THE TITANIC'S GRAND SILHOUETTE IN MIND, THE SHAPE OF THE STRUCTURE NOT ONLY ECHOED THE EDWARDIAN SHIPS DESIGN, BUT EVOKED THE SENSE OF SINKING AS YOU PROCEED TOWARDS THE MUSEUM AS THE ROOF LOWERS TOWARDS THE WATER.



IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TITANICS RIVETED HULL PLATING, THE STRUCTURE USES CLAD-STYLE PANELS TO REPLICATE THE TONS OF STEEL THAT HELD THE SHIP TOGETHER. THE FRAGMENTED PATTERN IS INTENDED TO TRACE THE ARCHITECTURAL APPROACH THAT INSPIRED THIS MUSEUM.

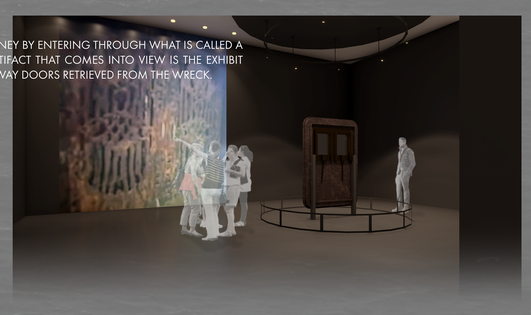


IN THE FINAL DESIGN STAGE, THE STRUCTURE TAKES PLACE WITH A SINGLE BREAK IN THE FACADE THAT REPRESENTS THE FRACTURE TITANIC ENDURED DURING THE SINKING. ORIGINAL IMAGERY OF THE SHIP FLANKS THE FACADE TO DRAW ATTENTION FOR OUTSIDE.



CIRCULATION PLAN

AS YOU BEGIN YOUR JOURNEY INTO THE TITANIC'S MEMORY, THE PATH DRAWS UP AND INTO THE METAPHORICAL SHIP. THIS PATH LIES IN CONJUNCTION WITH WHAT HAVE BEEN THE COURSE OF THE ICEBERG.



PASSENGERS BEGAN THEIR JOURNEY BY ENTERING THROUGH WHAT IS CALLED A GANGWAY DOOR; THE FIRST ARTIFACT THAT COMES INTO VIEW IS THE EXHIBIT DISPLAYING ONE OF THE GANGWAY DOORS RETRIEVED FROM THE WRECK.

THROUGH OUT THE MUSEUM, VARIOUS ARTIFACTS REVEL THEMSELVES IN THEIR OWN INTENDED WAY. THE LARGEST PIECE OF THE WRECK CARVES THROUGH TWO FLOORS TO GIVE VIEWERS DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES FROM ABOVE AND BELOW.

A HAUNTING IMAGE OF THESE DISHES STILL BEING STACKED AS THEY WERE ON THE SHIP IS NOW LYING ON A BED OF SAND AND IS A BITTER REMINDER OF THE LIFE ON BOARD AND HOW IT CAME TO SUDDEN END.

NOT ONLY PURPOSED FOR NAVIGATION, THE BRIDGE OF THE TITANIC WAS THE WHERE EVENTS UNFOLDED AS THE CREW MADE THEIR BEST EFFORTS TO STEER AWAY FROM THE ICEBERG.

TITANIC'S LIFEBOATS WERE HOISTED BY LARGE DAVIT CRANES THAT LOWERED THEM DOWN INTO THE ATLANTIC WATERS AS THE SHIP SANK. ONE OF THE ONLY DAVITS RECOVERED IS ERECTED IN THE SAME POSITION IT WOULD HAVE BEEN IN.

IMAGE REFERENCES