STRUCTURED LIVING

A living document concerning frames, navigation, and the synthesis of form

Architecture and its infrastructure act as a mediating tool defining the world around us by structuring experience. This thesis defines the consiquence of building and how designers structure experience by opening and obscuring creating physical, intellectual, and even political boundaries. The vehical of the study is an addition to the iconic North Dakota State Capital Building in Bismarck, North Dakota. The addition includes interpretive space at the base of the current structure as well as new entry condition and vertical circulation. The new architecture questions how one makes additions to existing pieces of architecture and studies how the manipulation of paths and frames impacts the perception of space. The study also questions the issue of site and how architectue acts as both an object looked at, often from far distances as well as looked through, sculpting views of the surrounding horizon.

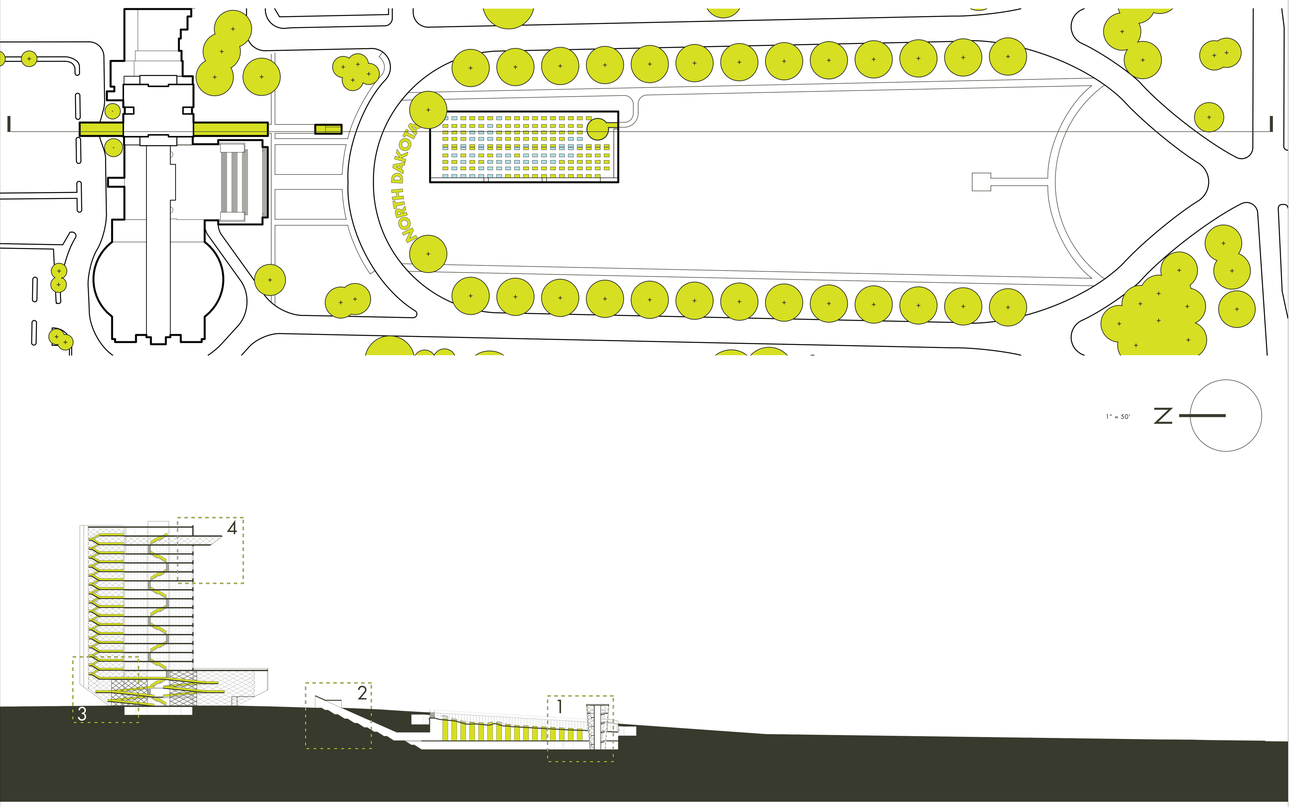
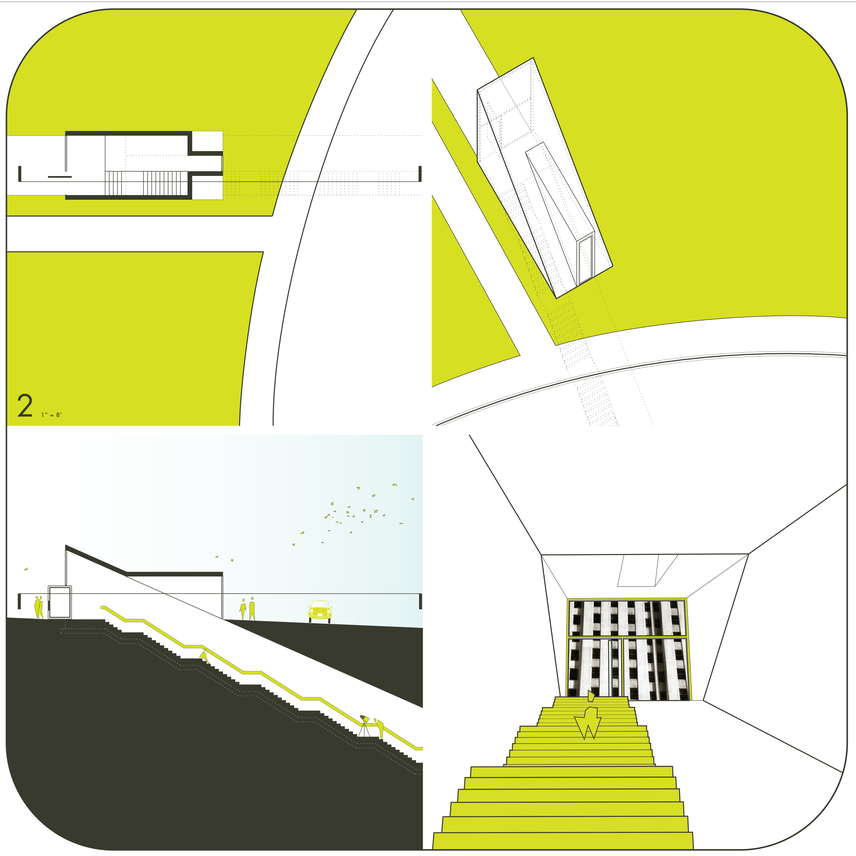
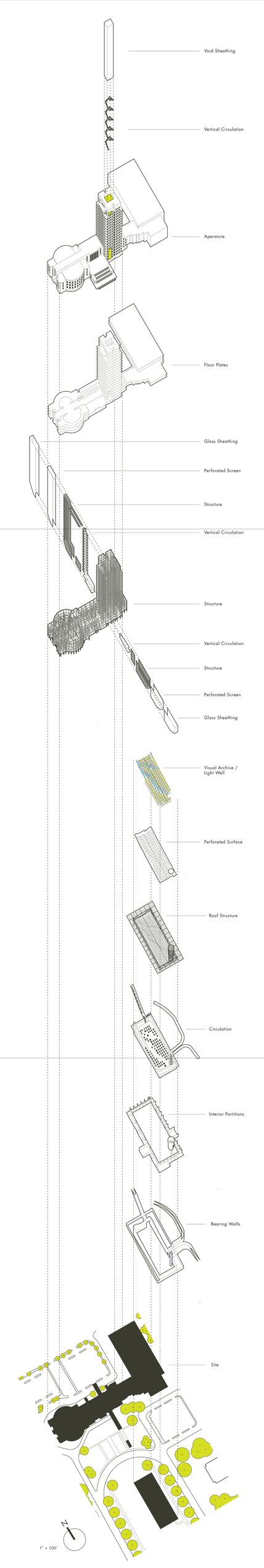
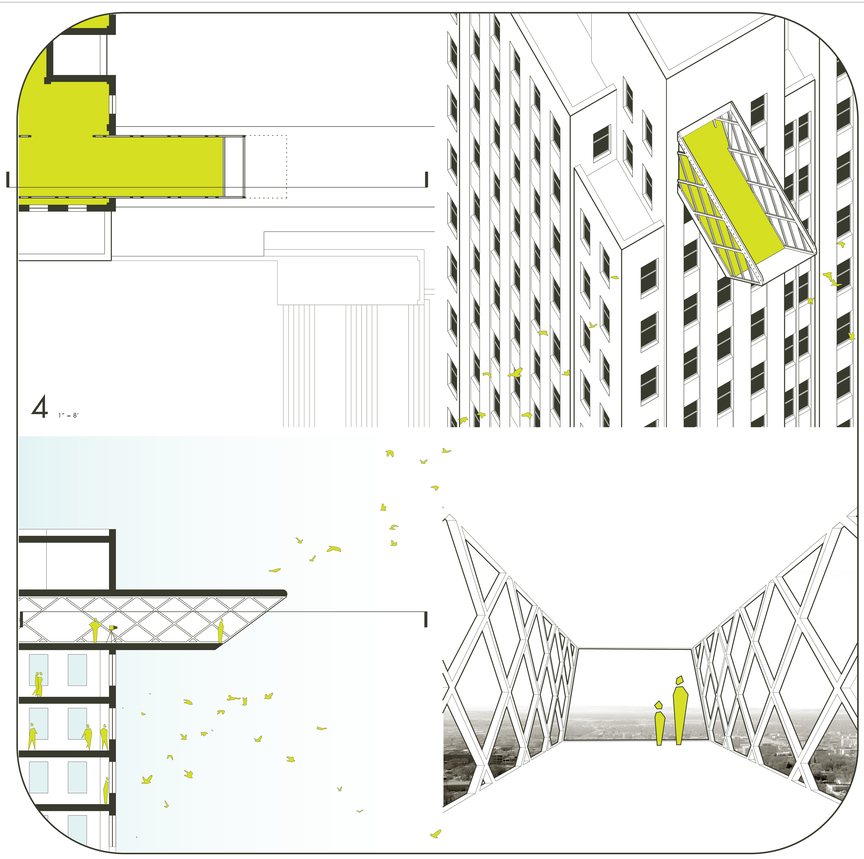
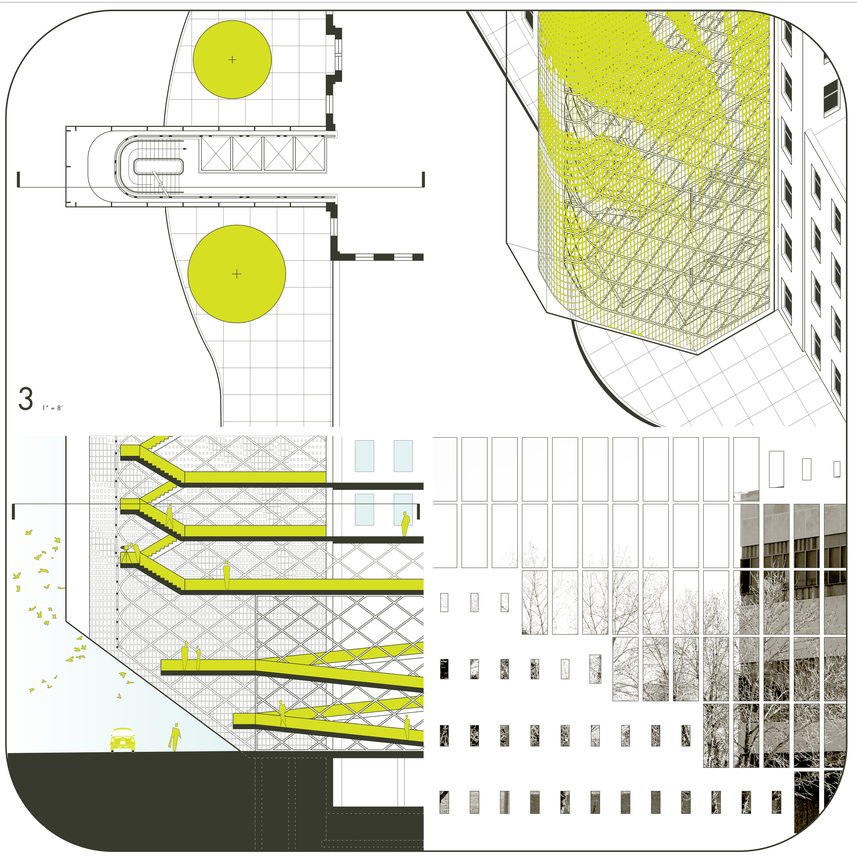
The study focuses on four frames of intrest within the North Dakota State Capitol complex. Each studies how interventions of new architecture sculpt understanding by redefining movement and views.

1 Entry in to the North Dakota Archive of Visual Culture. The center is a repository of media describing the establisment and growth of the state presenting imagery from Mass Media to children doodles. The architecture question the how one generates form and movement as well as how architecture can create anticipation of remote space.

2 Exit from the Archive. A vertical circulation space that acts as multiple frames giving telescoping views that highlights spaces not yet visted and reflects upon prior paths.

3 Capitol tower vertical ciculation. A new series of ramps, stairs, and elevators on the towers North face that redefines how one moves up the tower allowing changing views to the surrounding region and capitols facade as one climbs. The structure investigates how facades act as an apperature opening and obscuring views .

4 Horizon Room. A cantilever 224 feet above the ground protruding 25 feet past the capitols south face producing new viewsheds to the horzion 18+ milles away.

Student: Brent Nelson
Instructor: Mike Christenson
ARCH 772 Design Thesis
Spring 2010
Department of Architecture and Landscape Architecture
North Dakota State University

Software Applications:
Rhino3d, Adobe Illustrator