Encompassing Spirituality: An Exercise in Formal Gathering
The typology of this thesis project is to be a building/gathering space in which the different religions of the world gather. The space will encompass religion in a broad scope focusing on what it means to live and worship through the stages of life as a group of people who believe in a higher power regardless of one’s declared formal religion.
Believers are bound by a higher power that is based in a certainty of a beginning, the present, and an inherent end to a given period of time.

Historical ties and human spirituality have given people the ability to establish and practice their own religions and faiths, many of which are recognized by others and accepted.

Religions, while different in practice are established on the similar belief that life and what follows is located in a higher power thus creating a bond amongst the different sects and denominations of the world.

The gathering spaces in which the believers of the world worship are therefore inherently related to one another.
Chicago was chosen for the rich historical context of the project as it was the location for the first formal gathering of all the world's religions in one communal space during the World's Fair of 1893.

Northerly Island was chosen for its spiritual nature. Located just outside of the heart of downtown Chicago, the site has access to an abundance of light and maintains a very close proximity to water.

The site also presents itself in a linear fashion complimenting the concept/parti for the project; the life journey of a religious believer through birth, a given period of time, and an inherent end.
The physical context of the site is on the shore of Lake Michigan. Dictated by strong cardinal directions, the design demands attention to an appropriate bioclimatic response.

Little natural shading gives access to an abundance of light, and the proximity to the lake provides slightly cooler temperatures and breezes off the body of water.
The concept for the design began as an exploration of the time continuum upon which religious believers exist and the chaos that the state of faith is currently in.

Formal religions are beginning to dissipate and organize as one larger body interacting with one another recognizing the need to mend the ruin and schism created through religious disagreements.
Concept 1

Concept 2

Concept 3
Concept
Concept
To explore the parti I created a series of spatial explorations in relation to the program set forth in the thesis book.

Discovering how the spaces related to one another with respects to the linear aspect of the site and parti allowed the design to move forward and be explored in three dimensions.
Design
Proving to be an essential point in the design of the project this model began to clue into important decisions for the project. From this point, superstructure, floor plans, scale, and proportion were able to be developed and formalized such that they worked harmoniously together creating a spaces that carry with them a sense of the spiritual.
Design
Utilizing the superstructure as a translation of the parti, I began to explore the intentions communicated through the arrangement and scale of the members eventually arriving at a solution which compliments the premise and human scale.
After appropriately scaling the project I began to address the quality of light within the project. All religions have a strong connection to light and orientation and the structure must therefore respond to light and how it changes throughout the day.
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