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Architecture as a Transition Space



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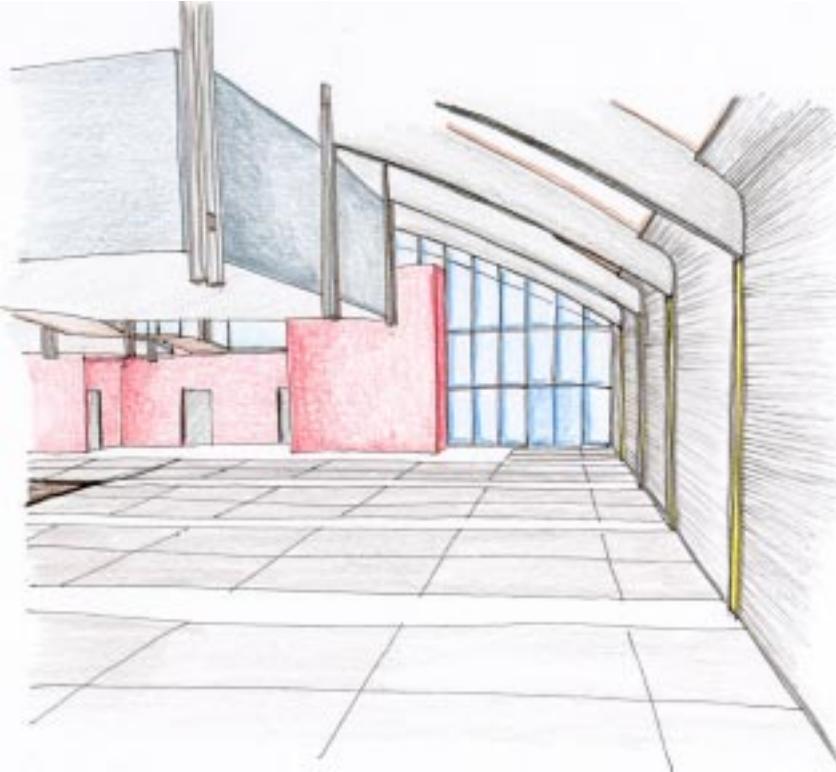
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Acknowledgements

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Thesis Abstract



Piazza Espana, Rome



Piazza San Marco, Venecia

Architecture as an act of social intervention is the concept of this project. Careful consideration of context and surrounding as well as community needs are the forces behind the creation of a building that is both a place of transition and interaction; a place that both philosophically and programmatically intends to enhance the life of the town's population by promoting social and civic togetherness. Through the architectural concept of flexibility it is my intention to make a center that would not only house several permanent activities at once, but will also be able to host as many types of temporary activities as the community can imagine. The building intervening as a social unifier provides both the local and the university communities a place to interact and play together. The chosen site is ideal for this project, since its location is considered as a bridge between downtown and the university campus, thus making it easier to generate an activity space where both could meet throughout the year. The proposed building design reflects this "bridge" condition of the site by turning itself into an urban icon of different qualities; the building that becomes a plaza, the plaza that becomes a building.

Project Description

The design of an entertainment center in Blacksburg, Virginia is intended to be a generator of social interaction and civic pride, between the town and the university. This project will impact the community because of the opportunities that brings to the place, since it is literally considered as the intersection point between the town and university. The facility explores the possibility of using architecture to affect changes of attitudes between a permanent population and a cycle oriented non-permanent one. The design of an Entertainment Center would functionally and aesthetically be a source of civic pride to the city by promoting social interaction. Its “two” populations would develop a deeper sense of identity and solidarity towards each other. Through the concepts of “flexibility”, the Center shall perform its social interaction objectives for many years into the future.



Project Title and Location

Entertainment Center

At the corner of College Avenue and Draper Road



Draper Road



College Avenue

Site Conditions

The site is considered the intersection point of the downtown and the university. The town side consists of cafes and shops with a small building scale. The mega scale of the university is introduced with the student center, the library, bookstore and alumni hall. Accompanying the mega scale of the university is a parking lot, located adjacent to the site, which creates a large void in the denser town fabric.



Average Temperature	58 F
January High	47 F
January Low	28 F
July High	88 F
July Low	68 F
Annual Average Precipitation	43 in.
Annual Snowfall	14 in.
Days with Precipitation	113
Relative Humidity	68%
Clear Days	103



This area is very important as the center of entertainment in the town since the 1900's when the Lyric theater made its appearance. Town and university activities such as the Steppin' Out Street Fair in the fall and the International Fair in spring take place here. Both of these have the intention of unifying and allowing both students and residents to know each other better.





Public Realm Plan 

