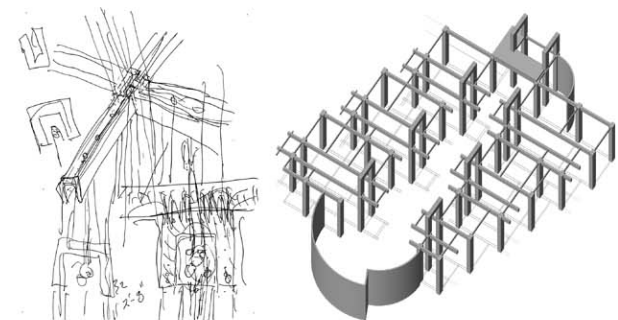
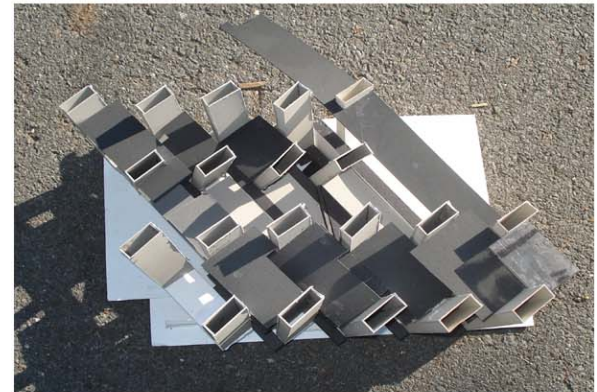
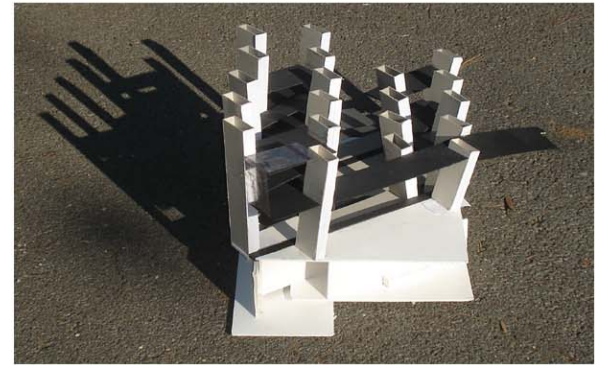


Structure

My initial design studies explored the structural system of my building. I wanted the structural elements - columns and beams - to interweave with each other, similar to the way I wanted the sightless residents to interweave together as a community. Massive precast concrete columns are rhythmically spaced to support the beams and floors. As a result of the large shadows cast by these columns, the visually impaired gain a better understanding their orientation. They have the ability to feel the difference between being in the coolness of a shadow or the warmth of the sunlight. Adjacent to and aligned with these columns are the wet walls to each residential unit. Pipes and electrical wires travel through these wet walls and the concrete floor slabs until they reach the Entry Level. At the Entry Level, they run horizontally within the beams towards the nearest column. At this point, these columns are oversized to allow gaps to be carved out of them. Within these gaps, pipes and wires travel downwards to the mechanical units.

Before entering a residential unit, a person passes between the two columns. At this point, there is a change in floor material along with a change in sound to identify to the user that he is about to enter into another space. The beams supported by these columns are exposed on the interior of each residential unit and separate the public living quarters from the private. These same beams extend and cantilever from this private residential realm above the public domain of the library. Here on these are auxiliary pathways one can experience the inbetween and feel the "gap."



Sketch, Jaan Holt