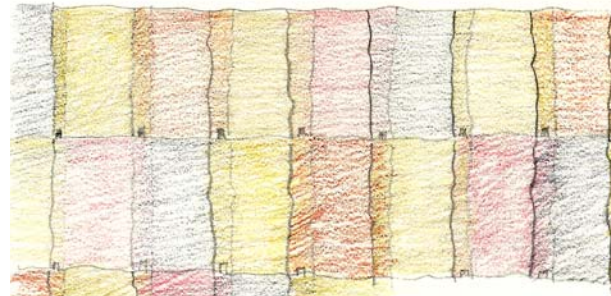
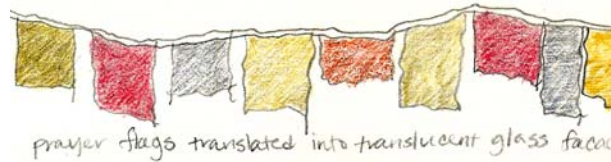
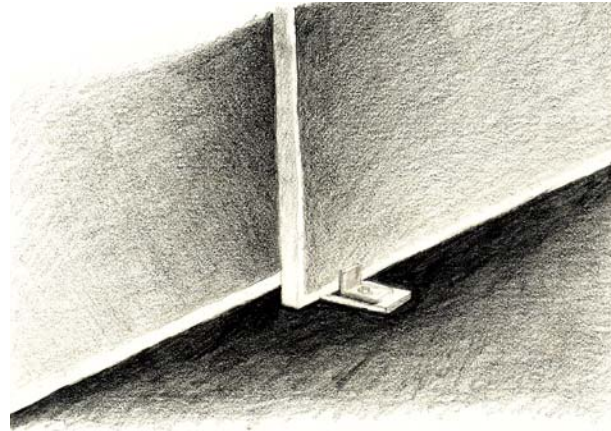
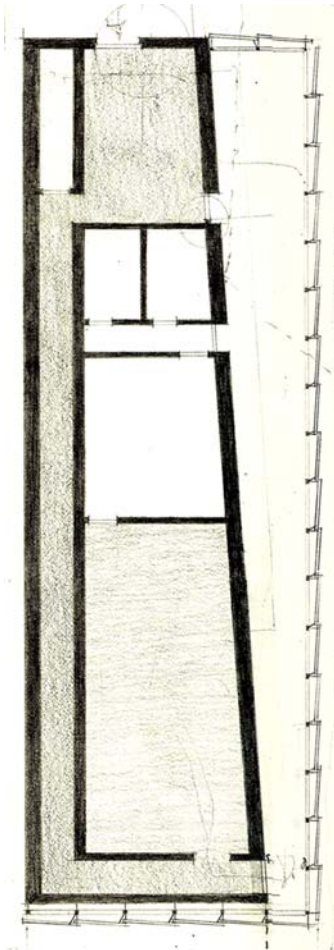


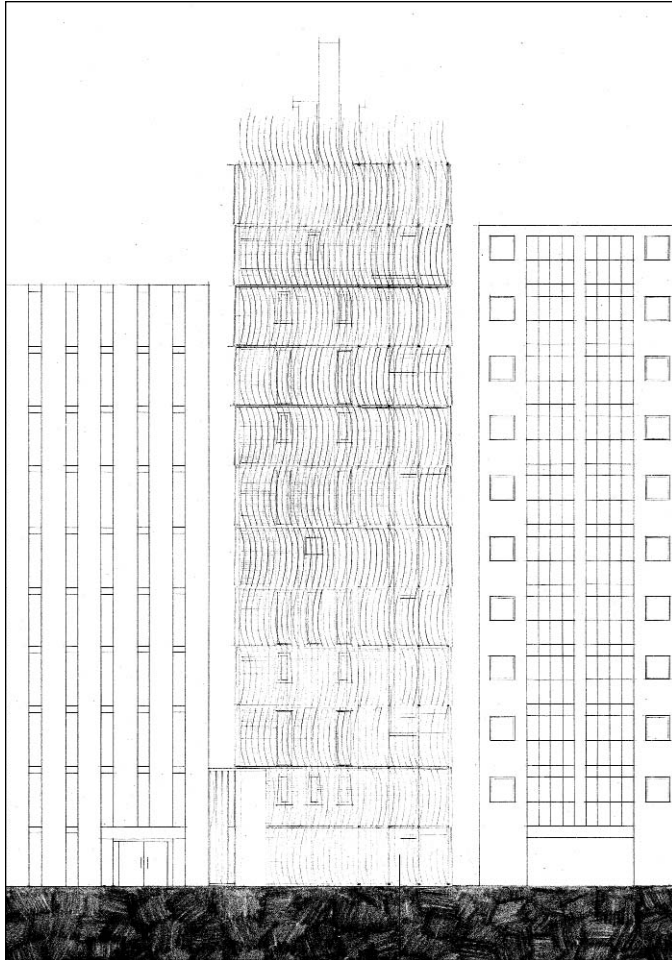
PRAYER FLAG WALL



In Tibet, prayer flags can be seen fluttering from the eaves of roofs to the tree branches of remote mountains. They are rectangular sketches of colored fabrics printed with prayers. They are red, yellow, blue, white, and green rectangles representing fire, earth, space, water, and air, respectively. Thus, every breeze and wind that ripples the flags sends the prayers heavenward.²⁷

In considering the enclosures on the east and west sides of the atrium, the prayer flag concept is applied to the glass panels that are etched with prayers. So every wind or breeze brushing against these glass panels represents the prayers being sent across the city and upward.

NORTH ELEVATIONS



Scale: 1" = 30'



Scale: 1" = 30'

Changing light conditions create two distinct facades for the north elevation. During the day, the screen of iron rods, that allows plants to grow along it, gives it an organic facade. At nighttime, the glass windows behind the screen stand out as the background for the undulating lines of iron rods.

AFTERTHOUGHTS

In considering a program for my master's thesis, I was challenged by the complexity of designing a respite where one can pursue spirituality in the middle of an urban setting. The topic of Tibet and its Buddhism as the context in which to build the thesis question came later. As I learned more about Tibetan Buddhism, I discovered that it is an integral part of Tibet's culture and daily life, rich in symbolism, literature and philosophy. I also realized that there were religious and political reasons for designating a site in Washington, D.C. in the light of China and Tibet's current situation.

In an attempt to create a place that embodies the traditional spirit and culture of Tibetan Buddhism, I considered the elements of architecture, such as the sensuous qualities of materials, sound, smoke, light, color and circulation, to stimulate the visual, tactile, olfactory and aural sensations. In this manner, the human body's interaction with its environment can evoke the *genius loci* of a Tibetan monastery.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to professors Marco Frascari, Susan Piedmont-Palladino , Paul Emmons and Jaan Holt for their insight and commitment to this project.

I would also like to mention the good friends I was fortunate enough to meet through my education at WAAC. Our crossroads have made my journey of becoming an architect more meaningful. I especially thank Desmond Hall and Charley McSorley for their encouragement and help throughout this project.

Finally, I am deeply grateful to my family, especially to my husband, Daniel, for his unwavering love and support and my baby daughter, Sophie, who inspired me to bring this project to completion.

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