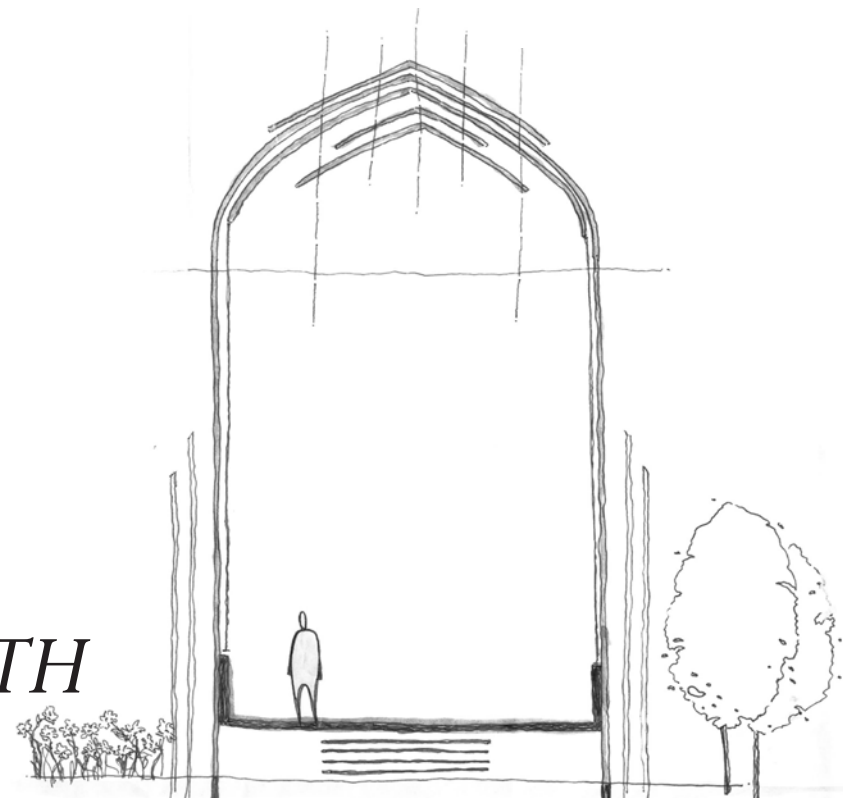


ROSE WINDOW:
A BRIDGE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH
JENNIFER GAIKO



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A BRIDGE BETWEEN HEAVEN AND EARTH

BY

JENNIFER GAIKO

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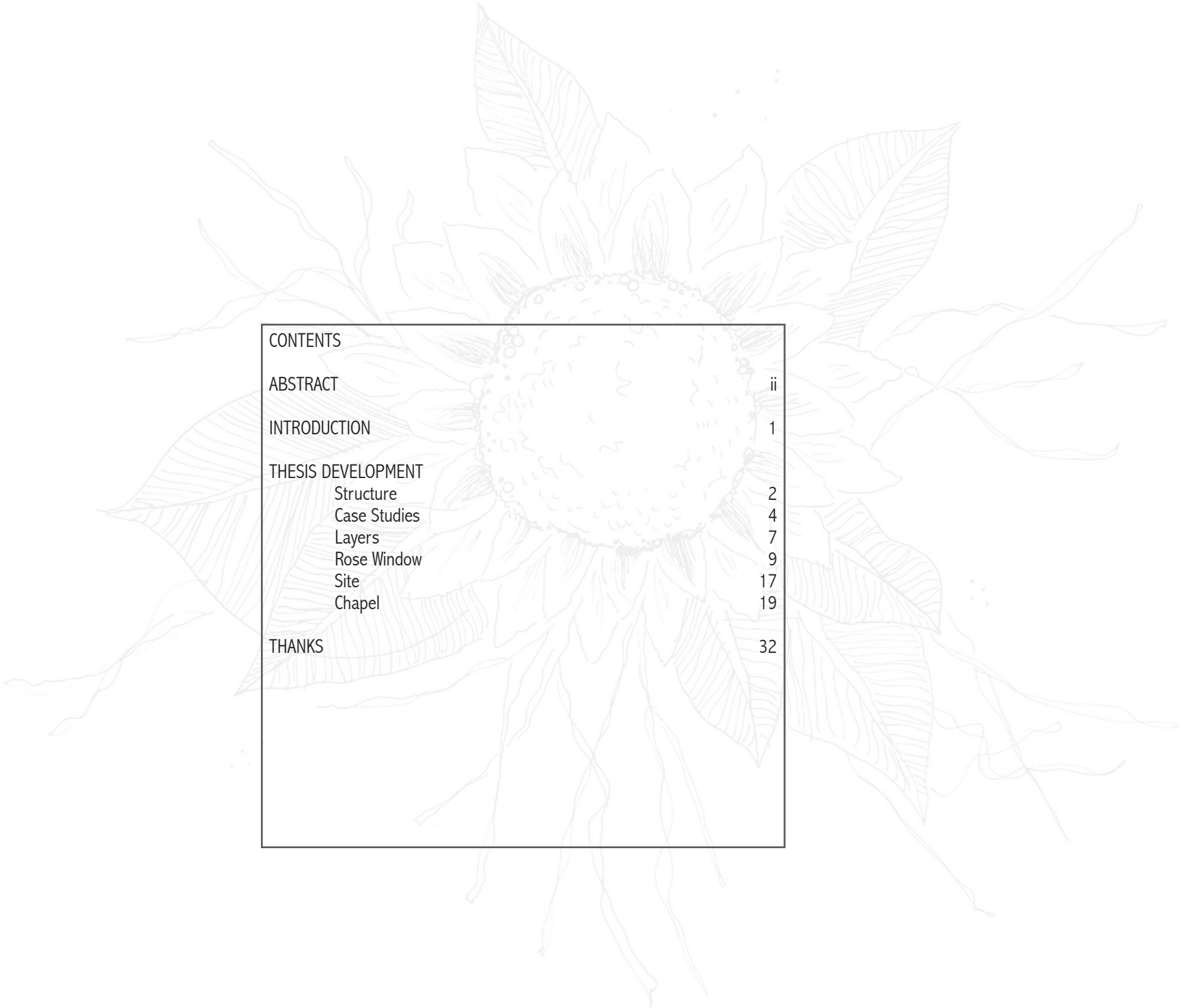
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ABSTRACT

The rose window is a bridge between heaven and earth, a spiritual encounter, and an expression from within to allow the love of joy. Ornament and beauty are the adoration of light. Layers of composition and layers of light allow form to follow feeling through the structural repetition and thought of light as a material itself.

KEY WORDS: Joy, light, material, and structure.



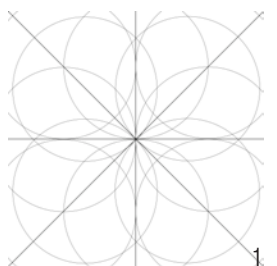
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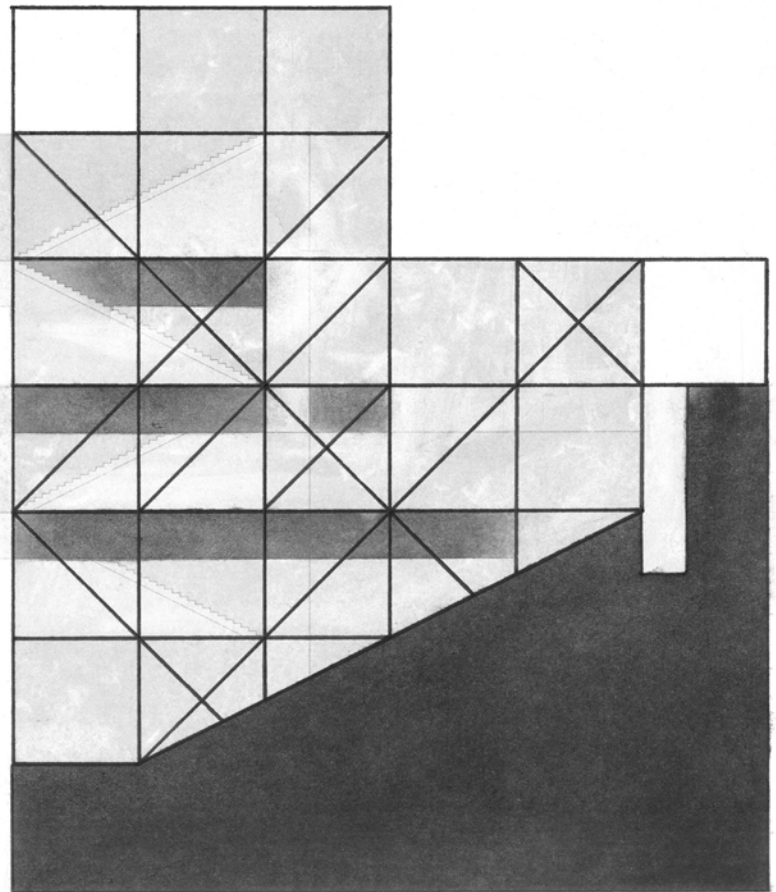
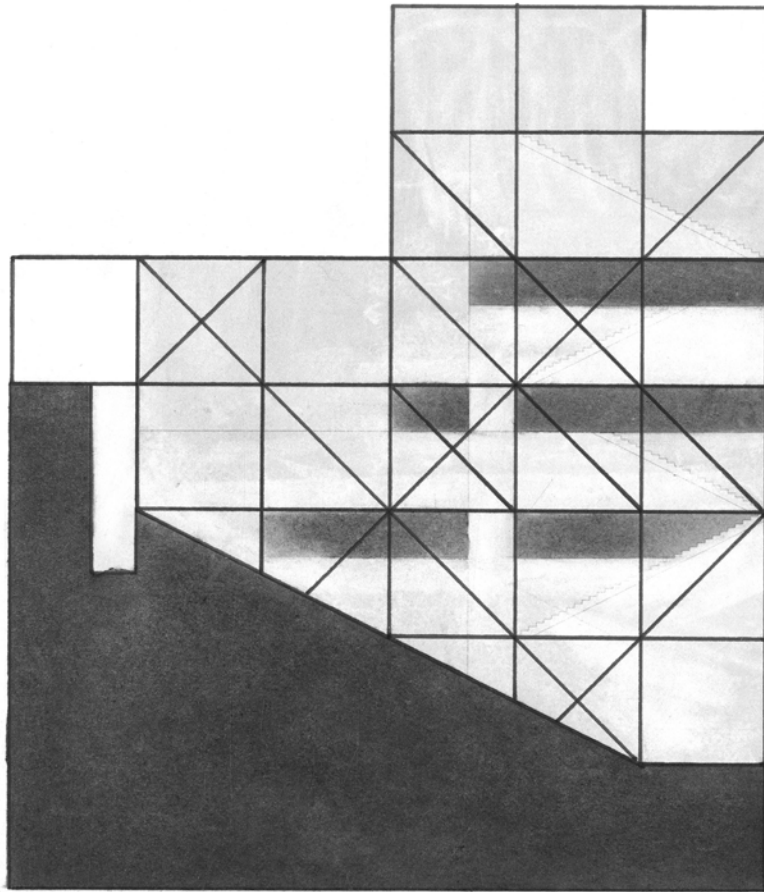
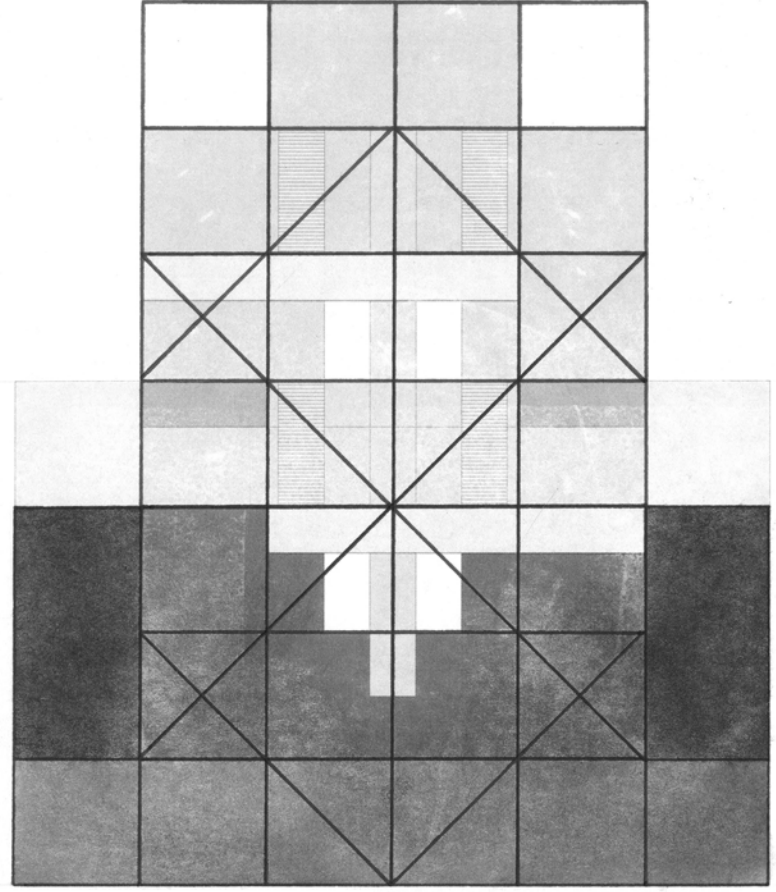
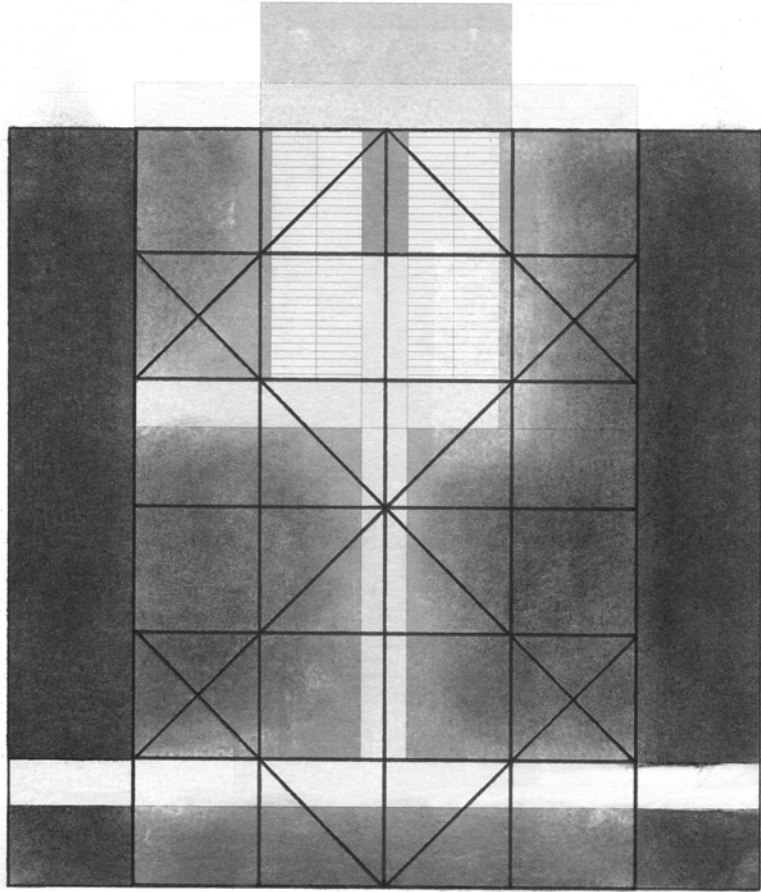
INTRODUCTION

A rose window presents a metaphor for the chapel design to allow the chapel itself to become the rose window composition. The layered repetition of a rose window is seen to inspire the adoration of light. As a bridge between heaven and earth, the chapel is approached through the reveal of layers, material, and beauty. A sense of joy is sought when experiencing this form and design.

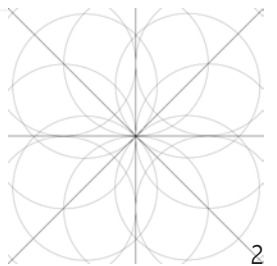
Rose Windows by Painton Cowen

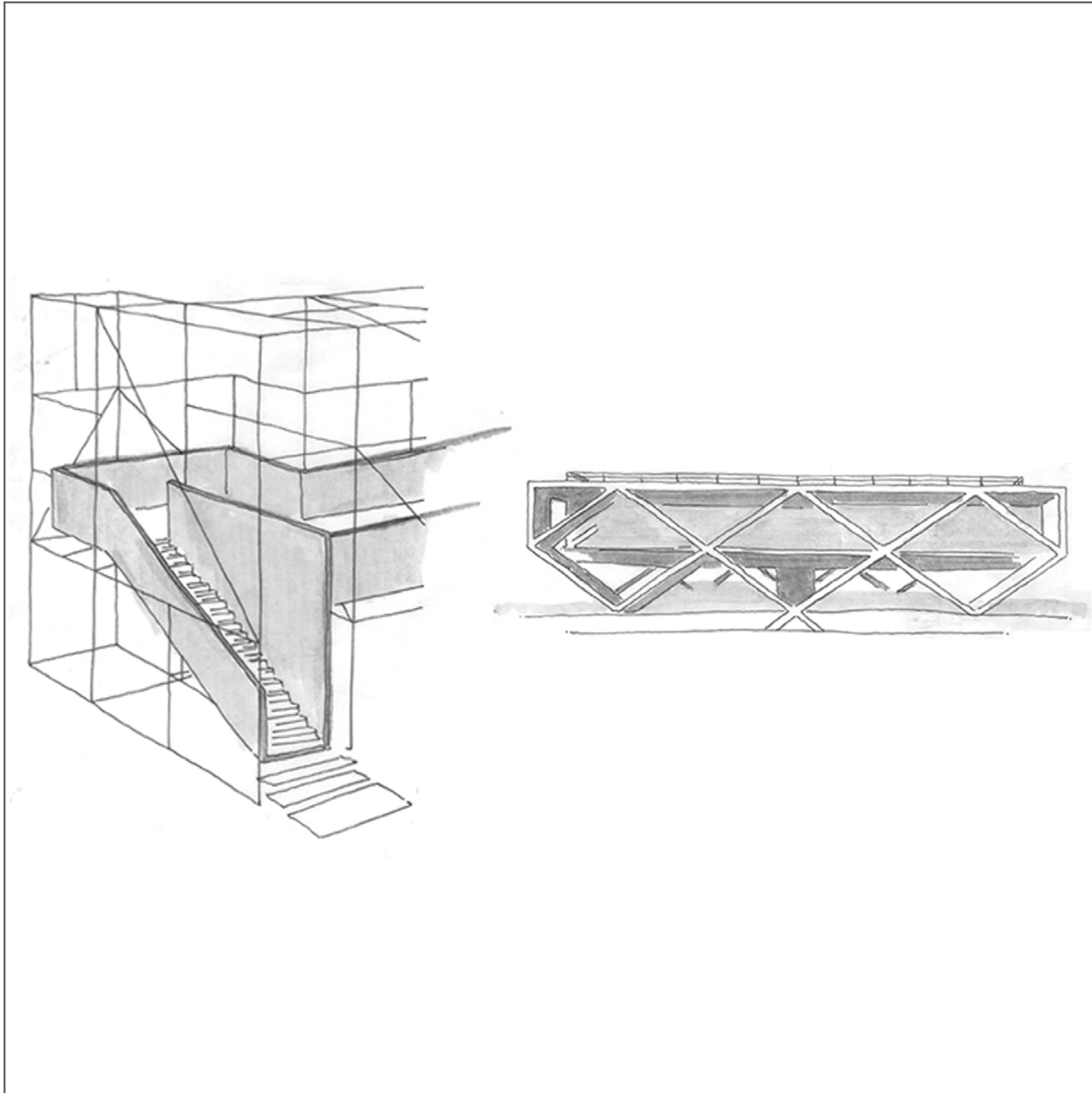
“The ability to create beauty is God’s greatest gift to man. And the appreciation of beauty—whether man-made or natural—is not only a joy but an active call to something much greater than oneself. At rare intervals in our lives we may experience moments of magic, when a person, a place, a view, an object or a situation seems to transfix us, and we suddenly see the world in a quite different light. Such moments are often accompanied by an equally sudden ‘inner expansion’ and the realization that there is much more of life to be experienced, much that is unfulfilled. However unexpected the moments may be, they have a feeling of the Absolute about them. They are rare and elusive but leave us with a sense of awe and wonder which we feel is our birthright.” (7)



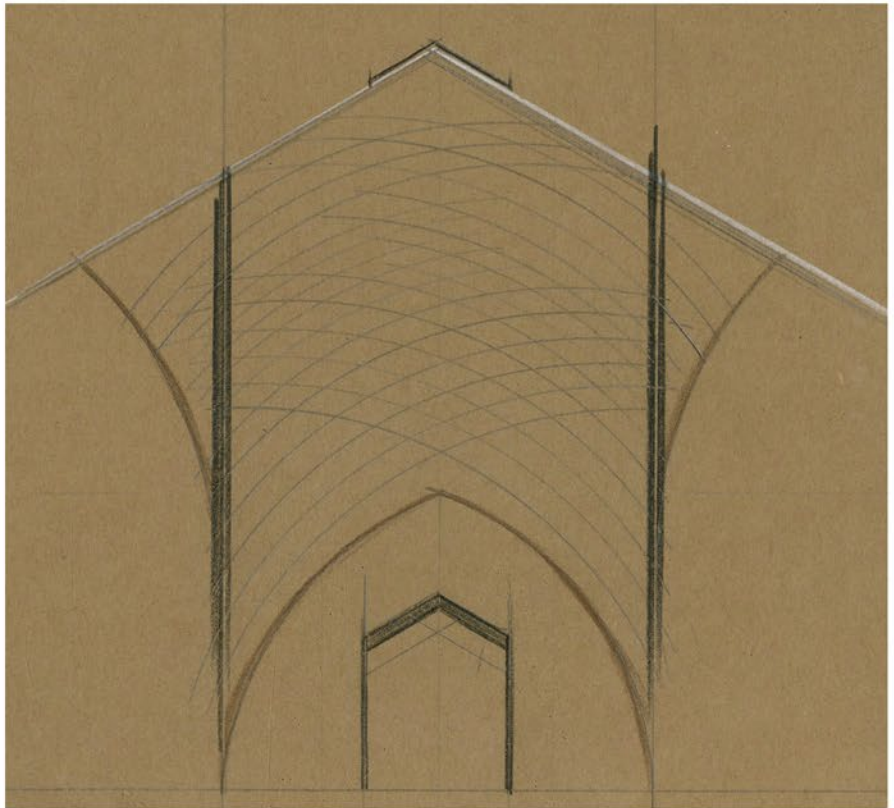
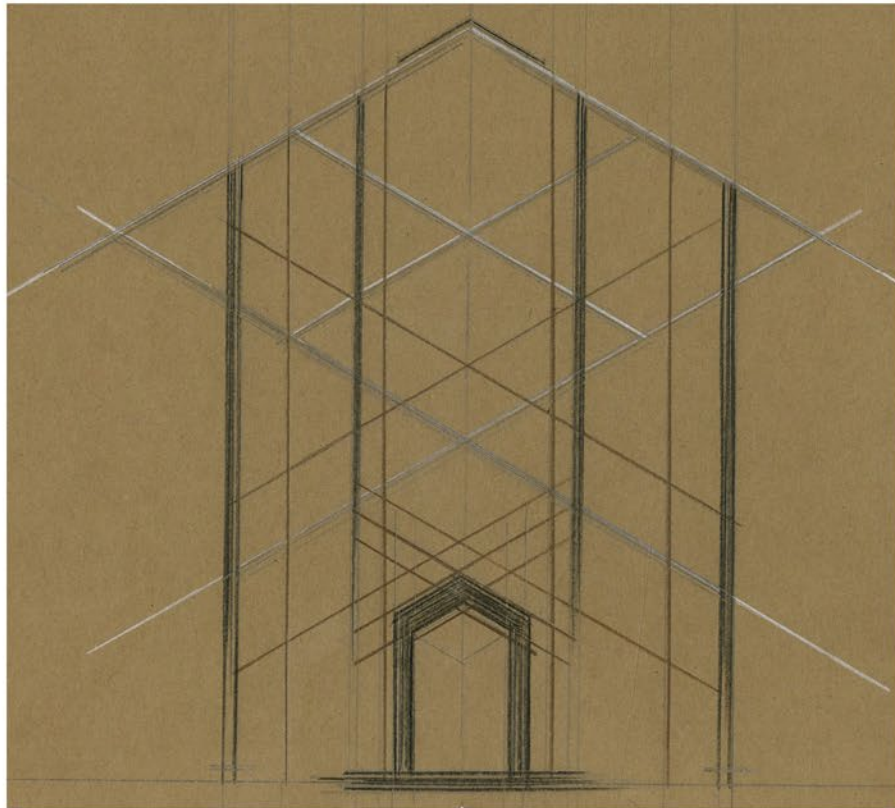
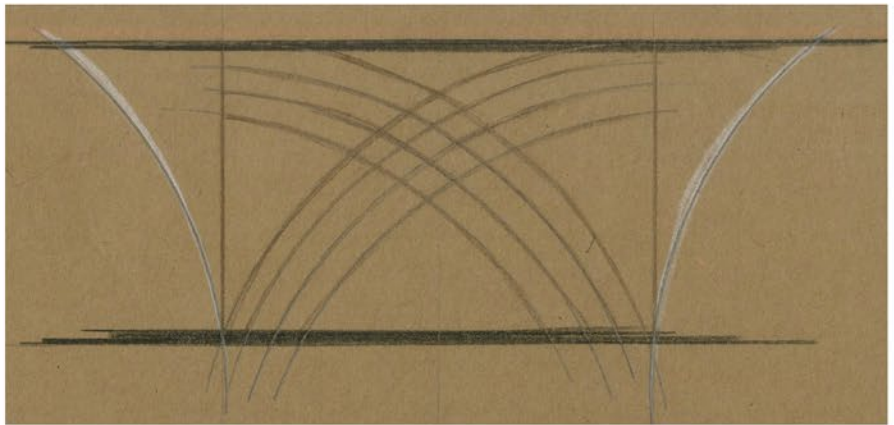
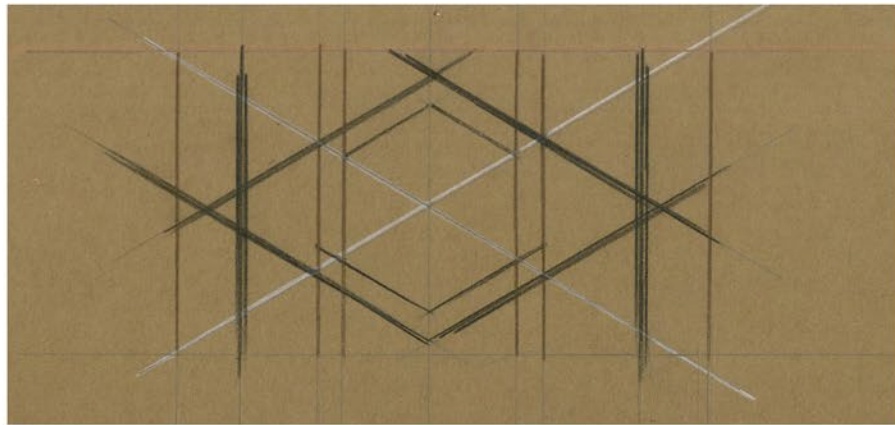


Light, articulation, anatomy, control, and clarity are seen as emphasis of the structural grid.

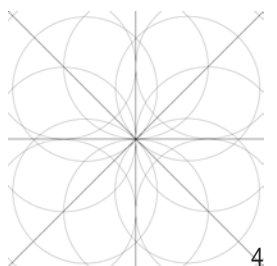


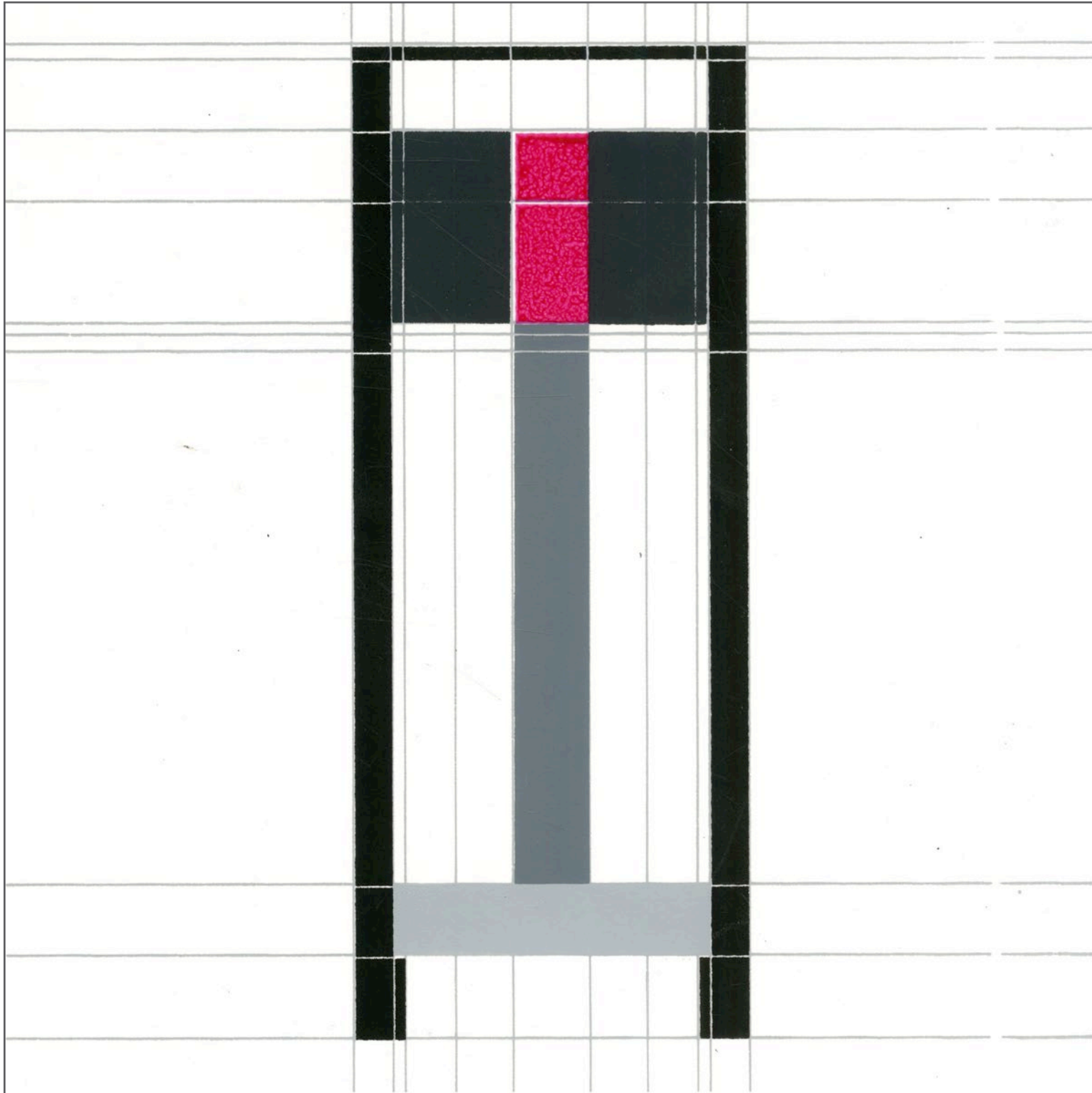


Pulling structure outside of the building envelope and emphasizing structural geometry creates clarity from occupied space and the physical need of engineering. Studying structure determines a form's distinctive nature and character. Light, shadow and reflection are seen in the articulation of connections in structure.

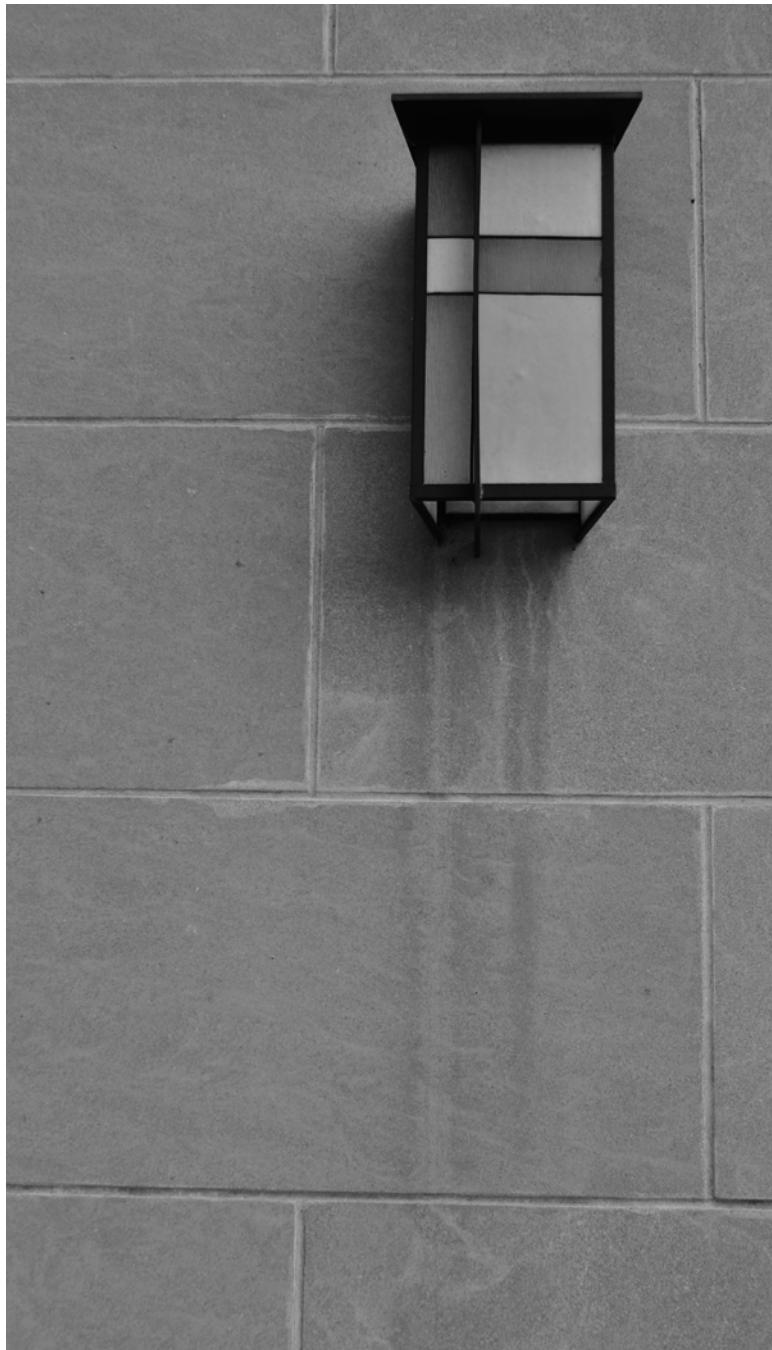


Fay Jones introduces these concepts: order of mystery, a seed manifesting design, organic relationships to a whole, and pattern and form. A seed idea manifests organic relationships to develop form through order and pattern to resolve tension of structure.

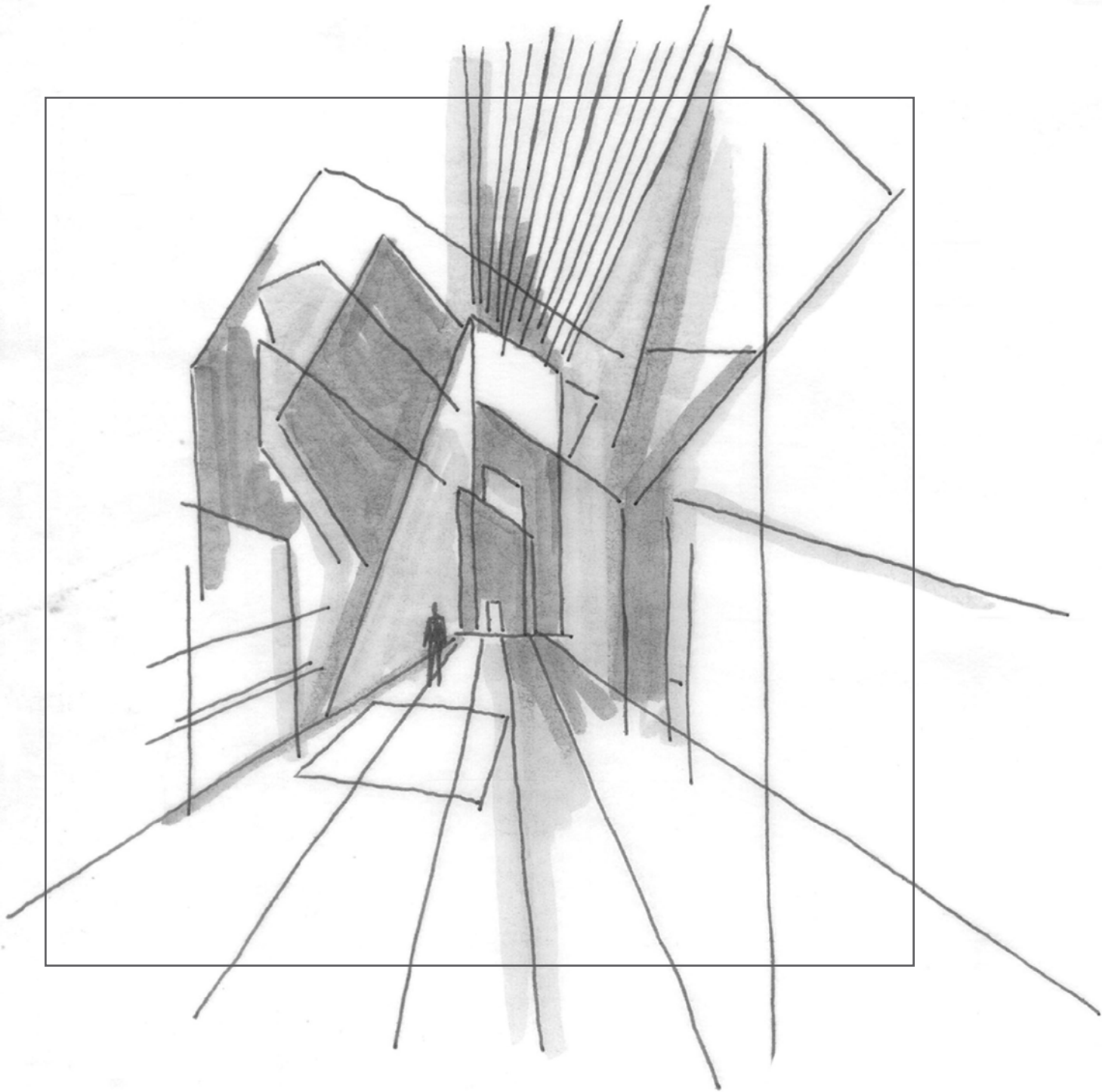




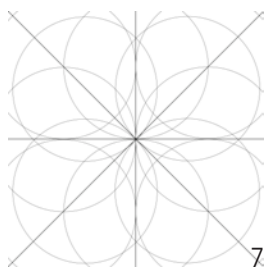
Fay Jones' Thorncrowne Chapel analysis allows a breakdown of the narthex, nave, chancel, altar, and layers of exterior wall geometry.

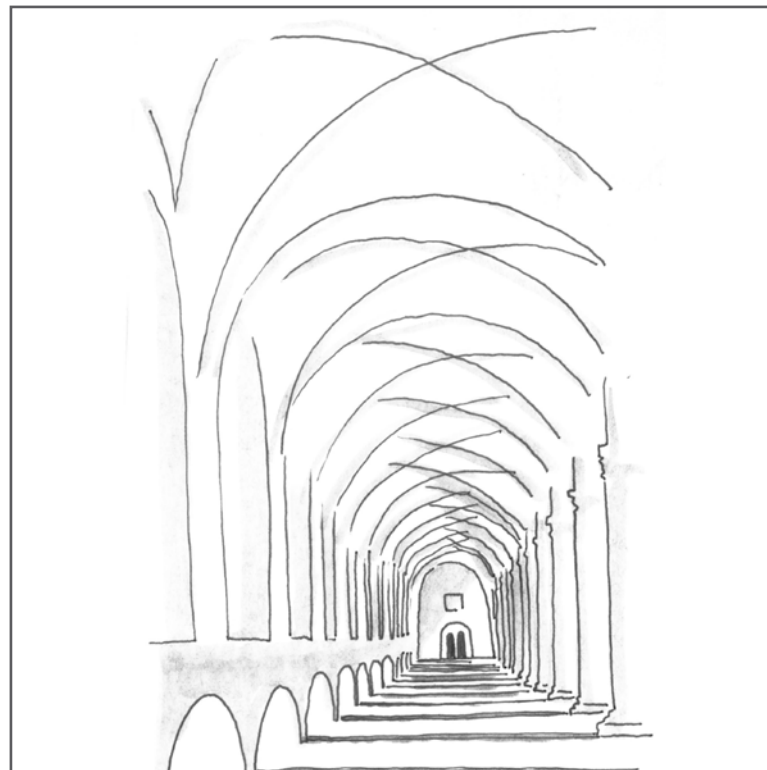
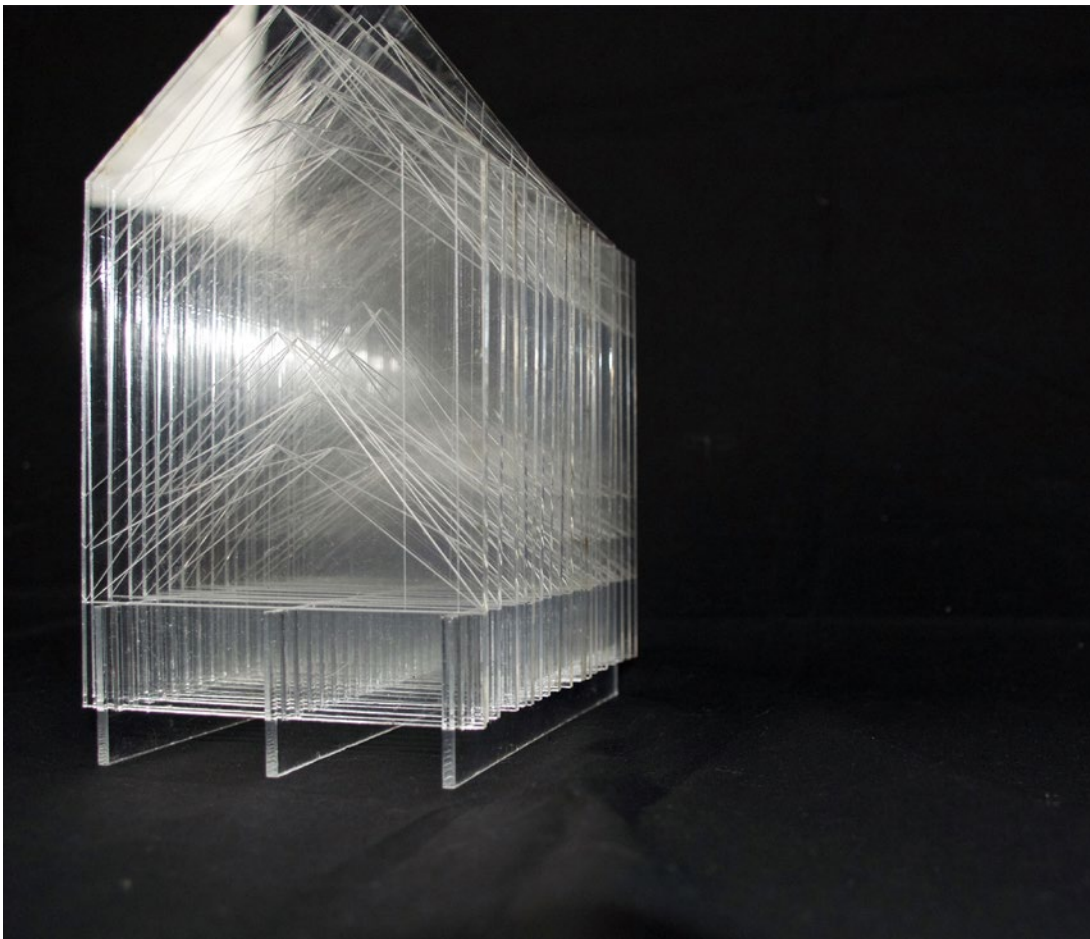
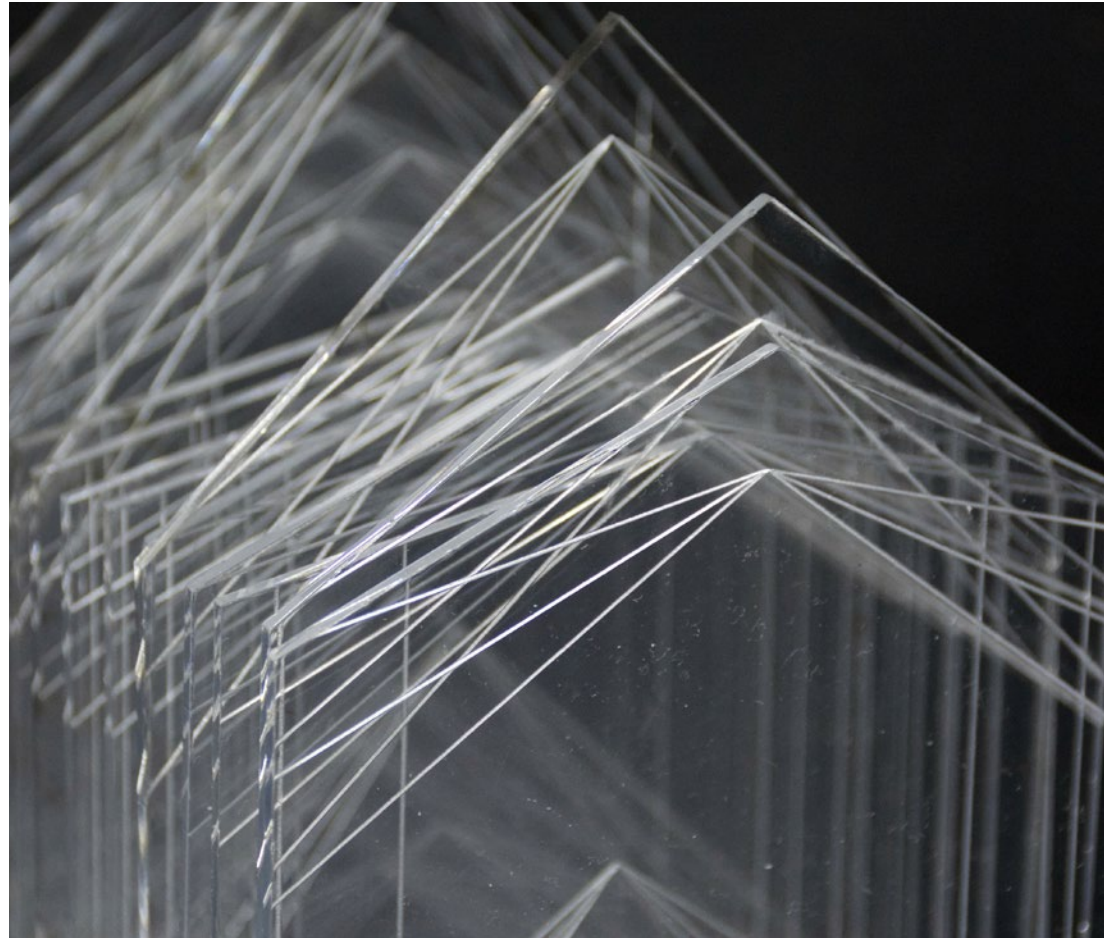
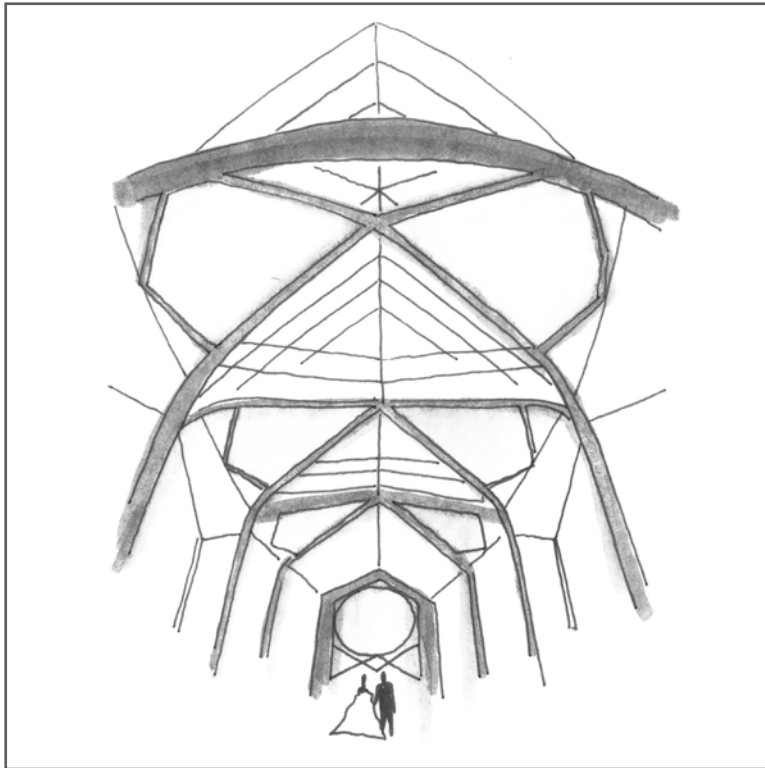


The chapel at Western Kentucky University was an excellent depiction of the University's motto "the Spirit makes the Master: Life more life." Perspective was explored here through nature, geometry, and use of light.



Layers of composition reveal layers of light. Design of exterior facades to reveal designs of the interior creates rhythmic repetition, but with variety.



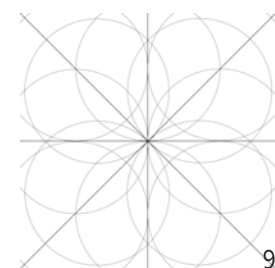


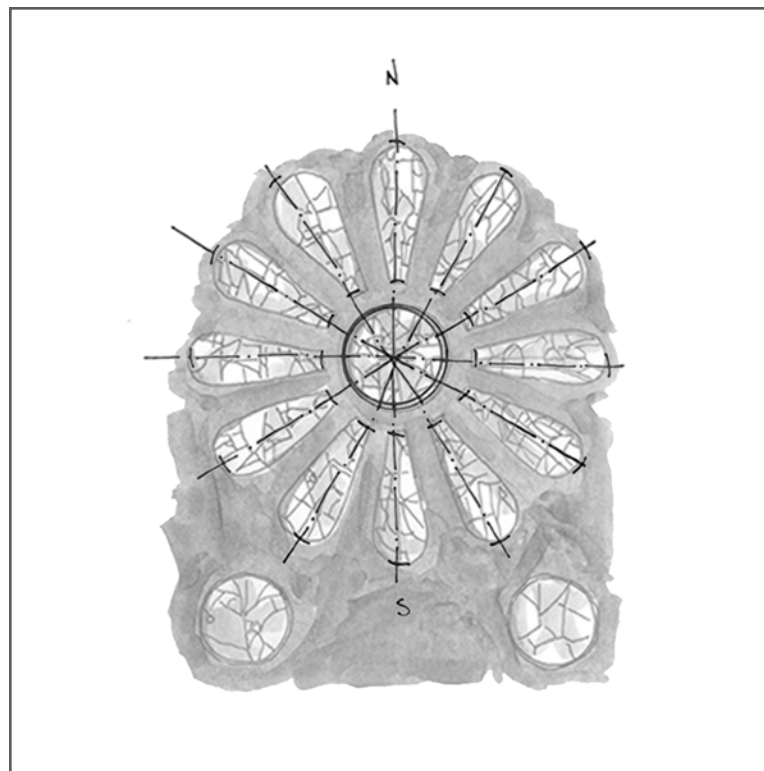
Layers in perspective are key components of vaulted spaces with articulated structural repetition. The nave of a chapel is called such because it is like a ship, or a vessel that carries souls to the destination of heaven.



Rose Windows by Painton Cowen
"Let us make a thing of beauty
That long may live when we are gone;
Let us make a thing of beauty
That hungry souls may feast upon;

Whether it be wood or marble,
Music, art or poetry,
Let us make a thing of beauty
To help set man's bound spirit free."
Edward Matchett (6)

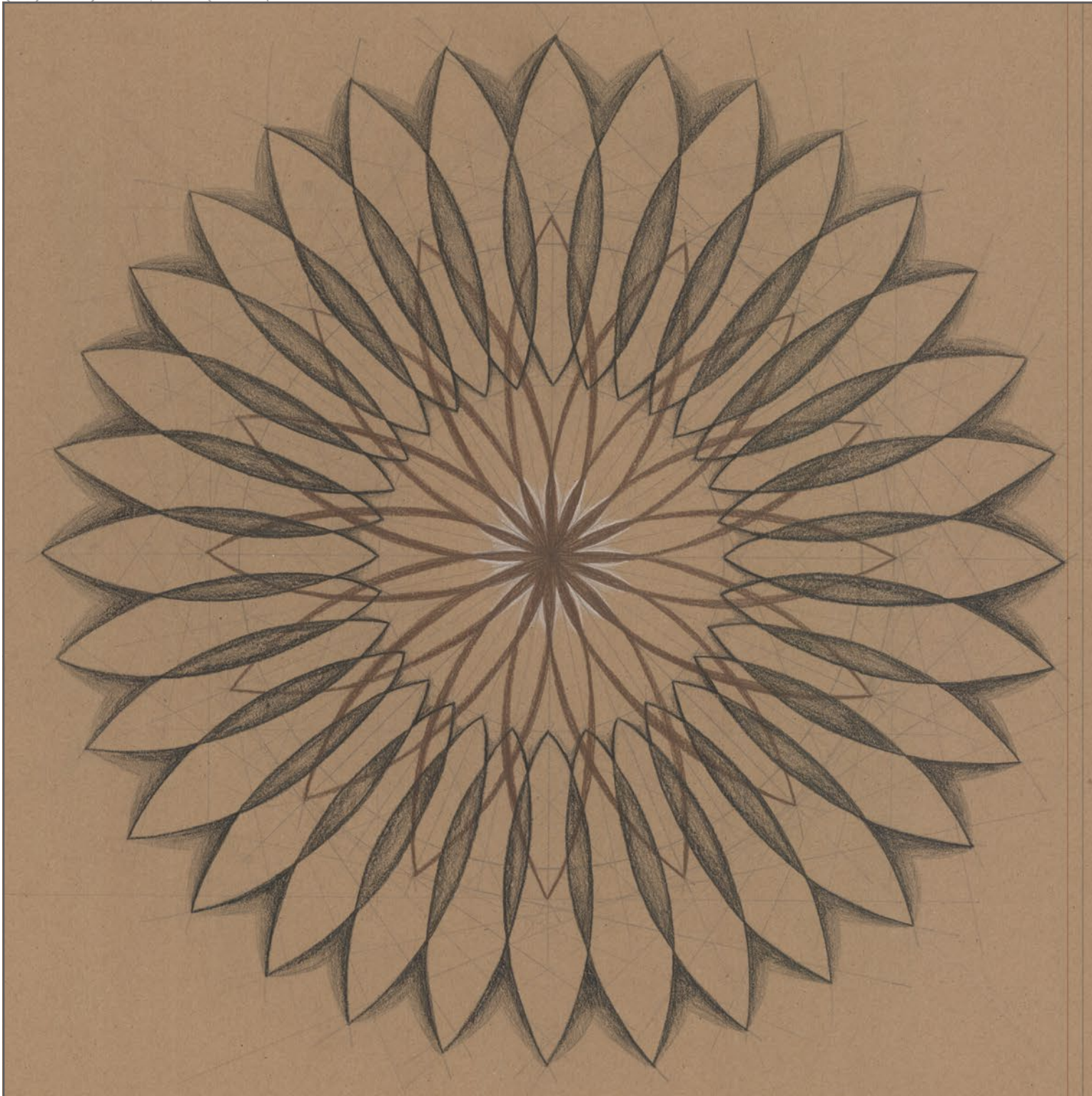
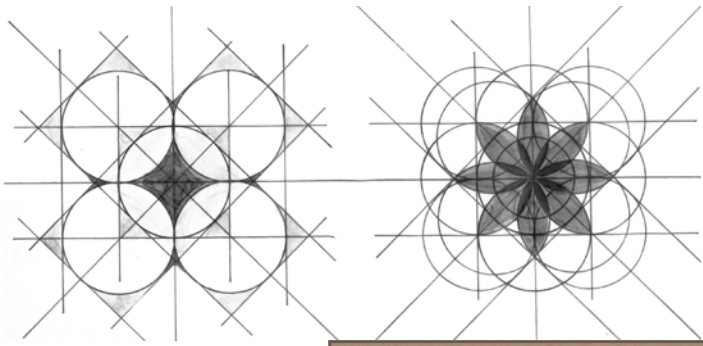




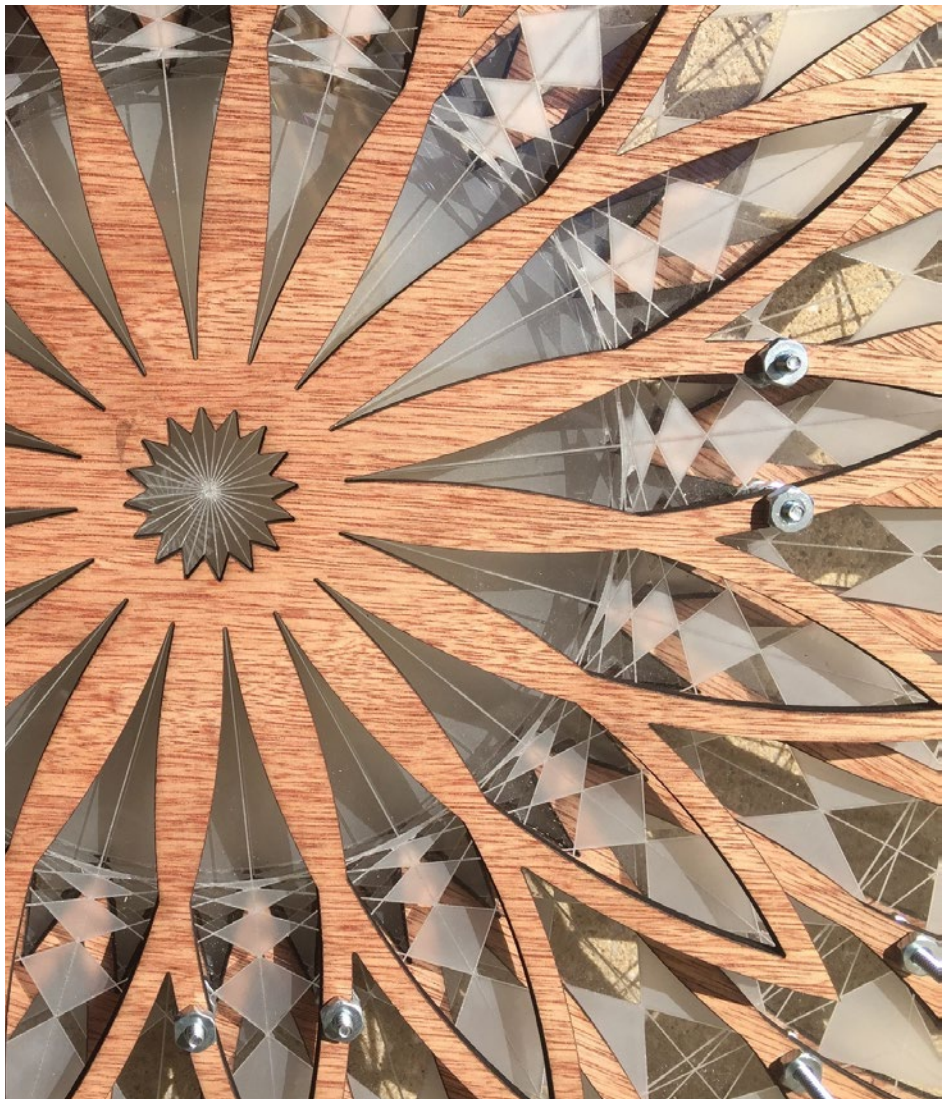
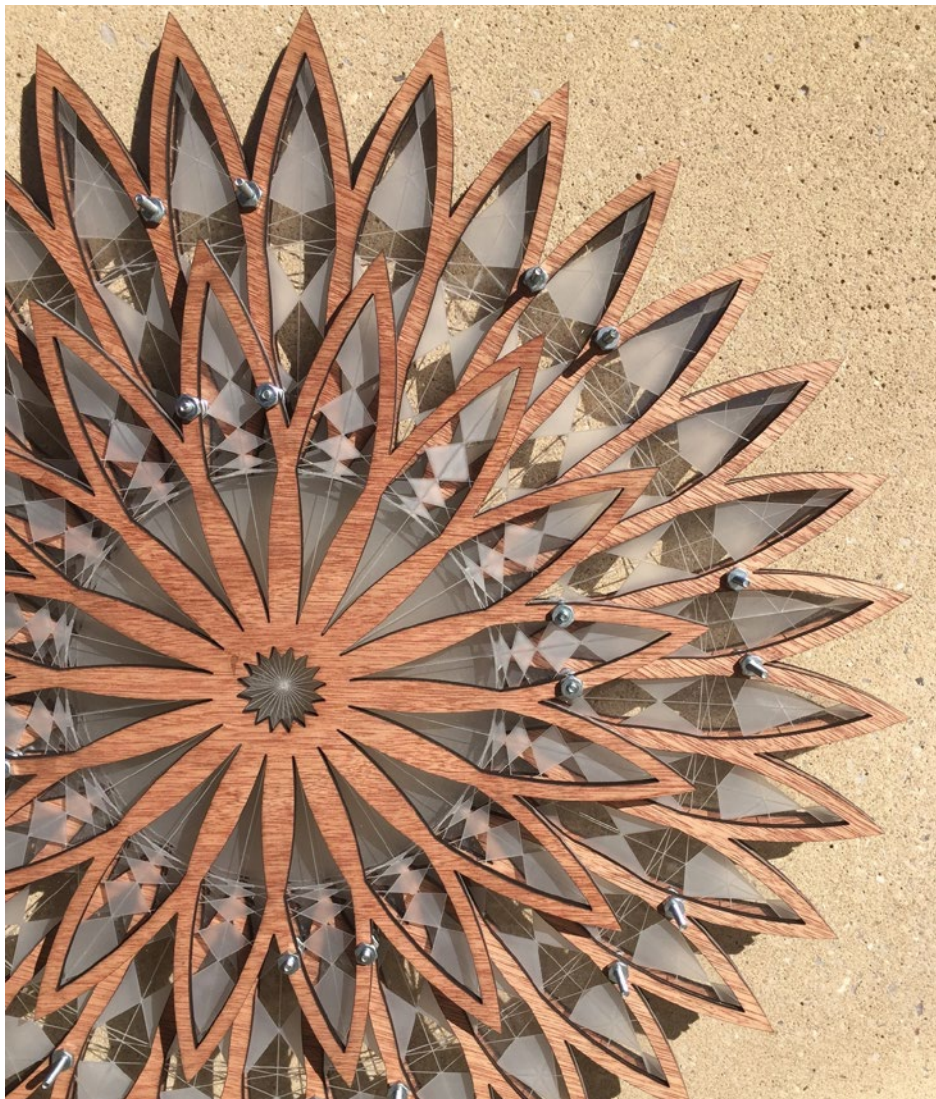
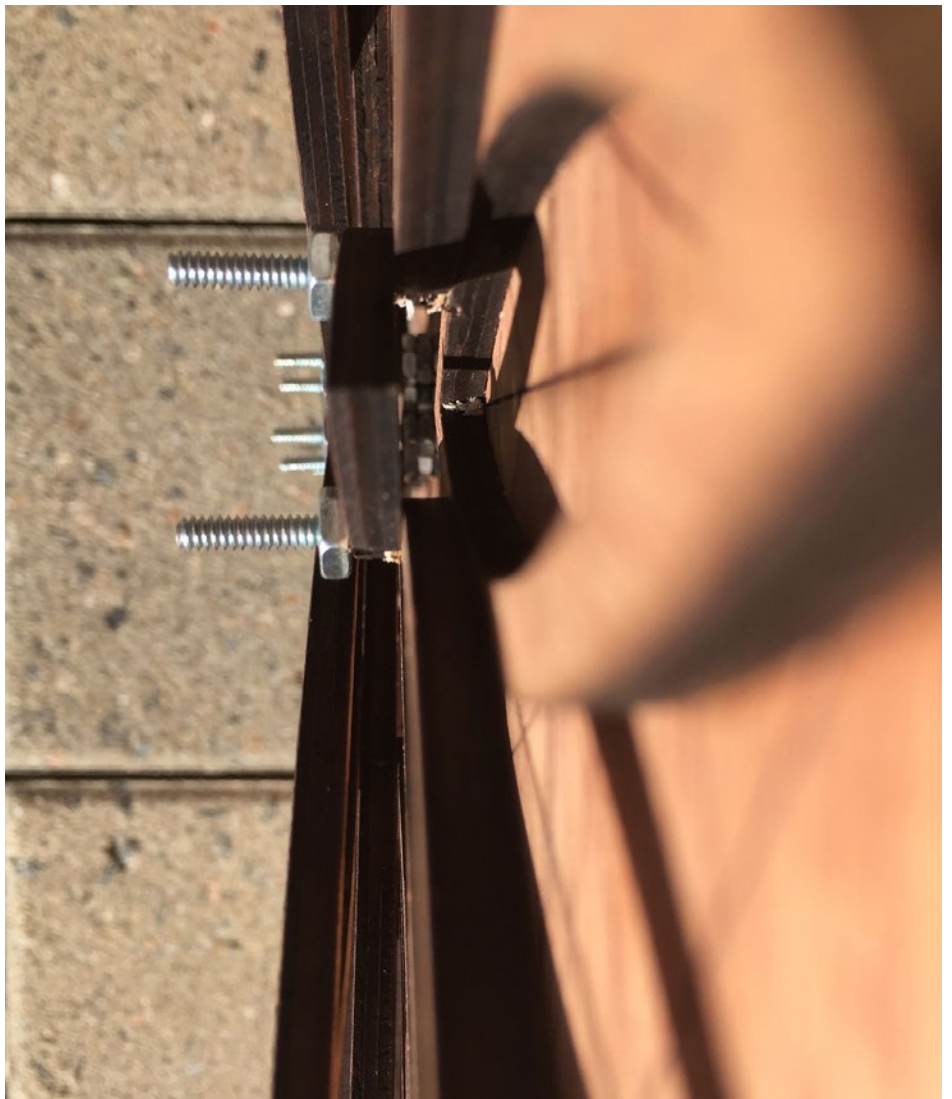
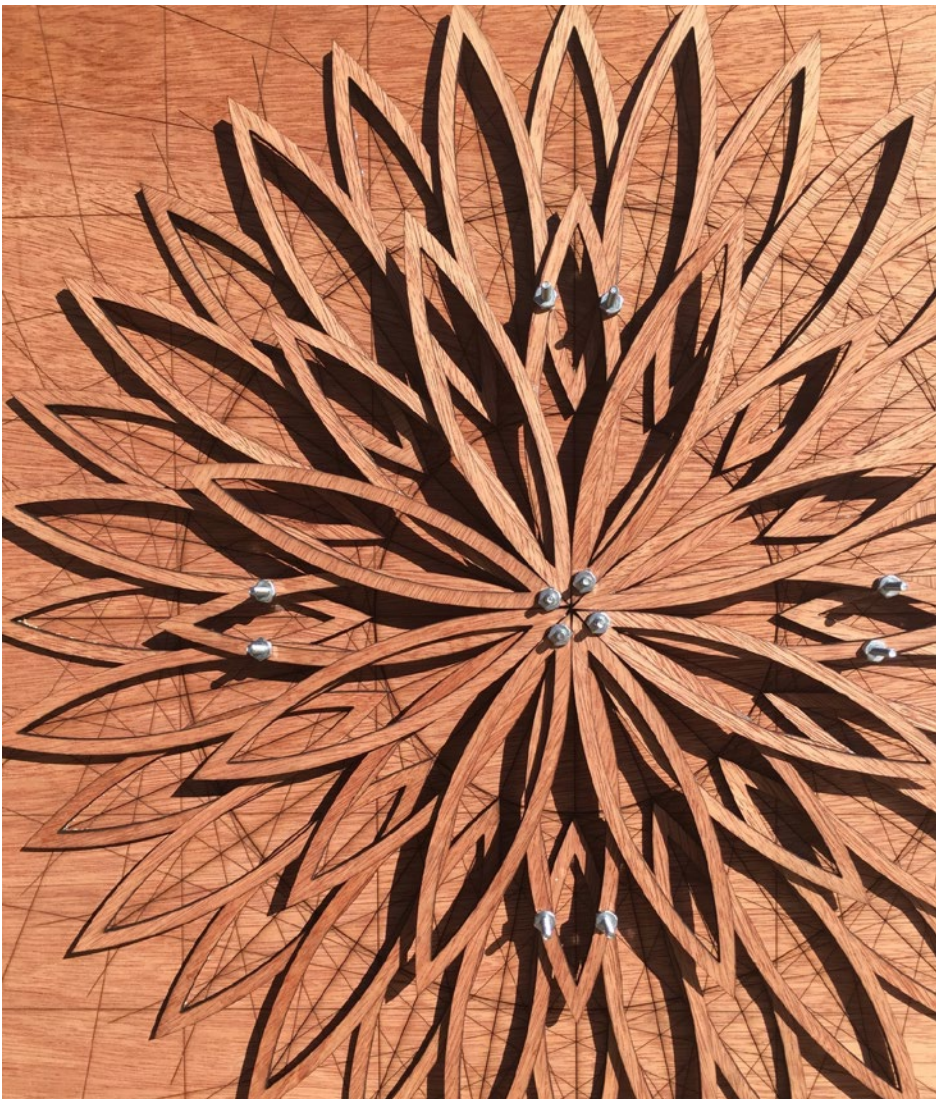
Rose Windows by Painton Cowen

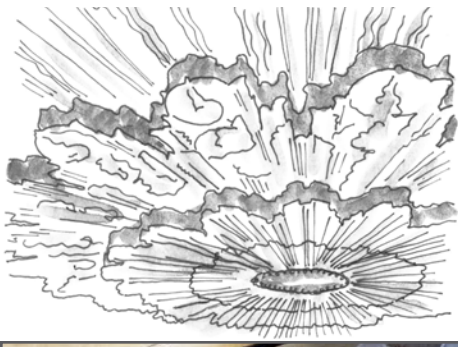
“Rose windows thus symbolize man’s highest aspirations: to know God’s order, to become at one with Him, and ultimately to become co-creators with the Creator. As mandalas they perform the first task imposed on those who set out on this quest; they enable them to obey the injunction of Psalm 46: ‘Be still and know that I am God.’” (10)

Mandala: symbol in a dream, representing the dreamer’s search for completeness and self-unity (Google)

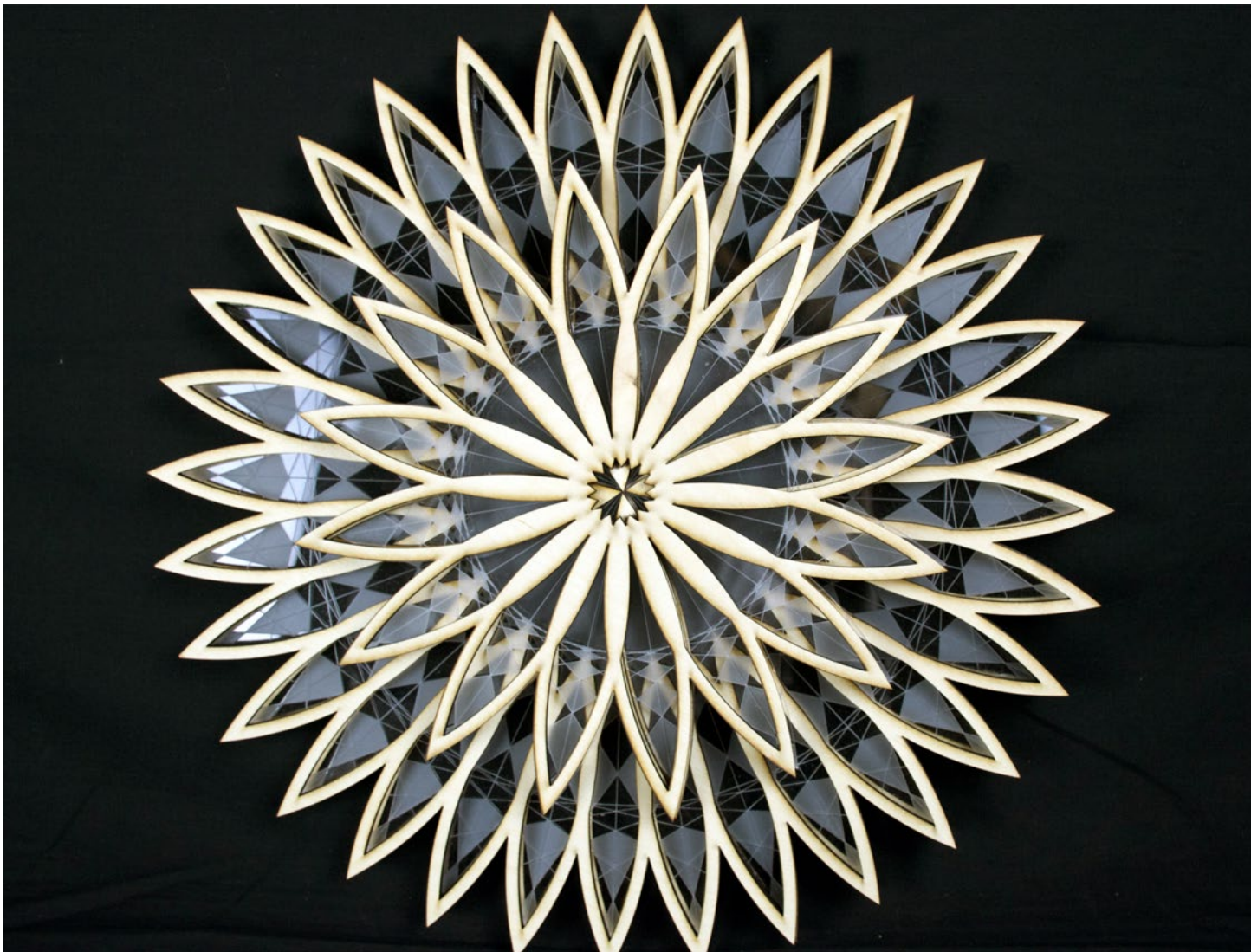
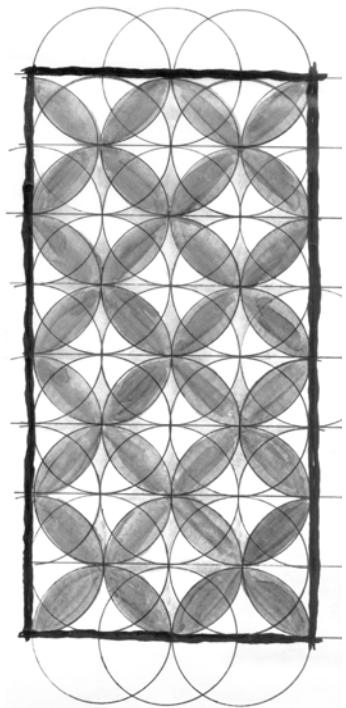
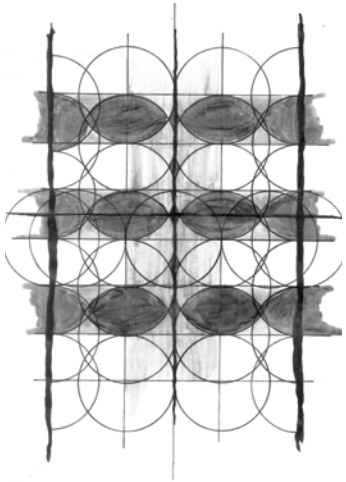


The rose window is a bridge between heaven and earth, a spiritual encounter, and an expression from within to allow the love of joy. The earth, often represented in the shape of a square, and the heavens, often represented in the shape of a circle, meet where light ends. A rose window, the place where light symbolically enters and lights a spiritual space, is where the heavens and earth meet.





"Your LOVE has given me great JOY and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people."
Philemon 1:7



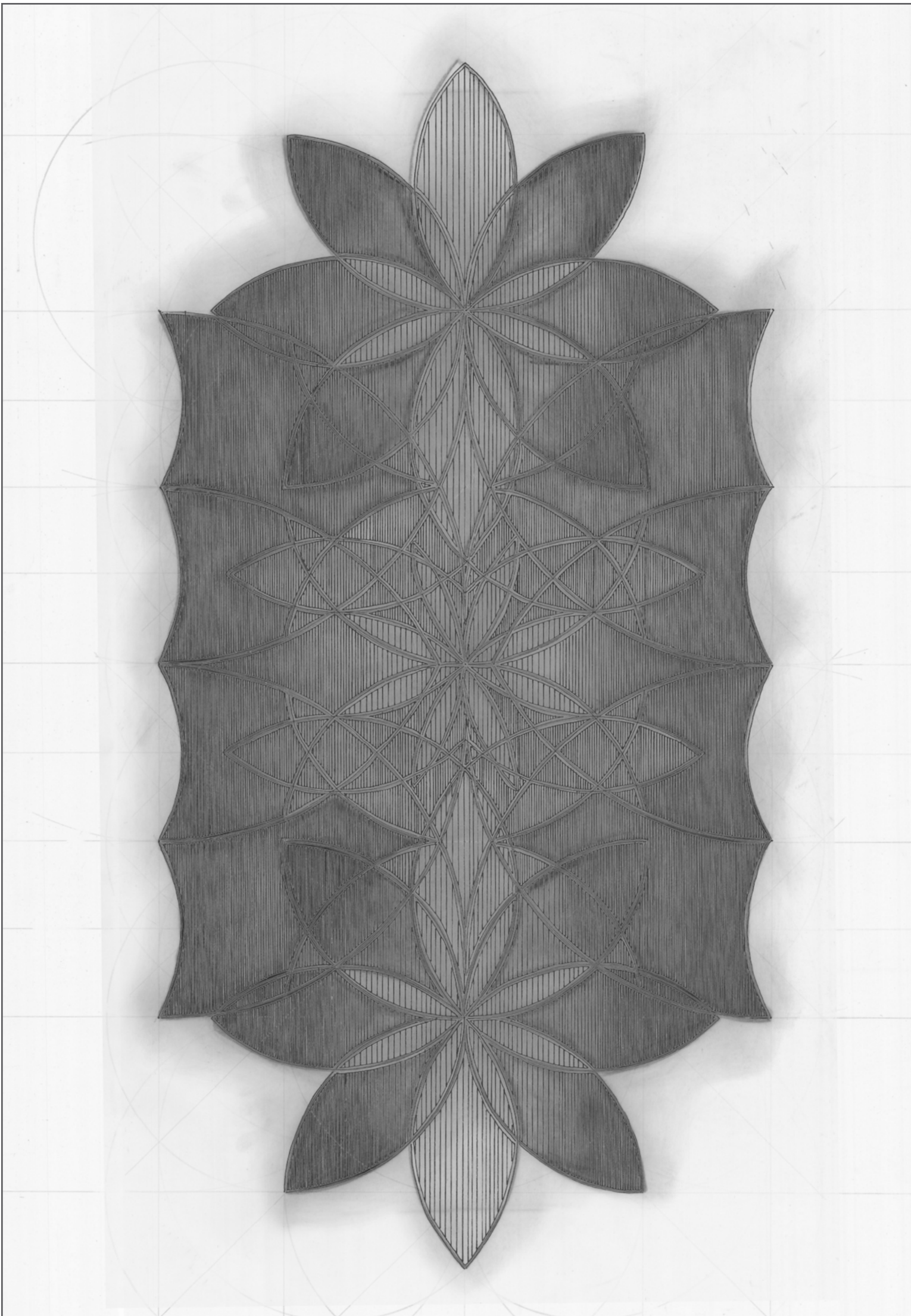
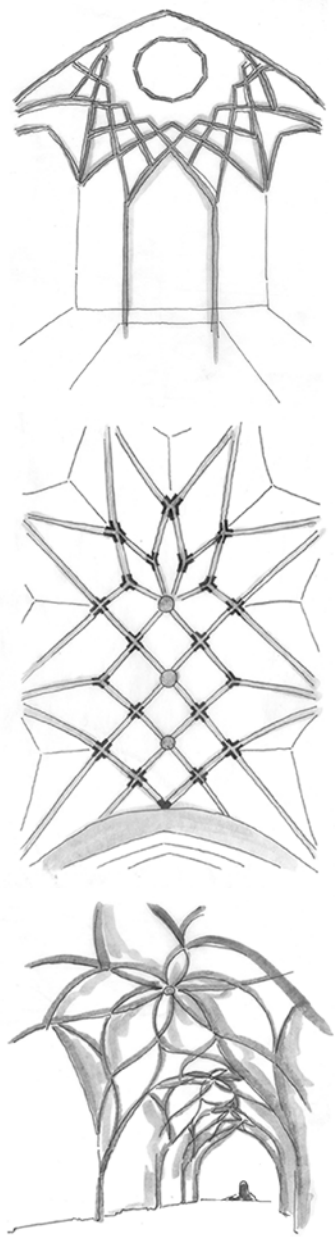
The rose window begins to denote organic unity as the seed idea that reveals the structure of the entire design. Symbolism and layering become tools for light, spiritual encounter, and even learning from the form itself.



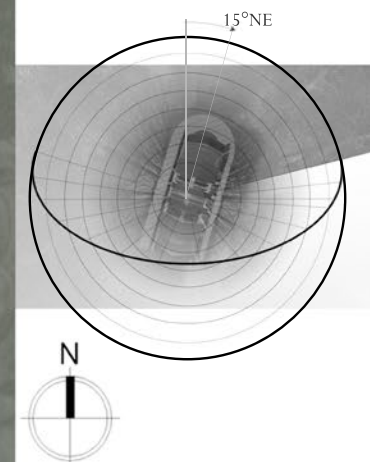
Rose Windows by Painton Cowen

"To unite the finite with the infinite through the square and circle is an aspiration, common to Christian and Islamic symbolism, which is embodied in a number of rose windows. (Clermont-Ferrand south, 14th c., glass restored 1903)"

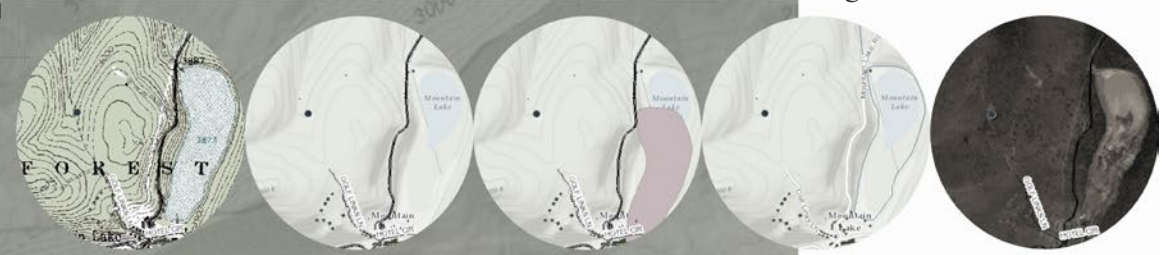
"Light, to the medieval mind, was a magical substance which contained the power to transform the soul. (Strasbourg west, c. 1318, glass much restored after storm in 1840)." (20)



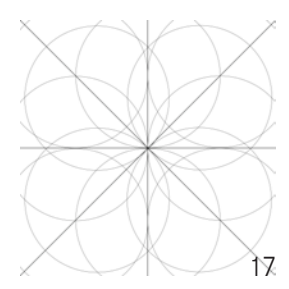
A rose window, the place where light symbolically enters and lights a spiritual space, is where the heavens and earth meet. The rose window translation into a chapel is first expressed through a reflected roof plan exploration.



latitude: 37.36°N
longitude: 80.54°W



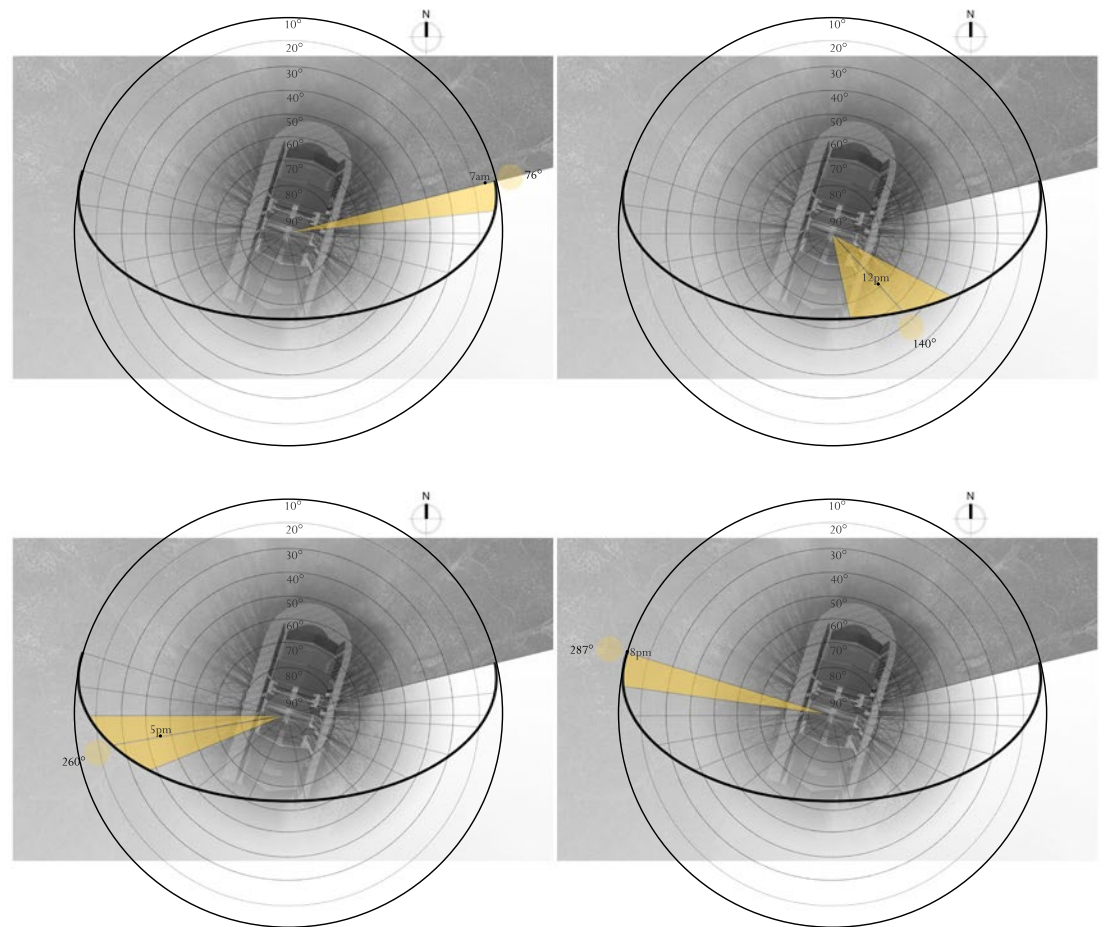
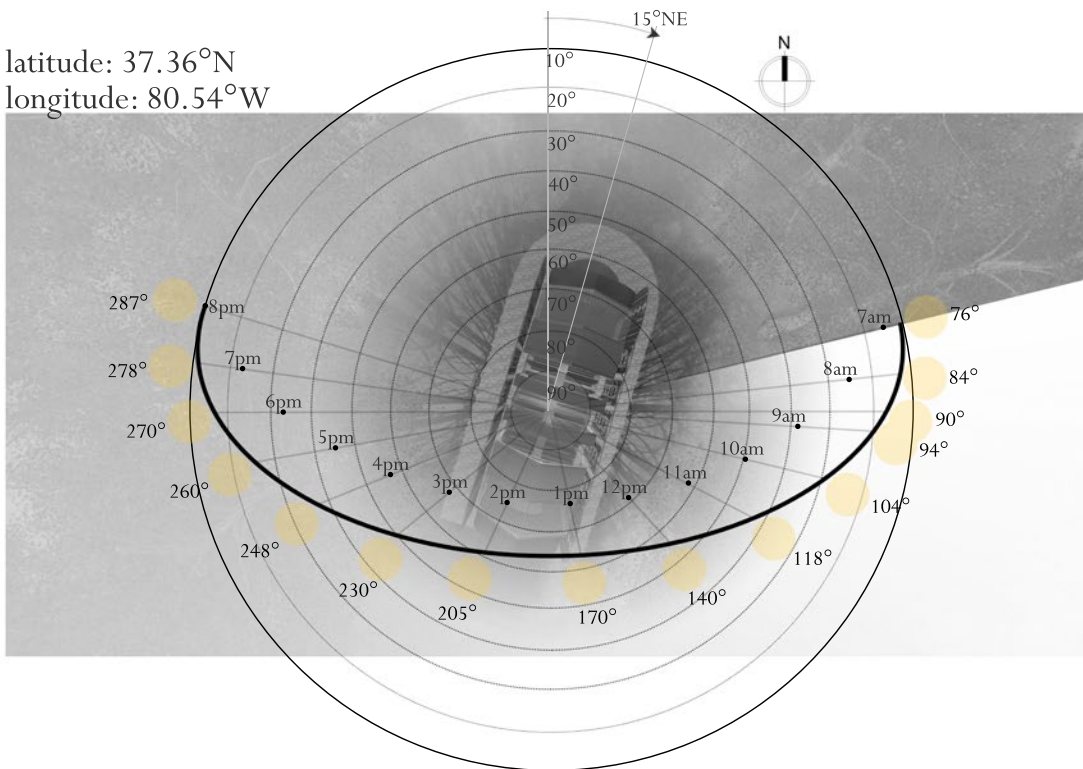
The site of the chapel is located just west of Mountain Lake in Pembroke, VA. This chapel is not in the city center like a cathedral, but is a place to stumble upon and discover; a place to go to, not to go through.

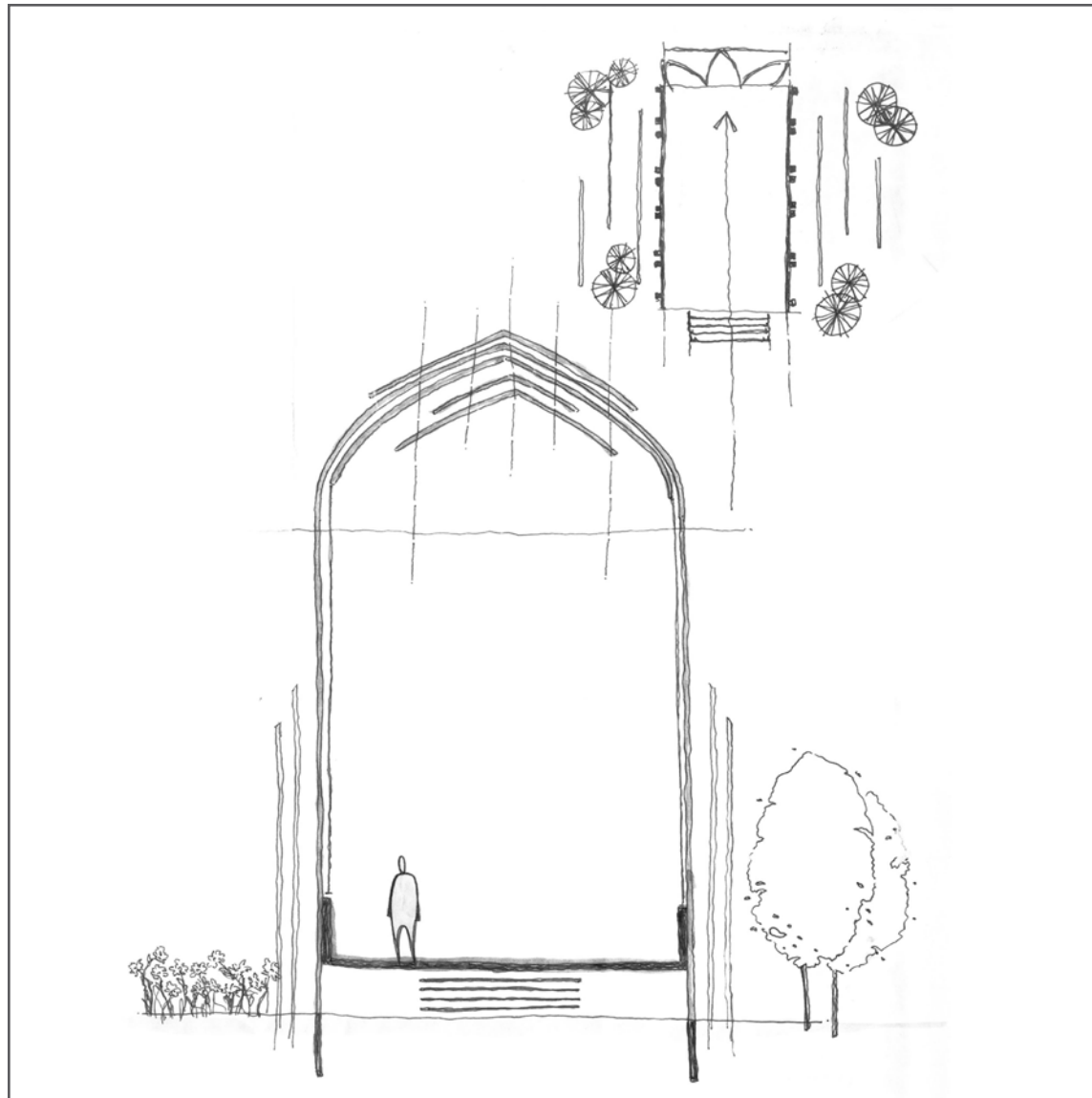




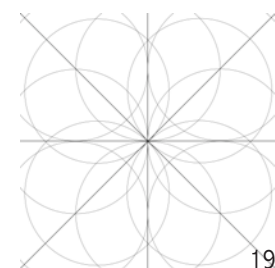
Light and orientation allowed the primary axis of the chapel to be rotated 15° East of North. The primary concern of the chapel is light, but note considerations of classical traditions in relation to orientation.

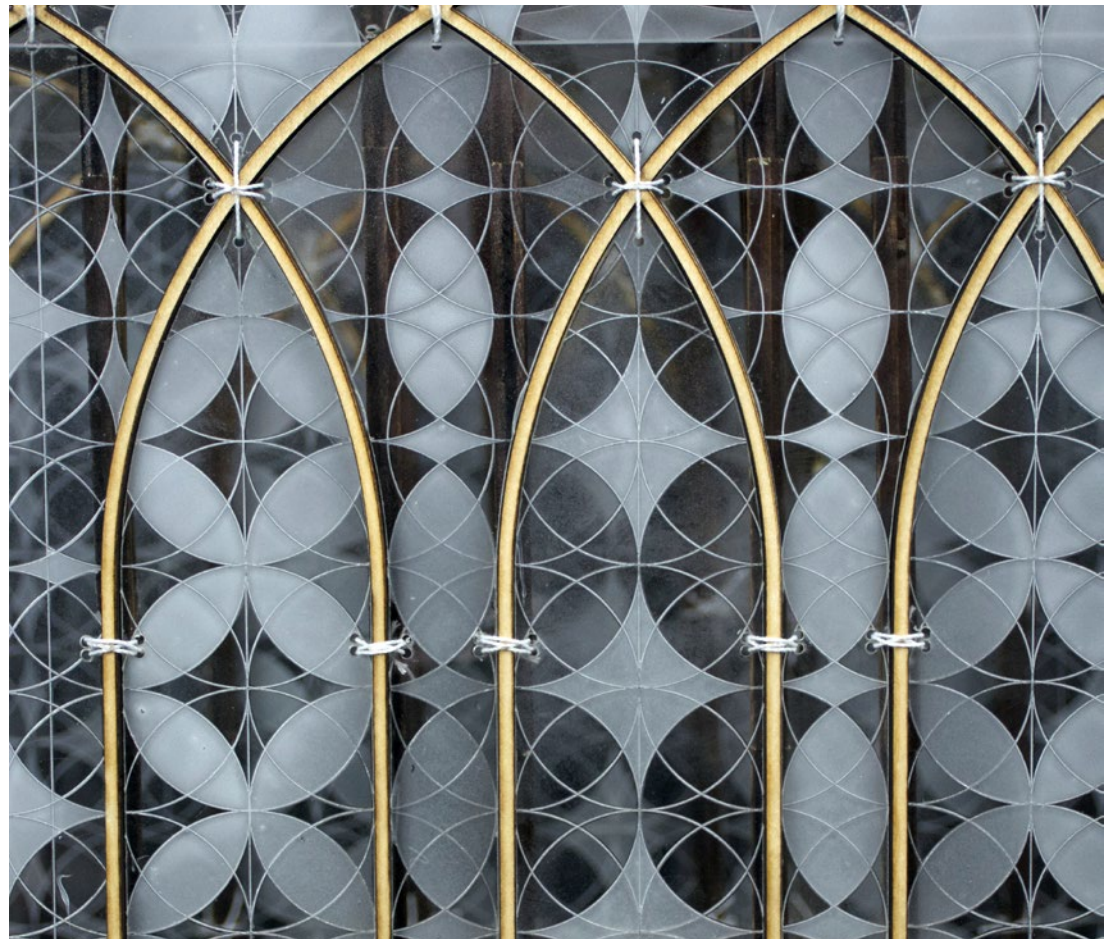
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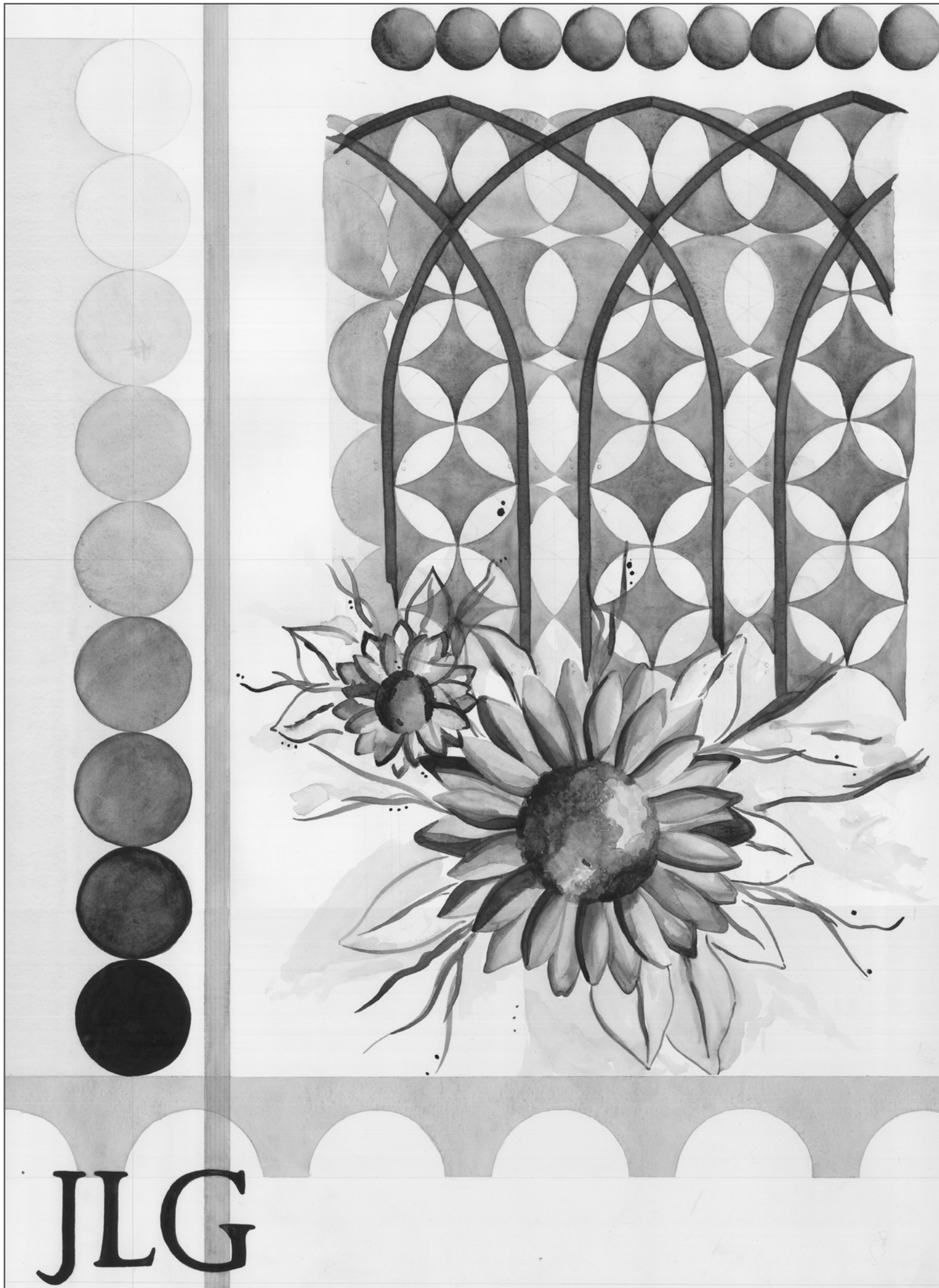


The chapel is analogous to the rose window; it is a place where the Lord can be experienced through light and is a place heaven can meet the earth.

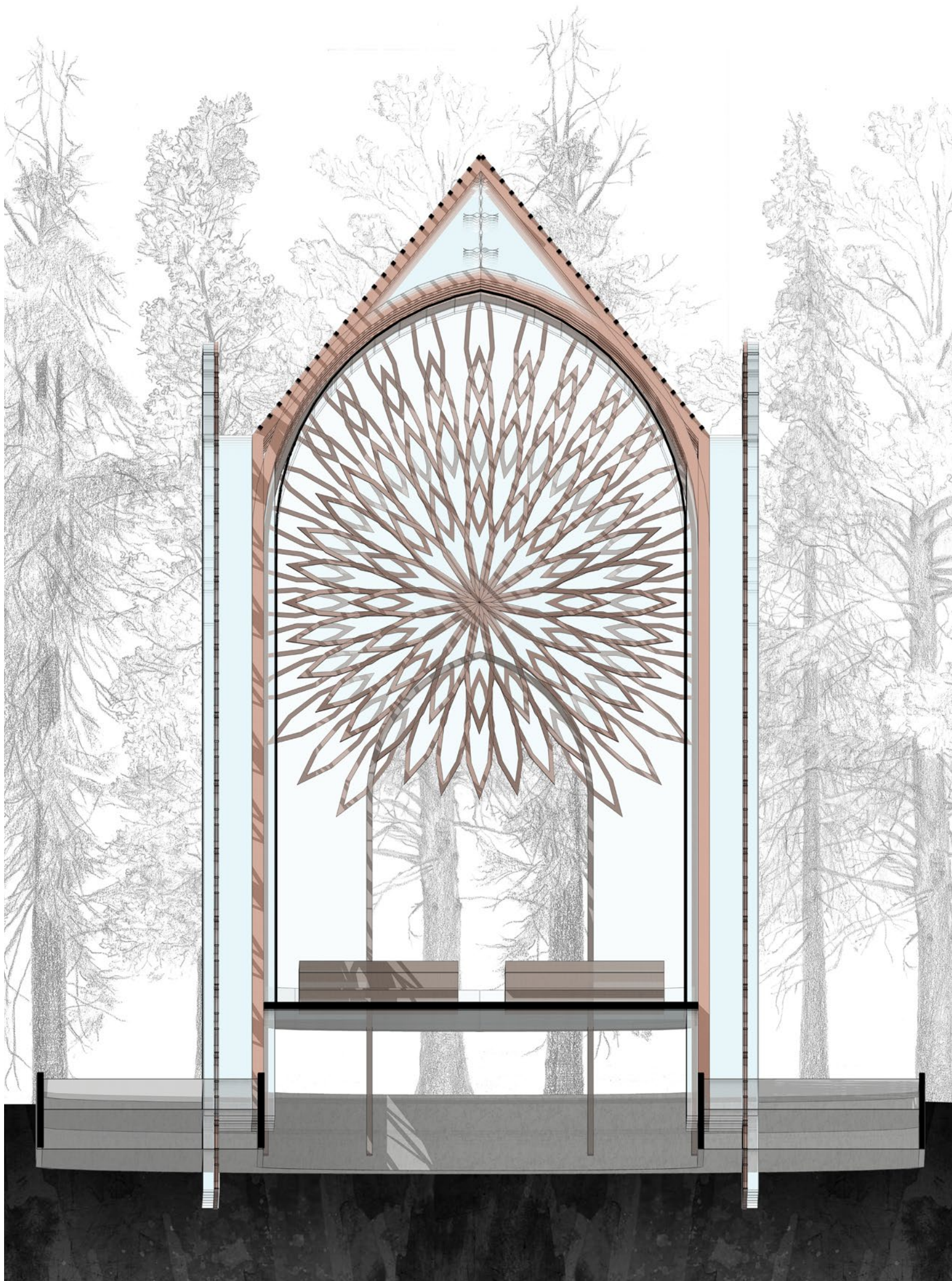


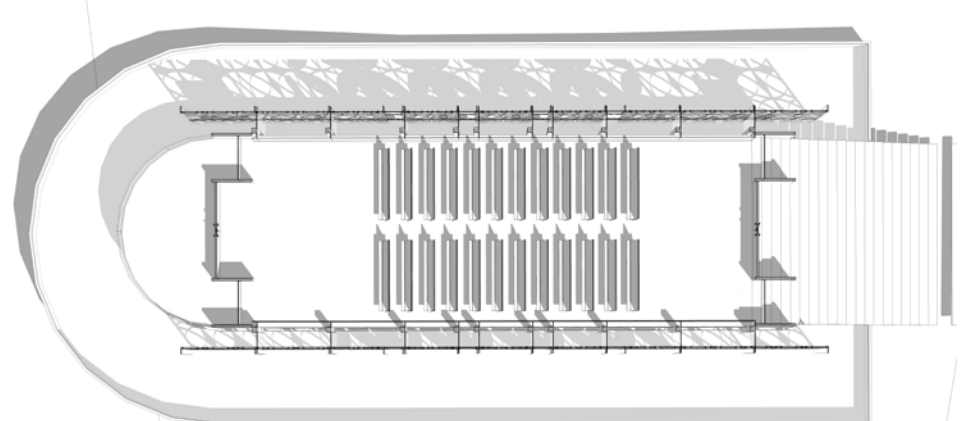
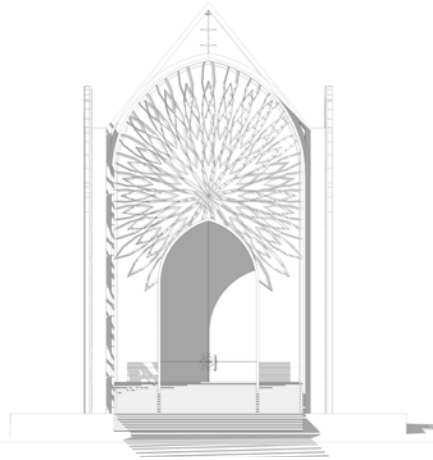
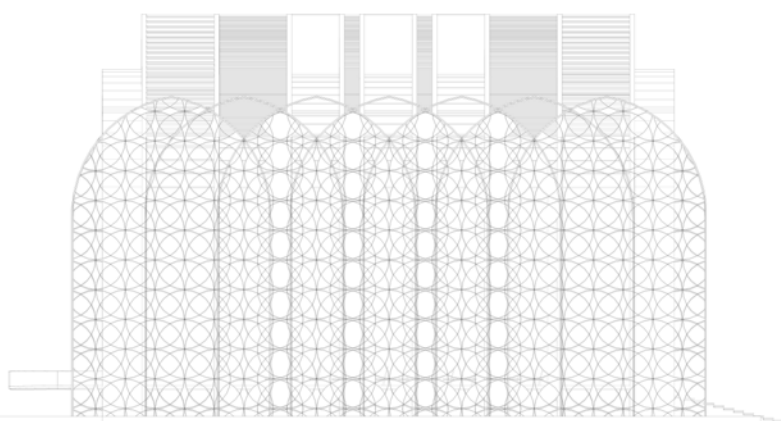
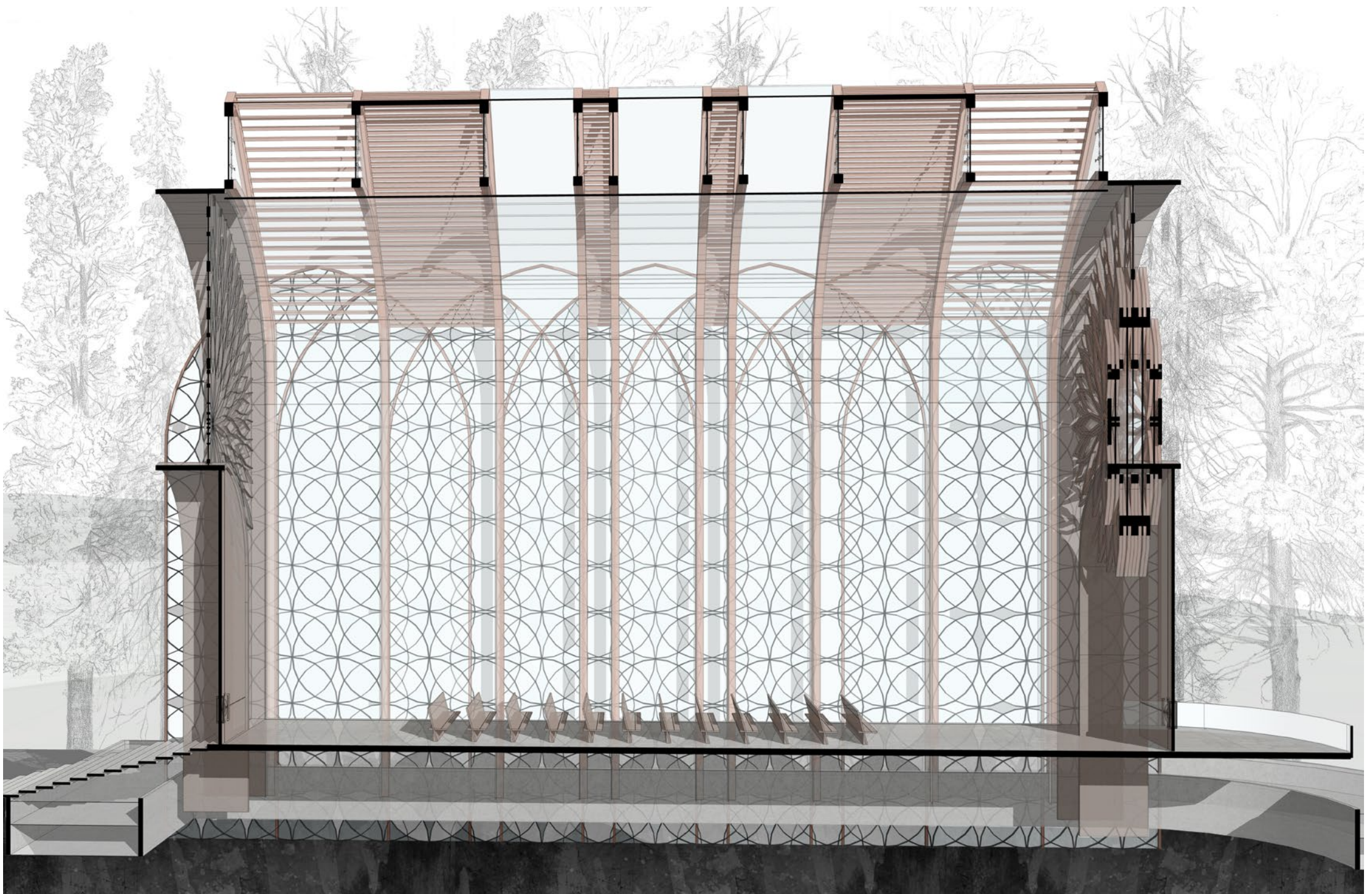


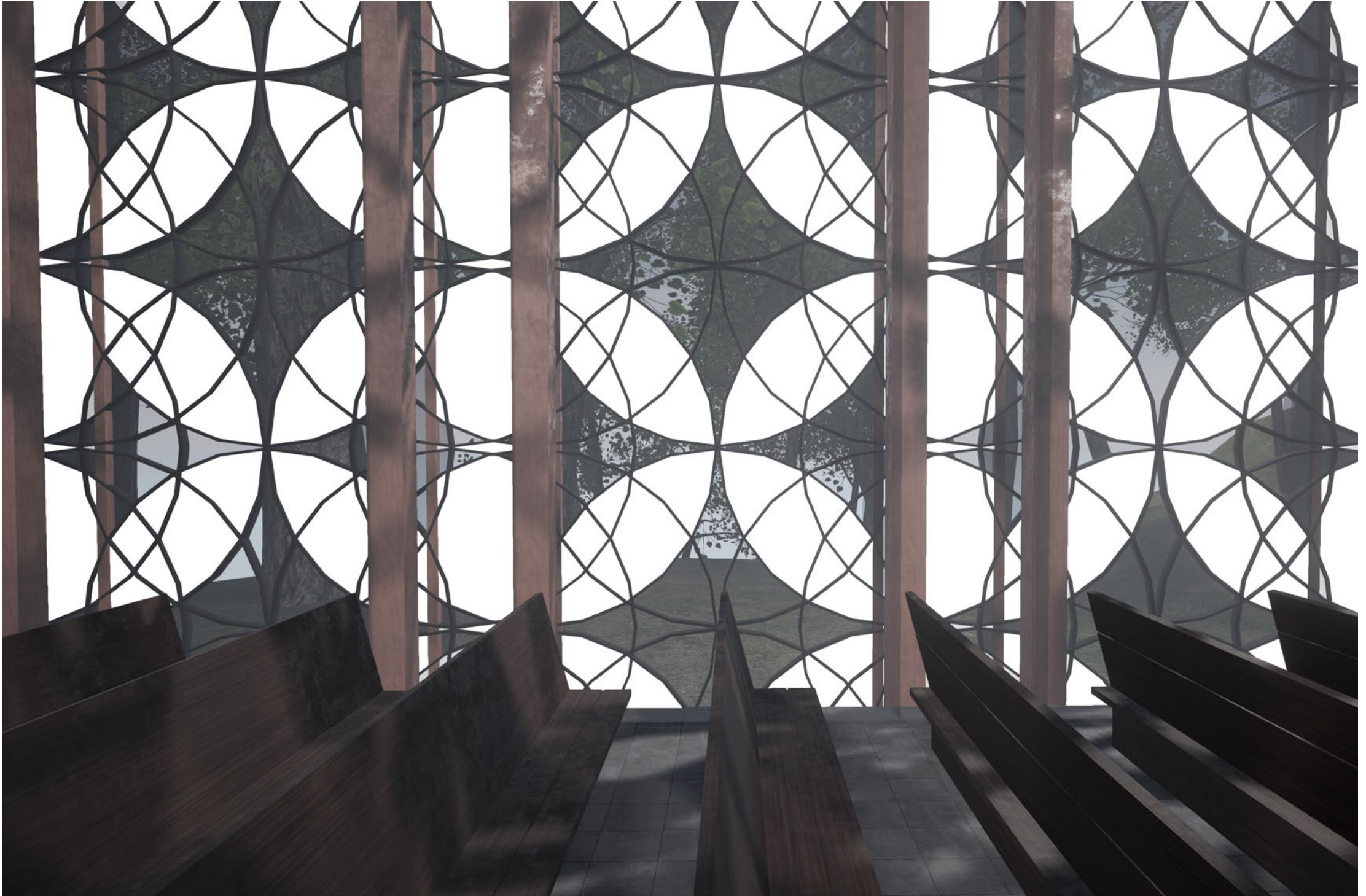
Ornament and beauty are the adoration of light.



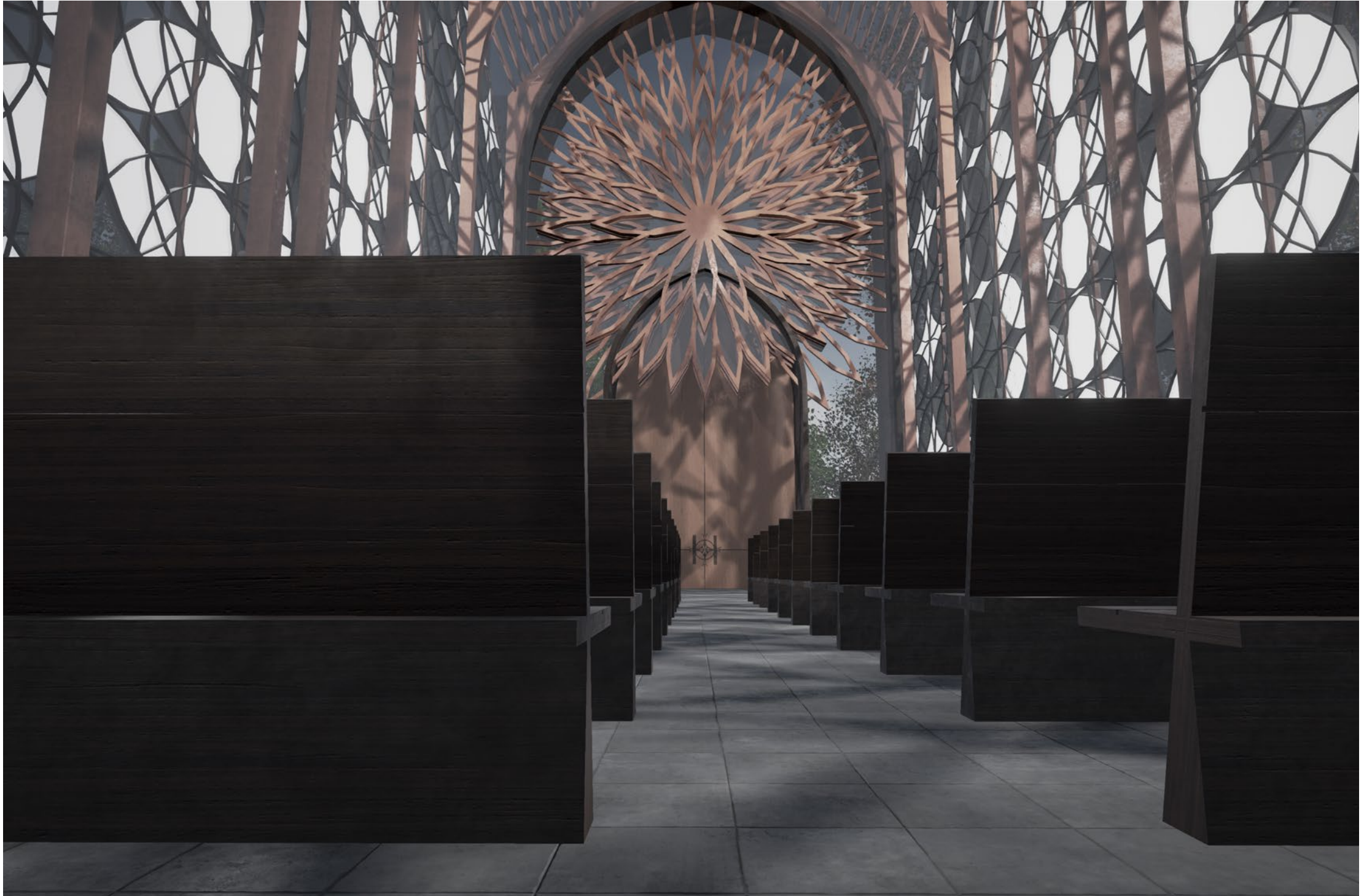
The triumphal arch symbolizes Christ's triumph over death. The church is made to be a monument and poetry in layered spaces. The open doors at the altar allow a metaphor of eternity when the chapel continues into nature infinitely.



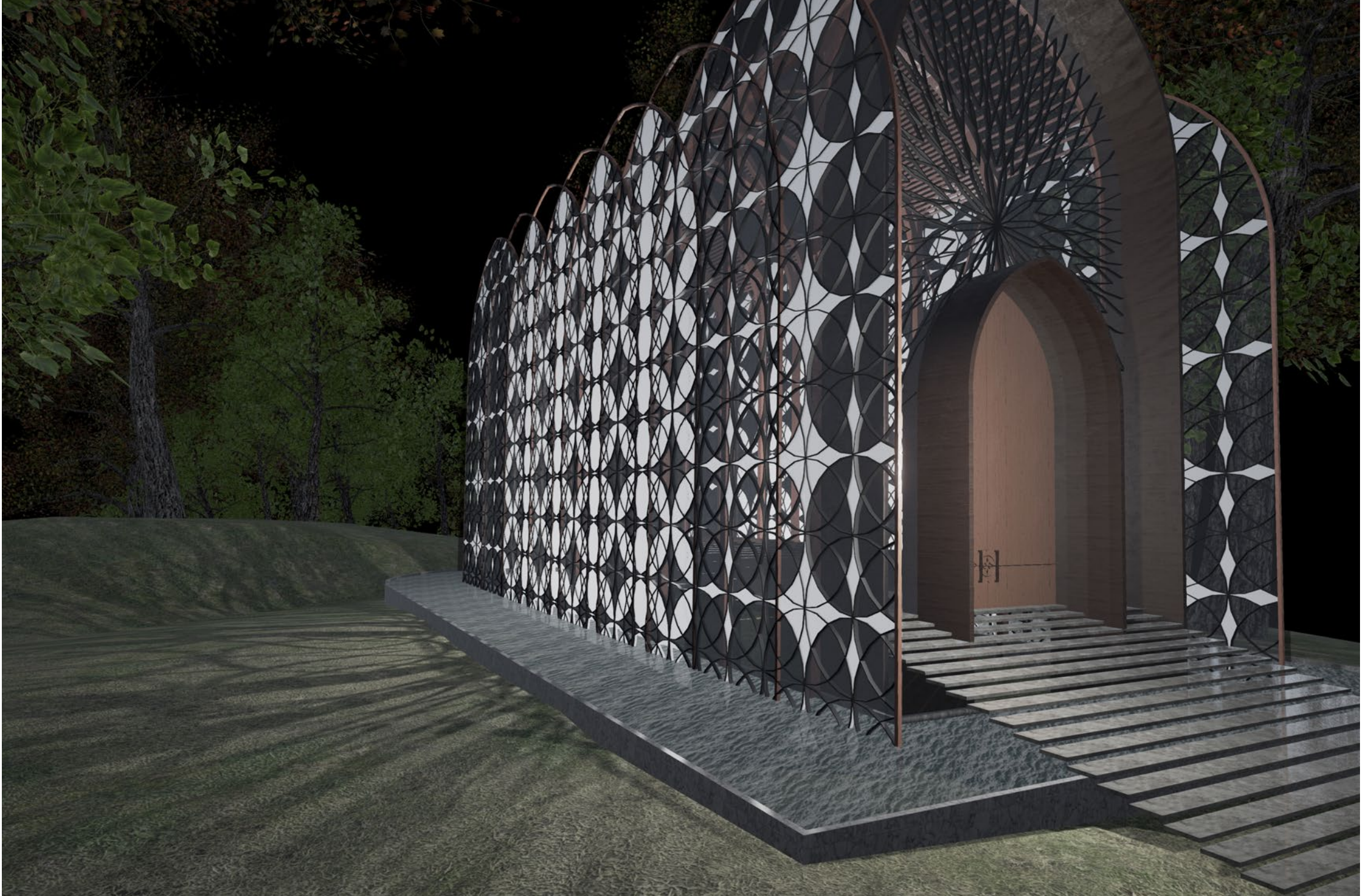


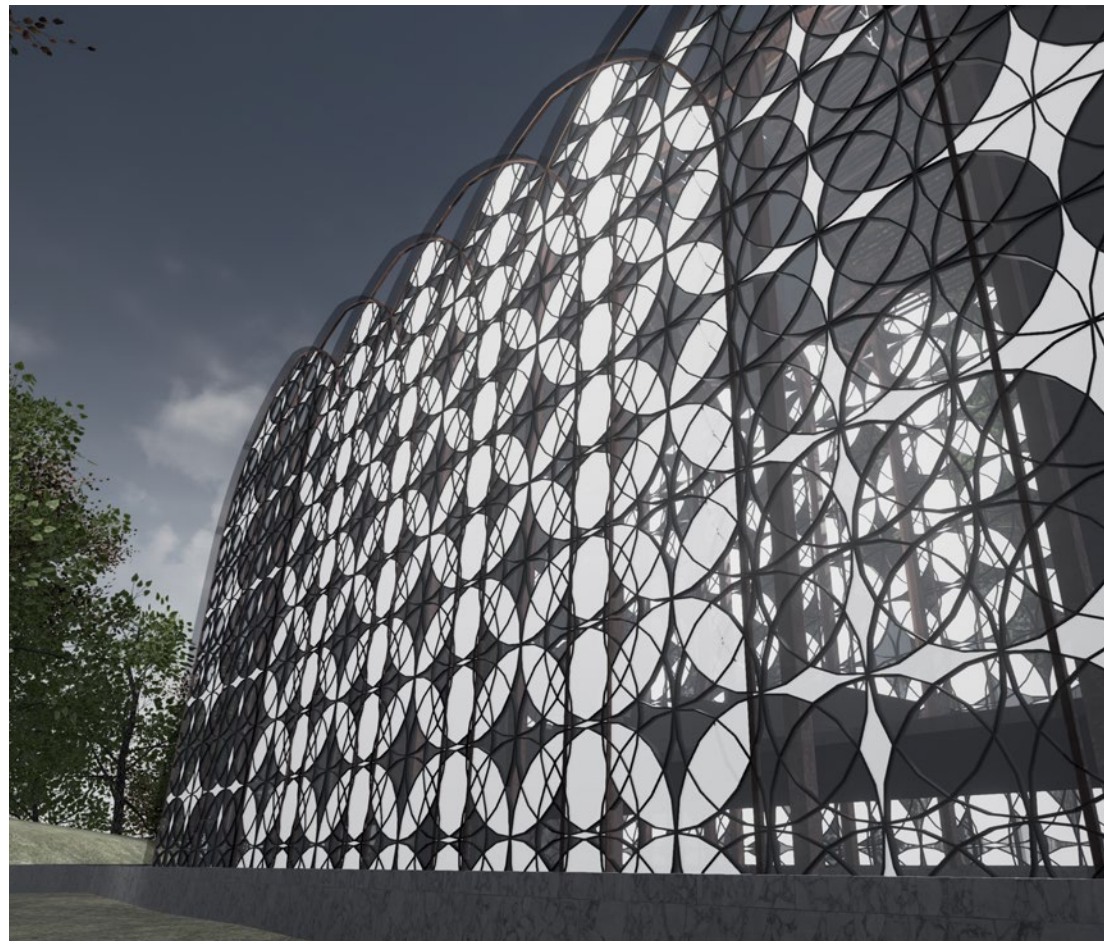
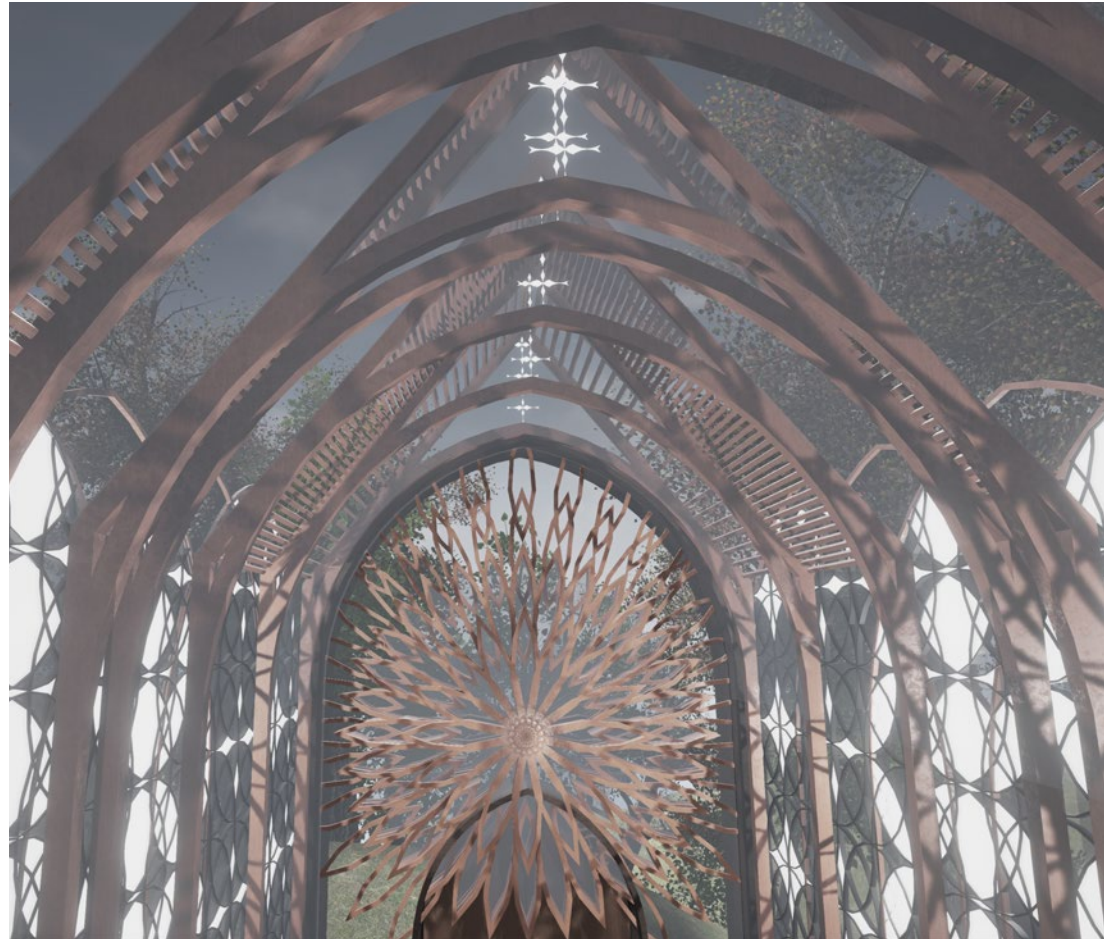


The chapel is a lighthouse, guiding travelers to the light of joy.



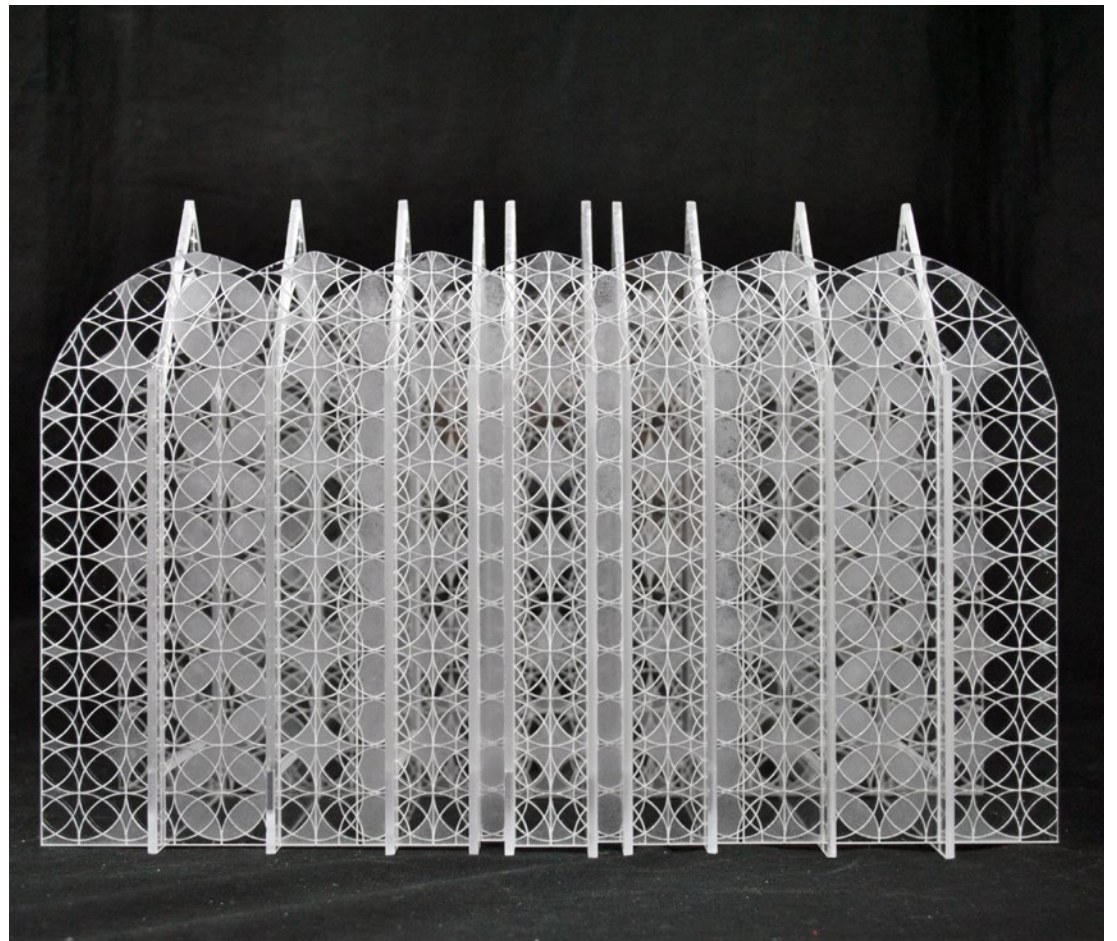
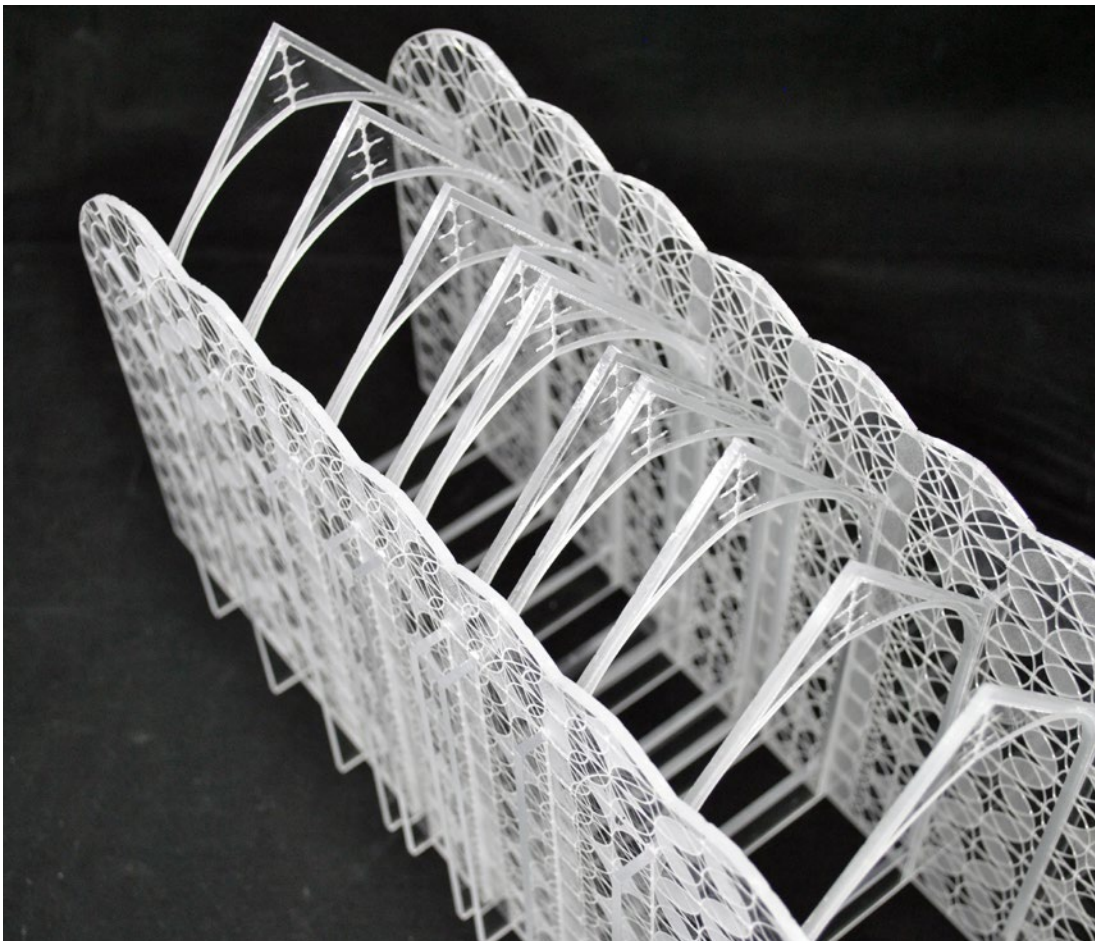
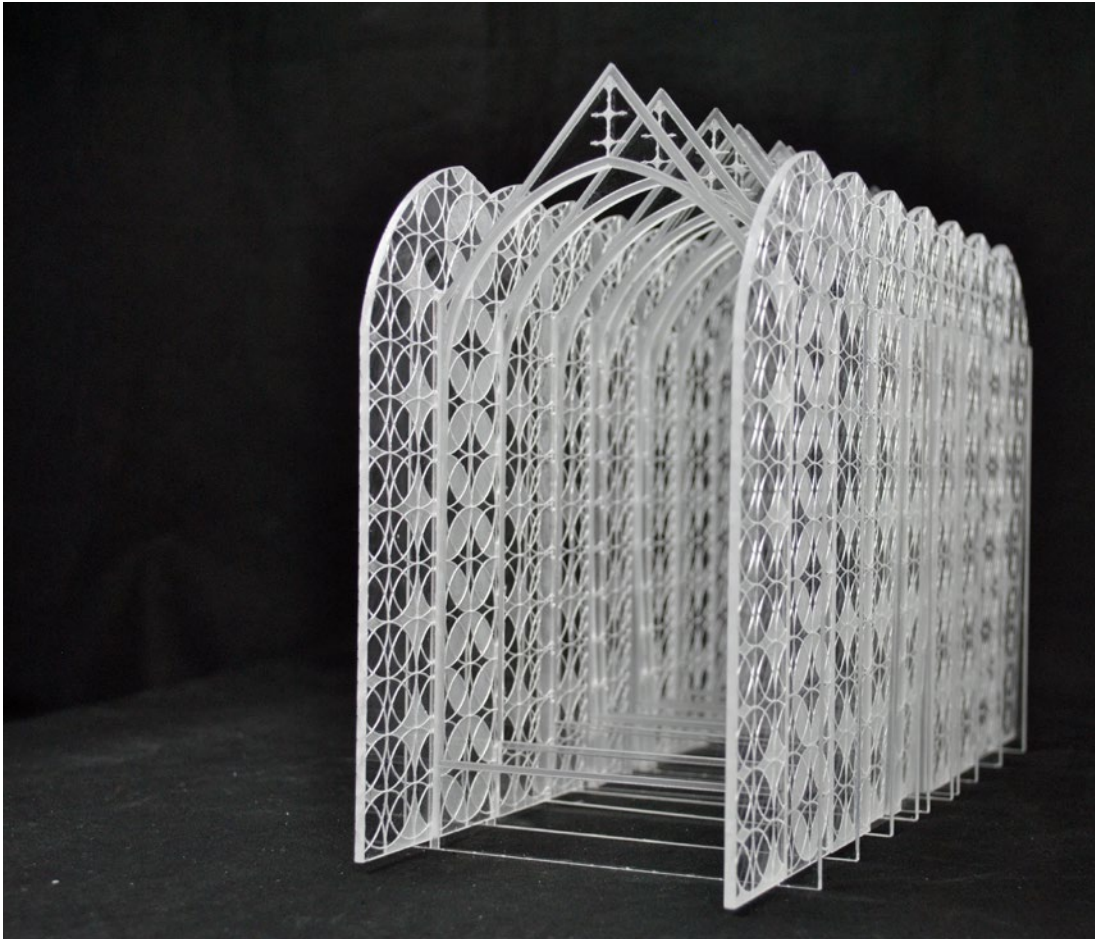
The rose window marks the gate to heaven. Open doors reveal a landscape that symbolizes the horizon and eternity beyond.

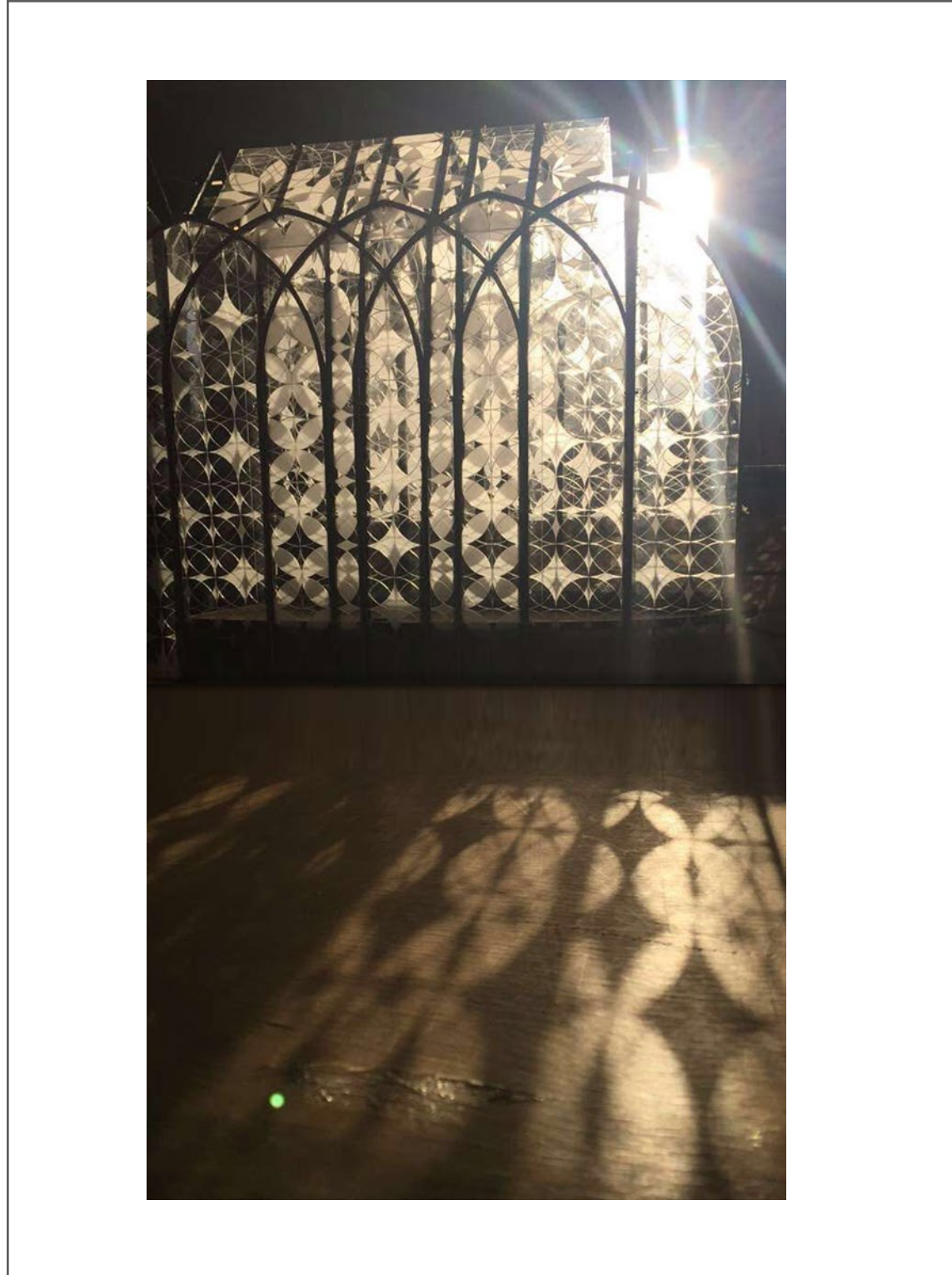






Layers of composition and layers of light allow form to follow feeling through the structural repetition and thought of light as a material itself.





The chapel is the rose window. A form that sought joy and light is revealed in the design of a layered chapel. The adoration of light is beauty. This chapel is a place where the Lord can be experienced through light and is a place heaven can meet the earth.

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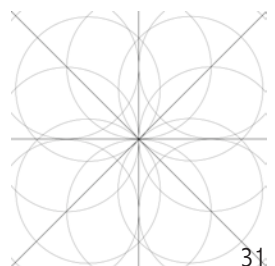
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I dream this chapel would be a place where the Lord can be experienced through light and allow the rose window to be a place where heaven can meet the earth.

“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a LIGHT unto my path.”
Psalm 119:105

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”
John 1:5