

Imagined, drawn & Written by Kyongsik Jun

Thesis submitted to the faculty of Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
in partial fulfillment of the degree of Master of Architecture

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Abstract

Nocturnal Flight : Dynamic Imagination In architecture

The journey for my thesis wanted to be romantic and fantastic like our lives.

We can maintain daily life in any given day with short compositions of memories.

Every time you think about a moment, the memory reveals a different color and odor.

The memory can improve and become more romantic in its recollections as it becomes more significant in our lives.

I think that architecture has the similar logic with life. In the beginning we don't know what to expect.

As our experiences grow, the images we absorb and imagine blink with the poetry of sense and imagination.

The true image comes alive in a moment.

In order to have such short and meaningful moments in architecture, I interpreted and adopted notions from the book 'Air and Dream: Imagination of Movement', by Gaston Bachelard (1884-1962).

Dynamic Imagination was the key to my exploration.

I dreamed and flew through the air with his poems and ideas.

Watercolor was the main media I used to explore the moments of understanding between Bachelard and myself.

Drawings and images from Bruno Taut and Yves Klein inspired me and lifted me higher and higher.

Louis Sullivan was a nice guest to join in my journey and keep me close to the ground..

Most of all, after struggling with material and structure, I could convert my imaginary space for oneric flight into a place to reside.

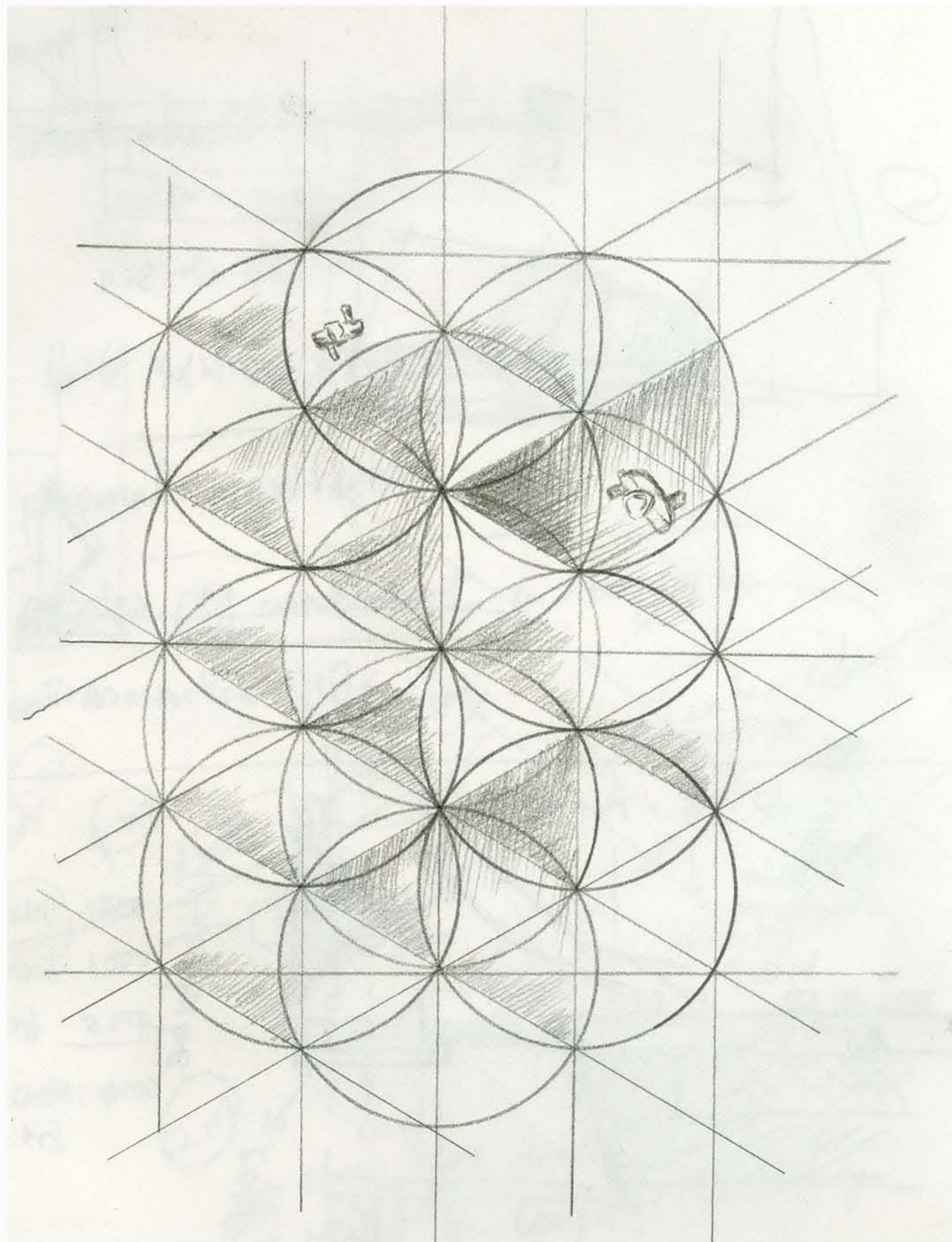
Sun and moon, river and wind, fairytales from my mother, these things came together to finally give birth to my project.

Now I am telling you about a building, which is located in Georgetown, in Washington DC.

It is a place to record your voice, to write and read letters from your friends

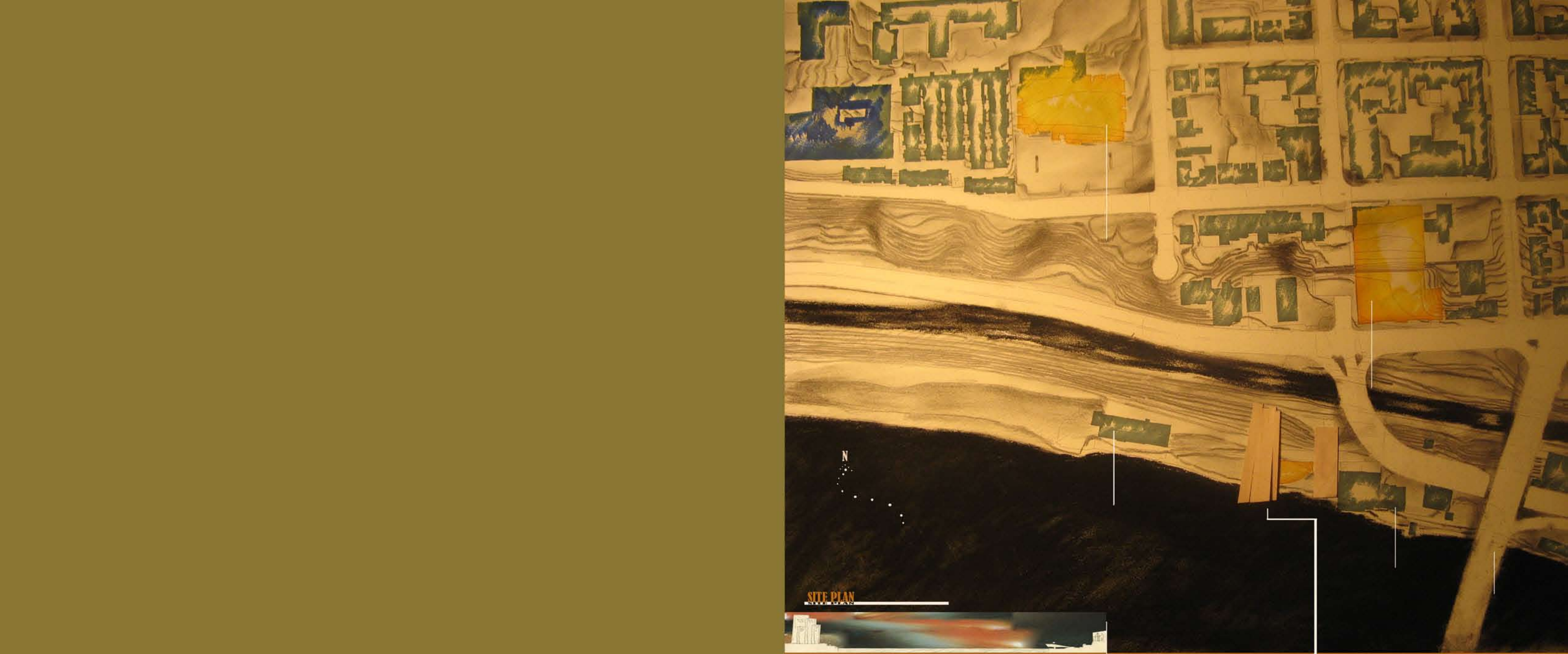
and to store personal belongings with the letters.



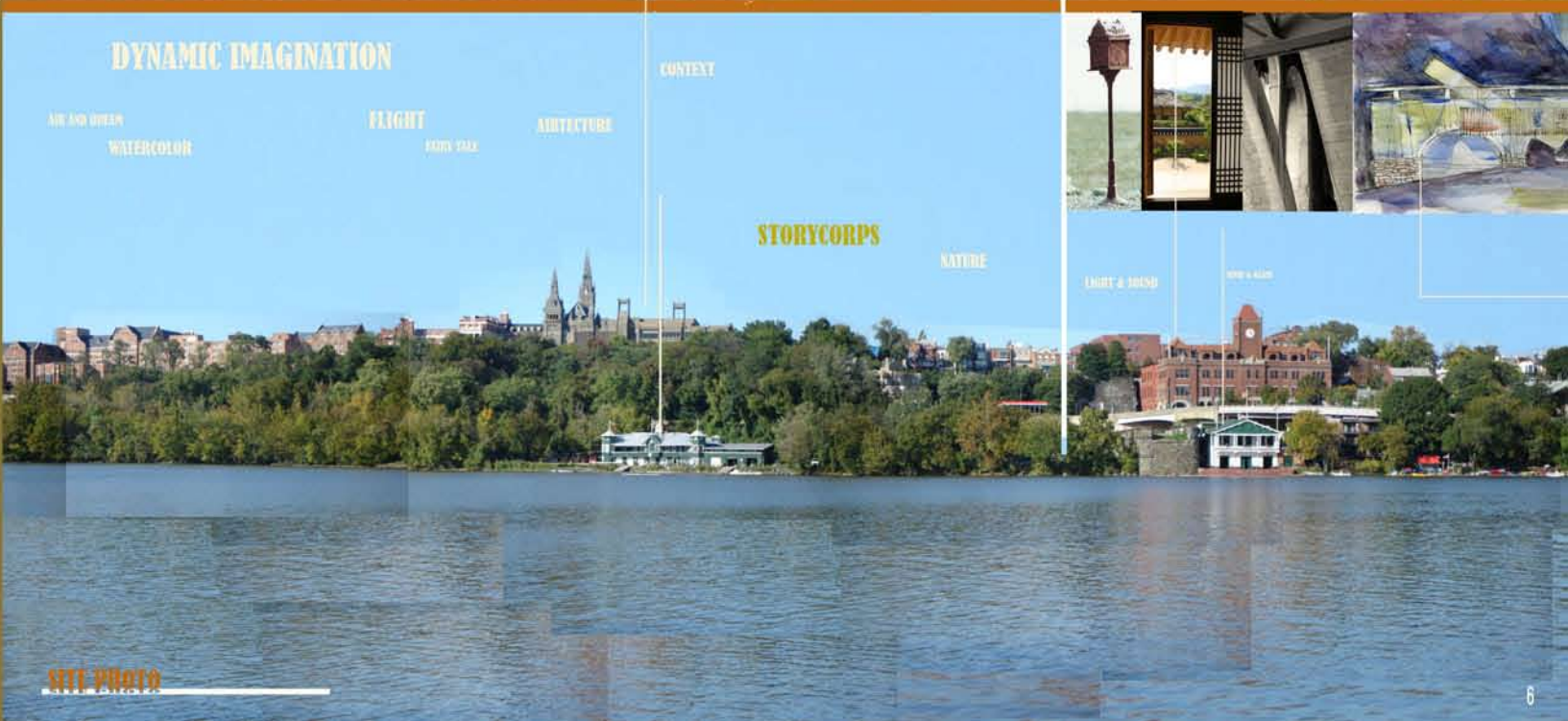


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SITE PLAN



SITE PHOTO

Finding the site



Word and Image - With Paul Emmens, Ph.D., RA
Homeric & Fantastic Flight in the Air
Dec. 12, 06
Kyongjae Jun
Washington, Alexandria Architecture Center
Virginia Tech



Collage, 'Standing on old stone'



Site dreams



Piedmont city

A city wants to be filled with stories and imaginations.

Dynamic Imagination with Gaston Bachelard

I want to make the title for this watercolor drawing, "Nocturnal Flight", the same as the title for my thesis. This drawing was created in an early stage of this project, and was created to show what my building looks like conceptually using 'negative', which is one of the watercolor drawing skills. Which skill needs to draw something in the end, normally applied in the beginning stage, applying a lot of water and creating layers.

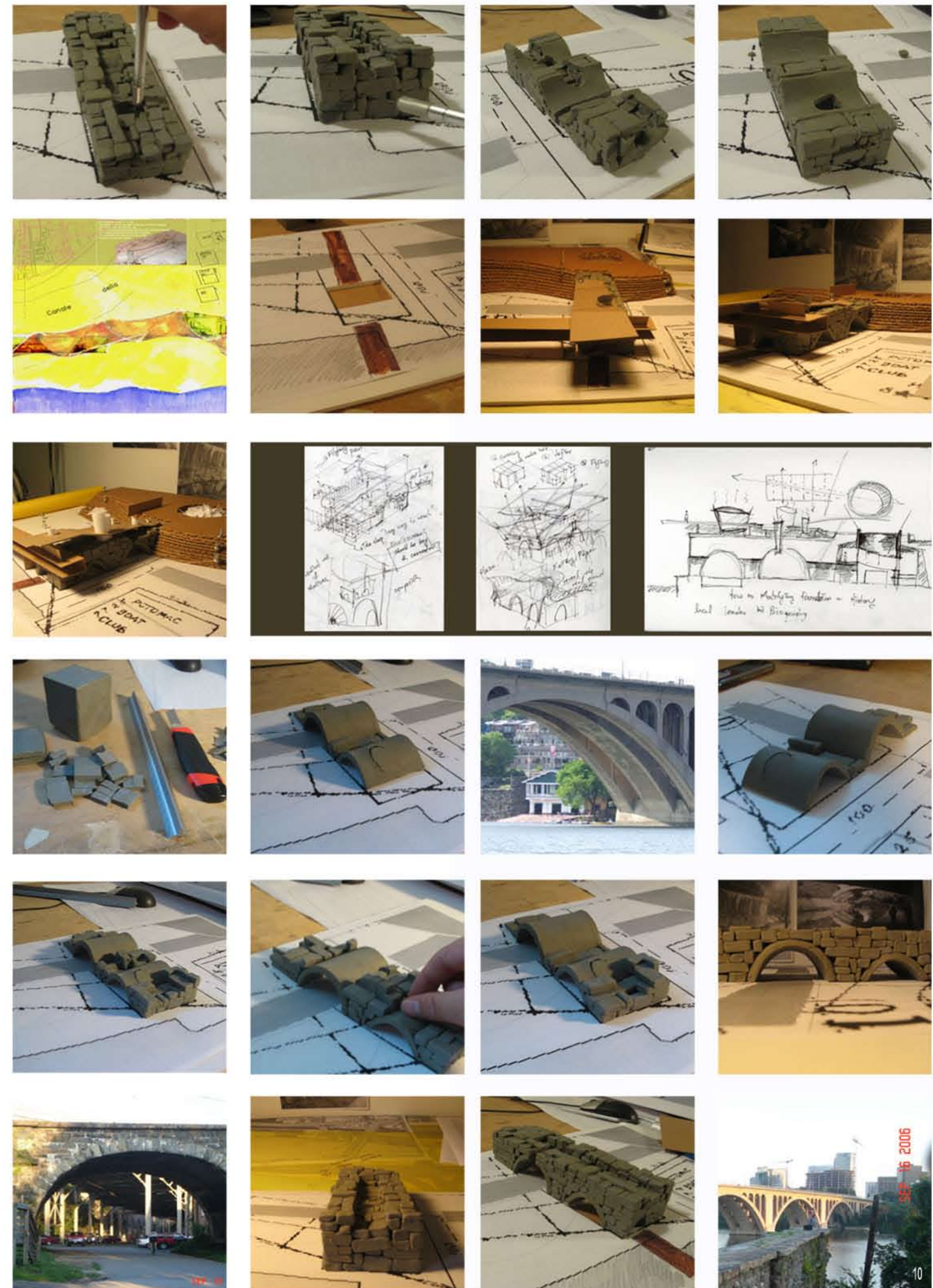
At first, I decided to draw a night scene with my building, which in turn started me on a journey of the imagination. The full moon starts to grow and give me light. I take a walk near the river, and see the moon dancing around the clouds. I jump onto the clouds as they follow the wind over the river and the trees. I feel the breeze on my face! At the same time, the building starts to move, too!! I want to be close my building. My building wants to play hide and seek with me. I could not touch him. Every time I found him, he had a different shape and color. Instead of finding him, I grab a pencil and draw the scene I see. While I draw, I hear a sound. Someone tells me a story about this place. I draw again and again. I applied water in the air.

In fact, that was my interpretation and process of dynamic imagination, which is the romantic synthesis of images, in order to bring the world to object itself. I tried to draw and give to all elements in my watercolor such as layers, colors, and shapes having their own meaning and images. I let them overlap and free. I believe that all images inside of watercolor I recognized, imagined and drew to move somewhere we believe to know but you do not know. That is a way to read Gaston Bachelard and my project

So, Imagination is not just a dream! There is a logical and emotional movement in itself. I realized that when strength and distance of images have the variety and rhythm in a sudden order, we can enter the world of dynamic imagination, which has the deep void and is beautiful.

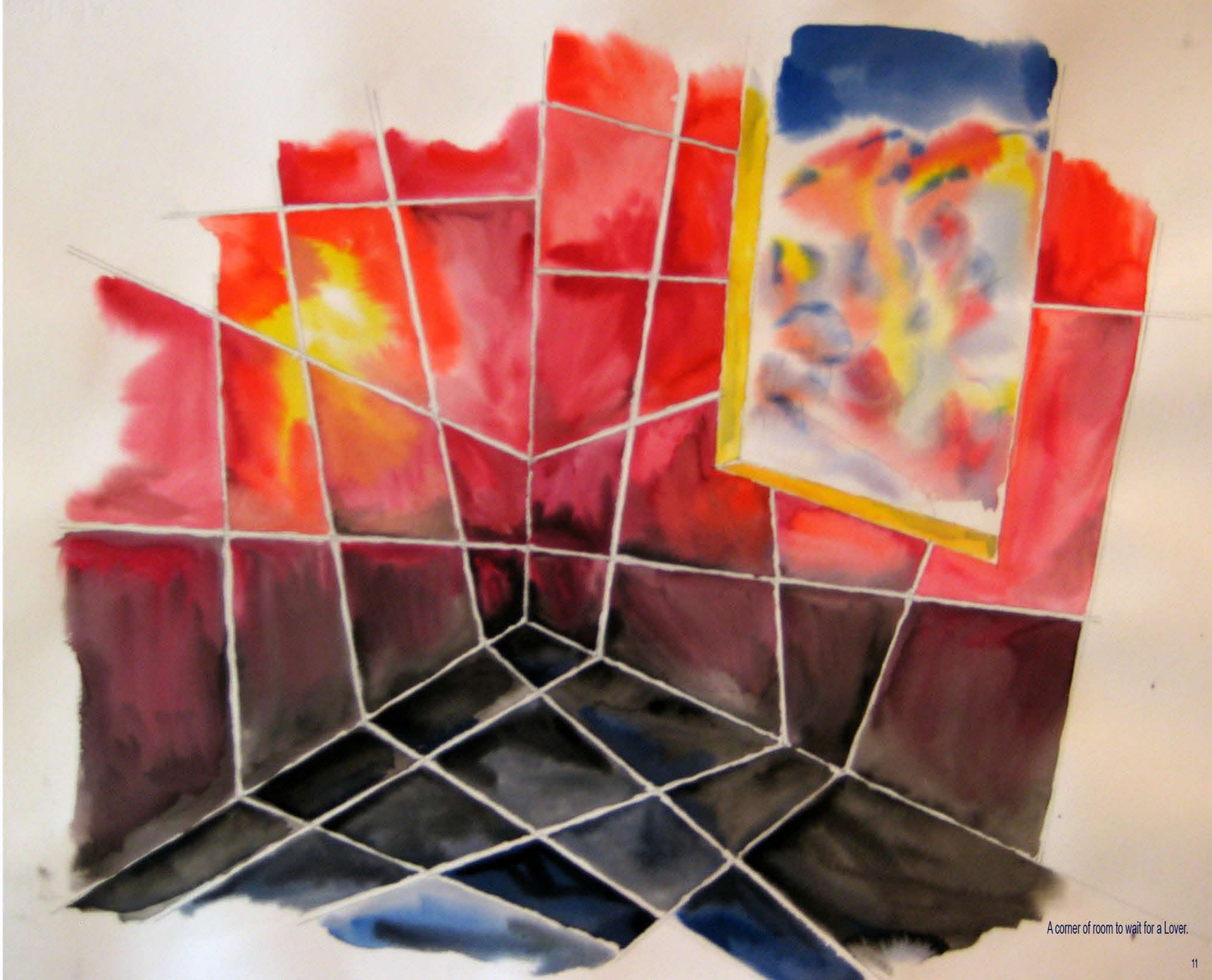


Craft and drawing- Bridge

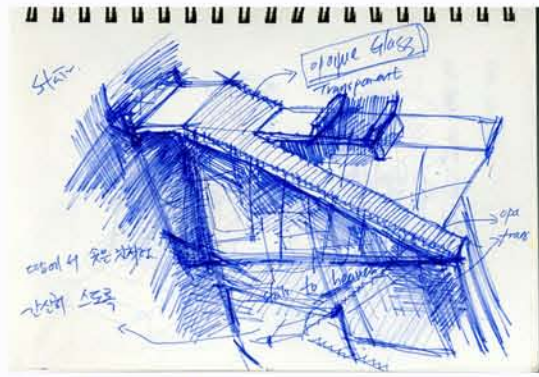




Mass of Love

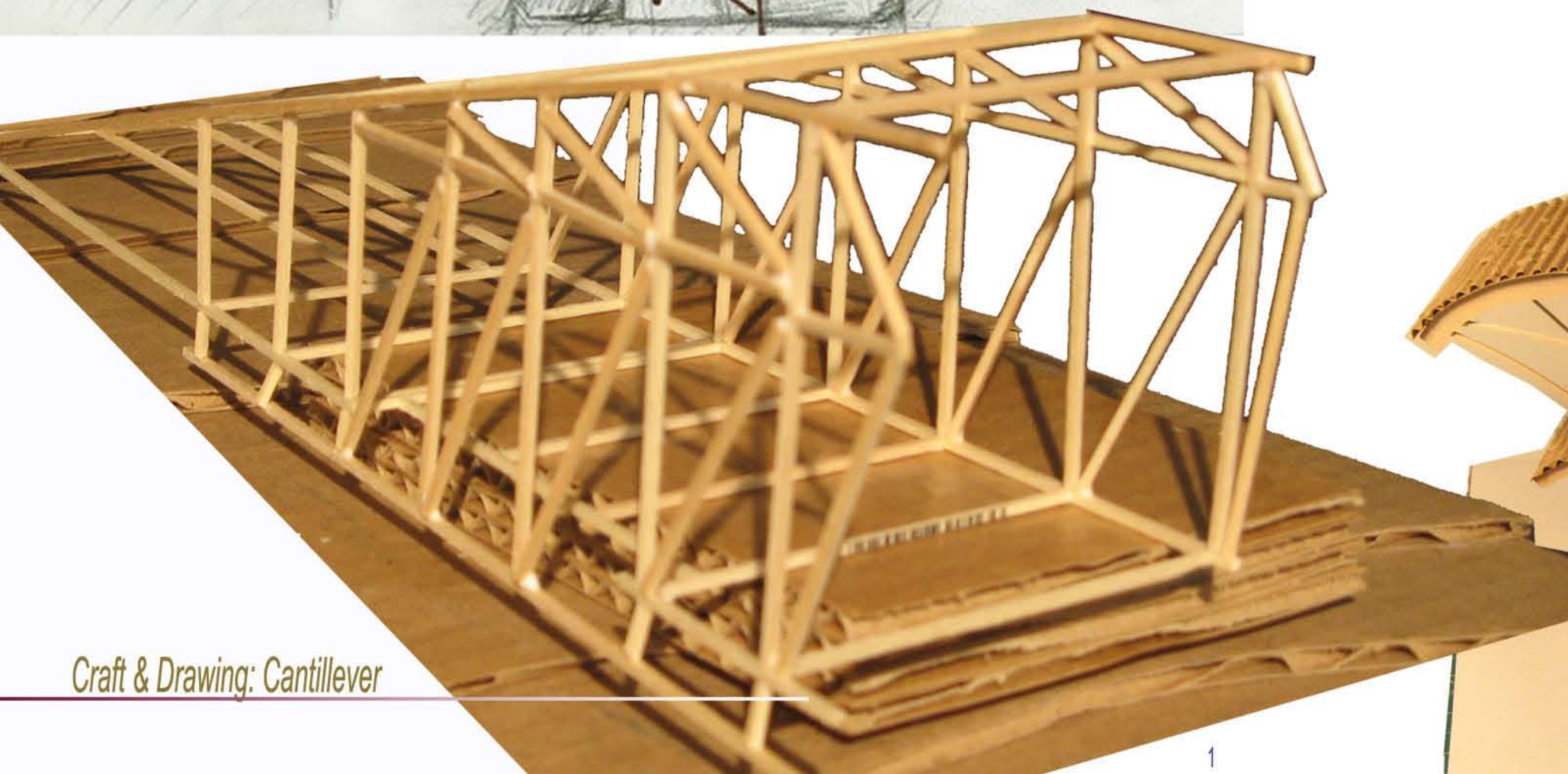
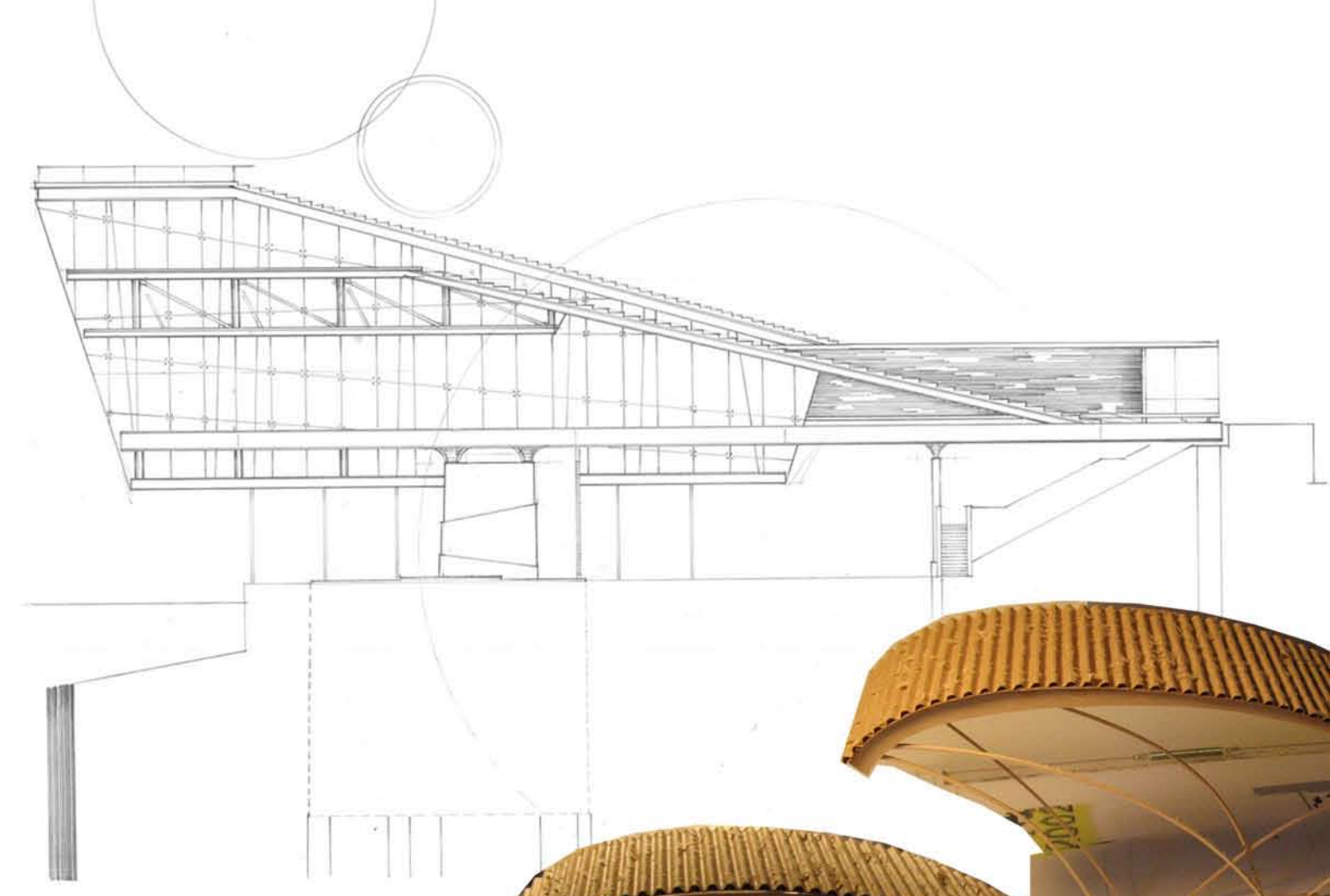
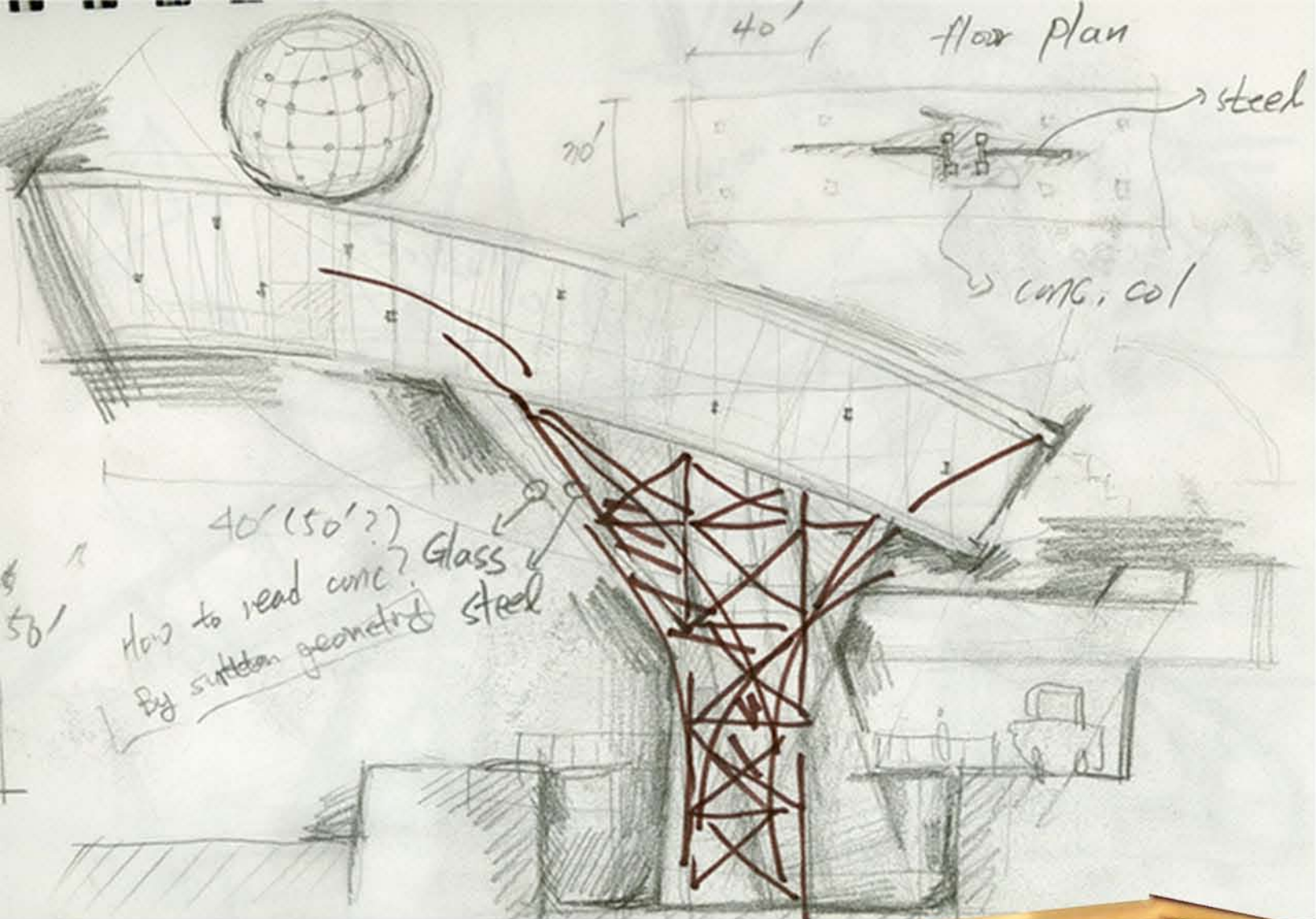


A corner of room to wait for a Lover.

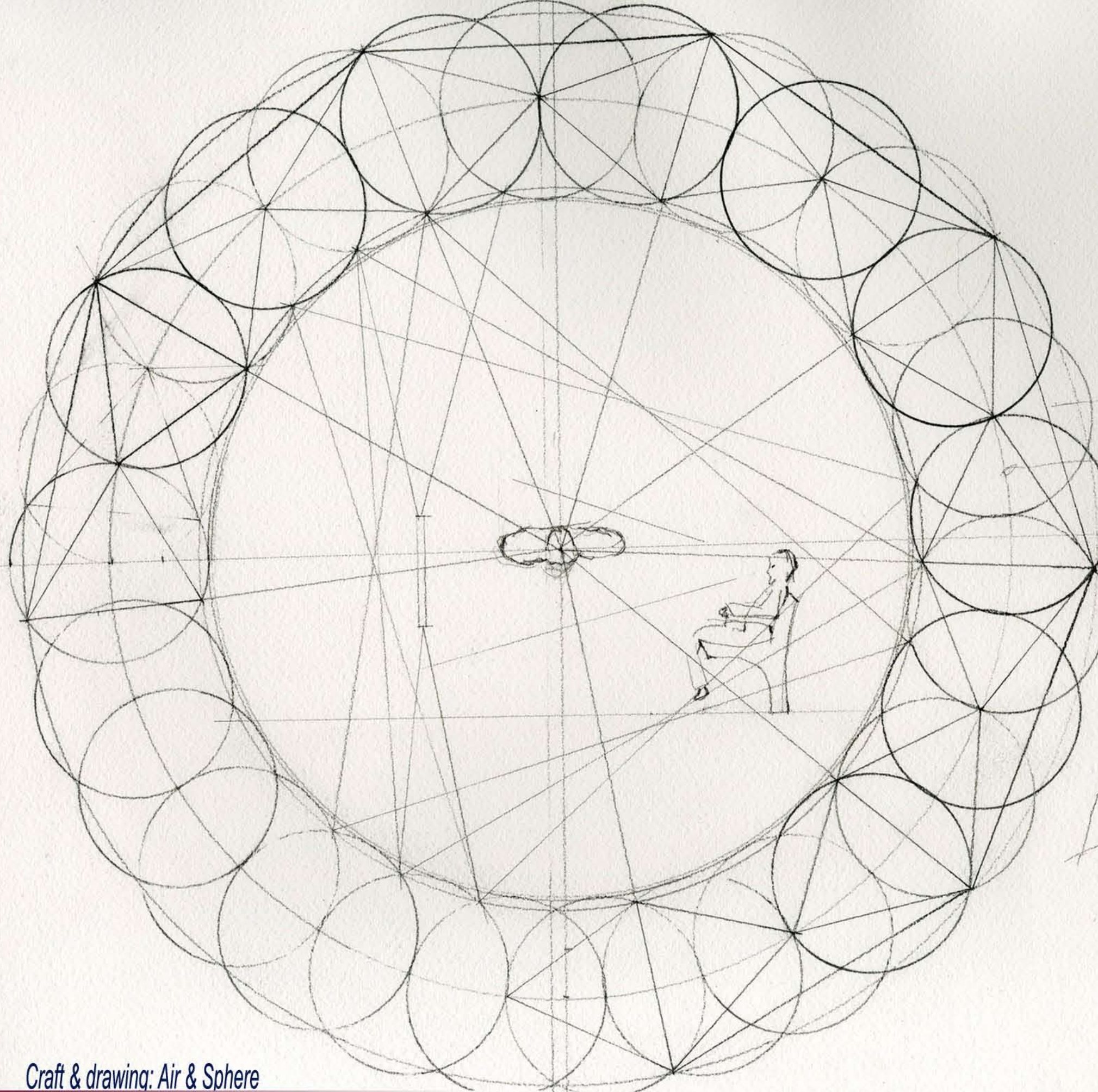


Stair is a spiritual fly.



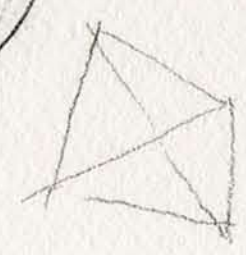


Craft & Drawing: Cantilever

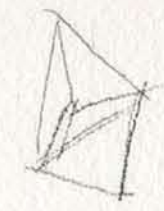


→ Cover

→ Main frame



Tetrahedron ra



Octahedron

div dimension

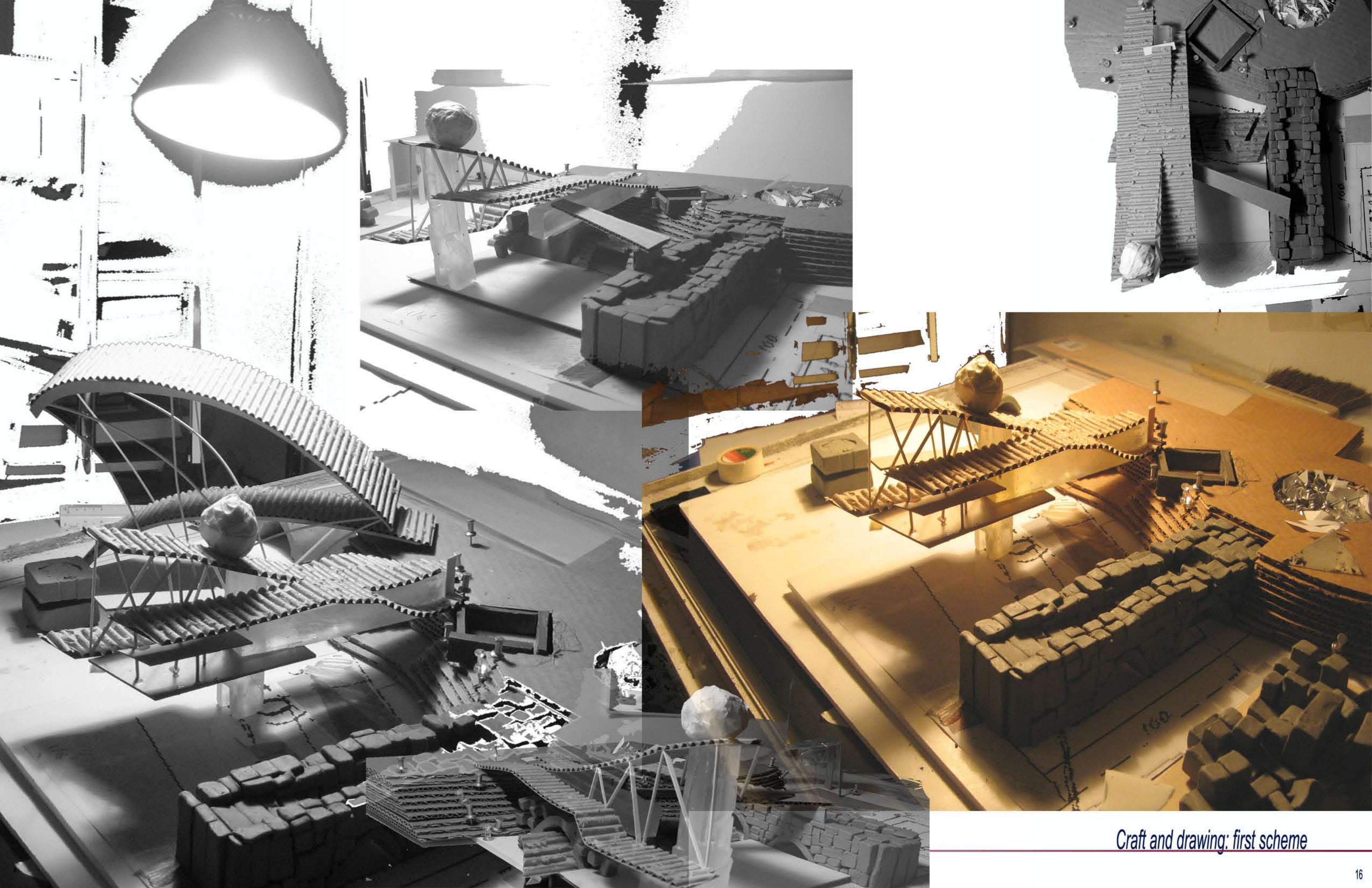




Courtyard



*Craft & drawing:
Lightness & Earth*



Craft and drawing: first scheme



Plans with Air Story

In order to have the oneric flight in my project, I used and imagined Air. Air becomes friends with fire, water and earth to form architecture. I researched, imagined and drew to find and use the air in my building.

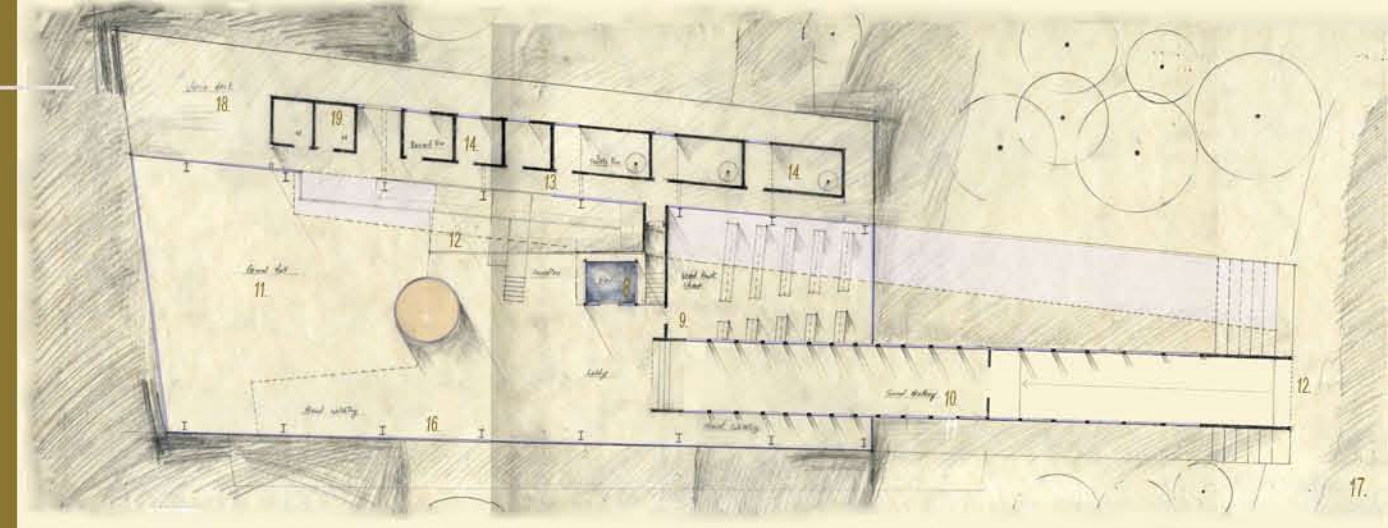
Her role in my project was as a generator and a messenger. In view of architectural experience, she connects and supplies all lives in my building in all corners of all rooms. In the bridge before one enters the main space, she supplies the fresh air to allow breath with long scene of entrance and whisper of wind. In the great hall, she reveals her beautiful shape and movement by light at dawn. Long stairs lead to the roof deck. This inconvenient experience creates a need for air. But, you can stop to rest anytime to recharge and achieve the hope you dreamed of before you started. Actually, there is not much to see on the roof. You can carry some different air in your pocket and your memories after you take in the view of the surrounding buildings, the Key Bridge, and the Potomac River. As for the personal belongings and videos, I put them under the ground and created deep courtyards. The underground buildings will be constructed to protect from fire, water and earth. The courtyard is the place to reconcile all elements through air, making dark sound and light.

Air is the hidden existence we always share with tiny feelings and the fluctuating sound in the cantilevered structure. she always wants to reveal the existence to you in subtle ways. The Sphere room is the most important room in my program. This is a room to spread people's memories to the city by recording video and existence itself in the urban matrix of Georgetown.

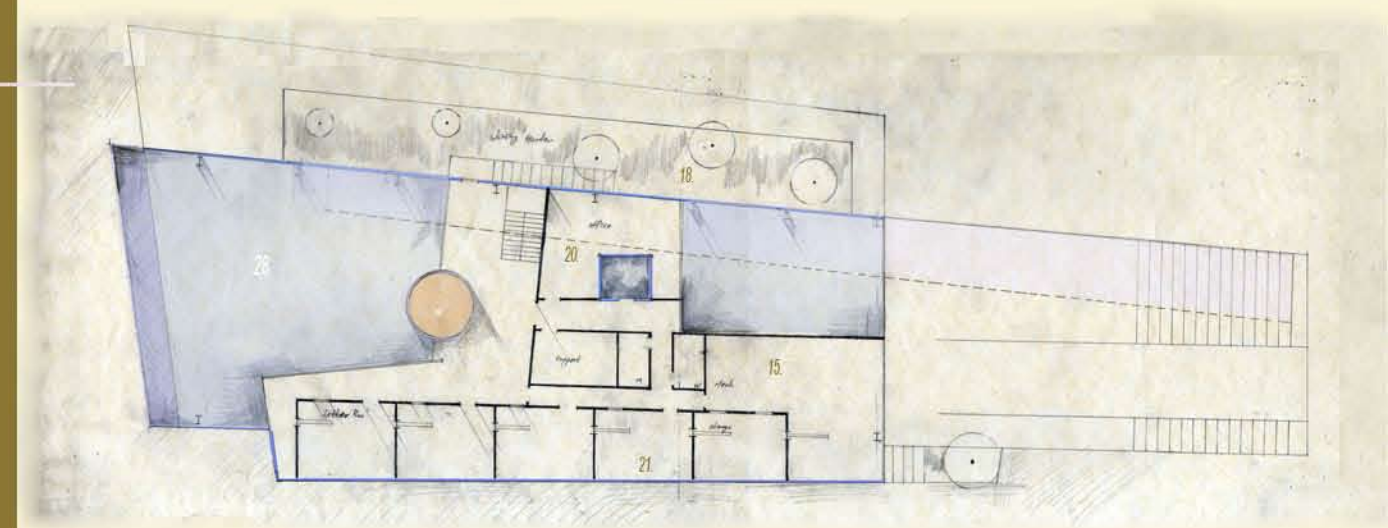
Most of all, air is a true messenger. I spent a long time matching the program with architectural form in my project. The sphere was the most difficult form to locate in the building and to construct in a clear and meaningful way. I consider the roof deck as a physical middle land between earth and sky. The Sphere room, located between the roof deck and heaven, is where my father and mother now live. I believe the light of the sphere room will be on every night and will send a message in the sky like a lighthouse on the sea.



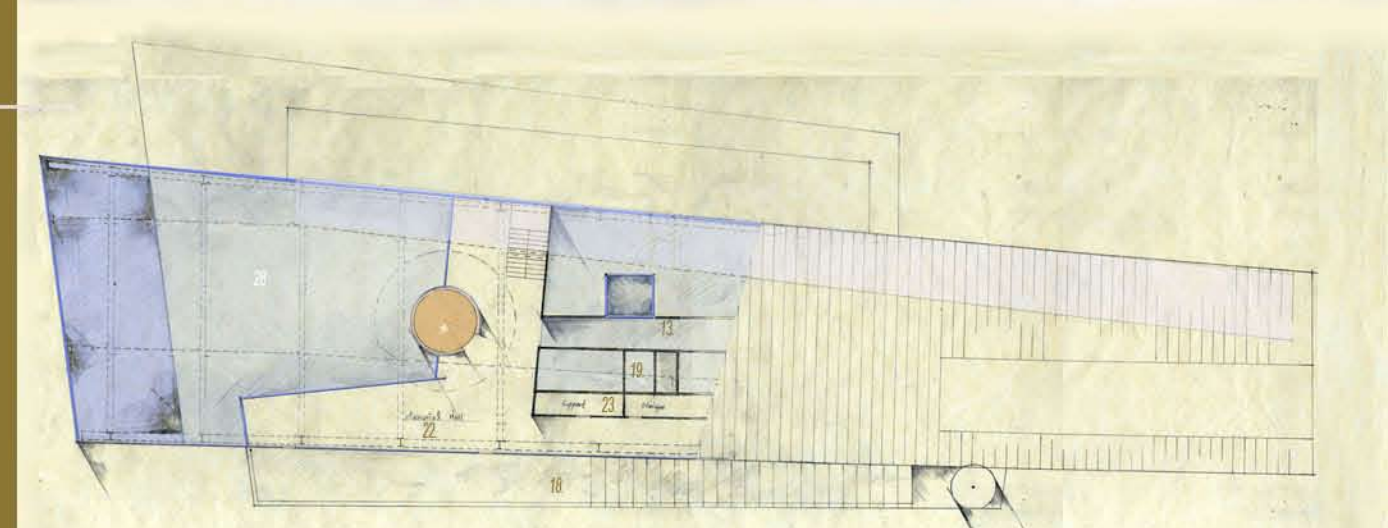
1st Floor Plan



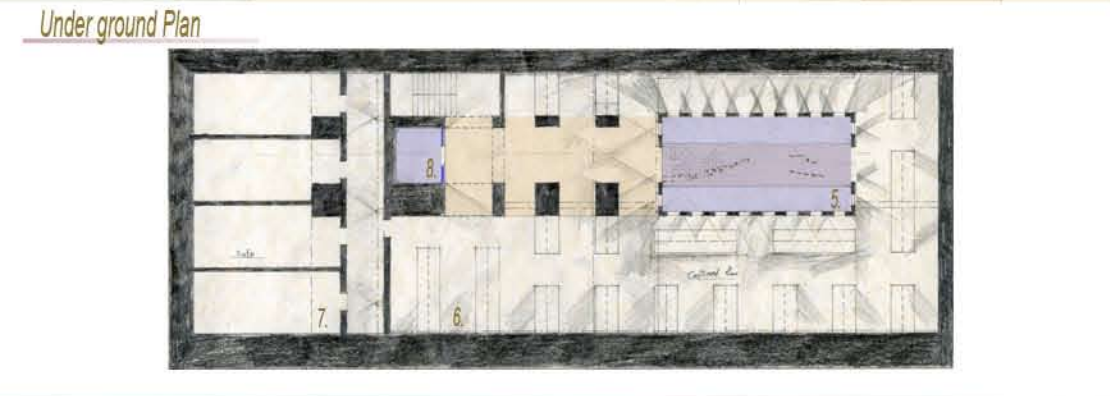
2nd Floor Plan



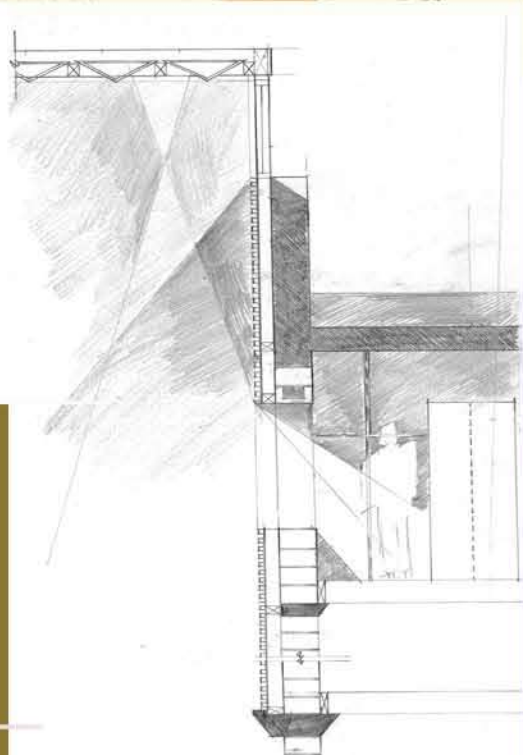
3rd Floor Plan



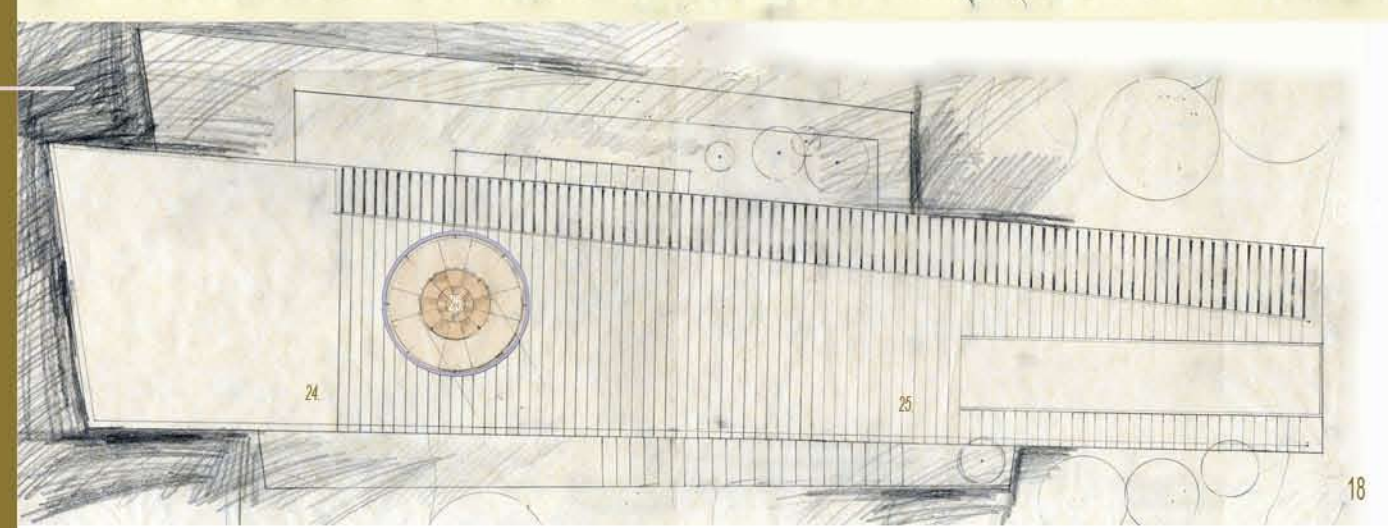
4th Floor Plan



Underground Plan



Section @ Underground



Roof Plan

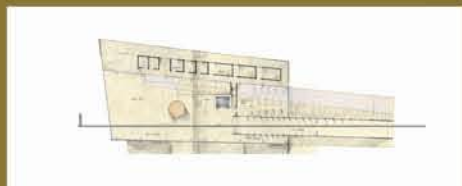
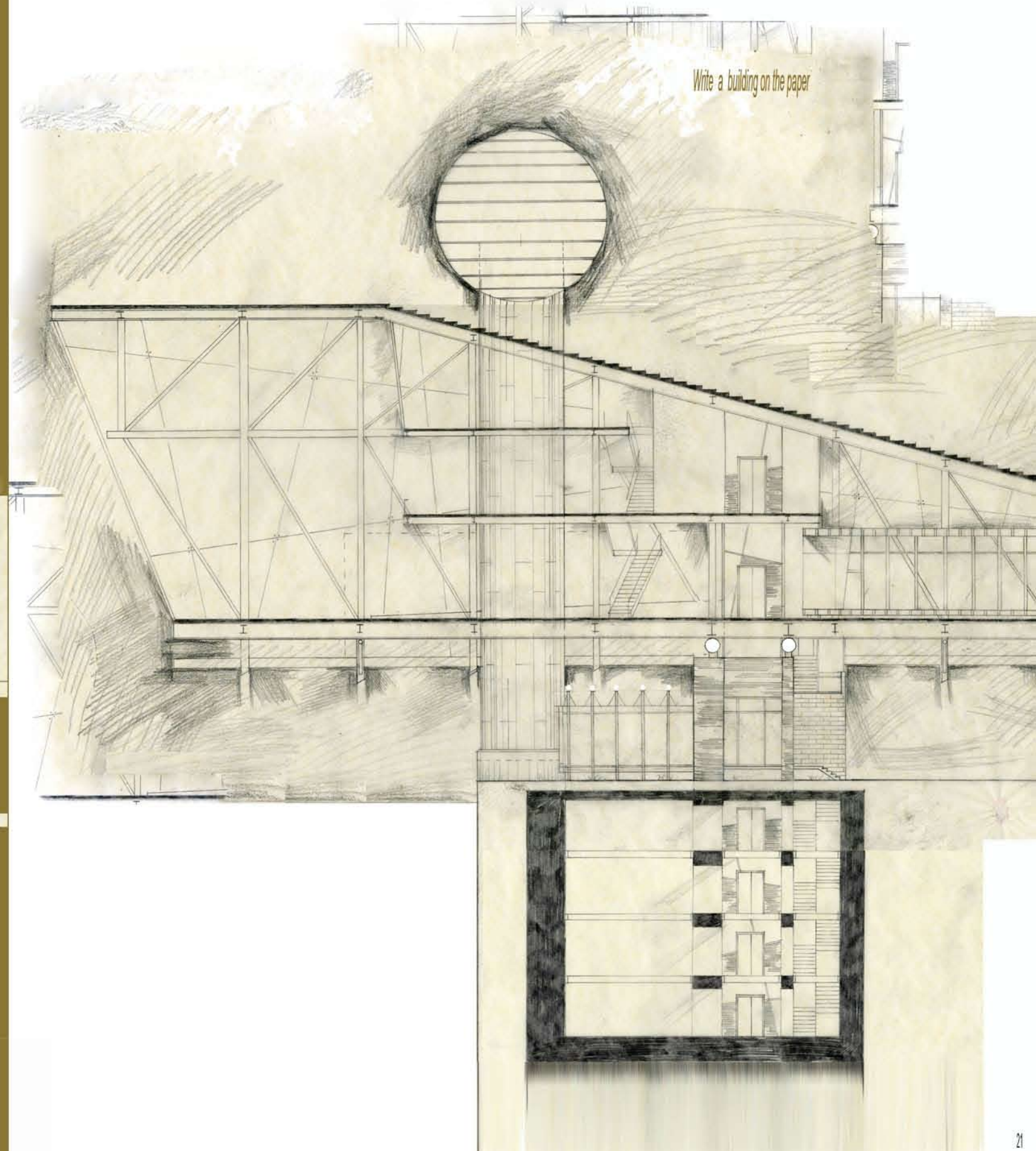
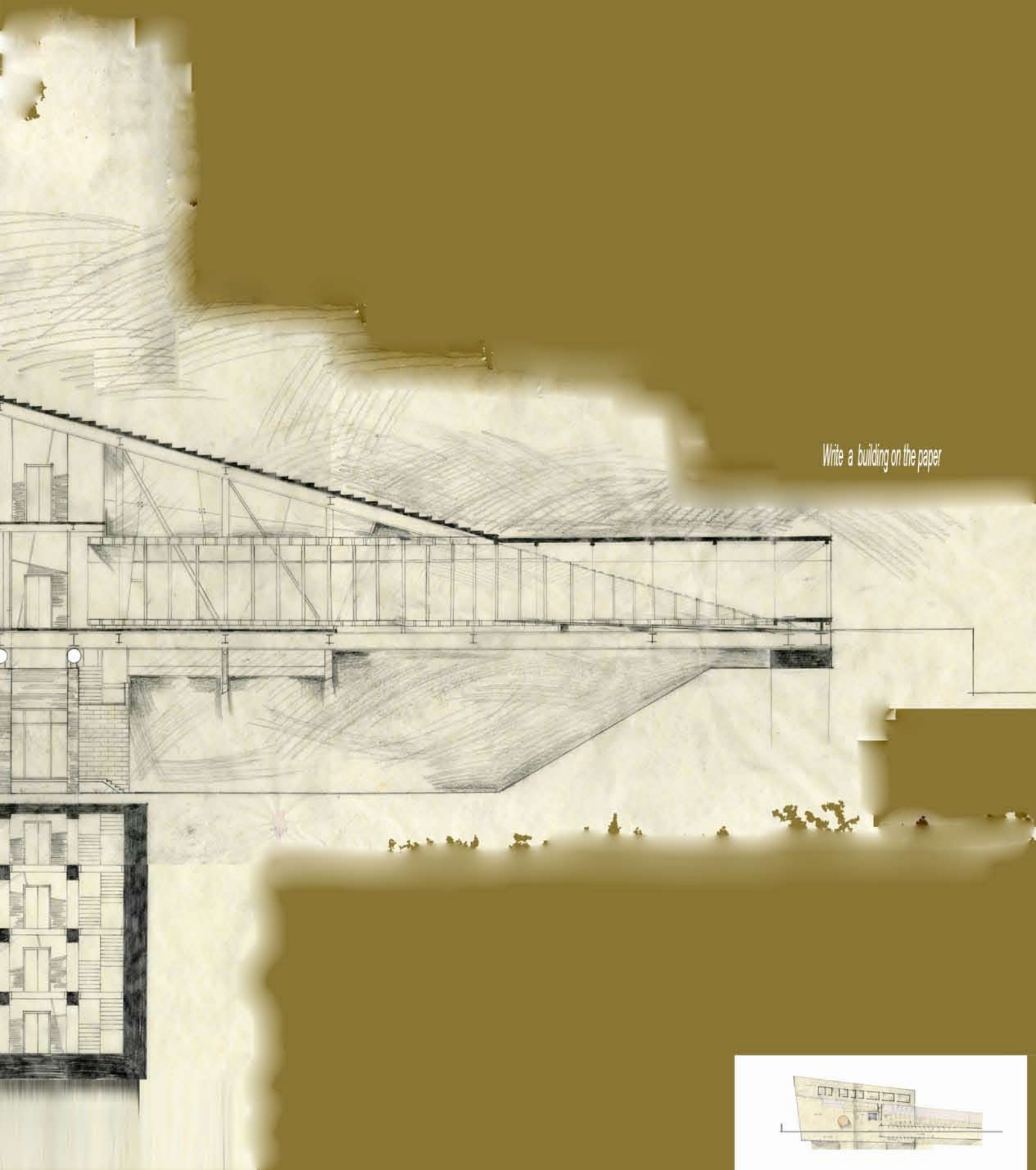
- 1. Old bridge foundation
- 2. Lobby & Main entrance
- 3. Waiting bridge
- 4. Sky light
- 5. Courtyard
- 6. Cabinet room
- 7. Safe
- 8. Elevator
- 9. Old book store
- 10. 2nd entrance bridge
- 11. Great hall
- 12. Ramp
- 13. Corridor
- 14. Family studio
- 15. Storage
- 16. Writing area
- 17. Canal
- 18. Terrace
- 19. Toilet
- 20. Office
- 21. Reading room
- 22. Memorial Hall
- 23. Utility room
- 24. Roof deck
- 25. Roof stair
- 26. Will recording room
- 27. Stair room
- 28. Open below

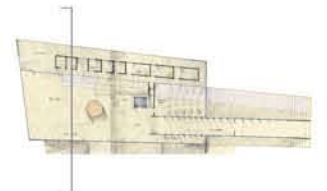
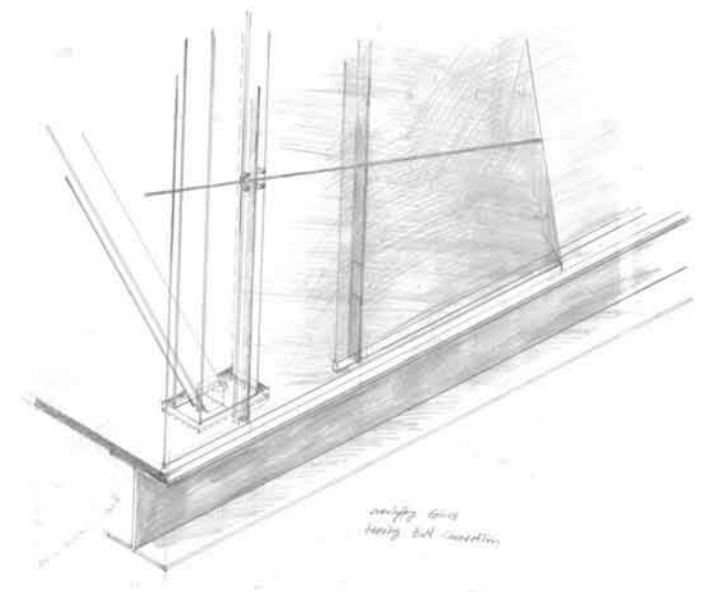
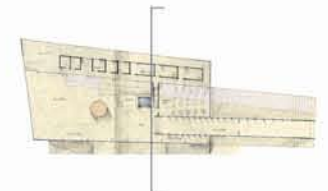
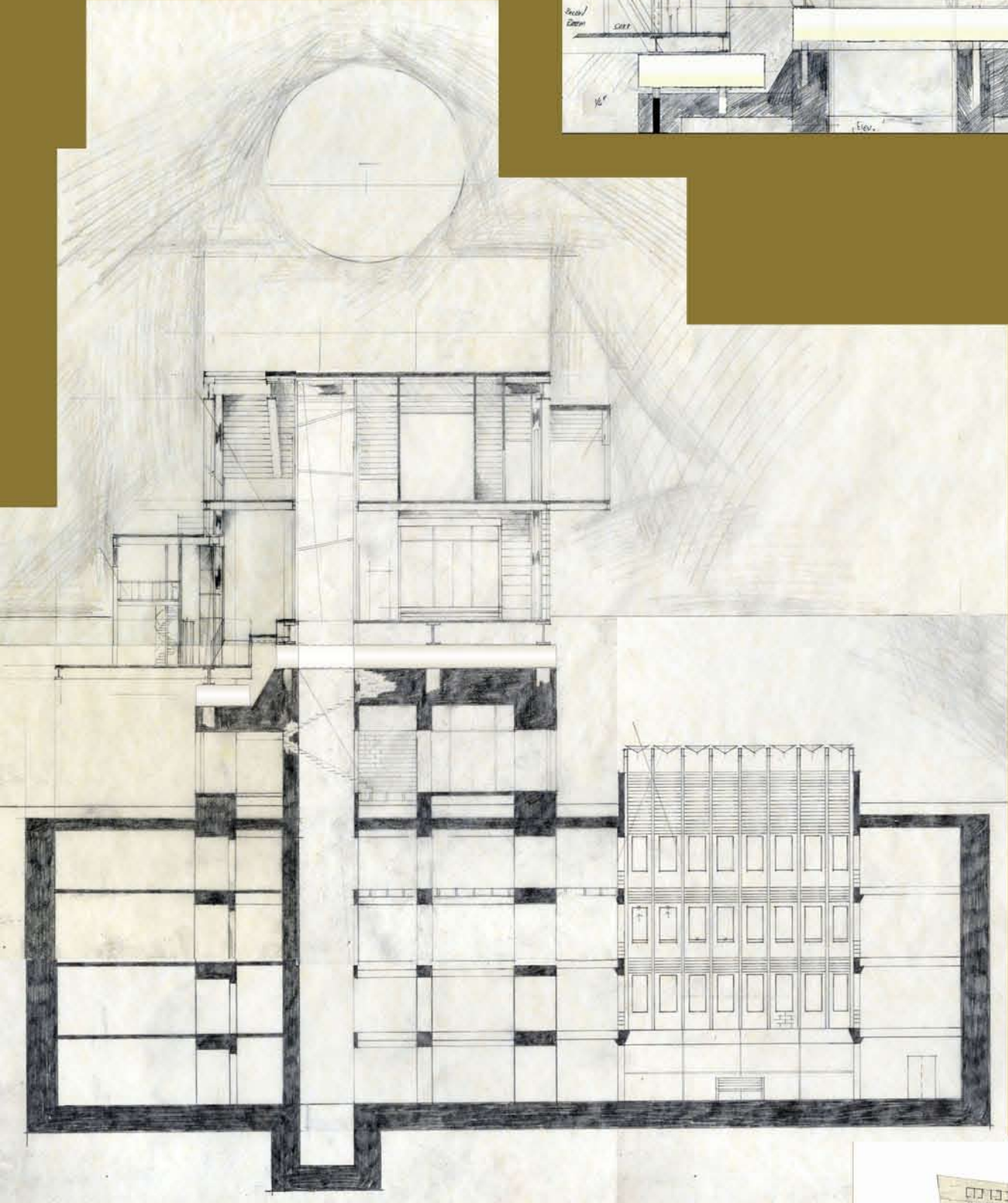
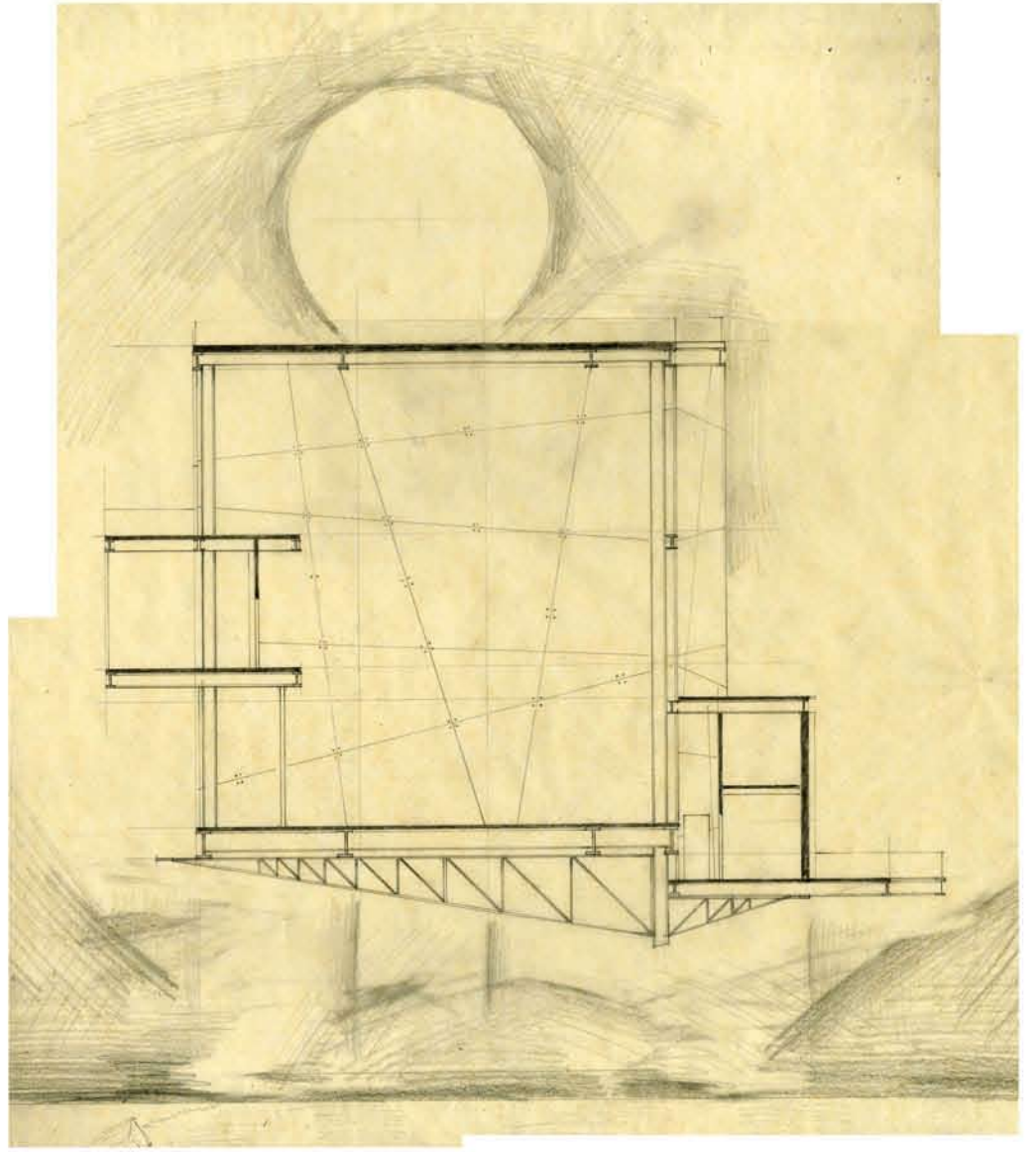
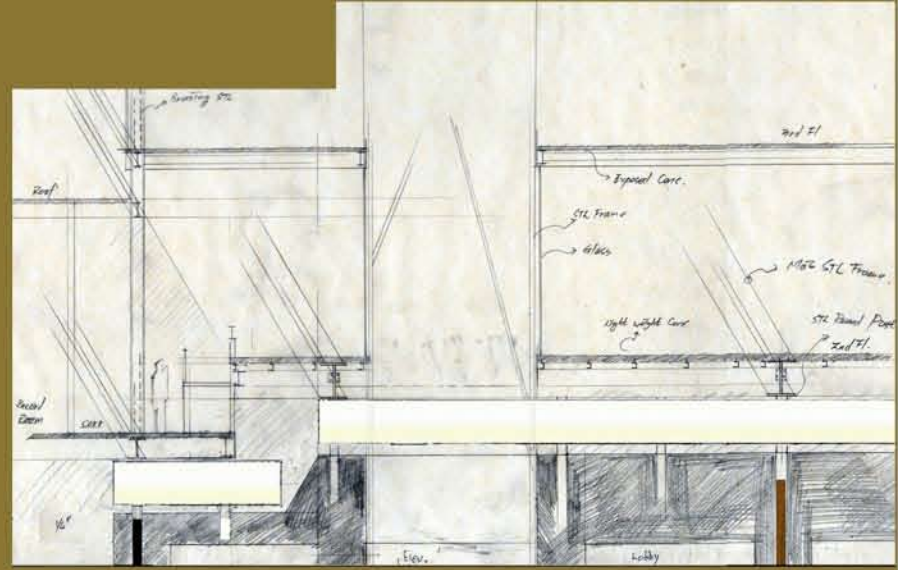


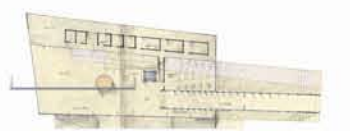
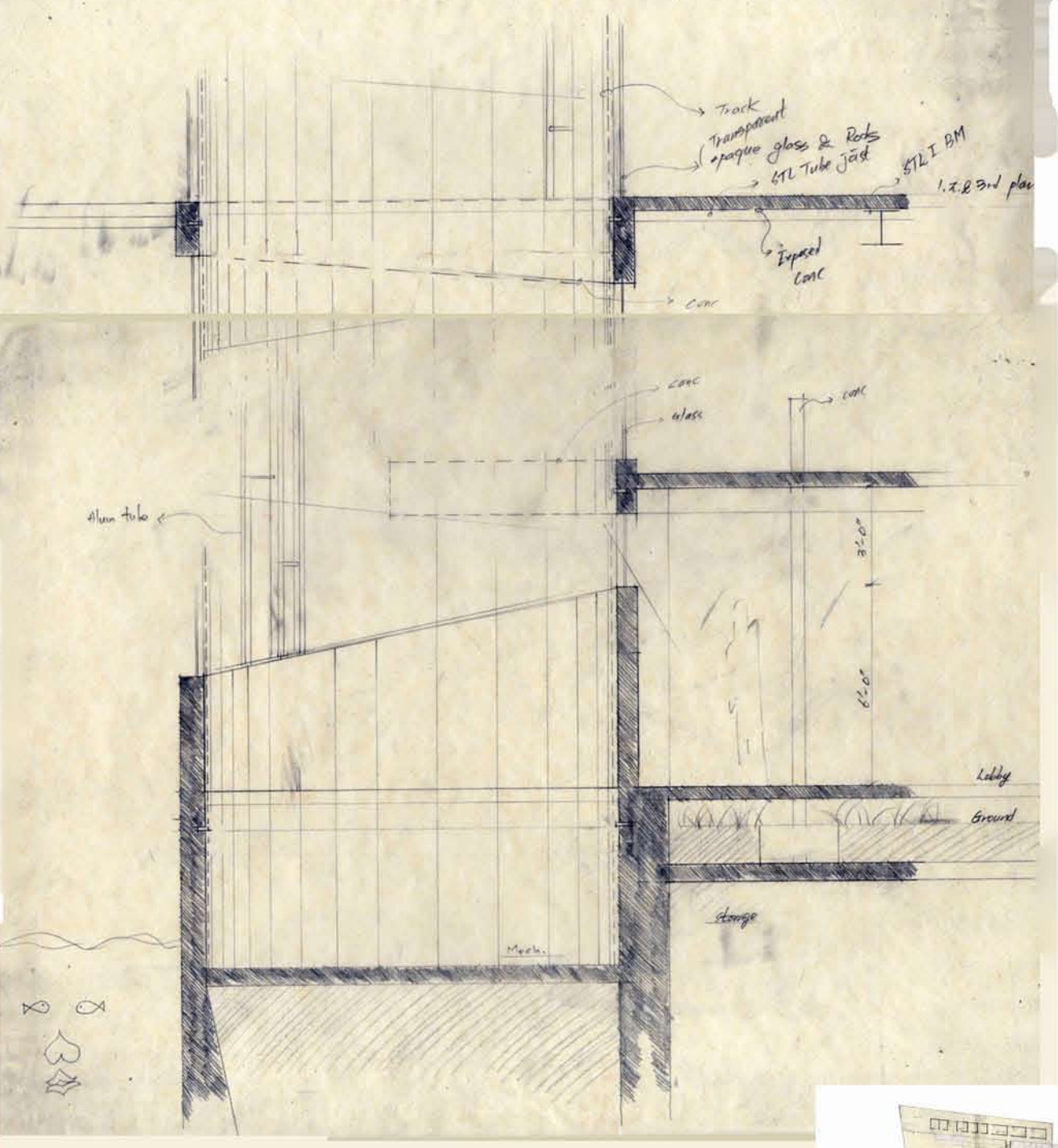
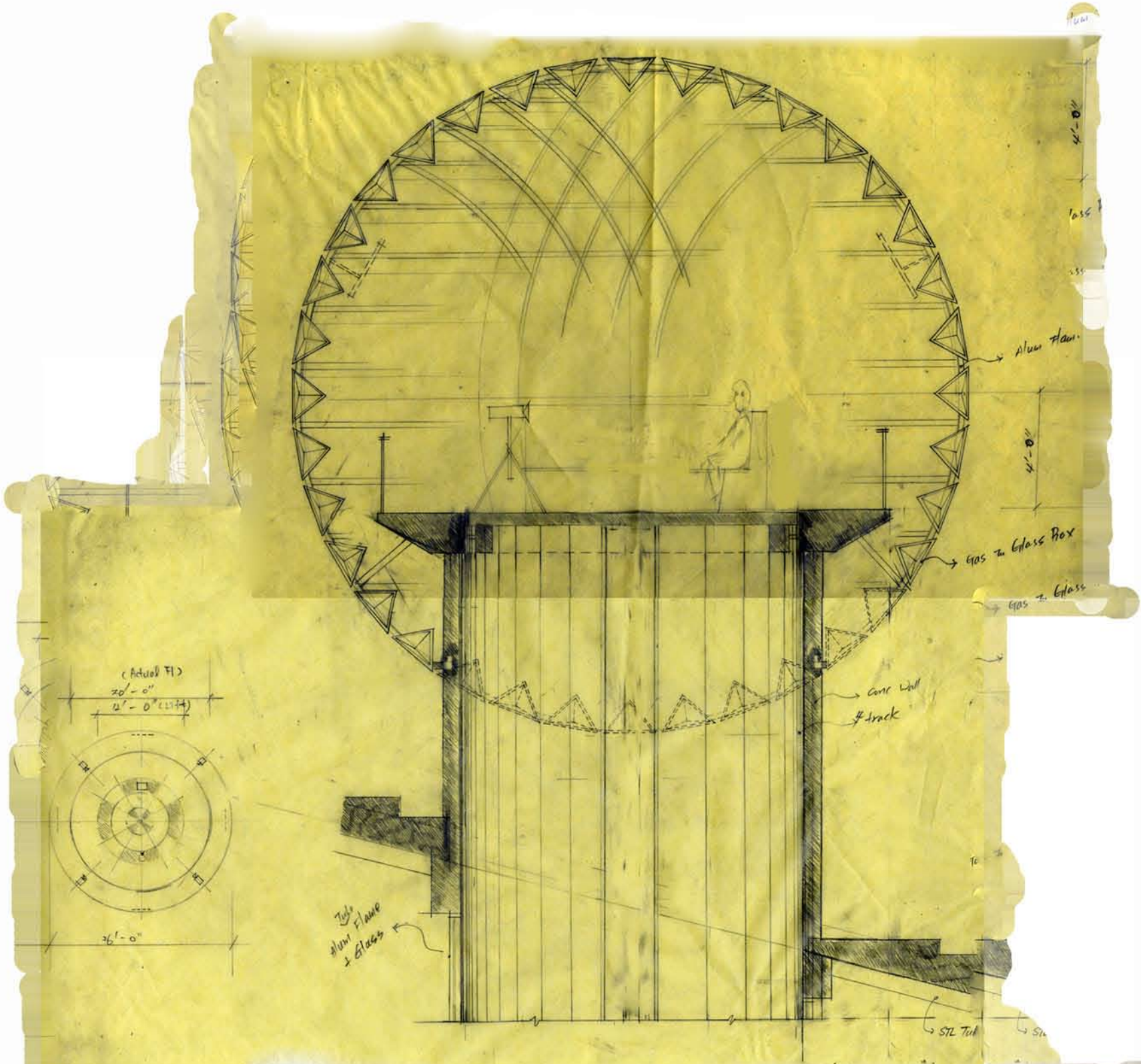
Imaginary Section A



Imaginary Section B



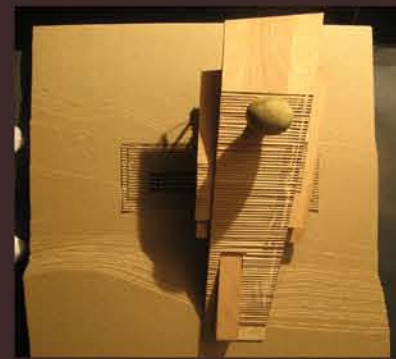




Imagination & Craftmanship



Great Rm: Sun study



Site view



Skylight @underground



Steel structure & stairs



Corridor



Rear view



Bridge to cylinder path



Video room elevation



Sky light above used book store



Sphere above roof stair



Ramp to studio



Reading area



Below the cantilever



Gap



Roof structure from inside(Conc. & Steel)



Sphere room



Main entrance



Main entrance bridge



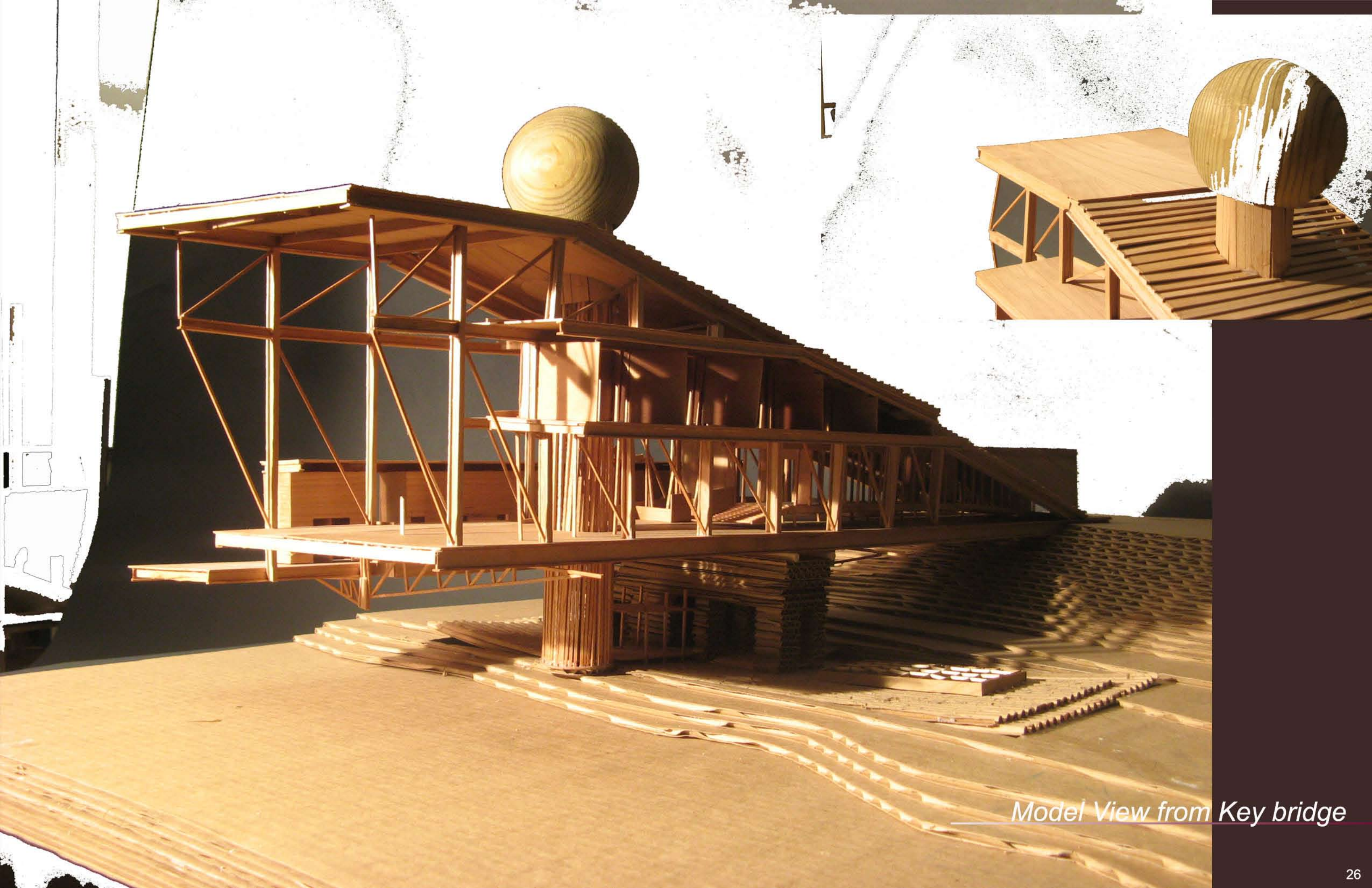
Steel Columns & bracings



Potomac River



Model View from Potomac river



Model View from Key bridge



Model view from Canal road

Thanks to,

I am very grateful to be a part of WAAC, and Virginia Tech. When I entered the school, I just decided to develop a tactic of poetic architecture. After an unforgettable lecture and studio project, which showed more didactic and meaningful way of structure and material in tectonic culture, I recognized what I had to keep studying and exploring during the thesis, and after the graduation. Which will be based on the material imagination.

Jaan Holt, the chairman of my committee, thank you for your leadership and broad knowledge in architecture. Susan Piedmont Palladino, thanks for your keen criticism and passion to my project. You must realize that this thesis design was originated from my first studio project in the school with you. Marcia Feuerstein, I will pay more attention to the plan and section in the future. I will miss your hand movement with voice in studio. Paul Emmons, I was always appreciative of your silent support. I like to read your writing more. I hope my thesis was a good example of your study. Monica Rivera, I was fortunated to meet with you. John Foote, all your activities and speaking was respectful. Henry Hollander, thanks for your hard work.

Special thanks to Wonjin Kim and Hyuncheol Cha, who feed and helped me throughout the process. Greg, Joanne, John and Karisa, you are my first and last American friends in school. Without support from my family, I could not be here today. Thank you, Neungsoo, my brother in law. Two daughter Renee & Chloe.

Whatever I do and wherever I am, You always trust me. I love you, Minsoo.



All images, drawings and collages are produced by the author.

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