### STRUCTURE OF SOUND

The Interpretation of a Multifaceted Venue

Asti Joy Jackson

Thesis submitted to the faculty of the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of:

> Master of Architecture In Architecture

Michael G. Ermann, Chairman William U. Galloway Howard S. Gartner

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This thesis creates a complementarity relationship with the use of timber and concrete as primary structural and accent materials. Key elements of this thesis include (1) The development of a wood latticing system (2) Stairs that posses a strong sculptural language (3) The Lantern, a free standing lobby/box office, clad in wood and glass (4) Circulation towers that accommodate balcony seating. Studies of these elements went through many iterations resulting in over one hundred drawings. Progression of these drawings are directed to the interpretation of building form and the interaction with the site.

These concepts are then implemented in the design of a multifaceted music venue located on a hillside in the New River Valley. Minutes from the college town of Blacksburg, Virginia this event complex caters to an array of musical functions. Spaces include The Lantern, which is a multipurpose lobby/lounge, the main auditorium, and an outdoor amphitheater.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank my parents Suzie, Will, and Tim for supporting and encouraging me throughout my college career. For always putting up with my sleep deprived grumpy moods, my manic nerdy architecture rants, as well as the days I felt deprived of human contact and called nonstop. Without you this book wouldn't be possible.

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## Wood

This warm organic material expands and contracts with its environment, much like humans interact with their surroundings. Before becoming a building material, a trees most elegant moment is when light is filtered through its limbs.

With the development of a wood latticing system this same experience can be obtained. This system will be used as the primary envelope for the lobby/ lounge area as well as interior and exterior accents for the main performance space.

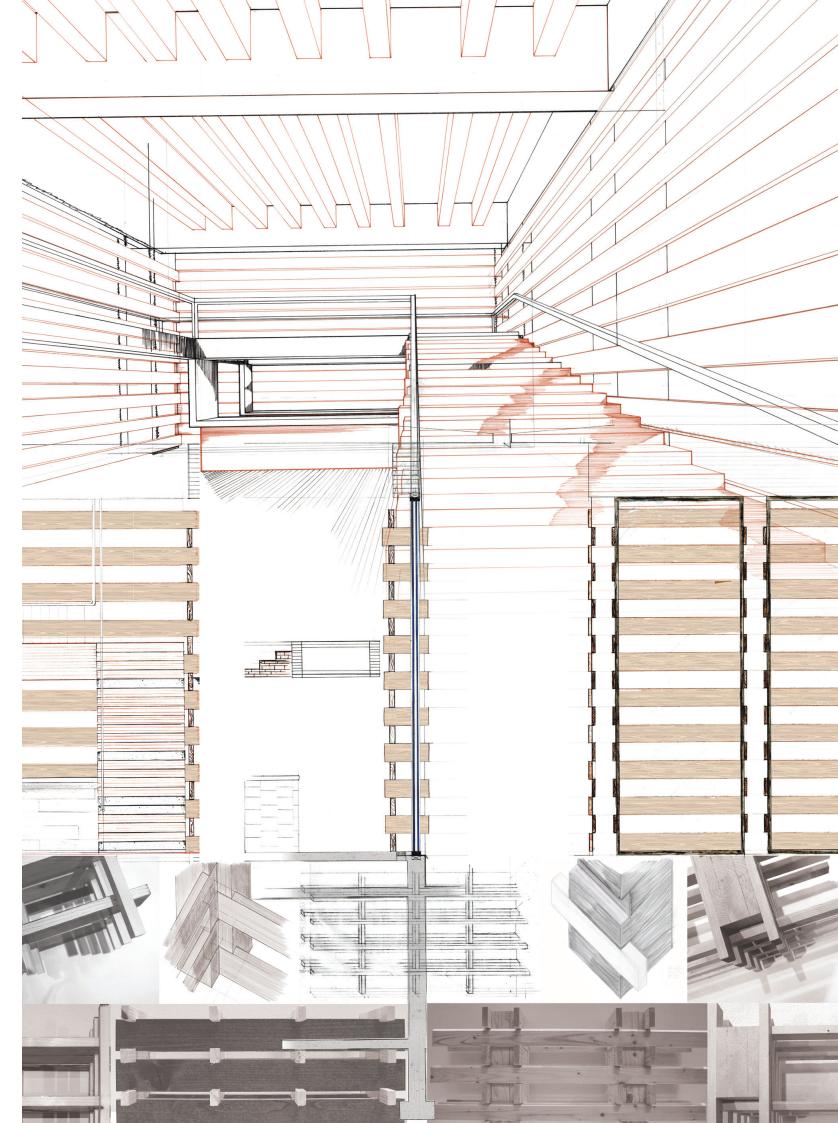
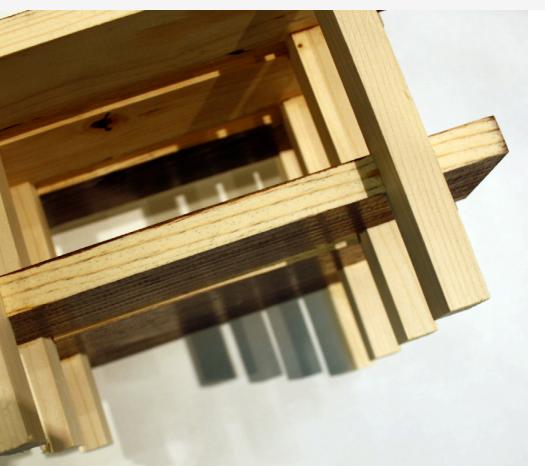


Figure 1.1 Wood Collage

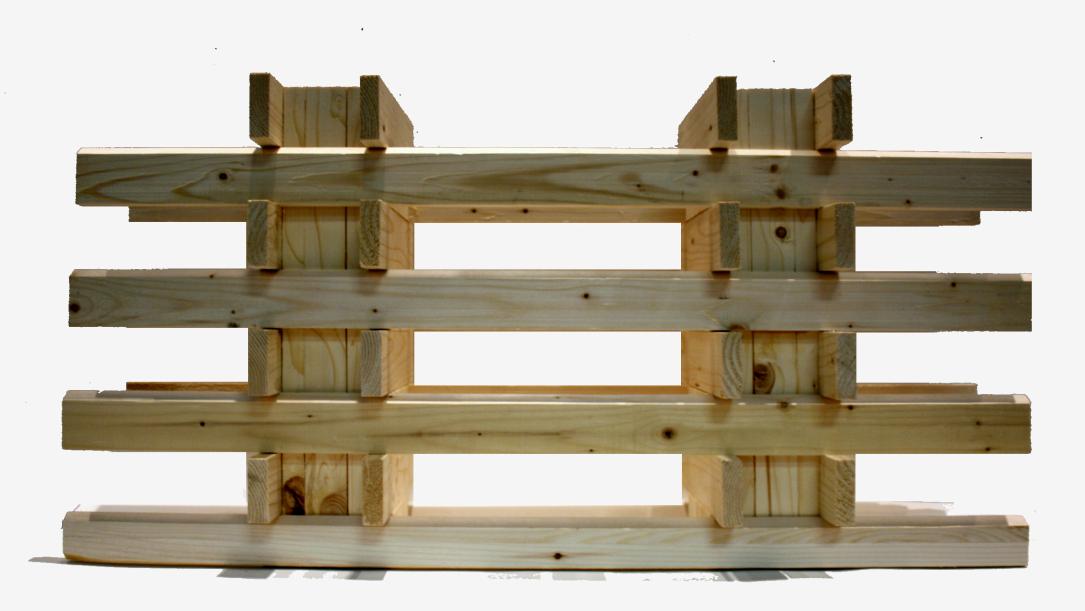


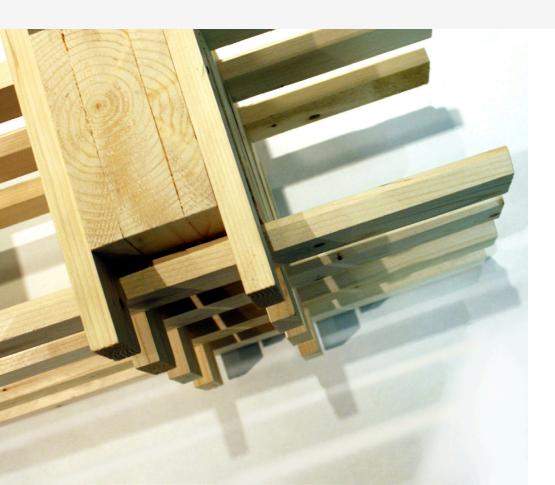


#### **Masonry Construct**

The use of wooden members as masonry units creates a self supporting system. Each transverse member is notched to interlock with horizontal boards. This construct filters light and connects interior spaces to exterior elements.

Figure 1.2 Masonry Construct Elevation Figure 1.3 Masonry Construct Cavity

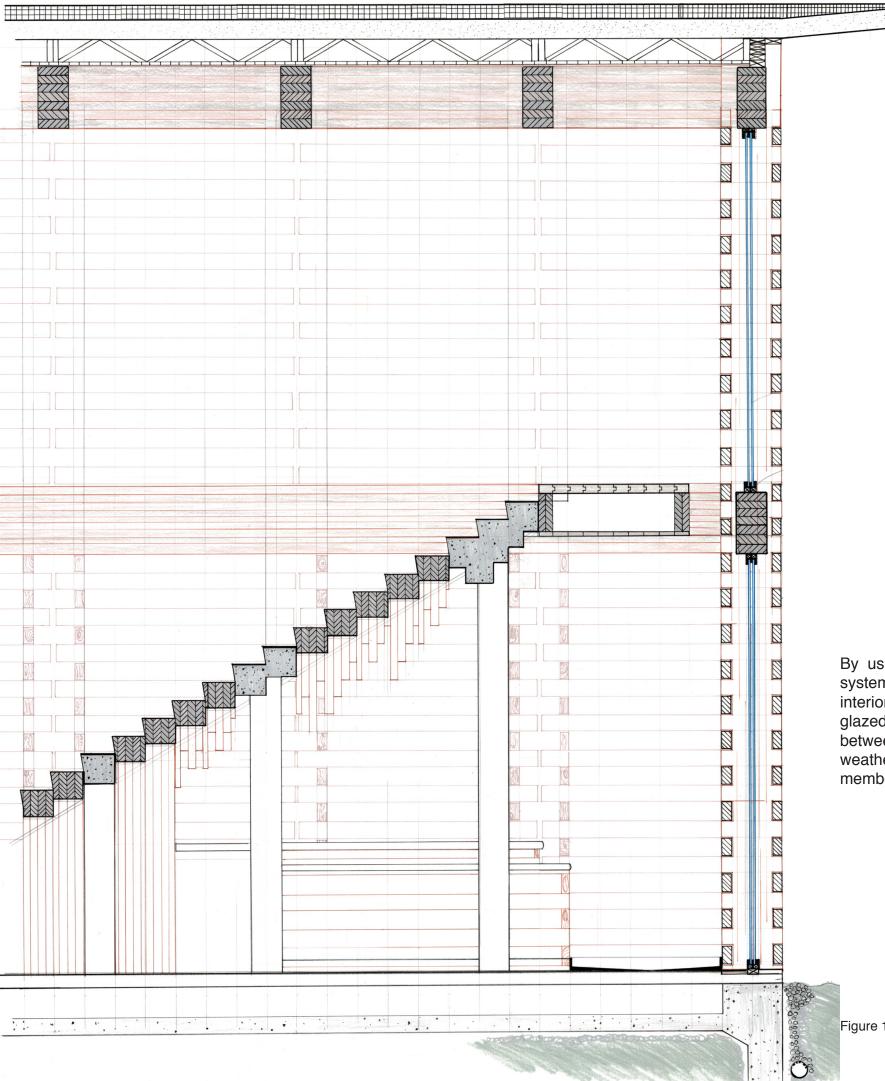




#### **Column Construct**

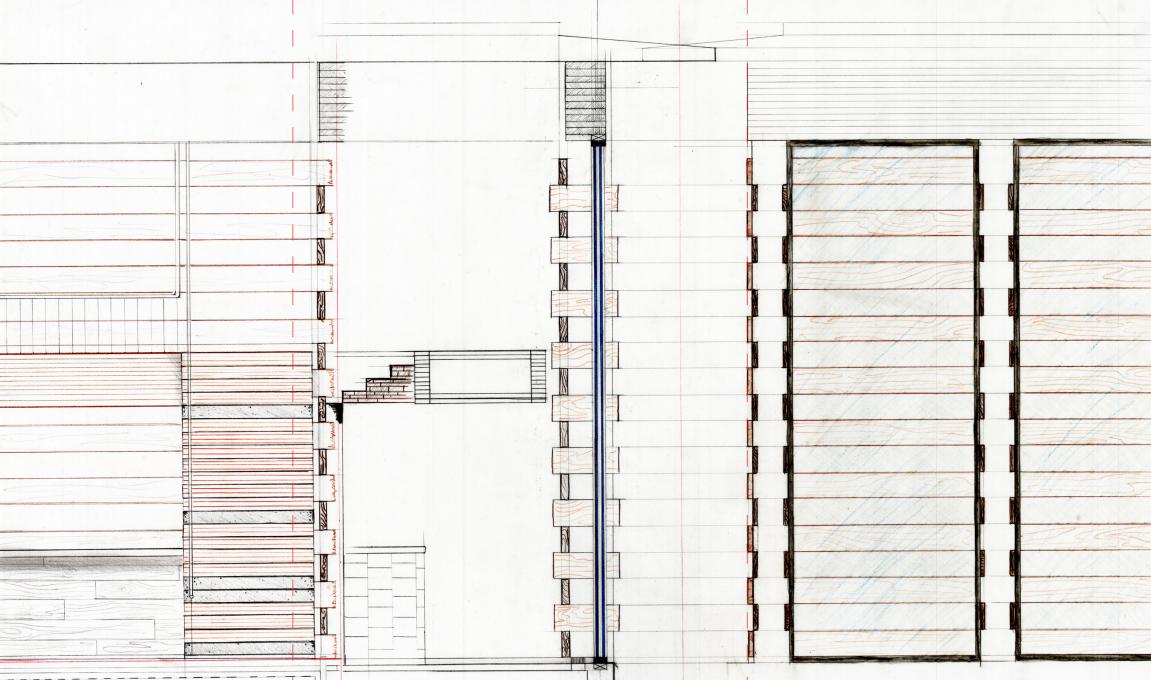
Brackets are imbedded into either side of the primary structural columns, and horizontal boards are then placed between the brackets. Using this system, a glazing panel can be integrated between the cavity or this system can stand alone as an exterior sun screen.

Figure 1.4 Column Construct Elevation Figure 1.5 Column Construct Post



By using the column construct system, the latticing is on the interior and exterior with a double glazed window treatment in between. This could cause uneven weathering of the horizontal members.

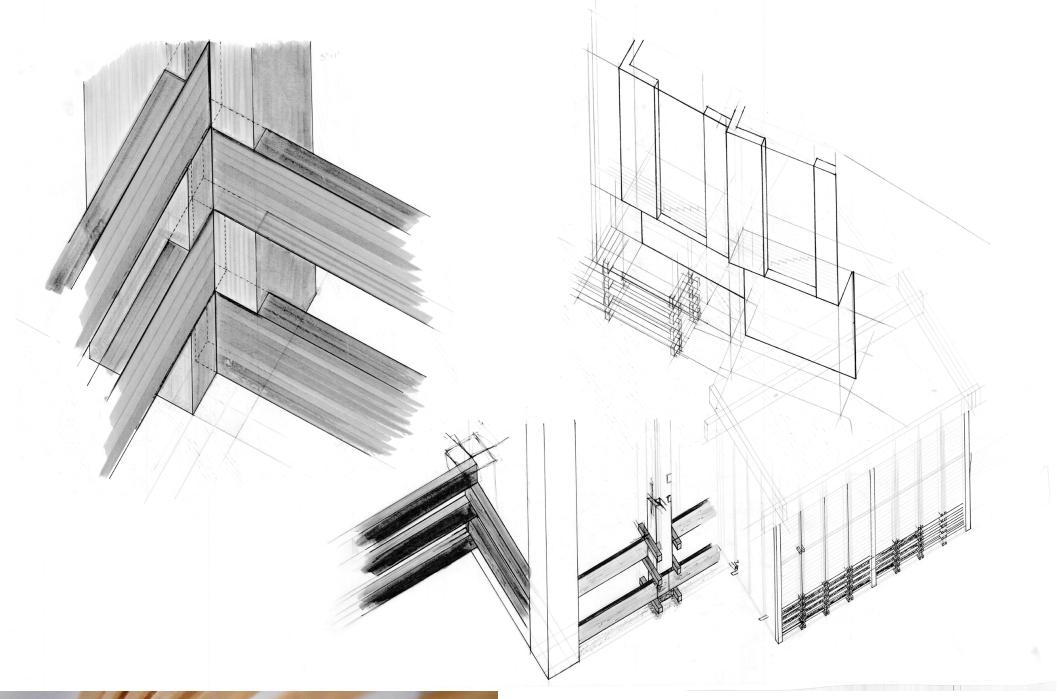
Figure 1.6 Wall Section/Interior Elevation





By modifying the column construct system, the latticing on the interior protected by a double glazed window treatment to prevent weathering.

Figure 1.7 Wall Section/Partial Elevation Figure 1.8 Concept Model Wall Image



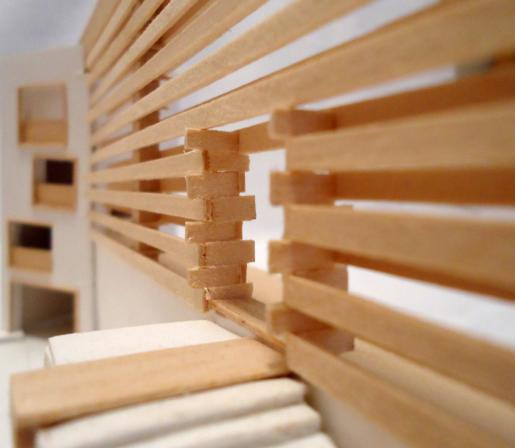
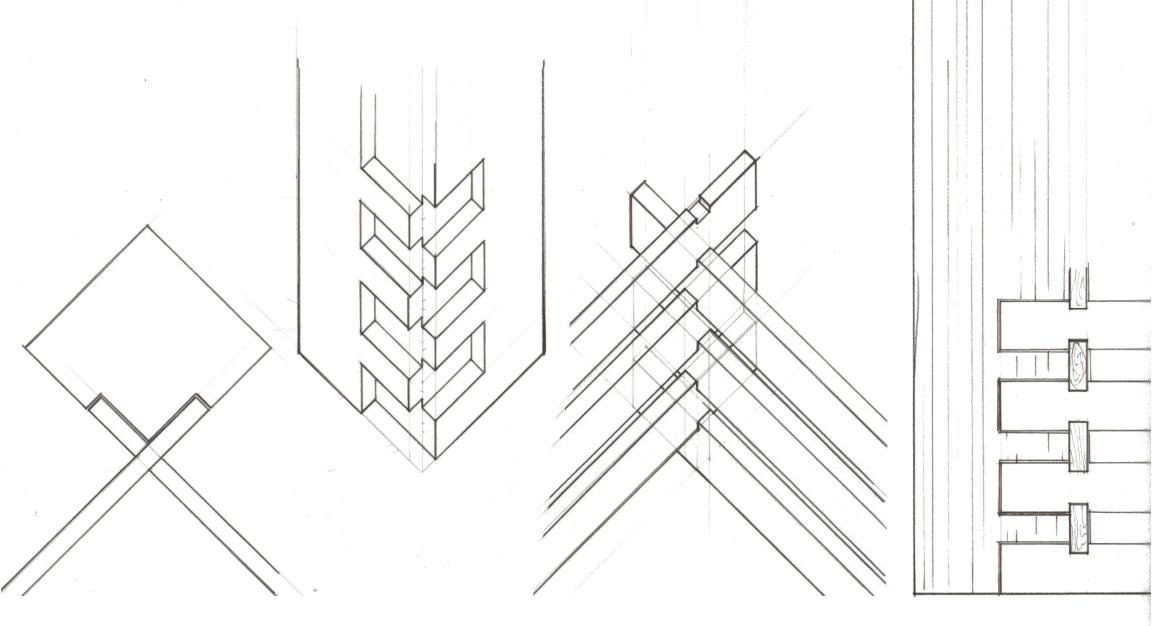
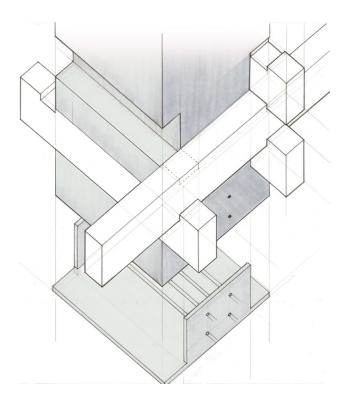


Figure 1.9 Wood Tectonic Sketches 1 Figure 1.10 Concept Model Doorway Image





The integration of the latticing system to the structural columns helped minimize the use of hardware. Columns have voids that hold brackets, those brackets are notched to hold horizontal beams that span column to column.

Figure 1.11 Wood Tectonic Sketches 2 Figure 1.12 Wood Tectonic Sketches 3

## **Stairs**

Rather than solely catering to their function stairs are transformed into a sculptural element. To methodise a stairway with rules and material boundaries creates a unique allure. Leading to a mezzanine that frames the lobby space for its own performance space. Utilizing the space beneath the stairs for storage and the overhead plane of the mezzanine for a bar.

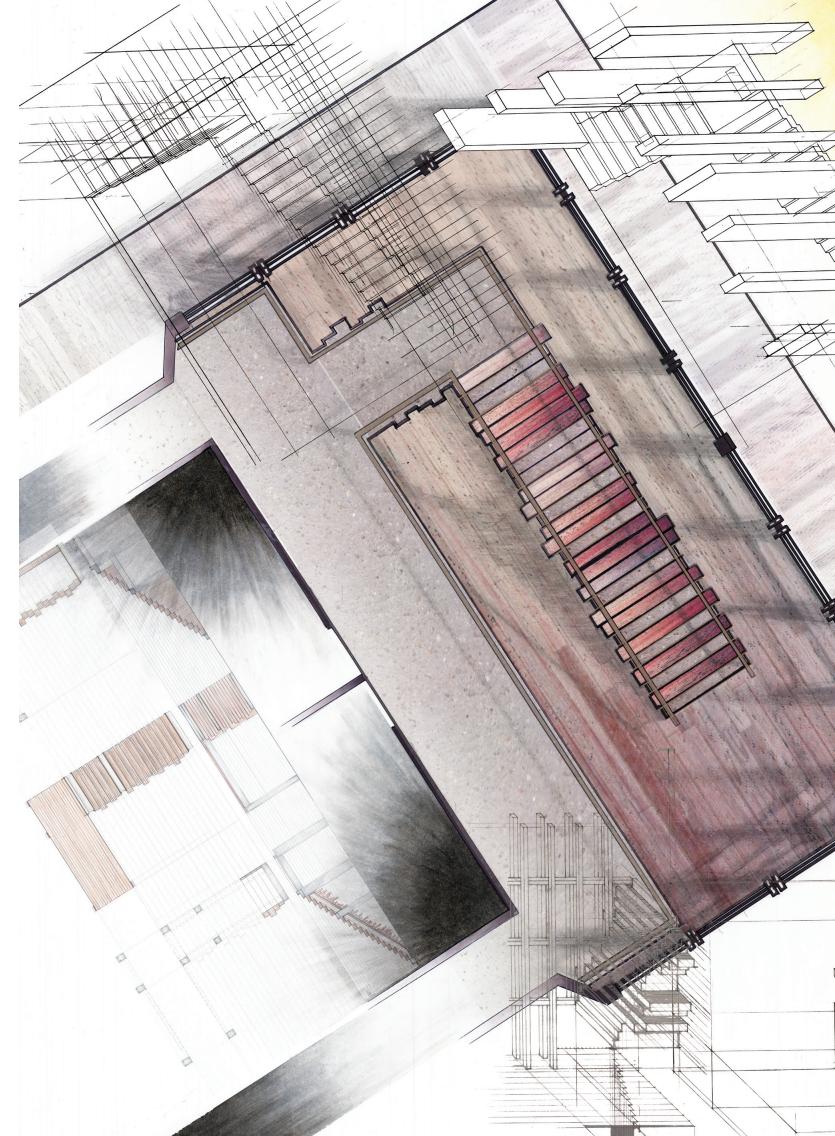


Figure 2.1 Stair Collage

Establishing a grid arranged within the parameters of The Lantern, the stairway is set back two units from the exterior wall. The base stair model is four units wide, and leads vertically to a fifteen unit high mezzanine.

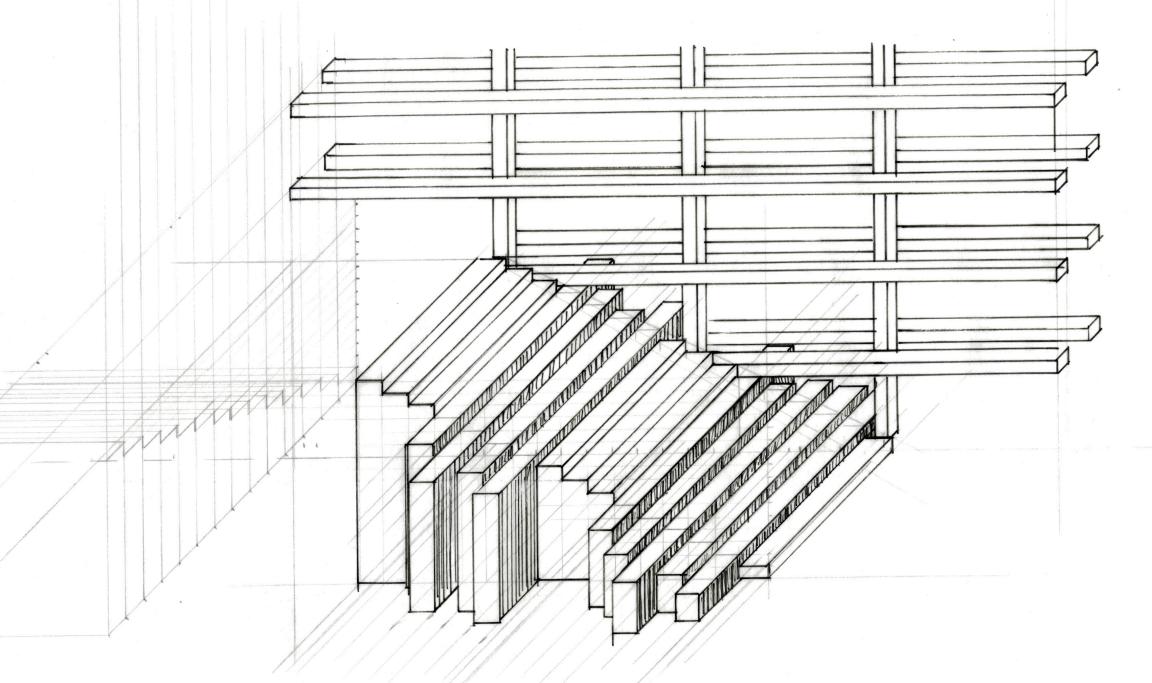
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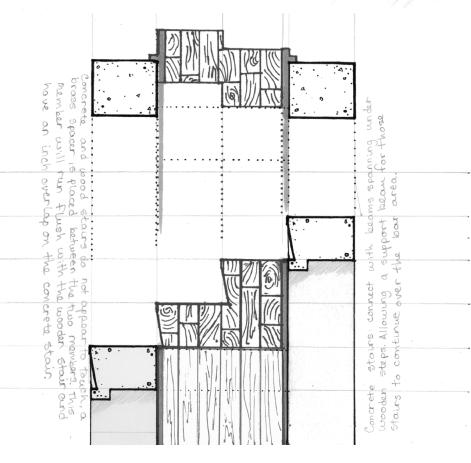
Material interaction with the base stair model depicts concrete columns interrupting the path of circulation. Pockets are formed where users can remove themselves from the main interior space and focus on exterior elements.

Material influence occurs when selective stairs remain within the boundary of the base grid, while others extend past in an undulating fashion. One material is assigned to those within the boundary and a different material is assigned to the protruding steps.

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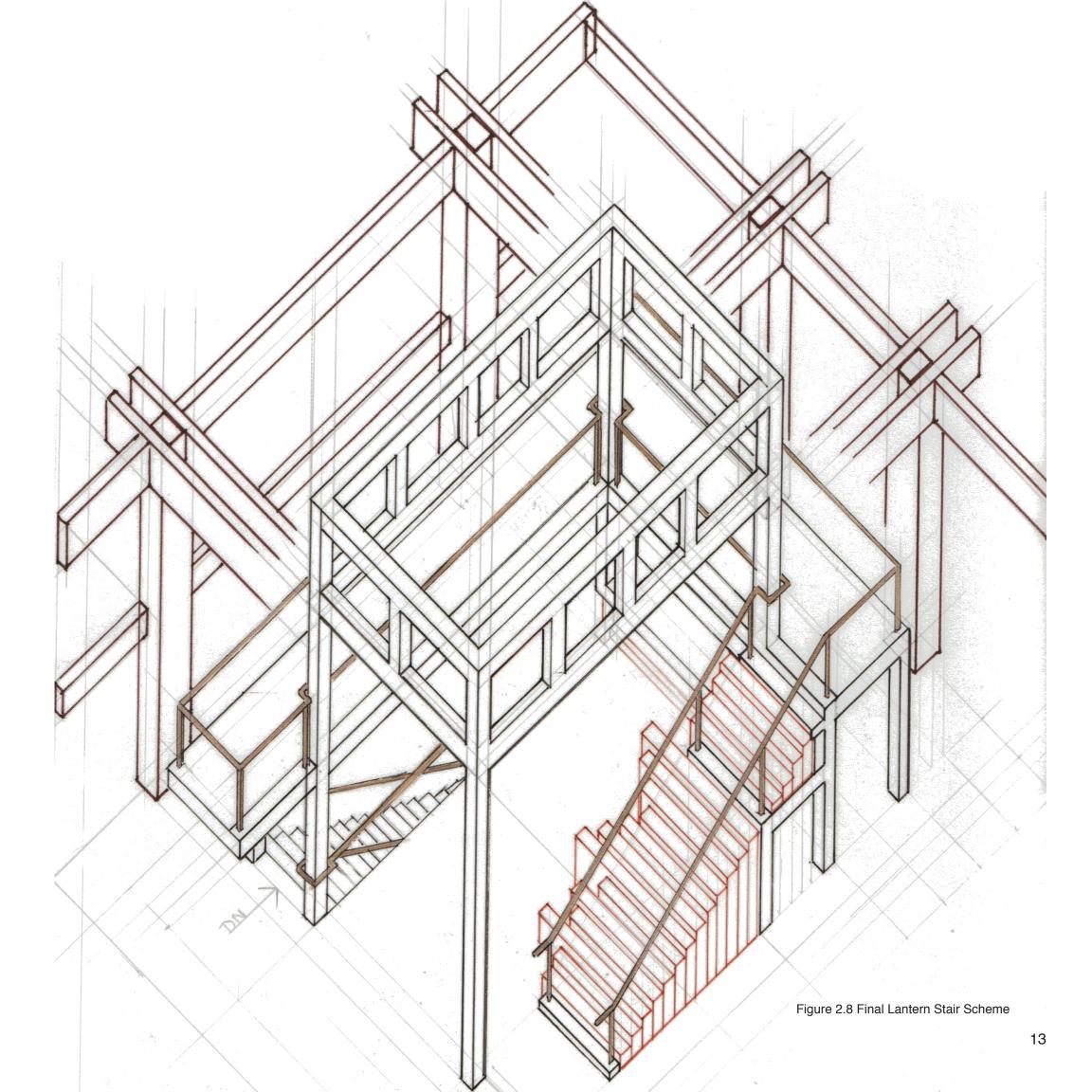
Figure 2.4 Undulating Stair Study Figure 2.5 Corresponding Envelope/Rail





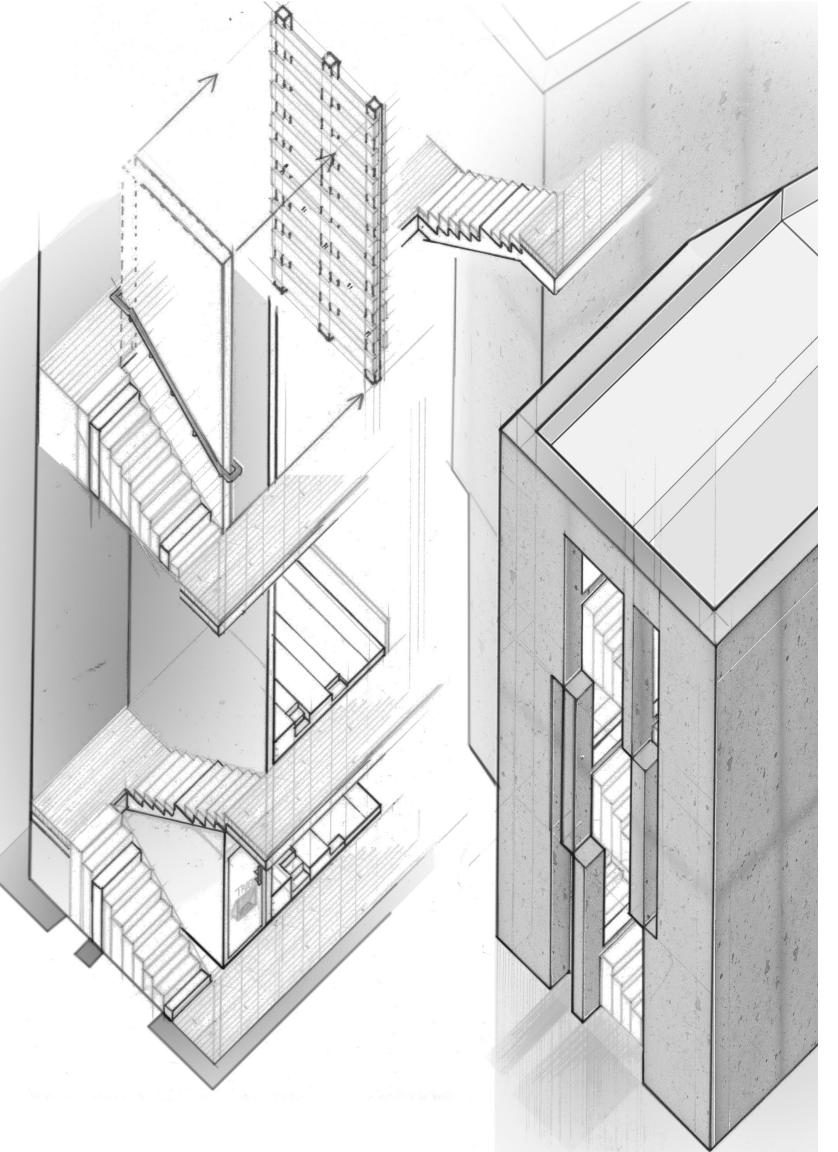
Material properties of concrete requite boundaries in order to take form. Wood, having more movement, is nested between the concrete.

Figure 2.6 Undulating Stir/Latticing Figure 2.7 Stair Detail Sketch



The rules and material boundaries differ for the circulation towers within the main building. Separation of materials can be handled by a number system befitting to the buildings grid (top left). Another way is to use one material for vertical movement and one for stair landings (top right).

Figure 2.9 Tower Stair Concepts Figure 2.10 Tower Stair Sketch



To designate the first tower, the first step is concrete that protrudes from the wall of the tower, then every seventh step is concrete. The pattern continues with each tower having the corresponding number of stairs as the tower, cast in concrete, then every seventh. The window serves as the boundary for the wooden stairs, and the concrete stairs extend past that boundary.

Figure 2.11 Final Tower Stair Scheme

## Lantern

As a guiding light for visitors, The Lantern serves not only as a lobby/ box office, but can house small scale musical engagements as well as private events. The wood latticed enclosure utilizes large areas of glass linking interior and exterior activities.

With three broad, corner doorways the building threshold becomes a variance creating spatial intrigue. Changing with the time of day the wood slats of the building filter light, shadow, reflections, and transparency. The natural wooded setting is brought to the interior during the day, and at night the lively social gathering is projected outside.

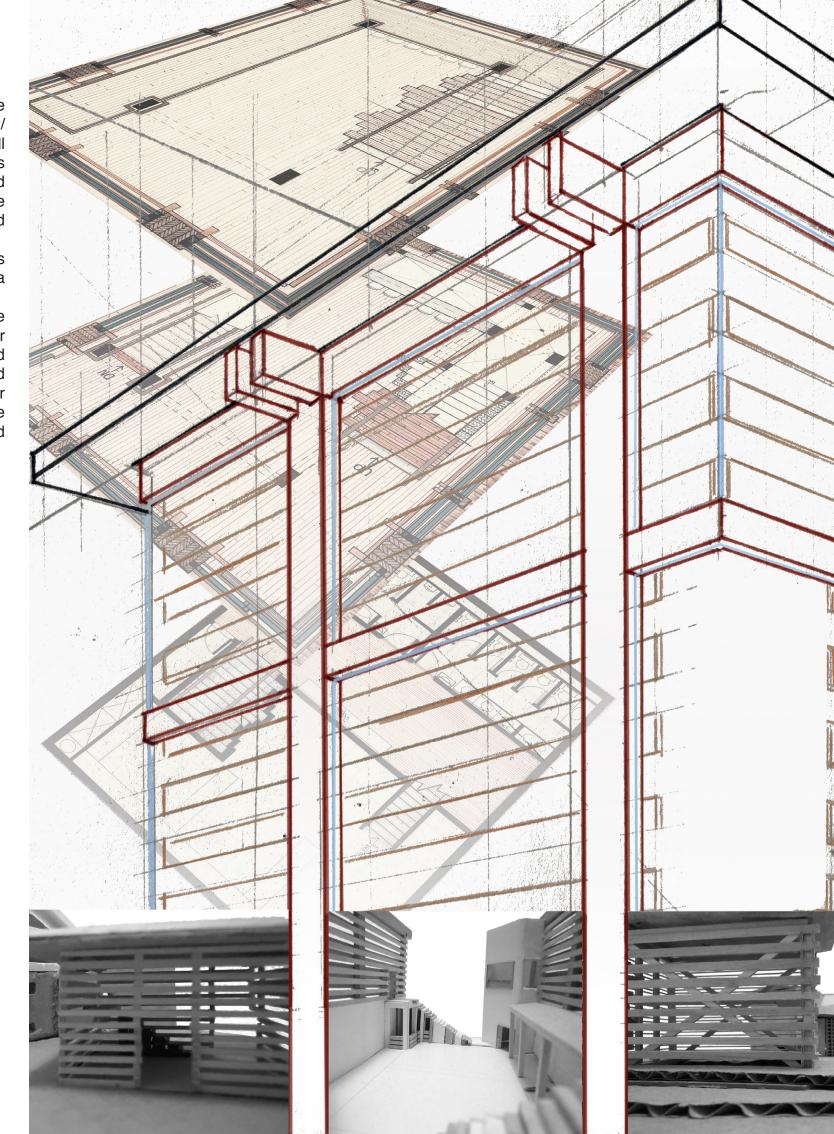
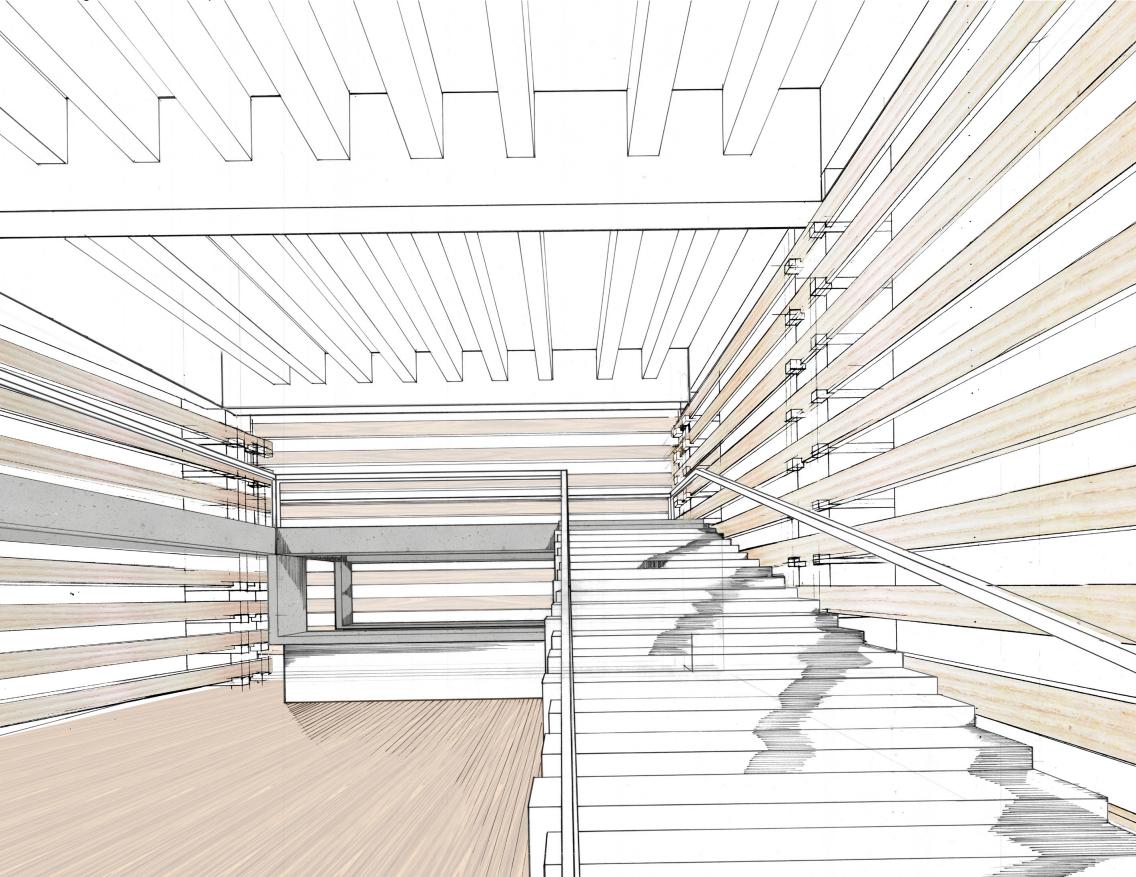


Figure 3.1 Lantern Collage

A free and open floor plan allows guests to utilize the downstairs lounge area or accent the stairs and gather on the open mezzanine. The mezzanine may also serve as a platform for performers.

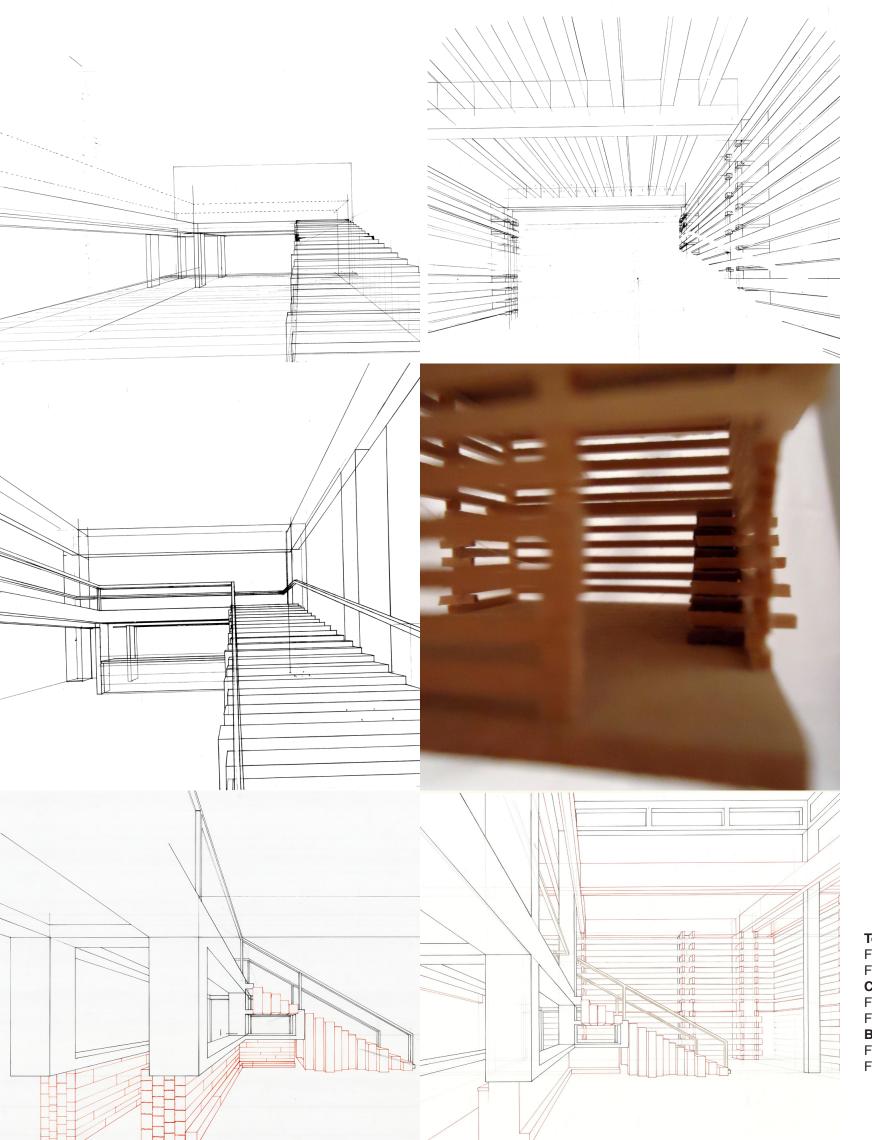
Figure 3.2 Interior Perspective 1



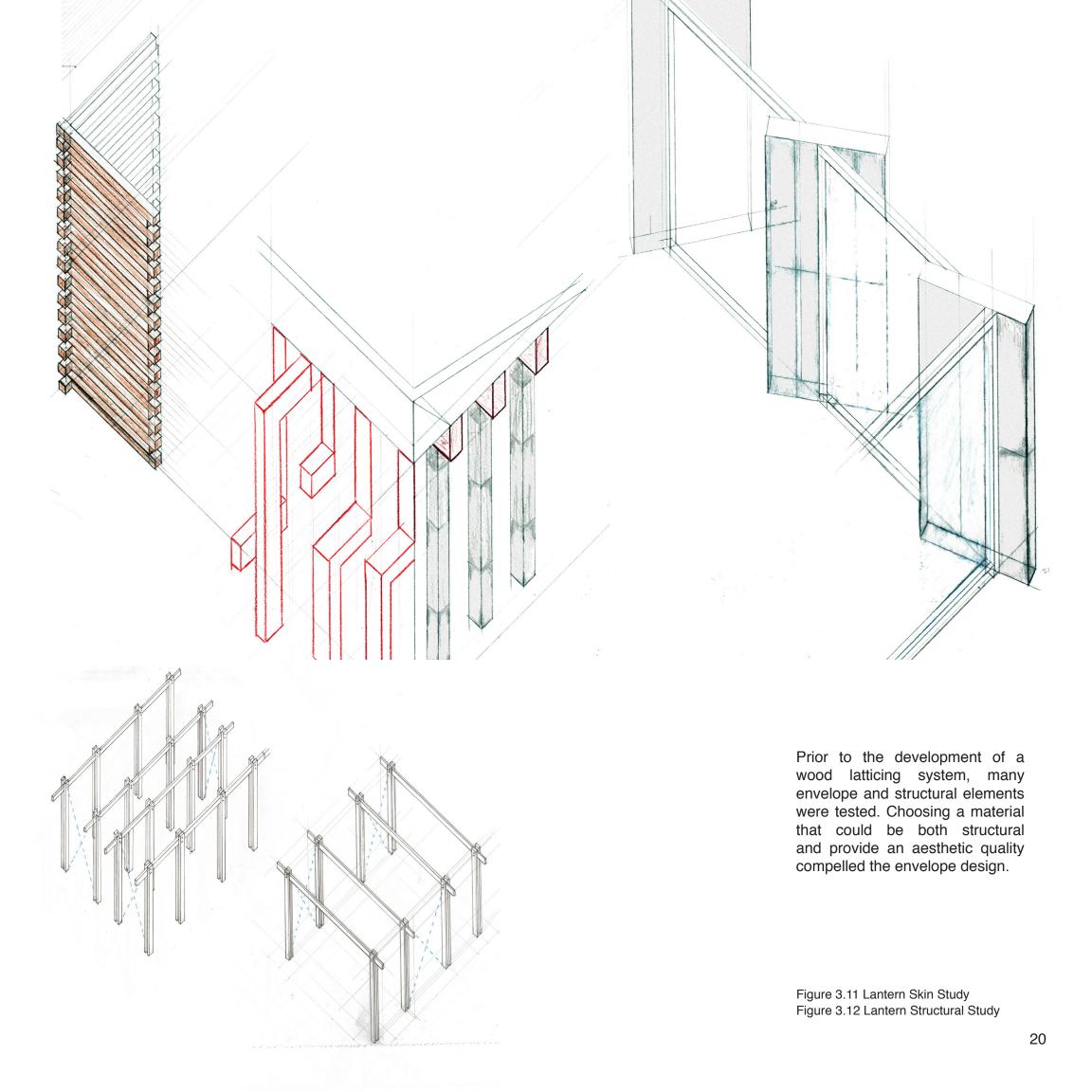


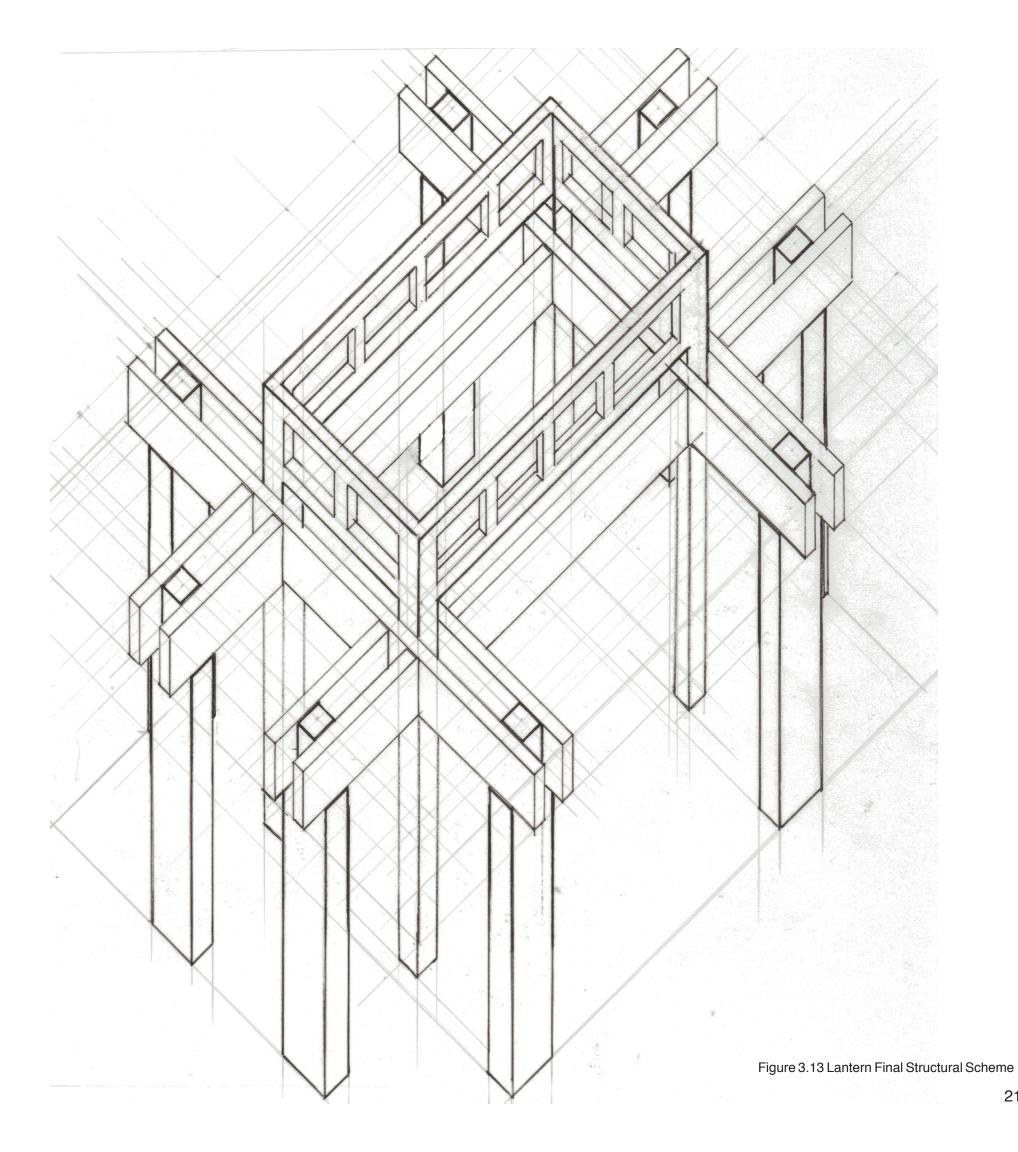
Located under the stairs and mezzanine is the bar that doubles as a ticket counter. Descending stairs are located opposite the lobby leading to public restrooms, leaving the central space open to the double height ceiling.

Figure 3.3 Interior Perspective 2 Figure 3.4 Concept Model Bar Image



Top Figure 3.5 Interior 1 Stair Figure 3.6 Interior 1 latticing Center Figure 3.7 Interior 1 bar/railing Figure 3.8 Concept Model Stair Image Bottom Figure 3.9 Interior 2 Bar Figure 3.10 Interior 2 latticing





## Towers

Located on the northwest side of the main venue are four protruding towers, serving as box seating and vertical circulation. Each level seats sixteen ticket holders, with their own means of circulation. A open walkway crosses each seating area allowing for easy access to the fourth tower. The third floor is the highest balcony seating into the performance space. The fourth tower contains emergency egress stairs and elevator shafts.

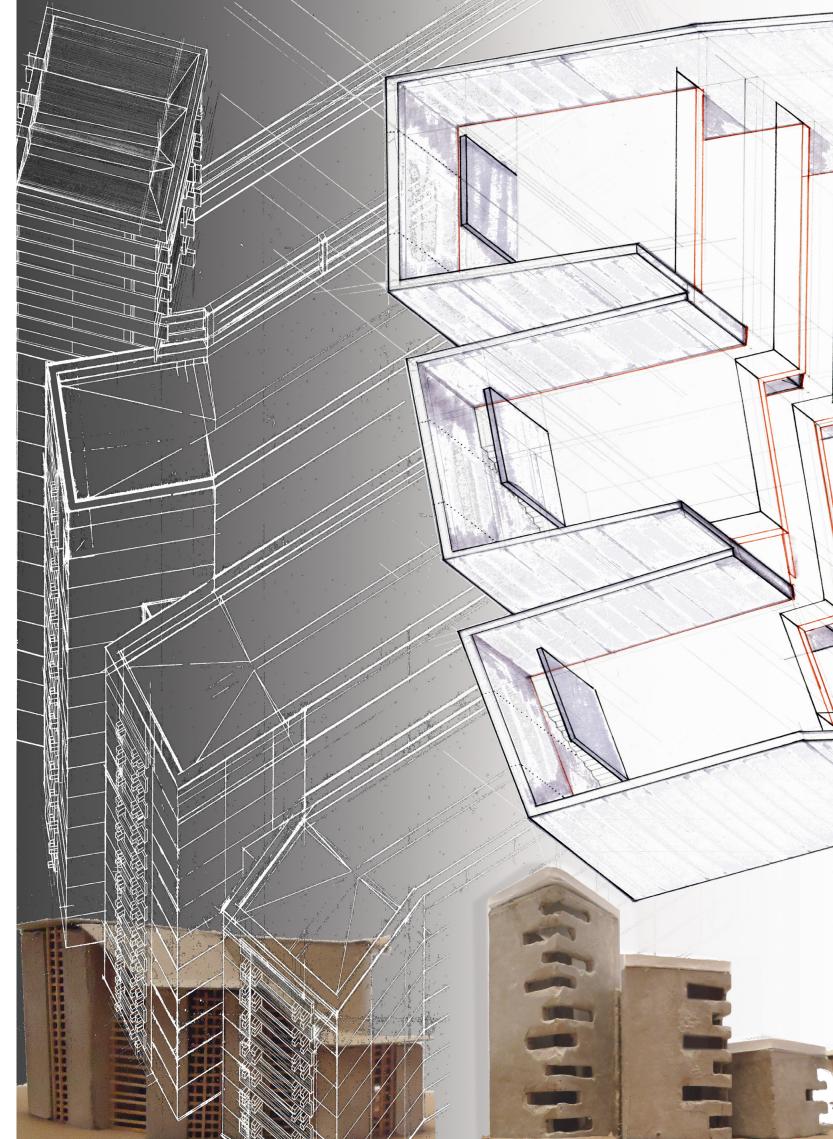
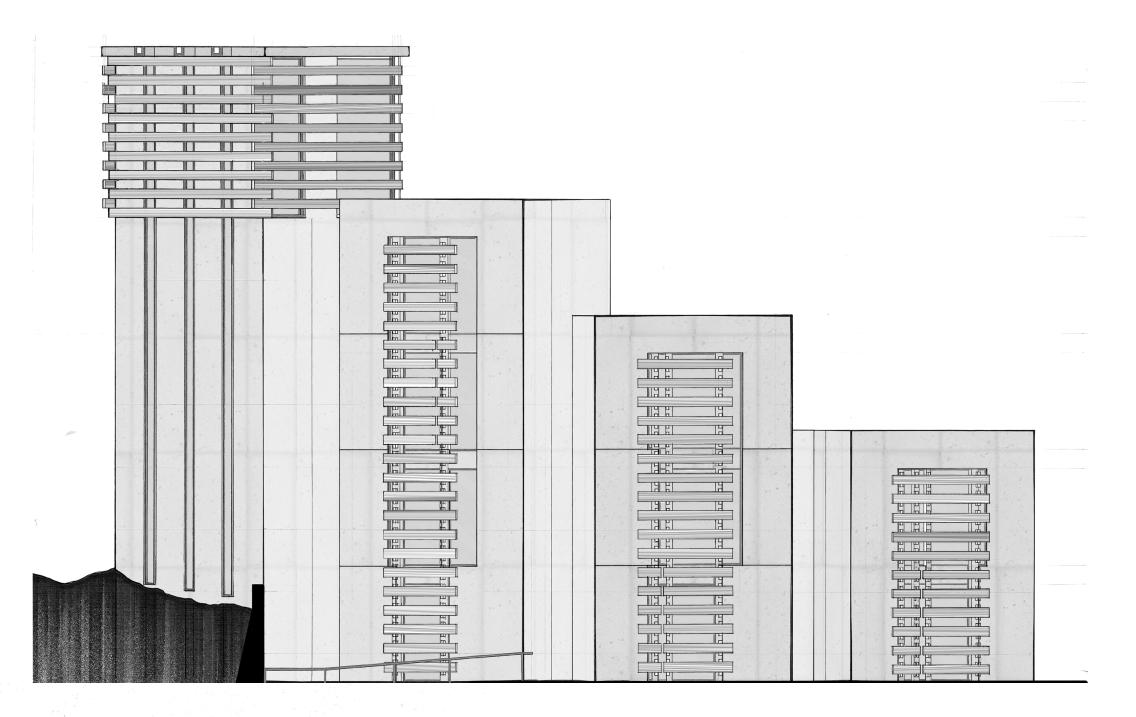


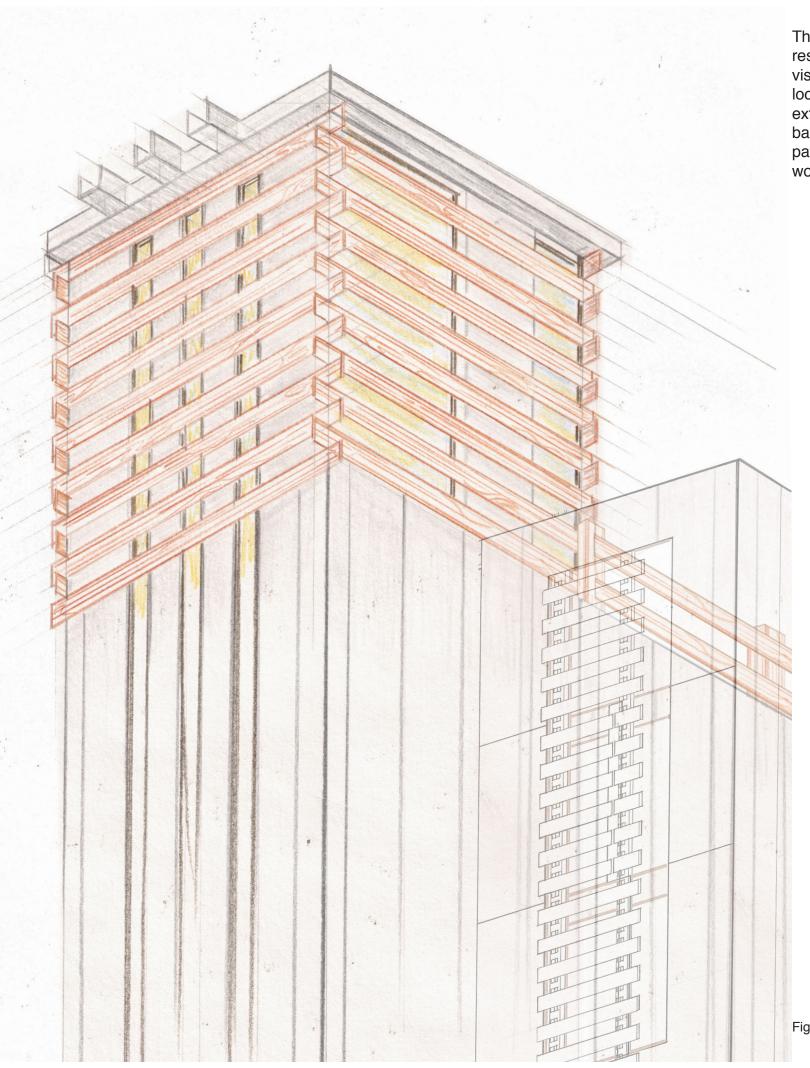
Figure 4.1 Tower Collage





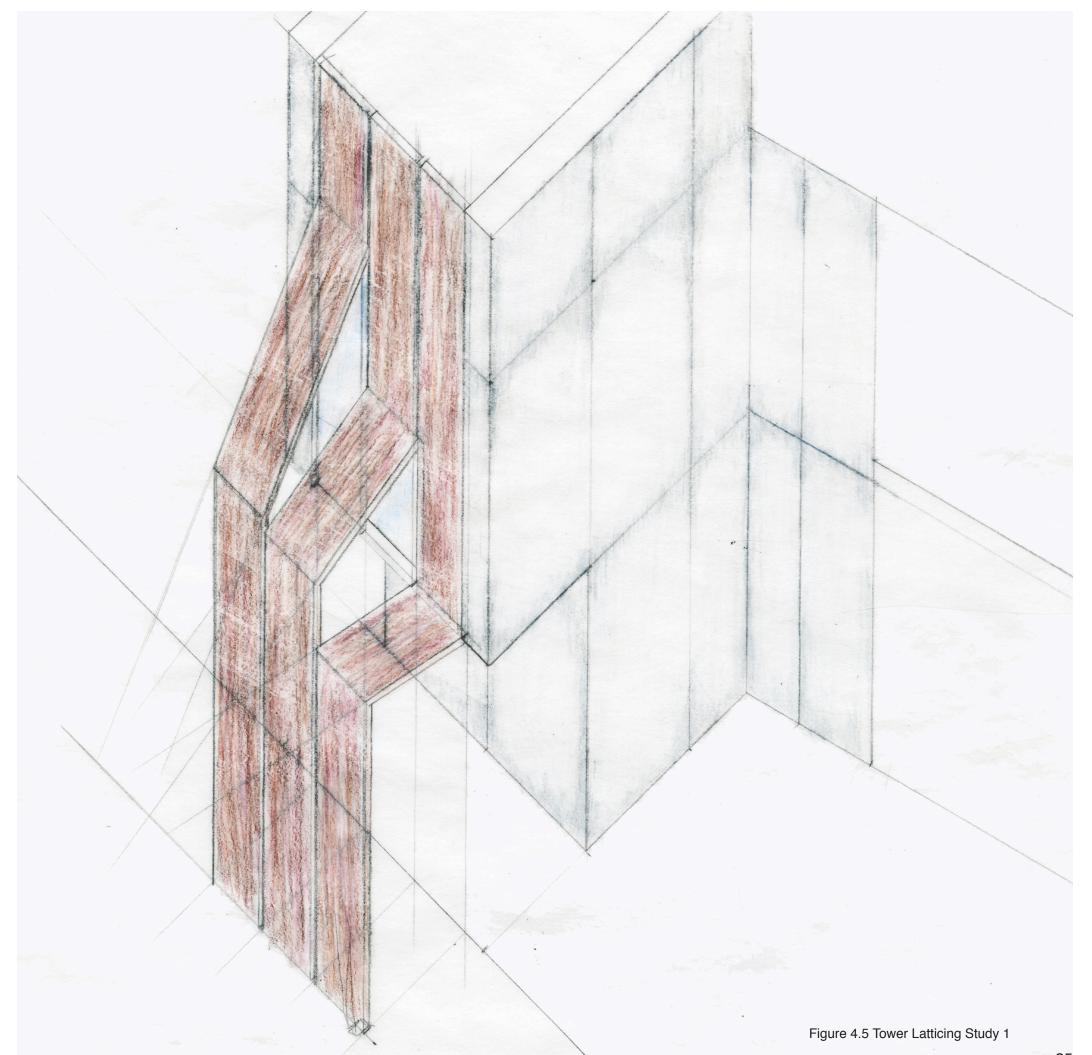
Circulation stairs border the northwest facing windows of the towers, overlooking the outdoor amphitheater. Internal stairs influence the concrete envelope which in turn influence the wood latticing system.

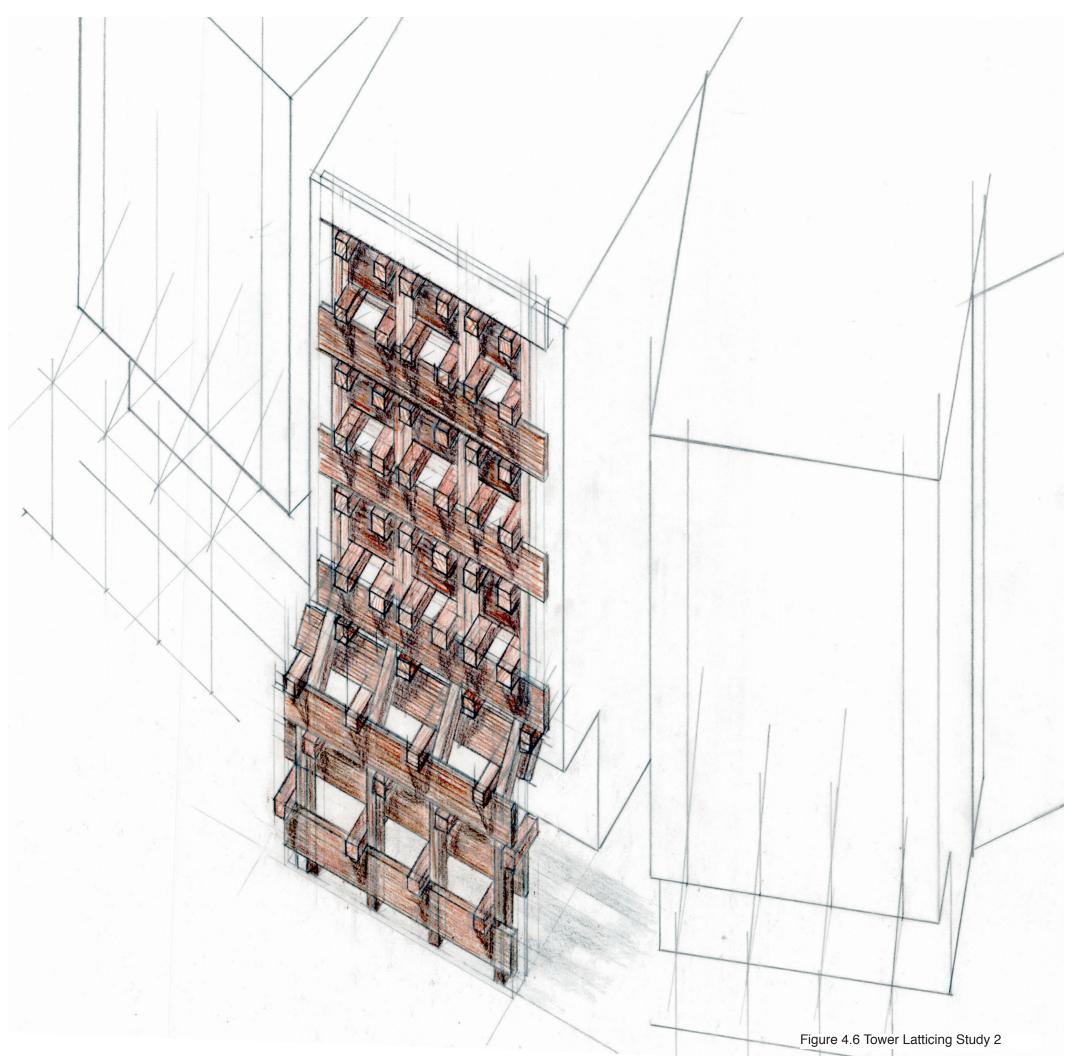
Figure 4.2 Final Tower Facade Figure 4.3 Tower Latticing Model Image

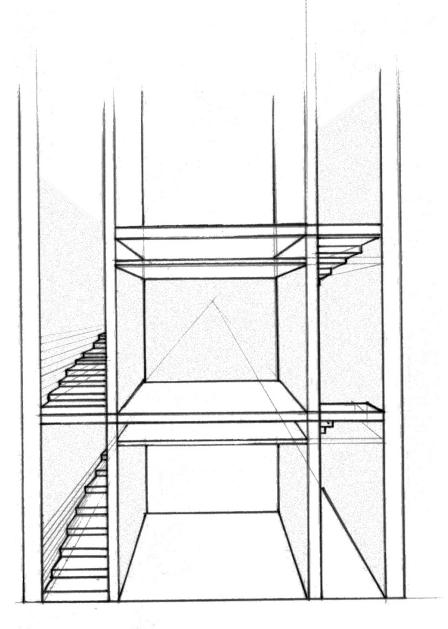


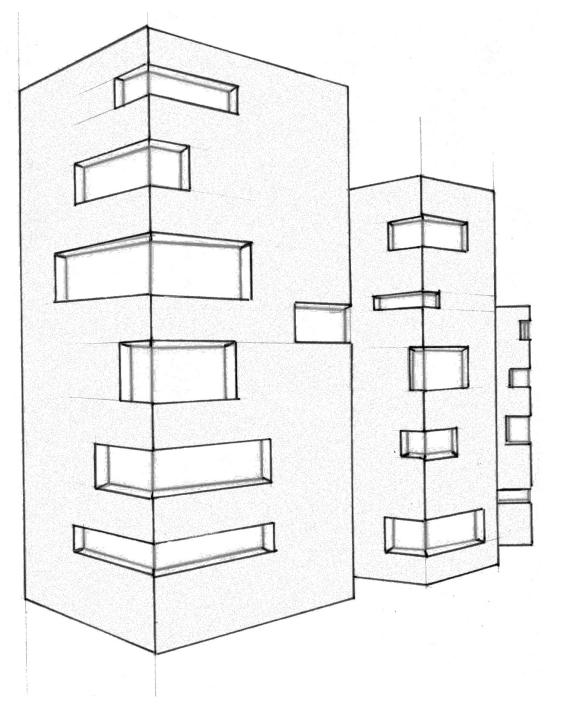
The fourth tower cladding closely resembles The Lantern to attract visitors to the rooftop terrace located on the fifth floor. Decking extends along the entirety of the bay providing sufficient space for patrons to survey the surrounding wooded hillsides.

Figure 4.4 The Beacon





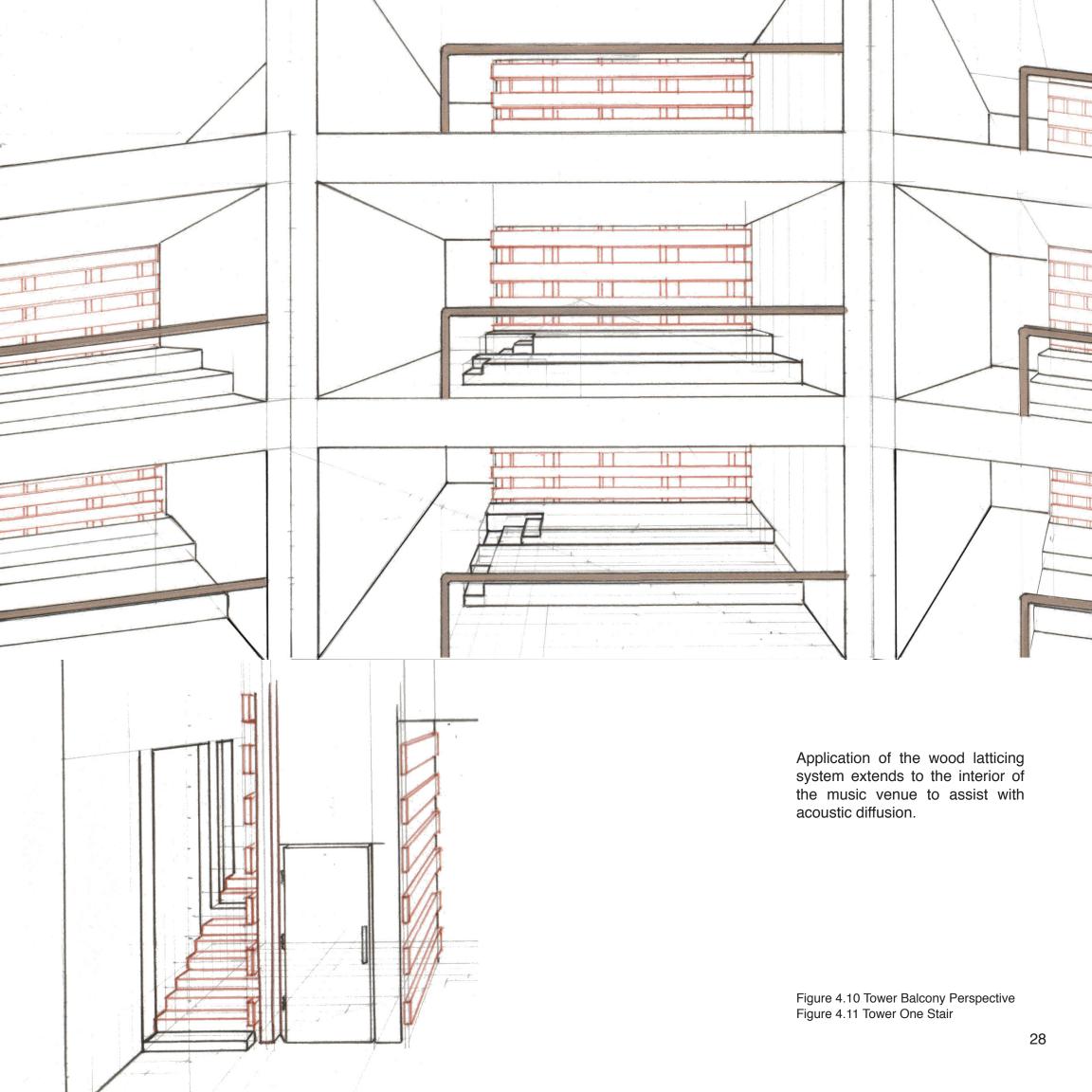




Directing vertical circulation elements within the wall cavity had a corresponding influence on how windows might be implemented. A users movement through the interior of the tower is portrayed with the exterior wrapping of the windows.

Figure 4.7 Tower Wall Stair Cavity Figure 4.8 Tower Corner Window Sketch Figure 4.9 Corner Window Model Image





## **The Complex**

The tension between the music venue and the lantern creates a graceful relationship that one without the other would not be complete.

Wood decking weaves between the venue and amphitheater and runs around the lantern embracing the complex.

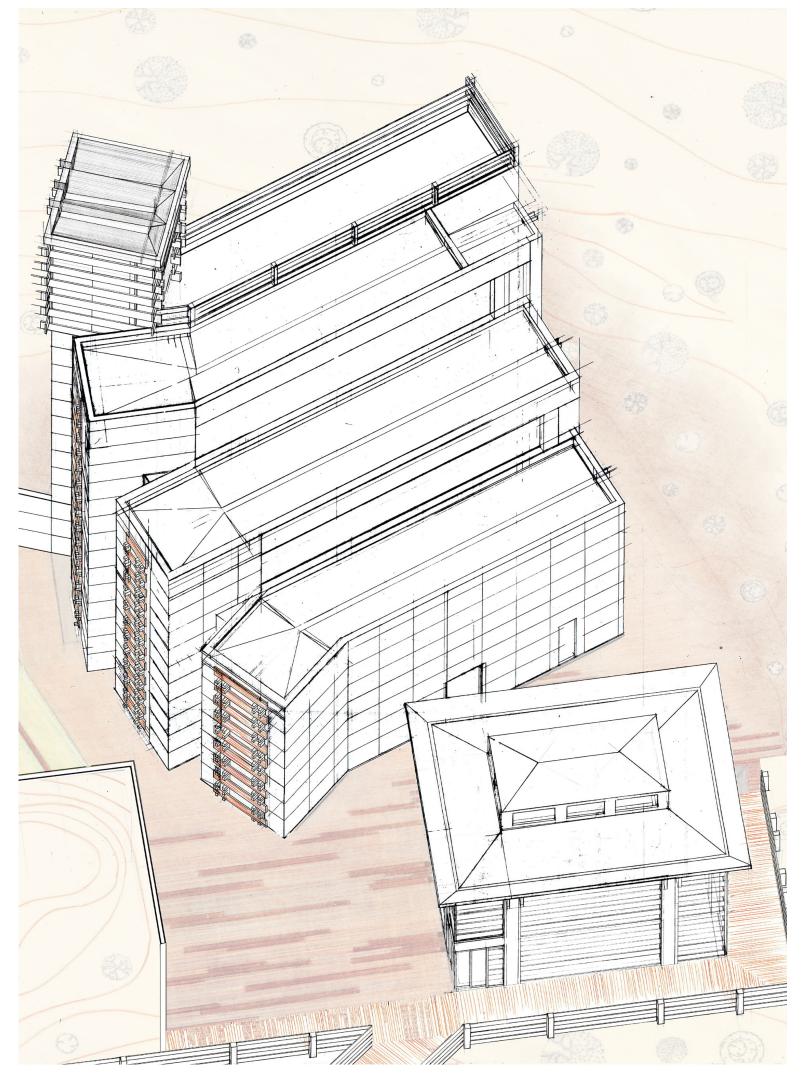


Figure 5.1 Complex Axon

# The Beacon

From street level the only visible element visitors encounter is the beacon extending through the treetops, guiding visitors to the site.

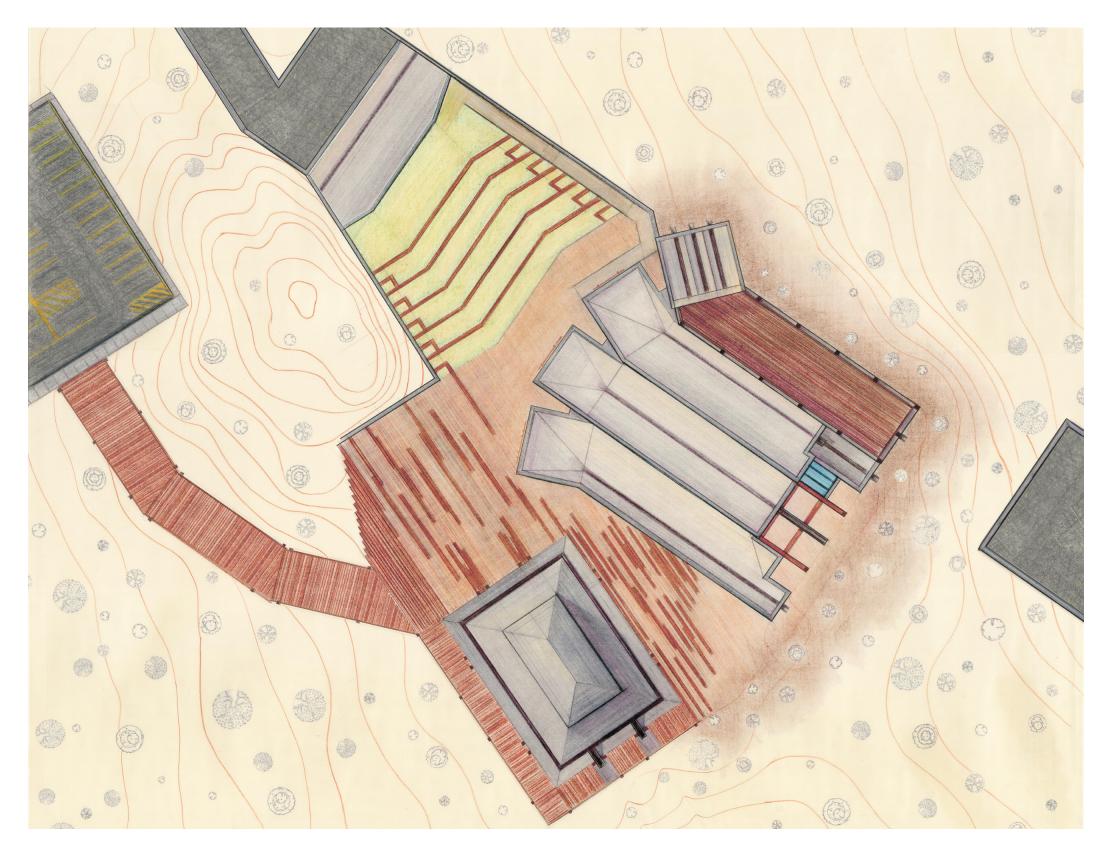


Figure 5.2 Beacon Render



# The Lantern

Cresting the walkway from the parking lot, the glow of the lantern welcomes patrons. This glass clad latticed building serves as a lobby, box office, and lounge.



## Site Plan

The site is imbedded in a hillside surrounded with lush vegetation presenting visitors to visual moments while traversing the complex. Landscape slopes down from the southwest deck and climbs upward on the northeast side of the venue.

## **First Floor**

## Venue

Lower section seats 110 patrons with three box seating areas seating an additional 50 patrons. The fourth bay of the building consists of a circulation tower with egress stairs and two elevator shafts, along with public restrooms.

THE

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Figure 5.5 First Floor

## **Second Floor**

#### Lantern

The undulating stairs lead to a mezzanine overlooking the interior space of the lantern. There are many uses for this building from a small music event to a reception space.

#### Venue

The back of each tower has its own set of stairs, a balcony walkway in front of each seating area, allowing for easier movement to each tower and the fourth bay. The fourth bay consists of a bar/ lounge area, private restrooms, and office space. A secondary emergency exit is located by the fourth tower, evacuating along the northeast side of the venue.

Figure 5.6 Second Floor

## **Third Floor**

### Lantern

The roof drainage slopes towards the southeast side of the building where it pours from two large scuppers. When raining the drainage will be seen through horizontal slats behind the bar.

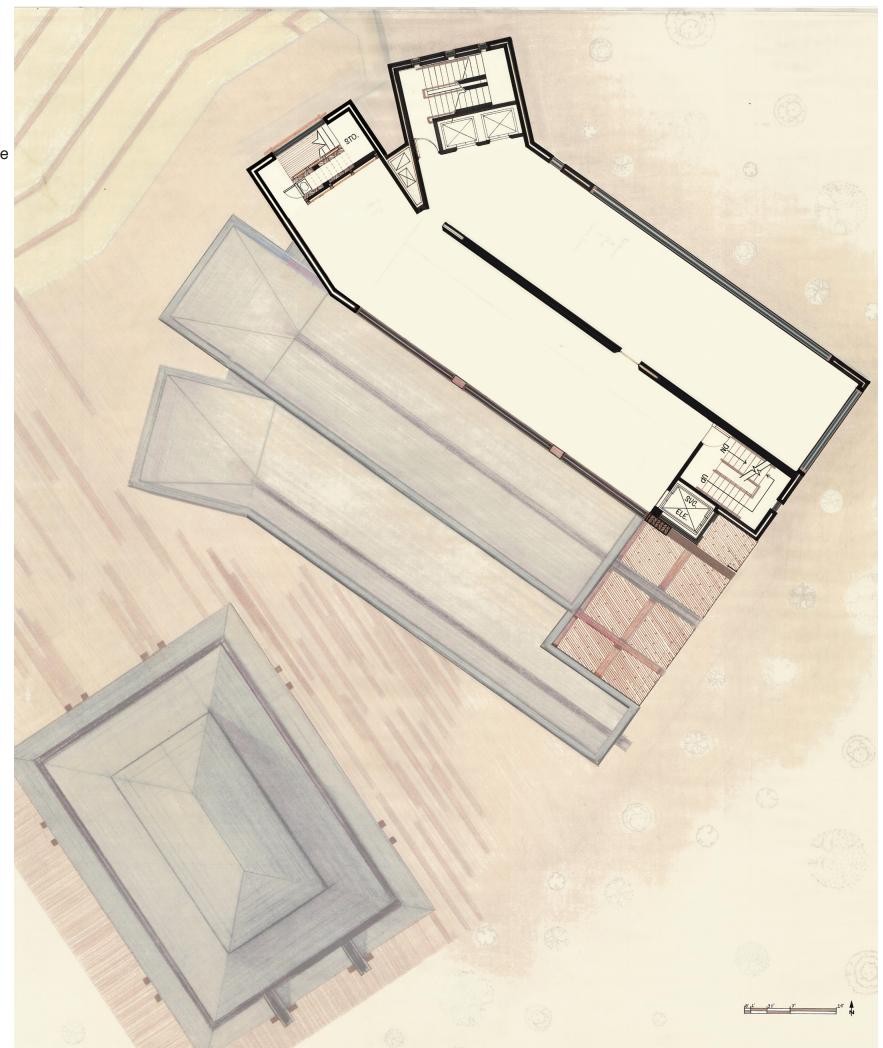
### Venue

There are two remaining box seating areas on this level as well as a second full bay of restrooms in the fourth bay. The catwalk and above stage circulation is accessible on this floor.

## Fourth Floor

## Venue

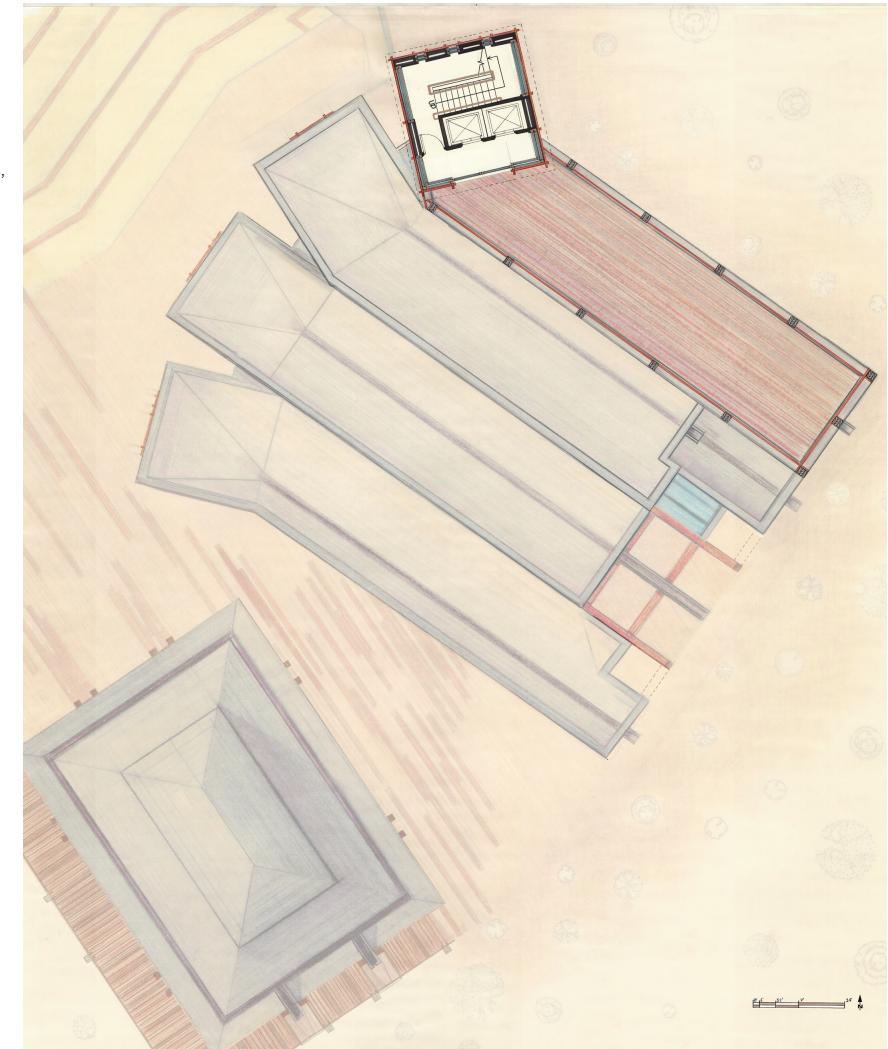
Closed to patrons this space is open for venue operations office space, with large views opening onto the southwest and northeast side of the complex.



## **Fifth Floor**

## Venue

The fourth tower extends up to the rooftop terrace overlooking the surrounding hillsides, accessible to all patrons and staff.



## **Basement**

### Lantern

The basement is split into two separate areas: one side is the public restrooms, the other side leads under the stairs from the bar for storage and mechanical equipment.

### Venue

Situated in the basement underneath the stage is the greenroom. This underground location creates a quieter and more serene area overlooking a private patio that extends into the forest. Equipped with a kitchen, bar, dressing rooms, and private restrooms. Past the performer amenities is a large loading bay, storage area, and mechanical equipment rooms.

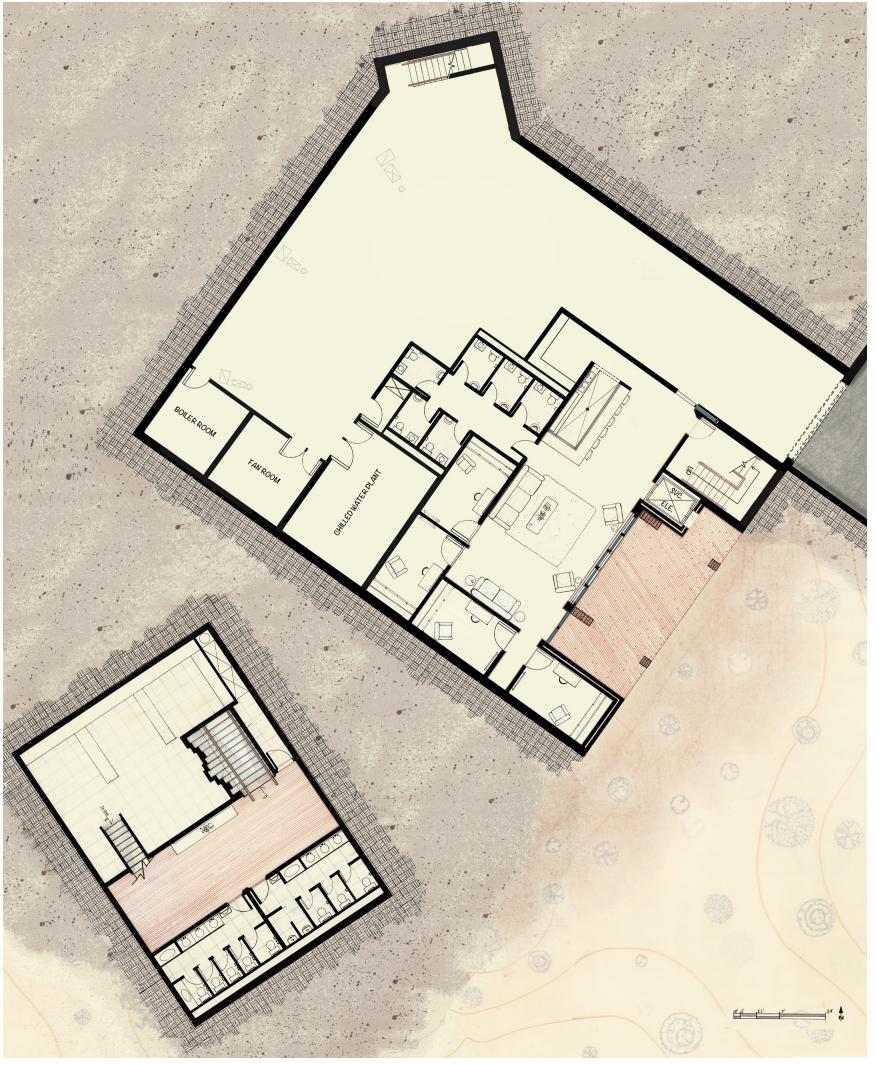


Figure 5.10 Basement

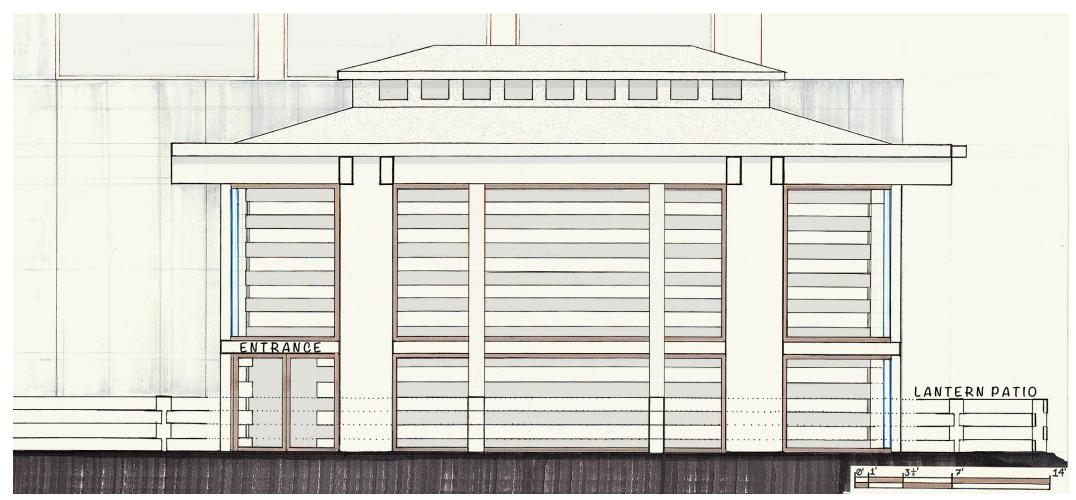


Figure 6.1 Lantern Southwest Elevation



Figure 6.2 Lantern Northeast Elevation

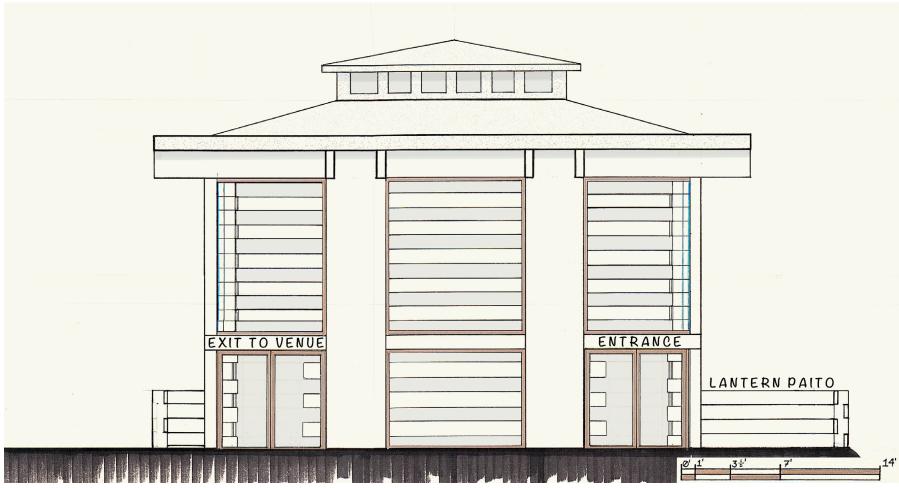


Figure 6.3 Lantern Northwest Elevation

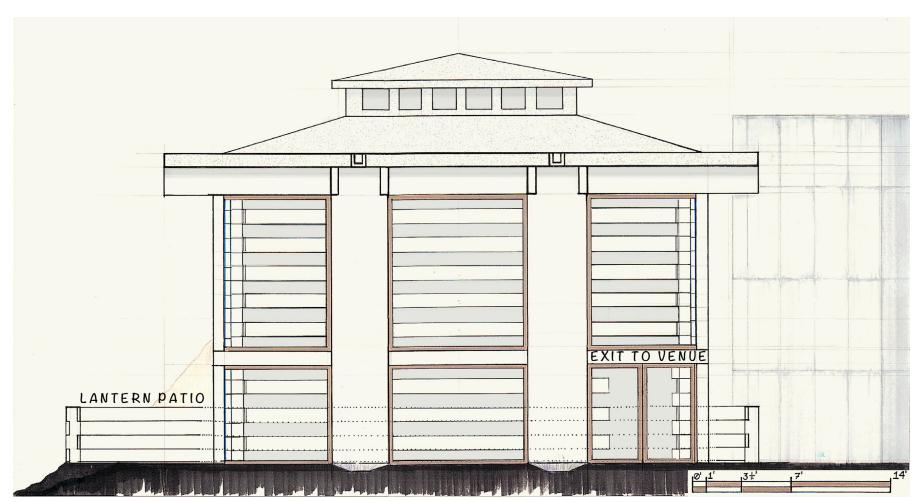
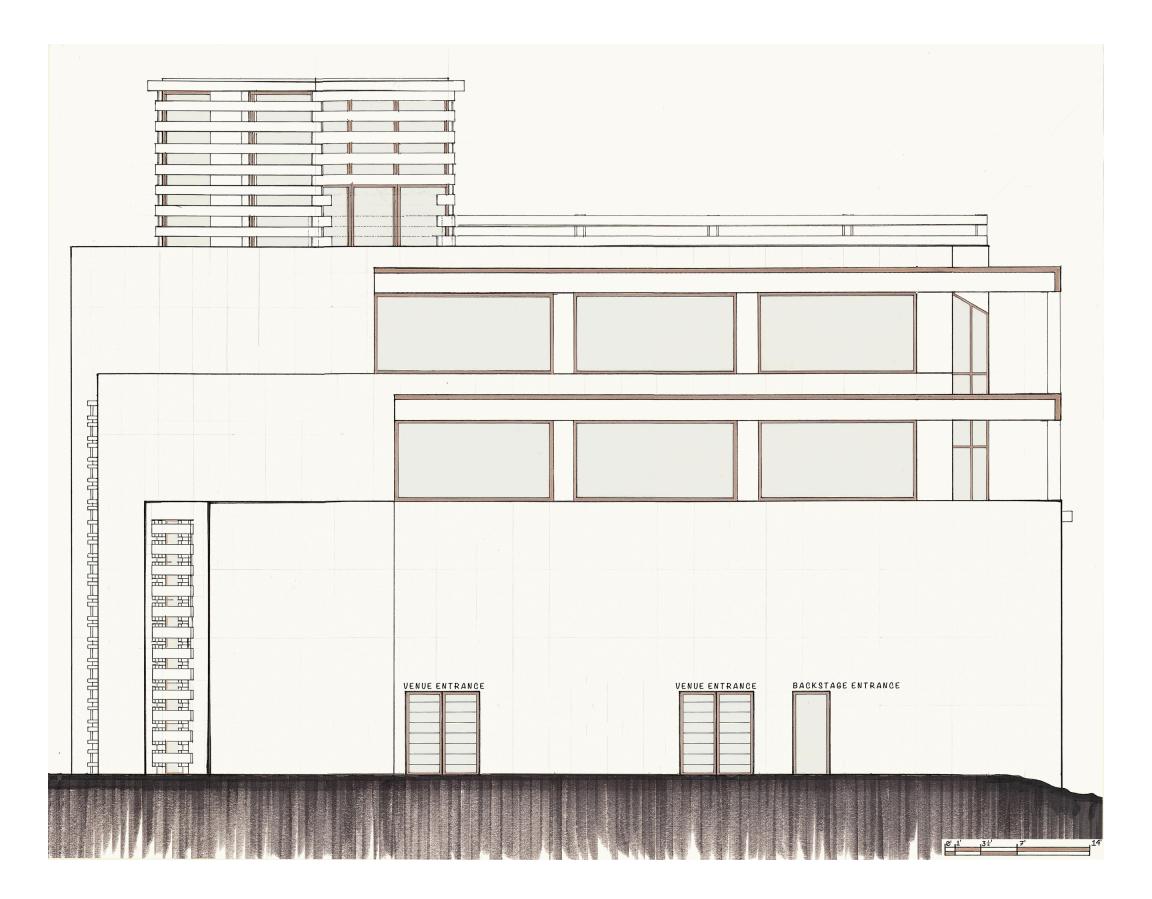
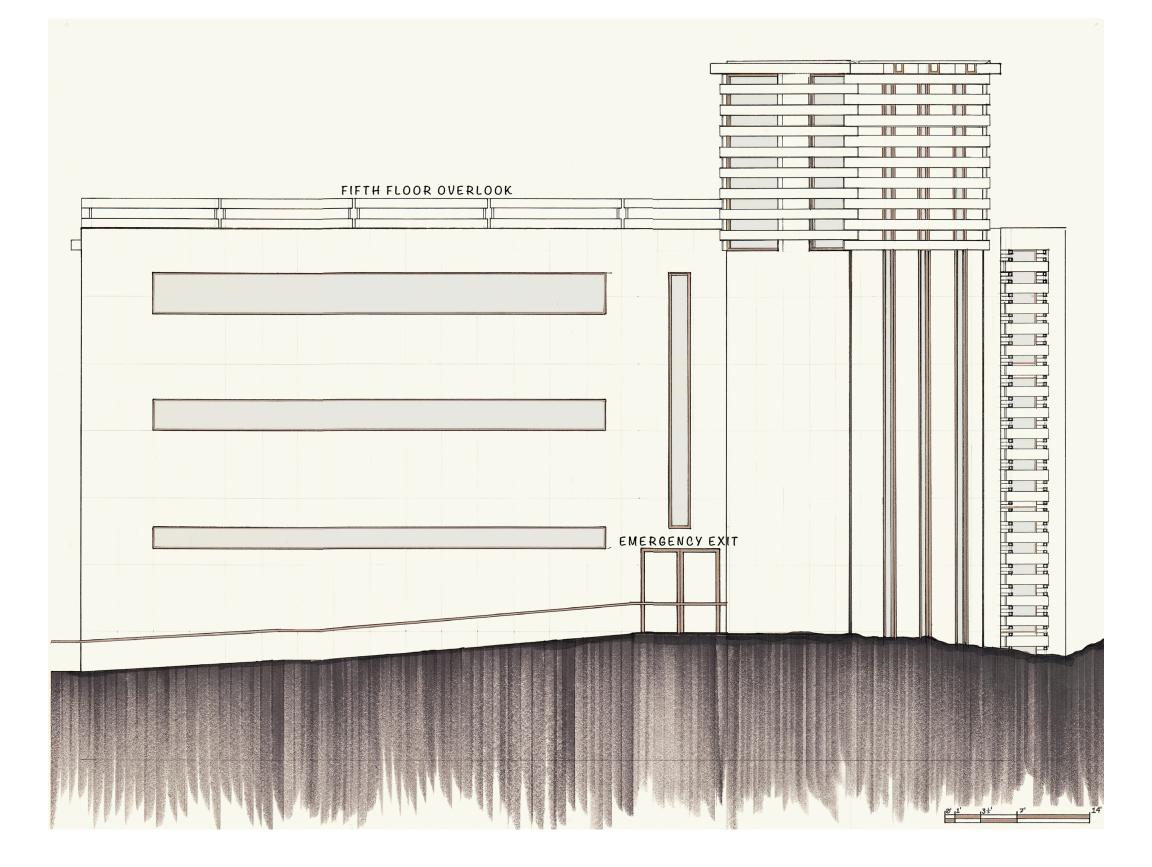
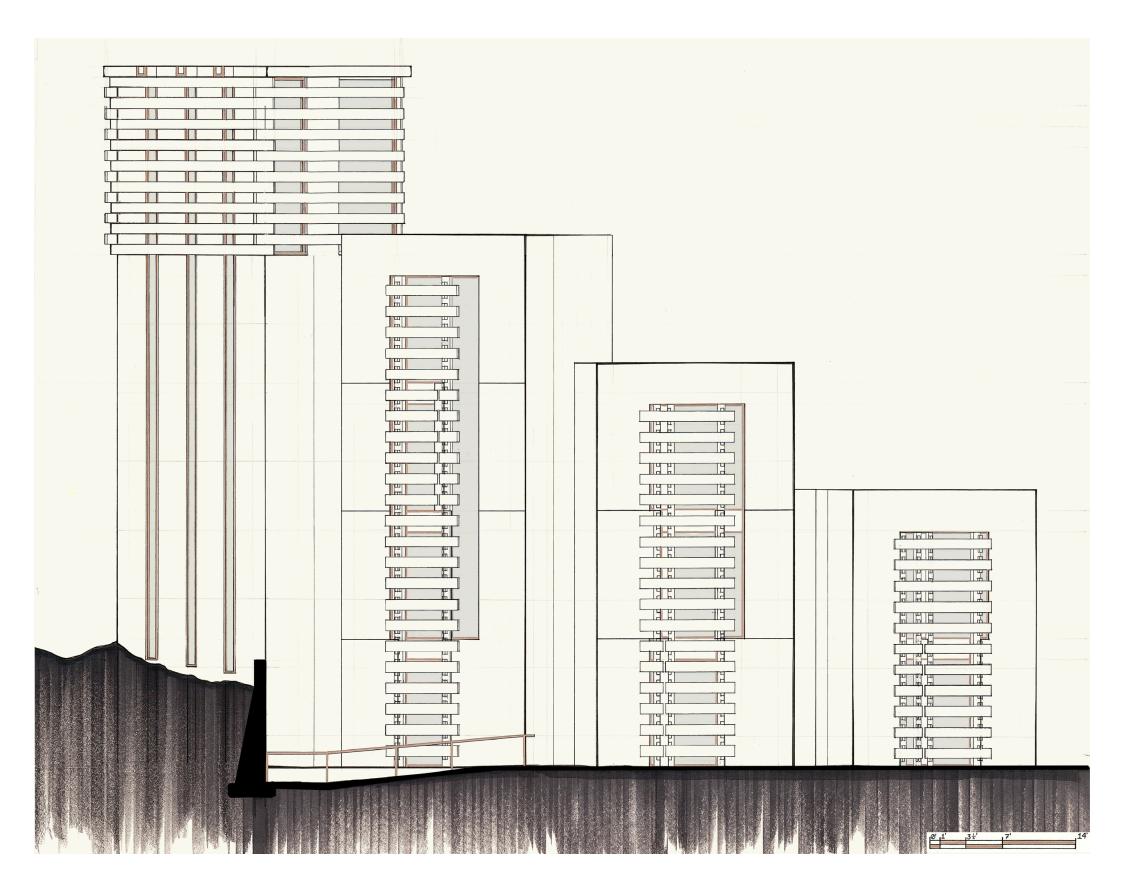
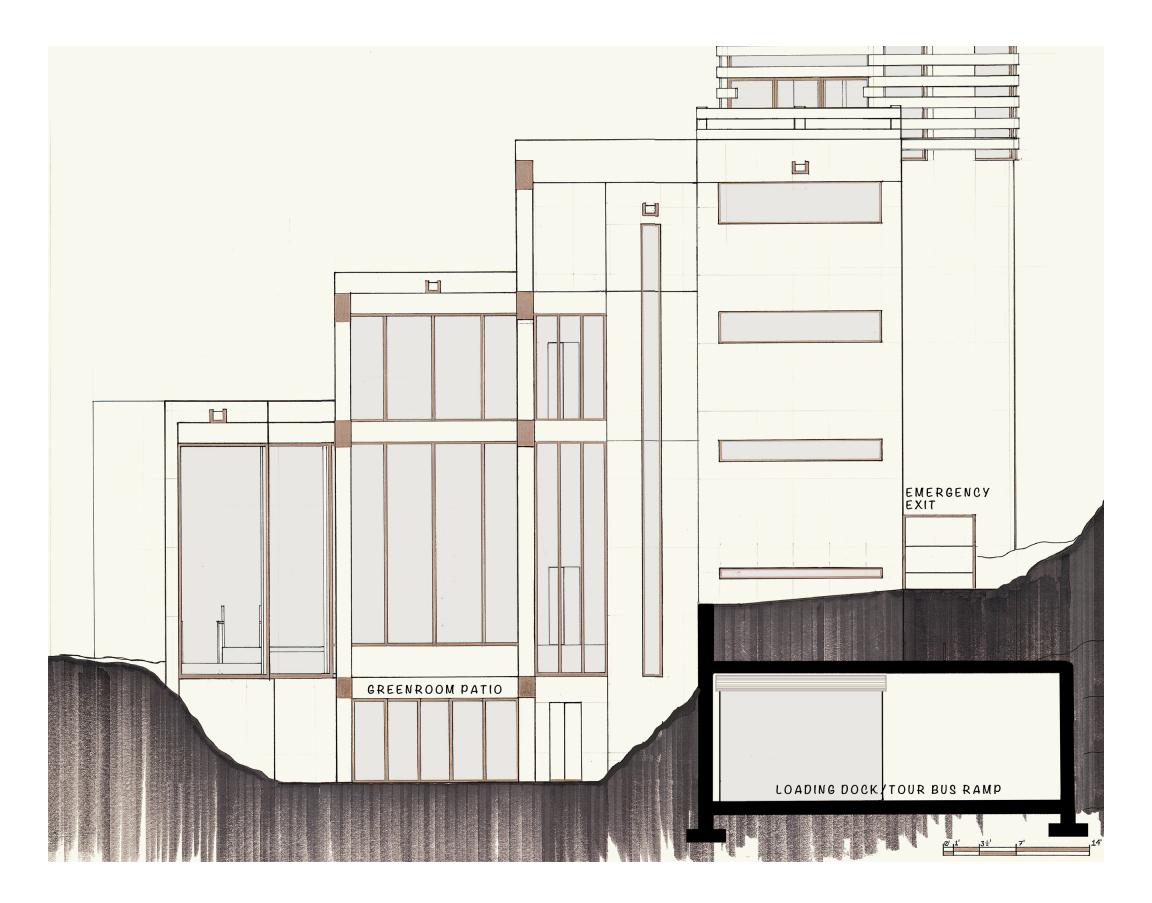


Figure 6.4 Lantern Southeast Elevation



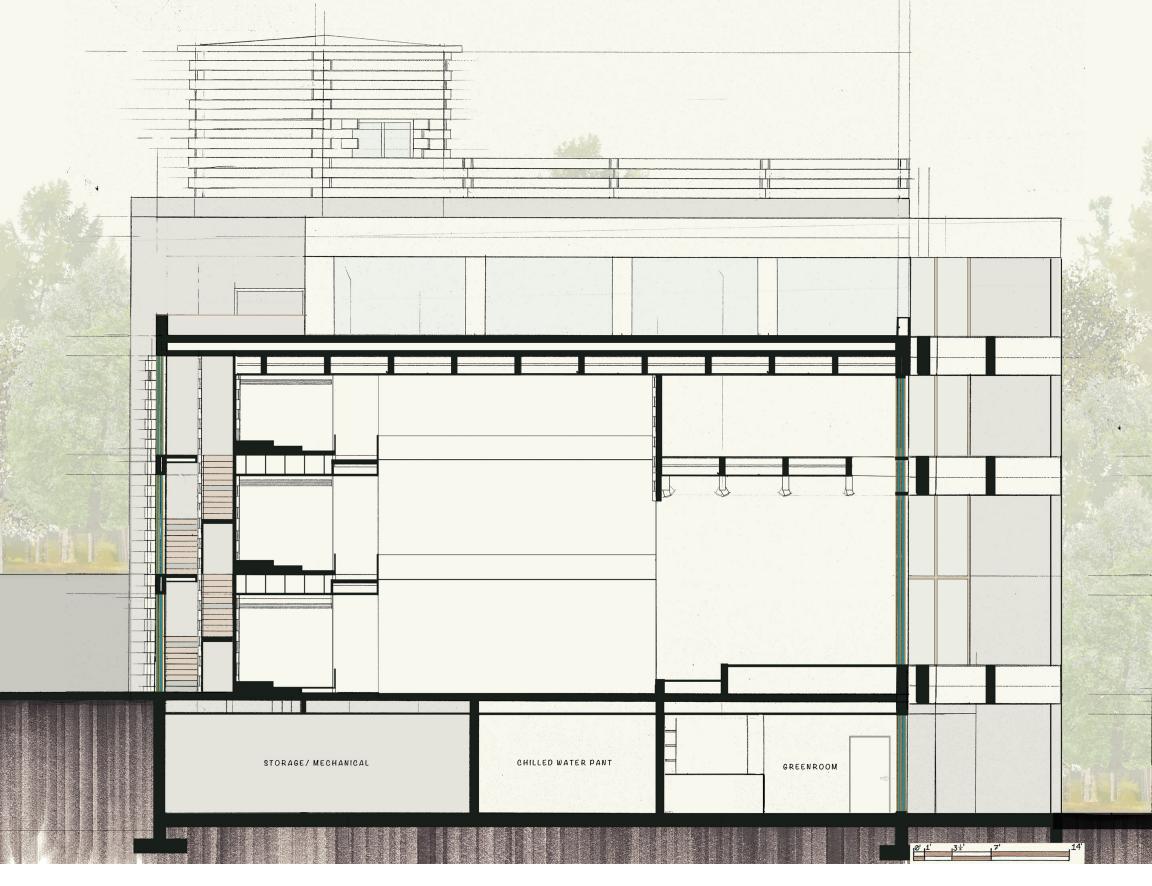




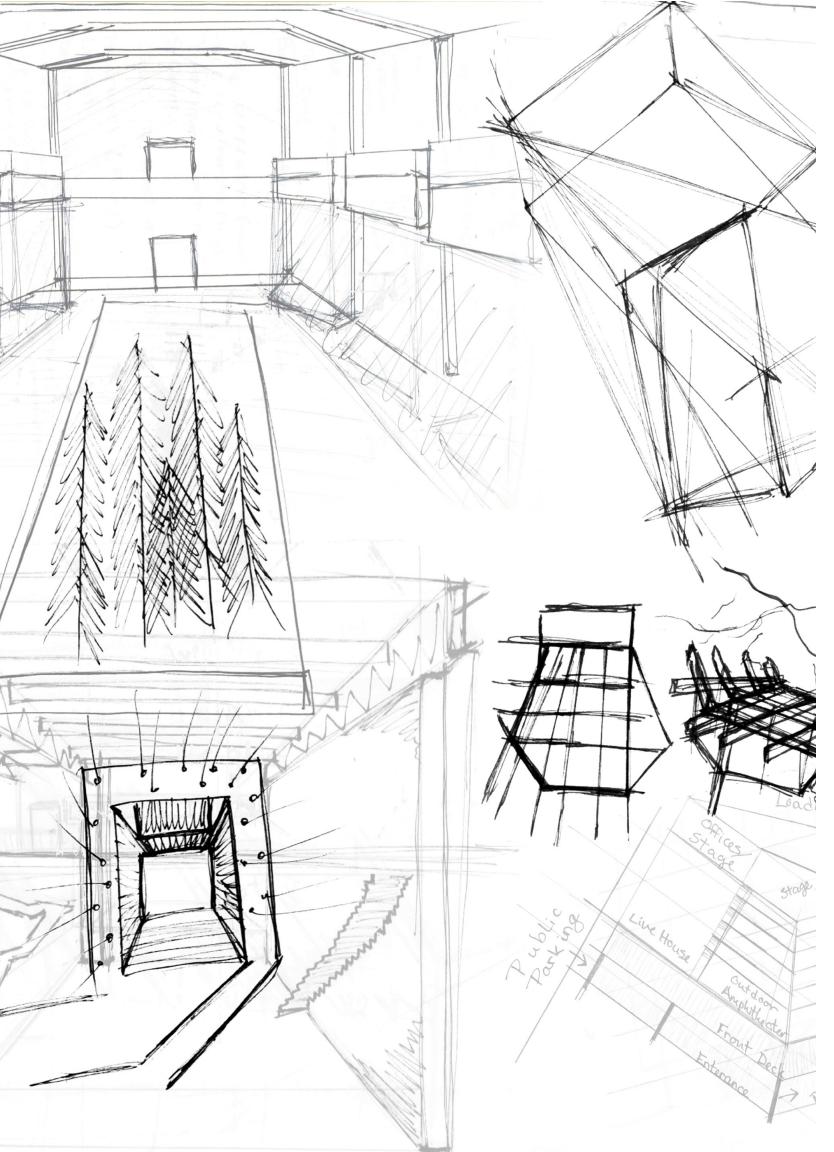




Stage backdrop frames exterior elements.



Structural beams extend past building envelope making a quadruple-height, massive pergola over the private patio.



# Appendix

## Tri-Design

Design concept places three different venue types on one site a concert hall, an outdoor amphitheater and a live house.

#### **Live House**

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Design concept influenced by the Japanese underground venue where patrons prefer to attend solely for the love of music instead of the social and drinking scene.

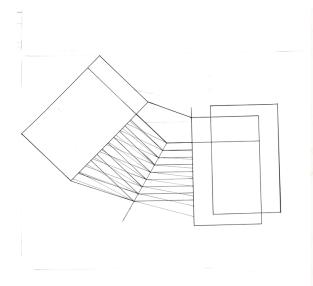
### Concert Hall

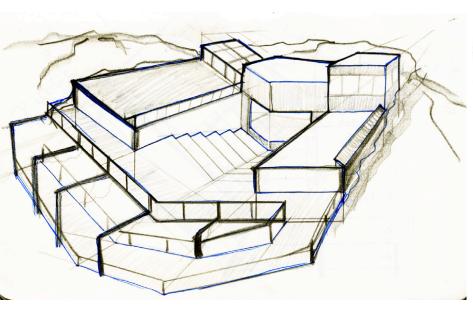
Design concept with an intricate balcony seating arrangement, focused on symmetry, a lobby that has a separate feel than the interior of the concert hall.

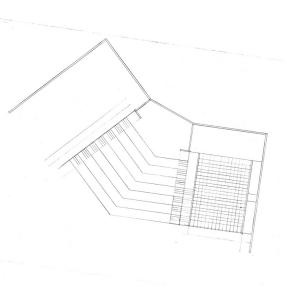
### **Final Complex**

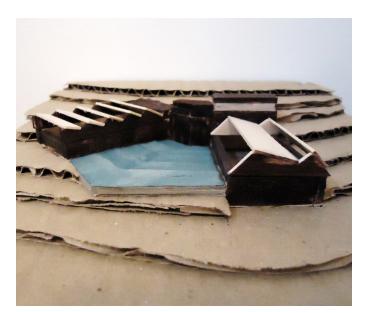
62 Design concept separates the lobby from the main venue. Any symmetry is removed and towers extend into bays of the performance space.

Figure 8.1 Concept 1 Collage



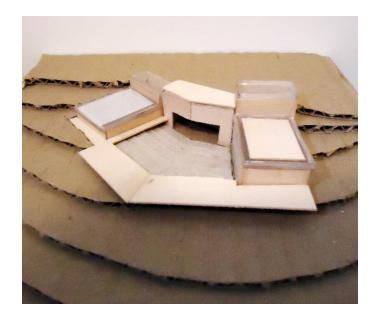


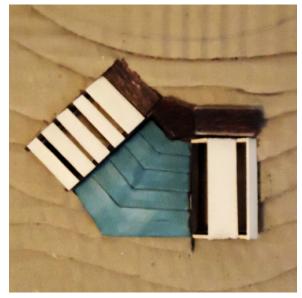


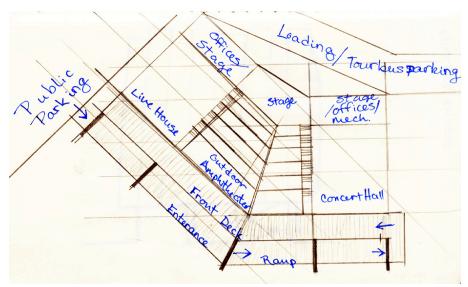


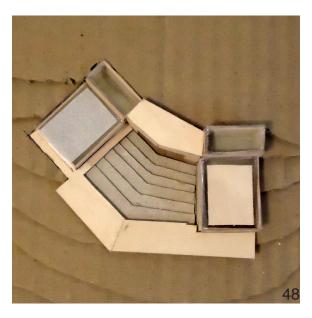
## Tri-Design

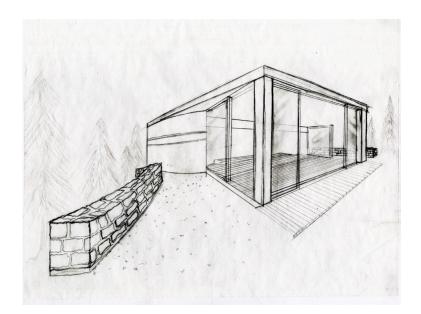
Figure 8.2 Site Grid Figure 8.3 Exterior Perspective Figure 8.4 Preliminary Floor Plan Figure 8.5 Study Model 1 Image Figure 8.6 Study Model 2 Image Figure 8.7 Study Plan 1 Image Figure 8.8 Floor Plan Figure .9 Study Plan 2 Image





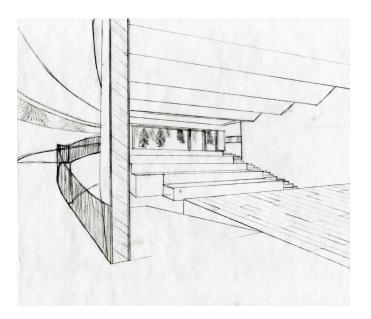


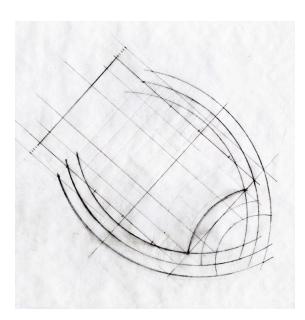


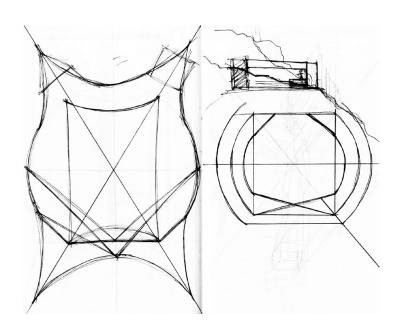


### Live House

Figure 9.1 Exterior Perspective With Stone Wall Figure 9.2 Interior Perspective Towards Stage Figure 9.3 Interior Perspective Towards Seating Figure 9.4 Prelim Floor Plan Figure 9.5 Building Plan Sketches Figure 9.6 Floor Plan







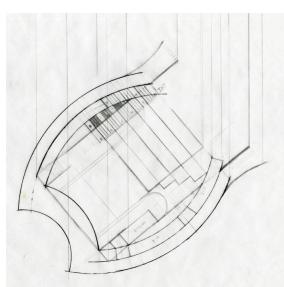
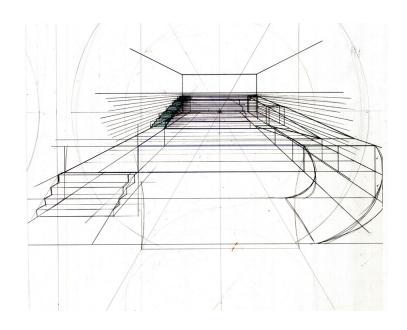
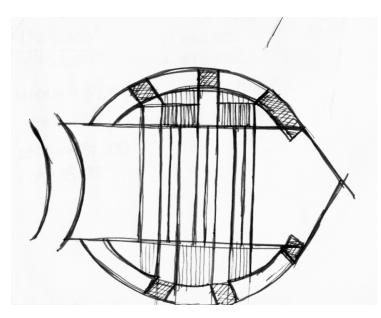
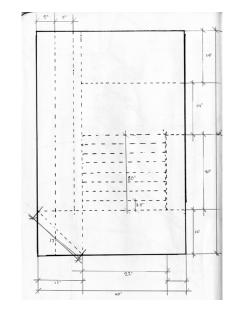
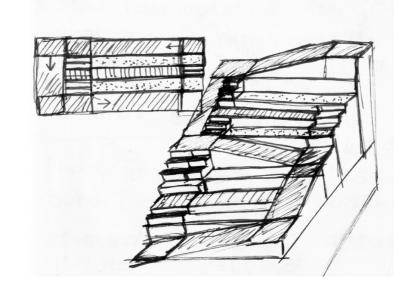


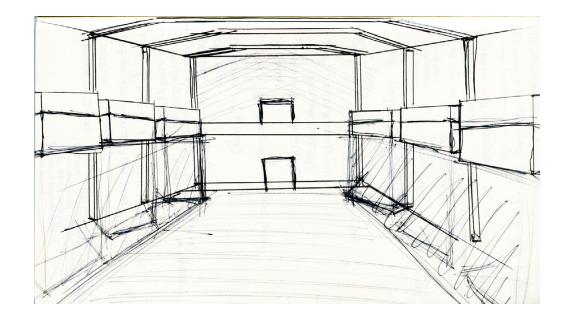
Figure 9.7 Interior Stair/Ramp Layout Figure 9.8 Floor Plan Sketch Figure 9.9 Square Floor Plan Sketch Figure 9.10 Square Stair/Ramp Scheme Figure 9.11 Balcony Perspective Figure 9.12 Structural/Circulation Sketch

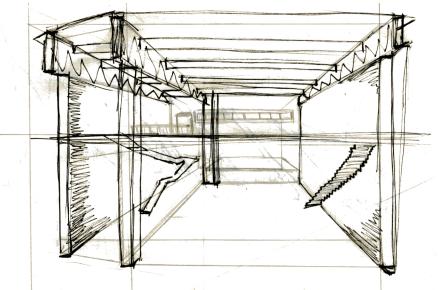


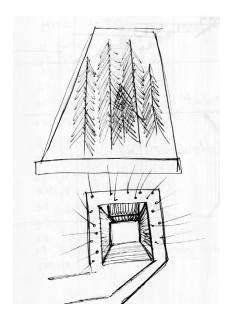






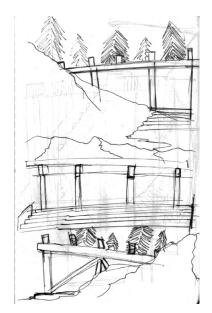


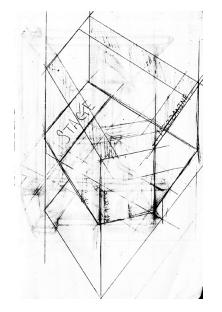


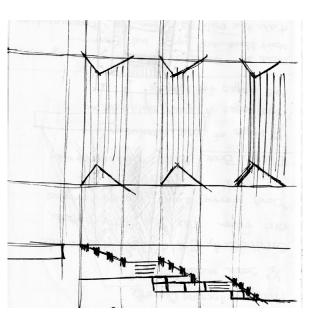


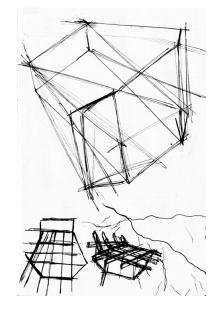
#### Live House

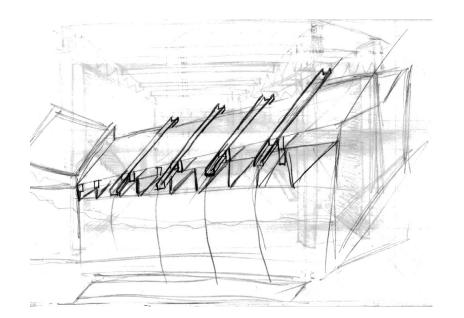
Figure 9.13 Forest Integration Sketch Figure 9.14 Building Submersion Figure 9.15 Building Layers Sketch Figure 9.16 Interior Plan Stair/Balcony Figure 9.17 Building Axon Sketch Figure 9.18 Roof Drainage Sketch Figure 9.19 Plan and Section Sketches

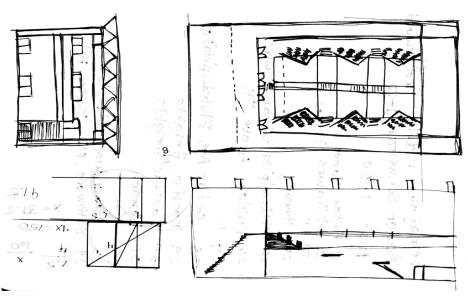


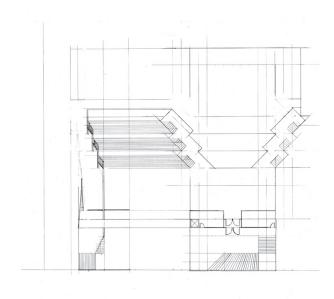


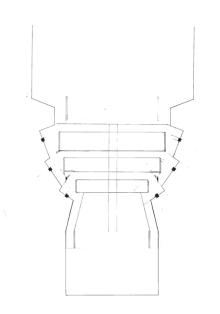


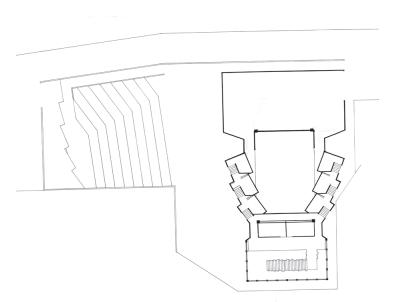






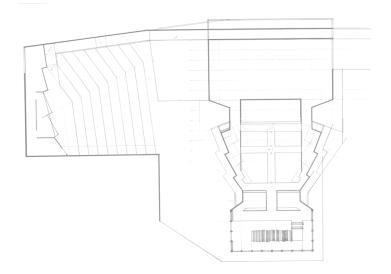


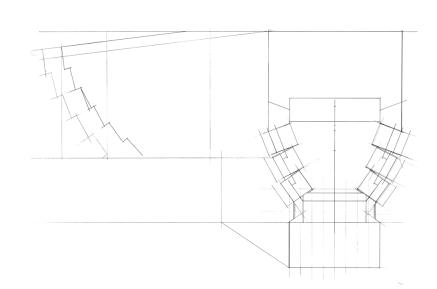


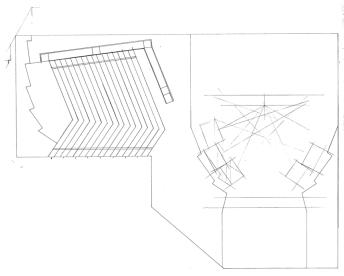


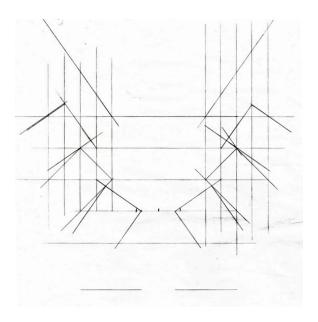
### **Concert Hall**

Figure 10.1 Angled Lobby Stair/Second Floor 7° Figure 10.2 Tapered Transitions/First Floor 7° Figure 10.3 Central Lobby Stair/Second Floor 14° Figure 10.4 Central Lobby Stair/1st Floor 14° Figure 10.5 Preliminary Plan Sketches Figure 10.6 Preliminary outdoor seating Sketch









## **Concert Hall**

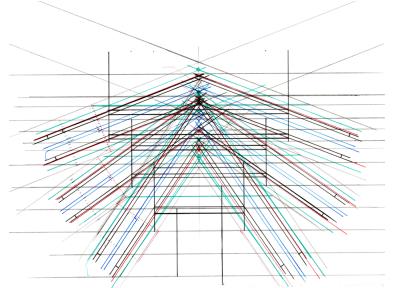
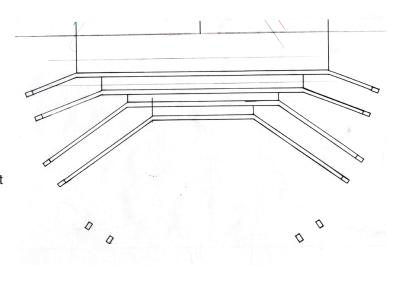
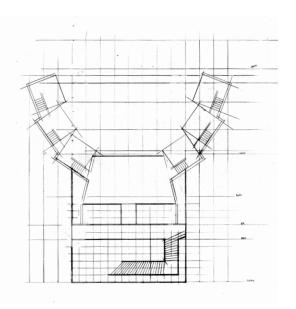
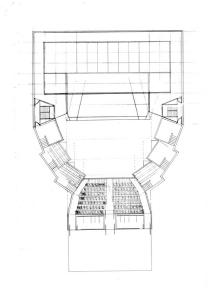


Figure 10.7 Balcony Angle Sketch Figure 10.8 Structural Angle Sketch Figure 10.9 Balcony Beam Concept Figure 10.10 Angled Lobby Stairs/Robust Hall Figure 10.11 Second Floor Seating/Robust Hall Figure 10.12 Concert Hall & Amphitheater Layout







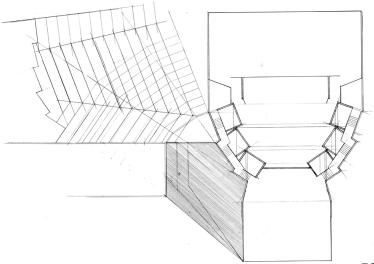
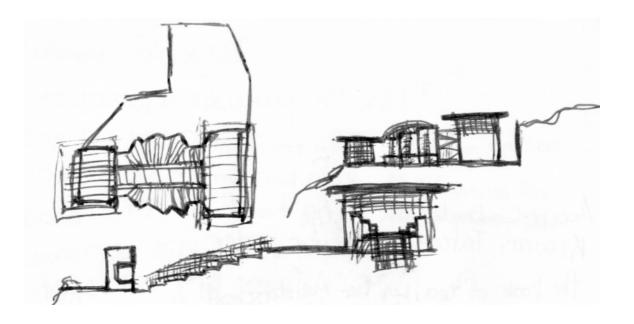
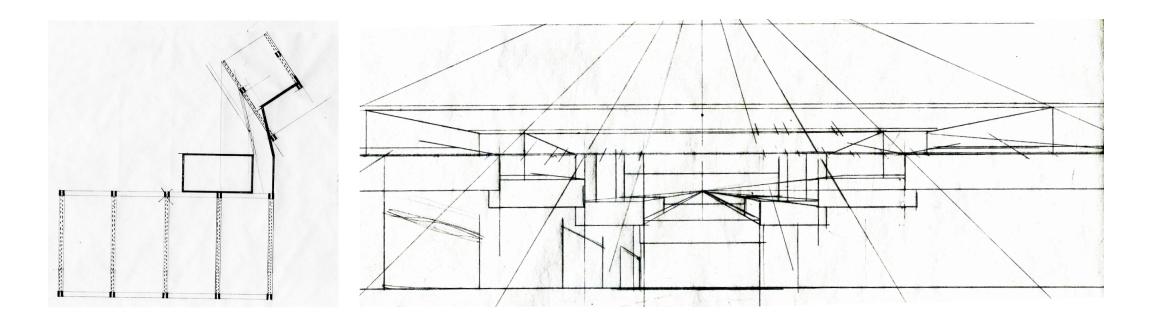


Figure 10.13 Concert Hall & Amphitheater Concepts Figure 10.14 Structure Connection Lobby to Hall Figure 10.15 Interior Perspective from Stage Sketch Figure 10.16 Longitudinal Section Cut Sketch





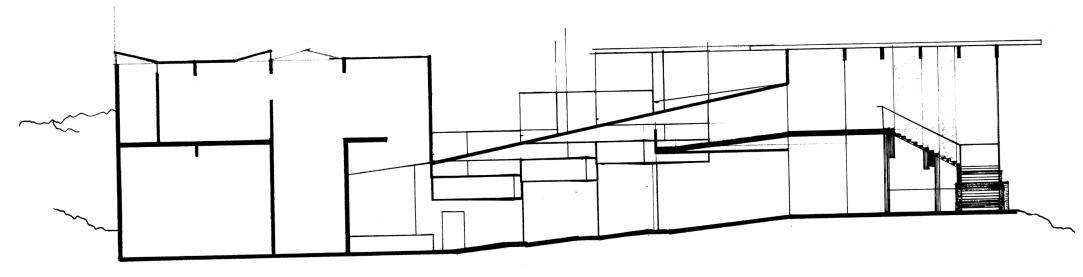
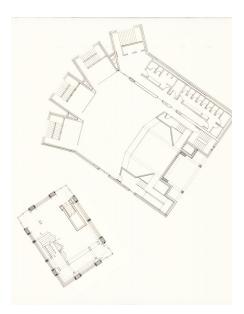
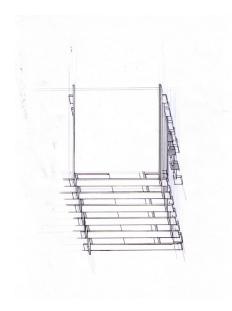
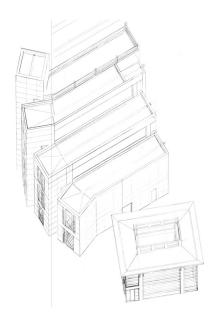
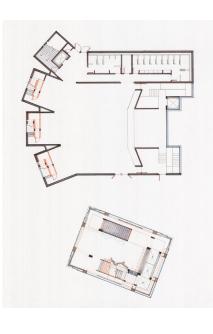


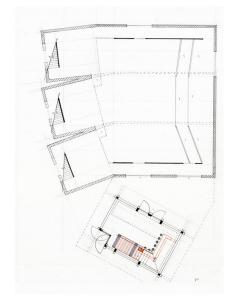
Figure 11.1 Four Tower Design Axon Figure 11.2 Four Tower First Floor Final Scheme Figure 11.3 Four Tower First Floor Concept Figure 11.4 Three Tower Design Concept Figure 11.5 Tower 4 Beacon Latticing Figure 11.6 Three Tower Interior Axon Figure 11.7 Tower 4 Beacon Roof Drainage

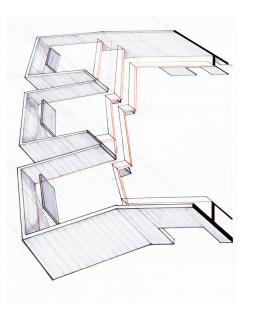












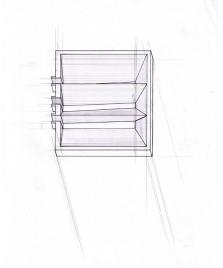


Figure 11.8 Full Site Plan Figure 11.9 Basement Concept Figure 11.10 First Floor Concept Figure 11.11 Second Floor Concept Figure 11.12 Third Floor Concept Figure 11.13 Fourth Floor Concept Figure 11.14 Fifth Floor Concept



