

L I G H T N E S S

Lightness has two primary meanings: bright light and light weight.

Lightness can also mean a relief from your busy life. For example: after you have worked hard with clients the whole day, you will find a place to spend the next few hours, resting and reading by yourself. Or, when you come in from the crowded and noisy streets, you are able to sit quietly and see what is happening outside from a different point of view. Or, after you have explored the "Windy City" which is full of tall and famous buildings, you will find a small and warm space to enjoy coffee and tea.....

The idea of this project came from a desire to give people a place to sense the ordinary but precious lightness in their lives; to give them a place to read, to dream; to see the life of others, and to feel the beauty of nature.

Here, it is not literally the visible light, but it is the imagination that enables people to find *lightness* in such a way that suggests an almost impossible reality instead of the inevitable natural one. Visitors at the bookstore encounter a variety of scenes along their path. This scenery is a synthesis of real and virtual images.



明
BRIGHTNESS

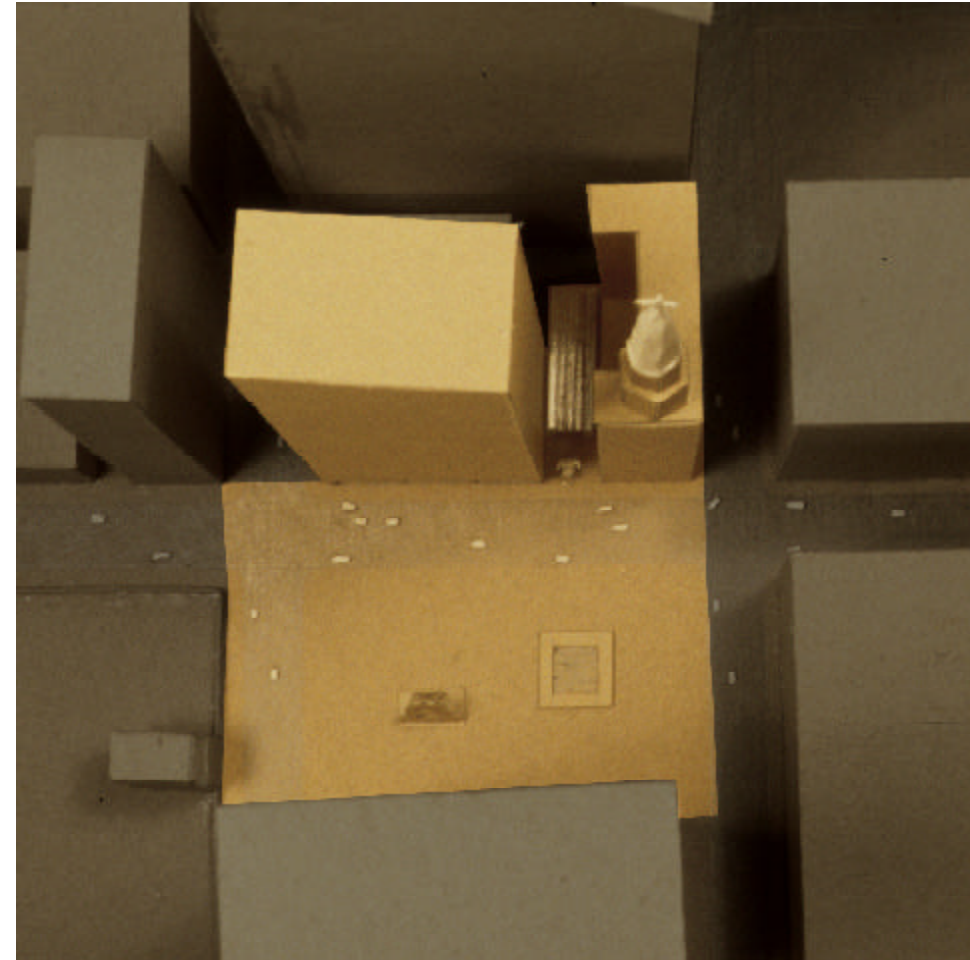
The project is a bookstore. It is located in a plaza, set back from the street and between two high-rise buildings in downtown Chicago. Dark, cold, and without feelings, the urban center is full of concrete and steel skyscrapers. People who work there need places to relax during lunchtime and breaks, and they are longing for a place to lighten their lives. The bookstore not only has a public space for coffee etc., but also small, private chambers in which individuals may recline for quiet reading.

At the beginning, I wanted to make a space what would provide a contrast to other buildings in the area. When I began to study the site, I found a big problem --- the light. No direct sunlight found its way into the site.

Light is a basic element in the life of people, although it is very common. But for someone who works in an area full of skyscrapers like this place, it has become a kind of luxury. Light is a natural thing, changing all the time. Some can sense it even in a dark place; some never feel it even though they are under the sun. I began to think about creating various conditions with light as the main element of my spaces, to arouse the sensibility of people to light and nature.

People living in the modern world have become more and more apathetic; they are blinded by money and vanity, no longer paying attention to all the other things that happen around them. But life is so beautiful; we should appreciate everything we have all the time, including the perception of light.

書店
BOOKSTORE



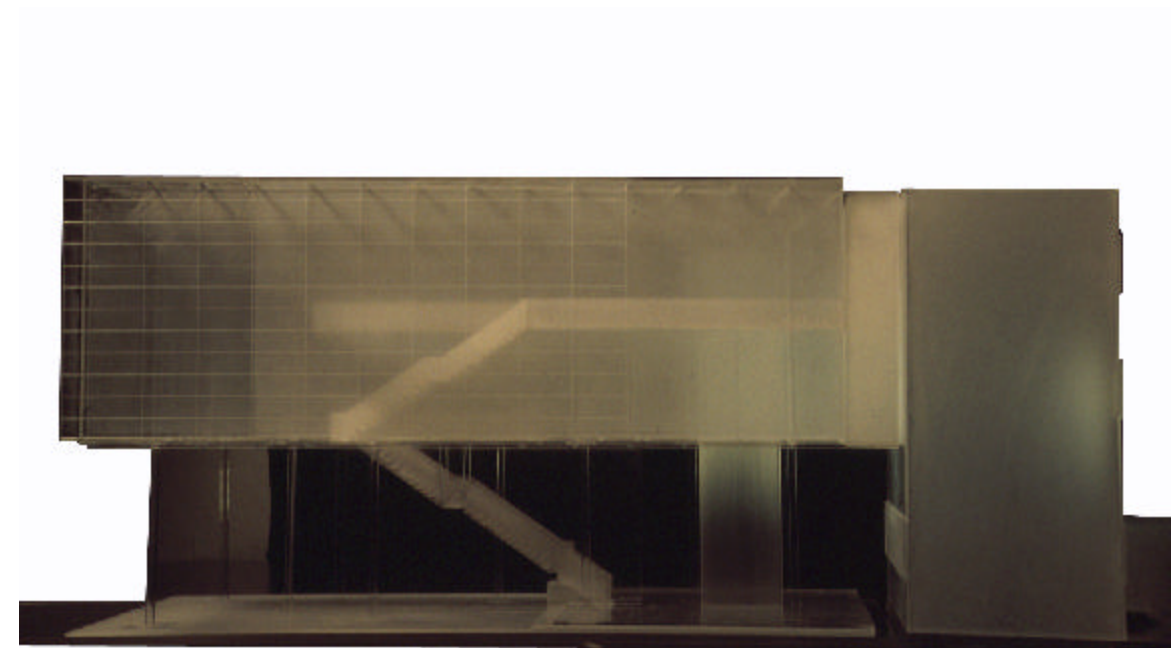
“... Nature is always in motion, never at a stand still...”

—— Paisetz Suzuki, *Zen and Japanese Culture*

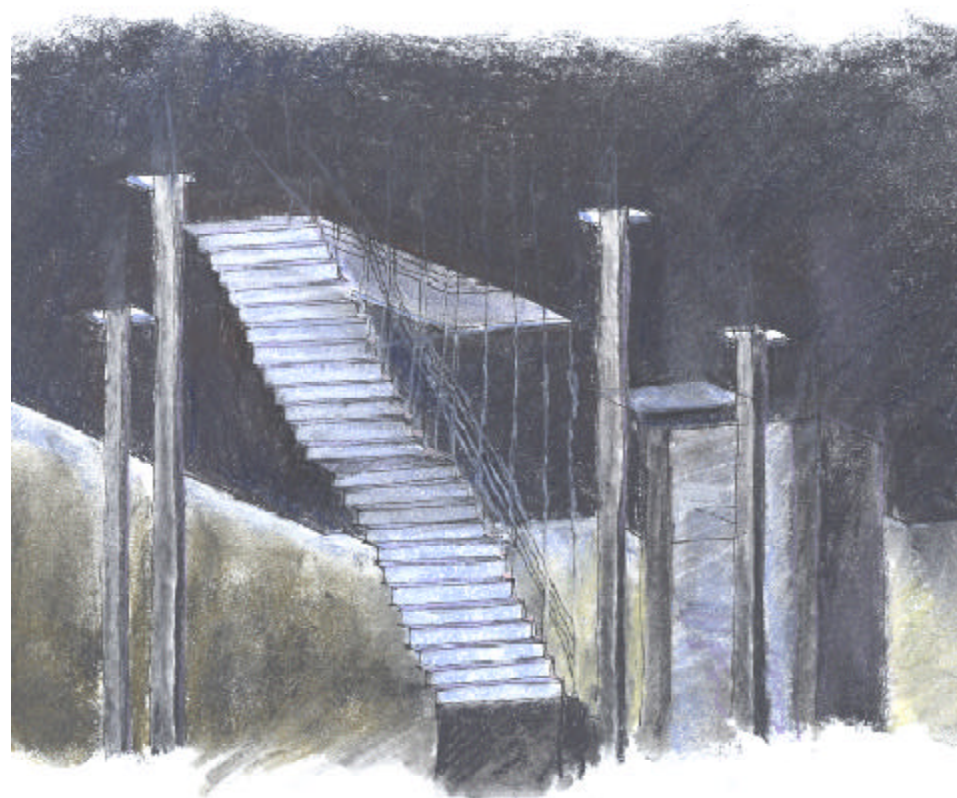
変
CHANGE



Different kinds of glass - opaque, translucent, clear - create effects of transparency, reflection and different degrees of blockage.



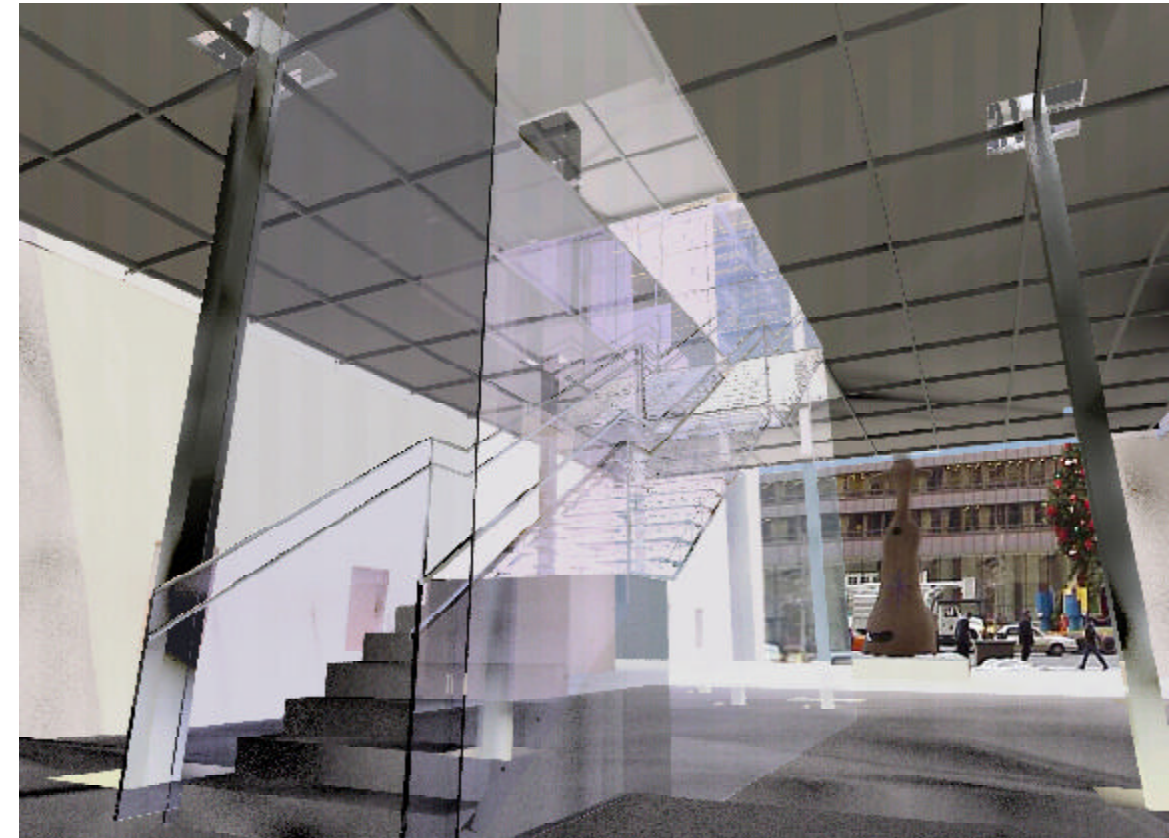
“The way to acquire positive is to contain negative.”
—— Lao-tzu, *Tao Te Ching*



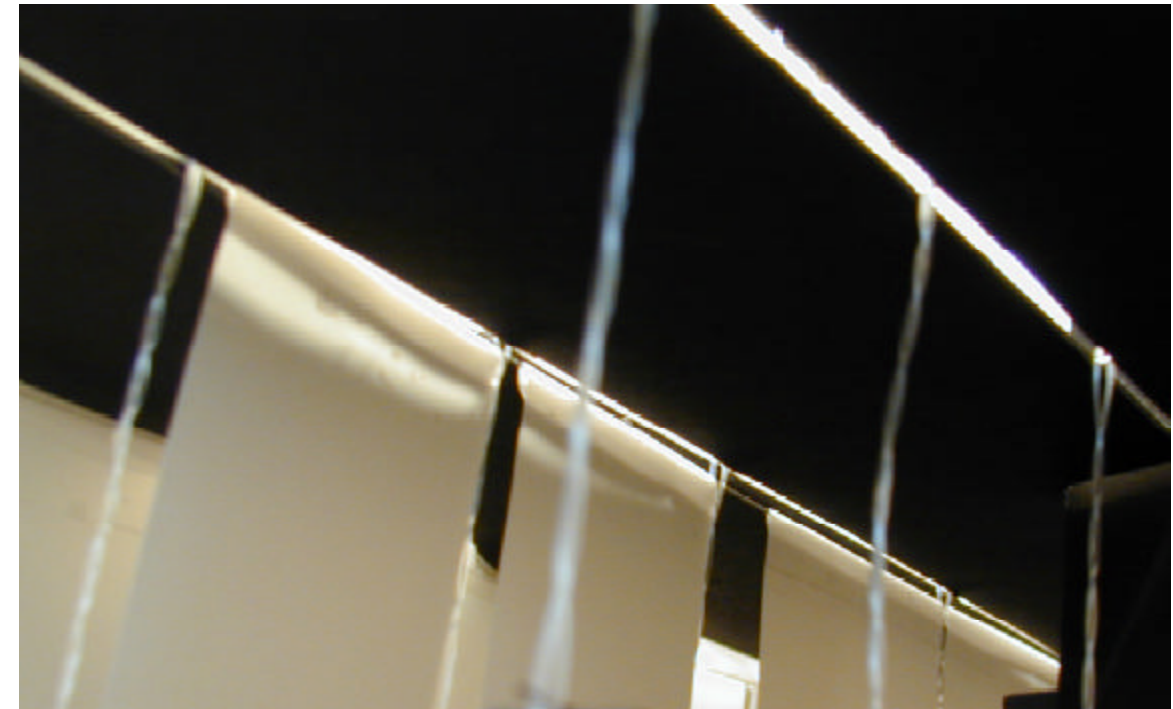
暗
DARKNESS

The columns recognize no conventional ratio of span to height and “support” only light. Similarly, the massive side wall don’t hold up the enormous flat plate of the double-height ceiling of the gathering space: the light slots separate wall and ceiling. “ You sense the weight in the hundreds and hundreds of tons of concrete, but we believe the weight because of the light that comes where the pressure should be greatest.”

———— Axel Schultes



There are few openings in this space, since light displays its brilliance only against a backdrop of darkness. — Tadao Ando



開
OPENNING

There must be some cracks on the floor, which allow the light to come down to tell how dark it is.

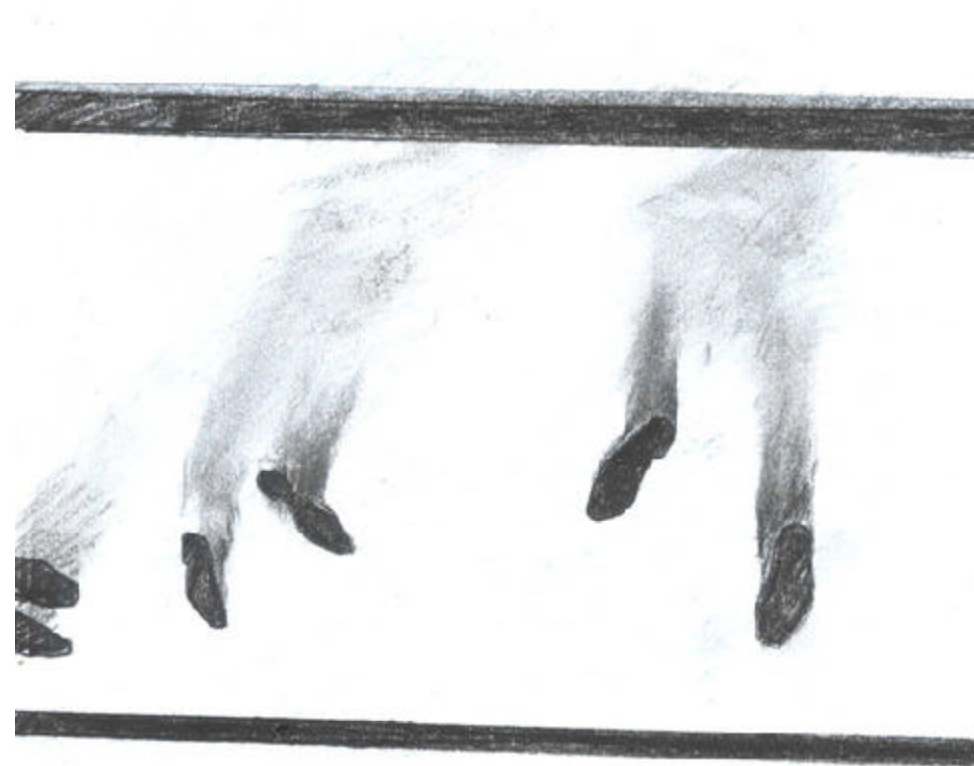


The rhythm of reality is on the brink of existence and nonexistence.
————— *The Secret of the Golden Flower*



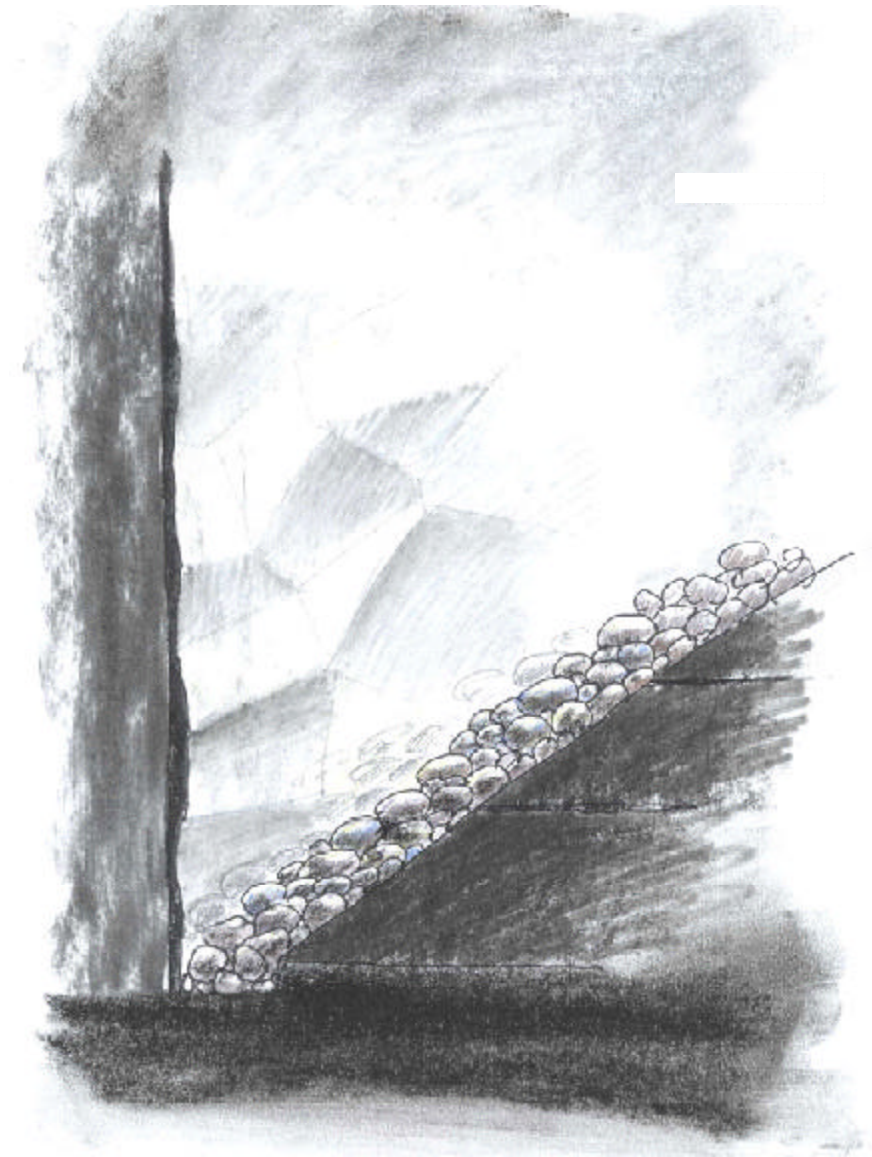
I was wholly unconscious of what my body was resting or what was under my feet?

——— Lao-tzu, *Tao Te Ching*



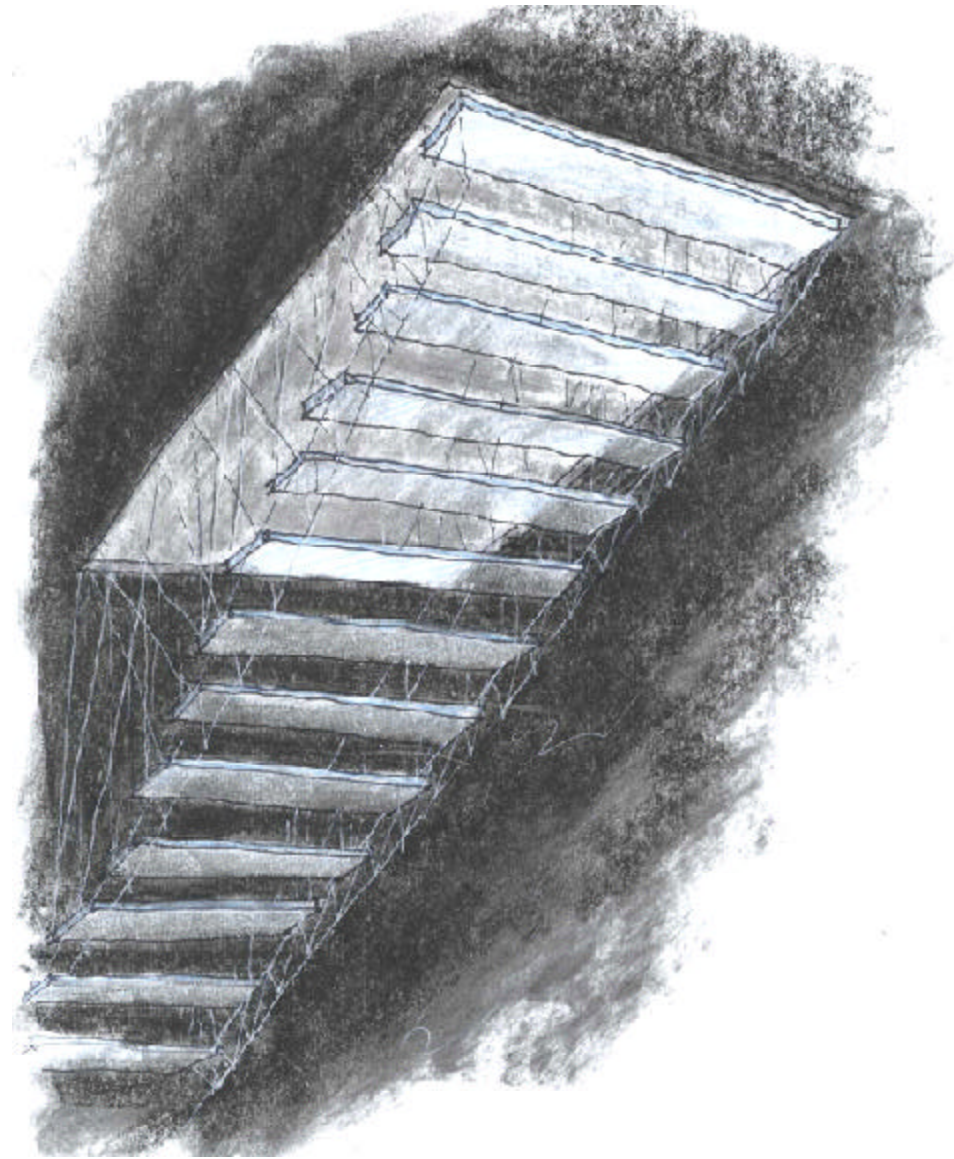
Put river washed stones along the walls, pulling the black-granite floor away from them and creating an ambiguity of beginning and ending planes.

石
PEBBLE



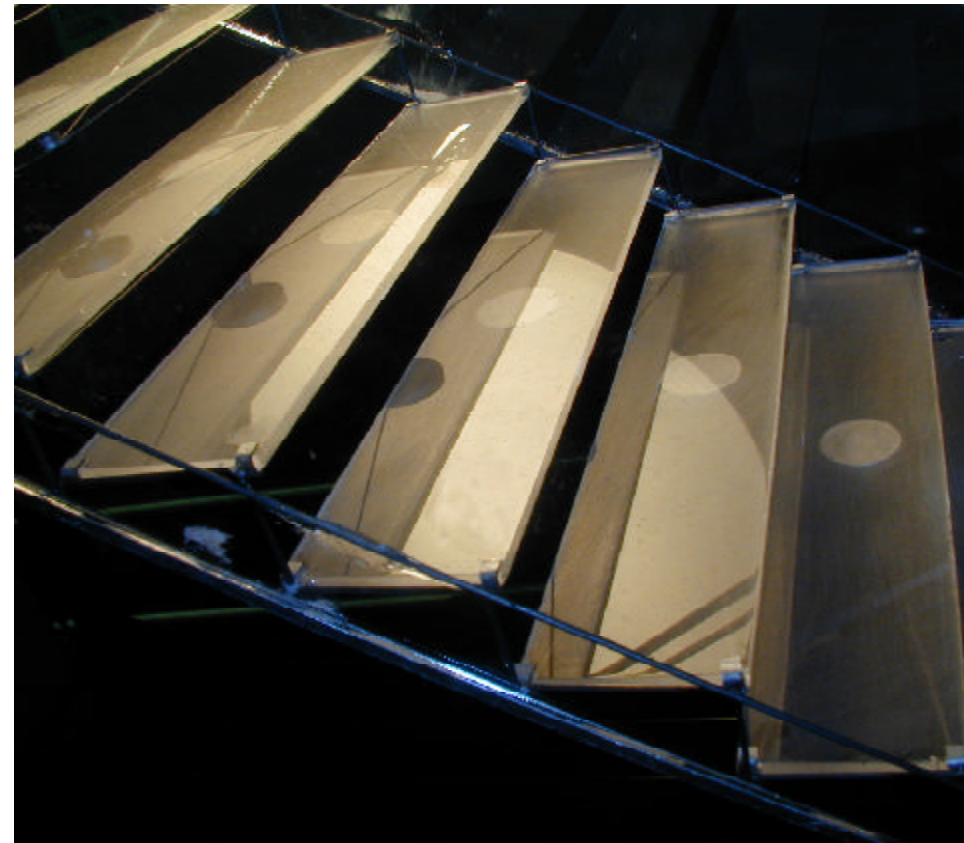
From non-being lead me to being, from darkness lead me to the
light, from death lead me to immortality.
——— Bradaranyaka, *Upanishad*

雲
CLOUD



I felt a boundless exhilaration, as though I were sailing on the void or riding the wind and didn't know where to stop. I was filled with lightness, as though.

——— Su Dong Po



The view down here is exactly backward for understanding the significance of windows. Here you are, on the outside looking in, and you aren't seeing anything. Inside people are looking out, and they can see you outside, you're the object. Inside, you own the view.

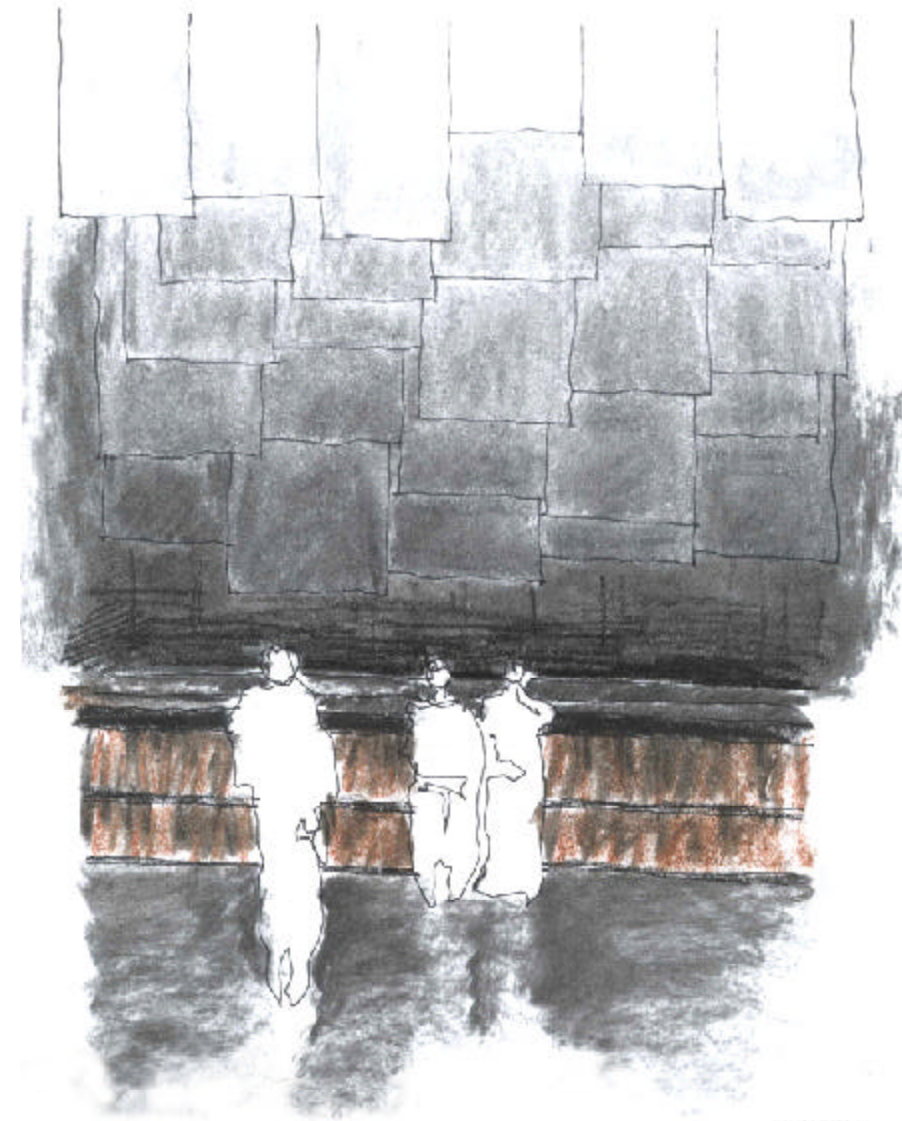
———— Bob Thall, *The Perfect City*

息
REST



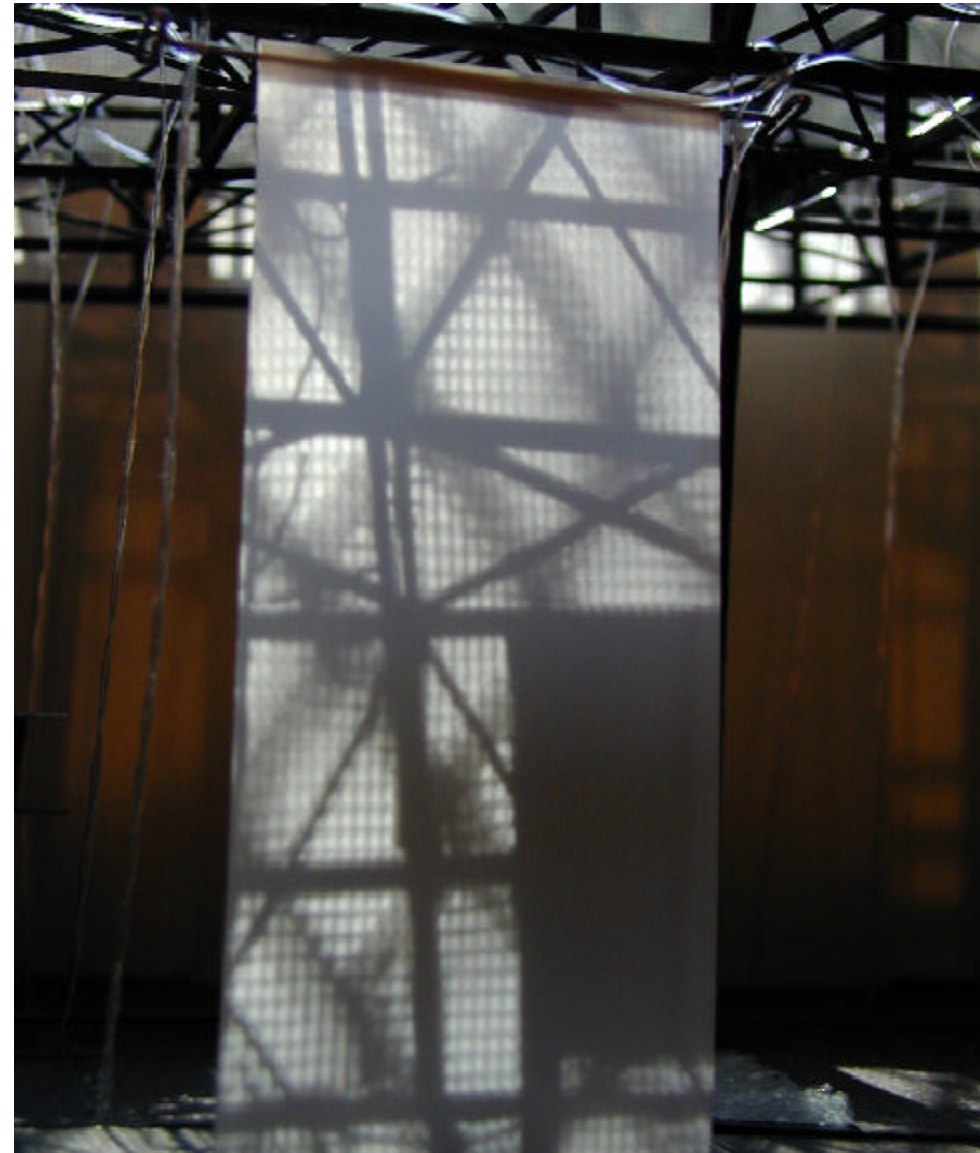
Mystery and manifestation arise from the same source, this source is called darkness. Darkness within darkness, the gateway to all understanding.

————— Lao-tsu, *Tao Te Ching*

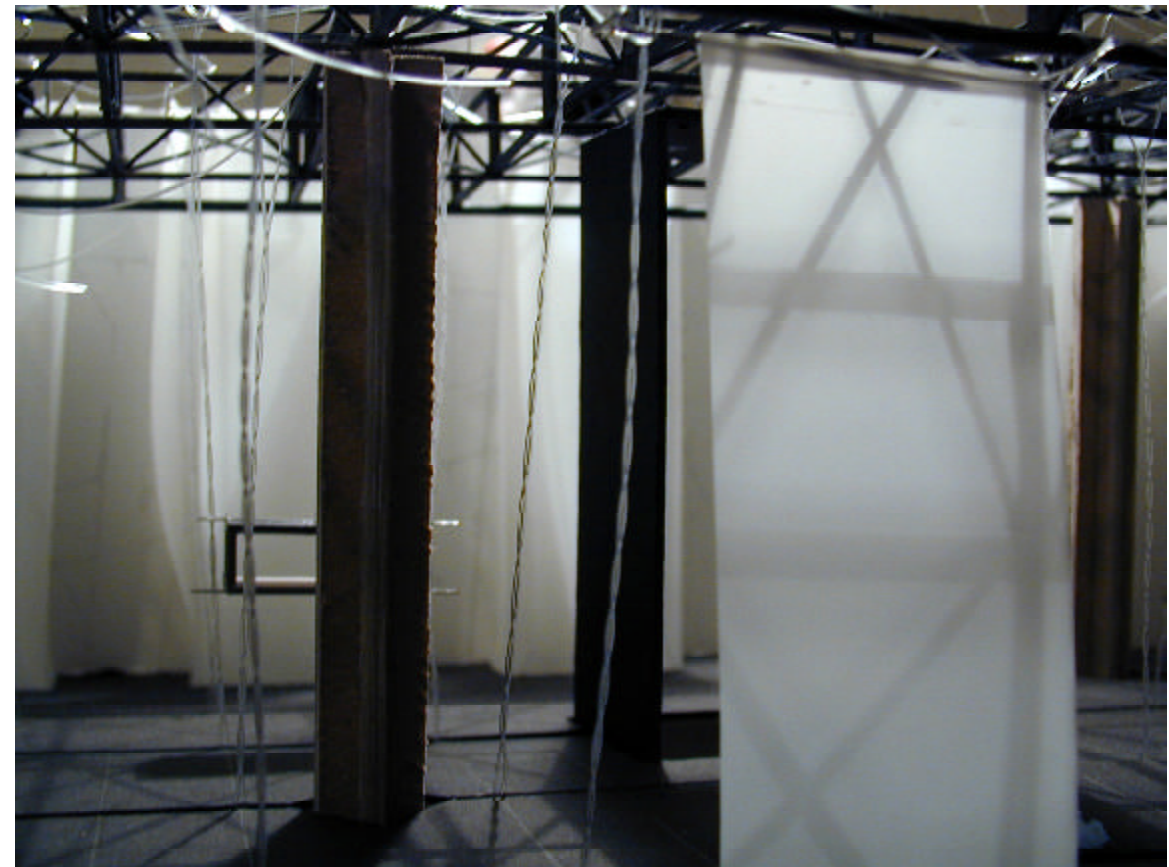


The light softly filtering through the paper screens... [is] meant to create a meditative frame of mind.

——— Daisets Suzuki, *Zen and Japanese Culture*

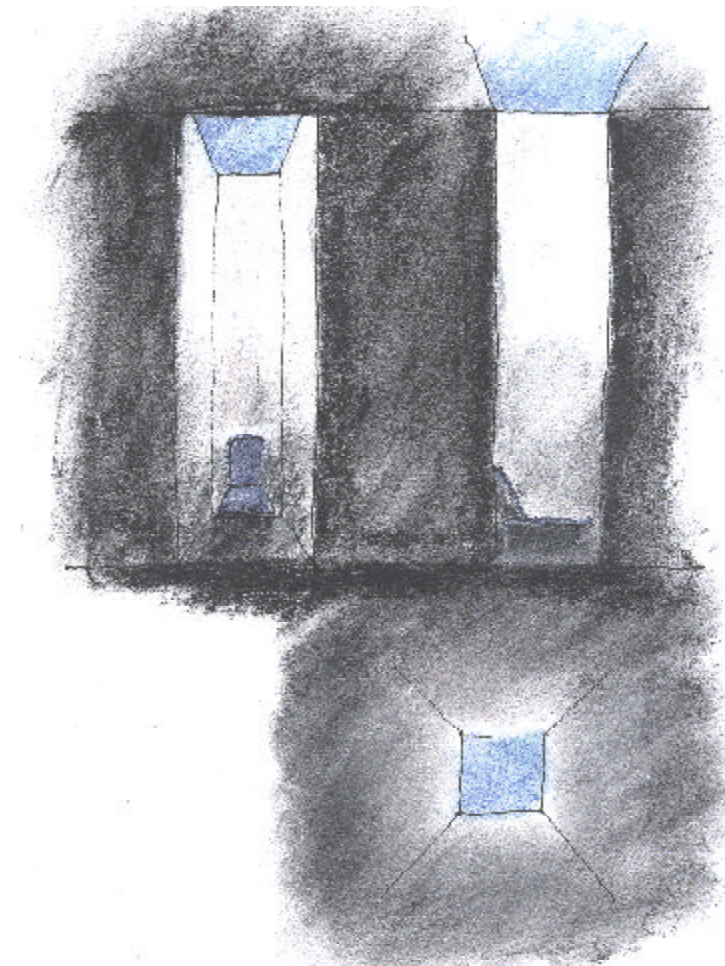


Beauty is not in the thing itself, but in the pattern of shadows, the light and the darkness. One thing against another creates beauty.



A certain hermit once said: "There is one thing that even I, who have no worldly entanglements, would be sorry to give up, the beauty of the sky."

——— Yoshida Kendo, *Essays in Idleness*



間
ROOM

In the empty chambers it grows light.

——— *The Secret of The Golden Flower*

