Page 1: Exploration of Threshold

Page 2: Theatre Light Box

Page 3: Theatre Design- Midterm 1

Page 4: Theatre Design- Midterm 2

Page 5: Final- Facade & Interior

Page 6: Final- Diagrams & Context

Page 7: Final- Plans & Layout
Exploration of Threshold
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Fall 2005
Undergraduate Professional Architecture Degree

To understand a threshold, one must look at not just the actually joining, but the space before and after; the origin and the destination. For our first assignment, my studio hoped to examine an experience in our lives that had signified a passing of time, space, or emotion. In order to find a monumental experience, I considered a few periods in my life with study models, eventually decided on the passing from childhood to adulthood as my threshold. I felt that moving from youth to independence was an important event and I wanted to analyze the transition. Life begins guided and structured until one is allowed the freedoms to make their own decisions, causing personal growth and expansion. Once grown, one can look back to their childhood and see forward to their independence.
**Theatre Light Box**

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In order to explore lighting effects in a closed space, I made a light box that would model different lighting patterns. Since the final project was planned to be a theatre, I wanted to experiment with defused and non-direct lighting. Introducing slating in the first model was an exploration on how to project lines on the adjacent surfaces. After a less than impressive first run, I moved on to a light wash pattern. I wanted to bring colored light into the space via the ceiling, but have the light project on to the walls, not directly into the space. This worked much better than the first attempts and yielded a few interesting patterns. After a design is created for the theatre space and lobby, I will return to the model to continue exploring how to beautifully light the space.
Theatre Design: Midterm 1
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After researching Alberta St. in Northeast Portland, my studio felt we had enough information to starting designing for our 100 ft. by 50 ft. site. From visiting the neighborhood and talking with local members of the community we concluded that Alberta was a small, artsy neighborhood that wanted places for its people to come together and participate in activities that would enrich their lives.

Our program consisted of a theatre space, two class rooms, two offices, a lobby with cafe, garden space, restrooms, and storage and mechanical rooms. In all, this would amount to 7,631 sq. ft. of planed space. Keeping the building under three stories and having a somewhat continuous facade was important in order to fit the site. These models are a few rounds of designing.
Theatre Design: Midterm 2
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Organization and Circulation: In designing the overall plan, I used the site to help me organize the spaces. I knew that the northwest corner would be the darkest due to an existing building and the best opportunity for light would be the northeast corner. In these two spaces I placed the Theatre and Garden, respectively. I also wanted a plan that would be clear to a newcomer, so I organized all the program spaces around a central lobby.

Facade Development: As we learned from visiting Alberta, maintaining the integrity of the street was an important aspect of the facade design. I kept a solid facade, only breaking it for the entry. I then used details from a few of the neighboring buildings in an attempt to integrate my design with the existing structures.

Existing Alberta Street Buildings

Pull Back Entries:
Doors on the front facades were pulled back to prevent congestion on the sidewalk.

Ribbon Windows:
Multi-story buildings utilized ribbon windows on upper level floors.
Final: Facade & Interior
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Facade: After the second midterm, the facade was redesigned in two major ways. First, the theatre was pulled forward and expanded up. Since there was a clear distinction between the theatre and the other spaces internally, I wanted to express that on the facade. Second, the entry was widened and a display window was added to allow for signage to be posted advertising current shows.

Light Model: With the light model, I was able to show how natural light would enter into the space and reflect off different materials. I used colored papers as painted walls and floor material. How the light works with the stairs is the most important, because it shows the “light-well” effect I wanted to create to draw visitors to the second level.

Interior Lighting in Lobby and Adjoining Spaces
Final: Diagrams & Context
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Diagrams: The over riding concept for my project, was the separation between the theatre space and the rest of the building (lobby, cafe, garden, classrooms and offices). Light was also an important aspect of my design. I used a light-well above the stairs to brighten the back of the lobby and encourage movement up to the second floor. Light would also spill into the spaces from the front and garden entrance. My circulation was organized, branching out from the facade entrance.

Context in Site: Alberta is located in Northeast Portland between the Willamette and Columbia River. Our site is within an urban/residential landscape of smaller one to four story business on the main streets and housing surrounding those axis. In general, Alberta is a lower income, older region of the Portland/Metro Area.
Final: Plans and Layout
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To complete the design for my theatre, I explored internal spaces of the lobby and outdoor garden. I wanted to use materials for the lobby that would create a warm and inviting feel and that would be enjoyable to be in during both the day and night. I used a combination of cream and deep red walls coupled with a marble floor. The garden space doubles as an outdoor eating area for the cafe. Seating would be tucked under the balcony from the upstairs classroom, and many glass windows would allow a strong visual connection back inside the building. Because the garden is the only open space in the site, it would also be used to transport supplies in and out of the building.