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TRANSITIONAL EXPERIENCE:

A small park hidden beneath an unkept urban landscape remains unrecognizable from most people walking by, but creates a significant transitional experience for the people who find it. The path branches off of the street and winds through a grove of pine trees. The trees mute the noises from the neighborhood and the atmosphere changes; creating a sense of anticipation for what lies ahead. The trees slowly open up to a huge grassy field overlooking the entire city; a true hidden beauty. The atmosphere changes from a concrete place to a world that is organic and full of life.

MODEL:

The major objective of the project was to translate the abstract emotional feelings from a threshold experience and turn them into an architectural model. It was a challenge to think abstractly and build a model from an emotional experience, but after a few concept models, I was able to capture the emotions of the threshold. I took the feelings from my experience and used height, thickness, and curves to express my emotions and display the two contrasting atmospheres.
OBJECTIVE:

To explore how light and shadow can make a space evocative, to explore designing with light, and to generate a seed of beauty for the building project.

OUTCOME:

The daylighting model gave me a chance to explore the different ways light can be manipulated to create a greater space. I wanted to create a model that would help me later in the design of my theater and use the light in a way that would significantly change the atmosphere of the space.

To achieve a unique light pattern, I created a wall of jagged edges and various colors. This design was able to alter the light and create an interesting pattern on the interior of the model.

I am able to use this study and apply it to my theater design. The slits in the wall are very similar to the narrow windows that I want in my design; a theater that lets some light in from the side walls and also allows people to look in and get a small framed view of the interior. This design not only does that, but also uses the colors to block off bright light into the theater.

The daylighting model has allowed me to play with light and discover its many unique possibilities. The patterns in the model can be reflected in my designs in the future.
SPATIAL MODELS:

PRELIMINARY IDEAS:

The first step in the design process for the Alberta Street Performance Center was the construction of color-coded spatial diagrams and models to work with spaces. This allowed me to think about the rooms as volumes and work with them to create interesting spaces and smooth transitions. I was able to try a variety of locations for the theater and contrasting layouts.

CONCEPT:

Developing an overall concept for a design helps unify all of the spaces within a building. The relationship between the spaces of a building is important in creating smooth transitions and interlocking spaces. In order to generate an efficient concept, I pulled my thoughts together and made a conceptual model. I developed the concept of a garden as the “heart” of the building. The garden is the central space and all of the other rooms are connected to it. I want to keep developing this concept, but it is difficult because the performance hall has to be most of the square footage of the building.
After developing spatial relationships and a concept, the next step was to use those ideas and make an accurately measured design. With the concept of a central garden, I wanted the spaces to revolve around the center. However, the large room sizes seemed to cut into the garden as I kept trying to work with them. I was able to get all of the spaces in, but seemed to lose the importance of the garden.

In my next design attempt, I am going to make the garden the focus of the building and have it be the main circulation area. With a significant role in circulation, the space will be more like the “heart” of the building that I intended it to be.
Overall the midterm review was very successful. I was able to produce a design that reflected my concept of the central garden by separating the program into two distinct spaces. The classrooms, offices, lobby and services were separated from the stage by the central garden. The garden was used as a circulation space and central hub of the building. This design was able to distinguish from the two unique spaces while creating a garden as the “heart” of the building.

The parti, or general idea behind my design, was expressed by the placement of the rooms to the outdoor spaces. This demonstrated the great importance of the garden in relationship to the cafe, stage, classrooms, and lobby.
I developed this interior model of my underground lobby area to explore the lighting possibilities in the space. The lobby is an important part of my design, so I wanted it to be a place full of life and excitement. In order to do that, I needed to find a way to pull light from the garden into the dark areas of the lobby. I used the daylighting model to explore various techniques of how I could achieve this. By bringing a significant amount of light in through the front and small, focused light in through punched openings in the ceiling, the space became vibrant and full of light.
The final model of my theatre on Alberta Street shows the relationship of the building to the site, the facade and its relationship to the street, and the interior spaces of the classrooms and the performance theatre. The model reflects my overall concept of the garden as the “heart” of the site by showing the garden space and its relationship to the building and the rest of the street.

Having this 3-dimensional representation of my design allows me to better understand the interior spaces of my design and how my building fits into the context of the street.
ALBERTA STREET COMMUNITY GARDEN THEATRE

I wanted the design of my building to reflect the needs of the neighborhood. I took the classrooms and theatre and separated them into two different spaces. With my concept of the garden as the “heart” of the building, I used it to link the two unique spaces and create a central circulation hub. Overall, the performance center is an inviting space that the entire community can appreciate.

FINAL LAYOUT
(PDF in Adobe Acrobat)