Facades (Threshold 2)

Façade Study Drawing for Art Academy in Berlin
by Behnisch + Partner, 1995

Context
In its patterning and organization, a successful façade design expresses a building’s identity – the activities, order and atmosphere occurring within. Facades serve as thresholds between interior and public exterior space, allowing the transmission of desired phenomenon (views + contact between people, cooling summer breezes, light, the exhaling of stale indoor air) and the disruption/blockage of unwanted phenomenon (direct summer sun, winter rains, etc.). Successful facades generally do not exhibit guillotine-like separation between interior and exterior space, but rather a more nuanced, enriched, thickened profiling.

Project Components

A Generate Sketch Variations (due in class on Monday 11/7, 4:15pm)
Develop additive, subtractive and hybrid ink-on-trace hardline “sketch” variations of your building’s facades. Create five (5) variations of the Alberta Street façade and the garden façade. Overlay these variations one-on-top-of-the-other in the search for meaningful patterns. Give careful consideration to rhythm, proportion, materiality, entry / arrival and detail. Consider
– the structural bays and interior spaces
– the size of the human figure and the specific experiences that the façade design will encourage
– context and implications for the character of the street

B Develop Façade Relief (due in class Wednesday 11/9, 4:15pm)
From your favorite variation, develop a “2 1/2 D” relief of your project’s Alberta Street façade in a computer modeling program of your choice (i.e. Sketch Up, Form Z, Vectorworks or AutoCad). The emphasis should be on the façade, but you must also represent the “life” behind the façade – activities, colors, furnishings, structure, etc.

Show your façade in context with shadows.

C Render (due at Review on Friday 11/11)
Bring a rendering of your 2 1/2 D relief into Photoshop to introduce materials, people, text, cars, etc. Print it out at ¼” = 1'-0”.

Project Objectives

• To explore variations in patterning, composition and order in the search for a successful façade design solution.
• To identify unresolved aspects of building organization; to use façade development as an opportunity to improve the overall building design.
• To consider how a façade design can connect or separate the building and street
• To explore a range of media in examining one architectural condition.
For Friday's Review

¼” Photoshop collage of main façade

1/8” plans and sections

1/8” model that fits into the cardboard context model

Previous work

Inspiration