BUILDING COMMUNITY

Network within Grey Space
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Thesis Proposal Book
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Building Community
Network within Grey Space

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree Master of Design in Interior Studies (Adaptive Reuse) in the Department of Interior Architecture of Rhode Island School of Design.

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Buildings constitute the city, but at the same time isolate people from the action of the city by delimiting the activities within. Considering the relationship between buildings and public urban areas, is there a missing characteristic which could blur the boundary and create a smooth transition, a grey space gradually mediating between the outside and the inside, exterior and interior? Perhaps a type of connection within the city which contains more flexibility and accessibility would reduce the isolation of people from the activities of their own cities.

Isolation of this type exists on the urban scale, but also affects institutions hidden within the urban landscape. One such institution is the Rhode Island School of Design. Although RISD buildings spread over most of the downtown area of Providence without a concrete division, there is no such grey space mediating between the private interior and streetscape, to the urban environment of Providence and activities of RISD. Beyond architectural divisions, student work habits intensify the effect of isolation and result in poor work-life balance.

In order to break the negative effects of isolation created by RISD buildings both from their context in the city and from one another, it is necessary to build one solid connection between RISD and urban environment of Providence. Considering this, an additive, dependent network interlocking with the existing fabric is needed to encourage engagement between RISD students and citizens of Providence. A prototype of this network is placed at the center point of both the RISD campus and urban area of Providence. The network unites RISD buildings to define a community which contains multiple programs within grey space, providing opportunities for interaction between students and citizens of Providence. Through the unity of campus and city, isolation will be decreased and coherence between buildings and the overall fabric cityscape will be achieved.
INTRODUCTION

“Impermanence”

"Time, in Japanese culture, is a precious entity that forms every candle, every being, every entity to fade at one point in time. The idea that buildings and cities should seem as natural as possible and that they should be in harmony with the rest of nature, since it is only temporarily there, helped create the tradition of making buildings and cities of "temporary" structures."

— Kisho Kurokawa

The "impermanence" of buildings and cities indicates a coherence of the transforming process in which they should eventually fit into "Oneness".
Existing Problem of RISD Campus

At RISD:

**Major-associated Building**

In RISD, different types of major have its own associated building for example, ART for Architecture major, Design Center for graphic associated major, CD building etc.

**Special Lab & Machine**

There are certain professional labs and machines in each major associated building such as Laser Cutter in CD building for cutting wood and metal in 3D building, dark room in Design Center etc. Though it is convenient for students to visit those buildings to use the lab and machine, other departments will have the opposite situation.

**Isolation**

Since too much assignment is a tradition for RISD students which allows much of their attention, it could be seen as they are being isolated from their major associated building. Isolation of each building result in the development between students in different departments, as well as between students and the local people and culture.

**Special Events**

There are RISD events happening in the city which students are not interested in like Providence, such as RISD Art Fair, Eat the World etc. Currently, there is no proper way to hold those events. As a result, public area has been occupied, streets have been blocked. There could be a situation where such event is prohibited but avoid negative factor.

**Information Sharing**

Students have their classes at RISD. Since there’s difference between each majors and there’s little connection between different departments, it is hard for students to choose their elective class only according to the short introduction on Web Adviser. Students need to talk to those who have taken the class before in order to get more useful information.
Bernard Tschumi
National Studio for Contemporary Arts/Le Fresnoy, France

La Fresnoy was built in 1999 as a post-graduate art school and an research center which contains multiple artistic disciplines, ranging from video, visual arts, performing arts, etc.

We're in digital age, the aim of this project is to build a poststructuralist and internationally ambitious building in the digital age.

Concept Sketch

It was initially coming from a simple idea creating an "exposed" to protect the mixing building from side and wind.
In this "in-between" space, a web of blue-painted catwalks as well as obstacles are inserted. They wind their way below the giant roof, and gap between the existing buildings. From here, they intersect the various areas. Conceptually, they make this underused space functional.

As a non-programmed space, the system of hanging catwalks provides views into the various spaces as well as landscape of the city, giving the visitor the experience of walking within a city.
**Basilica Palladiana**

**“Merging,” “Boundary Dissolution”**

When looking at the whole habitat at boundary processes of the architecture, this building mass becomes bigger because it is the changing of the nature of the cut (intangibility) of the building mass and the architecture of the environment. This is in line with what the authorates have been discussing in terms of “boundary” and “environmental cut” in this context, the building is architecturally respected and the city is included in this respect as the entire “environment”.

**Inside Out**

The loggia became an extension of the existing. It also connects the inner space to the outside environment. Meanwhile, the city. Those arches of the loggias are morphologically altering the inner relation shapes, indicating inside-out typology.

**“Grey Space”**

Under the loggia are the “grey space” where people can enter the outside public area. Meanwhile, the existent, the outer space, and the inside are connected to each other in a way that allows people to move from the inside to the outside and vice versa. This movement is not only physically but also conceptually.
Why Market Square

- Building within certain programs that gather up MNO people mainly located around market squares.
- The most convenient spot for MNO people to gather up should be located on the corner of a MNO site which is approximately near the market square.
- Tradition, market square and part of the MNO buildings around it is the best choice for my site.
Comparison Between Now and the Past

“Market Square, always a site for news, gossip, and shopping, was the site of a colonized tax protest against the British on March 2, 1770 when the people of Providence burned the tax. On September 2, 1882, Ernest Goldstein, a noted anarchist and terrorist, was arrested for unlawful ‘riot at the market’ and charged with attacking crowds in Market Square. Nowadays you are more likely to encounter a RISD student’s art installation.”

Market square initially belonged to the citizens, now it seems only the local skateboarders could enjoy themselves there. Even though the square is still located on the center of Providence, the situation that it brings surrounding by mid-rise office building, make it not so truly a public area.
Four Types of Existing Programs

Circulation

Support

Interaction

Working

- Circulation
- Equipment
- Building Service
- Gallery
- Store
- Conference Room
- Studio
- Workroom
- Classroom
- Office
PROGRAM PRECEDENTS: Master Planning and Re-design of the Coleman Oval Skate Park

With the new skate park in the context of the installation of the Coleman Oval Polo, designers propose a bug out day design strategy that can be developed in phases while still establishing a strong protocol, comprehensive design strategy.

The ground was acquired by flexible design plans which can be re-assembled to adjust, create new challenges over time or be removed for outdoor runs, markets or concerts.

The Coleman Oval Project stands under the Manhattan Bridge, the stylish public pathways of Magnus, with a look to the city's broader park system. More images and architectural description after the break.

By re-imaging the park and developing the program specifically to suit the unique character and demographics of the surrounding neighborhood, Coleman Oval Park has the potential to become a true focal point for the local community.
Preliminary Design Diagram

- Lower the Ground to Reveal Basement
- Use Stair and Ramp to Connect
- A Tunnel Connect to the Other Side of Street
- Further Extend the Grey Space Inside Building

Accessibility: Connectivity: Sharing: 
Space Logic Analysis
Based on Degree of Engagement

Tier 1
Auditorium
Gallery

Tier 2
Conference Room
Classroom

Tier 3
Small Studio

Market House

Auditorium Building

Chace Center

Target Area

Space within the main program

Gallery
Auditorium

Conference Room

Classroom
"The idea that buildings and cities should seem as natural as possible and that they should be in harmony with the rest of nature, since it is only temporarily there, helped create the tradition of making buildings and cities of "temporary" structure."


"Within the container-box are the boxes of the existing Fresnoy facilities, supplemented by newly-designed ones, including exhibition spaces, sound studios and rented production facilities, a library, a cinema, a restaurant, and apartments for faculty and students. All of these spaces are designed and executed by the architects, and are considered to be "heralds of Tectonic Architecture."" Tschumi.com. N.p., 2017. Web. 17 May 2017.


Books


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