



DENISE BLANKENBERGER | architecture | design



selected works

2017 | selected works

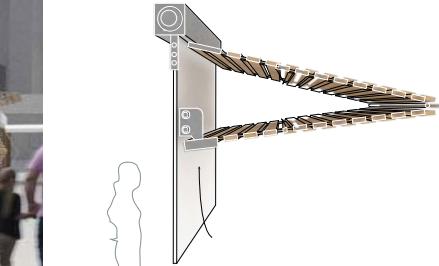
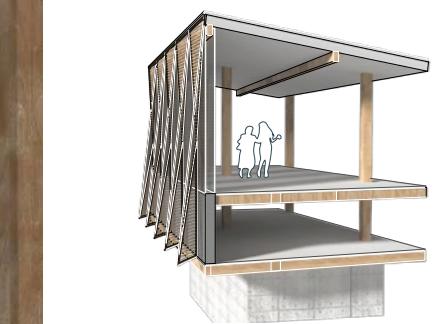
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|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| MEDLEY | mixed-use design competition |
| ACCLIVITY | market design |
| COMPOUNDING DENSITY | material studies |
| DAZZLE | aggregate studies |
| HEX | design-build table fabrication |

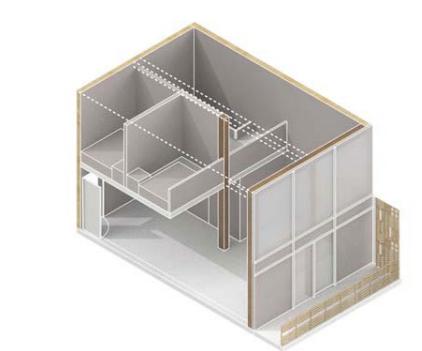
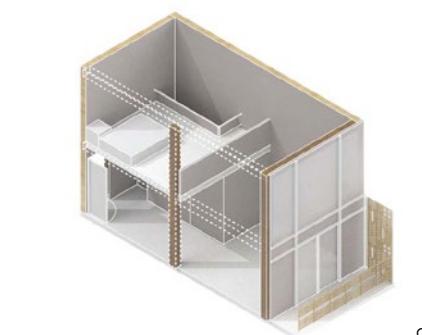
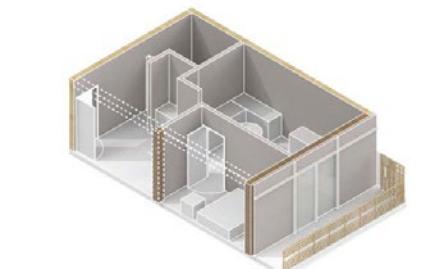
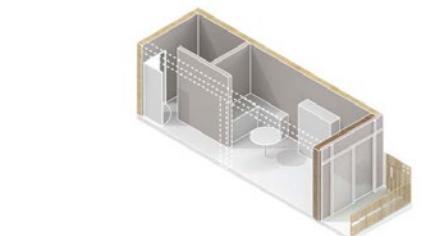
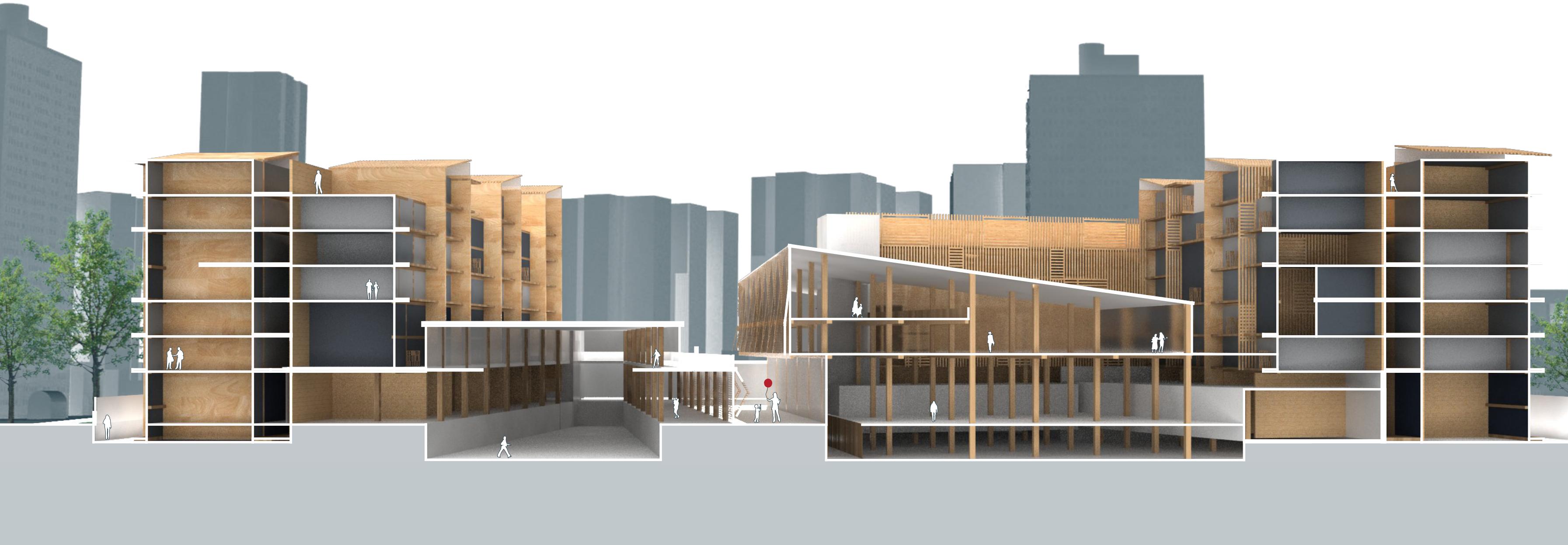


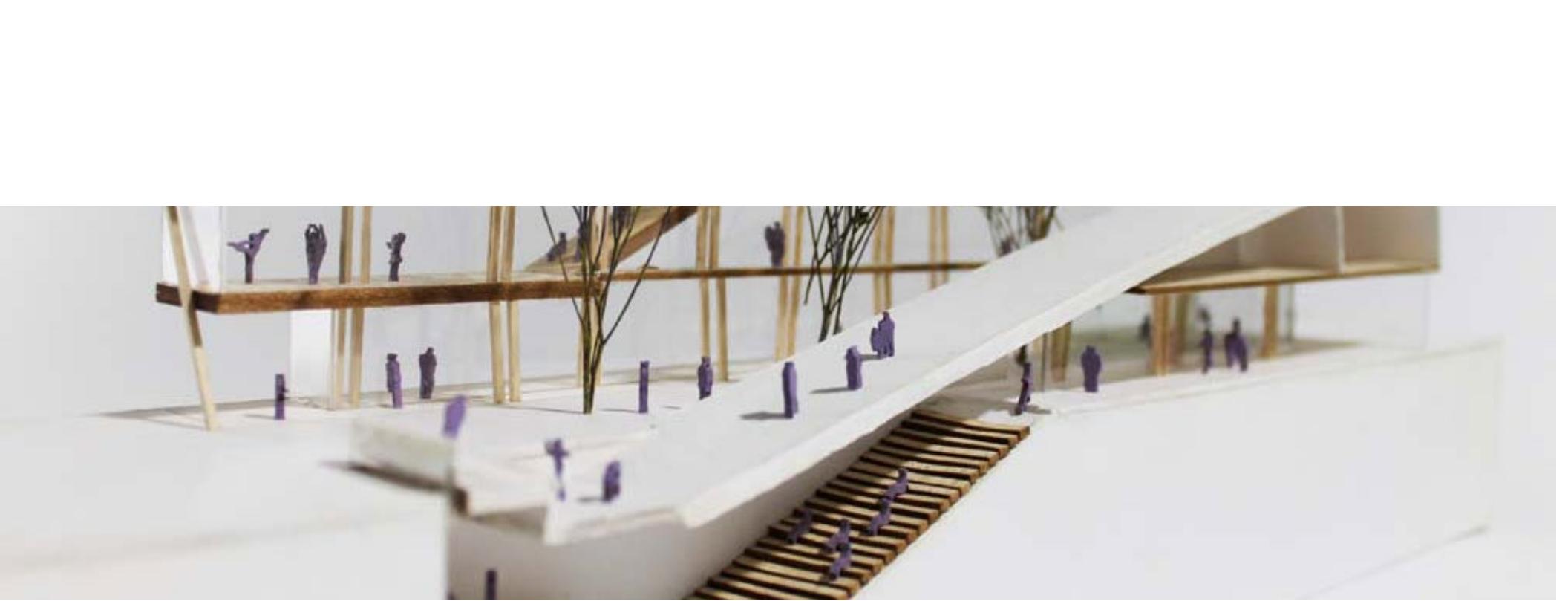
MEDLEY | fall 2015 | solo competition design scheme*

Lower East Side Manhattan exhibits a characteristic sense of community and neighborhood. Happy neighbors make for a happy community and sense of place. The layering of culture, people, place, and frames into a community identity inspires a similar layering of structure and materials. Medley stitches together the three distinct program categories with similar but different personalities. Medley is more than a compilation of parts; its strength lies in the connections and correlation between the three programs. The repeated use of sun shading and timber structural systems weaves the Market, Warhol Museum, and Villas together elegantly.

[*] awarded for "Urban Responsiveness" in the Timber in the City Competition







ACCLIVITY | fall 2016 | solo design project

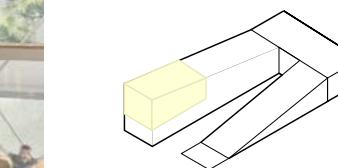
Marketplaces are great equalizers; the natural gradation between space and void provides a canvas for serendipitous experiences. Likewise, Acclivity is a gradation from below ground to sky. A green alleyway pierces through the building, pulling in the park blocks and allowing for a completely permeable first floor. Three theaters are provided. Gradually sloping roofs double as theater seating for the recessed "Green Box." The professional performance venue deemed "Black Box" is nestled underground. An open community "Light Box" is used to the discretion of the public: it functions as a beacon, opening out to the canopy of the park blocks from above.



NW PARK BLOCKS - PORTLAND, OR



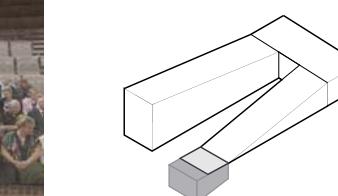
Green Box

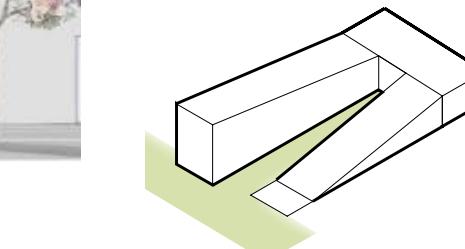
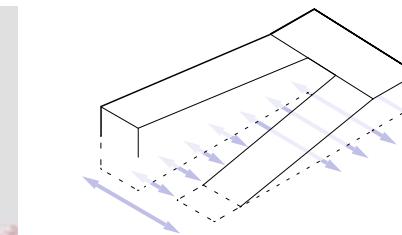
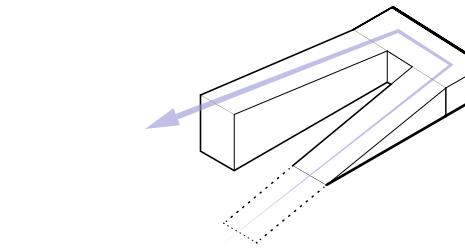
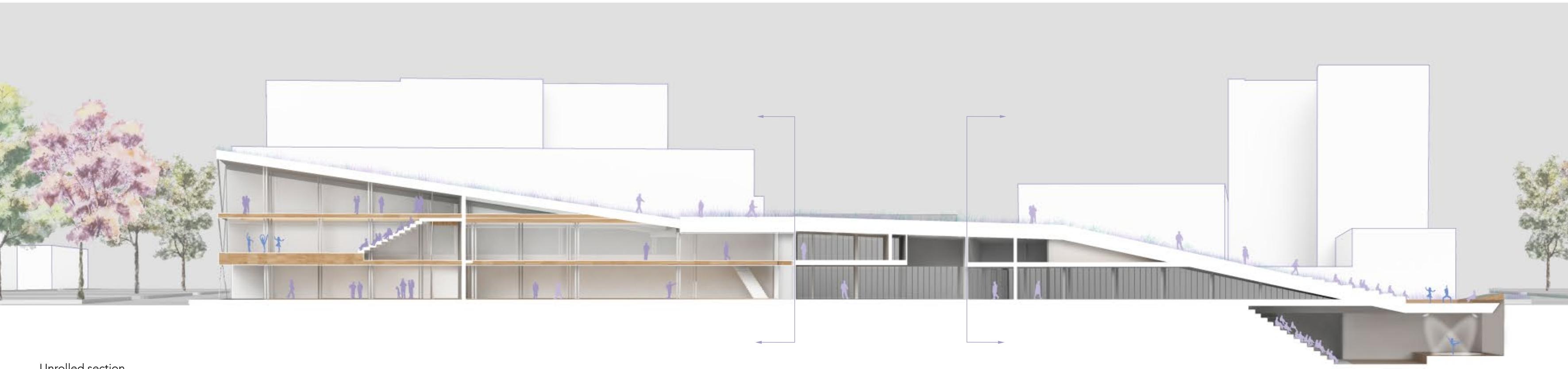


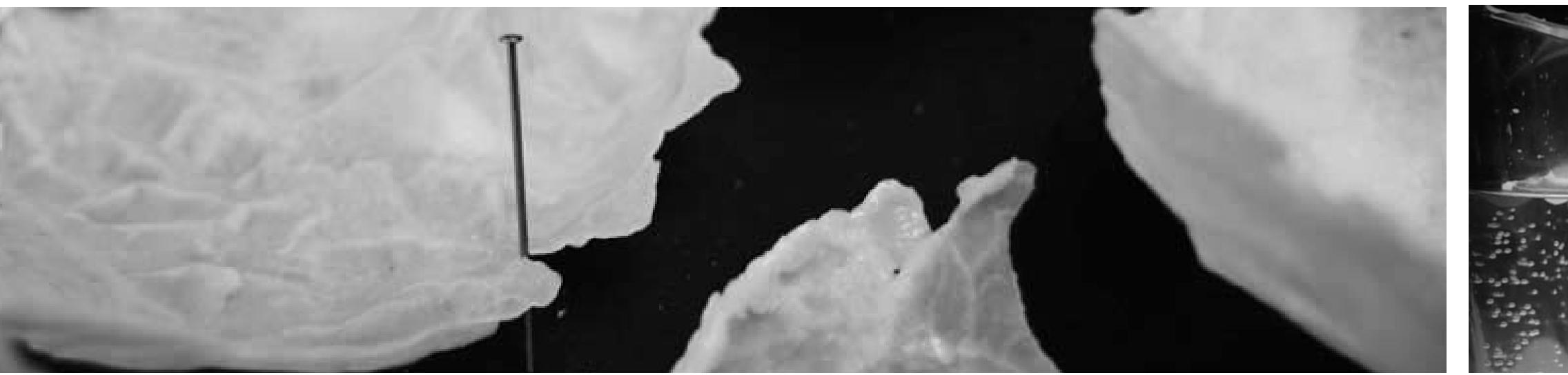
Light Box



Black Box

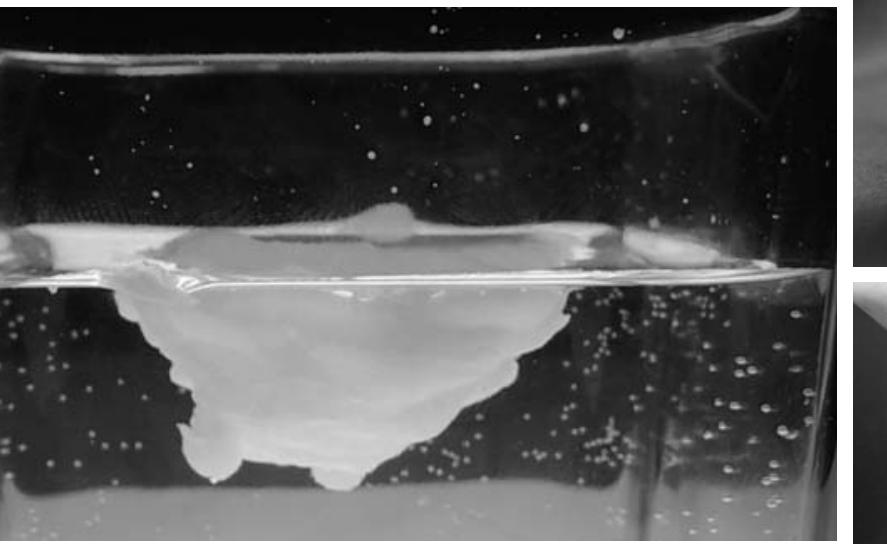






COMPOUNDING DENSITY | spring 2016 | solo material research

What started as an observation of removal of heated wax out of water quickly manifested itself as an investigation of state change and material volition. The richness of the material is its response to movement and the degree of control over the resulting forms. I entertained highly speculative applications of the material as a resilient response to flood conditions. The highly adaptable nature of the material lends to its ability to a wide range of applications - from a deployable slide in case of emergency to a human hamster wheel that allows a man to walk on water.



application

wax is heated to a liquid state and first introduced to water with a dropper. the material solidifies as it touches the water, but remains liquid inside the initial hardened shell. the primary shell is built upon as more material is added and the weight causes it to dip deeper into the water



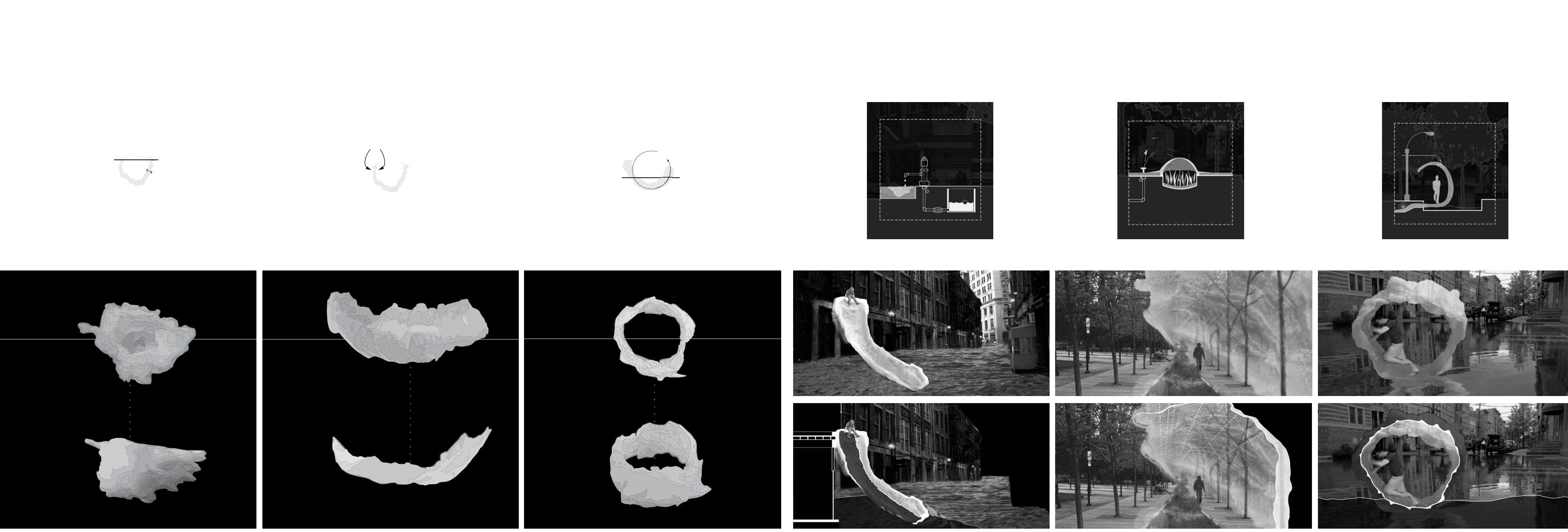
extrication

the hardened shell is slowly tipped to allow the liquid to spill outside the shell into supplemental shells. at the threshold for fracture, the subsequent shell breaks off from its parent, fostering another pool of liquid wax



fragmentation

the resulting shells created become thinner as they are removed. the most fragile have a lower threshold for fracture. the final shells created do not provide enough volume to create a subsequent shell, and are removed as one solid piece



Challenge: maximize thickness

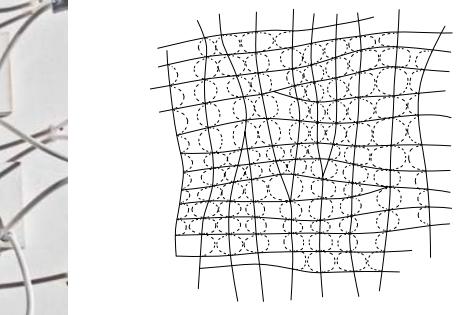
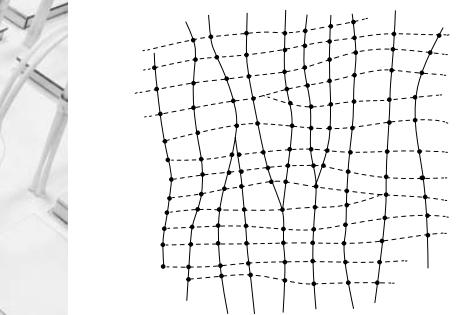
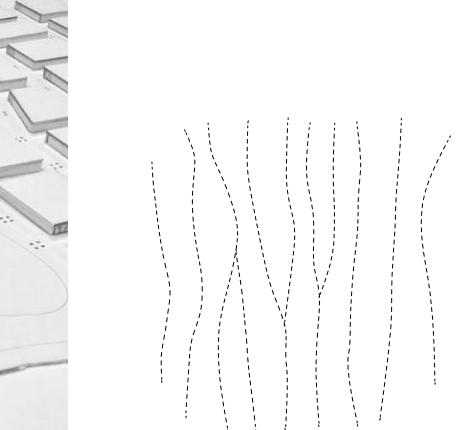
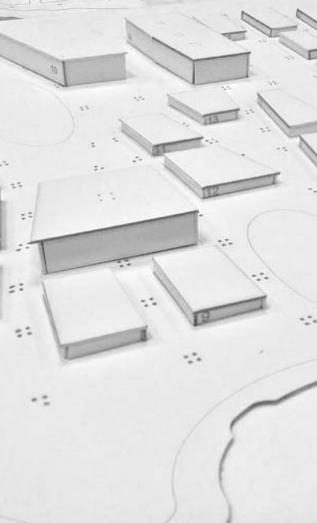
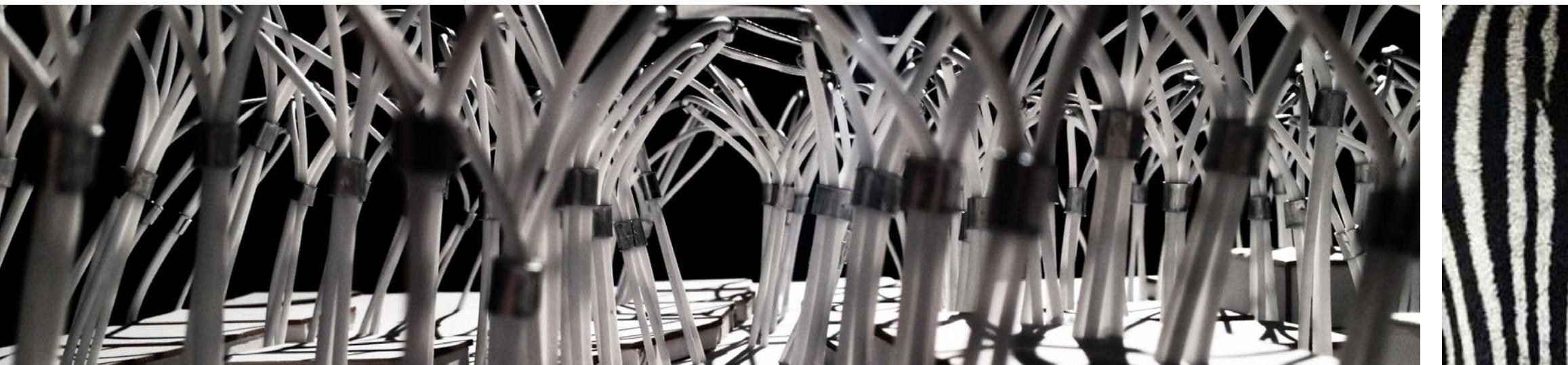
Challenge: maximize thinness

Challenge: maximize curvature

Application: Supermax Slide

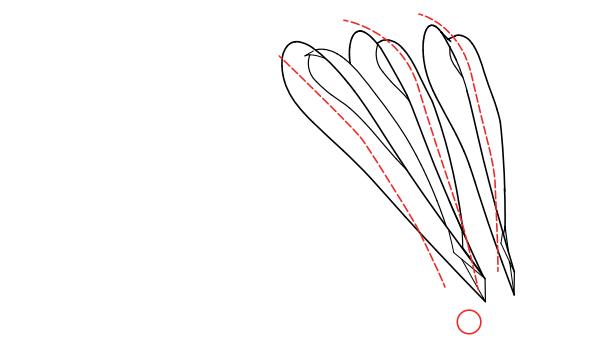
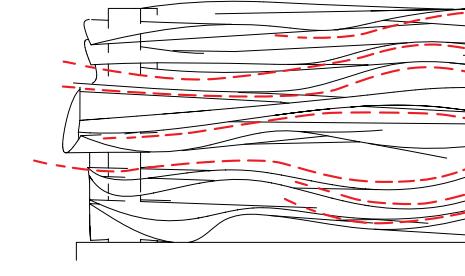
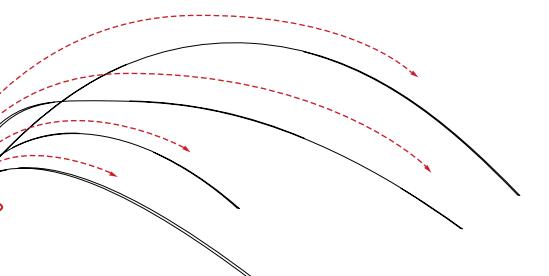
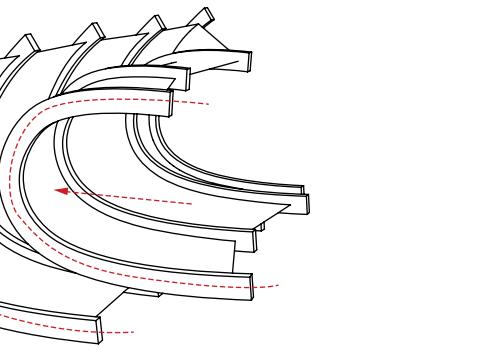
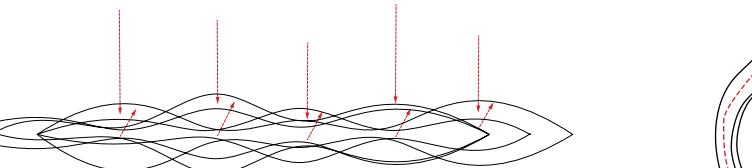
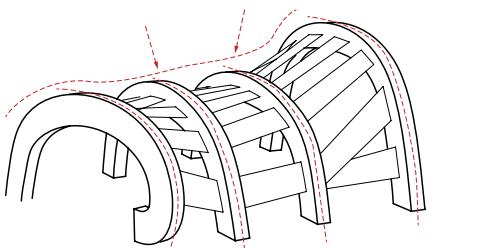
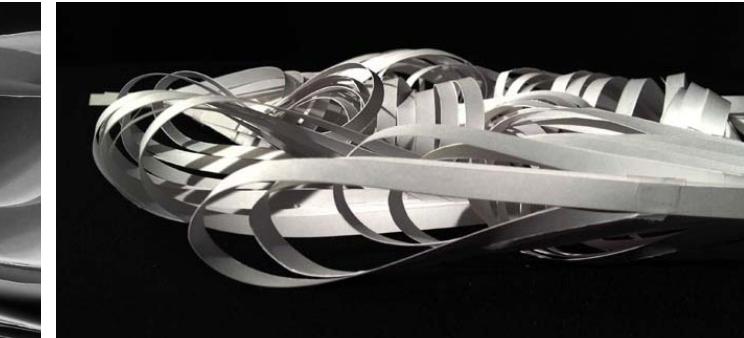
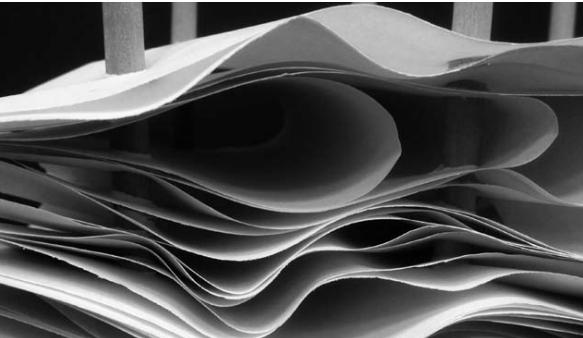
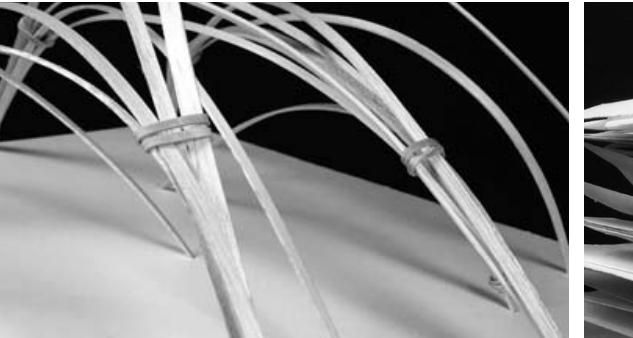
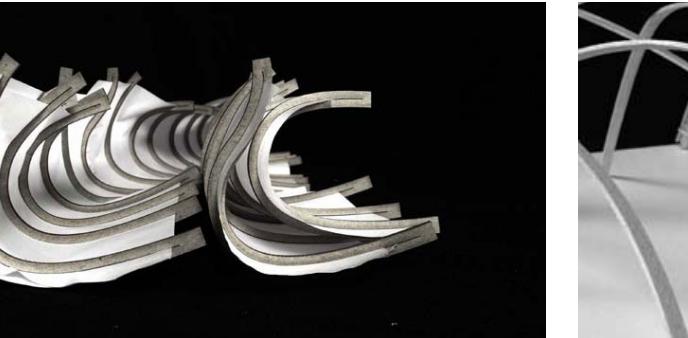
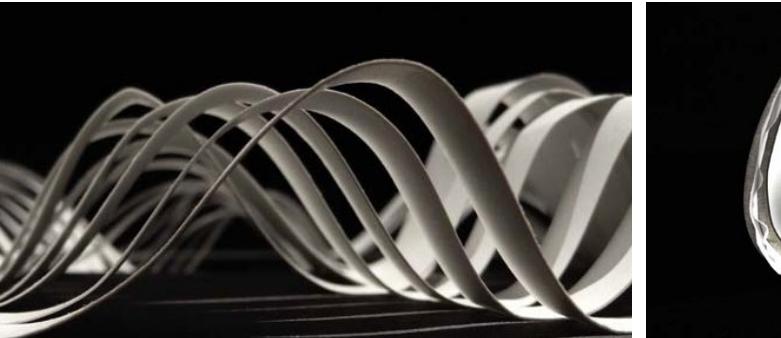
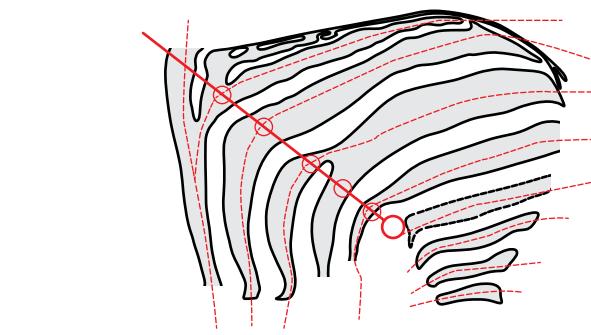
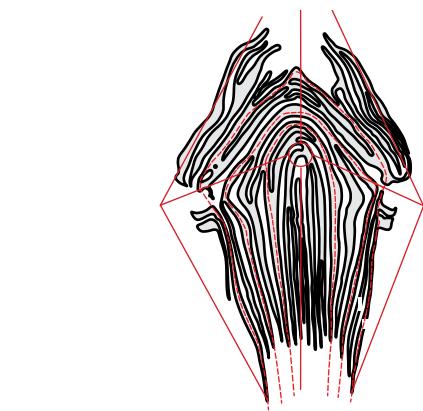
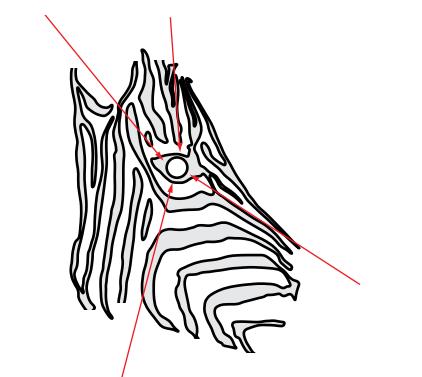
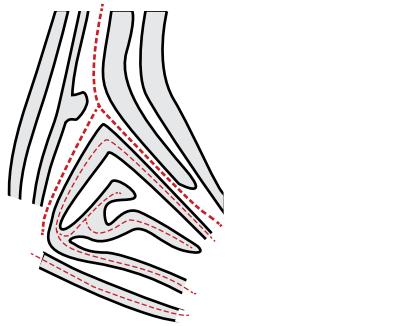
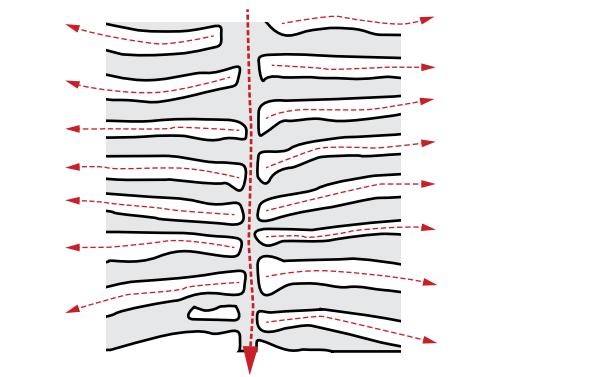
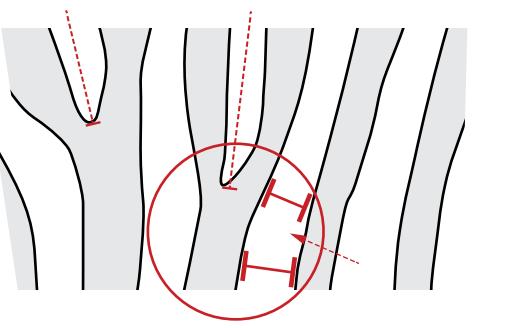
Application: Luminous Ascent

Application: Merry-go-about-your-business



DAZZLE MARKET | fall 2013 | team aggregate study + solo design project

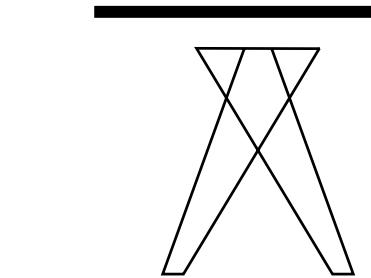
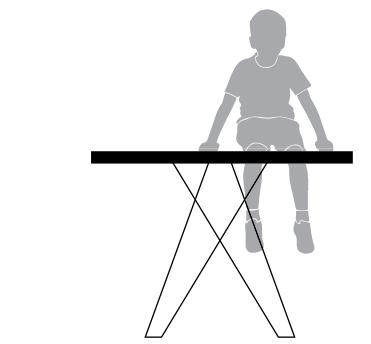
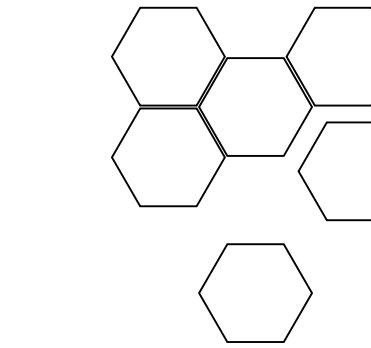
Dazzle, the term for a herd of zebras, began as an aggregate study of zebra stripes in an effort to apply biomimicry to architecture. A set of six rules were created based on the generation of the zebra pattern as it related to the geometry of the animal itself. These rules were then implemented in the study models for exploration of light, enclosure, and long-span structure. These concept models were used to design a proposed Farmer's Market for downtown Muncie, IN. The Dazzle Market uses a zebra-stripe generated floor plan with varied-height steel arches and tensioned fabric to enclose the booth spaces - shown far right on the facing page.

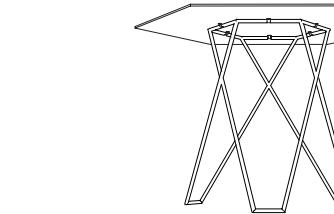
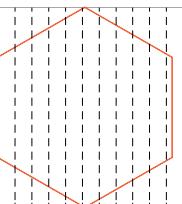
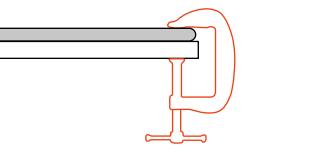
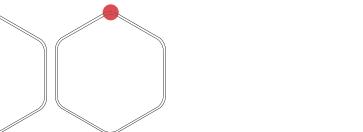
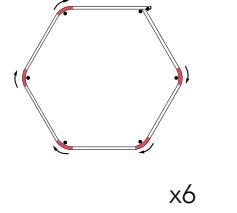
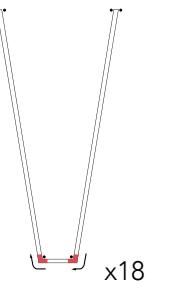




FURNITURE DESIGN | fall 2014 | team collaboration

Growing Places Indy commissioned two Ball State architecture studios to work on a design-build project deemed "GRIDfarm" in Indianapolis, IN. Deliverables included a rebar gridshell skinned with repurposed RCA Dome fabric, a vegetable wash station, and retrofitted shipping containers. This three-person team was responsible for six tables to be used on-site, built from donated chalkboards and 1/2" steel rods. The challenge was to design a table that fit seamlessly into the other pieces of the project, especially the intricate woven chair design. The resulting design used hexagonal tabletops and a three-leg base attached to a hexagonal ring.





Chop

Bend

Weld

Smooth

Cut

Join



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