An abstract geometric artwork featuring a large, irregularly shaped gray area with a fine, dark gray crackled texture. A thin blue vertical strip runs along the right edge of this gray shape. In the bottom left corner, there is a yellow triangular area composed of several smaller triangles outlined in gray. The overall composition is minimalist and modern.

MICHAEL THUT

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INTRO

My name is Michael Thut and I am in my first year of the 3-year M.Arch program at the University of Michigan. More to come soon!

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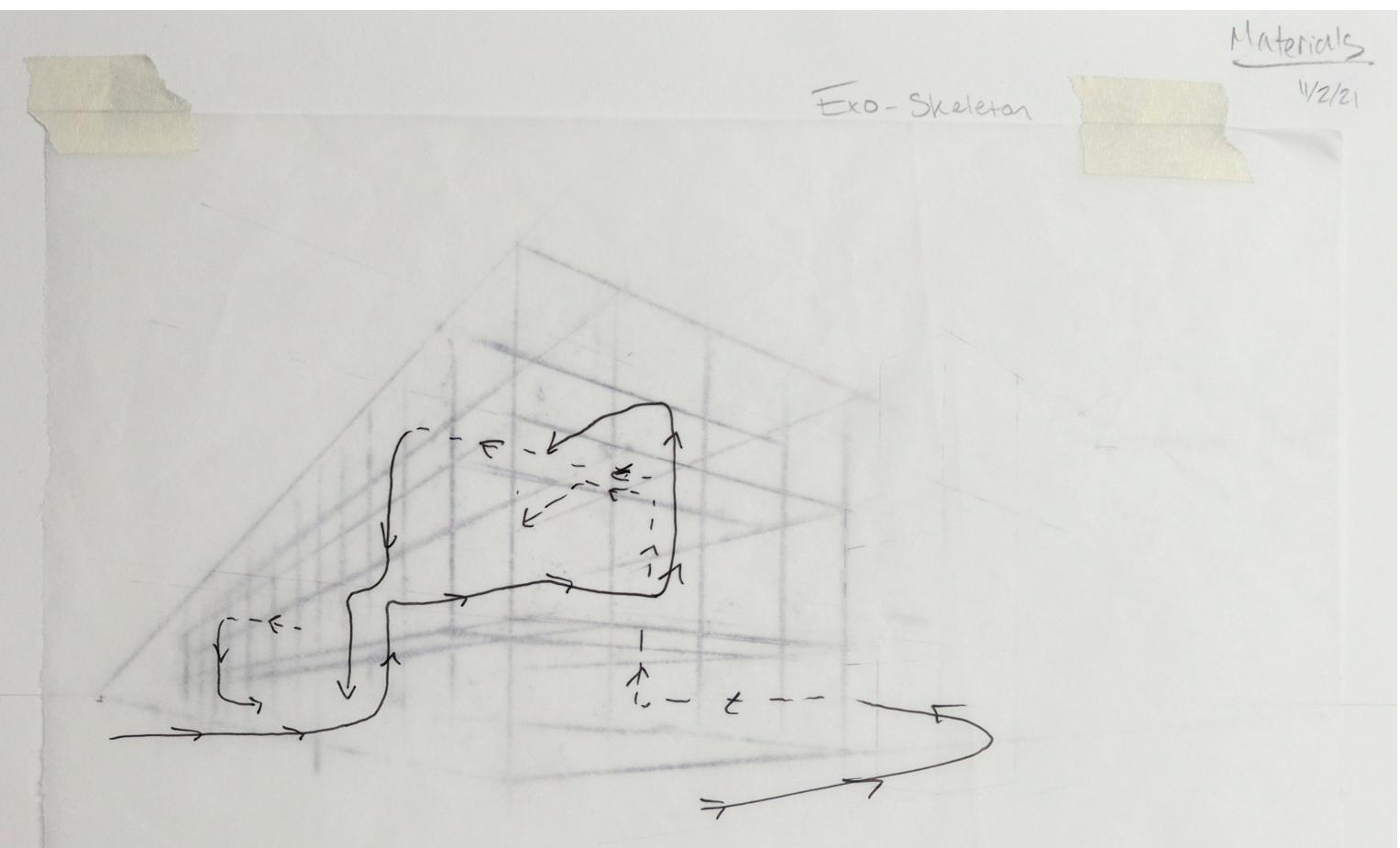
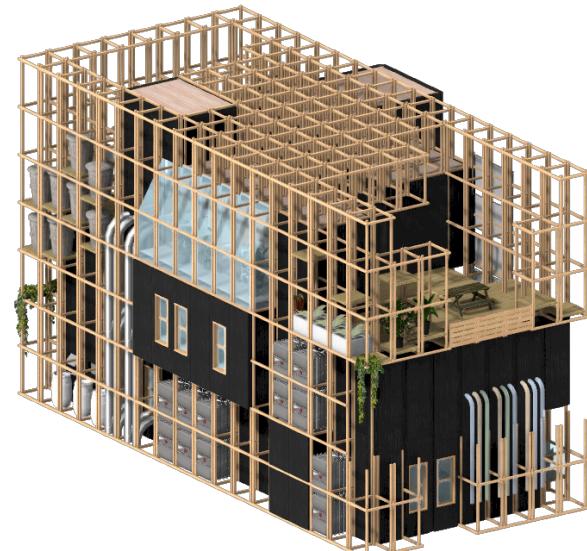
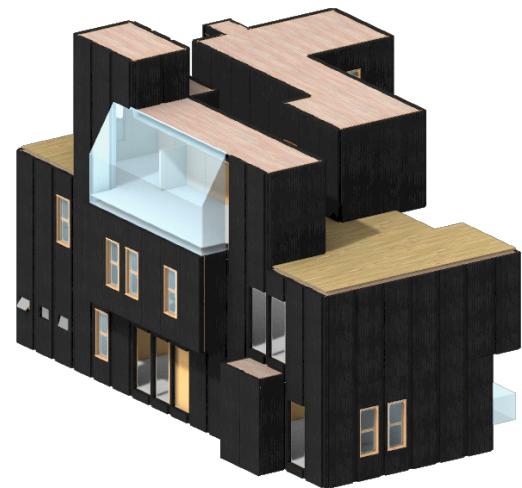
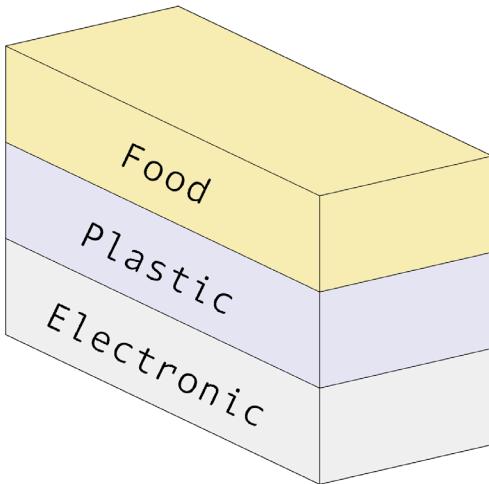
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MATERIAL MANAGEMENT

Location: Suburban Neighborhood
Class: ARCH 412: Form - Adam Fure
Skills Used: Rhino 7, Adobe Suite (Illustrator, Photoshop)

The goal of this project was to design a multi-family housing unit situated within a “studio neighborhood” in suburbia. The studio collectively decided to have the theme of our neighborhood be ex-communicated. Many of my classmates took this as qualifier for the people they would design the building for, but I’m interested in sustainability and materials, so I decided to shape my building around the process of recycling and re-purposing common ex-communicated household items. I formulated an exterior facade system to facilitate the management of this leftover material.

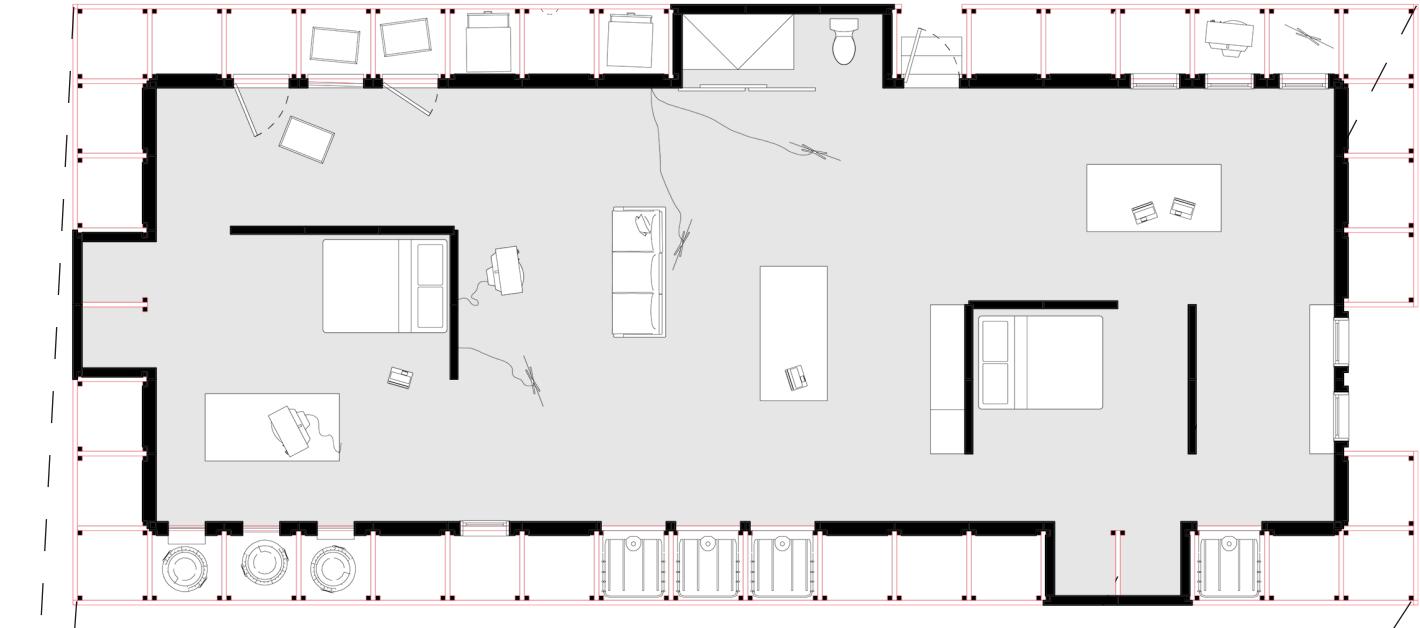


DRAWING

To the left is an early drawing that captures the main theme of the project; that is the storage and management of materials in an external facade for recycle and reuse.

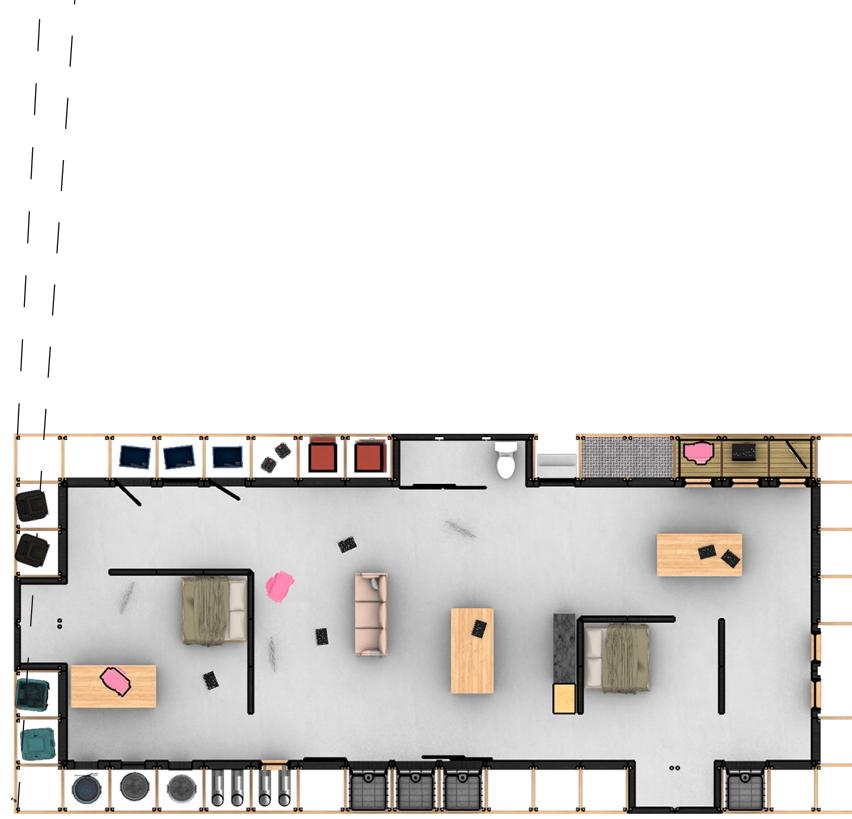
DIAGRAM

The images on the right show the progression of the idea to the projects finalized form.



PLAN - FLOOR 1

A drawing of the first floor to the left highlights the way the external characteristics of the facade mold program. This includes drop off points, work areas, storage for hazardous materials, shelving, and a sales window.



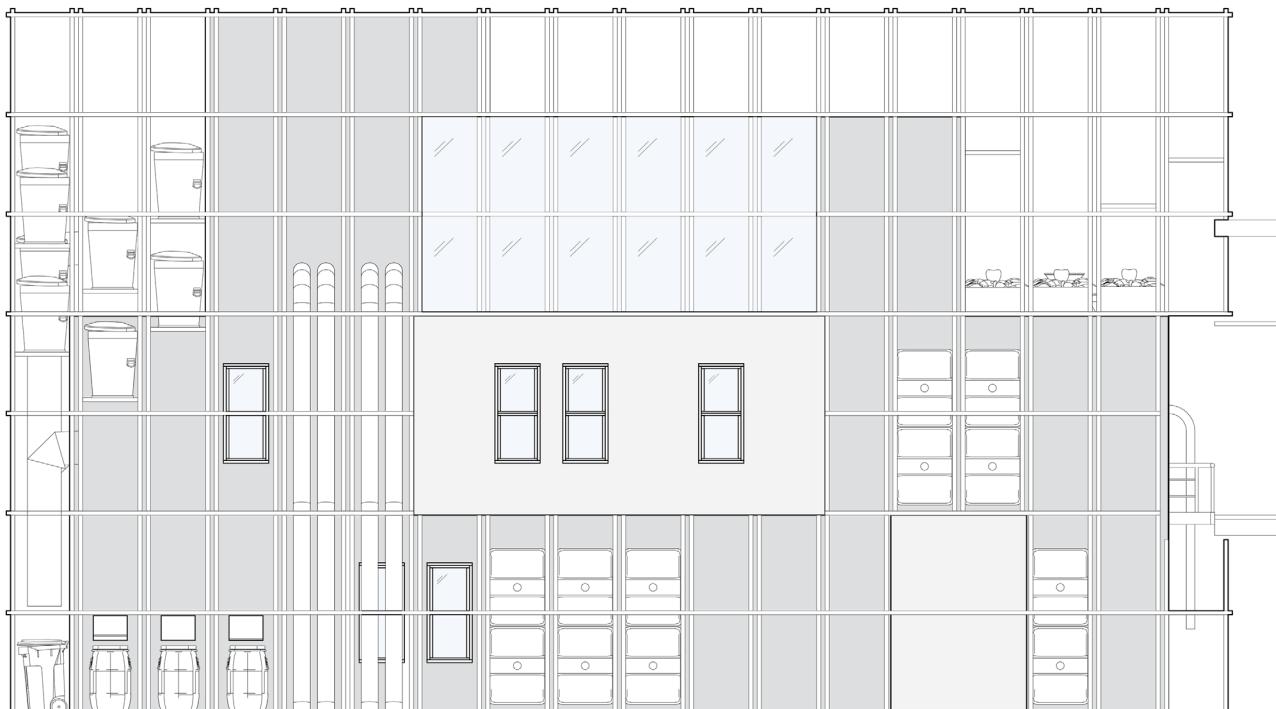
FLOOR 1



FLOOR 2



FLOOR 3



ELEVATION - WEST FACADE

A drawing of the west facing facade is on the left. The gridded wood structure functions as a storage skin for the waste management functions of the program.



ELEVATION - WEST FACADE

The rendering above provides the same content, but in a different mode of representation. This helps to emphasize the objects and the activities that take place in the exterior facade.



MODEL - SECTION

Above is a section cut of my final model.
Better photo soon!

MODEL - FULL

To the left is a shot of my full model.
Better photo soon as well!

USONIA TOTEM

Location: Usonia Neighborhood - Pleasantville, NY
Class: ARCH 402: Foundation Studio - Eduardo Mediero
Skills Used: Rhino 7, Adobe Suite (Illustrator, Photoshop)

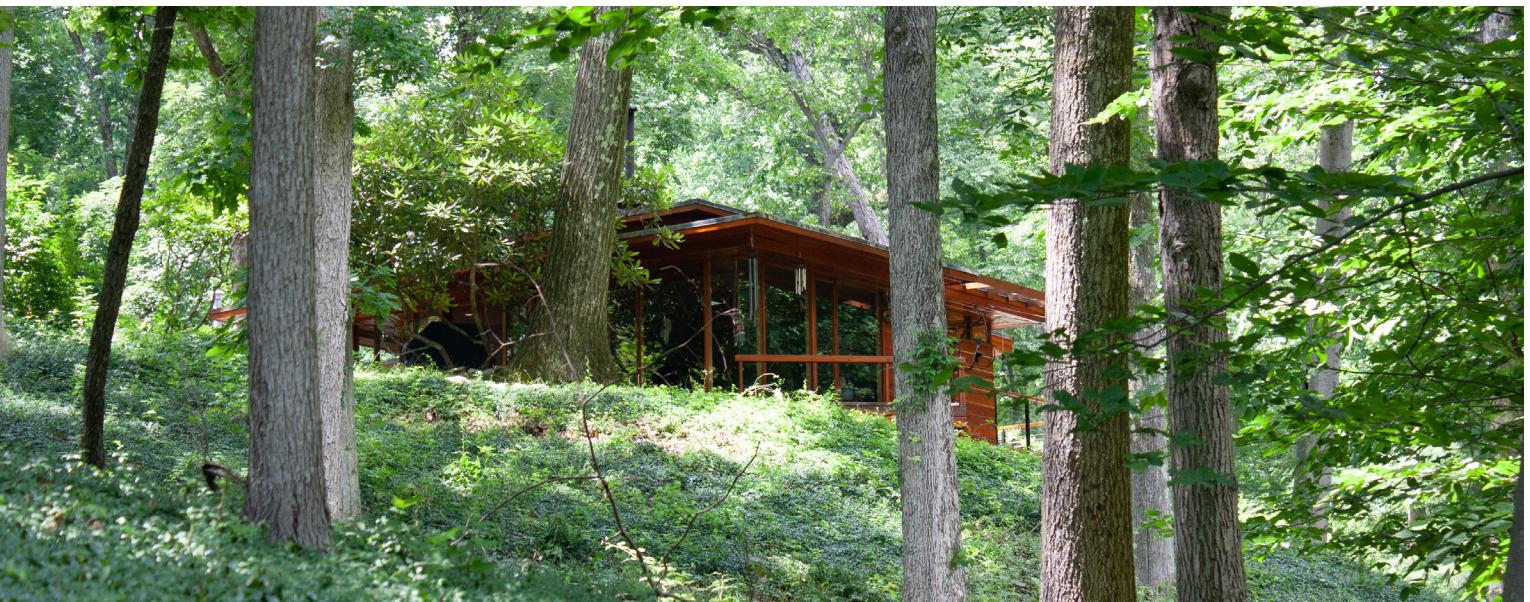
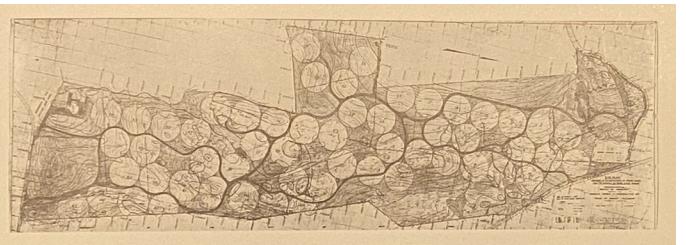
As the first project in Michigan's graduate foundation studio, I was asked to draw my surrounding environment. These became documents to analyze the world around me. From these drawings I was asked to extrapolate my understanding of the space and turn it into a line. This became the basis for a speculative model in Rhino.

PHOTO

MAP

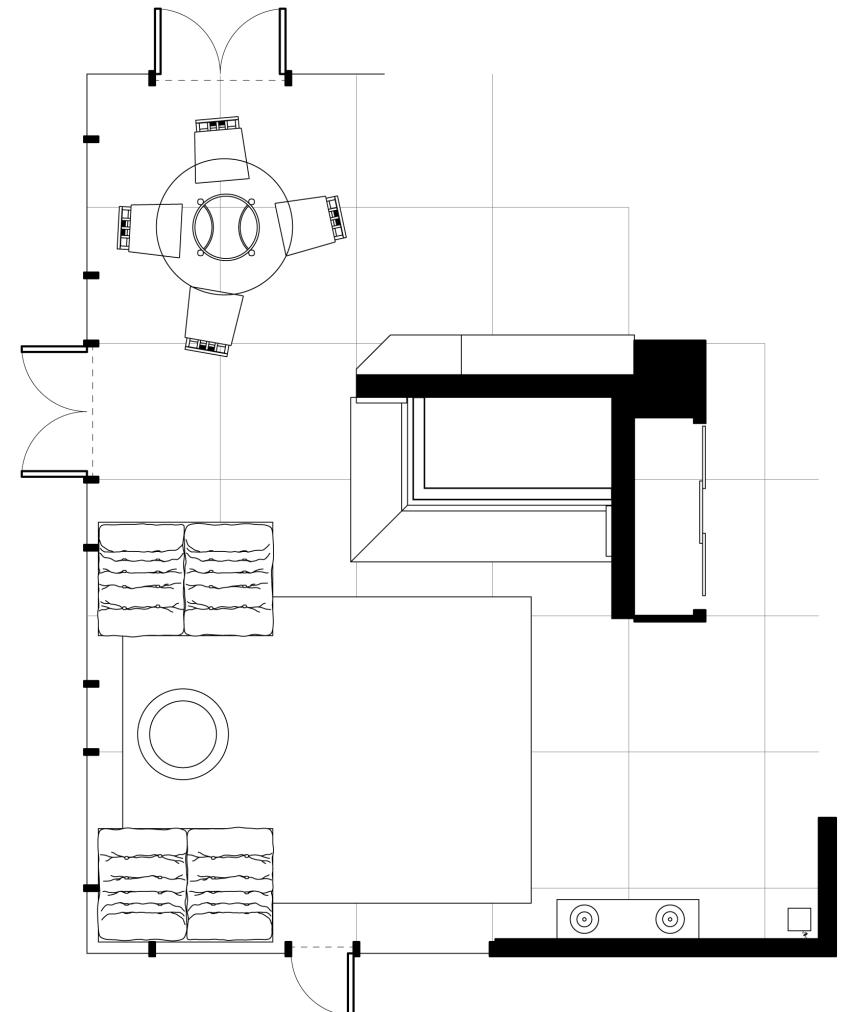
Below is a photograph I took of the Usonian house I drew. It's situated in the middle of the forest, with a hearth as the focal point of the living room.

To the right is a drawing of the neighborhood taken from "Usonia New York Building a Community with Frank Lloyd Wright" by Roland Reisley with John Timpane.



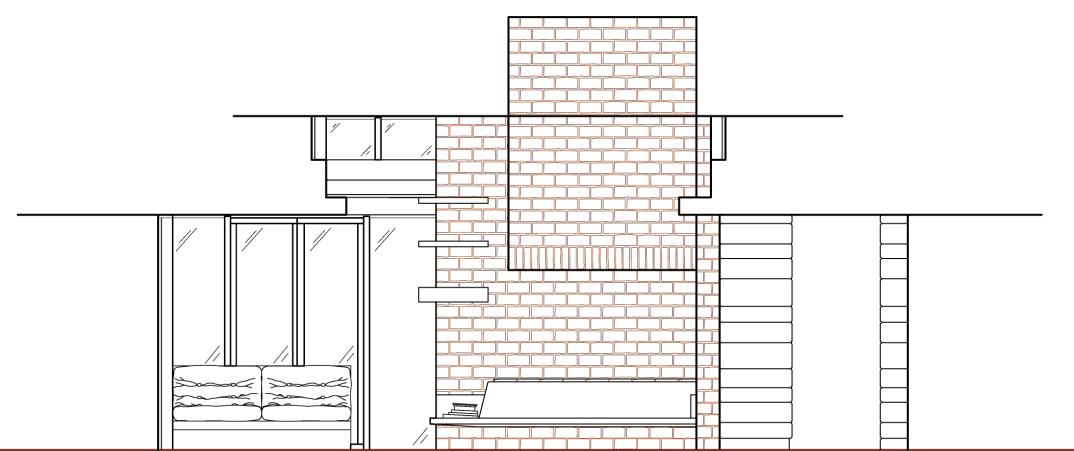
PLAN

A plan of the living room is shown above. The large L in the middle is a built in brick fireplace. It is the focal point of the space.

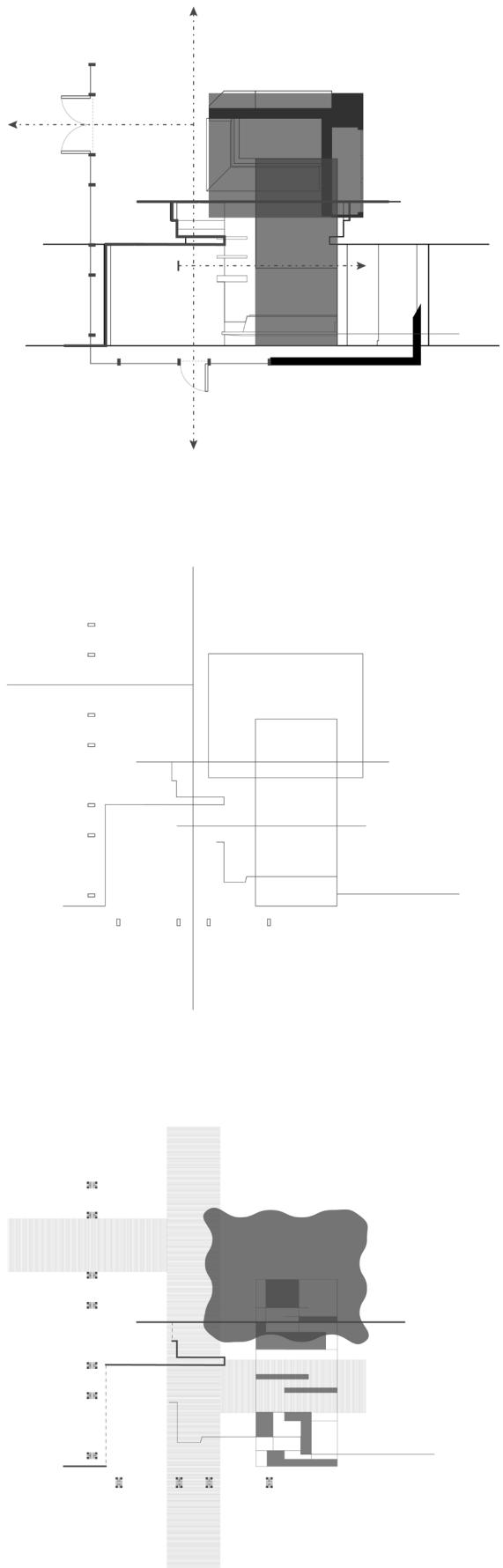


SECTION

The section to the right further emphasizes the importance of the brick mass, while showcasing other aspects of the room, like the floor to ceiling glass windows and the clerestory.



The project's main constraint was a set of restrictions on the number of moves I could make in Rhino. I treated it like a game and strategically consolidated my moves (like PlanarSrf and BooleanDifference) by applying them to multiple objects at the same time. This offered me with the most flexibility to create a unique sculptural object.

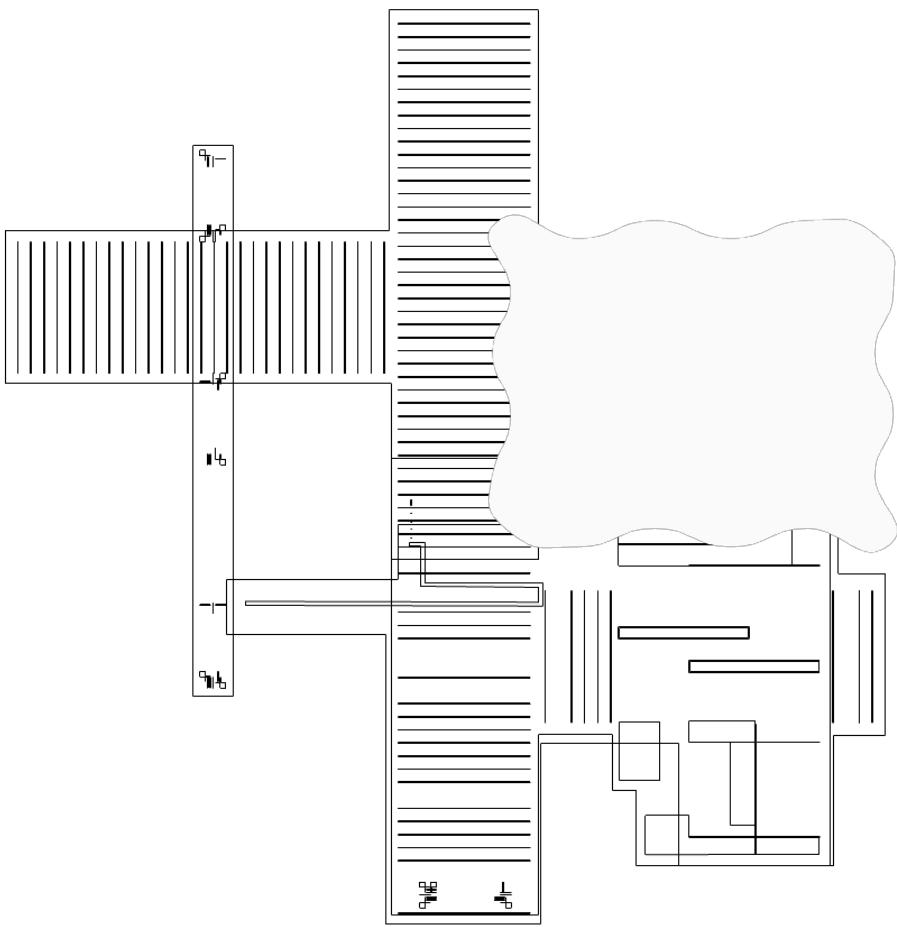


DIAGRAM

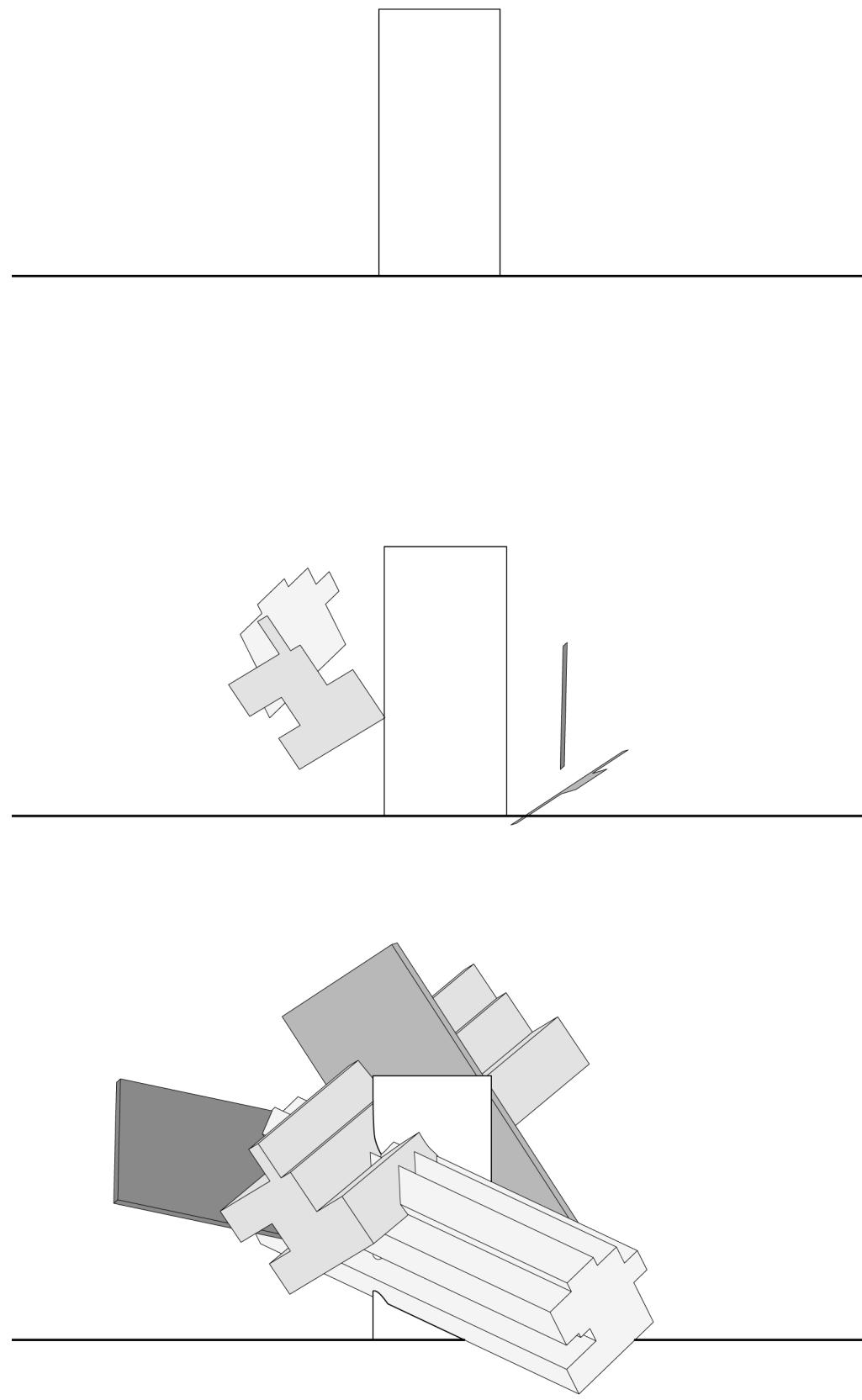
The line diagram to the left details the process of extrapolating information from the plan and elevation to create an exaggerated diagram of the space.

MODEL

I extruded the large blob in the diagram to the left to create a solid mass (shown above). To the right the plan of the site shows the column situated amongst the surfaces that will eventually carve the form.



PLAN - CUTTING SURFACES

**DIAGRAM**

The diagram to the left details the process of rotating and extruding various surfaces that cut into the main column.

MODEL

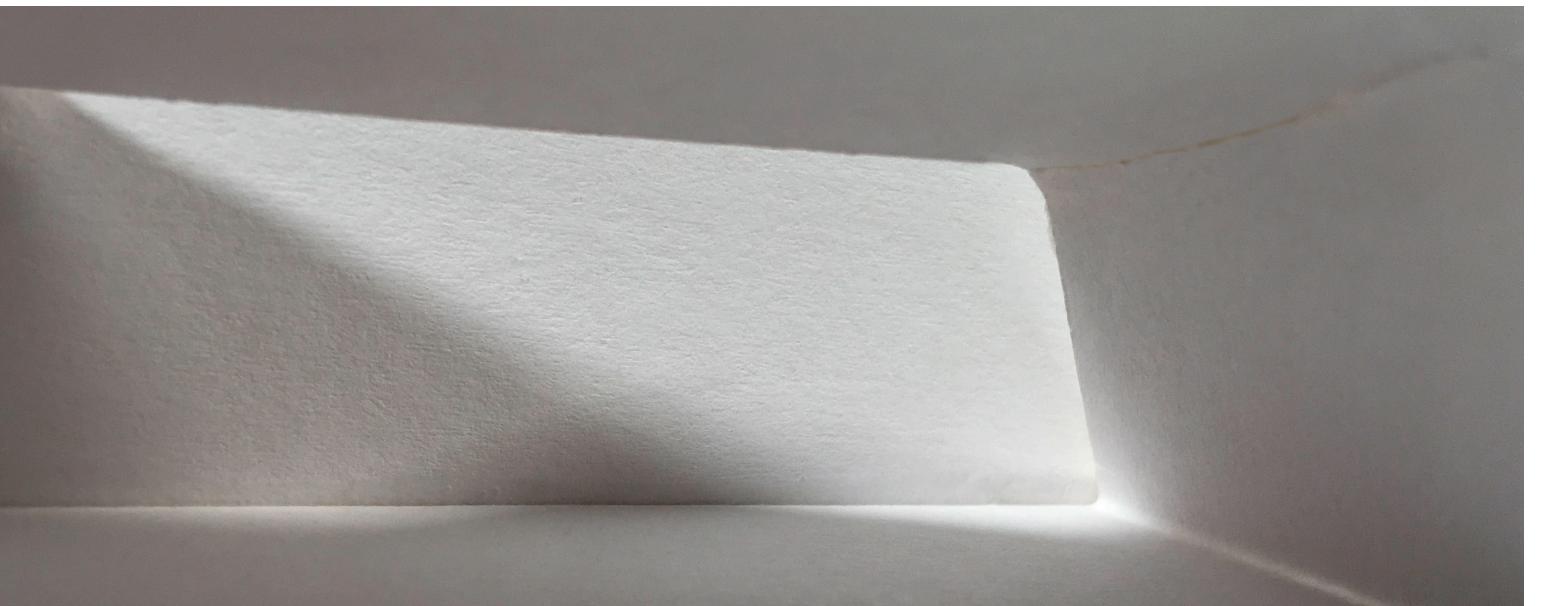
The render to the right details the surfaces and voids created by the subtractive process.



SHIFTING PERSPECTIVES

Location: Allston Neighborhood - Boston, MA
Class: Design Discovery - Harvard University
Skills Used: Model Making, Hand Drafting

As the final project in a six-week long summer design course, I was asked to design a large archive/public space between Harvard and the neighboring suburbs. The project started as a massing model intended to generate formal ideas for a design concept. An analysis of the model drove the production of the drawings and the detail shot. The connections between irregular shapes became the theme for my final design concept.

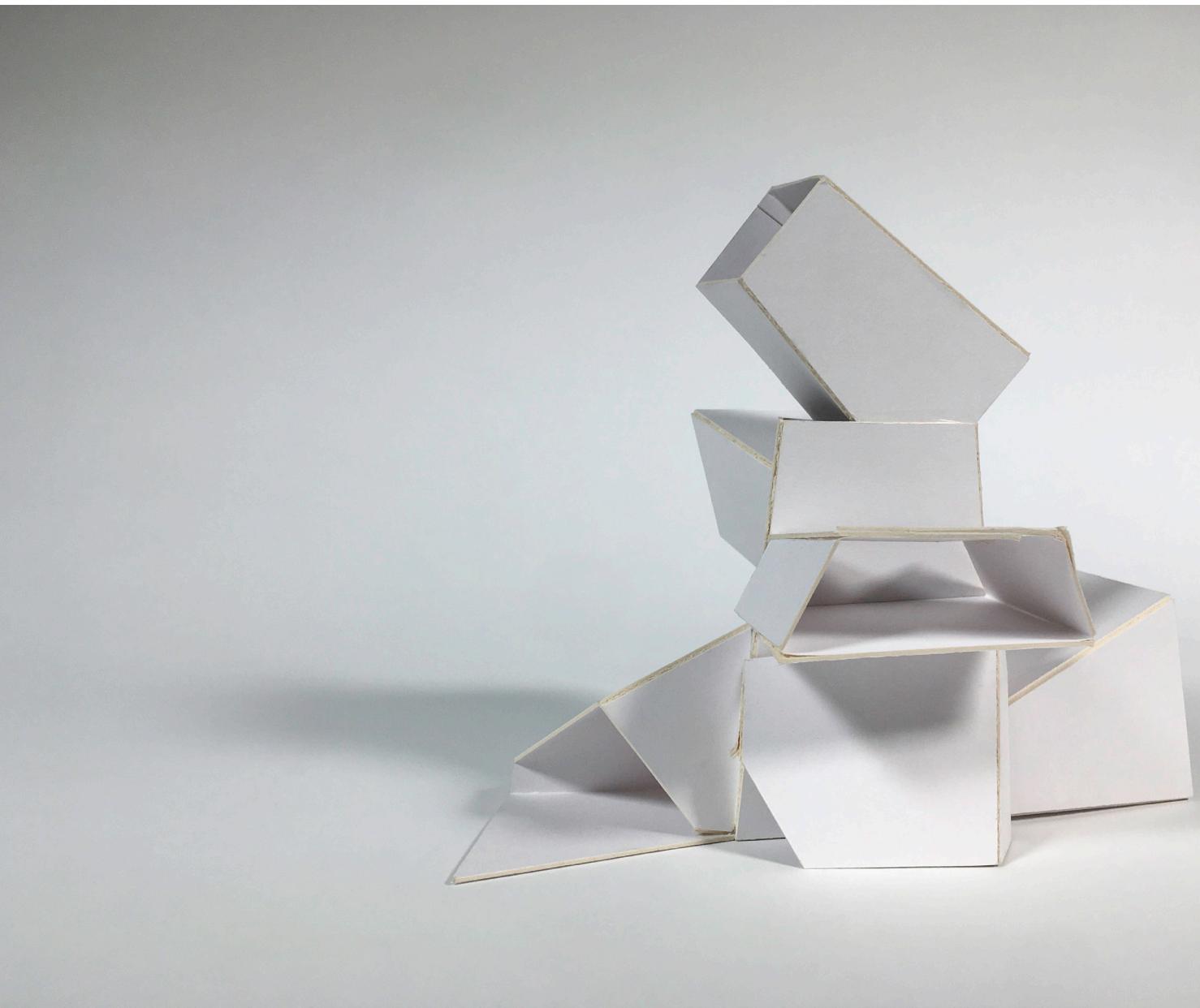
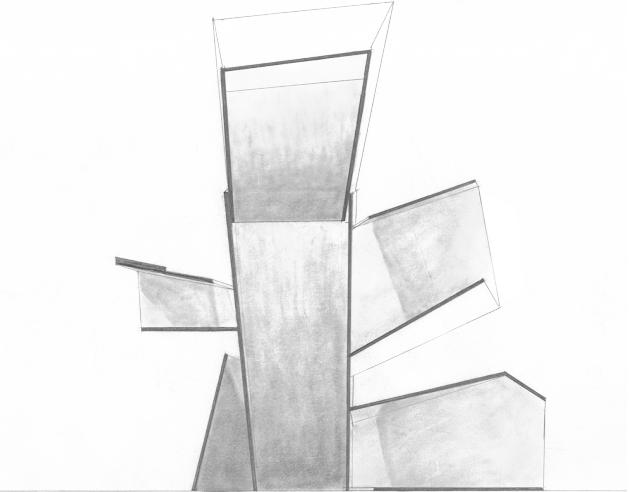
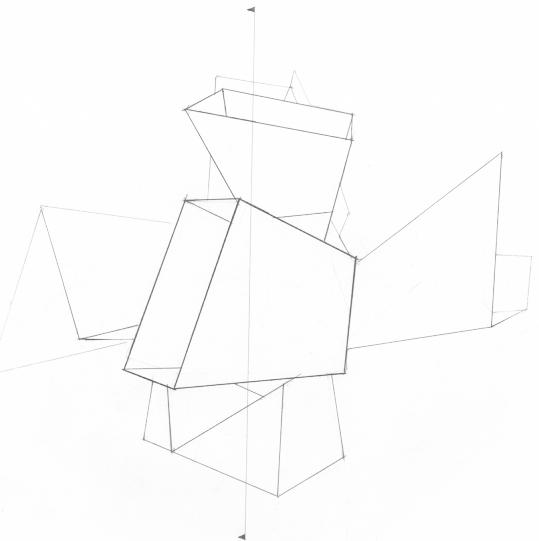


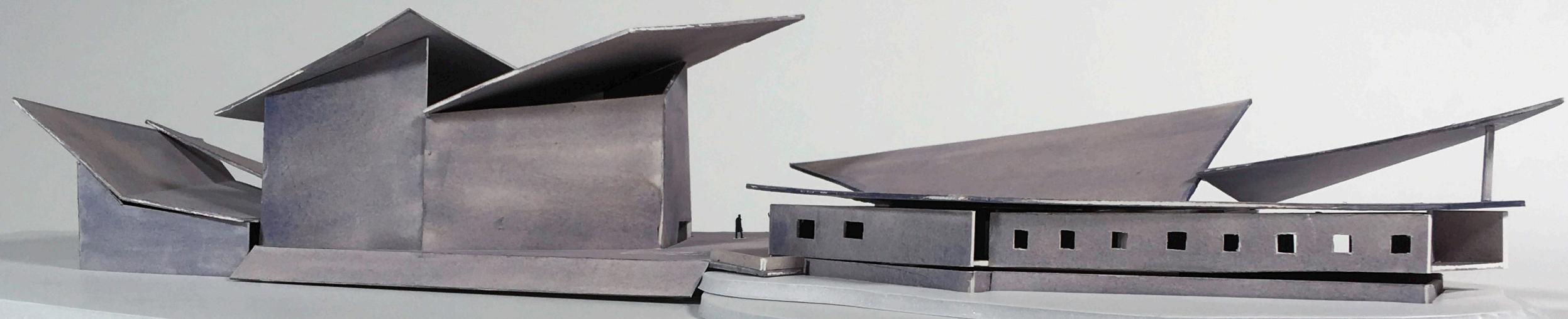
MODEL

A full shot of a massing model is to the right. Below is a detail of the model. It showcases the lighting created by the connection of irregular shapes.

DRAWINGS

Drawings of the massing model are at the top of the opposite page. They emphasize the edges and connections of the model.





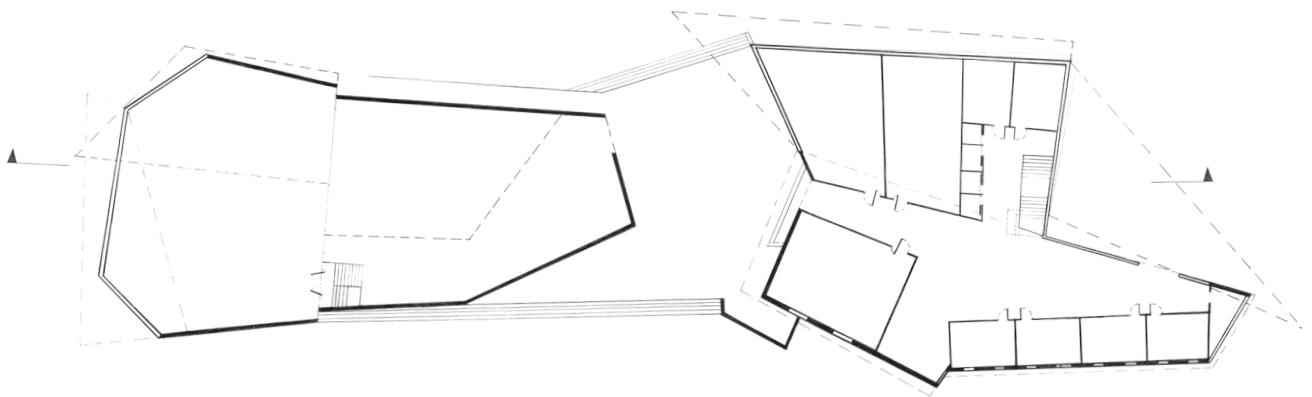
MODEL

A full shot of the final model is shown below.

INTERIOR - DETAIL

This photograph positions the viewer in the grand entrance hall full of seating for public use.

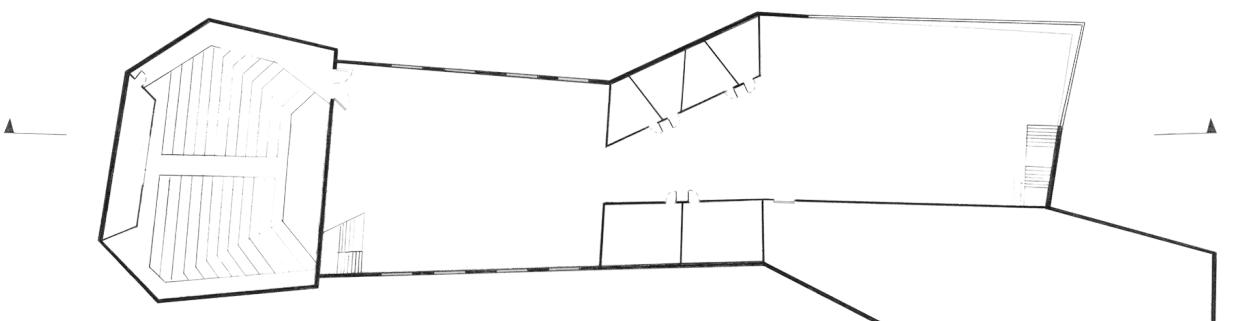




PLAN - MAIN FLOOR

SECTION

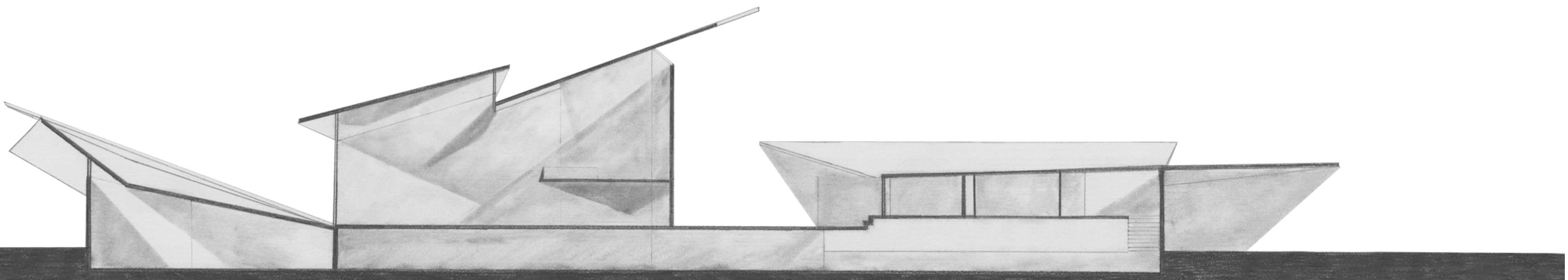
The section drawing below portrays the lighting possibilities in the final design due to the overhangs and the openings.



PLAN - BASEMENT

PLANS

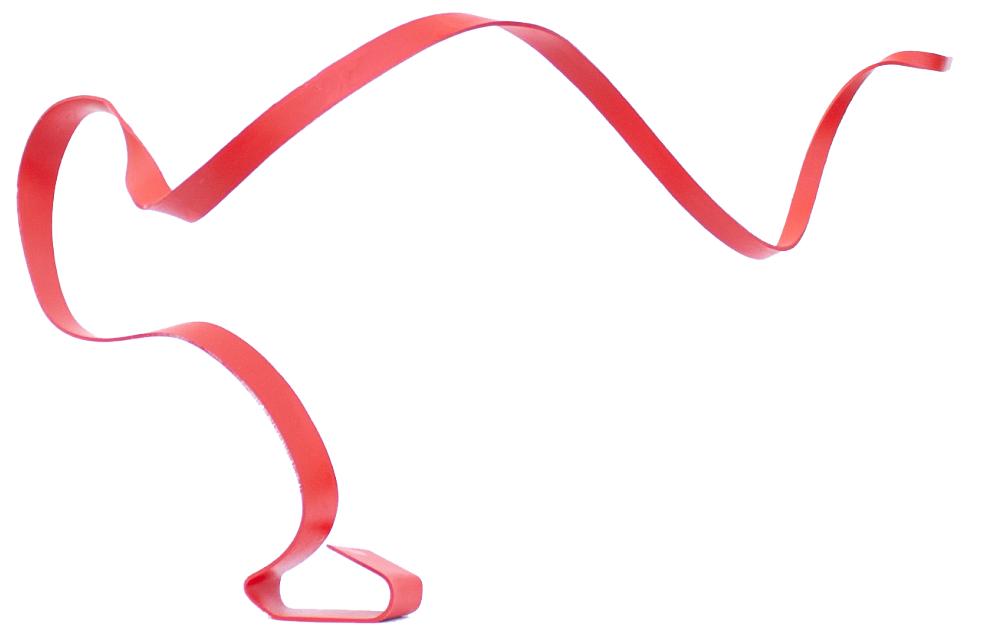
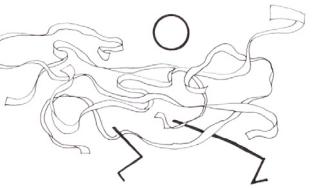
Plans of the main floor and the basement showcase a diversity of program throughout the building including a grand hall, an auditorium, large, medium, and small rooms, and an archive.



FROZEN TIME

Location: List Gallery, Swarthmore College
Class: Senior Thesis - Swarthmore College
Skills Used: Metalworking, Woodworking, Sewing

While the origins of this work were experimental, developed through ribbons and the bending of aluminum scraps, the curvilinear forms remind me of visual representations in Multi-variable Calculus and Differential Equations. The visual connection between math and these forms became the starting point for senior thesis show.



SCULPTED PHOTOGRAPHY

The images to the right were experiments at capturing doubly curved forms in space.

SCULPTURE

The bent aluminum sculpture to the right creates a still image of the curvilinear forms. The dimensions are 8" x 12" x 5".





STUDIO INSTALLATION

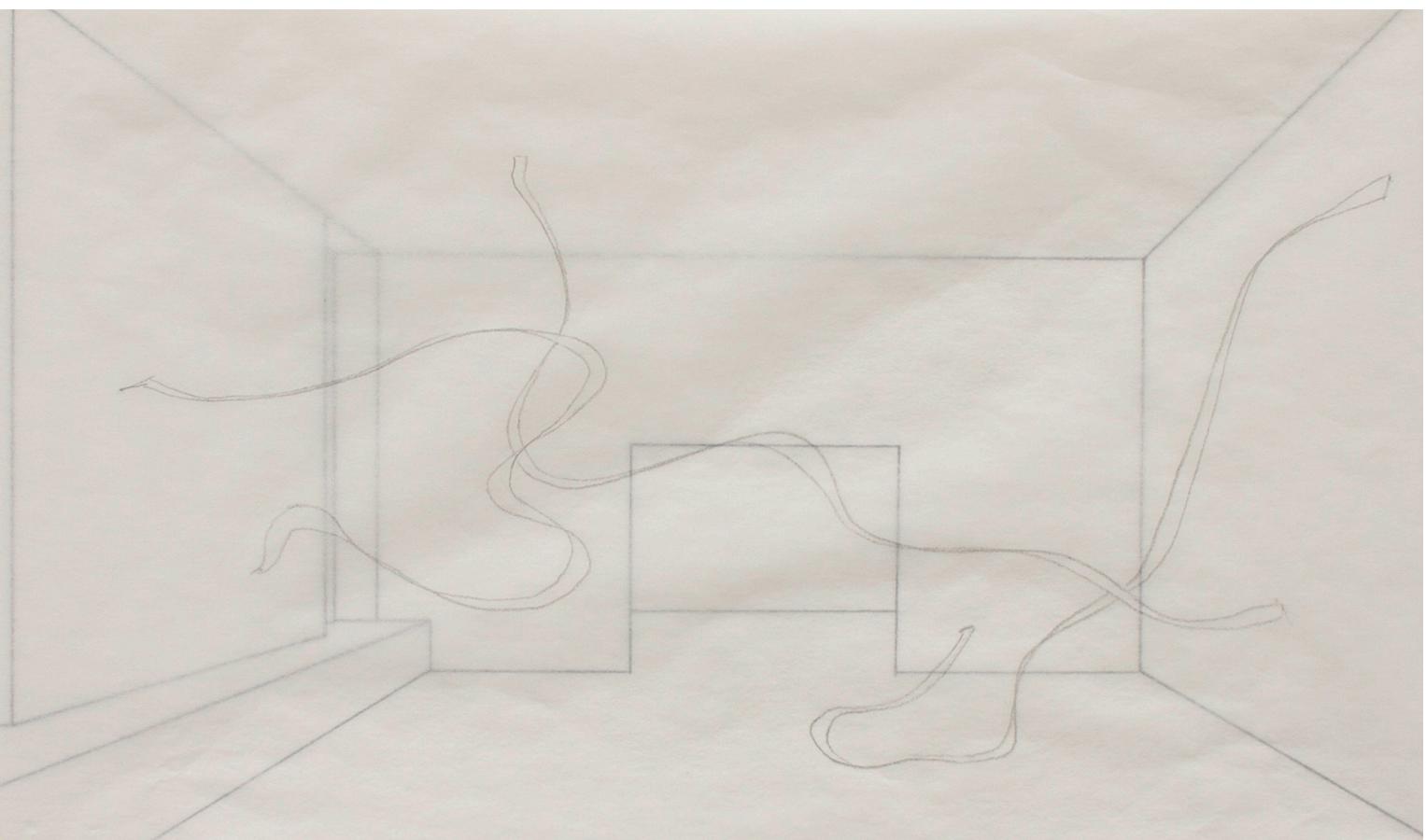
The image to the right shows the process of scaling up these curves to shape space. The reflectiveness of the metal made it the material of choice for the entire installation.

DRAWING

The drawing below shows the transition of these curves into the gallery space.

STUDIO INSTALLATION

The image to the right is a detail of a scaled figure in a model of the installation.



I enlarged the scale of the curvilinear forms to create an immersive installation for a solo show. This was meant to shape the otherwise banal, white gallery in a subtractive manner to create a delineated path through the space. Although Covid-19 disrupted the installation, my experiments and artistic process transformed the way I perceive space, especially with respect to height.

