FINAL DESIGN
Site  Duke University West Campus, Durham, North Carolina

1  Duke Gardens
2  Chapel Drive
3  Bryan Center Walkway
4  Back of Bryan University Center - Beginning of the site for the Architecture School
5  View through the site for the Architecture School
The school of architecture is a composition of forms which embodies the characteristics found in the study models. It was designed to be a rational playground, but more importantly, the forms respond to the natural site. The site for the proposed architecture school is in the forest of Duke University’s West Campus. The qualities of the forest and the forest light became the point of departure in the inspiration for the building. The design of the school attempts to present the beauty of the forest by layering its space between its inside and outside. At the zone between the inside and outside, are varying levels of transparency, from opaque concrete walls to the varying
density of the sun screens. By taking views of the forest away at certain moments and revealing the beauty of the forest in its entirety at other places, the forest is re-presented to the people in the school. The totally transparent openings occur at the entrances to the meeting rooms. At this point students enter down a flight of stairs and view the forest clearly. The moments which are closest in contact with nature, such as the meeting rooms and the lobby, are the moments of interaction between people, where students and faculty unite.
public path  a bridge through a forest
Inter-Play  Conceptual sketches and final model
Northeast Elevation

Southwest Elevation
interplay  compositional rules in the layering of planes

Plan Diagram - Order, Variation, Superimposition

Section Diagram - Order, Variation, Superimposition
sections
interplay with nature
inside and outside
path to nature occurs at intersections to meeting rooms
1 view of studio on third floor  
2 stairs leading to meeting room
layering  between inside and outside
1, 2 studio space. views of university through forest
lobby  transparent opening to the forest

1,2,3  views of lobby
CONCLUSION
This thesis has been a study of the interplay involved in the composition of forms and the interaction of the man-made with nature. The creation of architecture is a complex process of composing forms. Composition involves a structured type of playing which uses geometrical transformations to create a unified whole. The emotional impact of the architectural composition lies not only in the geometrical arrangement of forms, but what the forms bring into presence. This thesis has been an attempt to meet this difficult challenge. In this thesis project, a composition of twin phenomenon was the genesis for creating a school of architecture. The basis for the composition of the school was a focus on the transition of the inside to outside space, the point where the beauty of a forest gives meaning to the architecture and the architecture meaning to the forest.
“The institutions are the houses of inspirations. Schools, libraries, laboratories, gymnasium. The architect considers the inspiration before he can accept the dictates of a space desired. He asks himself what is the nature of one that distinguishes itself from another. When he senses the difference, he is in touch with its form. Form inspires design.”  

Louis Kahn
end notes

3. Ibid., p 1528.
11. Ibid., p 7.
12. Ibid., p 7.

credits

Unless otherwise noted, images are drawings, photographs, or renderings by the author


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