Building Section

The auditorium in the center of the structure is a beacon for the entire Town. The apex of the tetrahedral roof is constructed of translucent glass and it towers above the rest of the building and the Town. The space will be used mostly during the evening and night hours, and the glowing point of the roof acts as a signal to the town that something is happening. The roof structure thrusts outward on the polished, faceted concrete walls whose form are a reaction to that thrust and in attempt to bring a gem-like quality to the walls. A series of study models assisted in verifying the appropriate angular nature of the walls, and the selected wall is shown in Photo 04 on page 19. The central space stands alone. The surrounding spaces and their roofs are pulled back out of respect toward the precious center resulting in an outdoor space between the studios and the auditorium.
A Stage for the Town of Floyd

Auditorium Study Models
A Stage for the Town of Floyd

Building Section

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A Stage for the Town of Floyd

Building Section Model
Screen

The horizon that the plinth makes with the eyes of those at the street begins to generate a rich section. The spaces that face that main street (Rt. 221) evolved into dance studios, and I felt that these spaces should reveal glimpses of the action within to those passing by. The majority of the action of Appalachian dance occurs below the waist. Using the body as a unit of measure, my intention is to frame the feet and screen the upper body with a wood louver and metal frame system. Through the layering of this space, from the street, one passing by would clearly see the feet of those dancing, while their upper body would appear like a silhouette. As one moves closer to the structure, the figure becomes more clear, and again the building offers an invitation to those viewing from outside.
A Stage for the Town of Floyd

Dance Studio Daylight Studies

8:00 A.M. June 21
12:00 P.M. June 21
4:00 P.M. June 21

8:00 A.M. December 21
12:00 P.M. December 21
4:00 P.M. December 21
A series of model studies assisted in verifying the density and the depth of the screen. The final iteration (next page, Photo 04) is composed of three distinct areas of different density. The lower section screens the upper body of the dancers; the middle section is operable and is less dense to allow for natural light to be controlled in the studios, and the upper section changes in depth in order to create an ending, a capital, to meet the sky. After careful consideration and a precedent study, I chose the warm color and texture of wood, over the more durable steel or aluminum for the louvers and a powder coated steel for the structural frame.
Concluding Reflection

In the early stages of this project, I failed to realize the possibilities and responsibility that the project has to the Town. The physical limits of the site are a given factor, but the phenomenal limits can reach far beyond the edge of the physical. Throughout the project I work in three scales – the scale of the Town, the scale of the building, and the scale of the screen. After spending the first half of the design process at the scale of the town, I was able to make a better informed decision about what the project should be and how it should extend into the Town. The building is informed by the environment that surrounds it. Existing buildings, streets, and the people that interact with the architecture as they pass by are all factors in the evolution of the project. No building is without a context. Whether the site is in a town, a forest or a field, there are always elements that should speak to the project. Using these existing conditions will aid in making a better informed architecture.
Works Studied for Material Precedence

Chapel on Mt. Rokko, Tadao Ando
Koshino House, Tadao Ando
Naoshima Contemporary Art Museum, Tadao Ando
The Carte d’Art, Norman Foster
Cranfield University Library, Norman Foster
Tjibaou Cultural Center, Renzo Piano
Peninsula House, Sean Godsell
Marie Short House, Glenn Murcutt
Douglas and Ruth Murcutt House, Glenn Murcutt
Marika- Alderton House, Glenn Murcutt
Zwischen den Gleisen, NSB Arkitektkontor, Jan olav Jensen
Bowali Visitor Information Centre, Glenn Murcutt

Bibliography


www.floydcountrystore.com
www.floydvirginia.com

*All images are by the author.*
Vita

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Education

Master of Architecture
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
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Thesis: A Stage for the Town of Floyd

Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology
Fairmont State College
Fairmont, WV
Specialized in Architectural Engineering Technology

Associate of Science
Fairmont State College
Fairmont, WV

Experience

Oliver, Webb, Pappas and Rhudy, Inc - Architects and Engineers
Blacksburg, VA
Designer/Drafter

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
College of Architecture and Urban Studies
Blacksburg, VA
Graduate Teaching Assistant

Awards and Honors

Recipient of the William “Bill” Brown Award and Scholarship
Vice President of Fairmont State College Chapter of the AIAS 2003-04
Associates Award of Technology for Academic Excellence
2002 West Virginia AIAS Spring Competition
Second place entry – “Downtown Fairmont Infill”
Baccalaureate Achievement Award in Architectural Engineering Technology
Inducted into Epsilon Phi Tau and Phi Theta Kappa Academic Honoraries
Governor’s Honors Academy Scholarship
West Virginia Space Grant Consortium Scholarships