COLLAGE AS A DESIGN PROCESS

PREPARED BY

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IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF

MASTER OF ARCHITECTURE

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Collage as a design process by Alejandro Santos
INVENTED BY MAX ERNST.
THIS IS A CREATIVE PROCESS BASED ON QUOTATION.
HERE I QUOTE ARCHITECTS AND BUILDINGS THAT I ADMIRE.
THE INTENTION IS TO COMPOSE A PROJECT WHILE FINDING MY OWN SYNTAX AND WORKING PROCEDURE.
COLLAGE.
I would like to thank professors: Susan Piedmont-Palladino, Paul Emmons, Marco Frascari and Jaan Holt for sharing their knowledge, time and views about architecture with me, they made me feel that they really enjoy teaching. I know that I really enjoyed learning with them.

I especially thank Jaan Holt for making it possible for me to be here, I can not express how grateful I am.

Thank you to all the people that helped me along the way, especially in those last moments, they made me feel at home. I will always remember that.

Carolina, thank you for those sleepless nights helping me, for putting your things aside for me.

To my mother and father, who always believed in me and gave me the strength and confidence to make me feel capable of accomplishing any goal.

I love all of you.
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SITE LOCATION + PICTURES + EARLY SITE PLAN
The site is located at the intersection of South Capitol Street and M Street SE, the two major arteries of this part of the city.

The area is currently in need of a major redevelopment. The infrastructure of the area is in a very poor condition and its housing is substandard.

South Capitol Street is planned as the new southern gateway to central Washington.

Its redevelopment would affect the conditions of the whole area. Bringing not only housing and offices, but all the levels of commercial activity needed for its renewal.
The site consists of the whole block surrounded by South Capitol street, M St. SE, L St. SE and Half St. SE.

It is practically empty, except for an existing church, one or two buildings of no real value and the rest are parking lots.

In the project the church is the only part of the existing site that is incorporated.

Diagonally across the corner of the site, at the intersection of Half and M Streets is the Navy Yard metro station. This is one of the key factors in the redevelopment of the area.
View of the site from the intersection of South Capitol St. and M St. SE
(The existing church has its main entrance facing South Capitol St.)

View of the site from the Navy Yard metro station.
To the right of the picture, the site viewed from the corner of L St. SE and Half St.
BEGINNINGS + PROCESS + EVOLUTION
Discovering that architects, would not only be inspired, but would actually take parts of buildings from masters like Le Corbusier, transform and re-use them, not only amused me, but made me want to experiment and investigate the possibilities of reusing and combining parts of buildings done by other architects as part of a design process of collage.

— LA TOURETTE MONASTERY

— LE CORBUSIER

— DAIMLER BENZ OFFICES AND HOUSING

RICHARD ROGERS
The initial idea was to develop a building that contained a mixed use program.

I selected three buildings that combined would contain the programs I was thinking of using. The buildings were not only selected because of the program, but also for qualities such as spatiality, materiality and scale.

By combining, collaging and adapting the sections of these buildings to an early scheme, I came up with a section that interested me, especially because of its spatiality. Since I was using the original drawings from each author it expressed a different nature on each of its parts, more proper of the original buildings.
Evolution of the Schematic Section
The step from the schematic section to the detailed one using the first as a template overlaying the details on top.

The drawings used are combined, repeated and placed in such a way as to form the section having in mind the connotation they acquire within the conformation of the building and its construction.

The detail is copied and assembled, forming the portion of the building corresponding to the office floors, and overlayed on the schematic section.
Some bits and pieces used to compose the thesis
PARTS USED TO COMPOSE THE ELEVATIONS

ARCHITECT:
RICHARD ROGERS

BUILDING:
CHANNEL 4 HEADQUARTERS

ARCHITECT:
RENZO PIANO

BUILDING:
AUORRA PLACE

BUILDING:
BANCA POPOLARE DI LODI

BUILDING:
CREDITO INDUSTRIALE SARDI
ARCHITECT: Renzo Piano

BUILDING: JM Tjibaou Cultural Centre

BUILDING: Kansai Airport

BUILDING: Lingotto Factory

BUILDING: Potsdamer Platz
ARCHITECTS: Renzo Piano + Richard Rogers
BUILDING: Pompidou Centre

ARCHITECTS: MVRDV
BUILDING: Dutch Pavilion Expo 2000

ARCHITECT: Steven Holl
BUILDING: Housing in Fukuoka

ARCHITECT: Louis Kahn
BUILDING: Salk Institute
Process drawings
EARLY STAGE IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE SECTION

Richard Rogers
Channel 4 headquarters

Renzo Piano
Kansai Airport

Richard Rogers
Potsdamer Platz
Debis headquarters

Renzo Piano
Thomson Optronics factory

Toyo Ito
Nagaoaka Lyric Hall
EARLY STAGE IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE SOUTH CAPITOL ST. ELEVATION
Early stage in the evolution of the South elevation
Final drawings
SOUTH CAPITOL ST. ELEVATION
THE MODEL
The model was the last step in the design process, and was not constructed with the sole purpose of showing the spatial qualities of the project. The intention was to demonstrate that the step to the three-dimensional construction is possible with the design process of the collage, confirming the development of the thesis.
The model was constructed physically applying the "materials" used on the drawings on to those used to construct it. The result is the expression of the process and its particularities, such as the different origin and nature of the parts that compose the project.
AERIAL VIEW
FROM SOUTH CAPITOL ST.
AND M ST.

VIEW OF CENTRAL ATRIUM
FROM BASEMENT LEVEL.
- LE CORBUSIER ET PIERRE JEANNERET
Publisher: Les Editions D’architecture.

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By: Peter Buchanan
Publisher: Phaidon Press

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By: Kenneth Frampton
Publisher: A.D.A. Editia Tokyo Co. Ltd.

- GA DOCUMENT EXTRA 05 - NORMAN FOSTER
Publisher: A.D.A. Editia Tokyo Co. Ltd.

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Publisher: A.D.A. Editia Tokyo Co. Ltd.

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By: David B. Brawnee
David G. De Long
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Publisher: El Croquis Editorial.

- EL CROQUIS 71 - TOYO ITO (1986 - 95)
Publisher: El Croquis Editorial.

Publisher: El Croquis Editorial.

- EL CROQUIS 53 + 79 - O.M.A. REM KOOLHAAS (1987 - 98)
Publisher: El Croquis Editorial.

Publisher: El Croquis Editorial.

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE
ASSISTANT TEACHER – INTRODUCTION TO DESIGN PROCESS 1 AND 2 – SCHOOL OF ARCH.

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2003 – AIA VIRGINIA PRIZE INTERSCHOOL COMPETITION – FIRST PRIZE

NATIONAL PRIZE IN ARCHITECTURE CLARIN – CENTRAL SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTS TO THE BEST STUDENT