PARK BUILDING: ITERATION TWO

Finding the vertical circulation for people and utilities in conjunction with simpler spaces became an important objective. Programmatically the spaces are still open and loft-like but the need for double height spaces became unimportant, retaining visual connection to the trestles was maintained. The major hurdle to vertical navigation was designing structure that touched the ground without obstructing the view underneath the building.

In this iteration the primary structure retained dominance. But would the masonry structure for vertical circulation require the same orientation? After studying a variety of conditions, the masonry structure was rotated to the view geometry resulting in the desirable simple spaces, but the intersection between the masonry core and the glulam beams became another point of tension that needed to be resolved within the language of masonry construction.
MEDIATING THE GRID GEOMETRY AND THE VIEW GEOMETRY:
Connection of the beam into the masonry core.

This connection is comprised of three elements to resolve the connection. The first element is a site cast holder to accept the beam. This piece is reinforced into surrounding concrete masonry units. The forms of each site cast holder is drawn from the surrounding coursing to distribute load and lock the wall.

The second element is a precast ledge that fills in the coursing around the site-cast piece and makes a place for a secondary structure to rest.

The third element is a steel guide that rests inside the site cast holder. This piece precisely accepts the beam and protects the wood from making contact to the concrete.
Above: Plan view where two site-cast pieces integrate into the masonry structure to mediate the superimposition of geometries.

Right: Model view into the corner of a southern apartment viewed from the south.
The tension within the building between the grid and view geometry is emphasized. The first level’s primary floor is concrete that differentiates between the reinforced concrete structure and concrete in-fill. What differentiates the concrete types is change of aggregate of the mix and color. A raised floor allows for distribution of plumbing and ventilation into the spaces. The flooring itself is a finished wood. The board direction runs in relation to the view geometry, as does the raised floor itself. The result is the contradiction of geometries.

The second level flooring is also raised at points and it too runs in relation to the view geometry while the primary level is situated to the grid. To emphasize the grid on the floor the electrical and communication elements are run over the beams in metal raceways that put the grid on the floor and show system locations.
The exterior spaces of the building are not located in the same places as is typical of most multi-family buildings. The interest of the spaces was to design unique views from the building onto the site. Each exterior space also has a direct relationship with the building’s structure. This idea of different exterior locations came from a graphic image of site models stacked vertically and it pointed to positioning of spaces for moments of rest in the façade of the building.

The image at right is one such graphic image. The white space represents open space and the lines showing where the walls are placed.