The drawings, of pencil on vellum, are hand-drafted and rendered. This decision represents not only a choice for presentation; it also reflects a way of design. Working on a drawing in a thoughtful, reflective way often brings to mind new questions, the solutions to which I could easily explore in the form of small studies executed in the space surrounding the main drawing. By building layers of rendering the drawings came to life beneath my pencil, making present the aspects of light, space and materiality so important to my design. I very much enjoyed being this close to the project, coming to understand it through the method by which I had chosen to represent it.
Note: All project drawings were reproduced at 1/2 scale.
Conclusion

As this project closes, there comes a sense of reflection, a premise on which one looks back over the hard work which has preceded and seeks to glean from it something essential to carry forth to one’s next endeavor. It is method that provides the overall framework upon which the exploration of ideas is supported, and it is my own methods for study that have provided the structure upon which my conclusions have been drawn. Irreplaceable to me were methods of study which forced me to slow down, giving me time to engage my mind with my eyes. I learned to regard looking as an activity rather than a passive pursuit, one which was later translated slowly. I therefore took the time to walk around, to stand, and to compose photographs, using my eyes, my mind, for the ideas that formed and expanded. It was in these acts of studying that the rewards of my study were realized, allowing me to understand that the subjects of my study in ways that merely consulting images produced by others could never have done, because my own images are closely focused on the particular features of the subject that interest me. Hand drawing and rendering the project drawings was a logical progression, one which I undertook in a thoughtful and reflective way, mindful of the aspects of the project important to communication.

I came to understand that the reason I was attracted to methods favoring slowness was not only or even primarily due to their immediacy, but rather that they were a way for me to be thoughtful and deliberate. The essential lesson that I learned is that methods of study should be used actively - as tools in service of ideas. Bent to one’s will, these tools are used to achieve an end rather than as an end in and of themselves. Thus, using the computer to produce this document was an equally logical progression, because I used the technology to present my ideas rather than becoming enamored of technology for technology’s sake. As new technologies replace old, the tools at our disposal may change, but the methodology behind their use will not.

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Honors
References


Image Credits


Image 23 http://acrim2.webgis.net/blacksburg/default.asp


Image 47 http://www.bev.net/visitors/map.php

