graphite
After investigating the exhilarating connections that man has to both fire and water, the challenge of representing these connections developed. Two buildings emerged from the fire station, a building of fire, where the engine is kept and the fire fighters sleep, and a building of water, where boats are stored and the fire fighters live. The fire building immediately developed, the water building struggled in its shadow. The fire building contains a half sphere that serves as a kiln during construction. This cooking of the fire building allows for a waterproof glaze to line the sphere and protect the building when the engine company is washed indoors. Above is a drawing of the water building in its attempt to develop its own personality. Eventually, the water building embraced the fertile characteristics of water.
cross section through fire and water buildings
The fire and water buildings are joined by a cypress room that holds the stairs. The stairs consist of two series of risers, one of fire and one of water. The stairs of the fire building are of solid brick and are tucked within the walls of the building. The stairs of the water building are of steel and float upon the water building's thin walls.
To the right of the front elevation there is a grid of trees in planters. The placement of the trees allow for the continuance of the lines and grids that define the building. Growing out instead of up, these trees create a shaded world that contrasts the more open areas of the park.
The South elevation faces the park, with the fire building on the left and the water building on the right. The exercise tower is located on this side, allowing the public to better understand the rigorous training of the fire fighters. The door detailed on the left is for both engine company as well as individual use. The pivoting mail slot, door and windows allow for maximum efficiency by automatic closure in case of an emergency.
Between the fire and water buildings, there is a room of both fire and water that holds the stairs. Made from cypress wood and glass, this structure is its own scaffolding when built and serviced. The effects of the elements on the cypress are observable by comparing the adjacent exterior and interior cypress.