The Site. Currently it is a cemetery of old skin.

At some point the block was a thriving commercial block, containing restaurants, barber shop, and small shops. After many years of neglect the buildings aged and it became too costly to renovate. The inhabitants moved out. The skin remained. What is one to do with the old skin? Does it have merit? Must it be kept?

The first step of interventions was to examine and diagram the existing buildings. Initial conceptual models and reaction models were made after visiting the site. What was the site demanding? What was its desire?
THE SURROUNDING BLOCKS HAVE NOT SHARED THE FATE OF THIS BLOCK. THE BUILDINGS AROUND PLAY IMPORTANT ROLES IN CREATING THE CITY FABRIC. BECAUSE OF THIS, IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT THE REACTION TO THIS SITUATION HEAL THE VOID AND CONTINUE THE CITY'S FABRIC. THE BUILDINGS MOSTLY CONSIST OF THE ARTS, HISTORY, AND ENTERTAINMENT.
AFTER UNDERSTANDING THE SITE, SEAMLESS TRANSITION TO MAKE A RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE CITY. CAREFUL DIAGRAMS WERE CREATED TO MAKE A BACKDROP ON THE EAST SIDE WAS DEMANDED MORE OF THE SITE WHICH DEMANDED MORE OF A BACKDROP TO THE NORTH OF THE SITE.

THE METRO TO THE OLD POST OFFICE

E X T I N G

C O N C E P T

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The north side closest to the new opera house was the first to be analyzed. It was that building on the site that was least open to surroundings. The existing building did have an exterior fire escape, which was transposed as catwalks in the new building. That side of the building wanted to be mainly solid mass so that it would not compete with the opera.
REACTION LANGUAGE

THE MIDDLE OF THE SITE WAS FILLED WITH IMAGES IN MULTIPLE LEVELS. THERE WAS STORE SIGNAGE, WALL SIGNAGE, AND ANY SPACE AVAILABLE SEEMED TO HAVE BEEN PLASTERED WITH IMAGES. THE IMAGE PHENOMENON WAS FURTHER STUDIED WITH DIAGRAMS. THIS SECTION OF THE SITE ALSO WANTED TO BE OPEN AND RETURN SOME OF THE BLOCK BACK TO THE CITY.
The south side of the building had the closest relationship to the entertainment aspect of the site. The previous function was a popular restaurant, a Washington favorite for many years. This side of the site was also the most visible part of the site, so it was almost inevitable that this be the highest profile part of the building.
The site is very large, an entire block roughly 350 ft by 150 ft. A long alley runs all the way through the middle of the site. The size of the site suggested that there be an open corridor through the site as well a relief space in the middle.