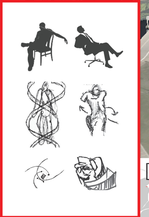


Architectural Sensory

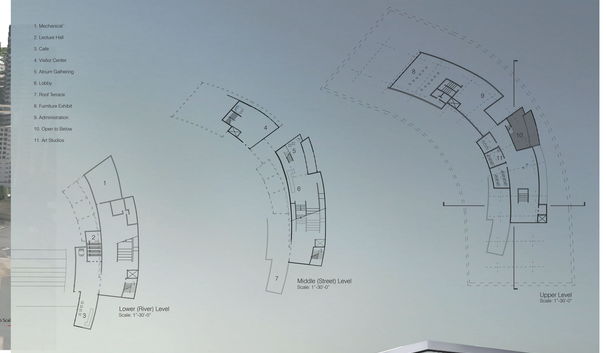
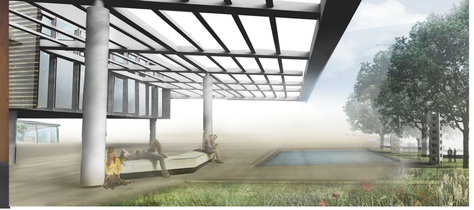
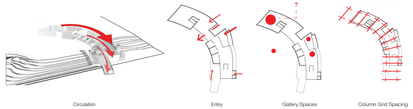
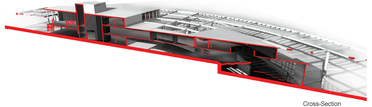
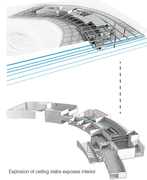
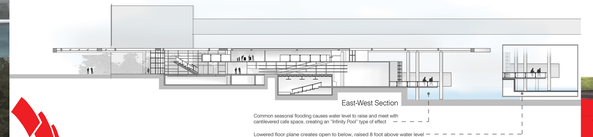
Constructing presence in design

[Proprioception] (pro·pri·o·cep·tion)

The sense of the body's position in respect to itself in space

The anatomy of the human body is something that emerges out of a genetic process through a collection of interrelated systems (bones, arteries,muscle tissue) in the same way a city is organized through the layering of components (structure, figure ground, circulation).

Studying the torquing motion of the human body and viewing architecture as a driver for adaptive experience, my concept was to create an emerging structure which surfaces from the Grand River and gradually rises in the rotation of the human torso.

The focus was to take advantage of the harsh contrast between Grand Rapid's organic river and its towering structures and create a unique relationship between body and built form. Long narrow passages near the river occupy cafes and public realm to create a more personal experience to its natural surroundings. While large panoramic views of downtown flood the exhibition spaces, reminding the user of the surrounding experience.

Governing the new domestic, structural canopy which provides seasonal sun shading and frames the circulation for pedestrians accessing the site from its Vanpool area, the intersection of Market and Fulton Avenue.