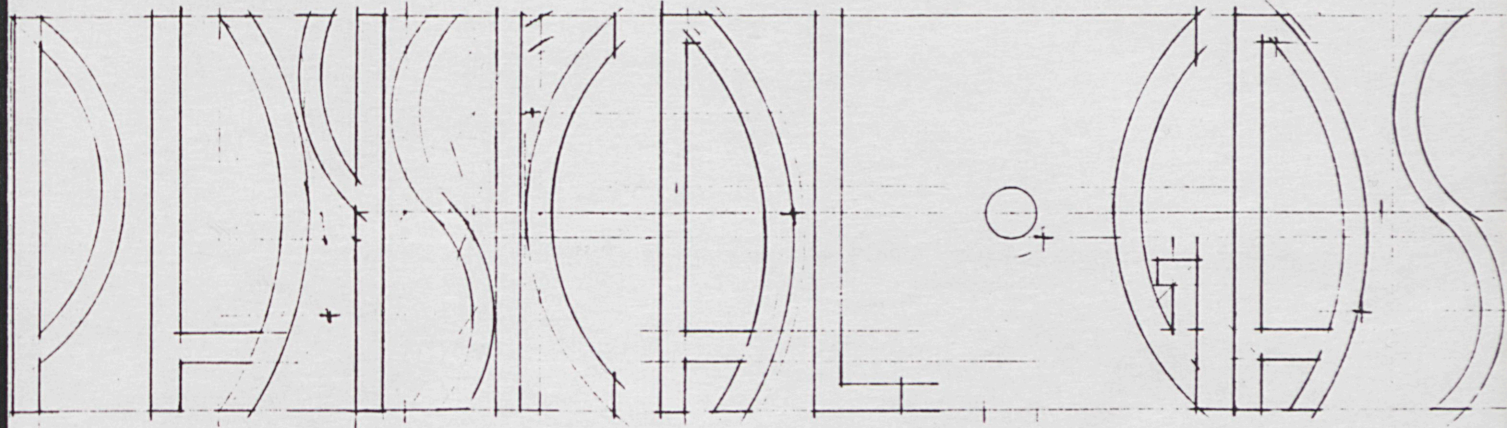


Art Into Life



Thesis By John M. Danicich
Fall Semester 1991

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Physical Gas
Seattle Washington

By

John M. Danicich

A professional paper submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the
degree of

BACHELOR OF ARCHITECTURE

MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY
BOZEMAN MONTANA
DECEMBER 1991

APPROVED:

Advisor

Second Advisor

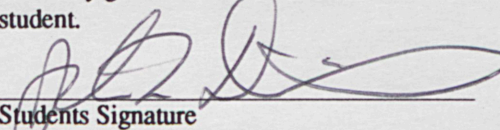
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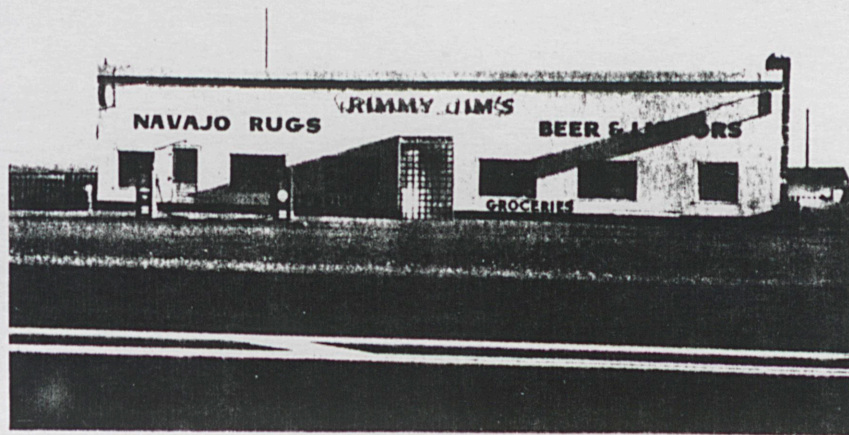
I would like to dedicate this thesis book to all of my friends and family who stuck by me and helped me through but most of all to Michele A. Dayries for being there when I needed a shoulder to lean on and a friend to talk to. You all have my sincerest admiration.

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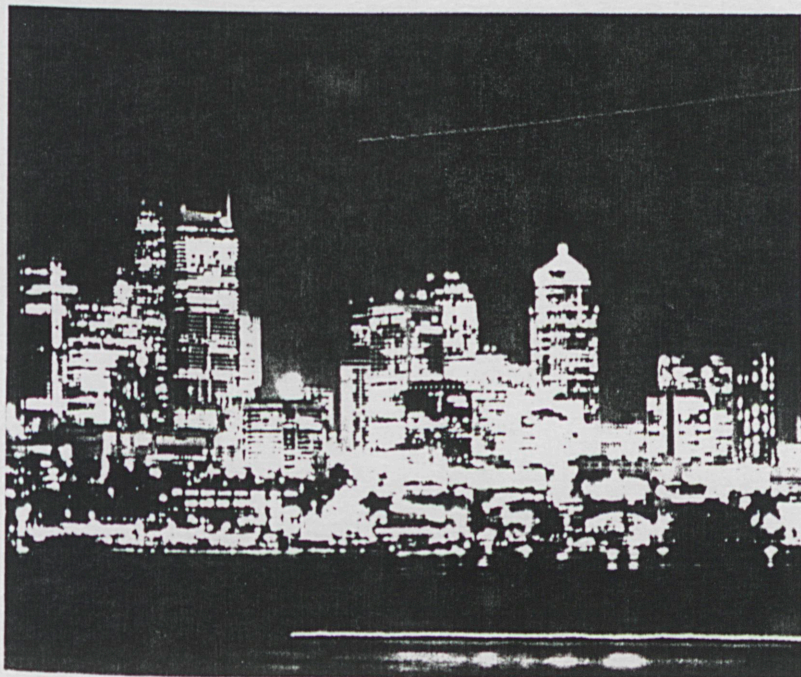
- A. Thesis statement
- B. Part One; how P.G. got it's start.
- C. Part Two; Gathering the information.
- D. Part Three; Theory.
- E. Bibliography

Thesis Statement:



A study of topology and resulting formal design characteristics in drive in tellers, fast food restaurants, convenience stores and gas stations leading to the design of a gas station prototype for the 21st century (Physical Gas - the oasis).

part 1



The night has past, the morning showers have cleared off leaving behind a clean crisp feeling softly encouraging the dawn of a new day. The silhouetted image of the city stands out clear against the new bright red/orange sun filling the skies acting as a backdrop for the painter. In the distance the faint hum of motorists making their way to the work place, meanwhile the balcony that I'm standing on is filling with the smell of freshly brewed coffee. Soon the romantic sensation that I'm feeling fleas with the thoughts of business and the daily grind, but for a moment I had it all, peace of mind and no worries I hope this is what heaven is like. Once again I shuffle away the thoughts of quitting my job and moving to the West Indies and retiring. I guess its about time to get ready for work so I head for the bathroom. On my way in I stop and see this small but awesome looking woman, that's my wife to you and me. Yep Jen has put up with me for about.....oh no! five years today!

"Good morning honey, happy anniversary!"

"Thanks hun, same to you".

"I'm going to put on some music, any requests?"

"I would but I know what your going to put on so go on and do it".

I walk over and turn on the shower first so its nice and hot when I get back. Now lets see no...nah...well...yes! this is the one! click on goes the stereo and a second the reassuring thud comes across my speakers telling me that I didn't blow my amp last night, it must have been too hot. Click...buzz... clink...buzz..." jane say"s" comes blasting over the speakers as my heart fills with adrenalin and I run for the shower. If the coffee wont do it then some hard cranking rock and roll will always get the old heart pumping. By this time the shower has been running and the bathroom is filled with steam so thick that it is hard to see the shower door. Rub-a-dub-dub I love my tub. All of the sudden the music goes out, the only thing I can think of is that I finally blew my amp or something so I yell to see what happened.

"Jen? what happened to the music?"

"Mrs. Schwartz called and said that if you don't turn the music down immediately she will put a curse on you."

"But I need this, I need the loudness and the pump."

"You might but everyone within a one hundred mile radius doesn't and Mrs. Schwartz definitely doesn't."

"That old bitch."

"What honey?"

"Nothin."

I have been waiting for the longest time to do battle with her, she is the most uncooperative person in the whole world. I remember one time my wife and I were having a great session, oops, I mean we were making love and she called and said "if you have to do those things could you be a little more quiet about it?!", swear to god it was all I could do to stop myself from going over to herself and telling her off. Well as the old saying goes "this is the straw that broke the camels back", I'm gonna get her for this one.

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I probably shouldn't get so down on her, after all she is a few bricks shy of a load, and she does give us a cheesecake when she makes them. I'm a whimp.
 "Does Mrs. Schwartz knows what she does to me when she tells me to keep quiet?"
 "Oh yes and I think that she does it on purpose".
 "Yea, that's for sure".

There is one reassuring thing, I can listen to it in the car on the way to work, isn't it wonderful how science has progressed and allowed us little conveniences like car CD players, it makes the trip go so much quicker.

"By the way jack honey I need to use your car today, its PTA and my turn to drive the ladies around."

Great! I get the powder puff mobile, 75 horsepower at 10,000 rpm's a true rocket!

"Oh Jack, there is something that I've got to tell you."

I'll bet you do.

"I love you!"

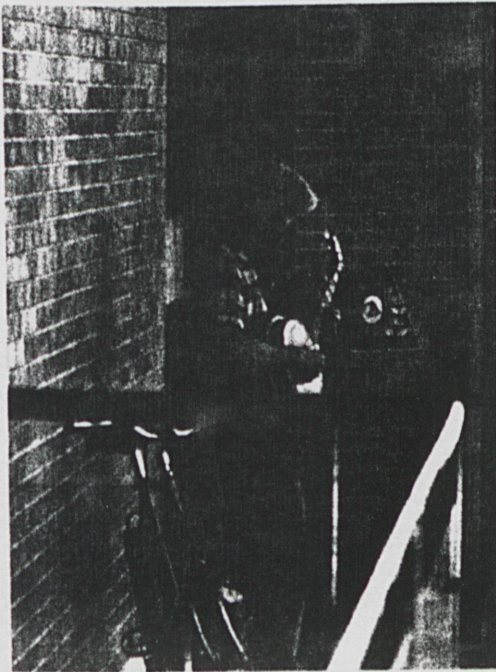
I hate it when she does that when I'm on the verge of getting mad. Its such a cheap way to win or stop a potential argument.

"Me too darling."

Mushy, puke, yack!

"Have a nice day with the ladies and don't forget to put some", slam! goes the door "gas in the car?"

Final check before I go to compete with all of the other crazed drivers on the road. Now lets see, coat; brief case; tie is doing the tie thing andyep here they are, keys, time to go. Well it looks like its you and me kiddo and we can do it any way you want to do it but your going into the city for the day. I can't believe this I'm talking to a car like its alive or something. That's it, I've lost it. The door opens, I get in and of course it won't shut on the first try so I have to give it a he-man slam to get the door to latch. Well lets see what the old Jennifer has to listen to in here. Man I can't believe that she is able to drive with me, our music tastes are so different. Here we have Patsy Kline and Zamfir on his magical panflute, oh boy! the stones, she still has some musical taste, Wow! what is this? Jane's Addiction Nothing shocking?!, what a good kid she bought it just for me,"happy anniversary honey, I hope you have a great day", most definitely! Now a quick prayer and try to start this little monster, erererer....varooooom! Only a couple years longer and we can retire this one to the junk heap hall of fame. I seriously don't understand the physical attraction to this car, I guess it must be more of a sentimental thing. I offered to buy a new car for her, anyone that she wanted and she told me that this one is just fine. I guess this is like her taste in music, that's not nice so I had better stop at that. Here we go, off to the races.



I hope that we never have to leave this area because this is such a nice drive and so picturesque with the water, the boats and all. I'm gonna have to turn down this upcoming promotion because they want to put me in a new office back east or something like that. Here is the turn I better signal, click, click, click, why is this guy raising his fist at me? Hey buddy!, watch the tail gating you jerk! Oh great he's gonna pass me and flip me off.

"Your tail light is burnt out!"

"What?"

"Your tail light, it's burnt out!"

"Thanks!"

Just what I need to cause a wreck because of a burnt out tail light. That's what I don't understand, Jen never takes care of this car and it runs like a.....champ or as much of a champ as it can, I better get it fixed before I get pulled over for it. Too late, here are the red and blues, DAMN! So I pull over and watch the commuters drive by and all I can think is that I hope that this doesn't cause a traffic jam. You know how people love to slow down and see if there is some blood on the road and this inevitably leads to slow downs and then mad drivers and oh well its this whole domino thing could go on for hours. Knock, knock, knock, on my window and there he is Mr. Police Man and what a big gun he has, like I'm gonna make a run for it in this jet car. so I roll down my window and conjure up a smile to here.

"Drivers license and proof of insurance sir."

"What, oh just a minute I have to turn down the music, ok what is it you need?"

"Drivers license and proof of insurance please."

"This isn't my car and," wrong answer bud, better come up with a better one than that, "what I mean is that this is my wife's car and she has my car for the day and I had no idea that the tail light was burnt out until just a couple of minutes ago."

"Drivers license and proof of insurance sir, thankyou."

what an impersonal bastard! I mean if it were my car I would accept full responsibility for this but he wouldn't even listen to me, i'm going to get his badge number and call "headquarters" and let them know that I'm not very happy bout this treatment. I mean this guy could be out catching some bank robbers or someone who is really breaking the law and not some tail light infraction which isn't an infraction to begin with.

"Thank you, here is your insurance and license and your ticket, we also found a warrant for your arrest concerning some outstanding 201.3's which is parking violations."

"Oh shit!"

"Sir if you will just step out of the car please."

I get out of the car and he begins to frisk me and all I can think is what the weather is like in Florida? I know not really something to preoccupied with but I really wanted to know for one reason or another.

"Is there anyway I can pay for the tickets here and be on my way?"

"I was just going to ask you if you had the cash to pay for them on you or not, but sure that is an option."

"They can't come to more than 30 or 40 dollars."

"Step back here with me and we will see how much they total."

So we walked back to his car, he had his hand on his holster the whole way back to the car, sort of intimidating if you know what I mean. He came to a total of \$225 dollars so I paid him.

"Thank you sir its been a pleasure doing business with you."

"Sure."

Got to the office in the nick of time and heard the boss belaring for me as soon as he saw me come into the office, a hundred things go through my mind and I can't come up with a thing that I forgot to do yesterday. I walk toward him with this bewildered look on my face and asked him if there was something he had to talk about. Needless to say he did and he went into this lengthy conversation waving his hands and pointing fingers at the new guy I was breaking in. So I stopped him and said "lets go into my office and discuss this a little more civilized". There is one thing I never learned in college and that was "grace", obviously you don't suggest to your superior in a condescending way to calm your ass down, the wording wasn't exactly like that but close.

"You know Jack if you weren't the best broker that we have here you and your attitude would have been long gone by now but I have put up with just about enough."

"Was there something that I said Tom?"

"Yes there is something you said or rather what you didn't say" he went on raving and said, "where the hell were you this morning? Didn't we have a morning meeting with Ackerland at 7:30 about his account?"

"Well..."

"Yea that's just the response that I was expecting from you."

"Did I tell you that today is my anniversary?"

"I don't care if this is the queen of england's birthday, we had a meeting and as a result Ackerland has lost all confidence in us and is again holding off on making us his main broker!"

Well this went on for what seemed to be an eternity and once again Florida came to mind and I couldn't think of anything else. Soon his voice became white noise and all I could hear was blah, blah, blah, just like a dog. I know he knew that nothing was coming in just from the glazed look on my face and the occasional primal grunt I would through in to make it sound like I really cared. He finally stopped and I had a chance to speak.

"I'll tell you what, I will give him a call and set a meeting. Don't worry about a thing I will take care of everything and it will beautiful."

"I sure hope so for your sake."



"Don't you push me Tom, I'm in no mood for your little idiosyncratic hangups today" now I'm pissed off, "You do this to me every fucking morning and I'm getting damn tired of it, so for your sake you better hope that I don't quit and take my accounts with me." I sure told him, he apologized and asked me if I wanted to go to the club for lunch. What a clueless dick! The day went on and as promised I cleared everything up and all was fine, except for one little thing, beep, beep.....
"Tammy could you print up two copies of letter 13, I need it before 3:00, OK?"
"Are you sure Jack?"

"More sure than ever kiddo."

"I'll have it for you in about 15 minutes."

"Thanx, that'll be just great, by the way could you put me through to Tom's office?, thank you."

The phone rings for 5 or 6 times and he wonders why people get mad at him for not answering his phone, Finally he answers.

"Hi, This is Tom Wood, how could I.."

"Cut the formalities it's me Tom, Jack, we need to talk, how's 3 with you?"

"Fine, whats up?"

"Can't talk now, see you at 3."

Lets see, it's 2:25, I have 35 minutes to set things up. For 30 minutes I'm on the phone with friends and other acquaintances that "trust" me and have what I need. I look down at my watch and notice that I have only a few minutes to get to his office and I don't want to be late for this. As I'm walking to Tom's office I can feel the pace of my heart quicken and a huge knot forms in my throat. I can't believe that I'm actually doing this on my anniversary. I can see it now, Hi honey, how was your day....

"Jack come in, have a seat."

"Don't think I'll need one." the knot is gone but the bats are beating up guts, "have you ever heard of Physical Gas Tom?"

"No, cant say I have."

"The company is being formed today."

"Really, how did you hear about it?"

"Maybe this will explain more." I hand the letter to him and watch his mouth as it hits the floor. "I think you need a new punching bag you old fart, I QUIT!!!"

December 10, 1999, the new corporation Physical Gas is on its way to making history.

I feel so good, I am going to be my own boss at last and not to forget this may help my wife remember to put gas in the car instead of running out all of the time. The trip home that afternoon was a different one Before it seemed like I couldn't relax now it seems different even the colors have changed or so they seem.



I can't help to think what Jen is going to say when I tell her what happened today. She has been supportive of all my decisions so far and I hope that she still will be. How do you tell your wife that you just quit your job? I mean I can't just pop out and say "well honey were going to have to tighten our belts because I just quit work" I don't think that would go over well at all. I better come up with something fast, she is probably home already and expecting to go out for dinner. Oh no! the anniversary! I completely forgot to make any reservations, Salty's! good answer she likes that. I had better stop and pick up some flowers too or she will beat me. Well it sure nice that moment of stressless happiness but I guess life is that way.

The night went fine dinner was great and Jen loved the roses so I made it through another potentially dangerous situation. This is the day I find an architect and get ahold of the board of directors and choose sites, everything else is pretty much set up with the gas company and deliveries, licensing etc.. I wonder if PDA is still in business, they did a wonderful job on the condo's here and they seem to be a little more sympathetic that some of the other architecture that I have seen around. Lets see it's 9:30 I'm sure they're open for business by now so I'll try to get ahold of them. As I walk across the room I hear a groan, what the heck is that? So I walk into the bed room and here is my wife and she is still home!?

"Hi honey? what are you still doing home?"

"Oh I forgot to tell you last night that I am no longer employed, like you."

"This isn't good..."

"Well I didn't really expect to hear your news last night either sooo..."

"It's ok honey we have enough money and stocks to make for....quite a long time."

"Good I'm going shopping today."

"We have enough if you don't spend it all at the stores!"

Whatever I can't worry about that now I need a meeting with Jim today so I had better get on the horn and see if he can do it. Yellow pages ...Architects, oh my god there must be a thousand of them! Here it is 525 - 5060....Ring...ring..Click.

"Good morning PDA Architects may I help you?"

"Yes I would like to set up a meeting up with Jim Daniels for sometime today?"

"I will put you through, may I ask who is calling?"

"Yes, it's Jack spade."

The phone goes dead and some nice elevator music comes on, ah so this is what hold is like at an architects office, I'll have to give Jimmy a bad time about this one. Jim and I go way back, we were dorm roomies in college well I was there and he never was, that is until the most inconvenient time like when Jen was over (she used to be shy). I'll have to ask him if his hours have become any more regular.

"Hi there bud, how are you doing?!"

"Great and yourself?"

"Can't complain and even if I did no-one would listen."

"I like boring things"
Andy Warhol



"Well that's for sure." we both laughed and caught up for the years that have just sort of past us by and then get down to business. "Well what I'm calling about is to see if your are too busy to take on some more work." I then went into the whole thing and explained to him what I need and all of that jazz. "What I want to know is there a time that we can get together and talk about this in a little more detail?"

"Sure I could meet you for lunch if that fits your schedule?"

"Everything fits my schedule, I am officially un-employed!"

"Well when did all this happen?"

"Yesterday."

"I could meet you at ...11:00, how does that sound?"

"Great!"

"Alright see you then and say hi to Jen for me."

"Ok, bye now."

This is great everything is starting to come into order, all i have to do is get the info together for jim and I'm in business. Lets see site a and here it is site b now where is the information on the board of ... here it is. What else do you think he will need to get started? I sure hope he doesn't want any money, at least I hope not yet.

The rest of the morning was uneventful and went along without a hitch so I left for the meeting. Went downtown and met my wife for an early lunch at the market place. This woman is one heck of a shopper, I mean that the damage that she can do to a credit card in no time at all in inconceivable. She met me and had already been to about ten or so stores and was proudly toting a bag that displayed their logo's. After finding enough room for her or rather the bags we had a great lunch. You couldn't ask for a nicer day the sun was shining, people were smiling and laughing just a great feeling to be alive today. This feeling was interrupted by the thought of being late to the meeting that I had set with the architects at 11:00, so I told the wife not to bankrupt us and I would see her at home. A small kiss and a hug and not to forget a quick I love you and I'm off.

Luckily the downtown area is pretty condensed and wasn't to far from where I just had lunch. Walking down the street I can see the building, it must have been one heck of a commission for him, heck I'll bet it went oh 30 to 40 mill.. I always wished that my old office moved here, there is a view from almost every floor of the bay, it sure would have been nice. Walking through the front doors and the foyer a faint sound of a piano echo's down the corridor and as I get closer it becomes clear that its live and not memorex. I lean over the balcony that is open to a three story space and clad with mahogany paneling as far as the eye can see. This is such a great working atmosphere, on breaks you could come down here and at lunch and totally unwind. Just as I start to get totally into the whole thing I hear the elevator and realize that I had be going, besides its already 11:00. I get into the car and push the 47th floor and take off like it were jet propelled.

In no time at all I was there and the doors open and was left off in front two nine foot tall doors or at least they seemed like they were. No-one was at the front desk but I didn't mind it gave me a chance to look around. Everything was done very nicely the furniture and the art worked matched and in the background was good music. Then like a voice from heaven ,

"Can I help you"

"My name is Jack..."

"Oh yes, Jim is waiting for you he is in the corner office right down the hall, I'll let him know you here."

"Let me surprise him."

It must have taken me five minutes to get to his office because I was getting caught up in the projects and the art hanging on the wall. Be must really like this one artist CORBU he sure has enough of his work. I quietly open his door and find him staring out the window, probably looking for me on the street wondering aimlessly looking for his building. Jim thought that all business majors were functionally disabled when were in school until we went to europe on a summer trip but that's a whole different story.

"Who's your buddy? Who's your pal?"

"You are aren't you."

"Good guess old buddy." We shake hands and talk for a while, again catching up on things. "So what do you think?, you gonna make a beautiful building or what?"

"Well that depends on what you want done and how much your willing to pay."

"You already want money?"

"No this meeting is for free, the next one will put you in the hospital."

"Oh?"

"Easy there jack I'm just kidding."

"I was going to say, I mean even lawyers have initial consultation for free."

"So what are we going to build for you."

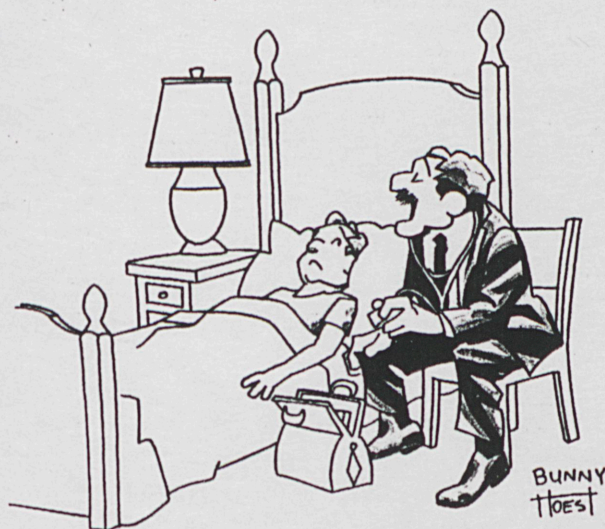
"It's more like for us, for a couple of years I have done some independent studies on gas stations and wondering at first if I were to change them what would change. I came to the grand conclusion that getting gas needs to be more fun. You know when you put gas in the car that is it."

"Well is there supposed to be more?"

"I sure hope so or else I'm in a bunch of trouble financially. Anyway I or a group of us have been brain storming and want to make a one stop visual and sensory overload station. Money isn't a thing we have some people that are in the oil business and are willing to take chances, hell I've been spending their money for the last ten years and the didn't seem to mind. Jim what is going on here is we have formed a new gas corporation and we need an accomplished architect to give us the gas station for the 21st century and beyond."

"A prototype?"

"One that will utilize every high-tech gadget out there but keeping in mind that there



**"You called me just in time. Another day or two,
and you would have been up and around."**

is a human component out there and to be sympathetic to that."

"Ok I'll need some information from you to get started."

"I brought with me the maps for the sites and a whole book of photo's and well a ton of information that I have dug up on the subject."

"Can I keep this information."

"Sure these are all copies, I have the originals at home." for a while there was dead silence and for a moment there I wasn't sure if he believed what we were proposing. A couple of times he grunted and laughed and even an Interesting came out of his mouth, that one had me worried. "Jim do I have an Architect?"

"You bet jack, this will be a fun project. Only one question, will this firm be the firm to do all of these "Physical Gas" stations or is this just a one time deal?"

"PDA will be the architects of our corporation and the board is willing to sign a contract to that effect. I told them about some of your projects and said that you had won a bunch of awards and basically sold you to them. Have you won any awards?"

"Yes and if you ever need a job I would like to put you on as a P.R. person it sounds like I could use some of your help here."

"Sorry Jim I am going to be running the most successful gas station in the world, I don't know if I will have time."

"I hope I can give you the place your thinking of."

"You will, I have faith in you."

"So you want a gas station"Physical Gas" that has pumps, a restaurant, convenience store and drive in tellers? How about ATM's in stead of drive in tellers."

"Sure what ever you think will work."

"The only reason that I say that is because of the association with one bank and not everyone will have that one bank, besides ATM's have come a long way and may work better in the long haul. There is also a thing about spatial requirements and tellers will eat your main profit namely gas."

"This is what I like to hear, you are already into this thing and seem excited."

"Well I am because of its controversy and the fitting of all the different building types coming together as one."

"One more thing Jim, I don't want this to become a programmatic box after all it is supposed to be fun here."

"Sure and I will keep this in mind. I think we have what is needed for now so I will be in touch with you when we come up against an obstacle."

"Great and you have my phone number so just call. By the way we have to go out sometime and do the dinner thing."

"Sounds good but this week looks real busy, how about saturday?"

"You haven't changed your hours have you?"

"Not yet and I promised I would have but you know how things are."

"Yea I sure do, so anyway saturday and I'll call later this week to set things up."

"Great see you then."

part 2



"Good morning commuters its 9:00 am this is ty and randy and here's a little info for you that are in the middle of the morning commute and now to our eye in the sky....."click! I hate to listen to the morning report especially when I haven't been home all night. I had better get a shower and get a clean shirt so I don't smell like the north end of a south bound mule. The morning light hits my face, a warm sensation goes through me and realizing that I have made it through yet another all-nighter. We have to get teams divided up and get some work done on this gas station. I imagine that Jack is chomping on the bit, I guess he has every right after all it has been two weeks. This is nothing to worry about now hell it's only 6:45 I can put something to gather after every-one gets in this morning. I'll just leave a message in the conference room that we will be in a meeting at 8:30, better yet I will leave a message go get out a memo and circulate it. Now lets see who should or would be the best people to put on this project, Lee site studies, Bart is a good photographer so him and lee will go together, Simone' she is great at retrieving info, Greg for programming there's team two and Tim and I will be the designers besides our names are on the door. Let us see what are we missing?, site, program, historical, photography um....that seems to be it for now I can always add more people later but that always leads to confusion. Now to leave this on Patti's desk with the old ASAP on the top by 8:30 and "please" thanx JD. As I leave my office I hear Patti typing away in the front office.

"Patti what are you doing here so early?"

"I asked if I came in early if I could leave early?"

"Oh that's right sorry I've been here all night and am getting pretty punchy right now but sure it's still ok I just forgot. What I need you to do before anything else is to have you type up a memo to these guy's and gal's telling them that we will be meeting this morning."

"Ok Jim and I will put it on their desks when I'm done."

"Perfect." so I turn around and stop "by the way, good morning."

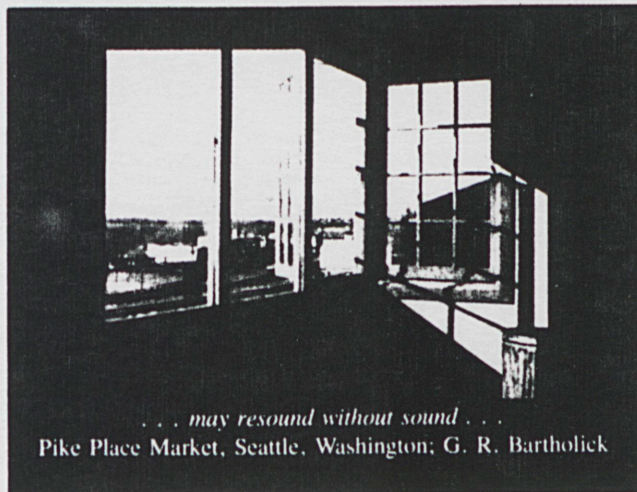
"And the same to you Mr...."

"None of that Mr. jazz."

"Right boss."

8:30 rolls around and the design/investigation team is in the conference room waiting. When I was first starting out I saw many people come and go, I was one and it always happened in the conference room. I walk in and through out a general good morning to every-one, and all I heard were groans like the dead were with me. I peer over the top of glass' and see group of coffee bearing hung over lumps of flesh, I remembered the bachelor party for Tony last night.

"So the party went well last night?" They all groaned and grabbed their stomach's and began to fill me in on what happened and how sleazy the stripper was. "That's good, I'm glad to hear that not much has changed. Well kids, were in the middle of something wonderful.



A friend of mine has come to me and asked us or the firm to design a prototype gas station for a new company. The name as decided by the board of directors will be "Physical Gas" and is to be fun. We will be designing one to be built and another study for the future like a year or so down the road, that's future isn't it? I have chosen you for your specific talents in the preliminary stages and will be meeting every now and again for design meetings. Here are your assignments and the areas where you will be. Lee and Bart you will be doing site analysis and site information I'm sure you know what to do. Simone' and Greg you will be digging up information on the history case studies programming etc.. Right now Tim and I are trying to work out some kind of schedule for us to follow, tentatively of course. If there aren't any questions that will be all."

"I have a questions."

"Ok what is it Greg?"

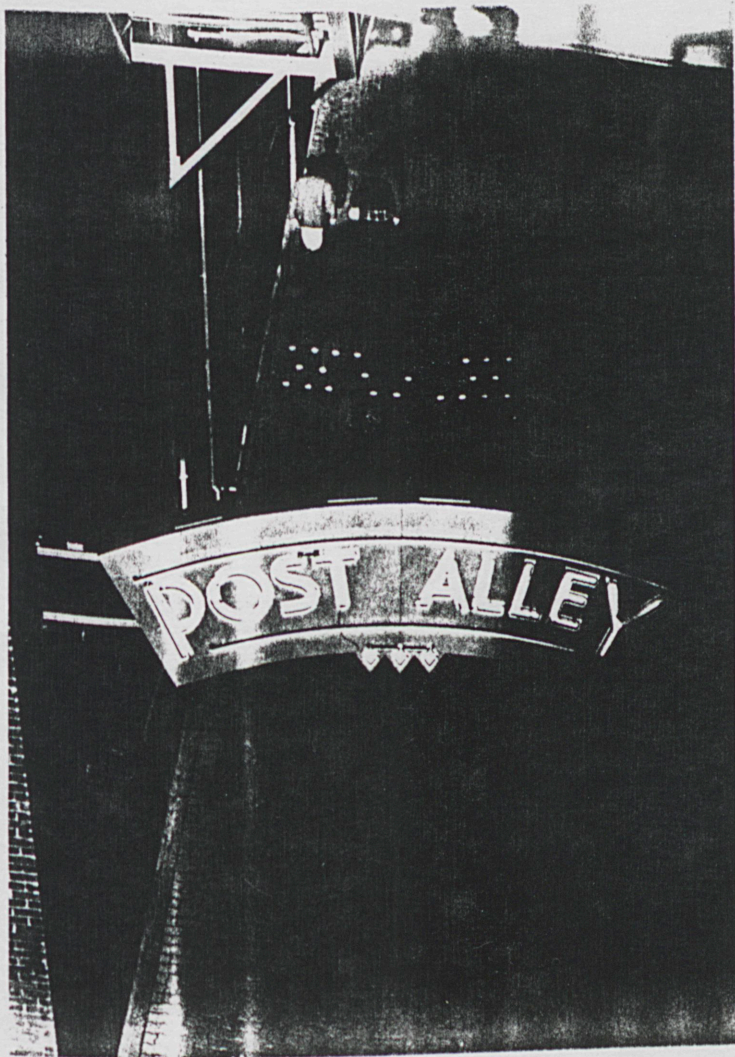
"When do you want it to be done?, what format?"

"I almost forgot thank you, I would like to see sketches, photocopies, some kind of written documentation this will be going into a book so make it good. Lets put a day on this, hows next thursday that leaves us with nine days." No-one had a problem with that "Any other question's, I will try to get out something for you to read in a couple of days. this meeting stands adjourned." The team leaves the room coffee mugs in hand still giggling about last nights escapades.

Our thursday due date rolls around and we are back in the conference room with a pile of information. We talk about every-ones work for a couple of hours, boards sketches and photo's are pinned up, looks pretty impressive gave them all a pat on the back and closed the meeting. I gathered up the information and went back to my office and started to read it all. where do I start? Good question. I guess site analysis is always a good place to start and since it is on top it makes the decision easy.

Site A and B Information:

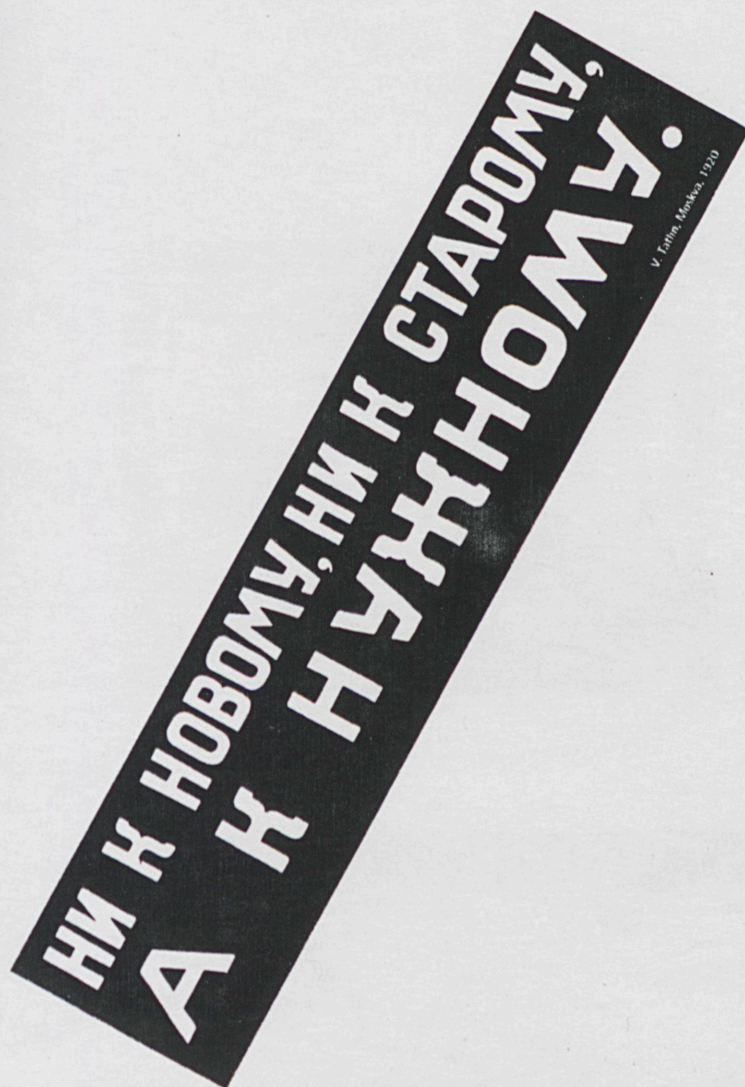
"Site A is the extreme situation showing that a Gas Station could be made to fit within an urban context. The site is located in downtown Seattle Wa. on the corner of Virginia Ave. and 1st Ave.. It is 1 block from the Pike Street Market and has a view of Elliot Bay from the corner of 1st and Virginia. Its main street would be 1st Ave. being a cross town connector with two way traffic. Commuters from Queen Anne, Ballard and west Seattle use this street as a means efficiency rather than getting on the over crowded highways (namely I-5 and Arroua Ave.). 1st Ave for all purposes runs east and west (it is actually southeast to northwest). The cross street Virginia Ave. is a one-way running north (again its more like northeast) servicing downtown and is also a link to the I-5 access ramps and express lanes. At what would be the northern side of the site is 2nd Ave. which is parallel to 1st and is one-way running into the city or southeast.



The intersection of 2nd and Virginia, is empty and has no major traffic except for an occasional Metro bus. This site poses an interesting historical /vernacular context in which it should relate. The site during the day is filled with sun (when it is out) from roughly 9:00 in the morning until 6:30 or 7:00 at night. Existing site condition is a parking lot which has a number of tall leafy trees that helps to break up the parking lot and afford shade for cars and people who use the bus. There is a slight grade change across the site of five feet with an alley running through the middle of it. At this point the town is breaking down, by this I mean that there is more lowrise buildings and residential housing complex's not going higher than 3 to 4 story's.. Even though this part of town is predominantly lowrise there are some buildings that go anywhere from 13 to 17 story's tall but is still mainly low level and will be a driving force in the design. This area is in an older part of town the materials range from concrete, brick and limestone clad buildings to granite curbing. An example of the age or history would be the Virginia Inn Lounge, after speaking with the bartender he showed me a picture that was taken in 1928 and says he knows a man that still comes to the bar for a drink now and again. The immediately "community" is made up of vagrants, yuppies and business persons showing the great diversity in culture as well as the distribution of wealth. During the day the streets are filled with commuters causing an occasional slowdown as they make it to work or the shoppers making there way to their way to the malls and shopping centers. 1st. Ave. is also a main thorofair for the Metro Transit system servicing downtown and outlying areas. There is located on 1st a buss stop that is always in use and it would be my suggestion to keep it in use so that it will remain a convenient stop for commuters. Once night has fallen a whole new crowd takes over this area due to the night life that encompass' it. Bars, lounges, restaurants and art galleries surround the site giving it a completely different feeling. One could also be found "hob nobbin it" with some the towns finest as well as the towns finest as well as their refugees.

Site B Information:

Site B is located on 45th Ave. approximately 1 mile from the UW campus and services the campus by means of housing mostly rental properties. It also serves as a crosstown connector running east to west and connecting Laurelhurst all the way to Ballard. 45th also has two entry and exit and entry ramps to I-5 north and south and services over 70 thousand commuters either by bus or car per day. To the north of the site is Green Lake, a popular area for water sports, running, walking, rollerblading and having picnics. As stated earlier the immediate area is housing and small business. The tall elm and other large canopy trees cover the sidewalks providing shade but more importantly helped to keep the street from becoming another typical strip that you can see given the amount of business that is in the area (many store fronts and signs).



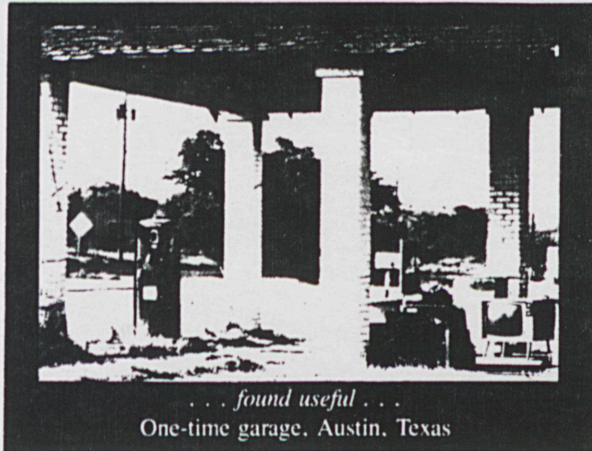
45th Ave. has everything from accordion repair and sales to lawyers and has some of the best Italian food one could ever imagine to eat (the garlic bread is fantastic). Walking down the street one has a great sense of place and community only to be enhanced by the clean sidewalks and the aroma of freshly brewed coffee. The buildings surrounding the area are lowrise not going over 3 stories except for a new condo project that is four blocks from the site. There has been a large historical improvement plan to many of the buildings and most of these are Art Deco style. The Guild 45th is a two cinema theatre that was done in the 1950's, It has the rounded corners, brushed stainless steel ribbons at waist level and around the cantilevering awnings for that streamline look and at night the neon that lights up the sign is wonderful. The business' that are around the "Guild" have accepted the design motif and employ it in their buildings by means of signage which is enhancing the night-time character of the place."

"Great, now lets see what we have for precedents." I turn to Simone' and notion for her to begin her discussion on what she found.

"Well to tell you all the truth I couldn't find much in the order of this specific building type. I did however find one project that was done in the early 90's. Amaco and Burger King corporations did a joint venture in Westchester Ill. where they combined the two, fast food and selfservice gas station. They made it so that when a person was at the gas pumps they could order their food and when finished all they had to do was to pull up to the drive through window and pay for both gas and food. The people flocked to it as an initial response and then after a while it started to lose it's "newness" and people quit coming. They also found that it was a good idea to have the ability to pay at one window with the food. This worked out until Amoco found that it was coming up short at the end of the month and started to blame the Burger King people, this leading to the ultimate demise of the partnership. The two corporations now operate independently due to their differences. This isn't to unceasing because the gas and food services worked independently, I mean that they were not integrated, the two corporations were as they say "separate but equal". since we have the requirement to bring all of the services together it made it hard to find any kind of relevant information. I think that the business as well as the building type will be a first of it's kind. since they were no types to study that were directly related by functions I began to look at separate buildings and looking to identify the things that they had in common and try to find a common design element that would link the services. Anyway I found a bunch of things in books and magazines and well here take a look and pass them around. The one gas station that I did find to be unique was this one in Commack N.Y. Called Gasoline heaven. Its located on the Jericho turnpike and the idea is to move as much gas as possible. At first they only had 12 gasoline pumps and then enlarged to 34 pumps because the demand for the gas was so high.

The reason being was this Rudy not only offering good gas cheap but he also gave the customers full service and took all major credit cards so there wouldn't be any slow-downs because of someone writing a check however this was alright too and so was real money. I also found that some of the best designs were from the early 1950's and so-on. Not only did they function well but they were what Mr. Venturi referred to as the decorated shed and in some cases the duck."

"Thank you Simone', and as I had promised Tim and I have a program for you all to look at and here it is."



Area of Site:	20,000 sq.ft.
100x200	

Parking:	
23 stalls @ 325 sq.ft.	7,475 sq.ft.

Restaurant:	
Kitchen:	800 sq.ft.
Counter:	300 sq.ft.
Dining: 103 @ 10 sq.ft.per. person.	1,236 sq.ft.
Ordering:	300 sq.ft.

Subtotal	2,636 sq.ft.
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Gas Station:	
Gas Pumps: 3 banks @ 972 sq.ft.	2,916 sq.ft.
Teller:	100 sq.ft.
Storage:	300 sq.ft.
Convenience Store:	900 sq.ft.

Subtotal	4,216 sq.ft.
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Rest Rooms:	
Women: w/2 stalls	200 sq.ft.
Mens: w/2 stalls	200 sq.ft.
Subtotal	400 sq.ft.

Total Building Area:	7,252 sq.ft.
Total Parking Area:	7,475 sq.ft.

Total Project Area:-----	14,727 sq.ft.
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part 3

*"J.D. do you know what theory is?
theory is going out with the guys
to a bar having a couple beers and
bullshitting"*

Tony Perpignano 91'

PLACES

With time comes change, This change is usually activated by progress, if this continuum is true, then with more change weather it being technological or social advancement it should again encourage progress. The question that I have posed is to some degree true or what I believe to be true. For example the first form of shelter was the cave dwelling this then evolved into the greek megaron eventually this evolved into the adobe'/mudbrick house which was taken and new technologies were applied and evolved into the spanish style home and on. New technology was discovered and employed to make the later better than its predecessor. We first started to build high-rise buildings with brick masonry units because of their ability to withstand the test of time and they demonstrated good compressive qualities and then the development of steel enabled people to construct very tall and slender skyscrapers that goes beyond all expectations of previous materials. Again the continuum of time/change and progress holds to be true. However with these new advancements the progress has come upon it's limitations, sacrifices have been made to employ their uses. One found that when building with a masonry unit that some things were impossible like height, spanning a space or making a curved surface. When the Romans found discovered concrete or portland cement this opened doors that have been previously closed and even opened up some new ones. A classical example of this would be the Pantheon in Rome, the interior of the building is open to light and free of any columns to congest the plan, this was afforded mainly to the use of concrete and the coffered dome. Without this important discovery there wouldn't be this great work of architecture. Now in "modern" times we have an immense list of materials and ways that they can be applied but there is a new nemesis called economy. we have the ability to manipulate materials (even masonry units) in such a way that design and form making is only limited to ones imagination, but we don't. A building is to house 10,000 people and it is to sit on a 100x 100 foot lot one would say that it has to be a high-rise and I would have to agree with this statement. This building could be a wonderful addition to the skyline of a city or it could be a huge eyesore, then economy rears it's ugly head (and the developer) and the box wins over a designed response, "we will make more money." After a while of this "unconscious" design what is left behind is a city that says nothing about the place, some would argue that this is the place and it functions well with this in mind. So with this in mind I set out to see if there was something I could about this economy minded attitude. I would like to reference this notion "change" with the continuum that I suggested earlier. After time and careful eyewitness accounts I found that economy has taken over the once careful designs of the gas/service stations. I have also found that the once welcomed "Super Chief" stations are being replaced by these 20 pump super gas station and literally tearing apart the careful structure of a community that the citizens had worked so hard to build. The idea of introducing a new gas station isn't what is breaking this structure but the thought of a well integrated street being interrupted by a sea of asphalt with 20 or so pumps

Not the Old, Not the New, But the Necessary.

V. Tatlin, Moscow, 1920

creating a huge void on the street only to be topped off by a sign that has as much steel in it as the world's trade center. Time and time again I found the weakness in a "community" to be one of these "rubber-stamped" gas stations that looks just like the one 200 miles down the road and asked myself, WHY? I came to the grand conclusion that it was because of the user has something to identify with and or can recognize from a distance. Another reason that this happens is due to our old friend economy. So what this all comes down to is I am trying to give this new company "Physical Gas" an image that will be recognizable like so many of the competitors but fit within nay context.

When I first started my thesis I found one question that none of the books could answer for me and I felt that I needed to know why. I was asking the question of "why is it you can tell what the function of a building is without ever having seen or been in it before?" I immediately fell back on the idea that it was designed in such a way that it evokes or suggests the inner works of the building. I wasn't sure that this was the real reason that they did this or not but it seemed to appease my appetite for the time being. It wasn't for quite some time that I realized that this wasn't completely true. A friend of mine and I were walking around downtown Seattle and were calling out the names of the buildings like we were intimately attached to them (playing the young architects game). Then it all came to me like life, it wasn't so much the "style" that it was designed in but I suggested that it was a learned thing. What I mean is I worked in the Washington Mutual Tower, I tell you this and now you now what the name of the building is and assume that the function of this 54 story office building was banking or related to the financial world. This would be a good guess considering that you have never been in it before, but no matter how good of a guess it was it is wrong, not totally but still wrong. The building like so many other office towers house a number of functions, like the architectural office in which I was employed. But there was the question of what about government buildings, libraries and of course hospitals, there was still something about this form and function thing that had me going. So between not really understanding this identity/form thing and not liking what the gas corporations have done I decided to look at this closer. During my studies I found that associated with gas stations was the component of convenience for the user. Located in the general vicinity of the most gas stations were other user convenient services like drive in tellers, fast food restaurants and convenience stores. They all shared this same convenience factor and seemed to be a natural integration into one. So recalling from my thesis statement I am studying the formal design issues of these three services and seeing if there is some way I could incorporate the functions and design prototype gas station that would house all of the services and approach an integration with the context and without making another "rubber-stamped" gas station that does the opposite. Once into the project it became evident that there were many things that could and probably would mandate a building design of this type. Along with the study of



form I found that there were many social/ psychological issues that came along with locating a service like this in just about anywhere, also there was what I consider to be pretty obvious and that is this issue of circulation. It is my intention to approach the issues of form, social/psychological implications and circulation coming to a conclusion that very well may be a starting point for the studies furtherance.

"For example we may use hypotheses that contradict well-confirmed theories and/or well-established experimental results. We may advance science by proceeding counterinductively."

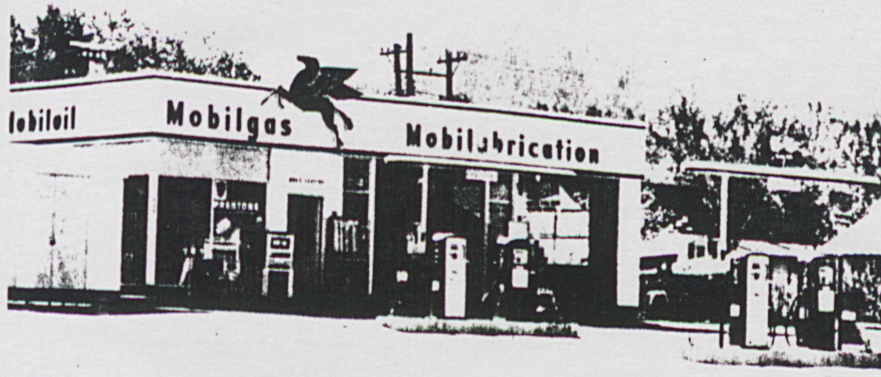
Paul Feyerabend "Against Method" 1924

First I will take a look at form in relation to the building types mentioned and call upon some of the classical responses that are taught in respect to form making. As explained earlier I found it hard to believe that a buildings function can be attained from the outside of the shell and suggested that it was a "learned" response rather than a design topology. Previously I used the examples of the office building and the library as two buildings that look like they're design could only be used in that situation. I also conclusively showed that the case of the office building to be false that any function could happen within the confines of the shell. On the case of the library I will have to say that the heaviness of the design and the ability to evoke an institutional look or feel tells me that it is a library. Now for the fun part, in Helena during the 1970's urban renewal came to town and it was decided that Helena needed a facelift. The walking mall was created and it was then decided that Helena should receive a new central library. The new library was completed around 1975 and the old library sat empty. Since that time it has been taken over by a play company and renamed "The Grand Street Theatre", what happened to the library image that everyone associated with it? This addition of a new name stripped the building of its "intended" identity and left people not knowing what to call it for a while, that is until it was announce the location of the theatre and referenced it by saying "the old library". So now the building when looking at it has a very scholarly look and an old english play house feel, the form now says something completely different.

Thinking about this I am starting to have a hard time with the notion of "form follows function" which we can thank Louis Sullivan for and declared that his buildings were a perfect integration of that. If this is true then all buildings could be (worst case scenerio) nothing but a series of box's because what the walls of a building do is enclose the internal function. I think that it would be better put if one would say that through the careful manipulation of forms and spaces they become integrated and better the whole. With the new architectural movements it is some-

times hard to associate this, form follows function, with their sometimes obscure or flamboyant designs, but still fulfill the requirements by enclosing a volume of space, I am not saying that the only requirement is this but from the idea of form and function this seems to be the only criteria for a successful building.

So how does this relate to gas stations, restaurants and convenience stores, after doing my studies I think that an even more accurate statement would be another rendition of f f f (form follows function) this being decorated shed or duck follows function. Just like in the wild wild west when a person road into town they saw these bigger than life signs and store-fronts, most of the time they were using the building as the billboard, the bigger the better and that "saloon" usually had the most business. Now making a link to the building as a sign. The service stations and convenience stores found it necessary to call attention to the passer by with a larger than life sign to spur visits by new customers which would mean more business and hopefully return business. This type of design or response is one that has been around for quite some time. Buildings of this type usually take place on what has been referred to as "the strip" and the architecture of the strip is mainly sign trying desperately to sell the contents from the outside through the use of the sign. The strip and the architecture of it is fine and to some extent an integral part of society. Almost everywhere that I have been has their own strip and is in an area that reinforces it and encourages this type of development. This is fine but to take a building type that isn't associated with an "area" and graft it into a context where it is foreign and is unhealthy for the community. An example of this is the Greenwood Quik stop in Seattle Wa.. From the outside the first thing that comes to mind when pulling up to the store after realizing that the parking is just not big enough is the exaggerated greek columns that holds up this pseudo pediment. I have fought with this one for a long time on how they came up with this form and what its relation to a quick stop was? I guess you could say that it was trying (desperately) to reflect the context that it is in. So I accepted this and then look for its precedent and the closest one that I came up with was a catholic church, no real relation to it what so ever and the houses in the area weren't done like this, Stumped again. However in its defense it does serve the public with its location and going back to the decorated shed thing it works very well. The building itself has a positive image that suggests that it is clean and well taken care of. To the converse of this example is the Twin Tee Pee's restaurant on Arroura Ave.. I have driven by and rode my bicycle past this place a hundred times and finally came to see it on stormy night (imagine that, stormy in Seattle). This building is a duck in every term of its meaning, the building is a two and a half story side by side indian tee pee's. The only thing that was a let down is the food that I expected and the food I received were two different things. I expected to be seated by people in indian dress and eat indian food, this is the impression that I received from the building. Besides the food the building seemed to be integrated into its surroundings which is mainly apartments and residential housing, in fact I



would go as far to say that it enhanced its surroundings by distracting the attention from the housing which really wasn't much to look at. Robert Venturi in his book *Learning From Las Vegas* says that "billboards are almost all right", in this case I agree and accept it as a valid design method, however I think that we could refer to the Tee Pee's as "high-duckism" due to the fact that it integrates the sign and the duck so well and has evolved or taken it to another plane. I am not implying that designing a duck or a building that is nothing more than merely a billboard. This type of design works more as an humorous response and wouldn't, at least to me, an appropriate response, rather it would be no better than the rubber-stamped projects that already exist and this is what I am trying to get away from.

I had mentioned earlier that it would be my intention to keep the "community" in tact rather than tearing it apart at the seams. I used the "welcomed Super Chief" station previously and suggested that it was integral part of a community. The idea is that a group of people who share a common interest in an area by means of location or are familiarity in the function of an area, this to me is community. In the case of the area that I am proposing to build it is a pseudo community made up of mainly a "transient" population. The area is composed of college students and young urban professionals all of which are in transit to a higher place, there is no-one or very few that are of long term residency. Since it is human nature to "cling" to what they know and want to be a part of the big picture they, make up what is referred to as a transient community. If you were a "new comer" to an area you try to find a place to call your own and the people that you see while you are there are the "old timers" of the community even though they may have only been there a week or a day longer than you, so to be fair pseudo-community would be fitting. Still the people of this area have struggled to make it work and don't want to lose their identity by having an outsider move in fragmenting what they have built. This is seen in Greenwood where a nicely developed residential area with an occasional block of small business was separated by a large condominium project. Therefore the location of the proposed building became a major design consideration. Also identifying the mobility of the users and the need for personal relation makes it important to the overall acceptance of the project or any project for that matter. If an intruder comes into your house, he has violated the sanctity of your home this is like a new business coming in and breaking down the character of the place and leaving it open for more careless or reckless design.

Circulation and the idea of community became to be interlinked after looking at it for a while. The street being an important link to the response of the site. The site is located on a busy street that connects many areas east and west. The shops and business' are lined up and down the street creating a continuous wall (with the exception of cross streets) and lined with large trees. This is going back to the idea



of the community was made so that all of the buildings would relate and interconnect enhancing the place. Also one could deduct that this was "the nature of the beast" meaning that the areas that fell in-between existing buildings were filled in and created this linear business community and through careful consideration of materials and designs became integrated with its surroundings. Even though it may be a viable site to develop the functions of the building must be arranged accordingly so that it will fit within the context. Realizing this it became obvious to organize the building so that the food services are located to the front of the site (45th Ave.) to relate to the traffic and maintain the street edge, and then to locate the gas pumps and convenience store to the rear of the site. The mobility of the users whether it be walking or driving could easily relate to this, if the organization were opposite it would break down the street edge and hide the services where a good portion of the money is made.

Getting from place to place is and will always be a major concern and an integral part of our society. When our forefathers first settled this country they were driven around by horse drawn carriages then in time the steam engine was realized and gave us increased economy and luxury (no more sitting behind the horse and all of their ways). Then in the late 19th century the gas combustion engine was developed again improving our standard of living and increasing economy. Throughout the years the automobile has become a necessity in our culture especially if you work in an urban area and need to commute. It has become such an integral part of our society that just owning a car is to some extent a status symbol, in large urban areas to small rural areas the car has become an extension of a person's psyche. Even though you can't always tell what a building is from the outside you can tell what kind of a person somebody is from the type of car that they drive (station wagon - family person, Sports car - young person etc.). A good example of our mobile society is Los Angeles, people here pay more attention to their cars than they do to their homes. Since we have become so mobile and we hardly do anything without our extension (car), we must start addressing the speed and the innovation of the car. Cars each year become faster and more responsive and gas stations should also evolve along these same lines, perhaps not each year but considering now and the future. Also the development of information systems that accommodates this mobility. This could be achieved through video monitors and continuous electronic signage that keeps people apprised of current events or trends. It is my intent to make the gas station of yesteryear again an integral part of the community and like the supermarket stations almost becoming a signature of that community, one that is responsive to the context in which it exists.

I WAS
SICK FROM
ACTING NORMAL.
I WATCHED
REPLAYS OF
THE WAR.
WHEN NOTHING
HAPPENED I
CLOSED A ZONE
WHERE I
EXERT CONTROL.
I FORMED A
GOVERNMENT THAT
IS AS WELCOME
AS SEX.
I AM GOOD
TO PEOPLE
UNTIL THEY DO
SOMETHING STUPID.
I STOP THE
HABITUAL MISTAKES
THAT MAKE FATE.
I GIVE PEOPLE
TIME SO THEY
FEEL THEIR LIVES
MOVING OVER
THEIR SKINS.
I WANT A
LARGER ARENA.
I TEASE WITH
THE POSSIBILITY
OF MY
ABSENCE.

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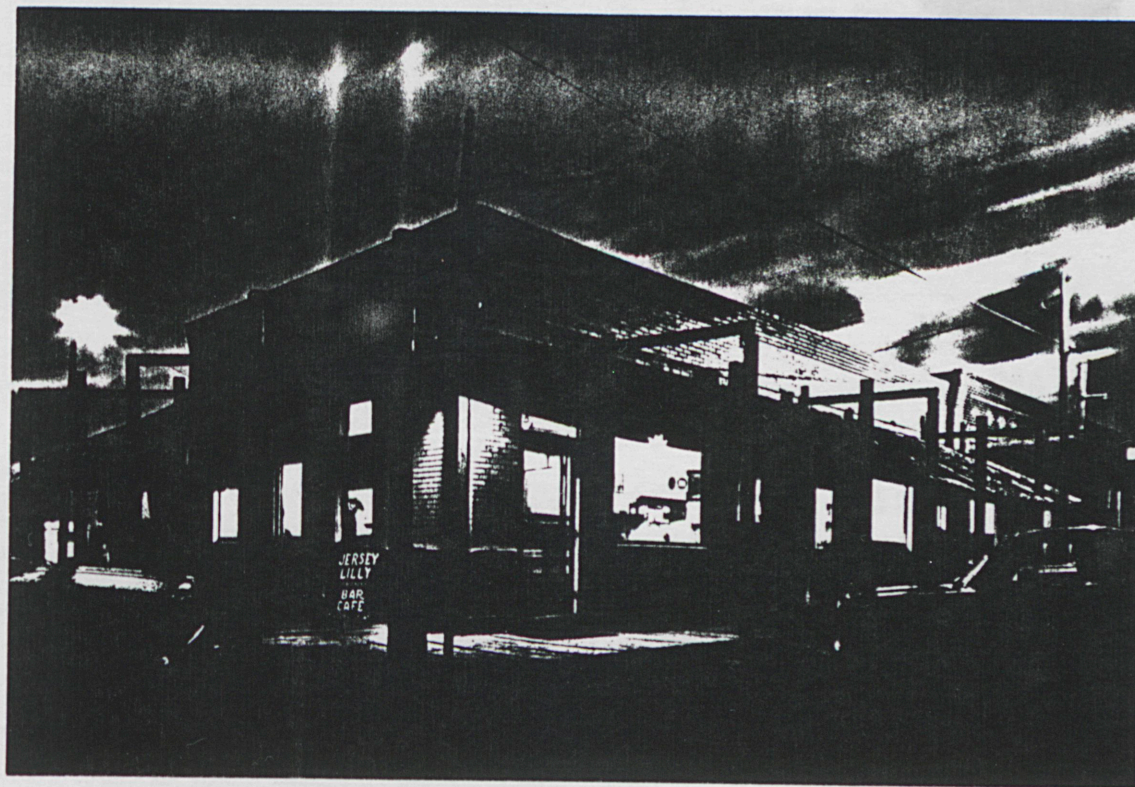
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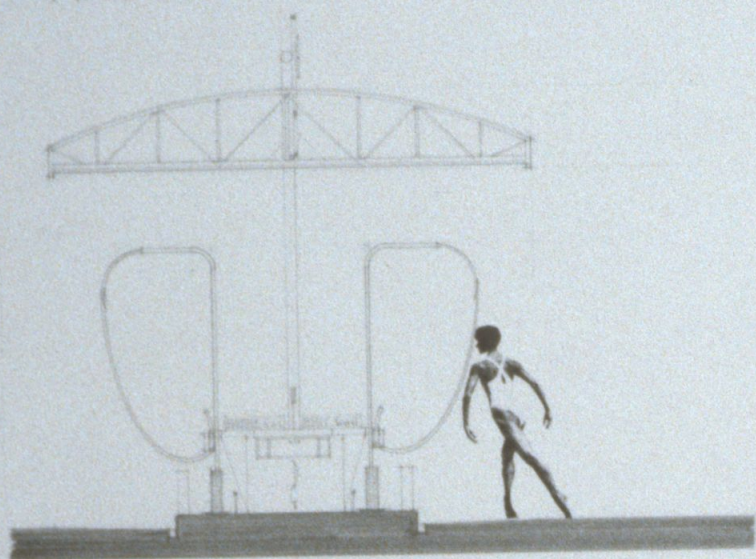
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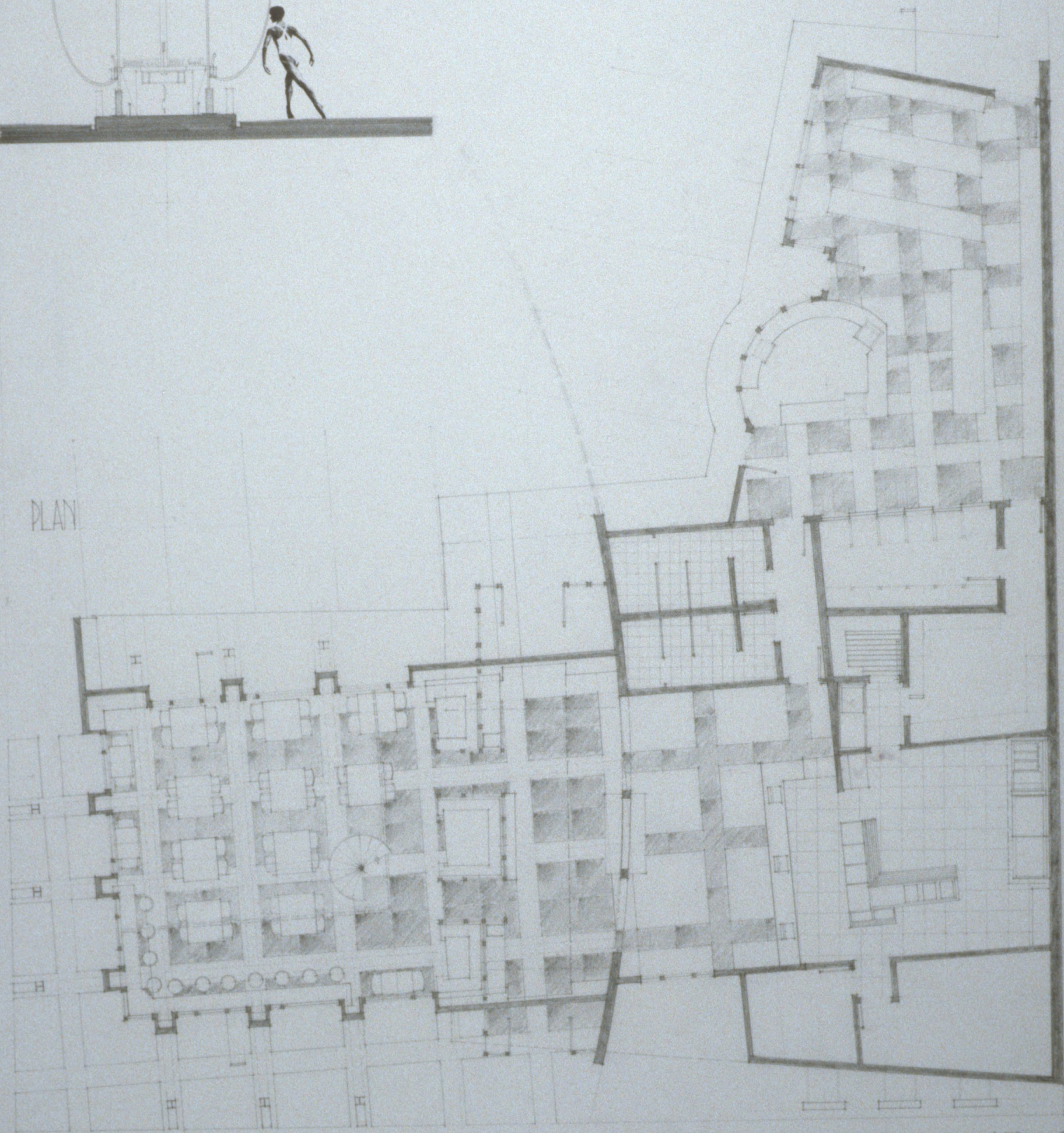
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GAS PUMPS



PLAN



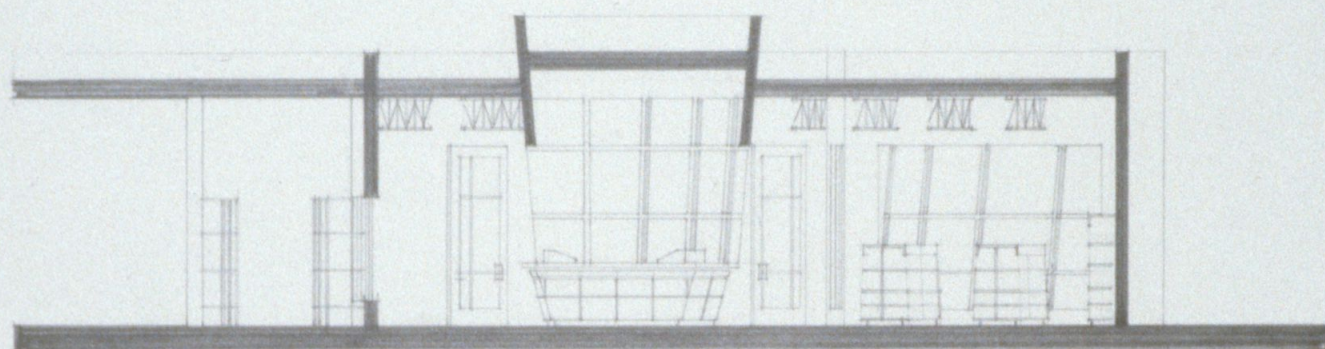
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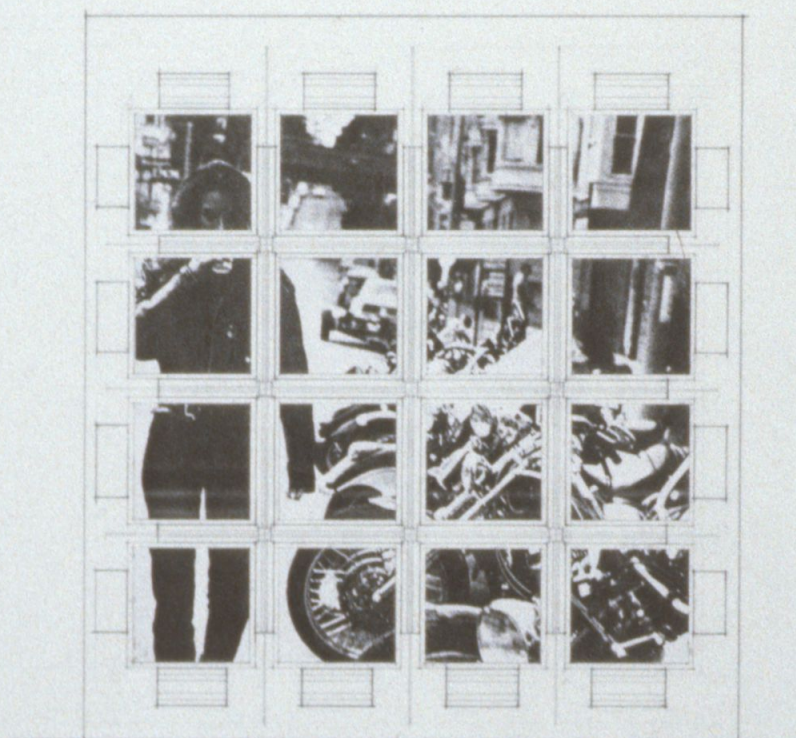
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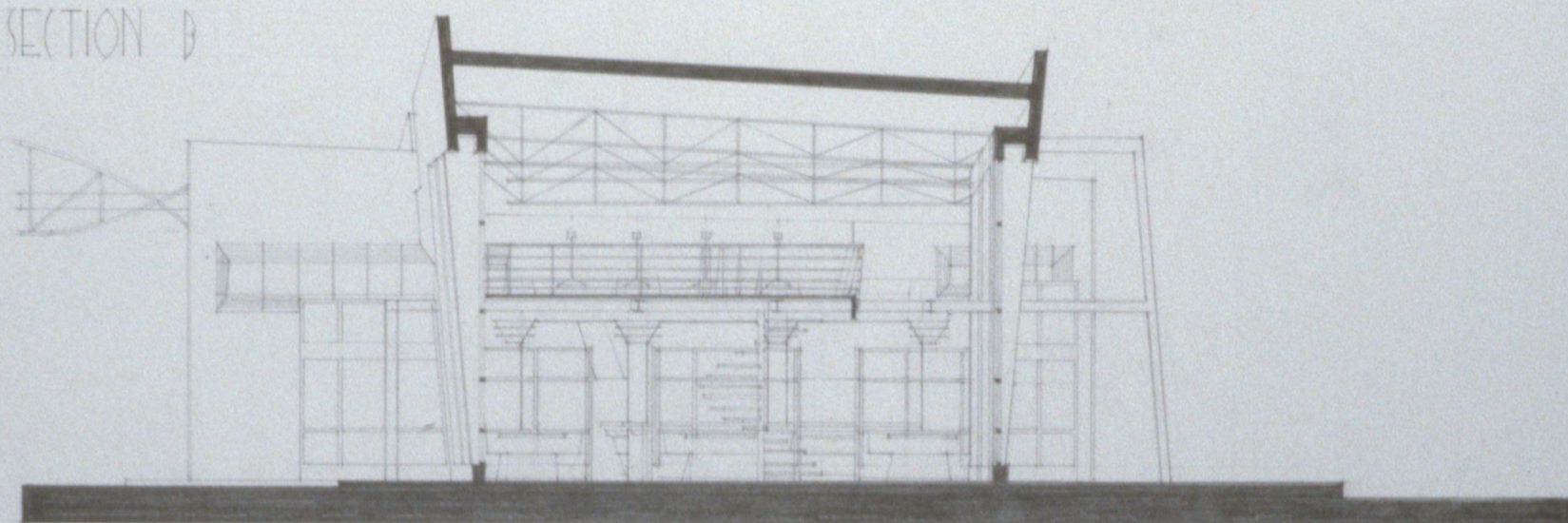
SECTION A



VIDEO WALL

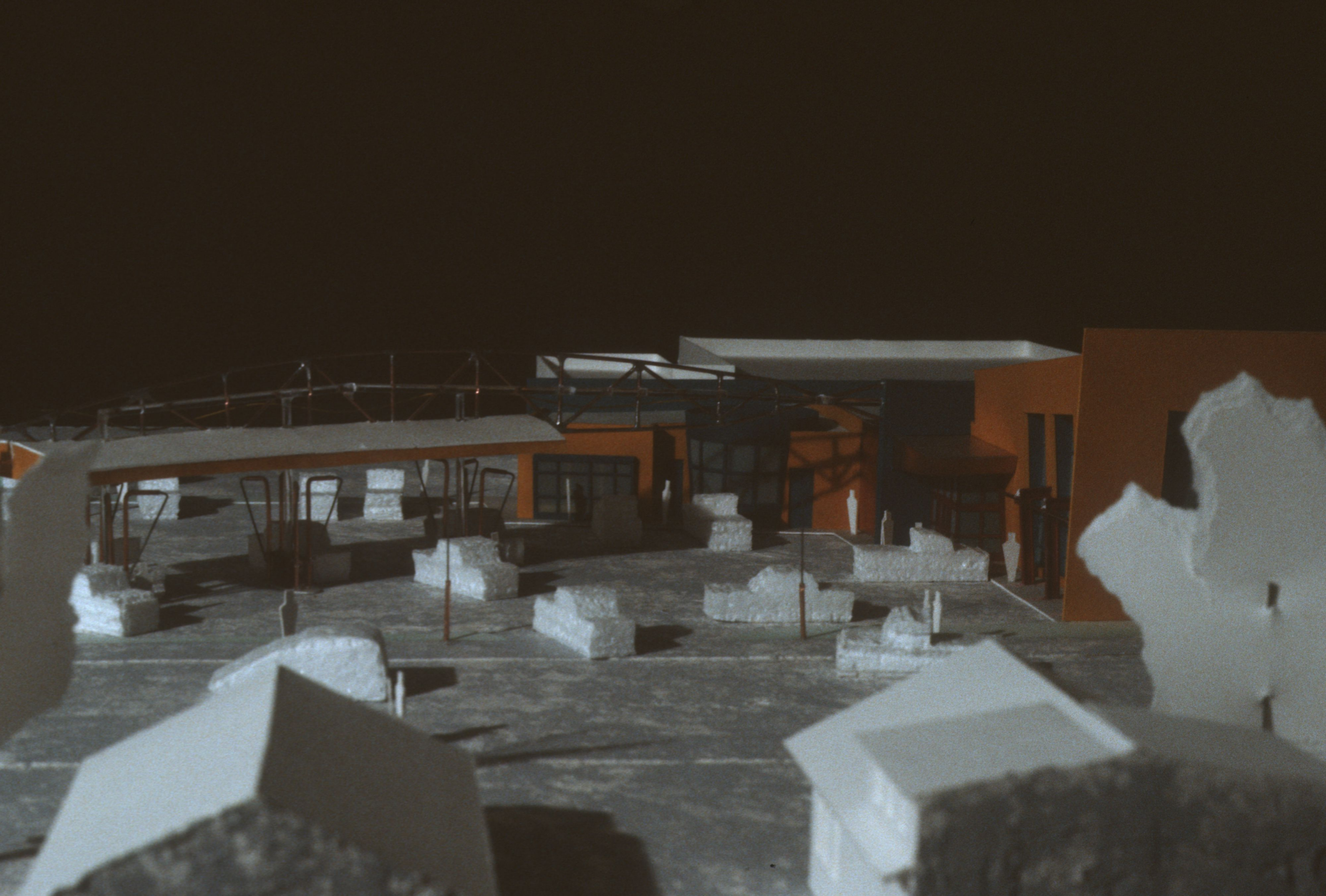


SECTION B



WYSKDLGDS WYSKDLGDS WYSKDLGDS WYSKDLGDS







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