

THE EXCLUDED MIDDLE

by

Matthew Alan Breest

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of the requirements for the degree

of

Master of Architecture

in

Architecture

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John Brittingham

Approved for the Department of Architecture

Steve Juroszek

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Matthew Alan Breest

April 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. INTRODUCTION.....	07
2. THEORY.....	11
3. TECHNICAL DATA.....	17
4.SITE.....	28
5. SITE ANALYSIS.....	32
6. SITE HISTORY.....	38
7. APPLICATIONS.....	43
8. CONCLUSION.....	58
WORK CITED.....	62
VISUAL DICTIONARY	67

ABSTRACT

I have had the privilege to grow up in a place of rare beauty. As far back as I can remember I have made this observation, including the observation of its continual destruction in the name of capital gain. There are few if any places in the country so rich in every aspect yet so neglected. Alaska has been a golden goose to oil companies that in return have destroyed unique ecosystems and redistributed entire cultures. As these practices can only be expected to continue I do see an opportunity for the preparation of the future.

Currently south central Alaska, specifically the Anchorage-Matanuska Borough is faced with a energy crisis. South central's known gas reserves, which residents rely upon to heat their homes and generate more than 90% of their electricity will be exhausted within a decade. Simultaneously this same region is being recognized as one the the most productive regions for diverse renewable energy in the world.¹ With a global demand for this research and a practical application to place I see an opportunity to create a model that addresses necessary exploration while additionally contributing to the communities observation and use of place.

The excluded middle is found within the dichotomies and dualisms that define this area. Due to a depreciation of observations a narrowed perspective has resulted, thus producing a status quo that approves of system where mediocracy flourishes between competing opposites. Whether this middle is site specific or found within the discourse of broader conflicts it will be used as a generator to create a cohesive fabric between oppositions. An architectural solution will inform a dialogue between social, contextual and site specific dichotomies. This discussion will use the retrieval and distribution of information to enrich the observations and perceptions found between existing dualisms.

INTRO

goals

- explore qualities of research space that promote the observation and discovery of its setting
- explore the natural cycles and processes that are present in the surrounding landscape and apparent in the ambient and latent qualities of the site. (Diurnal light, tidal flow, texture, color)²
- explore practices of observation that promote a positive cultural identity

THESIS STATEMENT

The intent of this study emerges as a response to the inevitable development of a pristine area. A contextual merger between architecture and place will engage spectators' conscious and unconscious drives to observe the poetic and rational values found among existing dichotomies. These existing dichotomies will through a multi-use, multi sensory, multi purpose facility of exchange and interaction frame a variety of experiences that encompass "the excluded middle." The result will encourage moments of observation and reflection, adding value to the diverse interests of an evolving community.

"In every case one must achieve a simultaneous solution of opposites."
-Alvar Aalto

project intent

The focus of this study is on the inevitable development of the untouched landscape. Most of us have had the experience of watching a cherished place forever changed by the mismanagement and greed of poor development practices. In contrast we have also been exposed to places of wonder and beauty by a careful negotiation between man and place.

It is my plan to create a place of observation that serves in providing an experiential forum for key cultural issues. The project will address a research center for the exploration and development of local renewable energies while claiming a sense of place for a diverse community; a place that encourages the retrieval and redistribution of ideas. In serving the community through exploration and discovery this will be a forum where social, political and academic forces will converge to question, learn, and educate. The architecture will be used as a confrontation, interaction, and exchange. The experience will respond to the site in a way that re-directs and focuses, framing the cultural identity of the region.

This study will be acknowledging one of the world's most productive regions for diverse renewable energies, Cook Inlet Alaska; while addressing its potentially destructive results within this unique and spectacular setting, specifically Kincaid park, one of the country's most revered outdoor civic centers. Existing dichotomies will be used to provide all types of observers, poetic or determinist, the opportunity to mutually benefit from each other's interactions; encountering discovery through the formulation of relationships with others; aiding in the solidification of a community.

A tension between conscious intentions and unconscious drives is necessary for a work in order to open up the emotional participation of the observer

-Juhani Pallasmaa

Mediation between dichotomies is perspective gained. Mediation gives us pause as well as pleasure, or perhaps discomfort. Mediation as hesitations are necessary interruptions in our relationship with worldly things those mediations might take form in the artist, a memory, a fact; all of which being observations activated from opportunity. Pausing over these things to reflect on possible relations can perhaps help us look beyond our common responses. We do not have to be overwhelmed by mediations force, nor do we necessarily need to seek refuge in naive relations with where we are and who we are. Being invited to think about the relations we have with the world is a moment in which those relations might change, however fleeting.³

-This project will focus on the retrieval and redistribution of observations, information and culture.

MATTHEW BREEST

TWO POINTS OF OBSERVATION



An expressive scene in a play that illustrates two points of view....

The woman of the left is viewed as hard and composed, as reinforced in the rigid background.

The woman of the right is passionate and creative, as expressed with the nude figure against the rigid background.

observe c.1386, "to hold to"⁰¹

1.

THEORY

THEORY

The purposes of this study are many. One must understand the practical implications of this endeavor, but first an examination into the poetics of this exercise will be identified. This is a project that deals with dichotomies and dualisms, their given oppositions and the excluded middle that can connect them. These instances are found embodied within the site, its use and the ideologies of the observers that will interact with this place. ¹

Philosopher Roger Caillois states "whatever side one approaches things, the ultimate problem turns out in the final analysis to be that of distinction." ² This describes the central conflict that my investigation aims to remedy. The inevitable destruction of a pristine place will raise two prominent responses, one being "don't" and the other "we must". Still among these dichotomies I see an opportunity, as Jorge Luis Borges puts it, "an invention of circumstances" a sort of "what If" scenario. What if the poetic and rational could merge? ³ I see the opportunity to satisfy the desires of each type of observer while with limited or no consent improving the disposition one might have towards the other. I believe that our assumptions and expectations of one another are what subsequently make us strangers. From that concern this study will develop an architectural language that transforms our ways of thinking and acting, using the fluxation between states of observation and perception to collectively enrich that which transcends architecture, the community that envelopes it. ⁴

"reality is not only complex but paradoxical, especially at the fracture line between what we think we know and what we actually know." ⁵

-Lebbeus Woods

As the splendor of this place is largely attributed to its visual qualities I shall use an architectural vocabulary that is related to vision. This will clarify the intent of this exercise throughout the book and inform a method for the project's design component. As stated previously these distinctions can be made through observations of the poet/artist and the determinist/scientist. Likewise, the vocabulary used will address both perspectives as to be understood by all whom may observe this place.

A visual language can be understood in the following three parts

01. Focused / Myopic vision

This can be applied to detailed observations of the world, that which is directly applicable to the determinist. This perspective [the near sighted] is driven by a rational engagement with empirical/deductive science [the scientific method]. This act masks events occurring beyond the point of focus, those which are often in contrast to myopia, [the peripheral, the esoteric/ethereal or the metaphysical] ⁶

02. Peripheral / Hyperopic vision

This broad state of vision implies a removal of the focused, instead wholistic observations are experienced. These generalizations can be applied to the poet. Hyperopia integrates us with other peripheral observations, possibly providing a more integrated view of the world. Peripheral vision strongly contrasts myopic observations by often running the risk of turning the observer into a spectator.

"focused vision confronts us with the world whereas peripheral vision envelopes us in the flesh of the world." ⁷

-Juhani Pallasmaa

03. Visual Acuity / The excluded Middle

Clarity between the two will be implied as 20-20 vision or "the excluded middle". I say excluded because so often it is the removal of the one for the success of the other.[development over nature or conservation over development] the excluded middle is where the magic happens, where the fluctuation between all modes of observation [the juxtaposed logics] can create an enriched perspective of our world.

*"This incursion into a parallel expression of architectural langue enables us to "become situated" within the world, responding directly to the things around us rather than being ineffective spectators."*⁸

-Jean-Paul Sartre

I recognize these as quantitative measures and do not want to exclude the qualitative benefits of the focused and peripheral. Consequently I intend to use this vocabulary to generate an architectural solution that creates a spatial narrative between the three. A project that merges the existing cultural, social and contextual ingredients within a spatial narrative.⁹ As inspired by Lebbeus Woods comment on reality, I am not looking for the opportunity to produce an immutable truth but only the opportunity to discover truths, especially those that through architecture, transcend it.

inspiration

Before addressing the practical necessities needed for the success of the project I will make a brief reference to a publication that embodies the essence of celebrating dualisms

A group known as the Pars Foundation invited an entire spectrum of professional's to submit work from their individual field of expertise that explained their observations on ice. The intent of this exercise was designed to convey how both "specialists from the different sciences and arts" use the creative processes to make discoveries and insights. The response was overwhelming with interdisciplinary reply's from around the globe including architects, poets, physicists, geologists, composers, mathematicians, etc. Each professional was encouraged to comb through their studios and workbenches to make professional contributions for anything that related to ice. What the Pars Foundation received was a vast body of work that was derived from notebooks, lab results, diaries, photographs and videotapes; The work was consequently described as schematic, sketchy, detailed, pertinent, comical, weird, ugly and breathtaking. All of which was declared intriguing and beautiful in its own right. ¹⁰

The foundation expresses that *curiosity* is the emotion that precedes knowledge and it is through curiosity that we meet one another, in order that we may begin to challenge, to change, and to talk with each other. The study found that through such a process we discover analogies and cross-references where we previously hadn't expected they exist. This new way of perception will result in a reader discovering a link between one contribution and another, whereas the next observer may discover something completely different within the analogies and dualisms. The book was not to be so much about the differences in any one situation, but about the similarities, providing any reader a new method for assembling and understanding the world that envelops us. ¹¹

I use this publication as a model in which an opportunistic architecture can address the dualisms of its surroundings in a way that encourages discovery that is fueled by curiosity; Thus enriching perspectives and creating a place where similar moments can occur that rise well beyond the narrative of a book, but transcend into the realm of human interaction. using the "organizing and ordering of existing knowledge" ¹² an architectural response may result that will develop experiences in a way that creates a place [a forum] promoting curiosity, a place where passions can be shared.

"The Pars Foundation" is an international research residency for the visual arts located in Amsterdam

|||| LIVING ||||

RESENO -
SIOBHAN DAVIES -
CARL DE KEYZER -
LAURIE CHAN -
MARCEL KLAASSEN -
TAKESHI NAGANUMA -
EWINE VAN DISHOECK -
RICHARD FORTHEY -
OLAFUR ELIASSON -
MIKE FEDAK -
MENNO-JAN KRAAK -
L + E M THOMPSON -
JOS DE KONING -

ARCHITECTS
CHOREOGRAPHER
PHOTOGRAPHER
TOXOLOGIST
ORNITHOLOGIST
MICROBIOLOGIST
ASTROCHEMIST
PALEONTOLOGIST
ARTIST
MAMAL BIOLOGIST
CARTOGRAPHER
CLIMATOLOGISTS
BIOMECHANICS

|||| MAKING ||||

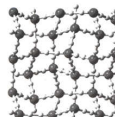
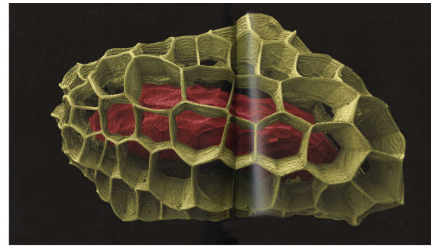
DEIMANTAS NARKEVICIUS -
MICHAELA FRUHWIRTH -
JORN FINNEY -
ALI RAHIM -
SYLVIA PONT -
FERRAN ADRIA -
THOMAS KOOP -
JIM CRILLY -
MAX -
WOLFGANG STUPPY -
TED NOTEN -
PAUL OVERDUIN -
JOSEPH NAIR -

SCULPTOR
FINE ARTIST
PHYSICIST
ARCHITECT
PSYCHOLOGIST
CHEF
CHEMIST
BIOPHYSICIST
CARTOONIST
BOTANIST
JEWELLERY DESIGNER
PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHER
PHOTOGRAPHER

|||| THINKING ||||

MARJORIE SENCHAI -
IGOR SEVCIUK -
MALIN PERSSON -
LINA SANEH -
DMITRI KOURILINSKI -
ANA OFAK -
DAINA TAIMINA -
RICHARD FOREMAN -
JAN TAMINIAU -
SUDEEP SEN -
DEIRDRE MCKAY -
IMAN MERSAL -
ANDRÉ PIELAGE -

MATHEMATICIAN
VIDEO ARTIST
FINE ARTIST
THEATRE DIRECTOR
COMPOSER
MEDIA HISTORIAN
MATHEMATICIAN
THEATRE DIRECTOR
FASHION DESIGNER
POET
COMPOSER
POET
ARTIST



Ice III



Ice II



Ice I_h



Using a citation from the book Giedion's *Space, Time and Architecture* (1941) can help us understand the long history of opposing thought in our modern times. Comparing this with the said allows us to understand our potential for progress.

"Contemporary artists and scientists have lost contact with each other; they speak the language of their time in their own work, but they cannot even understand it as it is expressed in work of a different character. The great physicist may lack all understanding of a painting which presents the artistic equivalent of his own ideas."

With the poetic and emotive qualities now well established, an investigation will now commence into the technical aspect of the projects success. This exercise's next portion will address opportunities that can be utilized in order to support both a public and private architectural development. The relationship between site, its resources and the people that claim this area will additionally be discussed so that a clear understanding of the existing resources and their potentials may be realized. Thus, I will begin with an introduction into the contextual, environmental and technical background of the Kincaid/Cook Inlet region

TECHNICAL DATA

This previous summer during a work break to a coffee house I came across a marker board with the daily special titled "E=mc²." The marker board was tagged with a image of physicist Albert Einstein in discussion with physicist Robert Oppenheimer. The board insinuated a conversation where Einstein states to Oppenheimer, "see one doesn't have to be a genius to comprehend the benefits of renewable energy." The sign was being used as propaganda for a grass roots energy fair that was coming up of which I was to attend. The fair consisted of some very bright and progressive individuals that were promoting their topic of interest as "the solution" yet still their competition was viewed as an issue of differing concern. As a visiting observer I felt as though the big picture had been overlooked. Encouraged by this and the inevitability of our energy dilemma I began to recall my observations of the region.

*Always think of the next largest thing.
- Eliel Saarinen's advice to his son, Eero*

Growing up on the Cook Inlet has been the staging ground for my understanding of the physical world. Whether it was my captivation with the beauty of the place or the hours spent observing the continual and drastic changes of the ocean and the broader environment. This has been a place where I have witnessed volcanic eruptions, countless bore tides and a strong yet persistent Pacific wind; Still even as a child I understood these to be sources that embodied great amounts of energy ['E=mc²']. It has been these broad observations paired now with the focus of a scientific eye that I will use to identify the regions resources, their potentials and relation to one another. These relations will inform a strategy that takes advantage of leading perspectives in a way that respects its impact on place while using and benefiting the existing infrastructures.

energy strategy

Alaska's infrastructure has developed in a unique response to the geography and population density of the state. Alaska makes up 20% of the country's landmass while representing less than 1% of its population, as a result development of a diverse energy infrastructure has occurred. Over 200 stand-alone electrical grids pair with power plants, natural gas

pipelines, bulk fuel “tank farms” and related facilities. The primary electrical grid, The Railbelt follows the Alaska Railroad for hundreds of miles from Fairbanks through Anchorage to the Kenai Peninsula and provides 80% of the state’s electrical energy.¹

Progress made through the research of renewable energies will confront the problems of natural gas depletion within the Cook Inlet region. With hundreds of locations scattered throughout the state and most relying on energy from the Railbelt, it is essential to develop energy substitutions. This next section will briefly address point by point local renewable energies, their applications, parameters, and relations to one another.

geothermal

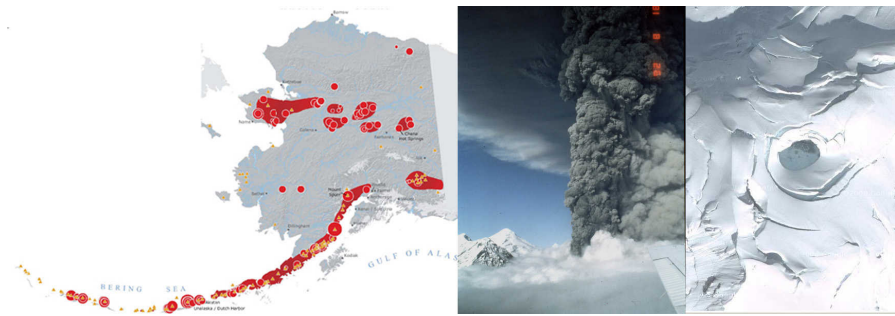
Alaska has four distinct geothermal resource regions, the region I will be focusing on is located within The Ring of Fire. The Ring of Fire is an active volcanic arc that circles the Pacific Ocean and hosts high-temperature hydrothermal systems. These systems are defined by surface expressions, such as hot springs, geysers, and fumarole fields.

The use of geothermal resources falls into two categories: direct use and electricity production. Potential applications for direct use of geothermal energy in Alaska include district heating, greenhouses, absorption chilling, and hydrogen production. Already each of these proposed geothermal power projects has the potential to produce tens and possibly hundreds of megawatts of electric power.²

Mount Spurr is a large caldera volcano, consisting of a central cone and a flank cone. The geothermal site is located on the northern edge of Cook Inlet, sixty miles due west from Anchorage. As of September 2008 the state began bidding zones of the geothermal site for research and development. Already millions of dollars has been put forward by some of the world’s largest geothermal developers.³

Accessing the site is best achieved by landing via float plane on the adjacent snow fields that sustain themselves year round on top of the

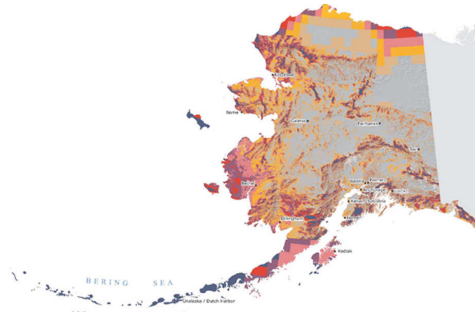
mountains existing glacier. It is my goal to provide a remote research station in conjunction with the research center, the research station will work in collaboration with the mountains current infrastructure while allowing researchers to conduct extended studies. The station will be designed to host a crew of 2-3 researches and will have the ability to be relocated to meet the needs of the research center.



wind

Superb winds are located in the western and coastal portions of the state. The winds in these regions tend to be associated with strong high and low pressure systems that are related to established storm paths.⁴ Cook Inlet and the anchorage bowl both fall in line with prevailing southwestern trade winds that raise up out of the Pacific Ocean.

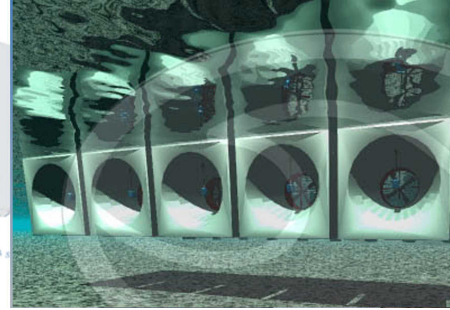
Alaska's governing powers recently approved funding for a 75 million submarine transmission cable to connect Fire Island to the main land. The islands wind capacity is rated on a scale of 5-7 [excellent to superb] As of October 2008 the construction the Fire Island wind farm commenced. Additional resources could potentially be developed within close proximity to the island for example, far off shore windmills. The research and development of this arctic wind farm could greatly improve the expansion of the states wind development opportunities.⁵



hydro

Hydroelectric power is Alaska's largest source of renewable energy; Currently this source supplies 24 percent of the state's electrical consumption. To date 27 hydro projects provide power to Alaska utility customers, they vary in size from the 105kW Akutan hydro project in the Aleutian Islands to the 126 MW state-owned Bradley Lake project near Homer, which supplies 8% of the Railbelt's electrical demand. An additional 20 privately-owned hydro projects are catalogued in the Alaska Energy database. Most of the state's developed hydro resources are located near communities in Southern portion of the state. ⁶

The potential for hydroelectric development is immense and is currently under utilized. The entire south central region is rich in this resource and within close proximity to the research center. Glacier fed streams, rivers, and lakes provide a variety of scales that can be tested and developed by the center. Access points are abundant and in close relation to the areas of interest relative to neighboring communities. Models can be developed and if implemented will serve remote communities, aiding in the displacement of imported fuels. Some hydro electrical studies can focus on the development of large production centers that will serve communities while excess electricity can be sold to Railbelt for profit. Additionally hydroelectric studies can often inform the development of Ocean Energy Production.



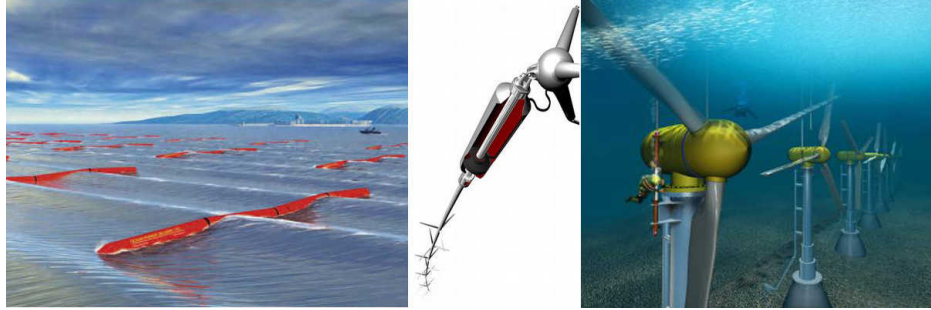
ocean

Alaska has more coastline than the rest of the United States combined, in excess of 34,000 miles. The collection of energy from the sea can be defined by three general categories, Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC), tidal energy,

and wave energy. Although many of the technologies for exploiting these potentials are still in the early stages of demonstration this will enable a perfect opportunity for the research center to take advantage of.

One of the characteristics and primary benefits of tidal energy is that the inlet tides are predictable for centuries in advance. Electricity from the ocean is derived in two ways: by dams that force water through turbines during high and low tidal stages, and by underwater turbines activated by tidal flow. Cook Inlet, with the world's second largest tidal range, has attracted international attention and political interest.⁷

With the Fire Island wind farm approval a unique opportunity for tidal generation can be presented. Shelter Bay, located on the south side of Fire Island, would be a perfect place to conceal an ocean energy project from the viewed horizon of Anchorage, at the same time taking advantage of the opportune proximity of the island's coast and infrastructure. The island can act as a relay source between the ocean system, the submarine transmission cable and the Railbelt grid.



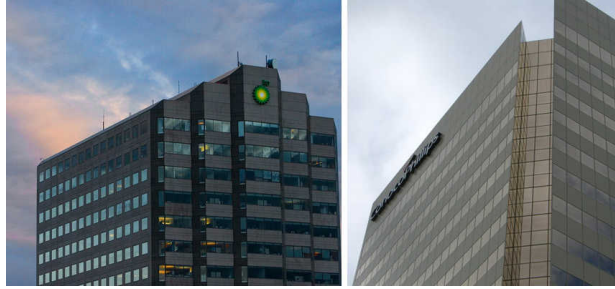
infrastructure

The previous work has addressed a critical issue, the resources to help solve this dilemma and the current actions by private and public entities. Along with this I will briefly state the local existing infrastructure and the networks that can serve to support a research facility. The key to successfully establishing a research center will depend on three factors

- 1) intellectual support
- 2) economic funding
- 3) proximity of resources.

Intellectual support will come from political and academic resources. The legislature has established its support by providing permits for development, funding and research incentives. The academic component currently exists through the University of Alaska Anchorage and its approximately 15,000 students.⁸ Private intellectual capital can be generated from the abundance of energy companies that exist across the state.

Economic funding has already begun to play a significant role in the development of these renewable resources, already hundreds of millions of dollars have been dispersed from public and private investors within the Cook Inlet region to explore and develop the potentials. Continued investment can be expected from local energy companies who are interested in the global markets demand for the production of alternative energy sources.



ExxonMobil



ConocoPhillips

The proximity of existing resources can be defined by infrastructure relative to the site, The proximity/access of the resources being studied, and the exposure of the public and its support. The infrastructure analogous to site can be defined during the site analysis portion of the book, but are strong and numerous.

The proximity of the resources studied are relatively close to one another with the exception of the geothermal site which is a twenty minute commute via float plane. The remaining resources can all be accessed within minutes by air or water. Air transportation is supported by float plane access that is serviced out of the Lake Hood Seaplane Airport.[5 min. drive from the site]Lake Hood is the worlds busiest seaplane base with an average of 190 flights per day ⁹ and is capable of servicing sites of snow, gravel, water and asphalt. Water transportation can occur via the port of anchorage.



Public exposure of the research center is primarily achieved due to its close relationship with its site. The site is located on the an edge condition of a popular recreational destination, Kincaid Park. In order to understand the relationship the site holds with the research center and the mutual benefit each can gain from exposure to one another a careful examination of the park must be made.



Kincaid Park

Kincaid Park is the last accent of a pristine wilderness that used to be Anchorage. An inattentive spirit driven by capital gain and the promise of progress has resulted in another poorly planned city. Development has consumed the majority of the city's great outdoors for a better life that is afforded to us with these modern times. As a result, the park has become a gem within the city to which people flock in the hope of finding what makes this unique place so special.

*"wilderness becomes the rarest and most precious commodity,
transformed from an unknowable and anxious emptiness
into a refuge, a new eden."*

-Anthony Burke

Kincaid is a city park of approximately 1500 acres south of the international airport and extends to the westernmost point of Anchorage. Geologically, the area is part of an old delta formation, from which glacial recession has contributed to the hilly character that is evident in the park today. Elevation change ranges from 2.6 meters below sea level to over 100 meters above sea level. The rolling terrain is covered with the oldest growth birch and spruce forest in town. The area is home to many moose, coyotes, owls, eagles, black bear and ocean waterfowl. The park evokes the sense of walking through a wildlife sanctuary¹⁰

Kincaid has hosted over 25 major events in its 30-year history including: national level competitions for the selection of the U.S. Olympic Teams for X-C skiing and for Special Olympics; The National Masters X-C Skiing Championships; and the NCAA National X-C Skiing Championships. The park consists of over 60km of interwoven trails, of

which nearly 20km are lite and tie into the cities costal trail system. Patrons have access to season round activities including biking, hiking, biathlon, triathlon, walking, running, and skiing activities and competitions."¹¹



I have tried to illustrate this place for what it is worth and in turn will work to preserve its value. Even with the existing values identified the park it is still surprisingly inaccessible. In order to enjoy the splendor of this setting you must be willing to fully engage the trail system. This act significantly limits the capacity of the parks potential public value. Currently the park is accessible by road up to a chalet. The chalet exists in the middle of a large field that is bordered by a dense forest. The true grandeur of the park is experienced on the costal trail where the best views in town can be observed. The chalet provides no implied access to the coast nor is it in the position to due to its proximity.

The costal trail along with the whole western front of the park is where this park comes alive, with limited access and almost no acknowledgment of the coast it is safe to say the parks identity and potential are subsequently minimal. The coasts current identity is further threatened by the development of not one, but eight soccer fields within the parks boundaries. One cant help but feel a sense of urgency associated with this "progress."

It is my intent to address the stated practical needs of the region through the introduction of a collaborative research center. While using its proximity with the park in a way that acknowledges the coasts values I plan to improve the parks identity and opportunity for exposure. As a result I will create a strategy that mutually benefits the conditions of each. This strategy will blur the conventual boundaries erected between the public and private realm, resulting in an architecture that calls attention to the focused and peripheral observations of time and space.

*"conventions often insure that the social constructions, such as the unstable boundary between public and private remain unexamined"*¹²

-Lewis, Tsurumaki, Lewis

Place

The necessity of destroying the pristine

*"Destroying and constructing are of equal importance, and we must have the souls for the one and the other. Construction always implies destruction of a prior state of being, changing and rearranging physical, cultural and experimental conditions."*¹

-Phaedrus confess to his mentor Socrates

Anybody will feel a bit of anxiety when you propose the destruction of a prior state of being within a natural setting. The association to this anxiety is driven by our past experience. I plan to redirect this perception through the use of an architectural experience. As Juhani Pallasmaa put it, Architecture is seen as an event, a place of reflection where beauty resides in the very act of discovery rather than in the externalized object".²

As the discovery of paths lead to carefully choreographed viewing terraces or as points of access to previously unexplored events of wonder are found, the source of this integration, the architecture will confirm its contribution to the well being of the park. The observer will become convinced that each confrontation with this "geofluidic landscape" that is afforded to them by the centers influence has given them an opportunity to look at the world with a broadened perspective. Subsequently these acts will insure the communities support for the centers research and relieve any anxiety associated with the centers presence.

*"Architecture, as with all art, is fundamentally confronted with the question of human existence in space and time, it expresses and relates man's being in the world. Architecture is deeply engaged in the metaphysical questions of the self and the world, interiority and exteriority, time and duration, life and death."*³

-David Harvey

SITE

site plan

The site has first been addressed from the position of opportune realizations, now I plan to frame its poetic aspects. This site is blooming with apparent contradictions. I will use Italo Calvino's analysis on literature to describe the architectural qualities of this place, *"lightness and heaviness, quickness and slowness; visibility and invisibility, exactitude, multiplicity, and finally consistency."*¹

These example are embodied within the site, the boundaries between the fluid and static, the changes between wet and dry, or the dancing reflections and their fixed objects. The speed of the site can be observed by the rush of the tides or their complete submission to stasis from the frigid arctic air; The never ending summer with its vanishing nights, and conversely the winter months with its long poetic absence of light, each of these season equally evoking the visible and invisible. Oneness and multiplicity is seen within the seamless sheet of the Pacific and its transfigure multiplication of cracked lenses of ice. The elasticity of this place is tremendous, whether the surroundings are stoic or manic, never the less they are almost always consistent. This emotive situation inspires me to use these generators, as Lebbeus Woods states,

*"to create site specific narratives that weave together a bevy of oppositions:
fact/fiction, object/subject, technological/natural, rational/magical"*²

The solution to this narrative will be illustrated by the previous suggestion of a "visual langue." The anthropomorphic nature of the site will be used to introduce this langue. Myopic and Hyperopic vision both imply the action of movement between self and object. The near sighted or focused observer must move close to what they are trying to see, or have it approach them. In contrast if one is far sighted they must move away from their vantage point in order to understand what they are viewing. Each have to do with proximity and both provide valuable insights into the way we observe the world.

Identifying these moments among the site can develop a synthesis between building and landscape, intent and action;³ Though the use of human interaction a connection between man and the world can be strengthened. In turn, a cohesive fabric can be established between existing dichotomies, consequently linking perspectives. To paraphrase philosopher Roger Caillois, *"using the connection between consciousness and particular points in space."*⁴

*"Open and lay out a new and certain path for the mind to proceed in, starting directly from the simple sensuous perception."*⁵

-Sir Francis Bacon

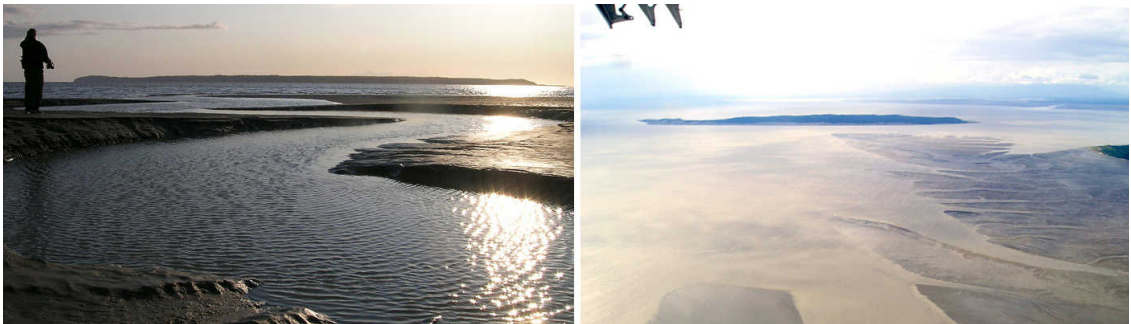
The geofludic landscape ⁴

The unique nature of this site should be defined by its opportunities and their parameters. This is a place that is rich in dichotomies that are defined by multi scaled ecologies; Through visual description I plan to show their complimentary opposition.

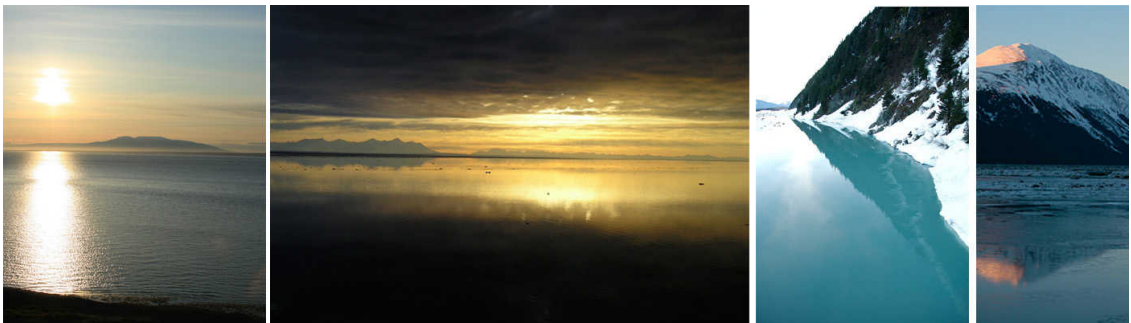
The ocean defines the boundary between the solid context and the animated context. This boundary is constantly challenged by the push and pull of the water and the change it imposes on the landscape. Nature is persistently transforming this region, whether it be through the use of climatic variations or geologic influence, an augmented landscape is more common than a static one. ⁵



edge study



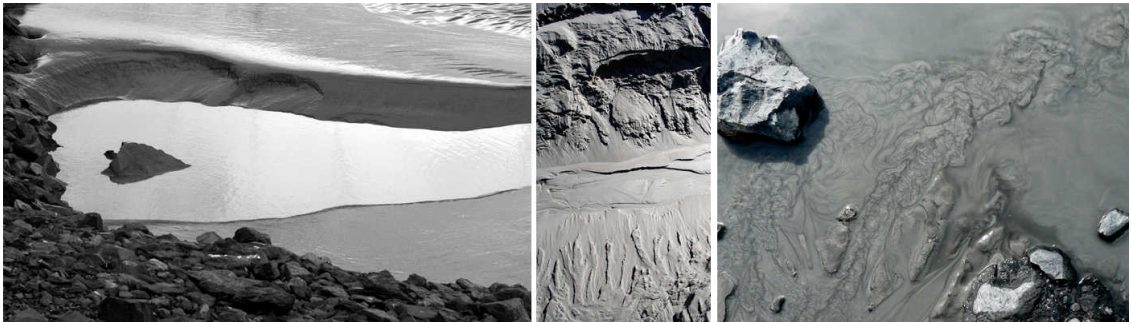
transformation study



reflection study



element change



detail study

These are the experiences that draw people, these are the moments that inspire the imagination.

SITE ANALYSIS

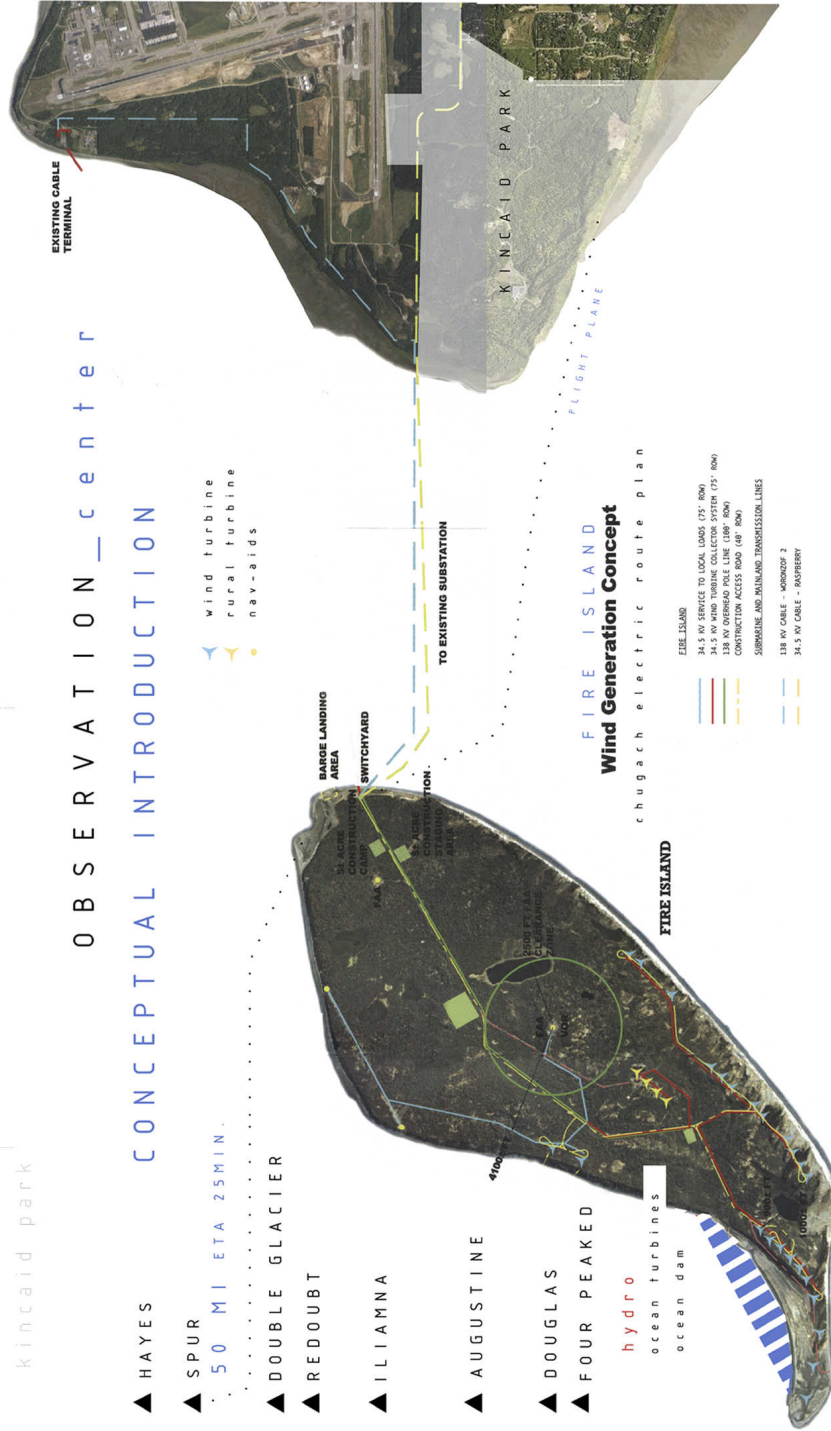
SITE ONE kincaid park

OBSERVATION_center CONCEPTUAL INTRODUCTION

- ▲ HAYES
- ▲ SPUR
- 50 MI ETA 25MIN.
- ▲ DOUBLE GLACIER
- ▲ REDOUBT
- ▲ ILIAMNA
- ▲ AUGUSTINE
- ▲ DOUGLAS
- ▲ FOUR PEAKED

hydro
ocean turbines
ocean dam

wind turbine
rural turbine
nav-aids



SITE ONE
kincaid park

PUBLIC_PRIVATE OBSERVATION



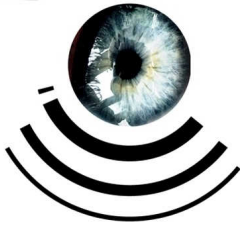
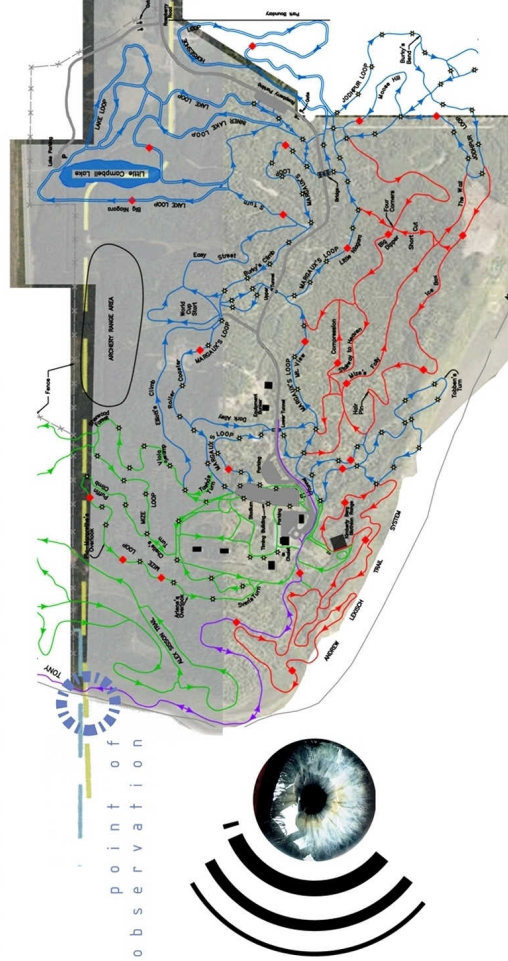
01 Fire Island_Mt Spur



02 cook inlet



03 Kincaid park_Mt. Spur

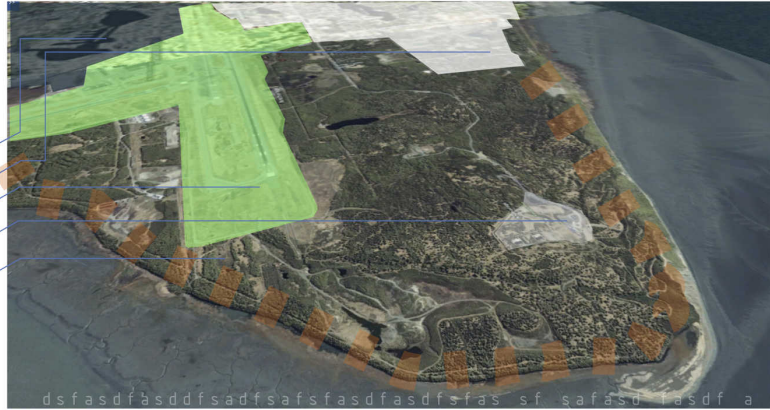


SITE ONE

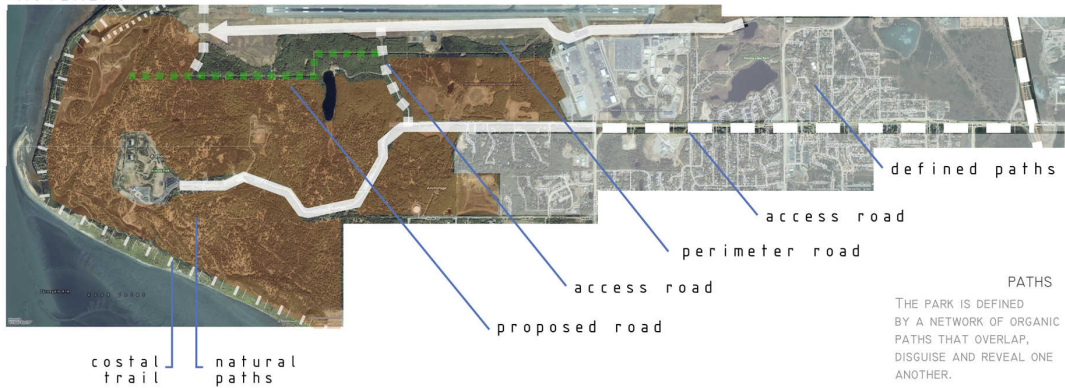
kincaid park

LOCAL ANALYSIS

midtown
residential
airport
chalet
costal
trail



MOVEMENT



costal trail

costal trail: this route connects the far ends of the park along with existing city trails. natural paths: these paths are defined by the topography of the park and the organic motion formed by man and animal

PATHS

THE PARK IS DEFINED BY A NETWORK OF ORGANIC PATHS THAT OVERLAP, DISGUISE AND REVEAL ONE ANOTHER.

THIS RHIZOMATIC SYSTEM IS CONTAINED WITHIN THE DEVELOPED CITY AND ITS DEFINED PATHS OF ASPHALT ROAD SIGNS

BLUR ACUTY FOCUS

Myopic 20/20 Hyperopic

visual vocabulary

RESEARCH
FORUM
PLATFORM
LARGE

PLATFORM
MEDIUM

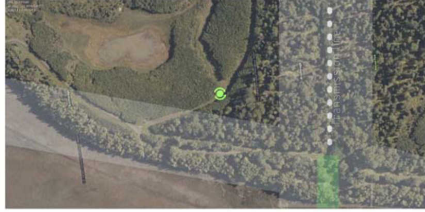
PLATFORM
SMALL

PLATFORM
SATILLITE

PLATFORM
TRAVERSE



[costal trail] trail/beach traverse



[site specific] ocean/land merger



[site] delta formation

Site 1

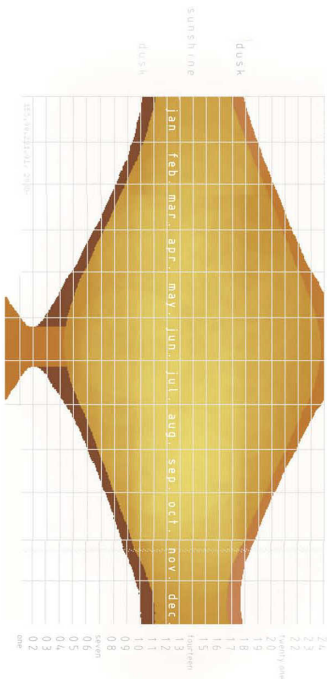
RESEARCH A PLACE OF EXPERIMENTATION AND STUDY
FORUM AN EXCHANGE (RETRIEVAL / DISTRIBUTION)
PLATFORM INTERACTION / EXPLORATION



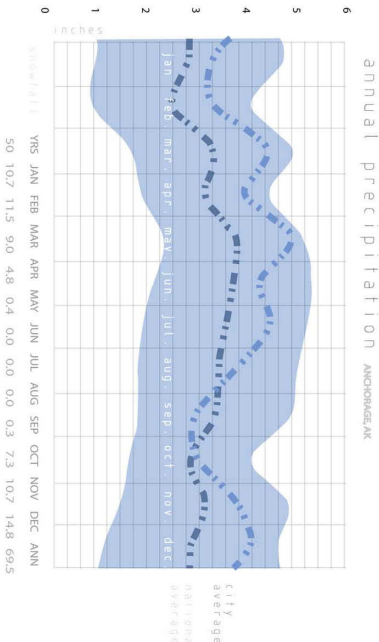
graphic planning symbol

SITE ANIMATION

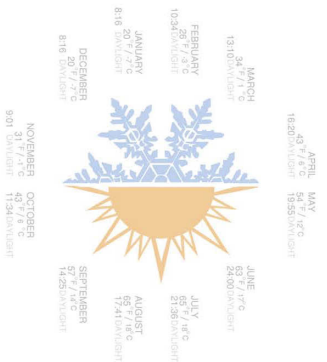
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA



Sunrise, sunset, dawn and dusk times, graph



annual precipitation ANCHORAGE, AK



2008 NOAA Tide Predictions: Anchorage

January - Anchorage

Date	Time	Height	Date	Time	Height	Date	Time	Height	Date	Time	Height
1/1/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/11/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/21/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/31/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/2/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/12/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/22/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	2/1/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/3/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/13/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/23/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	2/2/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/4/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/14/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/24/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	2/3/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/5/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/15/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/25/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	2/4/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/6/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/16/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/26/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	2/5/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/7/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/17/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/27/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	2/6/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/8/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/18/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/28/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	2/7/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/9/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/19/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/29/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	2/8/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/10/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/20/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/30/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	2/9/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/11/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/21/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT				2/10/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/12/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/22/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT				2/11/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/13/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/23/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT				2/12/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/14/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/24/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT				2/13/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/15/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/25/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT				2/14/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/16/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/26/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT				2/15/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/17/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/27/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT				2/16/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/18/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/28/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT				2/17/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/19/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/29/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT				2/18/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/20/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT	1/30/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT				2/19/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/21/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT							2/20/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/22/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT							2/21/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/23/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT							2/22/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/24/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT							2/23/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/25/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT							2/24/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/26/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT							2/25/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/27/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT							2/26/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/28/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT							2/27/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/29/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT							2/28/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/30/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT							2/29/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT
1/31/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT							2/30/2008	10:00 AM	10.00 FT

All times are listed in Local Standard Time (LST) or Local Daylight Time (LDT) (when applicable). All heights are in feet referenced to Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW).

SITE HISTORY

A brief historical analysis will be conducted to highlight the varying perspective that have occurred within the Cook Inlet / Kincaid region. The observations that have been made will be defined through the use of focused and peripheral vision, from this the retrieval and distribution of information, the values of each process and the similarities shared will be explored. This investigation will establish the long serving thread of observational styles that has occurred throughout our history.

Myopic

[retrieval+distribution]

James Cook was a Captain in the Royal Navy and trained as a navigator and cartographer. His educational formation was based around his studies of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, navigation and astronomy. Captain James Cook with his ship, the *endeavor* explored this region during the summer of 1778. His travels to this area were driven by his pursuit for the discovery of the northwest passage. As much as cook believed that such a myth may not exist he had a deeply scientific heart and **if something had not been conclusively disproved, then it might possibly exist.**¹

Cook can be examined as a historical presence to this region that may be considered for the purpose of this exercise as one whom was grounded by the use of his focused observations[myopic] This way of viewing the world was nurtured in his education and practiced in the way he recorded and distributed information to the world. Cook is recalled as a fearless and courageous sailer that would pursue the most dangerous locations in order to confirm the facts. Cook was a avid journal keeper, here historians can rediscover the unquenchable thirst of cooks spirit; Within his journals we find the intent of his travels to this region as Cook describes, he intended to go not only:

"... farther than any man has been before, but as far as I think it is possible for a man to go."²

This spirit teamed with the rigor of his myopic retrieval strategies allowed him to give the rest of the world a glimpse into new theories and previously uncharted realms of our planet. It is this spirit that allowed him to lead what has come to be known as the greatest voyage the world has ever known. Like any good scientist he realized his work would not always return an immediate contribution. The thing to admire most about cook was his ability to make the best of a situation. After spending weeks traveling up the "cook inlet" he found himself adjacent to this site, realizing he was landlocked he proclaimed,

"If the discovery of this river should prove of use, either to the present or future ages, this time spent in exploring it ought to be less regretted, but to us who had a much greater object in view, it was as essential loss."

June, 1778 ³

This sound a little bit like often quoted scientific charge of our time, made by American author and professor of biochemistry Isaac Asimov nearly 200 year later,

"There is a single light of science, and to brighten it anywhere is to brighten it everywhere"⁴

[coincidence?]

Hyperopic [retrieval + distribution]

The Dena'ina, an ancient Athabaskan tribe has roots that run deep within the history of this site. The Dena'ina refer to themselves as **"The People"**, this term was coined since they viewed themselves as individuals, but from this together they form a greater whole. They view themselves as a component of the world, this naturalistic philosophy envelops there lifestyles with that respond to the change of the seasons and other life cycles of the earth. The world view of the Den'a consists of a naturalistic explanation that links nature and life as one, a system that maintains unity in the human, natural, and spiritual worlds. ¹

They are a **story telling people** who's use of symbolism and metaphors conveyed the values that they live by so that they may be passed on to future generations. They believe in both the seen and unseen worlds, This holistic world view that all things are connected is implicitly expressed in Den'a ceremonies. Often these events would be celebrated in the form of **"healing rituals", "feasts for the dead," "mortuary feasts,"** and **"memorial potlatches."**

The passing of one into another realm would be a time to use these eulogies to immortalize the talents and works of the deceased and recognize their important influence on cohesiveness on the Den'i'a community. They would call attention to how their absence would create a void within the community, for example [the loss of a good hunter, an understanding friend, a fast runner, an industrious worker, a loving member of the family, or a community leader]. Additionally this would be a time for people to celebrate and understand the underlining worth and contributions of all who attended, **a time to**

emphasize that they are one, that they are "The People."² The poetic lives of the Deni'a will allow for the intent of this exercise to classify their ways of observation as [hyperopic]

"I realized that it was not by wisdom that poets write their poetry, but by a kind of nature or inspiration, such as you find in seers and prophets; for these also say many beautiful things, but do not know anything of what they say."

-socrates

story tellers

APPLICATIONS

Precedents

The precedents have been selected to help inform the success of the research center and its goals. Precedent are presented in three categories to best inform the projects specifics.

- 01 research/site precedents
- 02 coastal precedents
- 03 explorative precedents

[research precedents]

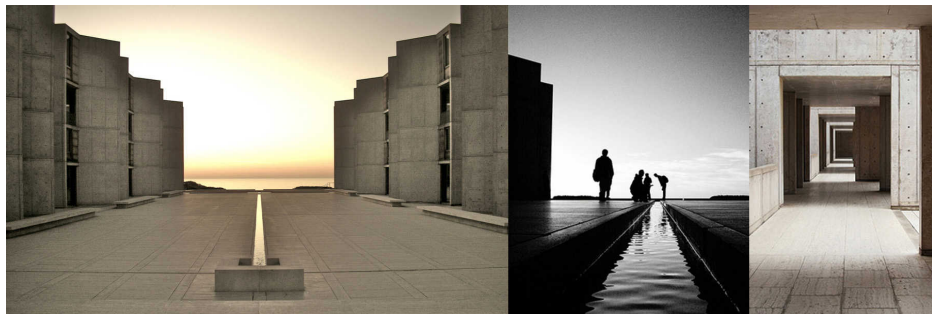
Salk Institute;
Biological Laboratory

San Diego, California 1960+
Louis Kahn

The salk institute can be studied in two ways; one, as a center that inspires creativity and two, its capacity to elevate the experience of its site. Jonas Salk envisioned a center where scientists and others could converge to "work together to explore the wider implications of their discoveries." This is the same spirit that inspires my motives. Similarly the Salk Institute overlooks the Pacific Ocean, the building is used to frame out the ocean in a way that elevates patrons and researchers. This frame uses focus to draw attention to place while still allowing access to the original and natural view; a sense of appreciation is gained. This effect calls attention to the wonder of a this place, ensuring that the often peripheral experiences do not become excluded from daily life. The point of observation becomes the hearth within the architecture, a place for community. ¹

"Imagination is more important than knowledge"

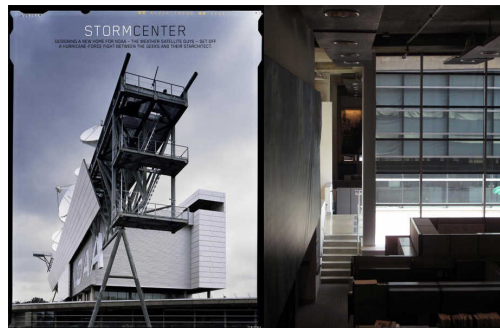
-Albert Einstein



NOAA Storm Center;
Satellite Operations Facility

Suitland, MD 2001+
Morphosis

The storm center has two functions, conceal operation functions and promote a technologically advanced image to the community. The building has been defined as the convergence of "form and function with symbolism and science." The twin goals of this project have been "environmental stewardship and technological advancement." The majority of this 208,000 sq/ft building is disguised beneath the adjacent sloping meadows, as Thom Mayne puts it, "We literally peeled up the earth to make it usable." The moves behind the storm center match many of my ideas for a publicly active research center. One, it promotes an advanced image to the public, assuring them that the activities taking place are exceeding the status quo. Two, the building represents a symbol of progress on multiple fronts. Three, it responds to the surrounding land, using it to increase building efficiencies while making improvements to the existing landscape. ²



Interrupted Projections;
Another global surface
Gallery MA

Project No. 9601
Tokyo, Japan 1996+
Neil m Denari

Gallery MA is gathering space for exhibiting architecture and related design. Sited just above the nogizaka subway station and adjacent to ropongi in tokyo. This project was inserted into the third floor of a

six-floor building. The program for the project was an experimental space.
3

Part of the gallery uses a glass membrane to divide the interior space from the exterior garden and allowing for visualization of interior activity. The rest of the project is integrated into the building, blending with the solid spaces. This creates a revealed and secluded sense of the space. It invites while at the same time respects its context by adhering to the established parameters of the building.

"The interior surface bends and loops to form a three-dimensionally smooth yet complex geometry capable of merging with the information that is imbedded inside the project. Information is represented graphically by logo's, visual codes, and conventional signs. The task of the graphic may be of seduction or of infinite replication." Many of the logos have barcodes associated with them these barcodes contain information that can be retrieved by the viewer. This process acts as a trigger for people activating information to become more involved with the project. Denari uses this project to capture various forms of data, he terms this interactive surface a "worldsheet." I see this concept capable of presenting information in a way that can maximize the retrieval and distribution of ideas both locally while simultaneously extending to the region and beyond. 4

Though the world sheet provides information internally it can introduce information beyond the constraints of the forum, as Denari puts it, "digital technology is especially indifferent to location"[electricity can be everywhere a battery can go]. The additional introduction of these potential experiences near the project can encourage exploration, resulting in a deeper investment of ones self with the site. This process evokes a sense of ownership that transcends oneself to a larger concern for the preservation place and the future experiences of the observer(s).

"Through the use of technology, the concept of the local site or real ground is changed."

-Neil M Denari

Retrieval and distribution will arise in many ways. Distribution would primarily occur inside the forum or secondly via the web. The "worldsheet" could provide live or uploaded feeds of key or strategic places

of interest that would expose the lame and adventurous. Information would be monitored and retrieved by operators of the research center. Additionally contributions are made by those who engage within the parks selected locations. Organized events [Olympic, NCAA or public trials] and personal information such as course times, general positioning counts and associated frequencies, along with images could be stored by park patrons. These acts will strengthen the existing community while providing access to those whom currently are not involved. This minimal impact on the park and affiliated areas will provide a significant advantage for the parks preservation as well as for the extended regions. Through moments of thoughtful interaction and observation a viewer can forever be impregnated with the value of a this place.

Denari's media lab takes on a fluidic nature that resemble the dynamic atmosphere of the parks landscape. From the changing ocean to the permanence of the rolling hills the worksheet can translate moves occurring from the exterior onto the interior; Thus reinforcing the focus the project creates within its context and its ultimately its goal of preservation by communication. digital reckon



[site precedents]

[Pachacamac Hill](#);

Lima, Peru 2008+
Longhi Architects

This project respects its site by becoming one with it. A hill that could have become subject to another thoughtless development looming on it ridge has instead brought life to a unsuspecting blip on the landscape. This approach to designing with a landscape allows for the sense of a

natural setting to be preserved while enabling man to inhabit space in order to fulfill a need. This project contains two states of opposition, still these instances inform one another in a way that each subtle gesture blends into the other. On the one hand you have the built environment, on the other the natural landscape; Each is attended to with about the same level of attention. On the one side a natural face dominates with glimpses of the building accented on the exterior. The opposing side is primarily composed of built elements that intermix with the earth, while its profile is framed on three sides by the surrounding hill. The interior allows for a balance between man and land. This approach to design can preserve the essence of the Cook Inlet region, while allowing for a necessary project development to occur.



Macchu Picchu;

Calientes, Peru 1460+
Inca Empire

Machu Picchu can serve as a dual precedent. Firstly, Machu Picchu is an example of a work of architecture that has exposed many to a location of spectacular beauty that traditionally has been viewed by few. These many observers have a sense of commitment to the preservation of this place, that is to say if thoughtless development was to ever occur in the valley it would be met by a wall of opposition. Without this kind of exposure there would be very little restraining the development of this region. Machu Picchu is a point of observation into The Urubamba River Valley that heightens one's awareness of place. Having traveled through Machu Picchu I realized that although my peripheral experiences were constantly bombarded by the splendor of this place, platforms were used to focus on moments of particular interest [The Urubamba River valley, Huayna Picchu, The Intihuatana Stone] These events are all staged, but produce a lasting composition within your memory; without these moments the

clarity of recall would be marginalized.

Secondly, the area was used as an observatory for spiritual and astrological events. The specific functions of the built environment are cleanly woven into the mountainous terrain. The integrated system would be concluded by many to enhance the presence of the site and certainly cause relief among a seemingly endless sea of peruvian landscape. Using these lessons of introduction, projection and integration on the Kincaid coast will set the ground work for its prosperous future.



Keyaki Plaza;
Saitama New Urban Center

Saitama City, Japan 2000+
Peter Walker
Masayuki Kusumoto
Yoji Sasaki

The Keyaki Plaza is situated on the roof of a commercial building that rest within an urban center that encompass more than 100 acres. The building integrates public/private space while creating a natural setting within a civic center.⁵ The plaza holds square wood and glass benches that illuminate during the night, this creates a horizontal screen of light that plays against the brush of the trees and planters. Durring hours of low light this is a perfect solution for bringing people to a points of observation. Kincaid park is a already well lite space during the winter months, the use of suspended lights evokes poetic sense when they glow amongst the frosted tree tops. Playing off these existing models can inform calling attention to points of interest while consequently integrating elements of the center in with the park.

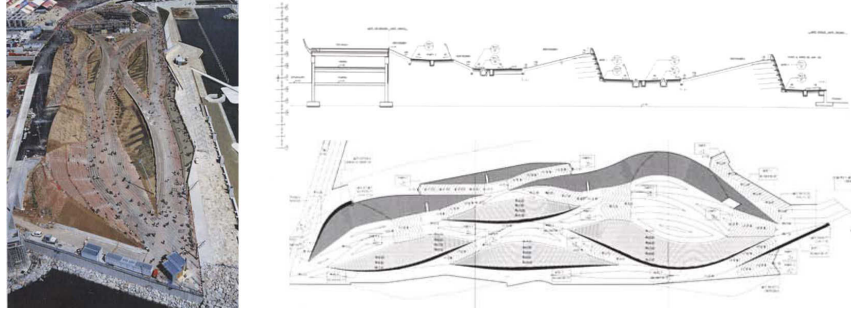


[Costal precedents]

Southeast Costal Park;
Saitama New Urban Center

Barcelona, Spain 2004+
Foreign Office Architects
Farshid Moussavi
Alejandro Zaera-polo

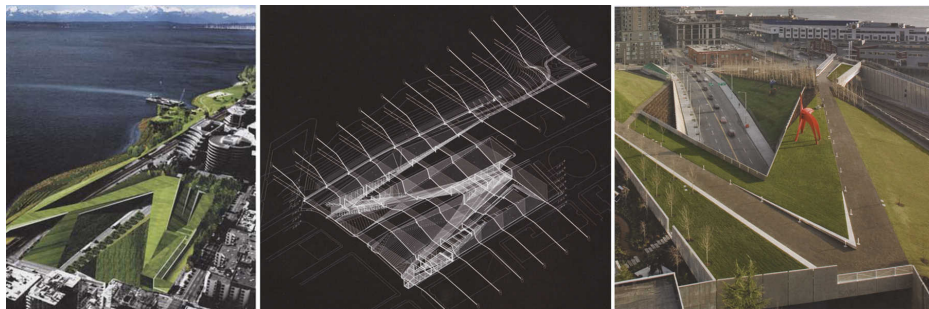
The costal park is situated on twelve and a half acres of a previously abused site. This is a place of waterfront leisure that provides access to the sea. The project was designed from analysis derived from relationships between the sites sand dunes and efforts to protect flora and fauna. The parks undulating surfaces are covered with grasses, reeds, and trees that match the natural characteristics of the landscape. The southeast costal park provides insight into handling Kincaid's parabolic land forms and access points to the beach. Like the Southeast Coast, Kincaid park has a esplanade[walkway]that runs along the ridge line. Changes in topography provide access points that transition down onto the coast. The undulating nature of Kincaid's site allows for hidden and revealed moments that are directed by the path of costal trail. The trail will expose patrons to currently undefined monuments of observation that encourage the exploration and discovery of the park.⁶



Olympic Sculpture Park; Seattle art museum

Seattle, Washington 2006+
Weiss/Manfredi Architects

This formerly degraded site has been designed to hold a eight -and - a-half-acre park. The complex site conditions invite a bold design of new land forms used to create a unified space. The design reshapes new ground and constructs new topography to respond to new and existing infrastructure that in return creates connections where previously none existed. Spatial, color, and textural variety are used to engage spectators while the project as a whole directs observation on the views of art, the city, and the Puget Sound/Olympic Mountains.⁷ Many issues that face Kincaid Park and its costal trails are mirrored in this study. Insights have been made by observing transitional components between paths that vary in elevation and texture. Similarly proposed and existing infrastructure can be used to frame moments of value, in order to enhance a setting that currently is under appreciated. ⁸



[explorative precedents]

Alpine Station; portable

Switzerland, various 1991+
Richard Horden

The alpine station is inspired by a wish to spend a significant amount of time in fairly inhospitable conditions. This lightweight structure weighs only 315 kg and is framed out of aluminum and is designed to be lifted into position by helicopter. The designers use lightweight aviation materials to insulated the station, energy production is powered by a combination of solar cells and wind turbines. For over 15 years the alpine station has been tested by teams at varying altitudes in the Swiss Alps and has served in rescue efforts as well as research missions. The Alpine Station has been defined as, "an architectural vehicle with which to explore the third dimension and the wide clear spaces on top of the mountains".⁹

Weight calculations and consultations with helicopter pilots has influenced its construction, while the design was modelled off principles found in helicopter design; This has resulted in an air transportation that is fast and efficient. "The shape deflects falling snow and prevents it from gathering around the base, leaving a hollow beneath that allows access in deep snow conditions. This "microtecture" stands without a foundation, relying on its built-in support structure. This allows for a temporary, autonomous, self-supporting unit, that will leave no more than a footprint fulfilling a design motto of 'leaves no trace'.¹⁰ This study illustrates a clear model for research within remote sites. Areas like Mount Spurr would benefit from the introduction of similar micro architectures. These additions could integrate well with the existing communication stations while allowing for the healthy pursuit of extended research.



Details design studio osculations

Project No. 9304
New York, New York 1993+
Neil m denari

This project is defined as "an architecture that operates as an information cypher that passes through space, becoming a reified form within space itself." The room is used to "filter information that is conceptually moving through the eulciedian matrix of manhattan." This design studio makes observations that take advantage of many forms of data collection; from its positioning within a space through which it can visually record and receive transmissions, to its ability to house artists/researcher that leave for periods of time to manually recover experiences only to then return with and up load into the building. As a result "human factors become the metrical limits to the form much like a car." Diagrammatically its form is generated by arcs defined through points of significant human action like program and pathways. Each of these arcs are then fused together along the duration of the building to form an 'osculating' skin that defines the surface of the station."¹¹ This design apply's information filtering techniques and the human scale to define its micro-architectural parameters. This approach can compliment the design and application of a remote station while meeting its goals of enduring harsh climates while enabling the acquisition of data.

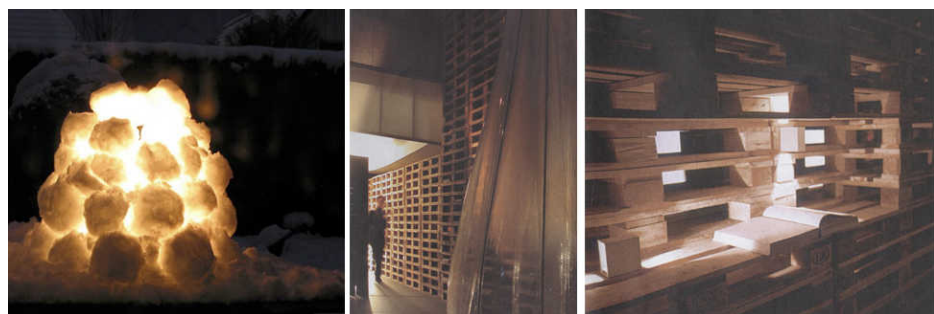


[inspirational precedents]

Mario Nanni;
Snow/Light Emission Study

Barcelona, Spain 2003+
Minim Arquitectura

The interior of this building is defined by a huge 8 meter long pallet wall that crosses a rigid square wall creating an effect that evokes emotions that are both dynamic and situated. This space is described as creating a monumental yet light and transparent architecture. The architect has developed a series of windows some of which are lighted while others are dark. A second layer is created between the wall and the observer, this layer consists of a light white paper that acts as a filter so that ambient light is emitted into the space. Spaces that blend multiple layers allows for light and color to be modified or mix in with projected images alike that can transform the qualities of a space. With a similar attitude transformative qualities of light and motion can be emitted outwardly from the interior to mix with the ever changing qualities of the site. Snow densities or the freeze and thaw of frost over surfaces would created a dynamic effects throughout the seasons. ¹²



Teatro Municipal Theatre;
Stage Design

Lima, Peru 1999+
Luis Longhi

The Teatro Municipal Theatre is first of all very inspiring as it is a place where theatre is very objectively performed yet is very subjectively understood. Observers are situated around the stage from many different angles and further more all the patrons will understand the play uniquely from their altering perspectives. Additionally the stage fully engages its exterior environment. The back drop of the stage frames out the skyline; objects and actors can extend beyond the envelope of the building itself, thus creating a visual and material connection between the two. The way this aperture interacts with the interior/exterior space can inform how a Forum space could interact within the Cook Inlet/Kincaid context. ¹³



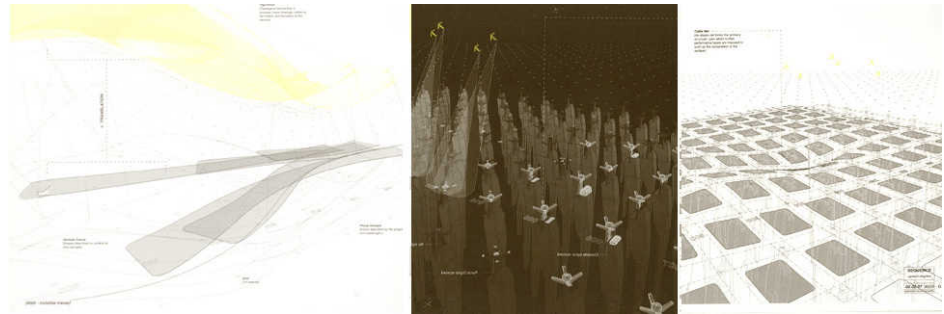
Surface Actuators;
Paradise Regained

Theoretical 2002+
Ben Addy

Surface actuators are used as a form of land art and as a data recording system between man and his understanding of the ocean. [This project finds a harmony between the observations made by the scientific eye and that of the artist.](#) The project uses the oceans surface as a datum by which semi submerged buoys are used to retrieve and transmit information. These lightweight devices relate the motion of this shifting topography through the projection of light variations to create a synthetic landscape. This interface between water and man can inform a connection between the boundary of the animated and the static or the solid and the fluid. "Actuators" could relate the park with fire island via the submarine transmission cable. A similar relationship could engage a link between the

airscape among the tree canopies that consist of miles of fixed lights for the illumination of the parks trails.[a possible synthesis could be made between the stars and an installation] Another possibility emerges from the transmissions line relation to the orientation of the international airports runway. These small visual emissions of light can have a profound impact as a thread that weaves the many experiences of this area together.

14



These precedents have been identified so that they can begin to illustrate a portrait for the design component of this exercise. By briefly addressing the many categories that will affect this project a vocabulary has been established; This vocabulary will aid in the understanding of present opportunities and comparably how professionals in situations that resemble that of the Cook Inlet/Kincaid context have provided excellent solutions.

CONCLUSION

The excluded middle is the realization that a dialogue should occur among dichotomies and dualisms. By addressing this neglected middle ground rather than exclusively dealing with competing oppositions a process that enriches the quality of observations made from all perspectives can occur. Encouraging the values of the oppositions along with the fabric of similarities that connect them will produce the opportunity for a fruitful dialogue. While promoting curiosity, we encourage discovery and that results in the acquisition of knowledge. These acts stimulate the imagination, thus contributing to the creative spirit, which is the gem of the human intellect.

The Kincaid park site location is an ideal place for such a dialogue to occur. A research facility will be used to address a pressing issue that the region is faced with; the facility can benefit from the parks proximity to infrastructure. The center along with Kincaid's patrons can utilize a forum space for international, national, and local sporting events, conferences and meetings. The forum will provide an interactive space that encourages the retrieval and distribution of data through an explorative process that will engage the viewer into the larger context of the site and the park. The facility will additionally support the park with its stabilization of the coast via lookouts and beach access, two currently unaddressed yet treasured attributes of the park. These contributions will encourage a sense a public ownership through the strengthening of the parks identity.

Program one:

site one QUANTITATIVE

interior

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT----- [1000
SQ/FT]

OFFICE, LABS, MEETING
private use

bathrooms

2- 200

storage - 100

ADVANCED RESEARCH LABS----- [1000
SQ/FT]

OFFICE, LABS, MEETING
private use

storage - 200

studio

4- 800

LAND TRANSITION----- [800
SQ/FT]

SUBTERRIAN CABLE TRANSFER station
private use

FORUM----- [2000
SQ/FT]

CENTER , PARK AND PUBLIC EVENTS
public / private use

media

lab- 1000

bathrooms- 400

VIEWING----- [250
SQ/FT]

TEMPORARY EXTERIOR WARMING
public use

arctic

entry- 50

[4050

SQ/FT]

exterior

OBSERVATION----- [3400
SQ/FT]

PLATFORMS AND TRANSITIONS
public use

COSTAL POINTS----- [2500
SQ/FT]

VARYING SCOPE / BEACH TRANSITIONS
public use

[5900

SQ/FT]

program two:
site two **QUANTITATIVE**

ALPINE STATION----- [300
SQ/FT]
EXPLORATION

code analysis

International building code 2006

303.1 Assembly Group A. Assembly Group A occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for the gathering of persons for purposes such as civic, social or religious functions; recreation, food or drink consumption; or awaiting transportation.

A-3 Assembly uses intended for worship, recreation or amusement and other assembly uses not classified elsewhere in Group A including

- *Community halls*
- *Exhibition halls*

304.1 Business Group B. Business Group B occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for office, professional or service-type transactions, including storage of records and accounts. Business occupancies shall include the following:

- *Educational occupancies for students above the 12th grade*
- *Electronic data processing*
- *Laboratories: testing and research*

306.2 Factory Industrial F-1 Moderate-hazard Occupancy. Factory industrial uses which are not classified as Factory Industrial F-2 Low Hazard shall be classified as F-1 Moderate Hazard and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

- *Electric generation plants*

602.1 General. Buildings and structures erected or to be erected, altered or extended in height or area shall be classified in one of the five construction types defined in Sections 602.2 through 602.5. The building elements shall have a fire-resistance rating not less than that specified in Table 601 and exterior walls shall have a fire-resistance rating not less than that specified in Table 602.

703.2 Fire-resistance ratings. The fire-resistance rating of building elements shall be determined in accordance with the test procedures set forth in ASTM E 119 or in accordance with Section 703.3. Where materials, systems or devices that have not been tested as part of a fire-resistance-rated assembly are incorporated into the assembly, sufficient data shall be made available to the building official to show that the required fire-resistance rating is not reduced. Materials and methods of construction used to protect joints and penetrations in fire-resistance-rated building elements shall not reduce the required fire-resistance rating.

703.2.1 Nonsymmetrical wall construction. Interior walls and partitions of nonsymmetrical construction shall be tested with both faces exposed to the furnace, and the assigned fire-resistance rating shall be the shortest duration obtained from the two tests conducted in compliance with ASTM E 119. When evidence is furnished to show that the wall was tested with the least fire-resistant side exposed to the furnace, subject to acceptance of the building official, the wall need not be subjected to tests from the opposite side (see Section 704.5 for exterior walls).

steve gilbert, 333-0810

1003.1 Applicability. The general requirements specified in Sections 1003 through 1013 shall apply to all three elements of the means of egress system, in addition to those specific requirements for the exit access, the exit and the exit discharge detailed elsewhere in this chapter.

101.2 Design. Buildings and facilities shall be designed and constructed to be accessible in accordance with this code and ICC A117.1.

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annotations

intro abstract/ goals/project intent

01 Alaska Energy Authority [reap] pg. 02

02 Smout, Allen pg. 11

03 Smout, Allen pg. 24

theory visual language, inspiration

- 01 Mauter, 170,159
- 02 Caillois, Mimicry and Legendary Psychasthenia pg. 01
- 03 Naja, DeOstos, pg. 51
- 04 Ibid. pg. 05
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- 06 Fortin
- 07 Pallasmaa, pg. 10
- 08 Naja, DeOstos, pg. 14
- 09 Steele 2008
- 10 Pars Foundation, pg. 161
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- 11 Ibid.
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- 01 Cathcart, Fantauzzi, Van Elsander pg. 06
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- 03 Pallasmaa, pg. 17

site site plan, The geofluidic landscape,

- 01 faith
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- 04 Caillois, Mimicry and Legendary Psychasthenia pg. 02
- 05 Allen, sub - title
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site history

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- 03 *KPB window*
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Eddie Fisher

the practical to the poetic.....

"Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible."

St. Francis of Assisi

