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Jazz, Improvisation & the Importance of Collaboration

Laurie Marcotte

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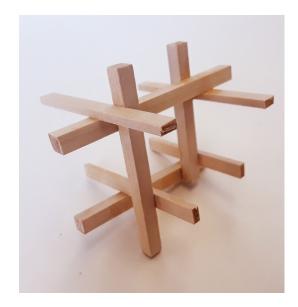
Conclusion + Acknowledgements



DECLARATION

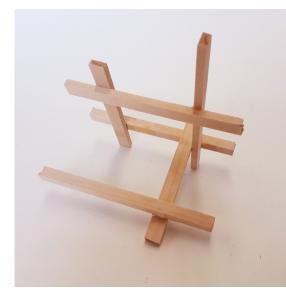
For as long as I can remember I have had an affinity for drawing and visual art. The moment I first held a pencil began my desire to create my own personal mark upon the world. The mechanics and technical abilities of freehand drawing came natural to me, and for many years I had used this skill to explore the realm of hand rendering. Recently, I decided to take on a more practical approach and apply my artistic skills toward design. Through a combined interest in architecture and indoor aesthetics I had discovered the world of interior design. My encounter with the design world was a fortuitous event that would help give environmental and community purpose to my craft. Studying as an interior designer has guided me to see and interpret my surroundings in a more conceptual and thought provoking manner. It has allowed me to give careful consideration to the environment apart from what is apparent and conceivable.

As an interior designer I hope to exercise proper judgement in establishing meaningful and sustainable solutions for the built environment. During practice I hope to train my mind from constant application of go-to, literal interpretations in my work, but rather innovative and thought provoking forms that reflect a conceptual approach to interior space. Although I am certain to make mistakes in my design career, it is my passion for learning and simply doing the best you can that helps keep creative determination at the forefront of my mind.









"I'M ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT CREATING. MY FUTURE STARTS WHEN I WAKE UP EVERY MORNING... EVERYDAY I FIND SOMETHING CREATIVE TO DO WITH MY LIFE."

- MILES DAVIS

ABSTRACT

PROJECT STATEMENT

As one of the least popular, yet highly influential and pervasive, musical genres of modern times, jazz will help inspire impressionable high school aged students in cultivating individual expression and collaboration through an environment of musical and social interaction. The project is designed to be a safe haven for these students where the ambiance intends to promote a sense of self-worth, security, and curiosity through the engagement of jazz music.

CONCEPT STATEMENT

The project celebrates harmony and individual expression through the improvisational and collaborative efforts of jazz music.

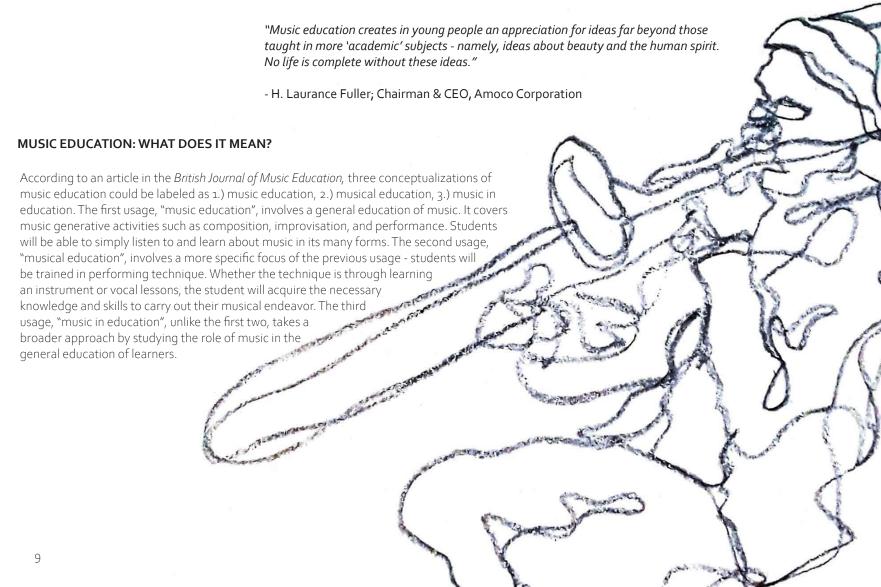


ISSUE

The high school years are known to be a vulnerable and often awkward period in a person's life. Identity and self-exploration emerge as prominent issues that can shape how high school students interact with their environment. Without an outlet and support, students may risk missing opportunities that help realize their creative potential.



RESEARCH



The evidence of the positive effect music education has upon the brain is widespread throughout the media and beyond. The "call and response" paradigm in jazz is a musical conversation that is physically demanding for young minds. Children are trained to have improved hand-eye coordination, discipline, patience, memorization, and creative thinking as a result of jazz training (Klemm, 2014).

At the high school level, safe havens of music, theater, dance, and visual arts programs have proven to be a strong influence in curbing violence, drug abuse, and drop-out cases. (Reich, 1997) Research shows that the absence of normal "play" behavior during childhood, such as those activities that serve no function other than to bring pleasure and delight, is highly correlated with violence in adulthood. Activities of the arts such as song, dance, music, and shared engagement around a language all help in developing the expectation of joy yet to come (Hutton, 2016). In the case of examinations, students with coursework/experience in music performance scored higher on both verbal and math portions of the SAT than students without (American Music Conference, 1997).



HISTORY



A recent study in the U.S. conducted by the Jazz Audiences Initiative reports the percentage of various jazz listening types. Jazz musicians comprised 14% of the report. Jazz omnivores, whose consumption of music consists mainly of jazz, comprised 17%. Jazz dabblers, people who are casual listeners or comfort seekers, comprised the majority slice at 69%.

JAZZ **OMNIVORES** 17% **JAZZ MUSICIANS** 14% **JAZZ DABBLERS** 69%

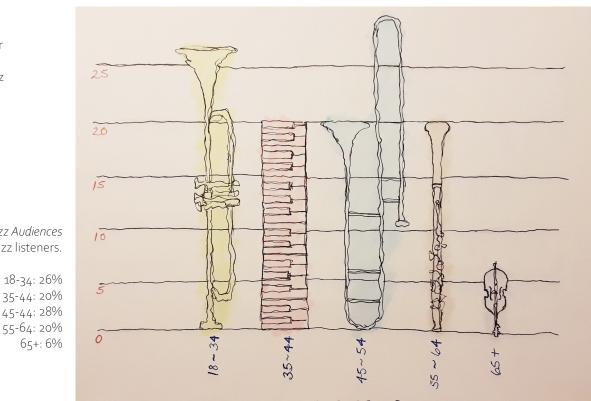
CULTURAL INFLUENCE

According to John Edward Hasse, curator of American music at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History, the number one problem facing jazz is not a shortage of talented musicians but a shortage of audience. Jazz Appreciation Month (JAM), observed every April, was born out of his vision to expand "awareness of the music, both as history and as a living art form."

> A study in the U.S. conducted by the Jazz Audiences *Initiative* reports the ages of jazz listeners.

> > 35-44: 20% 45-44: 28% 55-64: 20%

> > > 65+:6%



IMPROVISATION & HOW IT RELATES TO DESIGN

Jazz remains the most widely taught improvisational based music genre in the North American school system, and the only improvisational based genre available for formal study. While improvisation exists in other musical genres, with jazz it plays a much deeper role and is tied to its spirit and essence. As one of the most articulated expressions of creative behavior, improvising challenges the musician to a range of activities to be carried out simultaneously in real-time. These activities include the ability to generate and evaluate rhythmic sequences, coordinate with other musicians in an ensemble, and execute elaborate motor-functions. The real-time nature of improvisation induces a challenging effort for the musician which prompts them to activate information processing. (Biasutti, 2017).

An excellent analogy for the structure of improvisation is that of an everyday conversation. The format of a conversation is something that we unconsciously learn through listening and imitation. There is no given script for any conversation, but a common format that involves a greeting and a set of back and forth responses. Depending on the participants, the conversation can range from dull to stimulating. The overall flow and feel of the conversation are dependent on the participants' intent and openness to interaction with one another. (Gunnison, 2012).

In the case of interior design, constructs can be applied to those of jazz improvisation in a seemingly parallel form. The first construct, intuition, is decision making based on previous knowledge and experience. The second construct,

creativity, involves profound and deliberate interpretations, combinations, and transformation of ideas. The third, bricolage, takes what is available at hand to address an issue. The fourth, adaptation, tries to cope with unforeseen external circumstances. The fifth, innovation, creates new processes to stimulate new ideas. The sixth, learning, is simply observing and critically analyzing the workflow. The seventh and final construct, compression, observes the time between learning, thinking, and execution (Leybourne, 2009). In both jazz and interior design, it is trust that helps bind these constructs together to produce desirable results. Trust helps improve directional focus and the overall "togetherness" within a group (Anderson, 2018). In jazz improvisation, trust can be defined in "three dimensions": 'consistency trust' (people abide to their words), 'competence trust' (having faith in other's abilities), and 'goodwill trust' (openness and goal congruence) (Kamoche & Cunha, 2001). Interior design is an ever-growing industry that benefits from methodologies that promote structure and flexibility in order to quickly respond to the needs of fast-changing environments such as new product development and technology. Designers must incorporate some level of improvisation in their work in order to respond to their collaborators in an impartial manner to successfully address the issues of

their end-users

PRECEDENTS

SONOROUS MUSEUM

LOCATION: Copenhagen, Denmark

DENSITY: Urban

YEAR: 2015

DESIGNER: ADEPT, CREO Arkitekter A/S

TOTAL UNIT AREA: 3,500 sq m

Housed in a 1950s era building, the Sonorous Museum is an educational refurbishment project by the Danish National Museum designed to acoustically adapt four studios to specific musical groups: strings, brass, percussion, and mixed instruments.

The four sound spaces are clad in wood veneer that are uniquely structured to acoustically fit each of the four instrumental groups.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3









Figure 4

Figure 6



15

CATALYST CUBE

LOCATION: Caracass, Venezuela

DENSITY: Urban

YEAR: 2019

DESIGNER: Will Sandy Design Studio, Incurciones

TOTAL UNIT AREA: 6 sq m

The Catalyst Cube is the result of a two year collabaration between the British architect, Will Sandy, and the architectural design team, Incurciones. The goal of the project is to create a multi-purpose space from a small prefabricated facility that could support a range of cultural activities in neighborhoods throughout the city where the infrastructure lacked creative and artistic society. Some of the activities embraced by the project are workshops, classrooms, informal meetings, concerts, and sports. Designed for easy disassemblement and movement, the cube rests in an urban space for three months before it is moved to occupy a neighborhood in need of cultural activity and stimulation.

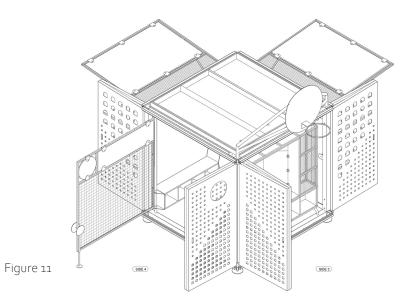


Figure 8



16

The Cube is a steel structure with metal and wood components that support various configurations to help enable a range of activities and functions. As a catalyst, its objective is to encourage interaction, exchange, and development through its attractive and innovative design. The project is also helpful as an instrument of influence in that it can help identify creative opportunities in a neighborhood. Through this opportunistic approach, users are provided with agency and intervention in an area where its urban and social makeup is static and rigid.



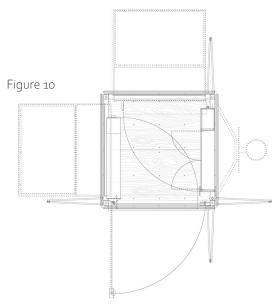




Figure 12

THE NEW MUSIC WORLD

LOCATION: Wuhan, China

DENSITY: Urban

YEAR: 2013

DESIGNER: Lmyarch-studio

TOTAL UNIT AREA: 195 sq m

Connected to an office building in the Culture Creative Industrial Park of Wuhan, The New Music World is a concrete structure designed for families with children to celebrate the concept of living with music. The architects of the project hoped to create a playful structure reminiscent of toy bricks that achieved a virtual connection of inside and outside space. For acoustic quality and in an effort to utilize vertical space, angled ceilings of various heights were built for the project that gave itself an identifiable and unique appearance set apart from the rigid forms of its neighboring office building.





Figure 13

Figure 14



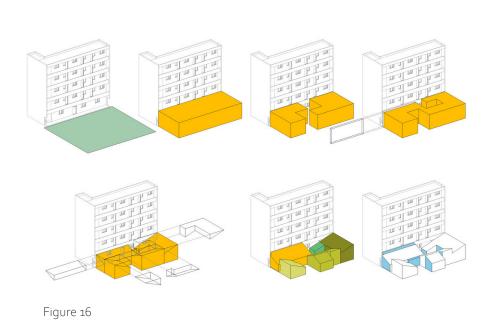




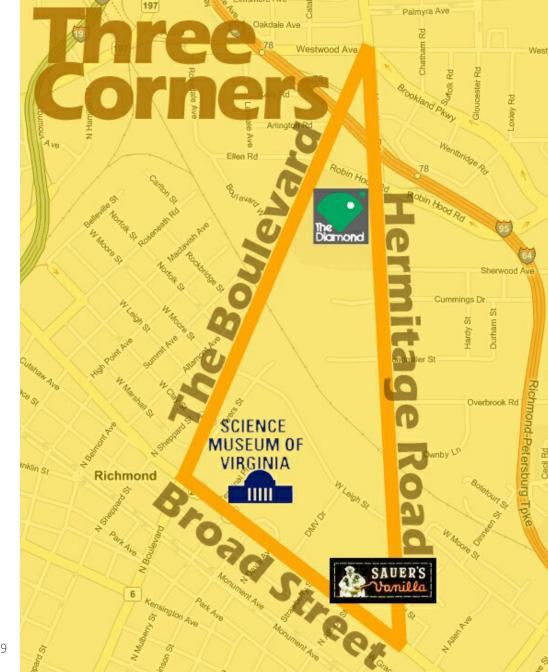
Figure 18

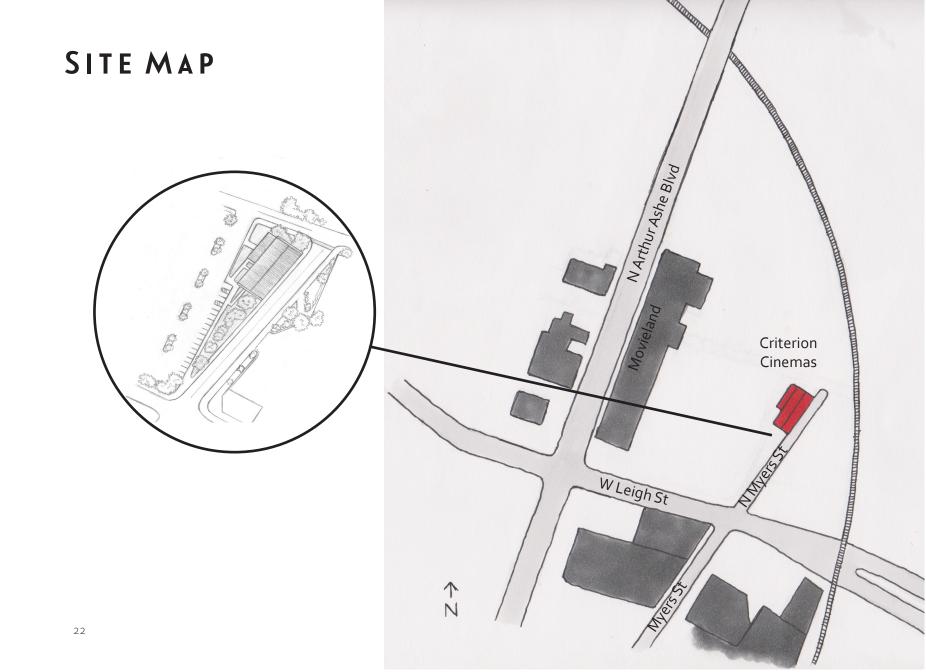




DISTRICT

In comparision to nearby districts, Three Corners presents a density that is on the lighter end with regards to its number of residential spaces and businesses. Aside from Boulevard Square, in terms of variety the district boasts the Science Museum of Virginia, the Sauer's Headquarters, the Arthur Ashe Center, and The Diamond. The Todd Lofts and the Southern Stove Lofts, residential spaces located in historic structures, add to the district's landmark variety. This collection of buildings creates a proportion that is unmatched against other districts in the city. The lack of residential space suggests that Three Corners is predominantly an area that is visited than inhabited. The three major landmarks, located near each corner of the district, create a sense of balance, not only with their varying programs, but from a geographical standpoint that marks the district's perimeter. With its light industrial development, the rhythm of the district appears steady, though determined to make its mark as a prominent area of Richmond's northside. Although the district name isn't well known among locals, Three Corners presents a situational hierarchy in a way that is unlike other districts with its convenient access to Interstate 64 and 95, the city's main transportation arteries.





SITE

Name: Criterion Cinemas

Address: 1331 N Arthur Ashe Blvd

District: Three Corners

Year Built: 1922

Square Footage: Approx. 5,500

Dimensions: 30.75′ H, 109′ L, 50.33′ W **Building Materials**: Brick, Steel

Architect (Remodel): Chris Pereira,

CPA Architects



HISTORY

As part of the Bow Tie Cinema's chain, the cinema was transformed in 2012 to a four-screen art house theater with seating for 264 patrons. The cinema specializes in screening independent and avantgarde film in a comfortable and industrial interior. The building once operated as a brass foundry that was part of a nearby locomotive assembly (now Movieland). Together, the buildings made up the Richmond Locomotive and Machine Works. Both historic structures comprise the redevelopment project that is known as Boulevard Square, located in the Three Corners district of the Richmond city area.

Some interesting historical facts of the building in connection with jazz include its construction date which is set around the start of the Jazz Age in America. The building's materials of brick and steel also reflect the industrial growth that was in swing at the time. Lastly, the building's original purpose as a brass foundry relates to the material makeup of traditional jazz instruments such as the trumpet and saxophone.



SCHEMATIC DIAGRAM OF AZIMUTH & ELEVATION

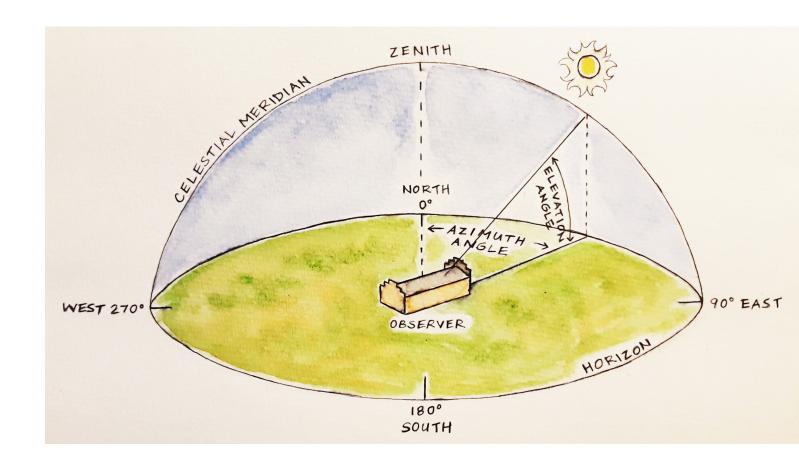


PHOTO STUDIES (INTERIOR)

IMAGE I: Interior brick wall joins the slanted steel roof. Ductwork and metal trusses line the length of the roof. Pendant light fixtures and conduit tubes can be seen attached to the trusses.



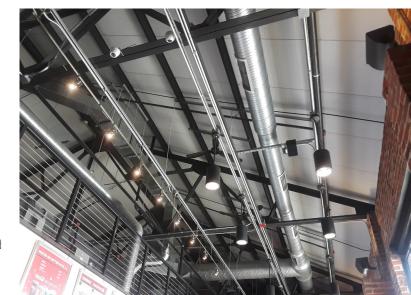


IMAGE II: Spotlight fixtures can be seen attached to conduit tubes directly above railing.

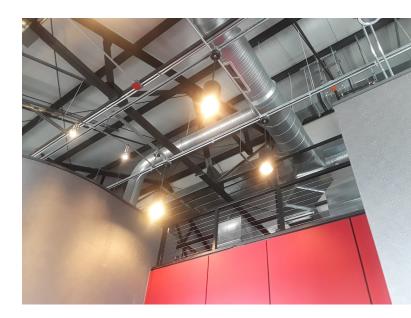


IMAGE III: Pendant light fixtures emit a warm glow which can be seen reflected in the walls.

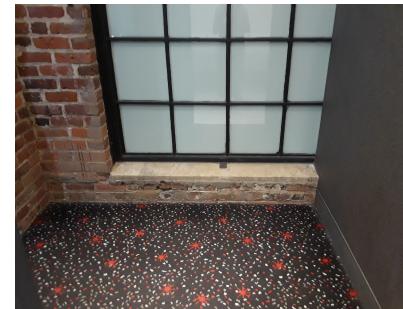


IMAGE IV: Opaque interior window joined with brick and cement wall. Flooring appears to be chip concrete. All windows of the building, save for two on the north wall, are sealed off from the inside.

PHOTO STUDIES (EXTERIOR)







IMAGE II: Each of the awning's metal posts are reinforced with concrete blocks.

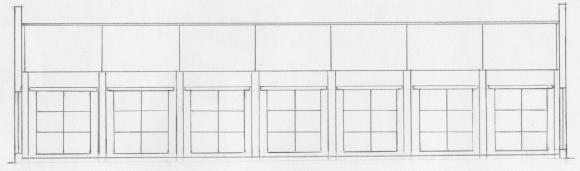


IMAGE III: South facing view down N Myers St. shows the mullioned windows of the rear wall.

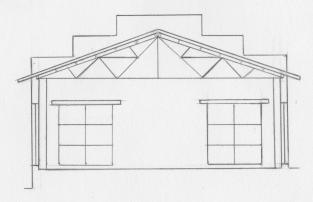


IMAGE IV: The paved walkway beneath the awning is illuminated with light fixtures that provide warm, ambient lighting.

BUILDING DOCUMENTATION

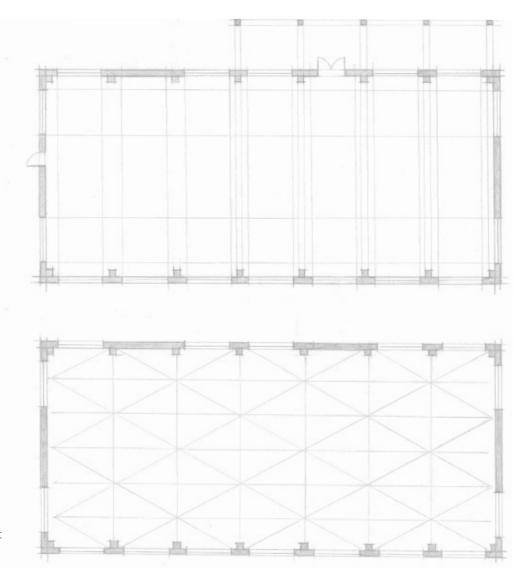


Longitudinal Section (South East View)

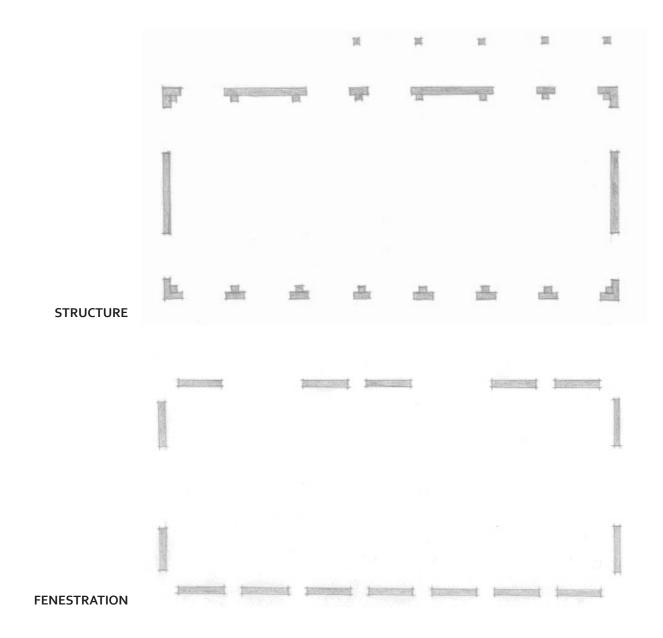


ANALYSIS

GEOMETRIC: The building features a symmetrical form of balance. Each window, save for two on the south wall, is directly across an equal counterpart on the opposite wall. This equivalence is also evident in the brick support pillars that flank each window. The five awning posts also are in perfect alignment with the pillars. These recurrent elements create a rhythm that feels repetitious and unvaried. These monotonous elements, although highly efficient in structural form, provide an interesting opportunity to introduce the building interior to variety and play.



TRUSS: The network of trusses in the building also reflect a symmetry that is bilateral, reflective, and translational.



COLOR PALETTE

PROJECT: Color + Materials

COURSE: Adv. Light & Color in Interior Environments

INSTRUCTOR: Robert Smith

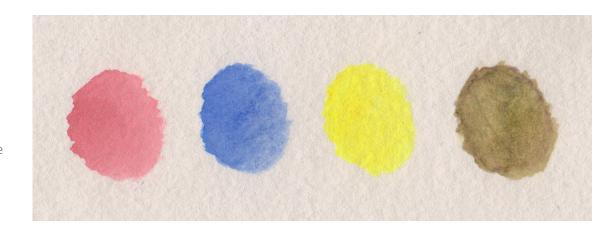
DATE: Fall 2019

"Find an image of a painting that evokes the spirit of the site and program..."

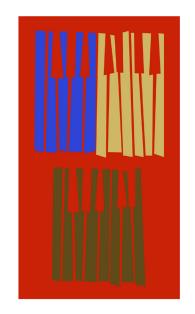


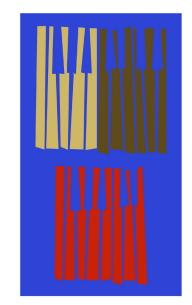
"From this painting, pull at minimum four colors..."

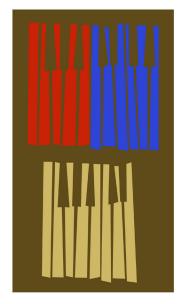
The primary colors (red, blue, and yellow) represent the rules and standards of jazz music. When all three are combined they create improvisation, which is representative of the color brown. Expertise and know-how are essential in order for the success of improvisation to occur.

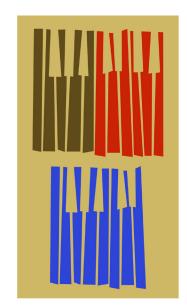


"Using four colors from the painting, explore how changes in quantities of these colors can change appearance and influence each other."









CONCEPT

In music, legato describes a melody that is without pauses or breaks between nothes. In a watercolor painting, the blending of colors represents this smooth and flowing transition.

RED, BLUE, YELLOW, BROWN



red, **BLUE**, yellow, brown

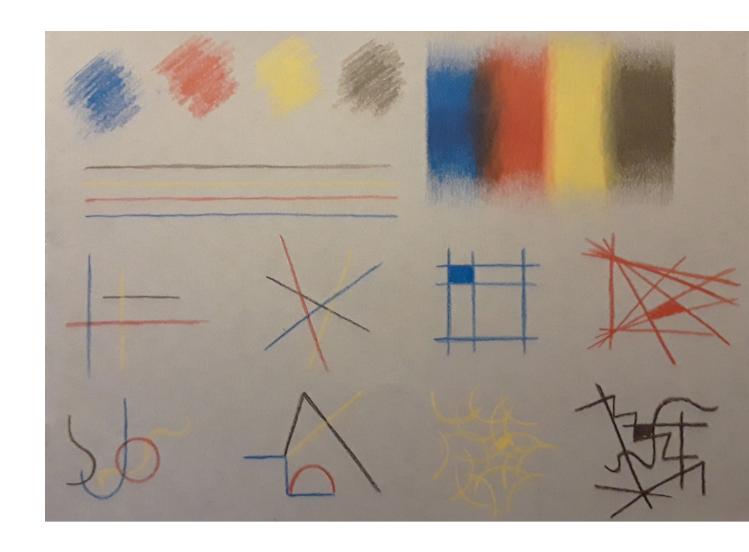


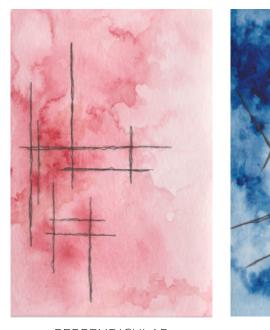
RED, BLUE, YELLOW, BROWN



RED, BLUE, YELLOW, BROWN













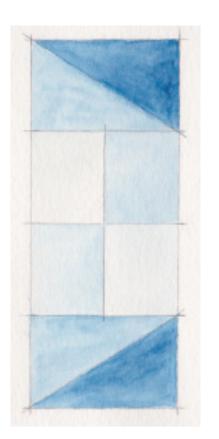
PERPENDICULAR

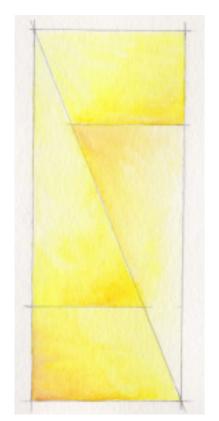
ANGULAR

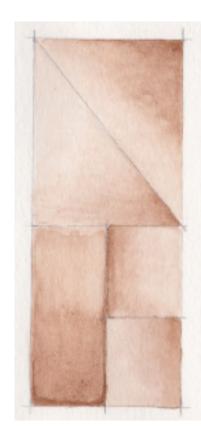
CURVILINEAR

COMPLETE



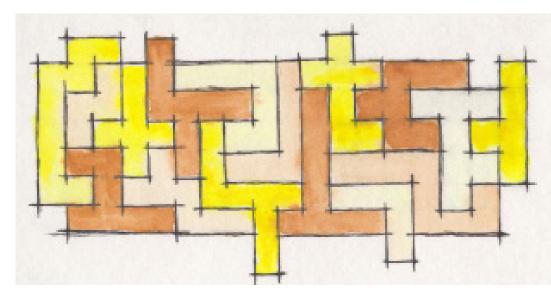








SYNERGY

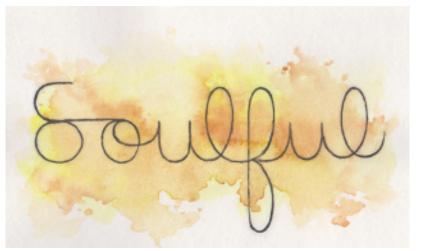


INTERLOCKING





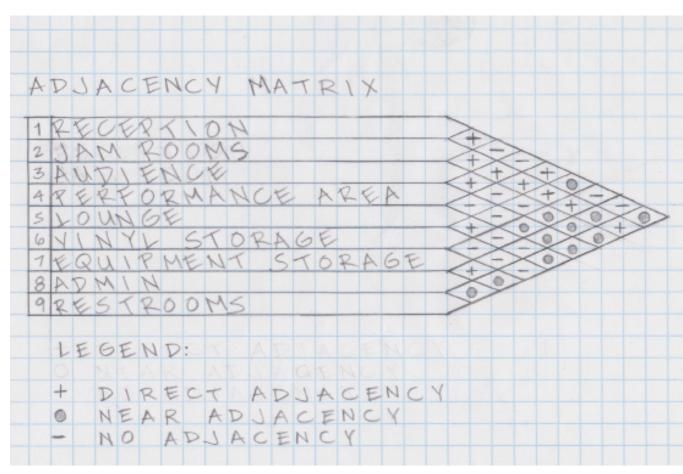
WHAT WORDS DESCRIBE JAZZ?



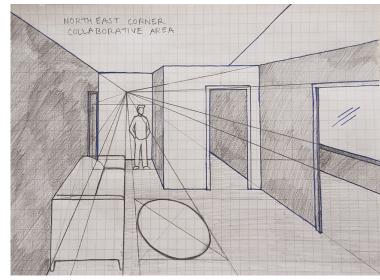


DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

SPACE PLANNING



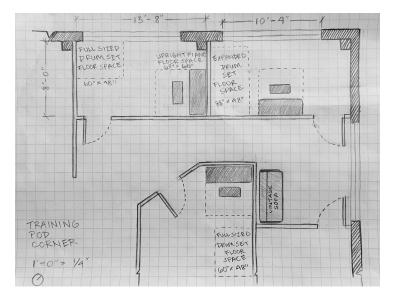


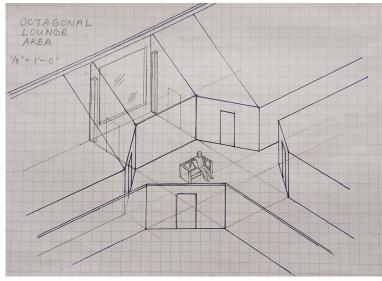


ITERATIONS OF A SPACE

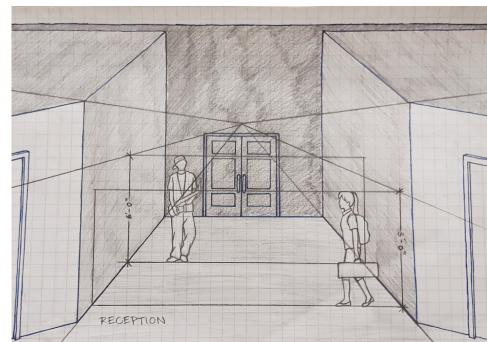
Drawings explore the design challenges presented by existing building elements such as window height and placement, truss network, and support pillars. All of these elements helped influence and drive interior geometry.





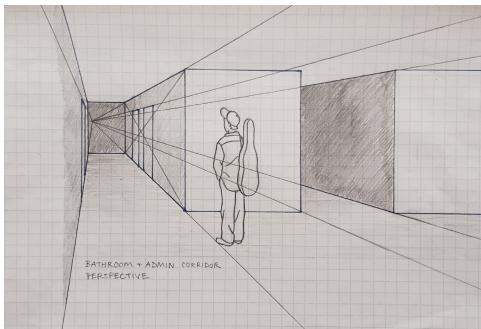


Drawings continue to explore space and how much can and should be alloted for certain traditional jazz instruments. Perspective drawings help visualize size relationships between program users and building elements.

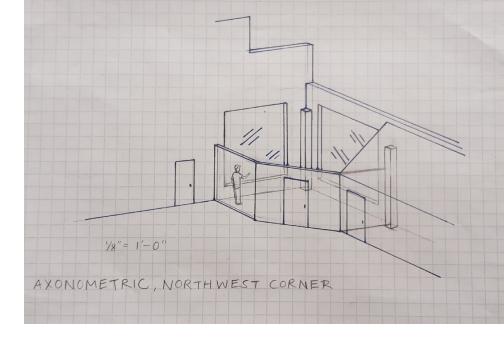


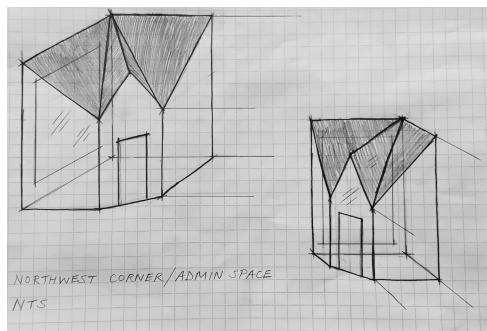
Drawings continue to explore and play with one-point perspective in a given space.





In a building where acoustic quality is important, interior roofing is a step towards controlling sound. When the direction and placement of an interior wall in a building with several high windows is chosen, the next step is to determine a suitable interior roof design.





CODE ANALYSIS

BUILDING TYPE: Type III construction is a type of construction in which the exterior walls are of noncobustible materials and the interior building elements are of any material permitted by this code. Fire-retardant-treated wood framing shall be permitted within exterior wall assemblies of a 2-hour rating or less (2019 NCIDQ Building Code).

OCCUPANCY: Assembly (Performance Area, Audience Area); Educational (Music Library, Jam Rooms)

GROSS AREA: Approximately 5,500 square feet

NET AREA Approximate programmable area = 3,735 square feet

EFFICIENCY RATIO: 3,735 / 5,500 = 68%

PROGRAM

FURNITURE PLAN

Legend:

JR: Jam Room RR: Restroom

ML: Music Library

Each Jam Room is equipped with an upright piano. For larger rooms a full size drum set is included.

ADMIN

00

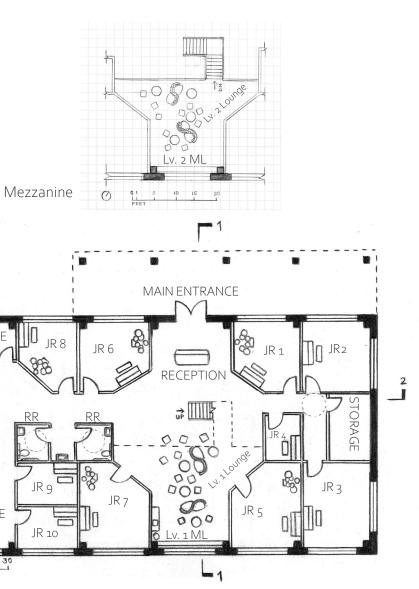
PERFORMANCE

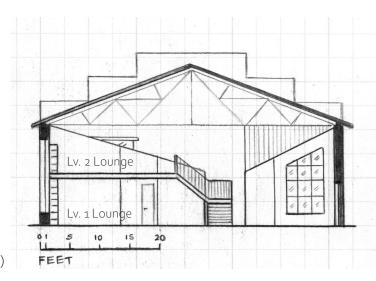
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FIRE EXIT

Level 1

STORAGE



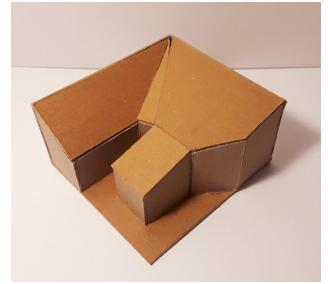


Section 1 (South West View)



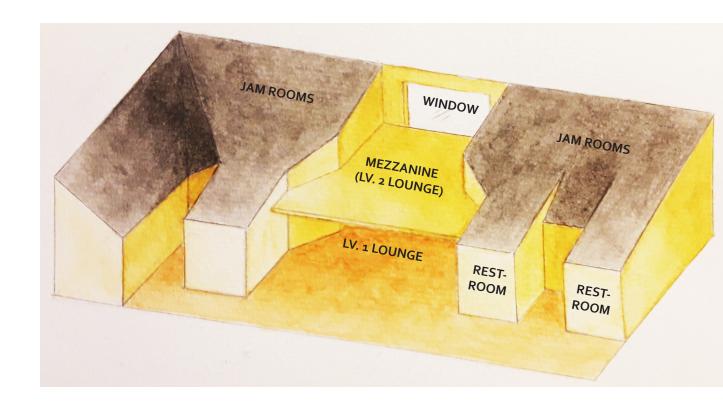
Section 2 (South East View)

INTERIOR ROOF DESIGN (FINAL): SOUTH WALL



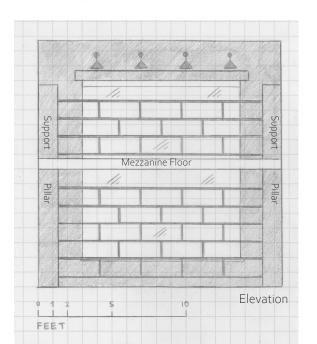


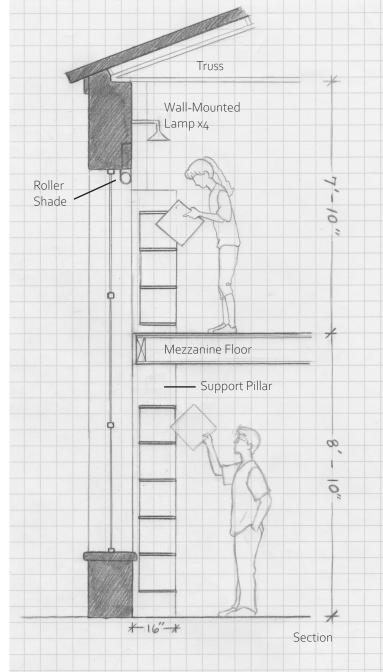
AXONOMETRIC OF SOUTH WALL INTERIOR ROOF

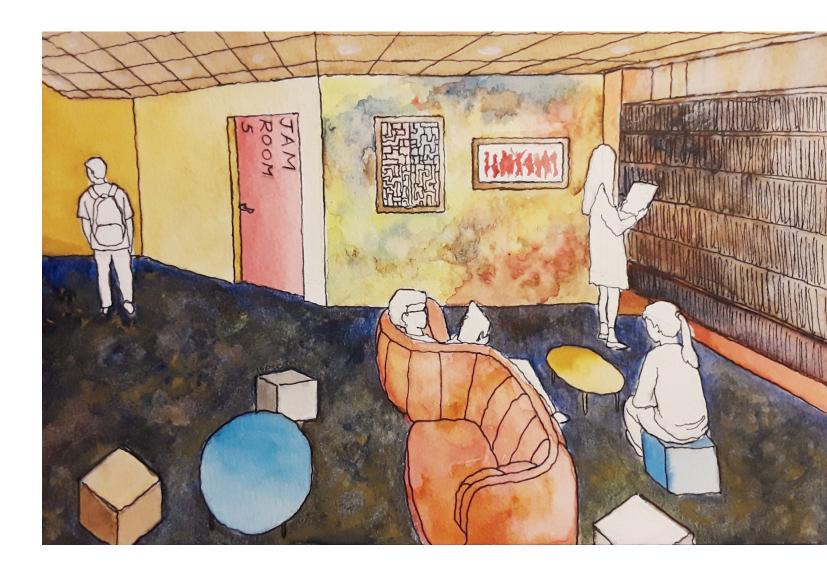


MUSIC LIBRARY

In an effort to engage existing building elements (window and support pillars) and to take advantage of vertical space, a music library consisting of multiple shelves will be constructed for students' perusal. This library includes ten shelves that occupy the overall vertical space between two pillars flanking the window across from the reception area. Verticals in a staggered formation help stabilize the shelves. The library spans two levels for optimum lounge and shelving space. Students will find in the library an extensive collection of vinyl records and sheet music books. In addition to window film that protects the library from harmful UV rays, a roller shade will be installed along the window frame for added protection.







Product Name: Tete-A-Tete Overall Dimensions: 29.5" H, 67.5" W, 31" D

With no assigned front or rear, the tete-a-tete embodies the concept of improvisation lending to the convenience of personalization in a space. Within reason, students are given the freedom to move lounge seating as they see fit.



57 Figure 21

LOUNGE & MEZZANINE



RECEPTION & LOUNGE



PERFORMANCE



CUSTOMIZABLE ROPE/CABLE CHANDELIER

This light fixture is an example of point lighting that is reminiscent of a stocatto-like melody on a musical staff.

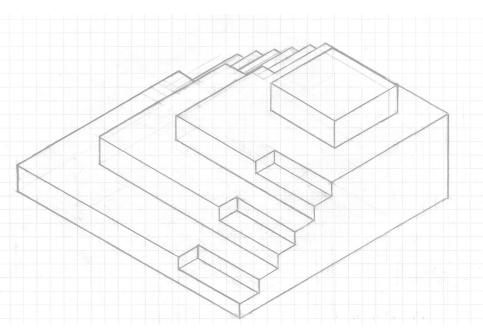


Figure 22

PERFORMANCE AREA SEATING STRUCTURE

Dimensions: 64" H, 11' sq

Inspired by the Sonorous Museum, this seating structure was designed to face two directions in the performance area that provided the best musical setups. The tiered, amphitheater-like design is a departure from individual seating characteristic of jazz clubs and lounges. Aside from its oppurtunistic verticality, the design also celebrates shared space and openness amongst those seated.



JAM ROOM 1



JAM ROOM MATERIALS

Cork is an effective material in absorbing and reducing sound. Each jam room includes corkboard on its walls to reduce the level of sound and noise vibration into the common areas of the building.



Slip and shock absorbent, rubber surfaced tile with a foam base is both sound absorbent and insulating. The interlocking design is representative of network and connection.

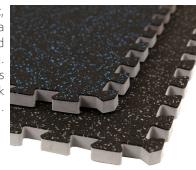
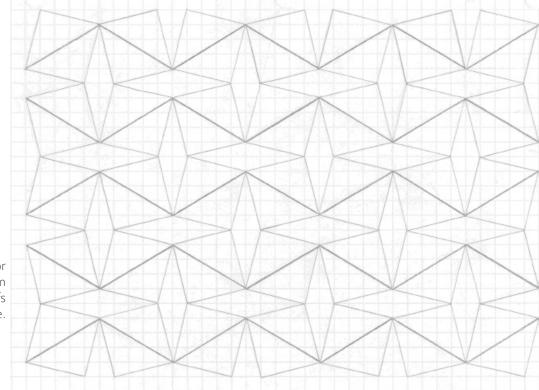


Figure 23

Figure 24



This pattern was created as a possible solution for a floor tile pattern. Its use of angled and perpendicular lines form compliment the same angles found on the walls and roofs of the interior space.

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IMAGE CREDITS

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FIGURE 2: Adept, https://www.adept.dk/images/assets/projects/412/Radiohuset_o6_5b-75ba452cb8e2e8b53015bboc3ba102.jpg

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FIGURE 8: Rui Cardoza, https://archello.com/thumbs/images/2020/03/12/CATA-LYST-CUBE-15.1584011331.7679.jpq?fit=crop&w=390&h=260&auto=compress

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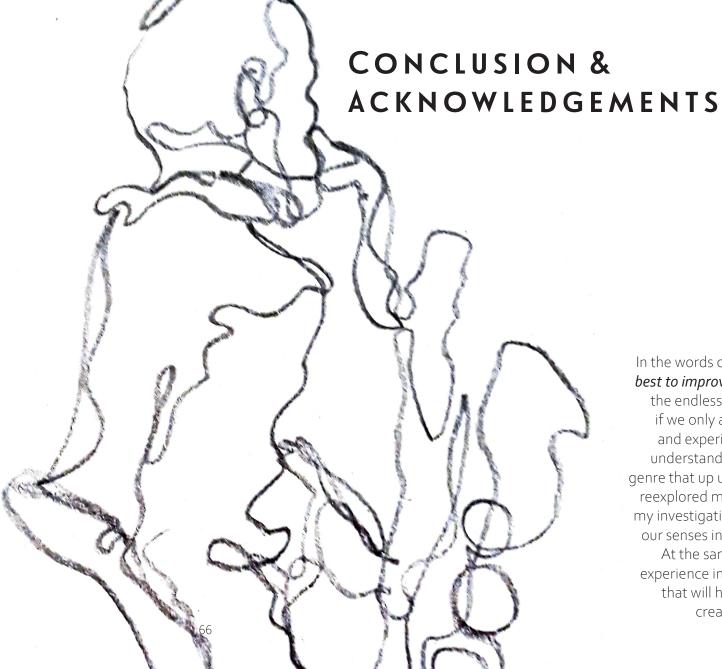
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FIGURE 24: Rubber Flooring Inc., https://www.rubberflooringinc.com/interlocking-tile/foam/soft-rubber.html



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In the words of George Gershwin, "Life is a lot like jazz. It's best to improvise". These words will serve as a reminder of the endless possibilities our creative minds can manifest if we only allow ourselves to be open to them. My study and experience with this project has given me a deeper understanding and newfound appreciation for a musical genre that up until recently I only had a mild sense of. I have reexplored my musical roots and met wonderful people in my investigations of how jazz can inspire, educate, and flex our senses in handling spontaneous moments in our lives. At the same time I have gained further knowledge and experience in conceptual visualization and space planning that will help steer me towards my goal of becoming a creative and successful designer in my own right.