

# **ADAPTABILITY**

IN

# ARCHITECTURE

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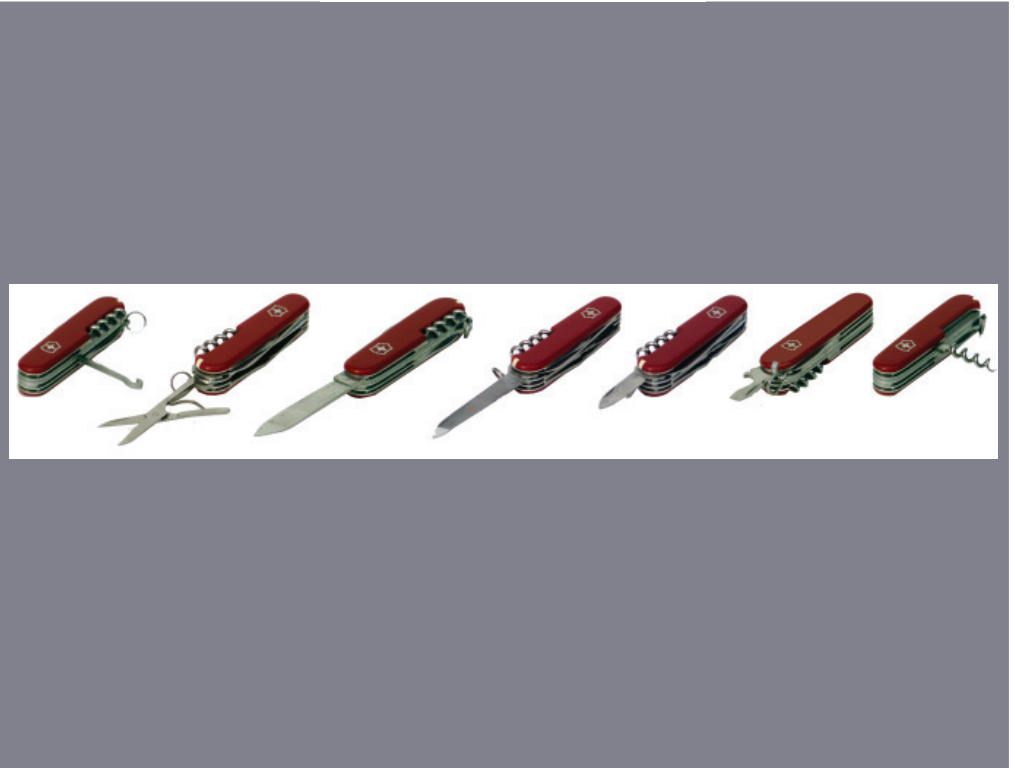
# PREMISE

The thesis project came about as more of a fascination and curiosity, more than a desire to add to the overall realm of architecture. The realm in which I am referring is that of the machine as a means for living. I had started some of these notions the year before in a graduate level elective titled “Introduction to Craft” taught by the same professor who later became my mentor. If there was one thing that I took away from this class it was, the generative role certain craft objects can instill as a visual, expressive, and even physical role.

The semester was a success in terms of the broad ranges absorbed including: mass-production at the Kawasaki Plant, the physical act of making objects and producing, and arguing the present impact society, culture, etc. have on the idea producing.

In that same semester, I was involved in a studio with the purpose to better define the specificity of place through understanding Destination: Los Angeles. We took a field trip to LA to experience the ‘place’ first hand. Through seeing the architecture, and taking in the site and sounds, I personally began to develop an idea of what I thought architecture and design should entail.

I returned and came to the conclusion that the following year I would pursue a design thesis, and proposed the idea of adaptive architecture that was expressive, and had a means to be. I decided my project would be adaptable to both time and place and it would be something that would be expressive of its own adaptability when engaging different conditions.





# INTRODUCTION



For too long, architecture has stood as an expression of permanence, recording a specific moment in history. This project begins with an idea that the adaptation of architecture is eminent, thus changing the process in which we design. The information age resulted in a highly mobile society, where modernization became more generic, the specificity of place changed, and time became more abstract. Mechanic invention supplied 'generic' standards to improve common application for tools. Strategies of a general building system could be familiarized with a local place, inherent with the idea of versatility. Through this design, it is important not to reiterate the vernacular, but to express the proactive role.

Adaptability in the terms of the architecture as we understand it is, is *more* than the satisfaction of need (shelter, etc.), *more* than the mere definition of space. Architecture is superlative: the thing that it brings to the table that elevates it above mere building is the expression of an idea or concept. Le Corbusier's "House-machine," wasn't about literally being a tool for dwelling, about needs, or performing tasks; it was a new way of living, about aesthetic beauty in the machine and translating that into architecture.



The two images (left), symbolize direction towards a new goal needing to be achieved. It was a goal of change in terms of mobility, family type, and interaction in regards to technology. The Micro-Compact House stood as adaptability to various ecological conditions, being off-the-grid in terms of power, and keeping in mind conditions of its inhabitants through specific needs. Where the Cape Cod style house eluded to being rooted in its environment.

# INTRODUCTION

The Cape Cod house, in my opinion was built to address the array of needs of individuals that would inhabit it, as opposed to the specificity through conformed ownership. As time picks up and becomes more progressive, the house itself will remain the same. In other words, it has no capacity at adaptability or versatility.

Fall semester began with a question, “If architecture was adaptable, to what extent/extents should it be?” From the start, I produced the image of a multi-tool pocket knife, (page 9) as an expression of and symbol for adaptability and versatility. The components are most commonly seen as an array showing expressive potential, but naturally are seen in closed state with hidden potential. The images in the middle then shows each tool in action as it would be used. Zuk and Clark, constantly referred to this type of behavior as “Place-creation, or an extension of changing cultural needs.” These multi-tools could be seen as a universal form with a repetitive type gesture in terms of the internal features. These repetitive type tools as stated by Neil Denari is the process of adding to conditions of a specific form.

This multi-use idea, would be the design idea that would fuel my project for the rest of the year. This idea was that in needing something of a specific need, it could create an interactive adaptability that both a user and onlooker could understand.

**/// IF ARCHITECTURE IS ADAPTABLE, TO WHAT EXTENT /  
SHOULD IT BE? ///**



**RESEARCH /**  
ANALYSIS

# DEFINITION OF TERMS

## **ADAPTABILITY**

Design to adjust to different functions, users and climate change

## **VERSATILITY**

The types of goals, methods, and behaviors the architecture supports for the specified environments and tasks. That is, to what extent does it accomplish its goals in its defined environments, and are those methods applicable across many different environments and tasks?

## **TRANSFORMABILITY**

Design that change shape, space, form, or appearance by the physical alteration of their structure, skin, or internal surfaces

## **MOBILITY**

Relocate from place to place in order to fulfill their functions better

## **INTERACT**

Respond to users requirements in a automatic or intuitive ways (i.e. sensors to initiate changes in appearance, and environment or operation that are enabled by systems and intelligent materials)



Towards a New Architecture - Le Corbusier 1923

# DESCRIBE

Architecture by arrangement of forms, creates an order which is pure creation of his spirit, by forms and shapes he affects our ground of reality. The Greek Pyramids of Giza and the Parthenon in Athens are the great monuments of plastic creation. In accordance with that of our world, he determines the various movements of our heart and our understanding. It is there that we experience the sense of beauty.

- 3 Reminders to Architects:
  - Mind
  - Surface
  - Plan

These three design elements have been utilized since the beginning of time. The Greek Pyramids of Giza and the Parthenon have learned to show us their importance. The reasons we learned were their fundamental and turned into modern tools. These tools came into a idea that a "House is a Machine," an entity towards all times.

# ANALYZE

Monumentality but mobile = Steamship  
A steamship is a perfect example of a past experience meeting based on with the future. The steamship on monumentality, though it is sleek and performance enhanced. The steamship has important details towards design. The design of the interior parts of the Corbusier bubble example. The soap bubble is perfect and harmonious realized from the interior. The interior then is a direct result of that interior. The steamship has well defined quarters. The quarters are small and condense. At first we do not like these quarters, but as humans we naturally adapt to the environment we are in these etc.

We must look deeply into the essential details of what carry us as a society. These essentials will then give us the tools we need for future reference, who still producing something that has thoughts of adapting to the future.

# CONCLUDE

"Industry has created its tools, business has modified its habits and customs, construction has found new means, architecture confronted with new tasks."

## Manual for Dwelling

"Airplane is a machine for flying, the chair is a machine for sitting, the house is a machine for living"

We have taken tools that have been outdated, and thrown them to waste. Man still lives in houses, houses that are obsolete tools. For long time we lived in houses that are not adapted to themselves. Civilization changes, religions change, houses will also change, things to do it.

People of today are not of the home. They run to restaurants and nightclubs to spend their time. Architecture is a matter of "plastic emotion". This term "plastic", refers to the idea that we can see and measure by the eyes. The things that we develop should be of an rhythm equation (equilibrium). This plastic emotion is the development of an original plastic invention. This invention would be based on a series of tools. The tools would prove that the modern is to be manipulated in "tools". Living and life is the aim of good plans, as simple law capable of infinite modification. This modification should produce an ordered scheme and a fusion of utilitarian and plastic solutions.

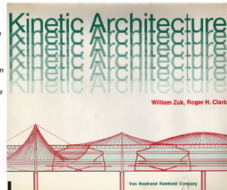
The airplane, motor-car, and steamship are three single elements that have been design through industrial processes.

mass-production, and have turned into products of the most intense selection in the range of modern technology. Part of the reason for such fine equipped product was through their arrangement of a problem. The plane for example.

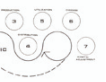
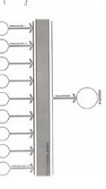
To invent a flying machine having most nothing alien to pure mechanics, that is to say, to search for a means of suspension in the air and a means of propulsion.

Man understands modern mechanics through justified use in our daily lives. Look at the mechanism of the camera, machinery given to man, specialization to a specific machine like a man to a car, there will be a fit of something assembling into a whole.

There is a horizon that a plane flies on, if there are to many standards, the line becomes confused. When the line becomes cluttered the main ideas become fixed on less important details, that affect the outcome of the whole in a negative way.



Kinetic Architecture - William Zuk & Roger Clark 1972



# DESCRIBE

History - Enduring permanent structure > symbols, showing evidence

- Pyramids in Egypt
- Churches in Europe

Indigenous Architecture can only be understood through determinants physical, economic, social, and historical + FORM

- Christopher Alexander (p. 5) "Form as a force to a form"
  - Concept as Generator
  - Technological
  - Biological
  - Social
  - Magical
  - State of Change

# ANALYZE

There is much adoption to think about when taking a design to an alternate area. These adoptions take on the idea of free body or total movement. The idea is to either create an form (organization) that has the same tools for different objectives, or a multi-use tools for many objectives.

Some of the basic components to think about relies on the amount of interaction that is required to be done on. Will the end result be of some mechanism that people will use all direct motions on the outcome, or will the machine be one of spectacle. An example might be a car or a plane, where the other end might be something of a robot with Heuristic Design (Learning Capable).

Trends have shown the likes of mobile and disposable architecture through the ideas of the nomads and American Indians. The materials that were moved over of the earth, showing the idea of impermanence.

# CONCLUDE

"Initial form doesn't have to be correct, since kinetically changed to meet processes and situations"

"One is the age of change - dynamism, of survival, of evolution."

"Life itself is in motion, from a single cell to the most complex organism, man."

Stability only really "Western societies all human action occurs against background of stability" -Social Laws, Stable institutions, Stable Values

- Chicago Only really, stability (Stability)
- Technology Institutionalized
- Think Tanks
- Research/Development Corporations

Kinetic Architecture - Accommodate problems of change  
New Architecture point in time - towards future  
- Miles Van Der Rode - Universal Space-space to meet any use - a functional demand

The initial form doesn't have to be correct, since kinetically changed to meet pressures not satisfied. "One is the age of change - dynamism, of survival, of evolution."

# ANALYZE

The next idea would be to develop an idea of architecture that would give precedence to the idea of transportation. The old concept of massive, fixed walls around a city given way to quick responding, active instruments, such as active and anti-static missiles. (In mobile architecture (Kinetic Architecture), structure is not a spatial aspect of the flexibility and versatility of the whole concept." (p. 32)

Mobile components can be reduced or accompanied by any form to be manipulated. These key elements help to stress the idea that anything can be re-manufactured towards a better goal. Some of the factors in the past that have been rearranged are: "Moving Particles (Solid Particles)"

"Movable Beachers (ISM Pavilion)"  
"Movable Rooms (Collectives, Ford vs. Solt)"  
"Transferring Rooms (elevators, spatial movement without rotation)"  
"Turntable (restaurants, restaurants, ramps)"  
"Multiple Moving Parts"

# CONCLUDE

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"Life itself is in motion, from a single cell to the most complex organism, man."



Light Tech - Richard Horden 1966



Light Tech - Richard Horden 1966



# THEORETICAL PRECEDENTS

# TECHNOLOGICAL PRECEDENTS

INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

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# ESCRIBE

In the first dimension architecture is a material, one having to do with the use of illumination, and their exact lightness, lightness, or non-heavy. When nature's lightness comes from the perspective idea and the earth's physical lightness, light on form, aesthetics of light and lightness of touch, lightness in relation to energy and the context, and "total lightness".

\*Tech - Architecture centered on realities of our thoroughly technological society.

\*Tech - Materials and lightweight construction are active design factors. They create elements vs. Prefabrication. Lightness overcomes mass and rigidity.

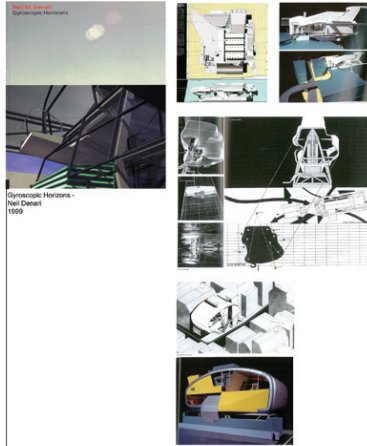
\*Architect - "Micro-Architecture"

"To move in air and water unlike stone and concrete"

**Visible Harmony of Transformation:**  
 -Openness causes uncertainty, vulnerability, and constant transformations.

Design should be a balance of influences and objectives. It should be about creating a particular solution and exploring the success. In its process, history works between traditional architecture and serendipity, which can bring him to design that work in fact, sea, and air. Architecture is about lightness. Finding new ways to achieve more with less, optimizing visual and technical attitudes to increase the context of materiality.

Each individual project takes on some element of the natural environment. He designs aluminum frames, like sails and planes. The use of these materials most often suggest the "change of the weather". Carbon lightness of material, like aluminum and carbon fiber, helps in the prototyping process, for being cost low, and maintaining still and speed. It also allows the design to be opened up to the exterior environment. Sailsboats to him are an example in the symbiosis of beauty of modern engineering and the freedom of innovative and creative thinking in architecture.



# DESCRIBE

Space is Place.  
 Social physical space is now composed by mobility, technology, the location of borders, and the interpenetration of cultures. It is not a neutral space, but a complex of forces at work in relation of placement. Adaptability as a constant flow and movement of technology, politics, and economics which must find orientation without the fully of place. Denari states, "Today architecture not about clearing out, it's about a lack of fitting in".

Media is a gigantic machine of hyperbolic banality.  
 -Experience therefore is acceleration, disorientation, and pain.

Movements can't occur, therefore, if resistance is based on technology.  
 Architecture is a virtual language responding to building conditions, displaying support forms, and programs that have the potential to create a new kind of universal form. It is not a tool, but too big, too heavy, and too much to accurately describe or produce our world. Architecture is a complex of knowledge into a usable and/or reusable state, one where sensors of material expose provide reliable testing.

Repetition can be used as innovation, as mechanism of liberation, of life and death. Repetition as well as the opposite of laws of nature. Repetition as new morality beyond habit and memory. Repetition that allows formula and creativity with the law's of difference with equilibrium, innovation.

Example:  
 -Robert Cozier: 3-dimensional artificial landscape supported by a massive superstructure designed to simulate the effects of a smooth-space environment between sea and flight.  
 -Why build up where nature already provides the forms necessary?

Context are the physical surfaces + systems that govern both the data + the relation of the work. They are the manifold bodies of the physical, static, + cultural forms as play.

# ANALYZE

"Architecture was such not by virtue of their technical or geographical conditions or by the materials from which they were constructed, products of an + subjective desire to manifest a vision of the world not through symbols or images, but by means of new and changing space experiences. Aoki Ring - Ignace de Sola - Morases 'Differences' Cambridge, MA, MIT Press 1987 p.85

In the realm of design Denari discusses the possibility of creating a piece of architecture that has relevance to everything and nothing at all. When you look at the images to the right, you see a structure that is both a building and a piece of art. It is his work he denotes a sense of permanence through his choice of materials and abstract forms. The structure has a series of interaction with the components relying on visual stimuli and concrete physical manipulation.

In the book, "Gyrospheric Horizons," Denari tries to explain the built environment against the context of the technology and military housing in the 1950's and 1970's. The formally topic to explain his anti-suburban contribution on builds foundation for his reasoning. He explains this as a code for oriented possibility with the right doors and ingenuity. By looking at site and form as a technological expression we can create a formula for the personal, authentic, and mantric aspects of built production.

# CONCLUDE

Denari states, "Today architecture not about clearing out, it is about a lack of fitting in".  
 -Geometry should not be independent of experience

"Let us imagine total space as a body of water, into which we may sink grain vessels, and that be able to define individual 'what place' is."  
 -"Let us imagine total space as a body of water, into which we may sink grain vessels, and that be able to define individual 'what place' is." Adolf von Hildebrand from book "The Problem of Form" New York, Stewart, 1937

# NALYZE

Is in the details - Mies Van Der Rohe  
 tells how it is disposed, not hidden or concealed and how it is done.

system, or design that cannot be made better, lighter. As if by the Chinese dynamic ideology and the rigidness of a history, certainly seem aware of the deeper association seen lines and change. This lightness in architecture can come the mass and rigidity that is often associated with it.

material rationality in architecture can be a source of one as a desire for clear thought, the art is not neglected and forms is allowed great latitude.

# ONCLUDE

Searcher once said, "Architecture consists largely of placemaking between the earth and sky".

# DESCRIBE

The conditions to take into affect are light, air, and features relating to both the interior and exterior products. All buildings have operational features such as windows, doors, even the furniture is movable, but architects only design in a certain level for items to be repositioned. An important part of success that can be introduced in adaptable architecture, relates to how well it functions in regards to built architecture. The important control aspect in adaptable architecture, is its ability to open to the external environment. The conditions to take into affect are light, air, and features relating to both the interior and exterior products.

The concept of movable architecture understands the idea that a form is made to move from place to place. Building since the beginning of history have been made to be static, to show permanence in the earth's and mobility in the transitional element taking place on a more intimate level. The success of furniture in the ability to sit and stand, to incorporate and enhance value, and respond to them in an appropriate manner. Automation in an action that is carried out by a predetermined, interchangeable pattern, and an action that is carried towards a predetermined solution with a variable to change along the way.

The conditions to take into affect are light, air, and features relating to both the interior and exterior products. All buildings have operational features such as windows, doors, even the furniture is movable, but architects only design in a certain level for items to be repositioned. An important part of success that can be introduced in adaptable architecture, relates to how well it functions in regards to built architecture. The important control aspect in adaptable architecture, is its ability to open to the external environment. The conditions to take into affect are light, air, and features relating to both the interior and exterior products.

# ANALYZE

-Society is never static - usually towards progress and improvements in the condition of human existence

-Roads are extended and re-routed, building demolished and rebuilt, neighborhoods, the method towards building and responding to change has gone virtually unchanged

-Personal transportation, computing, mobile phones, and social media is a radical era in a technical subject

-The phenomenon of "atomization of lifestyle", where the traditional family is replaced by more fluid groupings that offer in size and make-up and are subject to more frequent change

-Adaptable architecture supports the servant role due to 24-hour work patterns in the home, changing family size + groupings, ecological issues that are questioning the desirability of consuming. Flexible issues that leverage a more fulfilling personal life, and the possibility of remote working due to communications technology

"Wright 'Usonian House' was simple, affordable + modular as design"

-Cotru 5 president in Architecture

-Richard Schickel House (1928)

-Eliason City (E-1027) (1928-29)

-Eliason House (1923-31) Pierre Chateau

-Gymnasium House (1925) Buckminster Fuller, Wichita

-House (1945) Buckminster Fuller

-Gunnar Gumbel (1945) Brno, East Germany

-Plug-in city (1946) Peter Cook-Archigram

-Celine housing prefabricated in turbulent conditions

-1987's future systems Cabin 300, NASA team

-Richard Huxton + Huxak + Heather architects

# CONCLUDE

-Hedgegger - "Reimagined a sense of place is not established by just building, but by any method human being can use to recognize what place is."

-"The houses is a laboratory, test-beds, + their dish of new forms, technologies, + living patterns"

-Architecture is not focused on time, we get to consider the temporal dimension of the event in architecture

"China houses can be recycled after a few years"

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GREAT EXPOSITION 1851

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**THEORETICAL**  
PRECEDENTS



## DESCRIBE

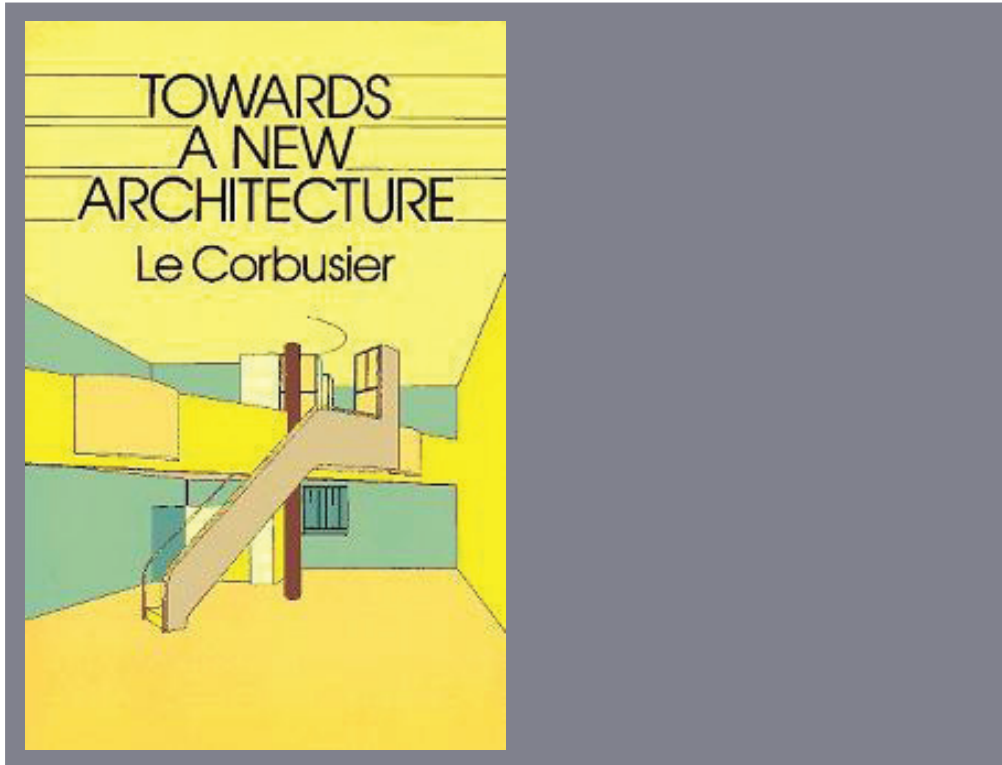
Architect: By arrangement of forms, realizes an order which is pure creation of his spirit; by forms and shapes he affects our senses to an acute degree and provokes plastic emotion, by the relationships which he creates he wakes profound echoes in us, he gives us the measure of an order which we feel to be in accordance with that of our world, he determines the various movements of our heart and our understanding; it is then that we experience the sense of beauty.

### 3 Reminders to Architects: Mass, Surface, Plan

These three design elements have been utilized since lessons we learned were then transfigured and turned into modern tools. These tools came into an idea that a “House is a Machine,” an entity towards all times.

We have taken tools that have been outlasted, and thrown them to waste. Men live in houses that are considered obsolete tools. Too long have we lived in houses that are not adapted to themselves. Civilization changes, religions change, houses will also change, falling to dust.

People of today are not of the home; they run to restaurants and nightclubs to spend their time. Architecture is a matter of “plastic emotion.” This term “plastic,” refers to the idea that we can see and measure by the eyes. The things that we develop should be of an rhythm equation (equilibrium). This plastic modulation is the development of an original plastic invention. This invention would be based on a series of tests. The tests would prove that the module to be manipulated is “basic.” Unity of law is the law of good plans; as simple law capable of infinite modulation. This modulation should produce an ordered scheme and a fusion of utilitarian and plastic solutions.



Towards a New Architecture, 1926

## DESCRIBE (Cont...)

The airplane, motor-car, and steamship are three single elements that have been designed through industrial processes, mass-production, and have turned into products of the most intense selection in the range of modern technology. Part of the reason for such fine sculptured product was through their statement of a problem. The plane for example:

To invent a flying machine having mind nothing alien to pure mechanics, that is to say, to search for a means of suspension in the air and a means of propulsion.

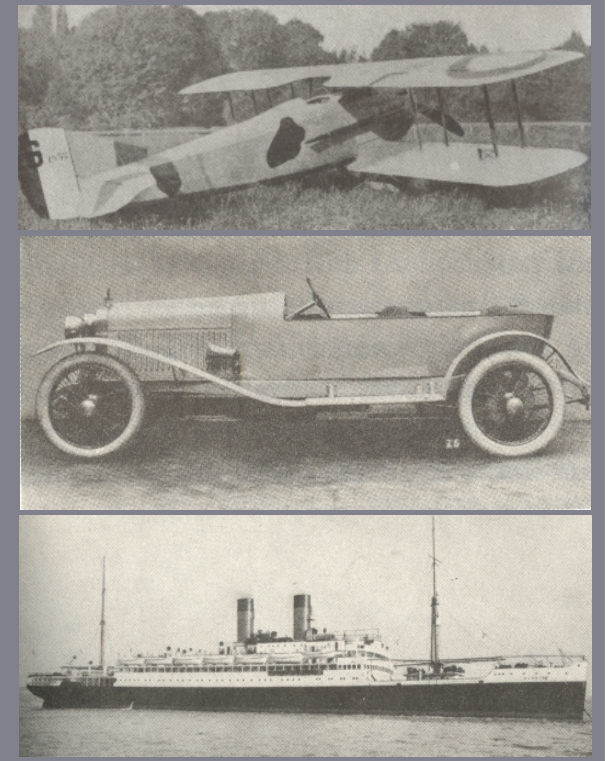
Man understands modern mechanics through justified use in our daily lives. Look at the mechanism of the person: machinery given to man, specialization to a specific machine ties a man to it, soon there will be a fit of something assembling into a whole.

There is a horizon that a plane flies on, if there are too many standards, the line becomes cluttered. When the line becomes cluttered the main ideas become fixed on less important details, that affect the outcome of the whole in a negative way.

## ANALYZE

Monumentality but mobile = Steamship

A steamship is a perfect example of a past experience meeting head on with the future. The steamship is monumental, though it is sleek and performance enhanced. The steamship has important details towards design. The design of the interior plays off the Corbu's bubble example. The soap bubble is perfect and harmonious regulated from the interior. The exterior then is a direct result of that interior. The steamship has well defined quarters. The quarters are small and concise. At first we do not like these quarters, but as humans we naturally adapt to the environment we are thrown into.



Critical Design Vehicles, Planes, Cars, & Ships

## **ANALYZE** (cont...)

We must look deeply into the essential details of what carry us as a society. These essentials will then give us the tools we need for future reference, while still producing something that has thoughts of adapting to the future. It is hard to believe that the industrial revolution took so many ideas from the past, and transformed them into new innovative members to be applied to future needs. We as humans work everyday with products that can be made to define our future surroundings. Currently we use phones, computers, and technology that puts us too far ahead of ourselves. We easily make things to be mass produced, but don't think much beyond that. If we were to distill a simple modulating idea, we could compound that idea into something that can be used on a whole. The idea wouldn't fit snug, but would give more of us a encompassed realm to move into.

## **CONCLUDE**

“Industry has created its tools, business has modified its habits and customs, construction has found new means, architecture confronted with new laws.”

Manual for Dwelling

“Airplane is a machine for flying...the chair is a machine for sitting...the house is a machine for living.”

## DESCRIBE

History > Enduring permanent structure > symbols showing excellence:

Pyramids in Egypt  
Churches in Europe

Indigenous architecture can only be understood through determinants physical, economical, social, and historical = FORM

Christopher Alexander (p. 5) "Form a set of forces to a form"

- Concept as Generator
- Concept has to be active
- No need as concept that occasions response,
- Concept of pressures implying energy

Animate and Inanimate Pressures

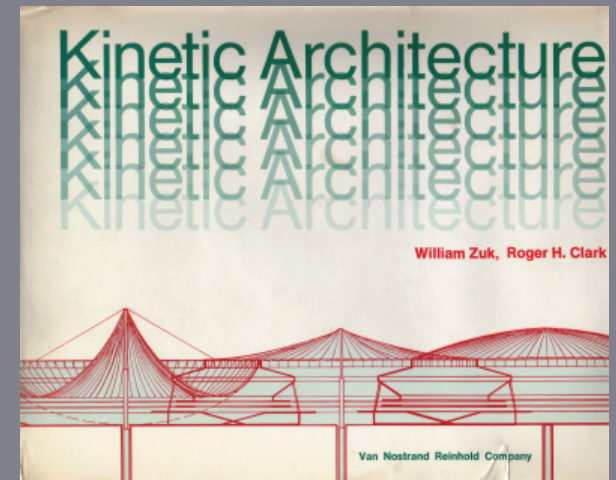
3 Forms of Society:

- 1-Technological
- 2-Sociological
- 3-Biological
  - Breadth
  - Magnitude
  - Rate of Change

Stability is only a reality. While western societies see all human action occurring against a background of stability. (i.e. Stable Laws, Stable Institutions, Stable Values). Change-Only reality is a stability illusion

- Technology Institutionalized
- Think Tanks
- Research/Development Corporations

Kinetic Architecture accommodate problems of change. These can be applied how design moves, where it moves, factors of deployment, and the like. Now architecture in point can time-forecast the future. Not all examples can be seen as successes, but the ideas were a spring board to the concepts we are now facing as challenges.



Kinetic Architecture, 1970

## DESCRIBE (Cont...)

- Mies Van Der Rohe-Universal Space-space to meet any functional demands
- Not all forms, in all tasks, not solving all functions

The initial form doesn't have to be correct, since the form can kinetically changed to meet the pressures not satisfied.

"Ours is the age of change...dynamicism, of unrest, of revolution."

Other forms of Kineticism:

- Bionics – Da Vinci – 15th Century
- Study of organic mechanisms and how can be adapted into higher life forms capable of being more than just passive elements.

## ANALYZE

There is much adaptation to think about when taking a design to an alternate area. Those adaptations take on the idea of free body or total movement. The idea is to either create a form (organism) that has the same tools for different objectives, or a multi-use tools for many objectives.

Some of the basic components to think about relies on the amount of interaction the interpreter will take on. This will produce the end result to be of some mechanism that people will have all direct actions on the outcomes, or will the machine be one of spectacle. An example might be of a pump and screw, where the other end might be something of a robot with Heuristic Design (Learning Capacity).

Trends have shown the likes of mobile and disposable architecture through the nomads and American Indians. The materials that were moved were of the earth, showing the idea of impermanence.

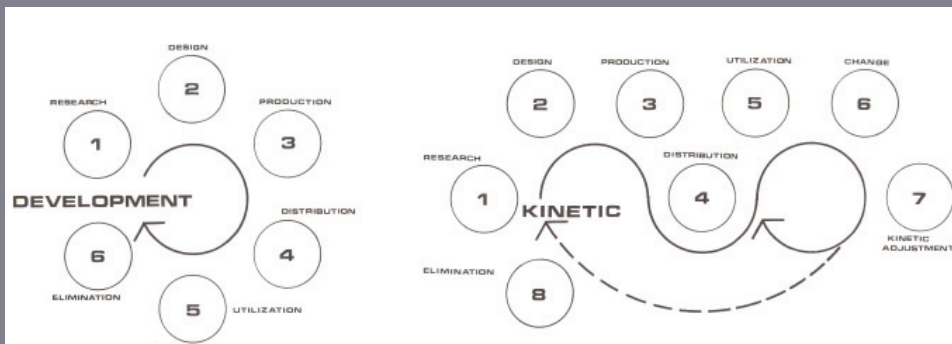


Diagram of cycles of design, Normal vs. Kinetic

## ANALYZE (Cont...)

The next idea would be to develop an idea of architecture that would give precedence to the idea of transportation. The old concept of massive, fixed walls around a city given way to quick-responding, active instruments, such as artillery and antiballistic missiles. “In movable architecture (Kinetic Architecture), structure is key, or the pivotal aspect of the feasibility and workability of the whole concept.” (p. 32)

Movable components can be replaced or accompanied by any form to be manipulated. These key elements help to stress the idea that anything can be re-evaluated towards a better goal. Some of the factors in the past that have been rearranged are:

- \*Moving Partitions (sliding doors and partitions)
- \*Movable Bleachers (IBM Pavillion)
- \*Movable Roofs (Coliseum, Hard verse. Soft)
- \*Translating Room (elevators, spatial movement without rotation)
- \*Turntables (railroads, restaurants, ramps)
- \*Multiple Moving Parts

## CONCLUDE

\*\*\*Initial form doesn't have to be correct, since they are kinetically changed to meet pressures not satisfied\*\*\*

“Ours is the age of change...dynamicism, of unrest, of revolution.”

“Life itself is in motion, from a single cell to the most complex organism, man.”

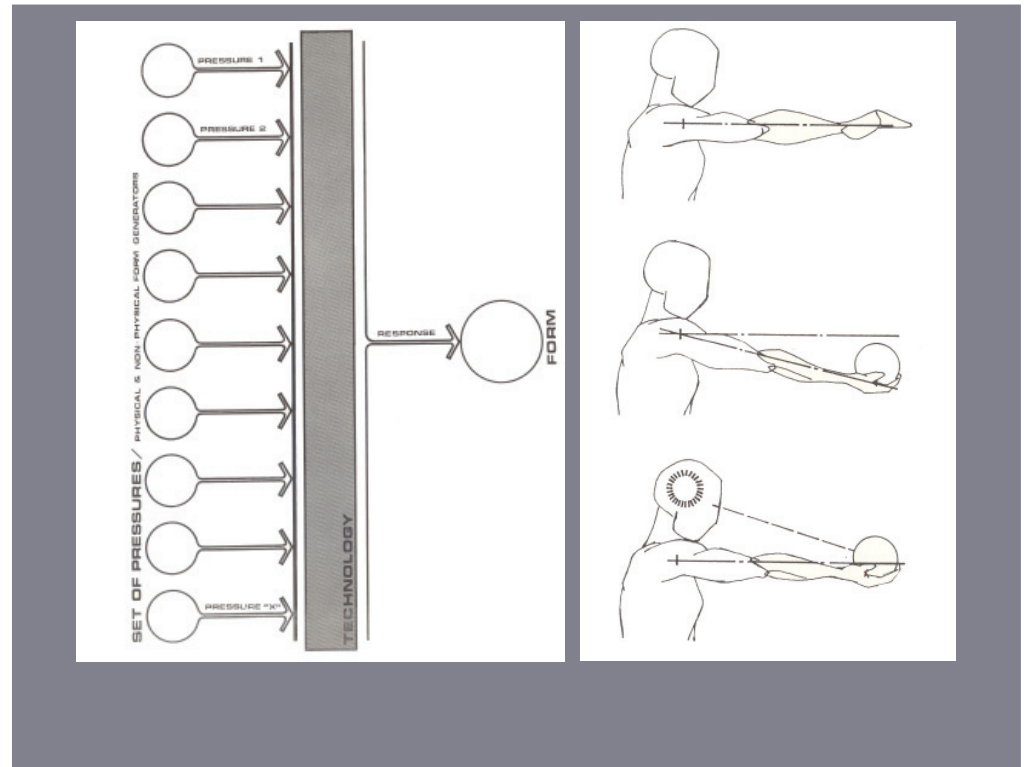


Diagram showing Pressures and Response  
Human Pressure with an Object

## DESCRIBE

Light is the first dimension in architecture. In English there are two meanings; one having to do with the idea of illumination, and the other about lightweight, lightness, or non-heavy. When referring to lightness some of the prescriptive ideas are to touch the earth lightly, physical lightness, light on form, aesthetics of light and color, lightness of touch, lightness in relation to energy and the environment, and 'social lightness.'

'High-Tech' - Architecture centered on realities of our thoroughly 'technicalised' society.

'Light-Tech' - Materials and lightweight construction are active design factors. 'Dry' on site assembly verse. Prefabrication. Lightness overcomes mass and rigidity.

Precedents:

Aircraft

Sailboats

Space Flight - Characterized by mobility and lightness

'Arch-tectonic' + 'Micro-Architecture'

-To move in air and water unlike stone and concrete

**Visible Harmony of Transformation:**

-Openness causes uncertainty, vulnerability, and constant transformation.

Design should be a balance of influences and objectives. It should be about creating a particular solution and exploring the sources. In Horden's projects, he works between traditional architecture and aerodynamics which can bring him to design that work in land, sea, and air. Architecture is about 'lightness,' finding new ways to achieve more with less, optimizing visual and technical attitudes to minimize the overuse of materiality.



Light Tech, 1995

## DESCRIBE (Cont...)

Each individual project takes on some element of the natural environment. Horden designs aluminum frames, like sailboats and planes. The use of these materials most often suggest the 'changing of the weather.' Certain lightness of material, like aluminum and carbon fiber, helps in the prototyping process, for keeping cost low, and maximizing skill and speed. It also allows the design to be opened up to the exterior environment. Sailboats to him are an example in the symbology of beauty of modern engineering and the freedom of innovative and creative thinking in architecture

## ANALYZE

"God is in the details" - Mies Van Der Rohe

Reveals how it is disposed, not hidden or concealed and how it functions.

There is no system, or design that cannot be made better, lighter. As stated by the Chinese, dynamic ideology and the heightened sense of history, certainly seem aware of the deeper association between crisis and change. This lightness in architecture can overcome the mass and rigidity that is often associated with it.

"Experimental technology in architecture can be a source of creativity as a desire for clear thought... the art is not neglected and the tectonic is allowed great latitude."

## CONCLUDE

Eero Saarinen once said, "Architecture consists largely of placing something between the earth and sky."



Richard Horden, Ski Shelter



Richard Horden, Peak Lab, Cliff Dweller



Richard Horden, Ski Haus



## DESCRIBE

Space is Place:

-Bound physical space is now comprised by mobility, technology, the fluctuation of borders, and the heterogeneity of cultures. So much architecture must conspire with complex forces at work in resolution of placements. Adaptability is a constant flow and movement of technology, politics, and economics which must find orientation without the fixity of place. Denari states, "Today architecture is not about clearing out, it is about a lack of fitting in."

Media is a gigantic machine of hyperbolized banality

- Experience therefore is oscillation, disorientation, and play
- Movements can't occur, therefore, if resistance is based on nostalgia

Architecture is an artificial landscape responding to fluctuating conditions, deploying supple forms, and programs that have the potential to elude the restrictions of its own universe of doubt, that is too big, too heavy, and too mute to accurately describe or produce our world. Adaptability should involve a reifying of knowledge into a usable and/or readable state, one where sensations of material space provide ineffable feeling.

Repetition can be used as innovation, as mechanism of liberation, of life and death; Repetition as will, as the opposite of laws of nature; Repetition as new morality beyond habit and memory; Repetition that only attains tension and creativity with the fissures of difference; with equilibrium, innovation.

Example:

-Roller coaster 3-dimensional artificial landscape supported by a massive superstructure designed to simulate the effects of a smooth space somewhere between land + flight.



Neil M. Denari  
Gyroscopic Horizons

Gyroscopic Horizons, 1999

## DESCRIBE (Cont...)

-Why build up when nature already provides the forms necessary?

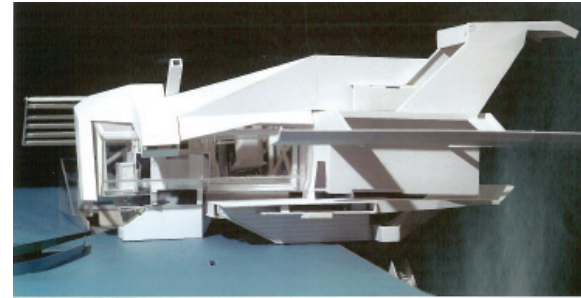
Contours are the physical surfaces and systems that govern both the data and the intuition of the work. They are the manifold conditions of the physical, static, and cultural forms at play.

## ANALYZE

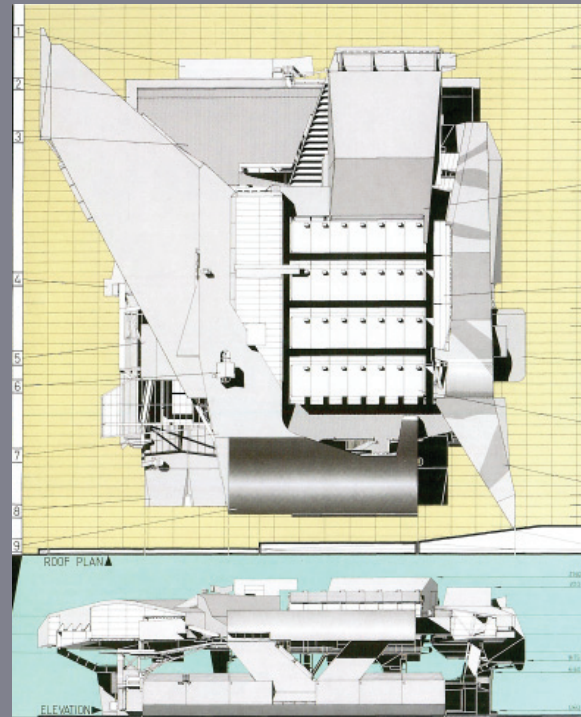
“Architecture were such not by virtue of their technical or geographical conditions, or by the materials from which they were constructed, products of will – a subjective desire to manifest a vision of the world not through symbols or images, but by means of new and changing special experiences.”  
Alois Riegl – Ignasi de Sola – Morales “Differences”  
Cambridge, MA; MIT Press 1997, p.95

In the realm of design Denari discusses the possibilities of creating a piece of architecture that has relevance to everything and nothing at all. When you look at the images to the right, you see his work in progress in a state unlike the architecture around it. In his work he denotes a sense of impermanence through his choice of materials and abstract forms. The architecture has a sense of interaction with the components relying on visual stimuli and concrete physical manipulation.

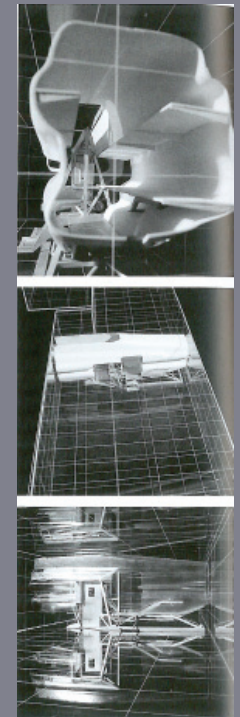
In the book, “Gyroscopic Horizons,” Denari likes to explain the built environment against the context of the Metroplex and military housing in the 1960’s and 1970’s. This formality helps to explain his anti-suburban confrontation on which builds a foundation for his reasoning. He explains this as a code for unlimited possibility with the right desire and ingenuity. By looking at site and form as a technological expression we can create a formula for the personal, authentic, and machinic aspects of built production.



Neil Denari, Model



Neil Denari, Plan + Elevation



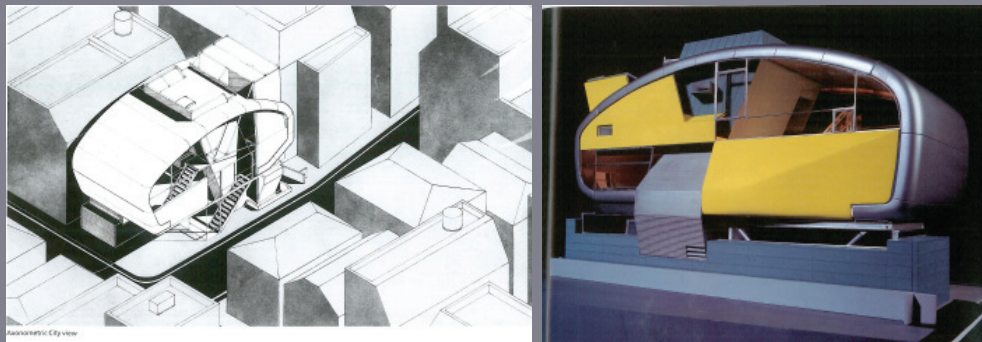
Neil Denari, Built Images

## CONCLUDE

Denari states, “Today architecture not about clearing out, it is about a lack of fitting in.”

Geometry should not be independent of experience.

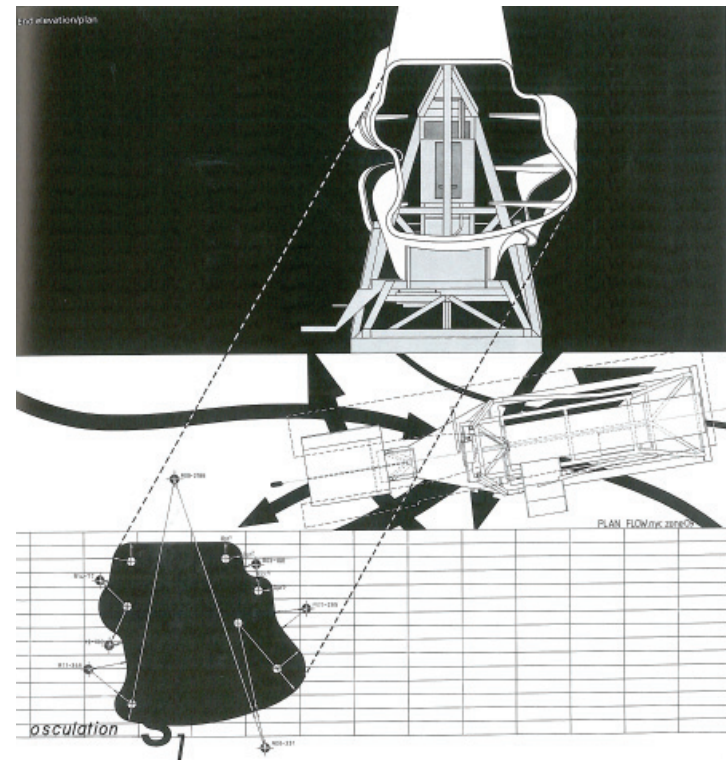
“Let us imagine total space as a body of water, into which we may sink certain vessels, and thus be able to define individual volumes of water without however destroying the idea of a continuous mass of water enveloping all.” Adolf von Hildebrand from book “The Problem of Form” New York, Stechert, 1907



Isometric Elevation



Models



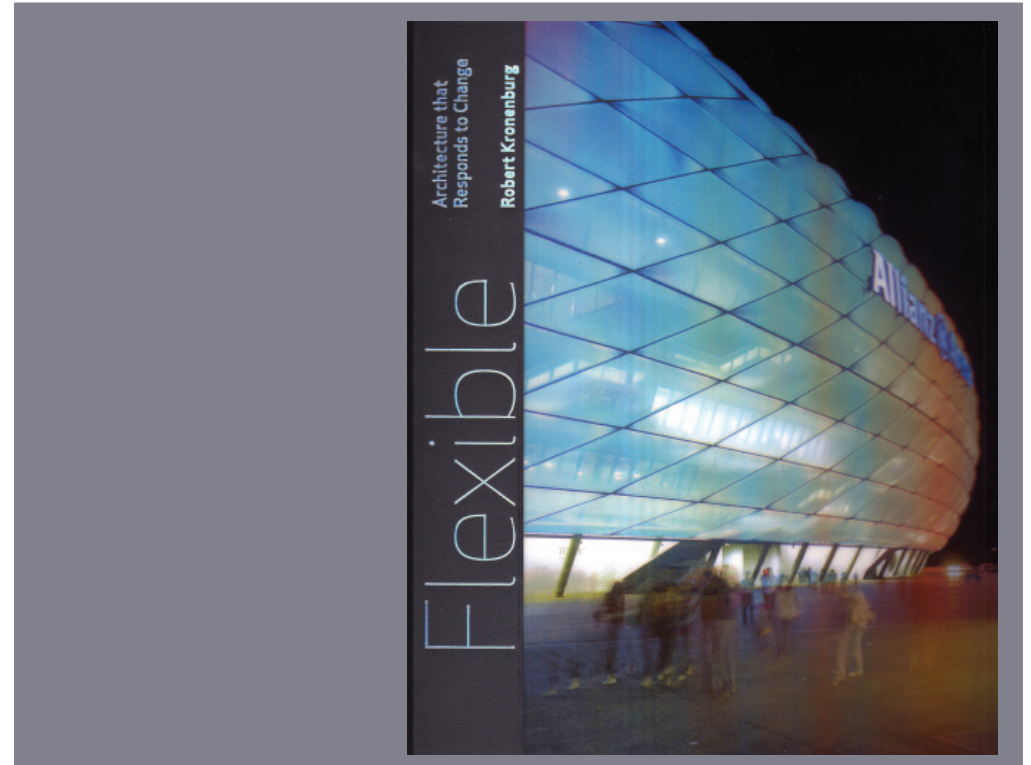
Abstract Plan + Elevation

## DESCRIBE

There was a time when our existence was based on our capacity of movement and adaptability. Most culture now lead sedentary lives, but it could be that flexibility is once again becoming a priority in human development and that technological, social, and economic changes are forcing, or encouraging, a new form of nomadic existence. Consider a house specifically designed to offer changing opportunities – it could be something designed for a single person during the week or six at the weekend, or a home you took with you on business trips. Building now is a mass-production process struggling to achieve its real benefits when it should be able to use to accommodate variety, specificity, and change of products.

All buildings have operational features such as windows, doors, even the furniture is movable, but architects only design to a certain level for items to be repositioned. An important part of success that can be attributed to adaptable architecture relates to how well it functions in regards to static architecture. One important controlling aspect in adaptable architecture, is its ability to open to the external environment. The conditions to take into account are light, air, and features relating to both the interior and exterior protocols.

The concept of movable architecture understands the idea that a form is made to move from place to place. Buildings since the beginning of history have been made to be static, to show permanence of the artifact, and mobility is the transitional element taking place on a more intimate level. The success of humanity is the ability to act and react - to recognize and analyse situations and respond to them in an appropriate manner. Automation - an action that is carried out to a predetermined, unchangeable pattern; and an action that is carried towards a predetermined solution with a variable to change along the way.



Flexible: Architecture that Responds to Change, 2007

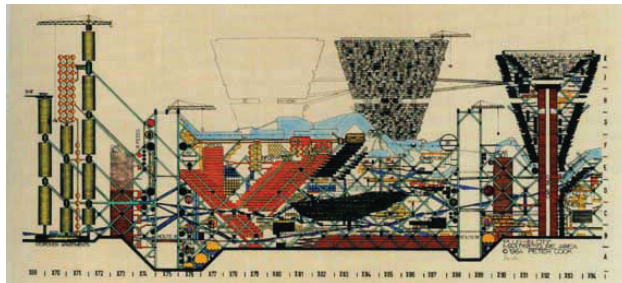
## ANALYZE

Society is never static – usually towards progress and improvements in the condition of human existence. Roads are extended and re-routed, building demolished and re-built, nevertheless, this method towards buildings and responding to change has gone virtually unchallenged

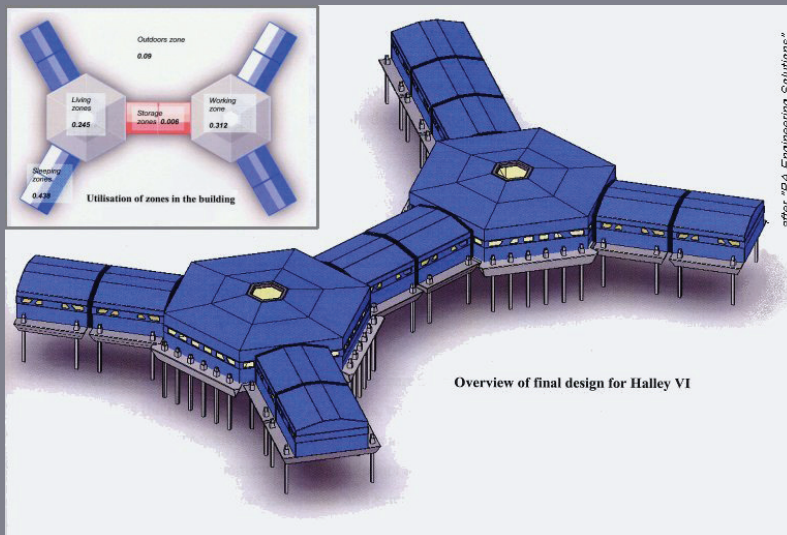
Personal transportation, computing, mobile phones, and access to affordable air travel are becoming subject to the phenomena of 'pluralization of lifestyle', where the conventional family is replaced by more fluid groupings that differ in size and make-up and are subject to make frequent change.

Adaptable architecture supports the servant role due to 24-hour work patterns in the home; changing family size + groupings; ecological issues that are questioning the desirability of commuting; lifestyle issues that envisage a more fulfilling personal life; and the possibility of remote working due to communications technology.

- Wright "Usonian House" was simple, affordable + modular in design
- Corbu 5 precedents in Architecture
- Rietveld Schroeder House (1924)
- Eileen Gray (E-1027) (1926-29)
- Maison de Verre (1927-31) Pierre Chareau
- Dymaxion House (1929) Buckminster Fuller,
- Wichita House (1945) Buckminster Fuller
- Eames, Charles Tray (1948) Beno Saarinem
- Plug-in city (1964) Peter Cook Arch.gram
- Dense housing prefabricated in fluctuating conditions
- (1975) future systems Cabin 300, NASA work
- Richard Hordon + Haack + Hoeffner architects



1964 - Plug-In City - Peter Cook - Archigram



2005 - Halley VI - Hugh Broughton & FaberMaunsell



1949 - GeoDesic Dome - Buckminster Fuller

## CONCLUDE

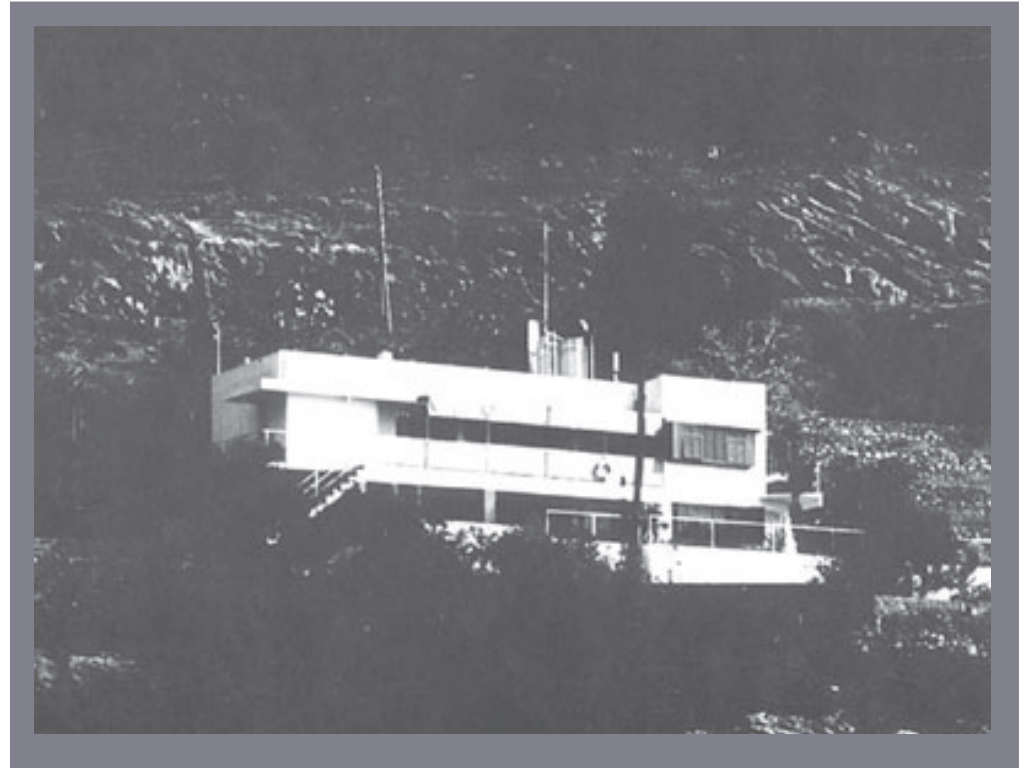
-Heidegger once said, “recognizing a sense of place is not established by just building, but by any method human being can use to recognize what place is.”

-Nietzsche says “place is the product of lived space and lived time.”

-Jones Partners homes can be changed at will during use:

- With the working parts being shown you begin to understand operability of the architecture
- Cheap house can be recycled after a few years.

-Ideas should go against ‘one size fits all’, and be fine-tuned to fit every user in a special way. Skin can be replaceable and internal parts quickly relocated. The house is a laboratory, test-tube, + Petri dish of new forms, technologies, + living patterns! Architecture is so focused on time, we forget to consider the temporal dimension of the event in architecture.



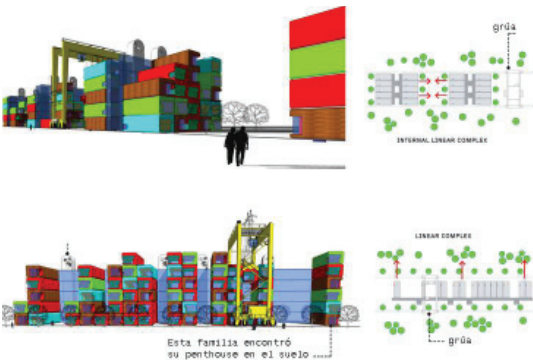
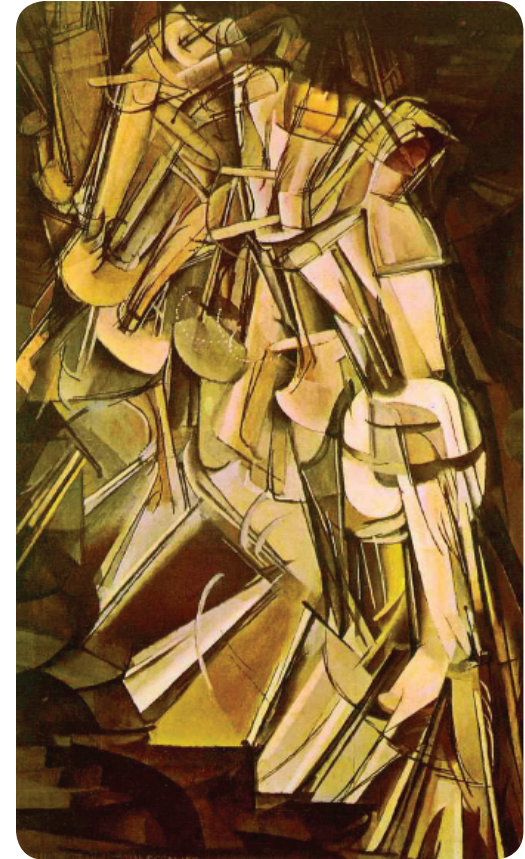
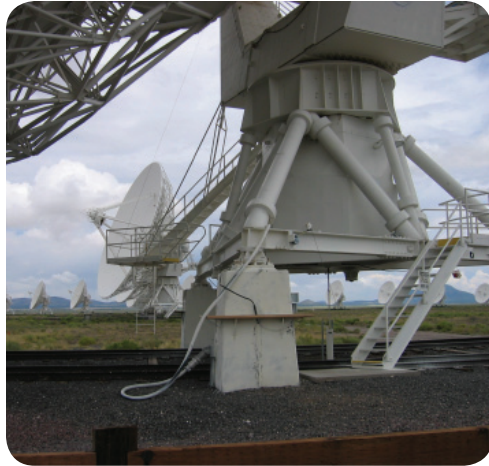
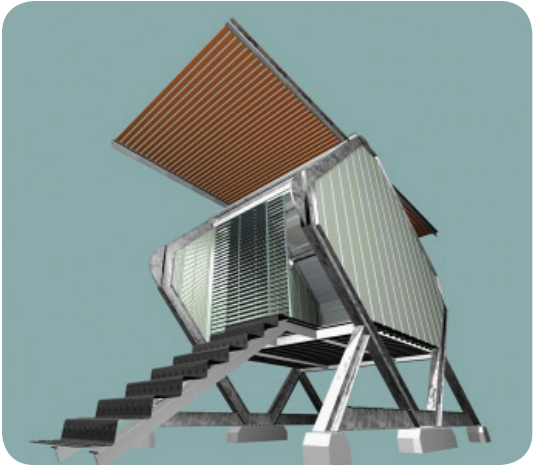
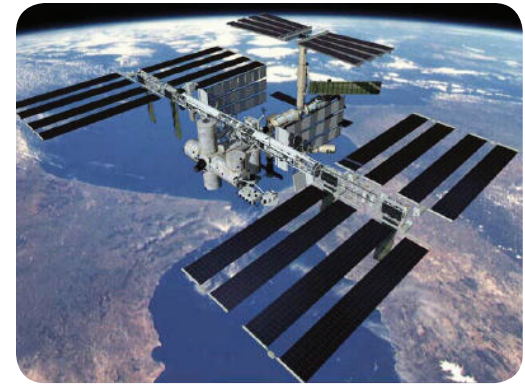
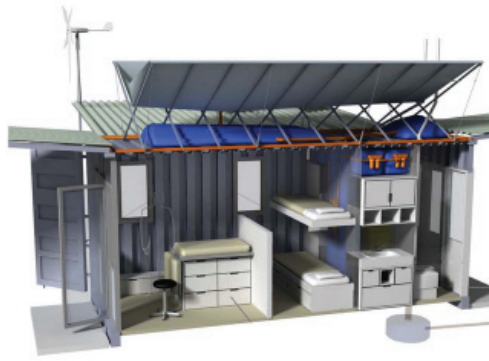
E1027: Eileen Gray, 1924

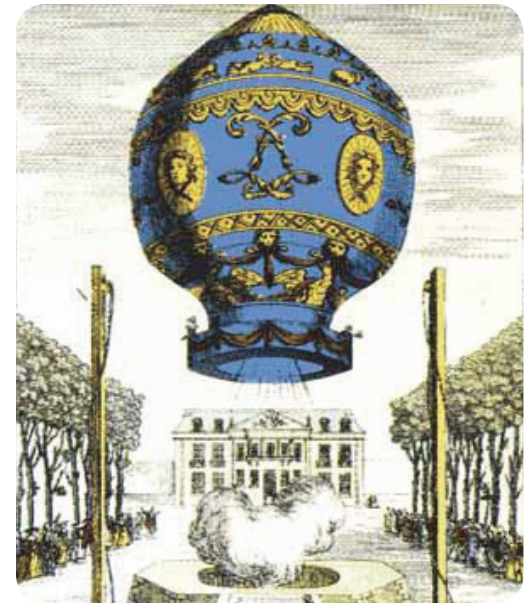
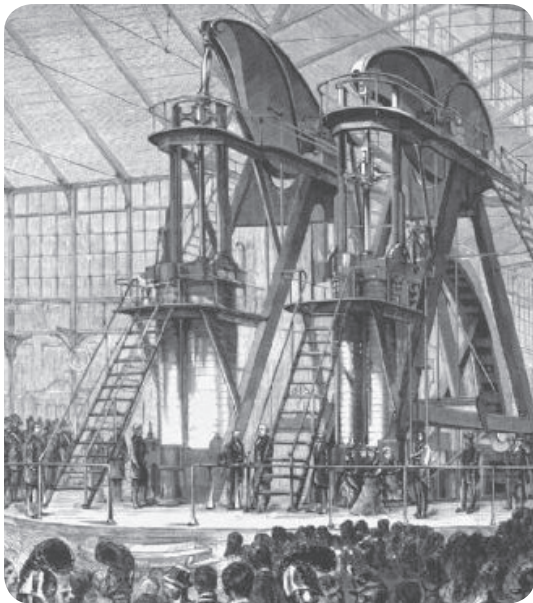
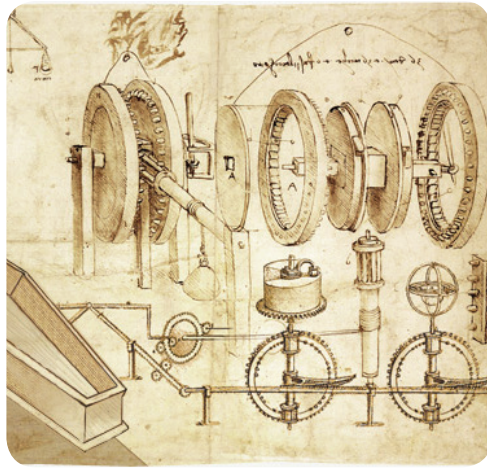
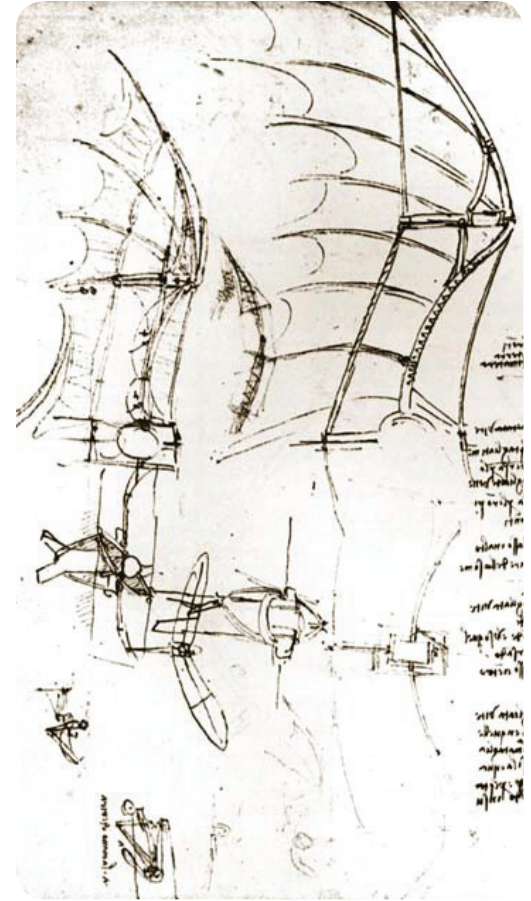
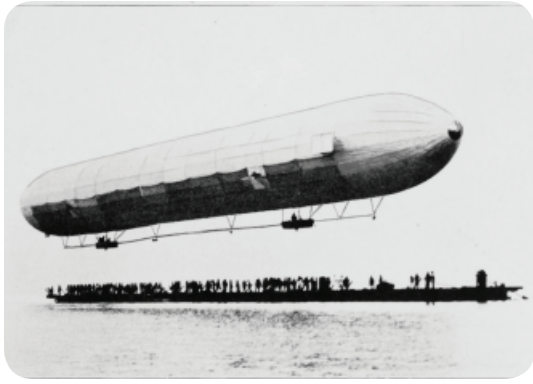
## **CONCLUSION**

When starting this part of the precedent study, I chose pieces of text that had modern relevance to the changing conditions of the built environment, and how these authors were choosing to react. A broad range of texts in terms of time period, were created an idea structure in how time has transformed products and their outcomes. Corbu began by laying the foundation, talking through the essence of design throughout the past, and how product were created with strict design criteria. I ended the readings with Robert Kronenberg to see examples of what types of projects were being created, and the theory behind the versatile types of transformation that were occurring.

**TECHNOLOGICAL**  
PRECEDENTS







## **CONCLUSION**

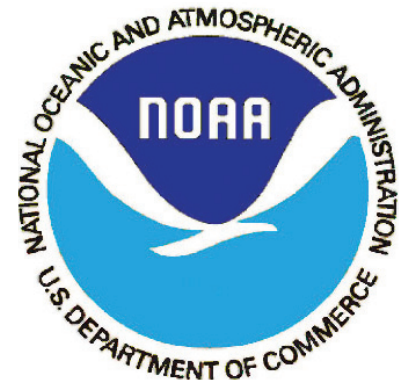
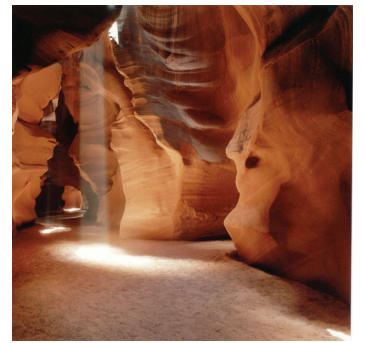
This string of precedents, were looked at for broad range in topic and type. I was trying to cast a net, as it were, to open understanding in range of technological precedents. I started as early possible looking at what individuals were doing, and the outcomes they were producing. The images covered anything from early sketches, paintings, projects, and architecture that could be considered transformable in the early stages. The images set against the text of the readings, gave me understanding from the Industrial Revolution up to present day. In the Industrial Revolution, tools were being created that helped improve a way of life, a betterment of society, and strengthening of cultural values. The Revolution at the same time showed how architecture was rooted in its past, and showed no integration of a society that was becoming very mobile and sophisticated.

**DESIGN ARENA**  
SITE

The objectives for choosing a site for an adaptable use that were put forth was: having multiple environments with extreme differences, that the qualities of these sites would be harsh, and that the sites would need extensive research towards why something would want to be adaptable within its realm.

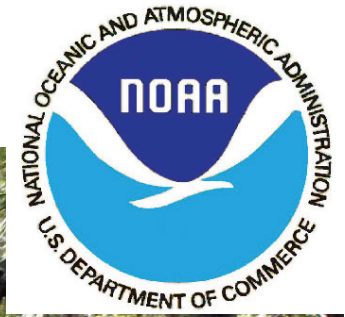
With choosing areas of the United States I negated the idea of social context, culture, political and similar issues, in keeping these factors out of play I could work with the idea of placelessness. Placelessness dealt with time and place modernity, place changing while time becomes more abstract. Being an avid outdoorsman, I started with a base of knowledge of the extremeness each site might possess. From there different areas of the map started to stand out in terms of ecologies (climatology and geology). These ecologies became the vehicle for my research as to why something would want to be adaptable.

The host for the vehicle of the site would be NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and USGS (United States Geological Survey).



# EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK, FL

[ Latitude: 25°57.9 degrees North ]  
[ Longitude: 80° 6.8' degrees West ]  
[ Elevation: 0 to 8 feet ]



## GENERAL

Everglades National Park is the largest subtropical wilderness in the United States. The area boasts rare and endangered species, such as the American crocodile, Florida panther, and West Indian manatee. It has been designated an International Biosphere Reserve, a World Heritage Site, and a Wetland of International Importance.

The park takes up over 1,506,539 Acres of land on the southern most tip of Florida. There are many ecologies that can be found in that expanse of land, they are, cypress, marine and estuarine, freshwater marl prairie, freshwater slough, coastal lowlands, mangrove, pineland, and hardwood hammock.

### Geology

The rocks beneath the Big Cypress Swamp are among the oldest in South Florida. Six million years ago a shallow sea covered this area. Sediments of silt and sand and particles of calcium deposited on the bottom of this sea gradually cemented into limestone. Today this rock is called the Tamiami Formation. Other rocks beneath the Everglades were formed during the time of the Great Ice Age.

## PRECIPITATION

### Average annual

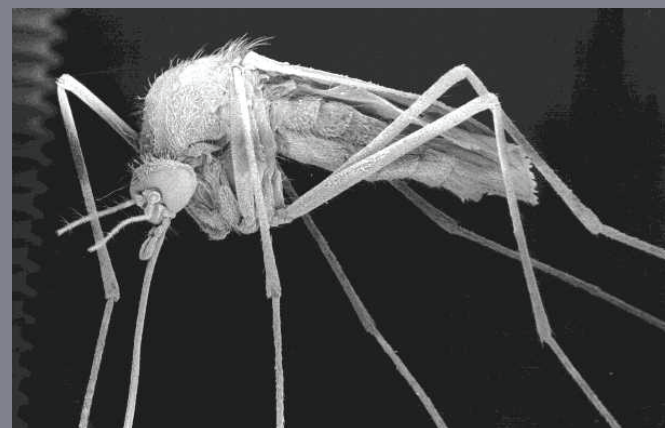
Precipitation: 0.07 in / 0.18 cm  
Month to date precipitation: 0.91  
Year to date precipitation: 49.29

Dew Point: 65 °F / 18 °C  
Precipitation: 0.27 in / 0.7 cm  
Wind: 8 mph / 12 km/h  
Gust Wind: 22 mph / 35 km/h  
Sea Level Pressure: 30.12 in / 1017 hPa  
Average annual rainfall: 60 inches per year

Rain Season: June - October  
Mosquitos coincide with rainy season

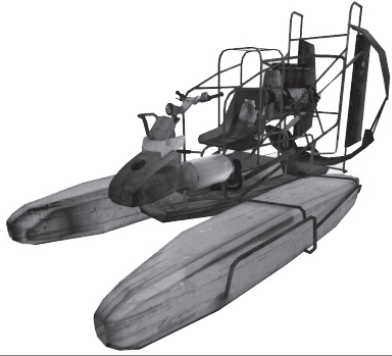
## MOSQUITOES

There are currently 80 species of mosquitoes known to occur or have been identified from various collections in Florida, more than any other state. Of these, 33 species can cause pest problems for man and/or domestic animals in all or parts of the state.





# MODE OF TRANSPORTATION



## HURRICANE



## WIND

Category	Wind Speed	Barometric Pressure	Storm Surge	Damage Potential
1 (weak)	75 - 95 mph 65 - 82 kts 33 - 42 m/s	> 28.94 in. Hg > 980.0 mb > 97.7 kPa	4.0 - 5.0 ft. 1.2 - 1.5 m	minimal damage to vegetation
2 (moderate)	96 - 110 mph 83 - 95 kts 43 - 49 m/s	28.50 - 28.93 in. Hg 965.1 - 979.7 mb 95.2 - 97.7 kPa	6.0 - 8.0 ft. 1.8 - 2.4 m	moderate damage to houses
3 (strong)	111 - 130 mph 96 - 113 kts 50 - 58 m/s	27.91 - 28.49 in. Hg 945.1 - 964.8 mb 92.2 - 97.7 kPa	9.0 - 12.0 ft. 2.7 - 3.7 m	extensive damage to small buildings
4 (very strong)	131 - 155 mph 114 - 135 kts 59 - 69 m/s	27.17 - 27.90 in. Hg 920.1 - 944.8 mb 91.7 - 94.2 kPa	13.0 - 18.0 ft. 3.9 - 5.5 m	extreme structural damage
5 (devastating)	> 155 mph > 135 kts > 70 m/s	< 27.17 in Hg < 920.1 mb < 91.7 kPa	> 18.0 ft > 5.5 m	catastrophic building failures possible

Bibliographic Entry	Result (w/surrounding text)	Standardized Result
Earth Science. Englewood Cliffs, NJ: Prentice Hall, 1967.	"If the wind speed is less than 75 mph it is not a hurricane at all and the most severe hurricanes are more than 150 mph"	34 m/s (min.) 67 m/s (most severe)
"Hurricanes." World Book Encyclopedia. Chicago, IL: World Book, 1998. 452-456.	"Level 1, 74-95 mph Level 2, 96-110 mph Level 3, 111-130 mph Level 4, 131-155 mph Level 5, 156 mph"	33-42 m/s, 43-49 m/s, 50-58 m/s, 59-69 m/s, > 70 m/s
Burroughs, William. Weather. Sydney: Weldon Owen, 1996.	"These winds can reach nearly 200 miles per hour."	89 m/s
Sigda, Robert. Earth Science. New York, 1977.	"A typical hurricane has sustained winds of 100 - 150 mph. Winds in some stronger storms may exceed 200 mph.	44 - 67 m/s > 89 m/s
Hurricane Categories. Southern Regional Climate Center. Louisiana State University.	[see table below]	33 - 42 m/s 43 - 49 m/s 50 - 58 m/s 59 - 69 m/s > 70 m/s

## TEMPERATURE

### Average annual

Temperature:

Max Temperature: 84 °F / 28 °C

Mean Temperature: 75 °F / 24 °C

Min Temperature: 66 °F / 19 °C

Temperature is mild, and pleasant

December - April with rare conditions where cold fronts move in causing freezing conditions.

Winter High 77 degrees F

Low 53 degrees F

Summer, Hot and Humid Avg. 90 degrees F

over 90% Humidity

Atlantic Hurricane Season

June - November

# JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK, CA

[ Latitude: 34 degrees degrees, 4', 10" North ]  
[ Longitude: 116 degrees, 23', 10" West ]  
[ Elevation: 1244 Ft. ]



## GENERAL

Joshua Tree National Park consists of 1,017,748 Acres. This desert park only hints at its vitality. A closer examination reveals a variety of plants and animals that make their home in this land shaped by strong winds, unpredictable torrents of rain, and climatic extremes. The dark night skies are beautiful while the desert temperature can drop to extreme lows. Joshua Tree has many types of vast desert regions within lending to fascinating geological features.

Month	Average high (°F) temp	Average low (°F) temp	Average rainfall (inches)	Average snowfall (inches)
January	63	36	0.5	0.7
February	68	39	0.4	0.0
March	74	43	0.4	0.0
April	82	49	0.1	0.0
May	91	57	0.1	0.0
June	101	65	0.0	0.0
July	105	72	0.6	0.0
August	103	70	0.7	0.0
September	97	64	0.5	0.0
October	86	53	0.2	0.0
November	72	42	0.2	0.0
December	63	35	0.4	0.3

There are two types of desert regions within this parks, partly because of the Transverse Mountain Range running East to West, instead of the typical North to South.

There are four main ecologies situated in Joshua Tree, tectonic, volcanism, mountain-building, and stark erosion. The ecologies provide a vast array of physical features, such as, sand dunes, dry lakes, flat valleys, extraordinary rugged mountains, granitic monoliths, and oases.

The site contains over six distinct mountain ranges such as Little San Bernardino Mountains, Cottonwood, Hexie, Pinto Mountains, Eagle, and Coxcomb ranging from 2,000 ft. to 6,000 ft. above sea level.

## PRECIPITATION

### Yearly Averages

precipitaion: 4.06 in. (10.31 cm)

humidity: 21.6%

wind velocity: 6.6 mi/hr (10.6 km/hr)

clear days: 230 per year

### Weather Records

highest daily precipitation: 3.90in. (9.91 cm)  
10/9/43

highest annual precipitaion: 12.32 in (31.29 cm)  
1983

lowest annual precipitation: .27 in (.69 cm) 1956

## TEMPERATURE

Days are typically clear with less than 25 percent humidity. Temperatures are most comfortable in the spring and fall, with an average high/low of 85 and 50°F (29 and 10°C) respectively. Winter brings cooler days, around 60°F (15°C), and freezing nights. It occasionally snows at higher elevations. Summers are hot, over 100°F (38°C) during the day and not cooling much below 85°F (29°C) until the early hours of the morning.

### Yearly Averages

maximum temperature: 83.26°F (28.4°C)  
 minimum temperature: 51.43°F (10.76°C)

### Weather Records

highest temperature: 118°F (47.3°C)  
 lowest temperature: 10°F (-12.1°C)

### Yearly Averages

precipitation: 4.06 in. (10.31 cm)  
 humidity: 21.6%  
 wind velocity: 6.6 mi/hr (10.6 km/hr)  
 clear days: 230 per year

### Weather Records

highest daily precipitation: 3.90 in. (9.91 cm)  
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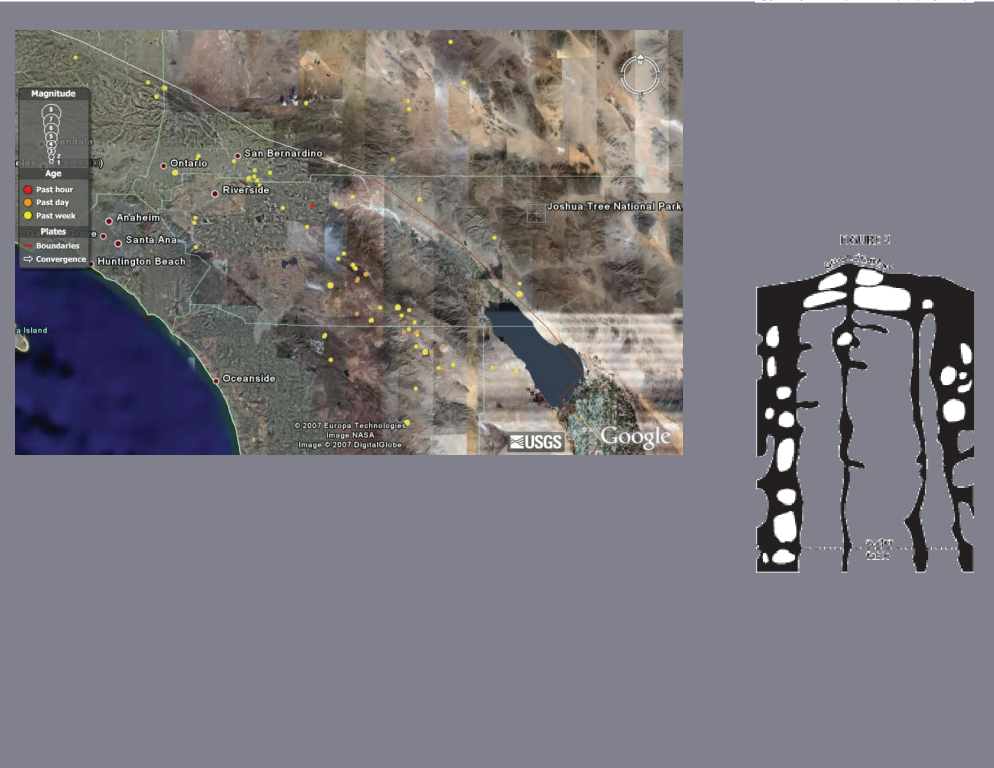
## MODES OF TRANSPORTATION



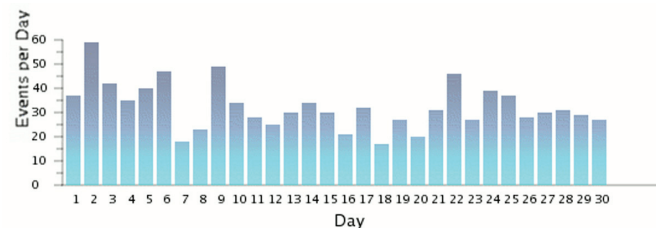
## SEISMIC

A magnitude 7.1 earthquake rocked the Joshua Tree National Park region at 2:46 a.m. local time Sat., October 16, 1999

There are over 100 criss-crossed faults, some measuring 13 meters in width, that can be seen from key vantage points throughout the park.



Earthquakes Recorded per Day  
 September 2007



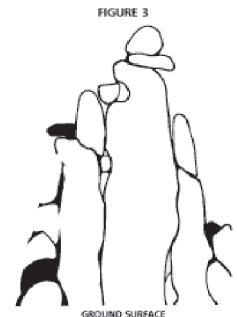
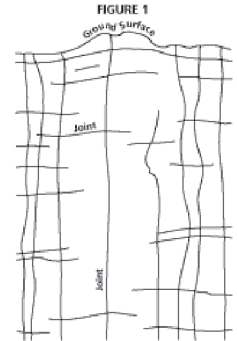
### Daily Earthquake Values

Maximum: 59  
 Minimum: 17  
 Mean: 32

Counts are made for the rectangular area bounded by 32° and 36.25°N latitude and 114.75° and 121°W longitude

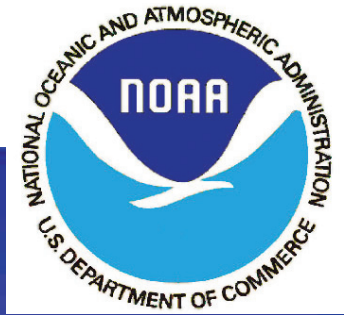
Days are divided at exactly 12:00:00 am, Pacific Standard Time (08:00:00 GMT).

## FAULTS



# DENALI NATIONAL PARK, AL

[ Latitude: 63 degrees, 43' North ]  
[ Longitude: 148 degrees, 58' West ]  
[ Elevation: 2,070 Ft. ]



## GENERAL

Denali contains over 6,000,000 acres of land to its cause. Denali has a dynamic glaciated landscape supporting a diversity of wildlife with grizzly bears, caribou, wolves, Dall sheep and moose. The park also boasts of the highest point in North America with Mt. McKinley at 20,320 ft.

Protecting vast landscapes preserved the rich complexity of living organisms and their interactions that woven together make up the fabric of life. Researchers should look to the vast landscapes of Denali to collect baseline data on how natural systems function so we can better detect how things are changing and why.

There are also five major terrains in the park:

**Gravel River Bars:** these flat, rocky surfaces characterize most major rivers in the park and provide fast, easy travel.

**Wet Tundra:** this terrain is marshy and interspersed with hummocks. Travel can be slow and tiring.

**Dry Tundra:** dry tundra exists at high elevations. Understandably, many of the most popular units are predominately Dry Tundra terrain.

**Brushy Tundra:** accessing many backcountry units requires bushwhacking. Brush can exceed six feet in height, and thickness often limits visibility.

**Glacial Moraine:** located at the base of glaciers and often denoted on maps by stippled areas, a moraine consists of ice covered with dirt and debris. This is extremely rough and time-consuming travel.

## PRECIPITATION

**Average annual total precipitation** Average annual 13.92  
**total snowfall** 82.4

### Precipitation

Jan - Feb - Mar - Apr - May - Jun - Jul - Aug - Sep  
 .81 .68 .66 .52 .68 1.36 1.98 2.58 1.79  
 - Oct - Nov - Dec  
 1.11 0.89 0.86

### Snowfall

Jan - Feb - Mar - Apr - May - Jun - Jul - Aug - Sep  
 12.6 9.8 10.0 6.7 1.1 0.0 0.0 0.1 2.1  
 - Oct - Nov - Dec  
 11.9 13.4 14.8

### Snow-depth

Jan - Feb - Mar - Apr - May - Jun - Jul - Aug - Sep  
 26 29 31 26 4 0 0 0 0  
 Oct - Nov - Dec  
 4 12 20

Throughout the summer, four-day rainy periods are likely an average of once a month; four straight days of dry weather are likely twice a month

## AVALANCHES

Numerous avalanches consisting of snow and ice happen throughout the year - no time in particular are they expected.

Month	Average precipitation
JAN.	0.7
FEB.	0.5
MARCH	0.6
APRIL	0.4
MAY	0.8
JUNE	2.5
JULY	3.2
AUG.	2.4
SEPT.	1.6
OCT.	1.1
NOV.	0.9
DEC.	0.9

## SEISMIC

600 Seismic Avg. Per Year

70% M1.5 - M2.5 taking place under M o u n t McKinley with mid M4's avgerage high's. On May 21 1991 there was a M6.1 earthquake, and on November 3, 2003 the earthquake's Mainshock was M7.9

## MODE OF TRANSPORTATION



## TEMPERATURE

### Average annual

high temperature Average annual 31.1  
low temperature Average annual 12.9

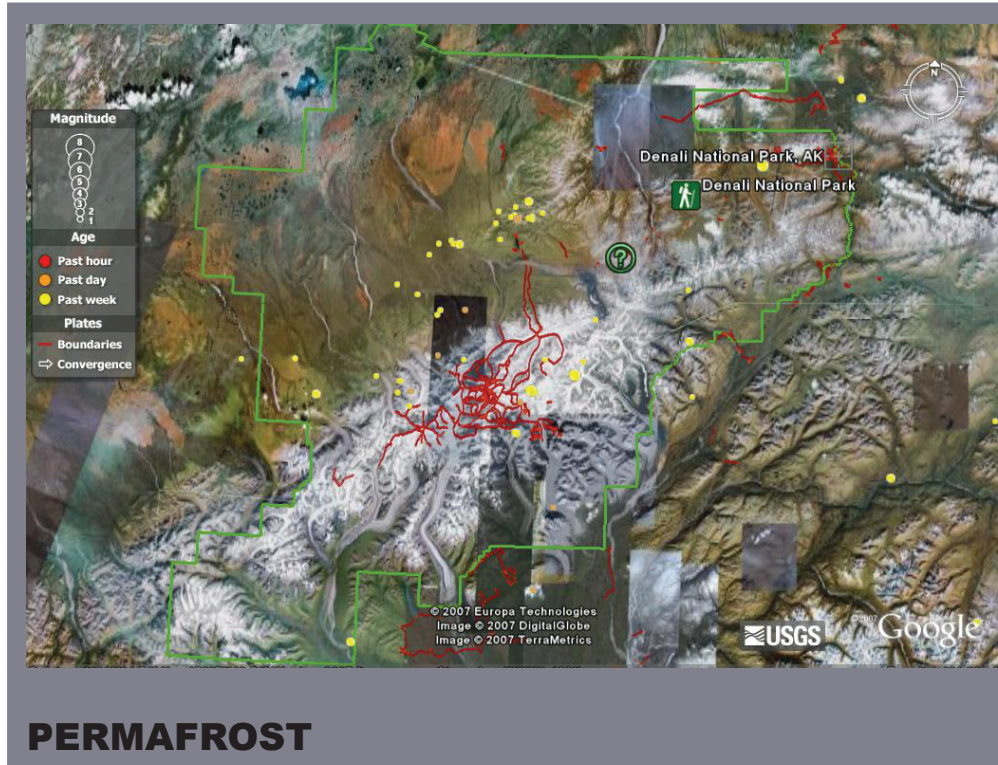
North Park - Is blocked by the Alaskan Range  
-The weather has less precipitation but greater change in temperature.

-Temperatures can reach:  
-50 Degrees F in the Winter &  
90 Degrees F in the Summer,  
but still freeze

### Average annual

Dew Point: 16 °F / -9 °C  
Precipitation: 0.31 in / 0.8 cm  
Wind: 2 mph / 2 km/h  
Gust Wind: 18 mph / 30 km/h  
Sea Level Pressure: 29.82 in / 1009 hPa

Month	Average high	Average low
JAN.	10	-8
FEB.	14	-6
MARCH	26	1
APRIL	38	15
MAY	53	29
JUNE	64	39
JULY	67	42
AUG.	62	39
SEPT.	51	30
OCT.	32	13
NOV.	17	-1
DEC.	12	-6



## PERMAFROST

Permafrost underlies one fifth of the world's land surface, pertaining to soil at or under the freezing point of water. Freezing can occur from extents of a few inches below the surface down to as deep as 1,000 feet.

## TUNDRA

Tundra is topsoil collected on rotten, fragmented rock moved by thousands of years of glacial activity, and contents such as mosses, ferns, grasses, and fungi fill that topsoil.

**DESIGN ARENA**  
PROGRAM



## DESCRIPTION

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS) have built a venture in the pursuit of science. They are to acquire research from both climatic and geological environments, relating to site specific conditions (ecology). The groups need a new research unit, that will adapt to varying sites based on site specific conditions. The extreme level of worst-case-scenerio is to be assumed in the design, in hopes that the research unit will provide them with optimal capacity and safety.

The research unit will hold two people and needs to adapt to multi-pitches, have capabilities for both wet and dry surfaces, able to cope with extreme conditions (i.e. hurricanes and earthquakes), and outfitted with the latest in technology to perform their research and obtain off-the-grid renewable energy.

## REQUIREMENTS

### PROGRAM:

The research laboratory shall include at minimum:

- be able to adapt to seasonal deployment conditions
- multi-use design for research unit stabilization
- be able to conduct research for climatic conditions and ecological conditions
- multi-tool design for research equipment
- provide enough space for (2) individual researchers simultaneously
- provide protection for researchers from prolonged exposure to the elements
- provide a sleeping area, work space, office space, kitchen area, and restroom facilities.
- Medium kitchen for moderate meals
- provide researchers with basic backpacking and first aid equipment
- permanently affix identification number and beacon for rescue operations

### PROGRAM:

Sleeping Quarters:	40 SQ. FT.
Kitchen Area:	100 SQ. FT.
Work/Office Space:	150 SQ. FT.
Restroom:	40 SQ. FT.
Leasure Space (Internal/External):	50 SQ. FT.
Mechanical Area:	100 SQ. FT.
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>480 SQ. FT</b>

## REQUIREMENTS (Cont...)

### SITE:

Three sites will be developed to show a range of environmental conditions that a research facility of this magnitude will be adversed to.

-Joshua Tree National Park, Twentynine Palms, CA 140 miles East of L.A., 175 miles North east of San Diego, and 215 miles South west of Las Vegas.

-Denali National Park, Denali Park, AK - Located in Talkeetna, AK, approximately 100 miles north of Anchorage, AK 240 miles north of Anchorage, AK, 125 miles south of Fairbanks, AK, and 12 miles south of Healy, AK

-Everglades National Park, Southern Tip of FL 5 miles south of Highway 41 (Tamiami Trail), on State Road 29, in Everglades City. From Interstate 75 (Alligator Alley), take exit 80 (State Road 29) south and proceed 20 miles to Everglades City

### CLIENT:

The research laboratory being developed, is for a joint venture between the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) for use within the National Parks Service (NPS)

The one-off system developed is to be particularized as expressive potential. Modernity has become more general, while time has proven to be abstract. The particular unit being developed will hint at the idea of otherness, while containing the capacity of its occupants.

This lab while taking on qualities of a research unit, will also show adaptability in regards to the type of change, degree, cause, experience, and method. The types of change that one facility will experience, has reference to the research units form, space, surface, mass, scale, material, color, transparency, or other.



# REQUIREMENTS (Cont...) BACKPACKING GEAR LIST

Gear	Manufacturer Model	Weight (oz)	
Boots	Civetta Extreme	122	
	Super Feet	X	
Overboots	Forty Below Purple Haze	46.5	
Gaitors	OR Expedition Crocs	13	
Socks	Liner Socks X2	3.5	
	Vapor Barrier Socks(x2)	6	
	Expedition Weight Socks X2	11.5	
Down Slippers	Feathered Friends	9	
SnowShoes	MSR Denali Ascents + Extensions	72	
	SnowShoe Straps	X	
Clothes-Top	Satum Suite-Midweight	19	
	Short sleeve cool-max	8	
	Midweight Top (Green)	8	
	Marmot Sharp Point Jacket	22.5	
	Monstone Uber Sauvage	32	
	Marmot 8000m Parka	52	
Clothes-Bottom	Underwear (X2)	9	
	Silkweight Bottom	6	
	Schoeller pants	15	
	Arc/Tenryx Pants	18	
	MHW Chugach	25	
	Clothes Suf Sack	3	
	Gloves/Mittens	Marmot Power Stretch Gloves	3
Windstopper gloves		8	
Black Diamond Shells		5	
Midweight Fleese		3	
OR Shells		6	
Marmot Expedition Mitts		13	
Hats	OR PS50 Light Balaclava	2	
	OR WindPro Balaclava	3	
	OR Windstopper Face Mask	1.5	
	Fleece Hat (OR Peruvian Hat)	2	
	Sahara Hat	3	
	Gloves/hat Stuff sack	4	
	Glacier goggles	4	
	Goggles	4	
	Nose Guard	X	
	Sleeping Gear	Moonstoon Cassin	80
		Thermarest	41
Thermarest Game Kit		5	
RidgeRest + Blue Sit Pad		13	
Bivy Bag		25	
Inflatable Pillow		2.5	

Gear	Manufacturer Model	Weight (oz)
	Thermarest Chair	10
Expedition Pack	AstraPlane	
	Shove it	
	Rabbit Runner	2
Stove/Eating	MSR XKG	18
	Stove Stand	3
	33oz Fuel Bottles	7
	New Style Pump	3
	Lighters	0.04
	Backpacker Baker	3
	XKG Repair Kit	2
Eating	Water Bottle Parka	12
	Water Bottles (Empty)	13
	Collapsible water bottle	3
	1 Lq Insulated Cup-Food	5.5
	Spoons	0.75
Ice Axe	Plus cord and Biner	21.5
	Ice Axe Guard-top - For Shipping	
Harness	BD Alpine Bod	13
	Pearabiner and Belay Device	5.2
	2 jumars	15
	2 Locking Biners (for Jumars)	4
	Chest Harness+Biner	6
	Rescue Pulley+Locking biner	4
	Chest Harness+Biner	6
	4 Wiregate biner	5
	2 Prussiks\ 2 single webbing	5
	Locking Biner x2	6
Gear sling webbing	3	
Shovel	Voile With Saw	34
	BD Sabretooth	38
Crampons	Crampon Pouch	6
	Avalanche Probe	10
	Picket+webbing+biner	38
Travel/Navigation	Sled	216
	Biner/Prussiks	X
	GPS	6
	Map/Compass	
	North Face Duffel Bag	80
	Or Duffel Bag	32
	Knife	5
REI Thermometer	On Pack	0.02
Medical Kit	Tylenol	5

Gear	Manufacturer Model	Weight (oz)
	2nd Skin Pad	X
	Diamox	X
	Ginggo Biloba	X
Personal Gear	Spare Contacts	29
	Spare Glasses	X
	Contact Solution	X
	Eye Drops	X
	Nail Clippers	X
	Ear Plugs	X
	Wet Wipes (24)	X
	Tooth Brush	X
	ToothPaste	X
	Lipscreen SPF 15+ (X2)	X
	Small Sunscreen	2.5
	Food Powder	X
	Sunscreen SPF 35	X
Hand Cream	X	
Dermatone Face cream	1	
Nalgene Flat Bottle-Pee Bottle	3	
	Toilet Paper	
Entertainment	Book	8.5
	Cards	4.3
	Journal+Pen	11.5
	Digital Camera	25
	Stand+Spare batteries	X
	Spare AA Lithium Batteries	8
	CD Player+Headphones+Cd's	24
	Binoculars	7
	Extra 8mil cord	9
	Ski Poles	22
Group Gear	Repair Kit	14
	Spare Gaitor Strap	x
	8 Stakes for tent	10
	Food/seasonings	848
	Lemon Pepper Seasoning	1.5
	Butter - 1 Pound	
	<b>Total Weight</b>	<b>2401.81</b>
	<b>Travel Expenses</b>	
Alaskan Airlines	Plane Ticket to/from Anchorage	
Alaskan Airlines	Extra Luggage (Sleds)	
Denali Overland	Shuttle Service	
Talkeetna Air Taxi	Flight to/from Glacier	
National Park	Permits	

# PERFORMATIVE REQUIREMENTS DYNAMIC GEAR

Skids  
Pontoons  
Appendages  
Claws  
Tractor Tires  
Snowmobile Treads  
Telescoping Feet

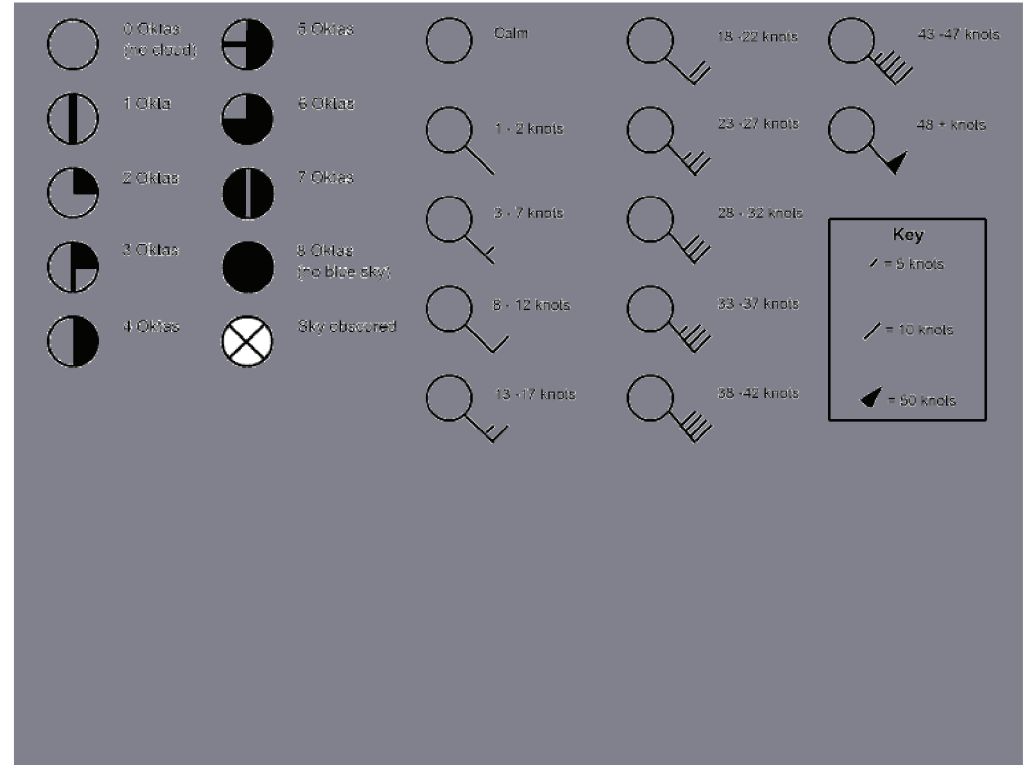
Crampons  
Hull  
Air Shell (Buoyancy)

# PERFORMATIVE REQUIREMENTS ACTIVE GEAR

Thermometer [ Climatic ]  
Barometers  
Rain Gauge  
Weather Vanes  
Barograph  
Hydrometer  
Weather Radios  
Antenna  
Receiver / Transmitter  
Processor / Display  
Geophones  
Gravity Meter  
Roll-Along Switch Box  
Betsy Seismic Gun  
Sercel Eagle Opseis 388  
Short Period Borehole Seismometer  
Voltage Regulator  
GPS Units

# PERFORMATIVE REQUIREMENTS PASSIVE GEAR

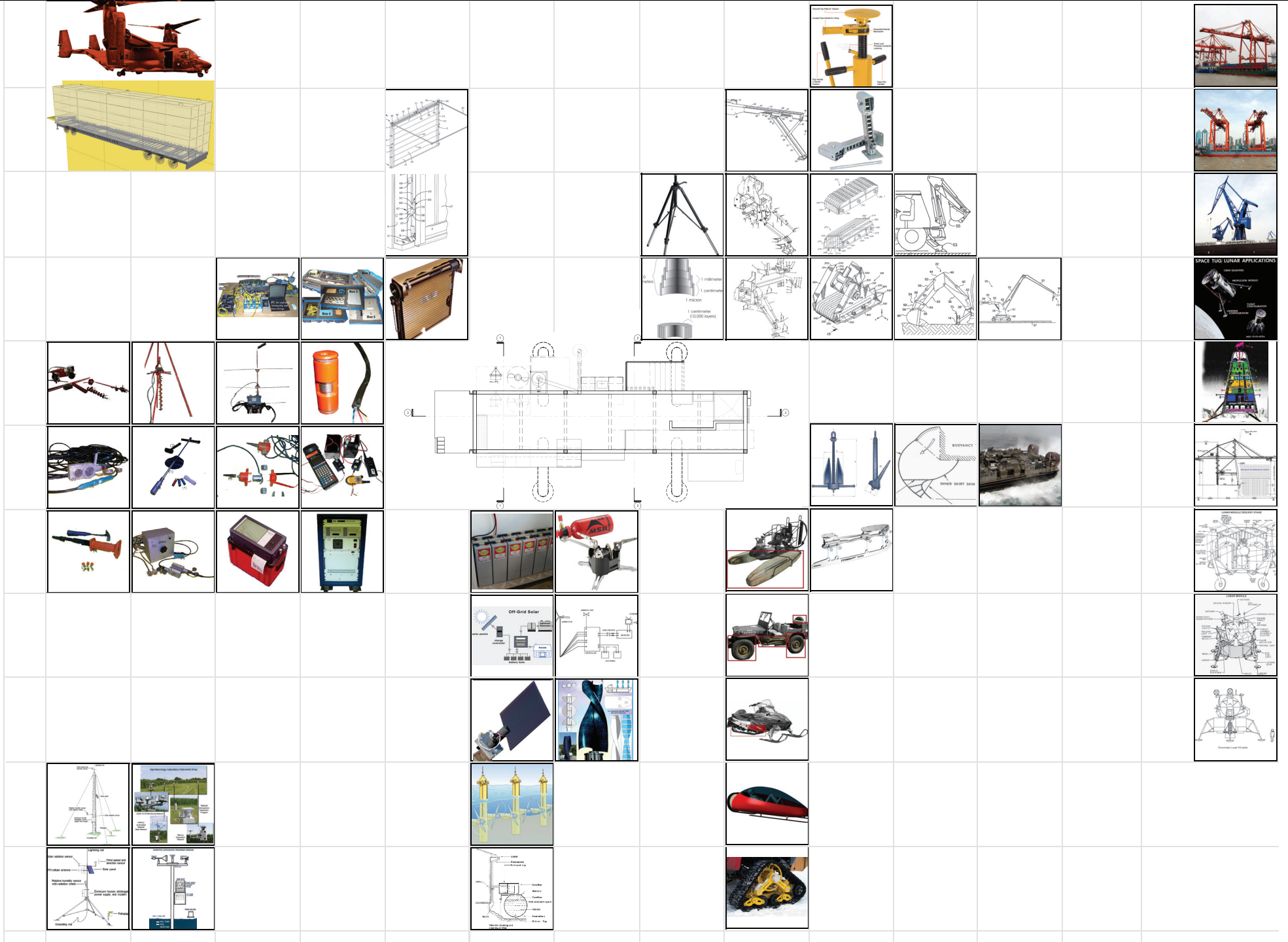
PV Panels  
Wind Turbine  
Water Collection System  
Back-up Power (Generation)



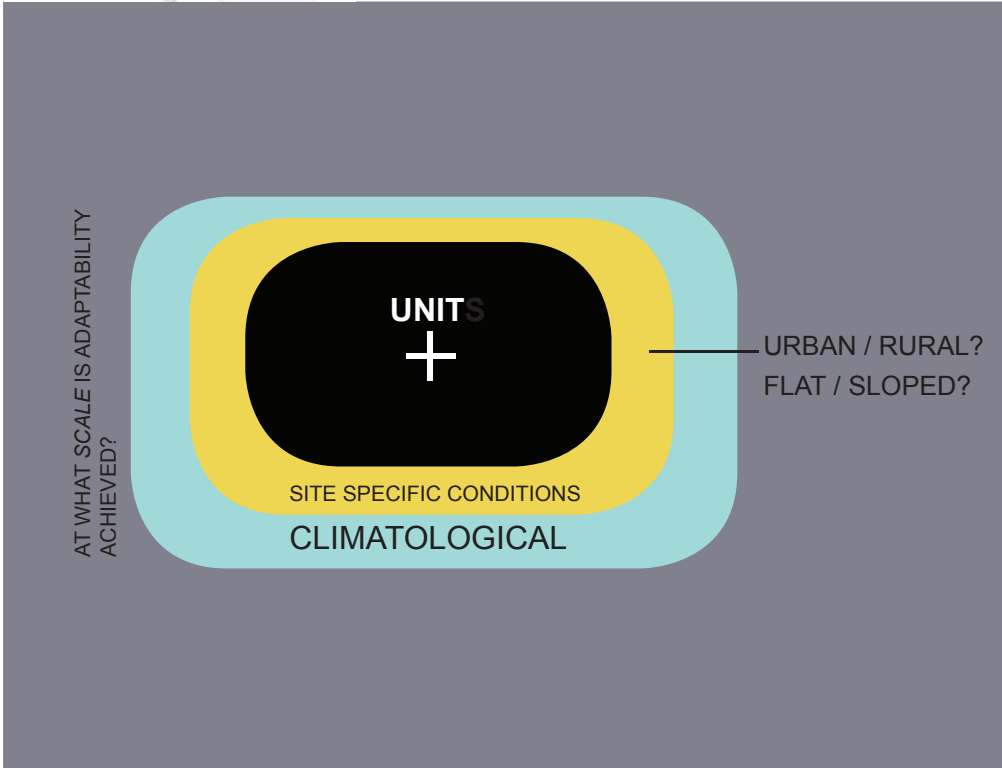
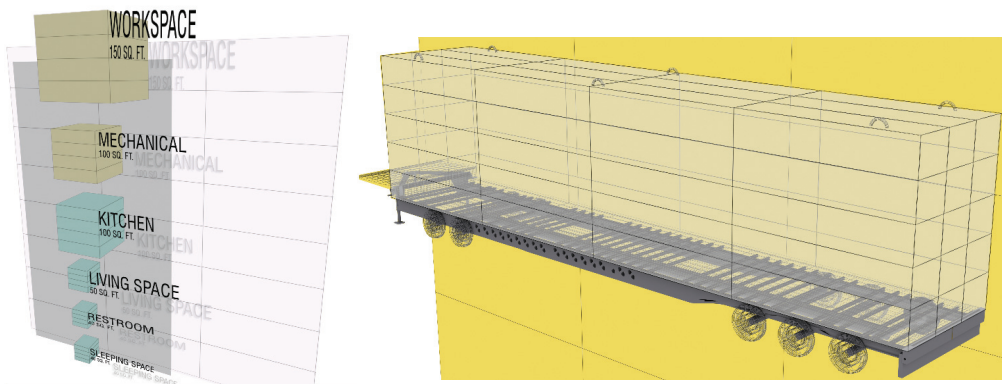
## CONCLUSION:

By beginning to understand what the program would be and what the components were, I could visualize basic space requirements. The tools that were to be used could begin influence or even become part of the design. Laying down the framework of the proposal and client gave me a better started to define transportation problems, the frame with which to standardize the design process, and how adaptability would start to become incorporated.

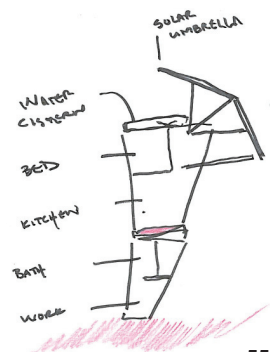
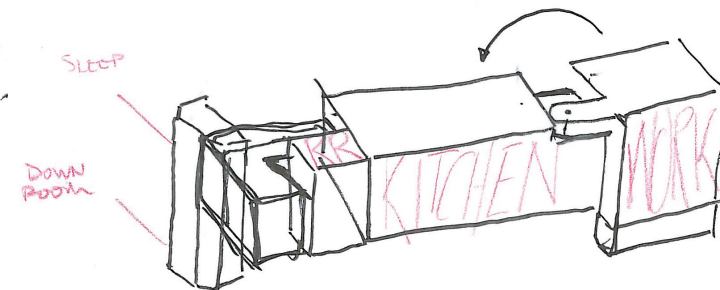
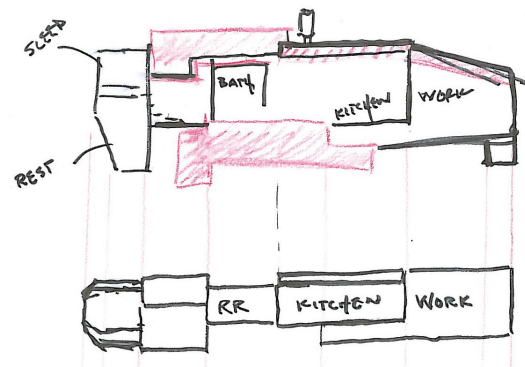
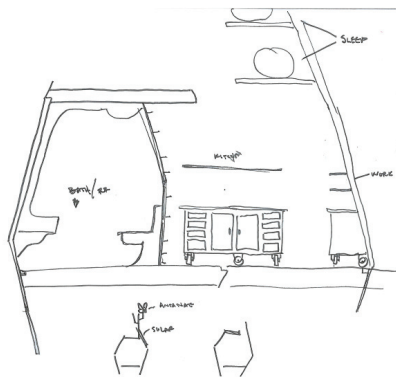
# COMPONENT PARTS

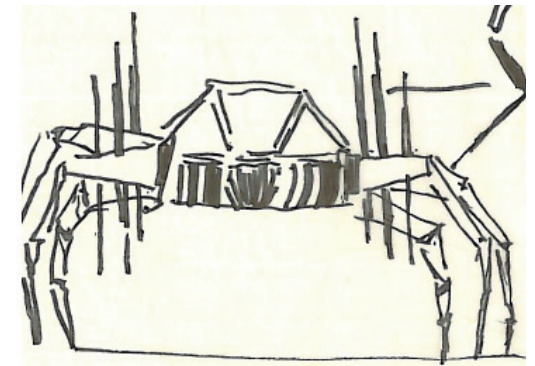
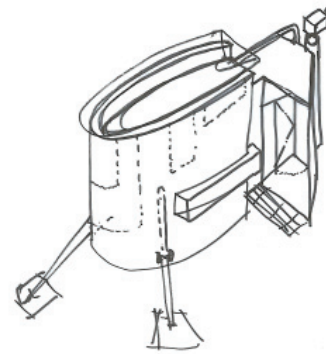
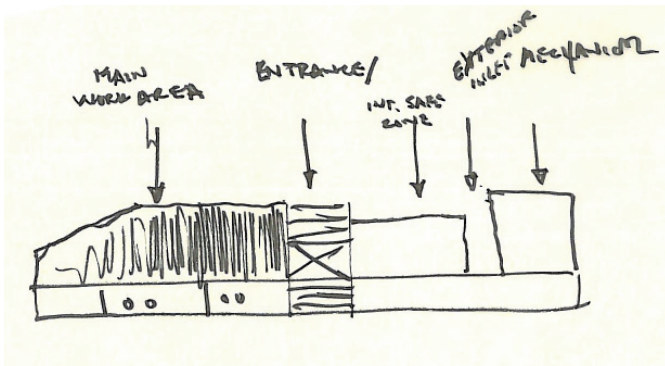
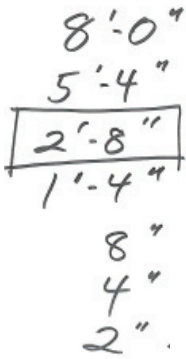


**INITIAL DESIGN**  
CONCEPT



When starting the schematic design phase a few objectives were necessary before moving ahead. First was to lay out the program in terms of general sizing standards. Next, I began to consider the terms in which this unit would be deployed. My basic idea was that of a truck bed trailer, without it having to be characterized as wide-load. Finally, an initial strokes were taken toward which the program would fit in a volumetric space.



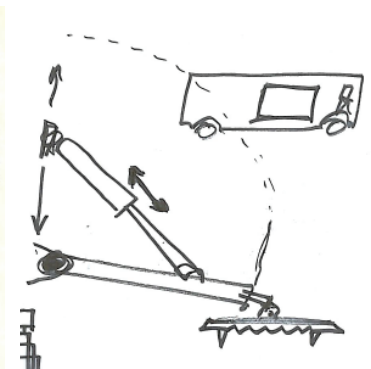
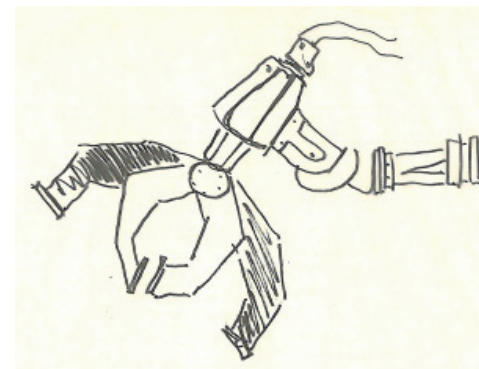
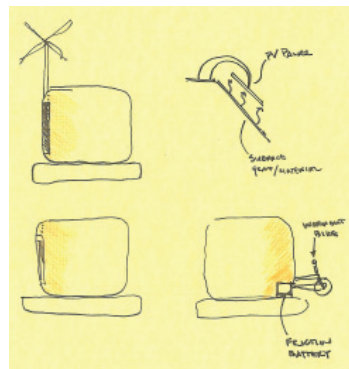


After figuring out the general spatial program requirements, there was need to standardize the base structure not only for time sake, but also from an engineering point of view. The frame that was to come would be the base for the parameters that could be achieved by the inhabitants, and for the equipment this research unit was to hold. The structure was to be constructed to have ample storage room not only for tools, but personal supplies, and weight requirements for deployment.

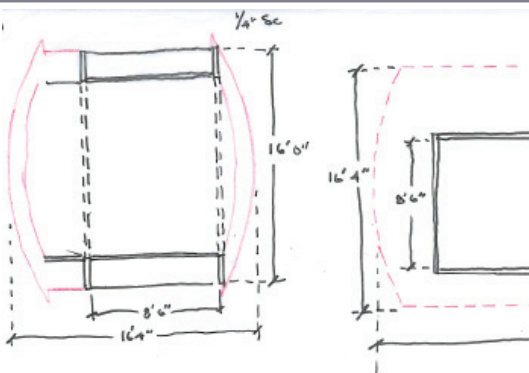
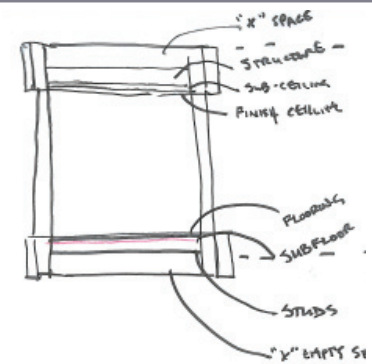
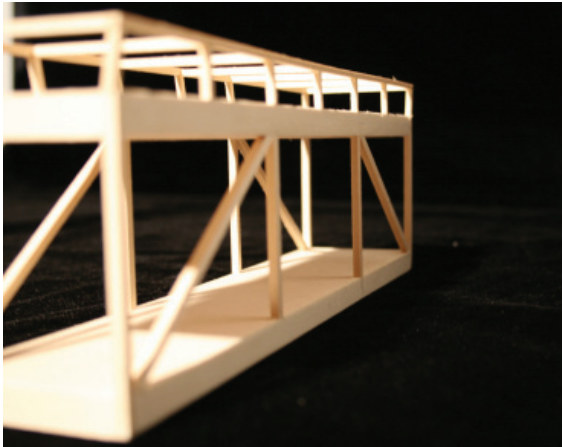
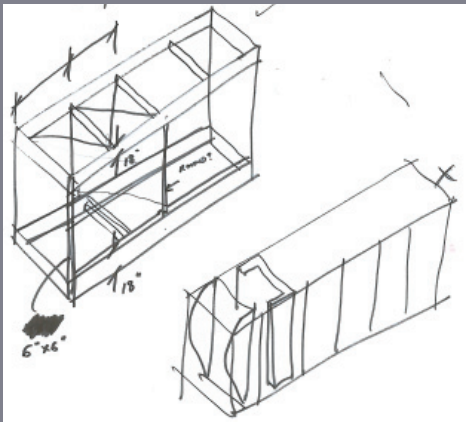
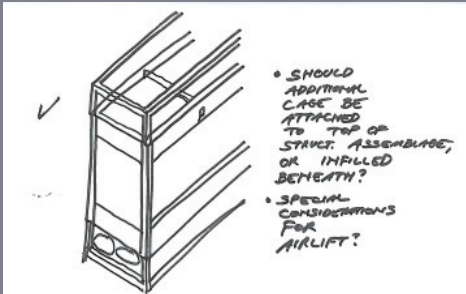
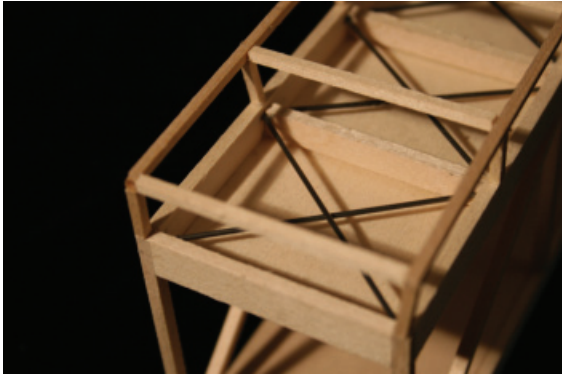
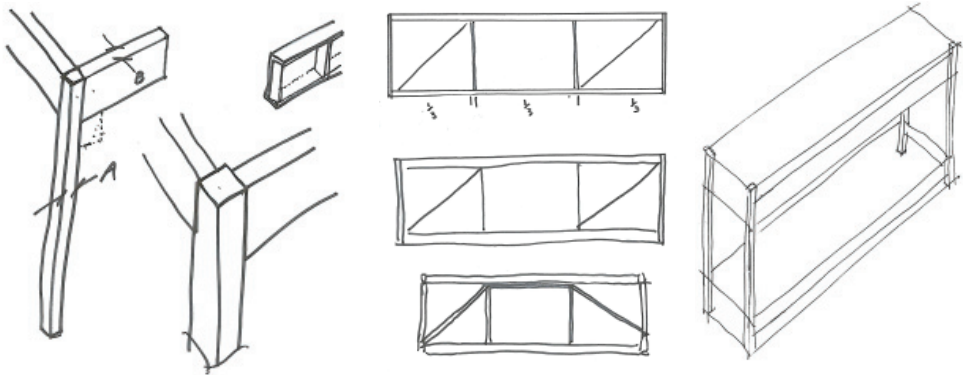
In terms of the frame a standard numbering system was devised so that bay were equal to provide a free canvas to attached the design if the structure. This would limit the panels to be sized accordingly, openings and closings to be consistent, and free the main spaces which the scientists were to inhabit to be open for any number of reasons. At the same, the structure would have to coexist with the componentry which I was also trying to work in.

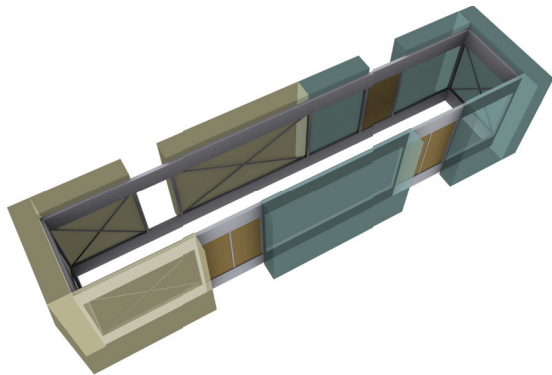
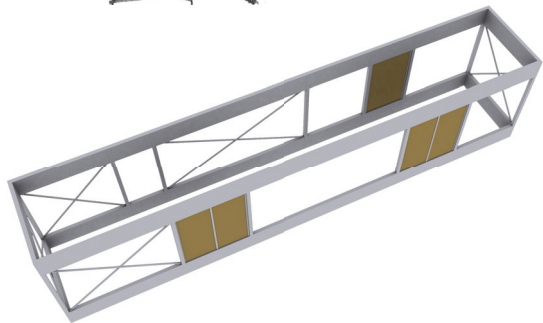
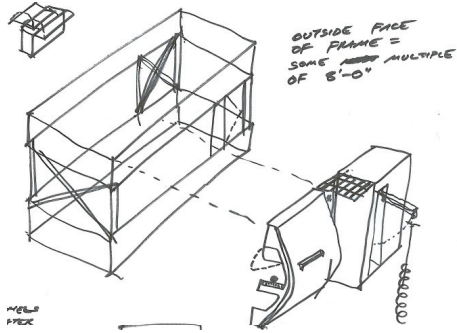
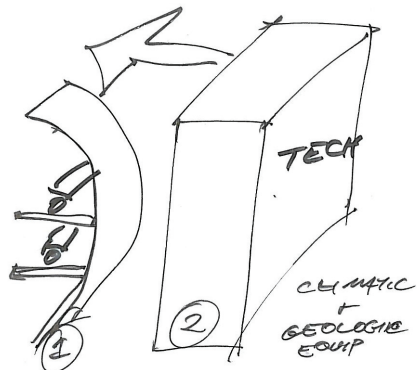


Initial sketches on expressive forms + componentry

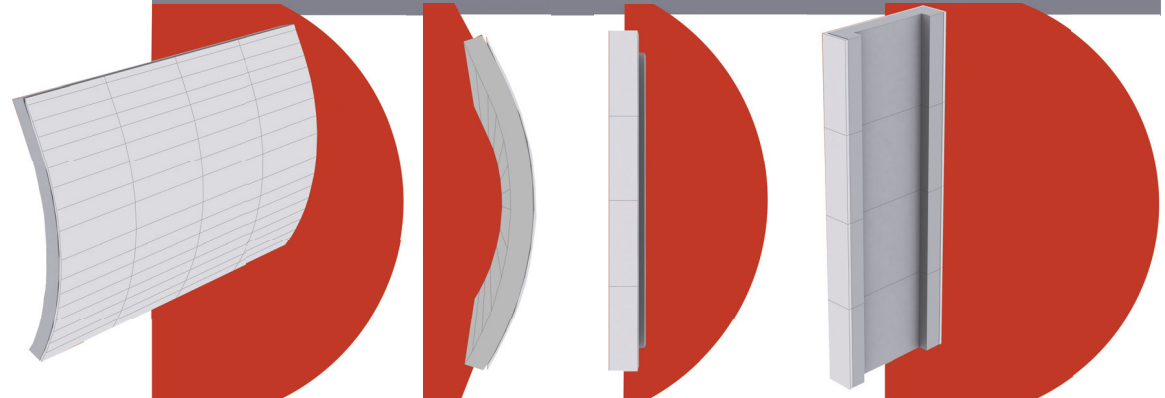
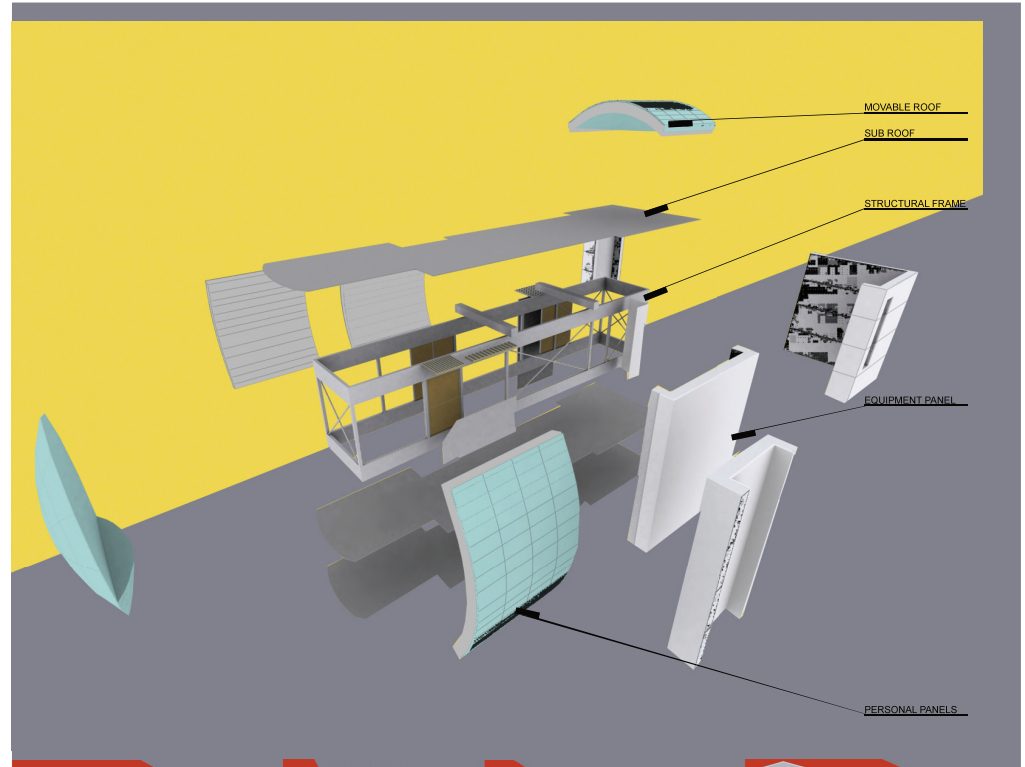


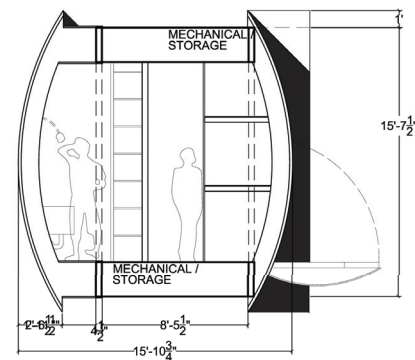
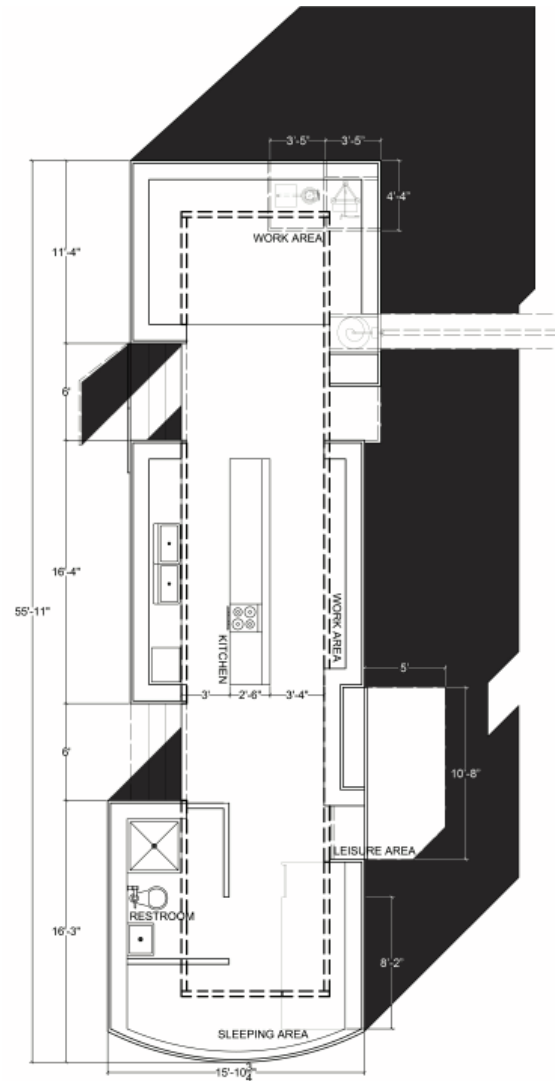
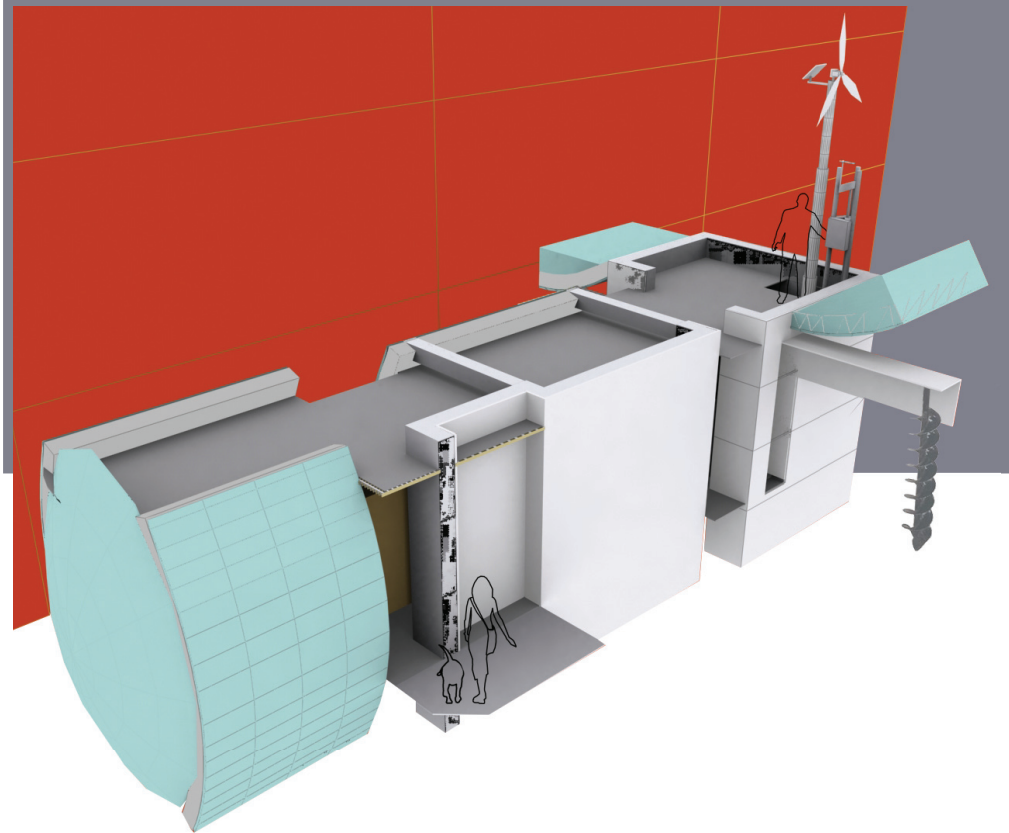
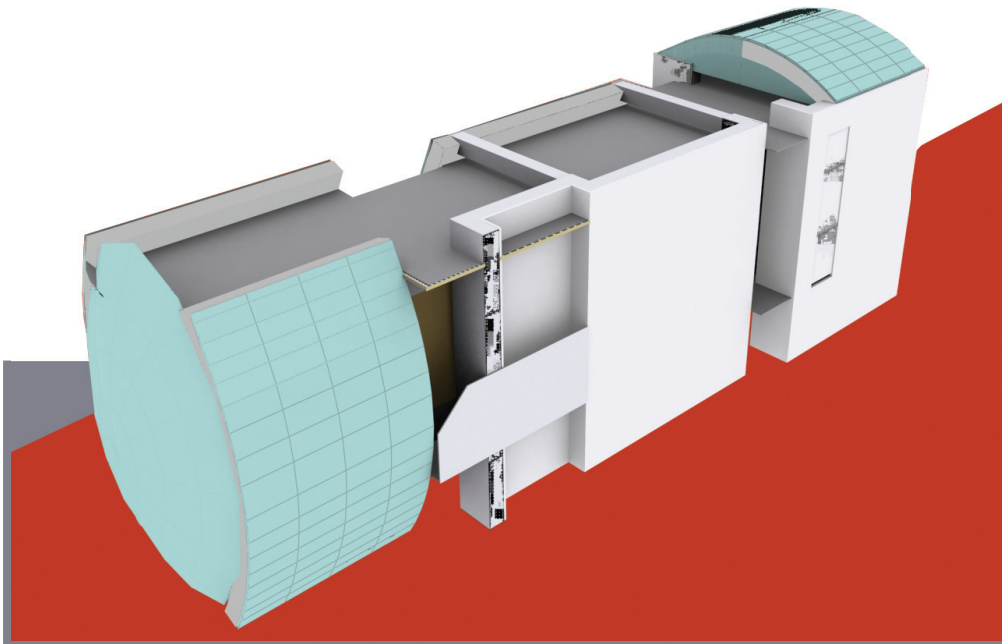






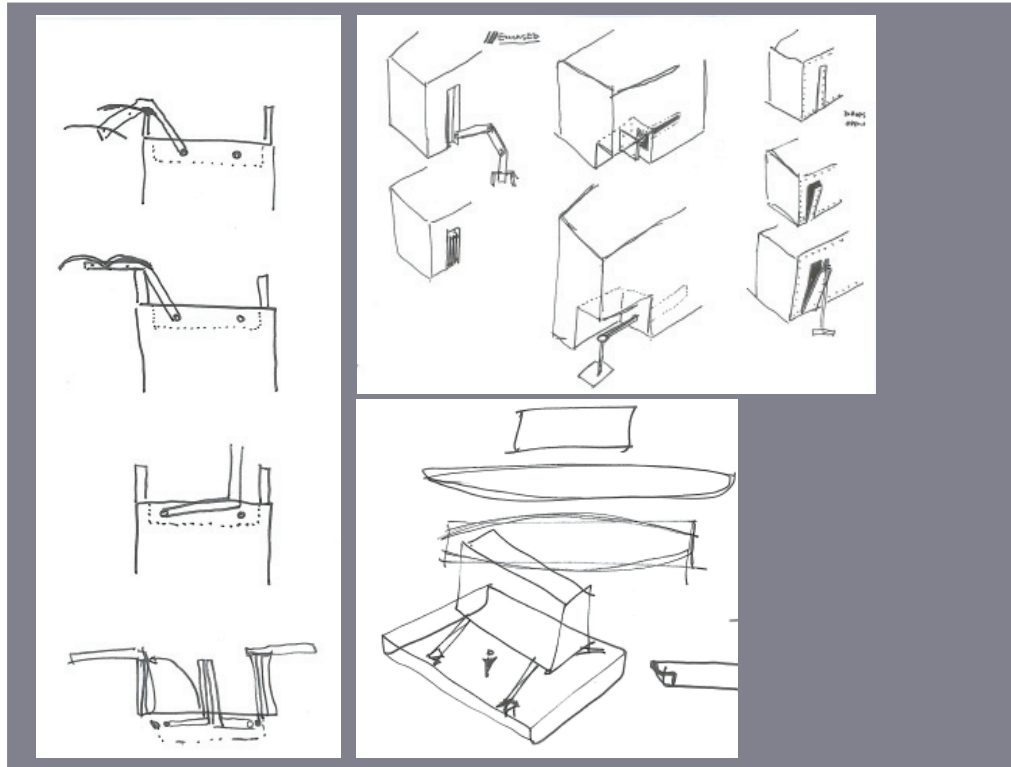
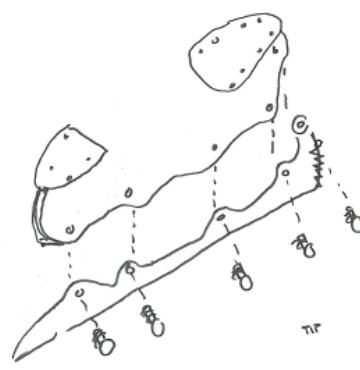
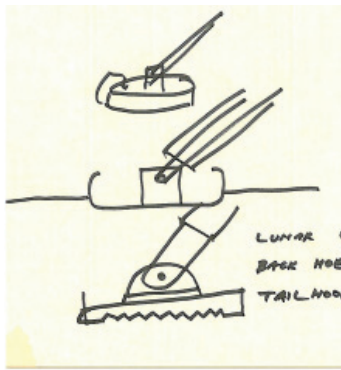
The last objective of this semester was to address the paneling system. The goal was to produce two types of expressive panels that could begin to tell a story of what this unit was doing or maybe what it was trying to achieve? From my understanding this panels would be duplicated over the structure depending what was happening on the interior. I came to the conclusion that one would contain the look of a scientific panel, and the other would have some qualities of being domestic.



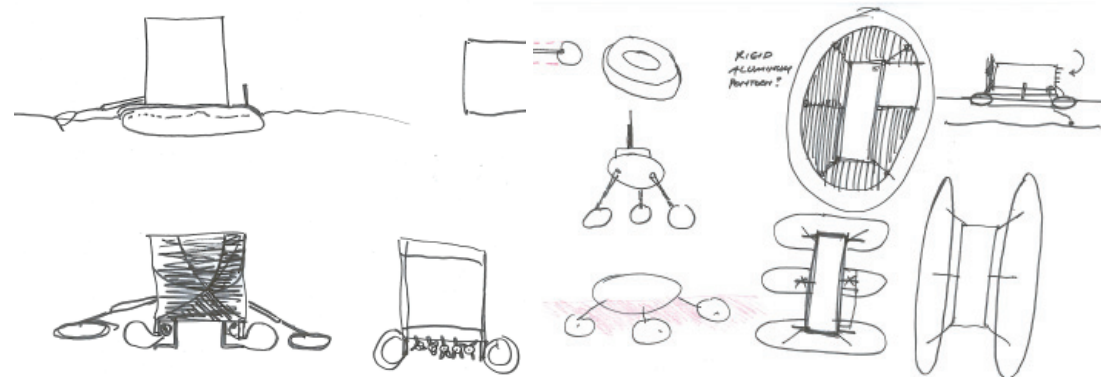


**CULMINATION FIRST SEMESTER**

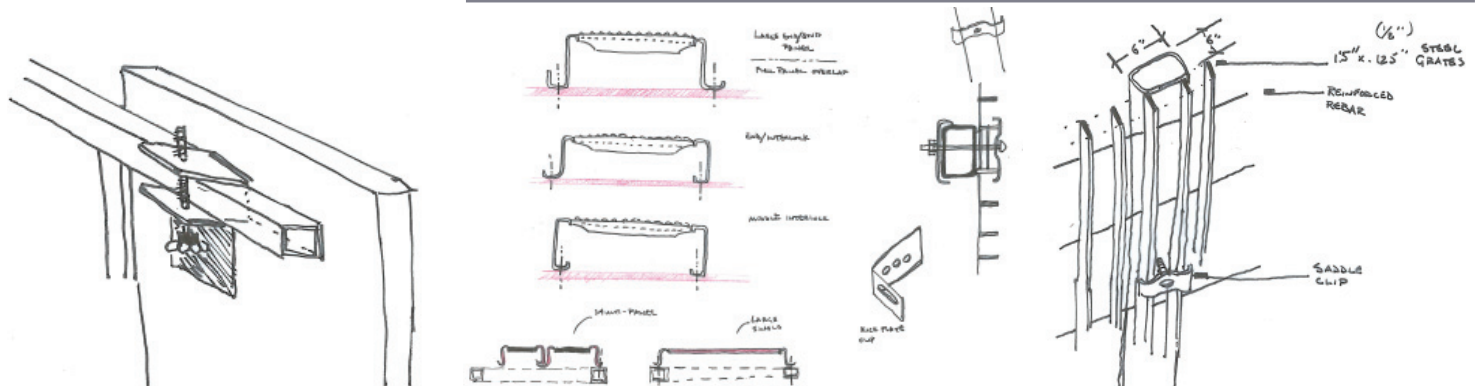
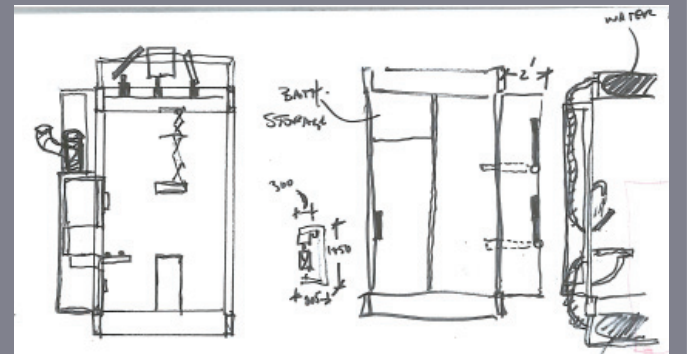
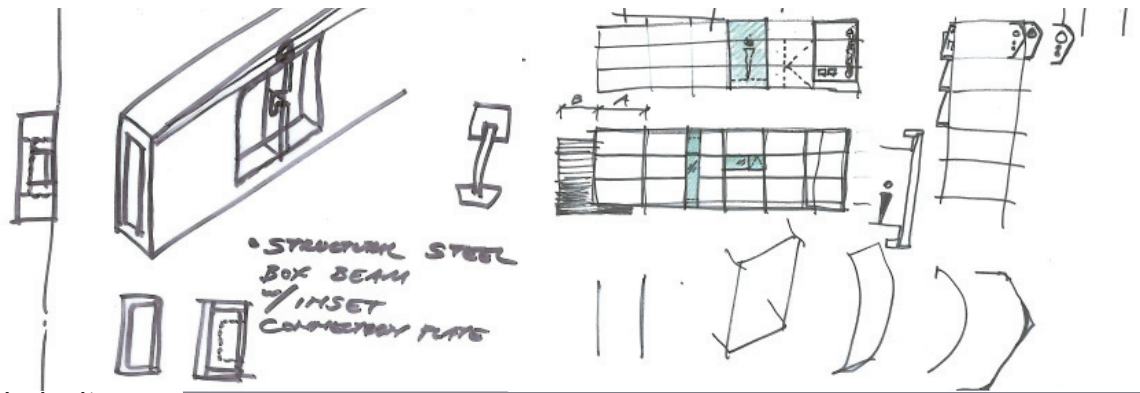
**FINAL DESIGN**



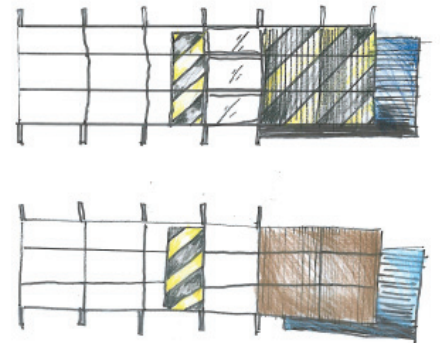
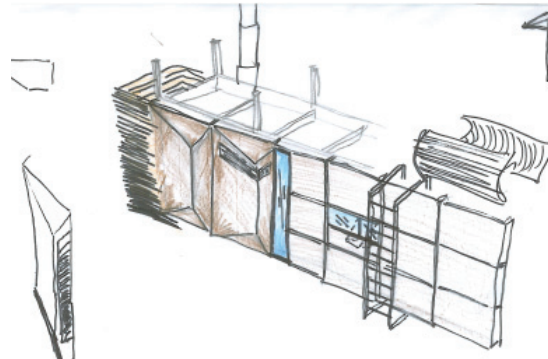
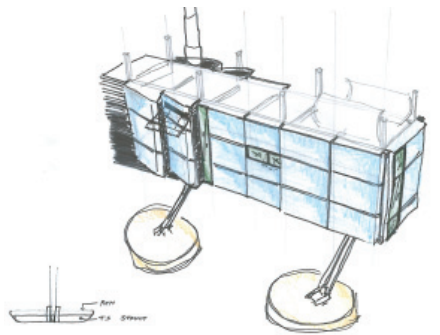
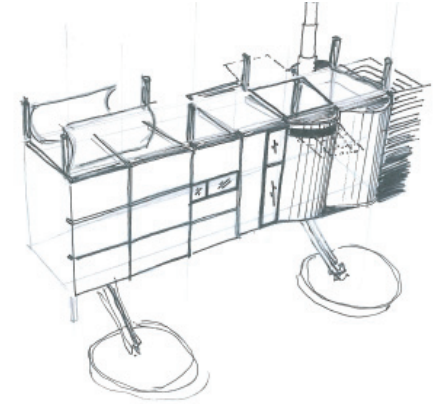
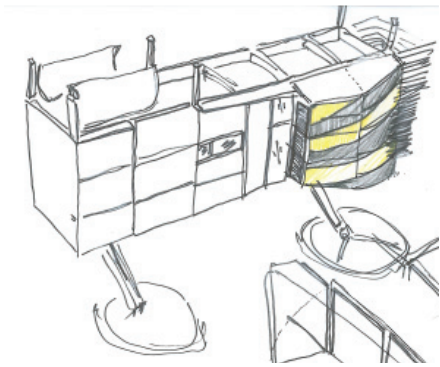
Entering second semester began a drive of full on design. Before anything else the frame had to be signed off on, and the rest of the equipment chosen. Each component had to be inspected for further custom design and variation after variation were pumped out. The componentry drove the design, but the structure drove the project. In the end it was a fine tuning to mesh the structure and equipment together.



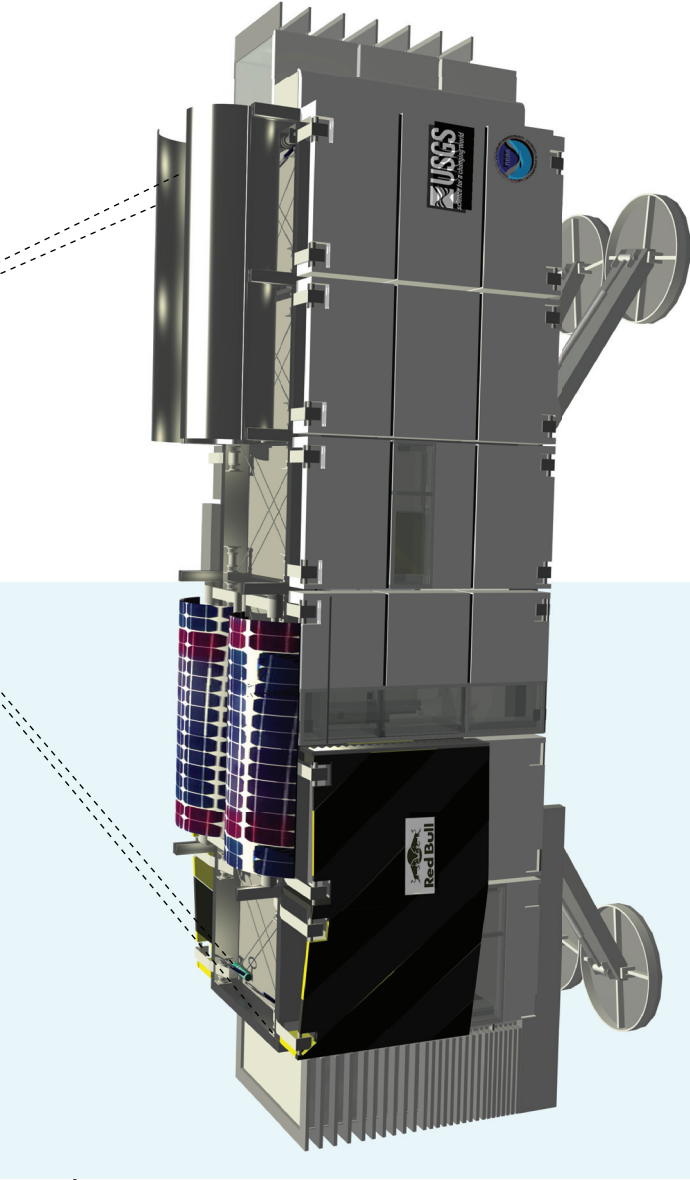
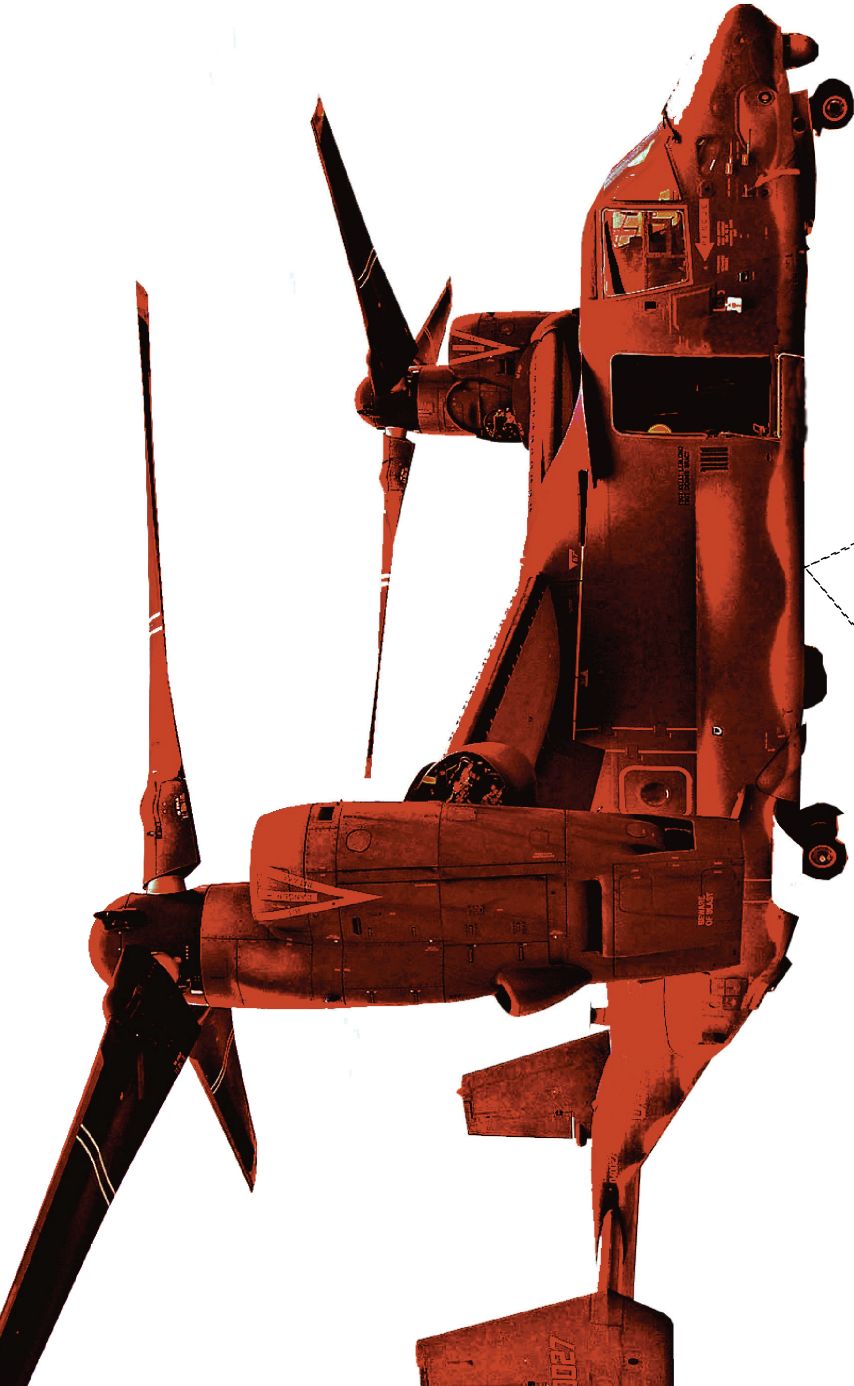
When looking at the research unit as a whole, it was important to start to develop an enclosure. This enclosure, after being developed would also start to direct openings, connections in terms of nuts and bolts, and how the research unit overall would read. This process was very tedious looking at everything from materiality, to weight, durability, and the like. The technical part was most satisfying, getting into the cracks and figuring how everything would connect to form a new whole.



Last but not least, it was time to work solely on different types of paneling systems and how the structure would read. This also allowed time to think of how this unit would be conceived in terms of color, technicality, or even expressiveness. Multiple design features were considered including, warning stripes, vents, windows, plastic paneling, metal paneling, etc.

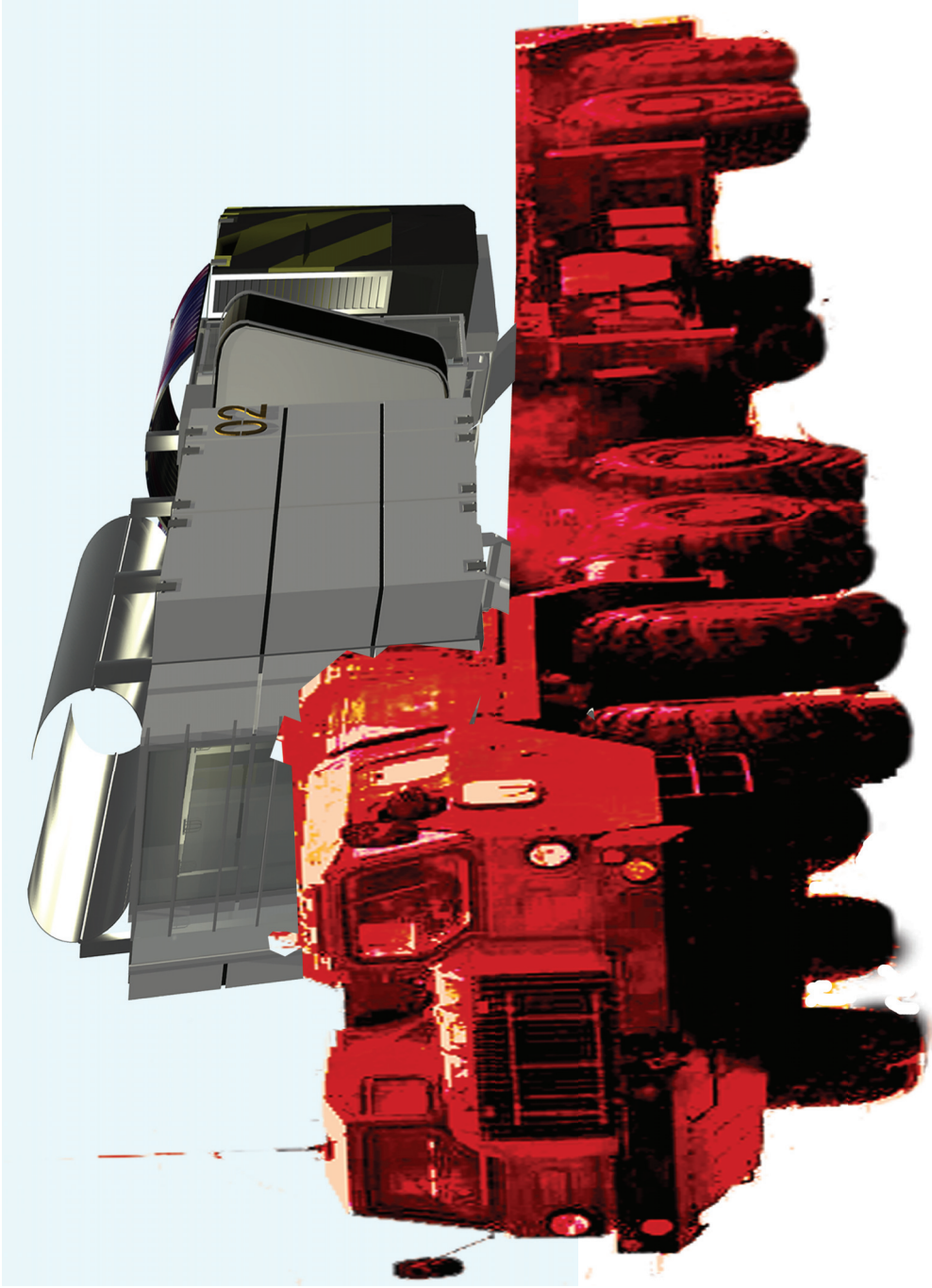


# DEPLOYMENT



AIR





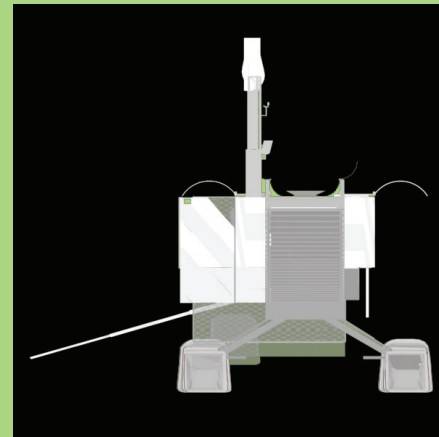
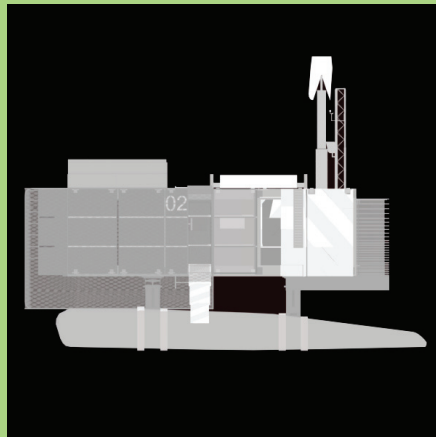
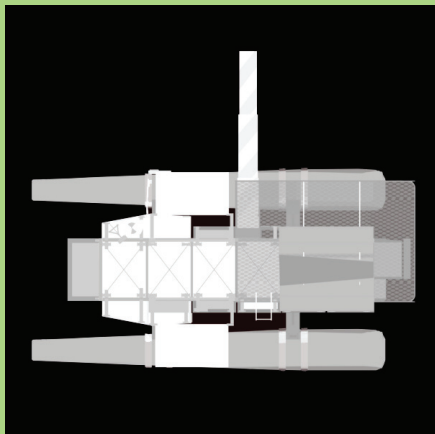
LAND



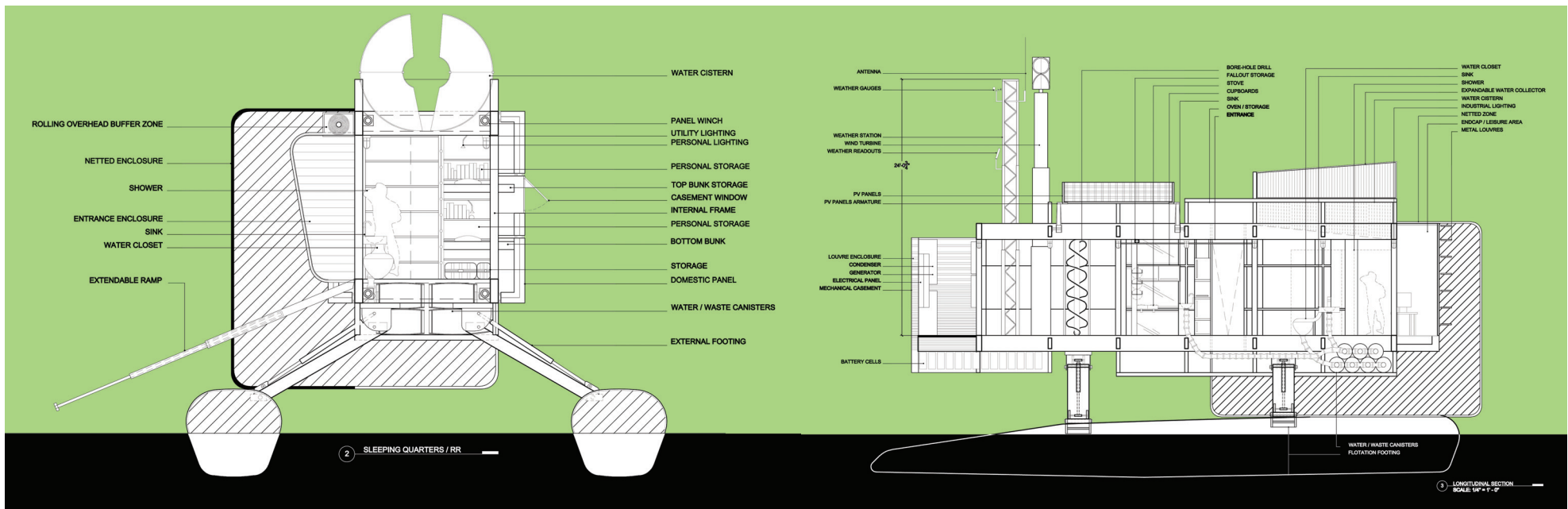
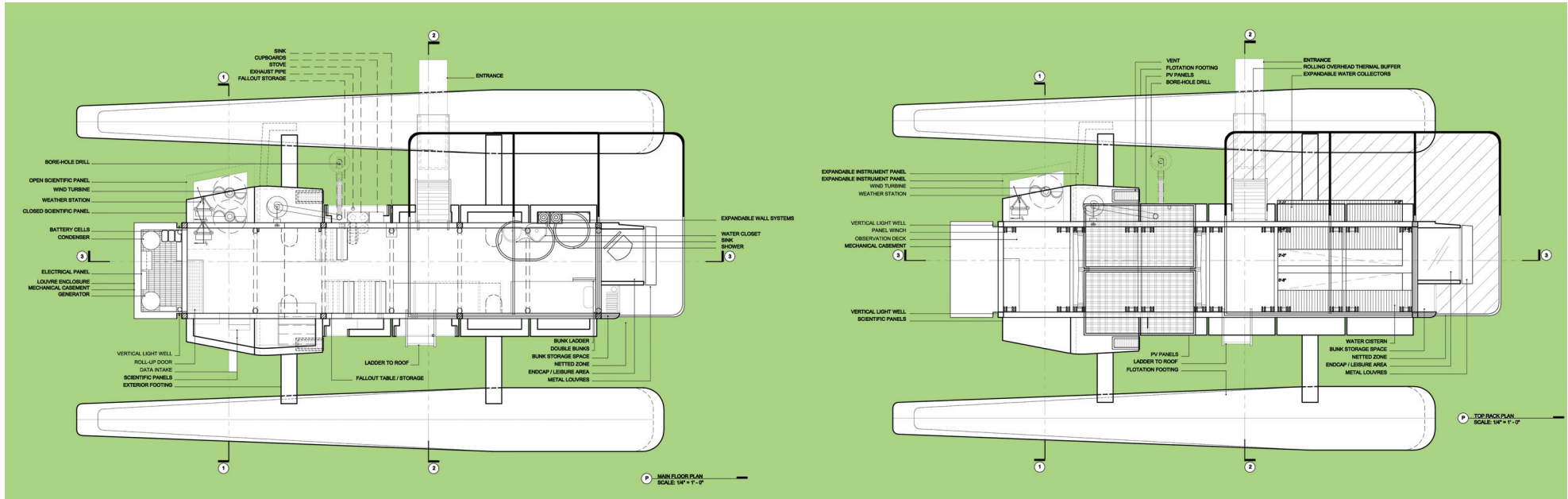
SEA



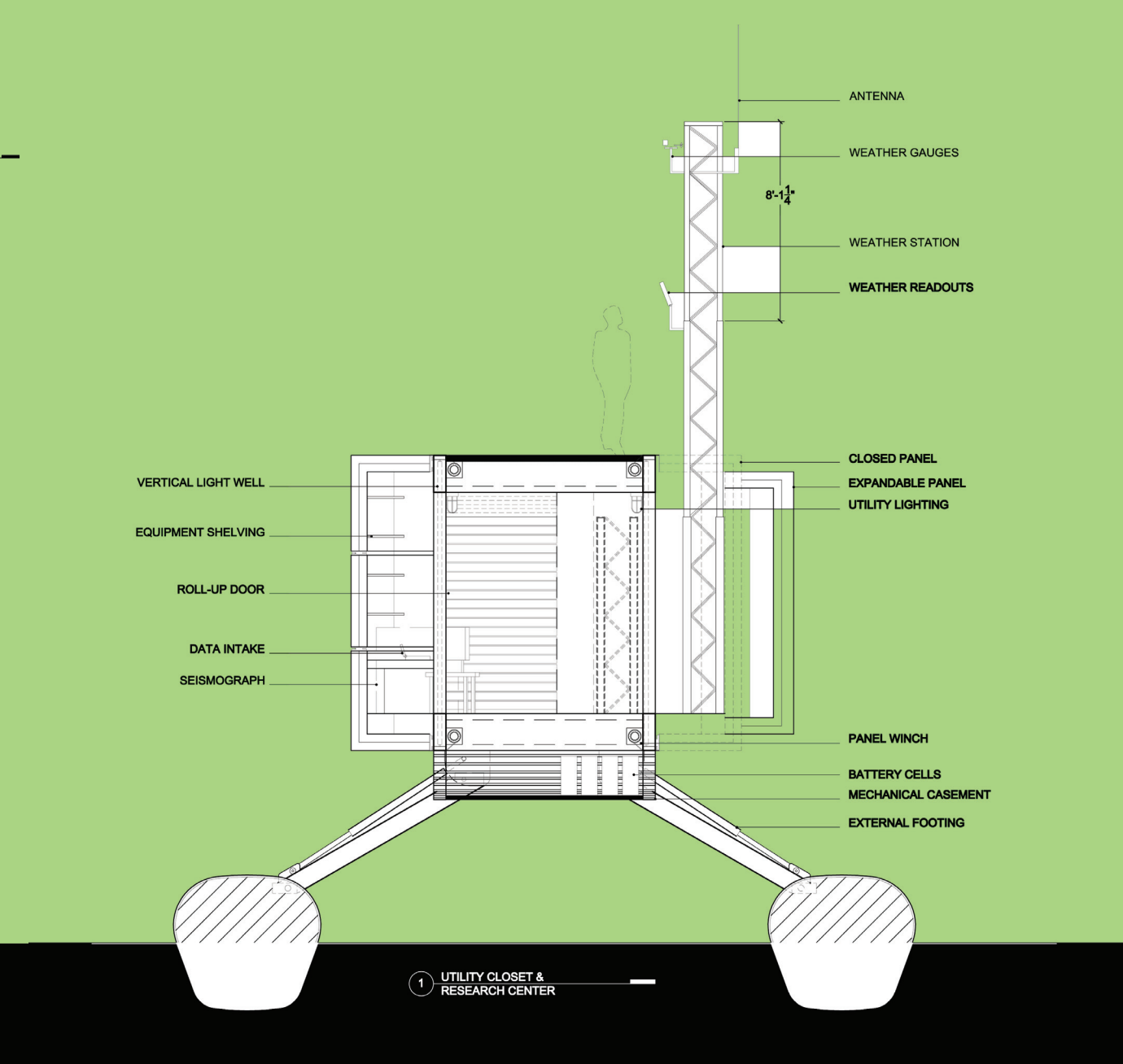
# EVERGLADES NATIONAL PARK



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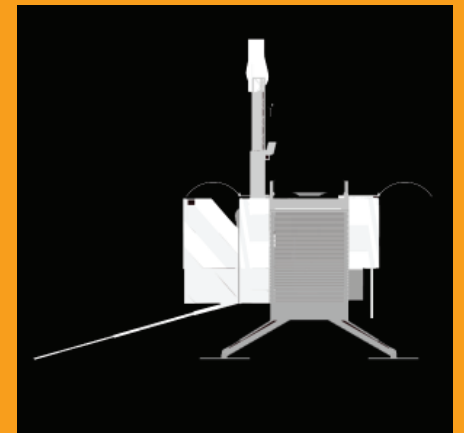
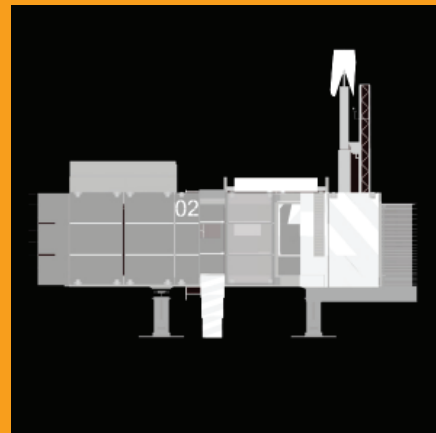
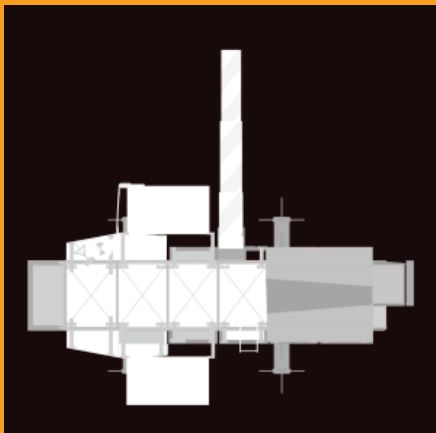


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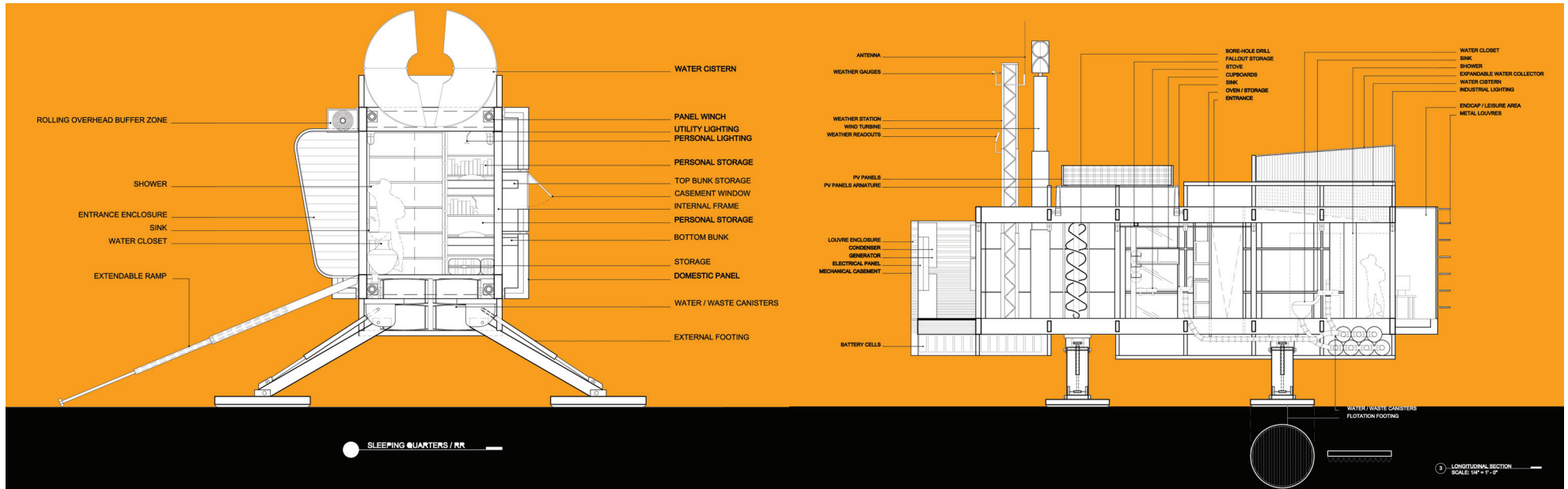
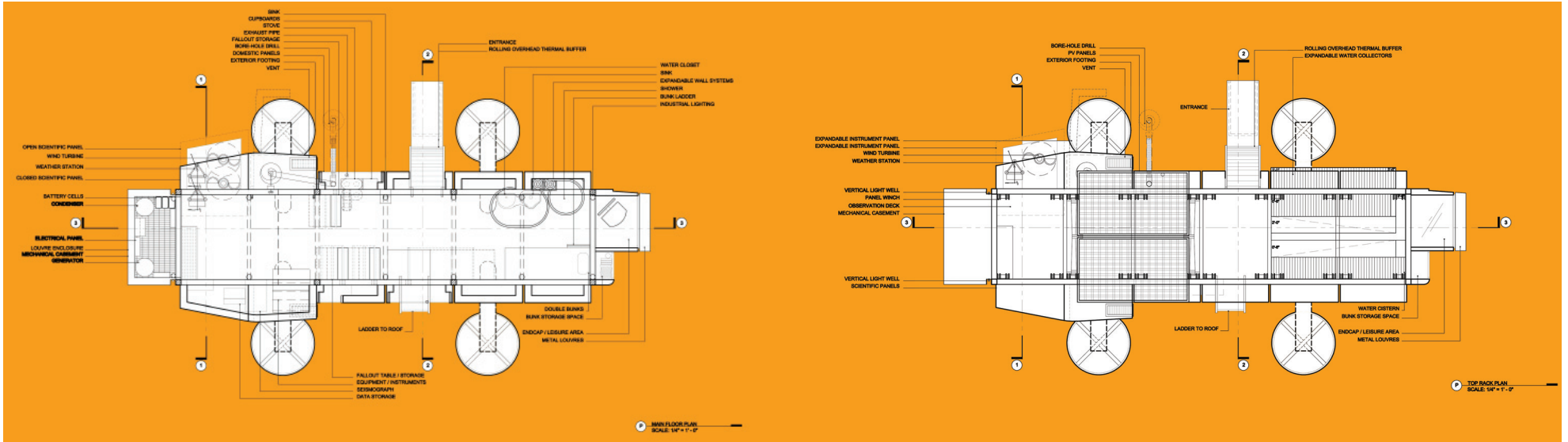




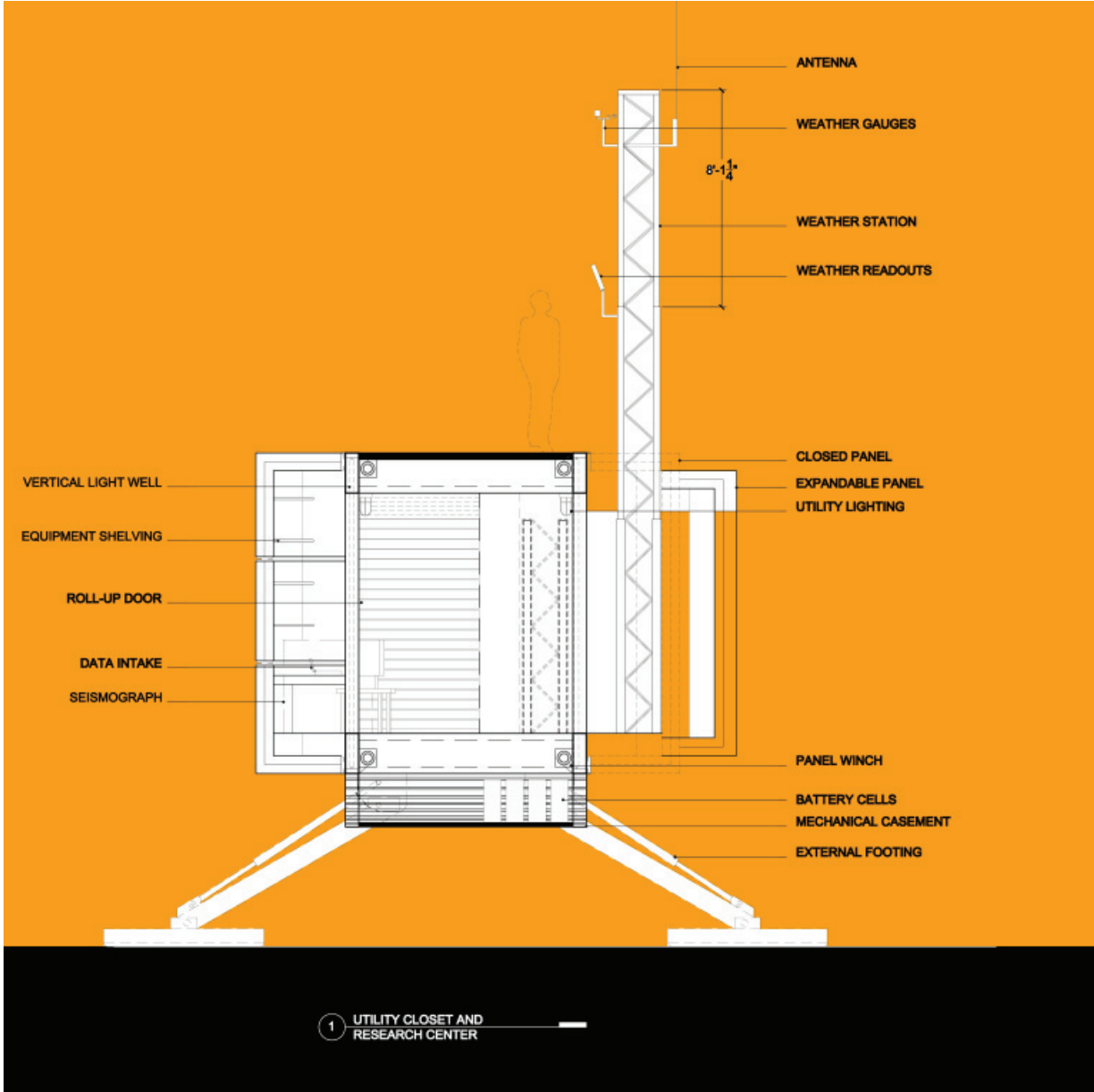
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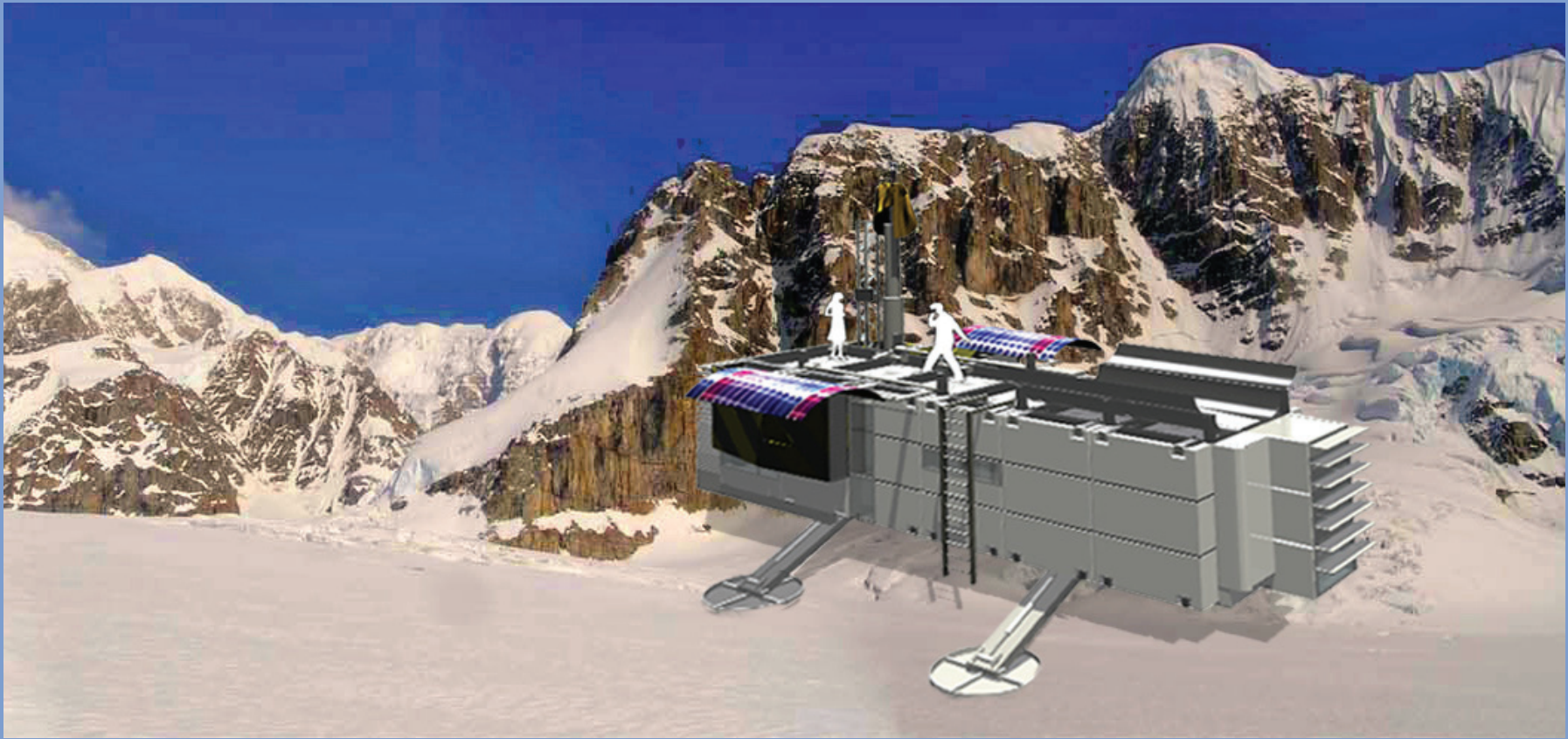


# JOSHUA TREE NATIONAL PARK

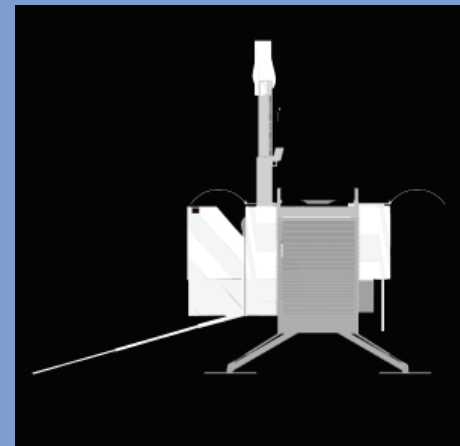
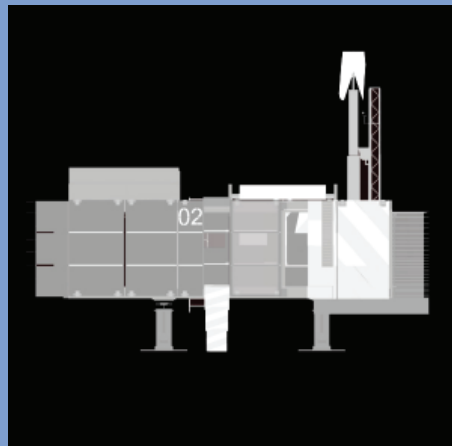
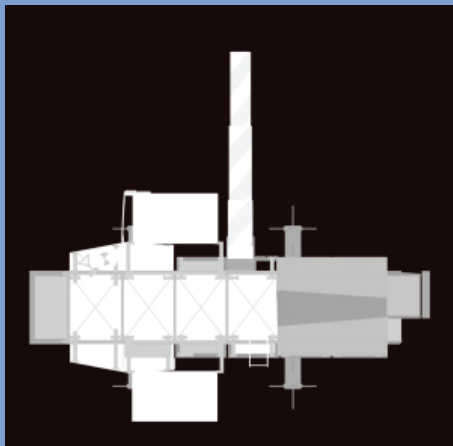


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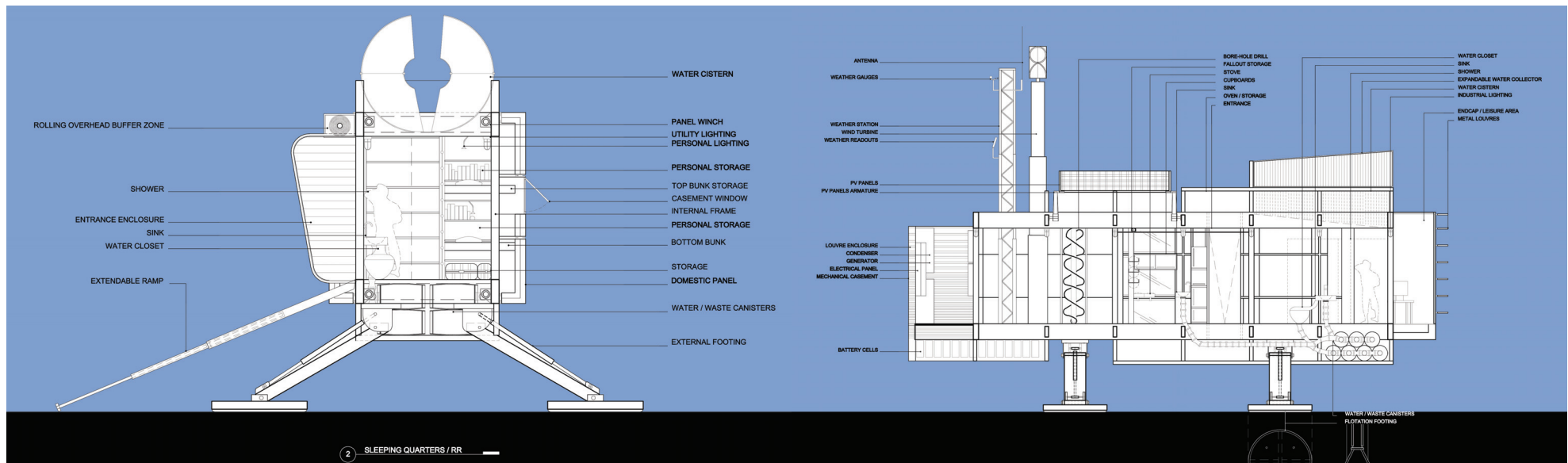
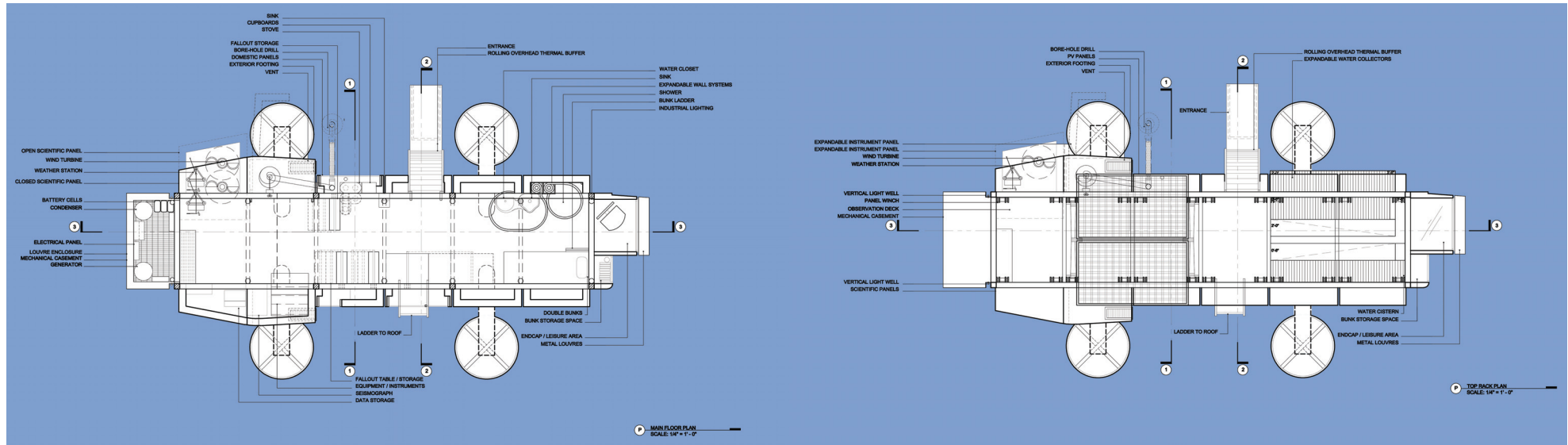


## DENALI NATIONAL PARK

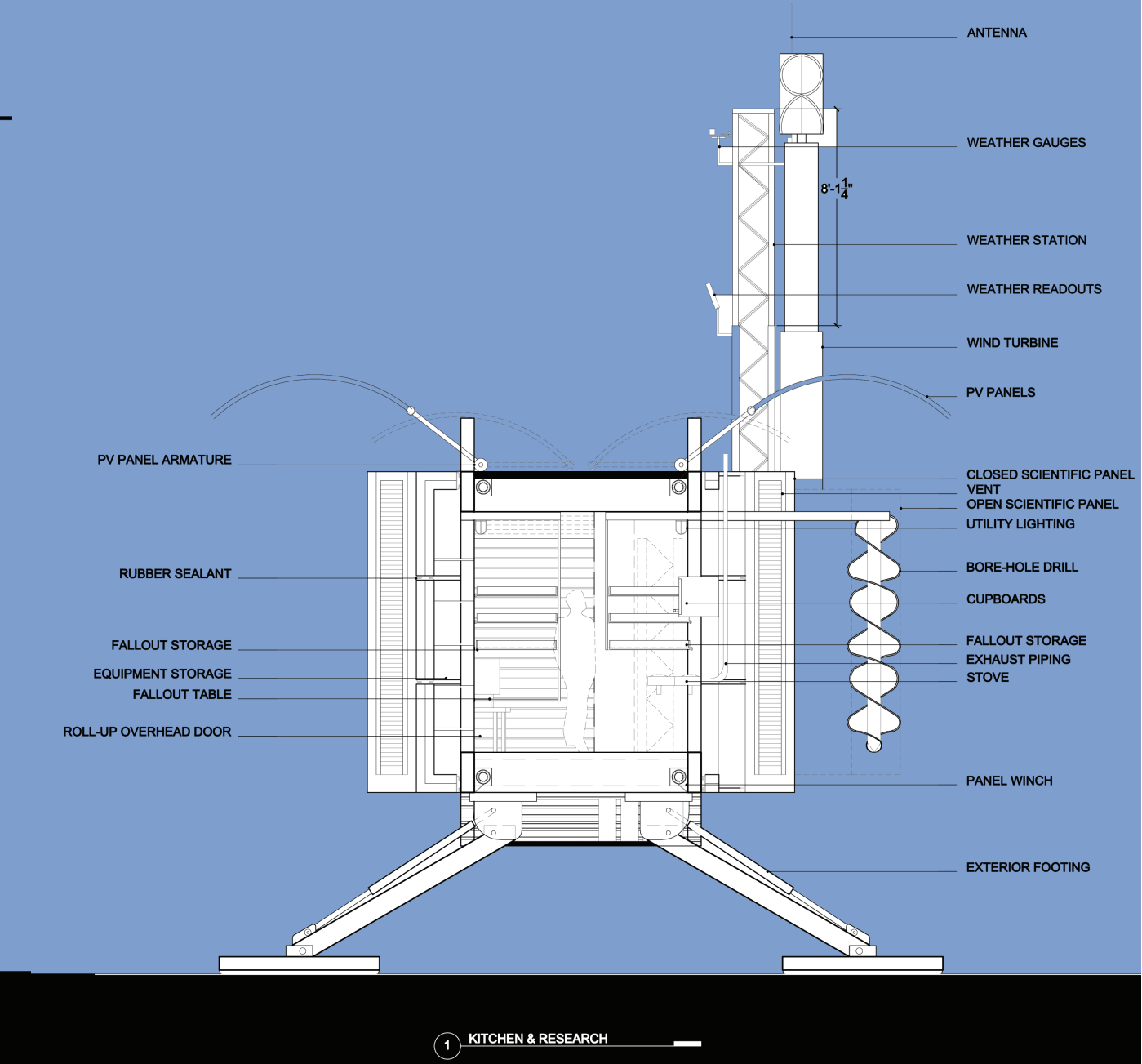




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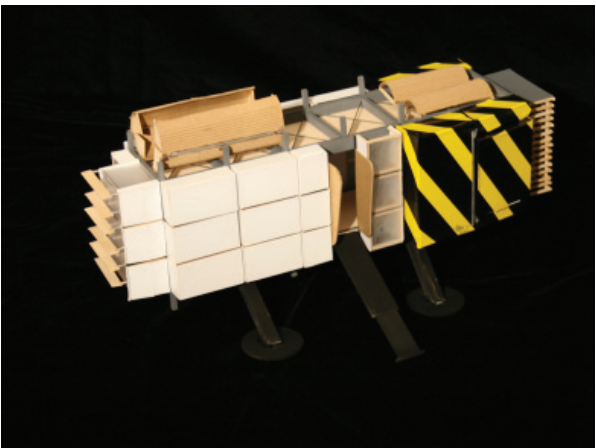
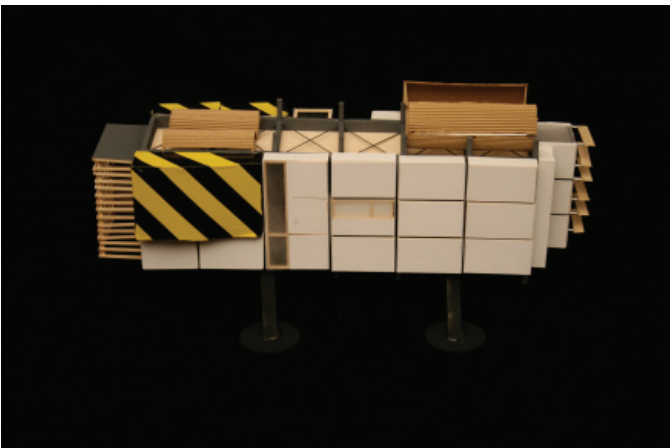
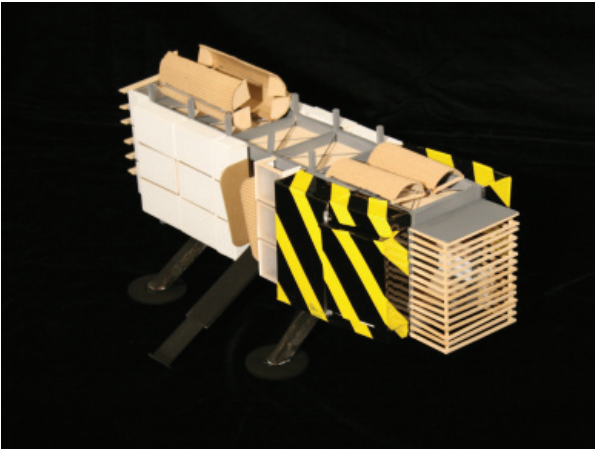
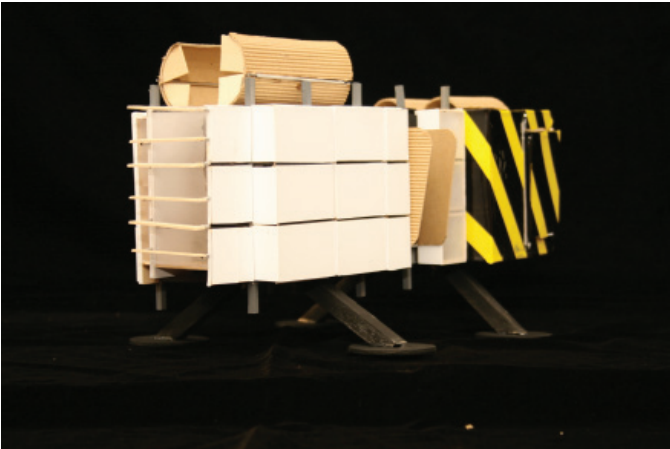
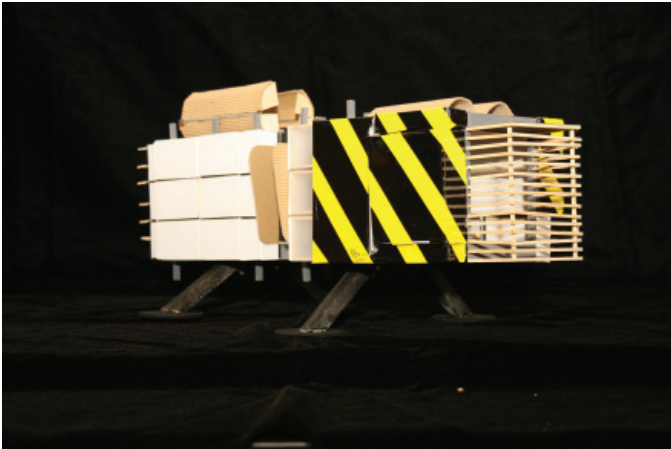
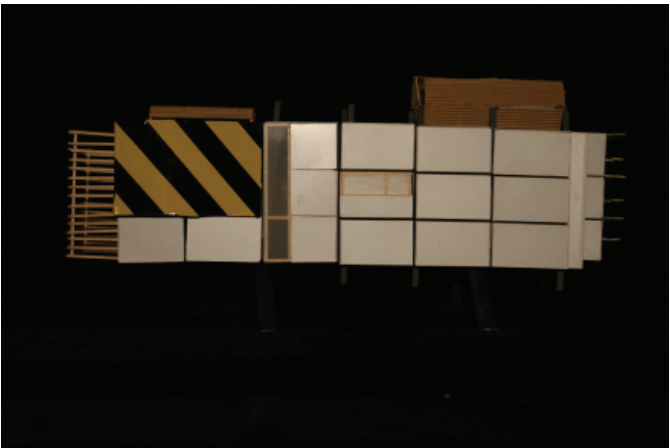


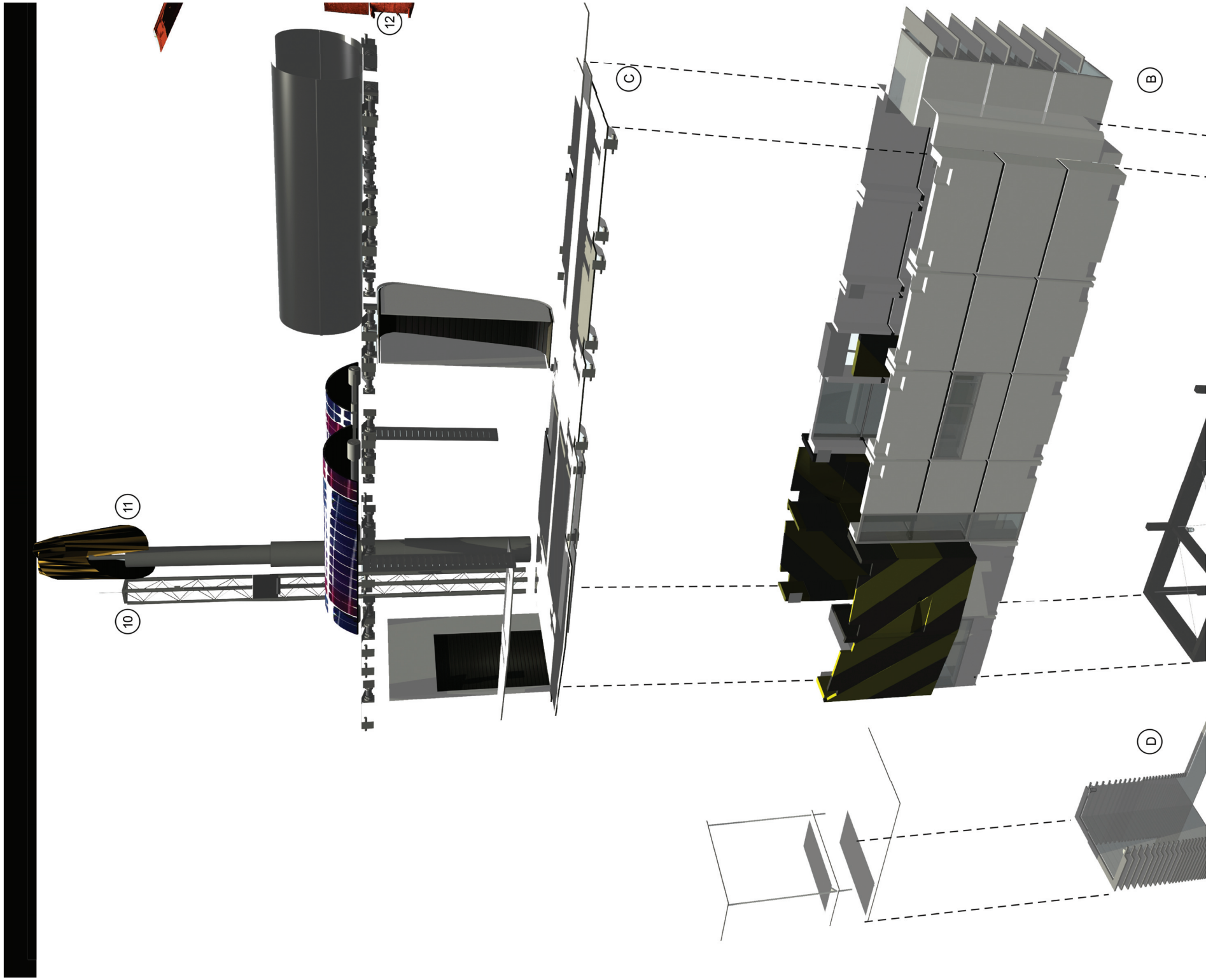
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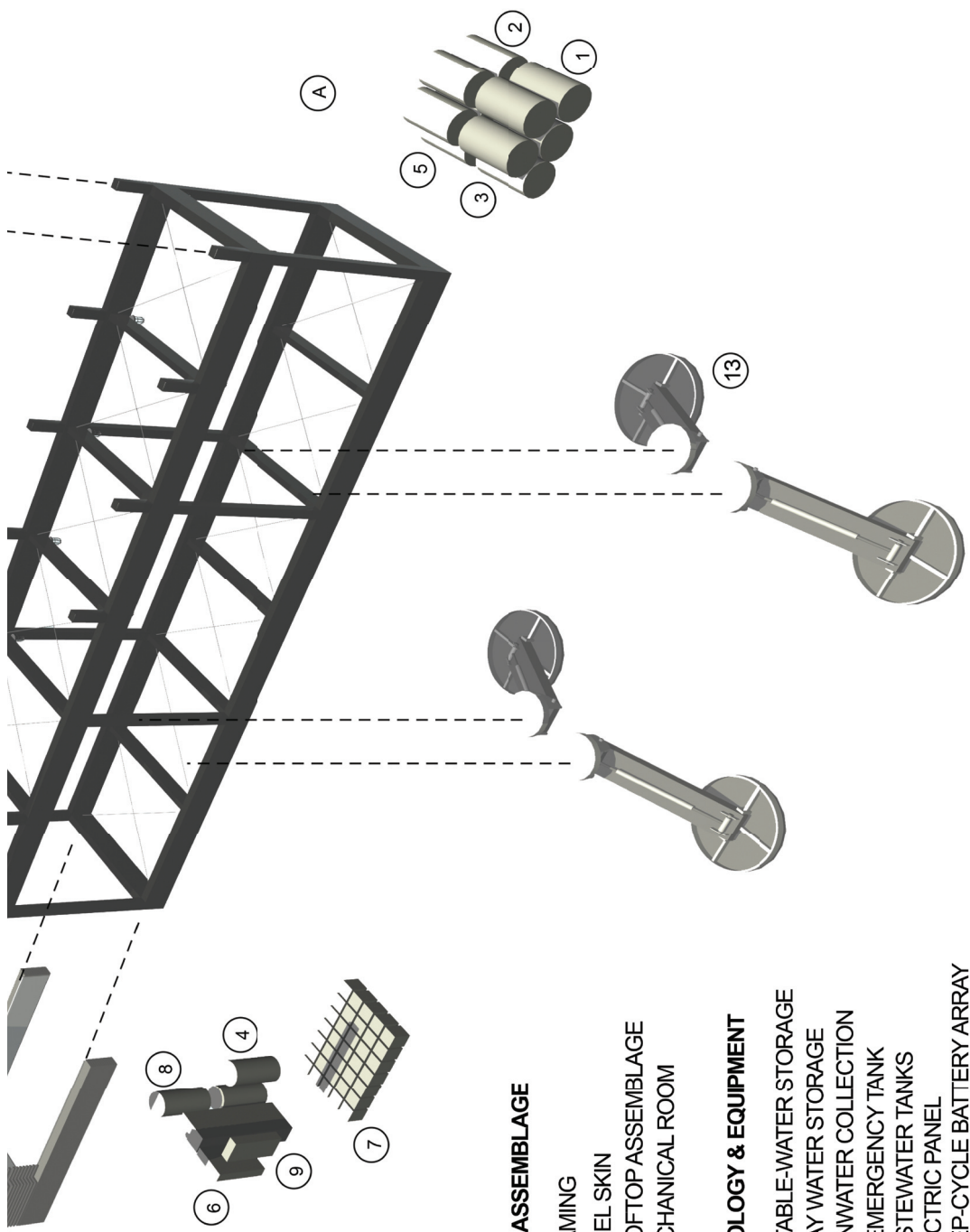


1 KITCHEN & RESEARCH

# SCOPE OF MODEL







**ORKAN ASSEMBLAGE**

- A FRAMING
- B PANEL SKIN
- C ROOFTOP ASSEMBLAGE
- D MECHANICAL ROOM

**TECHNOLOGY & EQUIPMENT**

- 1 POTABLE-WATER STORAGE
- 2 GRAY WATER STORAGE
- 3 RAINWATER COLLECTION
- 4 LP EMERGENCY TANK
- 5 WASTEWATER TANKS
- 6 ELECTRIC PANEL
- 7 DEEP-CYCLE BATTERY ARRAY
- 8 FAN-COIL CONDENSER UNIT
- 9 WHOLE HOUSE FAN
- 10 WEATHER STATION
- 11 WIND TURBINE
- 12 WINCH ASSEMBLY
- 13 GENERAL FOOTING



# EVALUATION OF DESIGN

## Notes: Mathew Smith

How adaptable is Architecture?

What is the difference between engineering and architecture?

What is the big point that led to the design?

What does engineering address?

What does architecture then address?

What does it convey?

If your research unit can adapt to environments, can it possibly adapt to situations?

What does it say to larger society?

The architecture should contain more of an expressive quality, rather than carry the traits of something that is engineered.

The adaptable part of the project could of almost been taken less literal

-Performance Criteria...AKA...R-Value of the walls

What does architecture add to the performance?

Terms Versatility vs. Adaptability

The research shows different sets of parts, what is really different about each design or situation that this project encounters?

How would each site affect the architecture?

Start with the idea of a proposition, not a big question!

Then spend all year trying to answer it.

Social cultural adaptability, not just environmental (i.e. Urbanism, Location)

Design a "kit"...deployed from Kansas City

What is the bigger point?

Level of intensity in army aesthetic

Ir-reducible architectural design to minimize it down

Not about the "branding" it as a familiar thing

Architecture versus Engineering...Monochromatic colors???

## Notes: Kristin Ubben

# EVALUATION OF DESIGN

This project is the anti-architecture if looked at by history / theory

In the end “context doesn’t matter because it is a machine that is anti-social / cultural

Un-technologized Environment

All three remotely similar transformations nothing to transform in these environments. Not like if placed in New York City, Rome, Lincoln, etc.

Sleeping, eating, bathing, maybe dictate its level of transformable architecture

Cornicopia of crap not about performance at all?

Knife doesn’t need architects to design an engineering piece of performance, like the swiss army knife

Architecture is wrapped up in non-architecture reducing architecture

Technical drawing would be expected from an engineering student...but what about construction documents in the workplace?

Level of appropriateness of situations...knife for hiking, etc.

How is it reflected in the thesis?

Blow up and focus on these differences (The Appropriate Performances)

Walking-City as a manual

How is this project different than an RV? or an old VW bus?

More responsive or industrial design?

Putting on layers in cold weather, closing windows...

Could’ve kept adding / subtracting components

Bare skeleton that was added to in performance

Geology / Climate were focused on ONLY!

Aesthetically the same - didn’t show the process that occurred in the aesthetic look

# CONCLUSION

This project has explored the idea of adaptability in architecture. The process has been developed looking at a historic past set against the theoretical precedents. The precedents were then put up against a barrage of equipment and tested against the client of the outdoors. NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) and the USGS (United States Geological Survey) were two entities in conjunction with the National Game and Parks that gave the research unit grounds to be developed in an adaptable atmosphere looking at means of deployment and versatility in design. The architecture brought thought through critical analysis injected into a cycle of real world application.

The term of an adaptable architecture yearns to be referred to as 'provocative architecture', or to be an advocate for the expressiveness to be produced through innovative design solutions that might one day become a reality. Even if I didn't think that this Design Thesis was a success, it would be rooted in 'innovation', a word that means directly relates to the creative process. This process is one we can learn from even if it is directed in the wrong direction. Even bad project can bring about positive influence.

As stated by William Zuk, (p.3) Kinetic Architecture, "Surely our present task is to unfreeze architecture-to make it fluid, vibrating, changeable backdrop for the varied and constantly changing modes of life. An expanding, contracting, pulsating, changing architecture would reflect life as it is today and therefore be part of it. If it is not, rigor mortis is bound to set in." Too long architecture has stood as permanence, recording specific moments in history. This history is a test of faith to the artisans, sculptur, and builders of the past, and the skill they possessed. Today is a moment of change compounded by time, mobility has changed due to technology and mechanic invention. It is important at this stage not to reiterate the vernacular, but to express the proactive role.



# RECOMMENDATIONS

The goal of this thesis was to develop a new kind of architecture that could be both expressive and influential. In doing so it not only dealt with the objectives of the current state, but those of future tenses as well. The process should keep to the outer realm of being almost fictional as long as possible, while the facts and rules of engagement generate collective thought. Though this process dealt primarily on the facts of theory and tools implemented, others might take a more abstract role into the analysis being derived, interjecting other pressures for adaptability to take place. In doing so, new ways to introduce adaptability and versatility might be achieved.

From the research gathered, adaptability is a looped process, in which new ideals can be asserted and plugged into a formula for varying outcomes. Failure only strengthens the stances taken, reasserting the primary role of architecture to become superb ideally to the one that might have been initially conceived. When all is said, not all conclusions will be positive in the way in which you might have wanted, but starts to advocate a realization in architectural practice to produce solutions that are real.

In terms of this project, much of the opposing thought came from Doug Jackson (Hyde Chair), in which one of the point was repeated brought up and that was, "In making your case for adaptability in architecture I'd urge you once more to consider the distinction between performance (the mere fact of being adaptable, which I would say is only related to the mundane, building-specific aspects of the work in question and so is therefore not architectural) and expression (the statement that such adaptability makes, its ability to evoke, etc., which I would say is architectural). Through many of the statements like these, I began to gauge myself in terms of what I really meant by being adaptable. Opposing thought can definitely provide direction when strayed at any junction of any topic.

In any case, remember to have fun and be passionate about what it is you are trying to achieve. Only than can you muster the tenacity to pursue an architectural meaning that you can be satisfied with.

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\*Denotes primary theoretical precedents

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