

Green Roofs and Facades: Rethinking Green Spaces in Urban Settings

By

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This thesis explores the design of green roofs and walls within a strategy of sustainable architecture. How can green buildings be designed to generate and preserve habitats in urban settings? The focus of the research is green roofs and green facades as a means and method for improving “quality of life” within the urban setting at both the environmental and human scale. Green roofs and walls are layers of living vegetation installed at the tops of roofs or along the buildings’ facade to assist in the conservation and propagation of natural resources and habitat (plant, animal, human, etc.). The purpose of this research is to develop design strategies toward integrating plant and animal habitat into the city and to present a building design alternative by which it can be realized.

Food for Architecture
Restaurant Design that Emulates the Sensory Experience of Eating

By
Loren M. Brockway

Abstract

This thesis addresses the broad question of how food and the ritual of dining inform architectural design. It also explores how architectural design for all the senses may be utilized to enhance a dining experience. It investigates how architectural design might parallel a chef orchestrating an experience for diners. It also analyzes how architectural design might complement the experience of food. The project will be a pizza restaurant and will include the following elements: an experiential herb garden, entry, family style dining area, bar, kitchen, and storage as well as other support types of programmatic requirements. It will be located at the corner of 71st Street and Byron Avenue in North Miami Beach, Florida.

PINA DEL CONTE

**THESIS STUDIO
DR. GRAY READ**

THE ROOMS

ABSTRACT

Thresholds are spaces articulated in layers. This thesis deals with threshold as a process of spatial transformation, a sequence of changes rather than a single moment. Threshold as space stresses emotional and sensorial participation. In this thesis it is analyzed through the manipulation of variables of scale, permeability, quality of motion, and perception of accessibility.

The design project explores the layers of thresholds in a building that is perceived as all threshold. The typology chosen for this investigation is the room. Within its physical boundaries, the room changes its ambiguous yet characteristic essence with user's engagement. Threshold in a room is a membrane of mediation filtrating two situations. It is both controlled and spontaneous communication of state of being. It is simple and complex, accurate and indefinite, sharp and blurred. Threshold is therefore developed as unsettled compromise and confrontation of a series of dualities. The project revolves around the development of a cluster of rooms, a small meeting center for space rental on the Biscayne Bay in Wynwood/Edgewater. It will feature meeting and party rooms, offices, café, gallery and guest rooms.

Tropical Skins, blurring the boundaries between interior and exterior relationships

Andrew Dunlap

This thesis explores how architecture can mediate environments in a tropical climate through the use of innovative skins. The skins of tropical architecture are layers that define interior, exterior, and tertiary spaces for inhabitation. These relationships are explored in materiality and form and coupled with additional spatial responses to climatic and environmental conditions. Investigative concepts of design have been applied to a single family residential program for development, in order to create a fusion of interior and exterior environments.

The site is located on San Marco Island at 1429 N Venetian Way, Miami Beach, Florida. San Marco Island is one of six manmade islands along the Venetian Causeway that were created in 1923. The Venetian Causeway serves as a major artery that connects a rapidly growing area of Miami, which consists of the Performing Arts Center designed by architect Cesar Pelli, and several residential towers by both local and international architects, to South Miami Beach.

Sensual Architecture
Polia Lubenova

This thesis is an investigation of project driven by the desire to develop an understanding of how architecture addresses the senses. Architecture naturally incorporates conditions and effects where senses cross, blur, switch, and merge.

The thesis will focus specifically on how to employ the senses in design that can enhance our sensitivity and our bodily dialogue with space.

The proposed project is a Health and Wellness Center. The site is in Virginia Key in [Dade County, Florida](#). The three main elements of the program: fitness, aquatics and health education will correspond to the site sensual qualities through color, light and materials. The environment should be a key component of the healing process. As result the building should create spaces with opacity and depth, shadow and sensory invitation.

The purpose of this project is to create architecture that will engage and enhance the sensory quality of the space and the surrounding environment.

The Balcony as Social Space

Eduardo Luna

This thesis asks whether the habitant's personalization of the residential balcony can promote social interaction, typified by the most common uses of the balconies within the selected area. Cultural identity emerges in local architectural traditions, as well as in the work of theorists and architects responsible for the design. In support of this investigation, a study was conducted of the cultural uses of space around the Miami River and East Little Havana (S.W. 6th Ave. and 1st Street), focusing on how balconies are built and used as social spaces in the Latin-American communities of this area.

The design of balconies in facades of modern housing can improve social life by providing a connection to the outdoors, and a setting for many personal and domestic activities such as sitting in the sun and growing plants.¹ While local social interactions within neighborhoods are losing significance, socially active spaces, like balconies, have historically been an important part of many people's lives, especially within Latin-American communities where strong social relationships among neighbors have a powerful presence. Balconies present residents with an opportunity to interact with the rest of the community, while maintaining levels of privacy.

¹ Marcus, Clare Cooper and Francis, Carolyn, People Places: design guidelines for urban open spaces (New York: Van Nostrand Reinhold, 1998), p. 229.

Transforming the Roof through Parasitic Architecture
Mario A. Perez

This thesis explores the roof as an architectural space. I will address the design of rooftop architecture in urban contexts by developing a new vocabulary using the metaphor of a parasite. The investigation focuses on the condensed urban fabric of Ocean Drive and specifically how to generate alternate nodes of activity by inhabiting virgin roof sites. I have designed a roofscape for the Clevelander Hotel by incorporating new activities to contribute to the invigorating ambiance of the area. My project centers on developing a rooftop sundeck and nightclub while developing a symbiotic relationship between the project and host building. By building on the roof top two different realities can co-exist, that of the ground and its floating counterpart, the roof. This project is determined to channel Ocean Drive into a dynamic condition that will offer the visitor a new variety of different conduits to explore.

Inside and Outside in Architecture
Kim Vincent

This thesis explores the relationship between the inside of a building and the outside. Specifically it focuses on elements that transform the outside of the building to in response to changing interior events, either through mechanical or electronic means. The objective is to create a space that is legible from the outside

This thesis project is a hostel/café on Lincoln Road in Miami Beach. The combination of these programs provides distinct daytime and nighttime activities for hostel guests and those at the café respectively. The design proposes dynamic elements which change from day to night, according to interior patterns of use . Windows, openings, and moveable components address the relationship between the café, the hostel and the Lincoln Road corridor.