

THRIVING through MAKING

p r o j e c t s t a t e m e n t

v.01 // 10.7.15

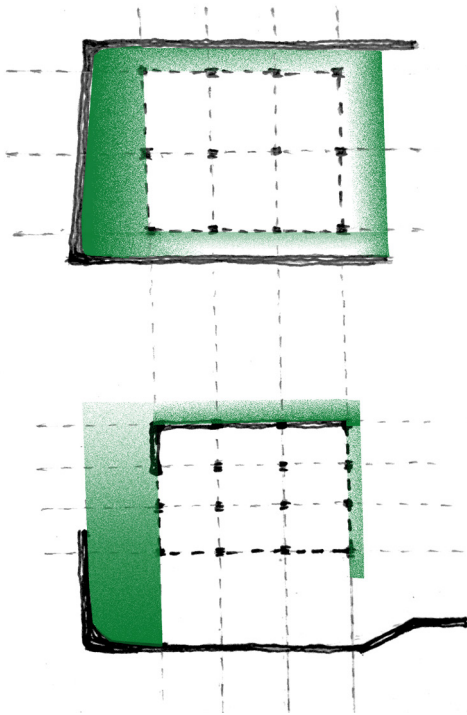
The challenge with this project, as with any other, is to interpret and distill the innumerable inputs--site data, history, program needs, building performance, aesthetics--into a comprehensive, compelling "output"--that is, a design proposal. The proposals and built works that I admire manage to strike a delicate balance, claiming a space somewhere in between practical and inspiring, meticulously researched and revised yet seemingly simple. Designing a supportive and empowering educational makerspace will require thorough research into both successful models and as yet unaddressed issues, especially in Portland. This means that any latent sources of tension (between stasis and change, social classes, policy and practice) unique to the city and the Inner Eastside area will have to be found and (hopefully) addressed.

host and nectar garden building

HUSOS // cali, columbia // 2012



This project turns the hybrid live/ work space into an inter-human and inter-species--with the goal of uplifting not only the local community but its unique ecology and biological corridors. While there certainly are apartments and studios for local artisans, the building is just as much an educator as it is an incubator. The entire structure is enveloped in a green facade, filled with bushes, climbers, and flora for native birds and butterflies--a guiding model for a bio-safehouse (not to mention a great indoor climate regulator and energy savings device). The architects ingeniously used the garden as a multimedia device, fully immersing the inhabitants and visitors in all of its sensory outputs. This fosters understanding and a sense of responsibility for the community; locals can attend workshops and take home seeds to help grow the network of biological corridors with their own gardens. Finally, the unique building and its resident butterflies is used on labels and marketing materials for Cali products, building the community's global brand identity.





ground floor



2nd floor



3rd floor

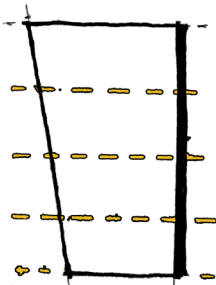
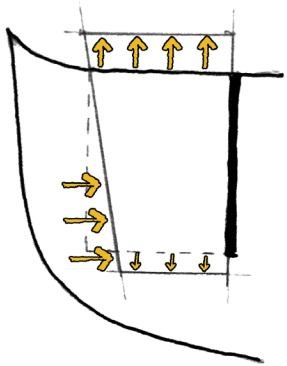


4th floor

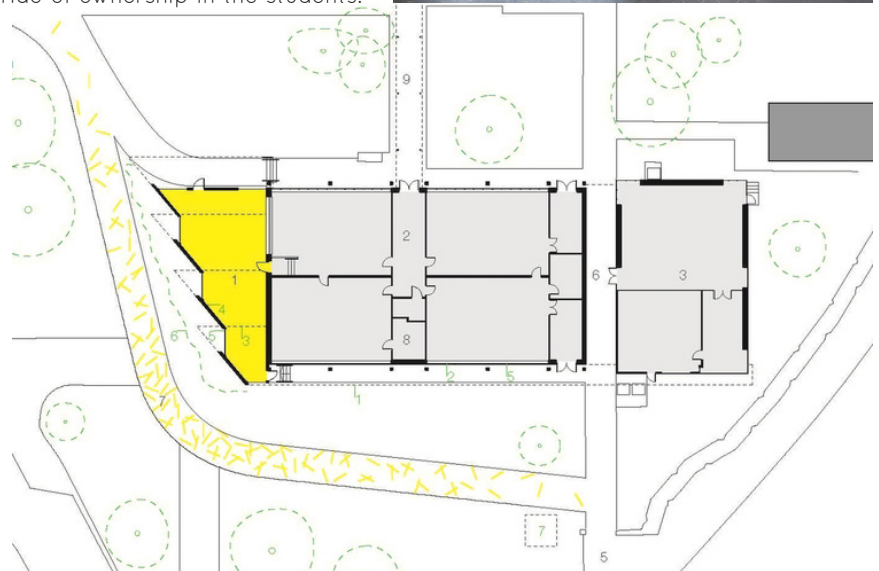


falmouth school design studio

URBAN SALON // cornwall, uk // 2008



In this small but unique project, the architects answered directly to a group of student clients, who wanted to turn their outdated design and technology block into something functional and impactful. Even with a tight budget and program, the use of a straightforward design and formal repetition helped create a space that satisfied all of the students' criteria. The building's monolithic and angular facade gives it a striking and sculptural presence. But this thick envelope is also functional, protecting the "creative thinking" and design space from the noise of the adjacent workrooms. In addition, it is a thermal insulator that helps efficiently regulate the interior environment while allowing in only desirable northern light. Finally, careful planning and detailing of the prefabricated panels ensured minimal material waste and rapid on-site assembly. The end result is a landmark building that has instilled confidence and pride of ownership in the students.





This project provides both an exciting and familiar setting for children to play in. It was conceived as “one big house”--but is essentially “one big stair” that integrates into the surrounding topography, providing plenty of open space and a figurative, easy-to-scale “hillside.” This, along with the expressive “forest” of columns and full-height glazing, and otherwise very minimal interior, leads me to believe that the goal was actually to convince children that they were, in fact, outside--with all of the “blanks” to be filled in with imagination. The small pond at the bottom of the “hill” provides further excitement, especially when the roof is sending down rivulets of rainwater. Children can interact freely not only with their surroundings but also with others, as all ages and activities use the same large space. In other words, thoughtful yet simple design can be highly engaging.

