

Boat Building as a Tectonic / Material Transformation:

Prof: Paul Lukez

Assignment: Museum program and concept development

Objective:

The goal during this stage of project development is to generate the “diagram” illustrating how your building(s) are organized on the site. The diagram should be inextricably linked to your central concepts for the museum. These ideas should arise out of an analysis and critique of the program. The program will serve less as an accounting of functions and corresponding requirements, then the definition of spatial parameters and their use by occupants and visitors.

Issues:

More about the Diagram:

One of the goals of this exercise is to define the principle means of distributing visitors and staff through the site. How do visitors approach the building from sea, or land and by what means? How do visitors orient themselves and what clues are they given about entry to the museum? Is the museum comprised of a single building or multiple buildings? Once in the building, how does one navigate the structure and its spaces and exhibits? What role does light and structure play in defining the principle paths through the building(s)? How is the sectional quality of the building(s) organization manipulated to generate clarity about how people move through the museum to view the exhibit?

Conceptual Development:

Given your introduction to the site and program through the design for the Reliance Pavilion, you may already have strong ideas about the museum. While not fully formed, your position about how boats and other artifacts can be represented in relationship to the viewer and the site can be adapted to the larger program and site requirements. Conversely, your concept for the pavilion may be particular to the pavilion design, and not easily transferable to the entire museum. Instead it might be coupled with a more dominant or complimentary concept. It is important not to think about this exercise as a purely space planning assignment, but to seek ways in which the rich sets of ideas all of you have explored thus far can be integrated into a building diagram.

Tectonic Issues:

As in the previous exercise, consider how your diagram will be “built” or constructed. Which aspects of your ideas about material and tectonic systems can be applied and integrated into your design proposals. You may find that some of your proposals for an architectural language lend themselves to a very particular and limited set of building organizations. It is also possible, that your tectonic approach may be more malleable to a number of diagrams. As you develop your design, register these issues as considerations.

