



**The ideal library
symbolizes everything a
society stands for.**

-Alberto Manguel

There is not such a cradle of democracy upon the earth as the Free Public Library

— Andrew Carnegie

If architecture provides anything at all, it is a platform for enquiry.

— Douglas Darden

Anyone is free to enter a library and enjoy.
It is a place of mutual trust.

— Anni Vartola, Mind-Building (Venice
Biennale, Finnish Exhibition Catalog

a library is as much a portal as it is a place
— it is a transit point, a passage.

— Susan Orlean, The Library Book

STUDIO BIBLIO

Studio Biblio explored the history and future of public libraries as they have transformed over thousands of years, from 'treasure houses of knowledge' to **palaces for the people**.

Libraries are cherished today as free public spaces providing community service and social connection, while fostering local knowledge and global imagination. Just as public libraries have expanded far beyond their role in collecting and circulating books, students re-imagined libraries as sites of social infrastructure, fully integrated into the life of the city.

Studio Biblio began by reading in public spaces in Winnipeg's historic downtown. In this opening adventure, students read not only stories but the surrounding city, observing the narrative potential of found **Reading Places** embedded in the urban fabric. Students were invited to interpret and inhabit the city as an open book. Their personal and public readings, sketches, observations and speculations led to the creation of pop-up micro-libraries as places for public exchange. Proposals were entered into the 2019 RAIC Student Design Competition on 'The Future of Public Engagement in Architecture.' Four Studio Biblio students were among the finalists: Alex Bartmanovich, Hasti Fakouri, Brendan Klassen and Alan Vamos.

Following field trips to impressive libraries in diverse cities - London, Paris, Los Angeles, Toronto and Winnipeg - students collaboratively produced a large interpretive site model, creatively capturing the urban collage of street-scapes crossing the East & West Exchange District. This site research, **Reading the Exchanges**, helped students choose sites and invent programs for the next phase of Studio Biblio: designing multi-storey, mixed-use, infill reading places, that contribute meaningfully to the city.

Students developed comprehensive program reports informed by several new Winnipeg public libraries, which we toured with local architects, and by study of exemplary libraries from around the world, including Snøhetta's Calgary Central Library and Bibliotheca Alexandrina in Egypt; ALA Architects' Oodi Library in Helsinki; Mecanoo's LocHal Library at Tilburg and T.U. Library at Delft (NL); Alberto Kalach's Vasconcelos Library in Mexico City; OMA's Seattle Public Library and Qatar National Library in Doha; Gunnar Asplund's Stockholm Public Library; Gunnar Birkerts' National Library of Latvia; several splendid libraries by Alvar Aalto, recently celebrated at the 2018 Venice Biennale; and many others.

As a Comprehensive Design Studio, students considered manifold architectural criteria and facets of design - cultural, urban, environmental, technical, and artistic - working across a wide spectrum of scales: from furniture and cabinetry details; curtain walls and building envelopes; to the street-scapes, skylines and characters of the

surrounding milieu. This meant designing everything from book-nooks to skylights, while also imagining varieties of inhabitation to discover and enliven the city.

Students proposed a panoply of programs to complement their public libraries, including galleries, cinemas, co-working spaces, collaborative studios for mixed-media and graffiti art, a full service grocery with outdoor market stalls, public auditoriums, social service offices, affordable multi-family and single-occupancy apartments, an Indigenous hostel and cultural center, bookstores, digital pawnshops, restaurant bars and cafés, urban amphitheatres, and rooftop sculpture gardens.

Studio Biblio discovered not only the regenerative agency and potential of public libraries, but also the nurturing and transformative role of public architecture. Studio Biblio opened a way of reading the imaginative terrain of urban environments as a crucial story in the human world: reading between the lines of the city, reading places, and the activity of people themselves as part of a continuum of social media and mediation. From bamboo scrolls to digital screens, from billboards, kiosks and alleyway graffiti to intentional and unexpected rendezvous at the intersection of daily life, students explored architecture as a fundamental social medium, vital to the experience and making of contemporary life - **a never ending story**.

ARCHITECTURE OF PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT (RAIC Student Competition): **1: Qiwen Lu** "Beyond the Library" a climbable Fun-Palace kiosk for Winnipeg's Fringe Festival that prefigures her "Reading City" library and cinema; **2: Hasti Fakouri** "Red Ribbon," a sculptural free-library connecting people to the endless river of global imagination; **3: Apoorv Chopra** "Shared City Color Garage," sparking curiosity and enlivening chromatic space.



BEYOND THE LIBRARY

--What is beyond the library?



About the Open space

what they want. So there will be those engagement... Understood space can have many possibilities. People can do... what they want. So there will be those engagement... Understood space can have many possibilities. People can do... what they want. So there will be those engagement...

To be a child



Site plan 1:600

To have a small house



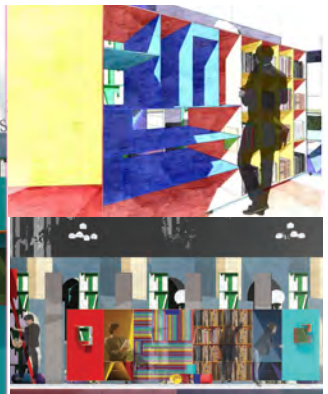
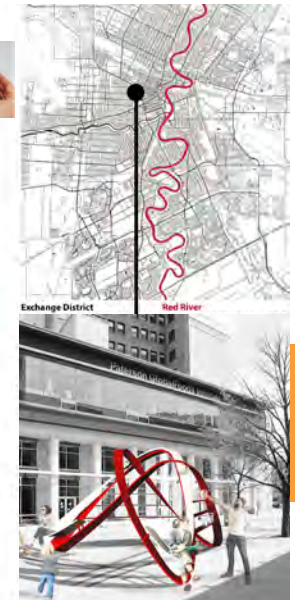
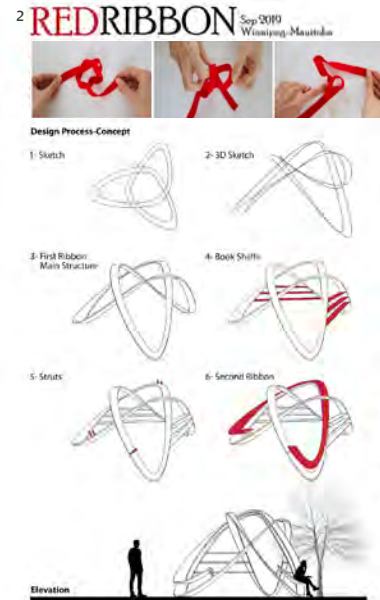
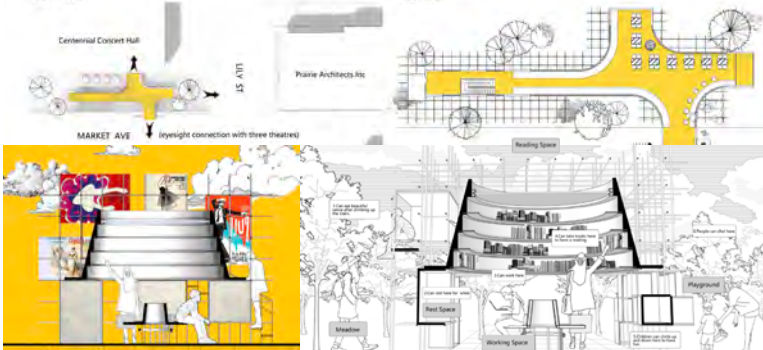
To be a playground



To be a library



Plan 1:200

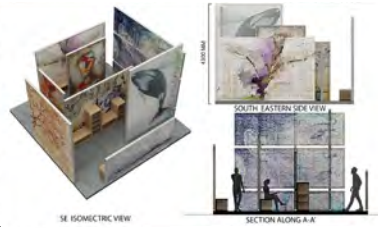


4: Ritam Niyogi "Canvas Jaali," an interactive space of juxtapositions; 5: Alan Vamos "Part-Allez," exploring the city's inbetween spaces; 6: Chengu Zhao "Book Pavilion," a portal in the garden of Assiniboine Park; Klassen "Peg City Knowledge Market" with books carts from across the city; 8: Alex Bartmanovich pop-up "Book Worm" on Albert Street; 9: Bianca Dahlman "Link," a portable book-nook for urban thinkers.

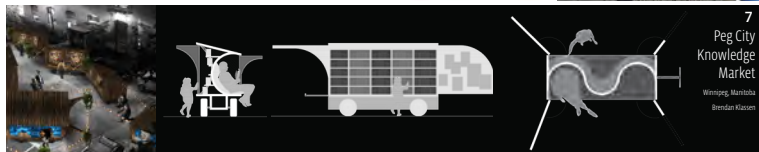
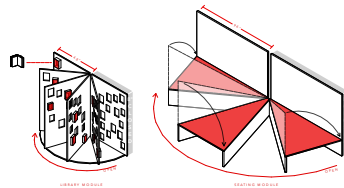
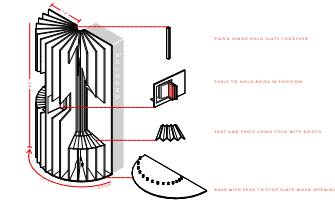
7: Brendan

4 CANVAS JAALI

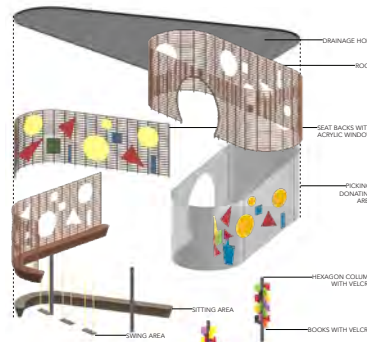
JAALI in the Indian language means perforated stone or latticed screen, usually with an ornamental pattern generated through calligraphy and geometry for created semi-enclosed spaces.



5 PART-ALLEZ (PARTAGER)



6 BOOK PAVILION



Studio Biblio

INSTRUCTORS
Lisa Landrum & Ted Landrum

ZOOM REVIEWS

TUESDAY, APRIL 14, 2020 9:30am-5pm

GUEST CRITICS

Howard Davies
Publisher Big City, Montreal
Andrew Lewthwaite
Public City Architecture
Sasa Radulovic
9468799 Architecture

Prepare to be
astonished!



Marritz

Market Junction

ALEX BARTMANOVICH



Market Junction Library enhances social infrastructure in Winnipeg's Exchange District. Occupying a historic lot across from Market Square, it provides access to learning, technology and social development services. Its open pedestrian corner, elevated light-filled reading rooms, and generous rooftop also serve as public theatres to stage and view civic festivities and every day events.

It is a place to read books and the city.

If architecture provides anything at all, it is a platform for enquiry.

- DOUGLAS DARDEN

I have always imagined paradise as a kind of library.

- JORGE LUIS BORGES

The archive is never closed. It opens out of the future.

- JACQUES DERRIDA

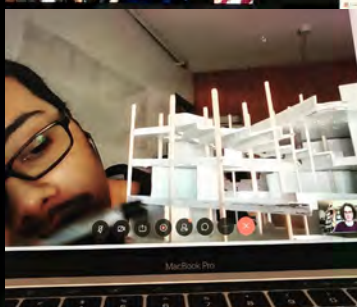
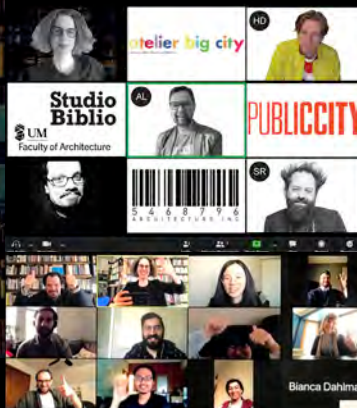
The ideal library symbolizes everything a society stands for.

- ALBERTO MANGUEL

Studio Biblio

explores the **regenerative** architecture of public libraries, and the **vital** practices of reading, reading places and reading life and forms of the city.

Libraries are **living** archives of knowledge and crucial catalysts for **imagining** futures and fostering community **interaction**. Through research and design, the future architects of Studio Biblio have devised a variety of mixed-use multi-story libraries with diverse strategies for **public engagement**.



Nexus Library

APOORV CHOPRA

Neeginan Place

BIANCA DAHLMAN



Neeginan, Cree for 'Our Place,' honours Indigenous development visions. The project is a mixed-use building dedicated to library services, multi-family housing, and hostel accommodations. Shared spaces between library and housing programming include a community kitchen for pow-wow, drumming, making, feasting, story-telling, and more. Neeginan Place seeks to build relationships between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous Winnipeggers.

Paradox Gallery & Library

HASTI FAROURI



Paradox Gallery & Library occupies a curious corner of Winnipeg's Exchange District. The new building preserves the most charming features of the site's former Antique Shop—with its large glass windows and heavily painted masonry evocative of a ruin—while incorporating a multi-media library, cinema, gardens and galleries. Its design and collection celebrate the combination of old and new, heavy and light, fast and slow, and many other contrasts wrapped up in the urban narratives we share.

Magic Lantern Library

RITAM NIYOGI



The **Magic Lantern** merges a community library, grocery store and street market – within a **colorful illuminated envelope** – to **spark curiosity** and activate street edges, while providing much-needed amenities in the area. Surrounded by theatres and historic masonry buildings, the Magic Lantern's façade performs as a glowing screen and spectacle in the East Exchange. Above busy shops are diverse study spaces. At night, when streets are dark and quiet, the study spaces **glow** with readers' curiosity.

Market Avenue Library for the Performing Arts (MALPA)

BRENDAN KLASSEN



MALPA aims to support, encourage, and exhibit the deep heritage of performance in Winnipeg by collecting works and material to be made available to the general public for study and engagement. Designated archives, study carrels, and collaboration spaces are designed to facilitate various methods and strategies of apprehension, discourse, and further appreciation of the history, technique, and value of various performative arts such as dance, theatre, and music.

Wandering Book Library

ALAN VAMOS



The **Wandering Book Library** re-thinks how books are sorted and circulated, where each item has many homes and browsing will lead to new possibilities. The library is integrated with an urban art centre where wandering graffiti artists come under one long roof to teach what was once learned in the shadows of the alleyways and rooftops. Instead of a monolithic block, the library complex is made up of various structures which reflect the varying programs inside.

Bamboo Book Forest

CHENQU ZHAO

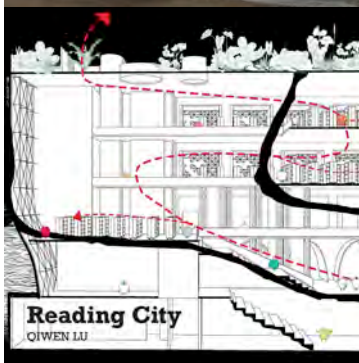


The goal of **Reading City** is to give people not only a place to read, but a place to read the city they are themselves part of. This new multi-media institution enables visitors to explore the character of urban space in the cultural core of Winnipeg's Exchange District, while increasing interaction between people in and around the building. It has a book market, a variety of reading rooms attuned to different senses, and a wild roof garden for **urban fantasies**.

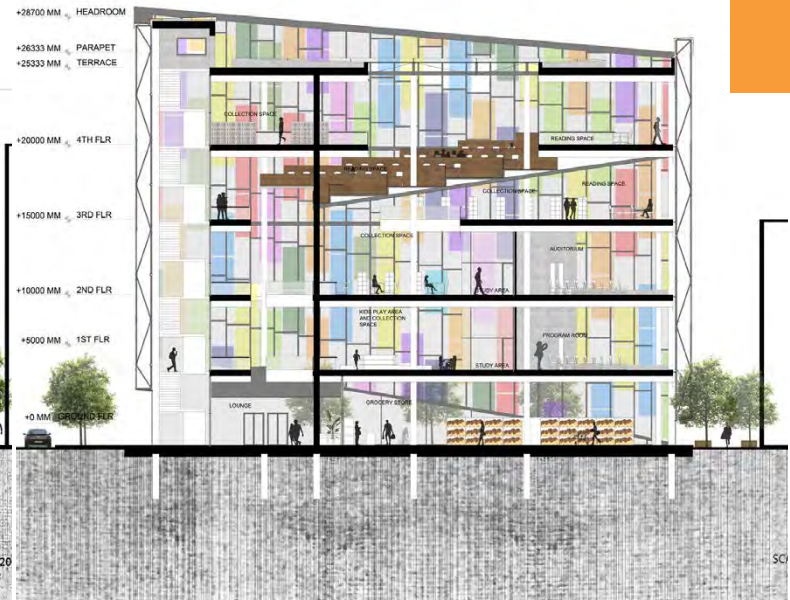
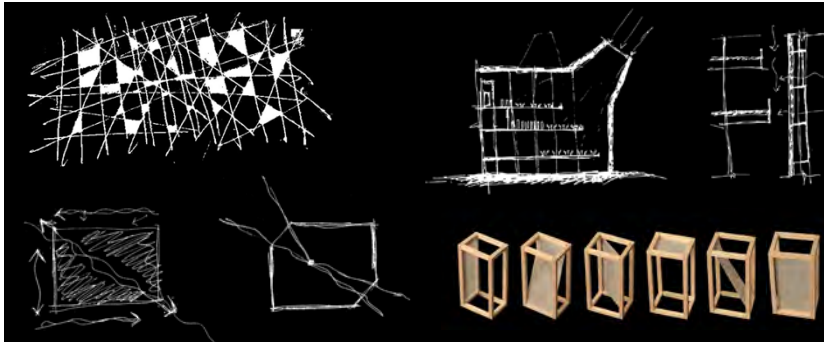
Inspired by bamboo wooden slips, a traditional Chinese writing media before the use the paper, this library offers interactive ways to experience the written word. While absorbing knowledge and finding identity, people can wander through the **Bamboo Book Forest** and feel the materials, which are smooth and fluent and full of logic and imagination. The landscape around the library provides more leisurely public space connected to river trails and community.

Reading City

QIWIEN LU



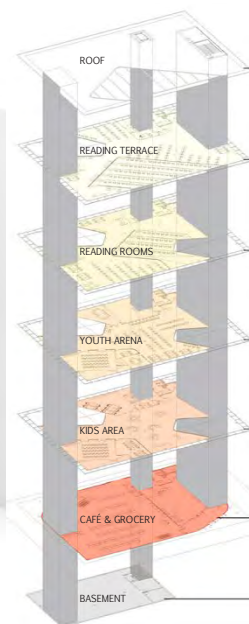
Ritam Niyogi "Magic Lantern" library and grocery. This social infrastructure expands the existing laneway market of the East Exchange with a gigantic lantern of light, color and civic activity.



The shifting panels of the façade and the diagonal bridges of the library, weave together people and activities, while connecting inside to outside, and animating the neighborhood 24/7 as a cultural beacon, aglow with the vital colors, textures and rhythms of urban life.

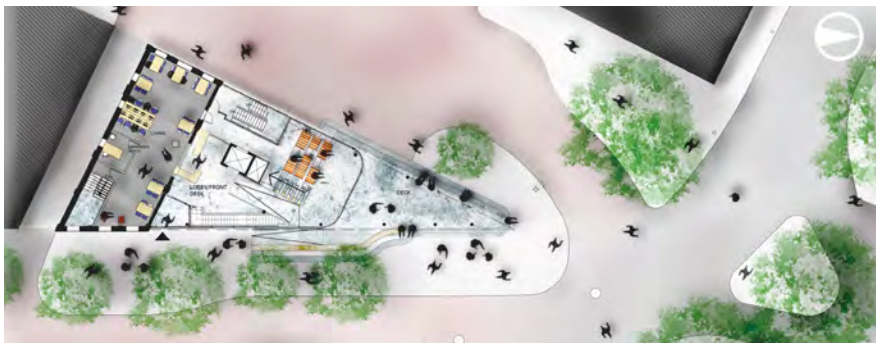


1. SCALED PHYSICAL MODEL SHOWING THE INTERIOR FLOOR PLATE OF THE BUILDING

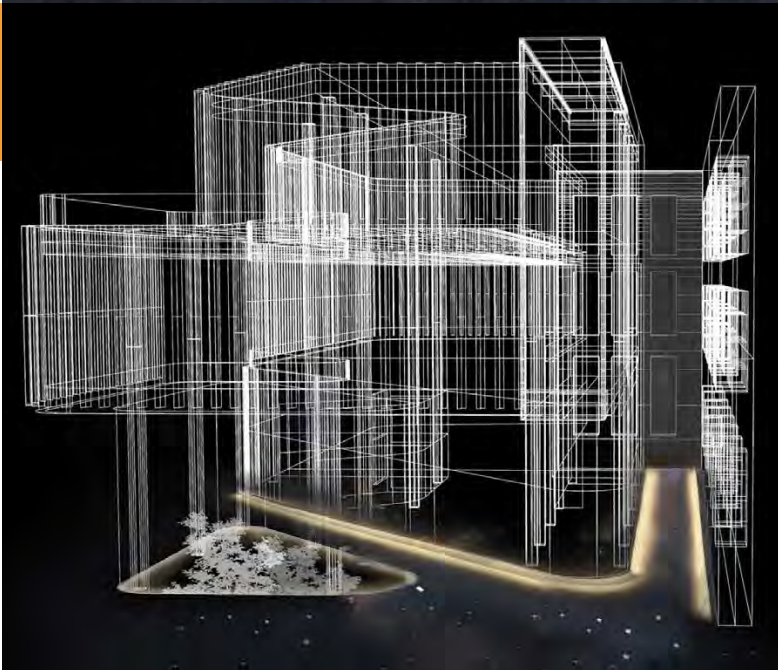


Alex Bartmanovich "Market Junction Library" is located at one Winnipeg's most intimate and charmingly irregular intersections, where bikes, cars and pedestrians all slow down to navigate safely while seeing and being seen in the heart of the city. It is a place to read books and to read the city. Reducing the building footprint only enlarges its scope by allowing activities to flow into the enveloping streetscape and tree-scape.

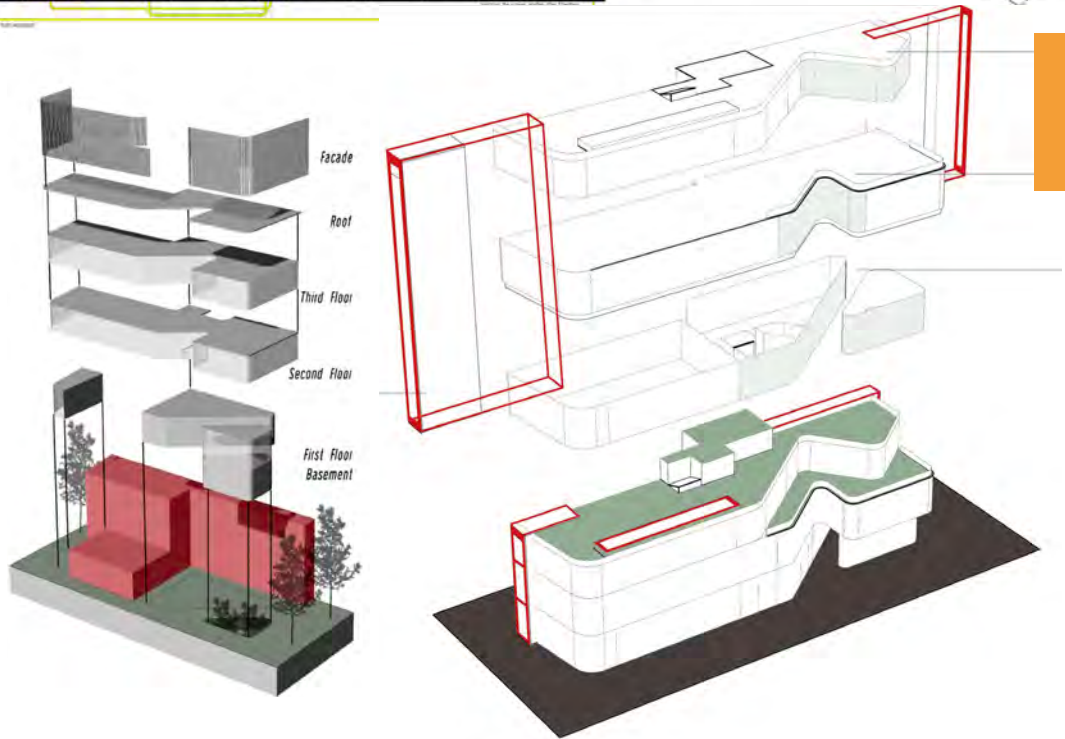
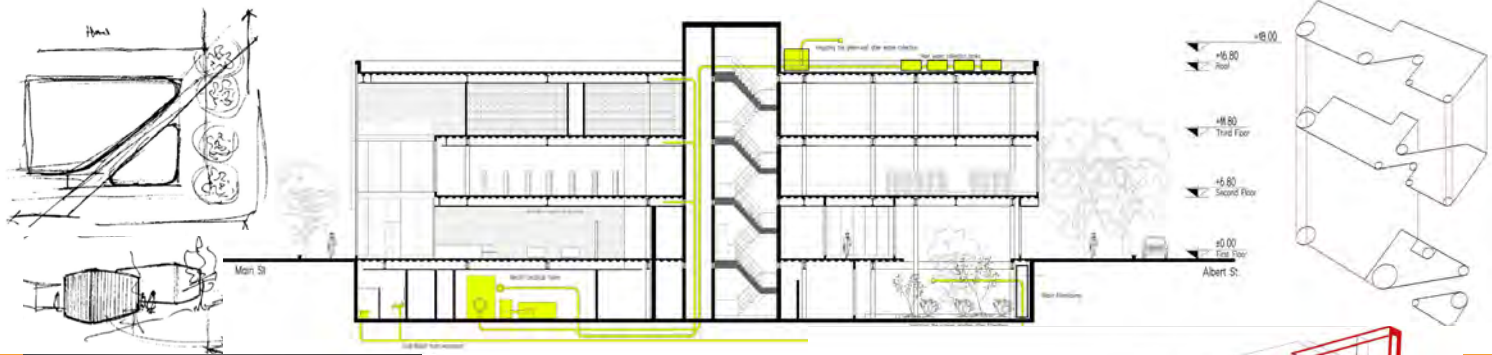




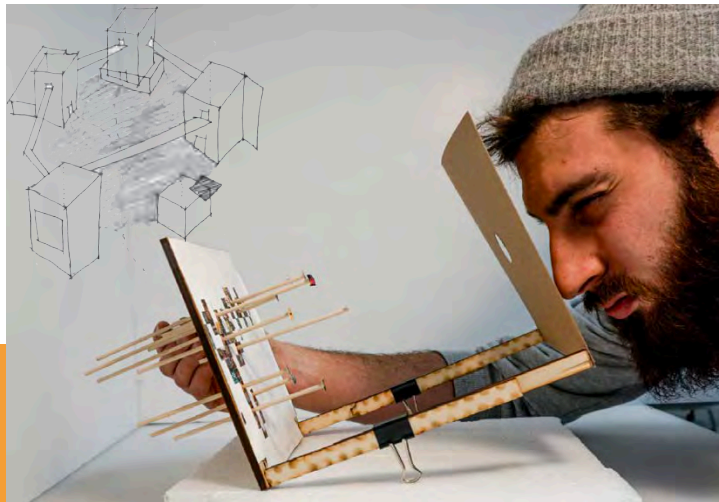
The architectural section drawing illustrates a multi-story building with a green roof. The structure is divided into several levels, with rooms labeled in English and Chinese. The top level is the 'Green roof' (Green roof). Below it is the 'Subsided roof' (Subsided roof). The main living area includes a 'Living room' (Living room), 'Kitchen' (Kitchen), 'Bed room' (Bed room), and 'Bathroom' (Bathroom). The ground floor features a 'Living room' (Living room), 'Kitchen' (Kitchen), and 'Bed room' (Bed room). The drawing also shows a 'Subsided roof' (Subsided roof) and a 'Green roof' (Green roof). The building is surrounded by trees and a car is parked on the street.



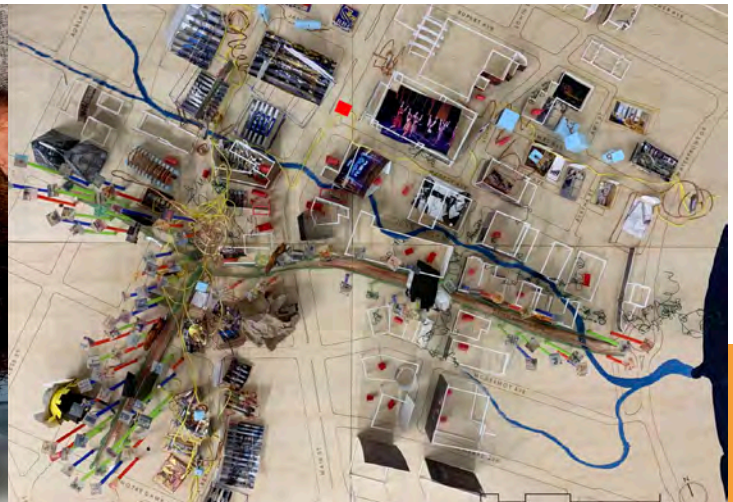
A sunken garden on the West corner, is balanced by a secret cinema on the opposite upper level. Skylights, gardens, sliding panels and displays punctuate the space with light, artifacts and greenery. Passing through one has the paradoxical sense of occupying many places and moods at the same time.



Alan Vamos "Wandering Book Library" generative study model and articulated building section with views into the warehouse laneway network.



(top): Reading the Exchanges: group interpretive site model of Winnipeg's East & West Exchange Districts; (btm): Chenqu Zhao "Bamboo Book Forest" street-scape study of rhythmic waves of fast/slow & opaque/porous.



(top) Apoorv Chopra "Nexus Library" a crossroads of districts, paths, programs, cantilevers and river views;
(btm) Qiwen Lu "Reading City" lively sketch and model for multi-media library and cinema.

