

COVER ART

Architectural Design Programming Model | Matte Board, Construction Paper, Basswood

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This programming model was an architectural project for an art gallery and cafe to be located in Hazelwood, a neighborhood of Pittsburgh that has seen better days. The goal of the project was to design architecture that could draw new economic growth and revitalize a once-booming area of Allegheny County. The making of these architectural models takes a great attention to detail and a consciousness that every decision has an impact on what will ultimately be a full-scale building. I focused heavily on the craftsmanship of the model so that jurors judging the project would focus on the spatial ideas included on my design and not get distracted by imperfections. For each volume in the model, I cut six planes out of matte board with an X-ACTO knife and straight-edge, then assembled them so none of the edges showed on the top or bottom. Next, I traced the sides of each volume on colored construction paper, cut them out, and used rubber cement to glue them to the sides. The construction paper worked well because it allowed me to hide all the edges of the matte board. The basswood sticks are used to hold up the art gallery portion of the building above the café and administrative areas. I draw inspiration from everyday experiences, people, and ideas. For this project in particular I was thinking of the orthogonal, pristine lines of architects Mies van der Rohe and Richard Neutra. I've always been interested in color theory and have a particular affinity towards the color palettes of designer/architect Alexander Girard. I am really happy with the way this programming model turned out and that I didn't cut any fingers along the way. I'm almost finished with the architectural design studios here at the University of Pittsburgh but I'll never forget the feeling of accomplishment (and sleep deprivation) that comes along with the completion of these projects. I'd like to thank the Architectural Studio professors at the University of Pittsburgh for their devotion to their students and commitment to developing our program.

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