

The Detroit Studio Community Outreach Program Projects:

2002 – present

Project Director: Joongsob Kim



The Detroit Studio

The Detroit Studio is an off-campus, storefront studio facility founded in 1999 by the College of Architecture & Design at Lawrence Technological University, located in the New Center Area of Detroit. Its location in central Detroit creates a unique educational setting for students. The Detroit Studio is committed to serving communities in Detroit, Wayne County, and Southeastern Michigan through Service Learning projects that utilize interdisciplinary collaboration, teamwork, and social-scientific approaches to address real needs, problems, and potentials. The mission of The Detroit Studio is educational: to provide students with an enriched educational experience through community-based architectural, urban design, and community development projects and to offer accessible and useful programs and information to the public, design professionals, municipal officials, and the business community. Major support for the Detroit Studio is provided by the General Motors Corporation.



Detroit Studio Publication



The Detroit Repertory Theatre and Cultural Village Project

Joongsob Kim

Detroit Repertory Theatre

The Detroit Studio Community
Outreach Program

College of Architecture and Design
Lawrence Technological University

Recipient of The 2003 Social Justice Award



(Picture sources: Wayne County, Planning, Detroit Repertory Theatre)

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The American Institute of Architects prohibits students from delivering design services for business purposes. A student project such as the one included in this publication is developed strictly for theoretical exploration and academic purposes. Therefore, while it is possible to draw general lessons from student work for educational purposes, it is not permissible for any entity to construct any structure based solely on any one particular design plan produced by a student or a group of students.

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It was a great honor for our students and me to undertake the Detroit Repertory Theatre and Cultural Village Project at the Detroit Studio Community Outreach Program of Lawrence Technological University in Fall 2003. During that time, the Detroit Repertory Theatre of Detroit, Michigan, a sponsor of the project, and the Detroit Studio collaborated on the design of a new theater and neighborhood revitalization proposal. The project was especially challenging, as participants wrestled with difficult social and aesthetic issues while satisfying complex program requirements. In response, the class featured multiple site visits, several field trips to well-known theatres, field observations, interviews, a design workshop, focus groups, theoretical and practical explorations based on the project, and numerous conferences, reviews, and presentations with theater members, community residents, local organizations, public officials, and guest critics at the Detroit Studio. We also conducted a short questionnaire survey with the theater staff, their patrons, residents, and other stakeholders.

This project was the outcome of a special and meaningful partnership between the Detroit Repertory Theatre and the College of Architecture and Design at LTU Detroit Studio. Considerable input and effort on the part of the project sponsor and many people in the region, city, neighborhood, and

schools were necessary to complete a project of this magnitude successfully. Several individuals deserve special mention here. Above all, I am enormously and sincerely grateful to the Detroit Repertory Theatre for recognizing the value of a project of this type and for offering my students this important, valuable, and timely opportunity. Founder/Artistic Director Bruce E. Millman and Director of Development MaryKacivere were instrumental in helping to initiate the project and had the vision to fund it. My sincere thanks go also to the entire staff of the theater for participating in the overall studio process and for welcoming me and my students, who had a very memorable and special tour of the theater, led by Director Kacivere. Several key members of the theater graciously took



Detroit Repertory Theatre members with students, faculty and residents of Farm HOPE

time off from their busy schedules to review the project's progress at critical points. Particularly worthy of mention are my 17 students in the Integrated Design Studio 3 Class, who dedicated themselves to many long hours of research and design, on both individual and group-based assignments. I would like to congratulate and thank them for their efforts, enthusiasm, and knowledge, which far exceeded



Faculty

Joongrak Kim, PhD, RA, AIA, AICP
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Architecture and
Urban Design
Coordinator for
The Detroit Studio
Community Outreach
Program

James Abernethy, RA
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Building Systems for
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Students

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Joseph Gutierrez
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Hilli Mehrens
Alicia Montney
Stephanie Nield
Michael Oranichuk
Andrea Pollock
Mindy Tangney
Elizabeth Tierney
Jordan Tralman
Marshall Ulrich
Daniel Wells

the first semester, junior level course requirements.

The following people also contributed to the project in various ways. Khalil S. Mogassabi, a senior architect/urban designer, as well as Crystal Wilson and Shannon Black, planners in the City of Detroit's Planning and Development Division, came to the studio several times and reviewed the project at critical stages, providing timely advice and support. Also, they provided us with useful information on zoning, master plan policies, and other related regulations. The Woodward-Lodge Urban Design Steering Committee served as liaison between Lawrence Tech/Detroit Studio and the community. Brother Mitchell Samud Oin, M. Abdul Salam, and A. Karim Muhammad, CSCD; Kenneth Bailey, LDLO; and Deborah Fisher, Focus: HOPE served tirelessly on the Urban Design Steering Committee and provided input and guidance throughout. Jim Abernethy, Professor at LTU, taught the Building Systems component. I wish to thank him for his encouragement, support, and assistance throughout the semester. I truly appreciate his being one of the major contributors to and supporters of the Detroit Studio Community Outreach Program.

In addition, Robert Hunt (currently at the Detroit Housing Commission), a former Deputy Director of the Planning Division in the Department

of Jobs and Economic Development of Wayne County, and his associates there provided the Detroit Studio with aerial map files/information critical to our project. Also, Eric Hill (currently at Fehbreck, Thompson, Carr, & Huber, Inc.), a former Director of Urban Design and Planning at Albert Kahn Associates, Inc.; Rebecca Salminen-Witt, President of The Greening of Detroit; Khalil S. Mogassabi, RA from the City of Detroit Planning and Development Department; Greg Tysowski, Senior Associate Principal at JPRA Architects; Chloehet, Mulenga, architect of Smith Group Inc.; and Cornell Mays, Rochelle Martin, Paul Matolic, Brian Koehn, Dan Fazio, and Steve Schneemann, faculty at LTU, served as guest critics and graciously gave their time and expertise to the project.

A special thanks to Sallie Big, an evening faculty secretary at Lawrence Tech, for her tireless assistance in helping me with the studio. She has consistently made my job easier in every way. Also, I extend a sincere thank you to those in the Detroit Repertory Theatre community—local business leaders, community residents, and city and state officials—who expressed interest in or participated in the project. I thank Dr. Charles Chambers, President of Lawrence Technological University; Joseph Vynnyar, Interim Dean; Edward Orlowski, Interim Chair of the College of Architecture and Design at LTU; and the General Motors Corporation for their ongoing support of the Detroit Studio. Finally, to everyone mentioned or not mentioned here, I offer my sincere appreciation: Without your sup-



provided by the
General Motors
Corporation, from
The Detroit Studio
Mission Statement

The Detroit Studio is an off-campus, storefront studio facility founded in 1999 by the College of Architecture & Design at Lawrence Technological University, located in the New Center Area of Detroit. Its location in central Detroit creates a unique educational setting for students. The Detroit Studio is committed to serving communities in Detroit, Wayne County, and Southeastern Michigan through Service Learning projects that utilize interdisciplinary collaboration, teamwork, and social scientific approaches to address real needs, problems, and potentials. The mission of The Detroit Studio is educational: to provide students with an enriched educational experience through community-based architectural, urban design, and community development projects and to offer accessible and useful programs and information to the public, design professionals, municipal officials, and the business community. Major support for the Detroit Studio is

Detroit Studio

Teaching Philosophy

Interdisciplinary approach: Urban planning and design require collaboration among participants, both experts and lay people, from diverse backgrounds such as architecture, landscape design, engineering, economics, and social sciences. Students are introduced to typical content and sources from these disciplines, and taught how to utilize these resources in their semester long urban planning and design projects. Research and design: Urban planning and design require both research and design skills. Conducting planning and design-related research demands critical thinking skills (e.g., for analyzing data collected; reviewing literature; and synthesizing this information in the formation of principles and development of programs) and writing competence. Thus, students need to be trained in the use of appropriate research processes and documentation strategies. Similarly, students are expected to learn planning and design processes and presentation strategies using a broad array of 2D and 3D materials.

Group and individual-based approaches:

Urban planning and design benefit greatly from the use of group-oriented processes in the production of the built environment. It is suggested that assignments or studio activities be developed so as to allow students to work in small group settings to simulate real life situations more closely. Theory and practice: Students are expected to learn the fundamentals of urban planning and design in IDS urban components. Also explored are the practical implications and applications of the theories and concepts. Assignments or studio activities are developed so that students themselves can practice how to develop concepts or principles and apply them in the semester long design project.

2003 Social Justice Award Presented at the 2004 Annual Conference of the Association of College Schools of Architecture

MISSION

CONTEXT

PROCESS

OUTCOMES

Architecture for Social Justice Awards Program: Partnerships in Teaching

student experiences

difficulties

challenges

review

national endowment for the arts

2004 technology and annual conference

ACSA

The Detroit Repertory Theatre is and always will be a place that is torn between boundaries. The Theatre is separated by its location and the race and economic diversity of its community. It has been stated that the theatre has been guided by the belief that the sense of community is stronger than the forces that splinter and that efforts to preserve unity deserve the same attention and support as the justly cultivated efforts to retain diversity. When the class began the Detroit Repertory Theatre project in the fall of 2003, the sense of community along Woodward Wilson Avenue was no where to be seen, but upon meeting the Theatre's staff and contributors, it was soon realized. It was hidden within the dilapidation and vacancy of the surrounding area. Dozens of caring local citizens participated in the events that took place within Lawrence Tech, and the Theatre's fifteen week long relationship. Members of local churches, block clubs, and educational facilities invited us into their community and

contributed to the efforts to recreate the entertainment district along Woodward Wilson Avenue. Students and citizens sat down and contemplated ideas in order to remake a successful district. Existing conditions and past difficulties were all taken into account due to the area's unfortunate history.

In the end, Professor Kim's seventeen junior level students became as familiar with the Woodward Wilson area as they did their own neighborhoods. The impact that the Theatre and the outreach in which it performed reflected on the resident and student's attitude toward the redevelopment of the area and Detroit as a whole. Upon exiting the class, these seventeen students continued to share the relationship in which Professor Kim and the Theatre created.

Andrea Pollock
Student



The Detroit Repertory Theatre and Cultural Village Project was funded by Detroit Repertory Theatre, Detroit, Michigan, The Adaptive Environments Center, Boston, Massachusetts, and National Endowment for the Arts.

April 14, 2004
Dr. Charles Chambers, President and CEO
Lawrence Technological University
3000 West 10th Street
Southfield, MI 48075-2008

Dear Dr. Chambers:

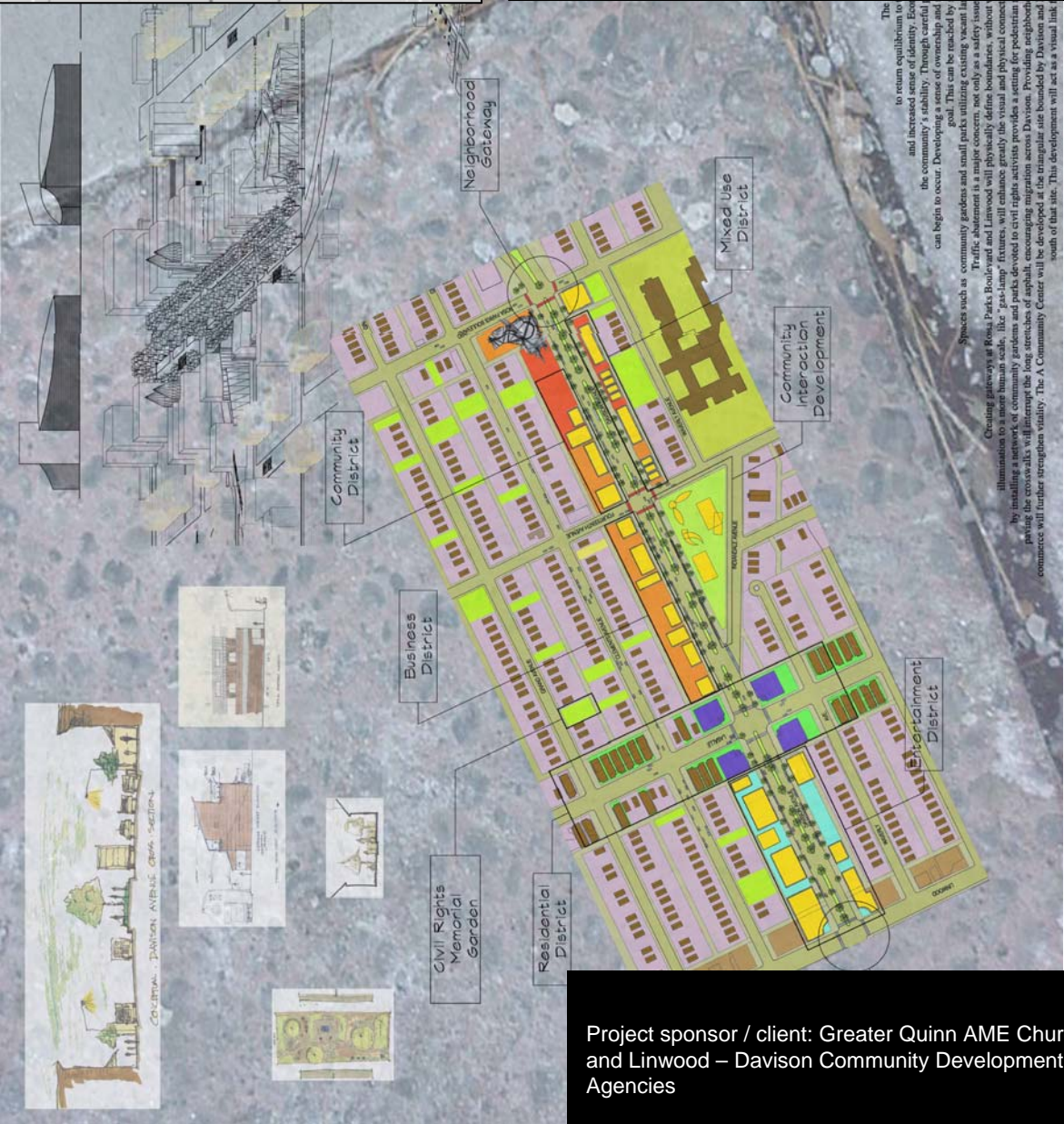
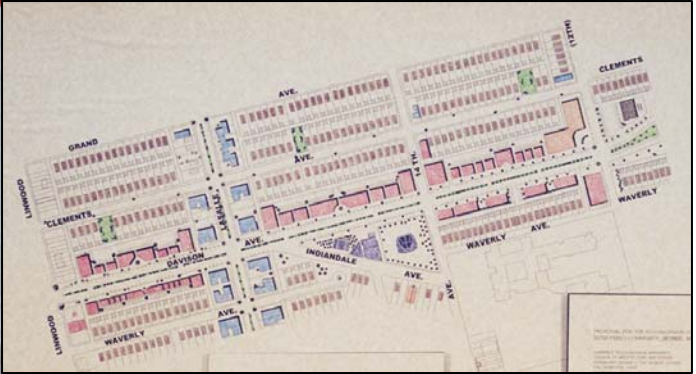
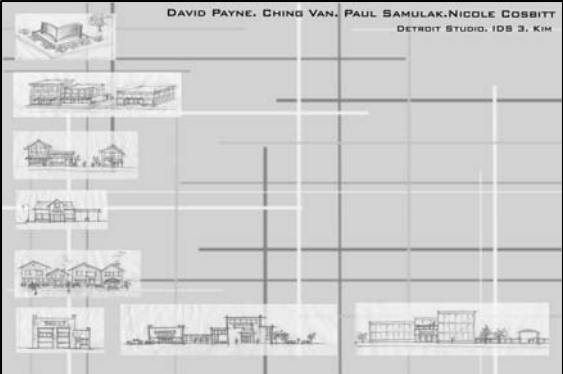
On behalf of the Board of Trustees of Detroit Repertory Theatre, I would like to thank Lawrence Tech University for the partnership and support that has been provided for the Detroit Repertory Theatre's Education Center. Your donation for our new theatre and education center will help to provide us as we work towards our goal of a Cultural Project (and more) in our neighborhood.

Please extend our thanks also to Professor Joao Vito, Assistant Vice President, and Professor Robert Kim, Chair of Architecture and Design, for their vision and the experience both enjoyable and productive.

Thank you and best wishes to the students, and those who supported the final project at the presentation expected to get closer to our vision.

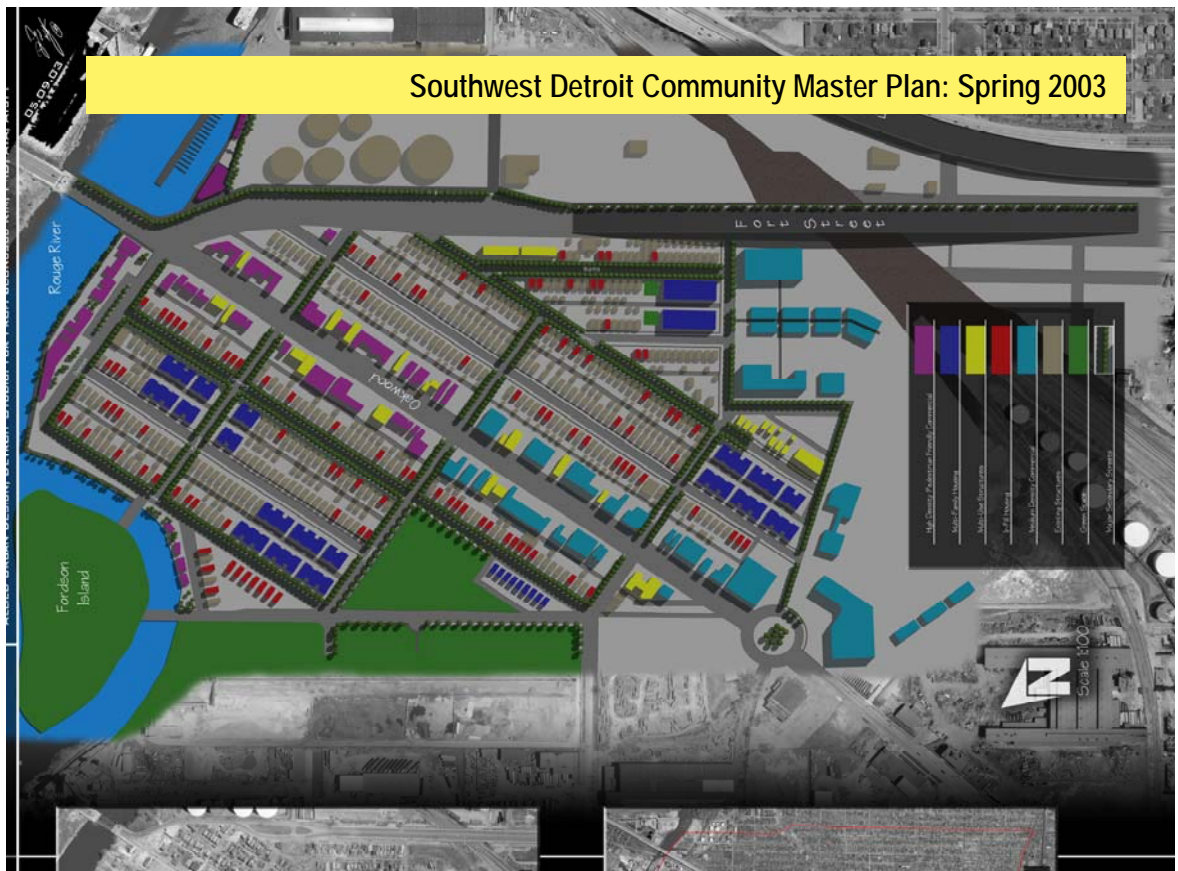
Sincerely,
Sheryl E. Packer, Chair
Board of Trustees
Detroit Repertory Theatre

East Davison Neighborhood Revitalization Project: Fall 2002

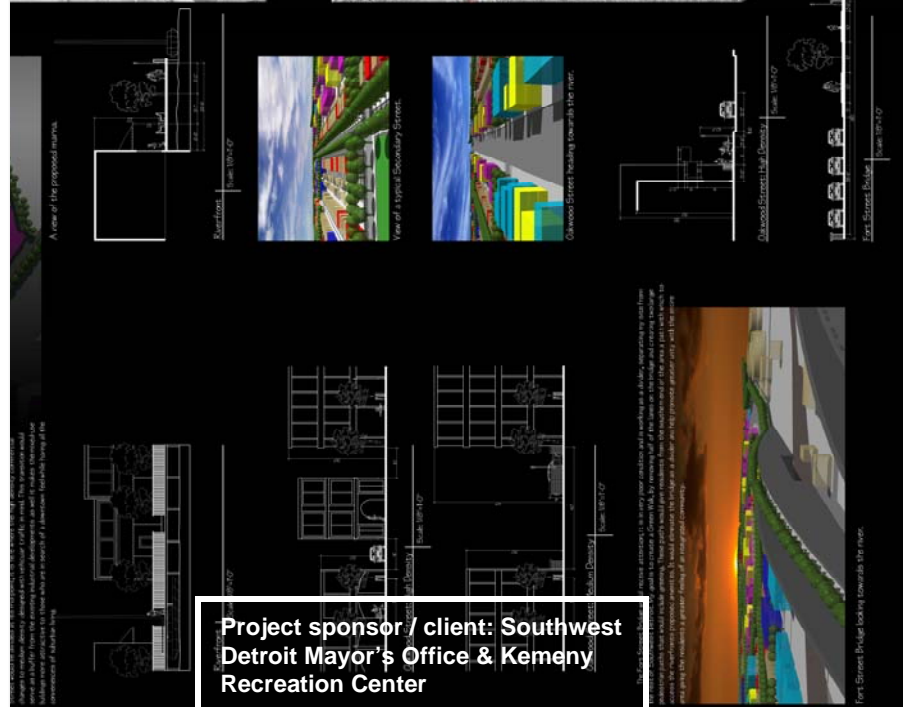
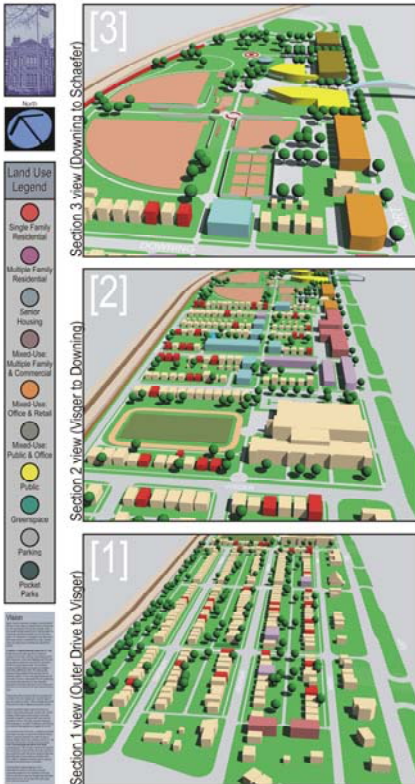


Project sponsor / client: Greater Quinn AME Church
and Linwood – Davison Community Development
Agencies

Southwest Detroit Community Master Plan: Spring 2003

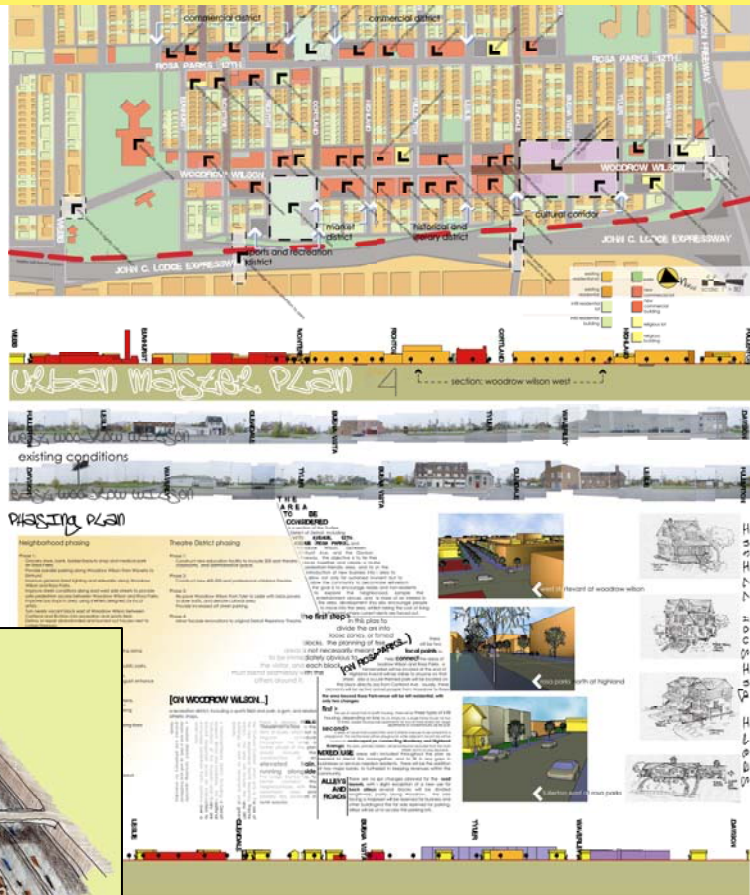


3D SouthEnd Master Land Use Plan

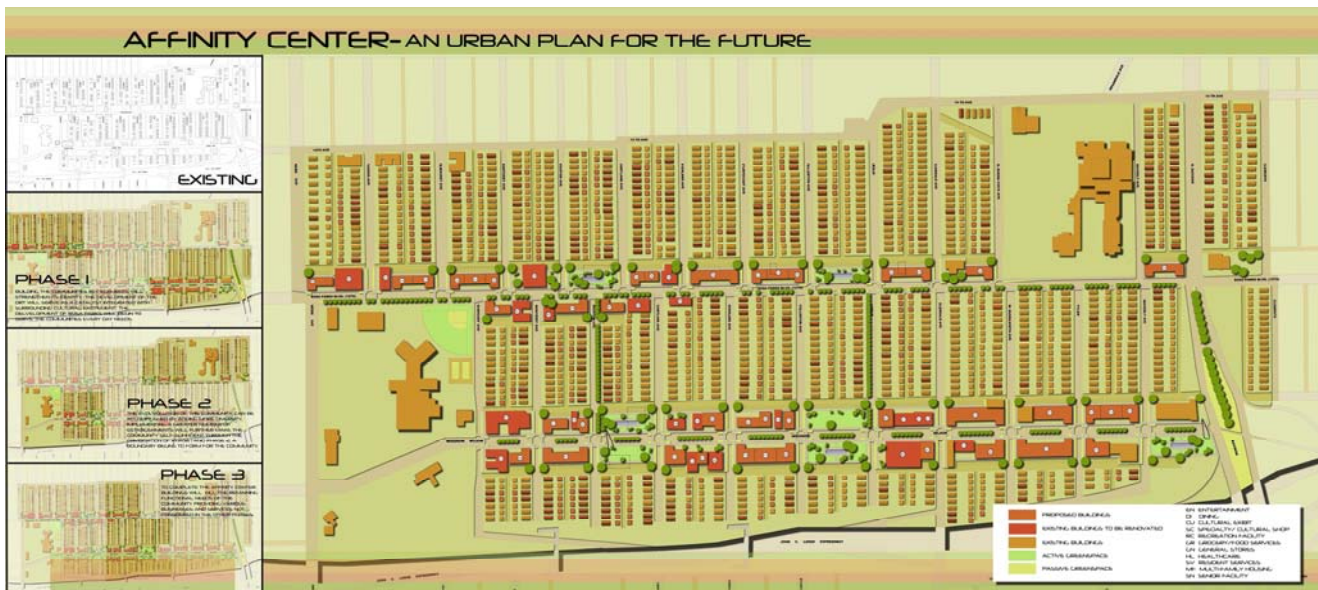


SOUTHWEST DETROIT

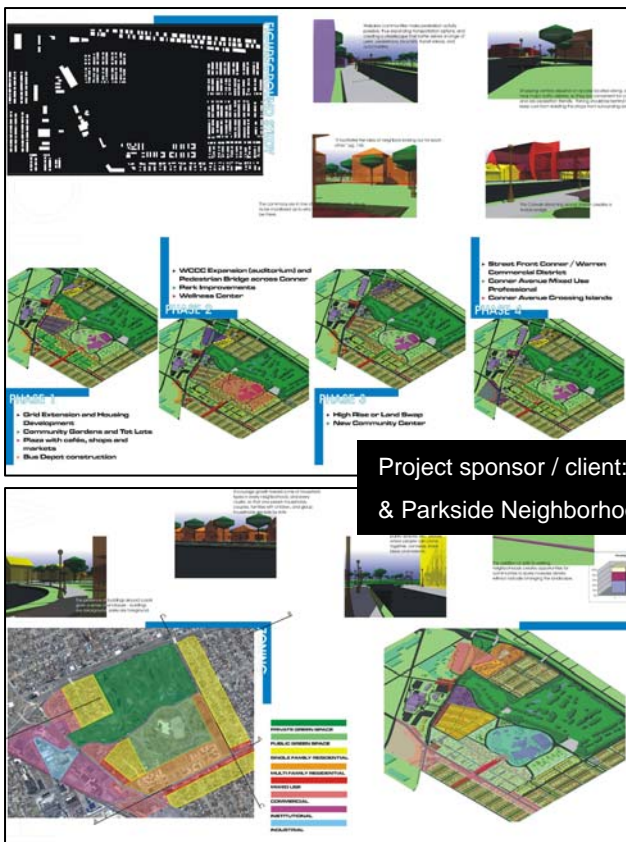
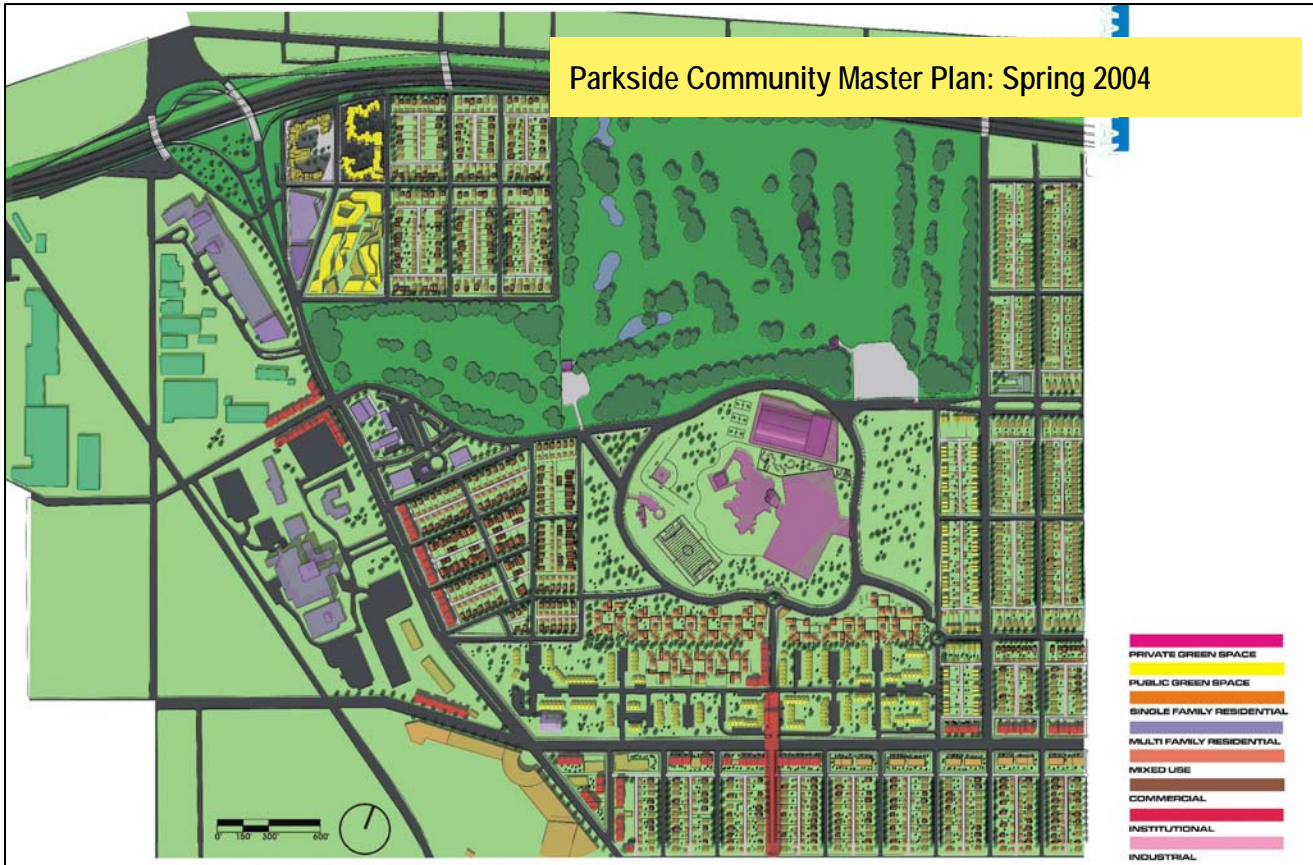
Woodrow Wilson Cultural Village Project: Fall 2003



Project sponsor / client: Detroit Repertory Theater and Woodrow Wilson Community Development Agencies



Parkside Community Master Plan: Spring 2004



East Warren Community Neighborhood Revitalization: Fall 2004



PHASES

Phase 1

1. Clean up unsafe and unusable areas.
2. Renovate or demolish abandoned homes depending on condition, prioritizing areas that are in most need.
3. Provide a wide range of infill housing, such as row houses, single and multiple family homes, live-work dwellings and apartments, to be implemented progressively according to sub-phases A through F.

Phase 2

1. Establish small neighborhood centers. These will include outdoor recreational areas, community buildings and a small number of commercial and mixed use buildings.
2. Provide the project area with pocket parks and recreational areas.
3. Introduce new microfarms and community gardens throughout the community.

Phase 3

1. Reconfigure E. Warren and all other major traffic ways into boulevards, with the purpose of making them pedestrian friendly. They will also serve to identify the edge of the neighborhood, and control the speed and intensity of traffic.
2. Introduce additional bus routes to better serve the community

Phase 4

1. Implement facade renovation plan on existing businesses along E. Warren
2. Introduce new businesses along E. Warren where none currently exist.
3. Create Project Centre



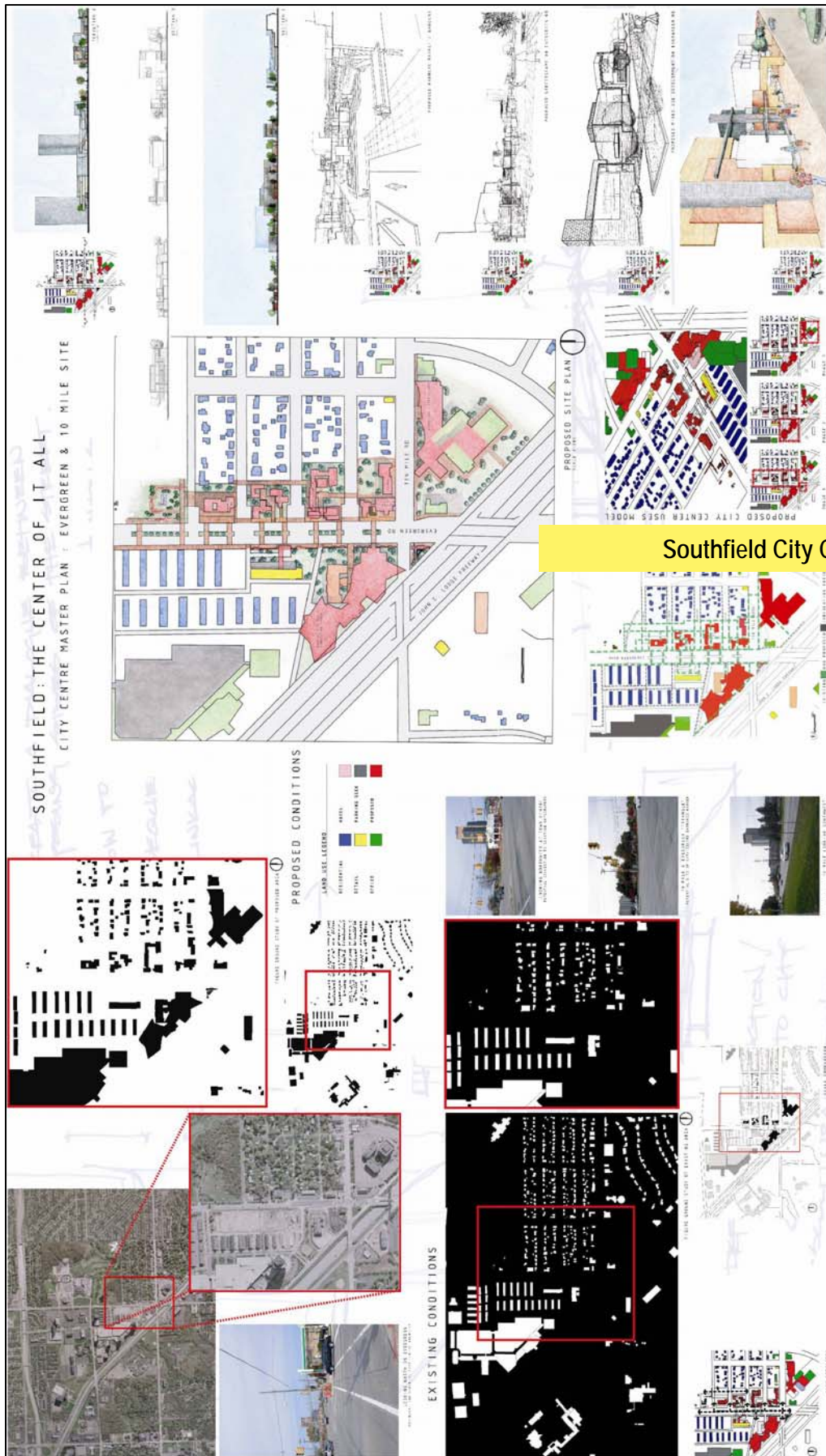
Illustration showing the various phases of implementation

brightmoot: golden corridor [senior complex]

Brightmoor Community Urban Design Project: Spring 2005

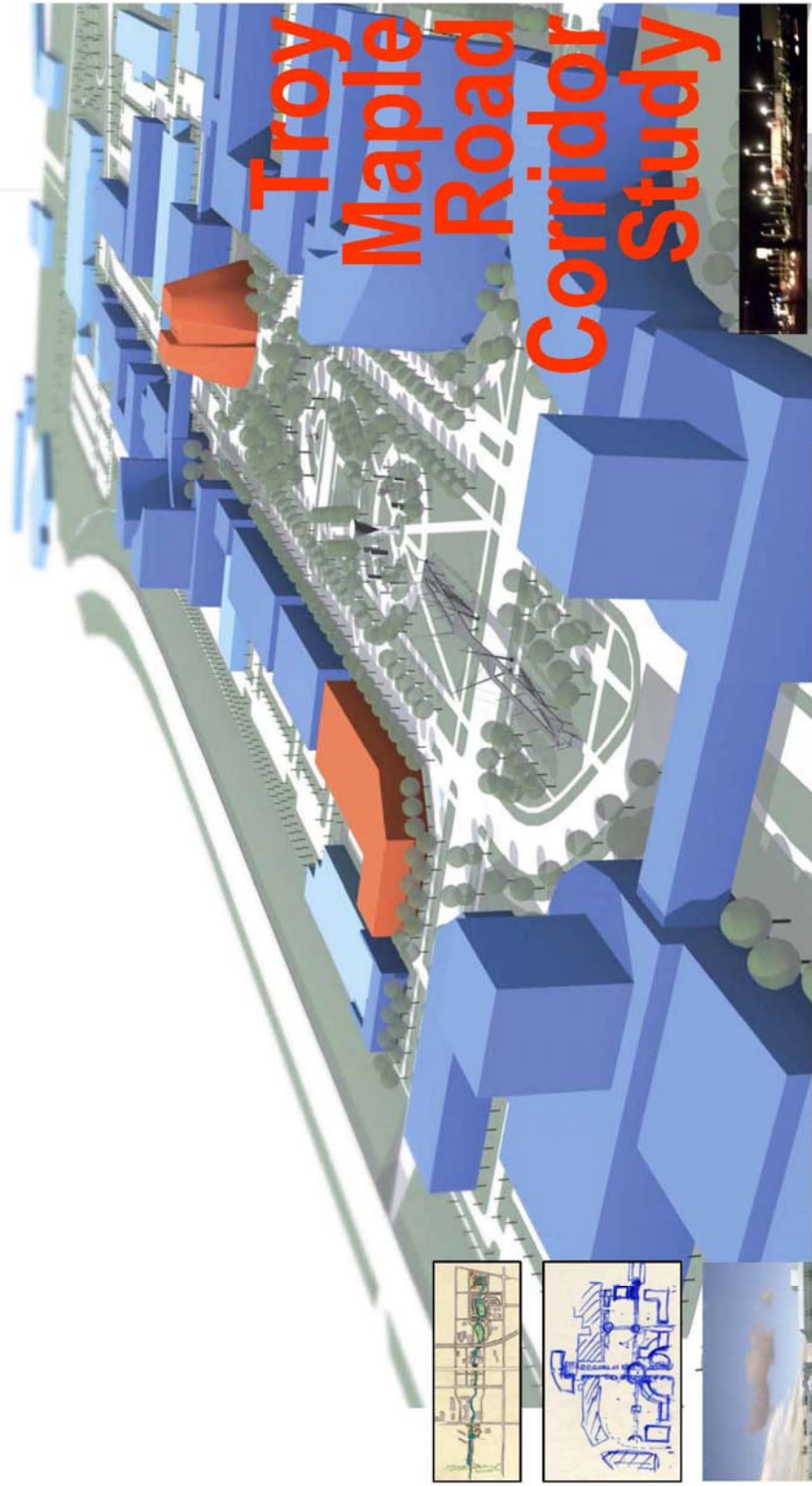


Project
sponsor /
client:
Northwest
Detroit
Neighborhood
Development.



Southfield City Center Project: Fall 2005

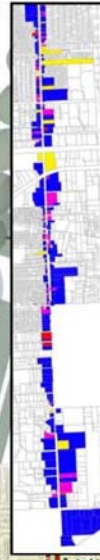
Project sponsor /
client:
City of Southfield



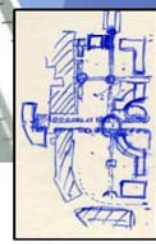
Troy Maple Road Corridor Study

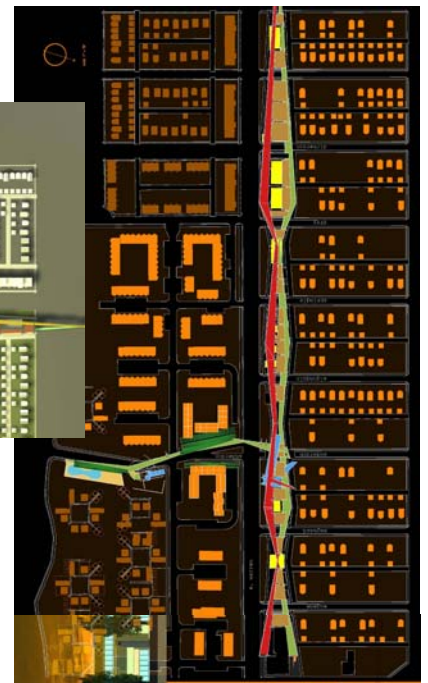


Joongsu Kim, PhD, RA, AIA, AICP
 The Detroit Studio Community Outreach Program
 of the College of Architecture and Design
 Lawrence Technological University



Oakland Business Review
 Troy Chamber of Commerce
 The City of Troy



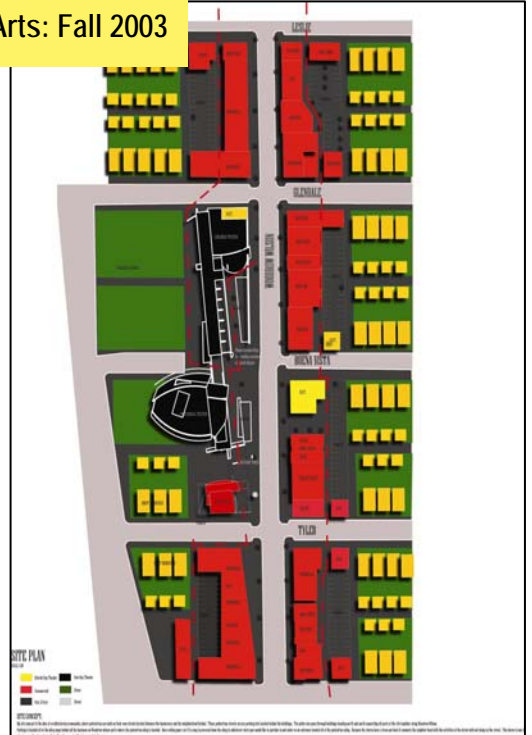


**new community center
e. warren redevelopment**

visionary narrative
 LVD elevated urban
 strategic studio
 conceptual plan
 every picture

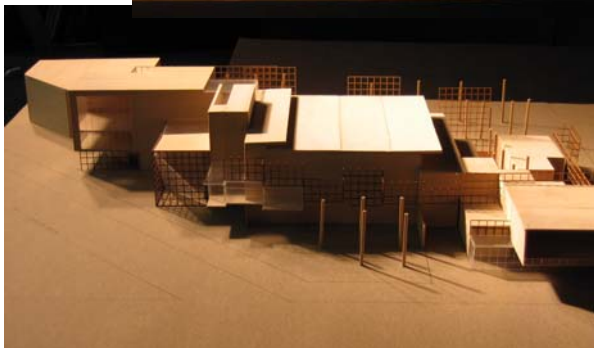
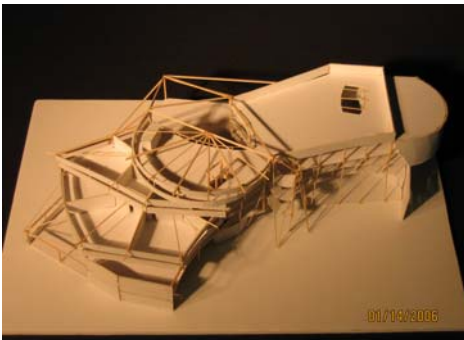
Legend:
 1. Building
 2. Parking
 3. Street
 4. Landscape
 5. Water
 6. Sky
 7. Sun
 8. Moon
 9. Clouds
 10. Trees
 11. Fences
 12. Walls
 13. Gates
 14. Bridges
 15. Towers
 16. Stairs
 17. Ramps
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Architecture for Social Justice Award
Sponsored by The Adaptive Environments Center
and National Endowment for the Arts: Fall 2003





City of Southfield Cultural Center: Fall 2005



Project sponsor / client:
City of Southfield

