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BA Year 3 Atelier: Continuity in Architecture

Project: A Continuation of the Street

The New Shrewsbury Library

Shrewsbury Council were in need of a new library on the edge of their evolving town. The new library was to be an introspective and meditative space appropriately responding to the three-dimensional nature of the site which included a sloping parkland and direct routes from the town. The East Entrance to the Quarry Park in Shrewsbury was previously where the town's central axis ended abruptly, leaving the south corner of the park unused. Through making a 1:50 development model and 1:100 final model I was able to show the overall form and atmospheric qualities of my proposed building strategy and how the new library proposal allows for a continuation of the town into the park. This was achieved through emulating the winding streets and roof profiles of Shrewsbury, whilst understanding how the building sits within its topographical context and allows light to travel through to the interiors. I chose to make each model at a larger scale so I could integrate sufficient detail which I believed to be crucial in communicating my proposal.

Throughout the design process, I have used model making to resolve issues within my design, communicate my ideas and discover the qualities of space I had not intended. I was able to illustrate: the internal spatial variation, lighting changes on facades, contact between the architecture and the external environment, the links between building interior and exterior space corridor, the core areas of the building and textural qualities of the proposal. The imperfections of the model are what gave it its atmospheric qualities, illustrating the craftsmanship of the calibre required to build the building.

I had previously been intimidated by the possible complexities of model making, however, the simplicity of materials and lack of access to workshops gave a new perspective in which I could build my confidence as a model maker, whilst utilising materials I am familiar with. For both the development and final model I used the same materials and techniques to help achieve the desired effect. There were imitations to the construction of both models, including the intricacy of the window shading, which I edited onto the final photos of the model. However, the combination of the model and 3D editing achieves a balance of detail and physical representation.

My first development model was of a 1:50 section of a corner of my building, used to convey the materiality and lighting effects of the building's form to show the manipulation of light into the interiors. By physically experiencing the atmospheric qualities of the model I was able to appropriately alter my design and take elements of it to use in my final model.

- ✓ 4mm greyboard
- ✓ scalpel to create facade detail and cut board
- ✓ watercolour paint to emulate concrete pigment
- ✓ Plywood for wooden floor slats
- ✓ recycled corrugated board for topography
- ✓ plastic wallets for windows
- ✓ UHU glue to stick together



Image 01:

Section model showing the relationship between exterior and interior spaces.



Image 02:

Structural strategy of the cantilever and shadows created by the botanical window shading.

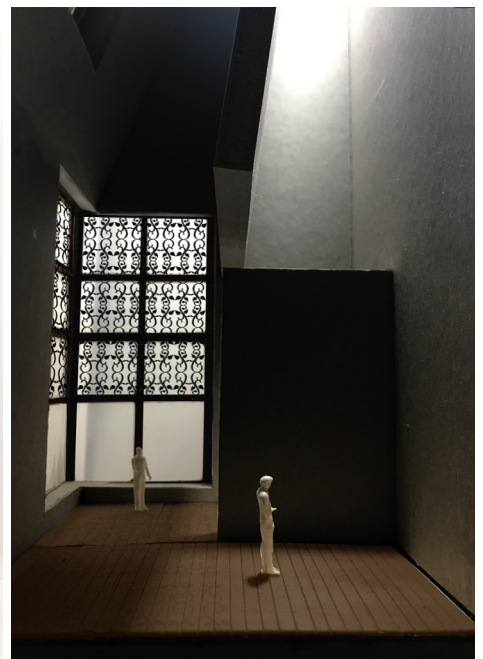


Image 03:

Interior view exemplifying how the structural beams allow light to travel into the building.



Image 04: The North-East Elevation

The final 1:100 model illustrates the view of the library as you enter from the park. The central staircase as a route to the town encourages people to enter the library. The pink pigmented board form responds to the materiality of the surrounding town, with the motif of the park gates replicated within the shading panels.

Image 05:

Elevation West

The West elevation illustrates the libraries conglomeration of individual buildings and how its profile emulates that of a street which traditionally has a collage of forms. By including the topography, the model also demonstrates the integration of the library into its surrounding context.



Image 06:

Elevation South-East

The South-East elevation illustrates the approach from neighbouring Church. By scoring greyboard i was able to emulate the panels of the concrete mould which are arranged analogously to the vertical joints on the concrete surface, expressing the structure whilst creating scale and depth of the facade.

