2017 MERIT

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TEAR DOWN THIS WALL!

Audubon Terrace was originally conceived as a cultural center, showcasing the location of the Hispanic Society in North Manhattan. As the terrace fully developed toward its current state, it began close off any visual and accessible relationship to 150th Street. Rather than integrating into the Washington Heights community and serving as a civic amenity, Audubon Terrace stands as a fortress, loaded with negative social implications. This relationship has resulted in a disjunction between the terrace and Washington Heights.

Per the diagrams below, this proposal calls for the radical relocation of the Hispanic Society's Archive Library, restoring the visual relationship between the site's original building and 150th Street. By opening Audubon Terrace to 150th Street, a grand public space is offered to accompany the new branch library. The new "El Cid Park" acts as public entrance to both Audubon Terrace and the branch library.
EYES UPON THE STREET

In the spirit of Jane Jacobs, the “de-fortifying” of Audubon Terrace brings eyes back to the street, “eyes belonging to those we might call the natural proprietors of the street,” the Washington Heights community. As the presence of a new branch library and park attracts activity, 156th Street becomes animated. The goings-on of the terrace become transparent.

Through a process of bas relief studies, an aesthetic was developed that reinforces this idea of transparency as a source of collective security. The transparency of the bas relief studies consistently furthers the integration of the public space and community throughout the proposal.

How do we restore Audubon Terrace? Animate it!

Main Reading Room

The reading room opens up through the porous facade to views of Audubon Terrace, El Cid Park, and 156th Street, serving as an active neighbor to the Washington Heights community.
ANIMATE THE POCHÉ, ANIMATE THE FACADE

A POROUS POCHÉ, A SEMI-TRANSPARENT MASS, WAS DEVELOPED FROM THE BAS RELIEF STUDIES TO SERVE MULTIPLE FUNCTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIBRARY:

- DIFFUSES LIGHT
- ACTS AS SHELVING FOR THE LIBRARY'S BOOK COLLECTION
- PARTITIONS SPACE
- CONTAINS STRUCTURE
- SERVES AS A LAYERED FACADE DESIGN
- PROVIDES NOOKS FOR INTIMATE READING SPACES
- CONTAINS CIRCULATION DESIGNS AND OFFICES
- PROVIDES VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL CIRCULATION
- DISPLAYS ARTWORK AND ARTIFACTS

THE MAIN PROMENADE STAIR ANIMATES BOTH THE INTERIOR POCHÉ WALL AND THE FACADE. THE ANIMATED POCHÉ WALL BECOMES A FUNCTIONAL ANIMATED FACADE FOR THE INTERIOR ATRIUM SPACE AS WELL AS THE NEW EL CID PARK.

AXONOMETRIC PLAN - LEVEL 0 - 19TH STREET/SERVICE ENTRANCE LEVEL

1. CHILDREN'S LIBRARY
2. SERVICE ENTRANCE DOORS
3. ELECTRONIC BOOK BANKS
4. BOOK STACKS
5. RESTROOMS

AXONOMETRIC PLAN - LEVEL 1 - EL CID PARK/MAIN ENTRANCE LEVEL

6. ENTRANCE LOBBY/READING SPACE
7. ENTRANCE LOBBIES
8. MAIN LIBRARY ENTRANCE
9. STAIRS TO LIBRARY ROOF
10. OUTER FLOORS
11. ESPLANADE
12. RESTROOMS

AXONOMETRIC PLAN - LEVEL 2 - AUDUBON TERRACE ENTRANCE LEVEL

13. ENTRANCE LOBBY/READING SPACE
14. ENTRANCE ENTRANCE DOORS
15. MAIN LEVEL STEPS
16. BOOKSTACK
17. RESTROOMS