

CHILD'S PLAY:  
A CHILDREN'S THEATRE AT VANIER PARK

by

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The University of British Columbia  
Vancouver, Canada

Date APRIL 28 1998

**ABSTRACT**

The design of a children's theatre at Vanier Park in Vancouver, British Columbia, is loosely based upon the model and philosophical underpinnings of the Vancouver Children's Festival. The theatre is situated in the present site of the Children's Festival, designed to provide children with year round access to the arts. A liaison between school children or a venue for professional travelling troupes, the theatre is designed to accommodate any size of performance.

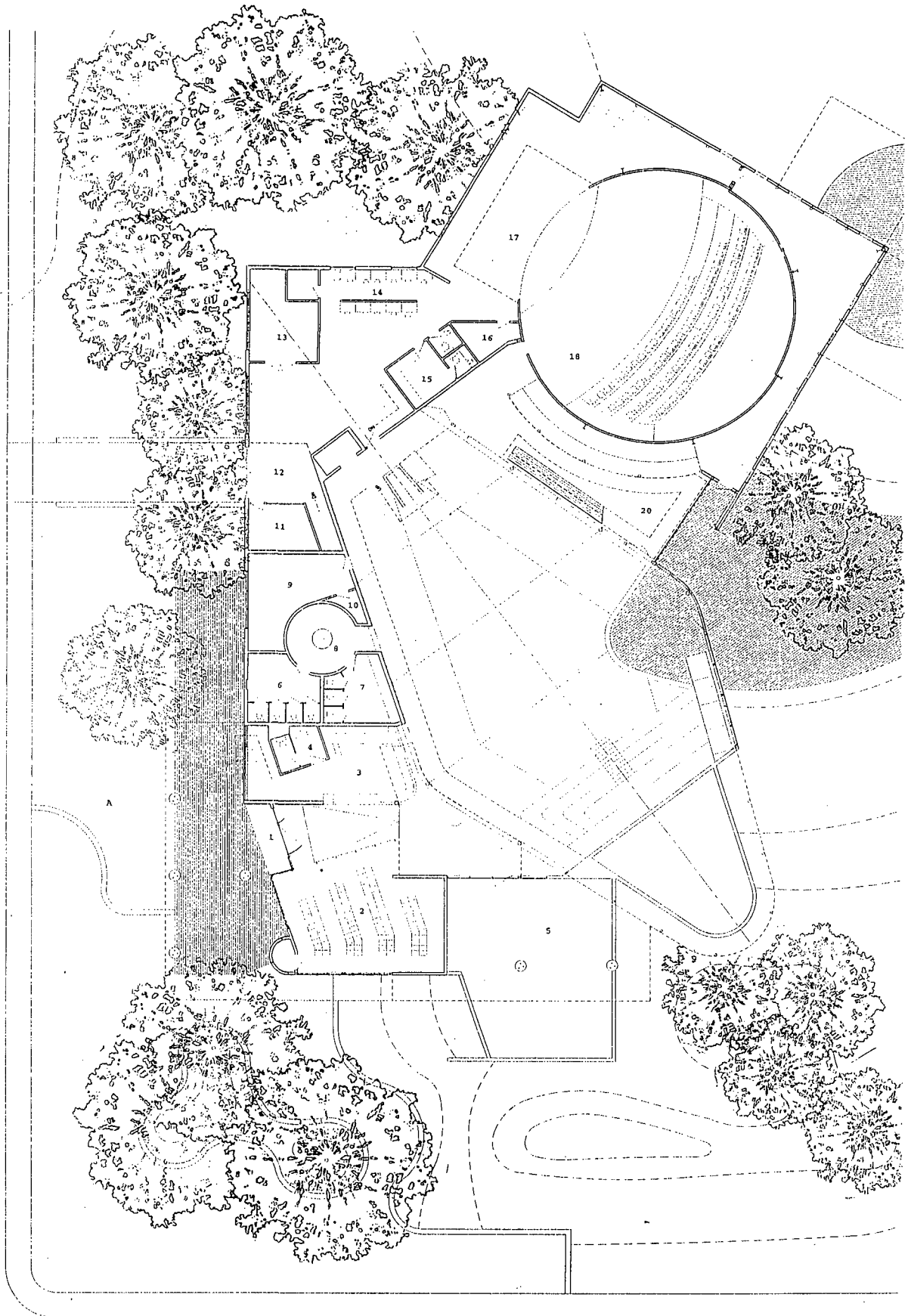
The integration of landscape is a strong component of the overall theatre design, reinforcing the vitality of the annual Festival held in the park. The plan and resultant form is derived from specific site geometries and view corridors provided by its location. The hierarchy of spaces is dominated by a large central lobby which is circumvented by a looping ramp. This space is where the spontaneity of children's theatre is to take place, a space where each child becomes an actor in his or her own play. The idea of looping is a generative concept to further heighten these secondary aspects of children's theatre.

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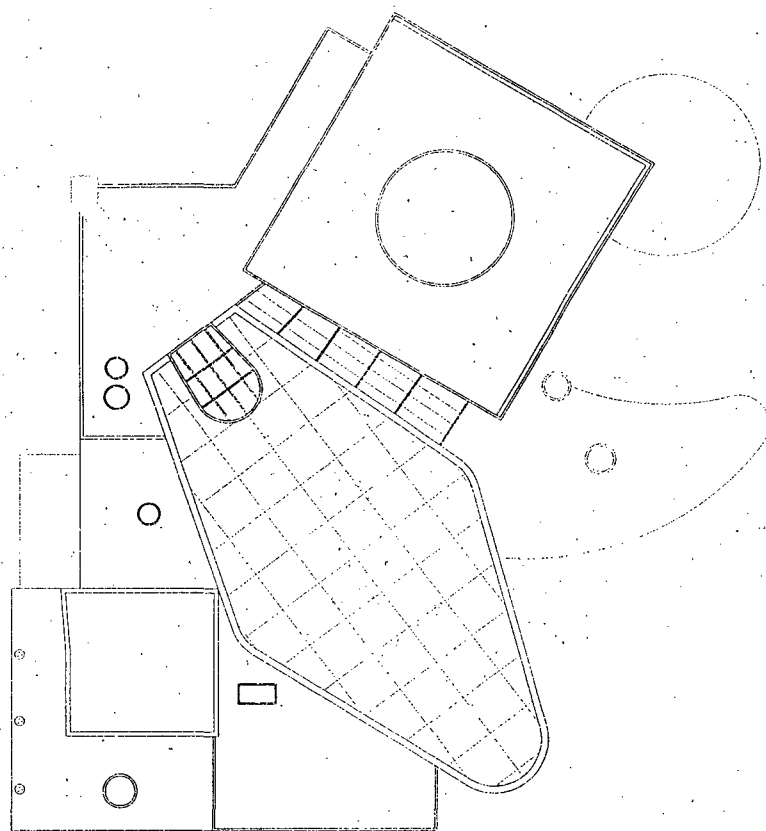
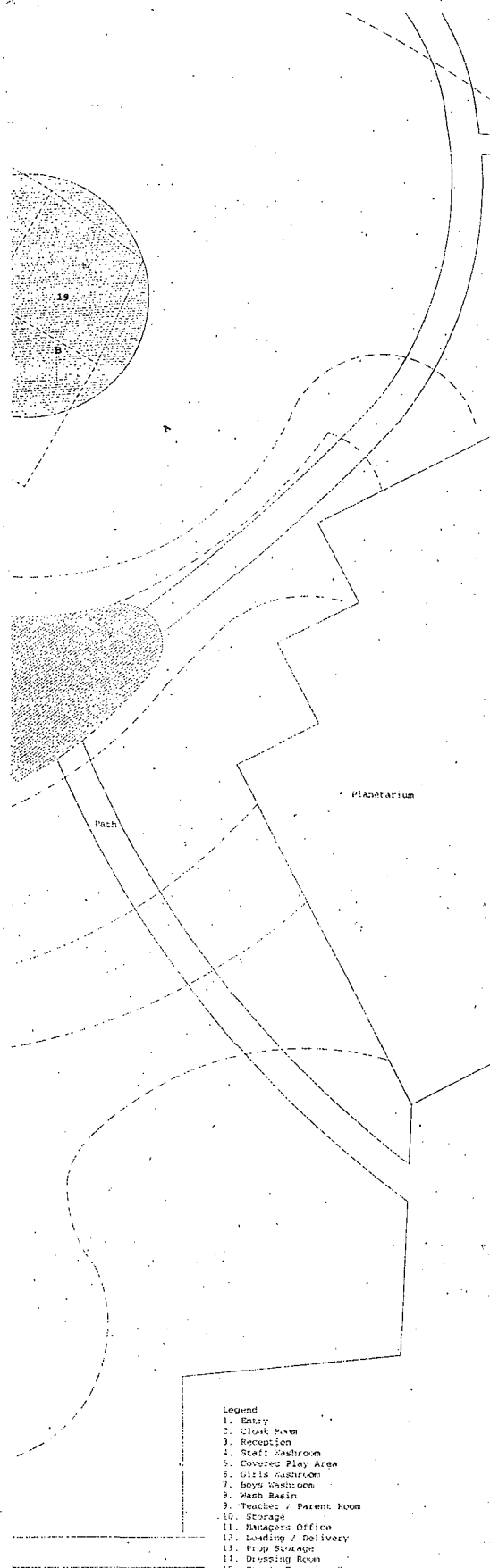
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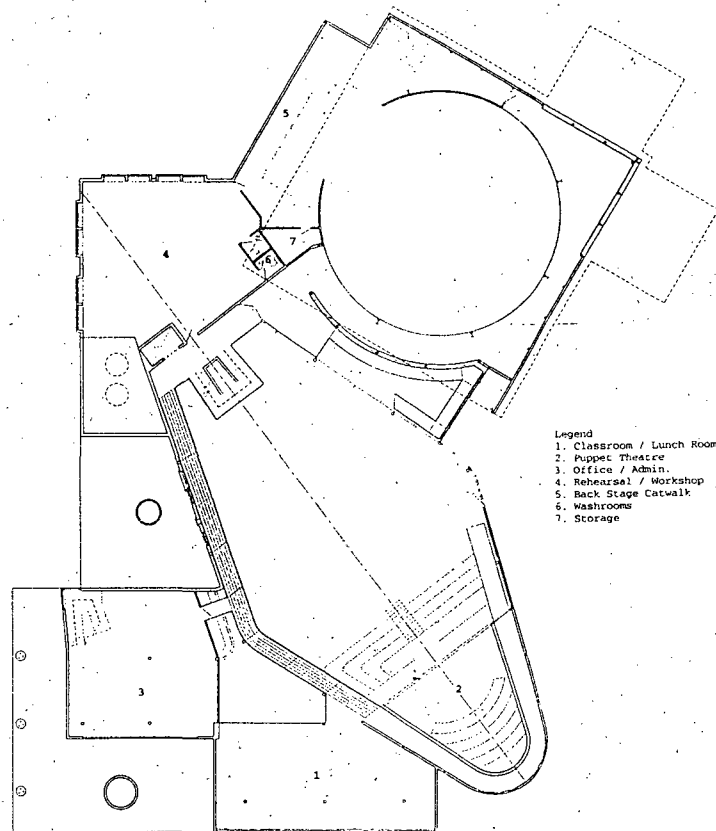


Ground Plan 1:100



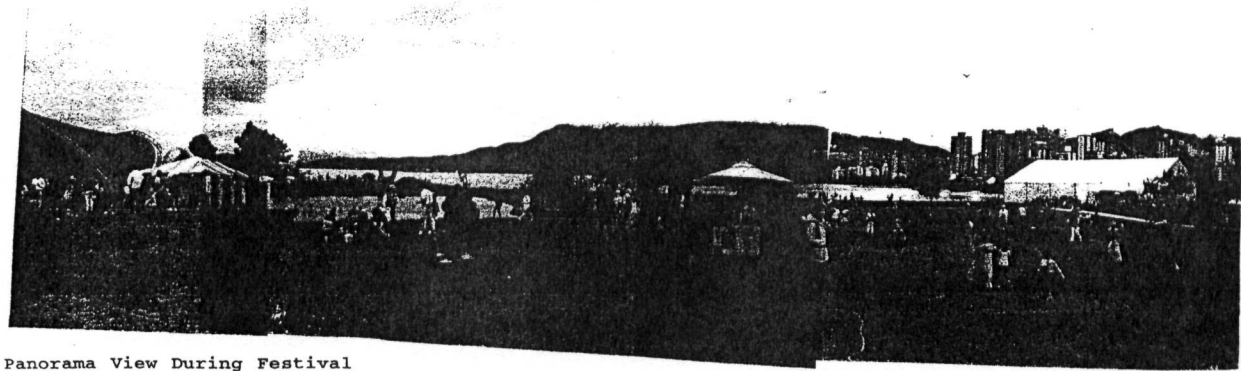
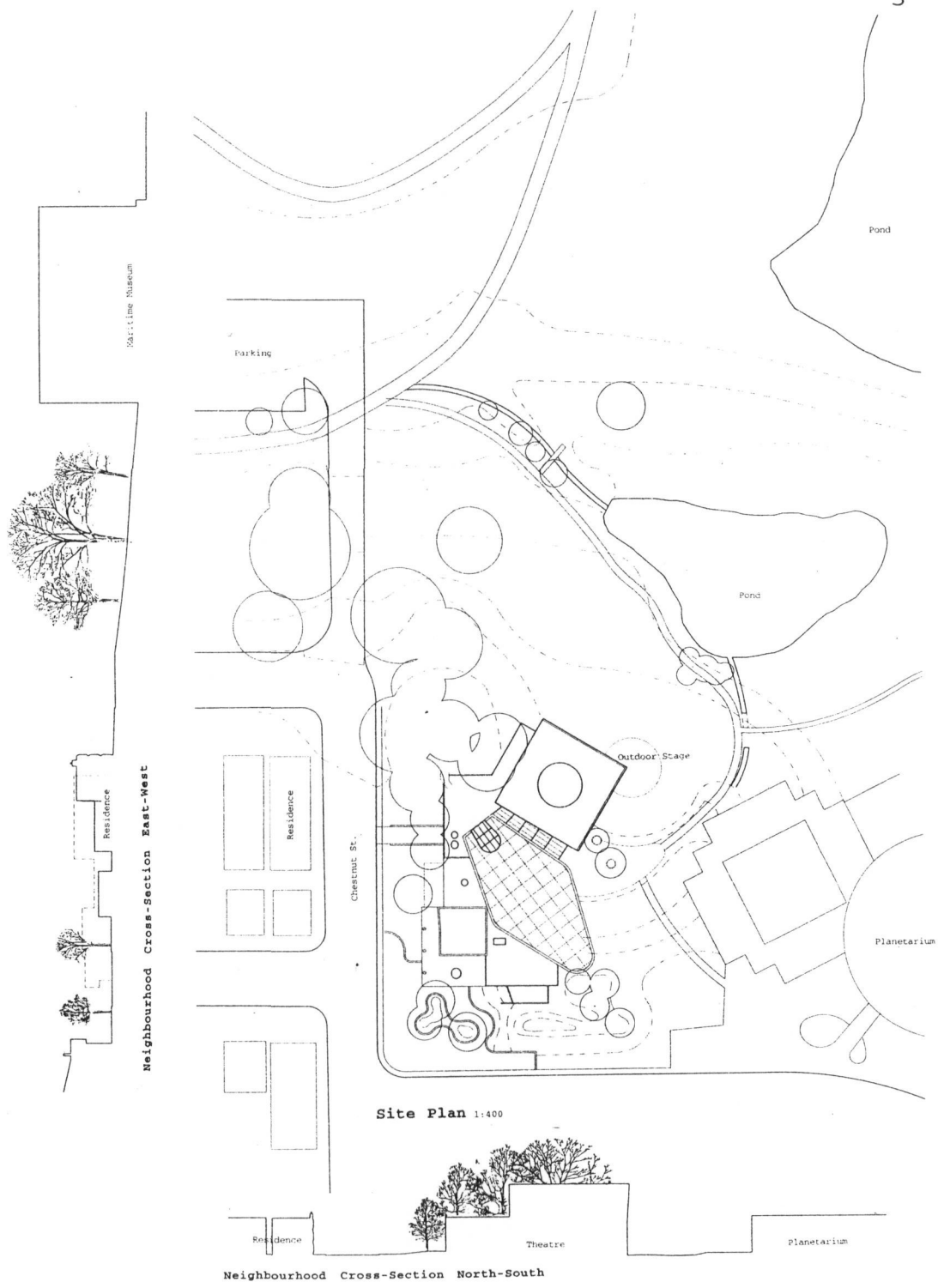
Roof Plan 1:150

- Legend
1. Entry
  2. Clock Room
  3. Reception
  4. Staff Washroom
  5. Covered Play Area
  6. Girls Washroom
  7. Boys Washroom
  8. Wash Basin
  9. Teacher / Parent Room
  10. Storage
  11. Rangemaster Office
  12. Loading / Delivery
  13. Prop Storage
  14. Dressing Room
  15. Staff's Dressing Room
  16. Acoustic Equip. Storage
  17. Stage
  18. Major Theatre
  19. Outdoor Stage
  20. Anti-room



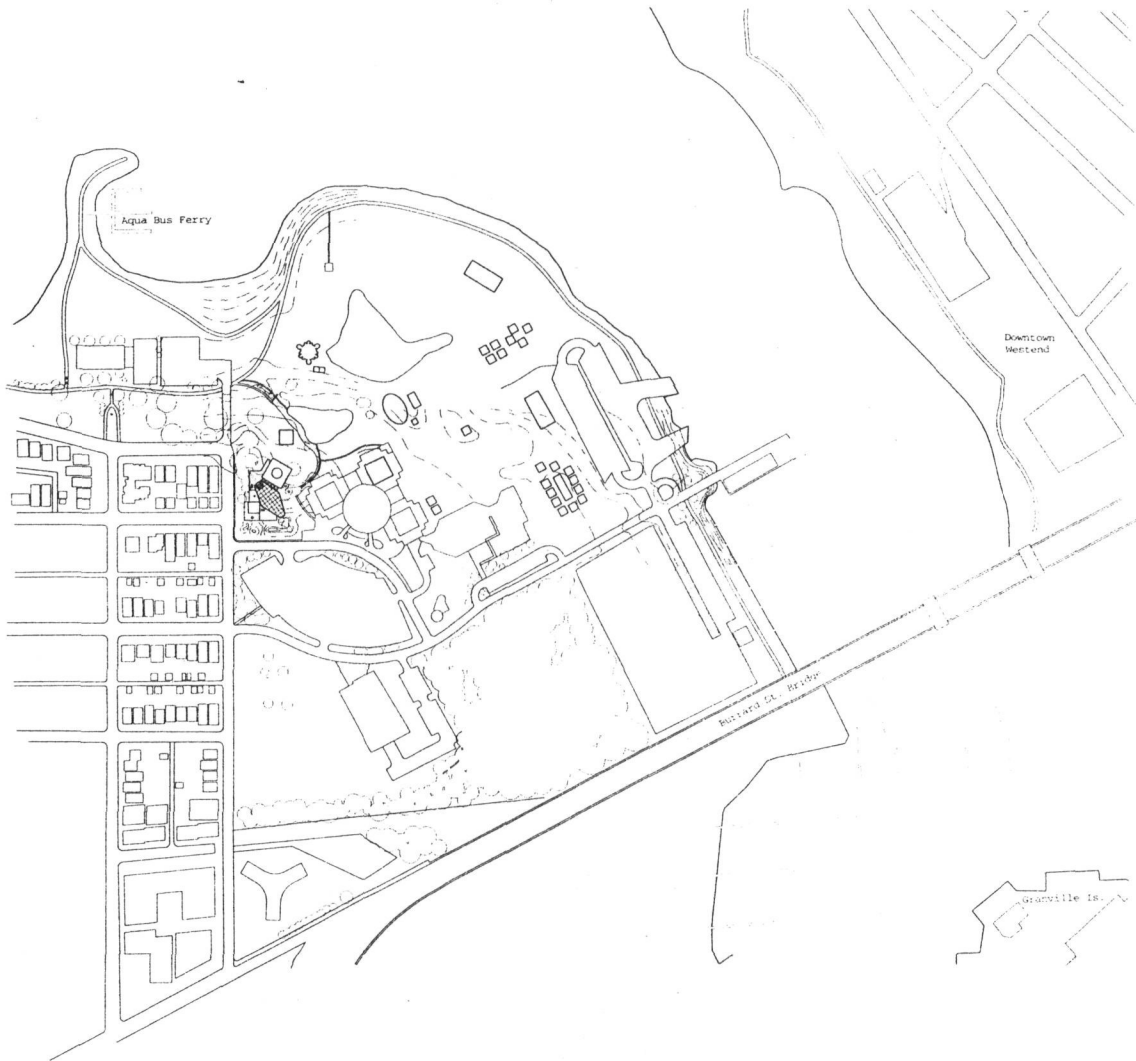
Second Floor Plan 1:150

- Legend
1. Classroom / Lunch Room
  2. Puppet Theatre
  3. Office / Admin.
  4. Rehearsal / Workshop
  5. Back Stage Catwalk
  6. Washrooms
  7. Storage



Panorama View During Festival





Site Context 1:2000

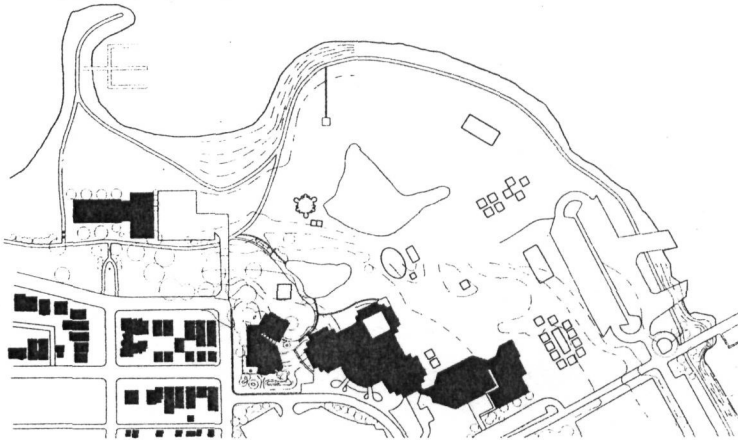
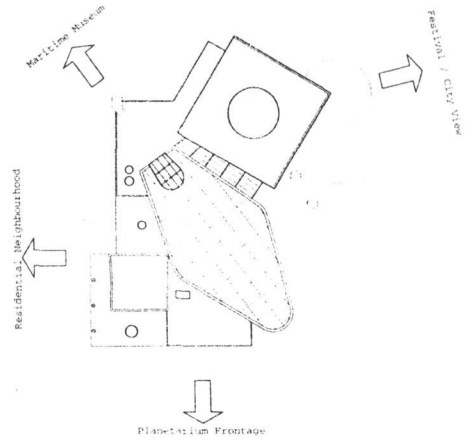
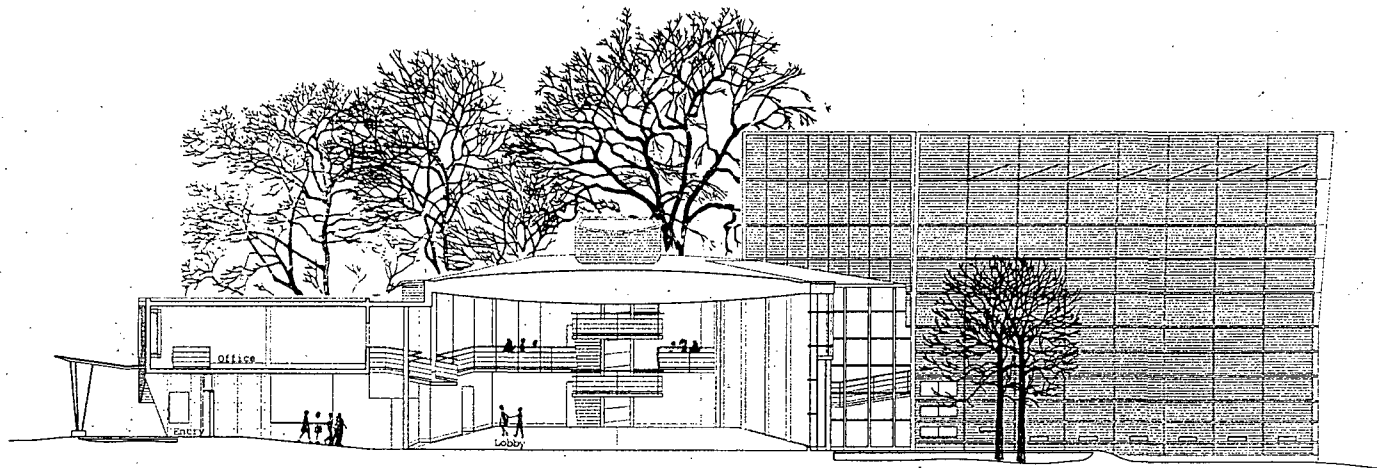


Figure Ground During Festival

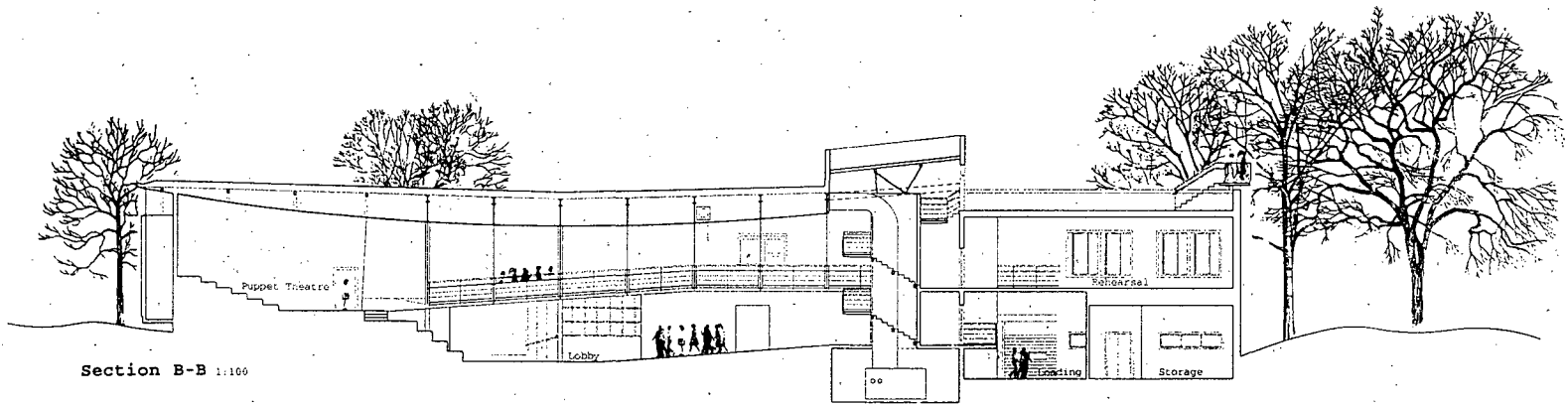


Geometries On Site

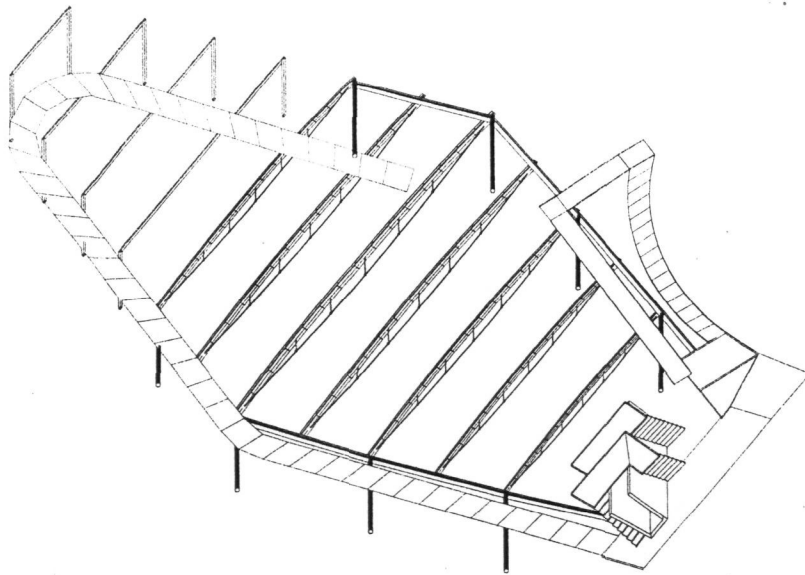




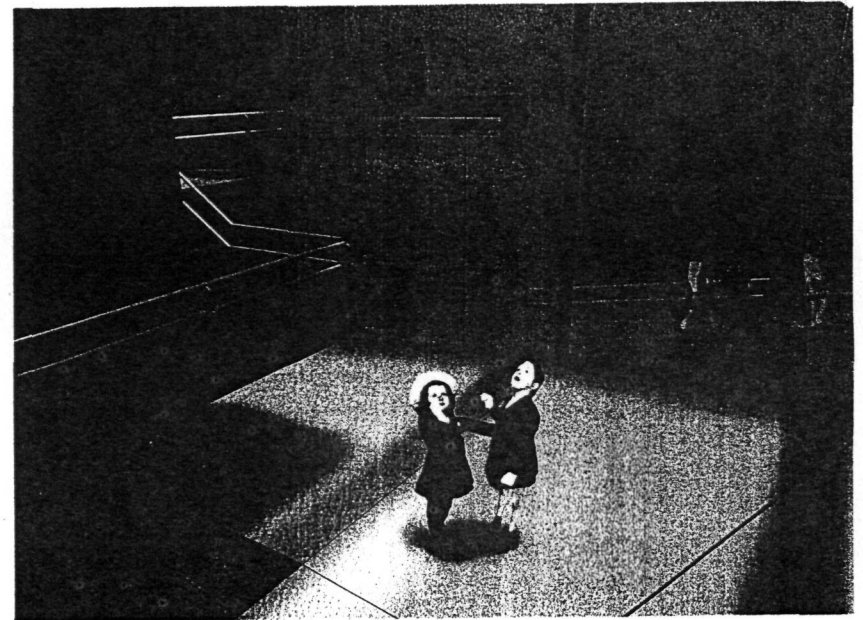
Section A-A 1:100



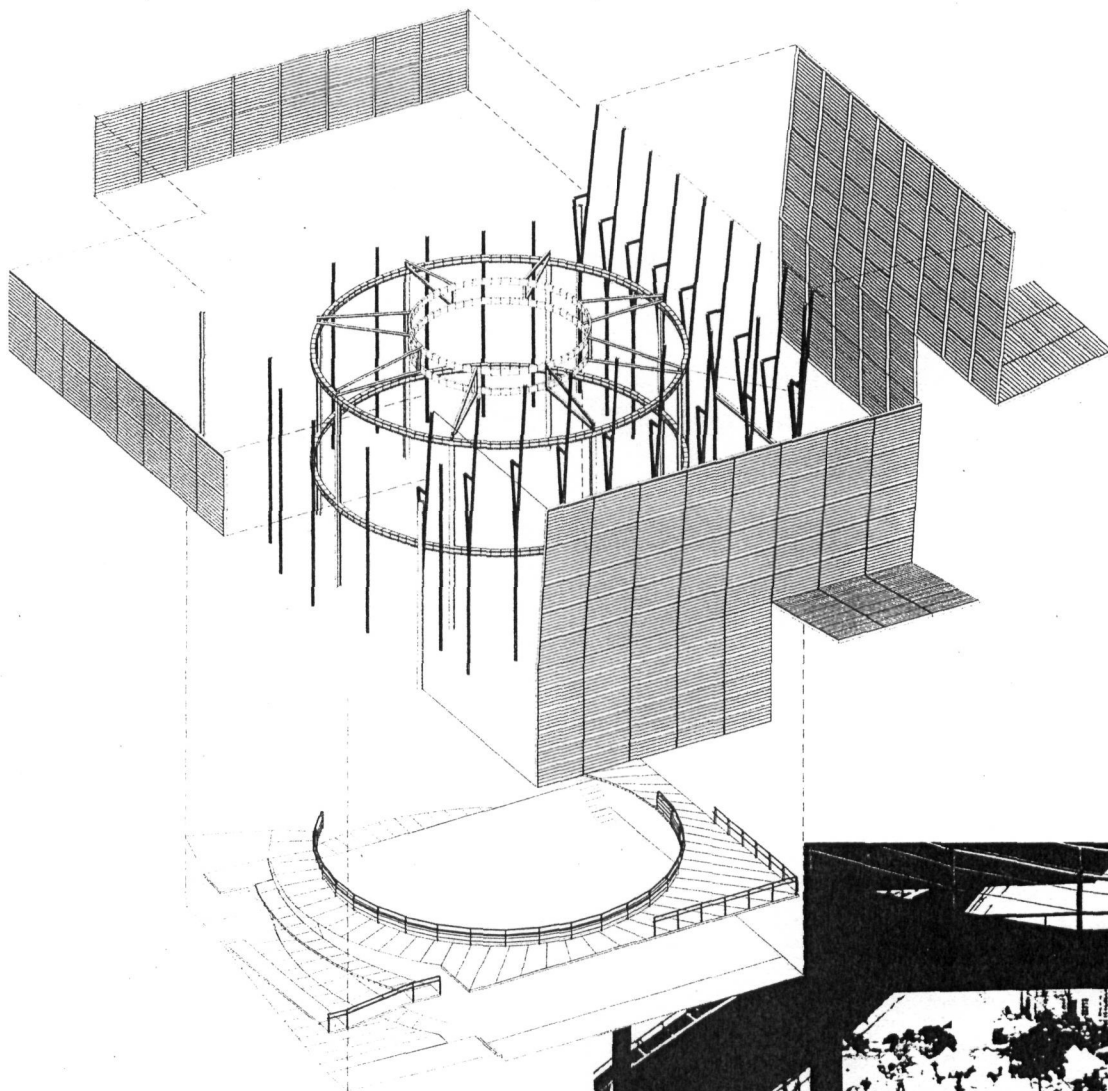
Section B-B 1:100



Wormseye View Of Structure  
And Circulation At Lobby



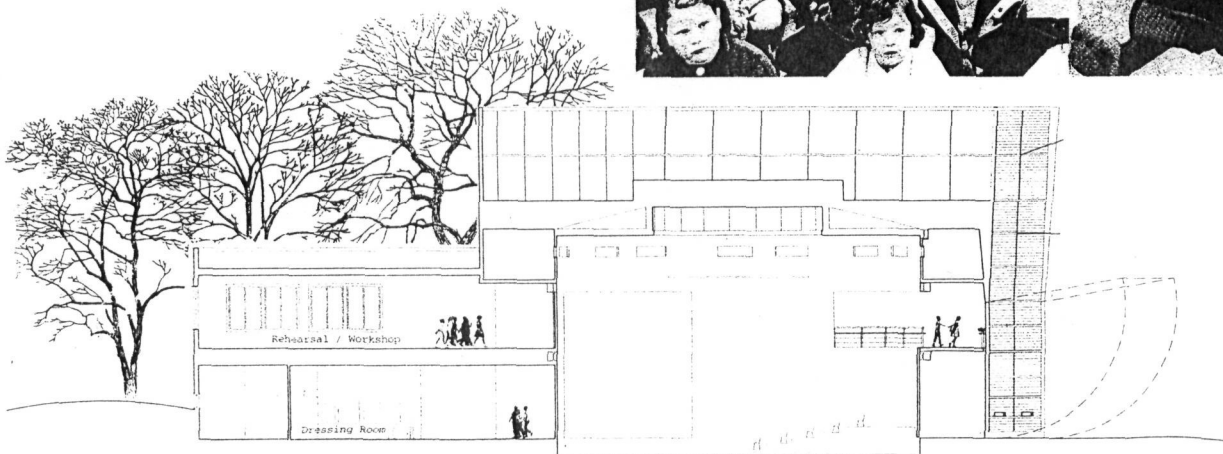
View Within Lobby



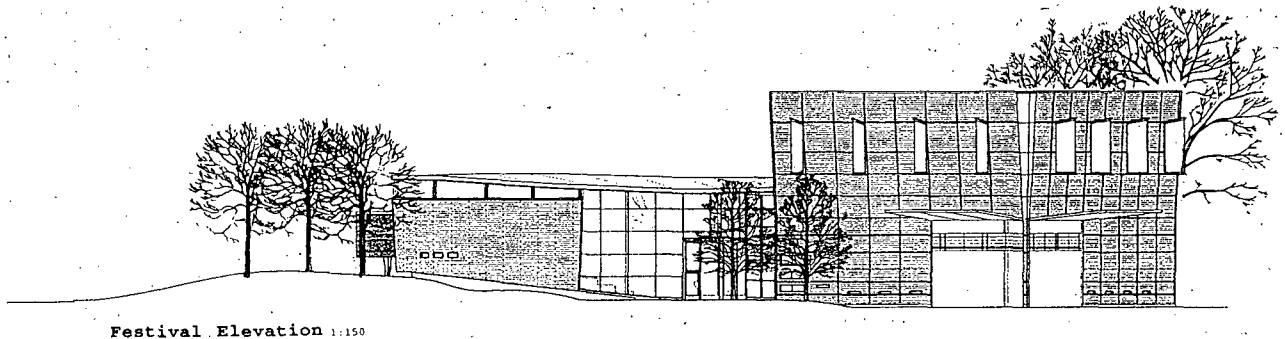
Exploded Axonometric Of Theatre  
Showing Circulation And  
Structure



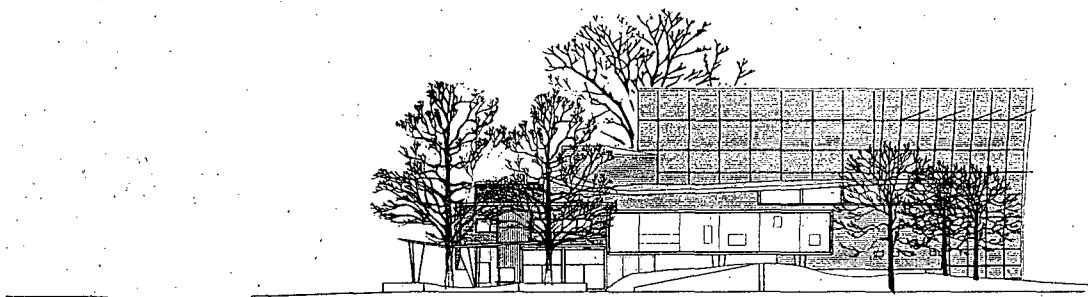
View Looking Out Through The  
Theatre



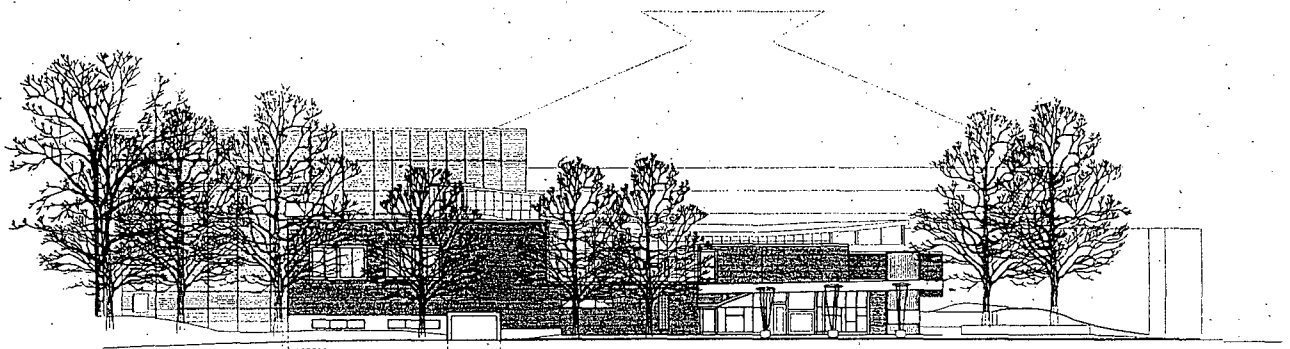
Section C-C 1:100



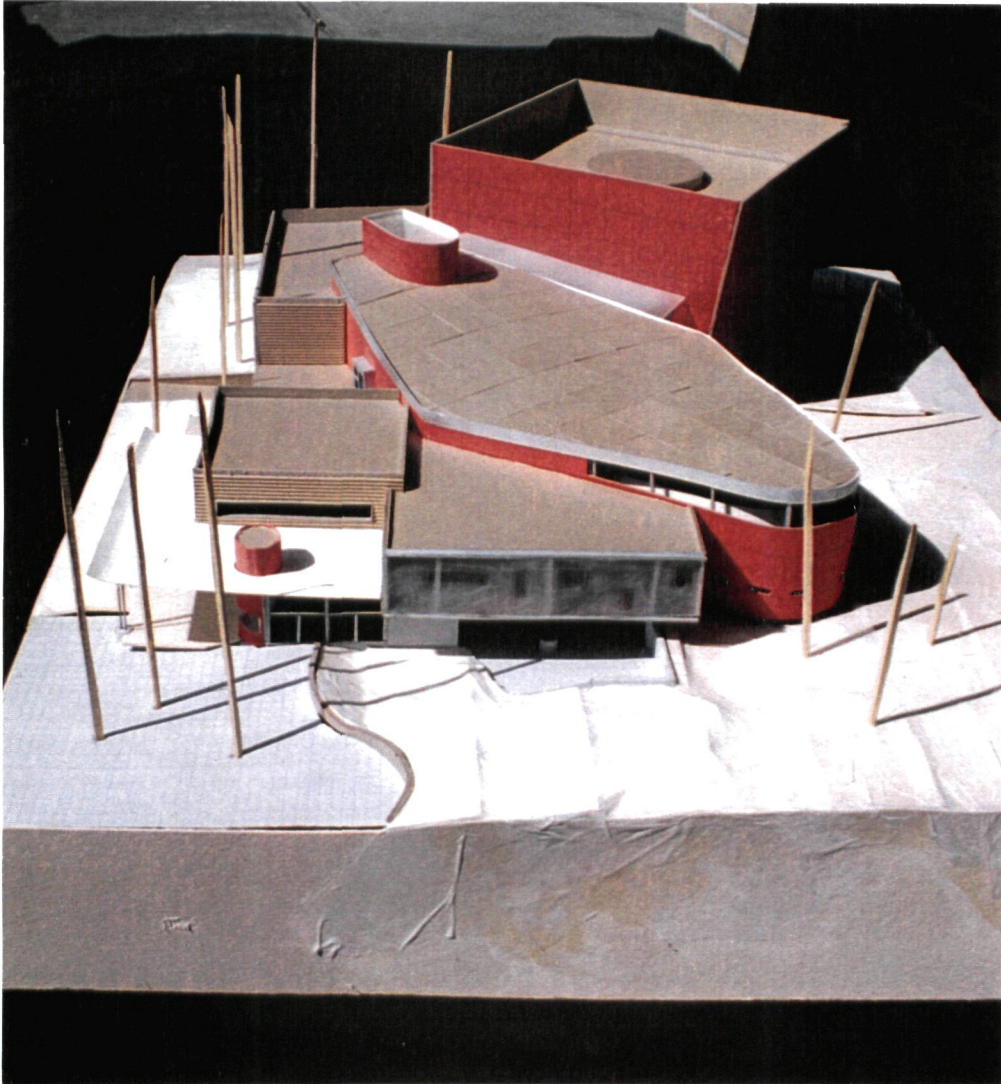
Festival Elevation 1:150



Frontage Elevation 1:150

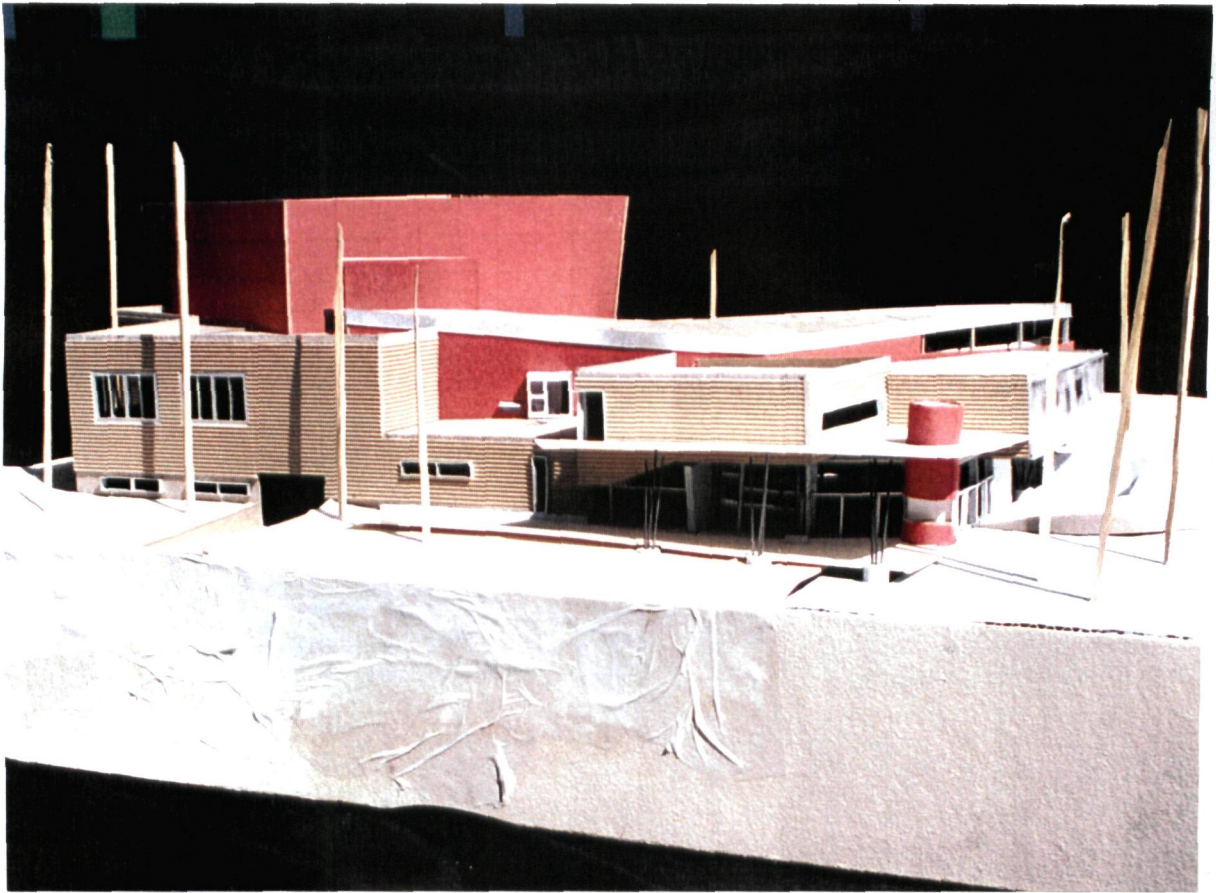


Chestnut St. Elevation 1:150



Photograph of Design Model





Photograph of Design Model