

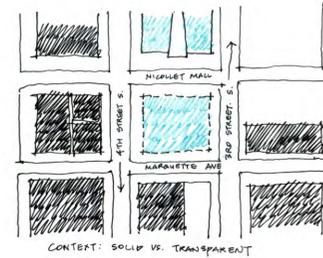
A GREAT PLACE FOR THE COMMON GOOD

2015 RALPH RAPSON TRAVELING STUDY FELLOWSHIP

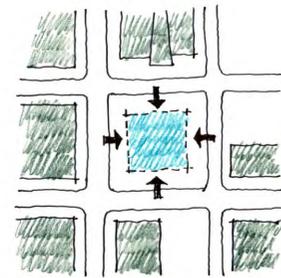
The future Minneapolis Central Library Park site, bounded by Nicollet Mall and Marquette Avenue, between Third and Fourth Street South, has remained an undeveloped surface parking lot for years. Strategically positioned across from the Central Library and along Nicollet Mall, this lot has tremendous potential to become a major public space serving the many growing communities that call downtown Minneapolis home.

Over the next few years, the extensive renovations of Nicollet Mall and a new public park near the Vikings Stadium will provide a facelift to the public spaces of downtown Minneapolis. This proposal seeks to complement these new amenities with an urban respite unlike anything currently exists in our city. Imagine a lush indoor garden where residents from the nearby neighborhoods and employees working in downtown can come together under the same roof. As a testament to the need for public space that can truly bring communities together, this all-season garden will become more than just a gigantic reading room for the Central Library, but it will also become the crowning gem of Nicollet Mall, where people from all over the city can find a warm and lively place to gather. In the summertime, the retractable roof opens over a new Marquette Avenue Plaza to provide shelter for the burgeoning food truck scene. On the opposite end of the block, oversized sliding doors open onto a Library Plaza that extends the library's reading rooms into the garden. In order to create a truly serene urban garden in the heart of a bustling metropolis, the facade at the street level on Marquette Avenue is clad in mirrored glazing to reflect the activity of the city and to block out noise of the surrounding area.

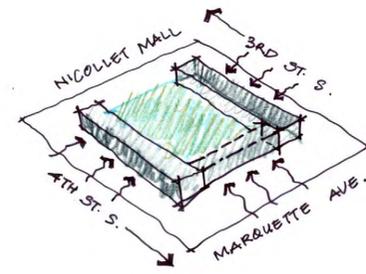
Acting as a living monument to the people of Minnesota, the proposed building is populated with programs that serve the public. A bicycle shop, bicycle storage and a secured shower facility are located along 4th Street South near the light rail stops on 5th Street South. Additionally, an indoor market and an international food hall provide opportunities to bring people of different backgrounds together over meals from all over the world. This urban room, brought to life with verdant plantings and shared activities, offers us a new way to think of a monument serving the public good. Deliberately rejecting the conventional notion that a monument is to be observed and contemplated from a distance, here the architecture dissolves in reflective and transparent glass that foregrounds the people and the life of the city this building is designed to serve.



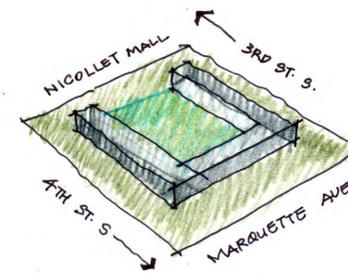
Context:
Surrounded by the heavy masses of high-rise buildings, the proposed structure seeks to contrast its context with a transparent volume.



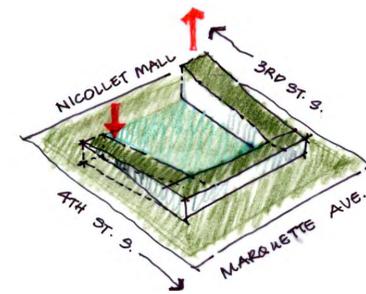
Site Strategy:
The perimeter of the proposed structure is recessed from the street edges to buffer the garden from the surrounding traffic.



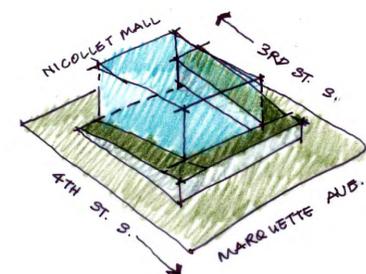
Building Program:
The building's programs are situated facing 3rd and 4th Street South and Marquette Avenue to further define, buffer and enliven the edges of this large urban room.



Building Perimeter:
The building setbacks are softened with greenery to block out noise of nearby traffic.



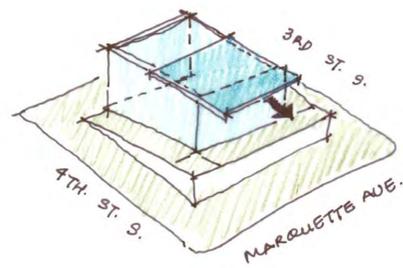
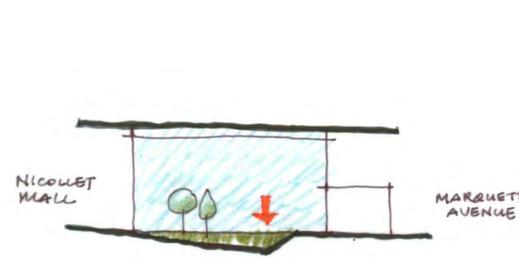
Building and Landscape Integration:
The programmed perimeter is manipulated to connect with the terrain on the ground level while providing various vantage points to view the surrounding city and down Nicollet Mall at the highest point of the landscape ramp.



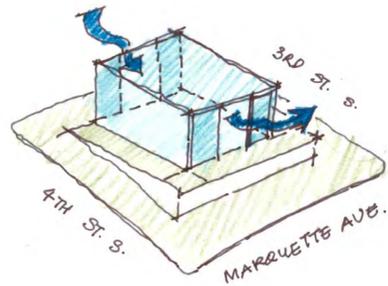
Outdoor to Indoor:
The courtyard garden is covered to become a year-round indoor park and greenhouse.



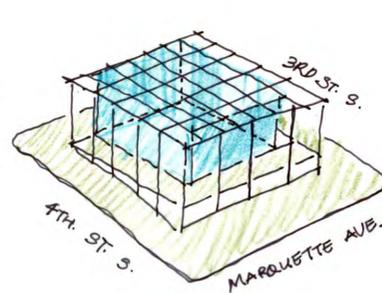
View from Marquette Avenue & 4th Street South corner



Retractable Roof



Cross Ventilation



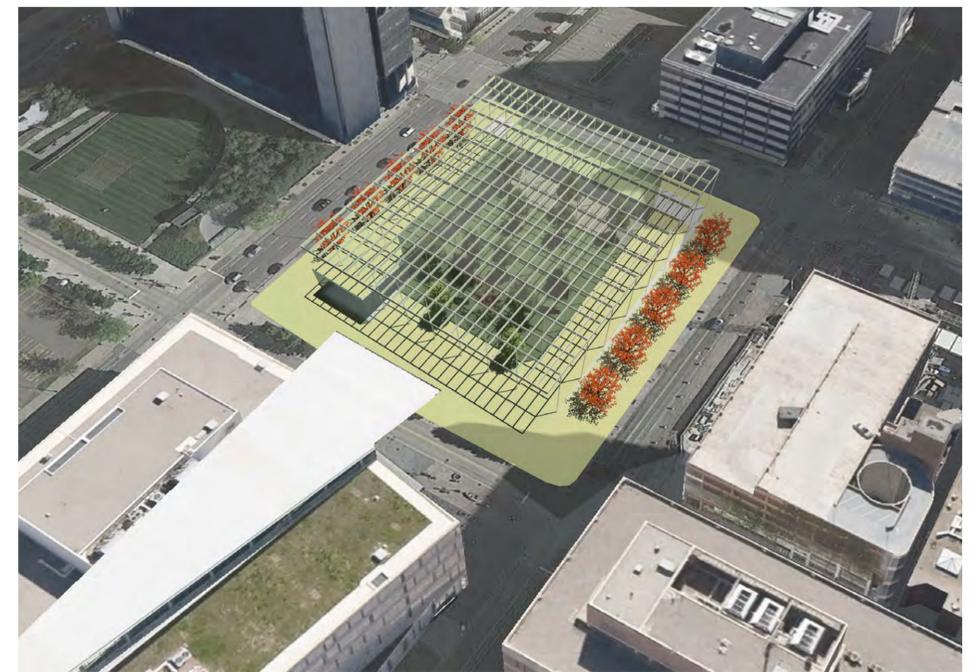
Structural Framework

Shaping the Interior Garden Topography:

Inspired by the prairie fields of the Midwest region, the interior garden topography is shaped to create various landscape conditions for visitors to experience.

Building Performance:

Retractable roof allows rainwater collection for irrigation while providing a canopy over the Marquette Avenue Plaza. Oversized sliding doors provide cross ventilation during the summer months and extend the library reading room into the urban garden. Structural framework links all building components together while supporting the movable parts of the building.



Overall Birdseye View



Garden Interior View