portfolio.

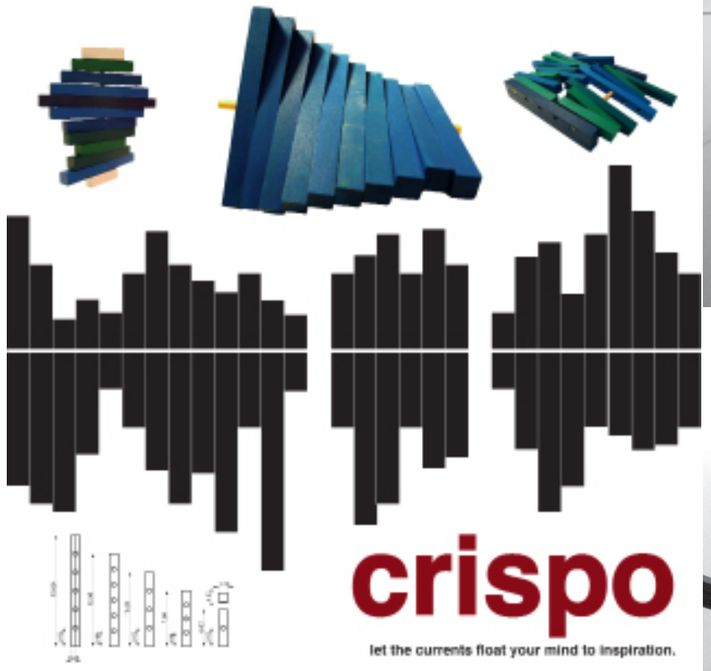
megumi ezure

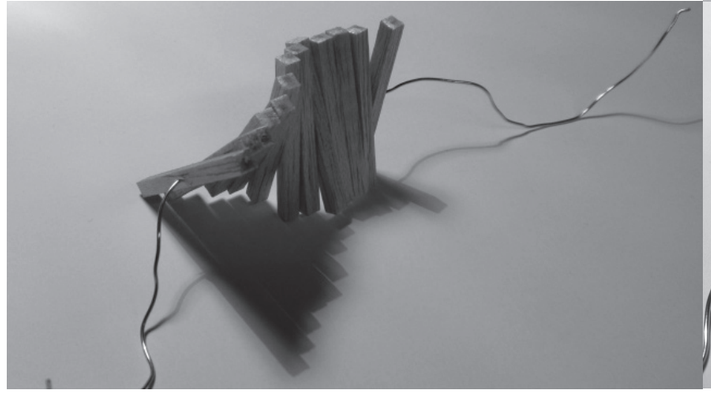
fifth year architecture
virginia tech ‘15

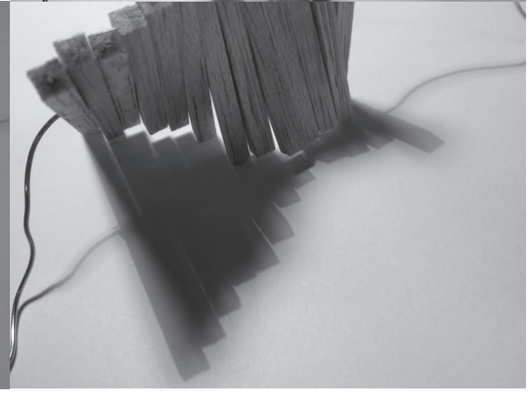
concepts.

Due to my love of art, my design often times focuses on conceptual or sculptual aspect of the project. I believe that program of the project will naturally form the shape of the structure. Before I learned to use computer renderings, I experiemented with physical models and photography to capture and convey my concepts for the project.

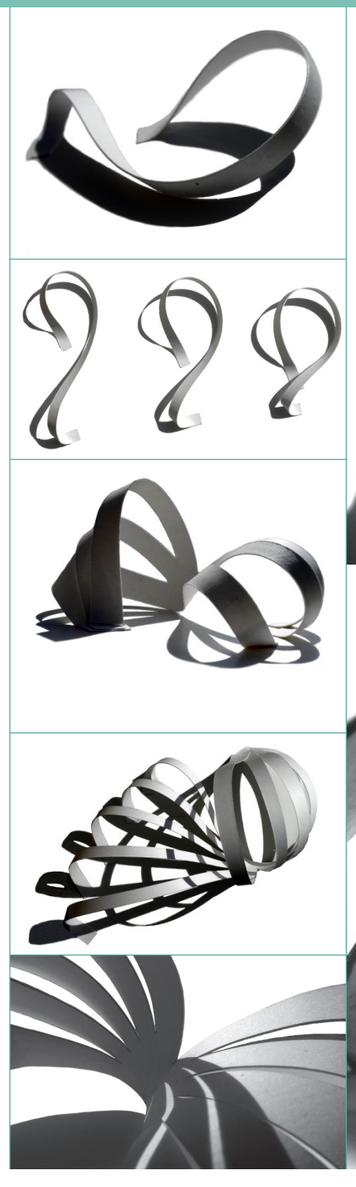
naef | switzerland
first year | spring 2010

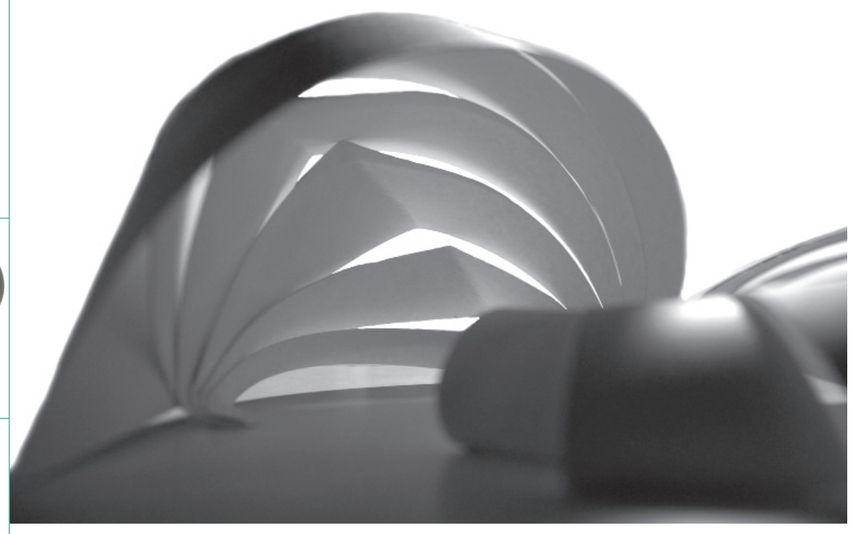


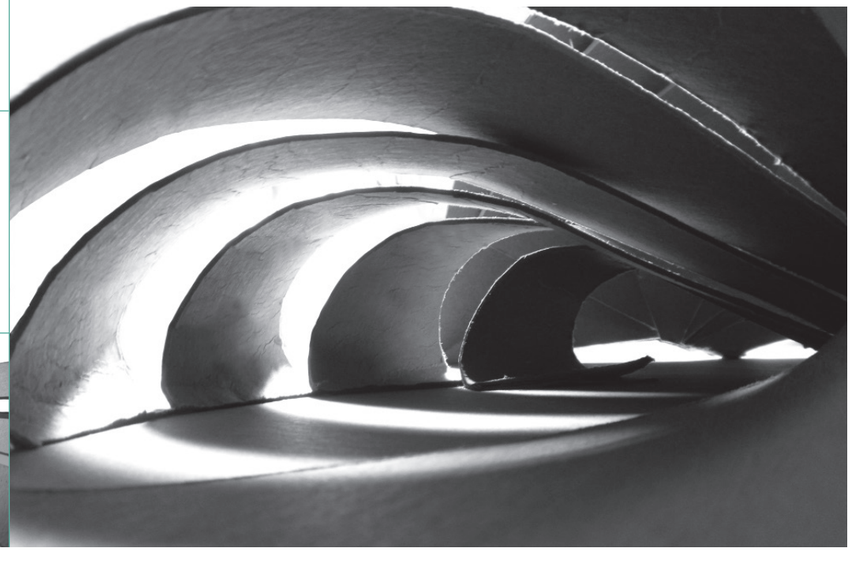




chesapeake bay foundation | virginia
second year | spring 2011





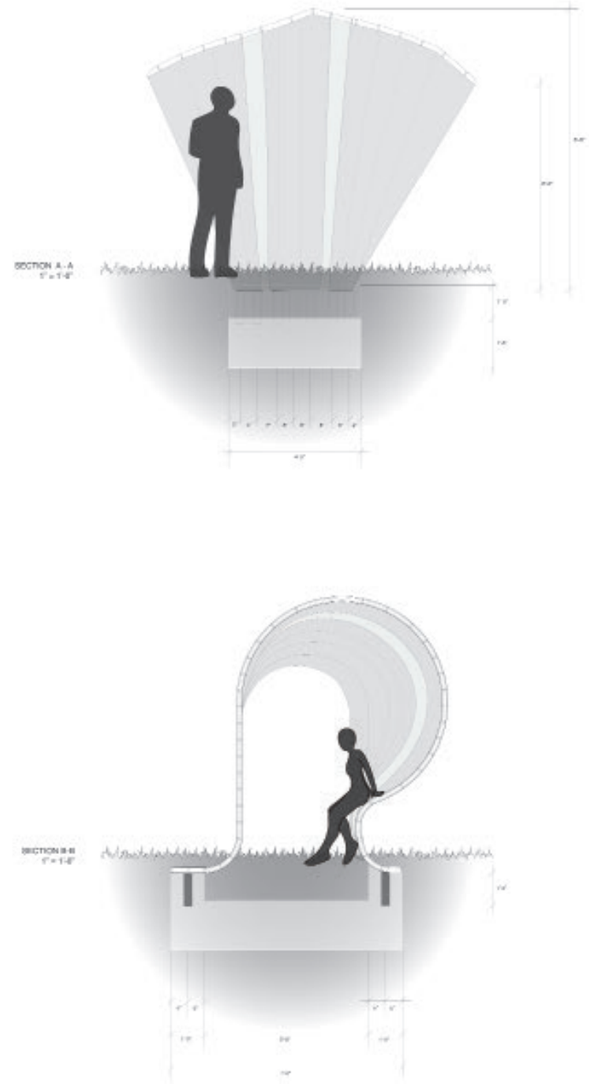


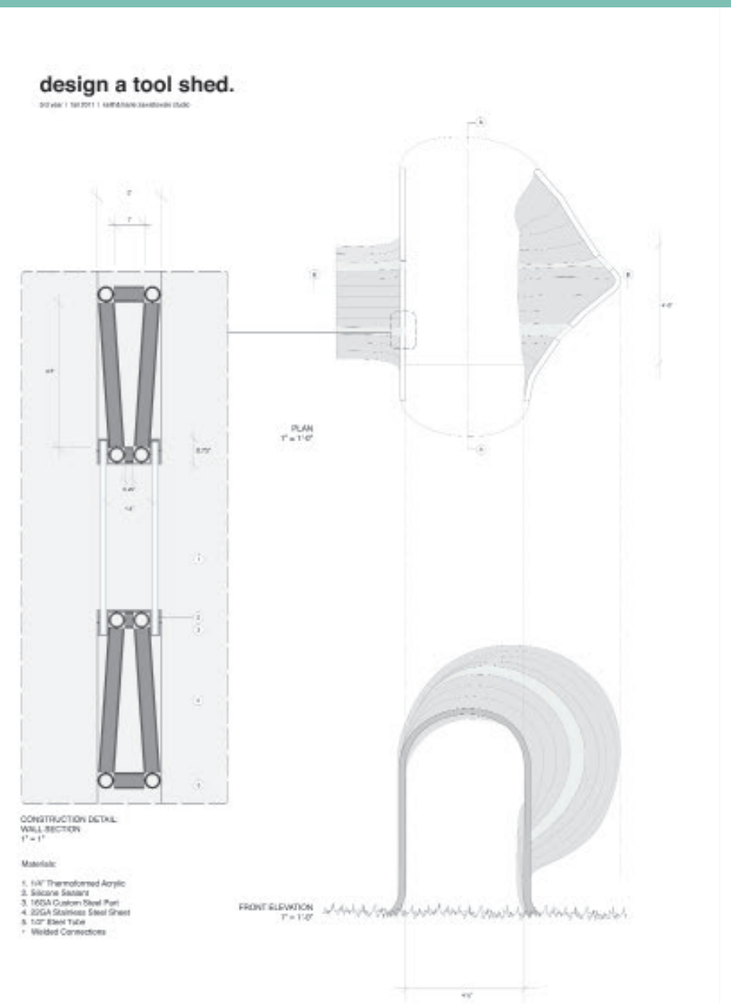
details.

We were to design a tool shed with a 4’x4’ footprint. I chose steel ribs and skin as my construction method to recreate its malleable nature, suggested by the Photoshopped image of my original design. Also, strips of clear acrylic is used to allow light into the space.

Our final products included a full-scale section mock-up model and construction document. Through this project I learned to design more consciously about its materiality and construction method which allows for unlimited design possibilities.

studio | virginia tech
third year | fall 2011





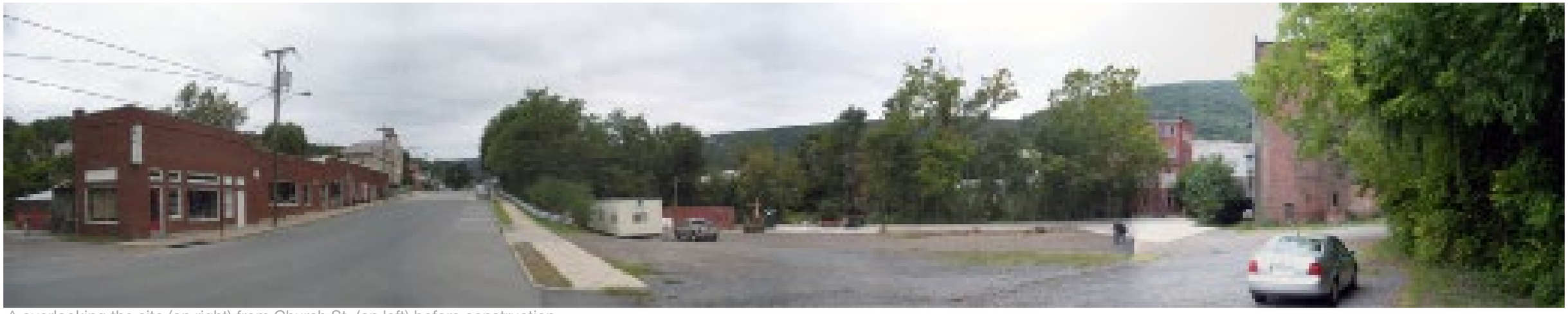
design/build.

town of clifton forge | virginia
third year | oct 2011 - june 2012

introduction.

design/buildLAB is a Virginia Tech Architecture Program led by Professors Keith and Marie Zawistowski. It allows a team of third year architecture students to experience both the design AND construction process from its start to finish.

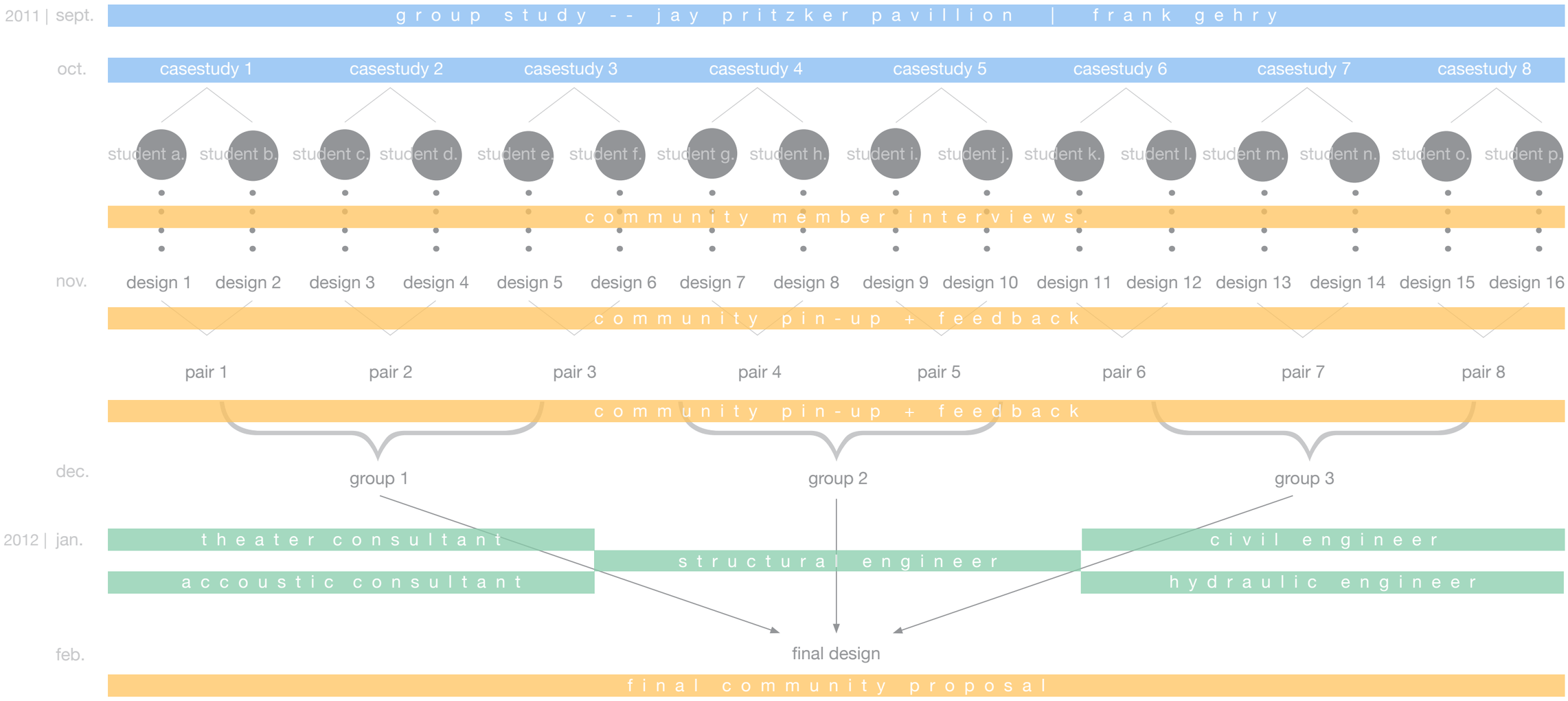
Our project began with previous year's work of Convington Farmers Market which reused lumber from an old tire warehouse in Clifton Forge, leaving the site with nothing but a slab of concrete. The Town of Clifton Forge saw this as an opportunity for community revitalization and asked the Zawistowskis, who were working on the renovation of the Masonic Theater in Clifton Forge, to design an **outdoor amphitheater** for the community.



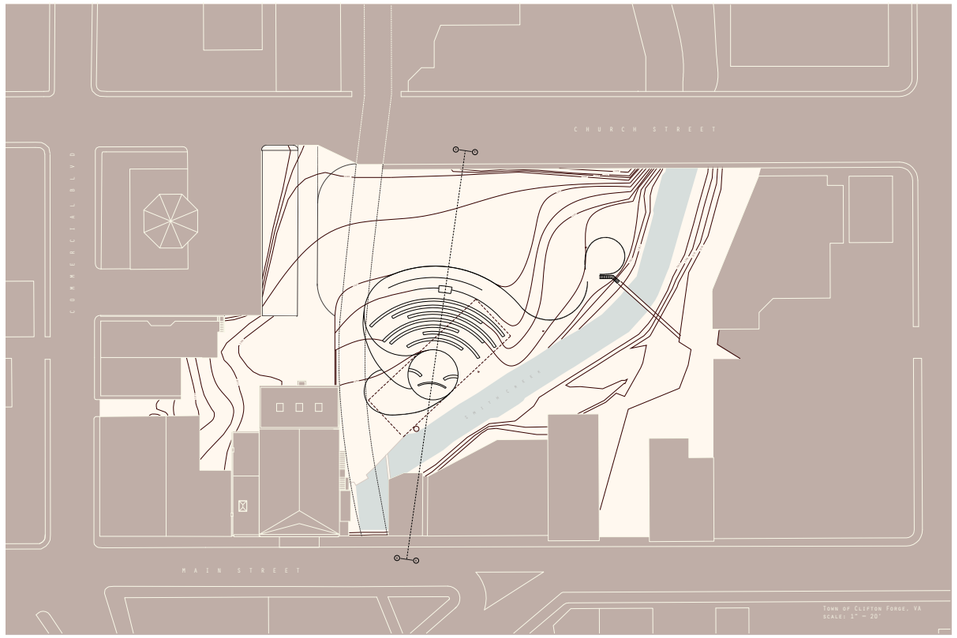
^ overlooking the site (on right) from Church St. (on left) before construction.

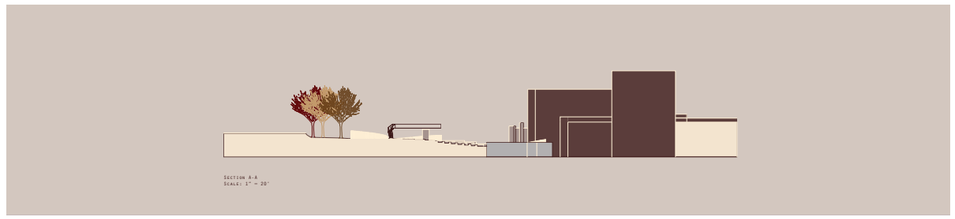
^ view from the NW end of the site towards Church St. before construction.

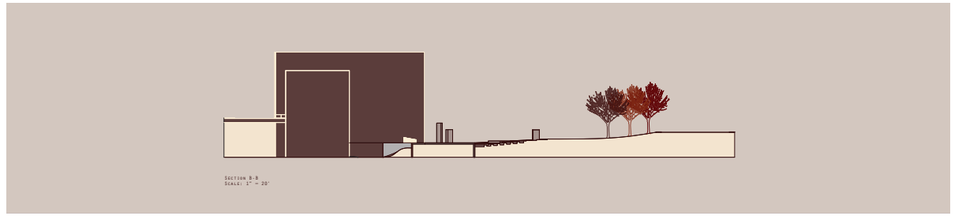
design process.

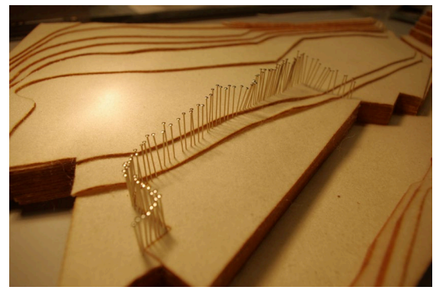


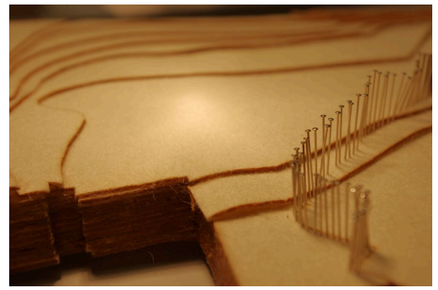
Above is a diagram showing our collaborative design process for the Masonic Amphitheater. It began with case studies of amphitheaters around the world, including one group study of Frank Gehry's Jay Pritzker Pavillion in Chicago, IL. From these, we learned the basics of amphitheater design. At the same time, we interviewed the Clifton Forge community to hear their needs and desires. After applying gained knowledge onto our own sixteen different designs, we presented to the community for feedbacks, which we used to redesign or combine ideas. Aside from the community, we also spoke to appropriate consultants and engineers for their professional advices. We then repeated the steps until we came to one single design and held a last presentation to the whole community.

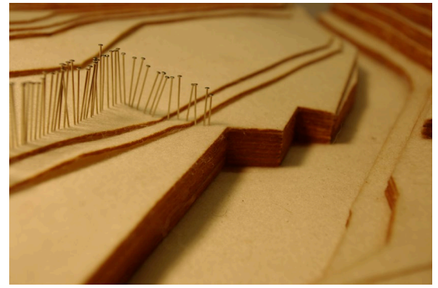






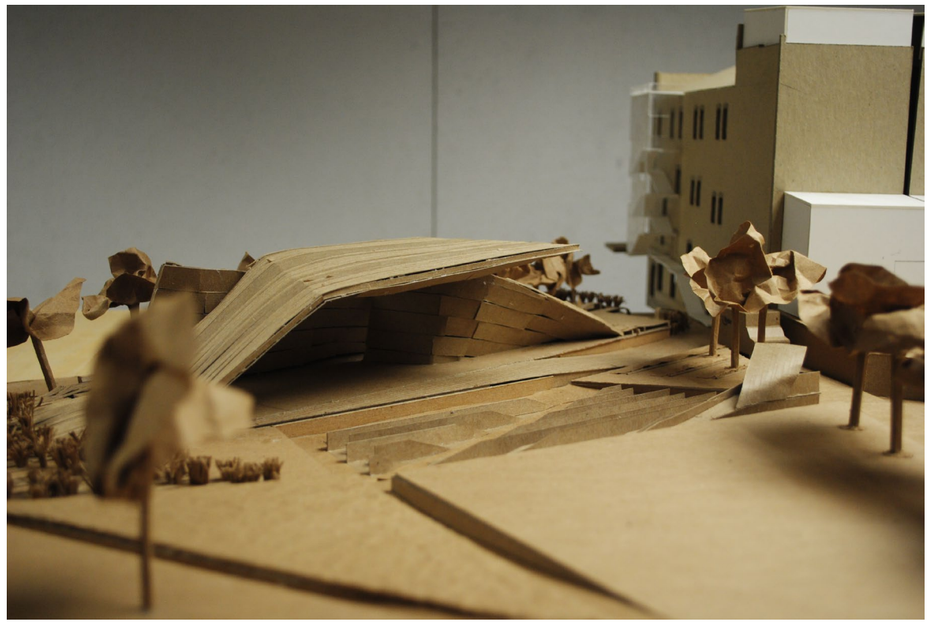






Drawings on the left are some of my prelimenary designs back in November 2011. My main concept was to connect all the high points of our site with one curve. I had imagined a separation in varying heights would be emerging out of the ground following one single curve, creating spaces for both public and private purposes. The curve would connect creek side that leads to bridge, the theater, and a pathway that would lead to the Main Street. Photographs on the right show my site model made of laser cut felt. I chose my color scheme and materials carefully so that its graphical representation would match the impression of the site and its surroundings.

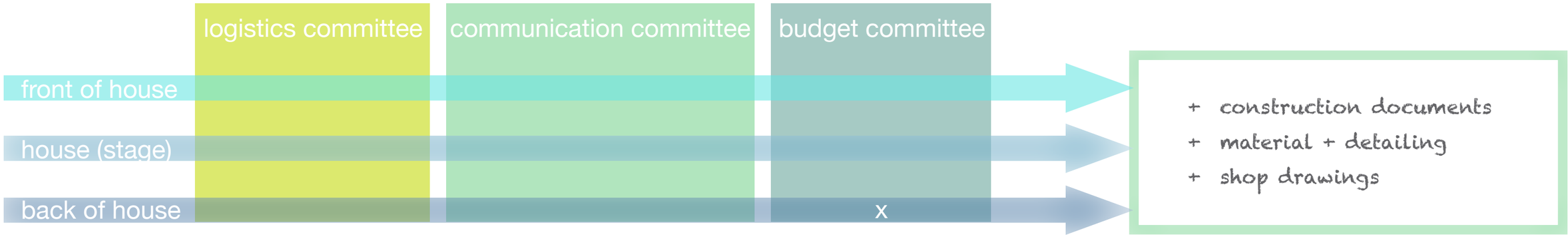
final design.



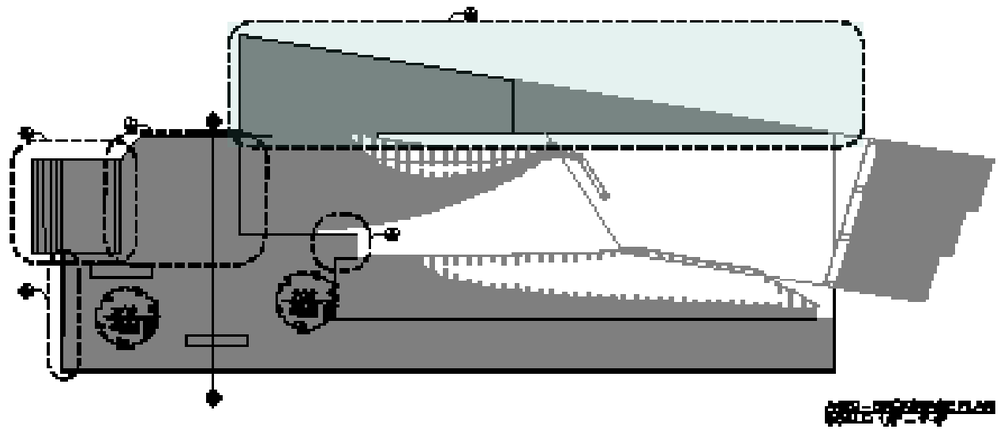
In our final design, we focused on rustic materiality yet contemporary and beautiful form. The stage area is formed by the emerging bandshells, which were to be decked with steam-bent white oak on the exterior and Alpolic panels on the interior for better sound quality control. All lighting systems were to be incorporated in the roof above the performers. Addition of forestge allowed us to redirect the line of sound so that it will not be aimed directly at the neighboring buildings.

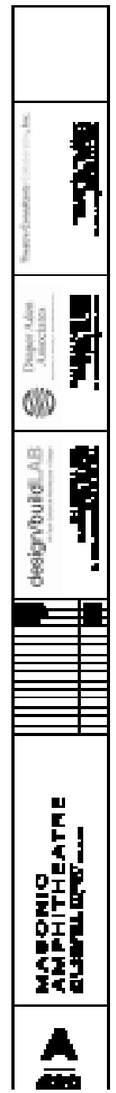
The site was to be regraded and carved with pathways that connected the Church St, the amphitheater, and the bridge by the Smith Creek. The audience seatings were staggered to create easier access for the wheelchairs, and the lawn area behind it allowed for additional seating area where spectators could stand or bring their own chairs to sit. In the corner of audience area, we placed a sound booth for any technical sound control to be made without obstructing the audience's view.

The organic shape of the bandshell naturally created a backstage area where performers can change and rest. We also created a "green area" where the community may use it as recreational purposes while the theater was not in use. Everthing in the backstage area, including benches, tree openings, and guard rails, spoke the same aesthetic language as the bandshell to maintain unity in the design. Since we had heard the community's love towards the sound of Smith Creek, we ensured a decked pathway behind the stage for people to walk along. I was part of this team of five students who designed the backstage area.

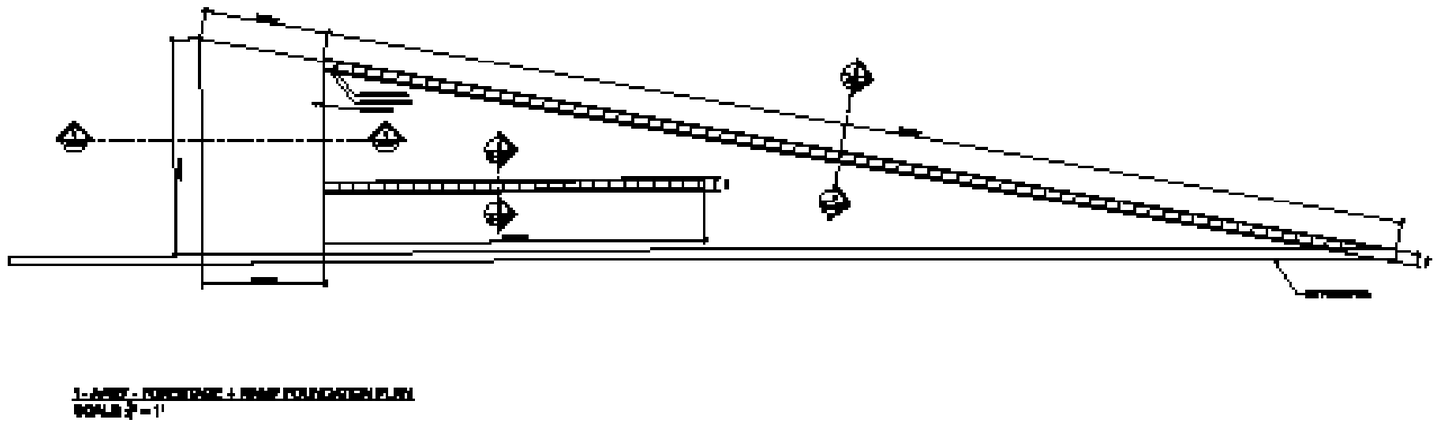


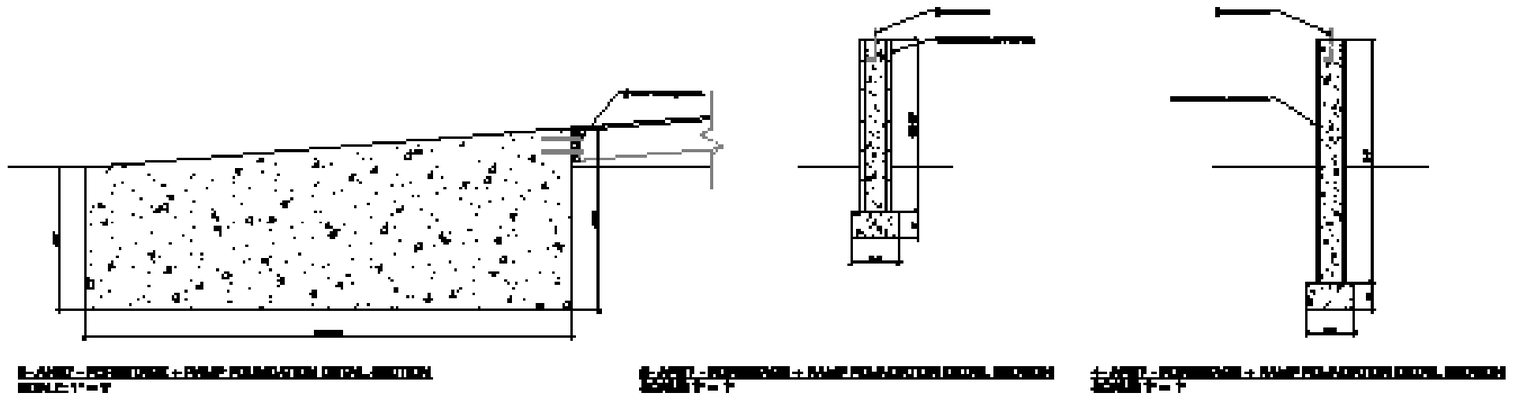
Each of us were assigned to a committee to carry out various tasks within our project. The main duties of budget/scheduling committee, where I belonged, were to keep all records of our expenses, such as material and equipment costs, and also to create a calendar with all the deadlines so that we can finish the project on time. We also divided up ourselves into three different design groups. As mentioned before, I was part of the back of house group for design, but for detailing and construction documents, I was responsible for the forestage and ramp. Here are few sheets of construction documents that I contributed to the actual set that was sent for permitting.



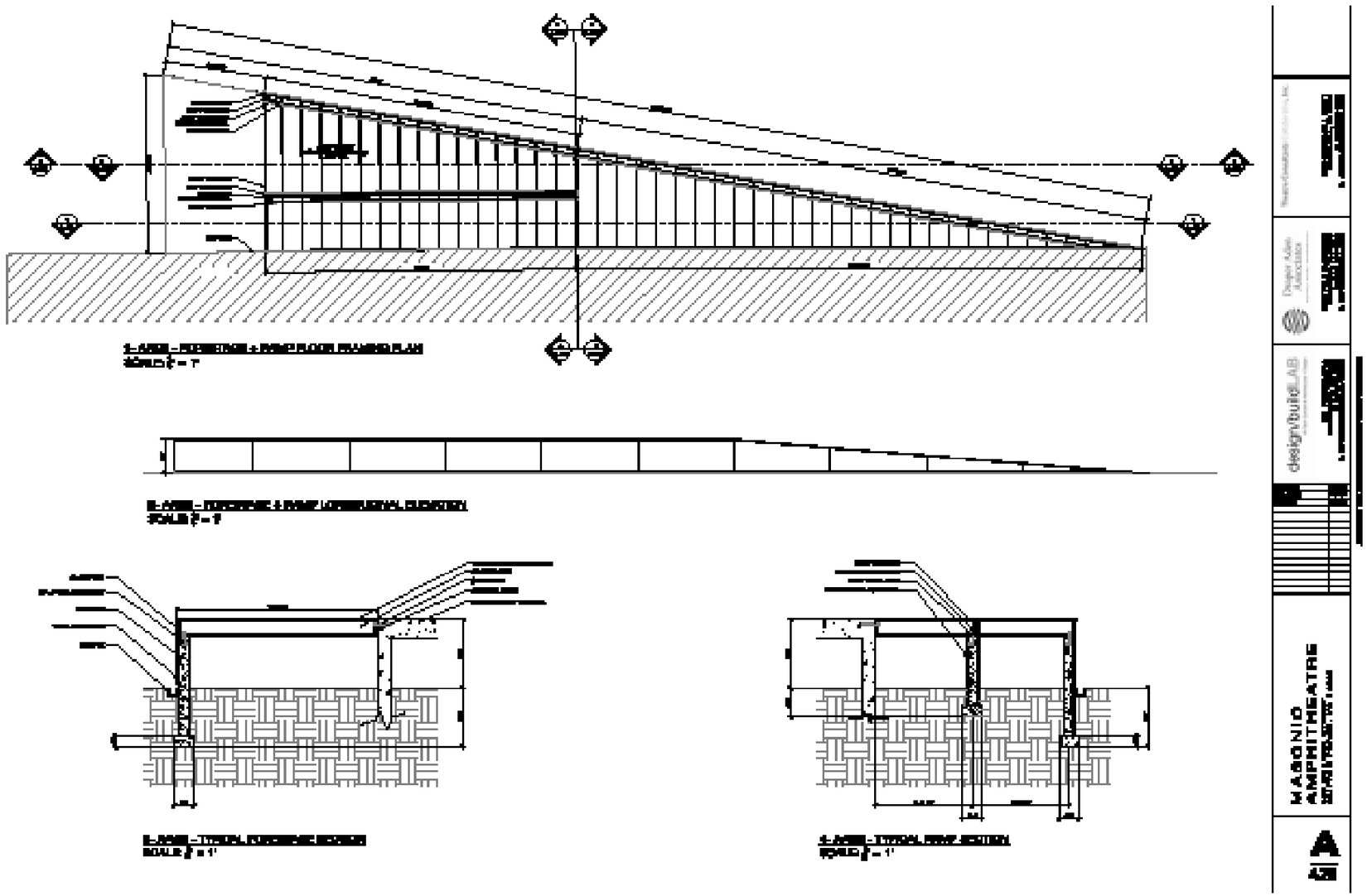


I was responsible for the triangualr part shown above, which is the forestage and ramp.

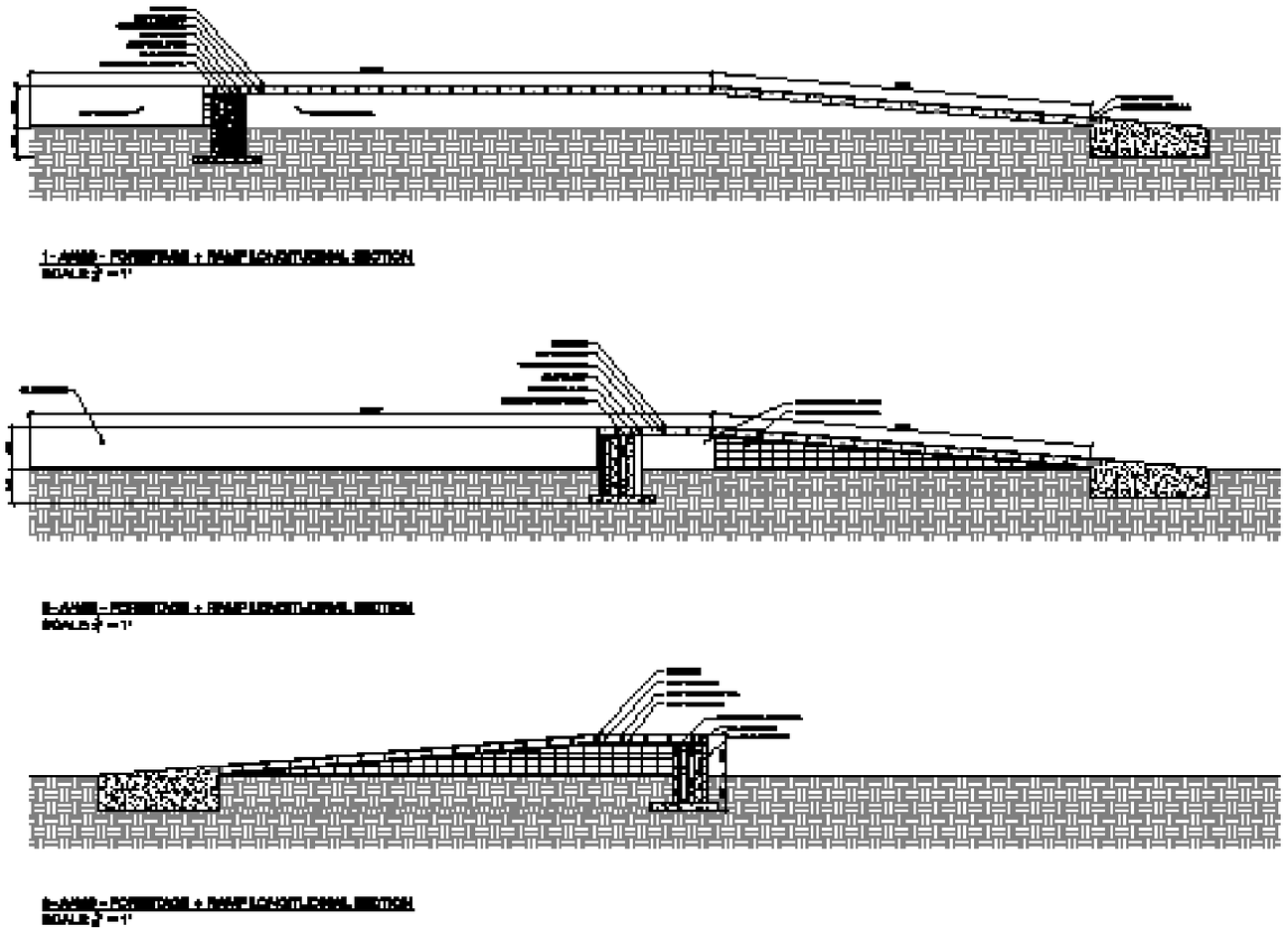




Foundation detail on forestage and ramp.



Framing details of forestage and ramp. These drawings helped us tremendously as we prefabricated each pieces.



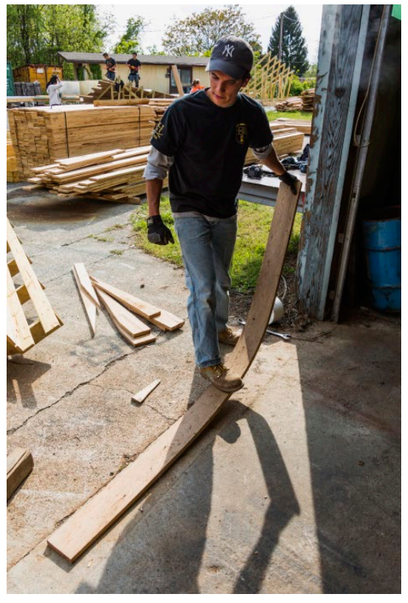
Material specification of the forestage and ramp. I learned a great deal more about structure and construction materials than I did in my academic class.

prefabrication.





To increase in efficiency, we designed our amphitheater so that we can prefabricate it in pieces. We began framing, decking and waterproofing the wooden pieces in Blacksburg, while the site was being regraded by the professional contractors. This is when most of us students learned how to use basic construction tools and the importance of accuracy in the drawings. After finishing most pieces, we transported them to Clifton Forge and craned the pieces in position onto the concrete slab. Once all pieces were transported, the real on-site construction began.

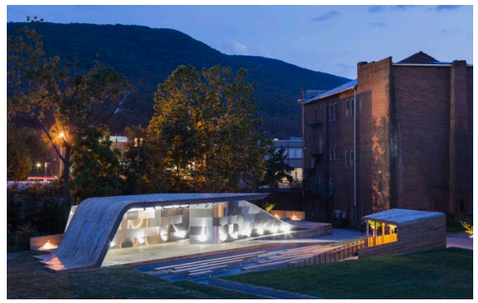


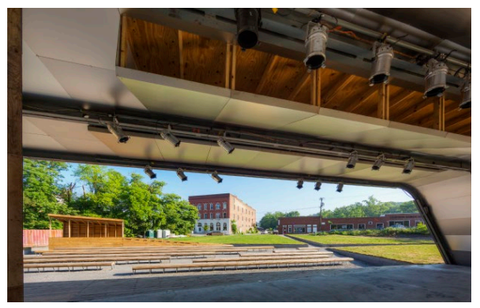




Somethings are better seen in motion than explained by words. Click **HERE** for a time lapse video of our construction, courtesy of Jeff Goldberg & Esto.

masonic amphitheater.





As shown earlier on the design process diagram, community involvement was vital to our project. This project was very important to us, not for our own fame, but because we wanted to build this wonderful community what it deserved. It was the first real architecture project for all of us students which made a real impact on real people. It is amazing to see that the structure we built keeps attracting more publicity, more people, more culture, more diveristy for this small town of Clifton Forge. I believe we have truly built something that brings people together. I was very fortunate to be a part this design/ buildLAB team and I am honored to have had the opportunity to touch other people's lives through architecture.

more about design/buildLAB.

INFORMATION

design/buildLAB blog
> http://archinect.com/designbuildLAB/introduction

PRESS RELEASES

Roanoke Times | Feb 14, 2013
Metropolis Magazine | Oct 16, 2012
The New York TImes | Oct 7, 2012
The Allghany Journal | Nov 2011
Virginian Review | Mar 1, 2012
WSLS News | Jan 19 2012 + May 16 2012
Virginia Tech News | May 22, 2012 + Feb 14, 2013

ACHIEVEMENTS

Building of the Year | American Architect | Feb, 2013
Honorable Mention | ONE Prize | Sep, 2012

PHOTO CREDITS

all photographs on pages 16-18 are crdited to Jeff Goldberg/ESTO