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Atlantic Center for the Arts



SECTIONAL MODEL THROUGH PAINTING AND SCULPTURE STUDIOS

Project: Leeper Studio Complex, Atlantic Center for the Arts, New Smyrna Beach, Florida.

Site: An existing arts center campus threaded into 350 acres of dense jungle less than half a mile from the busy strip of U.S. Highway 1. Existing structures are pole-supported wood frame buildings and include housing, an administration building and gallery, a workshop, and an outdoor theater. The 100-year flood elevation is 7 feet above grade and the maximum building height is 40 feet.

Program: To serve "artist in residence" programs that bring in known artists on three- to six-week residencies to teach younger colleagues, the new structures include: a black box theater; dance rehearsal space; painting, sculpture, and recording studios. The total of programmed spaces is 10,630 square feet; the total square footage, including boardwalks, is 16,713.

Solution: The several new buildings will be arrayed along a boardwalk laid out in an irregular arc. The intent is to "heighten the visual and sensorial effects" of the indigenous growth and maintain the labyrinthine effect of moving along a jungle path, so that the complex is seen only a little at a time. The boardwalk itself is seen as "at once theater, street, and informal gathering area."

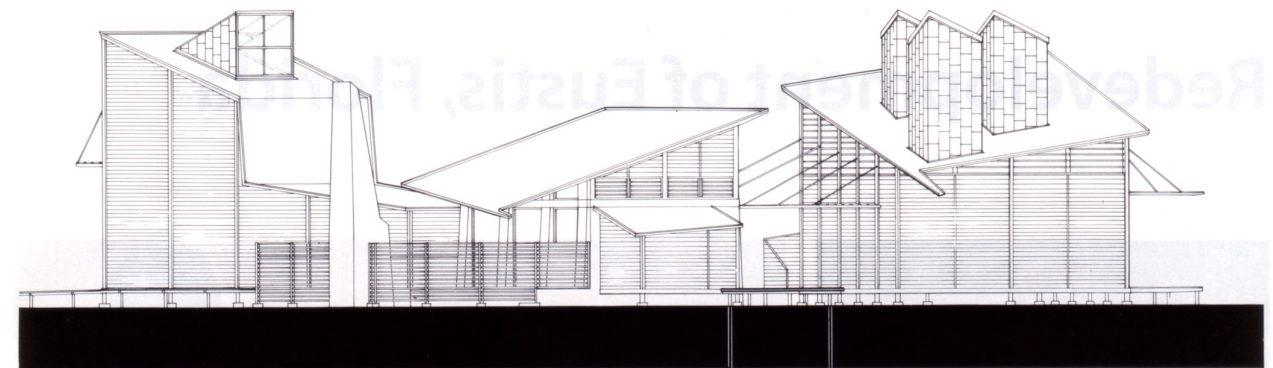
The design of individual buildings was based on research of construction in similar latitudes, observing ways to temper climatic conditions with structures using readily available materials. Each programmed activity will occupy a simple volume, with building framework exposed on the interior to provide a sense of layered enclosure. The envelopes of these buildings will incorporate a variety of louvers, north-

facing glass walls, light monitors, hopper windows, and wind scoops.

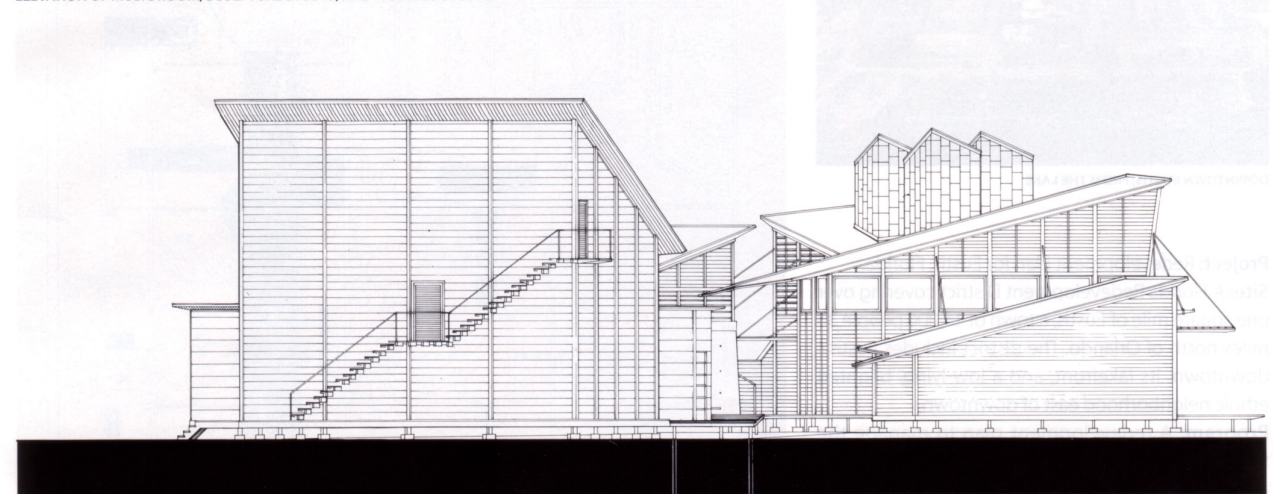
Construction will be a hybrid of wood frame and heavy timber systems, supported on concrete piers. Stained cypress cladding will be fastened with exposed stainless steel screws; roofs will be of lead-coated copper. There will be adjustable louvers of cedar and glass.

Construction cost is estimated at \$1.5 million and will be met by contributions from individuals, the Jenkins Foundation, and the Florida Council for the Arts. The complex is under construction and is scheduled for completion early this year.

Jury Discussion: There was much enthusiasm for the way the buildings relate to their jungle setting. Richard Fernau observed that "it was terribly good about making architecture out of the requirements of a place. It's on piers, and it deals with ventilation and shading." Emanuel Kelly admired the way "each little pavilion is similar in construction, but its orientation and size is different." Merrill Elam observed that "it is closely related in the way it handles building forms, roofs, and so on, to the school we saw in Canada" (p. 80). Nicholas Grimshaw was more concerned about what he saw as a lack of discipline: "I think what is good about the school in Canada is that it's got more rigor than this. This is more playing with things." Michael Dennis pointed out the difference in the two programs: "The school has a more rigorous program to begin with. Here there is an inventiveness and something like arbitrariness, which may come from the fact that it's a series of simple volumes with very simple requirements; that's both its strength and its weakness. I guess I would tip the balance in favor of inventiveness."



ELEVATION OF MUSIC ROOM, SCULPTURE STUDIO, AND PAINTING STUDIO



ELEVATION OF BLACK BOX THEATER AND DANCE STUDIO

Architects: Thompson & Rose Architects, Cambridge, Massachusetts (Charles Rose and Maryann Thompson, project designers; Michael Grant, Joseph MacDonald, Warren Van Wees, Michael Breau, Francisco Thebaud, Carrie Alice Johnson, Frank Dill, Patrick Maguire, Lisa Iwamoto, Michael Rose, and Tim Downing, project team).

Client: Leeper Studio Complex, Atlantic Center for the Arts; Ted Potter, Former Executive Director; Suzanne Tetscher, Current Executive Director.

Consultants: Ocmulgee Associates, structural engineers; Jerry K. Finley, civil engineers; M-Engineering, mechanical and electrical engineers; PSI-Jammal Associates, geotechnical engineers; Cambridge Acoustical, acoustical engineers; Epoch Properties, construction manager.

Modelmaker: Michael Grant

Model photos: Craig Scott

Renderers: Lisa Iwamoto, Joe MacDonald



FIRST FLOOR PLAN