

WET CITY - DRY CITY

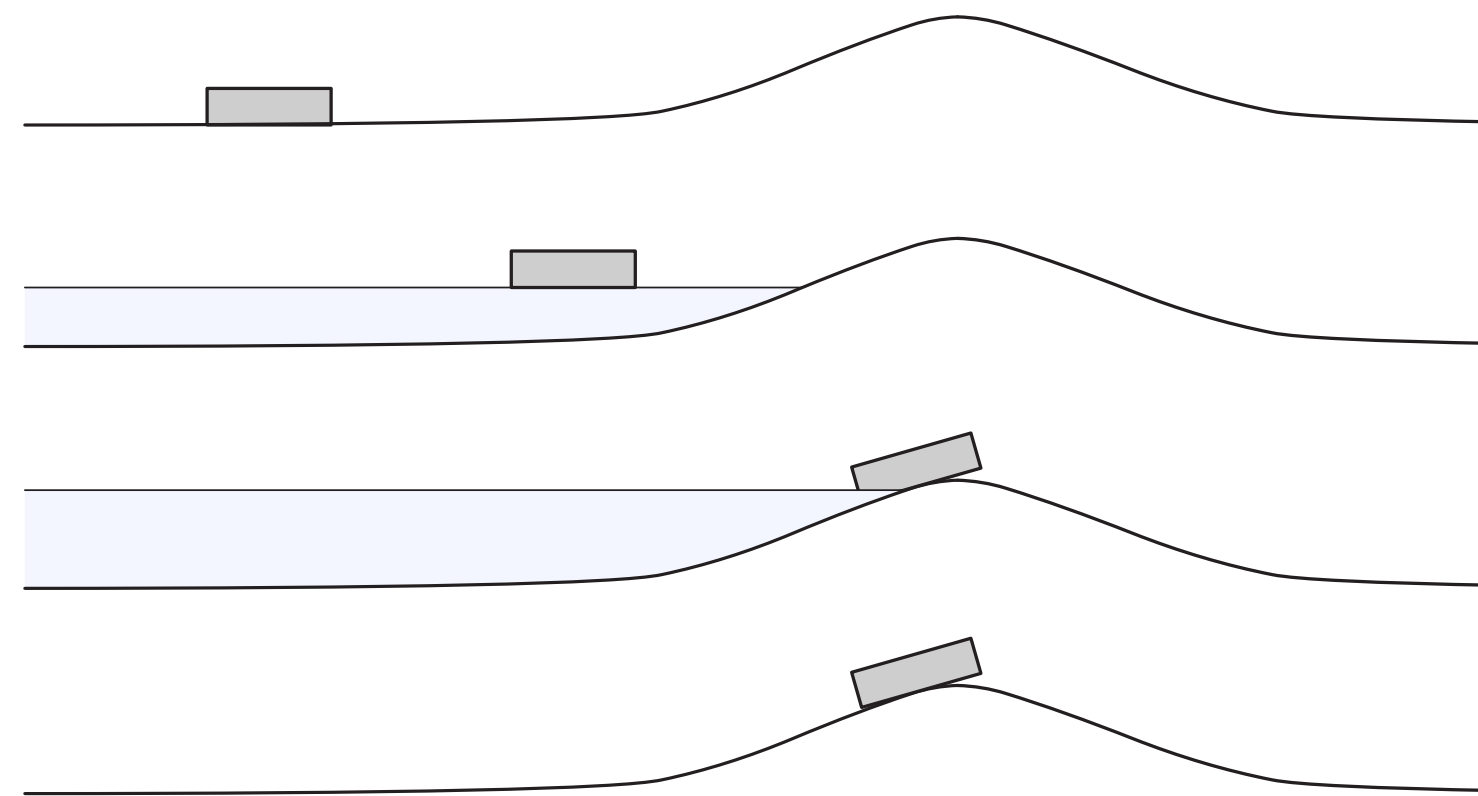
[HYDROLOGY RESEARCH CENTER FOR L.A.]

REGARDING WATER, STEEL AND LOS ANGELES:

THE SEPULVEDA DAM IS AN ICON OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY, BUILT IN 1941 BY THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE GREAT DEPRESSION. IT WAS BUILT ALONG THE LOS ANGELES RIVER TO CONTROL FLOODS THAT THREATENED TO DEVASTATE THE NEWLY DEVELOPED "VALLEY", A PRIMORDIAL EXERCISE OF WHAT WOULD BECOME SUBURBIA, FOREVER CHANGING THE AMERICAN CITY.

AT THIS SITE WATER AND ITS PRESENCE AS URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE COMBINE WITH TWO OF THE MOST TRANSITED FREEWAYS IN THE WORLD. THERE IS A JUXTAPOSITION OF THE POTENTIAL FLOOD AND THE STEEL AND RUBBER OF THE 101 AND 405 FREEWAYS. THE SITE CONTAINS TWO INFRASTRUCTURES THAT ARE BY ALL COUNTS DEFINING MOMENTS OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY.

L.A. HAS ALWAYS BEEN A CITY OF EXTREMES AND THE DICHOTOMY OF DROUGHT VS. FLOOD REMINDS THAT OUR LAND WAS ONCE A DESERT. HYDROLOGY IS AT THE CENTER OF THE VALLEY'S IDENTITY AND OUR PROPOSAL FOR A PLACE FOR ITS STUDY BUILDS ON THE NARRATIVE OF ABSENCE/EXCESS, PERCHING ITSELF ATOP OF THE SEPULVEDA DAM LIKE A SHIP LEFT DRY AGROUND BY A RECEDING SEA. THE CENTER'S SOLE PURPOSE TO EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT WATER CONSERVATION AND REMIND THE CITIZENS OF THE VALLEY OF THE POTENTIAL FLOOD THAT WILL LIBERATE THE BUILDING-VESSEL ONCE AGAIN FROM ITS DRY MOORING.



AN OBJECT IS INTRODUCED INTO AN EXISTING LANDSCAPE

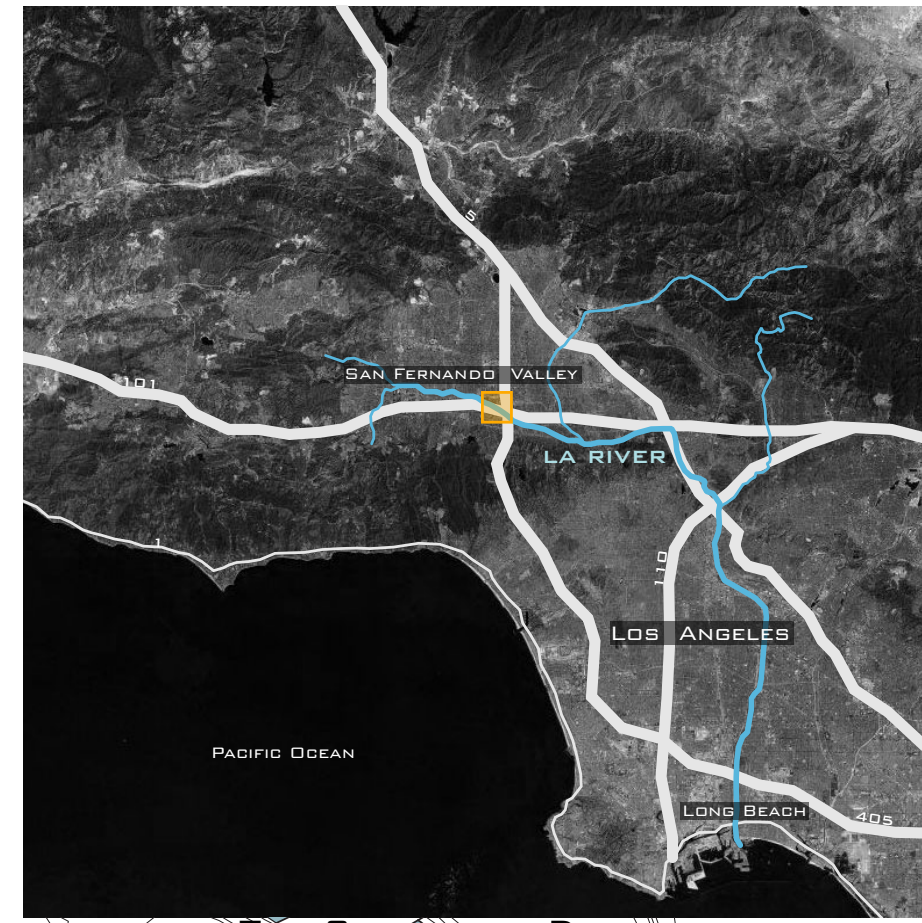
IN THE TIME OF FLOOD THE OBJECT BECOMES BUOYANT

AS THE FLOOD CONTINUES THE OBJECT GETS RELOCATED

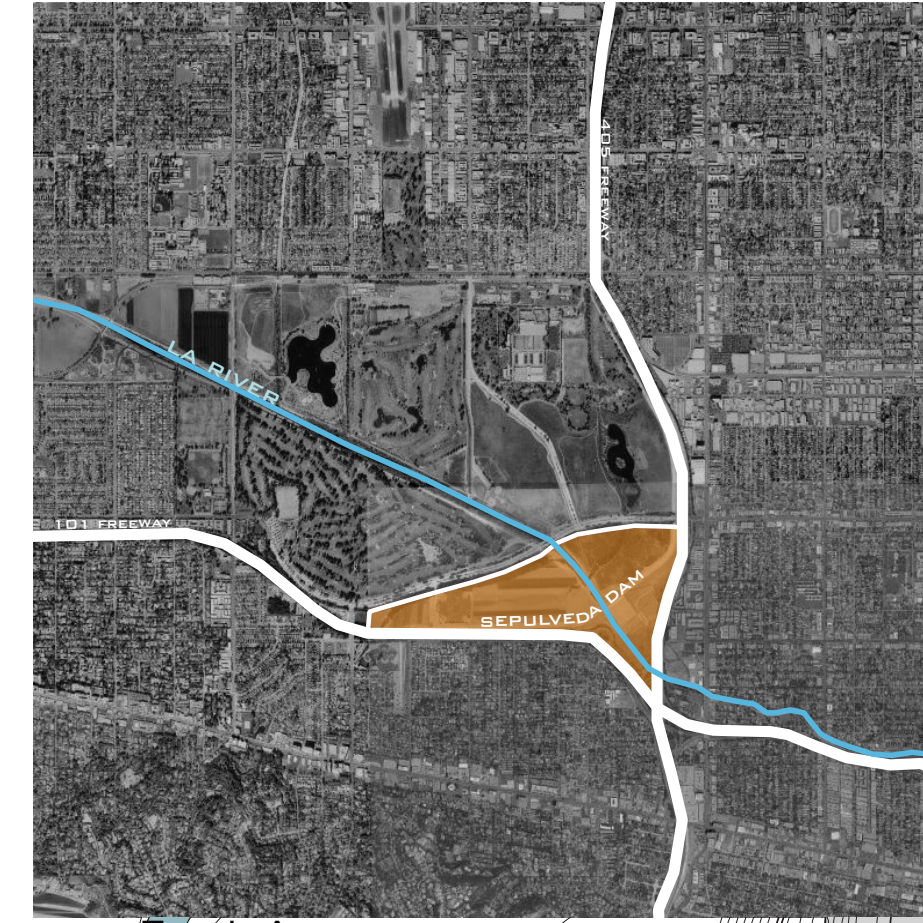
THE OBJECT BECOMES A VESSEL STUCK ON A BRIDGE



THE BUILDING IS AN ICON AT 65 MPH

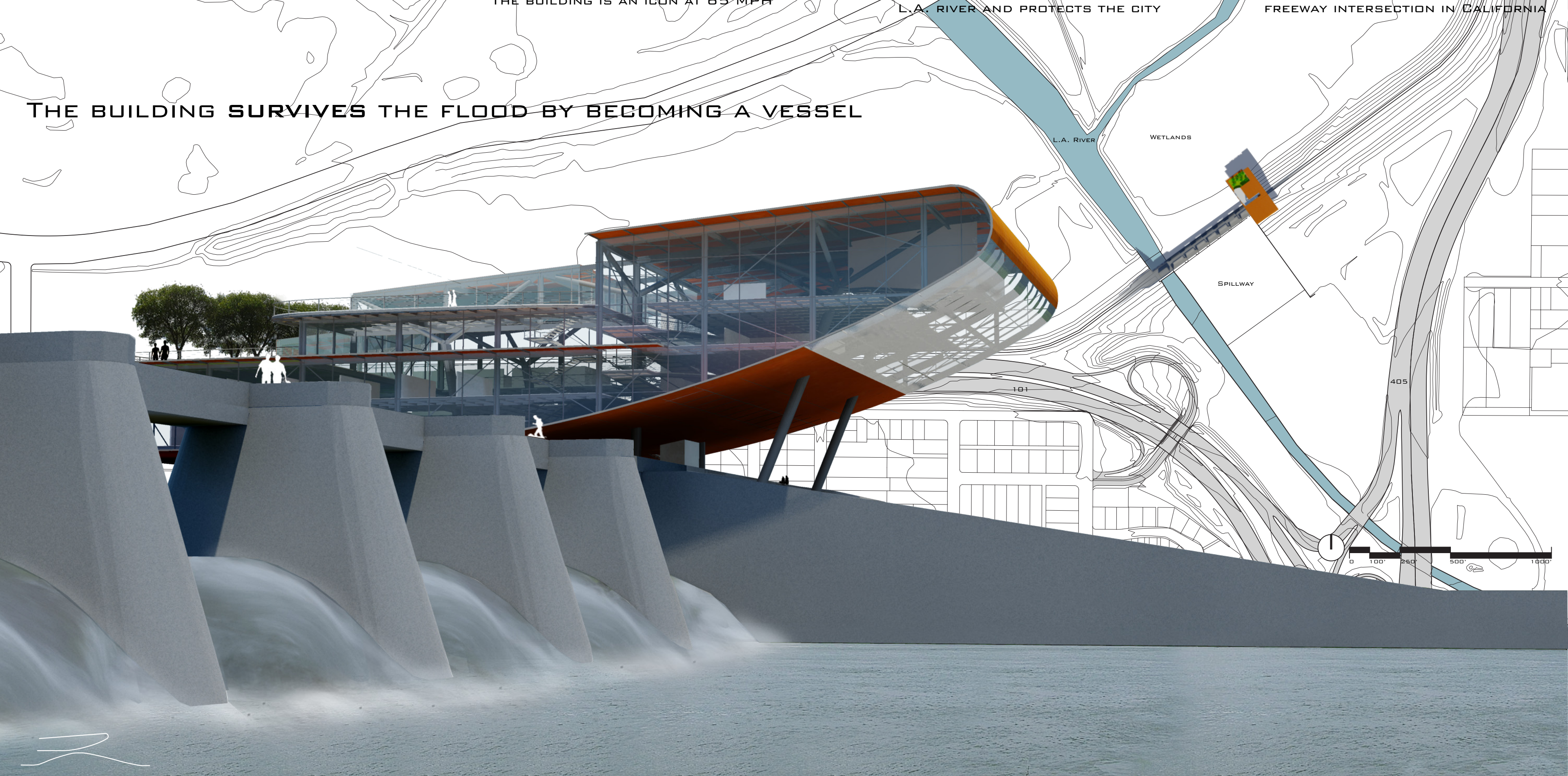


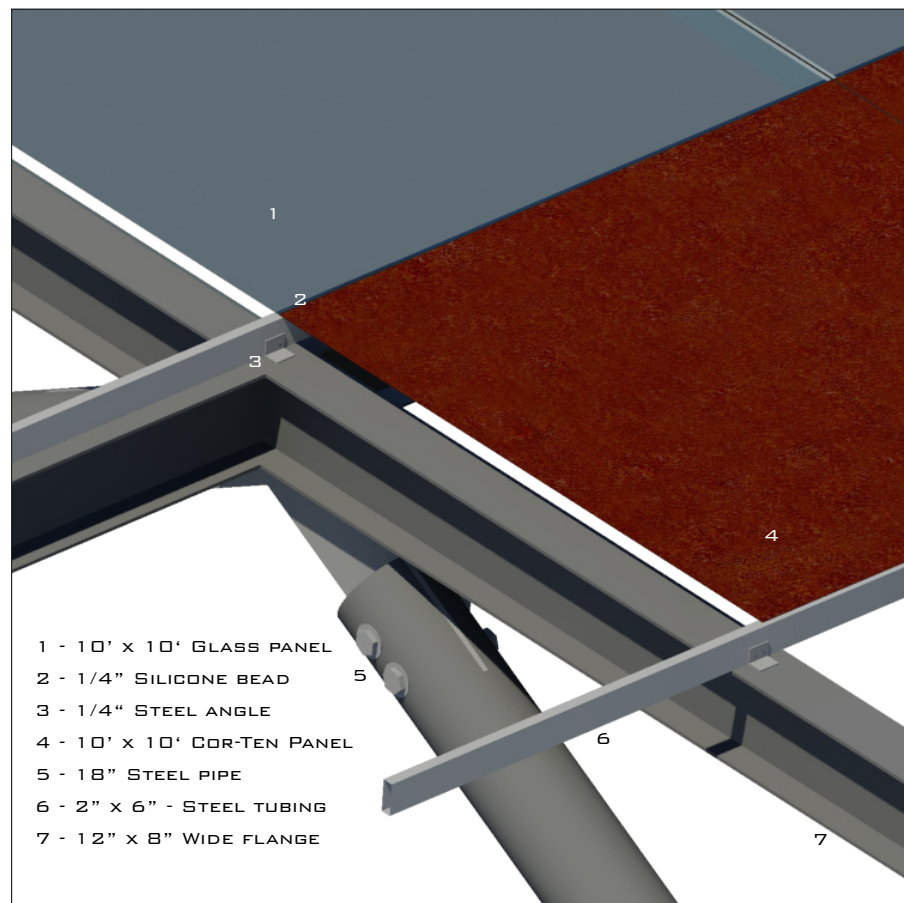
THE SEPULVEDA DAM CONTROLS THE L.A. RIVER AND PROTECTS THE CITY



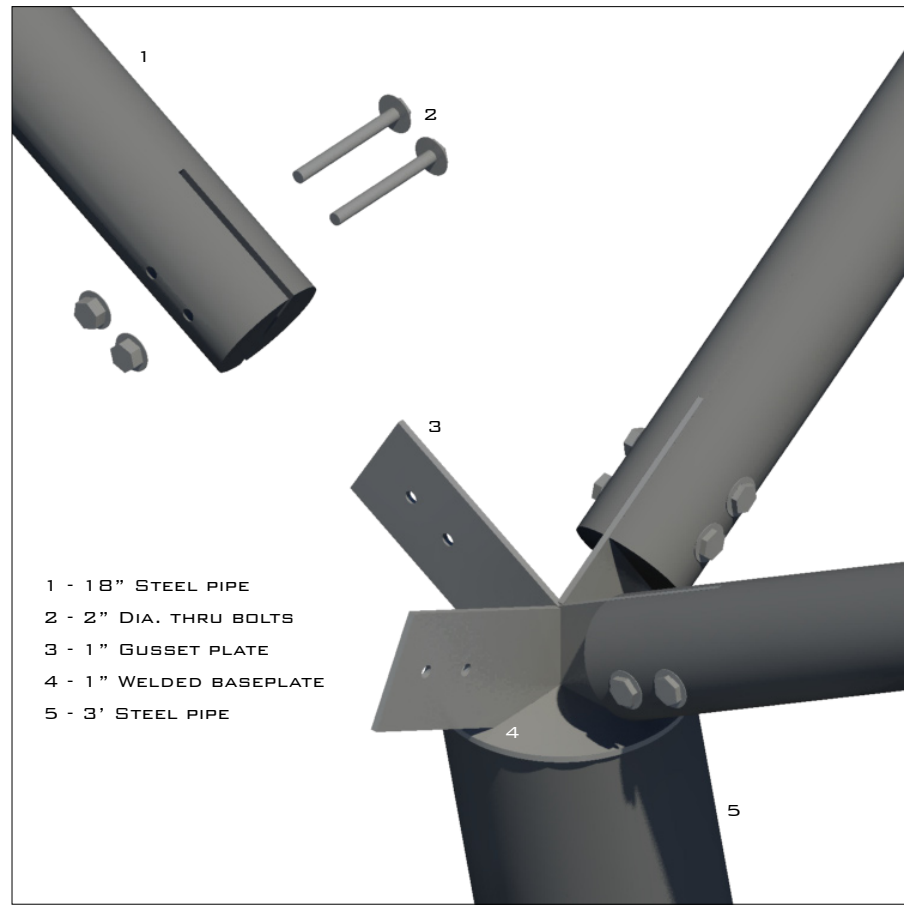
THE L.A. RIVER FLOWS UNDER THE BUSIEST FREEWAY INTERSECTION IN CALIFORNIA

THE BUILDING SURVIVES THE FLOOD BY BECOMING A VESSEL

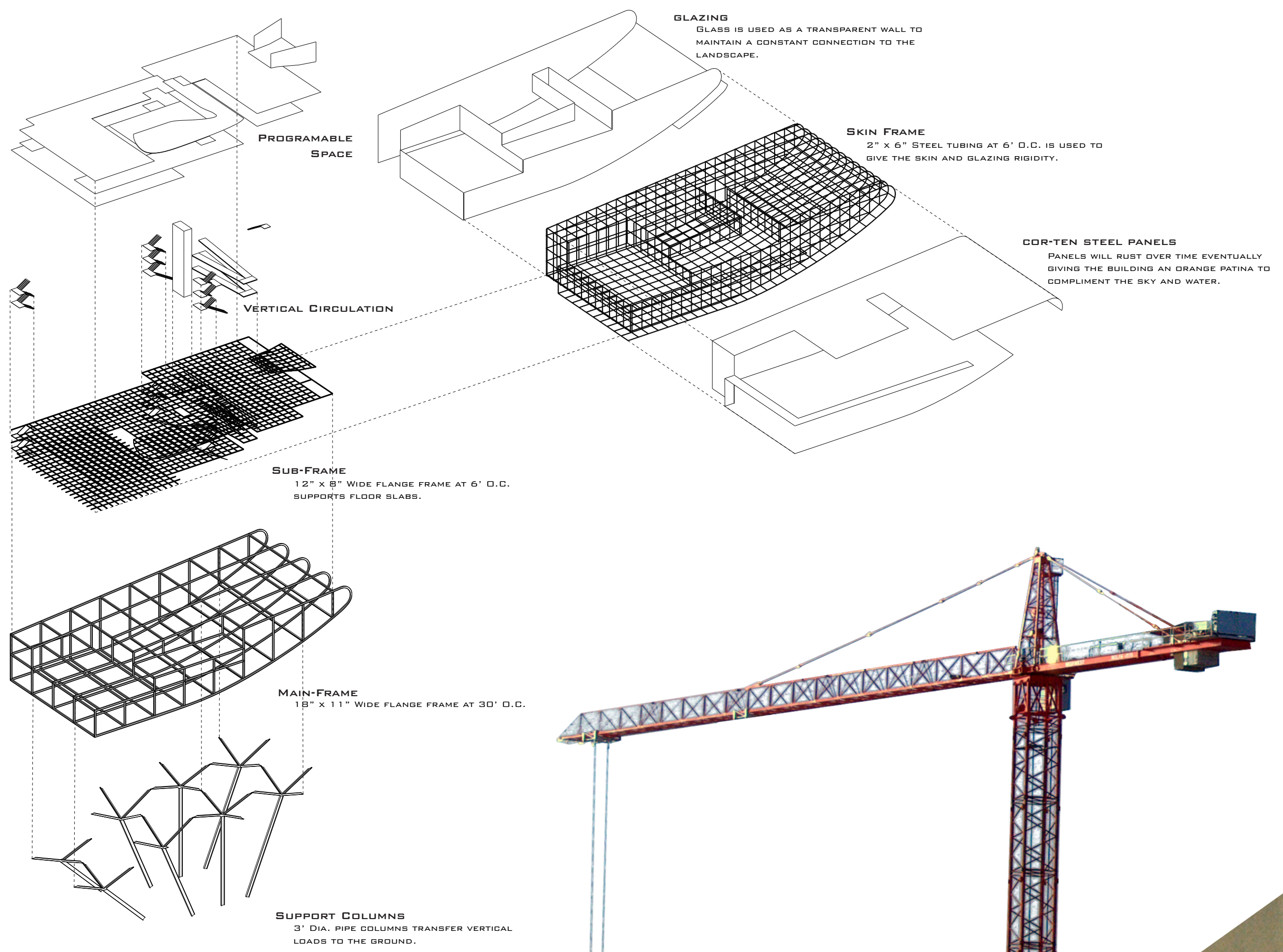




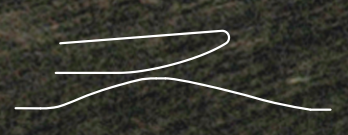
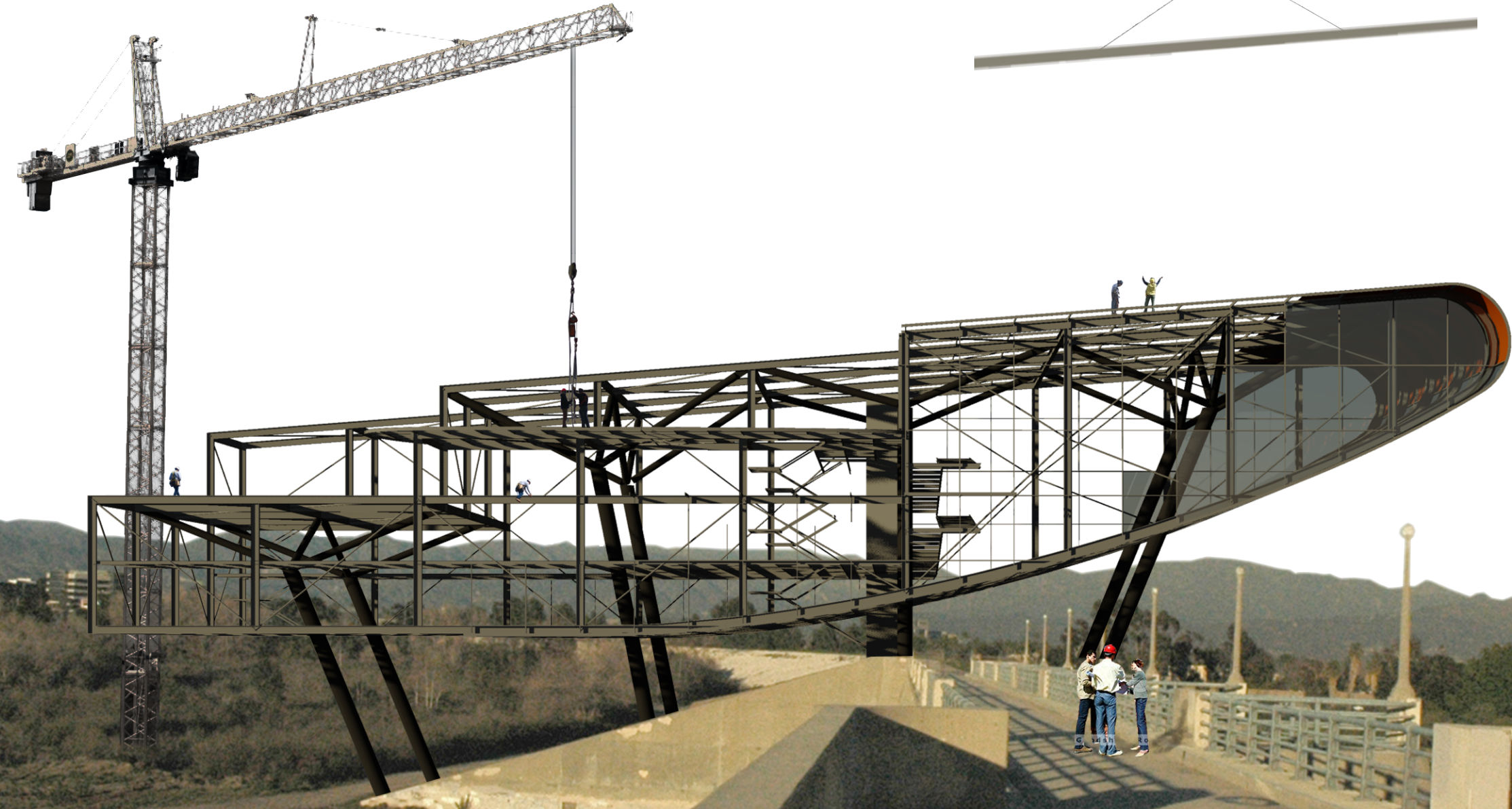
MULTIPLE SYSTEMS COME TOGETHER IN LAYERS



LOAD IS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH BRANCHING



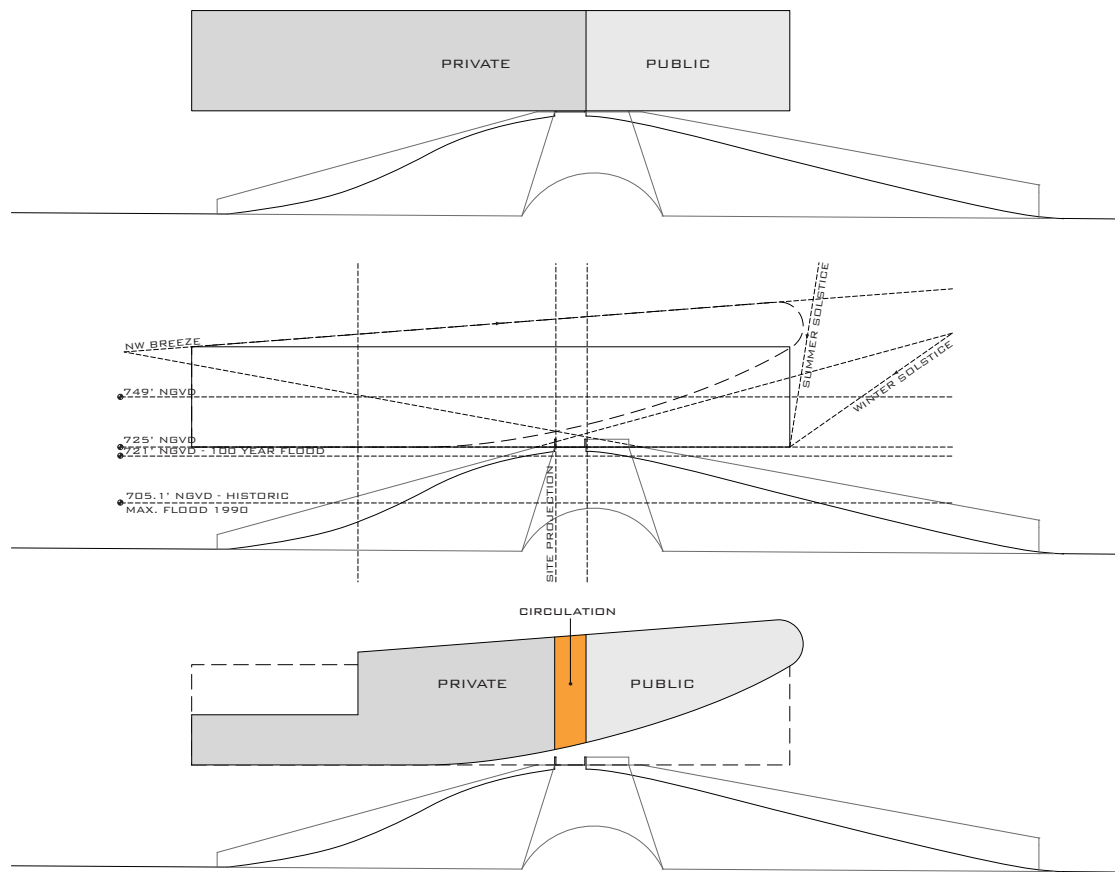
THE BUILDING FLOATS DUE TO DUAL CALIBER STEEL FRAMES





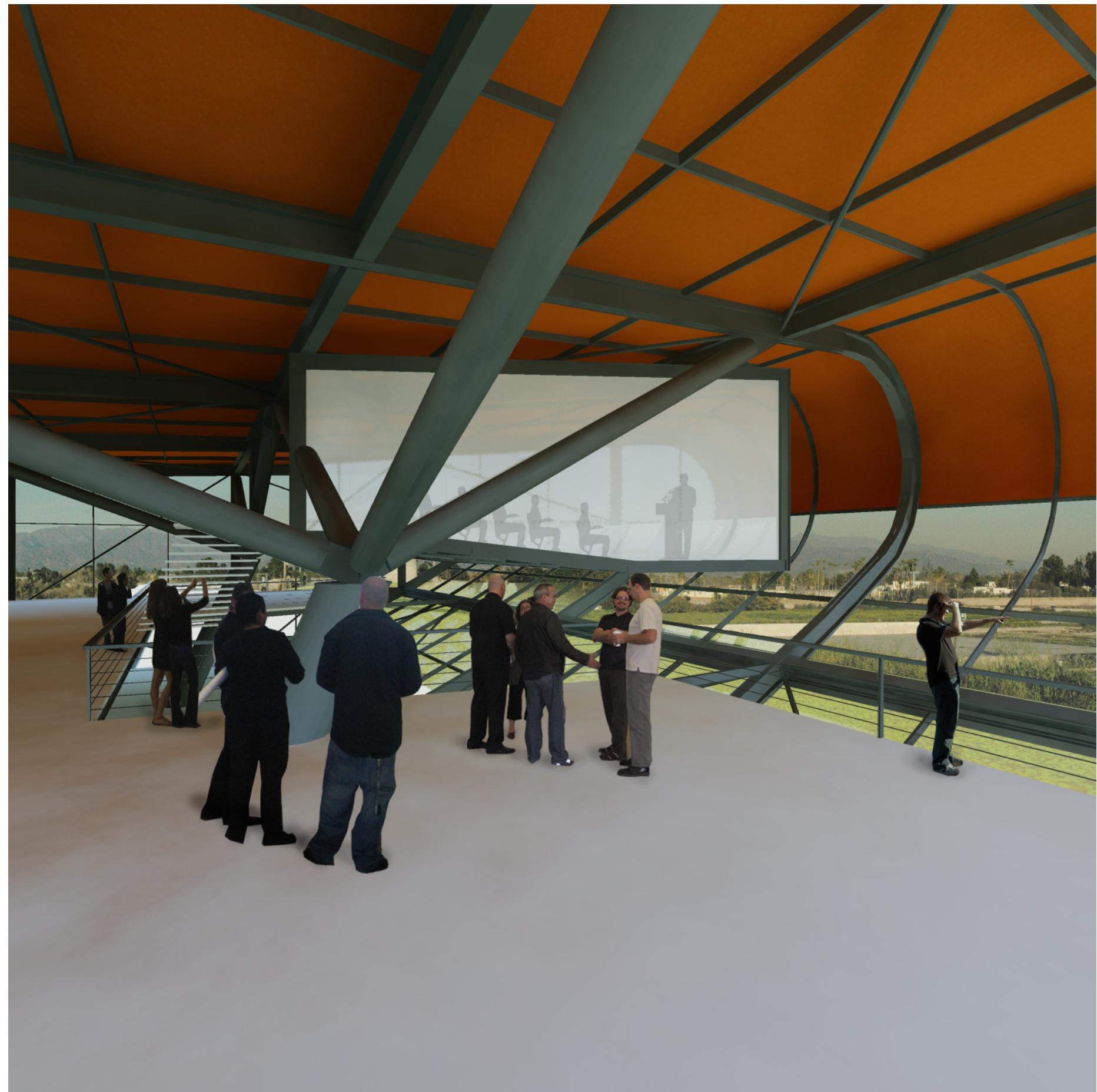
THE BUILDING FLOATS ABOVE THE DAM

THE SITING IS CHOSEN BASED ON THE HIGHEST ELEVATION ON THE SITE. THIS IS DONE IN AN EFFORT TO ELEVATE THE BUILDING AND AVOID CONTACT WITH MOISTURE. THE BUILDING IS SPLIT PROGRAMMATICALLY INTO PRIVATE AND PUBLIC. PROPORTIONS ARE APPROPRIATED BY SQUARE FOOTAGE REQUIREMENTS.



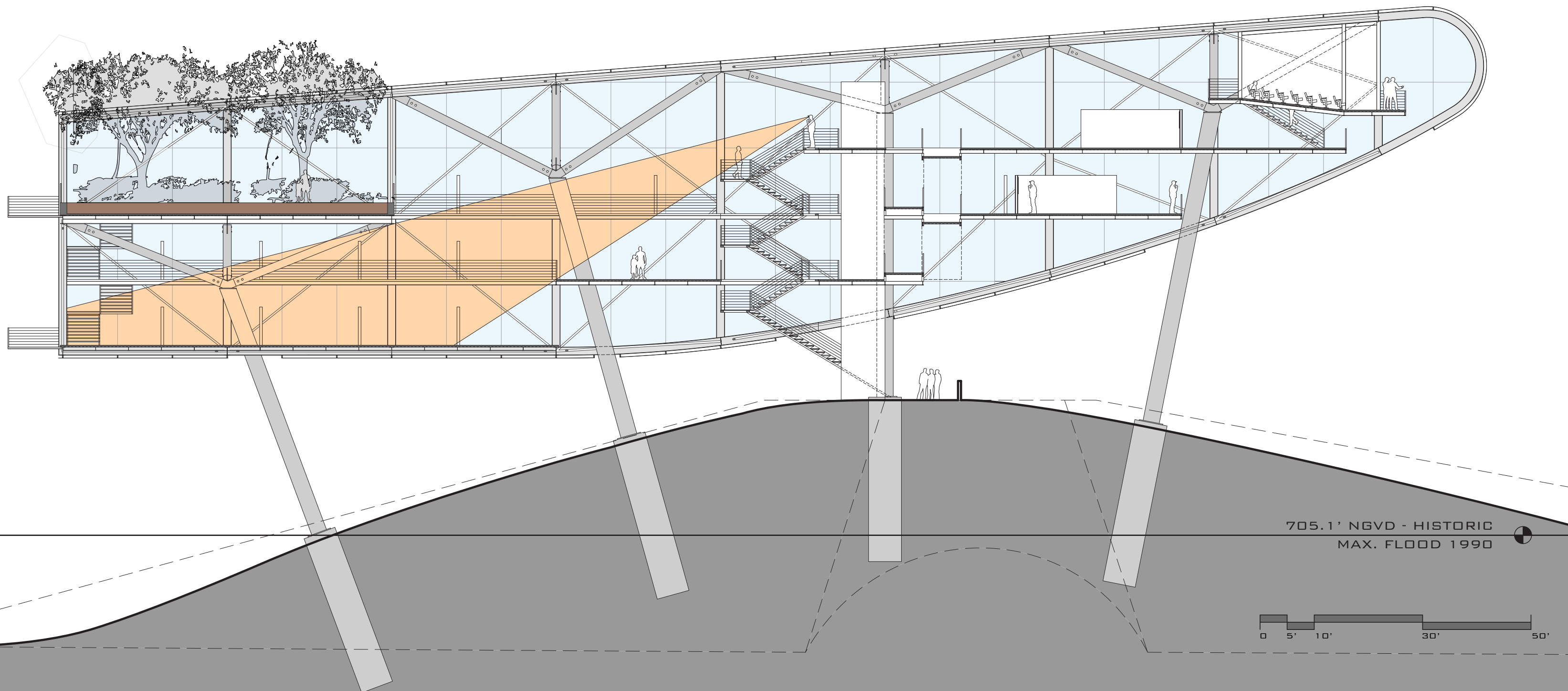
SITE FORCES ARE APPLIED TO THE MASSING AND BEGIN TO SHAPE THE GESTURE.

THE PRIVATE AND PUBLIC ARE BIFURCATED BY A ZONE OF CIRCULATION. THE ZONE IS A DIRECT PROJECTION OF THE CIRCULATION OF THE DAM. A FORMAL GESTURE IS CREATED.



THE HANGING LECTURE SPACE CREATES A DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIP WITH THE MUSEUM

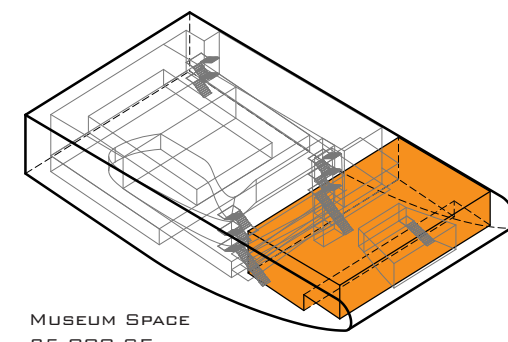
A NARRATIVE FORMS BETWEEN DAM AND BUILDING



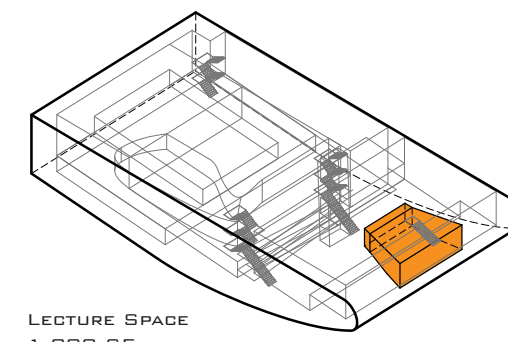
705.1' NGVD - HISTORIC
MAX. FLOOD 1990

0 5' 10' 30' 50'

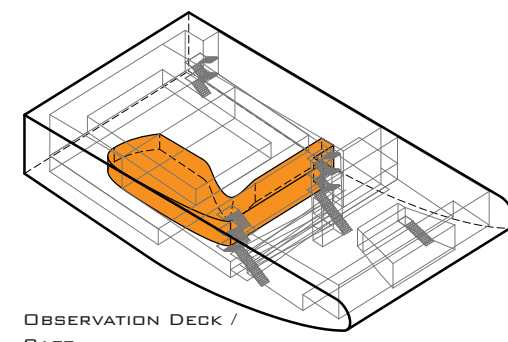
THE USE OF STEEL ALLOWS THE HULL-SHAPED FORM TO DISSOCIATE ITSELF FROM THE HEAVY CONCRETE DAM BY ELEVATING ITSELF ABOVE IT, EMPHASIZING THE CONTRAST BETWEEN LIGHT AND HEAVY, PERMANENT AND EPHEMERAL, WET AND DRY. THE PROPOSAL'S FORMAL AND STRUCTURAL AUTONOMY IDENTIFY IT AS AN OBJECT ON THE URBAN LANDSCAPE, OFFERING SLOW-MOVING FREEWAY COMMUTERS A REMINDER OF HOW PRESCIENT WATER IS TO OUR LOCAL CULTURE. THE HYDROLOGY RESEARCH CENTER BECOMES A PLACE-KEEPER FOR A HISTORY YET TO BE WRITTEN IN A PLACE WHERE MEMORY IS SHORT, WATER IS SCARCE AND WHERE A BUILDING'S CONNECTION TO THE GROUND IS ONLY AS DETERMINED AS THE INEVITABILITY OF THE FLOOD TO COME.



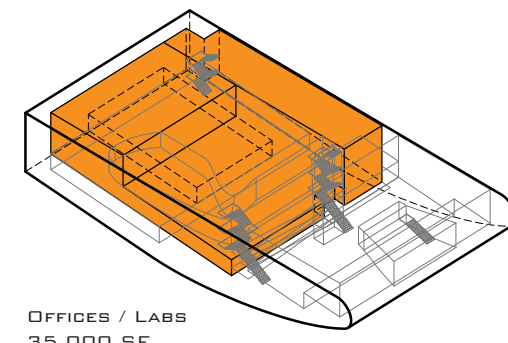
MUSEUM SPACE
25,000 SF



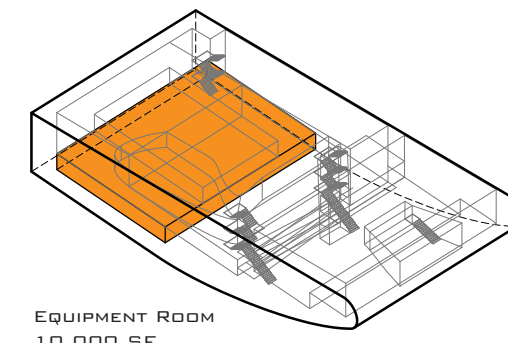
LECTURE SPACE
1,000 SF



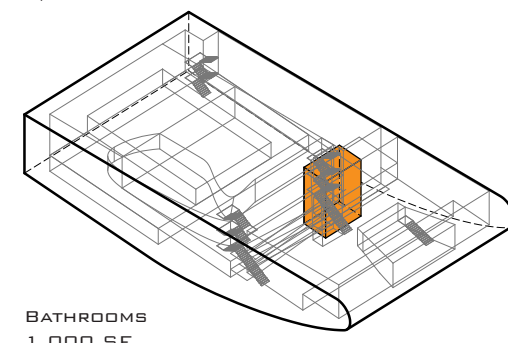
OBSERVATION DECK /
CAFE
3,000 SF



OFFICES / LABS
35,000 SF

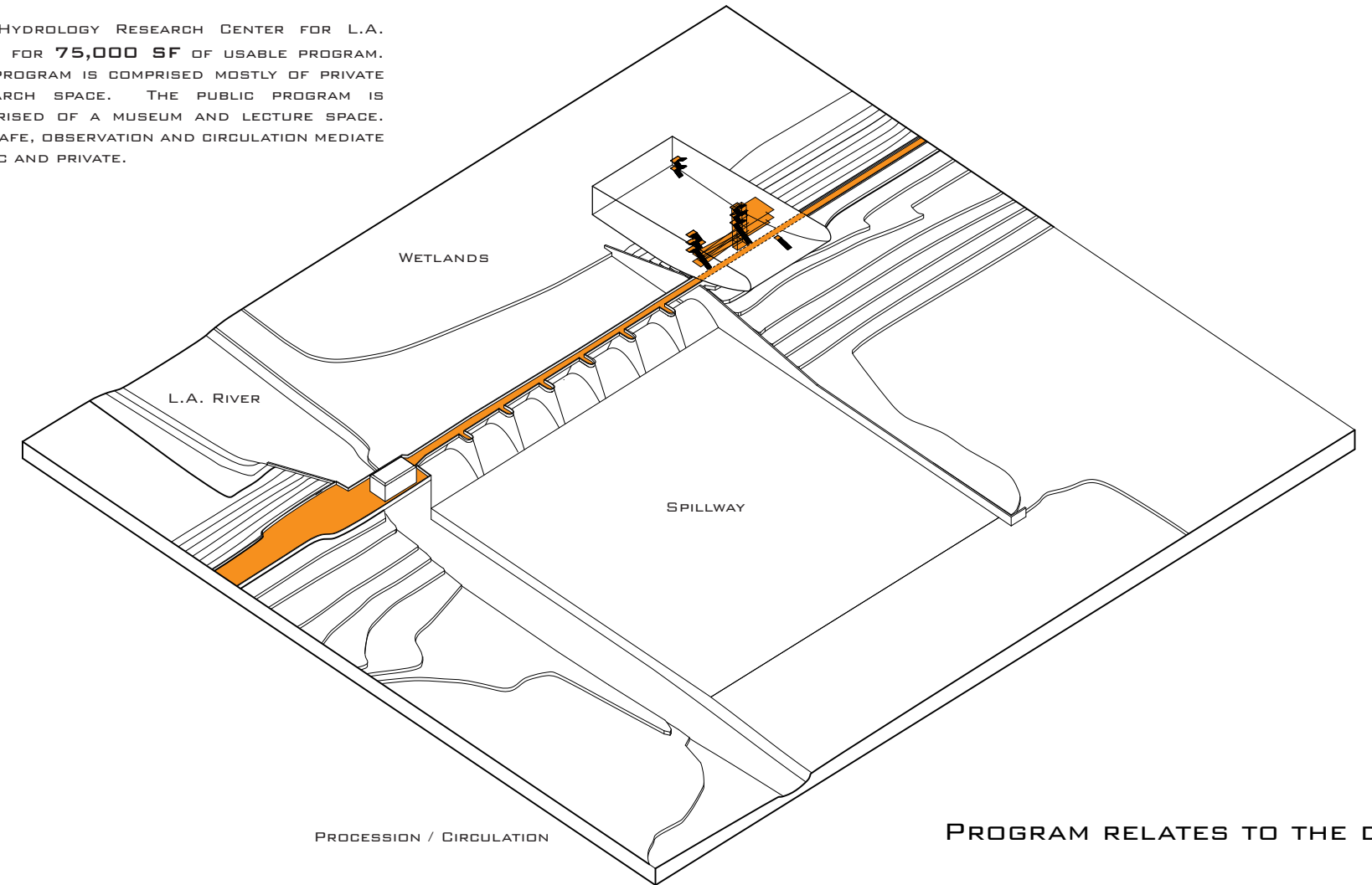


EQUIPMENT ROOM
10,000 SF



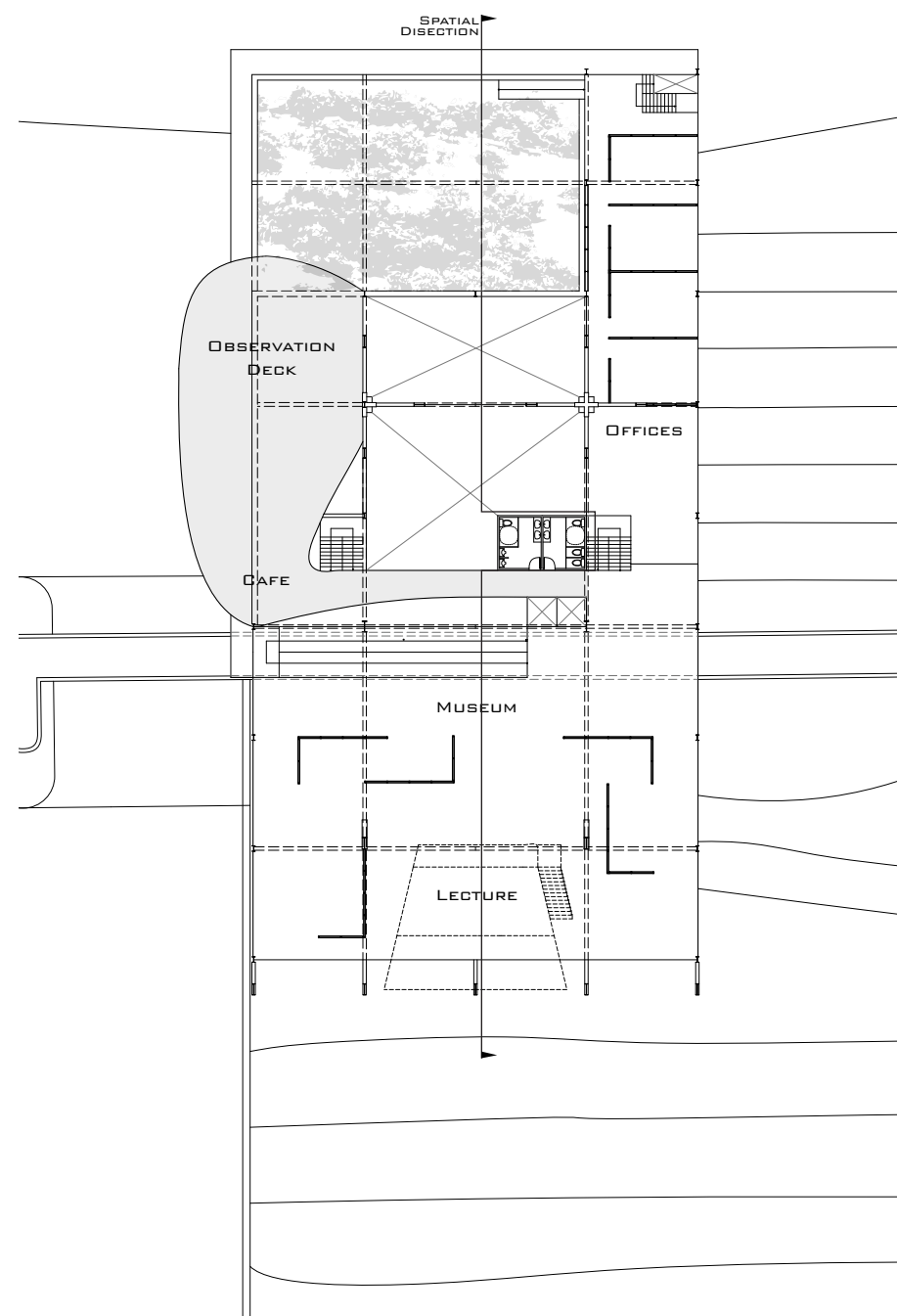
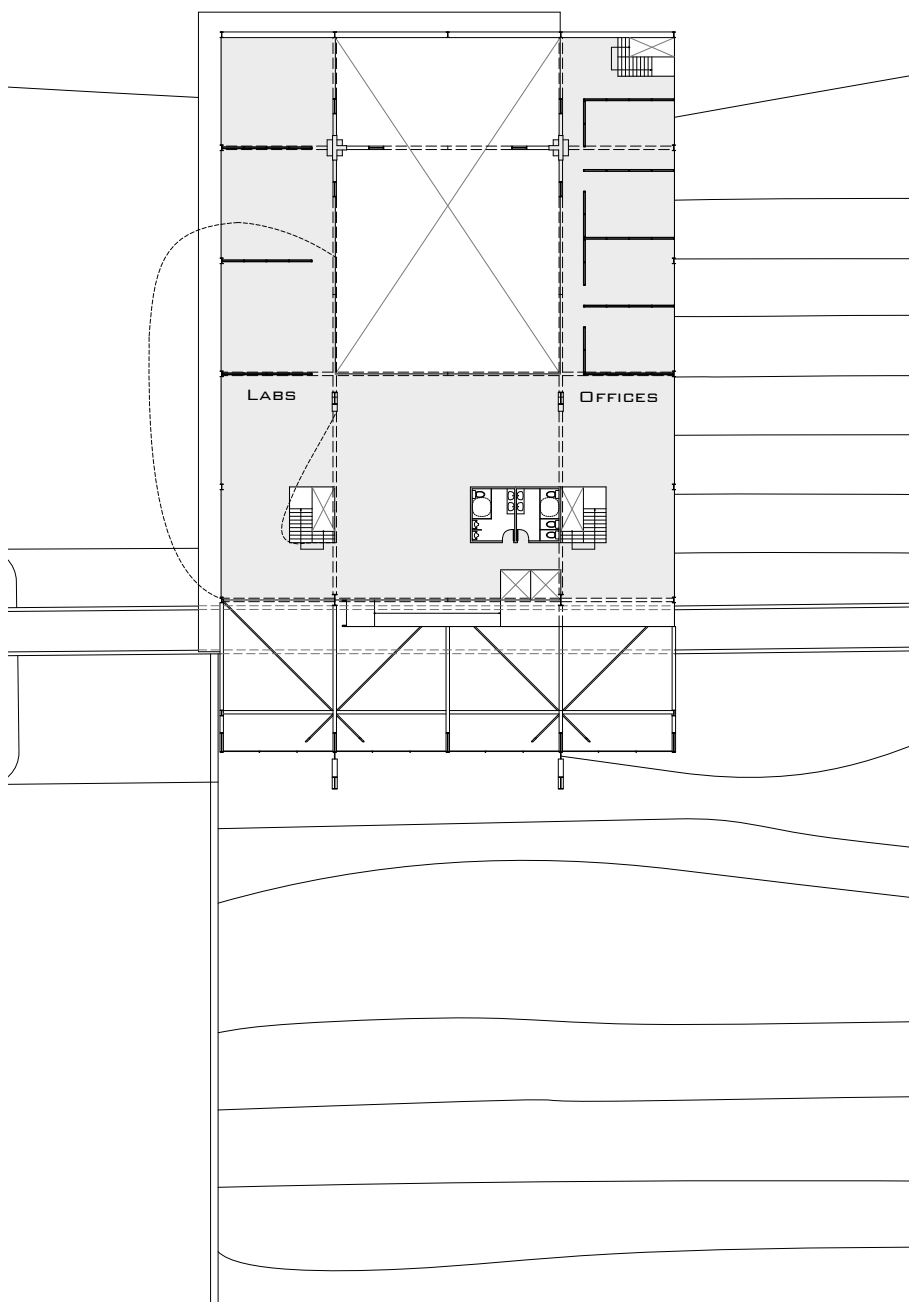
BATHROOMS
1,000 SF

THE HYDROLOGY RESEARCH CENTER FOR L.A. CALLS FOR 75,000 SF OF USABLE PROGRAM. THE PROGRAM IS COMPRISED MOSTLY OF PRIVATE RESEARCH SPACE. THE PUBLIC PROGRAM IS COMPRISED OF A MUSEUM AND LECTURE SPACE. THE CAFE, OBSERVATION AND CIRCULATION MEDIATE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE.



PROCESSION / CIRCULATION

PROGRAM RELATES TO THE DAM



OBSERVATION DECK INTERRUPTS THE GRID



AN AXIAL PROCESSION DIVIDES PUBLIC AND PRIVATE

