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Eataly Market & Dining Complex

Located at the intersection of 24th Street, Nueces, and San Antonio in the heart of bustling West Campus, a notorious food desert, Eataly Austin fills a void in the urban fabric. Eataly markets have enjoyed great success in Italy and are now being introduced to the United States, bringing a new shopping and dining experience to this side of the Atlantic. Modeled after European open-air markets of antiquity, groceries at Eataly are fresh and local which passes savings on to consumers. Moreover, ingredients can be prepared by chefs at the time of purchase, providing consumers more dining options and exposing them to a variety of cuisines. Numerous additional restaurants populate public spaces at ground level and in upper floors, accompanied by a rooftop beer garden offering local brews.

The 40,000 square-foot Eataly Austin complex embraces the existing legacy of its site, repurposing existing turn-of-the-century structures and preserving a heritage live oak at the center of the newly created campus. A lofty mercato stretches along the site’s southern edge and utilizes a kinetic facade to capture prevailing breezes for natural ventilation. The existing house and warehouse are transformed into cafes, restaurants, and retail outlets. Office spaces rise above the renovated warehouse, taking advantage of stunning views of downtown Austin and the UT Austin campus. In the center of the composition is a piazza, the heart of activity in the daytime, engaging pedestrians as they move among the buildings. At nighttime, this piazza transforms into the service drive for the mercato.
proposed office tower

existing house (ca. 1900)

proposed mercato

existing warehouse (ca. 1920)

framing and lateral resistive system diagrams (office tower above, mercato below)
Marfa Border Patrol Facility

Critic: Judith Birdsong

The Big Bend Sector of U.S. Customs & Border Patrol is headquartered in Marfa, Texas, a town renowned for its rich artistic scene thanks to the influence of Donald Judd and his Chinati Foundation. The fine arts compound is adjacent to the sector headquarters and down the street from a city block occupied by housing for border patrol agents and their families. The existing housing has fallen into disrepair and is in need of replacement.

Marfa has no police force, yet it sees staggering influxes of tourists throughout the year so Marfans must rely on border patrol agents for public safety. However, a tension exists between the agency and locals; allegations of the border patrol abusing its authority are common. Since the presence of hundreds of federal agents in a town of only 2,000 residents is pervasive, building trust between the two groups is critical.

The new border patrol facility provides 26 units for agents and their families while also dedicating a long swath running down the center of the block as a public park. To draw in the public and tourists, the park aligns with the road leading to the Chinati Foundation. It is surrounded on all sides by an elevated promenade so that civilians and agents alike can watch their children play in the field below. The agents are provided their own areas of refuge: each quadrant of the site encloses a commons for the families that live there.
elevation of single-family residences
view from court

elevation of duplexes
view from court

single-family unit
duplex unit
duplex unit
duplex unit
single-family unit
Laguna Gloria on Lake Austin is an attraction for art lovers and bird watchers alike. Under ownership of The Contemporary Austin, the estate is being converted into a public sculpture garden. However, such a transformation overlooks the site’s attraction as a precious crossroads of ecosystems where a variety of birds can be seen.

The Laguna Gloria Birding Center provides a formal location for the program of birding. Its location, on the site lies at the intersection of three habitats: a water’s edge, a meadow, and a floodplain forest. The center addresses these three habitats with platform, box, and passage blinds, respectively. These bird blinds at the periphery of the building connect to a nexus of public spaces: lecture hall, library, classrooms, photography darkroom...

Circulation across the site is laid out to preserve and equally provide for each program. The primary entrance is an extension of the axis leading to an existing villa and becomes a ha-ha wall, protecting the habitats of birds in the meadow from human intrusion to the south while providing an area for sculpture to the north. The wall also conceals the center from view until one reaches the forest and water edges, suddenly revealing the building and the variety of ecotones simultaneously.
Ciudad Miguel Aleman, Tamaulipas, is located just south of the Mexican-American border and shares a rich colonial history with its American neighbor: Roma, Texas. Its geographic position and recent economic growth suggest its population will rise dramatically as it transitions from a primarily agrarian economy to an energy-driven one, harvesting vast shale deposits and abundant wind energy.

Should Miguel Aleman see such growth, it will be in sore need of urban housing for the influx of workers. Electric plant workers from the border region, business executives from Monterrey and Mexico City, and engineers from the United States will all need a safe place to call home. High density is required and this complex provides 300 housing units in just over 3 hectares. The site was master-planned in collaboration with colleagues Jean Sanders, Naomi Singer, and Briana Thomas.

Of our master plan, my portion sought to provide the densest aggregations, looking ahead to a pedestrian-friendly, less car-reliant future. Different units feature different amenities: closed or open terraces, carports, sun rooms, etc. The introduction of a residency tower creates an environment where different demographics share the same spaces. To promote this healthy urban integration, a central plaza and flanking courtyards provide public space for this diverse community to enjoy together.
transverse section through 100m² unit (left) and 120m² unit (right), view facing east
The Salvage Vanguard acting group has long played a vital role in the well-established artistic community east of Interstate 35. Their theater gained a reputation as an intimate setting where casual performances could take place; interaction between thespians and audience members was frequent and the unique shows were well suited in the former warehouse building it once called home.

Under pressures of gentrification, the performance group has lost the lease to their unique venue. A new theater only a few blocks away is a proposed, reimagining the industrial characteristics of their former home.

With less than a week available to design, a thick envelope was quickly established as the driving strategy; the space frame structure is not only as industrial as its surroundings, but is sturdy and flexible enough to provide for any show imaginable. The consistent elevation shared by the stage and the circulation not only provides accessible seating, but also allows performances to spread beyond the stage and surround the audience. Finally, acoustics have been carefully calculated to keep the reverberation time under one second and to ensure that each of the 151 seats will enjoy live sound without flutter echo.
acoustic analysis
orange: direct sound
blue: reflected sound
The focus of UT Austin’s annual Public Interest Design studio is collaborating with stakeholders in underserved communities. In this studio, stakeholders were park rangers at Galveston Island State Park in need of a shade pavilion for environmental education tours as part of their Junior Ranger program. The ultimate goal of the pavilion is to heighten the children’s experience in nature, inspiring them to become better environmental stewards.

The 450 square-foot pavilion is located on Lake Como, part of the Galveston Bay, and is one of only a few structures located on this side of the state park. Therefore the pavilion must also act as an interface that connects visitors with the bay ecology. The actions of almost all Texans have ramifications in this bay, which is not only the final destination of numerous watersheds but also the home of diverse wildlife. Thus, habitats are built into the design to draw attention to the richness of this often overlooked and fragile ecosystem.

The design phases lasted four weeks. Construction drawings were prepared in one week and two of my peers and I led this effort. Two weeks were devoted to off-site prefabrication and on-site construction lasted ten days.
amplify site conditions of compression & expansion

connect movement and stasis along nature education trail

inspire future generations of environmental stewards
completed deck and bench, view facing north

section facing north

section facing west

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Résumé
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Education
University of Texas at Austin
Bachelor of Architecture, anticipated May 2019.
Current GPA: 3.87

Skills
Digital: Revit, AutoCAD, Rhino, Sketchup, Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, and ArcGIS.
Analog: Hand drafting, sketching, model-making, water-coloring, and woodworking.

Experience
Alexander Architectural Archive
Archivist’s assistant. Catalog & preserve historical architectural drawings.
August 2015 - present

Public Interest Design Program
Student member. Participated in all phases of design & construction. Coordinated CDs.
June - August 2017

Architecture & Planning Library
Circulation desk staff member. Assisted patrons with architectural research.
May - August 2016

Activities
Tau Sigma Delta Honor Society in Architecture, member
Texas Society of Architects, student member
American Institute of Architecture Students, member
Undergraduate Architecture Student Council, member
UTSoA Mentorship Program, volunteer mentor
AIA Austin Homes Tour, volunteer cashier