

# York University Student Center

Location: York University  
main campus, Toronto,  
Canada.

Project: a new student  
center with an area of  
140,000 SF

Date: Summer Studio  
ARCH497.  
June 6- July 25

## Project details:

The York university department of Architecture and Urban planning released this design competition for Architecture firms in North America. We, at IIT, have contacted the administration of York university and obtained all the RFQ documents and client data.

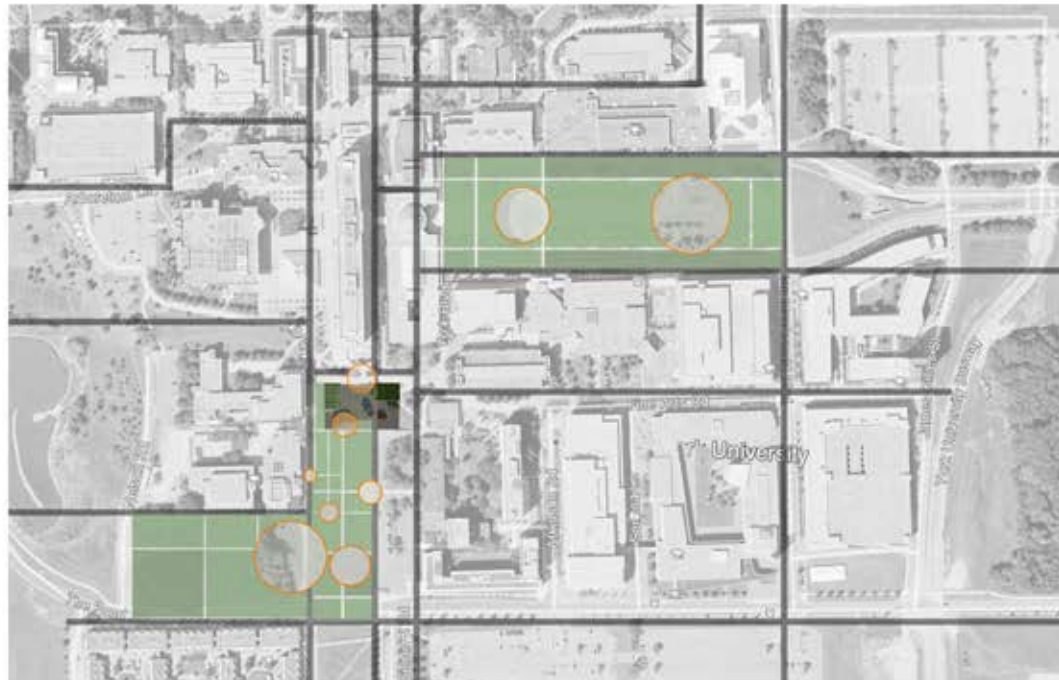
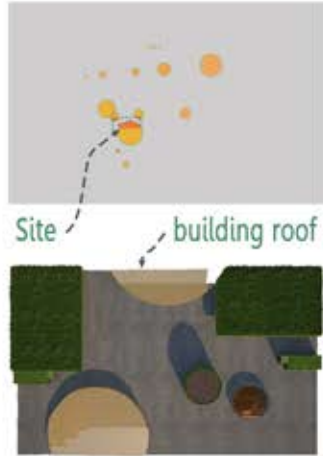


Main Atrium/ Lobby

# 1ST phase- Analysing the site:

Looking at the gathering spaces on campus, we see that a series of nodes exist around the site already, so I interpreted those points in my building as atriums cutting through my building mass that perform to welcome students in to the building, expose them to the rest of the campus, and to allow them to reflect inward within the private, more quiet program spaces.

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Site nodes and circulation analysis

## 2ND phase- Researching the program:

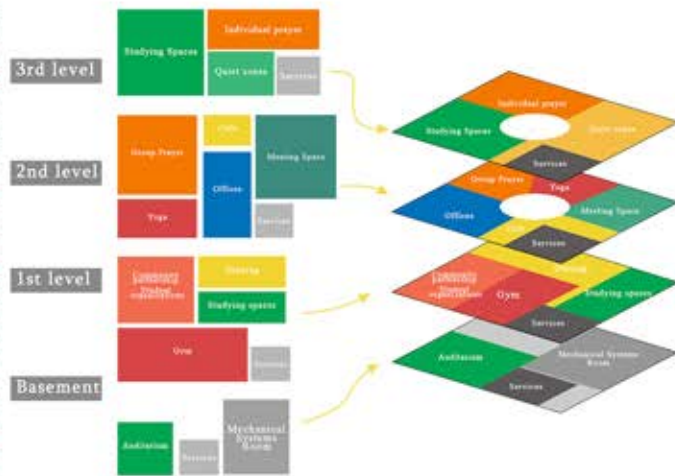
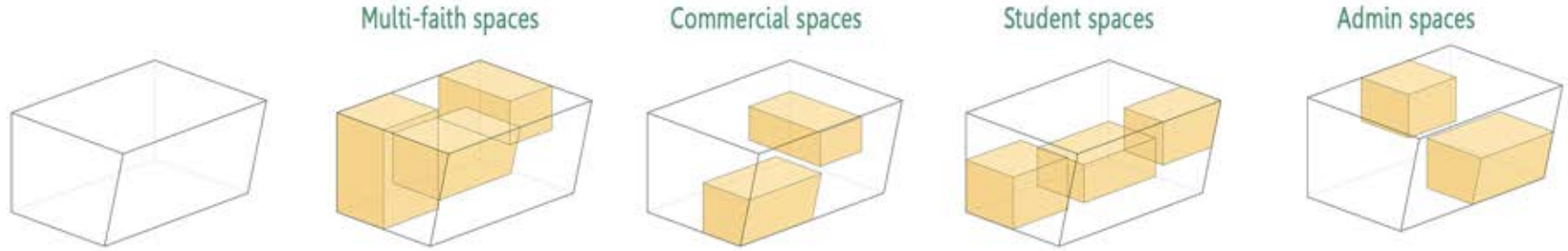
This student center is a combination of hybrid functions that address the physical, psychological and academic aspects of student life on York University campus.

1/4 of the building is a multi-faith center that accommodates the 44 religions on campus.

1/2 is student spaces / Gym-student organizations- studying spaces- quiet zones and convention spaces/

1/4 of the building is administration based or commercial areas and services.

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## Grid analysis

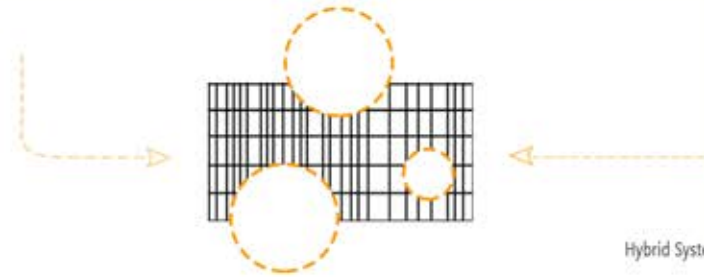
The two systems of the building interact to form a new system that shows in the plans, landscape and elevations. A straight irregular grid and an arbitrary cutting system that acknowledges orientation only.



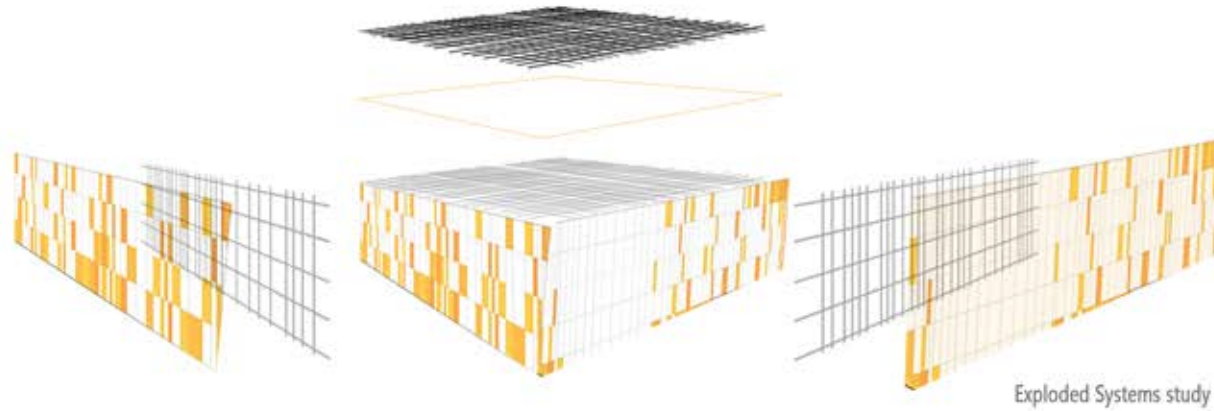
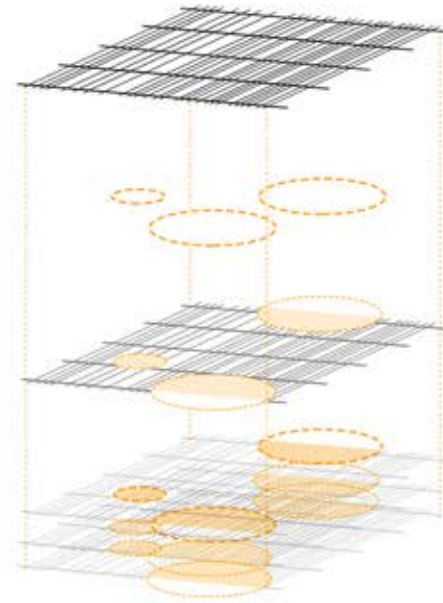
Grid System



Cutting System



Hybrid System



Exploded Systems study



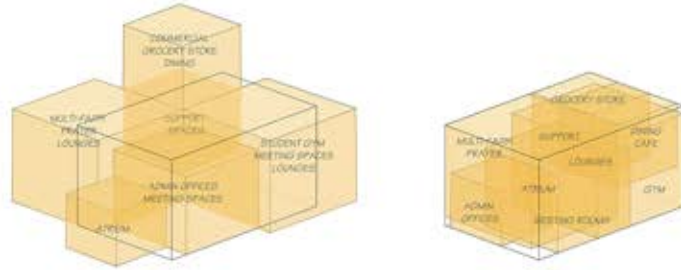
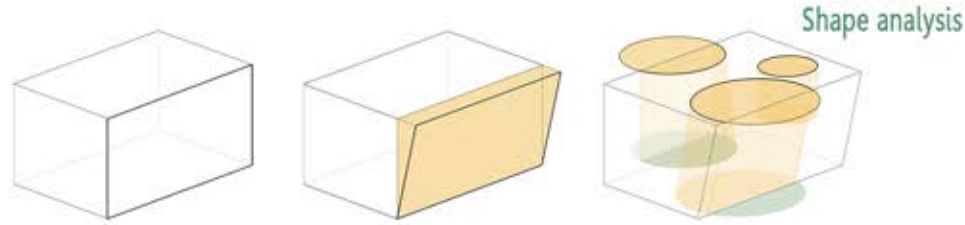
Unwrapped Elevation

## 3RD phase- Designing the experience:

The design of the project focuses on cultivating energy through interactions. Those interactions are maximized through atrium cuts that perform in diverse ways and allow for the interaction of users and programs as well as building systems. They harness and cultivate the energy coursing through the building through the interactions that happen within it.

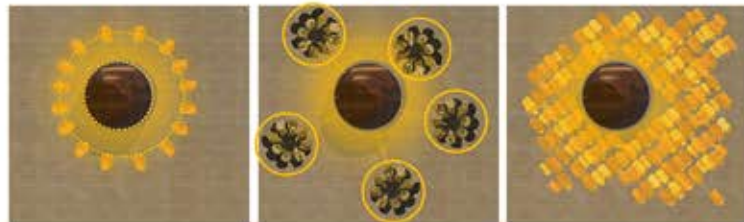
The Atriums do not only perform socially, as gathering spaces and revealing interactive vistas through the building, but also perform from an energy standpoint by allowing for natural ventilation and natural lighting.

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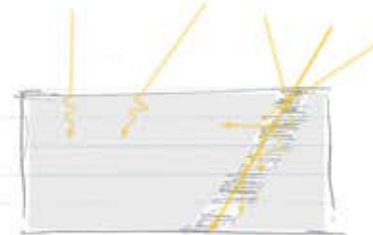
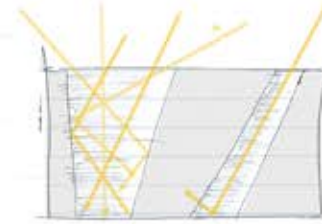
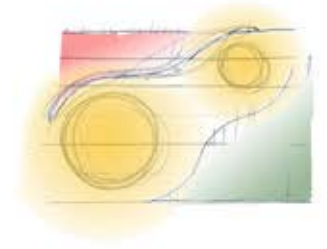
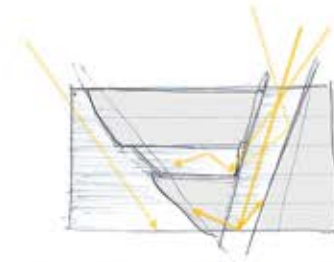
Hybridizing spaces

multi-faith center activities



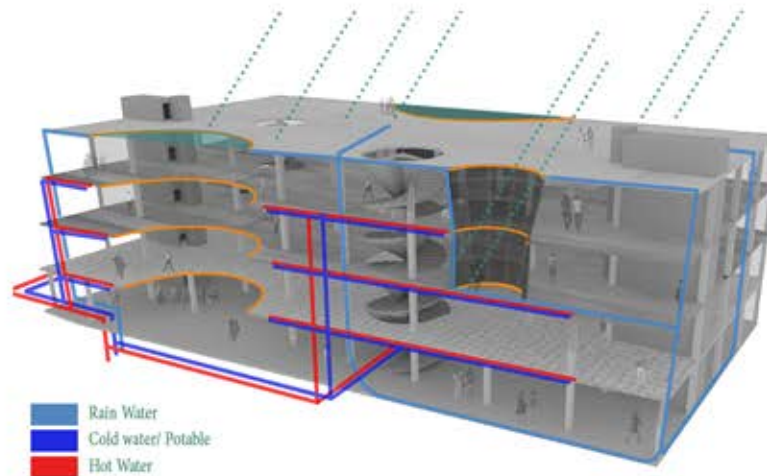
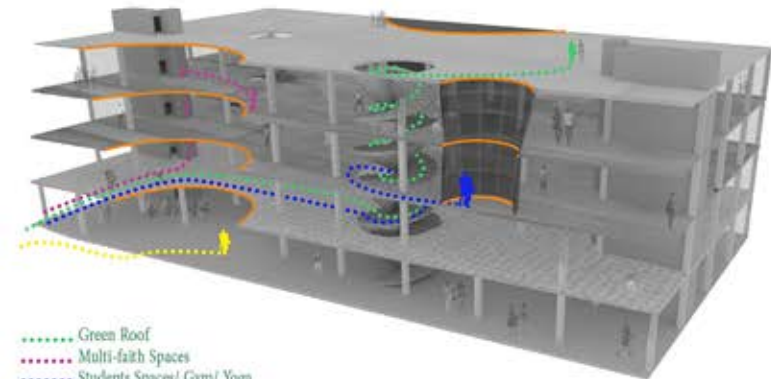
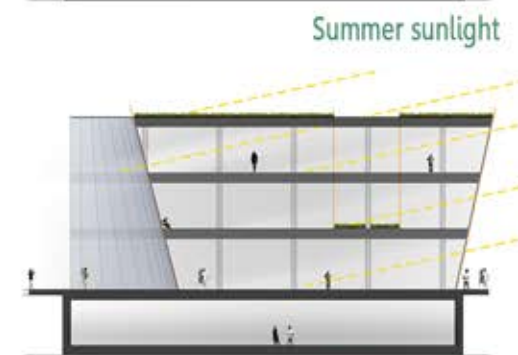
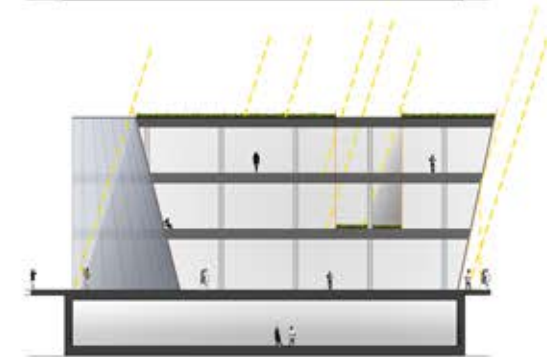
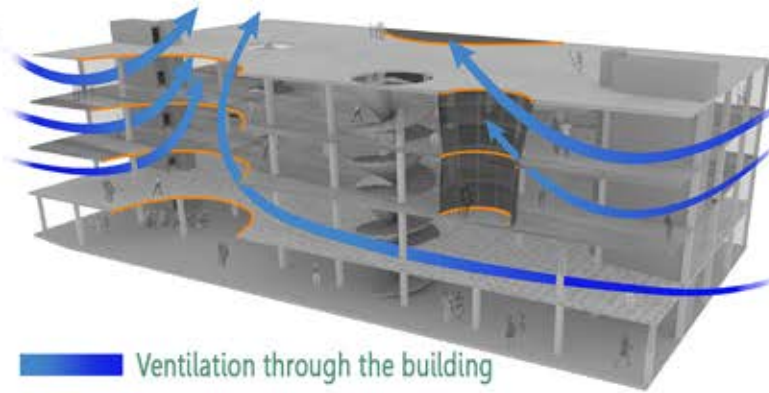
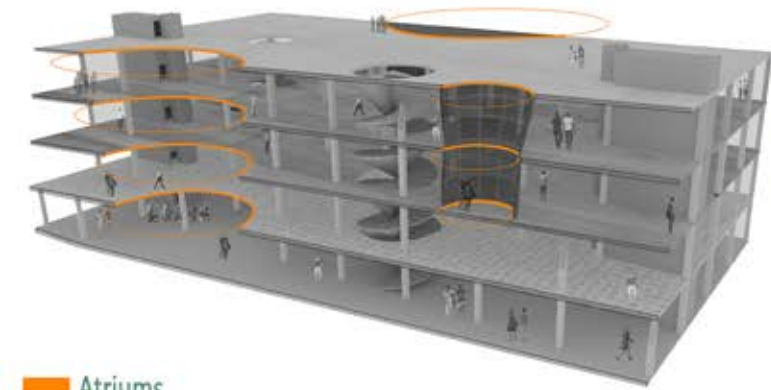
Multi-faith centered atrium

Atrium cuts study



4th phase-  
Measuring the  
performance:

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- ..... Green Roof
- ..... Multi-faith Spaces
- ..... Students Spaces/ Gyms/ Yoga
- ..... Convention/ Theater

- Rain Water
- Cold water/ Potable
- Hot Water

Overall lighted areas

Summer sunlight

Winter sunlight

4th phase-  
Measuring the  
performance:

Layering and  
detailing

A full building  
section along the  
(North-South)  
axis, reveals the re-  
lations between  
the interiors and  
the exterior, the  
transparencies  
and the materials,  
plus the floors pri-  
vacies and func-  
tion uses.  
It also shows rela-  
tioning to site and  
to adjacent build-  
ings on campus.

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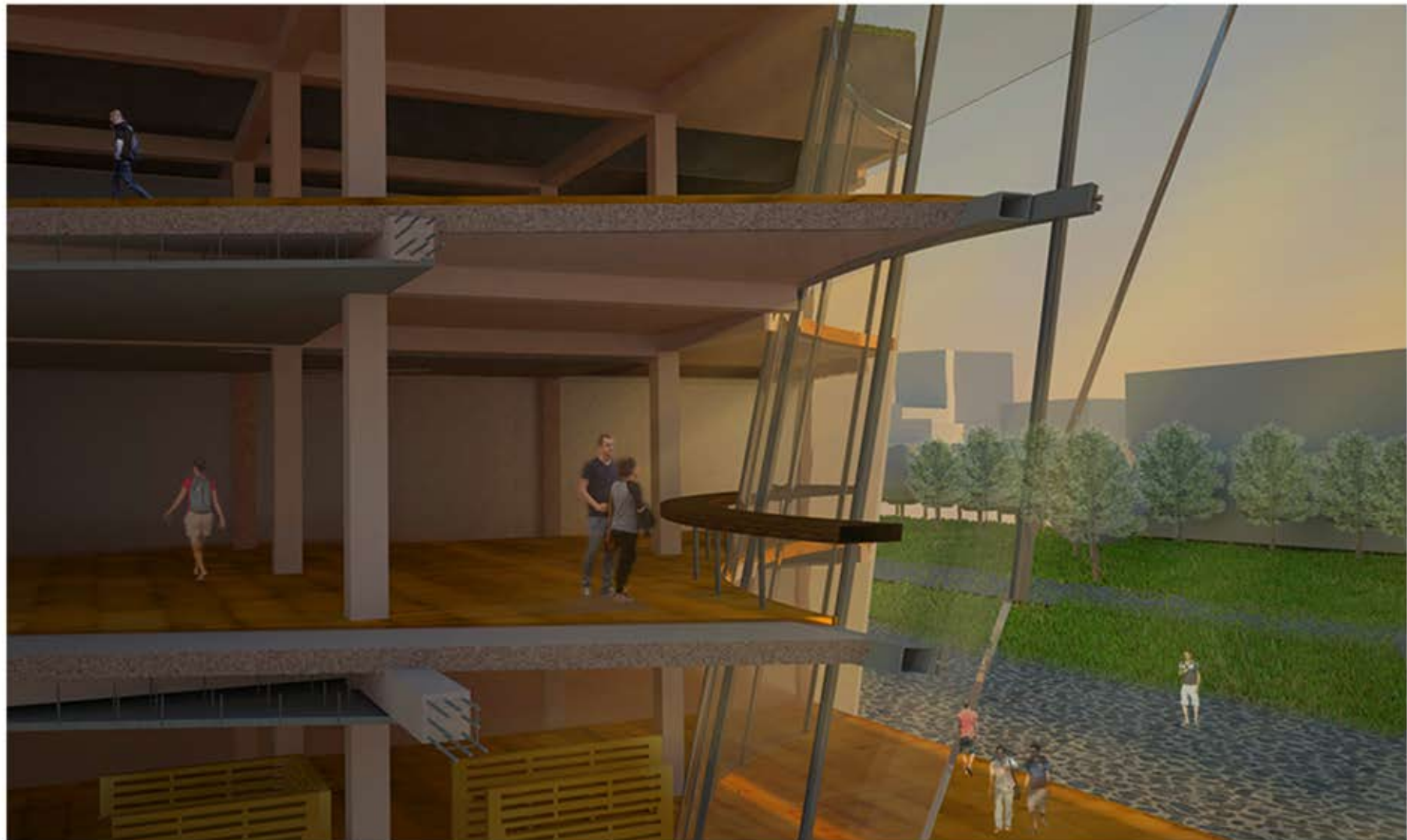


4th phase-  
Measuring the  
performance:

Structure detail-  
ings and  
finishings

A portion section  
cutting the en-  
trance, second  
and third levels.  
This section  
shows a high level  
of structure de-  
tails and floor to  
ceiling finishes. It  
also presents ma-  
teriality and light  
exposure at the  
north facade and  
main entrance.

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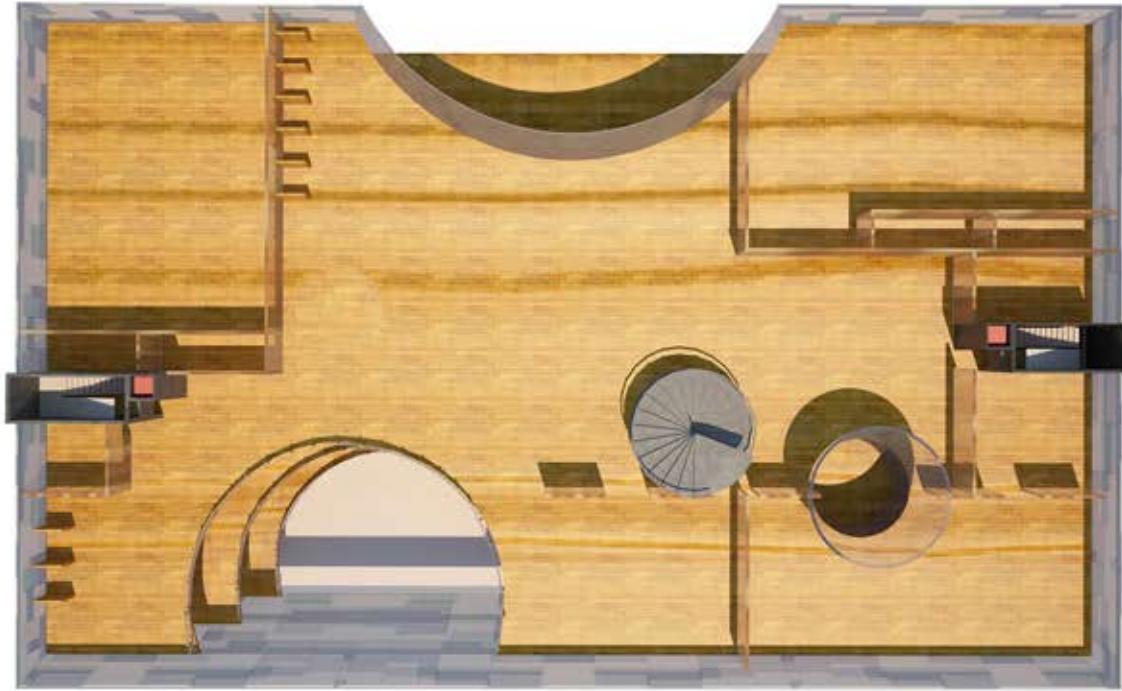


## 5th phase- Detailed Plans:

The 3D plans show the interior walls and main vertical circulation cores. They also show the relation to the skin of the building at every floor and the shades provide a sense of the height of every interior element, and the materiality of the floors and walls.

The 2D plans show the structural and design grids along with the interior spaces.

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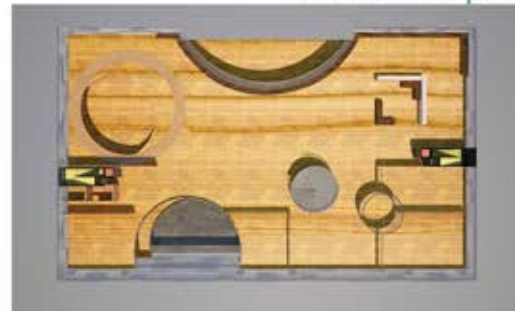


Third Floor plan

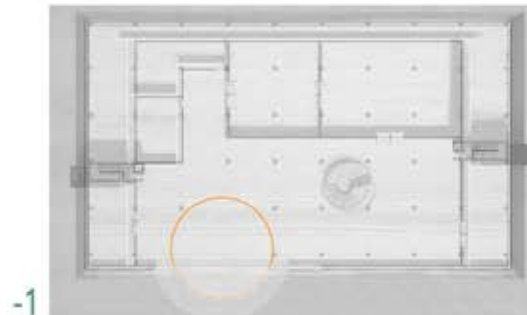
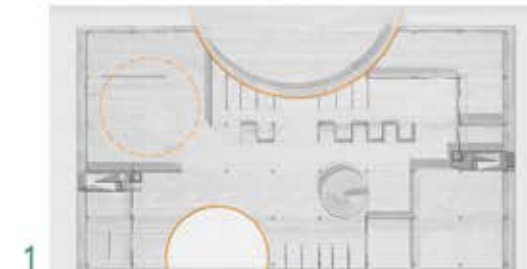
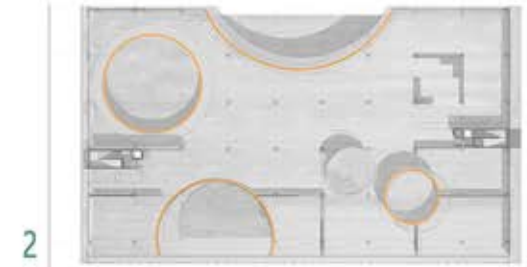
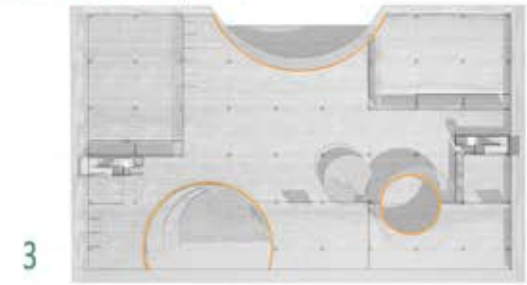
First Floor plan



Second Floor plan



Autocad detailed plans

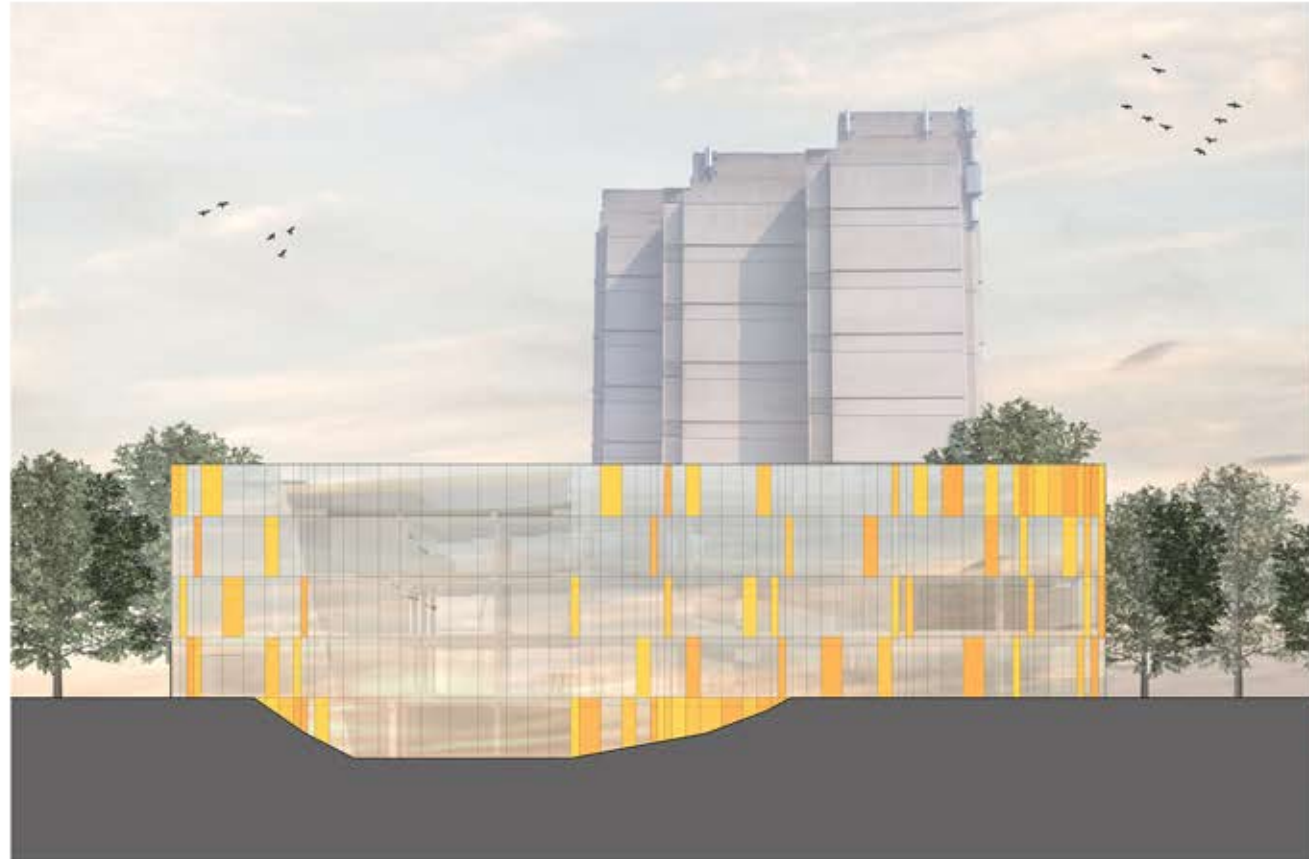
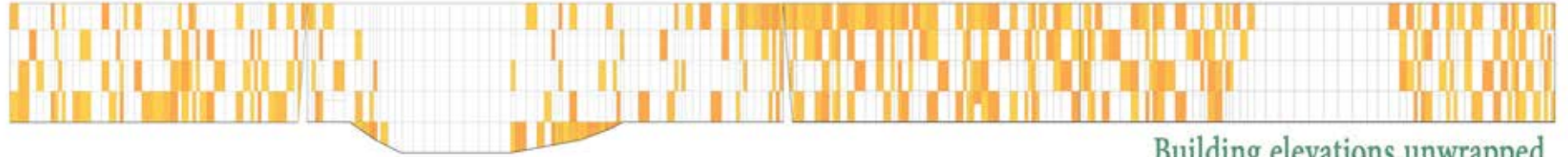


6th phase-  
Skin of the build-  
ing:

The building design is a combination of two main systems, a straight grid that dictates the design and the structure of the building, and another system represented by the random "Cuts" through the mass of the building to create the Atriums.

The skin of the building is not different from this process, a straight grid that reflects the interior privacies and uses, then the atrium cuts perform similarly to create a clear visual extent along the facade.

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South Elevation  
Day View

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South Elevation  
Night View

## Perspectives:

Top Right:  
Exterior Perspective  
shows the approach to  
the building from the  
Campus center (NE)

Top Left:  
Exterior Perspective  
shows the Entrance  
(NW)

Bottom Left: (Cover  
Photo)

Interior Perspective of  
the biggest atrium in  
the building showing  
relations between  
users on different  
floors practicing differ-  
ent activities.

Bottom Right:  
Interior Atrium volume  
light into the  
multi-faith center.

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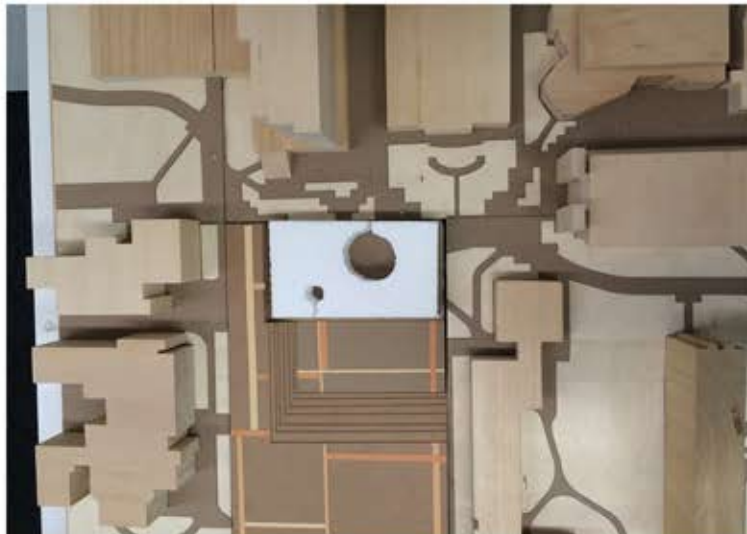


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Interior Perspective  
One of the multi-faith rooms with natural light coming through numerous smaller and more arbitrary openings in the ceiling to create a warm and spiritual atmosphere for those practicing meditation or prayers.



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Study Models,  
Analysis of the shape,  
the atriums, light expo-  
sure and shades.  
Model photos in the  
center analysing struc-  
tural system.

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Section Model  
Scale 3/8"

These shots show the floor to ceiling height, people occupying the spaces of the building, transparencies of the facades on the interior and the exterior and the relation between different floors.



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Section Model  
Scale 3/8"

These shots show the facades and the atrium glass roof patterns. The solid and the transparent sheets of glass on the facades control the light exposure in different spaces around the day.





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Section Model  
Scale 3/8"

These shots show some of the activities that shall take place in the student center, and the atrium glass roof pattern and reflections.



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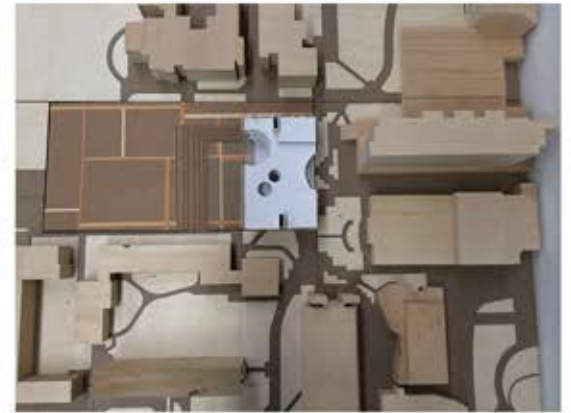


Final Model  
Scale 1-32"  
Main shot: bird-eye Per-  
spective from the SE  
corner at the building's  
south facade and the  
adjacent buildings.

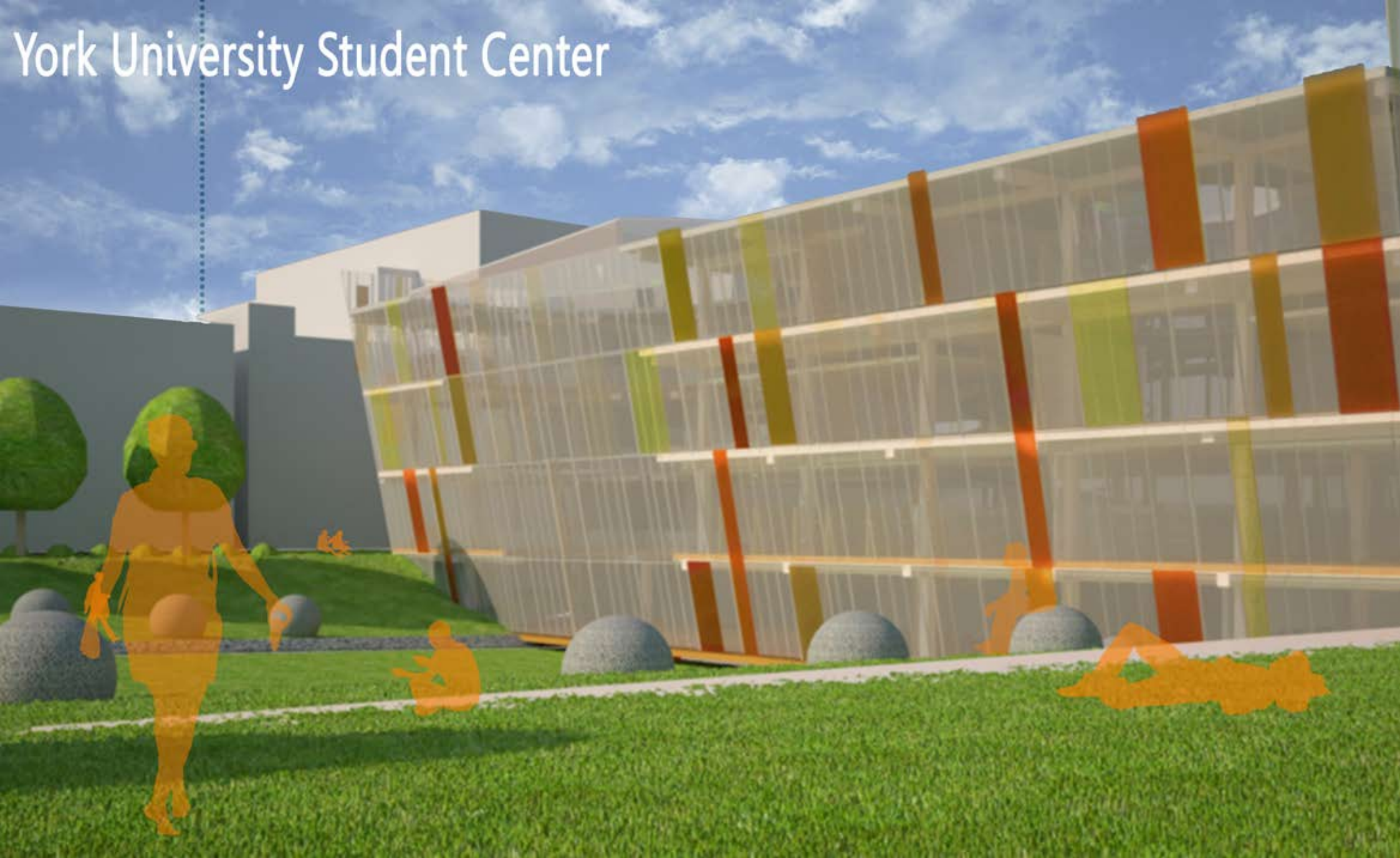
Top Right: NW corner

Middle right: Site Plan

Bottom Right: East ele-  
vation.



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## Gird analysis

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