Modern Museum

The older buildings constructed on the campus were built in the 50’s where glass was used at the envelope of the building as a way of a minimalist approach. This approach uses daylight to light the room’s rather than artificial lights that would use energy. What light can do to a space is really bring it alive. But in order to bring it to a space you need some sort of material or system to bring it to that space. Some examples being glass, light tubes, some sort of translucent material to allow light to penetrate a space. Daylight, which has been around since the beginning of time, combined with the technology that has been developed today can really get people’s attention to interact with the space. These aspects together would create a “Modern Museum”.

Project

The location that is proposed for a new exhibit space is a courtyard that is situated outside the current gallery space of the architectural school. The courtyard as of now has a few pieces of art on display and vegetation. Being in a spot that faces the campus grounds there is a chance to make a real statement architecturally. Being in cooler climate we must pay attention to energy efficiency and the elements. We must consider daylight as a source of energy and implement a way to light up spaces within the structure. Focusing ways to be green such as using LEED or ASHRAE standards or LEED point system can help reach the goal.

Approach

The proposal is to create an exhibit space that functions well with the existing building. Design based on letting in daylight to every space for energy efficiency and to install the newest of technology for students to use. This is what I call a “Modern Museum”. How this was approached was first keeping in mind the idea of the minimalist, which was used through out the rest of the existing building on the campus. Taking a newer more modern approach by creating a glass box elevated from the main level. As the envelope of this exhibit space highly insulated translucent glass panels were used to give it the modern look. As a measure of energy efficiency a glass wall offsets the envelope of the exhibit spaces to create a thermal barrier to the main exhibit spaces. Within that dual wall space there is glass paneling set on the floor to allow daylight to enter into the spaces below.

On the main level, many of “Modern Museum” approaches are being used. The administrative offices have been taken from the sub grade level up into the floor of the main level. Stainless translucent glass panels are used. This allows for multiple things to happen. First, it allows the use of the northern light to allow much light to the offices located on the main floor to be used. Second, light coming from the exhibit space is helping to fill the main level with natural daylight. Another glass panel facing the campus is placed underneath the exhibit space’s wall that also is a glass panel. Connecting the exhibit space, main level and the sub grade level to allow daylight in to all three levels.

In the main level hallway there is the technology part of the project. A digital wall is placed along the glass panel hallway where the administrative offices are located. The digital wall is not only to display student work or announcements digitally. The ease of use and ability to change what is displayed within minutes really adds to “modern museum” idea. On the opposite side of the digital wall there is a review room. Electrochromic glass panels are used to add the technology aspect. When a review is in progress the electrochromic glass can go transparent to keep privacy a factor. When the review room is in use, it can stay transparent to allow light in.

On the sub grade level, eight adjacent offices are below the glass panel hallways. Daylight is allowed to flow down into the adjacent offices from the main level which is then getting daylight from the exhibit space from above. This uses daylight to its maximum advantage. All of these elements in some way relate to the existing building, using daylight and innovations of glass. Creating a “Modern Museum” concept that really makes a statement architecturally visually and conceptually.