The Practical and the Theoretical

I propose the creation of a collection of written and created pieces that will culminate into two narratives, a final reflective essay surmising my developing understanding of practical and theoretical architecture, and a final physical art installation piece, which will serve as a companion to my essay. My overall goal through this project is to display and analyze my procession of work from the past four years and to convey that process through representational imagery, two written narratives, and a final explanatory essay. These main components will discuss how my understanding of the relationship between practical and theoretical architecture has, and continues to grow.

My final art installation piece will serve to communicate my previous process work, both narratives, and my final essay. Essentially, it will convey the ‘Big Idea’ of my project in a physical, three-dimensional manner. The full form of the piece will be realized through a series of meetings and developmental work over the course of next semester and will incorporate multiple forms of media in a diagrammatic way.

My digital portfolio will serve as a learning tool to display the various aspects of my project including my artifacts, two narratives, final essay piece, and evidence of my physical art installation piece. My web-based portfolio will convey both the relationships between my artifacts as well as the dialogue between the artifacts and my narratives. Additionally it will illustrate the connections between my narratives and my final reflective essay piece, which will portray the emotional connection I have developed with both my narratives and artifacts. Due to the need for clarity, image
representation, and easily modifiable layouts I believe that Wix will best serve as the tool to display my portfolio digitally.

My artifact collection was driven by the need to illustrate both of my narratives and serve to bolster them as well as connect them to my final reflective essay. Each artifact is paired with another and together they show two specific moments within my architectural career that illustrate the same, or a similar theme. This pairing serves to not only demonstrate my growth but also to show key components to not only practical, but also theoretical architecture. The pairings are largely ordered by theme and then by architectural significance. That is to say, each pairing will be placed according to its importance within my education and interpretation of what is most relevant to architecture.

The artifacts I am choosing to include are paired as follows: **Freshman Fall Studio Final Drawings** with my **Junior Spring Studio Final Diagrams**, this pairing will be used to demonstrate the relationship between abstract and realized forms and compositional relationships between the two. My Freshman Fall Studio Final Drawings were derived from a series of diagrammatic shapes and planes from which physical forms were created. The figure–ground narrative between the shapes reappears in my Junior Spring Studio Final Diagrams as I explored both planar and sectional qualities of design in a more complex project. My **Freshman Fall Studio Museum Board Model** alongside my **Junior Year Architecture in Writing Final Essay** will discuss my developed understanding of how path and circulation can influence a form and an overall composition. My Freshman Fall Studio Museum Board Model was our first realized project and served to inform us on the conscious decisions we make involving path and circulation. My Junior Year Architecture in Writing Final Essay
communicates the careful intentionality behind the final project it describes and details how circulation has informed my overall composition. The two projects were two years apart yet face similar tasks and serve to illustrate my growth and understand. My Shadowbox Research Biography with my Article on Preston Scott Cohen both demonstrate different architects who have influenced my design path as well as outside contemporaries whose theoretical and practical work supports my own self analysis. My Shadowbox Research Biography was based on architect Michael Maltzan, a California-based architect who believes that architecture should be derived by the occupancy and setting and that high design should be widely available to all, not just the powerful. His beliefs of how design should be implemented resounded within me, however I found myself lacking a certain critical element. That element became apparent as I wrote my Article on Preston Scott Cohen, an architect whose clearly defined logic and geometries gave me the purpose and intentionality behind design that I desired. Between the two architects with varying opinions I found my own. Finally my Junior Honors Film Final Essay and selected works from my Rome Diptych Series portray my changing worldview and the ways in which I view both domestic and foreign architectural styles. My Junior Honors Film Final Essay communicates a broadened understanding of the cultural differences across the globe and how various media such as film might communicate those differences. The following summer when I studied abroad in Rome I found myself drawn to the cultural differences I felt and noticed, and my Rome Diptych series portrays the architectural differences caused by the new cultural setting I found myself in.

Each artifact will serve as a node within my narratives, and will become detached from my own emotional ties in order to allow outsiders to build their own
opinions of each piece and each narrative. The goal in architecture is to mediate between over and under-design in order to influence but not control the occupants. This notion will be adapted to my artifacts and each will give just enough information to persuade an opinion without enforcing it.

Ultimately these artifacts will serve as evidence for my narratives as I discuss and analyze my understanding of theoretical and practical architecture and the path I have taken to come to this new understanding. They will also support my final essay which will be the explanatory piece in my collection of work; it will summarize and further analyze my narratives by comparing and contrasting them, as well as discussing my emotional responses to my artifacts. Finally my reflective essay will be complimented by my art installation piece, a diagrammatic three-dimensional explanation of my project through various media. This final manifestation, alongside the rest of my work, will translate my rich experience into something more understandable to someone who has not experienced it.

I have selected Michael Swisher and Christopher Beorkrem as my advisor and reader respectively as they are both skilled architectural professors who have pushed me to think more critically and become a better designer subsequently. Michael Swisher was my first studio professor and therefore one of my most influential mentors over the course of the past four years. His instruction in composition and design is invaluable and the lessons I learned from him are still evident in my design today. Similarly Chris Beorkrem was one of the first professors I had who truly pushed me out of my comfort zone and encouraged me to think beyond convention. As one of my more recent professors of studio and currently of Computational Practice, he is familiar with my
methodology and mindset and will serve as another positive influence throughout this process.

Since the beginning of this semester we have had a series of assignments and essays due to aid in the development of our projects. The following is the schedule of major points in the process with specified known dates and deadlines. In **bold** are important dates throughout the process, and everything underlined represents large steps taken during the process.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August 22nd</th>
<th>October 31st</th>
<th>January 20th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First in-class meeting</td>
<td>Meet with Advisor</td>
<td>Meet with Advisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 2nd</td>
<td>November 7th</td>
<td>Refine Reflective Essay</td>
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<td>First Group Meeting</td>
<td>Final Proposal Draft</td>
<td>Website design</td>
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<td>October 2nd</td>
<td>November 11th</td>
<td>March 10th+ 20th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Second Group Meeting</td>
<td>Application to Candidacy Due</td>
<td>Meet with Advisor</td>
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<td>October 15th</td>
<td>November 21st</td>
<td>Website design</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Semester Meeting with Dr. Pereira</td>
<td>Final in-class meeting</td>
<td>Installation piece design</td>
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<td>October 17th</td>
<td>December 12th</td>
<td>April 10th+25th</td>
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<tr>
<td>Selection of Advisor and Reader</td>
<td>Deliver all Process Work To Dr. Pereira</td>
<td>Meet with Advisor</td>
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<td>October 21st</td>
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<td>Finalize Reflective Essay</td>
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<tr>
<td>Third Group Meeting</td>
<td>Begin Reflective Essay</td>
<td>Final Submission of Project Due</td>
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Bibliography

Photography:

Images:

Documents: