

Project - The Zion Observatory

Architecture Practicum II

“To really appreciate architecture, you may even need to commit a murder .” Bernard Tschumi

Driving Question

Architecture is destructive. How can its negative impact be minimized? How can architecture’s positive impact be amplified? How does it blend into nature? Should it hide within or stand tall?

The Site

Just north of the Temple of Sinawava in the Zion National Park, Utah.

The building will bridge the gap between the canyon walls and stand anywhere from 200 to 600 feet above the ground.

The Client

For this project, both the human visitors and the native wildlife can be considered the clients. The building must act as a proper observatory for both terrestrial and celestial events. Space for hikers to come and sightsee is required, and must be aware of animal characteristics (try to prevent dangerous animals from living in structure or path).

Sustainability

There is no pre-existing infrastructure on the site, so the observatory must be self-sustaining. Any electricity that’s required must be generated from the structure itself. Be aware of any environmental impact.

Structure

The Observatory will act as both a shelter and a bridge between the slot canyon. The building must be able to support itself and withstand any natural forces, such as erosion and extreme weather conditions. Study support systems like cantilevers and/or trusses.

Presentation

The final product will be illustrated using:

- Digital site plan/model (Rhino/Revit)
- Physical models
 - Full site
 - Presentation model
- Digital drawings (Revit)
 - Section cuts
 - Floor plans