Temporary Stronghold

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Faculty Project Advisor's Name: **Professor Tracy Moir-McClean**

I have met with **Valerie Campbell** and reviewed the progress being made on her/his Senior Honors Project.

**Progress is satisfactory X Foundry Review**

**Progress is unsatisfactory __**

If progress is unsatisfactory, please note here the plans that have been made to move the project forward.

Student’s Signature: **Valerie L. Campbell** Date: 2/20/06

Faculty Advisor’s Signature: **Tracy Moir-McClean** Date: 2/20/06

Student should return this form to University Honors by the ninth week of the term.

(February 2006)
SENIOR PROJECT - PROSPECTUS
UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

Name: Valerie Campbell

College: Architecture  Department: Architecture

Faculty Project Advisor: Professor Tracy Moir-McClean

PROJECT TITLE: Temporary Stronghold

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Attach not more than one additional page, if necessary):

Projected completion date: April 25, 2006

Signed: Tracy Moir-McClean

I have discussed this research proposal with this student and agree to serve in an advisory role, as faculty project advisor, and to certify the acceptability of the completed project.

Signed: Tracy Moir-McClean, Faculty Project Advisor

Date: 4/25/06.

Return this completed form to The University Honors Program, F101 Melrose Hall.

(January 2006)
I have worked extensively as a volunteer for Interfaith Hospitality Network, which is a national organization that houses homeless families in local churches on a rotating basis while they find jobs and permanent housing. This program has shown me that homelessness no longer involves just bums, the mentally ill, and other prototypical images. For instance in Chattanooga, fifty percent of those who are homeless are under the age of five. Homeless families are the fastest growing demographic group in Chattanooga. The face of homelessness is rapidly evolving to be primarily single parent families with not enough income to properly provide for their children. There is no support system that can adequately help them. The goal of the program is to put people back into society as self-sustaining members. Each church within the network houses up to fourteen people a night in their church facilities. The church commitment is for one week every quarter. The church is also responsible for breakfast, sack lunches, and supper. Then is the families don’t have a job or school to attend they are taken by bus to the day center. Currently the day center houses up to twenty eight people, most of whom are small children who share two ten feet by eight feet rooms and an adjoining bathroom within the Chattanooga Community Kitchen facilities. The Chattanooga Community Kitchen offers showers, food, and laundry facilities to the homeless people in Chattanooga. Also on this block are job placement services, healthcare, a thrift shop, and transitional housing. The community kitchen is rapidly growing and needs the space that is currently occupied by the IHN families. The IHN families also need larger, nicer facilities where there is privacy and room for the children to play. The IHN coordinator is currently actively seeking to relocate the facilities.

I propose to create a comprehensive facility for the Chattanooga division of IHN. This will include offices, a day center, and transitional housing. The transitional housing will include an added dimension to the network in that it will add a layer to the services provided to the families. Currently, families are provided with counseling, job placement, or whatever other services that they require which will enable them to function in society. This will serve as encouragement to families that are in the program to see other families that are further along in the process than they are. Through this project, I will explore the economies of architecture, especially initial versus lifetime costs. I will also want to network within the preexisting urban fabric through considering transportation, safety, school zoning, and additional resources available to people within the network.
Temporary Stronghold

Valerie Campbell

Advisor Professor Tracy Moir-McClean

Architecture

April 28, 2006
My project is a transitional housing project that is coupled with the relocation of the offices for Interfaith Hospitality Network. IHN is an organization that helps homeless families to get back on their feet by housing them in churches until they are able to find jobs and housing. This project proposes to add another step to the process by including the placement of families within the transitional housing that would be located on the same block as the new IHN offices. When I completed the programming book last semester, I was focusing on the larger context as a whole and creating greenways that connected the community. This could have been a project in and of itself. The neighborhood of East Chattanooga is in a bad part of town. The particular site that I have chosen is located between the commercial and residential districts within this area. Also the new facilities would be located within a block of the Community Kitchen. The site conditions that needed to be addressed were the elevated railroad track and the fact that the site ran along MLK Boulevard, a street known for high crime activity. The challenges came through creating a safe environment within this environment while also fostering a sense of community between both the residents but the surrounding community as well. To address these concerns I asked myself what I needed to provide for the homeless families the most. I concluded that the development needed to a temporary stronghold. This meant that it needed to be a safe place for the families and children. They needed to feel at home. In addition, the project would require being able to adapt to changing needs and conditions. I needed to create a secure perimeter that could be opened during the day and have restricted access at night. It was also important to create interior courtyards that would be safe areas for the kids to play that could be seen from the individual units.

Designing the individual units presented another challenge, the units needed to be as flexible as possible because of the wide range of families that could potentially occupy the units. I handled this issue by creating units on one side and sleeping units on the other. The sleeping units could be opened and combined depending on the families needs. The rooms could also be shifted between units. Also, there are efficiency units that have a small kitchen and bath. These efficiency units can be combined with either sleeping units to form a smaller unit or combined with another unit to form a larger unit. The ability to individualize units was another key concept. This was achieved by allowing the families to set up the layouts and by creating windows that playfully correspond to the activities going on behind the facade. I also wanted to give each unit their own personal exterior space by either providing a patio or a balcony for each unit. Fostering a sense of community between the residents is important for the community, the well-being of the tenants, and their education toward becoming independent. To facilitate a meeting place for the residents. I enlarged the landing on the stair and created a large screened in porch for the residents.
Temporary Stronghold

Temporary - short in duration

Stronghold - a secure place of rest

The overall purpose of the project was to create a building that allowed for both a sense of privacy and community. The users should be able to situate themselves in the social network as they chose.
Major Issues

Community - joining people together both within the surrounding neighborhood, transitional housing, and those on the same floor. To foster this environment, the project seeks to create a variety of spaces that can be utilized in a variety of ways depending on demand or need.

Flexibility - responsive to changing conditions. The goal was to create units that allow for a wide range of family types and sizes without creating unnecessary, unused spaces.

Individuality - quality or characteristic that makes one person or thing different and identifiable from others. The goal was to create a building that allowed for unit identification and customization. In addition, it was important to provide each potential unit with their own private exterior spaces.
The existing daycare on the site

View along Peeples Street looking towards the mountains

View into site and the mountains beyond

Neighboring commercial building at the corner of Peeples Street and MLK Boulevard

View from the site across MLK Boulevard

Neighboring church on Peeples Street
The existing daycare on the site

View along Peeples Street looking towards the mountains

View into site and the mountains beyond

Neighboring commercial building at the corner of Peeples Street and MLK Boulevard

View from the site across MLK Boulevard

Neighboring church on Peeples Street
Existing Facilities

The Community Kitchen is the main facility that caters to homeless people in Chattanooga. They provide meals and support and link people to other facilities in the area. Within this building are housed the Interfaith Hospitality Network offices. These facilities are too small and the two organizations need separate facilities as they continue to grow to meet growing needs.

Nearby transitional housing

Playground associated with transitional housing

Homeless healthcare

Chattanooga Community Kitchen

Thrift store

Existing rooms for the IHN families
Site Analysis

- Location of the Community Kitchen
- Security Concerns
- Views
- Bus Routes
- Possible Programmatic Arrangement
- Possible Programmatic Arrangement
Study Models

Exploration: what is a temporary stronghold? What does this mean to the homeless? To the project? How would it be expressed? Is this the right expression. The idea emerged that the residences would be the stronghold because they required the greatest security and privacy. The daycare and office space would serve as the link and mediation between the community and the residences.

Exploration: what would occur if instead of the building forming the wall, a wall was placed to secure the perimeter? This would then leave the building form free to adapt to the interior conditions and to create exterior spaces between the buildings and the way. I began to explore a faceted building that was created by the flex space in between which could provide additional space to either unit as needed.

Exploration: how could the building begin to frame exterior space either between buildings or by enclosing an interior courtyard. What is the quality in each of these options? The building responds differently to the courtyard than it does to the community. The building is more open to the community. The majority of private exterior spaces would be on the courtyard side.
Study Models

Exploration: what occurs when the building closes off along MLK Boulevard and along the elevated railroad track? It opens along 10th St. The daycare serves as the mediator between the community and the residences.

Exploration: what occurs when the public is allowed to pass under the residences? This is a reversal of the original parti in which the building closes itself off against MLK Boulevard. This building opens to the public throughout the ground floor.

Exploration: what occurs when the residences become internalized? Each of the three buildings combine to form a large communal courtyard. The daycare is located at the corner of Peeples and 10th St. The offices for IHN are located along Peeples St.
Site Sections

Site Section A

Site Section B
Diagrams

Storage

Public and Private Circulation

Built in Beds

Exterior Spaces

Bathrooms

Potential Efficiency Units
Model of A Unit and an Efficiency
Perspective along MLK Boulevard
Perspective of main entry gate
Final Drawings

Inner Courtyard Elevation
Scale 1:8

Second and Third Floor Plan
Scale 1:8

Section A
Scale 1:8