

A Velaspace Prototype: Expanding the Veil ~ Compressing the Labyrinth

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The "vela" (pl. for veil) is a description of an aesthetic in architecture born of the recent tendency to wrap a structural framework in an ever thinner and lighter skin. The space enclosed by layers of translucent glass and steel mesh devises an ephemeral filter through which one perceives the "veil of serendipity." A vertiginous affect promoting a state of unease and longing leads to a quest for greater identification and understanding. It is this suspended, potential space, simultaneously evolving and diffusing, which I refer to as the *Velispnce* (or spatial veil).

The *Velaspace* implies a blurring where clarity, finality and stasis are transgressed in acceptance of movement and spatial ambiguity. It implies the power of an inherent translucency of meaning by way of a simultaneous layering of dimension and information. The *Velaspace Prototype* is proposed as a resolution to the obscurity and accessibility that the thin space of the veil suggests — penetrating, enhancing and ultimately, fusing psychic and tactile realms.

AESTHETICS AND FUNCTIONALITY

Interfacing - energy efficient surfaces and spaces with Thin Screen Computer Technologies & Building Integrated Photovoltaic Solar Panels, balancing the increasing demands for energy consumption and environmental preservation.

Advocating - the blending of technological developments with contemporary conditions of human occupation, interaction and cultural expressiveness.

Synthesizing - materiality, structure, information and technology — *striving for a seamless, integrated spatial quality* — serving to create an architectural legibility which actively participates in everyday experience.

CONSTRUCTION AND ENCLOSURE

Throughout the generations of stylistic, typological and tectonic evolutions in architecture one aspect which has remained virtually unchanged is the notion that a building is a container — an envelope — an enclosure. Of course, architecture communicates a range of potentially significant affects, however, the structure may remain dormant in its ability to act. By act I mean to more literally engage in a palpable, malleable way - to transform at the hands and in the mind of the user - whether by way of sur-

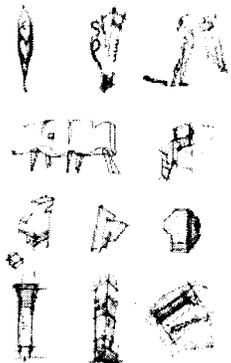


Fig. 1. Velaspace/Concept Sketches.

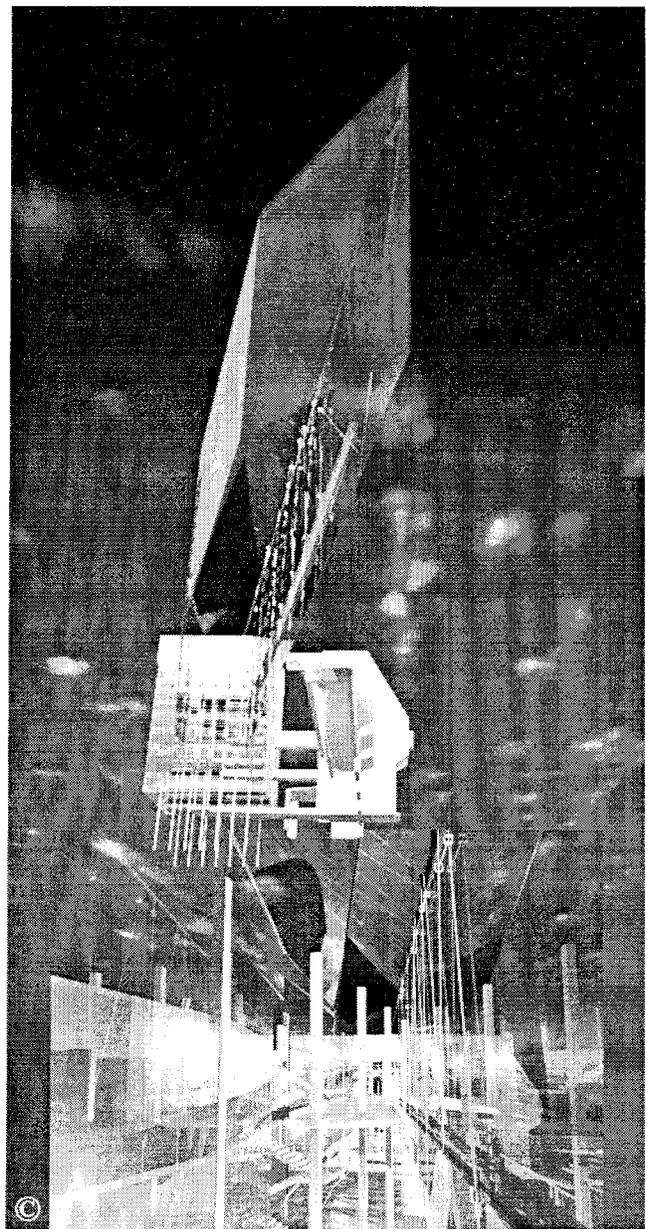


Fig. 2. Velaspace / Wedge

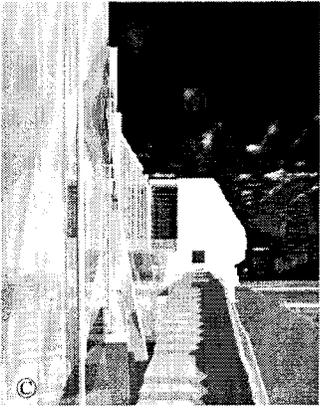


Fig. 3. Velaspace / Entry Stair.

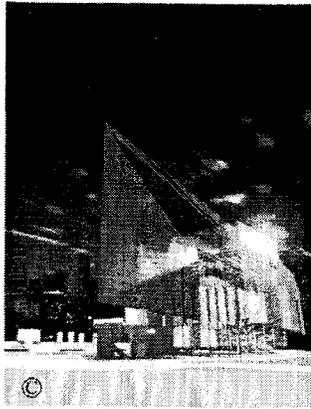


Fig. 4. Velaspace / Cityscape.



Fig. 5. Velaspace / Archive.

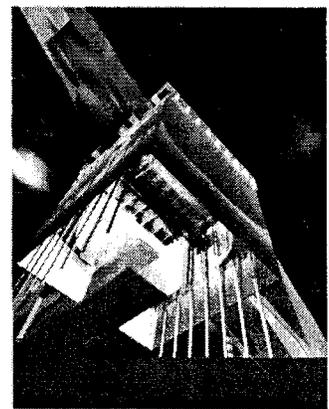


Fig. 6. Velaspace / Oculus.

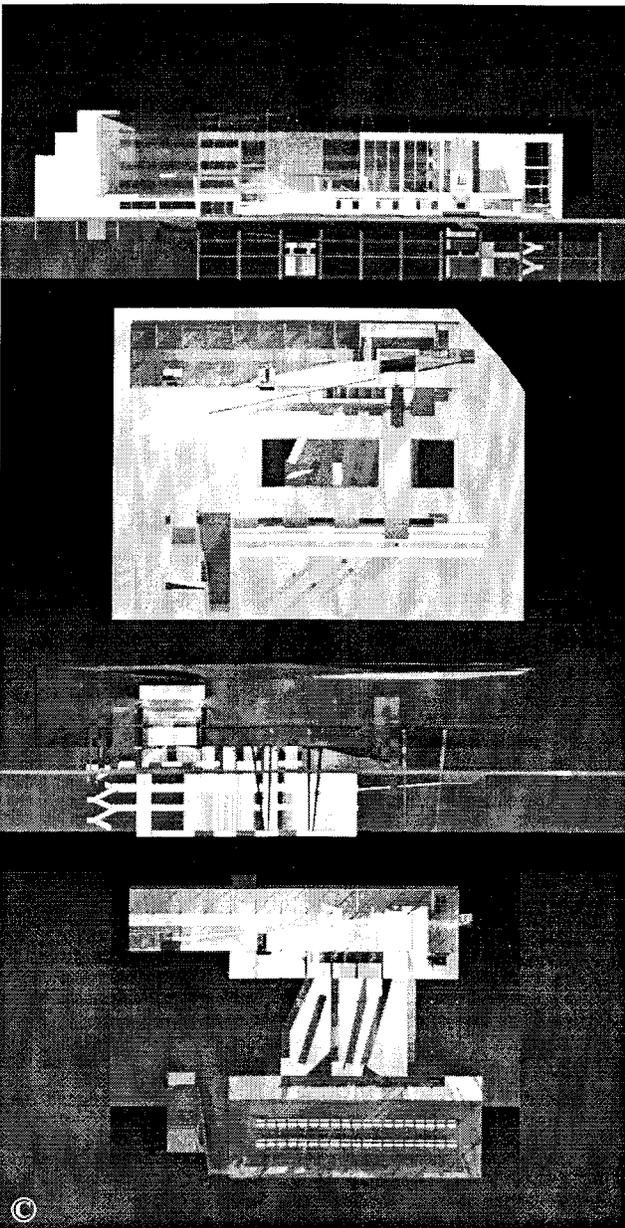


Fig. 7. Velaspace / Plans.

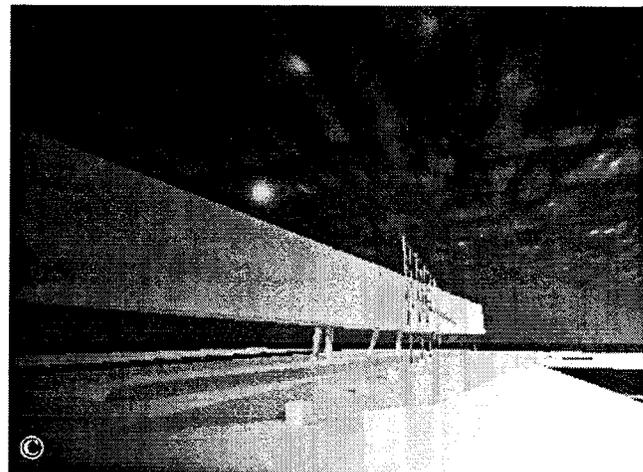


Fig. 8. Velaspace / Oblique.

face, structure or functionality. The *Velaspace Prototype* attempts to ask questions of space and material quality wherein their seamless integration with information and energy efficient technologies creates opportunity for interpretation, transformation and lyrical transgression.

MATERIALITY AND VISUALITY

The interfacing of building surfaces with Photovoltaic Solar Panels run by a natural and limitless energy source conjures a rich landscape in which the architect may become an advocate for the blending of technological developments with the contemporary demands for energy consumption and environmental preservation. At the same time this interface may achieve a materiality, sustainability and reciprocity incumbent upon an architecture of a responsible and participatory nature.

The *Velaspace Prototype* will take the form of an "Archival Reservoir" and Civic Park for an existing municipal Annex in downtown Denver. Thin Screen Computers, Photovoltaics — Storage, Access and Projection will be retrofit onto the structure offering a new approach to the organization and utilization of energy and information.



Fig. 9. Velaspace / Site Impact Map.