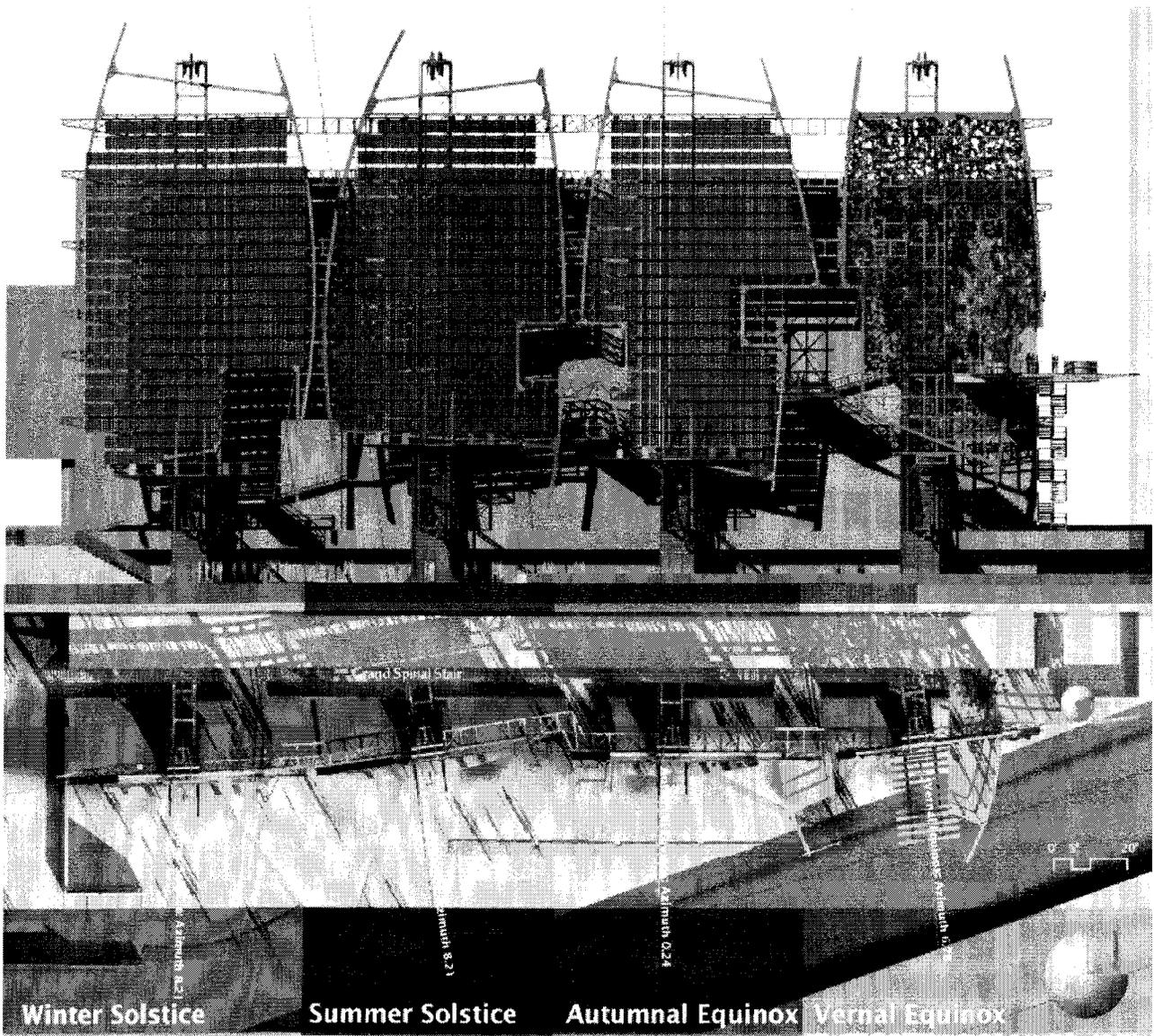


PHENOMENAL LANDSCAPES

Solar Sails:
An Installation
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The proposal for *Solar Sails*, which won the second prize in the Department of Energy "Sun Wall Competition,"* is an offering to the sun. The design brief called for a "technologically advanced and visually exciting solar array (photo-voltaic or solar thermal)" for the 32,000 SFT south-facing wall of the Department of Energy national headquarters in Washington, DC.

Instead of a wall, the proposal calls for four sails to four seasons that are firmly *moored* according to the seasonal solar azimuth. The crucial space between the sails and the south wall of the building contains a grand stair that ascends eastward. At the end of the climb, there would be an evergreen tree strategically framed by the spring sail. The 591 module photovoltaic array would produce, at its peak, 142 KW of electricity.

The first three sails—winter, summer, and fall— feature photo-voltaic skins. But, the fourth sail, offered to spring season, remains as

a simple framework for seasonal vines. The fourth sail would beam with life during spring and autumn seasons, and turn to brownish-gray during winter.

While the competition brief discouraged the participants from making this installation "climbable," the designer was convinced of the value of experiencing the installation from a variety of "grounds" and "distances."

New technologies temporalize space. The Solar Sails, on the other hand, propose to re-spatialize time. All the processes and flows are exposed to the human experience at various speeds and levels. It is a temporal circle cut open and unfolded to form a jagged line.

NOTES:

* Ove Arup and Partners and Solomon Cardwel Buenz & Associates won the first prize. See <http://www.eren.doe.gov/sunwall> for more details.

