INSIDE THE OUTSIDE:
TOWARD AN URBAN INTERIOR ARCHITECTURE

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THESIS ABSTRACT

This thesis will argue for an Urban Interior Architecture that operates both inside of buildings and inside of the city. Specifically, it investigates how interior architecture - most intensely effective at the scale of the body - can perform at multiple scales in order to intensify the the public realm.

The research will focus on the urban facade...

The design project will be...

1_THESIS DESCRIPTION

1.1 - Large Disciplinary Questions

Cities are comprised of various elements: buildings, streets, parks, etc. However, their most important element is people. This is because people - whether commuters, residents, or visitors - create the demand for programs within the city. Therefore, the city stacks and expands as the demand for interior spaces arise. The connection between these interior spaces, the architecture that encloses them, and the urban environment in which they exist forms a symbiotic relationship; none can exist without the others. Interior architecture is situated in between - indeed it mediates - the architectural program and everyday urban life, deriving meaning and use for buildings by synthesizing both institutional and public demand. A city is not a city without its interior spaces.

This thesis argues for an Urban Interior Architecture that operates both inside of buildings and inside of the city. While urban development logics dictate zoning and building programs, interior architecture concretizes these codes within the city. Hence while often marginalized, interior architecture can and should play a pivotal role (in collaboration with architecture, urban planning, and urban design) in the development and well-being of the city.

But how can Interior Architecture - most intensely felt at the scale of the body - perform at multiple scales? How can it intensify architecture's relationship to the city?

Such a question provokes a rethinking of the discipline itself - a challenge to the normative inside/outside distinction between building and city. If Interior Architecture articulates the architectural program, and urban architecture is embedded in the city, then Urban Interior Architecture can be seen as the interspatial programmatic landscape of the city; for while interior spaces are separated from the city by the architectural enclosure, their programs often extend beyond these boundaries to affect urban life. Robert Venturi sees interspatial relationships as "not only to the spatial relationships of building and site, but to those of interior spaces within interior spaces… a spatial implication beyond its enclosure".[1] Venturi implies here that the urban facade is not a strict separation but rather an elegant threshold that connects the interior to the exterior and vice versa. An Urban Interior Architecture performs urbanistically when it extends space and program out into the city through the facade; extending the inside of buildings outside into the inside of the city. While architectural programs can survive without the city, the city cannot survive without architectural programs.

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[1] Venturi, Robert, "Complexity and Contradiction in Architecture", *Perspecta* Vol 9, (1965) pp.22

<u>1.2 - Specific Research Questions</u>

How, then, can Interior Architecture make an impact on the urban environment? What is Interior Architecture and how do we distinguish it from other design disciplines? How does Interior Architecture contribute a more full experience? How can Interior Architecture dictate the understanding of a space's functionality and productivity?

1.3 - Disciplinary Contributions

        What are the smaller and more specific questions set within my larger questions. This is were I establish VALUE - Why is my interest in / angle on this issue fresh, important, and original? I will argue for it! I will reassert value: What (new) opportunities has the discipline missed and / or overlooked? This requires me to review the literature.

<u>1.4 - Literature Review</u>

Now that I've done an annotated bibliography, It should not be very difficult to situate my research / interests within at least three sources and discuss these critically in relation to my research questions. I will expose disciplinary gaps that I might address in the fall and spring semesters through research and design.

2_DESIGN PROPOSITION

2.1 - Design Opportunities

       Through design I hope to create a space that challenges the boundaries of the interior. From the program I can show how important the relationship between the interior, the architecture, and the urban city is to the success of the space. Although this program is not fully developed, I hope to discover a new way to design a space that exemplifies this connection. "Architecture is a very special functional art; it confines space so we can dwell in it, creates the framework around our lives."[2] Whether it is interior or not, Rasmussen expertly defines the impact architecture can make. This unique art is the catalyst that can make great changes, shape cities, and affect every one of us.

       How do I turn research questions into design opportunities? What do I propose to explore through design and how does this relate to my large and small questions? Argue for it!

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[2] Rasmussen, Steen Eiler, *Experiencing Architecture* (First MIT Press, 1964) pp. 10

3_PROGRAM AND SITE

3.1 - Why This? Why Here?

      Discuss why (specifically) your proposed program/project-type/site is the <u>perfect</u> opportunity to address the issues above.

<u>3.2 - Program Description</u>

3.3 - Site Description

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