

Pine Chapel

2000-2001 ACSA Faculty Design Award

RANDALL OTT

University of Colorado at Denver

Located in Boulder County along the Rockies' leading "Front Range," the Pine Chapel preserves and 're-presents' three components of Colorado's regional past. First is a *perspectival* 're-presentation,' describing how Coloradoans see space either vertically or horizontally given Colorado's dramatically contrasting natural topography; second, a *natural* 're-presentation,' focusing upon the pine tree, whose conical forms profusely coat the mountains but never visit the plains; and third, a *conventional* 're-presentation,' using the flatlands farmstead typology – a composition of morphologically distinct shapes: boxy barn, tall silo, and horizontal fence. These three 're-presentations' respectively touch on the Front Range's cultural, landscape, and building traditions.

The Pine Chapel's nave spans between two slot-like blades of glass — one horizontal and one vertical. Placed in tandem at the juncture of Colorado's counter topographies, these two blades are oriented paradoxically. The upright blade faces the plains, allowing only a narrowly vertical view of the endless horizon stretching east. The prone blade faces the mountains, allowing only a broadly horizontal view of the precipitous peaks rising west. These two slender portals portray the antithetical ways that Coloradoans view space. Pine logs are stacked "short-end-upon-short-end" and "long-end-upon-long-end" to achieve the angularities necessary to support this "bellows-like" volume. Circulation tubes give access to the pulpit, lectern, offices, and building services.



