
Precedents and Elements: Pedagogical Positioning of the Wall

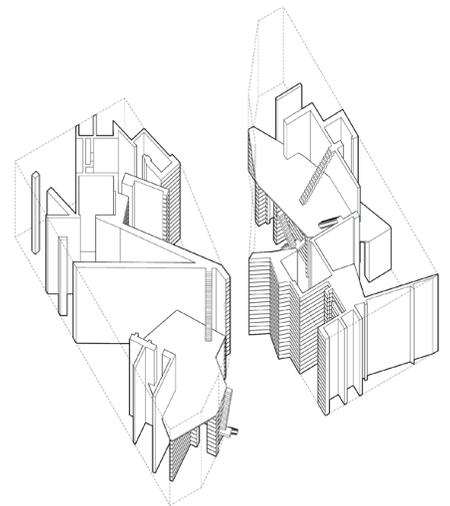
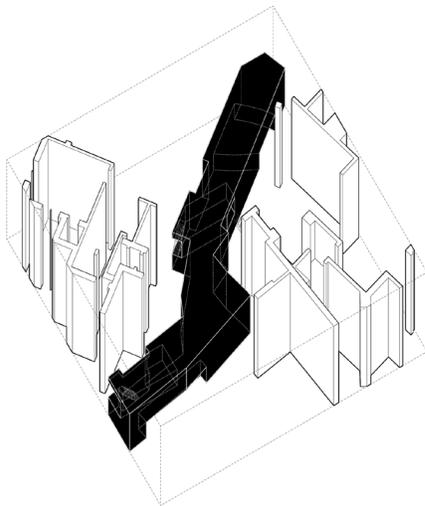
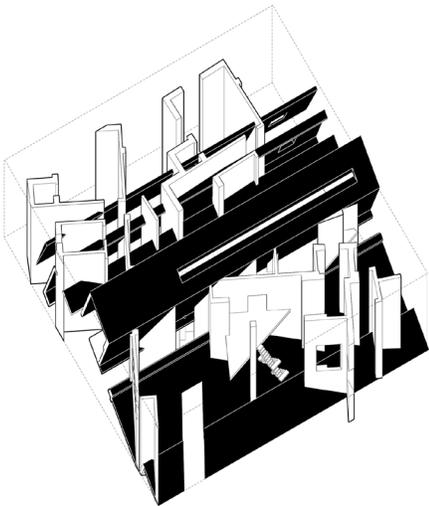
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STUDIO PROMPT

Basic architectural elements—*wall, roof, floor, window, and door*—when looked at together can be a real mess. It's confusing how all of these things should go together and it's especially painful in a first year undergraduate studio. Committed to working on a series of problems in architecture, (not the do-goody kind, but the disciplinary kind) the studio pedagogy investigates the problem of the wall, the corner, and poche to name a few.

By isolating a singular archi-element at a time, the studio made a close reading of Chicago's famous wall projects. Each participant in the studio was assigned one precedent to draw in plan from a list of thirty-two canonical and contemporary buildings. Ranging from Goldberg's Prentice Hospital (1975) and Wright's Unity Temple (1908) thick walls to OMA's IIT McCormick Tribune Campus Center (2003) directive walls, these wall precedents were then shared across three studio sections, where students equipped with a catalogue of wall types, began to reinterpret the original forms, figures, and thicknesses to discover unfamiliar wall conditions. This studio design project tracks through several examples of Chicago's canonical buildings and suggests pedagogical positions for the wall.



WALL ASSEMBLAGE DRAWING

Precedents combined and refigured: Frank Lloyd Wright Oak Park Houses and Unity Temple.