AIA Student Design Competition Written Statement

The Westcott Center for architecture and design is located on the site of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Westcott House in Springfield, Ohio.  In collaboration with Bohlin Cywinski Jackson—who completed the initial schematic design—and the Westcott Foundation, we advanced the project with an emphasis on creating an experiential building envelope, focusing on the design of the facade.  Building in the context of Wright challenged us to implement Wrightian design codes or DNA while avoiding specific references to his style. The studio began by building Froebel Gift sets three through six, mallets, and nature-inspired joinery to understand our own intimate experiences with a materially-based tectonic.  The design process continued with paper weaving, followed by low relief studies to help us develop the facade as a woven composition. The final design combines Gottfried Semper’s four elements and the interwoven curtain wall to create an experiential facade that facilitates the transition from inside to outside, humankind to nature.