



Phenomenology of Detroit through the Perception and Experience of Architecture

This automotive museum adaptively reuses one of Detroit's most controversial sites, the abandoned construction site of the Wayne County Jail. The museum is designed using the philosophy of phenomenology: how space is perceived and experienced through all of our senses. The building anchors itself to the existing site using the city grid and grid of the existing site conditions. The grid describes the museum galleries and means of circulation. The structure is created through the site grid and is extended vertically into the building allowing the floor plates to remain open around the central space. The central space, enclosed with a concrete structural system above, allows light to enter and sculpt the space. The goal of the design is to provide an experience through architecture based on lighting, physical movement, and interaction with the urban grid unique to Detroit.