REDEFINING

HUMAN SCALE

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PROF. BRUCE MEYER
CRITIC DAVID HERMANSON
This book is dedicated to my mother and father for their many years of support and the chance to fulfill a dream since childhood.

Thank you mom and dad.

Love Jay
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The purpose of my thesis is to study the ideas of human scale and detail in a highrise building. Highrise architecture has become a very visible and controversial piece of the built environment. It is also within this realm of architecture that a structure can create an everlasting image on a city's skyline. With that point in mind a structure can be used as a reference point or landmark within a city.

The thought of human scale in a highrise almost seems contradicting. I feel this contradiction has been derived over the years through the modern movement. With the coming of age of the "glass box" we lost all sense of detail and scale through the advancement of technology.

The postmodernists have brought back to us some of the interesting forms and ideas of earlier highrises, but they still lack in the execution of scale and detail.

When I speak of detail, it's not in how the
Glazing meets the mullion which meets the cladding, but rather the Louis Sullivan type of detail that evokes human expression capable of being touched. There are pieces of architecture which scale to the human eye such as doors with frames, handrails and furniture.

With the ever increasing market of highrise buildings, the pressures to produce a building that is of high quality and capable of relating to the human scale and senses is of the utmost importance.

The economic success of a highrise building is directly related to the occupancy rate. This rate can be increased by successful architecture.

A highrise building that relates to the human body in all aspects of the senses is a building that will become user friendly. People who can relate to their surrounding environment without being overwhelmed are more likely to use a space that they feel comfortable in.
The highrise building has been developed over the last 100 years. Its roots can be traced to New York and Chicago. Highrise buildings of the early years are now overshadowed by today's standards of the tall building. In its conception Louis Sullivan proved to be the master of his era. Still today his structures have endured the test of time and are considered the zenith of highrise design.

The modern movement brought about a change in design philosophy. No longer did we see the articulately embellished structures of days gone by, but a simplistic expression of structure and skin. Today's buildings have become symbols of technology rather than craftsmanship. For this reason I feel we have lost the intamacy of building.
CONCEPTUAL STATEMENTS

Higher block can become corporate symbols.

Higher block can serve as civic symbols.

Human block (2) becomes 4 corners defining a city.

Human block can define views from various points in the landscape.

The use of line can lead to form space.
SCULPTURAL IMAGE
NEW GLASS BOX OF '70s
PENNzoil PLAZA
PHILIP JOHNSON
SCULPTURAL IMAGE
11 DIAGONAL STREET
HELMUT JAHN
EXPRESSION OF VERTICAL ATTENTION TO DETAIL

CHRYSLER BUILDING

WILLIAM VAN ALLEN
SIMPPLICITY OF FORM AND DETAIL
860-880 LAKESHORE DRIVE
MIES VAN DER ROHE
ATTENTION TO DETAIL
GUARANTY BUILDING
LOUIS SULLIVAN
ADVANCEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY

SEARS TOWER

SKIDMORE OWINGS MERRILL
ADVANCEMENT OF TECHNOLOGY
RELIANCE BUILDING
C. B. ATWOOD OF BURNHAM CO.
LANDMARK IN A SKYLINE
TRANSOC TOWER
PHILIP JOHNSON
CORPORATE IMAGE
AT&T BUILDING
PHILIP JOHNSON
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TRIBUNE TOWER
HOWELLS AND HOOP
SITE

- Location Maps: PP 24-26
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Selected new buildings

- Completed
- Under construction
- Announced
II BASIC PROGRAM DISCUSSION  PP 42-47
OFFICE BLOCK REQUIREMENTS

1. INTERIOR LIGHT (NATURAL)
   A. NO DEEP DARK SPACES
   B. RELATIONSHIP TO NATURAL DAYLIGHT
   C. MAXIMIZE WINDOW AREA

2. VIEW TO EXTERIOR
   A. PRIMARY VIEWS
   B. SECONDARY VIEWS
   C. MAXIMIZE WINDOW AREA QUALITY

3. RELATIONSHIP TO HOUSING BLOCK
   A. CAN BE INTEGRATED INTO SCHEME

4. USE OF INTERIOR ATRIUM IS ACCEPTABLE

NO SET REQUIREMENTS WERE MADE AS TO SPECIFIC SQUARE FOOTAGES. THE ONLY MANDATORY ELEMENTS WERE; RETAIL SPACE, OFFICE SPACE AND RESIDENTIAL SPACE. THE FOLLOWING PAGES DESCRIBE THE PROCESS THROUGH WHICH I ARRIVED AT MY SOLUTION.
Housing Block Requirements

1. View
   A. To Lake (Primary)
   B. To River (Secondary)

2. Interior light

3. Exterior Space
   A. Balcony
   B. Rooftop Garden

4. Single Loosed Cornice
RESIDENTIAL BLOCK

[Diagram showing various residential layout options with annotations:]

- Max View to Lake
- Max View to River
- Good Int. Light
- Double Corridor?
- Balconies can be made.

- Max Art.
- Natural Balconies
- Max View to Lake

- Min. View to Lake
- Partial View Up/Drown River
- Some Built Space

- View to River Min.
- No View to Lake
- Double Cor.

- Max View Up/Drown River
- Part. View to Lake

- View Lake & River Min.
- Home Up/Drown River