



SANDRA CALLIES

Ephemeral Facades Catalyst Reflection

As a thesis student, I appreciated being thrown into a week of intense insight and creative productivity. Working with Diane Willow and Leah Buechley, the week was a great example of ambitions between design and technology. Collaboration has become crucial for the architecture profession, and it was helpful to have instructors from opposite spectrums of art and technology.

The greatest thing I will take away from this week was a concept presented by Leah about producing and critiquing. She claimed that these are two very different mindsets and should not happen at the same time. Production should be motivated by curiosity also unfearful of failure. Reflection and critical evaluation is equally important, however, it cannot happen during production mode.

Diane and Leah used this concept to frame the week's workshop. We learned and experimented in the afternoons, and critiqued each group's product the next morning. The expectations of the a week long class were realistic and enjoyable using this schedule.

My explorations began strong and became clunky as the week proceeded. Sam Clausen and I were heading towards similar processes of using hot wire and materials. We decided to join forces in hopes of being capable of producing more. Thursday morning's product was very successful. Using concrete and hot wire, we concealed a material being light and could only be viewed individually. The image is burned into your mind with the experience of peeping at the wire within a lightbox.

As for our final product, Sam and I had larger aspirations that needed more hours of preparation. We wanted to use larger pieces of concrete to string wire and light up the solid, unchanging material with an arduino. We poured concrete Thursday afternoon in hopes to use it the next day, but it wasn't cured by Friday morning. Instead, we used the pavers to piece together a larger example of our Thursday's successful piece. Still, I believe the simplicity of Thursday's product achieved a stronger ephemerality.

Overall, our entire group was successful exploring outside our realm of architecture and testing our concepts. I was very interested in the bubble machine and using bubble liquid to create an ephemeral facade. I will be considering this technique in my artistic future.

Considering the ephemeral and temporal qualities of life consumes a great deal of my thoughts. Beyond this week workshop, I hope to develop my objectives into physical form using these this week's insights.