Above: The facade unfolds flat, revealing the connectivity around corners as well as the equal distribution of glazing around the building. Glazing is placed at corners to use walls as reflectors, much like the exterior of the southern atrium is used to bounce light back into the space. The connectivity of the facade around each corner supports the design intent of maintaining a clear, diagrammatic form. Within the clear building organization, the facade changes in three dimensions (the ramp), resulting in a 3-dimensional story rather than a description of floor plans and sections.

Next, the facade is unfolded again, this time to articulate the exterior path which wraps around the building. One can stroll to the 11th floor via the exterior green ramp and back down again and check off a 1/2 mile journey and combined 300 feet in elevation change. How often can that kind of experience be accomplished during lunchtime in a downtown setting?

Right: The opaque exterior facade wraps itself around the building following the ramp and dictating where the stacks are (under the ramp and behind the opaque facade). Atriums weave and wind their way through the building to visually connect floors and to allow sunlight to travel deep into a large building.
LOWER ATRIUM

FLOOR 4

30' N

ADMINISTRATION
CLOSED STACKS

Lobby, Main Library. Visually connected to floors below as lower atrium caps on this floor.

Begin Upper Atrium

FLOOR 5

30' N

SW YAMILL ENTRANCE
RETAIL
BICYCLE STORAGE
MECHANICAL
IN-TAKE/PROCESSING

FLOOR 2

Lobby, no public access
Casual Meeting
Open Office Workstations
Formal Meeting Rooms
Book Processing
Storage / IT
Closed Stacks
Open to Below (Interior)
Open to Below (Exterior)
Ramp Down
Ramp Landing
Ramp Up
Last floor for this freight elevator

FLOOR 3

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing. No internal access.

FLOOR 6

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 7

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 8

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 9

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 10

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 11

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 12

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 13

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 14

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 15

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 16

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 17

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 18

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 19

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 20

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 21

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 22

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 23

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen

FLOOR 24

1. Reception
2. Casual Meeting
3. Open Office Workstations
4. Formal Meeting Rooms
5. Book Processing
6. Storage / IT
7. Closed Stacks
8. Open to Below (Interior)
9. Open to Below (Exterior)
10. Ramp Down
11. Ramp Up
12. Ramp Landing
13. Lunch Space (Double height)
14. Kitchen
ELEVATIONS

MATERIALITY

SW MORRISON ENTRANCE
PORTLAND CENTRAL LIBRARY

Marc Holt
Extrusion Way Up Way Up (With Benefits) Clad Voids Library
Vertical Structure Floor Plates Glazing Clad Voids Library

The Idea
Composition

PORTLAND, OR    1:20000 INSTRUCTED BY HOLST ARCHITECTURE                  DESIGNED BY MARC HOLT        www.MarcHoltPortfolio.com2010
This site was chosen because of the potential for reconnecting two parts of the city that is very much separated by the interstate transportation corridors. Portland is known for its ability to reclaim land that was occupied by highways, such as what is now Tom McCall Waterfront Park. At the proposed site for this project, the freeway is already below street level. The streets above "ignore" the freeway below and continue the urban grid from side to side to the other. Why not follow the same pattern with the built environment? Why hang on to these gaping holes in the ground which are belching noxious fumes and mind-numbing noise into the surrounding neighborhood? From an urban planning perspective, filling in these voids would support the districts on each side of the freeway reconnecting. Obviously a very expensive solution, but not unprecedented, even in the Northwest. Seattle has taken the opportunity to cap part of the I-5 downtown. In European countries it is not uncommon for this practice with the recognition that land is comparatively much more valuable in Europe. This site I am proposing is very important to Portland's downtown as it is between two MAX lines and on bicycle routes in and out of downtown.

I am proposing a new library for Portland. This building would replace the existing Portland Central Library as I feel the current building is antiquated and does not serve the wider public sufficiently. I wanted to take the opportunity to relate to a larger section of the population and integrate several different functions into one building to activate the site. The building will house not only a Public Library, but will also host ground floor exhibition space designated for rotating local art displays. The building is surrounded by retail on the ground level. Two floors of administration support both this library and other libraries within Multnomah County. The actual library starts on floor five and extends to the roof. Tucked within the library in the Northwest corner is a restaurant that captures westerly views, as well as supports the use of the outdoor terrace on the 11th floor. The site created an opportunity to develop an iconic form for the city, but also the need to respond to context on four sides. I started with a simple rectangular mass and then pursued strategies to break down the mass and relate the building to its surroundings.

The building is "ringed" with a continuous ramp. This serves multiple functions both internally and for the public. Access to the 10th floor offers an uphill 1/4 mile long in one direction. Opportunities exist for entering the building off of the path on major floors. From an interior perspective, the ramps provide protection from direct solar gain into the space that houses the library's stacks. The ramps also help the building relate to its context as the edges of the ramps create micro-terraces that regulate views and break the building up into horizontal layers.
1. Public Bicycle Storage (Accessed via SW Yamhill entrance)
2. East-bound MAX train
3. SW Morrison entrance to Exhibition Space and Library beyond
4. Retail Space lines SW Yamhill, straddling the entrance to the Library's Exhibition space in the center of the block.
5. Mechanical Space: Vertical shafts in 4 structural cores supplies ventilation to upper floors of building. Mechanical space is also allocated on the roof.
7. Processing Area on the east and west sides of the building. All intake and distribution of library material, exhibition displays, and restaurant supplies pass through this space.
8. Vertical ascension occurs via two freight elevators.
9. Storage/Janitorial Transition Space between processing space and the freight elevator.
10. Freight Elevators
11. Public Elevators
12. Information desk
13. Egress Stairs. The two northern egress stairs exit onto Yamhill via designated exits.
14. Lower Atrium. Patrons enter space on transparent floor (horizontal window which visually connects the building to the highway below. Atrium allows Floor 0 to be visually connect to SW Morrison Avenue with theintosh on level five, the first floor of the main library.
15. Open to 405 (underside of Floor 1).
16. Restrooms
17. Stairs connecting Floors 0 and 1.

SW YAMHILL ENTRANCE RETAIL

BICYCLE STORAGE MECHANICAL/TAKING/PROCESSING

FLOOR 0

FLOOR 1
Initial investigations looked at incorporating more than one Portland city block into the program. In the first two concepts, I investigated mixing public and private usages and how these spaces interact. The proposed solution followed a simple diagram. The full site was imagined as having a large mass over it, with pockets carved out and stacked to create vertical space and to get light deep into the building complex. Auditorium spaces dig into the ground creating a relationship with the freeway below. The library, being the public space, occupied most all of the low flat form, with a large outdoor seating area facing Yamhill. The overhanging building provides shelter to the actual entrance of the building. Outdoor space on the south side of building is intended to be an open plaza, bathed in sunlight in the summer months. The complex also provided a link to the actual crossing of the building. The second concept introduced a glass top atrium that provided a visual connection to the towers above. This type of connection allowed for considerable light penetration and a new social space. Feedback on this idea led to the idea of experimenting with solutions that bring the mass down to the ground plane and reduce the “massiveness” of the built form.

This set of investigations took the original concept and applied a “contextual filter” relating the form to the sloping site and the freeway below. As the highway under the building follows an arc, the building similarly responded with a curving form. The interior of the library followed the sweeping, climbing form, building from one floor to six floors at its highest point.

Feedback on this concept was focused around the sheer size of the building and its appropriateness to Portland. The complexity of dual programs was in question and recommended that one program be followed. Taking the ideas investigated so far, this scheme progressed on founded ideas. Instead of two blocks being occupied, the building condensed to one site. The second function of housing above the library was dropped to focus on the library. This iteration incorporated a ramp system as introduced in the previous concept however smaller in width and wrapping the building 2.5 times. This ramp supported the interior function as well as it minimized the amount of direct sunlight penetrating into the space, a situation encouraged in libraries. Stacks were imagined occupying the space under the ramps, as the facade under the ramps was imagined to be highly opaque. The main circulation through the space was a central stair that travelled up eight floors. The ramp on the outside of the building terminated on the 9th floor, which became 3 floors of stairs. This formed the ceiling to a large auditorium.