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Mr. Speice

ISM

21 March 2018

Product Progress Assessment

I am glad that I chose to do something that I have a lot of interest in for my final product. I have not had difficulty staying inspired to continue working on the project which in itself is quite a feat for me, since I get bored rather easily. The main struggle for me with this project is my limited knowledge of the technicalities of architecture such as how to make models in Revit and Google SketchUp, and the limits of what is possible in a building.

CALENDAR

I have kept with my calendar to a certain degree. I have the general education and the fine arts classroom buildings with the designs that I want. I am currently working on the dorm buildings (which will be identical) and I have not gotten a good idea of what I want from the performance space building. I know that I would like to have a stage for theatrical performances, a rehearsal-type space for instrumental and vocal performances, and if possible, I would like there to be a gallery for the art students to display their work. Although I said that by this past Friday, I would have the preliminary designs finished for all of the buildings, I have the final designs for two of the four designs and I think I am doing alright. I plan to have the other two designs by April 2nd at the latest. From there, I can firm up the plans for all of the buildings and have my model started by April 27th at the latest.

SUCSESSES AND DIFFICULTIES

The greatest success that I believe that I have had up to this point is how quickly the arts classroom building came together. I had one great idea: the library. From there, everything else for the building formed around it, literally. I am very excited to make the model of this building, whether it be physical or digital (I am still not sure). I am also excited about how I have decided to arrange the campus. I feel like the quad style campus will both inspire an educational atmosphere and an ability for creativity to flow through the community.

Something that I have had a bit of difficulty with is the design of the dorm buildings. I think that my greatest downfall with this design is how I always try to start with the ground floor, when in reality, I need to work on the arrangement of the rooms, making sure that I allow enough space for there to be enough rooms for all of the students. I plan for there to be about 400 or maybe 500 students, so that would mean 200-250 students for each dorm building. Because of this, I have to be sure that there will be enough room for the maximum amount of students. Ten floors would be too tall, so there need to be more than 30 students housed per floor. I think that four floors of student living space would be the maximum that I should do since the other buildings are only two to three stories.

CONCERNS

The thing that I am most concerned about is how I will finish the model in time. I am still unsure of how I should handle making the model, because I do not know how to use the softwares that are popular with architects today, such as Revit, and even Google SketchUp for the more simplistic plans and easier overview of how the final product will look. For this reason, I am highly considering making a physical model with a cut-away.

MENTOR'S ROLE

My mentor travels a lot, so I have had a lot of advice from other architects at the firm. At my last mentor visit to the Frisco office, Brett Sumrow suggested that I focus mostly on one building like a phased project. There is a high school that Corgan is currently working on which, when finished, will have four or five buildings. Right now, however, they are starting with just two buildings, one of which they will add onto in the future. In following through with Mr. Sumrow's suggestion, I would just be outlining the majority of the buildings and going into detail on one, which would likely be the arts classroom building.

WHAT IS LEFT TO DO

I have started the dorm building designs, and think that I have a pretty good plan at this point. I just have to finalise the design and start the design of the performance building. My plan for the dorm buildings includes a shape like a sideways H with two legs on the back line, this shape has a lot of perimeter which is perfect to allow for more rooms, since every room should have a window. I am contemplating whether I should split the building down the middle to create a co-ed environment or if I should make both buildings gender specific.

Another thing that I have to start thinking about is the materials I will be using both inside the buildings and out. I have an idea of what I want in the scape of colour, but I do not know what exact materials I will need to make my ideas come to life. At this point, I do not think that I will be able to make a furniture package or figure out what the entire cost of the project will be, especially since there will be a lot of hypotheticals.

Once I finish my designs, I will have to make the official floor plans, whether that be on paper or digitally. From there, I will have to make my model, which I am contemplating on

whether making a physical model would be more reasonable for my current ability level. As of March 23rd, I plan to make a physical model with the help of architects at Corgan.