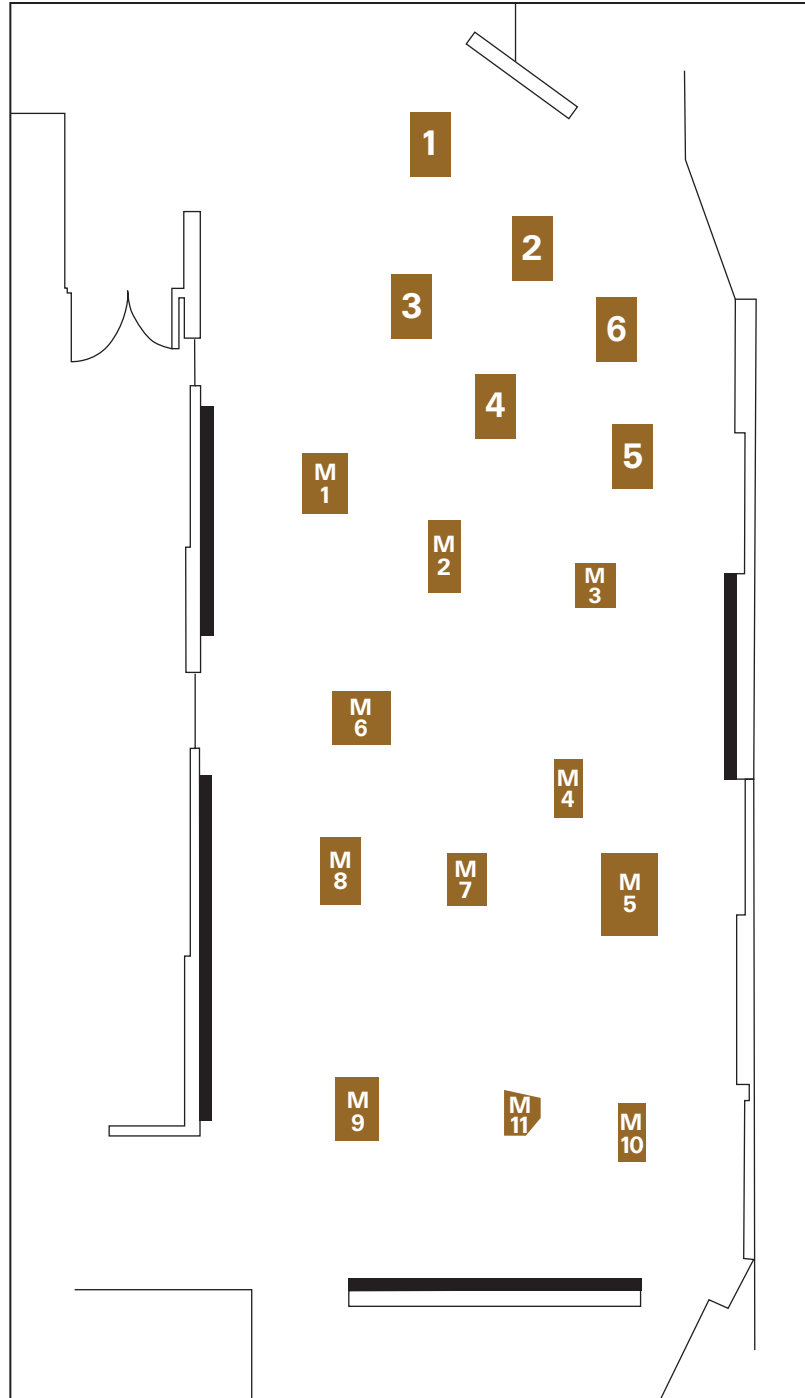


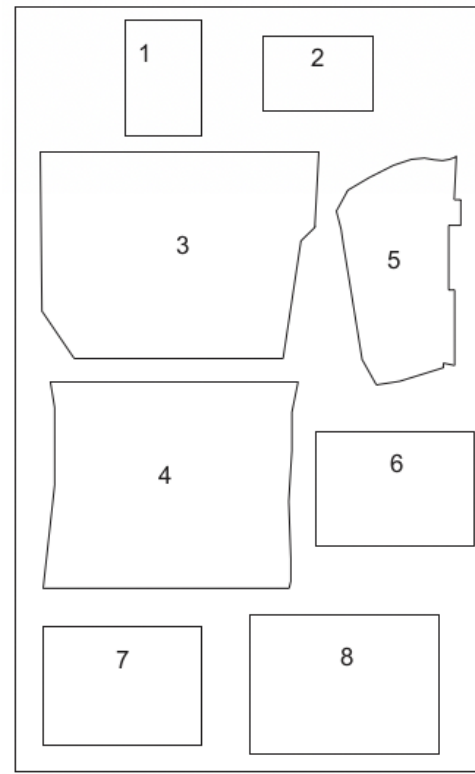
# STEVEN HOLL MAKING ARCHITECTURE

## PART I: THINKING



**Table 1:**  
*Interdisciplinary Spaces  
and Social Condensers*

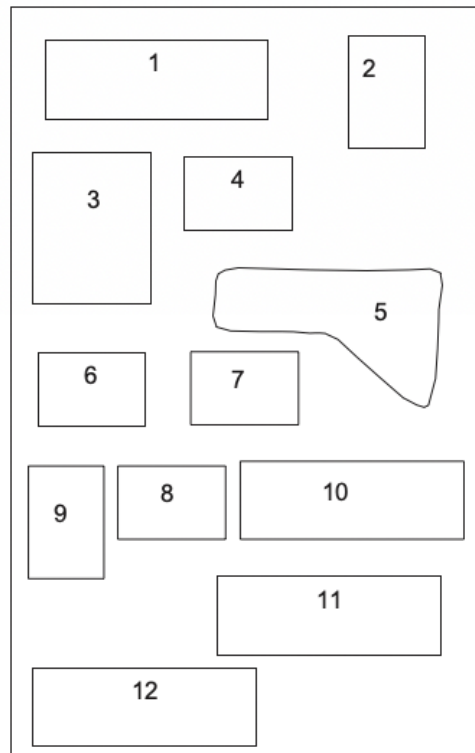
Steven Holl believes in architecture's potential to enrich and even transform everyday life. He creates architectural spaces that enhance dialogue across practices that are traditionally separated. Holl has reactivated the term "social condenser," introduced by the Russian Constructivists during the 1920s to explain how architectural space can bring people working in different disciplines together. The drawings for several current projects with varied programs reveal his designs for such spaces. For Rubenstein Commons at the Institute for Advanced Studies and the Lewis Center for the Arts in Princeton, New Jersey, he illustrated the flow of interior and exterior spaces to bring together different disciplines. For the Hunters Point Community Library in Queens, New York, he drew a large open public activity space with monumental views of Manhattan where dance, storytelling, poetry, and concerts would be held.



1. **Public Activity Spaces**, 2010  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Hunters Point Community Library,  
Queens, NY
2. **Studio for Arts**, 2016  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Franklin & Marshall Fine Arts Building,  
Lancaster, PA
3. **Three Buildings One Collective Space**,  
2007  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
4. **Three Buildings Joined**, 2007  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
5. **Early Concept Study Model**, 2007  
Chipboard and acrylic  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
6. **Dance Poetry and Music**, 2012  
Watercolor on paper  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
7. **Space Merged w/ Natural Phenomena**,  
2015  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Institute for Contemporary Art,  
Virginia Commonwealth University,  
Richmond, VA
8. **Forum**, 2011  
Watercolor on paper  
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX

**Table 2:**  
*Abstraction, Color, Music*

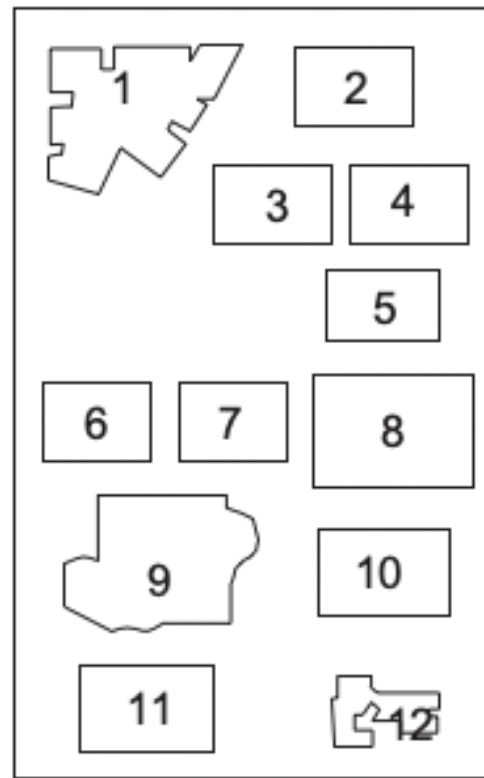
Steven Holl argues that abstraction is a critical architectural idea. Abstraction is embedded in the architecture he creates, as seen in the drawings for the Fine Arts Building at Franklin & Marshall College and in the exploratory models for the *Ex of In House*. Color and music informed Holl's architectural thinking in the recently completed Maggie's Cancer Care Centre. The structural formation of the facade is based on a medieval neume notation system for music that determined the placement of the colored glass. Both the interior and the exterior of the building are enlivened by this use of color. The associations the architect makes between color and music also evoke their healing properties.



1. **Five Lines from the Hand & Notes of Colored Glass**, 2012  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Maggie's Cancer Care Centre, London, UK
2. **Three White Concrete Pavilions**, 2015  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing  
Arts, Washington, DC
3. **Arts Quad**, 2016  
Watercolor on paper  
Franklin & Marshall Fine Arts Building,  
Lancaster, PA
4. **Study**, 2016  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Franklin & Marshall Fine Arts Building,  
Lancaster, PA
5. **Prototype Door Handle**, 2015  
Cast silicone bronze  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
6. **Architecture = Music**, 2007  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
7. **Acoustic Suspended Practice Rooms**,  
2007  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
8. **Individual and Collective 1**, 2012  
Watercolor on paper  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
9. **Individual and Collective 2**, 2012  
Watercolor on paper  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
10. **Black Box to the White Cube**, 2007  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
11. **Abstraction**, 2016  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Institute for Contemporary Art, Virginia  
Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
12. **South = White / East = Yellow**, 2015  
Watercolor on paper  
Ex of In House, Rhinebeck, NY

**Table 3:**  
**Water, Light, Psychological Space**

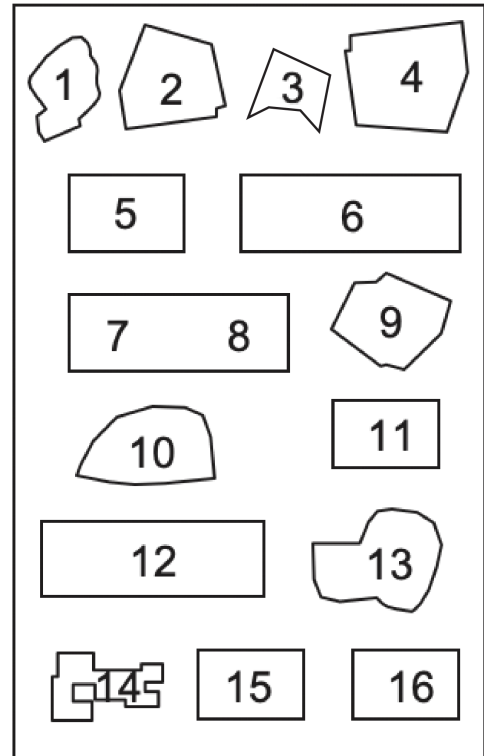
Steven Holl frequently uses water and light to create architectural spaces that elicit sensory experiences. Many of the drawings shown here illustrate how he strategically positions pools of water to reflect the greatest amount of sunlight. He also gives great care to the position of a building on its site to maximize the presence of water, as he did at the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., where the extension is in close proximity to the Potomac River. The new Nancy and Rich Kinder Building of the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, has a roof called a “luminous canopy” that brings an abundance of orchestrated natural light to the interiors.



- Early Concept Model Submitted for Competition**, 2012  
CNC milled acrylic, sanded  
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
- Luminous Canopy**, 2012  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
- Spatial Flow through Natural Light**, 2011  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
- Seven Porous Gardens**, 2012  
Watercolor on paper  
The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston, TX
- Potomac Pavilions**, 2012  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.
- Arrival Hall**, 2013  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Taiwan ChinPaoSan Necropolis, Taipei, Taiwan
- Open-Air Library**, 2016  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Malawi Library, Lilongwe, Malawi
- Study**, 2016  
Watercolor on paper  
Franklin & Marshall Fine Arts Building, Lancaster, PA
- Prototype Wall Sconce**, 2016  
3D-printed, cornstarch-based bioplastic  
Ex of In House, Rhinebeck, NY
- Stretto Fountain**, 2013  
Watercolor on paper  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
- Planar Language**, 2008  
Watercolor on paper  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
- Final Scheme Competition Model**, 2015  
Resin-impregnated plaster 3D print  
Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton, NJ

**Table 4:**  
**Subtractive Additive**

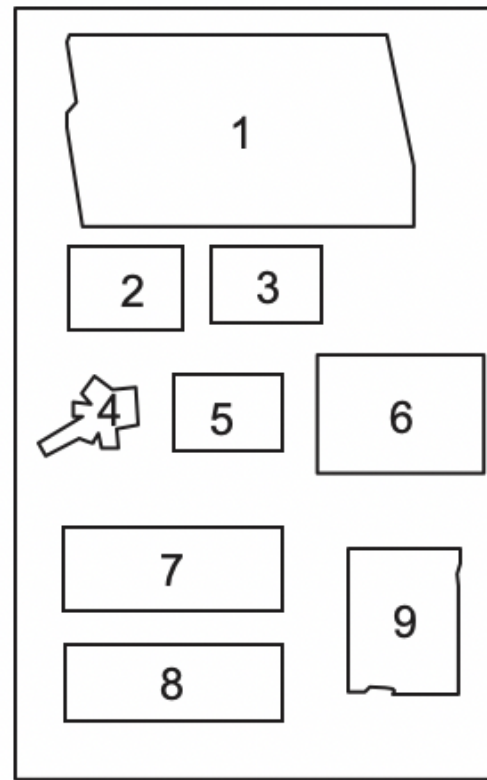
The drawings shown here illustrate how Steven Holl shapes interior spaces by adding and subtracting elements, as an artist creates a sculpture. For example, openings in the facade of the Hunters Point Community Library, in Queens, New York, provide majestic views of Manhattan, and openings in the spherical forms of the Oceanic Pavilion at the Taiwan ChinPaoSan Necropolis enhance the quality of natural light while bringing a feeling of spirituality to the space.



- Four Intersecting Spheres (Explorations I)**, 2014  
Resin-impregnated plaster 3D print  
Explorations of IN, Rhinebeck, NY
- Inversion (Explorations II)**, 2014  
Resin-impregnated plaster 3D print  
Explorations of IN, Rhinebeck, NY
- Tesseract Fragments (Explorations III)**, 2014  
Resin-impregnated plaster 3D print  
Explorations of IN, Rhinebeck, NY
- Insertion Inversion (Explorations IV)**, 2014  
Resin-impregnated plaster 3D print  
Explorations of IN, Rhinebeck, NY
- Study**, 2015  
Watercolor on paper  
Ex of In House, Rhinebeck, NY
- Study**, 2015  
Watercolor on paper  
Ex of In House, Rhinebeck, NY
- The White = The Black**, 2015  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Ex of In House, Rhinebeck, NY
- Spherical Intersections**, 2015  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Ex of In House, Rhinebeck, NY
- House Model**, 2014  
Resin-impregnated plaster 3D print  
Ex of In House, Rhinebeck, NY
- Prototype Door Handle**, 2014  
Cast-silicone bronze  
Éditions de Parfums Frédéric Malle, New York, NY
- EX - IN (Chapel)**, 2015  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Ex of In House, Rhinebeck, NY
- Three Half Domes Face Ocean Horizon**, 2013  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Taiwan ChinPaoSan Necropolis, Taipei, Taiwan
- Prototype Door Handle**, 2014  
Cast-silicone bronze  
Éditions de Parfums Frédéric Malle, New York, NY
- Competition Study Model**, 2015  
Resin-impregnated plaster 3D print, copper patina paint  
Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, NJ
- Space Curve**, 2016  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, NJ
- Space Curves**, 2016  
Watercolor on paper  
Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton, NJ

**Table 5:**  
**Mind Body**

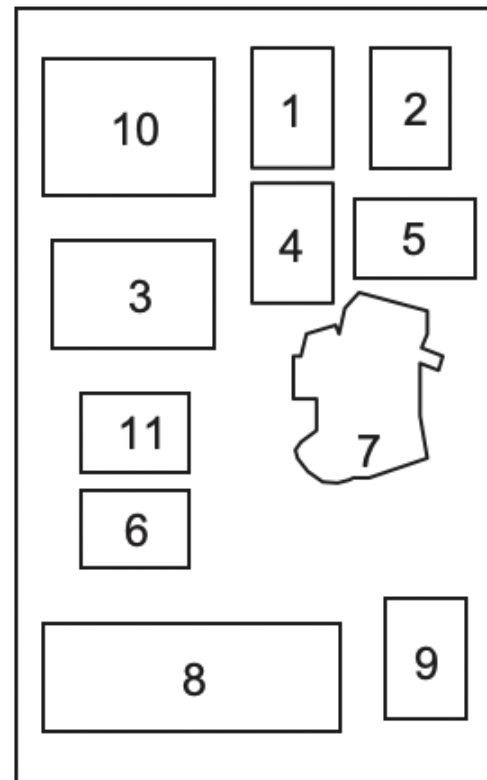
Steven Holl diagrams and draws how architectural space can activate the mind and body, and enhance sensory experiences. He uses a three-column diagram to explicate the concepts that elicit such experiences, and then orchestrates light and spatial relations to achieve those effects. In his first major public commission, Kiasma, the Museum of Contemporary Art, in Helsinki, completed in 1998, Holl achieved this by intertwining or weaving together the elements of space, light, and form. He also employs the strategy of using contrasting materials and weights to bridge the gulf between the conceptual and phenomenal worlds, as seen in his designs for the Institute for Contemporary Art, Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond.



1. **Dancing Stair**, 2012  
Charcoal on tracing paper  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
2. **Concept <---> Phenomena**  
Watercolor on paper  
Institute for Advanced Studies, Princeton NJ
3. **Supremacism of the Mind**, 2007  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
4. **Study Model**, 2012  
Resin-impregnated plaster 3D print, silver paint  
Institute for Contemporary Art, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
5. **Galleries in Forking Time**, 2011  
Watercolor on paper  
Institute for Contemporary Art, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA
6. **Malawi Campus Study**, 2016  
Watercolor on paper  
Malawi Library, Lilongwe, Malawi
7. **Oceanic Journey**, 2014  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Taiwan ChinPaoSan Necropolis, Taipei, Taiwan
8. **Between Being and Non-Being**, 2013  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Taiwan ChinPaoSan Necropolis, Taipei, Taiwan
9. **Early Concept Study Model**, 2014  
Resin-impregnated plaster 3D print  
Taiwan ChinPaoSan Necropolis, Taipei, Taiwan

**Table 6:**  
**Materiality, Site, Space, Porosity**

Steven Holl frequently selects building materials for their inherent tactile and reflective qualities. Lecce stone from Italy brightens the concrete structure of the Lewis Center for the Arts in Princeton, and a “dancing stair” of perforated steel enlivens its Dance Building. Perforated bamboo animates the interior spaces of the Hunters Point Community Library in Queens and those of Maggie’s Cancer Care Centre in London, whose facade is enhanced by matte white Okulux, a type of glass invented for the project. Holl’s acute sensitivity to the history of the existing buildings guided his designs, and his drawings for these projects illustrate how he responded to the distinctive qualities of each site.



1. **A Series of Change in Space**, 2010  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Hunters Point Community Library, Queens, NY
2. **Queens West Library**, 2010  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Hunters Point Community Library, Queens, NY
3. **Digitally Cut Lecce Stone**, 2010  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
4. **Looking Up From Entry**, 2010  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Hunters Point Community Library, Queens, NY
5. **Children’s Library**, 2010  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Hunters Point Community Library, Queens, NY
6. **Proportions Fibonacci**, 2012  
Watercolor on paper  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
7. **Early Concept Study Model**  
Painted plywood, wood blocks, cork, and acrylic  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ
8. **Kennedy Center Extensions**, 2012  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, Washington, D.C.
9. **Neume Notation**, 2012  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Maggie’s Cancer Care Centre, London, UK
10. **Elevations and Entry Level Plan**, 2010  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Hunters Point Community Library, Queens, NY
11. **Study for Porous School of Music**, 2007  
Pigment print on watercolor paper  
Lewis Center for the Arts, Princeton, NJ

Porosity is one of Holl’s principal guiding ideas for architecture. It signifies the openness that he seeks in different aspects of a design. It also refers to spatial continuity, as seen in the Lewis Center for the Arts, and to the interpenetration of interior and exterior space, as seen in the Hunters Point Community Library. Holl uses specific materials to enhance the feeling and experience of porosity, as demonstrated by the perforated wood sample.