blink!LAB

architecture

Why blink!LAB? After completing two award-winning projects and presenting to the Obama Administration, I asked myself what next. Both projects, and others, clearly reflected my interest in spatial research, building-craft and the environment. But what concerned me most was that the approaches employed on these project were not scalable and would never reach local communities.

Today, blink!LAB is a research-based architecture and design practice located in Oakland, California. Our small studio is formulated around a workshop approach - we dig deep, locate the issues in the design assignment and get messy in order to build prototypes and craft solutions.

blink!LAB has three mandates - A commitment to Design Exploration, Advocacy for Holistic Solutions and the Integration of Technology as a central component for a regenerative society.

June A. Grant, NOMA - Founding Principal
blink!LAB architecture

EXPLORE
DESIGN
ADVOCACY
TECHNOLOGY

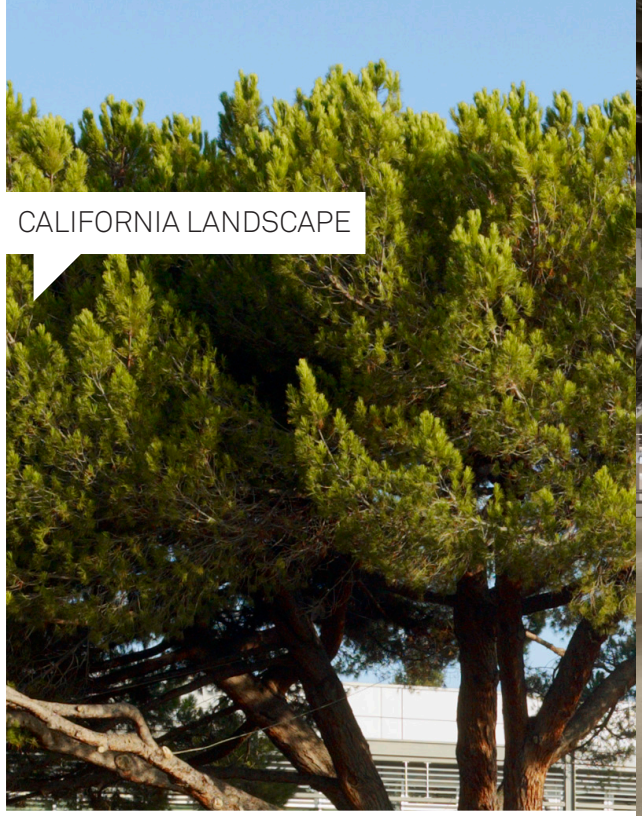
NASA AMES - NET ZERO ENERGY

mountain view, ca

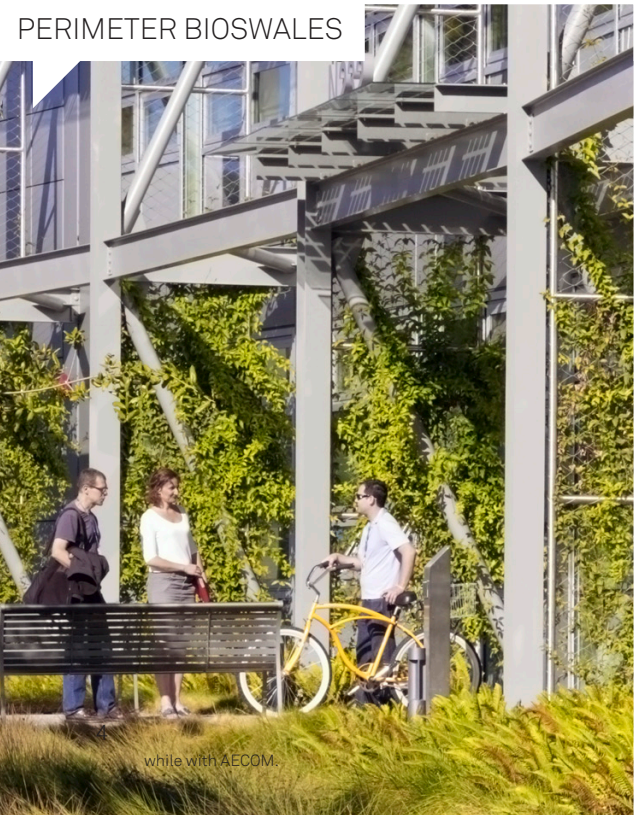
SOLAR ENERGY

EXPRESSIVE STRUCTURE

CALIFORNIA LANDSCAPE

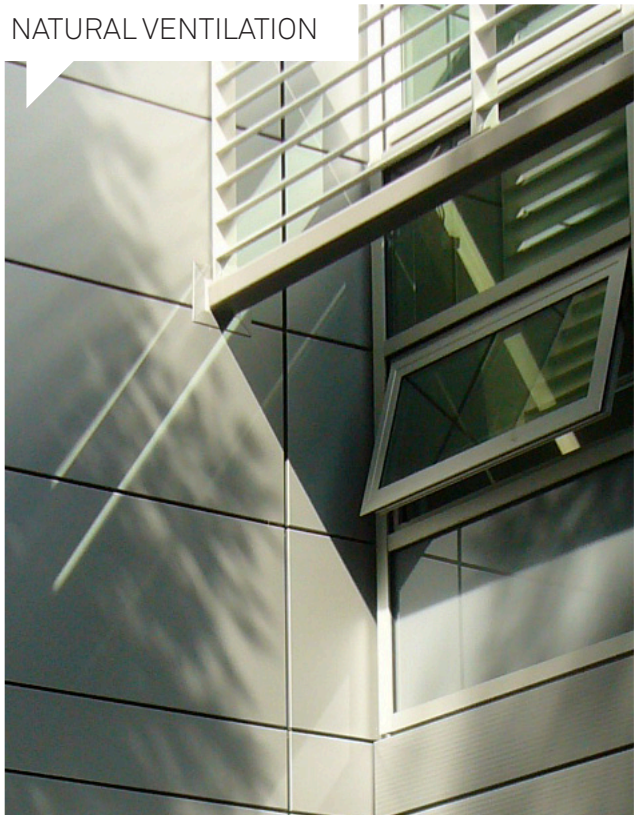


PERIMETER BIOSWALES

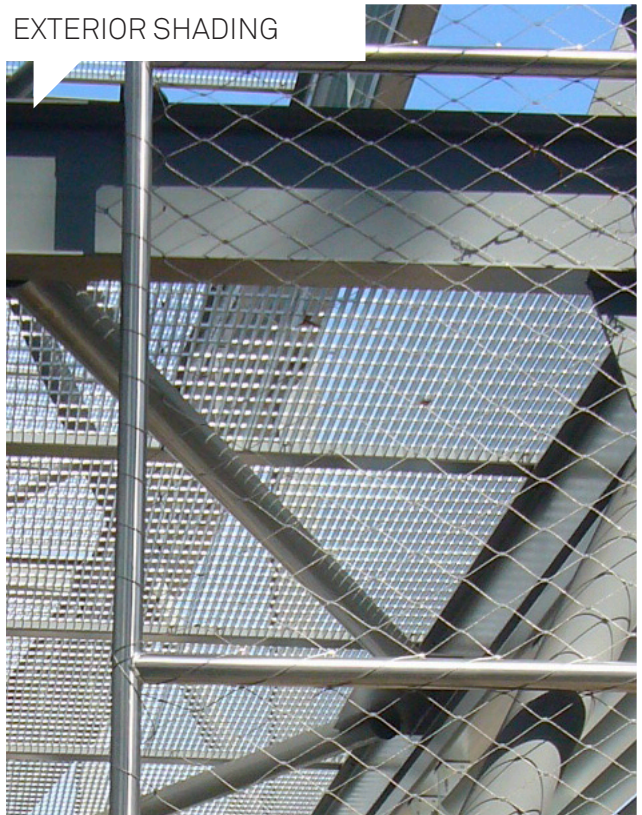


while with AECOM.

NATURAL VENTILATION



EXTERIOR SHADING



GE GLOBAL SOFTWARE, COE

san ramon, ca

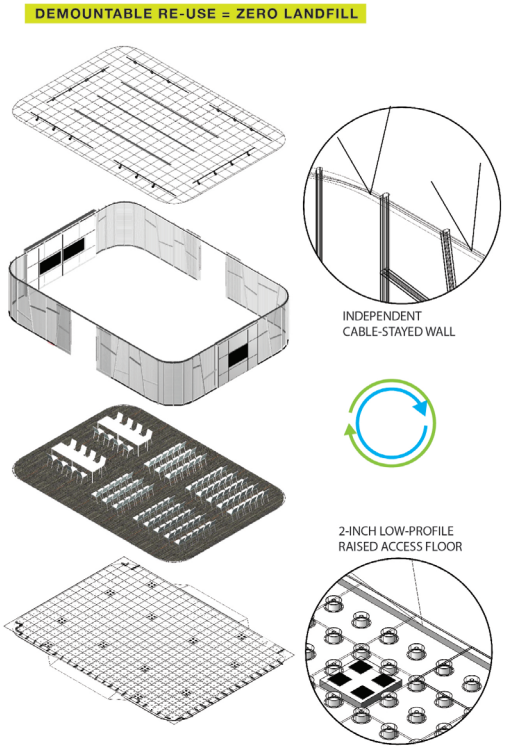
DEFINED BY AGILITY

Adaptive Technology:
Demountable smart wall systems

Transparency: Full-floor daylight, exterior views and barrier-free circulation.

BYOD: Connect and communicate anywhere, anyhow.

Casual collisions: Impromptu meetings and gatherings.



Role: Design Principal while at AECOM
Project Size: 50,000SF Architecture
Project Cost: $26M+
LEED: Platinum

Project Size: 125,000SF Interior Architecture
Project Cost: $15M+
Construction: 2013

The most significant lesson from both these projects was that a successful solution depended on particularly close interrogation of the environment.

For the former, NASA, the environment studied was 'nature as a dynamic force'. GE's environment was understood as an operational dynamism, "how does the organization see itself communicating on a daily basis?"

By breaking down the solution to a list of components, the teams and I were able to create award-winning building architecture and interior workspace solutions.

CAN WE APPLY OUR KNOWLEDGE ABOUT WALL COMPONENTS + CNC FABRICATION TO SOLVE A SOUND TRANSMISSION ISSUE AT A LOCAL NON-PROFIT MUSIC SCHOOL?


OAKLAND
PUBLIC
CONSERVATORY
OF
MUSIC

OAKLAND PUBLIC CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

oakland, ca

Photo: The Performance Stage

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES PRODUCE
CUSTOMIZED SOLUTIONS
AT ACCESSIBLE COSTS AND POSSIBILITIES

Project size: N/A
Cost: $21,000
LEED® Rating: N/A
blinkLAB Responsibility: Design, Fabrication & Installation
Fabrication Distance: 100% Made in Oakland
Fabrication: blinkLAB architecture and BossFelt
Photography: June Grant

MUSIC IS BACK ON SAN PABLO AVENUE, once home to celebrated and emerging black jazz artists, and still home to a predominantly African-American population.

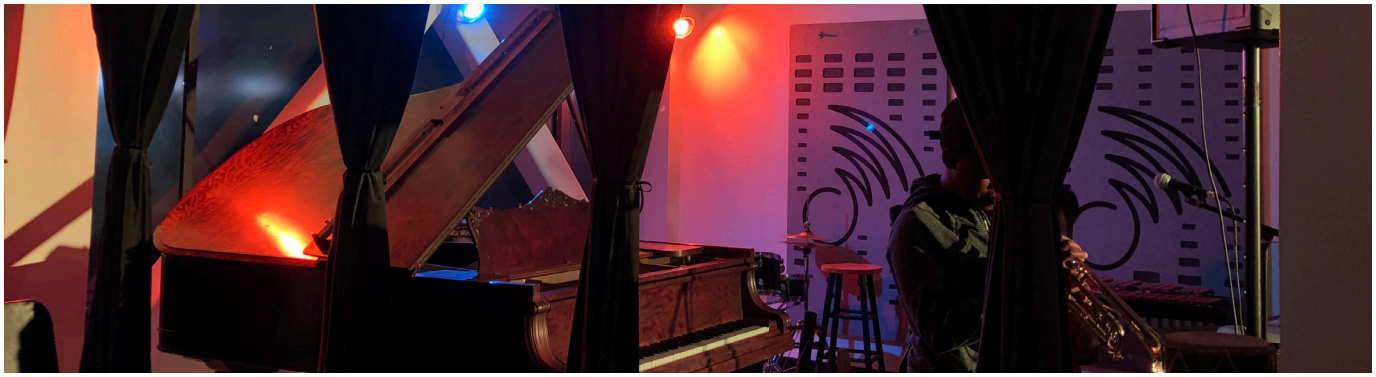
For the Oakland Public Conservatory of Music (OPCM), **blinkLAB architecture has designed and fabricated a series of ten acoustical panels and six bespoke light fixtures** - the first phase of an overall design strategy to insert a small performance space at the base of the historic California Hotel, Oakland, California.

SOUND ATTENUATION AT OPCMUSIC.

A calling-card blazoned across its walls, the OPC Music Acoustic Wall Panel System is a penetrating, melodious pattern which seemingly moves across the surface, beckoning to passersby, “We are here, join us”.

The acoustical panels are the first of two stages required to address reverberations in the space and dampen sound transfer to adjacent tenant occupants. Transformation of the hard retail storefront into an instrument for music involved a steady **search for high performance from a soft material, at a low price-point.** Felt met the project’s considerations - inexpensive, versatile, and exceptionally durable.

The panels can be used for a variety of applications, from space partitioning, to acoustical dampening, and added texture to a space characterized by flat white walls.



The design solution is the result of several factors including cost, but also long-term performance.

WHY LASER-CUT FELT?

Synthetic felt was selected instead of wool due to it lower price point and larger number of color options. It has other advantages - resistant to mildew and fungal growth, does not absorb moisture, and resists wrinkling and buckling.

Features & Benefits of Laser-Cut Felt:

- Durable
- Consistent finish & color
- Consistent thickness
- Clean lines
- Cost-effective – lower cost than other solutions
- Fire-Rated products are available
- Versatile – ceiling or wall mount as a surface finish
- An effective sound absorbed

Typically, precise fabric cutting is accomplished with an industrial die cutter, which is costly when producing small quantities, proto-typing new ideas, and/or experimentation. Felt is not woven, which means it has no warp, no weft, and no bias; it doesn't unravel, which makes it an ideal material for intricate processes. However, because it is thick and relatively unforgiving, cutting intricate patterns and structures into felt is difficult to do by hand. For OPCMusic's panels we relied on digital fabrication techniques; where laser or CNC-knife cuts produce wonderfully precise results.

LIGHTING OPCMUSIC

The light fixture design is pure geometry achieved through the assemblage of 3D printed components. Suspended in the tall ceilings of OPCMusic, the fixtures are mysterious and symbolic emblems – are they African? Spiritual? Geometry? A musical instrument? Yes, all of the above.

3D PRINTING

For budgetary reasons, we could not afford commercially available triangle fixtures. **With our in-house 3D printer, we fabricated 18 of the 36 components** required to achieve the unique light fixture shape, as well as produced the 80 connections pieces required to hold the acoustical panels in place and prevent sagging.

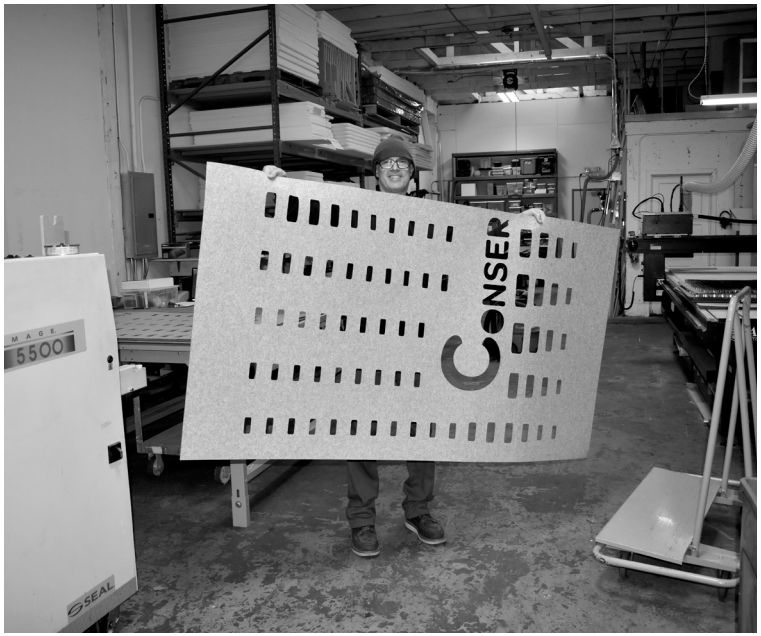
CODING BY DESIGN.

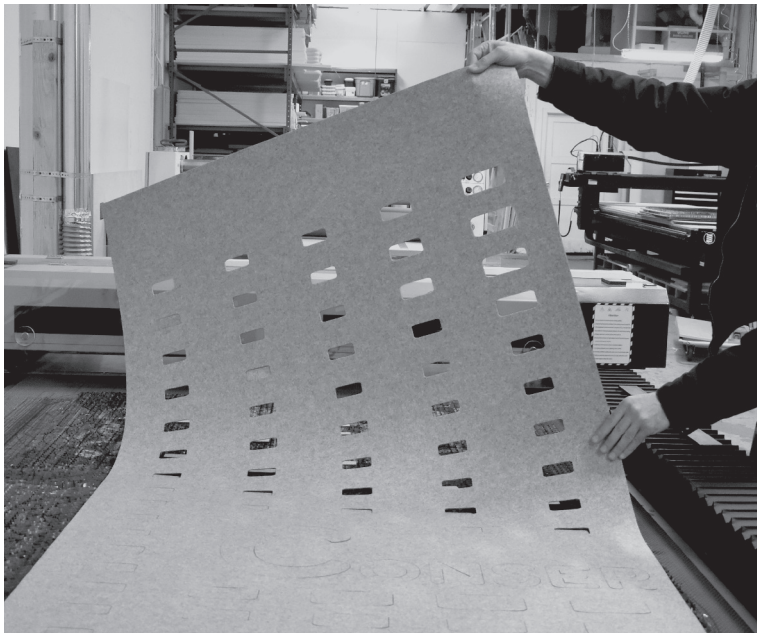
The design of both products - the wall panels and light fixtures - were undertaken through the exclusive use of software coding, not analog sketched lines.

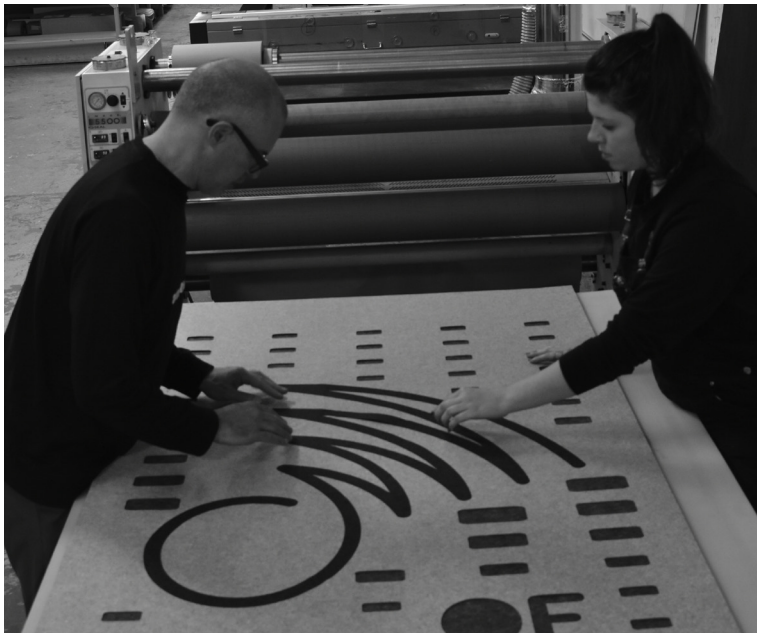
Digital coding was chosen in order to accommodate variation, an option easily afforded through digital modeling processes. This allowed significant design changes required to meet machining constraints.

MAKE LOCAL, BUY LOCAL.

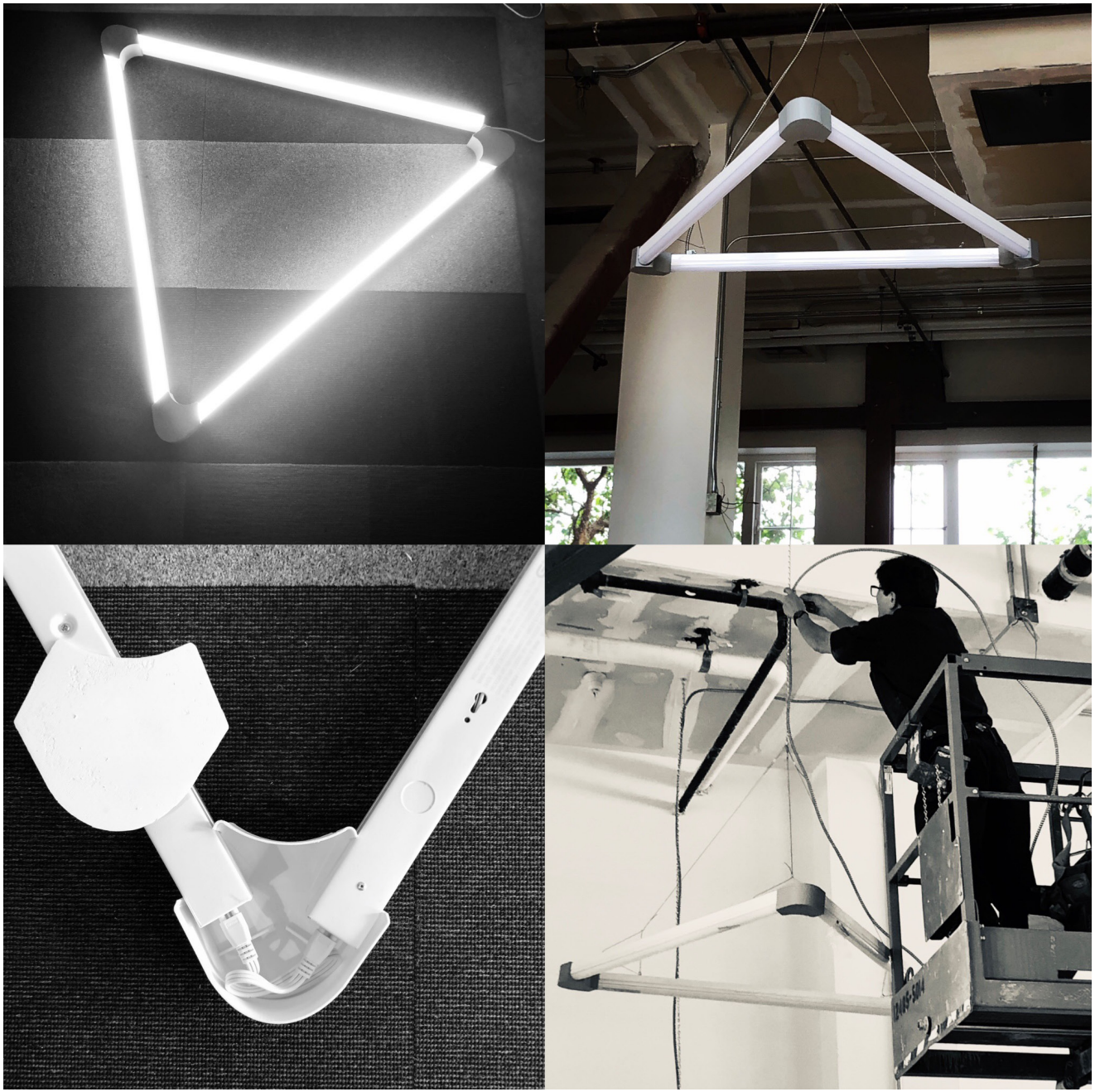
By approaching the design solutions as a system of layered components, we were able to arrive at cost effective and locally produced results for both lighting and sound attenuation. In fact, **fabrication of all components were within a 5-minute drive from the project site.**


5500
SEAL





CAN WE BREAK-DOWN THE COMPONENTS OF AN EXPENSIVE LIGHT FIXTURE, 3D PRINT FOR LESS THAN 10% OF THE COST, AND STILL PROVIDE DELIGHT TO THE CLIENT?




EXIT

A SUSTAINABLY-SOUND SPATIAL ORGANIZATION SYSTEM FOR A NON-PROFIT, BUILDABLE WITH LOCAL SKILLSETS

(ON THE BOARDS)

REDEFINED ADAPTATION

Lo-Tek: Demountable wood frame systems

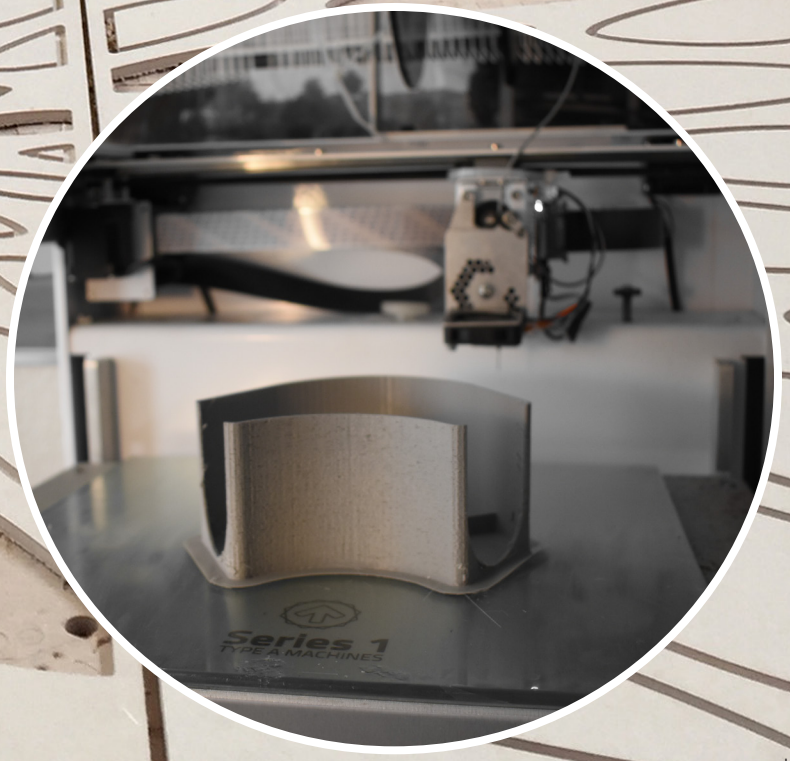
Biophilia Transparency: Full-floor daylight, exterior views, air purification and calming.

Informal: Casual, open and closed.

Shareable: Impromptu meetings and gatherings.

WHY A WORKSHOP?

BECAUSE DIGITAL TOOLS OPEN UP POSSIBLITIES FOR NEW FORMS AT AFFORDABLE COSTS.


Series 1
TYPE A MACHINES

RESUME’

June A. Grant, AIA - Founding Principal
blink!LAB architecture
4228 martin luther king jr way
oakland, ca 94609
tel: 510-326-2176

www. blink-lab.com

Education

Masters in Architecture, Yale University, 1999

Bachelors in International Finance & Economics (Magna Cum Laude), Baruch College, CUNY, 1993

Professional Registrations + Accreditations

RA, CA, C30888

Ms. Grant has completed a wide range of work, from offices, retail, education and product design to sustainable planning and development. Her projects experience range in size from as small as 1,000 SF to over 500,000 SF with budgets varying up to $26M.

Core Competencies:

- Real Estate Site Evaluation + Selection
- Interior Architecture & Design
- Sustainable / High-Performance Buildings
- Sustainable infrastructure integration
- Campus Planning + Growth Strategies

ON-THE-BOARD

- Sustainable Community Regeneration – Apalachicola, FL
- Facade Design Fabrication (NDA)
- Street Light Fixture Design (NDA)
- San Leandro Creek Gateway Project
- Accessory Dwelling Unit - A house using panelized design and fabrication technology.
- Hoover Foster Public Library

EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

Innovation, Sustainable Design - Building

- GE Corporation – Software COE, San Ramon, CA
- NASA Ames Research Center - Sustainability Base, Building N232, Moffet Field, CA
- NASA Ames Research Center - Integrated Office Building, Building N268, Moffet Field, CA
- National Guard Readiness Center, Arlington, VA

Innovation, Sustainable Design - Campus

- SF Public Utilities Commission, Storm water and Sewer Improvement Plan
- Denver Metro Wastewater Reclamation District

Corporate Architecture and Interior Design

- Global Citizen Group, Oakland, CA
- CHEVRONTEXACO Headquarters, San Ramon, CA
- AKQA, San Francisco, CA
- Surfshop / C2LLC, Pacifica, CA
- Dolan Law Firm, San Francisco, CA
- Echeguren Slate, San Francisco, CA

Education & Museum Design + Planning

- California Space Center, Santa Maria, CA
- CA Science Center Amgen Center for Science Learning, Los Angeles, CA.
- Santa Maria Children Discovery Museum, Santa Maria, CA

Art, Retail + Leisure

- Westfield Shopping Center, San Francisco, California

Housing + Urban Development

- Tenderloin Apartments, San Francisco, CA
- San Pedro Square, San Jose, CA
- Parkside, San Jose, CA

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

ARCHITECTURE

BLINK!LAB ARCHITECTURE (2014 to present)
Founding Principal

STEINBERG (2013 – 2014)
Principal

AECOM (2008 – 2013)
Associate Principal

INVESTMENT BANKING

DSW SCUDDER
Senior Investment Research Associate

- Aerospace & Defense Industries
- Automobiles Industry

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