If All the Sky Were Paper: A Living Memorial and Museum

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Letters from war, collected by Andrew Carroll. The letters span all conflicts in which American soldiers were engaged.

This studio will focus on the making of a Living Memorial that will preserve letters from soldiers during war. It has two primary charges: to preserve and present letters from soldiers and families during times of war (the museum aspect), and to creatively present those letters through the interpretive Arts (the living museum aspect: please refer to Chapman University’s recent presentation of “If All the Sky were Paper”).

This Living Memorial will be allied with the Legacy Project: “Founded in 1998, the Legacy Project is a national, all-volunteer initiative that encourages Americans to seek out and preserve the personal correspondence of our nation’s veterans, active-duty troops, and their loved ones. No one can tell the stories of these men and women better than they can, and we believe that their sacrifices, humanity, and experiences are best recorded in their own words.”

The building will be situated on an open site at the terminus of the South Park Blocks. It will be approximately 35-40,000 square feet, therefore a multi-story building, with an emphasis on epitomizing good civic design. Besides gallery space, the program will include a flex theater/presentation hall to accommodate the interpretive presentations. There will also be a gift shop and cafe facilities located on the ground floor.

As with all of my studios, this one will center on the art of room-making and the need to resolve design intentions on an experiential and material level. The use of full scale media techniques and mock-ups, models at all scales (especially room study models), and evocative perspective drawings will be required.