

# BREAKING THROUGH

## A CONCEPTUAL DESIGN COMPETITION FOCUSED ON IMAGINATION+INNOVATION

### THE VISIBLE + THE INVISIBLE

SUBMITTED BY:  
**STANTEC  
ARCHITECTURE,  
EDMONTON,  
ALBERTA, CANADA**

DESIGN TEAM:  
Aimee Mah, BSc, MID

#### THE CONCEPT:

Current Western modern architecture is often criticized for being based largely on an oculocentric perspective. Modern design is about functional, practical, visual architecture that does not take into consideration the human experience. Not only has this caused architecture to be unequally experienced by the sight-privileged alone, but it has also caused architecture to become, as Pallasmaa describes: "psychologically empty." This preoccupation with visual quality of architecture has caused a disconnect with man and his environment. It neglects to take into consideration a deep understanding of the human condition and the real essence of human existence. This project addresses the notion that space is "encountered" by using current theories of human perception as both a biological process as well as a phenomenological event to inform the design of an Eye Institute. The intent of the project was to provide a place that enhances the experience of space such that it brings visible the invisible nature of being in the world.



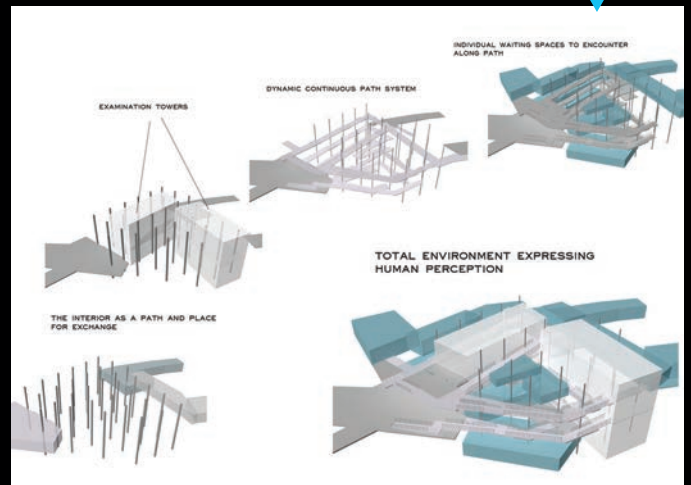
Steel, glass and concrete provide the three-story design structure. Photochromic exterior glazing strips adjust according to the amount of daylight.



The ramp system of the eye institute was designed as a street, carrying the users through an experience of space and time—a spatial narrative.



Design strategies such as gradient floor treatments and lighting effects were provided to further enhance the sense of transition.



The intent of the project interior was to decentralize the waiting experience and provide spatial experiences beyond sight.



The act of entering the patient process becomes more of a transition between waiting experiences and less of a destination.

