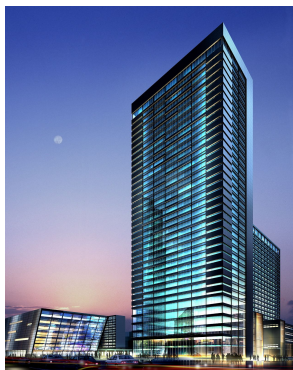


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The mostly window-less surface of the Skoglund-Tostrud complex leaves much room for the imagination as faculty, staff, and students pass by. Whether parking in J-Lot, visiting the art barn, pruning the StoGrow garden, or going to practice, the new diving tank aims to reunite this space with the entire campus community. Athletes spend enormous amounts of time working for their brief—in the case of divers second-long—performance. Our idea, to build atop the existing pool space, will allow onlookers to glimpse the hard work of these divers.

The basic concept is to build a glass box on top of the pool space. Because the existing space is closest to all walkways and roads on the periphery of Skoglund-Tostrud, the new diving space will be easily visible from both the top and bottom of the hill. A common issue that students and visitors report is the inaccessibility of the current pool space. Many students are unaware that it exists at all. To address this issue, a glass walkway will connect the top of the hill to the second floor entrance of the diving arena. This, too, works to address the accessibility issues related to weather conditions (ice, wind, snow). Certainly, Christmas-fest goers will want to use the enclosed pathway rather than the treacherous stairs, so it may also serve to unite two long-conflicting groups.

—Existing buildings that inspire our ideas—



To echo the forms already present in the Tostrud complex, the glass structure diving arena will form an arc that resembles the waves in the pool below. Because this new place is meant to foster, not hinder, cross-campus communication and interaction, it will be important to include elements in other modern buildings. The glass walls and arc form are found not only along the outer structure of the fieldhouse, but also within the science building. Our proposal to use glass for the exterior is because it communicates transparency and invites onlooking. Hopefully, the use of glass will not alter the overall St. Olaf architecture, whose shorter stature (in theory) promotes community. Another benefit of using glass, as the arena seating will be located on the new second level of the pool and diving space, is that audience members will be able to see the natural spaces surrounding the Tostrud complex. There will need to be a balance between this openness and freedom and visibility and structural soundness.

The existing space is confining and dark due to many closed off, windowless walls and complete separation between spaces. It is open in the sense that it is a really wide opening/entrance area. The new addition will remove some of the “closedness” of the space by creating another point of entry and natural light source. By enforcing Ching’s concept of “openings between planes” and “quality of light,” this space would create a sense of dramatic height and space, while adding to the light that penetrates this new plane as well as pre-existing ones.

Our concern about order is that visitors and students are no longer confused about entrances to the new diving space. The enclosed pathway will contribute to this because it provides an entrance point to the space at the top of the hill. This pathway will also have a stairwell leading from the second floor of the diving arena to the current main entrances. Essentially, there will be three access points, two of which will reveal the connection between the pool and diving space to the remainder of the complex. This new order will not only eliminate the need to walk through the entire building, but it will provide visitors with a more aerial view of the Skoglund-Tostrud complex which may invite future use.

Because of the division of spaces on campus, the expansion of the Skoglund facilities will provide divers with a sense of place while also inviting all students, faculty, and alumni to appreciate the interdisciplinary nature of St. Olaf. The chosen materials are meant to promote an idea of how Tostrud exists relative to other natural and built spaces around campus. The new structure will alleviate some of the burden of venturing down to Skoglund, and will therefore be more accessible to the wide variety of people and activities present in the complex.