

Vanessa Attaya

In my structure, the themes that drove my design were shelter, safety and contemplation. For myself, shelter and safety work together and the way they are expressed is through the combination of transparency and full coverage. Most of the sides and roof of the structure would be made out of glass so that when people are inside they are safe from the elements and outside world but they are able to see everything surrounding them. Secondly, in regards to contemplation, I think the juxtaposition of the geometric and organic details allow the spectators to activate their mind and catalyze their thoughts.

While creating the structure I took inspiration from Santiago Calatrava's line work and his usage of organic shapes. (Specifically *Bridges over the Hoofdvaart* and *SMU Meadows Museum Wave Sculpture*). Normally, I am drawn to geometric shapes and angles. Combining Calatrava's fluid designs with harsher angles was one of my design focuses. I sketched a basic initial shape with those basic ideas. The foundation was more structured and then I added more of the natural shapes to the outside. When I started to create my structure, I let the materials lead the design. I learned that cardboard can be used in many ways; when I separated the three sections, it created new textures and made it more malleable. I found the less I forced the material to form a shape, the more natural and clean it looked. In my opinion, Calatrava has interesting designs but they are not overly complicated which helps to give them their sleek appearance. I tried to keep this in mind when working with the materials; it was difficult for me to step back and not overdesign. However, I really enjoyed creating the structure and pushing my comfort zone.