Making a Place for Art

Assignment #4

For this assignment, you will be curators. You will pick a painting, a sculpture or another piece of art to display on the MIT campus. You are also charged with creating a place to display this piece. Depending on the medium to be displayed, this place can take on many forms. A place for a photograph will be different from a place for a small sculpture, while a place for a large sculpture may not require a cover at all.

The environment the piece is displayed in can direct the viewers experience by only allowing for specific view angles, or it might dictate a path of movement along or around a piece. It may not direct the viewer at all and allow for a completely independent and self directed experience. In any case, the place you create is highly dependent on the object you are to display as well as your thought about how it is to be viewed or experienced.

Each of you will be given a site near Kresge Auditorium, which will be the location where you will place your chosen object. As you develop the site, keep in mind the impact the other buildings near the site will have on the “feel” of the space.

Part 1

By Wednesday, November 1, be prepared to discuss three things:

• Your choice of art to be displayed. You should have images about the particular piece you are going to design for supported by information about its material and size, its environmental needs (inside/outside), the artist.
• A site “clue”. This can be something that strikes you about the site. Bring an image, text or photo, to explain your impressions.
• Initial design ideas in sketch form or in sketch model.

Part 2

By Monday, November 6, bring at least three freehand sketches in pen or pencil that show the structure in its site. The sketches should be taken from different viewpoints at eye level and should include surrounding buildings, trees and scale figures (people, cars, bicycles, dogs)

Part 3

For the final review on Wednesday, November 8, you should be prepared to pin-up and present the following:

• The information you complied about the object you are displaying.
• Initial sketches or sketch models
• A site plan (include scale, north arrows, surrounding buildings)
• At least three freehand sketches from Part 2, rendered to include shading and color.