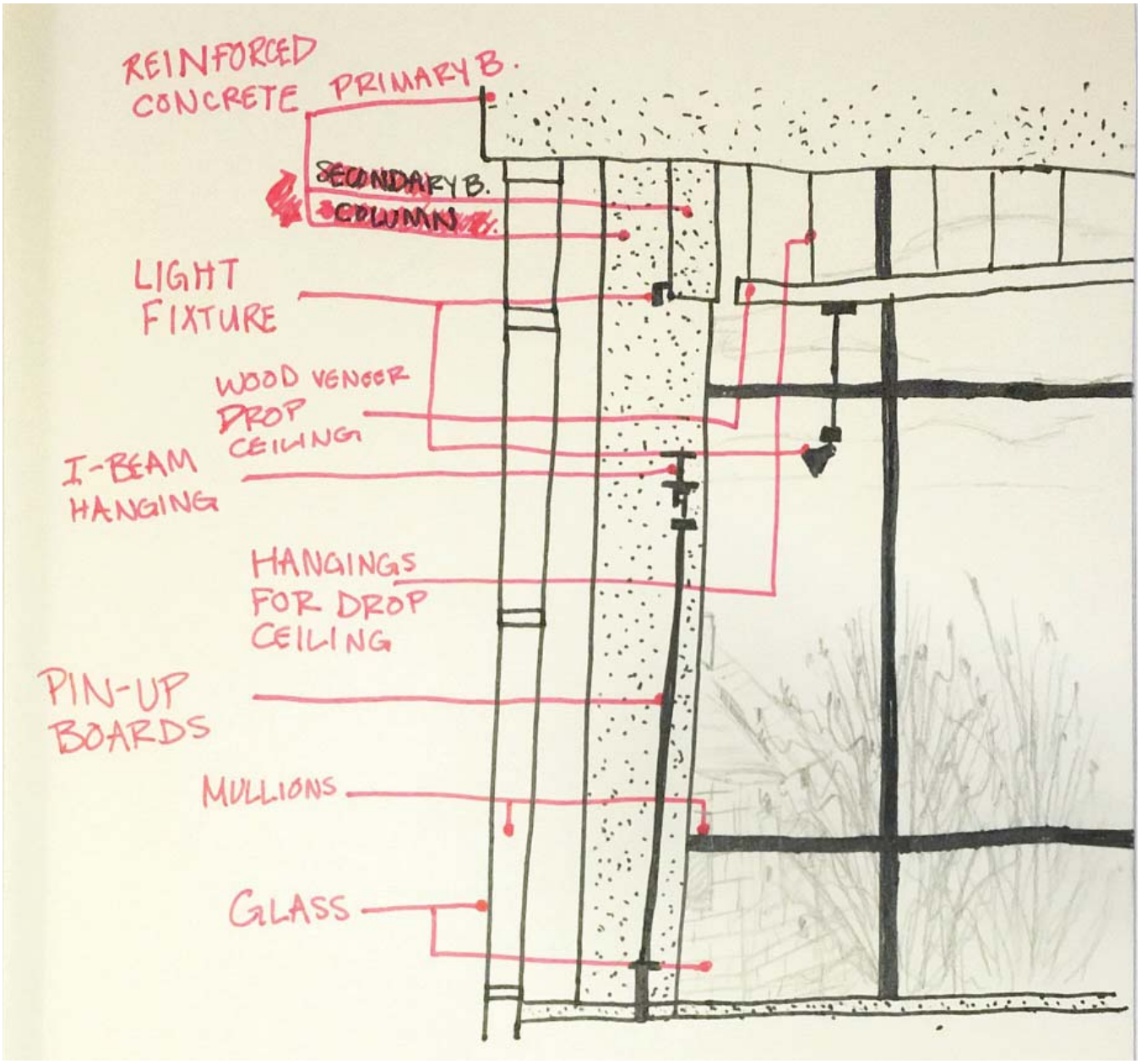
Visual Observation: Wall Sections and Materials
Field Trip: Roanoke, Charlottesville, Washington D.C.

Wall Section Free Hand Drawing: Mary Beth Robbins, March 2018



WALL SECTION: Campbell Hall Addition by W.G. Clark, UVA School of Architecture.
This wall section of the addition of Campbell Hall features the exterior facade of glass, metal mullions, and reinforced concrete. This specific space is used as a pin up room, where the pin up boards are movable and hung with I-beams. This space also has large windows on 3 sides to allow maximum natural light.

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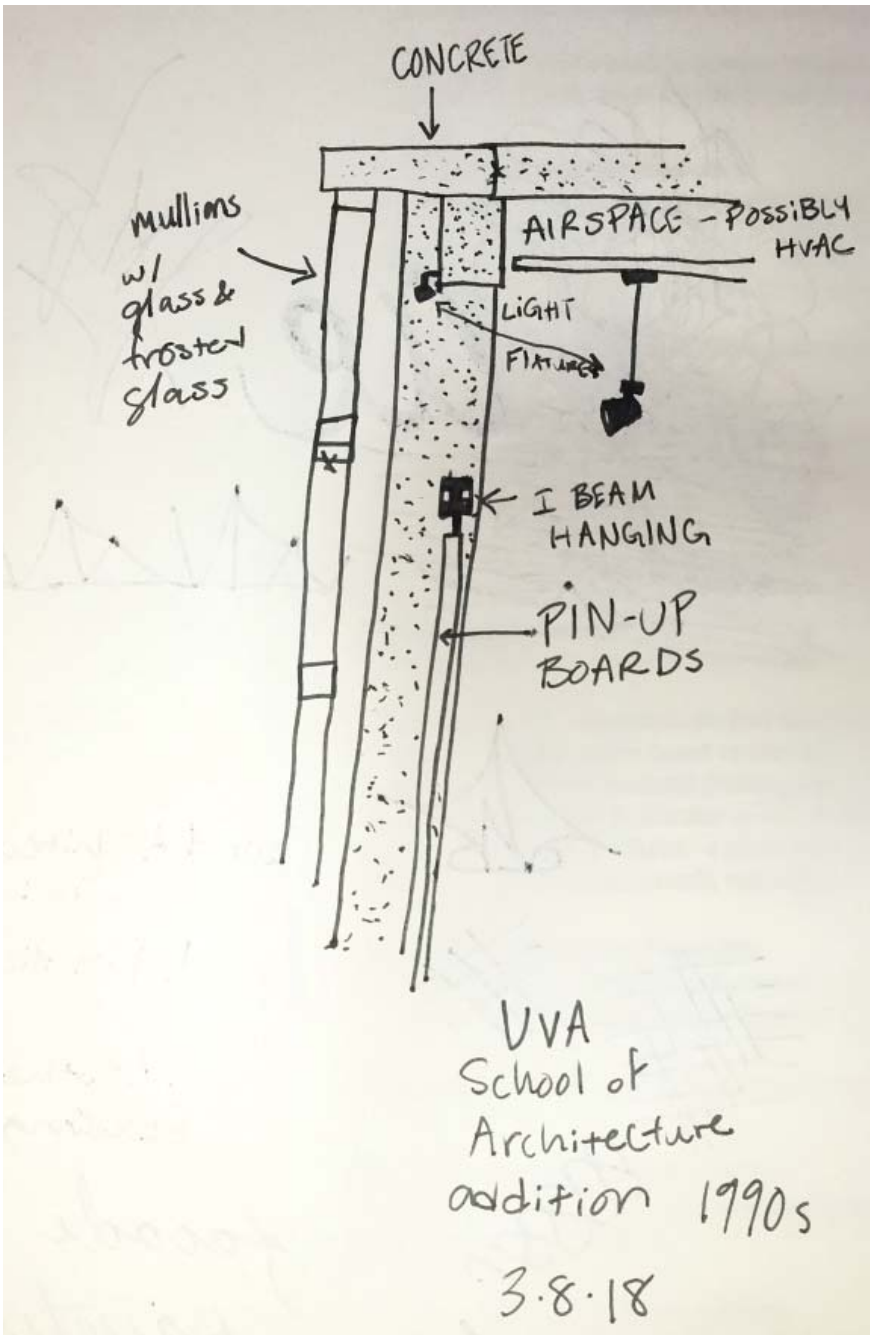
Field Sketches/Observations: Mary Beth Robbins, March 2018

Extterior

Extterior

Interior - Pin-Up Boards



Wall Section Skeetch

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Joints/Failures: Mary Beth Robbins, March 2018

JOINT: UVA Rotunda
Walking up to the Rotunda opposite of the lawn, you will see this joint connecting concrete to brick. The metal separation gives room for the materials to breathe between each other, allowing rain and weathering to have a place to escape. It also makes each material act separately, instead of together. For example, both brick and concrete work well under compression, and not so well under tension - this metal separator allows movement for the material and reduces the chance for cracking.

JOINT: UVA Rotunda
As you ascend up to the Rotunda, you see the underside of the library, which look like these wings flanking from the sides. This helps frame the lawn in context of width. Unlike the rotunda that features beautiful curved brick, the underside has a sharp 90 degree corners, probably not to distract from the curved elegance of the Rotunda itself. This corner is a very common masonry corner, laying bricks alternatively and cutting smaller bricks to keep the pattern the same.

FAILURE: Steps - UVA Rotunda
There are 3 runs of stairs to approach the Rotunda opposite of the lawn - first being brick stairs, last being the iconic marble stairs, and in the middle there are concrete stairs. The stairs were laid in an alternate pattern - like a larger version of brick laying. But, the concrete pieces were too large for this patterning, as cracks form halfway between the steps, where the joint lays for the step above and below it. This is a very common problem when it comes to concrete, brick, CMU's etc. - using control joints helps to prevent this cracking!

FAILURE: Dolcezza, DuPont Circle, Washington, D.C.
This cute little gelato and coffeehouse in DuPont Circle in Washington D.C. loves to embrace exposed brick, a very common trend in modern coffeehouses, bookstores, and restaurants. While exposed brick can be a wonderful element to show the timelessness of a building, it can also show many flaws. Like the steps at the Rotunda above, this brick wall shows a significant crack going down and along the bricks. Easily, a control joint would have prevented this! It's also evident that when this wall was being built, it never had an intent of being exposed, because of the roughness of the brick, and pieces of ripped off drywall still hanging. Today, when a building is built with brick intended to be exposed, the brick itself is polished to look more elegant.

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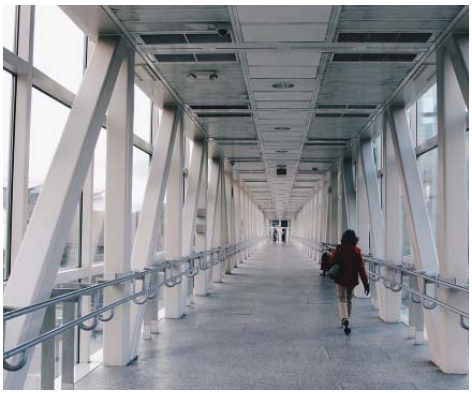
Trip Photography: Mary Beth Robbins, March 2018

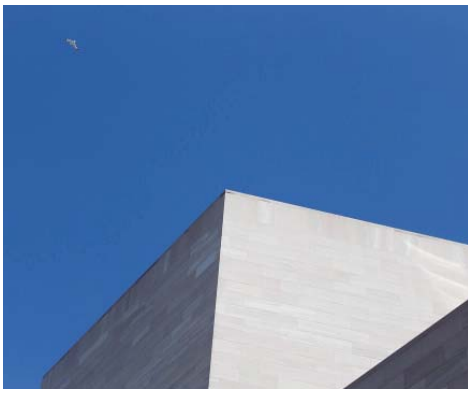


Roanoke, VA



Jefferson's Rotunda, UVA, Charlottesville, VA





Washington, D.C.