

ARSENAL-01

Personally-funded Travel Research + Publication / 2019
Garrett Rauck

On August 28, 2019, I began a journey around the United States to study buildings, landscapes, and places. My objective for these travels was to open my eyes - to broaden my perspective of the world, to witness new ways of living, new ways of building, new possibilities. Up until then, I had spent my childhood in Rochester, NY, followed by seven years earning a degree and working in Pittsburgh, PA. I had taken a few trips west, but only by plane and hardly with an architectural eye. I had never driven across the plains, never been in a National Park, never been to Seattle, or Kansas City, or Vegas. I was itching to experience what these places were like, what they had in store, and to see what effect they would have on my broader understanding of the world. I felt as though I couldn't truly understand the places I had lived until I had seen what else was out there. At a moment of reflection during the trip, I wrote that "I think I'm learning how to look. I'm learning how to look at things and places and see what makes them different from other places, see the idiosyncrasies and patterns in the place. See what makes it special."

During the 85-day trip, I spent time in 22 cities, traveled through 24 states, and visited 135 significant buildings. I took over 10,000 photographs of landscapes, cityscapes, buildings, spaces, and details. I did some sketching and note-taking. The strategy for me was about breadth rather than depth: I wanted to see as much as I could, so that I would have a greater body of experiences to pull from in the future. What I was doing, I later realized, was building an arsenal - of experiences, of sensations, of architectural strategies related to space, form, detail, materiality, and light. The publication, organized chronologically, is a record of that arsenal developed over the course of the trip, and serves as a reference document for me as I continue on in my career in the pursuit of meaningful architecture.

Years

Travel + Research 2019
Publication 2020



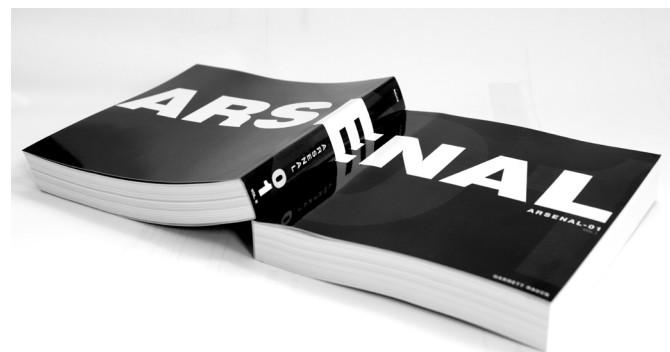
The vehicle for the journey was a 1998 Toyota Tacoma.



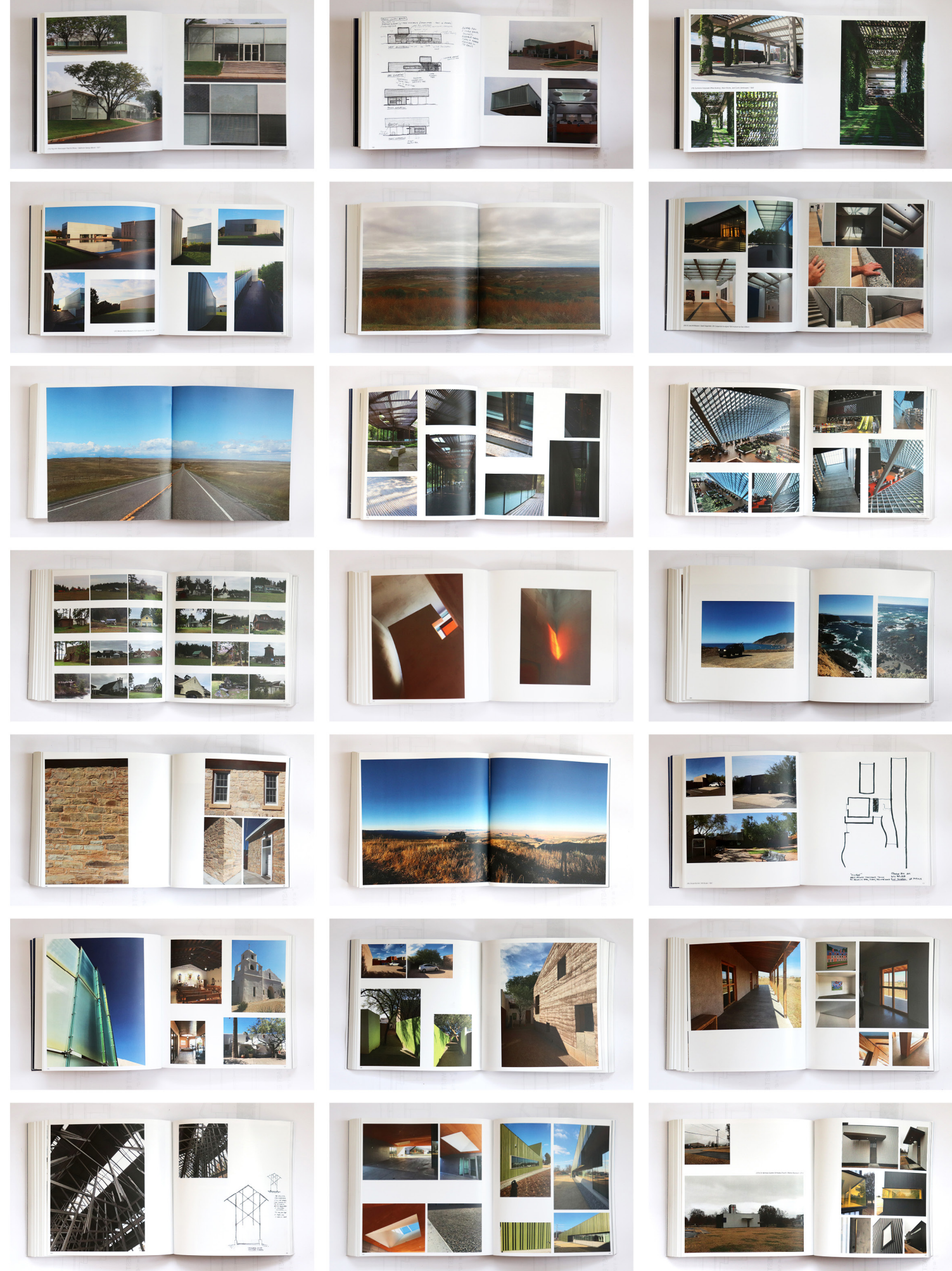
A custom camper setup, Nomad-01, was designed and built for the pickup.



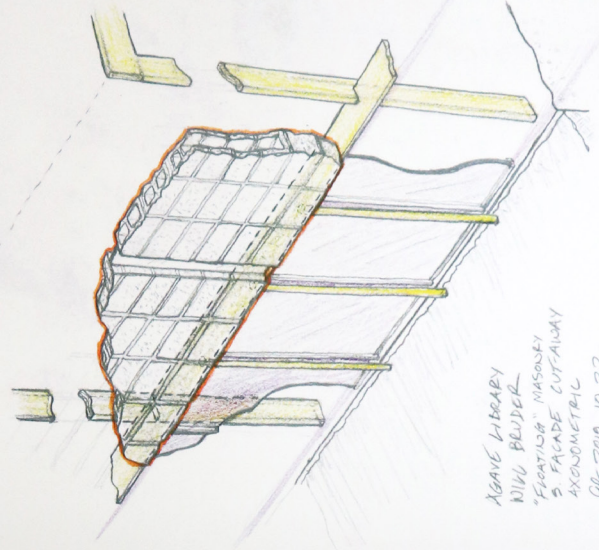
I was on the road for **85 days**,
beginning in Pittsburgh, PA on August 28, 2019
and ending in Rochester, NY on November 26, 2019.



The 980-page book is split into two volumes, each 1-1/4" thick. The cover was designed to accommodate subsequent volumes, ARSENAL-02, -03, -04...



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TO ALLOW CMDS
TO "FLOAT" ABOVE
NON-LOAD-BEARING
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MAINTAINING THE
OVERHANG PART OF
A HEAVY STONE
BOX PUSHED
WITH APERTURES
OF LIGHT.

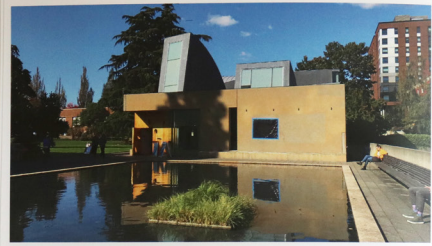


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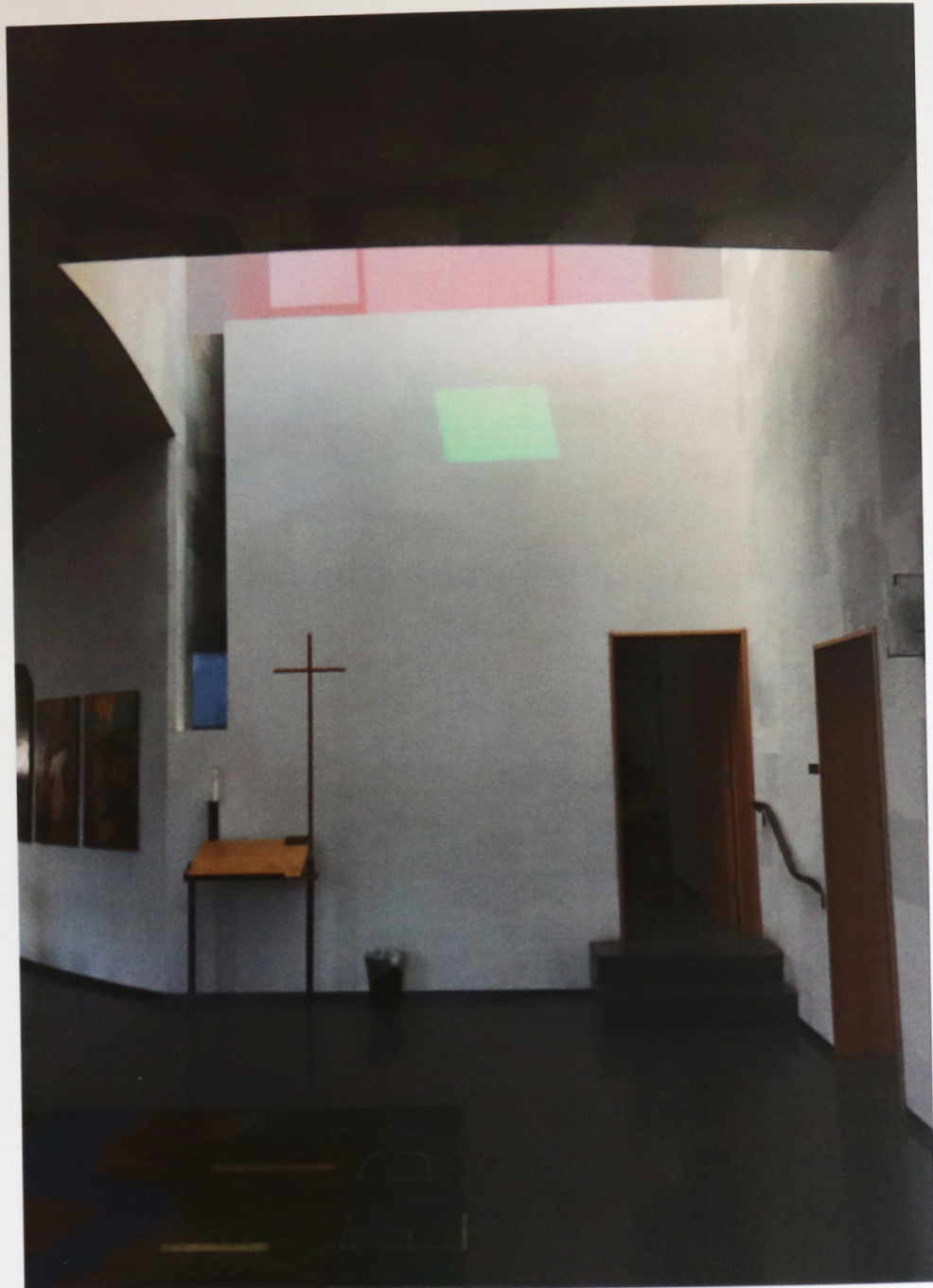
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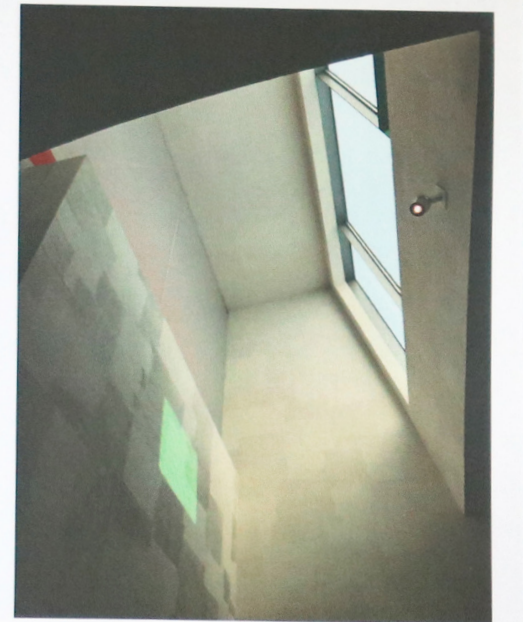
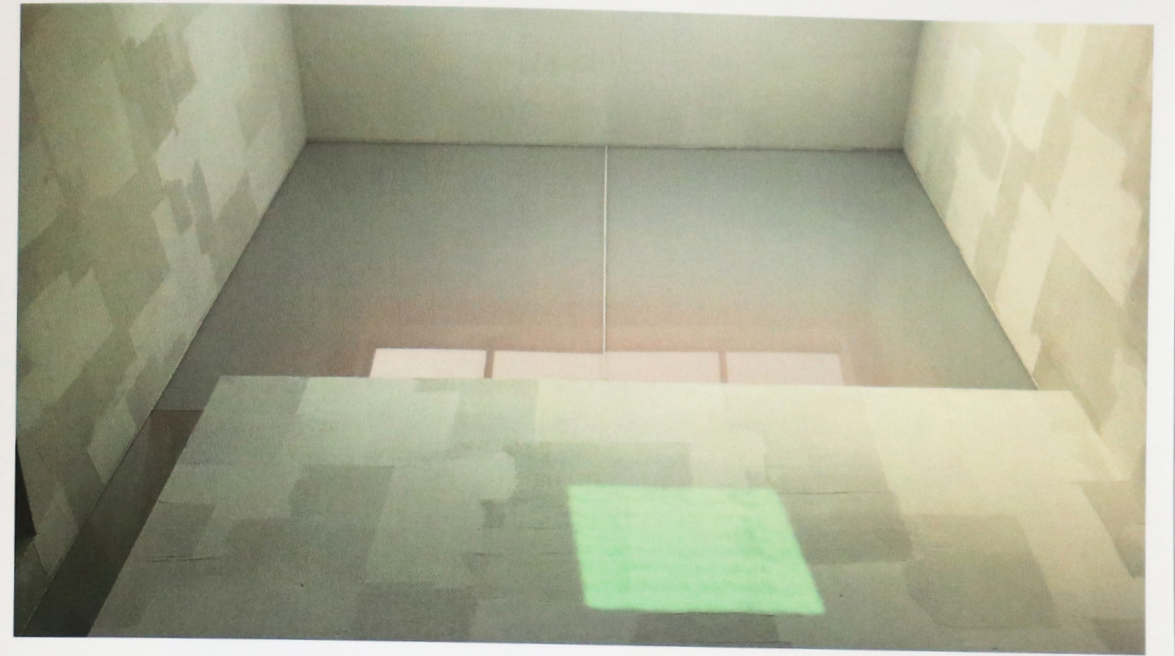
(57) St. Ignace Chapel / Oliver Heil / 1997

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