MORE THAN FLESH AND BONE

Jessica Kranski, Jason DeMarcom, Ethan Bedingfield, Elizabeth Adoyo (Libby Haslam)
College of Architecture and Planning

"The body is an instrument, the mind its function, the witness and reward of its operation" (George Santayana, a Hispanic-American philosopher). The beauty of the body does not only lie in its structure and form. Its beauty comes after one understands the function of all its intricately designed parts. The human spirit gives life to the temple that is one's body.

Many parts go into the making of a building. The structure gives it strength and its initial form. Within the structure are the building's mechanical systems that perform its living and breathing. The enclosure of the building gives it its final form. Every building has its own individual character, and even though two buildings might appear similar, each is unique in its function and this gives it beauty.

To demonstrate these concepts, we have designed a machine to allow the user to draw from his/her experiences of the body and relate them to the anatomy of architecture. The major components of the human body are its skin, muscles and skeleton. Passing through the skin of the machine, one perceives the mechanical, then structural systems, demonstrating the building's architecture in its entirety.

The human experience in the building gives it life. We want the user to view architecture as more than just the doors s/he moves through and the rooms s/he inhabits because like the human body, there is more to architecture than its flesh and bone.