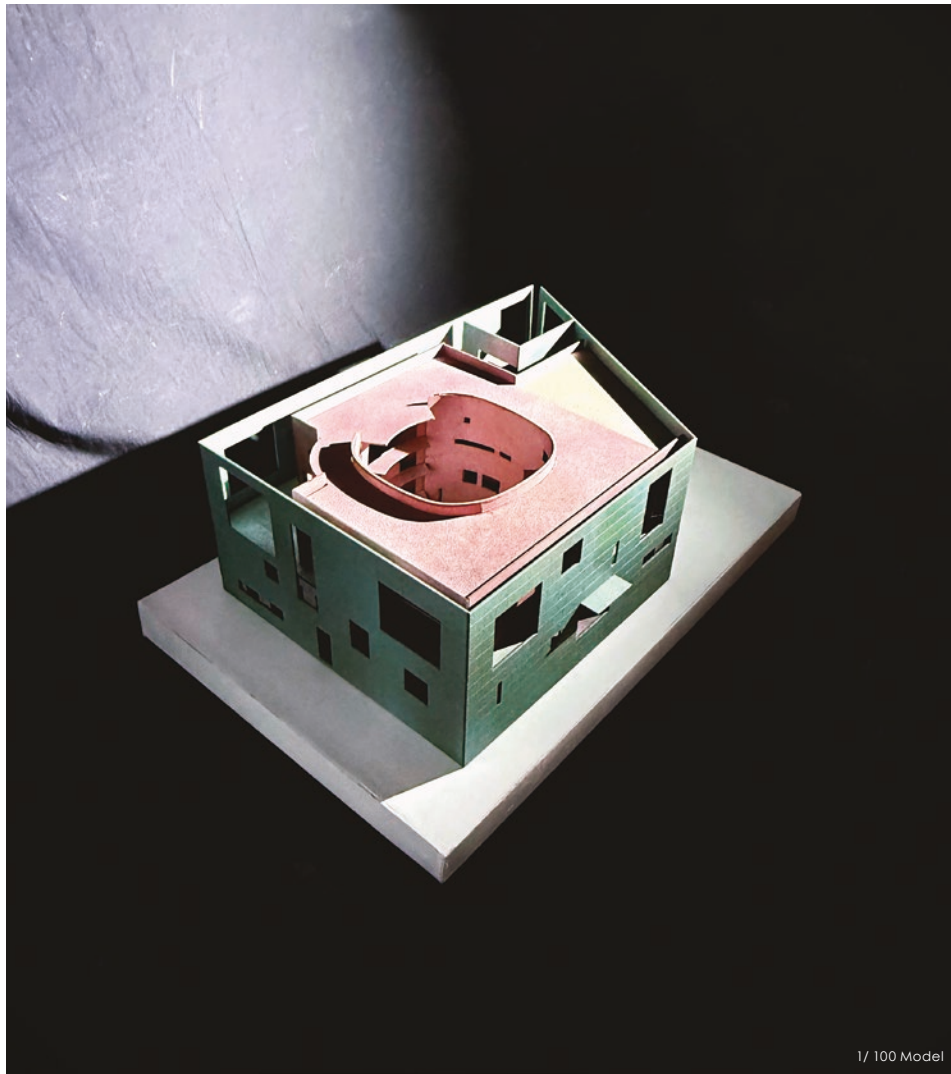




1/ 100 Model



1/250 Model

The Discomfort of Intimacy

A Museum for Indigenous Storywork

ARC1012 Core Studio 2 . UofT Daniels . Spring 2025

Instructor: John Shnier

Individual Work

Background

Project 1 was a two-person collaboration with *Hanna Yang*. We designed a wreath-like form to respond to *Rebecca Belmore's Tower*, exploring themes of partial visibility, intimacy, and reflection. Due to its position, the artwork can never be seen in full—only through mirrored reflections. This fragmented view prompts a key question: How do the things we see—and don't see—shape our understanding of space and social issues? Can we ever get close enough to fully understand, even in moments of uncomfortable intimacy?

In Project 2, this proposal is re-created at the center of a building made of concentric spaces, beginning as a square and culminating in a circle. The original dialogue is extended to the entire plan, while walls shift from thick to thin, generating a continuously transforming experience.

The layout—perhaps “cheekily”—recalls Beaux-Arts neoclassicism, setting up a symbolic transition from colonial history toward other worldviews. It is this tradition that becomes distorted in favor of transformation.

Rebecca Belmore's Tower anchors the entire composition. Positioned at the lowest level, it radiates outward conceptually, connected to upper floors by a circular ramp that also serves as exhibition space.

At the core, a monumental “absence” rises from below ground to the roof, evoking ceremony and spiritual resonance. The atrium walls, painted with Indigenous constellations and pierced by vertical openings, create layered sightlines and moments of visual interaction.

The building's material palette shifts from warm clay at the center to lighter earth tones, and finally to a time-worn bronze at the outer walls. The monolithic cube appears embedded in the forest, its surface slowly reclaimed by nature—overgrown and softened—to convey warmth, healing, and continuity with Project 1.



1/25 Rebecca Belmore's Tower Model



1/25 Project 1 Design Model

