Division St. Dance Academy

Division Street Dance Academy is designed to form a symbiotic relationship with the neighborhoods of Wicker Park and Ukrainian Village. All too often, new developments in mature Chicago neighborhoods exploit the positive aspects of location for private gain, while contributing little else than gentrification, additional traffic and parking. Wicker Park’s history as an artistic and cultural center in Chicago allow it to be an ideal host for the dance facility. The Academy re-embeds this connection formally by inviting the public into the building for performances and lectures, and informally by showcasing the movement of rehearsal and circulation. The premier dance studio is placed on corner of the building, exchanging views with the Polish Triangle across the intersection. This dialog happens across the course of a day, with activity levels changing inside and out.

The Division Street Dance Academy is designed to be the home of a professional modern dance company, teaching academy with residences for out-of-town students and a performing arts venue with a 350-seat mainstage auditorium, 96-seat convertible black box theater and a 130-seat lecture hall. Much as the visual transparency of the envelope conceals the academy to the neighborhood, a series of double-height spaces create vertical connections within the building.

24 hours at Division St. Dance Academy:

**Early through mid-morning:**
- Resident dancers rise in their dorms
- Sunrise yoga class in jewel box studio
- Administrative staff arrives
- Neighbors and students get coffee and breakfast at the cafe

**Throughout the day:**
- Company dancers and students rehearse in studios, classrooms, library and physical therapy on second floor
- Administrative staff conducts business at street level
- Cafe continues to serve the neighborhood

**Evening through late night:**
- Performances in main stage and black box theater
- Drinks in the lobby
- Lectures in the studio and classrooms
- Late evening yoga classes in the jewel box studio
- Resident dancers retire to the dorm level

Division Street Dance Academy site plan, 1" = 80'