Olivia Nunamaker  
Architecture Major/Studio Art Minor  
Bethlehem, PA  

Space and Body  

Growing up, my dance studio was my second home. Dance gave me freedom I had never experienced before. Fast forward to my senior year, and I am captain of the Lehigh University Dance Team. Dance still provides an escape from the stresses of life. I began to wonder why this art form was so comforting, and what aspects particularly could be identified. My answer was simple; space—but not space defined by what is visually seen, but rather the boundaries defined by the body. Space influences one’s interactions, moods, and relationships. The human body should be at the forefront of architectural designs since the body drives space.

A dance can never be captured in a singular moment; but I strive to capture the entirety of the space it creates. I began by learning a system of dance-notation titled Labanotation, after its founder Rudolf Von Laban (1879-1958), a universally accepted way choreographers record their works. I am looking for the main movements, and the moments a non-dancer would lose in translation. 3D printing allowed me to turn my drawings into physical models, and furthermore into bas relief plaster sculptures. The physical versions allow for another way to comprehend and experience the space.