Hinged Compatibility

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Is the color green both blue and yellow or neither blue nor yellow? Is a forty-five degree angle both horizontal and vertical or neither horizontal nor vertical? This idea is explored in a Kansas City Museum and Community Center in terms of building program, building form, and circulation.

We linguistically associate past with behind and below us while the future is forward and up. The past is buried flat in a casket, while the future is a neck-craning skyscraper. The form of the museum took this shape. The museum’s Past Exhibition is a long, low, horizontal space while the Future Exhibition is a bright, vertical space. The Present Exhibition should be neither of these and both of these. That is why the whole focus of the Present Exhibition is the view of city in all of its shapes and shades. Past and future are opposite ideas on the same line of time. The gradating and boundary-less present brings them into hinged compatibility.

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