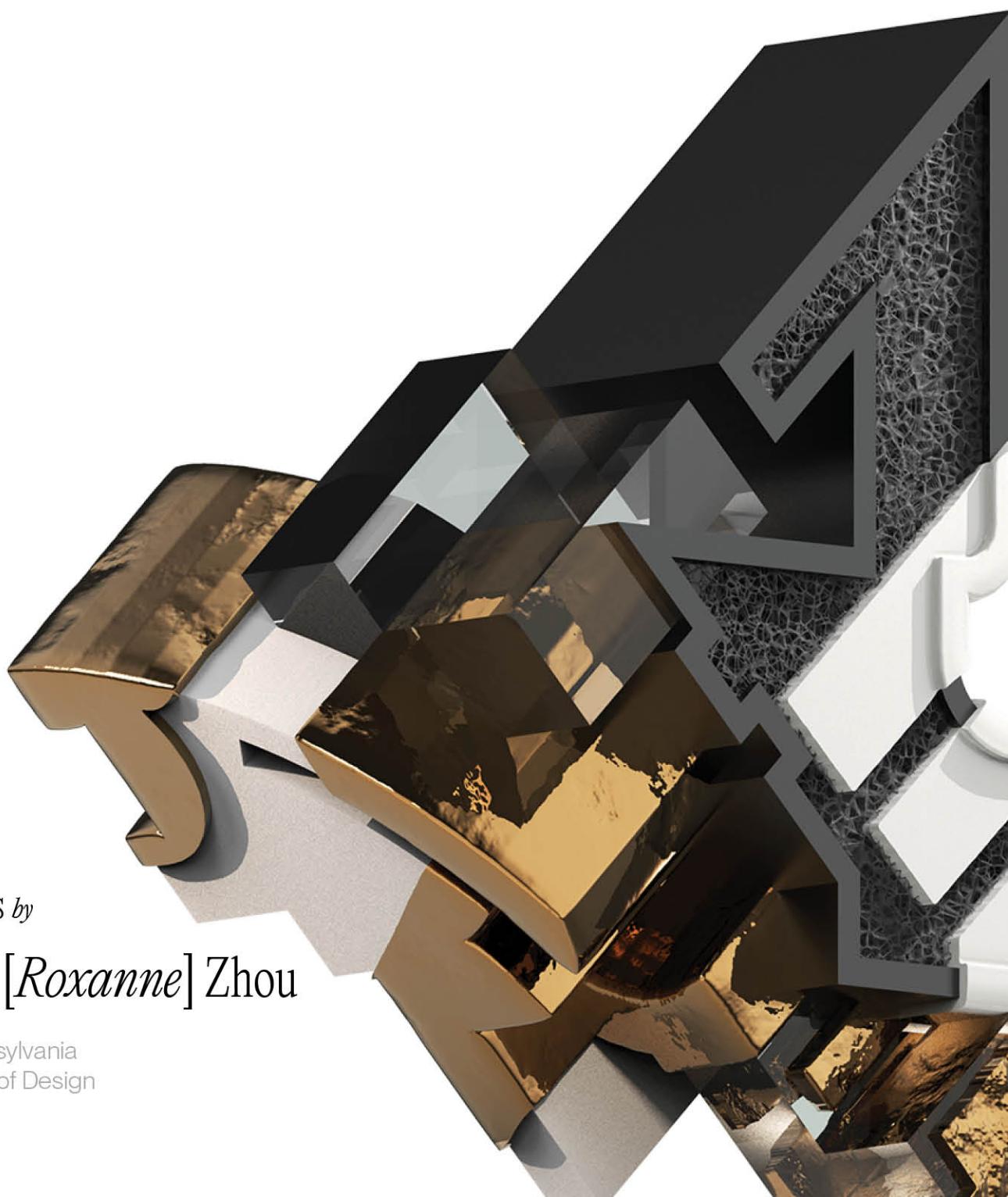


SATURN ALIA



selected works by

Rongxuan [Roxanne] Zhou

University of Pennsylvania
Weitzman School of Design
M.Arch I '24

STAR - *CROSSED*

museum *of* theatrical arts *and* storytelling

4

CLAIRVOYANCE

theater *of* layered clarity *and* perception of the future

14

SATURNALIA. A celebration of Saturn. A time to be merry and free. Let the world be filled with music and cheers. Let the norms be overtured so that the oppressed could straighten their spines, the beloved could receive warmth and care, and the adventurers could release their inner beasts.

It is now the Golden Age. This world I envision through buildings and lived experiences welcomes you to cry and laugh along with the architecture in the state of naïveté. After all, it is the sensed beings -- the material, the sound, the pathway towards the end, and everything in between -- that inform you who you are and who you could be. This is a *Lebenswelt*.

Now, allow me to invite you to this celebration of a truly lived world. Take a seat, as the show is now on...

INTERLUDE

collection *of* architectural objects *in* digital age

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AUDIO *ERGO* SUM

housing *of* curated auditory experience

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RESOLVE

civic space *of* enmeshment *and* permanence

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KALEIDOSCOPE

assortment *of* illustrations *and* images

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STAR - *CROSSED*

museum *of* theatrical arts *and* storytelling

Love! A rose covered in spikes. A sad song ending in Shakespearian rhymes. Two lasting flames that may never die.

The **STAR-CROSSED** lovers raise their irregular bodies up, yet they may never touch. They come from the same piece of flesh, but only the flesh is cut. The cut remains deep and fresh, warning them about the danger they face should they go down the slippery path. The waterfall awaits, as they are reminded by the sound of its rushing roar.

This memory lies dormant within this place, but as you walk through the space, the story awakes. Here, standing on the floating stage, you suddenly feel that pain. The story now lies within you – a memory capsule of time, separation, and connection.



1. physical model

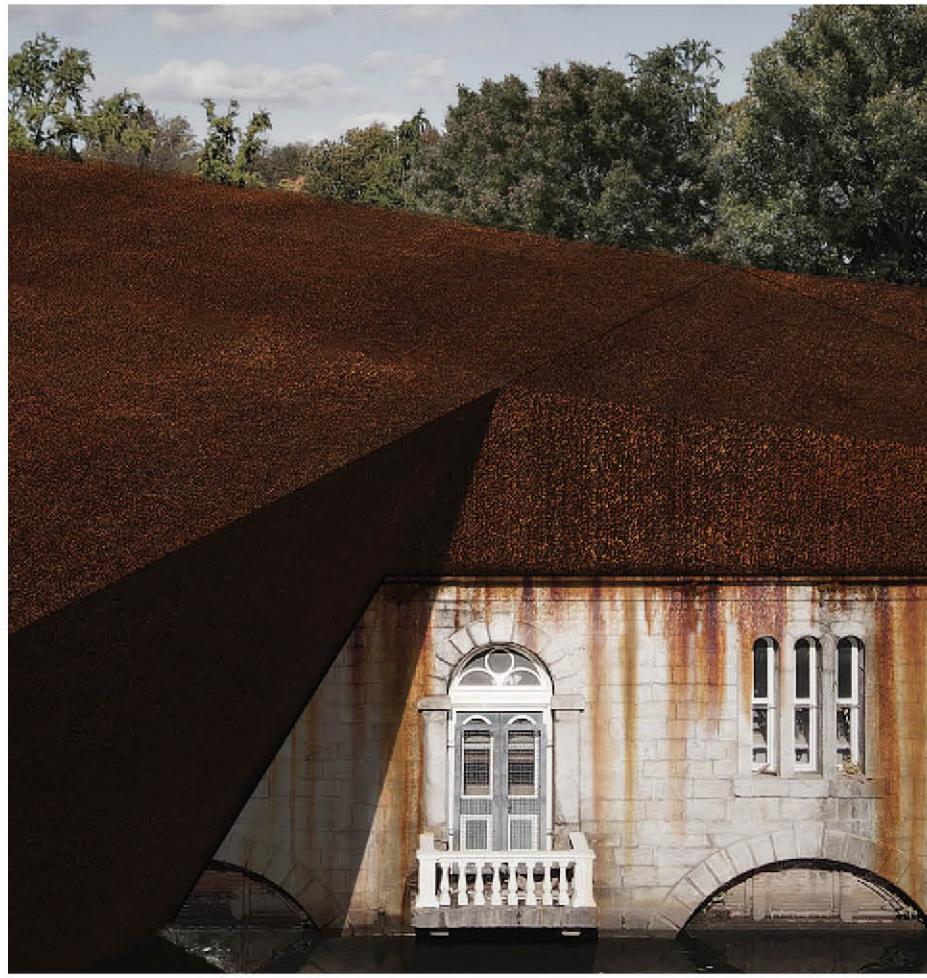


2. plan

The museum extension would challenge how we exhibit performing arts, which is a more dynamic and ephemeral art form than visual arts, through combining static and dynamic formats of presentation as well as having the amphitheater as a magnum opus of the visiting experience.

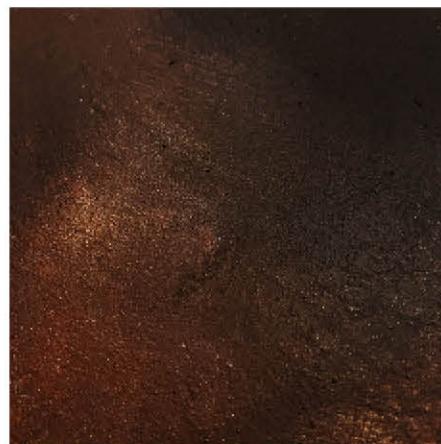
The horizontal circulation curates the museum chronologically and connects the two separated bodies. Gallery spaces are accompanied by library and studio spaces that would integrate the learning experience of viewing exhibitions with research and making.

3. close-up elevation of weathering

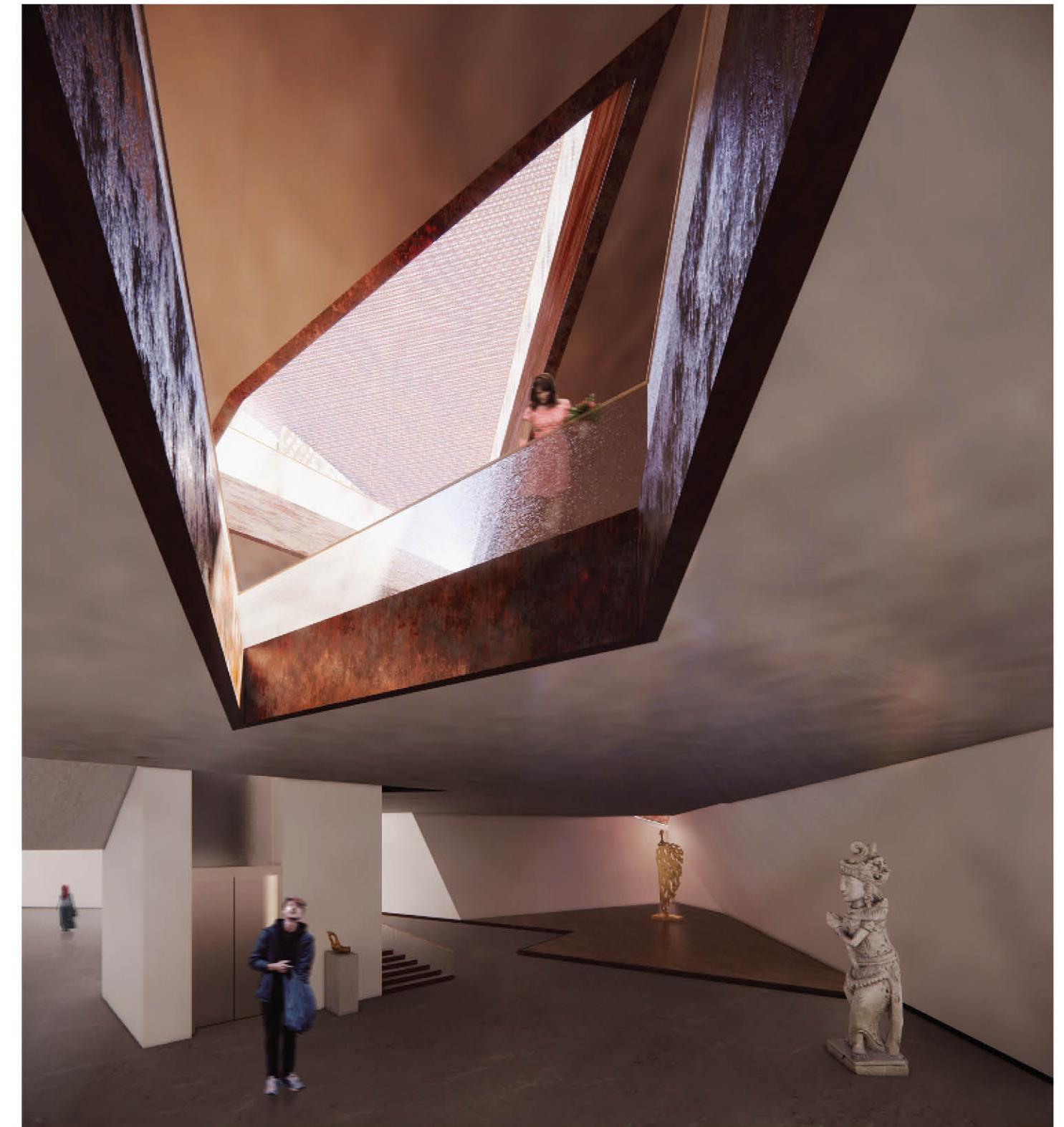


The vertical circulation addresses the stories of star-crossed lovers by creating moments of the Juliet's balcony experience with the staggered openings in the floor.

The weathering of the Corten steel gives a sense of time and resistance. The blood and tears of the bleeding steel imply the pain of separation.



4. material study



5. interior - the balcony

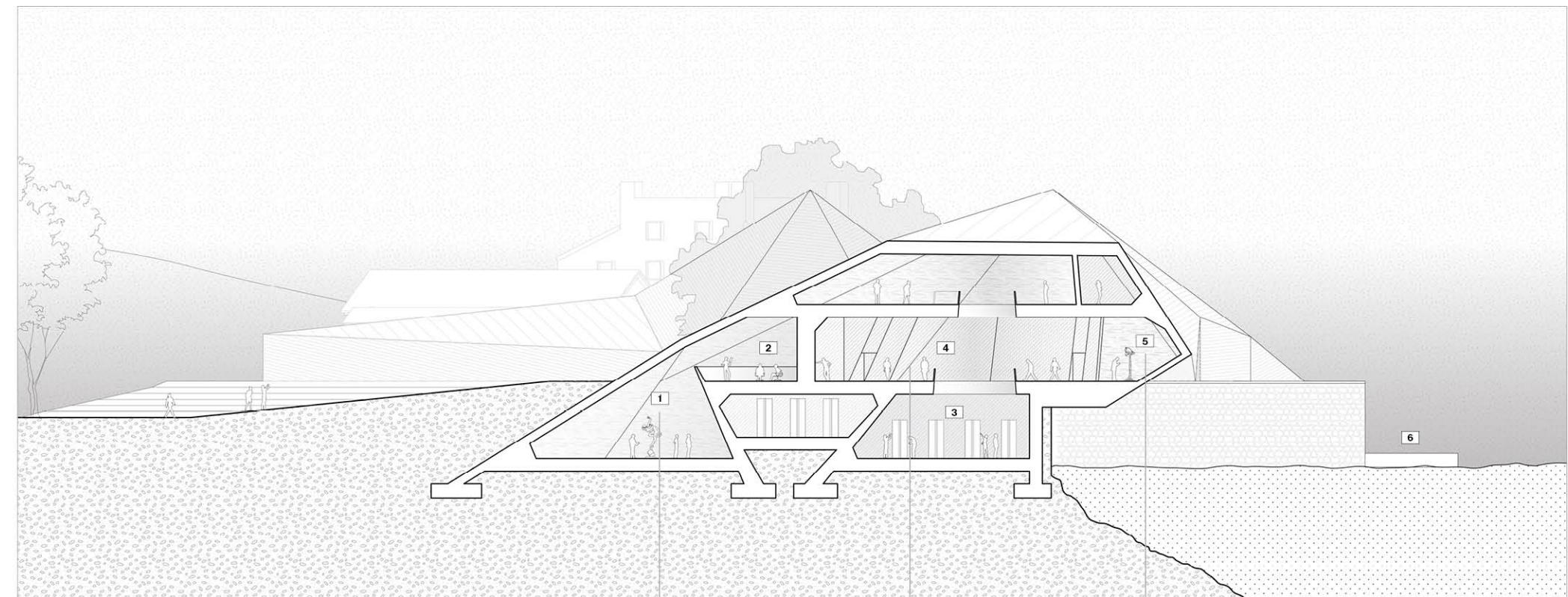
programs

1. rotating gallery
2. classroom
3. stacks
4. hallway
5. permanent gallery
6. stage

6. physical model



7. section



The section of the future would be where ephemerality of special exhibitions clashes with the uncertainty of innovative research addressing the future developments of theatrical arts.

The path of the present connects the two separated bodies as well as the past and the future sections.

The section of the past would house permanent exhibitions about the history of theatrical arts as well as library and studio spaces that would integrate the learning experience of viewing exhibitions with research and making.



8. physical model

Usant à l'envi leurs chaleurs dernières,
Nos deux coeurs seront deux vastes flambeaux,
Qui réfléchiront leurs doubles lumières
Dans nos deux esprits, ces miroirs jumeaux.

- Charles Baudelaire, *La Mort des Amants*



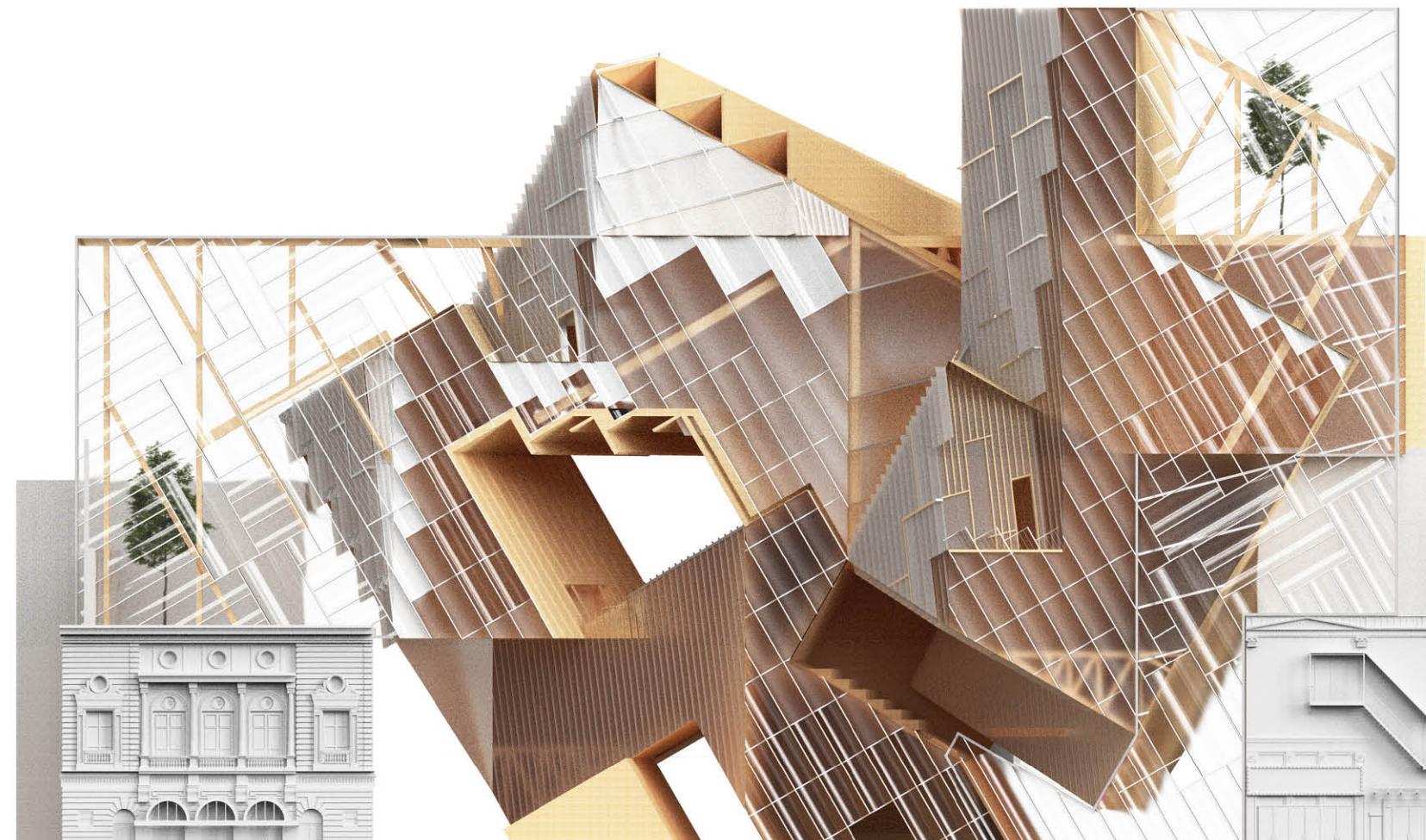
CLAIRVOYANCE

theater *of* layered clarity *and* perception of the future

In the metropolis, we become blind. The skyscrapers and the kaleidoscopic posters on their storefront engulf most people both vertically and horizontally. They no longer see the world with clarity.

CLAIRVOYANCE is called upon urgently. A skill not born with many, but a skill that could be learned given the opportunity. Here, a theater laid bare in front of their eyes. There is nothing to conceal, for whatever the show might be, however it is prepared, and wherever the audience go after the show ends, nothing shall remain a secret or a surprise. It is there, for one to truly see.

Only with this clarity can we find a path towards the future of theater.

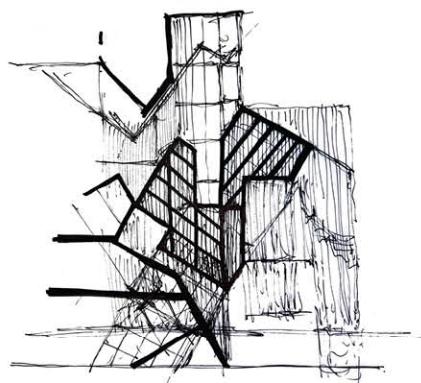
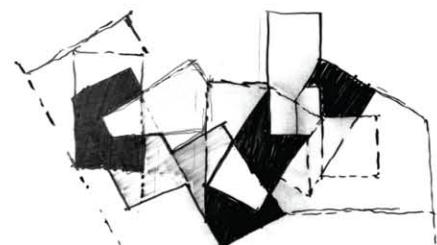
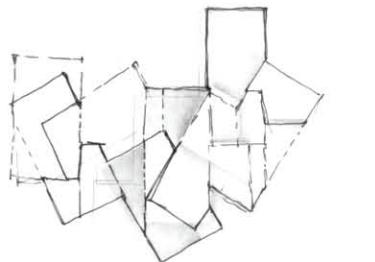
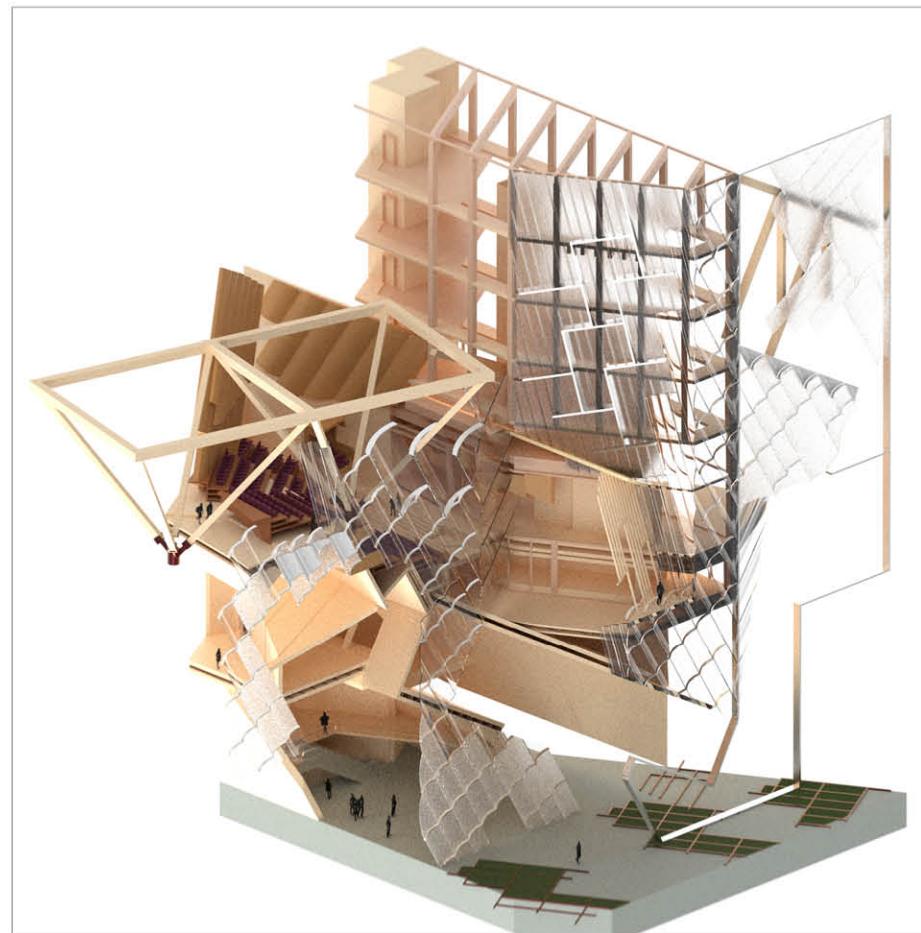


1. elevation

The idea of navigating through layers led to the introduction of a truss system into the construction features.

The front and back of house programs are organized in the language of overlapping zones that reverses the traditional experience of a theater. Box office, restaurant, and lounges are positioned in the back of the building so that the theater and the production of shows can be in full display to the street on the front side of the building.

2. collage chunk of construction techniques



3. sketches of massing arrangements

programs

1. upper level seating
2. lower level seating
3. orchestra pit
4. stage
5. dressing room
6. green room
7. office
8. rehearsal room
9. individual dressing rooms
10. main dressing room

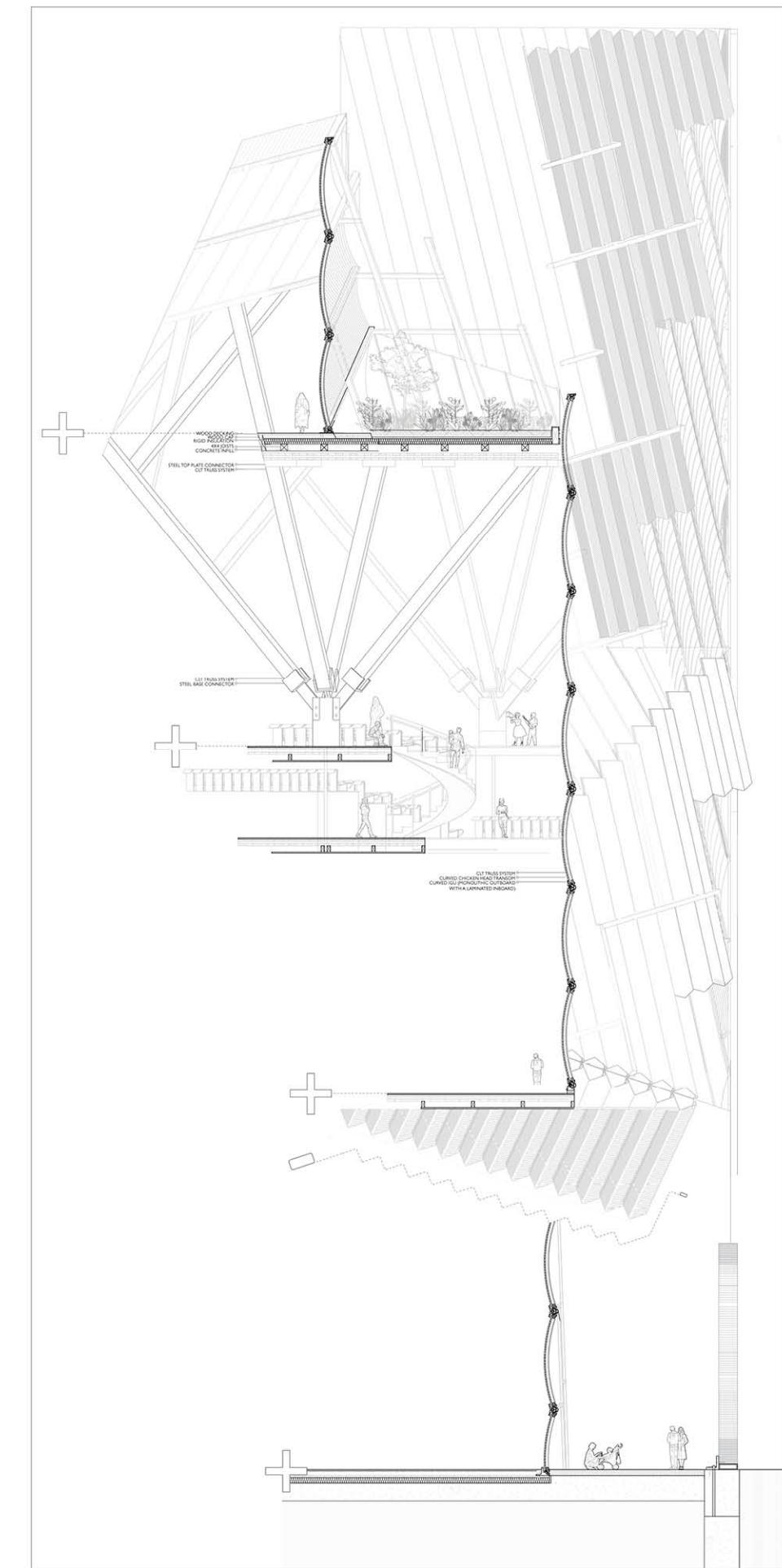
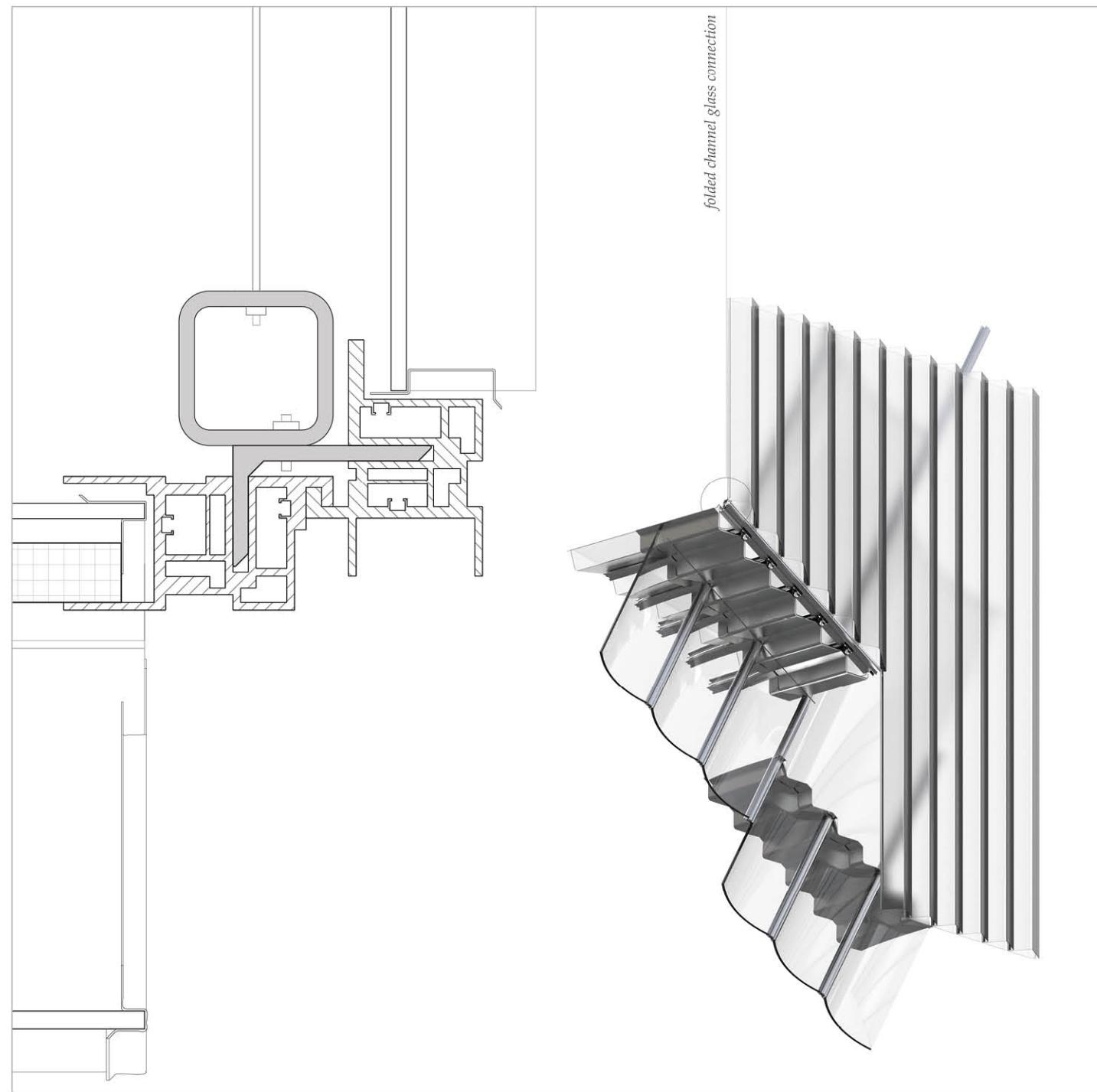
11. rooftop garden
12. upper floor lounge
13. lower floor members' lounge
14. reception
15. lower floor dining area



4. plan

The concept of perceiving layered clarity is initiated through the study of different glass facade systems as well as the geometry of overlapping rectangles and grids.

5. integration of channel glass and scalloped glass systems

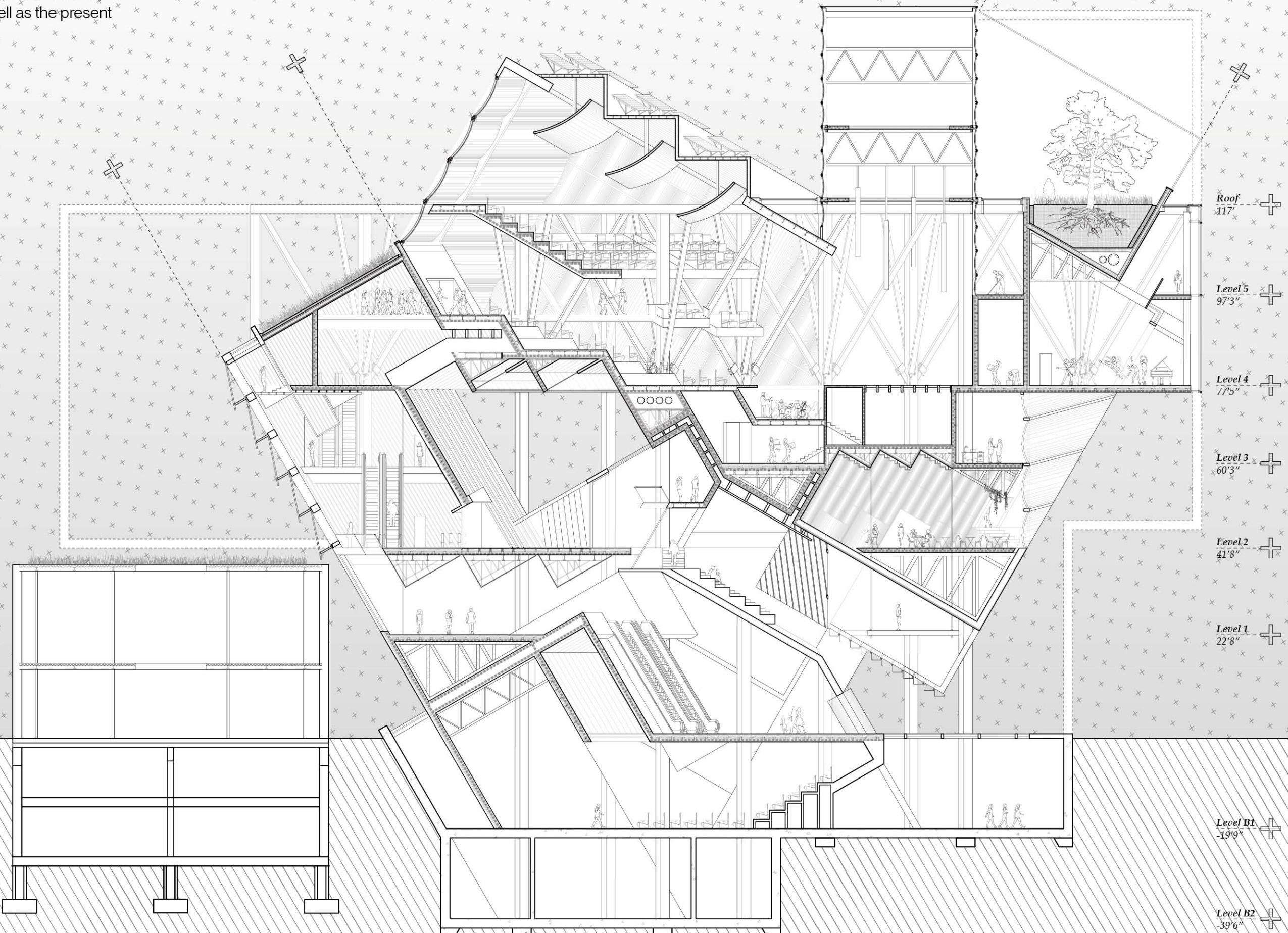


6. wall section - glass facade



7. visual effect of channel glass

The navigation through the theater is a walk between dream and reality as well as the present and the future.



INTERLUDE

collection *of* architectural objects *in* digital age

The explorations of
architectural objects and
the digital representation/
fabrication of the objects.



Pipes, faceted surfaces, and
soap casts construct the
scene of a caged stone. The
diagonality of the pipes defines
the geometry of the faceted
surfaces, and selected pipes
leave an imprint on the soap-
casted corners.

CAGED LAPIS

Critic: Daniel Markiewicz
Fall 2021 (2 Weeks)

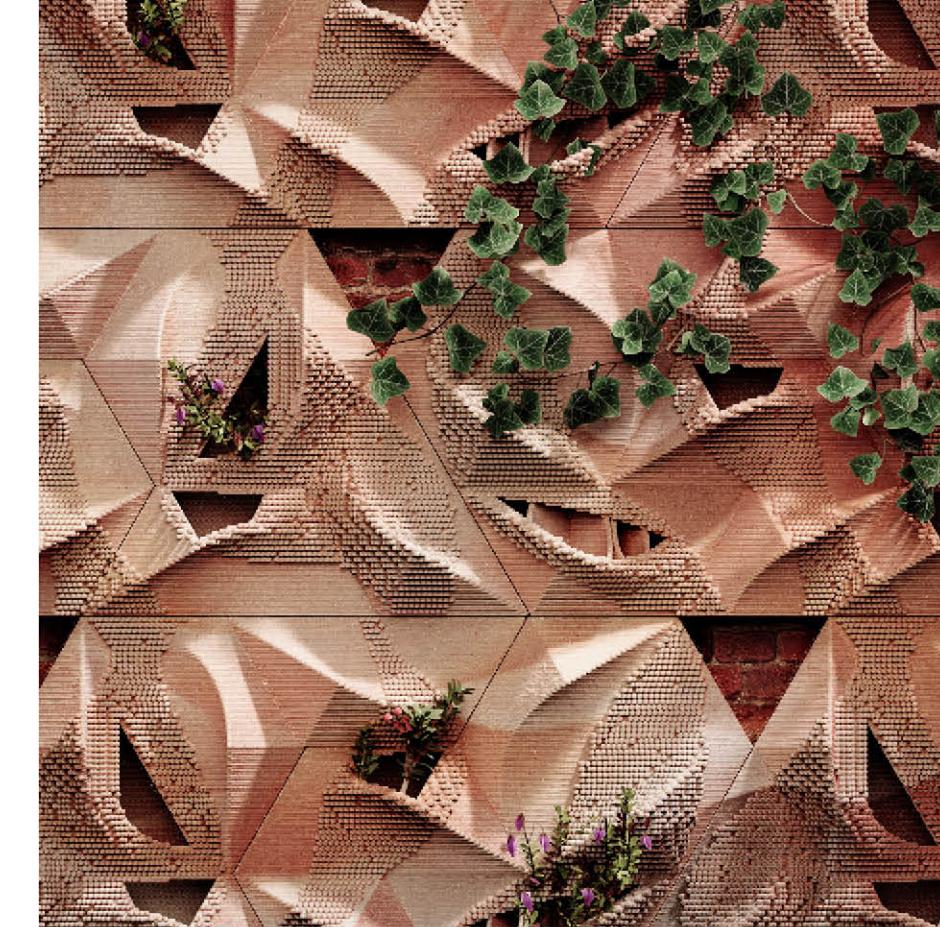


Inspired by the form and function of Fabergé eggs, this project explores the integration of digital fabrication techniques (contouring and forming), the unexpected artifacts from the fabrication process, and various methods to create ornamentation.

FABERGÉ

Critic: Mikael Avery
Partner: Clayton Monarch
Spring 2024 (5 Weeks)

The design and fabrication method of these facade panels challenge the limit of clay printing with 1) angled openings on ruled surfaces, 2) internal supports serving both structural and aesthetic functions, and 3) micro-reliefs as irrigation control.



RIPPLES OF GROWTH

Critic: Lucas ter Hall (Studio RAP)
Partners: Sizhe Wang, Shenaia Turner, Yu Nimika
Spring 2024 (3 Days)

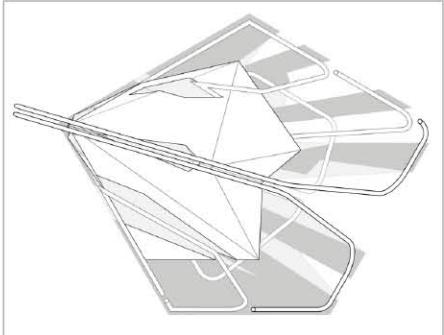
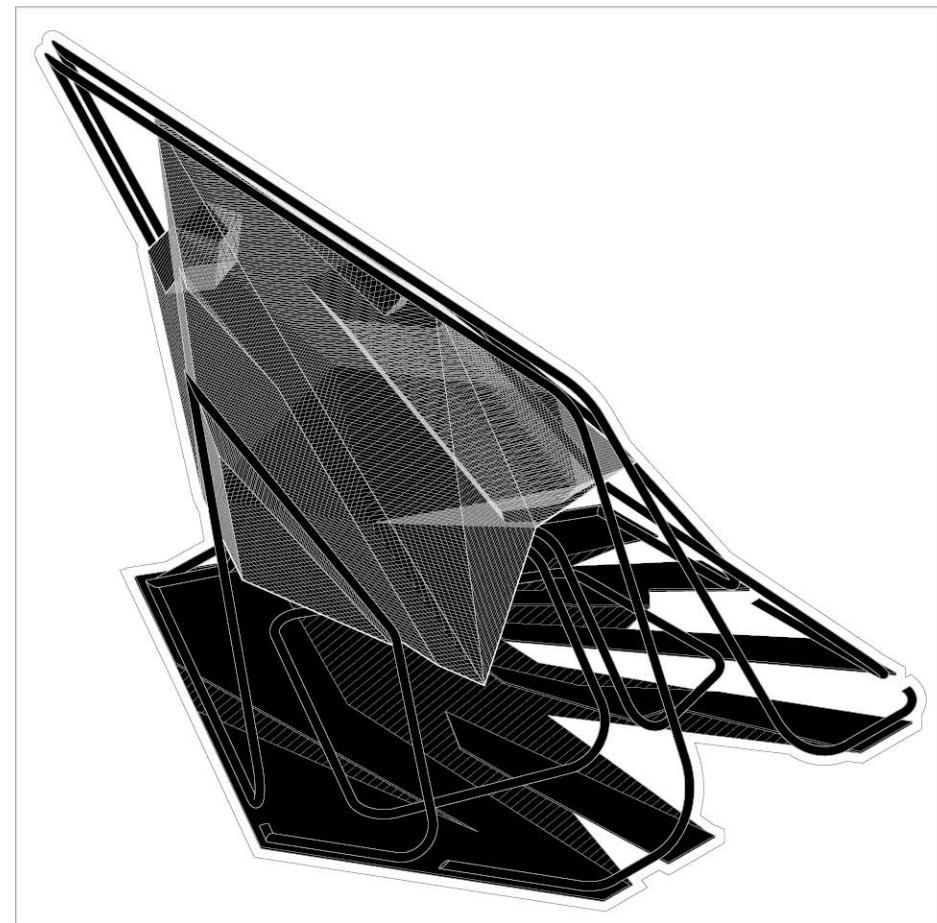




Trapped in the strands of a strange gravitational field, an asteroid struggles to break free. Just as it reaches escape velocity, four of its satellites collapse inward towards the center of the field lines, abandoning their original orbits. Their sudden departure leaves marks on the asteroid, carving through the mass to reveal the asteroid's untouched metallic interior.

ESCAPE VELOCITY

Critic: Daniel Markiewicz
Partners: Leechen Zhu, Chen Su, Jianqing Shou
Fall 2021 (3 Weeks)



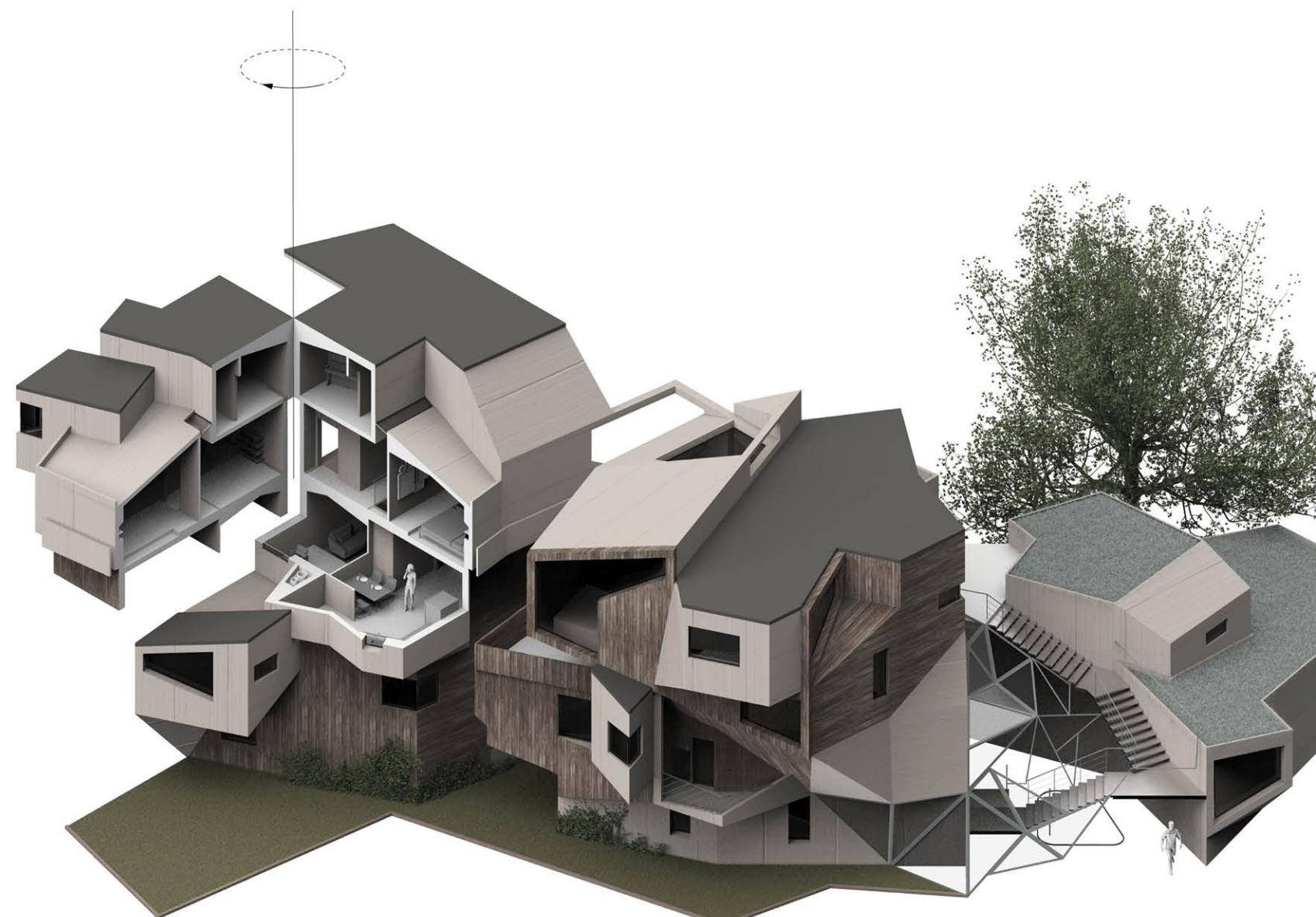
AUDIO *ERGO* SUM

housing *of* curated auditory experience

Sound is a sign of life. As our bodies stay within the comfort of our homes, our minds wander and connect with the rest of the world through the power of soundwaves. The vibration awakens our consciousness to the recognition of the existence of the surroundings and, most importantly, the existence of ourselves and our capability to listen. Reminiscence, recognition, and imagination through the auditory sense coalesce into the domestic environment where our own existence becomes the most apparent.

AUDIO ERGO SUM

intends to recognize and amplify the interpersonal and metaphysical connection through the auditory experience. The individual existence is assured in return of the production of this sonic fabric.



1. hinged chunk drawing representing housing block and unit interior

2. approach towards the neighborhood



3. outdoor stairwell

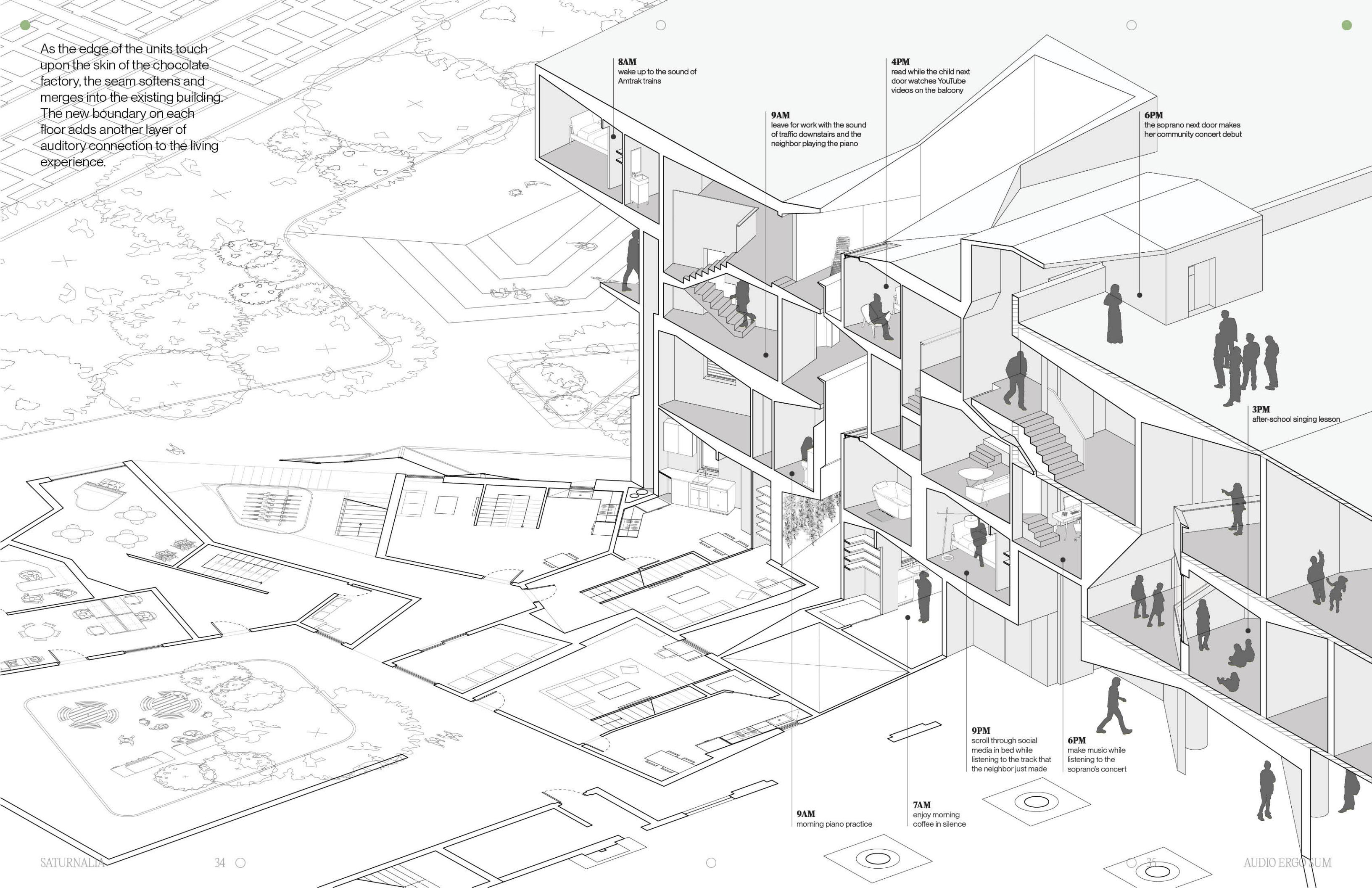


4. ground floor plan



Openings in the wall are opening to sonic possibilities. The organization of rooms and units as well as the variations in poché, surfaces, and sectional geometries produce diversity in the ways the individual existence interweaves itself into the larger sonic fabric, where the individual existence is assured in return.

As the edge of the units touch upon the skin of the chocolate factory, the seam softens and merges into the existing building. The new boundary on each floor adds another layer of auditory connection to the living experience.



RESOLVE

civic space *of* enmeshment *and* permanence

Humanity is never permanent: no matter how much we wish to leave a lasting control over everything, the anthropocene does not outlast the world it has been building upon. Yet, after our fleshes turn into ashes and the whispers of our stories come into silence, the materials still kindly remember our previous existence.

RESOLVE. A wish to build in the service of mediation. We build neither to conquer nor to control, but to serve nature for its beauty and its capacity to resolve on its own. We are here to compose a prelude so that the symphony of the built and the nature can be written after we are gone.

While this prelude is performed, we gather here at this place to admire the permanence of nature and to mediate humanity with nature through the ephemerality that we are capable of building in our finite lifetime.



1. perspective render



The bespoke cutting of the marbles and bricks transforms the bricks into permanent beings. These bricks then serve to translate the un-interfaceable back face of the marble blocks into an easy-to-build-on stack of bricks, allowing for temporary system to be built on top, but communicating a boundary of where deconstruction must stop.

2. bespoke boundaries



2.1. configuration 1



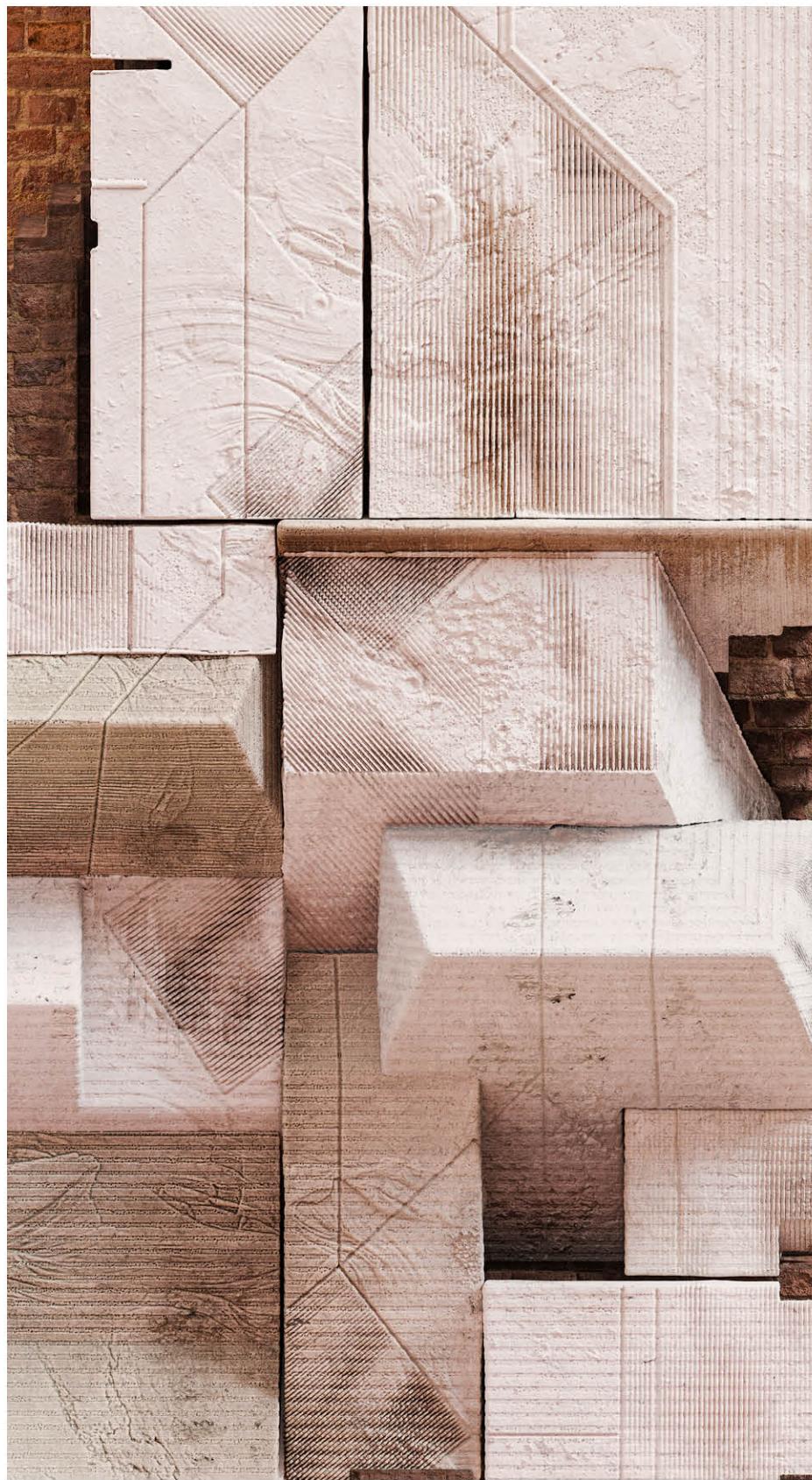
2.2. configuration 2



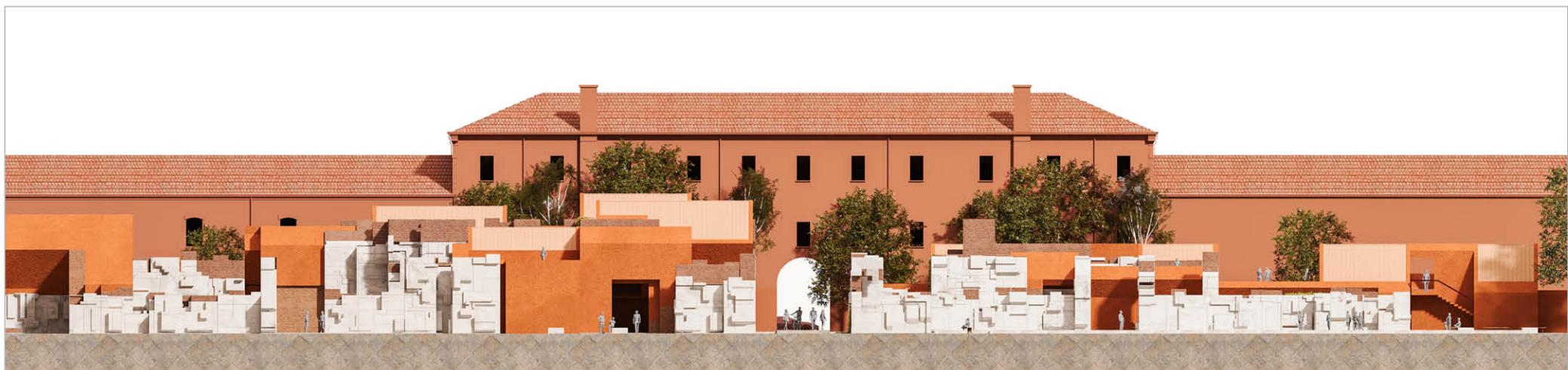
2.3. configuration 3

As the permanent brick-marble assembly go through time and the materials start to weather, it can receive various types of temporary structures as the community and the generation see fit. This enmeshment of nature, permanent structure, and temporary structure documents the passage of time as well as the shifts in collective memories.

3. elevational detail



4. elevation



5. experiential perspective



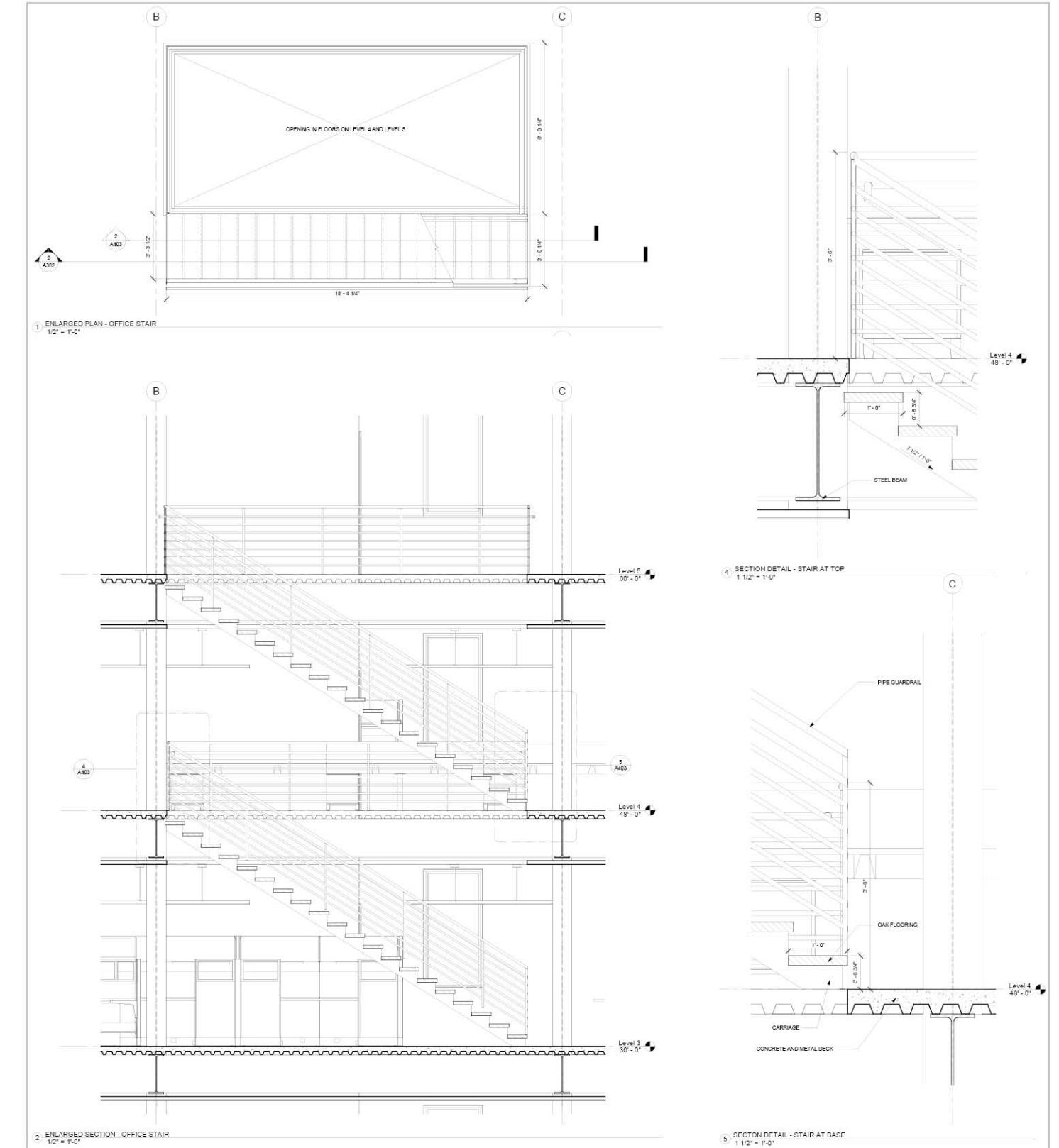
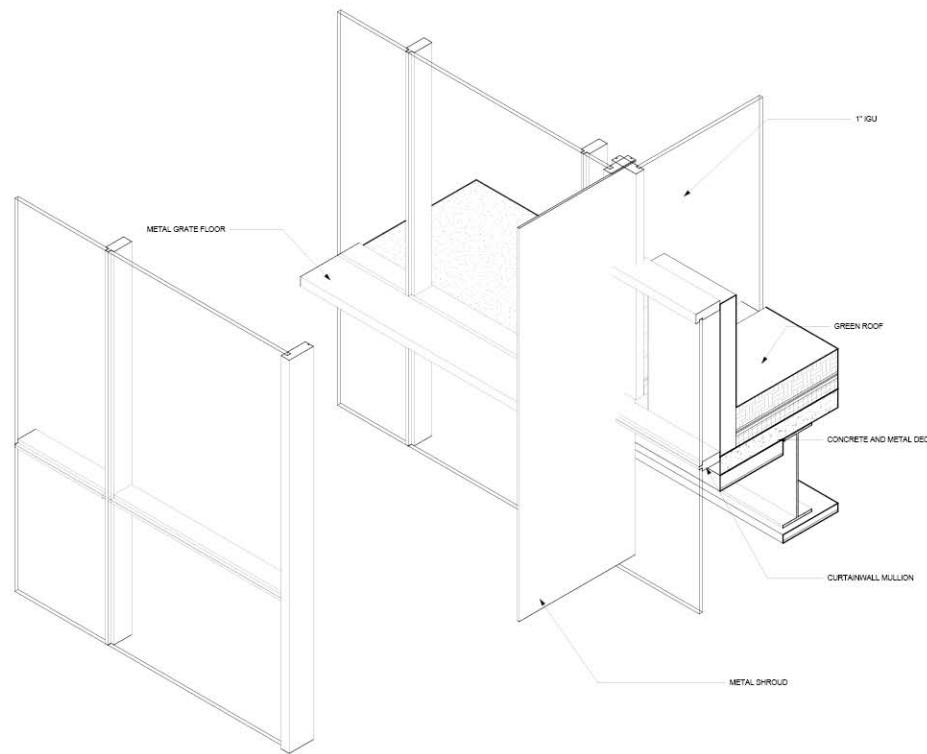
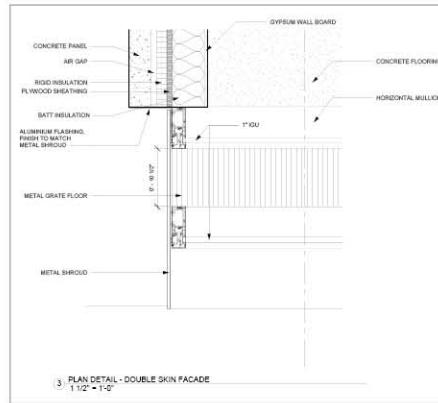
The marbles are CNC-milled with intricate patterns that facilitates weathering and the deposition of moss. These marble-brick assemblies are arranged on site as long walls which are broken apart, thickened, or thinned in order to recreate recognizable urban typologies of Bologna.

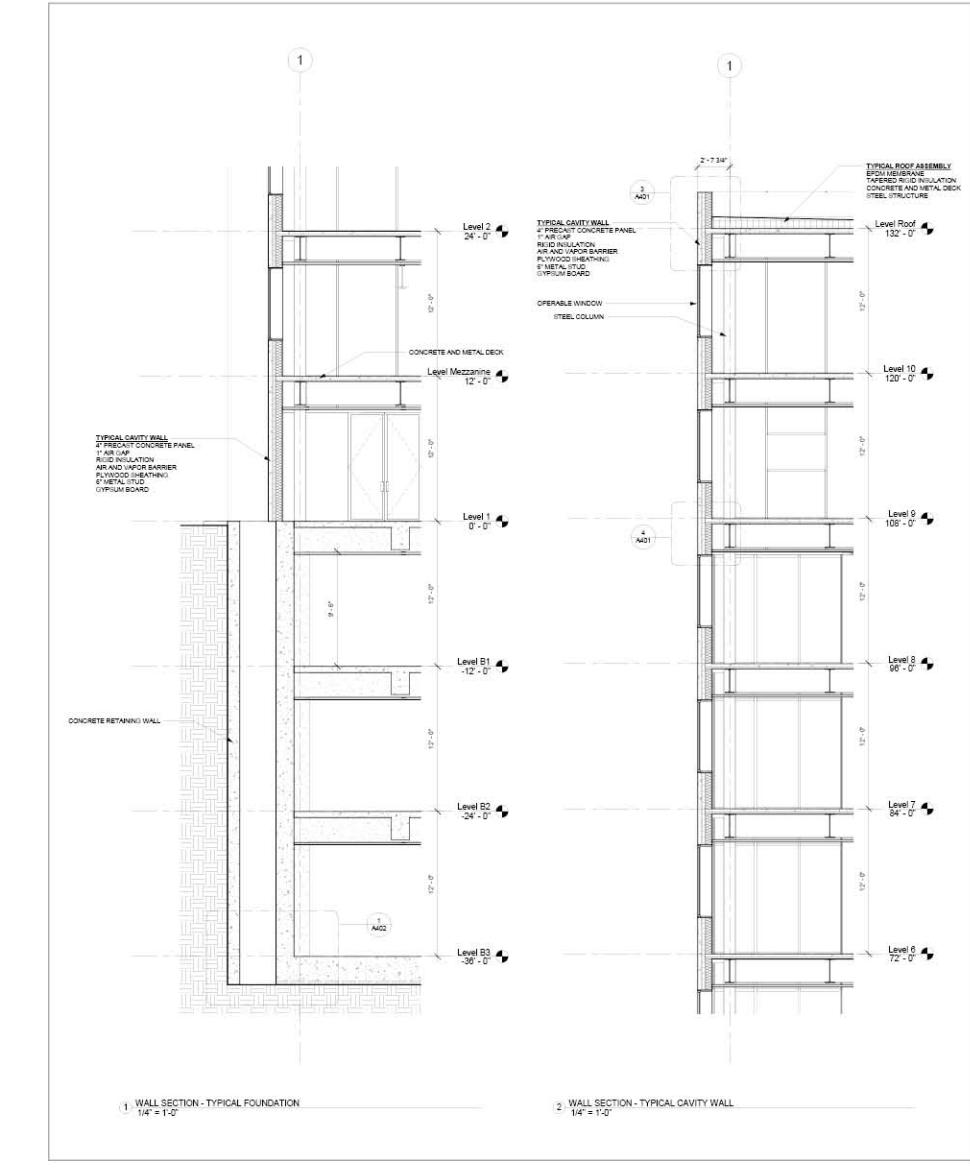
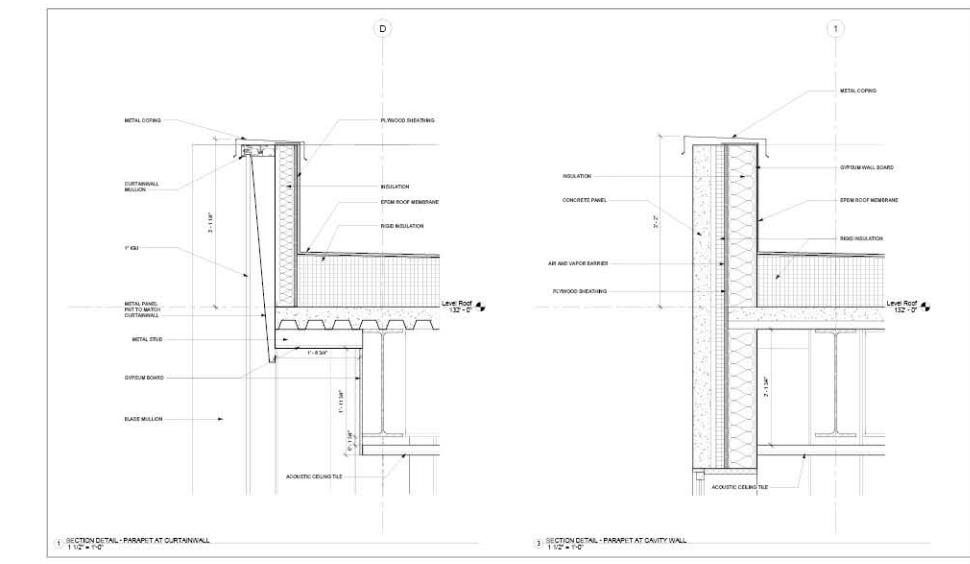
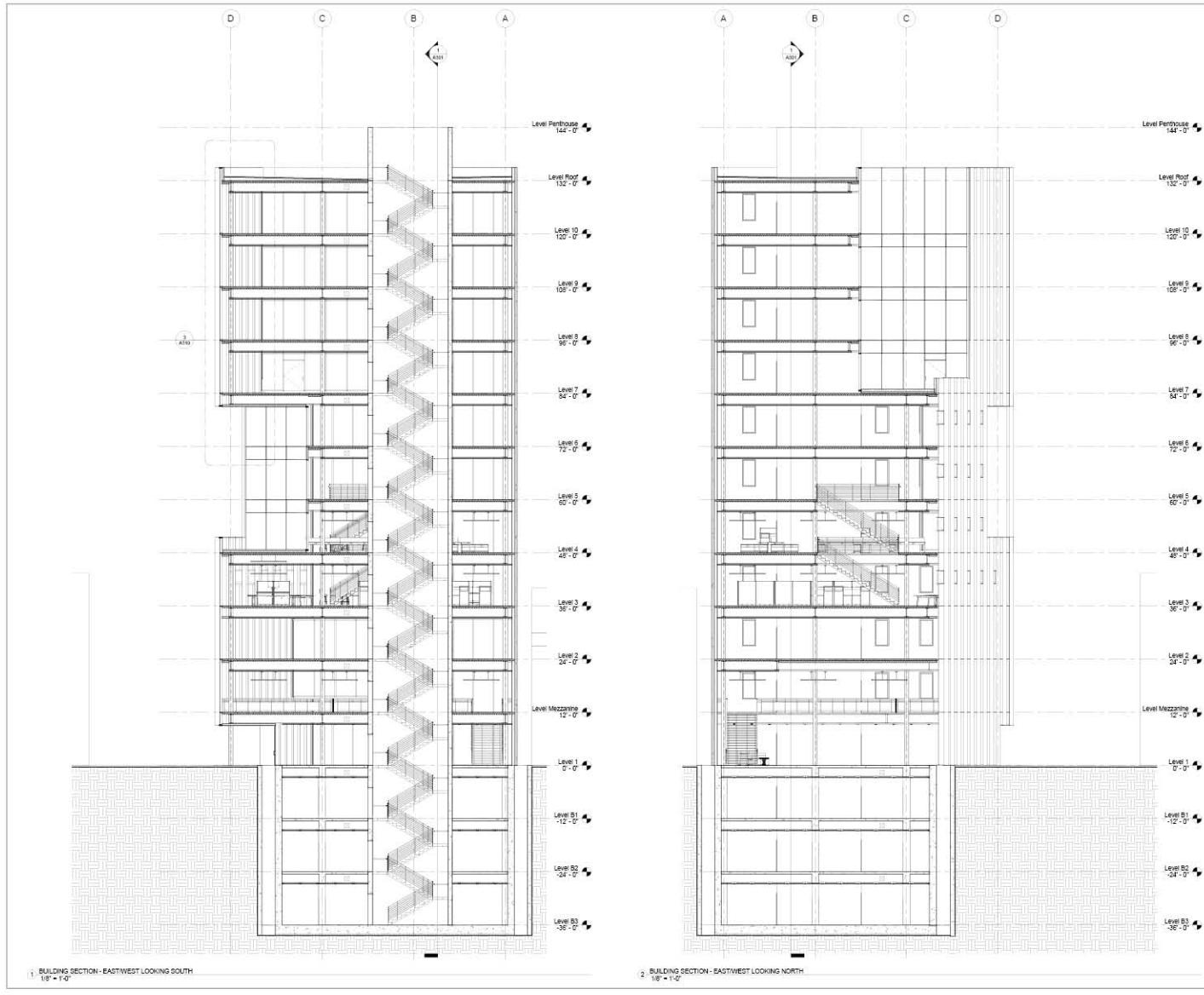


KALEIDOSCOPE

assortment of illustrations and images

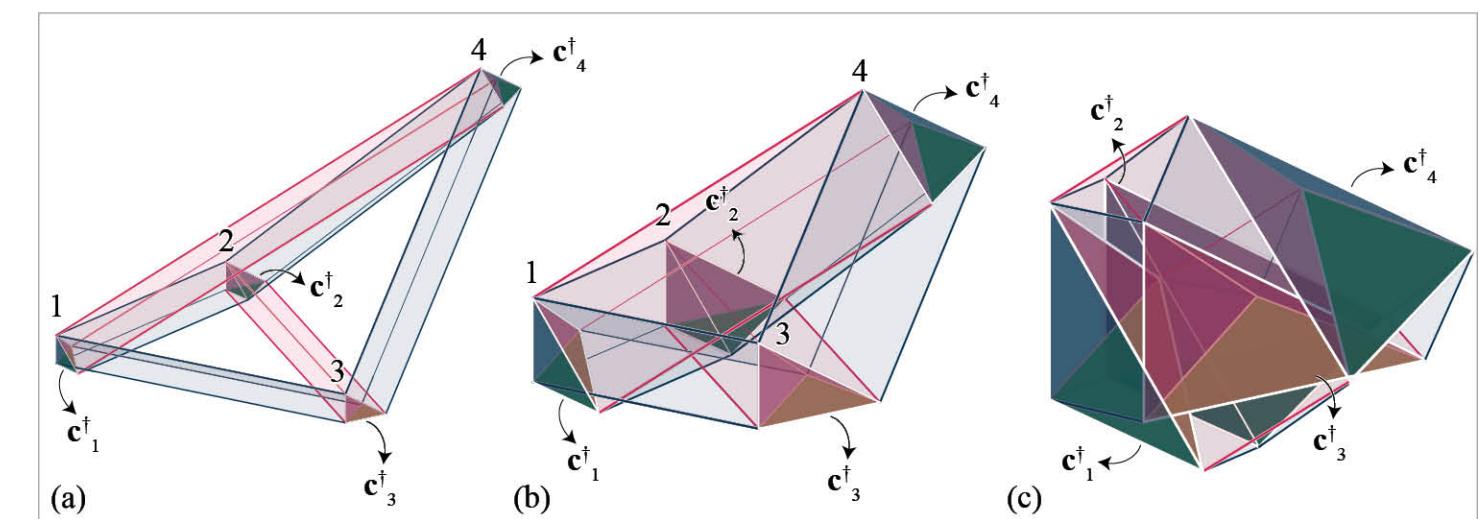
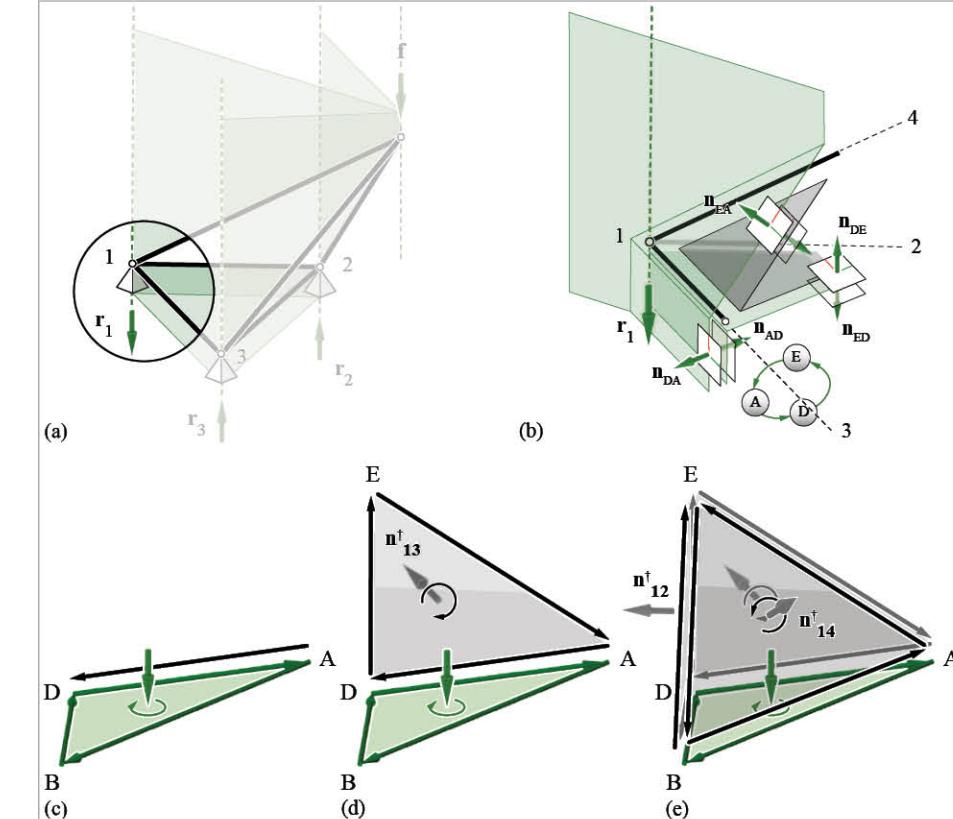
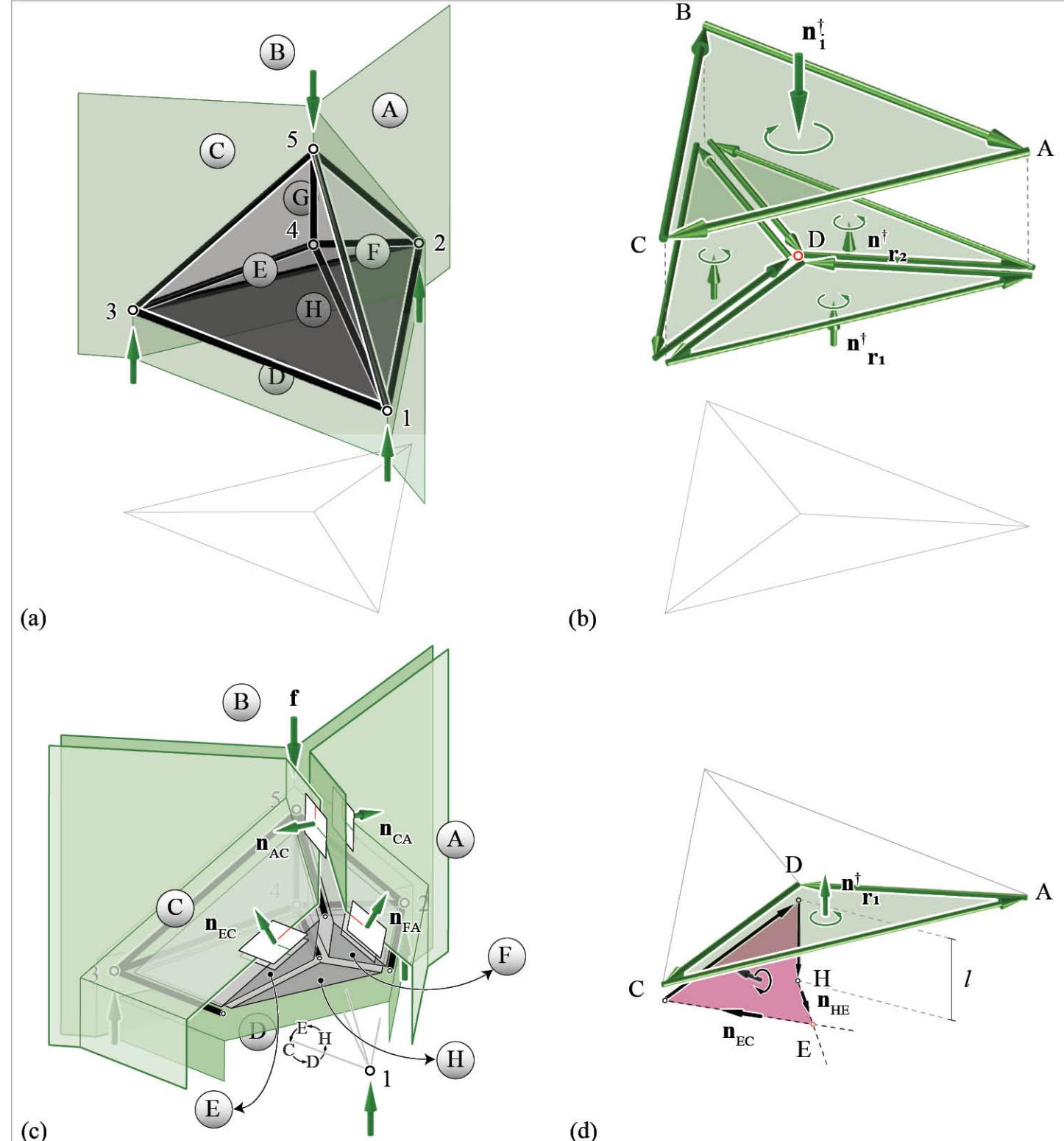
The practice of creating effective and amusing products of visual communication.

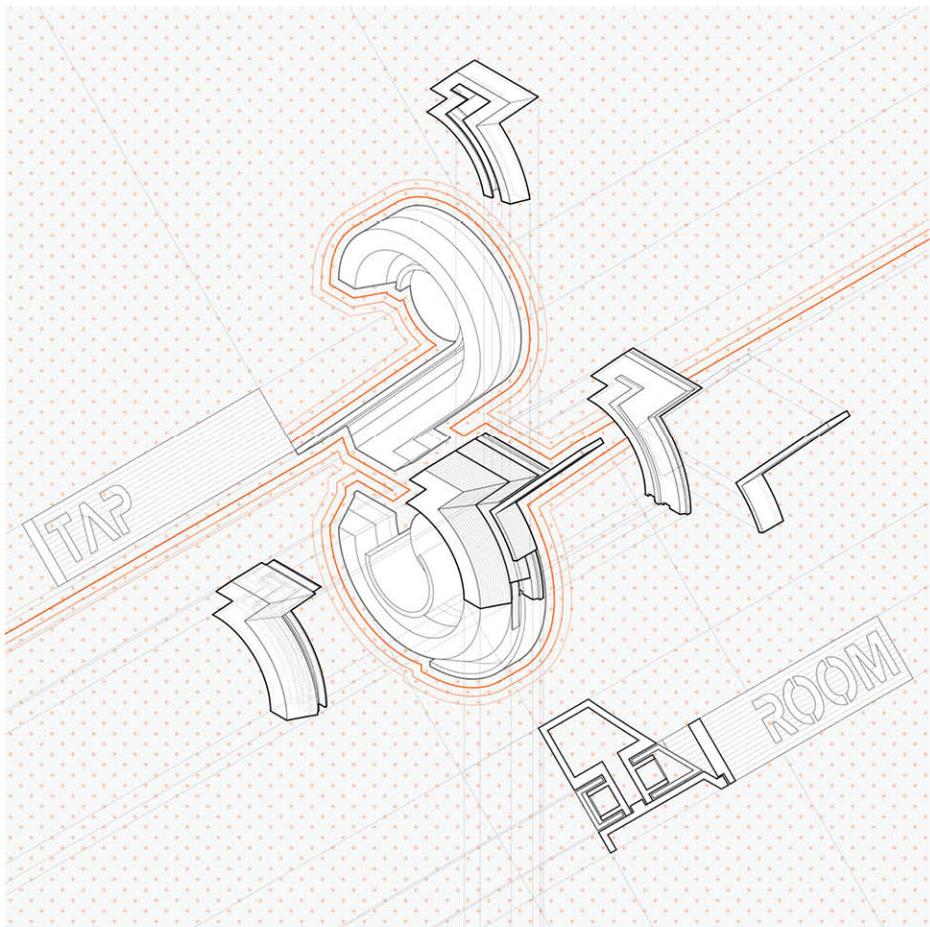




GRAPHIC STATICS

Mentor: Masoud Akbarzadeh
Fall 2021 - Fall 2023

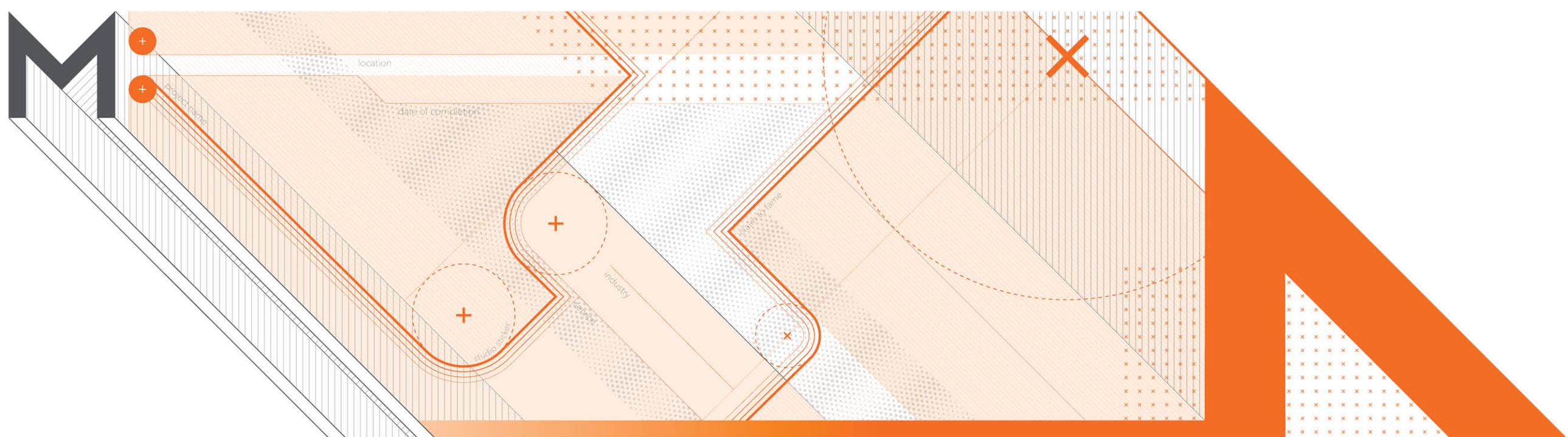




TAPROOM 23

Firm: Mancini Duffy
Summer 2023

The design of a growler label as well as signage to celebrate Mancini Duffy's office culture and the triumph of completing every project.





SOJOURN

Partners: Daniel Lutze, Boyu Xiao
Spring 2022 (1-Week Competition)

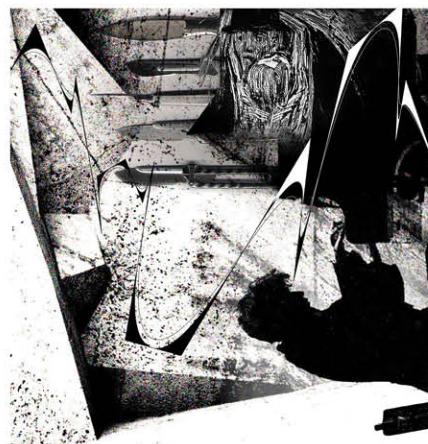
Inspired by 448 N 10th St's original purpose as the home of the Haverford Cycle Company, Sojourn unites eating, viewing, learning, and playing spaces through the use of curved pathways that connect programs - emulating the way chains on bike unite the wheels. Sojourn provides additional outdoor space to the Viaduct secret garden, Love City Brewing, and El Rincon, as well as new mural walls to showcase local artists.

MEMORY OF YOUTH

Critic: Gisela Baurmann
Spring 2022

the DOCTOR

keeps scalpels in his briefcase
Glenn Gould
piano
reads Kafka
always punctual



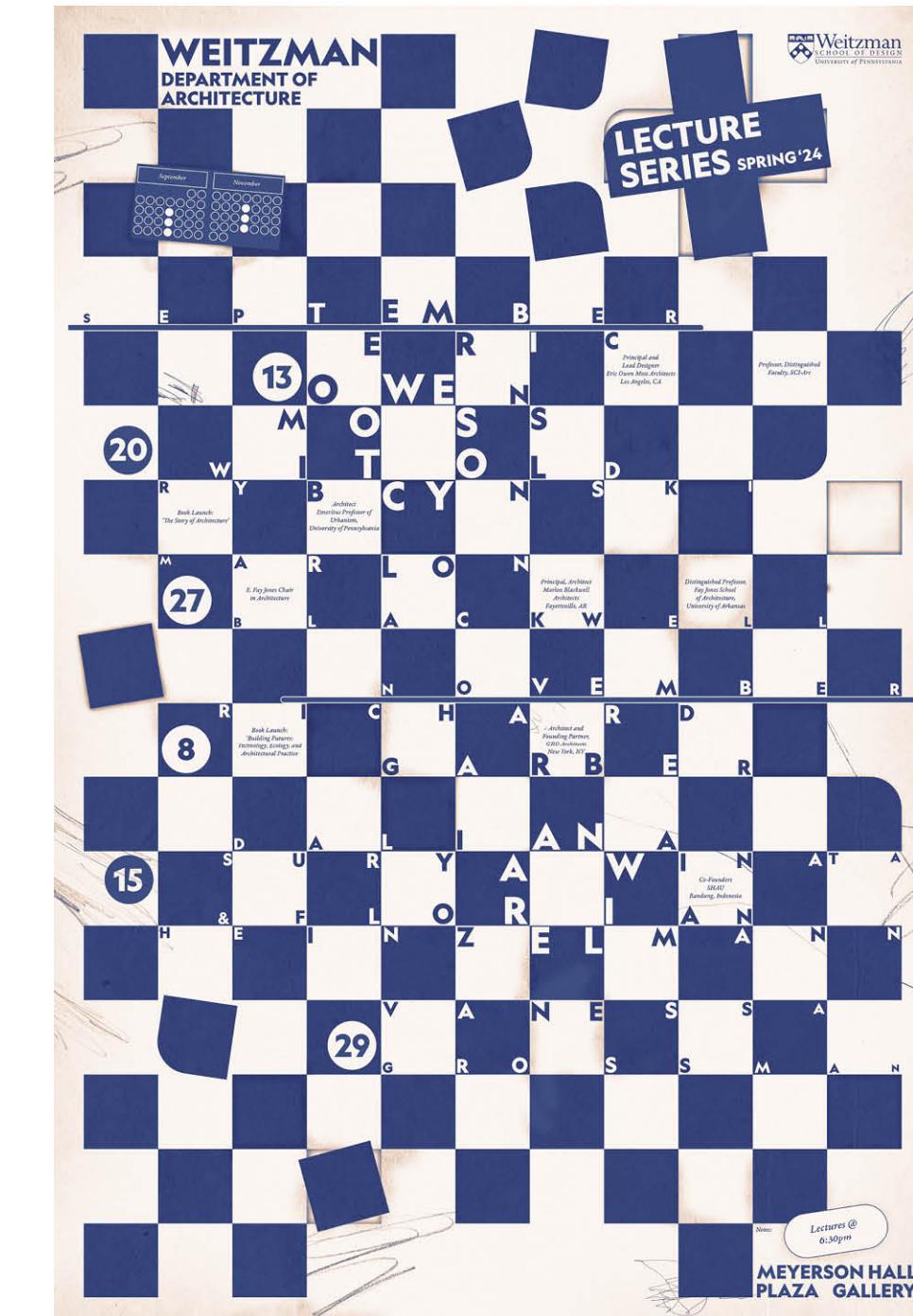
the POET

has heterochromia iridum
Joanna Newsom / Jacqueline du Pré
harp and cello
keeps a bell jar on the nightstand
lies in the grass when it rains



the WANDERER

walks in the city with headphone on
Nirvana / my bloody valentine
guitar and bass
smokes a cigarette or two
might climb over fences



SPRING LECTURES

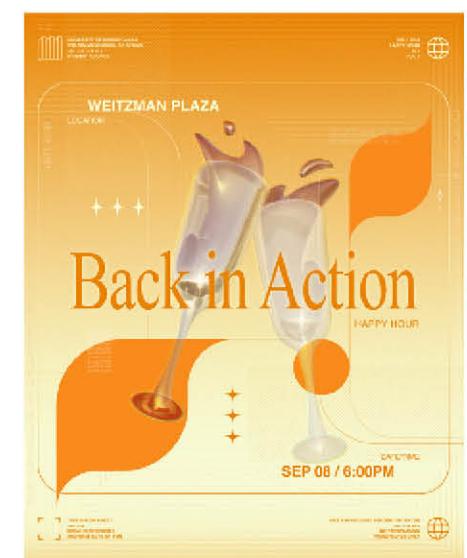
Partner: Daniel Lutze
Spring 2024 (Competition)



RETRO SIPS

happy hour posters

Partner: Daniel Lutze
Fall 2023 - Spring 2024





A large, abstract geometric shape is positioned in the upper left corner of the image. It consists of several thick, metallic-looking blocks in shades of gold, silver, and black, arranged in a complex, overlapping, and slightly tilted composition. The rest of the image is a plain, light gray background.

S A T
U R N
A L I A