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Eric Diaz

**Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Selected Works / 2020 • 2025**

table of contents **/kən • tents/**

This portfolio contains the design work of Eric Diaz.
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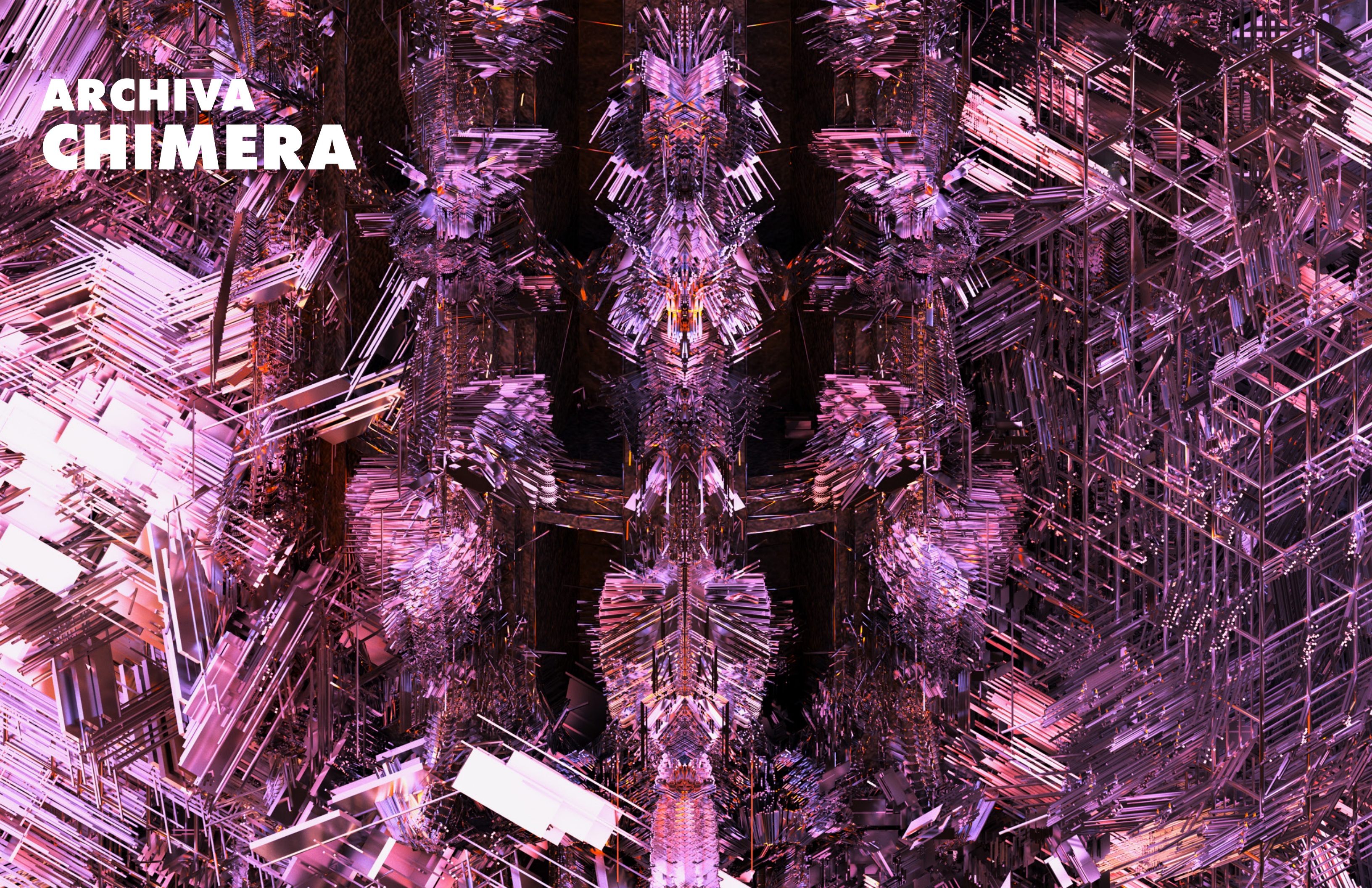
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Bachelor of Architecture
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

04	ARCHIVA CHIMERA
20	NEXUS OF CHELSEA
32	URBAN CONTINUITY
40	SHROUDS & THRESHOLDS
48	POST-INDUSTRIAL HYBRIDS
58	BRANCHING FIGURES



ARCHIVA CHIMERA

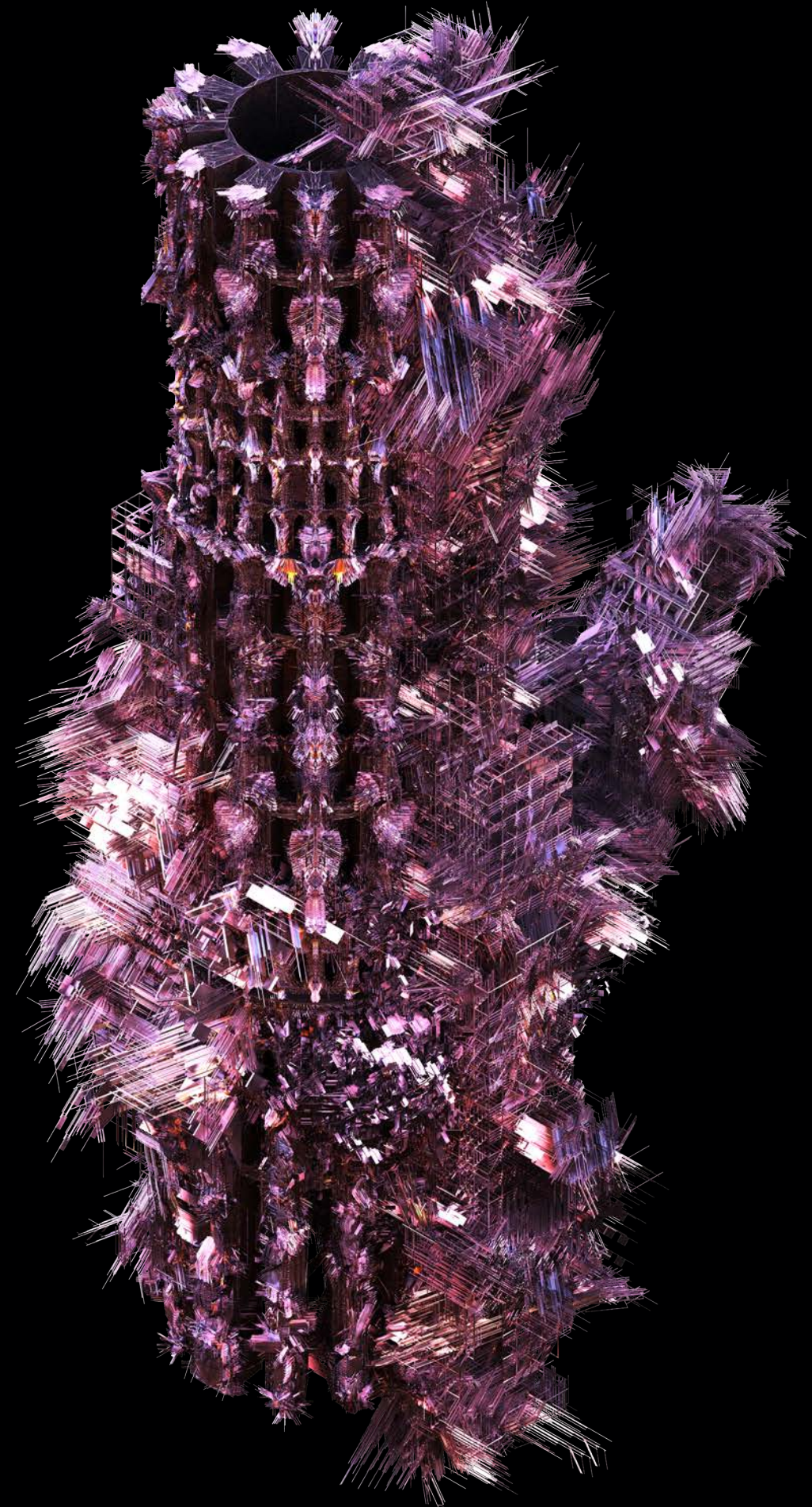
ARCHIVA CHIMERA

A Living Archive of Architectural Memory and Desire
Final Project Thesis / Fall 2024 - Spring 2025

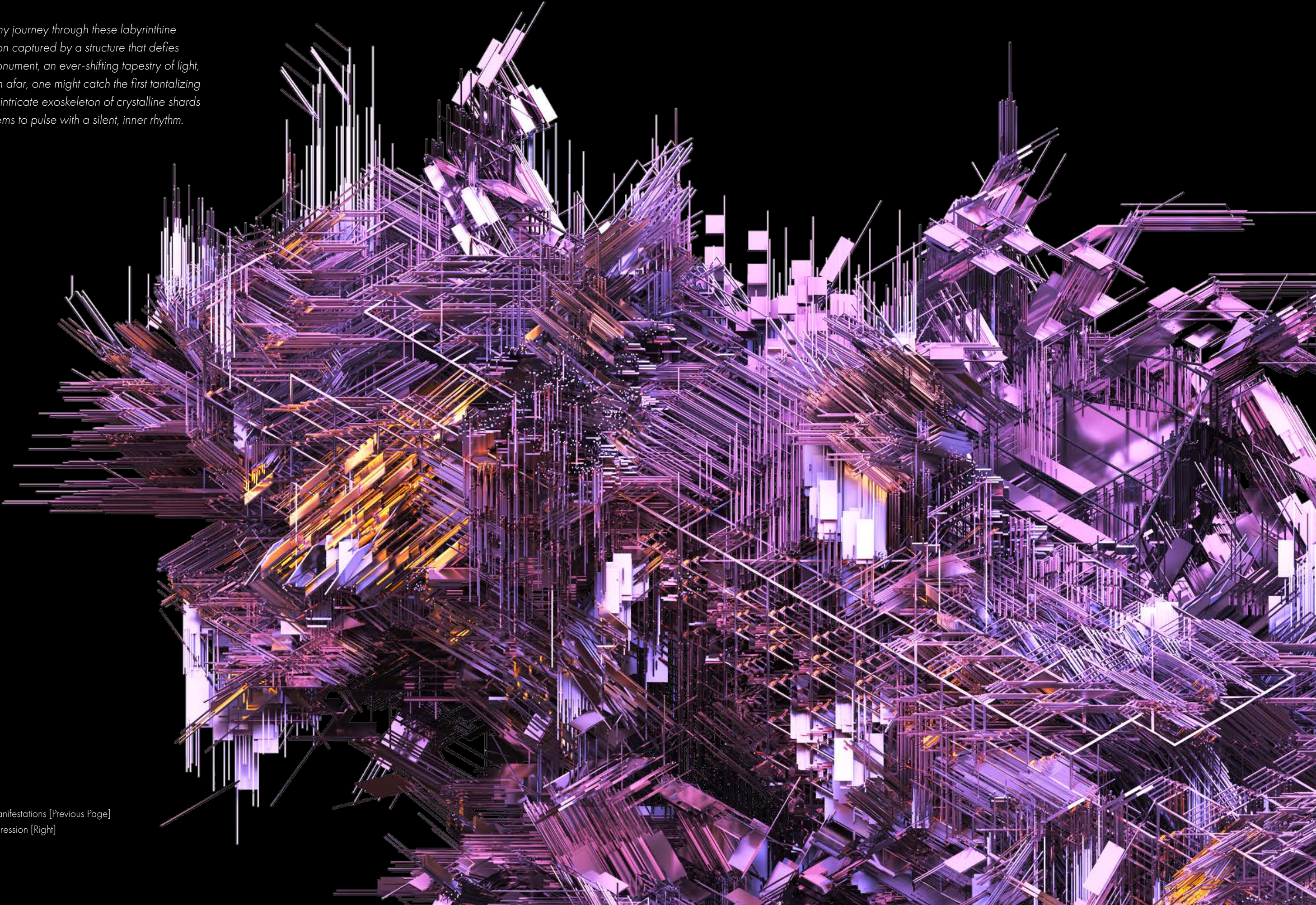
Professor: Carla Leitão

The thesis imagines a transformative structure where algorithmic feedback and digital archives converge, crafting a continuously evolving architectural library that mirrors both historical grandeur and contemporary technological innovation by sensing user engagement, evaluating real-time interactions, and dynamically reconfiguring its form to reflect the pulsating rhythms of the urban experience. The project positions ornament and spectacle not as decorative afterthoughts, but as potent cultural expressions—acts that resist the homogenizing tendencies of optimization and utility.

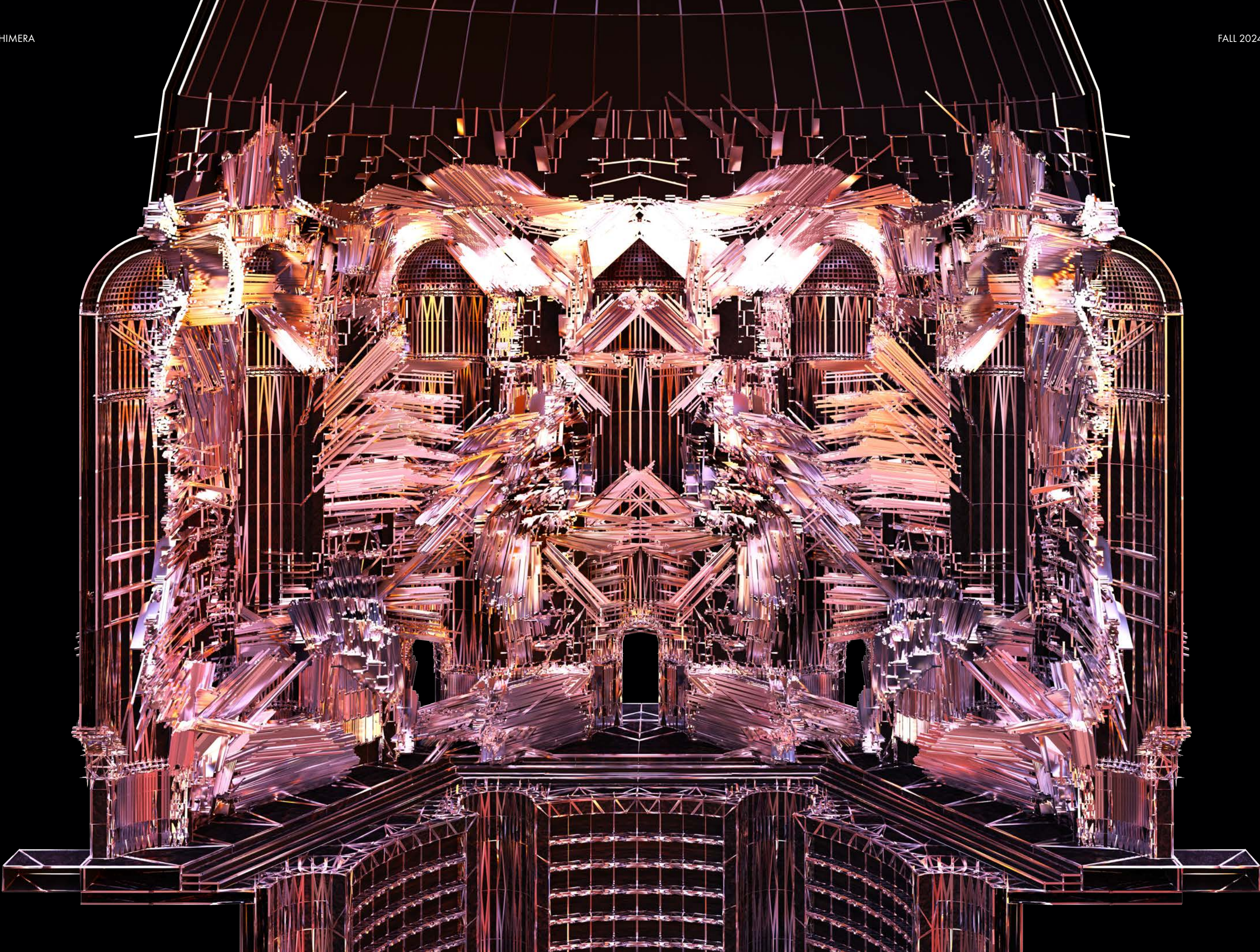
Archiva Chimera explores how architecture might evolve autonomously in a non-linear continuum, beyond fixed use or stable identity. It repositions the architect not as master planner, but as instigator and collaborator within a system of evolving spatial intelligence, asking how adaptive, data-driven forms might reanimate architectural history and transform memory into a living, interactive spectacle of experience.



In a solitary pause on my journey through these labyrinthine streets, I find my attention captured by a structure that defies convention—a living monument, an ever-shifting tapestry of light, shadow, and time. From afar, one might catch the first tantalizing glimmers of its form: an intricate exoskeleton of crystalline shards and fluid layers that seems to pulse with a silent, inner rhythm.



Formal Studies: Structural Manifestations [Previous Page]
Formal Studies: Material Expression [Righi]

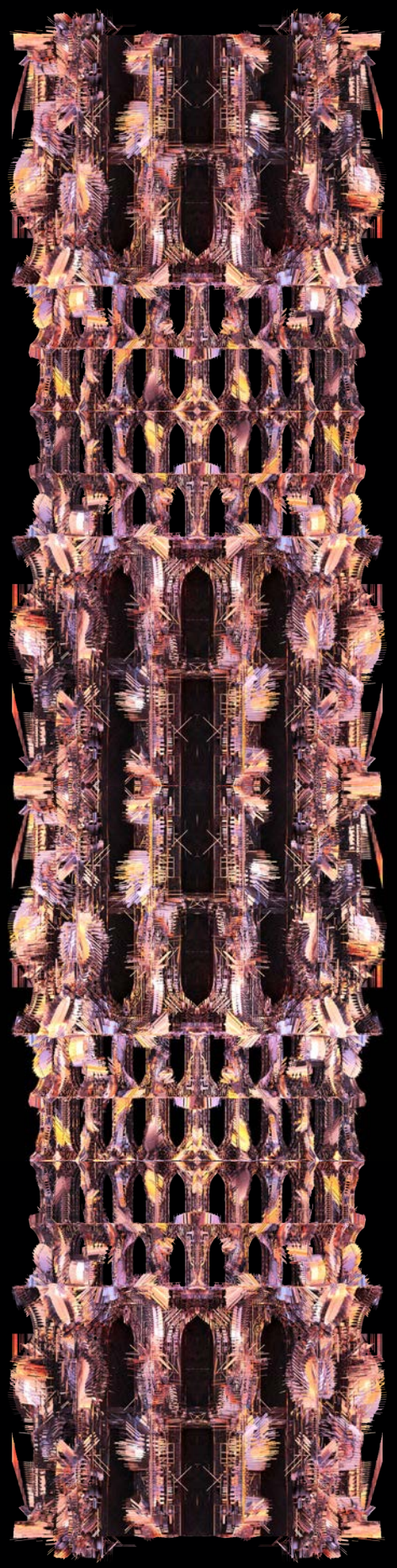
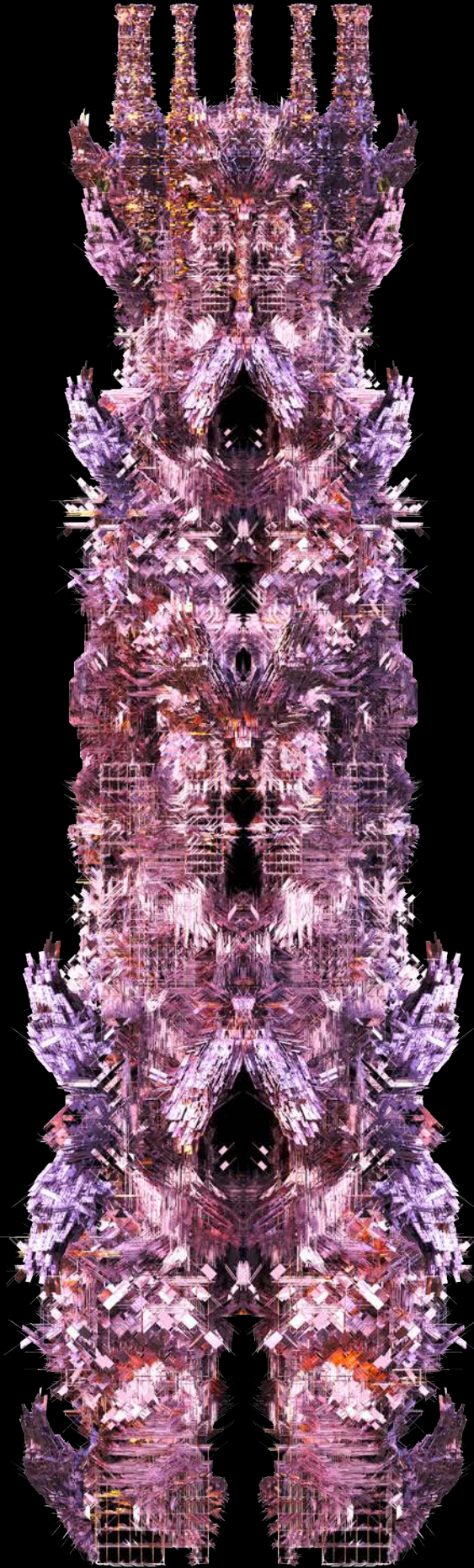
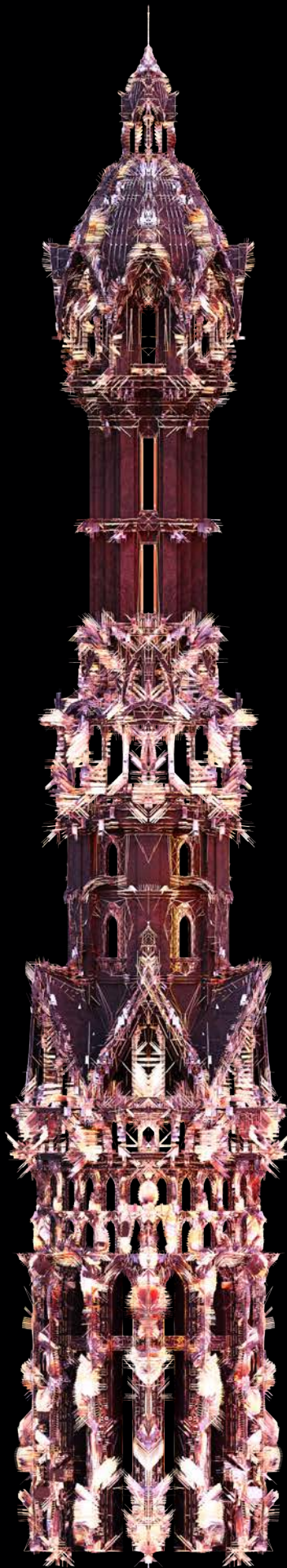


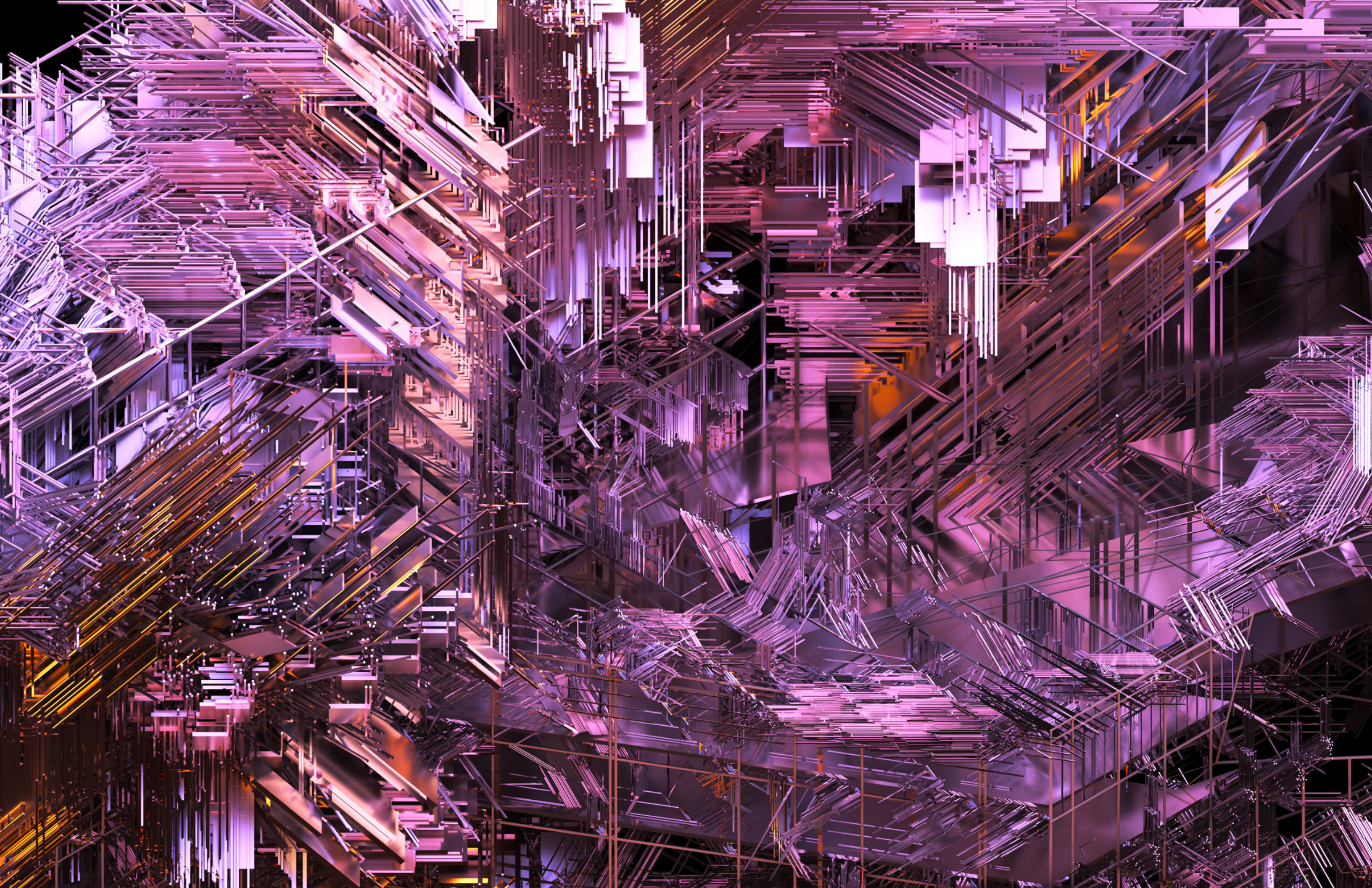
One might note the subtle yet ceaseless dance of the structure—the way corridors twist into unexpected alcoves, and viewing platforms emerge like secret thresholds to hidden realms. Its adaptive skin, far from being mere ornamentation, is a dynamic mediator between human presence and environmental forces. Each protruding element, like a sentient fiber, seems to sense its environment, adapting and evolving with the flows of time. It listens to the whispers of those who pass beneath its glow, recording the rhythm of human presence and the imperceptible beats of urban life.

As one draws nearer, the structure unfurls its secrets in exquisite detail—a collage of labyrinthine forms, a palimpsest of time and intention. It is as if the structure is composed of countless fragments of forgotten stories, each layer a remnant of a once-vivid chapter now interwoven into its evolving narrative. The walls breathe a quiet energy, responding to the subtle hum of the city's life: the steps of wanderers, the murmurs of conversation, the unspoken stir of human curiosity.

This monument is not fixed in time but is in perpetual transformation. Over long cycles and fleeting moments alike, it reconfigures itself: historical elements are continuously reinterpreted, recombined, and restitched into new spatial narratives—familiar, yet strikingly ethereal and defiant of categorization. It is as if the very fabric of the building is woven from layers of forgotten lore, each fragment sourced from a library of architectural memory. In this archive, the essence of ancient grandeur and innovative modernity coexists, giving birth to new typologies that both honor the past and herald a future unbound by convention.

Interior Section Rendering [Previous Page]
Formal Studies: Structural Manifestations [Right]
Formal Studies: Material Expression [Following Pages]

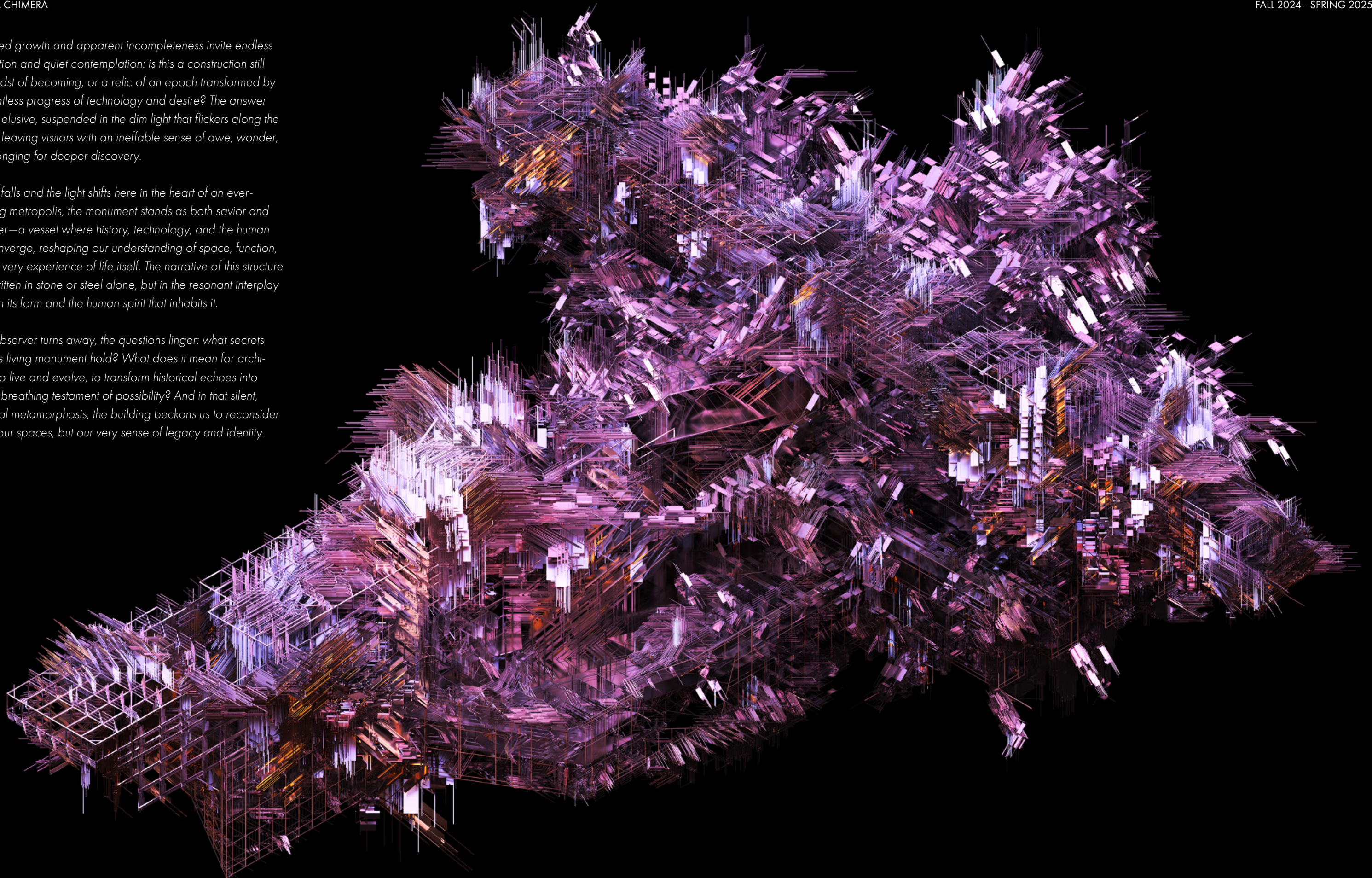


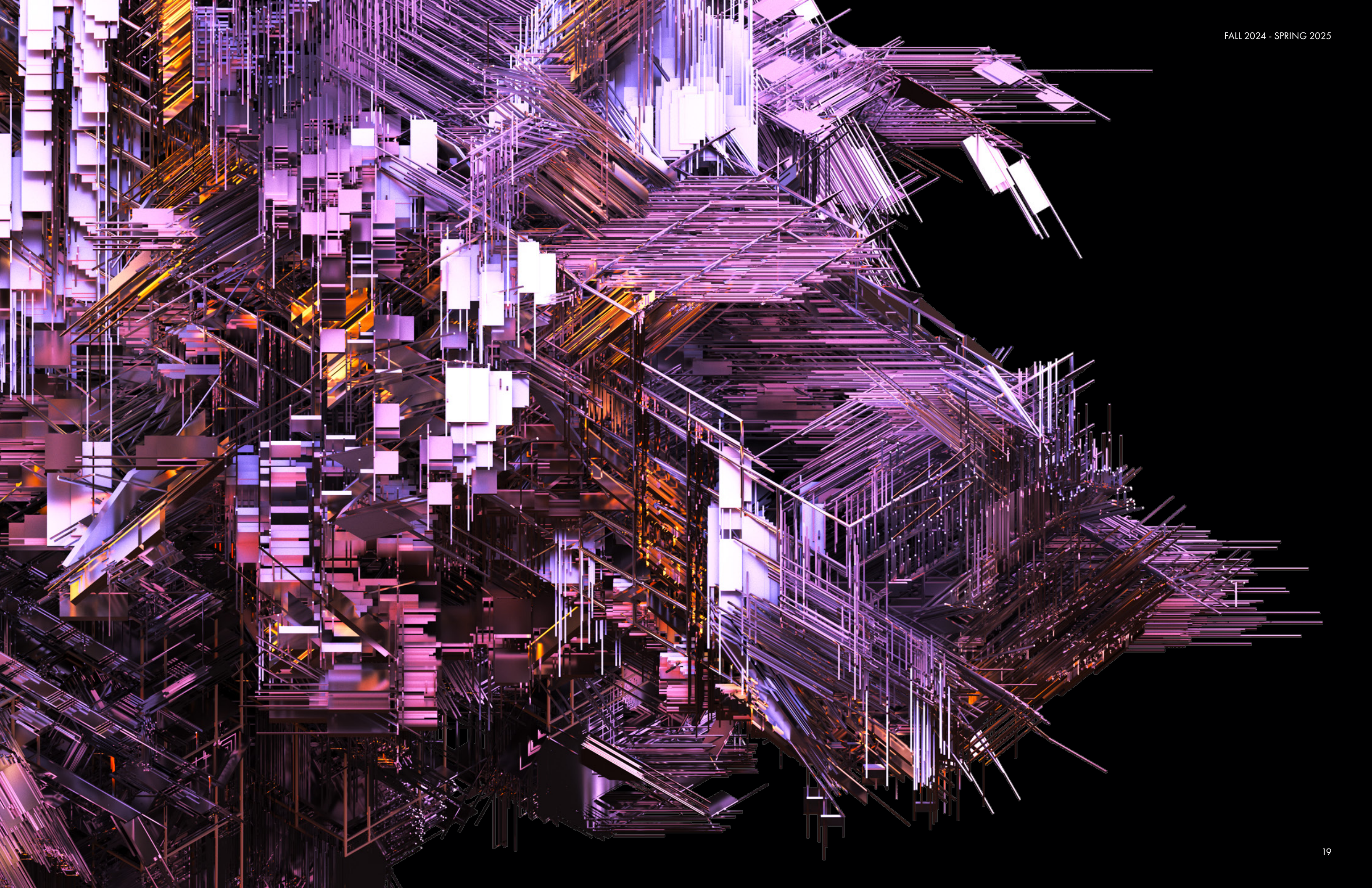


Its layered growth and apparent incompleteness invite endless speculation and quiet contemplation: is this a construction still in the midst of becoming, or a relic of an epoch transformed by the relentless progress of technology and desire? The answer remains elusive, suspended in the dim light that flickers along the surface, leaving visitors with an ineffable sense of awe, wonder, and a longing for deeper discovery.

As dusk falls and the light shifts here in the heart of an ever-changing metropolis, the monument stands as both savior and storyteller—a vessel where history, technology, and the human spirit converge, reshaping our understanding of space, function, and our very experience of life itself. The narrative of this structure is not written in stone or steel alone, but in the resonant interplay between its form and the human spirit that inhabits it.

As the observer turns away, the questions linger: what secrets does this living monument hold? What does it mean for architecture to live and evolve, to transform historical echoes into a living, breathing testament of possibility? And in that silent, perpetual metamorphosis, the building beckons us to reconsider not just our spaces, but our very sense of legacy and identity.





NEXUS OF CHELSEA



NEXUS OF CHELSEA

Public Library & Community Center
New York, New York / 40.7499° N, 74.0030° W
Comprehensive Design Studio 01 / Fall 2022
Professor: Per Stefan Svedberg

This project connects the High Line to the street, engaging Chelsea's urban fabric. Its circulation extends the city's spatial dynamics inward, linking public plazas within the atrium for gathering and social interaction. The atrium organizes the building's circulation and program. Open architectural staircases form the public core, while quieter, recessed spaces—such as library reading areas—are set deeper within the building.

Circulation is emphasized through transparent glazing on the south facade, making movement within the building visible. This facade also maximizes natural light exposure in the atrium, reinforcing its role as a central public space. Light guides spatial organization: direct sunlight illuminates open public areas, while an aluminum mesh diffuses light into the more secluded spaces, creating a hierarchy of brightness and privacy.

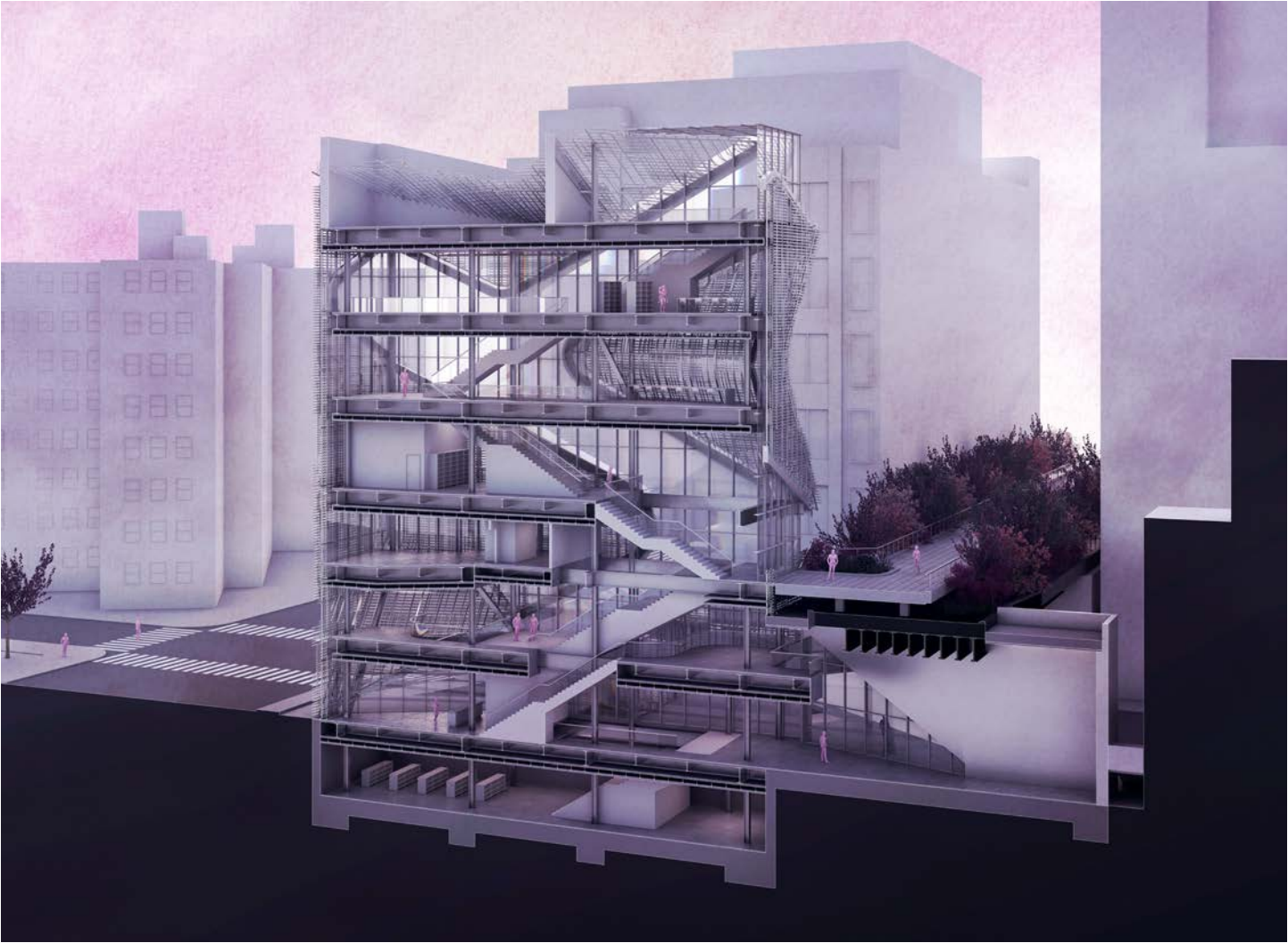
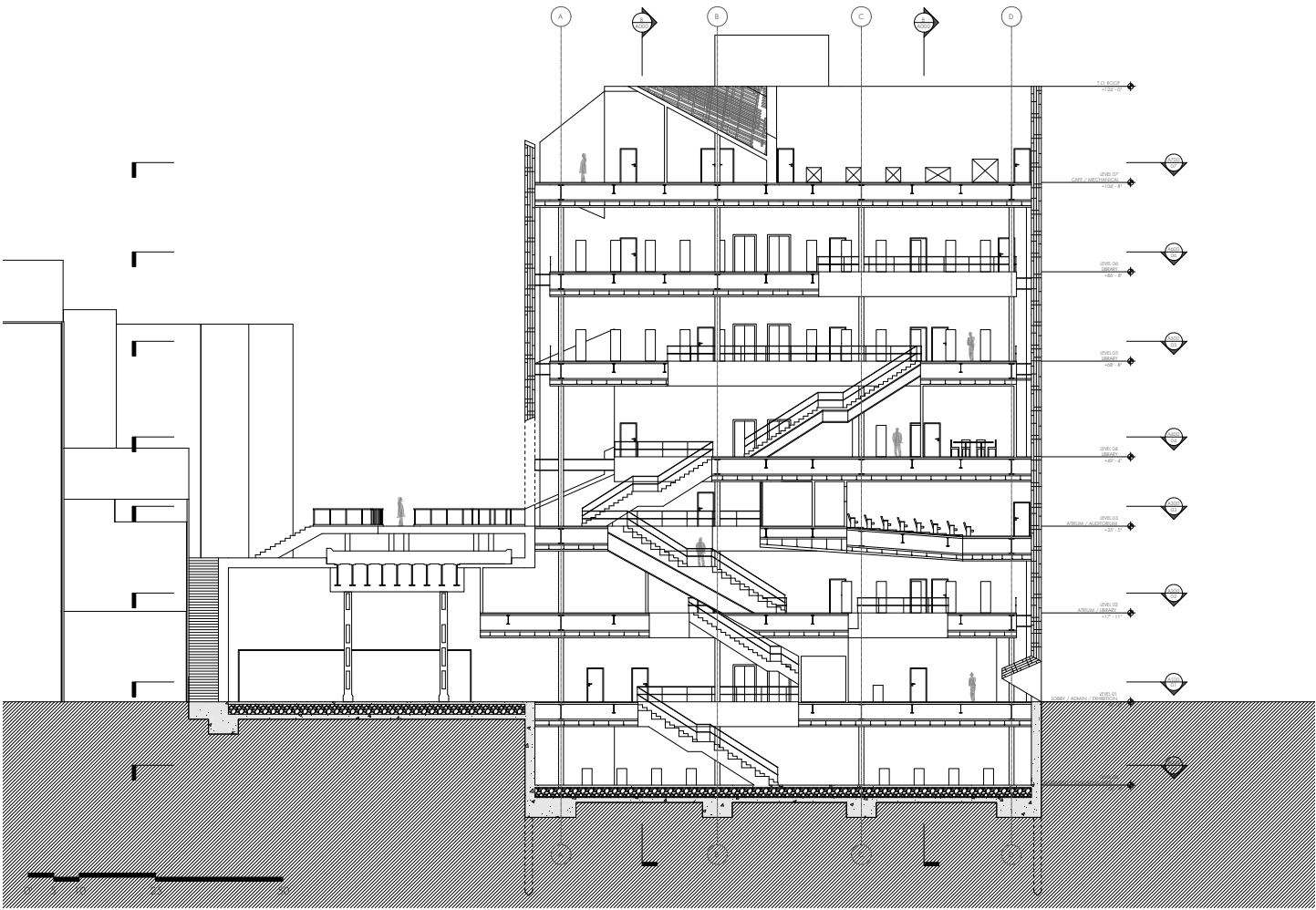


Perspective Section Rendering [Right]

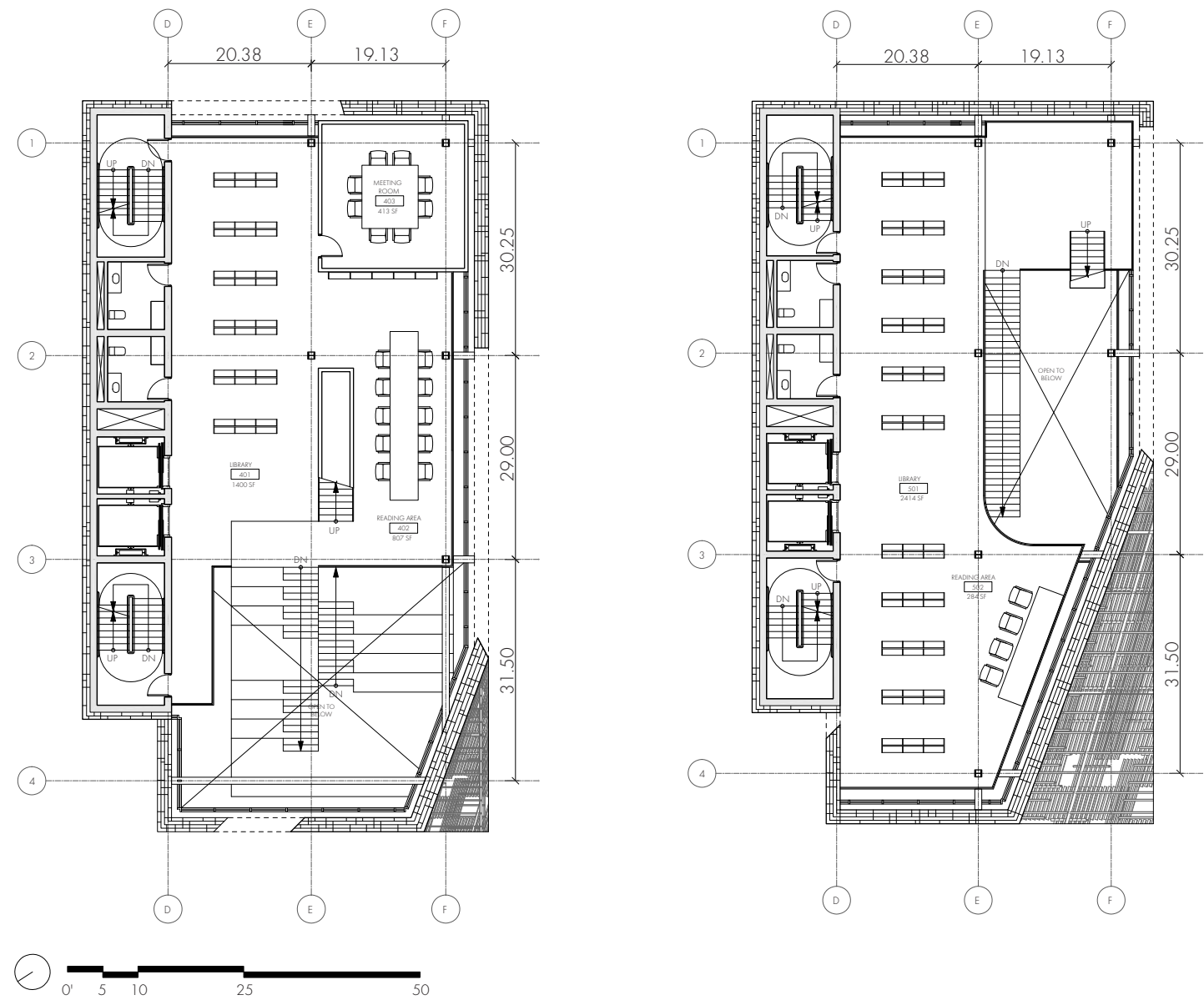


Street View Rendering from 10th Ave [Left]
Street View Rendering from W 26th St [Right]



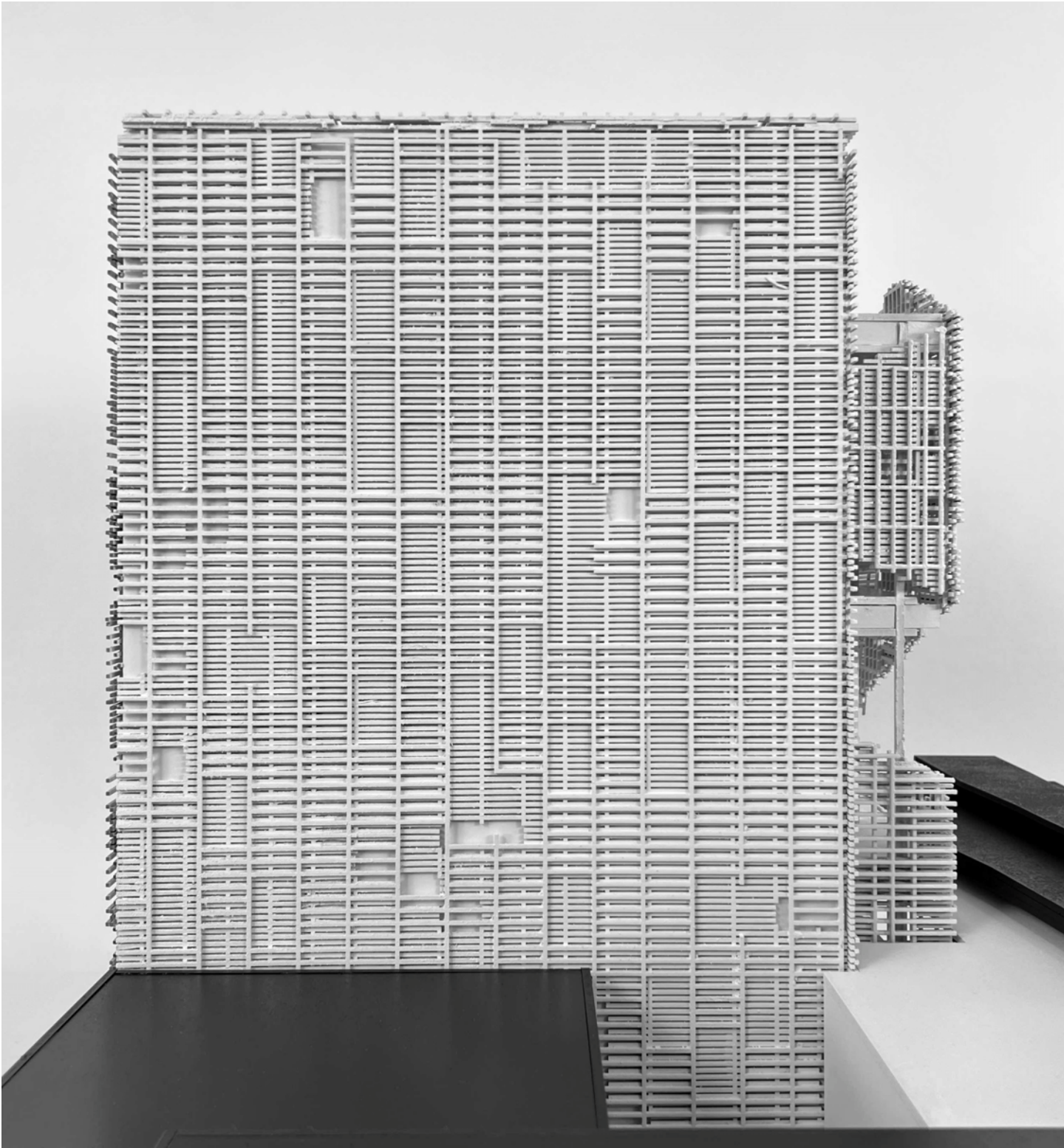


Section Drawing [Left]
Perspective Section Rendering [Right]



Fourth Floor Plan [Left]
Fifth Floor Plan [Center]
1/8" Physical Model [Right]





1/8" Physical Model [Left, Center, Right]

URBAN CONTINUITY

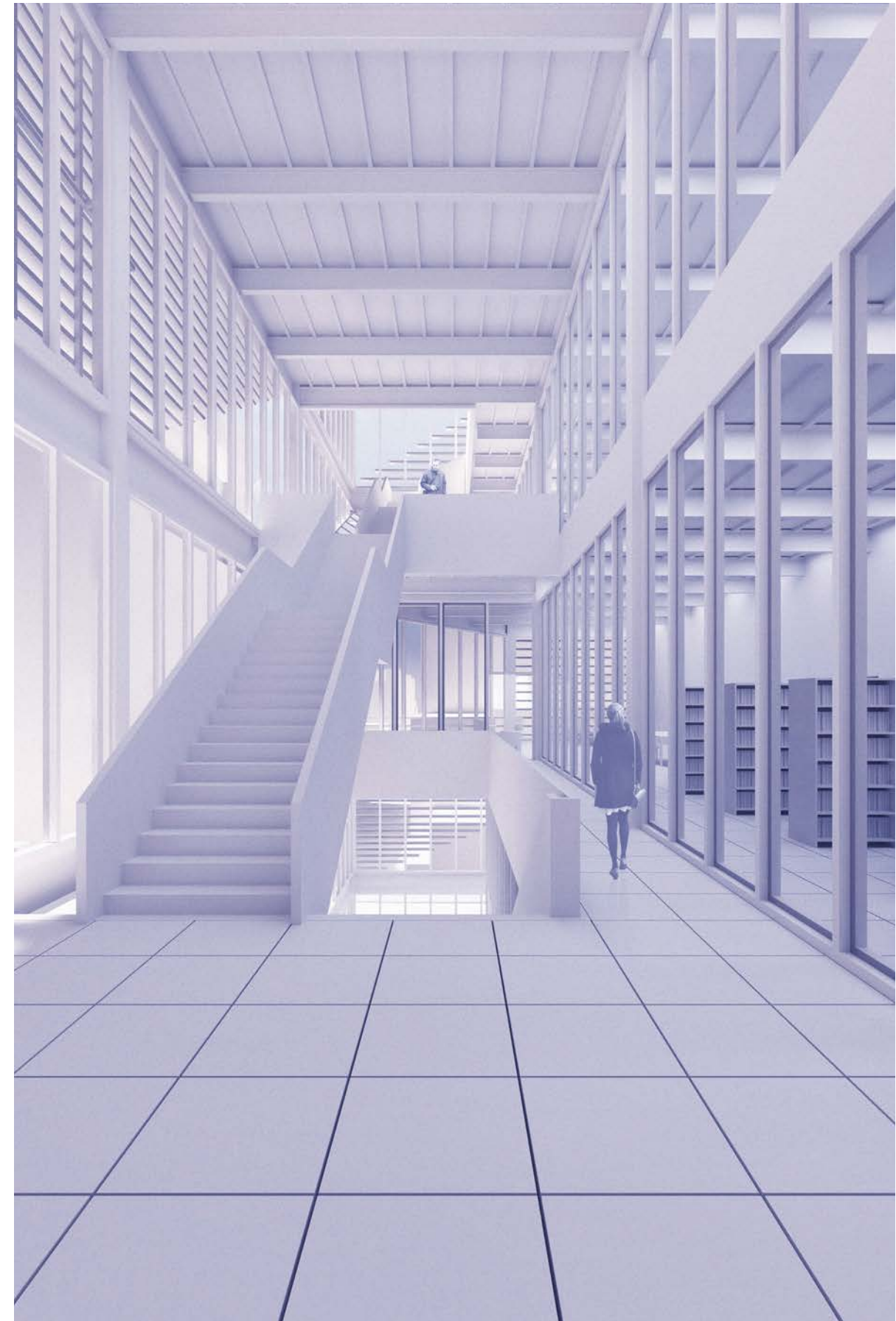


URBAN CONTINUITY

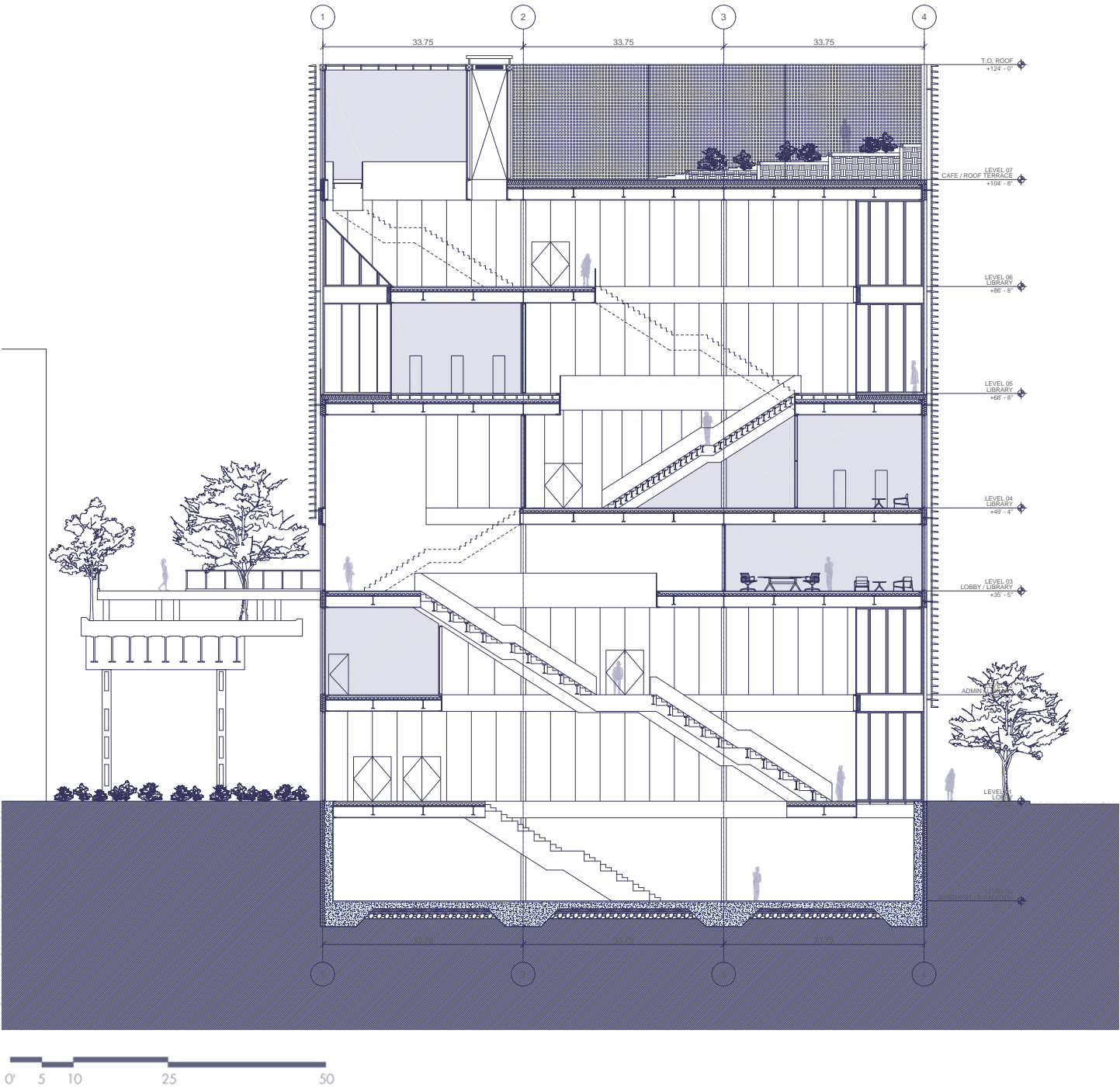
Public Library & Community Center
New York, New York / 40.7499° N, 74.0030° W
Comprehensive Design Studio 02 / Spring 2023
Professor: Leandro Piazzai

This project serves as a sequential continuation and reiteration of the aforementioned Comprehensive Design Studio 01 project, *Nexus of Chelsea*. Through reorganized circulation, program, and massing strategies, the building aims to improve upon its ability to respond to the existing site conditions and engage the urban context. Additionally, the project seeks to more deeply resolve the building's structural tectonics and environmental design.

The building's program features two distinct zones: public spaces intended for circulation, socializing, and community engagement, as well as quieter, more intimate spaces which are allocated to the functional needs of the library. This organizational flexibility allows the building to remain adaptable to changing programmatic needs in the future.



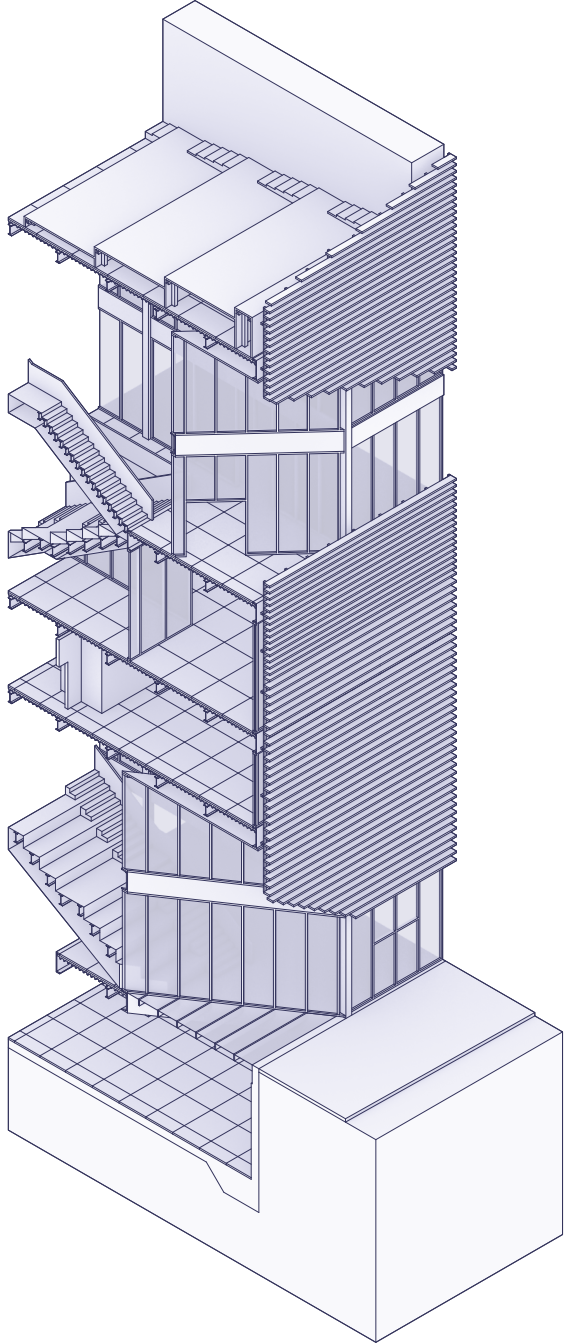
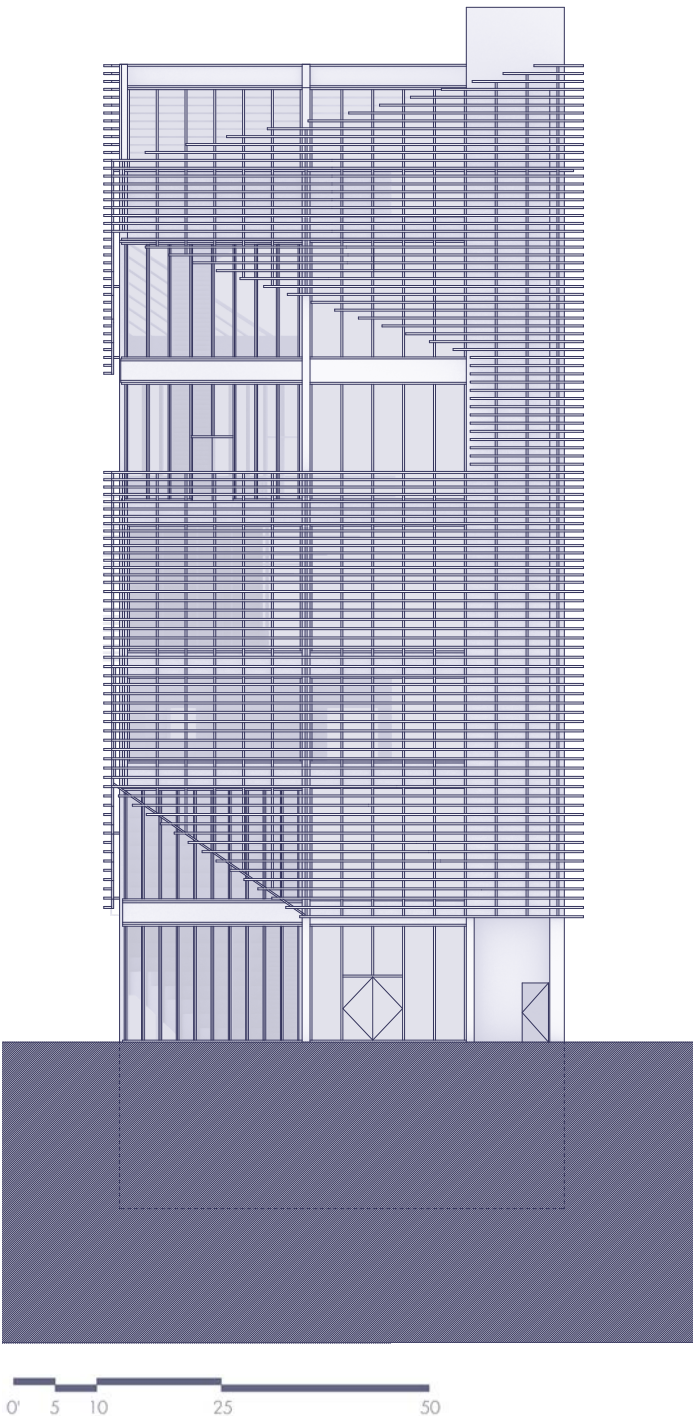
Interior Rendering [Right]



Section Drawing [Left]
1/4" Physical Model [Right]



1/4" Physical Model [Left]
East Elevation Drawing [Center]
Isometric Chunk Drawing [Right]



SHROUDS & THRESHOLDS

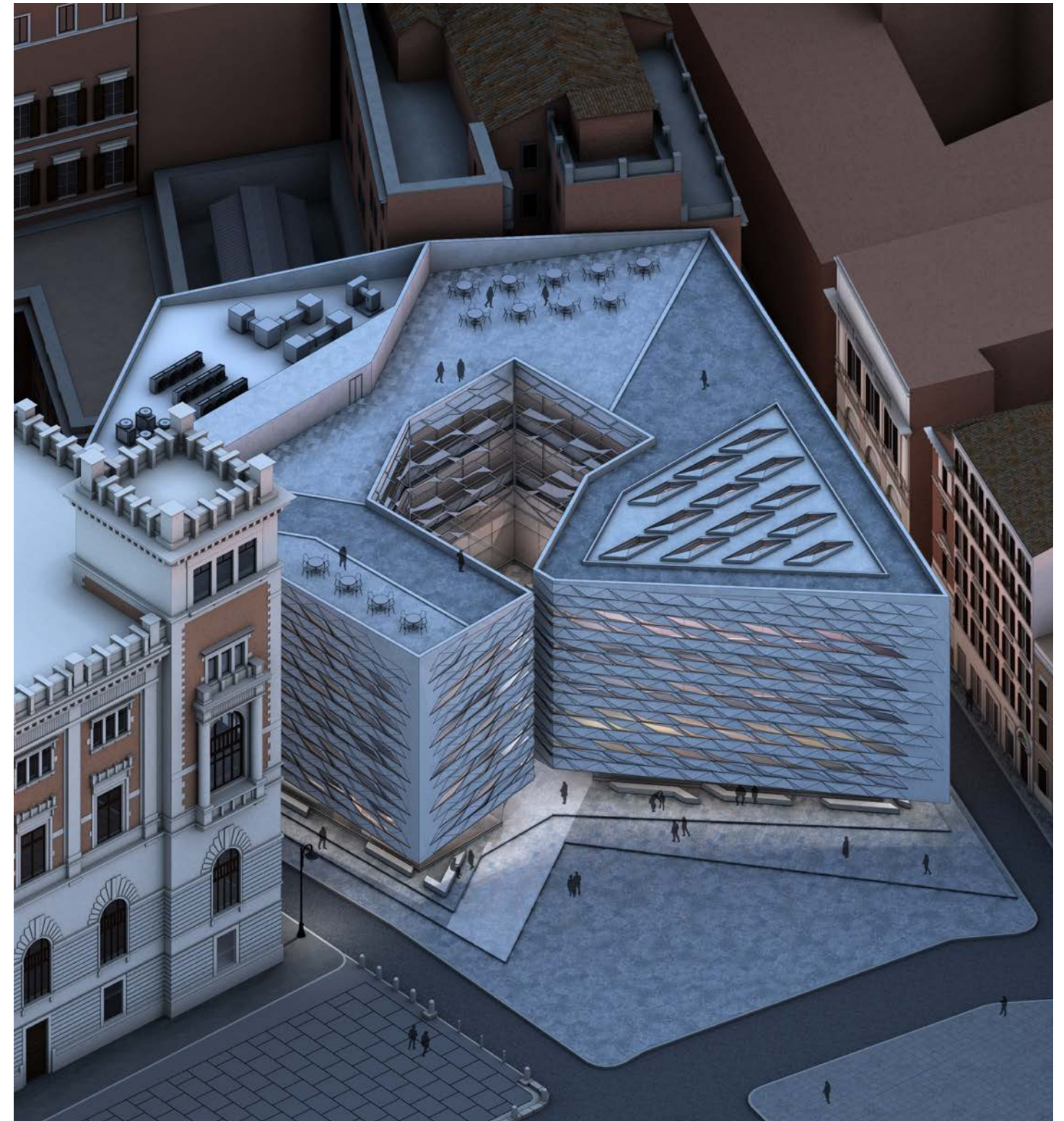


SHROUDS & THRESHOLDS

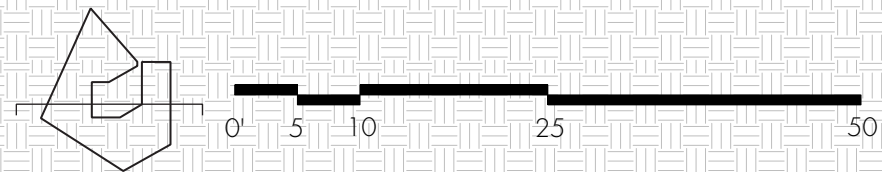
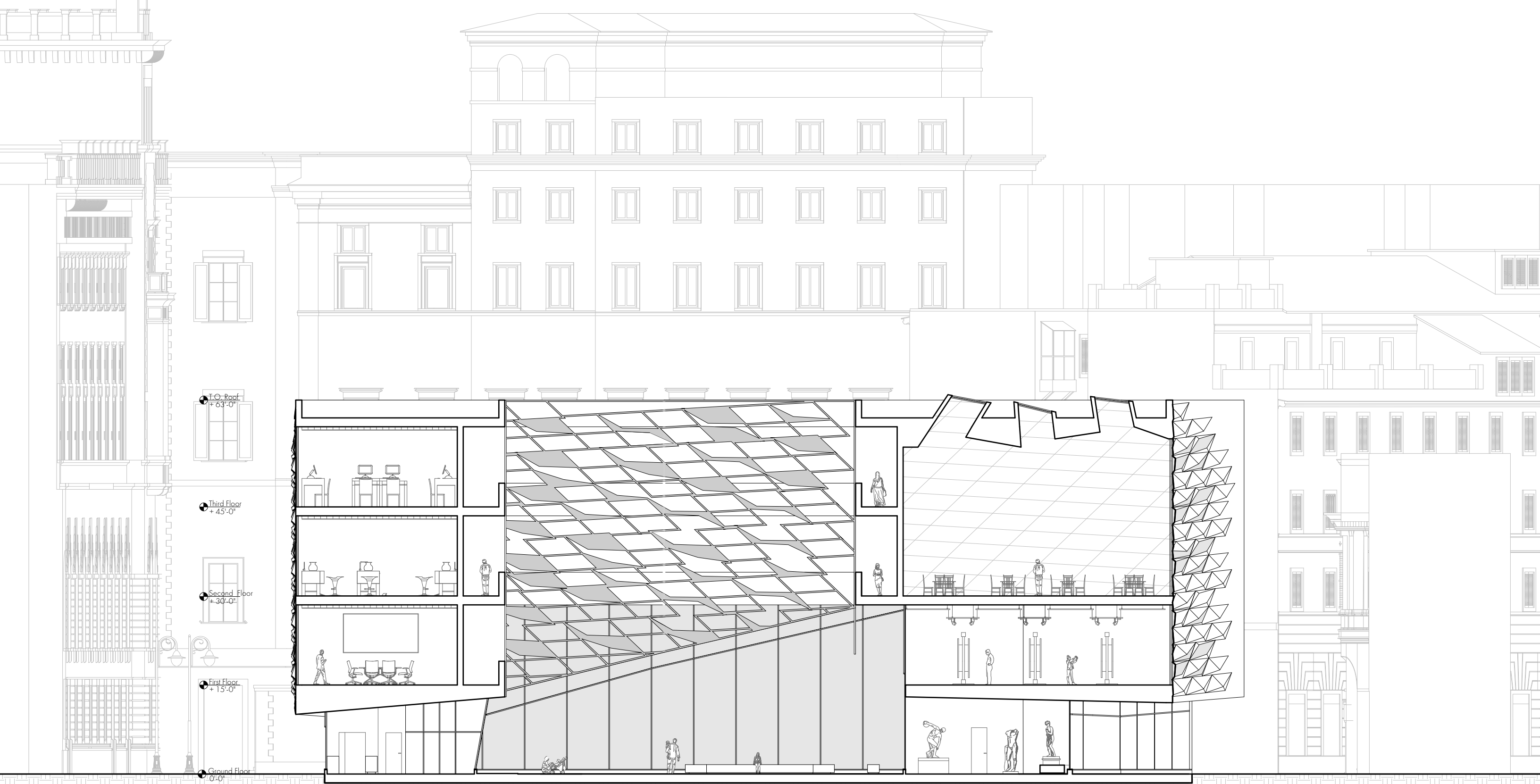
Civic & Community Center
Rome, Italy / 41.9021° N, 12.4778° E
Vertical Design Studio / Fall 2023
Professor: Matthew Lopez
Partner: Teja Humphrey

Located adjacent to the Palazzo Montecitorio in Rome, Italy, the Civic Center serves as a place for Italian Citizens to gather and celebrate their cultural heritage. The adjacent Piazza del Parlamento is boldly reshaped to encourage visitors to engage with the building, with the courtyard existing as a threshold condition to create a dynamic and dramatic spatial experience upon entry.

The facade is conceptualized as an opaque fabric shroud which wraps around the building; tucking, folding, lifting, and creasing at various moments to elicit painterly effects. While arguably perverse within its charged context, the project aims to produce a provocative image of the future, speculating on the question of what it means to build a contemporary building in an ancient city.

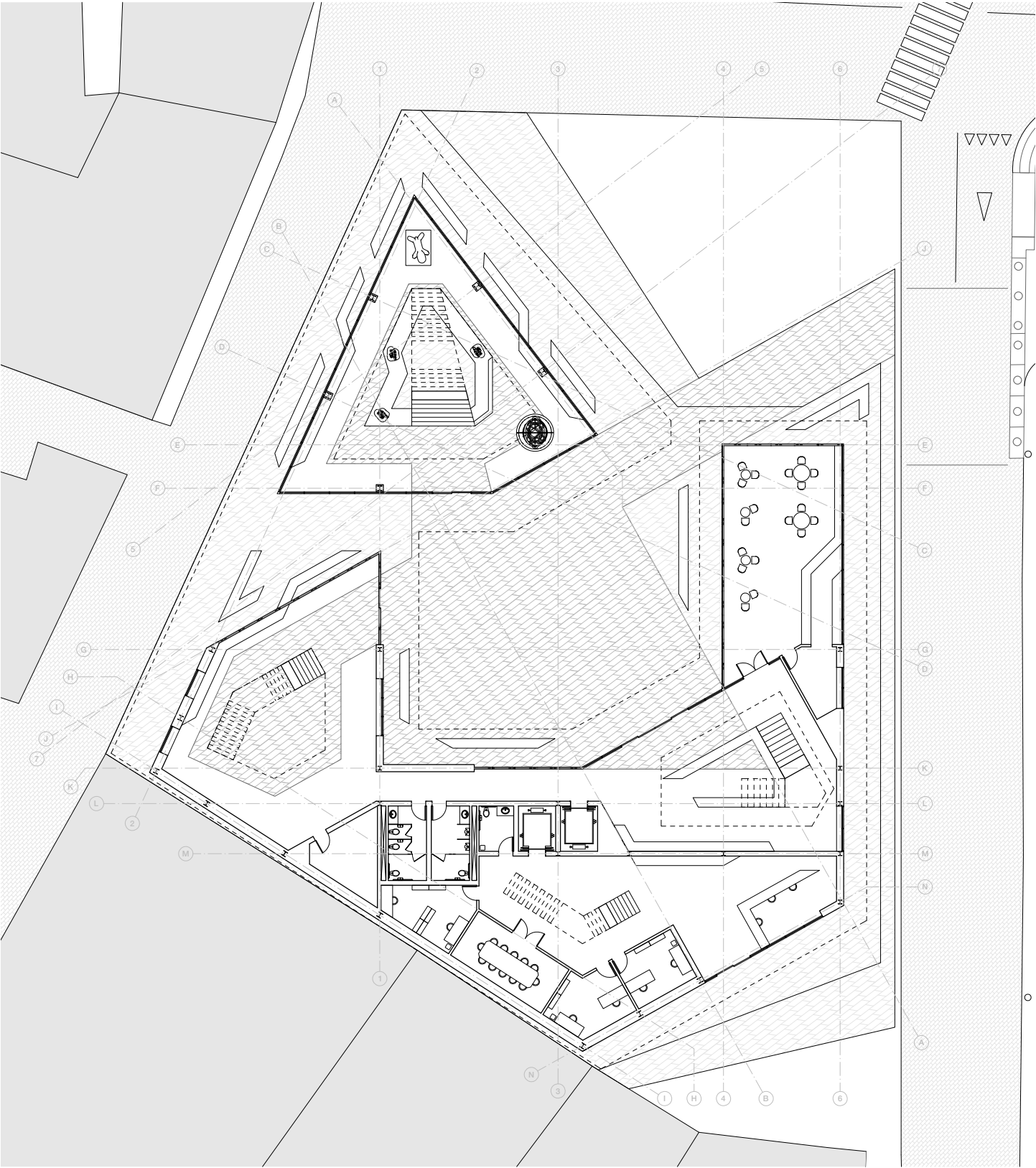


Site Isometric Rendering [Right]





Section Drawing [Previous Page]
Facade Rendering [Left]
Ground Floor Plan [Right]



POST-INDUSTRIAL HYBRIDS



POST-INDUSTRIAL HYBRIDS

Urban Work-Live Community

Waterford, New York / 42.7819° N, 73.6854° W

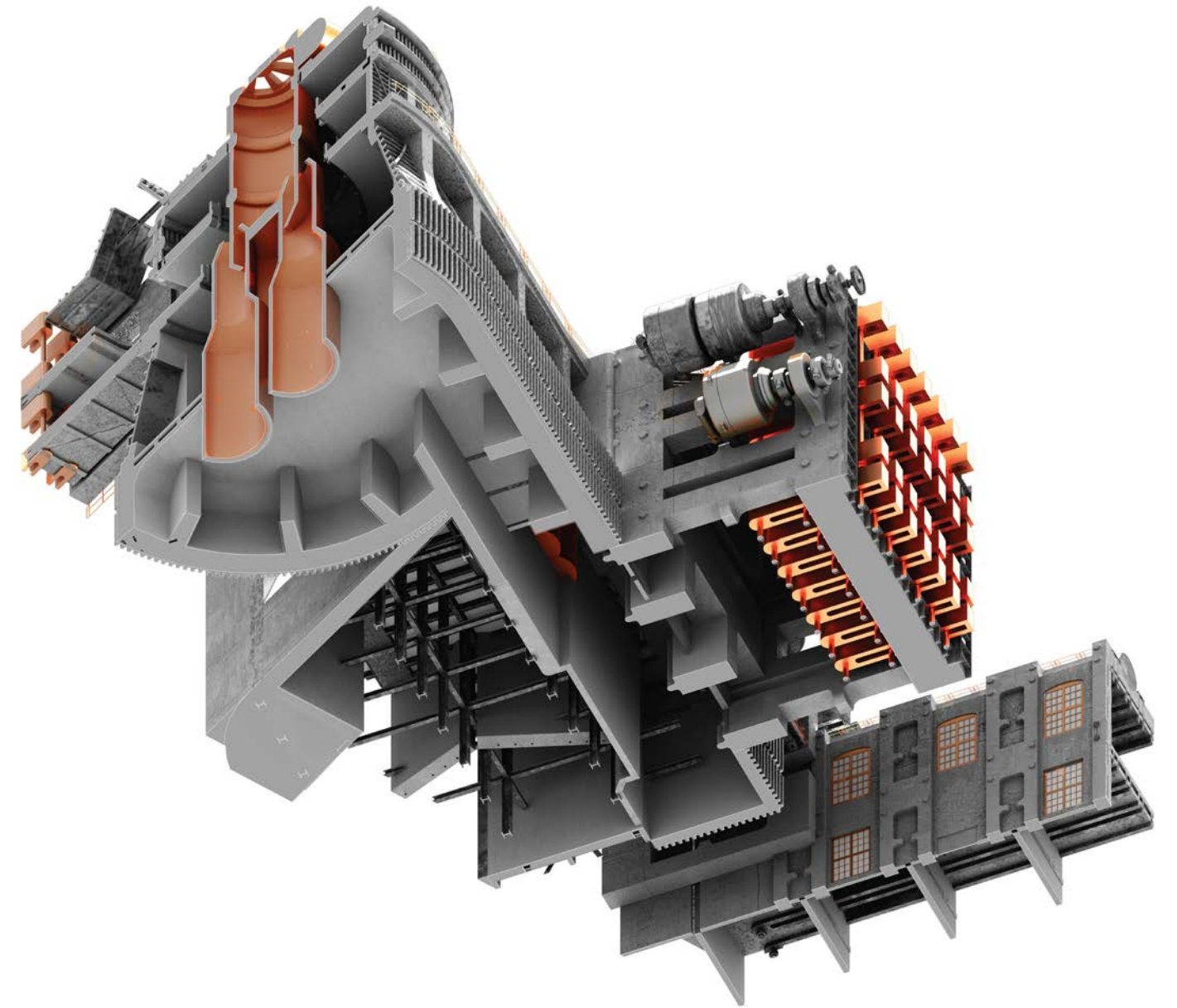
Vertical Design Studio / Fall 2024

Professor: Caleb White

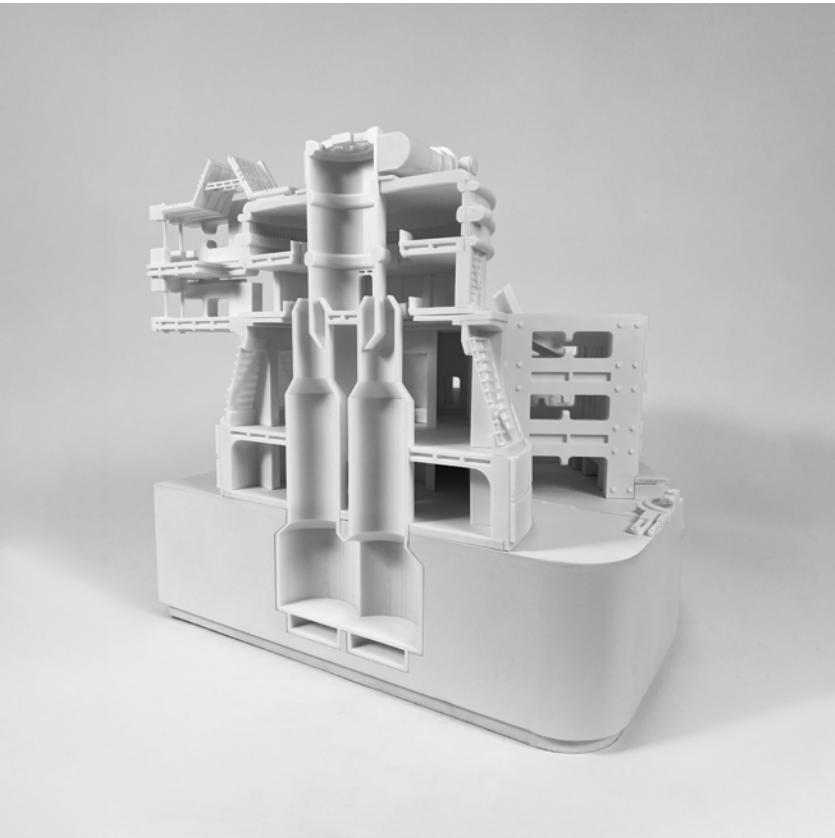
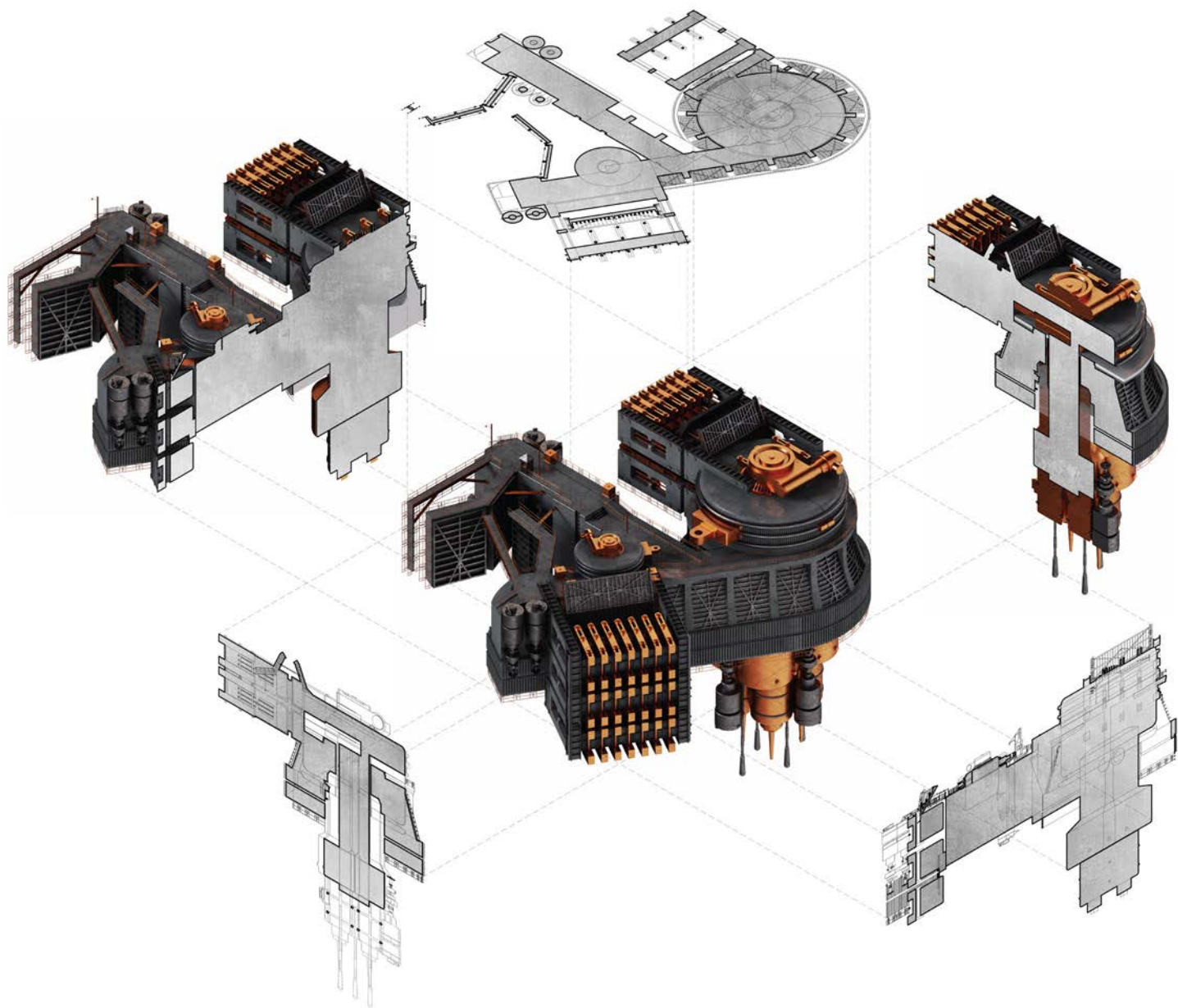
Partner: Alan Aguilera

This project proposes an autonomous urban village community on Peebles Island. Industrial aesthetics were studied as formal inspiration for architectural proposals which use the concept of 3D collage and hybrid design thinking as a mechanism to propagate architectural, cultural, and ecological heterogeneity.

Previously an industrial mill building complex, the site acts as a microcosm of the Hudson Valley Region's rich industrial history, juxtaposing rugged natural landscapes with evocative remnants of industrial decay. The hybridization of our manipulated industrial objects with the site aims to honor and preserve the region's history while reframing it in a contemporary context. By embracing and amplifying the machine aesthetic, a cultural image is projected of how these post-industrial sites may be revitalized and celebrated in the future of architecture.

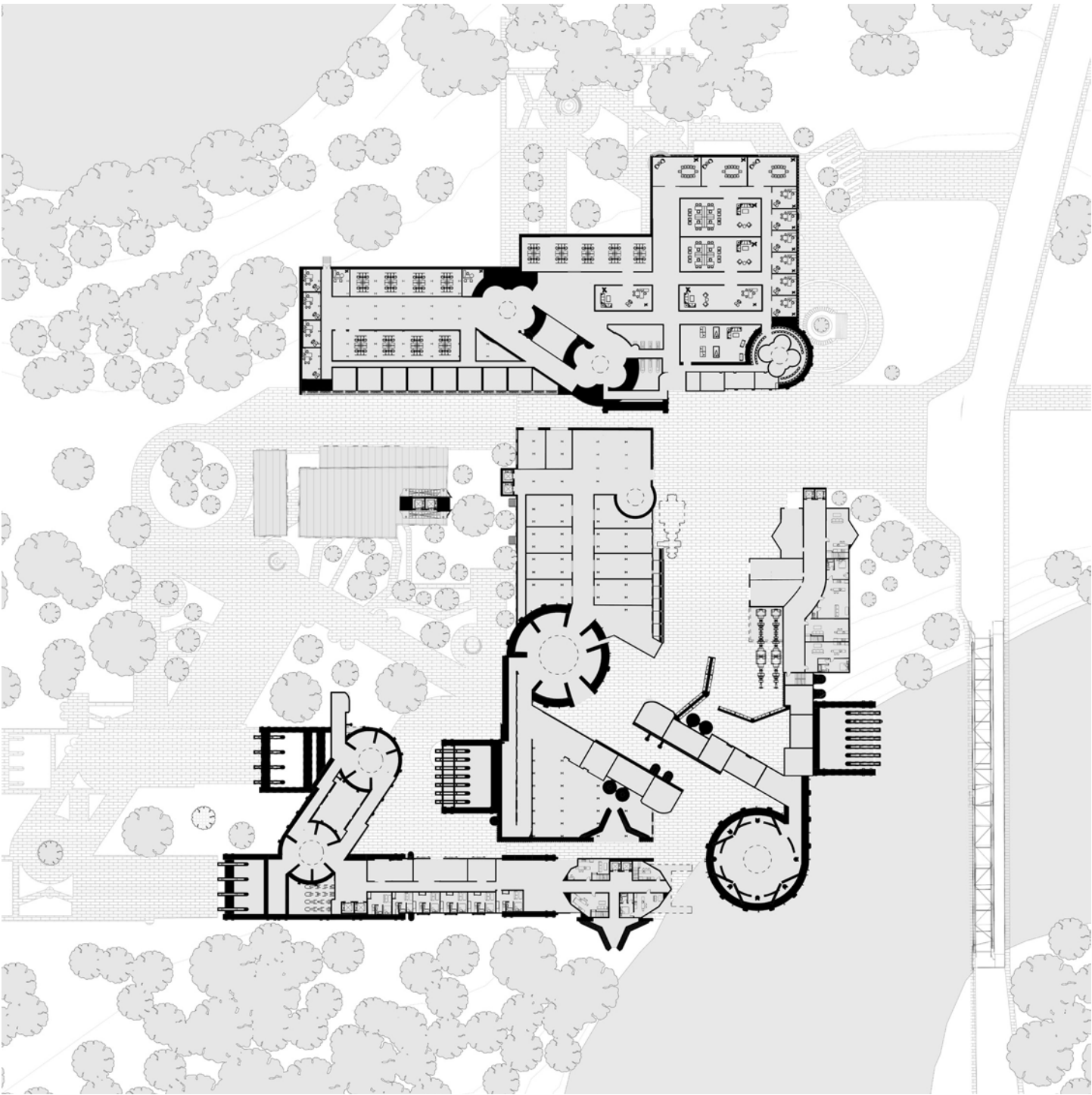
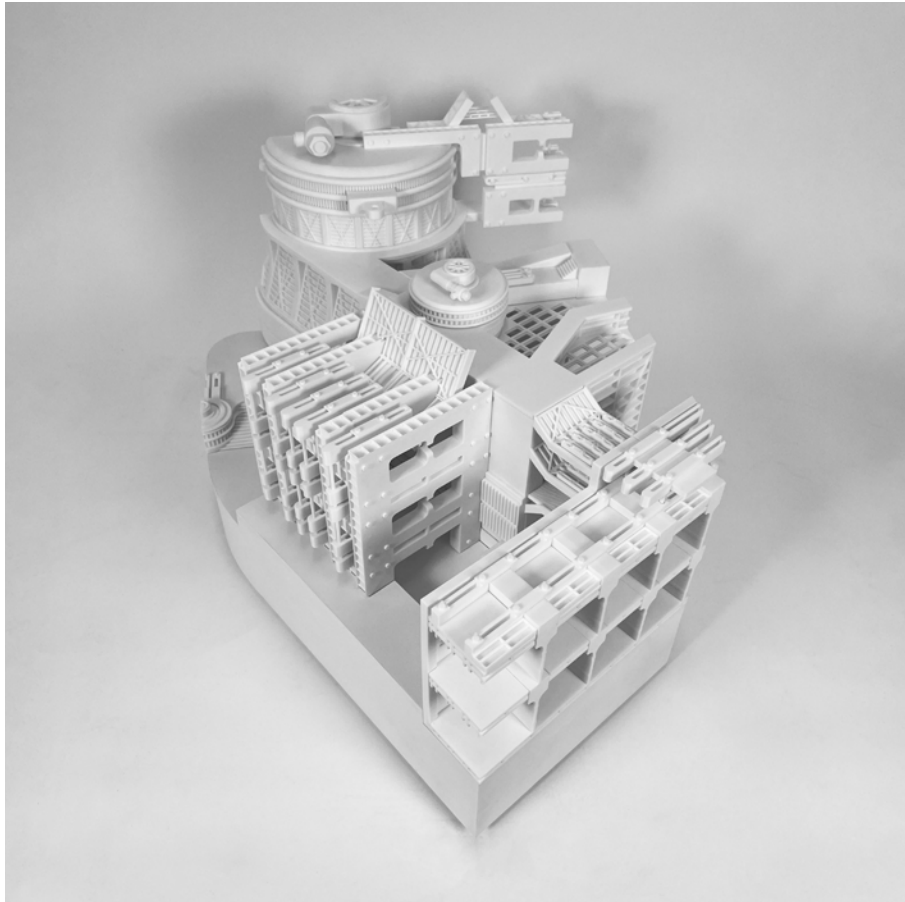


Choisy Axonometric Rendering [Right]

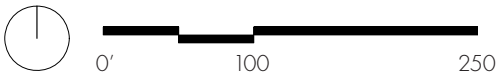


Industrial Hybrid Study Diagram [Left]
1/8" Physical Chunk Model [Right]
Isometric Section Rendering [Following Page]





1/8" Physical Chunk Model [Left]
Ground Floor Plan [Right]



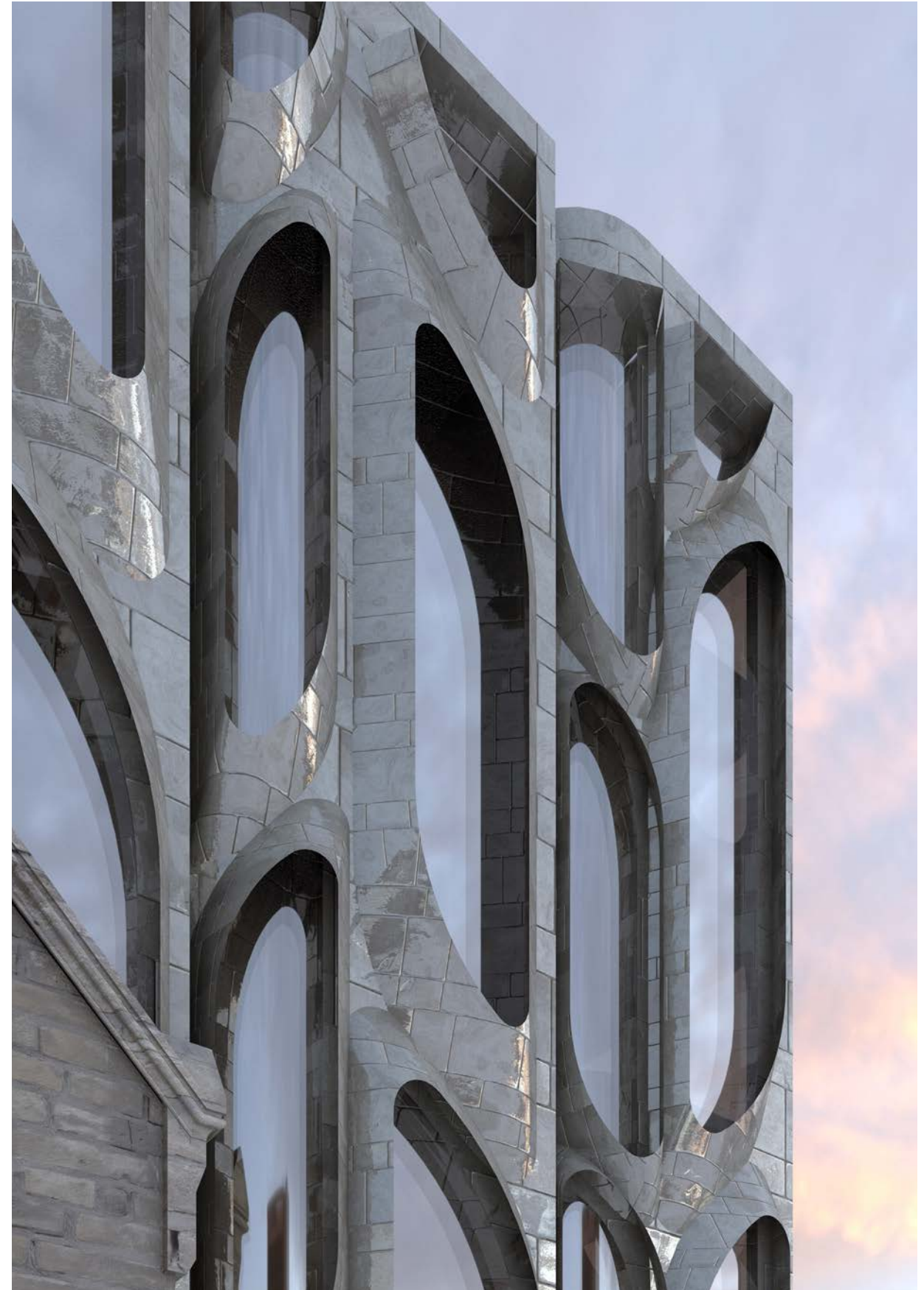
BRANCHING FIGURES



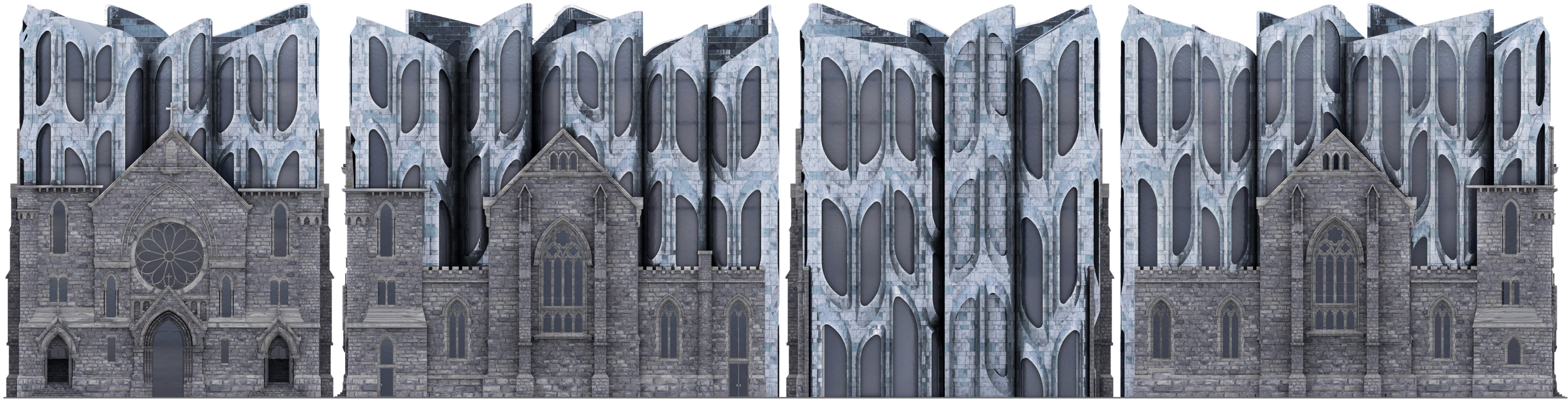
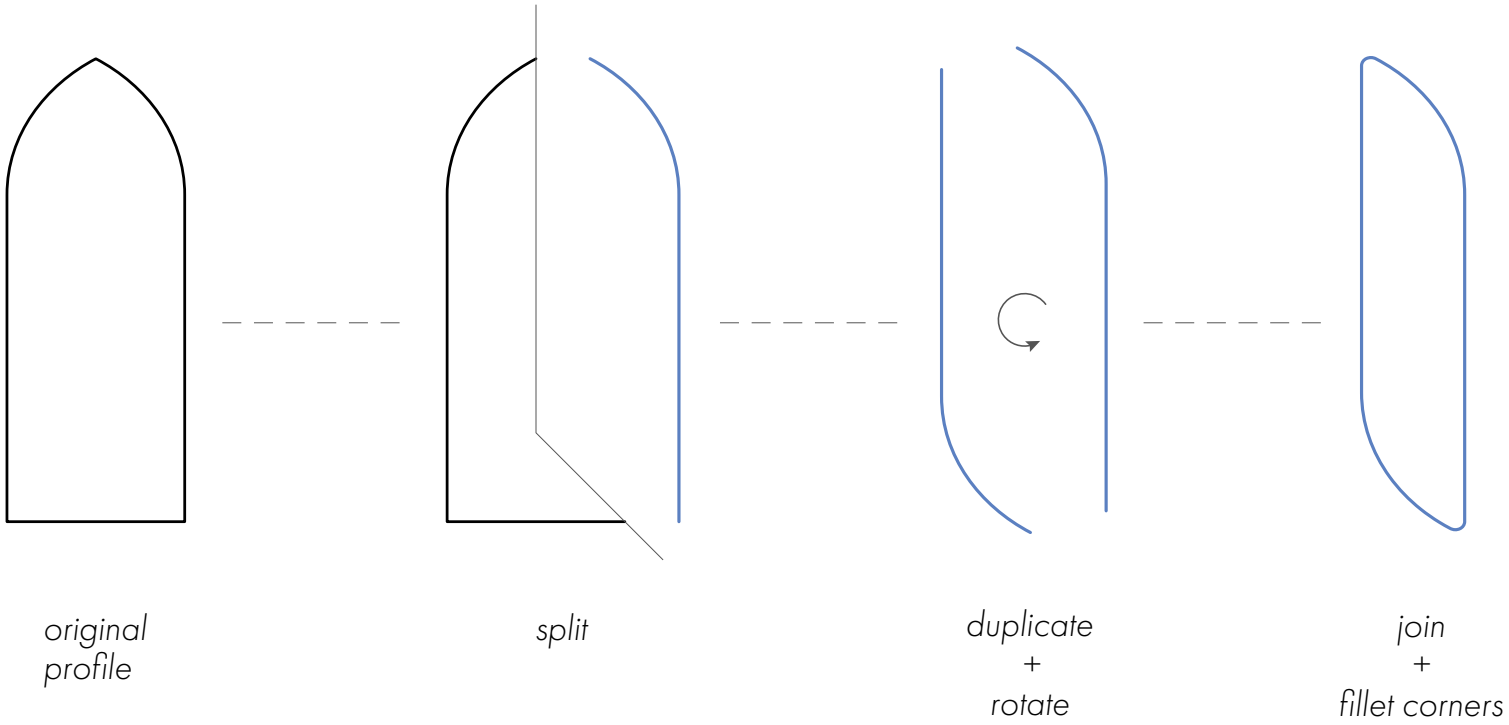
BRANCHING FIGURES

Adaptive Reuse Apartment Housing
Troy, New York / 42.7284° N, 73.6918° W
Architectural Design Studio 04 / Spring 2022
Professor: Matthew Lopez
Partners: Teja Humphrey & Elias Tonia

The renovation of St. Mary Church preserves the essence of its traditional Gothic-Romanesque architecture while introducing contemporary elements. The defining pointed arch profiles are reinterpreted as a recurring figural motif, shaping both the facade articulation and interior spatial organization. This motif suggests a concept of branching, evident in the window openings and the poche of the housing floor plan, where manipulated tracery forms define individual units. These units branch off from the central corridor, reinforcing the project's interplay between historical reference and modern adaptation.



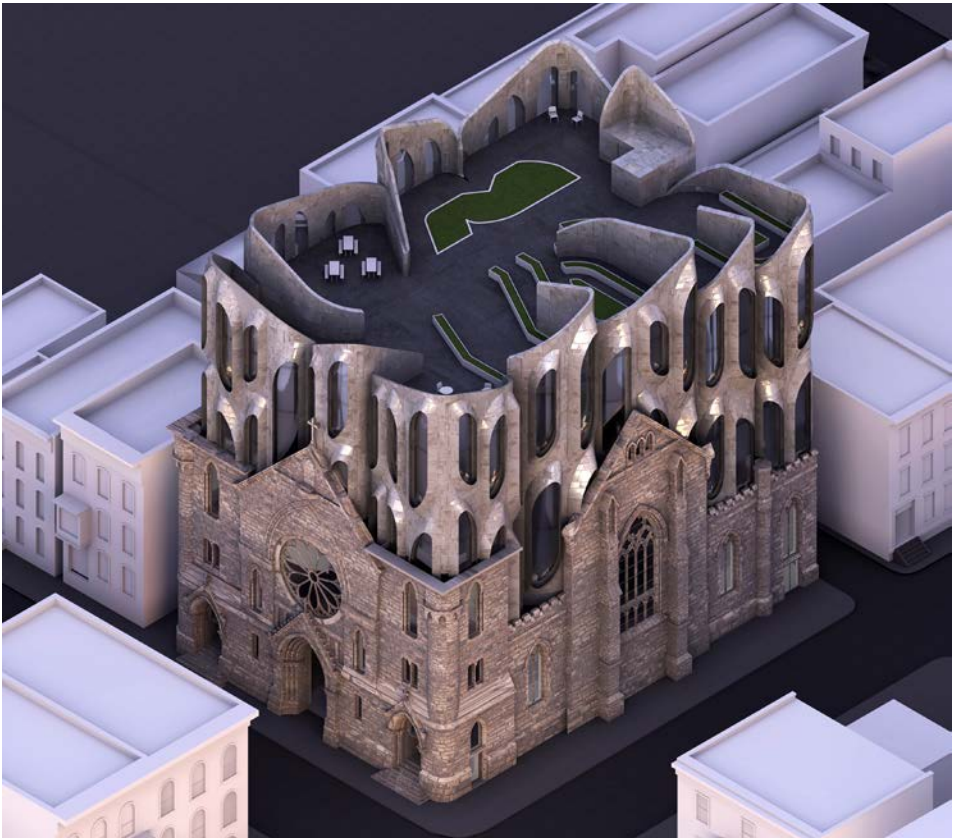
Facade Rendering [Right]



Elevation Series Diagram



Typical Housing Floor Plan [Left]
Southwest Isometric View [Upper Right]
Northeast Isometric View [Lower Right]



Thank you.

Eric Ding