

Urban Design | Architecture

# AISHA SHAIKH

Selected Works 2020 - 2025

M.S. in Urban Design 2025 | Pratt Institute

B.Arch 2021 | American University of Sharjah

# Aisha Shaikh

New York, NY | (917) 602-2634 | [aishashaikh.arch@gmail.com](mailto:aishashaikh.arch@gmail.com) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Portfolio](#)



I'm Aisha Shaikh, an urban designer with a background in architecture and a Master's from Pratt Institute. My work explores how cities can support wellness, equity, and ecological balance through thoughtful and playful design.

I focus on projects that reconnect communities to natural systems, whether through resilient waterfronts, adaptive housing, or mobile public infrastructure. With professional experience in the UAE and a global design perspective, I aim to shape urban spaces that are both culturally grounded and future-ready.

## EDUCATION

### Pratt Institute

Masters of Science in Urban Design

- Cumulative GPA: 4.0

Brooklyn, New York City

Aug 2024 - Aug 2025

### American University of Sharjah

Bachelor of Architecture (NAAB Accredited)

- Dr. Aisha Al Sayyar Endowed Scholarship

Sharjah, UAE

Sept 2016 - June 2021

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### Pratt Institute

Graduate Assistantships - School of Architecture

- Supported Urban Design faculty with studio coordination and logistics while independently documenting and archiving student work through photography, editing, and structured database creation.

Lab Monitor - School of Architecture

- Oversaw architecture labs, ensured proper use of equipment, and provided students with technical support for printing.

Brooklyn, New York

Fall Semester 2024 | Summer Semester 2025

Spring Semester 2025

### Werner Falasi Consulting Architects

Architect

- Independently led a full residential villa project from concept design through development, managing all design stages and client coordination.
- Translated client visions into refined architectural proposals, ensuring alignment with their aspirations and functional needs.
- Collaborated with consultants across disciplines to ensure technical and aesthetic project coherence.
- Delivered compelling design presentations every 2 weeks that secured client approvals and moved projects forward.

Dubai, UAE

March 2022 - July 2024

### Pragma Architects Planners

Junior Architect

- Engaged in the design process of recent projects, specializing in the schematic phase with a focus on interior design, the creation of 3D models, and renderings. Concurrently, I contributed to research efforts aimed at exploring innovative sustainable materials and construction.

Dubai, UAE

Oct 2021 - Feb 2022

### Ardh Architects

Architectural Intern

- Contributed to the conceptualization of diverse projects, including residential villas and competition proposals, while honing proficient research, experimentation, and presentation capabilities.

Dubai, UAE

Summer 2019

## PROJECT EXPERIENCE

### Floriade Expo 2022

- Designed exhibition interiors and produced renders for the UAE Pavilion at Floriade Expo 2022, developing 3D-printed cladding patterns inspired by Al-Sadu and Emirati architecture.

Pragma Architects Planners

## SKILLS & EXPERIENCE

- Languages: Hindi & English
- Modeling: BIM, Revit, Rhinoceros, SketchUp
- Rendering: D5 Render, Lumion, V-ray, Enscape, Twinmotion
- Presenting: AutoCAD, Adobe Indesign, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Microsoft Suites
- Model Making: 3D Printing, Laser Cutting
- Hobbies: Reading, Fitness

Date: 04 July 2024

August 12, 2025

To Whom it May Concern::

I am writing to strongly recommend Aisha Shaikh for employment opportunities at your firm. I am currently the Master of Science Programs Coordinator of the Graduate Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Design Department at Pratt Institute and an Associate Professor, where I have taught since 2001. Aisha is one of our strongest Master of Science in Urban Design graduates in recent years.

Aisha's design capability is evident in her work samples, which focus on urban proposals across a range of geographic contexts, from the UAE to New York to Mexico City. Aisha's considerable conceptual talent is easily seen in her richly detailed drawings and images for new urban block typologies. Her project for Mexico City, titled "Walls that Work: Spectacle to Street" shifts between choreographing game-day crowds and supporting markets, classrooms, and community spaces in the off-season.

Aisha has a sensibility to her work that shows a strong conceptual thought process. Her dedication to her work is balanced by a warmly collegial attitude that is productive and inspiring to others in her class.

I endorse her candidacy as a prospective employee without hesitation.

Sincerely,



Alexandra Barker, FAIA  
Coordinator, Master of Science Programs and Adjunct Associate Professor, CCE  
Pratt Institute Graduate Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Design

**Pratt Institute**  
Graduate Architecture,  
Landscape Architecture,  
and Urban Design

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61 St. James Place  
Brooklyn, NY 11238

galaud-programs  
@pratt.edu  
718.399.4327

pratt.edu/architecture/  
graduate-architecture

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

Aisha Shaikh has been employed at **WERNER FALASI** Consulting Architects (WFCA) as a Building Architect from 26 March 2022 until 04 July 2024. During her time at WFCA, Aisha demonstrated exceptional skills, making her a great asset to our team.

Aisha's initial duties included assisting Senior Architects on major residential projects of a grand scale. Her tasks encompassed the following:

- Developing bathroom details, RCPs, and GRC detail sections
- Designing boundary walls and creating 3D views
- Coordinating with structural and MEP teams
- Producing staircase details drawings and modelling
- Modelling utility units
- Presentations for award submissions

Aisha; however, quickly progressed to leading a project of her own – undertaking the design of a residential mansion of a grand scale. Leading the concept design, detailed design phases, and MEP & ID coordination of a project of that scale as a Junior Architect is a testament to her skills and rapid professional growth.

Throughout her employment, Aisha consistently delivered on client and Management expectations, demonstrating reliability and an ability to translate requirements into design.

Aisha has made the decision to resign from her position at Werner Falasi in order to pursue further studies. We wish Aisha the best of luck and have no doubt that she would excel in her future endeavours and be an asset to any future organization she joins.

Sincerely,

For and on behalf of **WERNER FALASI** Consulting Architects



Diana Werner  
Chief Administrative Officer

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*Professional Work Experience*
  
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Translation of facade concepts through analog and digital techniques  
*MSUD | Spring 2025 | Mediums 3: Architectural Visualization*

This selection of work reflects an evolving practice rooted in research, cultural sensitivity, and the belief that architecture and urban design must respond to both immediate human needs and long-term planetary futures.

Site | Marina Royal Compound, Abu Dhabi City

Project Team | Werner Falasi Consulting Architects - 2022-2024

Contribution | Lead Architect from Concept Design up to Design Development

Softwares Used | Revit and AutoCAD

Modern Coastal Emirati Retreat is a luxurious beachfront villa that harmoniously blends contemporary design with traditional Emirati architectural elements.

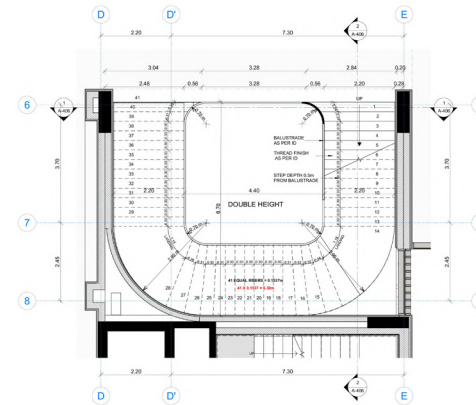
This stunning project features a private beach, providing an exclusive and serene coastal experience. The villa's layout thoughtfully separates family living areas from the more public spaces, such as the majlis and dining rooms, mirroring the cultural values and hospitality traditions of Emirati households.

The design showcases sleek lines, expansive glass facades, and minimalist aesthetics, creating a seamless connection between the indoor spaces and the breathtaking coastal environment. Sustainable materials and innovative construction techniques are employed to enhance both the aesthetic appeal and environmental responsibility of the villa.

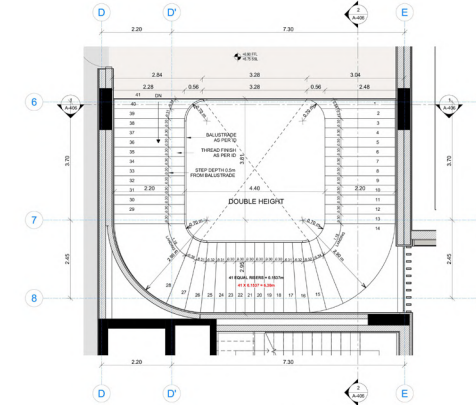




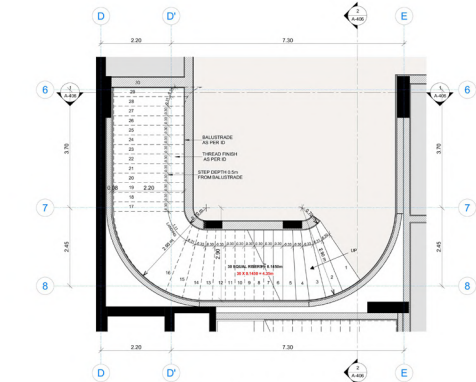
Ground Floor Plan



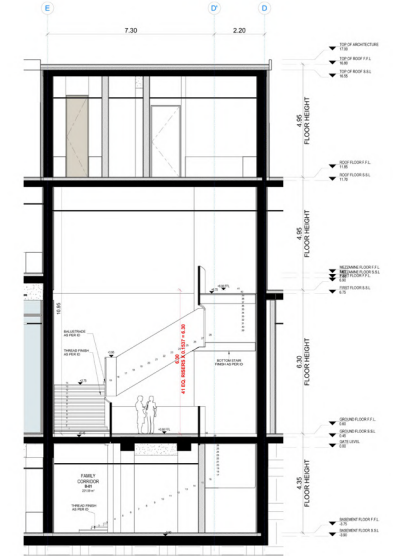
1 : 50 \_MAIN STAIRCASE - GROUND FLOOR PLAN



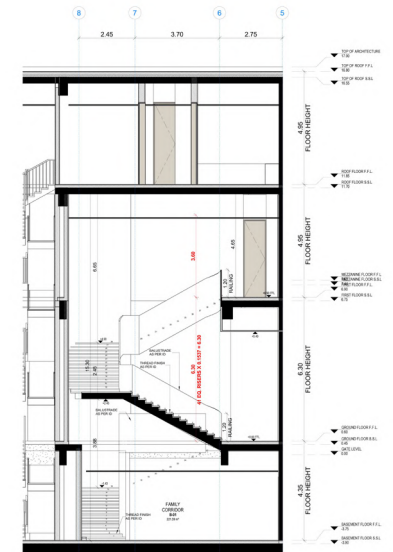
1 : 50 \_MAIN STAIRCASE - FIRST FLOOR PLAN



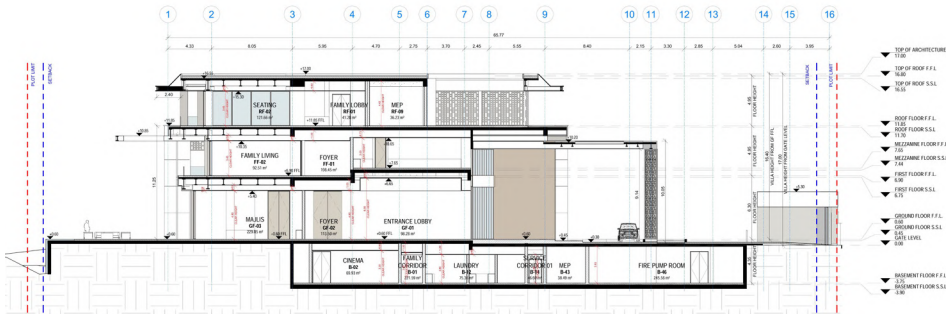
1 : 50 \_MAIN STAIRCASE - BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN



Main Staircase - Section 1

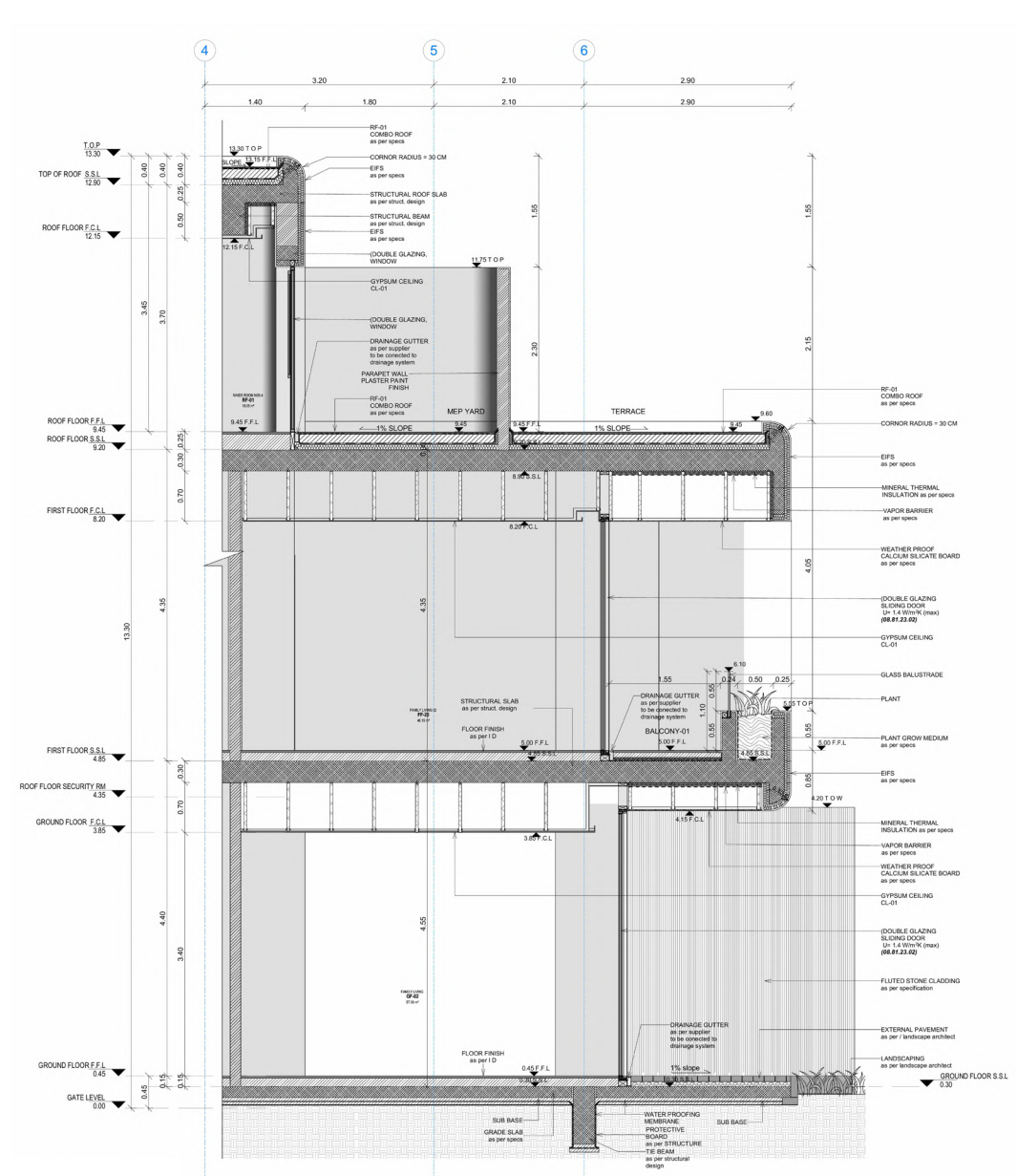


Main Staircase - Section 2

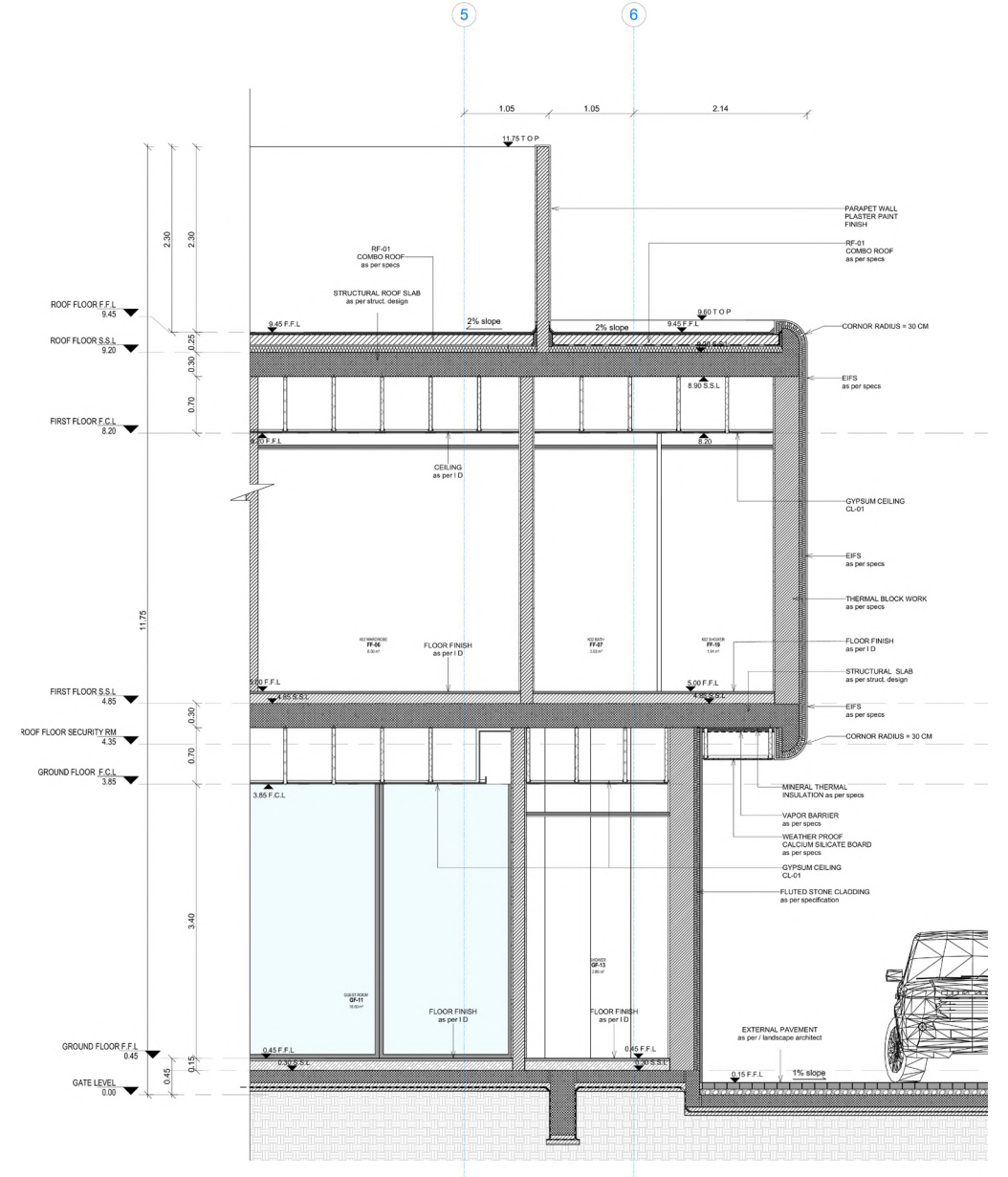


Section A-A





Wall Section - Design Development



Wall Section - Design Development

Site | Almere, Netherlands

Project Team | Pragma Architects Planners - 2022

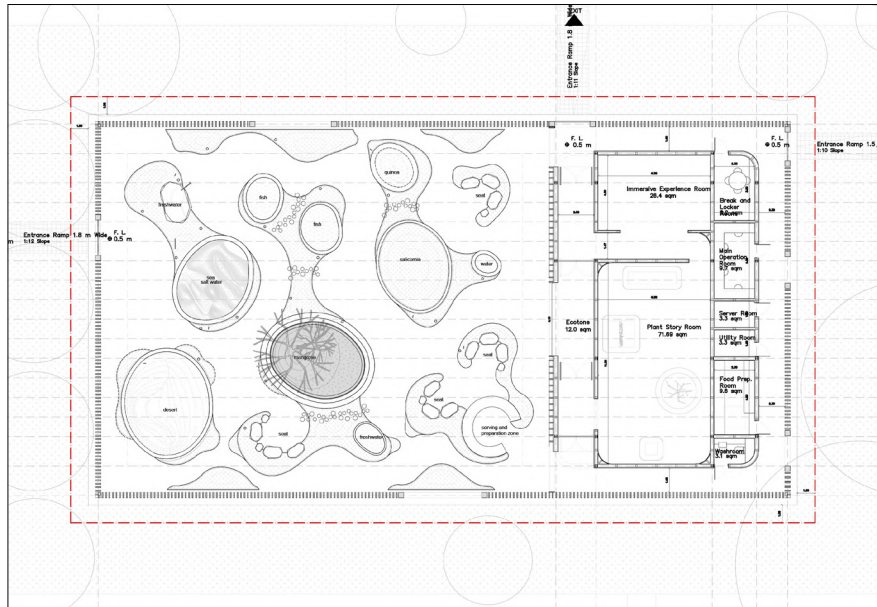
Contribution | Interior Design of gallery space and cladding design, landscape details, 3D modeling and rendering

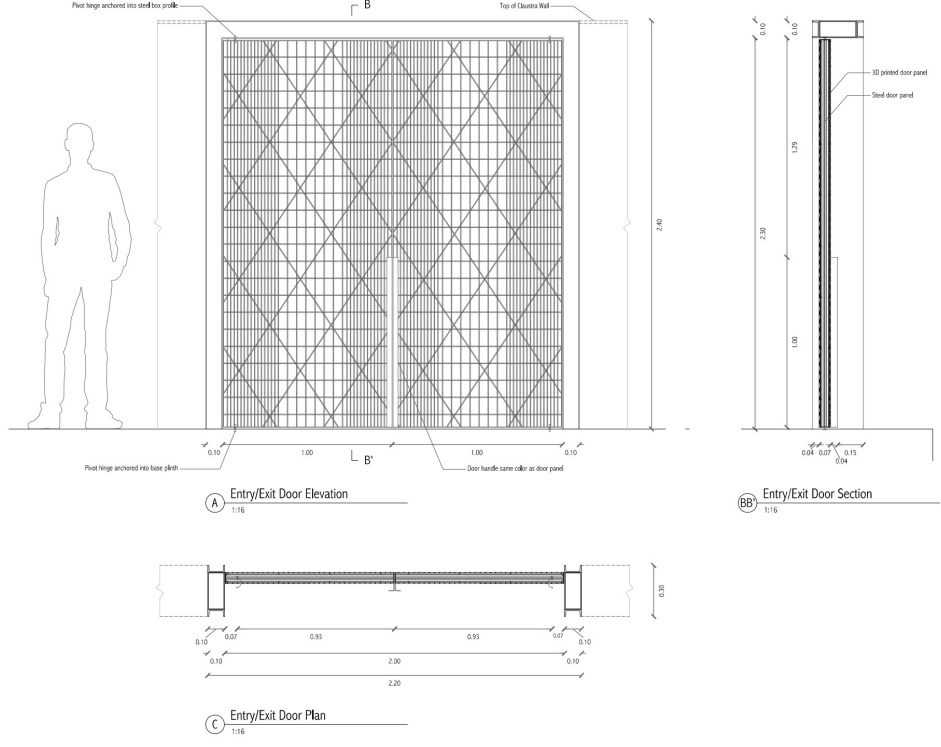
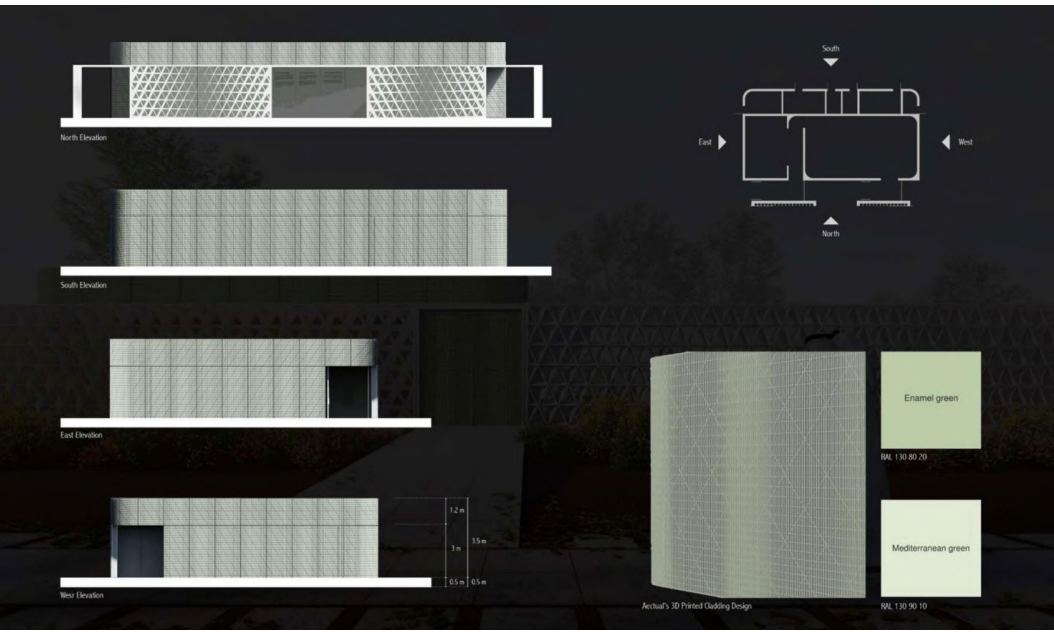
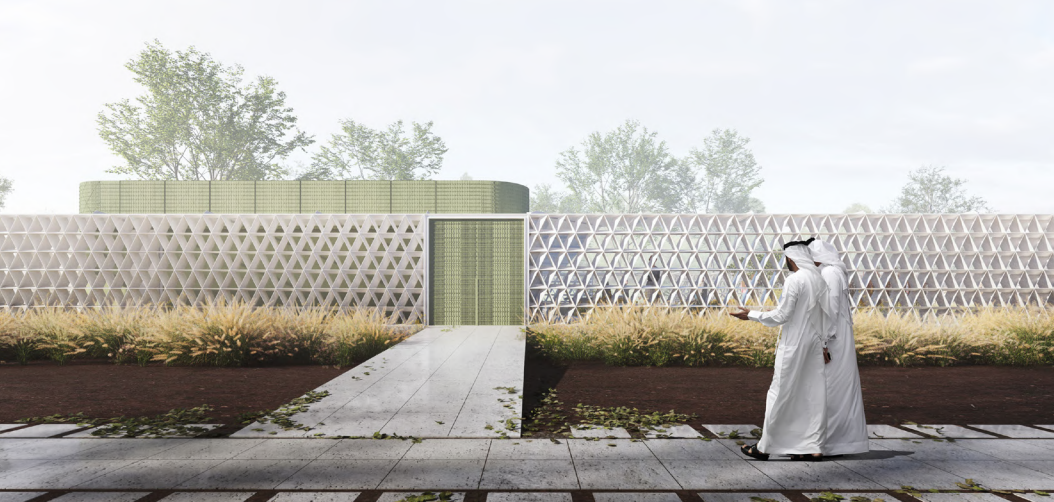
Softwares Used | SketchUp, Rhino 3D and Enscape

Pragma. is a design studio based in Dubai operating within the fields of architecture, urbanism, and research. This pavilion was created for the Floriade Expo 2022, inspired by the concept of a 'secret garden'; within this garden, a meticulous preservation and nurturing of plants take place. The pavilion's architectural design pays homage to the traditional Emirati home, where both the residence and the garden are discreetly shielded from view by a boundary wall, ensuring a sense of visual privacy.

To create this boundary wall, 3D-printed claustra walls were employed, representing an innovative endeavor to blend tradition with sustainability. Historically, claustra walls were used in traditional homes to provide privacy, shade, and natural ventilation.

Furthermore, the intricate 3D-printed cladding design pays homage to the UAE's rich cultural heritage, drawing inspiration from the traditional weaving technique known as 'Al-Sadu.





# 03 Ecological Urbanism

## Revitalizing Brooklyn Marine Terminal

Urban Design Studio I  
Site | Brooklyn Marine Terminal  
Instructor | Oliver Schaper & Valeria Cedillos  
MSUD | Fall 2024 | Group Project

Our project transforms the Brooklyn Marine Terminal into a lively and resilient urban waterfront, reconnecting the site with its ecological and cultural heritage.

The design invites water into the site instead of resisting it, creating a balance between the built environment and natural systems. Challenges like poor connectivity, limited green spaces, flooding, and lost heritage are tackled through thoughtful interventions. Pedestrian and bike-friendly pathways link the terminal to nearby landmarks, while green spaces, ranging from quiet courtyards to ecological restoration zones, create vibrant public areas.

Flood risks are managed with wetlands, vegetated barriers, and floodable landscapes that adapt to changing conditions. The waterfront is revitalized with a research and education hub, restoring its cultural and ecological significance. This project reclaims the terminal as a space for community, nature, and history, offering a sustainable and inclusive vision for the future.



## Design Framework and Strategic Development

The initial sketches explore circulation, edge conditions, and hydrological flows as primary drivers for site activation. Early design iterations focused on identifying latent spatial opportunities along the waterfront while integrating natural systems as guiding forces in shaping programmatic zones. These sketches laid the foundation for a layered landscape strategy that blurs the boundary between land and water, prioritizing access, resilience, and ecological restoration. Through iterative mapping and sectional thinking, the design gradually evolved to reinforce water-defined edges, connect fragmented green spaces, and embed floodable landscapes into the urban fabric.



POOR CONNECTIVITY



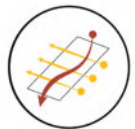
ABSENCE OF GREEN SPACES



VULNERABILITY TO FLOODING



LOST ECOLOGICAL AND CULTURAL HERITAGE



- Strengthening Connections  
- Activating Waterfront



- Layered Approach  
- Ecological Restoration Sites



- Protection and Adaptation  
- Vegetated Barriers  
- Embrace Water



- Reconnect Site with its lost Cultural and Ecological Roots

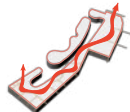
## Generative Diagrams



01 - Existing Site Boundary



02 - Water Defined Edges



03 - Primary Spline

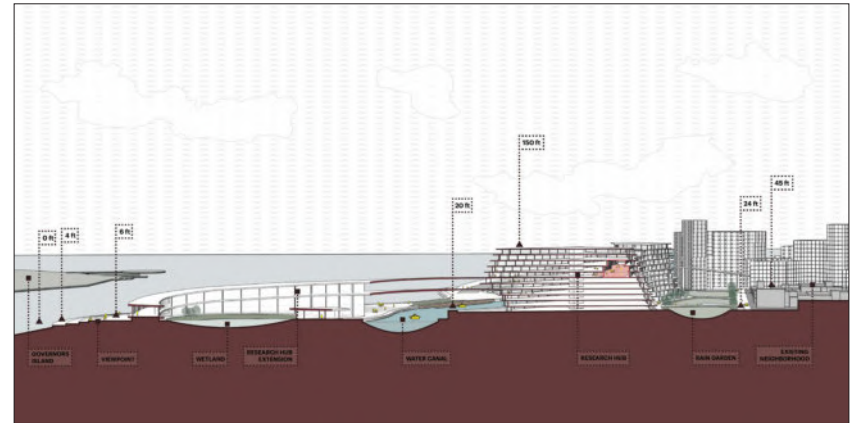


04 - Research Hub as a Focal Point

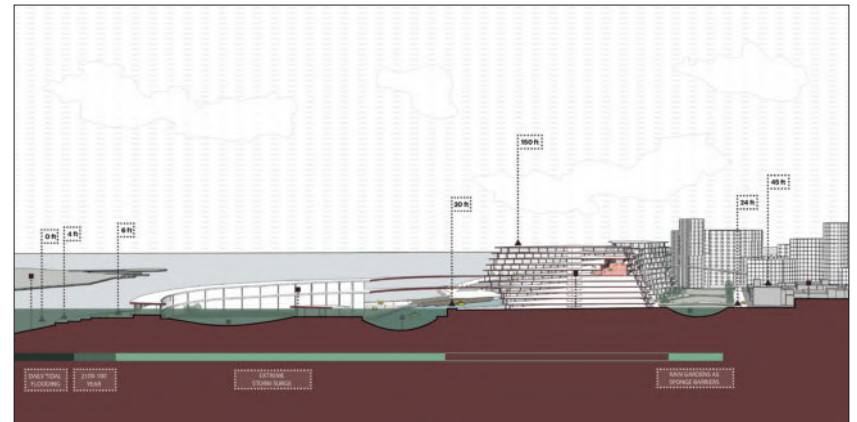


05 - Historical Wetlands Restoration

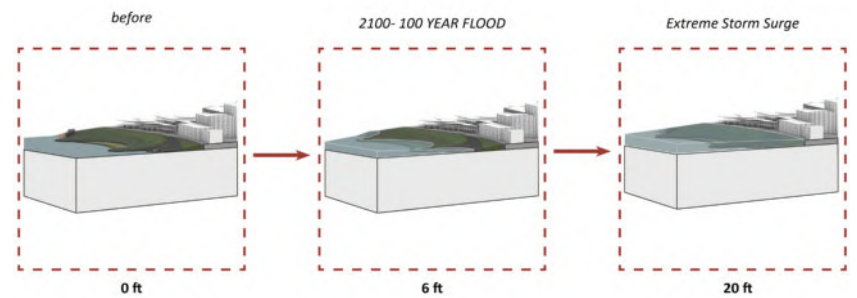




Site Section Before Flooding — Showing existing conditions prior to water inundation.



Site Section After Flooding — Illustrating how vegetated barriers accommodate and manage rising water levels.

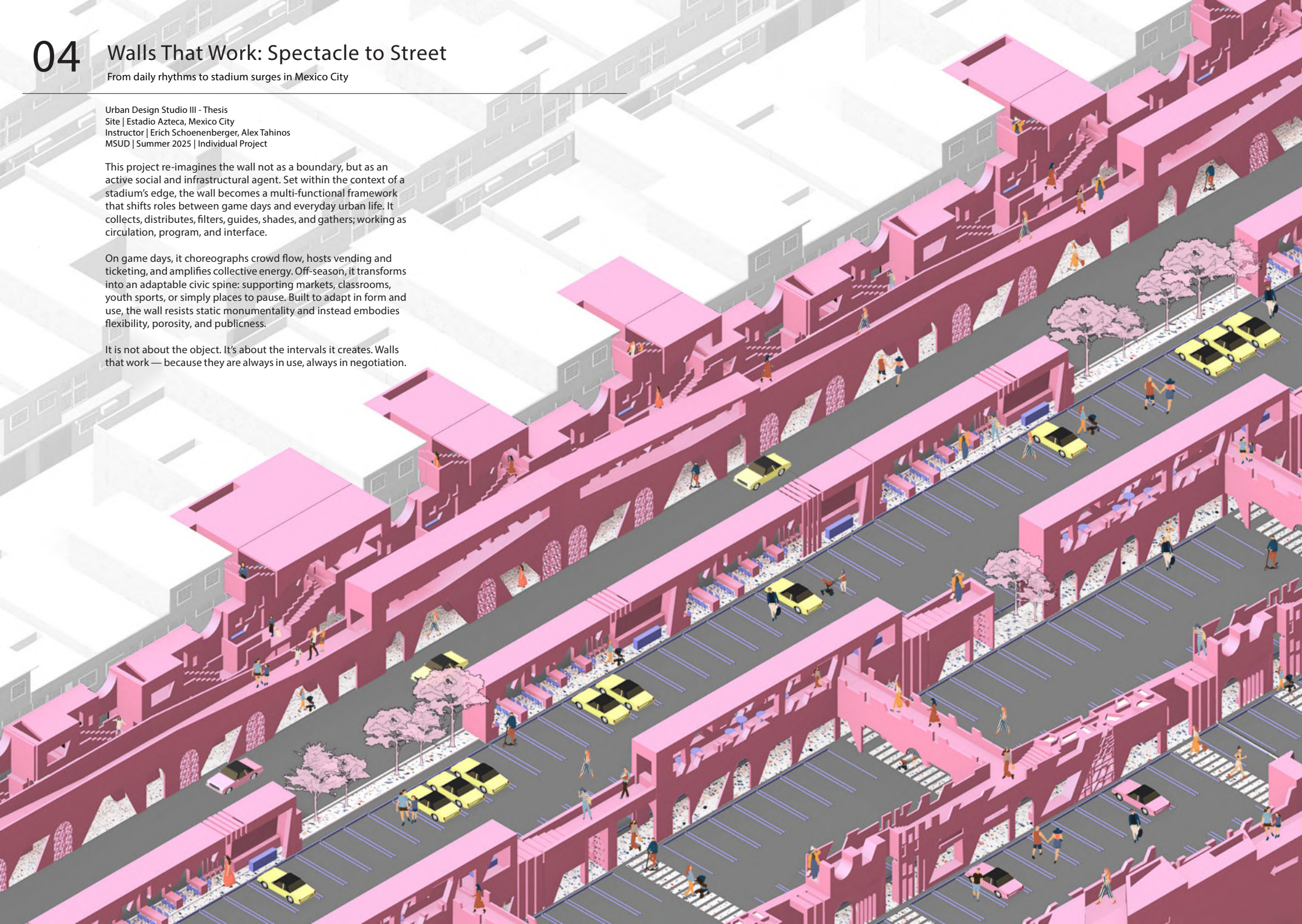


Urban Design Studio III - Thesis  
Site | Estadio Azteca, Mexico City  
Instructor | Erich Schoenenberger, Alex Tahinos  
MSUD | Summer 2025 | Individual Project

This project re-imagines the wall not as a boundary, but as an active social and infrastructural agent. Set within the context of a stadium's edge, the wall becomes a multi-functional framework that shifts roles between game days and everyday urban life. It collects, distributes, filters, guides, shades, and gathers; working as circulation, program, and interface.

On game days, it choreographs crowd flow, hosts vending and ticketing, and amplifies collective energy. Off-season, it transforms into an adaptable civic spine: supporting markets, classrooms, youth sports, or simply places to pause. Built to adapt in form and use, the wall resists static monumentality and instead embodies flexibility, porosity, and publicness.

It is not about the object. It's about the intervals it creates. Walls that work — because they are always in use, always in negotiation.



## Design Framework and Strategic Development

The initial sketches explore circulation, edge conditions, and hydrological flows as primary drivers for site activation. Early design iterations focused on identifying latent spatial opportunities along the waterfront while integrating natural systems as guiding forces in shaping programmatic zones. These sketches laid the foundation for a layered landscape strategy that blurs the boundary between land and water, prioritizing access, resilience, and ecological restoration. Through iterative mapping and sectional thinking, the design gradually evolved to reinforce water-defined edges, connect fragmented green spaces, and embed floodable landscapes into the urban fabric.



Photographs show how inactive sites are informally repurposed by community use



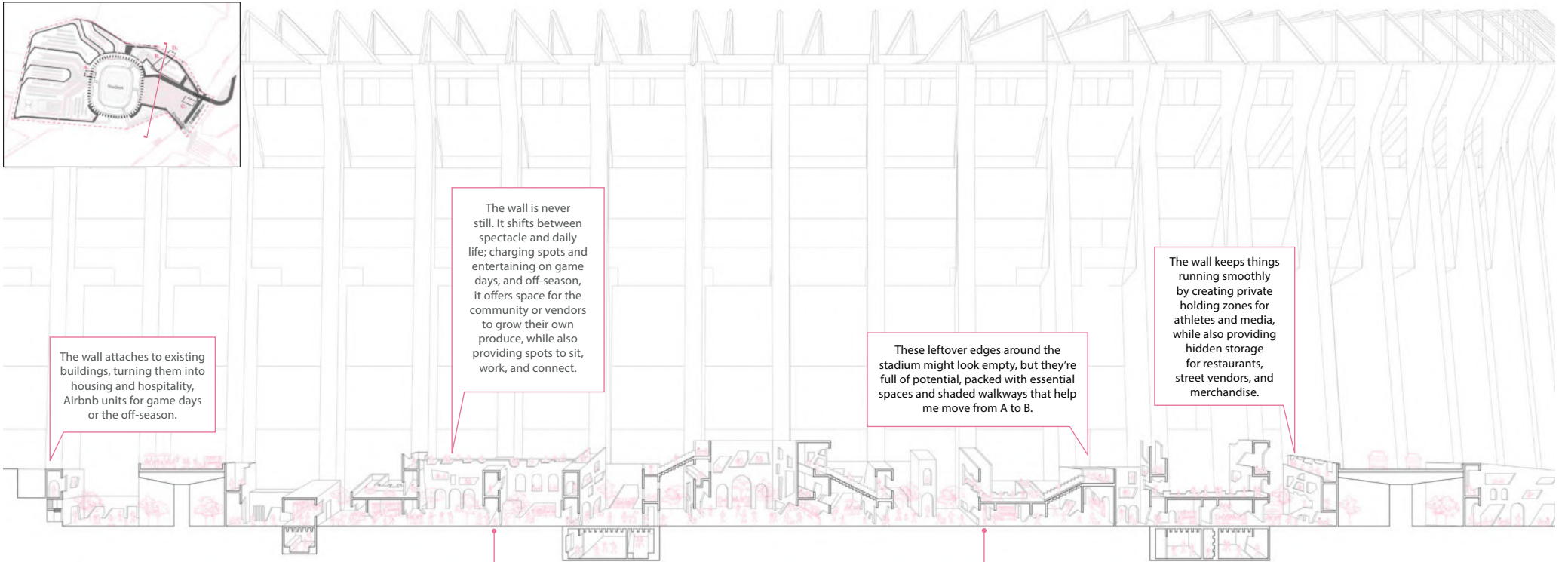
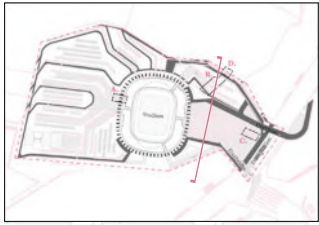
Mappings illustrate pedestrian circulation on game days from otherwise inactive sites



Design studies explore parasitic spatial strategies—thickening, climbing, and inhabiting beneath bridges



Overall Site Strategy - Adaptive Urban Intervention

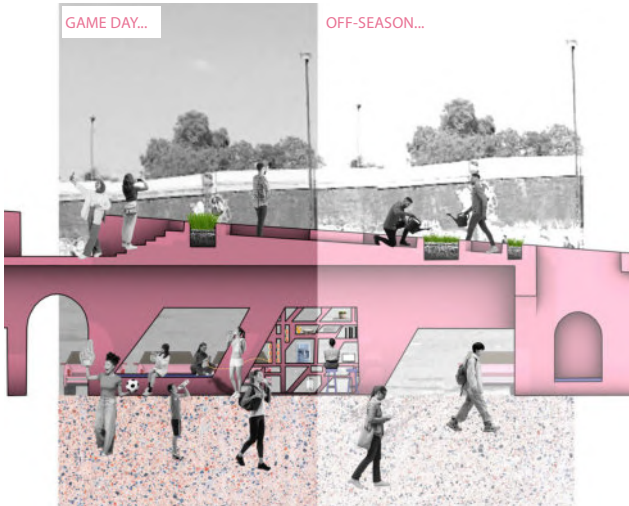


The wall attaches to existing buildings, turning them into housing and hospitality, Airbnb units for game days or the off-season.

The wall is never still. It shifts between spectacle and daily life; charging spots and entertaining on game days, and off-season, it offers space for the community or vendors to grow their own produce, while also providing spots to sit, work, and connect.

These leftover edges around the stadium might look empty, but they're full of potential, packed with essential spaces and shaded walkways that help me move from A to B.

The wall keeps things running smoothly by creating private holding zones for athletes and media, while also providing hidden storage for restaurants, street vendors, and merchandise.



Hydrate. Recharge. Capture the Moment.

Flexible Spaces for Community Use

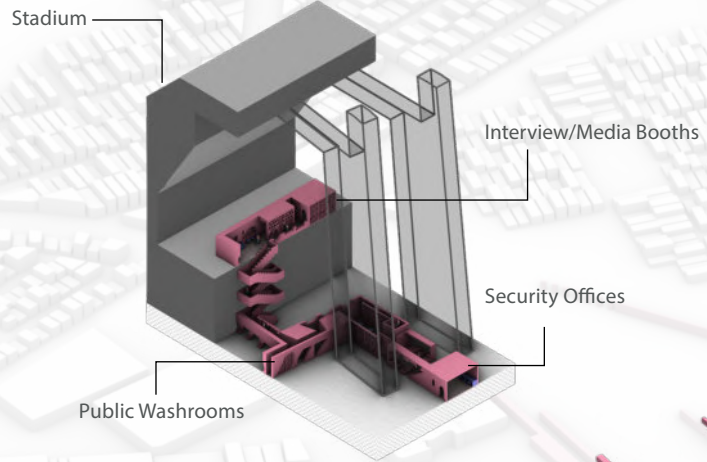


Flex-Stay Connected to Housing

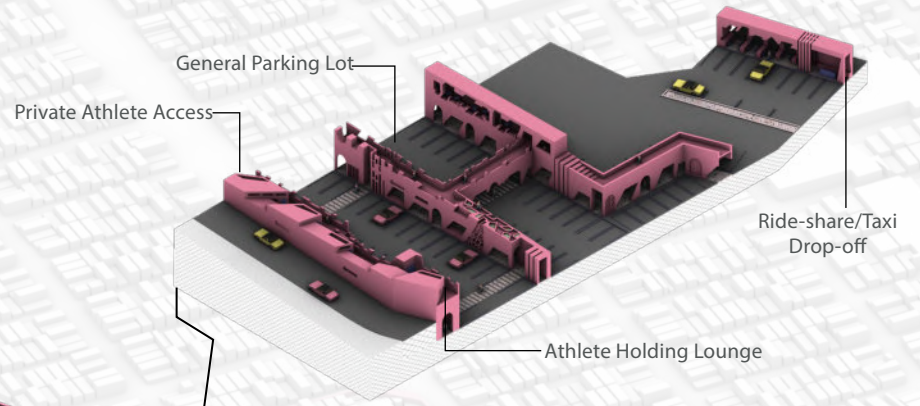


Fan Stalls. Refreshments. Gathering Spots.

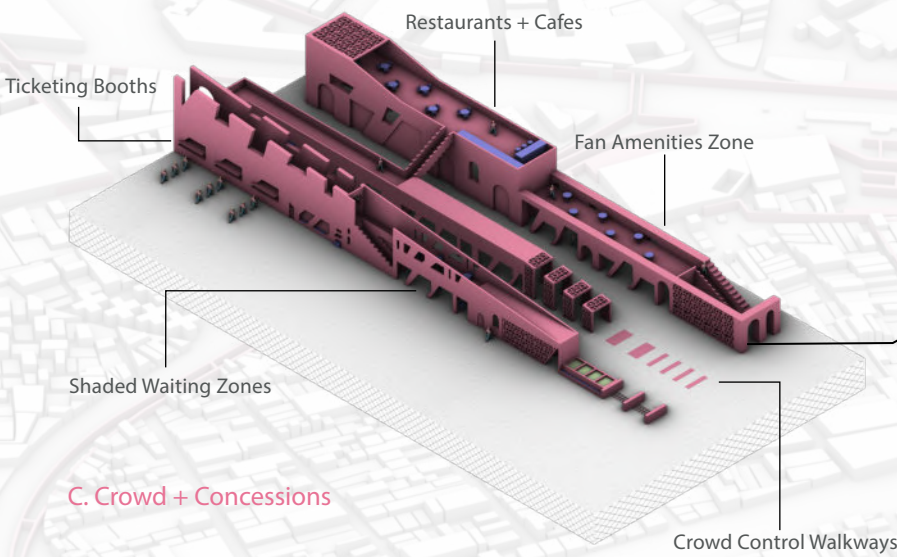
Local Vendors. Picnic & Play Area.



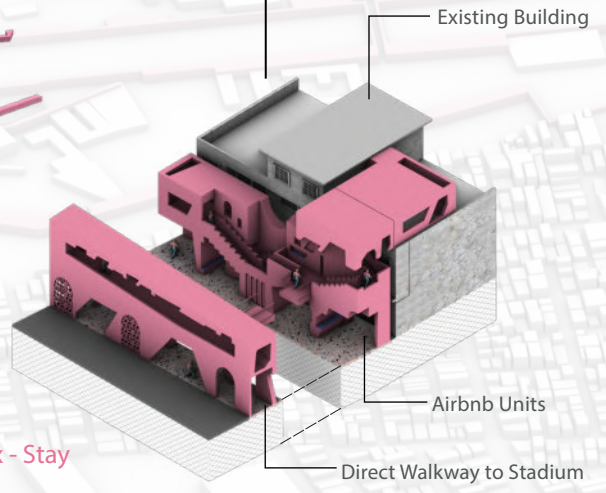
A. Operations + Media Core



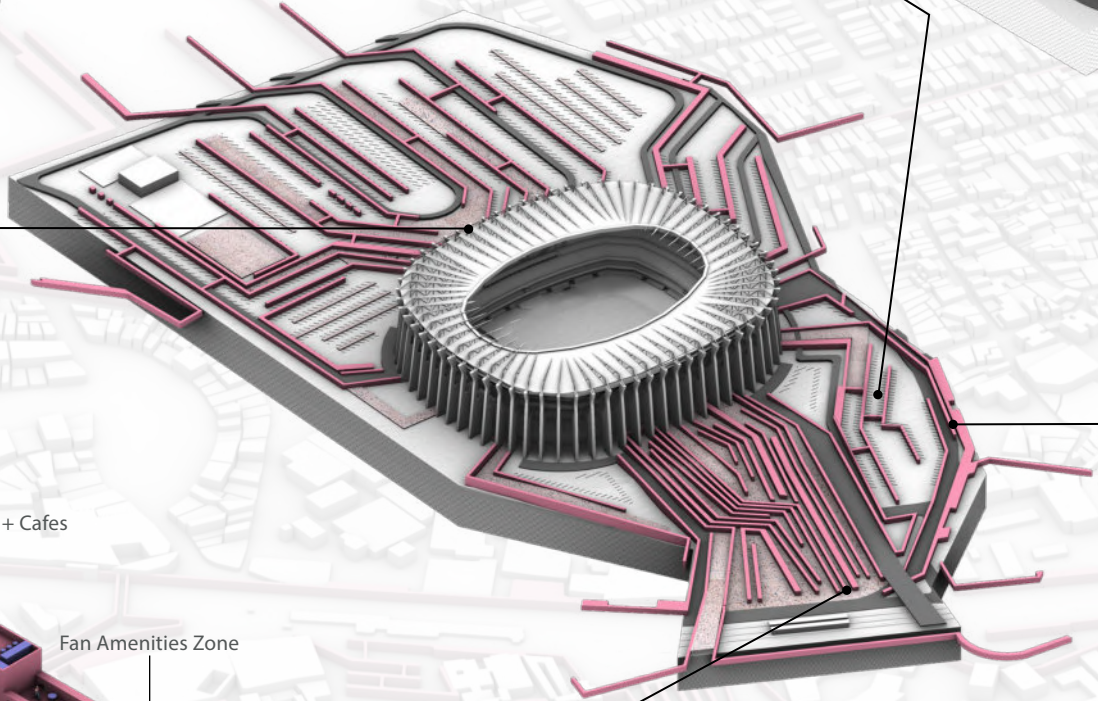
B. Athlete Arrival + Parking



C. Crowd + Concessions



D. Flex - Stay



# 05

## The Rise of New Urban Blocks

Hybrid massing and zoning strategies for the evolving NYC block

Urban Design Studio II  
Site | 3 Typical NYC Blocks  
Instructor | Peter Trummer & Pinar Araci  
MSUD | Fall 2024 | Individual Project

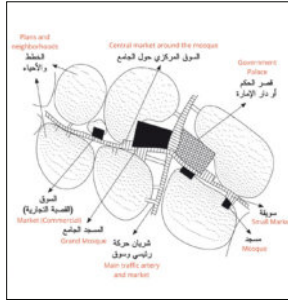
The Rise of New Urban Blocks explores how historic block typologies can be reinterpreted to address contemporary urban challenges. Through a comparative study of Arab urbanism, Cerda's grid, Leon Krier's fabric, and Le Corbusier's village model, the project identifies how each navigates the relationship between public and private space. Synthesizing their spatial logics, the proposal generates a hybrid plan that balances structured density, communal courtyards, and layered circulation.

Volumetric studies explore how vertical massing and setbacks can support social interaction, solar performance, and zoning logic. Emerging strategies—like layered streets, hybrid zones, and terraced platforms—organize a block that is porous, performative, and ecologically aware. Courtyards are re-imagined as vertical elements, acting as light wells, gathering spaces, and ventilation cores throughout the building.



## Research and Concept Development

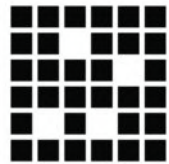
The traditional neighborhood of Al Bastakiya in Dubai is defined by its balance between public streets and private courtyards. Narrow, shaded alleyways (sikkas) create intimate pedestrian paths that connect to inward-facing homes centered around courtyards. This spatial logic where streets compress and courtyards open, informed my approach to layering public and private zones. Al Bastakiya offers a precedent where form emerges from climate, culture, and the need for social intimacy, qualities I reinterpreted vertically in my proposal.



## Courtyards vs. Streets



DUBAI BLOCK  
Arab Urbanism



BLOCK AS AN  
URBAN FABRIC  
Leon Krier



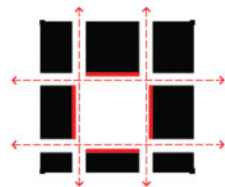
9 SQUARE BLOCK  
Cerda, Barcelona



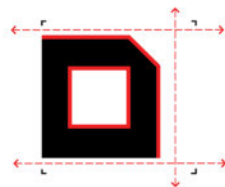
BLOCK AS A VILLAGE  
Le Corbusier,  
Ville Immeubles



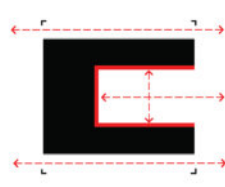
Strict separation of  
public streets and  
private courtyards



Hybrid of public and  
private spaces; courtyards  
and streets are the same

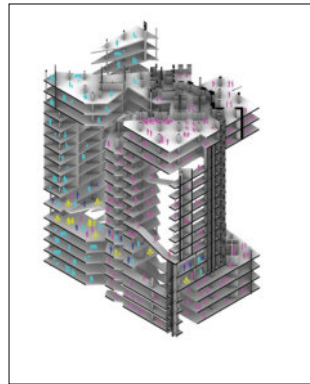
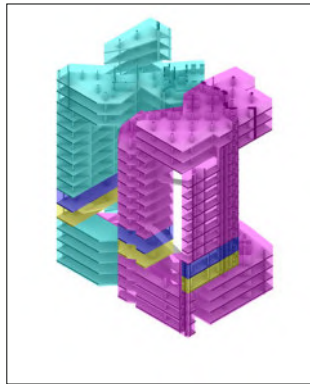
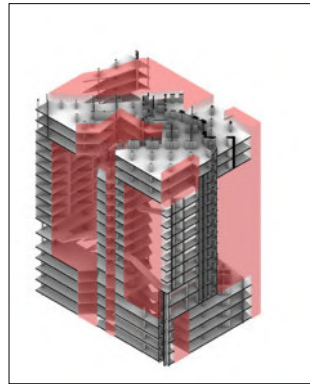
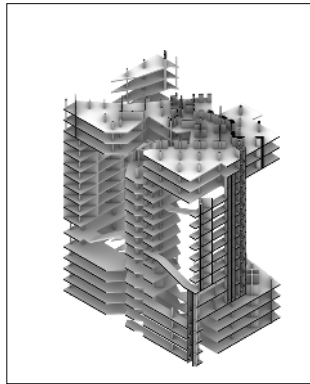


Combination of the strict  
separation of private  
courtyards and the hybrid  
public - private space



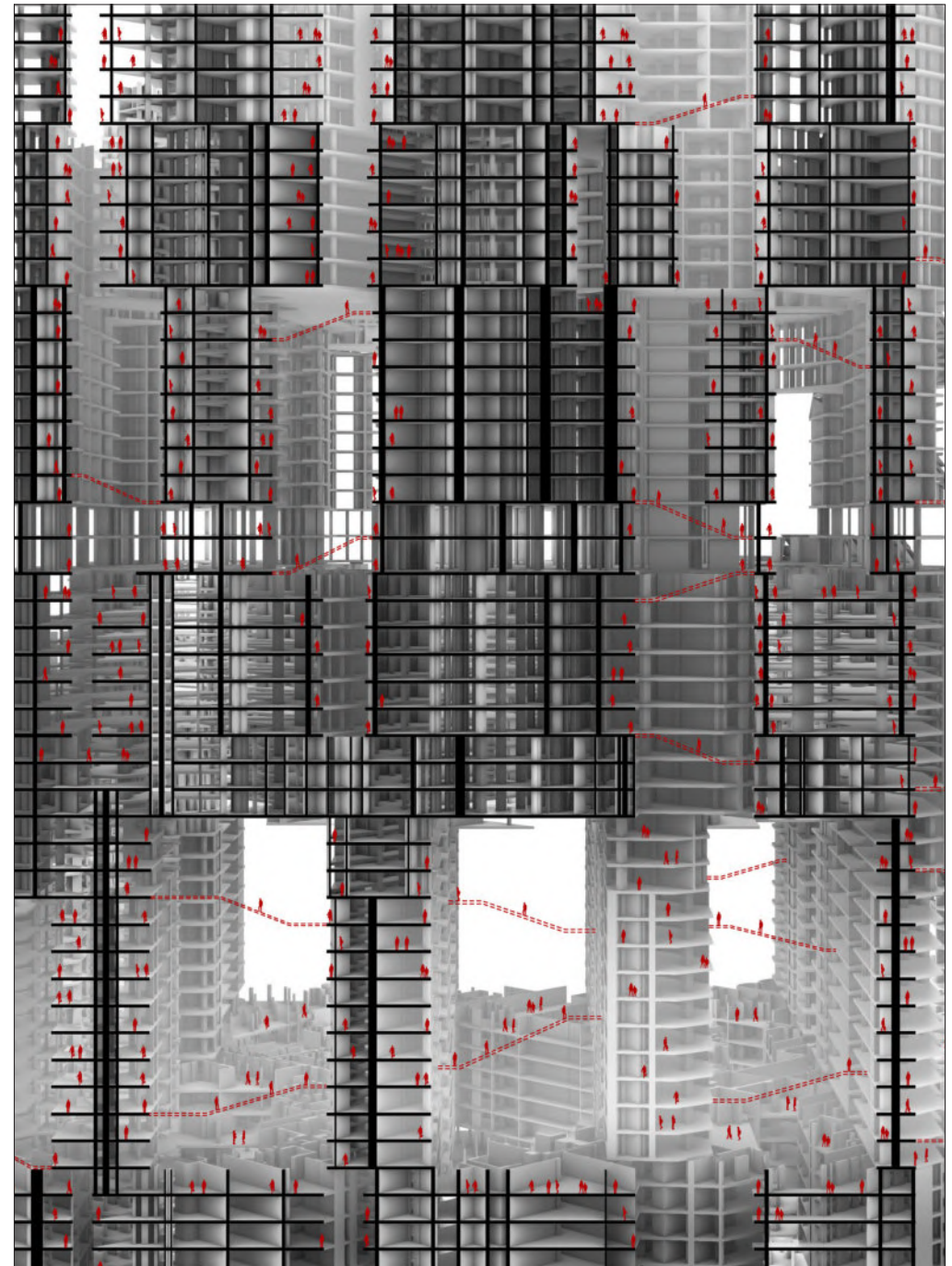
Courtyards act as communal  
semi-private spaces while  
maintaining separation from  
public streets





- Courtyards
- Housing
- Offices
- Industrial
- Retail
- Institutional

Cohabitation: Courtyards bring light, air, and community into vertical blocks where housing, office, and retail coexist, creating a dense, diverse, and porous architecture.



# 07

## Experimental Facade Study

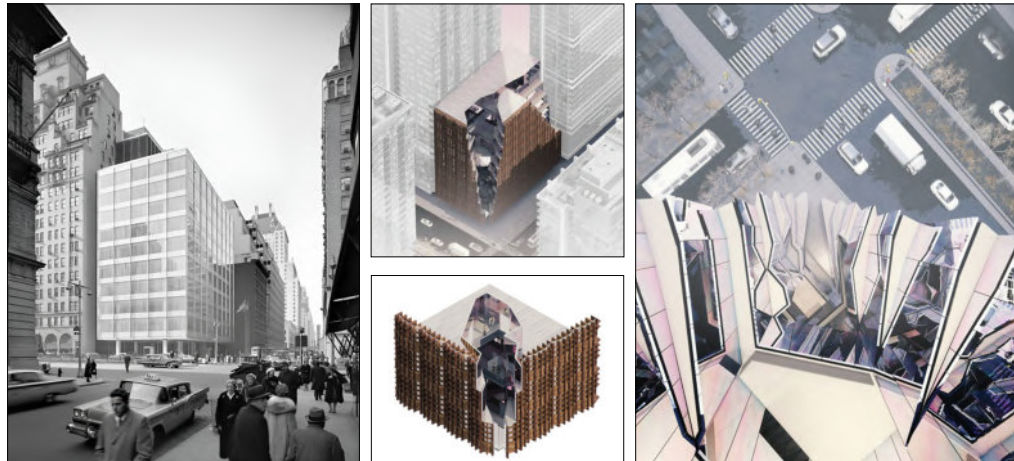
Translation of facade concepts through analog and digital techniques

Mediums 3: Architectural Visualization  
Site | Pepsi-Cola Building, 500 Park Ave, NY  
Instructor | Ramon Pena  
MSUD | Spring 2025 | Individual Project

Field vs Other explores the tension between continuity and disruption through a layered, responsive facade. A rhythmic field of bay windows establishes order, while fragmented, mirrored window assemblies introduce deliberate interruptions, distorting reflections and breaking visual expectations.

The design activates light as both a guiding and disruptive force. In the gallery levels, prismatic shadows and filtered daylight transform the interior into a dynamic spatial experience. From the third to ninth floors, residential units are organized around semi-private courtyards and terraces that blur public and private boundaries.

Layered transparencies, shifting light, and ambiguous thresholds create a building that's not static but perceptually alive. The architecture questions the nature of solidity and void, offering a sensorial and evolving dialogue between form and atmosphere.



Urban Design | Architecture

**THANK YOU**

Contact

+1(917) 602-2634