

Sara Abi Merched

Architect | Urban Designer



All is architecture.



Selected Professional Projects

01 | Menuiserie Baldini

Built . Menuiserie Baldini

02 | Volver a la Frontera/Barrio

European 18 Competition - Runner-Up | Barcelona (La Font del Gos)

03 | TUMO Project

Design development . MVRDV

01 | Menuiserie Baldini

Location : Maxéville, Lorraine, France
Professional project : Menuiserie Baldini
Project type : Conceptual, Technical, Construction
Date : October 2021 - January 2022
Supervisor : Jean Malingrey | jean.malingrey@menuiseriebaldini.fr

At Menuiserie Baldini, I worked on the design and execution of a new carpentry warehouse, focusing on the detailed integration of structure, machinery, and technical constraints. I redrew the entire existing facility in 3D, including machinery, structural elements, and circulation, in order to achieve precise visualization for execution drawings and coordination. The project was developed in close collaboration with technicians, including ventilation and aeration specialists for woodworking machines, as well as heating and lighting teams, ensuring coherence between spatial design and operational requirements.

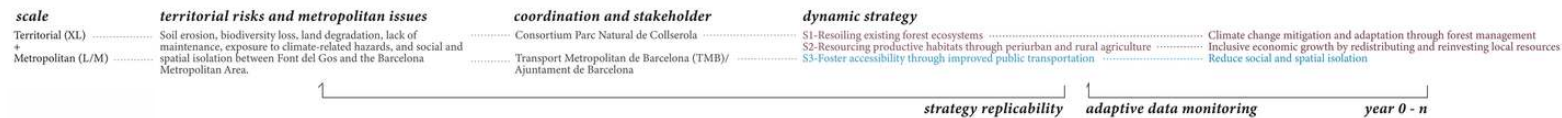
My role contributed to shaping the final stage of the project by integrating machine usage plans, safety clearances, and construction constraints into the architectural design. I produced interior and exterior drawings, sections, and 3D models, and participated in the design and realization of the wooden roof structure and the warehouse entrance. This project is presented in the portfolio as a built work, reflecting a direct engagement with materiality, construction processes, and the translation of technical constraints into architectural form.



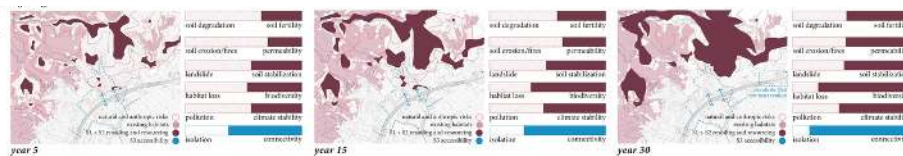


02 | Volver a la Frontera/Barrio

Location : Barcelona-La Font del Gos
Collaborative project : Margherita Pasquali, Evgeniia Sokolova, Elena Madiari
Project type : European 18 - Runner-Up, Barcelona (La Font del Geos)
Date : April 2025 - July 2025
Supervisor : Margherita Pasquali | pasquali.associati@gmail.com



Dynamic Masterplan
 adaptive data monitoring of land resourcing strategy

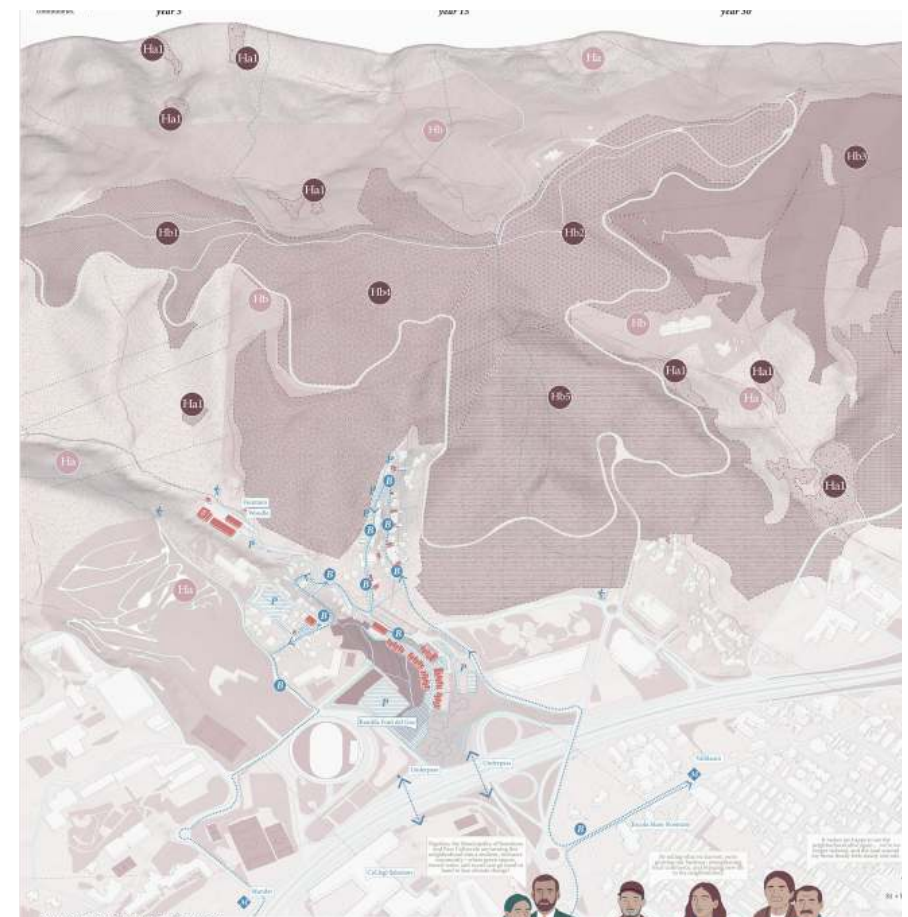


Project's expected positive impacts

Volver a la Frontera / Barrio, Runner-Up of European 18 in Font del Gos, proposes an integrated metropolitan and territorial strategy based on continuous environmental data monitoring. The graph illustrates how risks such as flooding, fires, aridity, and soil degradation are identified through parameters including slope, land use, and ecological conditions.

This data-driven approach informs adaptation strategies, such as forest restoration and the support of sustainable agriculture, while also promoting mitigation measures through improved public transportation connectivity aimed at reducing emissions. By linking environmental, infrastructural, and social systems, the project demonstrates a comprehensive response to climate challenges.

My role in this project focused on the urban-scale visualization and spatial translation of the concept. I developed the three-dimensional model of the site as a foundational tool to clearly explain and communicate the project's vision. This included modeling the territory, the existing conditions, and the proposed interventions, as well as representing the different layers and strategies used to explore and transform the site.



The strategy gradually formalizes the neighborhood with upgraded homes, new modular buildings, improved mobility, and resilient public spaces. It emphasizes material reuse, renewable energy, and community involvement to create a sustainable, low carbon, and inclusive environment.

Master Plan

integrated strategies



Local Strategy Toolkit

integrated strategies



03 | TUMO Project

(Under construction)

Location : Yerevan Armenia

Professional project : MVRDV - EMEA TEAM

Project type : Competition, TeamWork project, Winner

Date : March 2022 - July 2022

Supervisor : Stavros Gargaretas | stavrosgargaretas@mrvdv.com

Perched on a hilly outcrop over the Hrazdan River Gorge, the building will host a mixture of educational facilities, office space for innovative technology and design companies, conference facilities, retail, as well as accommodation for visitors inside its long, hangar-like interior. With its flexible modular design, the multifunctional building advances its mission of providing free education to teenagers, bridging the gap between higher education and the technology industry.

A monolithic rectilinear bar cantilevers over steep slopes on each end. Large windows at each end direct views towards the Hrazdan river gorge to the north and Mount Ararat to the south. Inside, the structure forms a large, hangar-like space with its own landscape of lightweight modular boxes housing most of the building's program. My role focused specifically on initial planning and sizing of the program ensuring the efficient integration of the modules in the structure of the project.



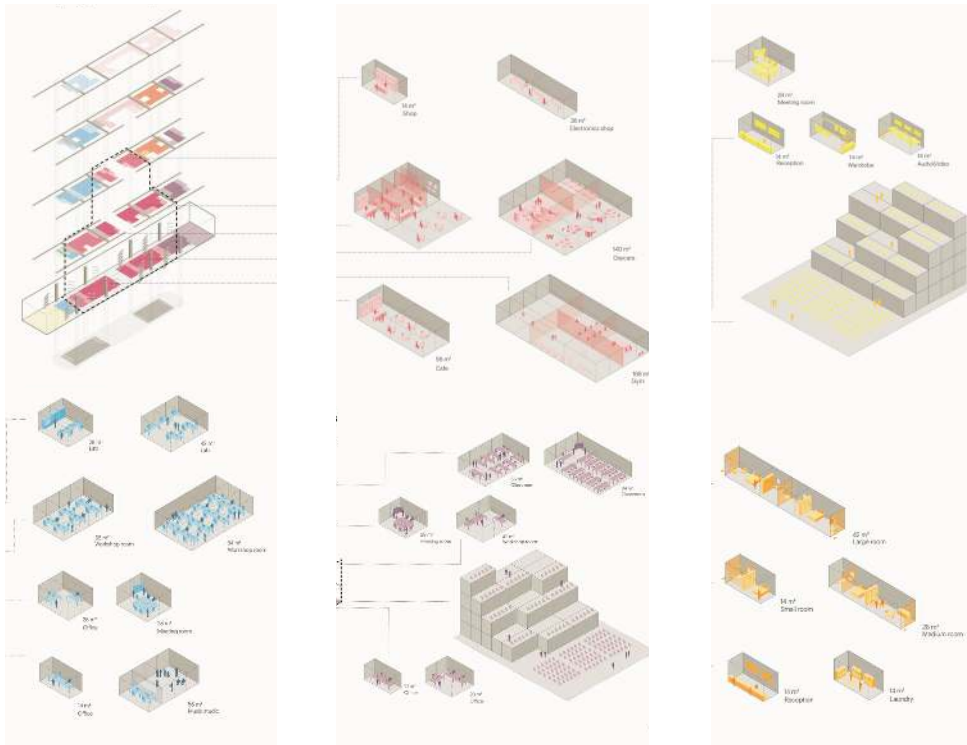
View from the Piazza



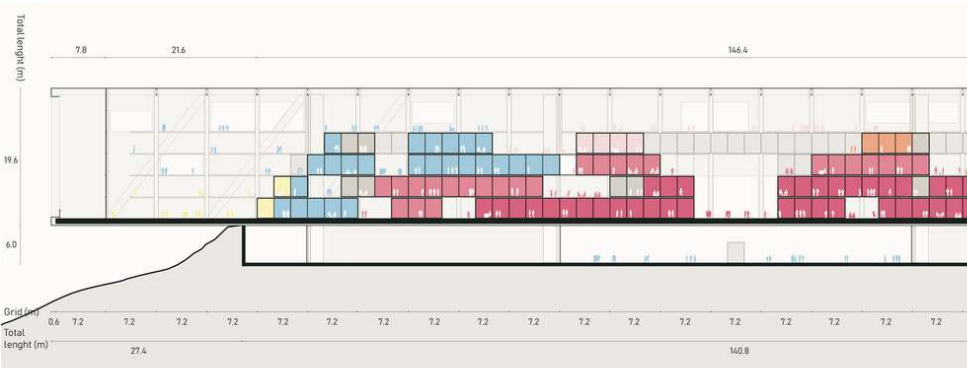
Interior Render

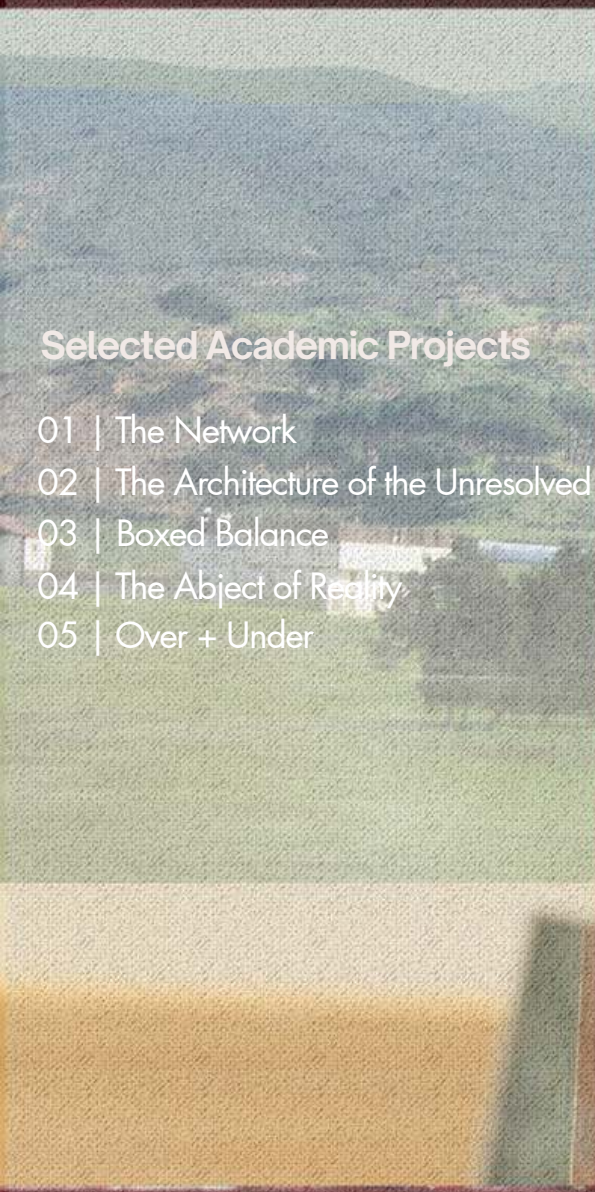


Functional Layout



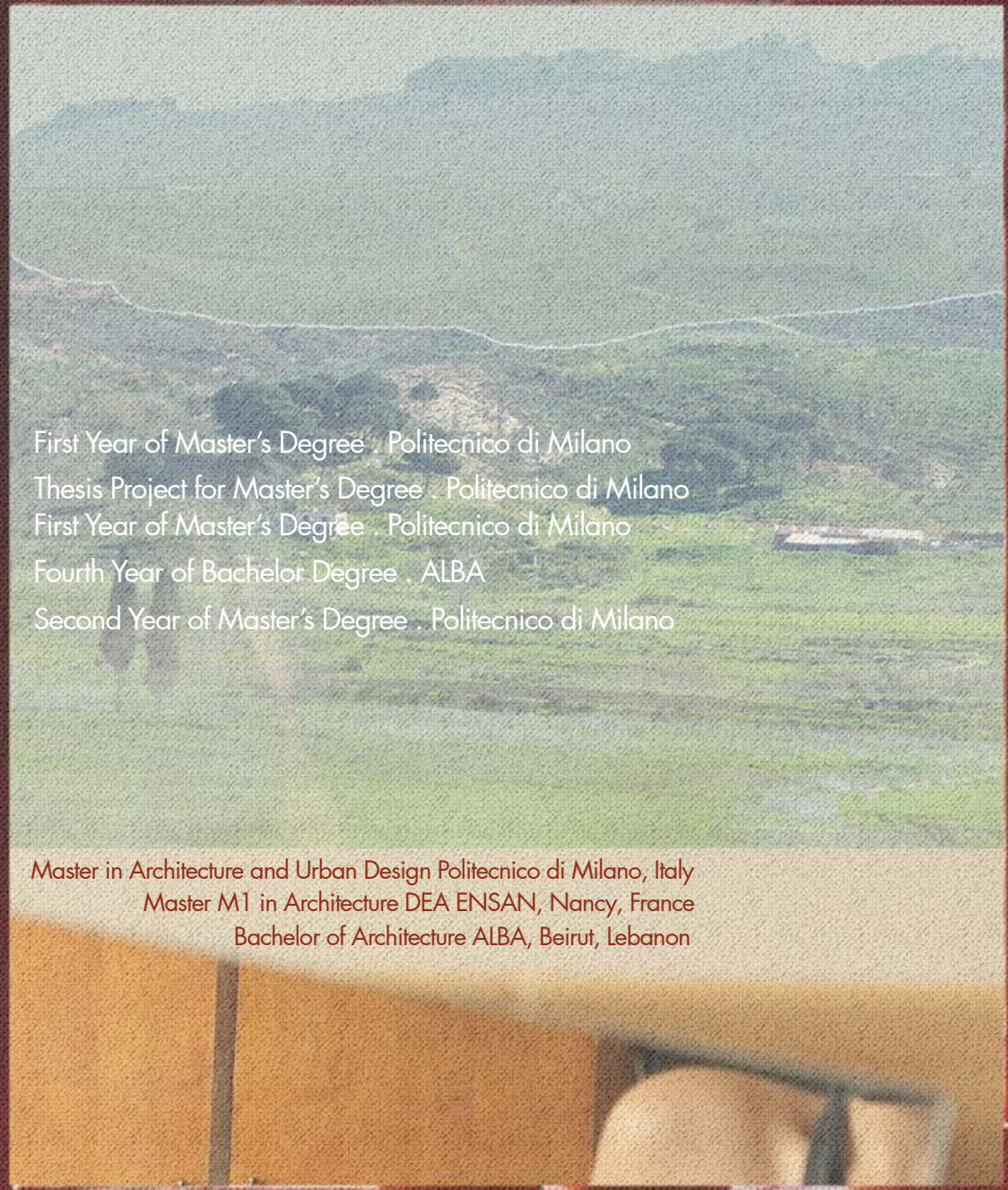
Lateral Section





Selected Academic Projects

- 01 | The Network
- 02 | The Architecture of the Unresolved
- 03 | Boxed Balance
- 04 | The Abject of Reality
- 05 | Over + Under

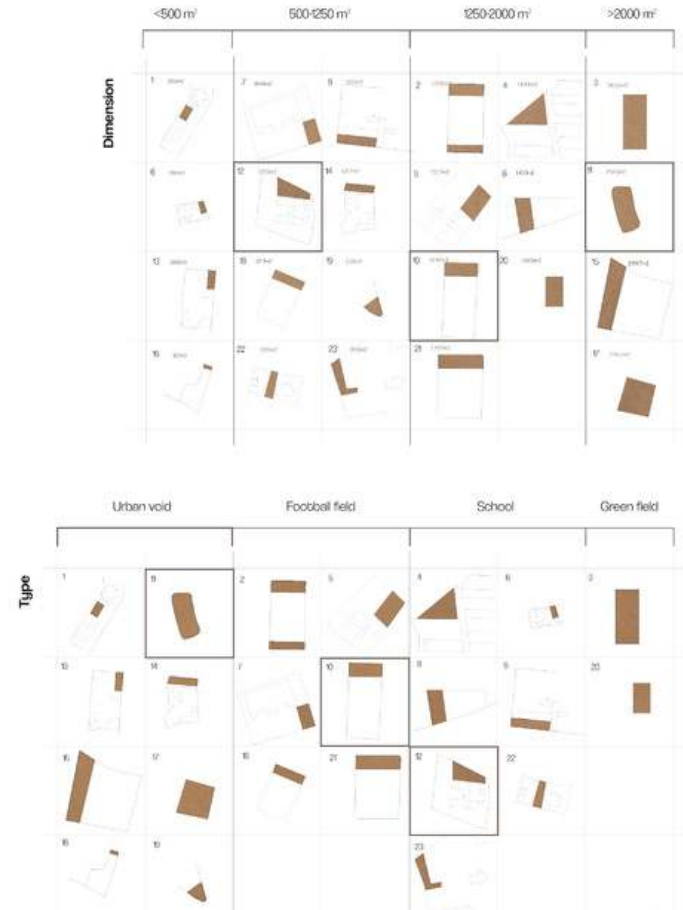
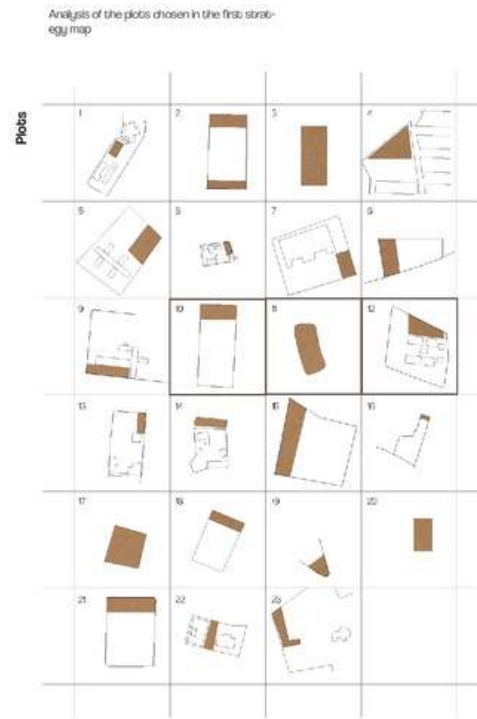
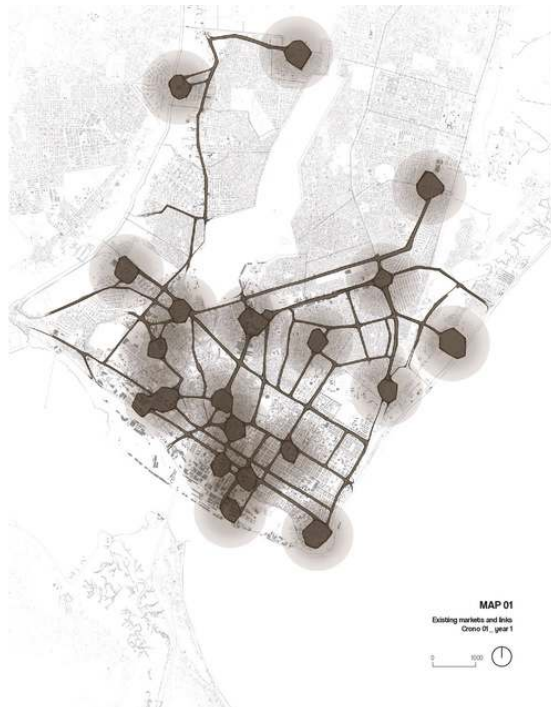


First Year of Master's Degree . Politecnico di Milano
Thesis Project for Master's Degree . Politecnico di Milano
First Year of Master's Degree . Politecnico di Milano
Fourth Year of Bachelor Degree . ALBA
Second Year of Master's Degree . Politecnico di Milano

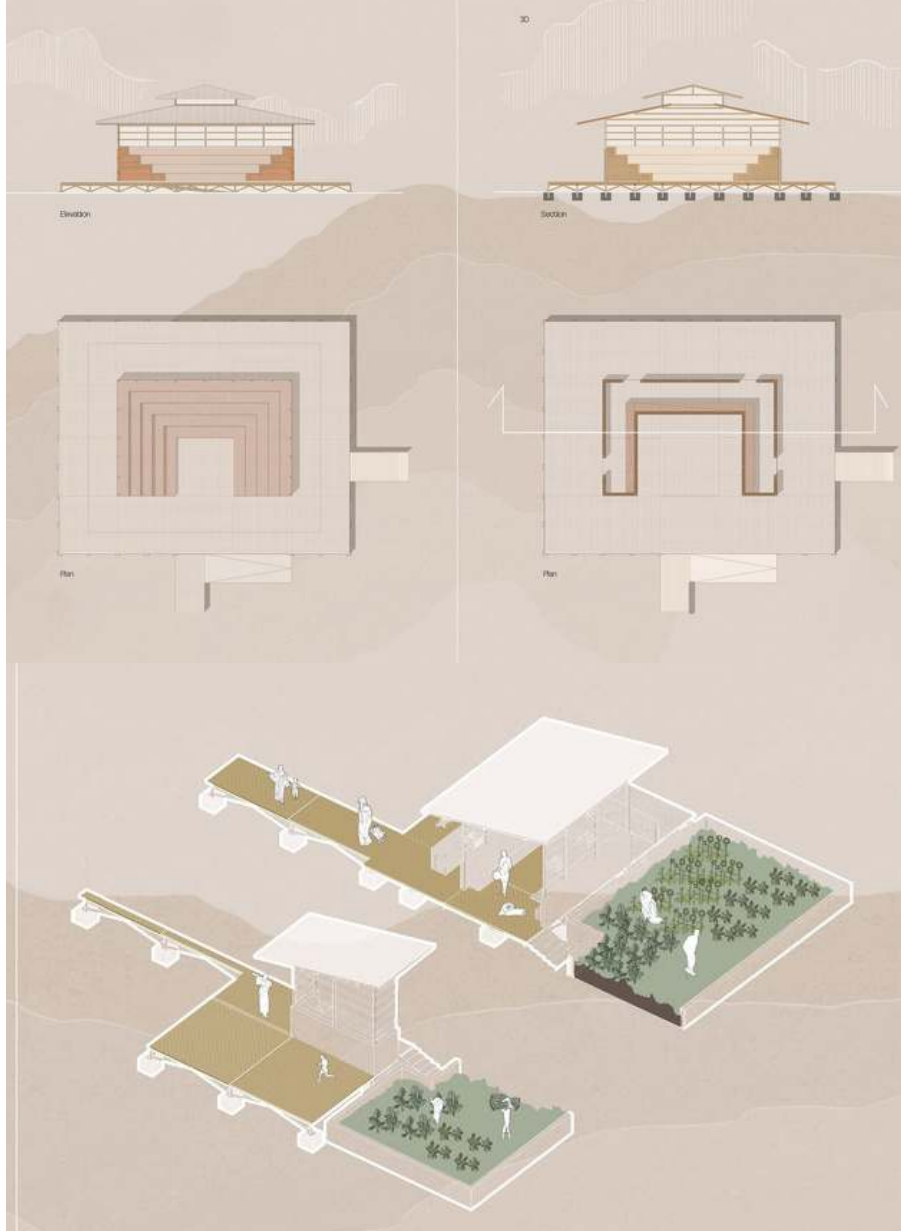
Master in Architecture and Urban Design Politecnico di Milano, Italy
Master M1 in Architecture DEA ENSAN, Nancy, France
Bachelor of Architecture ALBA, Beirut, Lebanon

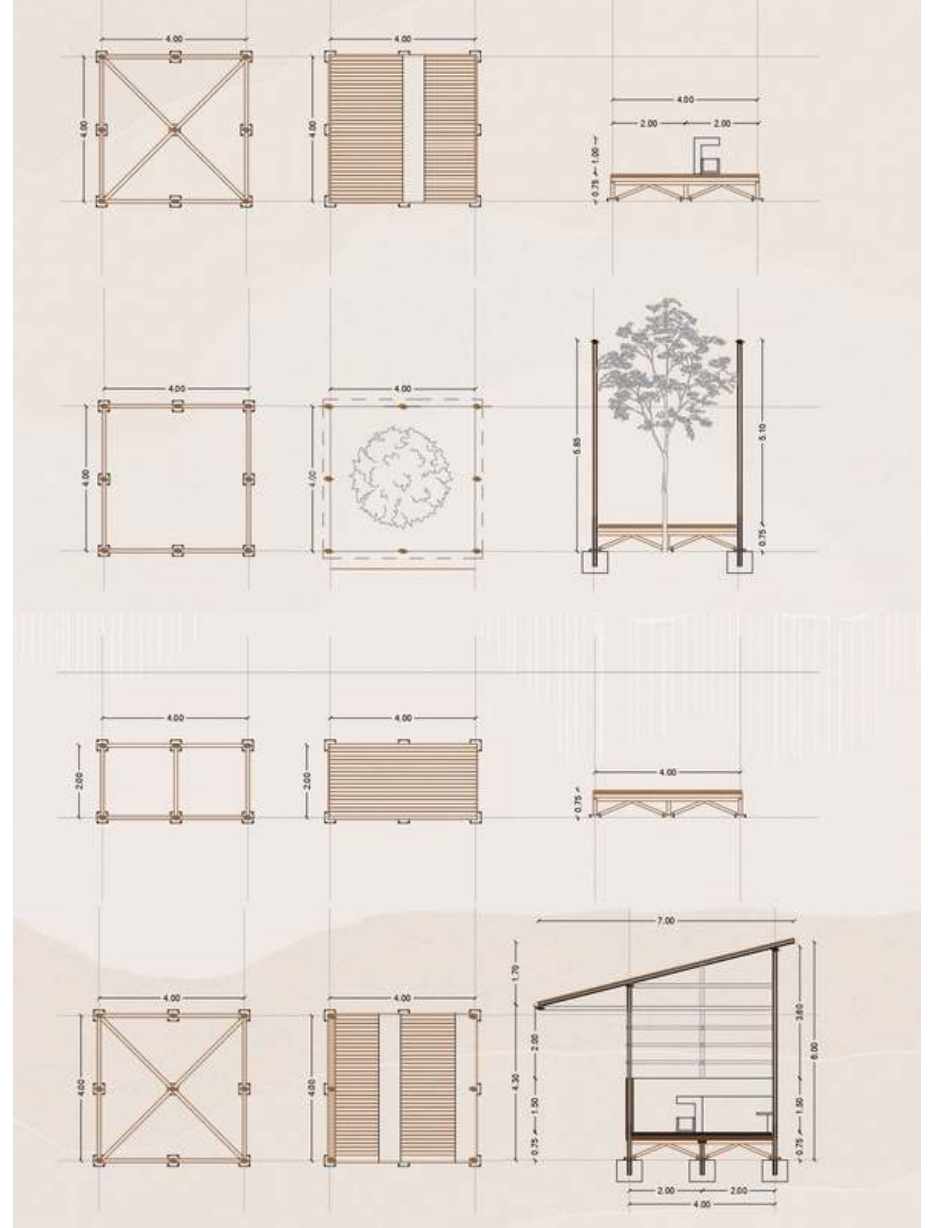
01 | The Network

Location : Maputo, Mozambique
Academic project : First year of Master's degree - Politecnico di Milano
Project type : Conceptual - Group project of 6
Date : Sep 2023 - Jan 2024
Supervisor : Maria Chiara Pastore | mariachiara.pastore@polimi.it



The overall idea is to create a Network that can be both physical and social, connecting the morphology of the space with the people that are involved in the project. The project aimed to create modular and evolving structures that could grow with the city without remaining static interventions in the city's urban fabric. Through the use of local materials, the Network aims to insert itself inside the neighborhood's communities, setting a landmark in the different areas and becoming a meeting point.







02 | The Architecture of the Unresolved

Location : Khiam, Lebanon

Academic project : Thesis Project - Politecnico di Milano

Project type : Urban Planning - Urban Design - Architecture

Date : March 2025 - March 2026

Supervisor : Domenico Chizzoniti | domenico.chizzoniti@polimi.it

This thesis investigates the concept of “home” as both a physical space and an evolving emotional condition shaped by memory, displacement, and cultural identity. Grounded in the context of Lebanon, the project explores how architecture can act as a vessel for resilience and belonging in the face of loss.

Focusing on a village deeply affected by destruction, the proposal presents a spatial strategy for rebuilding its public spaces as catalysts for social life and collective memory. Through a micro-to-macro approach, the work moves from intimate domestic experiences to broader territorial scales, ultimately redefining public space as a framework for reconnection, identity, and community regeneration.



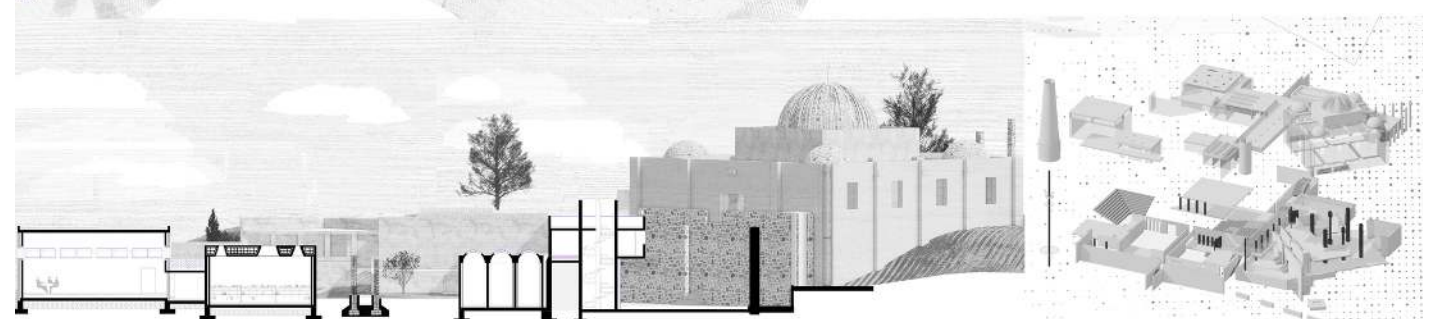
Urban plan of the intervention on 3 levels: Residential, Infrastructure and Civic Anchors

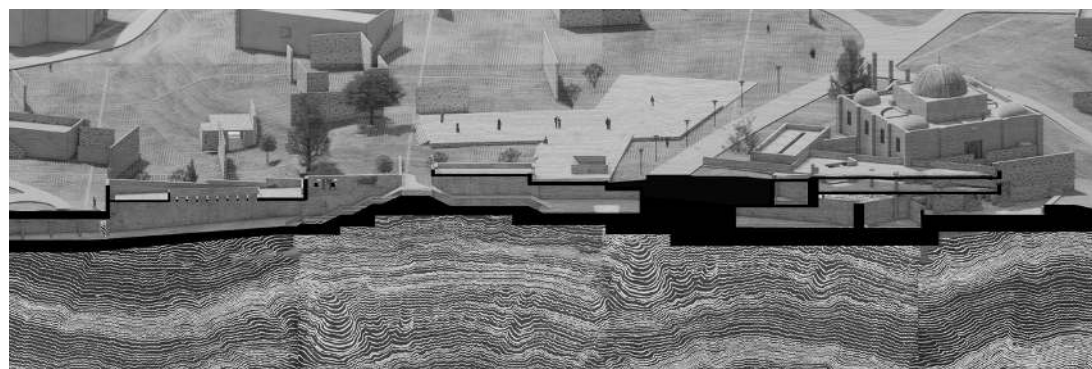
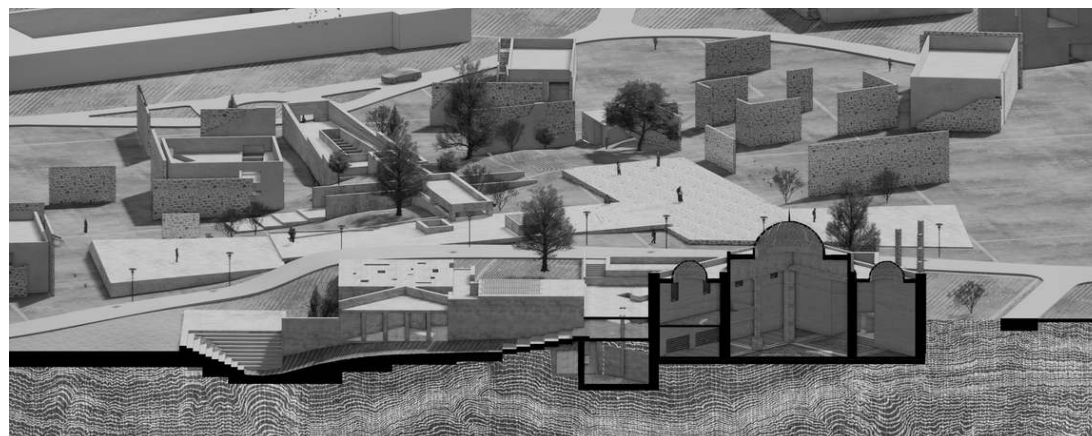
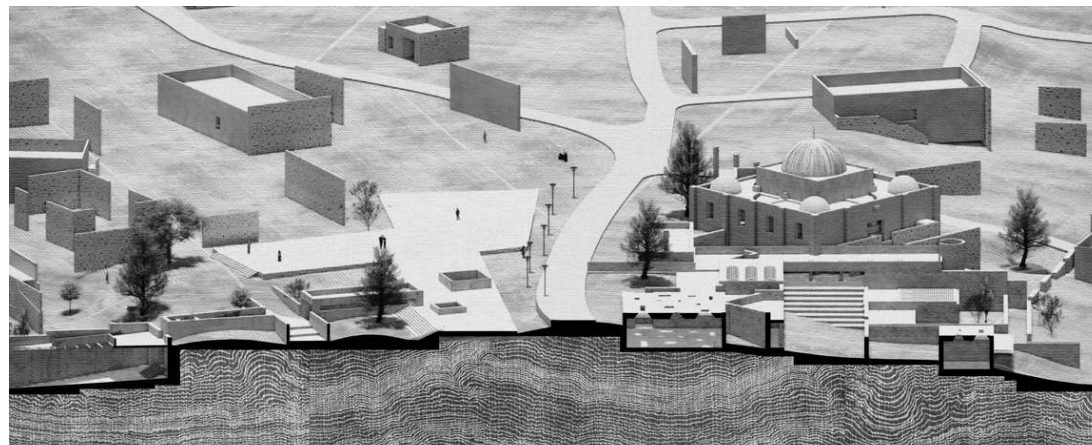
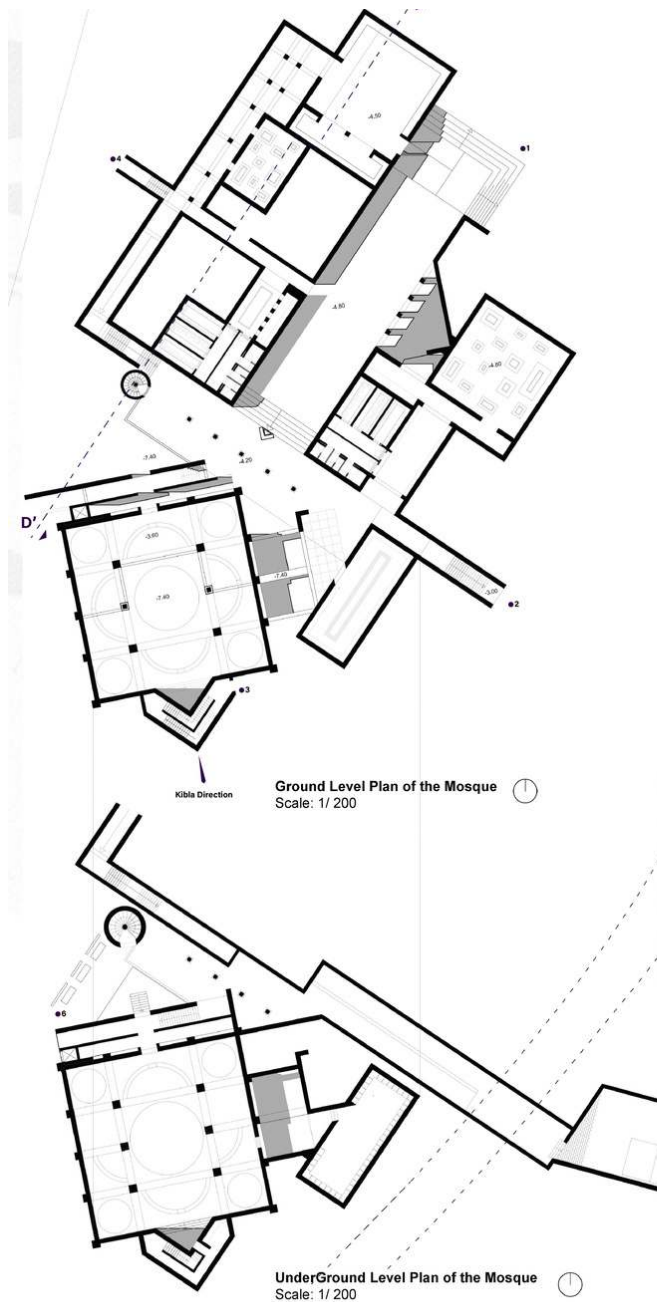
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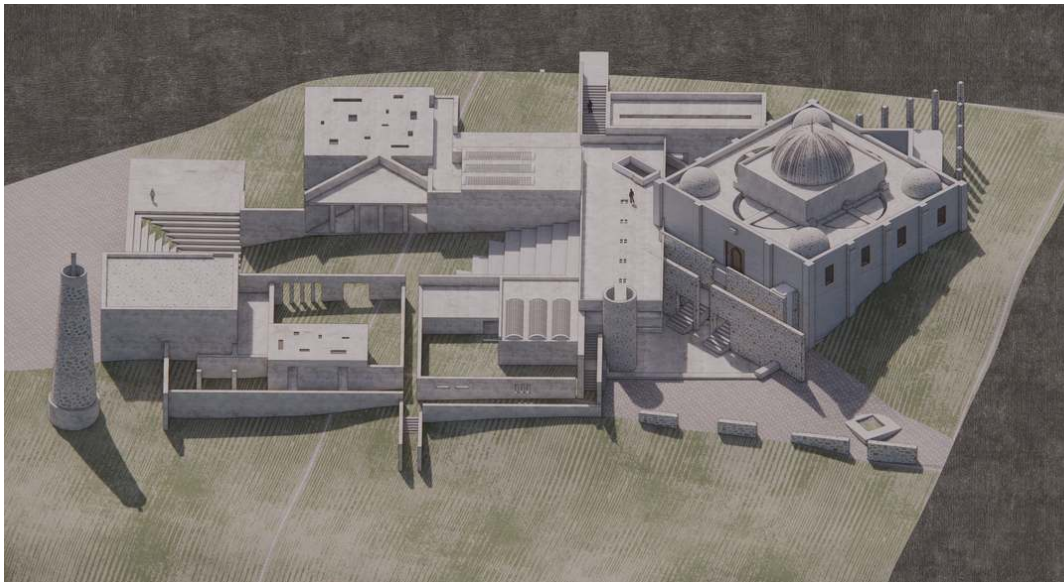
CC' showing the main entry of the Mosque

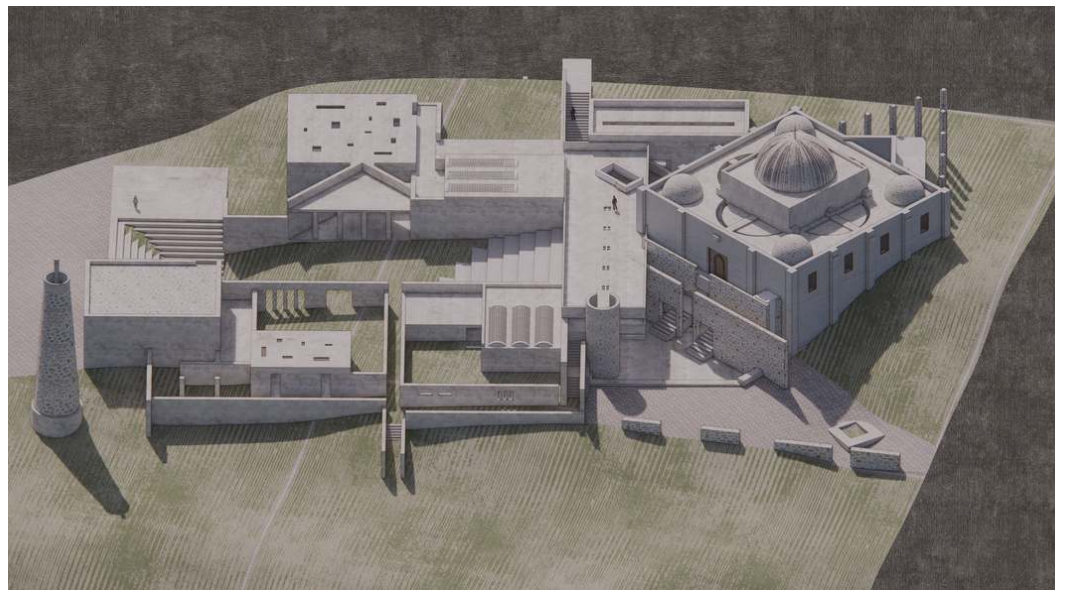
300

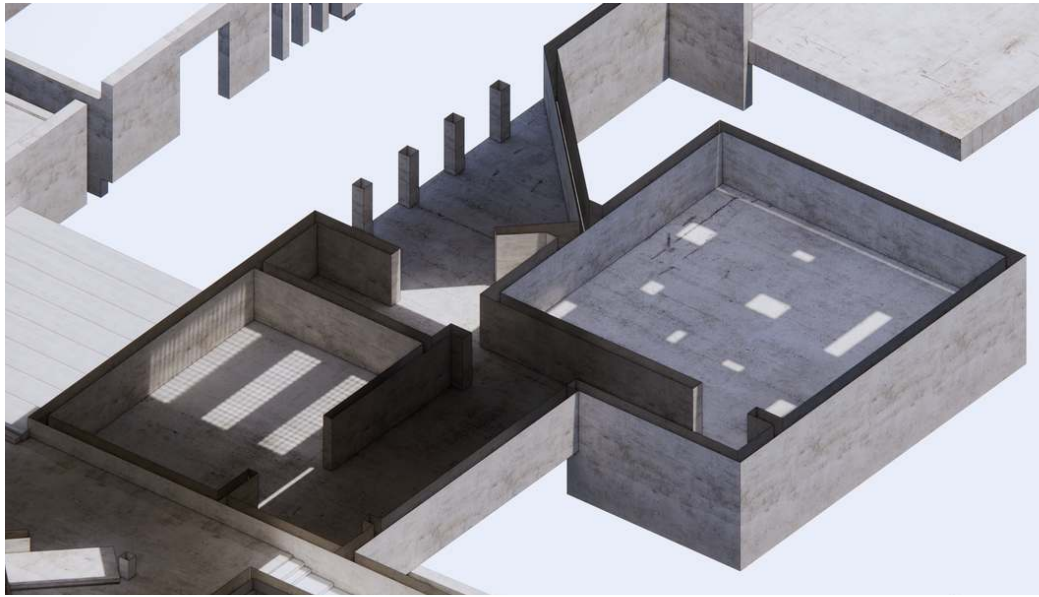
Exploded Diagram for Mosque











03 | Boxed Balance

Location : Milan, Italy

Academic project : First year of Master's degree - Politecnico di Milano

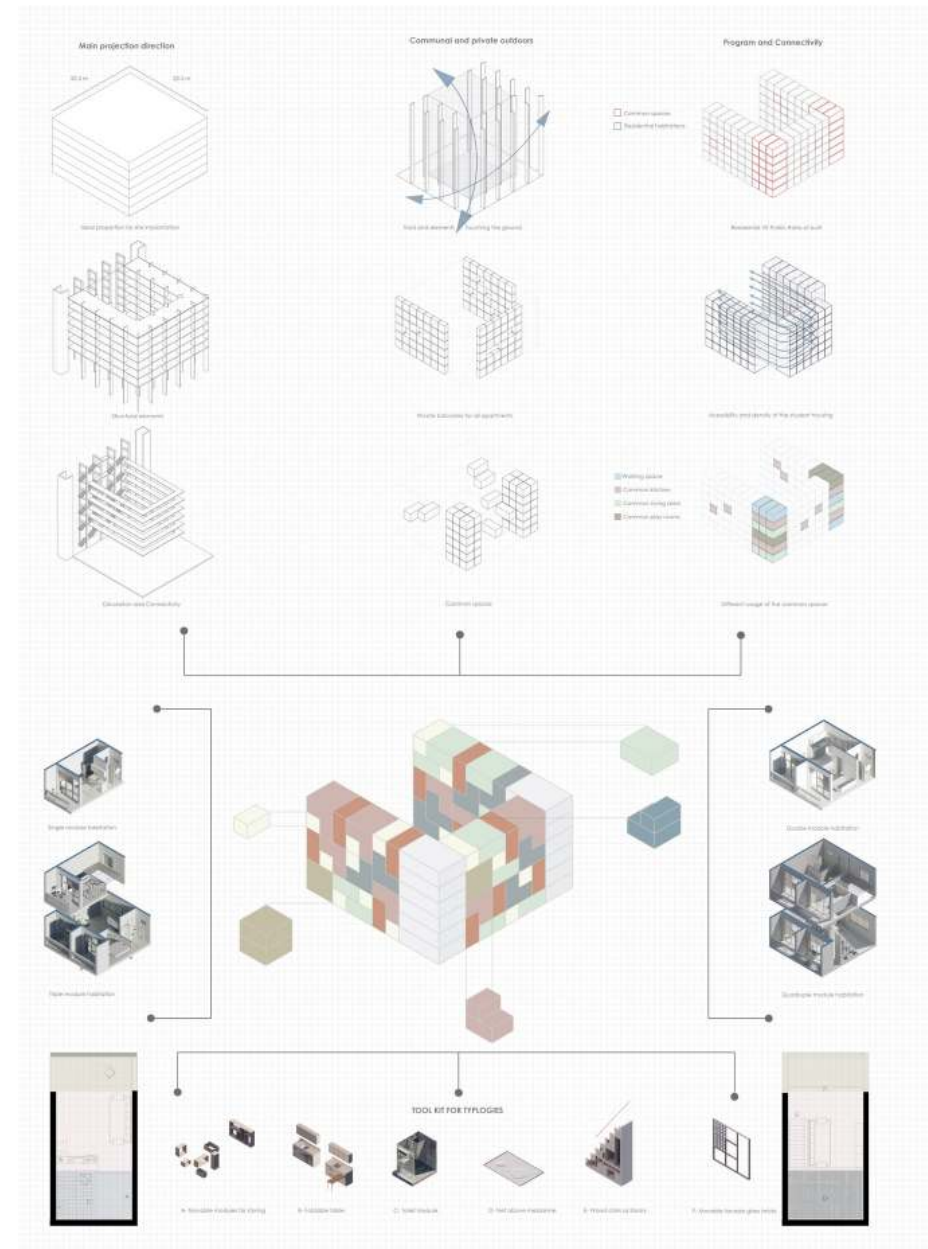
Project type : Conceptual - Group project of 2

Date : Feb 2024 - June 2024

Supervisor : Stefano Tropea | stefano.tropea@polimi.it

Boxed Balance is a student housing project located in Milan, adjacent to a bustling tram station. The site's triangular shape and the constant movement and noise of the trams posed a key challenge: creating a comfortable and livable environment in a highly dynamic context.

To address this, a service wall acts as a shield between the proposed building the "box" and the existing station. This wall, housing circulation, sanitary facilities, and other services, enhances privacy and comfort for the residents by acting as both a physical and acoustic barrier. The inner void acts as a catalyst for human connection, fostering a sense of community by providing visual and physical connectivity. It encourages spontaneous interactions and offers residents a comforting sense of being part of a vibrant and shared environment.

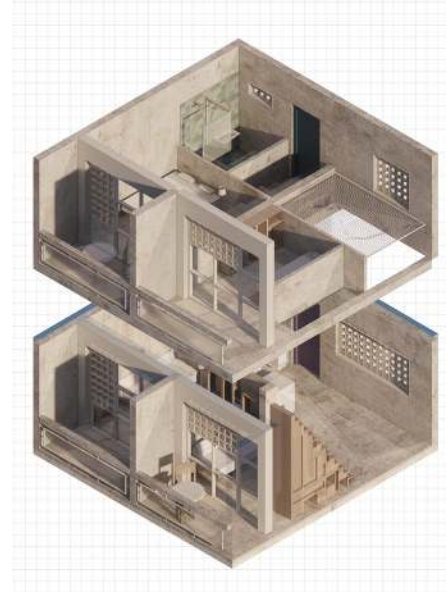




Facade Pattern



Typology 01



Typology 02



West Facade - Detail



West Facade



"The corpse, seen without God and outside of science, is the utmost of abjection. It is death infecting life. Abject. It is something rejected from which one does not part, from which one does not protect oneself as from an object."
-Julia Kristeva

04 | The Abject of Reality

"It's important not to repress the trauma, it's important to express it and sometimes, the building is not something comforting. Why should it be comforting? You know, we shouldn't be comfortable in this world. I mean seeing what's going around."

-Daniel Libeskind

Location : Beirut, Lebanon

Academic project : Fourth year of Bachelor's degree - ALBA

Project type : Experimental - Group project of 3

Date : Oct 2020 - Dec 2020

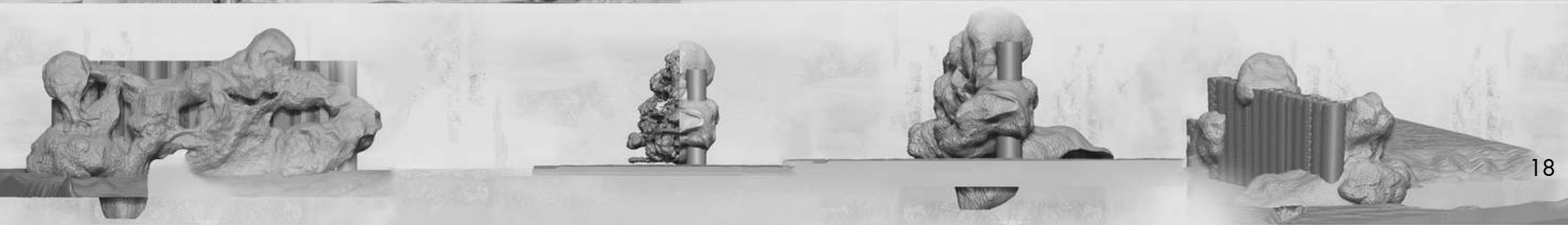
Supervisor : Hicham Bou Akl | hbouakl@alba.edu.lb

"Horror is more horror when you don't get to see the whole thing."

-Hernan Diaz

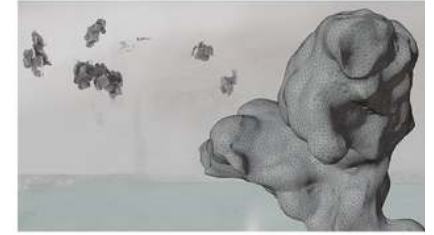
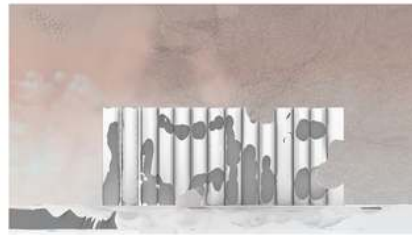
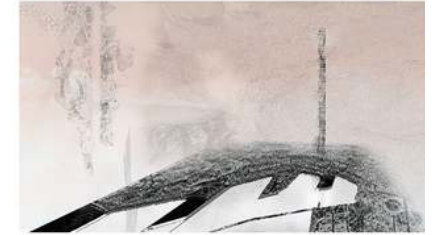
"The way to do it is by incorporating memory and not as a footnote but as a turbulent ground on which our world is based, and it is turbulent when you look at the news and all that's happening, all the events in this world, we can't just pretend that we're living in another era."

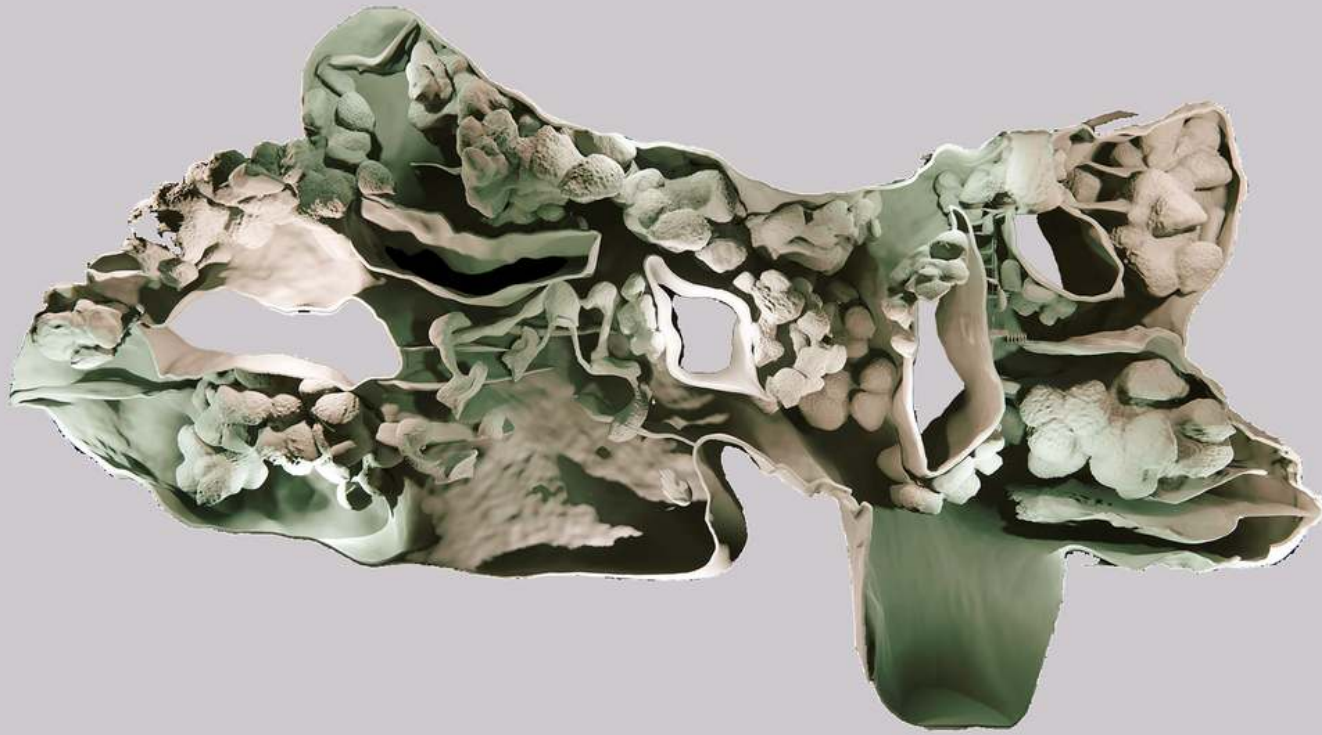
-Daniel Libeskind



Site Analysis - Beirut After August 2020

This project was experimental by nature, created in the aftermath of the devastating Port of Beirut explosion on August 4th, 2020, which left 30,000 people homeless. Tasked with designing emergency cells within the silos of the port, the aim was to confront the brutal realities of that period—loss, trauma, and destruction. The project sought to expose the horrors we were living: the pain of losing loved ones, the physical scars of severed limbs, and the emotional wounds etched into the city's fabric. Through this work, we aimed to reflect the raw truth of a shattered Beirut and the resilience required to imagine a future within its ruins.





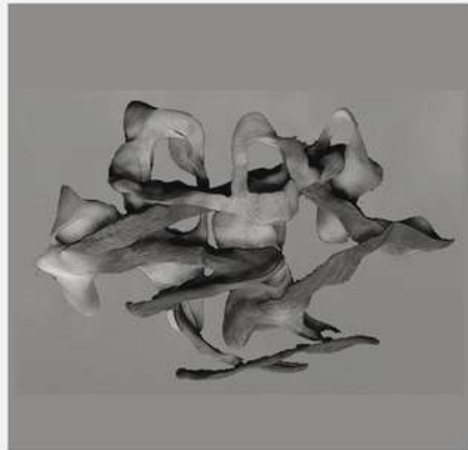
This project reflects the absurdity of the explosion through amorphous architecture, glorifying ugliness, disgust, brutality, and repulsion: notions tied to the post-blast chaos. The silos, located closest to the crater and the site of destruction, become the focal point, mutating into a grotesque creature that exposes a simulation of the reality perceived by the citizens of Beirut. It represents the city through the image it projects and the one its citizens carry.

The idea emerged from reflections by Carl Jung, who encouraged the confrontation with 'the shadow', the uncanny, the mystical, and the unwanted darkness that accompanies the grieving of a place.



Intervention / Program

Graveyard



Innocence

Body Implant

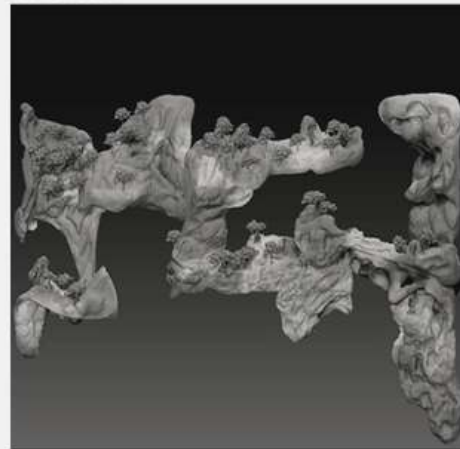


The project's abjection is embodied in its program, with six essential functions integrated into the inhabitants' journey.



Reflexion

Perversion



Collective memory

\\The housing units connect to the following: "Graveyard," where the unidentified dead of the city are buried.

\\\"Perversion,\" a morally provocative space featuring landscape with trees nourished by the ashes of the graveyard.

\\\"Body Implant,\" offering those who lost body parts a chance to regain them, though augmented into biomorphic forms.

\\\"Innocence,\" a playground where children, unsupervised, interact with dangerous accessories, creating a horrifying spectacle for parents.

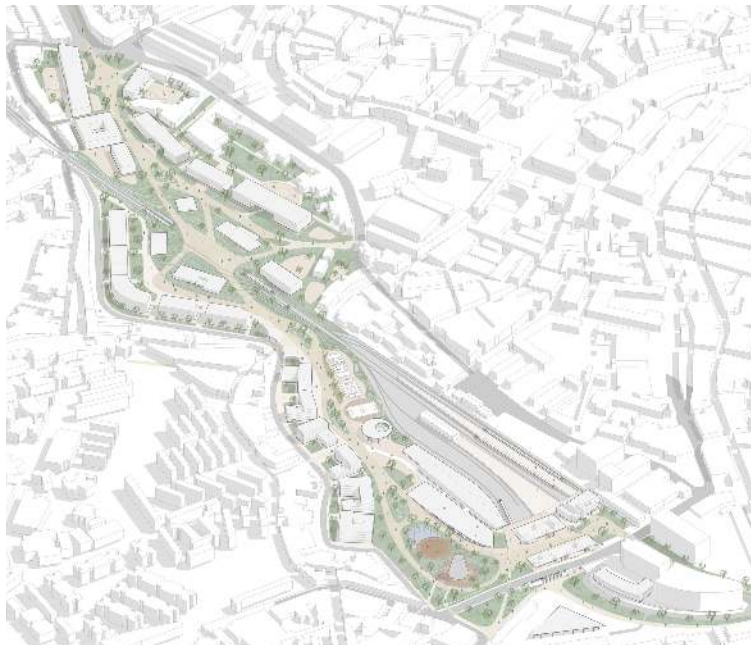
\\\"Reflection,\" a space for visitors to confront their own thoughts and emotions.

\\ \"Collective Memory,\" which gathers and projects memories of the inhabitants and the site, preserving the experiences of the explosion and its aftermath.

05 | Over + Under

The urban planning project in Algier addresses the city's pressing need for connectivity and cohesion by creating a dynamic and integrated urban fabric. Algier, a city marked by its strategic location and vibrant cultural identity, faces significant physical and social divides caused by the barriers of the railway station and the main highway. These infrastructural elements have long acted as boundaries, fragmenting the city into disconnected zones between the north and south, as well as the east and west.

The proposed project seeks to 'stitch' the city back together by enhancing accessibility and fostering a sense of unity. The project incorporates a cultural center, student housing, a sports center with playground fields, each contributing to the city's vibrancy and resilience.



MasterPlan of the Neighborhood

Planning Proposal

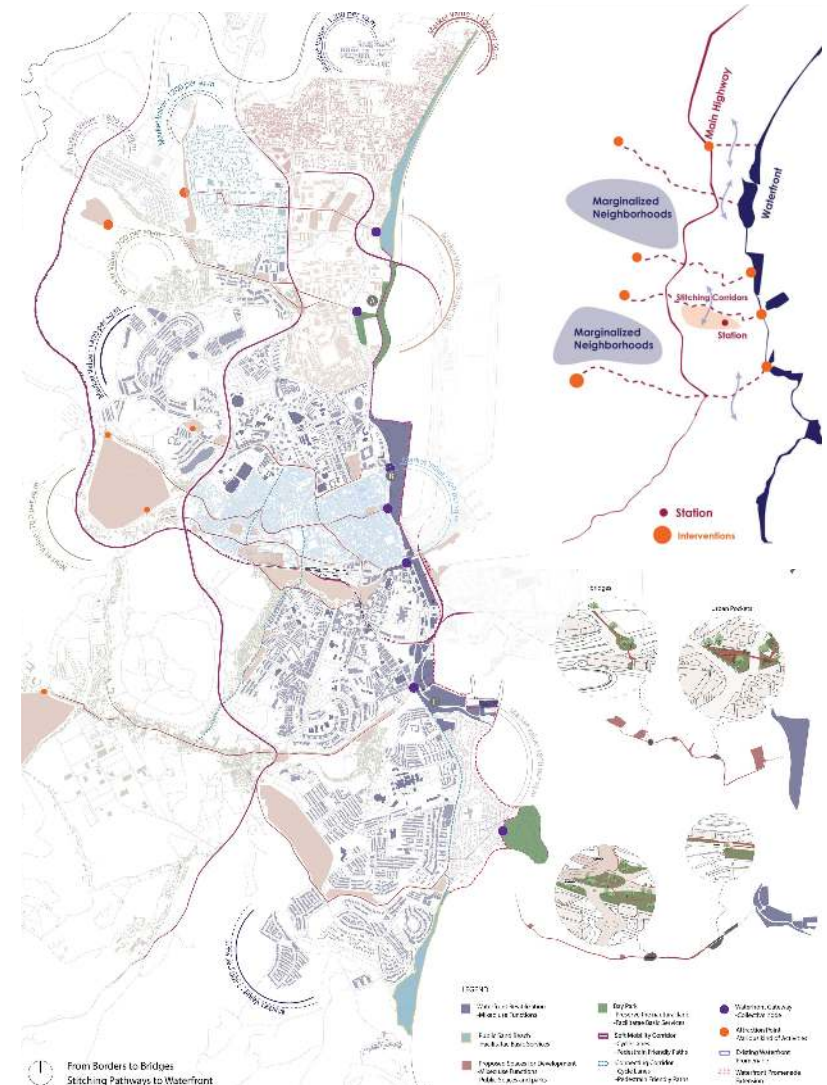
Location : Algeciras, Spain

Academic project : Second year of Master's degree - Politecnico di Milano

Project type: Urban Planning - Urban Design - Group project of 3

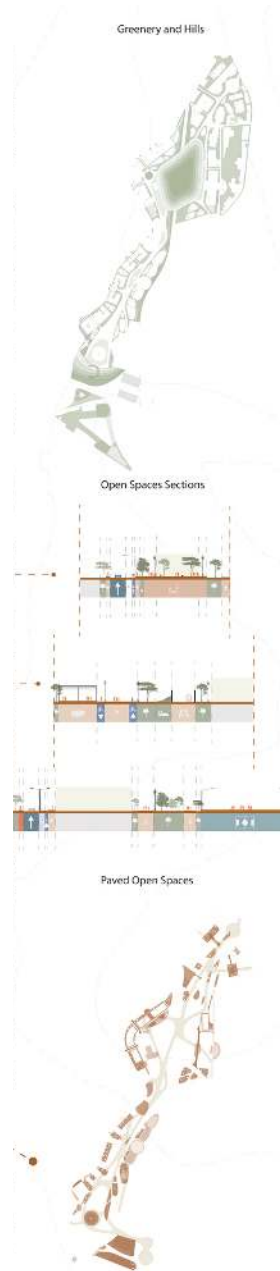
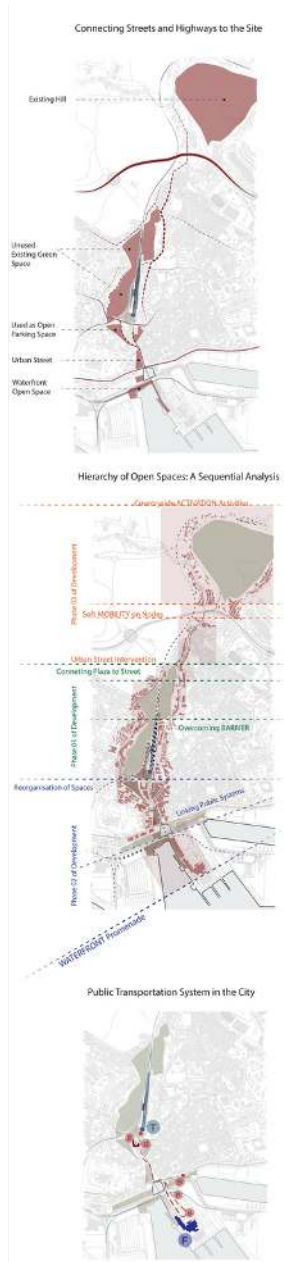
Date : Sep 2024 - Jan 2025

Supervisor : Laura Montodoro | laura.montodoro@polimi.it

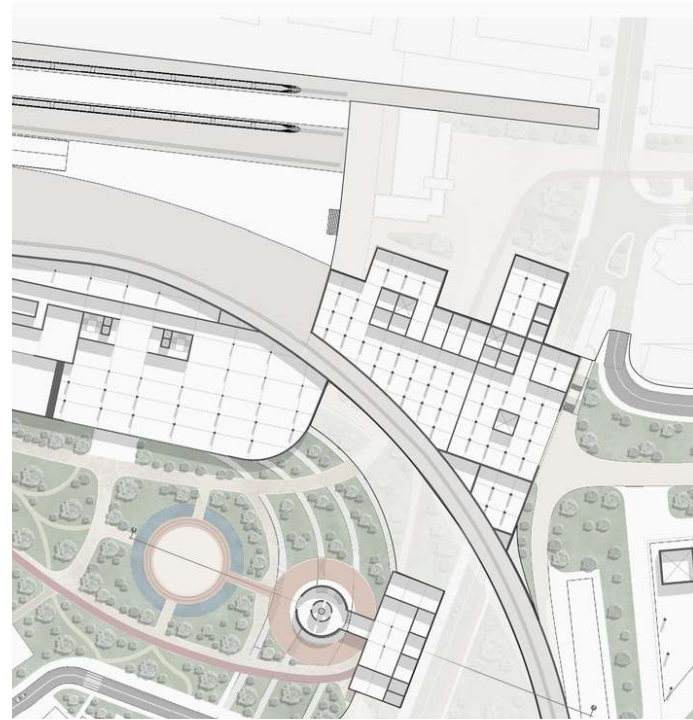


Visions of the City

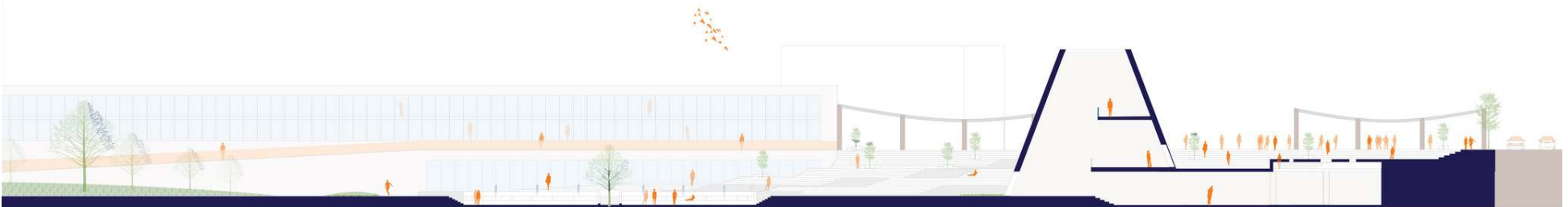
Proposed Startegy



Identifying and mapping key landmarks that influence the area's urban dynamics. This is a classification of open spaces, categorizing them based on function and usage, while evaluating their condition and accessibility. Building on these insights, a sequential and interconnected system of open spaces is proposed, designed to accommodate mixed-use functions and diverse activities, fostering a cohesive and vibrant environment.



The Plans and Sections were specifically designed to engage users into the experience of the project, opening the ground floor, and creating a promenade that crosses the railways in two key moments. These nodes will offer services and a sense of attraction to reactivate the surrounding areas of the stations reviving the neighborhood.



does coincidence exist?

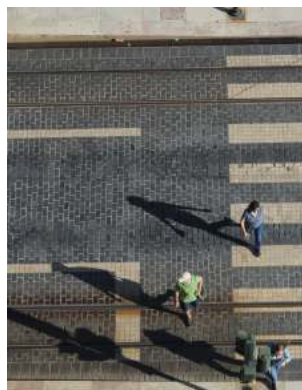
LISBON



VENICE



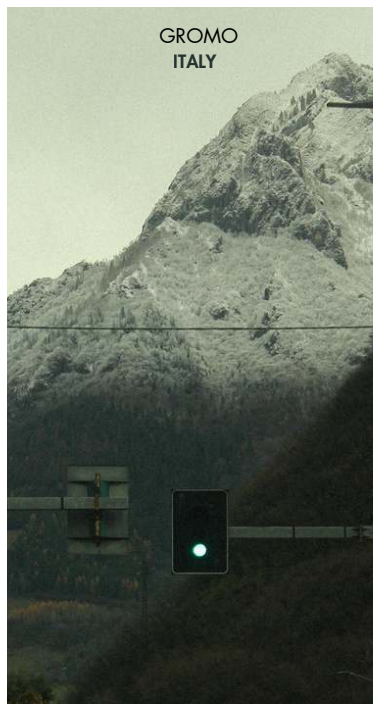
do you see to believe or believe to see?



BEIRUT



what makes you angry?



when do you know it's love?
MILAN



do you have any regrets?

EVORA



NANCY



BERGAMO





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