

03 *Superposition*

Inverted City Monument

Individual Academic Work
Dec 2018 / 4th Semester
Site : Nanjing, China
Advisor: Xiaoning Hua
Email: huaxn@nju.edu.cn

This is a collaboration of architecture with archaeological stratigraphy and that engenders a monument for place and memory.

The law of superposition in archaeological stratigraphy bears a strong resemblance to the layering in architecture. Through thousands of years, the layers of the stratum are stacked and transpressed, forming a huge historical cultural section. Remains in stratum break through the boundaries between layers and layers, bringing the past to the present.

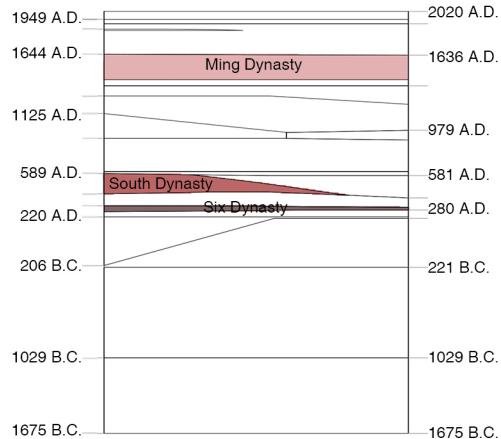
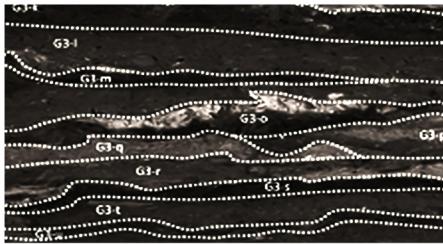
Through introducing stratigraphy to the historic city, an underground monument is created. As the most important remains, the city wall is transformed into an architectural-scale prototype though topology analysis, while connecting floors of different height.

The upright city wall that brings the staggered layers and the texture on it evokes people of memory and history. The inverted city wall allows the worm sunshine to gradually penetrate into the underground space and diffuse, greatly facilitating a holy perception.



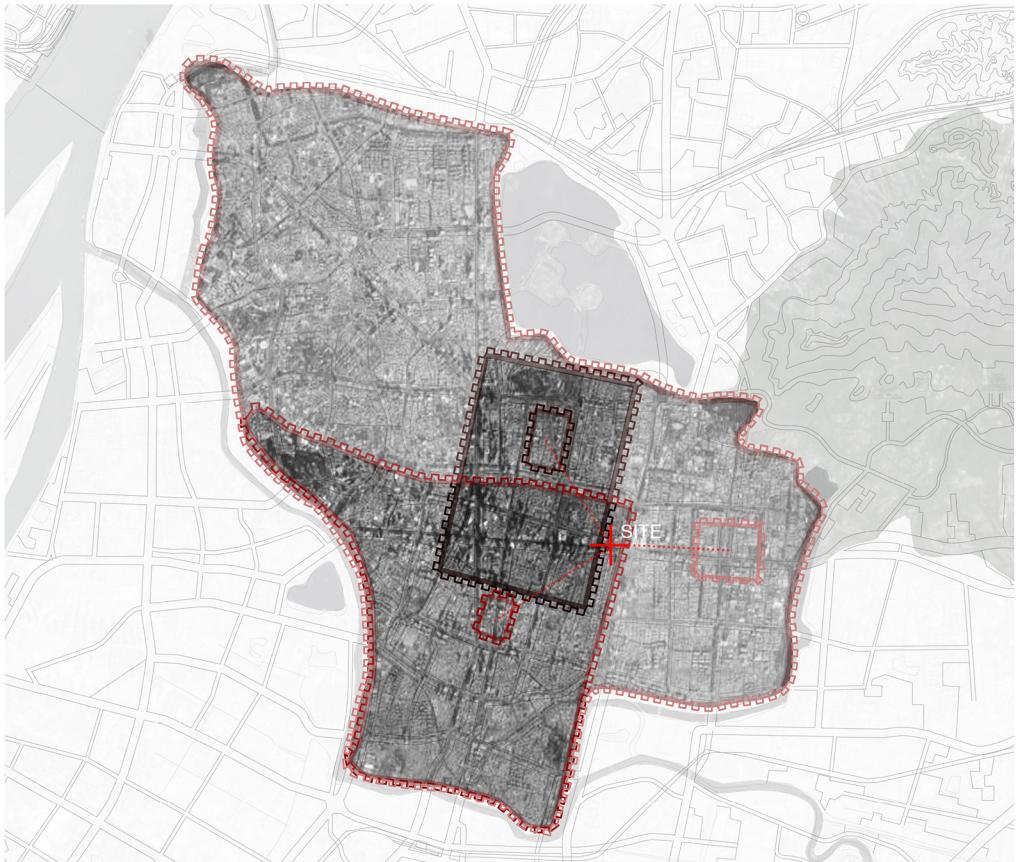
The Law of Superposition

The archaeological stratum is created by accumulating previous cultural layers. The superposition principle reflects on both geological remains and accumulations of human cultural activities.



Remains of City Walls in Three Dynasties

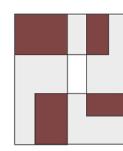
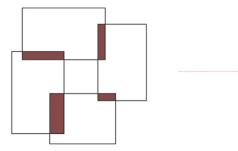
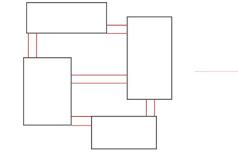
Geographically, the city walls enclose the city's boundaries of three dynasties. This project's site is located right in the center of the overlapping city wall boundaries.



Plane

— squeezing

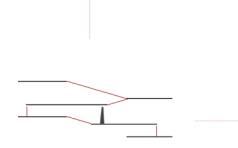
As gradually moving to the underground, the floors went from separation to squeezing.



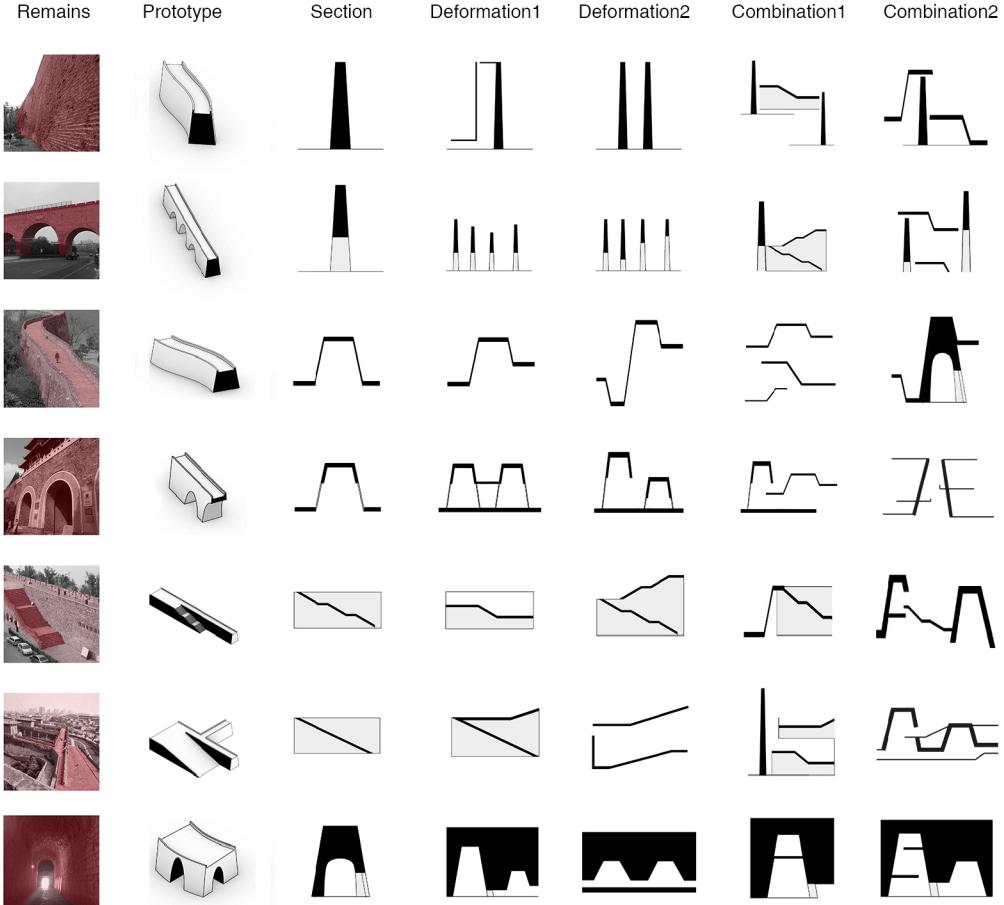
Section

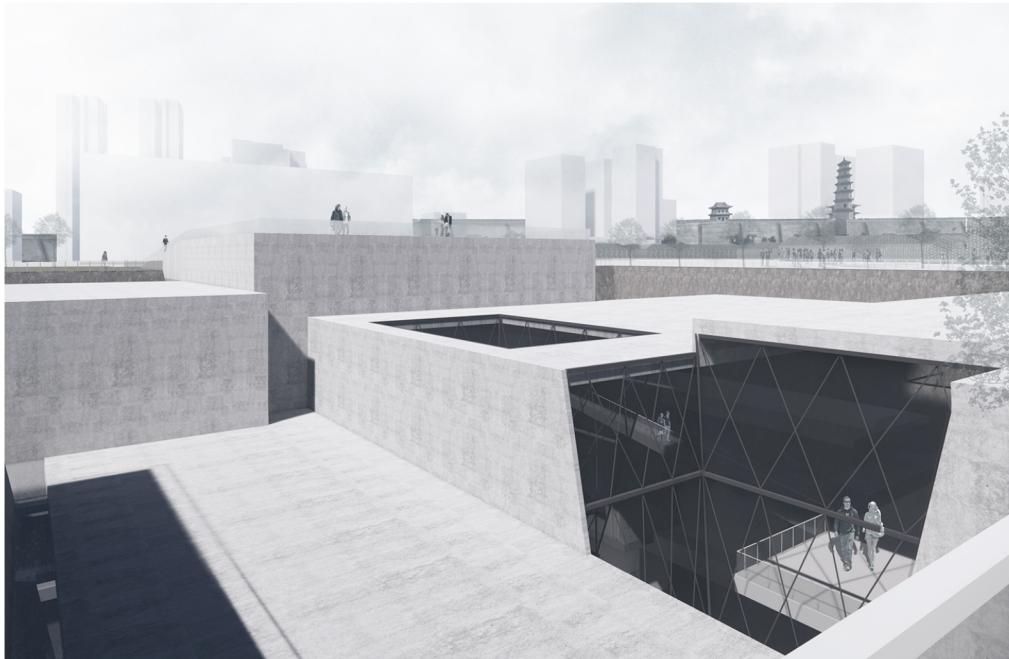
—superposition

Three types of spatial forms overlapped upon each other through the connection of city walls.



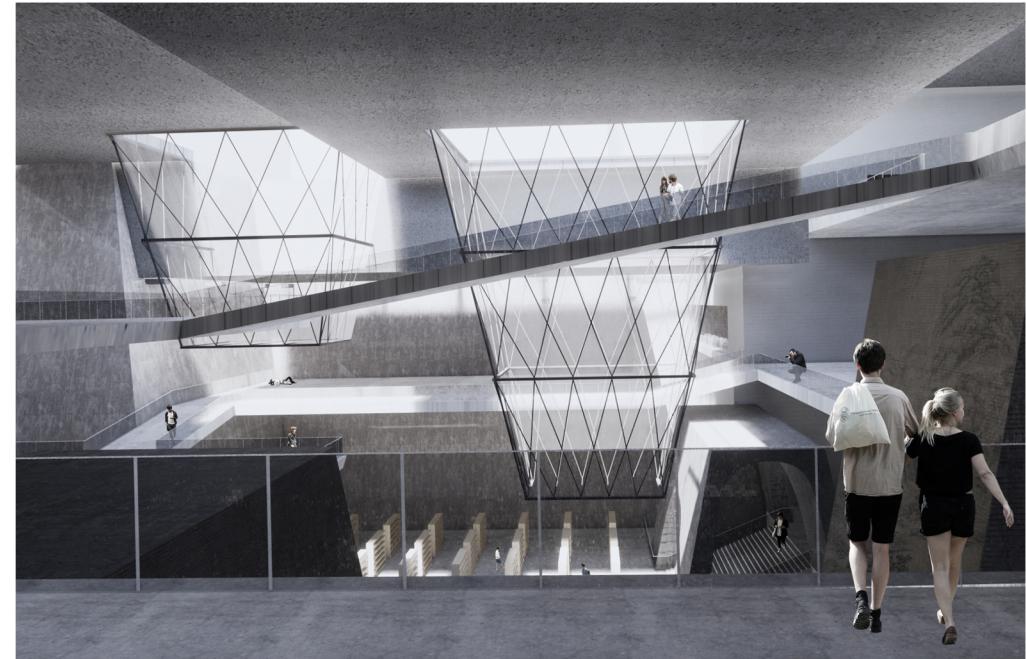
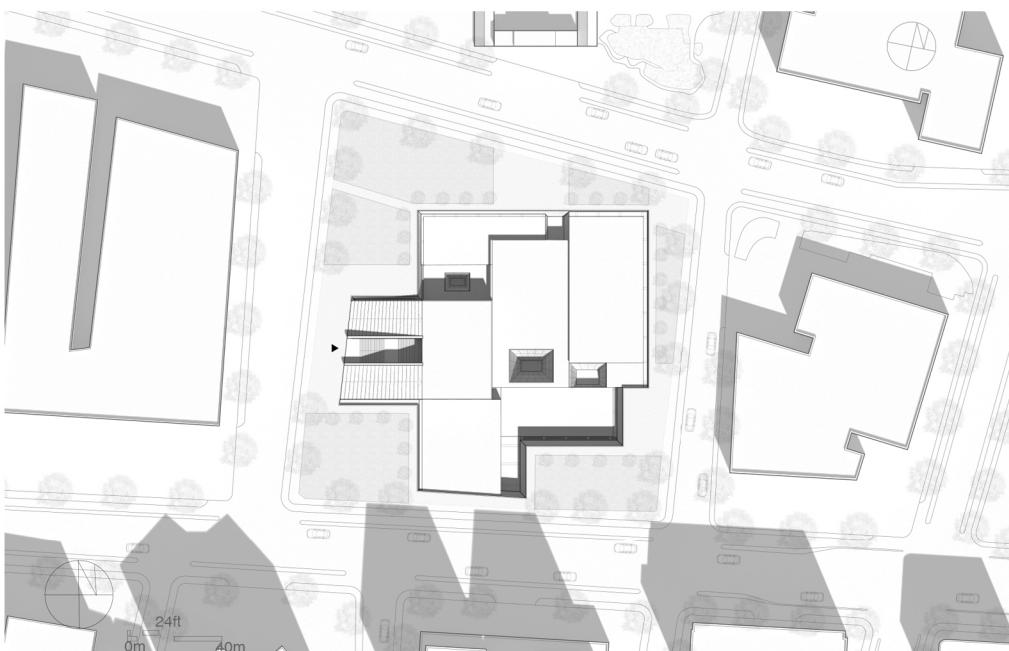
Typology Analysis of City Wall Sections





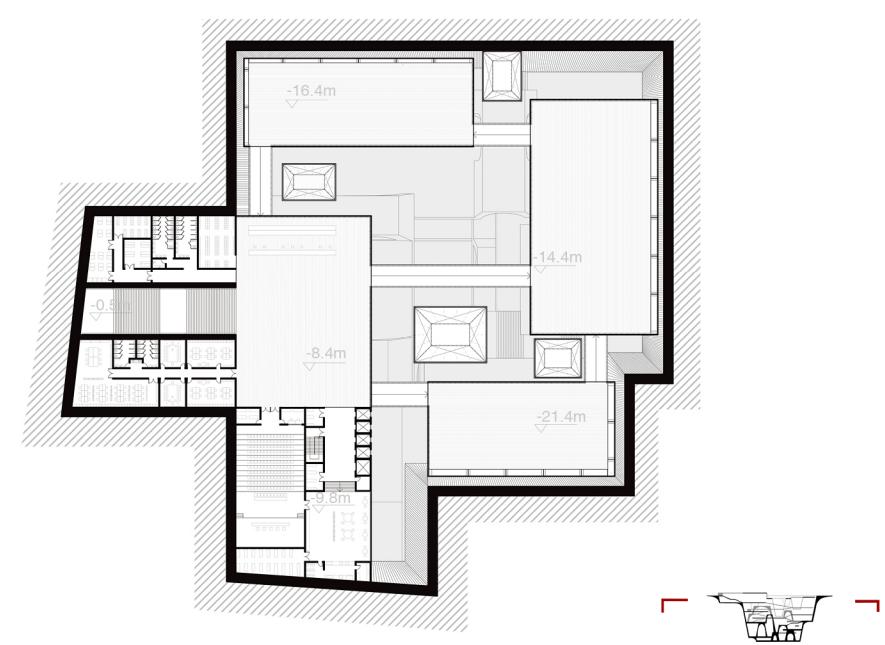
Memory Strata

The site is like an excavated archeological site, carrying people's memories of rough history. The inverted city wall of light echoes the distant remains.



Dissociation

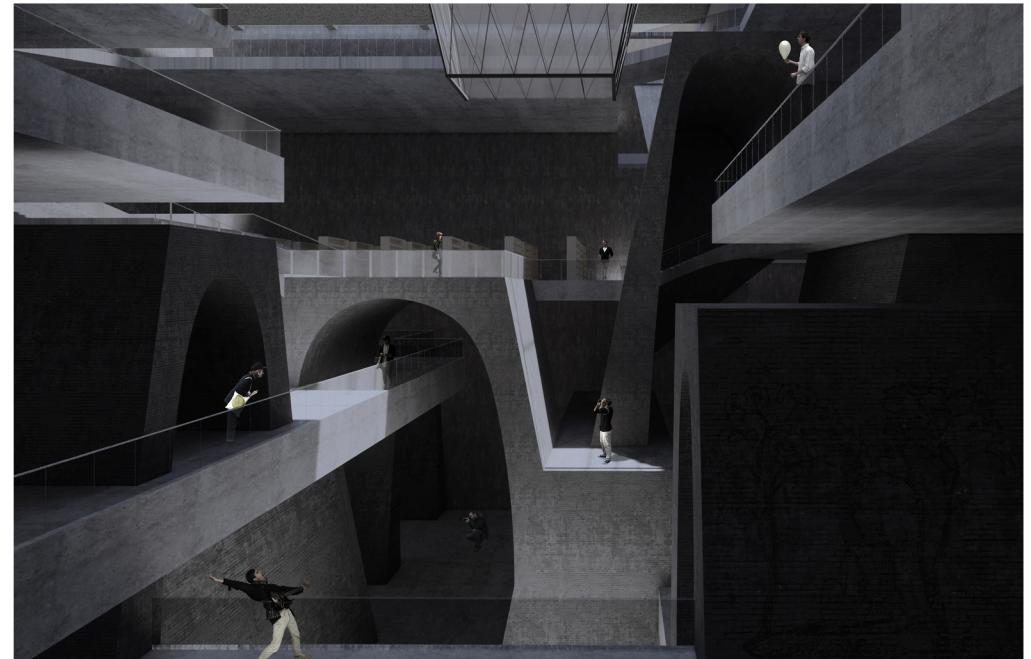
When walking down, the detached floors feel like fragments of memory. Skylight floods down from the inverted city walls, transporting the visitor to an immersive experience.





Touchment

When walking down, the detached floors feel like fragments of memory. Skylight floods down from the inverted city walls, transporting the visitor to an immersive experience.



Extrusion

With the approach deeper underground, multiple walls extrude with each other generating rich spaces. People walk down as if entering a sanctuary full of ruins, and the light penetrates gently into depths of memory.

