

## **PROJECT DETAILS FOR FINAL SUBMISSION**

**Project Title:**

Mime Illusions

**Student's Full Name:**

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**Instructor's Full Name:**

Per Stefan Svedberg

**Course:**

Architectural Design 2

**Studio Brief Title:**

Urban Incubators

**Short Project Description (100 words max.):**

This project reinterprets Cairo's traditional courtyard houses in a modern context, focusing on materiality and spatial boundaries. Inspired by the clear separation of public and private spaces in these houses, the design for the Sermasuk Warehouse site integrates a **mega courtyard** with communal lower-floor spaces and upper-floor living units. The use of **stone and wood** contrasts thickness, lightness, and heaviness, balancing traditional aesthetics with modern needs. Prefabricated materials replicate natural elements while ensuring sustainability and cost efficiency. The design preserves traditional principles of thermal comfort and spatial hierarchy while adapting to modern urban living.

**Full Project Narrative/Text Description (300 words max.):**

This project examines the reinterpretation of Cairo's traditional courtyard houses within a large-scale, modern context, focusing on materiality and spatial boundaries. Cairo courtyard houses employ techniques to regulate temperature and capture wind, with a clear distinction between public and private spaces—public on the lower floor and private family areas above. This contrast inspired the design for the redevelopment of the Sermasuk Warehouse site near the Chao Phraya River, where diverse transportation modes create dynamic human circulation. The design integrates a mega courtyard concept, juxtaposing communal lower-floor spaces such as parks and malls with upper-floor living units.

Materiality plays a pivotal role in communicating contrast and contradiction—stone and wood embody a dialogue of thickness and thinness, lightness and heaviness, and a balance between natural authenticity and modern practicality. While traditional rocky stone and wood are evocative, large-scale construction necessitates prefabricated materials for cost efficiency, durability, and sustainability. These materials mimic the aesthetics and density of natural elements, preserving the neo-vernacular style while accommodating contemporary construction demands.

The result is a design that respects traditional principles of thermal comfort, spatial hierarchy, and material integrity while adapting to the demands of modern urban living, creating a seamless transition between public and private realms.