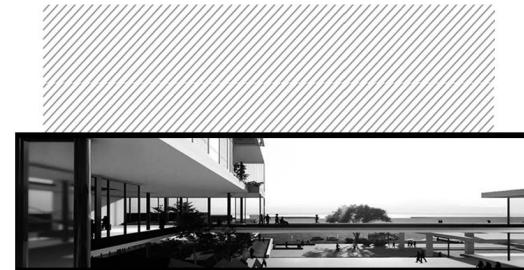


PORTFOLIO



Joseph Helou

joseph_helou@hotmail.com | +33 6 63062373

Contents

School Complex and Media Library Kindergarten and Elementary School, Municipal Media Library <i>Ivry-sur-Seine, France</i>	3
Rehabilitation of the Villiers Military Fort Beyond the Walls : A Haven waiting to be revealed <i>Noisy-le-Grand, France</i>	5
Multipurpose Space Sports Complex and Student Housing <i>Jounieh, Lebanon</i>	11
Harmonizing Scales: from Private to Collective Housing Housing Project <i>Porte de la Chapelle, France</i>	13
Port Terminal Design of a Port Infrastructure <i>Beirut, Lebanon</i>	15
60 Housing Units Living in the City: A Spatial and Typological Exploration <i>Ivry-sur-Seine, France</i>	17
City Gate Monument of Urban Identity <i>Beirut, Lebanon</i>	19
Event Hall Embracing What is Already There <i>Champeaux, Val d'Ancoeur, France</i>	21
Master's Thesis and Personal Project Spatial Design and Narrative through the Creation of an Epic Fantasy Universe	23

01

School Complex and Media Library

Kindergarten and Elementary School,
Municipal Media Library

Year

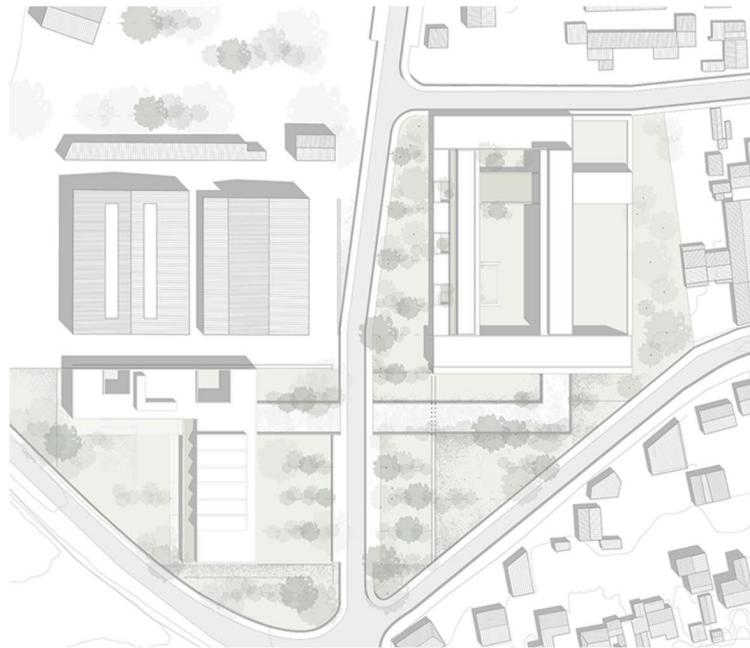
Fall 2023

Program

50 classrooms, extracurricular adj.
media library

Context

Ivry-sur-Seine, France



Architecture plays a decisive role in the development of young people, and it is essential to design it with future generations and communities in mind. This project therefore aims to create a place that goes beyond mere functionality, offering an environment that stimulates both intellectually and emotionally.

The kindergarten bloc unfolds with a fluid, horizontal volumetry, engaging with the main road while promoting permeability with the public space through sequences of interior and exterior spaces and layered depth. A long horizontal perspective, guided by a green axis, connects the two primary programmatic entities—the kindergarten and the elementary school—which extend in parallel. This progression is articulated through various spatial layers, passing through the playground, the connecting gallery, and the cafeteria, which unites the entire ensemble at the end of the perspective.



02 Rehabilitation of the Villiers Military Fort

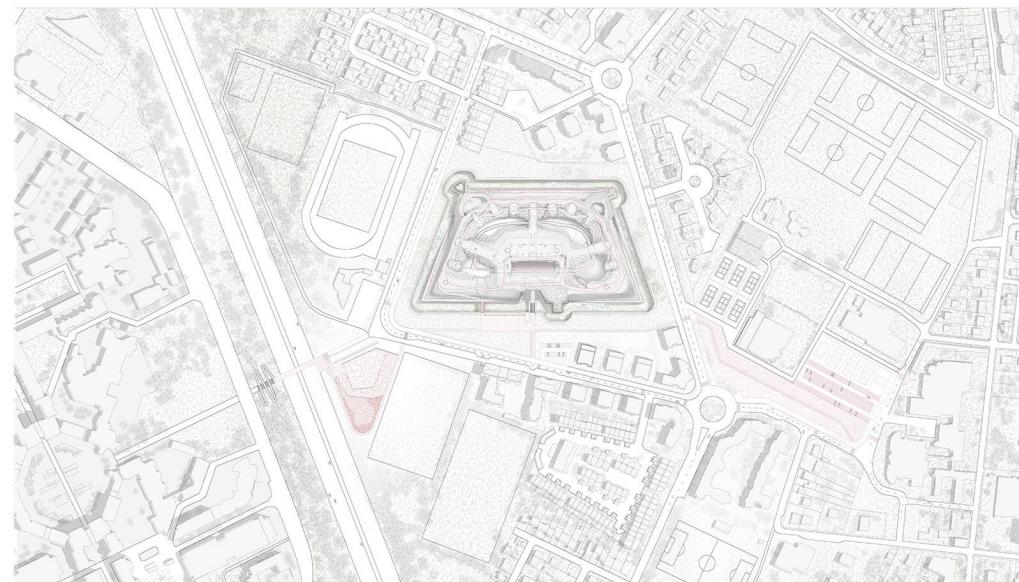
Beyond the Walls : A Haven waiting to be revealed

Year	Spring 2025
Program	Revitalization of an Abandoned Military Fort: Heritage, Ecology, and Urban Integration
Context	Noisy-le-Grand, France



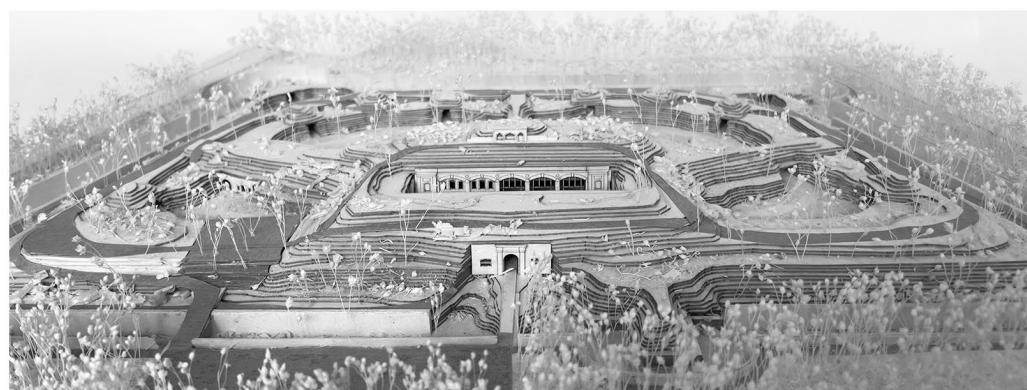
Designed as part of the Séré de Rivières defensive system, this fort represents an exceptional heritage asset due to its fully preserved state. Site analysis revealed its historical, landscape, and ecological qualities, but also highlighted its isolation and neglect within a fragmented urban context, notably marked by the A4 motorway barrier.

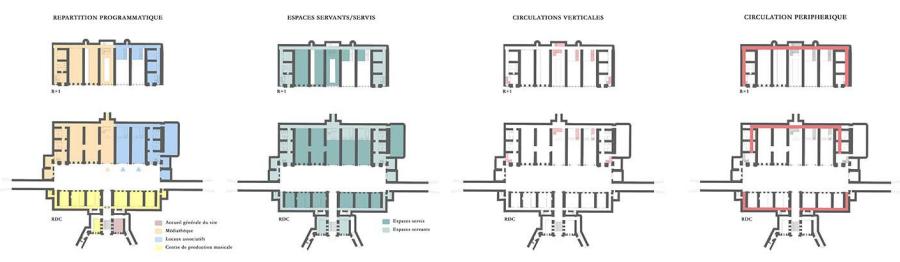
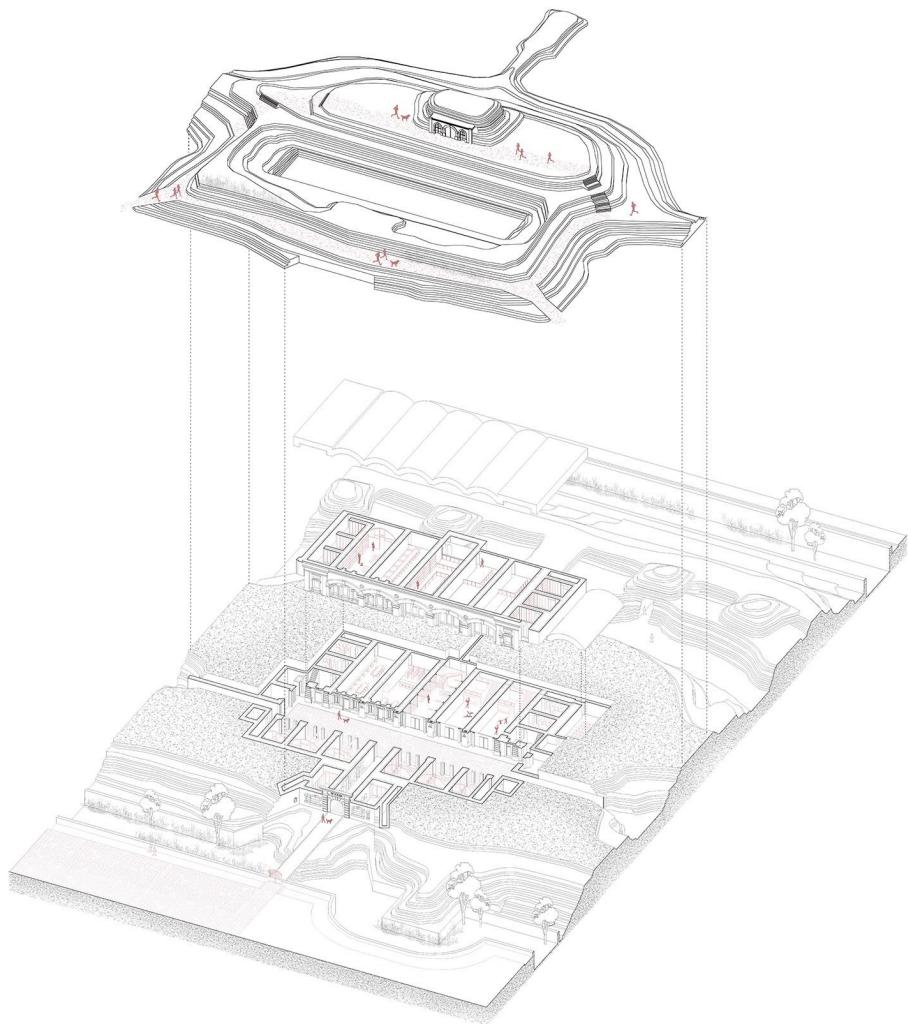
The approach is based on the notion of networks and pathways at multiple scales: the reconstruction of a regional grid of Île-de-France forts, connecting the fort to the city through carefully designed routes and respectful site openings, and finally, reactivating the built spaces with cultural, community, and sports uses. The project aims to create a vibrant and flexible place, reconciling heritage conservation, biodiversity enhancement, and urban integration.



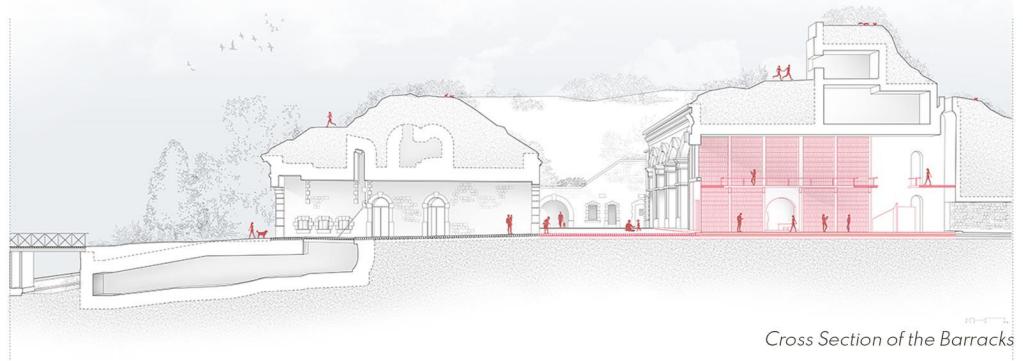
Architecturally, the intervention adopts a measured approach, respecting the original materials and structure while adapting the buildings for contemporary functions. From a landscape perspective, it relies on a system of loops and pathways that encourage an immersive and sensitive experience, while preserving the site's fragile ecological balance.

This project therefore envisions the fort not as a static monument, but as a hub for territorial, cultural, and environmental renewal—capable of reconnecting history, nature, and the city.

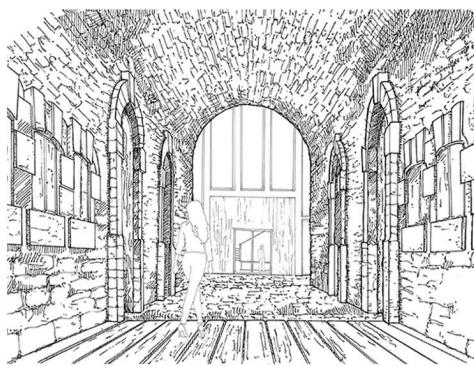
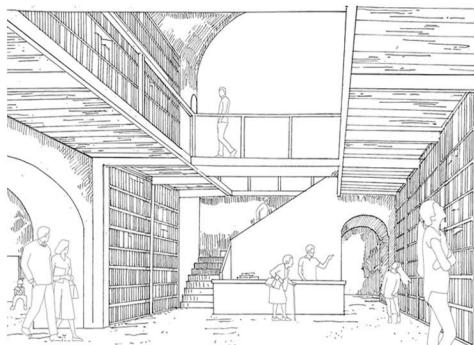


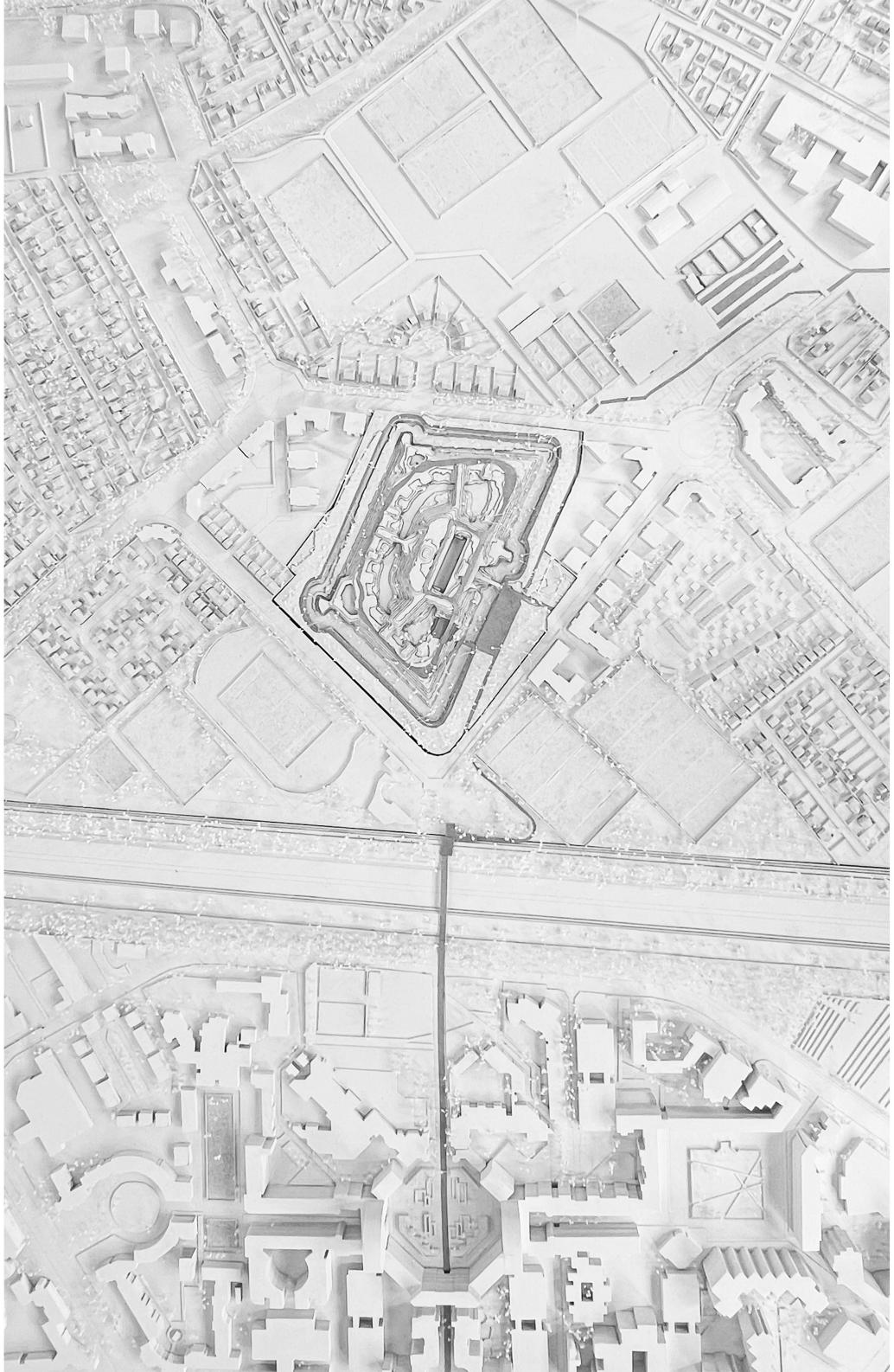
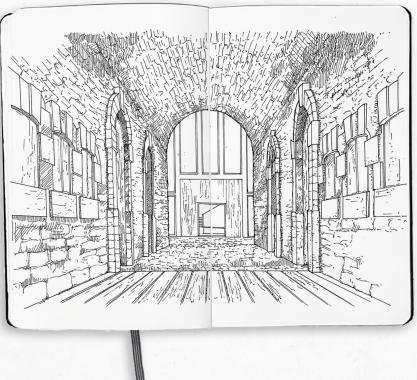
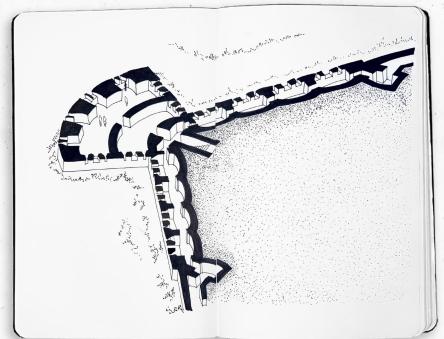
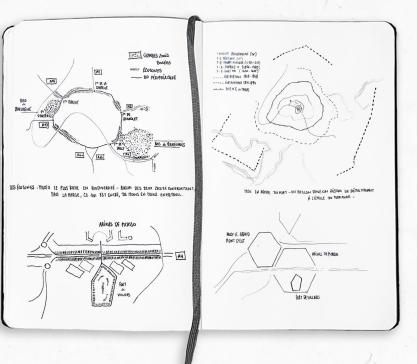
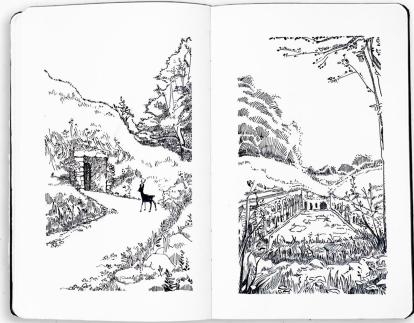
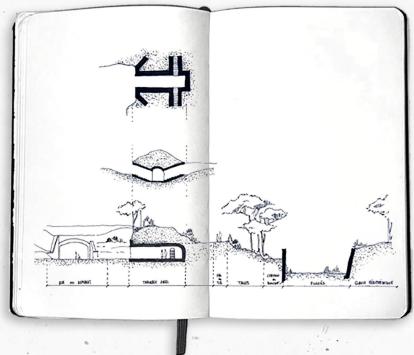


Longitudinal Section of the Barracks



Cross Section of the Barracks





03

Multipurpose Space

Sports Complex and Student Housing

Year Spring 2021

Program Sports Facilities, 80 Student Apartments

Context Jounieh, Lebanon

The project establishes itself as an economic, cultural, and tourist hub strategically integrated into the urban fabric, with direct connections to the city's main networks. It combines residential programs, workspaces, and public areas to create a coherent and legible ensemble, in contrast with the heterogeneous surrounding built context.

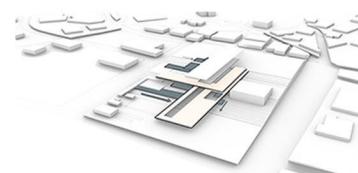
The intervention extends and densifies the existing urban grid while organizing two structuring axes, education and culture, around a series of integrated landscape elements: gardens, water features, and terracing that structure the built volumes and rhythm the circulation.

The result is a true "urban village", conceived as a space for exchange and social interaction, where daily life, learning, and cultural activities coexist.



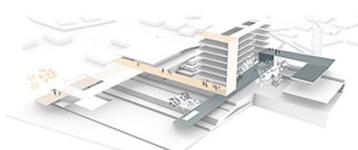
Phase 1

Creation of a Central Identity Core, intended to become the beating heart of the project



Phase 2

Continuous interaction with nature, establishing a dialogue between architecture, humans, and their natural environment



Phase 3

Seamless connection and harmonious integration between the project's two interfaces

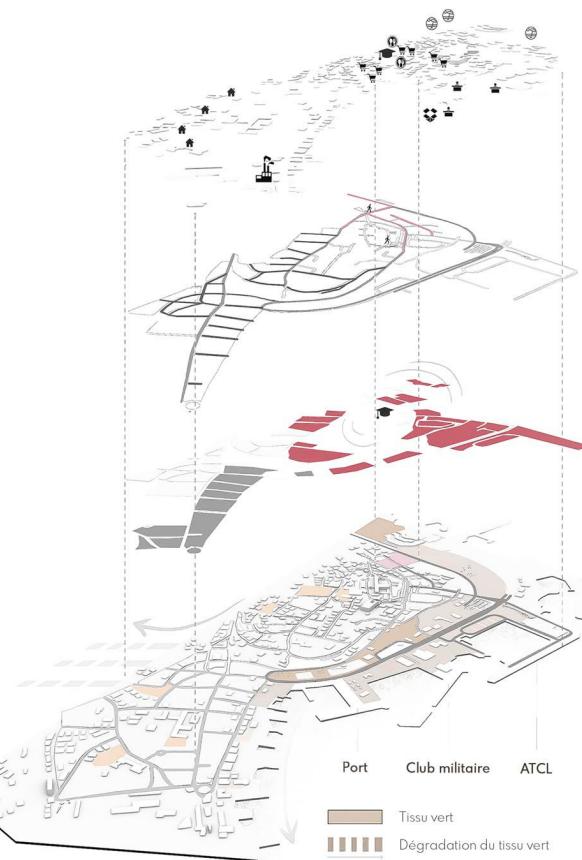


Phase 4

Designed in Section: Ensuring Harmony and Continuity with the Surrounding Landscape

Types d'activité

- Université
- Port
- Restaurants
- Commerce
- Bureaux
- Industrie
- Résidentiel
- Tourisme



Tissu urbain

- Parcelles: Commerce
- Parcelles: Résidentiel
- Parcelles: Industrie



04

Harmonizing Scales: from Private to Collective Housing Housing Project

Year

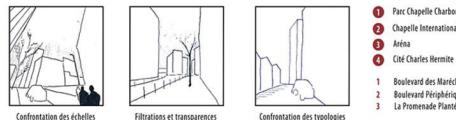
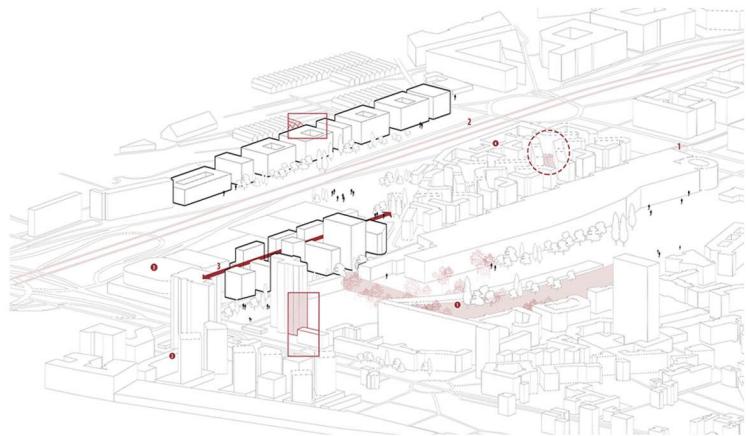
Fall 2023

Program

400 Residential Units within a ZAC des Mines
Urban Block

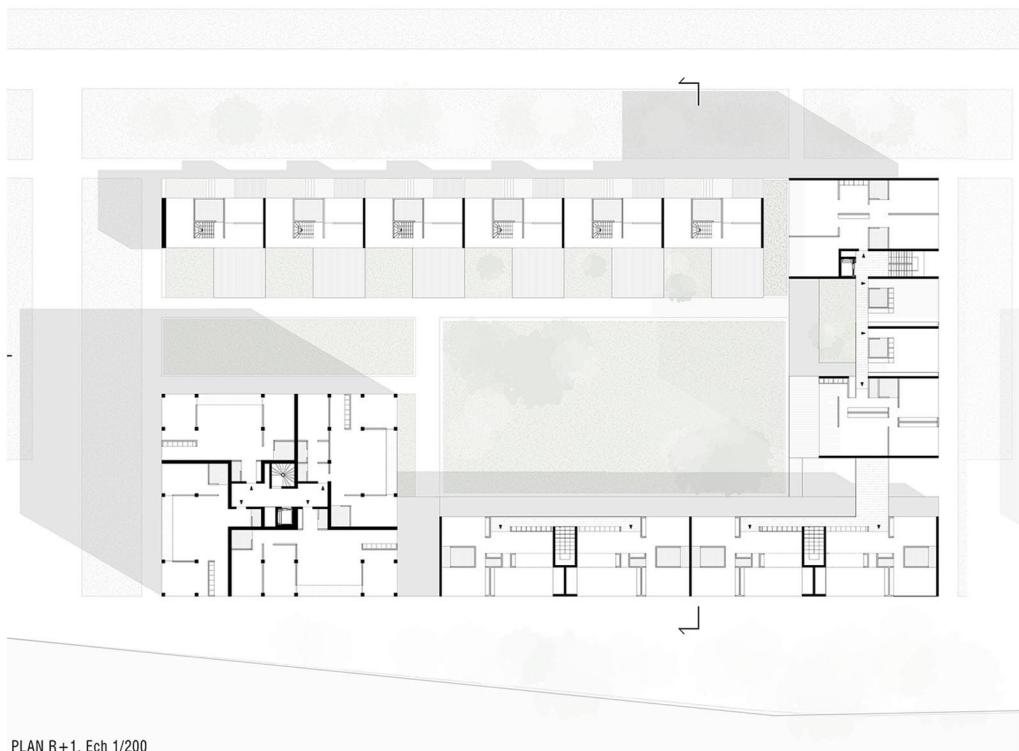
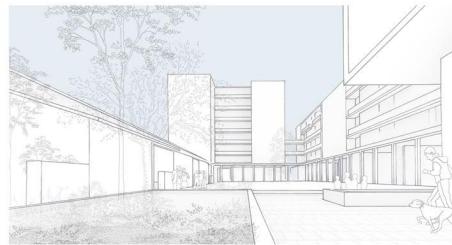
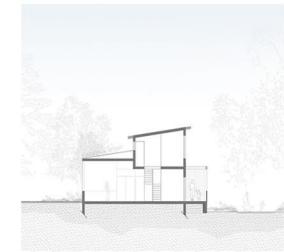
Context

Porte de la Chapelle, France



This housing project explores the coexistence and articulation of three scales of dwelling—individual, intermediate, and collective—to create a residential ensemble that is both diverse and coherent. By manipulating and combining contrasting typologies, from single-family houses to mid-rise blocks and high-rise towers, the project seeks to establish harmony between built forms and modes of living.

The goal is to design a residential fabric capable of offering a variety of uses and spatial experiences, while fostering social cohesion and a sense of ownership at all scales.



05 Port Terminal

Design of a Port Infrastructure

Year Spring 2020

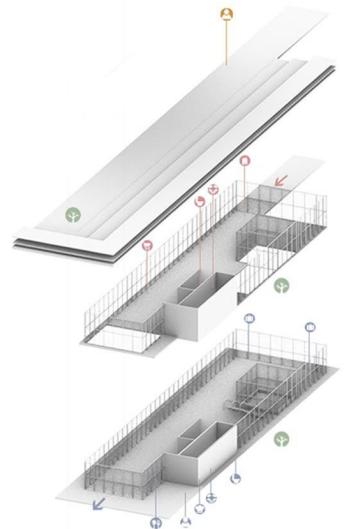
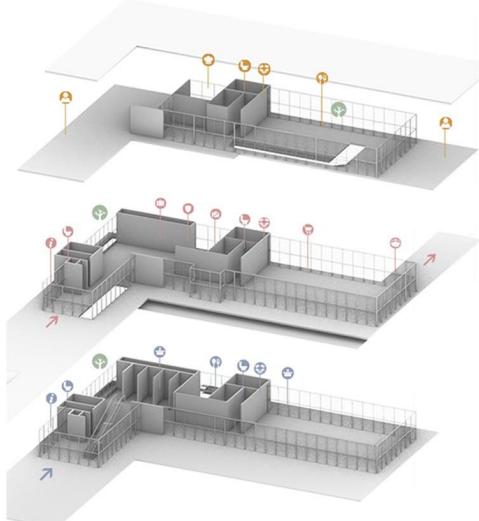
Program Passenger Transit, Boarding/Disembarking, Circulation Flows

Context Beirut Port, post 4th of August explosion

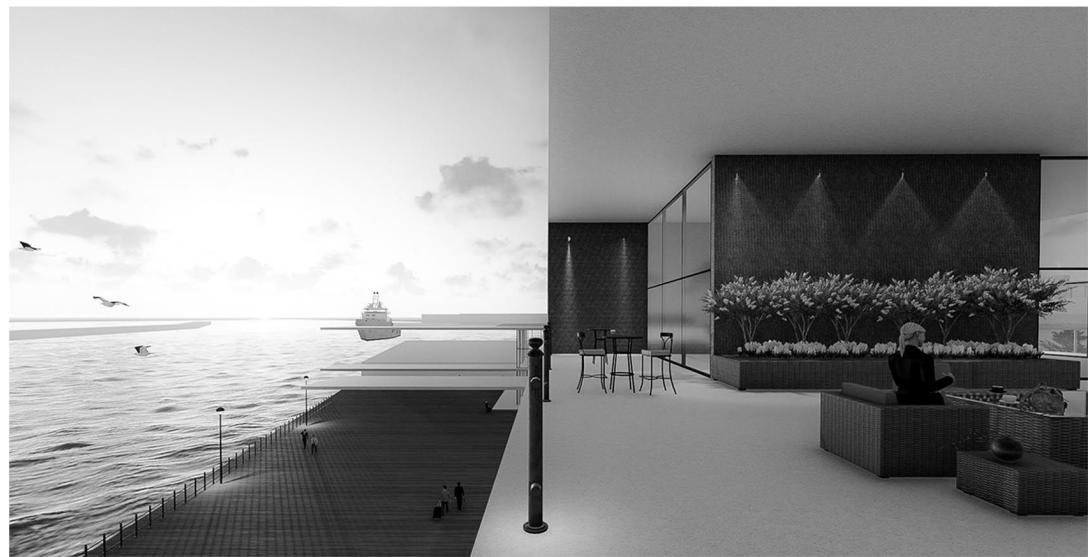
"Your Lebanon is a lie hiding behind borrowed intelligence, while mine is a simple, bare truth." - Khalil Gibran

The project unfolds in close relation to the maritime interface. The visitor experience begins on a vast open forecourt, designed as a breathing space that filters circulation flows and softens urban density, before guiding users toward the main program according to an organization inspired by the functional logic of a maritime station.

The architectural approach emphasizes a respectful integration with the site, following the natural path of the water and adopting a measured horizontality. Entry is marked by a series of light, horizontal slabs, contrasting with the monumental verticality of the towers that define Beirut's skyline.



	Informations		Baggages		Vérification de Sécurité
	Services		Douane		Vérification des Passeports
	Bureaux		Zone Franche		Niveau RDC
	Restauration		Cuisine		1 ^{er} Etage
	Dépendances		Connection		2 nd Etage



06

60 Housing Units

Living in the City: A Spatial and Typological Exploration

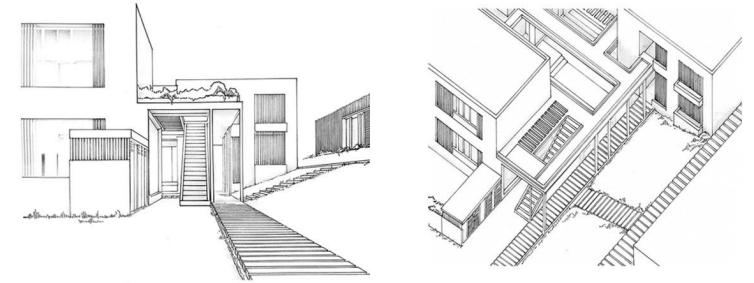
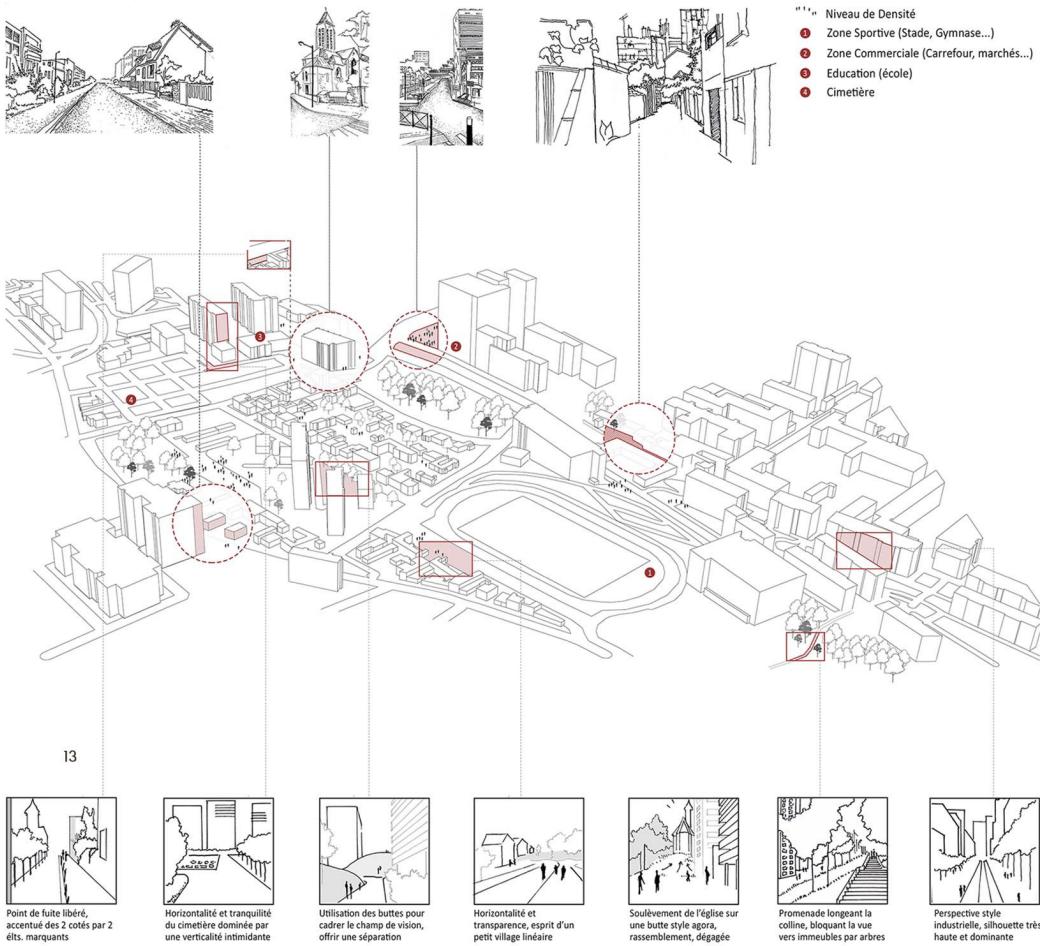
Year Spring 2023

Program 60 Apartments - Studio to T5

Context Ivry-sur-Seine, France

The theme "Living in the City" offers a fascinating perspective on the complex relationship between individuals and their urban environment. In a world where increasing urbanization is an unavoidable reality, understanding how we inhabit cities becomes essential for shaping more sustainable, inclusive, and harmonious urban spaces.

The project design began by lifting a rectangular volume to create a smooth transition from the road to the heart of the site, opening up a clear ground-floor space. Public functions were integrated into this volume to serve both residents and the surrounding community.



Two renders of Peter Zumthor's Casa Z, created with Blender, highlight the software's ability to accurately convey volumetry, light, and materials. Mastery of advanced modeling and rendering functions enables the production of a faithful and nuanced interpretation of the architecture, while providing flexibility for formal and spatial exploration.

Blender, through its precision and versatility, facilitates architectural representation for conceptual exploration, project communication, and the production of visuals suitable for competitions.



07

City Gate

Monument of Urban Identity

Year Spring 2020

Program Retail and Office Facilities

Context Beirut, Lebanon



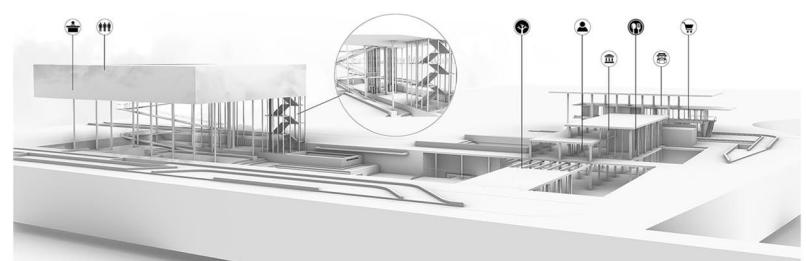
A rediscovered route, embodying a deep reflection on Beirut's identity, highlighted by a suspended futuristic element that creates balance and contrast.



The project addresses the issue of collective memory, today weakened by Beirut's urban density and spatial disorder. It proposes an architectural journey that reconstructs the foundational spaces of Lebanese identity, reinterpreting vernacular typologies such as souks, inner courtyards, and gardens framed by galleries. These spatial sequences, integrated into the contemporary context, act as collective landmarks and reactivate the connection between inhabitants and their territory.

The intervention is marked by a mirrored volume, serving as a signature element that blends into the landscape while reflecting the city and its inhabitants, thus symbolizing the interaction between memory, identity, and the built environment.

The project stages a continuous dialogue between past and future. Its mirrored façade acts as a reflector of the city's condition, portraying Beirut as the product of its inhabitants' actions. When disorder prevails, it conveys a sober and melancholic image; when society progresses, it transforms into a bright and harmonious representation, symbolizing the collective drive toward a shared future.



08

Event Hall

Embracing What is Already There

Year

Fall 2022

Program

Music school, event hall

Context

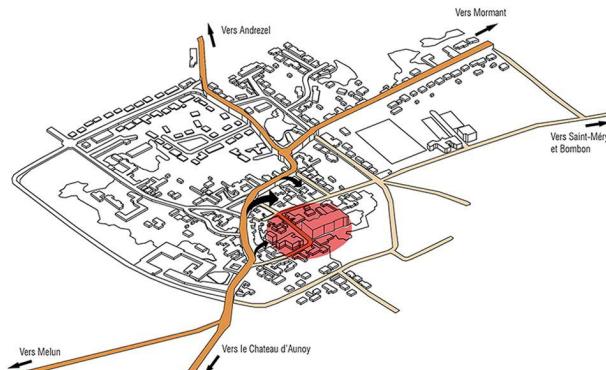
Champeaux, Val d'Ancoeur, heritage of the Brie



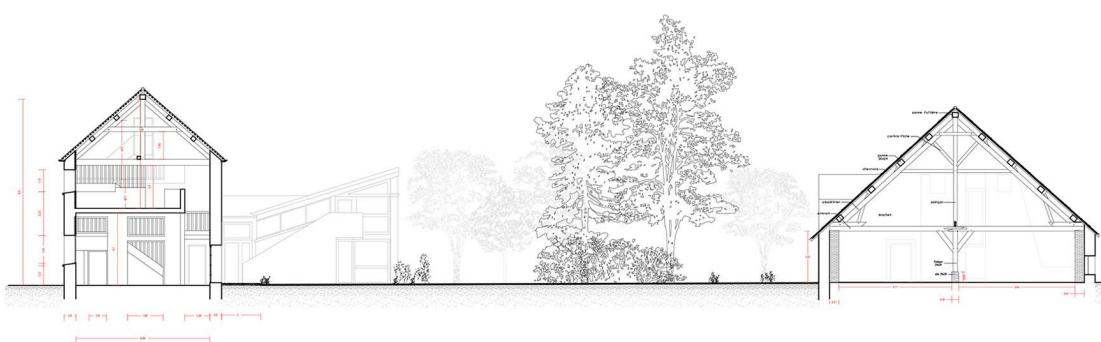
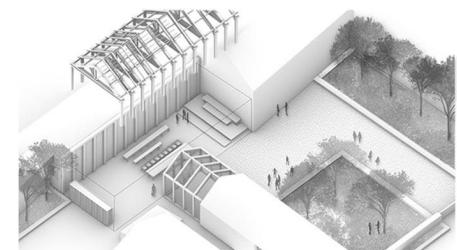
Located between the school and the town hall of Champeaux, facing the majestic 11th-century Collégiale de Saint Martin, the project seeks to integrate and enhance the heritage site as an active element—an irreplaceable link within the program.

The project establishes a music school, integrated into an educational program in collaboration with the existing primary school, an events and concert hall reinforcing the square and its connection to the collégiale, and sacred and classical music performances within the collégiale itself.

The program aims to have an impact not only at the village scale but also across the wider territory, fostering social connections by strengthening the centrality of the collégiale. It becomes a meeting point and a hub for cultural and social activity, interacting with the school and an active event space throughout the week and year.



- █ Route Principale, active et fréquentée
- █ Routes Secondaires activées le plus suite au nouveau prog.
- █ La Collégiale - Élément focal de l'étude et du programme
- █ Zone centrale du programme, sujette de revitalisation
- Flux centrés et focalisés sur la zone d'étude à partir de la zone centrale du programme



09

Master's Thesis and Personal Project

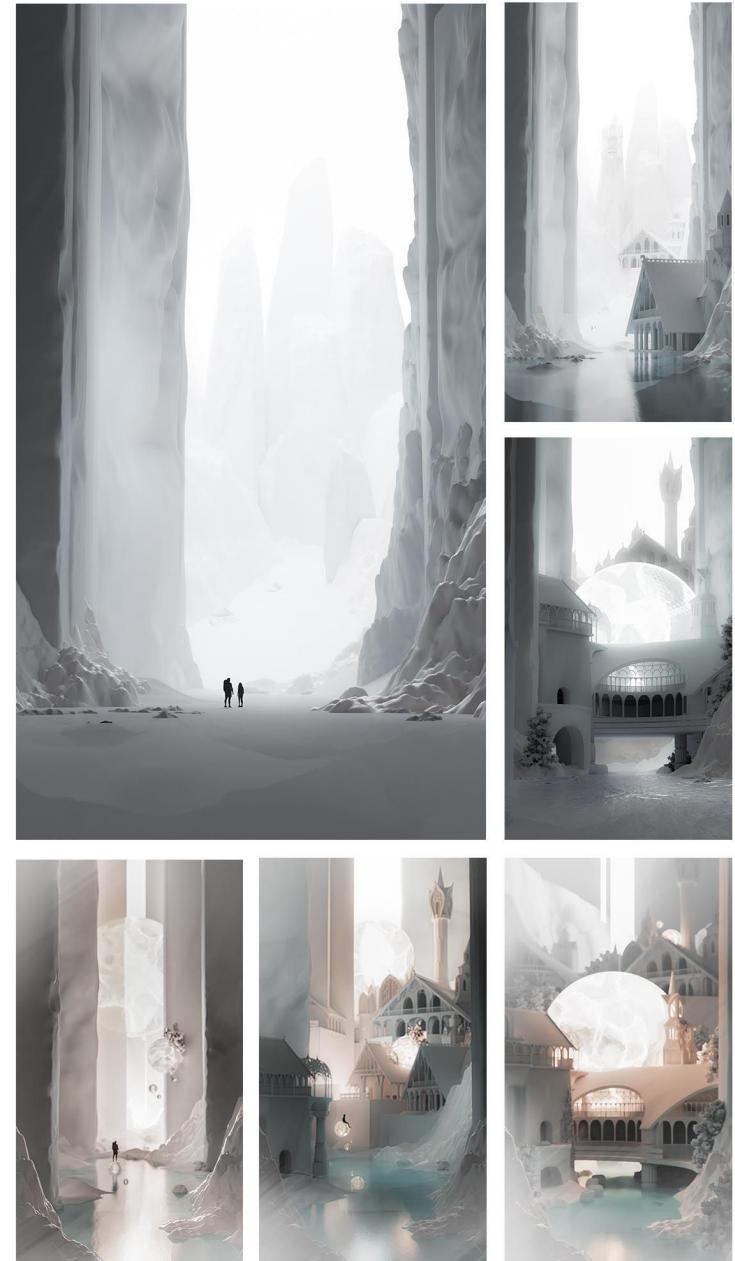
Spatial Design and Narrative through the Creation of an Epic Fantasy Universe

For the past four years, I have been developing a series of six novels. This study highlights architecture as an ever-evolving narrative: by integrating inherited styles, remnants of the past, and cultural references, it becomes a tool to weave stories and create spaces where the familiar and the uncanny coexist. These fictional environments, both composite and meaningful, explore our relationship to reality through recognition and alteration, inviting the viewer into an immersive and narrative experience.



Cartographie des temporalités - Maquette en 7 strates de carton bois, 80x60cm

23



Série d'illustrations conceptuelles accompagnant les parties et sous-parties du mémoire

The project explores the interplay of architecture, time, and memory, showing how spaces can merge history, innovation, and poetry, creating an experience where imagination meets reality.

With sincere thanks for your time and attention.

