# architectural portfolio

selected works
2014-2019

Ruxandra Vașcovici


Ruxandra Vașcovici

date of birth: 16/04/1994
address: 8 Vârfureni Street,
Bucharest, Romania
phone: +40 744 532 724
email: ruxandra.vascovici@yahoo.ro
vascovici.ruxandra@gmail.com


# contents:

# THE ROUNDHOUSE

Location | Suceava, Burdujeni railway station

Year of completion | 2019

Purpose | diploma project

Software used | AutoCAD, VRay, 3ds Max, Photoshop, Revit

Study | understanding local built heritage | complex blend of public/private space, indoor/outdoor space | working with vast urban landscape

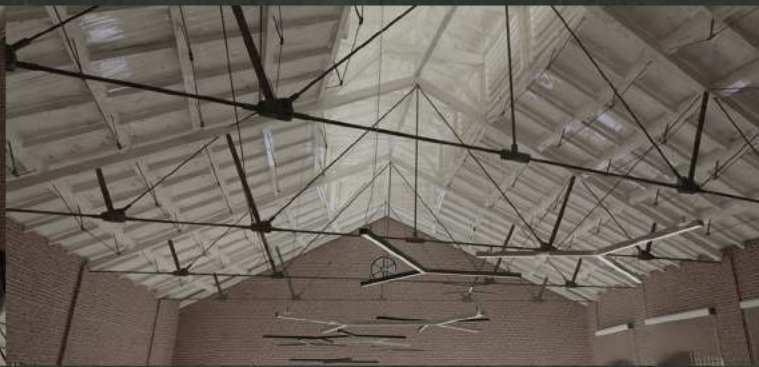
Feedback | highly appreciated

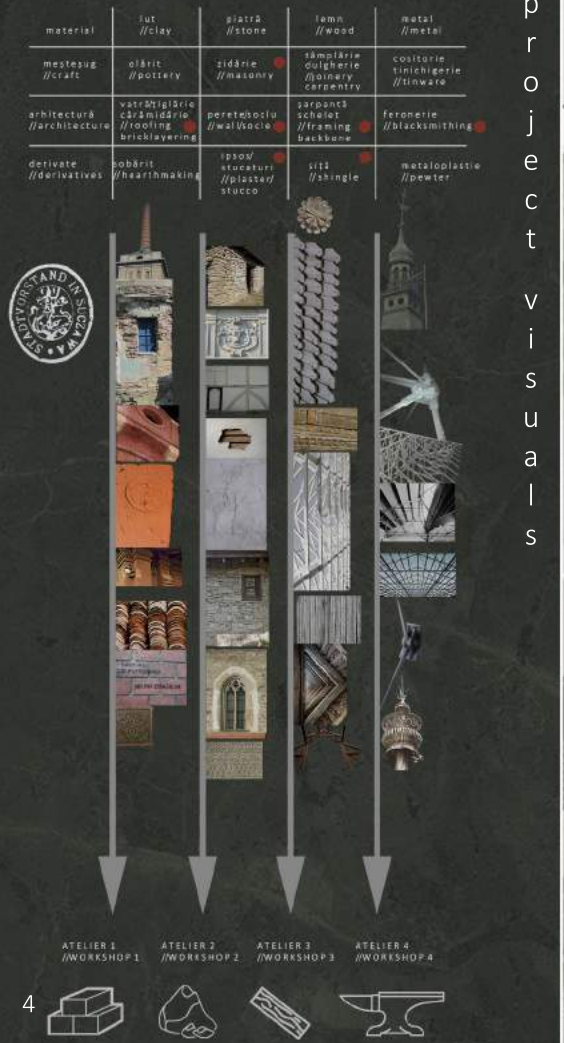
In the context of an acute construction workforce crisis and with the galloping loss of the technical know-how deemed paramount for our architectural identity, the quality and authenticity of all built environment is decreasing. In such a grim scenario, the teaching and practical training of future specialists e.g. bricklayers, roofers, carpenters, is imperative, their proper training contributing to the perpetuation of traditional construction techniques from which the old revives and the new is inspired. Therefore, taking all these current pressing issues into account, the project proposes the ROUNDHOUSE – a built heritage academy. A school of heritage crafts but much more than that, a workshop-like institution bringing together architects, students, construction engineers, landscape architects, archaeologists, as well as dwellers who want to specialize in a certain field or unemployed people interested in professional retraining. A particular aspect is the inclusion of the new school in a 1906 brick building ensemble that belongs to the industrial railway heritage: a depot, a water tower and a garrison. Thus, the patrimonial site can be properly restorated and the apprentices can be inspired by real examples of spectacular bonds, framings and joineries. Specifically, there are three main areas that mingle with the notions of public/private space, indoor/outdoor space. On the left there are the public indoor facilities, such as a café, a technical library, a cafeteria and numerous accommodation facilities. Thus, the roundhouse is intended to be a venue – an event hall hosting themed demonstrations and conferences in a generous, overwhelming space. On the right side, there are the indoor and outdoor workshops, divided into in the 4 main materials used throughout the area over time: wood, metal, clay and stone. Each material – related workspace is provided with its own outdoor workshop area so that people passing by can observe craftsmen at work. Nearby, the former garrison is used for proper material storage. Everything is connected through a monumental, structural entrance that acts like a transparent filter, uniting the public and the private parts of the academy over a generous exhibition space. The adjacent water tower becomes the vertical accent of the ensemble, the signal – like object that inspires creativity among learners. Everything is framed by the new, long, sculptural object that completes the image of the heritage railway ensemble.

project development

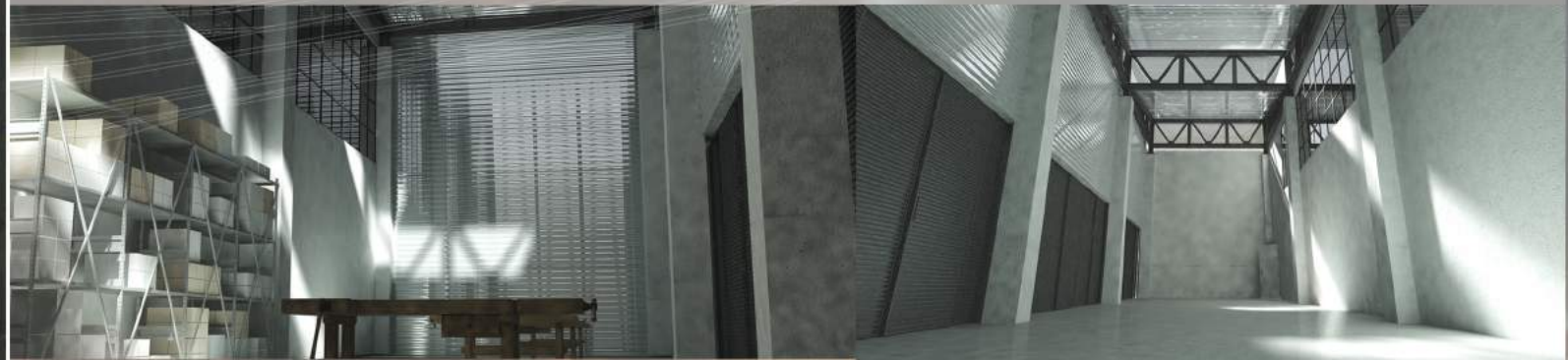
on site

roundhouse transformation & iterations




material
lut //clay
piatră //stone
lemn //wood
metal //metal
meșteșug //craft
olărit //pottery
zidărie //masonry
tâmplărie dulgherie //joinery carpentry
cositorie tinichigerie //tinware
arhitectură //architecture
vatrăfrigiărie cărămidărie //roofing bricklayering
perete/soclu //wall/socle
garpontă schelet //framing backbone
feronerie //blacksmithing
derivate //derivatives
sobărit //hearthmaking
ipsos/ stucaturi //plaster/ stucco
șiță //shingle
metaloplastie //pewter
ATELIER 1 //WORKSHOP 1
ATELIER 2 //WORKSHOP 2
ATELIER 3 //WORKSHOP 3
ATELIER 4 //WORKSHOP 4

project visuals



# CRYSTAL TOWER

Location | S-E Bucharest near Lujerului passageway

Year of completion | 2018

Purpose | University semestrial project

Software used | AutoCAD, Photoshop, 3ds Max, Revit

Study | special, complex high-rise structures

Awarded | Forbes Best Office Buildings 2018 Romania

Triangulations. Mineral. Structure. Strenght. Stability. Crystal

The Lujerului passageway area is a fragmented part of Bucharest, with a chaotic development. Here, high-rise communist curtain blocks made way for scattered car shops and, more recently, under used retail space. However, the close proximity of the ring road to the West and a functional, unused railway system that crosses the city creates an immense potential. Thus my proposal would take the irregular, fragmented form of its context and "purify" it as it grows in height, symbolizing the renewal of space and offering closure to a destructured area. Moreover, by creating a light rail terminus station using the existing railway lines, the new building would be fully connected with the entire city. The project aims towards a different way of perceiving an office building, in which the dynamics of the inner space meet the harmony of the facades. Inspired by the elegance, force and proportions of crystals, this office building brings together both pure, aesthetical facets and enduring mineral structures. At ground level, the numerous observation points and various exterior spaces ensure the coherence of the ensemble, while also offering a vivid pulse to the entire area. Permanent employees and occasional passers-by are drawn to spend quality time in a generous alternative space. The building hosts offices and conference rooms in the vertical accent, while the horizontal volume can shelter multiple public functions desired to encourage mobility, attractivity and accessibility in the area: commercial spaces, fairs, exhibitions, seasonal markets, cultural events or even sports venues. Therefore, Crystal Tower is a different kind of office building, one that can bring life to the Lujerului periphery

structure

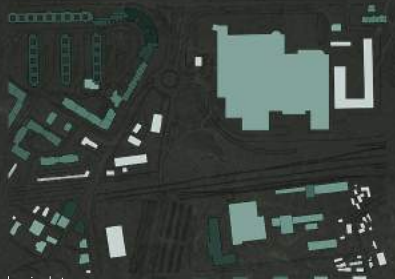
synthesis

location

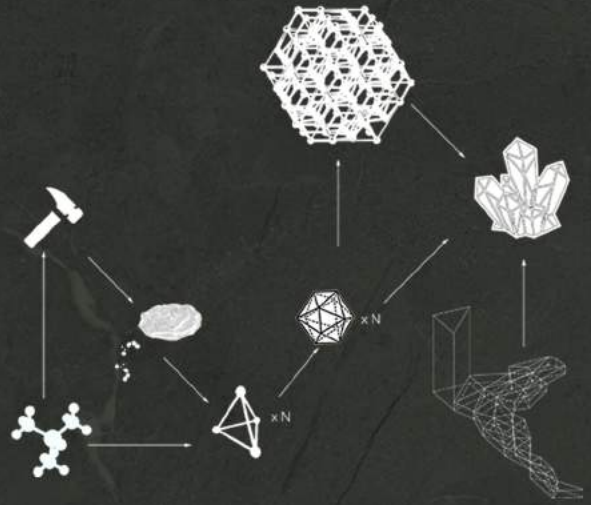
functions


accessibility proposal


height




concept




light rail

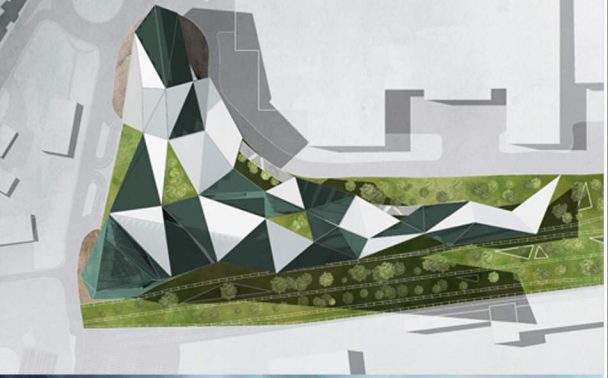
intra urban and extra urban connection- 7,5km inside the city and 42,8km outside the city

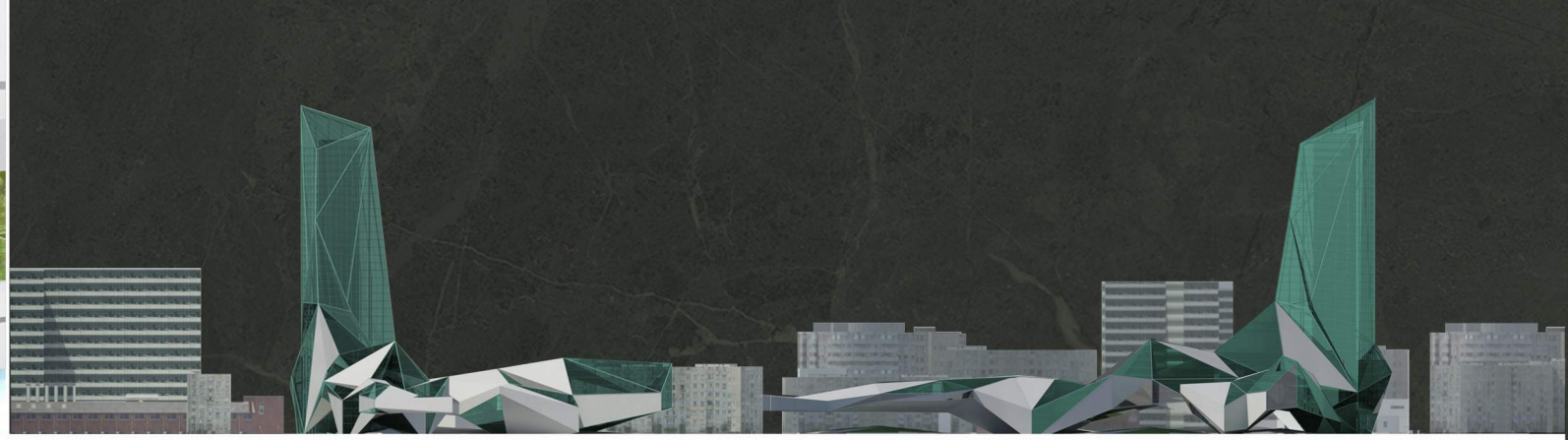
can facilitate commuting for numerous citizens from vecinities Giurgiu and Teleorman who come to Bucharest to work

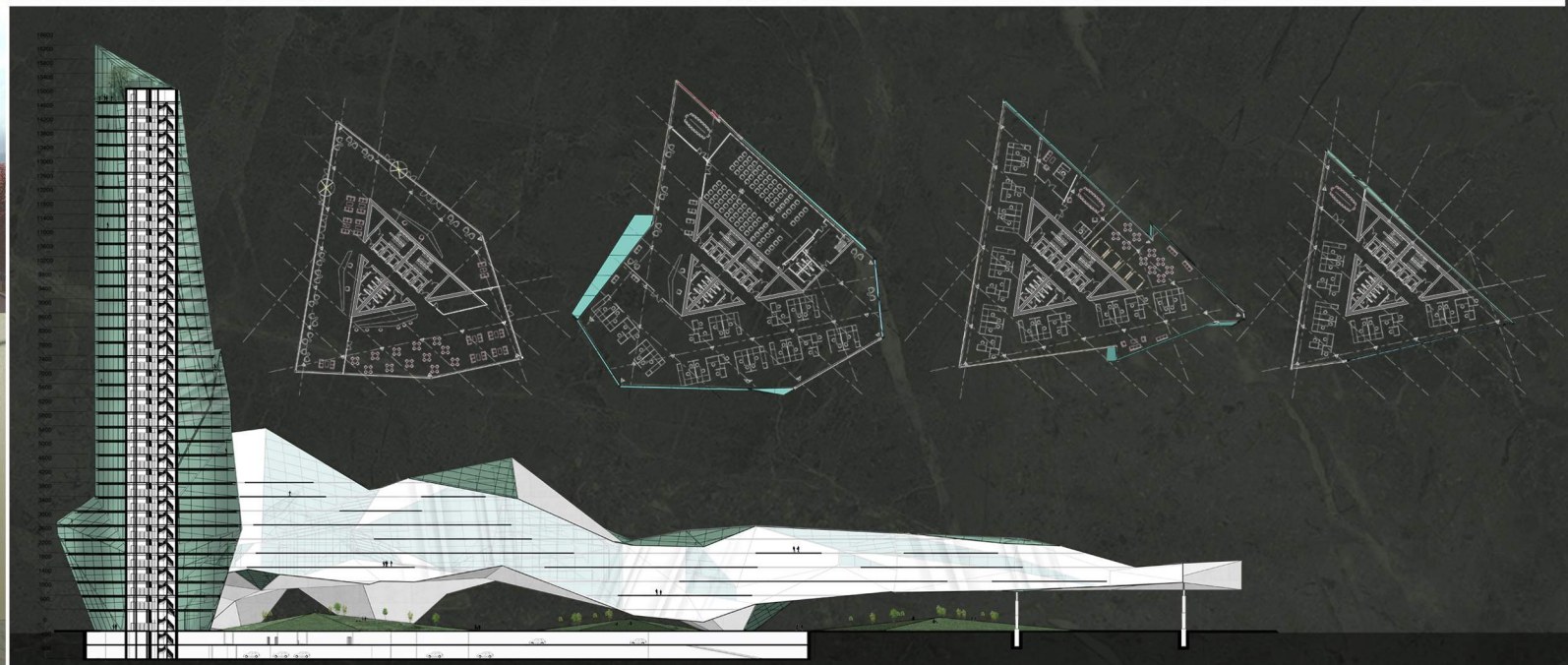
encourages access towards the centre of the capital through park&ride systems

90% existent infrastructure


CRYSTAL
TOWER







# ARCHITECTURE & CONNECTIVITY

Location | Southwark tube station, London, UK

Year of completion | 2017

Purpose | University semestrial project

Software used | AutoCAD, Photoshop, 3ds Max+Vray

Study | innovative brick solutions for London housing crisis

Awarded | RIBA Honorable Mention for project of the year

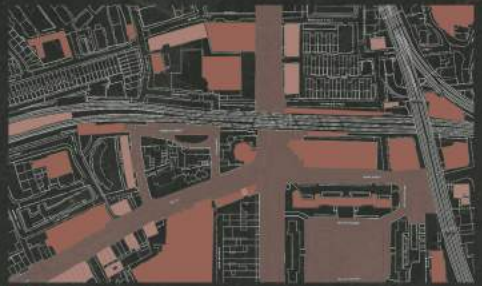
London is a city of bricks. From Royal Albert Hall to the stock material behind the stuccoed facades of its white terraces, the brick is omni-present. The project is a celebration of the material and the craftmanship behind its expression, but also represents a statement of the need for the capital to address housing provision for those key workers who are able to manifest that expression - bricklayers. Drawing on earlier workers' housing precedents, where workers themselves are involved in the construction of their own homes, the unique facades employ and test the skills of these workers, using brick in a variety of techniques and bonds. The resulting highly decorated cone-like forms allude to the symbolic presence of powerful industrial silhouettes along the South Bank - Battersea Power Station, the Tate Modern and even the old traditional pottery kilns that have still survived throughout London by the hundreds. The current representation of the city is challenged - the decorated towers of the twenty-first-century which take precedence on the skyline over the 'ordinary' residential blocks now find newcomers in their midst: newcomers which express not the worship of finance and capital, but a belief in a new form of richness- the celebration of the importance to a city and a civilization of properly housing its
population, and of supporting those who can help to achieve it. The towers belong to a new type of public realm. Avoiding the over-valued 'ground', they instead rise above another great 'public' institution- the tube. Using air-rights space over Southwark station, they rise above a plynth, pulling the activity of the tube upward, visualy and physically, providing public engagement with the bricklayer's housing co-operative above. Public activities spread around the new plynth, rising up into the towers and providing the opportunity for the co-operative to sell products, host events and raise awarenes of their craft - a craft that has stood the test of time since the ancient Romans.

# project development

# analysis information

various brick cladded exterior finishings

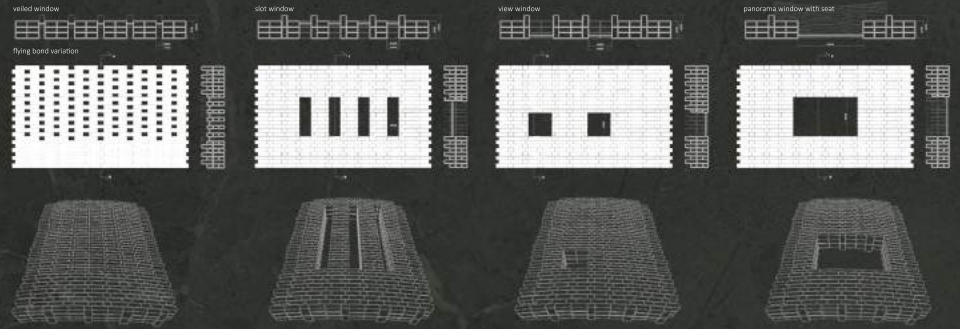
to say that "London is a city of bricks" is not an understatement. the analysis reveals that this material has been particularly preferred in the area, since it dominates the entirety of the projects' premises



public spaces, public institutions, placemakers and social hubs

the publicness of the Southwark area can be described through this site analysis, which reveals its rich potential in serving the needs of the people, but also its crouded and fast-paced atmosphere

# the SEMPER drawing




## revealing and concealing

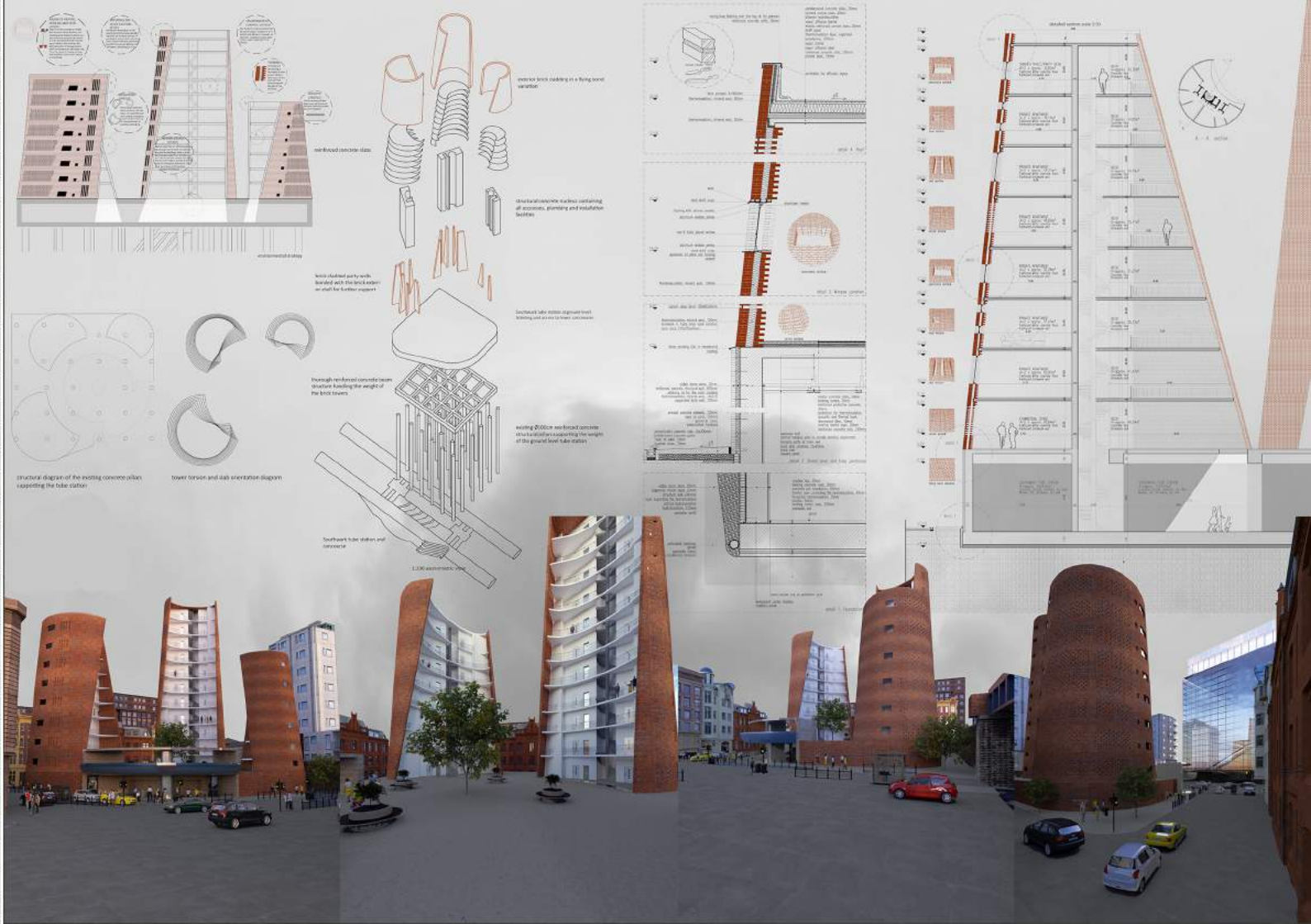
the veiled window is intended to be used in rooms where a more intimate and diaphanous ligh is required. bedrooms, for example, do not need large panorama windows to admire views, but rather a warm atmosphere created by the rays of sun that pass through the missing brick bond. the veiled window works like a filter, bringing tranquility to the inside while keeping the busy image of the Southwark station on the outside

the slot windows are meant to be a fun alternative in study areas, providing both proper light and adequate ventilation when needed. moreover, they offer spectacular views due to their unusual height and can be used as shelves as well. working at a desk can never become dull

the view window is designated for spaces like the dining area, which, in this case, is reduced to the minimum to further enhance the utility of the last-floor shared kitchens. since it is a residential building designed with key workers in mind, the aim is to tend towards a social housing programme, hence the small spaces of certain rooms. the view window allows sufficient light to pass through, while also offering particular views of the city, depending on each unique orientation

the panorama window with seat is particularly suitable for living rooms, creating not only some extra space within the confinements of the brick wall, but also offering spectacular wide views of the city. Depending on each of the windows' unique position throughout the building, the views differ and add excitement and surprise within every apartmen


public access 2
publicness
public access 1
southwark tube
entrance


reinforced concrete slabs
exterior brick cladding in a flying bond variation
structural concrete nucleus containing all accesses, plumbing and installation facilities
brick clad end party walls, bonded with the brick exterior shell for further support
Southwark tube station stagnant level widening and access to lower concourse
thorough reinforced concrete beam structure handling the weight of the brick towers
existing Ø1000cm reinforced concrete structural pillars supporting the weight of the ground level tube station
Southwark tube station and concourse
structural diagram of the existing concrete pillars supporting the tube station
tower torsion and slab orientation diagram

# VICTORIA PASSAGEWAY REVIVAL

Location | 17-21 Academiei Street, 48 Victoriei Street, Bucharest, Romania

Year of completion | 2018

Purpose | University semestrial project

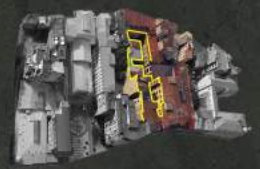
Software used | AutoCAD, Photoshop, 3ds Max, Revit

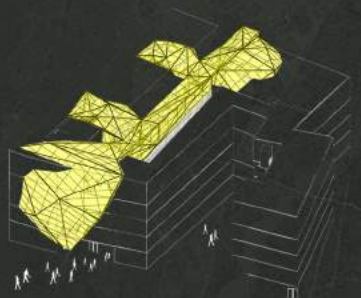
Study | public space attractivity, new urban ground-0

Probably the most beautiful urban and pedestrian walkway in Bucharest, Calea Victoriei street enchants. However, amongst numerous historic buildings of incomensurable value to the Romanian architectural heritage, lie the somewhat forgotten Victoria and English passageways. Their past runs deep - over one hundred and fifty years since the English Hotel, constituent of the English passageway, was first erected, making it the oldest remaining 'block of flats' in the capital city. Reminding of the famous passageways in Paris, the Victoria passageway is now underused, crumbling and destitute, while the near situated Macca Villacrosse passageway somehow continues to survive. The enormous potential of the area needed to be salvaged. Thus, the aim of the project is to reactivate this hidden gem, inserting life, dynamism and buzzling sounds into a place that can become a second 'old town square'. By the means of this intervention, the Victoria passageway would transform into an urban attraction, generating commercial revenue and touristic interest. The various functions inside the passageway are meant to convince passers-by not only to traverse the distance between two main streets, but also to determine them to spend time throughout all levels of the proposal, thus bringing an unique, architecturally valuable area back to life. As an addition to the numerous modifications to the existent buildings, a suspended parametric structure 'pours' inside circulation nodes and over street facades, signaling entrances, making a statement and convincing people to experiment life inside, on top and underneath Bucharest's newest center of interest.

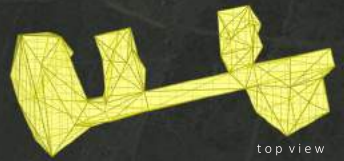
analysis information

project development

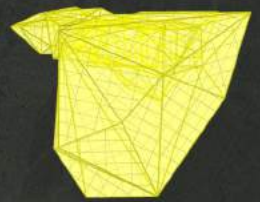




perspective view



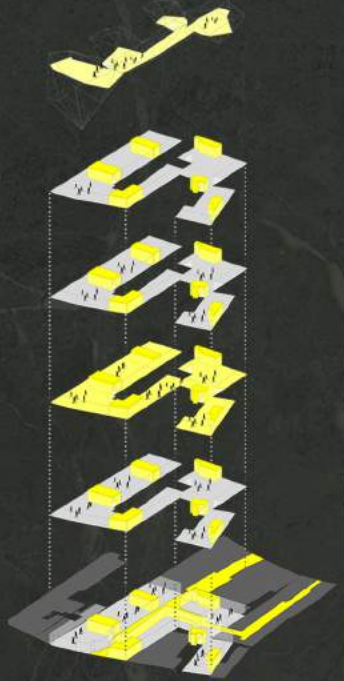
top view



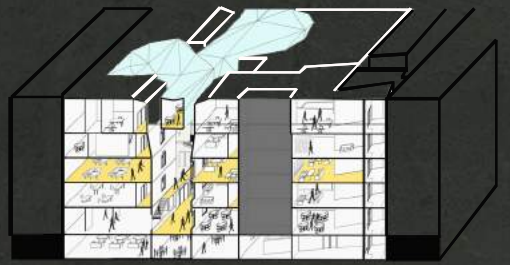
front view

lateral view

study of suspended pouring structure



study of insertion points, structure & circulations

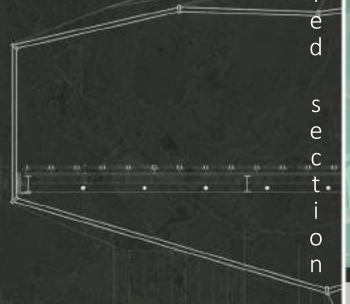


study of inner perspective views

basement ground floor & first floor plan

second third & fourth floor plan

detailed section



# URBAN PAVILLION

Location | Bucharest, Romania

Year of completion | 2014

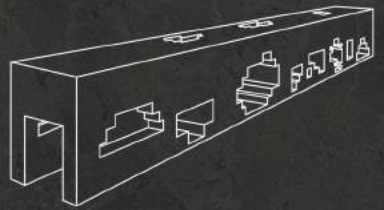
Purpose | University semestrial project

Software used | Hand drawn

Study | aesthetic expression through structure

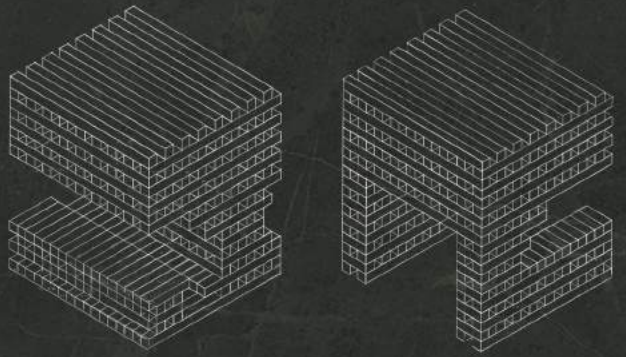
Interaction. Socialization. Contemplation. Play. Reading. Observation. Meditation. Nature. Intimacy

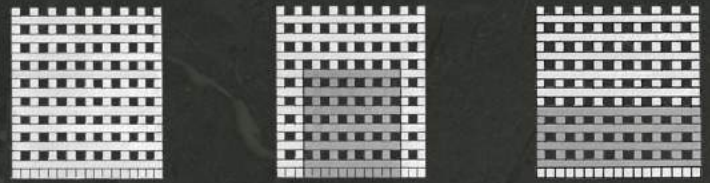
This project can be regarded as an anchitectural experiment. By challenging the load bearing properties of wood, a new type of pavillion was created - one that can be fully recycled, fully altered, fully dismantled and remantled somewhere else. Through the means of gravity and the material's own weight and friction properties, this urban pavillion can stand on its own in any public square. Each perforation is taught to serve a different leisure activity, hence the different shapes resembling either sitting places or even game tables. The pavillion encourages all the members of the community to interact, to share spaces within its walls, to communicate. Through its clean, pure form, the complex needs of an urban square can be fulfilled.

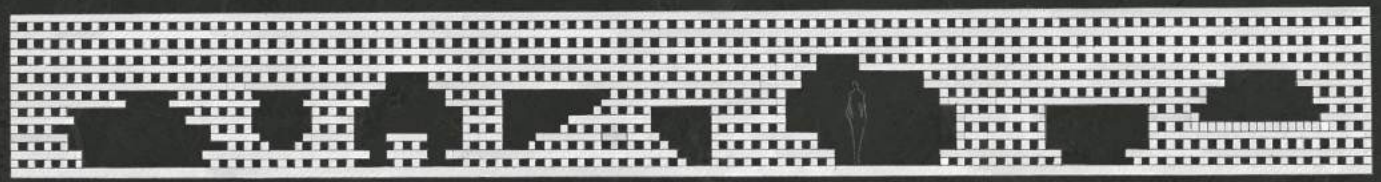


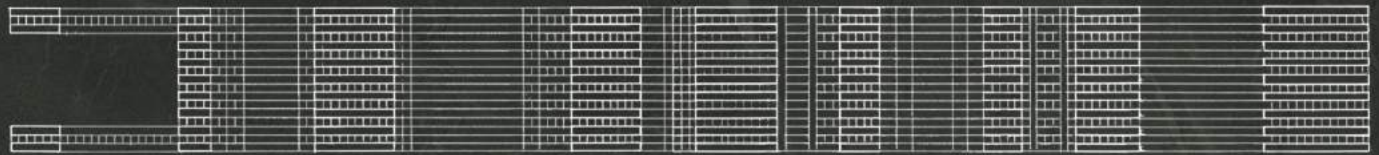
physical model

hand drawn plans & sections









# THE TWIST

conceptual project

Location | Dubai, UAE

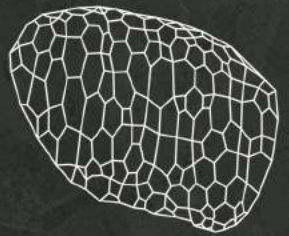
Year of completion | 2017

Purpose | University semestrial project

Software used | AutoCAD, Photoshop, 3ds Max + Vray

Study | energy -0 building design

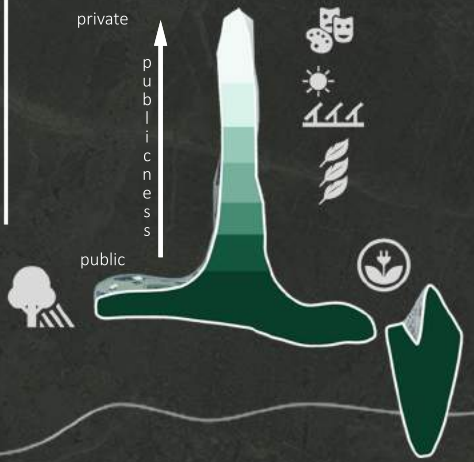
"Urban design can be seen as a problem solving strategy in which the creative capacity utilises arts and science to generate solutions to difficult situations". After a thorough study regarding the environmental issues that the city of Dubai is facing, numerous conclusions derived - the urgent need for potable water, the difficult hot climate, the lack of green public spaces and air pollution. Despite living in such dry, harsh conditions, Dubai continues to build the first, largest, biggest constructions in the world. Its dynamics are always transient and ever-changing with its constant urge to construct something bigger than the previous. Therefore, the project aims to combine the need for 'spectacular' with innovative 0-energy technologies that would allow better living conditions for both citizens and visitors of this great city. The chosen site for the proposal is a underused peninsula, thus giving access to the ocean shore. This generated the main focal point of the project - an enormous capacity water turbine with an enclosed circuit flow. This 0-energy technology uses the power of the water vortex to generate energy and, therefore, circulate potable water in and out of the building, while in the mean time changing its temperature to allow the tower to cool off. What is more, this system irrigates a large green public area through means of the parametric shell, which is punctured where needed. The building itself hosts various functions; apart from the office space situated in the tower, everything else opens up to the community through commercial and cultural spaces, sports venues, fairs and seasonal markets.



# analysis & technology

## location



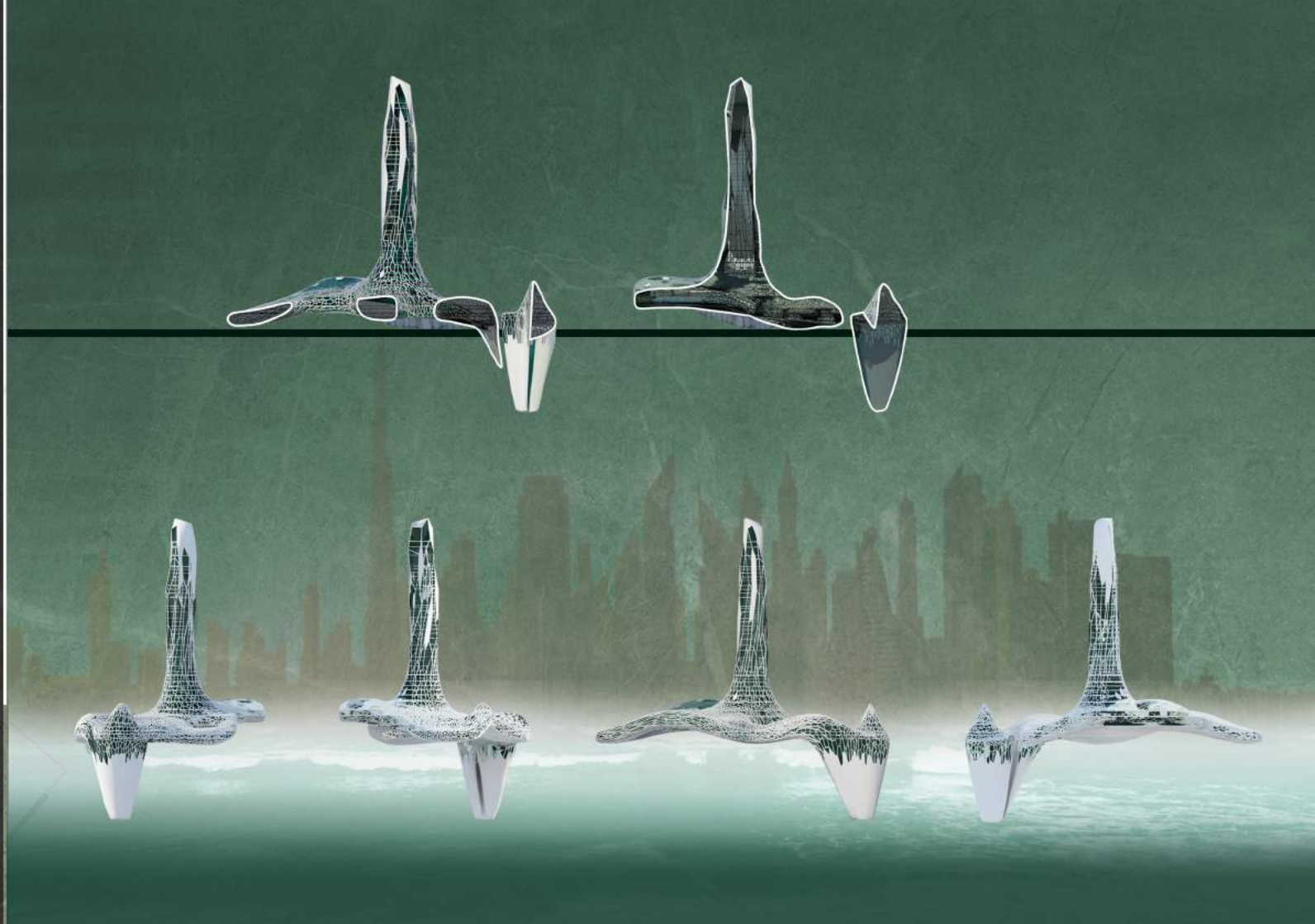



electricity generating turbine through controlled water flow

enclosed circuit water flow that allows the building to cool off, maintains a constant interior temperature and irrigates a large green public area through the means of the parametric shell

fotovoltaic pannels capture the energy of the sun protection of the vegetation from the damaging sun rays

top view & facades



# INTERIOR RENDERINGS

Location | Calea Moșilor Street, Bucharest

Year of completion | 2018

Purpose | University semestrial project

Software used | Photoshop, 3ds Max, VRay

Study | conversion of the Christo Gheorghief house into a luxury apart hotel

# INTERIOR RENDERINGS

Location | Calea Moșilor Street, Bucharest

Year of completion | 2018

Location | Suceava, Burdujeni

Year of completion | 2019

# DECORATIVE ART

Location | Bucharest

Year of completion | 2012-2018

Purpose | art competitions,
private requests,
university projects

Technique | acrylic on canvas
brush strokes

# THANK YOU

ruxandra.vascovici@yahoo.ro
vascovici.ruxandra@gmail.com