

MBA

Architects

SELECTED WORKS 2026

ARCHITECTURE • TEMPORARY SYSTEMS • LANDSCAPE • RESEARCH

PERIMETER FIELD
TEMPORARY LANDSCAPE INSTALLATION

www.matteoborsetti.com

POSITION

Independent architectural practice
London · International



ARCHITECTURE
TEMPORARY SYSTEMS
LANDSCAPE
RESEARCH

MBA Architects is an independent architectural practice founded by Matteo Borsetti, working across architecture, temporary systems, landscape and research.

The practice explores how architecture can respond to changing environments through lightweight, adaptable and reversible systems.

Our work moves between built architecture, temporary installations, exhibitions, competitions and research-led projects, combining design, construction and spatial experimentation.

Rather than treating architecture as a fixed object, MBA Architects investigates it as an evolving process — one that can transform spaces, activate residual landscapes and create new relationships between people, materials and the environment.

FROM TEMPORARY ARCHITECTURE TO LIVING RESEARCH.

PERIMETER FIELD

A LIVING LABORATORY

Perimeter Field is an ongoing research programme that uses immersive temporary installations as experimental environments to investigate the relationship between people and space.

Each installation is both an architectural prototype and a research instrument.

TYPE	Temporary landscape installation
LOCATION	Ferrara, Italy
STATUS	Built / Research through Design
YEAR	2026

FULL-SCALE MODULAR CONFIGURATION STUDIES

Testing the adaptability of the recovered photovoltaic frame.



Full-scale testing of the recovered photovoltaic frames demonstrates how a single lightweight component can generate multiple spatial conditions through rotation, inclination and repositioning. The frame becomes an adaptable device capable of responding to different spatial arrangements, environmental conditions and patterns of movement.

Full-scale prototype studies, Ferrara, Italy, 2026.

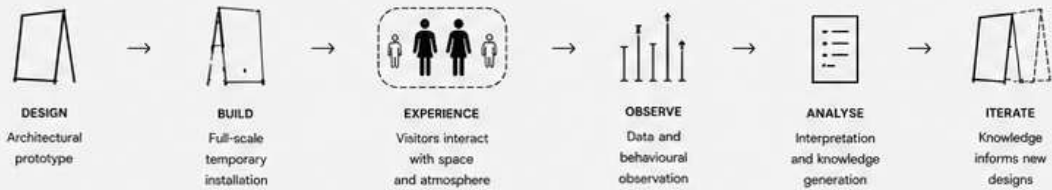


CONCEPT

The project consists of a series of modular frames that define a path and create immersive spatial sequences through light, sound, material and landscape.

Visitors move along the perimeter, experiencing continuous shifts in atmosphere and perception. Their responses and behaviours become the primary source of research data.

HOW IT WORKS



RESEARCH AREAS

MODULAR SYSTEM

Lightweight, reconfigurable frames adaptable to different contexts.

IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

Light, sound and materiality create atmosphere and guide perception.

HUMAN-BUILDING INTERACTION

Visitors are not passive observers but active participants in the research.

DATA & OBSERVATION

Behavioural observation, spatial tracking and qualitative feedback are collected and analysed.

ITERATION & LEARNING

Each installation generates knowledge that informs the design of the next.

STRUCTURE

Extruded aluminium profile
99 x 166 cm frame
50 x 30 mm profile
Designed to provide maximum stiffness while maintaining a lightweight and fully reversible construction system.

50 mm 30 mm

MEMBRANE PERFORMANCE

The translucent woven membrane filters natural and artificial light while maintaining visual permeability. Its optical properties generate diffuse illumination, soft shadows and changing atmospheric conditions throughout the day.



FIXING DETAIL

The membrane is tensioned to the aluminium frame using elastic cord and nylon fixing discs. This reversible fixing system ensures constant tension, flexibility and rapid assembly without permanent connections.

“ Perimeter Field is not a finished object.
It is a process of continuous experimentation, observation and learning.

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GAZA'S FUTURE

REIMAGINING GAZA A SUSTAINABLE VISION BY THE MEDITERRANEAN

A long-term vision for Gaza's reconstruction based on sustainability, agriculture, renewable energy and resilient communities.

The project proposes a new relationship between city and landscape, where urban development strengthens food production, water management and social cohesion.

TYPE	Visionary Masterplan
LOCATION	Gaza Strip, Palestine
STATUS	Concept
YEAR	2024



SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

Strengthening food sovereignty through urban and peri-urban farming.



WATER MANAGEMENT

Efficient systems for water collection, reuse and desalination.



RENEWABLE ENERGY

Clean energy infrastructure for resilient and decentralized systems.



RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

Inclusive public spaces and mixed-use neighbourhoods for social cohesion.



ECOLOGICAL CORRIDORS

Restoring natural ecosystems and connecting green networks.



MODULAR & ADAPTABLE

Phased and flexible development to respond to changing needs.

A VISION FOR A RESILIENT COASTAL TERRITORY



AGRICULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE



WATER & ENERGY STRATEGIES



LOCATION: GAZA STRIP



Rebuilding Gaza is not only about infrastructure, but about creating a sustainable and just future for its people.

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OLIVETTI THEATRE

ARCHITECTURE AS CIVIC INFRASTRUCTURE

The project completes the Olivetti campus by introducing a civic platform connecting culture, work and community.

A permeable ground floor creates a public portico linking the city with the theatre.

The multifunctional building supports everyday activities while the theatre becomes the cultural heart of the complex.

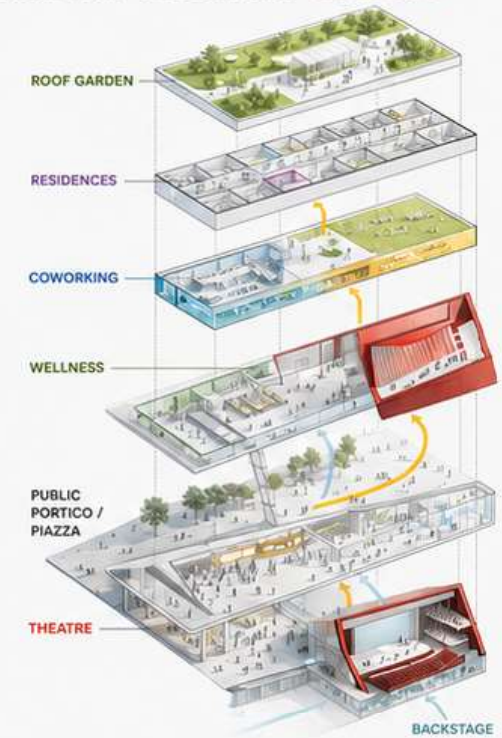
The extensive green roof system — recognized through the ISOPAN "Flat Roof" Gold Mention — integrates vegetation, photovoltaic panels, passive cooling strategies, rainwater management, and accessible outdoor environments.

TYPE	Adaptive Reuse / Cultural
LOCATION	Ivrea, Italy
STATUS	Concept
YEAR	2026



OLIVETTI AREA B – PROGRAM & CIRCULATION DIAGRAM

CIVIC PLATFORM + BRIDGE CONNECTION + THEATRE VOLUME



CULTURAL HERITAGE

Preserving Fignini & Pollini's modernist architecture while opening it to new public uses.



CIVIC CONNECTOR

Theatre as a bridge between institutions, communities and the urban fabric.



FLEXIBLE SPACES

Adaptable performance areas and public spaces for diverse events and activities.



PUBLIC REALM

New landscaped spaces enhance accessibility and social interaction.



SUSTAINABLE APPROACH

Respect for existing resources and integration of passive design strategies.



ACTIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

A living cultural hub that generates value and strengthens the city over time.

CROSS SECTION OF MULTIFUNCTIONAL BUILDING

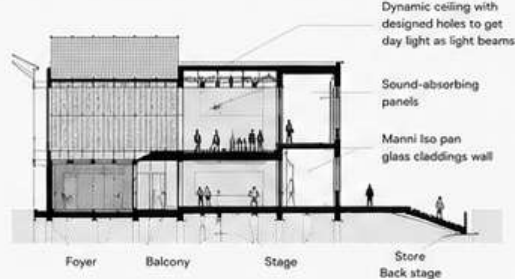
scale 1:100



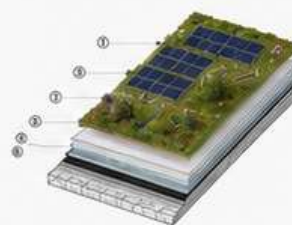
Gym / Yoga / Studio

LONGITUDINAL SECTION OF THEATRE

scale 1:150



GREEN ROOF SYSTEM (ISOPAN FLAT ROOF GOLD MENTION)

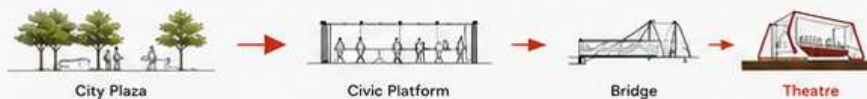


- 1 Vegetation layer
- 2 Growing medium
- 3 Drainage layer
- 4 Waterproof membrane
- 5 Insulation layer (ISOPAN)
- 6 Vapor barrier
- 7 Structural deck
- 8 Rainwater collection

BRIDGE CONNECTION



PUBLIC SEQUENCE



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06 SENEGAL SCHOOL

SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPETITION DJILAKH, SENEGAL

The proposal for the secondary school in Djilakh, Senegal, draws inspiration from the principles of sustainable architecture and the deep connection to the local context.

The project is organized around a central shaded courtyard, the true heart of the school, which fosters social interaction, collective activities and natural ventilation.

Classrooms and specialized spaces are arranged around this core, ensuring cross-ventilation, natural light and a constant dialogue between indoor and outdoor.

The use of local materials, passive cooling strategies and green areas minimizes environmental impact while creating a healthy and comfortable learning environment.

More than a building, the school is conceived as a place of knowledge, community and growth, where architecture becomes a tool for education and social development.

TYPE	Educational / Competition
LOCATION	Djilakh, Senegal
STATUS	Competition
YEAR	2026

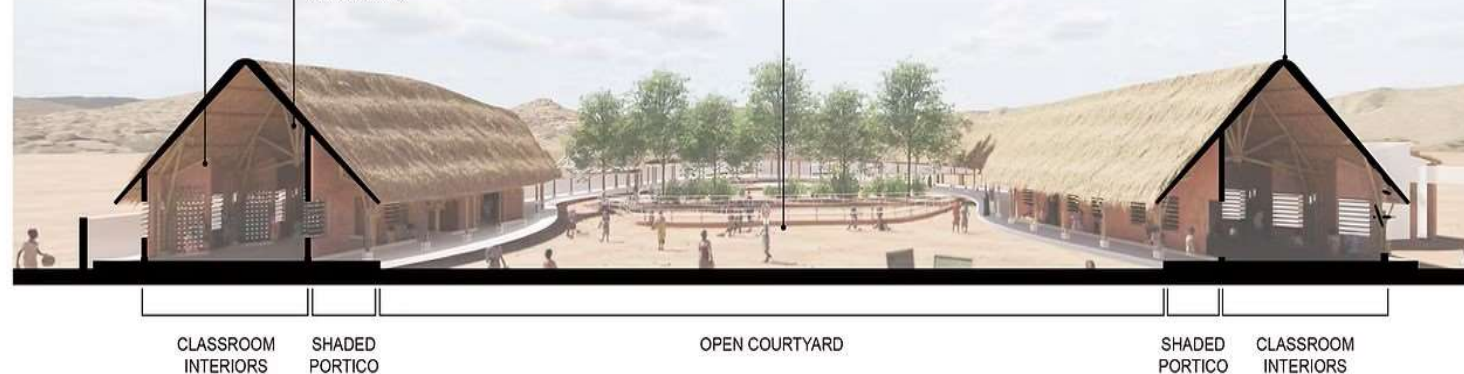


SERPENTINE WALL
COMPRESSED EARTH BLOCKS (CEB) WITH POROUS ALIGNMENT FOR PASSIVE VENTILATION, THERMAL MASS, & STRUCTURAL CROSS-BRACING

OPTIMIZED BAMBOO ROOF TRUSSES
CLEAR SPAN OVER CLASSROOMS TO BRING LOADS DOWN TO BAMBOO COLUMNS

PROGRAMMATIC LAYERS
PLAYGROUND, LIVESTOCK PEN, COMMUNITY GARDEN PROVIDE PRACTICAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

THATCHED ROOF
HIGH PITCH FOR RAINWATER RUNOFF AS WELL AS THERMAL VENTILATION VIA STACK EFFECT / LAYERED WITH WATERPROOF MEMBRANE



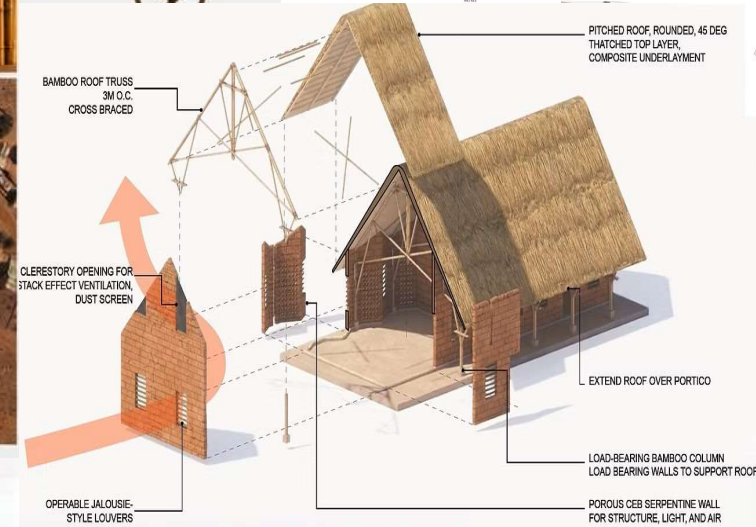
CLASSROOM
INTERIORS

SHADED
PORTICO

OPEN COURTYARD

SHADED
PORTICO

CLASSROOM
INTERIORS



8871

SUSTAINABLE ARCHITECTURE FOR EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY



Education
Spaces designed for learning and growth.



Community
Architecture that brings people together.



Sustainability
Low impact strategies for a better future.



Identity
A project rooted in the culture and landscape.



Resilience
Adaptable design for long-term performance.

“Architecture can open opportunities and build a better future for young generations.”

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BEYOND THE PEAK

MOUNTAIN GUARDIAN

Beyond the Peak is an emergency shelter designed to meet the specific needs of mountaineers in high-altitude environments, offering refuge in critical situations. Its compact yet efficient design accommodates between 6 and 12 people, striking a balance between functionality and space. Placed strategically near ascent routes in high mountain areas, the bivouac serves as a vital safety point for climbers, offering protection from extreme weather conditions when immediate shelter can be lifesaving.

The design of the shelter is inspired by the highest peak of the surrounding mountain, symbolically connecting the structure with its environment. The building is positioned with careful consideration of its surroundings. The north side of the structure faces the peak, aligning it with the mountain's highest point to reinforce the symbolic connection to the summit. Meanwhile, the south side opens toward the alpine mountains, offering a view of the breathtaking landscape. This thoughtful orientation not only maximizes the shelter's connection with the peak but also allows the occupants to appreciate the surrounding alpine beauty while maintaining protection from harsh weather conditions.

To ensure the shelter's ability to withstand extreme elements, sustainable and durable materials have been chosen. The structure is built using cross-laminated timber (XLAM) panels, which offer both strength and lightweight properties, crucial for high-altitude construction. These panels are made from sustainably sourced wood, contributing to the shelter's eco-friendly credentials.

The exterior of the shelter is covered with PREFALZ aluminum, a highly resilient roofing material that is both lightweight and highly resistant to extreme weather. PREFALZ aluminum roofing is chosen for its durability and ability to withstand harsh conditions such as heavy snow, wind, and rain, all while providing a low-maintenance solution for remote areas. The use of this material, in combination with solar panels and aluminum panels for the structure, ensures that the bivouac remains energy-efficient, capable of harnessing solar power to support minimal lighting and other essential systems inside.

Due to the remote and challenging locations of high-altitude environments, traditional construction methods are impractical. To overcome these challenges, prefabricated materials are delivered to the site by helicopter. This method allows for rapid and efficient assembly, reducing the time and effort required to build in such inaccessible terrain. The use of helicopters for transportation ensures that the materials can be flown directly to the construction site, helping challenges due to the harsh mountain conditions.

In conclusion, Beyond the Peak is a well-thought-out and sustainable emergency shelter, specifically designed to meet the needs of mountaineers in perilous conditions. Its compact, durable design, strategic orientation, use of sustainable materials, and innovative construction methods make it a crucial addition to high-altitude mountaineering safety infrastructure.



PREFALZ SOLAR MODULE 500
Dimensions: 2,000 x 408 mm
Power: 150 Wp/piece

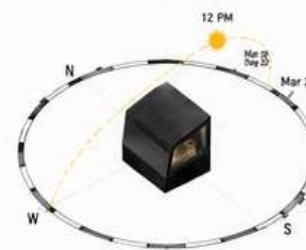
PREFALZ ALUMINUM ROOF SYSTEM
Material: Coated aluminum, 0.7 mm thick, coil coating



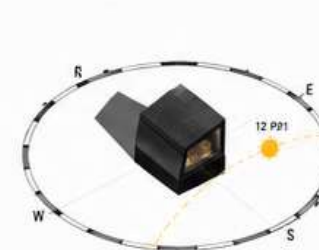
BASE MATERIAL:
Concrete

INTERIOR MATERIAL:
XLAM Panels

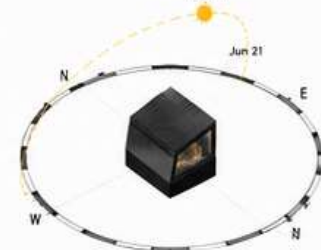
GLASS MATERIAL:
Tempered Glass



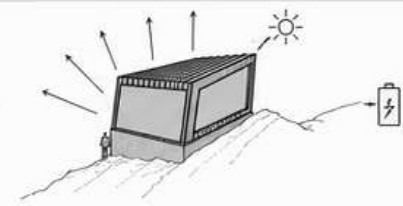
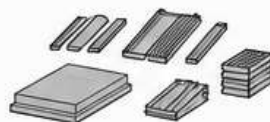
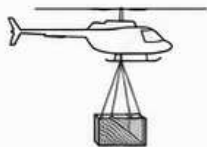
SPRING / FALL SOLSTICE



WINTER SOLSTICE



SUMMER SOLSTICE



08

THE SPHERE MUSEUM

MUSEUM OF EMOTIONS

The Sphere Museum – Museum of Emotions is a monumental space dedicated to the exploration of human emotions through immersive art, light, sound, and technology.

Its spherical form represents wholeness, unity and continuity — a shape without beginning or end, symbolizing the infinite complexity of the human soul.

The museum is conceived as a sensory journey where architecture and experience merge into one. Visitors move through a sequence of immersive environments, each dedicated to a primary emotion, engaging sight, sound, touch and perception.

The exterior skin becomes a dynamic display, transforming the building into a living entity that communicates with the city, while the interior embraces visitors in a continuous flow of emotions.

The Sphere Museum is not just a building, but an experience that makes emotion visible, intangible, unforgettable.

TYPE Competition
YEAR 2024

ENTRANCE – THE SPHERE



NEGATIVE EMOTIONS
ANGER · FEAR · SADNESS



THE TUNNEL
TRANSITION · UNCERTAINTY



THE LIGHT
AWARENESS · DISCOVERY



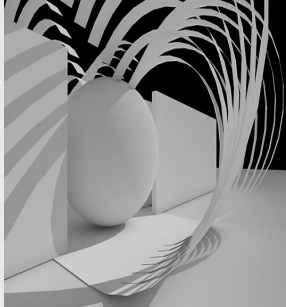
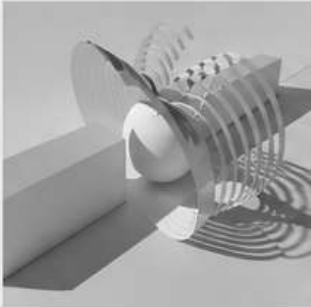
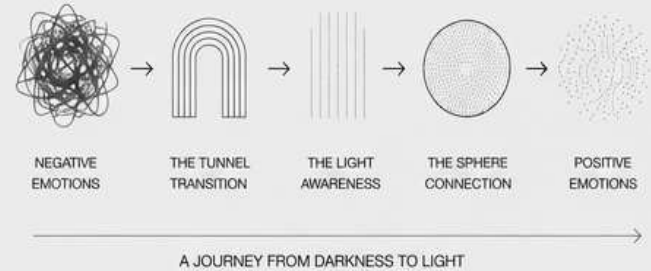
THE SPHERE
INNER PEACE · CONNECTION



POSITIVE EMOTIONS
JOY · LOVE · SERENITY · CALM



CONCEPT DIAGRAM – A JOURNEY FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT



09
TOWER HOUSE
DUBAI, UAE

A house conceived as a living system, exploring impermanence through the relationship between shape and void, light and shadow.

At its core, a 12-metre ecological ventilation tower naturally expels hot air while drawing fresh air through the house, creating a passive cooling system and a vertical environmental spine.

Locally sourced coral-stone breeze blocks filter daylight and reduce solar penetration, ensuring privacy and thermal comfort.

Solar panels and sustainable strategies reduce energy consumption. The 15 x 30 m plot organizes private and semi-private spaces around shaded courtyards and open areas, culminating in a rooftop garden and family outdoor living.

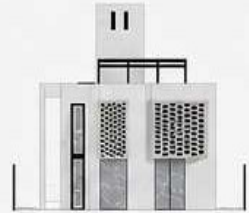
TYPE	Competition
YEAR	2023
LOCATION	Dubai, UAE
STATUS	Concept
PROGRAM	Private House
PLOT SIZE	15 x 30 m



TOWER HOUSE
A sustainable and timeless private house, designed for the future of living in Dubai

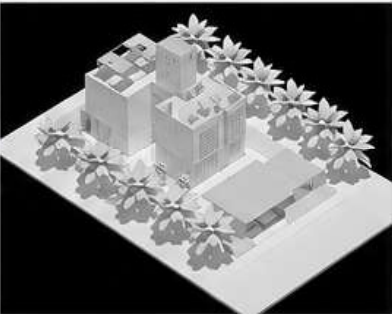


SOUTH ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION

0 1 2 3 5m



GROUND FLOOR PLAN
scale 1:200



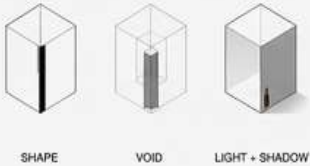
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
scale 1:200



ROOFTOP PLAN
scale 1:200

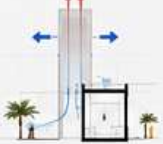
1. Garage
2. Driver / Maid Room
3. Laundry
4. Swimming Pool
5. Majlis
6. Living Room
7. Kitchen
8. Study / Office
9. Dining Area
10. Master Bedroom
11. Rooftop Seating Area
12. Solar Panels

CONCEPT
Impermanence



SHAPE VOID LIGHT + SHADOW

VENTILATION TOWER
Passive Cooling System



The 12 m high ecological tower expels hot air and draws fresh cool air into the house.

SUSTAINABLE STRATEGIES
Passive Design



Natural Ventilation Solar Energy Daylight Control Thermal Comfort

MATERIALS & TEXTURE
Local Identity



CORAL STONE BREEZE BLOCK TEXTURED PLASTER CORAL STONE FLOORING



SECTION A-A scale 1:200



+12.00m
+7.00m
+3.50m
±0.00m



VENTILATION TOWER
The vertical tower creates a stack effect, naturally expelling warm air.



SOLAR PANELS & SKYLIGHT
Solar energy production and daylight provide sustainable power and natural light.



BREEZE BLOCK
Coral stone breeze blocks reduce solar gain and ensure privacy while allowing natural ventilation.



10 MUSE (ミューズ)

FUKUOKA, JAPAN

MEDITATION / CONTEMPLATION

Muse is a meditation and contemplation space conceived as a retreat for the mind and spirit.

Inspired by Japanese temples, Zen gardens and the principles of feng shui, the architecture is subordinate to the experience, proportion and light.

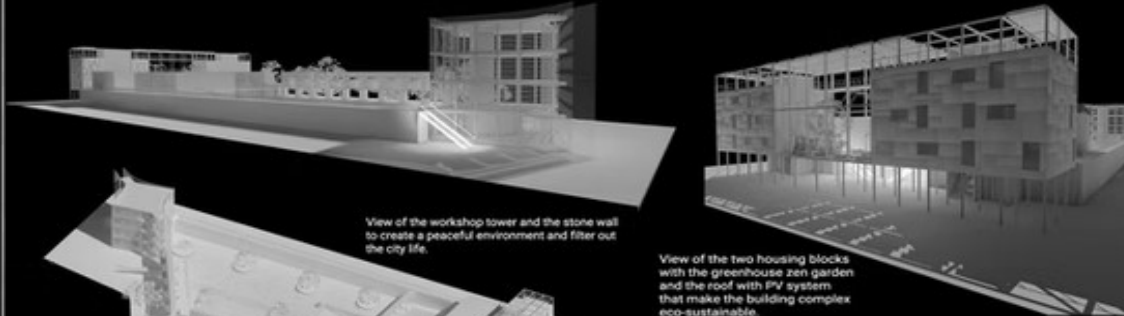
The project guides the visitor on a progressive journey from the profane to the sacred, passing through a sequence of portals, water, gardens and suspended walkways.

Each element is designed to evoke silence, presence and inner balance.

TYPE	Competition
YEAR	2021
LOCATION	Fukuoka, Japan
STATUS	Concept
PROGRAM	Meditation Center
SITE AREA	8.000 m ²

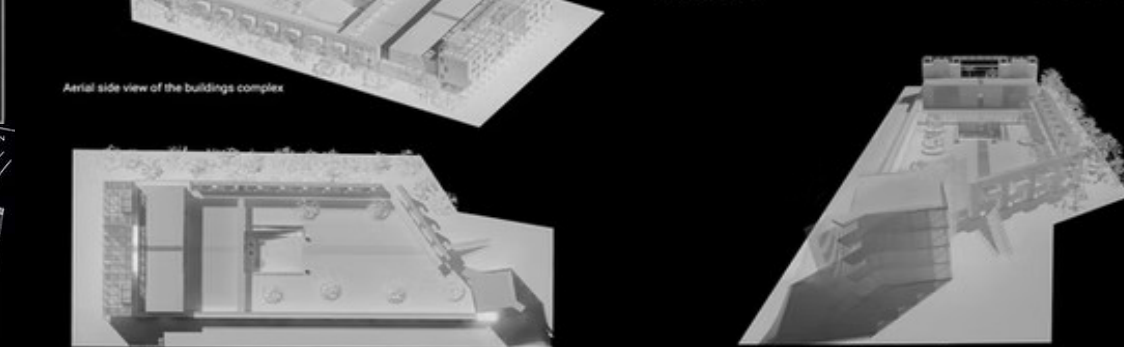


View of the project model : At the bottom the central volume (cube) of the main group meditation room and main access to the entrance foyer from the inner courtyard with Zen garden.



View of the workshop tower and the stone wall to create a peaceful environment and filter out the city life.

View of the two housing blocks with the greenhouse zen garden and the roof with PV system that make the building complex eco-sustainable.

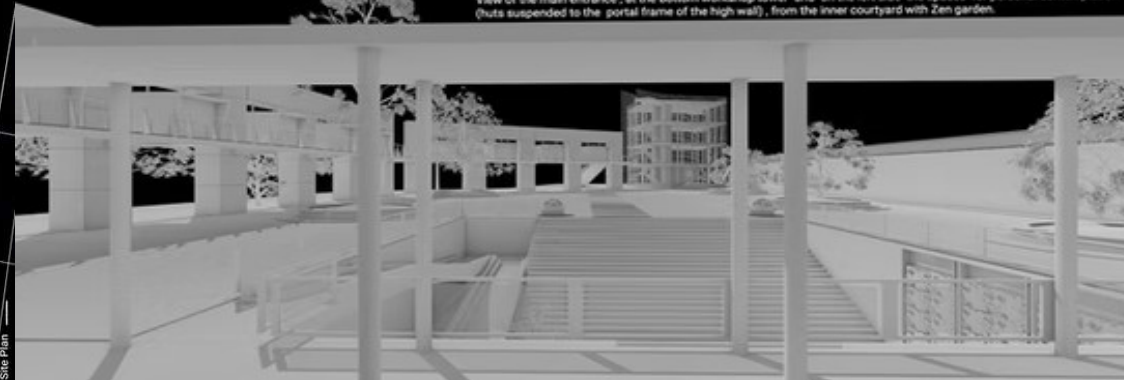


Aerial side view of the buildings complex

Top view of the site area

Aerial front view of the buildings complex

View of the main entrance, at the bottom workshop tower and on the left side the spaces for personal contemplation (huts suspended to the portal frame of the high wall), from the inner courtyard with Zen garden.



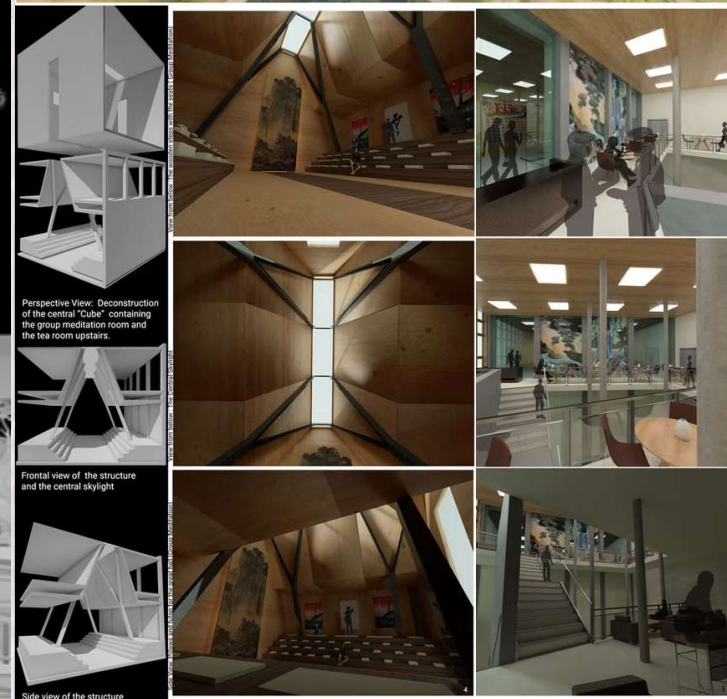
Study sketches for space for personal contemplation (hut)

Front view of the meditation hut



Interior view of the meditation hut

Views of the building complex in relation to the surrounding



Perspective View: Deconstruction of the central "Cube" containing the group meditation room and the tea room upstairs.

Frontal view of the structure and the central skylight

Side view of the structure

MBA

Architects

Architecture - Temporary Systems - Landscape - Research

Selected Works · 2021-2026

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