



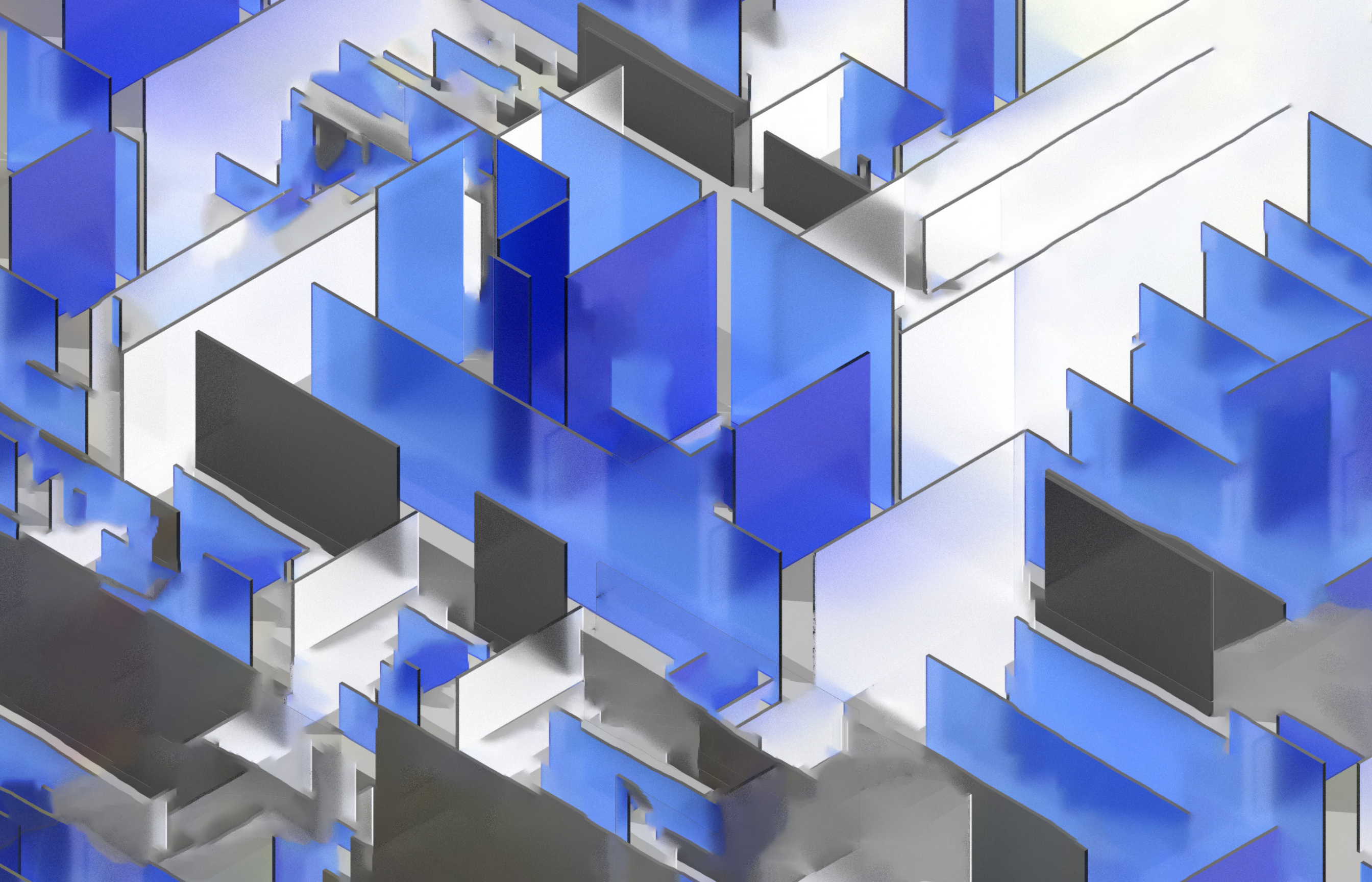
# Moving Through Time

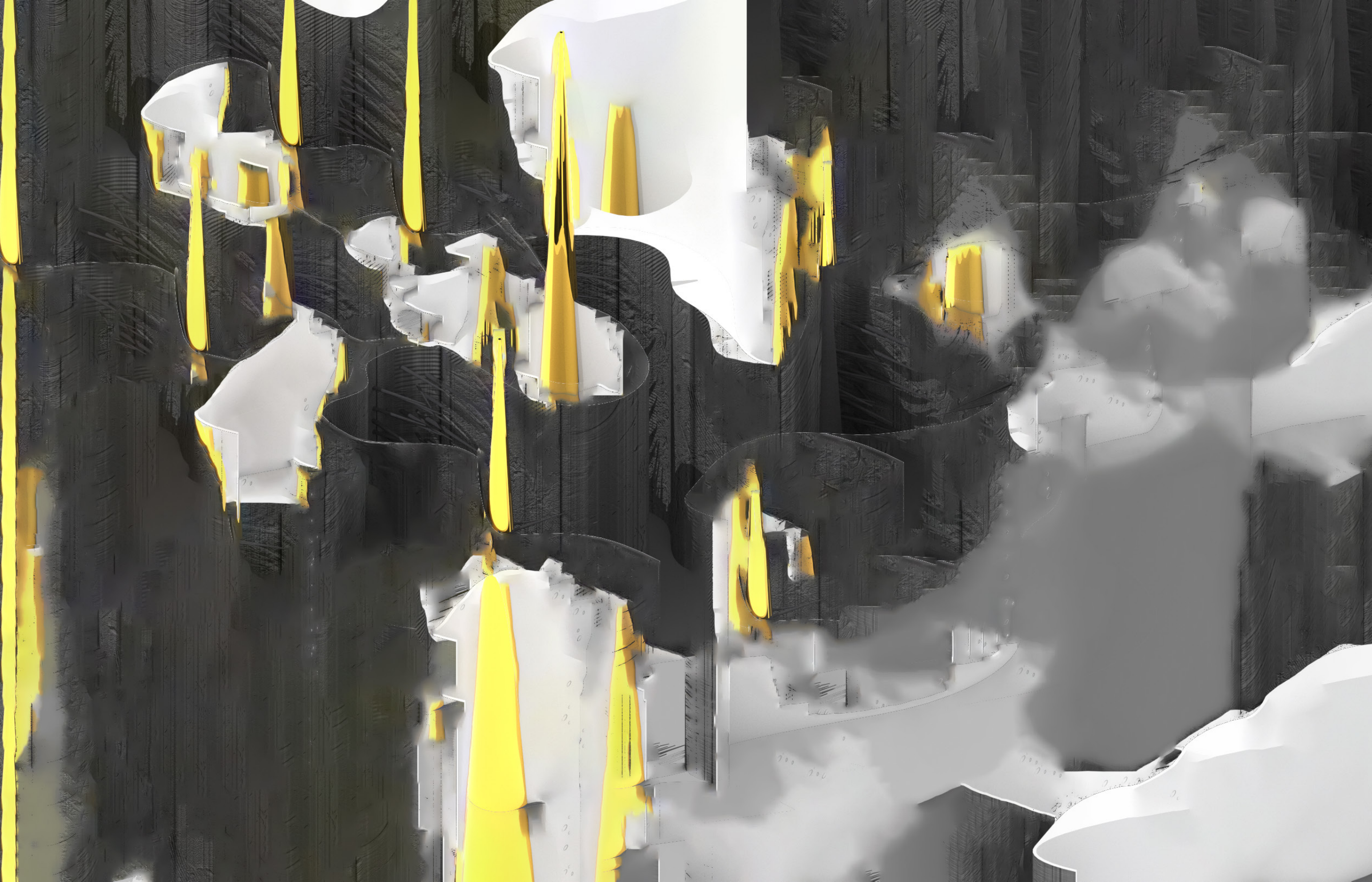
Anca Gherghiceanu

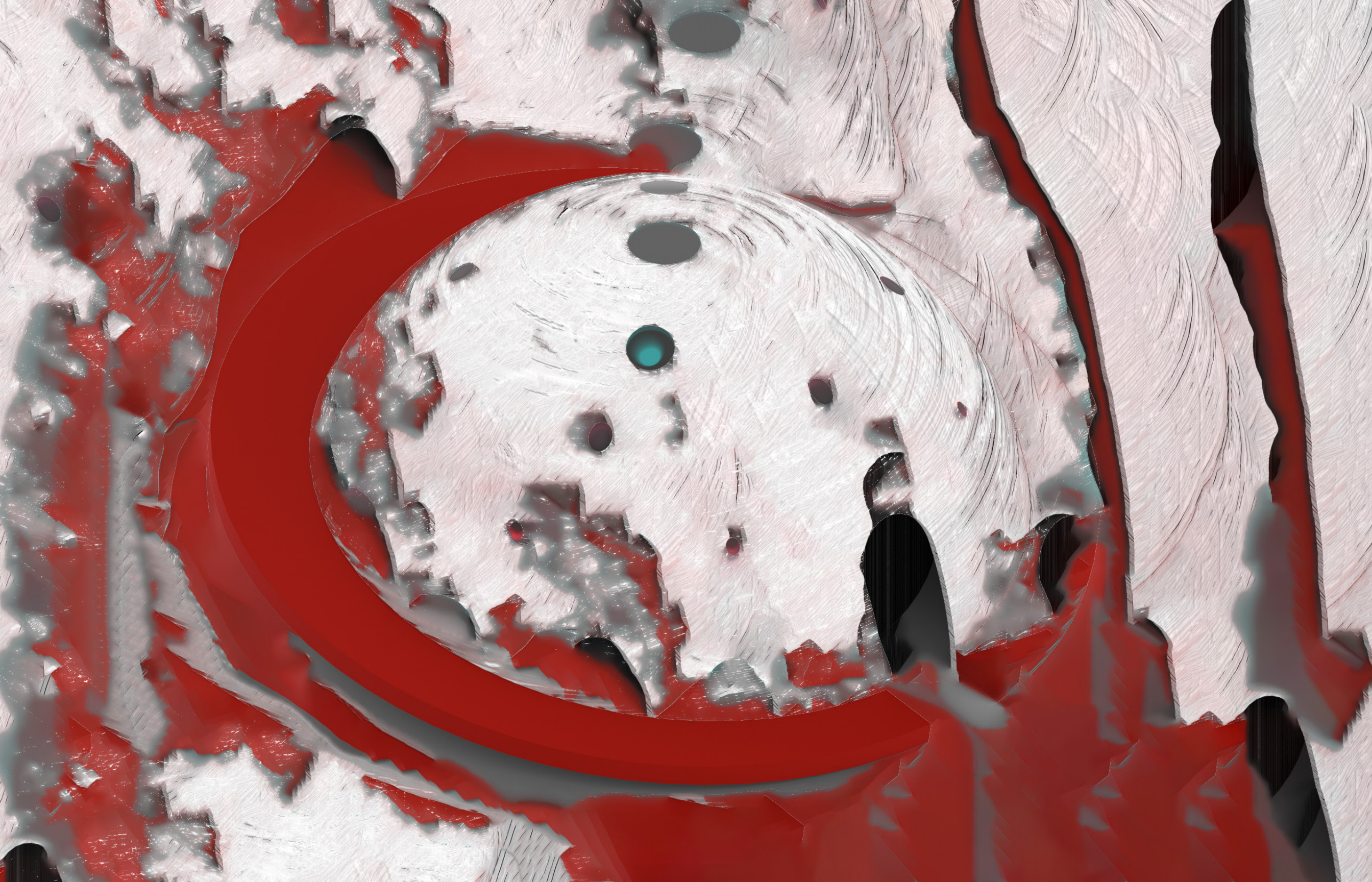
**Rhode Island School of Design**  
2021 - 2022  
Final Thesis

**Thesis Advisor**  
Hansy Better Berraza

**Department**  
Architecture







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Această carte este menită să fie citită din spate în față.

**PART**

**ONE**

## Thesis Statement

Post-communism life in Romania is a duality: people fleeing the country in search of a better life and the simultaneous shrinking cities due to this migration. The built fabric of the city holds distorted nostalgia for those who have left and the burning reality that surrounds the ones that remain. It results in popular villages and cities starting to be abandoned at a massive rate. The migrant story in search of a new life cultivates a journey of loneliness, sacrifice, and sorrow. This thesis will shine light on the physiological effects of mass migration in Romania through satirical editing and storytelling, acting as a fresh breath of air. Located in Bucharest, the thesis attempts to make the thoughts, emotions, and journey of the migrant physical in the city bringing attention to existing political realities of a dual existence. In exploring the portals of inhabitation in a dismantling manner, it is crucial to understand how time affects our overall self and the tectonic spaces that are in front of us by bringing necessary light to them. Understanding both perspectives of the same story is crucial to fully move forward. In reconnecting and understanding that culture plays a big part in the people that we are today, we shouldn't forget the moments that have shaped us. It truly is the silenced voice that has been waiting to speak up. .





FIG. 1

## Thesis Positioning

A thesis to me is a poetic expression of the yearning within the soul. Something that is extremely personal and begins to question your own perspective. It challenges you to truly open up to something that you have been shying away from; starting off theoretical and eventually birthing its way into existence. It is the emotions tied to form and nostalgia distorted by memory. In trying to find your own voice, you are connected to your past and present on a deeper level. A one-sided perspective is not enough to create a conclusion on the matter at hand. It means connecting to the abandoned cities and villages in Romania.

Throughout this journey there is a realization that no matter what choices were made, whether it was to stay or leave, the accumulated trauma stays with you forever. It is wanting to act while feeling helpless, realizing those who abandoned the country didn't do so willingly; they escaped some sort of oppression or a dead end. It is the struggle of mothers and fathers trying to give their children a better life while withering away working 2 jobs each, and barely making ends meet. It is suffering and entangled in loneliness with the justification of providing a future for their children that they were robbed of. It portrays the pain with hope at the end of the tunnel.



FIG. 2



# Program

Program is something that brings an individual back to a pertaining place and provides a type of service. It isn't stagnant and has room to change all of the time, just like our memories about it.

When pertaining to my thesis, it needs to be a breath of fresh air for returning individuals as well as the citizens that have never left. It will explore the impact an individual has in a space and the alteration of the physical as well as the metaphysical. All while encapsulated in a form that meets the nostalgia that has been build up around. It will act as a portal to a new threshold of inhabitation. Playing with the perception of what is justified as interior and exterior, it creates a movement through the space as if traveling through a distant pleasant memory that has come to life. It shows that no matter how things have changed, weather it be the person or the program inside of the space, it always caters to the individuals and shows them the truth underneath the veil.



More than 5 million people (23.5 %) are living in poverty, 1.5 million being children.

## Site

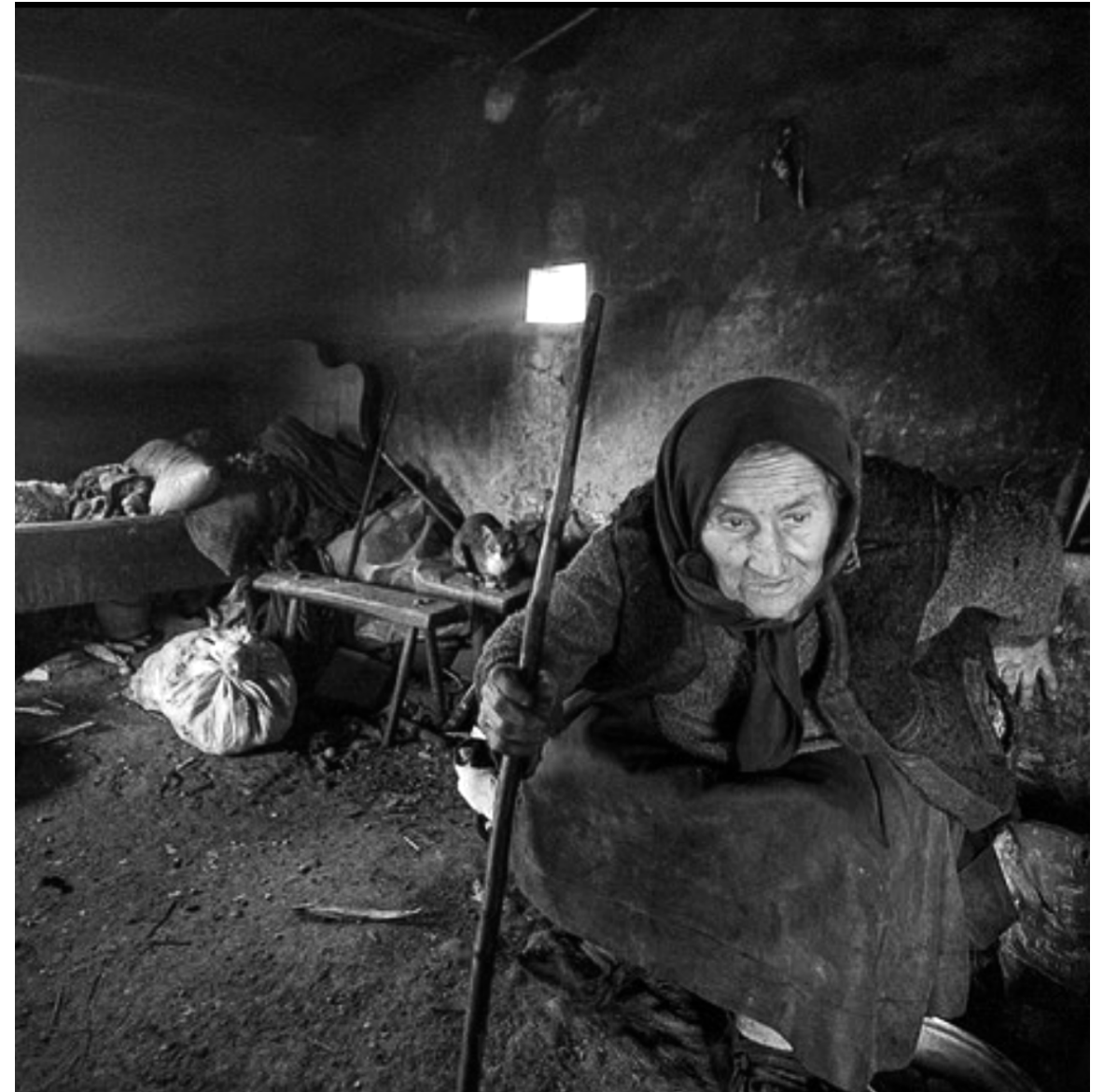
A thick red diagonal line is positioned in the lower half of the page, extending from the left side towards the bottom right corner. The background is a solid dark grey or black.

Located primarily in Bucharest, Romania, the pavilions are spread out around the world that connect back to the main site. It is not only physical but a belief system or a moral code that one lives by. It is abstract in a sense that it can be altered the same way a topography can. When one moves through the space that has been layered out for them it becomes a journey of map making how the individual decides which path to take. This leaves room for possibilities that haven't yet been discovered.

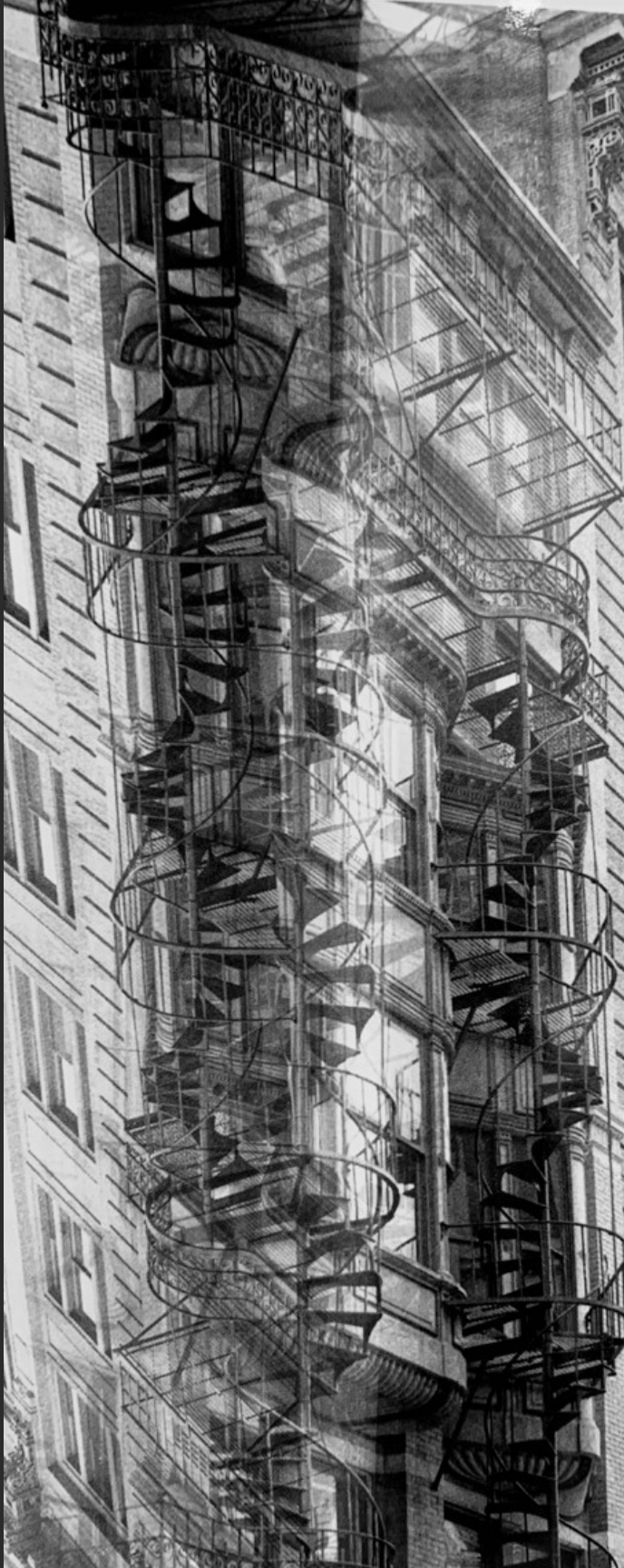
The sites first begin in our mind, then it is reimagined into the physical world in New York, Braila, and Dokdo Island. In doing this, it is able to be shared with individuals through the act of expressing emotion and reconnecting. This becomes it's threshold.



FIG. 4



7 milion people living in rural areas don't have plumbing, electricity and drinking water.



TIME LESS  
IS TIME THE FUTURE  
IS TIME THE PRESENT  
IS TIME THE PAST  
TIME WORN

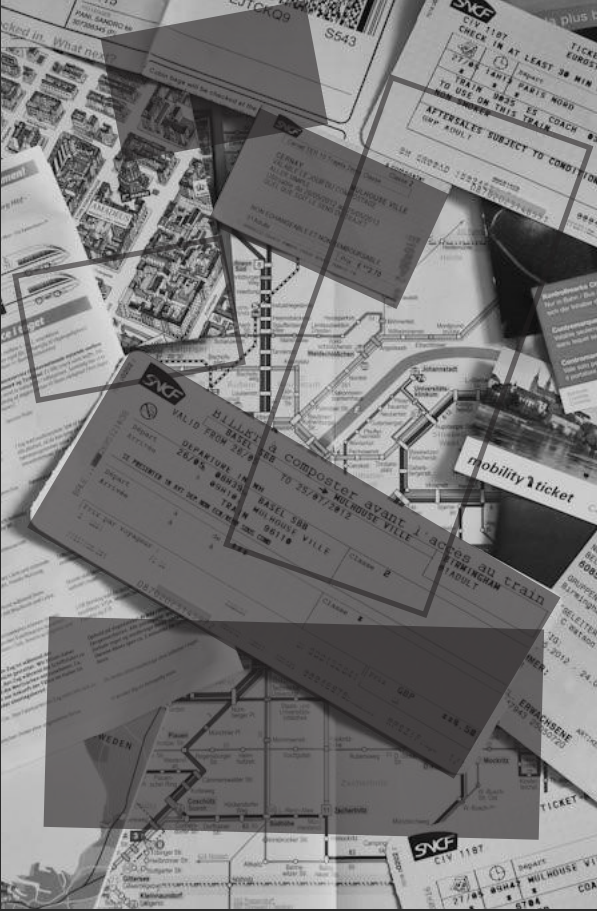




OUT OF TOUCH



The passport categorizes and shapes a person the moment they hold hands. It is a heavy piece of paper that gives you privilege as well as immense restriction.



Passport



While people flee the country, only the elderly and children are left behind.



FIG. 5

## Nostalgic Perception

The play on nostalgia shows us that our perception is distorted from the truth. Each approach is there, yet the more you stare on each side, the object past the filters begins to disappear.

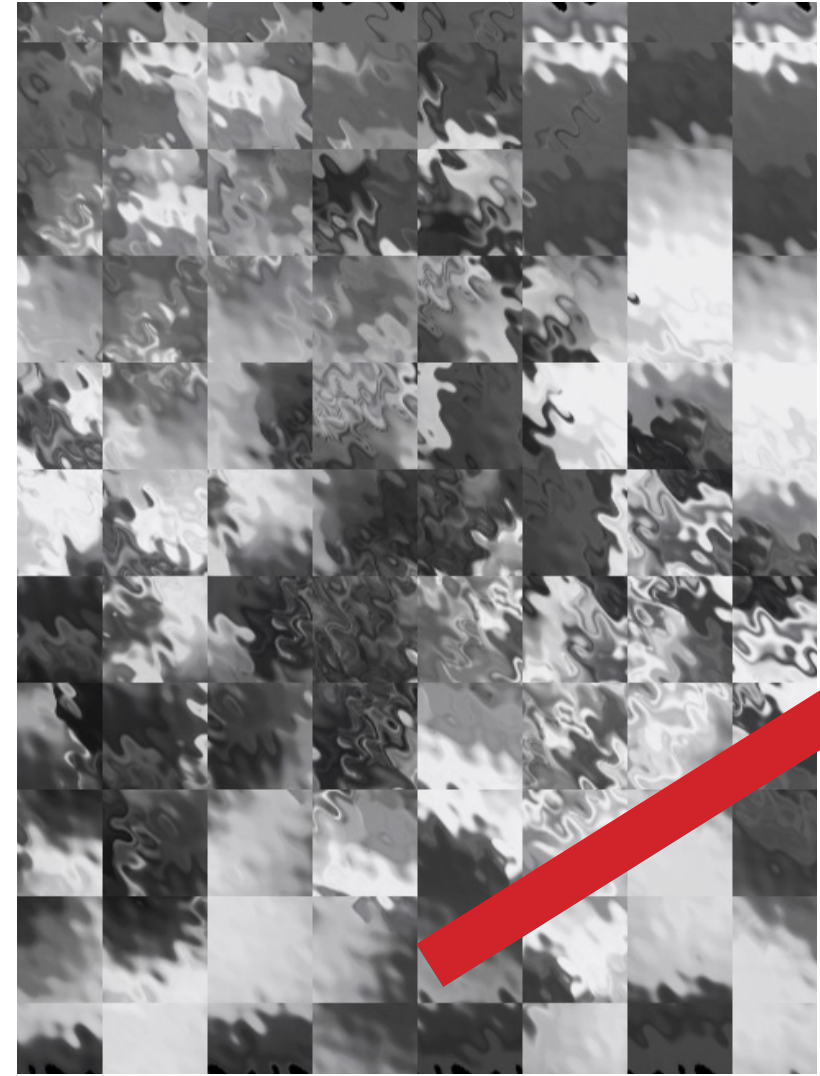
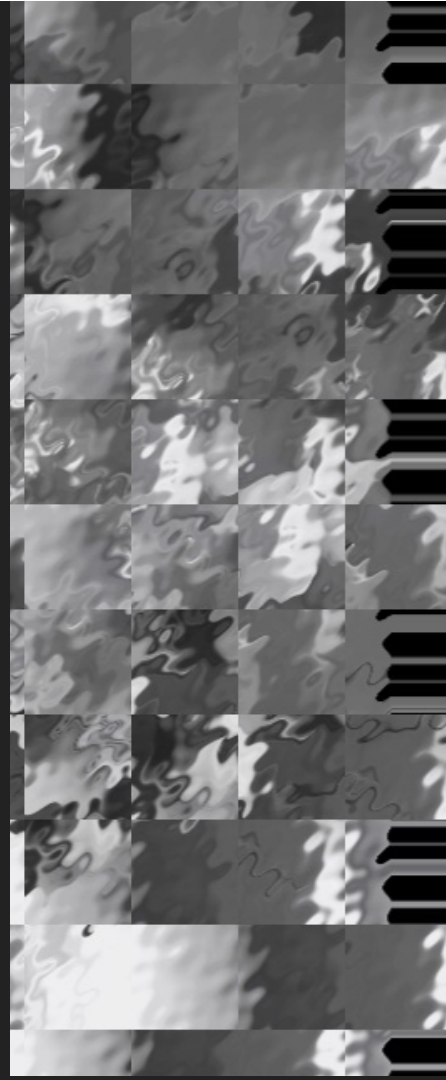




Abandoned cities / villages begin to grow as unfinished projects continue.



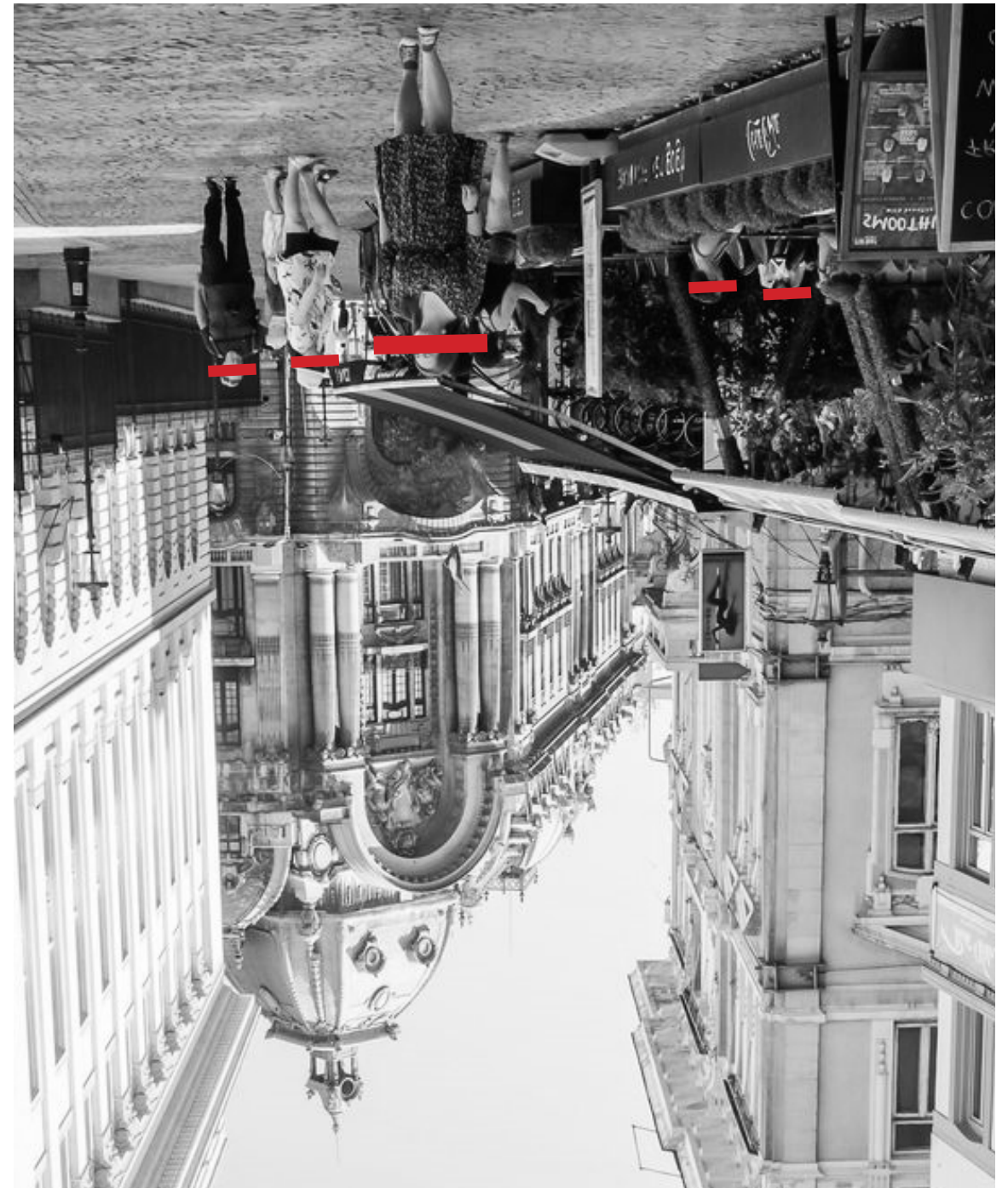
Moving through time, the user makes the space come to life. Whether it produces objects of nostalgia or simply living, it alters the space forever.



## Breathing Spaces



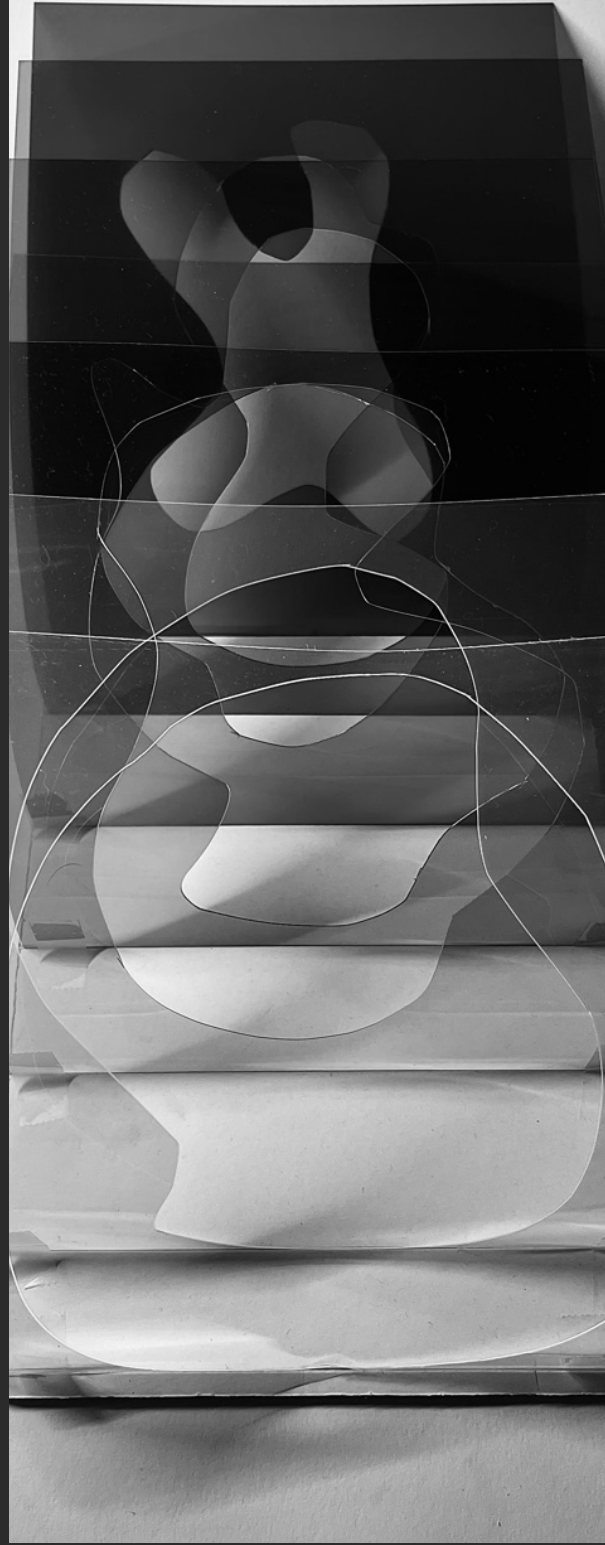
While unprofitable cities crumble in decay,



Romania prioritizes its tourist ones.

## Life Portal

Passing through the portal of life alters your being. Your experiences become a threshold for change that you can always look back at and grow from them.





900 million euros are wasted on recreational projects in rural areas that are closed to the intended public. On paper it is beneficial for the community while in reality it isn't.

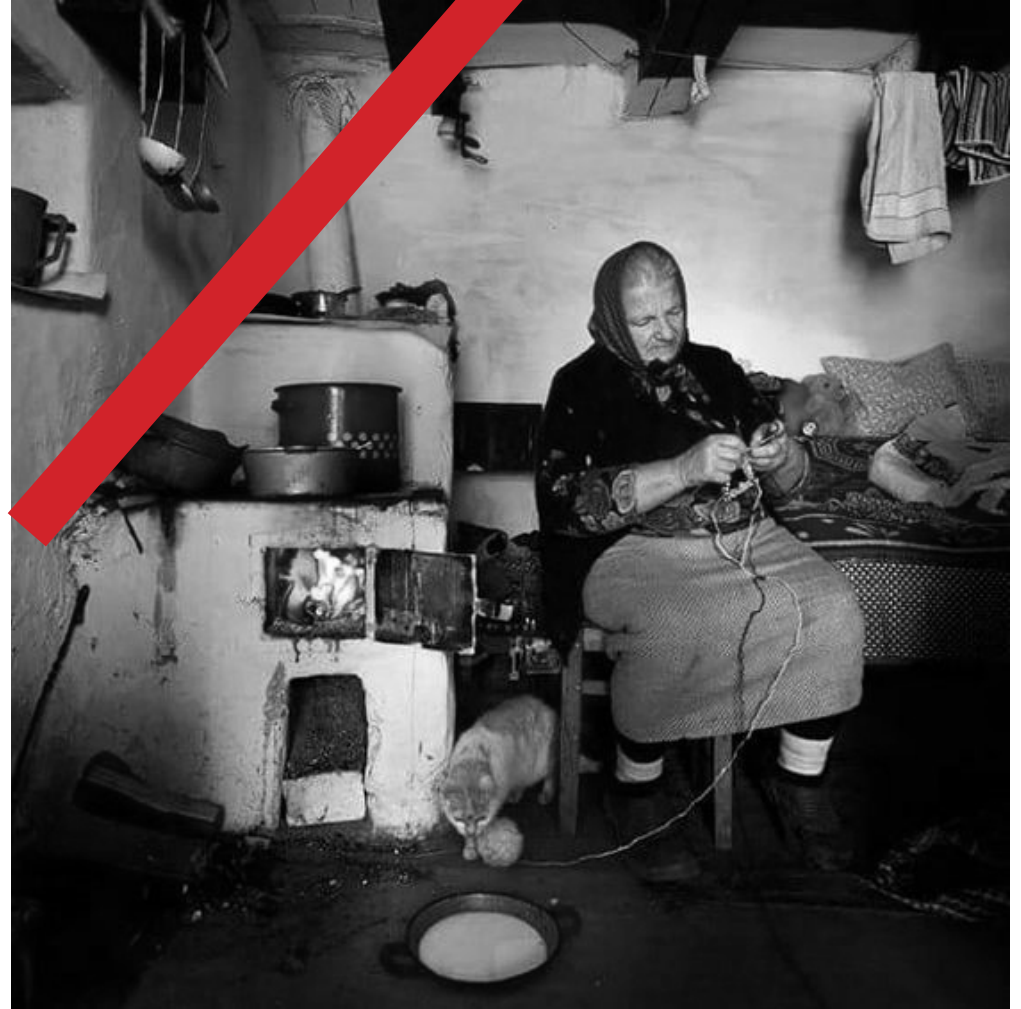
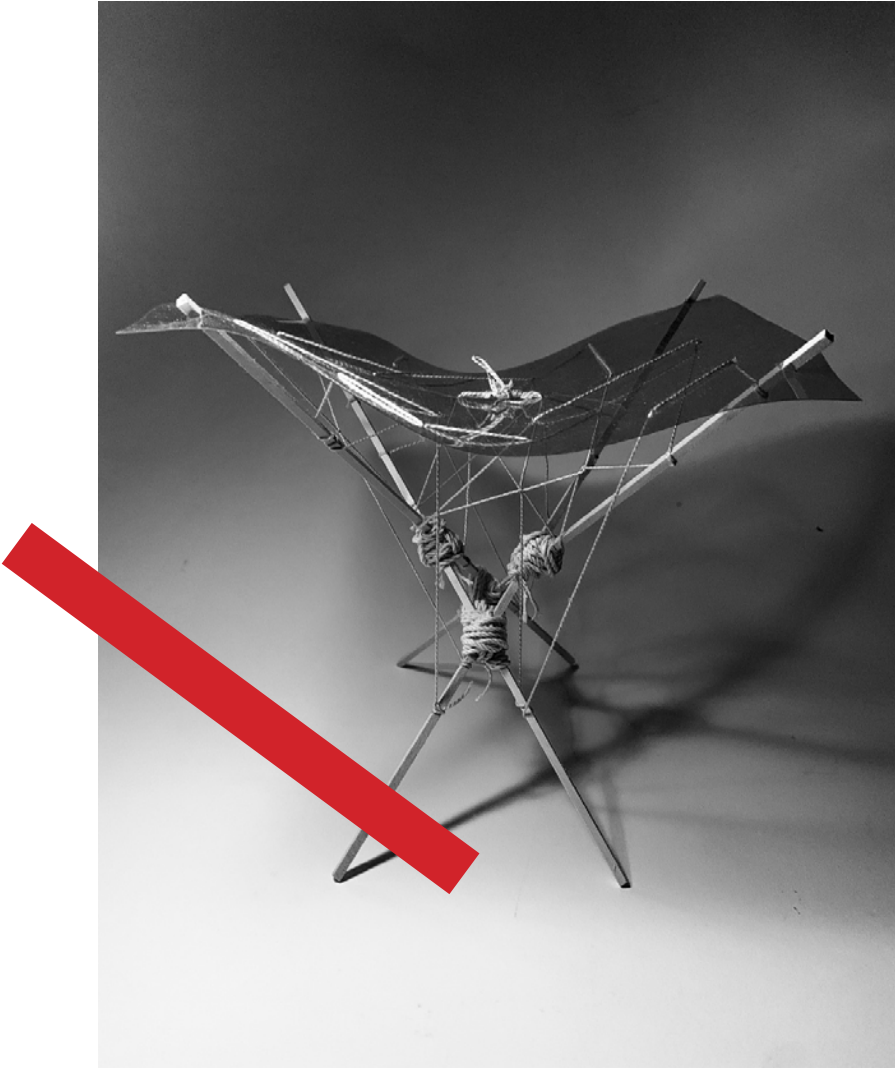


FIG. 7

The paths and decision making we conclude throughout create a porosity between them in which we chose to reside and discover who we truly are. The shadows of the past overcasting the possibilities ahead.



Decisions



FIG. 8

Citizens are given empty promises in order to gain votes during the election. While governors live in lavish houses and put their personal expenses on the towns taxes.

## Reaction

Our mind burns through the memories ever changing themes from what they once were. It creates a sense of expertise due to you being the sole creator of what once was.



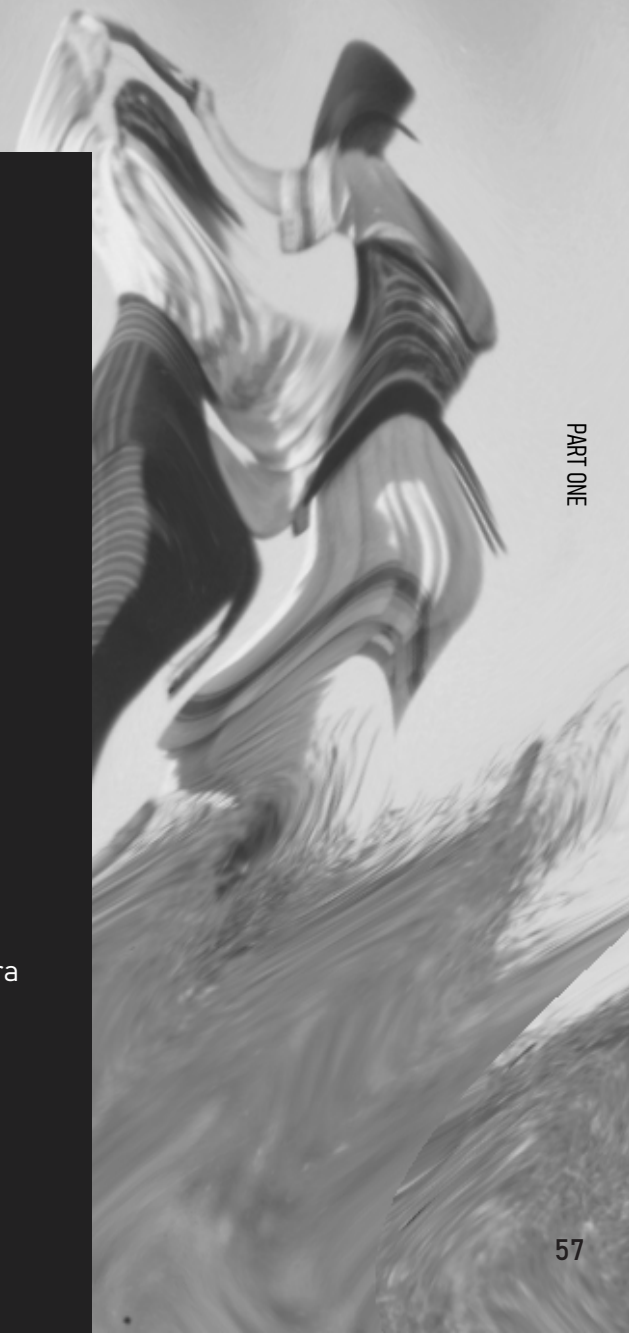


## Iadul în Rai

Când alți râd noi plângem  
Când alți mănâncă noi murim de foame  
Iad înconjurat de rai  
Doar când e convenabil  
În cautare de iubire pentru inimile noastre  
Ne găsim în traume  
Ne găsim în lacrimi să fim recunoscuți  
Nimeni nu ne ajută  
Nimeni nu vine  
Promisiuni goale ne înconjură  
și noi le înghitim ca pastile

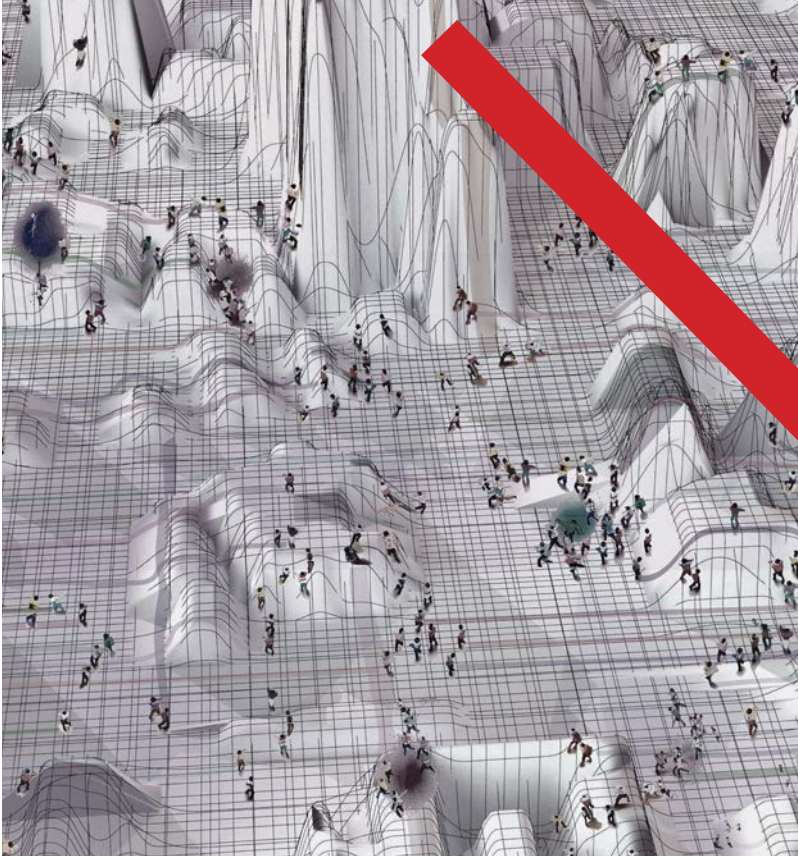
Dor de țară e infinit  
Dor de timpul care a fost  
În mintea noastră vrem să trăim  
În iluzie pe care o facem noi realitate

Iubire și ură în aceeași mână  
Strânsă împreună  
Cum putem să ne întoarcem la iubirea de țară  
Cum putem să fim iarăși împreună  
Departă dar aproape  
Contradicție la maxim e viața noastră  
tipăm în vol-ul universului  
Dar nimeni nu ne ajută



# Pathways

Moving through space beings to map out our behavior and patterns that we take ownership to. It would be as if traveling through a distant pleasant memory that has come to life.



Families are being torn apart due to the governments negligence and hunger for wealth. This results in creating generational trauma for the locals and departing parties.



# Shattering

Blinded by the main perspective looring us into our fantasies. We are unaware of the reality that is behind the curtain of self.





Romania is a brutalist apartment building parallel to a cemetery

PART ONE

PART ONE



Only to be separated by a small pathway with a weak wall.



# EVERYTHING IS FINE

PART ONE

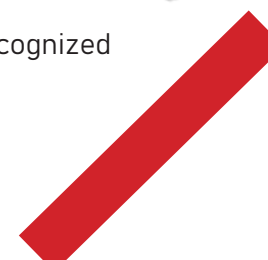
PART ONE

## The Hell in Heaven

When others laugh we shed tears  
When others feast we die of hunger  
The hell encapsulated in heaven  
In constant search of love for our precious hearts  
We find ourselves in the trauma  
We find ourselves in the tears shed to be recognized  
Nobody is lending a helping hand  
Nobody is coming for us  
Empty promises surround us completely  
And we swallow them like pills

Yarning for our country is infinite  
Yarning of a time that once was  
In our minds is where we want to reside  
In the illusion we bring into existence

Love and hate in the same hand  
Compressed together  
How can we return to the love of our country  
How can we be together once again  
Afar yet near  
Our life is a constant contradiction  
We scream in the void of the universe  
Yet nobody hears us



Physical or mental, our  
memory begins to alter.

FIG. 10 & 11

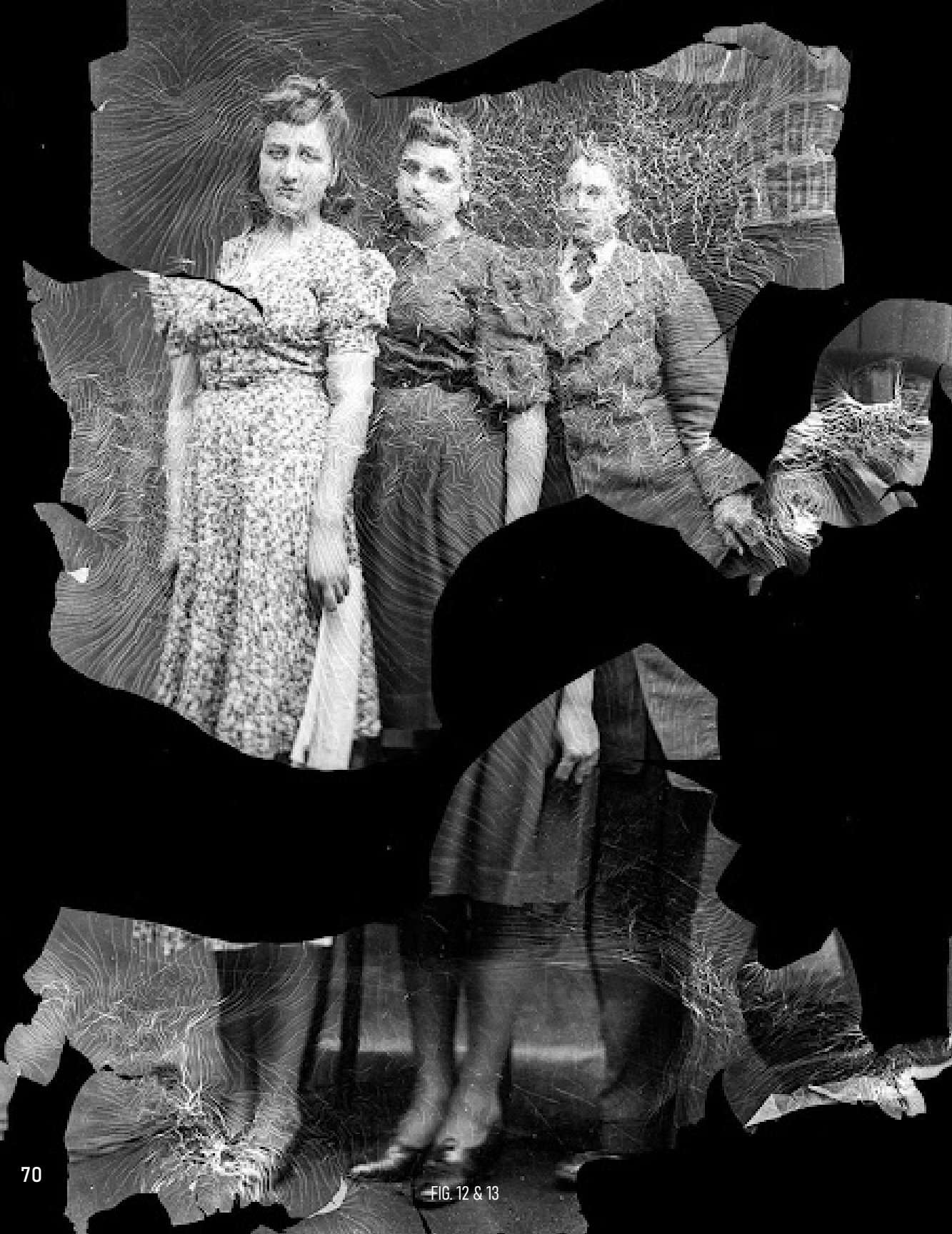


FIG. 12 & 13




COM. SLOBAZHA  
NOV. 15 OCT.  
1940  
FOTOGRAFET



Romania este un bloc brutalist lângă un cimitir separat de o alee cu un perete slab. Mi-e nu mi se pare ca sa schimbat foarte mult tara în ultimele 20 de ani. Romania e ca o bula temporală, care nu evoluează foarte mult. Eu am locuit in Italia si in Spania, si efectiv se simte aici ca si cum timpul sa oprit. Zici ca te întorci la comunism când vi înapoi in tara. Problema asta e peste tot, nu e mare diferența in orașele mari sau mici. Cu generația nouă, generația Z se simte o schimbare in mentalitate fiind ca sunt mult mai deschiși decât generația învârstă. Mentalitatea generală a romanului e aceea. Romanul întotdeauna e veșnic nemulțumit de ceva. Asta este o zicală care o au toți părinți noștri si o-sa rămână cu ea pana moara. Pentru roman îi pasa foarte mult ce zic alți. Românul nu e foarte preocupat de sine e ocupat de imaginea pe care o au in ochii lu oameni împrejur. O diferența mare in generații pe care am observat e modul in care relaționează cu prieteni, la modul de comunicare. Generația in vârstă nu au fost învățați ca comunicarea e posibilă si sănătoasă, si au dus-o mai departe cu prieteni si copii. Noi suntem referințele pe care le avem, in viață si in arhitectura. Dar părinți noștri nu au avut referințe pentru ca nu au fost expuși la lume. Sunt limitați si devin confortabili in cușca lor. In mod sa creștem trebuie sa avem deschidere dar o generație intrigă nu au avut norocul asta in timpul comunism. Eu nu sunt o persoana foarte politica, dar in general partidul care este la moment e încă partidul PSD. Au mulți membri care au fost comuniști si încă au idei foarte învechite, si sunt foarte corupți. Nu fac nimic doar își baga bani in buzunar la dispoziția oamenilor. Încă sunt votați foarte mult, pentru ca România este predominant rurala si oameni de la țară tot votează partidul respectiv. Nu contează dacă iese un scandal, sau condamnări, oameni tot îi susține. Când comunismul sa terminat a fost o deschidere foarte brusca si nea afectat pe toți. De acea Romanul este foarte închis, o vorba populară ca si regula e "trebuie sa o ținem in familie".

Mise pare o viață tristă in România in general. Salariile sunt foarte mici, o persoana care învață 6 ani de zile sa își ea o diplomă de arhitect, este plătită cu un salariu de 25 de milioane (500 dolari) pe luna. Birourile nu sunt mari niciodată. As vrea o experiență la un birou mai mare si sa fac o arhitectură de calitate. Aici arhitectura care se construiește e tipic dezamăgire. Te simți mult mai liber afara din tara. Poți sa spui ce vrei, sa fi mai deschis, sa te îmbarci cum vrei ca nimeni nu se uita la tine.

- Iulian Panzaru



For the Romanian, he cares greatly about what someone else thinks of him or what is said behind his back. This results in very little time looking within and bettering oneself.

-Iulian Panzaru



I don't think the country has changed that much in the past 20 years. Romania is like a temporary bubble that doesn't evolve at all. I lived in Italy and Spain and evidently you come back home and feel as if time has stopped. This problem is all over the country, no matter if it's a large city or a small village. With the new generation Z, there feels a shift in the mentality that is around you in Romania. When you think about the overall mentality of the ordinary Romanian person, they all think the same. They will always be displeased with something. For the Romanian, he cares greatly about what someone else thinks of him or what is said behind his back. This results in very little time looking within and bettering ones self.

A huge difference I have noticed between generations is that they have a hard time connecting with others when it comes to communicating. They haven't been taught that communication is possible and even healthy for you, which led them to pass off their simple understandings to their children. We are the references that we have, in life and in architecture. However, our parents didn't have the privilege to have a wider variety of references and know that the world is larger than the perimeter of their town. They're limited and become comfortable in their cage. In order to grow, we must have exposure, however a whole generation didn't have this privilege due to the burden of communism.

I don't consider myself a very political person, but I know that the current political party is still the PSD. They have many members which have been part of the communist party and still have outdated mentalities which makes them corrupt by default. They don't do anything but steal money from the ordinary man's pocket. They are still regularly voted due to Romania still being dominantly rural. It doesn't matter what these politicians do, there can be scandals or accusations, yet people still vote them to stay in the office. When the communism party fell, there was an abrupt opening that has affected all of us. Which is why the average Romanian is a very closed off person, a popular phrase that describes this perfectly is "It stays in the family".

I think Romania is a sorrowful country in general. The salaries are very small, I mean for a person that studies 6 years to obtain an architecture diploma you are paid \$500 a month. Here the architecture that is being built is very disappointing. You feel more free once you are outside of the country, you can say whatever you want, be more open, and even wear whatever you'd like because nobody cares.

- Iulian Panzaru



EVOLUTION





PART

TWO

I would like to acknowledge the land of Romania and its native people keeping our traditions and culture alive after many land conquests.

Romania has been a territory that has been sought out to be conquered for many generations from the Roman empire to the Ottoman empire. Its position on the continent, harboring the Black Sea into Europe, and its vast availability of natural resources has made it desirable. Over time there has been a lot of bloodshed in the process of preserving the culture of the Dacians and its people. During each era, the country has gone through dictatorships in multiples forms, from kings to presidents. It has participated in world wars where they would change alliance on counties at the last minute. During Ceausescu's communism, he wounded the iron curtain tightly around Romania, turning a moderately prosperous country into one at the brink of starvation. To repay his \$10 billion foreign debt in 1982, he ransacked the Romanian economy of everything that could be exported, leaving the country with desperate shortages of food, fuel, and other essentials.

The people of this land have persevered through wars, destruction, and an era of communism, and continues to protect their right to be there. Social circumstances have displaced people to other continents through history, and in doing so, they keep their spirits alive through the traditions from the millennia past, from stories that are attached to them and the rituals they refuse to let diminish. Their true spiritual roots are embedded in the magical land that has a hold of their heart.

Pagan traditions were formed which are still practiced till this day. One of the pagan traditions is the capra(goat) dance, said to predict the upcoming year's weather and included a ritual of fertility and abundance. By dancing in this ritual and playing traditional folk music around town, channeling the goat spirit to bring great joy and protection.

Language is a powerful tool which can be transformed into elements and symbols of sacred geometry that are used to generate and direct each of the energetic said symbol represents. What is mostly unknown about Romania is that its inhabitants are wearing their millenary history on their very clothes, symbols being carefully chosen, each of them carrying a certain meaning, message or story dating back to the Hamagia settlements. It shows the fascinating story of a nation and its land so interconnected to one another, that it can only show their consistency despite the challenges of times. It is a way to connect to our roots for not only myself but others as well.

Let this acknowledgement serve as a reminder for everyone that the people of Romania are and forever will be present. They are strong, full of rich mystical culture that will not be diminished by anyone; no matter what happens.





NU UITATI!

ITATIUM

CE-I IN MANA  
NU-I MINCIUNA

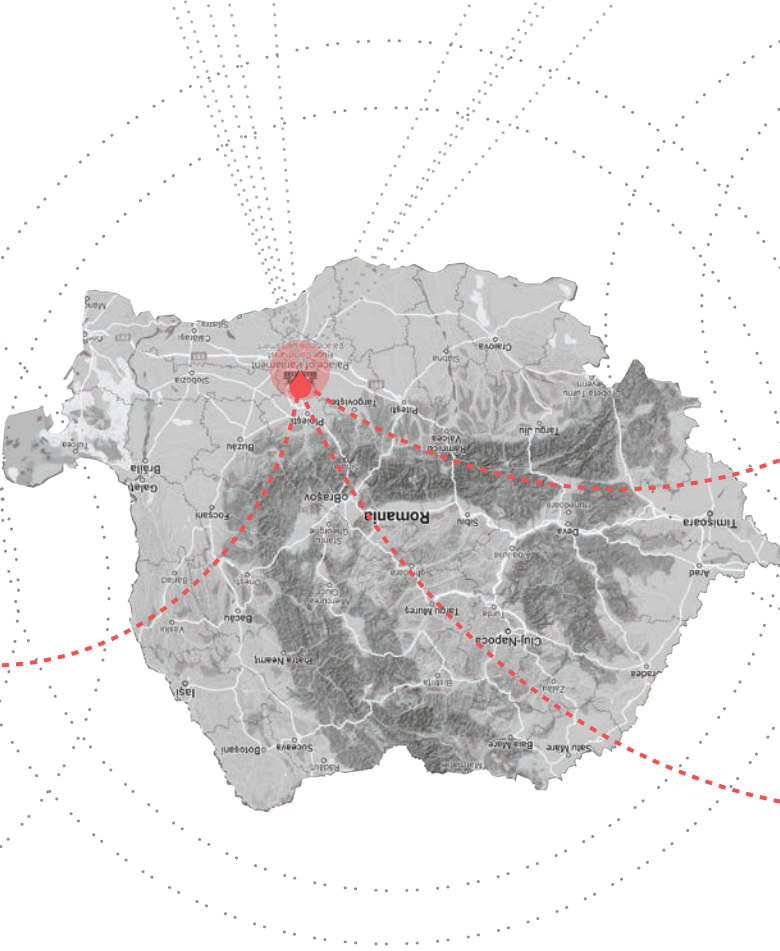
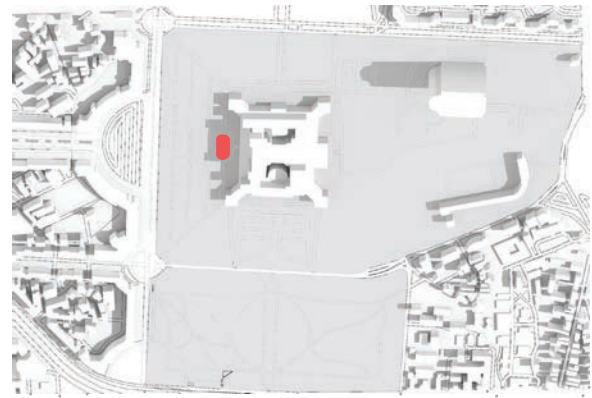
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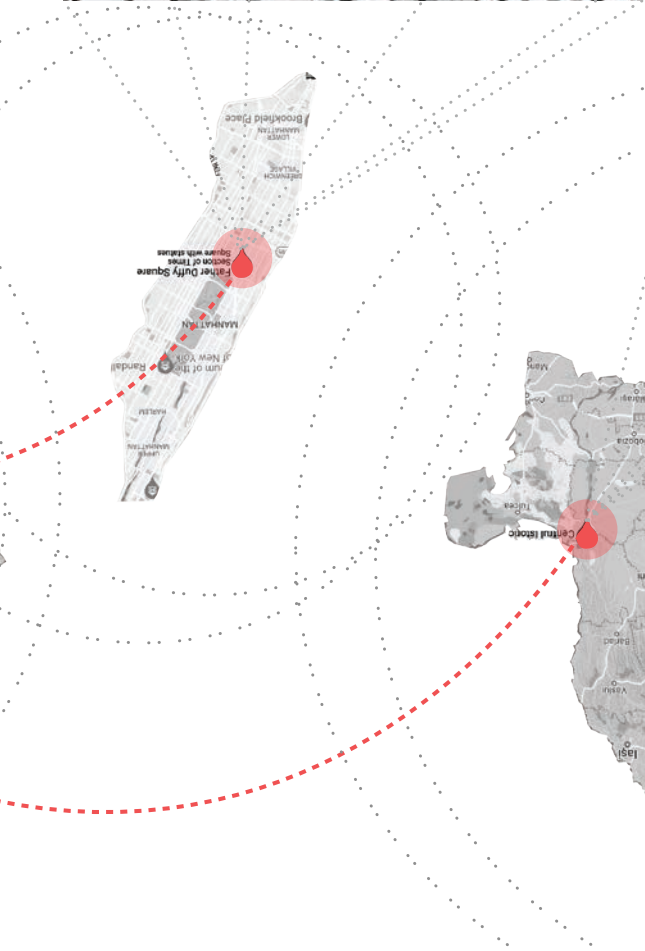
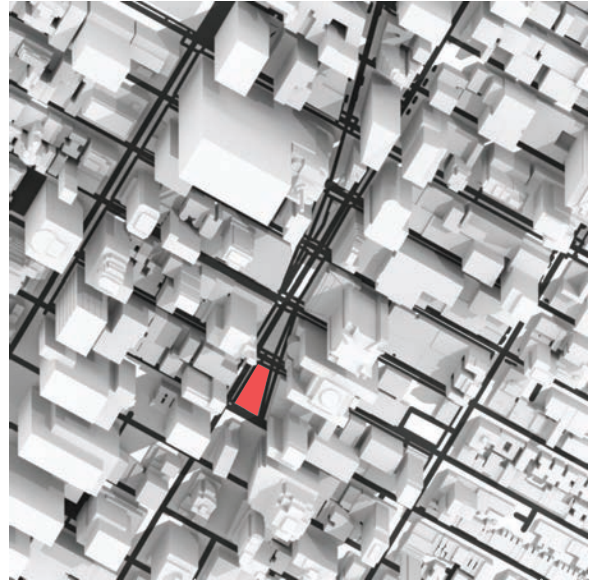
Dokdo Island  
Sea of Japan



Palace of Parliament  
Bucharest, Romania



Time Square  
New York City, New York



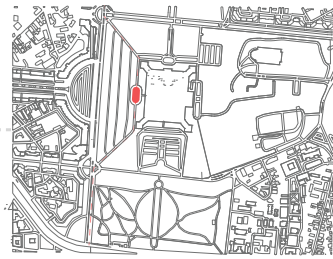
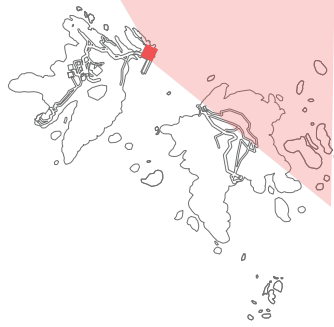
Historic Center  
Braila, Romania





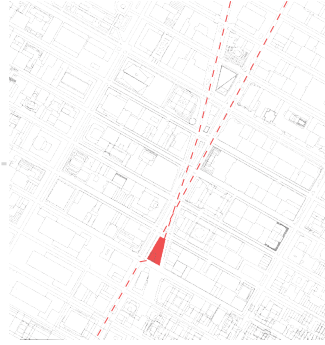
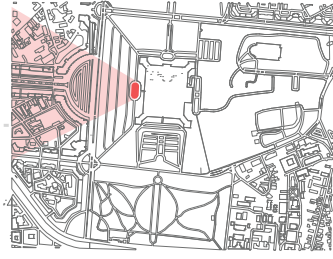
Dokdo Island  
Sea of Japan

Access Pathway



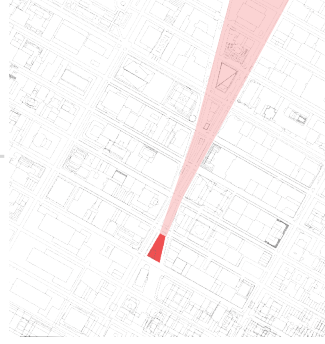
Palace of Parliament  
Bucharest, Romania

Access Pathway



Time Square  
New York City, New York

Access Pathway



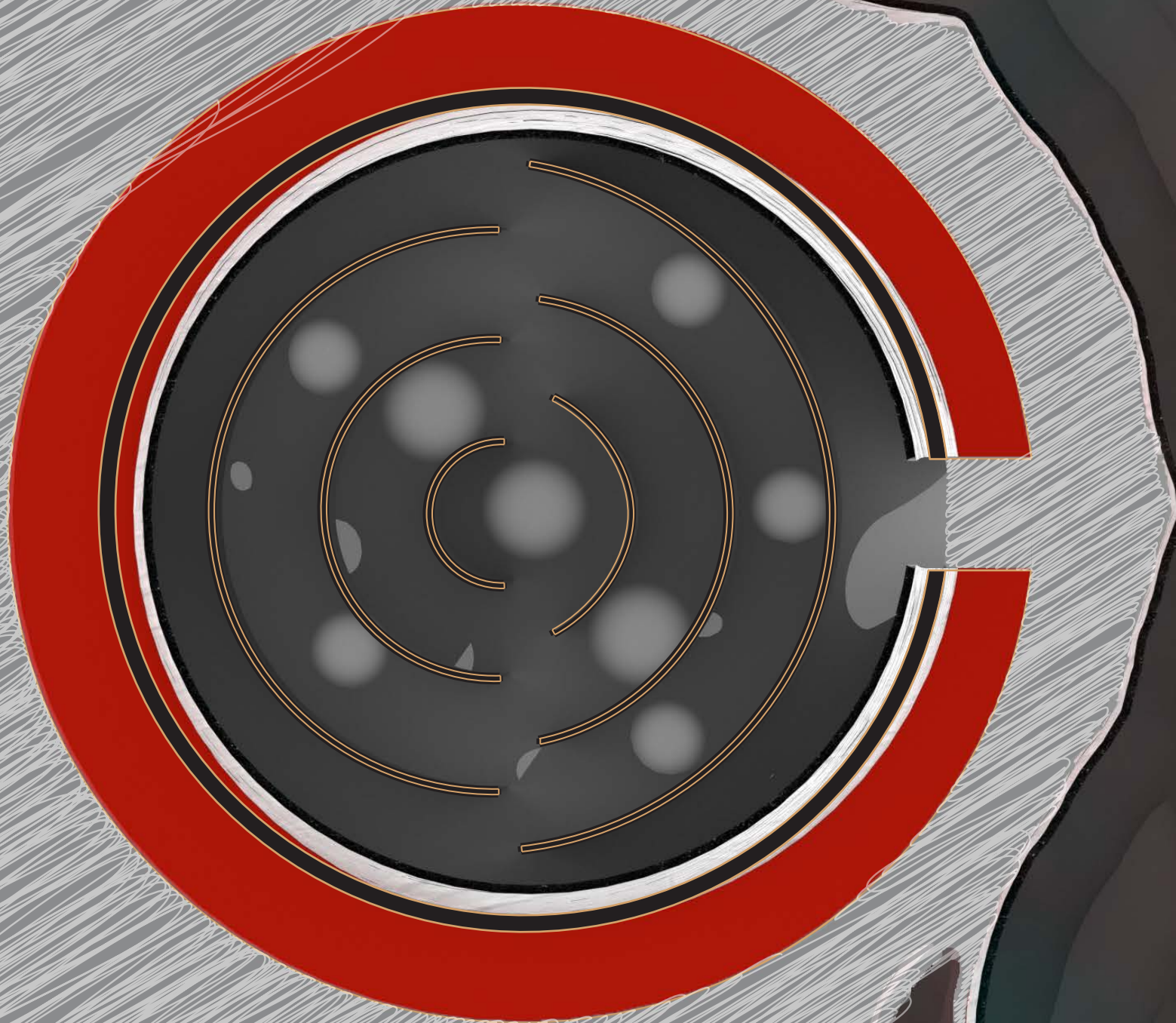
Historic Center  
Braila, Romania

Access Pathway



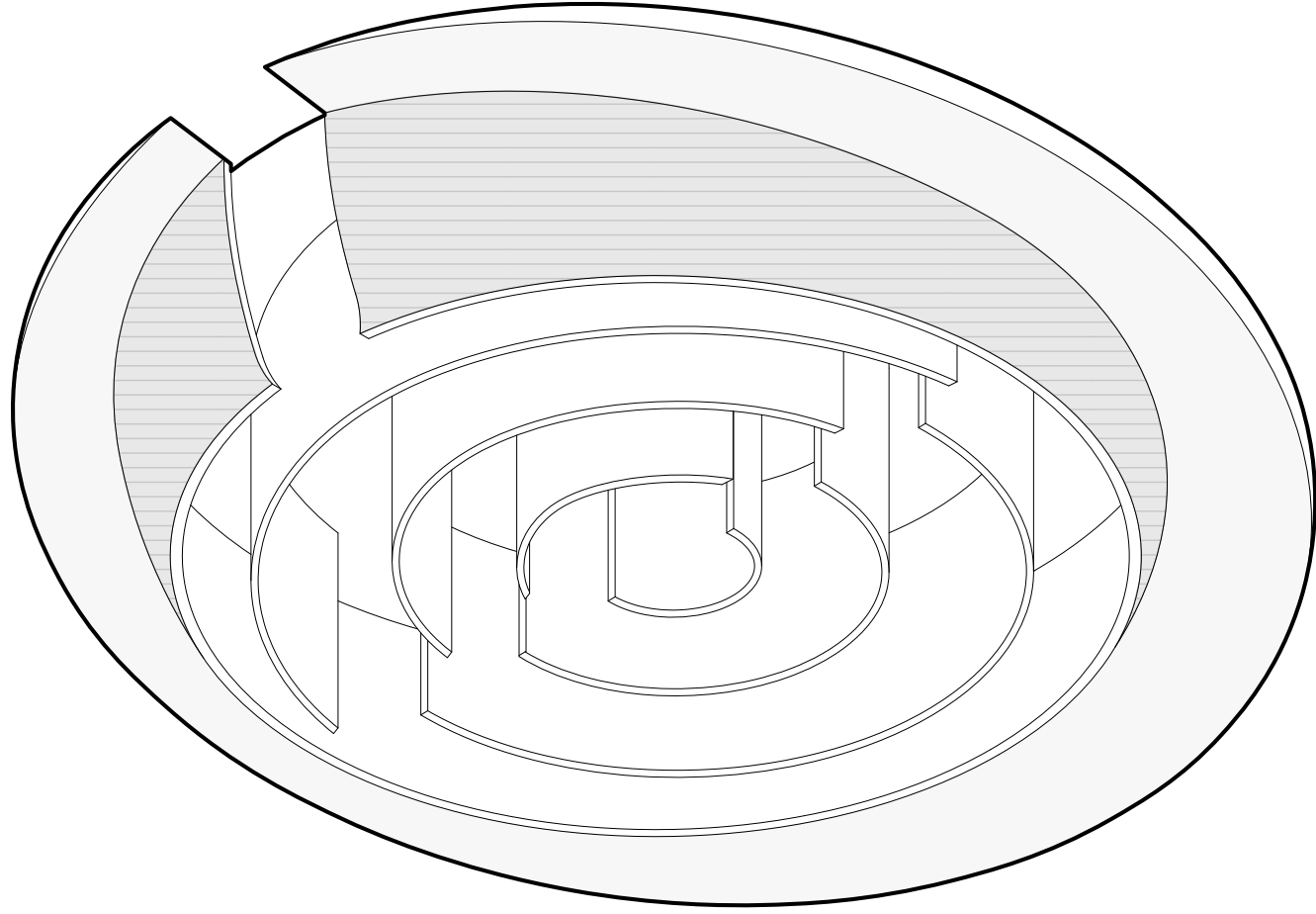


Memory  
Braila, Romania

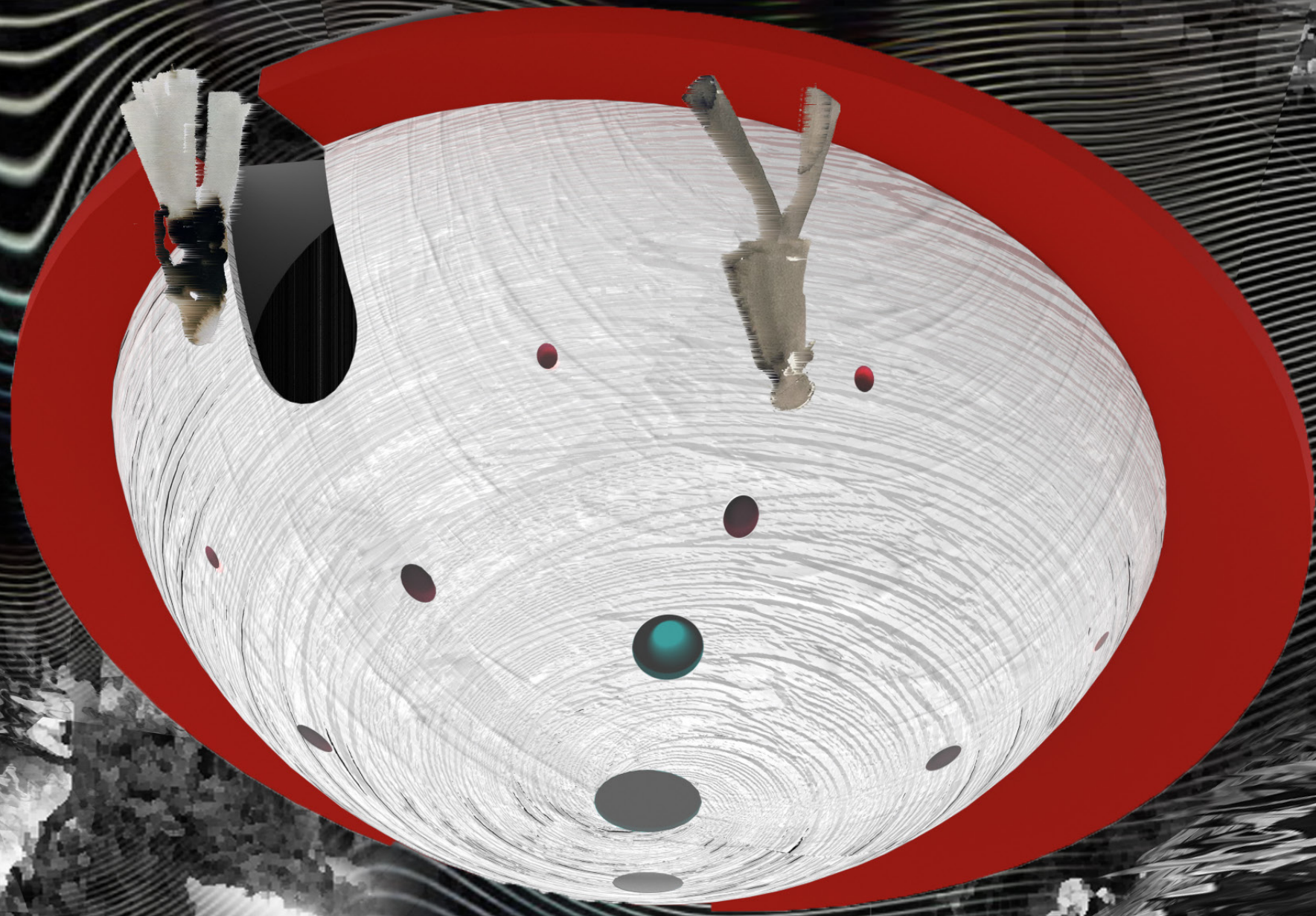


In dealing with memory, one is able to choose the path that they desire in order to remember something. This pavilion provides two experiences that dip into each other. By going on the ramp you are taken on a textured journey and are able to see fragments of the interior through small openings.

/ Exterior /

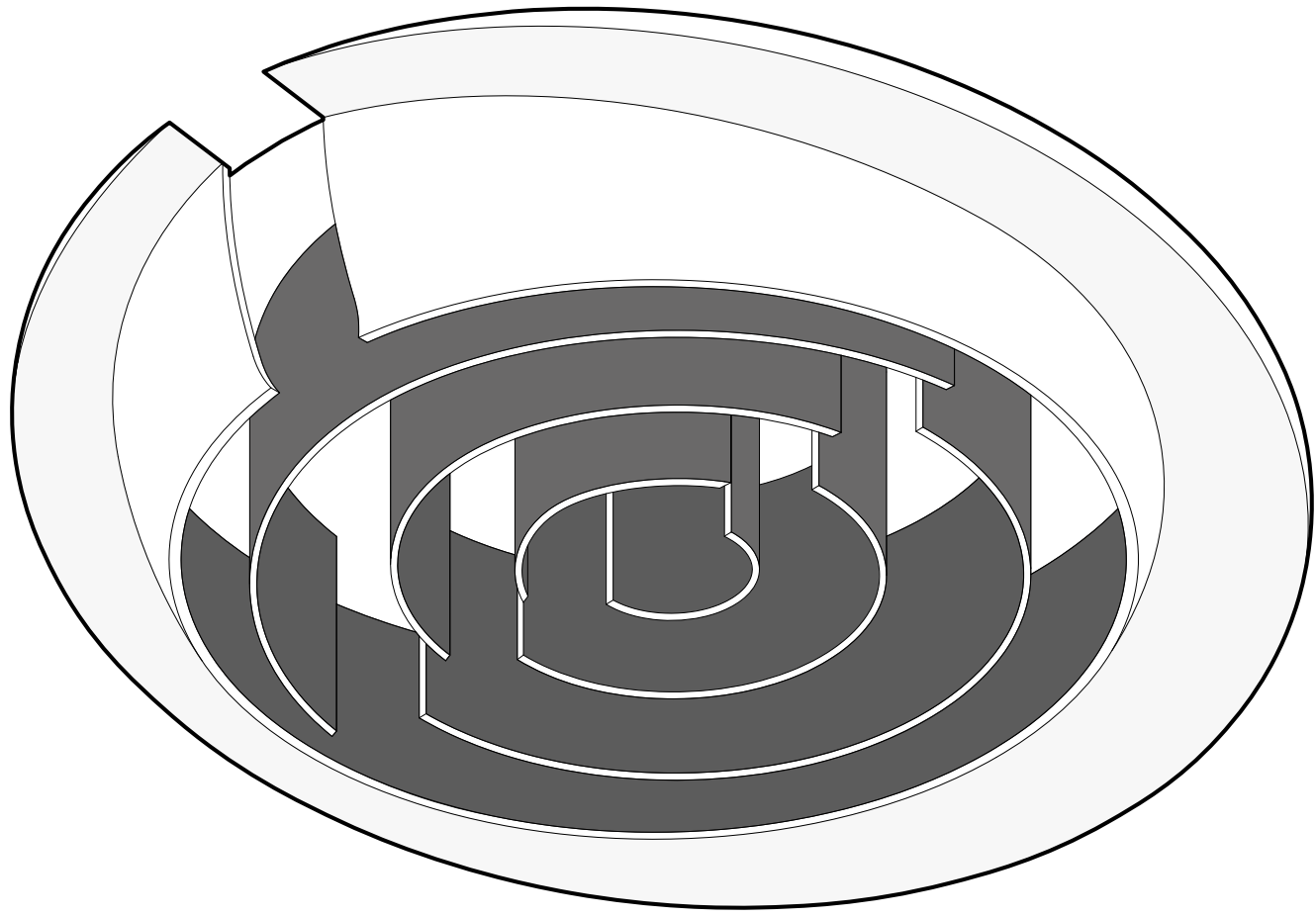






Once entering the dome, you are greeted by darkness and adventure. An opposite experience unfolds as you look out of the small openings and retrace your steps.

/ Interior /







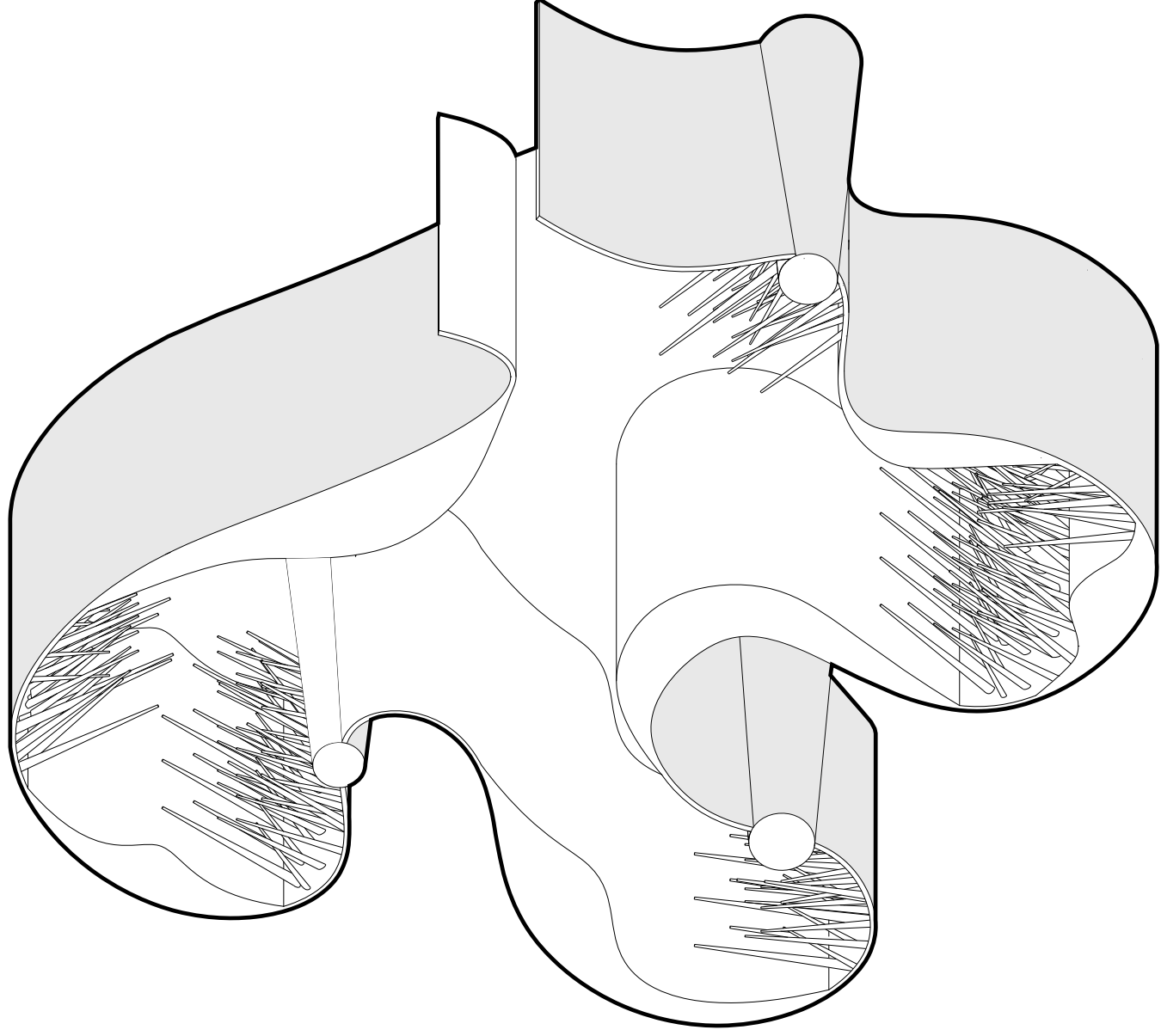
New York City, New York

# Duality



Playing with the notion of visibility, the interior greets you with open arms. In it's pristine appearance gives you reassurance that everything is running smoothly as it should be.

/ Exterior /



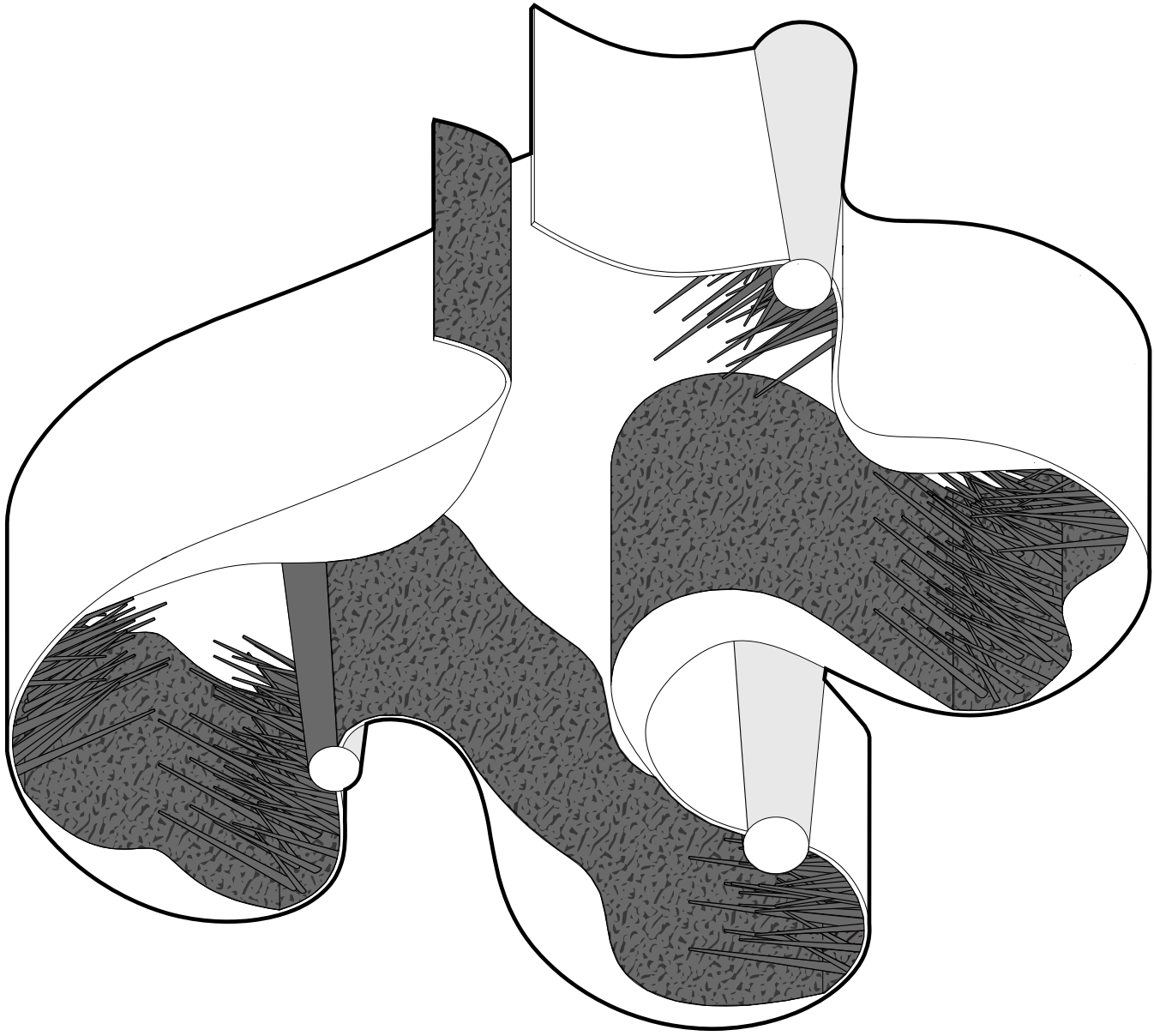
PART TWO

PART TWO

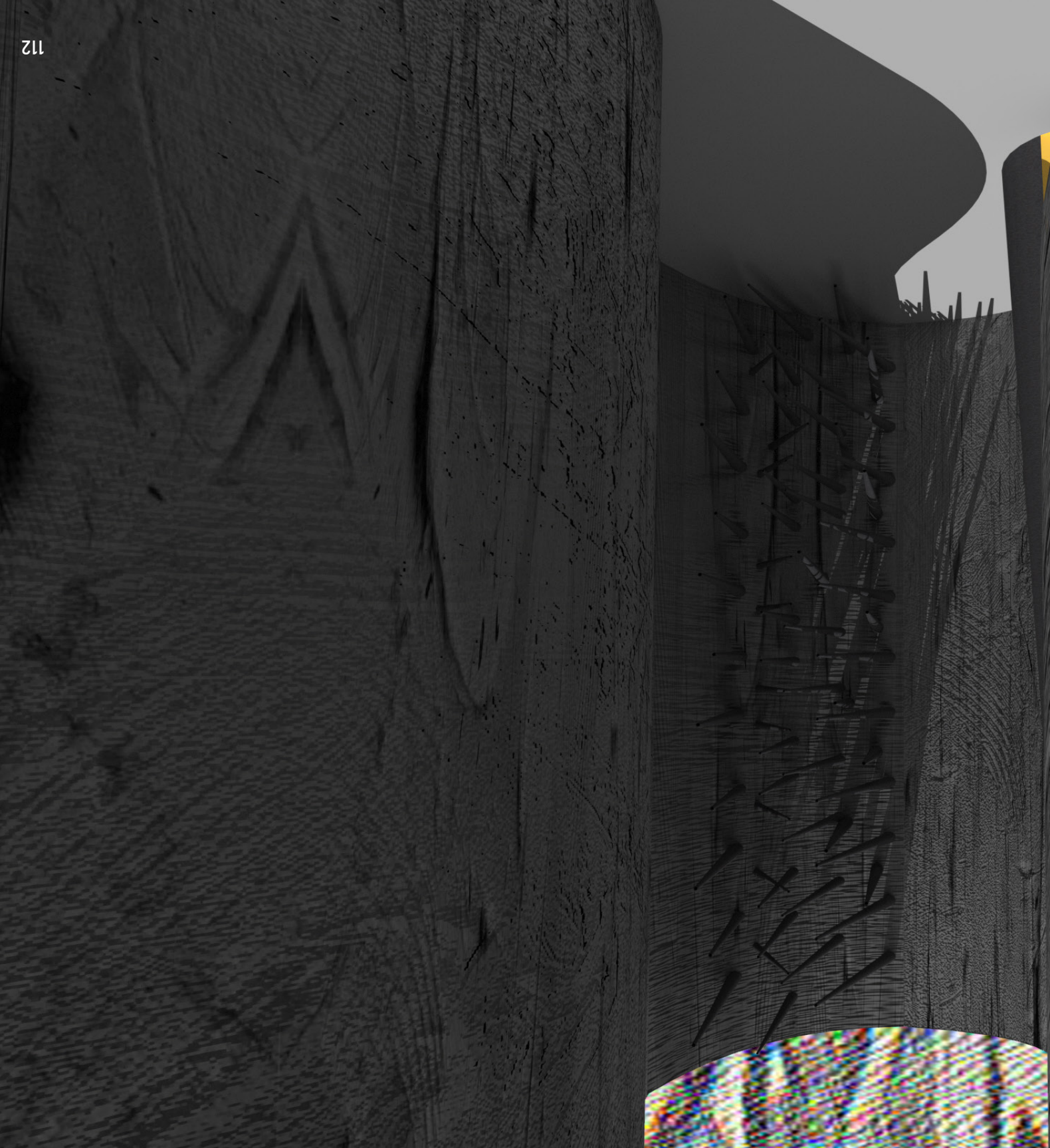


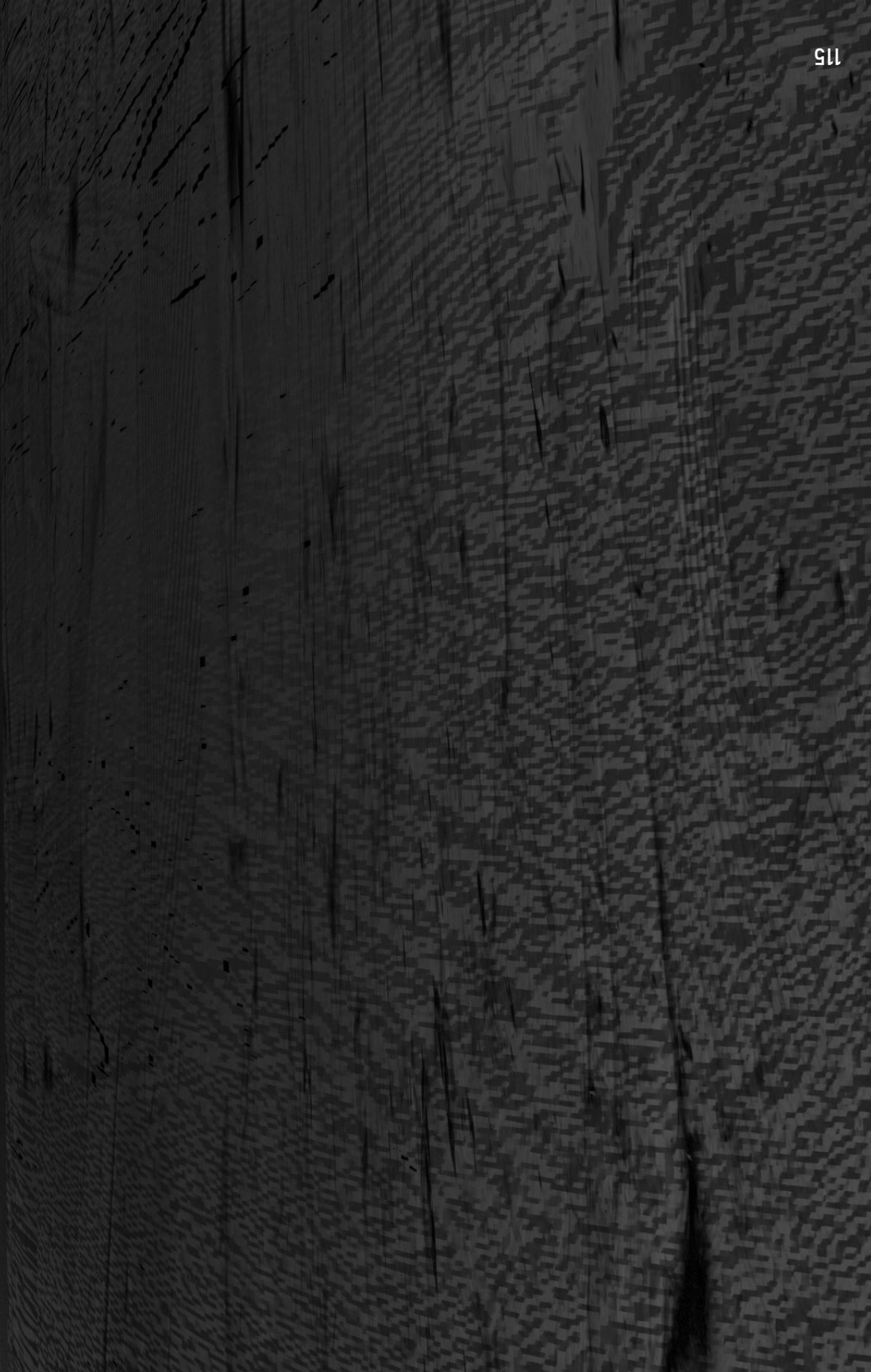
Once you enter the pavilion the darkness and severity of reality sinks in. You are faced with spikes around every corner and texture representing peoples emotions.

/ Interior /









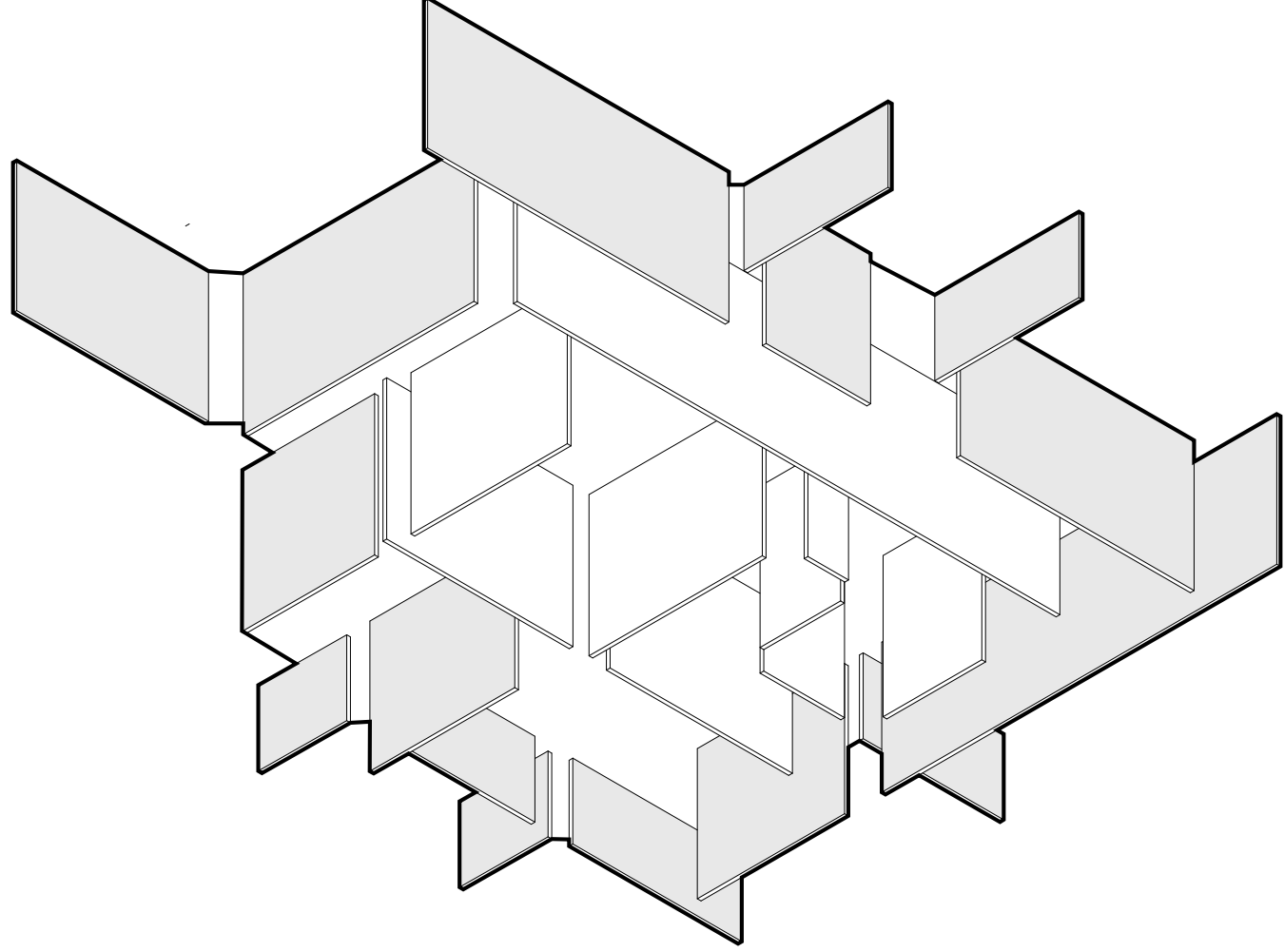
Dokdo Island, Sea of Japan

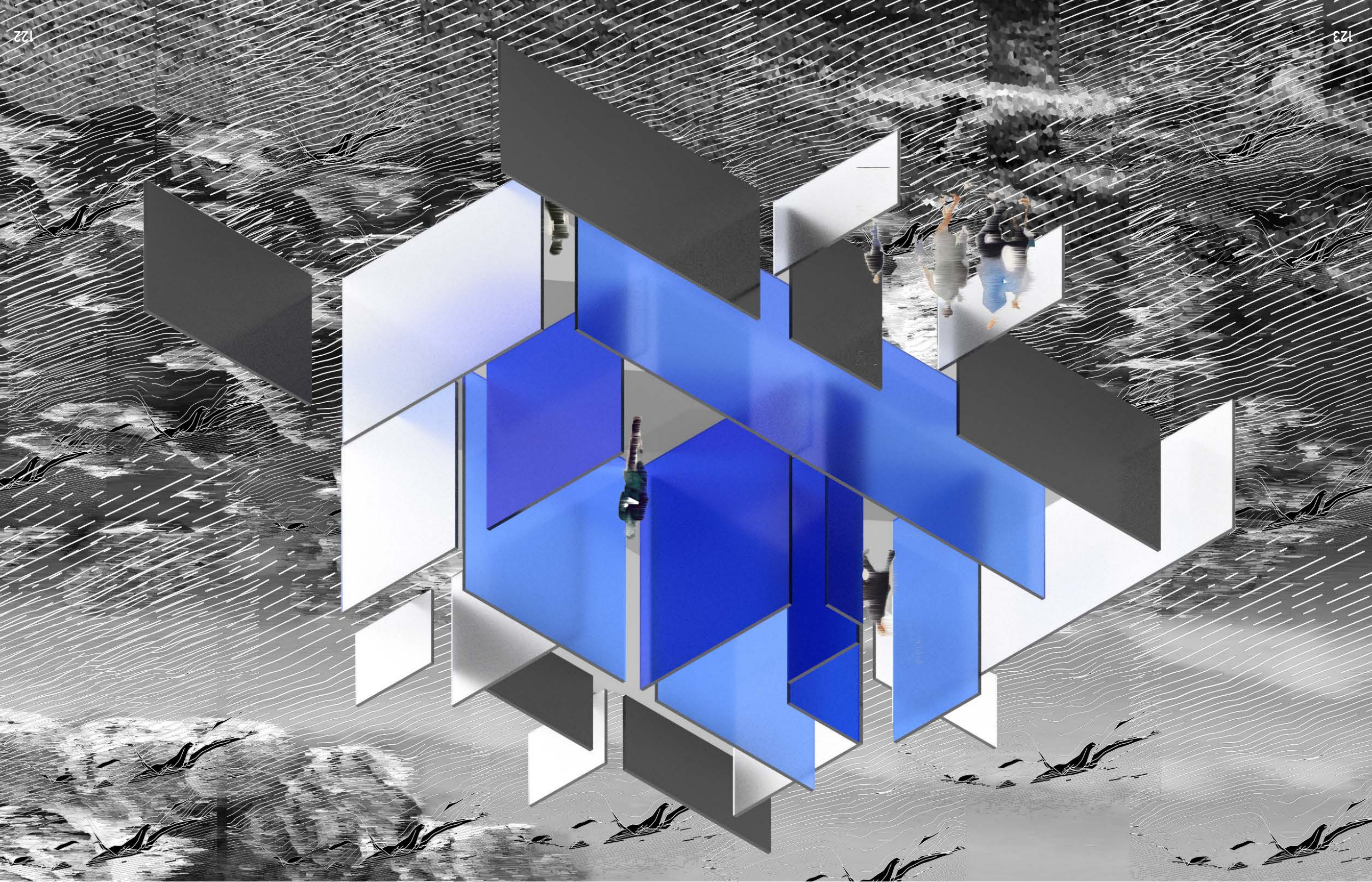
# Symbolism

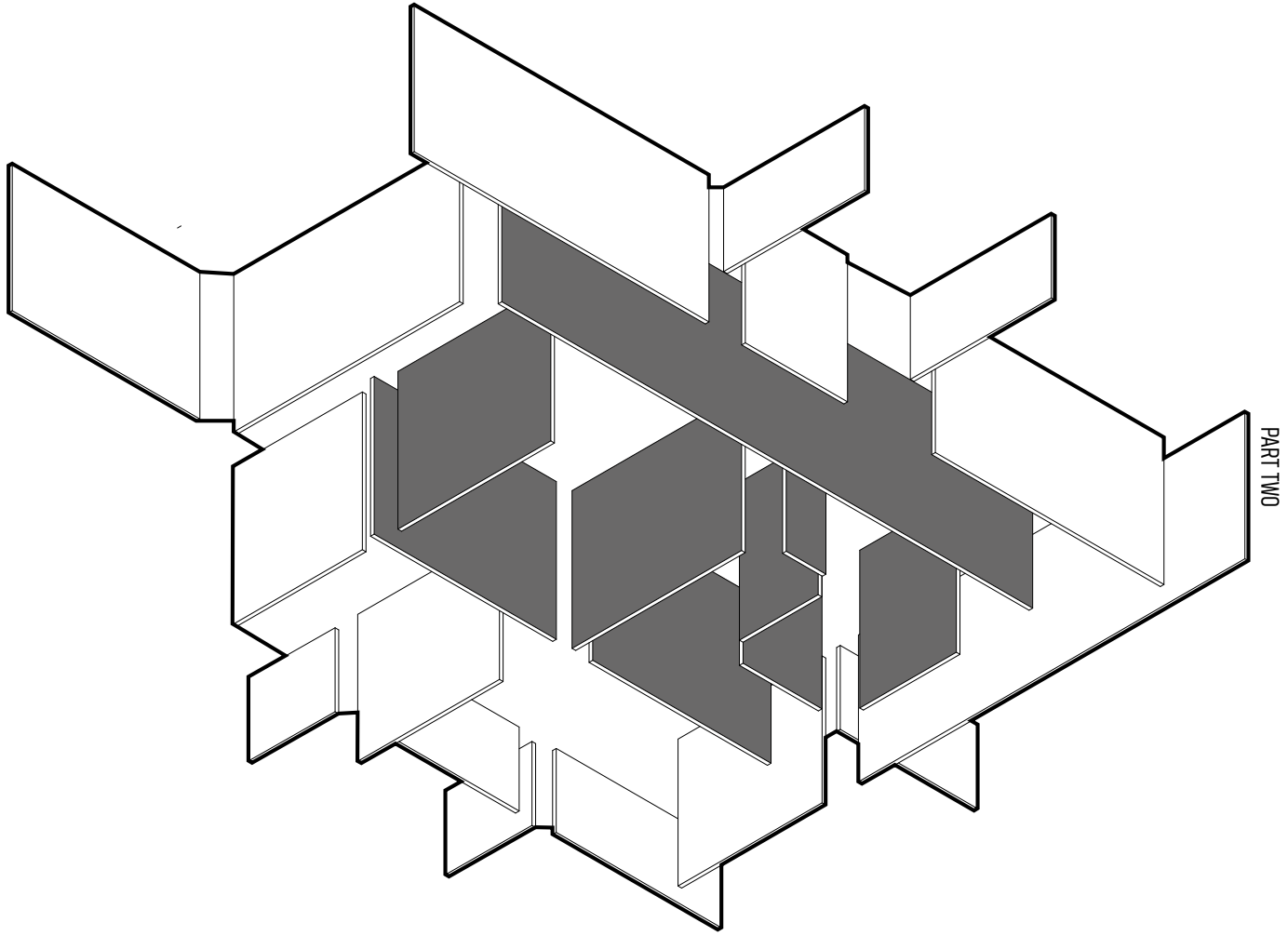




/ Exterior /  
Through the journey of life, time affects us differently. Entering the outer layer of the pavilion, you are greeted by sliver openings and transparent panels. Silhouettes are the only thing that can be perceived .





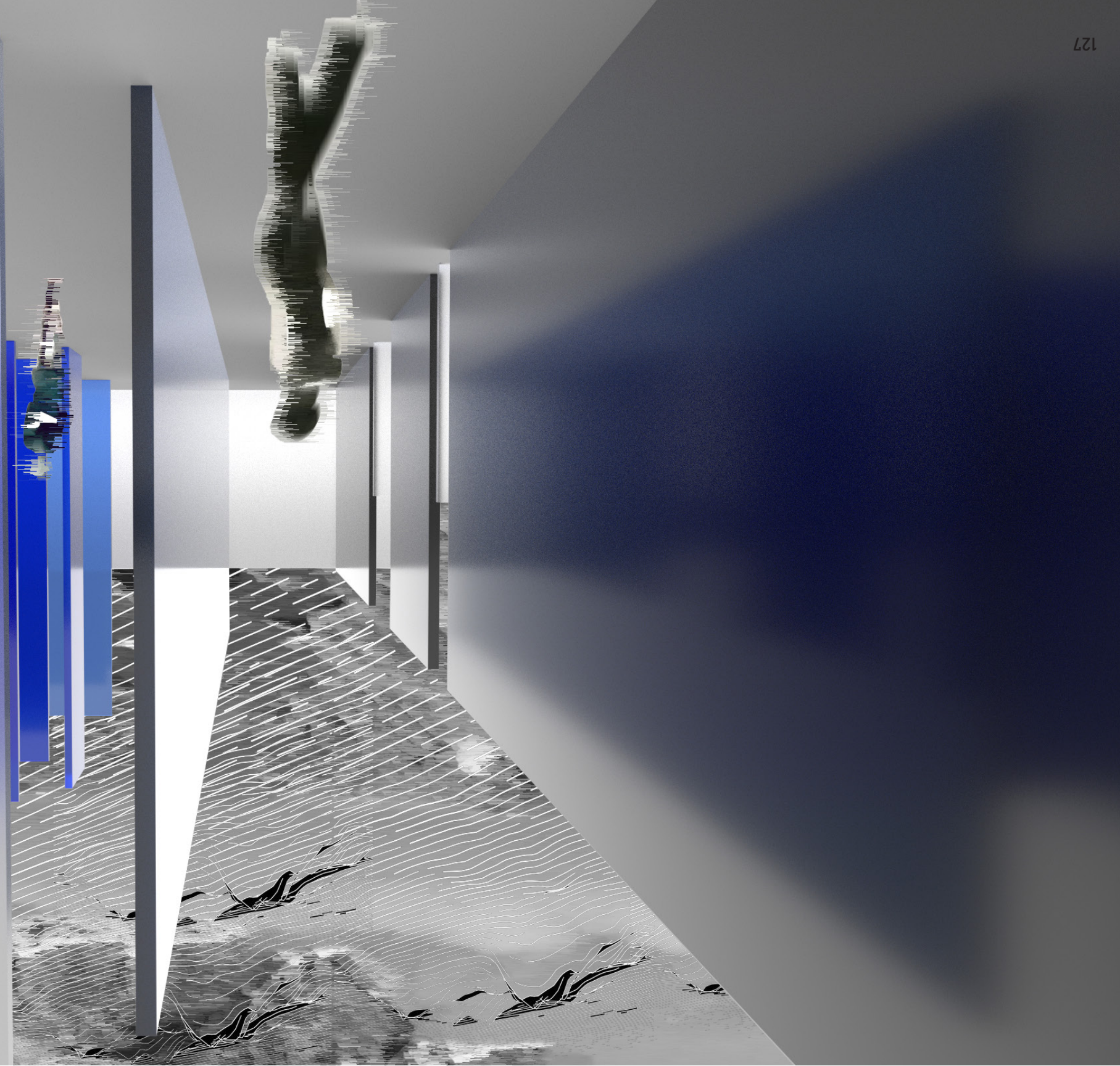
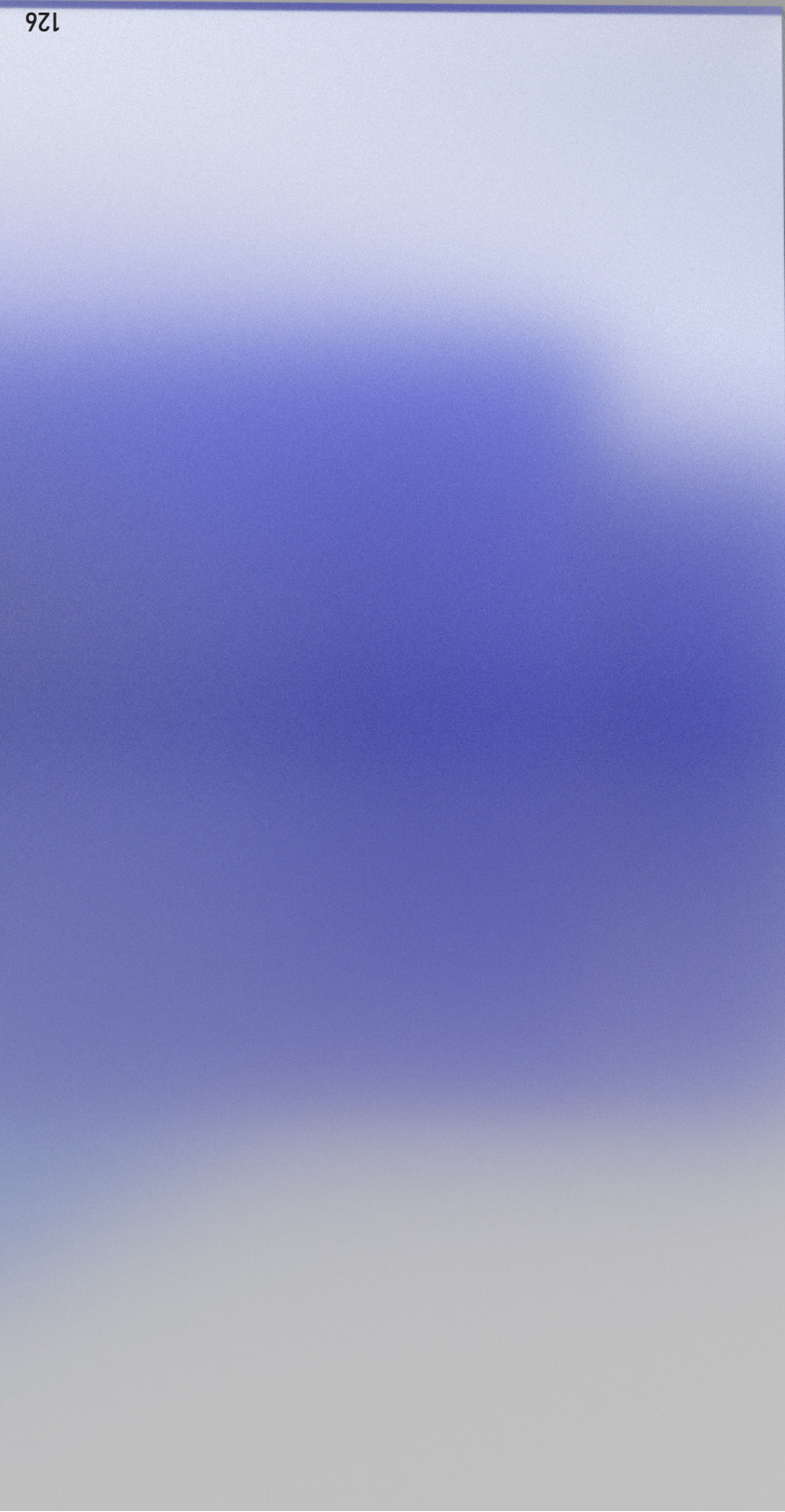


PART TWO

As you proceed through the pavilion, it transforms itself into an enclosed space being perceived only through blurred movement.

/ Interior /

PART TWO





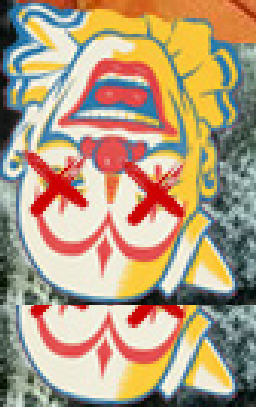


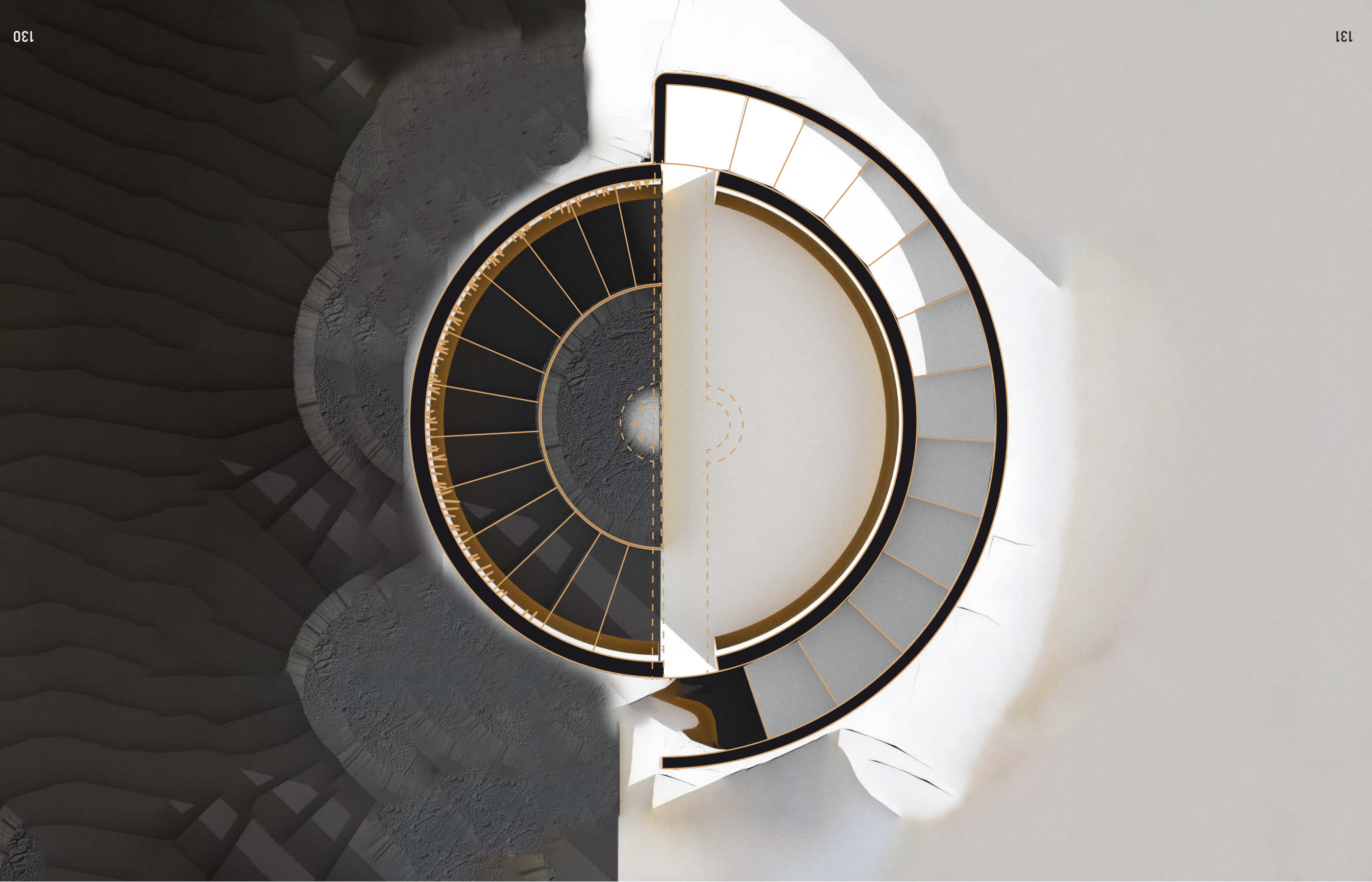
ROMANIA  
PREZES STELE

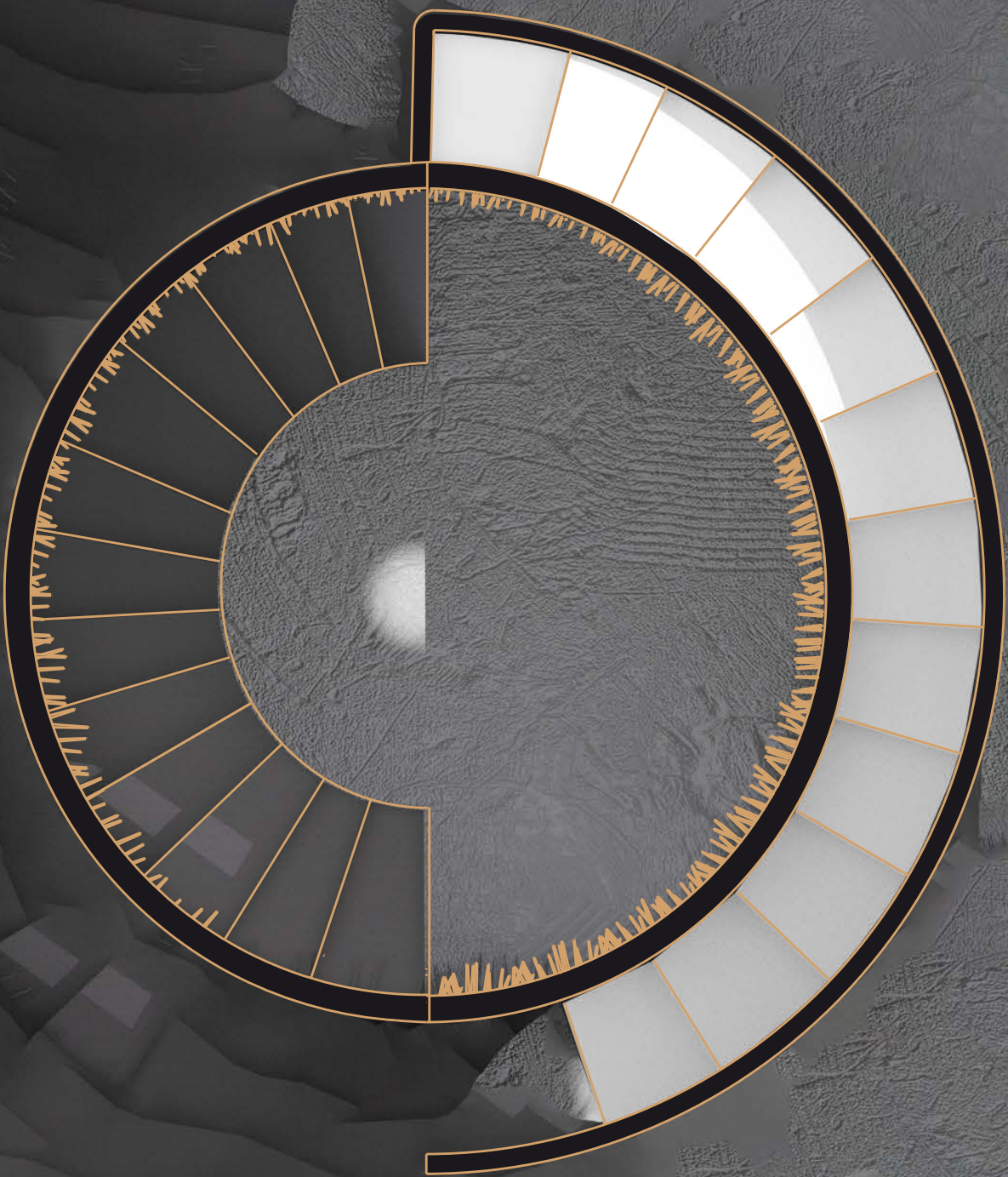


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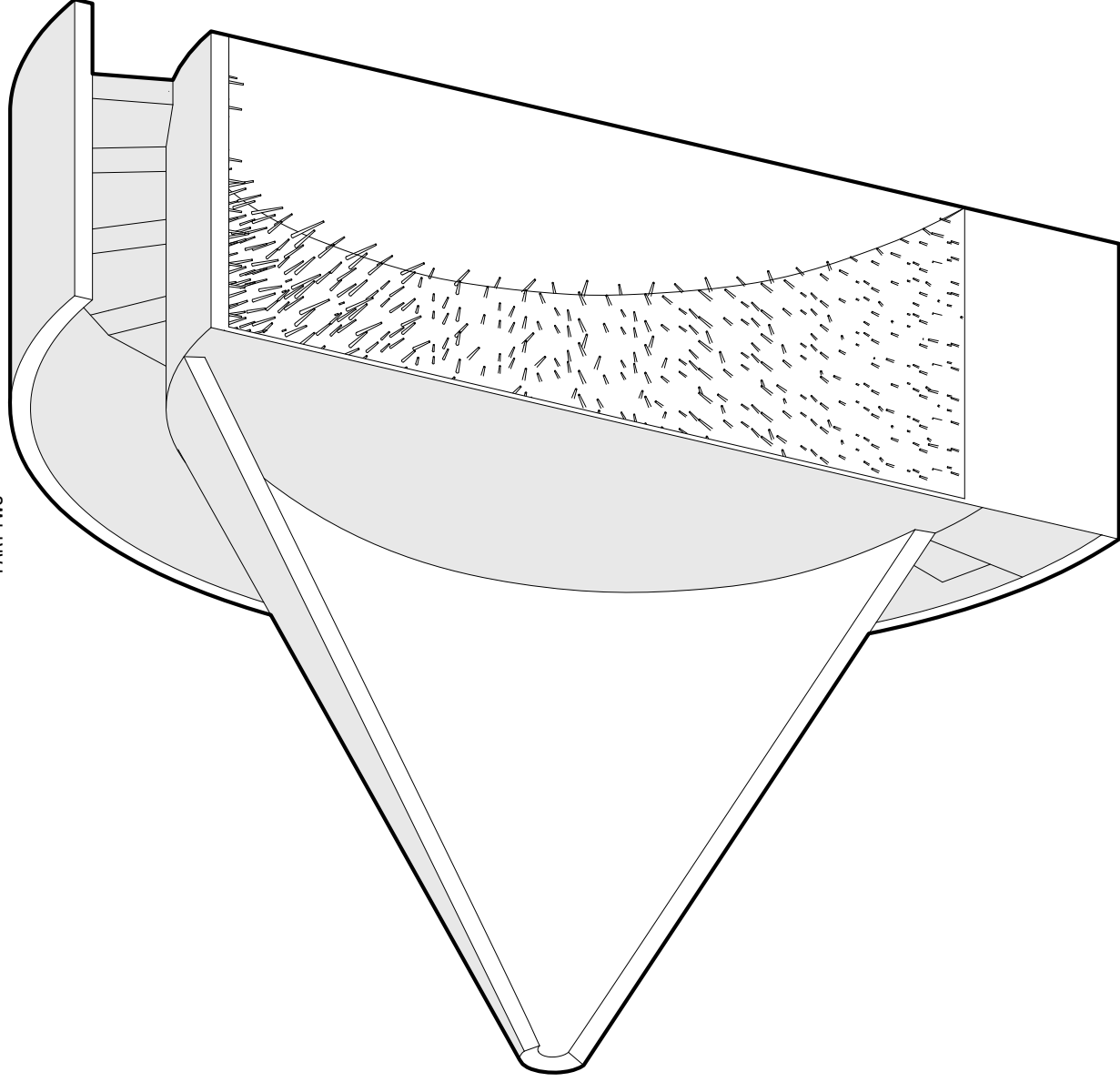






Drawing symbolism from all three pavilions, this final one serves as a home base. With a white pristine exterior that builds up to a framed view of the Palace of Parliament, it begins the story. Representing the traditional romanian home in an abstract way, one is able to depict the stories and reality of what is happening in Romania.

/ Exterior /



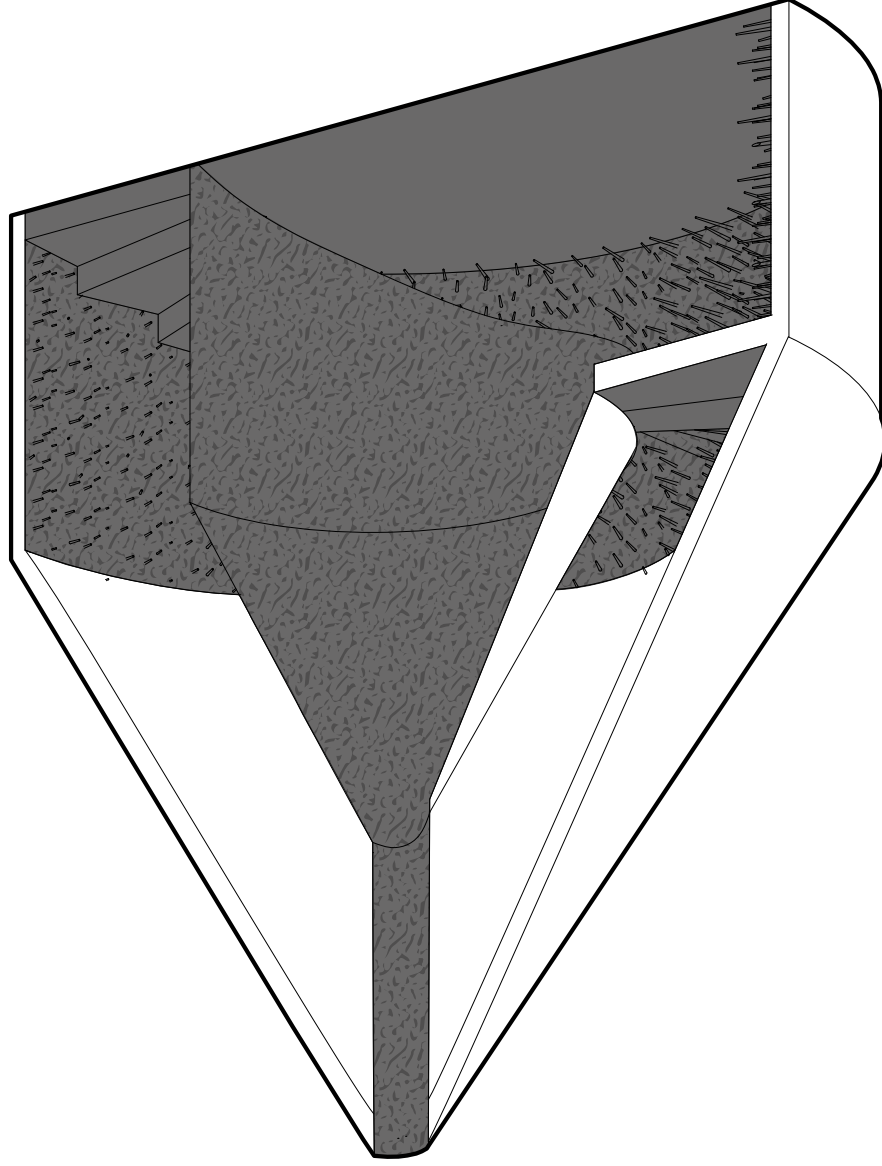
PART TWO

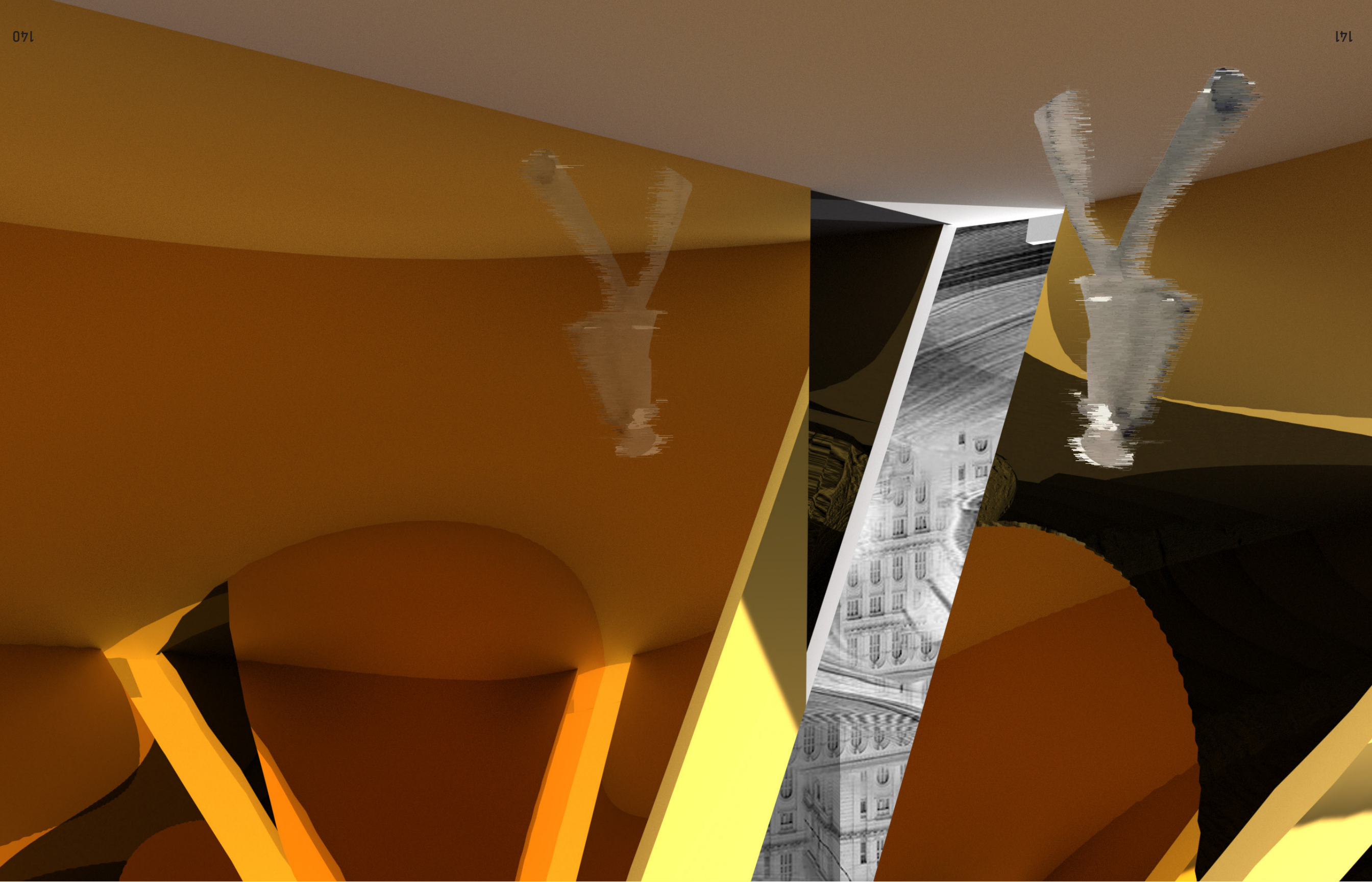
PART TWO



As you proceed through the space you are greeted with a reflective space that is meant to provoke you to look within. Followed by a descent into the stories of migrants.

/ Interior /









**THREE**

**PART**



Romania loses around 242k people per year, ranking it 5th in total emigrant population.



FIG. 15



As immigrants arrive in their diaspora, they often have to take up 2-3 jobs (mostly cleaning) in order to barely survive where they don't know the language.

Arriving here, I hated NYC, I was overwhelmed and I felt suffocated. I was also really anxious about speaking English and finding work.

-Nicolae Rita





My childhood in communism was a pretty happy one I think, I grew up in Bucuresti and I was 10 in 1989 when the revolution took place .I remember the family vacations we used to take to the seaside, spending my summer vacations with relatives in different places of the country. I was always outdoors and in nature during the summer time. There was a lack of everything though, from food, to tv programs, clothing etc but I feel like we made the best of the situation. People used to get creative. For a long time bananas and oranges reminded me of Christmas and happy times for example. We didn't have access to exotic fruits often and almost never to products from the west .I remember the never ending lines for everything and to this day I have no patience to wait in any line. I don't know if it's because the communism, the way I was brought up or just the way I am but I don't like waisting anything and I always live within my means. I never had any debt and I own my apartment, which is pretty rare in New York City, especially for an immigrant.

Growing up gay in Romania wasn't always easy, luckily my parents put me in art school since fifth grade and I continued with art high school and collage. I still got teased and bullied occasionally by other students and sometimes teachers but it would have been a lot worse have I gone to a regular school / high school. I always though I was different and fabulous and didn't exactly fit in Romania. Collage was great in that regard, I was never bullied and it gave me a real bust of confidence over all.After collage I started working in television, which I loved but I remember being basically outed to my family by the human resource person at my job. I think it was 2003-2004 and it happened that my family doctor was also her family doctor, I can not believe it thinking back.

I came to US in 2005 when I was 25, not during communism. I wasn't necessarily planning to leave Romania but I put my name randomly in The US Green Card Lottery and I won a green card. I remember how surreal it felt, I was scared and excited and decided to give it a shot. My main reason for going for it was the diversity, opportunities and freedom US had to offer. It was really hard to leave my family and friends behind but I had a cousin living here, in NYC and she helped me a bit. Arriving here, I hated NYC, I was overwhelmed and I felt suffocated. I was also really anxious about speaking English and finding work.My English was ok to get around but I was embarrassed not to make mistakes speaking and there were a lot of words I didn't know which made it hard to interview for jobs.

I loved Long Island though, where I used to spend the weekends at my cousins place but I needed to be in the city during the week in order to find a job. The things I loved about the city right away was the racial diversity, fashion, energy of the city and how open the gays were. I also like that we are surrounded by water and you can the the subway to the beach during summer. In Romania most gay people were in the closet and there was only one gay bar in Bucharest, the capital of the country. I think there is still only one to this day. My first job was in Soho, as a visual merchandiser/ sales in a denim store so I was kind of in the middle of everything. It took me about 8 months to get used to things and about 2 years to start liking NYC and my life here.

I never felt fear or discriminated for being an immigrant but I came here legally as I mentioned previously, I received a green card right away and I got my citizenship a few years after. It was really hard to rent an apartment, start building credit and find a job although I was legaly here, had a SSN and kind of spoke English. I can not imagine how hard it would have been otherwise. I never contemplate moving back to Romania, I think I've changed too much living here for 17 years and I won't fit in that society anymore, if I ever did, especially as a gay men married to another man. Gay marriage is still illegal in Romania although it's part of EU now.

In conclusion, I don't have regrets, I have a happy, good life in US although I do consider moving to other countries. I do feel sad sometimes that I missed out on family events and just spending more time with them. The time flew by quickly and my parents passed away, my only connection to Romania is now my sister and a few family members and old friends.

- Nicolae Rita



Când pleci din țara ta, de desprinzi din mediul tău, primii doi ani de zile sunt foarte grei fiind că te apucă dor de familie și locuri. Perioada de acomodare până înveți limba și începi să cunoști împrejurul ia cât va timp. Nostalgia începe să muncească la moment.

-Iris Sincaian Hirth





Trăind în România au fost sentimente alambicate sub comunism, bune și rele. Până în '80 și la început a fost bine, după aceea totul s-a schimbat până la revoluția de 1989. Ne-a lipsit libertatea și trebuia să faci ce îți se spune. Însă sistemul școlar era foarte bine organizat, cultura generală și profesorii erau foarte compatibili. Nu se compara școala de azi cu școala de atunci, băga carte în tine. Toată lumea era urmărită de securitate, nu poți să vorbești ce vrei, trebuia să minți să ai spui ce voiau ei să audă. Când creștii în comunism, rămăi cu sechele. Nu se da seama, dar după atâția ani te găsești că cumperi o groază de mâncare la magazin de fiecare dată ca te gândești probabil o să rămăi fără. Te afectează și faci în totdeauna termen de comparație. Însă totul nu era rău, de exemplu toată lumea avea servicii, și un program pe care îl urmăreau. Noi făceam și școală sâmbătă, ne puneau la manevre să tragem cu arma, ne duceau pe câmp la cartofi să tragem recolta, să culegem și să ducem castane.

Ca o persoană de culoare observai că e rar când vezi pe cineva ca mine. O țară mediocră și primitivă, au fost foarte multe discriminări și jigniri. Însă, nu de la toată lumea; eu am crescut în Brașov și nu erau cazuri de genul asta acolo dar moldovenii erau oameni fără cultură și înapoiți. Experiențele au fost așa de pozitive cât de negative. La școală nu am avut probleme, doar pe stradă mai auzeam niște lucruri.

Apropiindu-se de sfârșit la comunism era groaznic, nu mai dădeau căldură, apă, nimic. Trăia poporul într-o situație extraordinară de redusă. Și chiar erau niște persoane care nu aveau ce să mănânce pe la oraș. La țară dacă aveai 10 găini trebuia să dai 2 la stat, dacă aveai un porc trebuia să dai o parte la stat când îl tăiai. Normal când scapi de acolo la libertate și vi în Germania, te afectează când faci termen de comparație și rămăi cu traume. Eu nu am vrut neapărat să mă mut în Germania pentru că nu îmi plăcuse niciodată. Am venit aici din presiunea și influența mătușii mele care locuia aici la timp. Cred că a fost un fel de soartă pentru mine, nu cred că am vrut neapărat să plec din România. Când pleci din țara ta, de desprinzi din mediul tău, primii doi ani de zile sunt foarte grei fiind că te apuca dor de familie și locuri. Perioada de acomodare până învești limba și începi să cunoști împrejurul ia cât va timp. Nostalgia începe să muncească la moment. La câteva luni îți vine să împachetezi totul și să pleci acasă. În mod simplu, să îți plantezi rădăcinile înapoi nu e niciodată simplu. Dar ironia este că dacă ai plecat de atât de mult timp nu mai vrei să te întorci acasă. România a înțeles democrația greșit, nu a făcut nimic să ridice țara și mă oprește să mă întorc să înapoi.

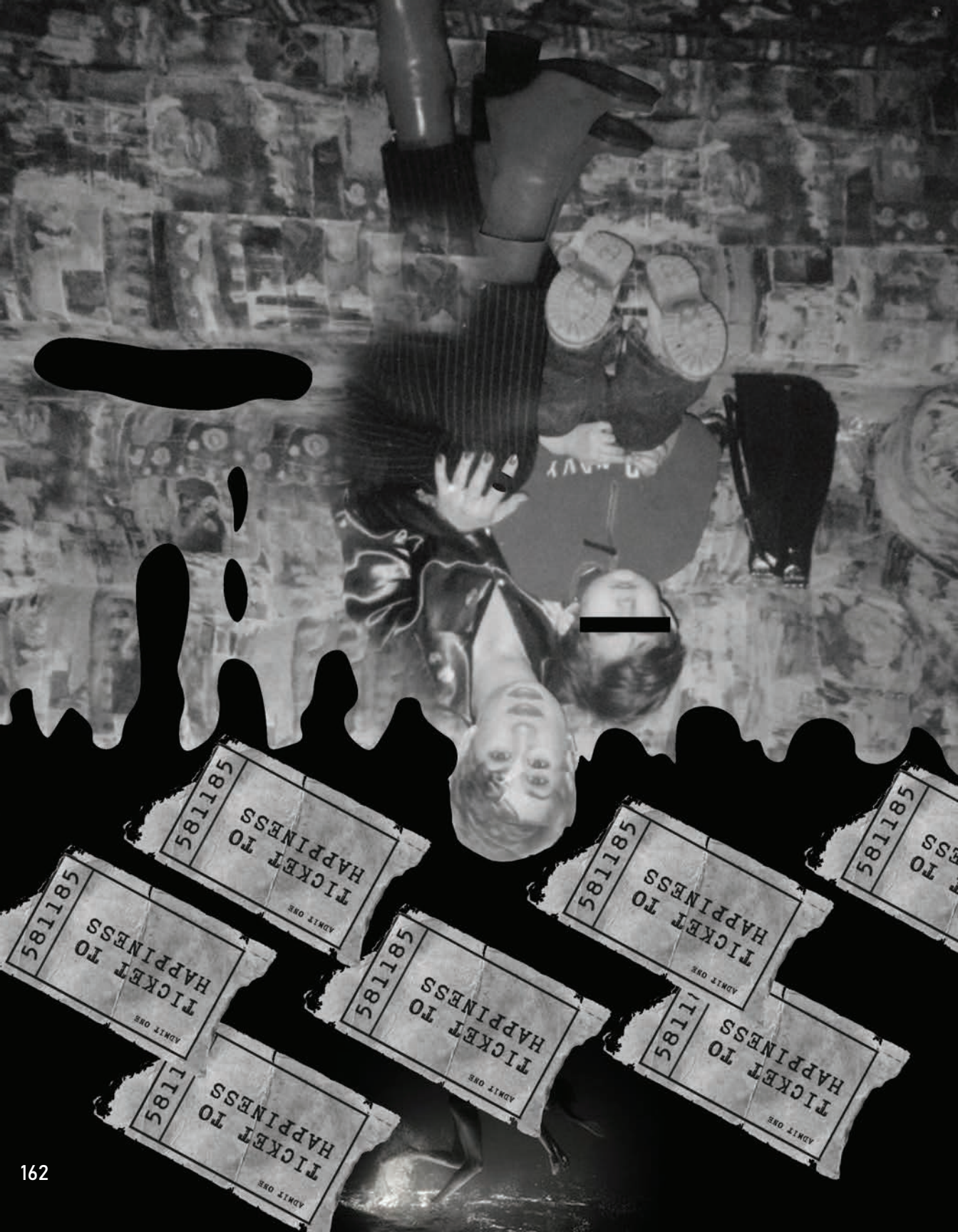
- Iris Sincaian Hirth



Pana mia dat Green card am fost stresata in fiecare zi ca o-să mă duc înapoi. Cred ca toți imigranți care vin aicea ași fac fricile astea. Vrei să fi corect, dar niciodată nu ști ce poate să găsească.

-Aurelia Badiu





Alegerea mea sa vin în America era ca am fost căsătorita. Vi și tragi pentru familia ta dar când ajungi aicea realizezi ca familia nu este o familie deloc. Direct in laștina, și trebuie sa lupti sa supraviețuiești sa ieși din lastina aia pentru ca ai un copil cu tine, și nu mai contează ce faci tu pentru tine personal, focus-ul tău se schimba pe copil. Alegerea ca sa vi e sa ai familia împreuna, dar primul lucru important e sa îi dai copilul tău o șansă mai buna decât tu a avut. Venind din România, unde comunismul sa terminat, viitorul pentru copilul meu era aici in america.

Experiența de imigrant este destul de dificila. Impactul in primul rând e destul de tragic pentru ca pleci dintr-o tara unde ești obișnuit, și vi într-o totala alta lume. Nu cunoști pe nimeni, nu ai pe nimenea aproape, nu cunoști limba, nu cunoști obiceiurile, nu cunoști cultura, este car și cum într-o data peste noapte te-ai trezit și te-ai teleportat. Trebuie sa o iei încet încet de la început in nou, indiferent ce ai lăsat in urma. Pentru ca trebuie sa supraviețuiești. De exemplu daca nu ai carnet de conducere nu poți sa muncești. Ca-sa ai carnet de conducere trebuie sa ști limba și ar trebui sa stau sa învăț, sa pot sa îmi iau testul in ordine sa pot sa muncesc. Pentru mine a fost destul de dificil pentru ca de fapt nu era numai testul de carnet, eu aveam carnet de ani de zile, era test de limba. A doua e când te duci la munca e destul de greu, n-ai istorie ori credit. E greu sa îți găsești o munca, o casa, nimeni nu îți închiriaza o casa pentru ca îi trebuie credit check sau unde ai locuit in trecut și tu nu ai informația asta. Și a treia am avut-o la munca când cineva vrea sa îți ia locul, te sapa pe la spate. Bineînțeles facă in așa fel sa pici tu, eram foarte ușor de manipulate, neștiind cum sta treaba aicea, eram victima din start. In general am muncit ca nebunul de mult, nu îmi pasa daca alți mă sapa sau vorbea despre mine. Primul lucru care conta e sa îmi plătesc chiria și sa avem ce manca. Trebuia sa am grija de copilul meu. Munca era singurul lucru pe care era important in ordine sa fiu pe picioarele mele ca o mama singura.

Sentimentele au fost alambicate, prima data când vi aici, te sperii pentru ca e totul nou. Și trebuie sa o iei ca un bebeluș cu primi pași, și sa înveți să mergi. Să le ei pe toate din mers. Experiențe bune sau întâmplat când mia venit cardul de Green card permanent, am fost cea mai fericita. Când am dat de cetățenie, și am făcut parte din masa asta mare din america, a fost cel mai frumos sentiment. Ști ca aparții undeva, ești acasă de atâția ani de zile. Până sa am cetățenia, m-am simțit dis conectată, am simțit ca nu aparțin nimănui. Nu sunt in nici o parte. In România nu puteam sa mă întorc și aicea, nu eram cetățean. Și undeva in sufletul tău, ești cu un picior in România și altul aicea. Întotdeauna ești undeva in mijloc, chiar a nimănui. Pana mia dat Green card am fost stresata in fiecare zi ca o-să mă duc înapoi. Cred ca toți imigranți care vin aicea ași fac fricile astea. Vrei să fi corect, dar niciodată nu ști ce poate să găsească.

Idea să locuiesc înapoi in România, nu mă face să mă simt bine. Sunt atâți ani de zile când m-am rupt de locul ala, după un număr de an pe care locuiești într-o tara, deja acolo te simți acasă, este noua casa. Nu uiți niciodată de unde ai plecat, dar nu as mai putea sa trăiesc în România. In momentul in car vezi și altceva, venind dintr-o tara comunista, știam ce am lăsat in urma dar ce aveam in fata mea era mult mai frumos. Atunci dorința ta e sa fi acolo unde este mult mai bine, mai liber, decât tara pe care ai lăsat-o. Se zice după 7 ani de zile într-o alta țară, deja țara aia devine noua ta casa. E foarte greu după atâția ani de America să mă întorc într-o țară de unde am plecat. E ca si cum maș întoarce înapoi în timp; nimeni nu vrea asta. Comunismul mia afectat viața la un alt nivel; m-am născut in el, și am crescut in el. In momentul când sa terminat și a venit democrația, nu toata lumea a înțeles ce înseamnă libertatea. În momentul când pleci dintr-o tara, realizezi ca altceva mai minunat exista decât ce ai știut tu toata viața ta. Poți sa vorbești liber, sa te exprimi, sa faci multe lucruri pe care pe perindata comunismului nu puteai sa le faci. Iți era frica și sa te gândești, poate îți aud gândurile. Însă în America, daca îți place ceva poți sa spui ca îți place, și daca nu îți place ceva..... **POTI SĂ SPUI CĂ NU ÎȚI PLACE.** Fără frica, ai dreptul sa te exprimi liber. Mie dor de România, dar nu foarte mult, este o țară forate frumoasa. Are locurile ei frumoase și minunate, dar mas duce doar să vizitez.

- Aurelia Badiu

We cling on to our culture like our life depends on it.  
Overtime that is the only thing that grounds us.



# Dimensions

The same life experienced in separate bodies  
Keeping us connected by a red and white thread  
Our soul lives in motifs when we have physically separated  
With fear and hope we march on

"You have to march on" they always say  
Holding 2 jobs and never seeing your kids  
Not knowing the language and customs  
Through the discrimination and disrespect  
"Keep your head down and endure it, it's for the family"

Make a better life for your family  
Surviving is priority number one in the jungle of man  
Jumping dimensions and hoping to come out alive  
Moving forward brings hope of never enduring the past

We fear the past yet half of our soul resides there  
Our memories shape us into who we are  
Distorting the reality of our dimensions  
Forcing the union of the two

PART THREE

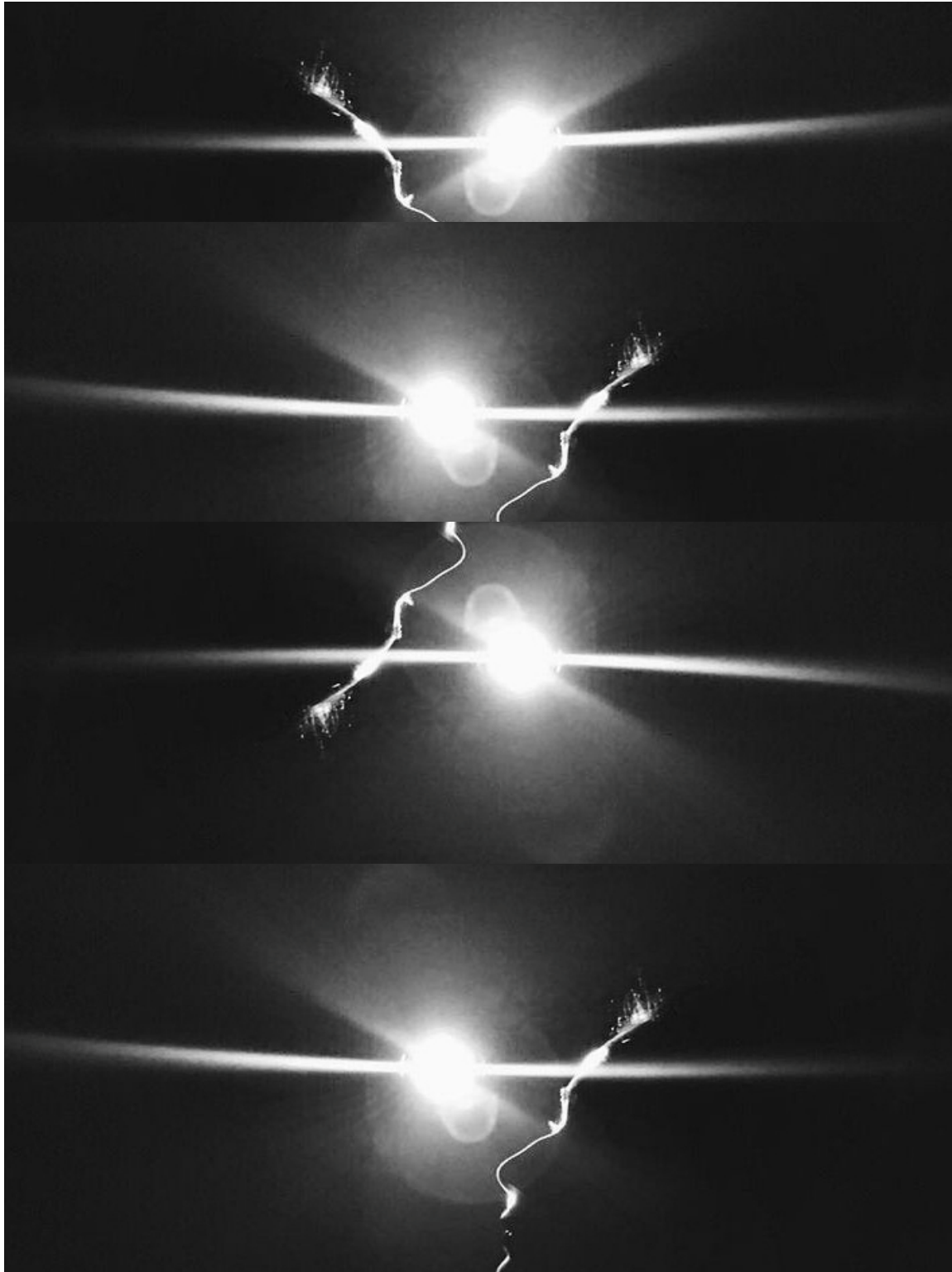
PART THREE



FIG. 17



FIG. 18



Nostalgia is the main component that keeps us tethered to our past. We create another realm where we dip our conscious from reality time to time. Its as if we don't really care what the truth of the matter comes to, we just want to exist in the past of what once was.

Migrating to a new country where one is a scared child, only clinging on to their parents, changes one forever. They discover that the fantasy of diaspora isn't what it was said to be and instantly go into survival mode. Over time the displacement, discrimination, and expectations take a toll on their mental health and sense of identity. Having to make their parents proud because "they sacrificed so much for their child to have a better future" and "upholding traditions" becomes a constant burden once a foot is placed on new soil. We miss the memories of what once was, in realization that we cannot return back. In doing so we carry around a puzzled sense of identity that we are constantly trying to piece together.

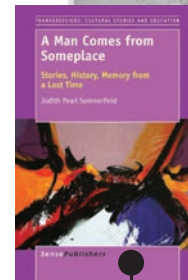
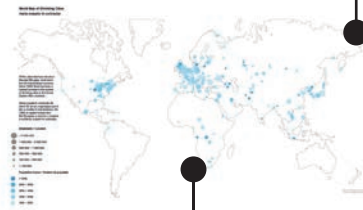
- Anca Gherghiceanu





### CULTURE & INTERVENTION

Understanding the scale and impact mass migration has on dying cities/villages. In doing so we are able to produce interventions while preserving the culture.



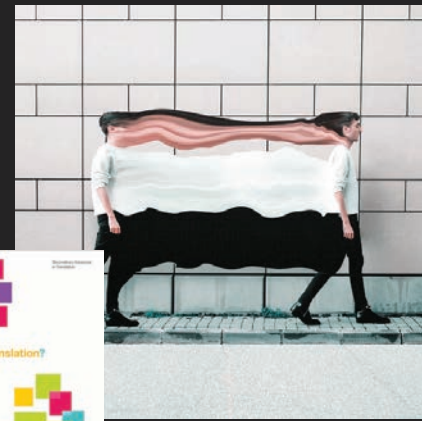
### YEARNING

One man's story of migration and refuge can be felt by many with different origins.



### MIGRATION

Global mobility in the eyes of the user through memory and unheard voices.



Sakir Yildirim



### POSITIONING

Looking at cultural translation though language, involvements, media and international affairs.

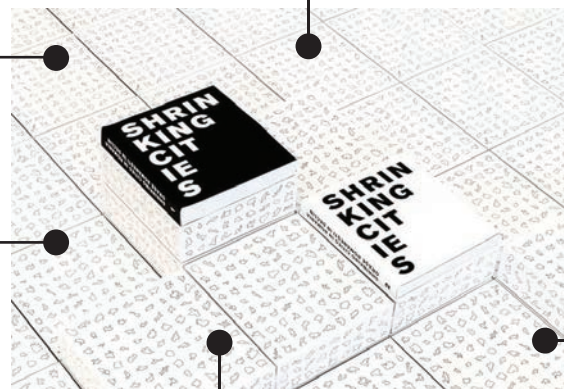


### BOUNDARIES

Emphasizes the simultaneous production of architectural objects and the environment surrounding them.

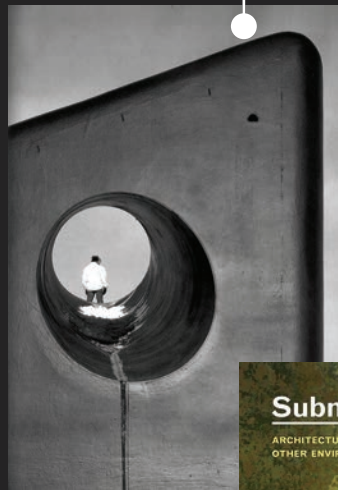
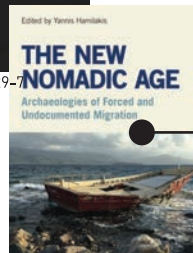
### ENVIRONMENTS

Looking at the different environments around us we can ace a place by the 5 senses and learn from them.



### EXPERIENCE

The stories of the forgotten and the artifacts that create a culture wherever one is headed.



**Abandoned** In their vulnerable state, people are left to fend for themselves. With minimal resources they struggle to uphold the community while everything around them is minimizing.

**Boundaries** Being implemented in order to be broken and redefined constantly. In doing so we remain a being of constant change, never stagnant.

**Corruption** Taking money from the underprivileged and putting it in their own pocket. Lying on international government documents and misleading the destination of the given money.

**Culture** The one thing that has a hold on our heart and unspeakably connects all of us, not only to the land but to the hardships we fought to keep the traditions going.

Traveling oceans away in search for better life. It depicts the struggle of parents in how much of an effort needs to be made in order to stay above the line and not drown in a new country with nothing.

**Migration**

The act of looking at a memory through a field of happiness. Not remembering the true events it occurred, but rather a version we tell ourselves it is better than reality.

**Nostalgia**

Weather inhabited or not, it becomes a space of transformation in which we reside for a minute. Transporting us to either a memory or another way of thinking.

**Portal**

It never truly moves in a linear line like we tell ourselves., It loops around and comes again in many shapes it desires. Having us overthink and re-imagine what is and what could've been.

**Time**

**IMAGE CREDITS**

**IMAGE CREDITS**

**IMAGE CREDITS**

**IMAGE CREDITS**

**IMAGE CREDITS**

**IMAGE CREDITS**

**IMAGE CREDITS**

**IMAGE CREDITS**

**Mihnea Turcu**

Figure 1 pg 20

Figure 2 pg 24

Figure 4 pg 32

Figure 5 pg 40

Figure 7 pg 53

Figure 9 pg 65

**Tudor Constantinescu**

Figure 3 pg 28

Figure 6 pg 44

Figure 8 pg 56

**Costica Acsinte**

Figure 10 pg 72

Figure 11 pg 73

Figure 12 pg 74

Figure 13 pg 75

**Romanian Journal**

Figure 14 pg 151

**Corbis**

Figure 15 pg 152

**Bianca Popescu**

Figure 16 pg 171

**Peter Kayafas**

Figure 17 pg 174

Figure 18 pg 176