



# "Modern Nomads": Unfolding Domesticity

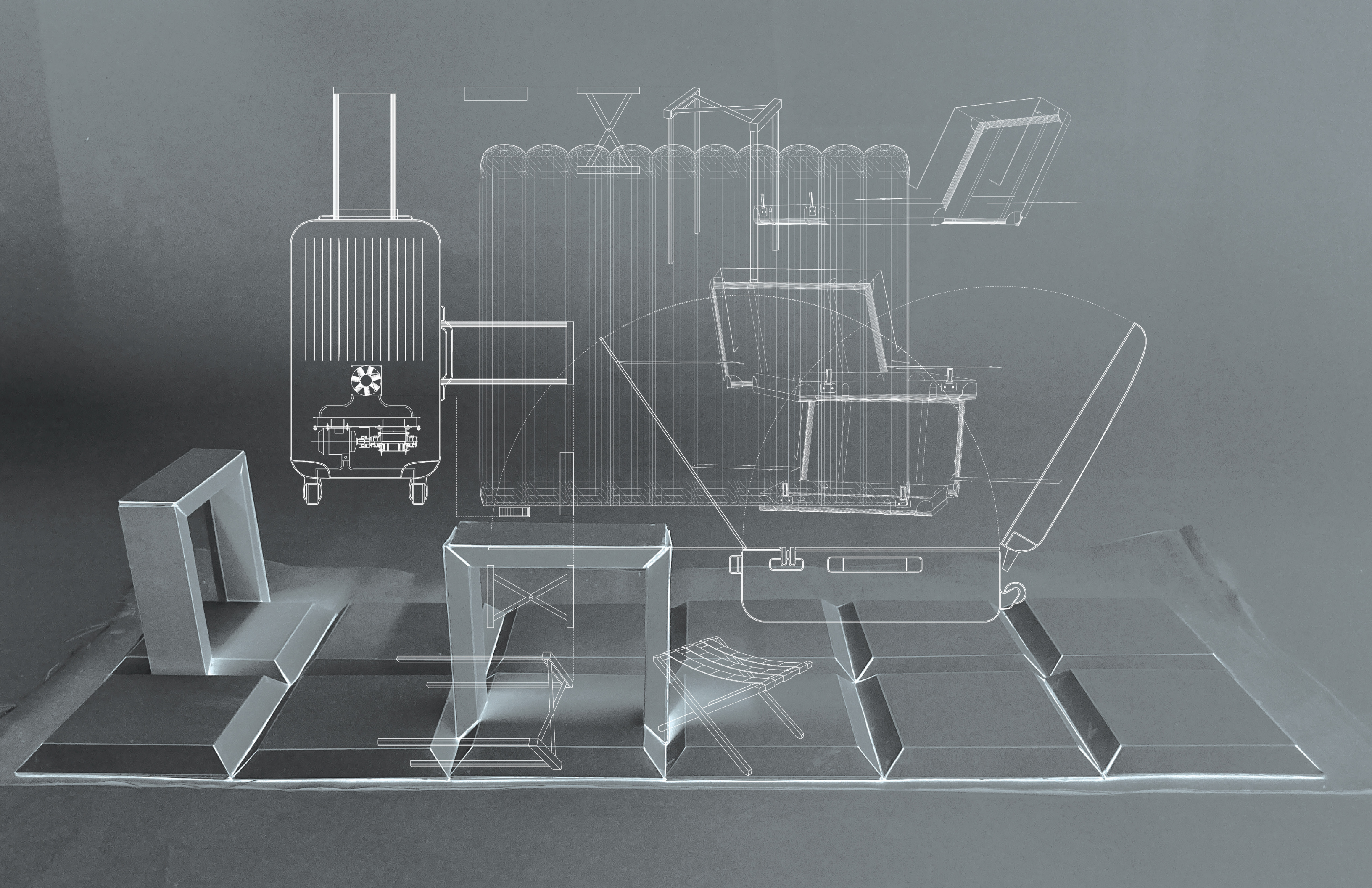
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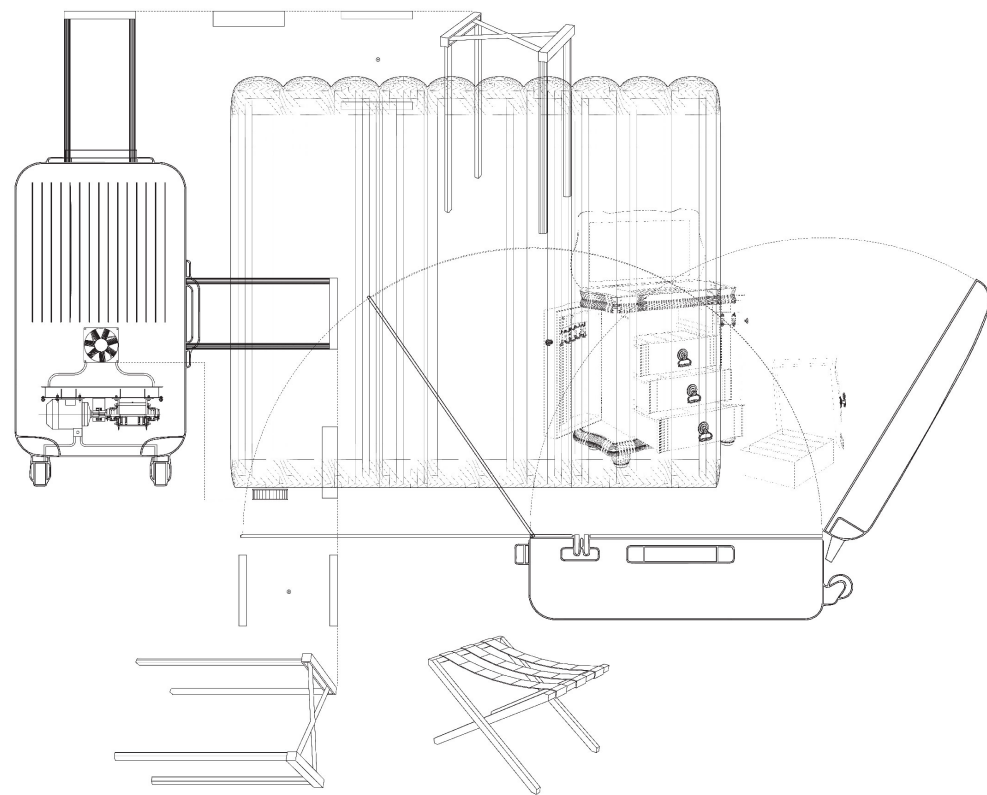
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Abstract:

A project that rethinks domesticity through the lens of mobility, focusing on curating and unfolding personal narratives within the confines of a suitcase. Domesticity, as I perceive it, transcends static locations and is a dynamic accumulation of individual and collective histories shaped by intimate connections between, but not limited to, human and non-humans. In this context, the suitcase symbolizes both confinement and autonomy, embodying the transient nature and fluidity of modern life.

The project draws inspiration from the scrutiny of x-ray security checks, where individuals and their suitcases undergo examination. The suitcase becomes a focal point for exploring identity formation under transient environments and socially constructed confinements. By proposing a collection of mobile suitcases capable of transforming into a personalized domestic space, the suitcase is a potential yet unstable vessel that can invite contemplation on the smallest viable unit of personal autonomy within spatial constraints through the act of packing, unpacking, shaping, adorning, showcasing, etc. It prompts reflection on the smallest unit of spatial autonomy an individual can possess and the act of curating, decorating, and displaying within that confinement, the thesis aims to stimulate discussions around the notions of rootedness and permanence around domesticity, as well as the creation of spaces from a suitcase and the potential for expanding individual autonomy within such constraints.

Keywords:

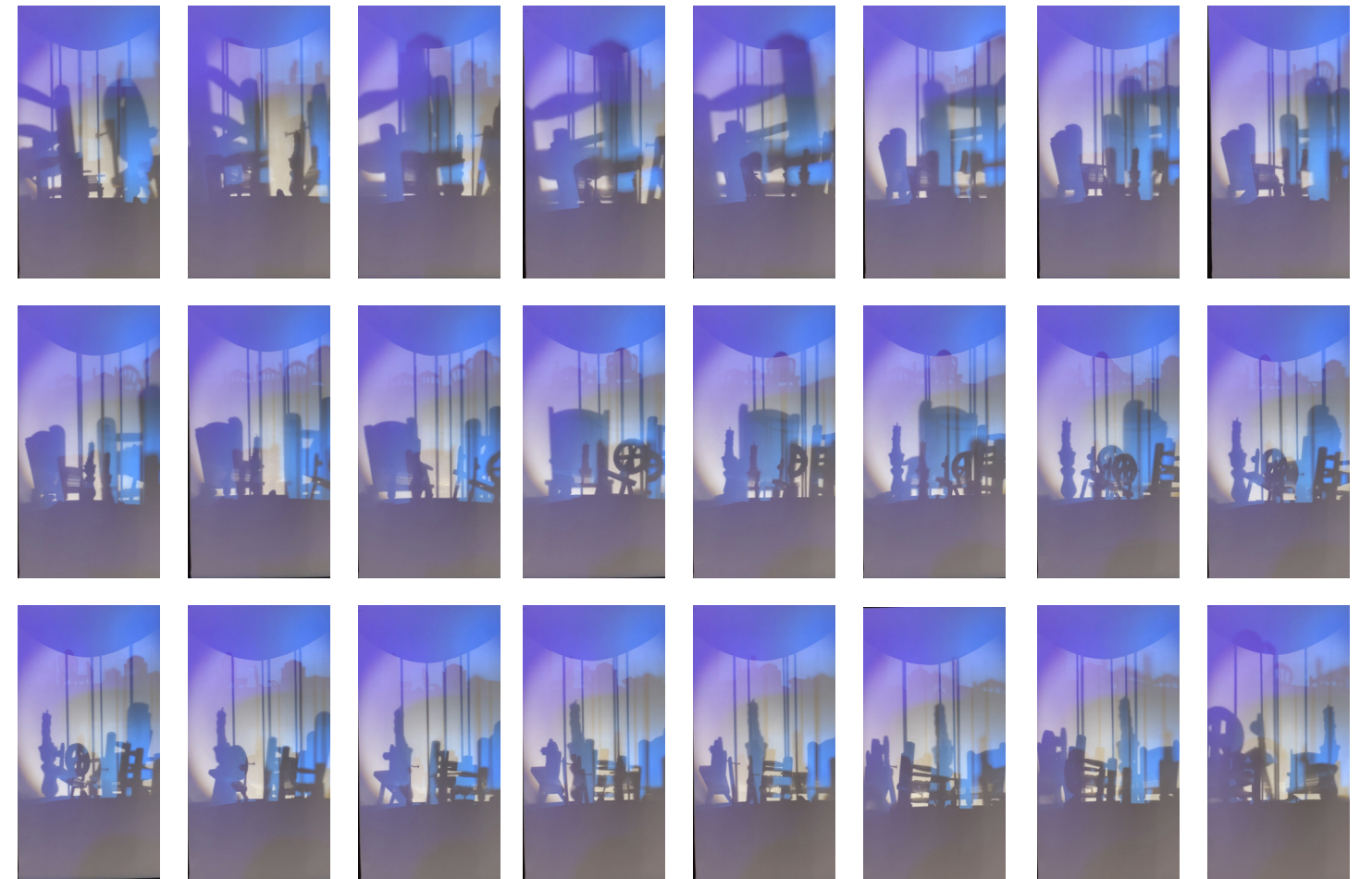
Domesticity, spatial autonomy, interiority, intimacy, mobility, packing, unpacking



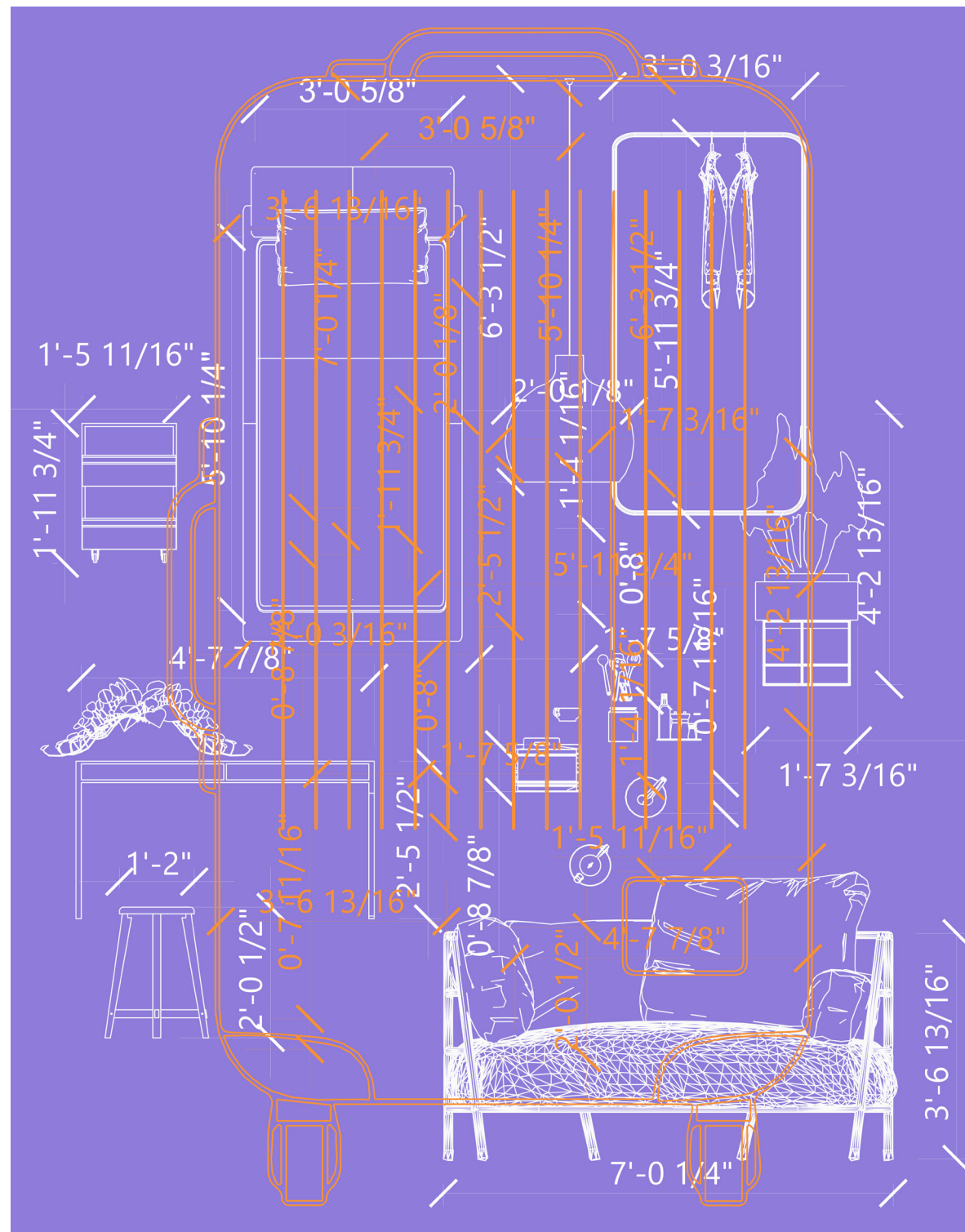
## The Domestic Mystique

Thesis probe  
moving lightbox installation, 2023

The domestic space, a ubiquitous backdrop in architectural encounters, serves as a canvas reflecting the economic, social, cultural, and political conditions of a given era. This intimate sphere encapsulates the essence of family as a social unit, portraying a complex narrative molded by the interplay of labor, intimacy, and desire. The objective is to explore historical and contemporary domestic life examples, envisioning models that align with evolving needs. For many, domestic space is the most common everyday encounter of architecture, and how the type of architecture works as the reflector. Domestic space can also reflect the various of economic, social, cultural, and political conditions of a particular period, such as the salon of the Victorian homethe time. The notion of domesticity being the representation of the private sphere of human life also determines the role of domesticity being a reflector of the structure of understanding family as a unit. Throughout everyday life, the domestic sphere weaves a complex narrative that unfolds through the interplay of labor, intimacy, and desire. As our lives follow the routinely conducted patterns, the domestic realm can be seen as a platform where societal changes manifest at a pace parallel to a series of wider transformations.

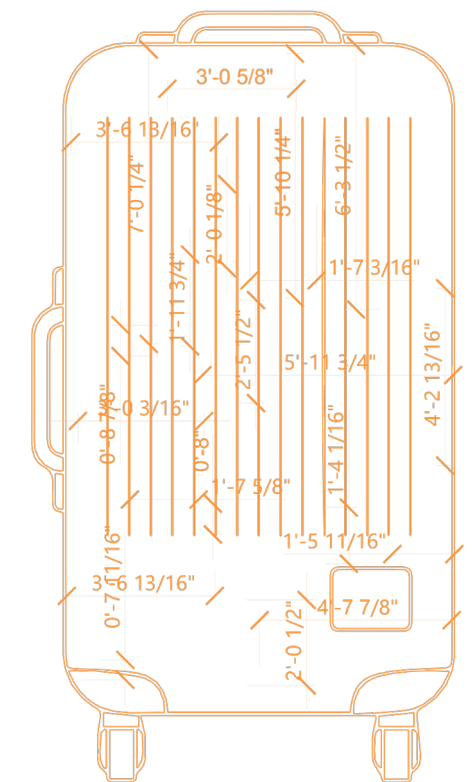
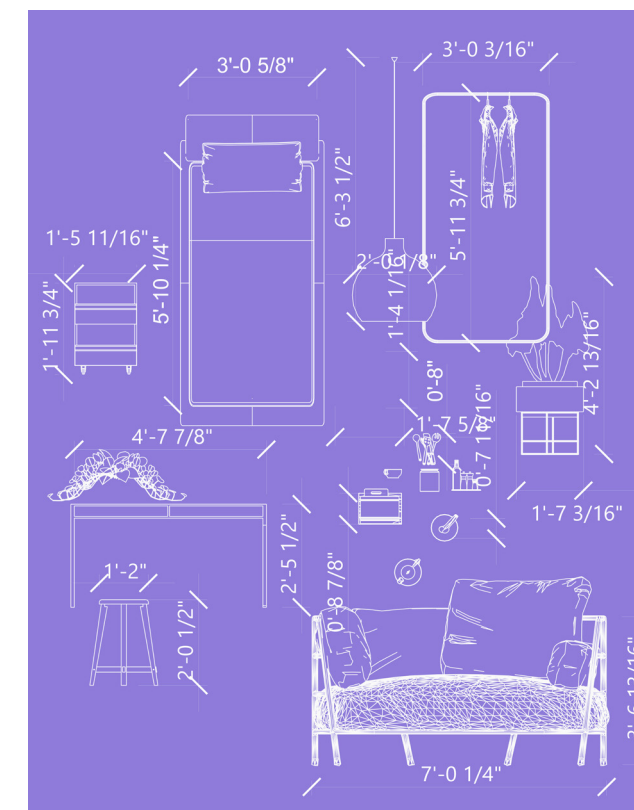






The inspiration is from the x-ray security check process, during which both the human and the suitcase undergo scrutiny, in a sense, the suitcase accompanies us and we individuals also accompany ourselves. The suitcase becomes a major element in my project. The suitcase represents confinements that one has to bear. It is symbolic and a focal point for examining how individuals navigate the world and how their identity is perceived and accepted. In this context, the suitcase is a physical representation and a metaphor of one's identity, containing personal belongings and essentials while on the move, in the context of transient lives.

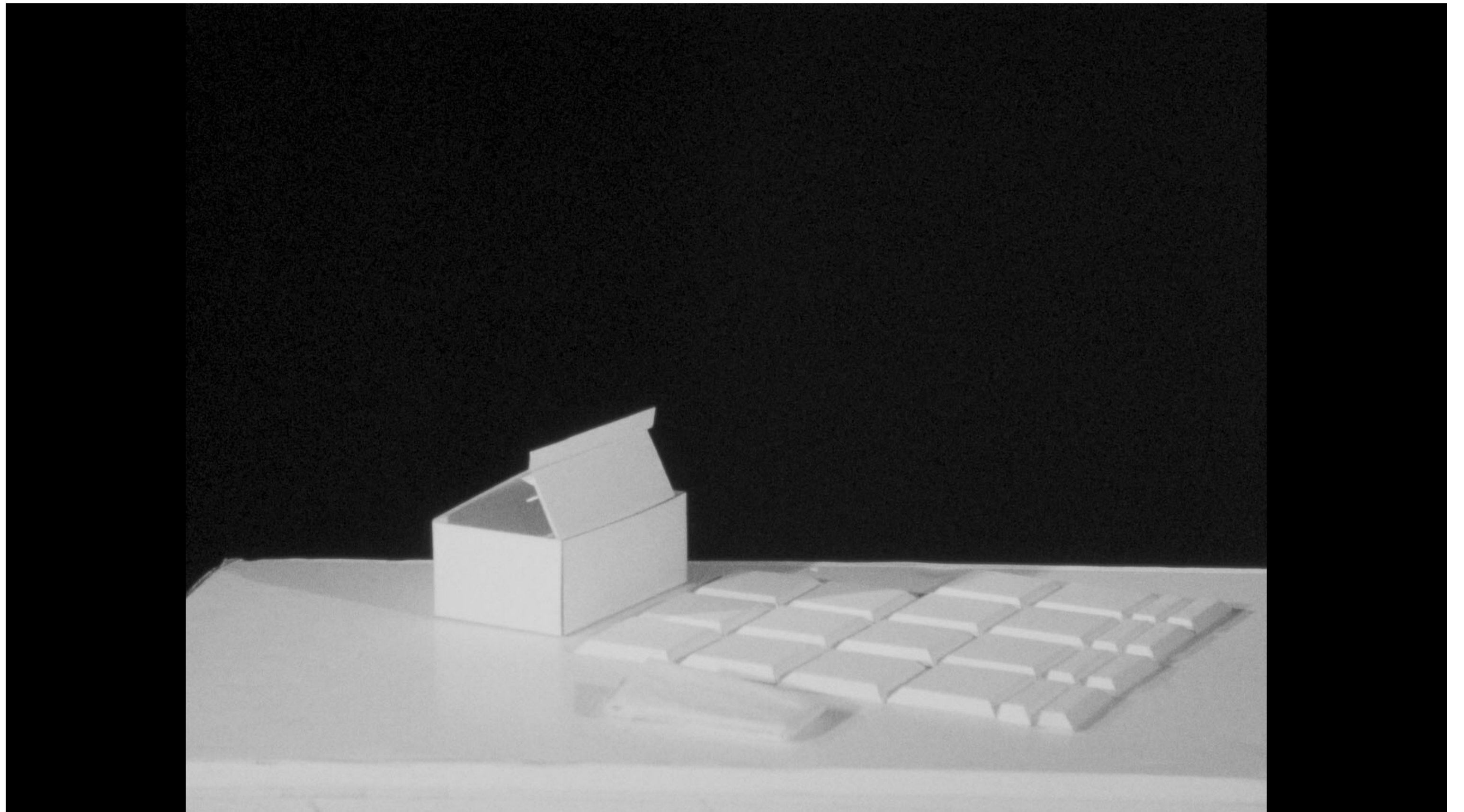
I define domesticity as an accumulation of the individual and collective histories of people who have closely connected relationships and have been bonded in a domestic space. But with the usually inevitable separations, the domesticity of a collective history will then, at some point, become one's domesticity, which does not stay in one place, and constantly on the move, when settlement is not a given entitlement, one can, of course, get rid of the idea of holding a sense of belonging, but could also think of a way to archive and possess the



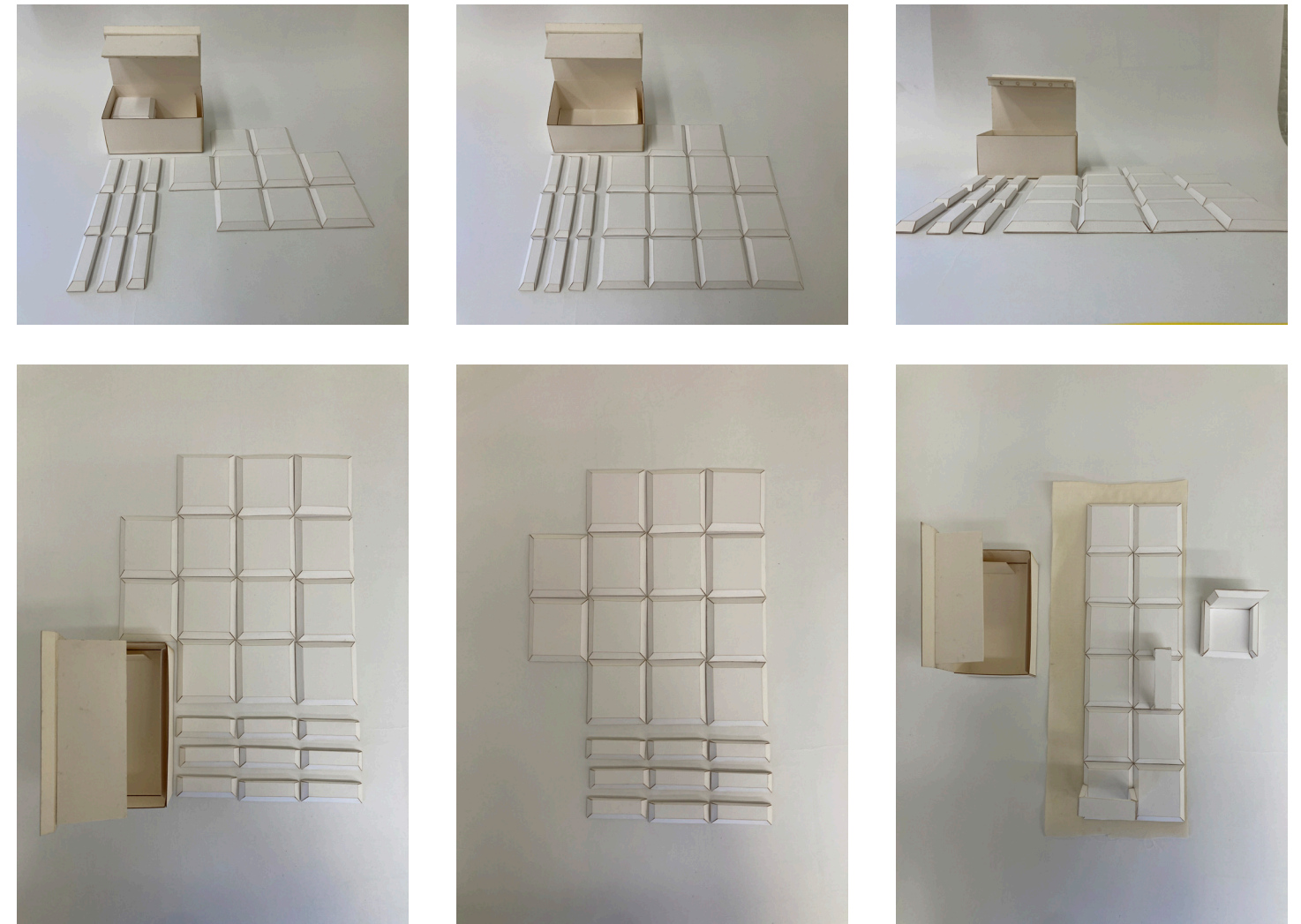
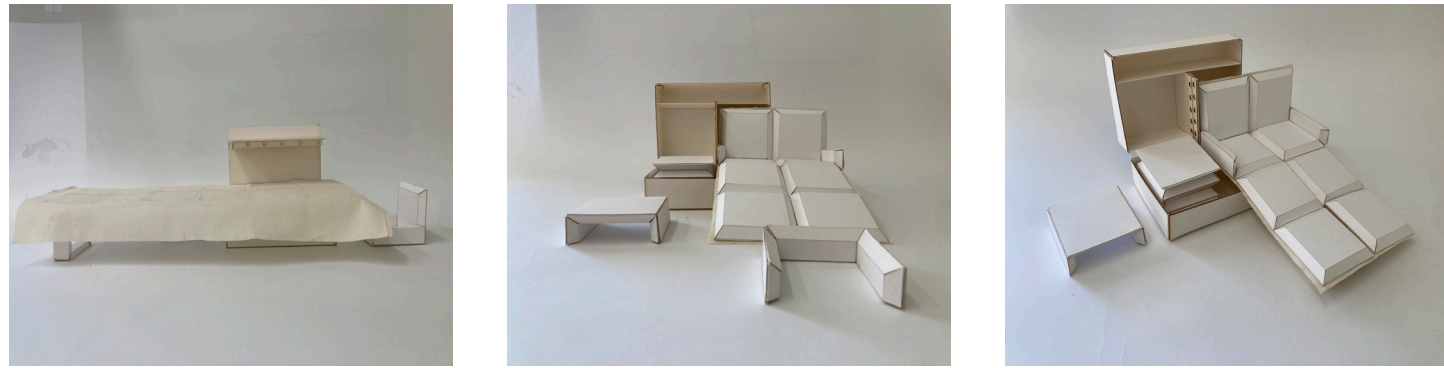






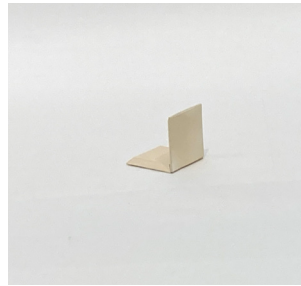
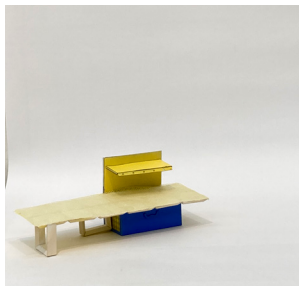
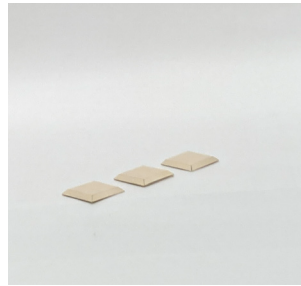
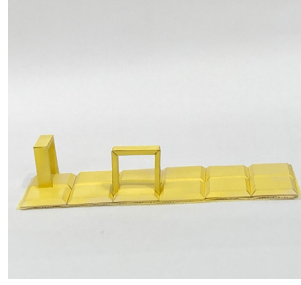
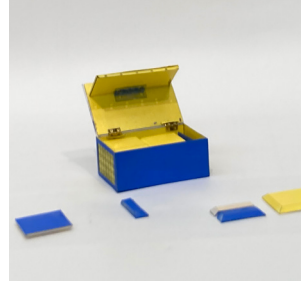
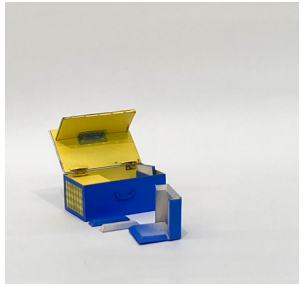
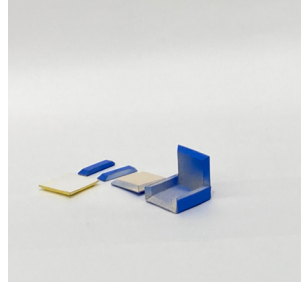
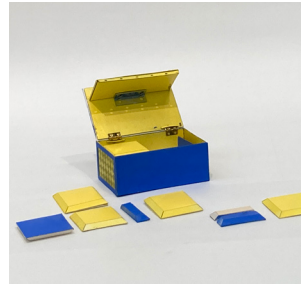
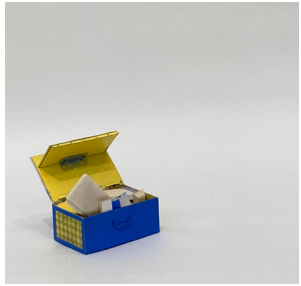
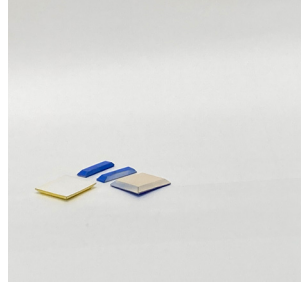
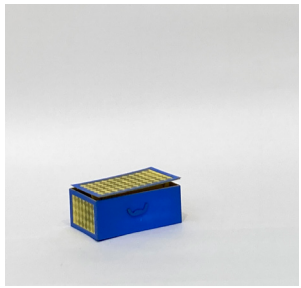
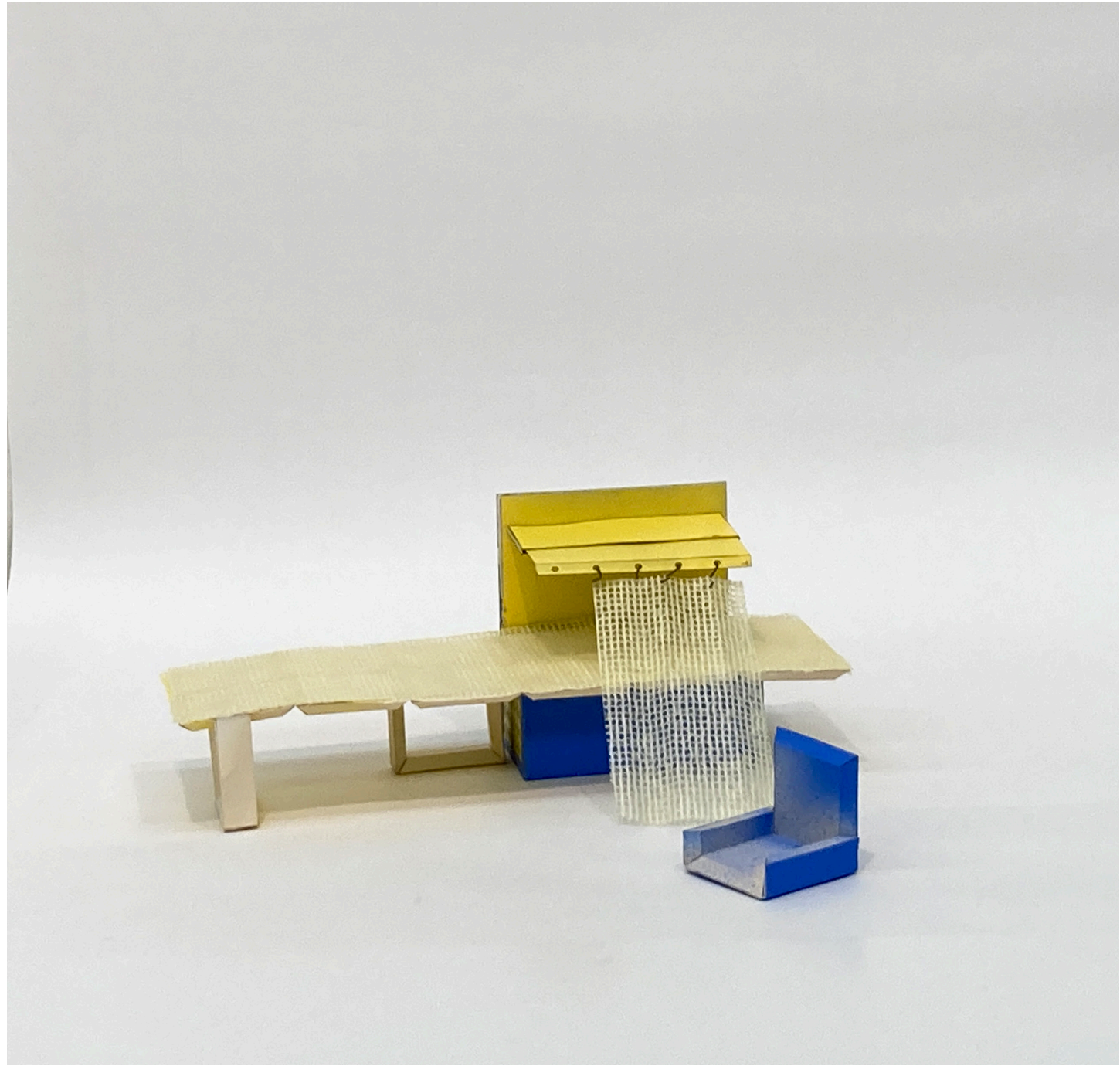




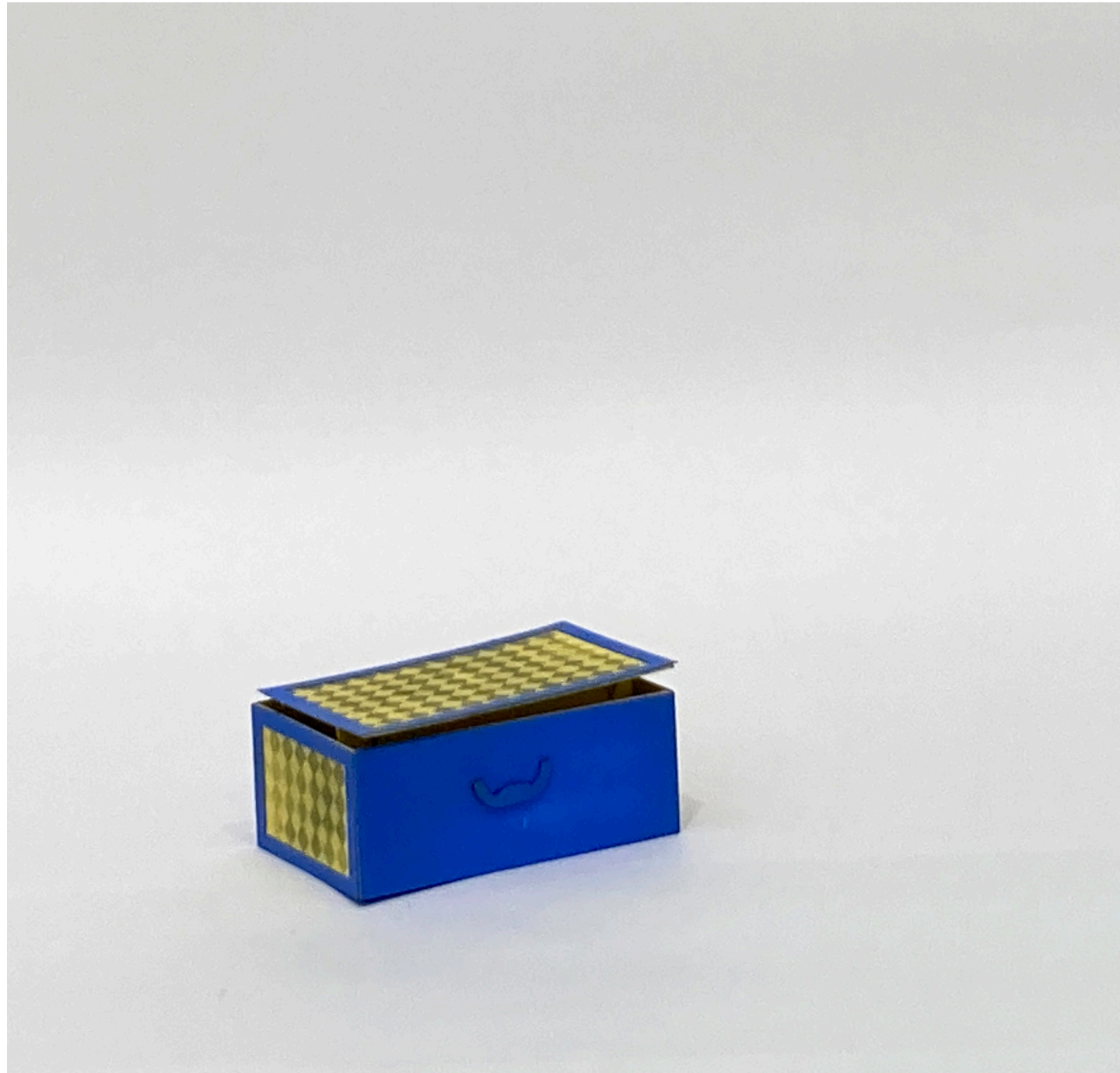


At its core, the project asks whether a suitcase can serve as a platform for displaying an individual's attachment to their domestic space, even when physical ownership and permanent settlement is not always possible. It considers the inclusion and exclusion inherent in the act of packing, unpacking, display, showcasing, etc.









1. What does domesticity mean to you? Especially if you consider yourself familiar with transient lives or are constantly moving.

For someone like me who often travels away from home, domesticity serves as a strong support, a backbone. No matter how I am outside, I always have the feeling that if I feel uneasy, at least when I return home, I can be carefree for a while. Home is the only place where the door is always open for me, where I can stay as long as I want without incurring extra costs (such as adhering to the landlord's rules when staying elsewhere, or worrying about living expenses, etc.)

2. In your mind, what is the smallest unit of spatial autonomy that one as an individual can possess? (except the individuals themselves). (Context: My thesis studies a suitcase of a carry-on size as the constraint with the potential to expand into a domestic space for an individual)

The smallest unit I can think of is a single-person sleeping bag. Inside this bag, there's a pillow that can be carried, and when unfolded, it becomes a simple sleeping space. I believe the sleeping space is the most private part and also the most important part of a home. Even if I have to sacrifice some other spaces for various reasons (such as a study room), I must ensure that I have a place of my own to sleep.

3. Is there one object(or several) that makes you feel home-like wherever you are, that can suddenly bring you a sense of domestic life? Or can you tell me if there's something you always bring with you even though you are not settled anywhere? Are there any activities that can bring you the same feeling of being in a domestic space even though you are not at home or in a long-settled home? (For example, I've been carrying a duvet cover with snowman patterns on it, which my mom made for me.)

Photo albums (both physical and electronic), an aroma diffuser with commonly used essential oils. This will help maintain the familiar scent of home.





1. What does domesticity mean to you? Especially if you are familiar with transient lives or are constantly on the move.

I think domesticity means having a space of my own, that space is a physical space, but in that physical space specifically, I can, for example, listen to music or watch a specific drama that I would not want others to, let's say, know or micromanage in whatever way, and will make me feel home immediately, even when I'm completely elsewhere, I think it also means to me a space of self-murmuring, I always associate domesticity with a space where I can close the curtain and dance to the music, or sing a song without worrying about needing to perform myself in a certain way. Having things arranged in a way I want, I have a specific way of organizing my things and I would like to have that, and for me, that specific spatial configuration, and specific mode of arrangement, immediately evokes domesticity even when I'm in a public space, let's say an office space, a table. And sound plays an important role as well, I think quietness, silence, relative silence, and minor noise, would be what a domestic space is like for me.

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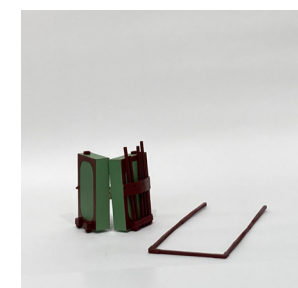
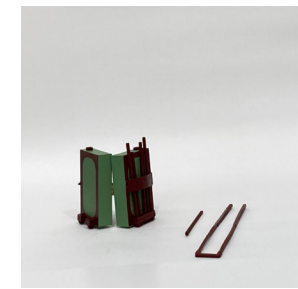
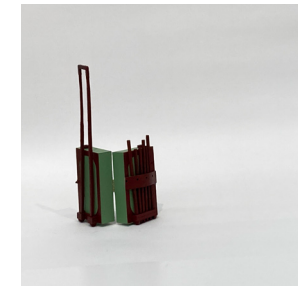
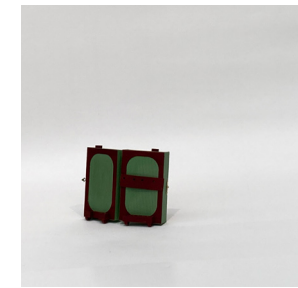
I think the smallest unit of spatial autonomy I have is within the reach of my hands, so anything within the reach of my hand, I see as part of my autonomy, and this reachable space, or spreadable space, let's say, is also where I find most comfortable, so if I have that space, I'll be in that sort of space where I can push things away you know, pull things in, but also now that I think further, maybe, visible space, anything that I can see, anything that my eyesight reaches. Somehow I might have that autonomy over, as long as, for example, as I see something in a distance that I feel I don't like, I can walk there to take it away, but of course, when I see, I'm facing a specific direction, but that for me is more than enough actually, so if I'm sitting down facing north, the visible space, norther than me, would be the space where I have spatial autonomy. I don't need the same length of space extending southward, so at the back, maybe someone's sitting and I cannot control that, but as long as within my visible space in the front, it's cleared, I am happy.

3. Is there one object(or several) that makes you feel home-like wherever you are, that can suddenly bring you a sense of domestic life? Or can you tell me if there's something you always bring with you even though you are not settled anywhere? Are there any activities that can bring you the same feeling of being in a domestic space even though you are not at home or in a long-settled home? (For example, I've been carrying a duvet cover with snowman patterns on it, which my mom made for me.)



Music definitely, I think music plays an important role, and old songs for me specifically, even now I feel listening to them soothes me immediately,

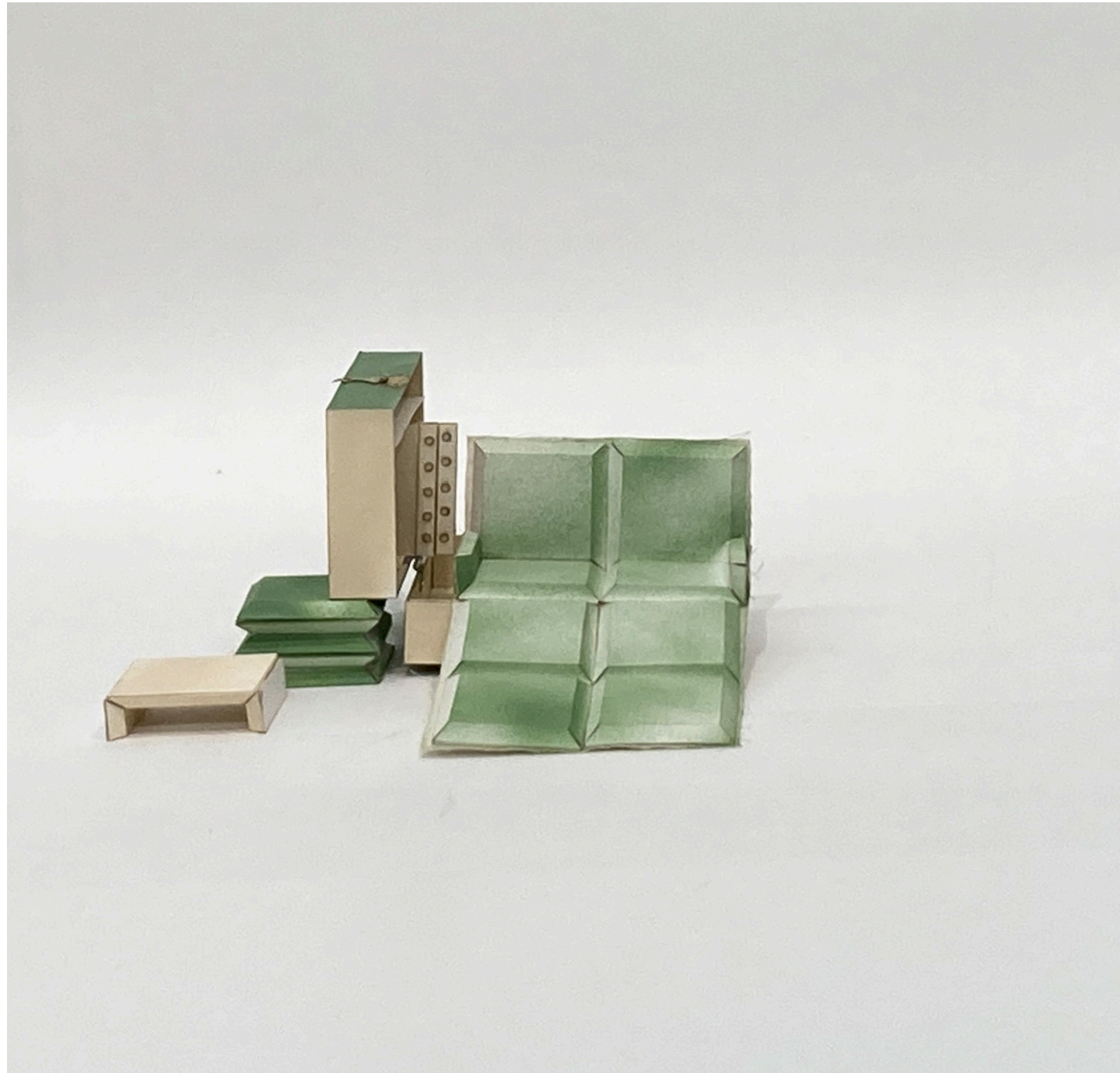
An object, maybe my laptop, my phone, well, they don't necessarily give a home-like feeling. I think also earrings and necklaces, accessories for me are very much the feeling of, yeah this is what I wore when I was in high school or when I was in college, This is a gift from my mother when I reached eighteen, I have this beautiful pouch? Is that what you call it? A brooch, that I always carry with me, and this beautiful stone bracelet that I always wear, these things make me feel at home, I guess that's it!











1. What does domesticity mean to you? Especially if you consider yourself familiar with transient lives or are constantly moving.

I think the first question would be about my control over this place, meaning whatever I do, it must have some impact, directly affecting the environment. I believe this is the source of domesticity. And when I'm in this environment, I tend to relax more, doing things that make me feel cozy.

2. In your mind, what is the smallest unit of spatial autonomy that one as an individual can possess? (except the individuals themselves). (Context: My thesis studies a suitcase of a carry-on size as the constraint with the potential to expand into a domestic space for an individual)

If it's about size, I'm not sure which one specifically, is it in terms of spatial or physical dimensions? If so, you could mention things like makeup bags, pencil cases, the bag you carry when going out, small backpacks, and then as large as, for example, your suitcase, or even larger like a decoration on a table in your house, or the arrangement of utensils and condiments in your kitchen. These include salt, soy sauce, and the arrangement of pots and pans. I think all of these would count, and if we expand further, it's like the arrangement of items in each room, one by one. I think all of these are in line with what you're talking about. For instance, on a bag, you can hang some accessories you like, right? You're basically customizing the bag yourself.

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There's nothing particularly special, but in terms of specific behaviors, it might involve playing music through a Bluetooth speaker, listening to podcasts while doing chores like mopping doing laundry, or hanging clothes.







