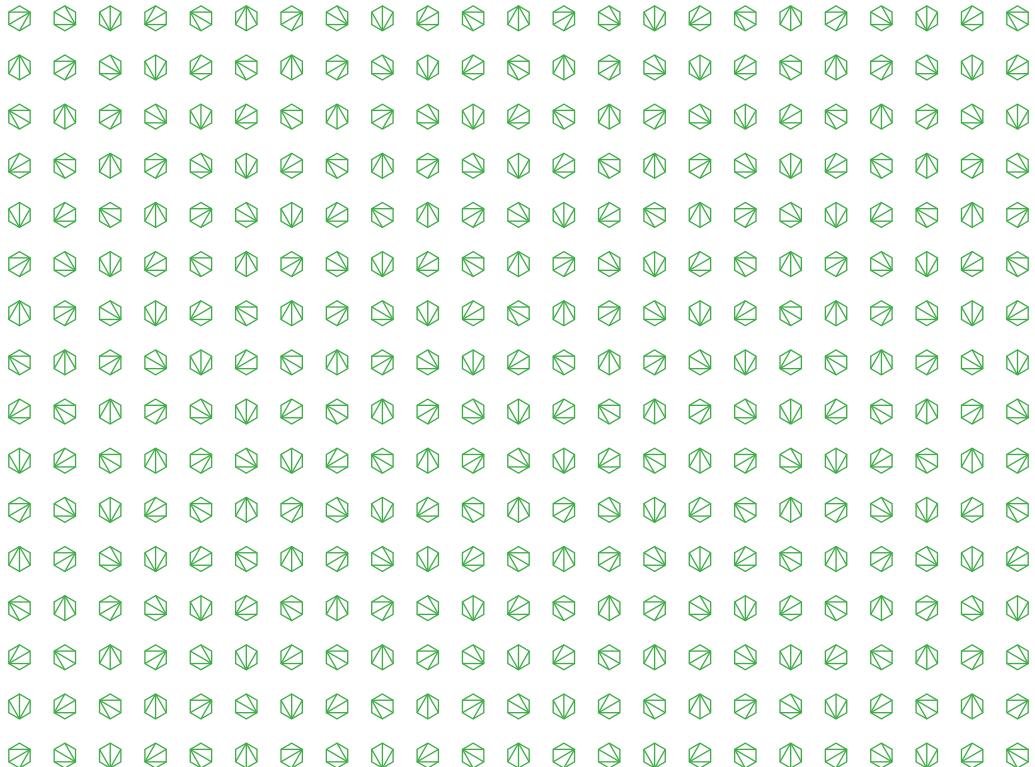


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Exquisite corpse as vertical densification

Cities will continue to evolve into densely populated areas. For that reason, cities of the future need to admit a gradual transformation, the unpredictable shifts in spatial and social structures are intrinsic to organic growth. As an experimental response to the urban expansion conditions, the purpose of this studio is to think about vertical densification as a response of the urban expansion phenomena.

After a dérive in the streets of Porto, the students did a survey as an archaeological analysis of the different typologies found in the walked tour, combining the exactitude of the existing context with the abstraction or imaginary reproductions of the typologies. Following individual work, the aim was to combine each layer in an exquisite corpse collective exercise and build a model.

To translate the city into a vertical hybrid; choose typology/use and site; make a thorough survey plan and dissect the locus typologies and specific uses, in order to design new possible connections. A taxonomy of a specific urban use: observe and identify its components and their functions; track their evolution and its causes; and project these conclusions into a slice of the chance-based compound model.

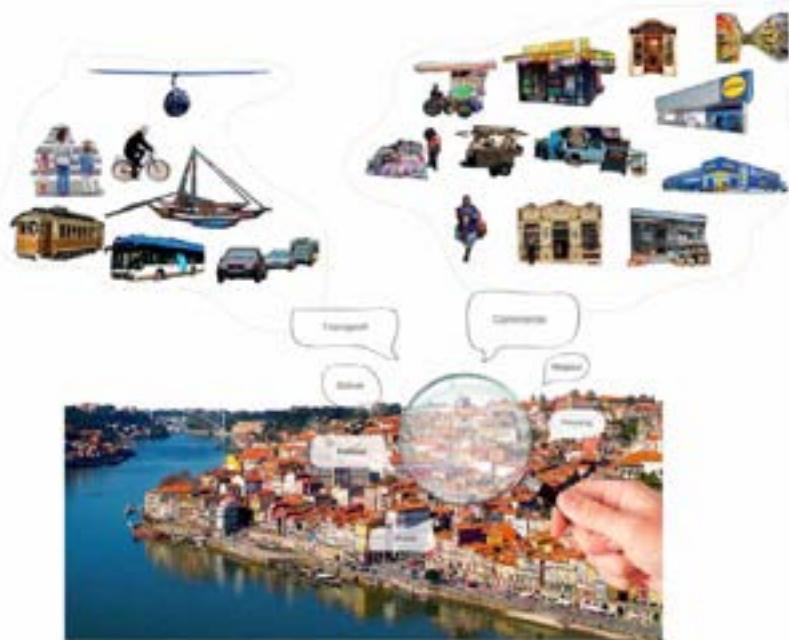
The idea of the exquisite corpse was to explore what happened when combining individual typologies in a non-obvious pattern. After the dérive's empirical survey and dissecting the urban behavior of individual local typologies (perhaps extrapolated with a global resemblance, or tied to exclusively local characteristics), the studio focused on abstracting and combining the spatial uses, re-inventing their relationships, forging a dialogue between each student and each space.

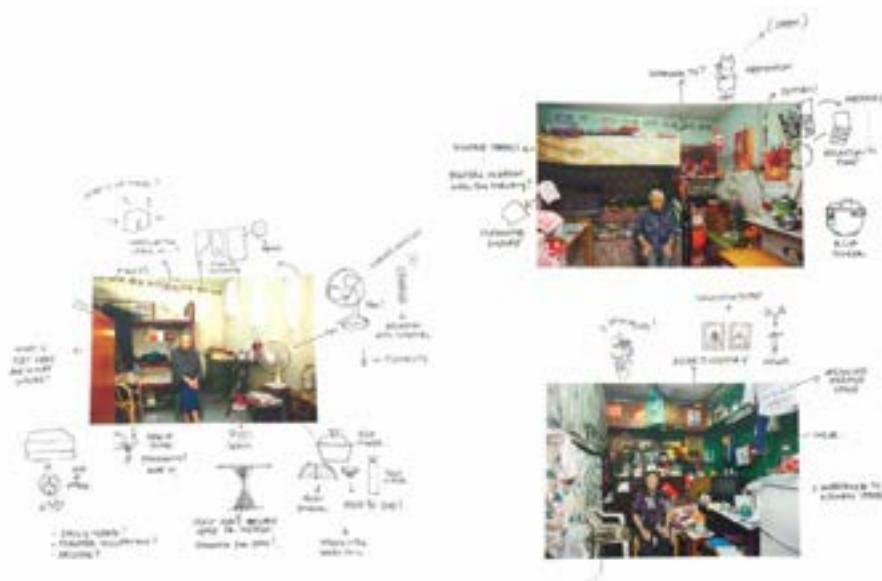
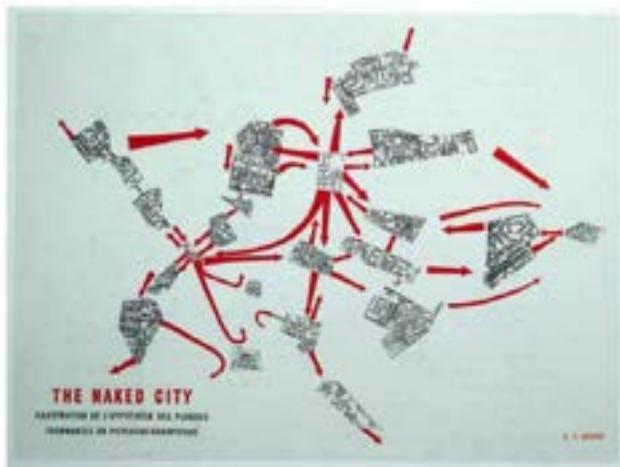
Archaeologically identified periods, layers, architectural features, social behaviours, and compositions translated into a search to find connections, similarities, archetypes, methods, explanations. Then, the students could speculate and project an eclectic densified vertical growth... an exquisite corpse building!

The spontaneity of the interactions between the student's analyses generates new spatial configurations in each project's margins: newly generated typologies, or a graft typologies & hybridization of uses; a sequence of diverse expressions of the same typology, or maybe individual components re imagined. We present this model underlining present taxonomy of space true to the collective improvised densification and interaction.

Even when things appear to be incompatible, the key is to work with this uncertainty and explore the possible connections and relations between the spaces. It is in this ground that we will have to improvise as architects of the future of densely populated urban areas.

The collaged model is a surreal poem that speculates about the possible structure of a projective urban scenario. Superposition and stratified development... Architecture here presents itself as an abstract registration of the human urban scenario and its uses, and a powerful evaluation of structure.

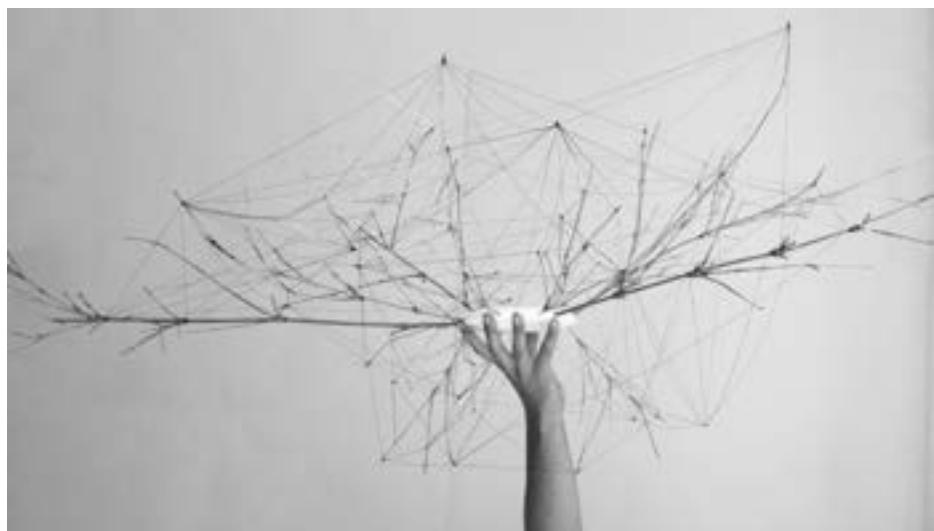




Martino Stelzer

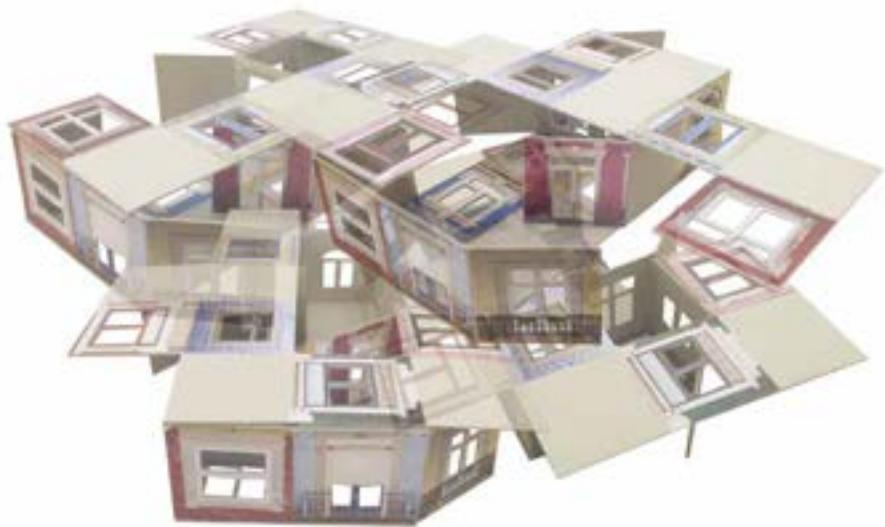
When I arrived to Porto, one of the first things that I noticed was the inefficiency of **public transportation**. The different typologies of public facilities were not bound together and not well organized. My idea of future living is formed by vertical cities connected by an intricate grid of circulation and transportation systems managed by a single company. The aim of the project is to let people move as fast as possible and the spaces are thought in a way that other functions are not interfering with the main one.

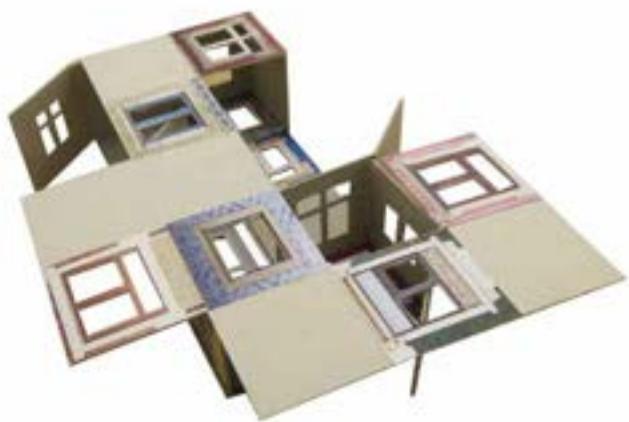




Patricia Sobreira

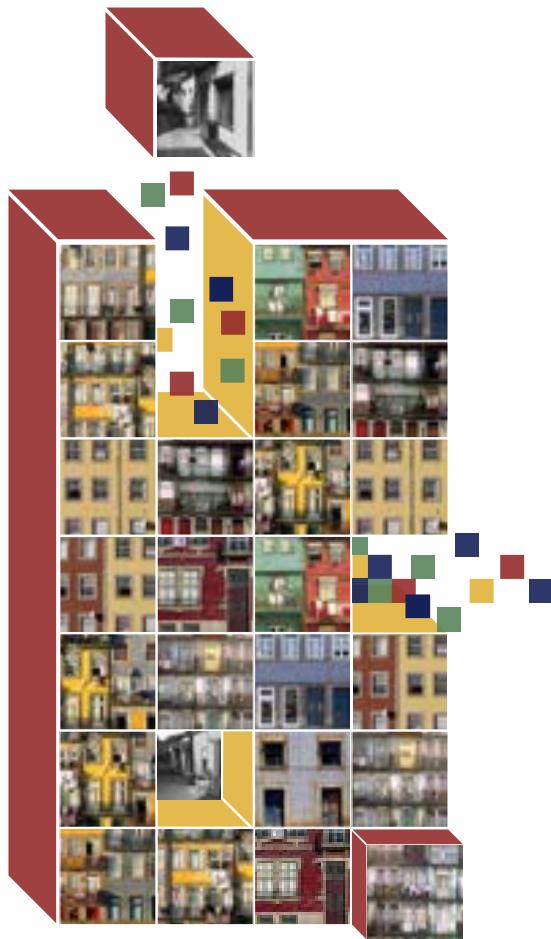
The idea of creating a view point came from the observation of the contrast between old and new architecture in Porto. What happens with old structures and abandoned houses that are just empty? They give a new sense at the relationship between nature and architecture. Those walls have the strength of framing the nature, seeing the outside from the outside: it is not the landscape that surrounds architecture, but the **forgotten windows** that frame nature, so we have a view point. This project is a tribute to the ruins of Porto that frame the landscape, making abstract walls with windows that frame nature for whom is contemplating, while in turn also framing the people who are watching the city.

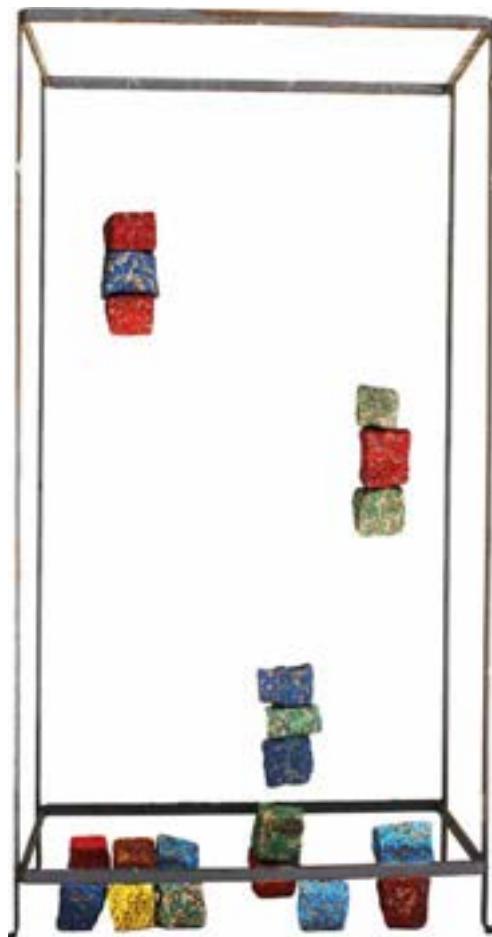




Pedro Santos

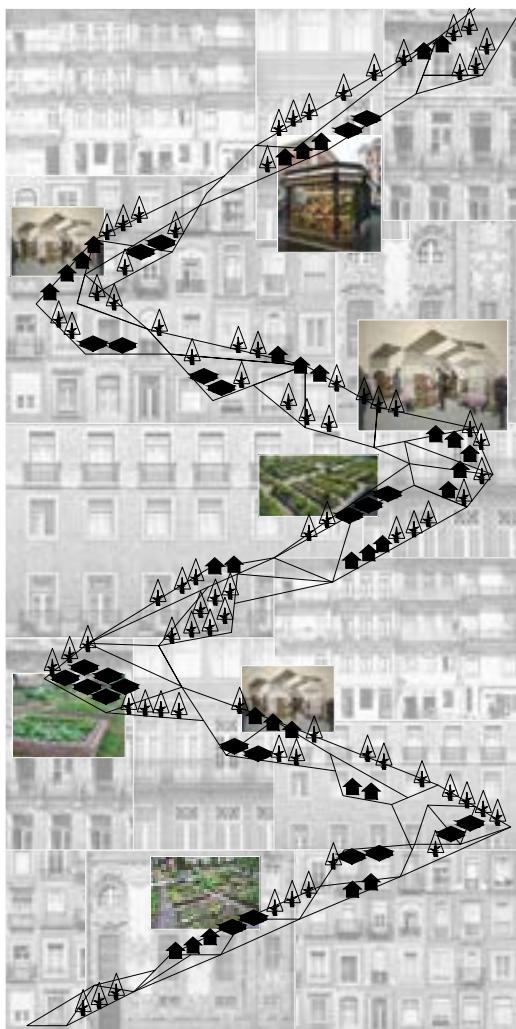
The “**ilhas**” of Porto represent an informal housing typology that is characterized by its organic and improvised organization, economic construction and compact development within the city blocks. These spaces are shown as possible densification elements for the contemporary city, such as in the case studied, for the vertical city. The model constructed thus represents these types with an equally compact and organic material disposed in the vertical void, assuming different identities through colors and varied textures.

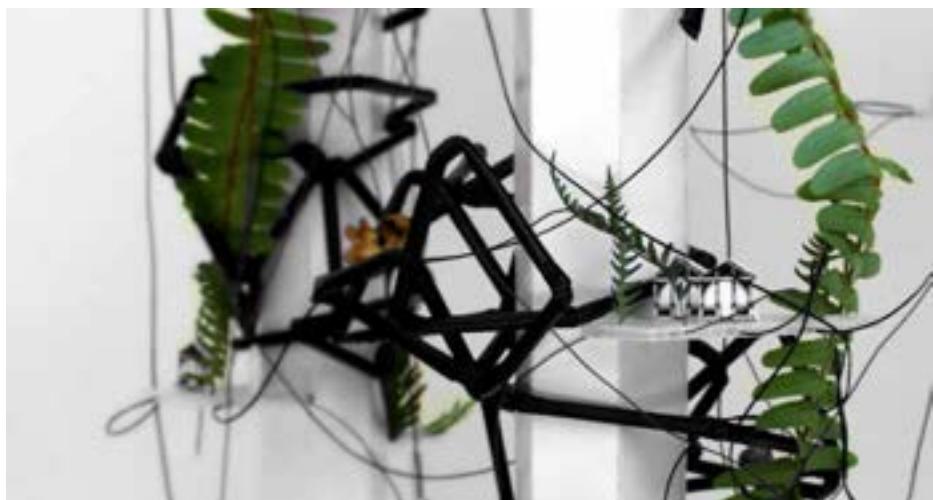




Marina Zivaljevic

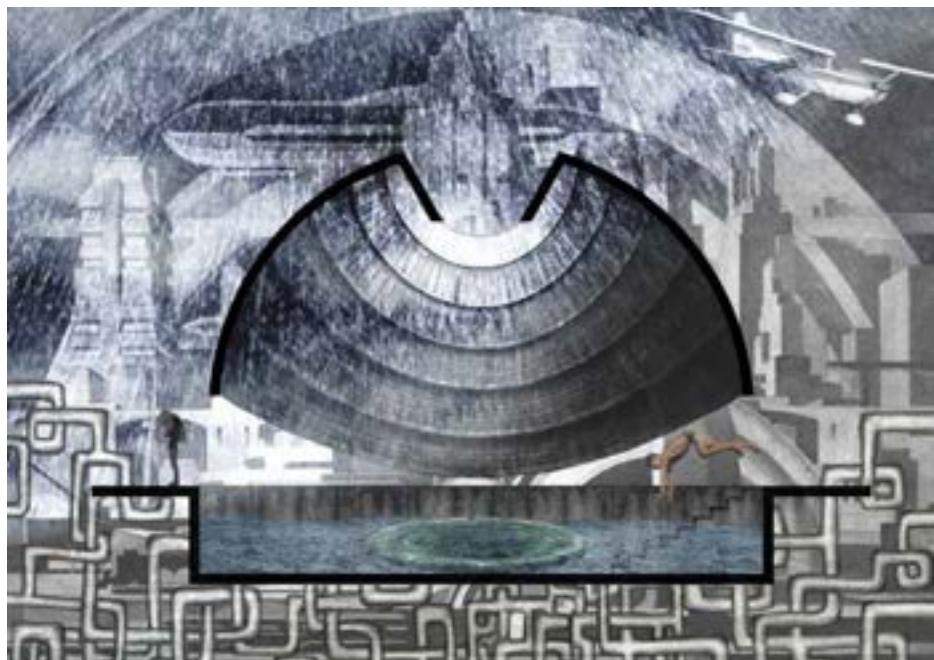
The project represents an exploration of the **market** as an important element of everyday life for the local community and how its role in the past could be adapted and integrated in the future. Given that most of the human population already lives in urban areas, and the trend is expected to continue, the chosen typology of traditional markets should be re-thought and re-imagined. The main idea is creating a ramp-like street which serves as an open public space, both for communication, and as community gardens and selling units. In that way the vertical city of the future could be easily accessible, and most importantly, self-sufficient.

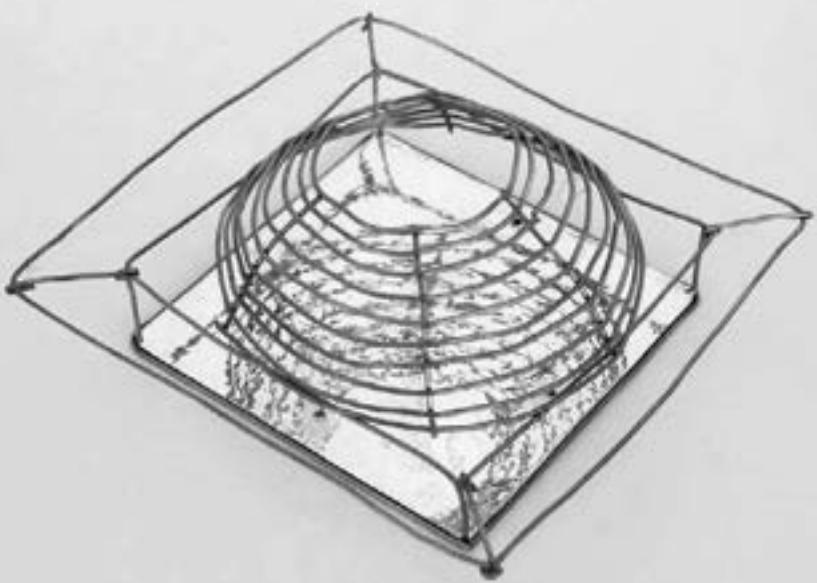




Silvia Ponte

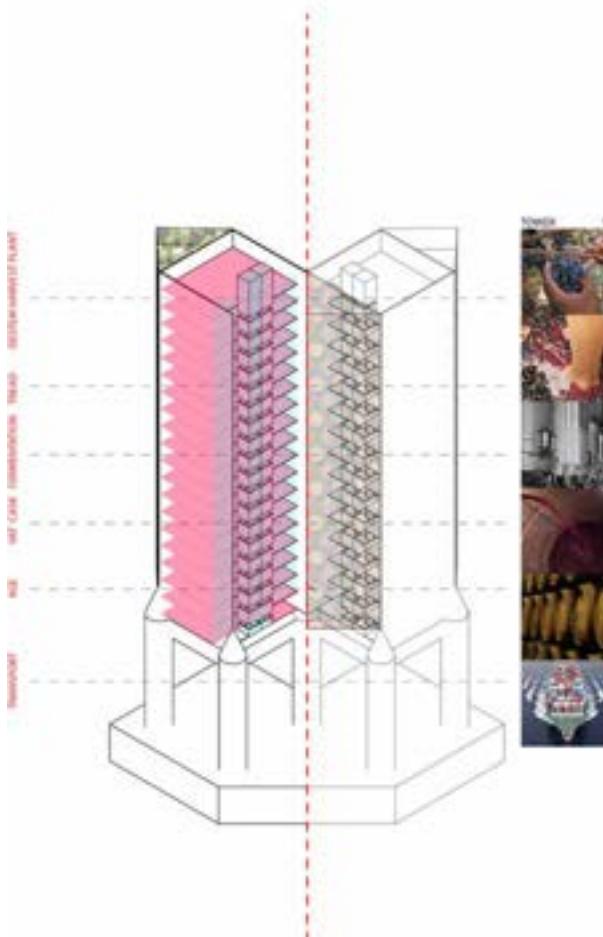
Water tanks were once indispensable elements, but are still important today. Their aim was to provide water to the population, to bring water to houses and public places such as washhouses; they were also defining the border of the old city. Now their function has changed: they are usually located in a square and considered a decoration; they are even sometimes used for entertainment. Throughout the city of Porto some water tanks are still being used for laundry cleaning and their shape has been renovated. Starting from this point, I thought about what their role in a vertical city could be. What I imagined is a huge water tank placed on the rooftop of the structure, distributing the collected rain water to the whole building in an ecological way. It could also be a public space, where people can go enjoy the water.





Cody Blevins

Recognized as Portugal's first global city, Porto having the nation's second highest population density is set to inevitably outgrow the confines of its 41.42 km² area. The vertical **winery** is an attempt to delay the process. The networks of wine cellars across the Rio Douro in Villa Nova De Gaia currently sit as the most horizontal element on the landscape. Functioning solely for the aging of wine and novelty tourism the cellars are adversely affecting the Portuguese landscape. Consolidating all disciplines of wine procreation into two pentagonal sections programmatically opens the entire volume of the space vertically. The towers now serve as a growing, harvesting, processing, and distribution center which are undisruptive to the aging cellars. The space allows for housing to the work force of the winery as well as providing tourist accommodations in addition to the pre existing amenities.

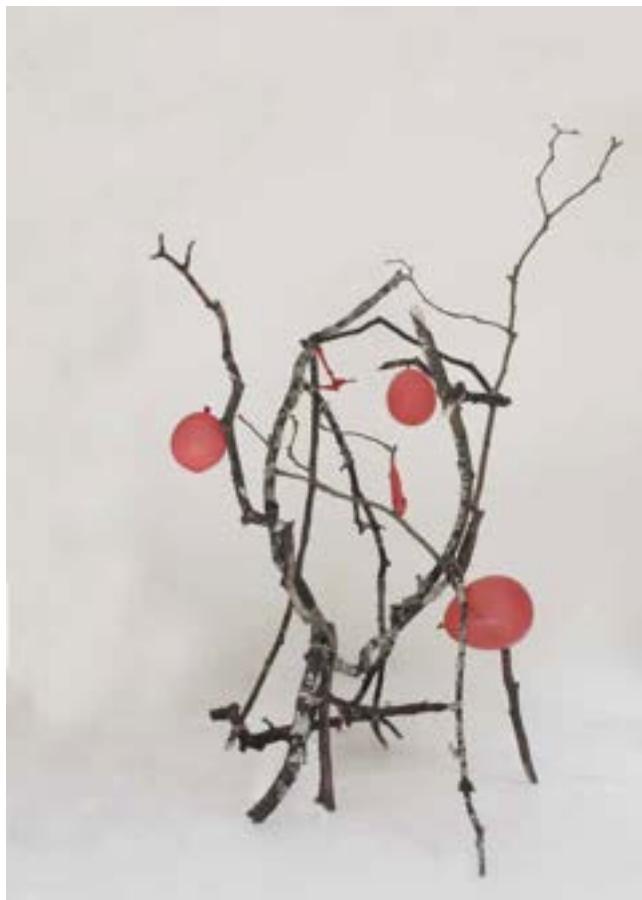




*Sara Davin Omar
Sophia Garner*

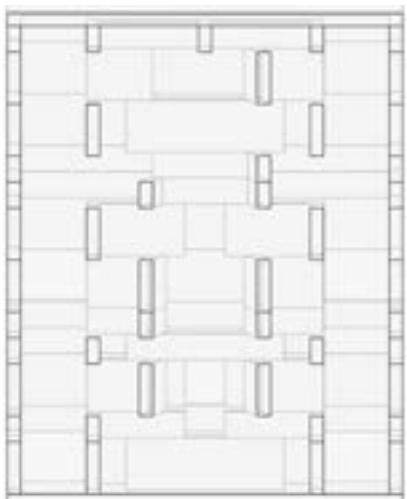
Porto's cityscape with its density of abandoned spaces triggers a discussion about **voids** and their necessity and potential within a hybrid. They offer space for appropriation, future needs and nature. We imagine the future city as a vertical hybrid which grows in and out of a random grid and can continue expanding infinitely. The planned voids are respected while the city grows and offers space for future functions. During this process some structures are destroyed by others and become abandoned spaces. In addition to this there are areas in-between specific typologies which are considered as left over spaces. All of these voids offer various potential and are of great importance within density.





Yiyi Liang

Since the 12th century, the people in Oporto used the stone from the mountain to build the **city wall**, mainly for limitation and fortification; in the 15th century, two city walls had been finished. In modern times, these walls have their new understanding: people reuse them and they become part of the city life. Four types of reuse have been found: to retain; to occupy; to reform; to break. I interpret them as the process for the city to become exocentric instead of endocentric. I translated the changing process of the wall into the vertical city: two walls as structure, then the movements of retaining, occupying, reforming and breaking happen inside and different vertical spaces from exocentric to endocentric were created.





Fatma Alay

Balconies have an interesting aura to them. They are the part of the house that gives it a certain breeze and outlet. As we were roaming around Porto, these beautifully scattered balconies all over the buildings caught my attention. So I chose them as my typology. Further analysis of their elements, categories, and background made me grasp their essence. As part of the exercise, we were asked to make this typology evolve. What I did is imagined the balconies as if they were connected and created an elevated pathway across the city in order to transform these private spaces into a public arena.





André Costa

The social experience is often defined by the way we inhabit the urban space. In order to integrate progressive notions of living we also need to offer a way to adapt. That comes with time as an important compromise. For inhabitants of Porto the traditional buildings represent a very specific way of living that constitutes a part of themselves, and although its preservation is important it also presents a challenge to progress. In our vertical city we have to make choices.

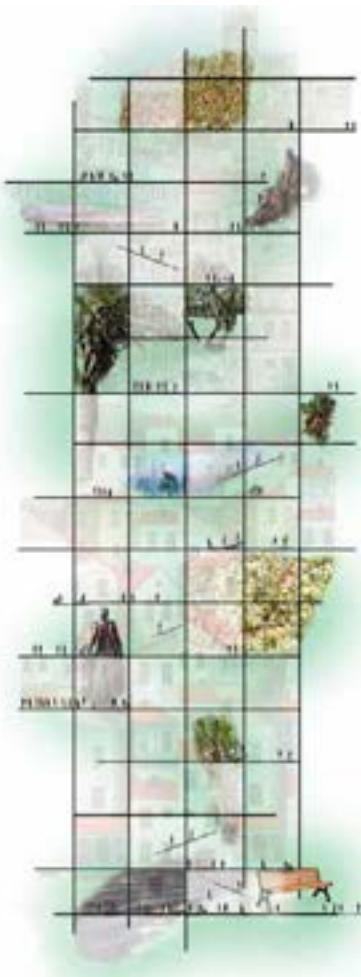
I would like to provide these **blocks** with a more communal notion of living that could start from within. By preserving the block's façade and the original function of the components that interact positively with the city like the apartments and traditional commerce stores in the ground floor we are allowing social preservation to take place as well. The transformation of the block's sectored backyards in a common space would allow the buildings to operate as a coordinated entity function-wise and would leave room to start from within the uprising of the vertical prosthesis.





Marina Rakic

Through an exploration of the city of Porto I found one of the most useful typologies to be the **park**. I was inspired by Jardim da Cordoaria, which is placed in the city center and is used by citizens and tourists. Different elements including; paths, benches, sculptures, water features, monuments, stairs, vegetation, lighting, and playgrounds will be integrated within the model of the vertical city. A culmination of these elements adding to the generosity of the city. I found this substantial to the natural, cultural, and general health of city life. My project is a park which is going to fulfill empty spaces in our model of vertical city of the future.

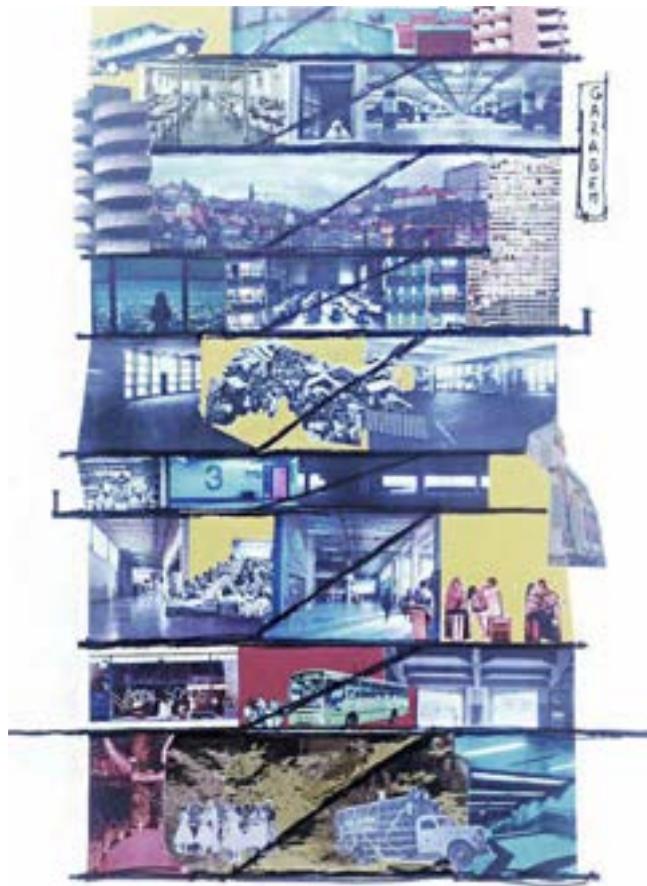


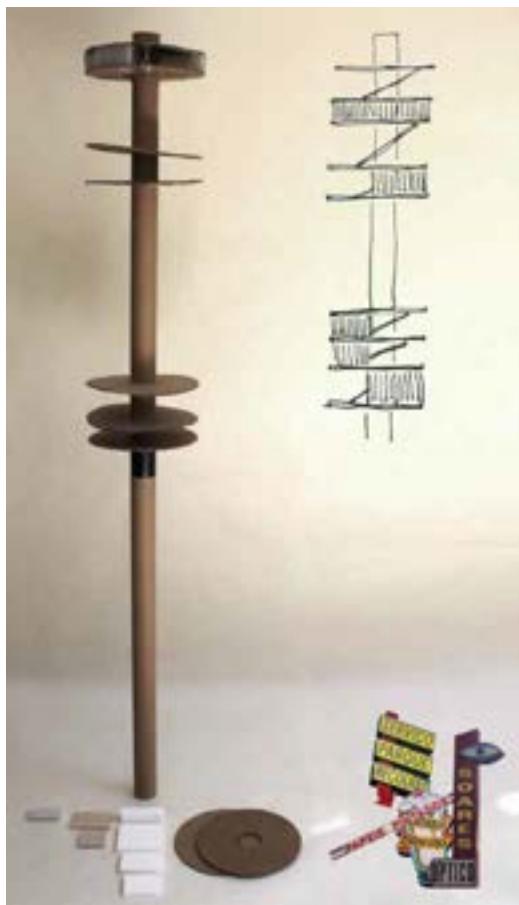


Léa Spadiliero

In Porto there are several garages from the 20th century which are not hidden underground but visible buildings within the cityscape. They caught my attention with their specific architecture representing various episodes of architectural history, but also because they are high points like benchmarks in the city. In contrast to the narrow and deep plot their large volume offer a lot of potential. Besides, we do not know which importance cars will have in the city of the future.

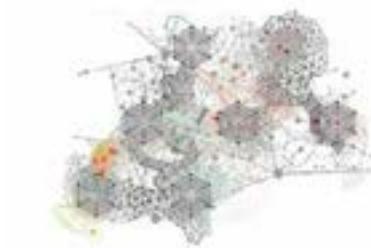
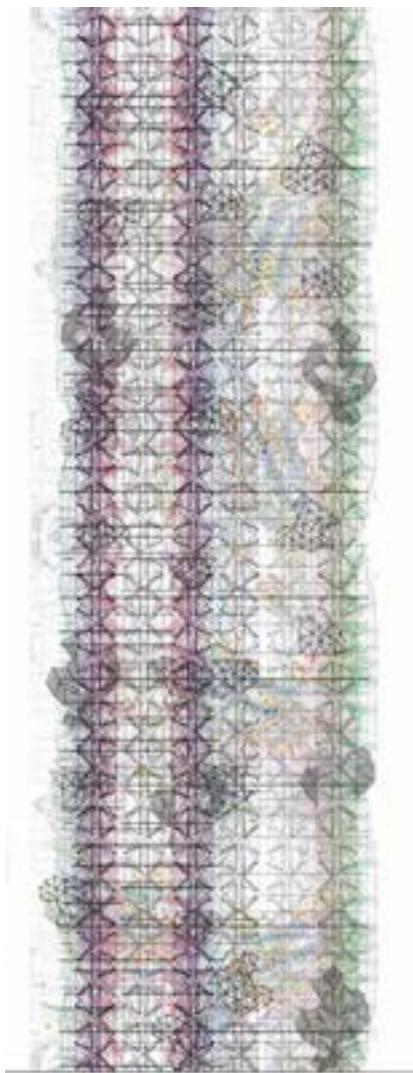
Therefore I think it is important to reconsider the function of garages and to propose new uses to the population. I tried to imagine what a garage could offer in the future. First I understood that a garage is simply an infrastructure connected to the street, with platforms and a ramp as access for cars, which can be infinitely duplicated vertically. These big volumes can receive various uses and programs which can be just temporary or permanent, on little or large surfaces, working together or separately, during the day as well as during the night. In that way we create a new typology which interacts with the city and its population, which still hosts cars, but also a new social dimension which renews its original image of evolution and modernism it had when it first was constructed.

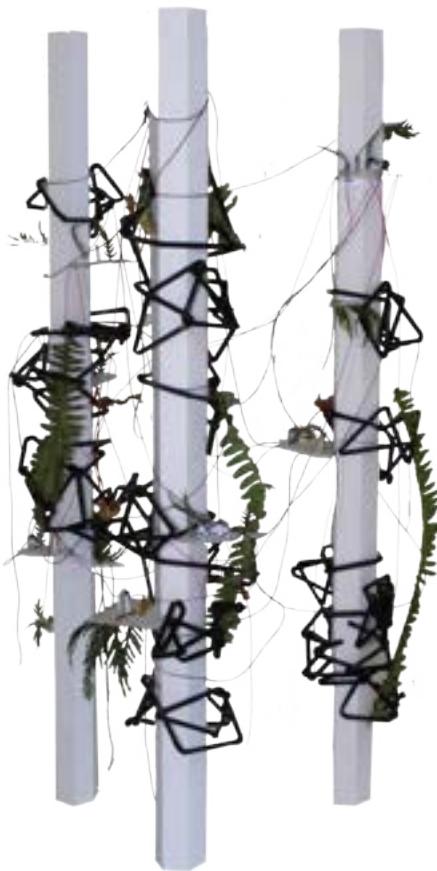




Itziar Echebarrieta

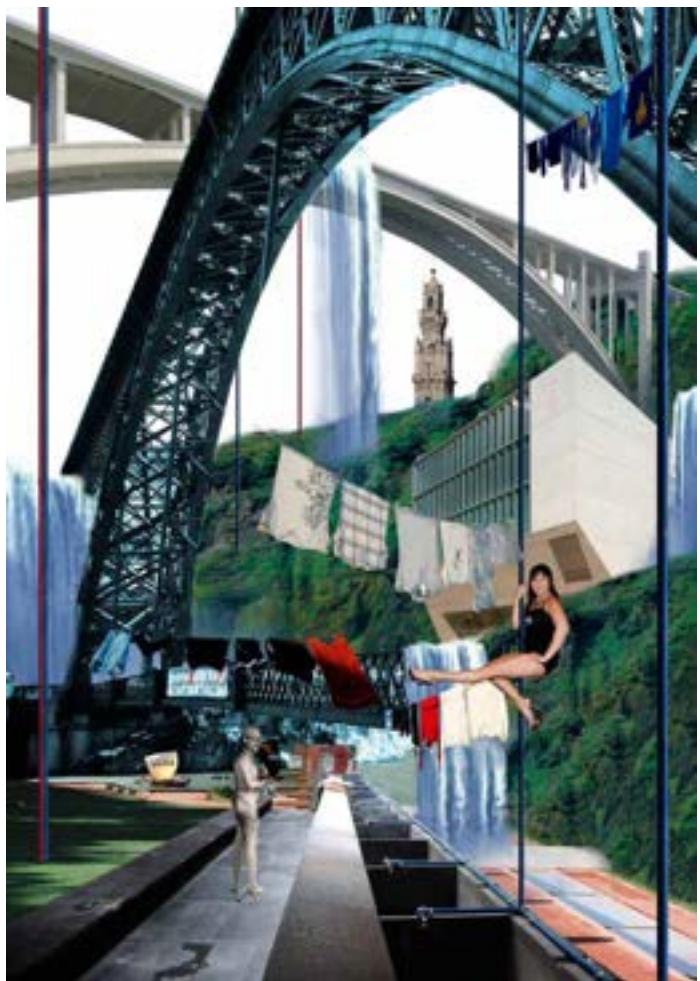
Urban stairs are the most antique, simple, and closest human interaction tool connecting different levels. Moreover, the urban fabric of Porto is too congested for transportation by car. A similar congestion exists in public stairways. A technical structure can offer fresh water, light and ventilation. A geometric metabolism growing around it is able to create urban furniture and protection from the sun or rain. Platforms function as interactive, flexible space. Urban stairs won't be forgotten anymore, they will be a place to meet, rest, and enjoy, supplementing the travel to your destination.

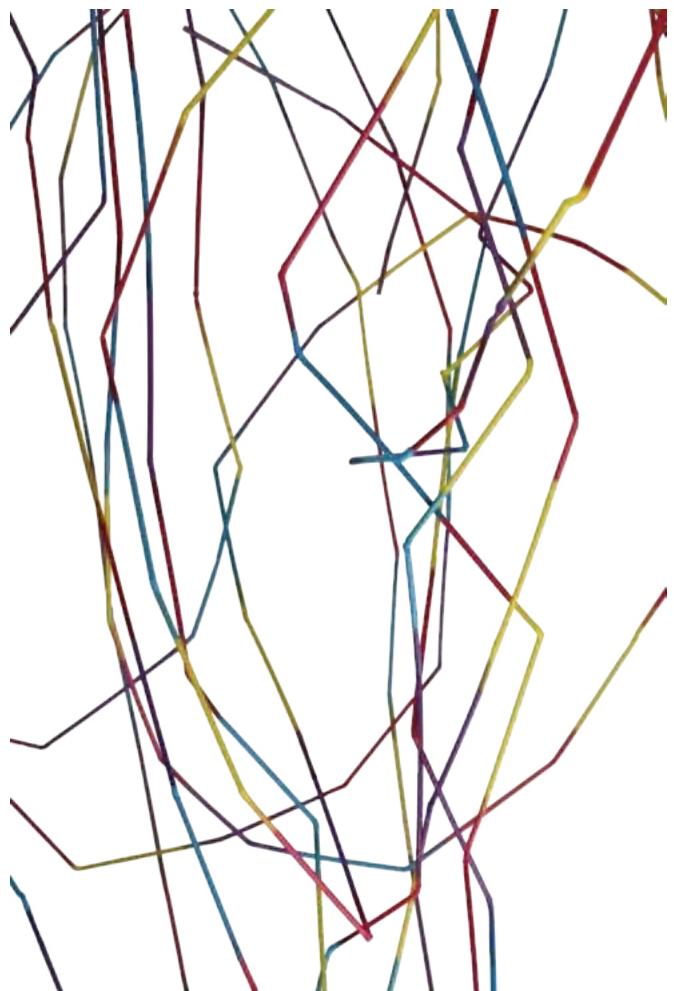




Raul Pontes

Located in hidden areas of the city, the **public laundry** spaces have emerged as community infrastructure capable of complementing domestic life. These spaces were of great importance not only for their intrinsic function, but also because they represented a meeting place where women could socialize with each other. Nowadays, they are abandoned and the vertical city is the opportunity to reinvent them. That way, we can introduce these washhouses into the most emblematic public spaces of Porto as interactive installations. Pipes are created in vertical relation with all functional programs that use water, serving also as the attachment point of makeshift structures created for drying clothes. Multiplying the tanks on different platforms allows people to talk and see with unusual perspectives.





Daniel Monteiro

Bandstands are architectural artifacts of great interest not only in Porto but also throughout Europe, with their simple structures, their base and roof supported by columns of cast steel. These urban spaces, located mainly in gardens, allowed people to gather around a common interest in music over the time. Today, these elements are lost and forgotten in the city. My proposal, taking into account the vertical city, boils down to the ability to move these same artifacts, around town, through rails and lifting platforms, thus allowing their dynamism to reach the entire population.

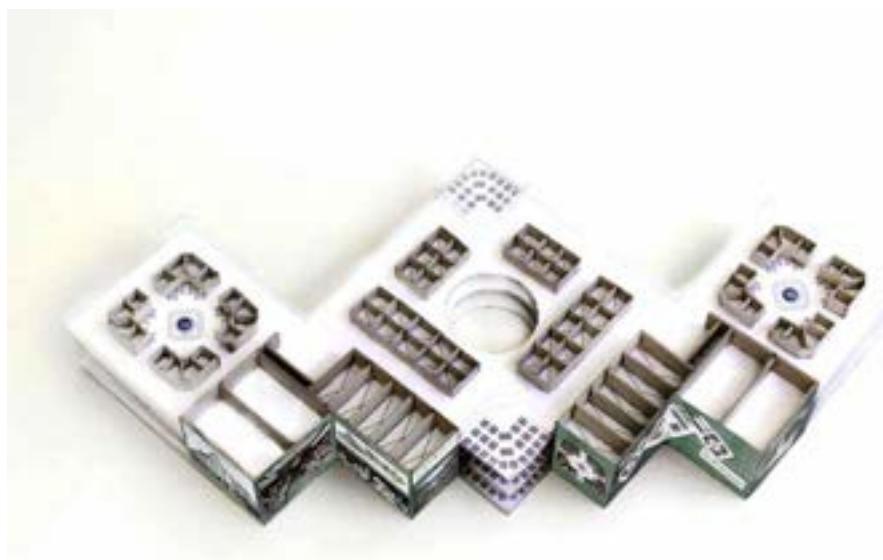




Mounir Sabeh Affaki

Open **markets** are an essential typology in Porto. An impressive example is the 100 year old Mercado do Bolhão in the center of the city, a traditional market and a gathering point. It has a rectangular shape, opened to the sky with a central courtyard containing rows of kiosks which sell fish, flowers, grocery and meat. Symbolism forms an important aspect of this market. One can easily spot symbols of fish and flowers in materials and decorations. This aspect was considered in the new design of an open market in a vertical city but this time the openness is horizontal achieved through transparent façades that surround the commercial area; the shopping section and two flower-shaped food court containing semi-circular booths with a concept of fish skin around a fountain similar to the one in the reference.





Giorgia Serafini

Walking through Porto, I noticed how the city is shaped across by the typical **housing blocks**, the Islas. It is inevitable to be fascinated by the abstraction, the contrast between tiny colorful old houses and the anonymous “skyscrapers” which seem to dominate them from above. Studying and analyzing these two categories, extrapolating their main features, I started to think about a possible integration of both, in order to create a new type of housing. Through a juxtaposition of significant pictures I tried to show the chaotic growth of a hybrid, which can incorporate innovation and tradition, anonymous and particular, industrial and crafts, old and new.





Hanna Fokken

This study explores the medieval, amorphously grown **alley** as a reference and rethinks access routes in highrise buildings. Precisely because it is an unmodern type, it can remind us of social qualities that got lost and have to be regained for future vertical cities. To make this conception feasible, the study suggest a module that can be freely placed and adapted. It achieves to recreate the sensation of an amorphous alley by adopting its characteristics. The variation in angle gives each module its own identity and leaves space for interpretation and appropriation.





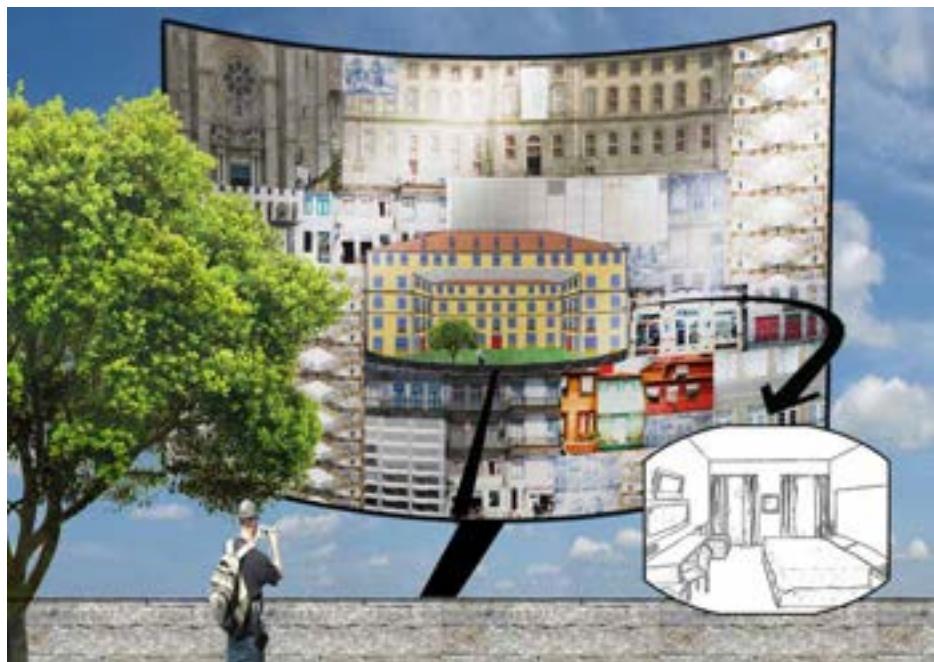
Eiad Al Sayadi

The chosen typology is an abandoned **residential building** and its touristic garden. What makes this building and its garden important is that they are on a high edge in the center of the historical city of Porto overlooking the city and many of its monuments, and that is what makes the garden a touristic place where people go see the view and take pictures. Moreover, the building's facades are typical Porto facades. The idea was to rethink the building and its function in a way that could be implemented within a vertical city, taking into consideration maintaining its features (the view, garden, position and facades).

The building's function is switched from housing to a hotel, the building mass has been transformed from a parallelogram shape to a bridge shape in order to create an open vacuum for the garden to be in, and during this transfer, the façades keep their identity.

Since the building maintains its position on the edge -this time of the vertical city -, the other city elements and buildings -which represent the view - are behind the hotel and its garden. Therefore, the building loses the most important feature which is the view. Thus, I put a big mirror and hung it in front of the hotel, so the hotel and its garden will have an overview of the vertical city and its elements.

In this way, the building function is changed, the building is implemented within a vertical city, and the building features are maintained (the view, the garden, the position and the facades).





Click here

**Exquisite corpse as vertical densification
final model**











