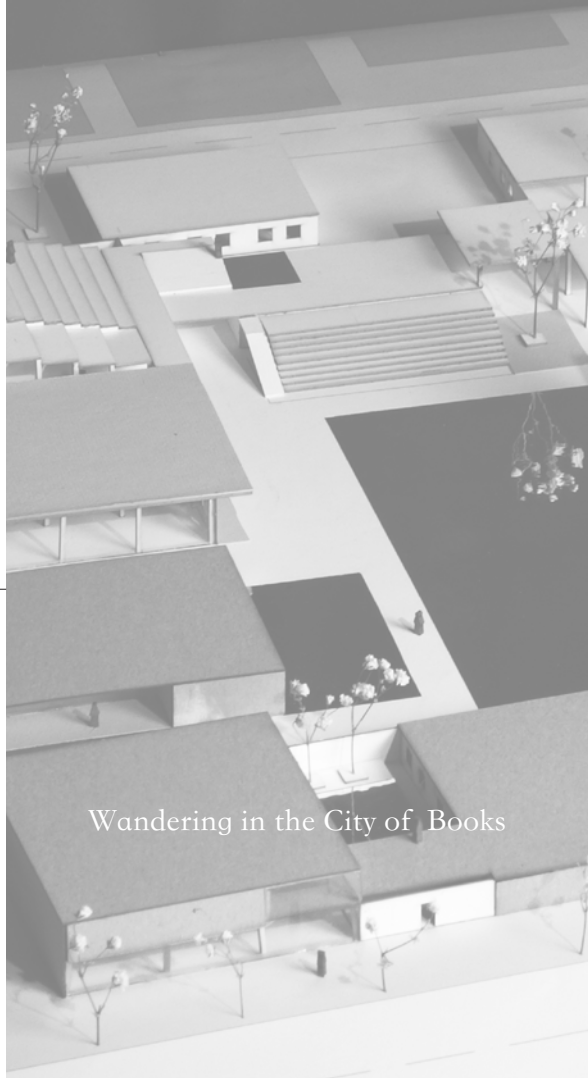


This is a place where people could wander in
the world of books without restrictions and
encounter reflections of yourself and the world.

Read books
Read others
Read yourself
Read the world



Wandering in the City of Books

A Container of Reflection

A CONTAINER OF REFLECTION



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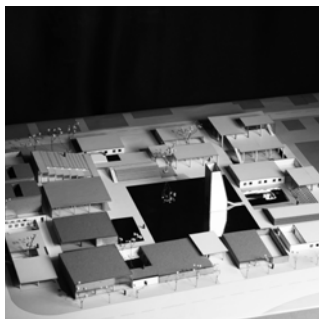
Matter, Space, Structure

Examiner-Morten Lund
Tutor-Naima Callenberg

Master of Architecture and Urban design

Chalmers University of Technology

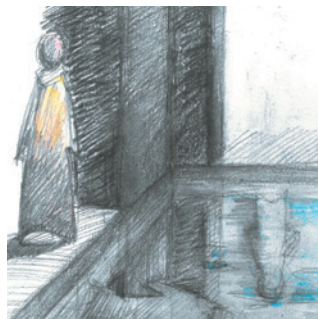
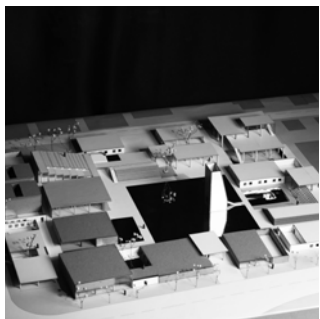




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Abstract



Abstract

A. Objective

- Make a research about reflection from the physical phenomenon's point of view and also from the psychology's point of view especially metaphor between those two kinds of reflection.
 - Choose certain typical kinds of physical and mental reflection as the materials to build the world of reflections based on the literature.
 - Learn from relevant literature and architectural cases to find the narrative for reflective journey.
 - Use architectural tools to construct the promenade and architecture where people are invited to visit this world of reflection.
-
- Represent the experience of reflection.

B. Background

Reflection is a fascinating physical image, which is the duplication of noumenon while in a reverse way. That's why it's always used as the metaphor between mirroring images with the speculation between images and invisible subjects. Mirroring image tends to be used in different forms of art to present this fascinating connection.

Sabine Melchior-Bonnet believed that in Greek philosophy the mirror can aid moral meditation between man and himself and mirror and also can be a tool by which to "know thyself," invited man to not mistake himself for God, to avoid pride by knowing his limits, and to improve himself.

In the mythology of narcissus, it's the similar advice which was given in Greek philosophy. Also, in a lot of literature, this kind of religious meaning of mirroring image plays a significant role.

While in paintings, painters may use this tool to remind of the relationship between the watcher and the watched such as mirrors in Jan van Eyck's the Arnolfini Portrait and Diego Velázquez's Las Meninas.

When turning into the territory of architecture, how to play with physical and mental reflection and represent this metaphor between them would be a interesting point.

C. Method

1. Literature reading about reflection
2. Records and research about phenomena of reflection
3. Narrative, literature reading on how to structure the reflective world
4. Architectural case study for promenade in narrative
5. Drawings and models to do experiments about the experience of reflection

D. Results

1. Daily records about everyday reflections
2. A series of text and drawings to construct the reflective journey
3. Analysis about the design reference
4. Drawings model photos combined with plans and sections to represent the program of reflection

E. Conclusion

When physical reflections are presented in an architectural way, it's possible to build the bridge between them and mental reflections. In the era of images and information, there is a necessity to rebuild and represent the possibility to use images to enter into the mental world. This project tries to focus on certain types of reflections and by using these materials to claim this possibility and present this metaphor in an architectural way.

Discourse



The body is the house of God.

Man, know thyself, and you are going to know the god.

A memento mori mosaic from excavations in the convent of San Gregorio in Rome, featuring the Greek motto.

Discourse

Read books
Read others
Read yourself
Read the world

Reflection is a fascinating image, which is the duplication of noumenon while in a reverse way. To identify reflections as mirroring objects and reflect on them tend to trigger the possibility to see the invisible subject itself and reflecting on the border between the subject and object. This metaphor between mirroring images and speculation is widely used in different fields especially when referring to how human being understand objects similar to themselves.

If in a more intellectual context, reflection also refers to some social activities such as conversation with others, reading a book, watching a movie and so on.

When this kind of metaphor between physical and mental reflections is being inspired in different architectural ways, there is a chance to reflect on images which are created from the routine itself rather than turning a blind eye to the routine.

Welcome to experience this reflective journey where you could read books, read others, read yourself and read the world.

Investigation

reflection

narrative, a reflective journey

Reflection

1. Through what we see reflections?

Reflections, if putting it more physically, could be seen as mirroring images. Anything whose optic property is reflectible could present mirroring images in front of us. The tricky thing is that while these images reflect the true world, they may be fuzzy or deformed. So if we look through the history how people make use of reflections we will find that at the first half it can be said as a history of finding an approach to the cleanest reflection. When this goal was accomplished, then the essence of a 'mirror' drifted into a more profound way to observe cosmic and quantum world. That's also when we get used to the 'normal' mirroring images, after all, when something became a part of routines, how could it amazes someone?

However, getting used to something doesn't mean that can't be something. If we spare some time, stop and stare, can we still notice our reflections?

- Mirror

The most normal way to see reflections. Every day in the morning, almost every one would have a glance at him/herself in the mirror so to be ready for a new day. Naturally the mirror would be parallelly placed at the rough height of our eyes while when at an unusual place images in the mirror would be unusual too.

- Water

The oldest way to see reflections. Our ancestors saw themselves for the first time on the surface of water. With its transparency and deformability, reflections on water come along with mysteries.

- Glass

One of the most revolutionary materials which are the symbols of the new era of technology. This material, glass, are transparent while in different optic conditions, reflections emerge in various ways.

Once decided to make a record about reflections in our daily life, I am totally fascinated by these diverse images.

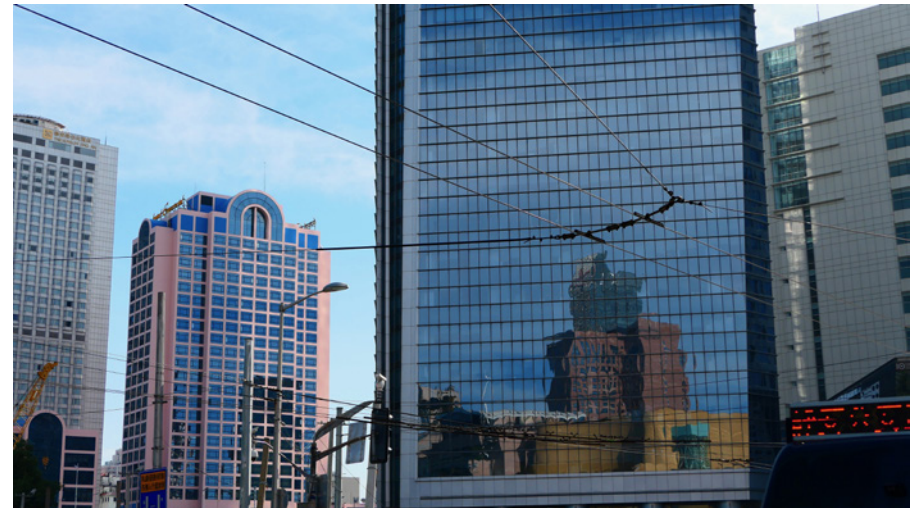
STORY o. When I saw reflections...



2018.9.16, Copenhagen, a showcase of a furniture shop
I saw myself watching myself in one mirror while in another I saw the city behind me through the light window.



2017.10.11, Gothenburg, No.50 Bus
At a raining night I took No.50 Bus home. World outside windows mixed with the inside world, while the only difference is that girl.



2018.10.1, Shanghai, Jingansi Temple Park, a Skycraper
A scenario of modern city was reflecting on the surface of another modern skyscraper.



2018.4.4, Gothenburg, along Avägen
A beautiful building with its reflection in the river, which seemed like a still painting.

*The lake's mirror, better far than any picturesque equipment, because God-given, invites and accommodates the imagination's inward reflections. And because the surface of water is not a mockery, but a new view of what is above it," as he says in Modern Painters (III 542), reflections can be used as the emblem of the highest imagination.*¹

1. John Dixon Hunt. *Ut pictura poesis, the picturesque, and John Ruskin*[[J]]. Vol. 93, No. 5, *Comparative Literature* (Dec., 1978): 794-818



2017.10.11, Gothenburg, Stora Delsjön
Autumn has come. When looking at the lake, the image duplicated the forest while different colors fused with each other in the water.



2017.1.17, Xi'an, Library of Xi'an Political Academy
Between shelves, two girls were finding books. The floor, which became polished because of prolonged using, reflected two fuzzy figures.



2018.6.5, Cologne, Kolumba
A clothes tree is standing in front of the bronze veneer as if there was a standing gentleman.

Reflection

2. What and who got involved in reflections?

If recalling what are there in reflections, if the medium changes, it seems things got involved in reflection varies along with them.

In usual ways, in mirrors there are almost identical and reversal images of objects, which are often those who are facing mirrors. While in the water, reflections are always related to something independent with observers and in this kind of situations reflections and what they reflect tend to fuse together to make up the scenery. Then the most 'modern' way, while at the same time, the most frequent way in the modern world, is seeing reflections in glass. Those hard and magnificent glass are fundamental to a modern architecture as the role of windows of buildings. So it is very fascinating to observe reflections in glass because they are always mixed with things inside of the building and things outside surrounding the observer.

He then justifies that emphasis upon man's inward rather than outward concerns, even in visual art, by saying that it is in his soul that man resembles the Deity: "the soul of man is still a mirror, where in may be seen, darkly, the image of the mind of God." ¹

1. John Dixon Hunt. Ut pictura poesis, the picturesque, and John Ruskin[?]. Vol. 93, No. 5, Comparative Literature (Dec., 1978): 794-818

STORY 1. Along the river in spring and a rainy day...

2018.4.4, Gothenburg, along Avägen
A duck was swimming, the image og the building was broken.



2018.4.4, Gothenburg, along Avägen
At dusk, walking along the river, the sunset far way entered into my eyes.



2018.9.13, Gothenburg, Chalmers
On the road which I have walked for hundreds of times, because of the rain I saw shapes of trees and the sky.



STORY 2. When looking through a window...

2017.12.21, Paris, Villa Savoye
Through the window of the bathroom in Villa Savoye, I saw trees and the sky.

2017.9.19, Gothenburg, Orust
Standing in front of a summer house, I also saw the sky, while the sky behind me.



2017.9.19, Gothenburg, Orust
Standing in front of another summer house, a story about the host who once lived here has been unfolding in my head while the reflection of another door reminded me that all of this must be in the past tense rather than on-going.





2018.9.16, Copenhagen, a showcase next to the King's new square
Pedestrians, splendid architecture and me were in the same picture. Isn't it amazing?

STORY 3. Wandering in a city...



2018.9.16, Copenhagen, a colonnade
People passing by here, were duplicated by the surface of the building and also along with the background world.



2018.9.16, Copenhagen, a showcase of a cafe
Two ladies were sitting for coffee, on the surface of the showcase next to them there were a lot of people, maybe leisure residents, maybe tourists, walking through the street.



2018.9.16, Copenhagen, a showcase of a cafe
Just in the same showcase in a different angle, there were an amazing picture where tempting bread,
pedestrians and me, the photographer, were mixed together in a fuzzy way.

Reflection

3. Reflections: Truth or not?

Actually, reflections tend to be related to the metaphor of knowing oneself. This is about how we perceive the reality and virtual reality and also the border between them. This process refers to a psychological term: narcissism, which is about how we perceive ourselves and how we consider the relationship between ourselves and the world.

Like in the myth called Narcissus, this beautiful, pride young man fell in love with his reflection in the river as the punishment for his pride and prejudice. Here are three points in this story: the most ancient way to get the image of the subject is looking in the water; this young man was punished because of his pride; and the last the most important thing is confusing reality and the images of reality is a hopeless punishment in this story.

So when we have a second look at reflections, to some extent it reflects truth while it isn't truth itself. If taking it as the whole truth, this ancient mythology already told us the result. While the other thing is, in virtue of the reflection of oneself, it is possible to observe the observant subject as the observed object. Whether being indulged or being detached, this kind of process implies the chance to clarify the inside and the outside.

If well used, however, the mirror can aid moral meditation between man and himself. Socrates, we are told by Diogenes, urged young people to look at themselves in mirrors so that, if they were beautiful, they would become worthy of their beauty, and if they were ugly, they would know how to hide their disgrace through learning. The mirror, a tool by which to "know thyself," invited man to not mistake himself for God, to avoid pride by knowing his limits, and to improve himself. His was thus not a passive mirror of imitation but an active mirror of transformation.¹

1. Sabine Melchoir-Bonnet, *The Mirror: A History*[M]. Psychology Press, 2001

There was an unclouded fountain, with silver-bright water, which neither shepherds nor goats grazing the hills, nor other flocks, touched, that no animal or bird disturbed not even a branch falling from a tree. Grass was around it, fed by the moisture nearby, and a grove of trees that prevented the sun from warming the place. Here, the boy, tired by the heat and his enthusiasm for the chase, lies down, drawn to it by its look and by the fountain. While he desires to quench his thirst, a different thirst is created. While he drinks he is seized by the vision of his reflected form. He loves a bodiless dream. He thinks that a body, that is only a shadow. He is astonished by himself, and hangs there motionless, with a fixed expression, like a statue carved from Parian marble.

Flat on the ground, he contemplates two stars, his eyes, and his hair, fit for Bacchus, fit for Apollo, his youthful cheeks and ivory neck, the beauty of his face, the rose-flush mingled in the whiteness of snow, admiring everything for which he is himself admired. Unknowingly he desires himself, and the one who praises is himself praised, and, while he courts, is courted, so that, equally, he inflames and burns. How often he gave his lips in vain to the deceptive pool, how often, trying to embrace the neck he could see, he plunged his arms into the water, but could not catch himself within them! What he has seen he does not understand, but what he sees he is on fire for, and the same error both seduces and deceives his eyes.

*Fool, why try to catch a fleeting image, in vain? What you search for is nowhere: turning away, what you love is lost! What you perceive is the shadow of reflected form: nothing of you is in it. It comes and stays with you, and leaves with you, if you can leave!*²

2. A. S. Kline [ed], *Metamorphoses, Narcissus sees himself and falls in love, Book III: 402-436*



Narcissus-Caravaggio_(1594-96)



2018.9.16, Copenhagen, on the way to New King's square

Verse 1: *The picture of a city*

Verse 2: *I am a photographer*

Verse 3: *I am a photographer surrounded by others and the city.*





Reflection

4. A game of watching and being watched

Now that I want to build a world full of the game of reflections.

There are a lot of materials I could use:

-Physically, the glass and the water would be the physical medium of the reflective images.

-Mentally, the philosophical speculation that reflections point to would be quite an attractive question if it could be represented in a perceptible way.

The point is, how to organize these materials in an architectural way?

1. Las Meninas, Diego Velázquez, 1656

Of course about this painting there are a lot of topics while what I'm interested is the game the painter played with the watcher, which not only means watchers outside but also watchers inside. He achieved this goal by a simple way, using a mirror in the painting. When looking at this painting, one could consider that he or she as the imperial couple or someone watching the couple watching the painter painting. This is also related to the speculation mentioned before, whether the reflection is true or not. And also, the watcher inside of the painting also reminds people the behavior of watching.

Isn't it like a labyrinth?

2. The garden of the master of nets, Qing Dynasty

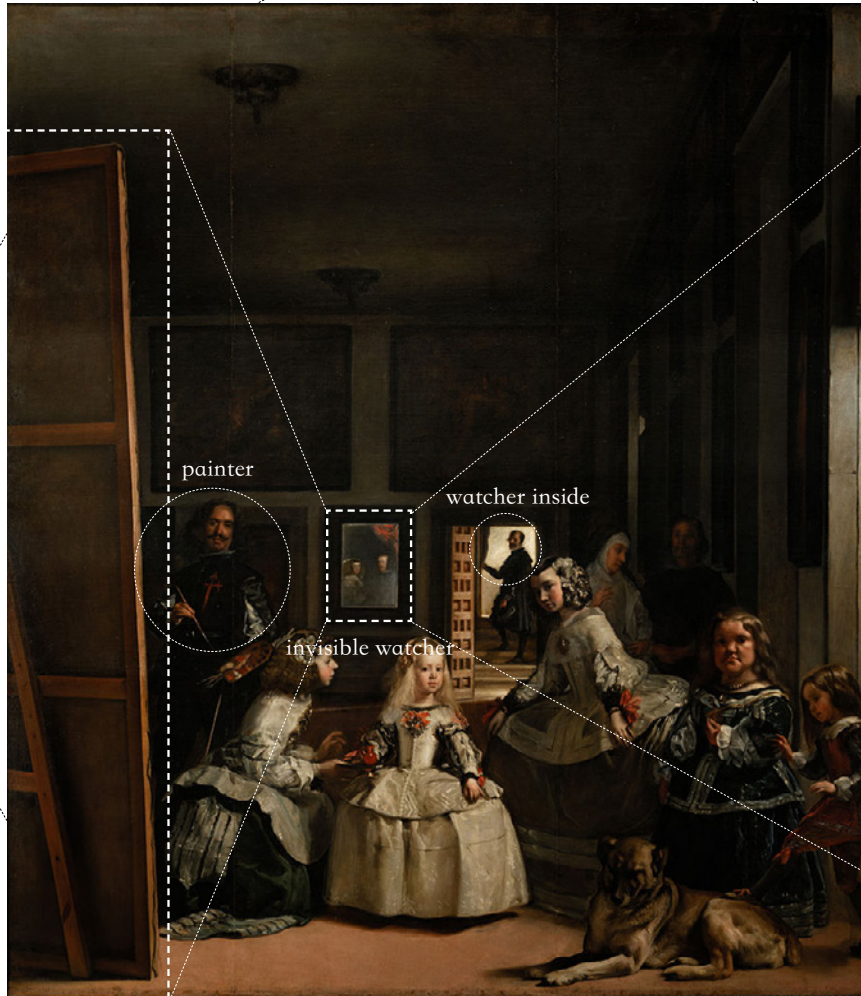
This is one of my favorite Chinese traditional gardens. Most of the owners of Chinese gardens took part in the building process in great extent while the property of them as intellectuals, poetry and introspection, presented in the garden everywhere.

When wandering in the garden, first of all, optional paths orient visitors to different poetic situations. The interesting thing is, while on their way to somewhere, they could also be guided to admire a scene which is not their destination. These beautiful moments recall a fascinating poem:

*When you watch the scenery from the bridge,
The sightseer watches you from the balcony.
The bright moon adorns your window,
While you adorn another's dream.¹*

¹This poem was written by Zhilin Bian, translated by Xianyi Yang and Gladys B. Tayler.

watcher outside



painter

watcher inside

invisible watcher

Las Meninas, Diego Velázquez, 1656



2018.6.3, On the train from Cologne to Bennisberg

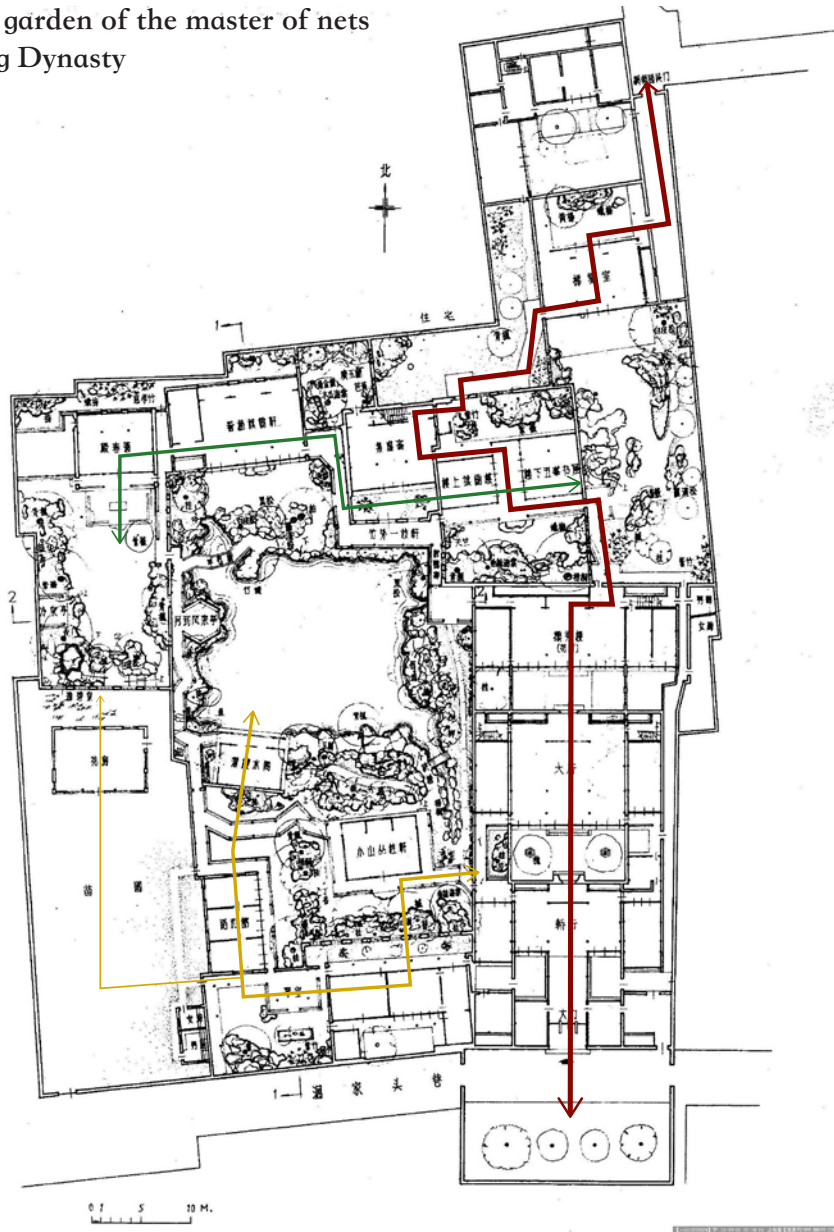
Velázquez wanted the mirror to depend upon the useable painted canvas for its image. Why should he want that? The luminous image in the mirror appears to reflect the king and queen themselves, but it does more than just this: the mirror outdoes nature. The mirror image is only a reflection. A reflection of what? Of the real thing—of the art of Velázquez. In the presence of his divinely ordained monarchs ... Velázquez exults in his artistry and counsels Philip and Maria not to look for the revelation of their image in the natural reflection of a looking glass but rather in the penetrating vision of their master painter. In the presence of Velázquez, a mirror image is a poor imitation of the real.¹

1. Snyder and T. Cohen. *Reflexions on Las feninas: Paradox Lost*[J]. *Critical Inquiry* 6, Spring 1980: 429-47

Promenade Paths

With separate volumes, there are promenade paths to make different space related with each other.

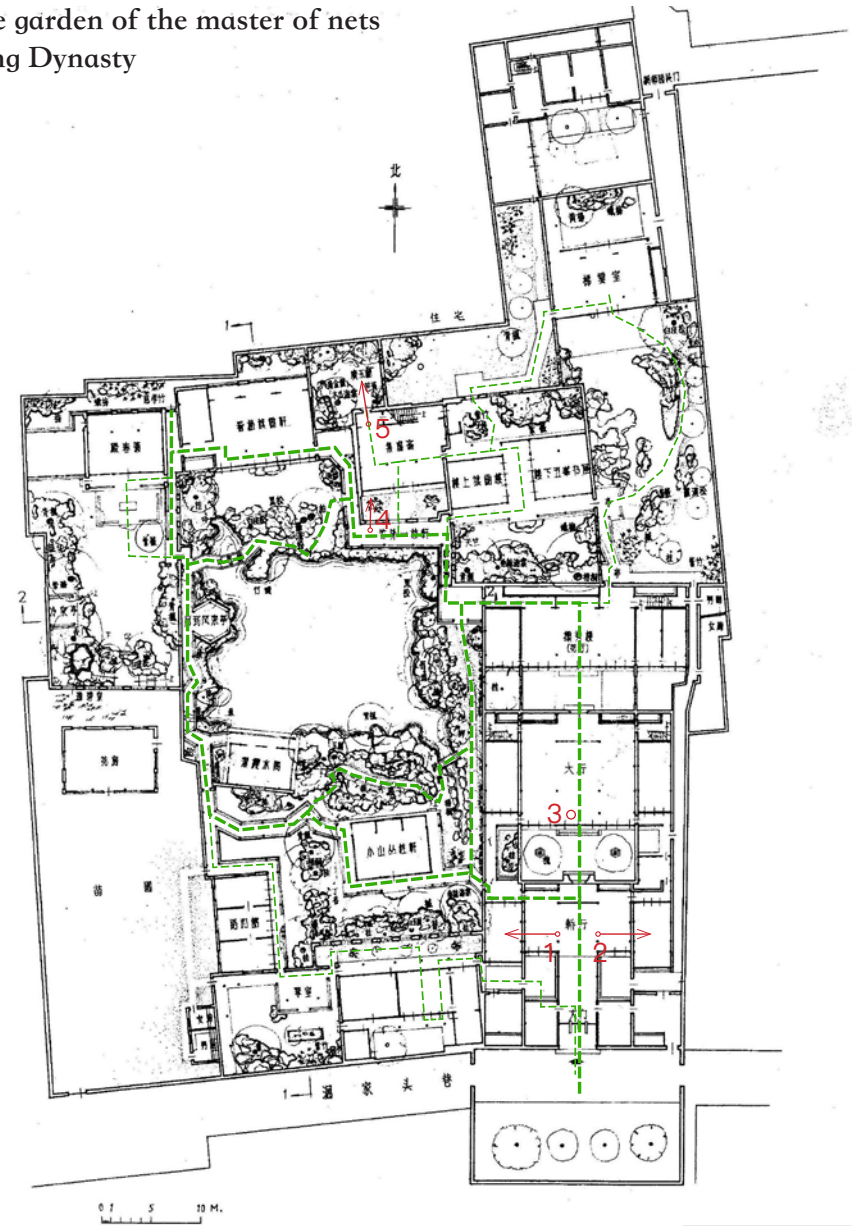
The garden of the master of nets Qing Dynasty



Wandering experience & Possibility of insights

Based on the separated volumes and promenade paths, buildings were combined with landscape to create wandering experience. When wandering in this garden, scenarios means not only surrounding you but also being caught in your eyes.

The garden of the master of nets Qing Dynasty





1 Through the window



2 Through the window



3 Through the window



4 Through the window



5 Through the window

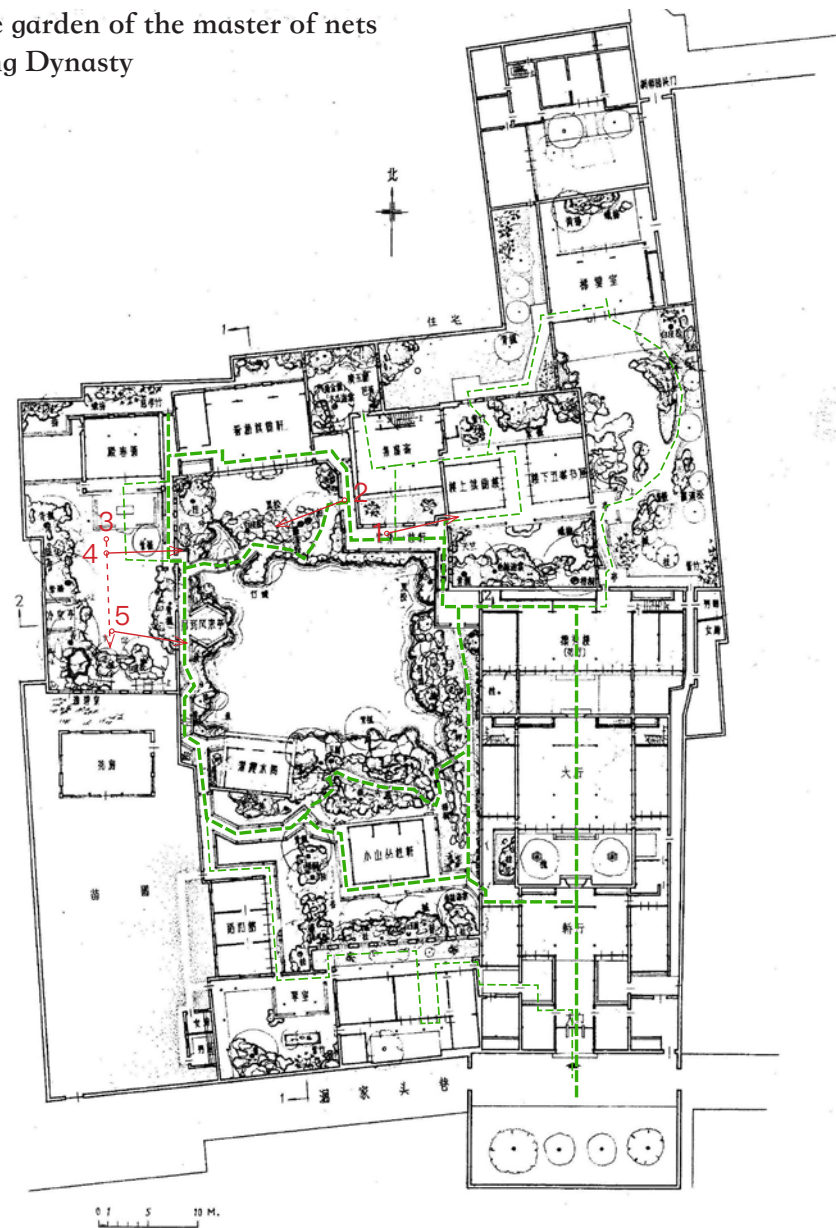


1 Through the door



2 Through the window

The garden of the master of nets
Qing Dynasty





4 Through the door



5 Through the window

3 Along the wall with door and windows of a small courtyard





1 Watching the Pavilion of the Moon and Wind

2 Watching the pavilion with the wall



The garden of the master of nets
Qing Dynasty





3 Through the door

4 Watching the Pavilion of Hill and Osmanthus



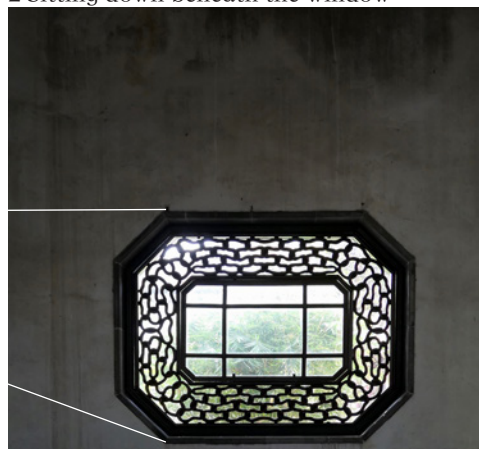
5 Watching the Pavilion of the Moon and Wind



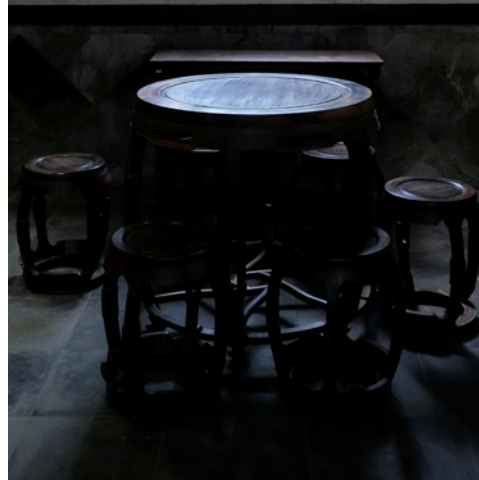
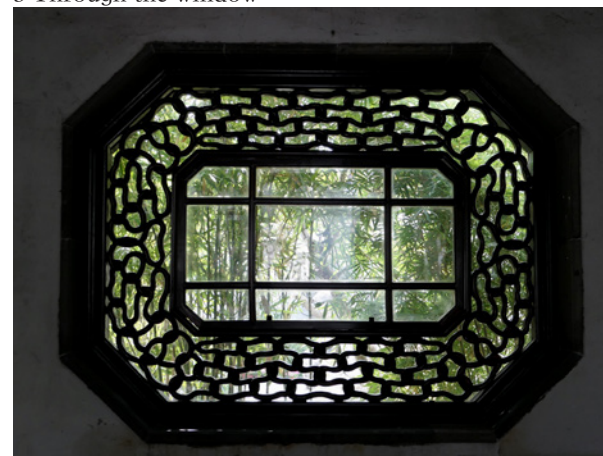


1 Through the corridor

2 Sitting down beneath the window



3 Through the window



4 Through the window

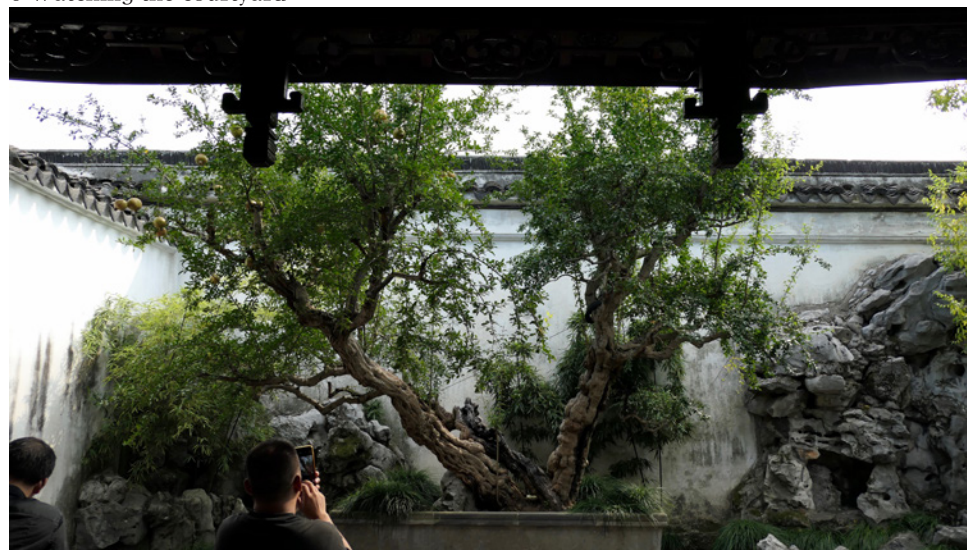


The garden of the master of nets
Qing Dynasty



5 Watching the corridor which is for watching

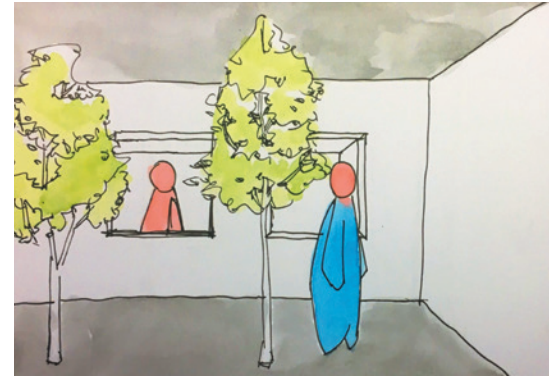
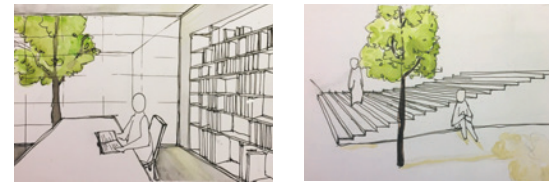
6 Watching the courtyard



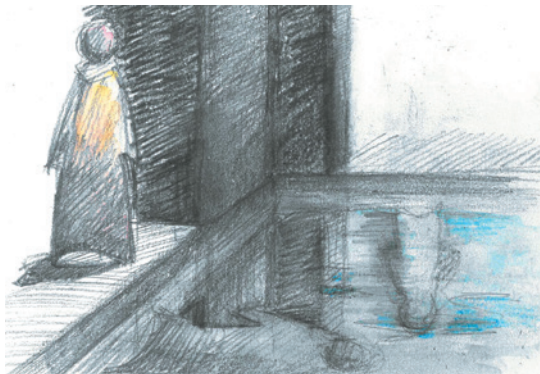
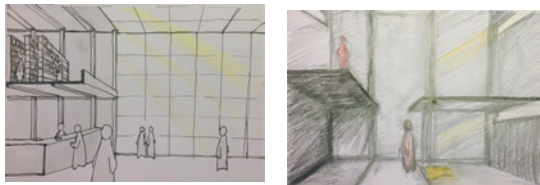
Encounter



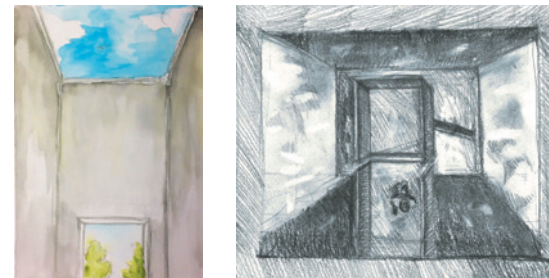
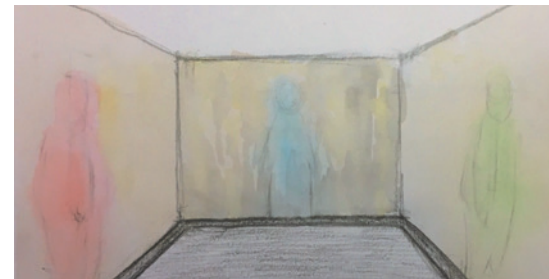
Wandering



Find out



See the world



Narrative

A reflective journey

Encounter

In the hustle and bustle of city life, suddenly and somehow I see the image of myself and a shingly mottled tower...

Find out

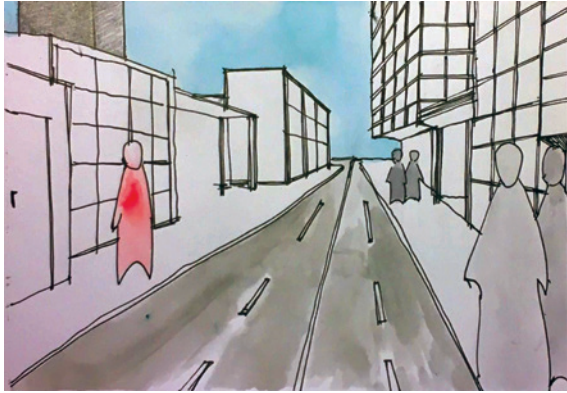
When I'm looking through shelves filled with books and watching views through windows, a glimpse of reflection catches my attention...

Wandering

In a nice day with mild breeze, with a book which might be I borrowed from the library or just mine I walk into a small room with a tree next to me to enjoy the sunlight spilling from the slits of leaves and then wander in this tiny city of books...

See the world

There is a concrete tower which seems so monumental always being caught in my eyes when I'm wandering in this city of books. Entering it and what would I see?

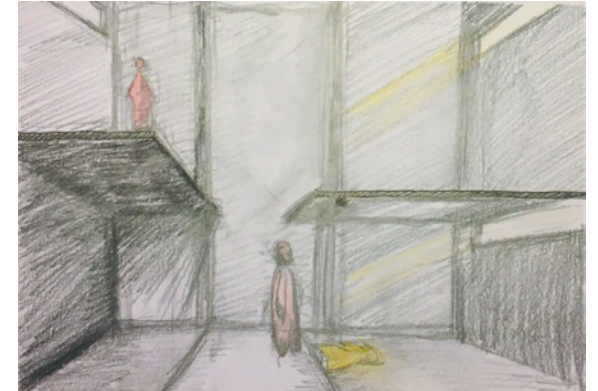
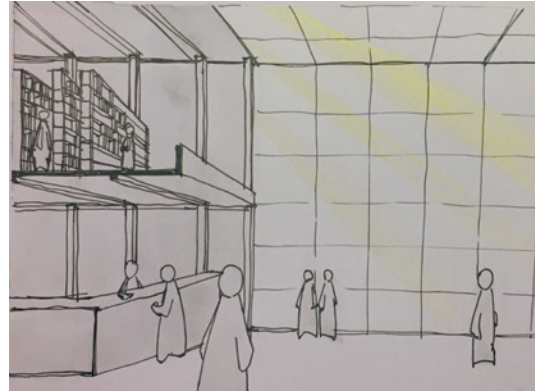


Encounter

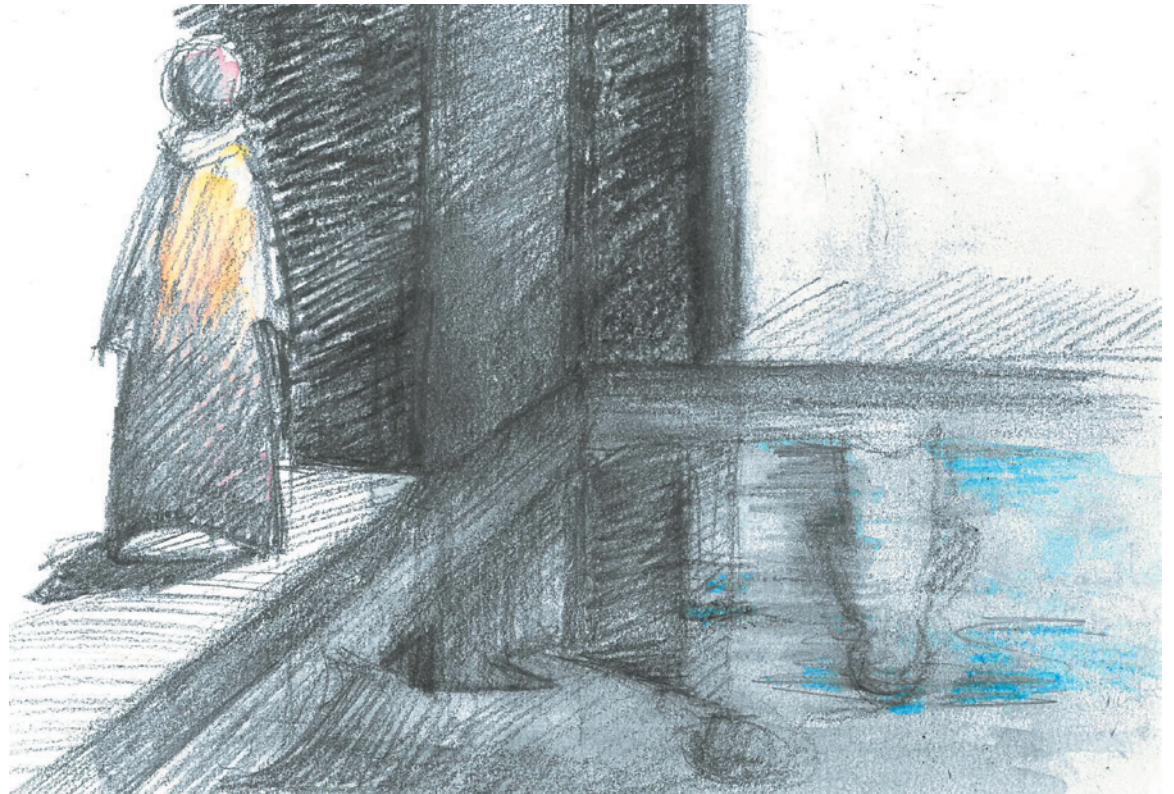


In the hustle and bustle of city life, suddenly and somehow I see the image of myself and a shingly mottled tower...

Find out

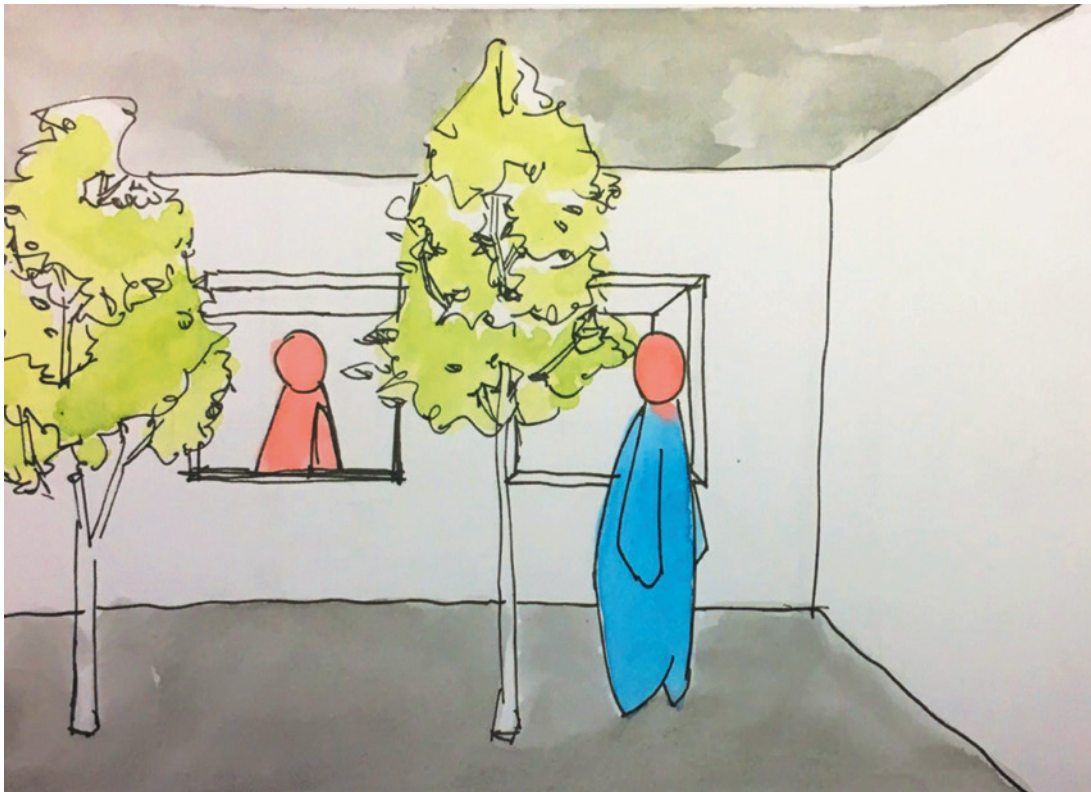


When I'm looking through shelves filled with books and watching views through windows, a glimpse of reflection catches my attention...





Wandering...

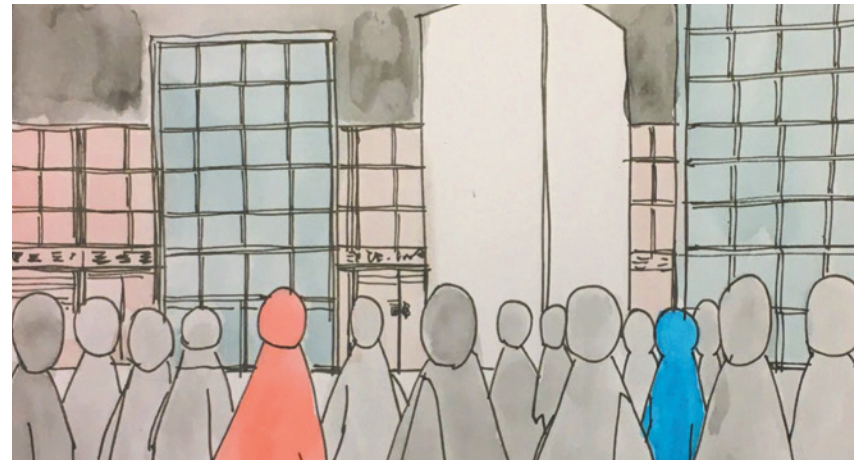
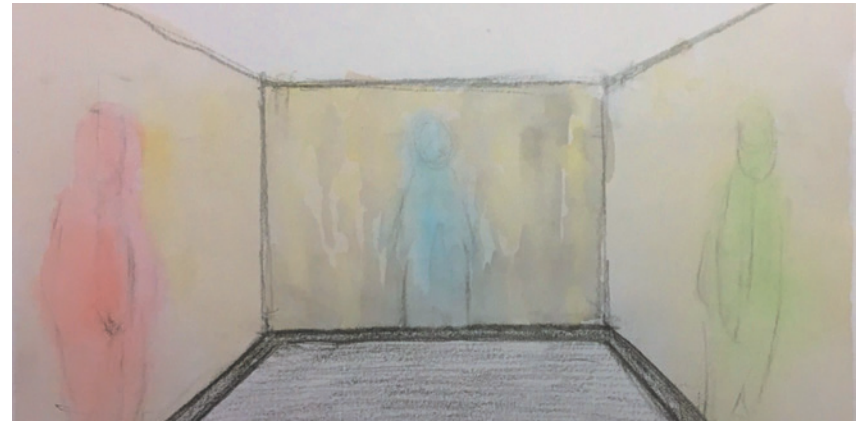


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See the world

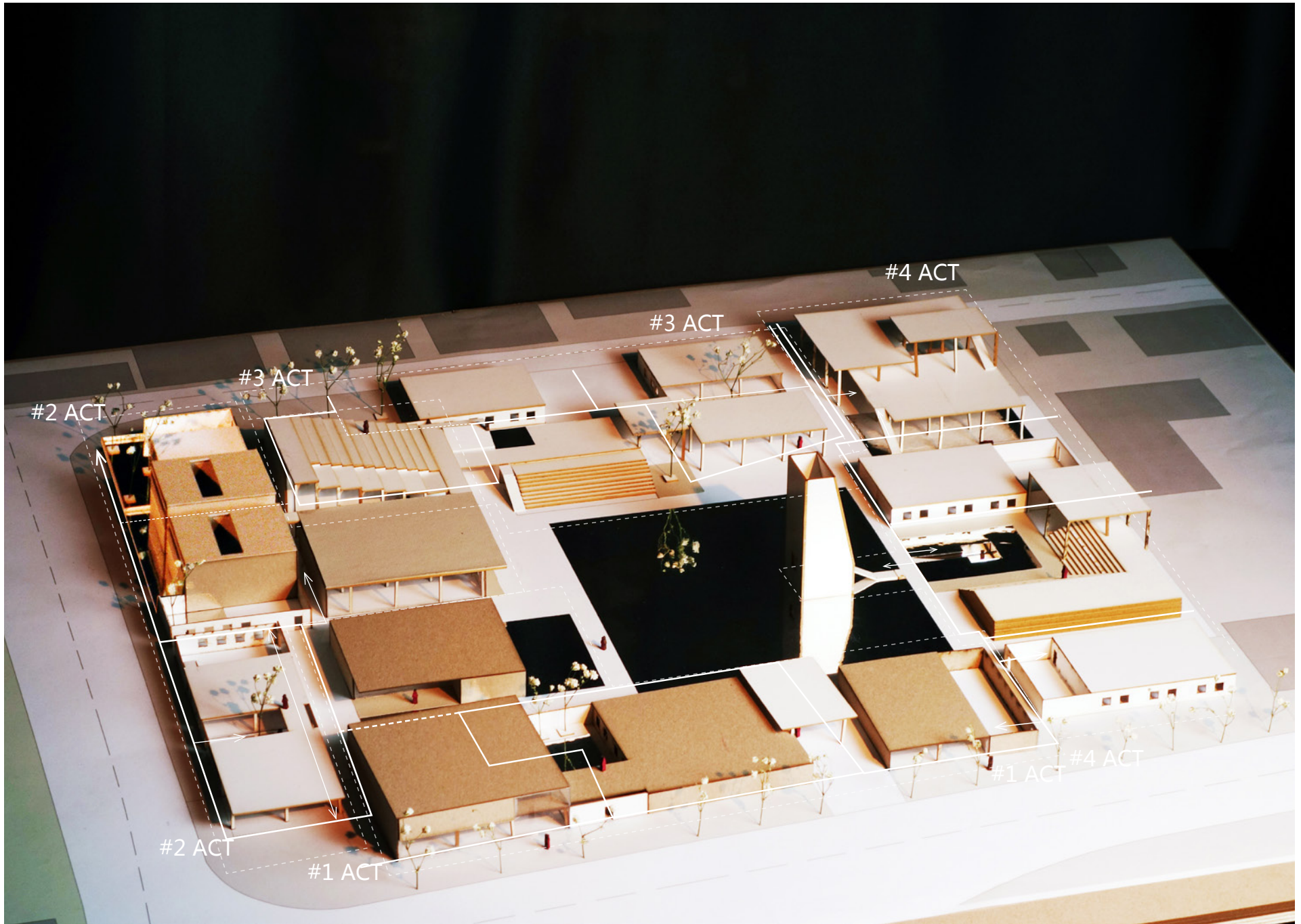


There is a concrete tower which seems so monumental always being caught in my eyes when I'm wandering in this city of books.
Entering it and what would I see?



Experience of Reflection

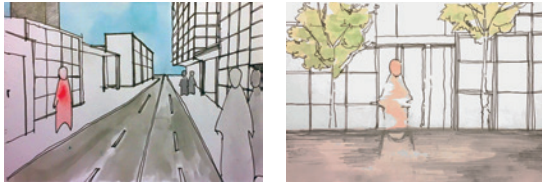
encounter
find out
wandering...
see the world



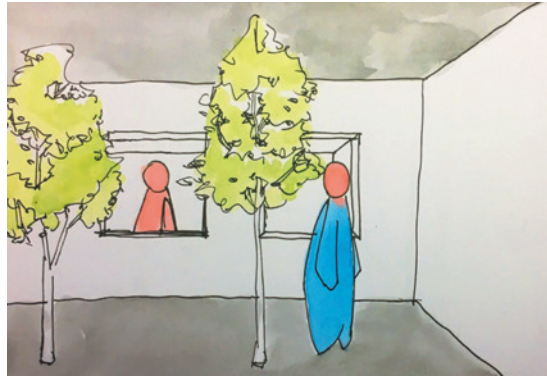
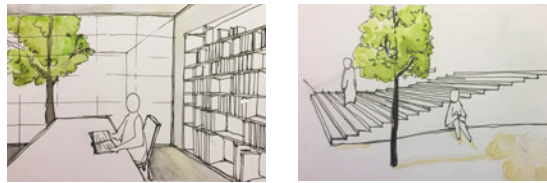




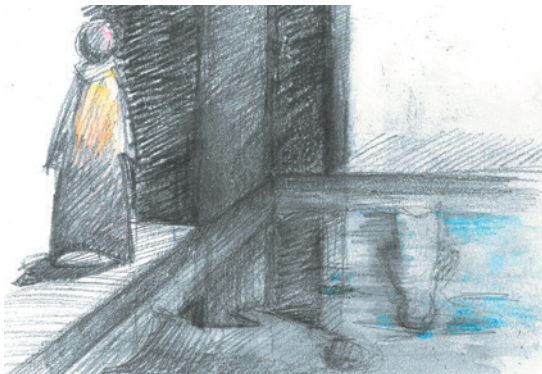
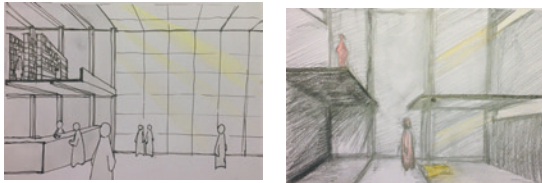
Encounter



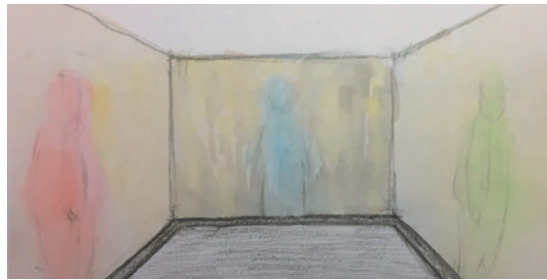
Wandering



Find out



See the world

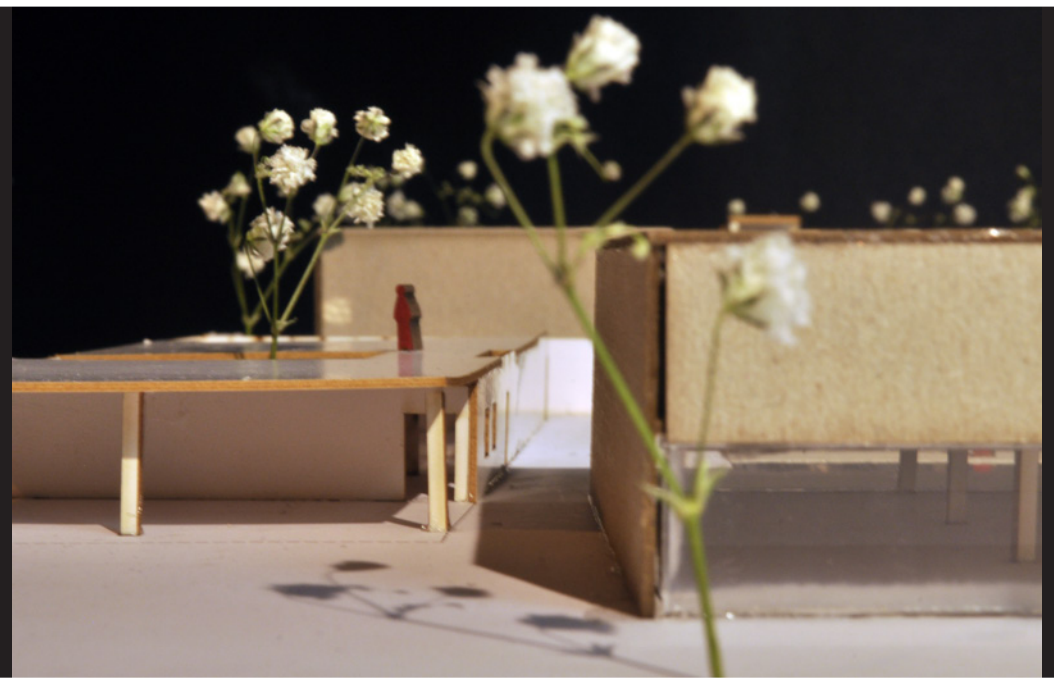
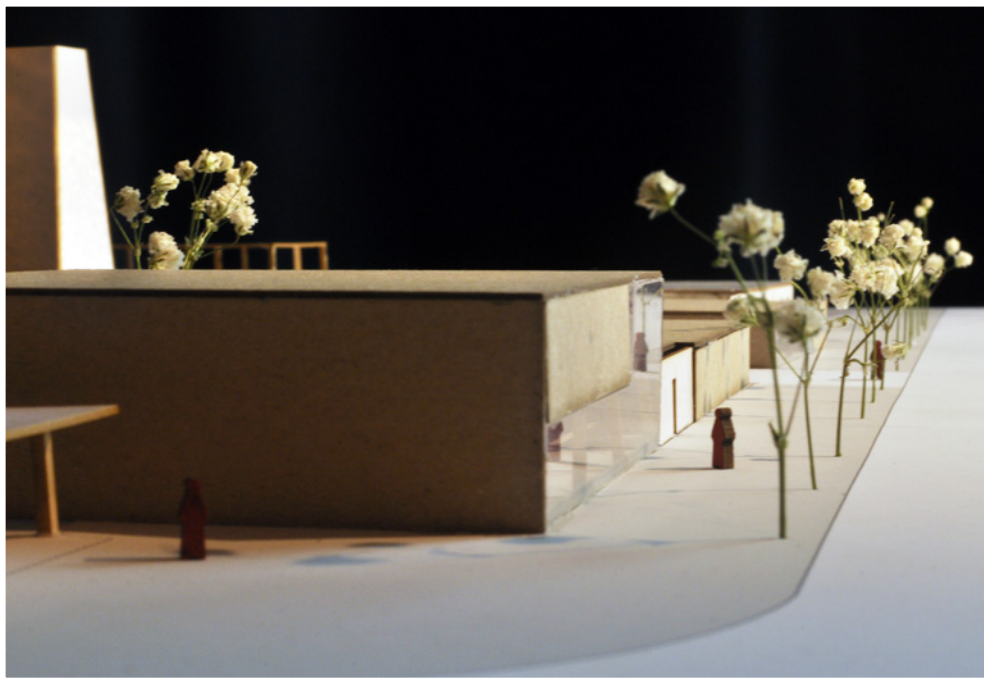


#1 Act

§

#J Vcf

In the hustle and bustle of city life, suddenly people can see the images of themselves and a shingly mottled tower. There are bookstores where people can freely wander and far away people can also see others wandering in this tiny city.



#1-1 Encounter There are several open entrances and people can see their own reflections in the showwindow of bookstores.

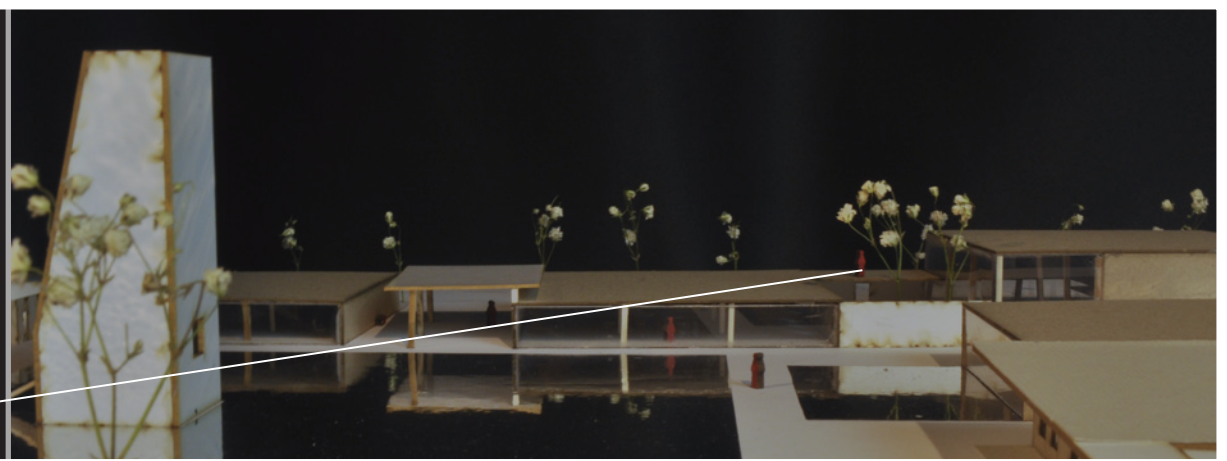






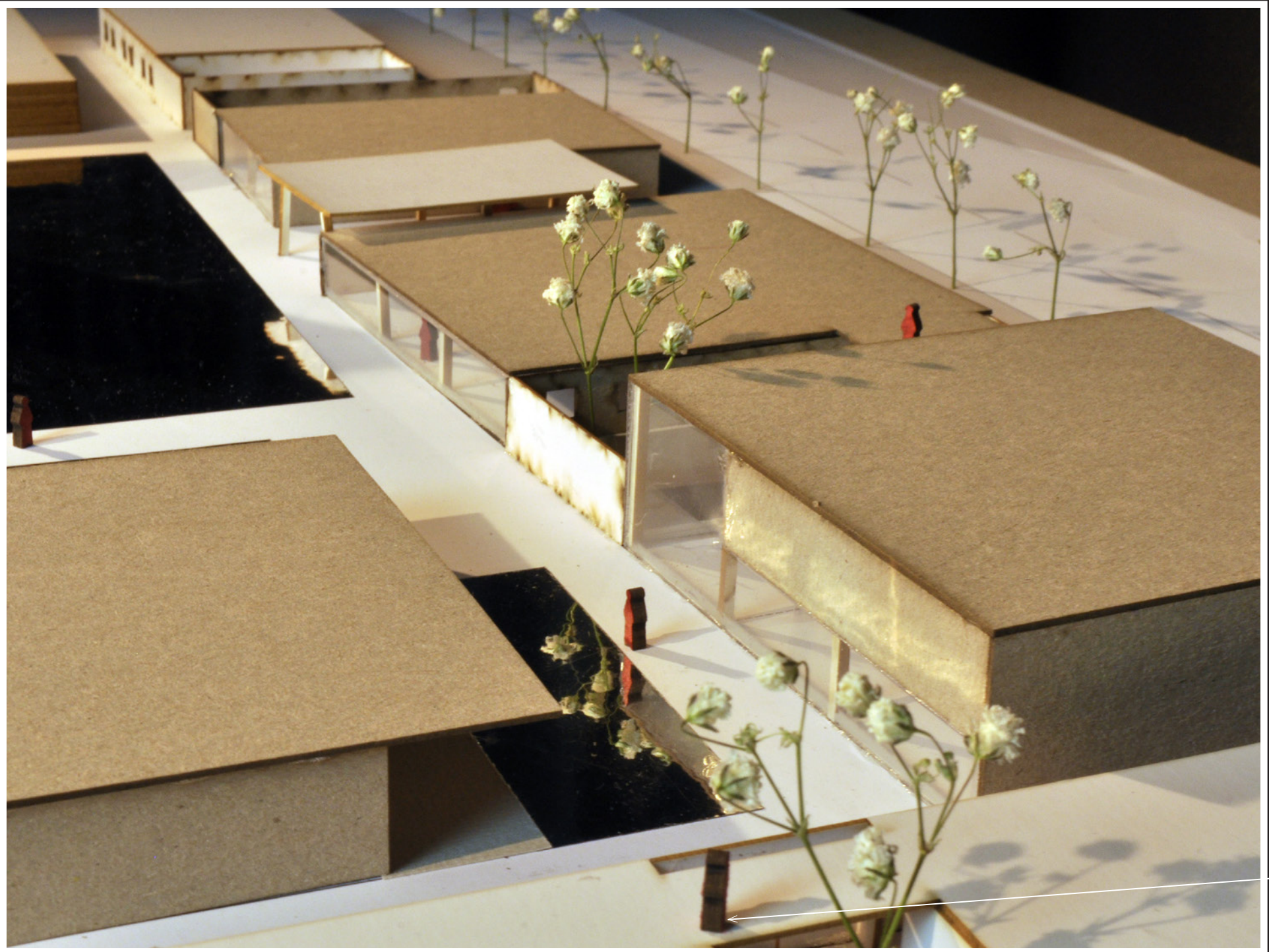
#1-2 FINF OUT In this tiny courtyard, there is a still pool reflecting trees and glasses of the building.

#1-3 WANDERING... Far away, there are some other people.

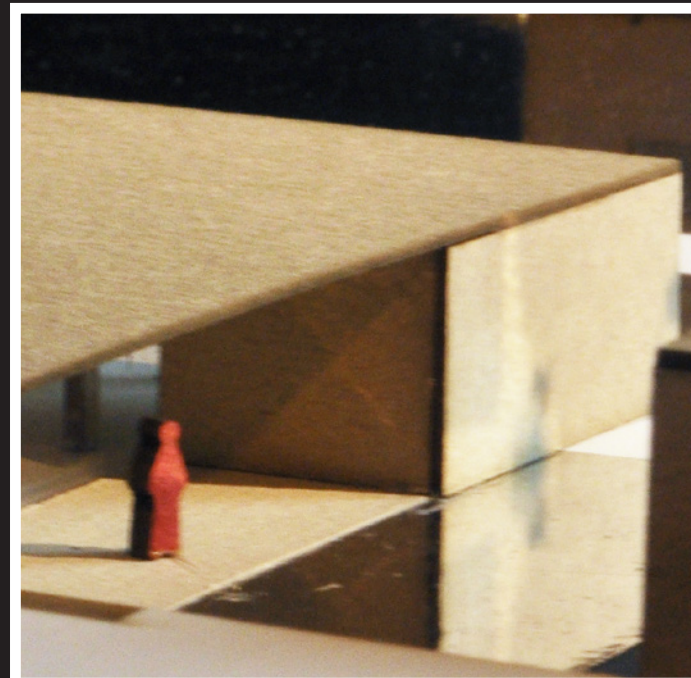


#1-3 WANDERING... Exiting bookstores, there are other open water pools which people can walk along freely.



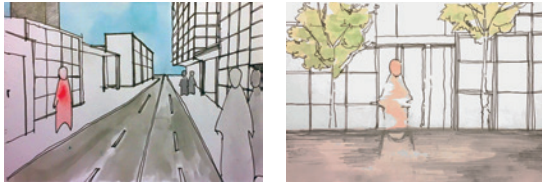


#1-3 WANDERING... Exiting bookstores, there are other open water pools which people can walk along freely.

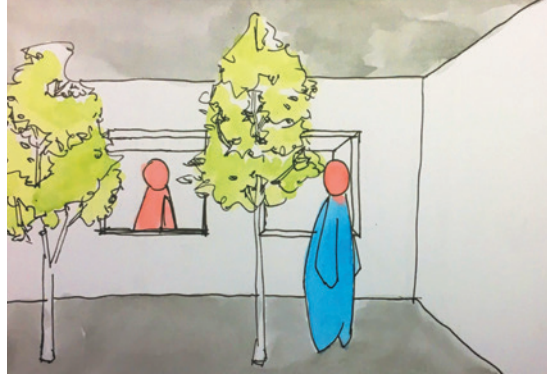
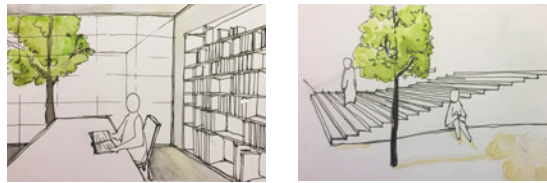




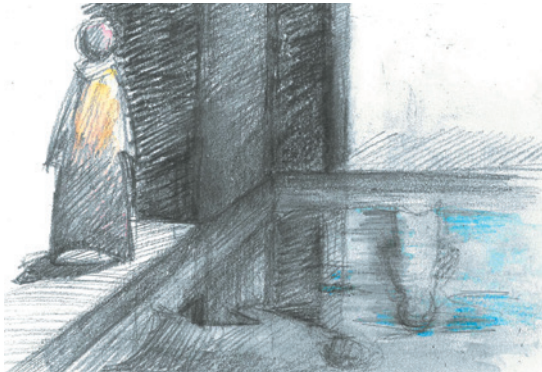
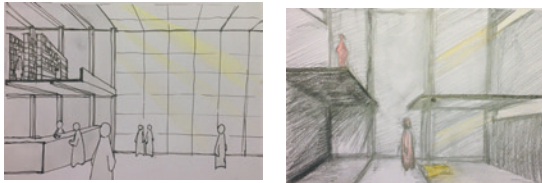
Encounter



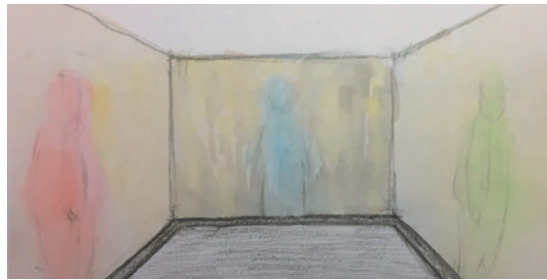
Wandering



Find out



See the world



#2 Act

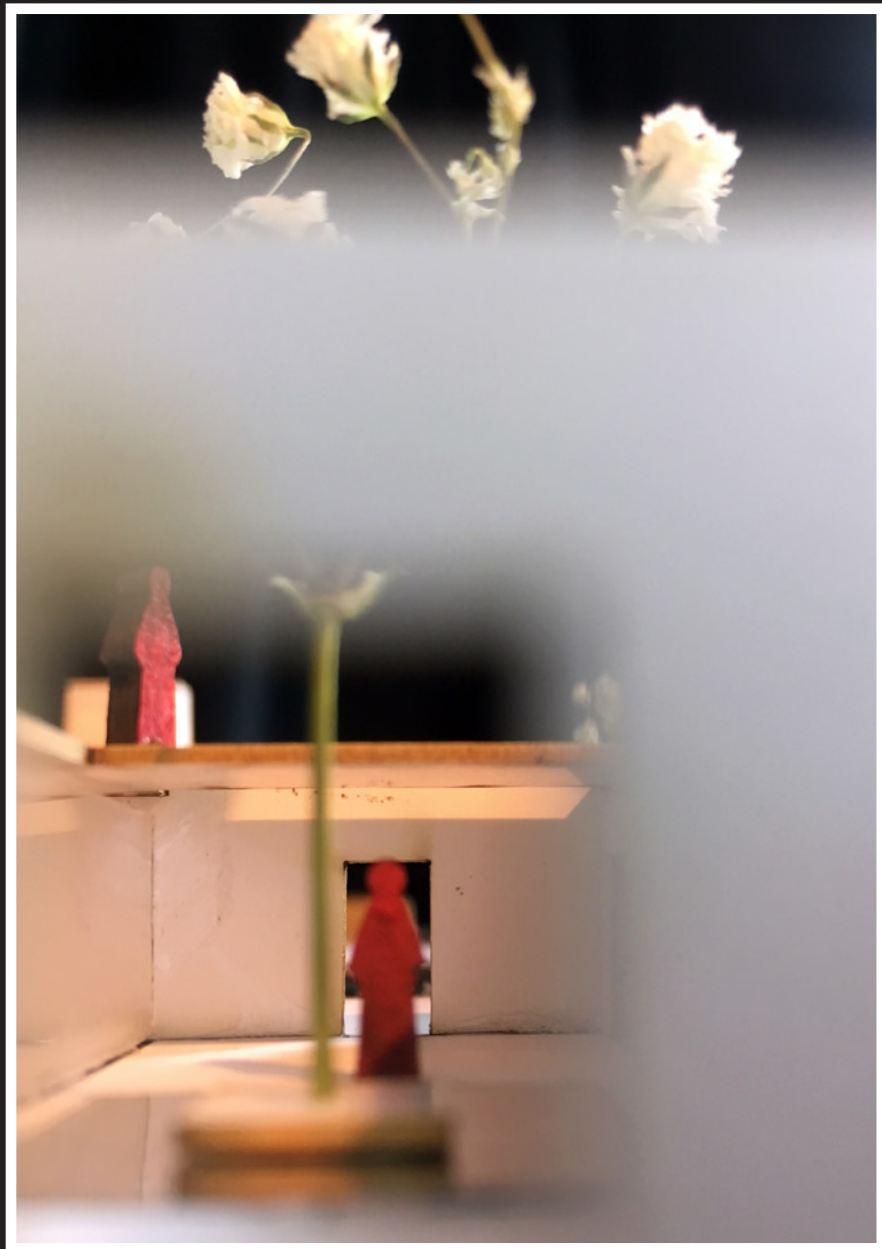
§

#5 Act

Along the swath of pavement, although this surface barely opens, there are small-scale doors openings, entrance and lower walls attract those people who would have an extra look at this tiny reflection world. Just walk in and there will be a lot of interesting activities.

#2-1 ENCOUNTER

Through small-scale openings it's really interesting to see people going around. Seeing reflections of myself and others is really a fascinating thing.



#2-2 FIND OUT

Attracted by those seemingly mysterious openings, there is another tiny world to sit down to watch those reflections of trees, others and myself.



#2-3 WANDERING...

There are full of tiny passages guiding to different space experience. Those who watches the scenery also become the scenery.





#2-1 ENCOUNTER

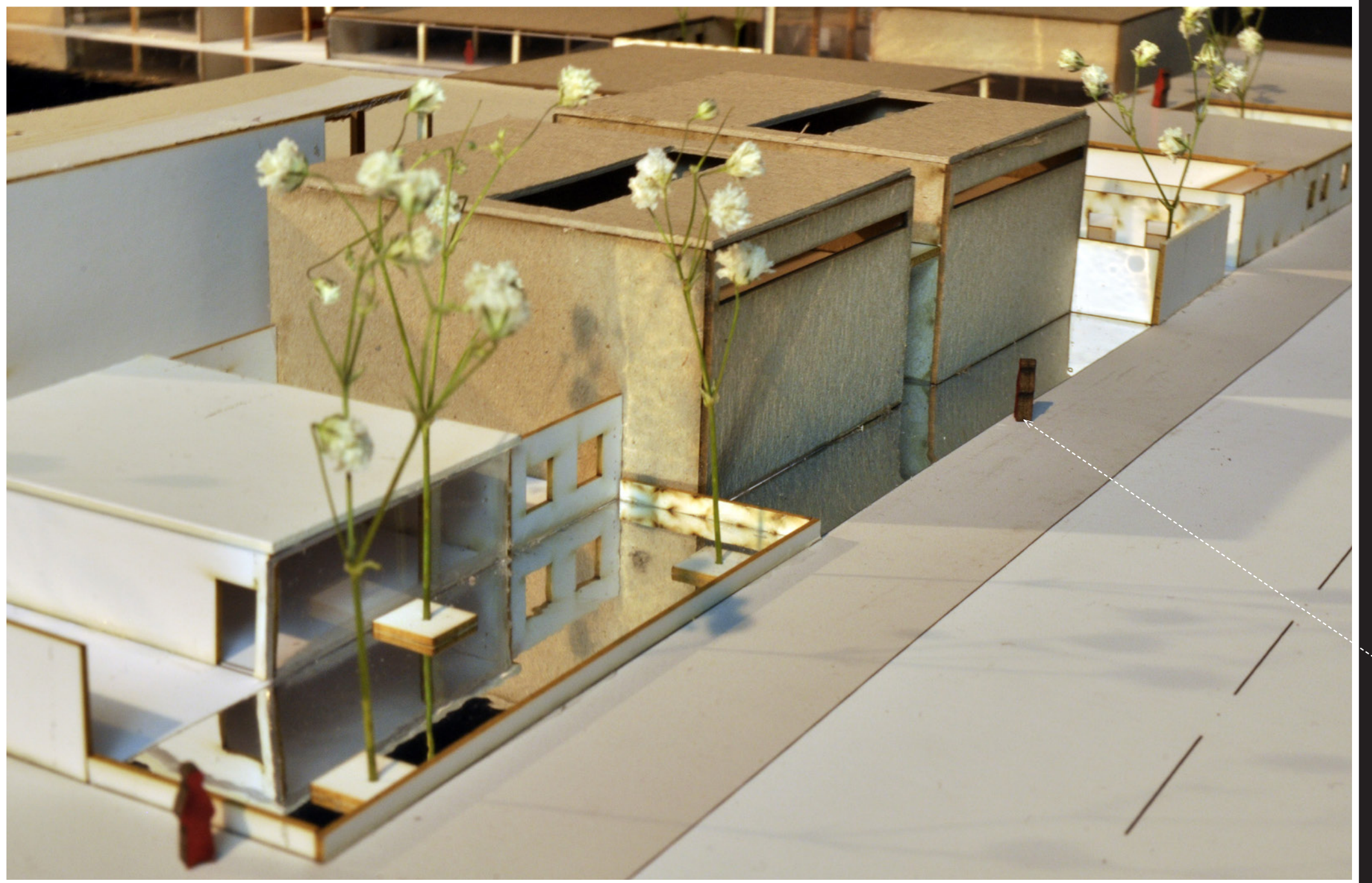
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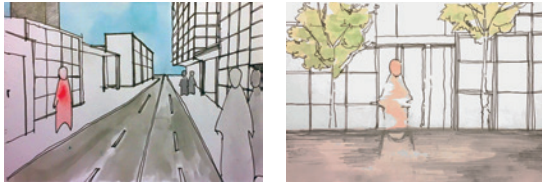
#2-3 WANDERING...

There are full of tiny passages guiding to different space experience. Isn't that amazing to see all of this?

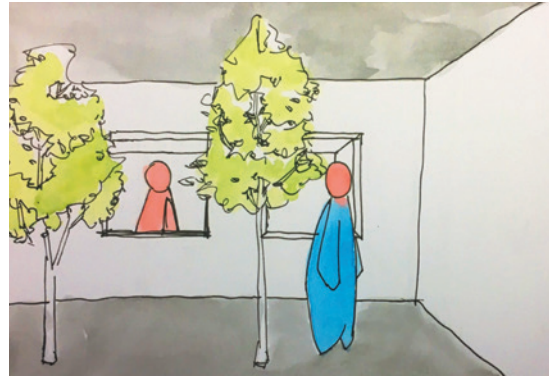
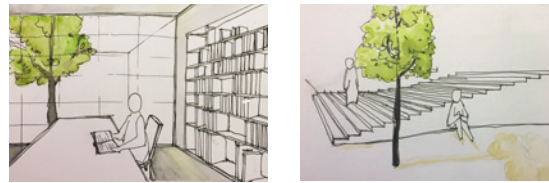




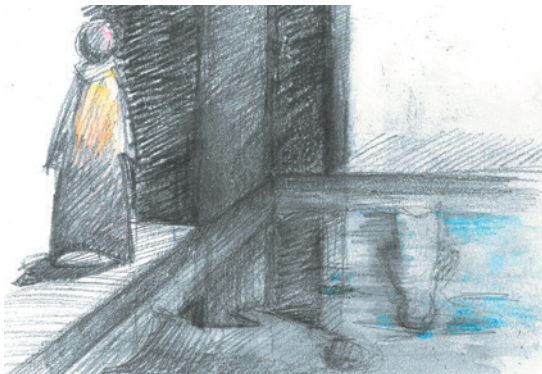
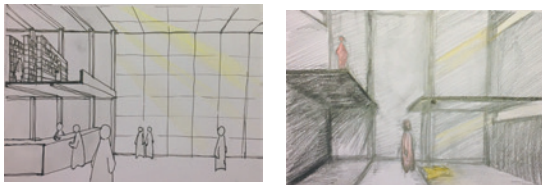
Encounter



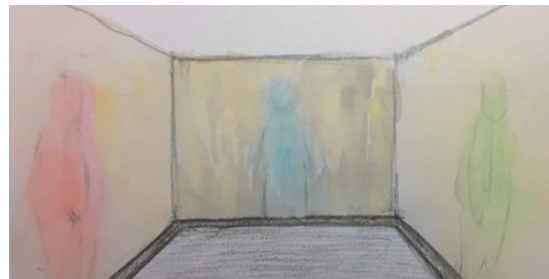
Wandering



Find out



See the world



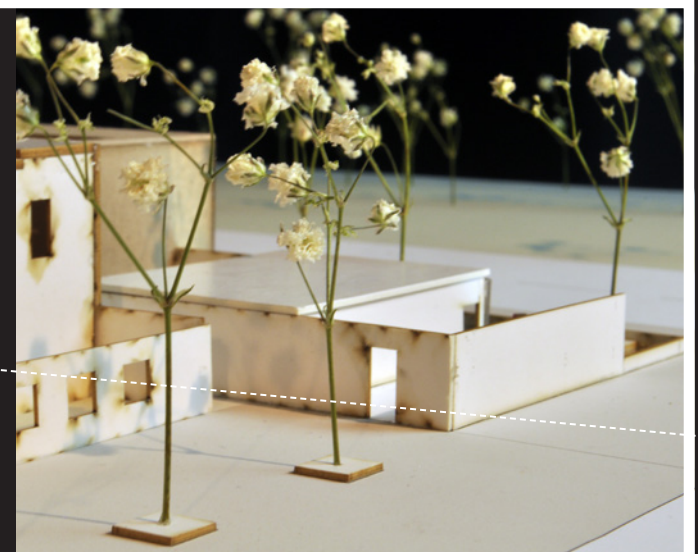
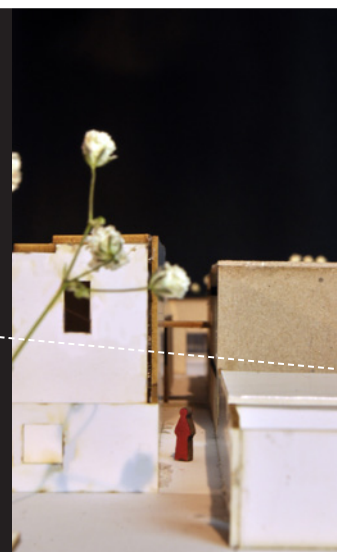
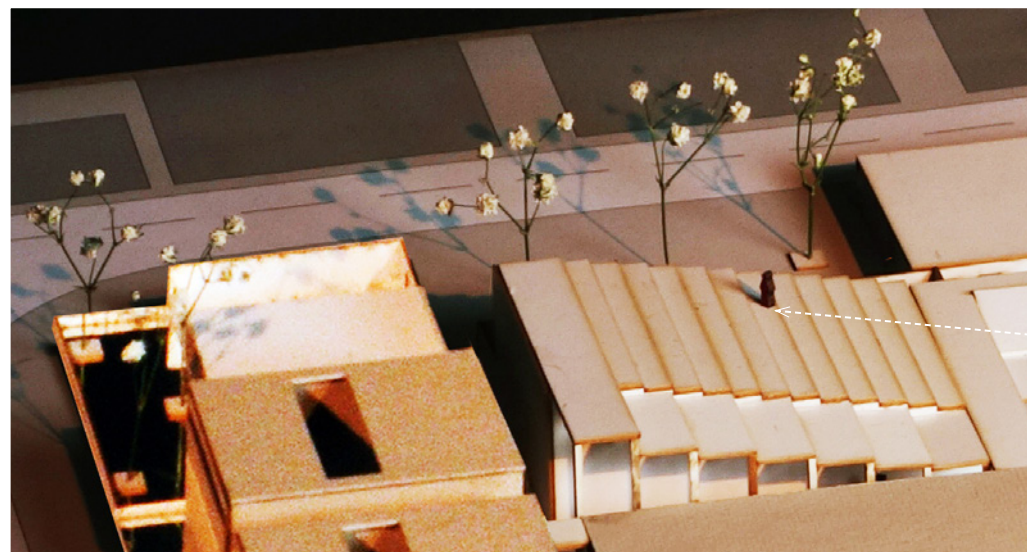
#3 Act

§

#3 Act

In this swath of pavement, there are several yards facing the road. Entering them and there are different places where people can freely wander...

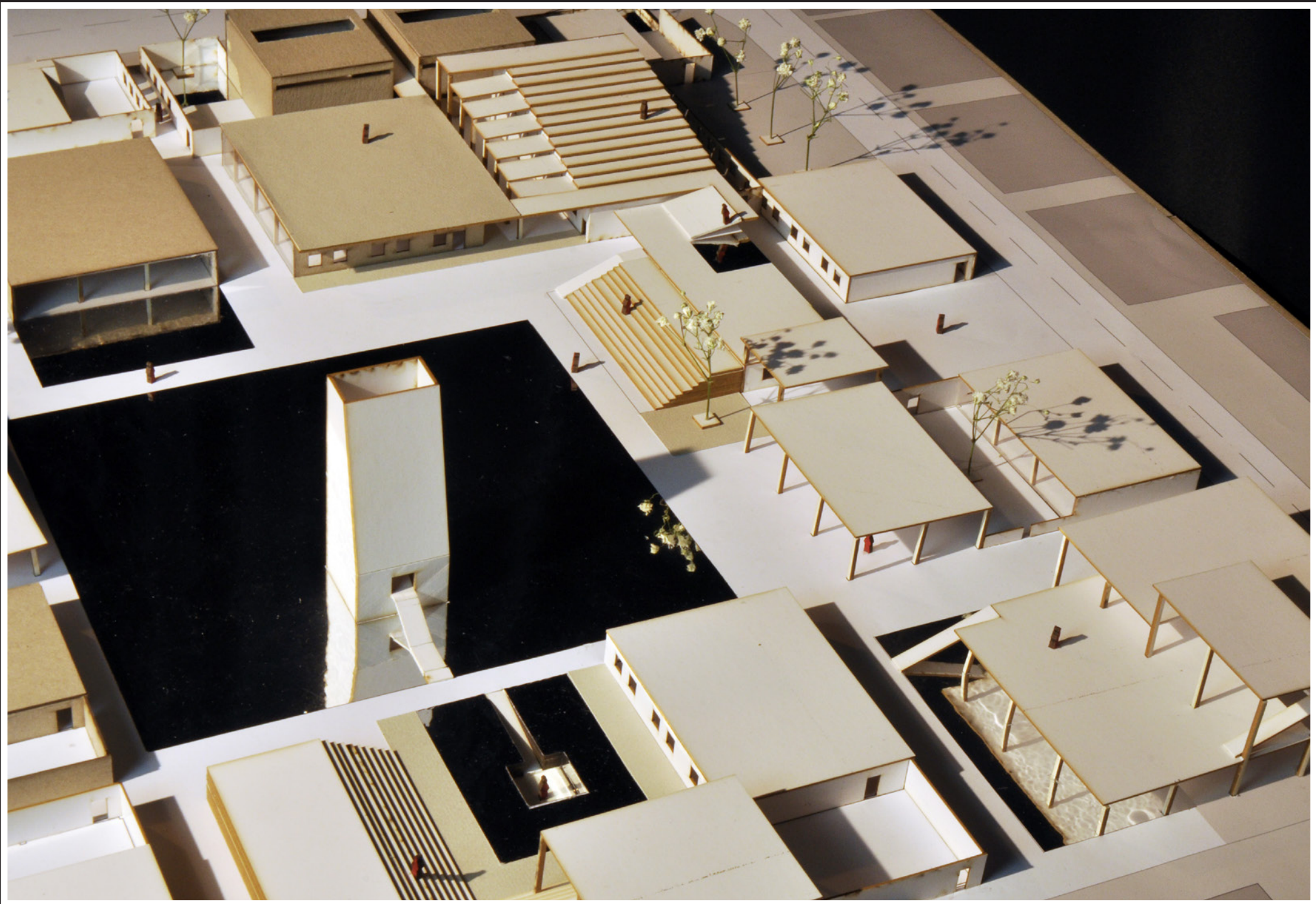
#3-1 ENCOUNTER Walking through a series of opening yards, interactions with others seem quite attractive.





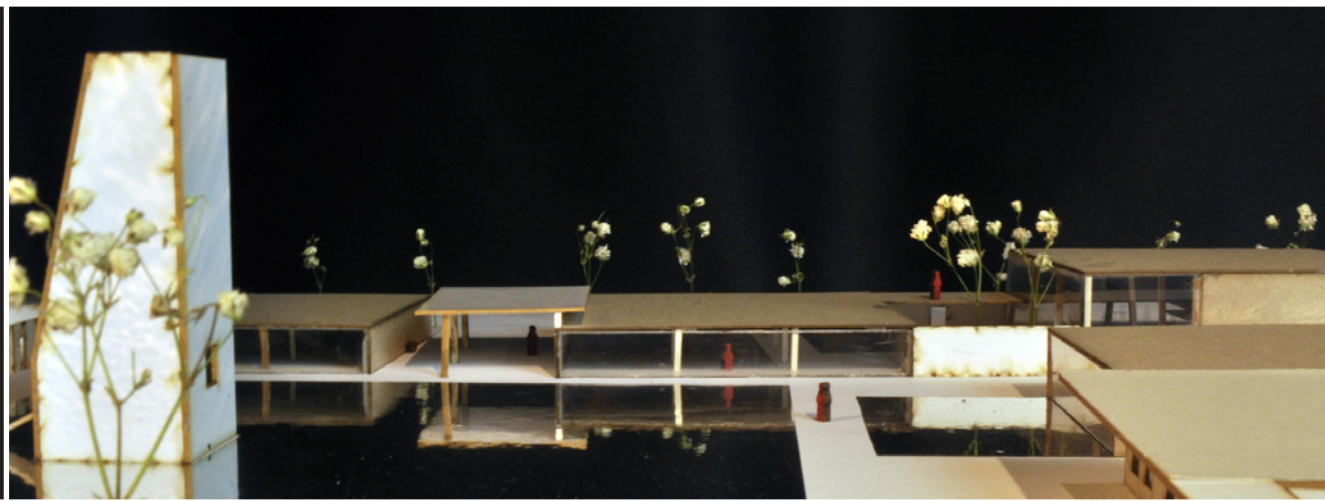
#3-2 & 3-3 FIND OUT & WANDERING... A lot of totally open stairs and plats are waiting people to visit where they can find reflections of anything.





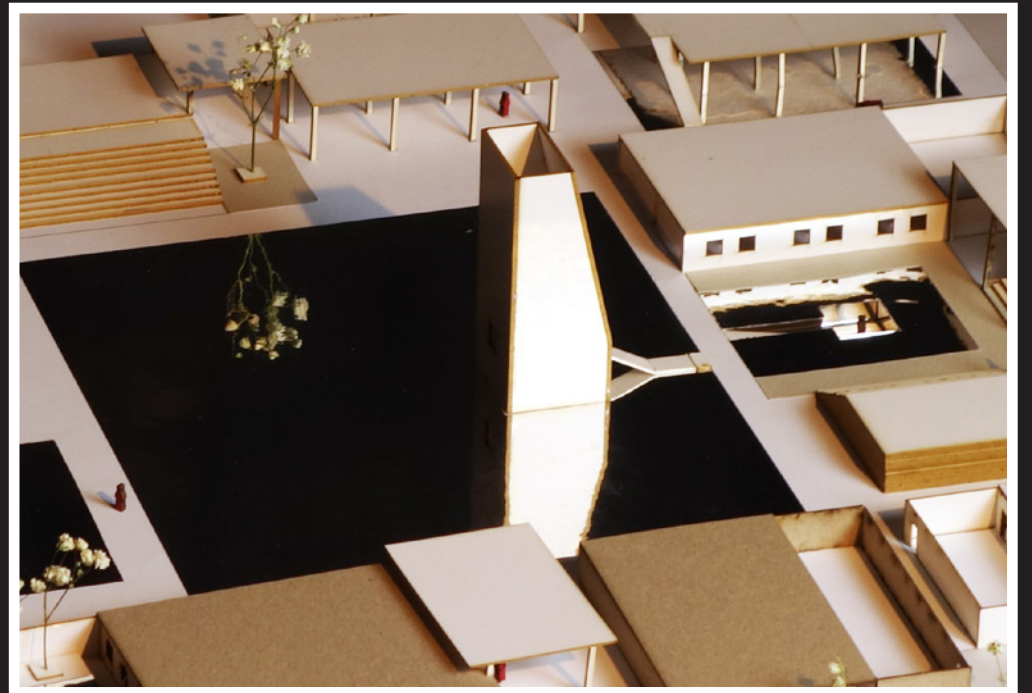
#3-2 & 3-3 FIND OUT & WANDERING... A lot of totally open stairs and plats are waiting people to visit where they can find reflections of anything.

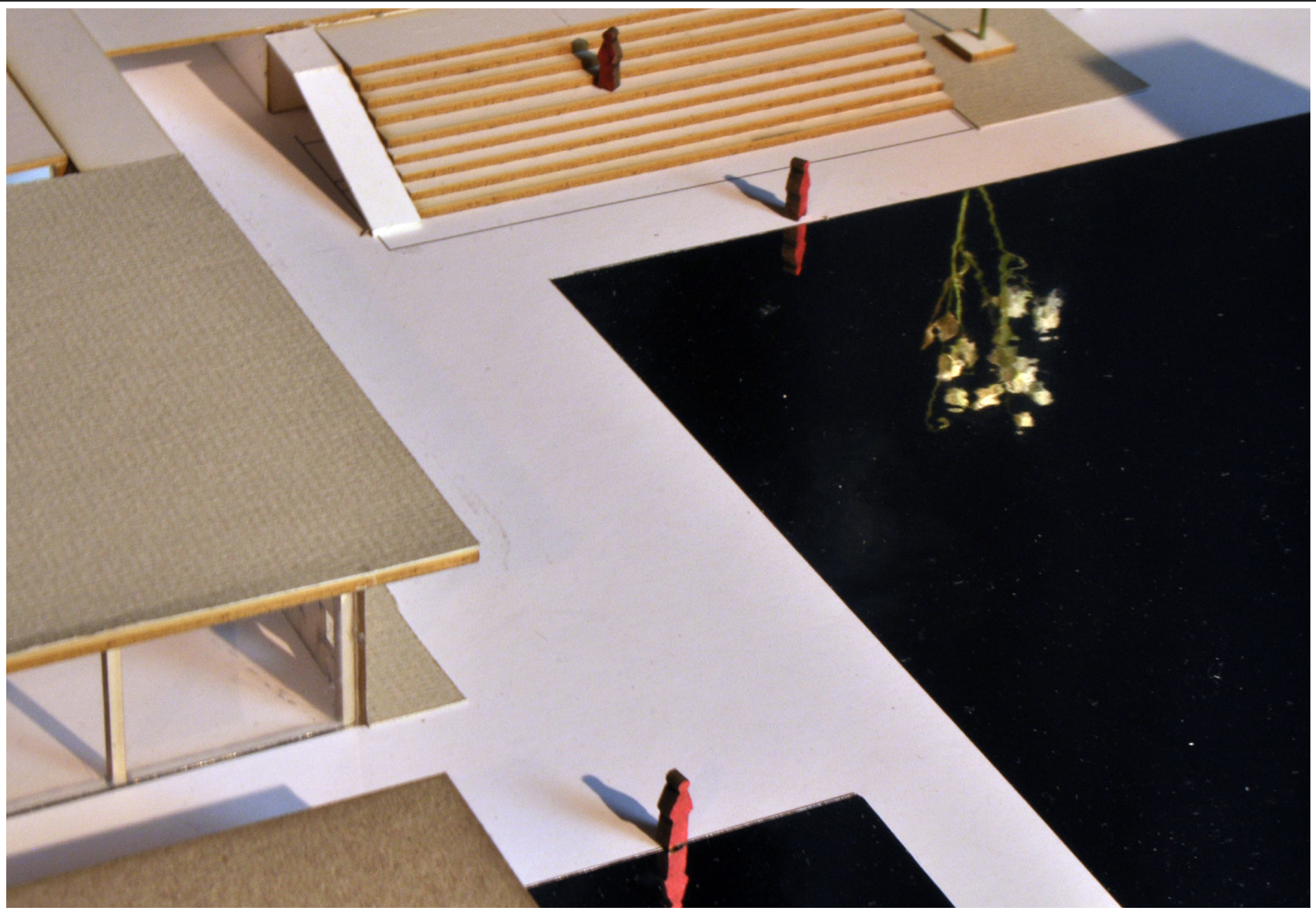




A tower..
and a tree..

..Till the last chapter



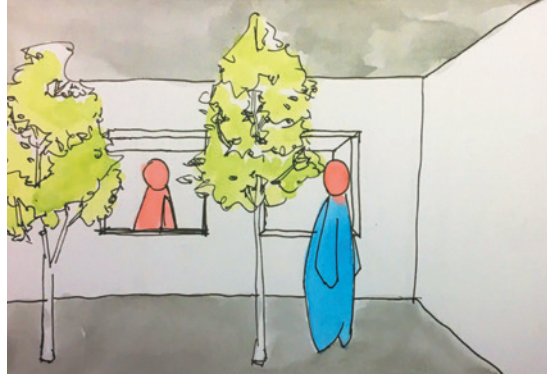
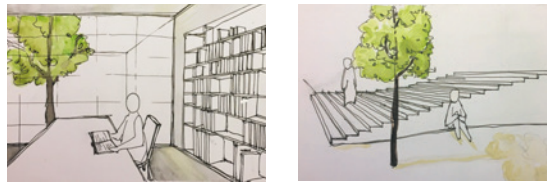




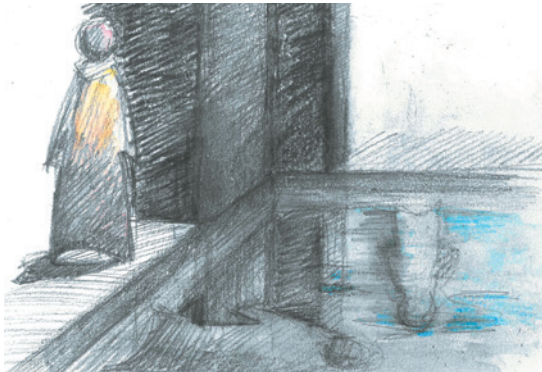
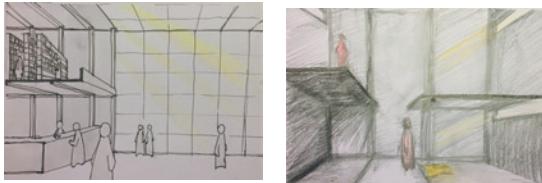
Encounter



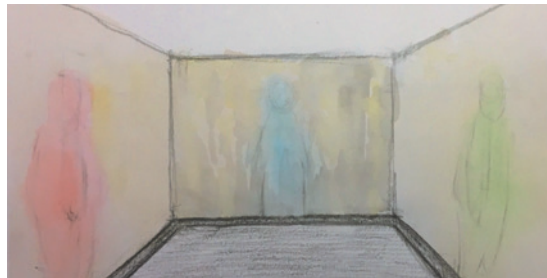
Wandering



Find out



See the world

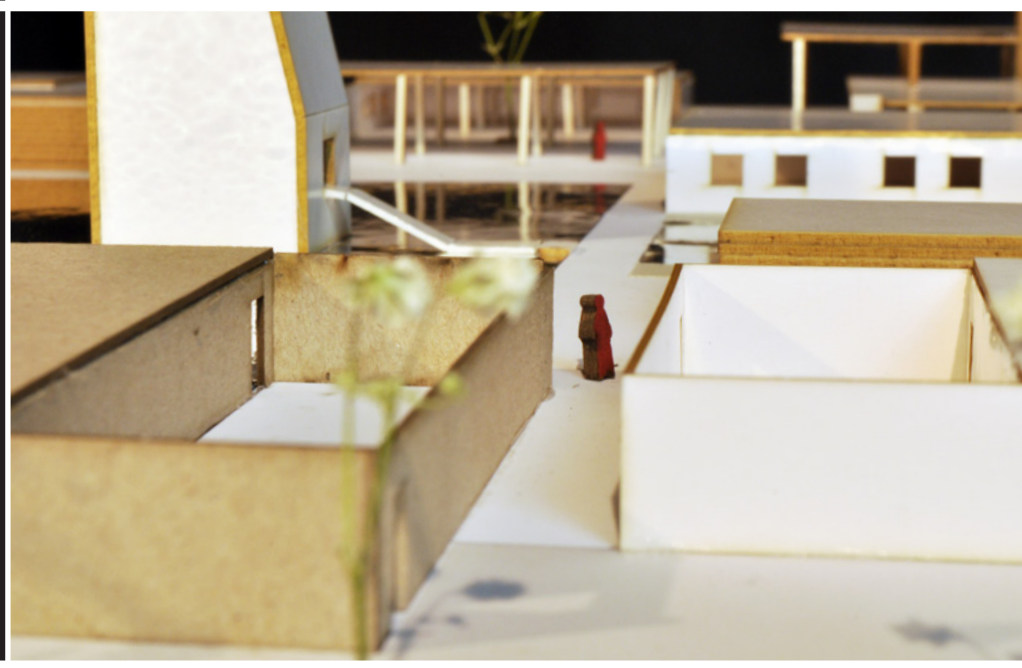


#4 Act

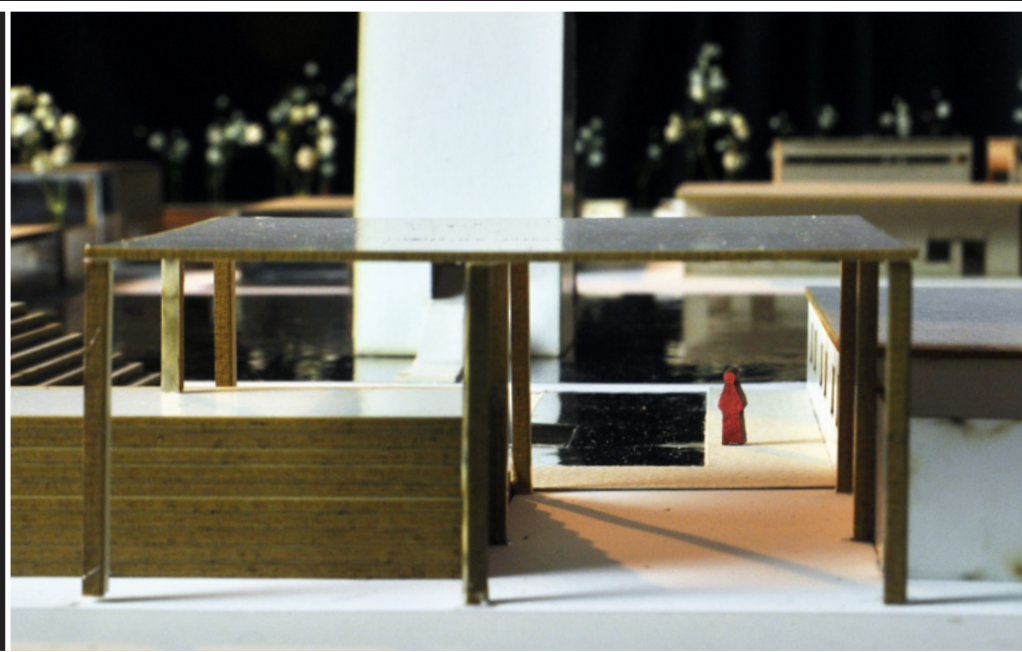
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#4 VCF

There are different landscapes for people to admire and have a leisure time. And also other unneglectable buildings, which are a tower and a sunken pool, seem so mysterious that some people may be attracted to ascend or descend to figure them out.

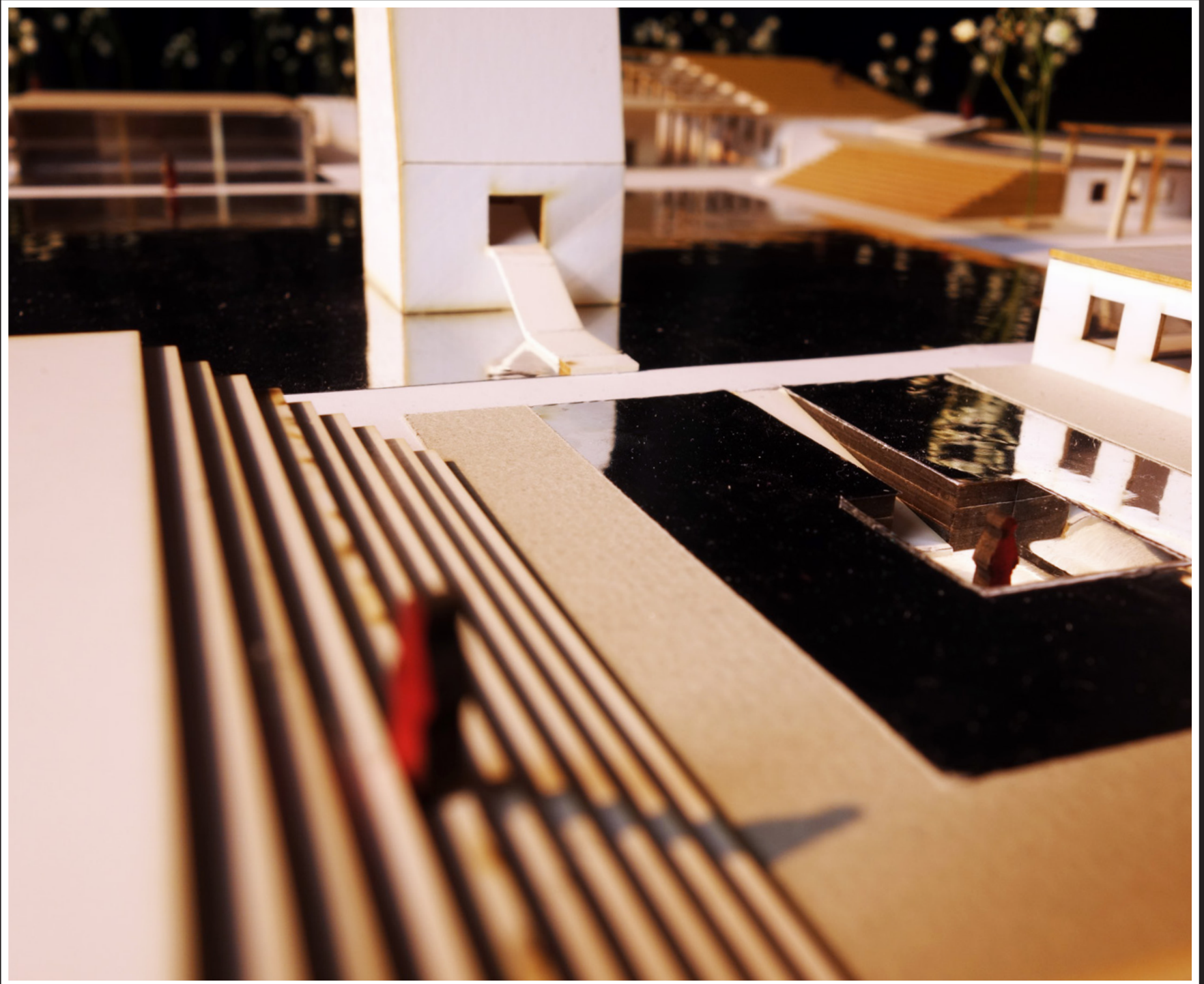


#4-1 ENCOUNTER along those passage way, it seems there are other interesting landscapes waiting for me.

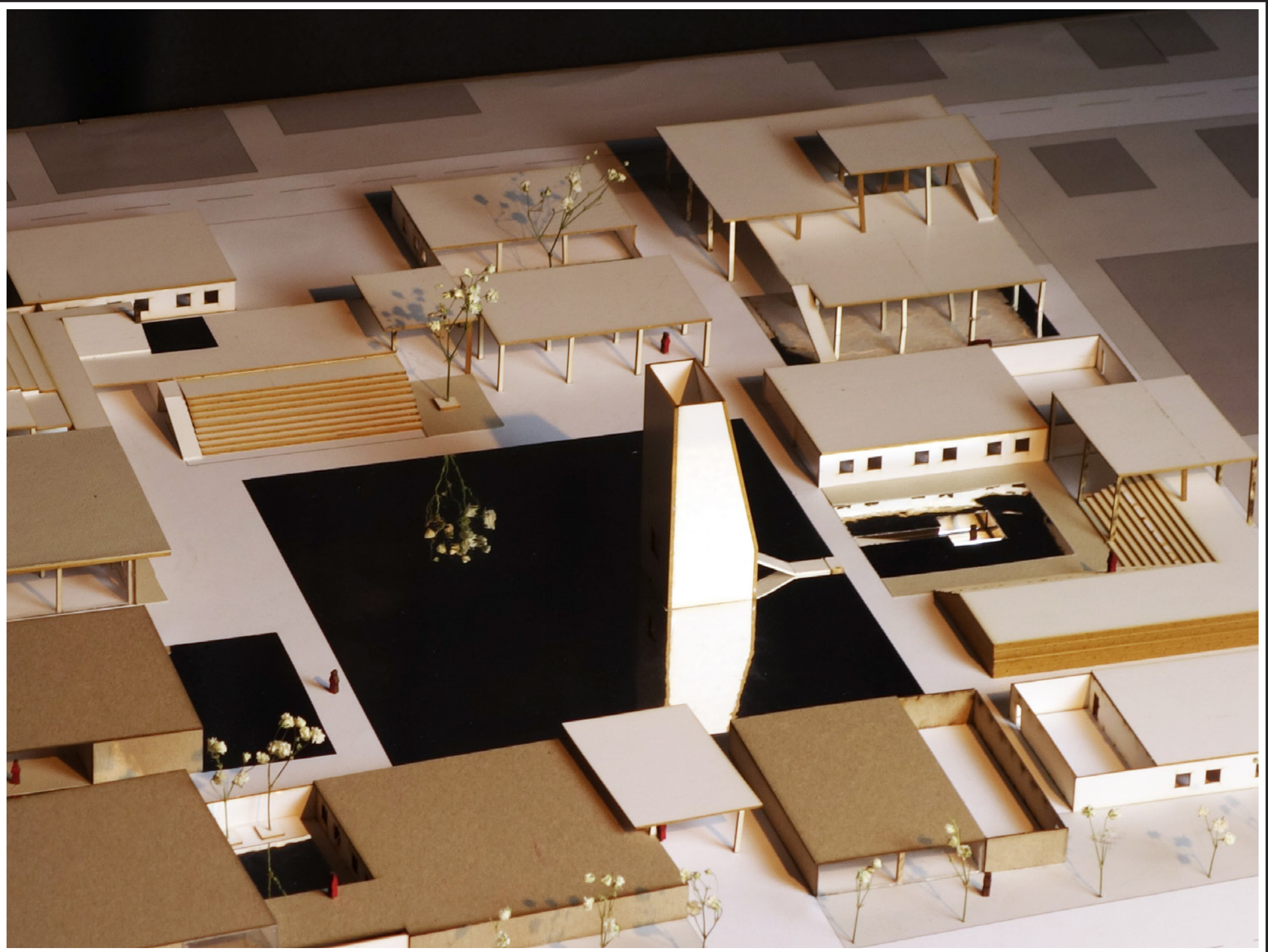


#4-2 & 4-3
FIND OUT &
WANDERING...

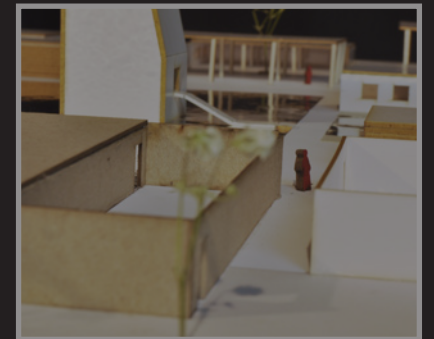
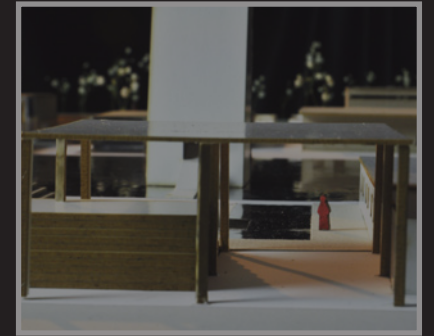
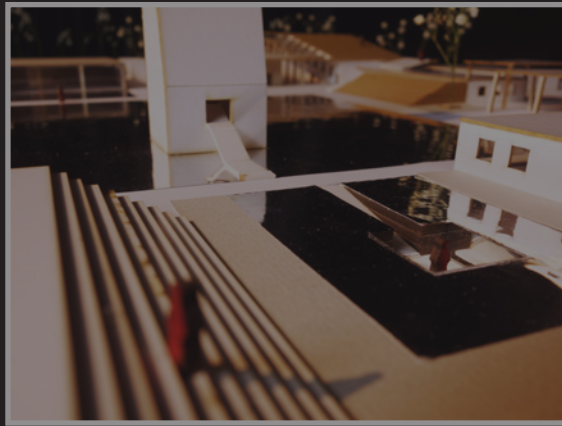
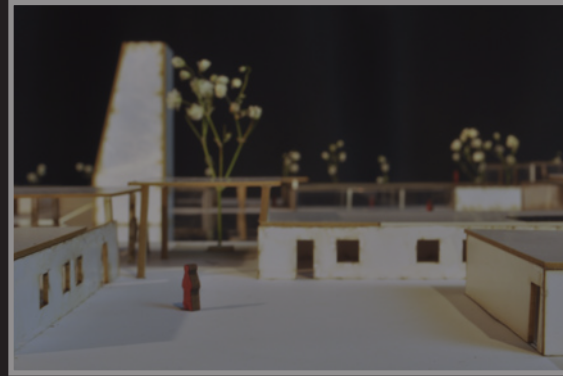
No matter
ascending or
descending, it
seems there
are both
quite unusual
constructions with
water.

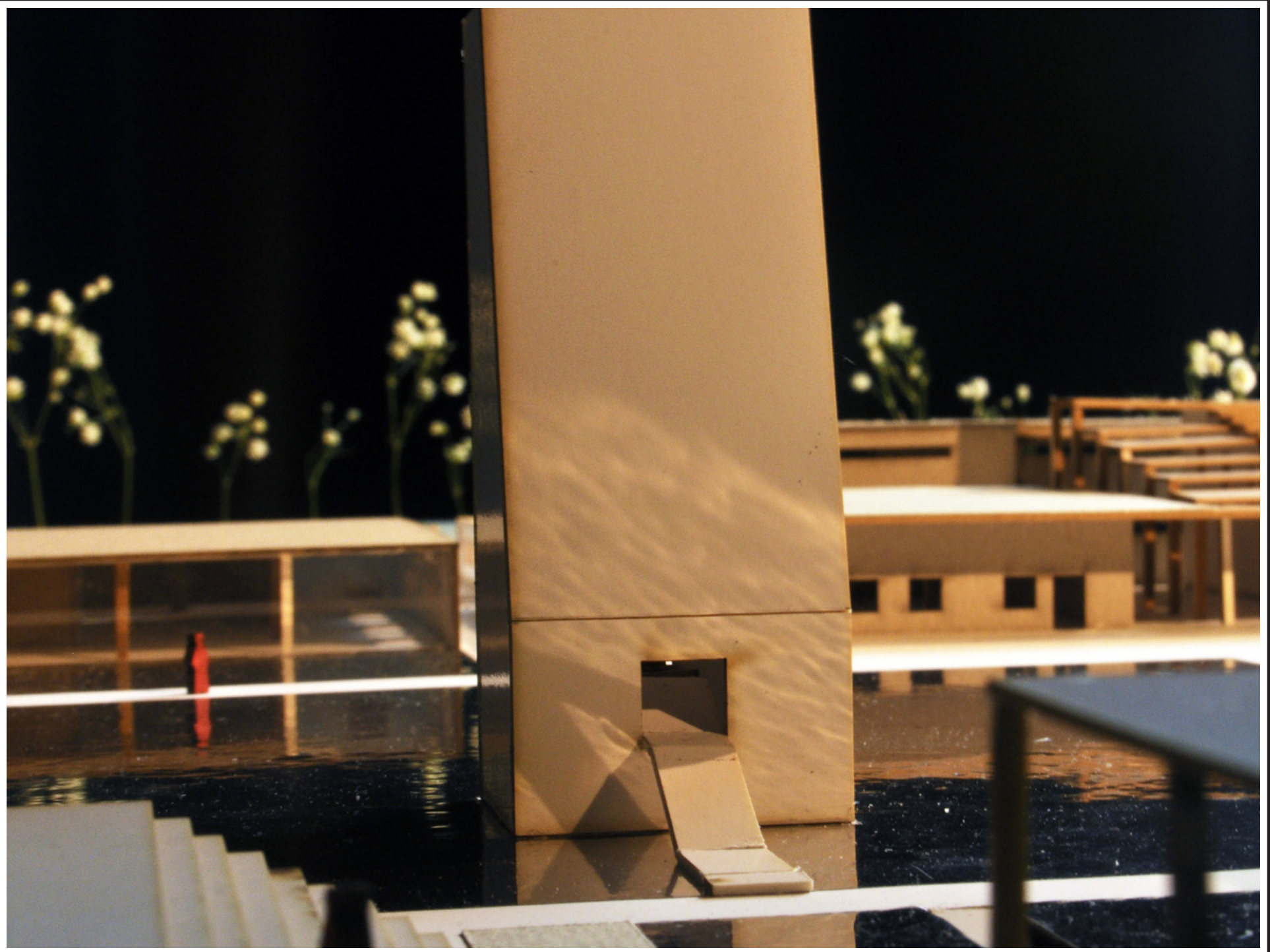


UP
or Down
or just Wander
or sit down



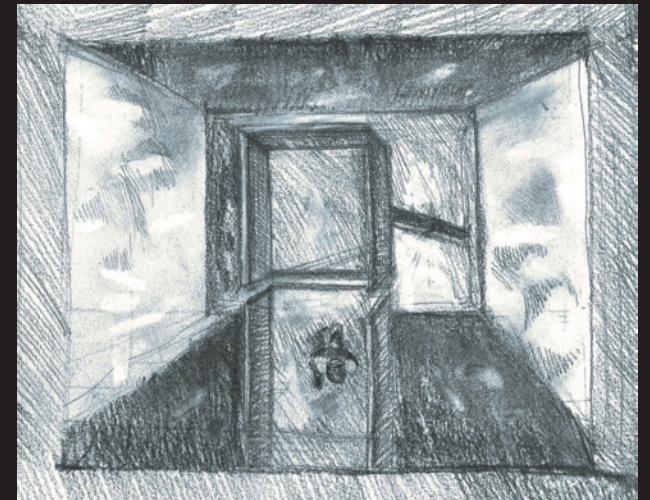
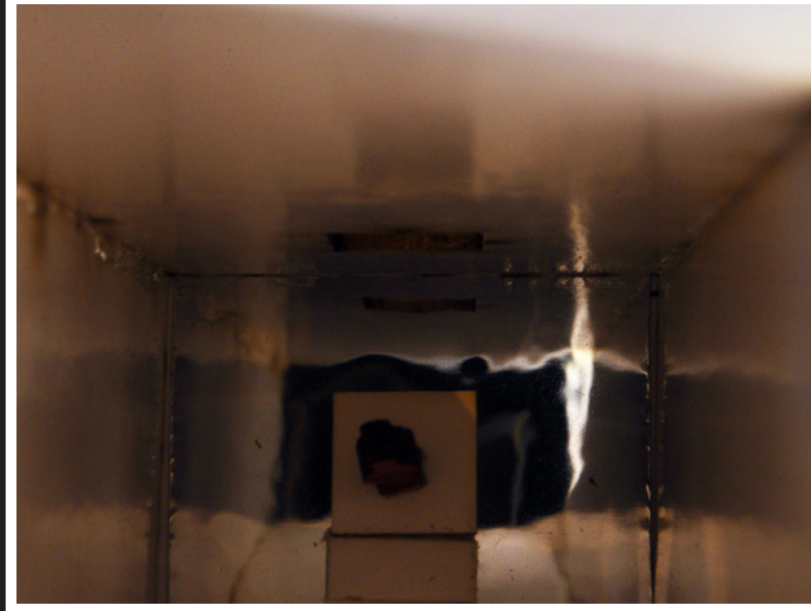
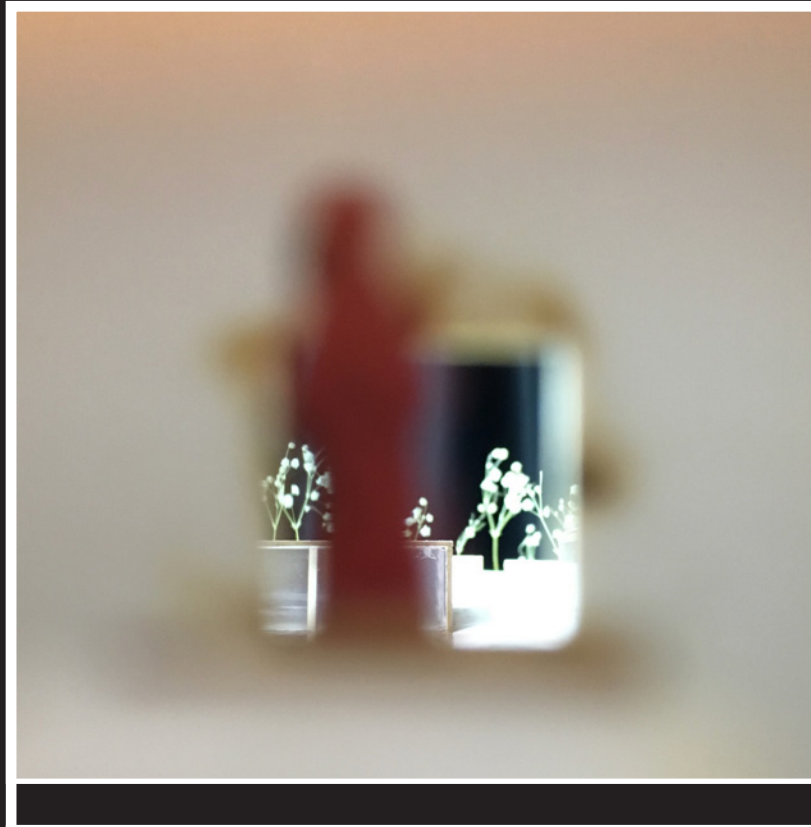
UP
To see the tower



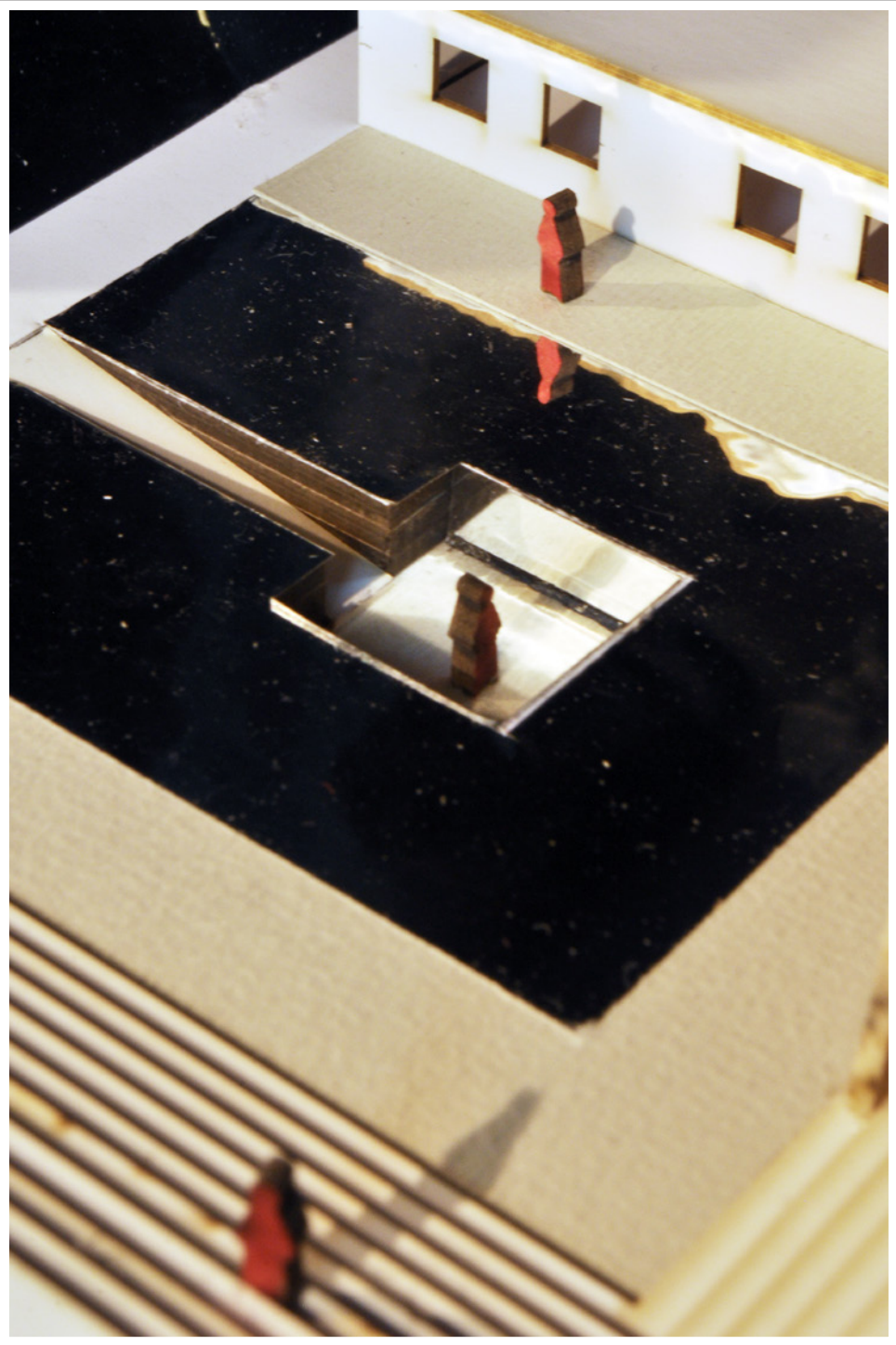


#4-4 SEE THE WORLD

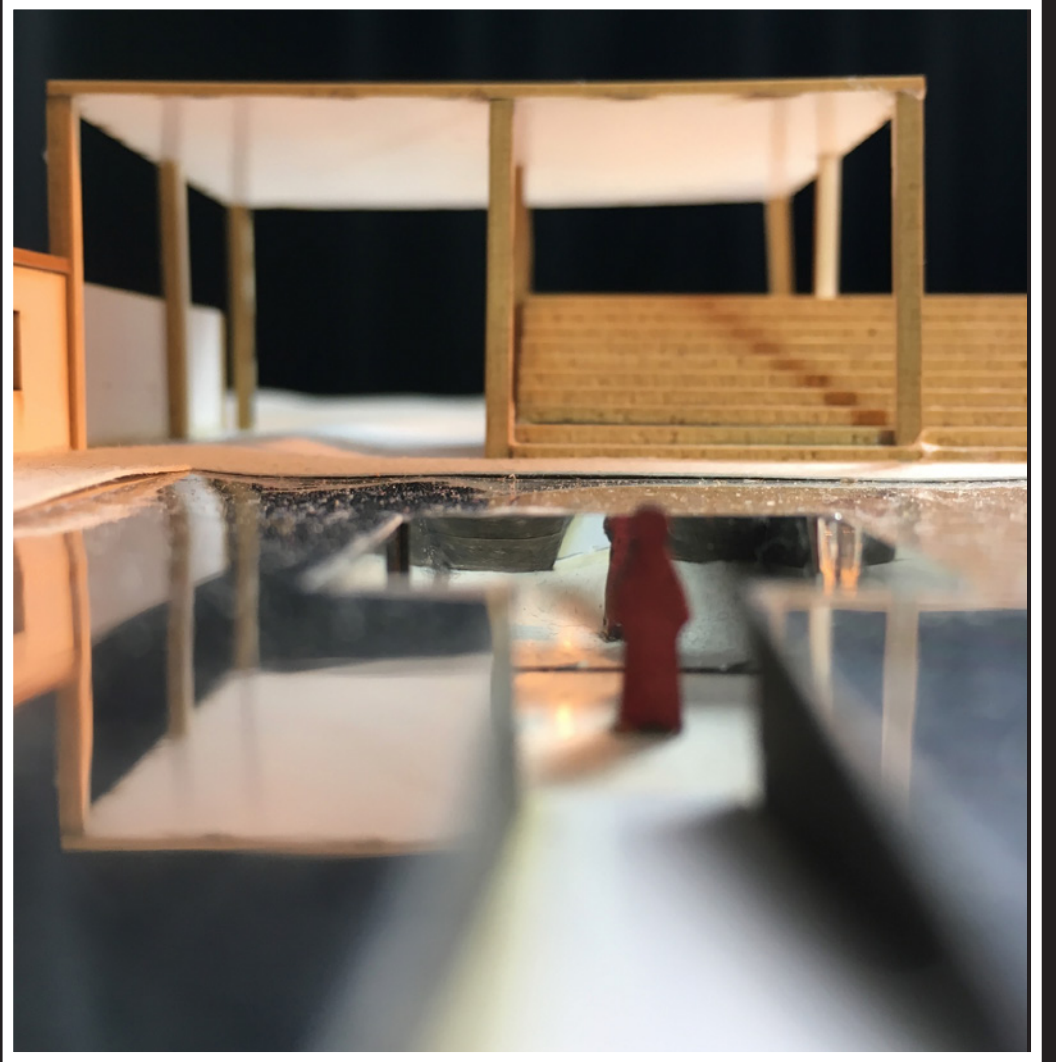
Now in the tower, further
I see this tiny world, up I
see the sky, down I see the
reflection of the world and
myself...Back to the reality, I
know there are more...



There is a concrete tower which
seems so monumental always
being caught in my eyes when I'm
wandering in this city of books.
Entering it and what would I see?

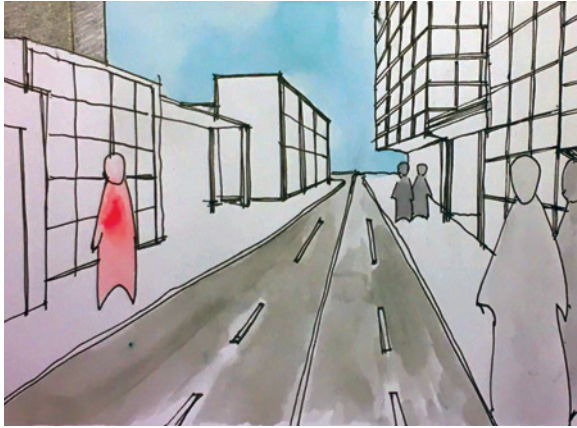


DOWN and WANDER
To see the world and myself...









The End

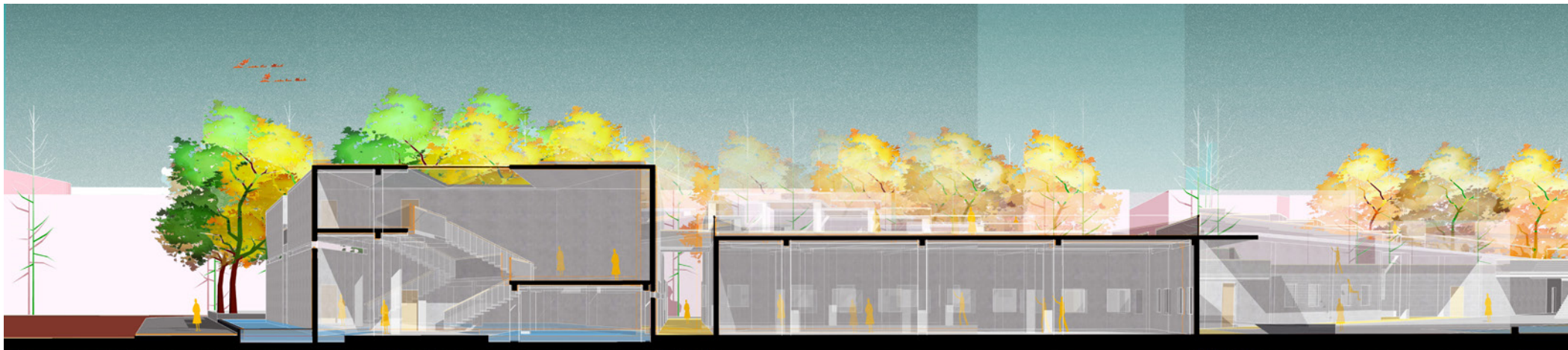
§

The End

Here is a lamp in my mind.
And I know this is reflection
of ...anything...

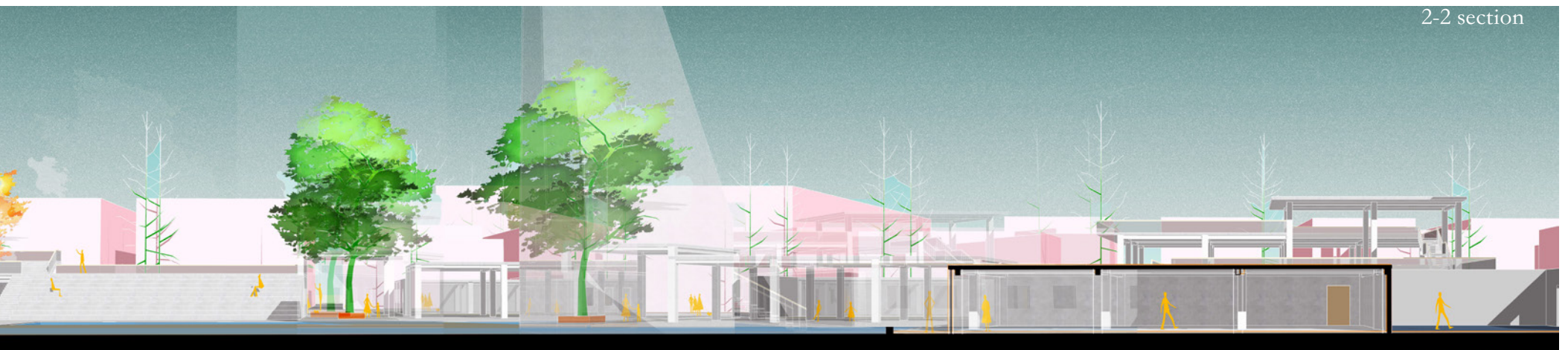


IF in the same time line, what are others doing when people sink in their own world?

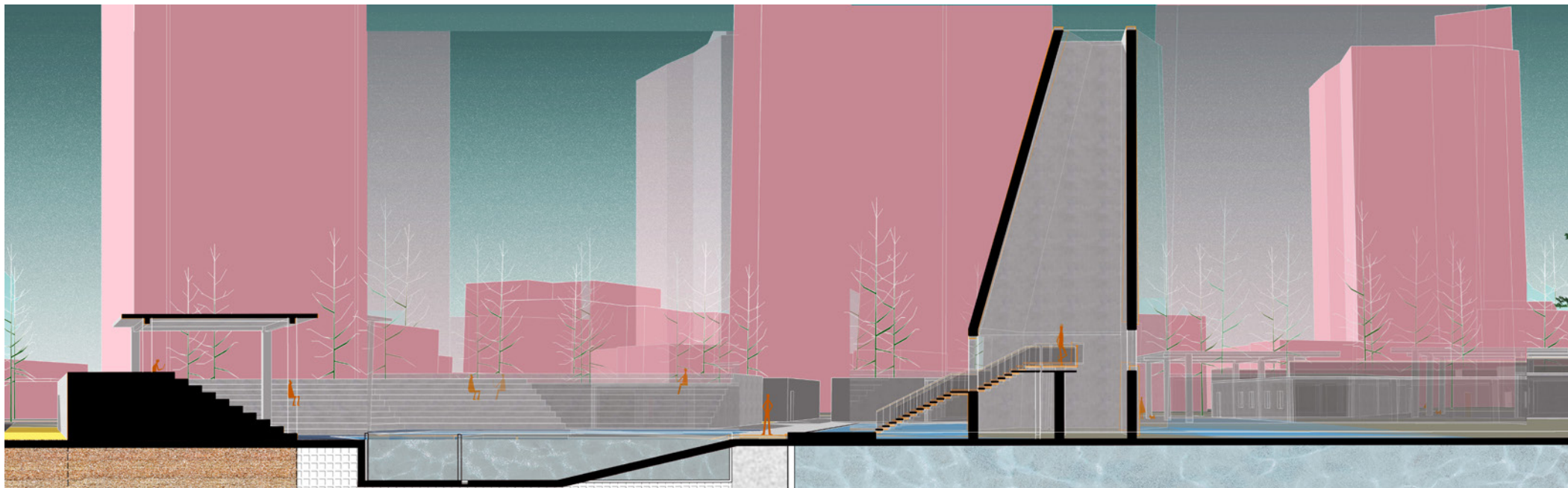


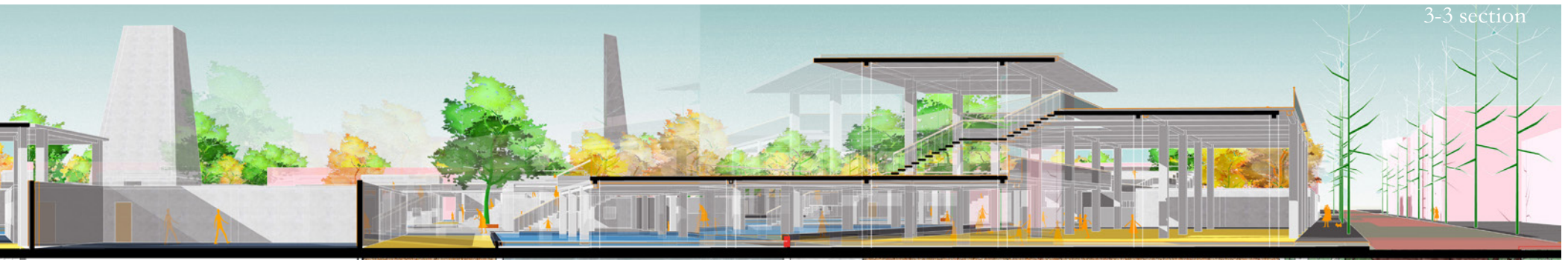


1-1 section



2-2 section



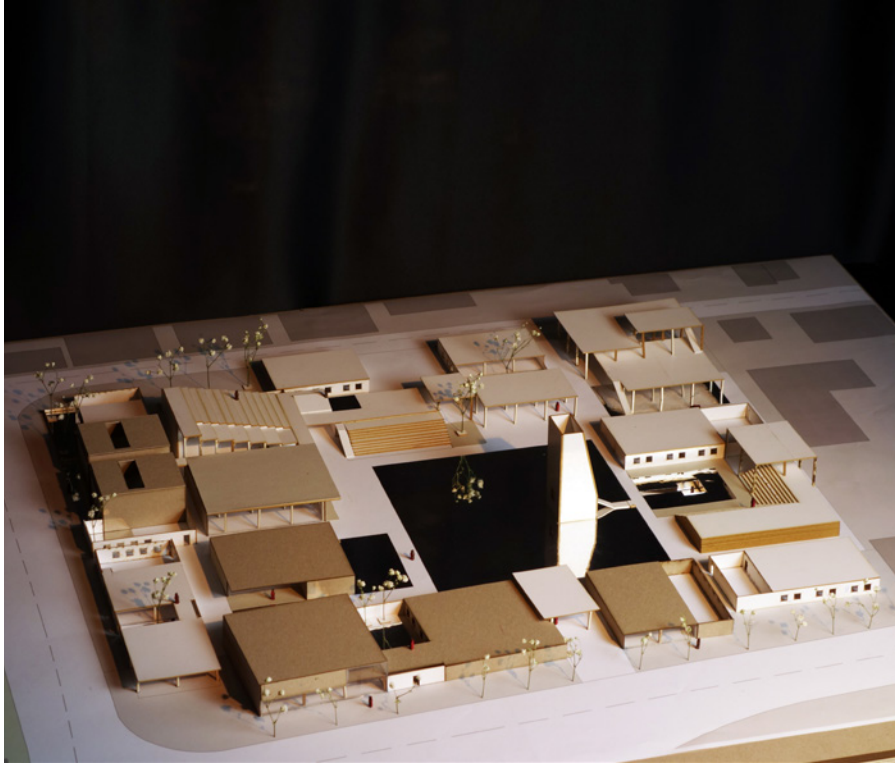


IF in the same time line, what are others doing when people sink in their own world?



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Chen congzhou. *About Chinese Garden*[M]. Shanghai, Tongji University Press, 2007



Thanks to Naima, she is my tutor. She has guided me to search the most important spirit in my project and always helped me to find out how to make this project more clear and understandable.

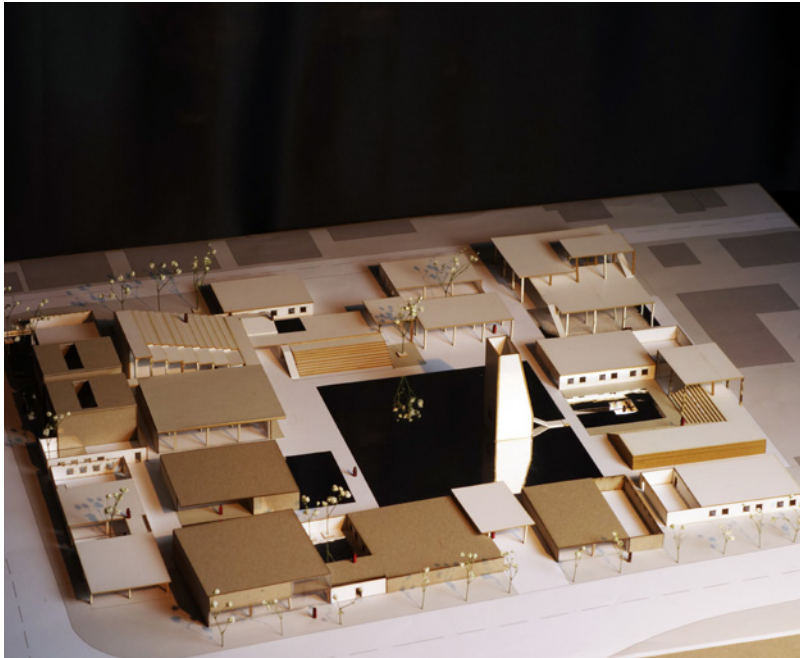
Thanks to Morten, he is my supervisor. He gave me a lot of critical opinions and inspired me to develop my project in a more practical way.

Thanks to Peter, he is my tutor. Everytime I talked to him, he always made me feel better about my project and made me desire to dig into myself.

Thanks to Meng, Danni, Kan and Qing. They are my closely friends and always give me supports in my life.

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They have always supported me to do what I desire even though I failed sometime they still believe in me and do their best to help me. I should say that I love you and I would work hard to make you be proud of me.



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If you're interested in my project, welcome to
contact me!