A.S.A Masterclass
me and us in space

Irmgard Frank with
Judith Augustinovic

Introduction
The idea of working together with 20 students from different nations and continents gave me the idea to make a topic of the correlation between the imprint one experiences through the cultural environment and the architectural approach one develops from it.

The resulting task is by no means easy. The format of a workshop also provides little time. The focus was therefore more on the working process than on the presentable result.

The quality of the projects presented at the end of the workshop is due to the commitment of each and every individual, as well as the energetic group dynamics that carried us all.

It was a pleasure for Judith Augustinovic and me to accompany the students with our experience and knowledge and to support them in their working process.

Many thanks to Pierre Alain Croset, who gave us the opportunity of this collaboration.

Irmgard Frank
February 2022

POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863

Task

Human beings are oscillating in between individual and common needs like no other species. The perception of duality is very much linked to our ethnical and cultural heritage. These conditions are building the framework, they even prioritise our ambiguous needs, they shape our relations towards them.

Students are mostly lacking time and possibilities to question their proper environmental and genomic conditioning regarding architecture. The idea of the workshop is to deepen our consciousness for this universal, and at the same time unique ambiguity. The exercise consists in the manifestation of personal insights using architecture, a room, a building, a monument, using any kind of a built expression as a tool to express them.

The students were asked to figure out, what sort of room could materialize these ambiguous requirements. Each of them had to design a room, whose condition invites an individual to be by itself and at the same time offers the possibility to come together with others, to use the space as a common one.

Exercise

We started with a research and analysis – collected examples from one´s own environment, personal cultural background. Everyone had to make a short presentation, explaining why these examples have been chosen. For example, a personal memory, a special association, a lovely encounter, etc.

Next step was to emerge ideas – give insights to their concept of life, values, like responsibility, likes and dislikes, show bias, etc. and try to use architecture and design to articulate them.

The design could be
_ a room in a room
_ a building in a context (within an ensemble, within landscape,…)
_ transforming an existing room or building
_ …

Within the design process they had to trace and question their goal – where are we heading to? Which atmosphere and qualities do we want to create? What sort of shape, space, light, shadow, materialization, etc. are we looking for? Which qualities do represent my personal preferences regarding individual and common needs?

Beforehand
The students had to prepare themeselves, reflecting their own needs and get on track with their preferences. This prep was necessary to start immediately in the workshop. We supported them with text extracts and architectonic references.

Countries of origin of students, teachers and critics

Workshop leader
Irmgard Frank with
Judith Augustinovic (AUT)

Students

Tabea Fahr (USA/BRD)	Martina Curia (ITA)	Valentina de Bartolo (ITA)
Mackenzie Bailey (USA)	Mira Spasova (BUL)	Toma Murtic (CRO)
Juliette Sainlez (FRA)	Federico Gangi (ITA)	Mengyuan Li (CHN)
Katarina Misovic (SRB)	Eduardo Gamez Ruiz (MEX)	Yi Xing Chow (MAS/JPN)
Christian Endara (ECU)	Maria Luz Saldutti (ARG)	Vanessa Hing Wai Fung (MAS)
Krzysztof Grzegorz Lichocik (POL)	Dipon Bose (IND)	Aristoula Stergiou (GRE)
Alberto Gualdi (ITA)	Fulya Basak Genc ((TUR)	

Schedule
Friday
    students: research and presentation of their examples and reference projects
Saturday
    students: continuing the research process and get into discussion
Monday
    students: enter the design process (sketches, models, ...)
Tuesday
    input – showing different possibilities of making models
    students: continuing the design process
Wednesday
    students: design process in detail (models to prove proportion and light)
Thusday
    input in form of examples of different presentation methods, design process in detail (materialization, renderings and / or collection of materials)
Friday
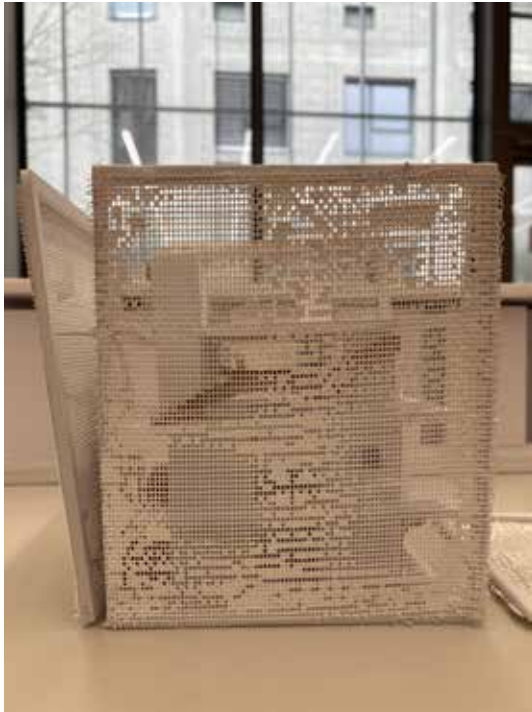   students: continuing the design process and work on the presentation
Saturday
    students: presentation and discussion with invited critics

Impressions

Working with models

Final presentation
the following guests took part in the final critique:

Pierre Alain Croset
Christian Gänshirt
Elena Fontanella
Claudia Mainardi
Michaela Bassanelli
Gennaro Postiglione
Antonio Carvalho

me and us in space

Final Exhibition / Review of the Advanced School of Architecture / A.S.A. Masterclass
Saturday 05 February
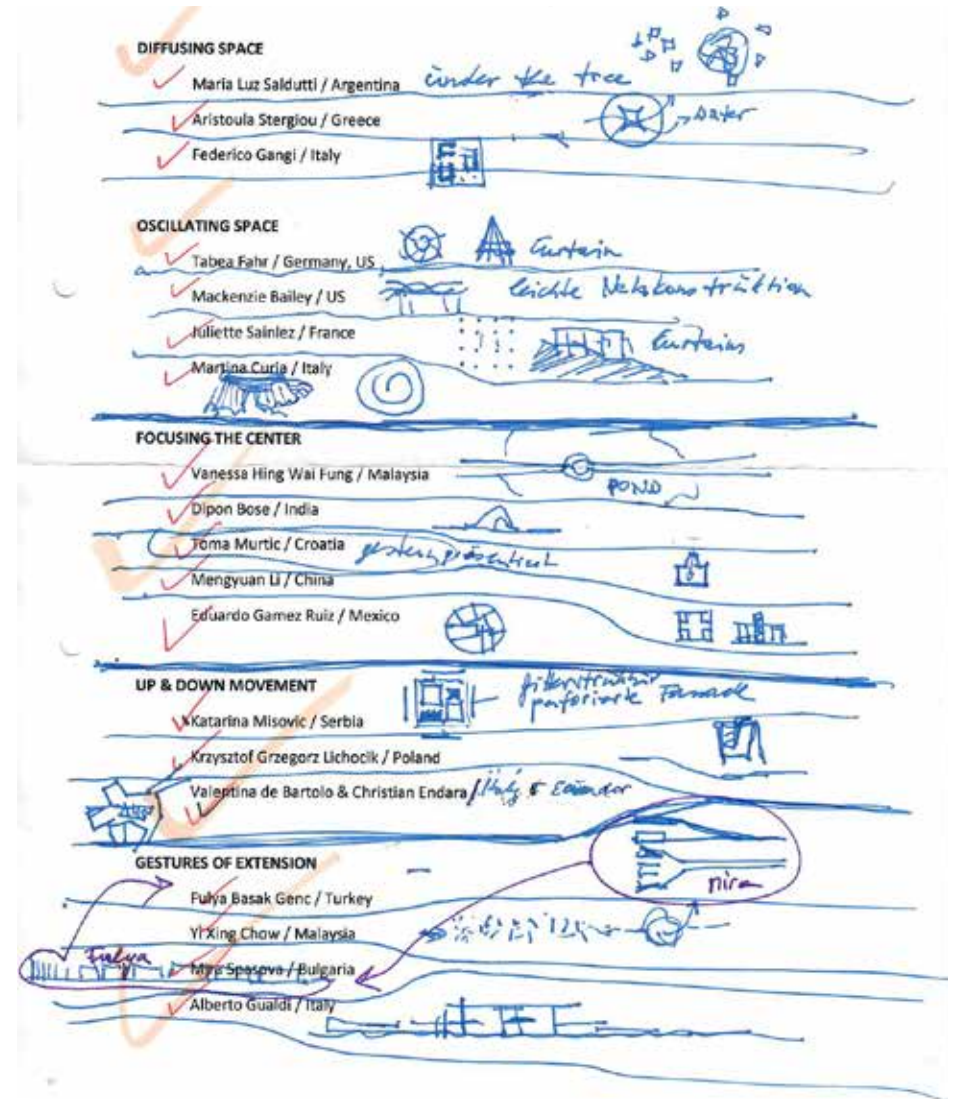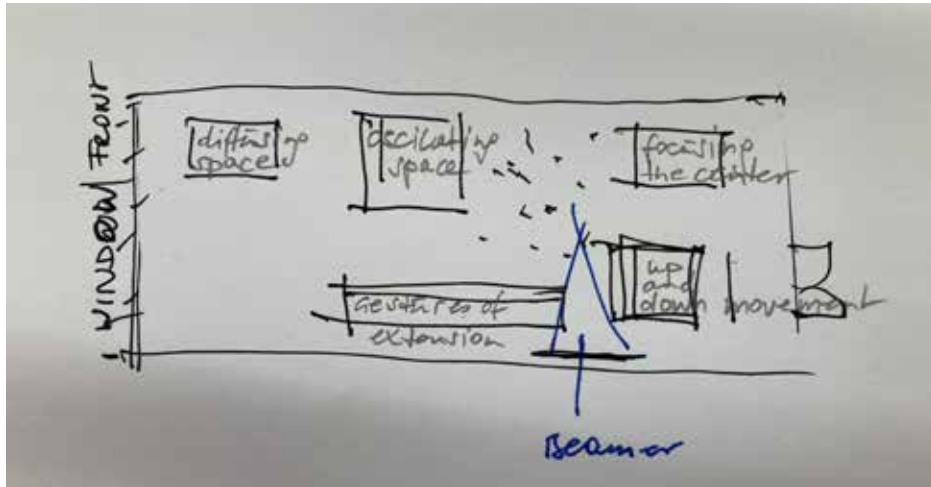**10 a.m.**
Room 16.C.0.2

Irmgard Frank & Judith Augustinovic

Guests: Pierre Alain Croset / Director ASA, Elena Fontanella / PoliMI, Christian Gaenshirt / Visiting Professor PoliMI *Students:* Tabea Fahr, Mackenzie Bailey, Juliette Sainlez, Katarina Misovic, Christian Endara, Krzysztof Grzegorz Lichocik, Alberto Gualdi, Martina Curia, Mira Spasova, Federico Gangi, Eduardo Gamez Ruiz, Maria Luz Saldutti, Dipon Bose, Fulya Basak Genc, Valentina de Bartolo, Toma Murtic, Mengyuan Li, Yi Xing Chow, Vanessa Hing Wai Fung, Aristoula Stergiou
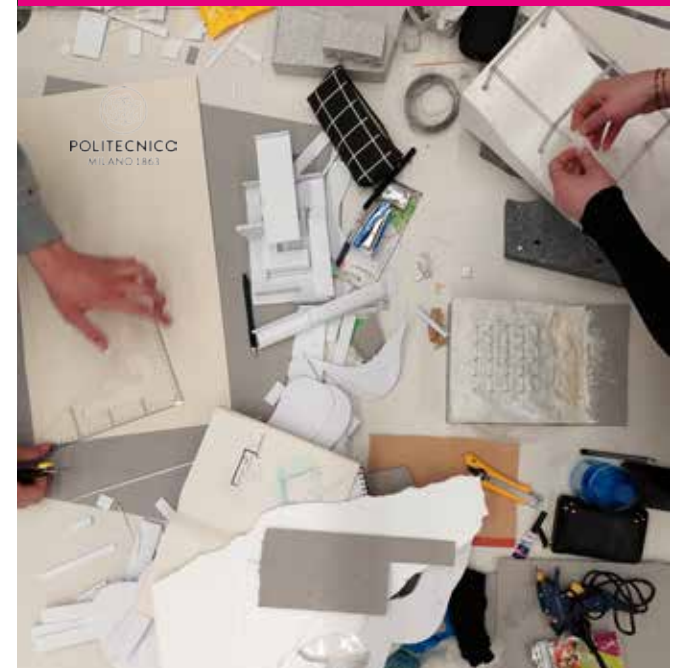
Set up
Terms, each defining a spatial characteristic, helped us
divide the projects into groups and organize the presentation
within a tight schedule.

DIFFUSING SPACE
Maria Luz Saldutti / Argentina — *under the tree*
Aristoula Stergiou / Greece — *water*
Federico Gangi / Italy

OSCILLATING SPACE
Tabea Fahr / Germany, US — *Curtain*
Mackenzie Bailey / US — *leichte Nelsthons tradition*
Juliette Sainlez / France — *Curtains*
Martina Curia / Italy

FOCUSING THE CENTER
Vanessa Hing Wai Fung / Malaysia — *POND*
Dipon Bose / India
Toma Murtic / Croatia
Mengyuan Li / China
Eduardo Gamez Ruiz / Mexico

UP & DOWN MOVEMENT
Katarina Misovic / Serbia — *perforierte Fassade*
Krzysztof Grzegorz Lichocik / Poland
Valentina de Bartolo & Christian Endara / Italy & Ecuador — *mira*

GESTURES OF EXTENSION
Fulya Basak Genc / Turkey — *Fulya*
Yi Xing Chow / Malaysia
Maya Spasova / Bulgaria
Alberto Gualdi / Italy

Diffusing space
Project _ Maria Luz Saldutti
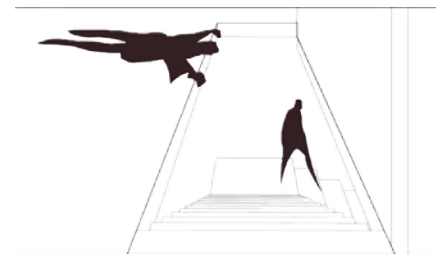
Oscilating space
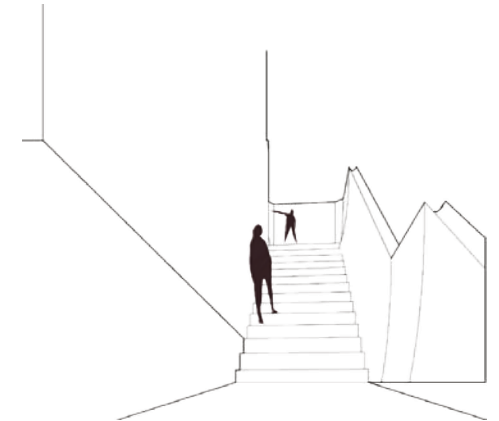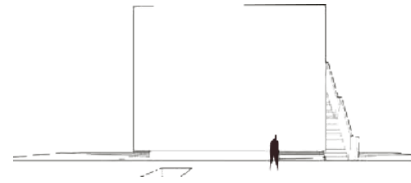Project _ Mackenzie Bailey

Level +3.5
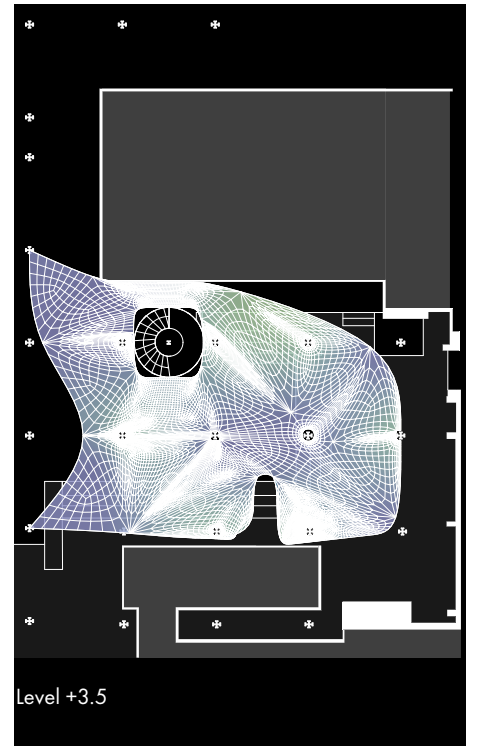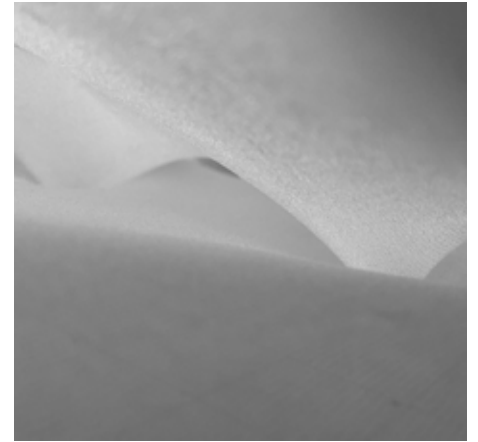
Focusing the center
Project _ Eduardo Gamez Ruiz

Up and down movement
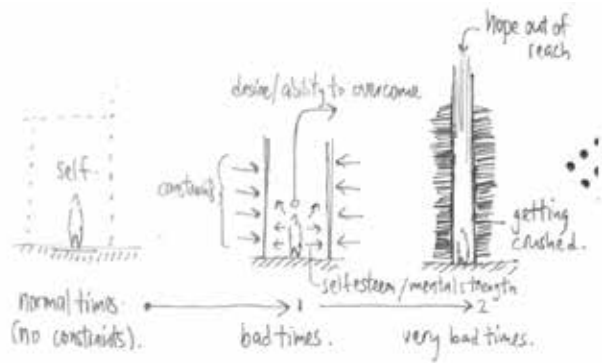Project _ Krzysztof Grzegorz Lichocik

Gestures of extension
Project _ Yi Xing Chow

hope out of reach

desire/ability to overcome

self-

constraints

getting crushed.

normal times.
(no constraints).

bad times.

self esteem/mental strength

very bad times.

"lonely" together — [is not same as] — "alone" together

how can we help each other?