

Advanced School of Architecture: IV Edition ASA 2024 - 2025

space, image, a narration

Led by **Hélène Binet**, assisted by Mariam Yasmin Gulamhussein and Yi Xing Chow, with guest lecturers Alessandra Chemollo, Isabella Balena, Marco Introini and Maria Grazia Cantoni, in collaboration with Federico Lanzani from IED Istituto Europeo di Design.

Masterclass: 08.01 - 15.01.2025

Exhibition: 15.01 - 05.02.2025



**POLITECNICO
MILANO 1863**

SCUOLA DI ARCHITETTURA
URBANISTICA INGEGNERIA
DELLE COSTRUZIONI

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a **Hélène Binet** masterclass

assisted by Mariam Yasmin Gulamhussein and Yi Xing Chow
in collaboration with Federico Lanzani from Istituto Europeo di Design (IED)

Masterclass date: 08.01 - 15.01.2025

Exhibition date: 15.01 - 05.02.2025

Exhibition venue: Atrio, Bldg. 11, via Ampere 2, Politecnico di Milano

Guest lecturers:

Alessandra Chemollo, Isabella Balena, Marco Introini and Maria Grazia Cantoni

ASA students in exhibition:

Alessandro Migliorati, Alessandro Mocci, Andrea Filiberti, Arianna Allegri, Claudia Xu, Francesca Teresa Petrean, Gizem Bilgili, Hannah Novotny, Lan Wang, Maria Caridad Pineda Fernandez de Cordova, Maria Gabriela Castro, Nils van der Velden, Olimpia Li, Shoshana Davida Zimmermann, Sonja Sigrid Losonci-Johnson, Teodora Misirkic, Valeria Chtcherbatova, Valeria Ragagnin, Wencan Fu, and Yujie Han.

IED Students in exhibition:

Chris Harman, Davide Consonni, Emilia Delka Rosa, Francesco Guttilla, Ihor Kshyzhevskii, Lara Marusic, Nicole Pagliuca, and Thomas Voltan.

Special thanks to:

Elena Quarestani & staff from Assab One , Laura Pellini & co. from BASE Cultural Centre

Padre Paolo from Convento Sant'Angelo dei frati Minori

The Fondazione Prada Press Office

Giulia Facchini from Villa Necchi Campiglio

Basilica Sant'Ambrogio, Ca Brutta, Cimitero Monumentale di Milano, Fondazione ICA

and all the places and people who have kindly accommodated for the photoshoot sessions

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The photographer

"Photography is like poetry - all the words exist, and the poetry is born out of their relationship. In photography we use the world to narrate and convey a message or emotion. As photographers, our main tool is the art of framing and putting different parts of our surrounding together."

- Hélène Binet, ASA Masterclass lecture

Hélène Binet (b.1959) is a renown architecture photographer of Swiss and French descent, who is based in London. She is an alumni from the Istituto Europeo di Design in Rome. She is best known for her advocacy and photographic works in analogue photography.

Over a period of forty years, she has been meticulously capturing the essences of prominent contemporary and historical architecture, including many famous works of Pikionis, Le Corbusier, Peter Zumthor, and Zaha Hadid.

Binet's work has been exhibited across numerous international exhibits. In 2007, she became an honorary member of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA). She also received the Julius Shulman Institute Excellence in Photography Award in 2015.

In 2019, she was awarded the Ada Louise Huxtable Prize, in recognition to her significant contributions for representing women in architecture.

The programme

Directed by Pierre-Alain Croset, the Advanced School of Architecture Honours Programme (ASA) is an add-on course aimed at enriching the design skills of future architects, landscape architects, building engineers, and planners.

The first edition of the ASA Programme started from the 2020-2021 academic year. This course mainly consists of two one-week Masterclasses (science and arts) and an advanced, individual design practice at the end.

For more information on ASA, please visit the programme website: <https://www.auic.polimi.it/la-scuola/progetti/asa>

The masterclass

From the first lecture, students were encouraged in this masterclass to seek out specific concepts rooted in architecture. These concepts were explored through their cameras across different spaces and periods of architecture.

They were then set out to roam Milan looking to observe, experience, and capture these spatial concepts into their photographs, framing visual snapshots for creating their own stories and messages. Their search were supplemented by lectures and review sessions throughout the masterclass.

Over the course of 6 days, students have worked meticulously to embody, juxtapose, and distill their concepts into the works showcased in this exhibition. Furthermore, they have also been given the opportunity to shoot with a 4x5 large format camera in Assab One Gallery and Fondazione Prada, and also to process and print their own analogue negatives, courtesy to Federico Lanzani and his fellow students from IED.

The exhibition

The final exhibition represents a collective showcase of the students' works and progress throughout the masterclass period, displayed in public in both forms of booklets and arrangements of photographs or photo-collages.

The partition walls of the exhibit are divided into 10 student pairs who worked together to present a series of photographic works based on their respective concepts. Every group's exhibits on the wall are complemented by additional reading materials placed on the 2 white boxes in the exhibition space.

The photographs on the walls are presented with minimal textual context, as per Hélène's request, to entice curious onlookers to delve into the groups' supplementary booklets, folios, and materials as a journey for discovering the depths of these photographs.

The 11-minute video projected on the atrium wall provides a visual summary on the behind the scenes activities of the Masterclass.



Behind the scenes:
Lectures



'top:
Introduction lecture of the masterclass

bottom:
practical exercise on using the 5x5 analogue camera



Behind the scenes: Photoshoots



'top and bottom:
Setting up for a 4x5 analogue photoshoot in th attic of Ass-
ab One Gallery, with Maria Grazia within the photographic
frame to help students adjust the focal distance on the lens



'top:
Binet and her assistant adjusting the setup for the students
photographing the floor in Assab One Gallery

bottom:
A student from IED inverting the 4x5 analogue camera to
the bottom of the tripod, to photograph close to the ground



'top:
A close-up view on minor composition adjustments on the 4x45 analogue camera

bottom:
A 4x5 analogue camera primed for photoshoot by exposing the film and pressing the shutter button



'top:
The inverted view of the shot projected on the mirror of the 4x5 analogue camera during the setup phase

bottom:
A student pressing down on the shutter button



Behind the scenes: Processing films

'top:
Binet observing the film negatives from the photoshoot

bottom:
Binet adjusting exposure of the photographs on the enlarger
by controlling exposure area and duration through manual
obstructions



'top:
Working on the enlarger in the darkroom

bottom:
View of the darkroom in IED Milano campus with students
processing their analogue photographs



'top:
Newly processed analogue prints on a drying rack

bottom:
A completed analogue print at the end of the rinsing phase



Behind the scenes:
Exhibition setup



'top:
Students painting the exhibition wall partitions

bottom:
Preparing the photographs to be adhered against the wall



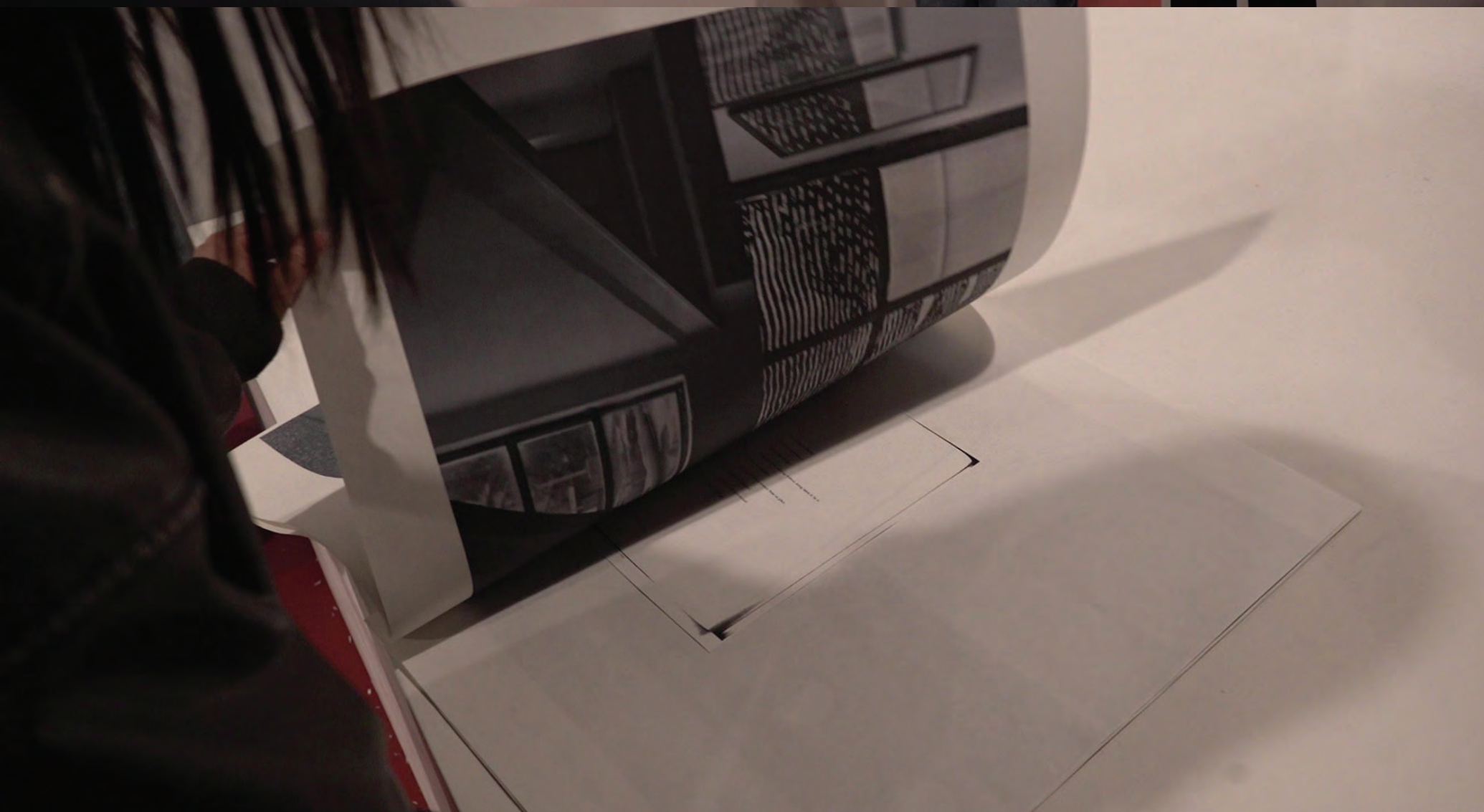
'top and bottom:
Students setting up the exhibition by arrainging and
sticking their prints on the partition walls



Behind the scenes:
Exhibition opening



'top and bottom:
Exhibition opening officiated by Professors Andrea Campioli
and Pierre-Alain Croset and Helene Binet



'top:
Students presenting their photographic works displayed on
the partition wall

bottom:
Flipping through one of the booklets made by the students

Analogue scans:
Assab One Galllery













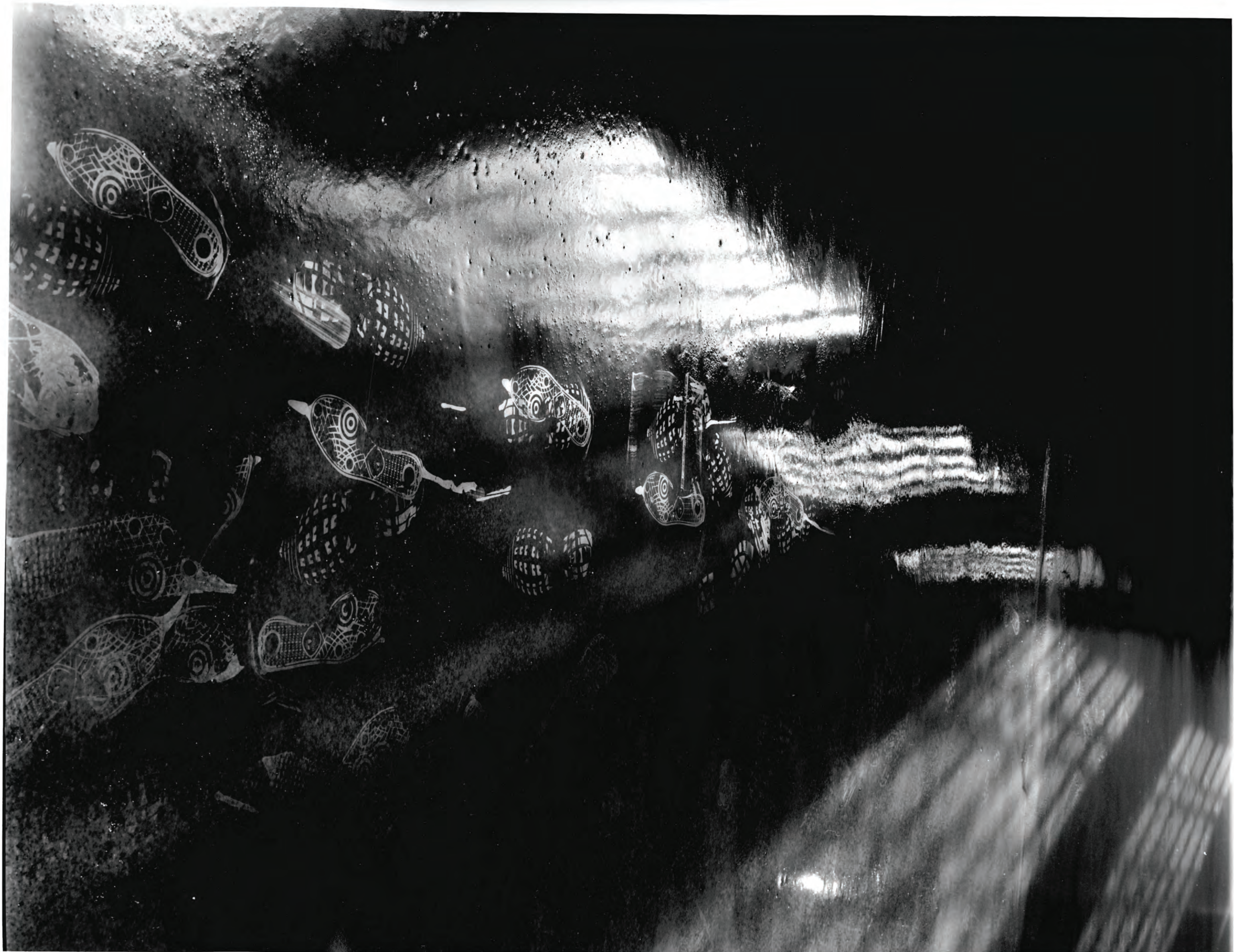








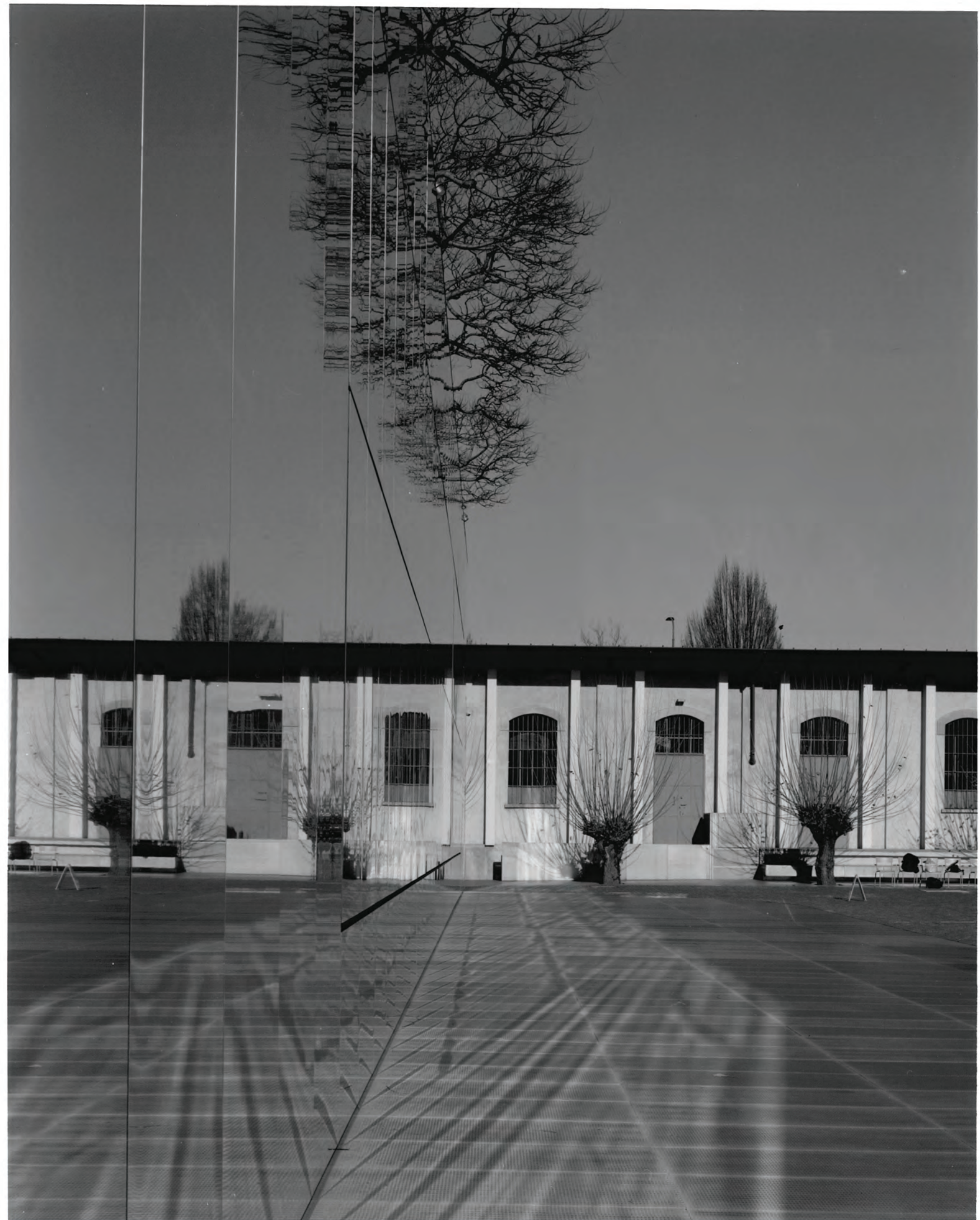




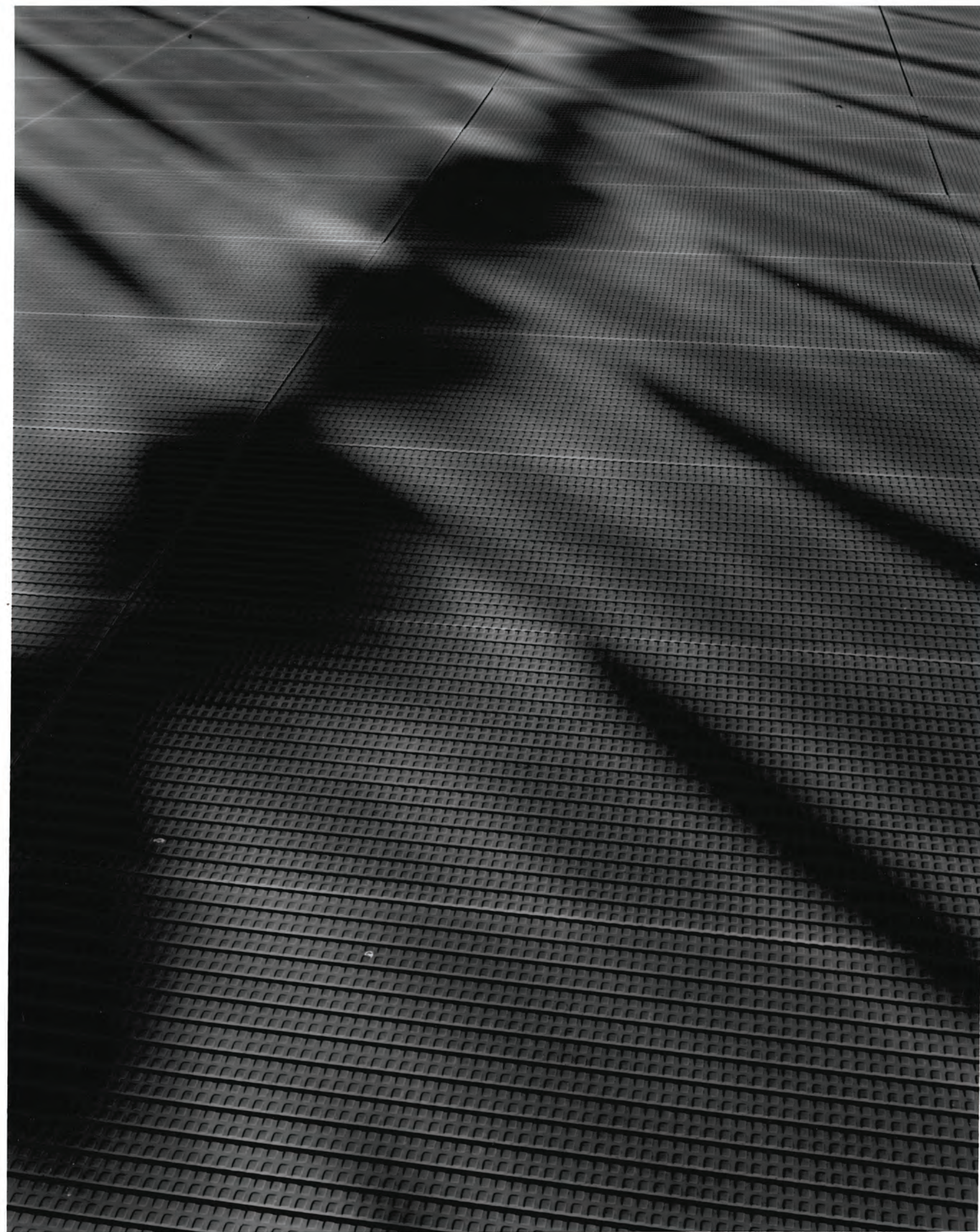
Analogue scans:
Fondazione Prada

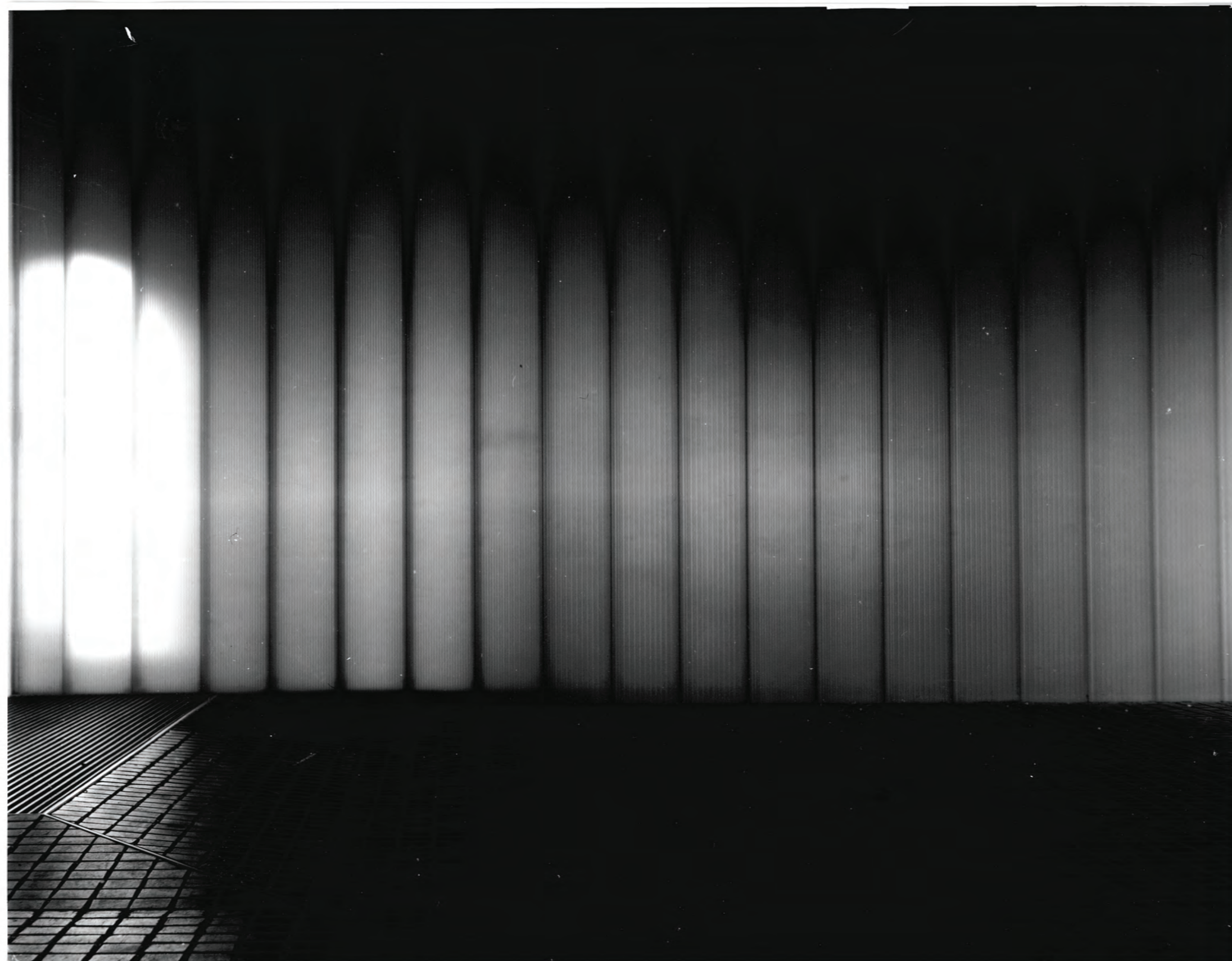




















'top:
Group photo of the masterclass