The Inside and the Outside

AA, Intermediate Two, 2016-17

Our site for this year: the Genoa Psychiatric Hospital

Sophia Alami, *Bathhouse in Ronchamp* (Inter 2, 2015-16)

If we throw a crystal on the floor, it breaks, but not into haphazard pieces. It comes apart along its lines of cleavage into fragments whose boundaries, though they were invisible, were predetermined by the crystal's structure. Mental patients are split and broken structures of the same kind.

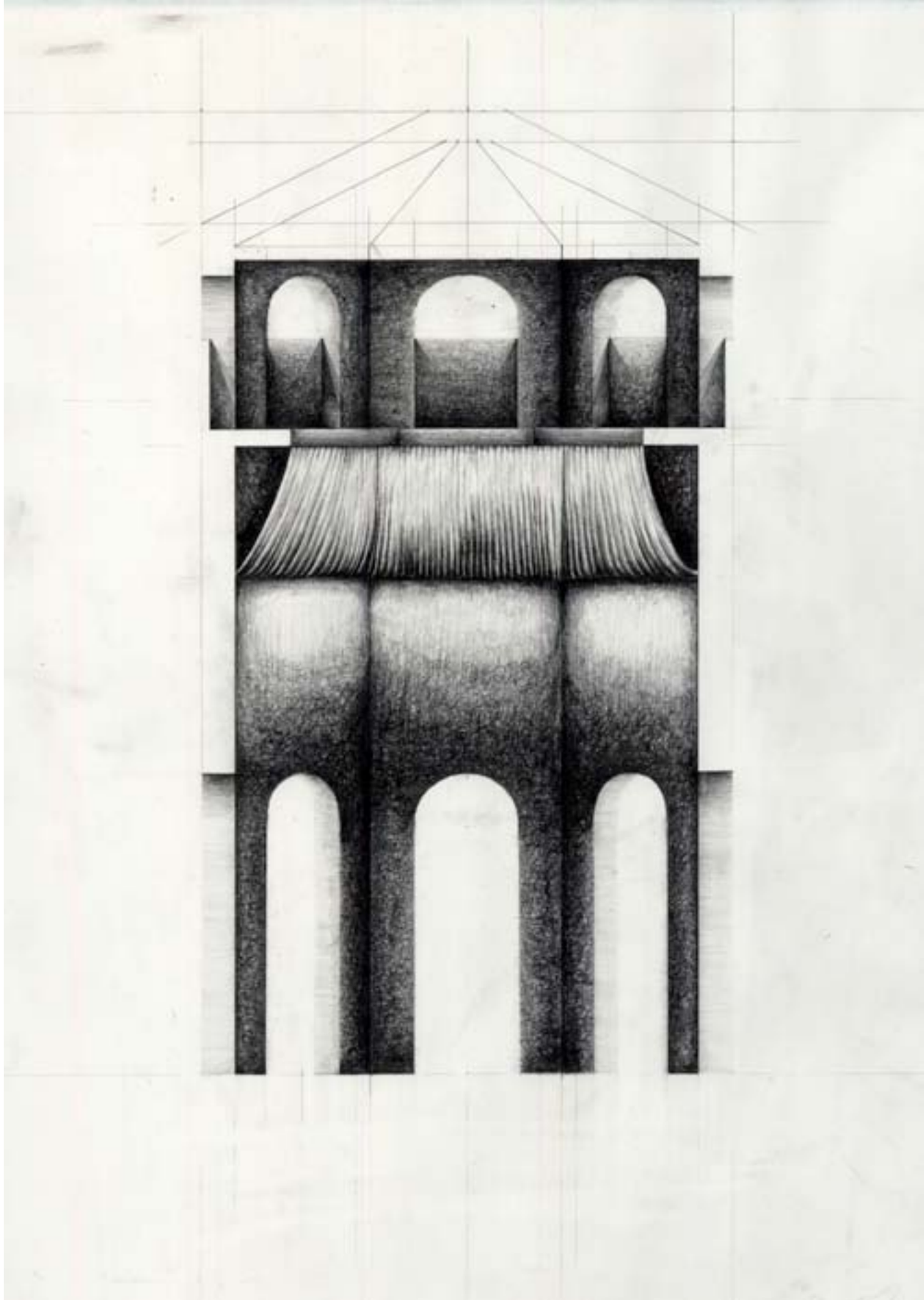
(Sigmund Freud, 'Introductory Lectures on Psychoanalysis')

Architects and psychoanalysts share the difficult task of providing lasting and solid wellbeing for humankind. This year *Intermediate Two* will delve deep into this challenge to address a nineteenth-century psychiatric hospital in Genoa, Italy. Similar to last year, we will work with a real client – Commune di Genova, a governing body that has asked the unit to transform this historically charged structure into a new urban complex to include a library, housing and a garden.

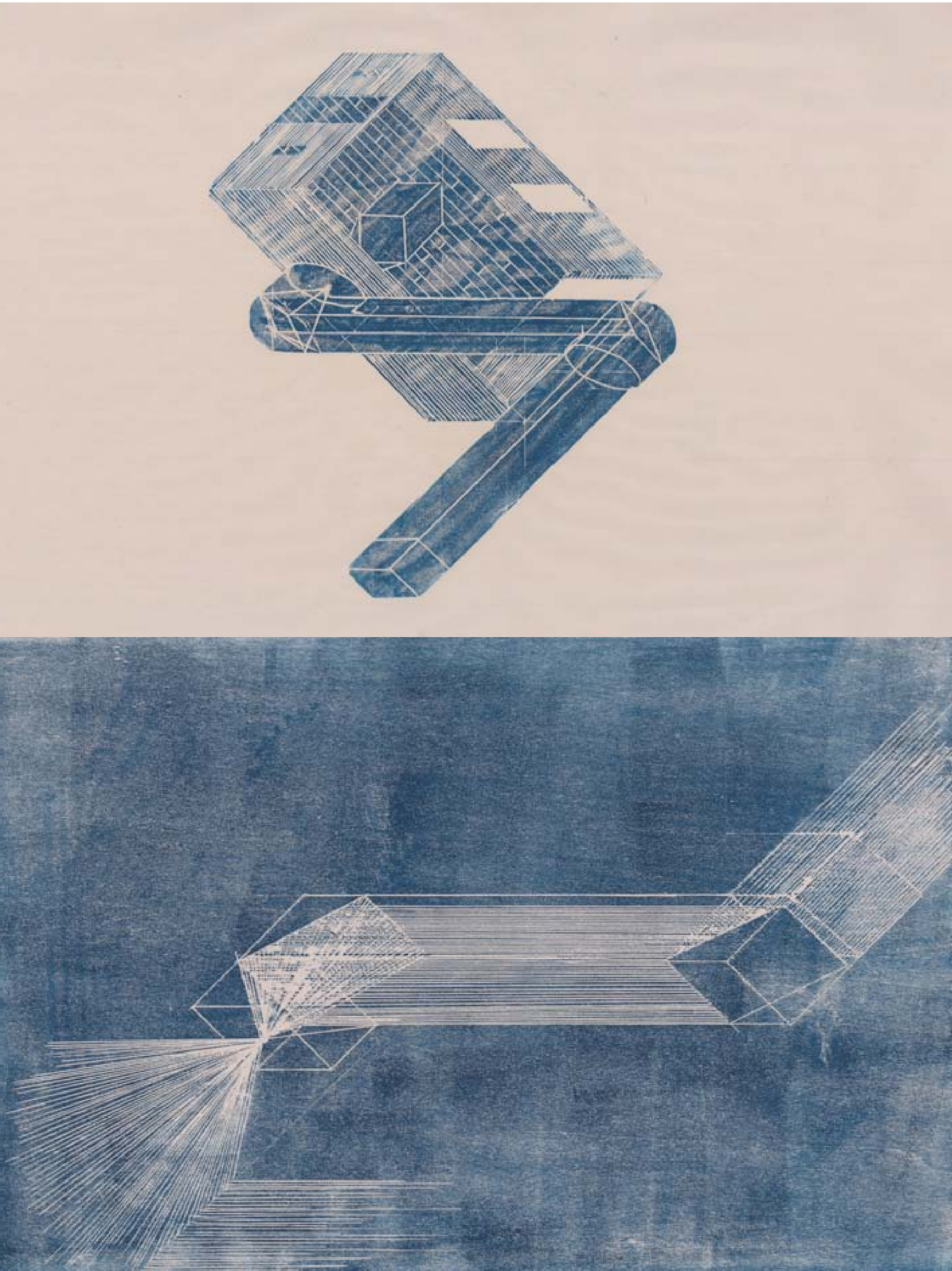
We will draw inspiration from the site's intriguing physical arrangement – a grid of nine neoclassical square-shaped buildings organised around courtyards, complemented by a semi-hexagonal addition dating from the 1930s – as well as the stories of what took place inside. We will look at the history of the psychiatric institution, paying particular attention to the role its role in defining contemporary subjectivity while also investigating the wider context of Genoa: its beautiful architectural landmarks, its unassuming yet charismatic craft and design traditions, and the precociously cosmopolitan inclinations that continue to shape the region. We will also continue to use model making, prototyping and different drawing techniques as design tools for material experimentation. Influenced by the so-called 'split and broken structures' who lived on our site long before us, we will use fantasy and charm to transform our world and our lives.

Intermediate Two, 2015-16

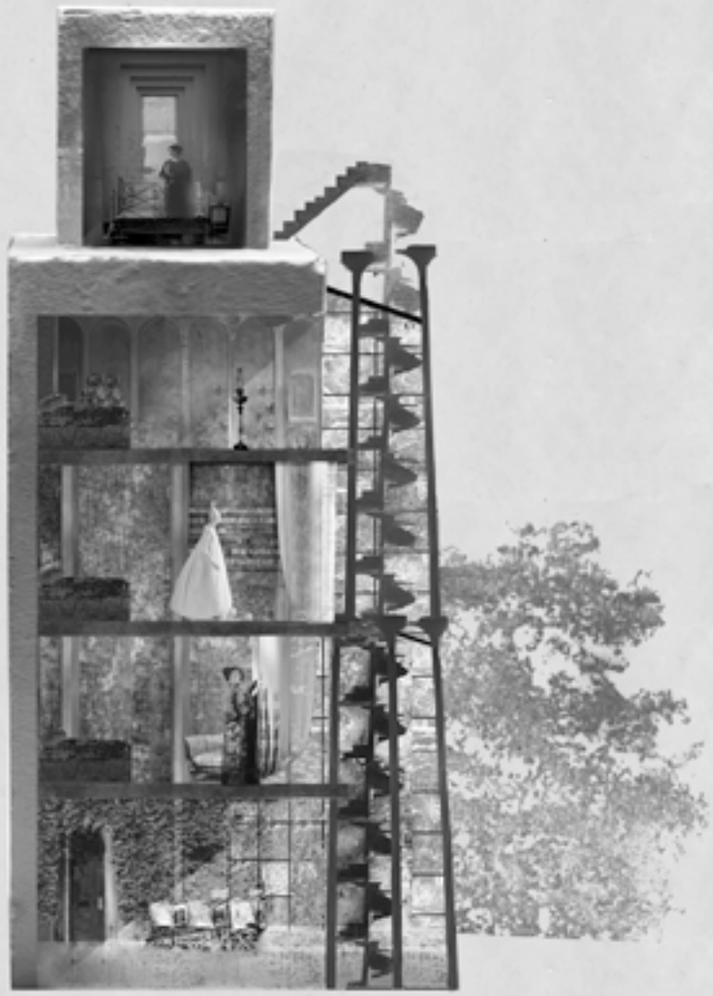
Joe Yu, *Fog and glare*



Alma Hawker, *House for a cyclops*



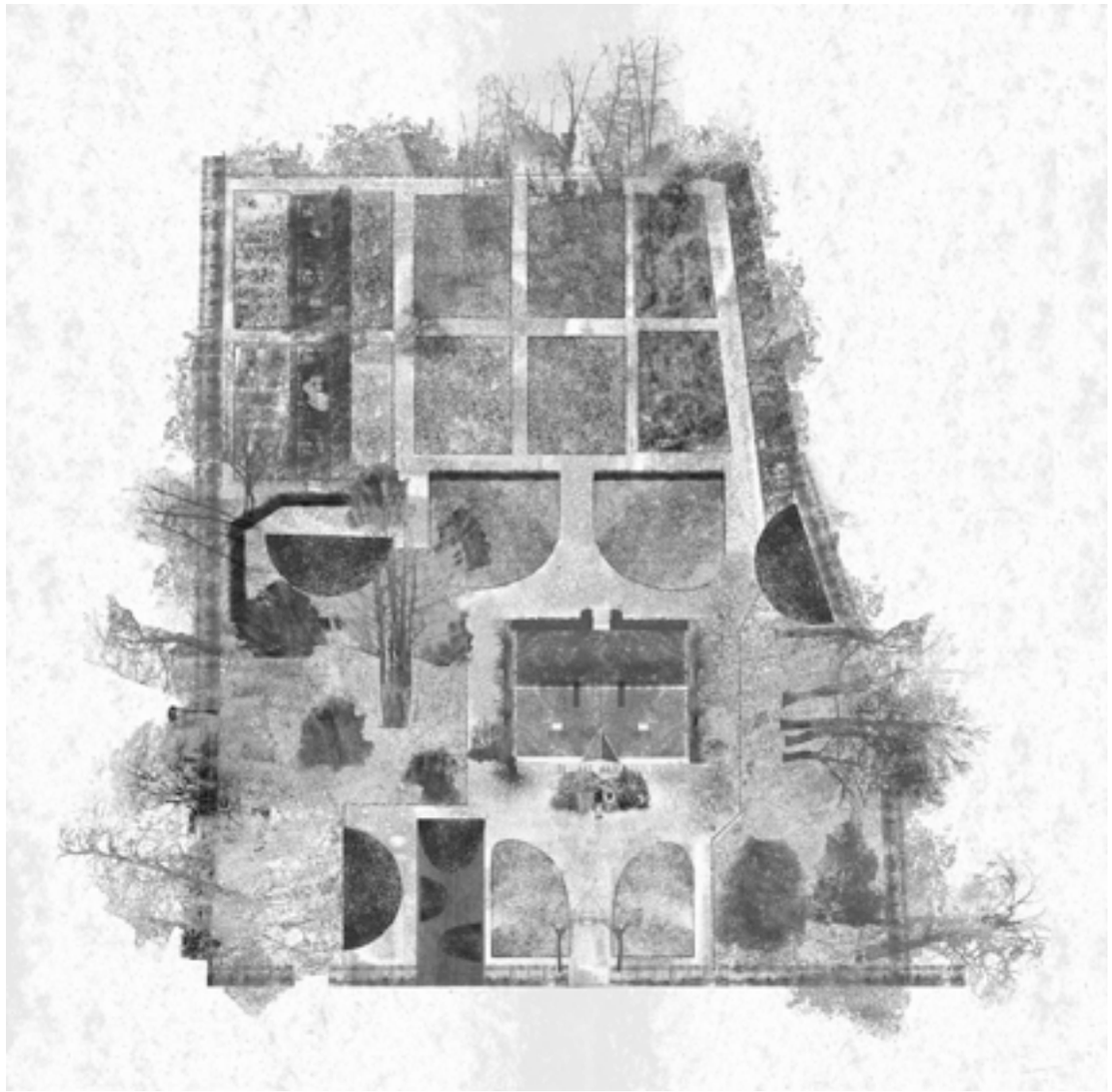
Simonpietro Salini, *Bitter tower*



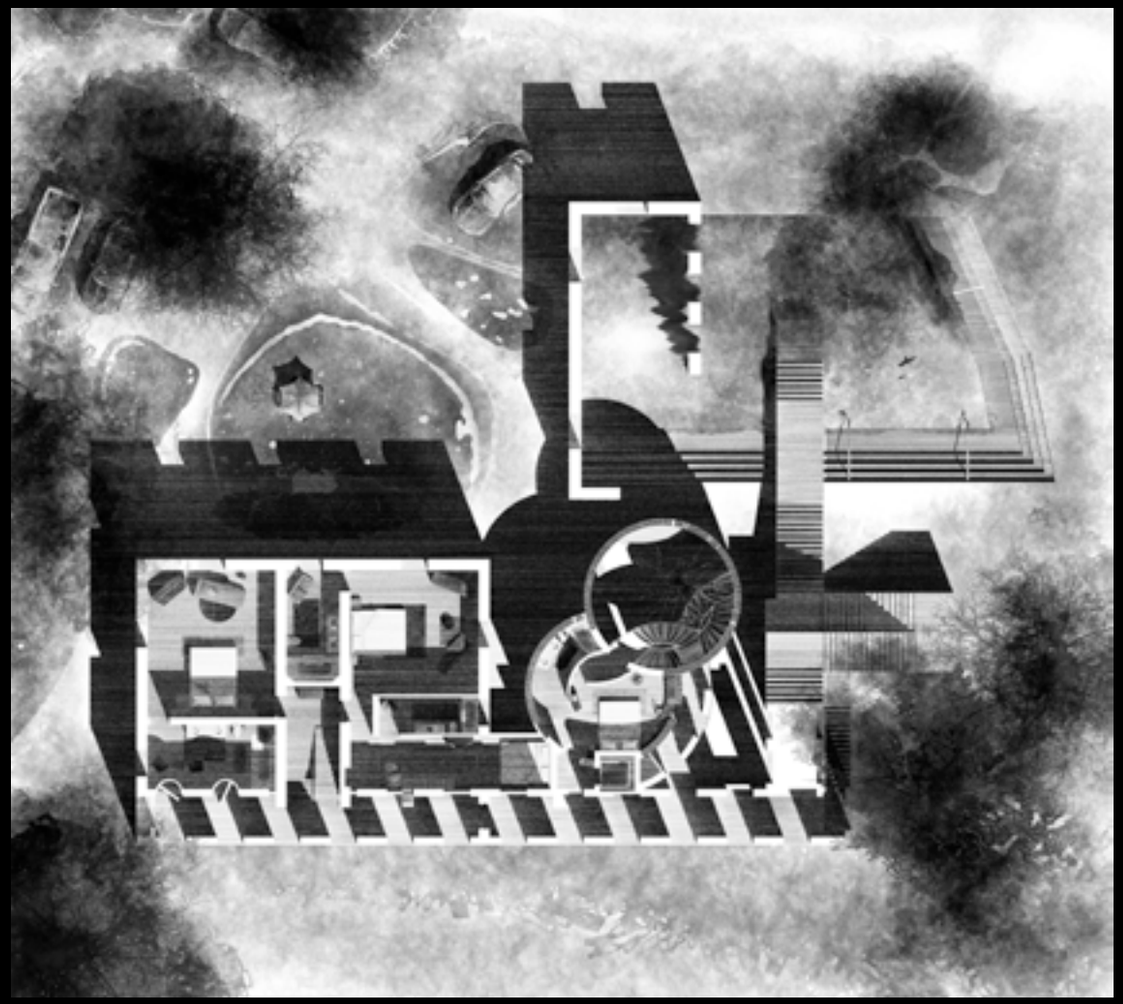
THE TOWER

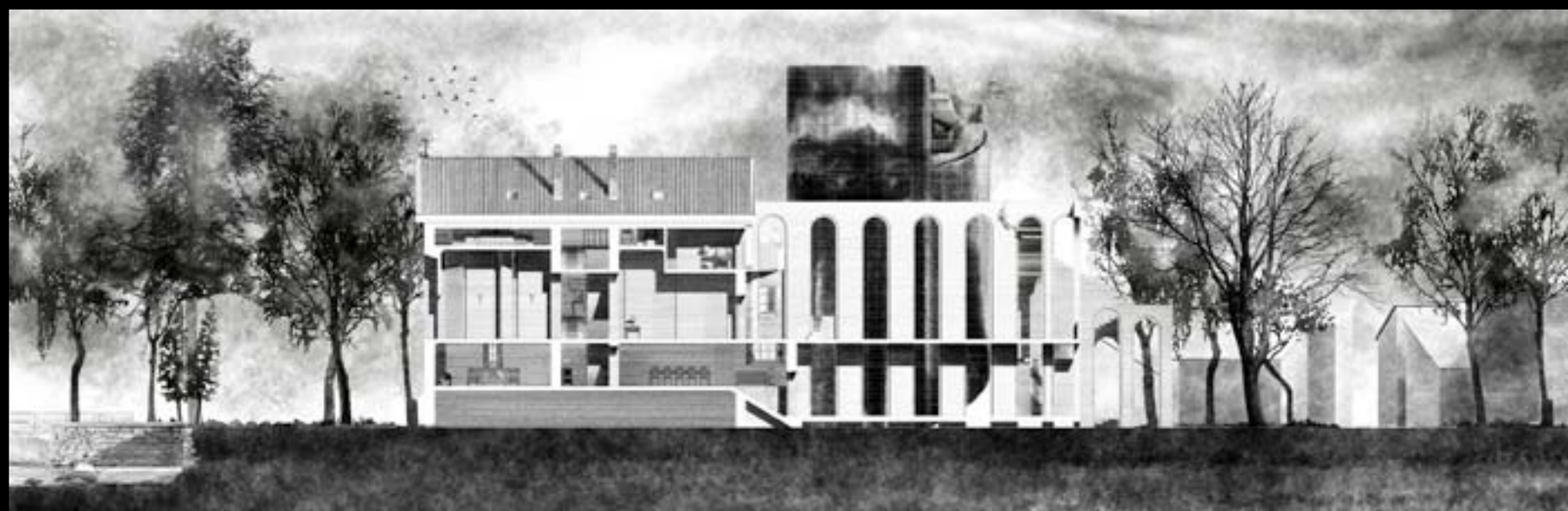
Interior

Ryan Chiu, *Le Corbusier the minotaur*

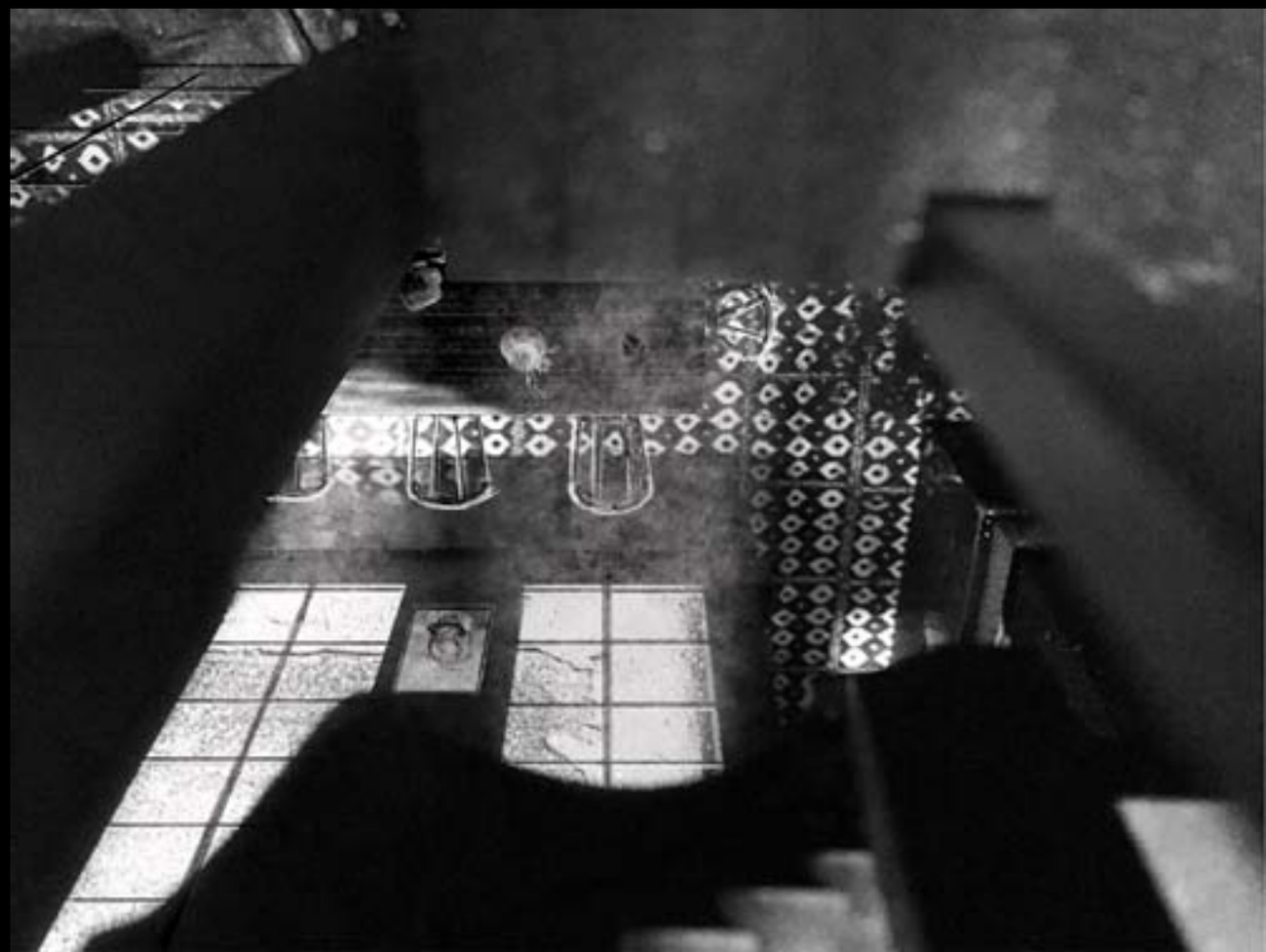


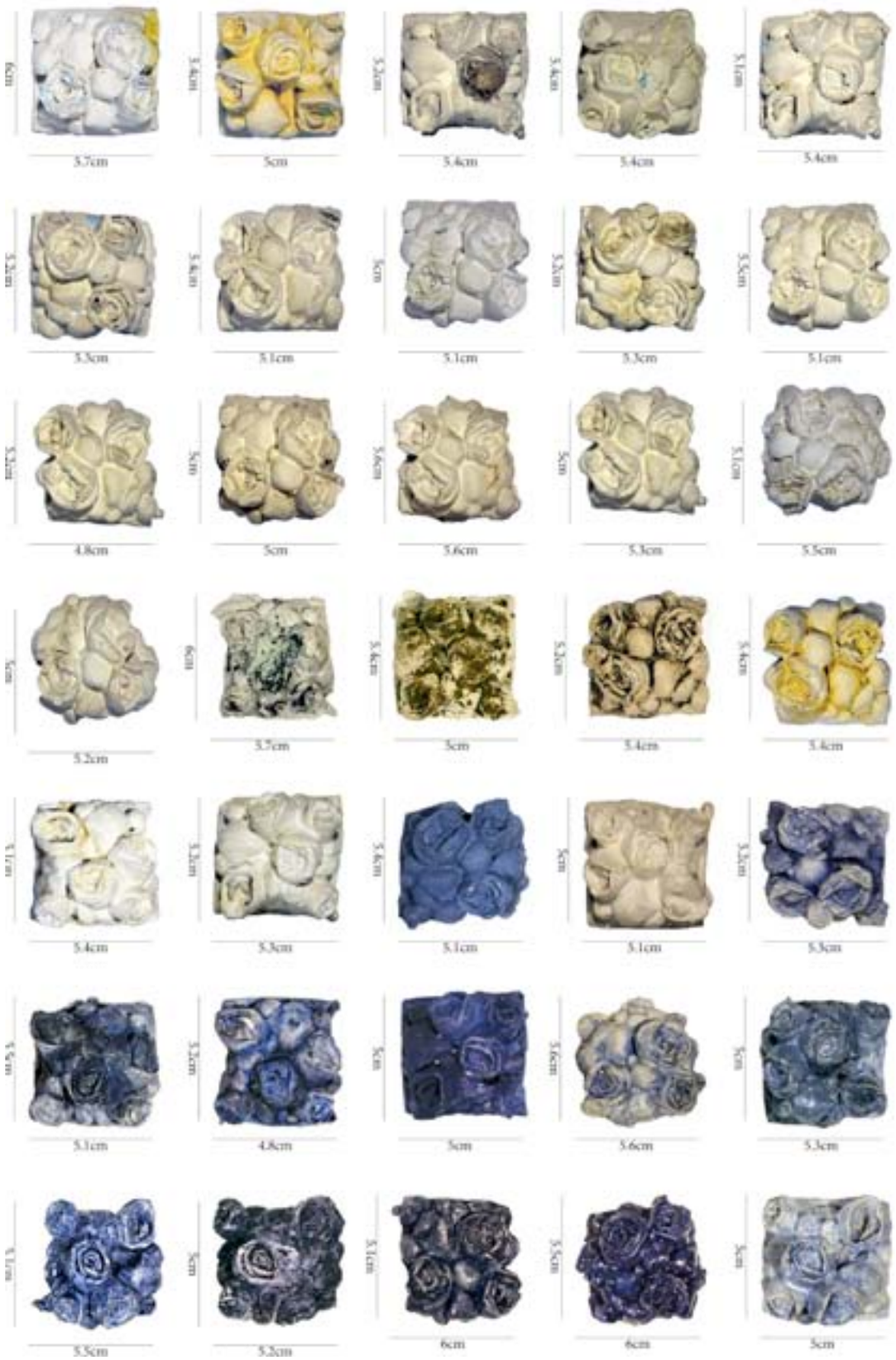
Simonpietro Salini, *Flavours of Ronchamp*





Joe Yu, *Ronchamp's glare*





Carolin Bongartz, *Ronchamp as dreamwork*

Main Inspirations 2016-17

(Lancelot) Capability Brown, *Bowood house*

Anouska Hempel's *Gardens* and Andree Putman's *Hotel Im Wassertum*

Gunnar Asplund, *Stockholm public library*

Franco Albini, *Staircase for Rinascente*

Alvaro Siza, *Evora housing scheme*

Field Trip

We will travel during the first *Open Week*, from Friday 28 October to Saturday 5 November. We will first visit Genoa, to get to know our site and the local culture. We will visit neighbooring villages in Liguria as well as have guided insights to landmarks such as Franco Albini's *Palazzo Rosso*.

Then we will head to the area of Lombardy, where we will visit classics such as Leon Battista Alberti's *Sant'Andrea Church* in Mantua, and the controversial *Vittoriale degli italiani* at the Garda Lake, by poet Gabriele d'Annunzio. We will also get to know more exclusive spots in the area, such as the towns of Valeggio sul Mincio and Castiglione delle Stivere; and, finally, we will visit the building site of a new villa by Sicilian architect Antonino Cardillo, who will also be our local guide.

Volcanic vineyards in Lanzarote, Spain

The Pritzker Prize architect Wang Shu makes extensive use of reclaimed/recycled materials in his buildinga

One of the greatest challenges for architects in the present and the future is to develop strategies to deal with environmental problems.While many architects in the world today are already gathering efforts to tackle these issues, it is still very rare to find solutions that combine efficiency with originality and poetry. In most cases what we see is that the environmental solution comes as an ‘after thought’ in relation to the overall design process; an add-on rather than an integrated response.

Our focus for ts this year will be to investigate alternatives for environmental issues that combine good performance with aesthetic excellence. Areas of research will include engineering ceramic as a potential substitute for photovoltaic solar pannels, designing site-specific wind turbines, inventing new materials dealing with the processing of waste. We will be influenced by vernacular processes, product design and other relevant disciplines. We will be working ‘ts option one’ (early submission).

Timetable