

REBIRTH OF IDENTITY

by

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. ABSTRACT.....	1
2. THESIS STATEMENT.....	5
3. PERSONAL: INTRODUCTION WITH INTENT.....	10
4. HISTORY OF ROMANIA.....	12
5. LIFE OF ROMANIANS.....	16
6. SHIFT IN THOUGH.....	22
7. MARXISM.....	32
8. SOCIALISM IDEOLOGY AND REALITY.....	33
9. POWER VERSUS INTIMIDATION.....	34
10. HOUSING : CEAUȘIMA : THE END OF INDIVIDUALITY...36	
11. POST CEAUȘESCU : ARCHITECTURAL RESPONSE.....	39
12. CONCLUSION.....	42
13. PRECEDENCE STUDIES../.....	44
14. COMMUNITY PRIDE.....	52
15. ARCHITECTURAL OBJECTIVES.....	53
16. PROGRAM.....	54
17. CODE.....	56
18. SITE ANALYSIS.....	60
19. PROJECT.....	68

Abstract

The reality of communism was not and is not the efficient equality for all described by Karl Marx. Communism was distorted by human nature to create a powerful and oppressive tyranny by which many suffered in Eastern Europe. Architecture was and remains one of the primary ways to display power. It can oppress the masses by raising fear and suspicion from the governing as well as from the governed.

In the mid 60's Romania gained autonomy from Russia and began to practice its own form of communism. The power of propaganda remained, creative individualism perished, and the commune prevailed. The private domicile was assigned to the individual based on the number of family members. But in reality the quality of one's home was purely based on ties to the communist party. Most people had to give up old family homes and move in "bloc" system apartment buildings. These structures were built on a grid with the efficiency of a machine. Expanded within the grid were the cells of private life. Effort was not given to comfort or individuality. Although these structures have a resemblance to the projects of New York there is a certain nostalgia for these concrete neighborhoods. They represent a time when people were drawn together against the greater evil and a time when children took first steps. It was also a time of invisible resources such as food and heat, yet Bucharest would be a different city without these neighborhoods.

The banishment of individuality in public and private life created a social change in Romanian culture. Whether it became an underground affair to express individuality, spirituality, homosexuality or whether its suppression abolished certain traits in the Romanian people is of great interest to me. I would like to focus on one neighborhood in Bucharest, Romania which is comprised of the communist style apartment buildings in order to figure out what course of action would be most suitable for bringing back the sense of pride and identity in peoples' living spaces. Should the buildings be renovated, destroyed or would a community center be more effective?

Thesis Statement

Architecture has the capability to create a pride of place, of culture and self.

Theory implications:

Pride of place – Place can be construed as both a private sanctuary or a public space for gathering. The private place gives the person repose from the harshness of society and everyday life. It does not need to be owned to become part of one's internal life. It is the inner child's innocence that should be inherently safe. When the sanctity of the private place is destroyed the order of self becomes primal. Public space thus becomes a place of exchange, social relevance, merchandise and food exchange, It is the place where group memories are formed and culture develops.

Pride of culture - It is not held by boundaries but rather by the histories of ancestors and their ideologies and actions. It cannot bloom without the idea of hope being an inherent dogma. Immigration is the only solution when pride of culture ceases to exist

Pride in one's self – Private knowledge that under any circumstance one can survive and improve on what was given, learned and achieved. It is the knowledge that even when pride of place or pride of culture is non-existent one can still achieve these luxuries of life if not for one's self but for the generations to come

Personal: Introduction with intent

The immigrant child is the homeless child. They don't belong to one country or another rather they belong to the memories of place. The memories that fade and morph through time create voids of family, friends and childhood innocence.

When I was born my parents petitioned the Romanian Peoples Republic for a two week vacation visa. Seven years later the petition was answered. I was in first grade when my parents started telling me not to talk about our trip abroad. Through the eves dropping of conversations that parents always wrongfully assume children are disinterested or unaware I had learned that we were never coming back. Leaving a home and family was an incredulously difficult concept for a seven year old girl. Communist Romania was the dream of dreams for a child surrounded by a loving family. My parents, in their adult wisdom knew the future all too well. So, we left Romania with two suitcases in the early spring of 1982 and arrived ten months later at JFK Airport in New York City. Within the ten months we had lived in Switzerland, Greece and Italy where we had spent the majority of the ten months. Each country held the promise of a visa and a future, but Italy had a doorway to America. To most eastern Europeans, at the time, the United States was a country of hope and opportunity for the melting pot community of immigrants. This dogma was definitely true for my parents. For me the United States became the separating force between shy girl and of a loving grandmother and the beginning fragmentation of my family.

Eighteen years passed before I was able to visit my birth country. The family home which was located in a beautiful, historic neighborhood had been exchanged for three apartments. Two of these apartments are located in the communist style "workers neighborhoods". My paternal grandparents had lived in such buildings. I remember with joy the Sunday afternoon ritual of lunch, Tom and Jerry, and playing with friends in their concrete matchbox neighborhood. Yet witnessing these residences with an Americanized eye was a painful shock. Building after building of cold, gray, crumbling masses lines the boulevard of my uncle's neighborhood. To the passer by the buildings are indistinguishable and uninviting, yet to the inhabitant these buildings are part of their fabric of everyday life. They are a legacy to the resiliency of the Romanian people for the forty-two years under a communist regime. Each apartment is a jeweled geode holding the contents of security and safety from the outside world. Yet nostalgia crumbles with the changing times. The freedom of identity warrants pride of place and necessitates the rehabilitation of the crumbling architecture.

History of Romania



The lands that are occupied by modern day Romania have been inhabited for thousands of years. It has always been a rich land and a precious commodity for rulers and empires surrounding its borders. For this reason many nations have invaded, ruled, and influenced the region both physically and spiritually. The history of Romania shaped the culture and the people within and may be a window into the future to come.



Dacia was the first tribe known on Romanian land later to become a Roman outpost with the defeat of Trajan's army. Although the Greek culture influenced the language and alphabet, the Roman as well as invasions from other tribes forced the Dacian people to be morphed by cultural differences. Learning to cope with constant occupation invoked the will to survive and possibly created an undercurrent of cultural defeat. The Dark Ages revealed the descendants of the Dacian people known as the Wallachians or Vlachs. Romanized Vlachs were mostly shepherds and farmers living quietly until the split of the land into the Northern Vlachs (Romanians: influenced by Hungarians and Slavs) and the southern Vlachs (Romanians: influenced by the Greek Byzantine culture). Invasion and conquests resulted in the Magyar (Hungarian) control of Transylvania and Ottoman conflicts in Wallachia that would last for centuries. To this day there is a definite distinction between southern and northern Romania. The south retains its Christian Orthodox legacy from the Byzantine Empire, darker complexions and Middle Eastern architectural influences. The northern half of Romania is mostly Protestant, light complexioned and is influenced by Germanic architecture. The Middle Ages was a cacophony of battles and struggles for power over boundaries and lands. In fact Wallachia battled over its suzerainty and invasion of the Ottoman Empire for most of its existence. The driving force for survival allowed the cultures to assimilate within themselves in order to build strength through unity. Although some grand heroic figures appeared throughout the centuries the people inhabiting the lands learned to self preserve. This aspect is an underlying thread in the Romanian culture. The heroic figure is not the westernized grandeur of a man. Rather he is the source of possibility and cunningness.



At the end of the 18th century the three principalities (Wallachia, Moldavia, and Transylvania) were surrounded by the Russian Empire to the east the Ottoman Empire to the south and the Austrian Empire to the west. Within the active boundaries of the principalities the struggle for the common man and his freedoms became increasingly volatile. The combination of internal and external encroachment created a culture acculturated to changes in tradition, religion, linguistics, culinary practices, etc. 1848 was the year of revolution in Europe, the year of The Communist Manifesto and the year of poverty and famine.

While the three empires continued to battle over the rich lands of this new nation, Romania looked to France for alliance and cultural, educational, administrative and architectural advice. Bucharest was known as Little Paris before communism entered the landscape.

The Triple Entente of WWI enticed Romania to join the war in 1916 with promises of territorial gain (Transylvania). Between the years of WWI and WWII Romania had acquired the greatest borders in its history. As the ideas of revolution spread throughout the lands of Europe so would the anti-semitic, anti-minority fascist movement of the Iron Guard in Romania. Although the Iron Guard rule lasted a short time, it allowed alliances to form with the Axis powers of WWII (1941) with the intention of regaining land. By 1944 Romania was losing its stance and retreated from the war only to rejoin months later under the Red Army. The Paris Peace Treaty of 1947 gave Transylvania back to Romania and remaining borders were defined as seen today.

The Romanian Peoples Republic was born in 1947 under Gherghiu-Dej and continued with the cruelty of Ceaușescu only to end with revolution in 1989. Early communism in Romania was enforced with precise cruelty and under the complete control of Stalin's USSR. The fifties brought collectivization of farmland as well as the attainment of all privately owned businesses. Collectivization was a way to expel ethnic Germans from Transylvania, imprison opposing intellectuals and transport farmers away from their ancestral lands. Enormous reparation payments to the USSR, due to the war, were systematically depleting the country of its resources. By the early sixties the state owned everything and managed to gain some independence as a satellite country.





People were left with nothing. Shops were reclaimed and services became strictly regulated. Big brother was watching. This quasi independence of the state allowed for a new form of communism and an alliance between Romania and the west. Unfortunately, the average citizen was not given any consideration in regard to these alliances. Romania had become a means to Russia for the west and a buffer from the west for Russia. As Marxist idealism became grotesquely misconstrued into Ceaușescu's Systematization Campaign the fabric of the landscape began to change forever. Under this plan the number of cities in Romania was to double by 1990. Birth control and abortion became illegal. Financial incentives were given to large families. Small villages were to be turned into self sufficient industrial centers. Benefits such as education for all and medical services were also included in the Campaign. In Bucharest the new growth enveloped the outskirts of the city with some successful examples of communist urban planning and improved transportation.¹ All was relatively well until Ceaușescu paid a visit to the North Korean comrades. This trip had changed the future of Romania's communism and was the catalyst for the July Theses. The seventeen proposals of the theses paved the way to greater control of propaganda, education, construction, and overall governmental control. Once again Romania was under a severe communist government.

In order for the Systematization of Romania to occur money was borrowed from the western alliances. The economy became devastated as the loans came in to their repayment period. Export of fuels, raw materials, food stuffs, and other goods left people without heat, electricity and food. Queues were formed for blocks when word got out that meat or eggs were available. People endured increasing blackouts, cold and censorship because there was fear. Fear of neighbors and fear of secret police kept opinions private. Life maintained in this fashion until 1989. Such a life requires many invisible compromises some of which infiltrate the people and become part of the culture. Survival is key under distressed circumstances. The enormous debt had been repaid by the winter of 1989 yet the heat remained off. The revolution began with a completely different agenda in a small northern town, but the fever for change was spreading all over Europe and it progressed to Bucharest. The mandatory civil assembly quickly turned into the overthrow of a madman and, again, the rebirth of a country.

Life of Romanians

As with any revolution or change a price has to be paid. The people of Romania had to change their language, their religion, their ideology, government, rulers, borders, etc. Within the past century three different governments ruled the changing borders. The endurance of war, poverty, torture, and lack of goods, loss of property rights, not to mention the perpetual feeling that someone is watching has changed the flavor of Romania and its people.

The passage of time and an enormous debt, from the sixties to the eighties brought with it a diminishing amount of goods. As less and less food filled the shelves of grocery stores the people made due by rationing and trading. If one had connections to the inner workings of the government then the insecurity of future consumption did not affect the body or mind. By the early eighties food rationing was a rampant way of life for most Romanians. Queues would form for blocks and last for many hours with the hope of meat or a few oranges. Dr. M. E. Bradford described the situation of Romania's debt to having changed the social paths of acquisition, "hence, a little private trading, the exchange of favors, and skill in the manipulation of influence are important in the survival of the ordinary citizens".³

A feeling of urgency develops with the prospect of hunting and gathering in the world of animals. The senses are heightened with the push of adrenalin and the hunter thinks one dimensionally. Water is the first biological need of all living creatures. The second most important requirement for life is food. The lack of consistency in food availability can have a great impact on one's physical, emotional and social well being.

"A sense of security is experienced when people have a wide range of options, most of which are desirable, at their potential disposal and when they have confidence that they can exercise them. Insecurity is accompanied by a narrowing of the range of options, most of which are undesirable, and the uncertainty that they can exercise them." ⁴

Consequences of Food Insecurity for Individuals and Households :

Food Secure	Food Insecure
Focus efforts on desired goals	Focus efforts on survival, could be time
poor Seize opportunities, take risks	Lack of resilience, no fall back
Future orientation	Live from moment to moment
Develop social and human capital	Have difficulty investing in themselves
Ability to develop support system	Poorer social network
Adequate earned income	Working poor, unemployment
Generally good health	Disability, chronic conditions 5



The third most important factor of animal survival is the procurement of adequate shelter. (citation needed). My father described the north bedroom of his childhood home to have an inch of ice on the inside wall during much of the winter months. He jokingly implies the bouquet of most abodes to be unavoidably malodorous during the season of frozen pipes. In fact most of the Romanian people that I know have a sweet nostalgia for the lack of commodities they considered everyday life. "The good thing about it was that we were all in it together" stated my father when I asked him why he was smiling. Lack of heat and hot water had become unbearable by the eighties. Rolling brown/black out had become common place practice for the good of the country. An incredible sense of humor and a kind gesture between neighbors and friends maintained and encouraged an underground social unity.

Romanization (cultural cleansing of ethnic and minority groups) in

Transylvania became more stringent in the sixties and seventies. This is not to say that ethnic Hungarians in the north were left to appreciate their culture after WWII. For example, my grandmother's education was taught to her in the same building - under three different governments - speaking three different languages. The Hungarian people of Transylvania were forced to change their culture and religion. Young Romanian mothers were resettled in northern Transylvania in order to change the ethnic demographics and allow for mandates that changed the ethnic Hungarian culture. Many intellectuals left the country in the late sixties only to bring about tighter reigns from the government. As a small child in Romania my existence was very sheltered except for the acute perceptiveness that comes with that age. I remember a sense of cruelty that comes with power or the lack of power. That cruelty would be the difference in receiving phone service in a month or in a day or the knowledge of past and future interrogations. Zoltan Zsuffa, a high school teacher in the mid seventies, described the inexplicable cruelty of the secret police:

During my detention in Sfintul Gheorghe, I was ordered to prepare a written confession about my life, encompassing the period from 1940 to the present. At this point, Captain Pop warned me that a military court had been convened, that a special committee had arrived from Bucharest to investigate my case and that everything would depend on "how I write the confession". I was not alleged to be responsible for any specific act, nor did I stand accused of any misdeed. On the other hand, when I began writing the confession, Captain Pop stopped me and ordered me to write it "in the manner that he wishes it to be written". Despite my every protestation and denial, he said "the facts are as he states and there are documents to prove it". After I had already written three pages, a civilian entered, introduced himself as chief of the counterespionage service in Bucharest in the rank of colonel, and, without reading what I had written, ripped up the pages. He then fell upon me and beat me with his fists until he became too tired to continue, meanwhile insulting me with slanderous remarks going as far as to ridicule my nationality origin. He then ordered Captain Pop to bring a rubber billy club with which he thrashed me for a long time until he had drawn blood... the confession now proceeded as straight dictation." 6

Social unity had two sides. One side was fanatically patriotic while the other was behind closed doors. This may be one of the reasons Romanians seem to be so distrustful of strangers. There was a time when one could not openly voice their opinion of the government and its rulers. It was illegal

to speak poorly of the state even in the privacy of your own home. Securitate was not always around but there were always spies within. Common enemies can unite a people and that is exactly what occurred. Although people were oppressed they were oppressed together. Lack of television and other distracting entertainment gave way to adept social skills and a great sense of humor. The education system produced a country with a ninety eight percent literacy rate, artists, poets, professionals all of which had little chance of intellectual and physical freedom.



To get a better idea of the Romanian people I conducted a non formal survey of Romanian immigrants in the US. There is not much statistical backing since all of the participants are college educated professionals within the ages of 30 – 60. Yet the results do have some clue to the question of why Romanians are the way they are and how it has created a way of thinking and living. When asked what characteristics they pictured when they thought of Romanians the following common themes came to light:

Family oriented
 Children are well cared for since they represent the future
 Romanians don't create waves
 Don't stand out in a crowd
 Romanians are not heroes they are survivors
 Do what they are told and complain in private

Artists, poets, philosophers, doctors, engineers...not entrepreneurs
Inefficient, not straight forward
Revolutionaries
Fearful of strangers
Warm and generous to friends and neighbors
Fear brings the pack tighter to protect the kids– as with the bison in
Yellowstone
Have a respect for material goods
Thinkers and problem solvers
Education is very highly valued
Have a live and let live attitude towards others
Have a great link to the past and thus the future
Romanians are not assertive, they go around the aggression
Strong community, because no one can go anywhere
PUT the number next to each type

Continuously occurring wars, lack of commodities, loss of property
can be discussed on a very animalistic level to understand the standard of life
Romanians have had to endure for the past half century. Prey huddles together
for protection when under attack by a predator. The close bond of the group
ensures a greater chance of survival especially for the young. Yet there is a
price to pay for the stresses of being hunted such as health deterioration. Lack
of a proper diet can also have detrimental implications on a group especially for
the young and old. In the animal world the loss of territory represents the loss
of food and future progeny. Food, water and shelter are the basic needs of any
animal species. Within the black and white of these three essential components
lies the subtle grays existence. The levels of existence change as do the
cycles of the predator prey relationship. The important piece of the problem is
that the individual endures hardships well enough for the cycle to change again
for the better.

Shift in Thought

The philosophies of Charles-Edouard Jeanneret-Gris, otherwise known as Le Corbusier, are not without controversy. In his earlier years he portrayed the importance of the golden ratio through his Modulor system for architectural proportions. This system was based on human proportions and historical precedence. His five points of architecture are clearly depicted in the Villa Savoye where the modern age is presented as “a natural consequence of classical architecture”⁷. Le Corbusier saw the home as “... a machine for living in” and “The town is a tool”⁸ which greatly contrasts “The home should be the treasure chest of living”⁹. As most people he was organizing the world through his eyes. Influenced by the idea of collectivism and the housing crisis occurring in the slums of Paris, Le Corbusier created the Immeubles Villa. They had the comforts of a suburban home even including a garden terrace. Industrialization and efficient methodologies of Ford and others was the inspiration for the Contemporary and Radiant City.

The urban scheme of the Contemporary City (Plan Voisin) began with the destruction of central Paris and the fabrication of cross shaped buildings placed on a grid. The utopian ideas of his Radiant City “segregated the pedestrian circulation paths from the roadways, and glorified the use of the automobile as a means of transportation. As one moved out from the central skyscrapers, smaller multi-storey, zigzag blocks set in green space and set far back from the street, housed the proletarian workers. Le Corbusier hoped that politically-minded industrialists in France would lead the way with their efficient Taylorist and Fordist strategies adopted from American models to reorganize

society”¹⁰. LeCorbusier imagined people being placed in dwellings that are appropriate for family size instead of income. The idea that the standard of living can be heightened for all people of socioeconomic level and cultural differences should always be highly praised. Unfortunately, human nature, and for that matter – animal nature, does not accommodate this ideological dogma.

Le Corbusier began to follow the ideals of syndicalism the he became unsatisfied with the workings of capitalism. Syndicalism refers to “a set of ideas, movements, and tendencies which share the avowed aim of transforming capitalist society through action by the working class on the industrial front. For syndicalists, labor unions are the potential means both of overcoming capitalism and of running society in the interests of the majority”¹¹ (encyclopedia reference). He became involved with fascists such as Mussolini and influenced the philosophies of art and architecture in the Soviet Union especially during the Constructivist era.

Unité d'Habitation is a profound example of Le Corbusier's idealistic dwelling for the artist as well as the lowly worker with high ceilings and an abundance of infiltrating light. The freedom of women was improved upon by minimizing the toilsome household tasks inherent in most single family homes. Not everyone appreciated the “Spartan and procrustean bed made for the heroic artist-monk whose identity still provided the spatial theme if no longer the poetics of the Unité...this is, in large measure, the disappointment of LeCorbusier's urban proposals as well: that the promised dealectics of individual and collective, public and private, city and landscape, chaos and order, which are identified as the proper concerns at the scale of urbanism, fail to rise above the level of mere additive or juxtapositional assertion...claims to 'synthesize' individual liberty and collective forces point to the roots, not the solution, of the problem”.¹²

Many of the housing projects that have been influenced by Le Corbusier and bastardized in design have shown to isolate poor people in the west and disrupt social ties, individual pride in one's, and halt natural community development in eastern European countries. James H. Kunstler, has criticized Le Corbusier's ideas of urban planning as destructive and wasteful: "Le Corbusier [was] ... the leading architectural hoodoo-meister of Early High Modernism, whose 1925 Plan Voisin for Paris proposed to knock down the entire Marais district on the Right Bank and replace it with rows of identical towers set between freeways. Luckily for Paris, the city officials laughed at him every time he came back with the scheme over the next forty years – and Corb was nothing if not a relentless self-promoter. Ironically and tragically, though, the Plan Voisin model was later adopted gleefully by post-World War Two American planners, and resulted in such urban monstrosities as the infamous Cabrini Green housing projects of Chicago and scores of things similar to it around the country." ¹³ Just as the positives of Marxist ideas were diffused with the realities of human nature so were the idealistic dogmas of Le Corbusier.

The Bauhaus movement of the twenties and thirties, under the control of visionaries like Walter Gropius and Mies Van de Rohe influenced the pool of radical thinking in art and architecture even as Gropius insisted that his school was apolitical. Its manifesto proudly proclaimed that:

The ultimate aim of all creative activity is a building! Architects, painters, and sculptors must once again come to know and comprehend the composite character of a building, both as an entity and in terms of its various parts. Then

their work will be filled with that true architectonic spirit.

Architects, painters, sculptors, we must all return to crafts! For there is no such thing as "professional art". There is no essential difference between the artist and the craftsman. The artist is an exalted craftsman. By the grace of Heaven and in rare moments of inspiration which transcend the will, art may unconsciously blossom from the labour of his hand, but a base in handicrafts is essential to every artist. It is there that the original source of creativity lies.

Let us therefore create a new guild of craftsmen without the class-distinctions that raise an arrogant barrier between craftsmen and artists! Let us desire, conceive, and create the new building of the future together. It will combine architecture, sculpture, and painting in a single form, and will one day rise towards the heavens from the hands of a million workers as the crystalline symbol of a new and coming faith.¹⁴

It is not difficult for a left minded individual to imagine political agendas hidden in these words. The ideas closely mimic those of the constructivists in Russia. Artist and craftsman conjured images of bourgeoisie and proletariat but definitely did not invoke the image of a united class of society. As long as there have been structures in our history there have been master masons. Gropius and other masters at the Bauhaus school worked to manifest a level of antiquity into the present and future. Some of the famous instructors included Kandinsky, Mondrian and Mies Van de Rohe each bringing their own philosophical and practical application to art, architecture and design.

While Bauhaus was strictly a school of applied arts, the politics of new administrations and its beliefs leached into the student body and eventually led to its demise. The vocal communist influence of Meyer eventually became one of the factors in the school's demise. Ironically some of Gropius' ideas on constructions resonated widely in communist architecture: "the idea of industrializing house construction can be realized by the repetition in each building of the same standard component parts,"..."Architects, painters and sculptors must recognize anew the composite character of a building as an entity. Only then will their work be imbued with the architectonic spirit which it has lost as 'salon art.'"¹⁵

"Many Germans of left-wing views were influenced by the cultural experiments that followed the Russian Revolution, such as constructivism."¹⁶

Teaching methods at Bauhaus: "...There is common planning of extensive building projects-popular and cultural buildings-with utopian aims. All masters and students collaborate on these projects, aiming for eventual harmony of all elements and parts pertaining to the construction."¹⁷ DeStijl had a secondary influence along with the modernists of the Bauhaus school and LeCorbousier on the urban planning of Social Realism in Russia. The simplicity of perpendicular lines in art and architecture which had been influenced by cubism and the ideas of the DaDa movement. The connection of Constructivism and DeStijl had been created by the teachers of the Bauhaus school. Ideas and ideologies were transmitted, sometimes unwillingly, though

design. Functionalism played a key role in the industrialization of Europe, both east and west. Suprematism of Malevich and the ideologies of Constructivism also infiltrated DeStijl.

The simplicity of the straight line had proposed an abstraction in both architecture and painting without symmetry. Balance was attained by using opposition...in war, philosophy and design. DeStijl as modernism and functionalism had a coherent bond with the desire to understand the changes of the times with the desire to improve the plight of the worker. Each mind contributed to this altruistic problem. Just as any species may change coloration over time to better suit the geography of the environment, the manifestos presented the shared ideas by using only the colors that pertained to their geography.



The Rietveld Schröder House. The only building realized completely according to the principles of DeStijl

"Constructivism had its roots in the processes for mass production" ¹⁸

"Constructivism is one hundred percent Marxism" -Kuzmin

"Throughout the 1920s and into the years of Stalinism, progressive architects in the Soviet Union sought to construct new forms of housing and

settlement that would offer the best of modern technology and whose design would include provisioning of services that would allow all citizens, especially women, to partake in creative work. Schools, dining facilities, laundries, parks, cinemas, clubs and housing in a choice of styles formed the core of these architectural dreams. Architects initially saw themselves as teachers but some came to appreciate the necessity of listening and began to learn from worker assessments of housing and urban design. This communication forms the basis for bridging, at least in housing, the cultural gap between revolutionary elites and common people. OSA reflected the work with an inherent tone of greater democratization of political and social life”¹⁹

Artists, writers, philosophers working in Russia and in the West between 1910 and 1930 were experiencing and influencing period of social and political turbulence. Society was becoming unnervingly aware of the inequalities between the social classes. Manifestoes such as that of Karl Marx provided a path to the realization of a proletarian society. The utopian ideals proved to be difficult in reality as seen by the struggles of the constructivist movement in art and architecture. The group's ideology split in 1922 leaving the more utilitarian, socially-oriented group who wanted art to be absorbed in industrial production similar to the teachings of the Bauhaus school. Infiltrations of dogmas was a fluid affair exemplified by Malevich's influence of futurism with its kinetic attributes, cubism, and suprematism seen in DeStijl, Bauhaus and LeCorbusier's modernism. All were trying to create a better tomorrow with the subconscious affects of space and design. Although the group (Constructivists) had split some of the earliest mottos remained such as the belief that art should accompany man throughout all parts of his life:” at the workbench, at the office, at work, at rest, and at leisure; work days and holidays, at home and on the road,

so that the flame of life does not go out in man.” This utilitarian constructivist group later became main influence of the O.S.A. (Union of Contemporary Architects). “The movement tended towards an over-simple anti-art feeling similar to Dadaism which had exploded in the West as a response to the First War. As the Constructivist architect Lavinsky wrote, ‘We are condemned to aestheticism until a bridge towards production can be found. But how can this bridge be built in a country where production itself is scarcely alive?’”²⁰

Collectivization of household chores and child rearing was one of the driving forces behind the communal designs of the O.S.A. These ideals emulated the ideas of Lenin, who wrote in 1919 that “*the real emancipation of women and real communism begins with the mass struggle against these petty household chores and the true reforming of the mass into a vast socialist household.*”²¹ It is easy to thus connect Constructivists’ doctrine with that of the early Communists.

‘The Constructivists approach the problem with maximum considerations for those shifts and changes in our way of life that are preparing the way for a completely new type of housing... that is to say for us the goal is not the execution of a commission as such, but collaboration with the proletariat in its task of building a new life, a new way of living.’
-Vladimir Mayakovsky

The utopian society allows for equality between all men and women. The worker is no less a man than the engineer or the doctor. Architects' congruency of ideas became an amalgamation of design for the proletariat for both the west and the east. However, congruent the dogma between the two it did not escape the cultural interpretation of the times. At the opening speech for the first OSA Group conference in 1928 Ginzburg claimed that "the principal objective of constructivism... ..is the definition of the Social Condenser of the age."

²² The social condenser worked on the premise that architecture has the ability to influence social behavior. Thus the intention (of the social condenser) was to influence the design of public spaces and break down the perceived hierarchies of social classes. Newspapers hailed the new architecture as being "the pride of our proletarian construction". ²³

Social condensing would be accomplished through the imposed intersections and overlapping of circulation. This method would allow the diverging classes to congregate and exchange ideas. From the OMA book *Content* a social condenser is described as; "Programmatic layering upon vacant terrain to encourage dynamic coexistence of activities and to generate through their interference, unprecedented events." ²⁴ (need citation)

One of the most stringent examples of collectivism was found in the workers' village of Sibkombain (Siberian Combine) factory. A one hundred apartment building was constructed to house the workers and their families. Many of the apartments did not have bathrooms or kitchens instead consisting only of sleeping quarters. Children's quarters were also removed from the apartments. When the workers arrived to their new homes they refused to use the complex.

"The users did not appreciate housing complexes without the usual apartments. They were not suitable in the socio-economical conditions of that time and the way people lived. The majority of the masses were also not fond of the aesthetics of Modern architecture; they called the new buildings boxes and cardboards. These new buildings, after few years, were mostly changed into traditional apartment buildings."²⁵

After the start of the Stalin's Five Year Plan utopian collectivist and feminist ideals and reformism of everyday life were rejected as leftist. The Narkomfin Building which had been constructed with the same principles of Sibkombain had become unfavorable soon after its construction. Disurbanism (favoring the garden city) contradicted Stalin's collectivization of the Russian farmland. Stalin realism would strip the constructivist movement of its utopian creed by taking away all that revolutionary and modern. In its place social realism adopted and bastardized such schools of thought from linear urbanists like Hannes Meyer and LeCorbousier.

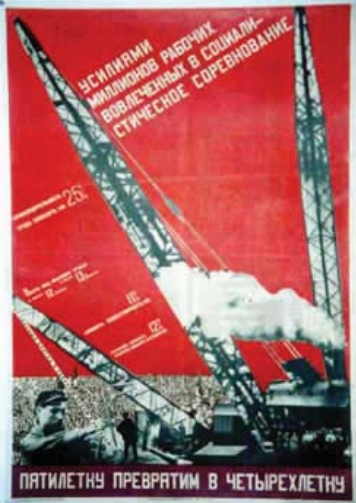
Marxism

"The history of all hitherto societies has been the history of class struggles"
-K. Marx

1948 marked the year of many revolutions in Europe both physical and literal. It was the year of the The Communist Manifesto written by communist theorists Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels. The doctrine described the exploitative relationship of the ruling class and the working class and the methods of becoming a classless society. It suggested the need for a proletarian revolution to bring about the following changes:

10 Planks of the Communist Manifesto²⁶

1. Abolition of property in land and application of all rents of land to public purposes.
2. A heavy progressive or graduated income tax.
3. Abolition of all right of inheritance.
4. Confiscation of the property of all emigrants and rebels.
5. Centralization of credit in the hands of the State, by means of a national bank with State capital and an exclusive monopoly.
6. Centralization of the means of communication and transport in the hands of the State.
7. Extension of factories and instruments of production owned by the State; the bringing into cultivation of waste-lands, and the improvement of the soil generally in accordance with a common plan.
8. Equal liability of all to labour. Establishment of industrial armies, especially for agriculture.
9. Combination of agriculture with manufacturing industries; gradual abolition of the distinction between town and country, by a more equitable distribution of the population over the country.
10. Free education for all children in public schools. Abolition of children's factory labour in its present form. Combination of education with industrial production.



"Marx and Engels use the "base-structure" metaphor to explain the idea that the totality of relations among people with regard to "the social production of their existence" forms the economic basis, on which arises a superstructure of political and legal institutions. To the base corresponds the social consciousness which includes religious, philosophical, and other main ideas. The base conditions both, the superstructure and the social consciousness. The base remains the foundation of a form of social organization which then can act again upon both parts of the base-structure metaphor." ²⁷

Socialism ideology and reality

The classes of society were to disappear. This concept, to my knowledge, has never been proven to be possible. Every animal species on the planet refers to a system of hierarchy within its social group in order to adjust to the needs of survival and reproduction. This can be directly seen in the "base and superstructure" architecture of Russia's Social Realist architecture.

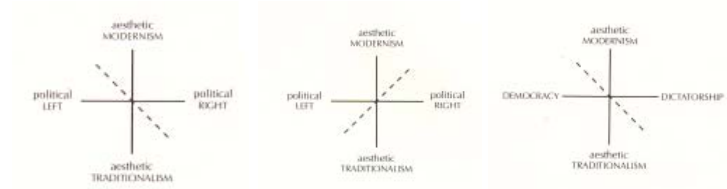
Property and inheritance was a privilege of the ruling class and thus could not be distributed among all people. Instead it became property of the state. In reality, for the common man, nothing had changed in regards to ownership. Homes and apartments were rented and maintained by the state. Because pride of ownership is irrelevant in Communist Romania one must then consider pride of place.

It can be construed that on the whole Romanians had gained improved transportation, communication, education, and other state run entities. Perhaps it is true that in the infancy of ideological systems of government there exists a collective pride from the victory of past oppressive forces. Unfortunately, ideology and reality are two very different things. Reality seems to follow the law of nature where as ideology follows the law of nurture. Both can greatly influence each other and create change for the better or worse. The ideology of communism is engulfed in a future utopian culture where all people are equally provided a part of the dream and equally produce a part of the dream. All parts of the well oiled machine are instrumental in its proper function.



Power versus Intimidation

The architecture of the communist system philosophically displayed a different dogma. Government buildings, for example, manifest a severe power through their scale and unwelcoming facades. Classical elements influence the facades displaying power and will. Yet, the singular person is made to feel small and powerless against the strength and the watchful eye of the government. This is evident in the parliament building, communist party building, and especially the press and new parliament palace. The intimidation of these structures was exponentially increased by the distance one was required to keep.



Three Diagrams of Social Realism and its changing ideology towards architecture



Palatul Victorie – Build before
the communist came to power
– capitalist architecture



Central Committee of the Communist
Party Building



Casa Scintei – newspaper house
Social Realism



Bucharest Parliament Building – central system-
atization



Housing for government and secret police
– during communist era

Housing : Ceausima : the end of individuality

“Totodata, prin cazarea proletariatului în apartamente identice se urmărea curmarea tendințelor individualiste, considerate periculoase pentru ”omul nou”, care nu trebuie încurajat să gândească prea mult”
– internal burocrat

The result of the urban systematization conducted by the communist regime under the tyrannical rule of Nicolae Ceaușescu has become infamously known as Ceaușima. Ironically, following a visit to North Korea, Ceaușescu met with the Architect's Union of Romania and ordered an absolute primacy for the needs of the people and to abandon all excess “...everything superfluous, costly, uneconomical, everything tending to be megalomaniac and extravagant, is to be avoided in the design of buildings” –from redeeming Ceausescus ‘grotesque legacy’ The peripheral and arterial systematization expanded city boundaries and filled in open spaces for “worker” housing. More tragically the centralized medieval sections of Bucharest were destroyed in order to erect the Civic Center. The historic fabric was destroyed along with ancient pathways, monuments and even the flow of the river Dimbovita. This destruction affected not only the fabric of neighborhoods but also the connectivity of social life. Churches, monasteries, synagogues, hospitals, theaters, a sports arena and even ancient monuments were all brought to ruins.

Typical arterial systematization in Bucharest



The Civic Center plan came to fruition with the help of the 1977 earthquake. While many pre war buildings were destroyed in the violent shake the workers neighborhoods remained upright. Ceaușescu took this opportunity to create a paradigm change in urban planning and policy. He denounced the Directia Monumentelor Istorice, policy protecting historical monuments, and introduced his megalomaniac plan for the Civic Center. This action 'proved' the strength of communism due to the fact that no communist buildings collapsed. The fact was that a previous earthquake in the 1940 required the buildings to be more earthquake resistant - (Construction of Dwellings in Romania). Simon Buss explained that "the abruptness of the resulting social segregation, between those in favor and those shunned by the regime, was reflected in the new urban topography of gaps and cliffs, as the new 10-storey blocks soared over displaced medieval churches and houses, with no attempt made to reconcile old with new built fabric".

Peripheral and arterial systematization continued to expand while the "impenetrable axis of internal and external spaces available only to the favored elite" (—from redeeming Ceaușescu's 'grotesque legacy') created a wound in the heart of the city.

Urban Population

1948	3,486,995	20%
1965	5,667,559	25.8%
1985	11,540,454	50.6%

(from Istoria Romanilor pg 174)

Workers neighborhoods were initially well planned for transportation, infrastructure and schools. A balance of open space was created to counteract the concrete construction as seen in the neighborhoods of Drumul Tebei and

Titan - earlier peripheral systematization with normal comfort apartments





Titan. Parks and communal recreation areas such as swimming pools and theaters were also interspersed in these initial workers' neighborhoods. Apartments had a reasonable comfort level which included multiple bedrooms and bathrooms besides the kitchen and family room.

As the debt grew and planning policies changed in the early seventies the comfort level of living quarters decreased and became known as apartments with reduced comfort. Whether one lived in a normal comfort or reduced comfort apartment the reality of non existent insulation, lack of heat and hot water made life intolerable for all Romanians. The heating systems for these buildings are communal, meaning that if apartment 2B does not pay the bill then heat to the entire building is shut off. This is still a problem for many buildings in Bucharest whether they are part of the high density neighborhoods or old homes in historic Bucharest. The structures themselves have an estimated life expectancy of 80-100 years or more if they are maintained. It is easy to imagine the maintenance schedule when walking through these neighborhoods. The concrete facades are crumbling making the sidewalks both dreary and dangerous.



Crumbling buildings in peripheral neighborhoods

Open space between buildings constructed after the early seventies were not nearly as generous in size or quantity. Urban planning had become too inefficient in regards to time and money to be considered viable. Instead, structures were placed on a grid with some open space in between. Many of these outdoor spaces have been converted into parking lots.

When I asked my parents if these apartments bring them a sense of nostalgia they mostly recall the discomforts. Poor ventilation and insulation were chronic deficiencies during the most severe months. From my own childhood memories I can fondly recall Sunday dinner with my grandparents and friendships made with neighbor's children.



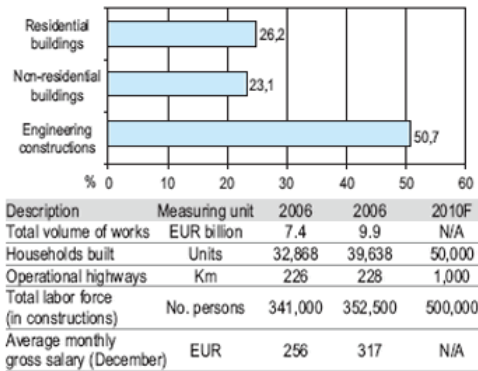
Open spaces become parking

"When the architect sits down in front of the drawing board they must, in the first place, think about the people" Nicolae Ceaușescu, Speech delivered at the conference of the Architect's Union, March 4, 1971. Nicolae Ceaușescu. Romania: Past, Present, Prospects, Bucharest, 1982, pp53-72.

Post Ceaușescu : architectural response

Capitalist freedom is flourishing in Romania and especially Bucharest. Housing is sold before the foundation is even set. The corporate world has placed its roots in the soil. Standards have crumbled to give way to westernized architecture. Unfortunately this new freedom does not come with the luxury of forethought for community planning. Individuals and corporations are trying to catch up to the rest of Europe in wealth and grandeur. One cannot blame the desire to improve ones life. However many, such as the elderly, are left in greater need than when communism was in power.

The new construction works structure in 2006



Housing projects currently on the market boast of opulence and luxury and are impermissible to most Romanians. The majority are 10-20 storey apartment buildings without any concern to communal space. The lack of renovation and construction in the “workers’ neighborhood” allows the fabric of these neighborhoods to remain static and further bifurcates the classes of society. For example, only the well dressed are allowed entering the Bucharest Mall yet it is located among the buildings of systematization.

Housing does not respond to the lack of communal neighborhood space





Corporate growth (post 1989)

Conclusion

"Today we are free.

Yet in our free towns and our free architecture we still do not have water – let alone hot water – central heating or electric lighting at night. All we have are holes in the roads, rubbish dumped on the street and, generally speaking, an acute shortage of financial resources.

So are we really free?

But if, nonetheless, you choose to put your faith in Romania and to pursue the mysterious discourse of architecture, you have to find a way."

-Architecture and Revolution pg 197.

It is very important to remember that the Romanian people have been survivors under hundreds of dire circumstances and will most likely survive hundreds more. With that in mind the metamorphosis to a capitalistic system is likely to direct change in more ways than economic. The entire culture is undergoing a state of change – some for the better and some for the worse. Reiser and Umemoto presumptuously state that "architecture makes a new history; history doesn't make a new architecture". This statement, in regards to Romanian history and future, proves to be both false and true. Communism and its systematization regarded architecture as a means to control the population. Little regard was given to the comforts or the aesthetics of residential apartment housing or the community spaces in between. That is not to say that all socialistic structures were merely constructed for the monumental factor. Many public initiatives were and remain to be a unifying piece of the urban fabric such as the Children's Palace. As architects and planners adapt to new freedoms they must take care to avoid greed or the obsession of fame. We must incorporate the positive aspects of past ideologies and combine them with the freedoms of today and tomorrow.

It is the responsibility of the architect to create spaces that can combat problematic components of place, culture and individual self pride. Neither efficiency nor iconic precedence should take the leading role in the future of architecture and planning. Rather a holistic approach should be incorporated

in design. Thoughtful consideration needs to be articulated in regards to community and its public and private spaces. Incorporating interior and exterior public spaces for individual neighborhoods as well as the rehabilitation of existing residential structures will bring a sense of pride to the respective communities, the individual and most importantly to the culture in a state of shift.

Precedence studies



Drumul Taberei during the 60's.



Trams lined up on Timișoara Boulevard



Apartment building in a somewhat wooded setting typical of Drumul Taberei

Drumul Taberei

Drumul Taberei is a neighborhood located in the south-west of Bucharest. "It is one of the few examples of successful urban planning during Communist Romania, despite it being built in the Eastern European tradition of "dormitory neighborhoods". This success is mostly due to the unique approach of the architects and planners to the concept of high-density urban living, an approach that was not used elsewhere in Bucharest."

The neighborhood was built in the mid-to-late 1960s when consideration and control over planning was still in the hands of architects and planners. Built on the outskirts of Bucharest, at the time, it was constructed with the idea of comfortable, high density structures with large areas of outdoor space. The brutalistic style of the buildings was popular, efficient and well balanced by the outdoor spaces. The efficiency of identical buildings allowed for a fast construction period and provided for easily used mass transit. The neighborhood is still well connected to the heart of the city even though the metro does not penetrate it. Each of the bus and trolley stops are enveloped by commercial space including, shopping, restaurants and small theaters. As more automobiles invade the neighborhood it becomes obvious, thorough traffic jams and lack of parking, that Drumul Taberei was designed with mass transit in mind.

The heart of the quarter is Drumul Taberei Park, a large park, complete with an artificial lake and a small, public swimming pool. Next to the park, a large open-air market was built and later included a community theater and ice skating rink.

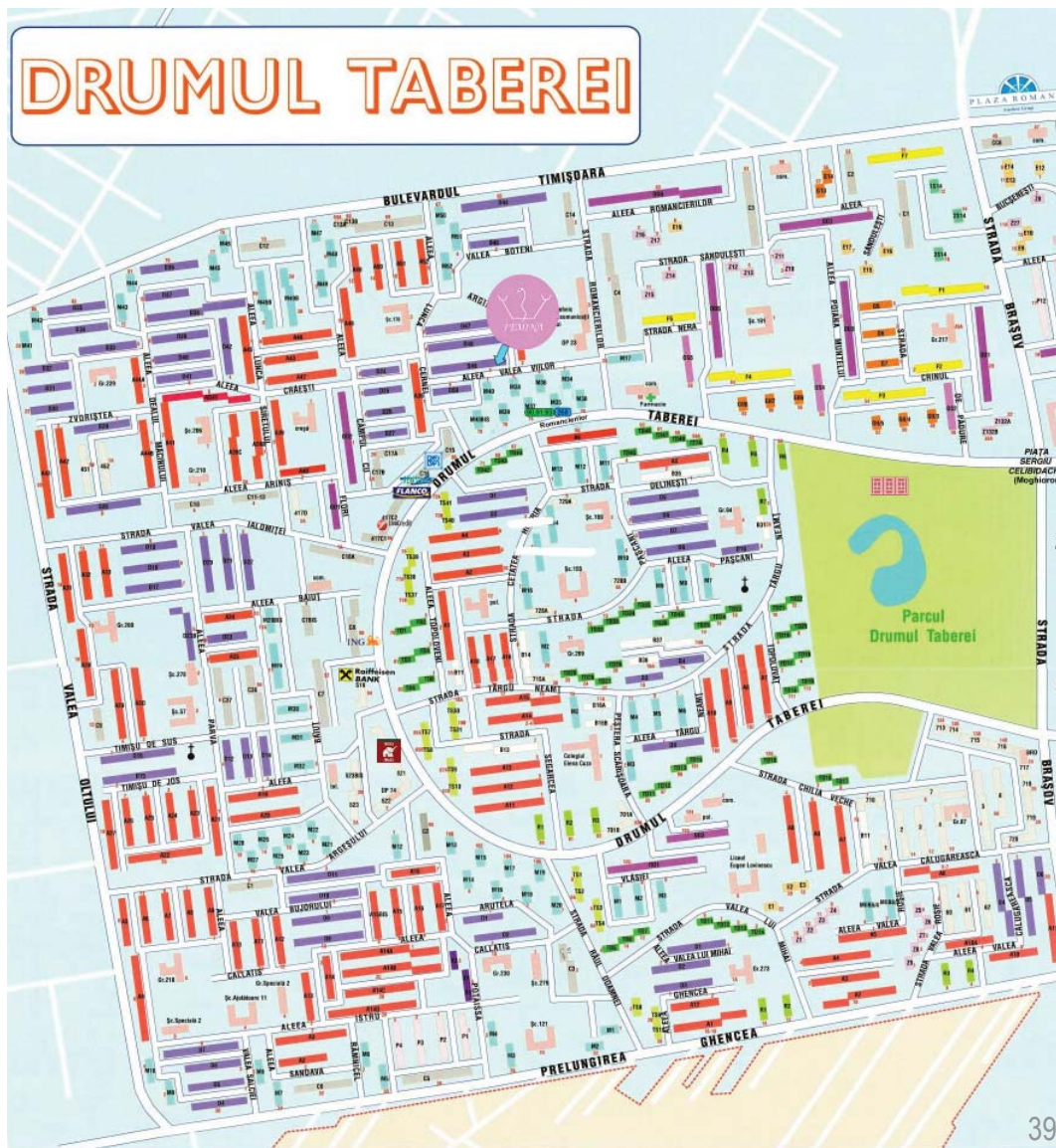


Market and theater



Ice skating rink in Drumul Taberei

DRUMUL TABEREI



Narkomfin Building



Rear view of The Narkomfin building, 1930s

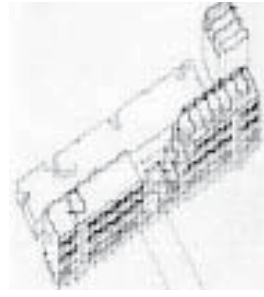
The Narkomfin Building was designed by Moisei Ginzburg with Ignaty Milinis in 1928, and finished in 1932. It is located in Moscow, Russia adjacent to the US Embassy. It is an example of Constructivist architecture that embodied collective living. Presently it is in a dilapidated state due to the fact that most units were vacated by residents years ago.

Ginzburg designed the building with the aim to explore the theories of the Constructivist OSA group in communal living. The original building was raised on pilotis and was connected by a bridge to a smaller communal structure. The communal facilities include an open terrace on the second floor, a solarium and a garden on the building's flat roof. A four-story annex housed a fitness center, communal kitchen, public restaurant, library, recreation room, and day nursery. Also part of the complex is a two-story building with laundry and repair services. Privacy was to be maintained while the household chores would be split by all inhabitants. The design was meant to break the chains of household chores for women and allow for a socialist way of life. The design was also influenced by the overcrowding of the city. Apartments with multiple rooms became multiple family dwellings (kommunalka). The vertical design of these apartments with the bedroom on the top level and the combined kitchen and living room on the lower level did not allow for their compartmentalization and thus remained single family dwellings. http://wmf.org/resources/sitepages/russia_narkomfin_building.html

The socialist idealism behind this constructivist apartment building was as fleeting as the Constructivists themselves. For example the recreation room on the roof quickly became the penthouse to the Commissioner of Finance. On the ground floor, open space was filled in to create more apartments for the housing deficit. The five year plan of Stalinism rejected the collectivism and feminism ideologies of the constructivist and declared them to be a "leftist".

LeCorbusier praised the building during one of many visits to the Soviet Union and was influenced by many of its "social condenser" ideas. Since

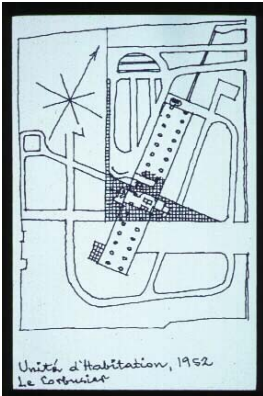
its construction it has been squeezed by encroaching growth of the city and is deteriorating from lack of maintenance. Unfortunately the building is in such disrepair that it is slated for demolition. That is not to say that it did not have many problems in its recent past. Due to the vertical design of the units, there are only two corridors on the five storey building. As it does not fit current fire code and a plethora of political and financial red tape there is not much hope of its survival.



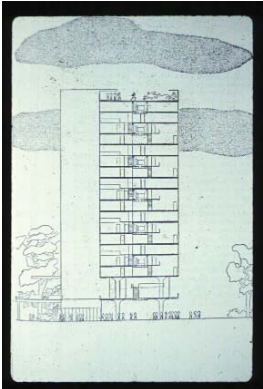
Isometric drawing of The Narkomfin building



Current state of Narkomfin Building



Orientation



Section

UnitÉ d'Habitation

"LeCorbusier's most influential late work was his first significant postwar structure—the UnitÉ d'Habitation in Marseilles of 1947-52. The giant, twelve-story apartment block for 1,600 people is the late modern counterpart of the mass housing schemes of the 1920s, similarly built to alleviate a severe postwar housing shortage. Although the program of the building is elaborate, structurally it is simple: a rectilinear ferroconcrete grid, into which are slotted precast individual apartment units, like 'bottles into a wine rack' as the architect put it. Through ingenious planning, twenty-three different apartment configurations were provided to accommodate single persons and families as large as ten, nearly all with double-height living rooms and the deep balconies that form the major external feature." — Marvin Trachtenberg and Isabelle Hyman. *Architecture: from Prehistory to Post-Modernism*. p541.

LeCorbusier used most of his 'five points of architecture' in UnitÉ d'Habitation. The structure is raised on pilotis which is balanced by a roof top communal garden. A market space was created on a middle floor which proved unusable. It is now occupied by architects' offices. Sunlight is controlled by the brise-soleil which allows for maximum sunlight in the winter and shading in the summer. The building itself is oriented on a north south axis allowing for increased natural lighting. Double height ceilings in the dwellings also bring light as well as a feeling of greater space. Apartments are situated on a double loaded corridor with entrances every third floor.

'...I have decided to make beauty by contrast. I will find its complement and establish a play between crudity and finesse, between the dull and the intense, between precision and accident. I will make people think and reflect, this is the reason for the violent, clamorous, triumphant polychromy of the facades.' - LeCorbusier

Although not all of the aspects of UnitÉ d'Habitation worked as well as were expected, it is still one of the most highly regarded high density residential structures ever to be built.



HABITAT '67

"Habitat was the major theme exhibition of the 1967 World Exposition in Montreal. It pioneered the design and implementation of three-dimensional prefabricated units of habitation. 365 construction modules connect to create 158 residences ranging in size from 600-square-foot one-bedroom dwellings to 1,800-square-foot four-bedroom dwellings, exhibiting fifteen housing types in all. Stepped back in their modular placement, each residence has its own roof garden. Children's play areas are provided throughout the project. Three elevator cores direct vertical circulation throughout the complex, with elevators stopping at every fourth floor to serve pedestrian streets. Every part of the building, including the units, the pedestrian streets, and the elevator cores, participate as load-bearing members; units are connected to each other by post-tensioning, high-tension rods, cables, and welding, forming a continuous suspension system. Visit the McGill University Archive for extensive information about Habitat and other projects." ----Elaborate on this study more

Everyone a garden:



Community Pride: ABOUT COMMUNITY PRIDE

1. Reviews and makes recommendations on beautification efforts on City property, including the development or alteration of City facilities, city cemeteries, public open space, pedestrian linkages, Hangtown Creek, public works projects, and major public thoroughfares.
 2. Encourages and recognizes beautification efforts by private property owners and community volunteers with the City through awards and special events.
 3. Encourages a sense of community by promoting voluntary participation in implementing and maintaining beautification projects on City facilities and public property.
 4. Facilitates the development and implementation of beautification projects for City facilities and public property through donations and fundraisers.
 5. Develops partnerships with the City Council and other agencies and parties relating to City beautification.
 6. Identifies and make recommendations to the City Council concerning current and future needs for beautification of City facilities and public property.
 7. Recommends ways to Implement General Plan policies as they relate to beautification.
- http://ci.placerville.ca.us/depts/comms/community_pride.asp

Open spaces: gardens, parks, trail systems, playgrounds, skate parks, amphitheaters

Education: schools, youth centers, heritage center, museums, libraries,

Communal spaces: youth centers, exhibition center, community center, art studios

Activity centers: recycling center, aquatic centers, community centers, youth center

Medical facilities: hospice care, medical facilities,

Renovation of structures and open spaces: safety from crime and physical wellbeing

"Pride is a great thing to have going for you. It can get you through some tough spots. Community Pride is important too! Pride in one's community helps everyone in that community! Property owners have higher property values. Residents of the community have safer and more enjoyable places to walk, run, ride, and play. Residents of the community have better, more amicable relationships with their neighbors and with other residents. The community (at large) has a better relationship with the city government, and with the fire and police departments. Just like personal pride can take you a long way!... community pride can take us ALL a long way!"
<http://www.gahanna.com/huntersridgepool/hrpool/html/pride.htm>

Architectural Objectives

The efficacy of ceausimas' high density housing is analogous to the efficiency of a storage facility. The complexity of human social interaction and inner peace cannot be quantified in housing units. Architecture must be sensitive to the needs of the spirit not just the body. One way to improve a sense of pride is to create a healthier home and sanctuary. Basic comforts such as light, heat and water must always be met. It is the higher functions of the home that can make the inhabitant proud.

The final housing project will incorporate the shell and possibly facade of the existing housing structure. The individual units will have new technologies to facilitate household chores and drastically raise the comfort level. New spaces will be created or carved to allow for the opportunity of interaction. This accidental interaction will improve bonds between inhabitants and provide for a greater sense of community. Beyond the housing, a new community center with open park space will enhance the community unity and community pride. The proximity to the residential structures will allow for pedestrian access and increased social intersection.

Program

Theories of Ruin Value

'Half ruined buildings once again take on

The look of buildings waiting to be finished

Generously planned: their fine proportions

Can already be guessed at: but they still

Need our understanding. At the same time

They have already served, indeed have already been overcome. All this

Delights me.'

Bertolt Brecht, 'Of All the Works of Man'

Residence renovation - elaborate

Since the buildings in Vitan follow the same set of plans it is easy to assume that all could be rehabilitated in the same manner.

Community Youth Center

-entrance – lobby	300 sqft
-office space	2/150 sqft
-community room – multi purpose	800 sqft
-community room 2	600 sqft
-art studio	500 sqft
-music studio	300 sqft
-media room	200 sqft
-library, quiet room	300 sqft
-computer room	200 sqft
-rest rooms`	300 sqft
-mechanical	800+sqft
-storage	400 sqft
-circulation	1525 (25%)
-photography gallery	1000 sqft
-dark room	300 sqft

Exterior project

- community garden plots- vegetable and flower
- trail system- representing two axes
- playground
- football terrain -
- tennis courts
- sunken sculpture garden
- music pavillion
- water feature
- parking
- benches/ satellites extending into neighborhoods

Code Analysis

CHAPTER 3 USE AND OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION

SECTION 302 – CLASSIFICATION

Assembly: Group A-3

Residential: Group R-2

SECTION 303 - ASSEMBLY GROUP A

303.1 Assembly Group A. Assembly Group A occupancy includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for the gathering of persons for purposes such as civic, social or religious functions; recreation, food or drink consumption; or awaiting transportation.

A-3 Assembly uses intended for worship, recreation or amusement and other assembly uses not classified elsewhere in Group A including, but not limited to: Amusement arcades, Art galleries, Bowling alleys, Places of religious worship, Community halls, Courtrooms, Dance halls (not including food or drink consumption), Exhibition halls, Funeral parlors, Gymnasiums (without spectator seating), Indoor swimming pools (without spectator seating), Indoor tennis courts (without spectator seating), Lecture halls, Libraries, Museums, Waiting areas in transportation terminals Pool and billiard parlors.

310.1 Residential Group R. Residential Group R includes, among others, the use of a building or structure, or a portion thereof, for sleeping purposes when not classified as an Institutional Group I.

CHAPTER 5

GENERAL BUILDING HEIGHTS AND AREAS

503.1.2 Buildings on same lot. Two or more buildings on the same lot shall be regulated as separate buildings or shall be considered as portions of one building if the height of each building and the aggregate area of buildings are within the limitations of Table 503 as modified by Sections 504 and 506. The provisions of this code applicable to the aggregate building shall be applicable to each building.

Table 503

Construction Type 1B for both A3 and R2

506.3 Automatic sprinkler system increase. Where a building is equipped

throughout with an approved automatic sprinkler system in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1, the area limitation in Table 503 is permitted to be increased by an additional 200 percent ($I_s = 2$) for buildings with more than one story above grade plane and an additional 300 percent ($I_s = 3$) for buildings with no more than one story above grade plane. These increases are permitted in addition to the height and story increases in accordance with Section 504.2.

Table 1004 Occupancy Load

CHAPTER 34

EXISTING STRUCTURES

3401.2 Maintenance. Buildings and structures, and parts thereof, shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition. Devices or safeguards which are required by this code shall be maintained in conformance with the code edition under which installed. The owner or the owner's designated agent shall be responsible for the maintenance of buildings and structures. To determine compliance with this subsection, the building official shall have the authority to require a building or structure to be reinspected. The requirements of this chapter shall not provide the basis for removal or abrogation of fire protection and safety systems and devices in existing structures.

3403.1 Existing buildings or structures. Additions or alterations to any building or structure shall comply with the requirements of the code for new construction. Additions or alterations shall not be made to an existing building or structure that will cause the existing building or structure to be in violation of any provisions of this code. An existing building plus additions shall comply with the height and area provisions of Chapter 5. Portions of the structure not altered and not affected by the alteration are not required to comply with the code requirements for a new structure.

3403.2 Structural. Additions or alterations to an existing structure shall not increase the force in any structural element by more than 5 percent, unless the increased forces on the element are still in compliance with the code for new structures, nor shall the strength of any structural element be decreased to less than that required by this code for new structures. Where repairs are made to structural elements of an existing building, and uncovered structural elements are found to be unsound or otherwise structurally deficient, such elements shall be made to conform to the requirements for new structures.

3403.2.1 Existing live load. Where an existing structure heretofore is altered

or repaired, the minimum design loads for the structure shall be the loads applicable at the time of erection, provided that public safety is not endangered thereby.

3403.2.2 Live load reduction. If the approved live load is less than required by Section 1607, the areas designed for the reduced live load shall be posted in with the approved load. Placards shall be of an approved design.

3403.2.3 Seismic. Additions, alterations or modification or change of occupancy of existing buildings shall be in accordance with this section for the purposes of seismic considerations.

3403.2.3.1 Additions to existing buildings. An addition that is structurally independent from an existing structure shall be designed and constructed with the seismic requirements for new structures. An addition that is not structurally independent from an existing structure shall be designed and constructed such that the entire structure conforms to the seismic-force-resistance requirements for new structures unless the following conditions are satisfied:

1. The addition conforms with the requirements for new structures,
2. The addition does not increase the seismic forces in any structural element of the existing structure by more than 10 percent cumulative since the original construction, unless the element has the capacity to resist the increased forces determined in accordance with ASCE 7, and
3. Additions do not decrease the seismic resistance of any structural element of the existing structure by more than 10 percent cumulative since the original construction, unless the element has the capacity to resist the forces determined in accordance with ASCE 7. If the building's seismic base shear capacity has been increased since the original construction, the percent change in base shear may be calculated relative to the increased value.

3403.3 Nonstructural. Nonstructural alterations or repairs to an existing building or structure are permitted to be made of the same materials of which the building or structure is constructed, provided that they do not adversely affect any structural member or the fire-resistance rating of any part of the building or structure.

3404.1.2 Existing fire escapes. Existing fire escapes shall be continued to be accepted as a component in the means of egress in existing buildings only.

3405.1 Conformance. The installation or replacement of glass shall be as required for new installations.

SECTION 3409 - ACCESSIBILITY FOR EXISTING BUILDINGS



Romania

Site Analysis

Southeastern Europe

Area: 237,499 sq. km

Land: 230,340 sq. km
(13th in Europe)

Population: 22.7 million
(10th in Europe)

Capital City:

Bucharest 2.06 million

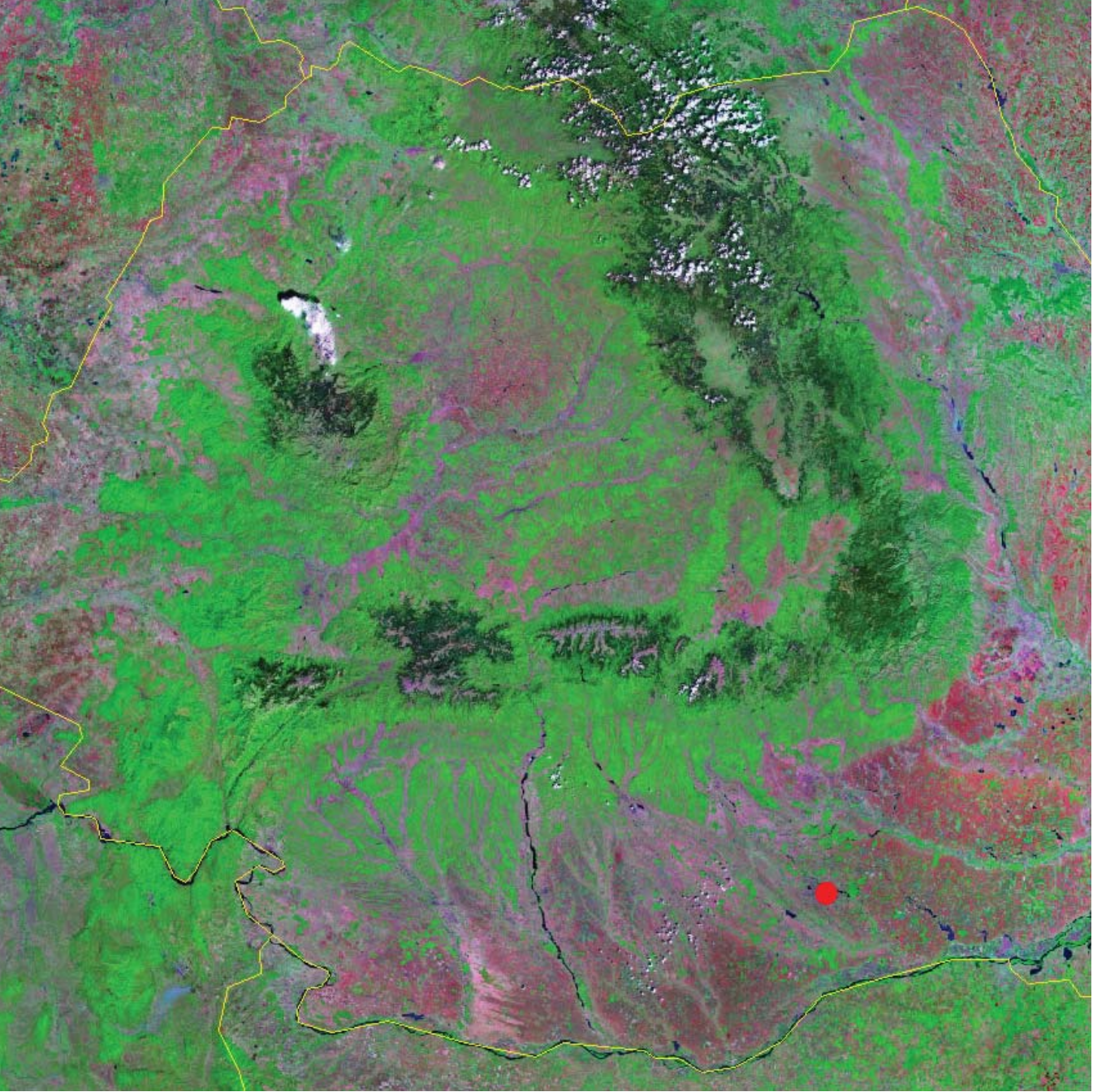
Government: Republic

Literacy Rate : 98%

Population Density: 94.8 per sq.km.

Relief: mountains, hills, plains, meadows and delta





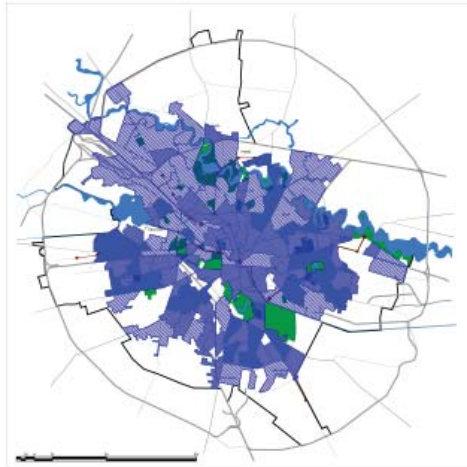


Location: Latitude: 44.30N Longitude: 026.08E Altitude: 90m

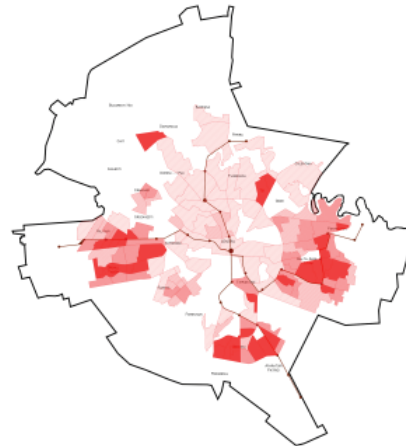
Geography of Bucharest

Bucharest is situated on the banks of the River Dâmbovița, which flows into the Argeș River, a tributary of the Danube. Several lakes can be found across the city, the most well-known are Lake Floreasca, Lake Tei and Lake Colentina. A pleasant place to take a rest is Cișmigiu Gardens with its small artificial lake Cișmigiu, which was a popular place among poets and writers. Besides Lake Cișmigiu, there are several famous gardens in the city, namely, Herăstrău Park and the Botanical Garden. Bucharest is situated in the south eastern corner of the Romanian Plain. As with many cities, Bucharest has seven hills: Mihai

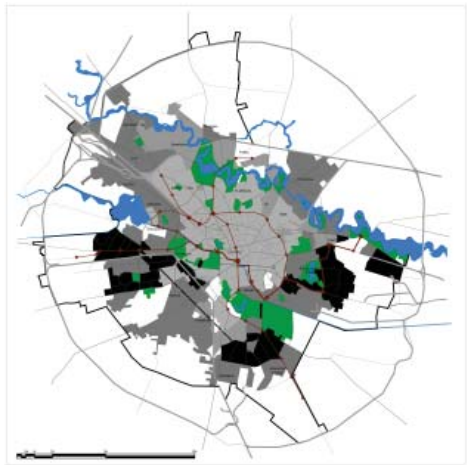
Vodă, Patriarchy Hill, Radu Vodă, Cotroceni, Spirei, Văcărești and Sf. Gheor-
ghe Nou.



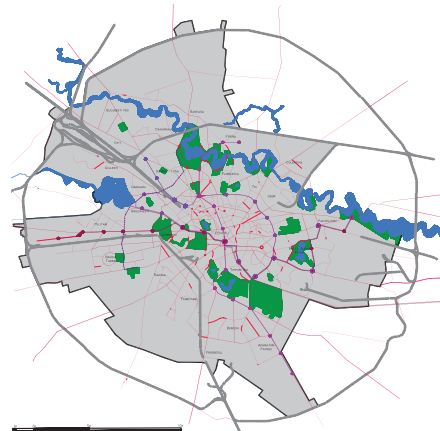
Population Density



Building Density



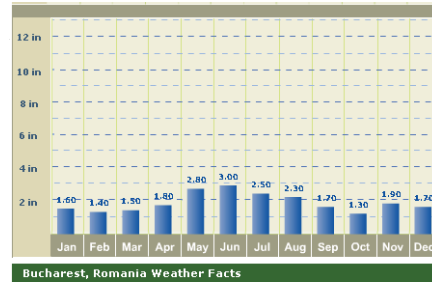
Building Age



Roads and transportation

Bucharest, Romania	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Average temperature (F)	28°	34°	43°	52°	63°	70°	73°	72°	63°	52°	39°	30°
Average Low (F)	22.1°	26.1°	32.5°	42.1°	50.9°	57.2°	60.1°	59°	52°	42.3°	34.9°	27.3°
Average High (F)	34.7°	39.4°	50.9°	64.4°	73.9°	80.2°	83.3°	83.3°	76.3°	64.4°	50°	38.8°
Record Low (F)	-25.6°	-14.8°	-2.2°	24.8°	32°	41°	48.4°	44.8°	32°	21.2°	6.8°	-9.4°
Record High (F)	60.9°	68°	84.2°	99.6°	98.6°	98.6°	102.2°	105.6°	102.2°	95°	75.2°	64.4°
Average Precipitation	1.6"	1.4"	1.5"	1.8"	2.8"	3"	2.5"	2.3"	1.7"	1.3"	1.9"	1.7"
Average Snow	5.39"	4.33"	4.13"	0.59"	0"	0"	0"	0"	0"	0"	3.46"	4.13"
Average wet days	11	9	9	11	13	12	10	7	5	7	12	10
Relative Humidity (morning)	67%	64%	73%	63%	63%	62%	59%	59%	63%	73%	85%	89%
Relative Humidity (afternoon)	61%	75%	63%	56%	54%	55%	51%	49%	49%	60%	78%	85%
Average Sunlight (hrs/day)	2	3	5	6	8	9	11	10	8	5	2	2
Average Sunlight (hrs/month)	71	85	138	185	246	266	289	281	224	177	88	63
Wind Direction	SW	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	NE	SW	SW
Wind Speed (km/hr)	5	11	10	9	9	8	6	6	6	6	6	6

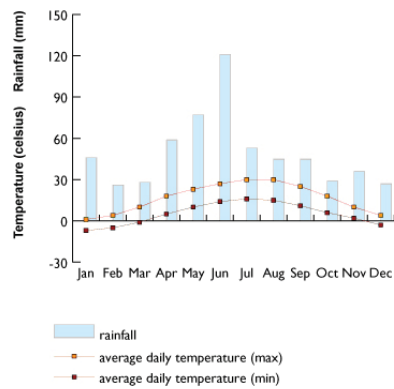
The following bar chart for Bucharest, Romania shows the years average weather condition readings covering rain, average maximum daily temperature and average minimum temperature.



- On average, the warmest month is July.
- The average coolest month is January.
- The maximum average precipitation occurs in June.

Bucharest has a continental climate, characterized by hot dry summers and cold winters. Due to its position on the Romanian Plain, the city's winters could get windy, even though some of the winds are mitigated due to urbanization. Winter temperatures are often below 0°C, even though they rarely drop below -10°C. In summer, the average temperature is approximately 23°C (the average for July and August), despite the fact that temperatures sometimes reach 35-40°C in mid-summer in the city centre. Although average precipitation and humidity during summer is low, there are infrequent yet heavy and often violent storms. During spring and autumn, temperatures vary between 18-22°C, and precipitation during this time tends to be higher than in summer, with more

frequent yet milder periods of rain. http://www.hotels-accommodation.ro/information/HA-Bucharest_Weather.en.html

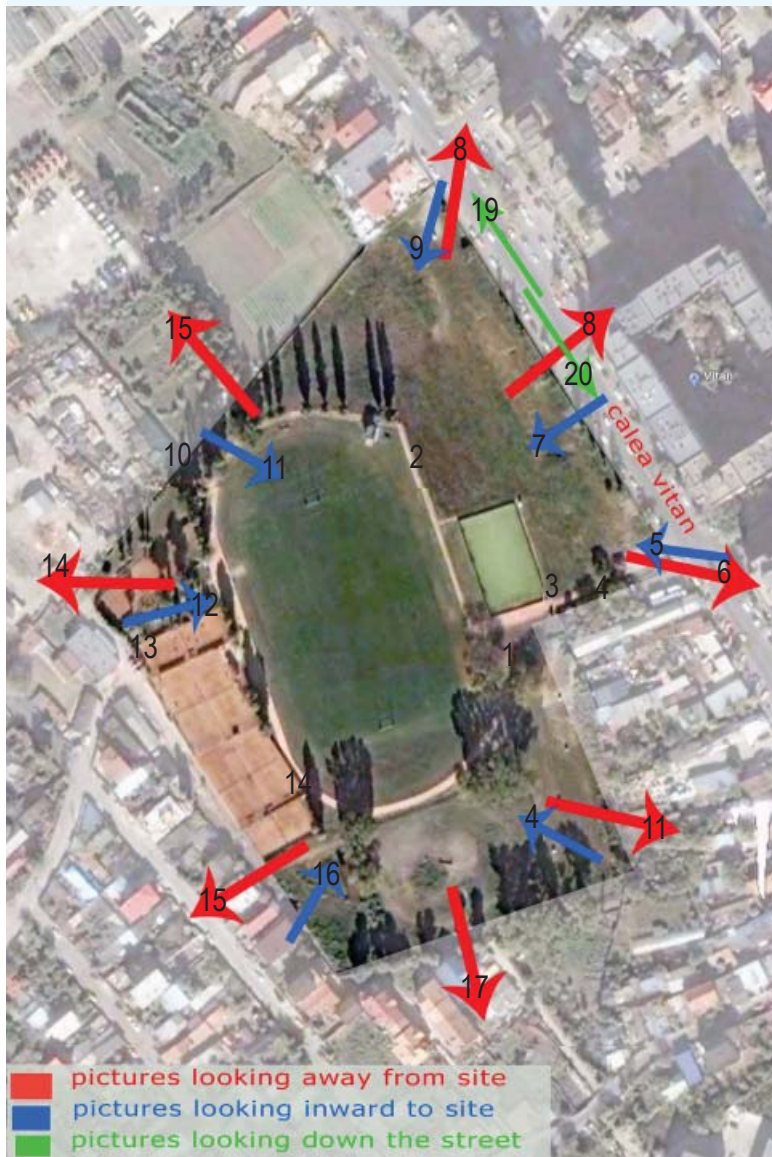




Neighborhood analysis:
high density to small
homes (low density)



Aerial view of site see-
ing from north







10



11



12



13



14



15



16



17



18



COMMUNITY CENTER BUCHAREST, ROMANIA

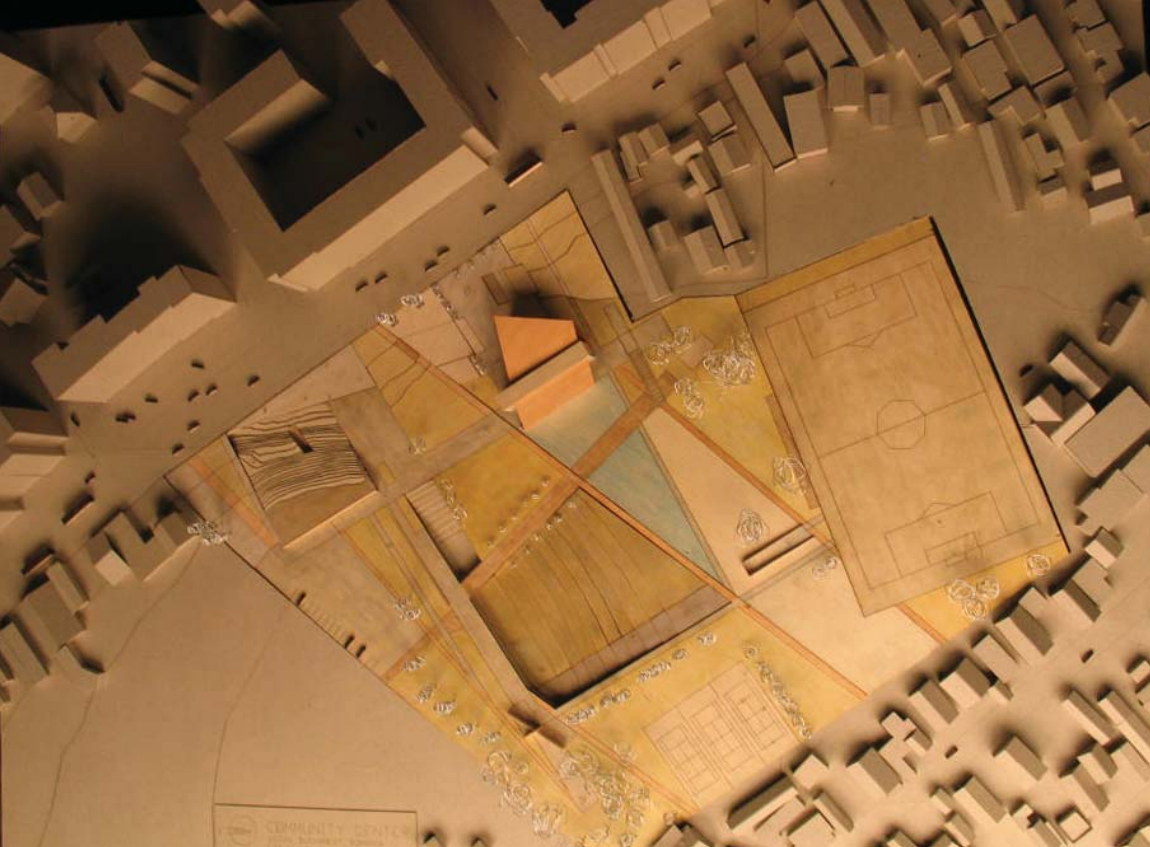


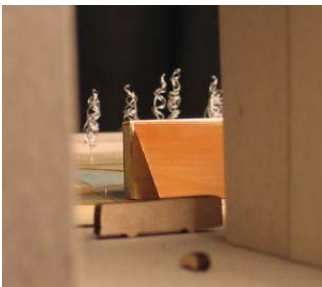
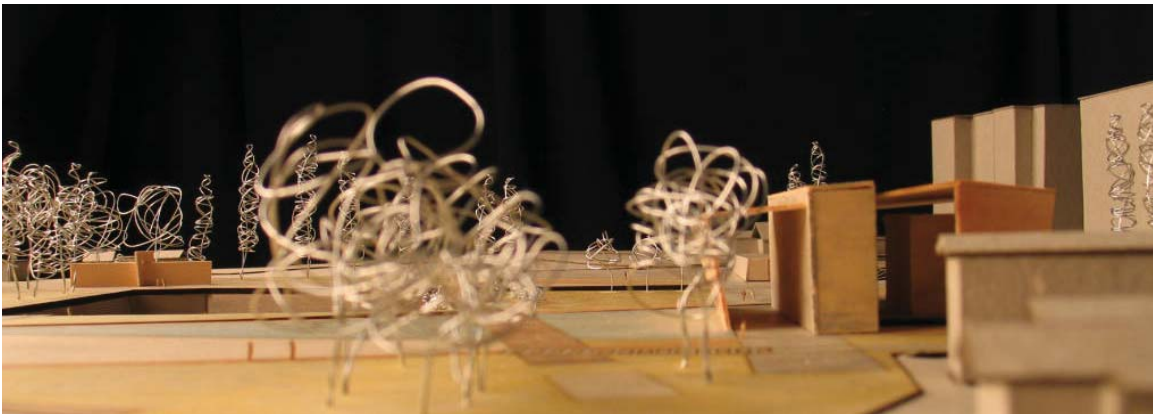
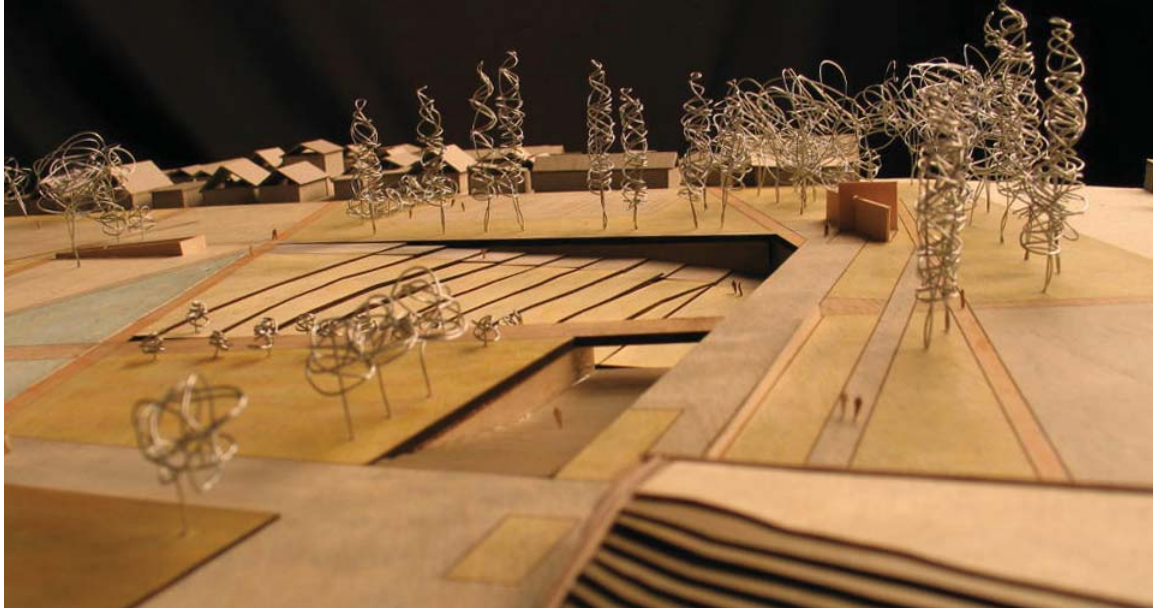




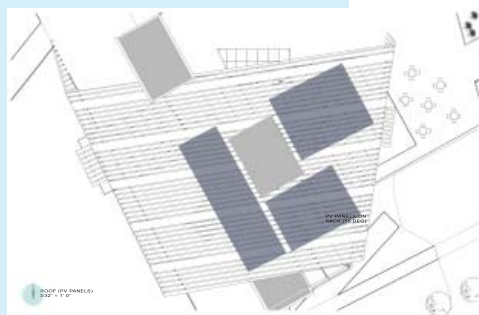
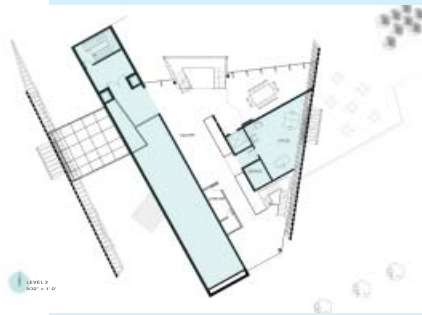










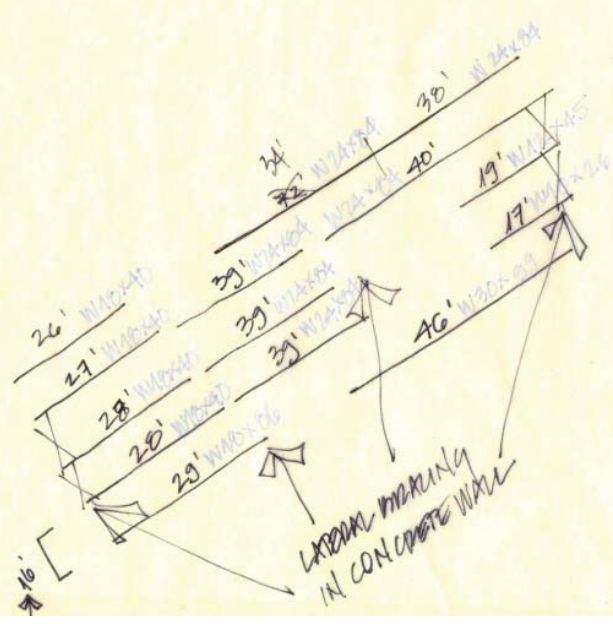


MINIMUM UNIFORMLY DISTRIBUTED
LIVE LOADS (PSF)

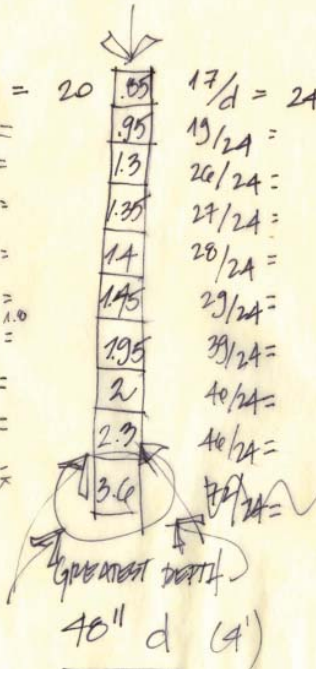
ASSEMBLY (MOVABLE SEATS)	100
BALLONIES	60
CATWALKS	25
CORRIDORS	100
RESTAURANTS	100
KITCHENS (COMMERCIAL)	150 ²
LIBRARIES	60-150
LOBBY	100
PUBLIC ROOMS	100
TOILETS	40
CLASSROOMS	40
STAIRS - EXPRESS	100

STEEL MEAN (RIGID FRAME)	SPAN RANGE 25'± - 250'±
FOLDED PLATE (STEEL)	25'± - 250'±
TRUSS (STEEL)	25'± - 300
JOIST (STEEL)	25'± - 225'
MEAN (STEEL)	25'± - 250'±

RIGID FRAME
ALLOWS A PITCHED
PLANE



17'	17/d = 20	17/d = 24
19'	19/20 =	19/24 =
26'	26/20 =	26/24 =
27'	27/20 =	27/24 =
28'	28/20 =	28/24 =
29'	29/20 =	29/24 =
39'	39/20 =	39/24 =
40'	40/20 =	40/24 =
46'	46/20 =	46/24 =
72'	72/20 =	72/24 =



SPAN TO DEPTH RATIO $\frac{1}{4}$

20 - 24 20 d = 3.9 1
 24 d = 3.25 .

16 - 22 18 d = 4.33
 22 d = 3.54

16 - 22 16 d = 4.875
 22 d = 3.54

20 - 24

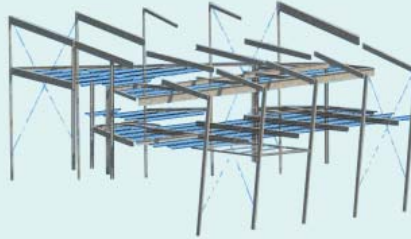
20 - 24 SEE ABOVE

17' W10x20 1/2" FOR OPEN WEB S
 .79 19' W12x45 DEPTH .85'
 1.08 26' W18x40
 1.125 27' W18x40 LATERAL BRACING
 1.16 28' W18x40 CONNECTION DETAILS.
 1.21 29' W 18x86
 1.62 39' W 24x84
 1.66 40' W 24x84
 1.92 46'
 3' W 30x99 d = 29.6

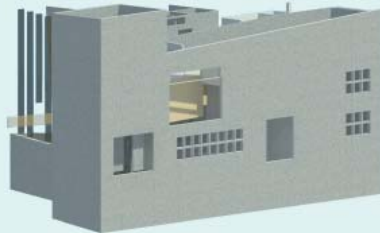
EXPLODED VIEW FROM NORTH
 TO SCALE



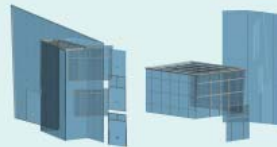
WOODEN SKIN - SUPPORTED BY MOMENT CONNECTED BEAMS



STRUCTURE WITH LATERAL BRACING - SUPPORTS THE SKIN AND THE FLOORS



CONCRETE WALLS - TWO AXIS OF BUILDING ARE CONCRETE WHILE THE REMAINING IS WOOD. SOME OF THE WALLS ARE SUPPORTING



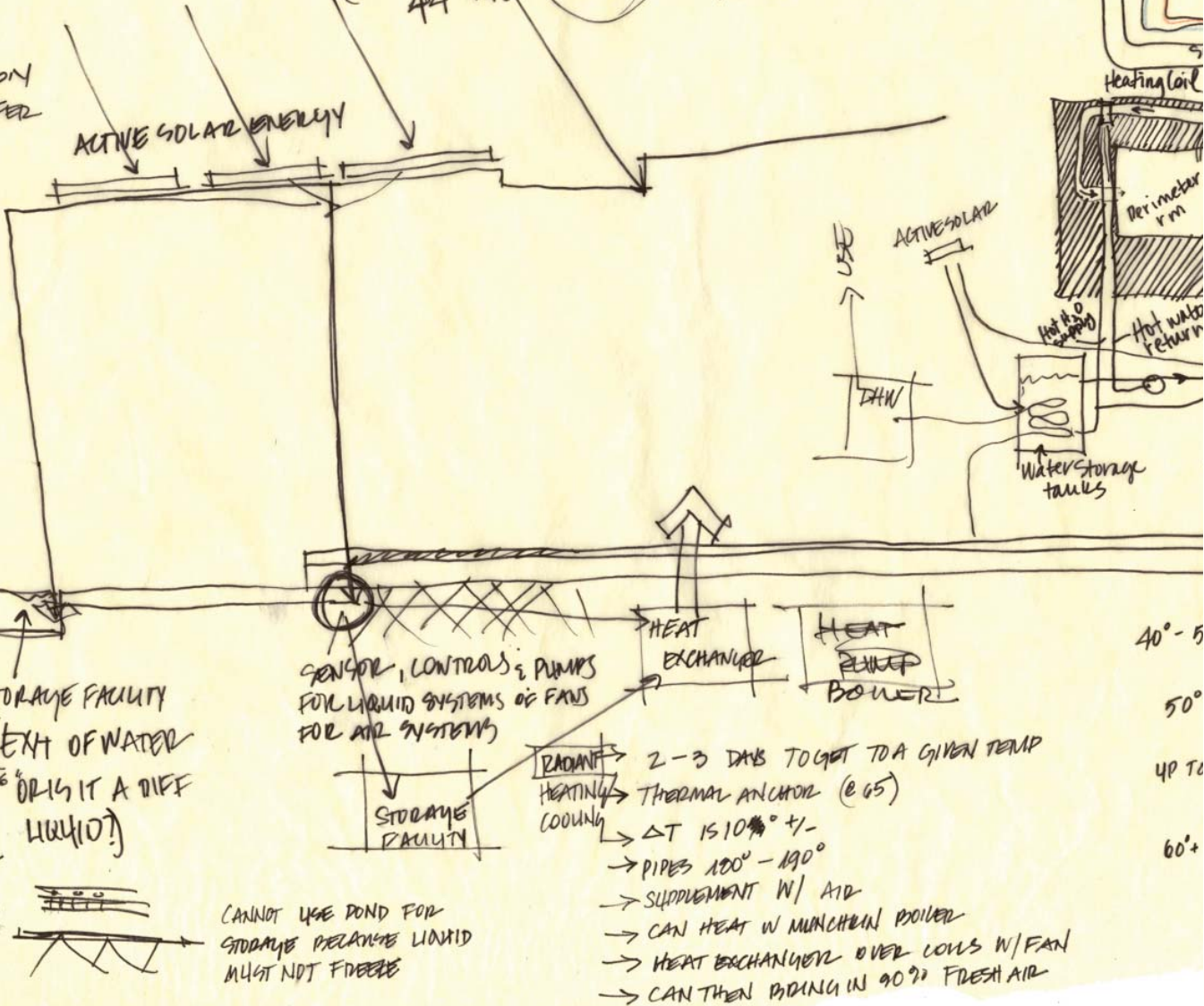
CURTAIN WALLS AND STOREFRONTS



STAIRS AND FLOORS - VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL MOVEMENT.

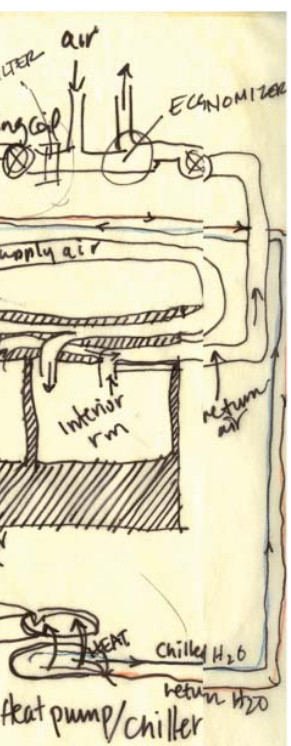
ANGLE OF PANEL = 54°
 (SITE LATITUDE $+10^\circ$)
 $44^\circ + 10^\circ = 54^\circ$

ORIENTED W/IN 20° OF
 TRUE SOUTH
 $1/3$ TO $1/2$ OF THE NET
 FLOOR AREA OF THE BUILDING



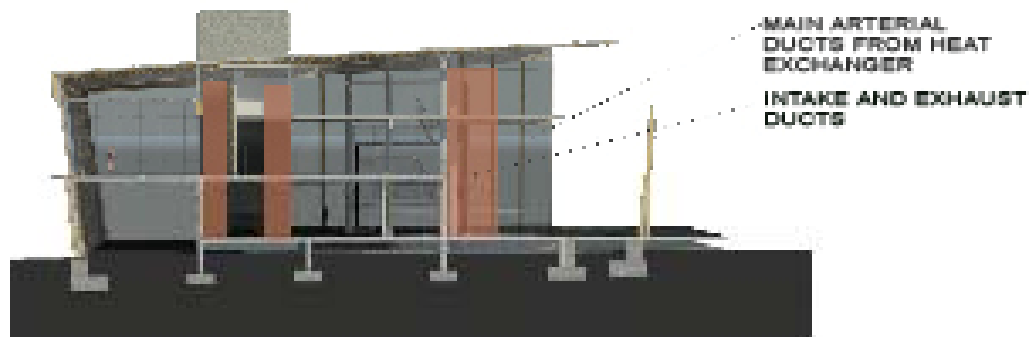
CANNOT USE POND FOR
 STORAGE BECAUSE LIQUID
 MUST NOT FREEZE

- 2-3 DAYS TO GET TO A GIVEN TEMP
- THERMAL ANCHOR (e.g. 5)
- ΔT IS $10^\circ \pm$
- PIPES $100^\circ - 190^\circ$
- SUPPLEMENT W/ AIR
- CAN HEAT W MUNCHEN POWER
- HEAT EXCHANGER OVER COILS W/ FAN
- CAN THEN BRING IN 90% FRESH AIR



0° → OUTSIDE AIR TEMP
 SURPLUS HEAT STORED
 → TANKS ARE FULLY
 CHARGED
 60° → ECONOMIZER CYCLE
 GIVES ENERGY CONSERVING
 COOLING
 → CHILLERS OPERATE
 @ NIGHT MORE EFFICIENT
 STORE COLD WATER

HVAC WITH SOLAR PANEL DIAGRAM



Endnotes

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82. Site Analysis 2, personal image by author.
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84. Neighborhood Analysis, personal image by author.
85. Front of main building from the north, personal image by author.
86. Inner lobby, personal image by author.
87. West axis exterior, personal image by author.
88. East view from Calea Vitan, personal image by author.
89. View from north triangular pavilion, personal image by author.
90. Perpendicular street perspective, personal image by author.
91. From the first floor looking out, personal image by author.
92. West axis looking north, personal image by author.

93. Site plan, personal image by author.

94- 99. Plans, personal image by author.

100. 101. Section perspectives, personal image by author.

102. Structure computations, personal image by author.

103. Exploded axon diagram, personal image by author.

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