

Reflection (P4)

The research resulted in a series of study models that attempted to physically manifest the products from earlier studies. Much difficulty was initially encountered when attempting to give appropriate architectural representation to what was at first highly abstract. Yet the research manifested certain architectural qualities that drove the development of design decisions and the self-styled brief.

(Aspect 4)

Prior research was influenced by notions of transcendence of localities (Piranesi's flight lines) and notions of the suspension of reality that when coupled with an analysis of Bucharest's social conditions allowed for the development of the brief and program to meld together rather successfully with the theoretical research. Having identified drug abuse and its effects on polarizing society, the decision to develop the programmatic requirements of the project as a *reformatory school for drug addicts* was made. In seeing the program's users as an extension of the theoretical research, the end users of the design were viewed as individuals having chosen to exist in suspension through drug abuse who now intend to remove themselves from that lifestyle, in attempt to either re-enter (escape) into society or out of it. Essentially this allowed the abstraction of the research – *an architecture of suspension* - into the concept of a school that exists as *an escape path*. This allows for the brief to straddle both the theoretical and social aspects of the project.

(Aspect 3)

In attempt to relate how alternative notational aspects of mapping and drawing affect architecture, a series of study models were developed to consider the possible manifestation of *an architecture of suspension*. This resulted in a series of models that attempted to address site while studying the possible manners of creating a suspended environment. Though the study models seem to literally be suspended, they considered notions of locality and *referentiality (from prior research)* where environments well known to both drug abusers and the public were taken and studied, and eventually deconstructed into samples that the study models considered. This allowed for a methodological equating of states of suspension that the program considered to be attributed to deconstructed references, allowing for the eventual construction of a series of fragments (sectional planes) that were reoriented from the study models into the eventual design framework.

These fragments were arranged to best manifest the states that occur in program and the states that occur with the desire for architectural qualities.

I personally found the attempt to displace notions of place from the samples as rather difficult and perhaps not entirely successful because it was hard to know how much was too much in creating reference (that it is not mere copy) and how much was too much (that nothing of the old could be referenced).

(Aspect 2)

The chosen topic and studio objective strive for an alternative response to conventional architecture, while maintaining the plausibility of a built form. The alternative forms of notation and mapping drove the possibility of undertaking a rather abstract research into possible products that best represented research findings. I particularly enjoyed the translation of the drawings into study models and the eventual fragments that were still recognizable as influenced by the research drawings/models.

(Aspect 1)

The research and the design are related in the manner in which they are both a assemblage of fragments that suggest the possibility of multiplicity. A whole with multiple readings. The design can be disassembled and viewed as a series of 7 fragments while at the same time they suggest a continuation that exist in architectural qualities and concepts, which in turn suggest a totality that is perhaps in constant flux. I think it reads as a whole, but a series of whole(s) which with each alternative view suggest a different kind of whole.

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