

UNDERGROUND

has long been overlooked and misunderstood!

Stop treating the underground as the Other of the aboveground
Underground is not the exile land of the aboveground
Underground is not the wasteland to hide problems

They left underground voids in vain!

It's time to uncover the untapped potential of the underground.
A new imagination of the underground through time must come to the front

— through the lens of UCHRONIA,

the alternative time

Underground Uchronia manifests a rethink of time

Time is not equal to the clock

Time has various shapes, speeds, and dimension

Time is entangled within everything.

**Underground Uchronia is the frontier against overload
current**

Time is a social issue.

We oppose a time structure universal and absolute

We oppose a society of end products, well polished and always professional

We propose a new time structure acknowledging its multiplicity and relativity

Underground Uchronia is the future urban incubator

Time is the inspiration

We demand the process of becoming

We demand a regenerative built environment

We demand the prosperity of amateur practice

**Underground Uchronia is a prototype of time-based
architecture**

Time is our weapon

We design with experiential time for people

We design with the life cycle of material

We design with the narrative of urban and local

Today we must activate the underground

Today we must build with time

The future belongs to our new Utopia

THE UNDERGROUND

UCHRONIA

PROBLEMATIC VOIDS



The lack of subjectivity in the underland has led to a neglect of its spatial qualities, resulting in problematic spaces that fail to transform. The fervor of underground constructions as human spaces in the 20th century soon cooled down, leaving behind ghost tunnels in ruin nowadays. While new works keep going on to exploit more subterranean spaces. Current Madrid's underground is full of such voids which are just buried or abandoned from past use, existing and waiting to be forgotten.

As half of Earth's soil is now used by humans, reevaluating underground construction is urgent. The underground must be seen as an active participant, rich with its own entities, requiring different values and strategies. It requires us to explore the underground as a new concept, integral to our urban fabric in the Anthropocene era.

UNDERGROUND: REALM OF NO TIME

"Time moves differently here in the underland. It thickens, pools, flows, rushes, slows."
— Robert Macfarlane

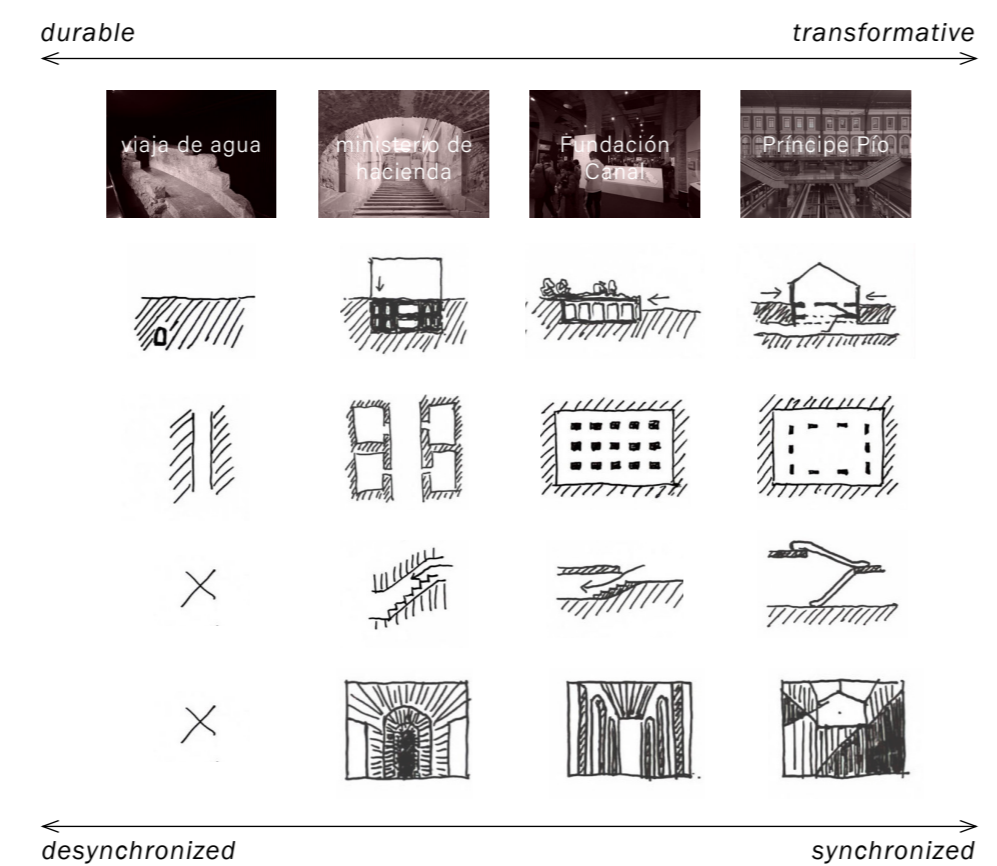
"Day has been abolished and the rhythm of nature broken: continuous day-and-night production first came into existence here. The miner must work by artificial light even though the sun is shining outside; still further down in the seams, he must work by artificial ventilation, too: a triumph of the "manufactured environment."
— Lewis Mumford



The underground condition is intricately bound to an alternative concept of time, revealing a deep entanglement between time and the environment, spanning from material to subject and space. This interplay makes underground time plural, representing diverse chronotypes.

The deep entanglement of underground spaces with changes in physical matter underscores the artificial manipulation of time, which aims to create purified artificial environments devoid of external chaos, resulting in voids featured by their enclosure and isolation. All these exclusion attempts contribute to the most significant temporal identity of the underground as a space of no time, or timeless, a concept which not only refers to the physical condition of the space but also contrasts with the conventional experience of time as a constant flux for human being.

DESYNCHRONIZATION/ SYNCHRONIZATION



The desynchronization observed in underground spaces is closely tied to their transformative potential within urban contexts. As underground environments maintain their own temporal identity rather than keeping up with surface time flows, they can easily become outdated. However, this desynchronization is more than just lagging: it offers an opportunity to diverge from the surface timeline, creating pockets of alternative time within the city. Additionally, underground spaces show potential for synchronization within themselves, redefining the boundary between the local and the broader urban context, fostering cohesion and efficiency among facilities in different city areas.

FROM DYSCHRONIA TO UCHRONIA

"The present is reduced to the point of currentness. It no longer lasts."
— Byung-Chul

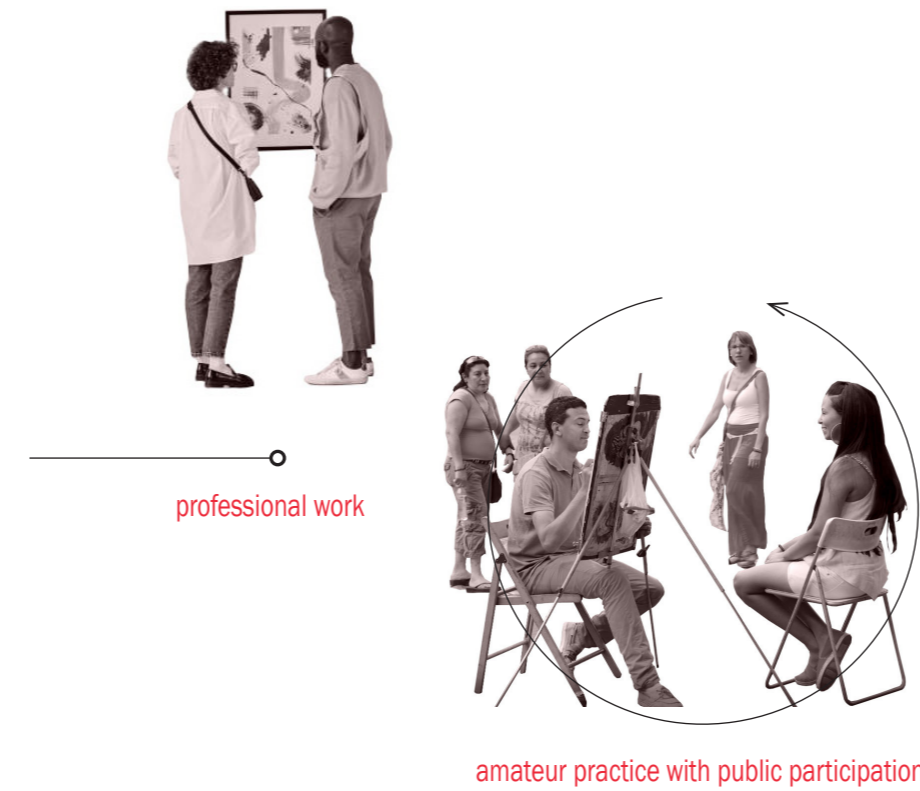
"How can you build for tomorrow if you live purely in the here and now?"
— Ole Bouman



The current solitary time structure has profoundly impacted urban life on both collective and individual levels, precipitating various social issues from the shrinking of public life in shared time to the individual experience of time scarcity and punctuality pressures. Therefore, it is imperative to shift our mindset regarding time and explore alternative possibilities for urban life. Embracing the concept of Uchronia offers a pathway to address these challenges by reimagining our relationship with time and creating spaces that free people from the overloaded current.

What is the temporal ideal worth striving for?

UNDERGROUND + TIME REIMAGINATION



The desirable time system I would propose seeks to reclaim the process of becoming within the urban fabric. To achieve this scenario, Uchronia, as a place of "no time," is identified as a space where this overlooked process would take place, finding its place in the city again. It would supplement the lack of duration in the city, tell stories overlooked by the above level, and bring back shared time as a new temporal public sphere. As such, it assumes the role of a future urban incubator, providing a fertile ground for amateur practices and nurturing urban creativity. It is a place where the practice and growth hold as much significance as the final products, a realm of relative time instead of absolute time, of duration instead of the current moment.

UNDERGROUND UCHRONIA AS FUTURE URBAN INCUBATOR



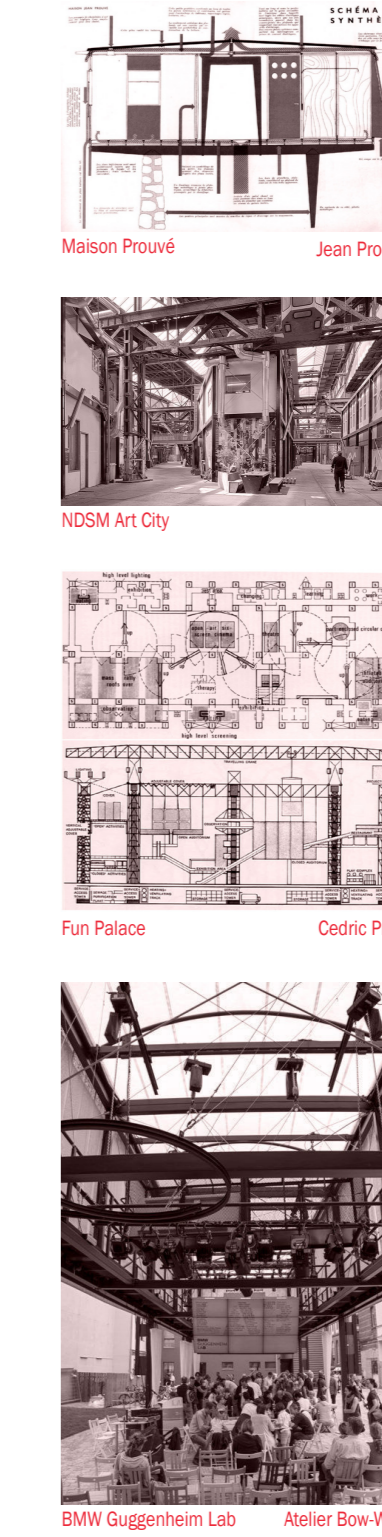
DESIGN WITH TIME



A shift towards a time-based architecture, as Bouman advocates, acknowledges the process of becoming integral to architectural meaning. It does not ask for a universal solution but demands a recognition of the plurality of time structures and their involvement across all scales and phases of architectural practice, from micro moments to macro urban narratives. Embracing this plurality requires us to systematically integrate time as a design tool, establishing temporal hierarchies that classify and clarify a series of new design strategies. These temporal hierarchies would encompass every stage and actor in the architectural process, organizing them dynamically based on various readings of time.

Experiential Time

The underground environment is characterized by a vertical dimension of time. And the threshold between aboveground and underground, as a critical point of awareness, is an important moment when designing the sequence of vertical movement. Descending into the underground realm is always regarded as a process of desynchronization from the surface level, or as Smozzi called it, "a lapse of time," marking a transition into a different temporal dimension. While ascending symbolizes the journey of resurfacing to the public sphere.



Material Reuse

The loss of continuity in construction and material use is a result of an increasingly temporal and uncertain urban environment, which imposes new uses for existing structures without consistency with their previous functions. This condition is especially relevant in my proposal of Underground Uchronia. To confront this challenge, strategies for repurposing existing materials emerge as imperative. This requires a shift towards prioritizing fundamental needs such as dimensionality, mobility, and load-bearing capacity over predefined forms. Consequently, architectural programs become more operationally focused. Furthermore, repurposed components from previous programs would offer inspiration for new ones.

Operational Time

Architecture should not be defined solely by the routines of certain users or the assigned roles of different spaces. Uchronia, as a temporal public sphere, aims to facilitate the intersection of diverse temporalities. This requires considering how various users will occupy and use the space at different times. The architecture must be operationally flexible to accommodate these varying needs.

Narrative Time

Temporal hierarchy demands a rethinking of temporal scales in architectural design, emphasizing a shift from short-term to long-term. In envisioning the growth of these spaces, the overlapping of temporal scales and spatial scales becomes evident. This growth unfolds in several stages, each aligned with urban development at various scales from neighborhood to a large network spanning the city, resonating with the transformation of the broader urban fabric.

ideal based on place
**Not UTOPIA
But UCHRONIA**
ideal based on time