

UNIT E

'Durability': Edges and Adaptability

Isaac Cobo i Displas & Claude Saint-Arroman

Unit E's research this year focuses on issues about adaptability and questions the role of architecture in improving relational connectivity. The medieval part of Avignon is isolated from the rest of the town not only through the historic wall that encloses it, but also because of the alienating motorway conditions at the external edge of the same wall. This results in a city within a city which is more accessible to visitors arriving by train than to car dependent local communities who rely on these arteries to circulate through the region it overlooks. Over and above its architectural heritage, Avignon is a vibrant cultural centre that hosts students, young and elderly couples as well as small businesses, performing art venues and summer festivals. Historical records demonstrate that its edges were once occupied, and the students are investigating ways in which the everyday can permeate more fluidly all year around at the edge between centre and outskirts, as they once did.

We understand the design process as a multi-layered discourse consisting of physical model-making, bespoke drawing techniques and reference to theory, in order to communicate readings of contextual qualities of urban/architectural conditions. The idea of 'junction' was explored this year as means to reconcile local and trans-local scales and to test strategic design interventions with

the aim to unlock new opportunities by speculating on new forms of connective architectural typologies.

Students started this year with a study of durable construction details, to understand the principles and debates surrounding adaptability and resilience to time and weathering. They subsequently analysed villas by Le Corbusier to assess relationships between design and context, and degrees of flexibility. Prior to going to Avignon, students analysed maps to understand regional environmental conditions. On site, they surveyed their sites, and did several montage workshops to broaden their intuitive approach to their site and to reflect on briefs that would benefit the area, in terms of social economics and/or in terms of 21st Century industries. Upon their return, they complemented their site analysis with an analysis of historic records gathered through local archives, while capturing in plaster cast a moment of specific architectural importance drawn from the villas and the site. They are now working on early massing while deepening their site analysis.

"I like my city, but I can't say exactly what I like about it. I don't think it is the smell. I'm too accustomed to the monuments to want to look at them...I like certain lights, a few bridges, café terraces, I love passing through a place I haven't seen for a long time."

Georges Perec

Students:

Y3: Ahmed ASHOUR, Alford DYETT, Vikrant JAYENDRAKUMAR PANCHASARA, Paul MARSHALL

Y2: Michael ADEDOKUN, Alan ALAVI WALY, Chelsea ANDERSON, Vanessa CAMPANELLI, Amin ESRAFILI, Daniel HARRIS, Max IVANESCU, Martin KOCABEY, Shahzy MAZHAR, Olive ODAGBU, Alexandre PALUS, Rebecca SHAW, Adrian SIRBOIU, Katharine STEVENS, Andrei SZEPOCHER, Keeme ZAIN AHMED HA BIN

Special thanks to:

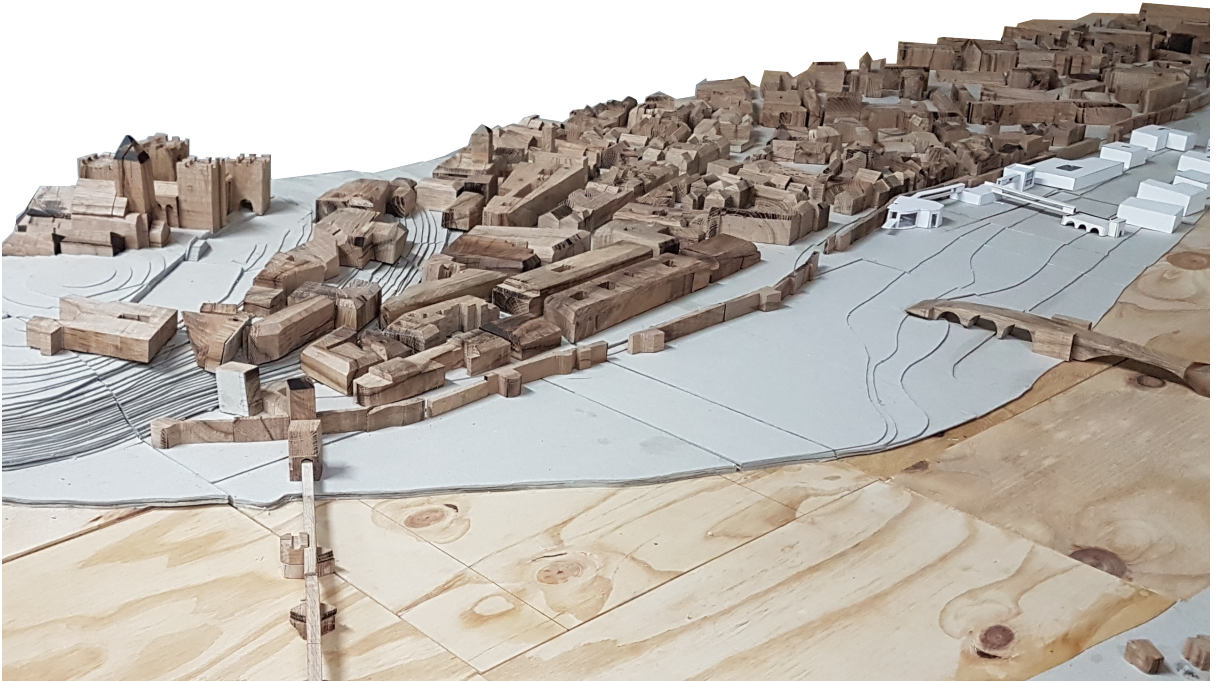
Maliha Haque

Visiting Crits:

Andrew Fortune, Sakiko kohashi, Mark Rist, Lauren Patten

Thanks to:

Unit 9 and Harald Trapp for allowing Unit E to share their unit space with us, and Paula Tosas Augustet.



Unit Website

WWW.UELUNITE.COM

Instagram

[unite_uel](https://www.instagram.com/unite_uel)

e.1 Avignon site Model at 1:500 Unit E group work

Wine, Food & Art Outside the Rampart- Turning a non-place into a social place, YR 2 Vanessa Campanelli

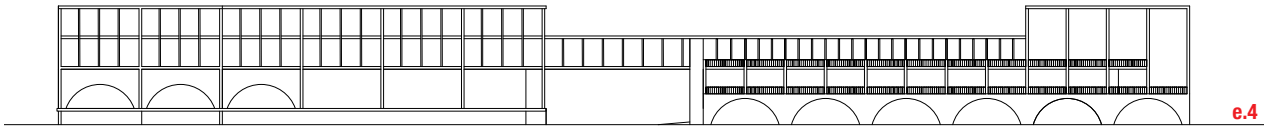
e.2 Final Proposal of ramp bridge **e.3** North-west elevation **e.4** South-east elevation **e.5** Ground floor plan within site context **e.6** View from the bridge **e.7** Interior rendered view



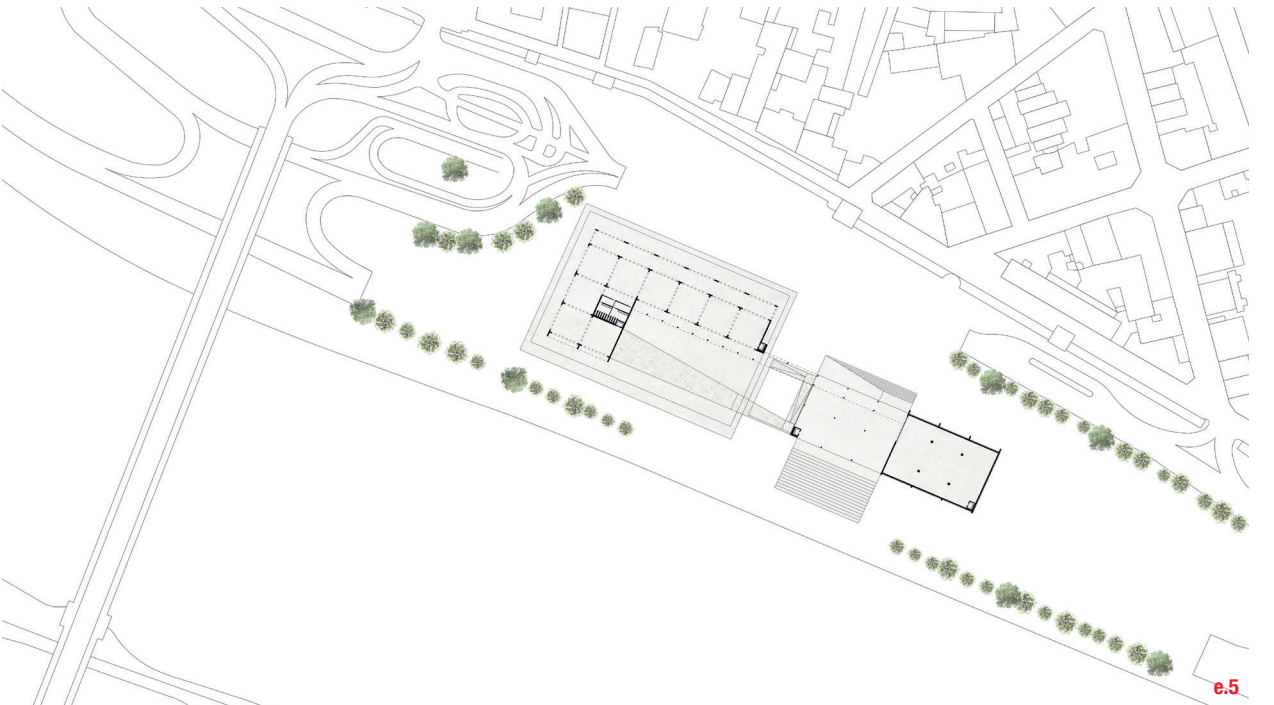
e.2



e.3



e.4



e.5



e.6



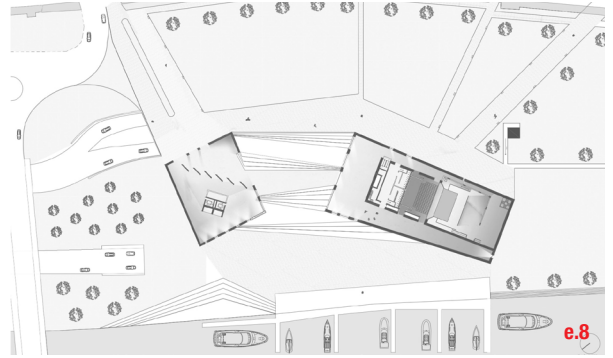
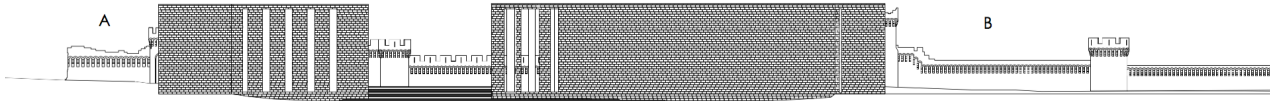
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Theatre by the water- YR 2 Szepocher Andrei Rudi

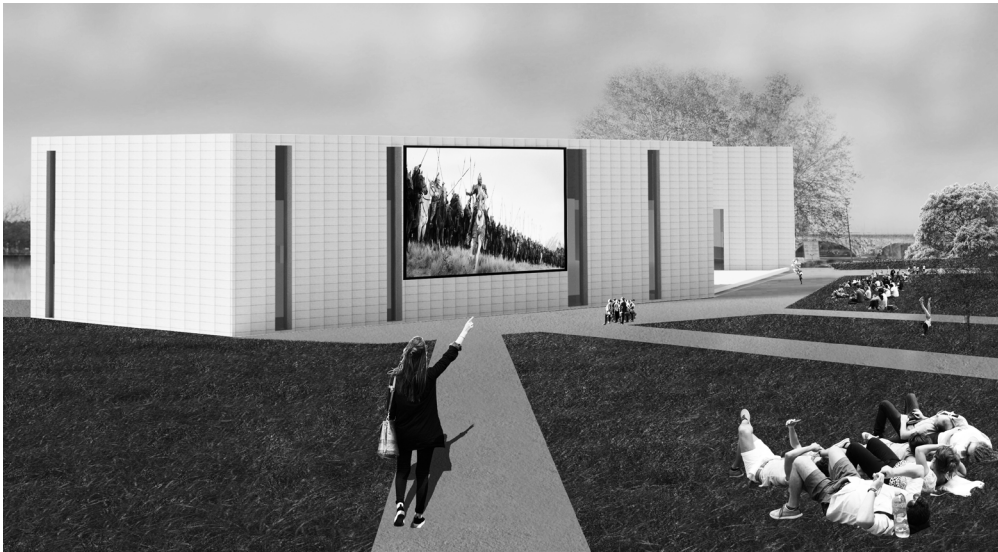
e.8 Ground floor proposed plan within site context **e.9** West Elevation **e.10** Render of proposed theatre **e.11** View of the theatre by the water

Natural Energy Research Centre- The building is design to accommodate the research of renewable energy and its installment in homes of the homes of the local residence. The spaces require took precedence from the Polish Academy of sciences Research Centre in Jabloma. The building will involve the local public. They will be able to view the lab working spaces and research at the libraries. There is also an open space for events. YR 3 Alford Dyett

e.12 East Elevation **e.13** Picture of internal Model at 1:50



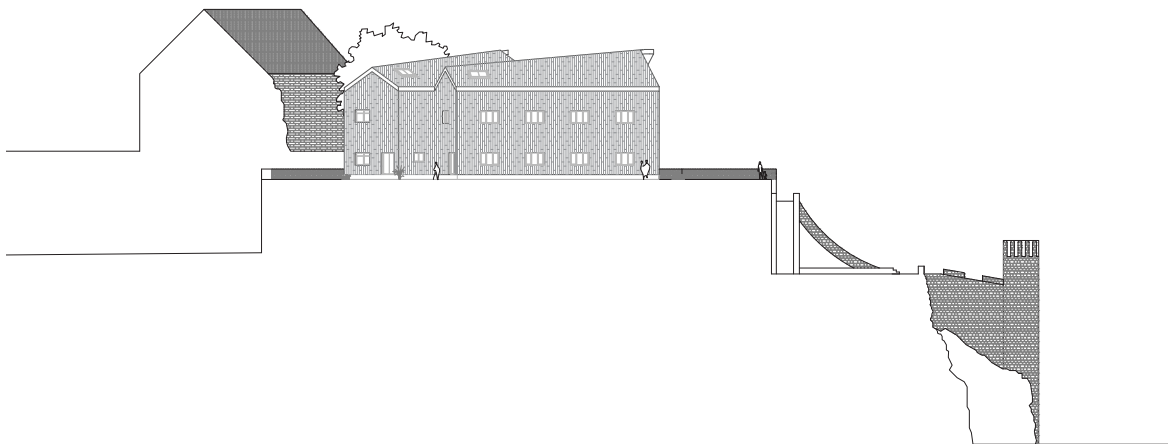
e.9



e.10



e.11



e.12



e.13

A City Walk - A development of urban spaces of recreational activities reviving a dead space, YR3 Ahmed Ashour

e.14 Sectional Collage of proposed promenade section **e.15** Proposal at night

Bird Observatory, An Interface with Nature- that is focused on the local environment. More specifically, the birds located in the area, and helping them thrive. The environmental centre will also be open to the local community for various activities. Tourism will also be a major factor. As it will help fund the activities that happen within the centre. YR3 Paul Marshall

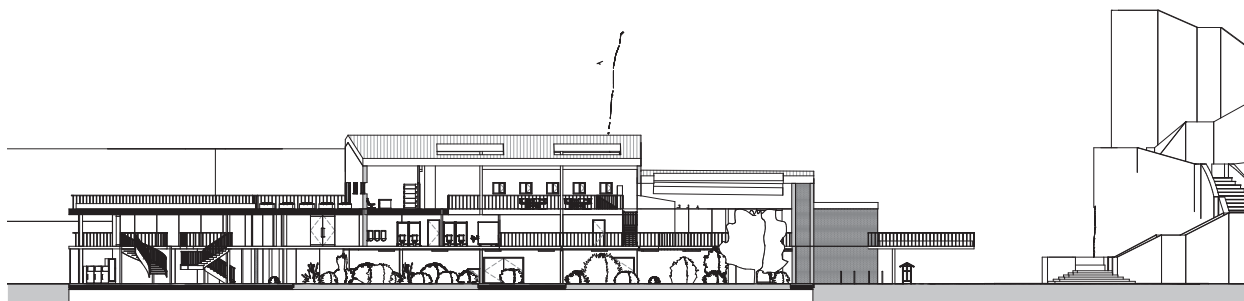
e.16 Long section **e.17** Render of the proposal **e.18** Proposal collage of a moment of the building along the hill attached to the site. **e.19** Villa Stein-de-Monzie (le Corbusier)- View from Moment This photoshopped render/collage shows the view the user would receive once getting to the balcony.



e.14



e.15



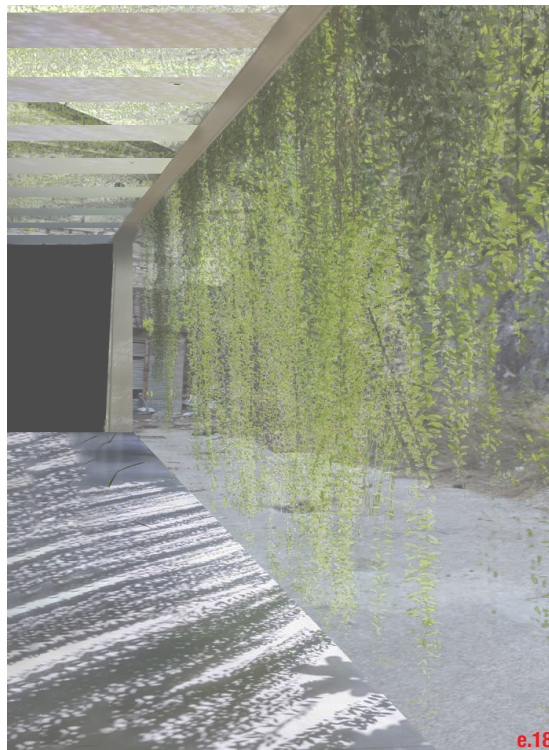
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e.18