

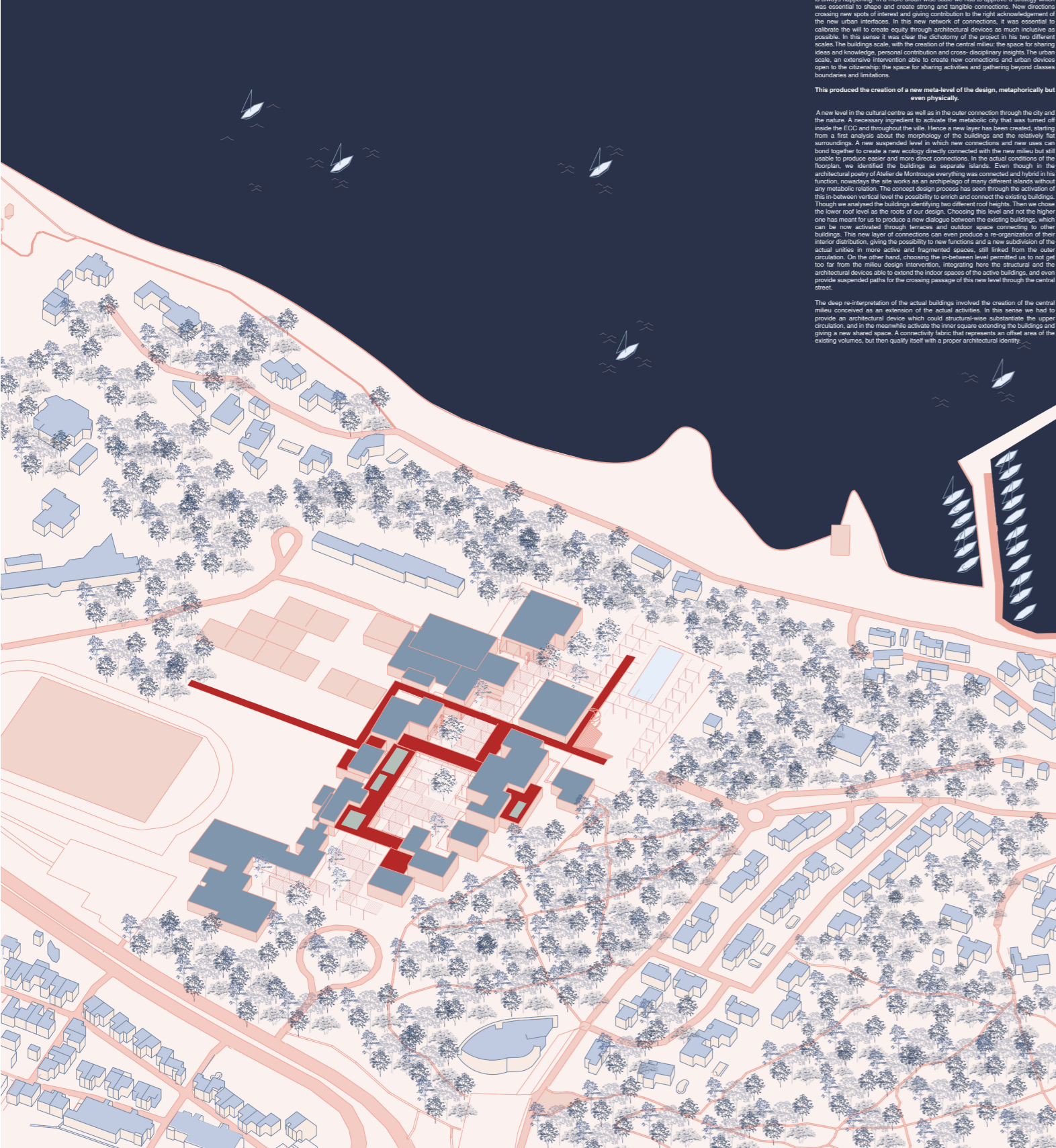
DEVISING THE MILIEU

Devise,
verb [T]
/d va z/

Milieu,
noun [C] formal
/mi:lju:/

to invent a plan, system, object, etc., usually using your intelligence or imagination.

the people, physical, and social conditions and events that provide the environment in which someone acts or lives.



Collectiveness, sharing, equality, temporary settings and adaptability, therefore the architectural device able to reach the design goal. In this sense we defined how it was completely formed as a link for the intervention of the borders of the building volume, which was able to respond to the design goal only by the central promenade but as well as the facilities still included in the area of the cultural centre and in a larger scale the connections within the city and the infrastructural network. This has been possible because of the location of the building on the North-South axis where Chem. de la Cornue aux Fiers goes along the border of the sport facilities area never having a defined connection to the south of the cultural centre. Then it was important to open a passage through it, connecting the forest and the harbor area with the northern border. Though we designed a new connection, loops from the existing 40 level infrastructural net and then we adapted it to the existing building morphology. Therefore, we explored the successful strategy of calibrating the purpose of the densification with the new qualities of the proposed milieu.

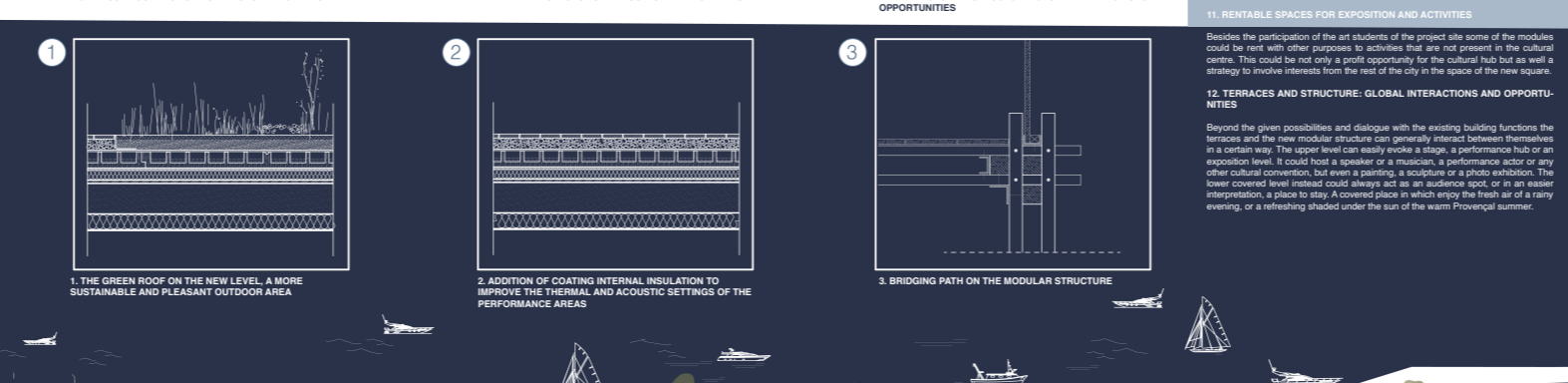
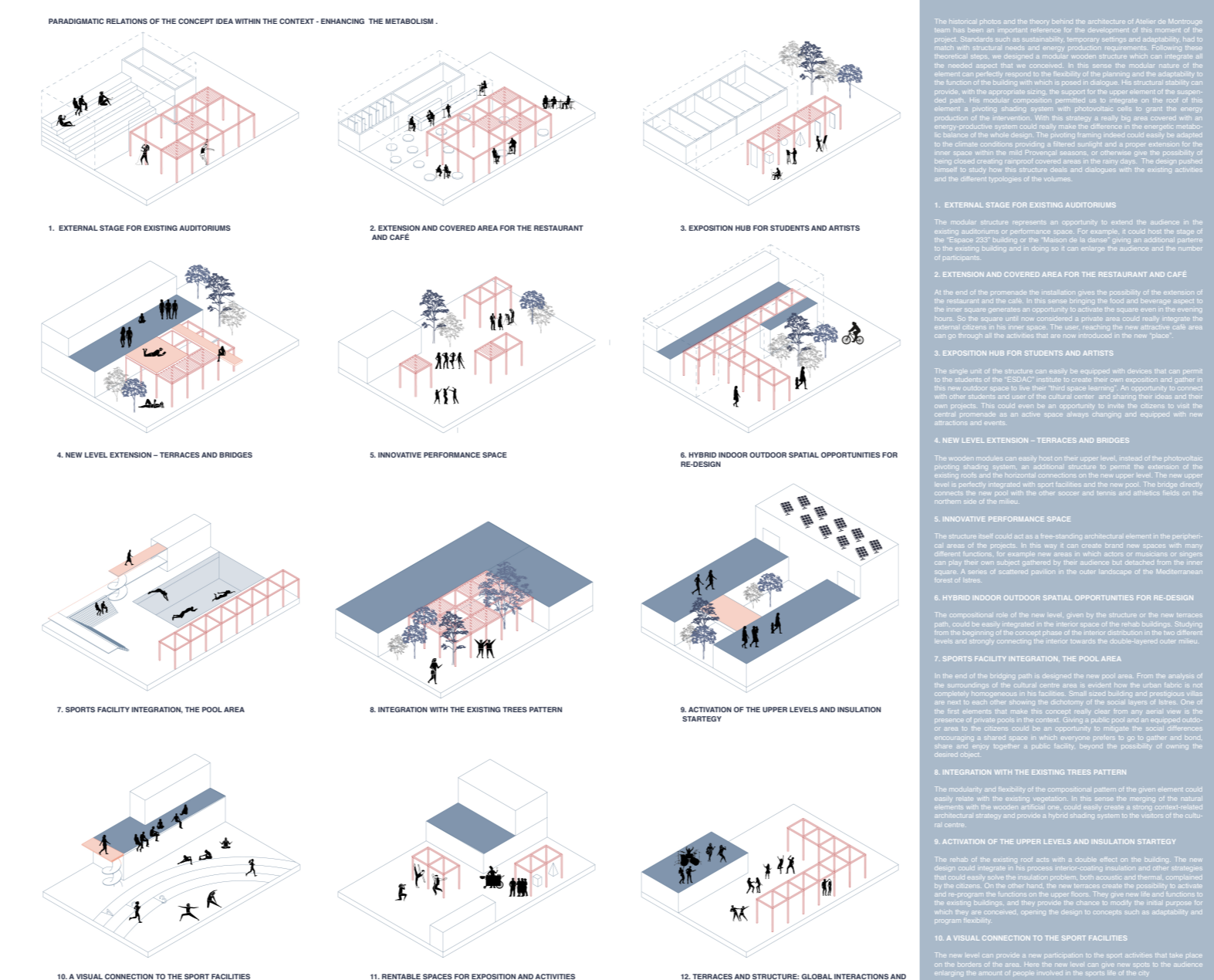
Thus, the necessity to match the two main different strategies and scales of the design approach.

In the first place, in a human and micro-scale, the densification of the central promenade with the creation of a milieu. An environment in which the third space leaving after the sharing connections could happen, spaces in which there are characters from different worlds can "take over" their own tasks and their interests, merging them together and giving birth to a new multi-disciplinary environment; an excellent model for a new urban level through the design of everything that was always happening. In a more urban-scale we had to approve a strategy which was essential to shape and create strong and tangible connections. New directions crossing new spots of interest and giving contribution to the right acknowledgement of the new urban interfaces. In this new network of connections, it was essential to calibrate the will to create equity through architectural devices as much inclusive as possible. In this sense we have divided the different scales of the building scales, the building scale, with the creation of the central milieu; the space for sharing ideas and knowledge, personal contribution and cross-disciplinary results. The urban scale, an extensive intervention able to create new connections and urban devices open to a developing space for sharing activities and gathering beyond class boundaries and limitations.

This produced the creation of a new meta-level of the design, metaphorically but even physically.

A new level in the cultural centre as well as in the outer connection through the city and the nature. A necessary ingredient to activate the metabolic cell that has been all inside the ECC and throughout the ville. Hence a new layer has been created, starting from a first analysis about the morphology of the buildings and the existing site surroundings. A new suspended level in which new layers and new uses can be used together to create a new ecology directly connected with the new level but still visible to produce easier and more direct connections. In the actual conditions of the location, we identified the buildings as separate islands. Even though in the architectural poetry of Atelier de Montage everything was connected and hybrid in his function, however the new works are an extension of many different results without any metabolic relation. The concept design process has seen through the action of this in-between vertical level the possibility to enrich and connect the existing buildings. Though we entered the buildings identifying two different heights. These heights, the lower roof level as the rock of our design. Choosing this level and not the higher one has meant for us to produce a new dialogue between the buildings, which can be now activated through terraces and outdoor spaces connecting to other buildings. This new layer of connections can even produce a reorganization of the interior distribution, giving the possibility to new functions and a new subdivision of the actual units in more active and functional spaces, will lead from the outer circulation. On the other hand, choosing the in-between level permitted us to not get too far from the milieu design intervention, integrating here the architectural and architectural devices able to extend the indoor spaces of the active buildings, and even provide suspended paths for the crossing passage of this new level through the central street.

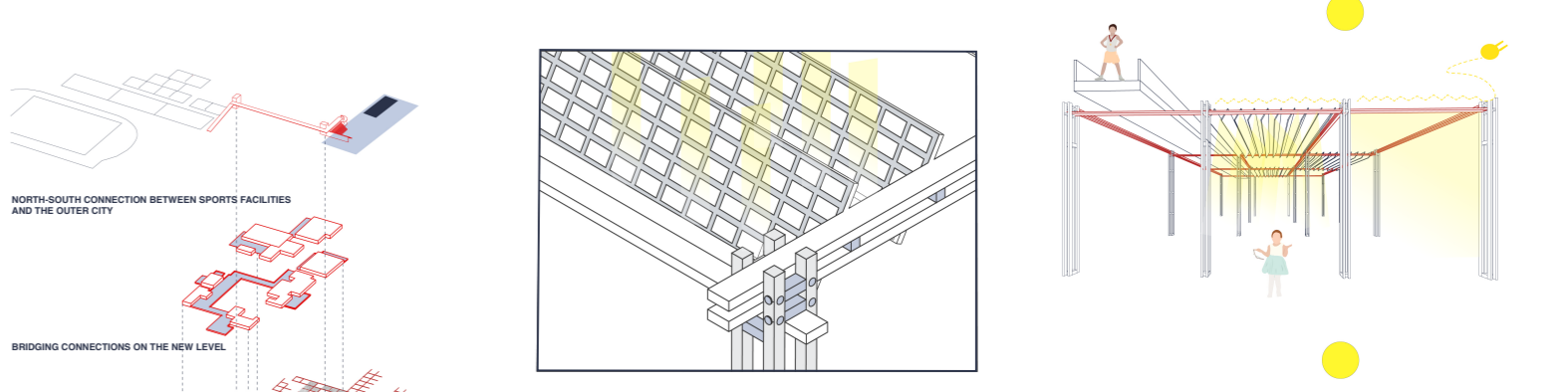
The deep re-interpretation of the actual buildings involved the creation of the central milieu conceived as an extension of the actual activities. In this sense we had to provide an architectural device which could structure and subdivide the upper circulation, and in the meanwhile activate the inner square extending the buildings and giving a new shared space. A connectivity fabric that represents an offset area of the existing volumes, but then qualify itself with a proper architectural identity.



A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY SHARED SPACE



A NEW INNER ECOLOGY GIVEN TO THE CITY



NORTH-SOUTH CONNECTION BETWEEN SPORTS FACILITIES AND THE OUTER CITY

BRIDGING CONNECTIONS ON THE NEW LEVEL

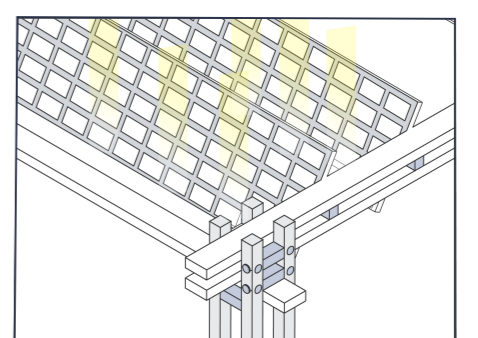
STRUCTURAL MODULES MORPHOLOGY

UPPER LEVEL OF THE URBAN FABRIC

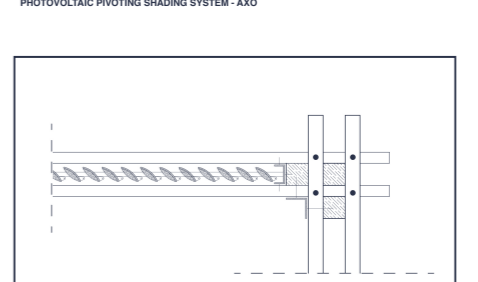
GRID SYSTEM AND NODES OF THE MILIEU

LOWER LEVEL OF THE URBAN FABRIC

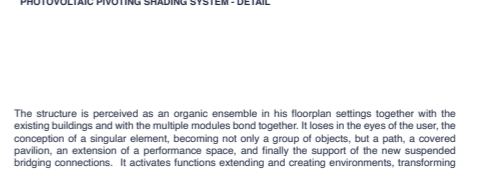
CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE CONTEXT AND THE INFRASTRUCTURAL NETWORK



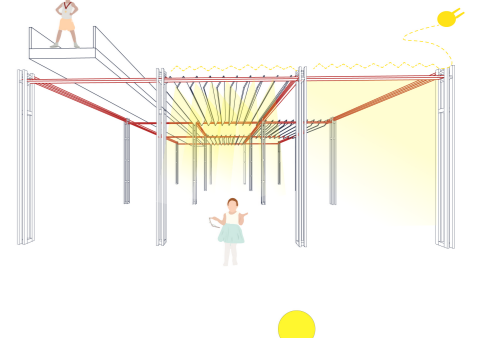
PHOTOVOLTAIC PIVOTING SHADING SYSTEM - AXO



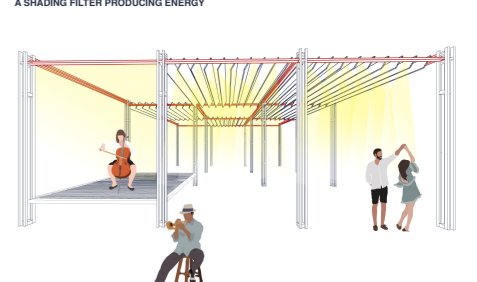
A SHADING FILTER PRODUCING ENERGY



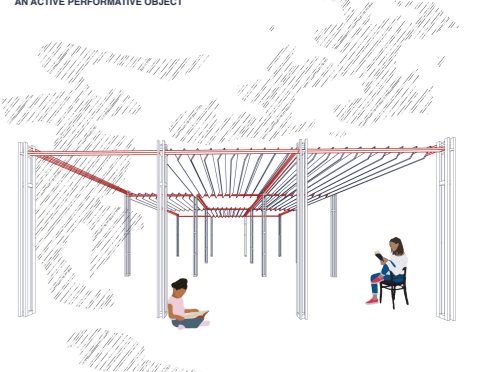
PHOTOVOLTAIC PIVOTING SHADING SYSTEM - DETAIL



A SHADING FILTER PRODUCING ENERGY



AN ACTIVE PERFORMATIVE OBJECT



A LIVABLE SPACE IN DIFFERENT METEOROLOGICAL CONDITIONS

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The historical photos and the theory behind the architecture of Atelier de Montage has been an important reference for the development of the volume of the project. Elements such as sustainable temporary settings and elements that do not match with structural needs and energy production requirements. Following these premises, we designed a modular structure that could be adapted to the needed space that was conceived. In this sense the modular nature of the project was not only a response to the need for a space that could be adapted to the function of the building with which it is placed in dialogue. Its structural ability can be adapted to the appropriate scale, the support to be supported on the ground and the element a joining shading system with photovoltaic cells to grant the energy production system could really make the difference in the energetic metabolic balance of the space design. The joining system could be adapted to the climate conditions, providing a filtered sunlight and a proper ventilation for the inner space within the mild through openings or creating a series of openings of being used creating suspended covered areas in the rainy days. The design pushed forward to study how this structure could adapt to the existing activities and the different typologies of the volumes.

1. EXTERNAL STAGE FOR EXISTING AUDITORIUMS

The modular structure provides an opportunity to extend the audience in the existing auditoriums or performance spaces. For example, it could host the stage of the "Espace 230" building or the "Maison de la danse" giving an additional platform to the existing building and a way to let it emerge the audience and the number of participants.

2. EXTENSION AND COVERED AREA FOR THE RESTAURANT AND CAFE

At the end of the building the installation gives the possibility of the extension of the restaurant and the cafe. In this sense, beyond the food and beverage aspect, the inner square generates an opportunity to activate the square even in the existing hours. In the winter, the new connection is a prime area to host events and the external citizens in the inner space. The user, reaching the new attractive table area can go through all the activities that are now restricted in the "new" space.

3. EXPOSITION HUB FOR STUDENTS AND ARTISTS

The single unit of the structure can easily be equipped with devices that can permit to the students of the "ESPACE 230" institute to create their own exhibitions and projects in this new outdoor space to live their "third space learning". An opportunity to connect with other students and users of the cultural centre and share their ideas and their own projects. This could even be an opportunity to invite the citizens to visit the cultural programme as an active space always changing and equipped with new attractions and events.

4. NEW LEVEL EXTENSION - TERRACES AND BRIDGES

The wooden modules can easily host on their upper level, instead of the photovoltaic panels, a series of additional citizens in the culture in the form of a new level of the existing body and the horizontal connections on the new upper level. The new upper level is perfectly integrated with sports facilities and the new pool. The bridge directly connects the new pool with the other sector and terrace and allows links on the northern side of the milieu.

5. INNOVATIVE PERFORMANCE SPACE

The structure itself could act as a free-standing architectural element in the perimeter of the project. In this way it can create brand new volumes with many different functions: for example new areas in which actors or musicians or artists can play their own music performed by their audience but detached from the main square. A series of scaffolded partition in the outer landscape of the Mediterranean level of terrace.

6. HYBRID INDOOR OUTDOOR SPATIAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR RE-DESIGN

The hybrid role of the new level, given by the structure or the new facilities and the existing buildings, could be easily integrated in the new building. From the beginning of the concept phase of the interior distribution in the two different levels and strongly connecting the viewer towards the double-layered outer level.

7. SPORTS FACILITY INTEGRATION, THE POOL AREA

In the end of the building path is located the new pool area. From the analysis of the surroundings of the cultural centre area is evident how the urban fabric is not completely homogeneous in his function. Small mixed building and playgrounds are next to each other showing the dichotomy of the social layers of terrace. One of the first elements that make the concept really clear from an urban view is the presence of private pools in the context. Giving a public pool and an adjacent outdoor area in the terrace could be an opportunity to reduce the social differences, encouraging a shared space in which everyone prefers to go to gather and bond, share and enjoy together a public facility beyond the possibility of owning the inner space.

8. INTEGRATION WITH THE EXISTING TREES PATTERN

The modularity and flexibility of the compositional pattern of the green element could easily relate with the existing vegetation. In this sense the merging of the natural elements with the modern artificial one could create a strong contrast and a new architectural strategy and provide a hybrid shading system to the volume of the cultural centre.

9. ACTIVATION OF THE UPPER LEVELS AND INSULATION STRATEGY

The role of the existing cell acts with a double effect on the building. The new design could integrate in his process thermo-coating insulation and other strategies that could easily solve the insulation problem, both acoustic and thermal, compared to the climate. On the other hand, the new element creates the possibility to activate and re-program the functions on the upper floors. They give new life and functions to the existing buildings, and they provide the citizens a new level of experience for which they are conceived, opening the design to concepts such as adaptability and program flexibility.

10. A VISUAL CONNECTION TO THE SPORT FACILITIES

The new level can provide a new participation to the sport activities that take place on the borders of the area. Here the new level can give new spots to the audience emerging the sense of people involved in the specific life of the city.

11. RENTABLE SPACES FOR EXPOSITION AND ACTIVITIES

Beyond the participation of the art students of the project site, some of the modules could be used with other purposes to activities that are not present in the cultural centre. This could be not only a profit opportunity for the cultural hub but as well a strategy to involve citizens from the rest of the city in the space of the new square.

12. TERRACES AND STRUCTURE: GLOBAL INTERACTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Beyond the given possibilities and dialogue with the existing building functions the terraces and the new modular structure can provide brand new functions in a certain way. The upper level can easily evoke a stage, a performance hub or an exhibition level. It could host a garden or a market, a platform for any other cultural convention, but even a painting, a sculpture or a photo exhibition. The lower covered level instead could be used as a shelter, a place for a summer interpretation, a place to stay. A covered place in which enjoy the fresh air of a rainy evening, or a refreshing shaded under the sun of the warm Provencal summer.

1. THE GREEN ROOF ON THE NEW LEVEL, A MORE SUSTAINABLE AND PLEASANT OUTDOOR AREA

2. ADDITION OF COATING INTERNAL INSULATION TO IMPROVE THE THERMAL AND ACOUSTIC SETTINGS OF THE PERFORMANCE AREAS

3. BRIDGING PATH ON THE MODULAR STRUCTURE

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