



Introduction

Contemporary mixed use architecture projects have globally become a point of focus in architectural magazines and online sites due to their large scale and ability to transform whole neighbourhoods and city areas. Globally acknowledged architecture offices have designed a number of such buildings and almost every architecture school has a mixed use design module as part of its curriculum, either in its undergraduate or graduate courses.

This book presents a series of contemporary, diverse and innovative design strategies that vary in form, function and design intent. The common denominator of all projects is the **alternative / experimental approach of combining both private and public spaces through mixed use projects.**

Innovative Architecture Strategies is an intermediate level student skills book. It is also a guide for recent graduates and architects, urban planners and academics, enriching and informing existing professional and teaching approaches, both in design thinking and technique. It is also a reference point for anyone interested in architecture and urban design, due to its innovative ideas on urban living, clear and straightforward format, as well as it's globally acknowledged built projects as references.

DESIGN PARADIGM: The "Island"



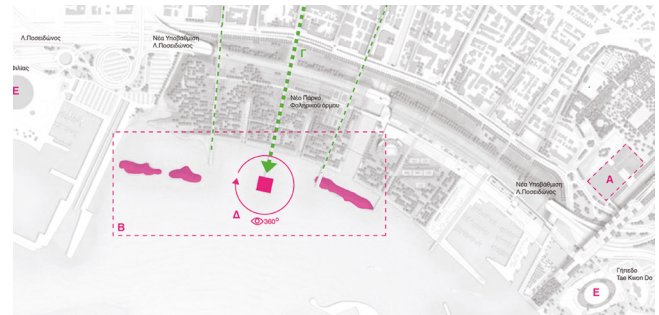
New Faliron Landmark International
Competition - Greek Ministry of Environment

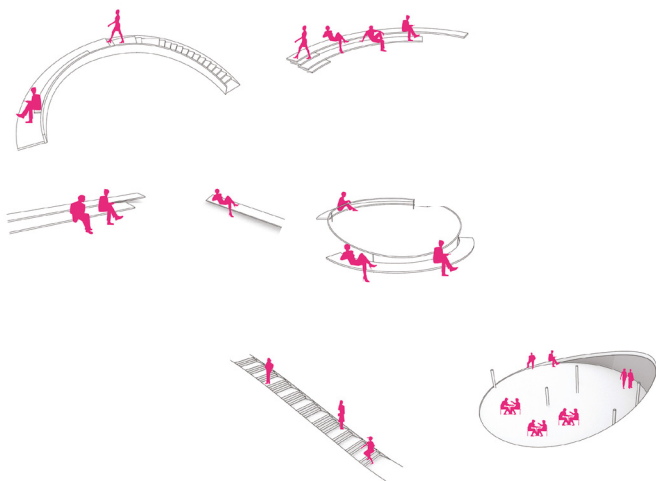
SVstudio (fourth prize)

The New National Library and Opera of Greece (zone A below), a building complex designed by architect Renzo Piano is located in the same area. The competition asked for a new landmark at the end of a pier in the Faliron Bay in Athens (zone B below).

The opera complex is almost hidden under a large green park with small hills and valleys that will extend across the coast, reaching the far end of the Faliron bay.

LANDSCAPE
PROGRAMME

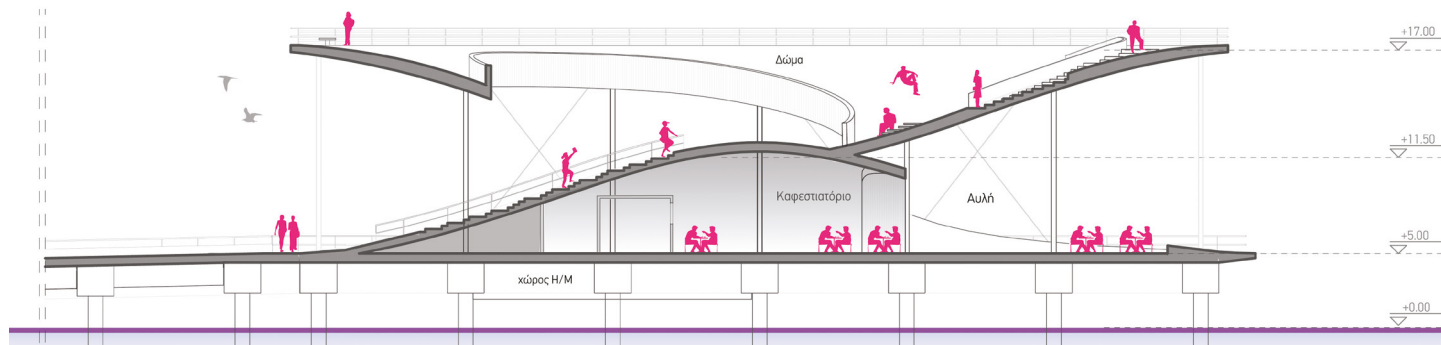




Micro topographic architectural elements, such as linear and arc shaped stairways and benches hover or “grow” on the hill and roof, implying diverse pathways but also allowing free movement in and on this man-made landscape.

Their geometry follows the design language (simple curves and straight lines) of the hill and roof.

Their scale also introduces the human scale within the design.



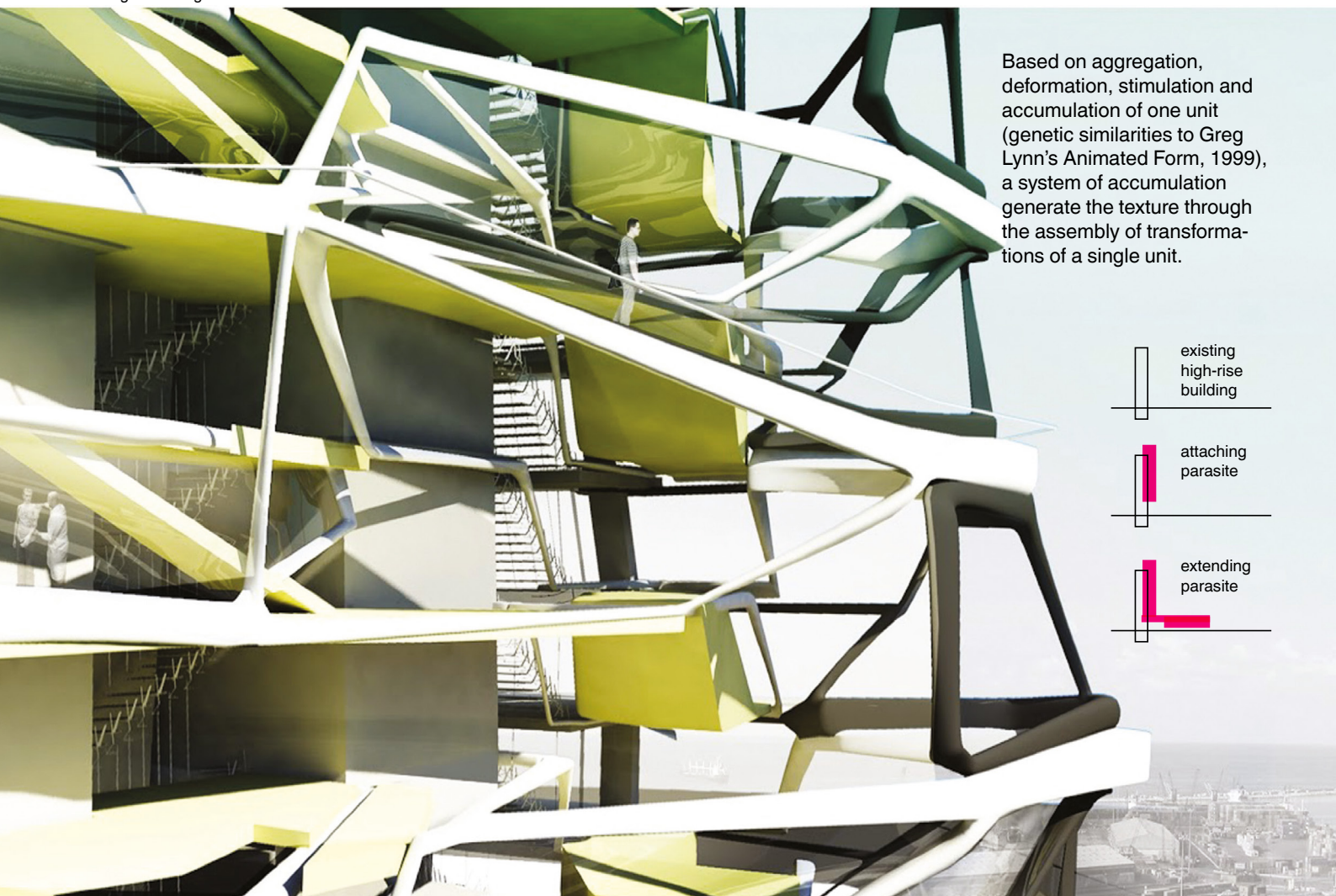
Section

"Hiding" programme under the land

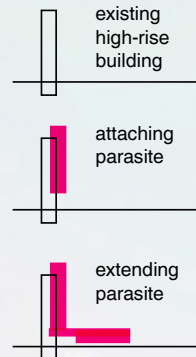


The roofscape is organised into smaller zones and areas using the micro topographic elements such as seating, stairways and benches. Their small scale allows for the roof to also function as an open air theatre, with the main stage being at the centre, at the top of the hill.



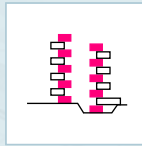


Based on aggregation, deformation, stimulation and accumulation of one unit (genetic similarities to Greg Lynn's Animated Form, 1999), a system of accumulation generate the texture through the assembly of transformations of a single unit.





6



Reuse: Containers

Shipping containers have been part of the architectural design studio discourse for at least twenty years. This might be due to a number of reasons. In an academic level, modularity has always enchanted educators, since the modernist movement.

At the same time, when it comes to costs, if treated properly, removing all existing paint and adding insulation, a cargo container might be an affordable solution to hosting any programme due to its structural ability, making it cheaper than a new construction.

The fact is that sometimes it's more expensive to ship back a container to its origin, than buying a new one. That's why there's a great number of them in shipping docks, waiting to be reused, either for cargo, or anything else.

Another reason that contributes to this on-going "container architecture" trend is the fact that containers are movable and can be taken and placed anywhere that has a road wide enough for a truck to drive through and drop them off. This ephemeral approach can make a container strategy even more sustainable, since they could potentially be transferred in different areas of a city, depending on demand and offer for new buildings.

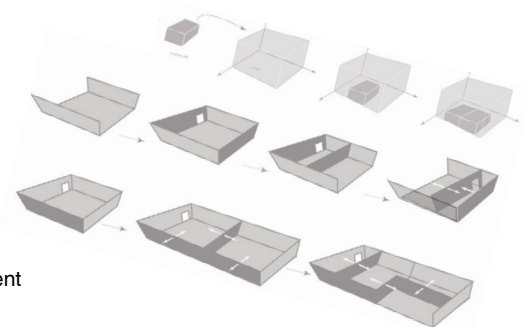
DESIGN PARADIGM: Cargo city



Abi Radi
Abou Joseph

Paul
Riachi

The site is facing the commercial port of the city. In a effort to design a project that can adjust to demand and offer, shipping containers are used to host new office or housing units. As demand grows in the area, more container units will be added. When demand increases, empty containers will be removed from the container towers. Public spaces such as basketball courts and open air music and performance plazas will act as attractors for new patrons. Commercial spaces are also added on the ground floors, servicing both the local community and passers-by that travel on the highway adjacent to the plot. Vertical circulation cores are also modular and host all MEP systems, in order to service the container towers.



Right:
Patrons can
lease different
container
sizes