Unit 7
SMALL ACTS:
Construction, Habitation, Energy and Landscape

Tutors:
David Grandorge, Peter Karl Becher,
with Colin Wharry

Consultants:
Structure
Alan Conisbee
Servicing & Environment
Max Fordham

Critics:
Matthew Barnett-Howland, Peter Carl,
Tom Emerson, Niall Hobhouse, Viktor Jak,
Hilary Koob-Sassen, Angus Morragh-Ryan,
Robert Mull, Paul Rawson, Stephen Taylor,
Colin Wharry

Thanks to:
Helen & Michael Mallinson,
Ian & Jo Cartlidge

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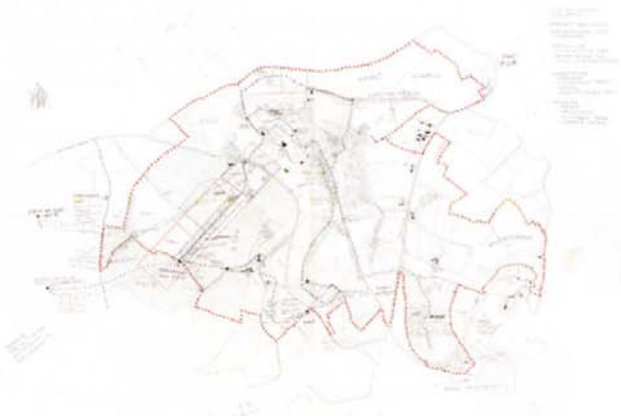

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If I were called in
To construct a religion
I should make use of water.
Philip Larkin, 1954

In June of 2008, students of Unit 7 re-constructed a Timber Room inside a former agricultural shed on the Hadspen Estate in Somerset for the artists Hilary Koob-Sassen and Rut Blees Luxemburg. In response to this endeavour, the studio was invited by Niall Hobhouse, the estate's custodian to use the historic landscape of Hadspen as a site of further architectural exploration, experimentation and construction.

Our year began with a study of the anatomy of several trees in London's parks and woodland. The trees were difficult to survey, yet yielded drawings that were both complex and delicate in their rendering. Visits were then made to other, more austere landscapes on the east coast of Suffolk including Orford Ness, Thorpeness and Dunwich Heath. We also travelled to the Fonthill Estate in Wiltshire where we were privileged to spend time at Alison & Peter Smithson's Upper Lawn Pavilion.

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1 Hadspen Belvedere, shown in context of protected ancient woodland. Photo: Jakob Gate
2 Kazi Cisarova, Hadspen Estate, 1:5000 site plan of existing condition, emphasising roads, routes, field patterns and settlements
3 Emilia Herman, Hadspen Estate, 1:10,000 site plan, marked with walks taken and things discovered
4 Fourth Year Students, Hadspen Belvedere, 1:10 Construction Model
5 Hadspen Belvedere, the upper stair being craned into position.
6 Hadspen Belvedere, during construction, early May 2010. The structure is due to be completed in June 2010.
7 Edward Swift, Sessile Oak, 1:50 elevation
8 Richard Penman, Holm Oak, 1:50 elevation, rendered in 625 pixels of varying tonal values

Work on the Hadspen Estate began with strategic studies of its infrastructure and landscape attributes: its topography, woodland, land uses, buildings, roads and paths. This was followed by designs for a belvedere or viewing platform that would enable a 'fair view' on to the estate or beyond its boundaries. The proposals were designed to accommodate a secondary function of dwelling or energy provision.

This project was complimented by the design and construction of an ambitious green oak structure by the studio on an escarpment to the north west of Hadspen House. This structure, built mostly from material sourced within the Estate, provides views to the Dorset Hills twenty miles to the south, and will harvest upwards of 15,000 litres of water per annum. It was realised through the tenacity of the students; the organisational and casting skills of Paul Rawson; the contribution of many craftsmen including Jim Blackburn of the Timber Frame Company and oak framers Arthur Lynch and Tristan Eckl; the milling skills of Rupert Furneaux of Land Logic and the generosity of the Hadspen Estate. We are grateful to Niall Hobhouse for the commission and for his encouragement and support during the genesis and realisation of the project.

The major design proposal for the year was for the proto-urban phenomenon of settlement, either as a new entity or an extension to an existing settlement on the Estate. Programmes were developed by students around the loose heading of 'factory' or 'workshop' that would be augmented by accommodation, a garden and a CHP plant fed by forestry or agricultural waste. Thought was given to the economic plausibility of the programmes as independent businesses or as an extension of the estates activities and agricultural processes. Students also developed broader landscape strategies and alterations to existing land uses.

Emphasis was given in the students' designs to the configuration and adjacency of volumes, the formal composition of buildings, how the functions of the proposed programme would be accommodated, the language of the buildings' construction and the social metabolism of the settlement.

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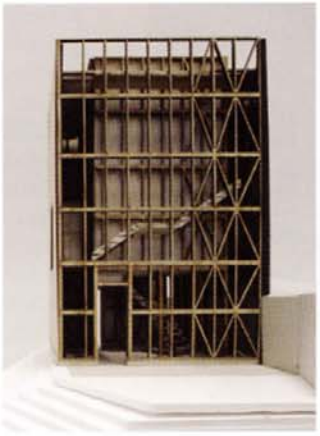

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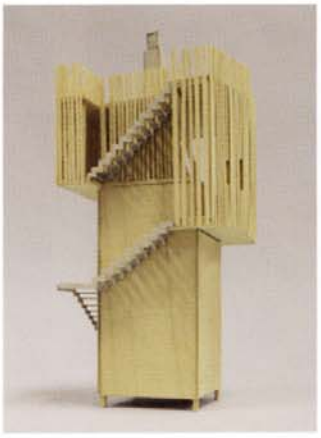

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9 George Bunkall, Belvedere of willow construction, 1:50 model
10 Tom Roberts, Belvedere of oak construction, 1:50 model
11 Andrea Obiol, Belvedere with camera obscura, 1:50 model
12 Rob Grover, Belvedere constructed from 283 concrete kerbstones, 1:10 model
13 Jakob Gate, Dwelling in Bamboo Clearing, perspective study
14 Helen Clark, Granary for Gin Distillery, 1:50 interior model
15 Antje Weihen, Woodworking Workshop, 1:50 interior model
16 George Bunkall, Settlement for Organic Land Management and Manufacture of Rape Seed Oil Products, 1:1000 context model
17 Antje Weihen, Settlement for Woodland Management and Manufacture, 1:200 model

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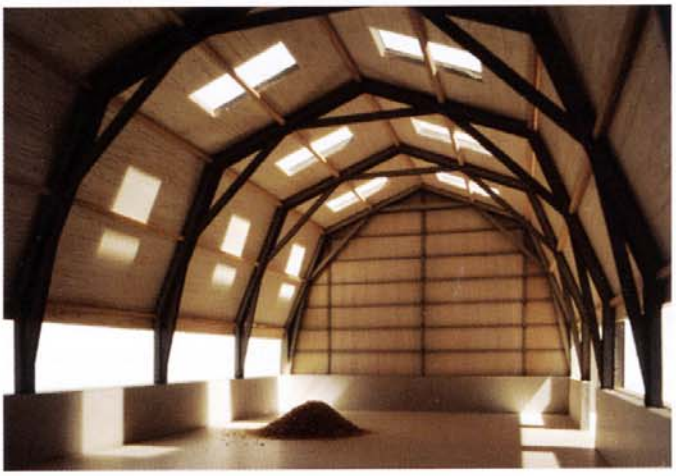

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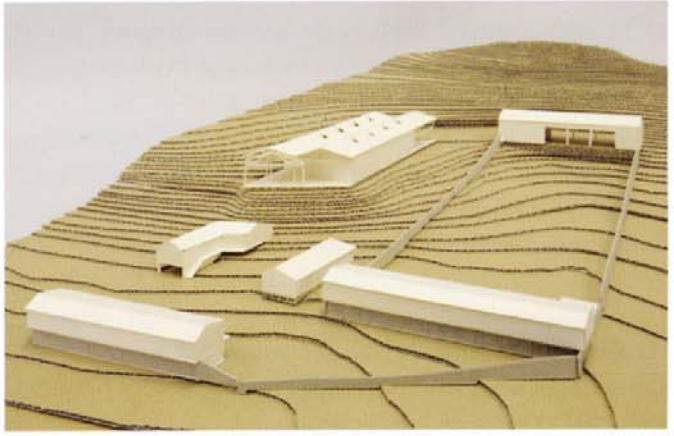

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Unit 7
On Re-Use

Tutors:
David Grandorge
Peter Karl Becher

Consultants:
Structure
Alan Conisbee
Servicing & Environment
Max Fordham

Critics:
Matthew Barnett-Howland
Stephen Beasley
Trevor Brown
Peter Carl
Tom Emerson
Hilary Koob-Sassen
Ulla Tervo

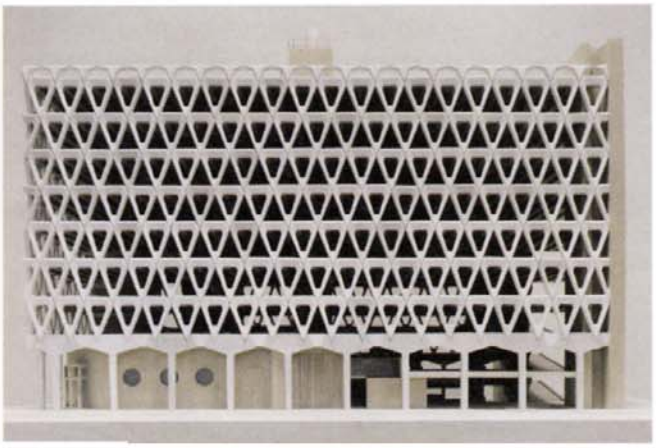
This year Unit 7 have developed a more speculative position in relation to resource depletion and the impact of climate change on the practice of architecture, a practice that may in future be characterised by economy or 'using less'.

In light of this, we have thought about 'the life of buildings in time' and developed strategies of adaptive re-use. The sites for this investigation have been four car parks in Central London.

Through exhaustive surveying, drawing and modelling – an act of immersion – students have understood and described the anatomy of each of these raw and abstract edifices – their light, their materiality, their structure, their weight, their space, their function and their presence in the city.

Through acts of cutting, addition, lining and over-cladding, proposals have been made to accommodate a range of educational programmes. Subsequently, we have considered the relationship of the child and the adult to space, the relationship of space to education and the appropriate spatial orders that might support these conditions.

1. Colin Wharry, Ben Fallows, Julian Merille, Richard Penman, Eleni Paparramopoulou, Welbeck Street Car Park, 1:50 model
2. Colin Wharry, Welbeck Street, proposed primary school, 2nd floor plan
3. Colin Wharry, Welbeck Street, proposed primary school, 1:20 interior model study



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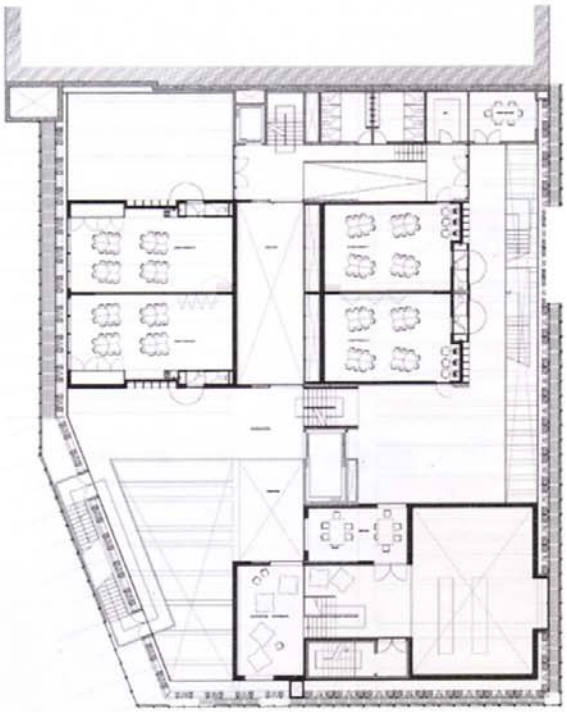

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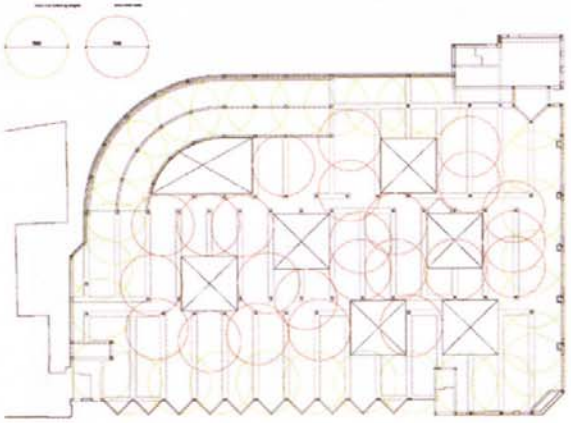
4. Johan Dehlin, Great Eastern Street, existing, perspectival section
5. Patrick Quinn, Chiltern Street, light and air radius diagram
6. Ben Fallows, Welbeck Street, proposed agricultural research centre, section
7. Patrick Quinn, Giuseppe Messina, Joshua Williams, Sylvia Kirby, Magdalena Wasik and Renate Brukiene, Chiltern Street Car Park, 1:50 model
8. Ben Fallows, Welbeck Street, proposed agricultural research centre, aerial perspective study
9. Will Wiesner, Tom Roberts, Johan Dehlin, Julia Wolfe, Annakaisa Kannpaa, Charlotte Khatso, Great Eastern Street Car Park, 1:50 model
10. Johan Dehlin, Great Eastern Street, proposed primary school, external render study
11. Will Wiesner, Great Eastern Street, existing, perspectival section
12. John Ross, Gemma Taylor, Hollie Jackson, Ashleigh Donaghey, Tom Westwood, Helen Clark, Whites Row Car Park, 1:50 model
13. Hollie Jackson, Whites Row, strategic cutting and minimized addition diagram
14. John Ross, Whites Row, proposed Craft Design and Manufacture school, 1:10 façade model study



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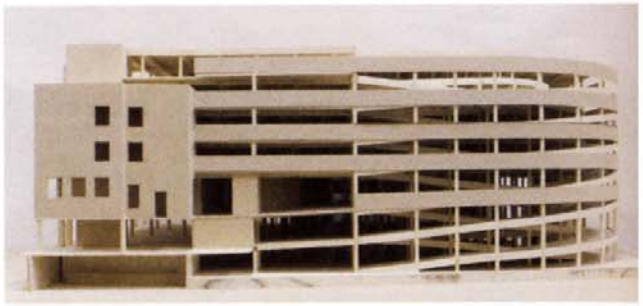

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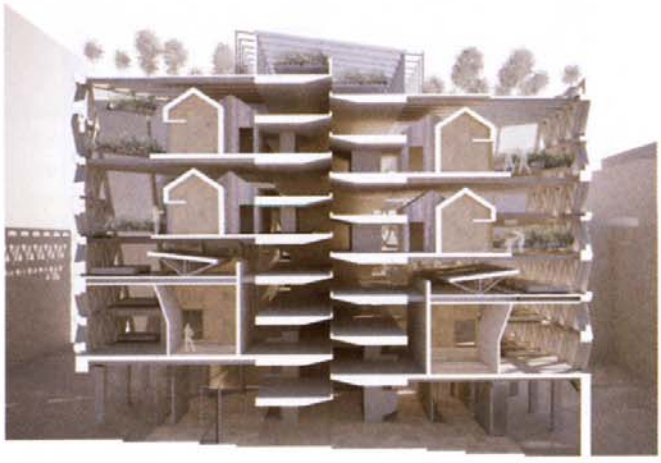

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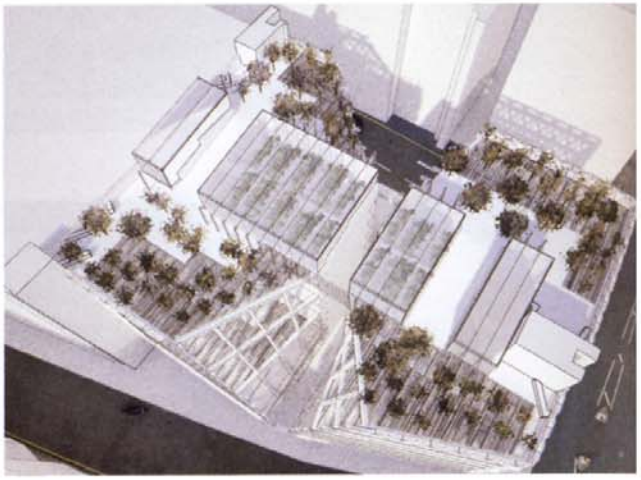

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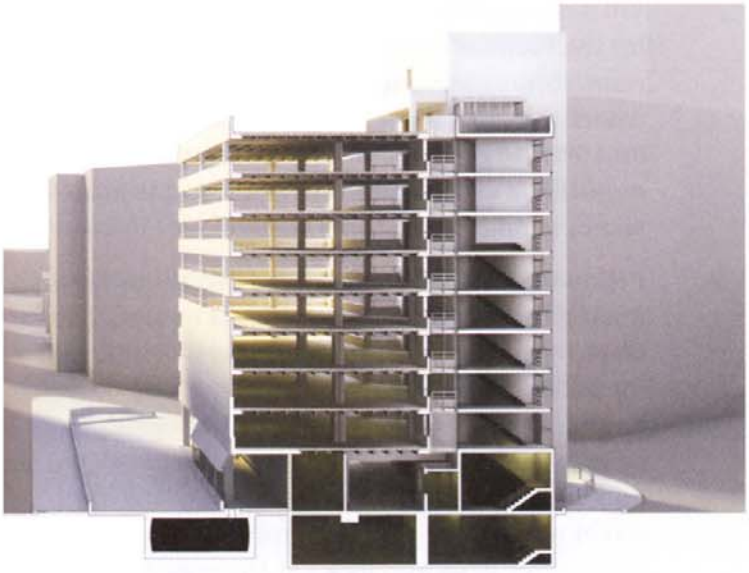

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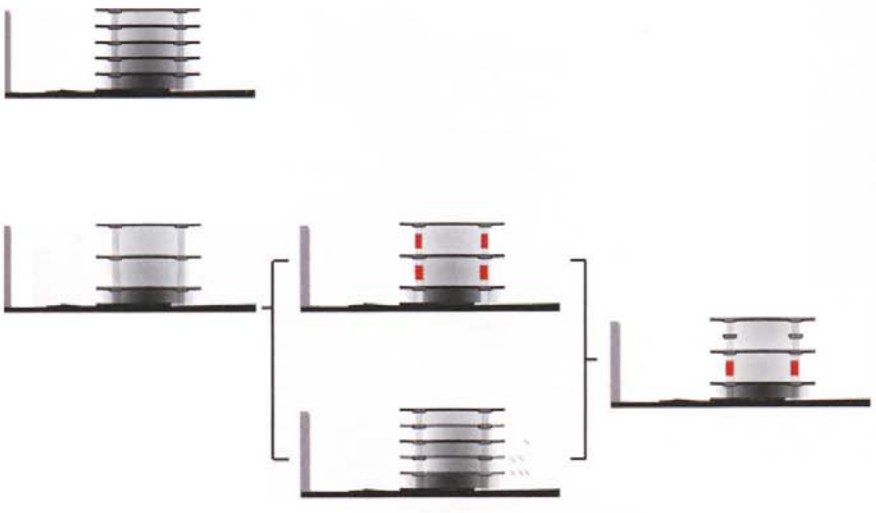

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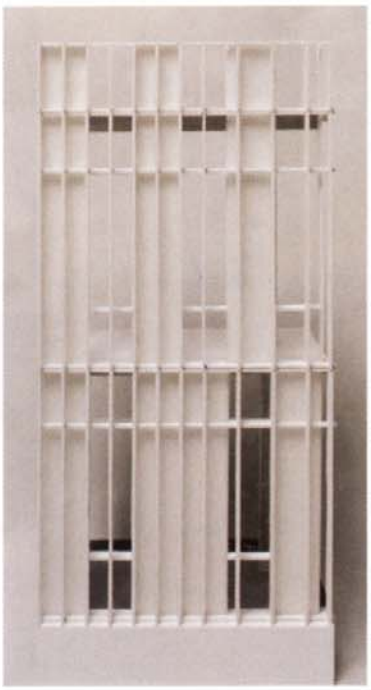

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Unit 7
Timber / Building / City

Tutors:
David Grandorge
Peter Karl Becher
Matthew Barnett-Howland
Stefano Ciurlo-Walker

Consultants:
Planning
Duncan Bowie
Structure
Alan Conisbee
Timber Construction & Environment
Liam Dewar
Servicing & Environment
Max Fordham
Structure, Sustainabilty & Transport
Ramboll Whitby Bird

Critics:
Geir Brendeland
Trevor Brown
Alex Ely
Tom Emerson
Andrew Jackson
Viktor Jak
Adam Khan
Olav Kristoffersen
Robert Mull
Daniel Rosbottom
Rowan Seaford

"She drifted into the body of the flat, the sitting-room, the kitchen. She placed the silver tray on the wooden draining-board. She made another cup of coffee and smoked another cigarette and read Time magazine... This week's cover story was about the weather. As usual. It was hard to believe that the weather had until quite recently been a synonym for small talk. Because nowadays the weather was big talk. The weather made headlines all over the world. Every day. On TV a full reversal had taken place: the handsomest newscasters and the brainiest pundits were all weathermen now; and the whimsical tweed-suited eunuchs, who used to point rulers at charts and apologize about the rain, came on at the end to give the other news, or what was left of it. Meteorologists were the new war-correspondents..."
—Martin Amis, *London Fields*, London: Penguin Books, 1989, pp.331–332

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1. 4th year students of Unit 7, Finnforest pavilion, built at Ecobuild in February
2. Colin Wharry, housing, sectional study
3. David De La Mere, housing, interior model study
4. Colin Wharry, urban plan, model study

Architecture must adjust to a changing condition — the new weather. This adjustment is necessary not only to address the challenges posed by the new weather (adaptation), but also in an attempt to ameliorate any further changes to the weather (mitigation). It sometimes feels an impossible task, but we can but try.

This year Unit 7 have explored the use of timber as a structural element because of the benefits of trapped carbon within it. This has been tested in low-metabolism housing proposals of medium to high density for Dalston Junction and in a pavilion built at Ecobuild in February of 2008. The housing proposals have been augmented by designs for a significant single-space building — a 'hall' for the city.

Students have re-assessed and interpreted dense housing typologies from deck access to the medium-rise perimeter block, but also looked at how density might be achieved in more traditional terraced configurations and (presently outlawed) back-to-back housing.

Due attention has been given to the myriad of regulations and codes that now impact on the development of housing including density targets, planning policy, section 106 agreements, fire regulations, the Codes for Sustainable Homes, Lifetime Homes and Secured by Design and the provision of 'affordable' homes.

We acknowledge that architecture must not be defined by these regulations and codes. We hope that it may still transcend them in order to provide a dignified backdrop to our lives and remain a thing of beauty.

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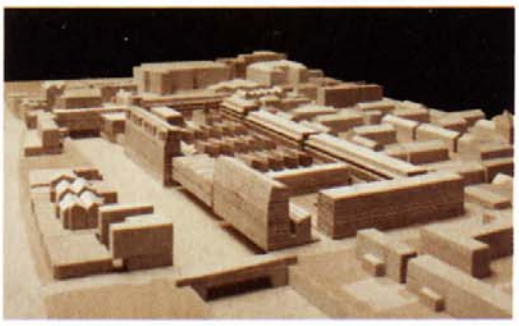

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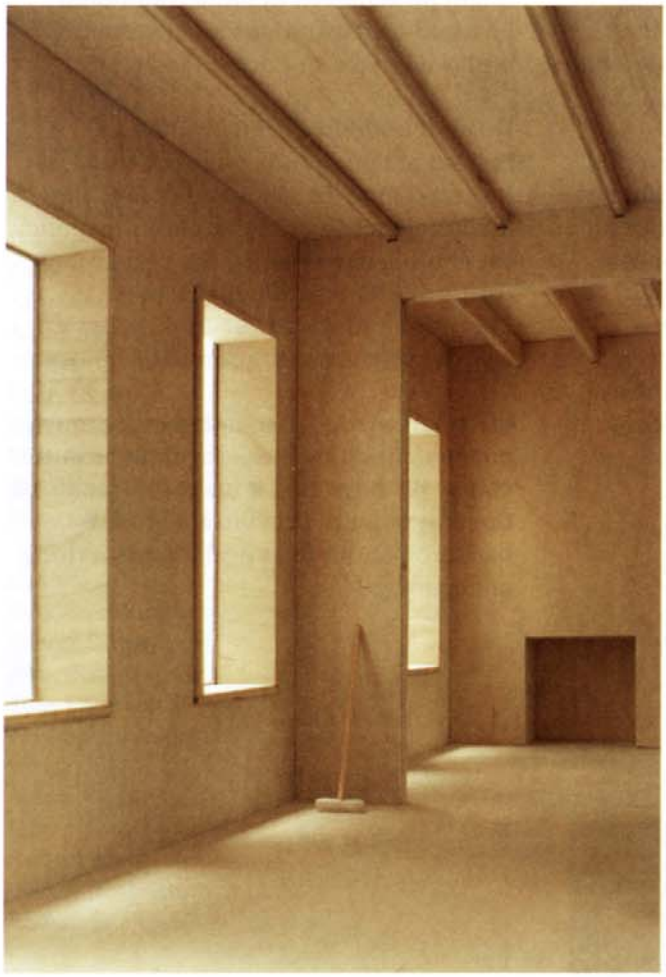
5. Colin Wharry, housing, interior model study
6. Patrick Quinn, urban plan, model study
7. Mayuko Kanasugi and Alex Tsangerides, timber interpretation, model study of the Unité d'Habitation
8. Mayuko Kanasugi, single space, model study of water tower



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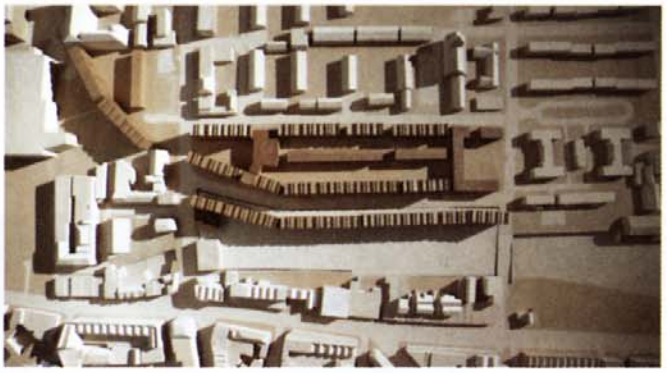

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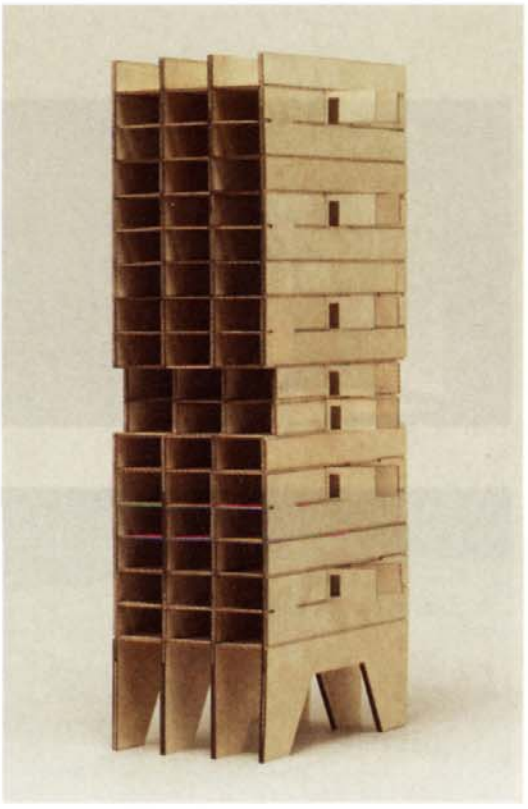

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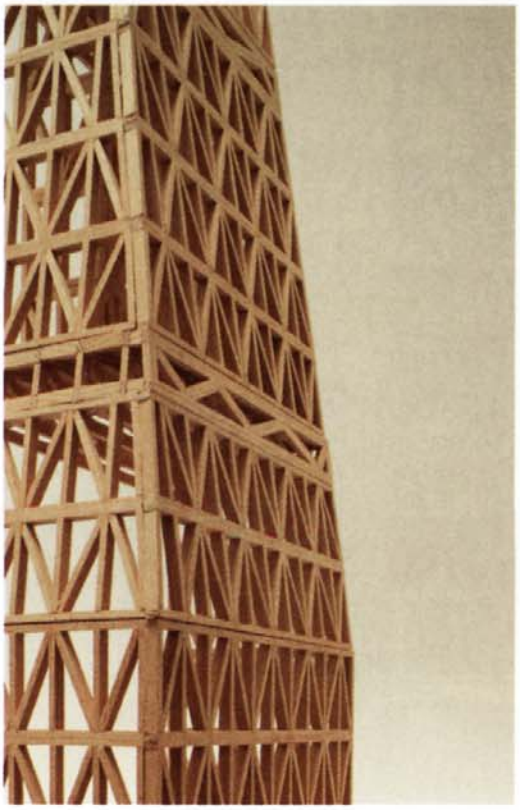

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