відновлення руїни
REBUILDING THE BROKEN.

Kharkiv, Ukraine

Can a city be killed?

Cities throughout time have grown, thrived, persisted, and prospered. Equivalently, time and time again, cities have been seized, destroyed, and flattened to an unimaginable state.

Yet they rise again. Why? Because a city is more than buildings, and more than all the lives that have passed there. A city has a beating heart and each has been sculpted from its own history and built by its own people. That is why cities rebuild, because there is something there that humans are drawn towards, and history has shown it is not the built environment.

On February 24th, 2022, Putin's army invaded Ukraine, a peaceful and sovereign country of 30 years. That decision altered Ukraine's history forever, and the beautiful country will never be the same.

The events that break cities will never be erased from their history, but it is up to them to decide how they respond.

Why rebuild a city?

- Preserve the country's history
- Celebrate its resilient culture
- Take the opportunity to improve the quality of life
- Remember the acts that broke the city
- Honor those who died fighting for peace

How do you rebuild a city?

- RESTORE
- MODERNIZE
- PRESERVE
- MEMORIALIZE

Палац Залізничник
Palats Zaliznychnyk
Palace of Culture for Railway Workers

Палац Залізничник can be roughly translated to "Palace of Culture for Railway Workers." It was designed by Aleksandr Dmitriev in 1932, and recognized as a cultural heritage site by UNESCO in 1987. It was built during the Soviet Union as a place of leisure for men working on the nearby railway, it contained a large indoor theater and various support spaces. On August 18th, 2022 it was hit by a Russian missile, effectively caving in the roof and blowing out most of the interior walls. Thankfully, the Soviets were in the habit of building resilient structures with 2' deep exterior walls, as a result, the shell still stands today.

the original building

after the missile strike

Scan here to see the destruction on August 18th, 2022

Origional Floor Plan from 1932
Aleksandr Dmitriev

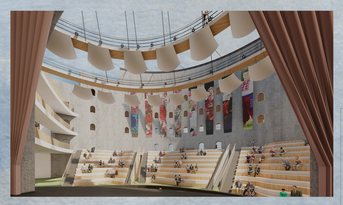
restore
The facade's extravagant curtain walls were badly damaged, but restoring them is fundamental to reviving the spirit of the building.

memorialize
The pools in front of the building offer a peaceful moment to remember what this building has been through, while also mirroring the grandiose facade.

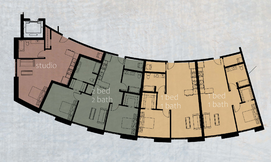
preserve
The missile destroyed the roof, but by transforming the concert hall into an open-air theater, the building preserves a portion of that attack.

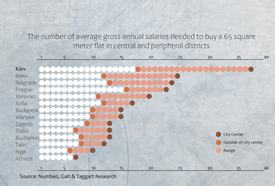
modernize
While this building was still functioning as a theater, its facilities were lacking. By extending the sides of the building, there are now six stories of rehearsal and support space on either side of the stage. The first floor was also converted into retail spaces to provide modern business opportunities for the community.

the rehabilitation
By looking at historic examples of cities that have rebuilt, I identified four distinct methods and their strengths. I then applied those methods to the rehabilitation of the Palace of Culture for Railway Workers in Kharkiv. This exercise can now act as an example of these methods and how they can be applied to the rest of Ukraine.

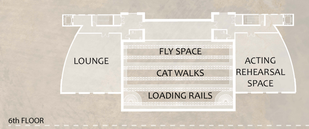


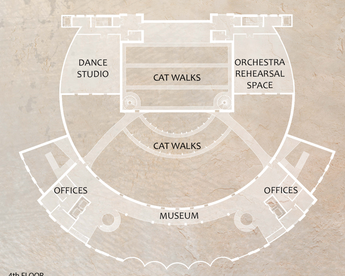
The addition of apartments
I added apartment wings onto the building to respond to the overcrowding issues in Ukraine that existed before the war and have only been made worse by the war. According to the UNN, 45% of the Ukrainian population live in overcrowded housing, compared to 17% in Europe. On top of that, the price for an apartment in Ukraine is far out of reach for many citizens.

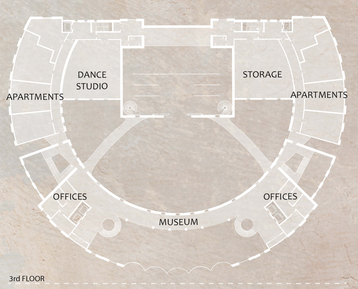


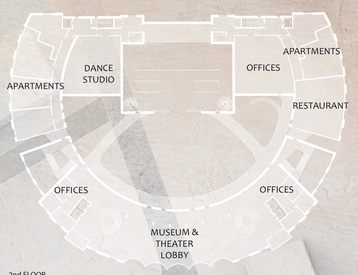


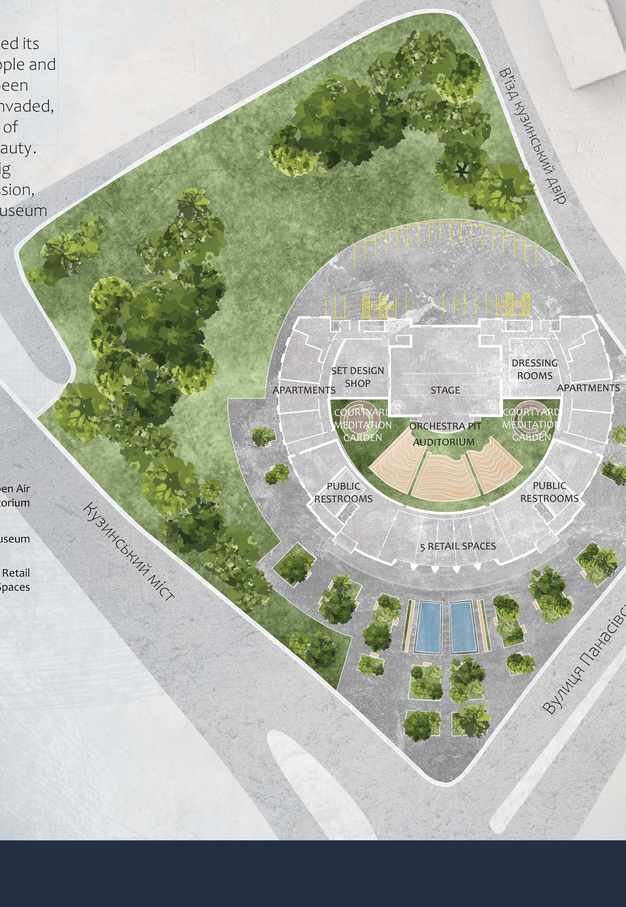
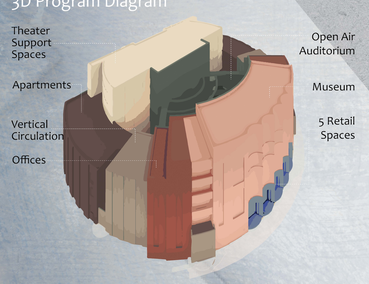
cultural museum
Long before Ukraine received its independence, it was a people and a culture. This culture has been attacked, oppressed, and invaded, yet it lives on. It is a culture of strength, resilience, and beauty. Dance has always been a big part of their cultural expression, which makes a theater + museum combination natural.











3D Program Diagram