

Remembering and Rebuilding the Broken

ALYSSA SVIDERSKY

MASTERS OF ARCHITECTURE THESIS

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SIGNATURE PAGE

A Design Thesis Submitted to the
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NARRATIVE

Can a city be killed?

“If people have lived in a place for decades or even centuries, then there’s something that has drawn people to it—a purpose. In order to kill it, that purpose needs to be removed.”

-Melissa Salyk-Virk

Cities throughout time have been symbols of the height of modern society. Hard work and great minds form cities and great cities attract great minds and hard work. That is what draws people in. Every city is different, each has been sculpted from its own history and has been built by its own people. From there, if cities are given the chance, they grow in power, thrive, and prosper.

The more power a city acquires, the more it becomes a symbol of the society that inhabits it. This can make it a target, because, as much as cities have prospered in history, they have also been seized, destroyed, and flattened. Why is it that people feel the need to destroy the built environment to send a message, sometimes not even to those who actually inhabit the buildings?

However, even after horrific atrocities, cities rebuild. Why? Because there is something there that humans are drawn towards, and history has shown it is not the built environment.

The events that devastate these cities will never be erased from their history, but it is up to them to decide how they respond. That is what truly interests me, how cities move on, heal, and rebuild. Because, aside from a very small percentage, cities don’t disappear. This proves they are more than buildings, and more than all the lives that have lived there, they are symbols.



DOWNTOWN MUNICH AFTER BOMBING



DOWNTOWN MUNICH AFTER REBUILDING

This concept came to me while traveling Europe this past summer. We visited many large cities, and many of them had some significant parallels in their recent history, most notably, the effects of oppressive governments, widespread war, and rebuilding. The thing that fascinated me the most was how each city responded and rebuilt in different ways. Munich and Warsaw rebuilt to look exactly how they did before the bombs of World War II. Prague tore down many communist-era buildings and invited architects from around the world to rebuild their city with beauty. Budapest, however, preserved the statues left behind from their communist history, understanding it is a part of their past that made them who they are.

On February 24th, 2022, Putin’s army invaded Ukraine, a peaceful and sovereign country. That decision altered Ukraine’s history forever, and the beautiful country will never be the same. Someday, hopefully soon, Ukraine will also find itself facing the decision of how to rebuild. Through this thesis I hope to find the answer to the question:

What is the most appropriate way to respond to the destruction of the war in Kharkiv, UA while remaining sensitive to its history and culture?

TYOLOGY

Through a mix of rehabilitation and adaptive reuse, I will re-purpose a destroyed building in Kharkiv, Ukraine to be a mixed-used community & cultural center.

JUSTIFICATION

This thesis is important because disasters and war will never end. The built environment has the ability to create a thriving city and bring fellowship, but it can also stand as a symbol of something that angers people. Humans will never stop trying to overpower each other, and as long as that continues, healing and rebuilding will always be needed. Bringing together past examples and looking at how the effects of those decisions continue to play out will help other cities if they find themselves in that unfortunate situation.

USER/CLIENT

My clients are the citizens of Ukraine, visitors, and future cities that will someday be facing their own rebuilding.

HISTORICAL, SOCIAL, & CULTURAL CONTEXT

An important aspect of my project is the historic, social and cultural context. In order to collect this context in the most authentic way possible, I reached out to people who were living in Ukraine before the war. I am so thankful for everyone who was willing to give me their time and share their story. The most fascinating responses were those that contrasted each other, and that in itself validated the need to gather this qualitative data.

METHODS/PLAN

Survey on the historical/social/political context of Ukraine

1. I sent out a survey to my Ukrainian contacts and asked them about the lasting effects of the Soviet Union on their lives. My target age range was young adults who grew up in post-Soviet Union Ukraine, born between 1991-2000, and who still lived there until the start of 2022. This generation did not technically live in the Soviet Union, but they did grow up in its ashes, and it is the aftereffects I want to study, both in society and architecture. I also asked them what their views were of Russia growing up to see if there is a correlation between their hometown and their view on Russia.

2. In the survey, I also asked them their thoughts on the reconstruction of Ukraine and whether Ukraine should try to preserve and rebuild to look how it did, or take the chance to modernize.

Historic Research

4. I collected case studies of other cities who have gone through reconstruction after a catastrophe such as war. I looked at their approach, successes, and failures. For research purposes, I am defining a rebuilding successful if it “improves the quality of life for its citizens while also creating a space to remember.”

Program Study

5. After finishing my survey, historic research, and site selection, I finalized my programs and started my programmatic case studies. I stuck to the same typology, but tried to find a large range of projects within it. From these studies, I found the information that applied to my project and tried to implement the successful practices I observed.

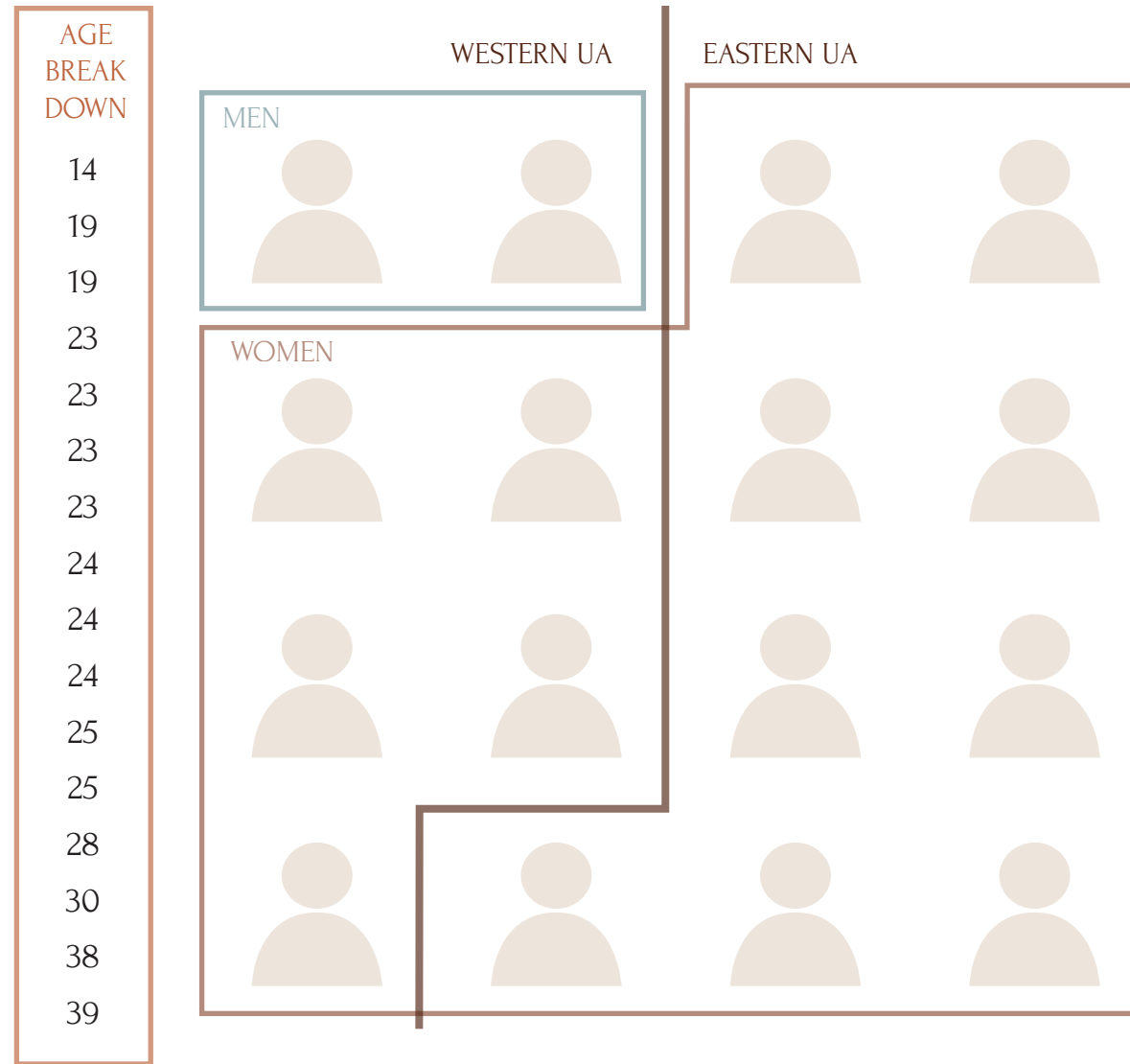


NATALI SEVRIUKOVA BESIDE HER HOUSE FOLLOWING A ROCKET ATTACK ON KYIV

တစ်ခဲယွှန်းလမ်း
SURVEY



SURVEY PARTICIPANTS



SURVEY QUESTIONS

Did you experience influences of the Soviet Union while growing up?
In what ways?

Growing up, what was your view of Russia?

How did the people around you talk about Russia and its culture?

When did you first think Ukraine might be going to war with Russia in 2022?

What were the first few days of the war like?

What are your views on the reconstruction of Ukraine?

Should Ukraine rebuild to look like it used to, or take the opportunity to modernize?

How would you describe Ukrainian architecture?

What are some of your favorite buildings in Ukraine? What do you like about them?

On the next few page, I lay out the response I got. Some I had to translate and some I had to paraphrase, but I made sure to preserve the authenticity of each response.

RESPONSES

Views on Russia

PARTICIPANT NUMBER	AGE HOMETOWN REGION GENDER	STILL IN UA?	Did you experience influences of the Soviet Union while growing up? In what ways?	Did you feel the affects of the Soviet Union through the architecture left over?		Growing up, what was your view of Russia?	How did the people around you talk about Russia and its culture?	When did you first think Ukraine might be going to war with Russia in 2022?	What were the first few days of the war like?
1	28yo Kharkiv, Eastern UA Female	Yes	“Yes. I grew up in the environment shaped by Soviet planning - Saltivka mass housing district. <u>Also most of the institutions were working in the same way they were created in the Soviet era (educational, medical, etc.)</u> ”	“Yes, Soviet planning defined the environment on the outskirts of our city, but also architectural ensembles in the city center.”		“It was mostly positive with a lot of cultural influences from Russia (music, cinema, etc.)”	“They considered it tightly connected to Ukraine”	“We didn’t really believe that until the war started, even though Russia already invaded Ukraine in 2014”	“I couldn’t believe it is actually happening, [I] was monitoring the news 24/7 and volunteering most of my time.”
2	19yo Bukovina Western UA Male	No	“When you live in the post-Soviet sphere, it always affects you in some way.”			“Like a big bro at east, but then I realized that its a bullshit”	“...[Some people] appreciate their culture (most French), but my Ukrainian friends treat them like they deserve”	February 24th, 2022	“really, really bad”
3	24yo Kharkiv Eastern UA Female	No	“Not really and only indirectly.” *At our architecture university, 70% of our professor grew up, taught, and practiced architecture during the USSR, so they still teach us soviet architecture practices and give us soviet architecture books. On the other hand, growing up, <u>I have seen the dismantling of soviet symbols</u> , such as removing the 20m statue of Lenin in our town center.	“My mom said to me in childhood: don’t play... on the base of Lenin’s monument. But there is a Taras Shevchenko monument 1 km away, and it’s okay to play...[on a] kozaks’ sculpture...”		“[Until I was] 15 y.o. I just hadn’t any opinions about Russia. It’s like neighbor country with problems... After [the] Revolution of Dignity in 2014 and the war in Donbas ...[I didn’t] really hate Russia. I just understand that we are enemies and I want to live in Ukraine...”		April 5th, 2021 “I’ve read the first new that Russia is transfer troops ... to Ukrainian border. It was so predictable and I was in Kharkiv at that moment so I started to think [about] buy tickets and fly away next day. I didn’t :) but all my friends, especially from Lufthansa, were very horrified that day.”	Just doing business as usual “It was predictable for me, so all time before [the] war I was planning what I would do, and in what ways. I was only scary that Russia [would] win, but after I saw the first photos of captive Russian combatants I stopped [being scared]”

*Paraphrased for clarity

**Translated from Ukrainian to English

“Direct Quote

■ Good/Yes
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Bad/No

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4	24yo Kharkiv Eastern UA Female	No	“Thankfully, I didn’t experience any in my family since I was born much later. I would say however, that it left a huge impact on people’s mentality and I’ve heard a lot from older people that life was so much better and easier back then. This is also what many people around the world still think of the Soviet Union and I wish they would learn about it more and how oppressive it was in actuality.”	“Definitely. Kharkiv is full of Stalinist architecture, especially its city center. <u>A lot, if not most, of governmental organizations reside in those buildings and I sometimes wonder if our city would be more democratic, would they reside somewhere else.</u>		“I would say that it was rather neutral....A lot of people my age, or older, would say that they watched Russian films or listened to Russian music not because they wanted to, but rather because it was the only product that was available for them to consume and now that they are grown up and are able to look back, they would have chosen something else instead.”	“I think that a lot of people around me at that time would say that Russia is something we should aspire to be... However, my family was rather skeptical about it, ...[my great-grandparents] had to suffer from the Soviet regime and although we may have not talked about it a lot, it still had an impact on us and our views.”	Beginning of February “Back then it was painful to read the comments of people from around the world, and how little they knew about Russia’s aggression that we have suffered from since 2014.	“I was very anxious and worried for my family since we’re so far away from each other”
5	25yo Kharkiv Eastern UA Female	No	“The major influence was through my grandparents. They always told me that things were better in the USSR (food, salary, tv-shows etc.). A big part of the education system in Ukraine had Soviet Union standards. It affected my point of view a lot during my childhood. A phrase “ [Fulfill] the Five-Year Plan in three years” was like a default set-up for me. I needed to be the best, so my family would be proud.”	“Yes, totally. When you live in a typical panel building and all you see are similar buildings, it affects you a lot. Especially when it’s autumn and the landscape is gray.”		“Positive. I had a few relatives and friends there. My family always celebrated New Year 2 times. According to Moscow’s time zone and Kyiv’s time zone. <u>Russia was like a friendly neighbor country.</u> I visited Moscow a few times, and I had a picture in my mind that ...[most of] Russia looked like Moscow.”	“That it is like Ukrainian culture. Like Russia and Ukraine have a lot of in common, so we should stick together and support each other.”	February 21st, 2022 “I knew there will be a war (After the first huge protest happened in Moscow and St. Petersburg in 2018)...After Putin acknowledged Donetsk and Luhansk People’s Republics as an independent unit. I packed all documents and money in one bag. And cried myself to sleep.	“It was unclear what to do. On the first day, we went to buy as much drinking water as we can...I felt helpless. I spent the first week of the war at the subway station. Around 1,200 people were there with me. The atmosphere there was complex. Everybody tried to put on their bravest faces, but fear was in the air. A peak moment of fear was on the 3rd day when the Russians entered my city...On the 4th day, Russians started bombing all around my city. My mom & I evacuated on the 8th day.

*Paraphrased for clarity

**Translated from Ukrainian to English

“Direct Quote

■ Good/Yes

■ Neutral

■ Bad/No

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6	23yo Chervonograd Western UA Female	No	** "I don't remember much. In general, only old buildings, cultural monuments and literature of those times reminded me of the Soviet Union."	** "Sometimes yes, but more so in eastern Ukraine, because there is more such [Soviet] architecture."		** "As a very large country which was similar to Ukraine in terms of culture and standard of living."	** "...many people were neutral. In the past, I know that many people spoke highly of Moscow and St. Petersburg because they are very beautiful cities with beautiful architecture. In the past, no one considered them enemies."	** "I didn't think it was possible. Up until the start, everyone thought that these were just threats."	** "They were scary, you don't know what awaits you, and in which place something bad might happen to you. Many people panicked...Huge lines at gas stations, at ATM's, in shops. The Polish border was also crowded with people. The line of cars was from 10-15 km long... people waited 3-4 days to cross the border. Some crossed without a car, but then had to stand in the cold for about 12 hours. Closer to the border, volunteers appeared who distributed free hot food and all kinds of snacks."
7	23yo Chervonograd Western UA Female	No	"There were none, or [I] simply did not pay attention"	"Yes, because all infrastructure remained Soviet-style - schools, universities, city halls, hospitals"		"It wasn't good view, as they were always one step behind in everything... they always wanted to come back to Soviet Union, as they don't want to develop..."	*No one likes them because they were cruel.	"I just couldn't believe it."	"It was very scary, we didn't know how to be and what to do"
8	39yo Kharkiv Eastern UA Female	No	Of course. It collapsed when I was 7 years old. My family was a typical soviet family: parents were engineers, grandparents..[came from the]..countryside to Kharkiv to work in industry, [great] grandmother was a typical soviet sportswoman.	"Of course, most of the urban growth occurred during the soviet times and most of the material and not material legacy in our cities is produced by the soviet system"		"I looked at it as a part of my motherland, I spoke Russian, read Russian literature, my relatives lived in Russia and came to see us every summer, I went to see St Petersburg after I finished school and admired it a lot."	"They mostly noticed Russian culture and didn't know much about the Ukrainian culture. The latter was always a minor one in their discourse."	"Ukraine didn't go to war, instead Russia did start this war and forced Ukraine to protect itself. I was hearing about it all the time from my husband since 2014, but payed attention to it only in February 2022"	"I left the country before the war started; we were physically fine, but I was in a state of horror and despair, [we] tried to arrange things for people who were in Ukraine"

*Paraphrased for clarity

**Translated from Ukrainian to English

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Neutral

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9	19yo Lviv Western UA Male	Yes	"Of course there were influences of the Soviet Union but I had no thoughts about them while growing up."	"Yes"		"I had no direct thoughts about that country."	"A lot of people were amazed by that culture."	"For a long period of time the situation was getting worse. And that fake trainings on the borders of Ukraine were like a direct sign of war."	"It was scary."
10	14yo Lviv Western UA Female	Yes	"I was born after the collapse of the Soviet Union, so I did not feel its influence on me."	"There are quite a few old Soviet buildings left in our city, which will hopefully be demolished soon."		"Until 2014, I considered Russia a good country with a good future, but when Russia attacked Ukraine I was only 6 years ago, [and so,] most of my life I live with the idea that Russia is an enemy"	"I live in the West, where after 2014 Russia is very disliked and I hold the same opinion"	"When news began to appear that Russia was withdrawing its troops on the border with Ukraine"	"Hard and scary, no one understood what it was and how to perceive it, in general, they passed as if in a fog."
11	24yo Chervonograd Western UA Female	Yes	"Yes, this applies to music, cinema and the architecture of some cities."	"No"		**I didn't have an opinion of them	**They were neutral	"24 February"	"Very stressful. We watched the news all the time. Nobody went to work..."
12	25yo Chervonograd Western UA Female	Yes	"The Soviet union did not affect my life in any way, but I know a lot of films and music from that period."	"Just buildings, poorly designed and impractical buildings"		"[It was just a] foreign country"	"In the family, the parents did not say anything about Russia. At school, they talked about difficult relations and the history of the occupation"	"February 2022"	"Confusion, depression, helplessness, news 24 hours a day"

*Paraphrased for clarity

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13	23yo Chervonograd Western UA Female	Yes	“Yes I did. Our family had a rule: food is sacred. We never threw away spoiled food, we tried to eat everything. We were also forbidden to leave the table without an empty plate. I also remember that the Soviet period was very romanticized in my childhood. We thought the Soviet Union was cool and regretted never getting there. I think we thought like that because of the media and movies about that period we watched in childhood.”	“I think so. It’s like constant depression. Life is not easy, and these gloomy, gray buildings added negativity and drama to our lives. But you get used to it.”		“Far, cold, huge & with constant winter. We didn’t talk and think about Russia...often in my childhood. But in high school, due to the influence of social networks, we began to thought that it’s a big sister country.”	“As well as about the rest of the countries. We were watching Russian cartoons about bears with balalaikas, so we imagined it all that way. They also talked about Russian poets, the common past and distant relatives in Siberia. We wanted to visit them sometime.”	“I didn’t believe until February 24”	“It was very, very, scary. Like never before. I remember that I clenched my jaw very hard because of fear... [my jaw] was in pain, but I couldn’t control it.”
14	30yo Lviv Western UA Female	Yes	“Yes, as it was post soviet time many people and our lifestyle was influenced by that time. My parent were born and grew up in Soviet Union so they couldn’t raise me in different way. In 90s we had many issues with no money, no food.”	“Yes, we lived in block of flats that was built during that time. And many other buildings like government were looking massive, in pompous style. Lviv was different as we have many buildings that were built before Soviet time.”		“Through films, serials and TV shows Russia was always presented as [a] greater country than anyone else. I am a fluent speaker of Russian language as all my childhood everything was in Russian. When we were kids to speak Russian was meant to be cool.”	“I can’t say that people said something particular. Soviet culture was a great part of people’s life...[Russia] showed its greatness through films. In my 5th grade I had Russian language to be studied. My teacher was really keen of Russian language and literature.”	“In the beginning of January. In news we were told about many troops standing near the east border. We tried to be prepared as we were told to have an emergency backpack, storage of food and water. But we hoped that in 21st century such barbaric war couldn’t happen. Especially after 2 World Wars that were in previous century.”	“We couldn’t sleep. We couldn’t work. We had a TV news on all day and night, as we were afraid not to hear air raid alarms or something important. Russian troops were going fast - so we knew if that capture Kyiv, we will need to run abroad. People from west regions are called by than “Banderas” - they hated people, but also were afraid.”

*Paraphrased for clarity

**Translated from Ukrainian to English

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Good/Yes
 Neutral
 Bad/No

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15	38yo Poltiva, UA Eastern UA Female	No	**The influence was felt at school, through television. Everything has always been intertwined - language, artists, literature. Often in my childhood I was read fairy tales and short stories by Russian authors. On all holidays, we saw Russian programs and TV stars on TV. Even the Ukrainian language was considered indecent for a long time, and Russian was considered the language of the elite and “urban population”	**I wouldn't say so, because I don't know much about architecture. Although sometimes we use the expression, in particular in relation to shops, “like in the Soviet Union”		** Never thought about it before. For me, it was just a big neighboring country.	**People often remembered the “good old days” in the Soviet Union. But there were also those who spoke negatively about the people and culture in Russia	** When alarming news and even warnings began. For the first time, I seriously thought about the danger of war at the end of January 2022, but following the news, I waited for the beginning of 16.02.22	** It was a shock. I could not come to my senses and believe that all this was really happening. We only heard distant explosions and planes. But everyone was in constant tension and stress. They were very worried about my relatives who were far away from me. Constant worries, hiding in the basement and lack of sleep complicated an already shaky emotional state. At that time, we were staying with friends, but we left the apartment we rented with pets, which also added worries and anxieties
*Paraphrased for clarity		**Translated from Ukrainian to English		“Direct Quote		 Good/Yes  Neutral  Bad/No			

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16	23yo Kharkiv Eastern UA Female	Yes	*Yes and no, the way it was taught is class made it feel distant and not something that would affect the future. Looking at it now, I can see how if effected people mindsets and actions. Quantity and discipline were always valued more than individuality, emotions, joy, comfort or aesthetics. The USSR had a comforting view of the future where every aspect of your life is arranged for you by the state and there is no responsibility. But this was not the reality for Ukraine, the wide spread hunger, political repression, and lose of cultural heritage lead to a lack of trust to the USSR government. Once they gained their independence, democracy and personal freedom became their core values	*Yes, because everything that stands today was built under the USSR. However, what they built was not good. It lacked vibrancy, human scale, and proper urban planning education, and everything is in the modernist style. The Freedom Square in Kharkiv is a good example, it has a tremendous scale and was built to host soviet demonstrations. Since the fall of the USSR, there has been a wave of desacralisation of soviet sites, this square was used for Ukrainian celebrations and is now a parking lot. <u>This illustrates how people can dictate the appropriate use for architecture, and not vice versa.</u> This square was also the site of the Revolution of Dignity in 2014 and is now a permanent hub for delivering humanitarian aid. For this reason, it was bombed this year, but from now on, it will be associated with the volunteers who died there, not the USSR. The Derzhprom also became an important symbol of this war in Kharkiv. Images of this modernist building, accompanied by “***Kharkiv -- Ferroconcrete [reinforced concrete]” became a symbol of their city’s strength and durability. Here again, is an example of people taking back their city.		“I haven’t really thought much of Russia (but now I wish I had). I am a Russian-speaking Ukrainian, but as I was born in independent Ukraine, I have never associated myself with Russia and never thought of it other than as one of the separate states we have borders with. I’ve visited Moscow and Saint-Petersburg as a kid, I’ve met my pen-friend there, but that was before 2014, back then nothing was revealing the tension (not even sure if there was any). Never visited Russia nor Crimea after 2014.”	**In the past, Russian and Ukrainian culture, literature, and history were very intertwined. “Like Gogol and Malevich, who were originally from Ukraine, but known as Russian authors. Or Bulgakov, who was originally from Russia, but wrote some of his key works in Kyiv. The fact that in Russian literature Ukraine has been called ‘Malorossia’ [Little Russia] was kind of annoying” **But I didn’t see it as “Great Russian Culture,” mostly it was decadent and dark with lots of drinking, duels, and ‘ <u>deeds of questionable morality.</u> ’ I studied at a lyceum which was modeled after the Imperial Lyceum where Pushkin studied. There were may Russian influences there, we were even forced to celebrate Russian holidays. Even today there is a lot of cross over in the arts, some people shocked to find their favorite Russian artist is Ukrainian.	**The funny thing is that most of Ukraine didn’t realize it until February 24th. Everyone was waiting for some kind of sign, but then suddenly there was a full-scale war. In the past, Russian always came up with convincing narratives to justify their actions to the international audience, but this time they didn’t. Retrospectively, by looking at the history of the Russian-Ukrainian relationship, it is clear war was inevitable. “I wish we could have started the discussion about Russian invasions in Moldova, Ichkeria [Chechen Republic], Georgia and Syria earlier. It is so devastating, that Russia was doing the same thing over and over again for almost a century and never got the proper response.”	**My stepfather called me at 5am and said ‘it has started’ and no further discussion was needed. While we packed our bags we could hear distant explosions even though it was not yet on the news. My stepfather, boyfriend, mother, brother, and I traveled west and eventually made it to Lviv. I didn’t have any fear until my boyfriend was conscripted to the army. He is not on the front-line, and we even managed to live together in Lviv for a few months, but now he has been relocated and I don’t know the next time I’ll see him.
*Paraphrased for clarity			**Translated from Ukrainian to English	“Direct Quote		Good/Yes	Neutral	Bad/No	

RESPONSES EXAMINED

Views on Russia

Starting from the beginning, the majority of people did in fact agree that they could feel the lingering effects of the USSR, even though most of them never lived during it. The most prominent lingering elements were the physical buildings. No participant had anything good to say about these Soviet buildings, they described them as gray, lifeless, pompous, gloomy, impractical, ‘constant depression,’ and lacking in vibrancy and human scale.

Also mentioned, though, were the institutions inside the buildings. Many responses mentioned that institutions, such as education, medicine, and government, still hold the framework that was established in Soviet times. The big reason for this was that many of these institutions were not formally established until the Soviet Union came around and, once it collapsed, Ukraine did not have the resources needed to improve them. Participant #4 had a very interesting response to this question, she said,

“A lot, if not most, of governmental organizations reside in those buildings [left over from the Soviet Union] and I sometimes wonder if our city would be more democratic, would they reside somewhere else.”



PRE-FAB PANEL APARTMENT BUILDING

I think this idea strikes at the heart of what architecture really is, and the fact that your built environment can have subconscious effects on your mood, actions, and decisions.

Institutional buildings are not the only physical relics of Soviet times, there are also many monuments that have been left behind. Over time, we have seen these torn down as a statement of the community’s feelings towards their past. Participant #3 said her mother would not let her play on the



CRIMEA HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT

monument to Lenin, and through this, she was teaching her daughter how to silently stand up to their past oppression.

These are examples of the physical leftovers, but a more important remnant is the Soviet mentality. The Soviet Union stood for efficiency, discipline, and quantity, they strived to be the perfectly oiled machine, but there is no room for humanism in this machine. Once the machine collapsed, the damage had already been done and it continues to affect the mentality of the older generation today. They value hard work, which puts personal pleasures at the bottom of their priorities. Participant #5 recalled,

“A phrase ‘Fulfill the Five-Year Plan in three years’ was like a default set-up for me. I needed to be the best, so my family would be proud.”

This kind of pressure is nothing new between parent and child, but when considering the ‘perfect machine’ goal of the Soviet Union, it is clear to see this is something different. These expectations are bred from political propaganda which strived to instill conformity in its citizens instead of the genuine wishes from a parent for their children to find success, fulfillment and happiness.

This propaganda --or brain washing-- was so successful in fact, that participants said they can see how the older generation still romanticizes that period. They are blind to the corruption and inhumanity, and instead they remember the simplicity and lack of responsibility that disguised the lack of freedom.

Another thing worth mentioning is the Soviet Union’s attempt to destroy the Ukrainian language. There is a long history of attempts to suppress this language from multiple countries and, it is sad to say, but the success of those country’s attempts are still evident today. According to the 2001 census (unfortunately, the most recent census the country has conducted) only 85.2% of Ukrainians’ mother tongue is Ukrainian and 14.8% is Russian, including Volodymyr Zelenskiy, their current president. This was also brought up by a few participants whose primary language is Russian. Both participants 14 and 15 mention that Ukrainian was seen as a lesser language, Russian



was ‘cool’ and the language of the ‘urban elite’ and to speak Ukrainian was ‘indecent.’

However, opinions of the Russian language, and Russia as a country, ranged widely across the participants. Some responses I received are in sharp contrast, for example,

“I think that a lot of people around me at that time would say that Russia is something we should aspire to be...” -Participant 4

“It wasn’t good view, as they were always one step behind in everything.... they always wanted to come back to Soviet Union, as they don’t want to develop...” -Participant 7

“I looked at it as a part of my motherland, I spoke Russian, read Russian literature, my relatives lived in Russia and came to see us every summer, I went to see St Petersburg after I finished school and admired it a lot.”- Participant 8

From here emerges a pattern. Participants 4 and 8 are from eastern Ukraine and participant 7 is from western Ukraine. While my sample size may not be large enough to draw broad conclusions like this, it is a fact that the eastern side of the country tends to be more pro-Russia.

The map below shows the voting results of the 2010 election in Ukraine. The blue represents the pro-Russia candidate, Yanukovich, and the yellow represents the pro-Western candidate, Tymoshenko. Yanukovich narrowly won and spent the next 4 years chipping away at the Ukrainian identity. He made a deal with Russia extending their lease on a port in Crimea, he publicly diminished the Soviet-era famine that killed 4-5 million Ukrainians, claiming it could not be considered genocide, and did his part in bringing back Soviet-level corruption by expanding the powers of the president. The final straw though, was in November of 2013 when he suddenly backed out of an association agreement with the European Union. This would have been a big step for Ukraine towards becoming a more western country and leaving Russia behind. Only 33% of the Ukrainian citizens were against it, but he still pulled out, and now all of Ukraine is paying the price.



This sparked The Revolution of Dignity, riots across the country broke out and lasted for nearly 3 months. This insurrection left more than 70 people killed by the time Yanukovich was impeached in February of 2014. As many participants pointed out, this was a turning point in the Ukrainian-Russian relationship. It was no secret that Putin was financially aiding the Ukrainian government while they tried to reduce the riots and demonstrations and it didn’t take long until the citizens started to see Russia as the true enemy.



PROTESTS IN THE STREETS OF KYIV DURING THE 2014 REVOLUTION OF DIGNITY

“[Growing up, Russia was] like a big bro at east, but then I realized that its a bullshit” -Participant 2

When Putin invaded Ukraine in 2022, one of his justifications was that Russians and Russian-speaking Ukrainians were being persecuted and that, in a sense, he was liberating them. In the words of Vladimir Putin (March 5, 2022), the goal of the ‘special operation’ is the

“protection of people who for eight years have been subjected to abuse, and genocide by the Kyiv regime”.

In the words of Prof. Alexander Motyl on his thoughts of Putin’s statement,

“The charge is both absurd and obscene, as it suggests that Ukraine’s language policies are tantamount to the Holocaust. In Putin’s unhinged mind, the very assertion of a non-Russian identity is a mortal threat to Russia, the Russian state, and of course to him.”

Putin here is referring to actions such as Ukraine declaring Ukrainian as the official language of Ukraine, specifically in the governmental, educational, and hospitality sectors. This does not prohibit Russian; it simply means a waitress has to greet you in Ukrainian but can switch to Russian if asked to.

All of this comes together to say, yes there is a history of opposing opinions between different regions of Ukraine, and Putin is trying to exploit this, but once their identity, freedom, or dignity are threatened, they will fight together as one.

RESPONSES

Views on Rebuilding

PARTICIPANT NUMBER	AGE HOMETOWN REGION GENDER	STILL IN UA?	What are your views on the reconstruction of Ukraine?	Should Ukraine rebuild to look like it used to, or take the opportunity to modernize?		Do you think it would be good or bad to invite famous architects from around the world to build in Ukraine?	How would you describe Ukrainian architecture?	What are some of your favorite buildings in Ukraine? What do you like about them?
1	28yo Kharkiv, Eastern UA Female	Yes	“The reconstruction should happen, not only on the level of architectural planning, but also by improving policies and developing economic and social strategies”			“It could be good if these architects respect our context and cooperate with local professionals.”	“I think Ukrainian architecture is still on the stage of forming its specific identity.”	
2	19yo Bukovina Western UA Male	No	“Maybe like a French after WW2, but without the Corbusier who wanted to divide the social classes”	“Modernizing”		“I think we need to give the opportunity to the young Ukrainians (who are study in other country) engineers and architects to rebuild their country”	“Post-Sovien architecture that realized that he can be independent and started to detach”	
3	24yo Kharkiv Eastern UA Female	No	“I think it’s good idea to invite west Europeans, not very famous architects to Ukraine. They’ll deal with it. I also pro that big architects do new master plans of cities like foster for Kharkiv.”	“Of course modernize. I was studying and doing architecture in Ukraine. Now I’m studying architecture in Czechia. It’s two different worlds. <u>Sometimes I’m ashamed because of our arch education and arch industry.</u> There is the program in Germany to build elevators in every old living building to help older people get to market. <u>But in Ukraine it’s even not a dream,</u> it’s something unbelievable. I don’t know how all people that lost legs would live their lives in Ukraine. The soviet architecture (around 60% buildings and around 75% living buildings) isn’t about that. They didn’t build any infrastructure for invalids.”		“Yes, but not like, you know, Zaha Hadid. I mean we don’t need big representational projects. I think our first goal is to build just good cities as Warsaw Brno Bratislava.”	“It’s good when money don’t decide everything. We have good architects and bureau such as Archimatika or Slava Balbek. But it’s very little count. We have more bad cases such as the state bureau Жилбуд 1/2, or house complexes, Воробійови гори. But we also have the diamonds of modernism and constructivism architecture. We should save it, not to ruin for erecting a shopping mall in Zaha Hadid style.”	“I’m the fan of modernism etc so in Kharkiv it’s of course Derzhprom and the theatre of opera and ballet ХНАТОБ. I like them because they are making this style when you understand you are strong and elegance. In Kyiv, it’s crematorium of course, and all this complex. In modern cases I’m really glad because of living complex Файна Таун.

*Paraphrased for clarity

**Translated from Ukrainian to English

“Direct Quote

PARTICIPANT NUMBER	AGE HOMETOWN REGION GENDER	STILL IN UA?	What are your views on the reconstruction of Ukraine?	Should Ukraine rebuild to look like it used to, or take the opportunity to modernize?		Do you think it would be good or bad to invite famous architects from around the world to build in Ukraine?	How would you describe Ukrainian architecture?	What are some of your favorite buildings in Ukraine? What do you like about them?
4	24yo Kharkiv Eastern UA Female	No		<p>“This is a very interesting question. The city I’m studying in, Gdańsk, was one of the first cities attacked by German forces in 1939 and was also one of the most devastated ones in Poland after the World War II ended. <u>The Main City of Gdańsk, and in particular its most significant buildings, were rebuild to resemble their original state as much as it was possible.</u> Although such actions are usually criticized...many explain them by <u>how valuable historical buildings were and still are for the local community.</u> I talk to my mom about it and... she fears that Kharkiv will never be the same again. On the one hand, the <u>destructions that the city suffered because of war may give it a chance to evolve in a different way and find a new potential,</u> but on the other hand, I do believe that architecture has a much bigger effect on people that we might think actually. I still feel unsure about rebuilding the city to copy its state before the war, but I also think that it’s important not to lose the immaterial value that it had for the citizens and try to preserve it. I also hope that it’s a good lesson for architecture schools in Kharkiv so the would teach about theory of conservation a lot more. It’s great that architects from around the world can put their work into the rebuilding of Kharkiv, but I think that no one knows this city better than local designers :)</p>		I wish that local authorities would invite architects that are sensitive to the local context in the first place and usually make it their top priority. A lot of famous design firms try to make very expressive architecture, that on the other hand can be perceived as intrusive. I’m not an opponent of building that try to make a huge impression but it should be made with thought. In this case an architect should remember that they are working with a city that was devastated by war and it’s not really about their personal ambitions.	I would say that Ukrainian architecture is very diverse. It would be hard to describe every single historical style simply because there are so many. In Kharkiv the ones that have always stood out to me are Art Nouveau and Baroque, the first one especially. In the context of this questionnaire I would say that every city affected by the war needs special attention. There is definitely no “one fits all” option, if that makes sense.	
5	25yo Kharkiv Eastern UA Female	No	<p>“Positive. It’s our chance to do modernization for a lot of things. I will volunteer to help with any architecture or design project.”</p>	<p>Take the opportunity, of course. Environment affects a person’s mental health a lot. We don’t need these gray boxes for living anymore. Ukrainian government tries to digitalis our lives a lot. I think we should do modernization not only online, but offline as well.</p>		I think it’s a good idea. <u>The main point is to be in synergy with foreign specialists. Ukrainian modern architecture should reflect Ukrainian culture and style of life.</u>	Unclear. In my opinion, architects build a lot of typical residential buildings and <u>so little is unique and interesting.</u> I think Ukrainian architecture is very young and so there are not so many distinguishing features.	<p>“Information and Resource Center of Metropolitan Andrey Sheptytskyi (city of Lviv, 2017). It’s a new point of view for educational spaces in Ukraine. It doesn’t have much of a Ukrainian vibe, but I think it’s a good start.”</p>
*Paraphrased for clarity			**Translated from Ukrainian to English	“Direct Quote				

PARTICIPANT NUMBER	AGE HOMETOWN REGION GENDER	STILL IN UA?	What are your views on the reconstruction of Ukraine?	Should Ukraine rebuild to look like it used to, or take the opportunity to modernize?		Do you think it would be good or bad to invite famous architects from around the world to build in Ukraine?	How would you describe Ukrainian architecture?	What are some of your favorite buildings in Ukraine? What do you like about them?
6	23yo Chervonograd Western UA Female	No	** If other countries continue to support Ukraine, I think it will be even better.	** <u>I think it is worth preserving what reminds us of the country's history.</u> But also to improve it as we can.		** I think this is not bad, but it is also possible to give Ukrainian architects the opportunity to show themselves. I'm for balance.	** Old houses made in the USSR are rather gloomy and gray. But in recent years, many new buildings have appeared. They are much nicer and brighter. But also in many cities, the architecture of medieval European cities has been preserved, which is a decoration for every city.	**I love the center of Lviv as well as Odessa. For example, the Lviv Opera House was built in the Viennese pseudo-baroque style. It is very beautifully decorated, sculptures, columns, painted walls. Located in the center of the city and built right on the river.
7	23yo Chervonograd Western UA Female	No	"Ukraine is very destroyed, and a lot of time is needed for recovery"	"I want everything to be as good as possible, so that people have a place to live, a place to work and a place to rest"		"Yes, of course"	"Everything was beautiful in its own way"	"There are no favorites because everyone is special in their own way. Everyone has their own characteristics, their own history."
8	39yo Kharkiv Eastern UA Female	No		"Of course, it should take the opportunity to build back better. We had way many problems before the war which we can solve after the war"		"To invite like collaborators, sometimes <u>tutors for Ukrainian architects</u> , to pass their knowledge and expertise, best practices. But <u>it would take a huge time for someone who never worked in Ukraine to understand the context</u> and famous architects don't have time for it. The reconstruction should be done together with Ukrainians"		Most buildings by Drozdov & Partners. These are good examples of international modern architecture, where form follows the function and buildings show their faces not masks. Some projects apply principles of circularity/reuse/prefab, some have mixed-use program and try to add social value. "Friends house" - hotel by Yuriy Ryntovt. He applied vernacular building technologies in a modern way.
9	19yo Lviv Western UA Male		"I think reconstruction will be fast and effective as we are getting a big support."	"Modernizing is always a good sign, but the previous state is good."		"It is a good idea to invite famous architects."		

*Paraphrased for clarity

**Translated from Ukrainian to English

"Direct Quote

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10	14yo Lviv Western UA Female	Yes	"I think that it is necessary to rebuild a beautiful country and get rid of the old Soviet style"	"I think...we should move on and build a modern Ukraine using new technologies"		"Of course, especially now, rebuilding Ukraine together with various architects from all over the world is a very cool idea"	"Ukrainian architecture in each region is different, but in most it is ancient."	I like the opera house in my city. it impresses with its detail, majesty and history
11	24yo Chervonograd Western UA Female	Yes	"I am sure that it will be long and hard, but maybe it will be even better than before."	"Some things can be changed, and of course <u>the architectural monuments can be restored.</u> "		"It would be good."	"The rich history of the people."	Palanok castle in Mukachevo. Rich history and beautiful sights.
12	25yo Chervonograd Western UA Female	Yes	"I can already see how the infrastructure is gradually being restored"	"Life requires moving forward, and modernization to improve conditions"		"This is a good idea and an interesting exchange of experiences"	"Modern architecture is no different from the world architecture, the architecture of the past corresponds to the period in which it was created."	Lviv Opera House, Oleskyi Castle, House with Chimeras, Palanok Castle. The appearance is attractive.
13	23yo Chervonograd Western UA Female	Yes	"I think that Ukraine has great potential, thanks to the people who live here. I hope that after the end of the war, the government will create a good investment climate. And this will allow to rebuild the destroyed cities. Also, let's not forget about reparations."	"Sure, this is a great time to throw everything Soviet in the trash. I would like Ukrainian cities to absorb European values and <u>became as comfortable as possible and not so depressing.</u> "		"It would be absolutely awesome!"	"Ukrainian architecture is a mix of all types and directions. You can find buildings that were built by Austrian or Polish architects here, there are many buildings that were built by the Soviet government in different periods. There are also many new, modern buildings in my city."	Pidhoretsky Castle, Mariinsky Palace, Lviv Opera House and the building of the Museum of Ethnography and Art Craft in Lviv.
*Paraphrased for clarity			**Translated from Ukrainian to English	"Direct Quote				

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14	30yo Lviv Western UA Female	Yes	“Many politicians and countries are starting different programs for reconstruction on Ukraine. It’s like reconstruction of Poland after 2nd World War - we can see how it turned out.”	*Yes we should. Progress and modernization are the future. Any county that tries to stay the same, or does nothing, will vanish.		“It is great idea. Lviv was build with the help of different famous architects of that time - and it turns out to be really beautiful city. It would be great if other cities could finally become modern.”	“Variety of styles. Every city has unique style build during times. I like it.”	“Opera theatres in L’viv, Odesa, Kyiv. I like really old building as they show spirit of past times. But it looks even greater when some modern styles are merged and united with old styles.”
15	38yo Poltiva, UA Eastern UA Female	No	** Of course, a lot of work has to be done to restore it. Many people lost their homes and jobs, so they must be restored.	**Of course, it would be good to make Ukraine more modern, similar to other European countries. Because everything else is developing and improving, why not rebuild Ukraine just like that?		**This is a great opportunity to bring diversity to the reconstruction of Ukraine. I think that it is good and an opportunity to exchange experience with other famous architects and learn something from them.	**It is a combination of many styles and the influence of many cultures	**I like the architecture of old Lviv. I really love this city for its warm, mysterious atmosphere
*Paraphrased for clarity			**Translated from Ukrainian to English	“Direct Quote				

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16	23yo Kharkiv Eastern UA Female	Yes	<p>*It is more important to focus on the fundamentals of our cities instead of individual buildings. Our reconstruction goals should focus on safety, accessible housing, attractive working places, inclusive public spaces, thoughtful memorialization, and a healthy environment, then, maybe, we will have a chance to keep the population from shrinking.</p>	<p>“This one is obvious. There’s no sense in rebuilding Ukraine as it was before, because, it will sound terrible, but we won’t have the pre-war population.”</p> <p>*An important point to mention is that a significant amount of the current housing stock consists of soviet panel buildings, which in the long term perspective, has to be replaced. Not only because their maintenance is poor, the thermal and sound insulation is bad, and not even because they will soon be outdated and will require a full repair, but because this type of construction shows horrible performance in withstanding missile strikes, especially the ones where facade walls are load-bearing. When we rebuild, <u>we need to make sure everyone has access to a bomb shelter.</u></p> <p>Once again, we need to look at the bigger picture. As far as our cities, we should focus on <u>improving urban design education, infrastructure, city long-term plans, city planning documentation, population data collection practices, and city-specific strategic development visions.</u></p> <p>For our future economy, we need a more “..decentralized and resilient system of energy sources. It’s way more difficult to destroy a renewable power station than a huge thermal power plant. The same is true for grids of distributions, the high voltage electric lines are easy targets. Water distribution systems are vulnerable as well.”</p>		<p>“If it’s a Norman Foster based question, then I think it’s a bad idea (in this particular example — pathetic even, if I would choose architects that we can’t afford anyways, I would have chosen at least Fields Operations or something).”</p> <p>*This really depends on whether you mean just someone who is well known that we can’t afford, or if you mean experts that can teach us how to rebuild our own country, because we don’t need the former, but we could benefit greatly from the latter. Either way, we should be focusing on city planning, not iconic buildings. We could use the expertise of others, but we also need the familiarity with the Ukrainian context from the local architects. International competitions would also be good for Ukraine, especially considering the attention Ukraine has gotten from the international community.</p>	<p>“<u>Controversial? Heterogeneous? Incoherent? It’s impossible to describe it in one word, because there’s no such single entity as Ukrainian architecture.</u>” We do have notable modernist and vernacular architecture, but most of our buildings are influenced by the Soviet architecture schools focusing on formalism, structure and intimidation. To this day, most of the residential architecture is still heavily focused on profitability and not bettering living conditions. More recently, there has been a shift to focusing on the human experience, both in the professional practice and schools, but this also cause a state of opposition as ‘old school’ architecture is far from extinct.</p>	<p>“I’m in love with Kyiv Crematorium and Opera Theatre in Kharkiv, but that’s not what you were asking about. I would rather name some important projects rather than my favorite.” The Podil Theater in Kyiv got a lot of media attention for showing how historic architecture can, and should, coexist with contemporary architecture. The redevelopment of the Rybalsky Peninsula is a promising break through in residential development. The redevelopment of the Lviv train station is humble, but prioritizes human comfort and access to public transportation. The Promprylad renovation is one of my favorites and it very important. The process has been very transparent and has investment (both monetary and social) from many different directions. It focuses on layers of history and overlapping narratives.</p>
*Paraphrased for clarity			**Translated from Ukrainian to English	“Direct Quote				

RESPONSES EXAMINED

Views on Rebuilding

A large majority of participants agree that Ukraine should take this opportunity to modernize, not just their built environment, but also their institutions.

“Of course modernize. I was studying and doing architecture in Ukraine. Now I’m studying architecture in Czechia. It’s two different worlds. Sometimes I’m ashamed because of our arch education and arch industry. There is the program in Germany to build elevators in every old living building to help older people get to market. But in Ukraine it’s even not a dream...” -Participant 3

“Our reconstruction goals should focus on safety, accessible housing, attractive working places, inclusive public spaces, thoughtful memorialization, and a healthy environment...” -Participant 16

“As far as our cities, we should focus on improving urban design education, infrastructure, city long-term plans, city planning documentation, population data collection practices, and city-specific strategic development visions...” -Participant 16

But there is also the belief that certain architectural gems should be restored to preserve Ukraine’s architectural history.

“Gdańsk, was one of the first cities attacked by German forces in 1939 and was also one of the most devastated ones in Poland after the World War II ended. The Main City of Gdańsk, and in particular its most significant buildings, were rebuild to resemble their original state as much as it was possible. Although such actions are usually criticized...many explain them by how valuable historical buildings were and still are for the local community. ... On the one hand, the destructions



MUSEUM OF ETHNOGRAPHY IN LVIV

that the city suffered because of war may give it a chance to evolve in a different way and find a new potential...but I also think that it’s important not to lose the immaterial value that it had for the citizens and try to preserve it.” -Participant 4

** I think it is worth preserving what reminds us of the country’s history. But also to improve it as we can. -Participant 6

Most think it would be beneficial to bring in international architects, but a majority believe the reconstruction should be LED by Ukrainian architects and those who respect the history and culture of Ukraine.

“It’s great that architects from around the world can put their work into the rebuilding of Kharkiv, but I think that no one knows this city better than local designers” -Participant 4

**This is a great opportunity to bring diversity to the reconstruction of Ukraine. I think that it is good and an opportunity to exchange experience with other famous architects and learn something from them. -Participant 15

*...we should be focusing on city planning, not iconic buildings. We could use the expertise of others, but we also need the familiarity with the Ukrainian context from the local architects. International competitions would also be good for Ukraine, especially considering the attention Ukraine has gotten from the international community. -Participant 16

I took all this to mean they are open to both preservation and modernization, and while Soviet architecture has a bad reputation, it seems the most favored are the ones that have changed their use. Get the old institutions out of there, and bring new life to them, because some of them really are architectural gems.

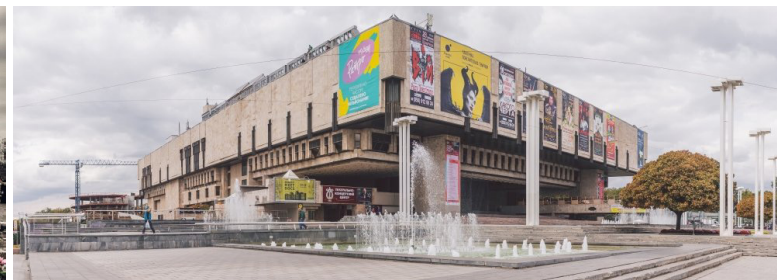
UKRAINIAN ARCHITECTURE STUDY

Well-known buildings based on survey participants' answers

BRUTALIST



KYIV CREMATORIUM



KHARKIV STATE ACADEMIC OPERA AND BALLET THEATRE



DERZHPROM, KHARKIV, UA



CONCEPT DESIGN BY DROZDOV PARTNERS



THE METROPOLITAN SHEPTYTSKY CENTER IN LVIV

MODERN



PROMPRYLAD, IVANO-FRANKIVSK, UA



FAYNA TOWN, KYIV, UA



RYBALSKY, KYIV, UA

HISTORIC



OLESKO CASTLE, OLESKO, UA



LVIV TRAIN STATION



LVIV NATIONAL OPERA



PIDHIRTSI CASTLE, PIDHIRTSI, UA



PALANOK CASTLE, MUKACHEVE, UA



MARIINSKYI PALACE, KYIV, UA

OTHER



PODIL THEATER, KYIV, UA



THE HOUSE WITH CHIMAERAS, KYIV, UA



FRIEND HOUSE, DNEPROPETROVSK, UA

*історичне
дослідження*

HISTORICAL
RESEARCH



HISTORIC RESEARCH

If the havoc wreaked by natural disasters like earthquakes and fires has ultimately tended to be received with a sense of apocalyptic acceptance, that caused by war and human instrumentality has elicited a rather different range of emotions. These emotions are necessarily inflected...by the historical outcome-whether the city is on the side of the winners or losers. -Joan Ockman, Out of Ground Zero

MUNICH

Toward the end of World War II, it was clear to Adolph Hitler that Munich would fall victim to Allied bombing, but instead of implementing strategies of protection and risking the public loss of confidence, Hitler commanded his officers to photograph Munich. Focusing mainly on the old town center, the Nazis systematically photographed every building facade and a few interiors. Hitler was correct, and by April of 1945 most of Munich's center was destroyed.

Once the community was ready to rebuild, they established a commission to debate whether to restore or to start over. By a small margin, Munich voted to restore its city center, and this was only possible because of those commissioned photos.



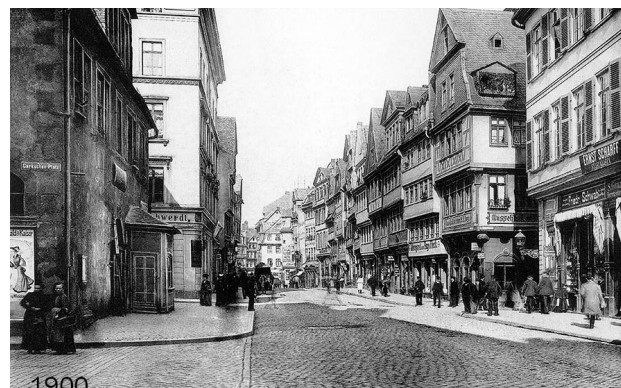
MUNICH CITY CENTER AFTER BOMBING



MUNICH CITY CENTER AFTER RESTORING

FRANKFURT

Similar to Munich, Frankfurt also took a vote after their destruction of World War II, but they chose the bulldozing route. They scraped away the remains of one of the largest gothic wood-timber city centers, and replaced it with a post-war, automobile focused city.



LOOKING DOWN FAHRGASSE ST IN FRANKFURT, BEFORE AND AFTER THE WAR



However, they later came to regret this decision and in 2005 the city proposed a “return to glory.” A plan was made to construct 35 buildings in the city center, staying as true as possible to the original buildings that once stood there. 15 of the buildings are exact replicas using the original blueprints. The DomRömer Quarter (New Old Town) was officially finished in 2018 after 6 years of construction. It is already full of locals who bought the units in a lottery system. It has also been a huge tourist destination as everyone marvels at this masterwork of urban planning, some even comparing it to Disney World.



THE RÖMER AFTER BOMBING.



THE RÖMER AFTER RESTORATION



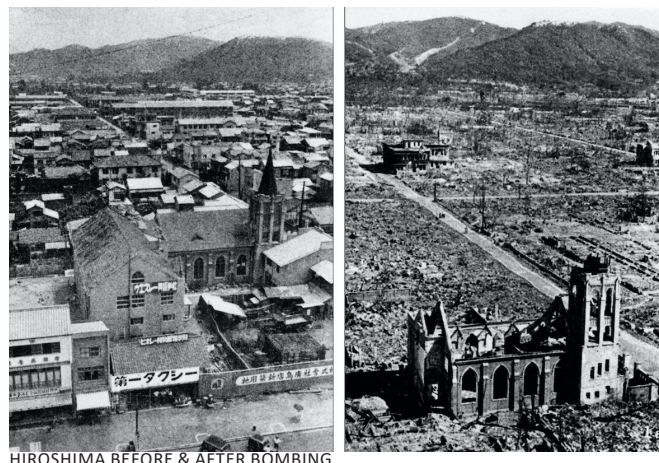
THE DOMRÖMER QUARTER

HIROSHIMA

“Hiroshima’s reconstruction thus combined the pragmatic need for urban improvements with the symbolic wish to memorialize the destruction”-Carola Hein, *Out of Ground Zero*

Since Hiroshima was the first city to ever be hit by an atomic bomb, one might think Hiroshima’s reconstruction would be one of bitterness and self-victimization, but in reality, their narrative speaks predominantly of promoting peace. Ninety percent of the city was destroyed, yet with the eyes of the world on them, they knew they had a special opportunity to make a statement, and their statement was peace.

With the scale of destruction so large, and its international impact larger, the reconstruction of Hiroshima drew in a large international crowd with many opinions. Their first step was to pass the Peace Memorial City Construction Law that declared Hiroshima a peace memorial city; in doing this they were able to free up funds from other countries. Everyone agreed the horrific event needed to be memorialized, but they all had different ideas on how to move forward.



HIROSHIMA BEFORE & AFTER BOMBING.

1. Some people called for the preservation of its ruins as a monument of its own, and a symbol to the world.
2. Because of the radiation, some thought the city should be abandoned and turned into a “research laboratory”

3. The poet Sankichi Toge proposed a green, decentralized city to bring life and nature into the city to heal it.

In the end, the international community won and plans for the Peace Center commenced. Since the mayor and half of his administrators died in the attack, the prefectural governor took charge. Not too long after, a reconstruction committee was formed, made up of neighborhood representatives. This committee, combined with municipal authorities, city assembly, and residents worked together to make a plan for the reconstruction. This group started with big visions, but in the end focused more on the memorial and programmatic issues such as infrastructure, services, street widening, city growth and economic direction.

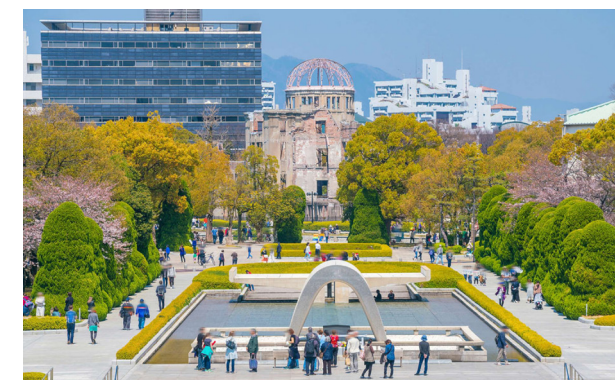
Hiroshima, along with many of the other examples, is a destroyed city in a destroyed country, and this leads to influence from different levels of government. The federal government put out reconstruction guidelines for the local administrations and dispatched experienced urban planners and architects, as well as young urban planners and architects, to the cities, as many of them lacked these experts. Among these young people dispatched was Kenzo Tange who became a key element in Hiroshima’s rebuilding.



GENBAKU(ATOMIC BOMB) DOME BEFORE & AFTER BOMBING. PREVIOUSLY AN EXHIBIT HALL

The influence of the international community, along with the importance of this project, lead Hiroshima to conduct the first and only design competition in Japan during the post-war period. In the end, 145 entries were submitted but Tange’s design won. His design had many elements, some of which never came to fruition, but most notably the Peace Memorial Park and Peace Boulevard.

Shown above is the Genbaku (Atomic Bomb) Dome, one of the only buildings to survive the attack. The building now stands as the head of Peace Memorial Park, which was meant as a place of assembly and memory for the public. The boulevard is not far from there, it is a wide, pedestrian-friendly, and green sidewalk dotted



1200 ACRE PEACE MEMORIAL PARK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE CITY



with mini memorials.

Below is a photo of the main building in the park. As is evident, he drew much of his inspiration from le Corbusier, which helped him fulfill the competition brief of a peace city that

“melded Western concepts of modernism with Eastern (specifically Shinto) forms of commemoration to produce an extraordinary work of architecture.” -Joan Ockman, Out of Ground Zero

Since its completion, Tange and his work have been much-admired and it brought Tange’s name to the international level.



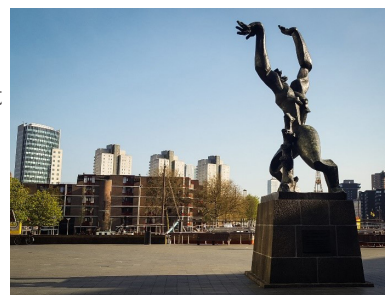
PEACE MEMORIAL MUSEUM IN PEACE MEMORIAL PARK

ROTTERDAM

Rotterdam is a fascinating example of destruction turned into an optimistic opportunity. After the German bombs destroyed 11,000 buildings in the center of Rotterdam, the city was left without a heart. Ossip Zackine captured this well in his sculpture titled “The Destroyed City”

However, Rotterdam had plans of modernizing its city long before the war. Once the bombs of World War II fell, it was not long before they started seeing the positive opportunities their situation gave them. Instead of memorializing or recreating, Rotterdam went full modernization.

For years, city planners dreamed of a cleaner, newer, and more modern city. After the realization of their bombed city, they saw opportunity in the promise of reconstruction. Their



THE DESTROYED CITY BY FRENCH SCULPTOR OSSIP ZADKINE



ROTTERDAM'S DESTROYED CITY CENTER

This was largely because their main source of population growth was the peasants from rural parts of the country who gave their city a reputation of being a dirty, desperate, and struggling lower-class city. They hoped that a new city would bring new minds and ideas with it. While this was fairly universally agreed upon, two distinct ideas emerged on how to best move forward.

1. W.G. Witteveen, the city architect, wanted a cohesive city with monumental urban spaces, prominent boulevards and closed perimeter urban blocks.
2. The second idea came from the local architects’ society Opbouw (“Building Up”) as well as “Club Rotterdam” which was made up of civic leaders. They wanted to break from traditional urban designs such as the perimeter blocks and direct relationships between buildings and the streetscapes. They called for radical modernization and maximum architecture freedom to involve more citizens in the reconstruction —this idea is strictly opposite to Witteveen’s cohesive blocks plan.

Both of these groups got a piece of what they wanted. Witteveen developed a cross-river motorway and a residential area, Blijdorp with strong architectural cohesiveness. Members of the Opbouw Society designed the Van Nelle Factory in the International Style, which became a symbol of the enlightened modernization of Rotterdam.

This did not end the rivalry, however. Witteveen still wanted to

longing for advancement was not purely focused on the built environment. Rotterdam had recently been under accusations for the

“lack of vigorous intellectual and cultural climate.” Out of Ground Zero

This was largely because their main source of population growth was the peasants from rural parts of the country who gave their city a reputation of being a dirty, desperate, and struggling lower-class city. They hoped that a

new city would bring new minds and ideas with it. While this was fairly universally agreed upon, two distinct ideas emerged on how to best move forward.



BLIIDORP DEVELOPMENT, DESIGNED BY W.G. WITTEVEEN

“...combine restoration of the historic city— with improved traffic circulation and the creation of conditions for the construction of large, representational building” Han Meyer, Out of Ground Zero



The modernists called for more radical improvements and more freedom. Club Rotterdam looked at New York City for inspiration, there, the city controlled the city layout and streets, and the residents got near-complete freedom with what they build on their land.

In the end, Witteveen got pressured into resigning and the modernists won with their election of C. van Traa. Van Traa started his reconstruction by re-zoning, re-parceling, and giving priority to the automobile. He made parcels 3-10 times bigger, which resulted in many displaced residents. He was definitely the extremist the modernists wanted, and at first, it did have striking success. During the 1950s he received praise from around the world.

“According to [Lewis] Mumford, Rotterdam was the most successful example of postwar reconstruction, an enlightened model of Western urbanism” Han Meyer, Out of Ground Zero

Toward the end of the 1960s, however, criticism started to raise, most notably, author Rob Wentholt. He claimed rebuilt Rotterdam was,

“...dull and empty, a city still without a heart, without an identity and without the signs and structures of a collective memory.” Han Meyer, Out of Ground Zero

He thought the numerous open public spaces just made the city feel empty and blamed the 1960’s flight to the suburbs on the reconstruction design. This was not a unique opinion, worldwide, residents started to become dissatisfied with the modernist movement, and unfortunately, Rotterdam was full of it.

WARSAW

Warsaw was arguably the most destroyed city in WWII. They were bombed and destroyed many times over. Their citizens were massacred and their buildings systematically flattened.

“Of the 780 buildings on the historic register, only 35 survived intact.” Maria Niemczyk, Cities

It is estimated that 85% of the city was destroyed by the time the Nazis left in January 1945. Since the Nazis occupied the city during the war, they knew exactly where to aim their bombs. They went specifically after palaces, cathedrals, castles, museums, libraries, and national archives, but in the end, Nazi engineers went through the city with flamethrowers and high explosives to be sure nothing would be left.

Once the war was over, the Soviets were tasked with the question of what to do with this obliterated city. As always, options were posed,

1. Move the capital and leave the ruins to become a monument to the lives and culture lost.
2. Rebuild to look how it did before the bombing
3. Modernize

The people did not give the government much of a decision, however, once they returned to their city they began to rebuild, “often with their bare hands.” By February of 1945, the Warsaw Reconstruction Committee was formed to oversee the construction. In the end, it was decided that much of the Old Town and New Town would be restored to how they once looked. This started with the clearing of 1 million cubic meters of rubble, repairing what was left, and reconstructing key streets. In two years, the population doubled, and after 11 years, the population was back to its pre-war numbers.



WARSAW'S OLD CITY AND ROYAL CASTLE

To restore the center, they studied old photographs, architectural drawings, and even paintings. Citizens saw the rebuilding of their city as a symbol of rebuilding their national identity and defying the Nazi's plan to eradicate their city and culture. Warsaw is now considered a UNESCO World Heritage Site but, just under 80 years ago, it was a land of rubble.



WARSAW PALACE OF CULTURE IN THE DISTINCT STALINIST STYLE

While the beginning of reconstruction was fairly smooth and seemingly without political intervention, the period between 1949-1956 saw a much colder iron fist on the plans for reconstruction. Initially, this came in the form of widened streets for parades and neo-classical over-sized buildings, such as the Palace of Culture.



THE SOVIET RED ARMY ENTERING VILNIUS (A POLISH TOWN AT THE TIME)

One might wonder why the government let the people rebuild at all, were there not higher priorities, and how did this benefit the bloc? First and foremost, the government was weak and had few supporters, so they realized if they let the people rebuild, then the citizens would be grateful to them, plus if the government cooperated, then they could take credit for each building that was finished.

The authorities made sure they maintained a level of control and over-site to the planning, going so far as to rejecting buildings that represented too many capitalist ideals. Not everything could be restored, so there are a few new buildings from that era in the daunting Soviet architecture style. Throughout it all, however, their leaders made sure the citizens were aware that it was because of their great nation that Warsaw was built in such an effective manner.

BELCHITE

The city of Belchite dates back to 75 AD but was destroyed during the country's civil war in 1937. After his victory, Francisco Franco made the decision to build a new city a few miles away, and preserve the ruins of the original town. While this is a very popular tourist destination and a great place to learn about and see history, this method alone did not successfully rebuild a city, as it no longer has residents. They did, however, build a museum a few blocks away to educate the visitors on the history of the town. This helps keep the memory of the ancient city alive, and creates a reason for people to visit the area.



WHAT'S LEFT OF BELCHITE, SPAIN

BUDAPEST



SZOBORPARK (MEMENTO PARK)

Now here is a bit of a different study. After the fall of the Soviet Union in 1991, many countries were left with Soviet statues and monuments and the issue of what to do with them. Some countries destroyed them, melted them, or sunk them in the sea, but in Budapest, they decided not to destroy them, instead, they built a park on the outskirts of the city called 'Memento Park' and moved them there, where you can still find them today.

Designing a park with this much emotional and political baggage was not easy, especially for the architect, Ákos Eleőd.

“[It was a] Paradox, because these statues are both the reminders of an anti-democratic society and at the same time pieces of our history...I deemed it important to avoid the possibility that they would become anti-propaganda, which would have been no more than a continuation of dictatorship mentality.”

I think this quote perfectly summarizes the struggle with this decision, because it is true, when we start controlling what pieces of history are part of the collective memory, we can become the thing we are trying to heal from.

PRAGUE

After 1991, Prague found itself with plenty of brutalist buildings and bad memories. These buildings left behind from the Soviet Union were symbols of the oppressive government that had ruled there, so they tore them down.

After a while, however, there was push back. In 2020 there was an exhibition at the National Gallery Prague called ‘NO DEMOLITIONS! Forms of Brutalism in Prague,’ because people were starting to realize how much of Prague’s history was being erased. Even buildings such as the former Federal Assembly on Wenceslas square, is currently struggling to survive because it is associated with the communist regime, but in reality, this building was built during the more liberal 1960s



THE FORMER FEDERAL ASSEMBLY IN PRAGUE

NEW YORK CITY

While New York City was not destroyed like these other cities, the tragedy of the Twin Towers can serve as a micro example of how these same principles can be applied no matter the scale. After the destruction of 9/11, the city of New York faced the same issue of how to move forward, address the broken, and rebuild. While it might look like they just memorialized the event, in reality, they also preserved the empty space in the sky that the buildings used to occupy, as well as the holes in the ground where they used to stand. This ‘lack of building,’ in a sense, is a form of inverse preservation.



SEPTEMBER 11TH MEMORIAL IN NEW YORK CITY

If you look at the site today, however, some argue they have not done a good enough job of bring life back to it. This was clearly a choice they made, but if memorialization and preservation go too far, the site can feel cold and after a while, the site will start to drive away life.

KHARKIV

On February 24th, 2022, Putin’s army invaded Ukraine, a peaceful and sovereign country. That decision altered Ukraine’s history forever, and the beautiful country will never be the same. The cities of Ukraine have been terribly destroyed and continue to be hit, but just like these other cities, we have to believe they will live again.



DESTROYED PALACE OF CULTURE FOR RAILWAY WORKERS IN KHARKIV

HISTORIC RESEARCH SUMMARY

From my research, I summarized all the methods down to these four. They may seem in contrast, but in reality, the most successful rebuilds come from the combination of these.



SOVIET GRAFFITI ON THE REICHSTAG IN BERLIN, GERMANY



WARSAW'S 'NEW' OLD TOWN CENTER



WARSAW UPRISING MONUMENT



CHICAGO 150 YEARS AFTER ITS GREAT FIRE

preserve

Preserving the ruins of a city, like Belchite, provide a window into a war-torn community. Seeing something like this in-person is very powerful, it sends a message of warning, but it can also stand as proof of how far the city has come since those events.

restore

Some events are too painful to want to remember, like the bombs of World War II, so instead of remembering, we try to erase it and pretend it never happened. This can be an act of a resilience spirit, or denial.

memorialize

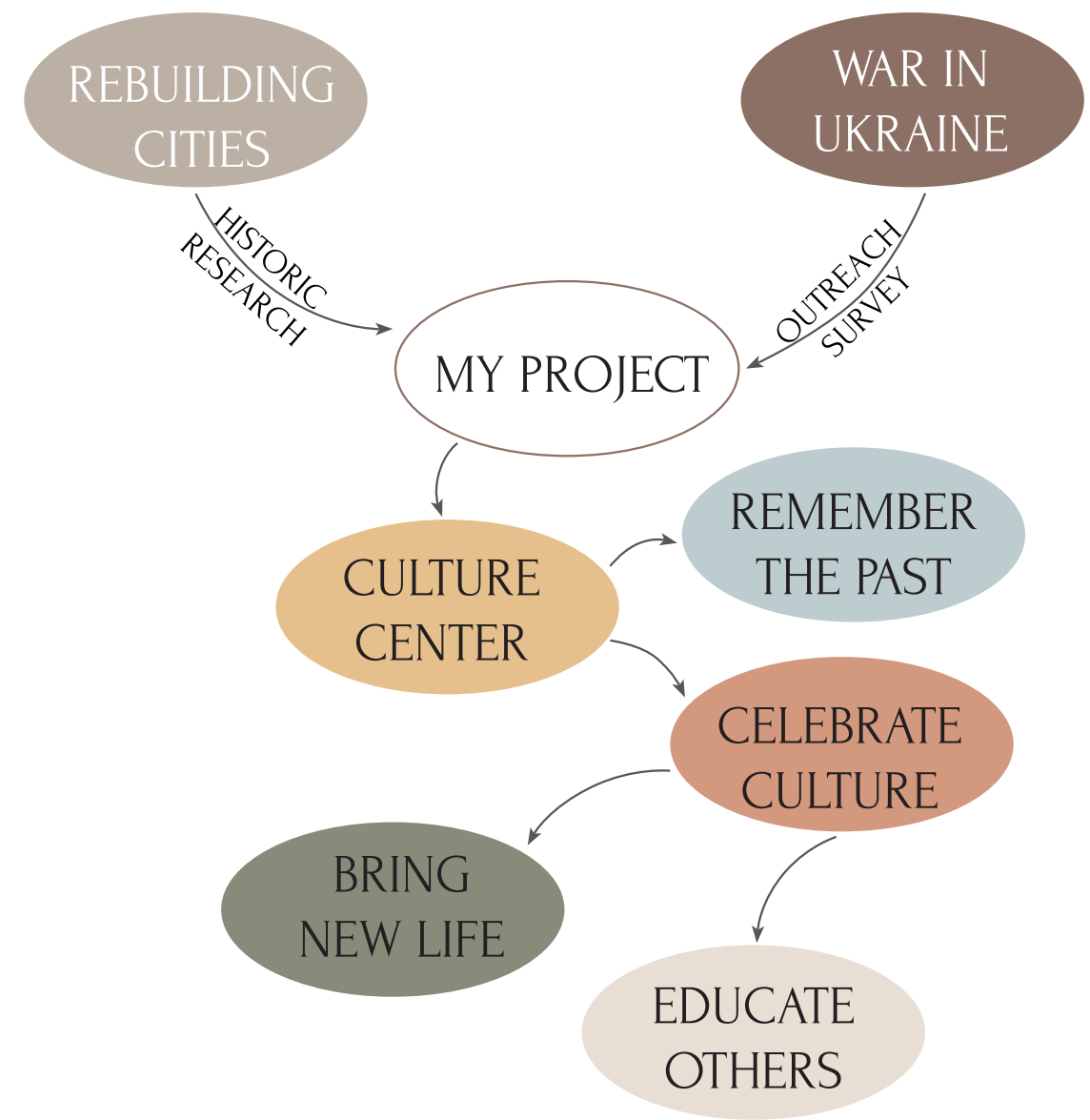
Dismissing and denying pain are not sustainable ways to put a city back together again. Communities, like Hiroshima, need a place to mourn because what happened can not be undone, but healing requires grieving.

modernize

Although past pain is easy to dwell on, the future generations need to be kept in mind while rebuilding. From death can come new life and that opportunity should not be overlooked.

PROJECT PLAN

1. FIND A BUILDING
2. RESEARCH THE BUILDING
3. APPLY DISCOVERED REBUILDING METHODS
4. ANALYZE THE BROAD APPLICATION



DESIGN
DEVELOPMENT



SITE

83a, Velyka Panasivska St. Kharkiv, UA

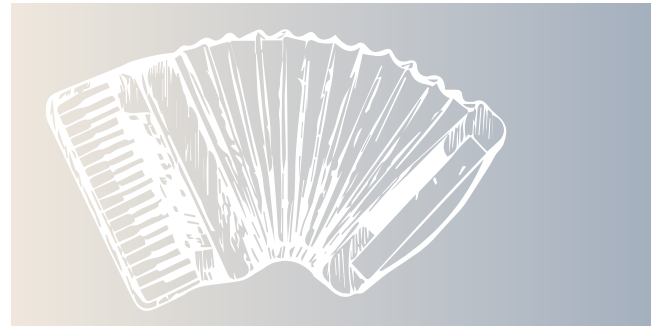
The building I have chosen to restore is палац залізничник, which translates to, the Palace of Culture for Railway Workers.

Architect: Aleksandr Dmitriev

Style: Constructivist, Soviet, Art Deco

Purpose: There was a large collection of railway workers in Kharkiv during the USSR, so they were given their own center for culture and leisure activities.

Form: The shell of the building evokes the form of an open accordion, which has a strong history in Ukraine.



History:

1932, construction finished, building opens

1987, the building was named a significant cultural heritage site by UNESCO

2000, became the Central House of Science and Technology of the Southern Railway

2022, partially destroyed by Russian shelling on August 18th

Buildings from the same era in adjacent styles,



Zuev House of Culture
Moscow, Russia



House of Pioneers
Zestafoni, Georgia



The Wedding Palace
Tbilisi, Georgia



Druzhba Holiday Center
Yalta, Ukraine



PALACE OF CULTURE FOR RAILWAY WORKERS DURING CONSTRUCTION



PALACE OF CULTURE FOR RAILWAY WORKERS BEFORE RUSSIAN INVASION

THE ORIGINAL BUILDING



MAIN ENTRANCE- SOUTH EAST VIEW



SIDE ENTRANCE- EAST VIEW



ORIGINAL AUDITORIUM



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF THE BUILDING AND CONTEXT INCLUDING THE RAILROAD



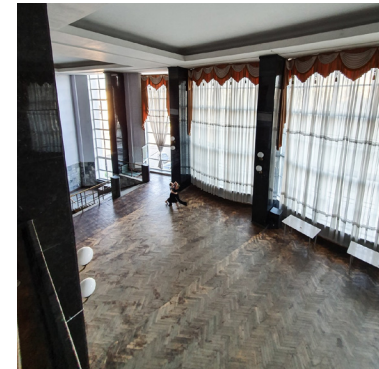
THIRD FLOOR HALLWAY ADJACENT TO LOBBY ATRIUM



FIFTH FLOOR HALLWAY



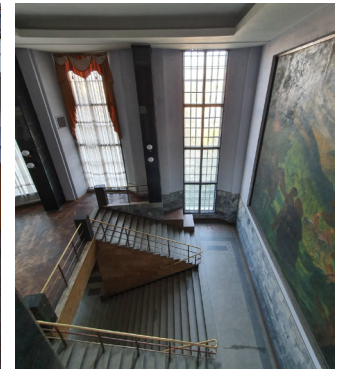
VIEW FROM STAGE OF THE ORIGINAL AUDITORIUM



THIRD FLOOR VIEW OF LOBBY ATRIUM



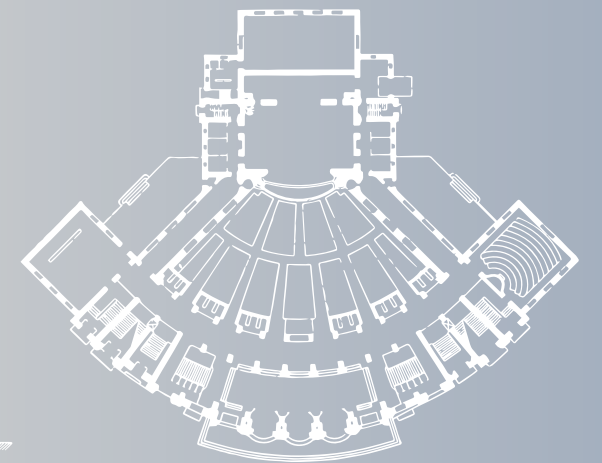
LOBBY ATRIUM



LOBBY STAIRCASE TO FIRST FLOOR



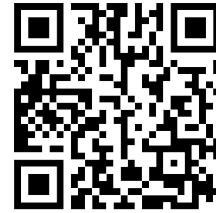
ORIGINAL DRAWINGS FROM 1932 BY ALEKSANDR DMITRIEV



THE SURVIVED BUILDING

The building was partially destroyed by Russian shelling on August 18th, 2022. Most notably, the auditorium roof caved in, the front windows blew out, and the interior walls collapsed. The shell of the building was thick and strong enough to withstand the blast, and that is what I will be working with.

Scan here to see a video of the building just moments after it was destroyed.



COLLAPSED INTERIOR WALLS



FIREFIGHTERS PUTTING OUT FIRE AFTER SHELLING



ORIGINAL AUDITORIUM SEATING



INTERIOR NOW EXPOSED



SOUTH ENTRANCE AFTER SHELLING SHOWING EXTERIOR SHELL INTACT



EAST ENTRANCE AFTER SHELLING SHOWING BLOWN OUT WINDOWS



BACK ENTRANCE AFTER SHELLING



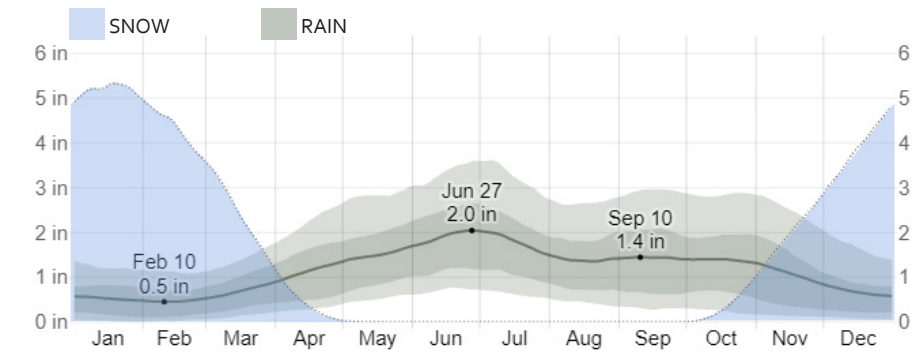
AUDITORIUM AFTER SHELLING

SITE ANALYSIS

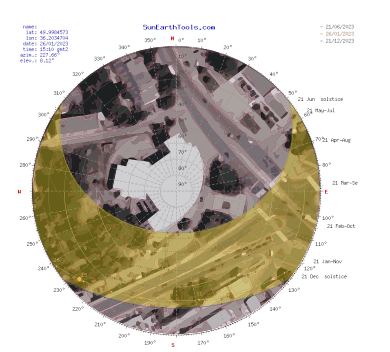


Kharkiv has a very mild climate. The wind direction does not vary too much throughout the year with slightly more coming from the west. The summers and winters are both mild with it rarely getting hotter than 90 or lower than 10. The front facade gets sun in the mornings, but by show time, the sun should be behind the stage.

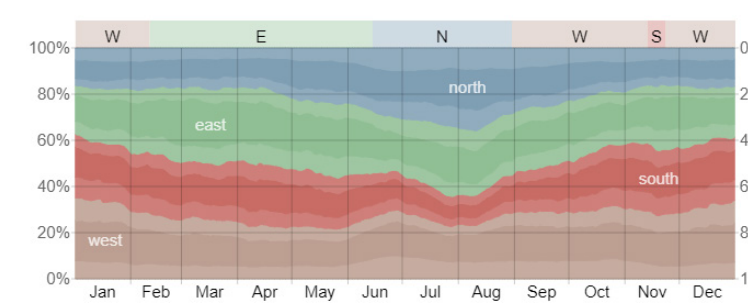
AVERAGE MONTHLY PRECIPITATION



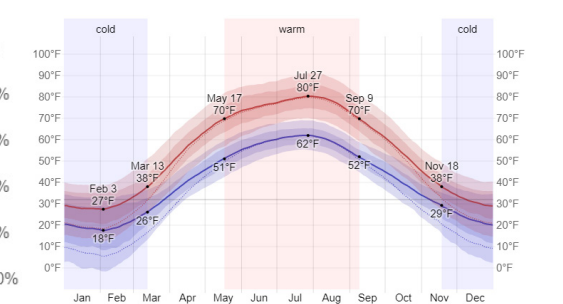
SUN PATH



WIND DIRECTIONS



AVERAGE HIGH AND LOW TEMPERATURE

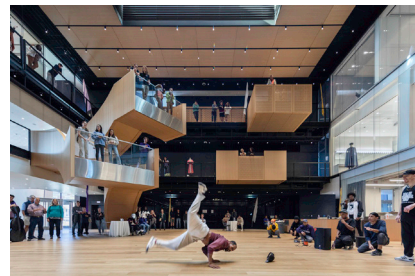


PROGRAMMATIC CASE STUDIES

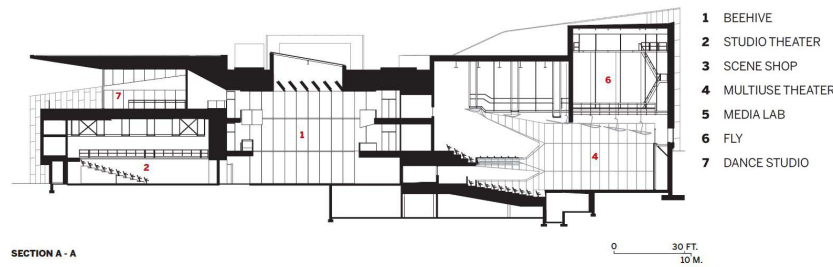
PRIOR PERFORMING ARTS CENTER WORCESTER, MA

Architects: Diller Scofidio + Renfro
Area : 84000 sft
Year : 2022

Located on the campus of the College of the Holy Cross in Massachusetts, the Prior Performing Arts Center is an incubator for multidisciplinary arts, and a stunning building. This facility has venues for both performing arts and fine arts including a 400-seat concert hall, 200-seat black-box theater, art gallery, scene shop, media lab, and dance studio. All of these spaces surround a central atrium—the beehive—a flex lounge/performance space.



"BEEHIVE" ATRIUM FLEX SPACE



SECTION A - A
BUILDING SECTION

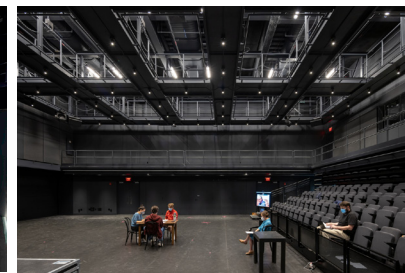
- 1 BEEHIVE
- 2 STUDIO THEATER
- 3 SCENE SHOP
- 4 MULTIUSE THEATER
- 5 MEDIA LAB
- 6 FLY
- 7 DANCE STUDIO



MAIN ENTRANCE



AUDITORIUM



BLACK BOX THEATER

THE UNION FOR CONTEMPORARY ART OMAHA, NE

Architects: Alley Poyner Macchietto Architecture
Area : 21,750 sft
Year : 2016

The Union for Contemporary Art primarily operates as a public co-op studio to promote art in a growing arts and culture district. Once they started out-growing their space, they bought the adjacent building to expand their programming. This facility houses exhibition, gallery, and performance spaces as well as youth mentoring programs for up to 80 kids.



CLASSROOM SPACE



LOUNGE



FLOOR PLANS



BUILDING SECTION THROUGH NEW AND OLD PORTIONS



GALLERY



CERAMIC STUDIO

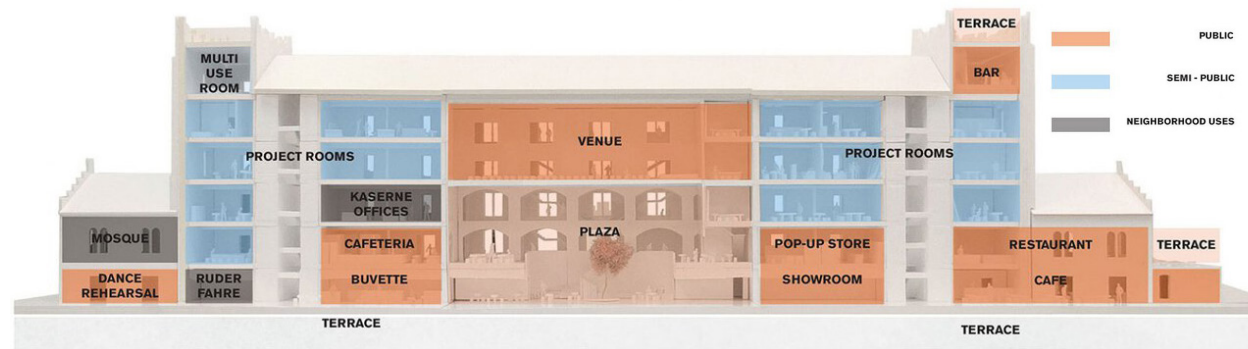
kHAUS CULTURE CENTER BASEL, SWITZERLAND

Architects: Focketyn Del Rio Studio
Area : 101,116 sft
Year : 2022

This building has been a gem of Basel, Switzerland for over 150 years, but as of the recent decades, it has sat empty. It is located in the center of the community, and even though it wasn't in use, the town never forgot about it. Originally built as the barracks for the Swiss army, this building was abandoned in 1966 and while the other buildings in the complex slowly were updated, this main building didn't get touched. The complex became a popular location for cultural, and religious events on its own until the city decided it was time to adapt it to a new use. Listening to the community, they turned it into a culture center with an events & performance space, art & rehearsal studios, multifunction rooms, restaurants, dining areas, spaces for worship, and a central plaza.



NEW AND OLD MATERIALS MEET ENTRY ATRIUM FRONT ENTRANCE AND PLAZA



BUILDING SECTION AND PROGRAMING

QUINTA MONTES MERIDA, MEXICO

Architects: MATERIA
Year : 2022

Originally built as a home, over time this complex has transformed into a community culture center. The family enjoyed hosting social events in their garden until they started to see the potential of investing in this passion of theirs. In 2006 they opened a museum displaying artifacts, art, and furniture. In 2015 they added a pavilion for hosting events and a few other architectural elements. This won the building the Silver Medal at the 2015 Architecture Biennale of Mexico City. After this, the family started to take what they had a little more seriously and decided to dedicate themselves more towards culture and community. This came with offices, a parking lot, and a visit to the United States' best art galleries for further study.



FRONT ENTRANCE TERRACE PORTICOES



BUILDING SECTIONS

FLOOR PLANS

SITE PLAN

SPACIAL PROGRAMING



AUDITORIUM

This building deserves a functioning theater again, that was its life before, and I want to honor that. Unfortunately, its supporting spaces were severely lacking, additional square footage will be needed to provide ample space for dressing rooms, rehearsal spaces, a costume shop, etc.

MUSEUM

Long before Ukraine was an independent country, it was a culture and a people. Their land has changed hands so many times that all Ukraine has is its culture, and a resilient one at that. There should be a place to celebrate that and educate visitors about its culture and history of the country. While simply being in a country can be a learning experience, sometimes it takes more formal educational material to get a full story across.

RESTAURANT

You can't talk about Ukrainian culture without mentioning food, and adding a restaurant also elevates the theater experience

UKRAINIAN APARTMENT STUDIES

AVERAGE LIVING SPACE PER INHABITANT

FORMER SOVIET UNION	UKRAINE	215 SQFT
	BELARUS	254 SQFT
	CZECH REPUBLIC	309 SQFT
	NETHERLANDS	441 SQFT
	SWITZERLAND	479 SQFT
	GERMANY	451 SQFT
	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	829 SQFT

EXAMPLE FLOOR PLANS IN KHARKIV DEMONSTRATING THE CONDENSED FOOT PRINT

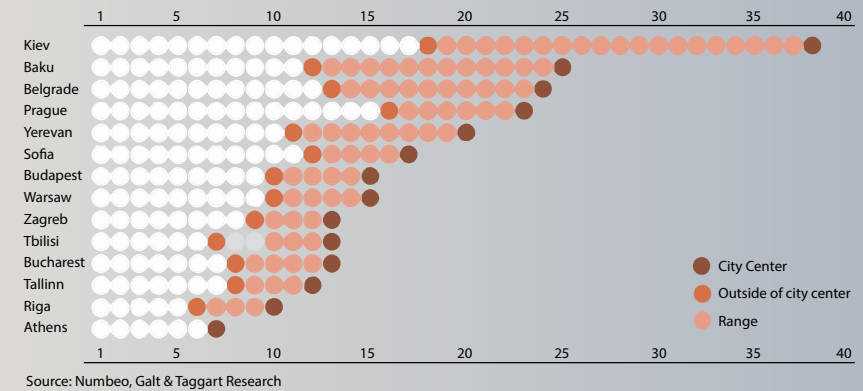
1. Hallway
2. Pantry
3. Kitchen, Dining Area
4. Work Zone
5. Living Room
6. Bedroom
7. Bathroom



Even before the war, Ukraine had a large over-crowding issue. According to the Ukrainian National News, 45% of Ukrainians lived in overcrowded housing, compared to just 17% in the rest of Europe. In my experience in Ukraine, it was not uncommon to see a family of 4 sharing a 1 or 2 bedroom apartment

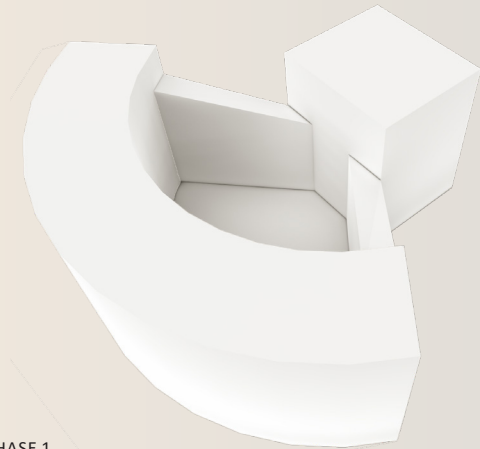
On top of that, compared to their average salaries, an apartment in Kyiv is significantly more expensive than other large cities in Europe, this is largely due to the lack in supply. Simply adding a few units won't make that big of a difference, but if every new mixed-use building in Ukraine added apartments, demand would go down and, hopefully, so would price.

The number of average gross annual salary needed to buy a 65 square meter flat in central and peripheral districts



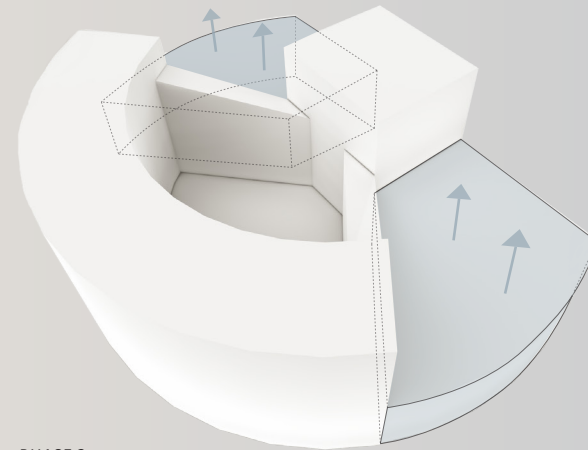
Source: Numbeo, Galt & Taggart Research

FORM DEVELOPMENT



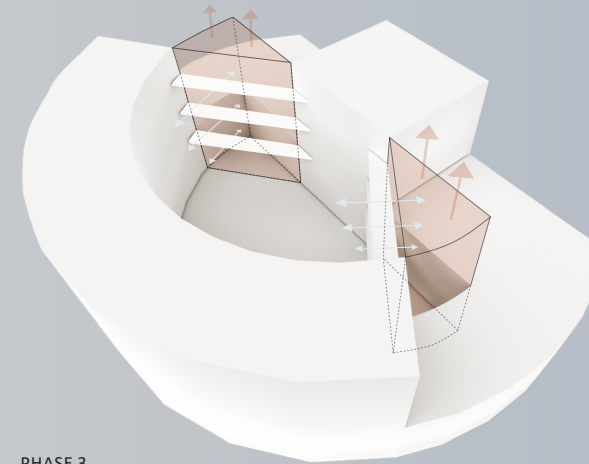
PHASE 1

Looking at the survived form, you can see the large, rounded hall that contained the theater lobby, offices, rehearsal spaces, etc. Along with the stage with its tall 'fly tower.' From what I know, the interior walls have collapsed, so really I am just working with the shell. The auditorium ceiling also collapsed but instead of restoring it, I have decided to make it an open-air theater



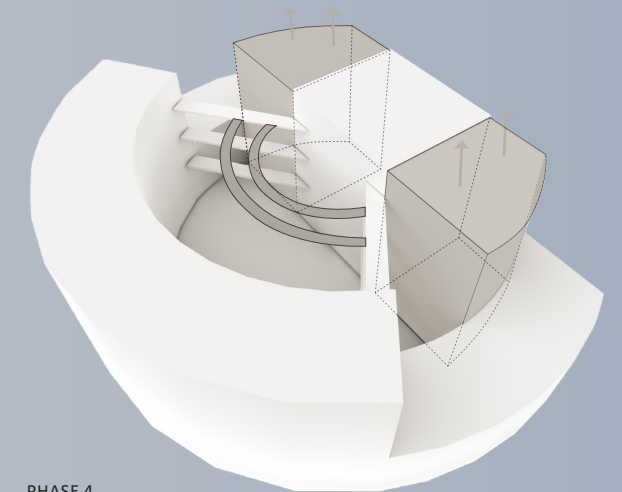
PHASE 2

Even though I want the new and old parts of the building to contrast, I still want the form to be cohesive and keep the spirit of the original building. So, in order to add square footage for the apartments, I continued the curve of the front façade along the sides.



PHASE 3

Although living next to a theater sounds exciting, there are still noise issues to address. To do this, I cut out court yards in order to add separation. However, I still wanted these spaces to flow together, so I took out the walls of the existing side hallways to perforate that separating element.



PHASE 4

The last step was to add space on either side of the stage for rehearsal spaces. In my experience in theater, there is never enough rehearsal space. These 6 floors hold dance studios, a costume shop, storage, offices, dressing rooms, a vocal rehearsal space, an orchestra room, and a flex room. Making this portion taller also helps differentiate the theater support spaces from the apartment wings.

STYLISTIC CASE STUDIES

LIGHT COLORS,
CURVES

Tamina Thermal Baths



WARM WOODS

Ville-Pekka Ikola

CONNECTION TO NATURE,
BIOPHILIC DESIGN

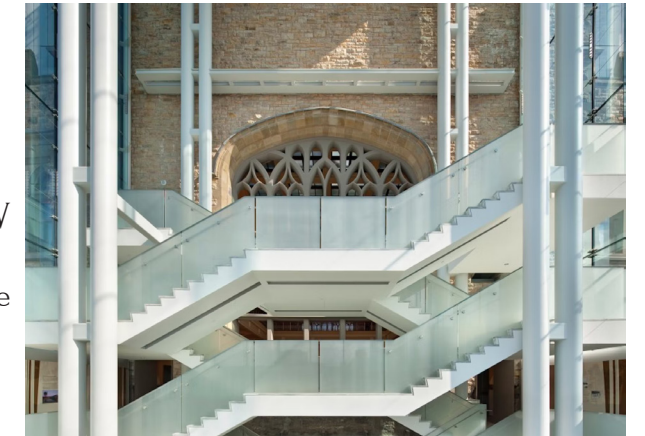
Maggie's Centre in Glasgow



CONTRASTING MATERIALS

Barcelona Pavilion

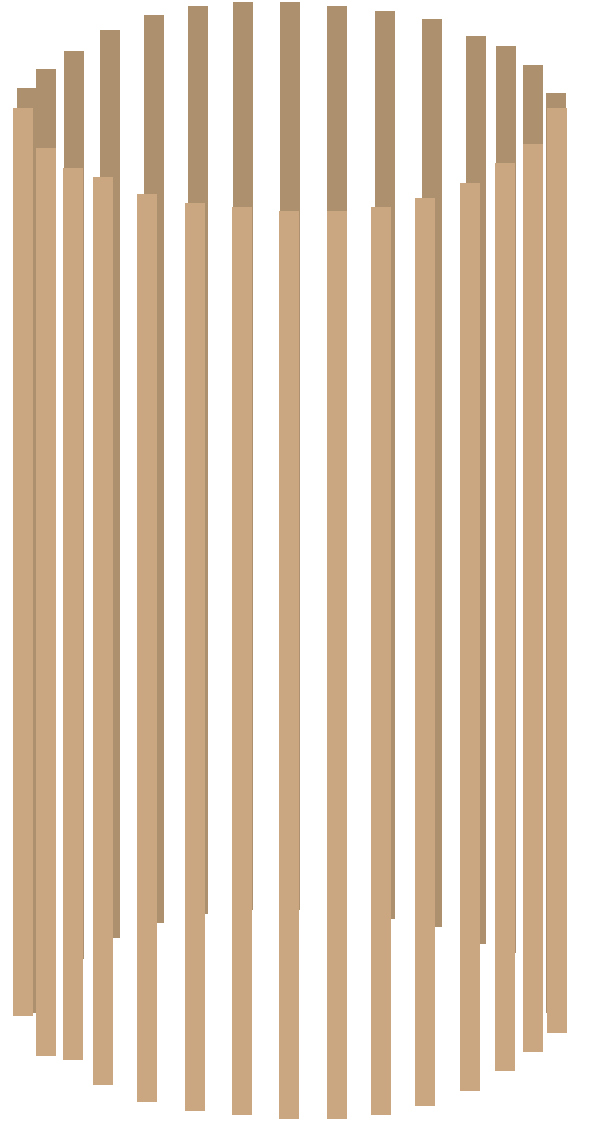
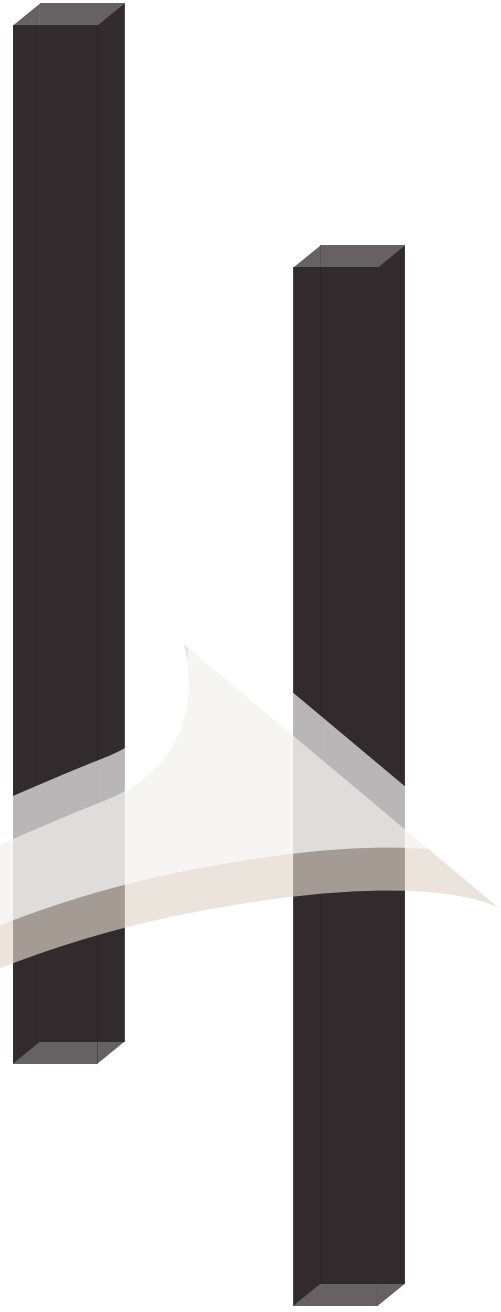
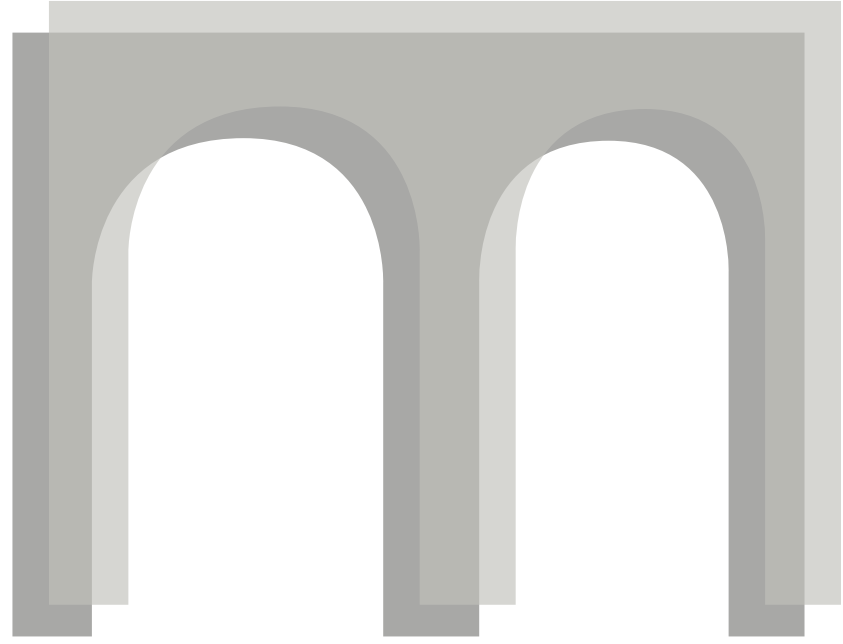
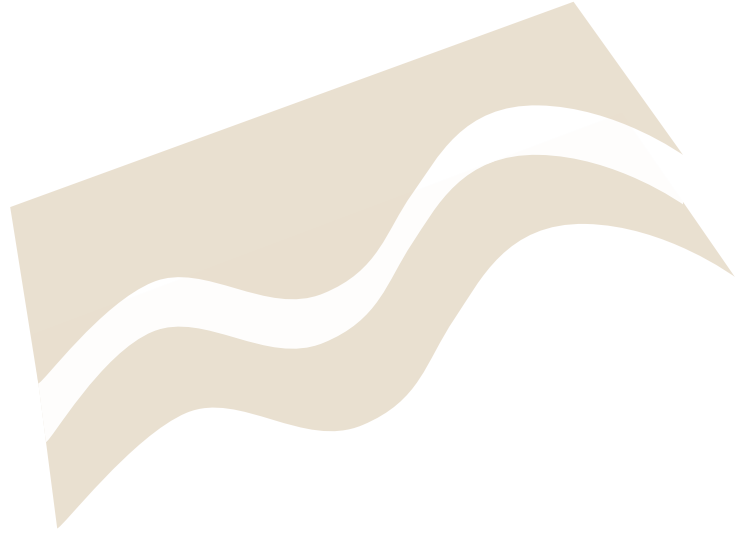
MIX OF OLD & NEW
Canadian Museum of Nature



REFLECTIONS

Assembly Building, Le Corbusier

STYLISTIC ELEMENTS



дизайнерське
рішення
DESIGN
SOLUTION



FINAL BUILDING

CONNECTION
TO NATURE

restore

I restored the old windows on the front facade, and added reflection pools in the front to offer a moment of peace, memory, and greenery. Also shown here are the five retail spaces. These five brick entrances always seemed out of place, so I gave them their own, separate purpose. Theaters tend to be fairly empty during the day, so having these retail spaces, the museum, and the park will help keep the site active at all hours. These retail spaces also offer modern business opportunities to members of the community. Modernization does not just mean new and shiny, it can also mean adapting to the current needs of a community.

FRONT ENTRANCE

modernize

REFLECTION

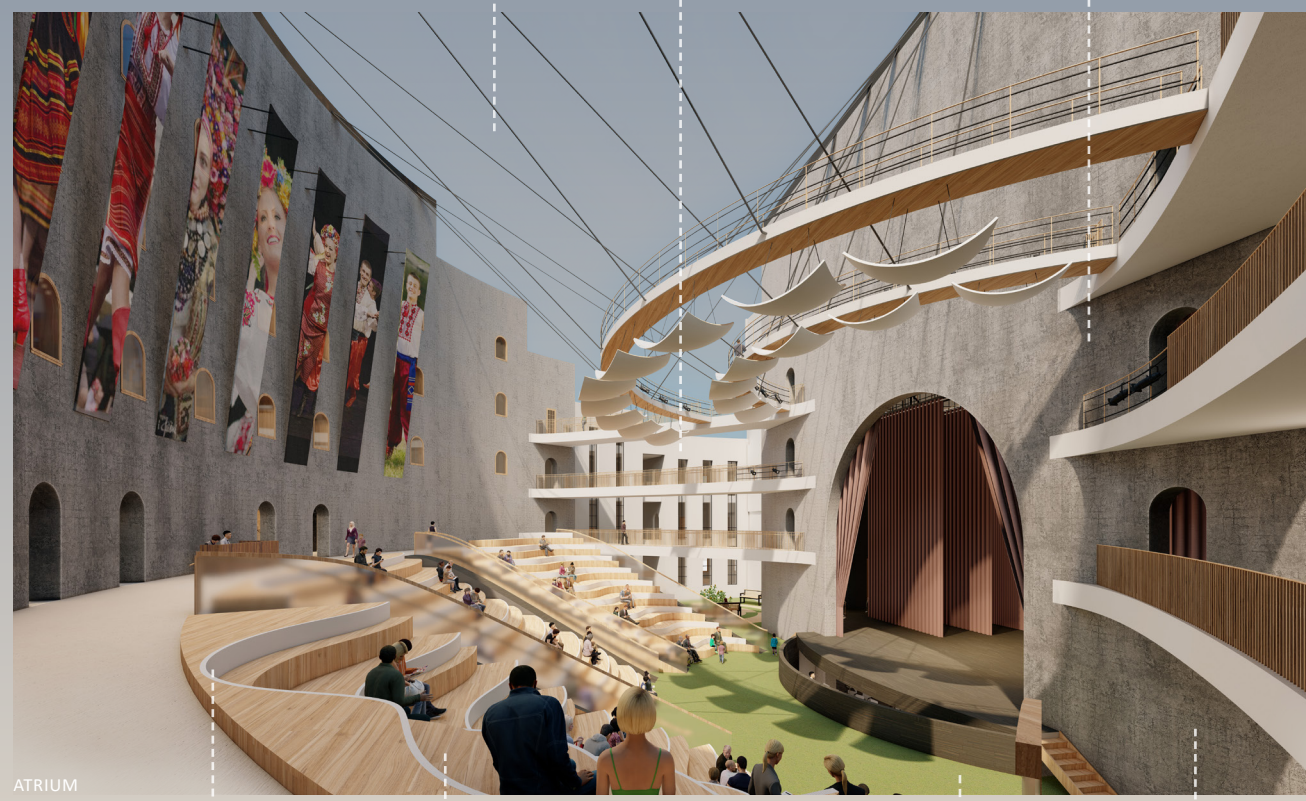
memorialize

preserve

LIGHT COLORS

MIX OF OLD & NEW

Here is the view from within the auditorium, you can see how I have preserved loss of the roof like New York's 9/11 memorial. By not restoring it, I have preserved that part of the building's history. I also chose to not restore the previous traditional theater seats. This curved stepped seating creates a more casual atmosphere, and while the curves respond to the curve of the building, the warm wood starkly contrasts the exposed concrete. The catwalks above support acoustic panels to make up for the lack of ceiling, but with so much modern technology, I do not see it being too much of an issue. Along the back walls are more acoustic panels, but these have portraits on them depicting dancers in traditional Ukrainian clothing. In this view we can also see the open hallways that double as side catwalks and circulation between the main portion of the building and the stage & support spaces.



ATRIUM

CURVES

WARM WOODS

CONNECTION TO NATURE

CONTRASTING MATERIALS

memorialize

restore

WARM WOODS



SECOND FLOOR RESTORED LOBBY

LIGHT COLORS

CONTRASTING MATERIALS

CURVES

The theater lobby also acts as the first floor of the cultural museum. The restored windows bring in incredible natural light and the walls are lined with various exhibit pieces, as well as educational materials. The spiral staircases continue your walk through the museum without having to leave the space. The wall on the right-hand side of this photo is lined with windows allowing museum-goers a look into the theater. This is also a place for parents with crying children so they can continue enjoying the performance.

modernize

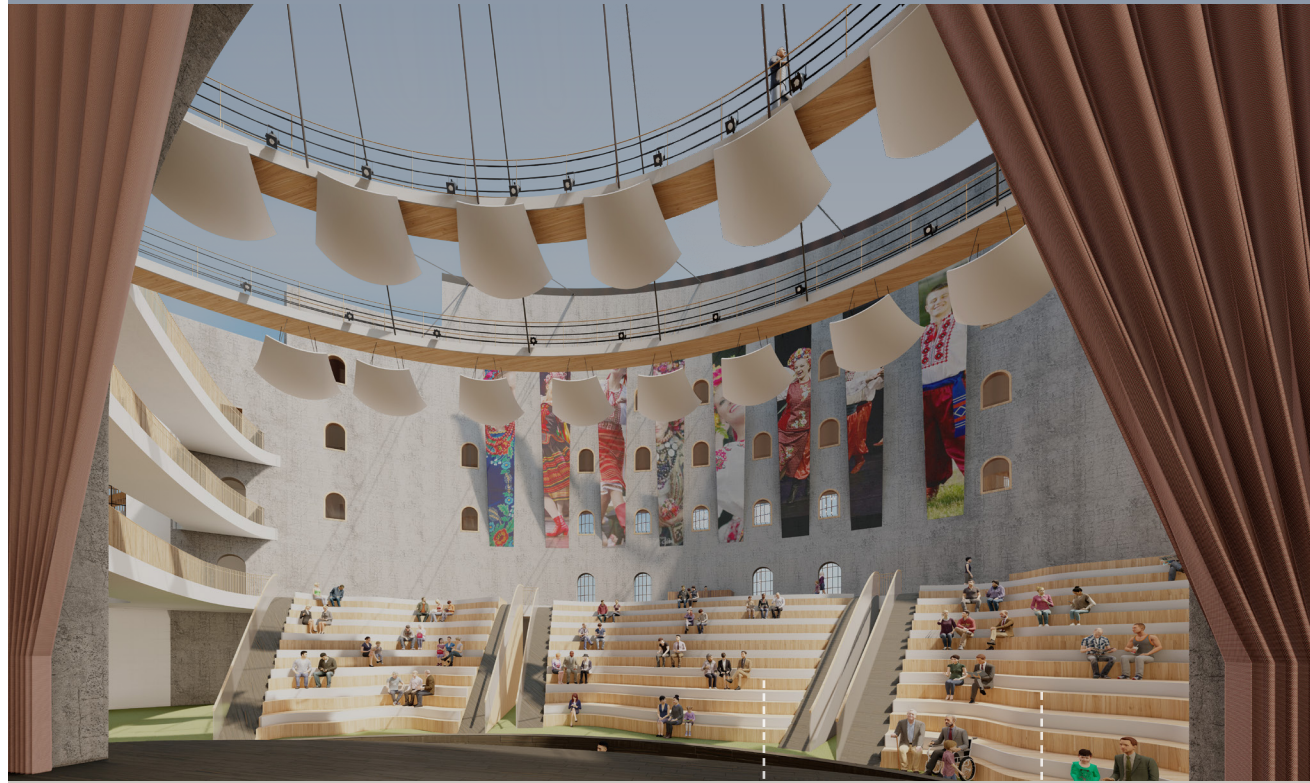
MIX OF OLD & NEW

In this view, you can see the distinct change in material, contrasting the old and the new. This contrast also helps commemorate the history of the survived building.



EAST ENTRANCE SHOWING NEW AND OLD PORTIONS





VIEW FROM STAGE

WARM WOODS

CURVES

This is the view from on stage and from here you can see the lights on the catwalks over head, as well as the back windows that offer a view from the museum.

memorialize

CONNECTION TO NATURE

The courtyard is an important element to separate the apartments from the auditorium. There is also a hallway that further separates the apartments for privacy. For the audience members, this courtyard offers a break from the action on stage while still being a part of the space. As the sunflower is the Ukrainian national flower, including them here further celebrates and memorializes the Ukrainian culture.



MEDITATION COURTYARD



SITE PLAN



SECTION

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.

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.

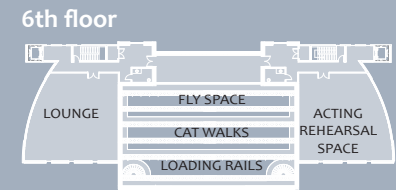
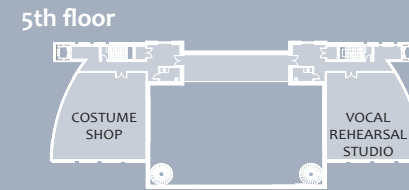
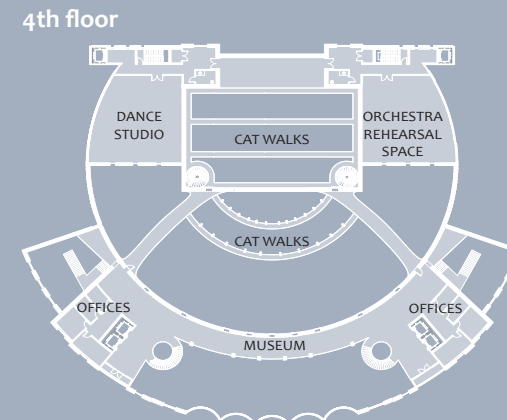
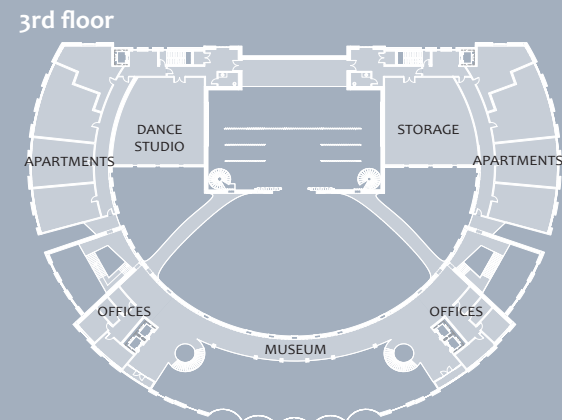
restore

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.

FLOOR PLANS



BEFORE & AFTER

Great effort went into preserving the spirit of this building while updating its spaces and purpose.



ORIGINAL FRONT ENTRANCE



REBUILT FRONT ENTRANCE



ORIGINAL SECOND FLOOR LOBBY



REBUILT SECOND FLOOR LOBBY



AUDITORIUM AFTER SHELLING



REBUILT ATRIUM



ORIGINAL AUDITORIUM



REBUILT AUDITORIUM



ORIGINAL AUDITORIUM



REBUILT AUDITORIUM

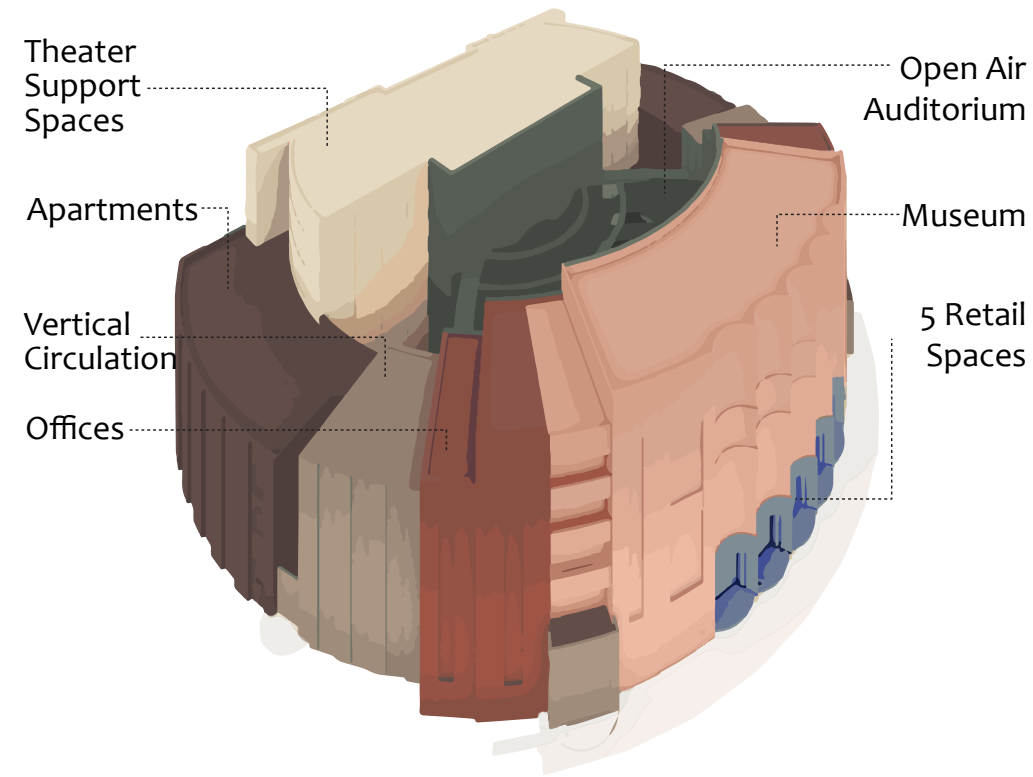


EAST ENTRANCE AFTER SHELLING

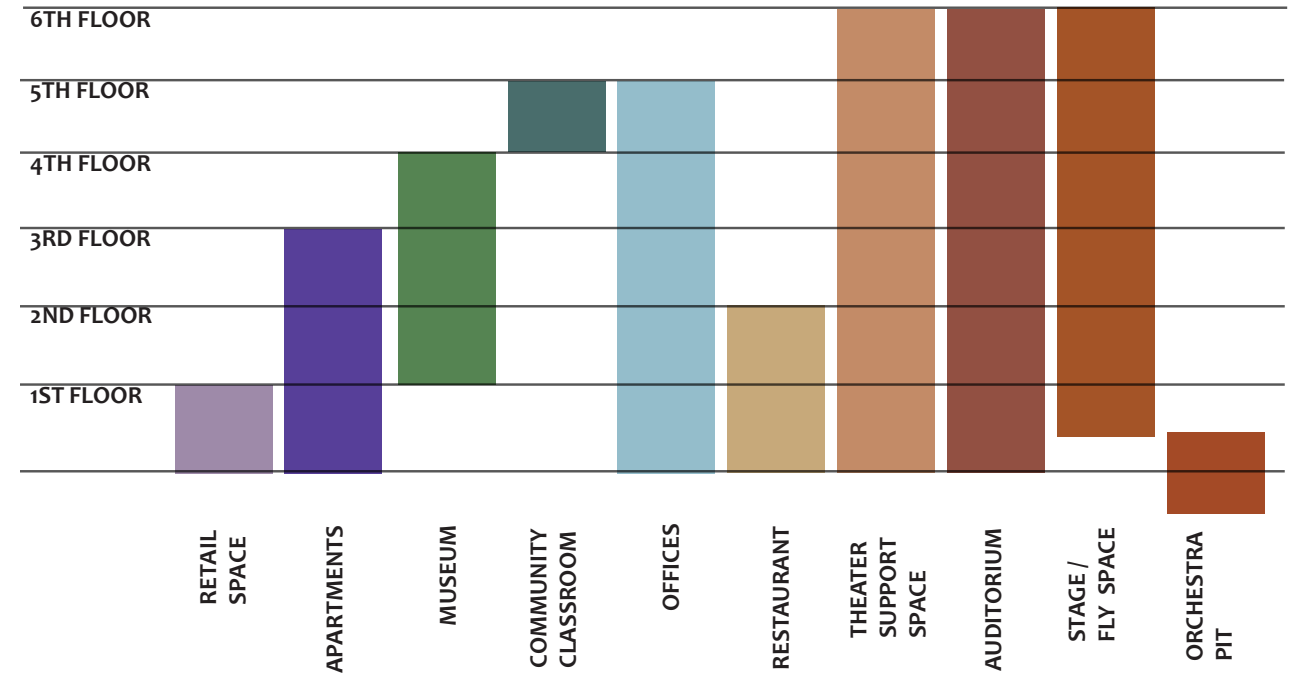


REBUILT EAST ENTRANCE

PROGRAMING



3D PROGRAM DIAGRAM



LEVEL BREAK DOWN DIAGRAM



SOVIET GRAFFITI IN THE REICHSTAG IN BERLIN, GERMANY



WARSAW'S 'NEW' OLD TOWN CENTER



WARSAW UPRISING MONUMENT



CHICAGO 150 YEARS AFTER ITS GREAT FIRE

preserve

Removing history from the built environment is also an act of editing the collective memory, which should be done with extreme caution, and seeing true destruction in-person can serve as a warning to others

restore

We can learn from our past mistakes, but we can also learn from our past successes. Restoring the built environment can have a uplifting effect on the citizens, as a way of erasing the destruction

memorialize

Providing a space to remember, reflect and learn is so important, because our best lessons come from our own history

modernize

Rejecting the opportunity to improve the quality of life for your citizens is senseless. If cities stop evolving, they start dying and while destruction hurts, it is important to see it as the opportunity it is.

What is the most appropriate way to respond to the destruction of the war in Ukraine, while remaining sensitive to its history and culture?



Employ multiple methods of rebuilding, and understand the great value of each one.

Відновлення руйини

REBUILDING THE BROKEN.

Kharkiv, Ukraine

How do you rebuild a city?

- RESTORE
- MODERNIZE
- PRESERVE
- MEMORIALIZE

Палац Залізничників
Palats Zaliznychnyk
Palace of Culture for Railway Workers

Палац Залізничників can be roughly translated to "Palace of Culture for Railway Workers." It was designed by Aleksandr Dmitriev in 1931, 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 bowing 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**

the rehabilitation
By looking at historic examples of cities that have rebuilt, I identified four distinct methods and their strengths. I then applied these 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.

restore
Warsaw, Poland

memorialize
Rotterdam, Netherlands

preserve
Hiroshima, Japan

modernize
Frankfurt, Germany

the addition of apartments
I added apartment units 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 UN, 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

Community Learning Space, Sound Booth, Acoustic Panels, Cat Walks, Acoustic Panels, Stage, Fly Tower, Performance Spaces, Cat Walks, Historic Enclosure, Theater Lobby, Reflection Pools, Museum, Theater Lobby, Loading Zone, Parking Lot, Basement Storage & Bunko Shelter, Orchestra Pit, Trap Room

PREVIOUS STUDIO EXPERIENCE

- FALL 2018.....HEATHER FISCHER
- SPRING 2019.....HEATHER FISCHER
- FALL 2019.....EMILY GUO
- SPRING 2020.....RONALD RAMSAY
- FALL 2020.....PAUL GLEYE
- SPRING 2021.....CINDY URNESS
- FALL 2021.....AMAR HUSSEIN
- SPRING 2022.....DAVID CRUTCHFIELD
- FALL 2022.....RONALD RAMSAY
- FALL 2022.....RONALD RAMSAY

THANK YOU

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