

# STUDIO FIRST – 2020

## *Traces of Time*

### **Presence and Absence**

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My name is Adriana Ross. I was born and raised in Bulgaria and developed a keen interest in design and architecture after moving to Canada. I have been teaching at the Azrieli School of Architecture & Urbanism for the last 11 years as a sessional instructor.

My research, teaching, and original work focuses on the translation of meaning from past tradition into a contemporary context. More specifically, it discusses the current heritage values for ecclesial buildings in the context of a number of religious structures built in the 1900s and located in rural Saskatchewan. Also, I have published and presented papers internationally on the state and future of ecclesial buildings.

My personal work on the creation and preservation of ephemeral structures has been published in the international magazine DOMUS, and I have received several awards from local and international architectural competitions. My personal motto is 'Nilla dies sine linea' (No day without a line), which applies to making and sketching every single day. I adopted this philosophy to build a HABIT, a regular practice of making things; drawings, models, photography, or videos. The task is to create a habit, to enhance the skill of seeing, to remember, to understand. It brings an important awareness of who we are.

I have taught Studio First courses for four years, and I can honestly say that I had an amazing experience. The diversity of students coming from different backgrounds gave me great inspiration for teaching the course material with a fresh view regarding my teaching methodologies and perspective. The projects produced by the students were remarkably diverse, a result that I believe was due to the exploratory spirit of the students, many of whom were studying architectural design processes for the first time.

#### **Note: Course Structure and Theme**

*(The Instructor reserves the right to modify as necessary.)*

**Structure:** The first week-and-a-half is divided into two main themes:

TRACES OF TIME  
PRESENCE AND ABSENCE

**Schedule:** Every day, we will start the online class with a presentation followed by an introduction of the exercises and finish with comments and feedback.

The students will become familiar with different representational techniques through an ITERATIVE PROCESS. By transforming materials into ideas and changing from one medium to another, we will bring out and exercise our imagination.

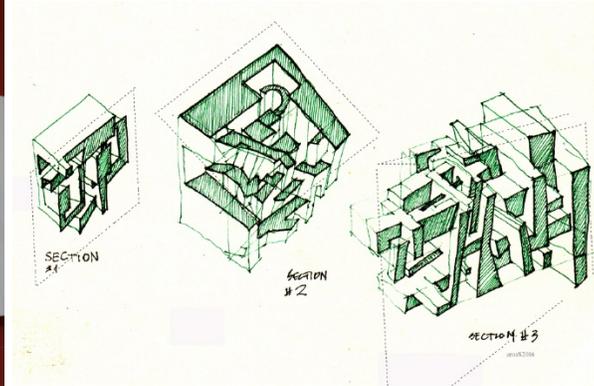
#### **The Object and its Section**

The students will receive a kit with materials and tools and will be asked to create an object by assembling all the pieces. Once an object is dissected, the students will be introduced to several media techniques such as drawing, tracing, and digital programs to imagine and represent the spaces in the **section**. Through the use of each medium, different aspects of the **section** will be revealed. The main objective of this exercise is to encourage students to consider:

- What is space?
- How is space created?
- How can we explore spaces that remind us of some existing place or an imaginary place?
- How can different mediums bring out the unique qualities of a structure?

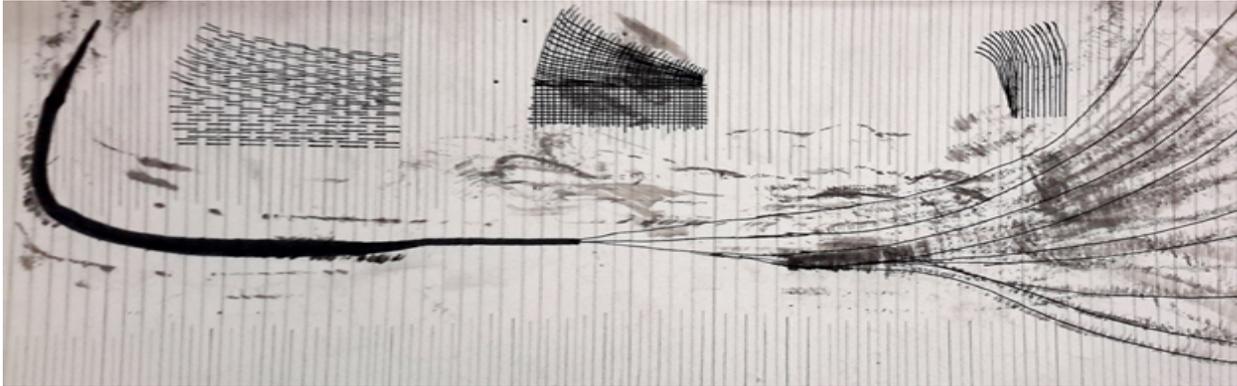


Section through a running shoe: Studio First 2017



Sections by Adriana Ross

**Lines** – Lines carry information about geometry and materiality. The students will investigate the lines from the model and learn how to represent them in paper. Analysis of analog and digital lines will be applied.



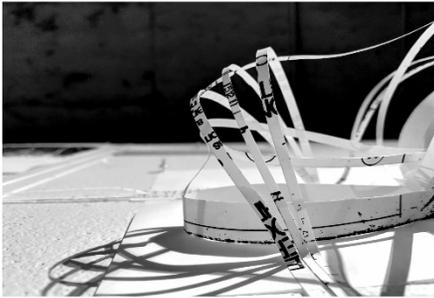
2-D lines: Studio First 2017, student work

### Pulling Strings

membrane

tension strings

attachment to ground  
with freedom to shift

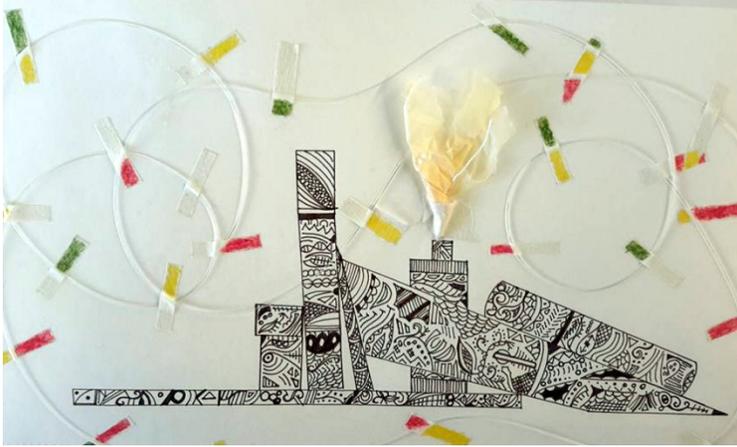


Physical lines: Studio First 2019, student work

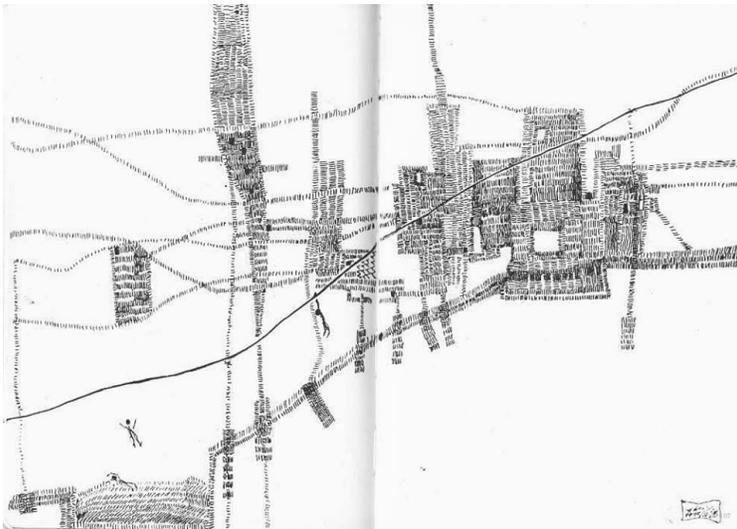


Digital lines: Studio First 2019, student work

**Texture** – Based on thickness, the space in between, and colour, lines create texture. The students will learn how to apply texture to their drawings to understand and represent what is solid? What is void? And the spaces they create.



Texture: Studio First 2016, student work



Texture, Adriana Ross

## **Visualization 1**

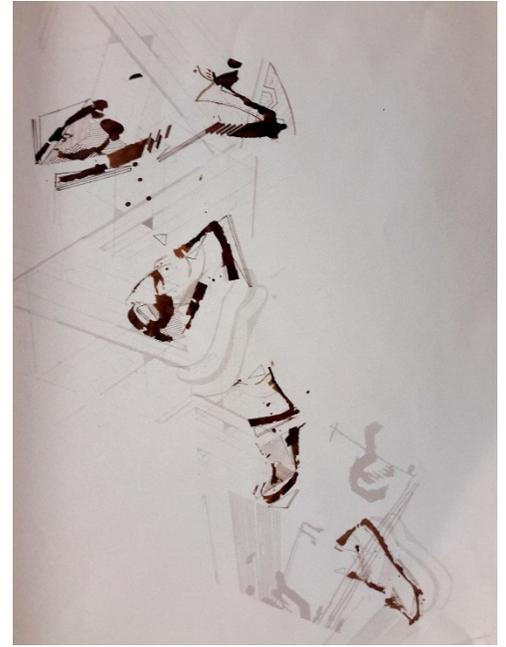
Visualization is the ability and process of forming a mental picture of something that is not present to sight, such as forces, internal connections, and movements. In this exercise, the student is asked to imagine a future iteration by creating in new settings, context, and applying shifting scales.



Analysis of the shoe: Studio First 2017, student work



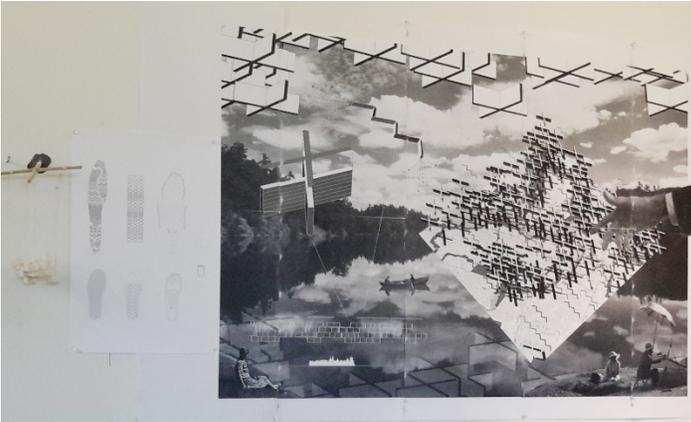
Visualization: Studio First 2017, student work



Visualization Studio: First 2017, student work

## **Visualization 2**

For this exercise, students will be asked, as part of the iterative process, to make another section. From Visualization 1 through layered analog and digital iterations, they will be able to discover and represent new spatial qualities.

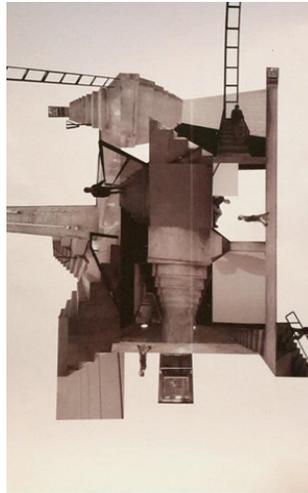


Visualization: Studio First 2016/2017, student work



## **Drawing Model**

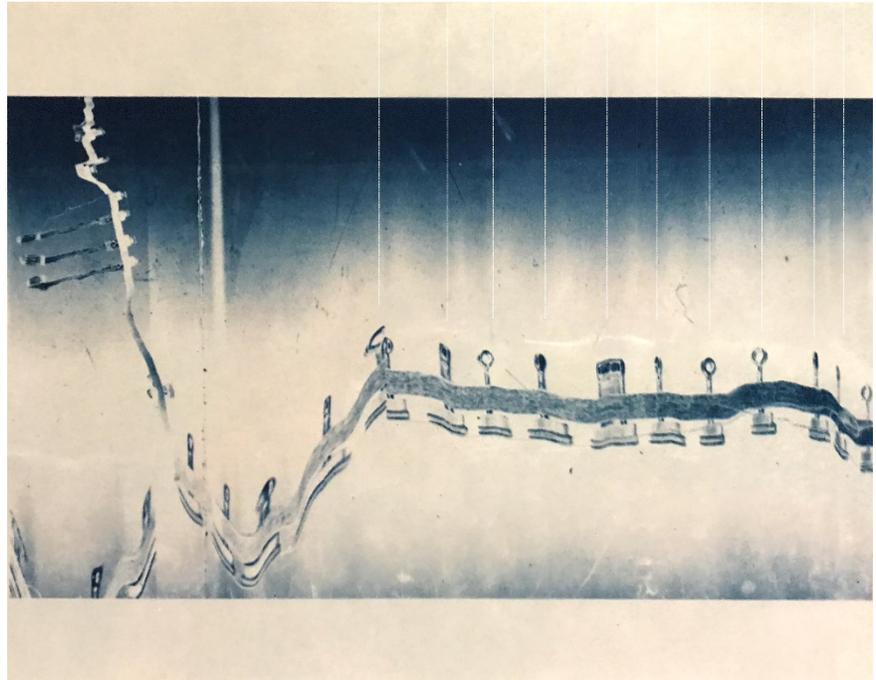
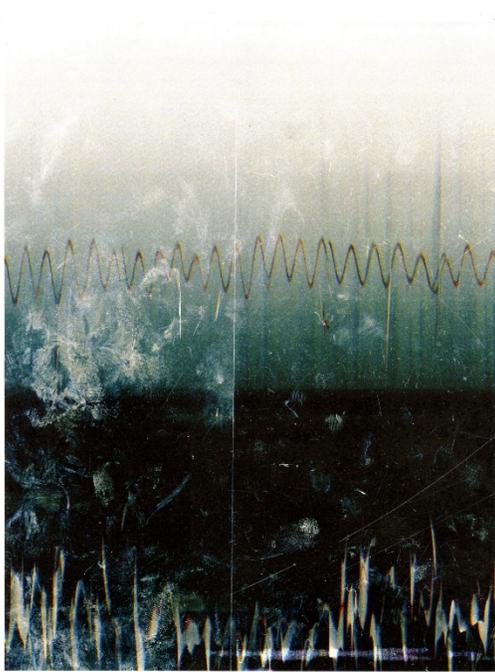
From Visualization 2, the students will build-up in layers a 3-D drawing by peeling layers of paper, folding, and executing cutouts through one or more layers. The task is to find something new - not in the model - but in the forms of shadows, light, and the darkness, that one thing counter to another produces. In this new iteration, the students will learn how to explore the notion of shadows and depth in a drawing model.



Drawing model: Studio First 2016/2019, student work

### **Speed and Photography**

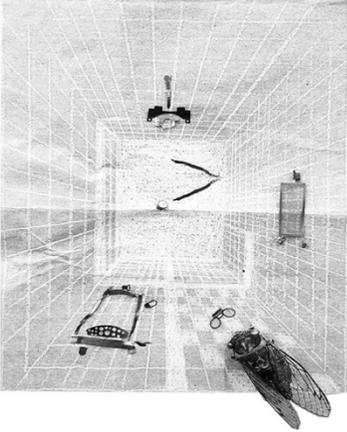
The models and the drawings will be transformed once again by changing from one medium to another - thus creating new opportunities for spatial explorations. Techniques such as speed, crumplage, erase, palimpsest will be applied through the use of digital and analog applications.



Speed model: Studio First 2019, student work

## Perspective

The students will be introduced to and learn how to represent the three-dimensional world on a two-dimensional surface through several iterative analog and digital exercises.



My Room, by Adriana Ross



Perspective: Studio First 2019, student work

At the end of the week—and-a-half, guests will be invited to see the work of the students and celebrate their achievements. I look forward to meeting you and am excited to be part of your learning journey.