scholar architect 2022

English edition

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TRANSLATED BY Florina TUFESCU

Editura Universitară „Ion Mincu"
Bucureşti, 2023

This volume is the full translation of **Scholar Architect 2022** (Romanian edition)
ISBN: 978-606-638-247-2
https://doi.org/10.54508/9786066382472
First published 2022 (Romanian edition) by Editura Universitară „Ion Mincu”

Developed within the framework of the **SCHOLAR ARCHITECT** project

”Ion Mincu” University of Architecture and Urban Planning

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DTP, DESIGN AND COVER IMAGE: Ruxandra BALCANU, Anda-Ioana SFINTEȘ

https://doi.org/10.54508/9786066383004

Descrierea CIP a Bibliotecii Naţionale a României
Scholar architect 2022/coord.: Anda-Ioana Sfinteş ; translated by Florina Tufescu. - English ed. - Bucureşti : Editura Universitară “Ion Mincu”, 2023
ISBN 978-606-638-300-4

I. Sfinteş, Anda-Ioana (coord.)
II. Tufescu, Florina (trad.)

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editura.uauim.ro / Tel.: 40.21.30.77.193

scholar architect

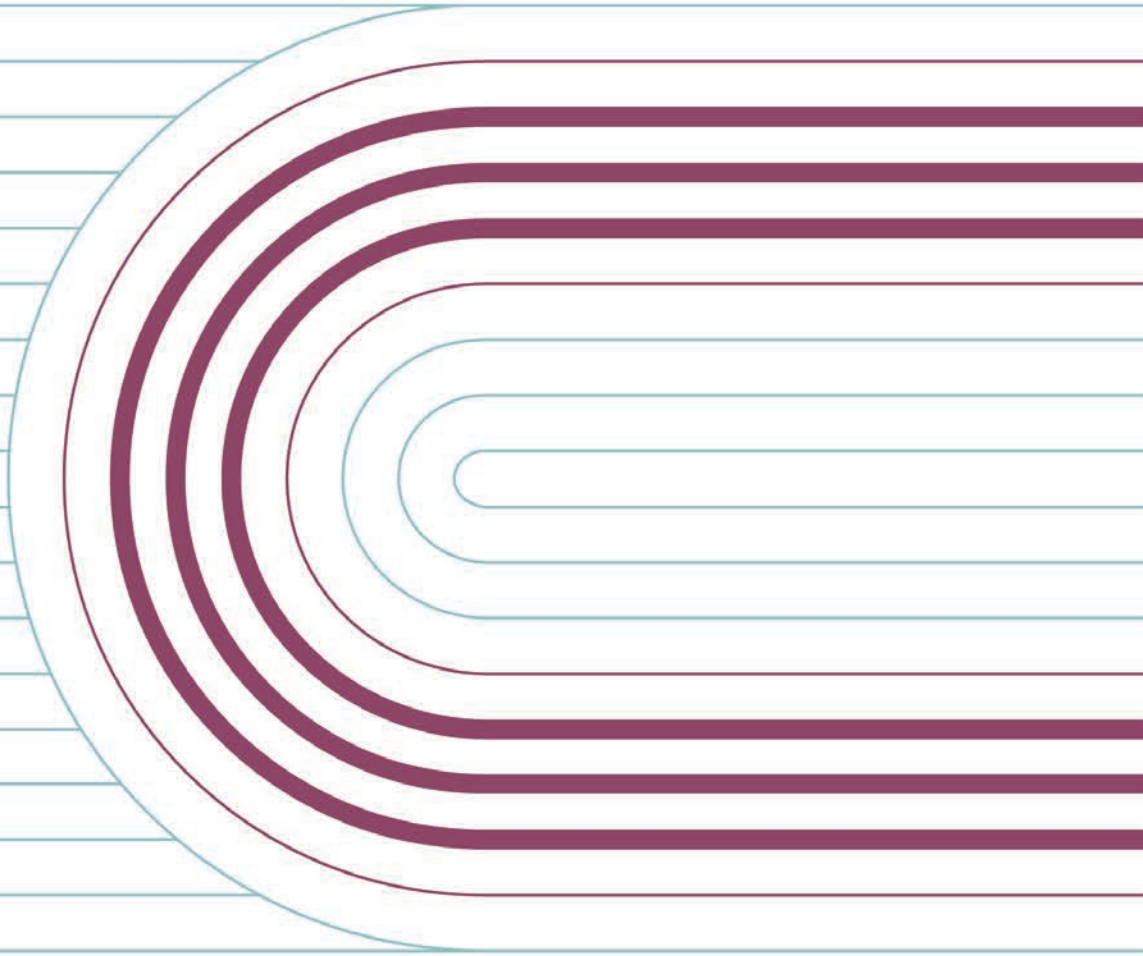
The Romanian edition was developed within the framework of the project

SCHOLAR ARCHITECT 2022
Research and implementation of new trends, innovations and experiments in architecture and related fields of education
Project financed by CNFIS-FDI-2022-0075

The English edition was translated from Romanian within the framework of the project

SCHOLAR ARCHITECT 2023
Promoting linkage to topical trends, technologies and issues in architectural and urban planning education
Project financed by CNFIS-FDI-2023-F-0436

The Institutional Development Fund, Domain 5:
Improving the quality of teaching, including the observance of professional and academic ethics.



https://doi.org/10.54508/9786066383004.05

Oana Anca ABĂLARU OBANCEA
Claudia-Gabriela PIPOŞ-LUPU

Portfolio design: an exercise in self-presentation and representation

Rationale

The "Portfolio design" workshop took place at the "Ion Mincu" University of Architecture and Urban Planning - Bucharest (UAUIM), in the interval 17-20 June 2022 as part of the activities within the framework of the SCHOLARH 2022 project. The event had as its target audience UAUIM students from all years of study.

Conceived as a creative exploration of the acquired academic and professional knowledge in multiple areas related to architecture, the workshop took the form of a self-evaluation and summarising exercise of the abilities and skills gained over time, graphically illustrated through architectural projects.

Objectives

The activity proposed in the workshop corresponds to objective 3 of the SCHOLARH 2022 project – "Evaluating and supporting the academic identity of UAUIM, in correlation with the visions, at the national and international level, on subject-specific education in architecture, urban planning and related fields and on the professions targeted by it through the development of support materials and the discovery and detailing of elements of UAUIM identity derived from the learning and teaching objectives".

Specifically, "Portfolio design" sought to familiarise students with an instrument which is essential to the profession and reflective of the continuous learning process that accompanies students and practitioners in this field. Furthermore, connecting the portfolio to the complexity, visions and trends in education and on the architectural market motivates initiating this kind of undertaking at an early stage of the academic trajectory. Thus, the workshop aimed to be a small component of the natural process of constant perfecting of means of learning and of supporting innovation in the educational process in relation to current trends in the professional and academic architectural environment.

The objectives of the proposed activity were:

_defining the aim of the portfolio and adapting its contents accordingly;

_familiarising students with the specific structure of the architectural portofolio;

_creating awareness of the complementarity of the portfolio within the context of the academic trajectory;

_understanding the necessity of adaptability and flexibility in the architectural portfolio;

_familiarising students with certain principles and their application in the selection and editing of support materials;

_conceiving the portfolio as a coherent design element in its entirety;

_understanding and applying graphic design principles.

Coordinators and participants

The "Portfolio design" workshop was coordinated by Oana Anca Abălaru Obancea (from the Synthesis of Architectural Design Department) and Claudia Gabriela Pipoș Lupu (from the Basics of Architectural Design Department).

The event was open to all students of the Faculty of Architecture at UAIM, starting from the first year of study. Participation required enrolment prior to the selection process. This preliminary stage enabled us to get to know the participants and to adapt the working method and content to the target audience. The aim was thus to collect data regarding the year of study, self-evaluation of prior experience of portfolio development, the participants' motivation, their level of software competence and readiness to use their own hardware and software resources for the event.

The workshop gathered 20 participants from all years of study, 90% of whom managed to complete all the proposed stages and to deliver the requested content. Participant distribution by year of study is shown in the diagram below (Fig. 1).

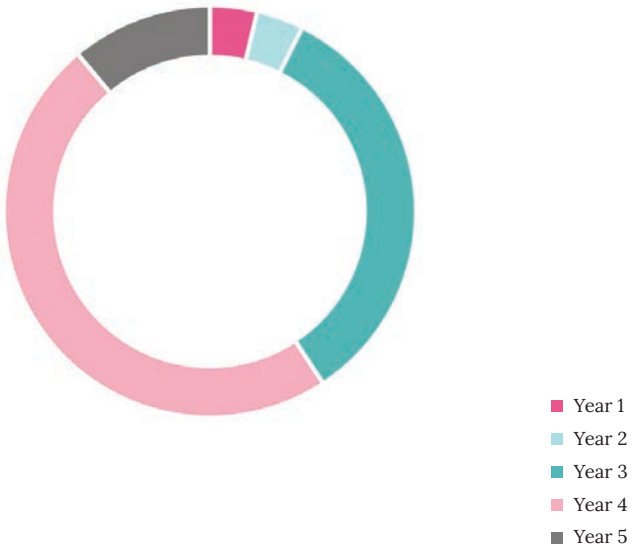


Fig. 1. Participant distribution by year of study.

With regard to the experience of architectural portfolio development (Fig. 2), the preliminary data revealed that the portfolio is a topic of interest in individual study especially for students in the final years of the degree.

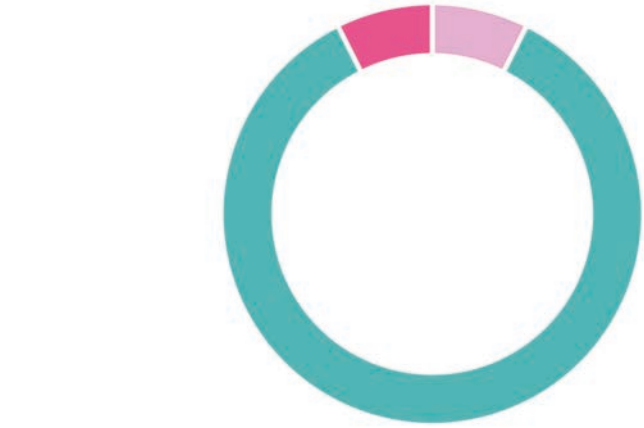


Fig. 2. Experience in developing a portfolio.

Regarding the reasons for enrolment in the workshop, the main reasons mentioned include: the need to complete and develop graphic design skills; better presentation of personal abilities in a summary and appealing manner; finally, the necessity of developing a project portfolio for job interviews, which highlights the academic trajectory as well as personal interests. At the same time, the participants aimed to expand their abilities of using domain-specific software.

Method

The "Portfolio design" workshop took place in the interval 17-20 June 2022, in a hybrid format, encompassing an online meeting and three work sessions held in UAUIM spaces.

The launching session of the workshop took place online and covered the introduction of the proposed theme, of the method and of the work schedule as well as the objectives of the event. In addition, the lecture on the architectural portfolio aimed to familiarise the target group with study questions regarding the aim of the portfolio, its content and the stages of processing the materials, principles for the development and organisation of the portfolio and its main structural elements.

The agenda proposed for each of the three meetings included a brief lecture, the actual work session as well as individual unguided activities for the preparation of the following session on the basis of the provided feedback.

Fig. 3. Workshop poster. Design: Ioana Boghian-Nistor and Diana Rusu.

Fig. 4. Images from the workshop.

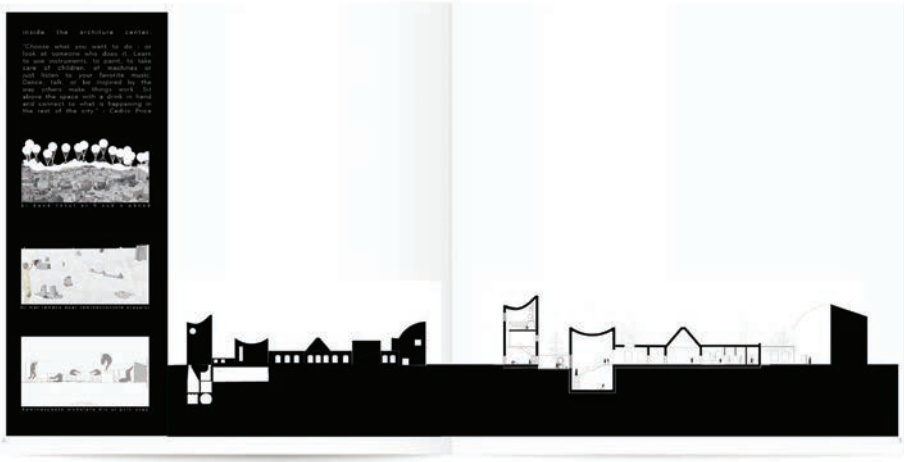
Results and conclusions

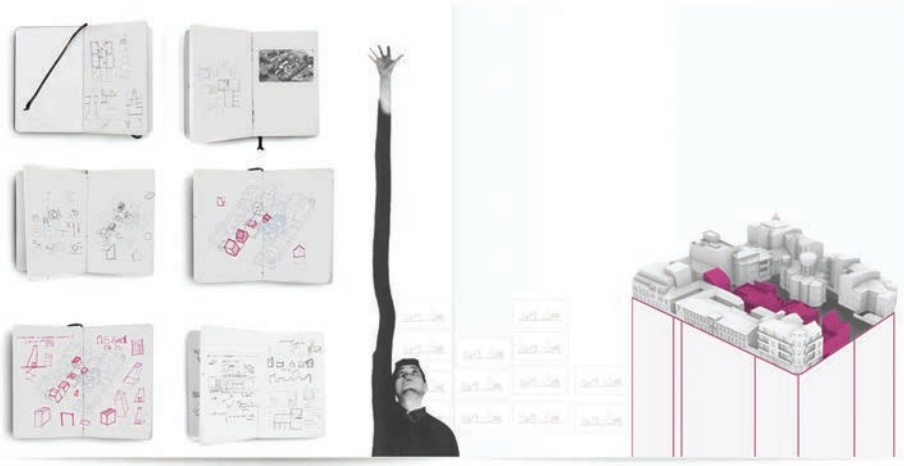
Each of the participants developed a portfolio based on specific projects and extracurricular activities. The results of the workshop were disseminated in a virtual exhibition containing a selection of six portfolios of UAUIM students who participated in the event.

From an overall perspective, the event was an opportunity to initiate students into the process of developing a portfolio, which proves to be indispensable to graduates' competitivity in relation to the requirements of the national and international architectural market.

Fig. 5. Covers of the portfolios created by students in the course of the workshop.

Fig. 6. Portfolio – Andreea Elena Istrate.


inside the architure center:
"Choose what you want to do - or look at someone who does it. Learn to sew instruments, to paint, to take care of children, of machines or just listen to your favorite music. Dance, talk, or be inspired by the way others make things work. Sit above the space with a drink in hand and connect to what is happening in the rest of the city." - Cedric Price



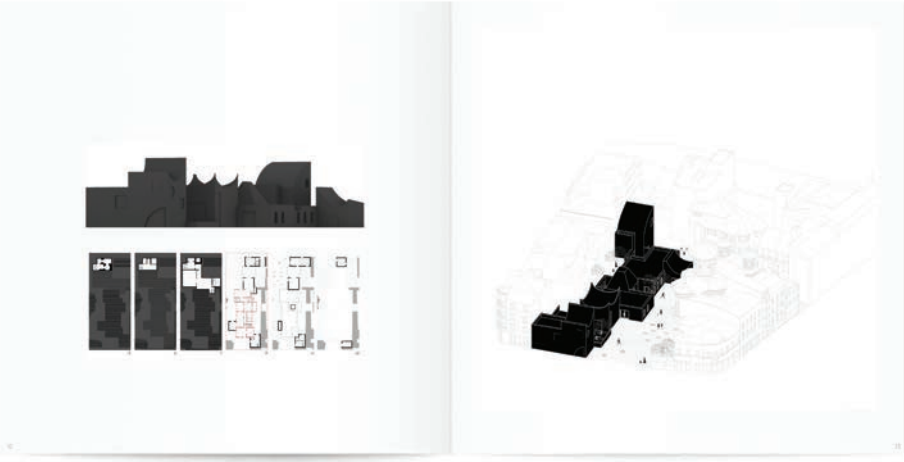
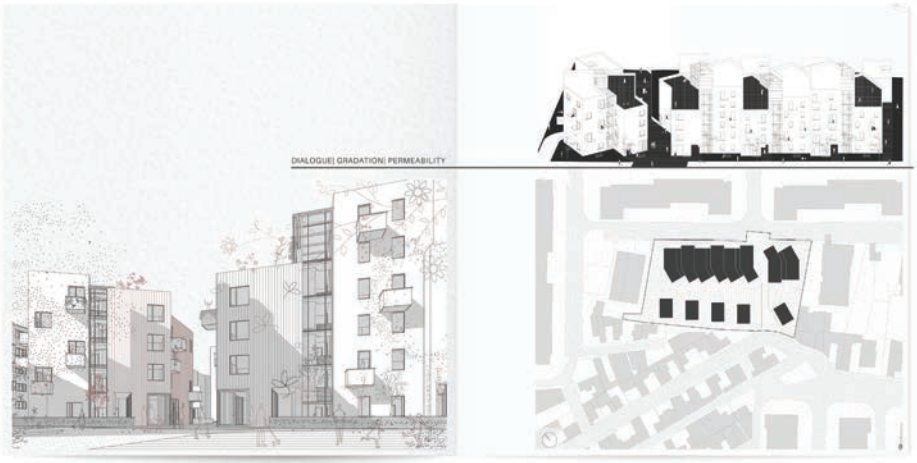
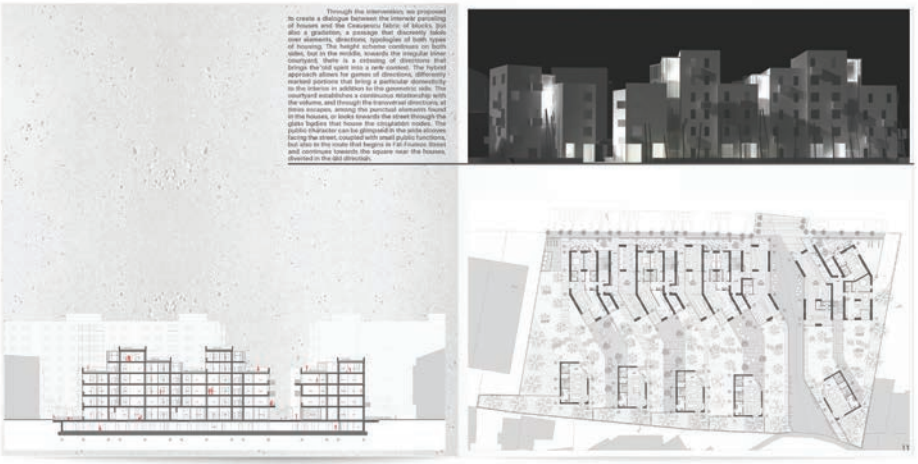
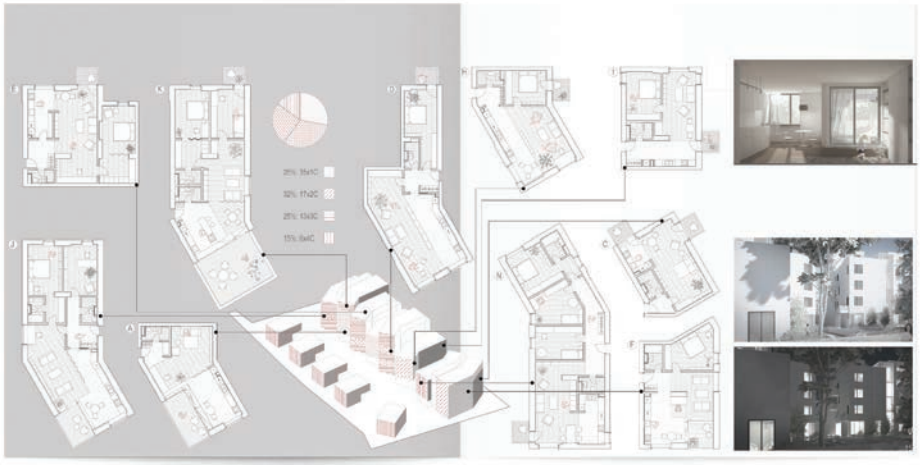


Fig. 7. Portfolio – Ana Neacșu.


DIALOGUE| GRADATION| PERMEABILITY


Through the intervention, we proposed to create a dialogue between the interwar parcelling of houses and the Ceausescu fabric of blocks, but also a gradation, a passage that discreetly takes over elements, directions, typologies of both types of housing. The height scheme continues on both sides, but in the middle, towards the irregular inner courtyard, there is a crossing of directions that brings the 'old spirit into a new context. The hybrid approach allows for games of directions, differently marked portions that bring a particular domesticity to the interior in addition to the geometric side. The courtyard establishes a continuous relationship with the volume, and through the transversal directions, at times escapes, among the punctual elements found in the houses, or looks towards the street through the glass bypass that house the circulation nodes. The public character can be glimpsed in the side alcoves facing the street, coupled with small public functions, but also in the route that begins in Fat-Frumos Street and continues towards the square near the houses, diverted in the old direction.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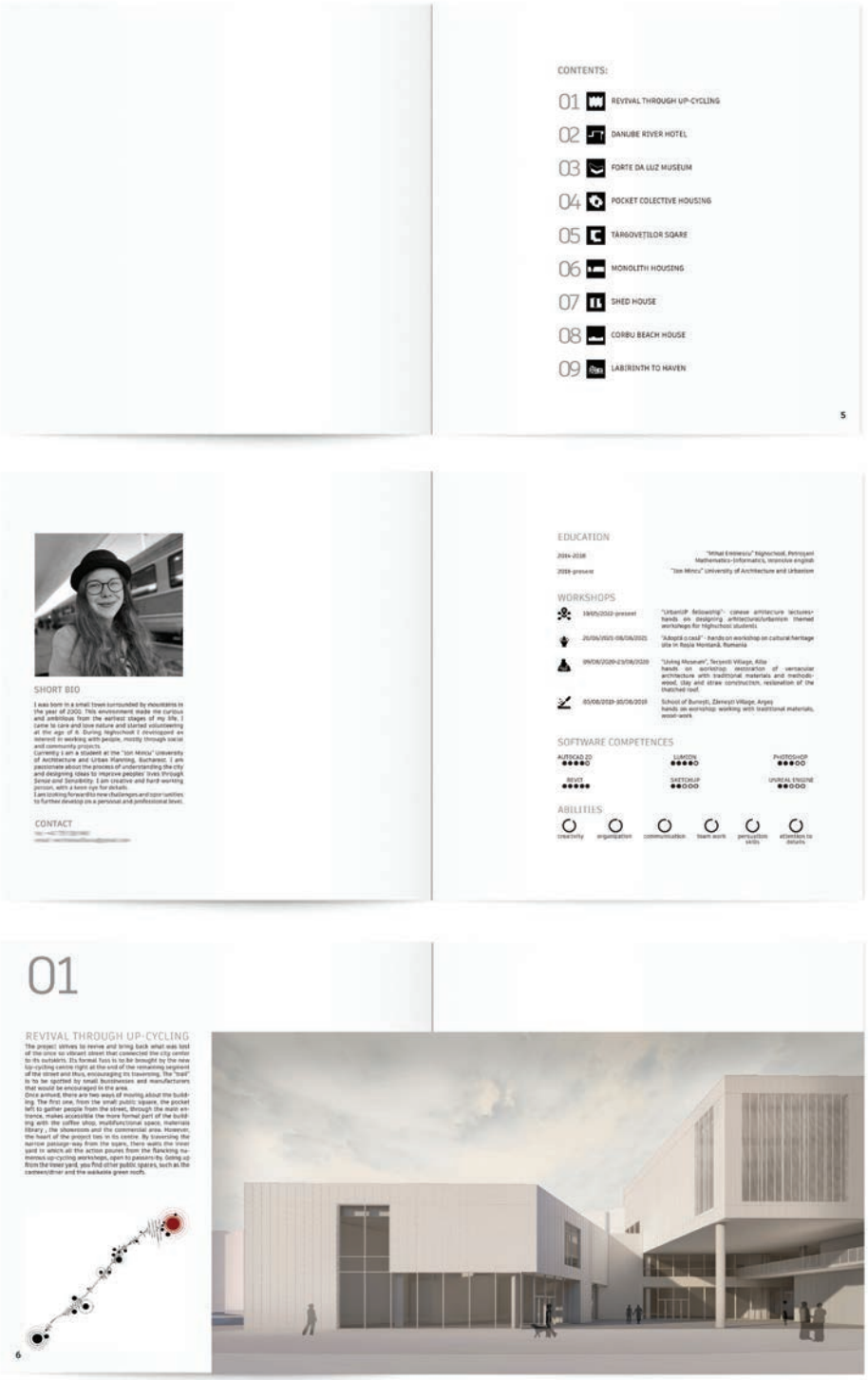
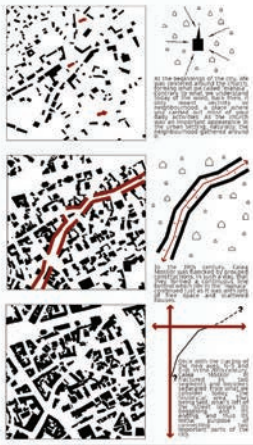


Fig. 8. Portfolio – Flavia-Mihaela Nechițelea.



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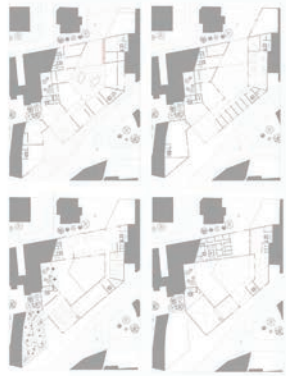

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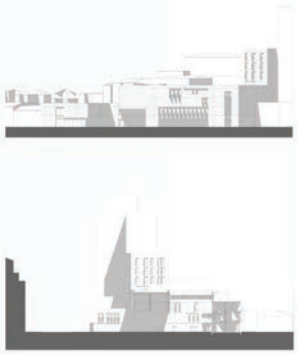

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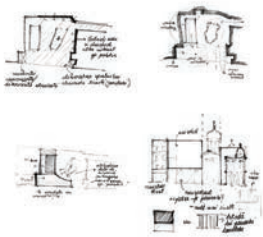
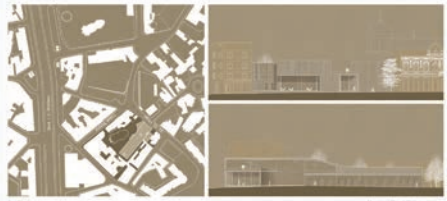
Fig. 9. Portfolio – Andreea Călin.





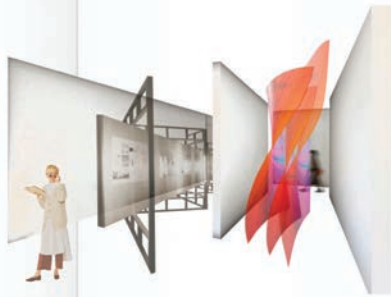
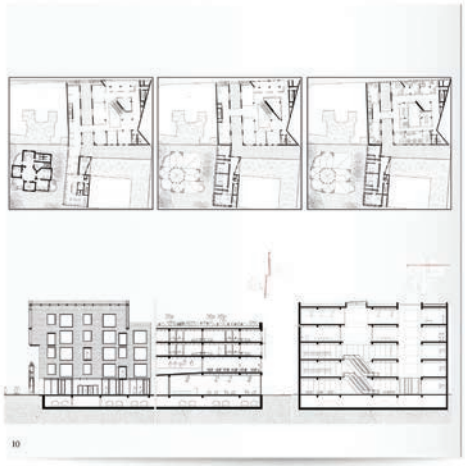


Fig. 10. Portfolio – Alexandra Ghiță.



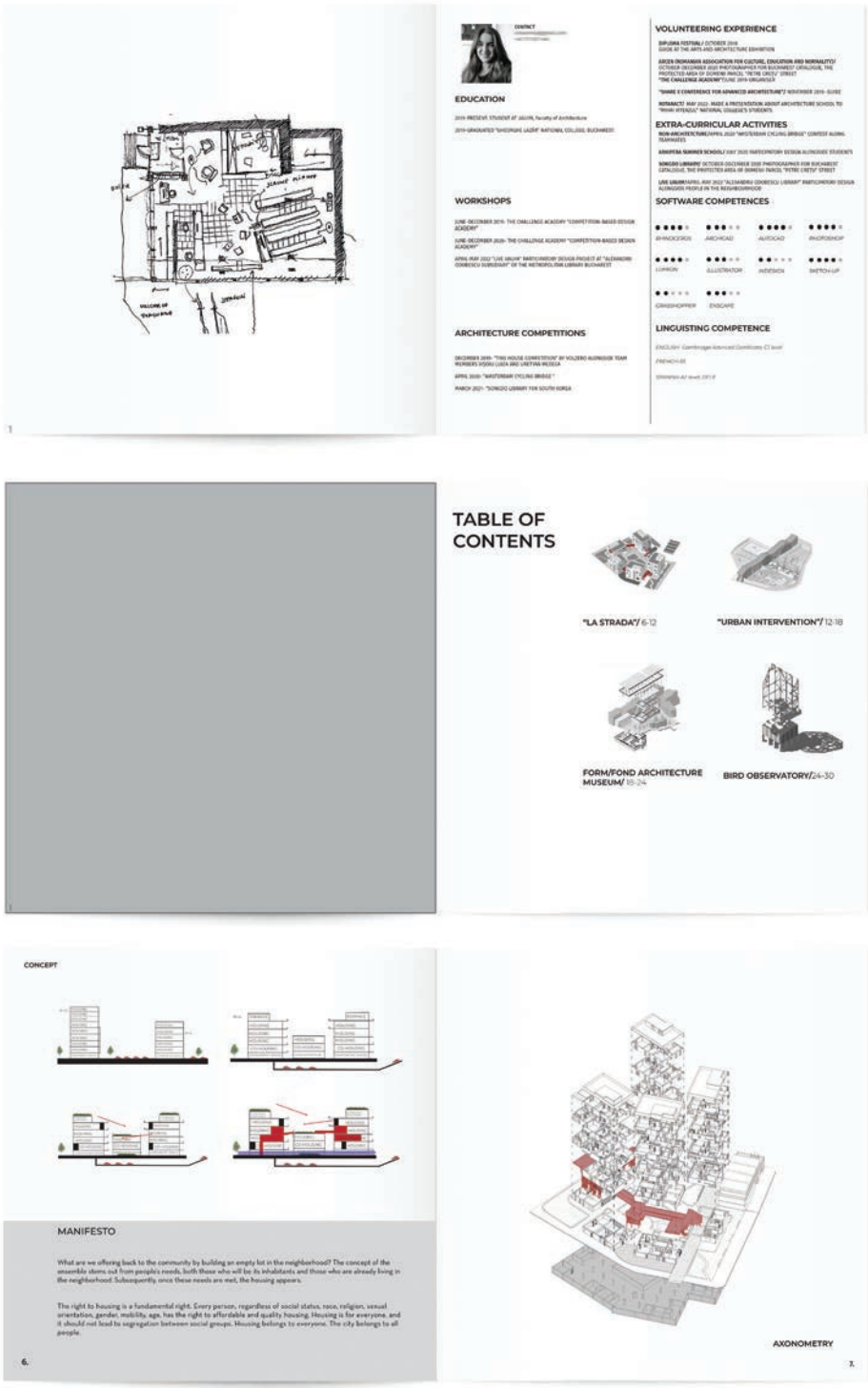
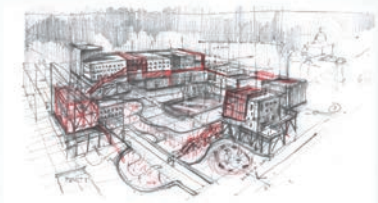


Fig. 11. Portfolio – Irina Ursea.

"La Strada"proposes an interpretation of the blocks of flats in the area: taking the same level of height, with an austere, modest vocabulary. The parallelepipeds are indistinguishable from the surrounding blocks - we did not want to emphasize the idea of housing, but of what can a neighborhood bring to its inhabitants, that is different from housing.

The proposal increases the degree of privacy to the upper levels: on the ground floor there are community public spaces, the first floor has mostly co-housing, while on the upper levels there are house apartments. The inner, red street, treated differently from the built blocks, connects the community spaces with each other, and runs in 3 directions: height, depth, length. The street has access to both housing and service spaces.



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The ensemble proposes the integration and friendship of community members through the use of different levels of public space: from the ground floor - cafe, flower shop, community library, charity store (where residents can bring second-hand items), performative space, improvisation space, shoe repair shop,
co-working space; on the upper floors - tailoring, space dedicated to children, walkable

10.

11.