

# Revealing encounters, encounters to reveal

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Objektyp: **Article**

Zeitschrift: **Trans : Publikationsreihe des Fachvereins der Studierenden am  
Departement Architektur der ETH Zürich**

Band (Jahr): - **(2020)**

Heft 36

PDF erstellt am: **21.06.2024**

Persistenter Link: <https://doi.org/10.5169/seals-981434>

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# REVEALING ENCOUNTERS ENCOUNTERS TO REVEAL

Rina Rolli, Tiziano Schürch

*This essay was composed by Rina Rolli and Tiziano Schürch prior to the organization of a design studio for the WAUM workshop in Santiago de Chile in Summer 2019, where 18 students (Ana, Arielle, Camila, Candelaria, Catalina A., Catalina P., Daniel, Daniela, Francisca, Ignacio, Javiera, Jesús, Karen, Matías, Osvaldo, Verónica, Yerko, Ylberto), in collaboration with Architect Emilio Marín, have worked together observing encounters, learning from them and attempting to create new ones. Drawings were tool, means and result.*

Encounters take place in all spaces. In spaces of life, in spaces of construction, in spaces of material. They occur wherever things meet. Where a beam meets a column, meets a brick, meets another brick, shifted. A back leans against a column. An encounter.

Encounters also allow space between things. They can be imagined even where things do not meet. Where a column meets a space, meets a corner; where tension is the main cohesive force.

Encounters take place in all scales. They reveal the joints and touches of objects, materials, buildings. They shift from the giant to the tiny, from the complex to the simple, from the collective to the individual.

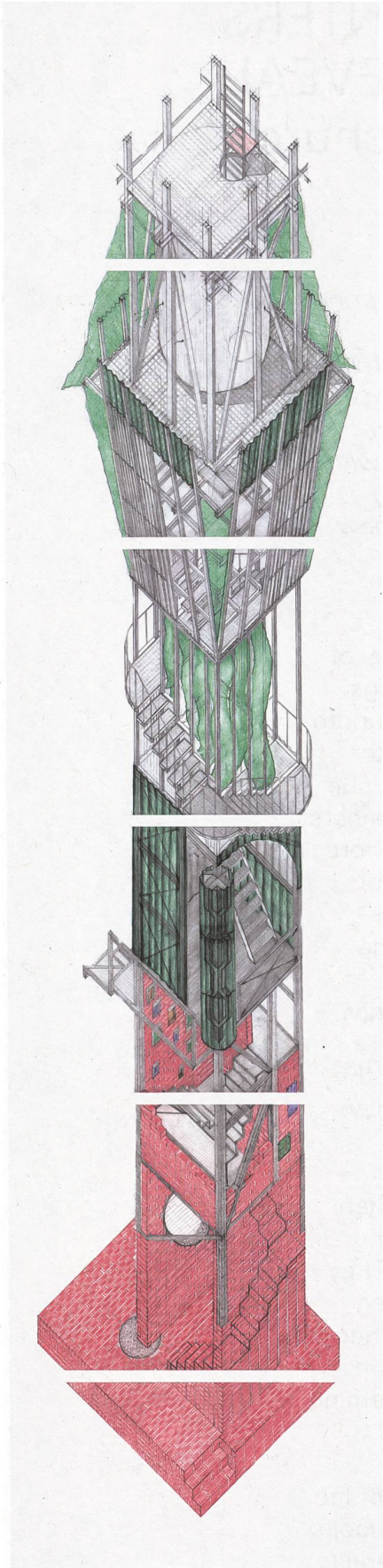
Encounters always make use of fragments of space only. They do not reach for the whole, but characterize the corner. Only when strung together, when embedded in a sequence, they result in a whole. They adapt to each other, they interfere, they connect and combine.

Encounters want to be revealed. And they tend to be so, when eyes in search of the extraordinary in the ordinary are looking for them. They reveal the unforeseeable in the predictable. They give presence to reality by subverting the expected, by altering the mechanisms of predictions we adopt in our daily life. When the touch of a door handle slightly differs from our expectation, then the opening of a door becomes something we feel, something conscious. Then the opening of a door becomes memorable. From moments of wonder to memories of marvel.

Encounters display signs of life. Better still, moments of life. Often they are connected to certain gestures or postures, to looks or smells, to feelings or sensations. They rely on the ephemeral



A



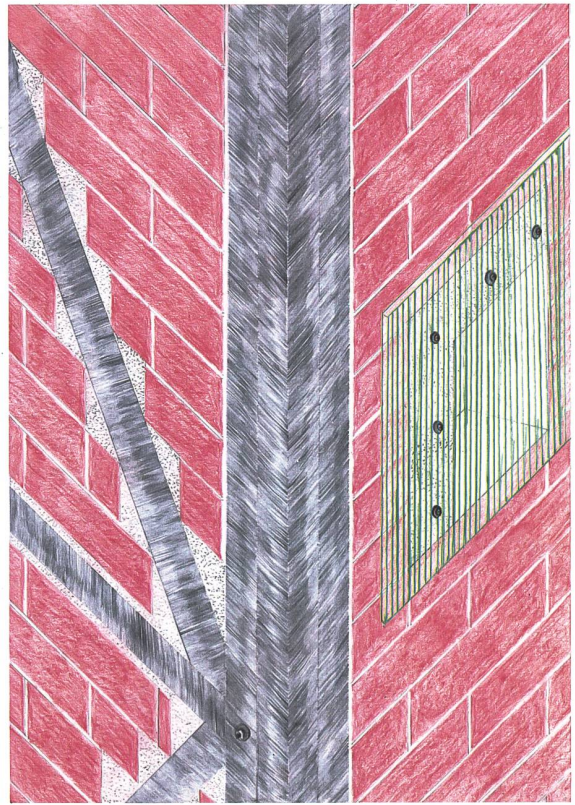
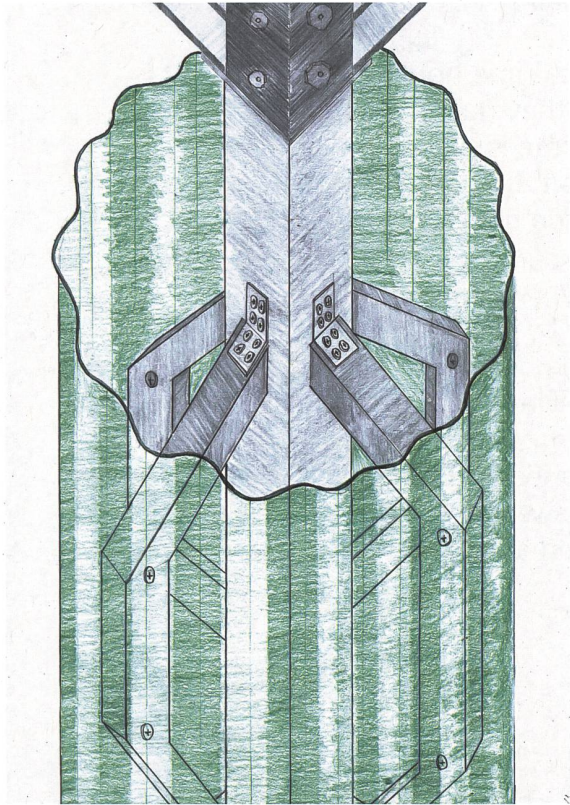
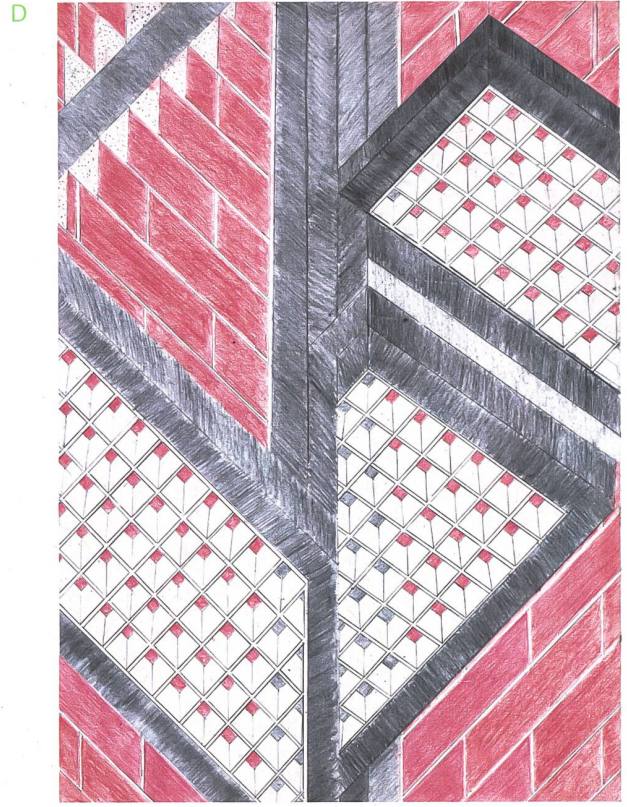
A *Vertical pavilion axonometry*, pencil and coloured pencil on paper, 178.2 x 42.0 cm, original 1:20

B



B *Encounters axonometry*, pencil and coloured pencil on paper, 924.0 x 21.0 cm, original 1:3





C *Detail axonometries X, XII, from the Encounters axonometry, pencil and coloured pencil on paper, 42.0 x 29.7 cm, original 1:3*

D *Detail axonometries XVI, XVII from the Encounters axonometry, pencil and coloured pencil on paper, 42.0 x 29.7 cm, original 1:3*



intensity and tension between the encountered. Encounters come with moments that adhere to our memory.

The truth. Or quite the truth. Memory often comes as a version of the truth. It's the truth we want. We want to remember, and remember what we want.

Memories need surfaces to rest on. They need friction so that they have material they can stick to. On a building, a facade, a space, an object without tension, memories will slip away. They need material to contain them; where looks, smells, noises have moments of marvel. Memories lie in places that will be remembered, maybe not by history, but by histories of people.

That is how objects hold memories. Different pasts overlap, thus shaping the present. Sometimes one past obscures the other, sometimes they are side by side, sometimes in opposition, sometimes in harmony. Old objects transform into new ones when collaged together to ever new formations. They hold time within themselves and give space to absorb contemporaneity. They reveal the beauty of the ephemeral in things that are meant to last. An ancient marble touching a neoclassical marble fitting a modern one. All of them millions of years old, all of them shaping the tangible tension of today. Encounters to reveal, again.

Materials form objects, and objects form buildings. Time holding materials tend to result in memorable objects. As they gather in constellations, they form constructions where time is palpable. Where the history of a place is caught in histories taught by material. Revealed by listening to the temporal inside the material.

Powerful encounters give presence to the ordinary, revealing their extraordinary nature. When the expected is shifted by an exception, when the unusual enters the usual, when the known becomes unknown and tension rises. When to the goal of solving is added a quantum of provocation. When through the appropriation of the standard, the serial becomes specific. Then memories find their friction, then they find a place to hold on to. This is where memorable places are shaped, where histories are formed and revealed.

► Rina Rolli, born in 1994, studied architecture at ETH Zurich. After her graduation in 2019 she was admitted with her collective NordWW to exhibit the architectural research project entitled «The Power of Domestic Space» at the São Paulo Architecture Biennale.

► Tiziano Schürch, born in 1993, studied architecture at ETH Zurich. After his graduation in 2018 he became an assistant professor at UPC-ETSAB (Barcelona), where he initiated the architecture research studio «extraordinary\_ordinary». He has designed several exhibitions including the Catalan Pavilion at the Art Biennale of Venice. In 2019 they founded the architecture office studioSER. Together they were invited to Santiago de Chile to participate as workshop leaders at the WAUM workshop at Mayor University.