

I got inspired while I was analyzing the ancient Agora of Athens, which marks the birth of Athenian democracy twenty-five hundred years ago. I am intrigued with the ancient buildings that surrounded the area, and the techniques that were used to construct such massive monuments at a time when no motorized mechanical machines existed. The column construction is one of the most important features of monumental structures like the temple of Hephaistos or the Parthenon. I started to investigate the possible ways in which these Doric columns could have been constructed.

At the exact center of the upper and lower surface of each drum (with the exception of the bottom surface of the lower drum) a square hole, 5 cm along each side, was made (fig.1). In the hole at the top of a drum a wooden pin was inserted that would fit the corresponding hole at the bottom of the drum above, forming a simple method of centering the drums accurately one upon another.

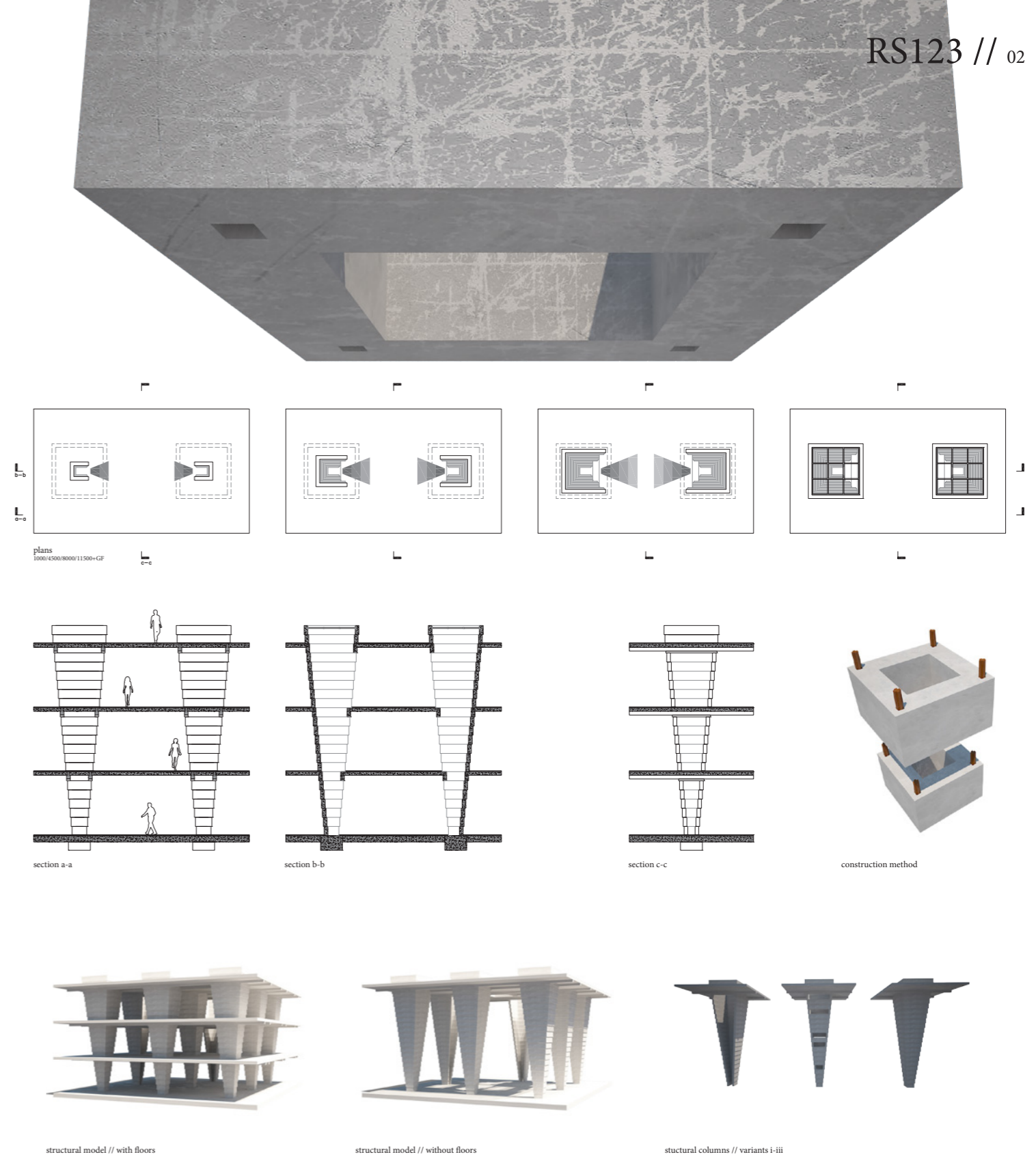
This method fascinated me in designing a new type of column. Prefabricated concrete segments that vary in scale will be stacked one upon another and form a column. The same ancient method of alignment is used, on each corner will be a hole and wooden pin that centers the next segment. These prefabricated segment not only vary in scale, also the strength of the concrete can be reduced for the segments at the very top. A variant of the segments is when one end of the segments will be removed and light from above can enter the space below.



fig.1 column Parthenon



“We do not learn; and what we call learning is only a process of recollection.”
- Plato



structural model // with floors

structural model // without floors

structural columns // variants i-iii

