

PP-413

implicit performance,
exploring the hybrid condition

Organic concrete

Concrete is both an interesting interior and exterior material. So I tried to think of concrete as a material both useful for the outside of a construction as well as the inside, also it can be used for the construction of the walls as well as the roof. So this could result into a unusual form language if we try to play a little bit with the boundaries between inside-outside, vertical-horizontal and culture-nature.

The concrete must not only try to contain culture but also embrace nature. As a material, it must therefore not only be used to keep nature out and to form a border between nature (within) and culture (outside), but also seem to incorporate nature and contain it.

Considering the qualities of organic concrete, can concrete be a permeable material at building-level, in other words, can it seem as if the building will absorb the surroundings and incorporate it into itself?

It must become a place of another kind of architectural perception. This must speak in the architecture by means of the circulation, the voids, subtle passages (mutations of patios and terraces), only creating public spaces that don't seem visually separated and invite to circulate in the building.

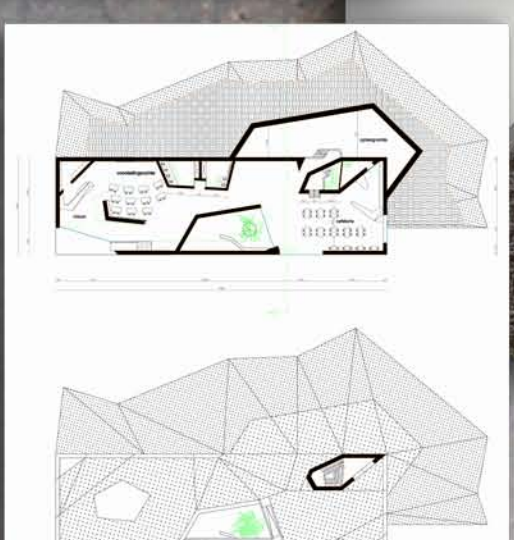
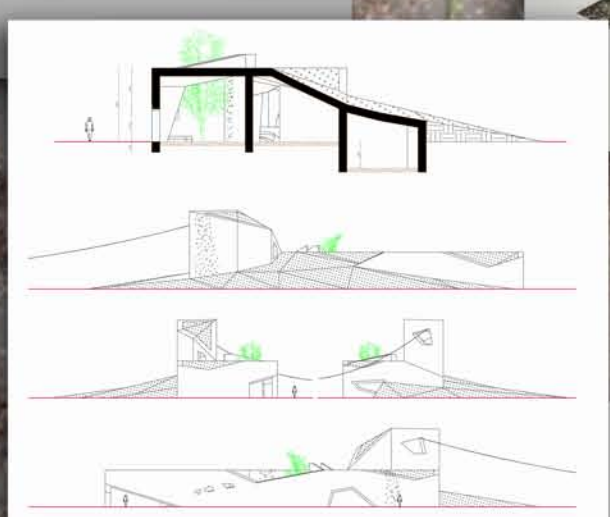
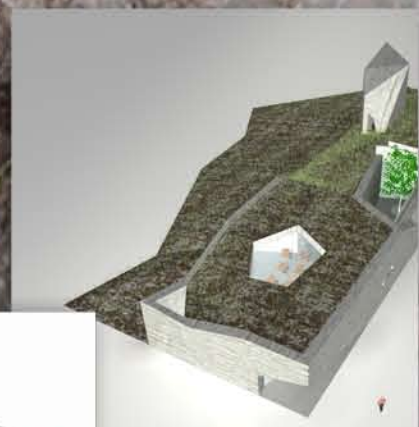
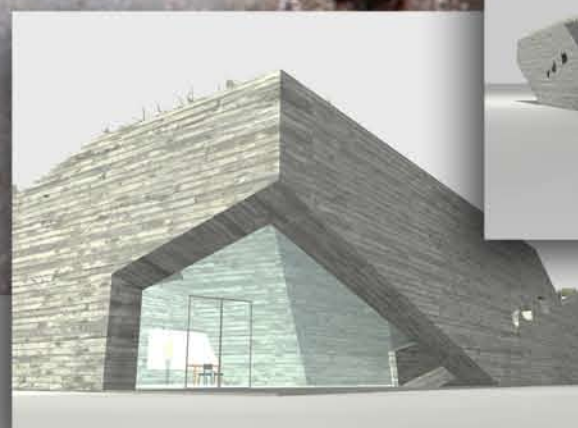
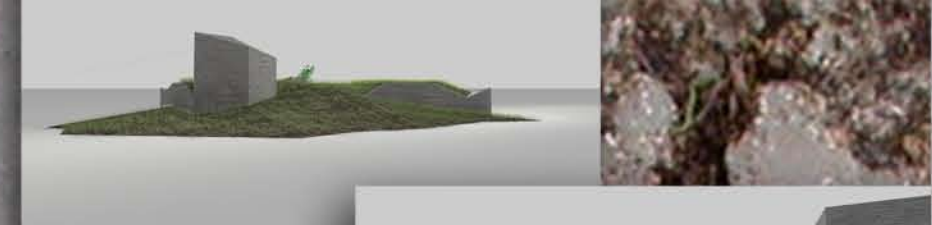
Therefore we must try not to fall back to the stereotypes of chambers and separations but perceive the building more like the basic principle and essence of all houses, a 'cave'.

Surfing on the internet, I found an article about "organic concrete", that can retain a certain amount of humidity. Moss and plants can grow on this concrete using this retained water in dry periods. So I let this inspire for this assignment considering its 'hybrid aspects'.

Lisbon's design Biennale, e-studio developed a material that bonds both vegetal and inorganic in one single element. The organic concrete project is the result of the progressive questioning of the differentiation of natural and artificial condition on several projects. Taking advantage of the humidity retained in the concrete, the material works as a battery, releasing water over the dry periods.



source: www.extrastudio.pt/main/main.html



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An architecture of places rather than spaces

The intention is to design in a very intuitive way, starting from places and functions instead of spaces and rooms. So first we will look at the kind of places we want to realize and then we will design around them instead of starting our design with spaces.

By means of the devised spaces we must try to make people rest, or to let them look up to the sky, just letting them do something that is outside their routine. Green, organic concrete rocks which create a situation where people learn to look at things in a different way. In this context the properties of concrete lend themselves to approach architecture from another perspective. By throwing overboard all stereotypes in architecture, we can achieve that visiting people look at things differently, without any dogmas or axioms. Working with as less as possible details can give us an extra freedom in intuitive designing and concrete lends itself for this purpose very well.

Is it the places that make good architecture interesting and pleasant or is it the spaces?

Probably a mixture of both, therefore we shouldn't let one aspect exclude the other one, but too often the attention is drawn to the spaces and for this reason we will try to accentuate the other aspect in this exercise. The 'spaces' stand more for the aesthetic, the construction, the status where 'places' stand more for the livable, the mysterious.

An interesting functional concept for such a project could therefore be a basecamp for team-building and outdoor activities, where the building could be seen as the starting point for all sorts of activities even containing some itself. So that people get the feeling of being in and around it, not really knowing where architecture starts and nature ends or vice-versa.

