

PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CAREER ASPIRATIONS; A LEVELS - YEAR 2

SUMMARY OF EDUCATION

SIXTH FORM

Whilst my passion for design had developed long before A-Levels, it was during my product design studies that I began to understand why I wanted to do architecture above interior design or product design etc. It was in these two years that I realised that the way I wanted to help people was through architecture.

UNIVERSITY:

YEAR ONE

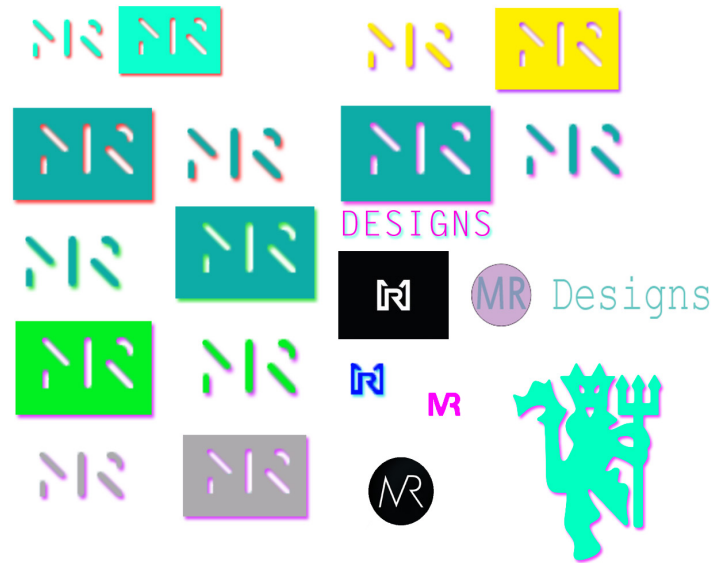
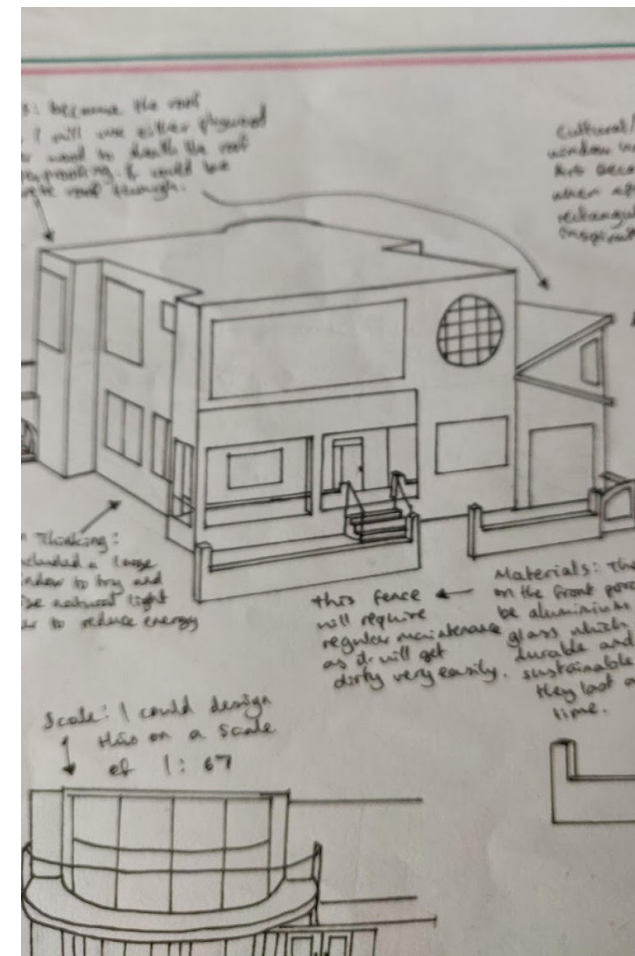
My first year in university was difficult. Shy and struggling in with mental health, architecture gave me a chance to focus my mind and make life long friends. The university and work became an escape for me as it was fun and unlike anything I had done previously. In this year, I learnt that human relationships would be key to progressing my career, regardless of what profession I ended up in.

YEAR TWO

The second year was extremely tough due to COVID. Not being within the vibrant studio culture of Westminster made it difficult to motivate myself. It wasn't helped by the fact my home set up was awful. I began to learn CAD/CAM softwares in this year and developed my graphical style. Second year helped me understand how important site visits and field trips were as well. I always enjoyed them, but never understood their importance until second year.

PHOTOGRAPHY

In the summer of 2019, I bought my first DSLR camera driven by my passion for photography. It has been a hobby of mine since GCSE's and I believe that photography is key when it comes to communicating in all walks of life. It is a visual reference that is key to the architecture I now produce.



SIXTH FORM

The project I had in this year was about designing a new home for a real life client. It was a difficult project based in Cyprus that allowed me to gain a brief understanding of how client consultations might work and the difficulties of designing a building.

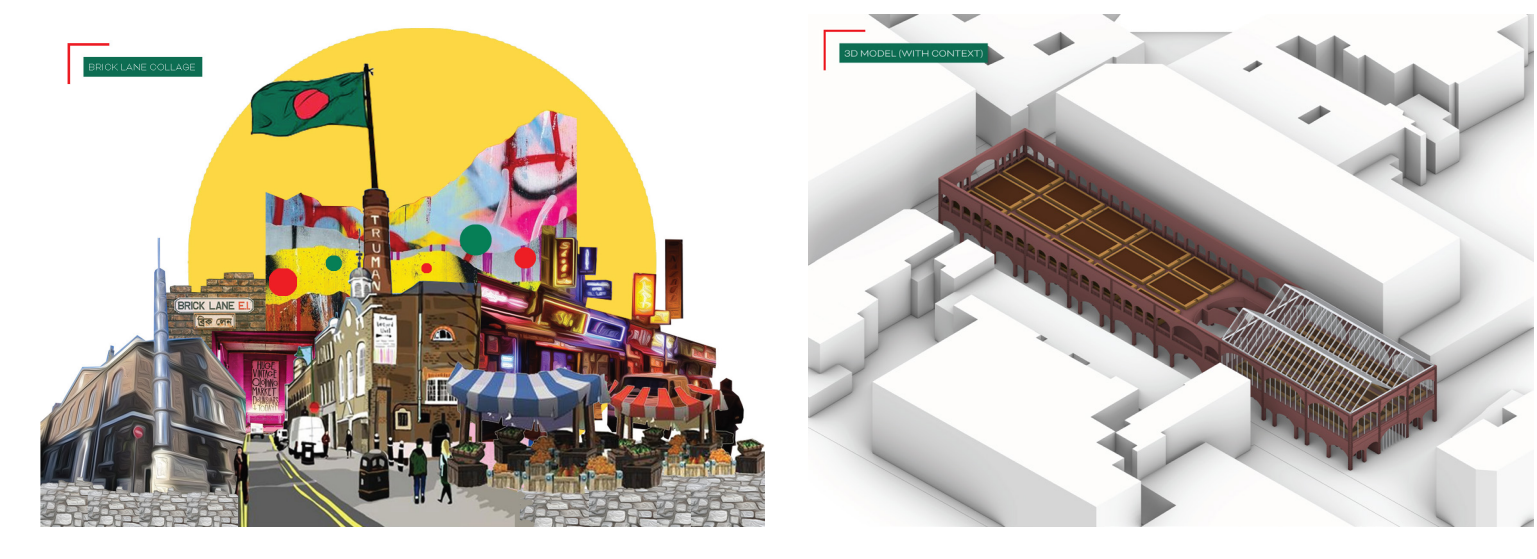
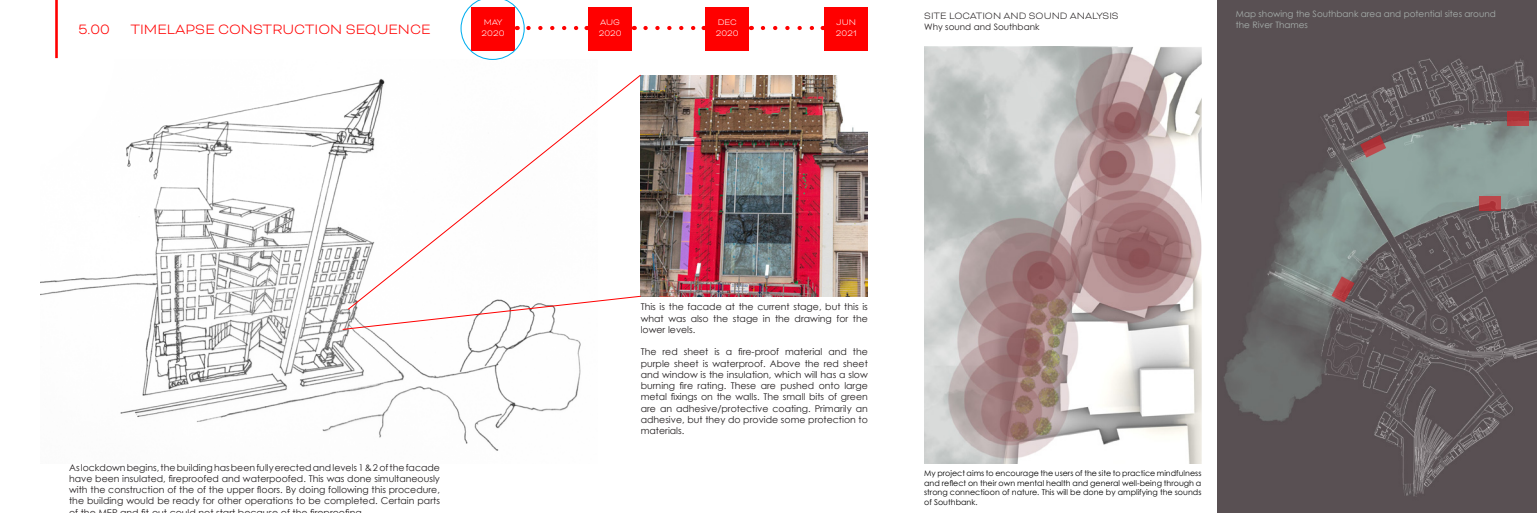
Before this project, I had very limited experience with photoshop, sketchup and CAD/CAM softwares which were pivotal to making the final model. I learnt a lot about materials, how they were made and the ideas pertaining to sustainability.



YEAR 1

The first year with Richard and Vasiliya taught me how to be courageous when designing. Taking risks and being free with the design. I wasn't particularly good at being care free when it came to designing, but I understood the key principles when it came to creating a good project.

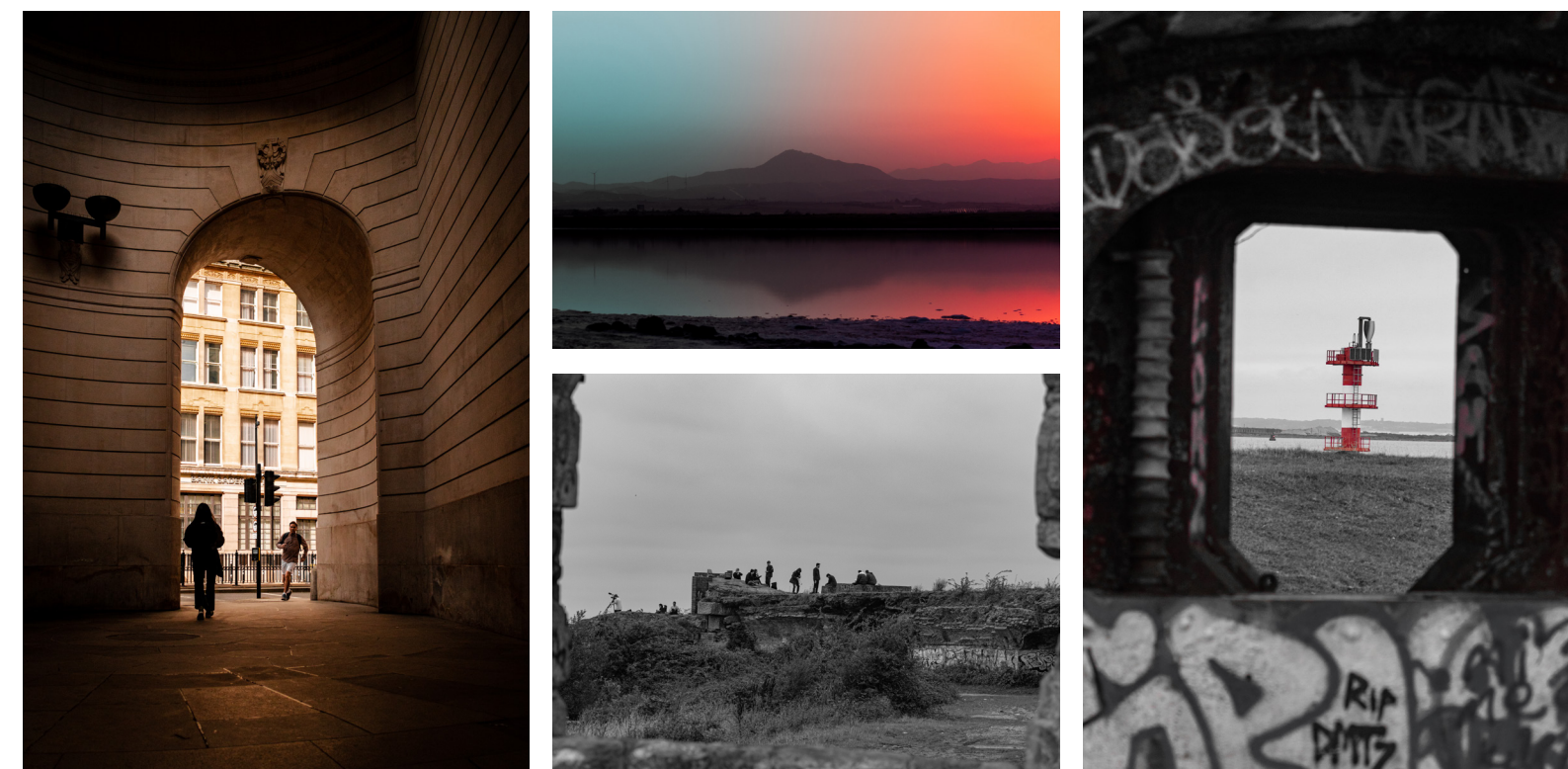
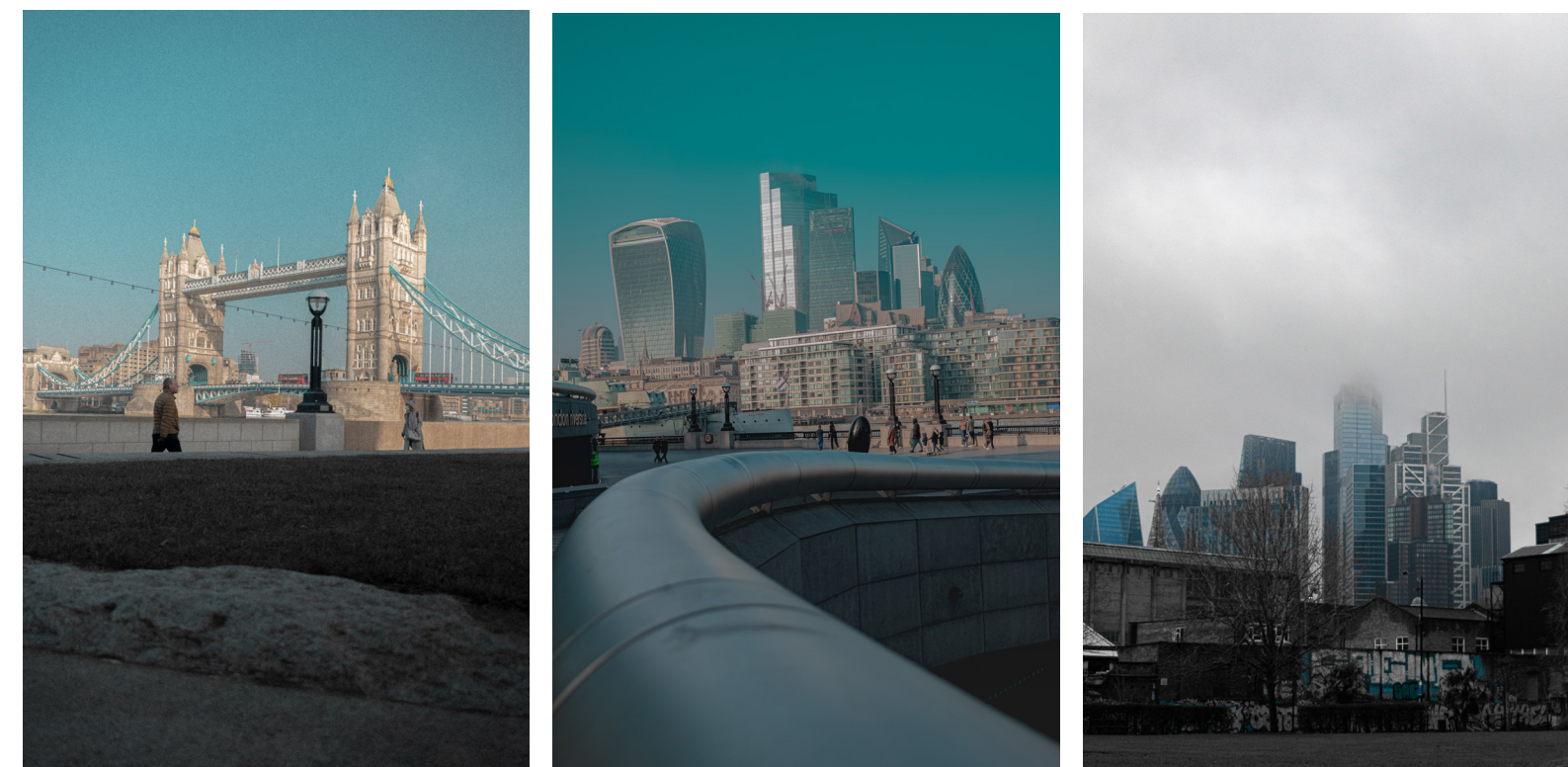
Additionally, the engagements I had with master students and professionals through exhibitions and tutorials led to me realised that the relationships you develop with people, regardless of their career, will come to benefit you further down the line.



YEAR 2

The year of COVID. In all honesty, this was the worst year I had experienced within my entire education. However, it is possibly the year I look back on and think of how proud I should be. Excited and keen to get to work when the year started, the motivation vanished just as quickly as coronavirus spread across the world. The combination of demotivated tutors and being trapped indoors did not help when

it came to working. Despite this, I am proud of how I persevered through my struggles to develop my skills. The architecture produced wasn't up to my own high standards, but there are a plethora of lessons that I have learnt from this year. Since this period, I've realised that the work I undertake needs to be challenging, mentally stimulating and provide opportunities for development/learning.



PHOTOGRAPHY

As mentioned, photography is a hobby of mine. Like the other arts, it helps people imagine. The visual reference to a place or group of people can have people mesmerised and stuck in their own minds of imagination. It is a great tool within architecture which can demonstrate building typology, stakeholders, atmosphere, characteristics and so much more.

Going forward with my career in architecture, it is something that it something that I want to develop my understanding of, yet I am unsure if I'd want to explore a career in architecture based on photography.

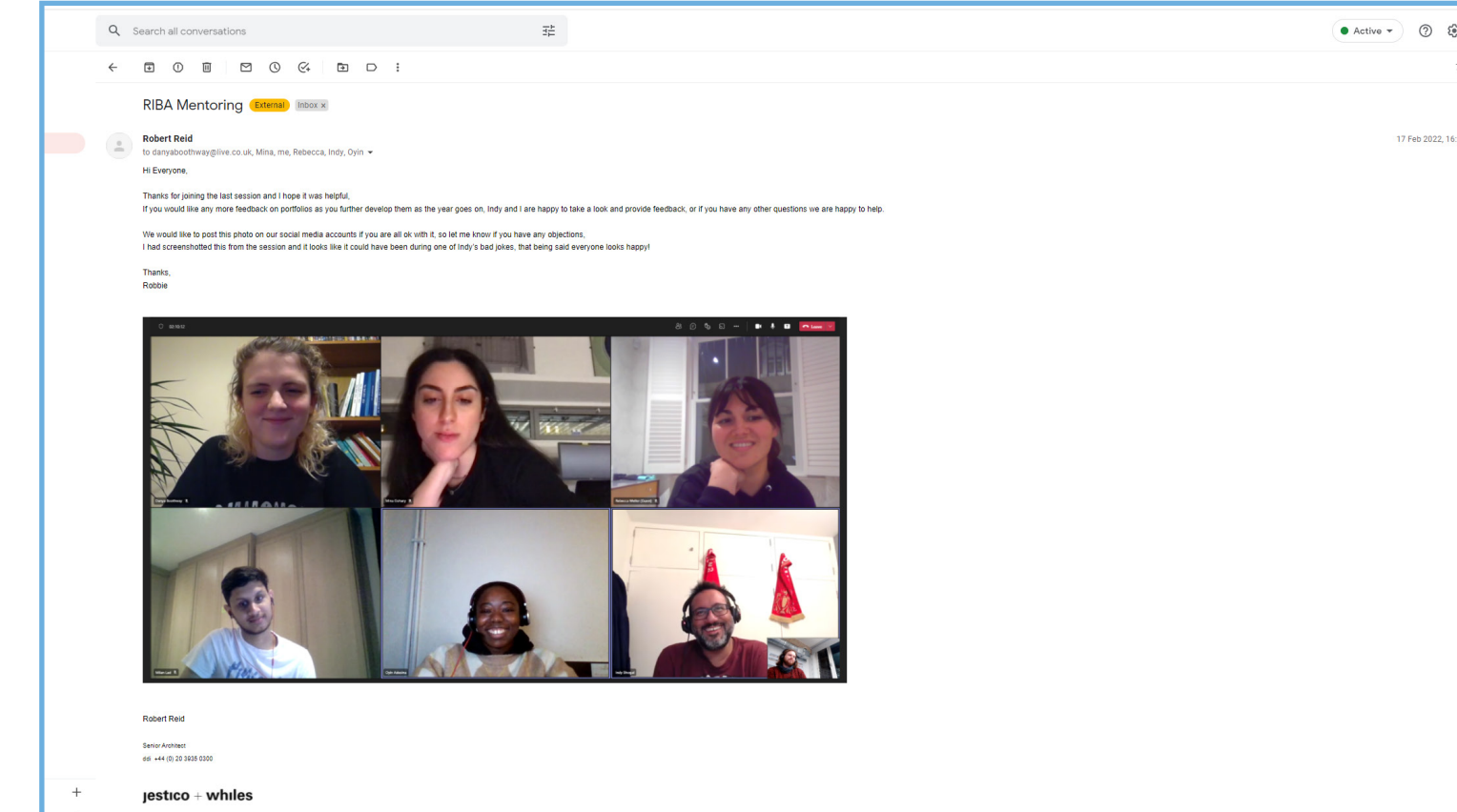
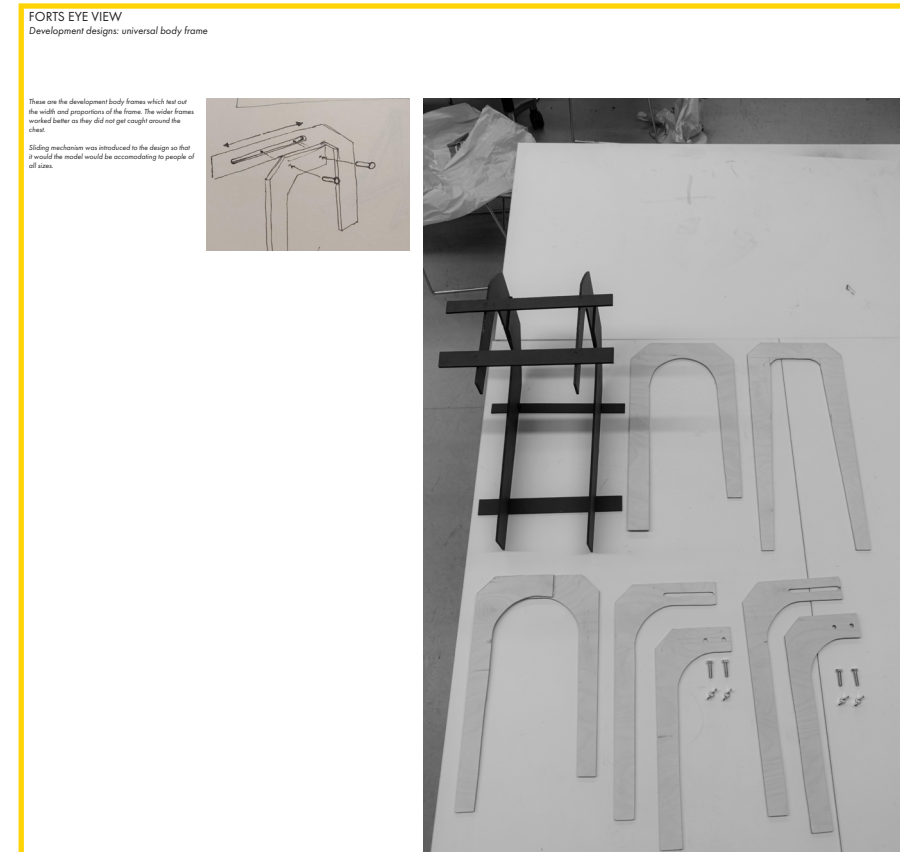
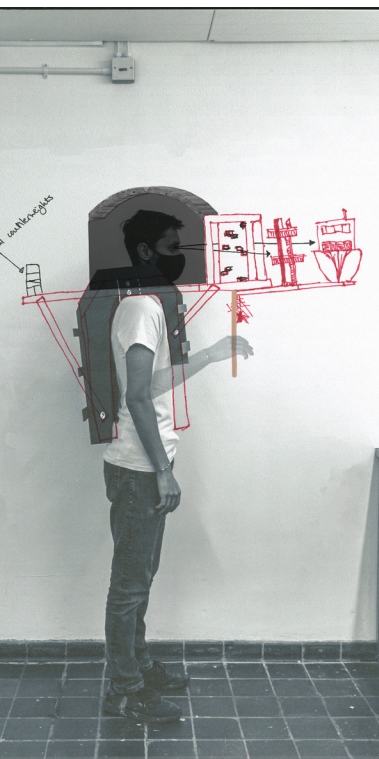
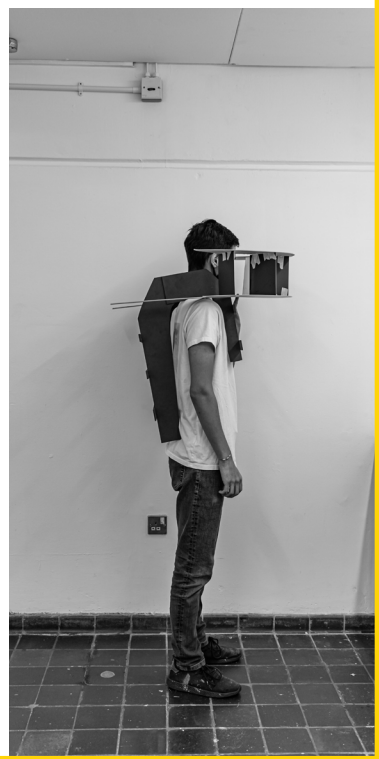
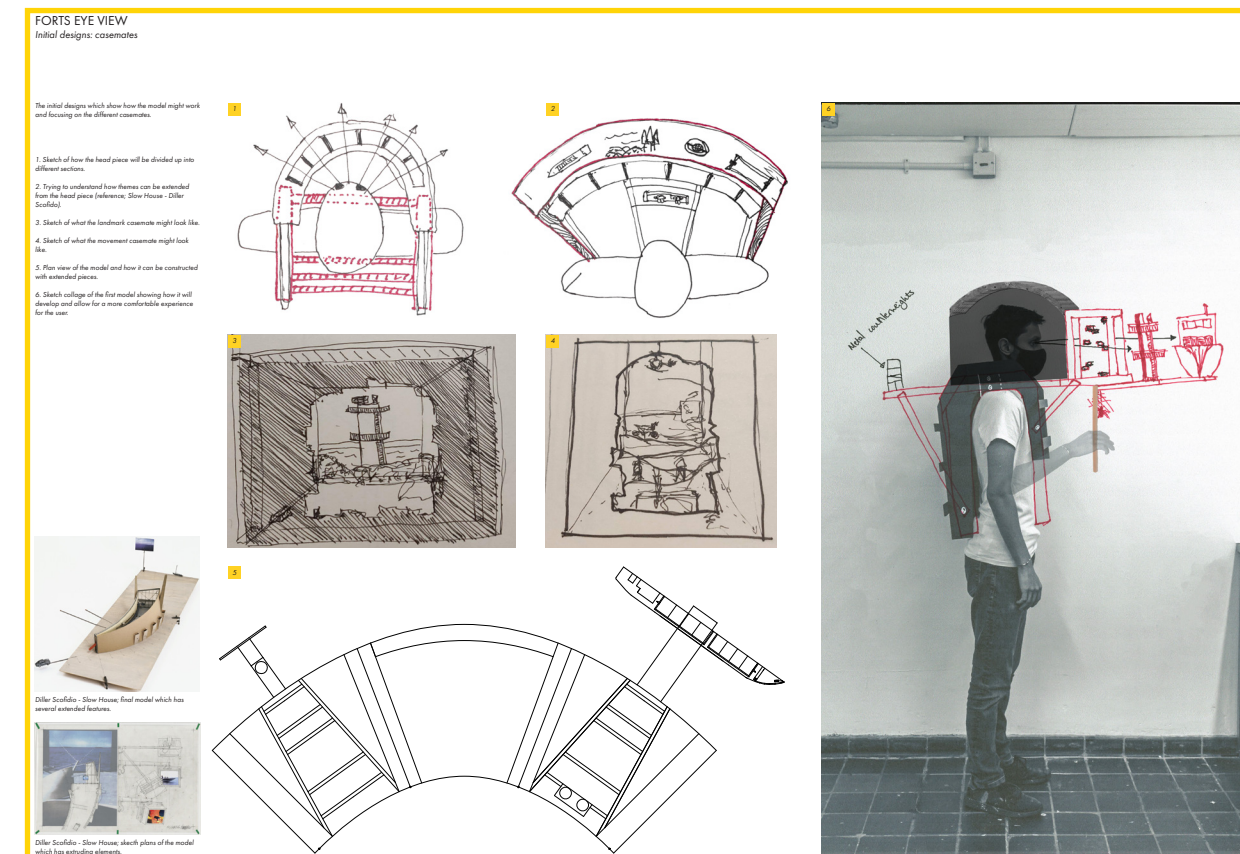
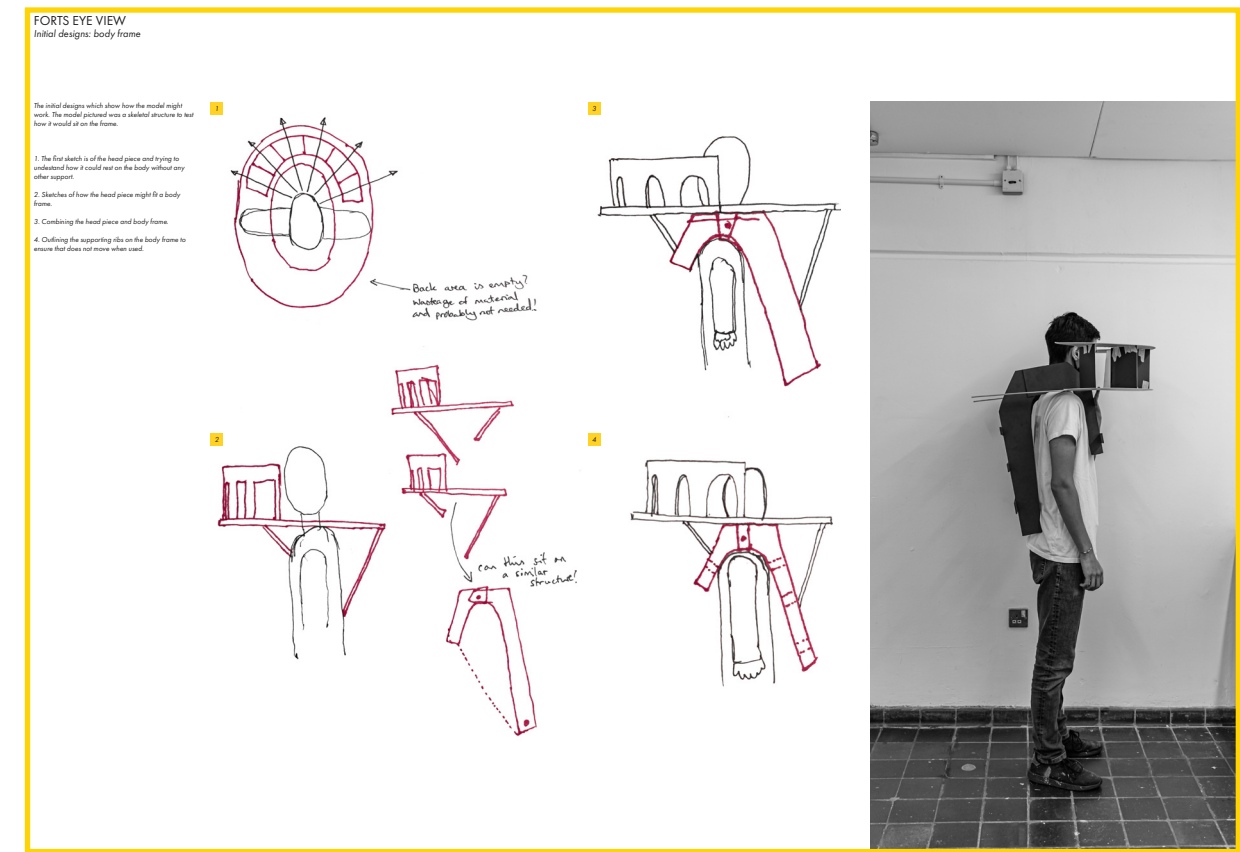
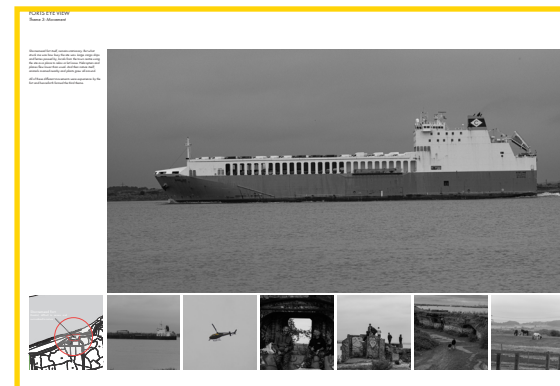
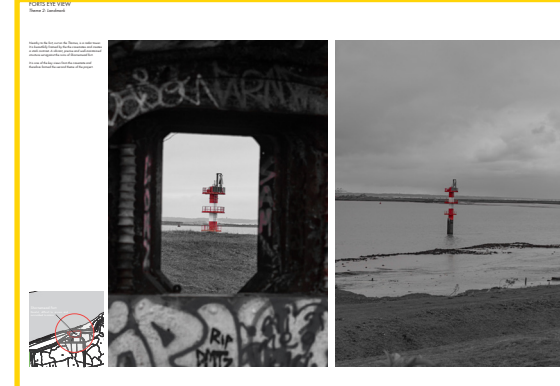
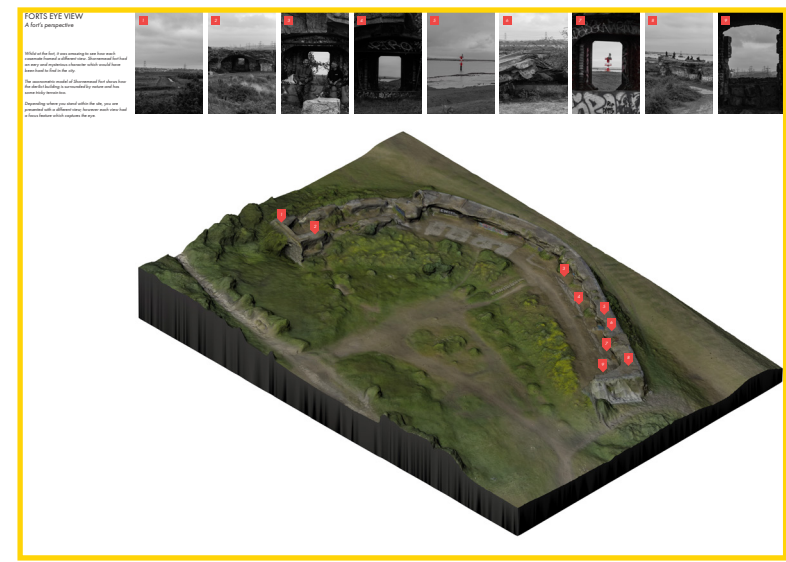
PERSONAL REFLECTION AND CAREER ASPIRATIONS; YEAR 3

SUMMARY OF EDUCATION - Y3

This year has been the best year for me on a personal and academic level. After last year I was quite apprehensive about my final year as undergraduate student in architecture. I felt a long way behind where I wanted to be in terms, but as always, I maintained an attitude full of optimism. I set out goals to work harder than I ever have before, be passionate about the work I do and above all, enjoy everything that happens.

Semester 1 has greatly helped me develop my way of working and I now approach design projects with a focus on developing a strong brief and narrative. It helps with presenting, but it also helps critics and clients understand the project better. Paolo Zaide and Tom Budd have been pivotal in my development this year, encouraging me to take risks, push my boundaries and be proud of myself. They often go beyond the duties of what I would expect tutors to do, so I am greatly thankful to them both. Likewise the rest of the year 3 teaching team are extremely knowledgeable and, most of the time, professional. Having such role models within the studio's motivates me a great deal and gives me something to work to going forward.

The RIBA Mentoring scheme has been extremely beneficial to my development this year too. The insight gained into the real world of architecture has been invaluable, interesting and at times surprising. Thanks to my mentors, it was fun and engaging too. The feedback I was given regarding my CV and semester 1 portfolio was different to what university tutors say (although not too different), and as a result, I have learnt a lot about what practices are looking for when hiring a part 1 architectural assistant.



SEMESTER 1

RIBA MENTORING

DISSERTATION

Over lockdown, I became deeply encompassed within the world of cinematography and film. Having watched a wide range of films covering a multitude of genres, I realised that the new generation of artists, designers and architects will be heavily inspired by films, TV, Instagram and other social media platforms.

I wanted to explore the strength of this influence through Metropolis (1927), a film created in a time of turmoil for Germany. The narratives of this film hidden within its architecture, and portrayal of architecture, was eye-opening and leads me to believe that social media and TV will drive perceptions of architecture.

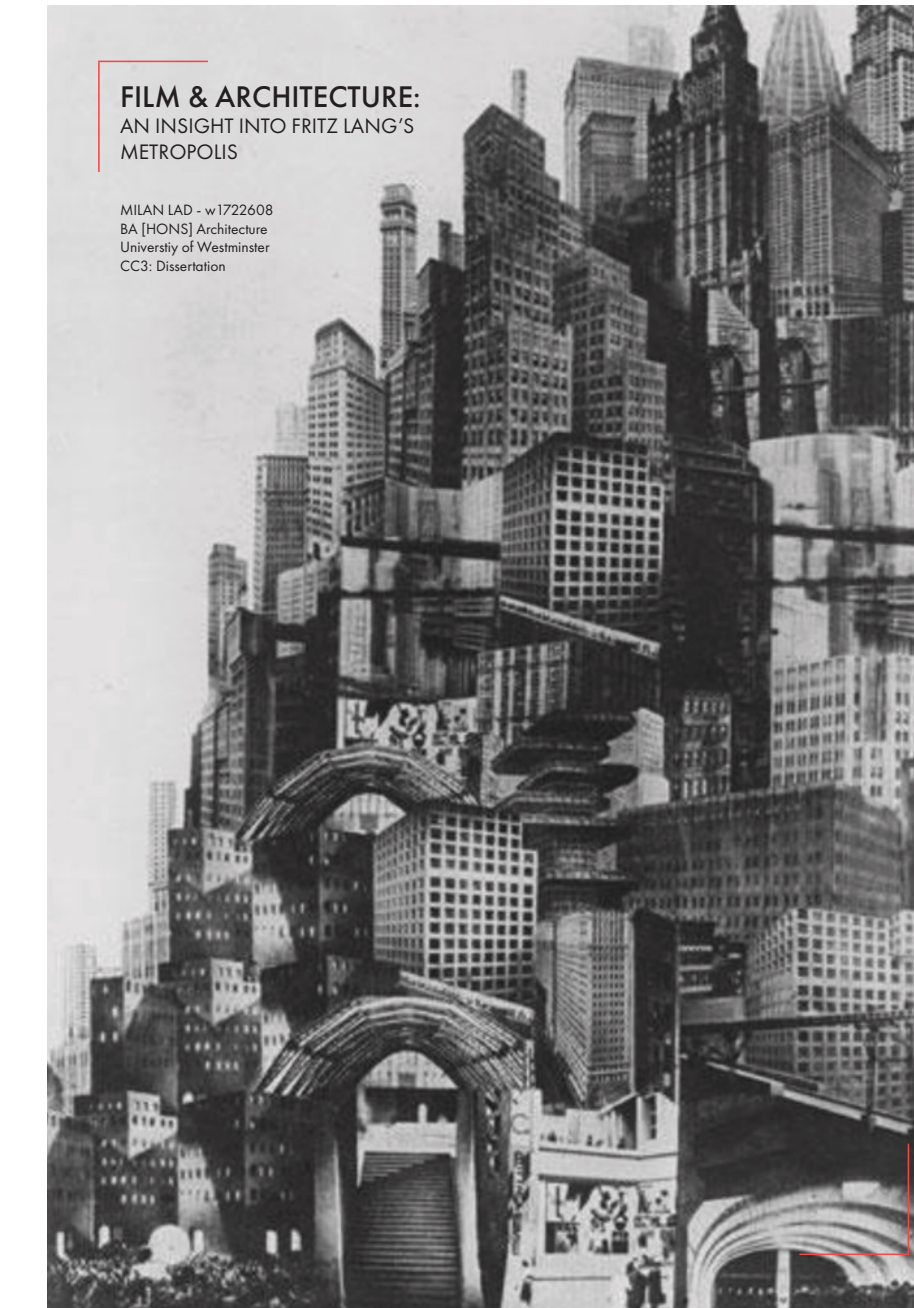


Figure 10: One of the machines created for 'The City of the Future'.

Figure 11: One of the machines created for 'The City of the Future'.

Figure 12: One of the machines created for 'The City of the Future'.

Figure 13: One of the machines created for 'The City of the Future'.