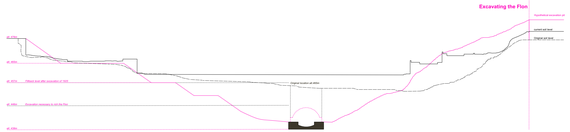
Picture of the Chauderon Bridge and its surroundings, nowadays

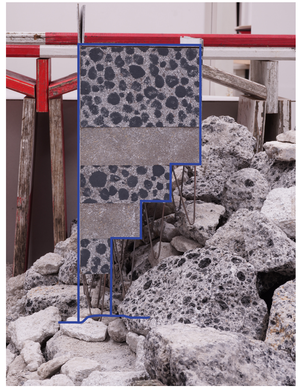
Map of the Flon district before the construction of the Chauderon Bridge and with the course of the river, 1880, scale 1:5000

Utopian Flon

is a project of bringing back the Flon valley before it got backfilled and find back the river of the same name that once flowed there. By digging out all this earth, we are creating our own absurd embakment to welcome a new utopian palce to build. The construction pit become the fundation, so the starting point of the sucession.



1. View of the Chauderon Bridge and the Flon Valley in Boston, populated with crops and buildings, in the backround the Great Bridge and the backfilling work that has begun, around 1905
2. Schematic cross-section of the differents altitudes of the Flon Valley

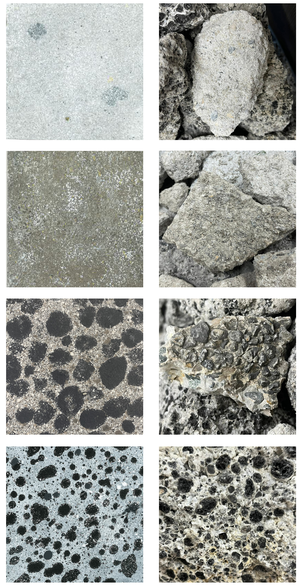


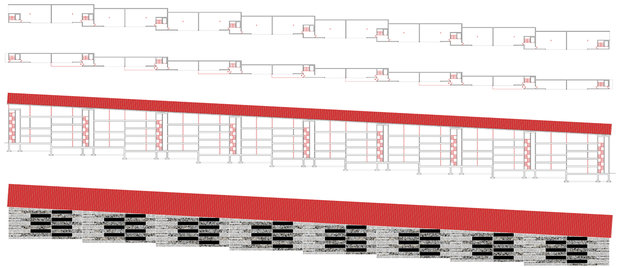
Epiphyte

any plant that grows upon another plant or object merely for physical support. These plants are not attached to the soil. They usually anchor themselves to tree bark. Their roots then grow in the air to absorb the water and nutrients they need.

Texture Library

Inspired by the scale model, we created a texture library from the various materials used to build it. The library lets users select and mix textures, and experiment with them freely.





Visual continuity

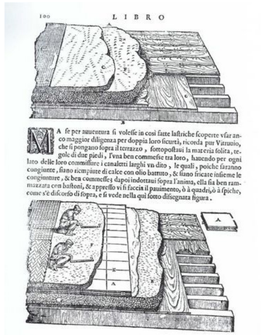
To tie the different volume together, the gestalt principle of continuity was used. This principle states that the human eye naturally follows continuous, smooth lines and curves, preferring them over broken or staggered ones. Our brains organize visual elements into a continuous flow, perceiving them as a single, related path.

Visual deception

Visual deception is an umbrella term englobing different methods to manipulate visual perception as a mean to give a fake impression. Human visual perception is based on the gestalt principles, which describe how we use patterns recognition and simplifying techniques to understand complex perceived images or objects.

The facade composition of the project, expressing a dissociation of the perceived volumes and the interior spaces, use some of those principles as a mean of creating both confusion and visual interest for the spectators.

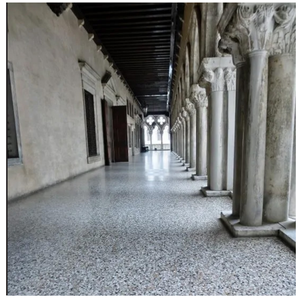
Sean Scully
Long night, 1985.



Transversal cut of a terrazzo flooring, A. Crovato

Terrazzo

Terrazzo is a technique to make flooring from scraps that has been developped over millenia. Modern terrazzo as we know it emerged during the 15th century in Venice. Mosaic workers reused marble off-sized chips to ornament flooring around their households. Later, a goat milk coating was applied to bring out the colors from the stone pieces.



Palazzio Ducale, Venezia

Concrete rubbles

Concrete recycling is a nowadays widely spread process, but it still can be improved. Small bits of concrete can be use as aggregates for new construction, but only when adding water, cement and natural aggregates. Maxence Grangeot, EPFL architect and researcher, conducted research in order to increase the recycled share in upcycled concrete and decrease the pressure upon natural ressources. With the help of dataset and 2D scanning, he was able to include concrete rubbles into digital design. Beforehand, those were excluded from the upcycling process as they were too big for the crusher (thus being used as aggregates). This allowed for creative design based on a catalog of existing concrete rubbles.

Maxence Grangeot, upcycling concrete rubble