

.infiltrate.destroy.rebuild.

russell ellis clark

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thesis submitted to the faculty of virginia polytechnic institute and state university in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of master of architecture

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abstract

this thesis is an infiltration into the world of craft, woodworking, and joinery.
the destruction of presupposed form and tectonics,
and a rebuilding through the minds eye and an obscured lens.

alchemy joinery frame torque techne form

this book is dedicated to caitlin arlene clark:
for being that which makes me be...
 you are the smell before rain
 you are the blood in my veins

to scarlett olivia arlene clark:
for making me grow up
and for allowing me to be a kid again

you'll always be daddy's little baby girl

to axl ellis clark:
for making me faster than ever
and for allowing me to slow down

you'll always be daddy's rockstar

steve
for alchemy
thank you

scott
for hawksmoor
thank you

bill
for tectonics
thank you

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introduction

this body of work takes you through my infiltration into craft and making, to completely destroying all traditional formal elements of the joint as a singularity and reforming it into a compound system where geometry plays a central role; to capturing my work with the use of obscured lenses, affording you the viewer the opportunity to finish, and thus rebuild my work through your own perspective.

i chose these words very carefully as they are the modus operandi of a military siege campaign; they are both separated and linked by the period, a pause for both reflection and contemplation before action. I have come to realize that my approach to architecture is militant, and this body of work only further demonstrates this tactic.

.infiltrate.

in·fil·trate (*n-filtrt, nfl-*)

v. *in·fil·trat·ed, in·fil·trat·ing, in·fil·trates*

v. *tr.*

To pass (troops, for example) surreptitiously into enemy-held territory.

To penetrate with hostile intent: infiltrate enemy lines; terrorists that had infiltrated the country.

To enter or take up positions in gradually or surreptitiously, as for purposes of espionage or takeover: infiltrated key government agencies with spies.

To cause (a liquid, for example) to permeate a substance by passing through its interstices or pores.

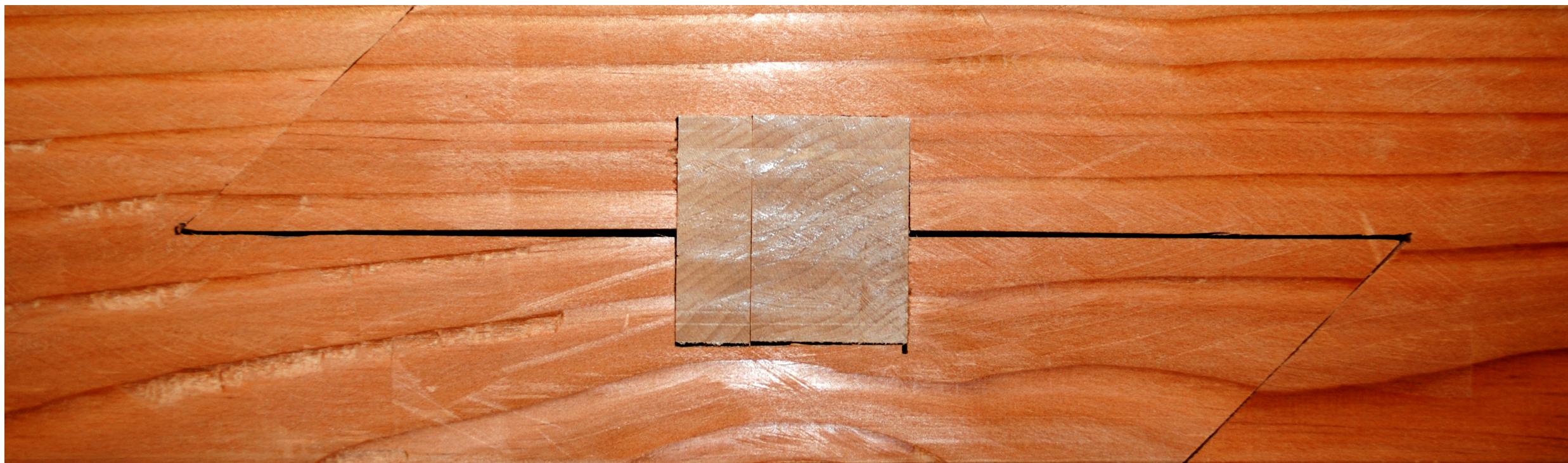
To permeate (a porous substance) with a liquid or gas.

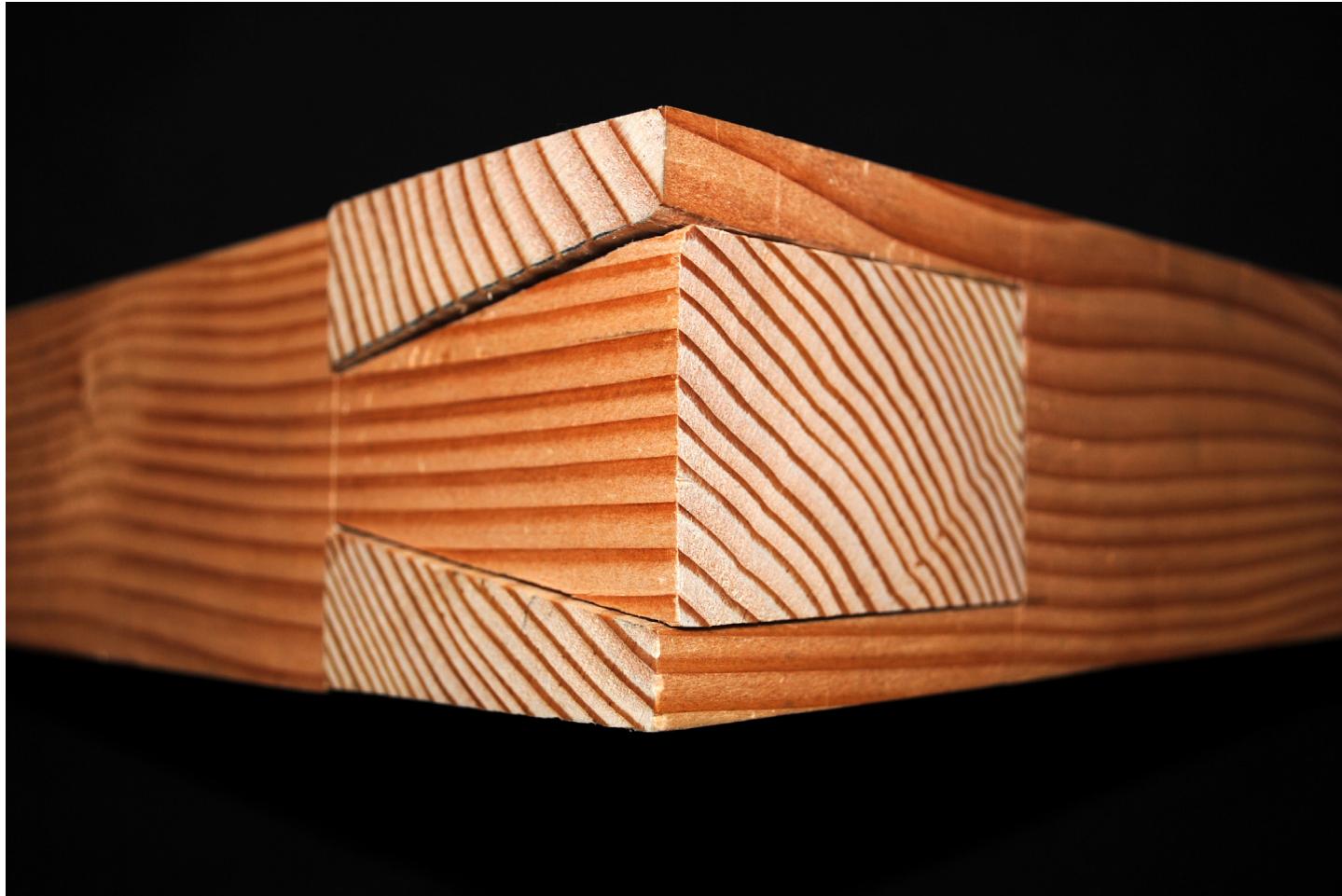




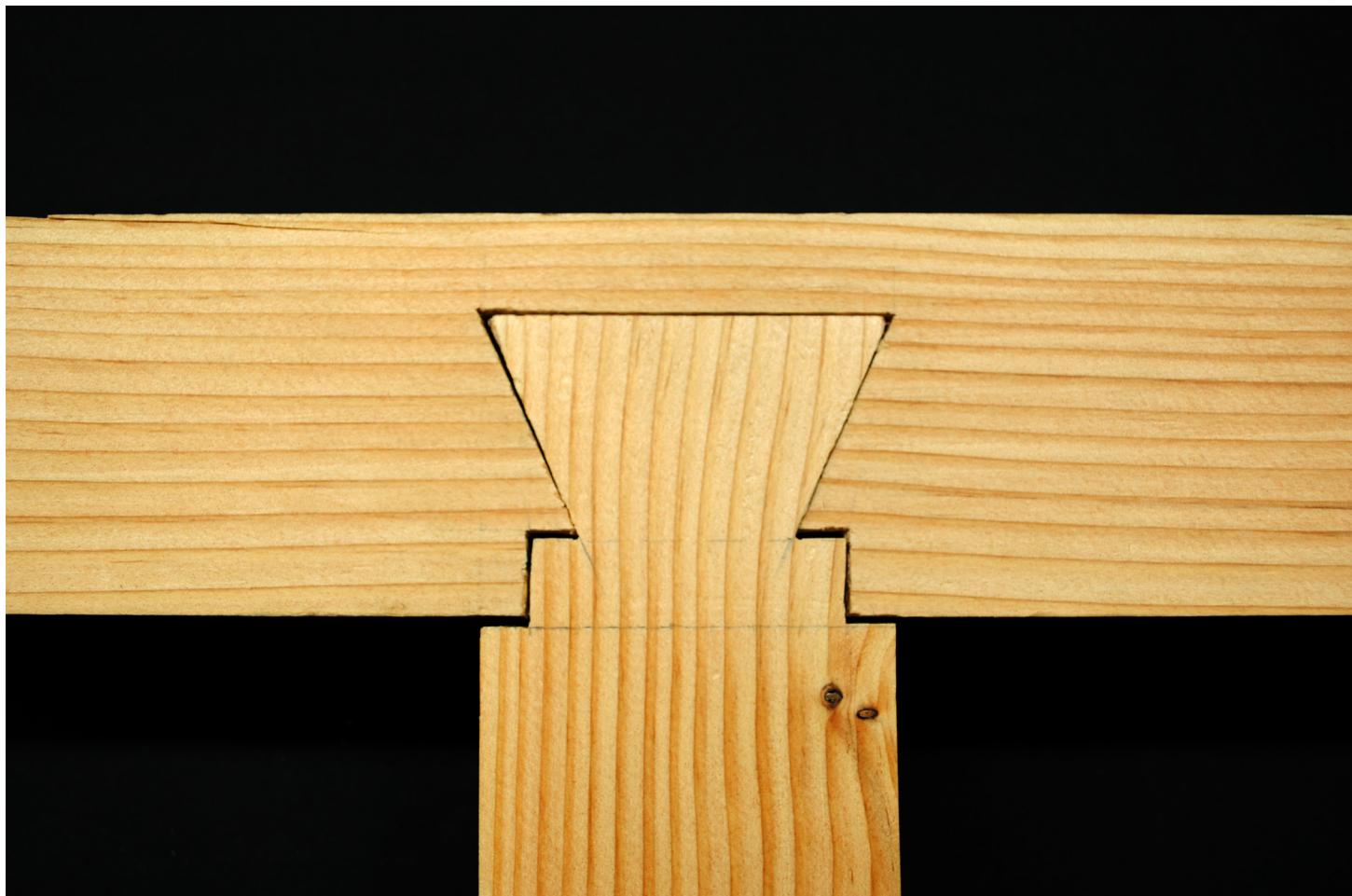


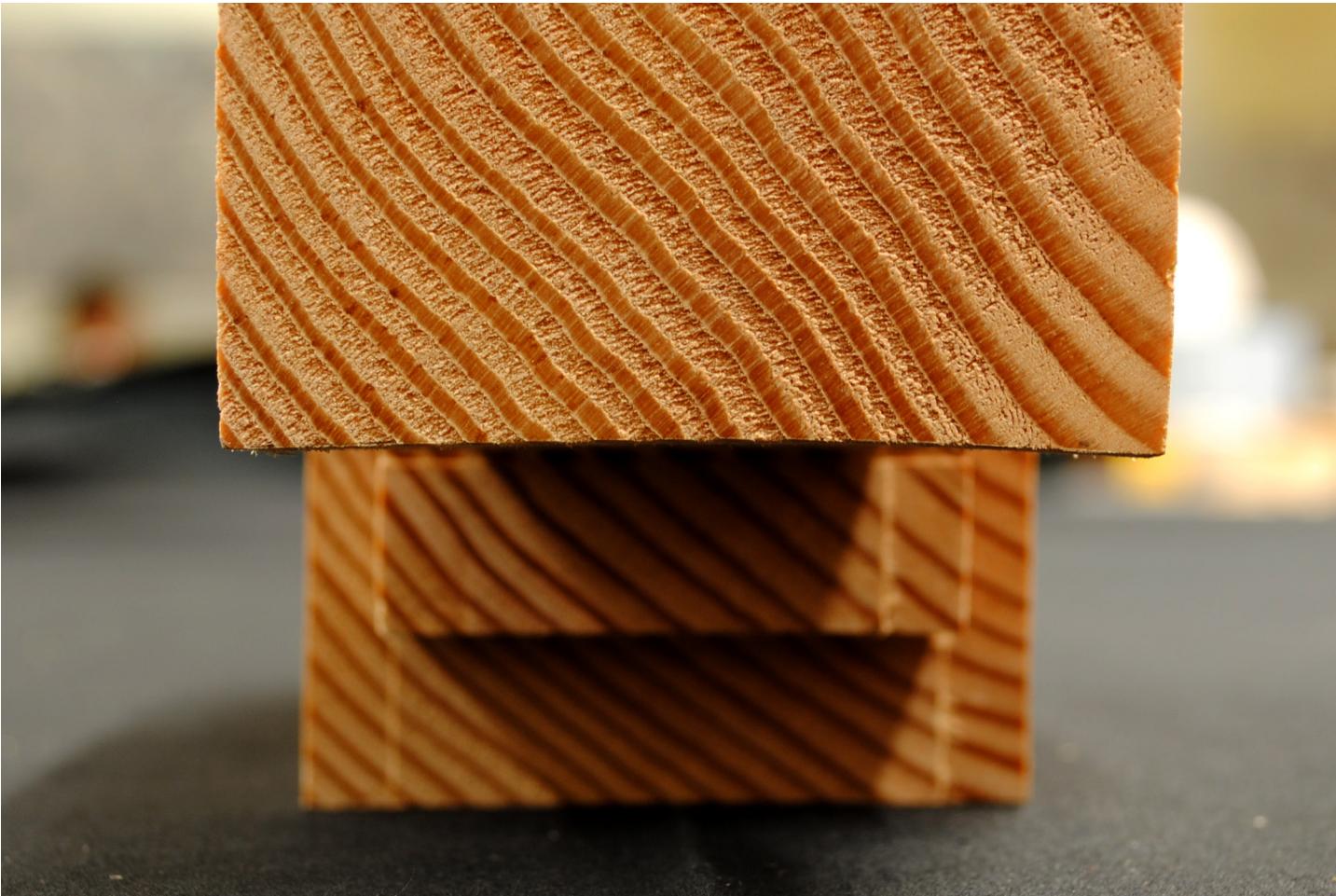


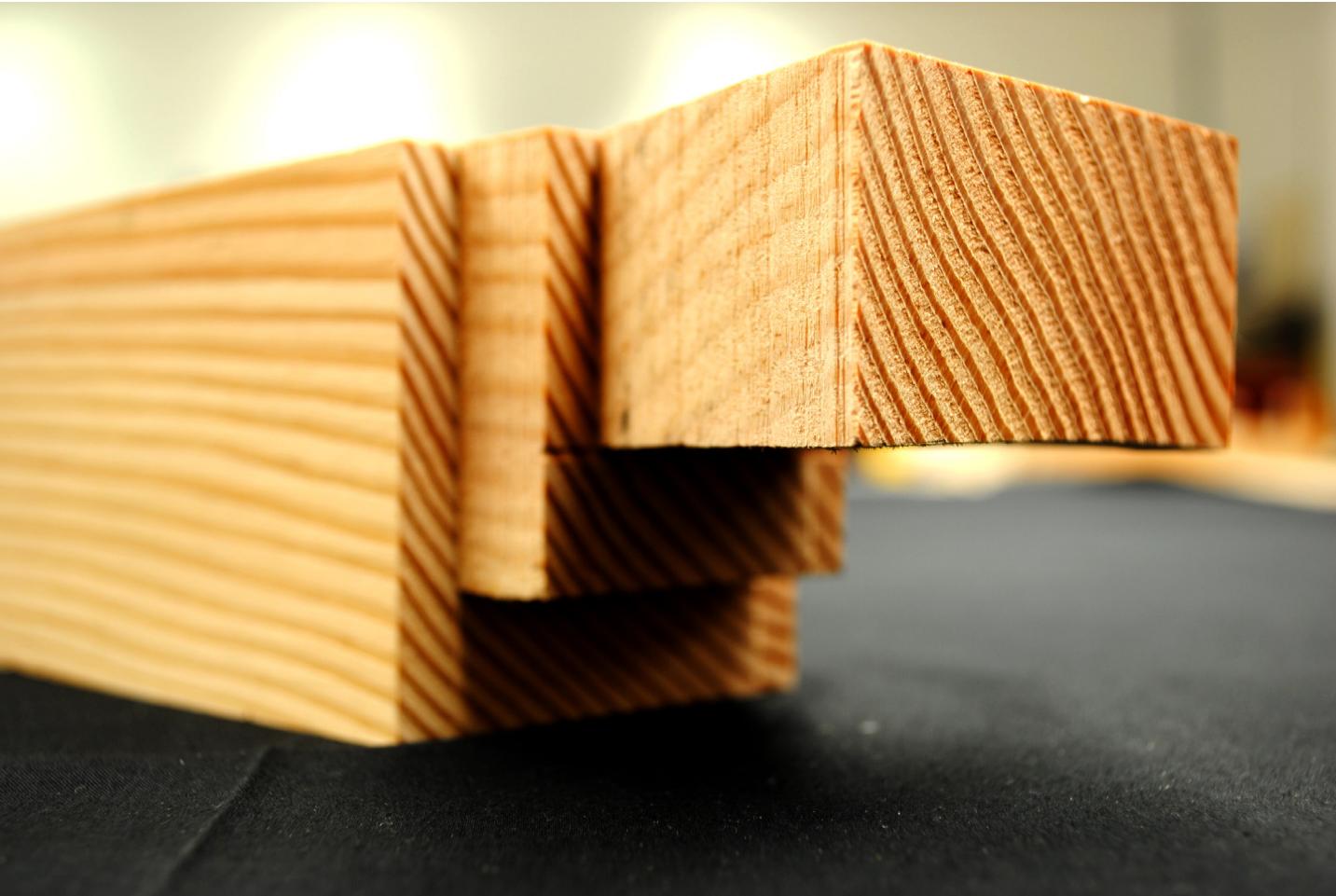
















.destroy.

de·stroy [di-stroi']

v. de·stroyed, de·stroy·ing, de·stroys

v. tr.

to ruin completely; spoil: the ancient manuscripts were destroyed by fire.

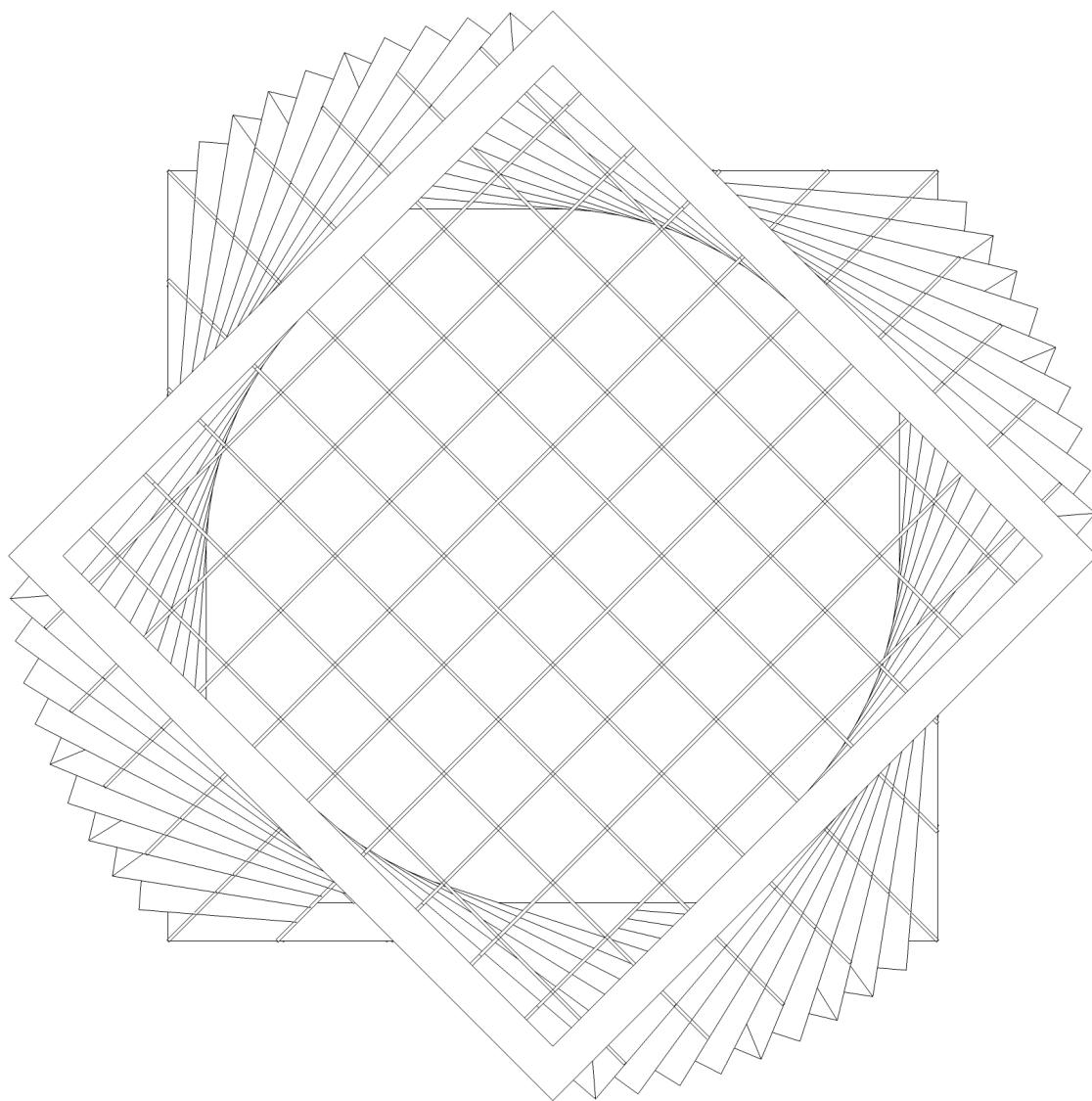
to tear down or break up; demolish.

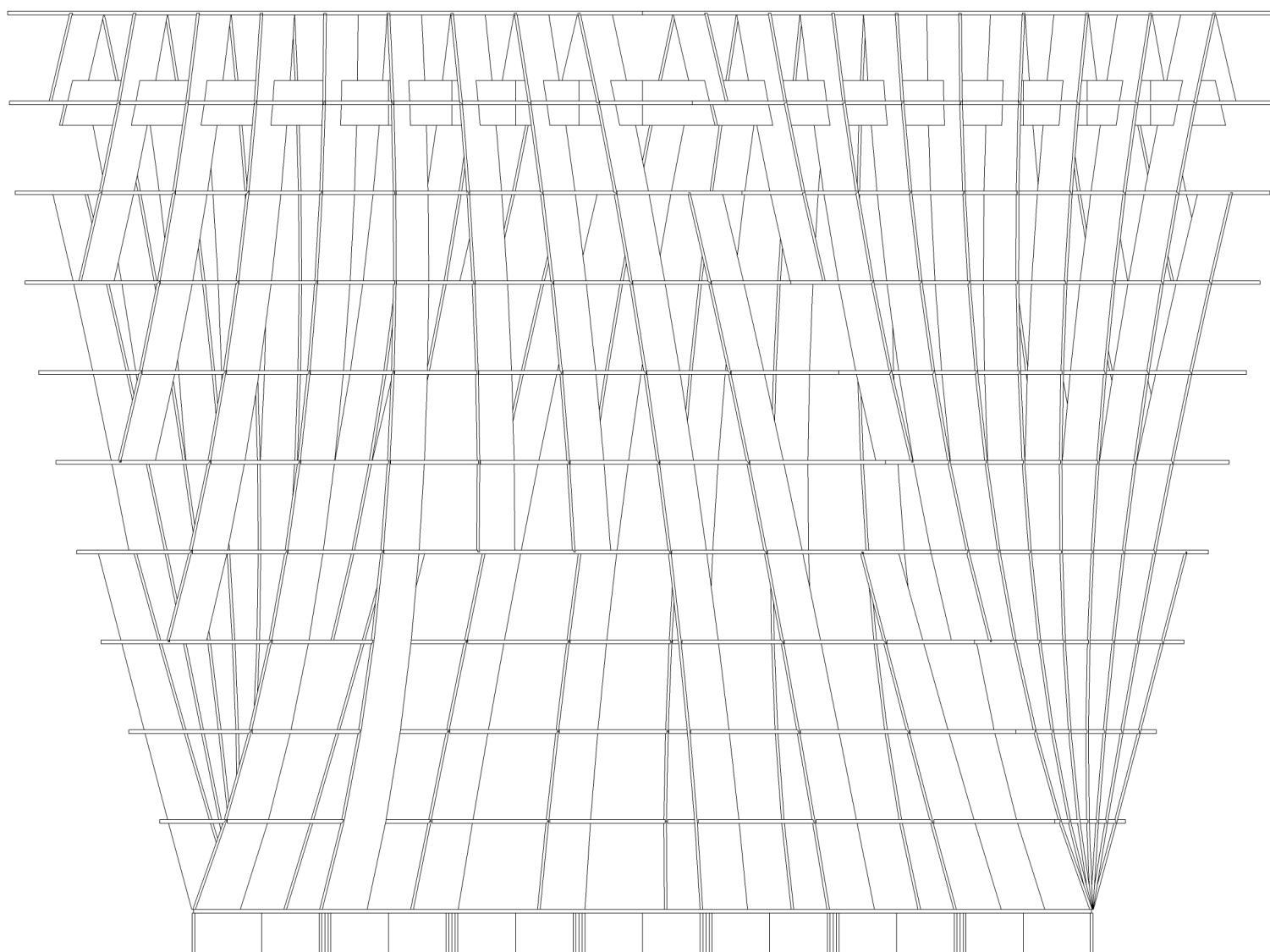
to do away with; put an end to: "in crowded populations, poverty destroys the possibility for cleanliness."
(George Bernard Shaw)

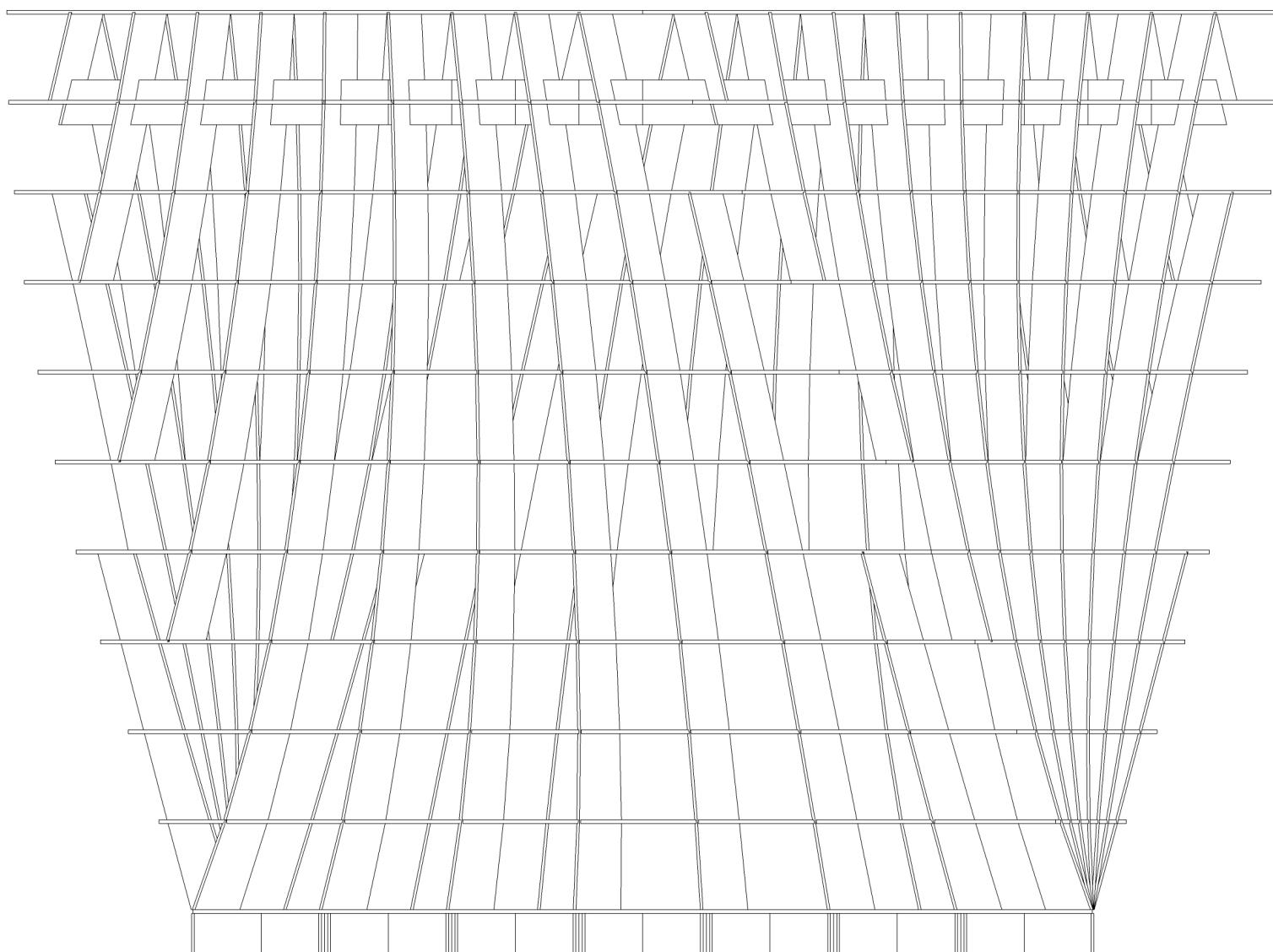
to kill: destroy a rabid dog.

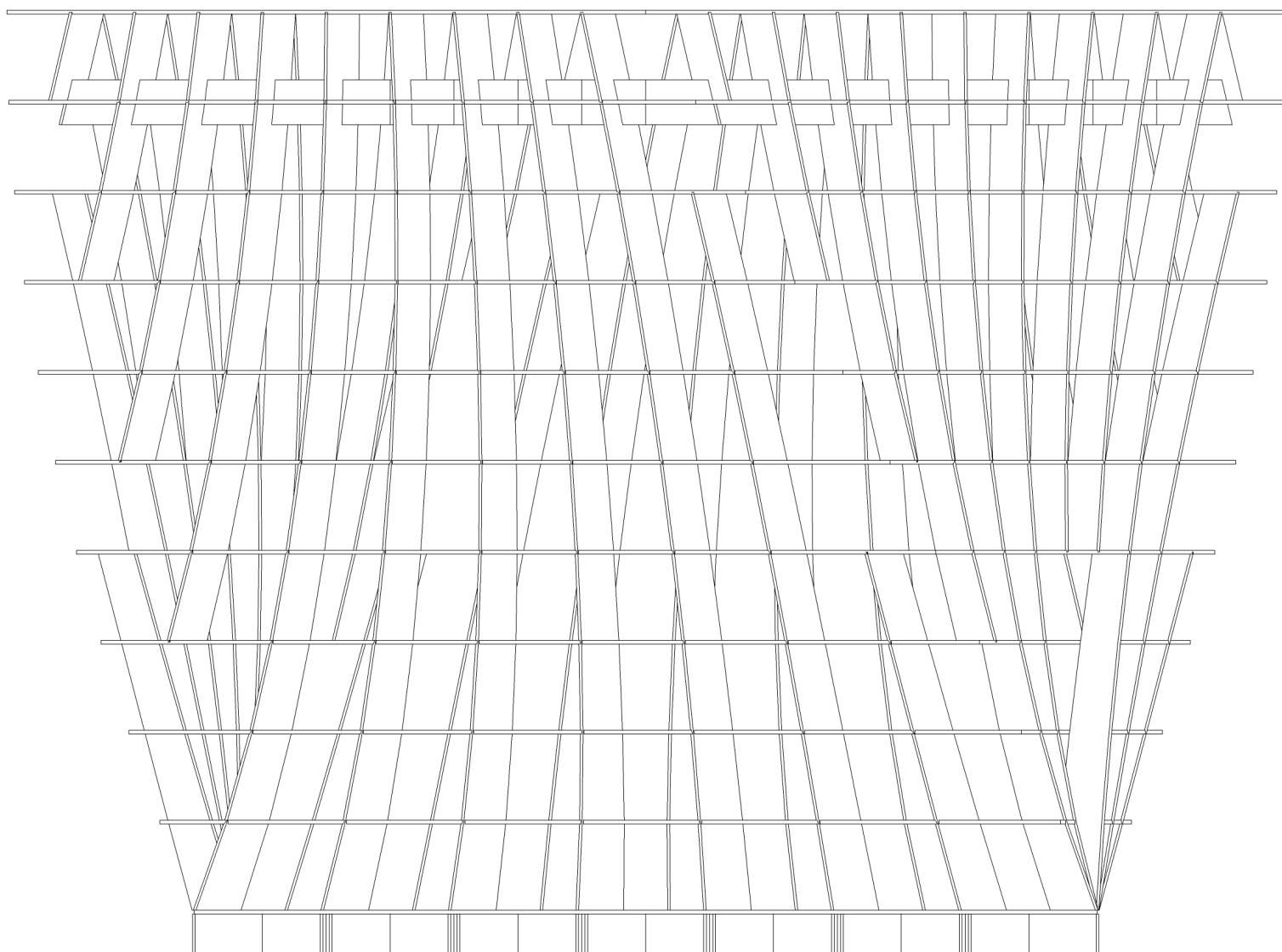
to subdue or defeat completely; crush: the rebel forces were destroyed in battle.

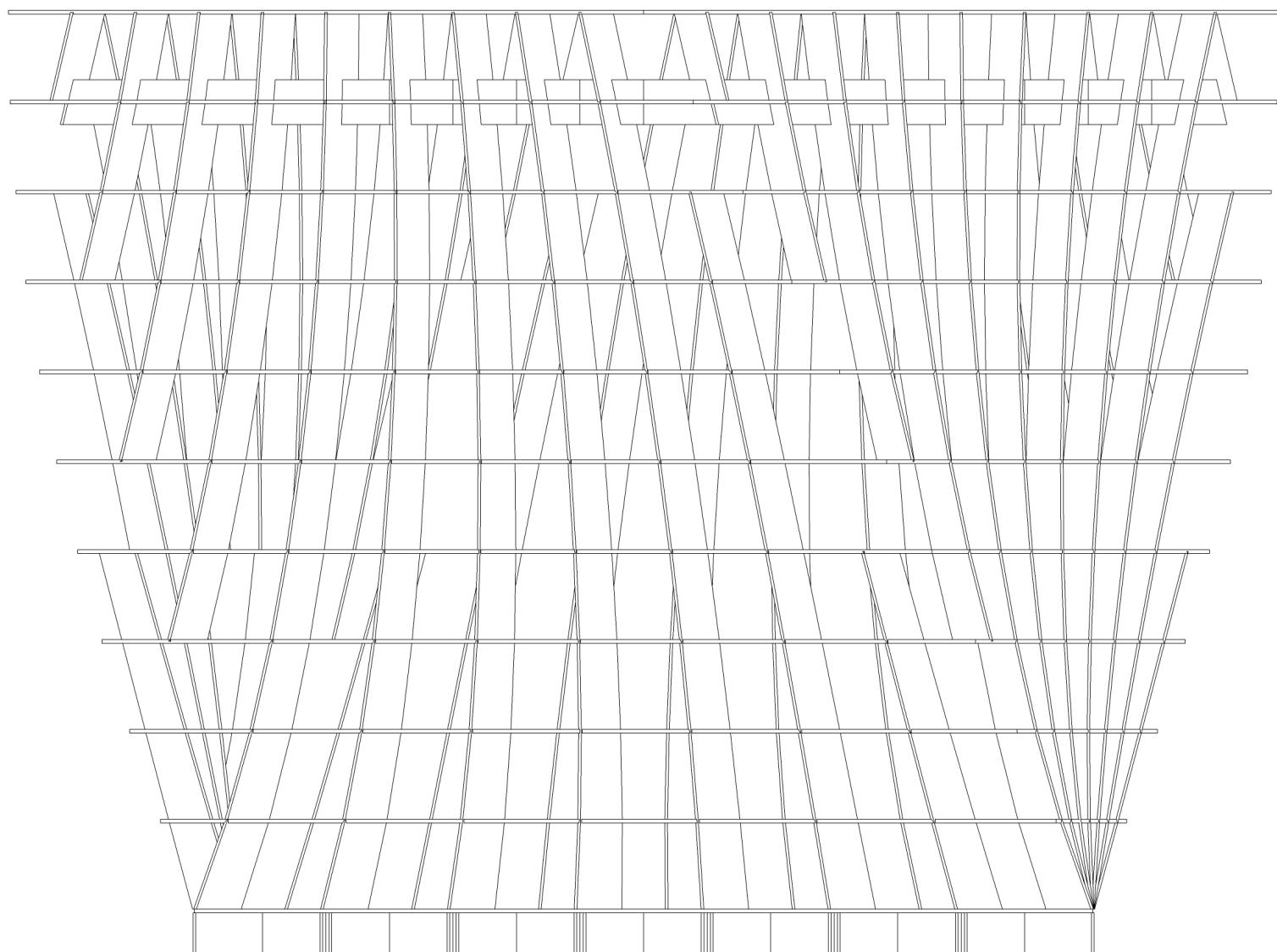
to render useless or ineffective: destroyed the testimony of the prosecution's chief witness.

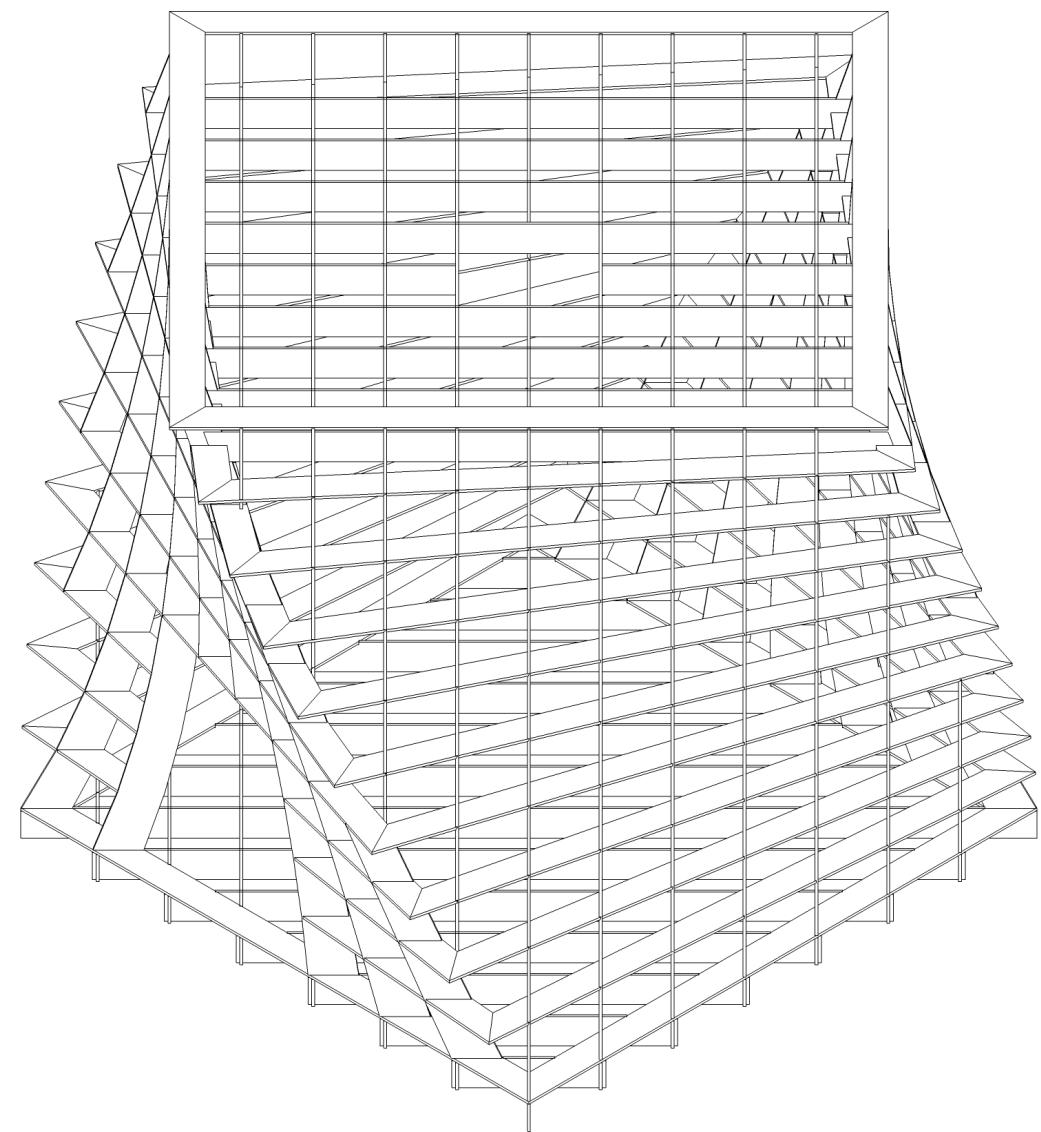


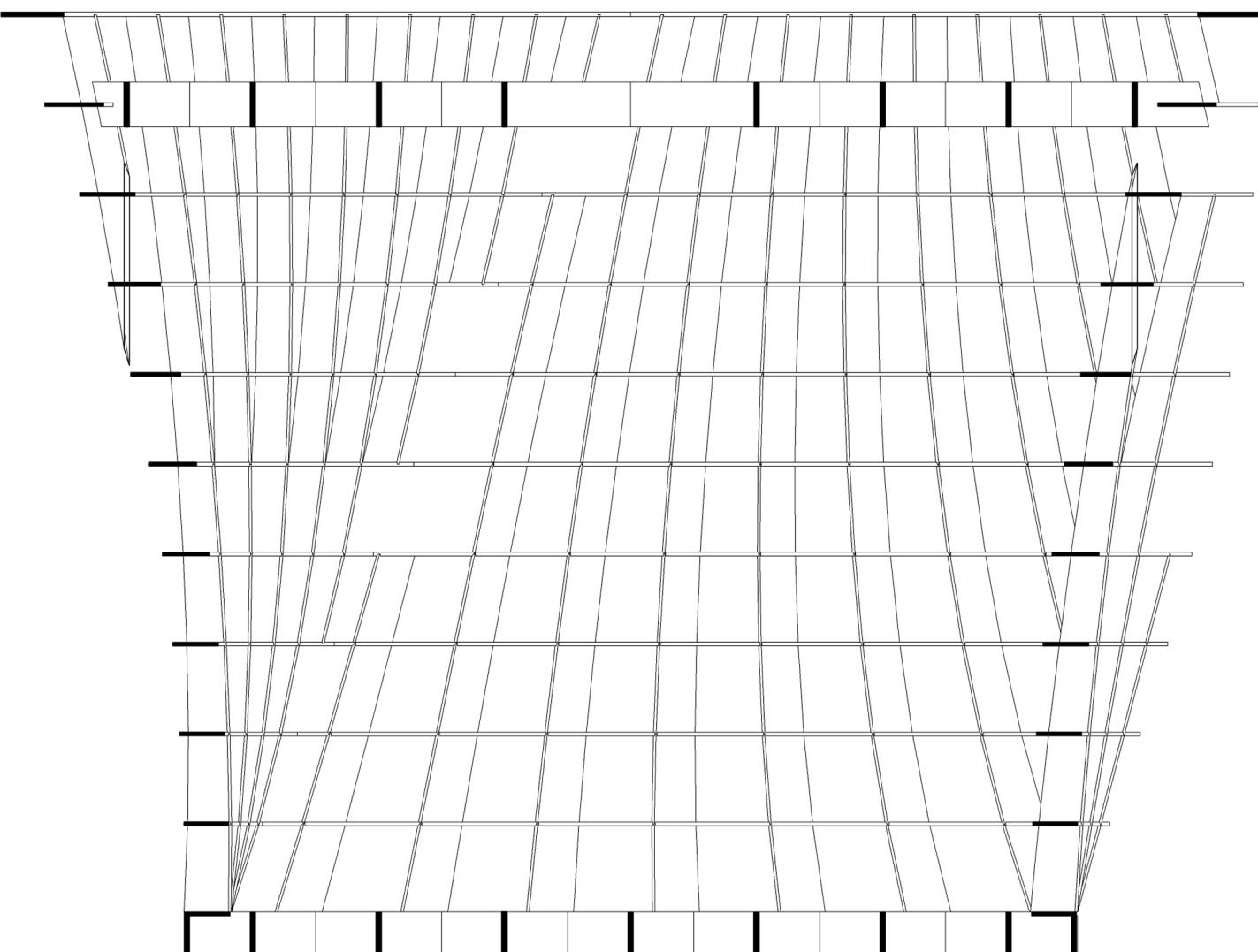


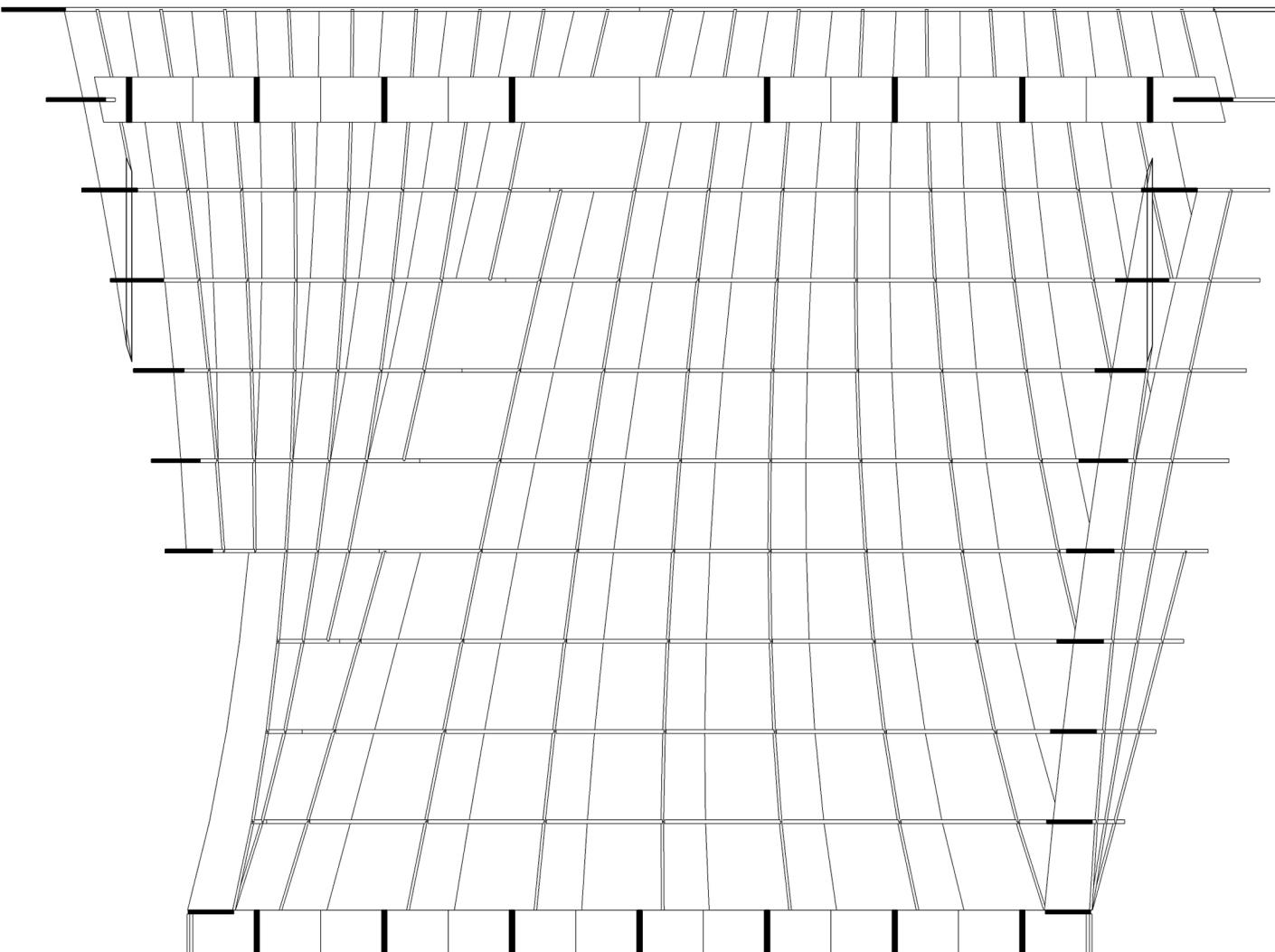




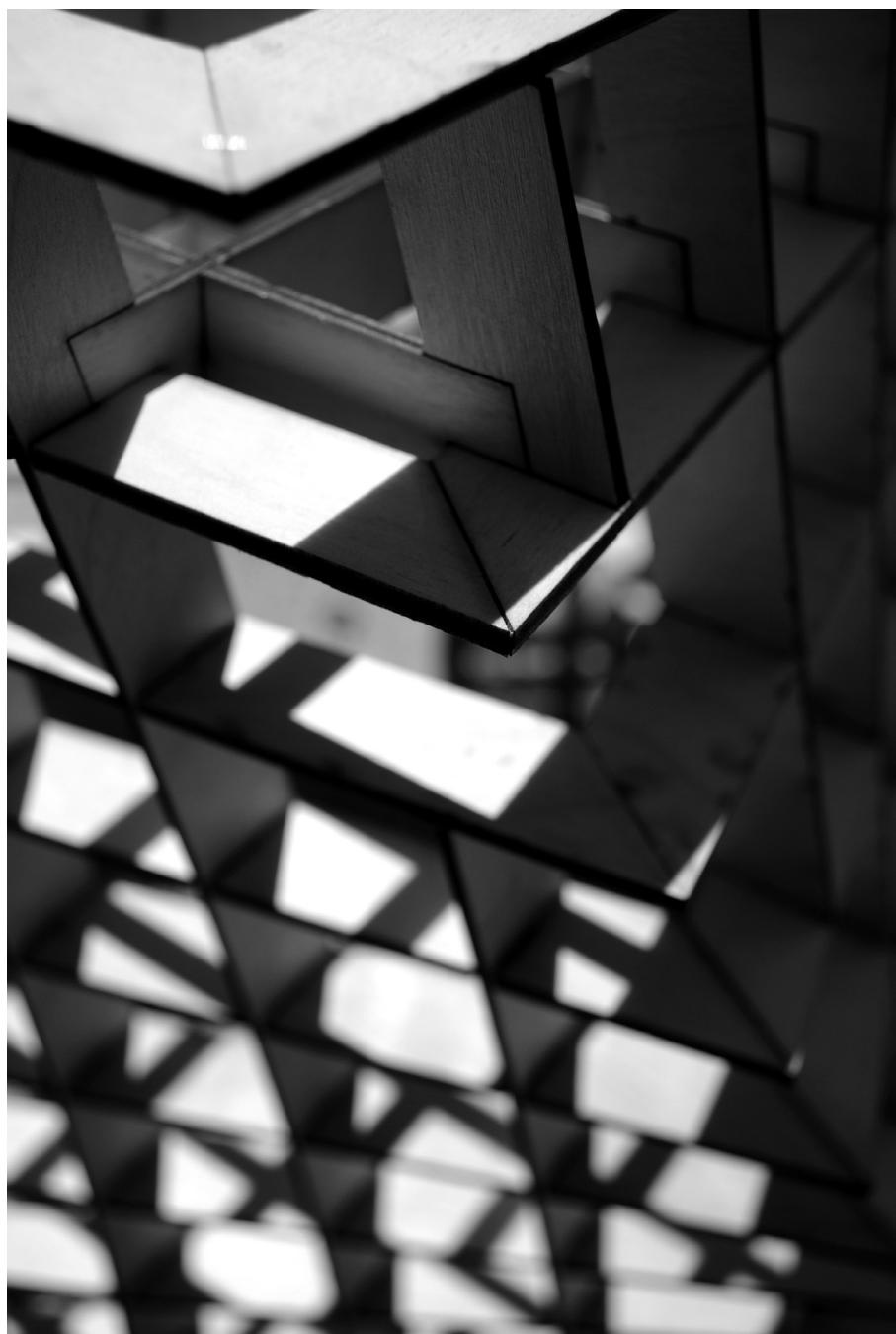




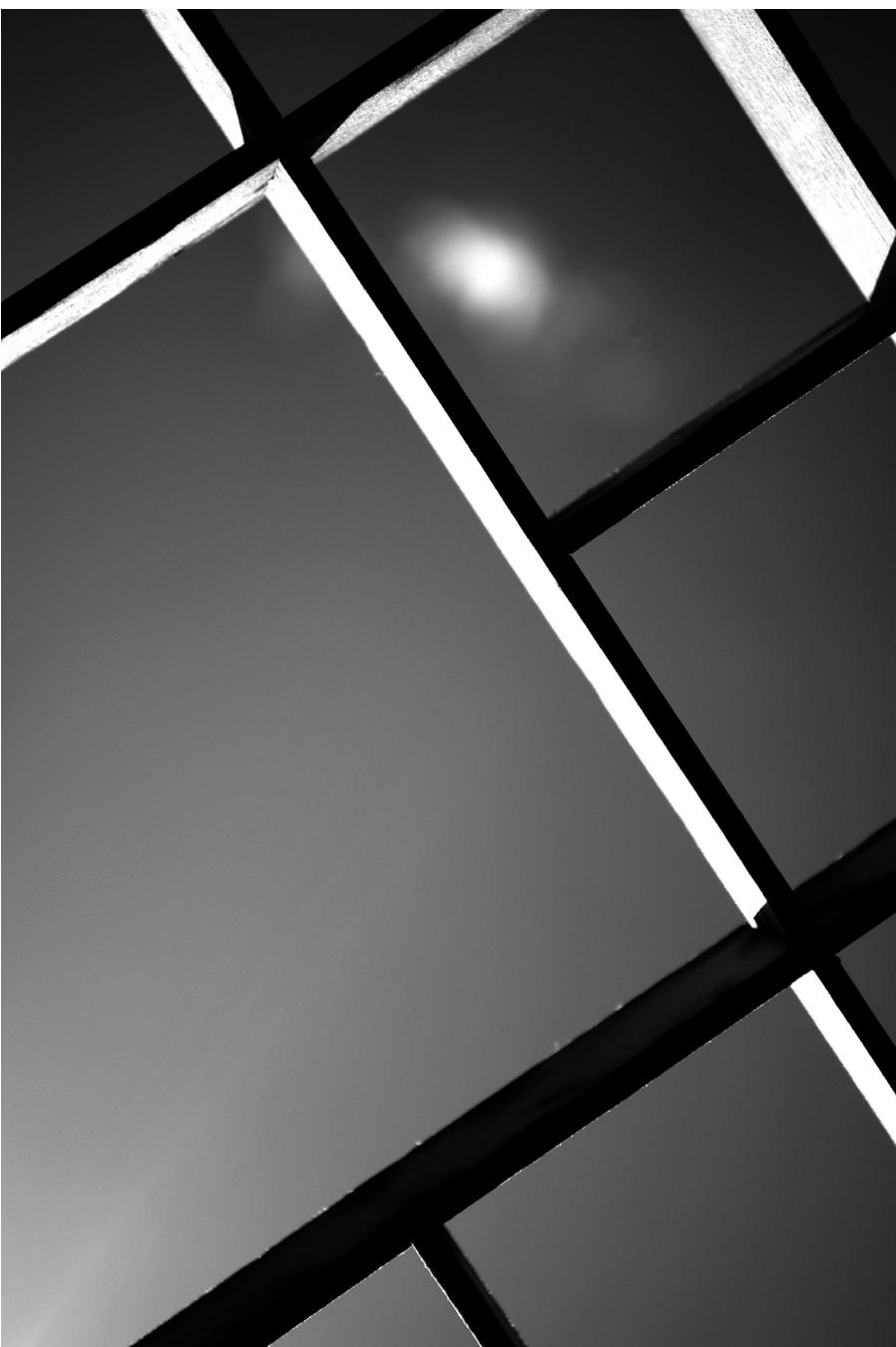


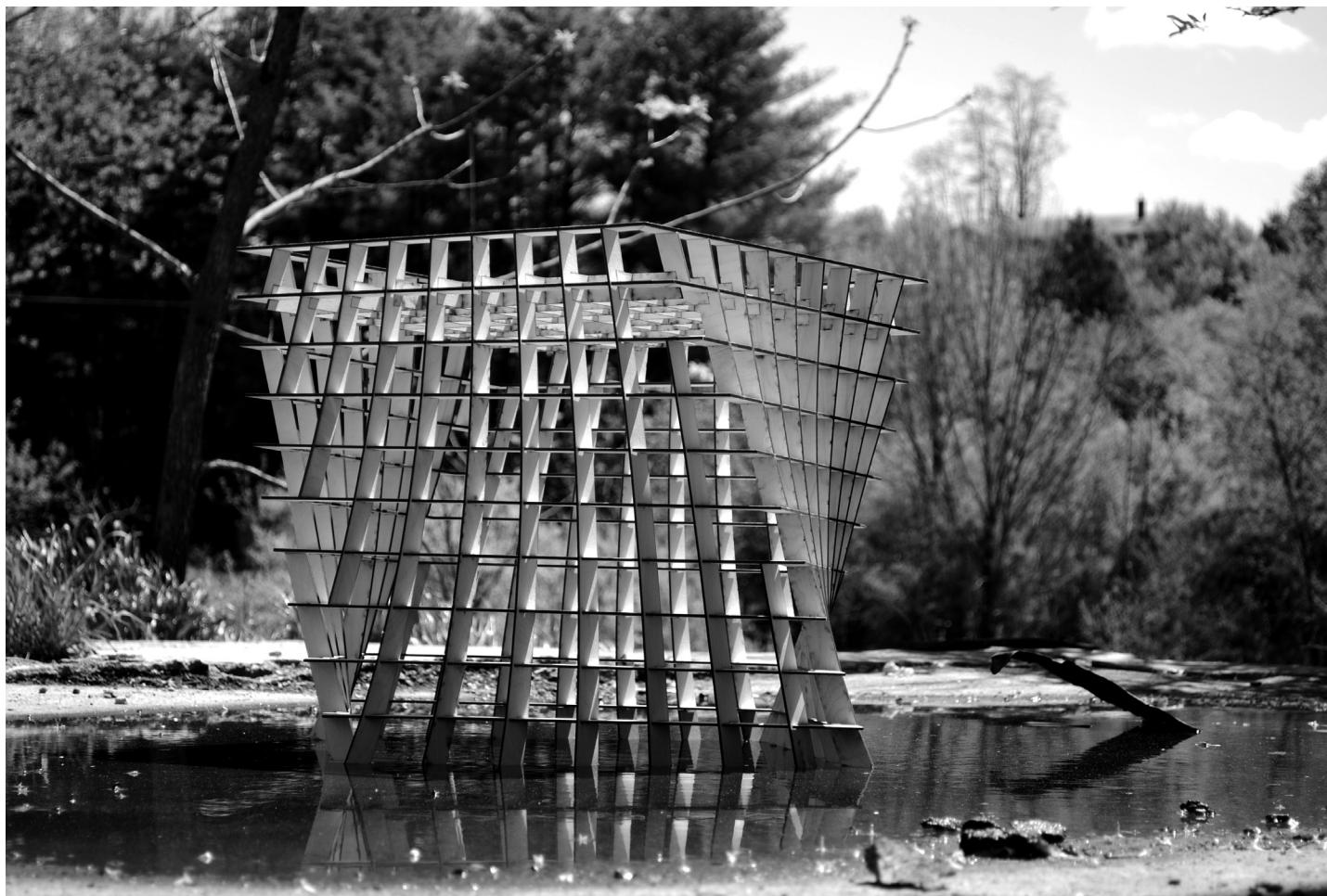


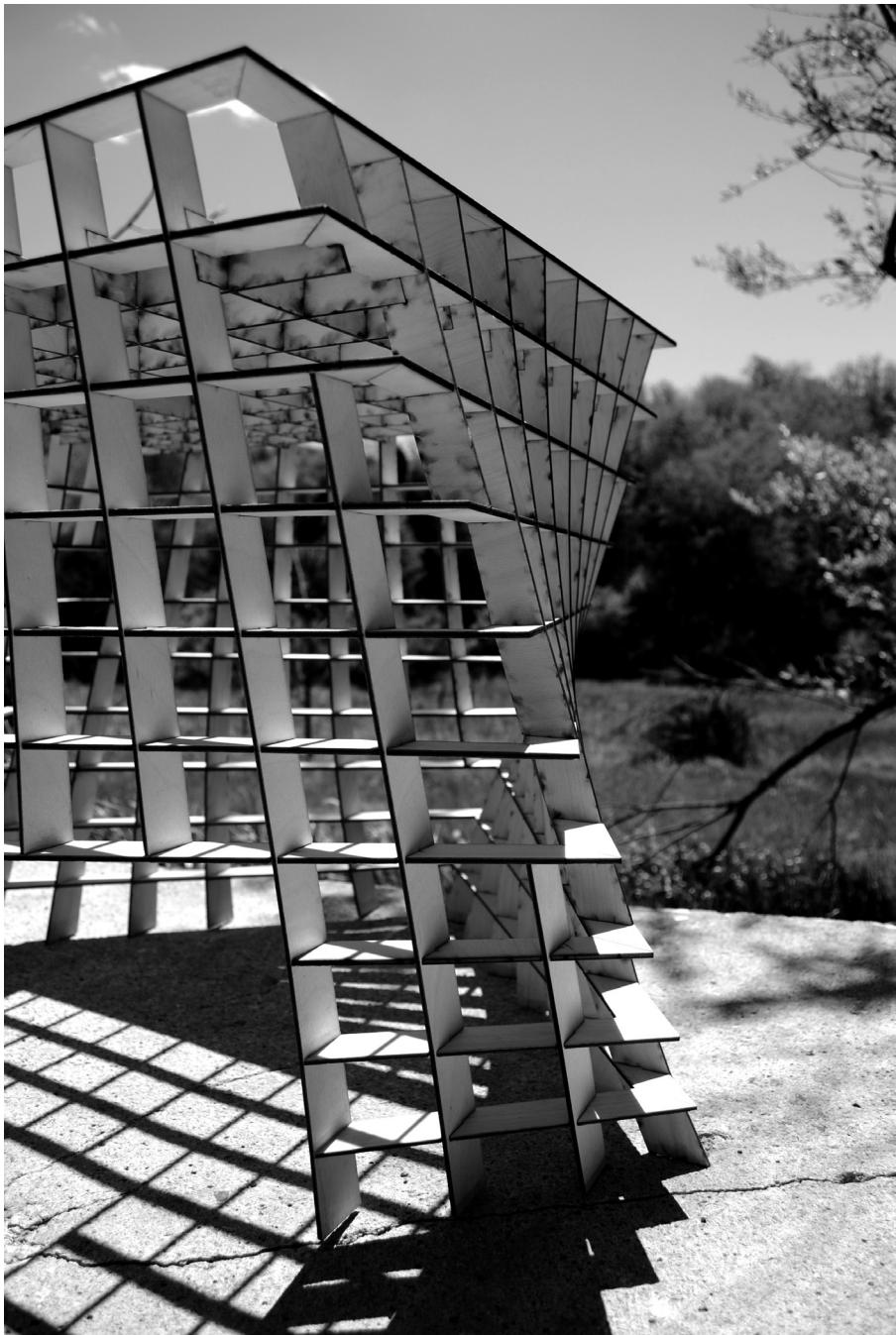




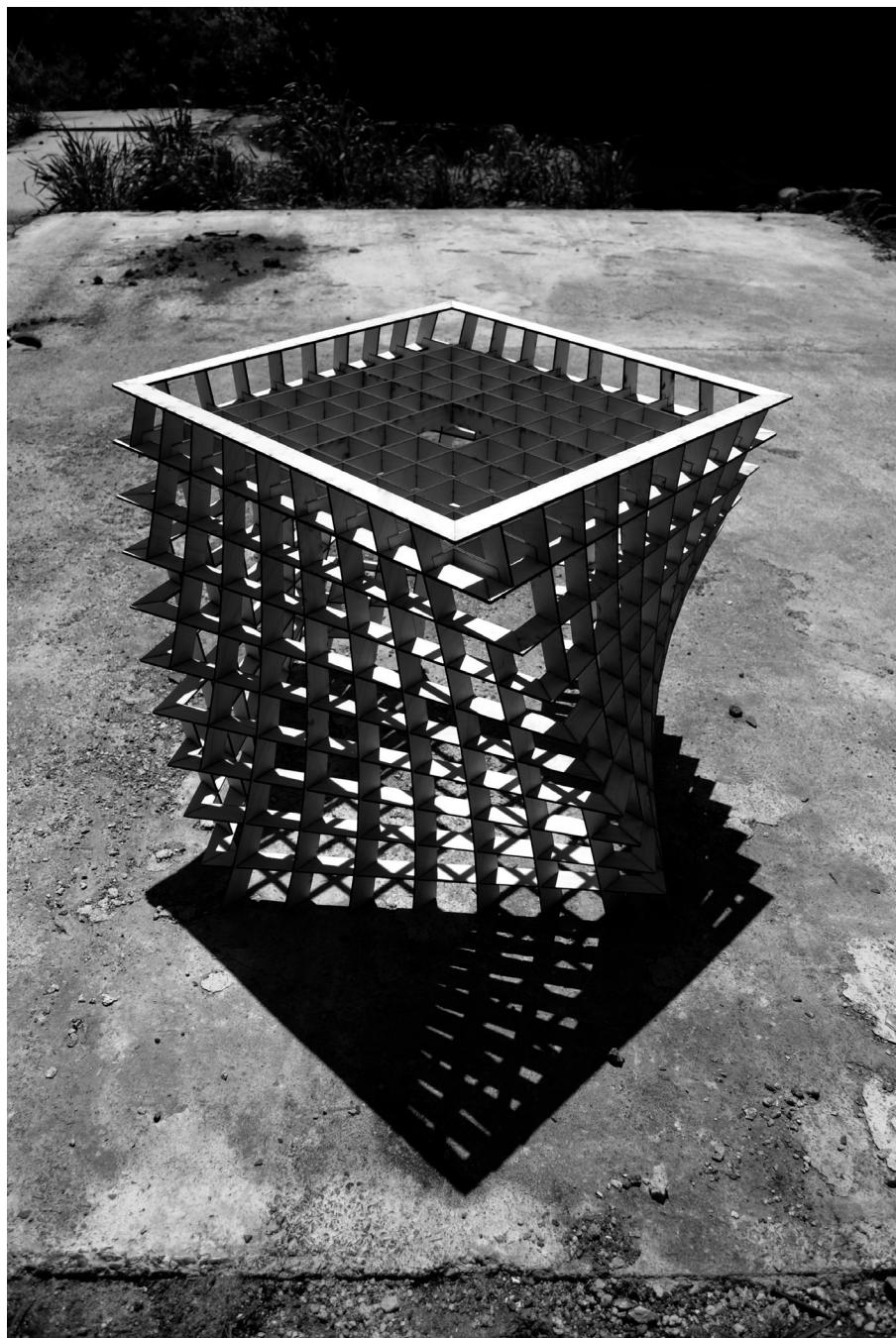


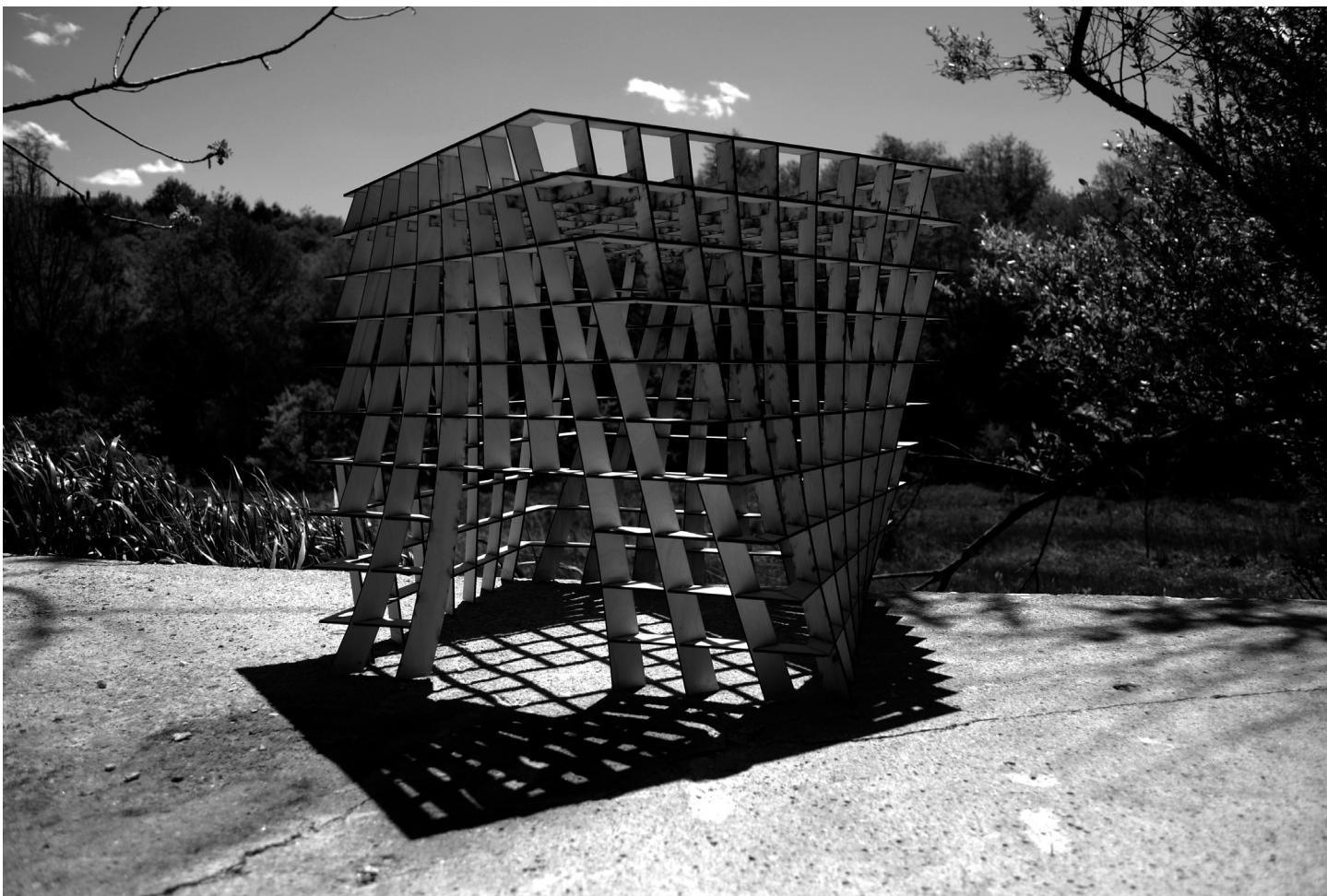














.rebuild.

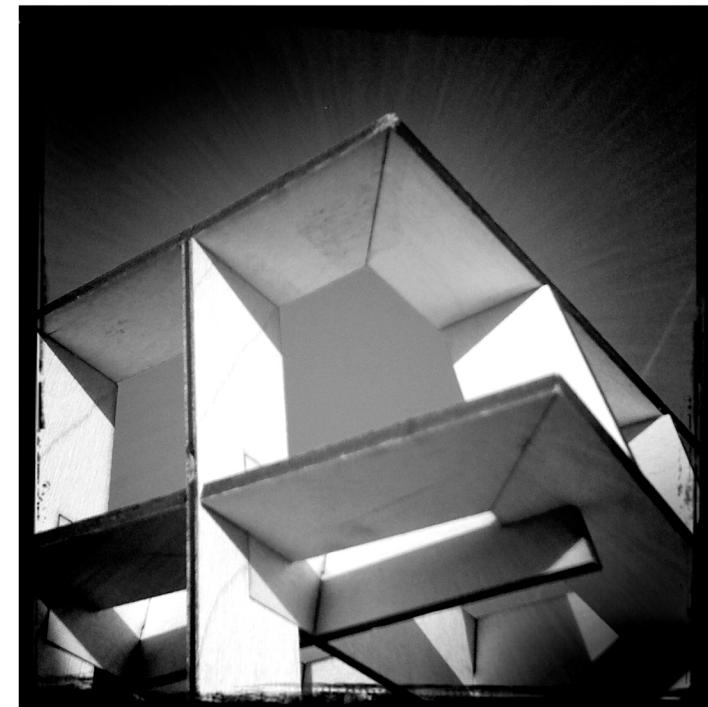
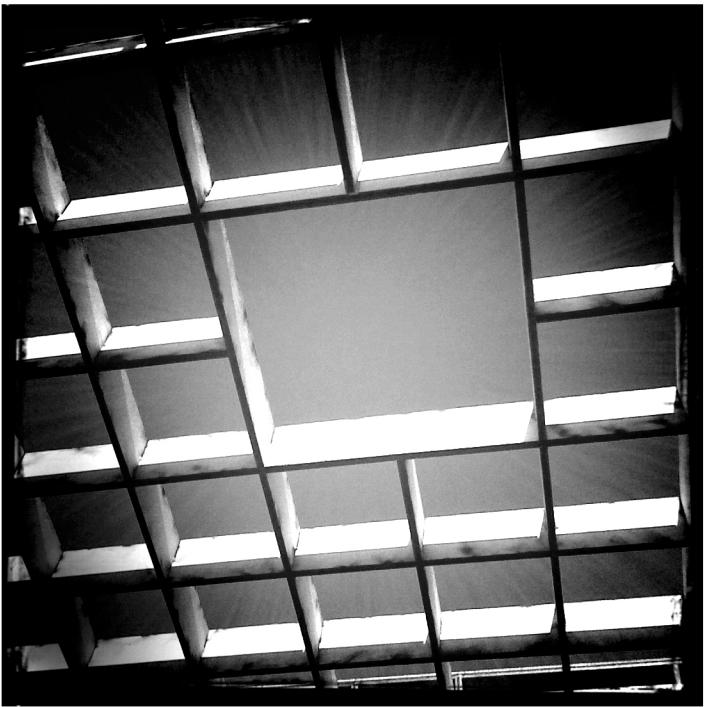
re-build (re-bild')

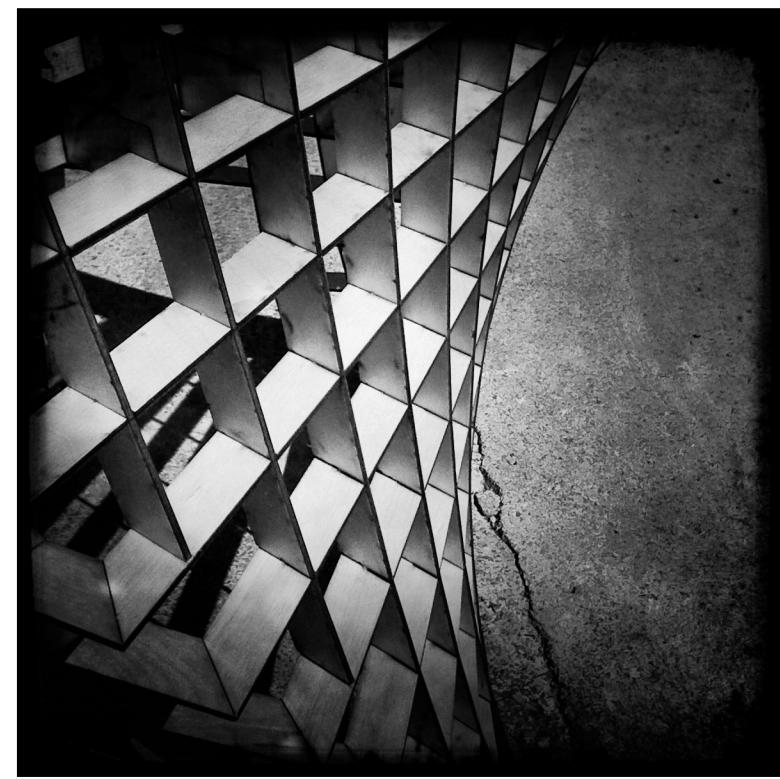
tr.v. re-built (-bilt'), re-build·ing, re-builds

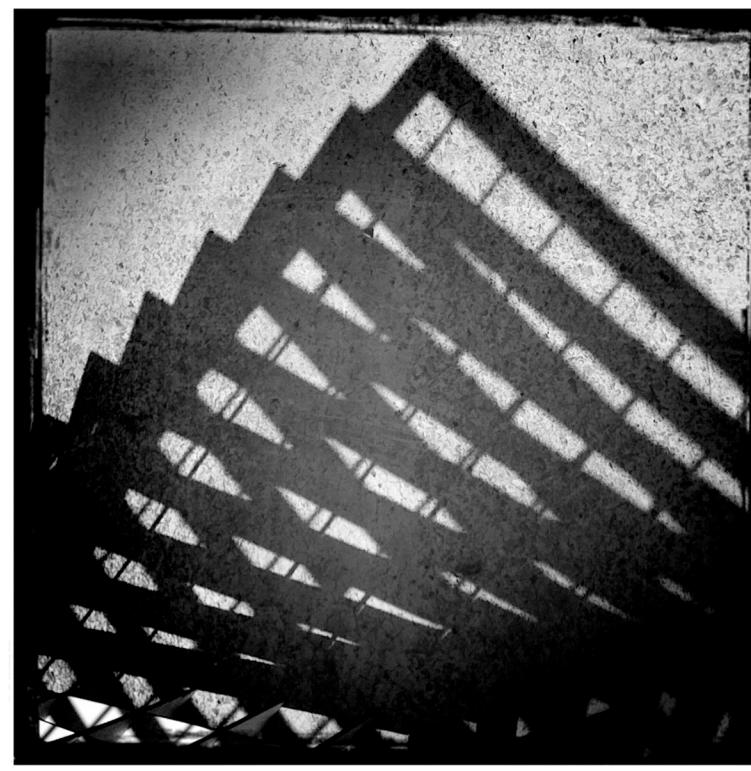
To build again.

To make extensive structural repairs on.

To remodel or make extensive changes in: tried to rebuild society.

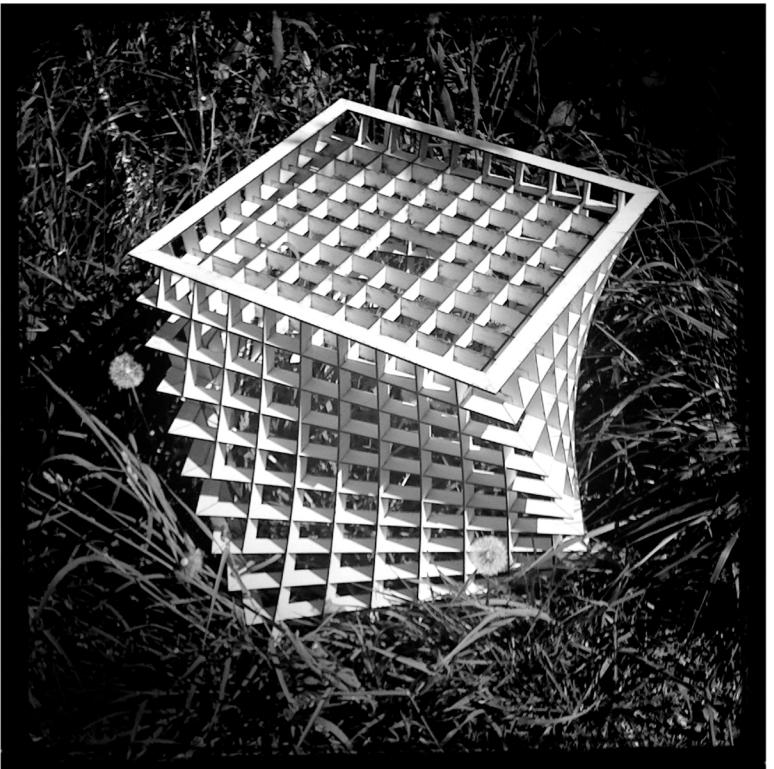


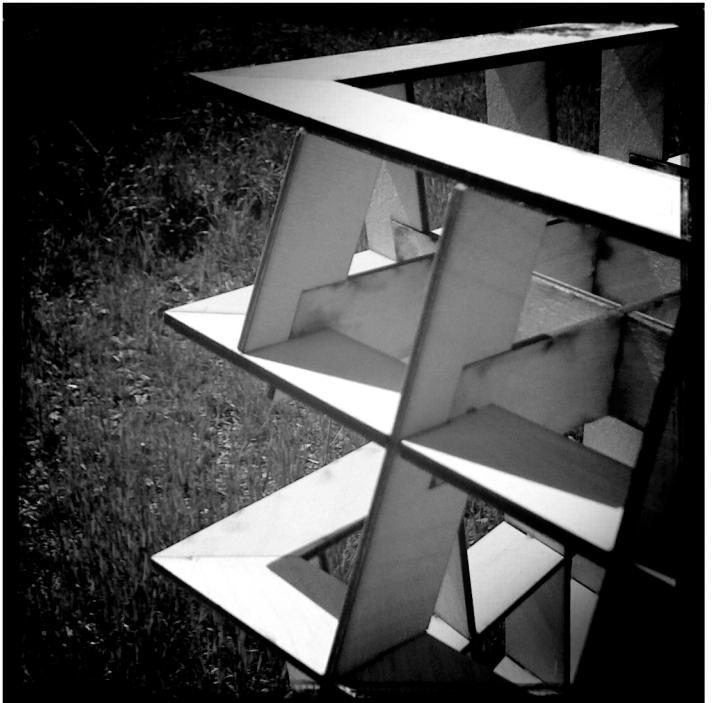


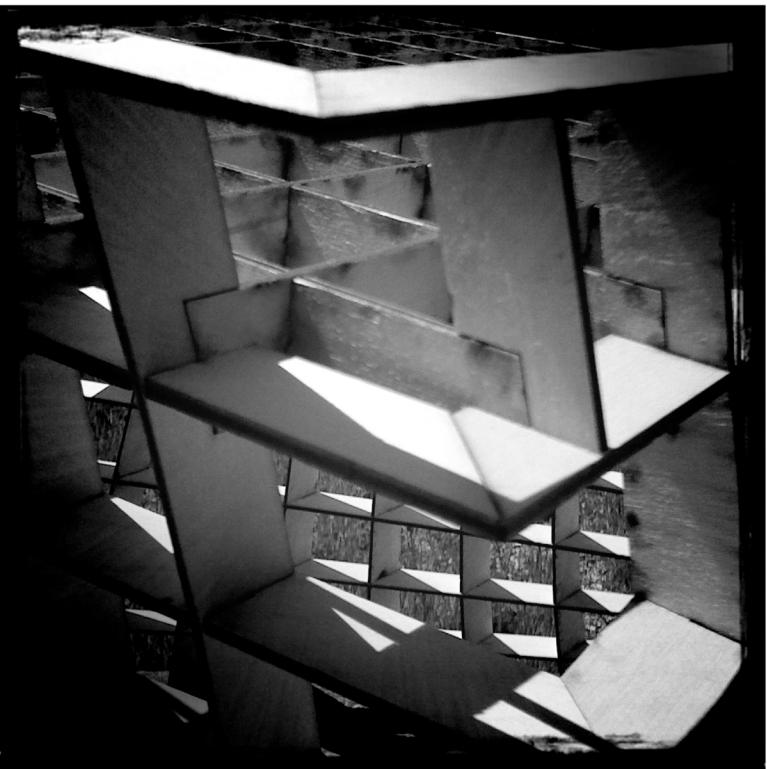




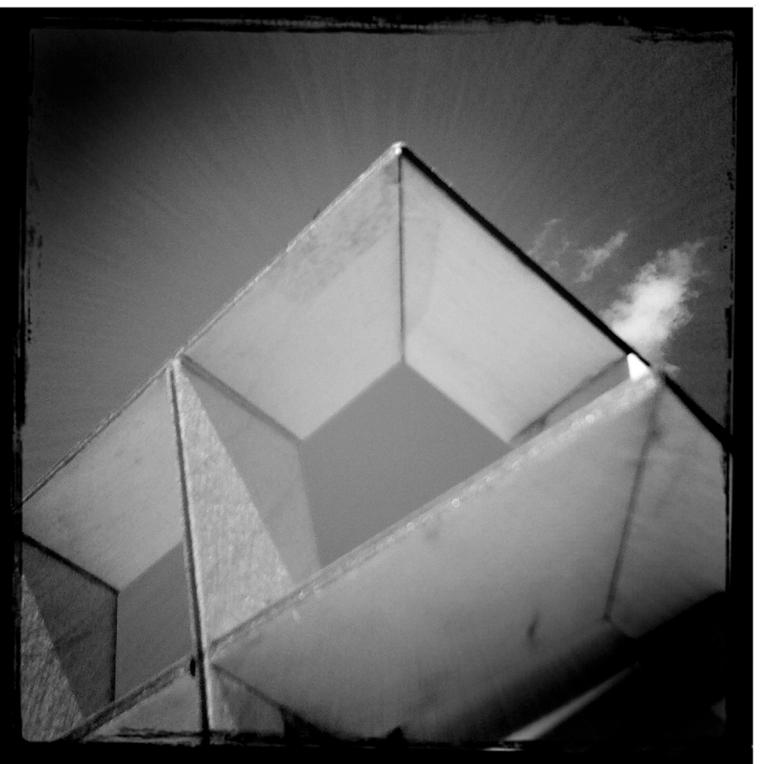










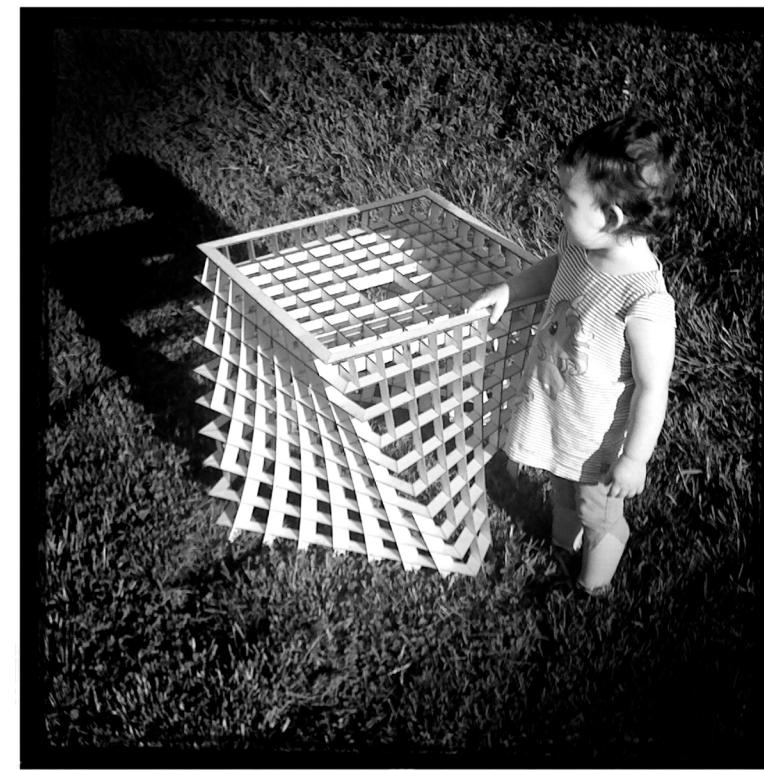












appendix

references cited

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