

OPEN
HOUSE
EUROPE

Future Heritage

Selected
Visual Stories
from 2025

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OUR FUTURE (HERITAGE)

In many aspects of society, and within architecture too, there continues to be much talk of local and global change. But change of what and to what? Social crises are deepening, not easing. Our conversations with colleagues across Europe show that the value placed on architecture and design appears to be waning, the power of communities to build and sustain themselves is being overlooked, and the demolition of a building is too often treated as inconsequential, when in truth it erases part of our shared identity.

For the Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF) and many others, Future Heritage was a timely and powerful theme. Future Heritage became a shared, loud, collective call to rethink how we value our heritage, our future and our role within it. Future Heritage felt like the beginning of something, and as we reach the end of the year, it now feels less of an act and more of a movement of resistance, resisting the neglect of our streets, housing and shared public spaces.

In 2025, the IAF was proud to join cities and countries across Europe through the Open House Europe network to explore this theme. Today, the IAF is working with renewed commitment to champion architecture, advocate for public participation in design and reset the value placed on our built environment. It has been said that stories are the secret reservoir of our values, and so, changing the stories we tell ourselves can and will shift these values. As the IAF celebrates its 20th year, we know that changing the value system that has evolved in the late 20th century and continues to inform how we commission, construct and care for the built environment will be central to so much of our work in the future.

The origin of the word 'conversation' comes from the idea of 'changing together towards', and, in the IAF, we firmly believe in the power and value of conversation to promote and encourage change. It is heartening to think that this year, around Europe, Open House supported thousands of conversations on a wide range of topics, across many different cities and cultures.

Open House festivals and the organisations and people who run them are uniquely placed to host these conversations towards change. By opening doors and inviting the public inside, Open House democratises access to architecture, city-making and city-makers, and our built environment. This year's Open House Europe programme showed how Future Heritage is already being negotiated on the ground.

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The images gathered in this book are more than mere documentation of the events in all our cities. They are visual evidence of a collective European inquiry.

Open House festivals do not simply showcase buildings; they put people in dialogue with each other and the cities in which they live. As cultural events, Open House festivals can and must forge new links between citizens and the city, placing policymakers, designers, funders, thinkers and all other people in contact and conversation. Silos continue to exist, thwarting true collaboration, and no progress can be made towards a sustainable Future Heritage without festivals such as Open House actively building spaces for people to gather and safely share their hopes and concerns.

In Dublin, we explored Future Heritage through a nine-day programme across the four districts of Dublin. Among hundreds of events, tours and visits, we staged three exhibitions that acted as evidence to counter negative and untrue narratives about our built world, untruths intended to drive our values towards economics and profit instead of social progress and equality.

Across our Open Table conversations, we gathered the public and experts to find a shared way of discussing the city through ideas of democracy, design, diversity, demolition and the diaspora. We invited colleagues from HouseEurope! and architects from Europe to speak to our audiences and to share their views on Future Heritage.

The images gathered in this book are more than mere documentation of the events in all our cities. They are visual evidence of a collective European inquiry. They capture moments of curiosity and connection, of people crossing thresholds, engaging with guides and discovering the hidden layers of their cities.

This catalogue symbolically concludes a year of collective exploration across Europe. However, our work is just beginning, with Future Heritage now clearly established as a foundation for our shared ambition towards a more sustainable, equitable and beautiful built world.

EMMETT SCANLON,
Director,
Irish Architecture Foundation (IAF)

Selected Visual Stories from 2025



Co-funded by
the European Union

OPEN HOUSE (ATHENS)

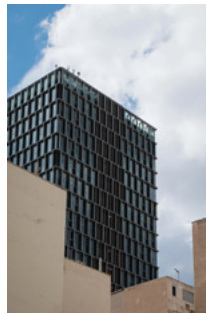
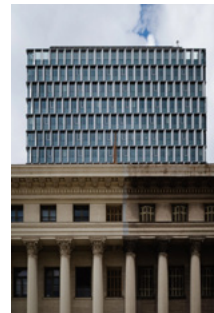
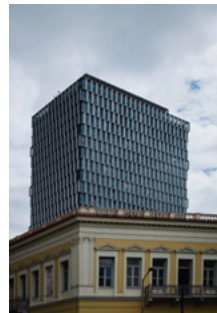
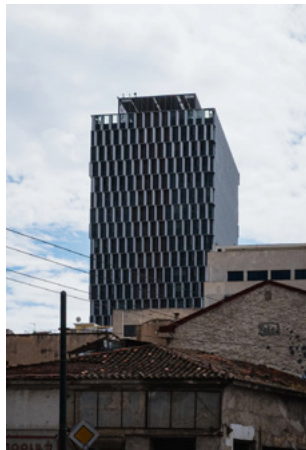
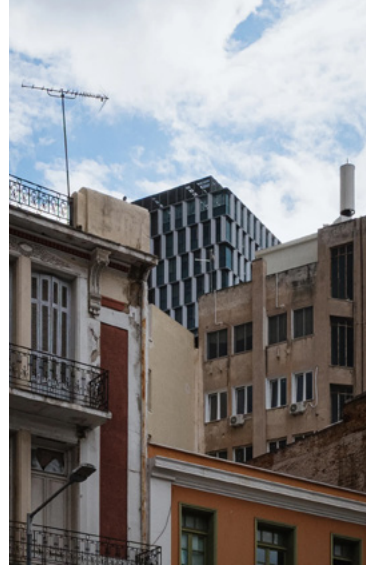
With respect for the past and an eye on the future, the 11th edition of Open House Athens took visitors by the hand across the city's different eras, from historic monuments to contemporary buildings, residences, offices and hotels. 77 buildings explored the theme of 'Future Heritage', allowing people to get lost in tales of restoration, conservation and adaptive reuse, which shape the cultural narrative of tomorrow.

Buildings such as Veil argued for transformation over demolition, with its perforated aluminium façade hovering around the existing structure, almost like a magic trick for the delight of visitors. On the other hand, the beautifully preserved Old (Small) Stock Market wowed people with its rich ornamentation, proving the value of preserving the authenticity of spaces in the modern urban landscape.

The Tower

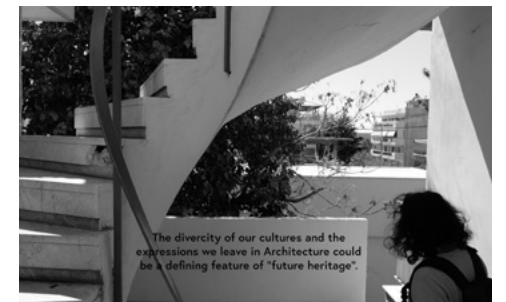
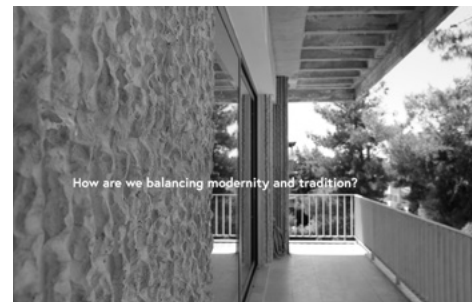


The Piraeus Tower rises above the surrounding buildings, creating a striking contrast between old and new.



Modernity & Tradition

My visual story was inspired by this year's theme, 'Future Heritage'. Architecture can link the past, present and future. It's not just about creating buildings, it's about setting a tone for how people will experience the world in the future. The materials we use today might become symbols of resilience and innovation for future generations. Athens is changing, but still remains timeless. How are we balancing modernity and tradition? The diversity of our cultures and the expressions we leave in architecture could be a defining feature of our future heritage.



Versions of me



I asked myself, 'What is going to be my country's future heritage?', and different versions of me surfaced to voice their opinion. The classic, the modern, the kid, the current and even a poet I didn't know existed.

The classic me wanted to showcase the timeless beauty of the older buildings in Athens. The modern me wanted to create a futuristic home with new, up-cycled and energy-efficient materials. The kid wanted to play and be random. The current me wanted to sing praises of the Veil that respected the old and made me look forward to the new. And the poet in me wanted to share how tricky it is to decide what to do, what to keep, what to use and what to weep.



OPEN HOUSE (BARCELONA)

Held under the Catalan title of 'Sent l'arquitectura' (Eng. feel/hear the architecture), the 16th edition of Open House Barcelona activated visitors to reacquaint themselves with the built environment sensorially, connecting people with architecture beyond materials, concepts and crafts. The sprawling programme across seven cities highlighted sensations such as harmony, essence, pleasure, reflection, surprise, calm, well-being and warmth.

Through this lens, visitors engaged with questions of heritage, understanding the subjective and emotional nature of deciding what gets preserved and what is relegated — the 'Future Heritage' round-table discussion at the Miró Foundation library provided a focused space of reflection on this. This topic was felt especially closely through tours of Montjuïc, a hillside home to different sites, including the National Museum, the Barcelona Pavilion and Poble Espanyol, where distinct legacies fuse and show how heritage evolves and generates fresh cultural possibilities.

Future Heritage, Collective Memory



My visual story is inspired by Barcelona's long and deep-rooted history with architecture as a way of inspiring and connecting the city's inhabitants. The characteristic streets, museums and buildings of Barcelona have captivated artists for centuries, including, most notably, photographers. The concept behind my black and white series, which emulates the style of early photography, pays homage to these artists and the city.



Looking into a dynamic future

We gaze through a window in the Palau del Marquès d'Alfarràs in Barcelona—a window that, intriguingly, only faces the ceiling of the adjacent room. This palace is a cultural heritage site with over a thousand years of history, dating back to the 11th century, when it was originally built as a watchtower.

We broaden our perspective, unlock inward visions and open ourselves to a different kind of future—one represented by another form of architecture: a residential building on Avinguda del Coll del Portell, constructed in the early 1970s.

By overlapping the two buildings, we can observe their differences—but, perhaps surprisingly, also their similarities. They become connected and create the basis for future projects.



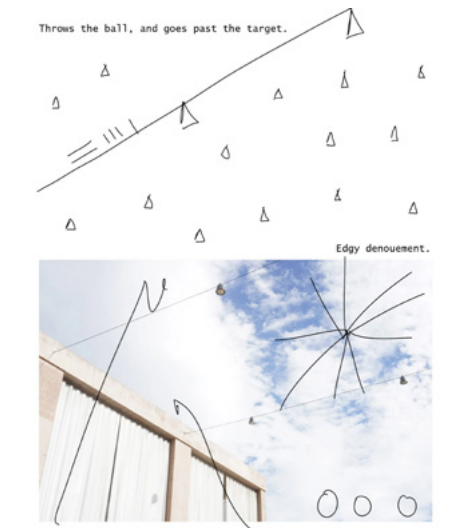
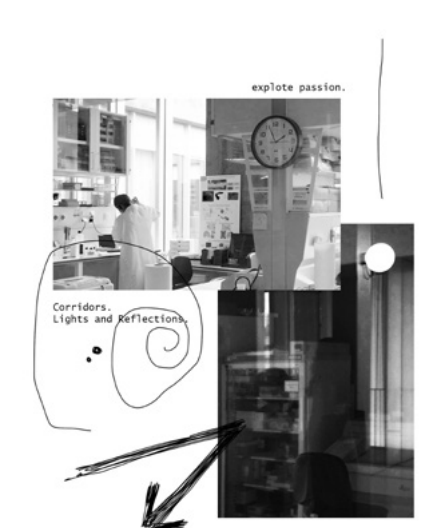
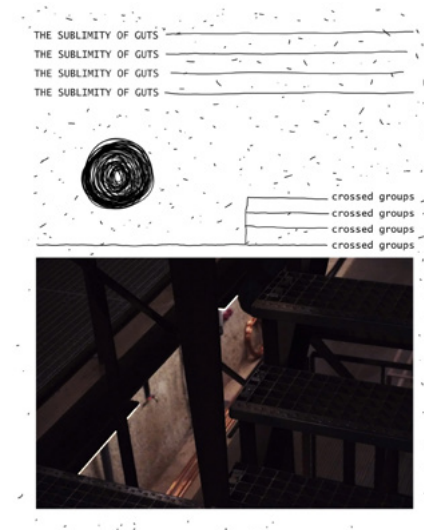
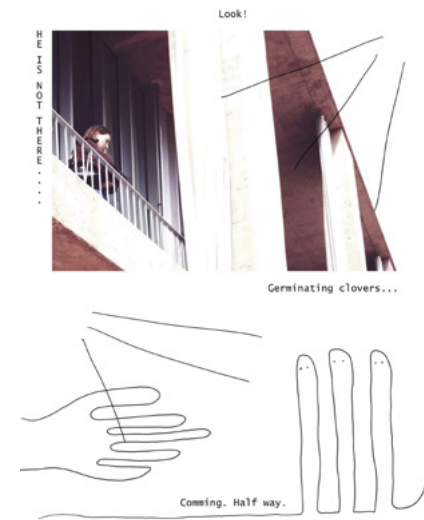
Quotidian Sensing. Meeting memories and future



Everyday experiences and quotidian encounters with space can help us project toward a future where memory and thoughtful desires meet. Entering a building for the first time triggers an encounter between emotions. Echoes from the past resurface as we search for familiar forms, materials and atmospheres that help us mirror and recognise ourselves in the space.

At the same time, a projection toward the future emerges. Arising new desires and thoughts on how we could inhabit differently, and what other possibilities there are for connecting with landscapes and surrounding communities.

At last, in the present, past and future meet through sensation: eyes wander over every corner, skin reaches out for textures, and sound and scent envelop us, giving a sense of belonging within the space.



OPEN HOUSE (BILBAO)

The best way to describe Open House Bilbao 2025 is 'heritage in motion'. Across a week of tours and events, visitors were reminded of their love for the city's iconic and historic buildings, like the Church of San Nicolás de Bilbao, Bilbao City Hall and the Bidebarrieta Library.

Simultaneously, ongoing development projects, such as at The Bilbao Fine Arts Museum—completed in 1945, expanded in 1970, and now, undergoing another expansion project, Agravitas—perfectly encapsulated how architecture could be an unfinished text, with each generation adding its paragraph. This feeling followed visitors as they climbed the zigzag staircase of Horno Alto de Bizkaia (Blast Furnace No. 1): a post-industrial relic transformed into a living bridge between past and present, inspiring visitors to see how once frozen monuments can be enlivened again to become a part of the city's future.

Looking back from tomorrow

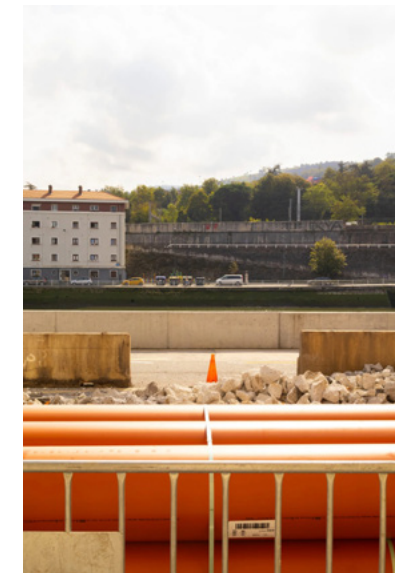


With this photograph, I am metaphorically presenting the eye of a future citizen who observes, through contemporary architecture, that which is past but also present. Thus, the image becomes a bridge between times, like a frozen moment where the future peeks into yesterday, and the past responds with its presence.



The evolution of the estuary

Bilbao is a city that has undergone a profound urban, social and cultural transformation, and the estuary has been both the witness and the protagonist of this entire process. It was here that the industrial activity which shaped the city's identity for decades was concentrated, and today, it has become a cultural hub. The estuary clearly reflects Bilbao's capacity for reinvention, symbolising its transition from an industrial past to an innovative present. With this project, I approach the estuary to observe how its evolution persists and how it continues to be a space for creation, change and the future, with Bilbao building and growing around it.



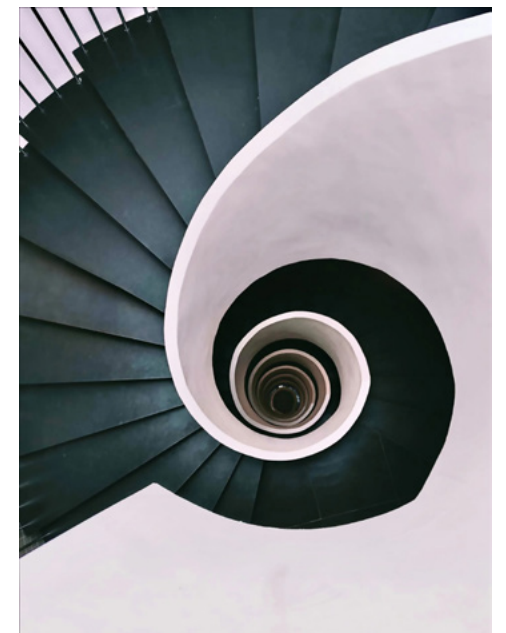
Invisible Architectures: Interior Perspectives on Bilbao's Built Future



This series explores Bilbao's contemporary architectural heritage from within, focusing on interior geometries rather than iconic facades. Five buildings representing different dimensions of 21st-century urban life - an archive, a social care centre, a modernist tower, a metro station and a hotel—were photographed through geometric abstraction that reveals their essential architectural language.

By stripping away context and function, the series questions what transforms architecture into heritage. Is it age, beauty or purpose? Is it the quiet way these interior spaces shape our collective experience?

From the archival repository preserving our past to the spiral staircase offering contemplation, these images document the intimate architectural landscapes that will define how future generations understand early 21st-century Bilbao: a city that transformed itself not just through its skyline but also through the spaces where daily life unfolds.



OPEN HOUSE (BRNO)



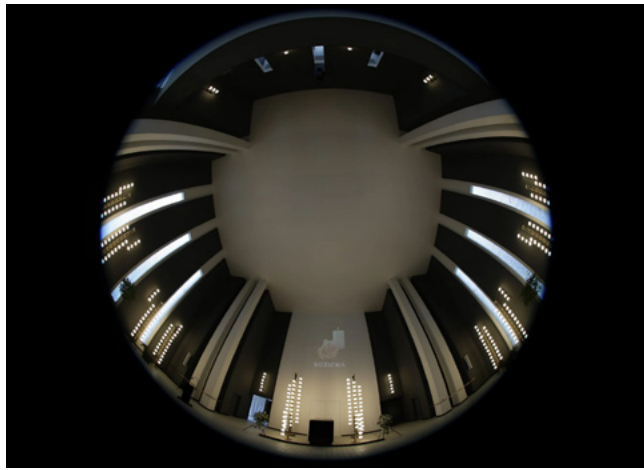
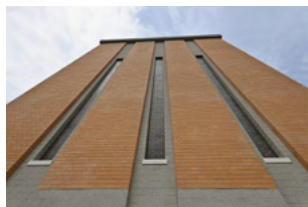
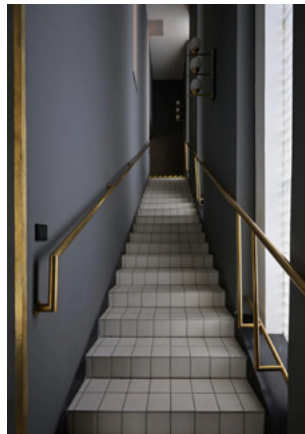
In this year's festival, visitors delved into Brno's urban fabric, which extended through time to connect memory with transformation. Buildings, such as The House of the Lords of Lipé — once a Gothic house and now a Renaissance palace — fascinated people with their winding stories of shifting ownership and reconstruction, showing how ideas of tomorrow's inheritance have long led the imaginations of architects.

One such architect was Bohuslav Fuchs, whose work was highlighted at Open House Brno 2025. Visitors found themselves speeding through the 1930s in a special tramway ride around 20 locations authored by Fuchs. The most popular event by attendance was 'Picnic Saturday' at Nova Zbrojovka, one of the most iconic industrial sites in Czech history, founded in 1918 but since abandoned save for several preserved buildings. A wonderful collaboration with a food festival brought people here again, giving new meaning to what once was a weapons factory.

Funeral home

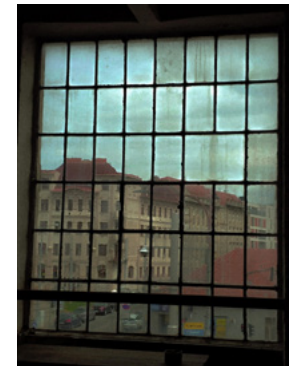


Exploring the future.



CEJL-ON— When the past speaks

The Cejl area in Brno, Czech Republic, holds historical significance and is often referred to as 'Moravian Manchester' due to its rich history in the textile industry. This area is set to undergo a transformation into a vibrant living space that honours its past while embracing new functions and communities.



The Analogue Soul of a Digital Image

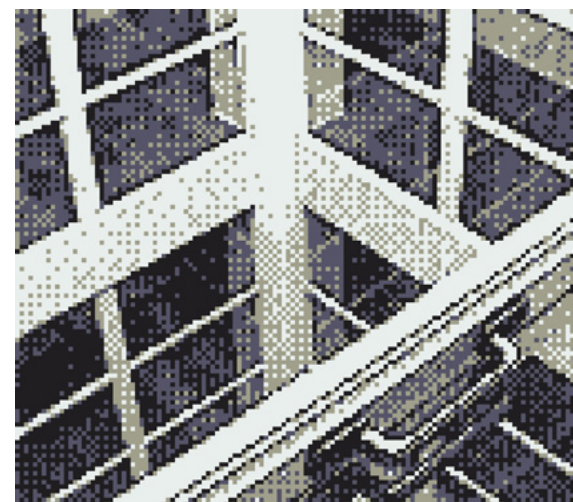


Photographed on the 1998 Game Boy Camera—one of the first digital cameras. Just as photography evolves over time, so too does architecture. The analogy is clear: both capture a moment, a memory. Though time moves on, we return to them again and again. Their stories still feel modern. Their charm, timeless. But how will we shape their future—and ours? That is yet to be seen.

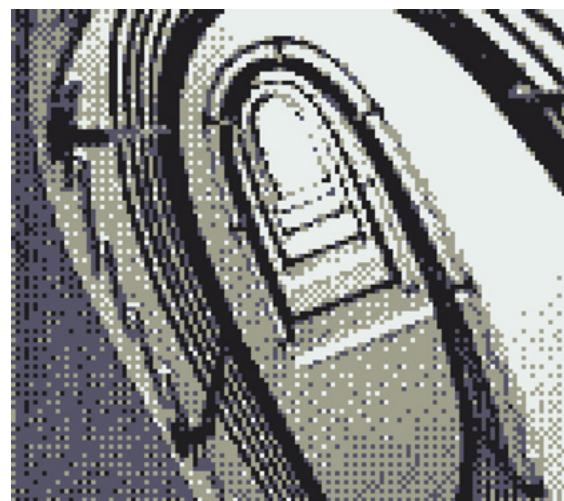
Buildings by a single image:



Hvězdárna a planetárium Brno



Český rozhlas



Český rozhlas



Janáčkovo divadlo



Hotel Avion



AZ Tower

OPEN HOUSE (DUBLIN)

From O'Connell Street to the coast, from the mountains to the metro, Open House Dublin opened doors across the city and county, inviting visitors into nine joy-filled days of talks, exhibitions, and tours. Through creative, hands-on workshops, such as at the National Gallery of Ireland, visitors were filled with possibilities, imagining how art, architecture and inclusivity could shape tomorrow's cultural spaces.

The Open House Dublin visual campaign anchored itself on O'Connell Street, a place where the past, present and future converge, using the street's layered histories to frame Future Heritage. We saw that come alive on guided tours along O'Connell Street by writer Karl Whitney plus visits to the General Post Office (GPO) which has not been possible for some years. The intergenerational aspect of heritage was further nurtured in the 'Fingal Future Visions' exhibition at Malahide Library, where children were given the chance to envision what Fingal might look like in twenty years.

The good, the bad and the beautiful



The photographs depict my drawing, produced for 'Mise le Meas', an exhibition part of Open House Dublin 2025. The drawing looks to capture the good, the bad and the beautiful shaping our city, sewn together by the thread of emigration, a theme deeply woven into Irish heritage. The drawing conglomerates some of the civic paradigms which cause Dublin's inhabitants to stay or leave. The drawing allows frustration and affection to co-exist, prompting the viewer to question their own relationship with the city.

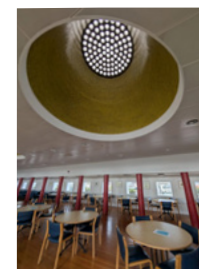
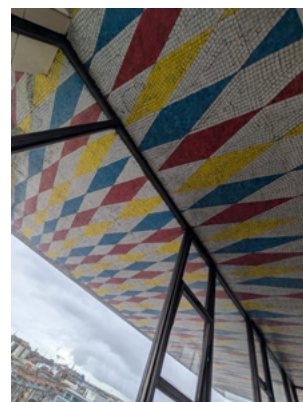
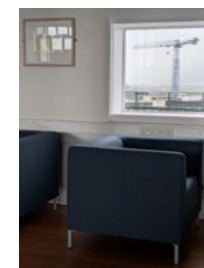
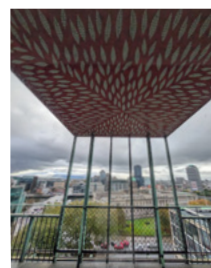


The Hidden Café at Busáras



Right from the start, Busarás was conceived not only as a bus terminal but also as a civic building that would bring together transport, architecture, art and public life. Over time, the building's form and materials—Portland stone cladding, Irish oak floors, bespoke mosaics by the artist Patrick Scott—have matured beautifully rather than aged.

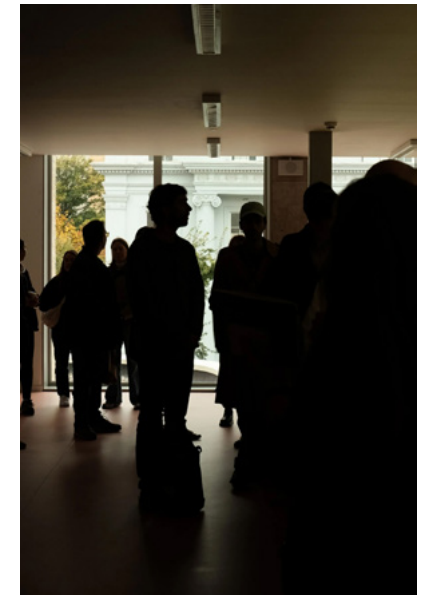
I believe this café could be reopened not merely as a restaurant but as a civic venue where architecture, stunning views and social experience meet. Its original purpose of being 'for people' still resonates deeply, and the building's beauty and relevance have endured and become iconic. Adapting it for the future does not mean erasing its past. Rather, it means honouring its original ambition: a building for all, with elegant public space, material integrity and panoramic connection to the city.



A Street with a View



The fabric of a city can be like a well-loved jumper—stretched and worn over time from wear, mended and patched to be made whole again. Sometimes, the mending work has been expertly done so it becomes one with the existing fabric. Other times, the repair is obvious, bringing attention not only to itself but to other details that may have been overlooked previously. It is easy to dismiss modern buildings in favour of existing structures, but that restricts a city's ability to grow and stretch itself. What is important then is considering how new buildings can add to the conversation of the streetscape and harmonise with the existing built environment around it. Dublin, with its mish-mash skylines and structure, is still searching for its harmony.



OPEN HOUSE (ESSEN)

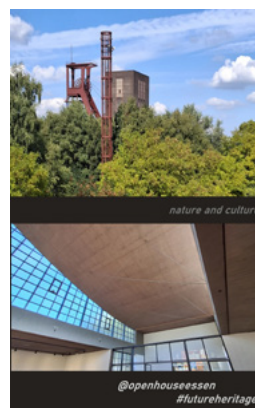
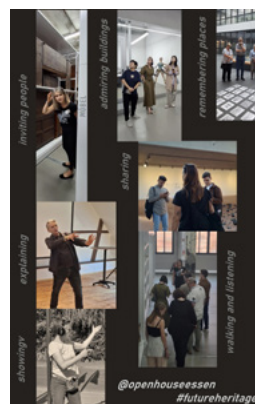
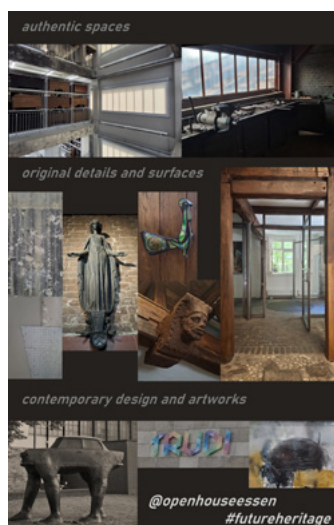
From historic landmarks to private housing projects, creative studios, workshops and former industrial sites, Open House Essen 2025 laid bare the evolution of the city. After all, Essen is marked by transformation—both in the built environment and those that reside within it.

The programme helped visitors connect the dots between historical locations and innovative projects, delving into how climate change, democracy, accessibility and social justice shape and influence future architectural heritage. With around 50% of churches closing, visitors were especially curious to witness the fate of spaces such as the Heilig Geist Church (now Kunstraum Heilig Geist) and the St. Gertrud Church (now TRUDI), which have found new life as homes for art and education. In the former, people were treated to an organ concert, hands-on workshops with a carpenter on sustainable design, and a lively Forum for Young International Architects, creating a space for dialogue, exchange and inspiration.

My Future Essen Heritage



The industrial heritage of Essen bleeds with both contemporary culture and nature in a way that creates new value to be admired.



EXPANDED PRESENT

During the Open House Essen 2025 festival, my painting, GEWEITETE GEGENWART (Eng. EXPANDED PRESENT), was exhibited in the former Church of St. Gertrud Church—now the Creative Cathedral TRUDI. This location resonated perfectly with the work: once sacred, now transformed into a cultural venue, it embodies the dialogue between past and future, tradition and transformation.



In the painting, single elements intertwine almost mystically, playing between memory and possibility. Through it, I explore how both individual and collective imprints shape our thoughts, emotions and actions and to what extent our inner worlds define our being.



OPEN HOUSE (LISBOA)

OPEN
HOUSE
LISBOA

Curated by Daniela Sá and João Carmo Simões, Open House Lisboa 2025 captivated visitors with the story of 'The Invention of Lisbon', showing how architecture serves both as a record of what has been and as a foundation for what is yet to come.

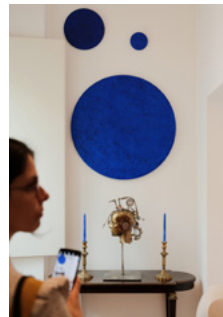
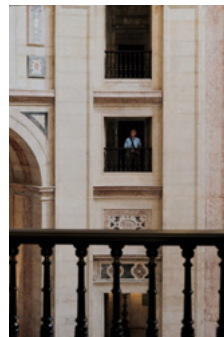
The National Pantheon spoke of how iconic buildings can remain relevant in contemporary life, while the body of the city rearranged itself before visitors' very eyes, with arteries growing between the lower part of the city and Castle Hill, as new transport routes showed how ongoing invention creates a more vibrant, accessible and equitable city. In addition to the visits to the buildings, the four urban walks guided by specialists from different fields (architects, historians, and sociologists) also helped to deepen the understanding of how history and renewal overlap, revealing the different layers of Lisbon.

Still Standing



As with all things in life, the old makes way for the new, while the new strives to find its place in history. The city's landscape is layered with different eras of existence, each revealing a unique slice of its history.

In this series, captured during Open House Lisboa 2025, I've paired images of both old and new spaces—whether seen in isolation or relation to their surroundings—in an effort to present a snapshot of my city as it stands today.



Cycles

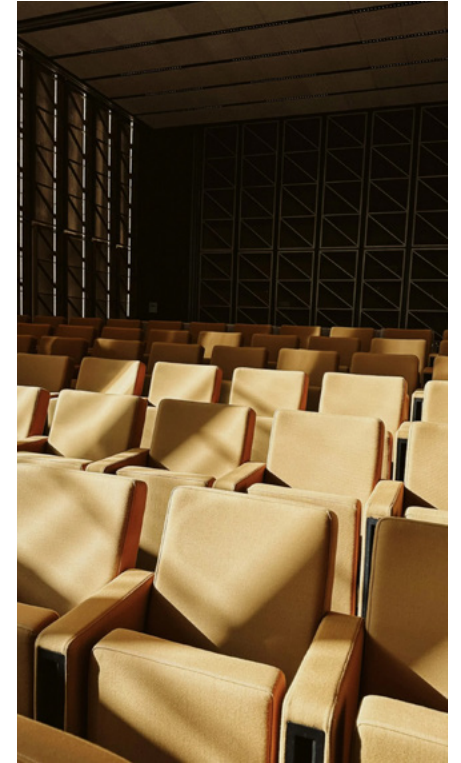
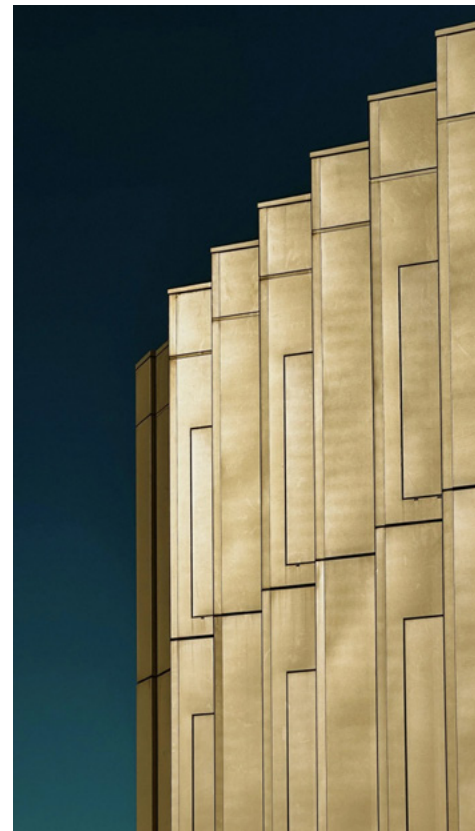
Capturing the inside and outside of the spaces featured in Open House Lisboa's 14th edition, this project intends to observe and reformat heritage from the future past. To see Lisbon anew, as a miniature in constant evolution, being shaped and reshaped, progressing through solar cycles and shifting from model prototypes to fully formed scenes, alive and colored. The use of 3D technology, central to the modern genesis of architecture itself, presents the raw material of this city in motion on a grand scale, inviting us to reflect.



Echoes of Tomorrow



Lisbon reveals itself as a city suspended between memory and possibility. In this visual story, fragments of its architectural heritage, from opulent salons and industrial machines to modernist lines and evolving construction sites, resonate with the past while anticipating futures still unwritten. These spaces, textures and silences speak softly of continuity and change. 'Echoes of Tomorrow' considers architecture as both memory and material, urging us to reflect on what we carry forward and how we inhabit and reshape the spaces that define our future.



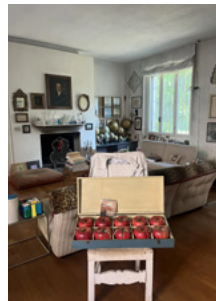
OPEN HOUSE (MILANO)

At Open House Milano 2025, visitors found themselves 'In A Relationship' with the city, as the title of this year's festival nudged them to reimagine their connection to the past, present and future of Milan.

Whether in the intimate settings of private houses with their fascinating features and hidden details, awe-inspiring redevelopment projects such as the Piazzale Loreto, or the sombre Casa della Memoria preserving the civic memory of the Italian resistance movement, the colourful palette of emotions in this year's festival won the hearts of visitors and asked them to consider what their responsibilities in this relationship might be, so it may continue to flourish and bloom for future generations.

The Vettabbia Mill: where the gentle past still whispers through time

The Vettabbia Mill is a hidden gem where the soul of 19th-century Milan lingers in today's cityscape. It is a timeless courtyard where nature embraces memory and art, gently watched over by the warm presence of a graceful host.



Light&Dark in Milan

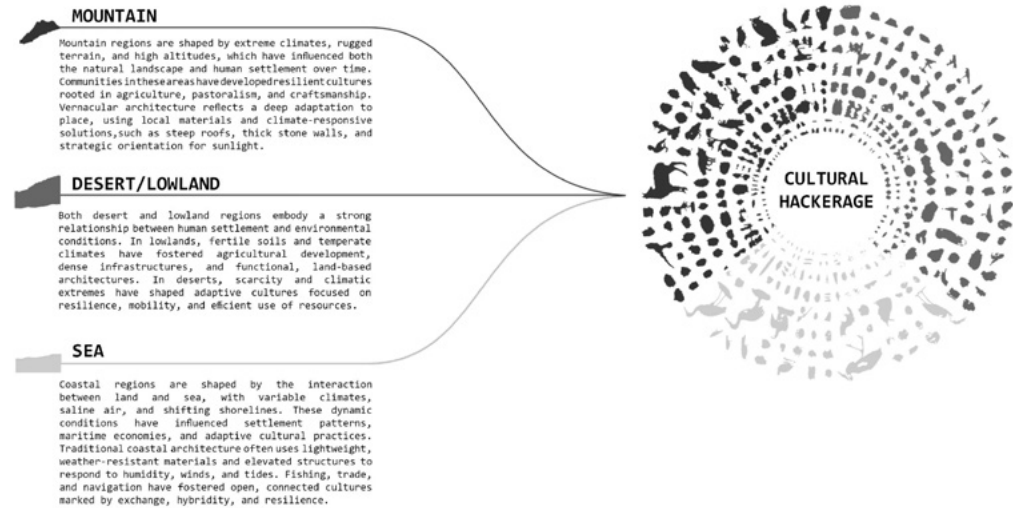
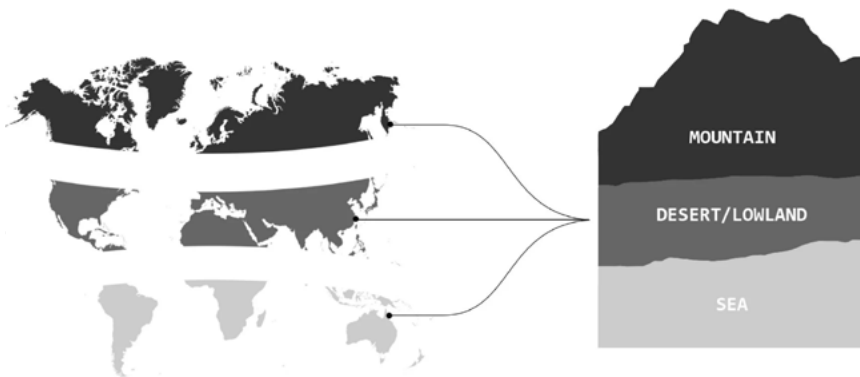
With reference to Open House Europe's annual theme for 2025, 'Future Heritage', this visual story captures the hidden corners of old buildings during the last Open House Milano festival. These old buildings have been subject to renovations and shifting utilities, and their reuse has improved the quality of living for their guests. 'Future Heritage' is a shared and synchronised look towards the same horizon, seen during both day and night, in the light and the dark, respecting traditions and local character while embracing adaptability and resilience in the face of today's most pressing challenges.



Decoding Spaces & Places: Cultural Hacking



Each place has a specific 'identity', the result of a stratification of cultural, social, and environmental elements. This identity is not fixed: it evolves over time, shaped by geography, climate, community, historical factors, and memory. These layers form the cultural DNA of a place, a memory not frozen in time but continuously rewritten. Every single elements can be read as data: once extracted and contextualized, they help us decode the deeper structure of that identity. We might call this process spatial hacking, a creative act of deconstructing and reconfiguring narratives to combine and invent new architectural languages. By collecting and analyzing formal, technical, environmental, and social parameters, we can grasp a context in its full complexity. This 'pilot project' proposes an approach that likens territorial analysis to a creative and conscious 'hacking' of space, transforming environmental, technical, and cultural parameters into an operative design tool. Data thus becomes key to critically understanding places, addressing real issues, and developing integrated and sustainable architectural solutions. Decoding and hacking the cultural traces of the past becomes a strategic design act, transforming them into tools capable of guiding us toward a more informed, sustainable, and conscious future.



OPEN HOUSE (PRAHA)



Open House Praha 2025 landed under the title of 'Past Heritage, Future Challenges', amazing visitors with cutting-edge, sustainable transformations of historic buildings. Focusing on railways and schools, festivalgoers were spoilt for choice to visit 123 open buildings and enjoy the week-long programme of 180 accompanying events, including lectures, exhibitions, film screenings, guided city walks and a cycling tour.

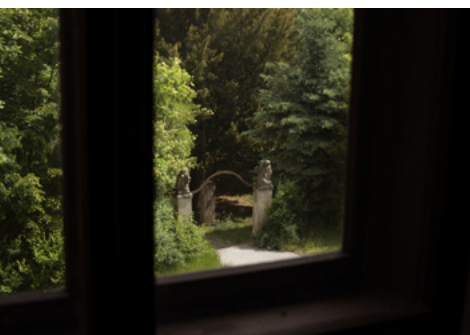
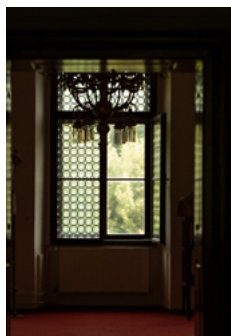
Architect Osamu Okamura, this year's guest curator, astutely connected the dots between students and the spaces they inhabit, and projects such as the Secondary Vocational School on Českobrodská Street or the new Faculty of Tropical AgriSciences at the Czech University of Life Sciences, inspired visitors to see how investing in the potential of young people helps shape a brighter future for everyone.

Too Beautiful to Be Sold



'Too Beautiful to Be Sold' is a poetic visual response to the fragile state of Veleslavín Chateau in Prague, an official heritage site that remains neglected and unsold despite repeated state auctions. Through intimate details—cracked wood, cobwebs, fading light—the series captures the silent presence of a place on the edge of disappearance. The photographs were created with the support of Zuzana Malá Jánská, who helps care for the site as part of a local volunteering initiative.

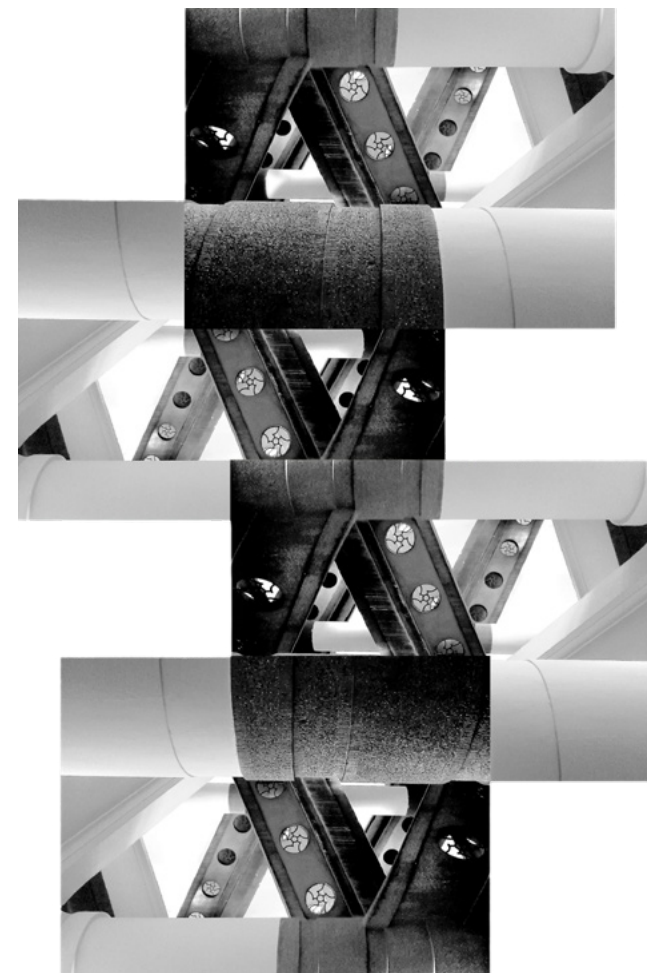
Her voice and experience resonate throughout the visual story, revealing both hope and deep concern. If sold to a private owner, the chateau may be lost to the public forever. This project quietly questions cultural value: what happens to places which are not protected by law but only through the love of someone? Veleslavín Chateau is a place that doesn't shine on any tourist map yet breathes memories. A house that whispers.



'Too Beautiful to Be Sold' photos, 2025 © Aneta Ježková

Reflective Stairs

Are the future and history the same, or are they different? The future is now, and, in a moment, now becomes history. What our ancestors passed down to us still matters and will also mean something to our children. Some parts of the future will always only reflect the past, but sometimes, we can take what we have and turn it into something new. Just like these photos of old stairs, which can create a fresh perspective through their reflections.



'Reflective Stairs' collage, 2025 © Alžběta Skřontová

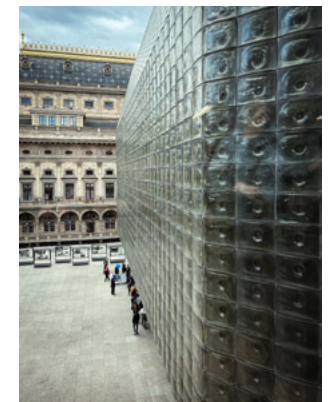
Dialogue Between Eras



Where Prague's theatrical heritage meets radical contemporary vision, a profound architectural dialogue unfolds. This series captures the tension between the National Theatre's neo-Renaissance grandeur and the audacious glass geometry of its New Stage extension.

The convex facade (a crystalline skin of hundreds of glass blocks) transforms the nature of architectural conversation. Each surface becomes a lens, refracting light, reflections and time itself. The ornate stonework finds its echo in this faceted mirror, creating an urban palimpsest where heritage and innovation write simultaneously.

Shot during Open House Praha 2025, these images reveal architecture's power to collapse temporal boundaries. The glass blocks act as pixels in an urban screen, capturing fragments of the past while projecting future visions. Visitors become performers in this architectural theatre, their movements bridging centuries.

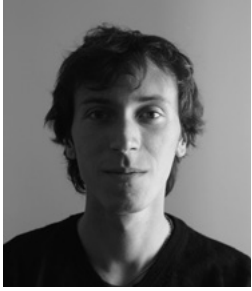


OPEN HOUSE (ROMA)

Rome has no shortage of historically significant architecture, so it's no surprise the theme of 'Future Heritage' resonated deeply throughout the city during Open House Roma 2025. The importance of environmentally conscious design and the city's ability to adapt and thrive amidst modern challenges became the main pillars of this year's festival, with tours, talks and workshops creating the foundation for rich dialogue with visitors.

The tours of the Vela di Calatrava construction site—a sports complex left unfinished since 2005 and only now beginning to regain a role in the city thanks to an initial completion effort—were hugely successful, reminding visitors that reuse and transformation offer sustainable ways to engage with a highly complex heritage. This theme also resonated at the Horti Sallustiani, the monumental gardens of the Roman nobility built by Caesar in 70 BC, buried in 1870 and restored in the 1990s, which offer visitors a moment of connection across time and memory.

Stasis



'Stasis' tells the story of the unfinished, within the framework of Santiago Calatrava's 'Città dello Sport' (Eng. City of Sport), a project started in Rome in 2008, never completed and now redeveloped. One of the two sails stands imposingly, now an integral part of the capital's skyline. The second sail, which was never built, was supposed to mirror the first, resting on concrete supports that now stand alone, awaiting a new function.

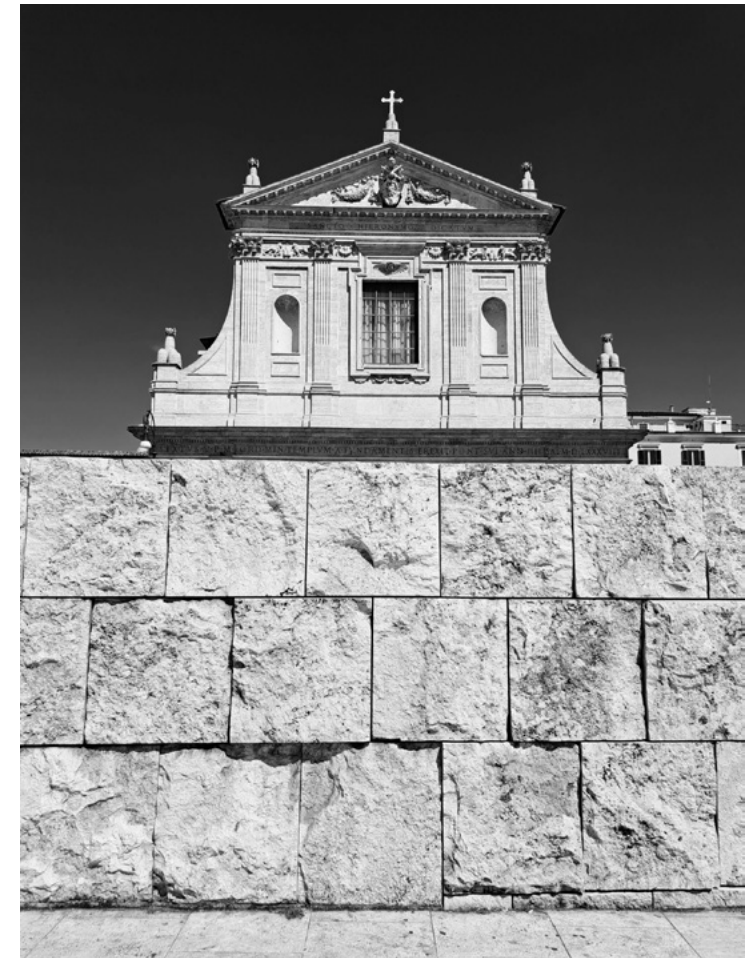


'Stasis' image, 2025 © Andrea Polenta

BEYOND TIME



In an urban space where the contemporary meets historical memory, the travertine block wall of Richard Meier's Ara Pacis Museum and the late-Renaissance facade of San Girolamo dei Croati merge into a single vision. It is an image that conveys the possible harmony between past and present, becoming shared heritage and legacy for future generations.



'BEYOND TIME' image, 2025 © Paola Angelani

futūra

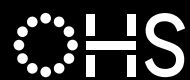


'futūra' is the tale of a journey through the eyes of those who participated in giving new life to a forgotten space. The Progetto Forti association narrates the past of Forte Trionfale—one of 15 military forts in Rome, built in the late 1800s and located in the northern part of the city.

Driven by the idea of urban value, the Bomori Architetti studio wished to transform and recover this abandoned area into a temporary multipurpose centre, open to the local community. The intent was to create flexible spaces capable of hosting events of different natures, both public and private. Due to the temporary nature of the project, the main approach was the creative use of colour and recycled materials from previous exhibitions. Thanks to simple but decisive interventions, a metaphorical dialogue between the ancient heritage of the site and the modern world began.



OPEN HOUSE (SLOVENIA)



Open House
Slovenia

The largest architecture festival in Slovenia returned for its 16th edition, inviting visitors into a thoughtful dialogue on architecture as a vital part of national identity. Under the central theme of 'Future Heritage', the programme unfolded through several thematic events in addition to the main festival in spring.

Marking the 160th anniversary of visionary architect Max Fabiani, the central festival offered multiple tours, including an urban walk through Fabiani's Ljubljana, highlighting the ongoing interplay between preservation and innovation. Complemented by showcases of contemporary architecture, the programme further expanded the festival's reflection on what it means to build and sustain our future architectural heritage.

Three in-depth tours during the first festival weekend, called 'Spaces of the State', raised questions about the relationship between architecture, design, politics, representation and democracy. During the second festival weekend, titled 'Baroque Ljubljana', visitors explored landmark Baroque buildings whose monumental forms and rich symbolism continue to shape the city's urban character.

A Quiet Boundary



At the edge of Ankaran, where the pines whisper to the sea, a small cemetery lies—a quiet boundary between life and memory. Here, stone blends with the earth, and light glides over faded names. The architecture of this place is almost invisible: it exists in the feeling of space, in the shadows of trees, in the soft rhythm of time. The Ankaran Cemetery tells a story of resources that cannot be measured: memory, silence and the natural presence of place. It teaches us to honour the minimal and feel the weight of emptiness, where every stone serves as a guardian of history. My visual story observes this delicate dialogue between architecture, humanity and nature.



Reflections of the Past, Shaping the Future

'Reflections of the Past, Shaping the Future' explores the dialogue between historical and modern architecture. The images capture the reflection of an old building's facade in the sleek glass surface of a contemporary structure, symbolising how heritage is preserved and reinterpreted in the face of rapid urban development. The juxtaposition of the traditional and the modern highlights the ongoing process of blending the past with the future in urban landscapes.



What we preserve says who we are. What we build says who we want to be.

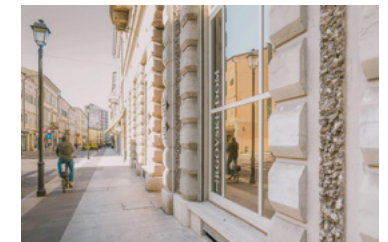
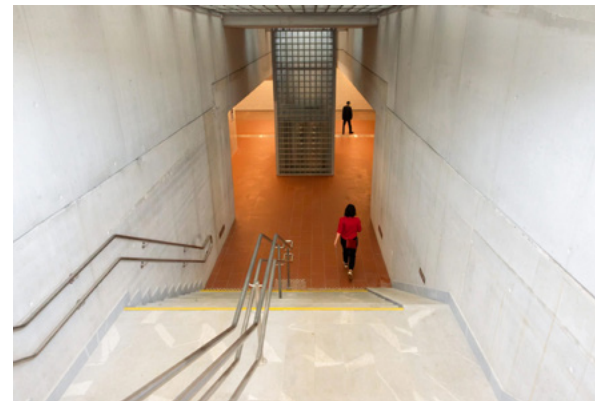


A visual story about the architecture of memory and imagination.

Heritage is not just what survives—it's what we choose to value. In every detail, there is memory. We preserve tradition not to freeze it but to let it evolve. The visual story traces fragments of shared experience, from the intimate gestures of individuals in public spaces to the rhythms of community. It reveals the contrast of time, where the past rests beside the new. Architecture is a process: alive, layered, shaped by knowledge and always in motion. Each image holds a piece of the past. Together, they form a new structure—not made from walls but from meanings. It is a vision born of imagination yet grounded in the lived past. It is a story of connection across time: what we keep, what we change and how we choose to remember.



'What we preserve says who we are. What we build says who we want to be.' Photos, 2025 © Megi Pilko



OPEN HOUSE (STOCKHOLM)

For its 10th year anniversary, Open House Stockholm took the opportunity to reflect not only on itself, but on the city as a whole. Tours of Stockholmsrummet, the city's exhibition and information centre dedicated to urban development, nurtured the curiosity of visitors to discover where Stockholm is going and where it came from.

While Byström's villa (Prince Carl's Palace) offered a window into the city's significant past, the walk through the industrially historic 'Blästern' quarter saw visitors tracing the timeline of the city with every step, from the well-preserved industrial architecture of the 1930s to the ultra-modern 21st-century life science hub of Hagastaden. A special collaboration to mark The National City Park's 30th anniversary showcased the park's unique blend of city and nature, with visitors hopping on their bikes to tour Stockholm's continuous narrative between the past and present, witnessing new developments coexisting with deep historical traces.

Future heritage in the making



Future heritage is made at architecture schools, where future architects are also made...



Life's abstractions, Årstabron, Stockholm

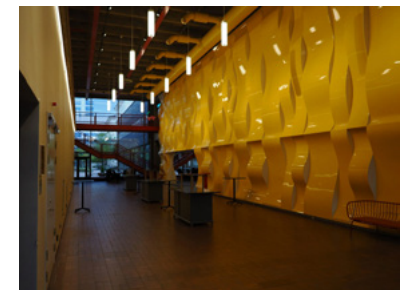
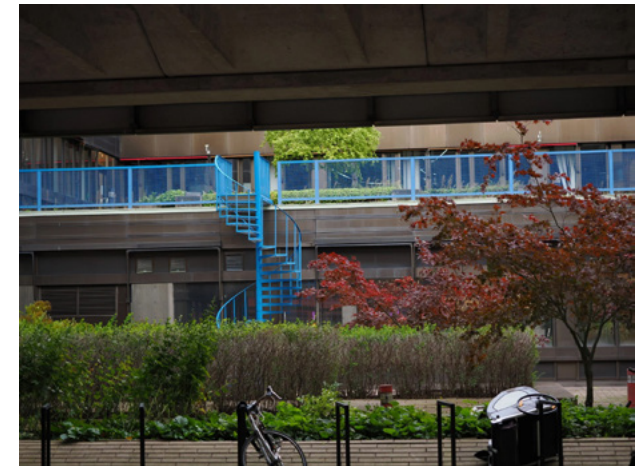
I was cycling to the pool early one morning over Årstabron bridge, between Årsta and Södermalm, when I noticed this little dance of people, bikes and trains. It symbolised to me life in the big city in a beautiful way.



Garnisonen in Stockholm: Future Heritage in Concrete



The Garnisonen, nestled in the heart of Östermalm, is a living testament to Sweden's architectural development, innovative vision and cultural significance. Once a military base, its historic barrack buildings and bold 1970s architecture now house modern offices and public services with courtyards and artworks. Each building in Garnisonen is characterised by its own distinctive colour—blue, yellow, red or green—set against the raw concrete surfaces typical of the time. Visiting the rooftop terrace and seeing the concrete of Garnisonen from above, surrounded by the old buildings of the neighbourhood, gives such a sense of wonder and amazement; who would ever believe it looks like this from above? Future Heritage in a nutshell.

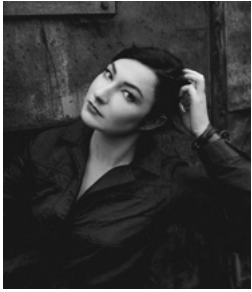


OPEN HOUSE (TALLINN)

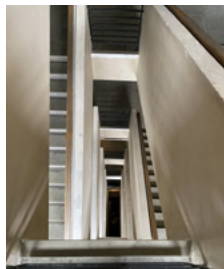
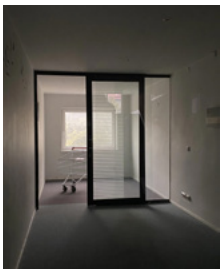
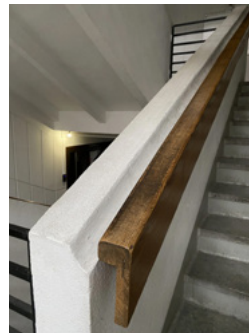
Marking its seventh edition, Open House Tallinn didn't shy away from asking the city's inhabitants to reflect on complicated questions of what could be considered the architecture of Tallinn's future, presenting examples of both contemporary architectural excellence and adaptive reuse of existing spaces. Reckoning with the city's architectural legacy, buildings such as Linnahall, a contested postmodern landmark navigating between preservation and transformation, asked visitors to weigh the persistence of beauty and the limits of imagination when faced with complex history.

Through tours of Kalamaja garages or Projekteerijate maja (Designers' House), visitors were further pushed to consider what could even be counted as heritage, and what should be left behind in history to pave the way for the future. In contrast, the Põhjala Factory stood as a guiding light of transformation in the festival's programme, with the former shipyard site having become a hub for over 100 creative businesses, community gardens and galleries.

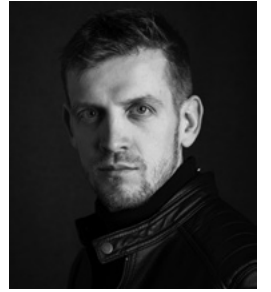
Forgotten in an office building



An office building in the centre of Tallinn, where it is difficult to count how many offices are still suitable for use, is now closed and will soon be demolished. Among other things, the building has a concert hall and sauna. Walking through the corridors, one gets the feeling that time has been standing still there since the 1970s.



Wood, Light and Learning: Shaping Tomorrow's Heritage



This visual story showcases the Pelgulinna State Gymnasium (PERG)—a wooden school building that embodies the idea of 'Future Heritage'. Its sustainable timber architecture, natural light and indoor trees symbolise a new balance between education, environment and community.

The school nurtures young people who tackle major social challenges, especially in the fields of environment and democracy. Here, architecture becomes both a classroom and a legacy, inspiring responsibility for and connection with nature. PERG blurs the boundaries between indoor and outdoor spaces, reflecting a forward-looking vision where education, sustainability and architecture merge to shape tomorrow's cultural heritage.

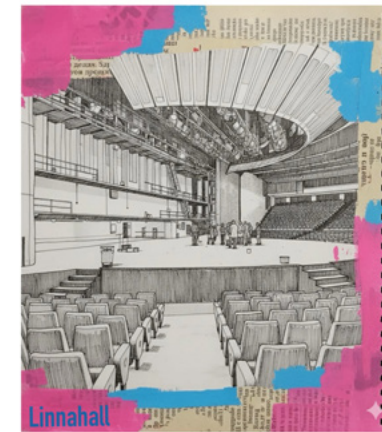


Temporal Tallinn: Visual Storytelling



In October, I had the opportunity to visit three buildings during Open House Tallinn 2025—the Südalinna Theatre, the D-terminal of the Port of Tallinn and Tallinn City Hall. Each site impressed me with its architecture and the stories within its walls. I wanted to go beyond simple photography and show transformation; a bridge between the past, the present and what the future might hold.

I turned my photos into creative illustration collages, blending reality and imagination to express the evolution of these spaces. Through this visual story, I show architecture as something alive: changing and adapting while preserving its essence. This project allowed me to see Tallinn through the lens of creativity, exploring time, memory and urban identity. Three illustrations were inspired by the Südalinna Theatre, two by the D-terminal of the Port of Tallinn and two by Tallinn City Hall.



OPEN HOUSE (THESSALONIKI)

This year's Open House Thessaloniki festival was one of the largest and most vibrant editions yet, with the theme of 'Future Heritage' as a beacon drawing the city's residents into meaningful dialogue about sustainability, reuse, cultural identity and the future of Thessaloniki's urban landscape.

'The Industrial Heritage of Thessaloniki' walk allowed visitors to pause in familiar terrain and observe how the history of the city is retold through architecture, from historic landmarks such as Villa Petridi on the western edge of the city centre — a symbol of Thessaloniki's commercial and administrative influence — to the shells of industrial complexes, such as FIX, with buildings like HUB 26 sprouting like flowers from cracks in concrete as symbols of renewal. Beyond this, the gaze of visitors was guided towards new contemporary architectural landmarks, like the Pinewood American International School, reminding them that the present will also become history one day.

A future built on memory



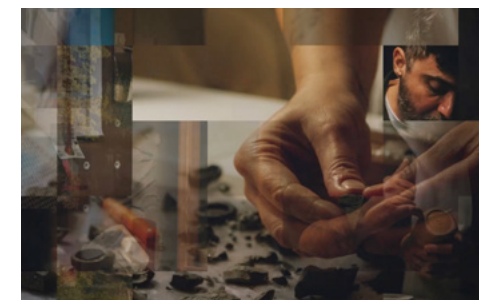
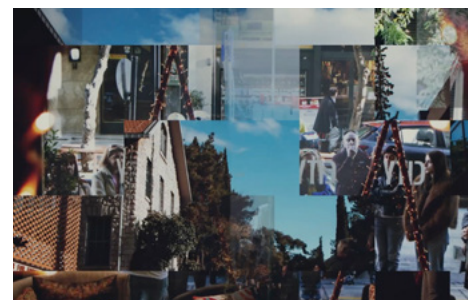
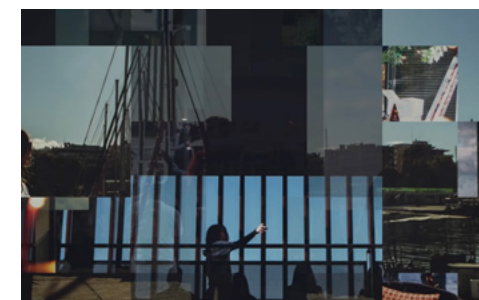
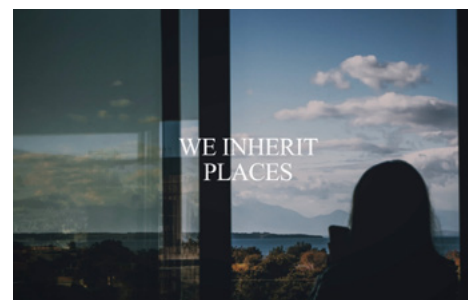
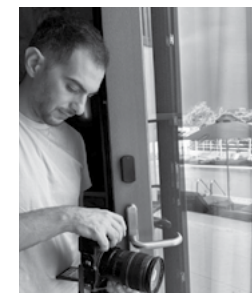
This visual story reveals Thessaloniki as a city caught between layers, where what is hidden, worn or incomplete becomes a bridge to the future. In the first image, a torn sheet of green plastic becomes an unexpected lens. Through its opening, we glimpse an interior space—fragments of shelves, textures and light—like a secret invitation to look deeper. The temporary material, creased and imperfect, contrasts with the permanence of what lies behind it. It is a metaphor for transition: the future is always viewed through something fragile yet full of possibility.

The second image shifts the perspective outdoors, where a weathered stone wall and a rusted latch tell the story of decades. Cracks, moss, peeling layers and a simple wooden bench capture the quiet persistence of materials that refuse to disappear. It reminds us that tomorrow's identity grows from what survives today, no matter how modest or broken.



The Next Chapter

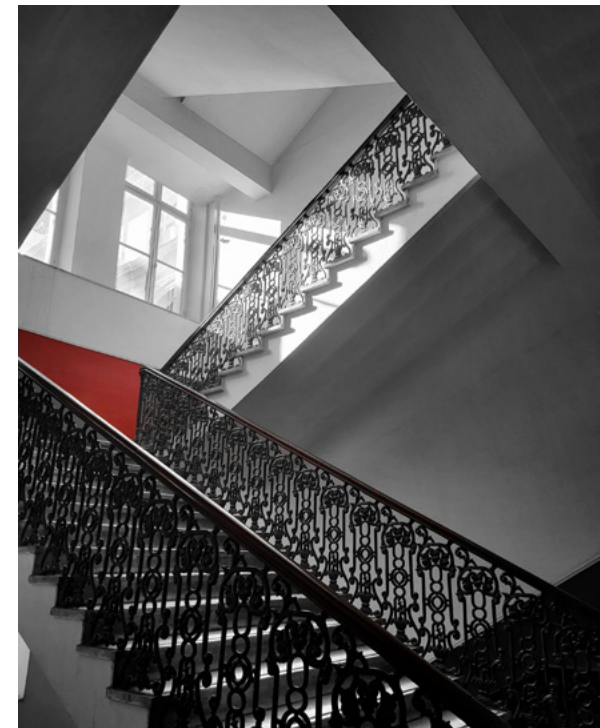
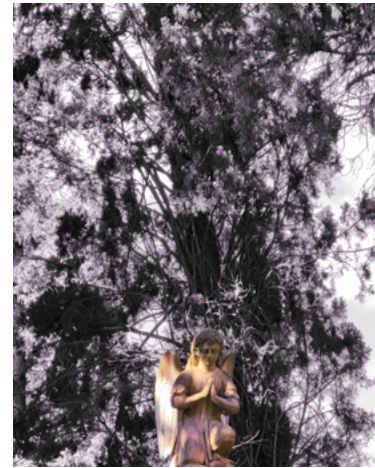
This 11-second video collage for Open House Thessaloniki 2025 explores the theme of 'Future Heritage' through the faces of visitors and volunteers and the energy of the event. Architecture is present, but the focus is on the people who activate it—turning spaces into shared experiences and future memories. With soft music and gentle motion, the piece suggests that heritage is not only walls and landmarks but community, participation and care. We inherit places, but their future is shaped by those who walk through them, guide inside them and keep the spirit of the city open.



Echoes of Tomorrow: Thessaloniki's Living Heritage



This visual story explores the enduring spirit and evolving legacy of Thessaloniki, framing its historical depths as vital future heritage. From serene contemplation at the Evangelistria Cemetery (a testament to personal history and memory), to the architectural grandeur and enduring function of the Government House (representing civic continuity and administrative history), and the sacred weight of the ciborium at the Church of Saint Demetrius (embodying spiritual and architectural resilience), these images connect the city's past governance, faith and memory. The collection highlights how the spaces we preserve and inhabit today define the identity we pass on to the future.



OPEN HOUSE (VALENCIA)

**OPEN HOUSE
VALENCIA**

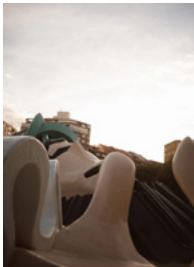
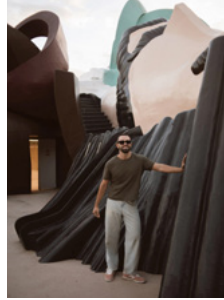
Focusing on people, as the ones who imbue architecture with meaning through their presence, Open House Valencia 2025 allowed the city to become a space for learning and reflection. With activities for all ages, from children building models during hands-on workshops to the Open Talk series, layered discussions on heritage and renewal gave much-needed space to people's emotional, lived experience of architecture.

Unafraid of complex debate, the tours of Vinival winery, a landmark of the Patacona area in Alboraya, asked visitors to consider how redevelopment projects walk the line between prioritising local needs or serving private interests. At the same time, the Old San Juan Bautista Asylum, transformed into the Turia Campus for Universidad Europea, shone as an example of respect for local artisanal traditions through its careful restoration, reminding visitors how spaces can grow meaningfully alongside them.

Gulliver Magic



A journey into this magical playground, inspired by Jonathan Swift, which masterfully combines traditional Valencian elements with the most innovative design of its era.



The Threshold of Harmony

An open door to new thinking towards freedom and harmony, where lines, curves, light and shadows draw the beauty and feeling of harmony.

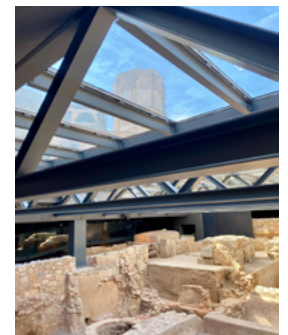
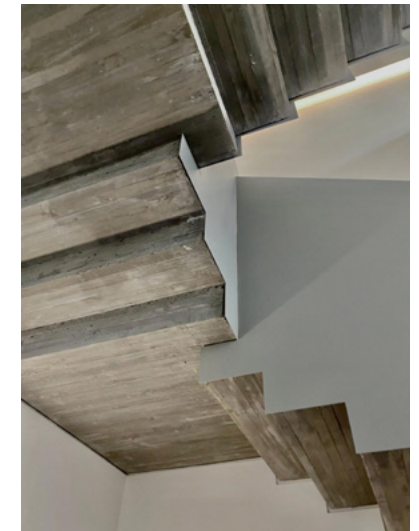


Light Traces



This photo series proposes a visual journey between the permanent and the ephemeral, between the imprint of past civilisations and the presence of contemporary structures. Through frames that engage in dialogue with history, light becomes a guide, and the image becomes a memory, revealing how architectural legacy continues to inspire the gaze of the present. The colours evoke emotions and atmospheres, while the open-to-the-sky perspectives invite us to contemplate the contrast between the still and the changing.

Each image is a pause between the past and the future: a visual bridge that unites what remains with what is transformed, reminding us that the heritage of the future is built with the gaze we choose to project.



OPEN HOUSE (VILNIUS)

Returning for its 11th edition, Open House Vilnius once again offered residents the rare opportunity to explore more than 50 distinctive sites across the city, including 11 new additions and four tours dedicated to its green spaces. Blending tradition with forward-looking ideas, visitors were invited to discover the heritage of the future, stepping into the values and challenges that continue to shape Vilnius.

The Office Building of the Lithuanian Cooperative Union highlighted the importance of inclusive architecture and accessible public services, pointing toward the future of social care. Meanwhile, the Japanese Garden Sei Shin En offered a serene counterpoint to urban life, inviting moments of contemplation through its timeless design.

This year's programme also deepened its commitment to the environment, introducing four new green urban spaces that underscored care for nature as an investment in the future.

Trolleybus



As Open House Vilnius explained: 'In the early post-war decade, as Vilnius expanded, the city needed a new, durable mode of transportation that could carry more passengers. In the duel between tram and trolleybus, it was the trolleybus that won as it was better suited to the narrow streets of the Old Town.'

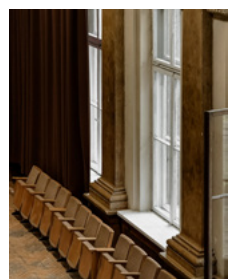
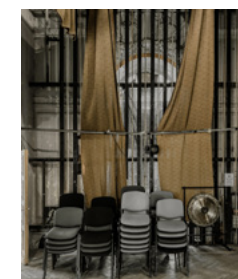
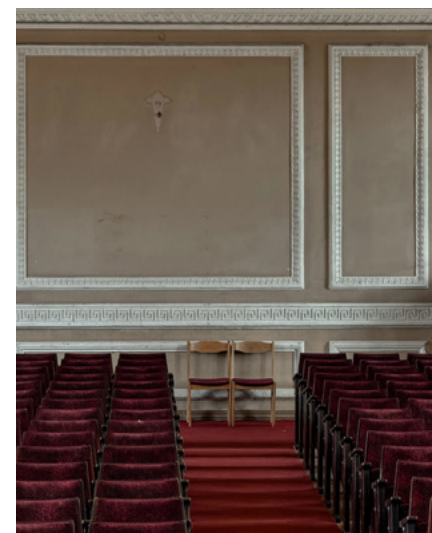
Today, trolleybuses remain one of the most eco-friendly modes of public transportation in Vilnius. Promoting public transport is essential for a sustainable future, and trolleybuses are expected to remain a part of that future. This visual story was created in the Antakalnis Trolleybus Depot—a place where the past and future of Vilnius' public transport meet. Time will tell how this depot, with its blend of old and new trolleybuses and buildings, will evolve in the years to come.



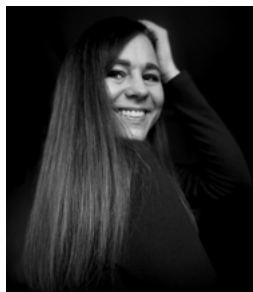
Reserved for Tomorrow



A chair is never just a chair. It is a symbol and a cultural form. It connects times: the silence of the past and the expectation of the future. A chair can mean solitude or communion; it can be empty or reserved for someone known or not. People leave, the chairs remain. In different public spaces—halls, rooftops, behind the scenes—they become quiet monuments, witnesses of time and signs that someone was once there. We sit on chairs as our ancestors did. The chair silently participates in time. This series of photographs captures not only chairs as objects but also their silent role, asking what the future will inherit and what will be left behind. In the chairs' silence, the future takes root in the past.



Dialogues between time and the city



This visual story captures moments where heritage and modernity coexist within the same frame. Through architectural contrasts and symbolic lines of sight, the images reflect a dialogue between old and new, memory and progress, presence and perspective. The city becomes an evolving, layered and reinterpreted being.



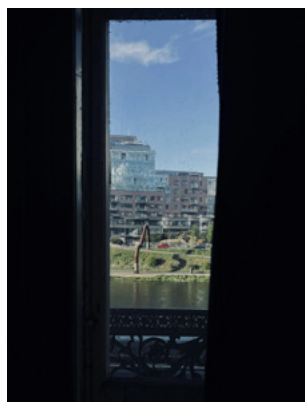
'A WINDOW TO THE
REDEEMER'

Framed by the steel bones of a future loft, the historic Church of Christ the Redeemer stands quietly in the background as a symbol of cultural continuity and generational presence.



'THE STANDING ECHO
OF MEMORY'

A red-brick chimney rises like a vertical relic in the centre of redevelopment. It anchors memory within the rapid expansion of modern urban architecture, resisting erasure by becoming a part of the new landscape.



'WAVING TO A DISTANT
NEIGHBOUR'

Viewed through the window frame of Ignas Parčevskis' historic house, a contemporary riverside sculpture appears like a punctuation mark between the past and the present.

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all the participants who were selected and contributed to this year's Visual Stories exhibition.

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Partner festivals



Exhibition team

Exhibition Team, Design and Curation:

Katerina Doudoumi &
Open House Athens team

Catalogue team, Curation and Production:

ARCHITEKTŪROS FONDAS

Agnė Rubytė
Martynas Germanavičius
Paulina Puolytė-Vaitkienė
Vilius Balčiūnas

Texts and editing:

Dovydas Laurinaitis

Catalogue design:

Greta Janutytė

Exhibition Production:

Open House Athens

Exhibition host



Coordinator

Architektūros
fondas

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