

*“There are these two young fish swimming along, and they happen to meet an older fish swimming the other way, who nods at them and says: <<Morning, boys, how's the water?>>. And the two young fish swim on for a bit, and then eventually one of them looks over at the other and goes: <<What the hell is water?>>.”*

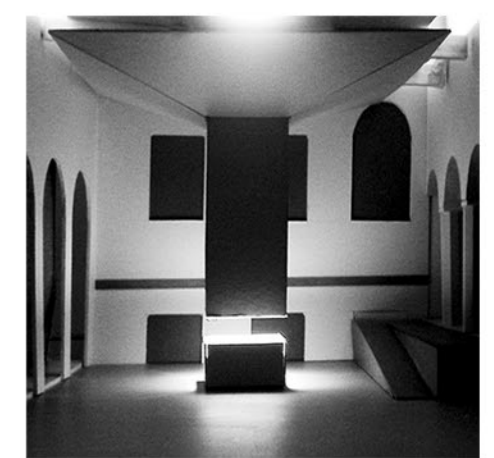
*The most obvious, ubiquitous, important realities are often the ones that are the hardest to see and talk about”. (\*)*



(2001) Swimming pool in Lissone, Milan.  
Partly underground rooms with natural light from hidden carved out openings, like a roman “aula” (hall of the Thermal Baths).



(2002) Renewal of an historical courtyard in Atri, Teramo. Light and water gradually entering the space below through a reversed obelisk, which at first glance appears to be suspended in the air.



*There is a complex and changing world out there.  
We try to investigate its intimate essence in order to rediscover its forgotten archaic light.*

(2007) Parking and gardens in Genoa.  
Openings carved out in the concrete walls to  
provide air and light to the three storeys parking  
behind, or niches with no reliefs, empty hollows  
belonging to an unfinished ancient building?



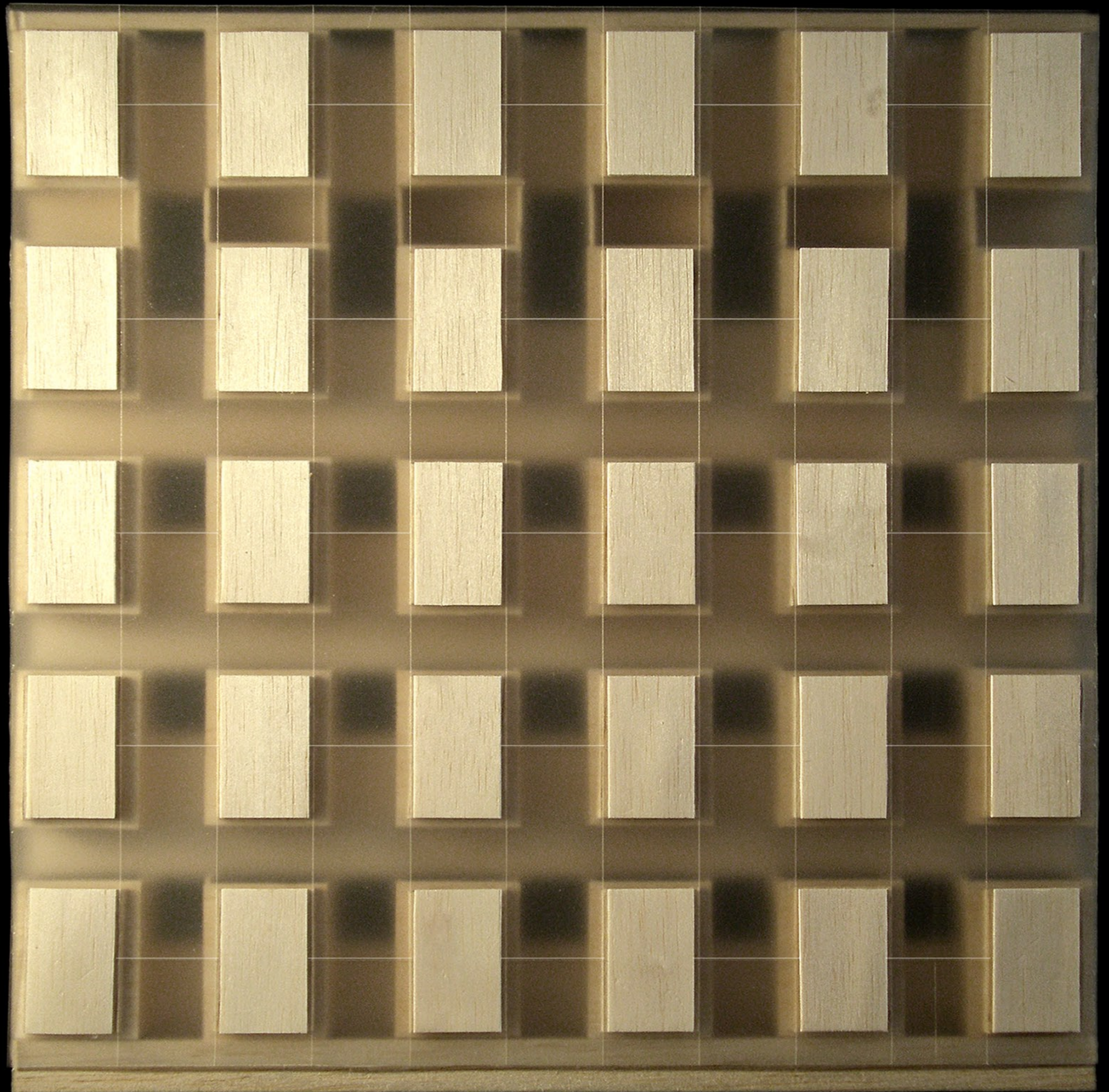
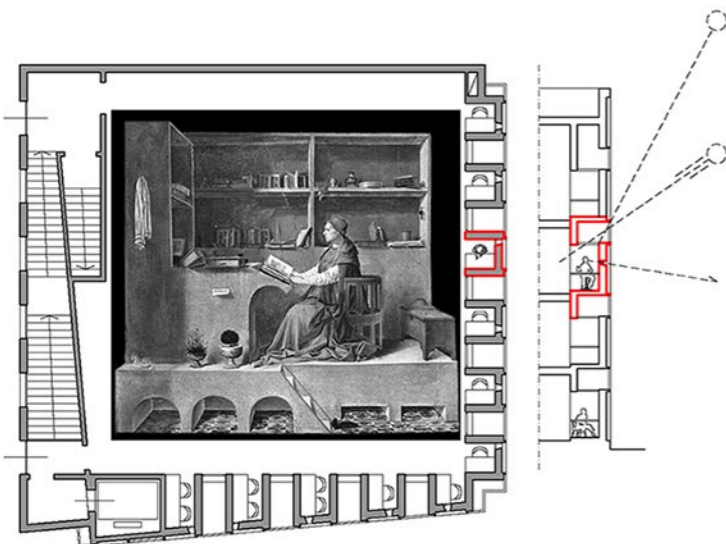
*What a boring situation when buildings speak only about their functions, when their presence can evoke nothing more than their activities. Can you imagine someone with no memory, no charme, no metaphysical deepness: the mere banality at work? Only buildings with soul, belong to architecture.*

(2009) Library in Campobasso.

The building provides a paradoxical perception when compared with traditional practice: reversed fronts, concrete instead of windows, glass instead of concrete.

Between the study carrels, backward openings protected from direct sun, give warm and inviting light to the open space of the reading room.

*You should think about what you are looking at if you really want to see things like the first time, as perhaps we used to do in paradise. Architecture is for us a sort of mental speech about the way reality appears to our eyes, it is a meditation of mind that makes it possible to recognize things, or at least to see them once again.*





***Architecture is a reward in itself.***

This is not a traditional curriculum: you'll not find any list of ***When your buildings can be considered architecture*** empty words – works, awards or publications. This is not even a

***you have got the greatest gratification.***

statement of intent: no chimerical buildings of good intentions.

***In ancient times the client was the author of the***

It may be considered a fragment of our way of thinking about

***architecture, not the architect; this is to say that all***

architecture, six "aphorisms" ready to be judged directly by you.

***mundane gratifications – popularity, money and so on -***

Architecture deals with ideas rather than words.

***are for clients, not for architects who should find in***

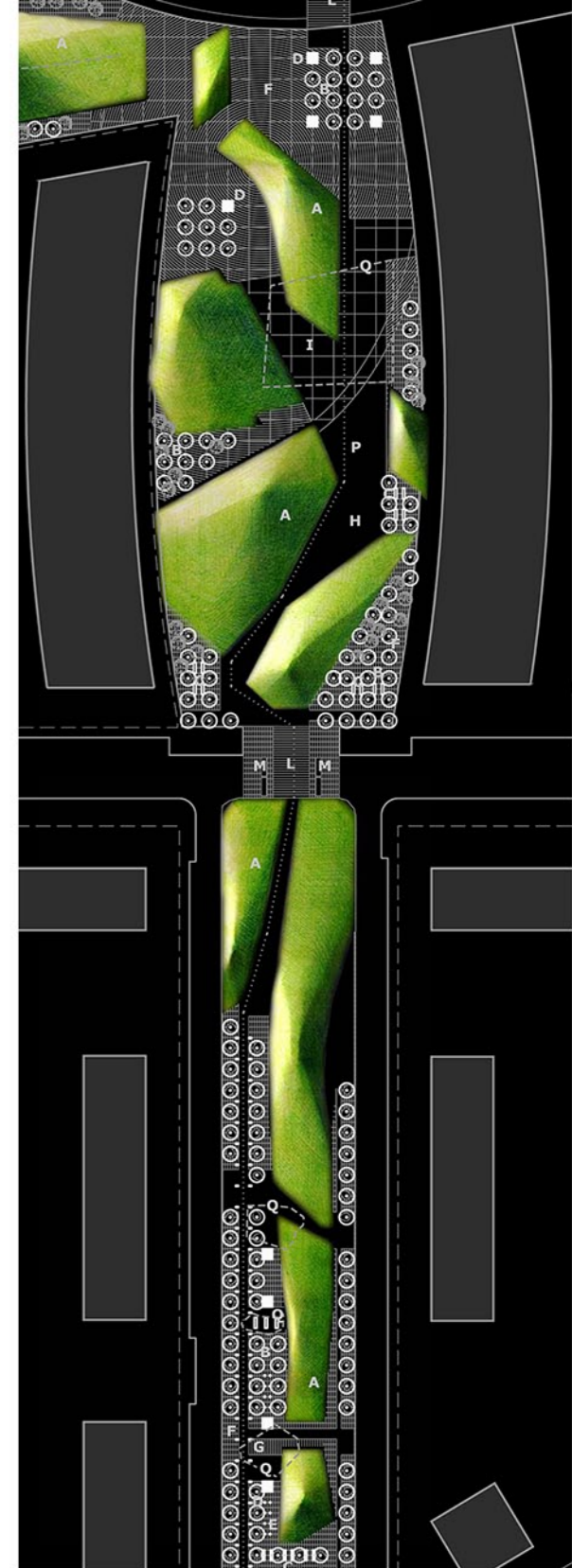
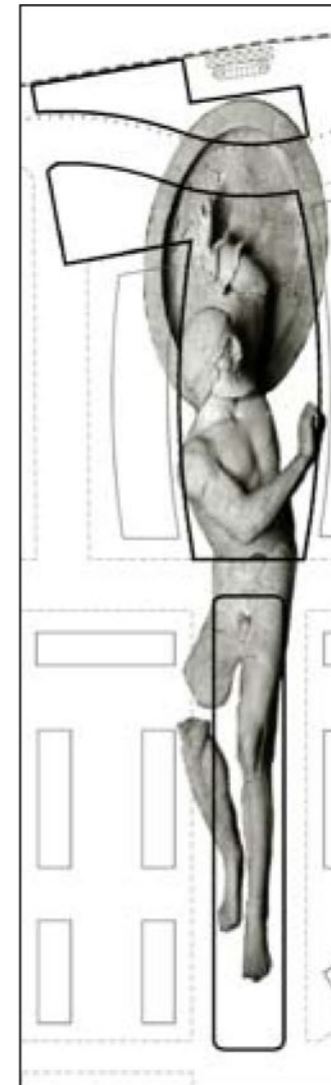
*Des.Arc* is an architectural firm based in Genoa, Italy.

***themselves the ultimate reason for their activity.***

We produce architecture.

***This is the only way to do a good job.***

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(2008) Public garden in Rome. A hidden secret gives coherence to the new design of the landscape. As in a forgotten legend, a giant warrior is buried underneath the hills of the public garden where boys are playing and people are walking: who still remembers that old story?



*"I know that this stuff probably doesn't sound fun and breezy or grandly inspirational. What it is, so far as I can see, is the truth with a whole lot of rhetorical bullshit pared away. Obviously, you can think of it whatever you wish. It is about simple awareness - awareness of what is so real and essential, so hidden in plain sight all around us, that we have to keep reminding ourselves, over and over: <<This is water, this is water>>"*<sup>(\*)</sup>

<sup>(\*)</sup> From a speech given by David Foster Wallace.