



Unfinished Cities

Santiago. Buenos Aires. Tokio

03.08.26 - 07.08.26

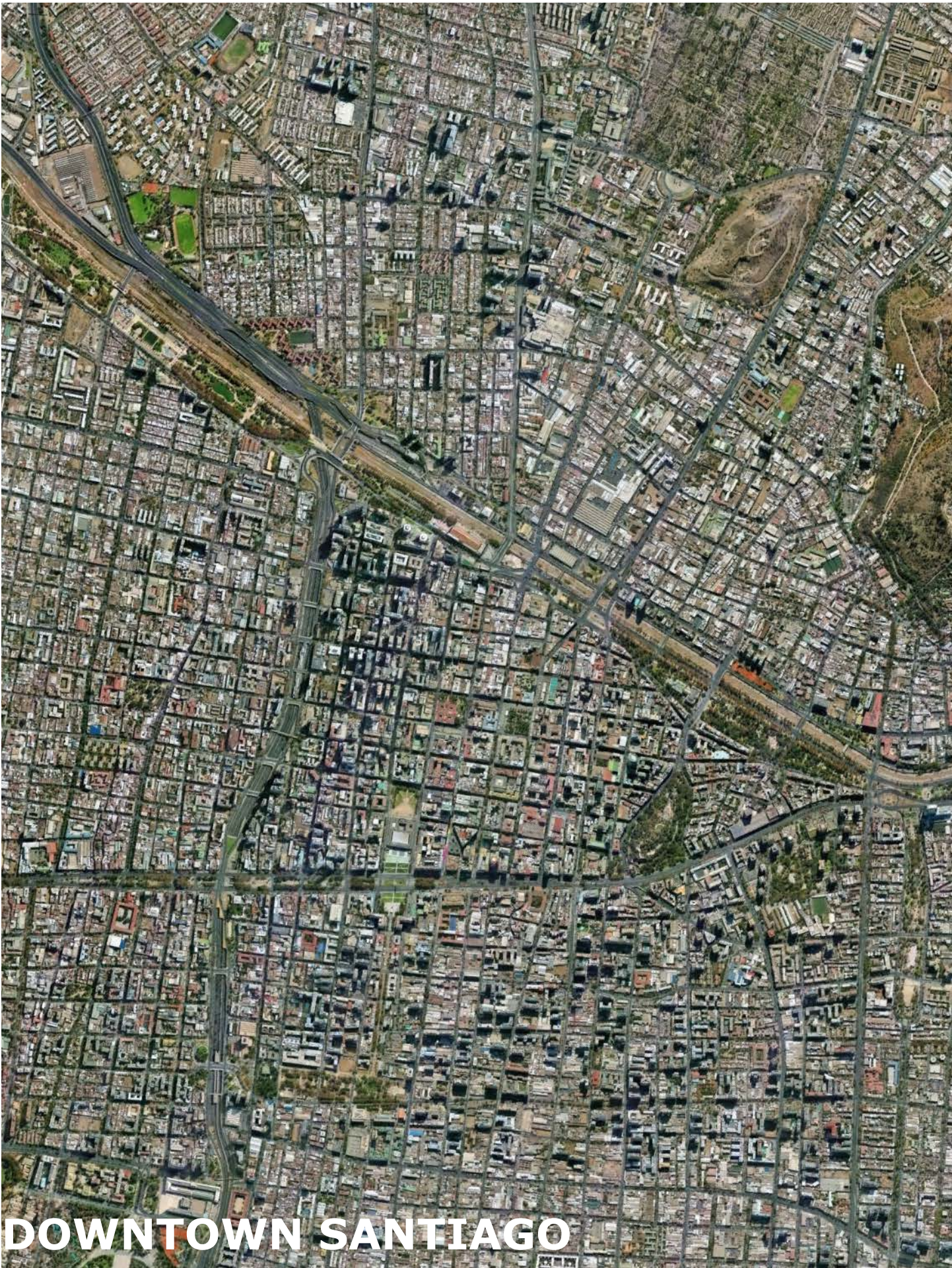
The workshop explores speculative strategies for urban renewal, focusing on the vacant plot adjacent to the recently restored Palacio Pereira. The site's program takes the relocation of the National Cultural Heritage Service and the National Archive as its point of departure.

The academic objective is to speculate on public-use programs that integrate into the complex, enhancing its civic presence. This approach aims to maximize the project's public return, transforming it into an infrastructure that catalyzes urban life. By prioritizing public value, the project argues for state funding through its role as a strategic investment in the future of downtown Santiago.

The workshop brings together professors and students from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, Universidad de Chile, Universidad Nacional de San Martín (Argentina), The University of Tokyo, and Tokyo University of Science for a week of collaborative work in Santiago de Chile.

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DOWNTOWN SANTIAGO

THE SITE AND THE BRIEF

SITE, CONTEXT & PROGRAM

Urban Context: The Foundational Triangle

The site occupies a strategic position at the threshold of Santiago's foundational core. This central district is defined by a distinct triangular geometry, bounded by the Autopista Central (Pan-American Highway) to the west, the Mapocho River to the north, and Alameda Avenue—the city's primary civic and transit axis—to the south. Within this dense fabric, the vacant lot adjacent to Palacio Pereira serves as our laboratory: a residual plot in a block that encapsulates the complex layers of Santiago's urban evolution.

The Brief: From Institution to Urban Device

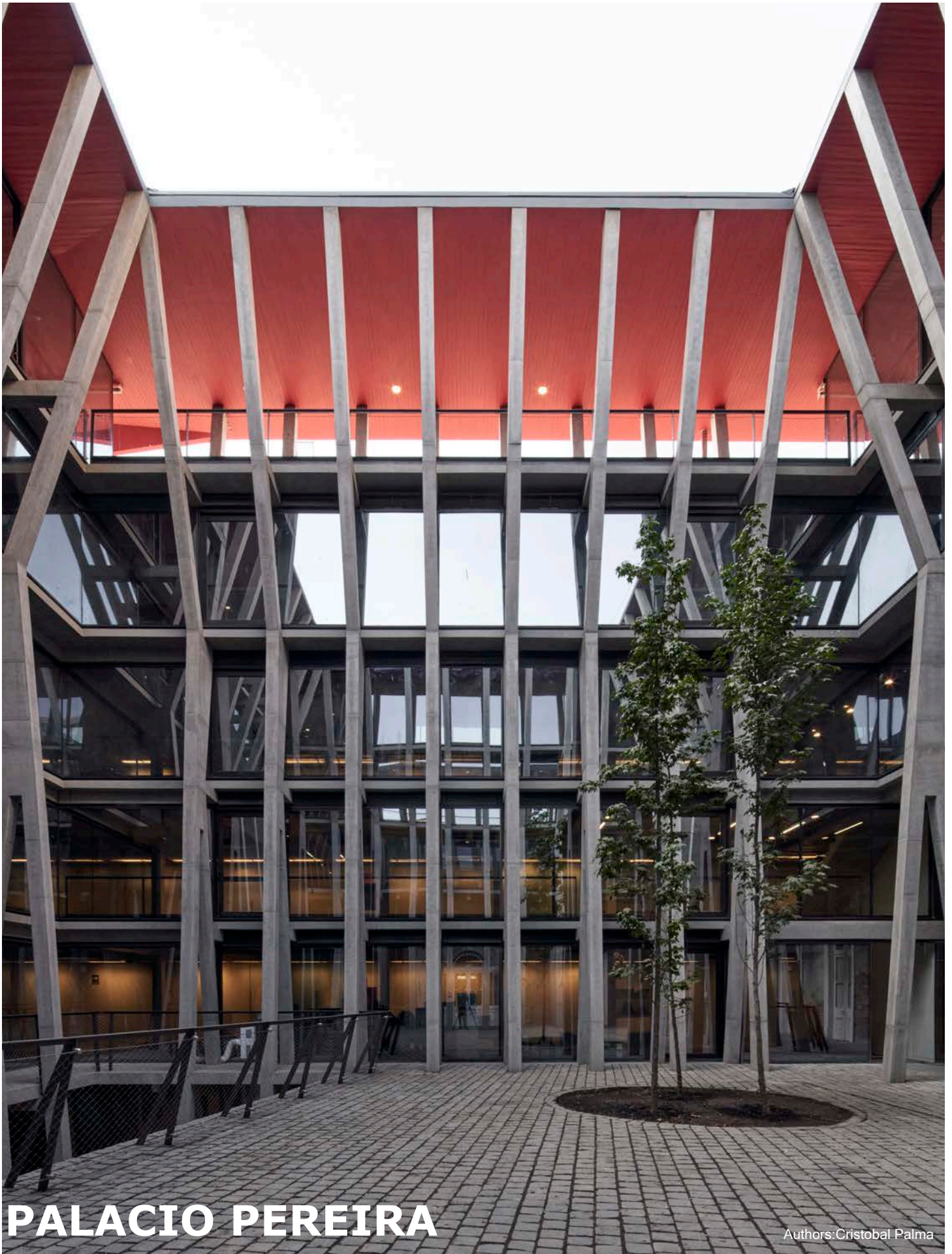
The workshop takes the program of the National Cultural Heritage Service and the National Archive as its point of departure. The challenge is to subvert the hermetic nature of state infrastructure and reformulate it as a device for urban repair. We will investigate how this institutional brief can be leveraged to mend the existing urban fracture, mediating between formal requirements and the unpredictability of public life.

Programmatic Speculation: The Civic Catalyst

We will speculate on hybrid typologies where the preservation of national memory coexists with unprogrammed public spaces. The objective is to expand the original brief by integrating complementary public uses within the building's structure. In doing so, the project moves beyond a mere administrative facility, becoming a civic catalyst that produces measurable public value and invites new forms of occupation.



SITE



PALACIO PEREIRA

Authors: Cristobal Palma



SITE

Unfinished Cities

ASSIGNMENT

Sectional Speculation and Spatial Collage

METHODOLOGY

The workshop employs the section as the primary analytical tool to investigate how public porosity punctures the institutional mass. Simultaneously, axonometric projection will be used to negotiate the spatial tension between the historic pre-existence (Palacio Pereira) and the new interventions.

PRE-WORKSHOP ASSIGNMENTS

The Foundational Site (UC Students): Students from the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile will lead a forensic survey of the site, producing the “Base Section” that will serve as our operational canvas. Additionally, they will develop a territorial axonometric to map the volumetric frictions between the proposed project and its dense urban context. This work will be carried out from Monday 27 to Friday 31 July.

The Reference Catalog (UTokyo, Tokyo Science & UNSAM Students): Professors and students from The University of Tokyo, Tokyo University of Science, and the Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM) are tasked with curating a planimetric catalog. This repository will feature sections of global projects with hybrid programs, providing the tectonic and spatial DNA for the workshop’s experimentation.

IN-CLASS ASSIGNMENT

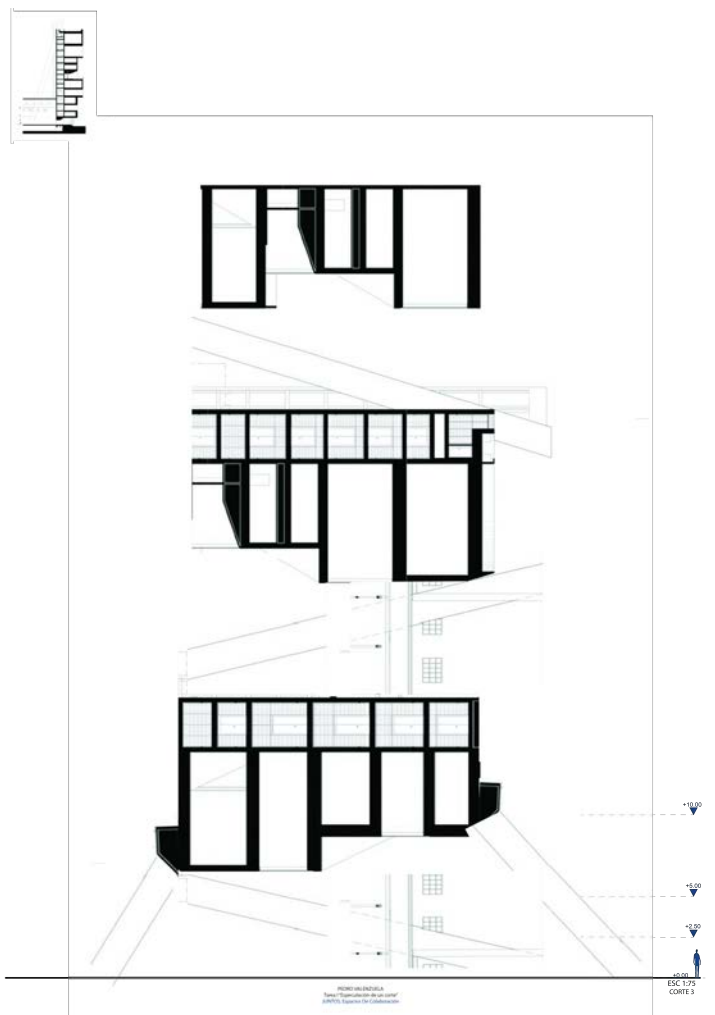
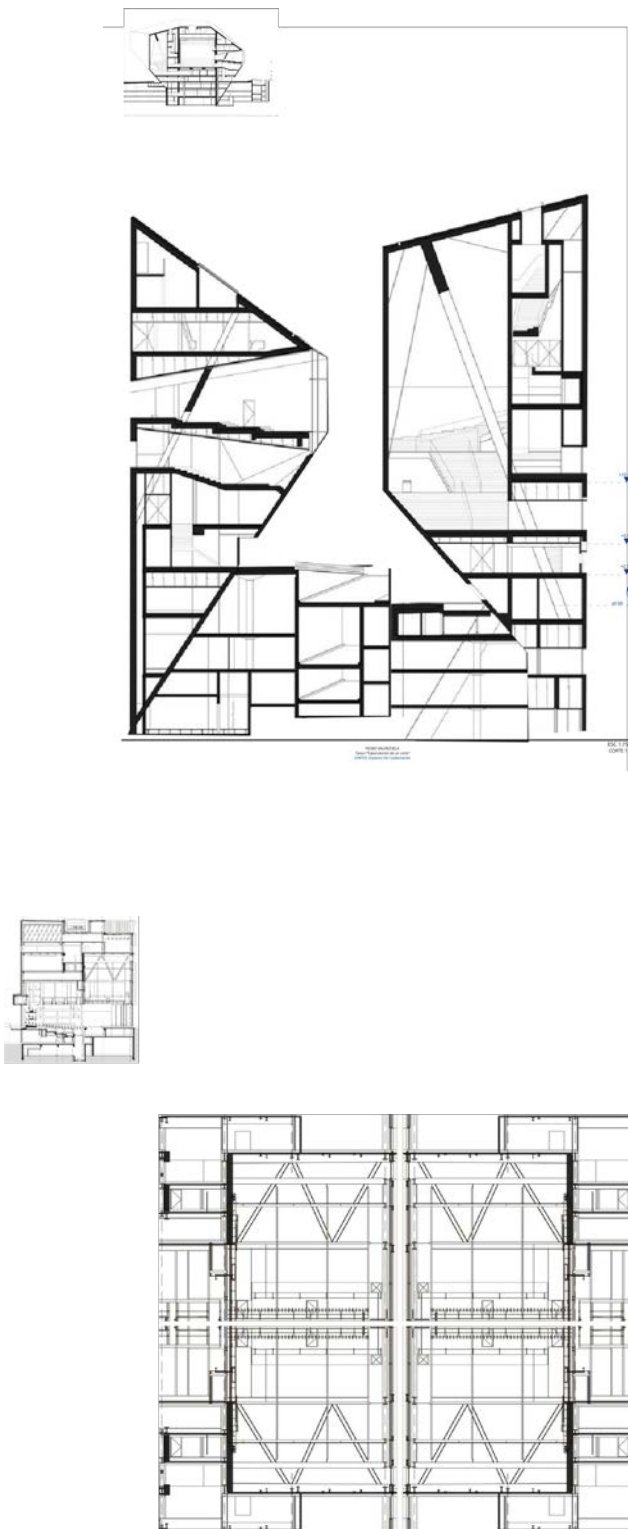
Format: 25 students organized into 5 cross-institutional groups of 5, with each group integrating students from all participating universities. These groups will work together from Monday 3 to Friday 7 August.

The Collage Exercise:

Students will articulate the curated references through spatial collage. By re-assembling fragments of the catalog onto the base section, they will establish new programmatic and spatial relationships, redefining the boundaries between the institution and the city. In parallel, groups will develop a systemic axonometric drawing to explore the three-dimensional relationships, structural systems, and field conditions within the new building.

AFTER-WORKSHOP ASSIGNMENT

UC students will develop a booklet compiling the proposals of each participating group. This will be submitted by Monday 17 August.



Assignment example | Professors: Paula Velasco + Nicolas Norero Authors: Pedro Valenzuela, Martina Vera

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

PRE-WORKSHOP (UC students)
Monday 27 - Friday 31 July 2026
[Specific coordination meetings to be scheduled]

WORKSHOP
Monday 03 - Friday 07 August 2026

DAY 01.

03.08

AM: Downtown Site Visit
PM: Assignment briefing + lectures

DAY 2.

04.08

AM: Workshop session and mid-day review
PM: Free

DAY 3.

05.08

AM: Workshop session and mid-day review
PM: Free

DAY 4.

06.08

AM: Workshop session
PM: Workshop session

DAY 5.

07.08

AM: Final Review
PM: City Tour

AFTER-WORKSHOP (UC students)
Monday 10 August: Coordination meeting for final deliverable
Monday 17 August: Submission of the workshop booklet

Bier, Melinka
Workshop Coordinator, School of Architecture
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Busnelli, Roberto Rafael
Director, Instituto de Arquitectura
Universidad Nacional de San Martín (UNSAM). Argentina

De la Cerda, Emilio
Associate Professor, School of Architecture
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Kaon, Ko
Associate Professor.
Tokyo University of Science, Japan

Manzi, Gabriela
Professor, Department of Architecture
Universidad de Chile

Quintana, Francisco
Director, Master in Urban Project, School of Architecture
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Sakaushi, Taku
Visiting Professor, School of Architecture
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
Adjunct Professor, Architectural department
Tokyo University of Science

Velasco, Paula
Director, Master in Architecture, School of Architecture
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Walker, Enrique
Professor, Department of Architecture
Universidad de Chile.

Yasuhara, Motoki
Associate Professor
The University of Tokyo, Japan.