www.natachapiroux.com

architect D.E.

PORFOLIO
« school baggage »

+00_Introduction

« School Baggage » obj. :

1.Baggage = A collection of items that one takes along when traveling or on a journey.

2.School + Baggage = A collection of knowledge, skills, and experiences acquired by an individual throughout their schooling, usable in various contexts of personal, academic, and professional life.

« School Baggage » is a portfolio and website that allows me to have an easily accessible communication tool from anywhere and on any computer device, simply by typing my first name, Natacha, and my last name, Piroux, into the search bar.

It gathers my different works created and accumulated during my years of study, without excluding the early stages or standardizing them. It does not produce yet another printed document, but offers a digital tool that allows for reading adapted to each need, whether it be a quick overview or a more in-depth read.

+01_Curriculum Vitae

I took the time to create this portfolio and website while reflecting on what I wanted to do and how I wished to practice this profession.

Now, I am looking for a studio that questions its practices as well as the materials it uses, and that would allow me to continue testing, exploring, experimenting, and working in the field.

PROFILE

_img1_natacha_piroux

CONTACT
+33 07 81 28 65 68
contact@natachapiroux.com
natachapiroux.com
France
25 years old

SKILLS

Languages
english: basic proficiency
spanish: basic proficiency

Software
ArchiCAD,AutoCAD,
Revit,Vectorworks,Rhino,SketchUp
Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator,
QGIS, WordPress

EXPERIENCE
Internship year at Atelier
Laurent Chassagne
in Bourg-en-Bresse (01)
(July 2021 - May 2022)

Initial practical internship
with Jacques Gerbe, DPLG
Architect, in Bourg-en-Bresse
(01).

Followed by a summer job
(total duration: 4 months in 2020)

EDUCATION

2023
Graduated in Architecture from the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Saint-Étienne (ENSASE).
Final Year Project awarded with honors.

2020
Bachelor's degree in Architecture from the École Nationale Supérieure d'Architecture de Saint-Étienne (ENSASE).

2017
Baccalauréat in economics and social sciences, sports section, mathematics option, graduated with honors in Bourg-en-Bresse (01).

2014
Middle School Diploma with a Latin/Greek option, graduated with honors from Ceyzériat (01).

PROFESSIONAL AMBITIONS FOR THE COMING YEARS

Transmit:
Teaching, mediation

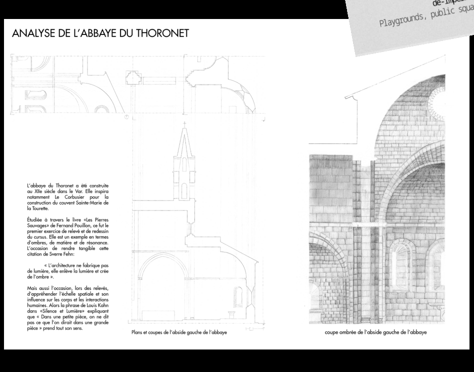
Communicate:
Publications, exhibitions

Autonomy:
Construction sites, HMNOP (in France, this is the degree of Habilitation to Practice as an Architect in One's Own Name)

Research:
Experiments, theory

Deconstruction:
Reuse, recycling

Soil decontamination and de-impermeabilization:
Playgrounds, public squares, parking lots...



+02_Bachelor's Degree

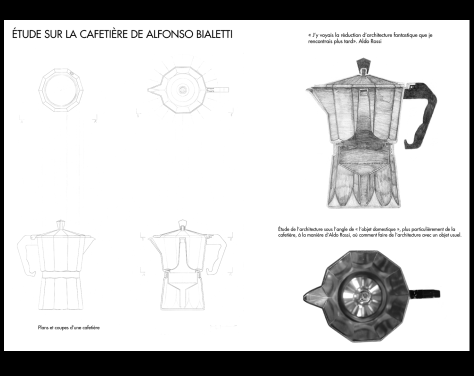
The bachelor's cycle marks the beginning of architectural studies. Between analyses and nude drawing classes, learning to draw by hand is rigorous. These are also years of discovery where we are given the keys to establish connections between what we read, what we learn, what we visit, and the world around us.

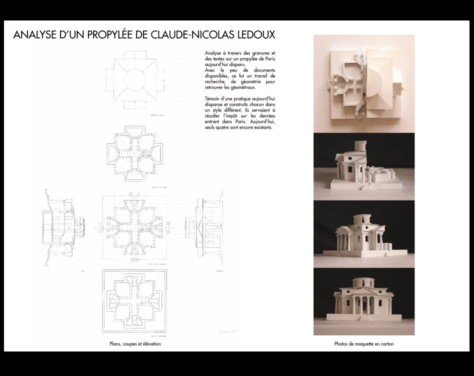
Planche1_Analysis of the Abbey of Thoronet_Semester_1

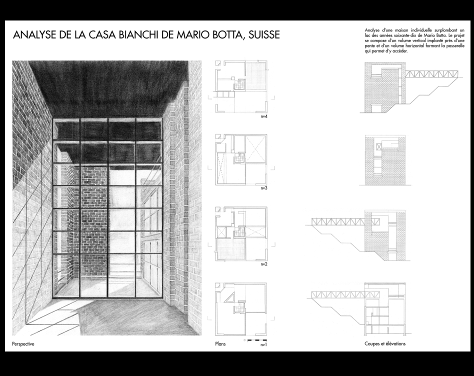
Planche2_Study on Alfonso Bialetti's Coffee Maker_Semester_1

Planche3_Analysis of a Propylaea by Claude-Nicolas Ledoux_Semester_2

Planche4_Analysis of the Casa Bianchi by Mario Botta_Semester_4







+03_Master

[Cabin Project File]
Upon entering the master's program, we have the choice between different studios. I opted for the «Project Factory» studio, which involved analyzing the works of an architect, a small short project of 5 weeks, initially individual then in a group, with a program for seasonal accommodation that could host two travelers in Saint-Victor-sur-Loire, France.

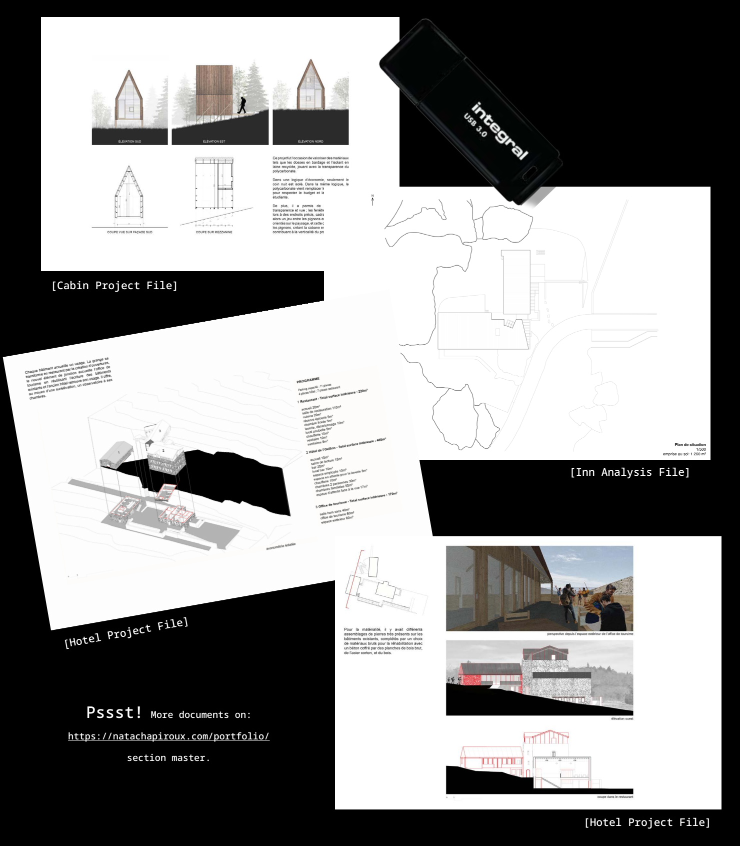
[GAIA Project File]
This studio primarily focused on constructing a full-scale wooden structure at the Grands Ateliers in L'Isle-d'Abeau, based on a project designed by another class, who created the sketch and building permit. This project provided the opportunity to work on concrete technical details concerning the assembly of a wooden structure, with the aim of creating a Tender Document (DCE) to order the necessary materials and hardware while respecting a budget. It also involved organizing the manufacturing and transportation for on-site installation by the students, considering the project's budgetary and technical constraints. It was also a team effort involving different trades.

[Hotel Project File]
For the second semester, I joined the «Natural – Artificial – Material» studio, which was a more intense and demanding semester. It included an analysis, the creation of an atlas on the Pilat Regional Natural Park, and a 12-week individual project for tourist accommodation in Pilat, where we could choose the plot and the program. This project required many resources.

This busy first year of the master's program, following directly after three years of the bachelor's degree and the announcement of the general cancellation of Erasmus programs due to Covid, was the reason for the internship year interspersed between my two master's years.

[Internship Report File]
This internship year provided an opportunity to take a break and discover the reality of working in an agency. It was a year paced by the projects of a small, supportive architecture agency, with great autonomy in the tasks to be accomplished, coupled with the work of writing the dissertation until its defense in March 2022. This allowed me to gain professional maturity and consciously bridge the gap between the academic curriculum in architecture school and the reality of being an employee in an architecture studio.

This year was a great experience that allowed me to return more confident and stronger for the final year of studies at ENSASE.



Pssst! More documents on:
https://natachapiroux.com/portfolio/
section master.

+04_Thesis

A reflection on emptiness, specifically on the empty space that industrial wastelands constitute.

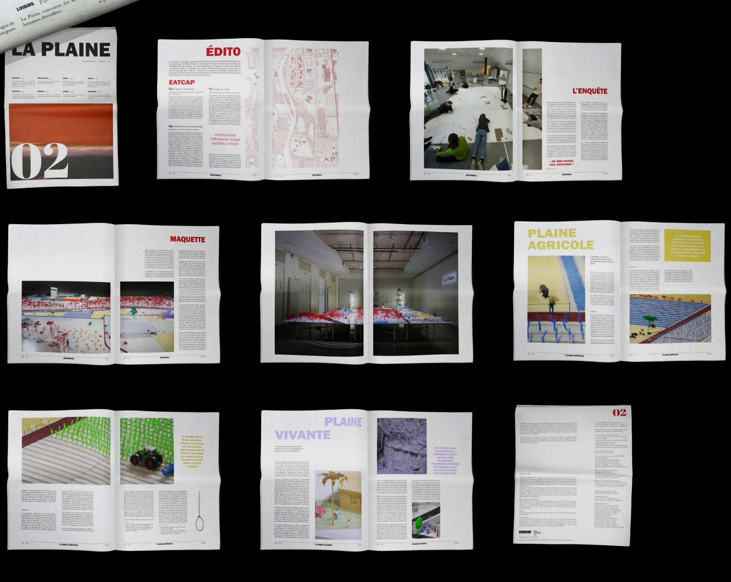
By moving beyond our compulsion to fill voids, what can we do with them? Do we need to do something with them? Aren't they already something?

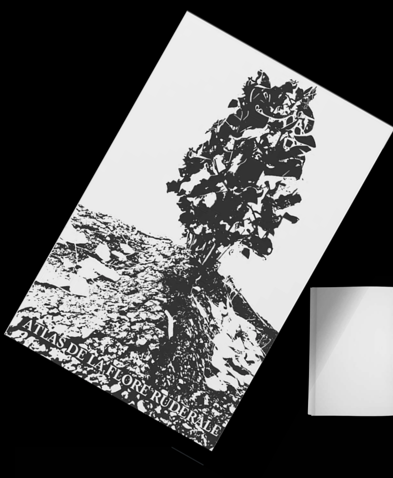
Exploration of the potentials and challenges offered by the voids of industrial wastelands through a philosophical approach, an architectural and artistic corpus, as well as a sensitive experiment.

+05_Newspaper

This newspaper, written by the students and teachers of the EaTcAp studio, was born out of the desire to create an easily distributable object, showcasing our model work for the exhibition «La Plaine, un monde plat sans horizon» (The Plain, a Flat World Without Horizon), held at ENSASE in January 2023, during the final semester of the master's program.
This journal retraces the investigative work carried out in the plains of Forez and Po, culminating in a model of an imaginary and generic plain, composed of accumulations of mundane everyday situations.
The Plain has been a very rich subject of study because these expanses hosted the first sedentary human settlements. However, today, these territories are precarious due to ecological and political crises, echoing the vulnerabilities of our worlds.
Here, the Plain becomes a land of exploration and investigation between the visible and the invisible, uncertainty and ambiguity.

Model: materials recovered, repurposed, and collected. Dimensions: 6 meters long by 4.40 meters wide, supported by a 50-centimeter-high base made of OSB panels placed on trestles.





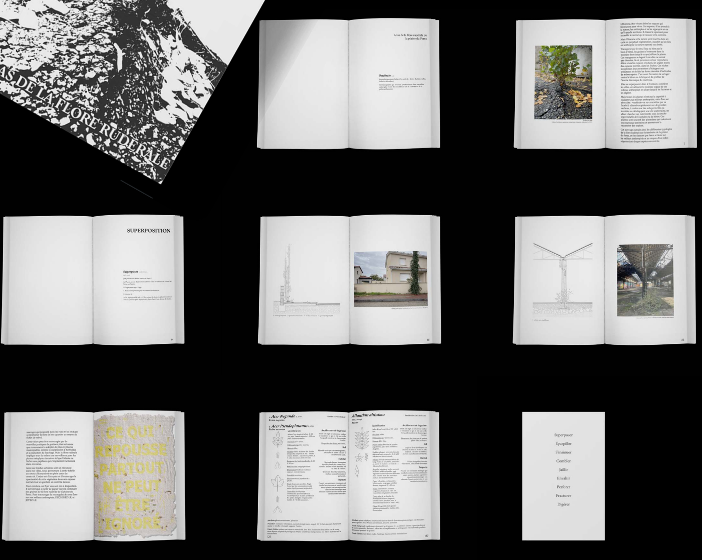
+06_Study Object of the Pfe

Atlas of Ruderal Flora

This study results from an investigation conducted throughout the semester on how nature reclaims its rights in our urbanized spaces.

The topic naturally followed from various explorations during the thesis work on industrial wastelands, which are often reoccupied by nature.

Thus, this publication catalogs the different typologies of ruderal flora in the Forez plain, using cross-sections to understand the interaction between plants and built environments, and classifies them according to their effects on anthropized environments.



It includes an index listing information for each encountered species such as the architecture of its seed, its dispersal method, its habitat, the soils on which it is found, and its impact, if any, on its environment.

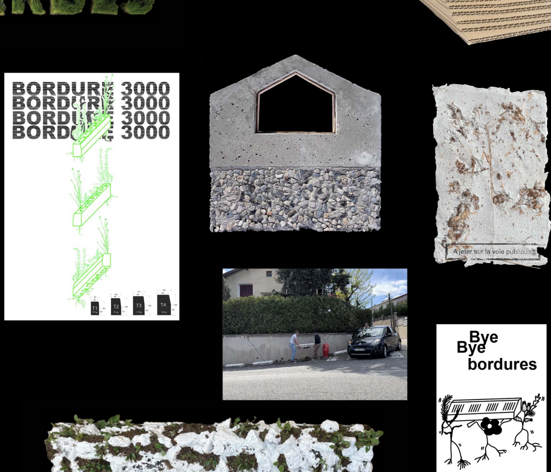
This tool aims to highlight and raise awareness of the benefits of these weeds. In conclusion, it includes a call to action encouraging the reader to scatter the seeds of this ruderal flora in our standardized spaces, using a grainy paper leaflet to be thrown into public spaces.

+07_Experimentations

Experimentation is at the heart of my research process in a project. It allows me to engage with materials, test shapes and volumes, make certain hypotheses tangible, and dismiss others. Projects find their final form through this process of experimentation and the conclusions drawn from it. These experiments often remain in the background.

Here, you can see a model of the cabin project, a materiality test of the hotel project's facade, one of the plaster cubes aimed at observing the evolution of living organisms on different substrates, experiments with sidewalk edges on posters, as well as their removal from the city for study, and a militant edge resulting from these experiments. There is also research on a striking visual for the term «weeds,» which is often mistakenly associated with spontaneous flora, while it is actually the unchecked monoculture of grass that is problematic, and the first prototype of a seed-embedded leaflet.

Experimentation is an integral part of my project process, and I seek studios that build projects through a path of questioning, experimentation, and, above all, a continual reevaluation of our methods.



+08_Pfe

The Final Project (PFE) was a four-month effort within the EaTcAp studio during the last semester of the master's program. It was defended on Wednesday, June 28, 2023, before a jury composed of architects, visual artists, and researchers, and received a distinction of Very Good.

The topic of my PFE was inspired by my previous work and focuses on plants that spontaneously grow on urban structures, at the junction of each element, in every crack. I began by photographing these amusing situations of plant insubordination in public spaces, gaining a better understanding of Aristotle's phrase in his work Physics: "Nature abhors a vacuum." Thus, it develops in the city through the micro-voids it discovers and exploits, allowing it to continually grow.

There is a subtle interplay between the anthropogenic layers of our cities and the plants, which I was able to explore through redrawing, analyzing their actions based on the photos. I tried to understand and interpret what was not visible, what was happening below, beneath the ground. The path of their roots in our built soils, the way they weave between the elements that shape our world.

Ruderal flora refers to plants that can penetrate even the slightest cracks in the city, thriving in nitrate and acid-laden soils. They take advantage of the inertia of the materials that build the city. But these plants are also pioneers; they settle where no one else would. When they complete their life cycle, they decompose and become humus for the next generation.

Nature is therefore not passive but actively engaged, and it has already started its fight against soil impermeabilization. It became clear to me that we should not fight against ruderal flora, but rather fight for it and with it, by spreading information to as many people as possible. This observational and analytical work from the previous semester concluded with the creation of a grainy paper leaflet, raising awareness and encouraging anyone who possesses it to throw it into public spaces, thus supporting the development of this ruderal flora. What began as contemplative work, somewhat naïve, turned into a project-action.

This work led me to the conclusion that our soils are now merely compacted and mummified coverings, incapable of fulfilling their functions of water retention, carbon storage, and support for life. The soil is reduced to a mere synthetic surface, disconnected from its function, creating urban spaces poor in nature. Thus, this project questions how we design our urban spaces, between soil impermeabilization and the lack of consideration for spontaneous flora. It seeks to experiment with an alternative form of city-making, transforming it by itself, renewing it with minimal resources and means. Initially started innocently during the previous semester, it evolved into a project-action with strong demands. It aligns with action-oriented projects such as guerrilla gardening, which aims to take charge of land occupation by plants. The goal is to demonstrate that it is possible to act immediately in support of this ruderal flora, which we drive away for misguided reasons, to reintegrate it into our daily lives, to recreate connection, empathy, and engagement to fight for it and with it, ultimately for ourselves!

Pssst! Detailed project at:
https://natachapiroux.com/portfolio/
section PFE.

+09_Analog

Photographs taken during various expeditions.

Camera: Nikon EM 50mm, Kodak Gold and ILFORD HP5 film.

img1_Cemetery_SanCataldo_AldoRossi_Modena
img2_Basilica_Sant_Andrea_Mantua
img3_Bocconi_Campus_Sanaa_Milan
img4_Prada_Foundation_OMA_RemKoolhaas_Milan
img5_Centre_Pompidou_Paris
img6_Dora_Park_Latz+Partner_Turin
img7_Abandoned_Site_AndrézieuxBouthéon
img8_Abandoned_Site_SaintJustSaintRambert
img9_Abandoned_Site_rue_d'Urfé_AndrézieuxBouthéon
img10_Former_Factory_Sail_sous_Couzan

+10_Ask me

I am currently seeking a position. If you are interested, or if you would like to leave a message, suggest improvements, or simply offer encouragement, please feel free to contact me. Thank you! :)

Natacha
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