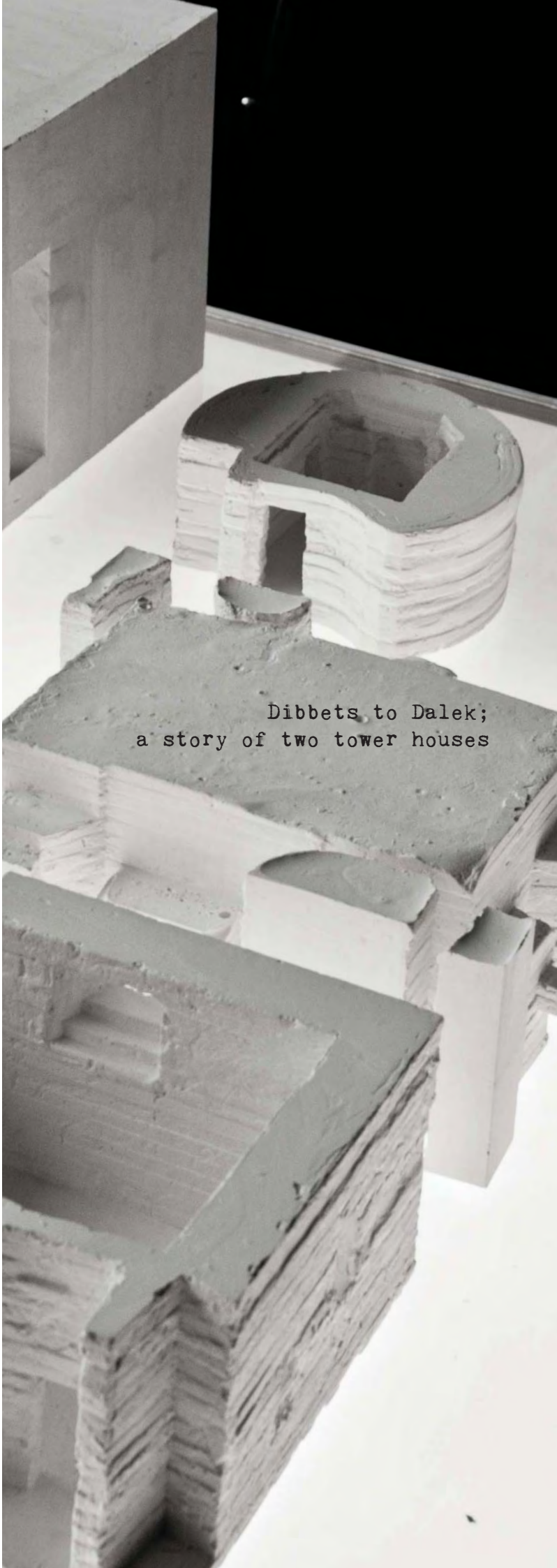


Dibbets to Dalek;  
a story of two tower houses





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The Scottish Tower House is an enigmatic and evocative feature in both the landscape and the history of the country. It stands today as a monolith from another time, providing an unmistakable typological form but one whose function has changed and evolved over time.

The tower house, which once provided protection through its massive walls, eventually became a symbolic gesture, alluding to the strength of its occupants even as its walls were hollowed out to provide those occupants with comfort and luxury.

The key features which must be understood to form the basis of any study of tower house are; the massive elemental nature of the construction, the impression of spaces having been carved from solid stone and the complex hierarchy of functions within a compact, vertical form.

These features have been explored through a variety of analytical methods which can then be contrasted to provide a further insight into how each method highlights different qualities within one space.

Traditional plan/section measured drawings provided an explanation of the basic form of the spaces and of their connections, including the complex circulation routes of the spiral staircases.

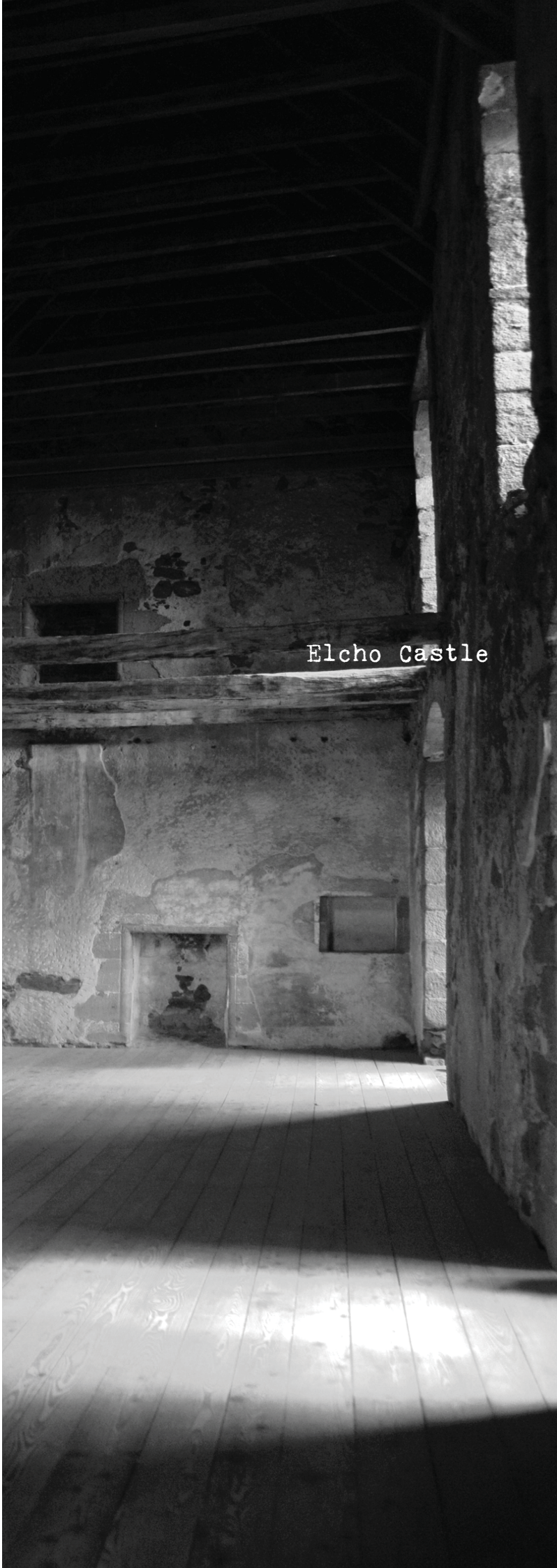
Plaster models provided powerful positive and negative representations of the spaces. This allowed an understanding of the three dimensional relationship between openings which would not show up in traditional drawings and a qualitative impression of complex and beautiful use of light. It also led to a tactile understanding of the solidity of the construction.

The other method used was to study the work and analytical techniques of a wide range of sources. These approaches were then assimilated and applied to the tower houses.

The combination of all these approaches provides an insight into the tower house which is both detailed and varied. The mixture of techniques applied to a selection of unidentified spaces results in an observation on the quality of the tower house as a type.







Elcho Castle

Elcho Castle is located just outside the Bridge of Earn, near Perth on the banks of the River Tay. It is a good example of a 16th Century Tower house, based on the "Z-plan".

Built of rubble from a nearby quarry, the building has been owned by the same family who built it almost 500 years ago, the Wemyss'; although it has not been inhabited for roughly 200 years. Elcho was built more as a residence than for defence, it combines an imposing exterior with an interior that would have been extremely comfortable for those living inside. Apart from a new roof and some new window glazing in the early 1800's, the castle has changed very little.

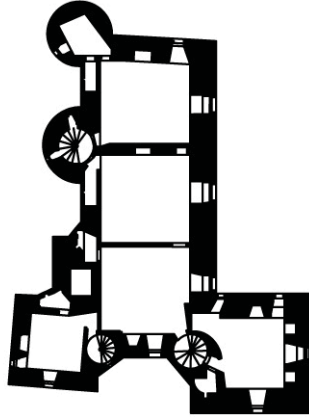




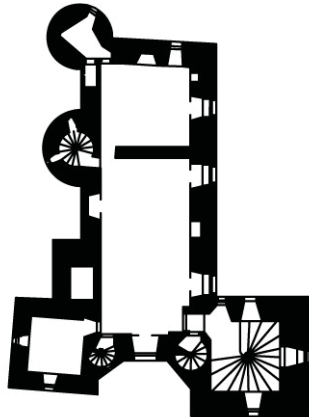




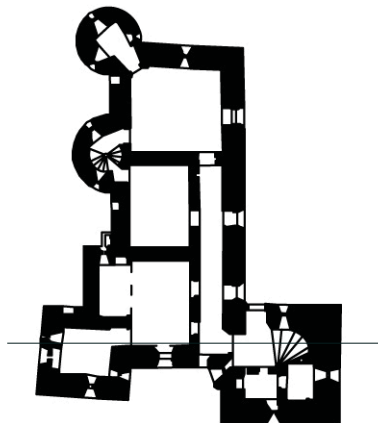
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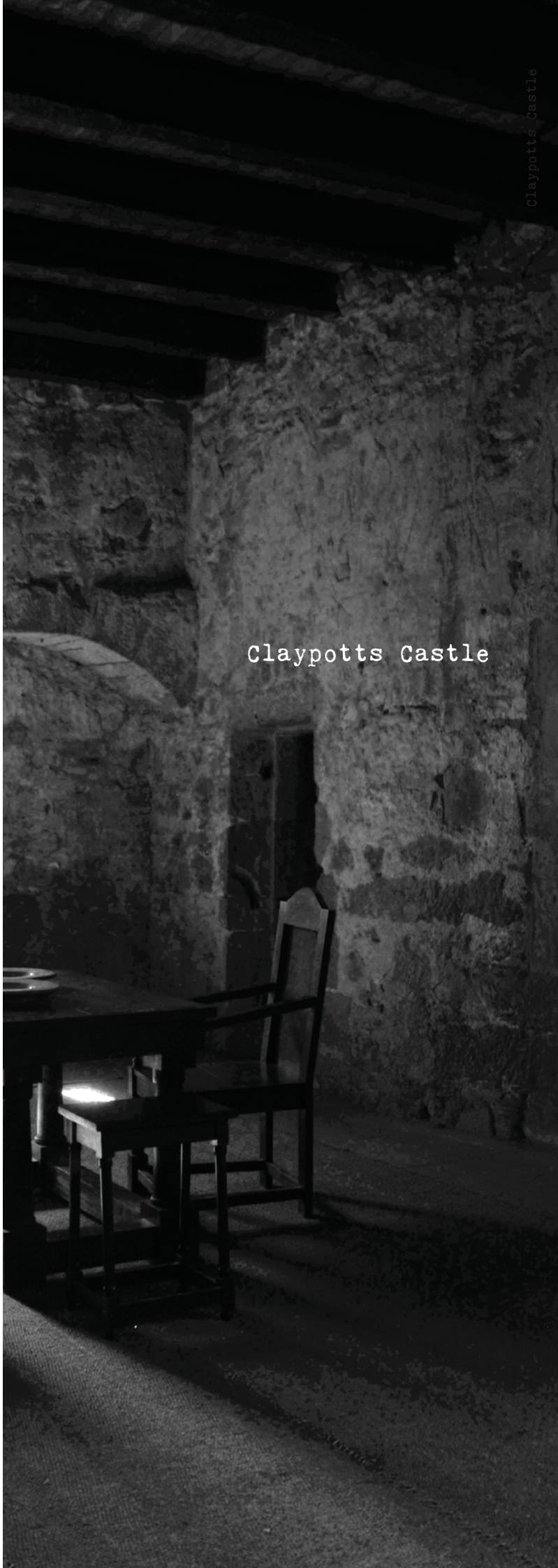
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Claypotts Castle



The castle was built by John Strachan between 1569 and 1588, and later owned by 'Bonnie Dundee', John Graham of Claverhouse, it was inhabited into the 19th century.

The castle is an excellent example of a z-plan tower house, consisting of two projecting towers at opposite sides of a rectangular main block. This was a popular design in the sixteenth century and allowed for defenders to fire along the faces of the main block from both towers. The towers striking appearance is enhanced by the asymmetrical square garrett chambers corbelled out over the two circular towers.



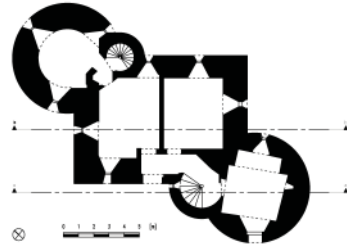


Claypotts Castle

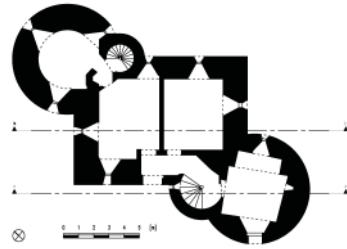




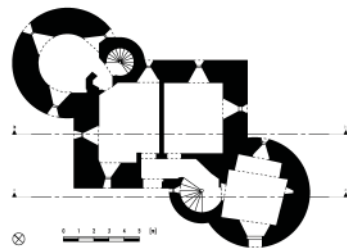
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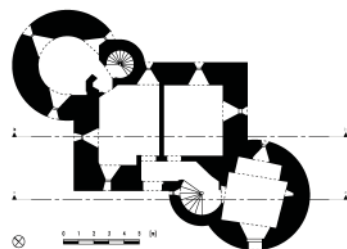
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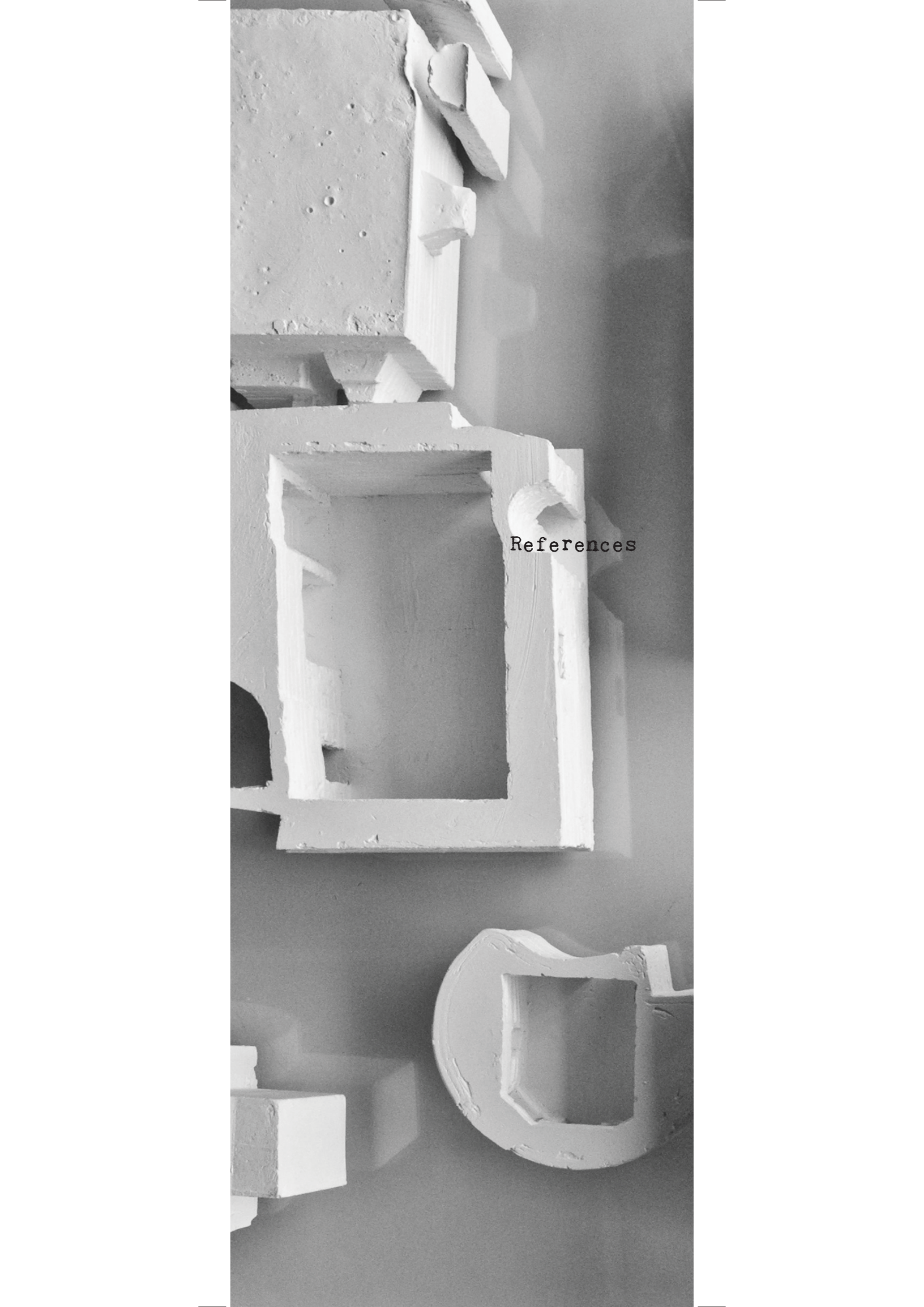
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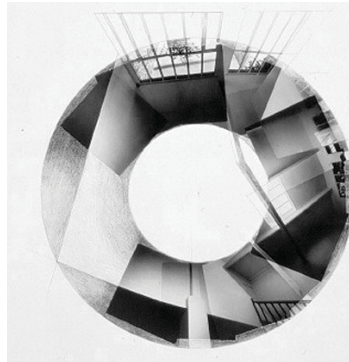
### Andreas Vesalius

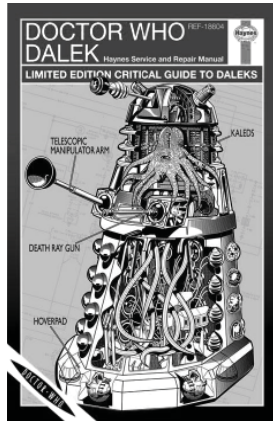
Andreas Vesalius (1514 - 1564) was a Belgian anatomist, physician and author. Interested in the workings of the human body and how it was constructed he published many anatomical works often depicting figures in dramatic poses. The attention to detail in these books in describing and drawing the human body set a new standard in the field.

### Haynes Manuals

A series of practical manuals aimed at DIY enthusiasts and professional mechanics. The series mainly focuses on the maintenance and repair of automotive vehicles and is usually based upon taking apart (stripping down) and then putting together (rebuilding) a vehicle.

The manuals feature detailed cutaway drawings of machines such as cars, where sections of the bodywork are drawn as transparent in order to reveal the complex arrangement of the internal components.





### David Hockney

David Hockney (b. 1937) painter was born in Yorkshire, England. He works in a range of media from photomontage to print exploring cubism, naturalism and pop art.

### Jan Dibbets

Dutch conceptual artist Jan Dibbets (b. 1941) was born in Weert. Trained as an art teacher in Tilburg, he went to study at St Martin's School of art in London. Dibbets main medium is photography and he continues to travel the world constantly working and seeking inspiration for his next work.

**Carl Zimmerman**

Carl Zimmerman makes photographs of imagined architectural spaces. He builds physical models, photographs them and then digitally manipulates the photographs, creating vast, impossible spaces. Richly toned the photographs read, at first glance, like historical documents, until you realize they can't be because they're all dated in the present. A closer look reveals that the buildings are set in huge, bleak, almost surreal landscapes, and their titles such as War Memorial, Leeds, England and Unitarian Church, Manchester, England want you to believe that these enormous, fantastic buildings have been plunked down in ordinary, working-class cities.

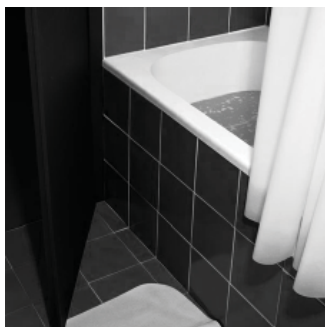
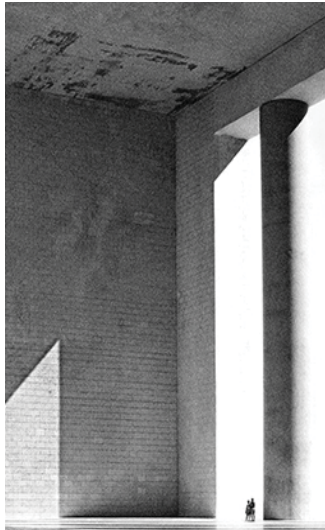
**Thomas Demand**

Thomas Demand's (b.1964) work is inspired by images culled from the media. He creates life-size paper models that he then photographs to create tension between the fabricated and the real. Testing our perception of visual media & exploring its influence he is appealing to the spectator's conclusive visual memory of a scene, making it seem familiar but ultimately intangible.

**Silke Schatz**

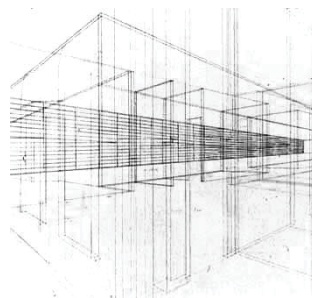
Silke Schatz (b. 1967) is an artist based in Cologne. Schatz's sculptures and drawings reflect her interest in architecture as both public and private space. Schatz's drawings merge the inbetweenness of imposed structure and intimate negotiation. Her drawings appear as both architectural blueprint and ephemeral fantasy. Altering the original subjects to reflect her own sense of invention, Schatz's drawings illustrate concrete space as a malleable construct, both directing and being informed by the viewer's own memories and experiences

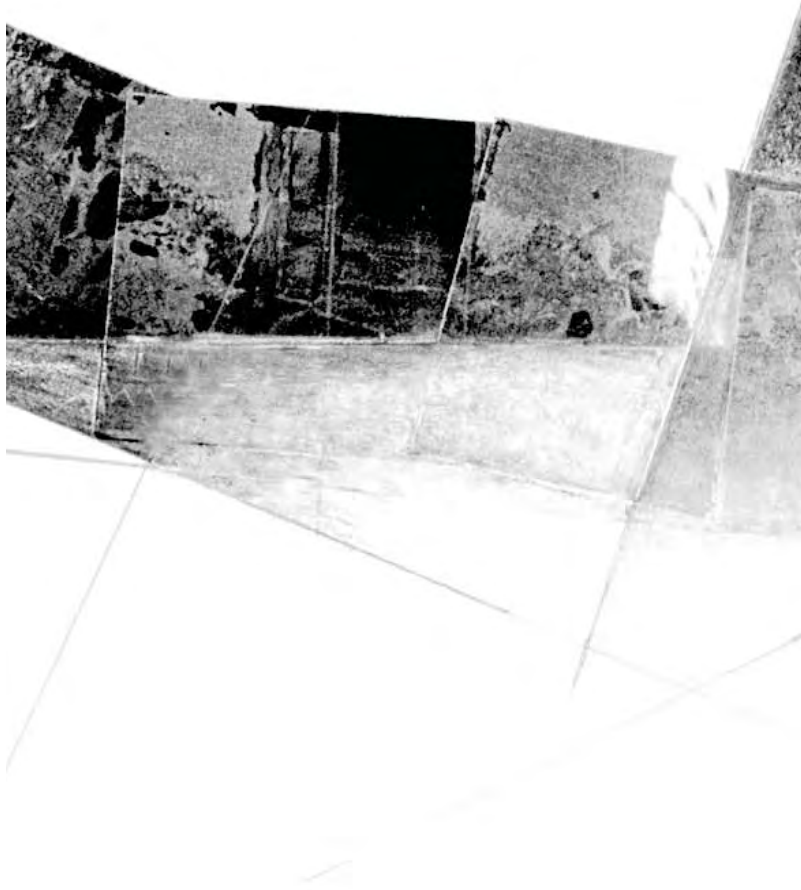




### Rachel Whiteread

Rachel Whiteread (b. 1963) is a sculptor. Her most famous work is a full-size negative casting of a house in London, "House". "Ghost" is plaster cast of a room in a Victorian House and illustrates her interest in space and exploring the human traces left on ordinary objects such as wallpaper and paint becoming engrained on her plaster castings.







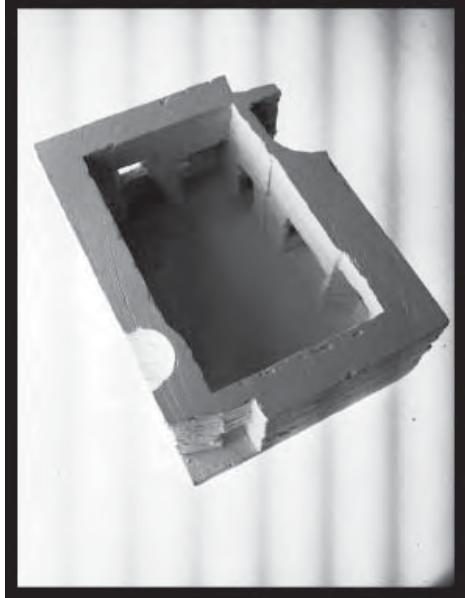
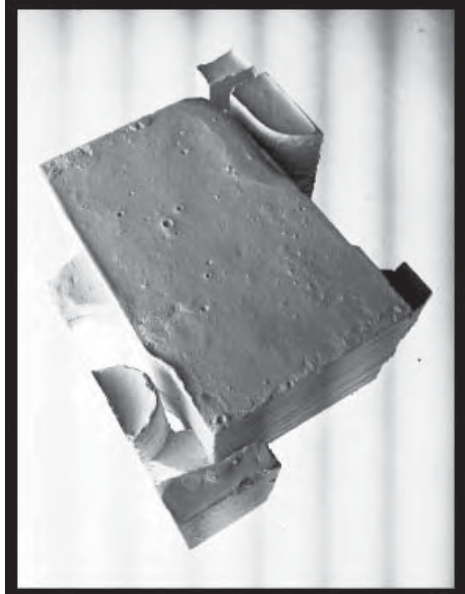
An analysis of  
two tower houses





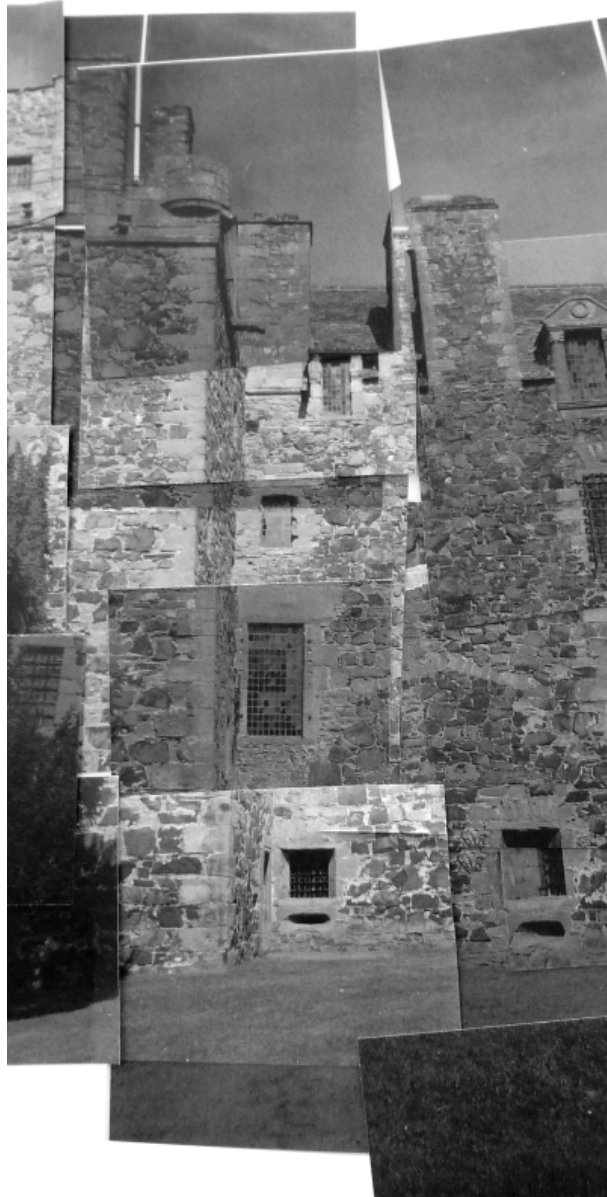














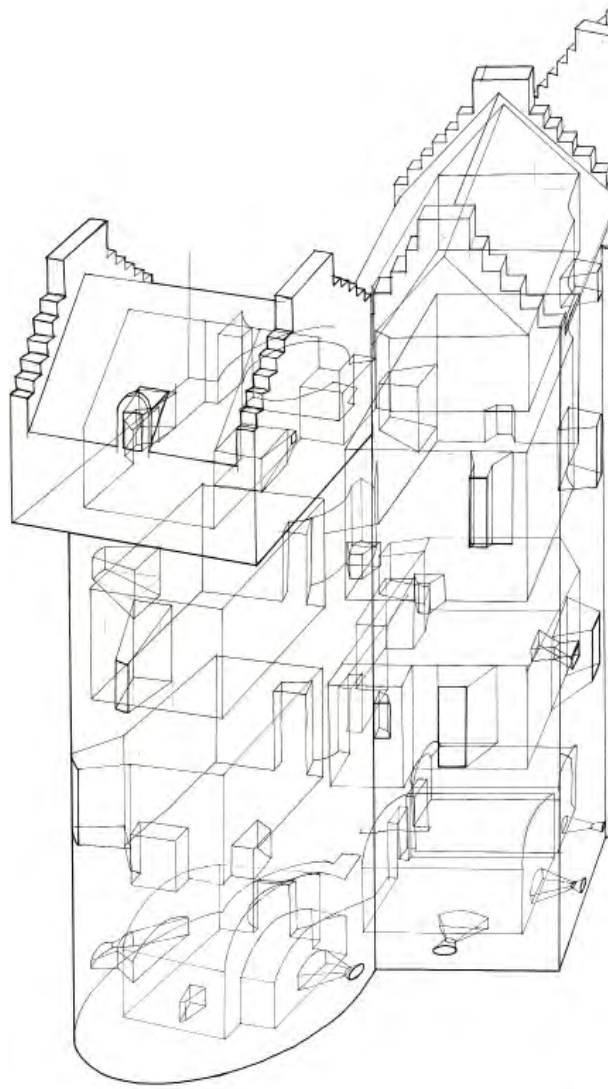




















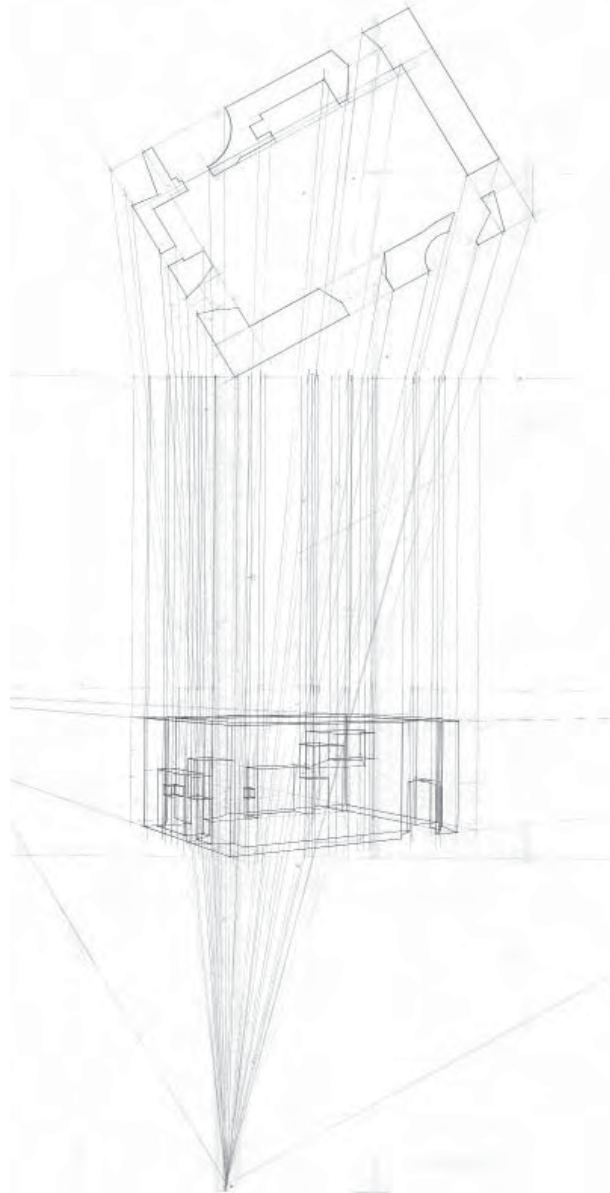














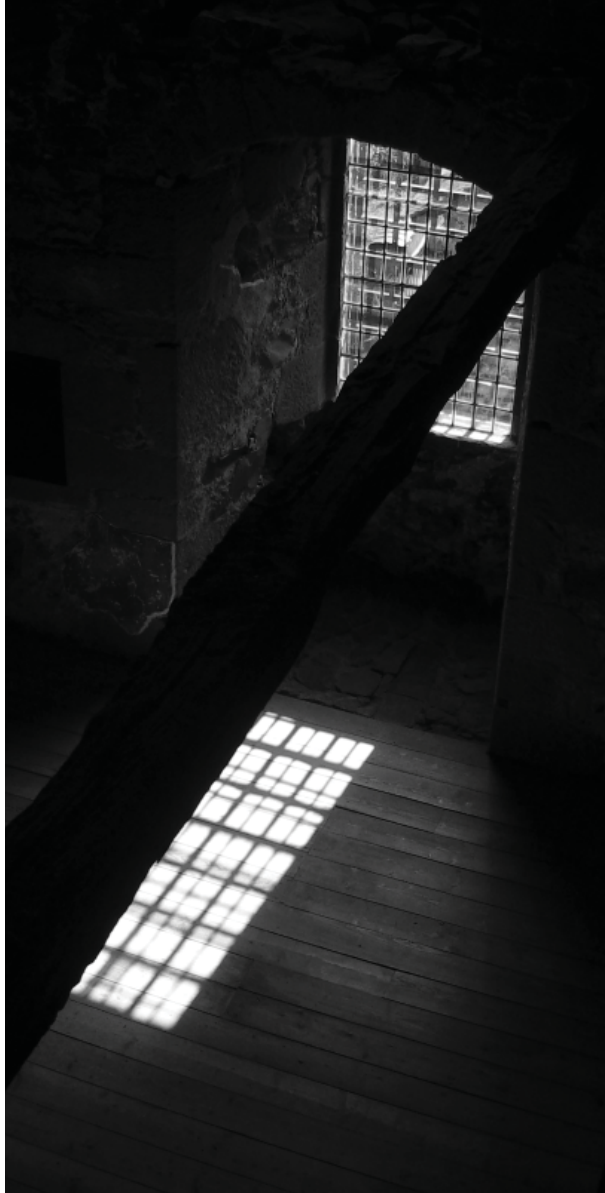




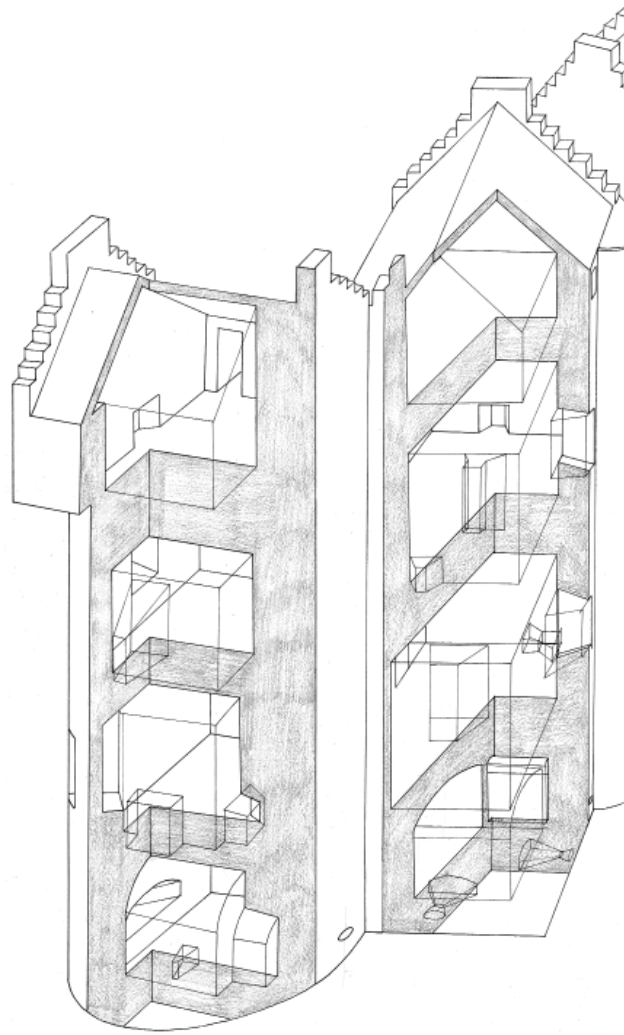




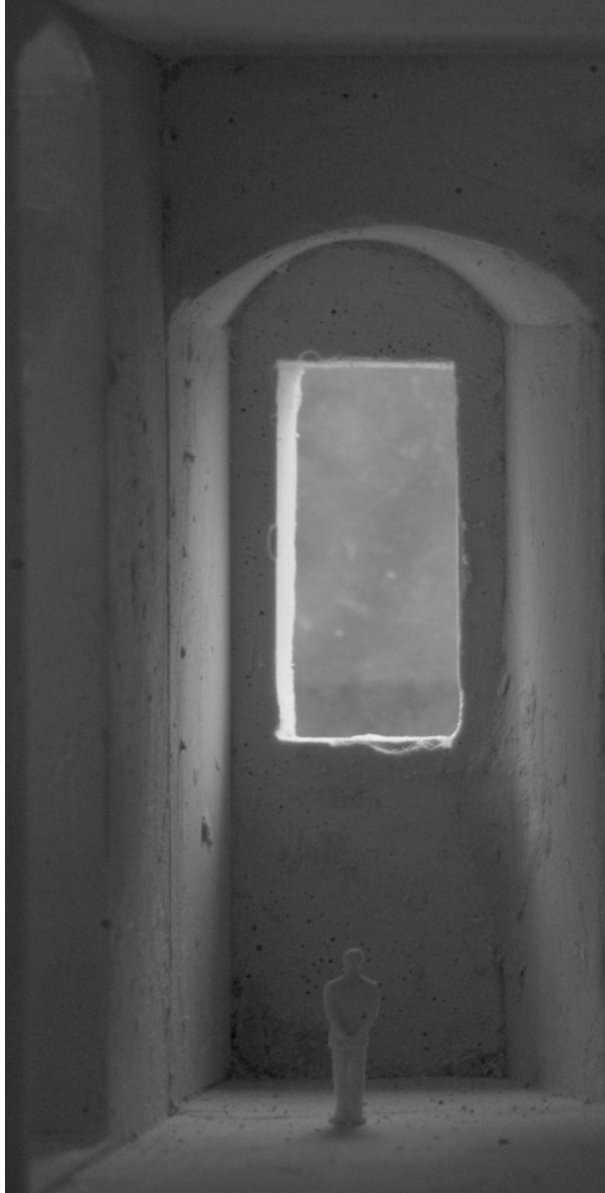
























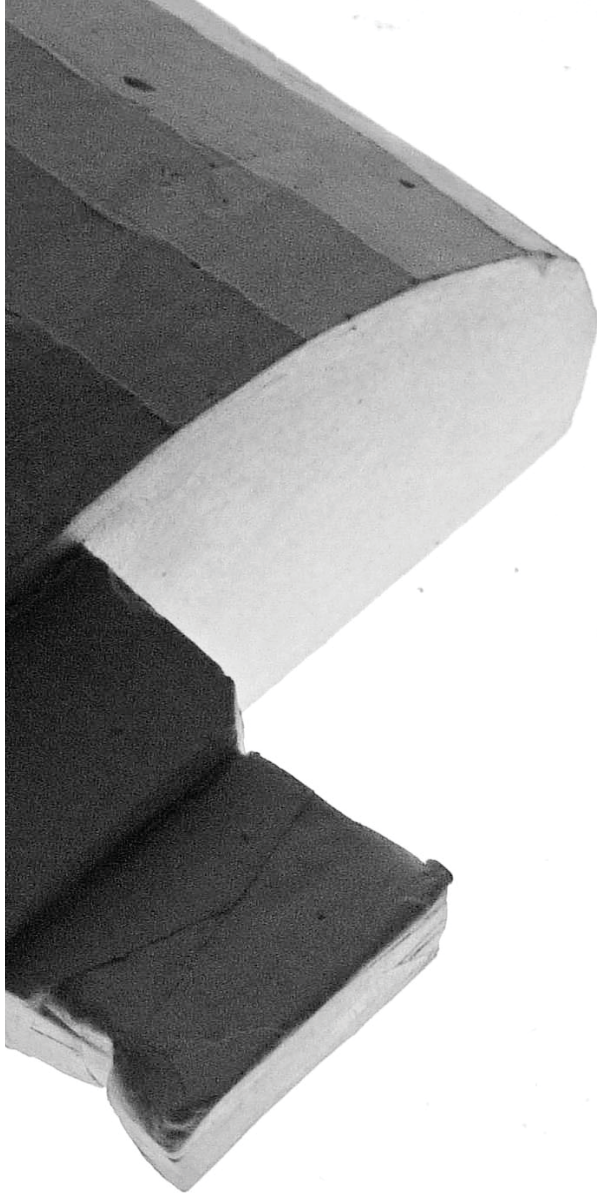




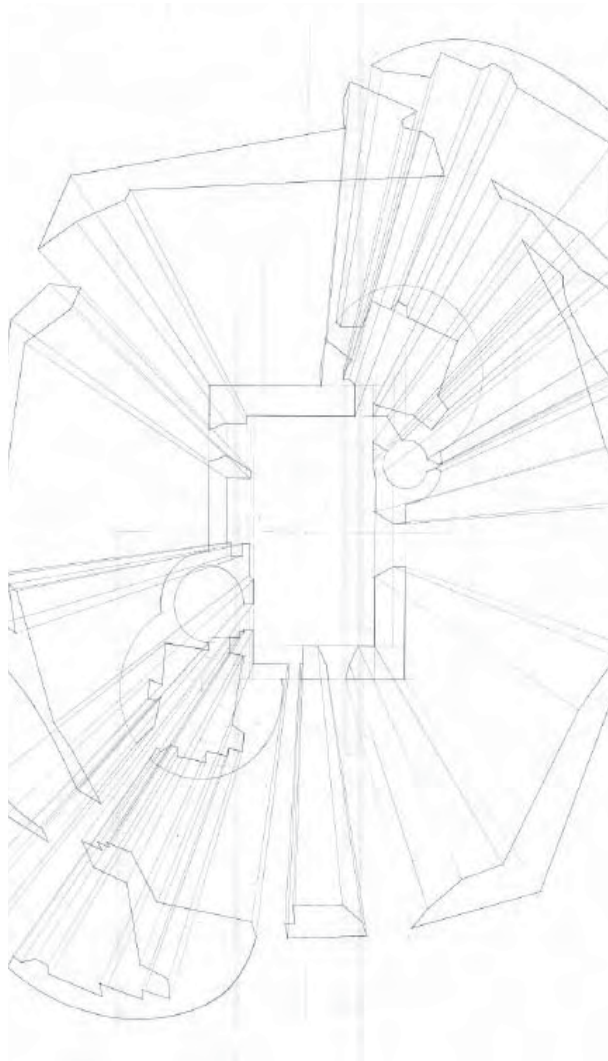














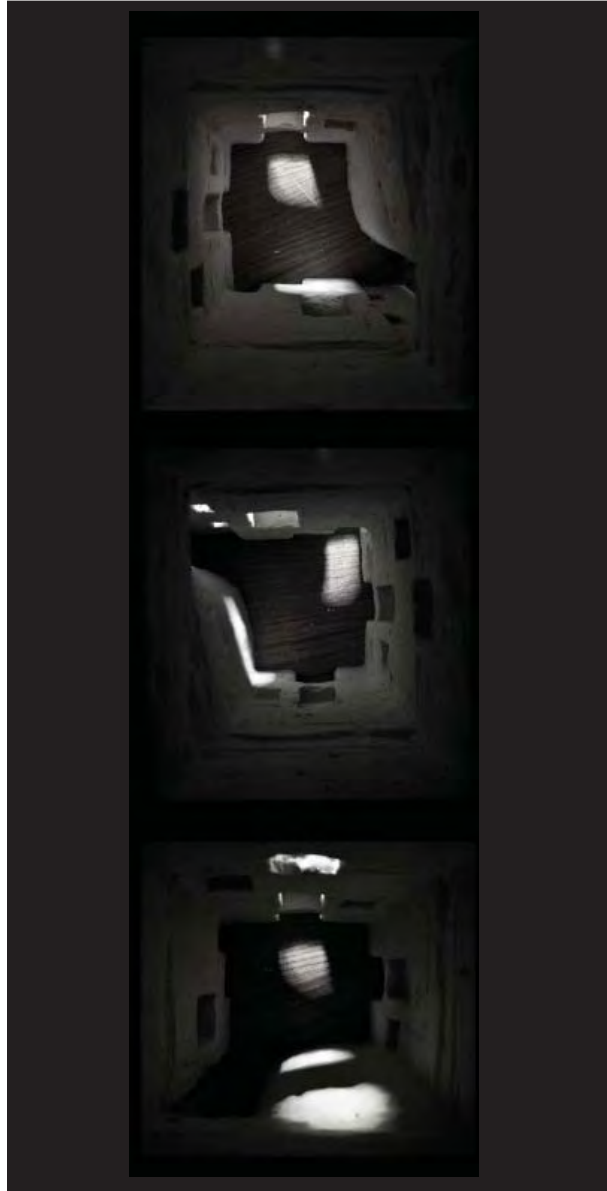










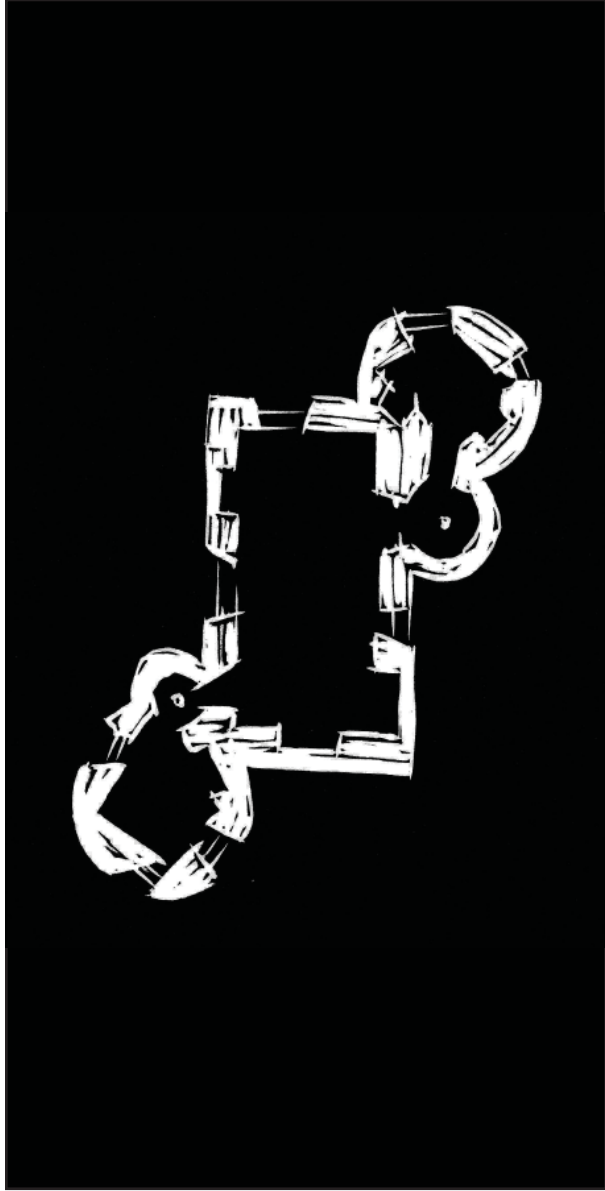














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[www.thomasdemand.de](http://www.thomasdemand.de)





## Acknowledgments

We would like to thank Charles Rattray, Thomas Deckker, Doug Pearson and Historic Scotland for their guidance and support.

Adrian Doherty 1  
Gregor Tait 2  
Luca Di Somma 3  
Mark Butler 4  
Rachael Brown 5

