BREATHING & PLAYING
ARCHITECTURE

Natalia G. Montagna
Master of Architecture

College of Architecture & Urban Studies
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
BREATHING & PLAYING ARCHITECTURE
Bagpipe: School, Museum and Workshop.

Maria Natalia Garcia Montagna

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Master of Architecture

Jaan Holt
Committee Chair

Susan Piedmont-Palladino
Committee Member

Paul Emmons, Ph.D
Committee Member

Caren Yglesias, Ph.D
Committee Member

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This project is my way of saying thanks. My intention is to recognize the people who were able to transmit the passion and love for the land of my grandparents Asturias, with its heritage, history and music. My architectural purpose is to strengthen the tradition and culture by recovering the past.

It is in this way, we will be stronger in the present and inspire future generations.
Once again, this dream was possible because of you and your unconditional support. Thank you for the poem of walls that you made me find and for pushing me to go beyond the limits.

Thank you for being there all the way, for making me believe in me and my unlimited drawings. Thank you for being the structure of this project and the pillar of my career.

Thank you for teaching me that every single wall has a reason to exist and remain for all time. And we are the ones who posses the power to make them real. Thank you for passing on the enormous amount of knowledge and allowing my building to breath with the wind.

Thank you for exploring with me and finding details, materials and green spaces where none could. Also thank you for seeing the potential that I have and making me aware of it. For your unlimited amount of time, information, support, advice, ideas, articles and books that you shared with me. Thank you for allowing me to play architecture and landscape in the same song and make the bagpiper’s dream reality.

Thank you for being the bridge between two cultures and for your extraordinary vision of my Aeolian Bagpipe. Tante Grazie for your simple answers to terrible dilemmas and for the constant metaphor, but most of all for the chance to say “I was his student”.

And like magic things in life
I found Architecture…
I always thought that will be my destiny, that is what I would like to do…
To become and Architect
To see things that nobody sees but everybody looks
To find beauty behind a brick that becomes a wall that becomes a building
Or maybe just a place for meditation simple, quite …
but with the power to transmit the strongest essence of faith.
To find a dream, and make it real
playing a song with my pencil
It was a long way…
I keep dreaming and I keep playing
And because of this I would like to thank my committee members for keep my dream alive.

My crew: To Morocha: for your innumerable details, constant energy and support from the beginning. Porte: for your patience and good will. Rob: for making my project complete. Georgies: for teaching me Flash and allowing me to tell a story with it. Santi: for being my DJ. Rulo: for being my unconditional computer guy. Capitan: for the sailing and inspirational moments during the journey. Tony, Pichus and Kenji for have been there. Guys: all of you showed me what a team is. I want to dedicate my special thanks. It wouldn’t be possible without you.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS
thank you
gracias
tante grazie
danke
【お疲れ様】 [おつかれさま]
cam on
ευχαριστώ πολύ
merci
teşekkür
tänan
raibh mile maith agat
謝謝
obrigado
terima kasih
hvala
благодарю
감사합니다
oversättning av

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Henry &
GTA's mates: Benjamino, Calvin, Moni, Marissa thank all of you for making everything so easy.
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Ana Elise: For being a magician and making possible the impossible.

* To all my friends for being my family during these three years away from home.
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* To Francisco J. Vallerord Minister of Exterior Relationships. Asturies at your encouraging words.
* To the University of Mendoza Sergio and Ricardo for giving me the chance to come to Virginia Tech.
* To Alieto Guadagni for his career example.

And to Ana y Pepe for allowing me to obtain two degrees and for working by my side during 10 years between, models, drawings and dreams …

But most of all for their unconditional love and understanding of their only crazy child and believing that she can make her dreams possible.

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When I started, I just had a few things that I was interested in exploring that belonged to my background, but I did not know how to put all of them together to make a thesis project. I had my experience playing alone and as part of a band. I knew something of the Celt culture that is linked to the instrument. Some of the Celts nations; Ireland, Scotland, Galicia and Asturias, are related through my Asturian Family and the Asturian Center in Mendoza, Argentina.

I have lived near the site in Old Town, Alexandria for three years. I learned that Scottish people founded Old Town, Alexandria. There is a very strong community of Irish here too and many different festivities. Unfortunately, there is no place where everyone can come together to celebrate the sound of bagpipes.

To start my investigation, I found a site near the water and surrounded by green gardens, which is important because the landscape is extremely valued in the Celt culture. They venerated the woods, open spaces and freedom. The bagpipe is an instrument to be played outdoors due to its power and loudness.
The first approach and analysis was more theoretical. They were a few elements that I was interested in linking to get to the building. Those were: Celt culture and Celt Nations (Ireland - Scotland - Asturias), the bagpipe, Alexandria, Old Town and the building itself.

I started this project in a different way, than I usually do. I spent a whole semester studying and researching about the elements above before to drawing a single line. For me this was a challenge.
“They built around Nature and because of that they live in touch with her.
Only the sound of bagpipes could fill of placidness the human soul”*

* From El Gran libro de la Sabiduría Celt by Moira Kelly-Doyle.

Even when they were not the creators of the bagpipes they developed more than any other culture.
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Celts:
The celts nations: Ireland, Scotland, Cornuales, Bretana, Galicia, Asturias.
Language: Indo-european. This was the result of Italic-celtic, Latin, Irish, Gales, Breton, Gaelic.
There are very few literary surviving texts. The culture is remembered through verbal and oral transmission of myths and legends.
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STRUCTURE

- Poetry
- Magic
- Language
- Nobleness
- Friendship
- Brave
- War

3 Struct of Clades
3 Parts of the Soul
3 Kind of Monuments

ANALYSIS
The spiral is an ancient Celtic symbol related to the sun, afterlife and reincarnation. It is drawn in one continuous line, suggesting a continuous movement of time.
Bagpipe- Cornamuse-Sampogna-Gaita
Consider us emblematic instrument of the Celtic Music. The earliest instruments date from the VIII BC.
Bagpipe is similar to an external lung that fills and refills with air, pushing out.

- The chanter (punteru): is the one which allows the notes to be played.
- The reed (payuela): is the essence that becomes the center point, metallic cylinder with two pales of woods tied with string. The air makes the pales vibrate and this provides the sounds.
- The blowpipe (soplete): element that allows the air to get inside. It has a cylindrical interior channel with a valve that lets air into the bag when you are blowing, and closes to prevent the back draft.
- The drone (roncon): is the one that provides that low constant sound. It is divided in three pieces prima, seconda and tercia.
- The bag (bolsa), probably is the most characteristic part of the bagpipe morphology. The storage and release of air is essential to becoming a good bagpiper. Originally it was made out of goat leather.
- The ornaments (adornos): fringes, vorlas, suits, different fabrics, different tones and colors, and different kind of materials, present a beautiful ornament to the senses, but they are just as important than the main structure.
There are huge variety of bagpipes from different regions. The most typical one is Scottish, this one has three drones for each one tune with different notes.

The method of execution and the way bagpipes are tuned, varies with instrument.
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CESKE DUDY (or BOHEMIAN BOCK)
Czech Republic - Bohemia

ZAMPOGNA de SCAPOLI PIFFERO
Italy ~ Molise
The air, in movement becomes the wind. The element that we perceive not only by itself, but for its contact with other objects. When They are touched, They provoke sound. We don’t see it, but we feel it on our skin or when we see a flag move, or hear crunchy sound of tree leaves. The Greeks, Romans and Celts, named four winds. Each one of them was defined by its own characteristics.

The wind will be part of the building and will make possible the circulation of musical sounds. The natural ventilation has elements that take control of the act of breathing.
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Wind roses

Analogy of the Structure

Winds + Volume

Analysis

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Asturias - Spain

ANALYSIS
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Craftman

Orriu

Workshop

Typical construction from Asturias
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Old Town, Alexandria, VA
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Context
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Refer to file: Laminas Proceso WMV.  FA
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Since the Ancients Greeks, Romans and Celts the power of winds was the cause to determine the way of built.
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D. P R O C E S S
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A. Brick Wall
B. Support Wall
C. Concrete Strong Wall
D. Concrete Block Wall
E. Concrete Wall w/Interior Air Pipes
F. Concrete Retention Wall

Concrete+ Steel Columns

Structure Plan  $\frac{1}{16}'' = 1'$

SOL
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Structure Plan - SC 1/16" = 1'
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Maria Natacha Ceniz Monteys

20. Practice Room
21. Instrument Storage
22. View Point
23. Double Hight Practice Room
24. Lecture’s Room
25. Library
26. Cafe
27. Bridge
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MODE

LA

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I could continue longer playing with words but I prefer to refer to the final Video at my defense day “WAAC1 good bye.swf” in flash format.

That is the conclusion of my three years at WAAC Washington Alexandria Architecture Center, my previous Thesis Project (Eco Tourism Hotel) and this Thesis (School, Museum and Workshop of Bagpipes) along with all the words, memories and emotions.

One more thing, a loud wish: BUILD IT.
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NOTE

All files and attachments including: images, music, video clips were used with the purpose to transmit the essence of the project and to be able to show clearly the process.

There is no intention to commercialization and I’m fully responsible of this fact.

The songs have been modified, mixed and tune in order to have the same rhythm of the drawings. It was used several programs (Photoshop, PDF, CAD, VIZ, Flash, Movie Maker, Windows Media Player, Itunes and quick time pro) in order to combined architecture and music

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