

MORE THAN ARCHITECTURE

A VISUAL QUESTIONING OF REALITY



Thesis Synopsis:

Through the understanding of visual perception and its use in architecture, designers have the potential to create spaces which leave the viewer in amazement or confusion. While illusions have been used throughout history, what is currently known about visual perception continuously expands. Architecture allows people to create their own interpretations of what they see or feel, much like the purpose of commonly known optical illusions. Similarly to what happens when viewing ambiguous or paradoxical illusions, a questioning should take place when we immerse with the built environment to engage with the space mentally and physically. This thesis investigation explored theories of visual perception applied to illusions by directly experimenting with viewers' perceptions through interactive installations, and by studying architectural works that highlight the potential of architecture to become an illusion. Through illusions, architecture becomes a canvas for immersive experiences, prompting continuous exploration and reinterpretation of spatial design.

COLLIN MACKETT

UNIVERSITY OF DETROIT MERCY SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT | 2024 M.ARCH THESIS
THESIS STUDIO ADVISOR: WLADEK FUCHS
THESIS DIRECTOR: CLAUDIA BERNASCONI