Shoreditch is one of London’s most alternative areas. After a period of negligence, in the recent years this neighborhood has been gentrified by the creative industries and is now bustling with art galleries, bars, restaurants etc. In the light of these events START organizes a competition for school of art in Shoreditch, where art creates identity and motive of the rebirth of the neighborhood. “A meowing place for artists from all over the world where debates, exhibitions and workshops will enliv- en the spaces”. The location given by the brief is an area mor-phologically fragmented, dark, gloomy, and lacking of character and quality outdoor space.

The response was to create a bright structure, formed by one simple shape covering the entire area available. The structure is lifted from the ground leaving the space under it free for the city, artists and students to occupy and interact. The unique shape was pierced by holes of different size and shape in order to provide light to the inside and to the ground floor, and to place vertical communications. These tubes are also the main structural element supporting the building together with a frame of columns on the border.

The inside space is one big open space without formal division by partitions. Instead, different functions are implied using levels, materials, furniture and light. Smooth curved lines and surfaces are preferred to sharp edges, as they are more appealing to the senses, create sense of comfort and foster the freedom of movement in space, which are believed to affect fa-vorably the creative process of work. The first floor is organ-ized as common space with leisure room, exhibition space, places for lectures, group and individual work while the two galleries are divided into painting/drawing and film/photography.

The construction plays with materials and light, allowing for the appearance of shadowed areas and a bright soleil that create a certain composition by having differ-ent rotation.

The relation of brise soleil is based on the amount of natural light the space behind it requires. All the finishing both inside and outside is white, adding up to the effect of luminous struc-ture floating over the worn out brick walls.
COMPETITION FOR THE SCHOOL OF ARTS

The neighborhood of Shoreditch remained, until the decade of the last century, on the edge of London. Only in the Nineties known a definite revival, after a steady decline, which had marked the history of the Twentieth Century. In Victorian times the area had the greatest splendor with the increase of the music hall and shows that echoed in the theatres of the West End were destroyed during the bombings of World War II. As a process of social rhythm was deployed by artists and intellectuals who arrived in Britain, they chose this area to stay, giving the green coat of rest. It has become today one of the most cool, allowing middle and upper classes to return and recover many old deserted factories. In this general process of growth we want to think of a SCHOOL OF ARTS meaning an art as identity and value of the rebirth of the neighborhood. A meeting place for artists from all over the world where debates, exhibitions and workshops will enlivens the spaces. An architecture that celebrates the return of Shoreditch to the palace of the past.

Competition requirements didn't include specific instructions not to constrain the work of the contestants. Functional requirements of the project (that can be integrated with other areas shown at the bottom of the participants):

- laboratory/painting, drawing, 8m, photography, 200m²
- spaces for lessons 50m²
- offices for teachers
- lockers for art materials
- technician office
- technical room

The surfaces are given suggestions to the design, are intended to be adaptable to different needs.

PROJECT LOCATION 1:1000

Shoreditch is a district within the London Borough of Hackney, lying immediately to the north of the City of London. In the recent years this neighborhood has been populated by the creative industries and is now found with art galleries, bars, restaurants, media businesses etc. The transformation was so extensive that Shoreditch became synonym for contemporary ‘hybridisation’ of regenerated urban areas, where art and culture thrive. Shoreditch is an exuberant of the street art and culture, where street artists from all over the world have left their mark.

Area given by the competition is located between 1 Ivy Street and Hoxton Street with a surface of 3356 sq. It is the northern part of the Shoreditch district. The immediate surrounding of the area is a post-industrial zone with prevailing residential buildings, but in traditional materials, mostly brick. It is morphologically fragmented, with a dark, gloomy atmosphere, lacking of character and of quality outs.
The ground floor is kept completely open and flexible for students, artists and citizens to organize different events, exhibitions etc. The area is branded with street art and the covered plaza provides unique conditions for the students and street artists to interact using different art media, paintings, murals, installations, photographs, film etc. Porous concrete is used for the plaza to allow the water to percolate. The lines represent the movement of the people through the air, objects being the constructive elements of the building that are
The interior space is designed as one open fluid space without formal division by partitions. Instead, different functions are implied using textiles, materials, furniture and light. Smooth curved lines and surfaces are preferred to sharp edges as they are more appealing to the senses, create a sense of comfort and foster the freedom of movement in space, the sensations that are believed to affect favorably the creative processes of work.

The first floor is organized as common space. Slightly varied floor is used to indicate different functions.

The highest levels is the podium with lounge area and a bar, and is occasionally used as an exhibition space. This informal space can accommodate a large number of people that can view it to relax during breaks, read or interact with other students and teachers.

Medium level contains space for group lectures, library and an office area. This is a more formal space where lectures and discussions are held. Since there is no partitions, this level interacts with both more casual relax zone and more formal study zone. The space has double height and the central links passing through it.

The lowest level is organized as group and individual work with an auditorium for bigger lectures and presentations. Apart from levels, function is implied using furniture. Big rectangular layout of furniture for closed group work, round layout for transition between group and individual work, and single tables for individual work.

The two galleries above are divided into painting/painting workshop and the photography workshop. Painting and drawing workshop has a small material deposit on this level while rest of the material stored in the basement. Painting and photography workshop has a small studio and can use storage facilities in the basement. Painting workshop provides possibilities to both group and individual work while photography and film factor mostly an individual work.

Natural light enters the building from the sides through the glass façade and through the hole and tubes in the middle which creates an interesting composition of light and shadow in the interior space.
FLOOR
Finishing of the surfaces is in white materials in majority of cases, with exception of light pine wood flooring. Different finishing correspond to the levels of floor and particular functions. Wood is used in the places where students care of the floor and stops. The lecture spaces where more noise is created are covered with white acoustic floor. Both galleries have white epoxy floor finishing which is suitable for work with paint and other liquid material.

DIAGONAL CONNECTION
There are four levels providing vertical connection from the ground to the floors. One on the first floor, movement in space continues in a free and organic manner. One step to dividing lecture space from a library or the lounge area where people relaxing or exploring the library can all the same time hear the lecture in auditorium. One floor is visually unique in horizontal way but it is also diagonally visually connected to other floors. Central hall and different heights of gallery spaces provide series of diagonal visual lines starting from ground level all the way to the roof.

FURNITURES
GROUP / INDIVIDUAL WORK

BAR AREA

OFFICE SPACE

RELAX / CHATTING AREA

READING AREA

FLUID MOVEMENT

FREE CIRCULATION

DIAGONAL VISUAL CONNECTION

VERTICAL CONNECTION
ROOF

The roof is designed as an open terrace suitable for various events and activities. The terrace is covered with a light, organic-shaped structure supported by two types of elements: glass columns extending from the facade and thin round columns placed along the edge of the shape.

BASEMENT

In the basement, there are three types of spaces: large open space connecting the other rooms, the rooms inside the curved concrete walls and rectangular rooms. The curved concrete walls are placed directly under the tube structure and the inside space is used for storage. Technical facilities are located in the rectangular rooms on the edge.

LAYERS OF BUILDING STRUCTURE

1. Glass columns and diagonal columns act as giant pillars and are the main structural element supporting the building.
2. Frame of rectangular columns on the border that works together with tubes as support.
3. Slides are designed as triangular space grid structures of 1m height and are composed of steel tubes with diameter of 6 cm.
4. Structural glass façade with a steel grid carrying the trapezoidal form.

SPACE GRID STRUCTURE

Regular structure before and irregular after placing the tubes.
The tubes have dual function: they are the main structural elements and the only means of vertical communication in the building. There are a pair of five tubes and one stair that are placed in the core of the building.

Each tube consists of steel beams and different kinds of double glazing depending on their function. Steel beams are made of vertical, horizontal and diagonal elements. Vertical elements, steel columns, are held together by circular horizontal elements, steel beams and rings. This structure is further strengthened by diaphragm wall elements placed in each rectangular frame formed by a column and horizontal element. Structure formed this way has great stiffness and it allows all the elements to work together and behave as one giant piller, and at the same time to react to horizontal forces applied to the building.

Two tubes provide main vertical means of communication. One holds the circular glass stairs and is shown as an example in the illustrations, while the other one has a spiral staircase. There are two more tubes intended for vertical communication, one with a cargo elevator and second one with the escape stairs. These two tubes extend all the way to the storage space in the basement.

The lift tubes are functionally and formally different. It is designed for stairs that lean on each level except the ground floor where the space inside the tube is used as storage. The outside face of this tube is formed by acid etched glass that gives translucent effect.
As the space inside the building is open and unique, without a formal division between different functions, the facade of the building was used as a tool to orginize the separation between the spaces that reacted different kinds of atmospheres, intimacy and amount of natural light. This was achieved by placing horizontal linear slats over the double glazed ventilated facade. Keeping the same distance between each horizontal element and introducing these different rotations, the spaces behind them pass on different impressions.

First rotation where we have two sides completely open and where most natural light is permitted inside corresponds to the common spaces of the building and space used as painting and sculpture laboratory.

Second rotation with a slight inclination is placed in front of study spaces, and photography and film laboratories.

The horizontal rotation which gives the least natural light to the inside is used to protect the spaces for lectures and provide conditions for different kinds of presentations.

Considering that most of the functions of the spaces are not strictly fixed and can change over time, the position of these slats is not permanent. The change of the rotation is allowed but always keeping the same division of the facade, meaning that these slats in each group move in the illustration have to be rotated the same way. These slats are made of thin fiber cement plates held by a steel frame that further connects to the glass columns inside.

ELEVATION DETAIL: 1:50

ELEVATION LAYERS

LAMINATED GLASS: LAMINATED GLASS CONNECTED TO THE GLASS COLUMNS

LAMINATED GLASS WITH POINT CONNECTION

STAINLESS STEEL FRAMES

BRISE SOLEIL ELEVATION PANELS

COMPOSITION OF THE ELEVATION

VENTILATION LAYERS: GALVANIZED STEEL

FLOATING FLOORS

VENTILATION AND HEATING SYSTEM

ACOUSTIC CeILING: 15.00 mm.

LIGHTWEIGHT CONCRETE: 300.00 mm.

VENETIAN BLINDS

BRISE SOLEIL ROTATION

ELEVATION DETAIL: plan 1:50