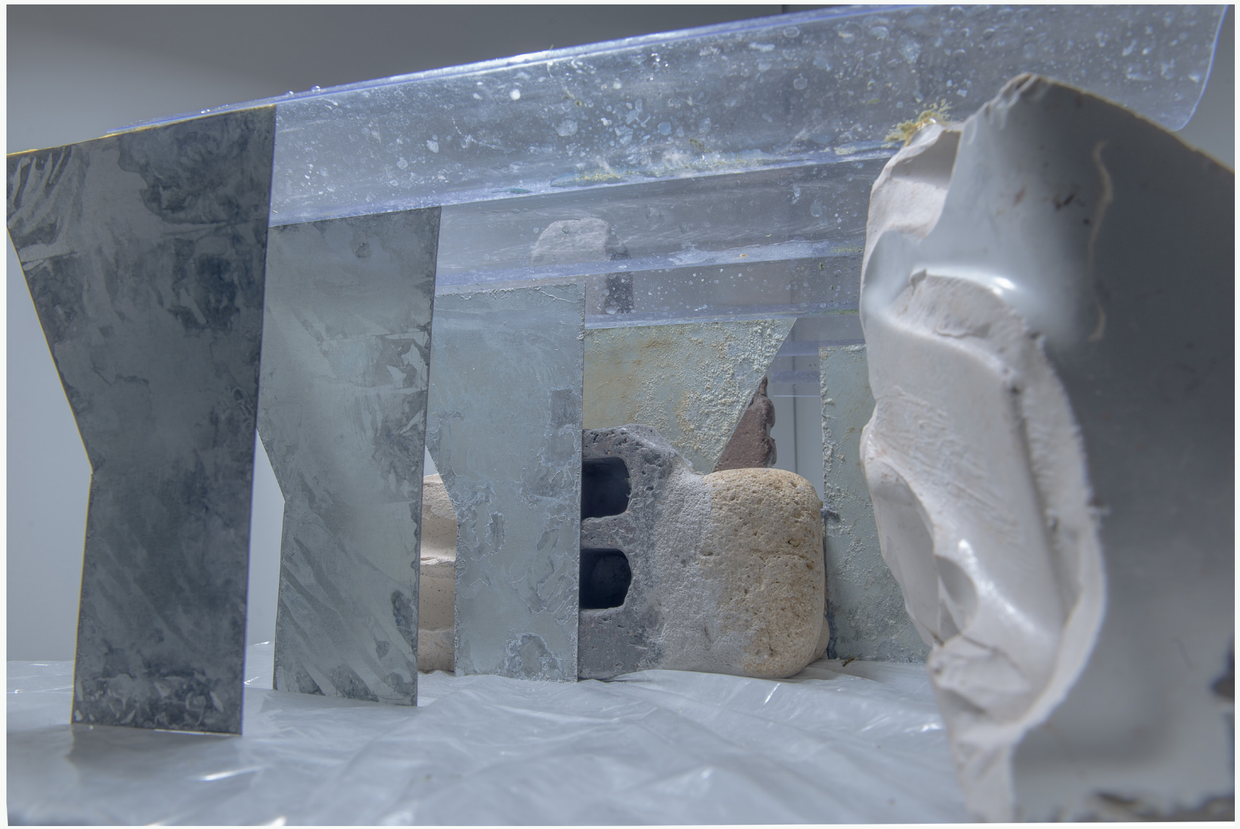
MATERIAL DECAY: THE IMPERMANENCE OF MAN

+ A WORK OF ARCHITECTURAL ALLEGORY +

HUE+MAN DESIGN COMPETITION

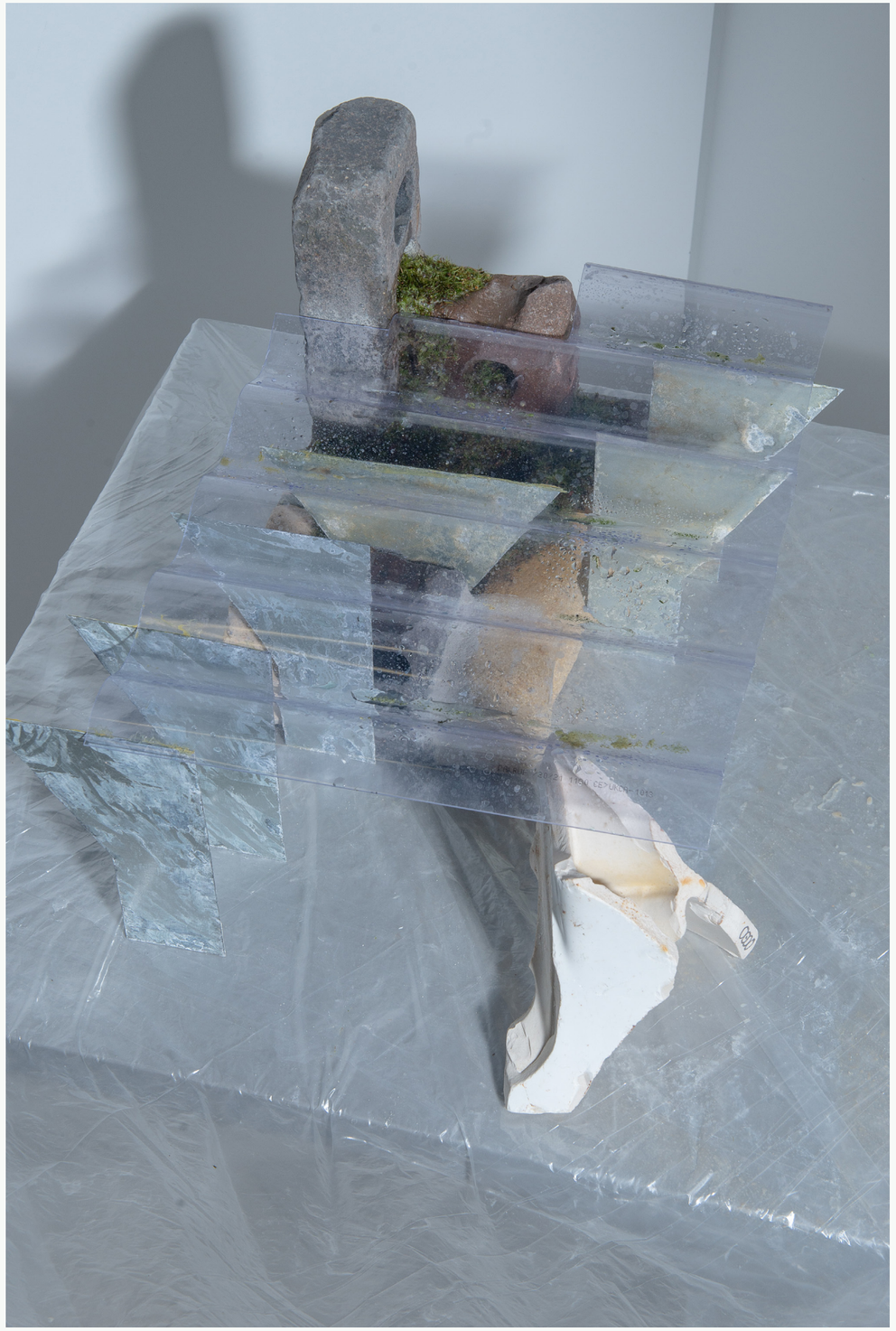
DAN CUI — TORONTO, CANADA

AUGUST 2021



+ ARCHITECTURAL ALLEGORY +

ARCHITECTURAL PRINCIPLES AND CONVENTIONS EMPLOYED IN AN UNORTHODOX MANNER IN ORDER TO TELL A STORY RATHER THAN DESIGN A NEW STRUCTURE.



+ MATERIAL CULTURE +

THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL OBSERVATION OF OBJECTS AND ARCHITECTURE VIA ARCHAELOGICAL STUDY — THE EXTENSION OF HUMAN PRESENCE, OUR CULTURE AND CREATIONS OUTLIVING US AS ARTIFACTS OF SOCIETIES PAST.

+ IMPERMANENCE +

DISCOVERING HUMANITY'S TRANSIENT NATURE THROUGH THE EXPLORATION OF MATERIALITY AND NATURAL PHENOMENA. EVEN THE MOST EXTREME CASES OF HUMAN "BRUTE FORCE" INTERVENTION CAN BE REMEDIED AND RECONTEXTUALIZED BY NATURE, RENDERING THAT WHICH WE INTEND TO BE PERMANENT, IMPERMANENT.

+ MATERIALITY +

THESE INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS ARE THE RESULT OF HUMAN INTERVENTION, SPECIFICALLY CAPITALISTIC PRACTICES WHICH HAVE LED TO THE IRREVERSIBLE PROCESSES USED TODAY.

POLYVINYL CHLORIDE IS ONE OF THE MOST COMMON TYPES OF PLASTIC IN THE WORLD, FOUND IN A MULTITUDE OF HOUSEHOLD OBJECTS, FROM TOYS TO CREDIT CARDS TO ROOFING MATERIALS AND MORE.

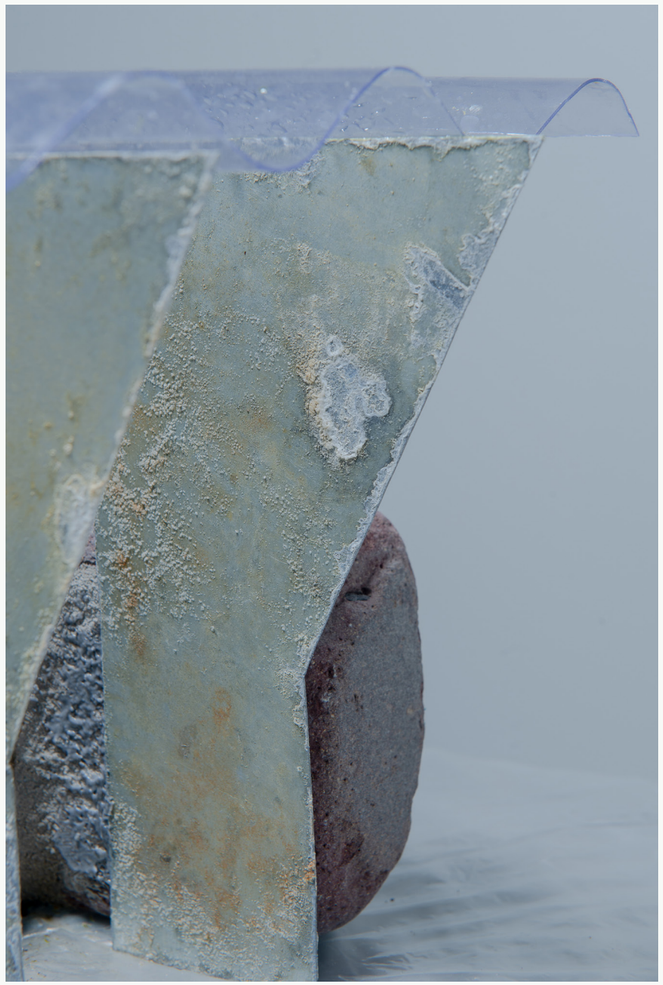
A VERSATILE AND COMMONPLACE MATERIAL, GALVANIZED STEEL CAN BE FOUND ACROSS MANY DIFFERENT INDUSTRIES AND APPLICATIONS.

COLLECTED FROM LESLIE STREET SPIT, THESE BRICKS — ARTIFACTS OF TORONTO'S INDUSTRIAL HISTORY — MAKE UP AN ENTIRE SHORELINE, DUMPED IN THE 1980S BY BRICKWORKS COMPANIES.

+ NATURAL MEDIATORS +

NATURALLY OCCURRING ORGANISMS AND PROCESSES THAT MEDIATE THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN BIOLOGICAL AND TECHNICAL NUTRIENTS, REVERSING THE INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES WE IMPLEMENT AND RETURNING MATERIALS TO THE EARTH.

OVER MILLIONS OF YEARS, MOSS RELEASES ACIDIC COMPOUNDS WHICH CAN DEGRADE ROCK, SLOWLY ERODING AND RESHAPING THE MATERIAL.



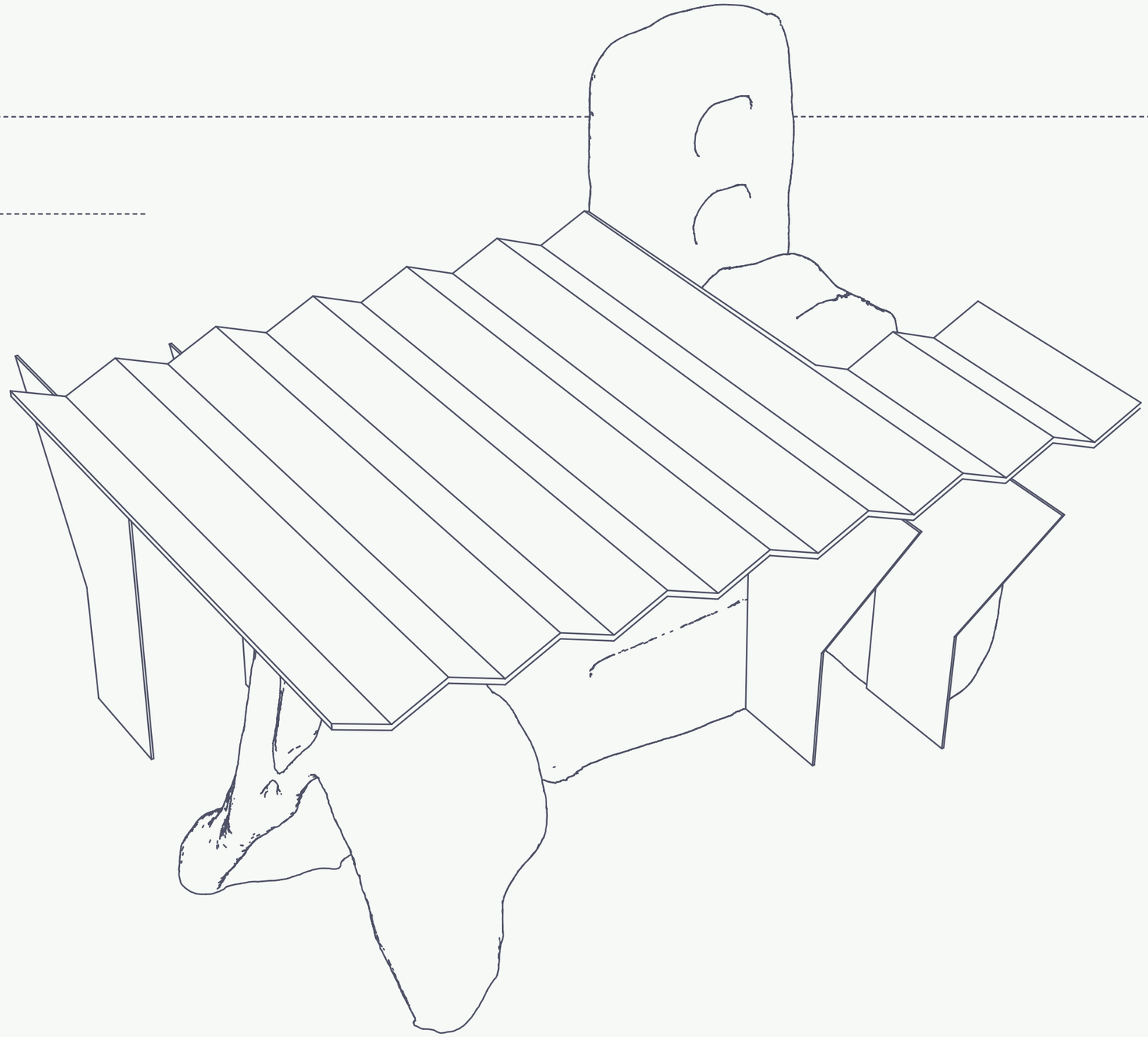
CORROSION OCCURS AS A RESULT OF CHEMICAL REACTIONS BETWEEN METAL AND ITS ENVIRONMENT, AFFECTING THE MATERIAL'S STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY.

AN AQUATIC ORGANISM THAT CAN FLOURISH IN DIFFICULT CONDITIONS, ALGAE RELEASES ENZYMES WHICH CAN BREAK DOWN PLASTIC OVER TIME.

MOSS: *CHEMICAL WEATHERING CAN OCCUR OVER MILLIONS OF YEARS, SLOWLY ERODING ROCK.*

ALGAE: *VIA ENZYMATIC PROCESSES, ALGAE CAN DEGRADE POLYMERS OVER SEVERAL CENTURIES.*

CORROSION: *GIVEN THE RIGHT CONDITIONS, RUST CAN BREAK DOWN METAL IN DAYS.*

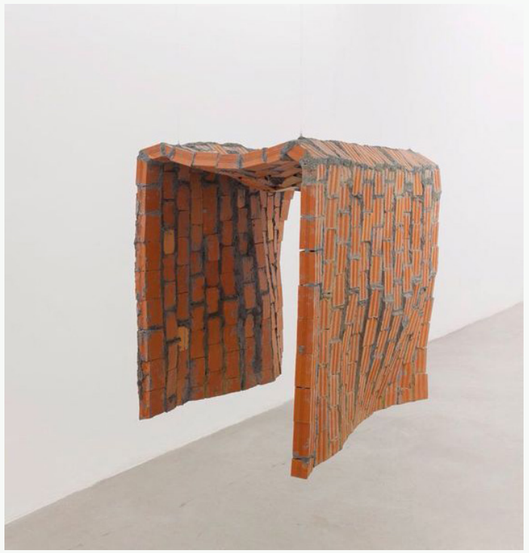


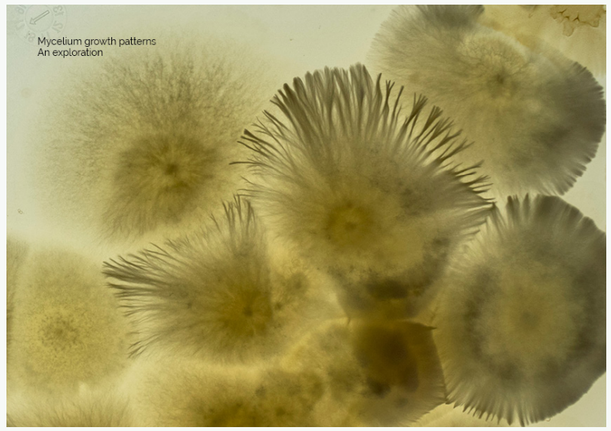
+ TIMESCALES +

OVER THE COURSE OF DAYS/DECADES/MILLENNIA, THE PIECE WILL DEGRADE SLOWLY, OVERTAKEN BY NATURE AS THESE BIOLOGICAL MEDIATORS BREAK DOWN THE INDUSTRIAL MATERIALS AT DIFFERENT SPEEDS, OVER DIFFERENT SCALES OF TIME.

+ INSPIRATION +

WORKS OF ART, DESIGN, AND NATURE THAT INSPIRED THIS PIECE, EITHER CONCEPTUALLY OR AESTHETICALLY.





+ SKETCHES +

VISUALIZATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CREATIVE PROCESS THAT LED TO THE FINAL PRODUCT, COMPLETED ON PAPER AND USING CAD + 3D SCANNING.