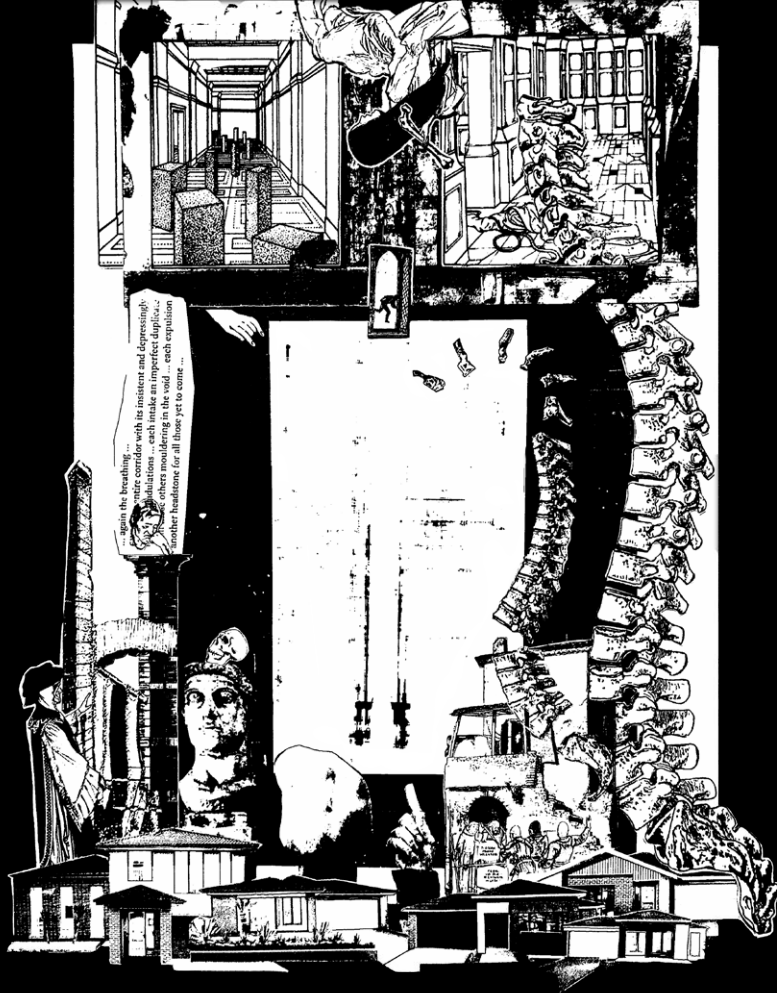


URBAN CORPORIS

TO THE BONES



Guest Editor
ANNA RICIPUTO

Edited by
MICKEAL MILOCCO BORLINI
ANDREA CALIFANO

URBAN CORPORIS SERIES

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URBAN CORPORIS - TO THE BONES

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M. Milocco Borlini, A. Califano, A. Riciputo

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**A BOOK ON
ARCHITECTURE, ART,
PHILOSOPHY AND
URBAN STUDIES
TO NOURISH THE
URBAN BODY**

URBAN CORPORIS - TO THE BONES

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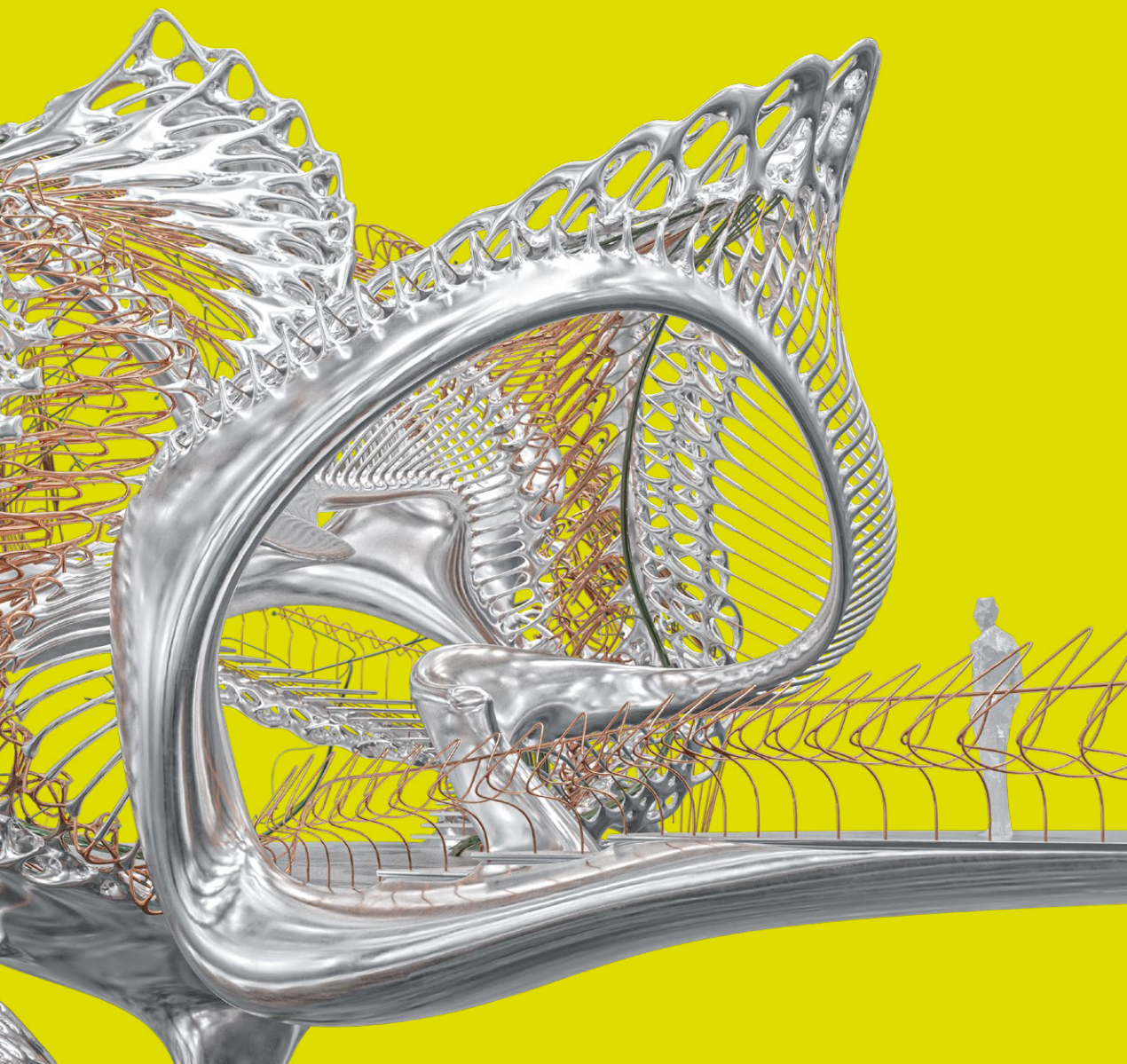
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Simon Comptoi, parametrically generated prototypes (naked structure without "skin"). Courtesy of the Author.

SERO VENIENTIBUS, OSSA

Those who are late get bones

by Mickeal Milocco Borlini and Andrea Califano

In the intricate tapestry of urban landscapes and architectural marvels resides an inherent essence that defines their very being: the skeletal structure. This essence, explored in the publication *Urban Corporis: To the Bones*, delves into the complex array of structures and elements constituting the foundational framework of our buildings, cities, landscapes, and narratives within the realms of theoretical and architectural heritage.

The colloquially employed phrase “to the bones” typically implies a reduction of essential elements. This essence, manifested as a skeletal structure, encapsulates indispensable components crucial for upholding the conceptual fabric of our urban centres and built environments.

Within ontological and phenomenological inquiries into the primordial essence of architecture, luminaries such as Le Corbusier introduced the *Maison Dom-Ino*, a pioneering concept in “skeletal” architecture. Furthermore, A. Loos expounded in his writings that ornamentation is akin to crime, advocating for reduction to the core compositional elements of architecture. As emphasised by A. Riciputo, the skeletal structure serves as architectural support and acts as a repository of memories, resilient against the erosion of time. It stands as a custodian, preserving vestiges of the past while symbolising temporal continuity through its enduring absence. Additionally, the archetype of the hut, epitomising structural minimalism, is exemplified by Le Corbusier’s *cabanon*, in contrast to the *maison domino*, representing a skeletal form resulting from machinery and industrial processes. This dichotomy extends to an existence minimised to a 14 square meter space, culminating in creating habitable spaces through minimal means in harmony with nature, as evidenced by the Caribbean hut designed by G. Semper.

Thus, the way an object is adorned or its superficial appearance can actually represent a fundamental framework on its own. This is similar to how a surface, often seen as expendable in people’s minds – like a painted layer or plaster – takes on a crucial role. This discussion raises questions about how much attention and strengthening this framework requires. The goal of this book is to examine and understand the limits that define how this structure should be handled and reinforced.

Can architecture offer a gesture of renunciation to an oppressive and consuming time? This gesture, not defined by abstention from action but rather by a reduction of superfluous gestures, aims to uncover the essence capable of coexisting within saturated and fragmented spaces. This premise underscores the fundamental purpose of this exploration into the concept of the architectural skeleton.

This volume endeavours to elucidate and present the architectural skeleton as the fundamental underpinning of our cities and landscapes, ascribing its multifaceted nature as a system of elementary components. Herein lies an exertion to rediscover these elemental constituents, analogous to an intricate architectural system: a cranial structure housing fundamental principles, a supportive spine, extended limbs, and dispersed elements hinting at possibilities and reconstructions.

“Urban Corporis: To the Bones” seeks to redefine our comprehension of these elemental constituents, inviting exploration, interpretation, and reconfiguration of the structural framework anchoring our domains of architecture, urbanism, and the arts. This expedition through diverse perspectives efforts to unveil the profound essence – the very core – of our constructed or perceived environments.

A BOOK ON ARCHITECTURE, ART, PHILOSOPHY AND URBAN
STUDIES TO NOURISH THE URBAN BODY.

The second volume of *Urban Corporis*, titled "To the Bones", compiles reflections from architects, artists, and scholars who have extensively delved into the fundamental themes of contemporary architecture. By navigating a constant interplay between past and future, memory and innovation, and the realms of the natural, artificial, and virtual, these contributions put forth strategies for architectural, artistic, urban, and landscape projects that resonate with the fundamental principles shaping our built and perceived environment. They advocate for design approaches that synchronise with the foundational elements, referred to as "the bones", that structure the landscape while promoting forward-thinking considerations.