ACHILLION COASTAL PLATFORM
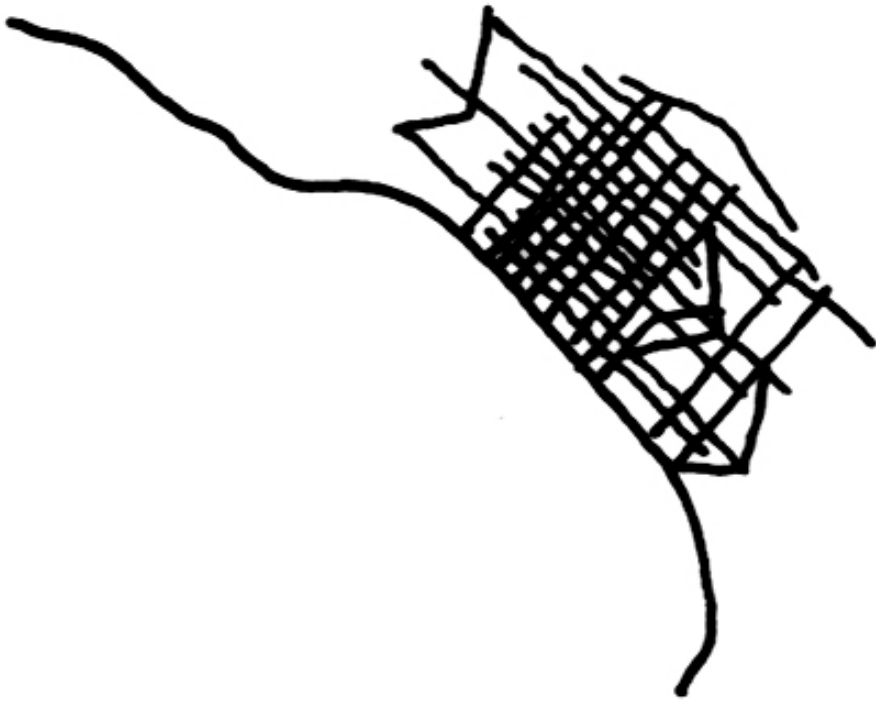## Thessaloniki, Greece
1997

» *TAC-01-ESS-LIN-The sea front of Thermaikos*

ACHILLION COASTAL PLATFORM
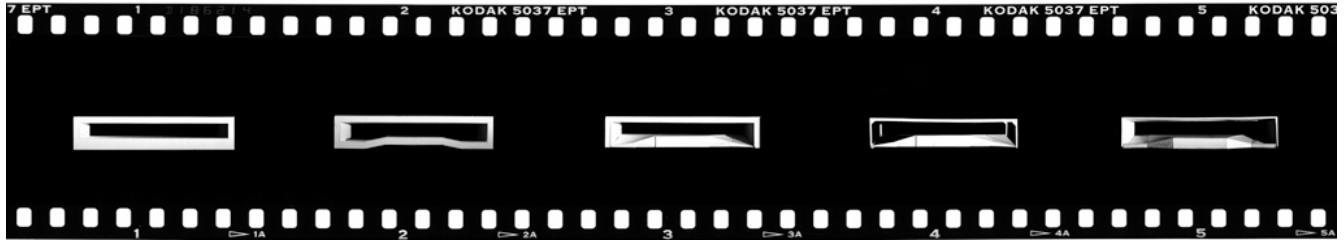**Thessaloniki, Greece**
1997

ACHILLION COASTAL PLATFORM
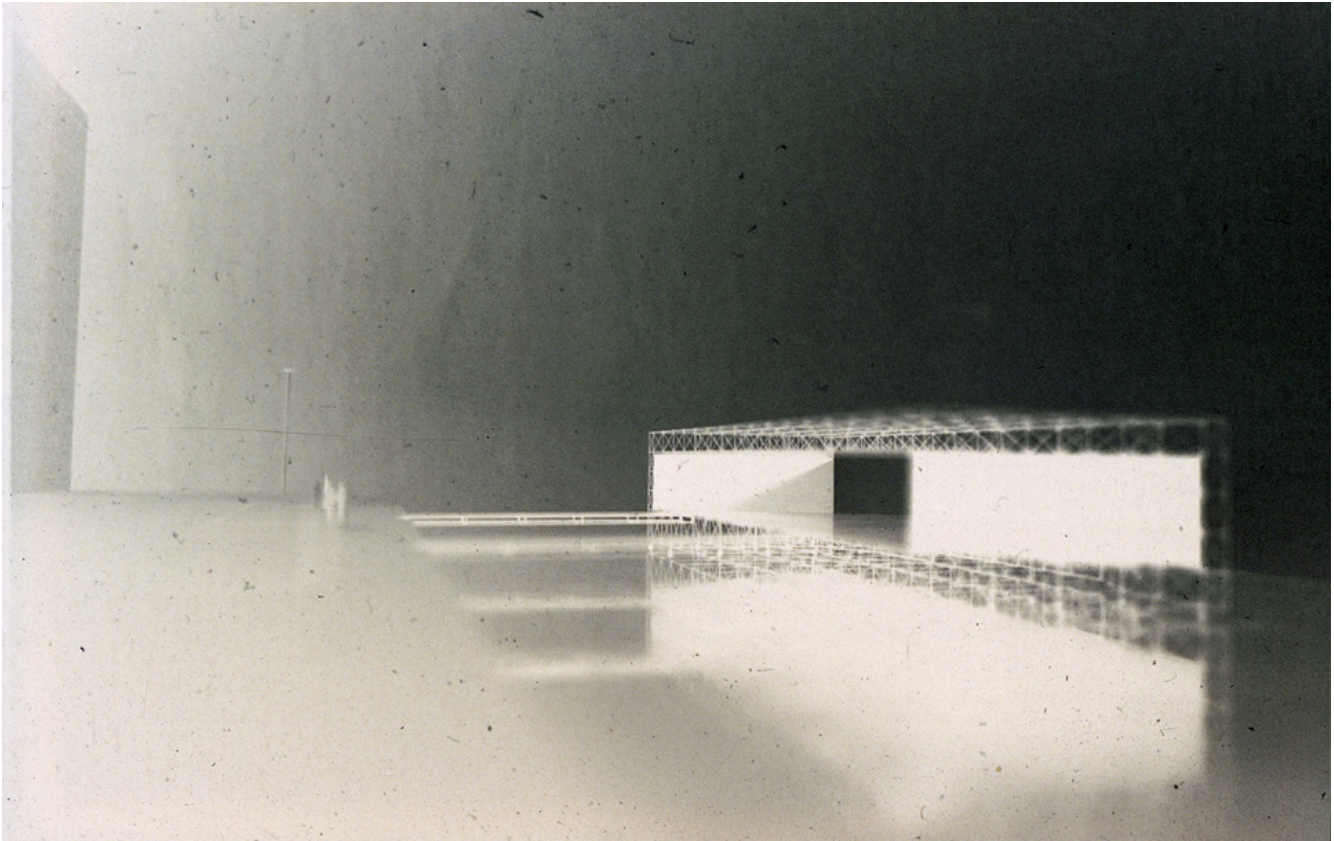## Thessaloniki, Greece
1997

» *TAC-03-ESS-LIN-Sequential framing of the visual plane*

ACHILLION COASTAL PLATFORM
Thessaloniki, Greece
1997
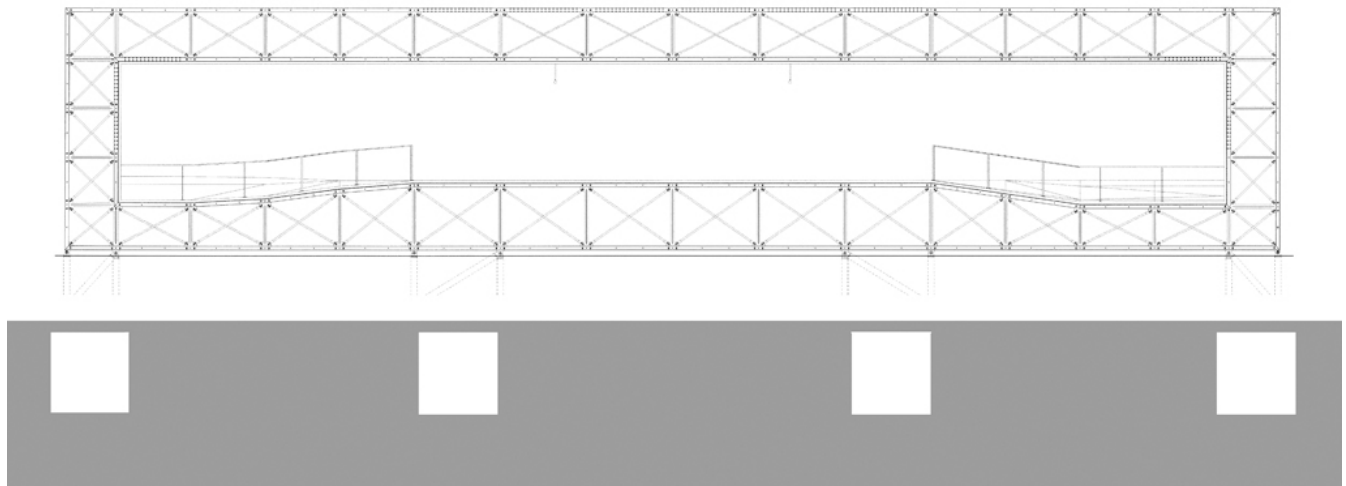

» *image: LIN*   » *TAC-04-ESS-LIN-Detached surface of archillion from the bay*

ACHILLION COASTAL PLATFORM
Thessaloniki, Greece
1997

ACHILLION COASTAL PLATFORM
Thessaloniki, Greece
1997

» *TAC-05-ESS-LIN-Cross section showing the floaters*

ACHILLION COASTAL PLATFORM
Thessaloniki, Greece
1997

» *TAC-06-ESS-LIN-Plan showing the alignment of the boat and the platform*

ACHILLION COASTAL PLATFORM
Thessaloniki, Greece
1997
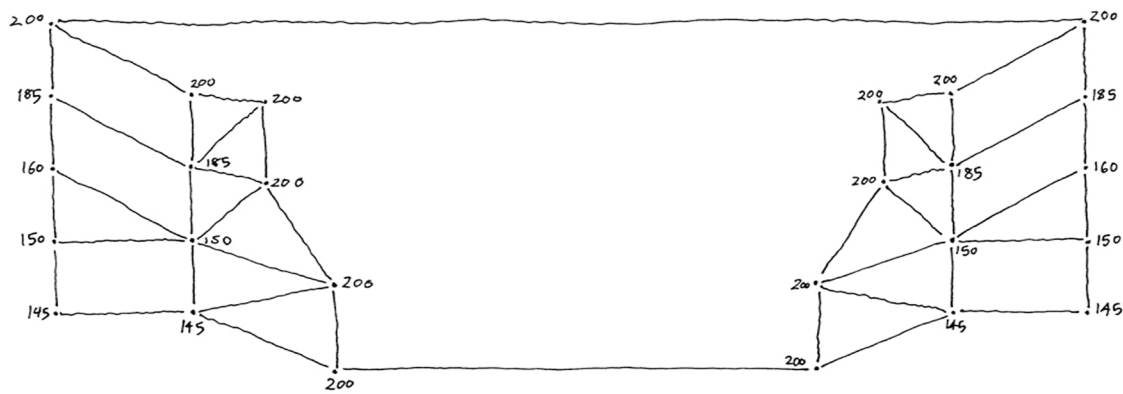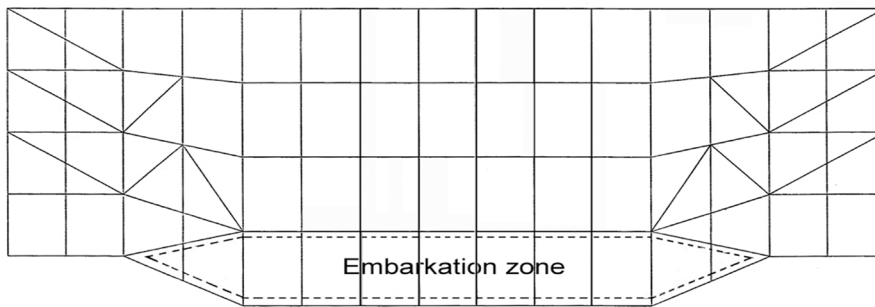
Embarkation zone

ACHILLION COASTAL PLATFORM
Thessaloniki, Greece
1997
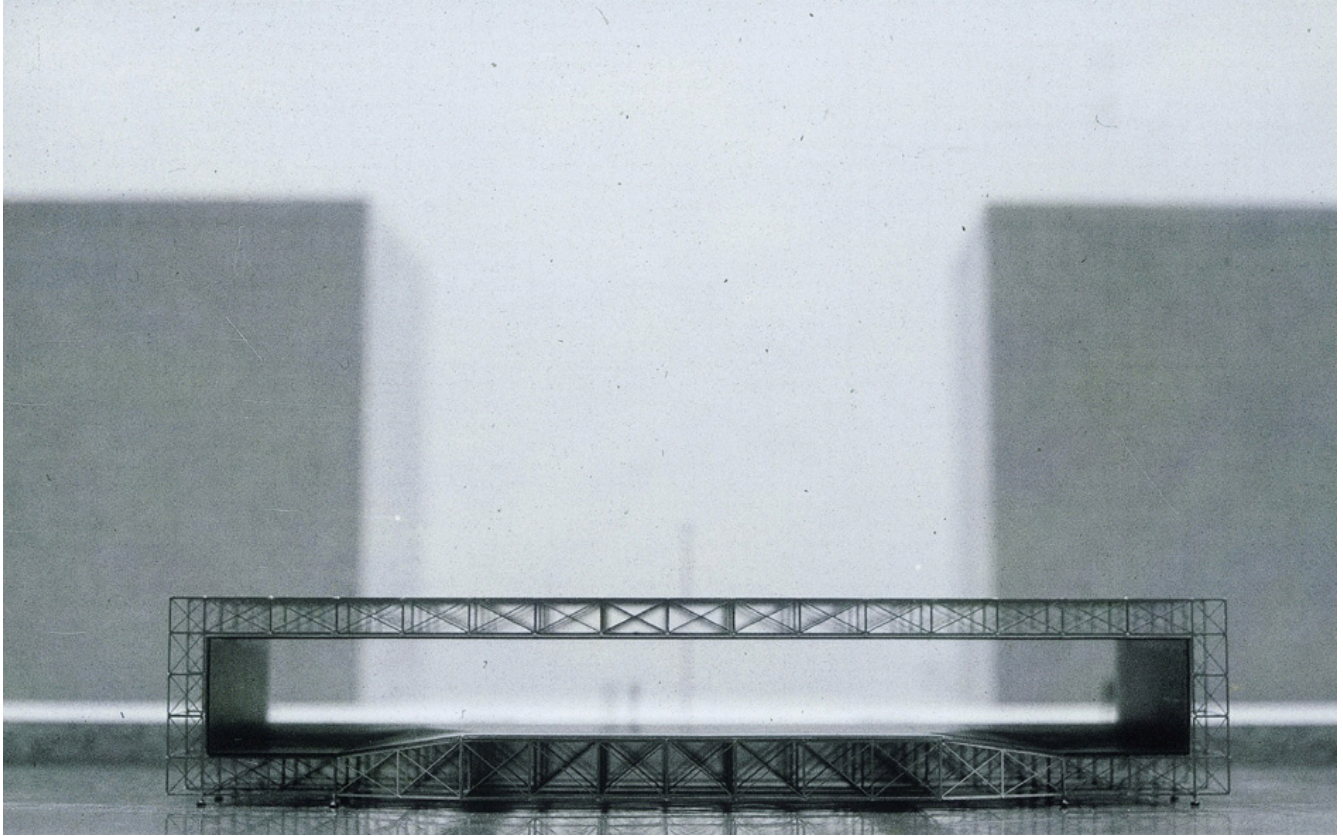
» *image: LIN*   » *TAC-08-ESS-LIN-The structural frame of archillion*

ACHILLION COASTAL PLATFORM
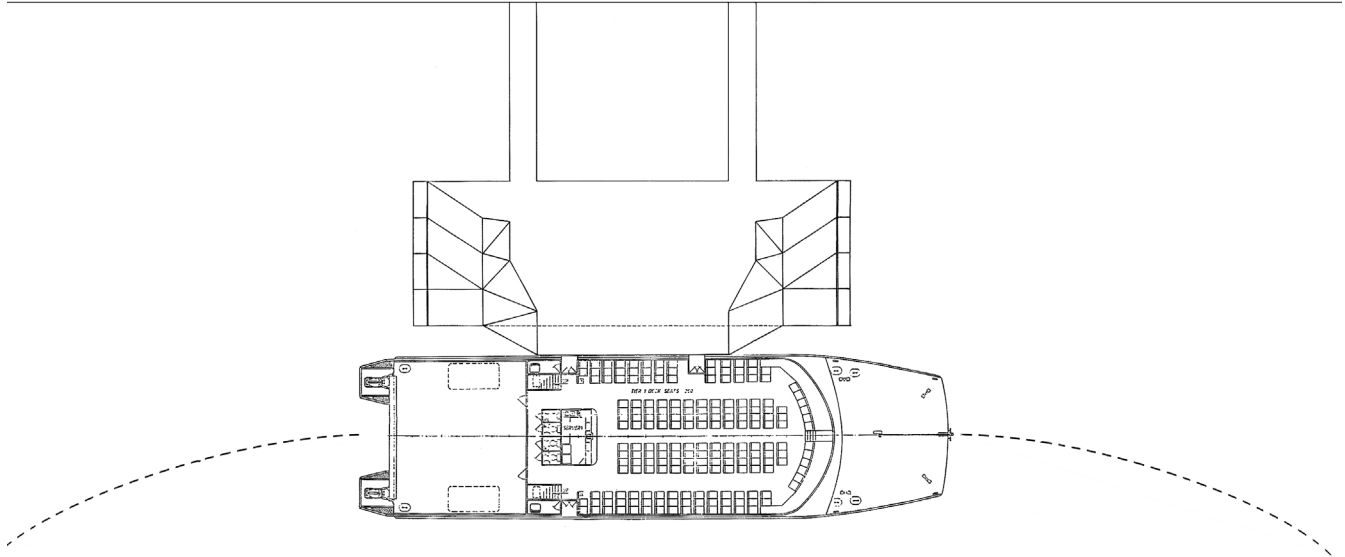## Thessaloniki, Greece
1997

ACHILLION COASTAL PLATFORM
Thessaloniki, Greece
1997

» *image: LIN*   » *TAC-10-ESS-LIN-View of proposed location of Archillion*

ACHILLION COASTAL PLATFORM
Thessaloniki, Greece
1997

HISTORY
The sea is, for Thessaloniki, a geographical, historical and psychological
determinant, a vital and inseparable part of the city´s very existence.
The Achillion Coastal Platform is one part of an initiative to "provoke spatial
episodes on the coast" on the occasion of Thessaloniki's designation as the
"European Capital of Culture" in 1997.
The city of Thessaloniki has developed as a long strip around the gulf of
Thermaikos. The "Spatial Episodes" project consists of a series of playful
points along this strip that at the same time function as stations for a public
transport system of water vessels to replace the tram system which circula-
ted along the quay at the turn of the century.
ACHILLION is one of the eight vaporetto stations along the seafront will link
the northwestern port and the airport, located southeast of the city, via
passenger ferry.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SEA AND CITY
Thessaloniki is situated around the gulf in the manner of an amphitheatre.
The urban fabric of the town center is formed by a grid of axes that run
parallel and perpendicular to the gulf, the sea always remaining present in a
succession of streets that perspectively "end" in the horizontal surface of
the water. The sea and the city interpenetrate and confront each other with
the most minimal zone of transition.

FRAME
The interior space of the ACHILLION station has a surface area of 300 m2
and possesses a ceiling height of 3 meters. Its roof is perfectly horizontal.
The floor surface is flat at its centre and contorts at its edges. The topogra-
phy of the floor surface contrasts with the perfect horizontality of the roof
and constitutes an extension of the terrestrial surface: the flat sea horizon
and the shifting topography of the seafloor meet in the same container. A
simple wireframe structure wraps around the frame and holds it suspended
above the sea.

LIMITS
The embarkation platform, its roof, and its façades form a continuous
frame.
Inside the structure and exposed to the sea, the visitor is confronted with
only isolated views: the sea on one side, and the city on the other. The
"suspended site" mimics the nearly absent transition between the city
streets and the sea.

ACHILLION COASTAL PLATFORM
Thessaloniki, Greece
1997

FLOATING SYSTEM

The ACHILLION station is not anchored in the bay, but is supported by a system of floaters. The horizontal anchoring is achieved with two foot-bridges and a system of bracing cables. A simple submarine and pneumatic system prevents an accumulation of debris on the water's surface that would be caused by visible floaters,
A corresponding vessel is held under pressure by an electrically-powered air compressor. The size of the vessel allows for the necessary air supply to the pontoons even in the case of a temporary malfunction.
The pontoons are partially filled with water; the level regulated by a simple pneumatic sensor and the aforementioned vessel. As the air within the vessel is compressed and under high pressure, only a short time is needed to fill the pontoons with low-pressure air. A minimum of three pontoons guarantees the structure's stable horizontal position even in the case of an unevenly-distributed weight load.

BOAT BERTING

The eight constructed piers and pavilions are not just eight literal points or locations along the seafront – they are eight stops towards the endeavour to establish urban-maritime communication in the bay of Thessaloniki. Thus, these pavilions are designed to have multiple functions in the eve-ryday life of the city. The project is intended as an opportunity for eight architects to engage in a creative and combined effort along one continuous route.

STRUCTURE OF THE PLATFORM

The platform has a surface area of 340 m2. Its central area is perfectly flat and remains at the level of the quay and of the boat doors. The two lateral extremities decline successively, bringing the surface closer to the level of the sea. The roof covers the platform, apart from the embarkation zone.
The shuttle is a 37 m long catamaran-style ferry with a 300-person capacity. The Berthing follows the NW-SE journey, parallel to the quay, utilising an electromagnetic mooring system. The berthing and embarkation zone has a length of 13.5 m with a roof setback of 2 meters.

CONSTRUCTION

The platform is constituted by a two-dimensional frame wrapped in a supporting structure. The frame is composed of the floor, the roof and the two lateral faces. The surfaces are made of beehive-structured composite panels; the supporting structure is constituted of 5 arches assembled to form a casing. The arches are composed of flat aluminum profiles of AIMg5 for the base structure and AIMg4,5Mu aluminium for the roof structure. The structure uses cathodic protection to avoid corrosion.
The outer skin folds inward to the structure and is wrapped within, this construction representing a clear dialectic between the wireframe exoske-leton and the two-dimensional character of the frame.

ACHILLION COASTAL PLATFORM
Thessaloniki, Greece
1997

VOID AS A STAGE
Achillion connects with a very public promenade in the city centre, its
proximity to sites of leisure and culture providing an enviably rich environ-
ment. Therefore, the platform proposes a free zone open to unexpected
situations and chance events, where all are players.
Inside is a threshold, an intermediate space opening onto others – towards
gathering or towards dissipation, folding into the scenery of the city or
being confronted by the sea – a common space not only of reunion, but also
of anticipation.
Tension, hesitation and deliberation accompany the passage from one scene
to another: a knot between episodes.

URBAN SITUATION
Archillion is located at the junction of a major transverse axis, Aya Sophia
Avenue, with the seaside promenade Palia Paralia. The passage between
urban density and the sea is as immediate as it is imperceptible: a strip of
ordinary road separates the mass of the buildings from the calm surface of
the water. The gulf and the city interpenetrate and confront each other in a
sharp yet almost absent transition. Archillion Station tries to reveal this
close relationship.