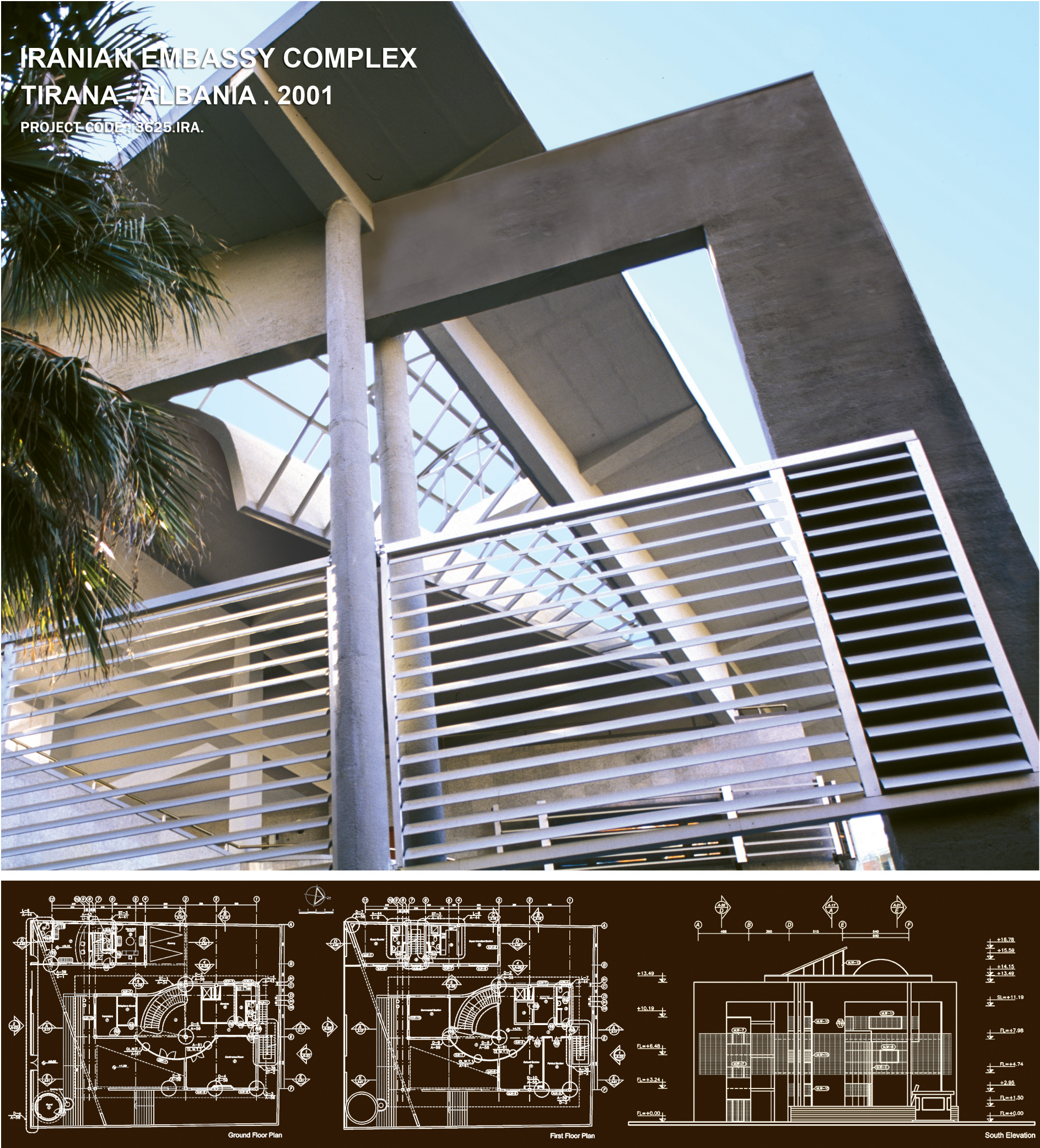


Embassy of Iran

Tirana, Albania

Architects	Tajeer Consulting Architects / Ali Saremi, Javar Bonakdar Tehran, Iran
Clients	Ministry of Foreign Affairs Tehran, Iran
Commission	2000
Design	2000 - 2001
Construction	2001 - 2003
Occupancy	2003
Site	700 m²
Ground floor	600 m²
Total floor	2,200 m²
Costs	907,600 USD

Programme This embassy building is designed to be open and inviting to reflect ancient Iranian culture. The site is bounded by other buildings on two sides so the architect takes a cube as a starting point but distorts and erodes it and runs a tilted concrete wall in front, creating formal complexity. This wall carries the oversailing roof, evoking the traditional Persian ‘ivan’ entrance, and incorporates a tree, which enriches its welcoming aspect and adds to its enigmatic appearance. Aluminium louvres provide solar protection and privacy, working with the concrete and granite surfaces to make a harmonious composition.



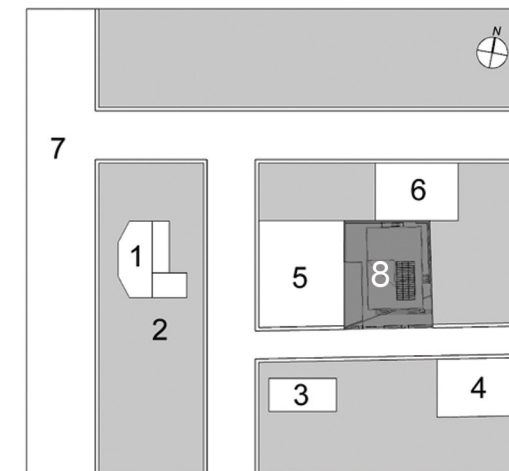
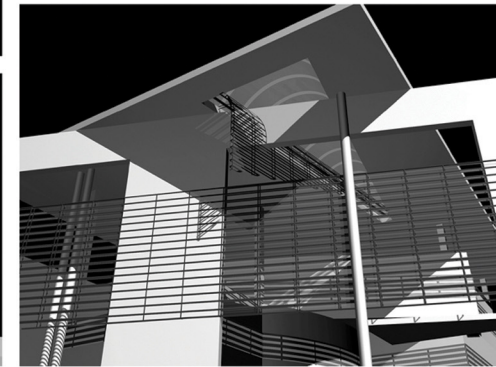
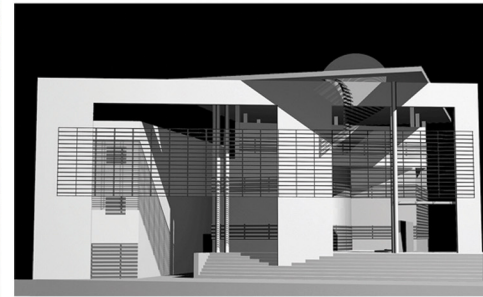
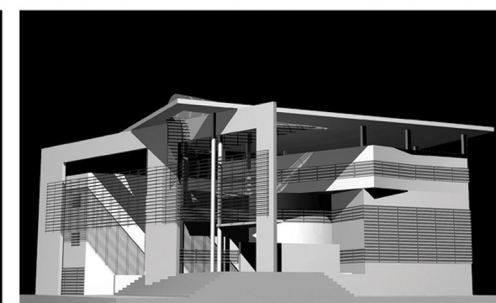
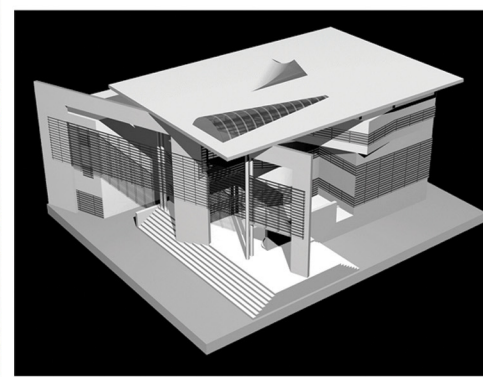
There is a wide difference between the plans, drawings and electronic renderings of a building and its real actuality. No matter how advanced these mechanical and electronic tools are, even if they have depicted the building from all angles and even if animated tours inside and around the building have been visualized, still the actual building is much more complex and presents a variety of unpredictable unknowns that were not revealed in the small scale drawings. We noticed this reality in a distinct way about the Iranian Embassy in Tirana: the combination of various elements, forms and spaces produced unpredictable and totally new visions. The mingling of concrete surfaces and granite surfaces with aluminum parts formed a harmonious ensemble which we had not foreseen in the small- scale drawings we had designed.

The other point is the ambiguity and complexity which this building has created for the users. In principle in all artistic works the intents of the creator are visible throughout the work, but the beholder becomes involved in his own personal way with the work of art, and usually has a reading quite different from the original idea of the creator, and these interpretations actually complete the creator's intents. These interpretations become all the richer and more profound when the work itself is full of ambiguity and complexity and has a special richness to it, otherwise a work which is not multivalent cannot produce such reactions from the viewer.

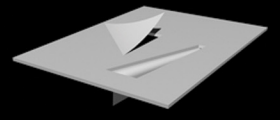
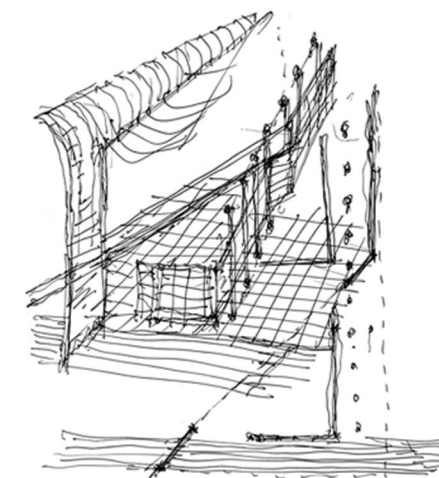
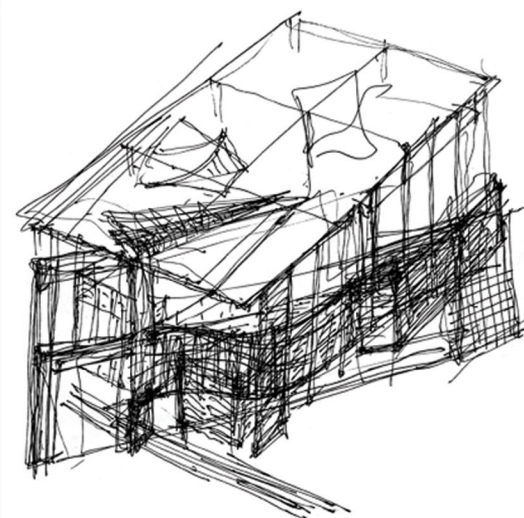
In this regard, we can cite the example of the “cube” which is the most recurrent geometric volume in all architectural periods from East to West. The cube, either in its pure or altered forms, is still widely used in Contemporary Architecture. In the Embassy Building, the cube is present in a nondescript and mysterious way in the background. Here it has been hollowed from the inside and emaciated as much as possible. Other elements counterbalance the main axes of the cube and create the before mentioned formal complexity, as in the concrete wall used in front of the building and reminiscent of Persian IVANS at the entrance of traditional buildings.

This concrete skin is slightly tilted, challenging the main axes of the building and creating a questioning contrast and ambivalence. This concrete frame, in the shape of a slim wall, crossing the even columns and supporting the ceiling of the Ivan also encompasses a colossal tree which adds a special meaning to it and is more welcoming to visitors.

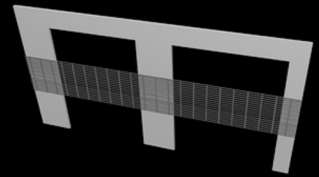
The main roof of the building has been treated as a separate plate hanging 2 meters higher than the tallest ceiling and slightly folds over the Ivan as though the plain roof of the building had been cut in this area and were hanging down like a fabric curtain with its corners folded. The folding of concrete also reminds us of the formalistic possibilities of this material which remain unequalled by any other yet.



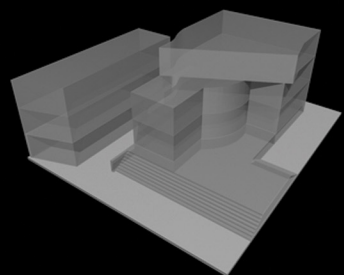
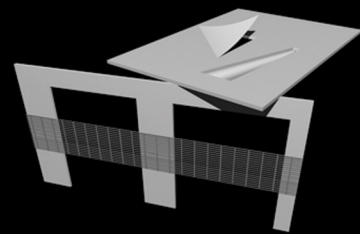
- 1- National Monument
- 2- Central Park
- 3- High rise Building
- 4- Church
- 5- British Residence
- 6- Switzerland Residence
- 7- Eskandar bake Ave.
- 8- Iranian Embassy



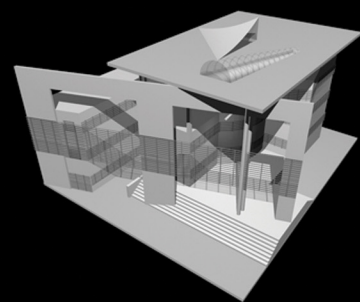
Horizontal Surface



Vertical Surface



Functional Volume



IRANIAN EMBASSY COMPLEX TIRANA . ALBANIA . 2001

PROJECT CODE : 3625.IRA.

IRANIAN EMBASSY COMPLEX
TIRANA . ALBANIA . 2001

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