

The Temple of Matter

The Temple of Matter is an investigation into how an architectural project implemented into the urban fabric can help to bring forth a renewed view of matter by exploring a possible way of re-establishing our relation to matter as living. Through the exploration of fractal geometry and different processes known as dynamisms (ways of breaking, copying, scaling and splitting forms into sub-forms inspired by traditional Hindu temple architecture) as methods of physically expressing the living nature of matter, a process of generating and building a structure consisting of 3D-printed composite bricks has evolved together with an investigation into some of the concepts relevant to the current renewed discussion on the nature of matter and the project at large, such as: the disenchantment of the West presented by the German sociologist Max Weber, Deleuze's the fold, building on from the work of the baroque philosopher and mathematician Leibniz ideas suggesting a quite fractal nature of matter endlessly creating folds within folds, the notion of Brahman in Hinduism (and its representation in traditional Hindu temple architecture), the architect Christopher Alexander's concept of relatedness, arguing for the significance of intention when designing and building and the need of finding a new notion of the Divine to infuse buildings with a kind of living essence that much contemporary architecture is lacking, and Jane Bennet's concept of vibrant matter and her political laying out of how a certain sensibility to matter as vibrant might be able to change how we treat matter and, by extension, our world.