

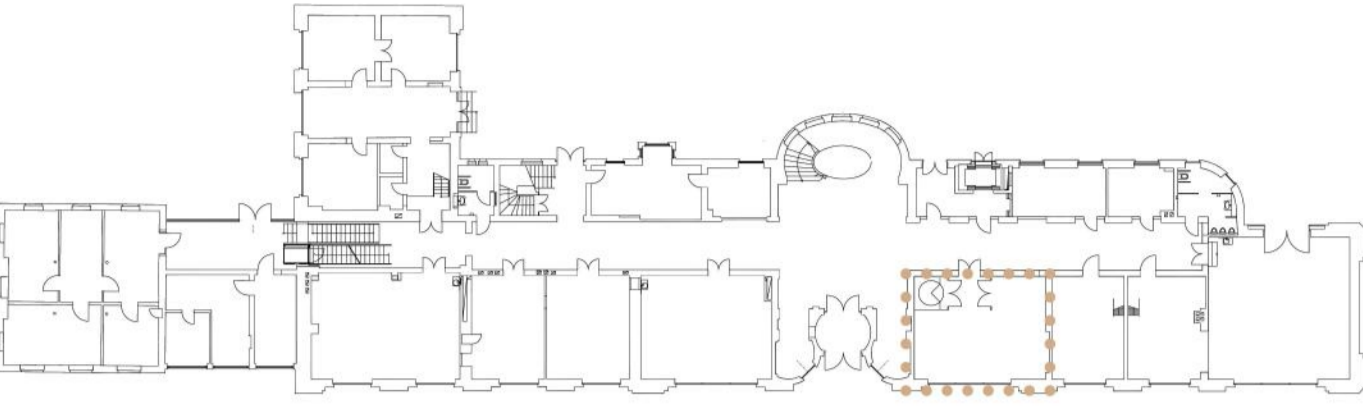
How can we See more with our Ears?

When analysing recent architectural literature it becomes clear that everyday life is moving further away from, and neglecting a balanced sensory experience. This shift is having a profound impact on the built environment. Shaping ideas of how the future of architecture will look like, if it continues on this trajectory. The issue has been recognised by selected architectural publications. In the recent trend practice has been dominated by the eye/sight (Spence, 2020) but it has not always been like that. How has our sensory spectrum adapted to the context and how can we achieve a sensory balance?

How can we See more with our Ears explores the idea of experimental and experiential architectural qualities in the Media Architecture room, located at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar. The project was conceived to gain a deeper understanding of space and atmosphere in architecture. Through technical integration of a custom built sound system, a shift in attention to the hearing/aural sense let's visitors take part in my own journey of discovery and experimentation. Using soundscapes derived from the material, space, inhabitation and nature.

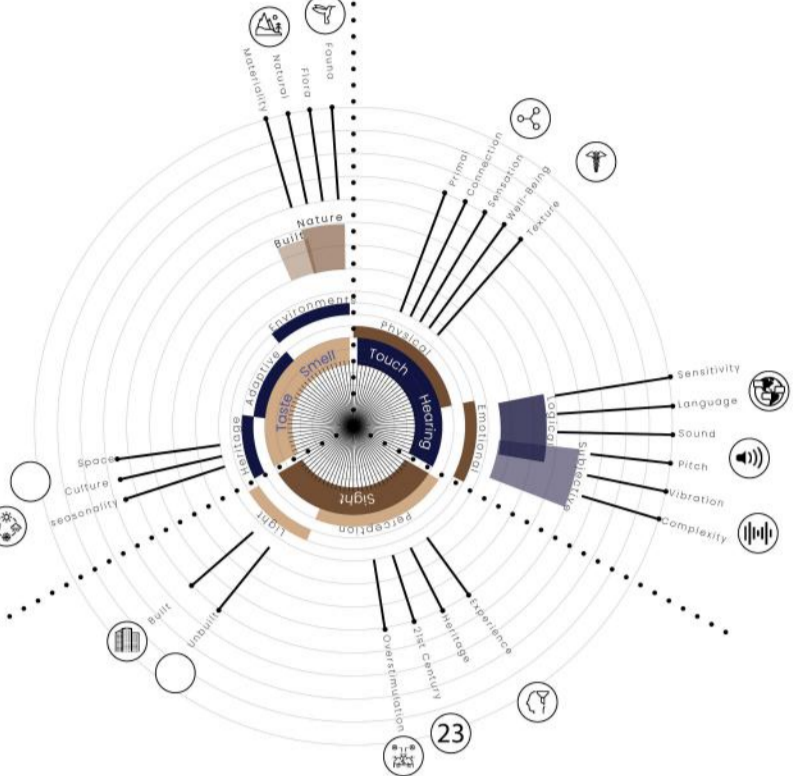


Hauptgebäude Bauhaus-Universität



The Sensory Spectrum

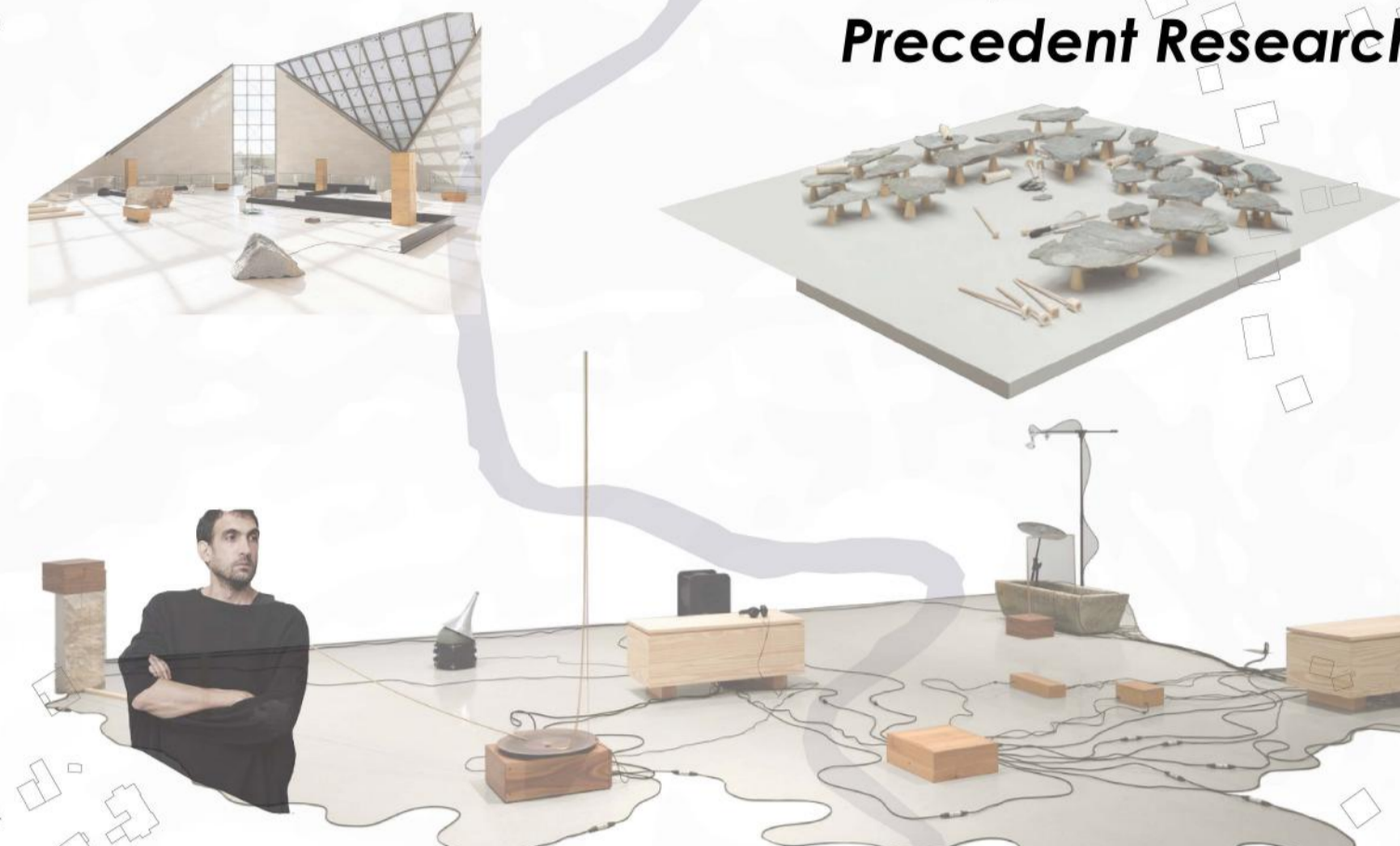
The MediaArchitecture room of Bauhaus-Universität in Weimar is the selected site for the project. It has historical relevance that speak of architectural history and aural memory that influenced design and architecture around the world for over one hundred years. The master's degree MediaArchitecture is housed in this space. The course provides students with an environment to redefine, expand, and develop interdisciplinary projects in a time where all aspects of society are undergoing a shift toward being digitalised.



The Site



Precedent Research



Tarek Atoui is a composer of electro acoustic music and a visual artist who resides in Paris, France. Atoui creates complex, Avant-garde musical instruments and works in the fields of sound performance and composition. For this reason, he organises and curates artistic interventions, concerts, performances, and workshops. His works frequently fall under the category of large-scale, collaborative performances, where extensive music research and instrumentation novel serve as the foundation and novel production methods are tested. He makes references to current social and political realities using custom-made electronic and electro acoustic instruments. In this context, music and new technologies serve as powerful forms of expression and identity.

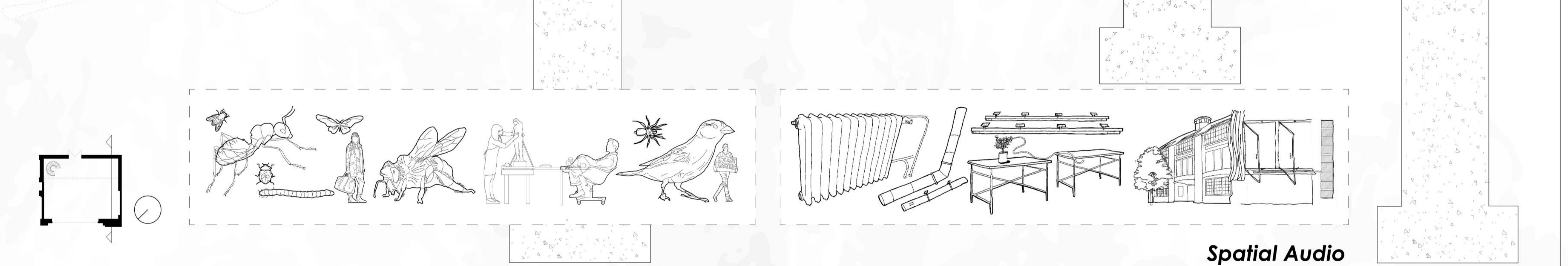
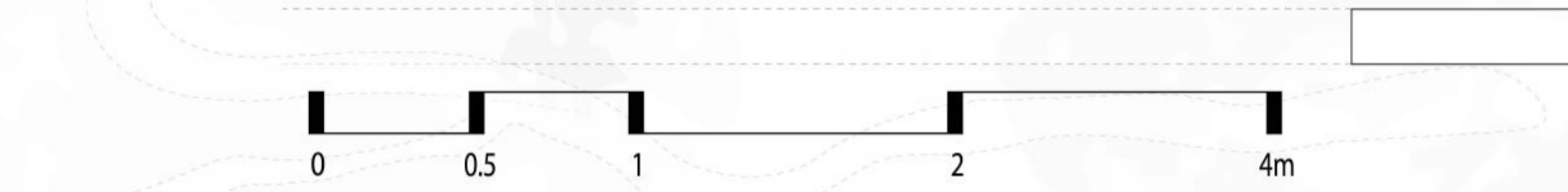
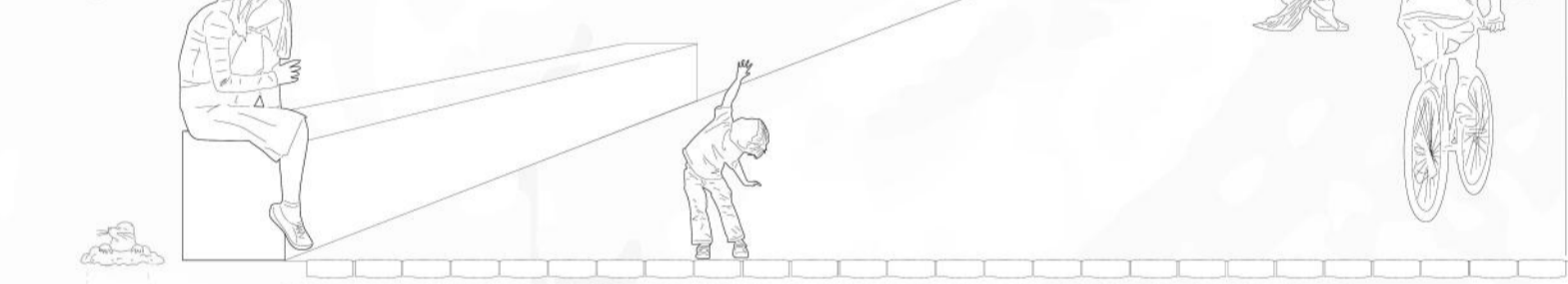
Building Organ(ism)

The room appears to be a static, grounded object at first glance. When we listen, it comes to life with an array of soundscapes impending from sources all around. To me, these sounds bear a resemblance to the sounds of the human body. Organs are gushing liquid, and you can hear your heart beating and stomach grumbling. These are all mirrored in material and system of the space.



Cohabitation

The topic of cohabitation was the inspiration for a second library of sound recordings within the space. The Oxford Dictionary defines "Cohabitation as the state or fact of living or existing at the same time or in the same place". Understanding the relationship we have to each other, the built environment and how space engages social interaction amongst living creatures is what defines life.



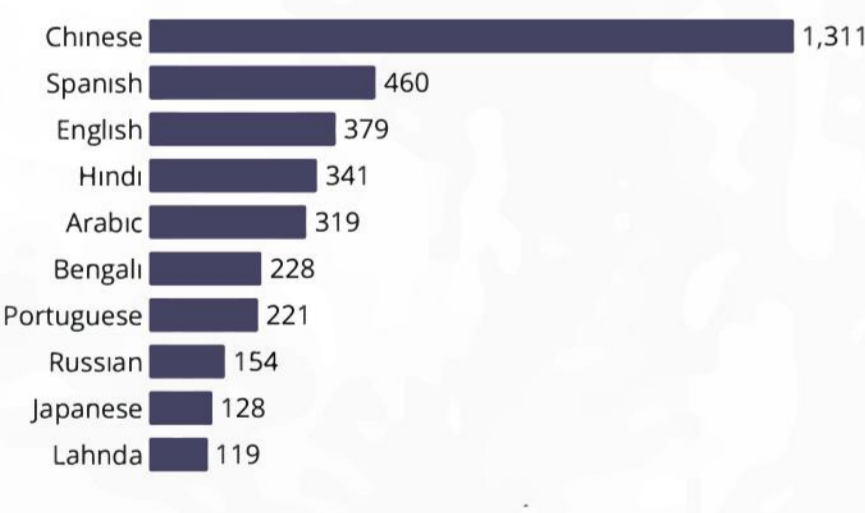
Spatial Audio



Top e. V Exhibition - Berlin

Language is significantly influenced by the sensory spectrum. Comprehension, which in turn is greatly affected by culture. Basic/simple languages around the world with a smaller vocabulary, have shown to depend considerably more on the senses. Different languages also have a different approach to describe sensory phenomena.

Aural Memory



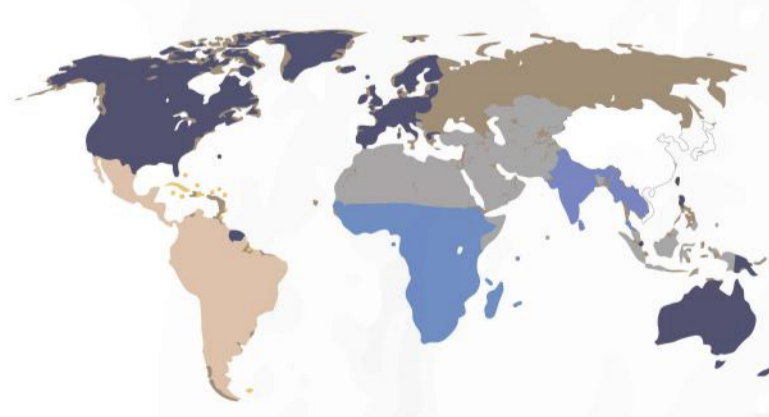
An Aural Experience

The project's aspiration was not to produce a set of deliverables or a finished product as is typical in architectural studies. The ideas and concepts underlying the current result, were shaped through guidance and discussion in a liberalised process. We were able to select a trajectory of potential topics and ideas by looking at our own work from a different angle; in my case, this revolved around the ideas of sensory architecture with a focus on hearing.

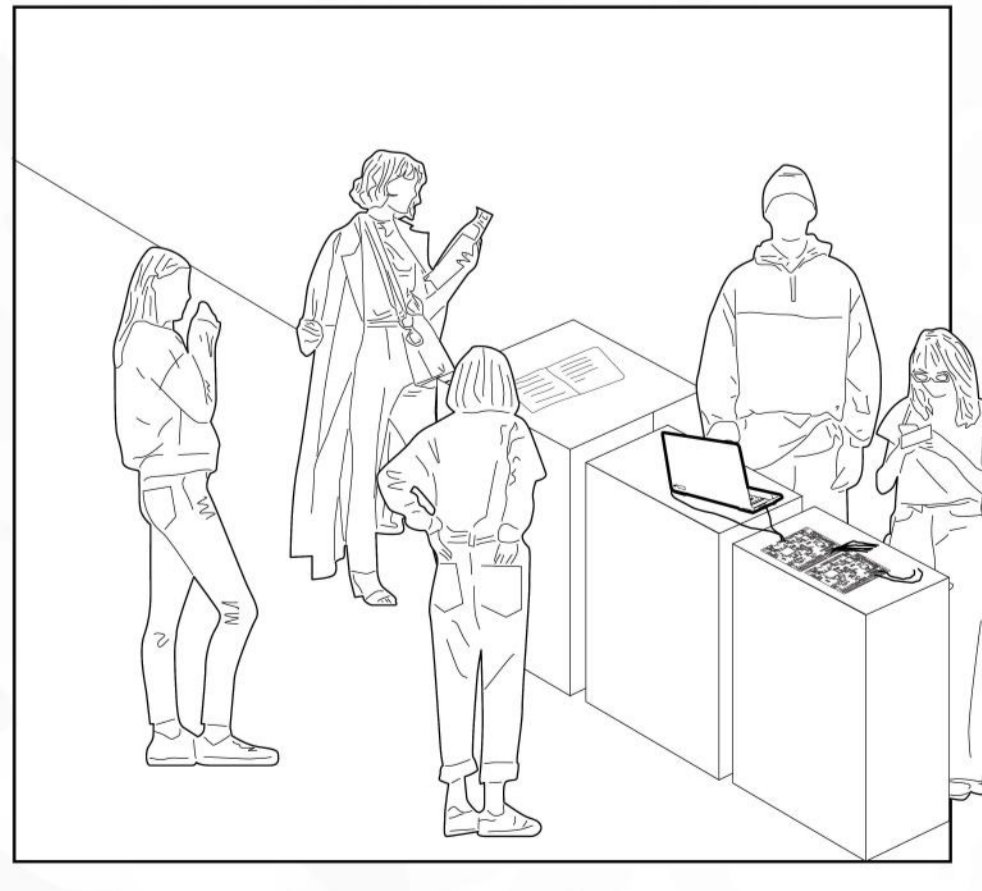
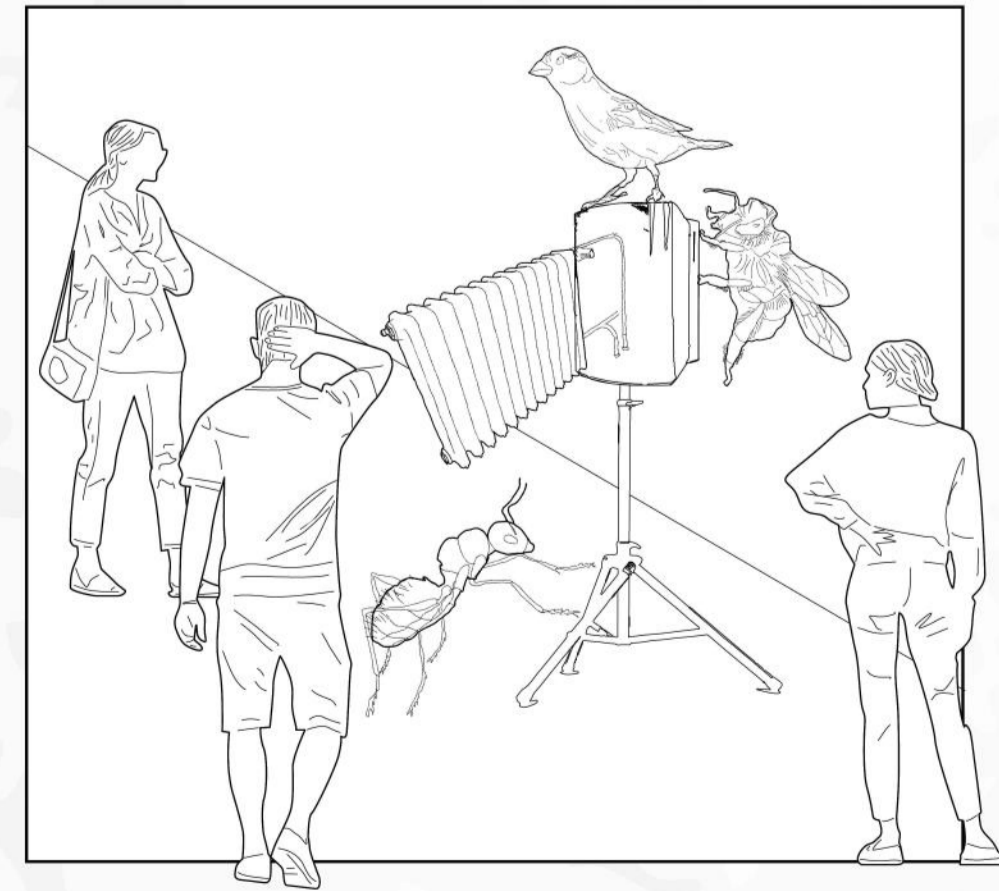
A small proportion of the aural spectrum is explored in "How can we See more with our Ears," but there are countless ways we can perceive the diversity of sound surrounding us. The process will continue, as there is no intent for this project to be "finished". Instead, it should be viewed as an idea that will ceaselessly change and adapt as I acquire more knowledge and undergo change in the trajectory of life.

Our senses are shaped by our heritage. Where we are from, how we were raised, and the DNA that differentiates an individual. A fundamental concept of perception and heritage has a unique meaning and power within every person, resulting in different sensory perception.

Culture and Heritage



Go4 Spring Exhibition - Weimar



Discovery

Four different speakers calibrated to provide a mono and stereo sound experience greeting people as they enter the MediaArchitecture room. The project's journey of sensory activation begins with discovery. **Confusion, immersion, focus, overwhelm, or underwhelming.**

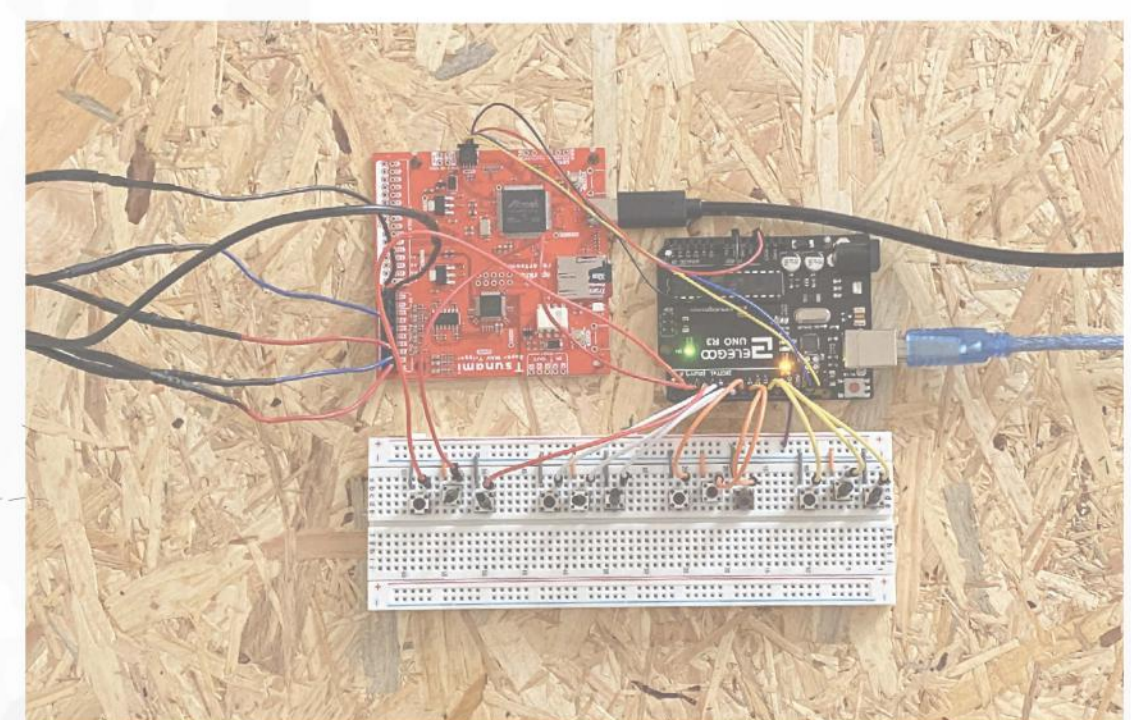
The idea is to confront the visitor with both common and unusual soundscapes in order to capture their attention and stimulate their aural sense, which will help them understand the project concept.

Understanding

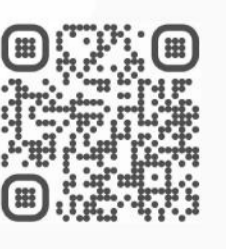
The source of the sounds is discovered after the initial confrontation with various soundscapes produced by 4 speakers placed close to the points of initial capture. The visitor can explore the project concept and ideas with the aid of this booklet. Giving the visitor a sense of understanding is pivotal to me because in the end, this project aims to raise awareness of the discrepancies between sound and space in contemporary society. Paired with some experimental work. The discovery and comprehension of the relationship between sound and architecture are just beginnings...

Enjoyment

At last, the project's versatility opens up countless possibilities for the outcome of each formative component. The research component of this project enlightened me that there is a much wider spectrum in the perception of sound. Unique sound identity is made up in part by factors related to our upbringing, language, culture, and genetics. Utilising the fundamentals of music, I want to create a relatable experience. The idea is to enjoy, explore what is possible, and carry on the experiment through awareness, experiment and research.



Controller and Performance made in collaboration with Chiara Cammarota.



Sound Sample

