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Al Sadu, Between Shadow and Light



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In a tribute to Lutfi Al Romheins «Together»—a sculpture on Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Boulevard in Downtown Dubai that unites man and woman in black and white marble—we have created a new interpretation of this duality. Our installation, designed for Dubai Design Week, features two recycled shipping containers.

The container serves as a symbol of global trade and globalization, representing the environmental impact and consequences of our interconnected world. In short, it is an icon of our time—a silent vessel that redefined and revolutionized global commerce and, by extension, our lives.

These two vertical Corten steel containers stand as a testament to a rich facet of Dubai's cultural heritage. They are ready to set sail and be exhibited in other port cities. The vertical orientation gives the urban sculpture a strong, upward momentum, allowing it to command attention no matter the surrounding landscape.

The taller, ~40foot white container is enhanced with perforations and black engravings that replicate the iconic geometric patterns of Sadu, the traditional Bedouin weaving art deeply rooted in the Arabian Peninsula's cultural heritage. Inside, this ancestral art comes to life with a monumental traditional loom that extends the full height of the container. The looms pieces and ropes are animated in perpetual motion, synchronized with a dedicated soundscape.

The smaller, ~30foot black container transforms into a digital window with a wall of 20 LED screens. This display can be configured in multiple ways (showing 2, 5, 20, or 1 image) to broadcast photographs and videos of the weavers and their creations. An integrated sound environment further amplifies this immersive visual experience.

Designed for mobility and durability, this artwork can be easily dismantled and reassembled as many times as needed. The installation is secured by a built-in base on each container, weighted with cast iron plates for optimal stability. The two containers are then firmly connected by metal tie rods, adding to the overall robustness. This system avoids the need for ground foundations, allowing the two objects to simply be placed on a level surface.

The title, «Between Shadow and Light,» echoes the natural materials and colors of the wool—the shadow—which contrast with the vibrant dyes used for the patterns—the light. This Yin-and-Yang duality also reflects a modern-day context: the shadow of this art's potential decline is met with the light of efforts to preserve and revitalize it.

Finally, through this black-and-white duality, the Sadu patterns and symbols remind us of hidden stories with deeper meanings and narratives. Our urban sculpture humbly brings these beliefs and histories out of the shadows and into the light.

By paying homage to Sadu, our artwork aims to weave a connection between heritage and contemporary life, inviting audiences on a journey of cultural dialogue.



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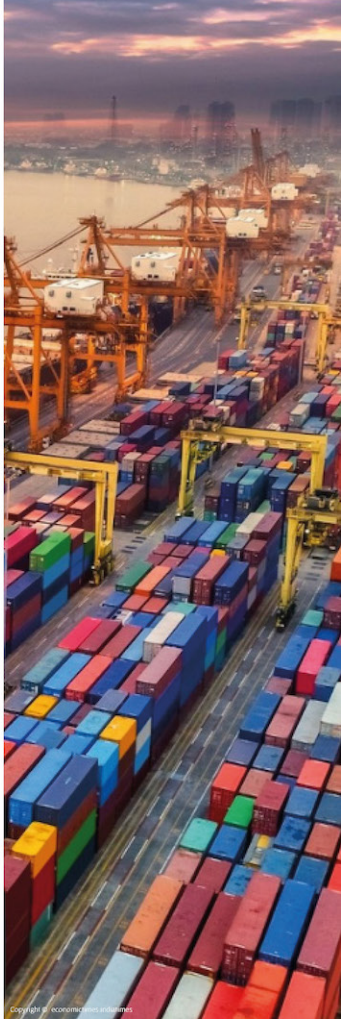
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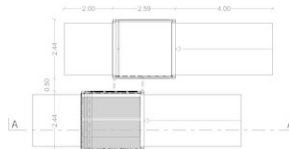
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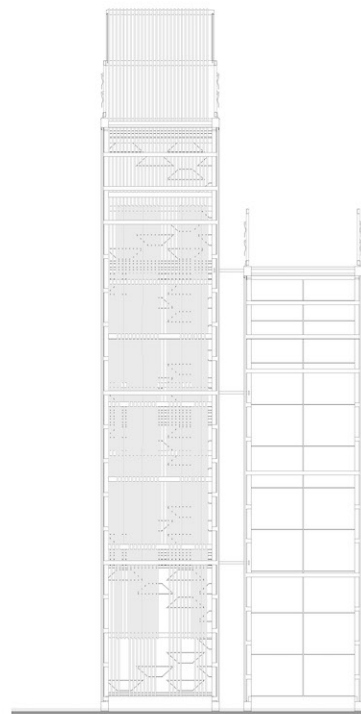
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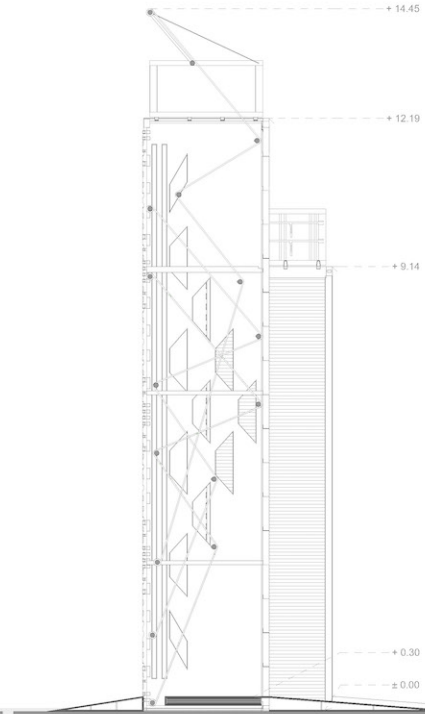
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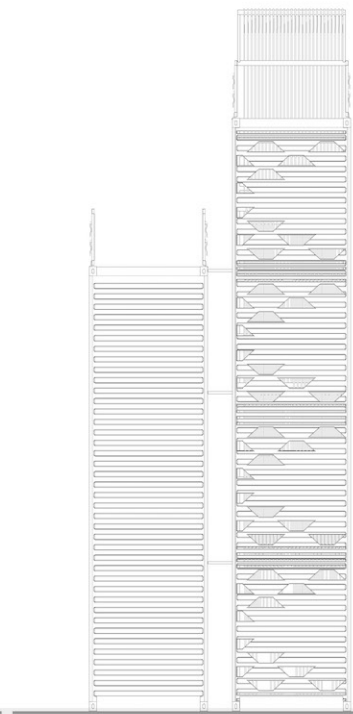
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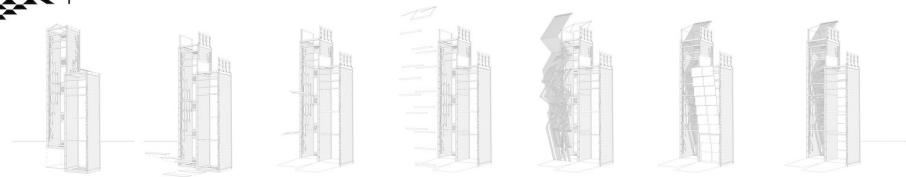
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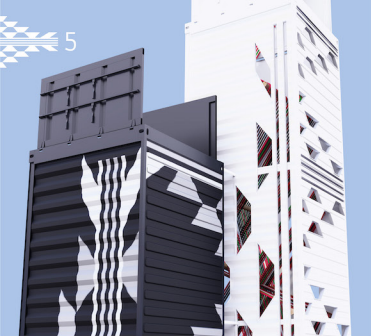


Section AA 1:50



Back Elevation 1:50





MODULAR SCREEN WALL

