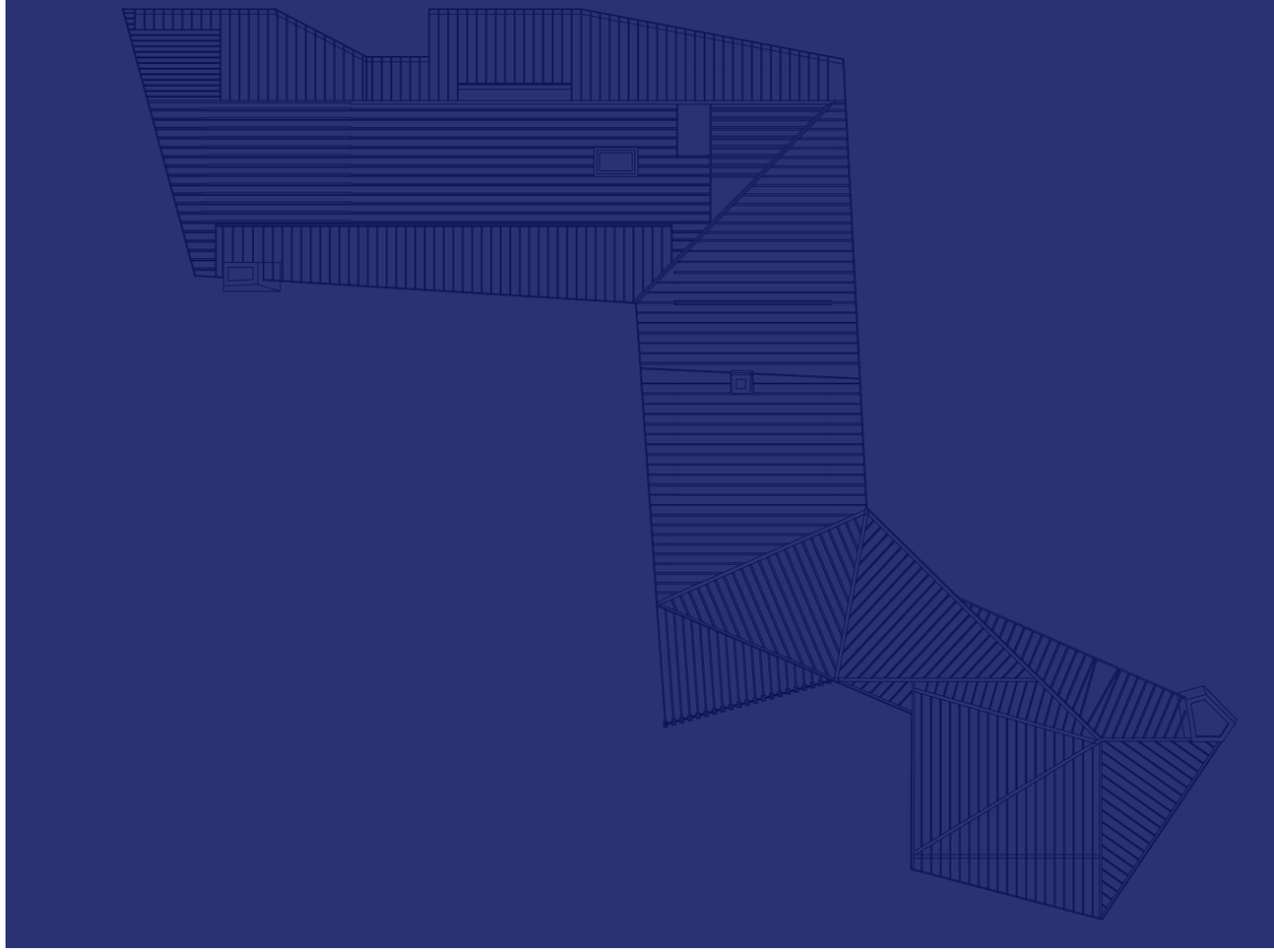
SUBSTANTIATING LINES
THREADS, FOLDS & TRACES

CORNEEL CANNAERTS

The adoption of digital fabrication technologies in architecture allows for novel ways of translations between designing and making, between idea and materialization, a role that since the emergence of the profession has been fulfilled by architectural drawings. This paper reflects on the rolve of drawing in architectural practice mediated through digital fabrication, and its impact on the allocation of authorship. Based on three design explorations from architectural practice and teaching, using computation and digital fabrication, the paper looks into different types of lines emerging from those processes: threads, traces & folds. This tentative, not exhaustive, categorization of lines is based on their agency in the translation between design idea and material artifact. The paper proposes substantiating lines as a way of researching processes mediated through computation and digital fabrication. This approach is situated them within the lineage of architectural exploration of the gap between drawing and making, instead of approaching digital fabrication as closure, where digital models provide complete determinacy of the material artifact.