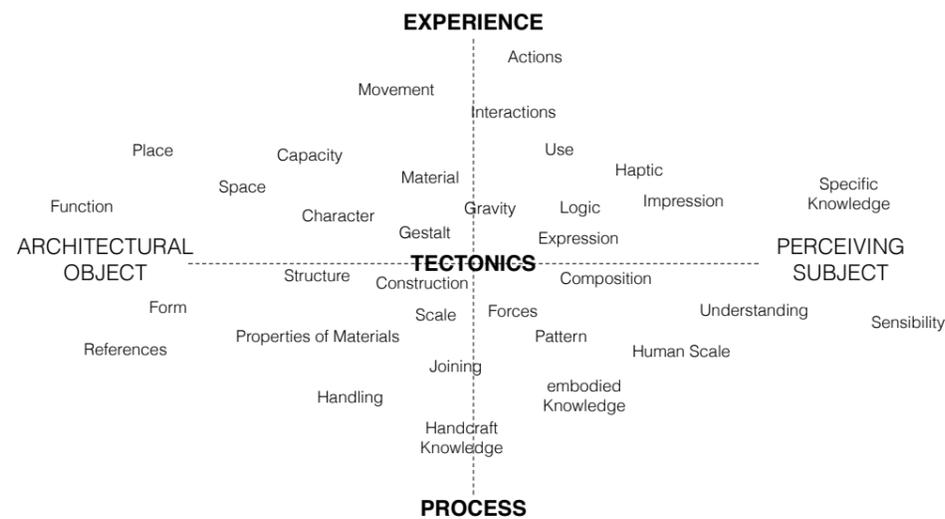




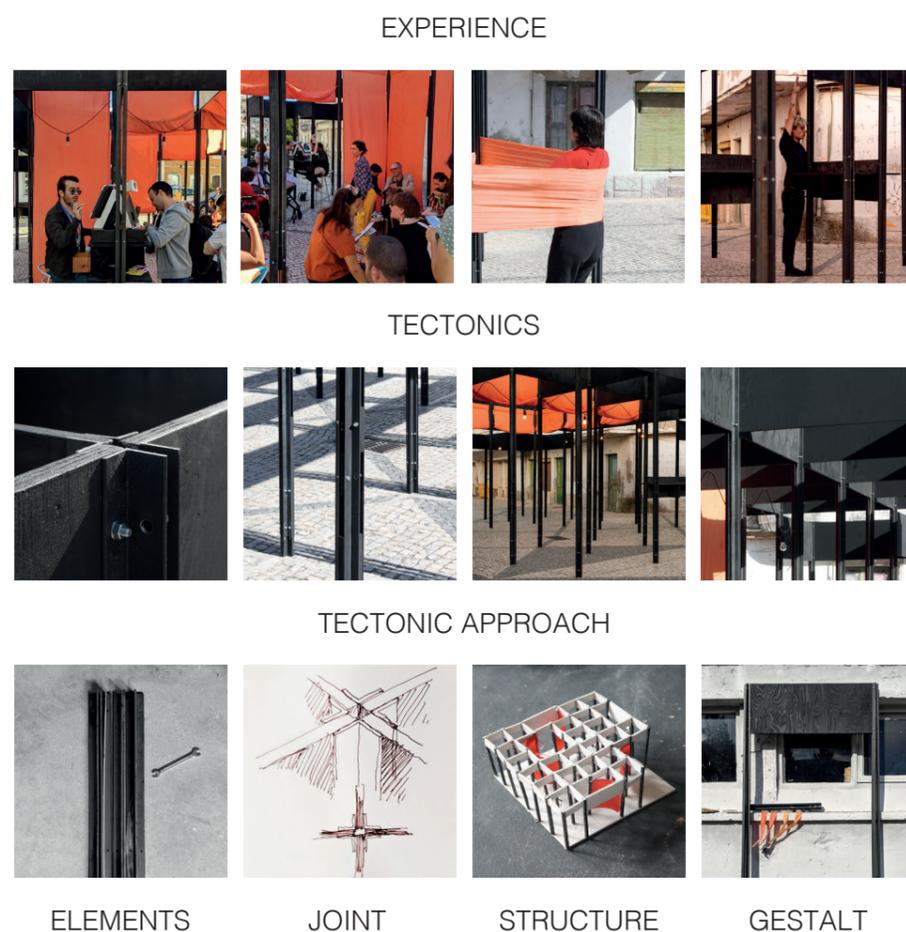
*“Of course, it is not a matter of simply pointing out structure and technique, but rather of their poetic expressiveness. In so far as tectonics equals a poetics of construction, it is an art, but in this respect it is not necessarily figurative or abstract.” Kenneth Frampton*

The research project is investigating the relation between the tectonics - understood as the poetics of the construction - and experiential qualities of the architecture. As Juhani Pallasmaa argues, an authentic architectural experience is depending on the comprehensibility of the construction to the senses. Going beyond structural needs, our design intention in the arrangement of the structural parts of the construction was always, to define the spatial structure and the architectural expression in mutual dependence. For those qualities that “are expressive in a relation of form to force”, Eduard E. Sekler uses the term tectonics. This understanding of the term tectonics will be the focus of further investigation.



Along a series of three DesignBuild Projects, I am researching the question, how through designing and building yourself, tectonic qualities are entering the architecture and why these can generate specific experiential qualities. The goal is to be able to define and characterize a working method that generates a coherence in the construction, the spatial structure and the architectural expression. That means getting clarity about the process and every important step and decision that causes or prevents that desired result.

The reflection on the process of a first Design.Build Project within my PhD draws a first approach for the definition of the Tectonic Approach that is characterized by a sequence of the following phases: ELEMENT, JOINT, STRUCTURE, GESTALT



**ELEMENTS** - Choosing proper materials that fulfill on one hand structural needs and on the other hand atmospheric intentions. The capacities of our own body are defining the dimensions of the single elements and by this giving scale to the architecture.  
**JOINT** - The detailing of the joints connects the parts and puts them in a context, it considers the materials inherent properties and answers to structural needs but moreover it fulfills creative intentions to give the joining a meaningful expression. Technical and handcraft possibilities are determining the simplicity and coherence of the details and by this the comprehensibility of forces that the construction needs to resist to.  
**STRUCTURE** - Elements and details are merged into a spatial structure through repetition including variations and exceptions to highlight specific moments. Repetition can be a strategy to rationalize the structural system and to simplify the architectural language in order to enhance the legibility and the traceability of the construction.  
**GESTALT** - Taking final decisions in order to concretize the architectural expression and react to contextual circumstances. Formal gestures are always based on the structural system. This phase is taking mainly place during construction.