

- *Stone House*
- *Tavole Italy*
- *Architect: Herzog & de Meuron*
- *Stephen Perdue*
- *The “lonely house” in Tavole, Italy designed by Jacques Herzog and Pierre de Meuron is an accumulation of the landscape both as image and physical site. Piling the stones recalls the stone retaining walls in the olive orchards that frame and terrace the harsh Ligurian landscape. The stones originated from demolished neighboring buildings and accumulate like rubble within the concrete skeleton. Although the house is integrated with the natural site through its materiality, it is strangely distinct and artificial. The crystalline concrete skeleton traces a void and a volume in space that both reaches onto the landscape and retreats from it. The equal but contrasting relationship between frame and fill sets up a tension between the building and its site: it is “naturalized” in the site using the stones, but artificially packed inside an industrial concrete frame.*
- *Access to the house is denied around the site. The retaining walls work together to mask the exterior stairs and the steep and rocky terrain on the west and north of the house severely limit access to the northern side. The house is closed on the ground floor, heavily guarded on the second floor and open to panoramic views on the third floor. The second floor which appears to provide a link between interior and exterior is contradictory: it is punctured with large windows and doors that are covered with operable metal shutters limiting both views and light. Views from the third floor connect the occupants with the larger landscape but not with the immediate site as views are denied to the east, the location of the front doors, patio and lawn.*

*herzog & de meuron*

**stone house**

*tavole, italy*

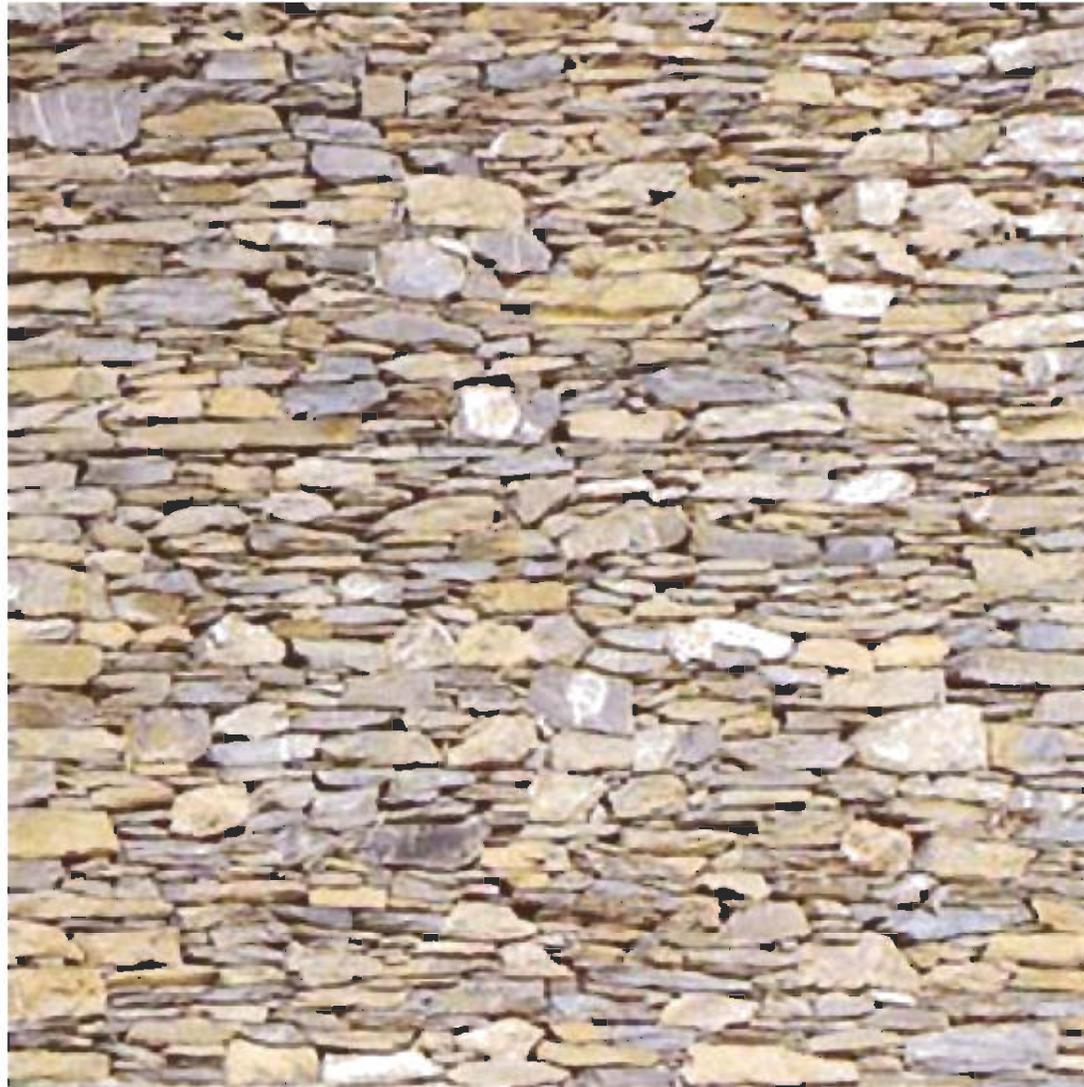
*project: 1982*

*realization: 1985-1988*





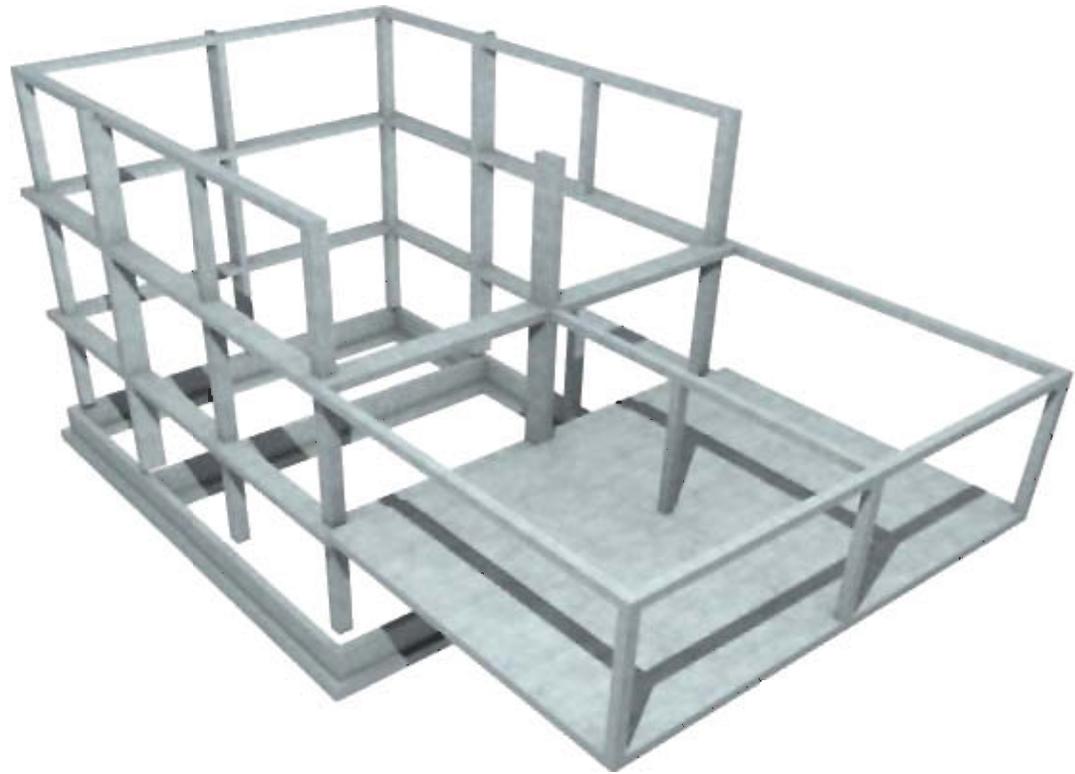


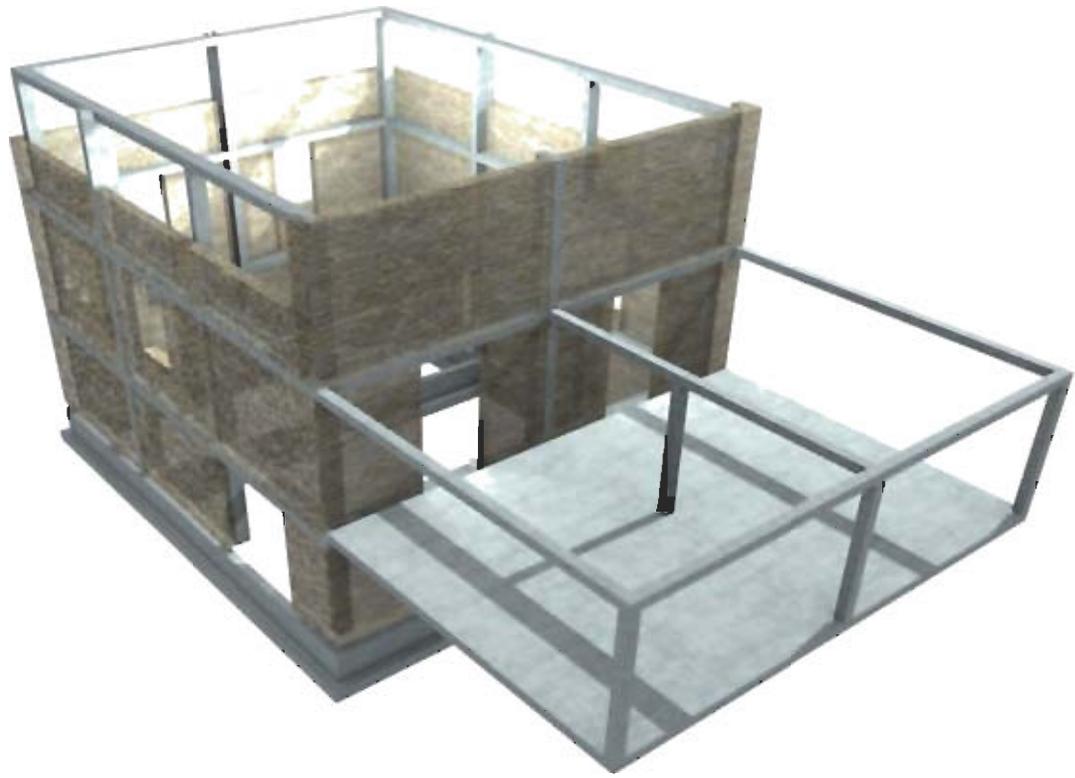


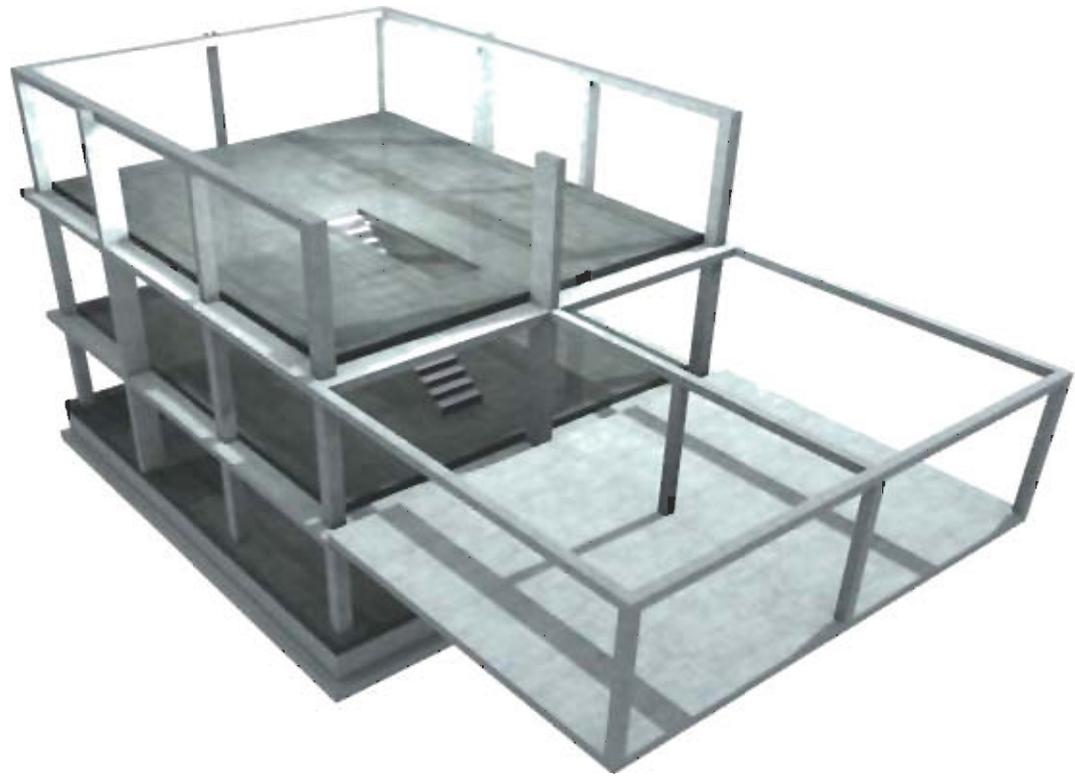




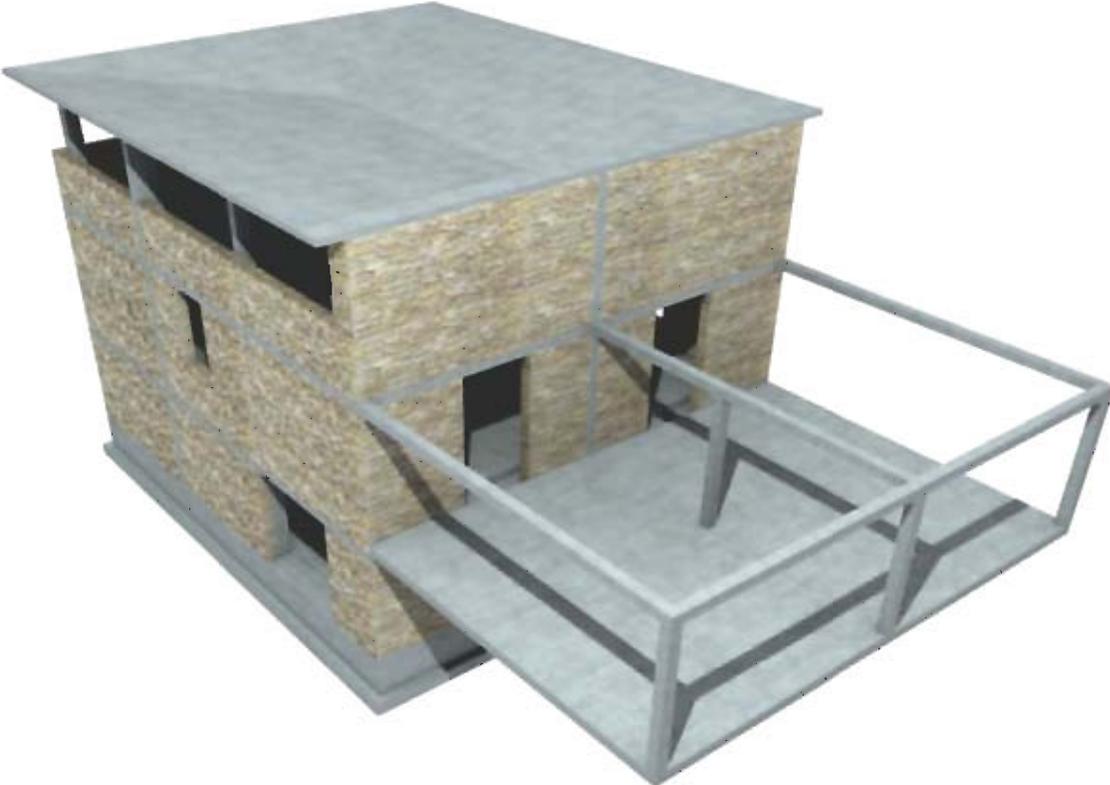


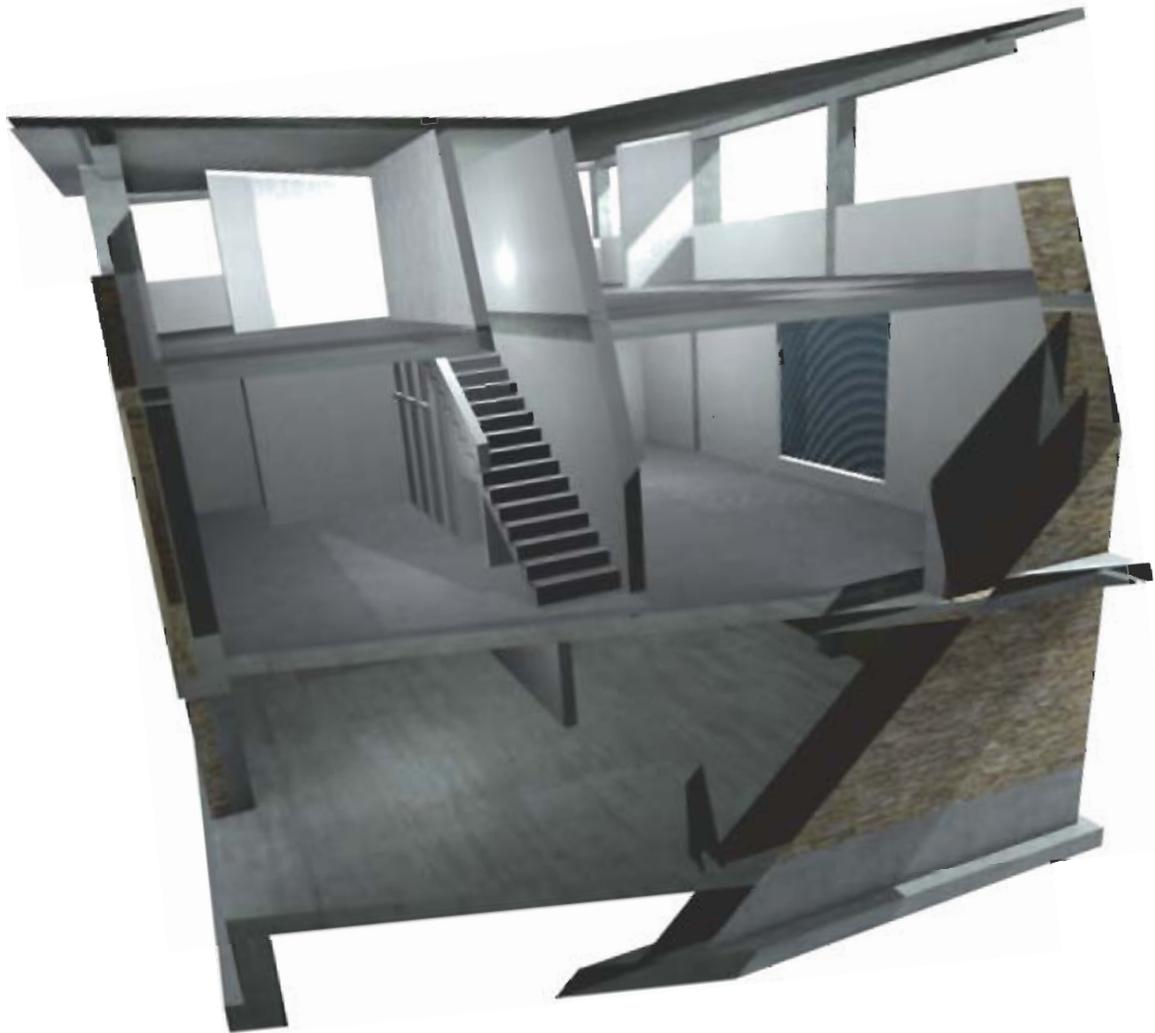


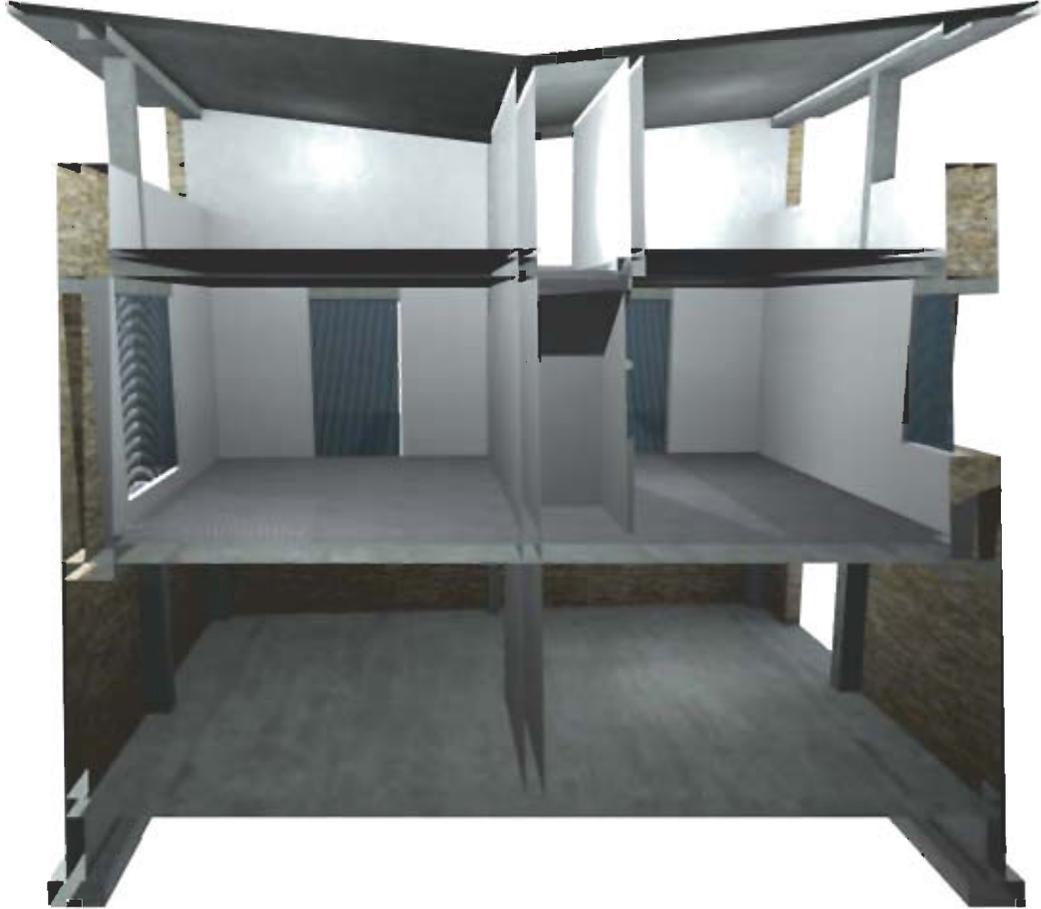


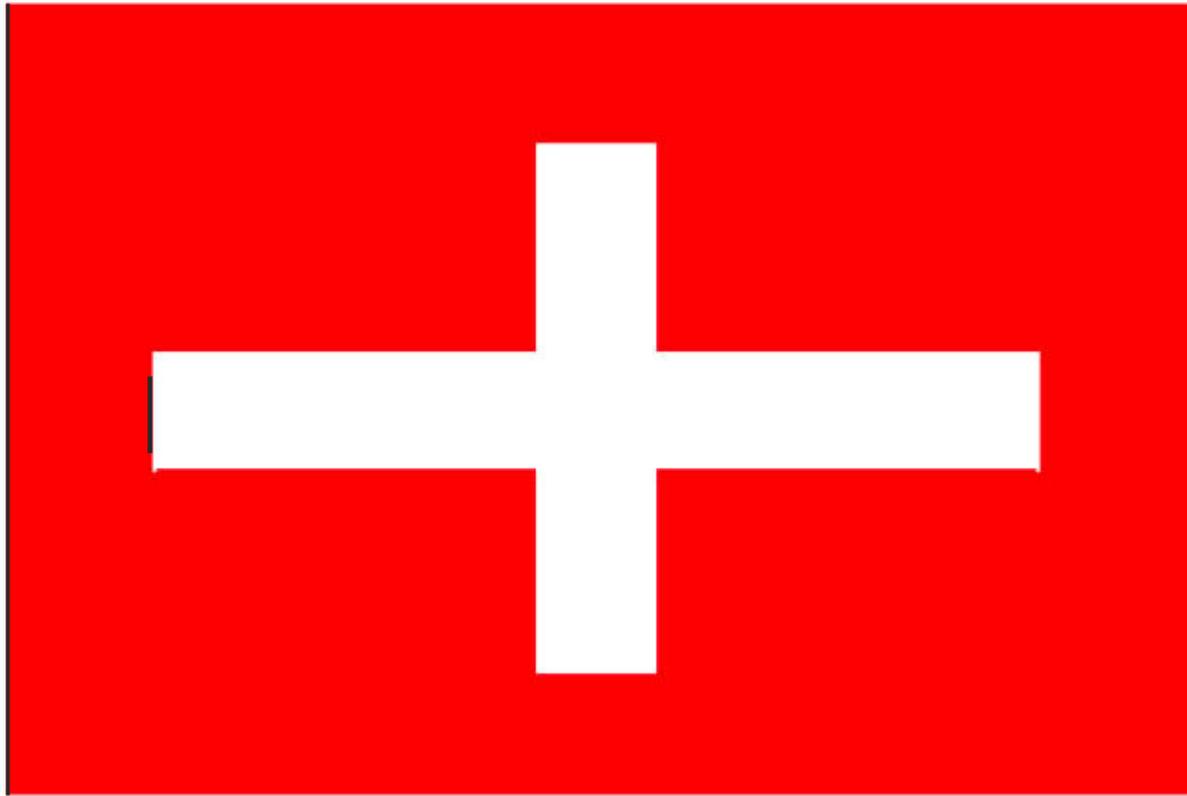


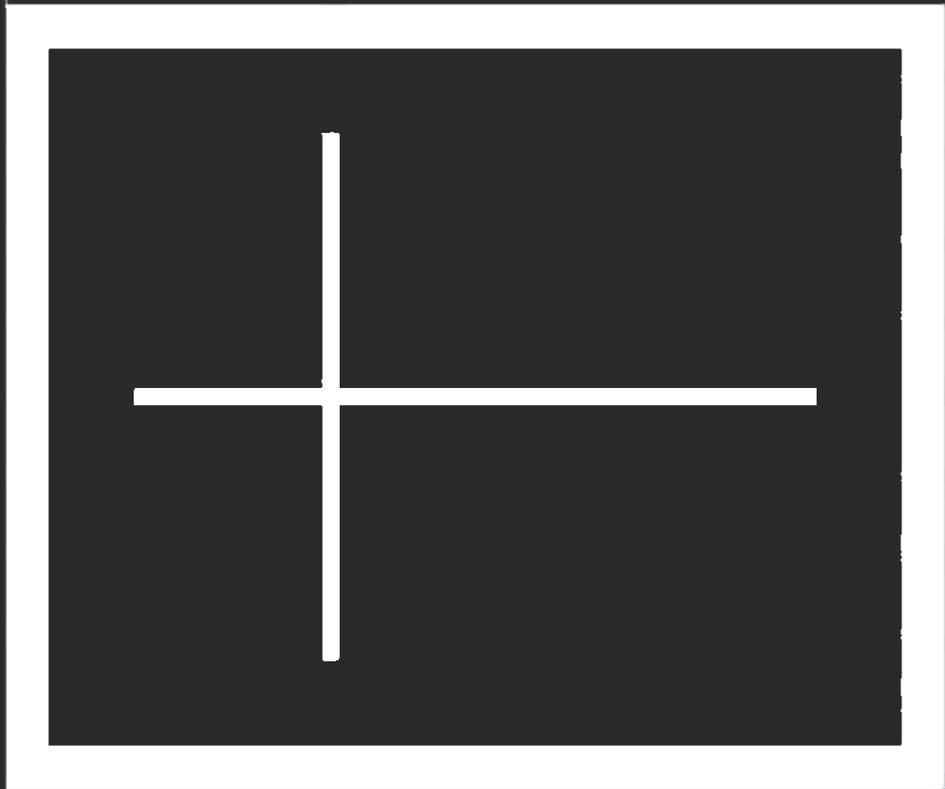


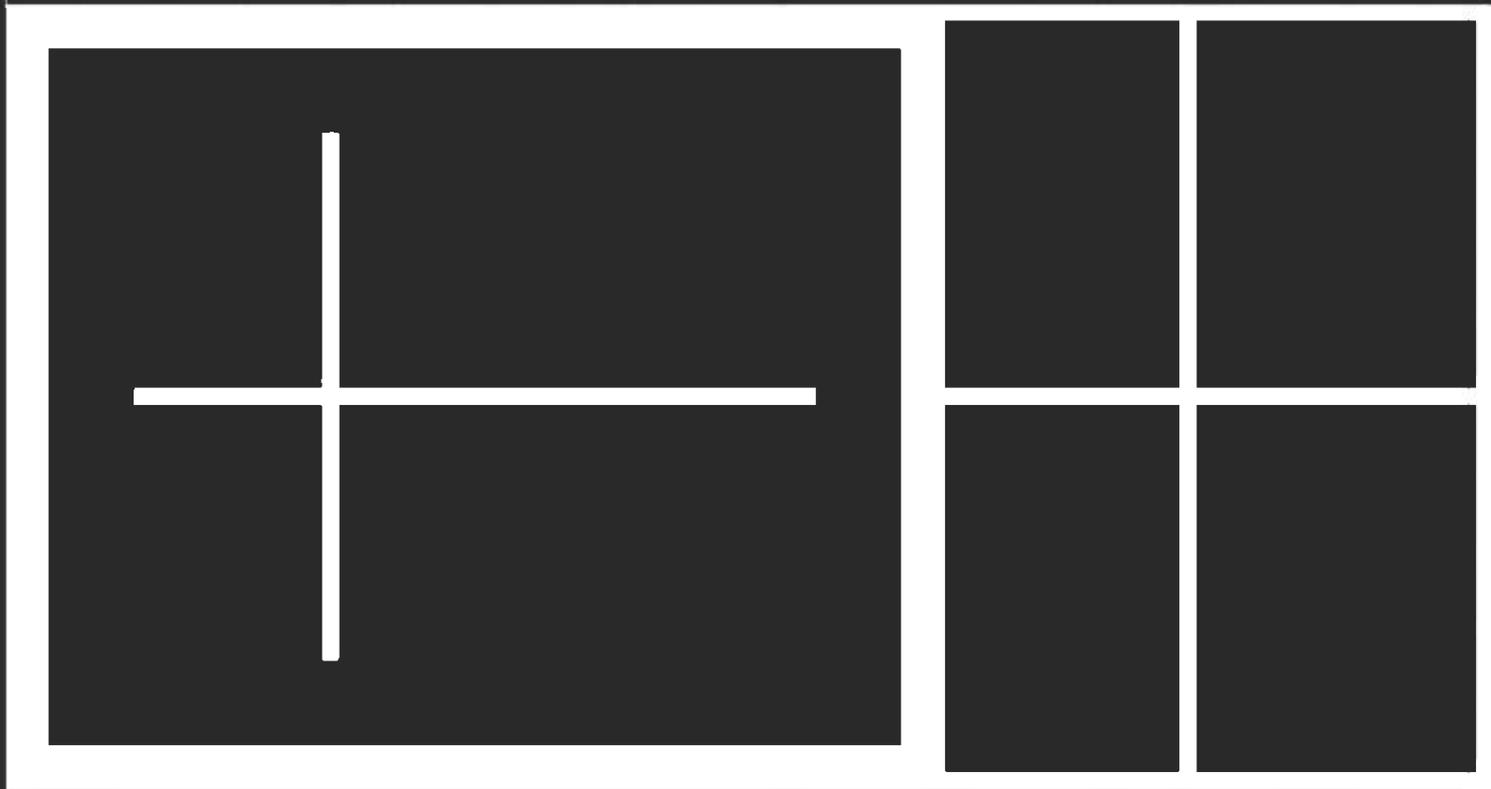












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