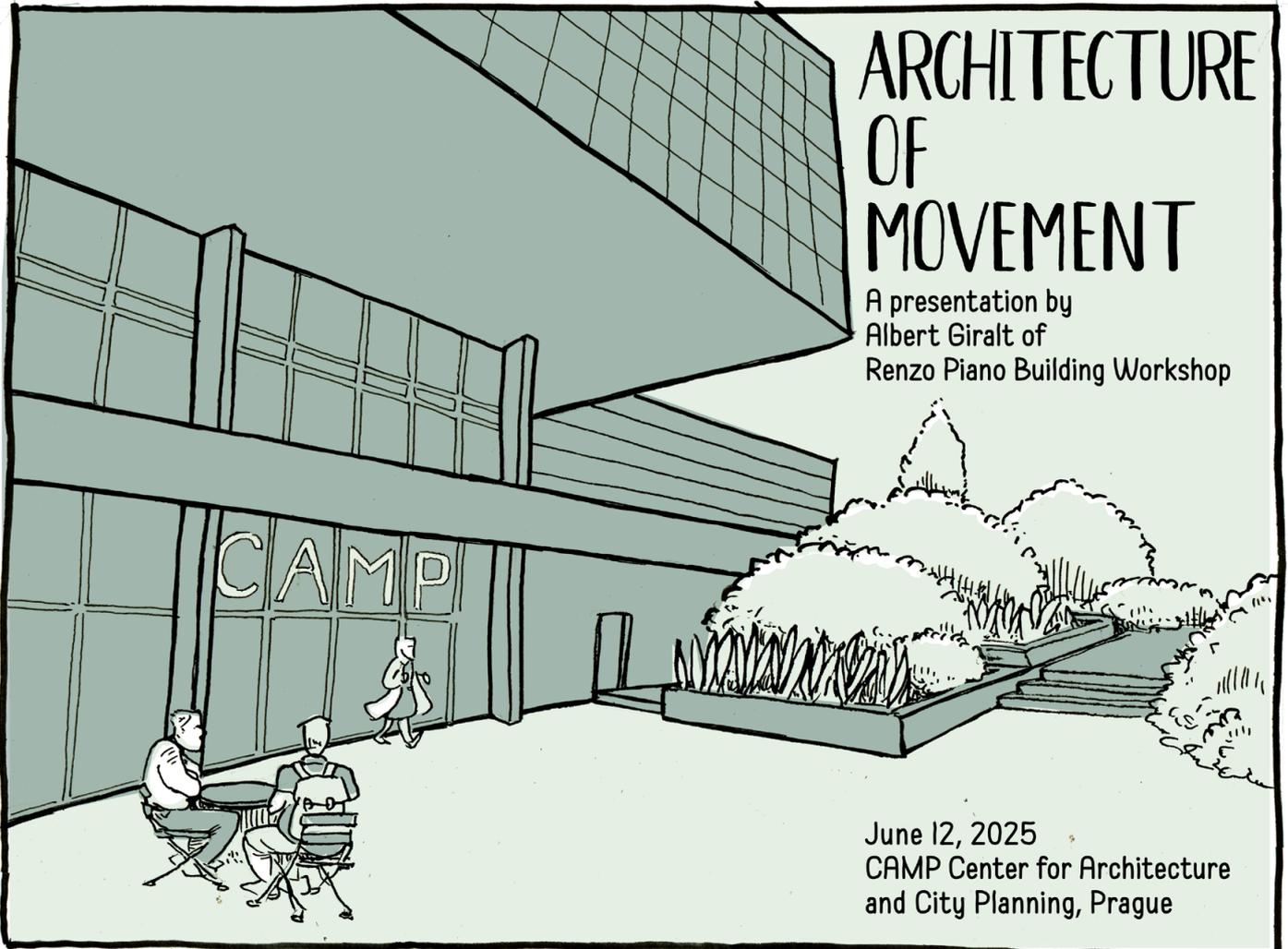


ARCHITECTURE OF MOVEMENT

A presentation by
Albert Giralt of
Renzo Piano Building Workshop



June 12, 2025
CAMP Center for Architecture
and City Planning, Prague

ksl



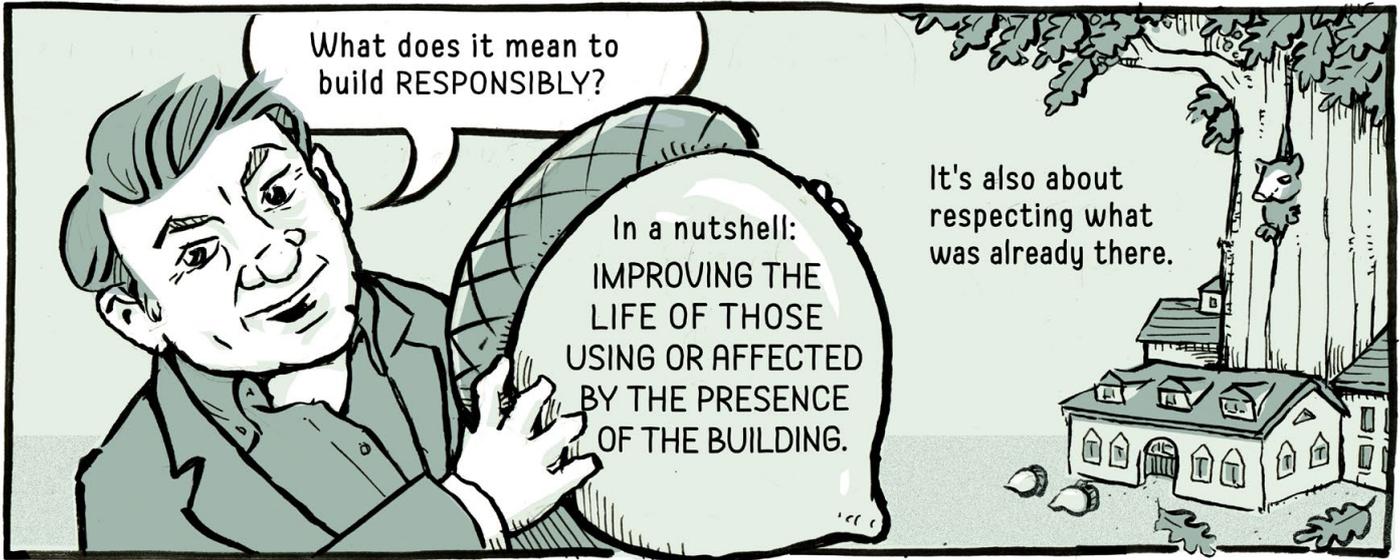
It's not by chance that we are called Renzo Piano Building Workshop. (RPBW)



Between a great idea and the final project, there's an enormous amount of **workmanship** that takes that first idea and makes it evolve.

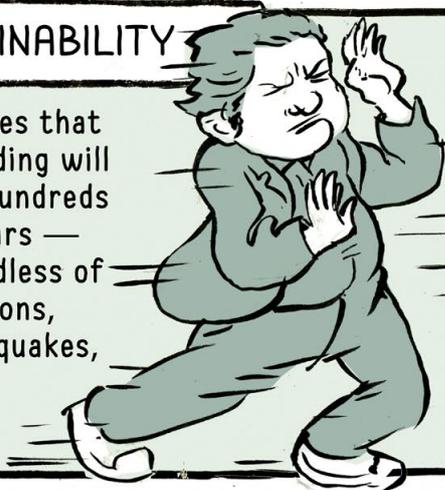


The workshop process takes research and trial and error — an iterative searching for the correct answer.



SUSTAINABILITY

Ensures that a building will last hundreds of years — regardless of typhoons, earthquakes, etc.



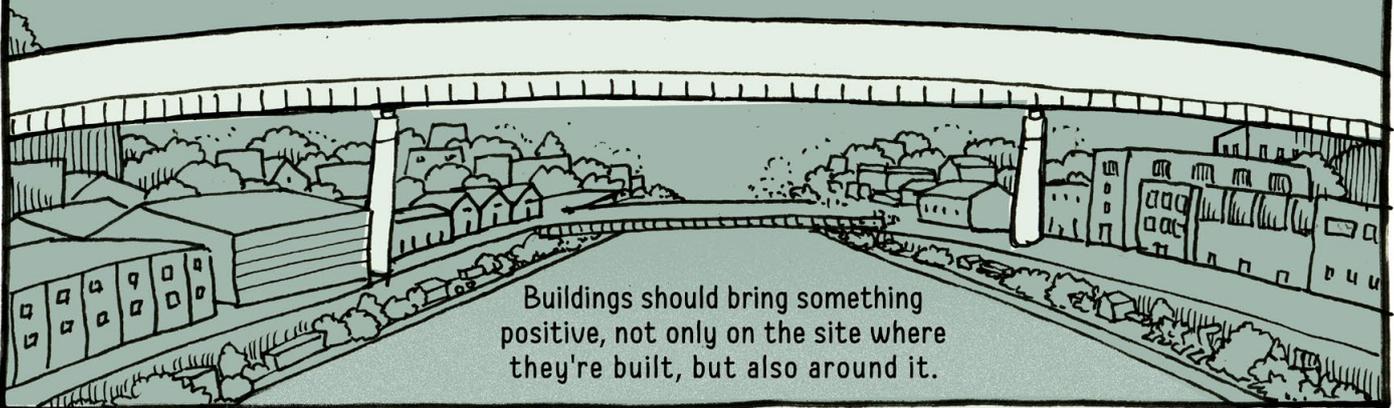
RESPONSIBILITY

Creating buildings that participate in the social life of a city. Encouraging exchanges and interactions between people.

We never want to impose an architectural signature. Each building should have its own character that's in harmony with the place where it is built.

MEANING

Buildings have a primary function, but they must also have meaning. This bridge, connects two sides of the river, but it also commemorates the collapse of the previous bridge.



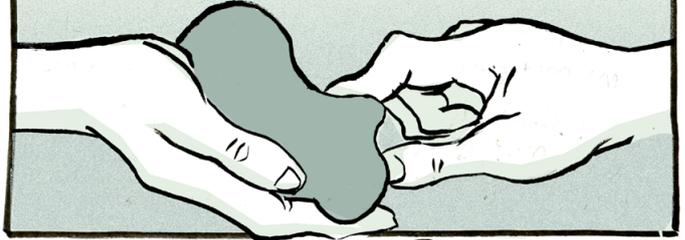
THE RPBW METHOD

- Building Low-Carbon
- Triggering Urban Regeneration
- Building Meaningfully
- Respecting Natural Habitats

- Building Resiliently
- Enhancing the Social Fabric
- Respecting Cultural Settings
- Embracing Wellbeing

MODELING

While working with your hands, you may find something unexpected that diverges your way of thinking. That's the magic of this approach.



We use digital drawings, of course. But something that we really like to use, especially at the beginning of the project, is physical models.



PROTOTYPING

We see for the first time...

...the materiality, scale and atmosphere...

...of what we will be creating.

Capturing features that represent the essence of a building.



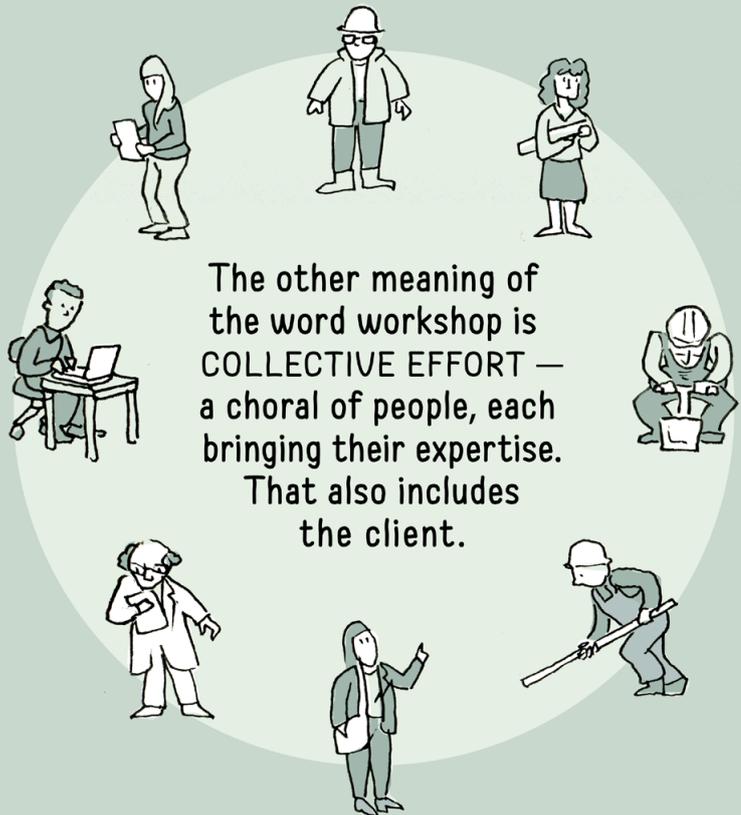
CONSTRUCTION

This is where things get real.

Here we make sure the decisions we take align with the character and essence of the project.



The other meaning of the word workshop is **COLLECTIVE EFFORT** — a choral of people, each bringing their expertise. That also includes the client.



MOVEMENT

The idea of movement is engrained in our architecture.

How we EXPERIENCE the building is what makes a project interesting

Walkways

and stair-cases

V
e
r
t
i
c
a
l

Horizontal

Terraces

E

S

C

A

L

A

T

O

R

S

Panoramic Views

SEASIDE PROMENADES

Sometimes you don't move at all, but simply stop to look.



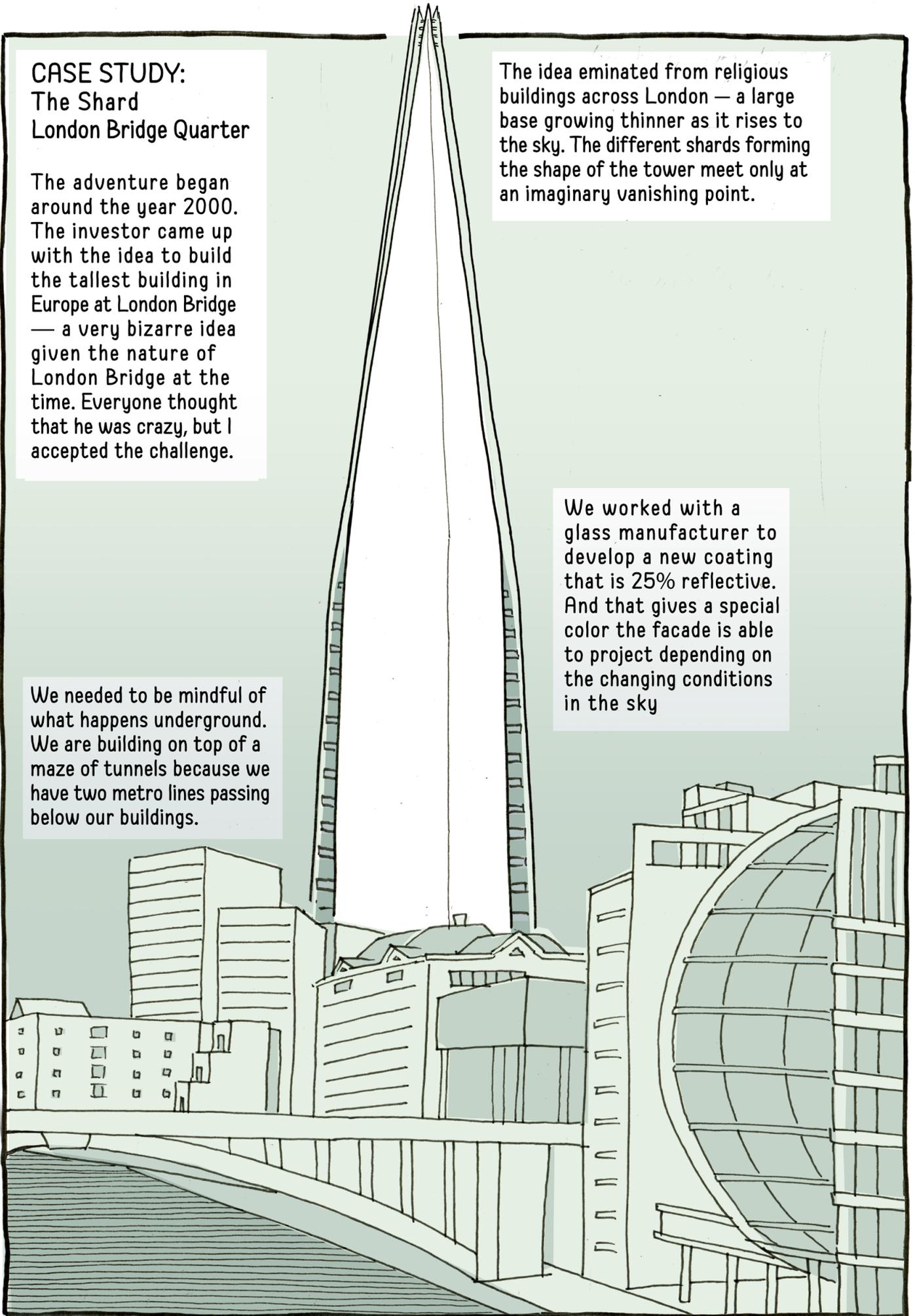
CASE STUDY:
The Shard
London Bridge Quarter

The adventure began around the year 2000. The investor came up with the idea to build the tallest building in Europe at London Bridge — a very bizarre idea given the nature of London Bridge at the time. Everyone thought that he was crazy, but I accepted the challenge.

We needed to be mindful of what happens underground. We are building on top of a maze of tunnels because we have two metro lines passing below our buildings.

The idea emanated from religious buildings across London — a large base growing thinner as it rises to the sky. The different shards forming the shape of the tower meet only at an imaginary vanishing point.

We worked with a glass manufacturer to develop a new coating that is 25% reflective. And that gives a special color the facade is able to project depending on the changing conditions in the sky



**CASE STUDY:
TOKIO STATION HQ**

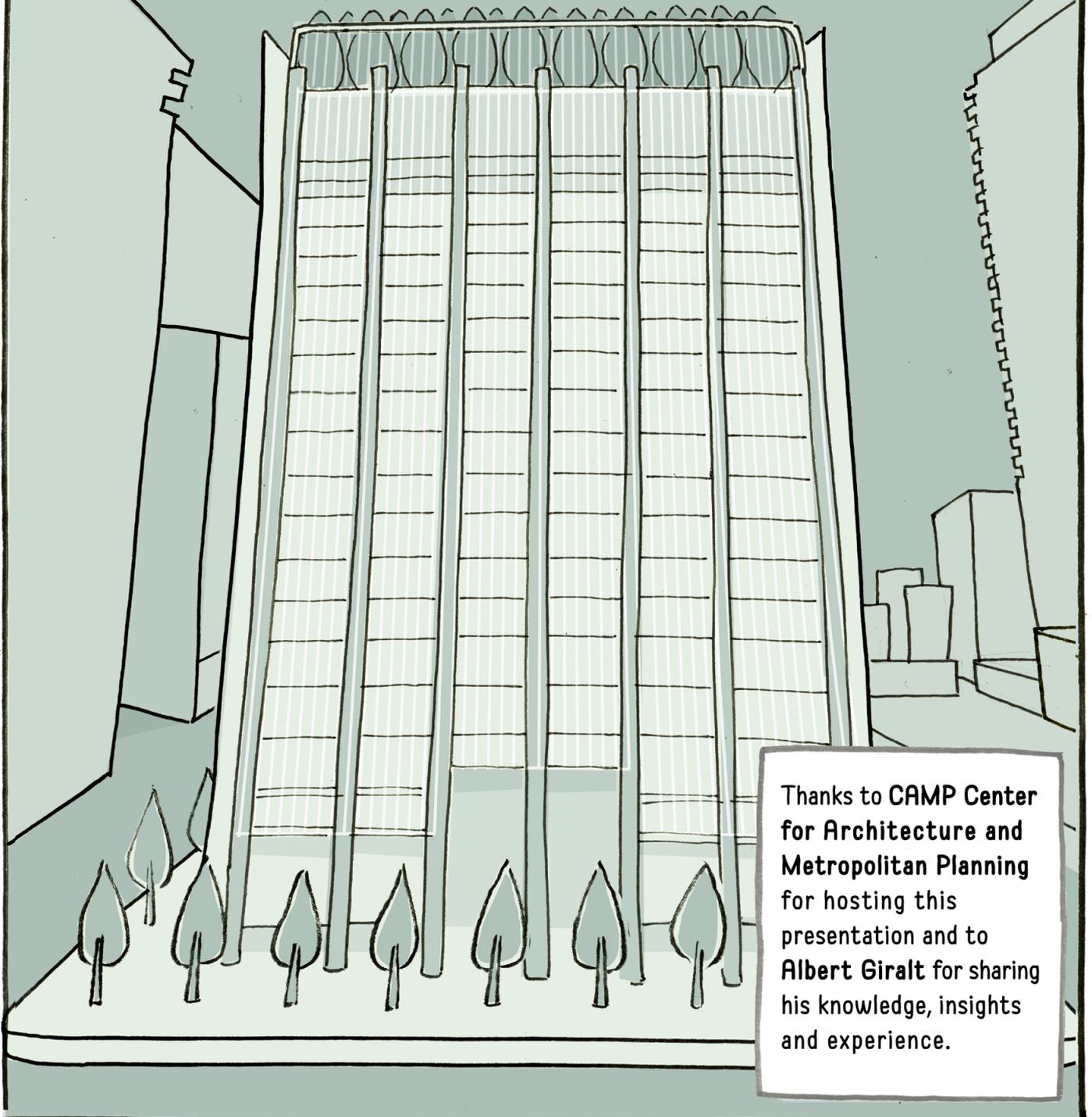
Tokyo Station is the most populated station in the world.

We liked the idea of using wood, but we want to use it meaningfully.

In traditional Japanese architecture the wood column is a symbol of stability and resilience.

The idea for the building would be a forest of wooden columns rising up to the sun, supporting the building and defining its character.

The Japanese Satoyama is a man made forest that is left to grow freely. We liked this idea, so at the top of the building is a roof forest with more than 200 trees that feel like a forest, not a domesticated garden.



Thanks to **CAMP Center for Architecture and Metropolitan Planning** for hosting this presentation and to **Albert Giralt** for sharing his knowledge, insights and experience.