

Unfolding

FRANCE

Potsdam

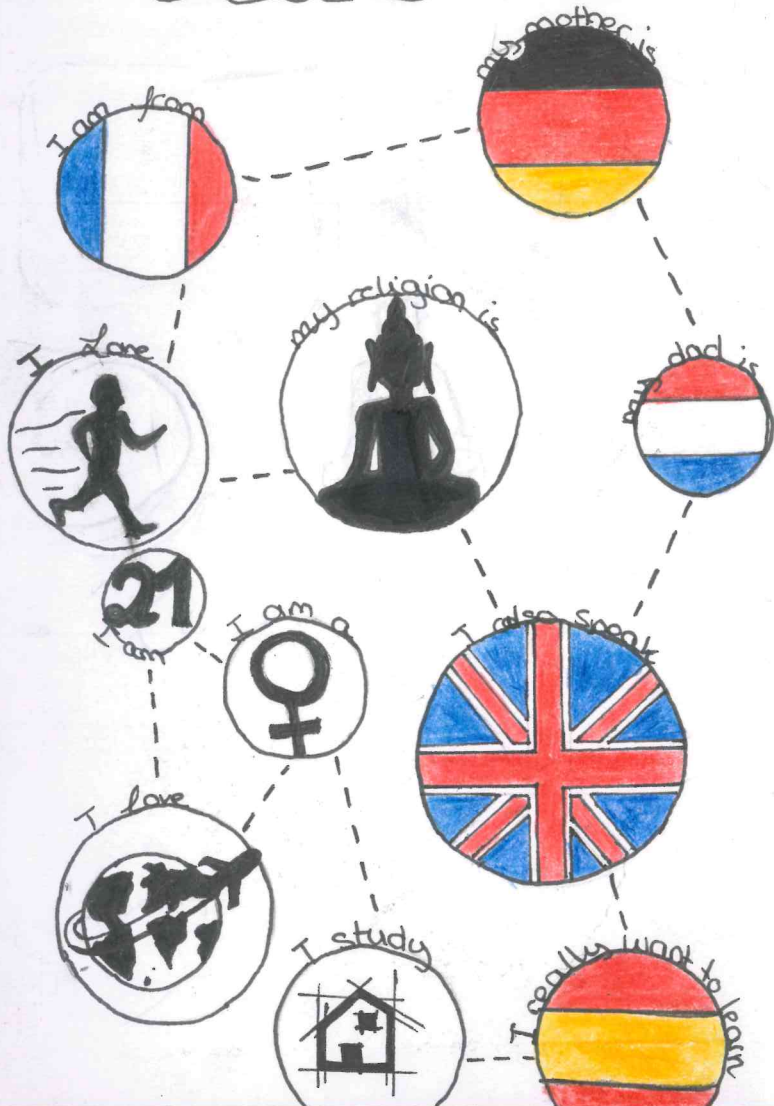
DEUTSCHLAND

Besain

marseille

Erasmus diary 2021-2022

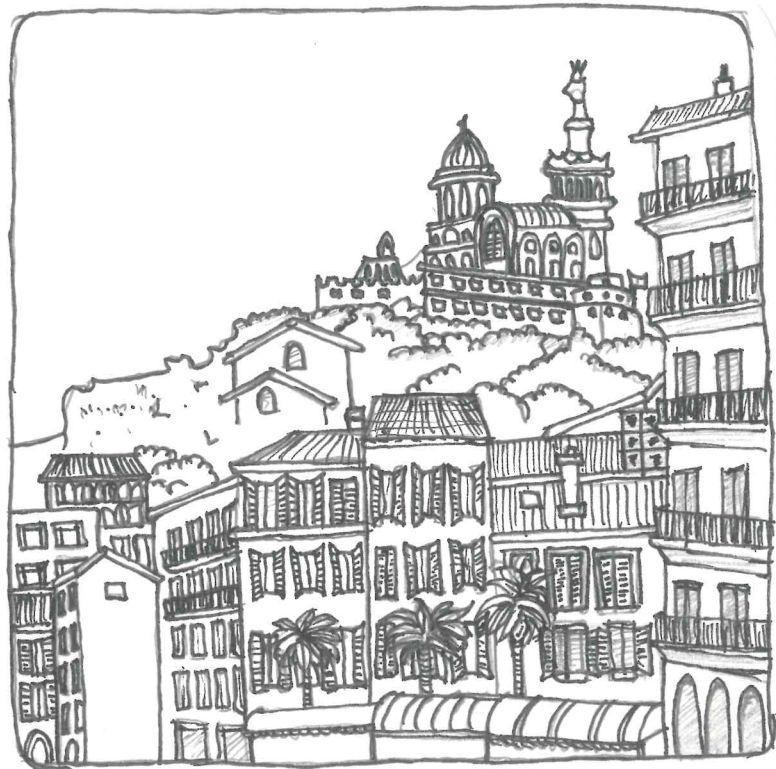
About me



So for Eliza, i was born in France
grew up in a "European" Family.
My mother is from Germany, and my
father is from the Netherlands.

they met in France and stayed there.
So here on your left you can
see some things that fascinates
me.

I am a Erasmus from the EUSA
Marseille, and really wanted to
do an Erasmus in Germany because
it is a culture with which i really
identify but didn't know much
about because i never lived here.
So the Erasmus was the perfect
chance to try it out.



MARSEILLE, city of my Erasmus departure.

Marseille is a big city in France. I started my studies there in 2013 at the ENSA, that is Ecole nationale Supérieure d'architecture. But I grew up on the land in a Village Next to Montpellier. Last year i decided that i really wanted to do an Erasmus. After three years in that beautiful city next to the mediterranean sea, I wanted to use that opportunity to live a place where the culture, language and climate is completely different. So here I am in Potsdam!

My mother is german, so german is already a language i know and a culture that is quite familiar to me but for me it was really important to make my own experience without coming there with my mother and created my own image of that country.

Marseille is a beautiful city and i already miss the Sun, the people from that city are really open people, marseille is a attractive city also for people from North Africa, to come to and start over that diversity gives the city a really rich diversity we can taste and hear a lot of different cultures.

Alhambra, Grenada, Spain

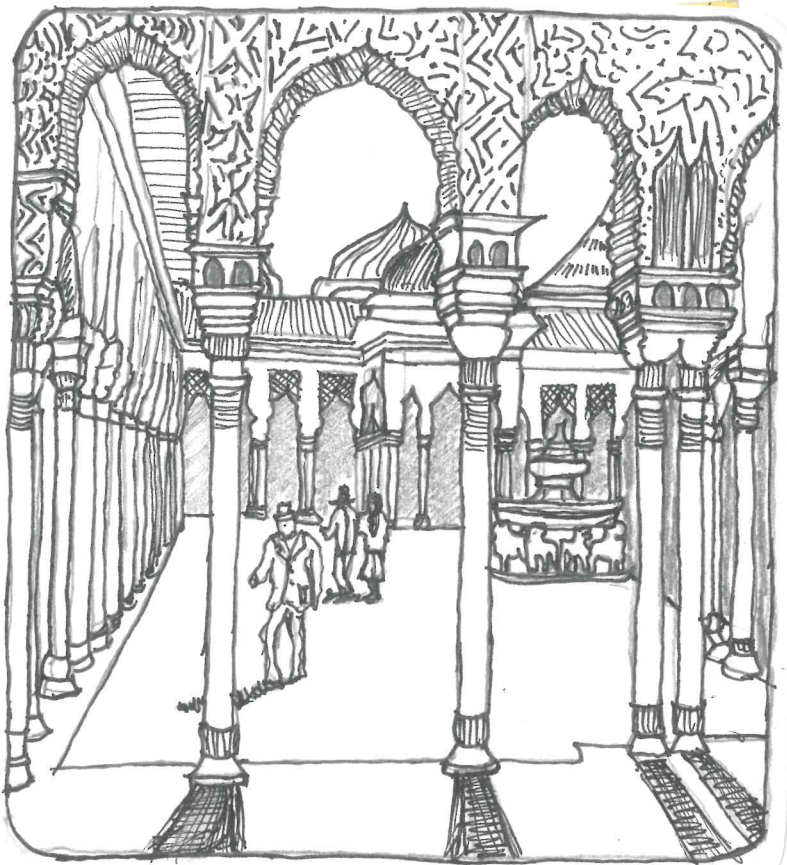
During the first course of Unfolding Potsdam, the students all presented the city they come from. I missed that class, unfortunately, at that time I was in Spain. Visiting my boyfriend, he is doing an Erasmus in Grenada.

On that day we visited the Alhambra, the Alhambra was built in 1389, and well conserved since that time. That Place plays an important role in the islamique architecture.

Places like that are important for our moderne world, the beauty of the past inspires a lot of architect and artist of the modern time. The Heritage and Culture that that monument shows how important it is to preserve the construction of the past.

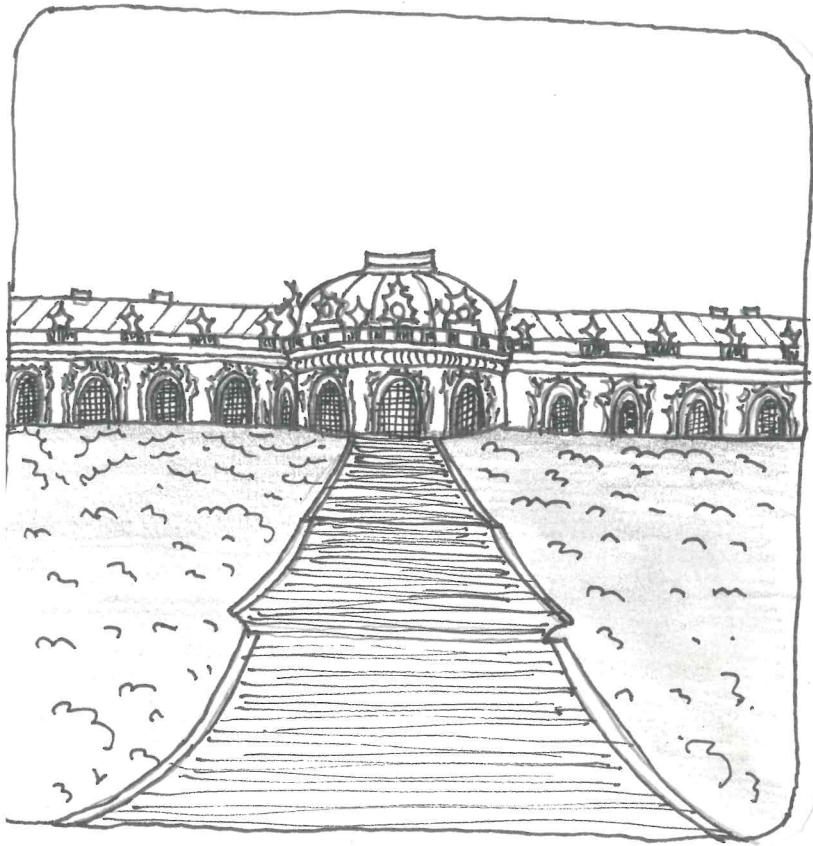
As an architect, traveling is a really important for the understanding of architecture. I always love to analyze how things are built a certain ways, follow the constraint given by the site, the climat...

That is a thing the architectur of modern world is forgetting. In the past nothing was built without a reason, for example the courtyard of the spanish architectur is for offering the people in the hot summer a place to stay.



Schloß Sanssouci, Potsdam.

What does world heritage mean?



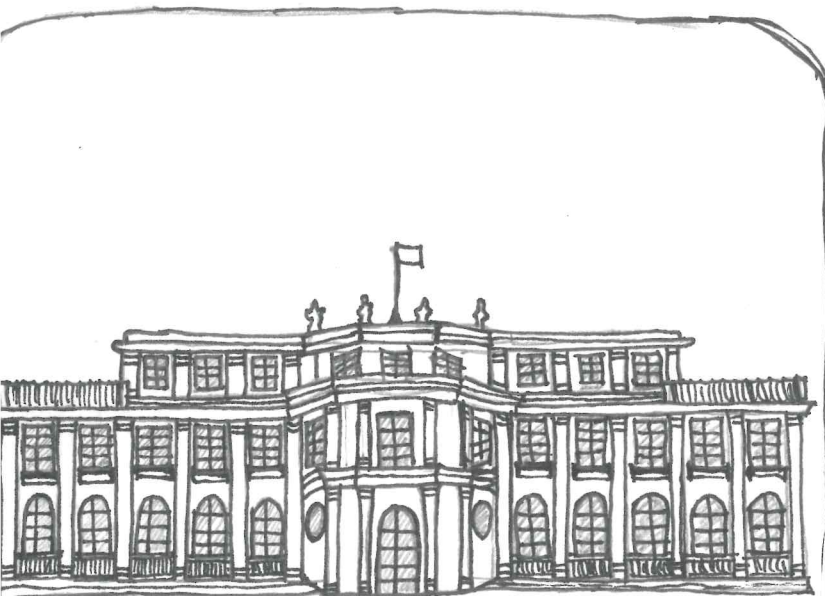
As an architecture student, the notion of heritage appears at the beginning of our studies because it plays a major part in the architectural department. What to preserve? How to preserve it? why we preserve it?

For me it is important to preserve the heritage. Heritage are objects of the past that we preserve through the generations, there are special and transmit message and inspiration to the generations to come.

Nowhere days we live in a world that is almost already build more and more architect need to work with what is already there, try to change by keeping the old and transforming the junction of the building.

The heritage is a huge discussion in our time, to many building have been destroyed in the past. Conserving the traces of the past is important for the transmission of history, to show the evolution but also the knowledge of past generations. Heritage are Traces of a time, a political situation,

a culture, an Event, They create a real time line for the current and future generations.



Haus der Wannsee Konferenz,

through time and history classes and discussions we try to understand what happened during World War II. The visit we had in the "Haus der Wannsee Konferenz" made me realize again how uncertain the world can be. How crucial humanity can be.

When we read the conference treaty, how during that time Jews were considered as a commodity, like animals. The house is a beautiful building next to the water. It looks idyllic. It is actually the place where the national socialist party voted to exterminate 11 million Jews.

I think like beautiful palaces are part of our heritage, places like the house of the Wannsee Conference, need to be preserved as a trace of the terrible mistakes of the past to never be reproduced again.

That time is one of the big chapters of history that needs to be brought to light again and again because it is a terrible time and it happened not even 100 years ago!

Politicians have a major influence on the population and that has too many times been misused

Lindenstraße memorial, Potsdam.



The visit of the former prison was quite a shock for me. Even if I knew a lot of stories about that time, my mother grew up in the GDR. The House they lived in was bugged. She wasn't allowed to do her end exam so she fled to West Germany to finish her school there.

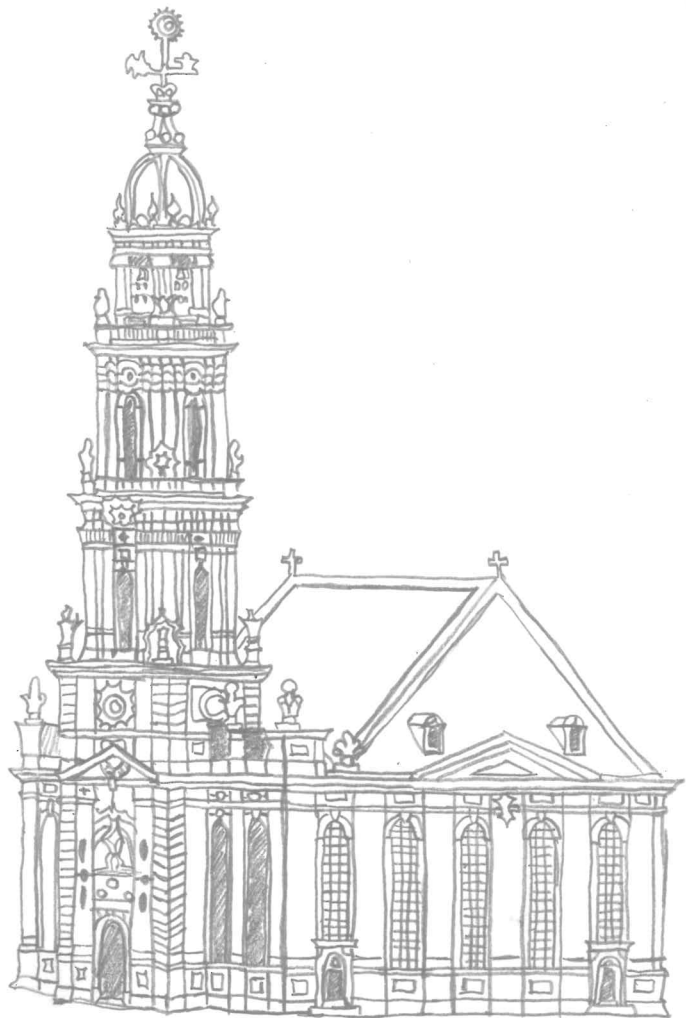
The prison showed us how crazy politics can be a girl of 12 years old got locked up for drawing a smile on a poster of Stalin.

The people there were put in to prison for having an opinion. That prison didn't "reeducate" people, the prisoners, it destroyed them mentally by making them live like animals, not telling them when they would be released. Not telling them where they are and why.

In the drawing I wanted to represent the secret employees of the Stasi in Red. The government used all their power to destroy the bond between the population.

So nobody could trust anyone, so no opposition movement would be take place. That is what gave the ~~Soviet~~ Communist party have all the power and control.

Garnisankirche, Rechenzentrum, Potsdam.



The discussion of the Garnisankirche / Rechenzentrum is a discussion that takes place in a lot of different cities, and it is important that they take place. But I think the answer is always a different one.

The city wants to appear nice and beautiful with an united image. But places like the Rechenzentrum are important for the citizens. What makes it beautiful is the work produced by the people working there.

Of course, the GDR time is nothing a city needs to be proud of, but it also plays a major part in the city of Potsdam. That building is the perfect example of how the people, the citizens transform the city and places of the city to their own needs. The Rechenzentrum has been transformed in a place of collectivity and creativity, every city needs places like that.

Is it really a good idea to destroy that place to rebuild a church that hasn't been there for decades?

Whatever solution the city of Potsdam will propose to the uses of the Rechenzentrum it will never be the same, because for the use that place is a heritage and is also a attractive point for the city in a different way.



Christmas time, Gendarmenmarkt.

Christmas in France, is quite different than in Germany. Of course Christmas is celebrated, but is a time more to spend time as a family or make nice presents. Religion as you maybe know is not common in France. I think in France that is what is missing, for example in school you never learn why we actually celebrate Christmas.

In my family, with a German mother, Christmas was celebrated in the "traditional" German way. I think that that is also the time where my mother really misses her home country. My mother always goes to Germany to buy the decoration for the Christmas tree. She also buys in bulk candles for the Christmas tree and "Weihnachtspyramide". In France people think we are crazy to put real candles in the Christmas tree.

I think that is also the advantage of growing up in a multicultural family you take what you like from that culture. That is definitely what we have done during the Christmas time. The Germans really show how to celebrate Christmas!

Hans Otto theater, Schiffbauer Gasse.

The visit of the Schiffbauer Gasse, was really interesting for me because it reminded me of a place in Starseille where i spend a lot of time, called "La Friche de la belle de Stai."

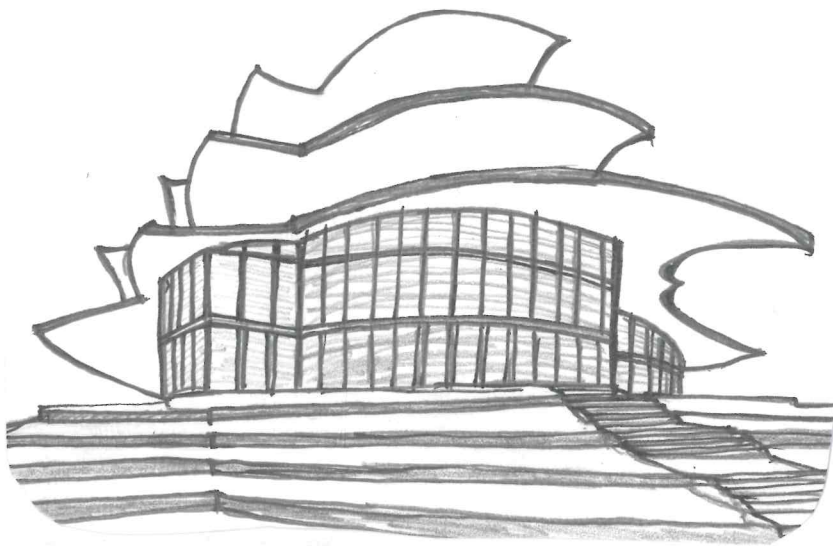
It is a place, an old factory that the inhabitants of the city of Starseille transformed year after year and made it their own.

As the Schiffbauer Gasse the Friche de la belle de Stai is an major cultural place of the city, it hosts many events like exhibitions, concerts, open air cinema nights a theater...

It is a place that is really valued by the inhabitants because it is a place made by them and for them.

As the women of the guidance tour told us it plays a major part in her life especially during her youth.

That kind of places are really important to make the inhabitants interact and create and offers a lot of opportunities for the young generations, I can't wait to go there this summer.





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