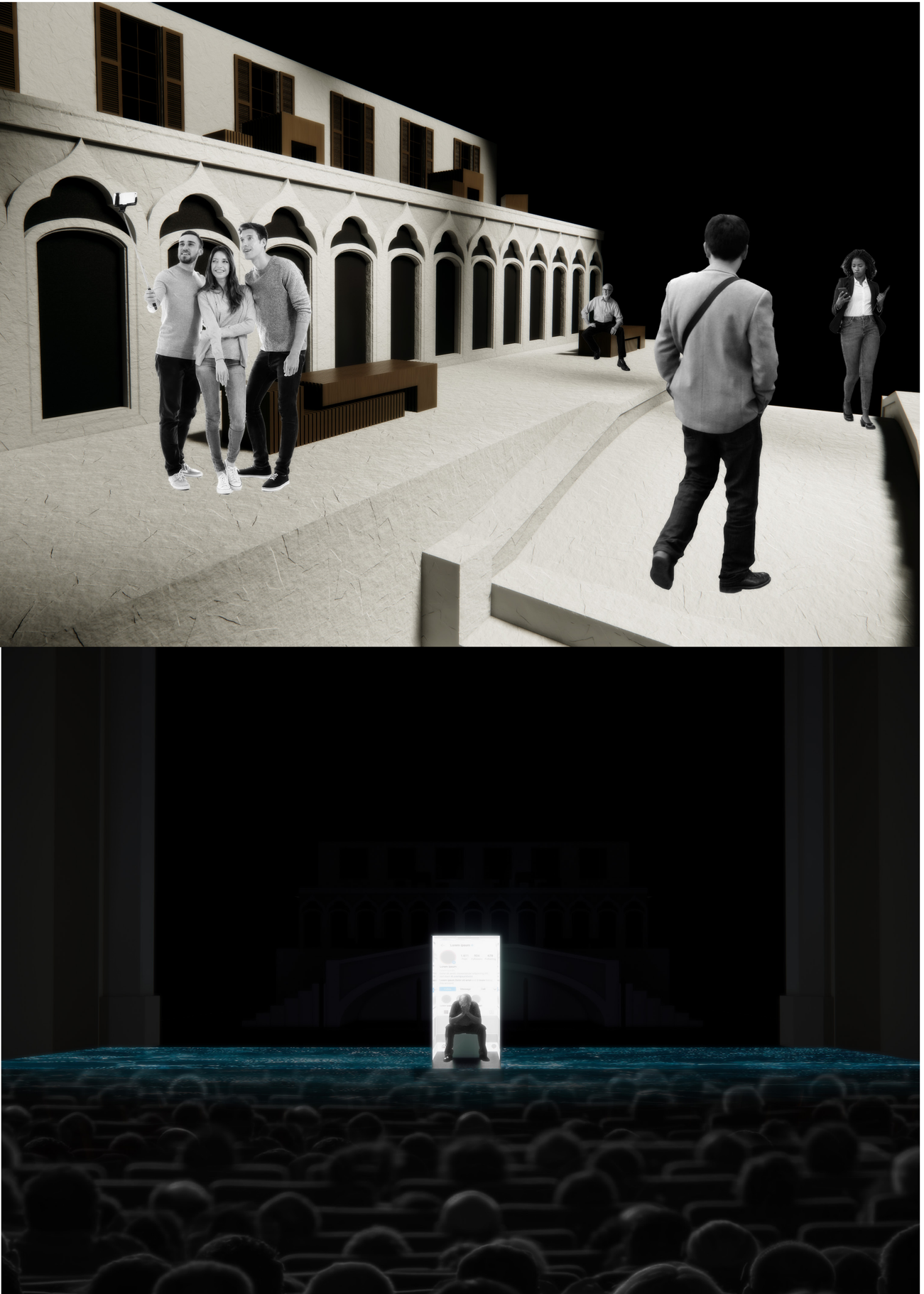


CONCEPT

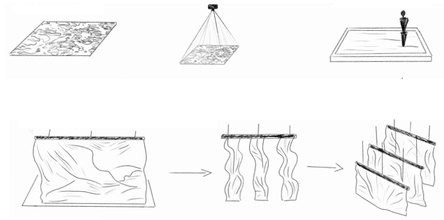
Setting:
Venice, c. 2030

Main Characters:
Aschenbach- an older writer, who represents and believes in traditinonal views and ways of life, struggles with technology
Tadzio- a young teenager, influencer or just enjoys documenting his life and vacation through social media

External threat:
Due to its structural base and the rise of the sea-levels due to global warming Venice is sinking and could threaten the life of visitors with an coming tide

Taboo, conflict:
Not only the age difference of the main characters, but the unhealthy adiction that Aschenbach starts to develop with technology and social media by trying to get to know better and follow Tadzio's steps. The unethical and unhealthy way of stalking people through the media they put up of themselves of the Internet also questions who's responsibility it is to monitor/fliter this to prevent predatory behaviour.

Symbolism, concept:
The culture and classic values that Venice represents are matching with Aschenbach's in the beginning of the play. Italian and Venetian architecture is represented with the different elements, such as windows, arches, poles in water and bridge in the set. This part of the set is more traditional in look and approach, too, although in a bit more modern, bare and simplified way. The various parts of the city are separated to florrs to create a layered design.
The sinking of Venice is a real problem the city faces and will continue fighting with in the future. The submerging here is also used as a metaphor for going deeper and getting more involved with the Internet and social media. These are regular parts of our lives, just like for the young Tadzio, but despite many warnings we still often don't recognise the dangers and addictive qualities of the Internet. It is easy to represent the bad sides and the descend with someone, who is more removed from technology at first, like Aschenbach here. The vastness and darkness of the sea can also represent loneliness and isolation, which both happen, too when we stop to enjoy life as itself and focus on our or other's digital presence more.



Sketches of different interpretations of water

Venice represents classic beauty and values

Danger of getting under water, metaphor of change

Getting pulled down/ submerged in socail media

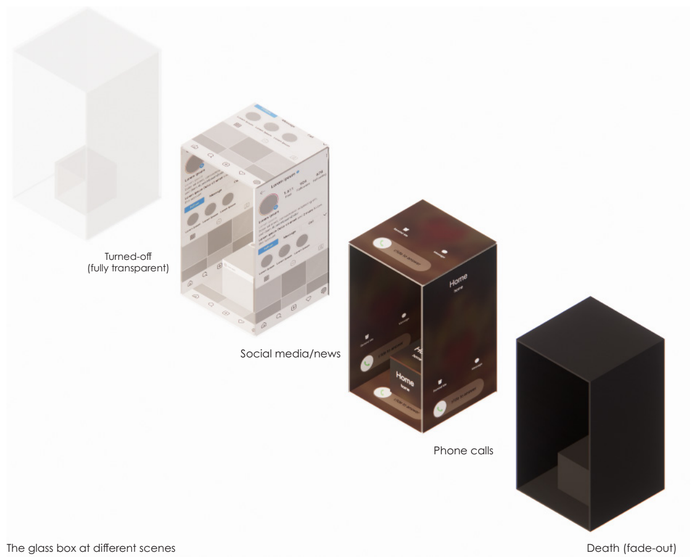
How I imagined the two maincharacters

THE ISOLATION

The design includes downstage, over the orchestra pit, a very simple modern box with a seating made out of switchable glass. Whenever Aschenbach goes onto social media to follow Tadzio after seeing him in the hotel, on the beah or in the streets, he would come down here to literally isolate himself.

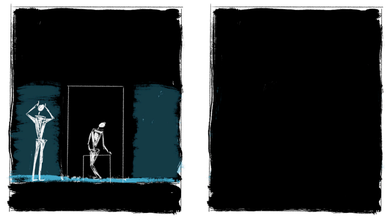
The box is completely see-through when it is not in use, so it doesn't obstruct the view of the set behind. When Aschenbach comes here, all lights turn off, the glass switches and shows a screen recording of what's going on the phone. In the beginning, we would also get the exposition that he comes for a holiday through a phone call and also the news about the rising water-levels.

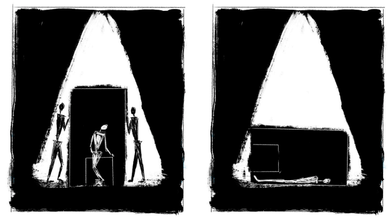
The box itself illuminates the stage a bit, but also a projection of water appears on the floors, which grows throughout the play. It eventually goes over the audience, too, to suggest they are sinking as well.



The glass box at different scenes

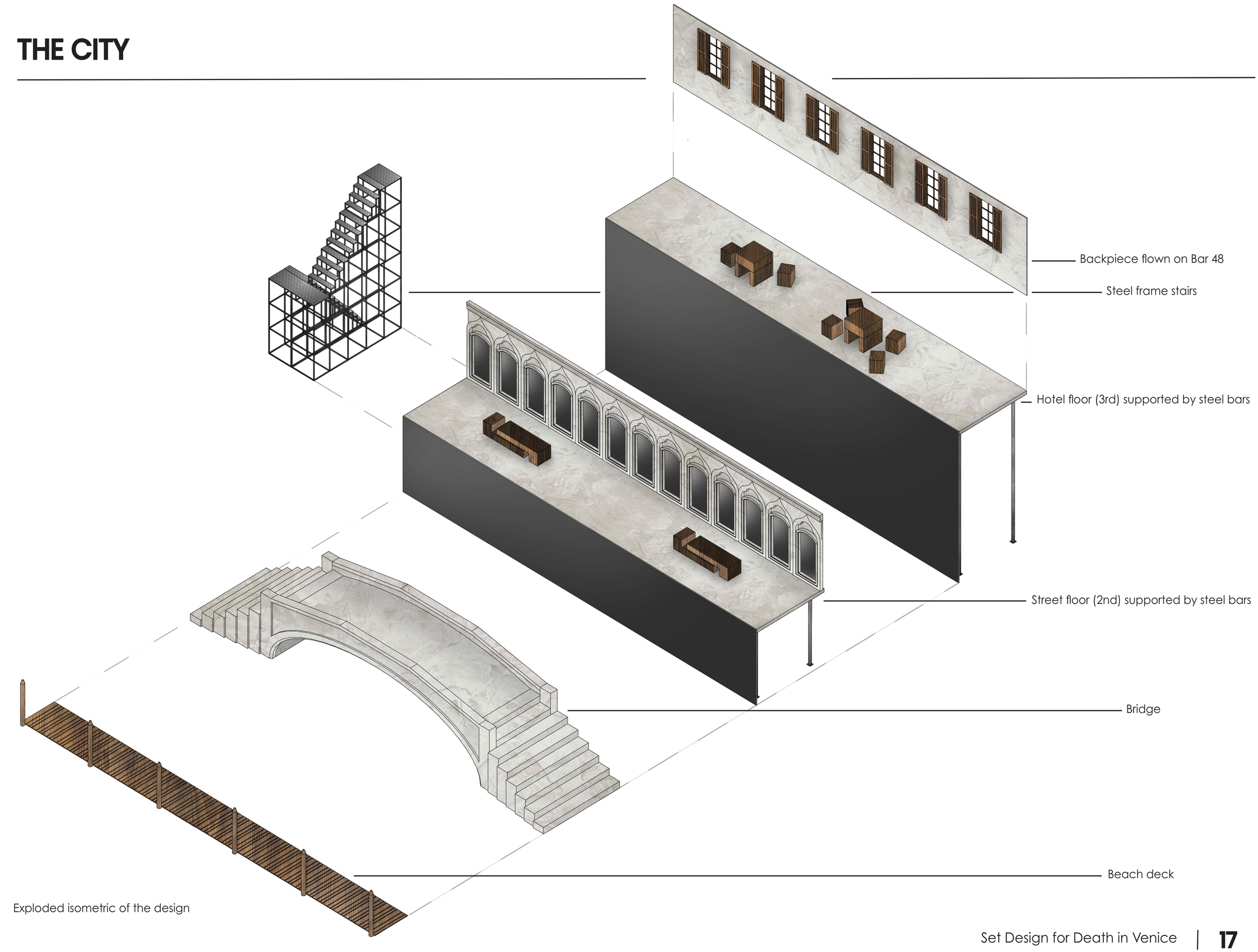
Death (fade-out)





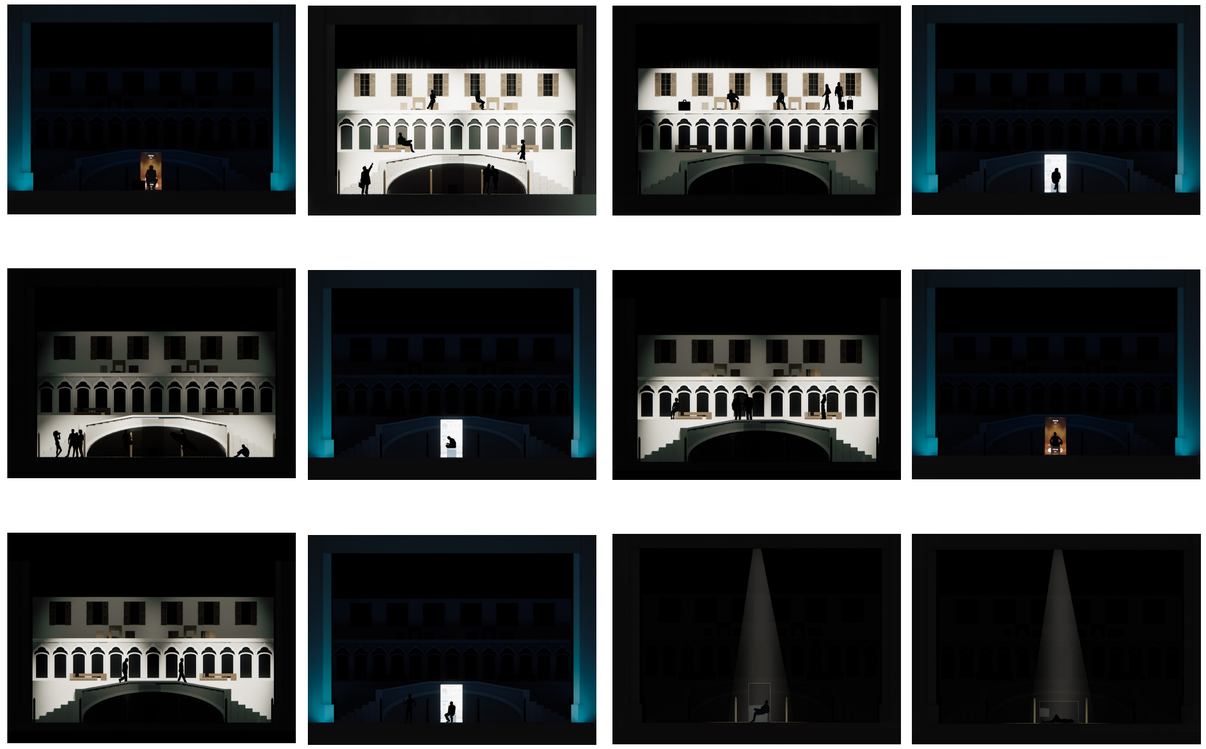
Storyboard of death scene

THE CITY



Exploded isometric of the design

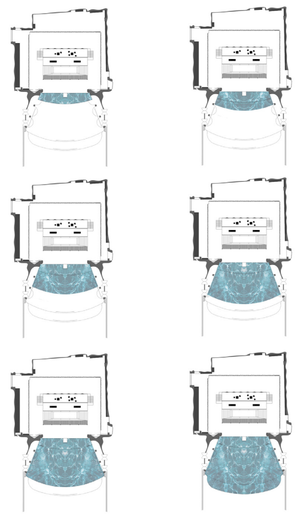
STORYBOARD



PLANS AND SECTIONS

1:100 plan of the set

1:100 A-A section of the set



Water projection flowing on to of the audience, too as Aschenbach goes to the box/gets on social media