

POLYTECHNIC OF TORINO
FACULTY OF ARCHITECTURE 2
Degree in Architecture
Honors theses

Project work: the Ferrari-Maserati Centre, Dubai, Arab Emirates.

Nature guides us

by: Evelin Mottino

Tutors: Agostino Magnaghi, Roberto Apostolo

The project was originated by putting together my passion for Architecture as a continuous research, and my deep interest in the world of Automotive Design.

These two elements together, have inspired the object of my graduation thesis, a Ferrari-Maserati Centre located in Dubai - Arab Emirates- a location I had the chance to visit years ago.

Before starting working at the project, I contacted Mr. Lucio Dalaiti from the Ferrari company, who showed some interest in my proposal, and agreed to give me all the information I might need to start out.

The construction ground is located a few miles from the trading port and the City, to which it is connected by means of a fast and modern street network.

Nearby, the impressive Bury Ad Arab, the "Arab Tower" (321 m. height), the only hotel in the world to get 8 stars.

I was fascinated by the concept of "dynamic architecture", one of deep emotional impact.

My architectonic object, needed to be swift, to sprint like a Racing Car, perform and be as attractive as the objects it would hold within.

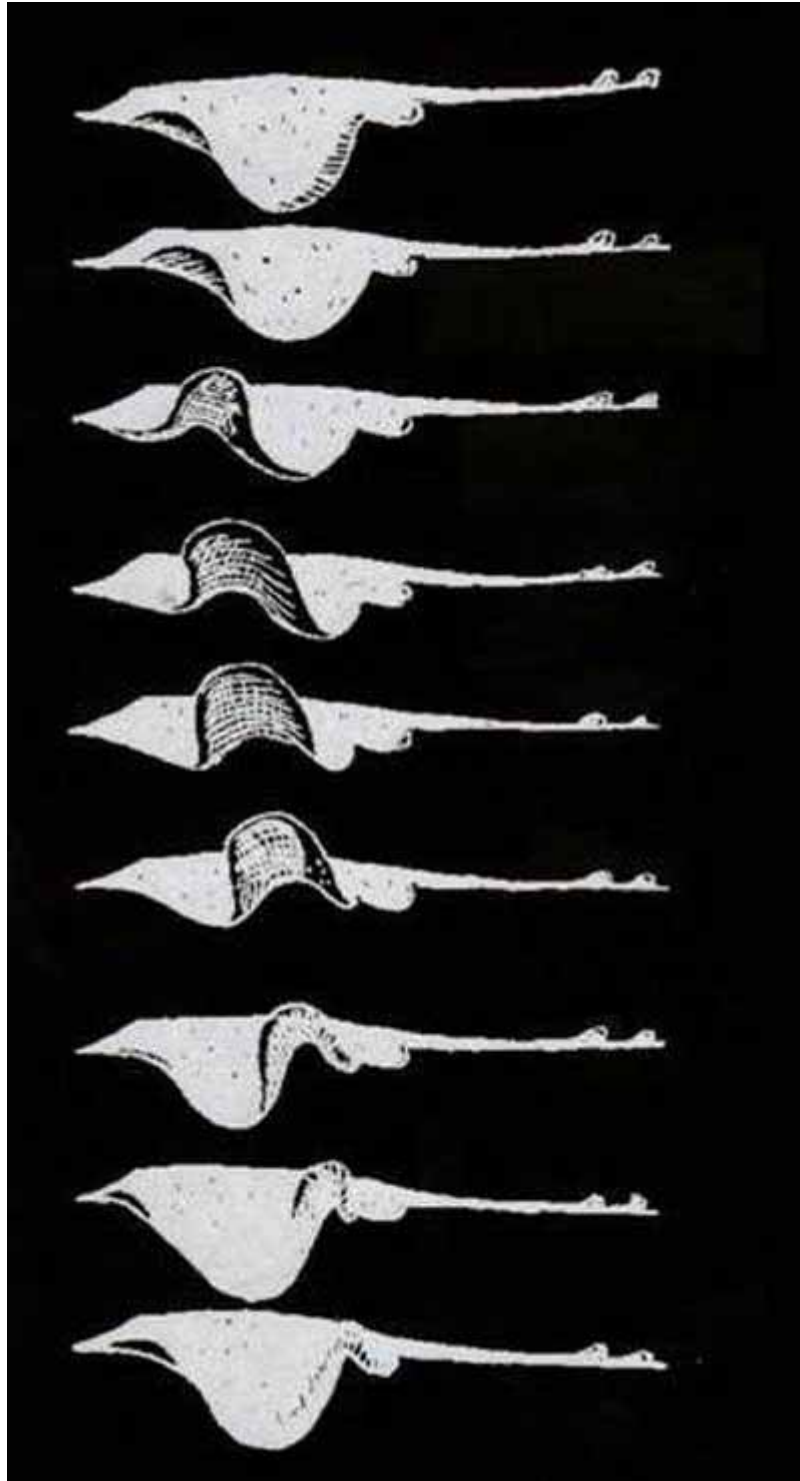
However, the formal imprinting was still missing.

I found advise in Nature, in its proportions, in the pureness of its shapes, in its fascinating moves.

A picture I found on a biology book struck my imagination. It featured the sequence of the swim of a marine animal: the skate.

This illustration was the perfect synthesis of what I wished to express through my project: balance and harmony, movement and aerodynamics.

I began sketching and studying the movements of the skate, and I produced cartoon models which were then transferred in three-dimensional ones on the computer.

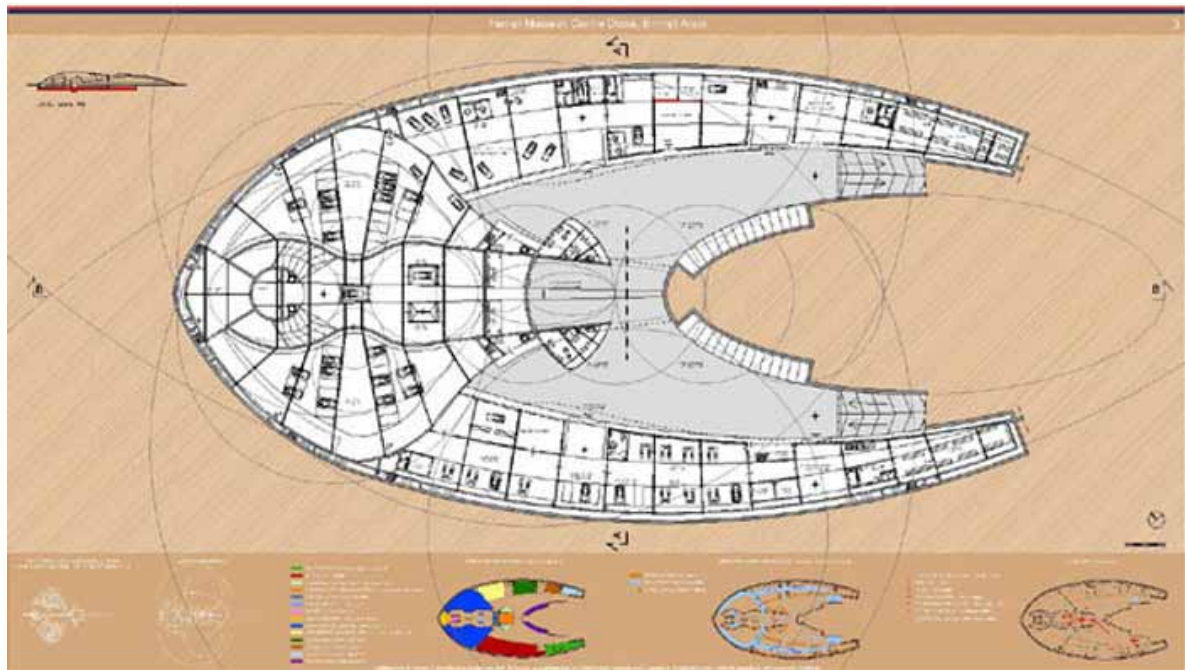


The formal research went on for some time, until a metamorphosis process began, which gradually led me to the definition of the architectural object. The result was a clean architecture with essential lines, that was well integrated with the environmental context, a swift profile, "heading" towards the seaside. The cover became the most characterizing element of the whole project. It covers the building with a sinuous surface, and is coated in aluminium panels.

Every single element, from the cover to the sloping pillars of the external runway, from the centrifuge display of the beam to the sloping glass-walls of the show-room, was thought to emphasize the dynamics of the architecture.

During the very early phases of the project-work, the need to protect from the sun the cars of the Clients attending to the Centre, as well as the walking path beneath became evident.

The “wave”, in white Teflon that flanks for a long tract the lateral prospectus, was conceived for this purpose, and immediately appeared to be the very natural completion of the architectural composition.



Together with the formal study, the analysis of the functional distribution of the internal space layout was carried out. The matrix of the typical plant derives from a progressive stylisation of the skeleton of the fish.

The Centre is laid on four levels, of which two are positioned underground where the service areas are located., such as the mechanical garage, the spare parts warehouse, the body shop and the warehousing area. The ground floor is mainly dedicated to the showroom, while the offices and management offices are located on the highest floor.



For more information e-mail: evelinmottino@hotmail.com

Maintained by:
CISDA - HypArc, e-mail: hyperc@polito.it