



HONORABLE MENTION

Project Title

Escher's Relativity

Student Name

Sophia Chan

Level

Graduate

Course

Advisor/Instructor

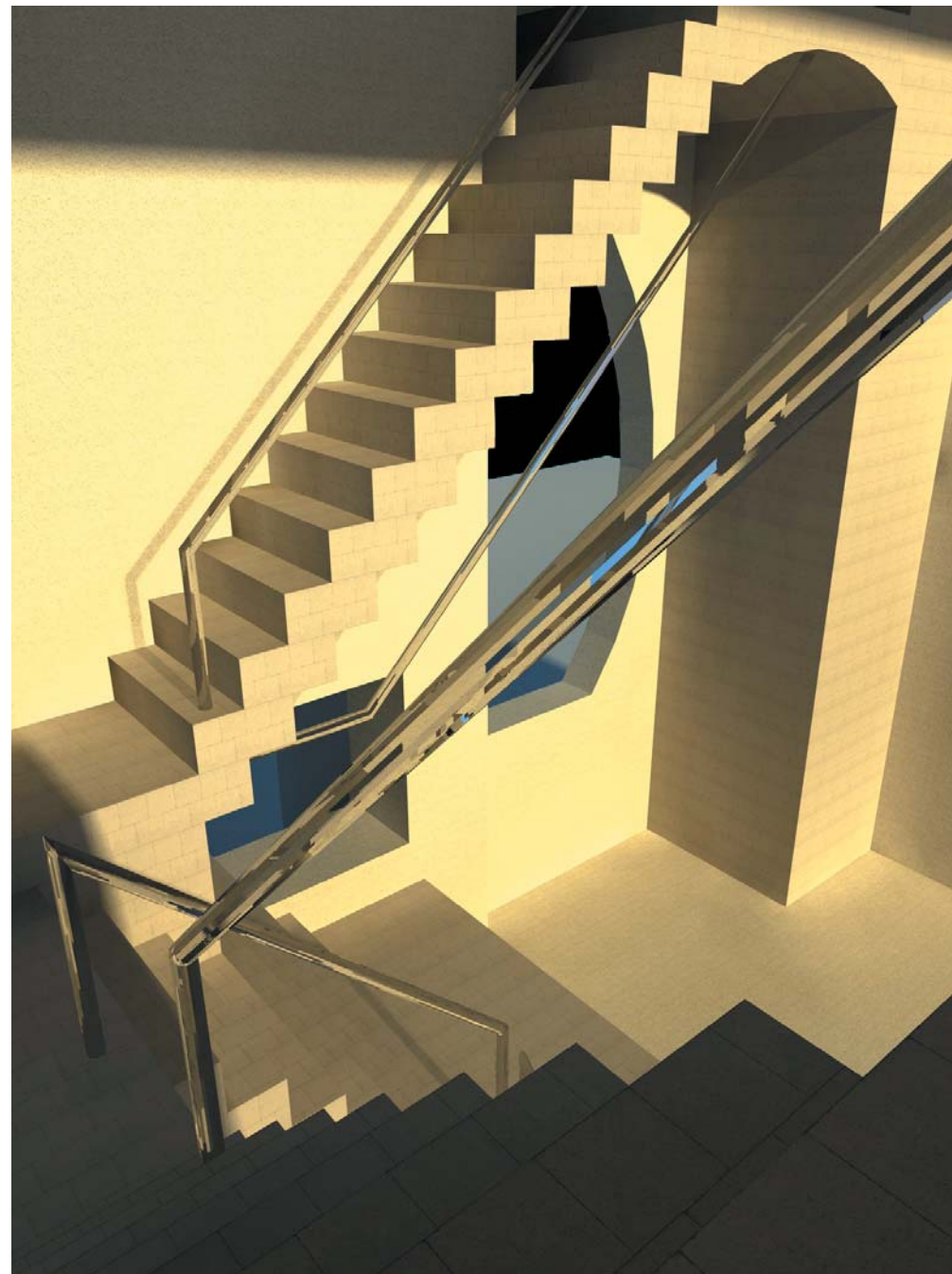
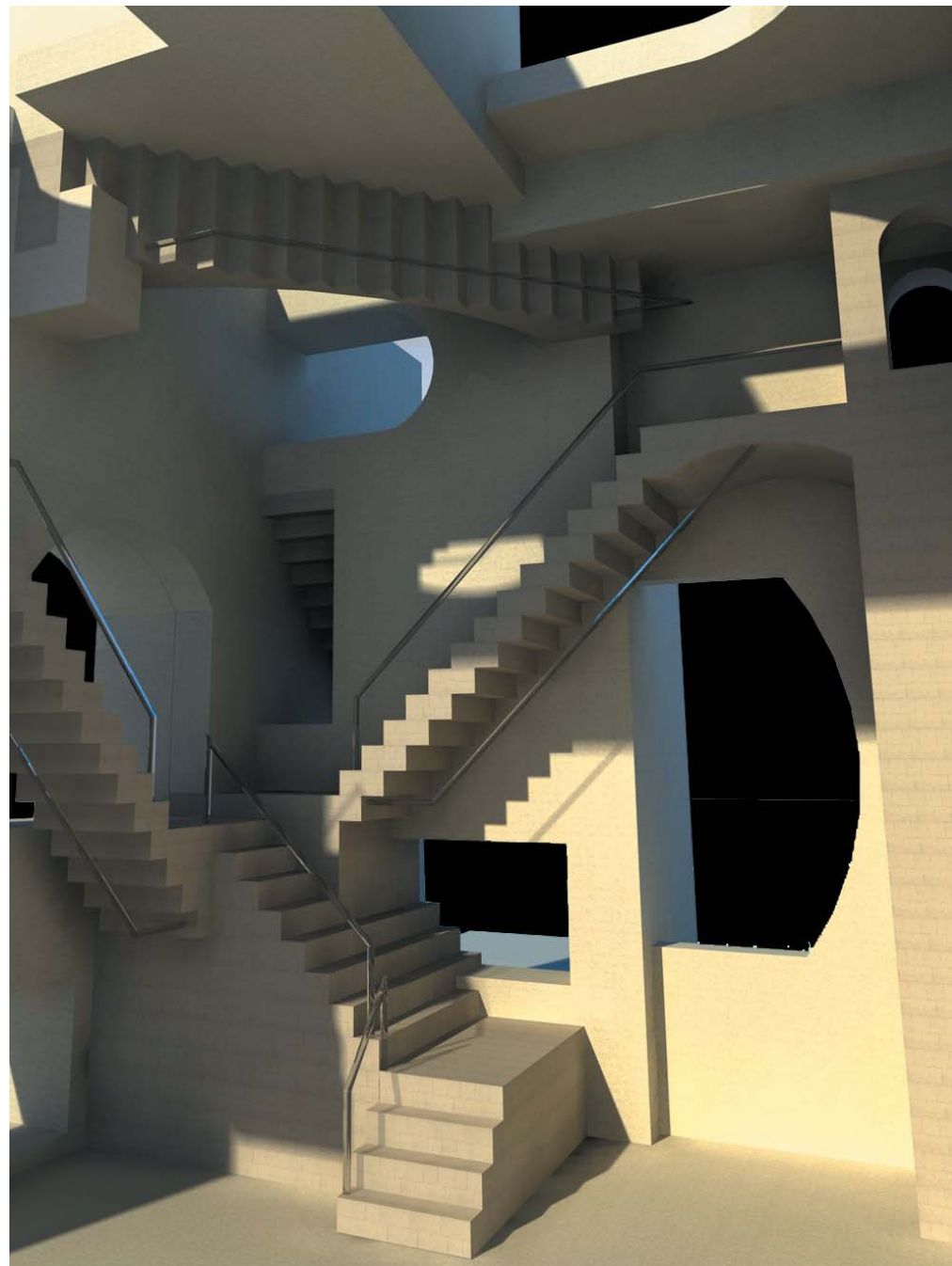
Andrzej Zarzycki

Principal Investigator

Andrzej Zarzycki

Department/School

**Department of Interior Architecture,
Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, Rhode Island**



Summary description of project:

The inspiration for the project was to take Escher's two-dimensional etching, "Relativity." My goal was to generate a three-dimensional space reminiscent of the limitless quality of Escher's spaces. I started by extrapolating measurements from the graphics to calculate the size of the interior space and then constructed the tectonic elements and generated the three gravities of the space.

Consequently I constructed the space with realistic dimensions and applied materials to create the photorealistic environment. I then investigated the interior relationships between the gravitational orientations of the space and explored the connections between the building elements by rendering a series of light studies. Finally, I explored the seemingly impossible aspects of this space through animations and narrative tools.

Reasons for the nomination:

Some designs may look complex and imaginative (involving NURB surfaces, morphed objects or metaball **form•Z**), however, their appeal is often based on visual novelty rather than on intellectual innovation. In contrast, there are other designs that look relatively straightforward but contain sophisticated ideas that are intellectually persistent.

I propose that the visual space of the Escher's Relativity etching is an example of this: a simple but expressive design. This student in the Interior Architecture Department, undertook the challenge of delineating it in three dimensions. She was able not only to produce a three-dimensional model for the space, but also used various narration techniques to successfully ex-

press through her imagery and animations the main theme in Escher's etching: relativity. She took her explorations a step further and explored what is outside the Escher's Space. Her imagery visually speaks for itself...

My recommendation is based on the following qualities showcased in her work:

- the project required a high level of spatial imagination and navigation,
- her work demonstrates ability to resolve and extrapolate data while moving from 2D to 3D
- complexity of modeling and conceptualizing
- her work demonstrates an ability to organize a 3D model for texturing purposes
- texturing of the 3D model
- camera composition and navigation; connection between the theme of Escher's etching and the student's spatial narration
- sophisticated evocative quality of lighting, and spatial narration through animation

Jury comments:

At first blush, the interior exploration based on Escher's etchings looks simplistic. However, the challenge of translating a masterly two-dimensional world into a measurable three-dimensional one is daunting at the least.

Although the renderings do not even approach the visual and intellectual mastery of Escher's works, they are interesting enough to draw the viewer into the designer's mind. A commendable effort!
—Mahesh Senagala

