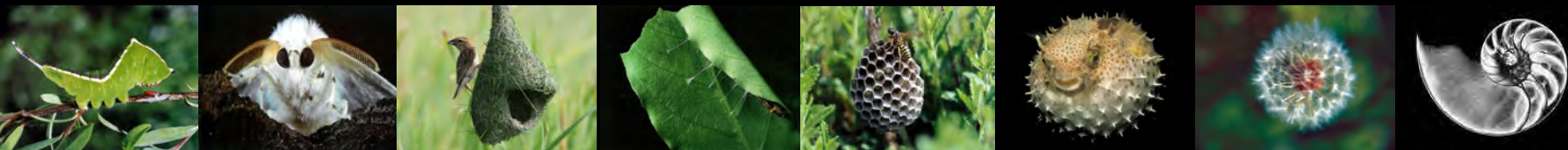


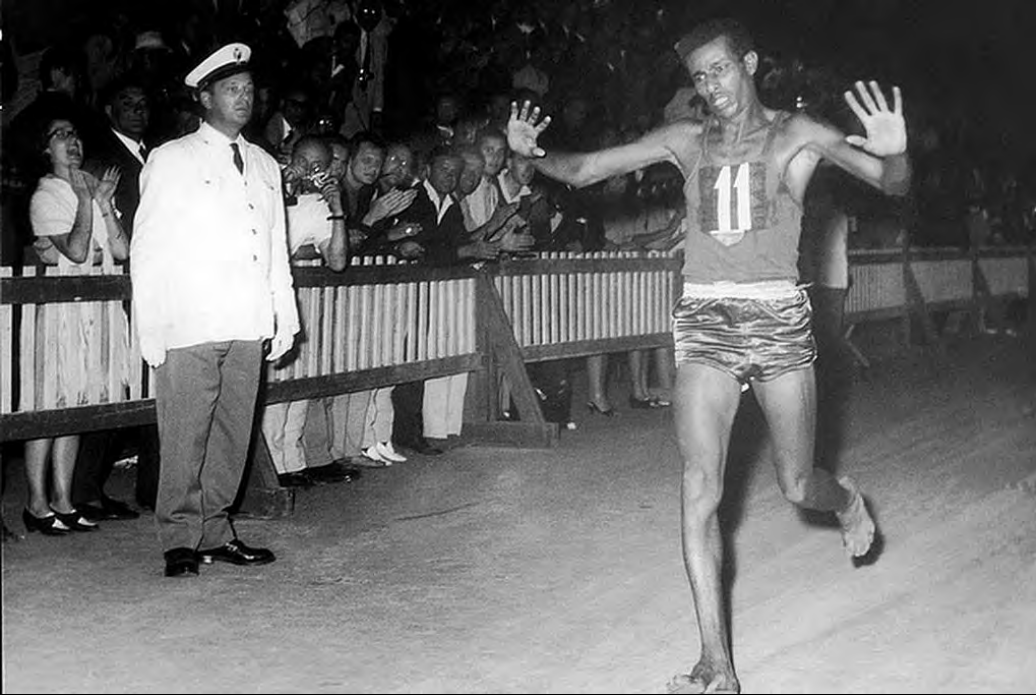
# Nature & Architecture

*Structure, Function & Aesthetics in Nature  
Source of Inspiration for Architectural Design and Technology*



*The UIA GGWI (Great Green Wall Initiative): Interactive Webinar, 26<sup>th</sup> March 2022*

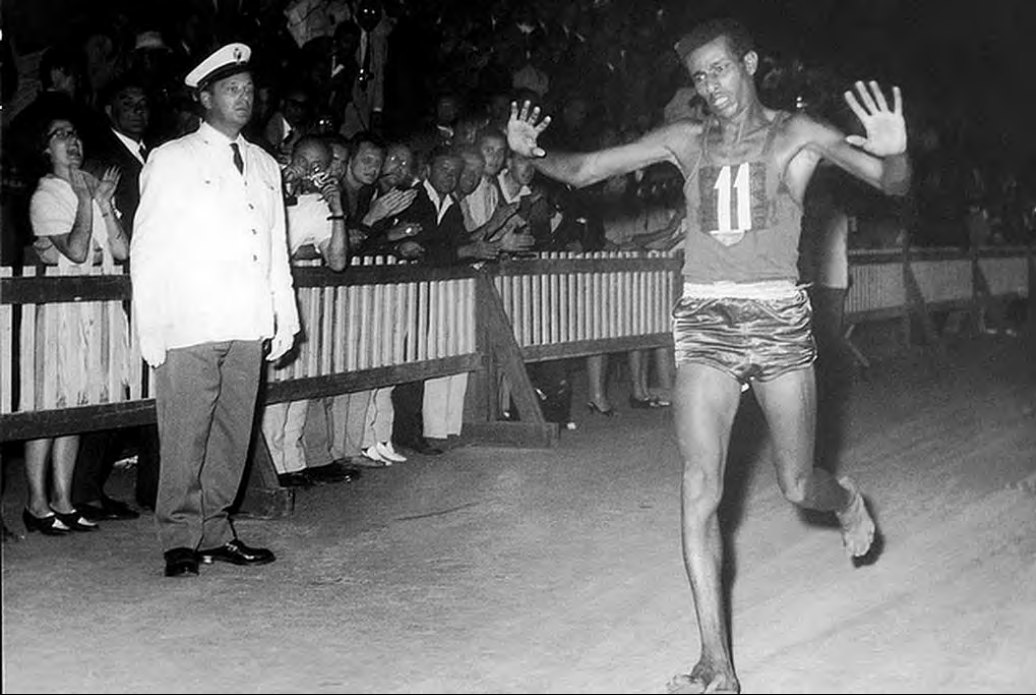
*Nikolaos TSINIKAS, Professor Emeritus, School of Architecture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (A.U.Th.), Greece*



*Abebe Bekila, Marathon, Rome Olympics, 1960  
World record barefeet!*



*Bob Beamon, USA,  
long jump 8.90m., +55cm,  
Mexico Olympics, 1968*



*Abebe Bekila, Marathon, Rome Olympics, 1960  
World record barefeet!*

*Altitude in Addis Abeba is 2.355m. Less air to breathe!*

*form follows function in biology*

*to survive species must adapt to the environment*

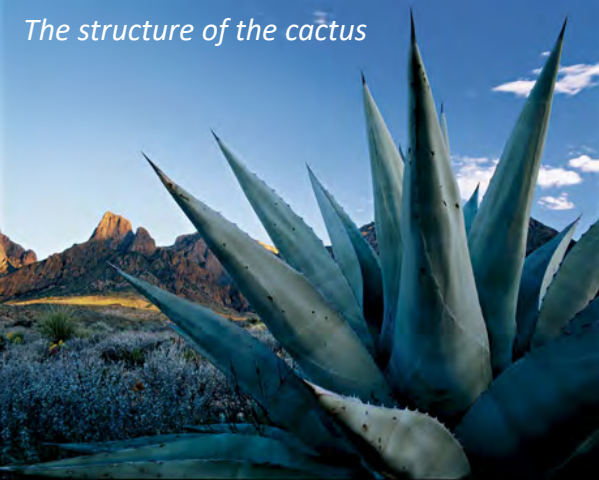


*Bob Beamon, USA,  
long jump 8.90m., +55cm,  
Mexico Olympics, 1968*

*Altitude Mexico 2.250m.*

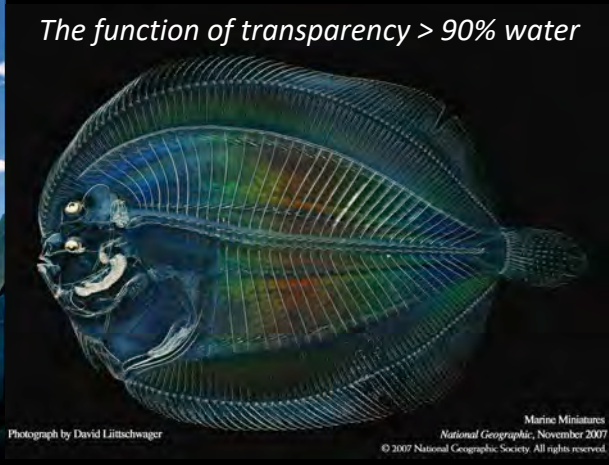
*Less gravity force!*

The structure of the cactus



form - follows - function

The function of transparency > 90% water



Photograph by David Lüttichwager  
Marine Miniatures  
National Geographic, November 2007  
© 2007 National Geographic Society. All rights reserved.

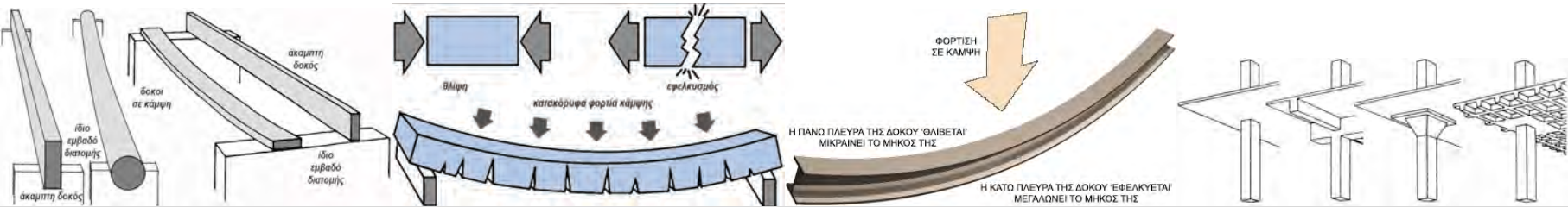
Vitruvius said, every building must be:  
**strong,** **useful,** **beautiful**  
**structure,** **function,** **aesthetics**

Beauty of the roots (anchorage & water)



consider nature as structures  
use them as source of inspiration for  
architectural design - synthesis





right position of beams in relation to their section

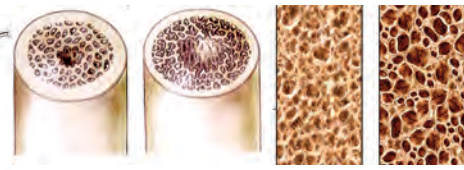
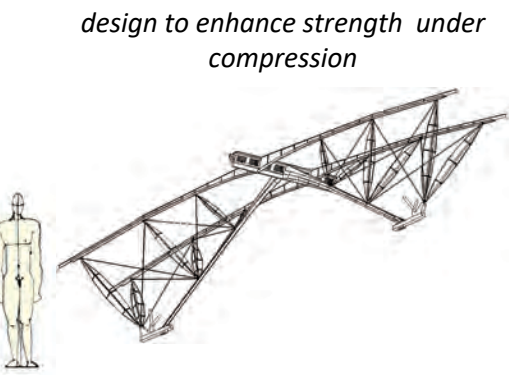
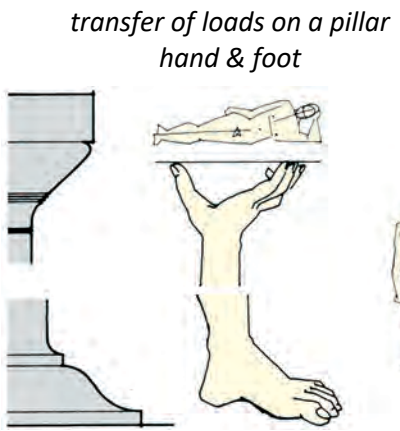
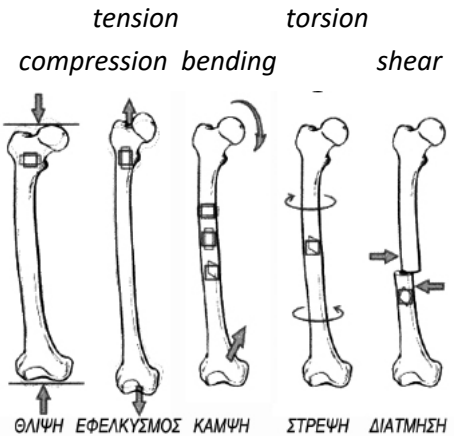
distortion of beam under loads, cracks, up-compression, down-tension

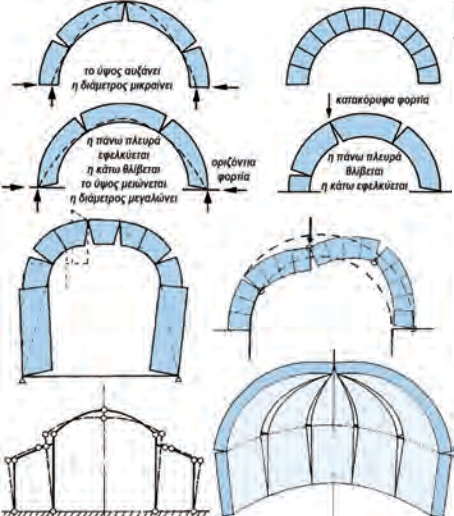
smooth transfer of loads

Distribution of Loads in Structural Elements

beams, columns-pillars, cables-wires

vector active structural elements  
small section compared with their length

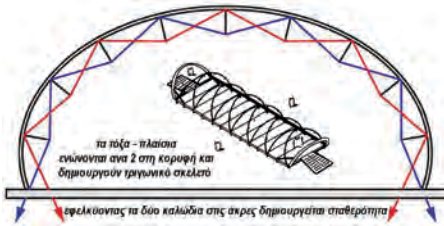




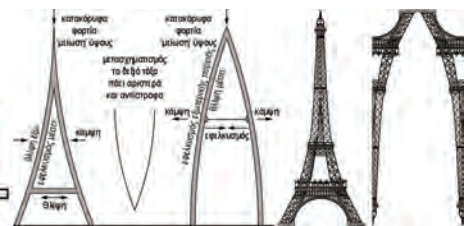
deformation of 'hole-body' arches and domes under horizontal or vertical pressure loads



'Pabellon del futuro', Expo 92, arch. MBM, eng. Peter Rice.



'MOMI' tent, 1991. arch, Future Systems, eng, Peter Rice.



the 'converse' shape of Eiffel tower in Paris from 'curved' to 'concave' arch from beam (compression) to wire (tension)

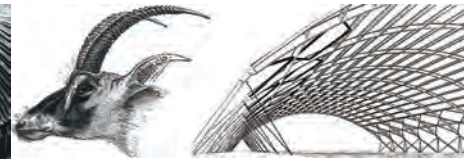
# arches

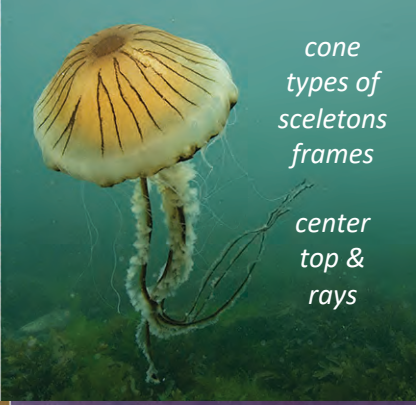
distribution of loads in arches

Gateway, Eero Saarinen, 1965, St. Louis

Farkasret Mortuary, Imre Makovecz, Budapest, 1975

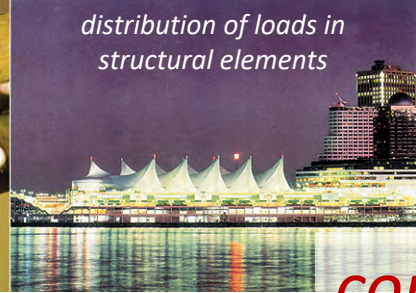
Stockley Park W2 Building, Peter Foggo.



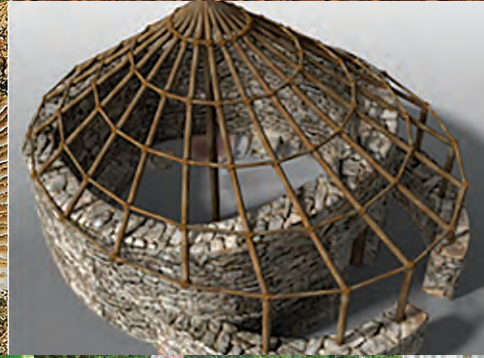


*cone  
types of  
skeletons  
frames*

*center  
top &  
rays*

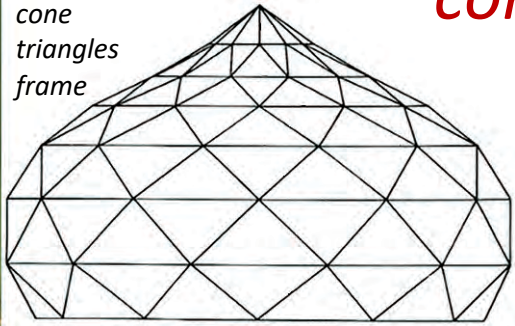


*distribution of loads in  
structural elements*



*cone  
voronoi  
frame*

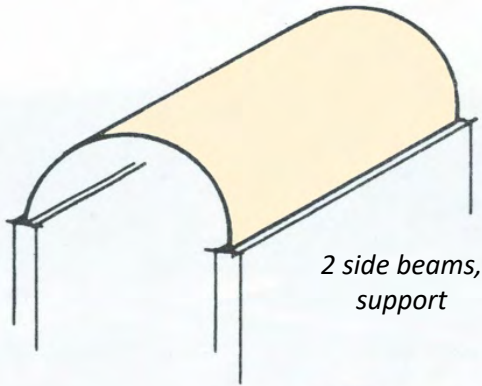
*dome of  
spongilla  
fly*



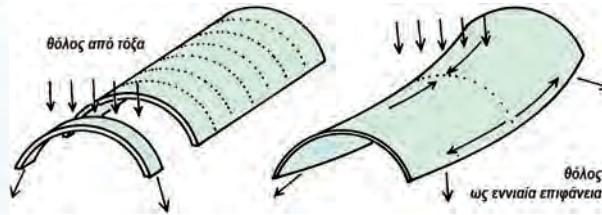
*cone  
triangles  
frame*

**cones**

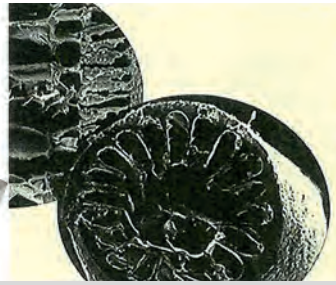




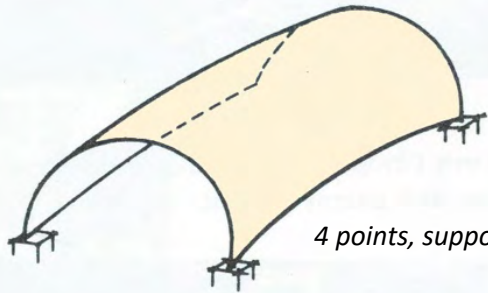
2 side beams,  
support



vault under pressure forces  
forces on individual arches  
surface active



bones of a hedgehog with extra ring layer for  
extra endurance during fall



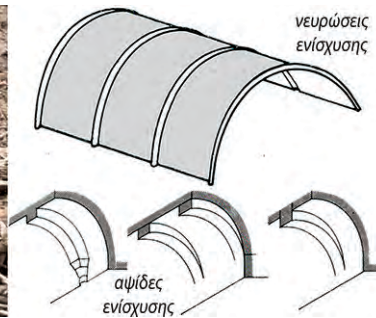
4 points, support

## vaults, semi-hemi-cylinders



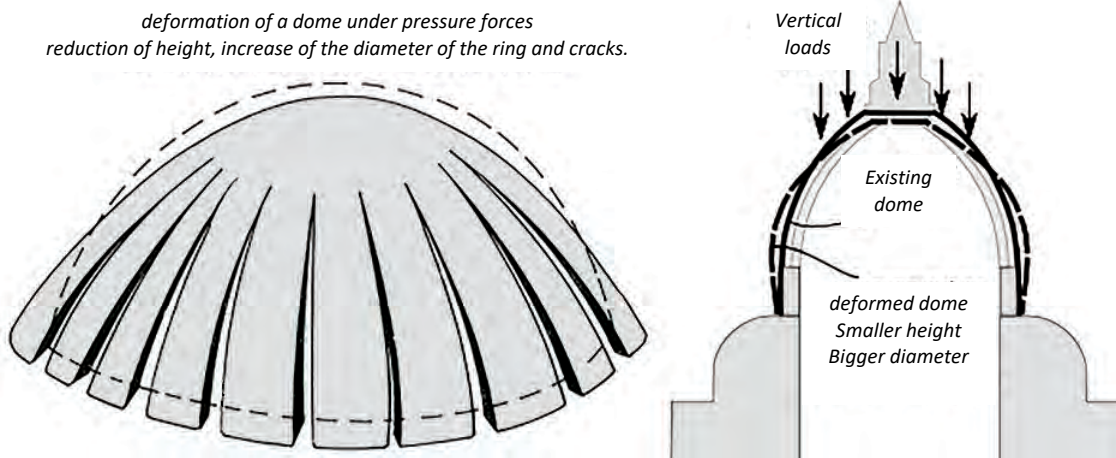
arched bridge in  
Zagoria, Greece

9zone armadillo, extra supporting arches in Romanic temples



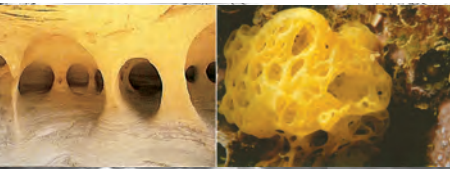


deformation of a dome under pressure forces  
reduction of height, increase of the diameter of the ring and cracks.



If the ring on the base is strong, then the diameter increases on a higher point.

# domes, cupolas



pre-historic shelter - igloos



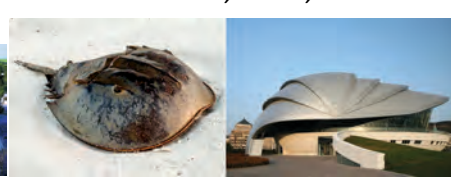
Ball House, Dresden, 1928

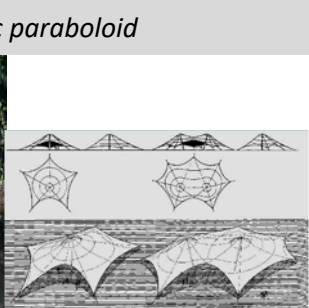
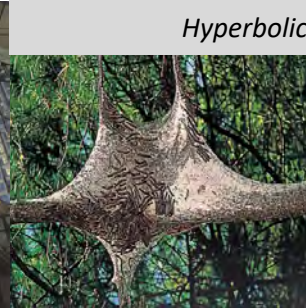
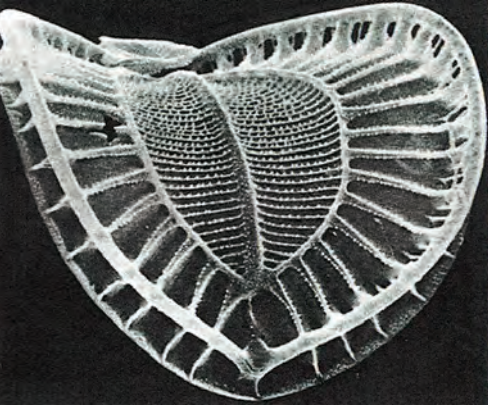


Dalian Shell, China, 2009



first inflated dome in 1948 with diameter of 15m

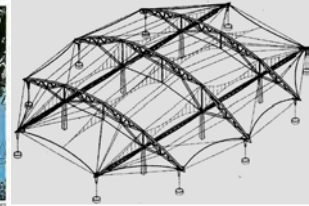
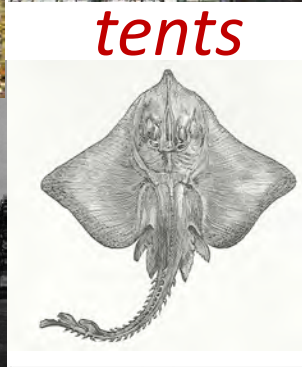
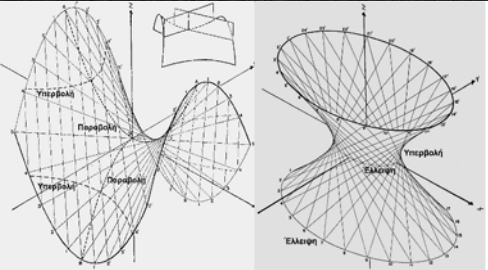




*Hyperbolic paraboloid*

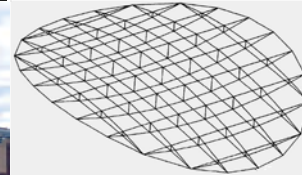
## tents

*double curvature surfaces, surface - active*



**Bat Weather Lately**  
FOLLOWING THE TRAIL of Joseph Banks in Australia, photographer Cary Wolinsky hoped to find the furry fruit bats the British botanist described in his journal. "We looked six places for these bats. I wanted to shoot them from below, flying, with the sun shining through their wings." As he moved into position under the tree-rooting creatures, some suddenly took to the sky. "You know what bats do when frightened?" asks Cary. "I felt a warm rain, smelling oddly like the New York City subway."

## tensile membranes

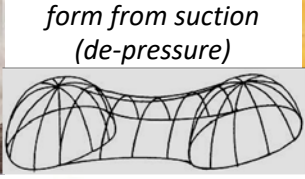


*form finding  
inspiration from  
nature*

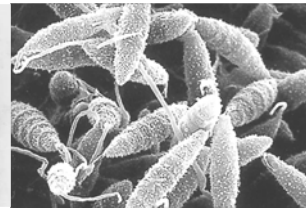
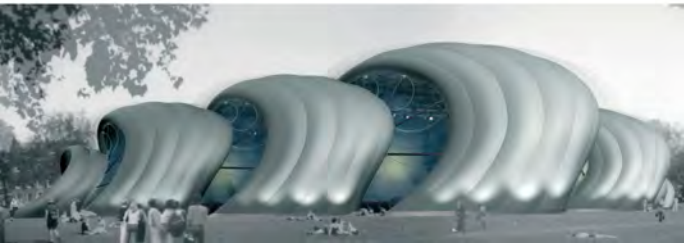
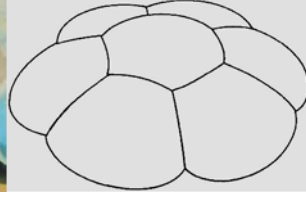
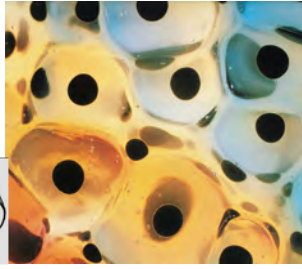


# *inflatable - pneumatic*

# *structures*



*form from suction  
(de-pressure)*

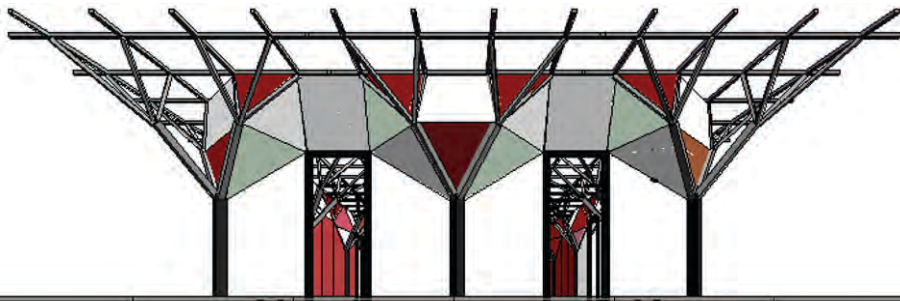


*deriving form from pressure – 1,2 inside – 1,0 outside  
form from suction (de-pressure)  
air pillows – air tubes – air halls*

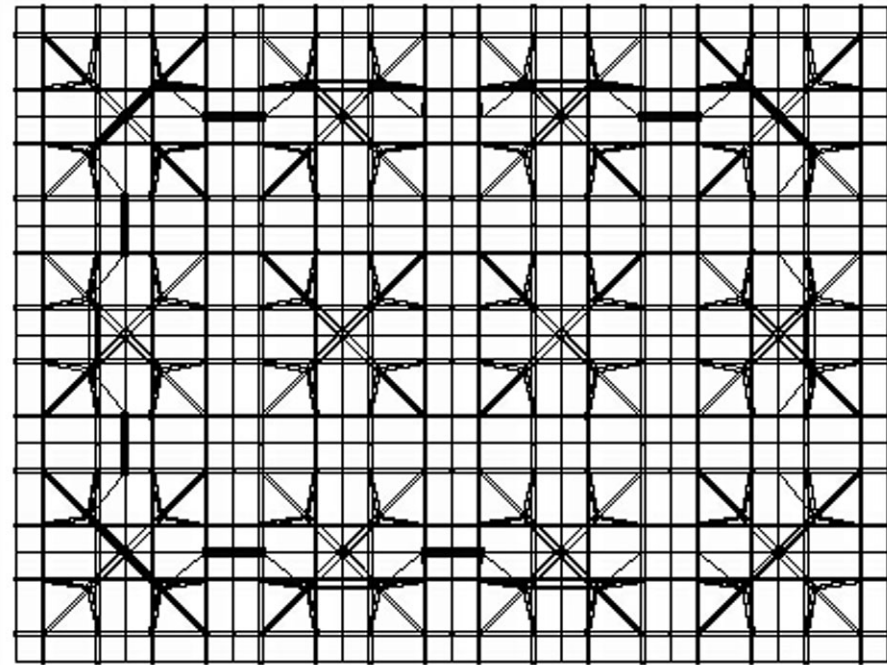


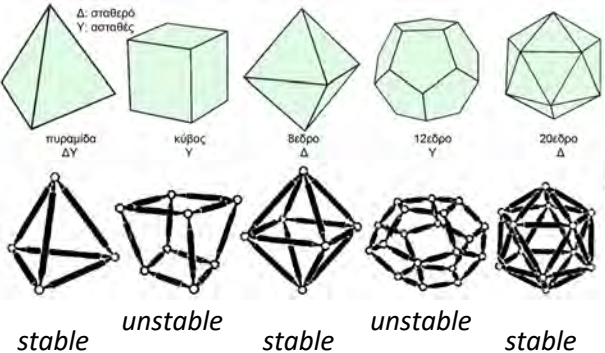


*trees as smart structural elements*



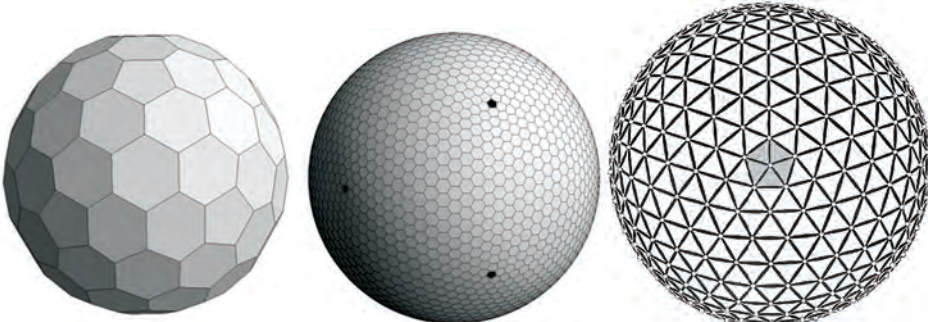
*Coffee bar in Papanikolaou Hospital, Thessaloniki, Greece, 2003  
arch. Nikos Tsiniakas & Fani Vavili*



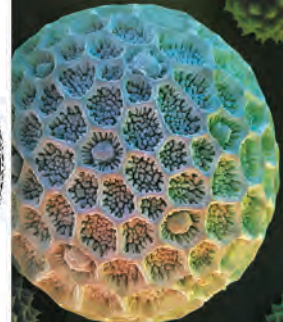


stable    unstable    stable    unstable    stable

surface-active & vector-active

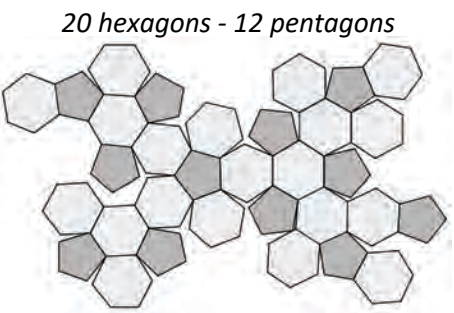


geodesic dome, truncated icosahedron with 20 hexagons-hexahedrons and 12 pentagons-pentahedrons



radiolaria

# geodesic domes



Elevation pattern of a truncated icosahedron



bee eyes (650X), wasp nest, ananas



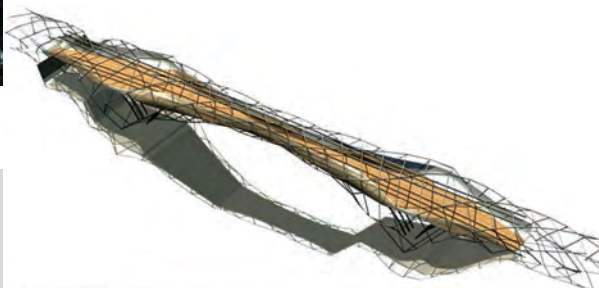
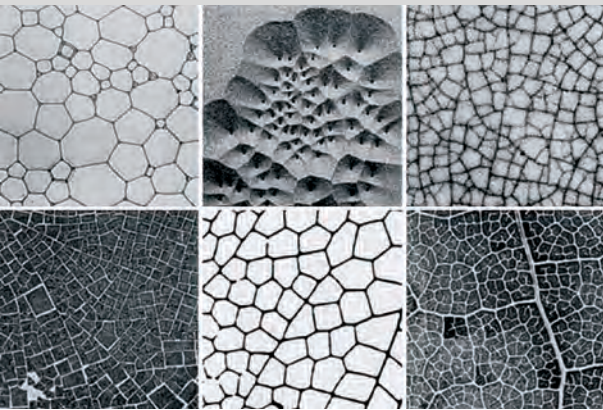
Geodesic Dome, United States Pavilion in Montreal, Buckminster Fuller, 1967.





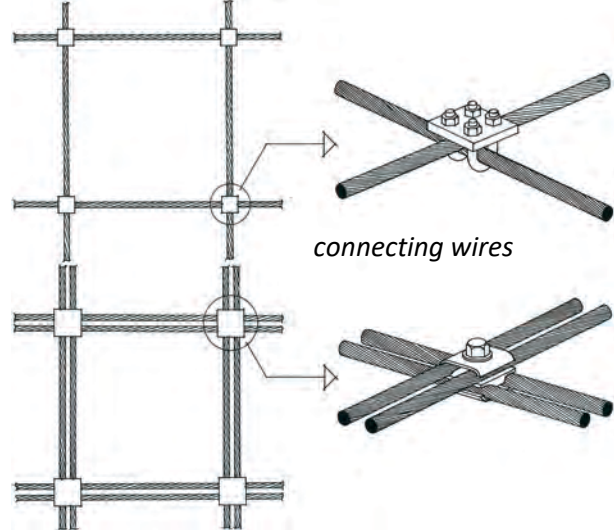
*birdcage, Munich Zoo  
Frei Otto, Buro Happold, 1980*

*bubbles, moving sand, porcelain cracks,  
zelatine cracks, dragonfly feather,  
maple leaf*



# wired surfaces

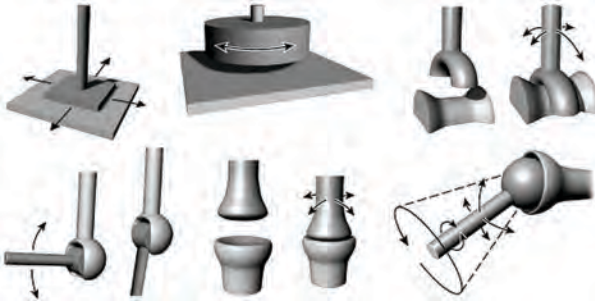
*Preston river bridge, 2008, Sjölander da Cruz Architects.*



*bridge from ants to make way from one leaf to another*



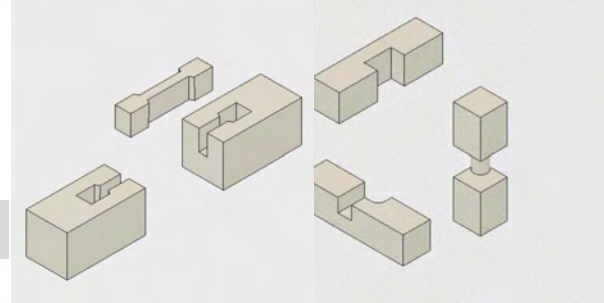
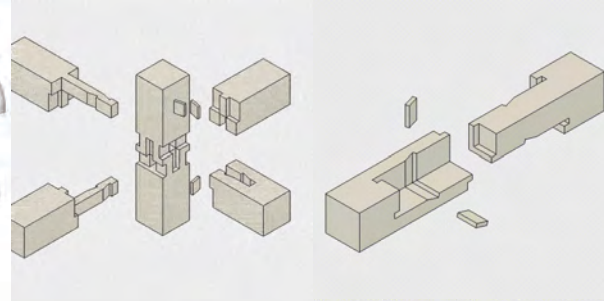
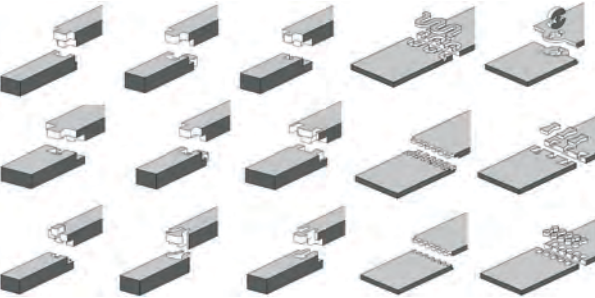
*dome of spongilla fly  
egg yolk (500X) - wireframe*



*joints - assembly connections*

*joints - assembly connections,  
shock absorbers & anti-vibration mechanisms  
in nature & technology*

*joints that are similar to the head bones*



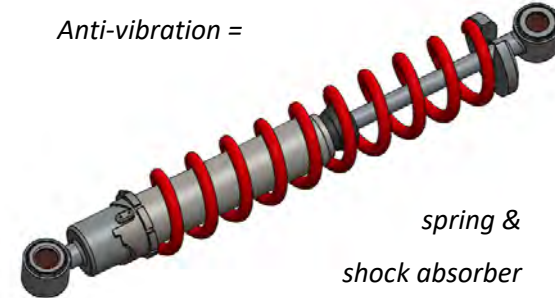
*joints, holding fingers & zipper*



*Woodpecker has 'elastic' materials in his head  
between his beak and skull.  
chimpanzee has lots of leaves and branches in  
his 'soft' 'anti-shock' bed*

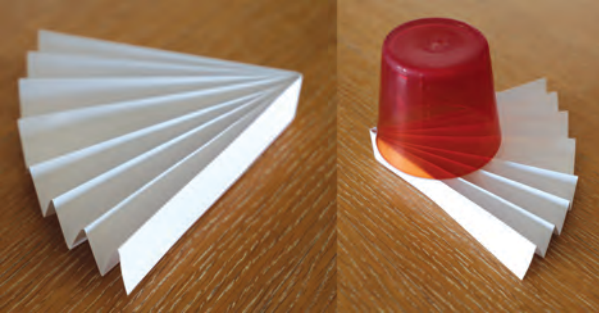


*Anti-vibration =*



*spring &  
shock absorber*

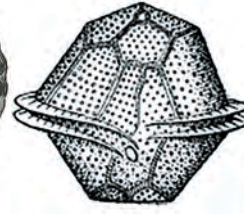
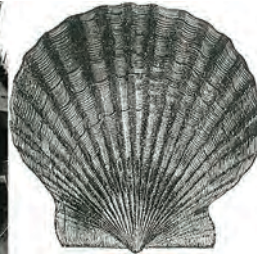
*Nature as a Source of Inspiration to increase the strength of structures*



*Strength of folded paper*



*School, Gratz, Gunther  
Domening 1977*



*voronoi,  
'radiolarian,  
Litharacnium'*



*'jolly green giant' των  
MVRDV, 2004, London*

## *folded & folding structures*

*City hall, Rancho  
Mirage, 'mask of  
batman'*



*Carpinus betulus,  
plant*



*Cactus as folded structure.  
Echinocactus grusonii*



*Lemon squizer  
dome Dresden*

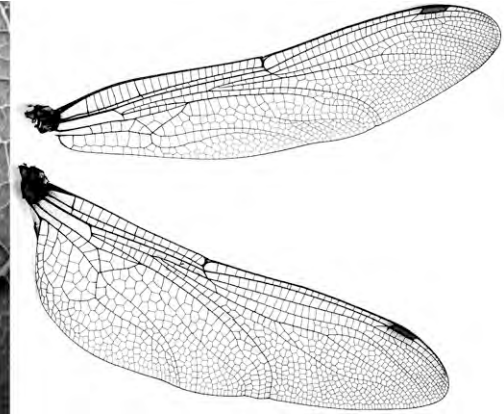
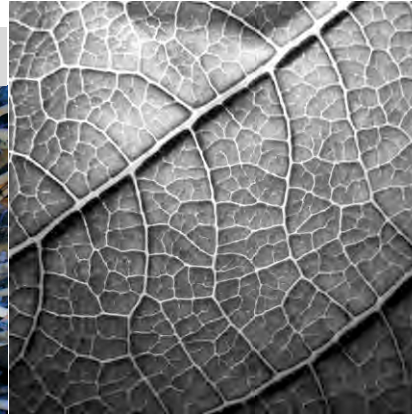


*Folding shell emergency*





*ribs in bamboo and seawater worms*



*Leaf.*

*Voronoi pattern, central axis*

*Dragonfly feather. Axis on top,*

*enhance sections on top.*

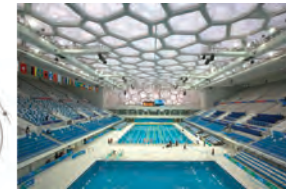
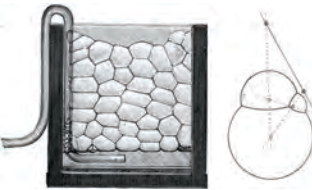
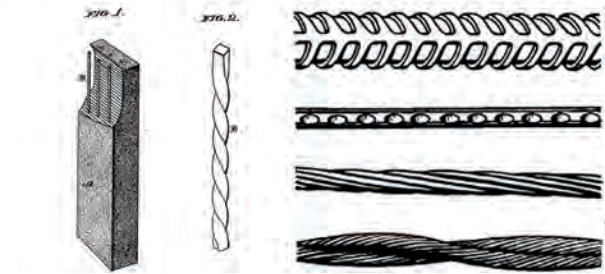
*Reinforcement of concrete with ribs on the wires to improve adhesive welding through the increase of common surface between wires and cement and improve anchorage*



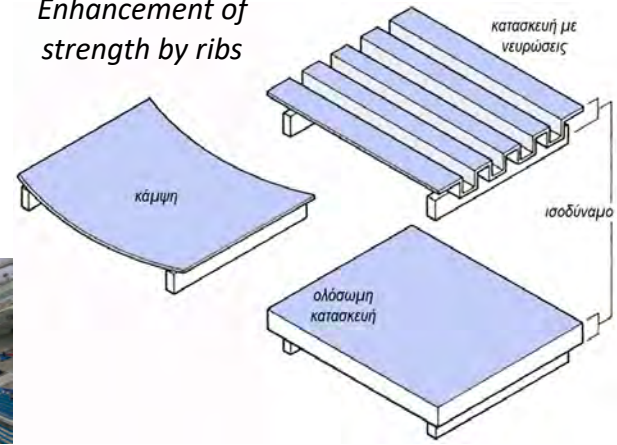
**ribs**

*bubbles angle 120°  
Boys, 1959*

*'watercube'  
Beijing, 2008*

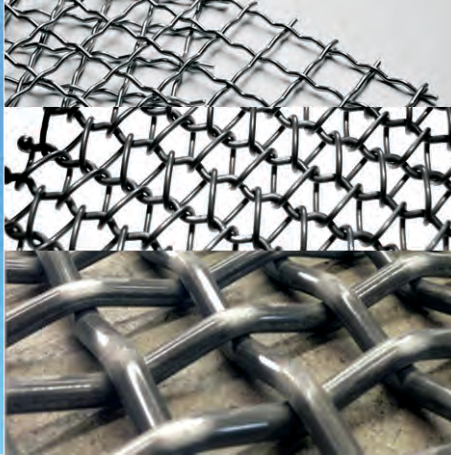


*Enhancement of strength by ribs*

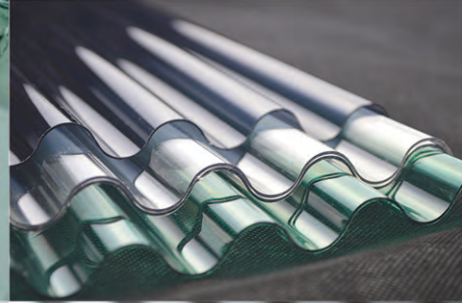
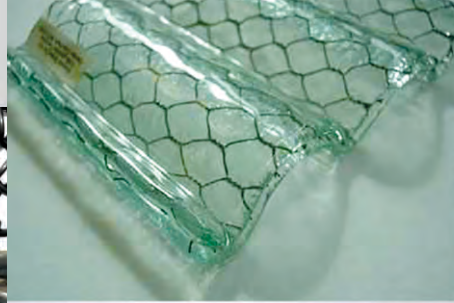




*corrugated wires in bungee jumping*



*corrugated wire mesh*



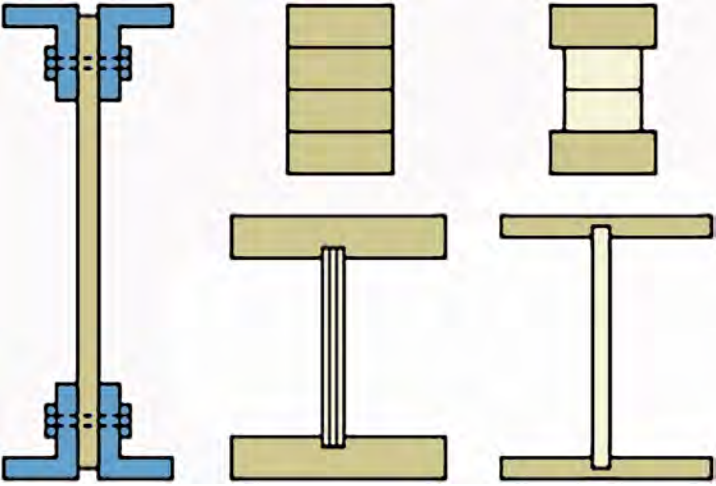
*Bridges with natural cables. Kakum, Ghana & Q'eswachaka, Peru*



*Corrugated form, structural panels. Reinforced plastic panel with corrugated chicken wire glass.*

## *ripples, elasticity*

*ways to enhance the strength of structures  
geometry design of structural elements*



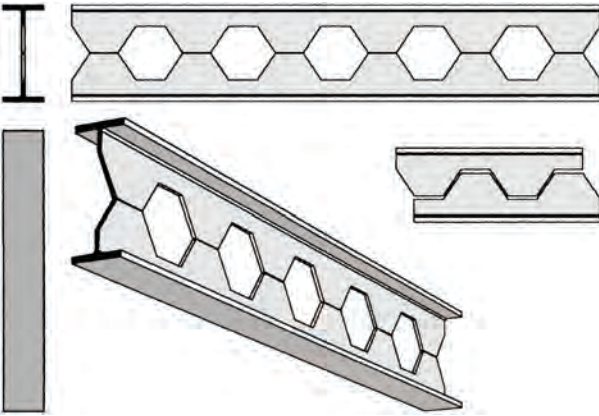
*Double T beams  
4 corners  
and 1 plate  
Layers of  
structural  
wood with  
special  
profile  
sections*

*Double T  
beams from  
wood*



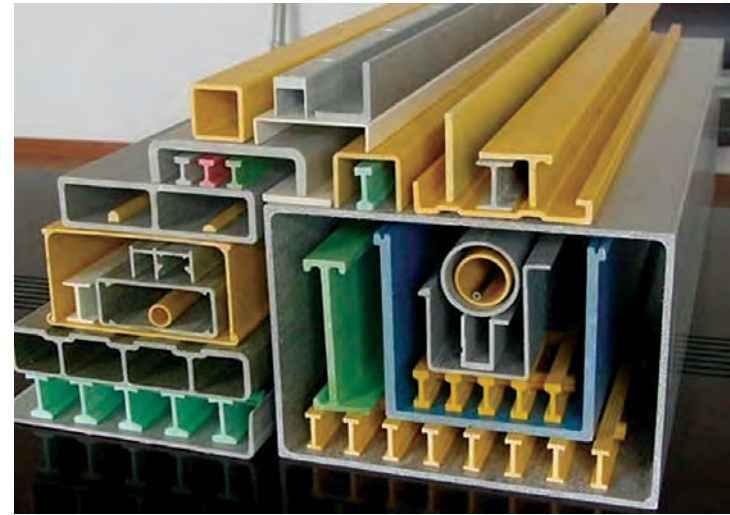
*special profile sections*

*ways to enhance the strength of structures - geometry design of structural elements*



*Double T beams  
And way of  
construction  
Cutting along the  
length and welding.  
Creation of hexagon  
holes for pipes  
Improving the height  
of the beam  
Reducing its weight  
Improving its strength*

*Plastic  
structural  
elements  
(beams or  
pillars)  
With  
increased  
strength due  
to geometry  
design of  
the sections*





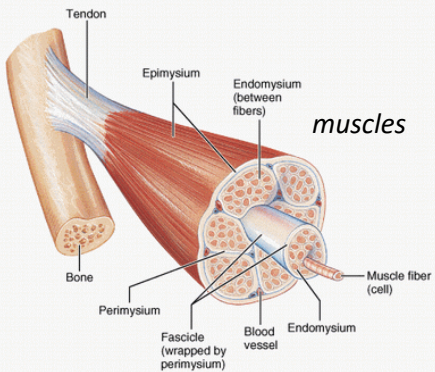
*ways to  
enhance the  
strength of  
structures*



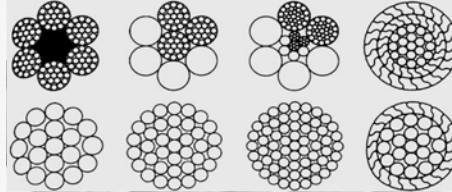
*• Combinations of materials, (wood, metals, concrete)  
in building frames - skeletons*

*Structural Elements With Many Materials*

***compound structures***



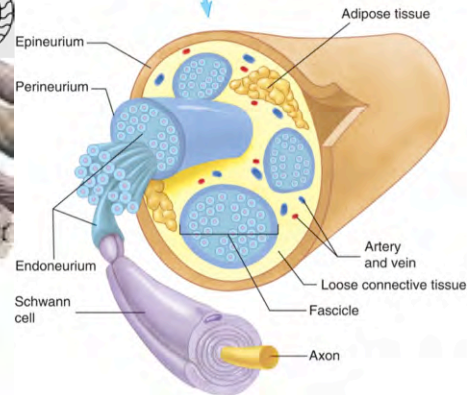
*ropes, muscles, metal cables  
nerves, multi-strand cables,  
multicore wires*



*multicore cables*

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*nerves*

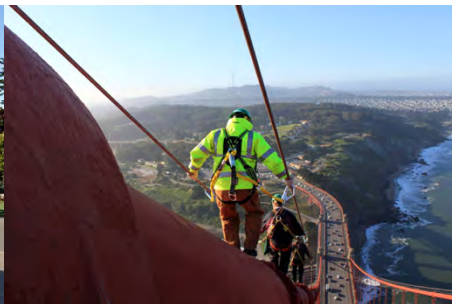


*construction & building elements  
with many materials, multicore  
cables*

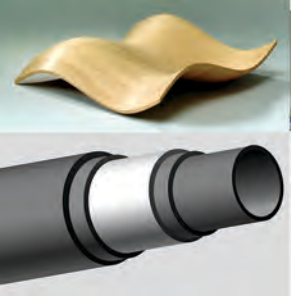
# *multicore cables*



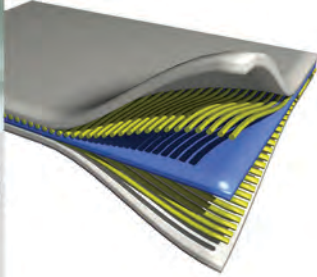
*Golden Gate Bridge, San Francisco, 1280m, 1933*



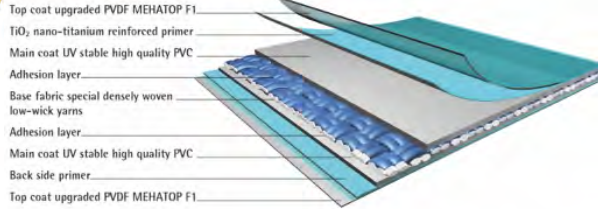
*ways to enhance the strength of  
structures*



Multilayered structural materials.  
Aluminium pipe with insulation layers,  
Wood 'veneer' and 'ciment.wikibis'.

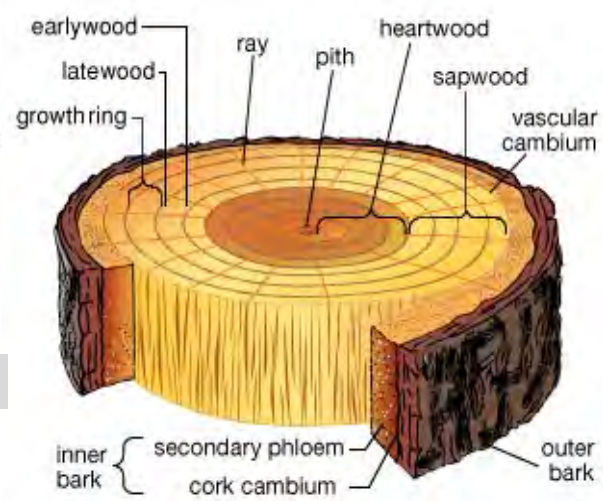


A schematic view of the multilayered material composition:



Multilayered material for tensile membranes

ways to enhance the strength of structures

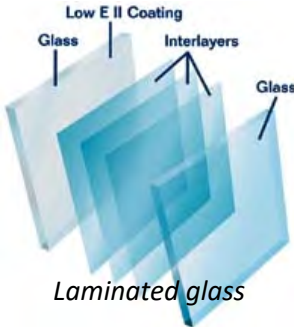


Laminated wood

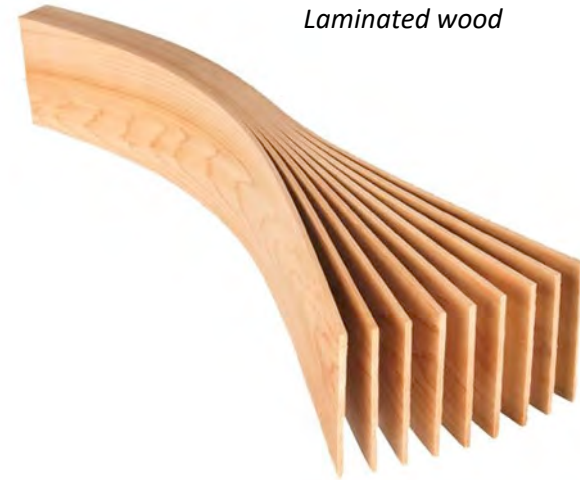
# multilayered structures

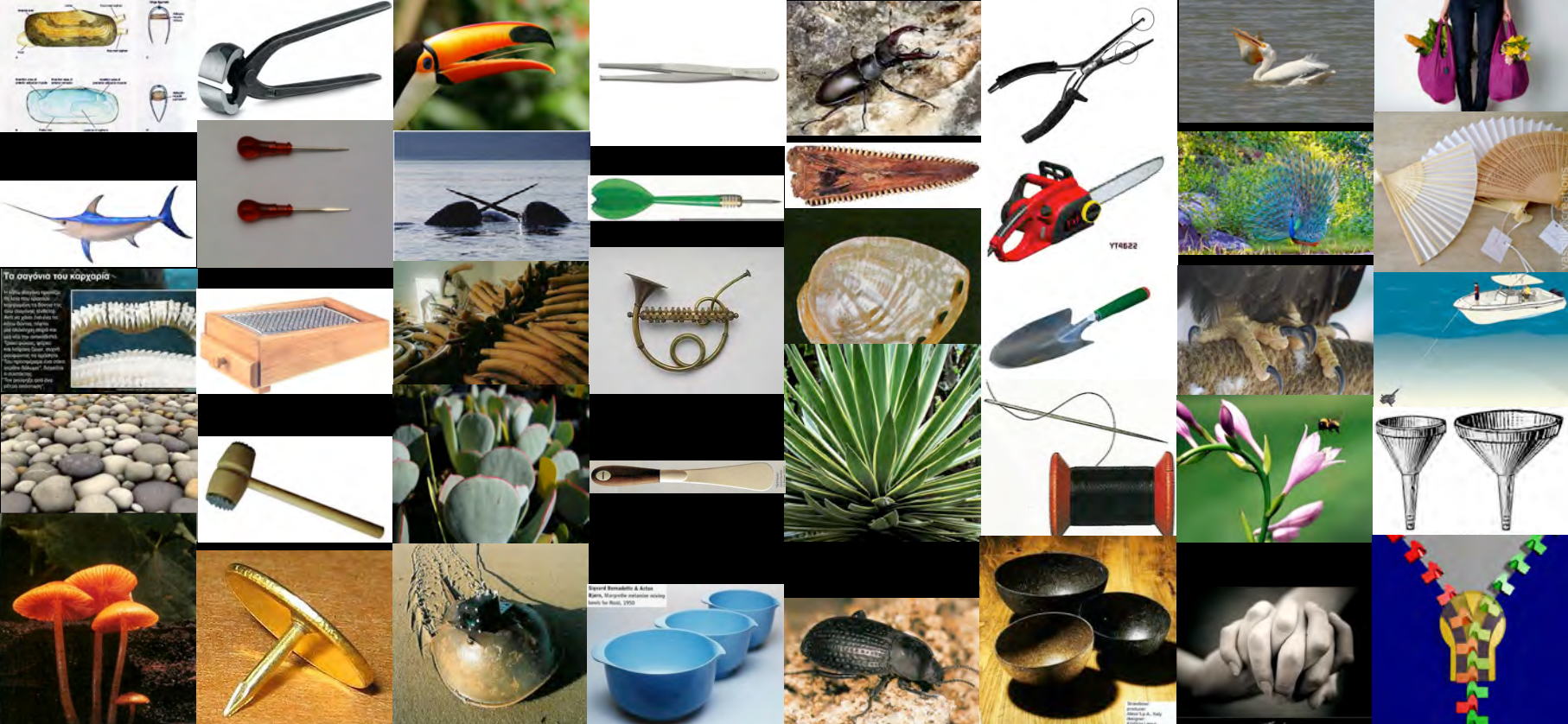


Presner Todd  
hypercities city layers



Layers – Onion - Cabbage





# *nature as a source of inspiration for tools & mechanisms*

*Use, properties: Shear, Penetration, Grip, Tightening, Opening and closing, Picking, Hinges, Cutting, Chopping, Grinding, Assembly, Storage, Fans, Anchoring, Aerodynamic, Antishock absorbers*

Swim  
Swim,  
walk



filter

Find

Catch

insects

Break

nuts

Rip skin

Open

hole

Walk

Balance

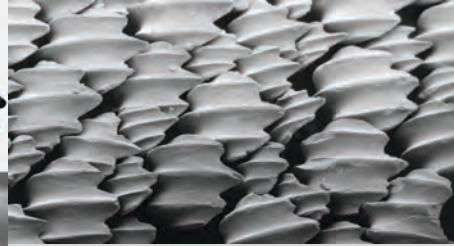
Catch  
prey  
climb



Evolution of foot shapes and beaks  
from different birds in different  
environments.



hydro-aero-dynamics



shark's scales



Leonardo, flying lizard, flying man

genotype > environment >  
> phenotype



Flying machine and bat wings



dreamstime

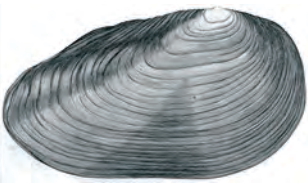
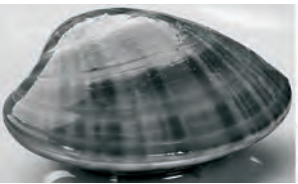


imitation of physical property, form from use, function

hydrodynamic shape, 'slipper'  
does not tip over easily

pangolin, butterfly's scales

skate & aeroplane



Skate and Morton twin-jet fighter bomber







*Stealth insects  
Invisible to predators*



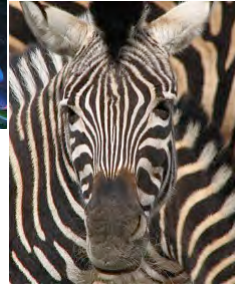
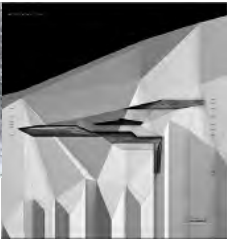
*stealth village in an island in Greece  
invisible to pirates*



*stealth boat, car, jet  
invisible to radars*

## *Camouflage - Stealth architecture*

*defence – attack, mimesis, hiding, optical illusion, blur, Stealth Architecture, Super-flatness*

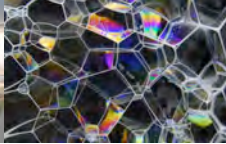




boat, Z. Hadid



Toyo Ito, Bone Structure inside out



Voronoi façade



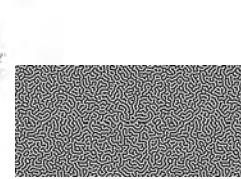
Richard Rogers Mallorca



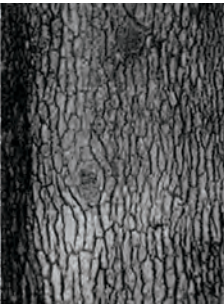
Marrakech Morocco



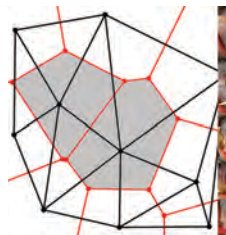
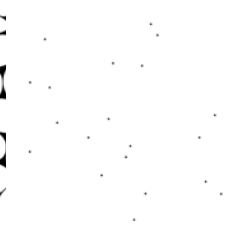
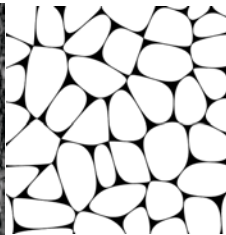
Cities & Complexity, Batty, 2005



Reaction-diffusion, blurs-sharpen,



Zanzibar & pine bark

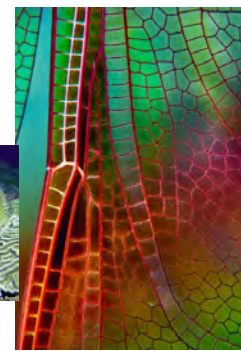


Voronoi & ananas

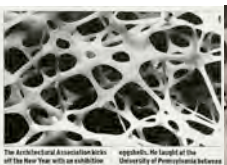
'voronoi', frog eggs 13X & corn

# 'voronoi' patterns

Dragonfly wing



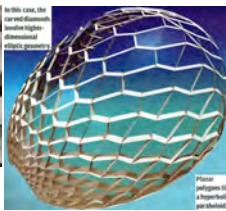
Bone Structure inside out



osteoporosis



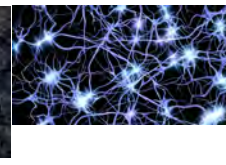
Heliptical dome



mud



Brain synapses



Brain Coral





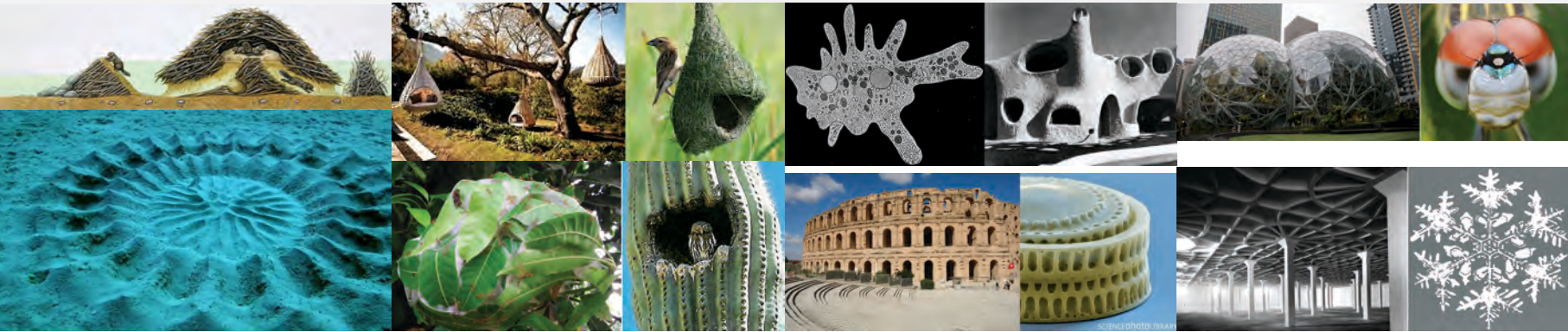
*exoskeleton - bone structures*

*life at the bottom of the sea*

*nature as the ultimate source of inspiration in architecture*

*the architects of nature*

*microcosmos*



*Richard Rogers*

&

*Norman Foster*

*by Eva Jiricna*





*Thessaloniki  
From Above  
From My  
Heart ...*

*Thank You For  
Listening!*

*The UIA GGWI  
(Great Green Wall Initiative):  
Interactive Webinar  
26th March 2022*

*Nikolaos TSINIKAS  
Professor Emeritus  
School of Architecture, Aristotle  
University of Thessaloniki, Greece*