

AN ATTEMPT TO BUILD
AN IDEAL STRUCTURE,
COLLAPSED.

Marco Polo describes a bridge, stone
by stone.

“But which is the stone that supports the
bridge?” Kublai Khan asks.

“The bridge is not supported by one stone
or another,” Marco answers, “but by the
line of the arch that they form.”

Kublai Khan remains silent, reflecting.
Then he adds: “Why do you speak to
me of the stones? It is only the arch that
matters to me.”

Polo answers: “Without stones there is
no arch.”

Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*



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COLLAPSED.

45 BRICKS, MORTAR MIX, WATER, SUPPORT FORM BUILT FROM WOOD, SCREWS,
4 HOURS BUILDING, 3 HOURS CURING, FELL DOWN IMMEDIATELY AFTER FORM WAS REMOVED,
YUN YU, 2016, MADE DURING WT/ISIA SUMMER SCHOOL, URBINO, ITALY.

Arches, vaults and domes, were structural devices developed by the Romans as an evolution of Greek architecture – it allowed stone columns to span longer distance.

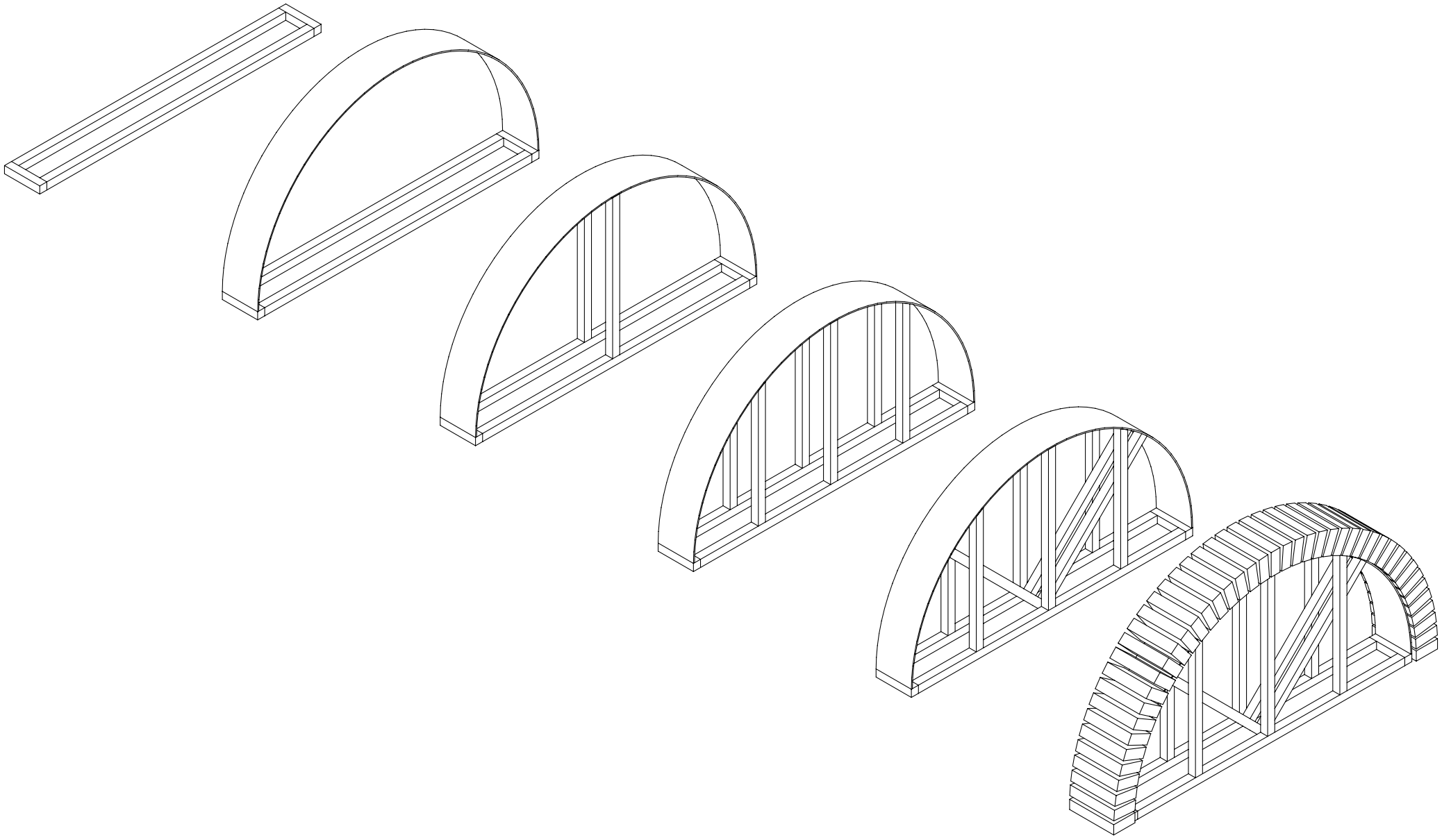
An arch is a pure compression form. It can span a large area and directs the pressure downwards and outwards, creating a strong passage underneath it that has the ability to support heavy structures.

When you build an arch, usually you will need to build a form as a supportive structure from within. By removing it after the bricks are in place, the arch takes form and keeps supporting the weight bear above it, and protecting the space inside it.

It supports, but it also contains – like home.

I decided to build my own brick arch from scratch in Urbino using local resource, as an intimate study, a symbolic act, a physical statement, and expecting every outcome from the process.







Local sourcing / building the support form



Building the brick arch



Removing the form

45 bricks, mortar mix, water. Support form built from wood and screws. 4 hours building, 3 hours curing, fell down immediately after form was removed.



Collapsed

A project by Yun Yu (yun-yu.com),
made during Werkplaats Typografie /
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