LYCEUM TRAVEL REPORT

~~2020~~ 2022

Nicholas Earman

The year of 2020 is one that is hard to forget. I can't extend my thanks enough to the Lyceum foundation for both selecting me as the winner of the 2020 competition, but for also being flexible and patient in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially intending to begin my travels directly after completing my undergraduate degree, I ultimately elected to postpone my travels two years, giving me time to finish graduate school and the world an opportunity to combat the global pandemic. The Lyceum board was extremely considerate and supportive of my decision to postpone my travels after an unprecedented year. By the summer of 2022, I was ready to embark on my journey across Europe, visiting a total of 9 countries.

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IRELAND

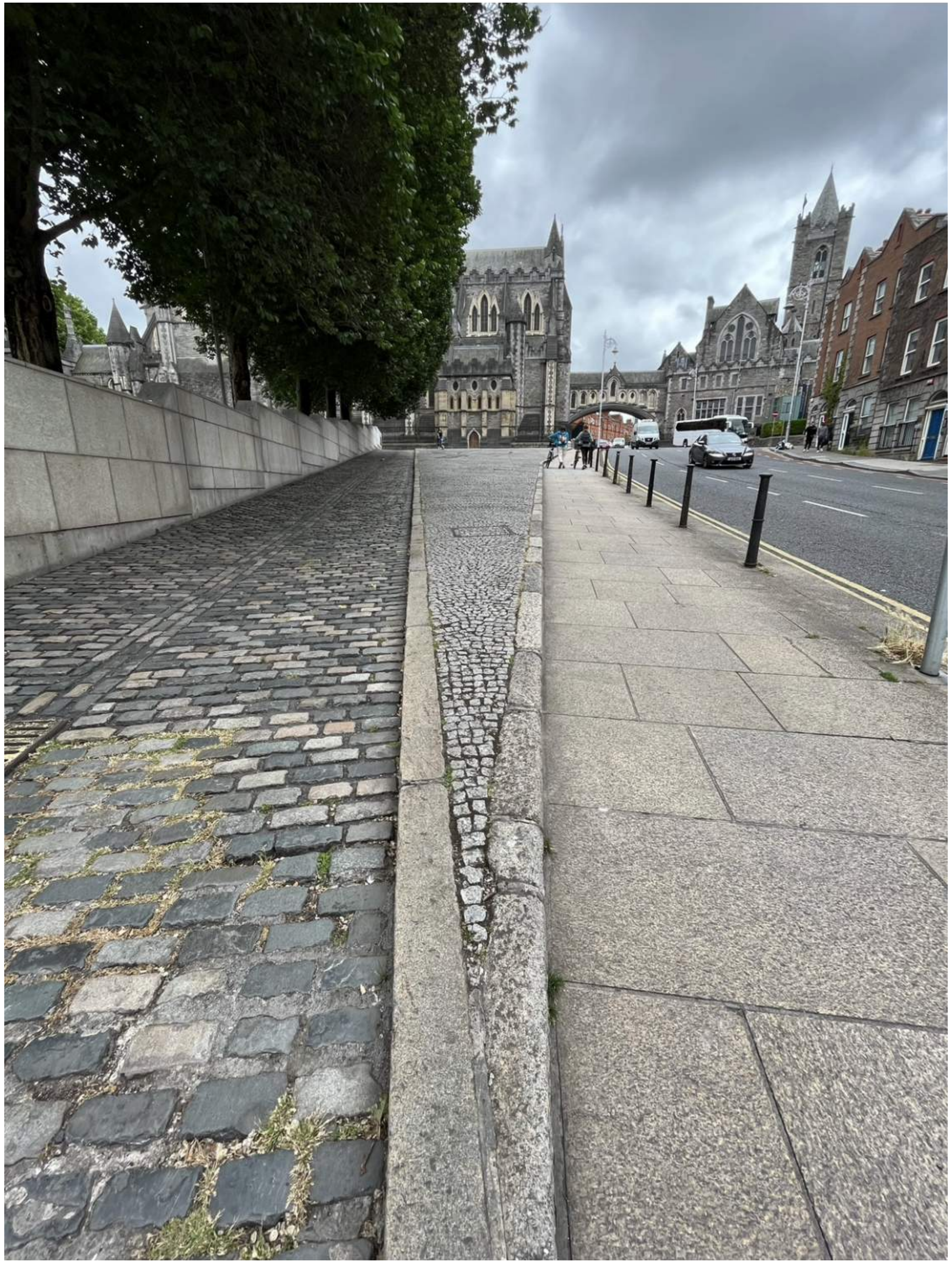
DUBLIN

07/08 — 07/10

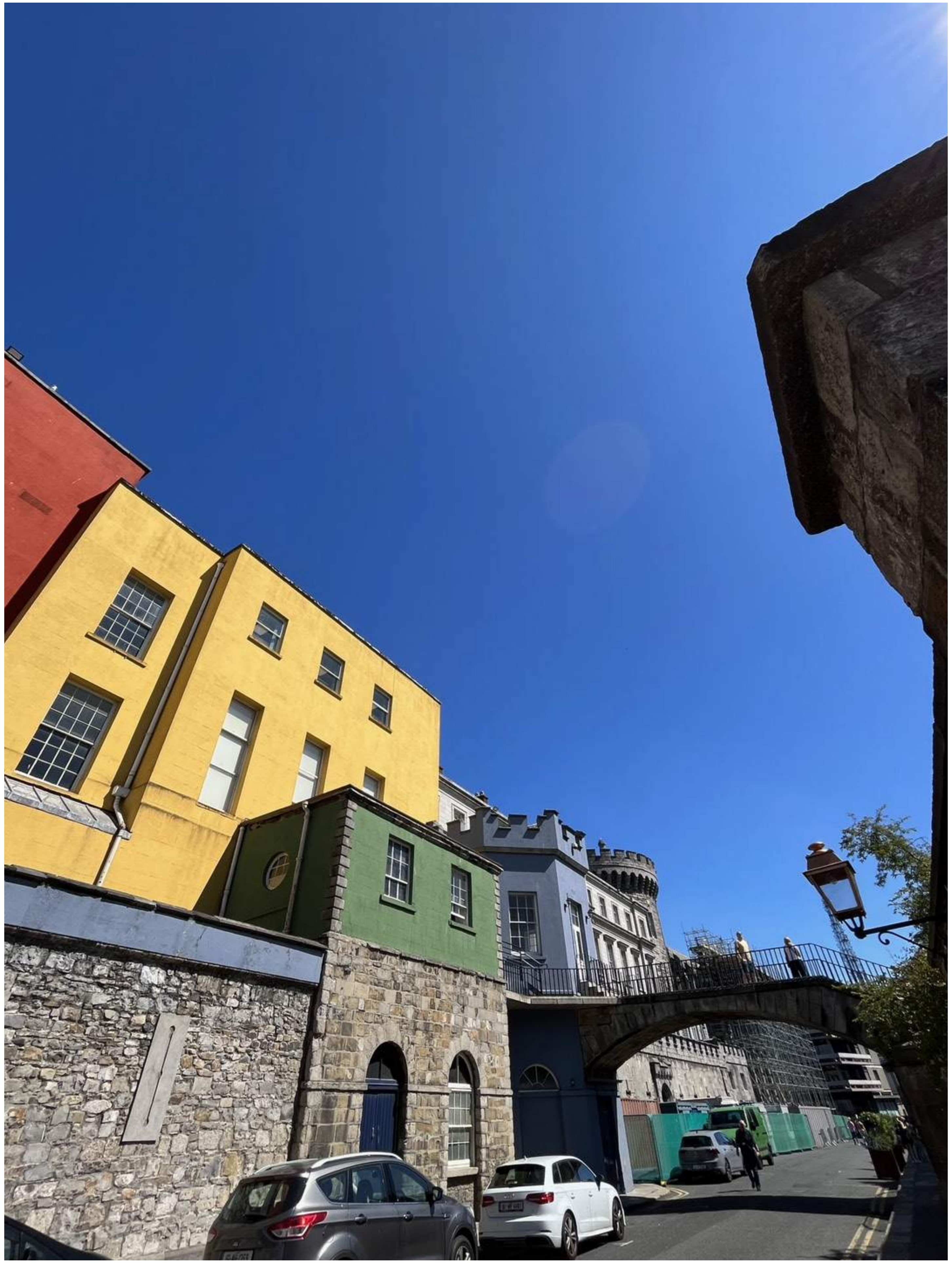
After a long flight, I was very excited and a bit nervous to begin my journey. This was my first time leaving the United States and by far the longest trip I've ever taken. Having landed before 12:00pm in Dublin, I had a full day ahead of me and I immideately began exploring after checking into my first hostel. The weather in Ireland was pretty cloudy and cool most of the time- my favorite weateher, perfect for walking the city without an intense sun.

I was able to visit many of the city's famous landmarks, including the Dublin Castle and the Guinness Storehouse. The Dublin Castle was especially impressive, with its imposing presence and bright colors. In addition to visiting the historic sites, I also had the opportunity to explore some of the city's contemporary attractions. One of the highlights of my trip here was visiting the EPIC Irish Emigration Museum, a leading European tourist attraction. I was able to see some incredible artifacts and learn about the city's famous writers, inventors, artists and architects. The food in Dublin was fantastic, and I enjoyed trying some of the local cuisine, including Irish stew and soda bread. The Temple Bar area was very lively, and I was able to see some musical performances and try some of the city's famous pub food. I was also able to sample some of the city's famous Guinness atop the historic storehouse in the new rooftop Gravity Bar addition.

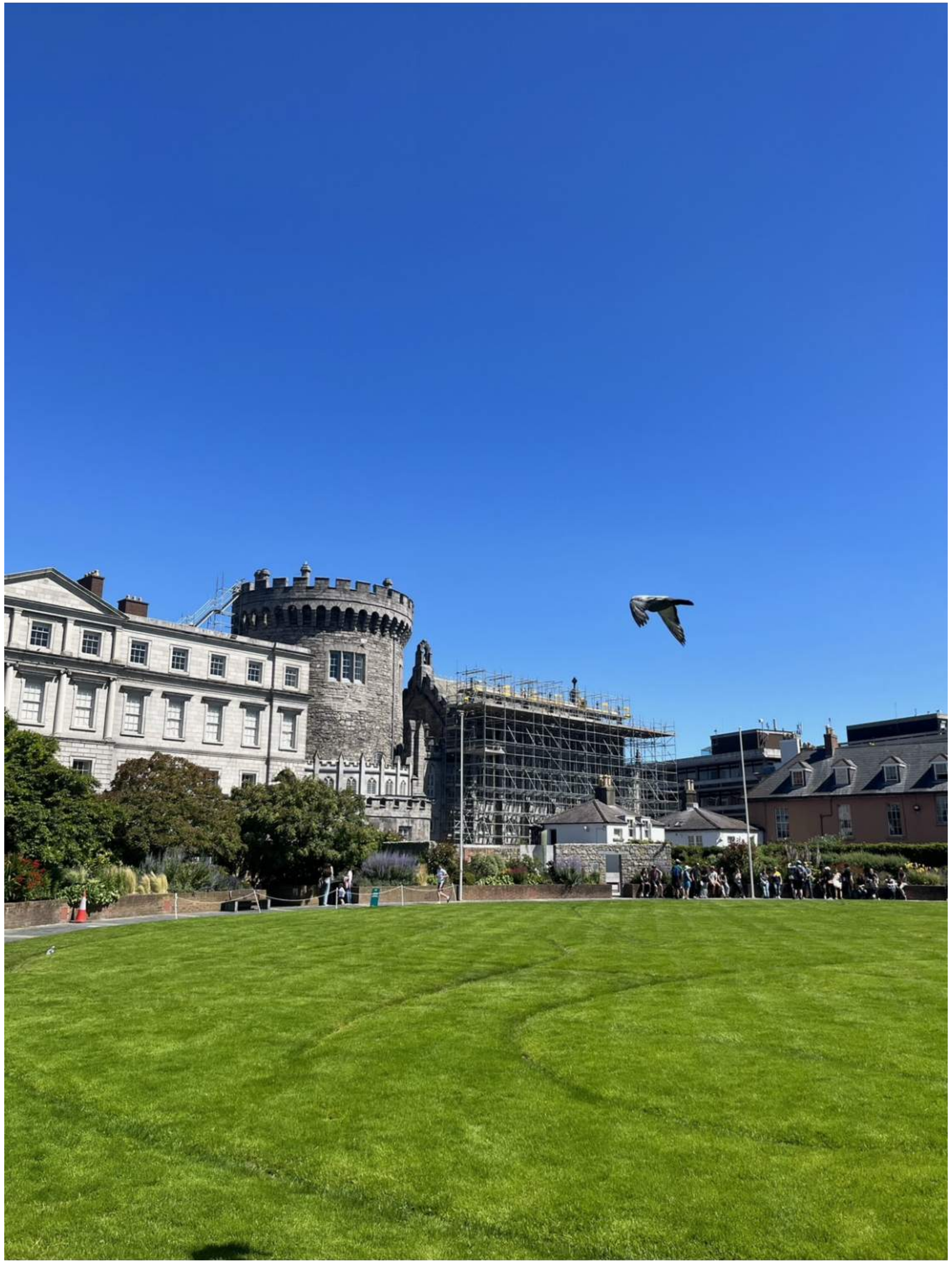
Overall, I had a wonderful time in Dublin and would highly recommend it as a destination. The city's history, culture, and food make it a truly special place to visit. While public transportation is easily accessible, I found Dublin to be extremely walkable and I was able to get from end to end in less than an hour. I especially loved the city's vibrant night-life and its friendly locals, who were always eager to help me if I needed it. Getting lost and wandering Dublin's beautiful streets was the best way to start my journey across Europe.



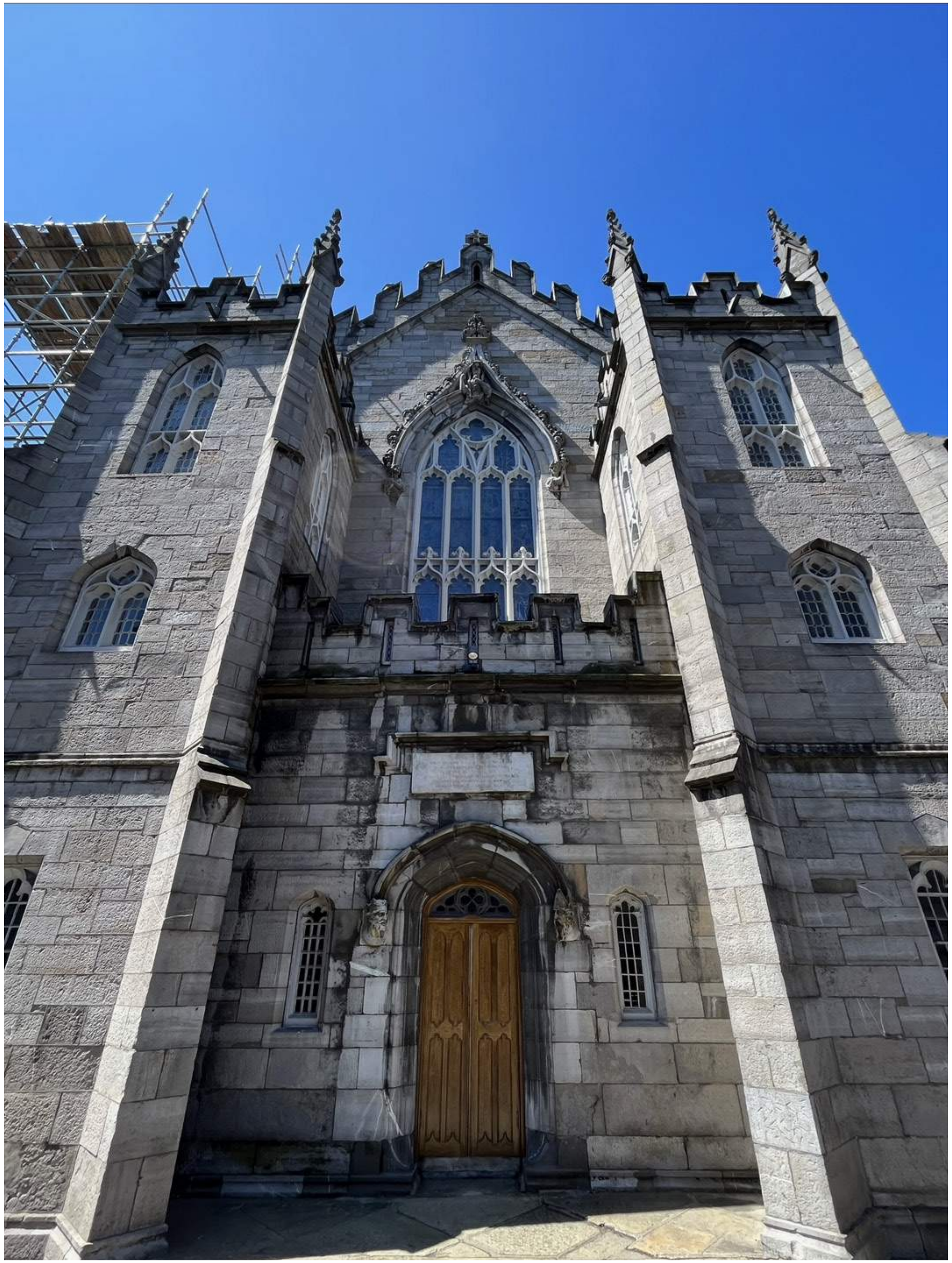
Christ Church Cathedral



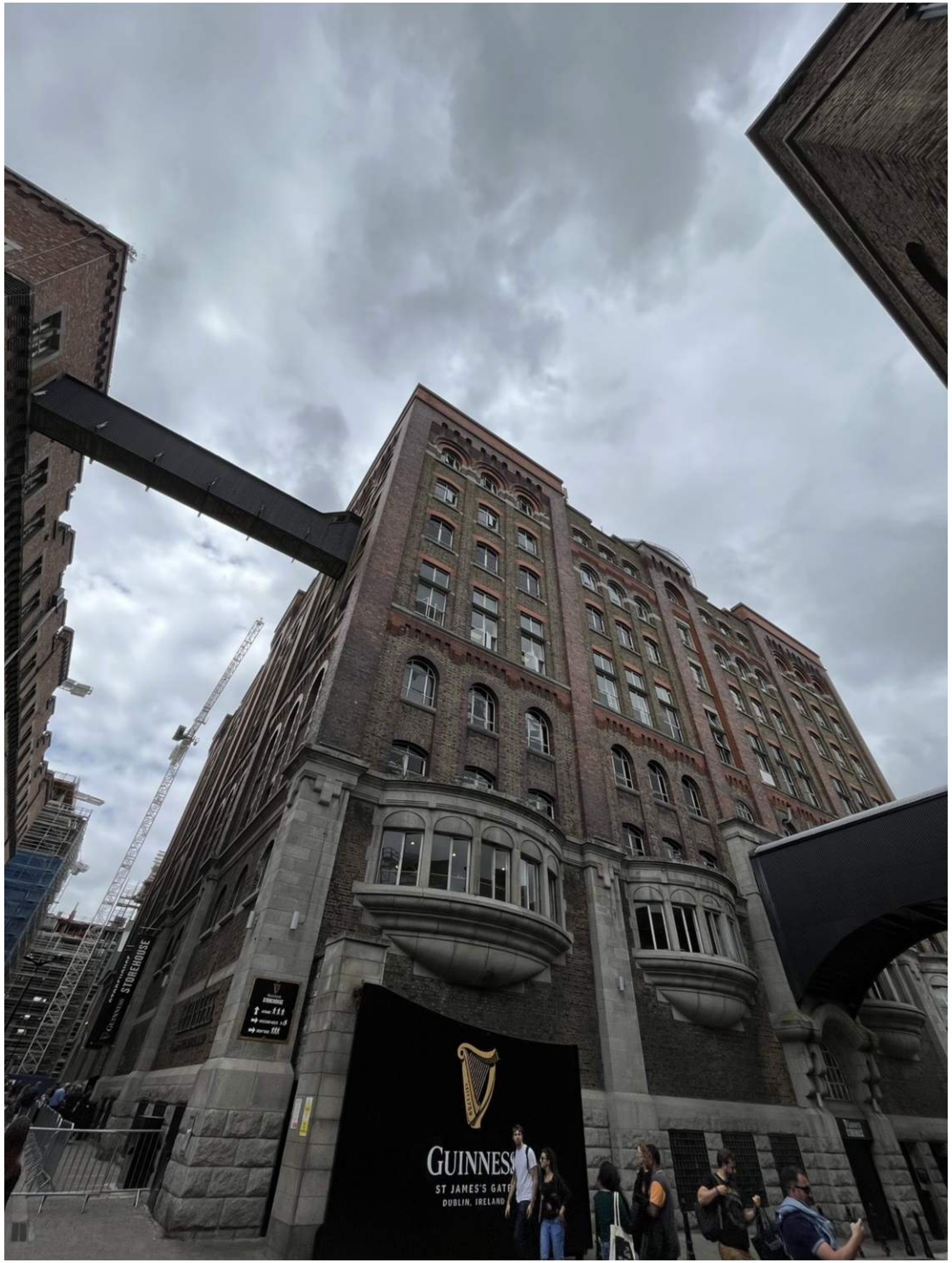
Dublin Castle



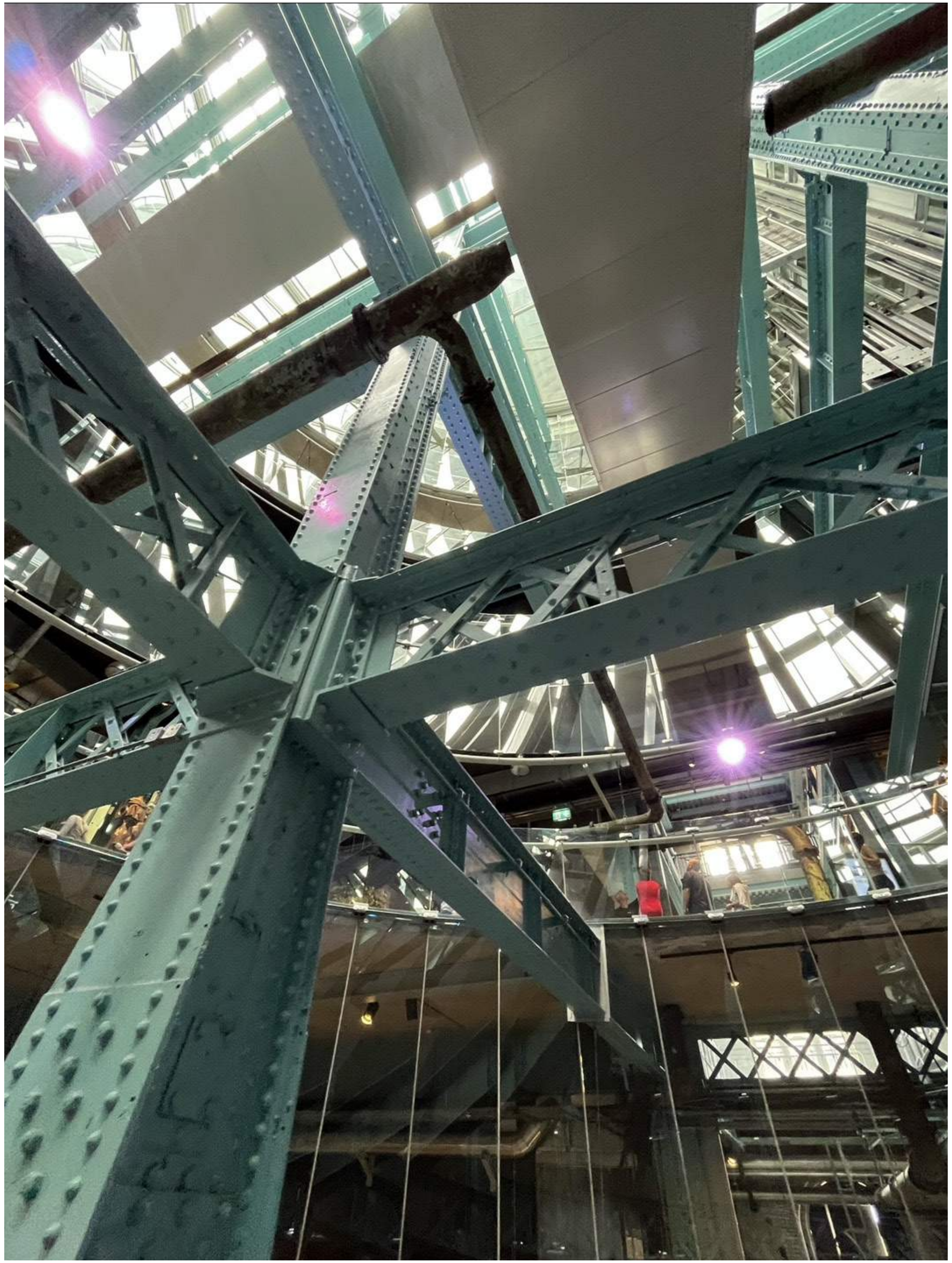
Dublin Castle



The Chapel Royal


STOREHOUSE
GUINNESS
ST JAMES'S GATE
DUBLIN, IRELAND

Guinness Storehouse



Guinness Storehouse

Guinness Storehouse Gravity Bar

In my opinion, a trip to Ireland cannot be complete without a trip to the UNESCO World Heritage site just outside of Galway, the Cliffs of Moher. This was one of the highlights of my entire trip and was well worth the day trip to them from Galway, which has some unique sites of its own. The views there were absolutely breathtaking and certainly made me feel small.

In addition to visiting the Cliffs of Moher, I also had the opportunity to explore some of Galway's famous historical landmarks and streets. Galway has a rich history and is known for its beautiful architecture and castles outside the city. The city was founded in the 12th century by the Normans and was initially a walled city. The city's walls and gates can still be seen today and are a reminder of its past. Over the centuries, Galway has seen a variety of different architectural styles, including Gothic, Renaissance, and Victorian. Galway is also home to some contemporary architectural wonders. The city is known for its vibrant arts scene, and many of its contemporary buildings are designed to reflect this. I was able to catch the Galway International Arts Festival and see some unique art and sample great food on a rainy day.

Overall, I had a wonderful time in Galway and would highly recommend the journey, as it is a very short train ride from Dublin. My train ride to get back to Dublin in time for my flight to Scotland, didn't exactly go as planned. I got the unfortunate news halway between Galway and Dublin that the train had to stop due to an obstruction ahead and we would not be continuing the journey on it. Thankfully, the operators had arranged for several coach busses to come pick us up and take us to our original destination in Dublin. The busses wouldn't come until close to midnight, so I had to manage to quickly get some rest to be ready for my flight in just a few hours.

Nimmo's Pier

River Corrib

South Park

Poulnabrone

Dunguaire Castle

McGann's Pub & Restaurant, Doolin

Ballyreen

Cliffs of Moher

Cliffs of Moher

TREASURE CHEST
LAZLO
SEODÓIRÍ

SCOTLAND

EDINBURGH

07/13 — 07/16

Of all the cities I've traveled to, I was most surprised by Edinburgh. The city has a mix of medieval, Georgian, and modern architecture, with many important historical buildings and landmarks in-between. One of these is the Old Town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a labyrinth of narrow streets, alleys, and corridors with many buildings dating back to the medieval period. These streets make it very easy and enjoyable to get lost.

One of the most famous and iconic buildings in Edinburgh is Edinburgh Castle, which sits atop Castle Rock, an ancient volcano. The castle has a long and storied history, and has been a royal residence, a military stronghold, and a prison over the course of its existence. The castle is known for its dramatic location and its impressive architecture, impossible to miss from anywhere in the city. Edinburgh is home to some contemporary attractions amongst all the history, such as the National Museum of Scotland. I spent hours here, which still was not enough time to explore all its artifacts, history, and architecture.

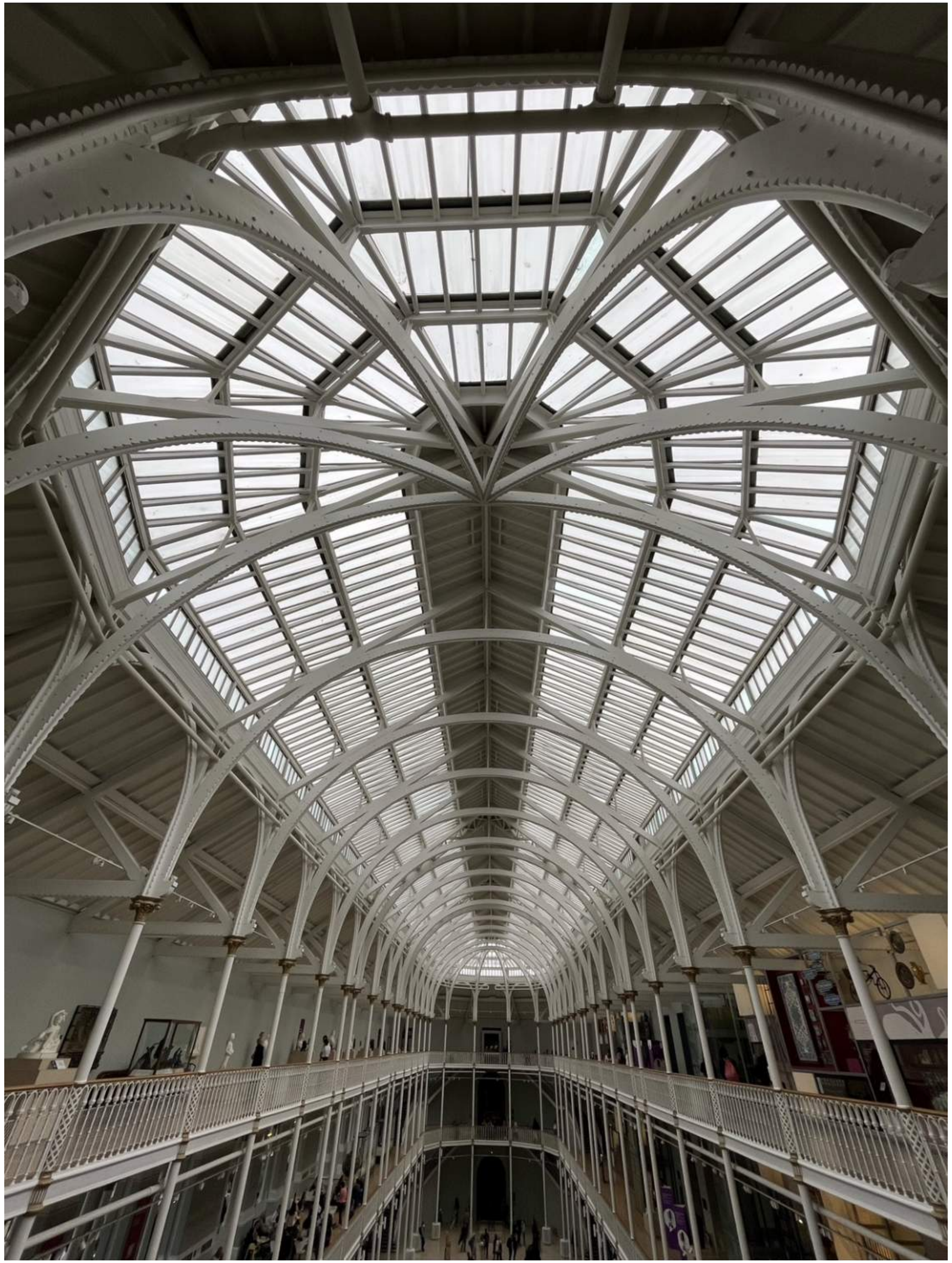
At night, this city takes on a whole new persona. It feels like you're walking through an endless movie set beneath towering building that emit an eerie light. Although it did rain periodically during my time here, it only added to the mood of the city, and I am eager to return here at some point to continue my explorations.

Calton Road

Scott Monument

DUGALD STEWART

Calton Hill



National Museum of Scotland

St. Giles' Cathedral

KILTMAKERS
100% HEAVY WEIGHT WOOL
LADIES KILTS
KIDS KILTS
MENS KILTS
WEST BOW

Victoria Street

Oink

BOSWELL'S COURT

Tolbooth Kirk

Calton Hill

ENGLAND

LONDON 07/16 — 07/19

As I flew into London, I was certainly missing the cool weather I was leaving behind. I didn't know it at the time, but I was about to experience the hottest days London has ever had. At its worst, the temperature rose to 41°C or 105.8°F. Even worse, many of the buildings built in London were built to retain heat, as they don't usually experience temperatures this high. Thankfully, the hostel I stayed in did have a small A/C unit in the room, which certainly made the nights more tolerable. Despite the heat, I was determined to see everything I had planned and enjoy my stay.

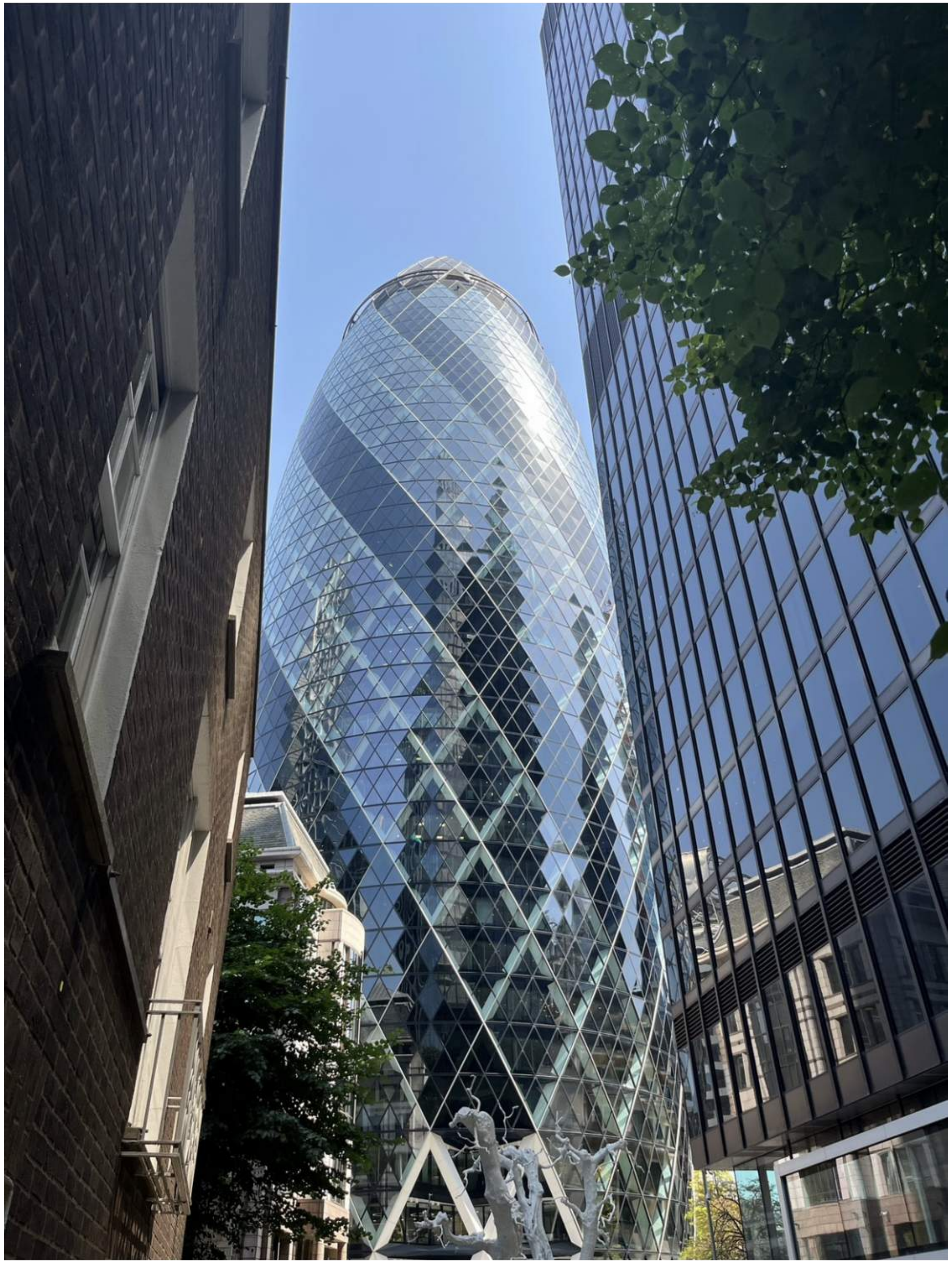
London, although very comparable to America, has a rich and diverse history, with many buildings that reflect its past and its evolution as a major city and hub of Europe. World famous architects such as Zaha Hadid, Herzog & De Meuron, and Richard Rogers have all left their mark on this expansive city. Much of my time in London was spent indoors whenever possible given the heat. This gave me a lot of time to explore galleries such as the Tate Modern, a familiar project that I have researched during my time in school.

London is one of those cities where no matter how much time you spend there, you still don't have time to see and do it all. I hope I'll have a chance to return and return to explore everything else I didn't have the chance to, perhaps not in the middle of summer next time. Next, I'll be taking my last flight for a while and head to Cologne, Germany.

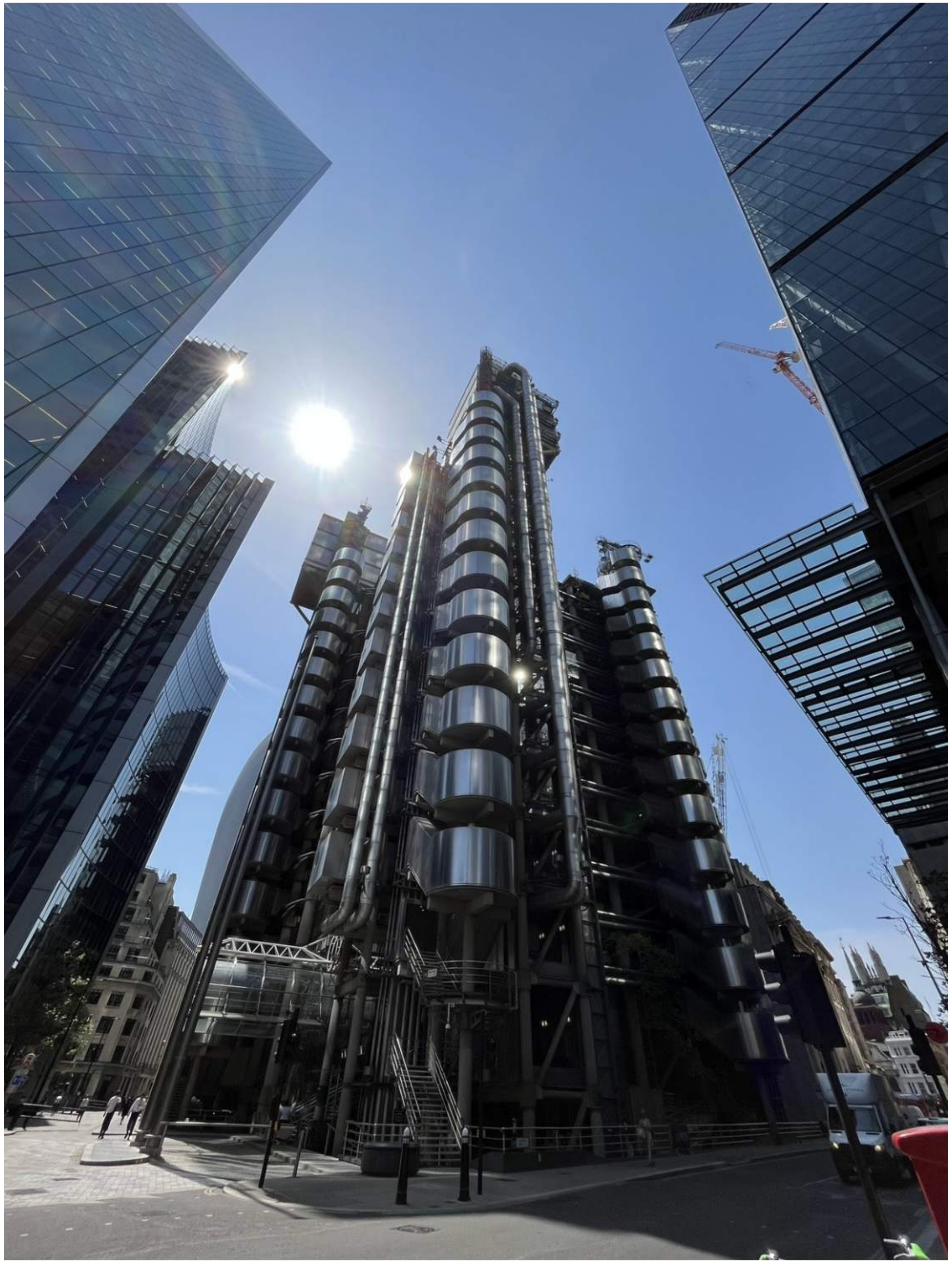
The London Eye

Serpentine North Gallery

Serpentine North Gallery



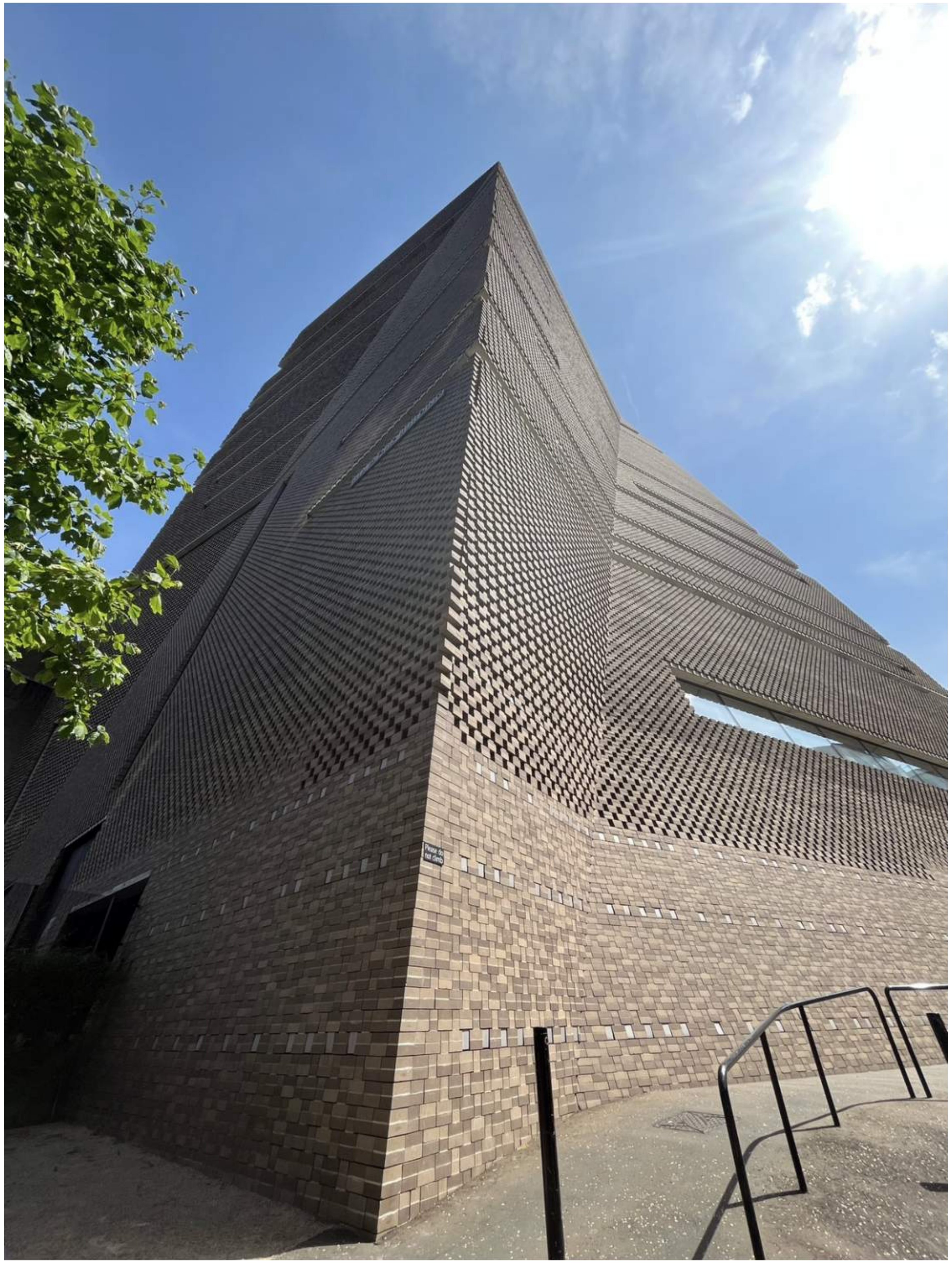
The Gherkin



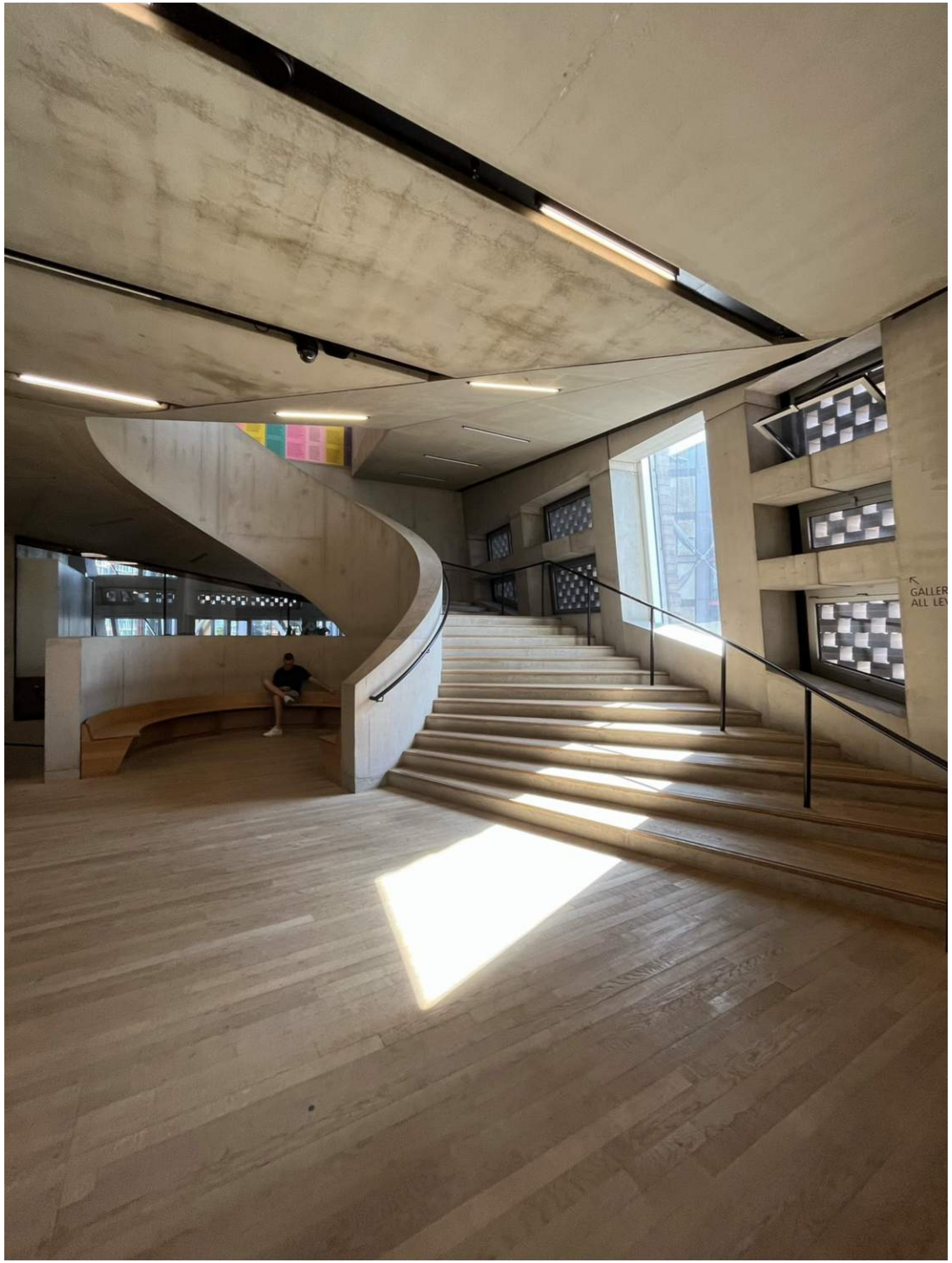
Lloyd's Building

TATE MODERN

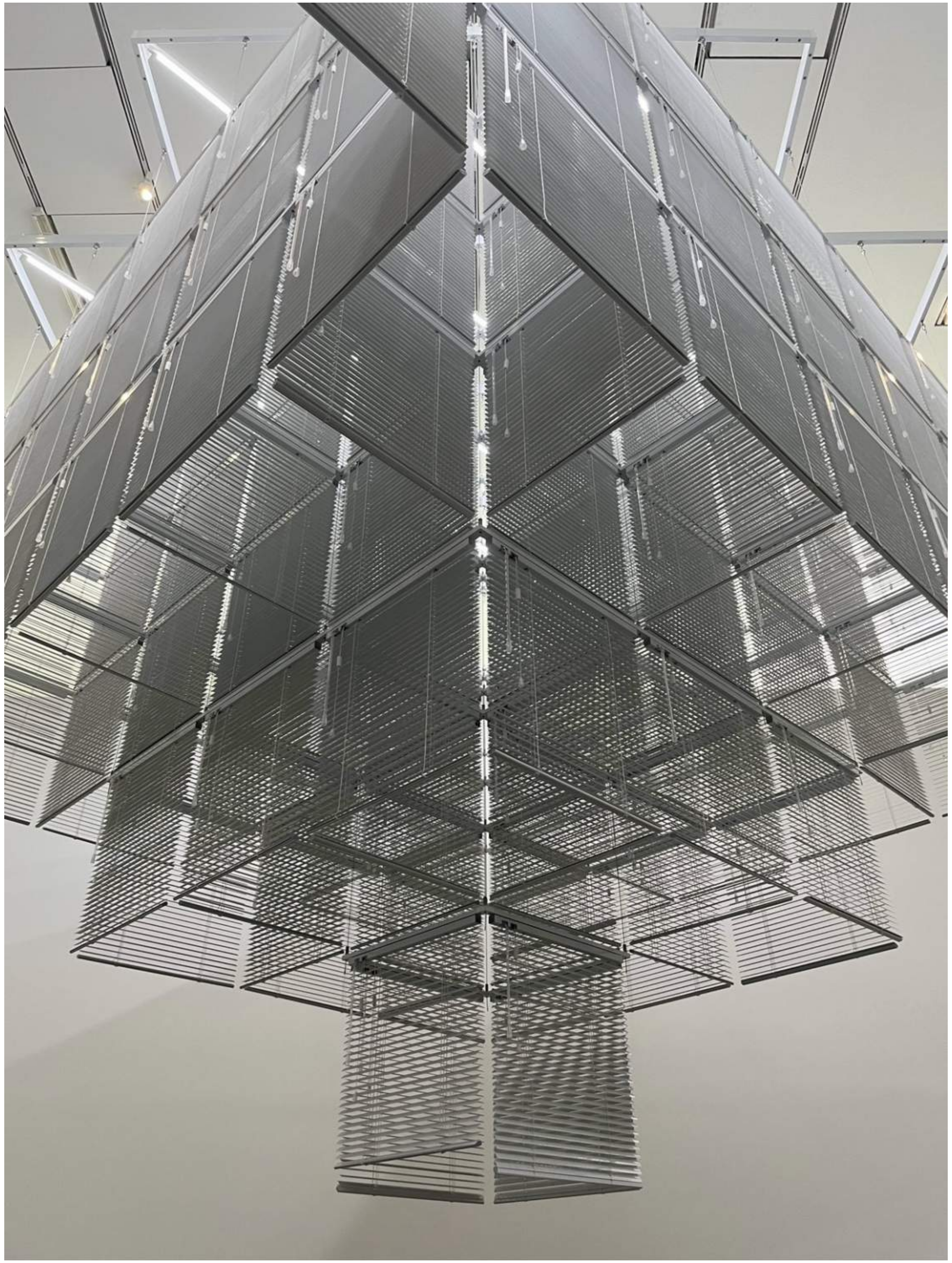
Tate Modern



Tate Modern


GALLER
ALL LEV

Tate Modern

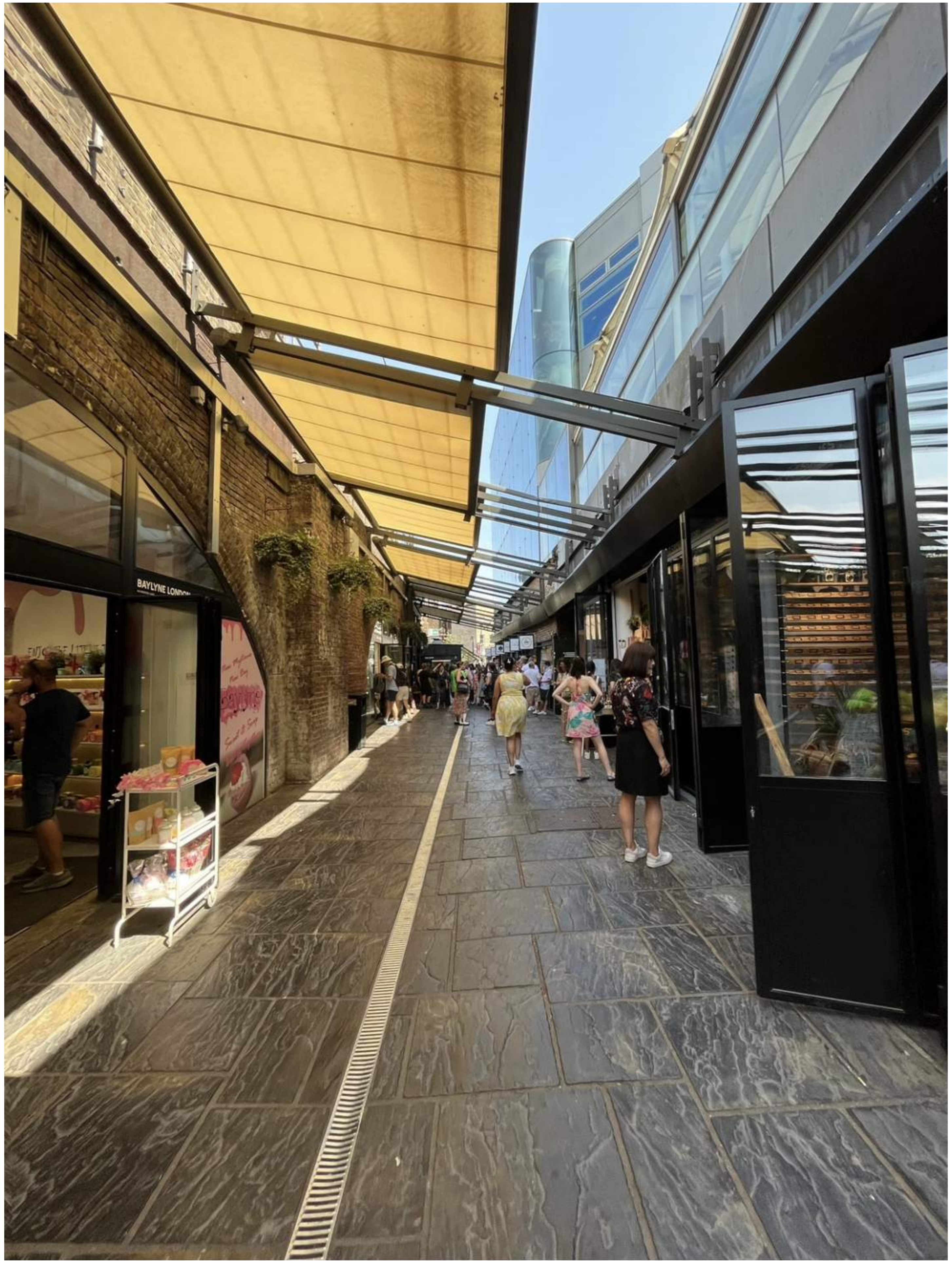


Tate Modern - Haegue Yang

The Queen's Walk

Southbank Skate Park

Camden Market



Camden Market

GERMANY

COLOGNE

07/19 — 07/22

Cologne, a city in western Germany, has a rich and fascinating history with a mix of medieval, Gothic, Renaissance, Baroque, and modern architecture.

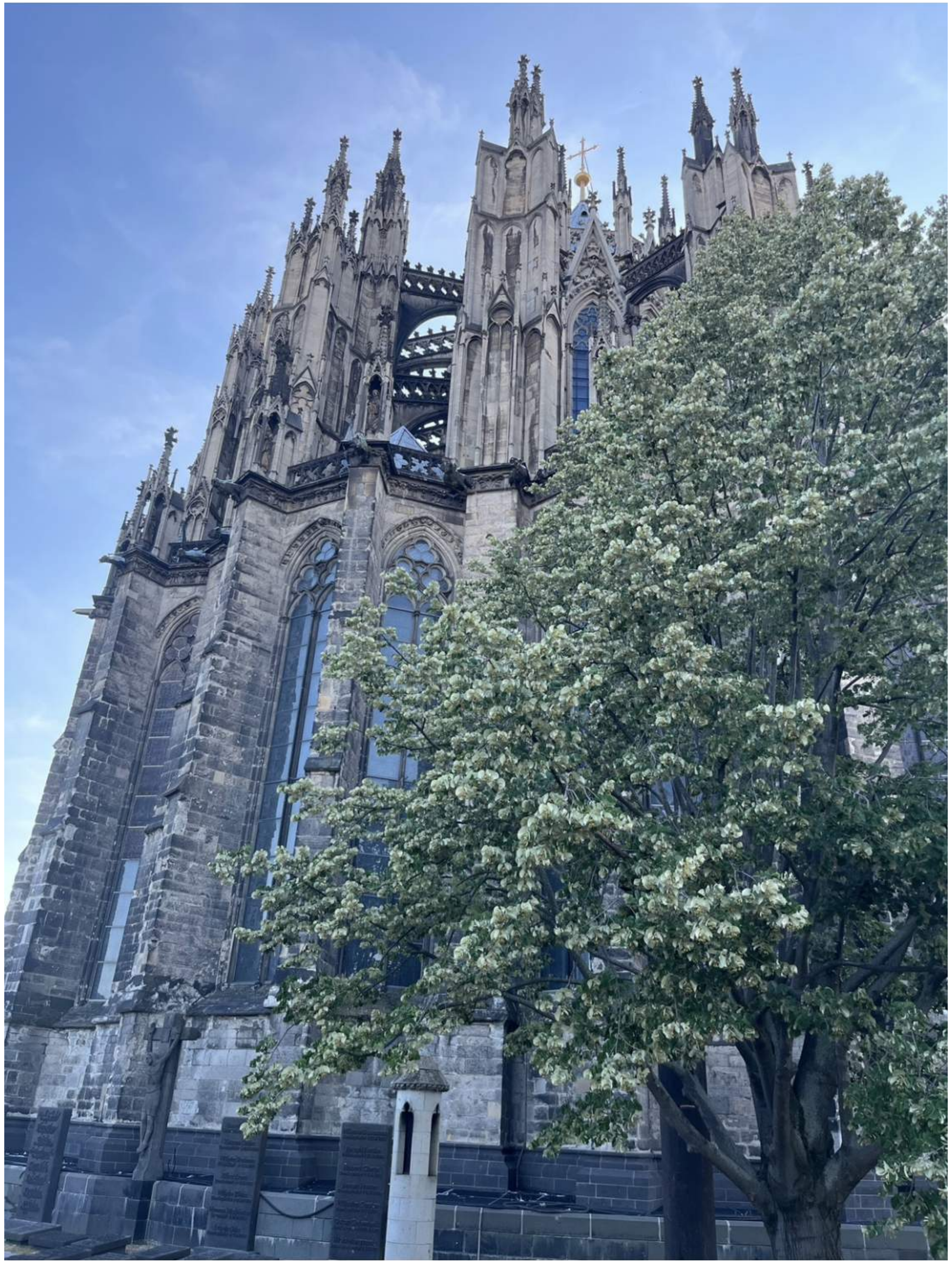
One of the most famous and iconic buildings in Cologne is the Cologne Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The cathedral was built in the 12th and 13th centuries, and is one of the largest and most important Gothic churches in Europe. The cathedral is known for its stunning architecture, including its twin towers and its beautiful stained-glass windows. The Cathedral can be seen pretty much anywhere in the city and is absolutely breathtaking up close.

A site I knew was a must visit was the Kolumba Museum, by a favorite architect of mine, Peter Zumthor. Located in the heart of Cologne, the museum is a modern building known for its minimalist design and its use of natural materials, built atop ruins. The museum houses a collection of art and artifacts from the Middle Ages to the present, and is a must-see for anyone interested in architecture or art.

Aside from induldging in delicious German food such as Schweinshaxe, or pork knuckle, one of the highlights of Cologne was taking a boat tour down the Rhine River. The views were stunning and it was a unique way to see the city. The boat tour ended in the small town of Königswinter where I was able to explore shortly before hopping back on a train to Cologne.

I will now be heading a few hours east of Cologne to the town of Lüdenscheid, the home town of my extended family.

Cologne Cathedral

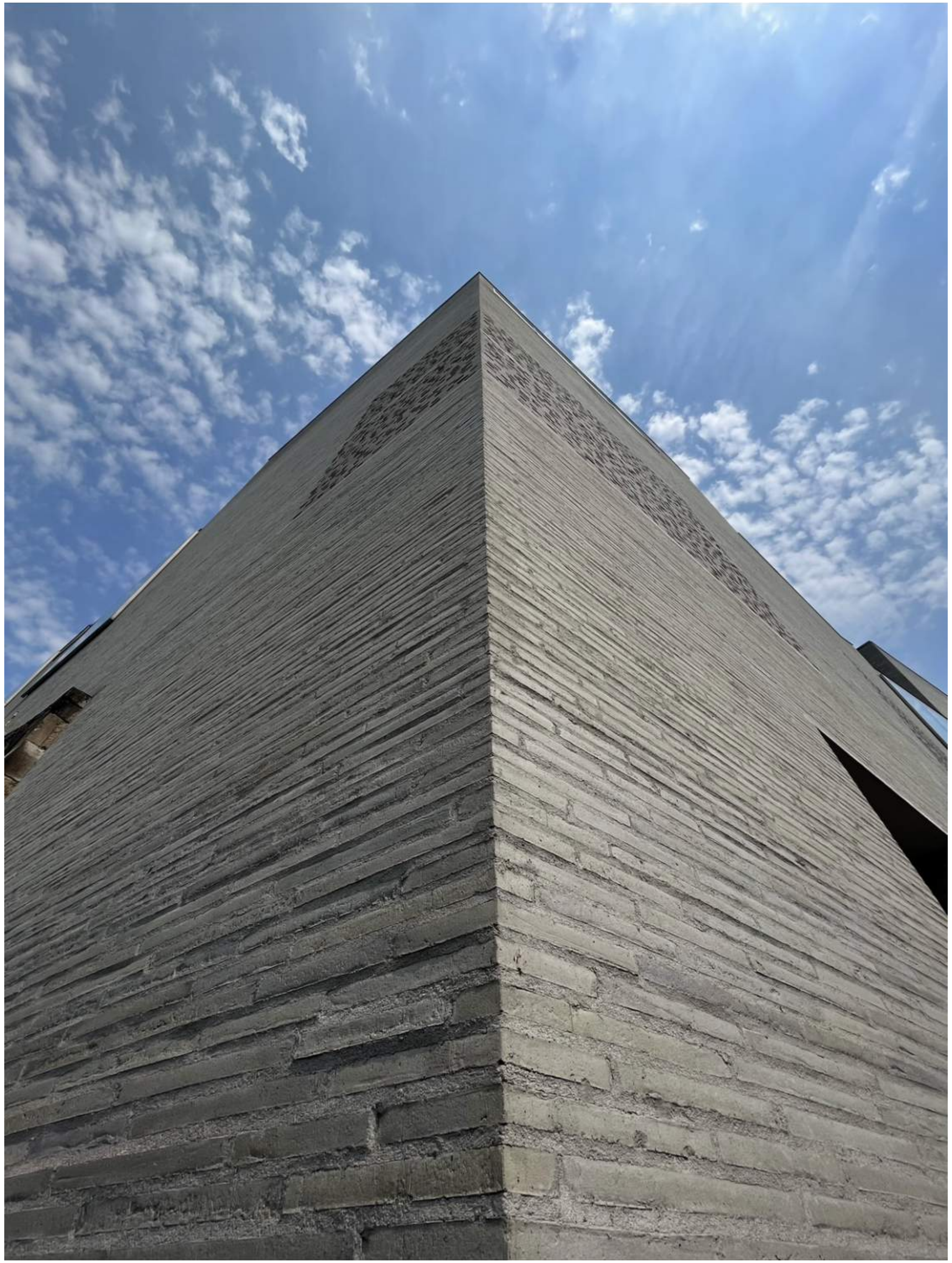


Cologne Cathedral

Cologne Cathedral

Pork Knuckle

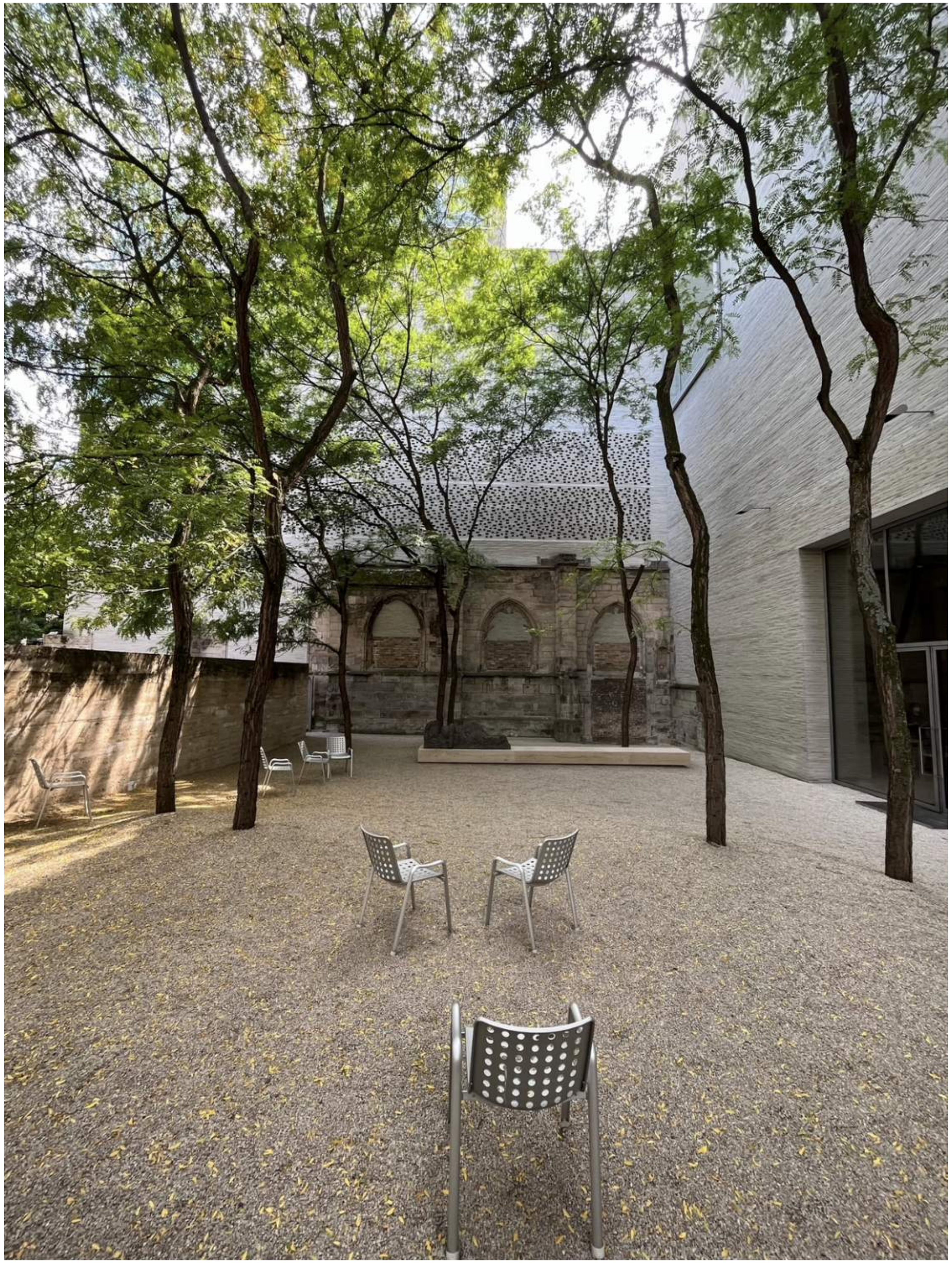
Kolumba Museum



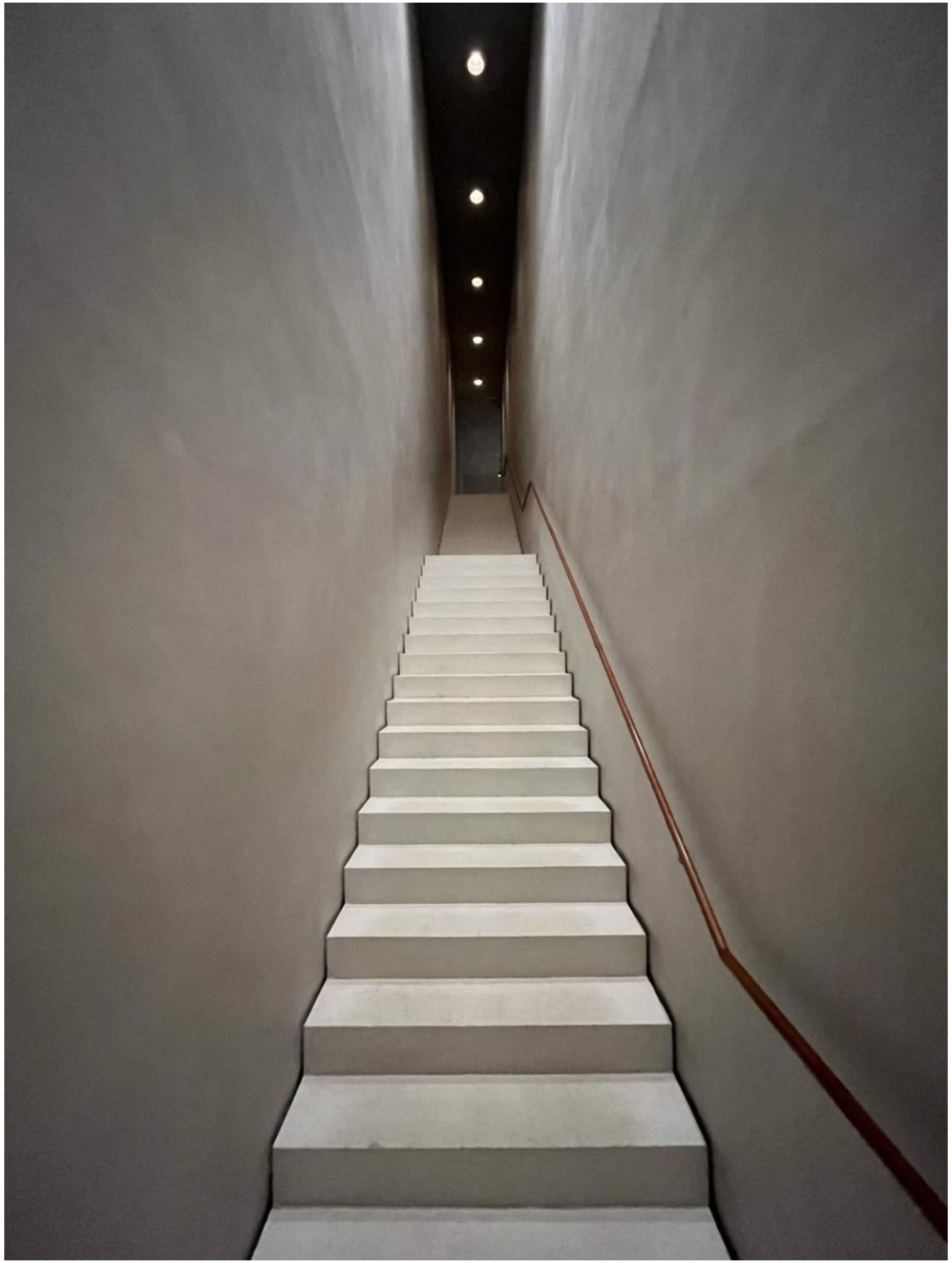
Kolumba Museum

Kolumba Museum

Kolumba Museum



Kolumba Museum



Kolumba Museum

Kolumba Museum

KÖNIGSWINTER IV

Rhine River

Königswinter

LÜDENSCHEID

07/22 — 07/26

I'm once again reminded how lucky and fortunate I am to be venturing across the world and have the opportunity to meet my German family in person. It was amazing to be able to spend time with them and see where they grew up and live.

The city of Lüdenscheid feels very different than the typical touristy cities of Germany such as Berlin. I was given a walking tour of the city which had a charming historic church in the center of the old town. The weather couldn't have been more beautiful during my stay here, which was perfect for spending an entire day outside grilling out, telling stories, and dancing with everyone. Maybe because it was a home-cooked meal, but this was one of the best meals I had my entire time in Europe.

I hope my German family will also have the opportunity to make the trip to America and visit our home. We may speak different languages but they couldn't have been more kind, loving, and hospitable and I hope we can return the favor one day.

Church of the Redeemer

Piepersloh

Family Cook Out

Leopoldgasse

Historic Lüdenscheid

BERLIN

07/26 — 07/30

Berlin, the capital of Germany, has a fascinating and complex history, and its architecture is a reflection of that. The Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe is a striking architectural landmark in Berlin. The memorial, which was designed by the architect Peter Eisenman, consists of a series of concrete pillars of varying heights, arranged in a grid pattern. The memorial is a powerful and moving tribute to the victims of the Holocaust, and is a great example of how architecture can evoke feelings and emotion.

One of the most famous and iconic buildings in Berlin is the Jewish Museum, which was designed by the architect Daniel Libeskind. Libeskind also has a building in my home city of Cincinnati, so I was eager to visit this museum. It was built in 2001 and is known for its striking and unconventional design, which includes a series of sharp angles and jagged lines. The museum houses a collection of art and artifacts related to the history of Jews in Germany, and has tons of history on display in a beautiful setting.

The Berlin Wall Memorial is arguably the most powerful landmark in Berlin and is almost unbelievable to witness firsthand. The memorial is located on the site of the former Berlin Wall, and consists of a stretch of the original wall that has been preserved, along with a museum and an outdoor exhibition area. The memorial is a reminder of the city's divided past that cannot be forgotten.

During my stay in Berlin, I developed a love for currywurst. Currywurst is a popular street food in Germany that consists of steamed and then fried pork sausage that is sliced and served with a sauce made from ketchup, curry powder, and other spices. The sausage is typically served with French fries, and is often topped with curry powder or paprika for added flavor. Currywurst originated in Berlin in the 1940s, and I was even able to visit the original shop that began serving it.

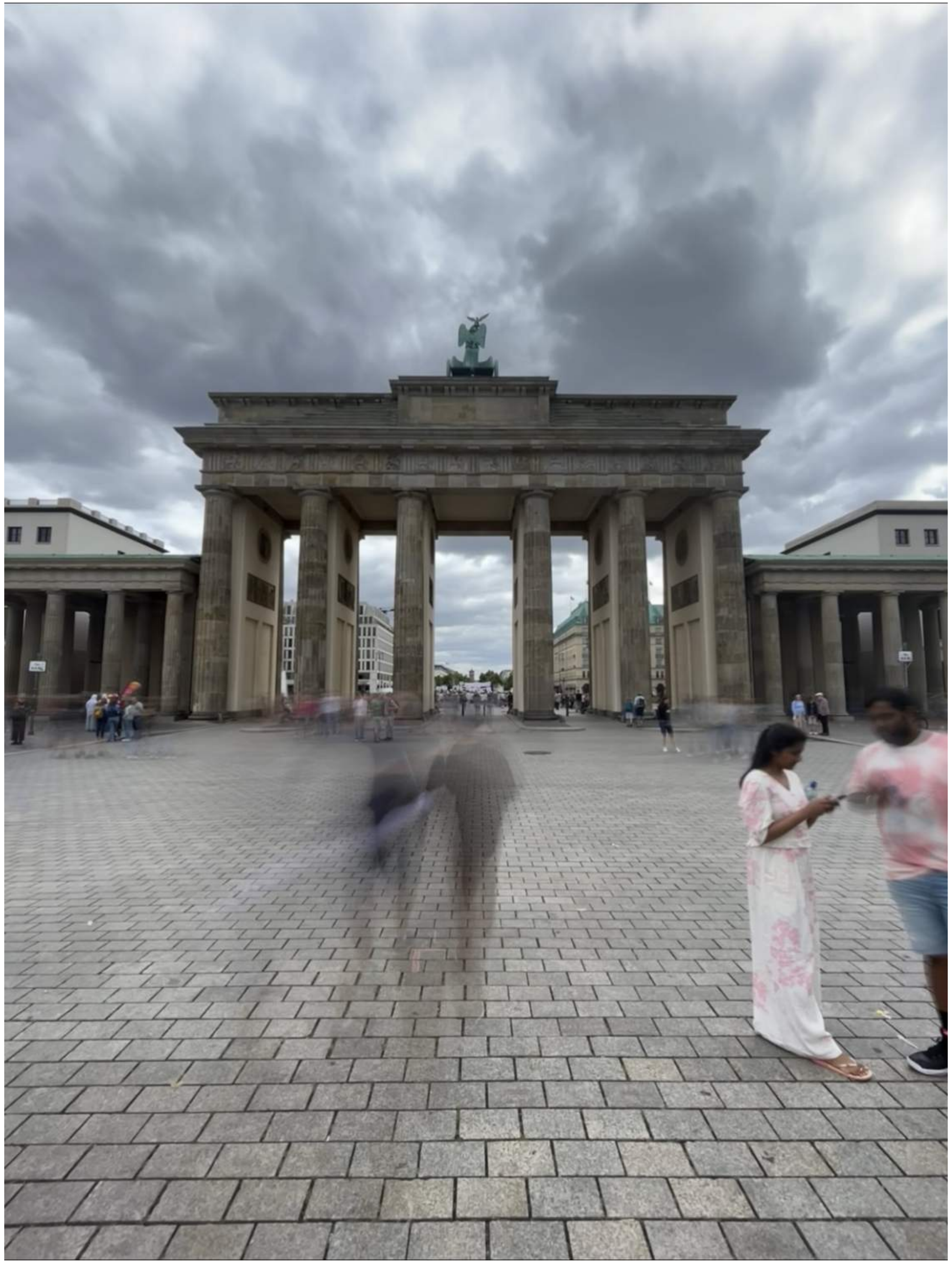
Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe

Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe

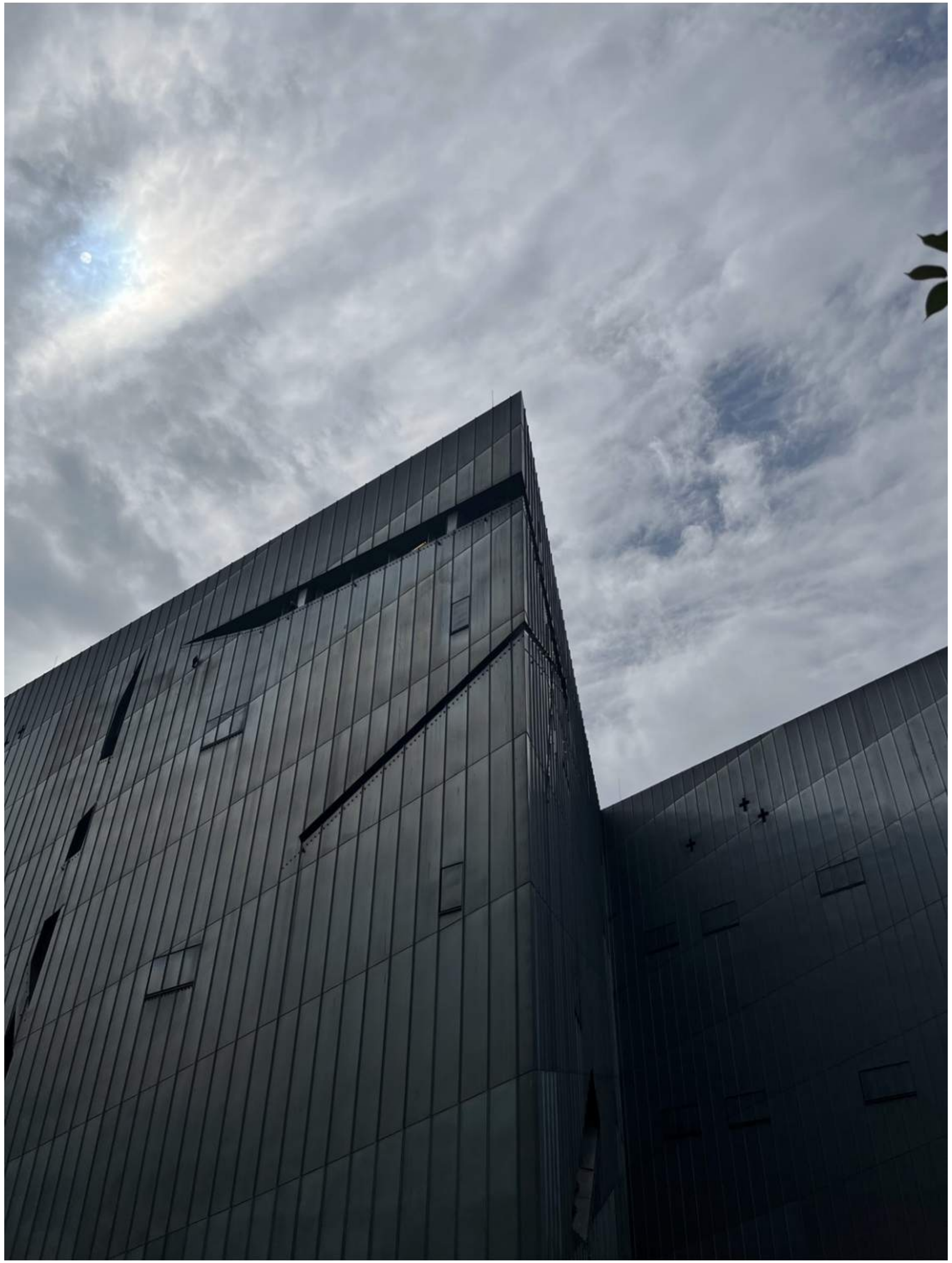
Berlin Wall Memorial

Berlin Wall Memorial

Chapel of Reconciliation

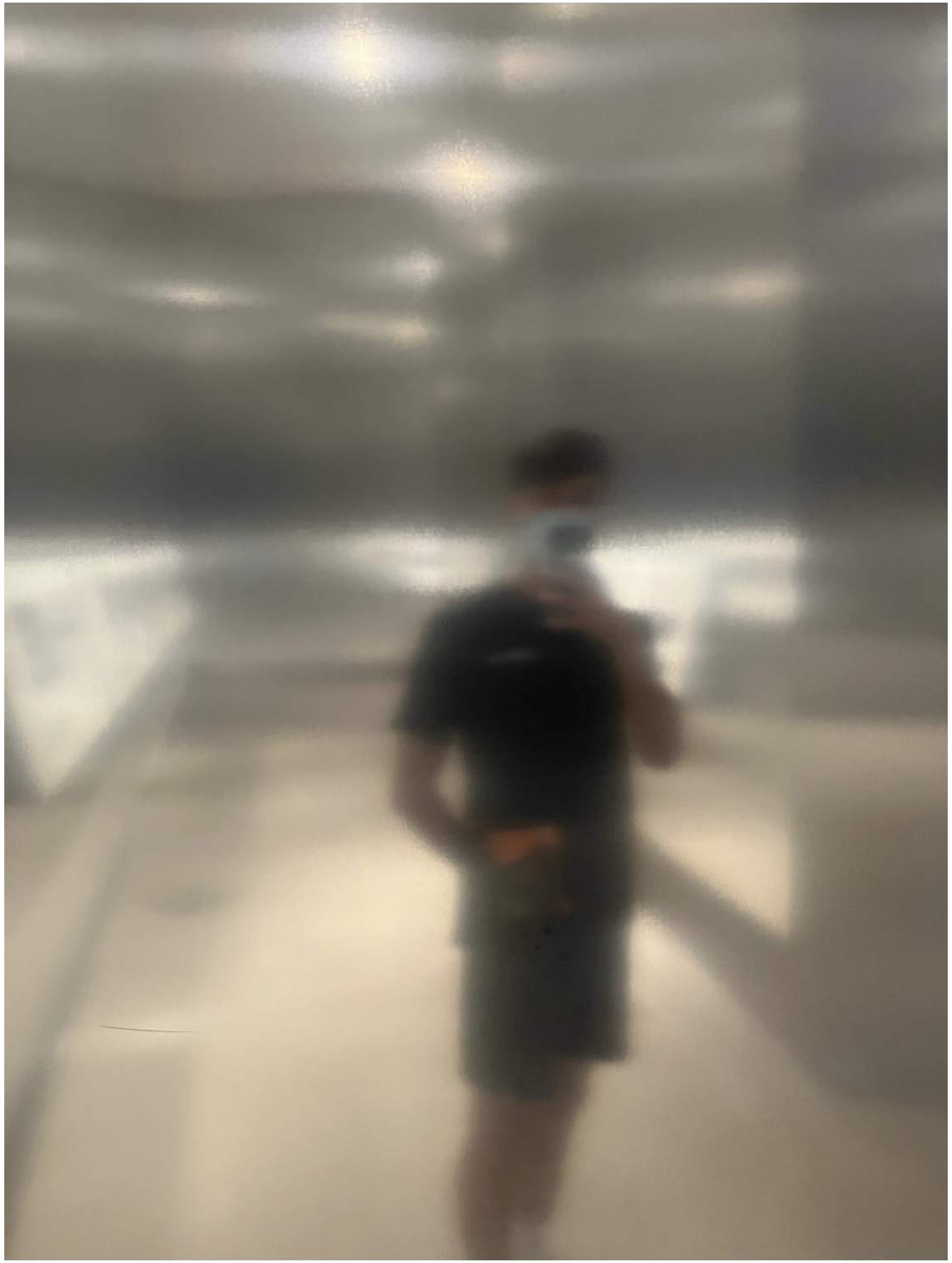


Brandenburg Gate



Jewish Museum Berlin

Jewish Museum Berlin



Jewish Museum Berlin

Berlin Cathedral

Reichstag Building

Reichstag Building

Konnopke's Imbiß

Konnopke's Imbiß

THE NETHERLANDS

AMSTERDAM

07/30 — 08/02

Amsterdam, the capital of the Netherlands, has a lively culture and A LOT of bikes. The city is known for its extensive network of bike paths and its large number of bicycles. The city even has more bikes than residents, and many people use bicycles as their primary means of transportation. Amsterdam's bike-friendly infrastructure and culture make it a popular destination for cyclists from around the world... keeping your head on a swivel is a neccessity.

One of the most famous buildings in Amsterdam is the Rijksmuseum, which is home to a vast collection of Dutch art and artifacts. The museum was built in the 19th century, and is an example of Neo-Renaissance architecture. The museum is known for its impressive collection, which includes works by famous Dutch artists such as Rembrandt and Vermeer.

Another important architectural landmark in Amsterdam is the Van Gogh Museum, which is dedicated to the work of the famous Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh. The museum was built in the 1970s, and is an example of modern architecture in the city. The museum houses the largest collection of Van Gogh's work in the world from numerous periods, but it can get very crowded.

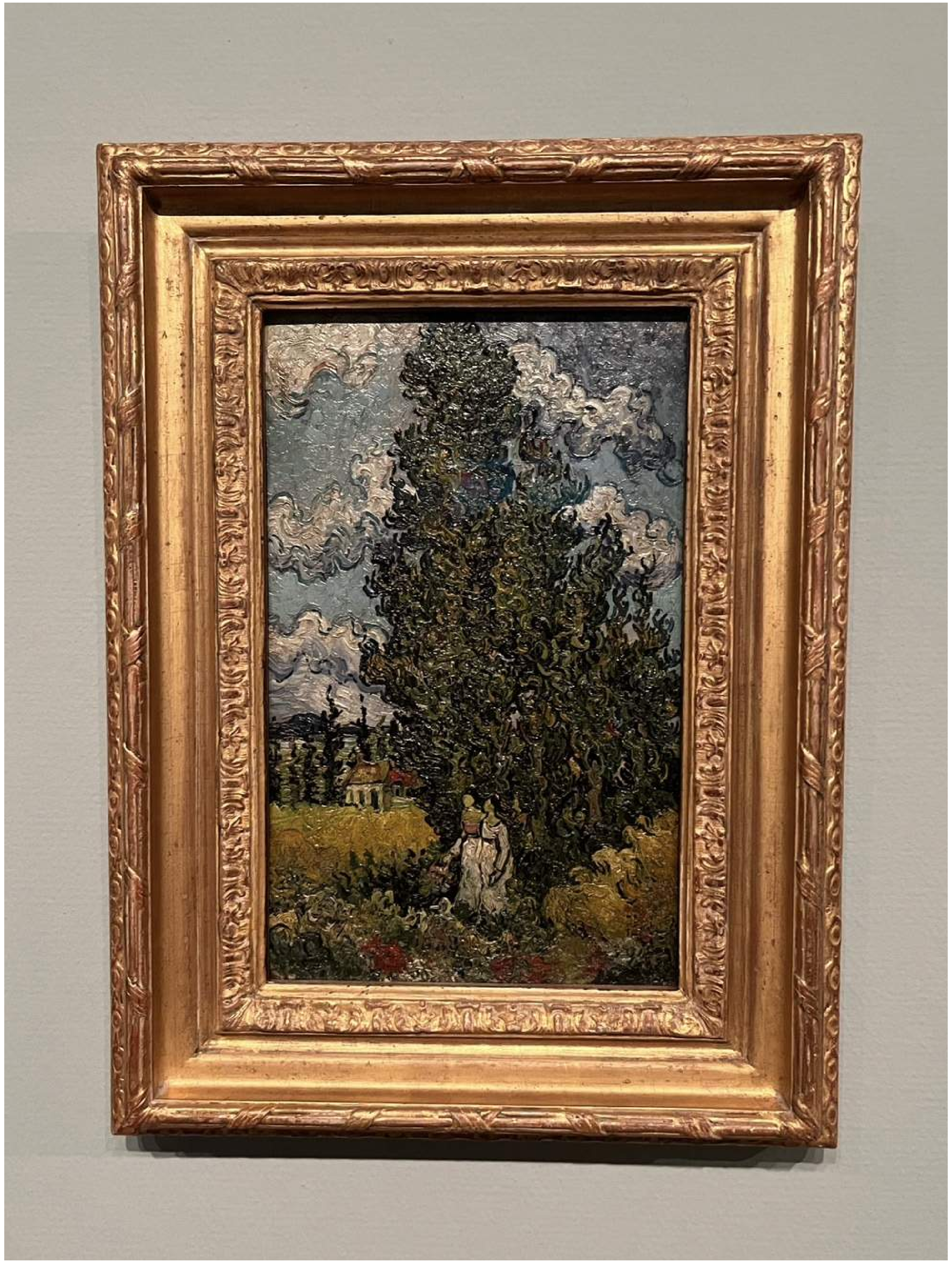
The hostel I was staying in was just across the water from the central station in Amsterdam, so I was a frequent rider on the ferry between Amsterdam and Amsterdam-Noord which was actually a lot of fun and not at all an inconvenience.

Rijksmuseum

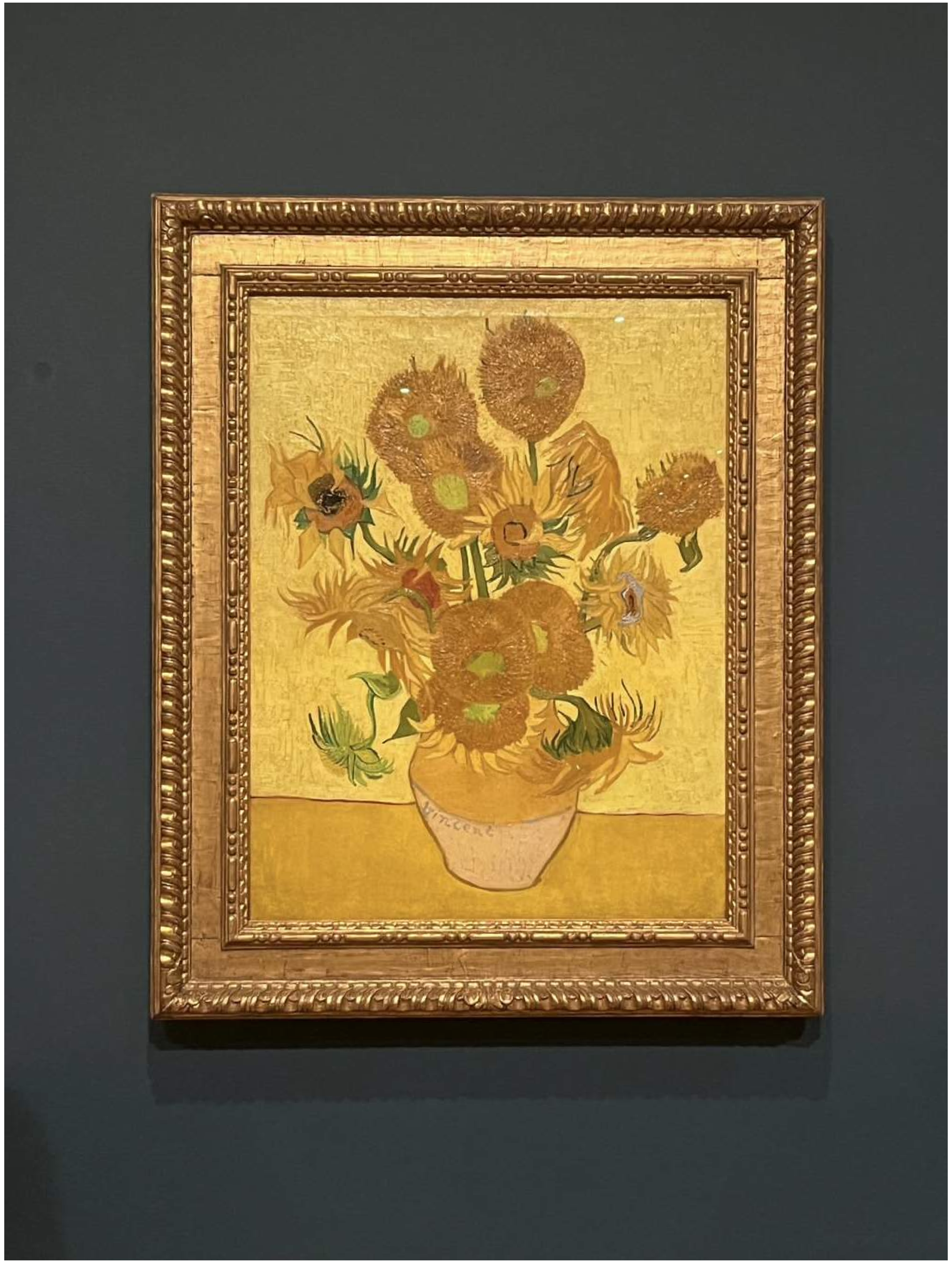
TATTOO
BIGBEN
CREPES CHURROS WAFFLES
NEW YORK PIZZA
ORIGIN
SINCE
EROTIC B
PIZZA SLIC

Getting lost in the rainy streets

Van Gogh Museum

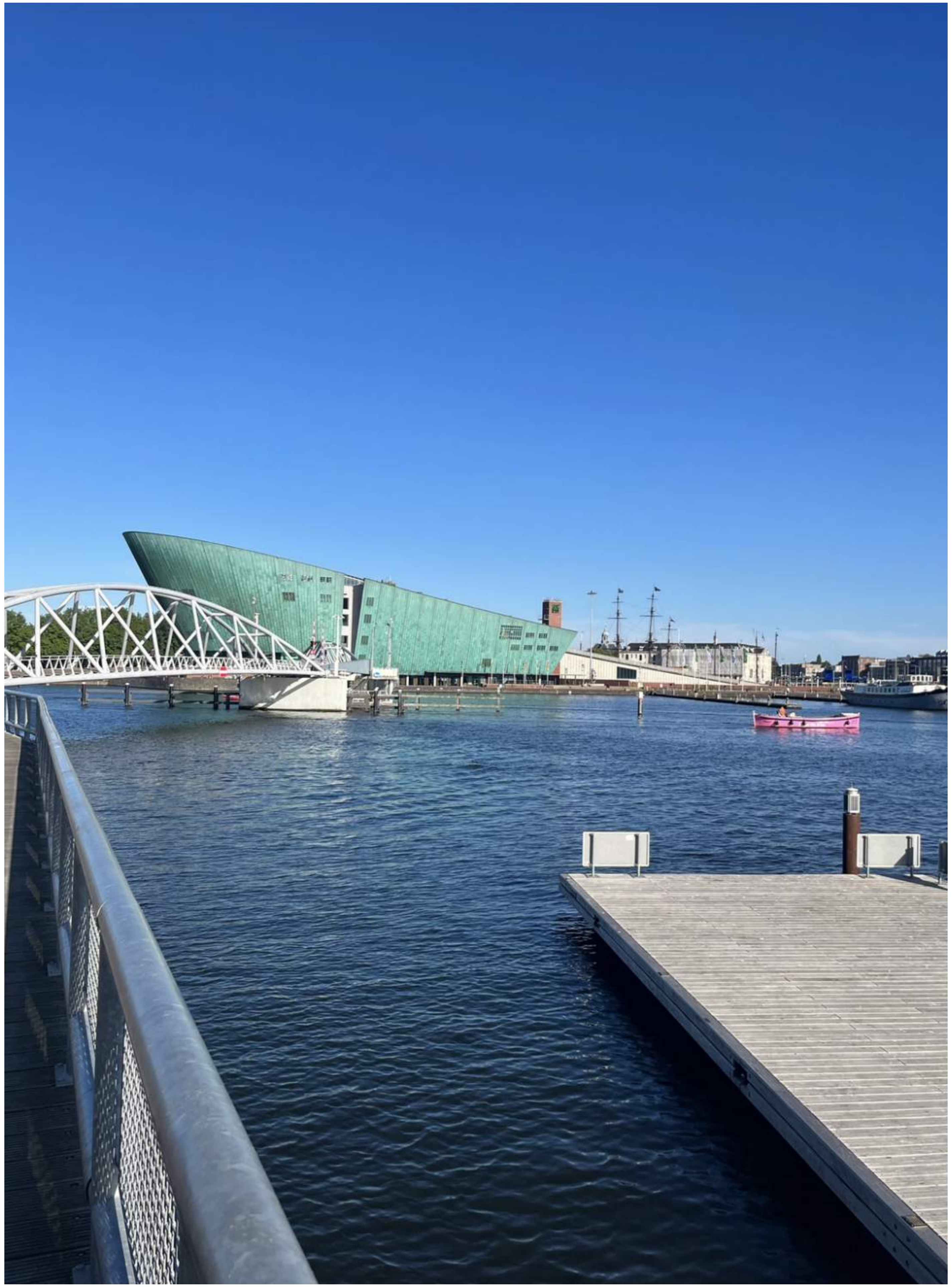


Van Gogh Museum



DAG EN NACHT
VRIJLATEN
OOK OP ZATERDAG
EN ZONDAG

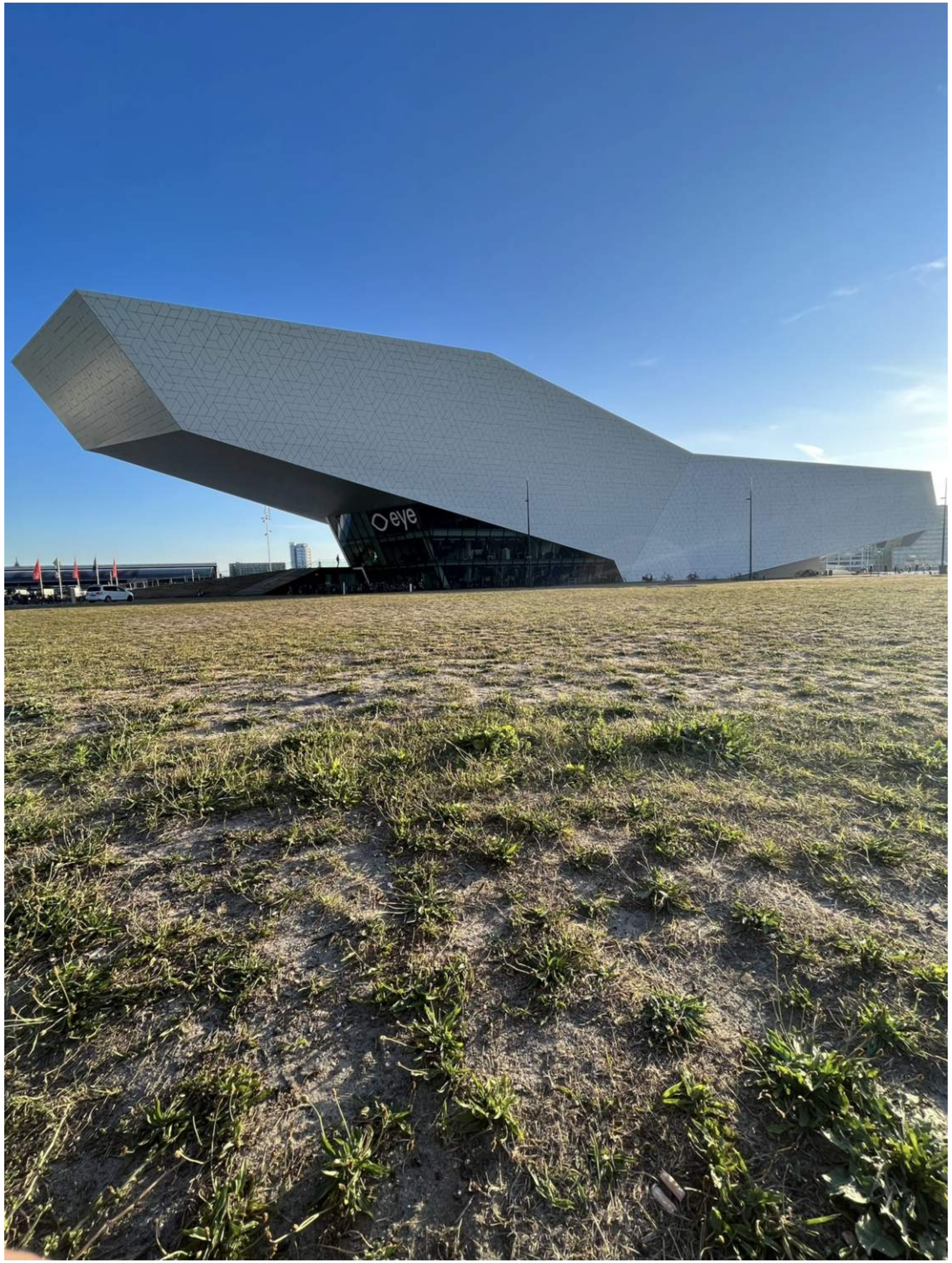
Van Gogh Museum



Nemo Science Museum

LAK
XXL
PAPIER

Rijksmuseum



Eye Filmmuseum

ROTTERDAM

08/02 — 08/05

Rotterdam is a city in the Netherlands known for its modern architecture and innovative urban design. The city has a long history of architectural development, dating back to the Middle Ages when it was a major port and center of trade. In the 16th and 17th centuries, Rotterdam became one of the Netherlands' most important cities, and its architecture reflects this period of growth and prosperity.

One of the most iconic architectural landmarks in Rotterdam is the Markthal, a covered market hall that was completed in 2014. The Markthal features a curved, horseshoe-shaped design and is covered by a massive glass and steel roof. The interior of the Markthal is filled with shops, restaurants, and other amenities, making it a popular destination for both locals and tourists.

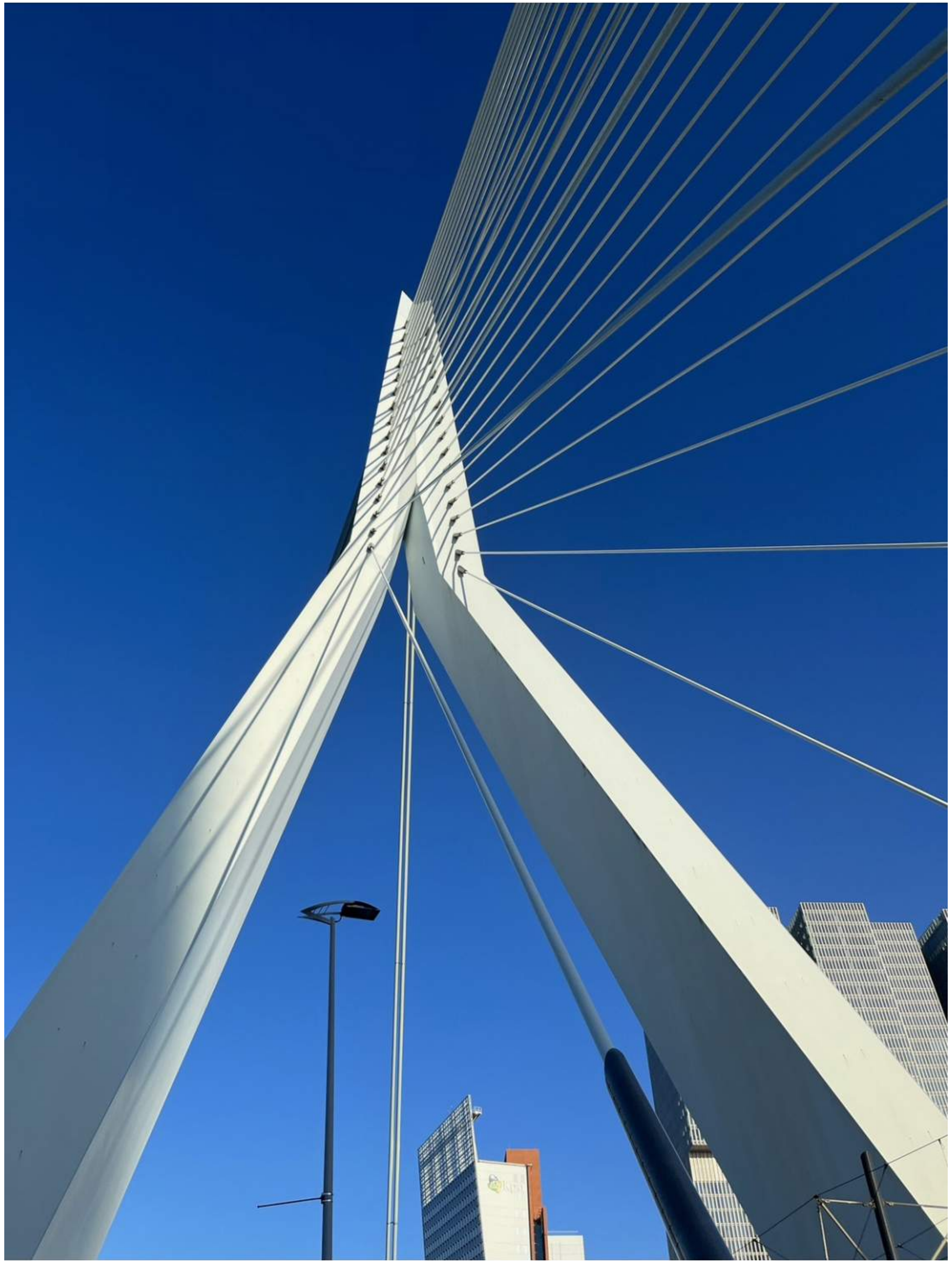
Another notable architectural landmark in Rotterdam is the Erasmus Bridge, a cable-stayed bridge that crosses the Nieuwe Maas river. The bridge was completed in 1996 and is known for its distinctive shape, with a single mast that resembles a ship's sail. The Erasmus Bridge is a popular spot for tourists and is often used as a symbol of Rotterdam's modern, forward-looking spirit.

One of the most unique architectural features of Rotterdam is the Cube Houses, a development of 38 small, cube-shaped houses that were designed by architect Piet Blom and completed in 1984. The houses are built on a hexagonal platform, with each cube tilted at a 45-degree angle to create a forest-like effect. The interior of the Cube Houses is equally unique, with sloping walls and floors that give the space a futuristic feel. These one-of-a-kind architectural interventions are a testament to the city's forward-thinking spirit and its commitment to creating a vibrant and dynamic urban environment.

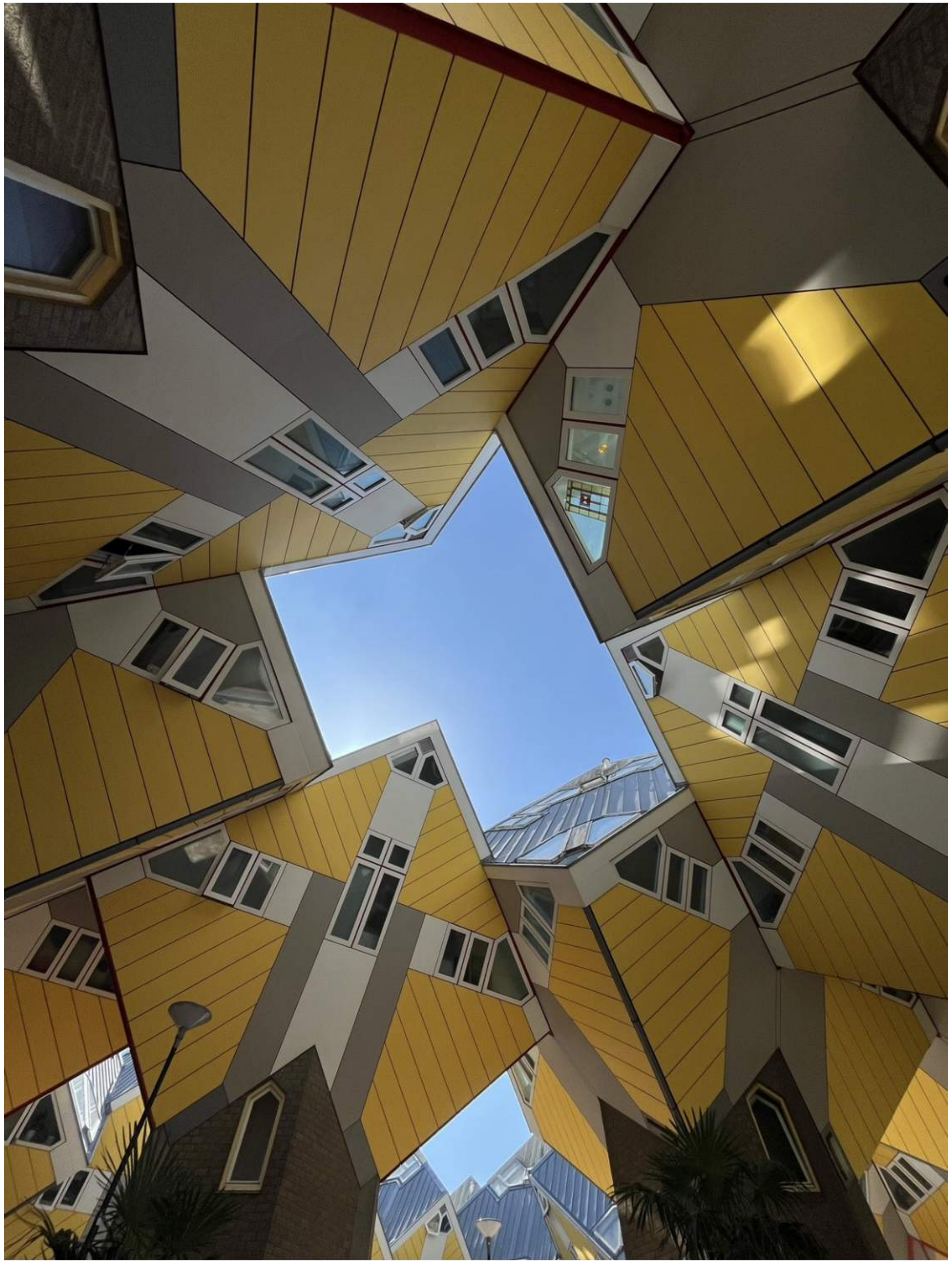
CENTRAAL STATION

Rotterdam Centraal

Erasmus Bridge



Erasmus Bridge



Kijk-Kubus

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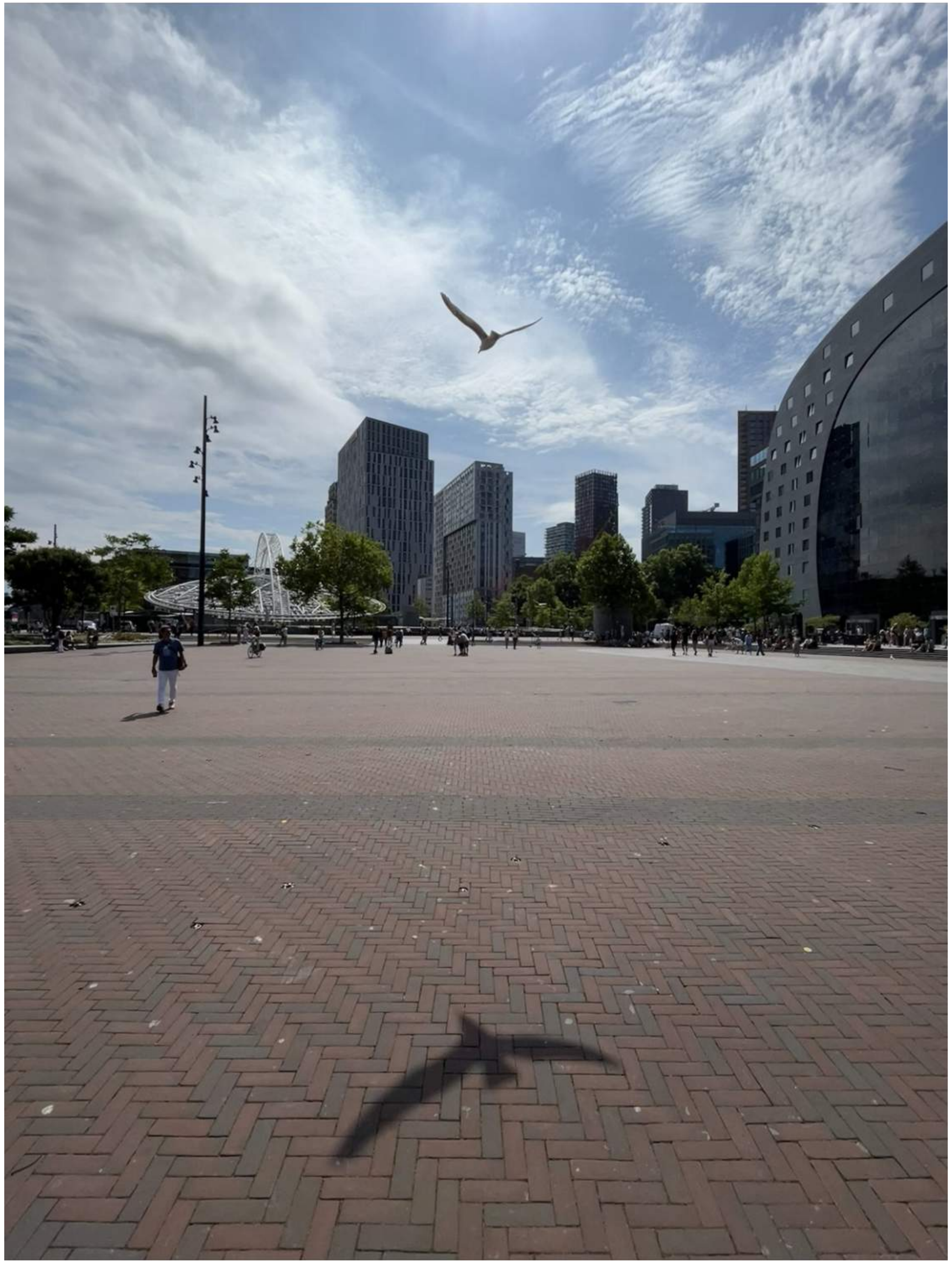
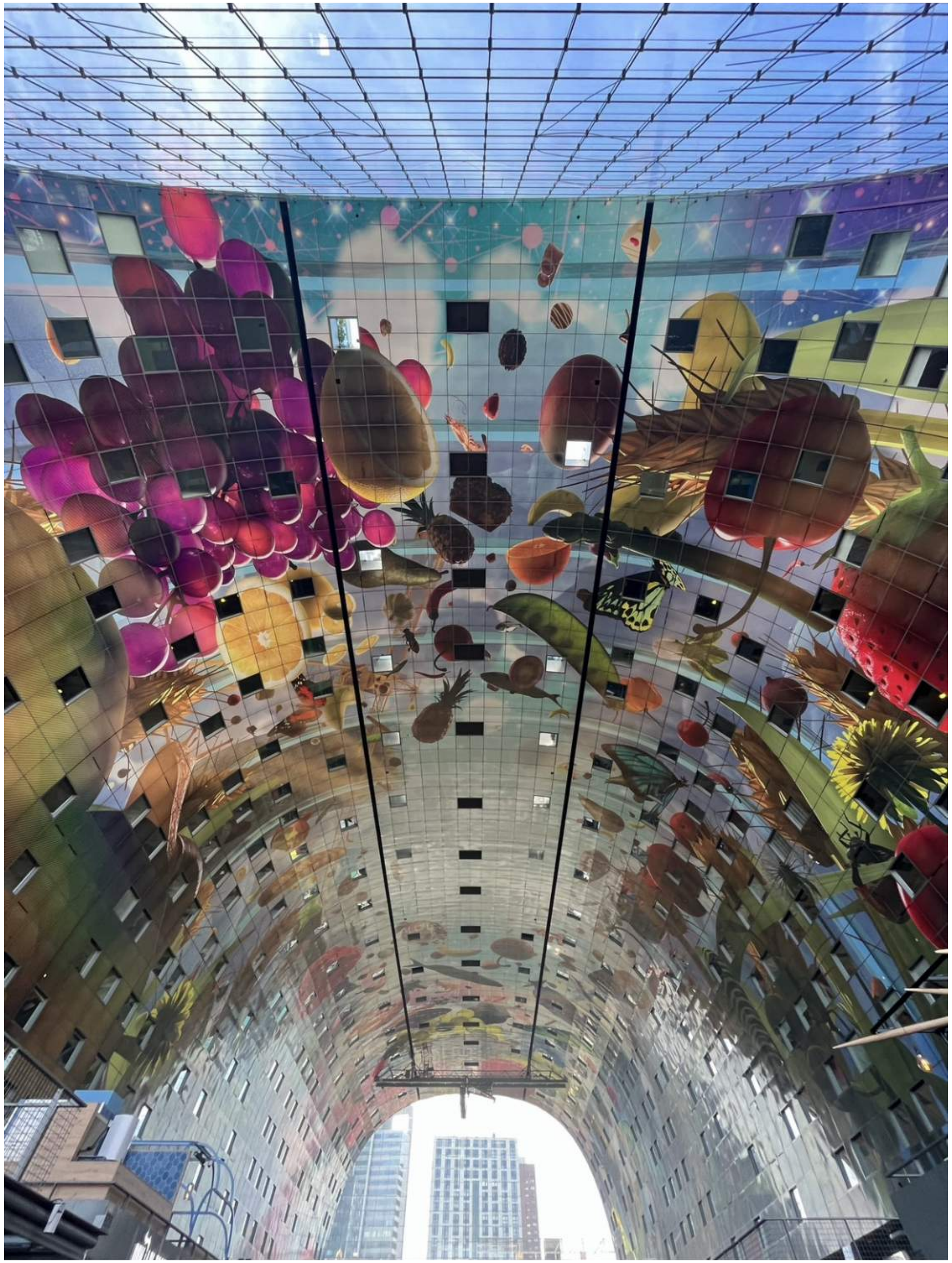
OPEN

Kijk-Kubus





Markthal

BELGIUM

BRUGES

08/05 — 08/08

Bruges is a city in Belgium known for its medieval architecture and well-preserved historic center. The city has a rich history that dates back to the 9th century, when it was founded as a settlement at the crossroads of several important trade routes. This period of growth and prosperity is reflected in the city's architecture, which features many beautiful Gothic and Renaissance buildings.

One of the most iconic architectural landmarks in Bruges is the Belfry of Bruges, a medieval bell tower that is one of the city's most famous landmarks. The Belfry was built in the 13th century and is an excellent example of Gothic architecture. The tower is 83 meters tall and offers panoramic views of the city from its observation deck. The Belfry is also home to a carillon of 47 bells, which can be heard throughout the city. In the plaza below, there are always huge crowds of people and vendors of all sorts. The banana chocolate Belgian waffle was a favorite of mine.

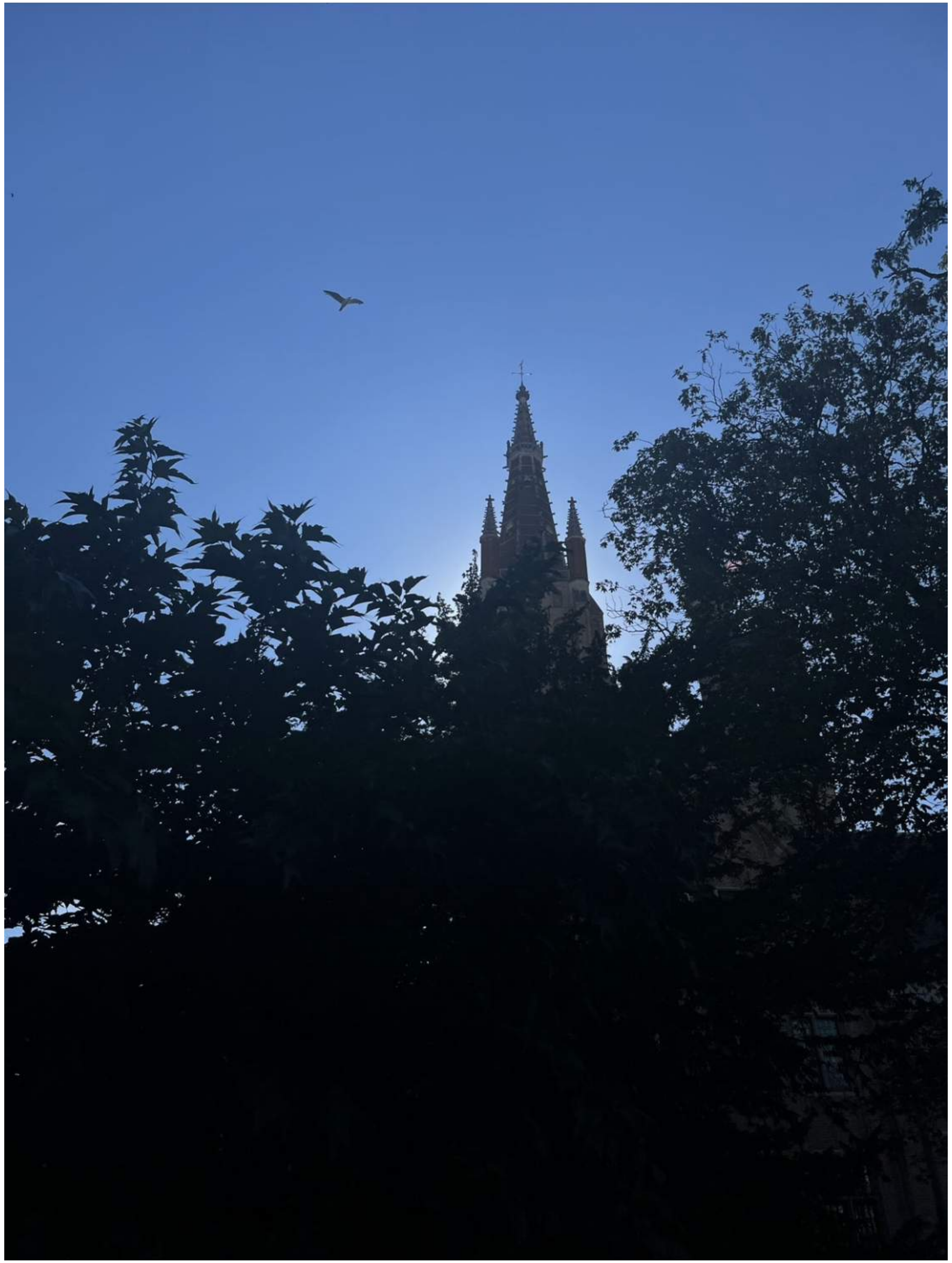
There aren't many parks in Bruges, however the largest is home to a contemporary bridge spanning over the ringed canal that surrounds the city which was a nice surprise amongst all the other historic buildings and bridges. Minnewaterpark also hosted a pop up antique market that stretched the entire length of the park with tables full of old goods. Overall, Bruges is a fascinating and quaint city that often does the unexpected.

Poertoren Tower

de ijsbeer
Crèmerie

Belgian Waffle

Belfry Tower



Church of Our Lady

FRANCE

PARIS

08/08 — 08/13

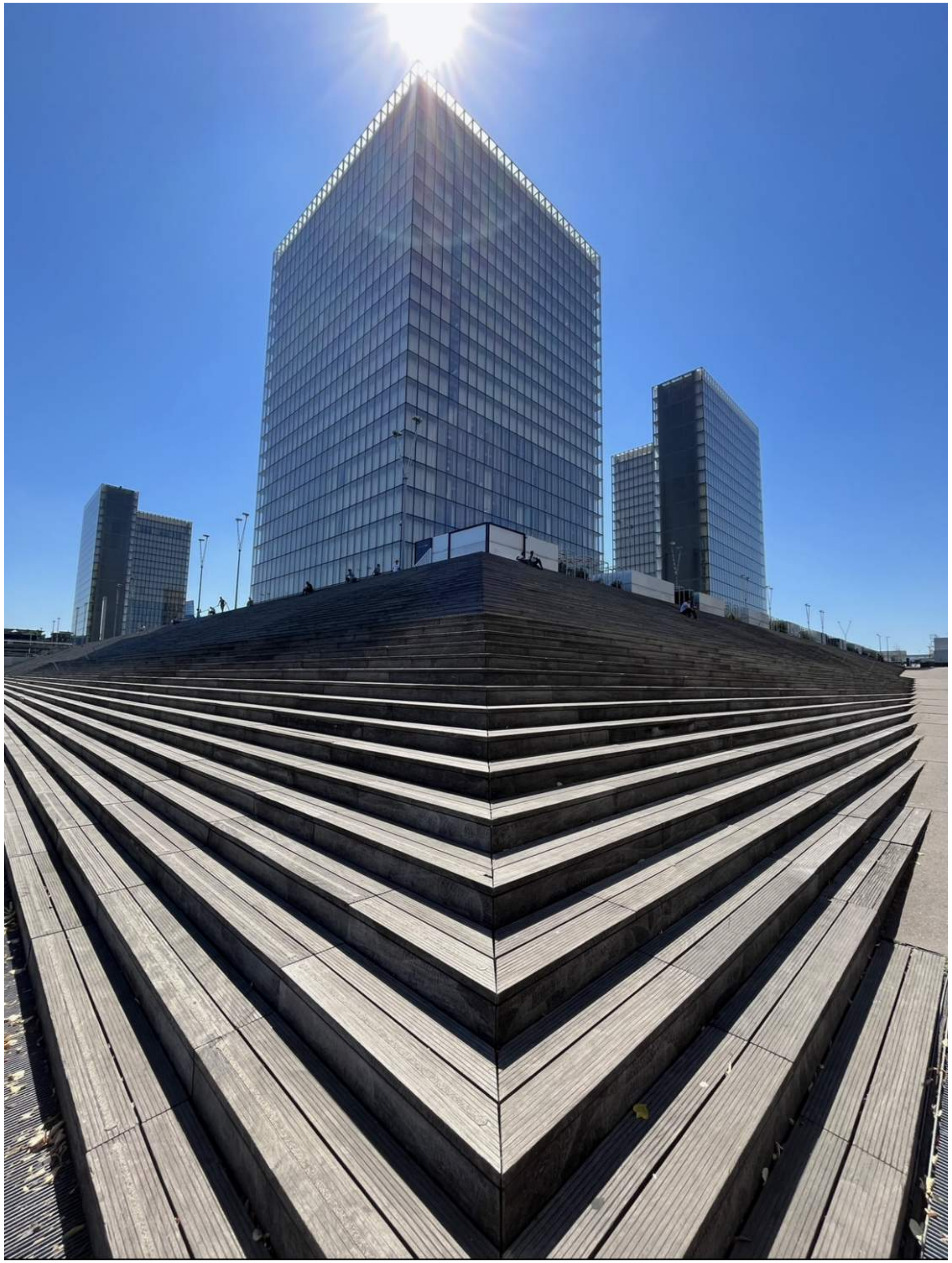
Paris is the capital and largest city of France with a long history dating back to the Roman era, and its architecture reflects its many different periods of growth.

The Rive Gauche district is the southern part of Paris, on the left bank of the River Seine. The area has a long history and has been home to many of the city's most famous landmarks and buildings such as the National Library of France and new contemporary projects such as Station F, a business incubator for startups.

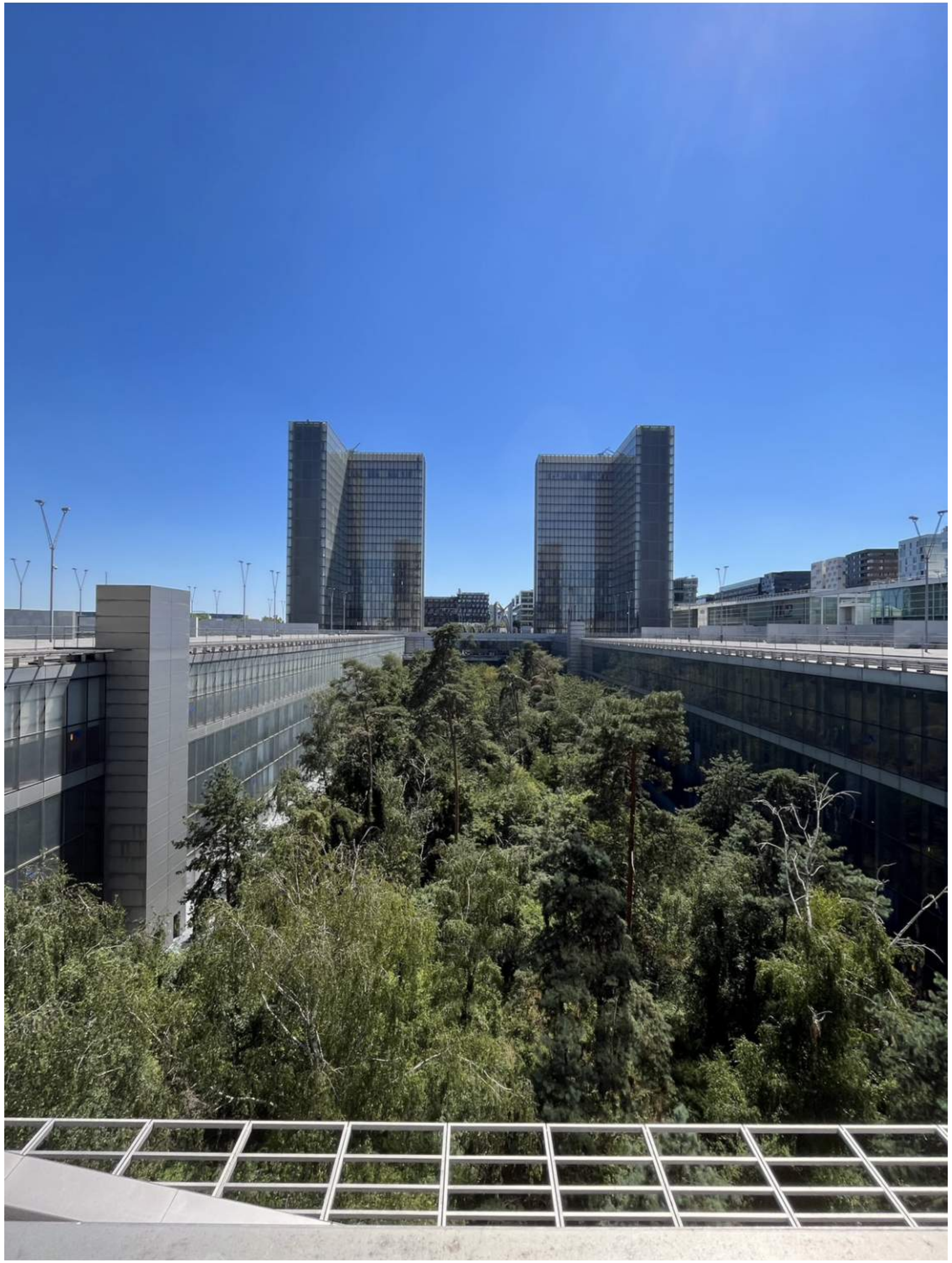
An icon of Paris is the Louvre Museum, which is one of the largest and most famous museums in the world. The Louvre was originally a royal palace, but it was converted into a museum in 1793. The museum is home to a vast collection of art and artifacts, including the famous Mona Lisa painting by Leonardo da Vinci.

The Centre Pompidou is another iconic architectural landmark in Paris. This modern art museum was designed by architects Renzo Piano and Richard Rogers and completed in 1977. It is known for its distinctive external skeleton of brightly colored tubes and pipes, which support the building's structure and services. The Centre Pompidou is home to a collection of modern and contemporary art, which was well worth the time, as well as a library and cultural center.

The Sainte-Chapelle is a Gothic chapel that was built in the 13th century to house the Crown of Thorns, which is believed to have been worn by Jesus Christ at the time of his crucifixion. This is by far the most breathtaking building I have ever been in. The chapel is known for its beautiful stained glass windows, which cover the walls and ceiling and depict scenes from the Bible. I went in the evening time and the setting sun coming through the stain glass was a surreal experience.



The Bibliothèque nationale de France

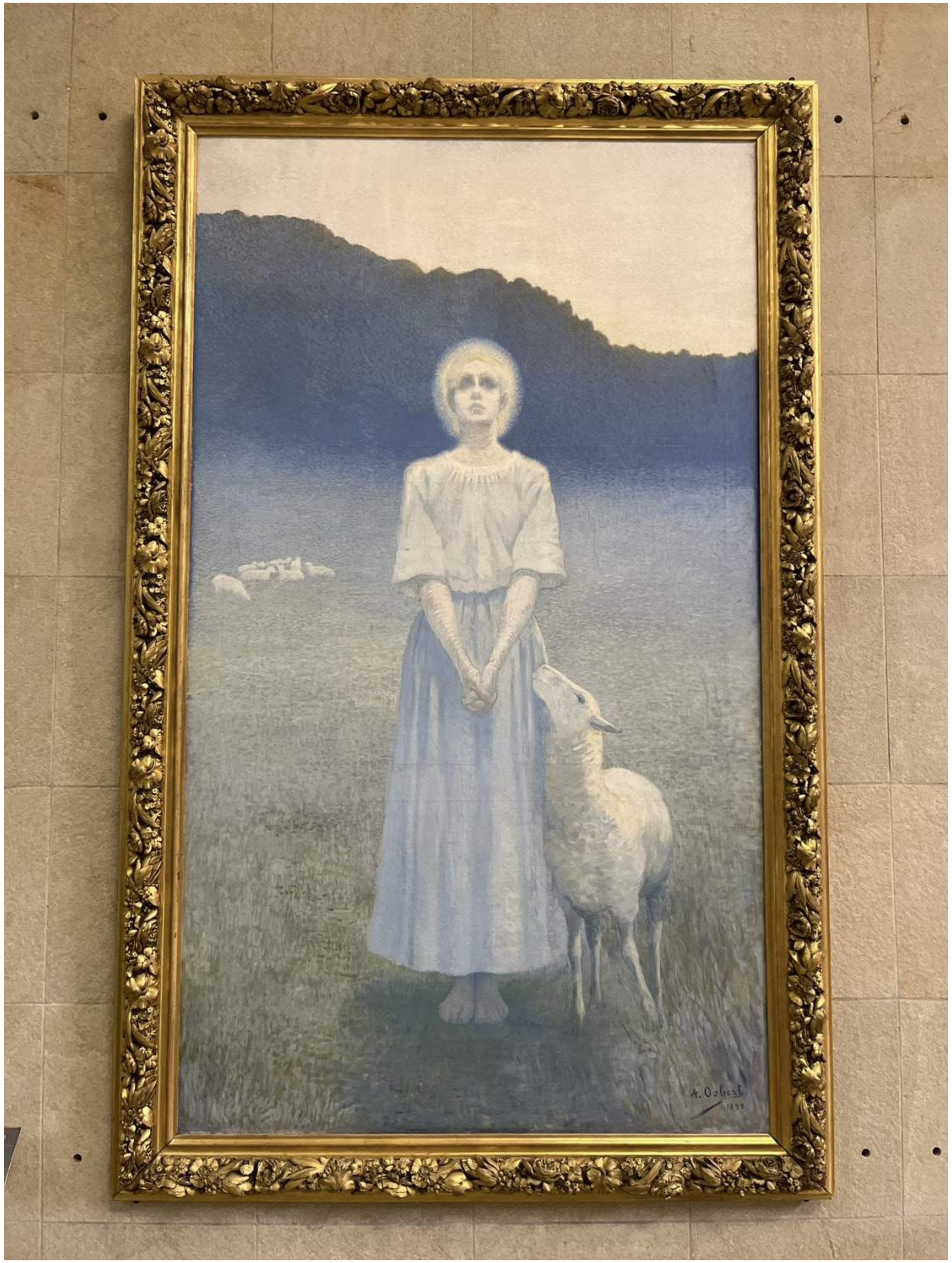


The Bibliothèque nationale de France

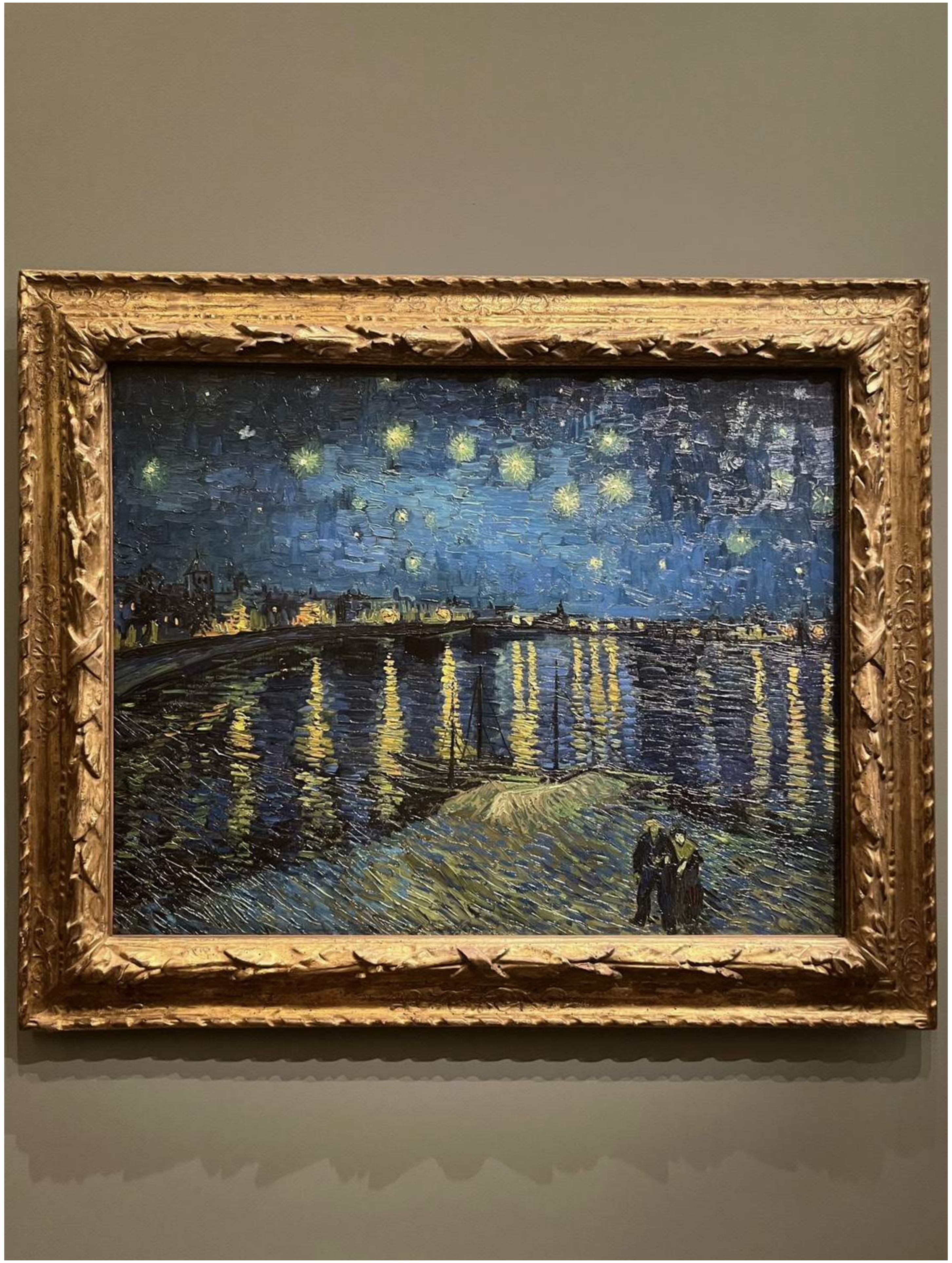
Station F

Jardins Abbé-Pierre - Grands-Moulins

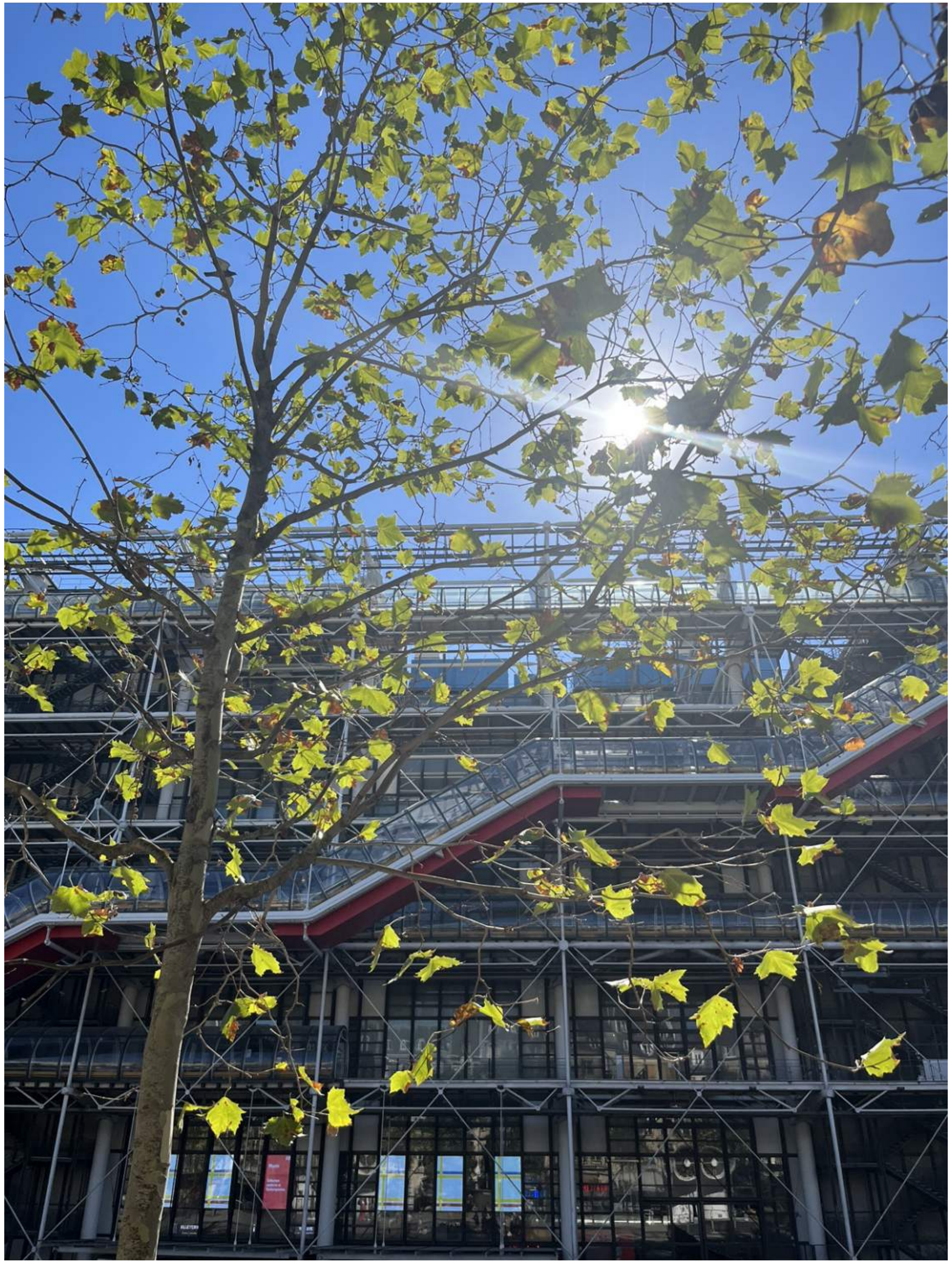
Jardins Abbé-Pierre - Grands-Moulins



Musée d'Orsay

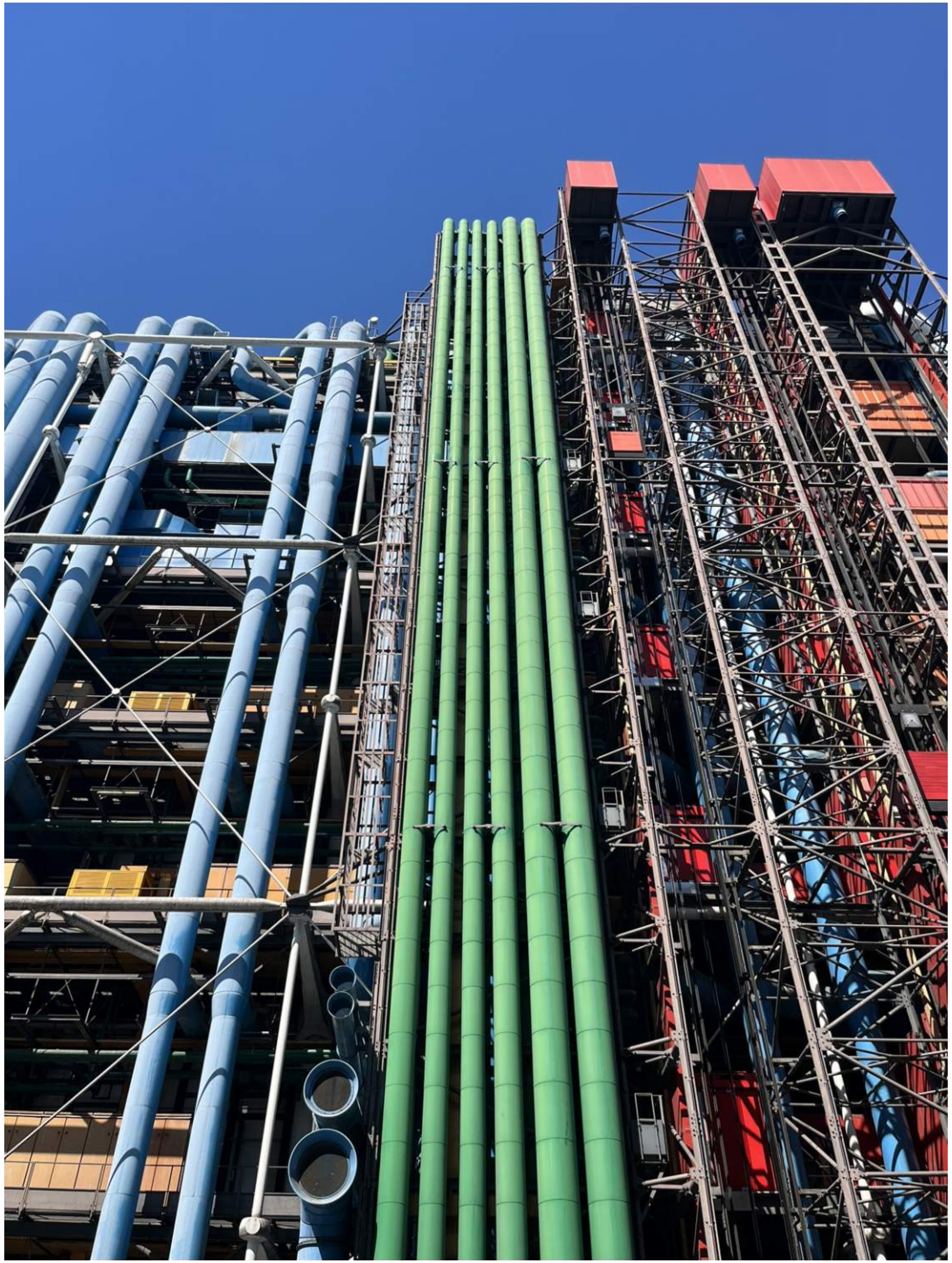


Musée d'Orsay



The Centre Pompidou

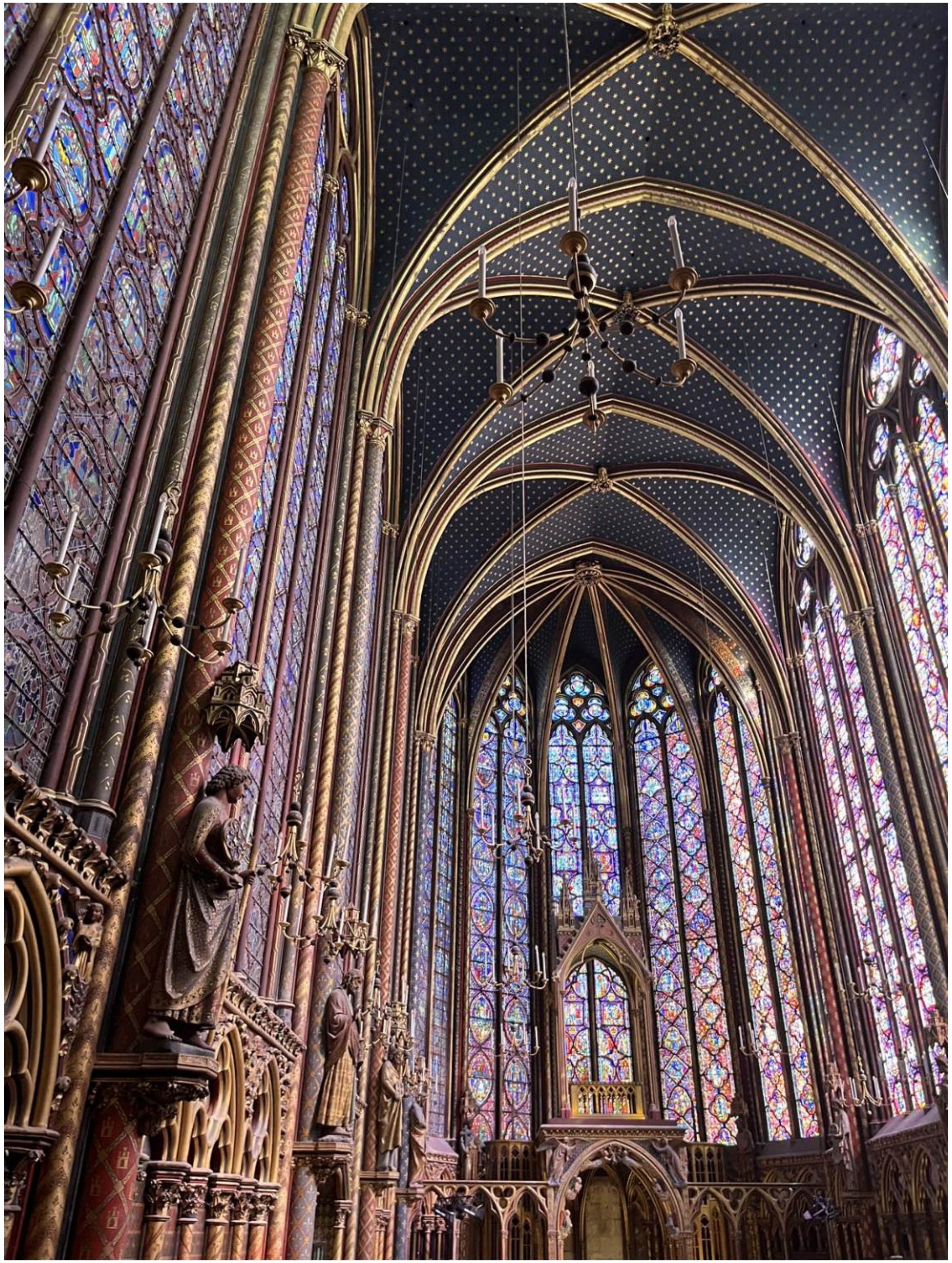
The Centre Pompidou



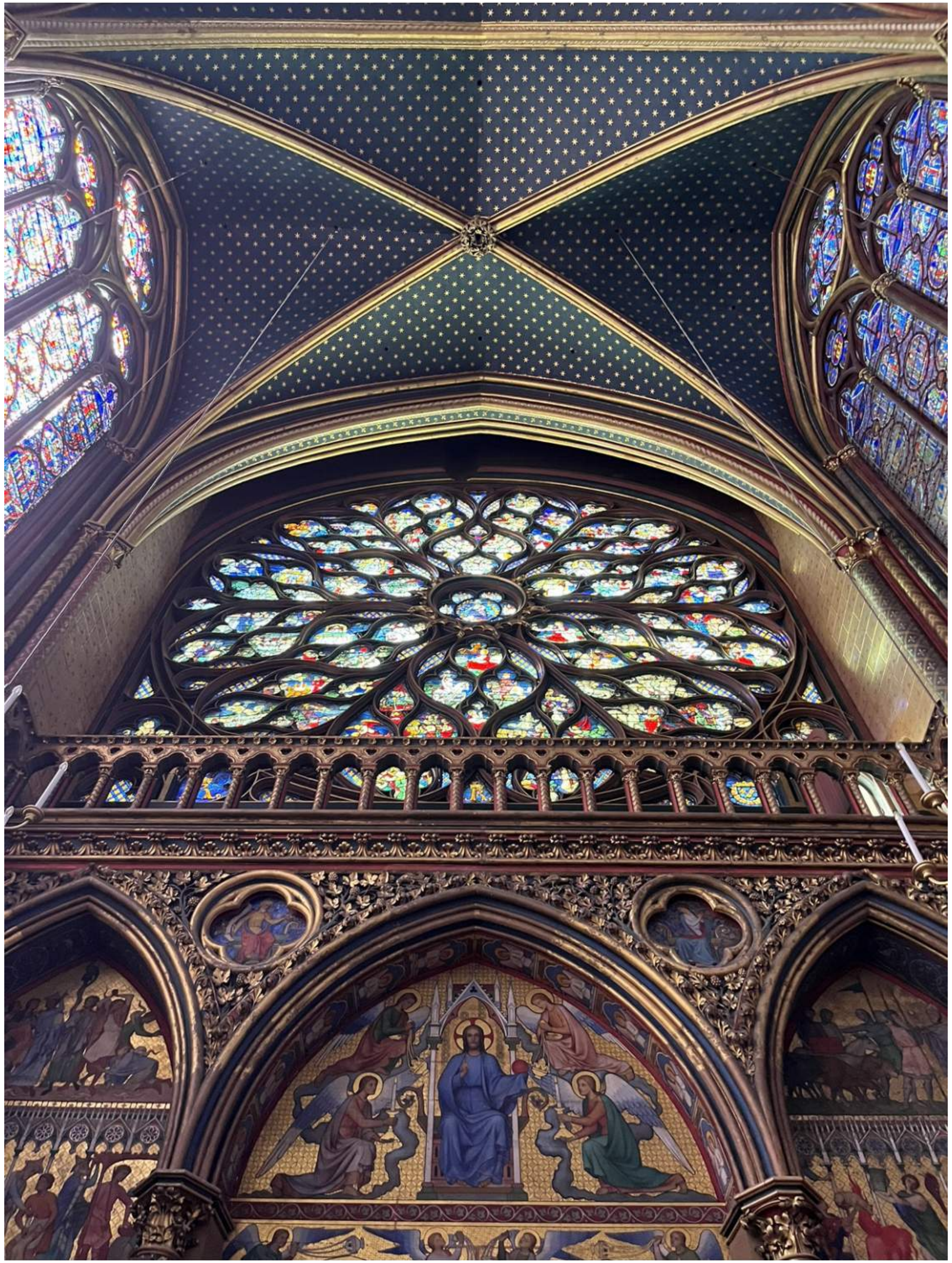
The Centre Pompidou

monop
YELLOW

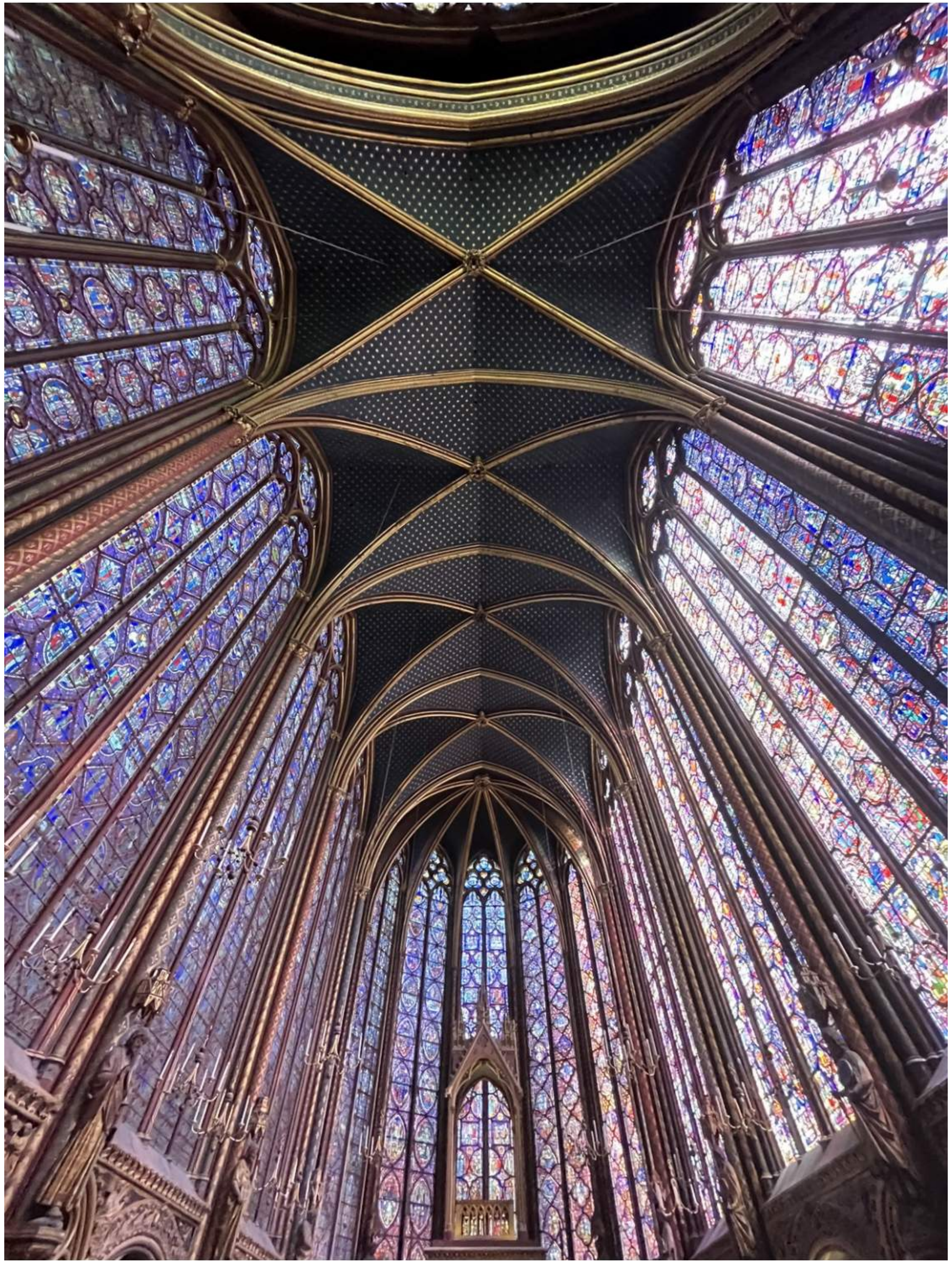
The Centre Pompidou



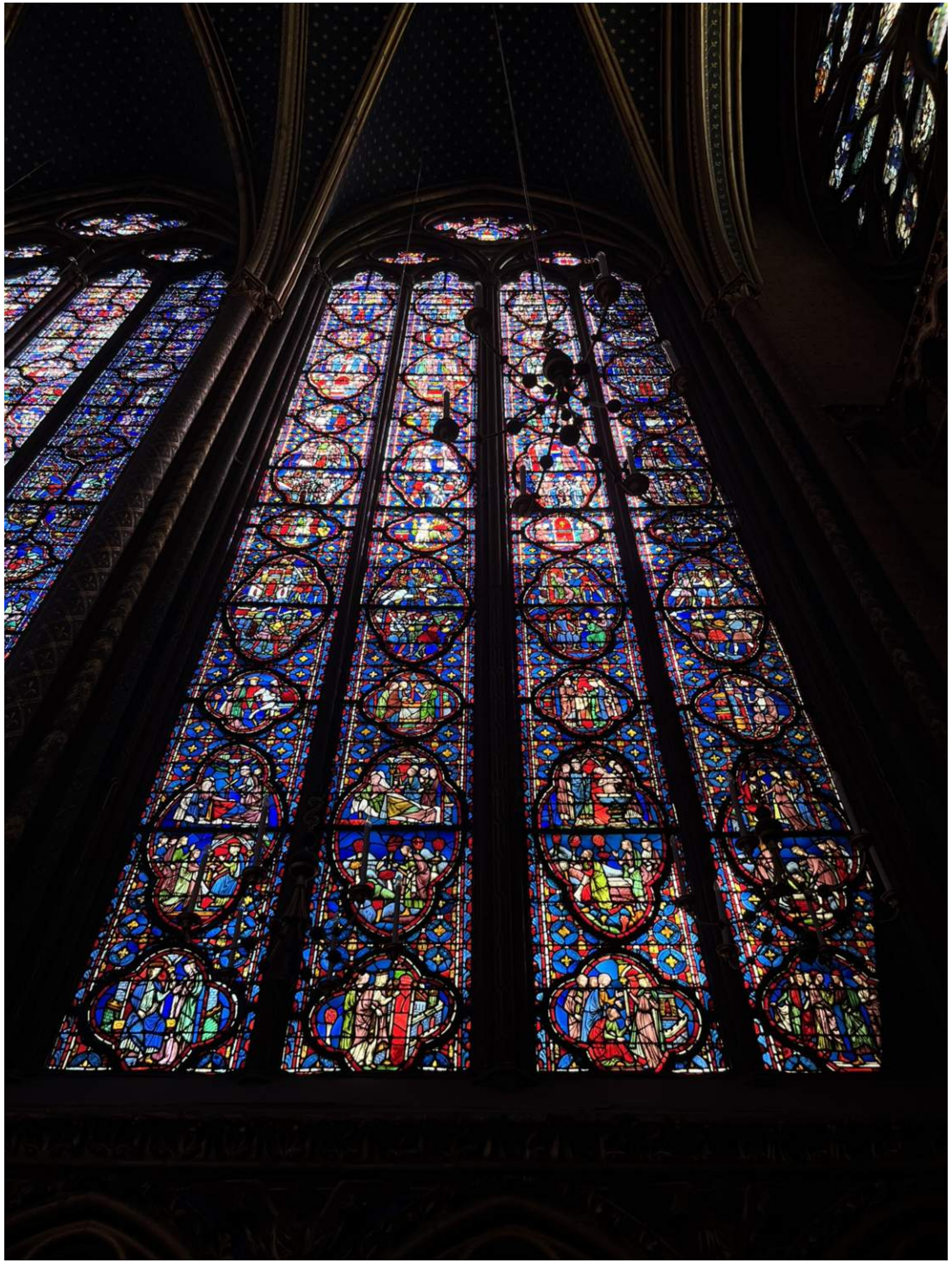
Sainte-Chapelle



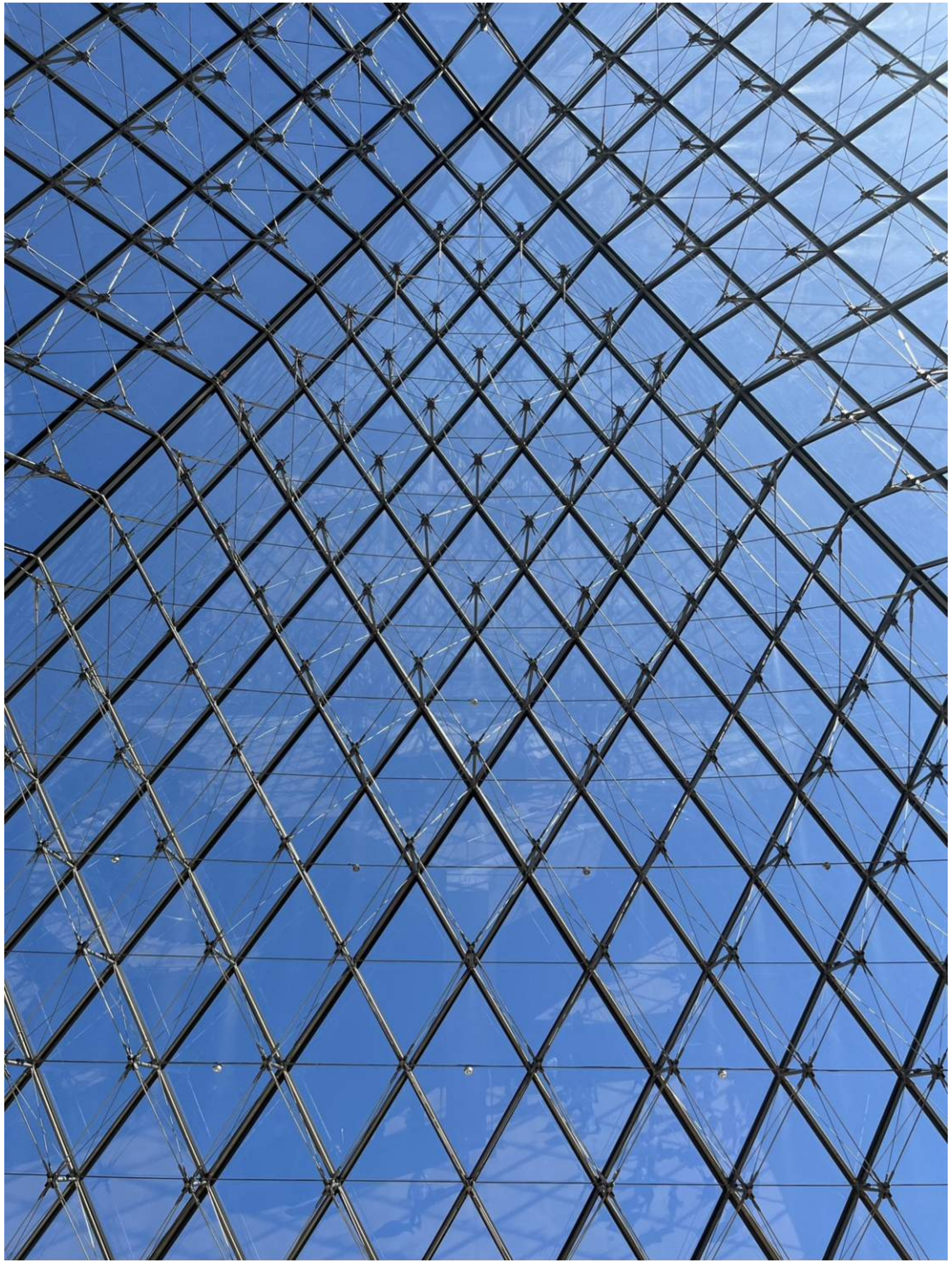
Sainte-Chapelle



Sainte-Chapelle



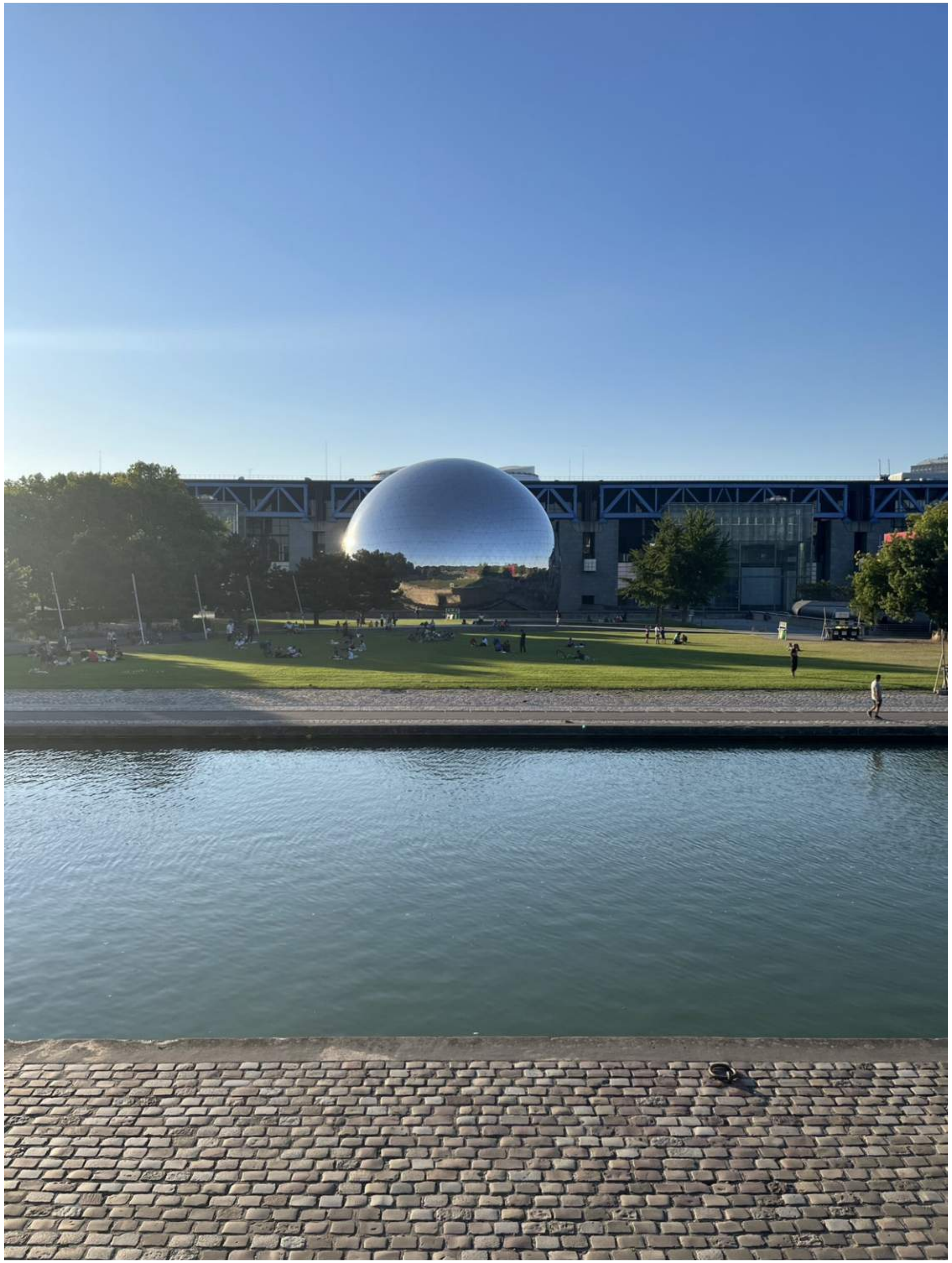
Sainte-Chapelle



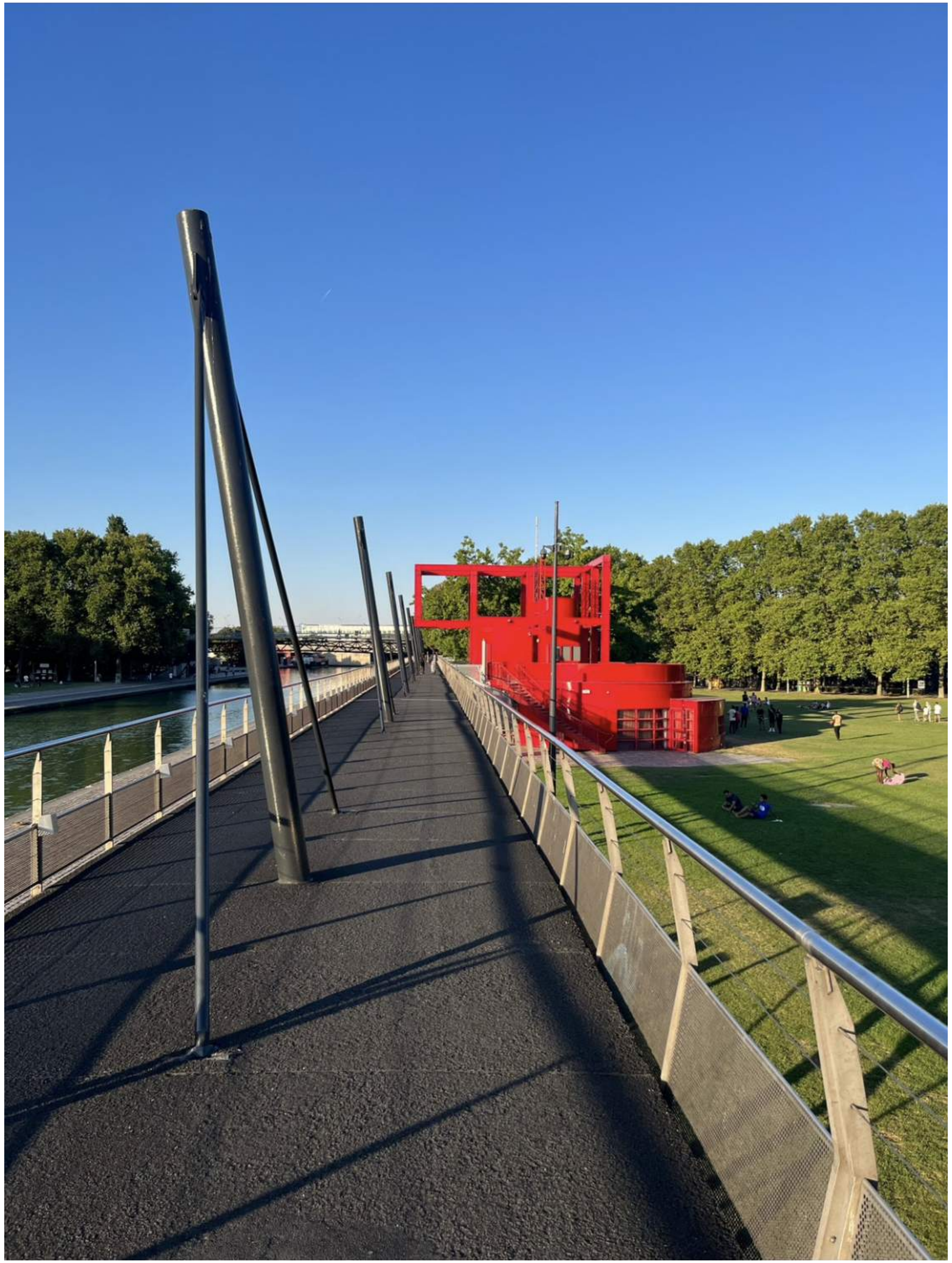
Louvre Pyramid

Arc de Triomphe

Eiffel Tower



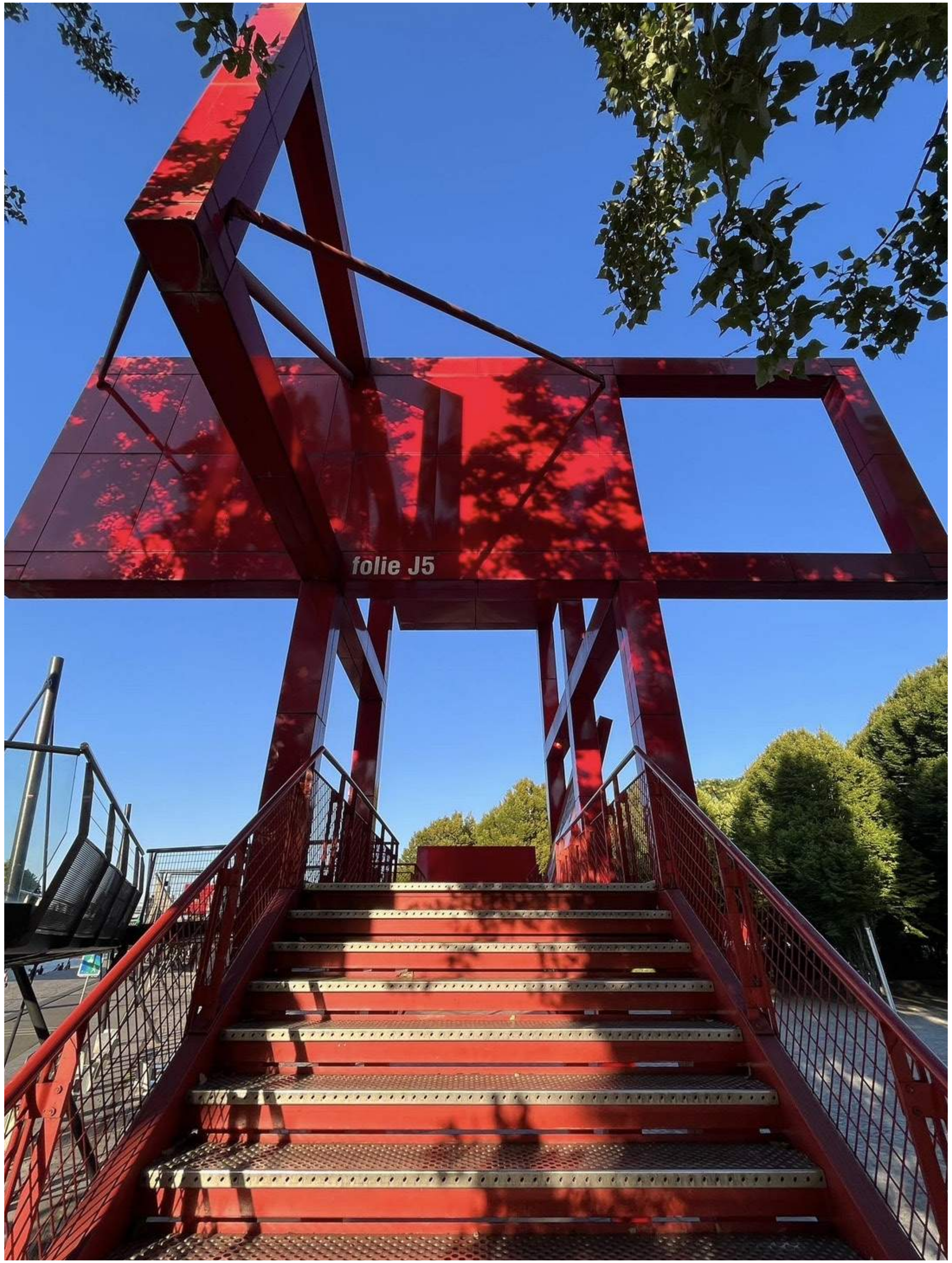
Parc de la Villette



Parc de la Villette

Parc de la Villette

Parc de la Villette



Parc de la Villette

SPAIN

MADRID 08/13 — 08/16

Madrid is the capital and largest city of Spain, but less popular than Barcelona. The city's architecture reflects its many periods of growth and development, from its medieval origins to its more recent expansion as a modern metropolis.

The CaixaForum, by Herzog & de Meuron, is a modern art museum and cultural center that was built in a converted power station in 2008. It is known for its unique, futuristic design that gives the appearance that the building is floating, and also houses a collection of contemporary art.

The city of Madrid also has a number of beautiful parks and gardens, including the Retiro Park and the Buen Retiro Palace. The Retiro Park is a large, green space in the heart of the city, and the Buen Retiro Palace is a beautiful Renaissance-style building that now serves as a museum. The city of Madrid is a very colorful and vibrant city, especially after dark.

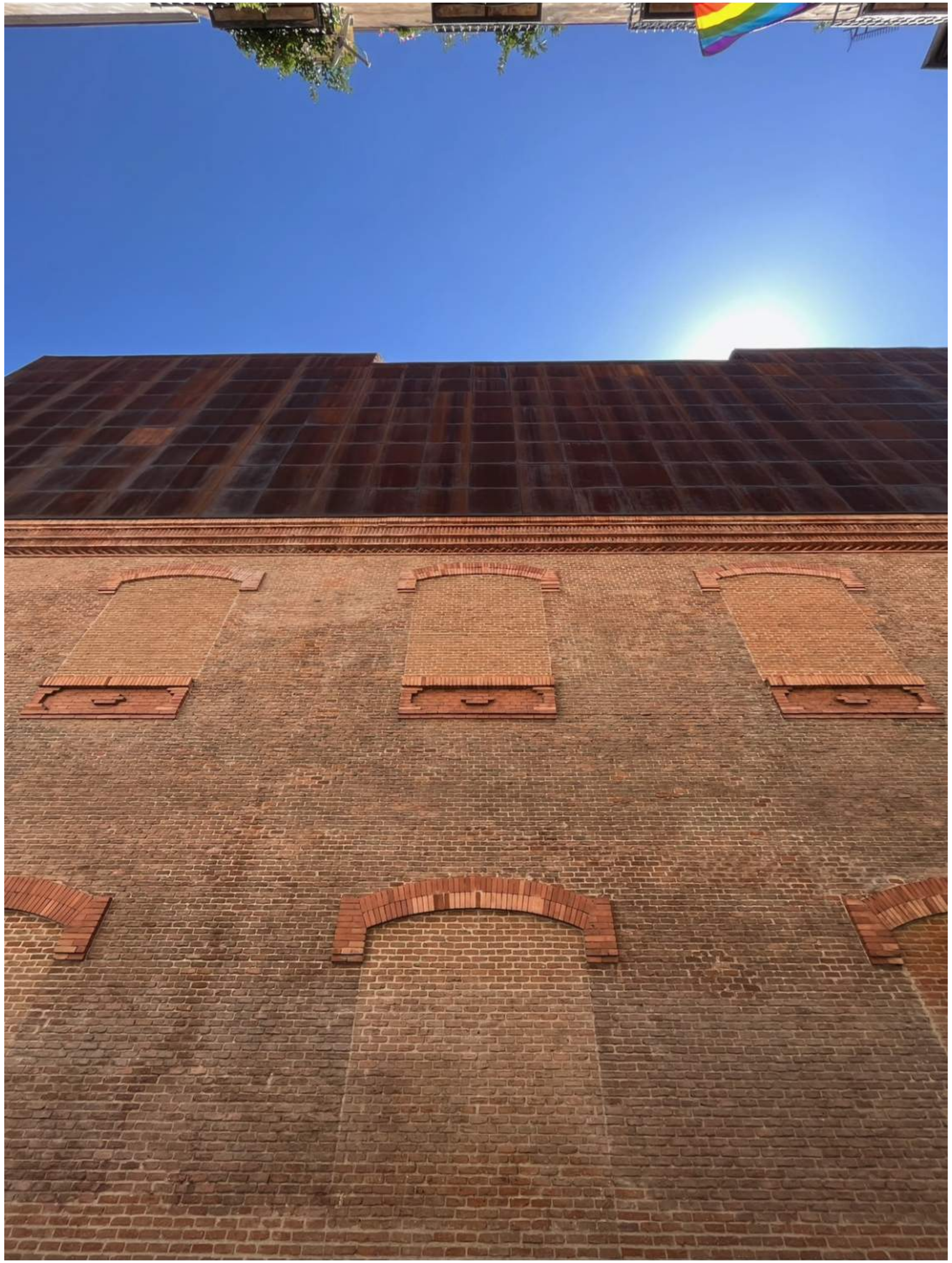
Hostel Rooftop

CAPTAIN CAND
REGALA

TIO PEPE

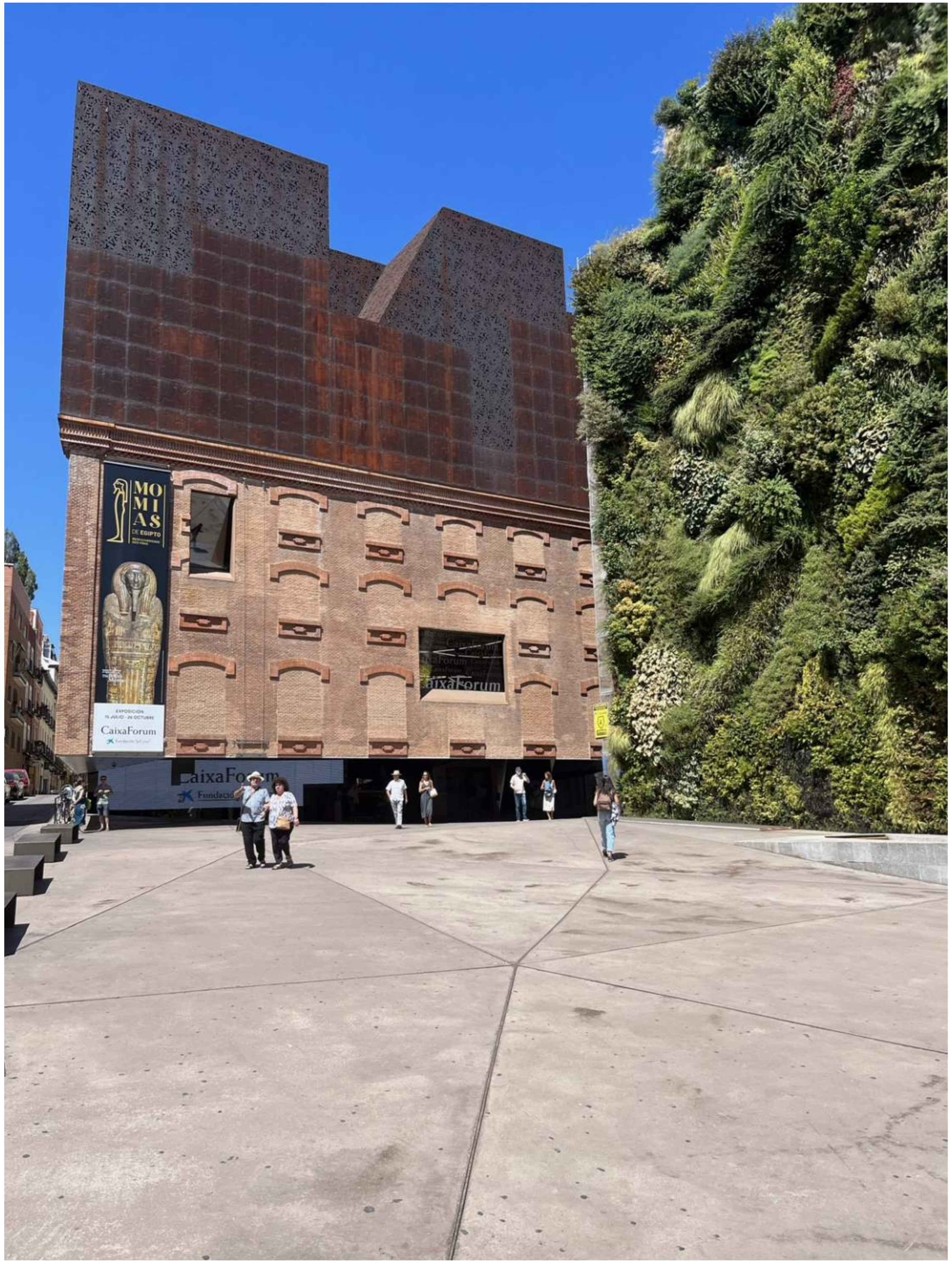
HOTEL ANACO
PETIT PALACE

Caixa Forum



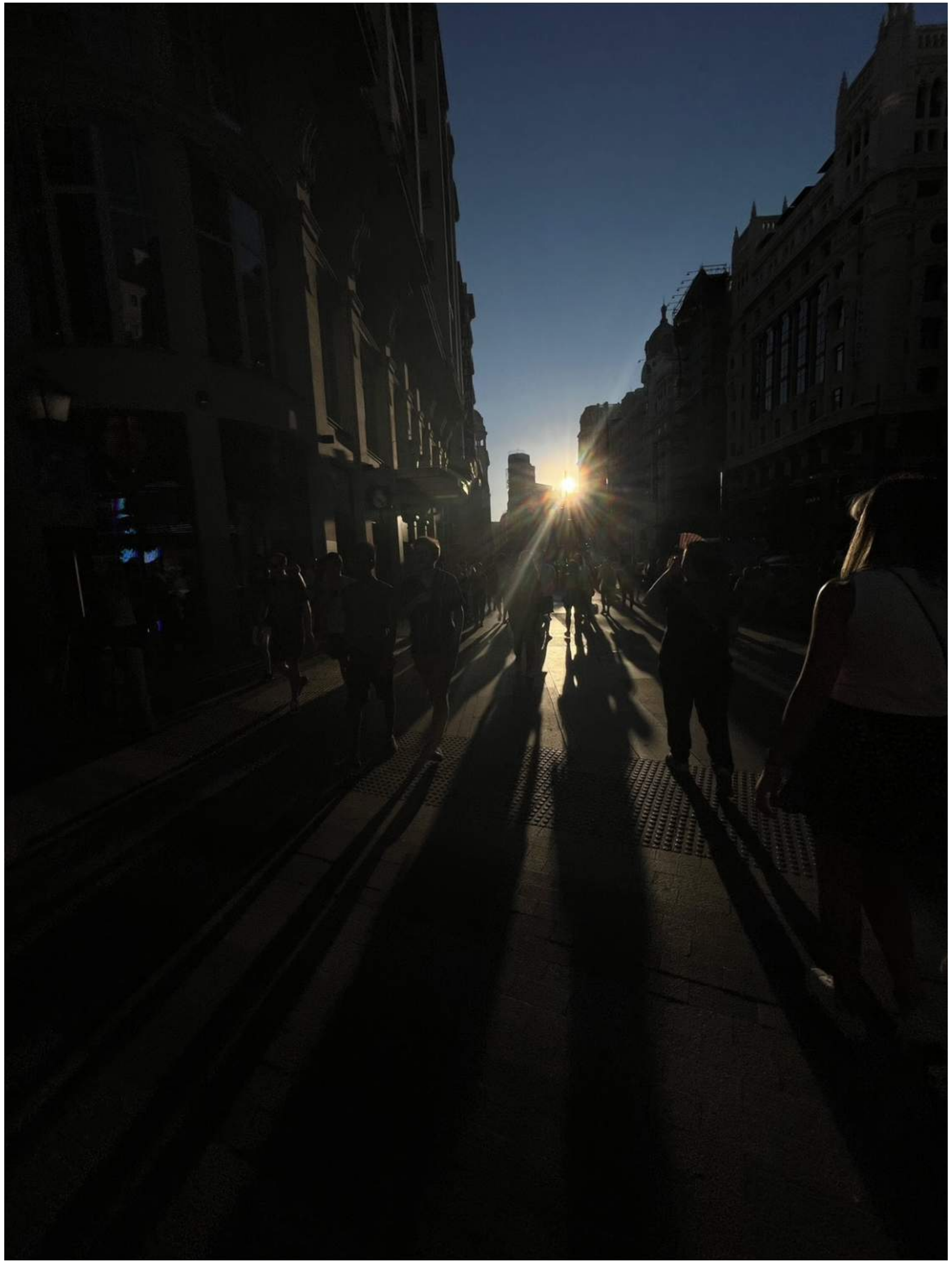
Caixa Forum

Caixa Forum


MOMIAS
DE EGIPTO
CaixaForum

Caixa Forum

Almudena Cathedral



Barcelona is a city in Spain known for its vibrant culture and of course, Antoni Gaudí whose work has played a major role in shaping the city's visual identity. His many buildings and designs serve as testament to his creativity and imagination.

One of the most iconic architectural landmarks in Barcelona is the Sagrada Familia, a large Roman Catholic basilica designed by the famous architect Antoni Gaudí. The Sagrada Familia is one of the most famous buildings in Spain and is considered to be Gaudí's masterpiece. It is still under construction, with an estimated completion date of 2026. I was fortunate enough to be able to take a tour up one of the towers for sweeping views of the city. This was an experience I will never forget and highly reccommend to anyone visiting who isn't afraid of heights. To come down from the tower, you must make your way down a narrow spiral staircase with no internal guardrail, which was a bit unsettling.

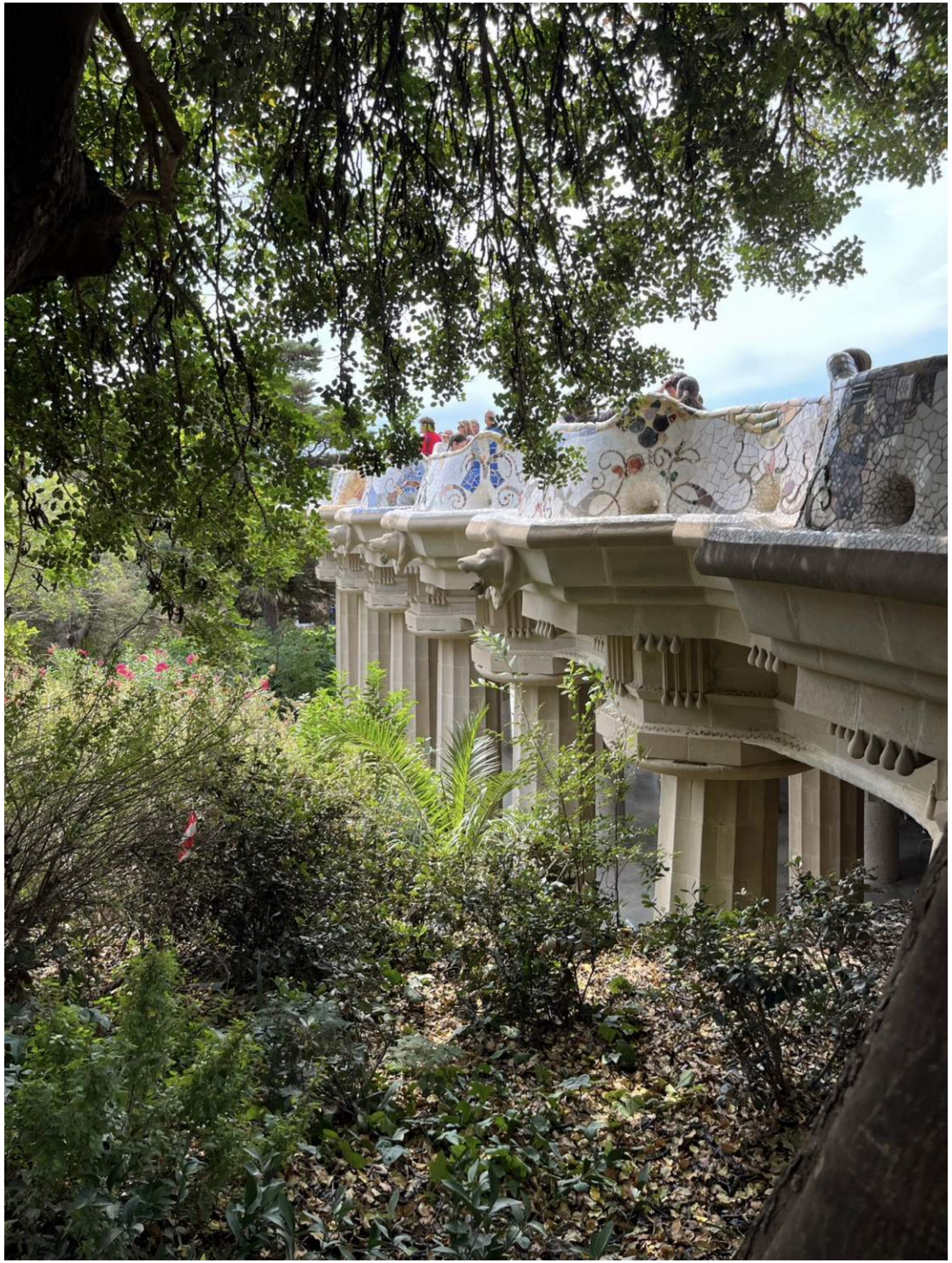
Another notable landmark in Barcelona is the Casa Batlló, a building designed by Gaudí that is now a museum. The Casa Batlló was built in the early 1900s and is known for its colorful, organic shapes and intricate details. The building was unbelievably crowded and stuffy during my tour but the beauty of the architecture made up for it. Gaudí's influence can also be seen in many other buildings throughout Barcelona, including the Park Güell. The Park Güell is a large public park with sculptures, mosaics, and other works by Gaudí, which was a true dreamscape. While exploring this massive park, a sun halo even appeared above adding more to the ambience.

One of my favorite parts of Barcelona was a spontaneous trip to the Moco Museum, a contemporary art museum with large sculptures and huge paintings. A favorite of mine was seeing the works of Banksy, the pseudonymous street-artist based in England with an unconfirmed name or identity. Banksy's anonymity has helped to create a sense of mystery and intrigue around his work, and his art has become highly sought after by collectors.

Park Güell

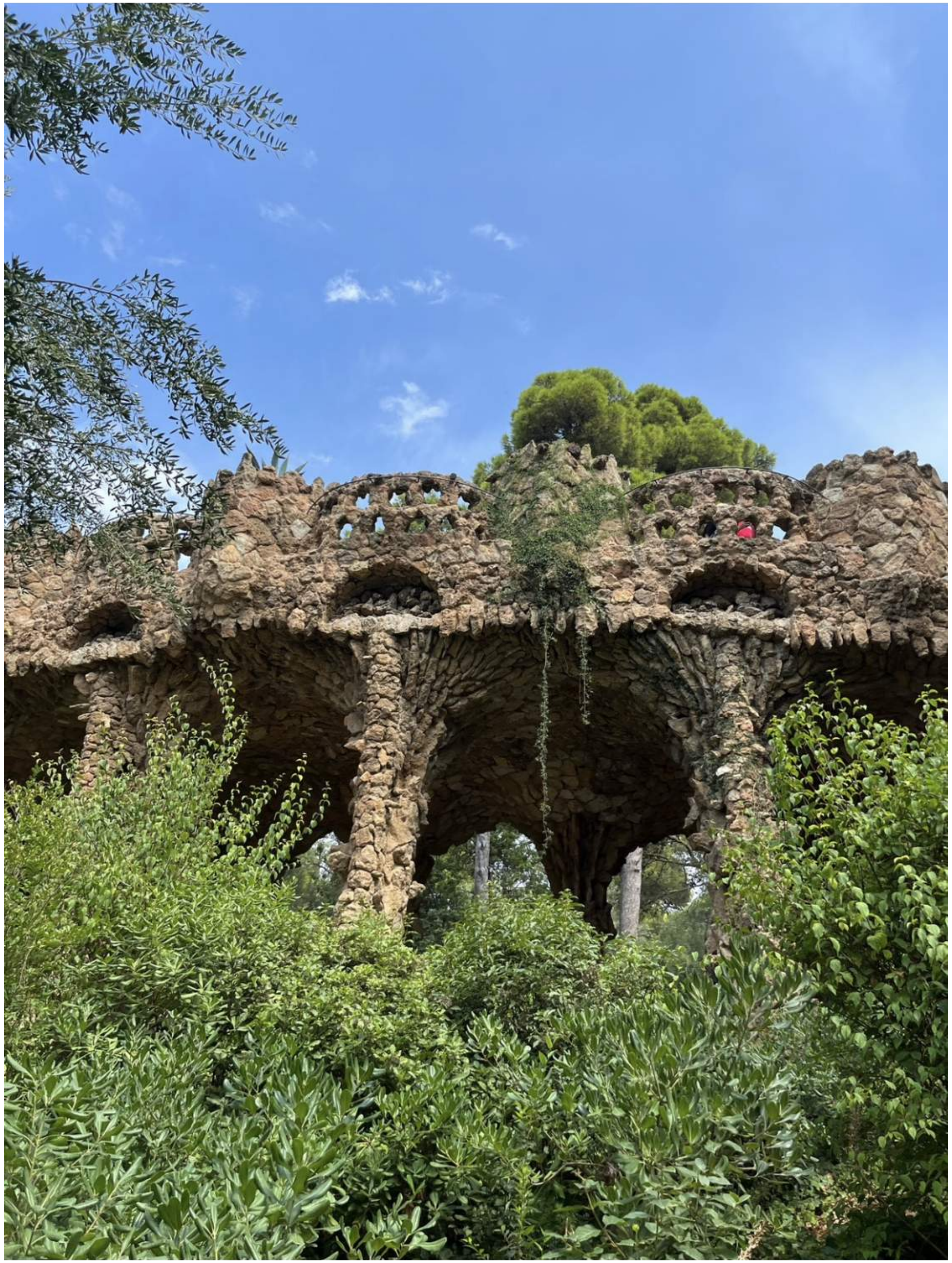
Park Güell

Park Güell

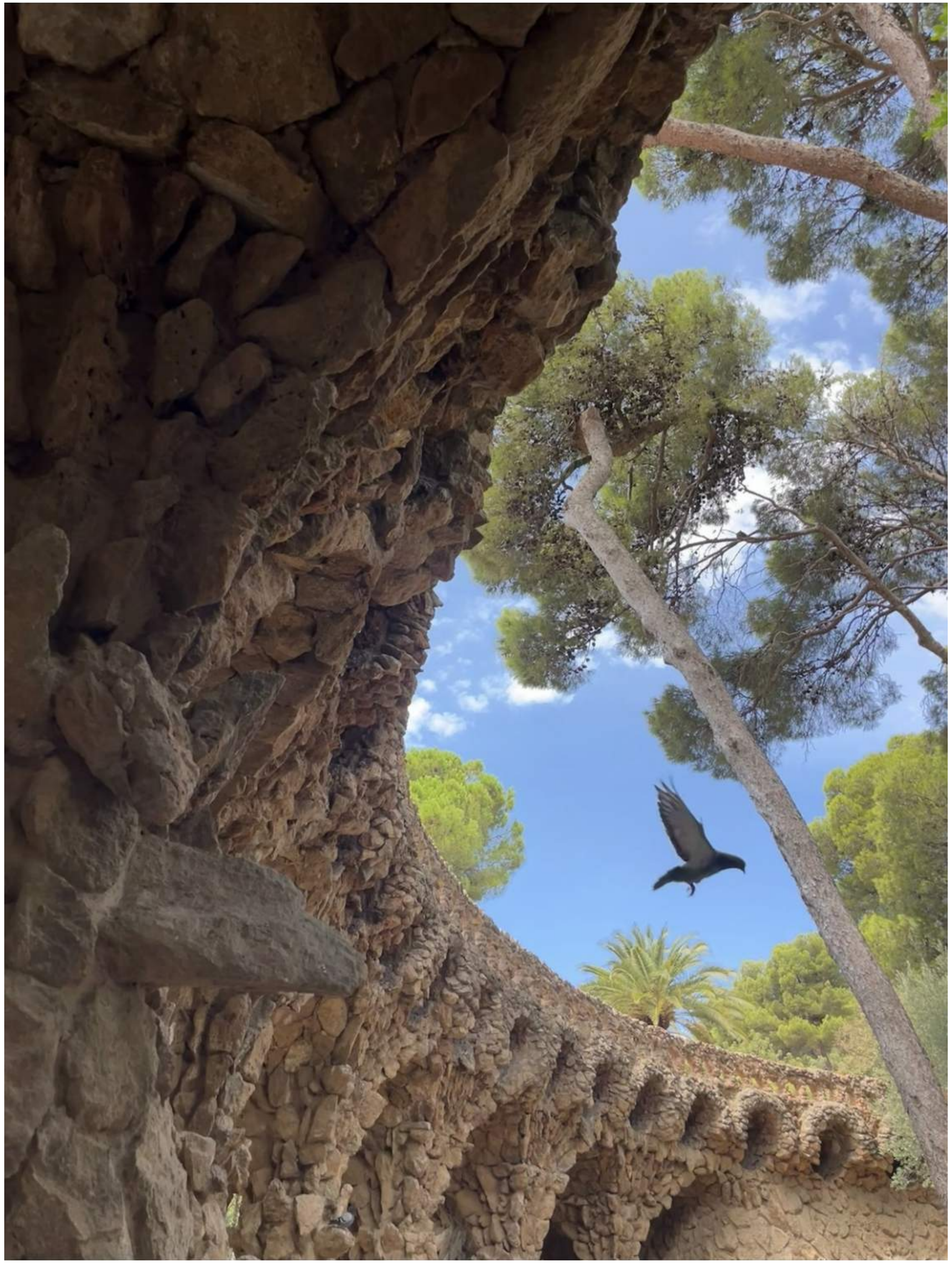


Park Güell

Park Güell



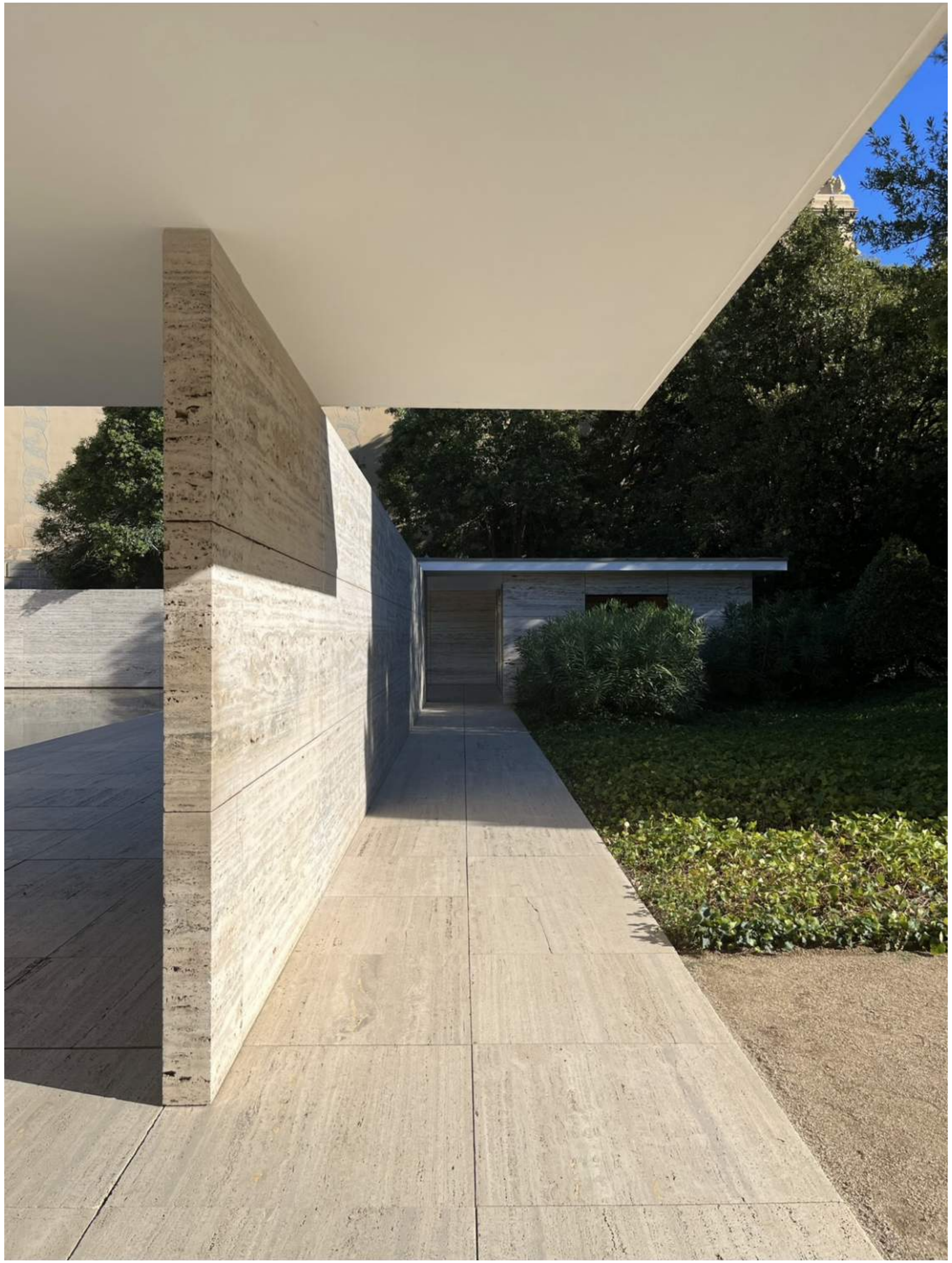
Park Güell



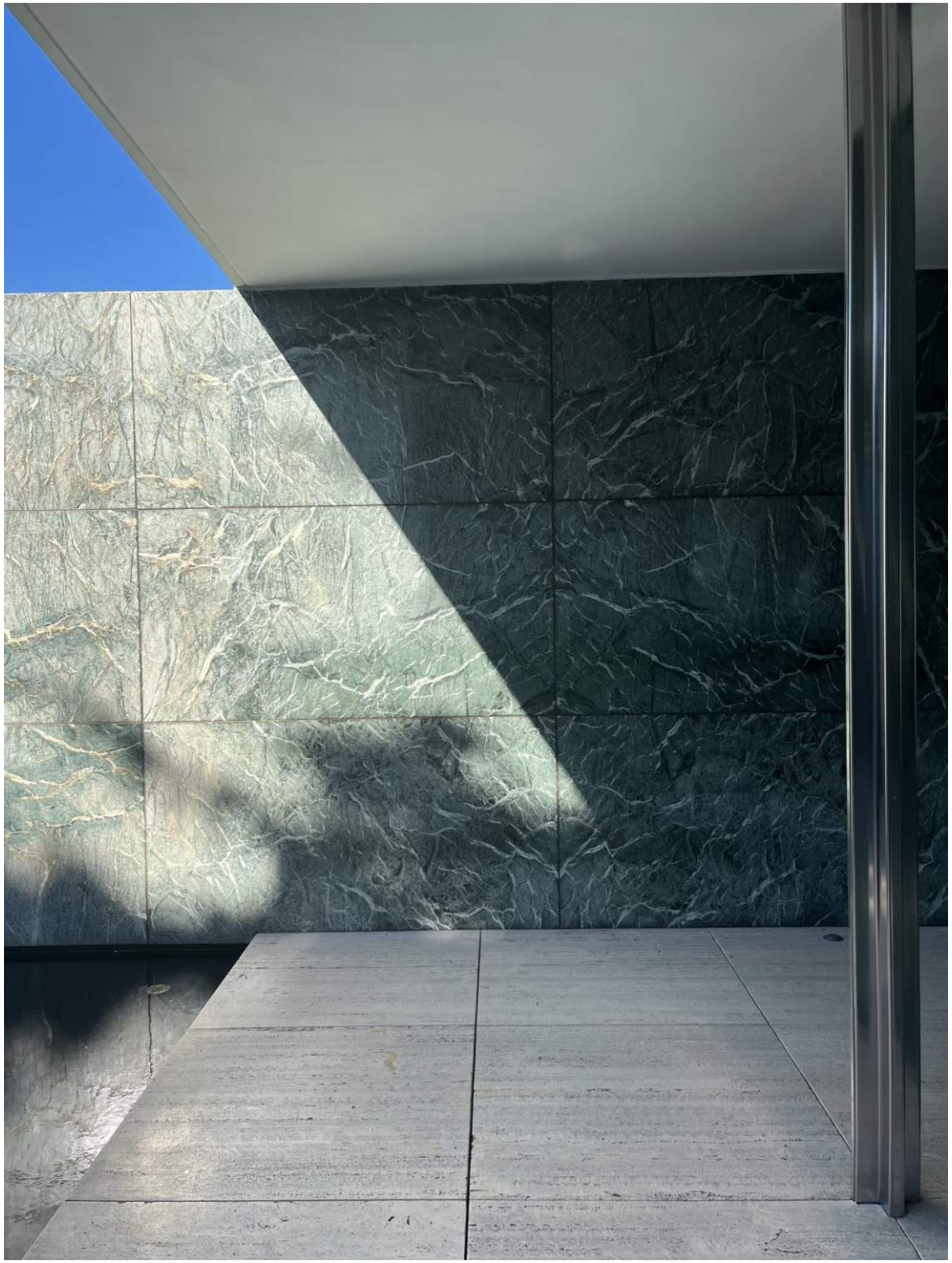
Park Güell

Park Güell

Park Güell

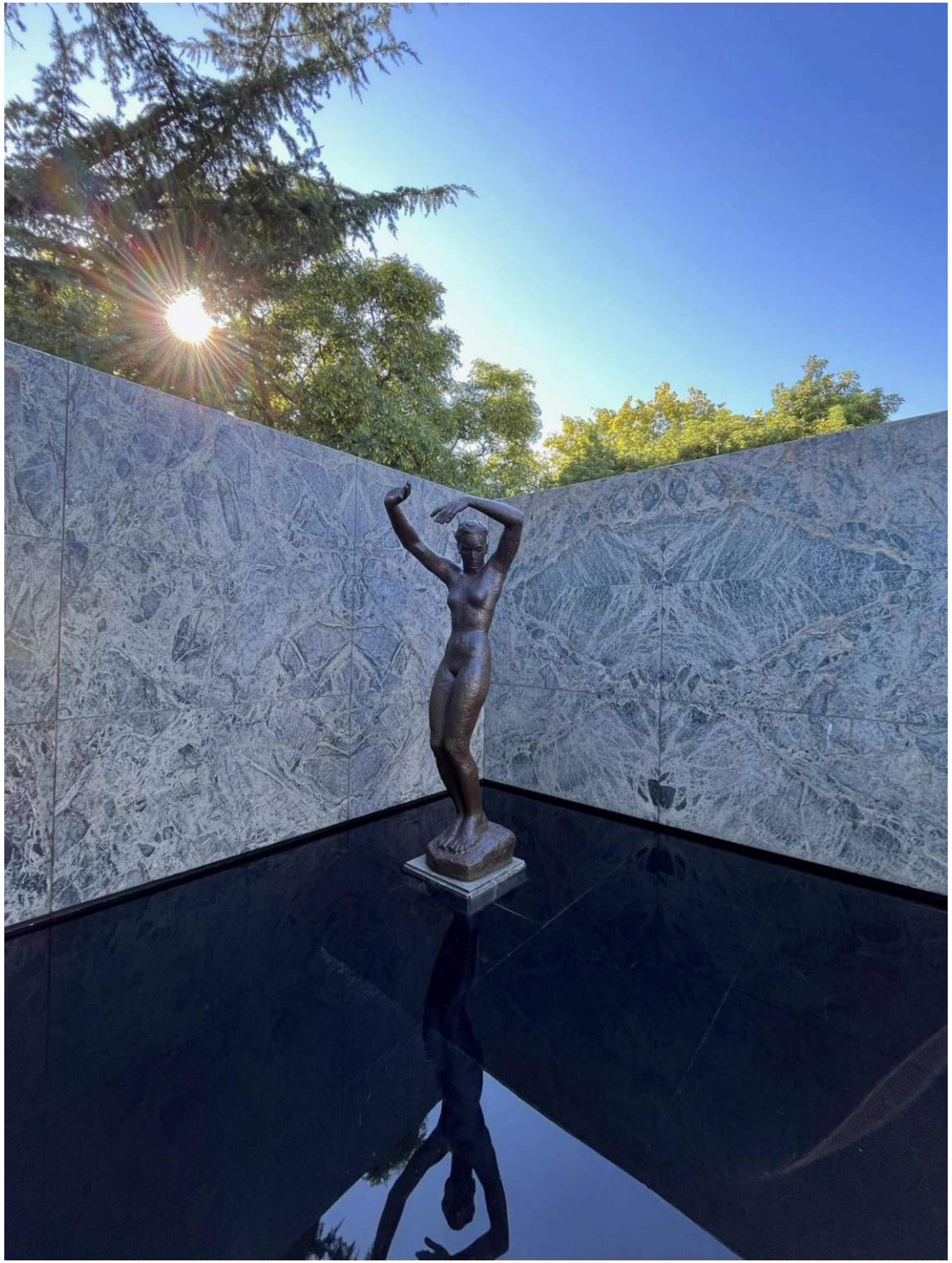


Barcelona Pavilion



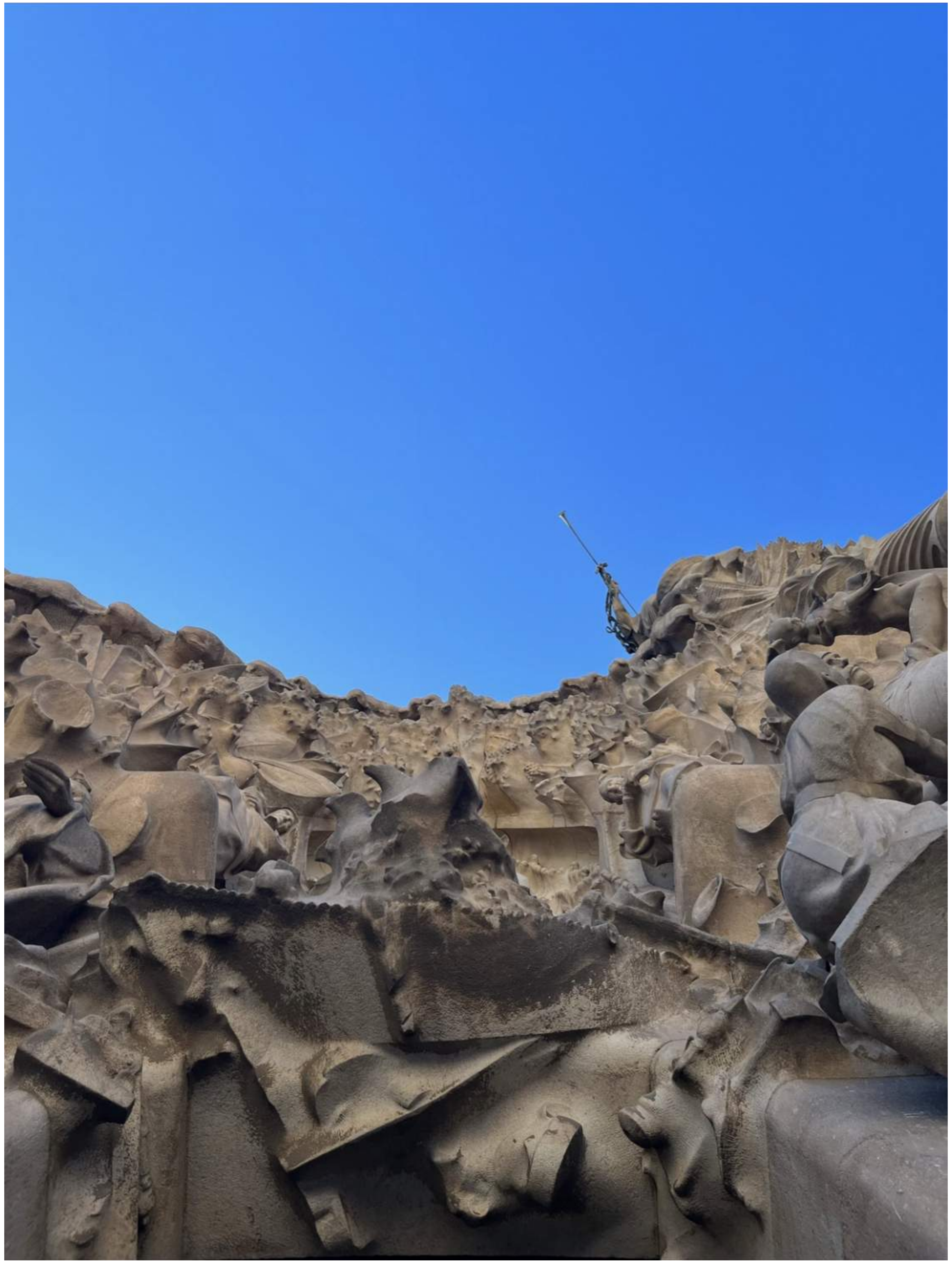
Barcelona Pavilion

Barcelona Pavilion



Barcelona Pavilion

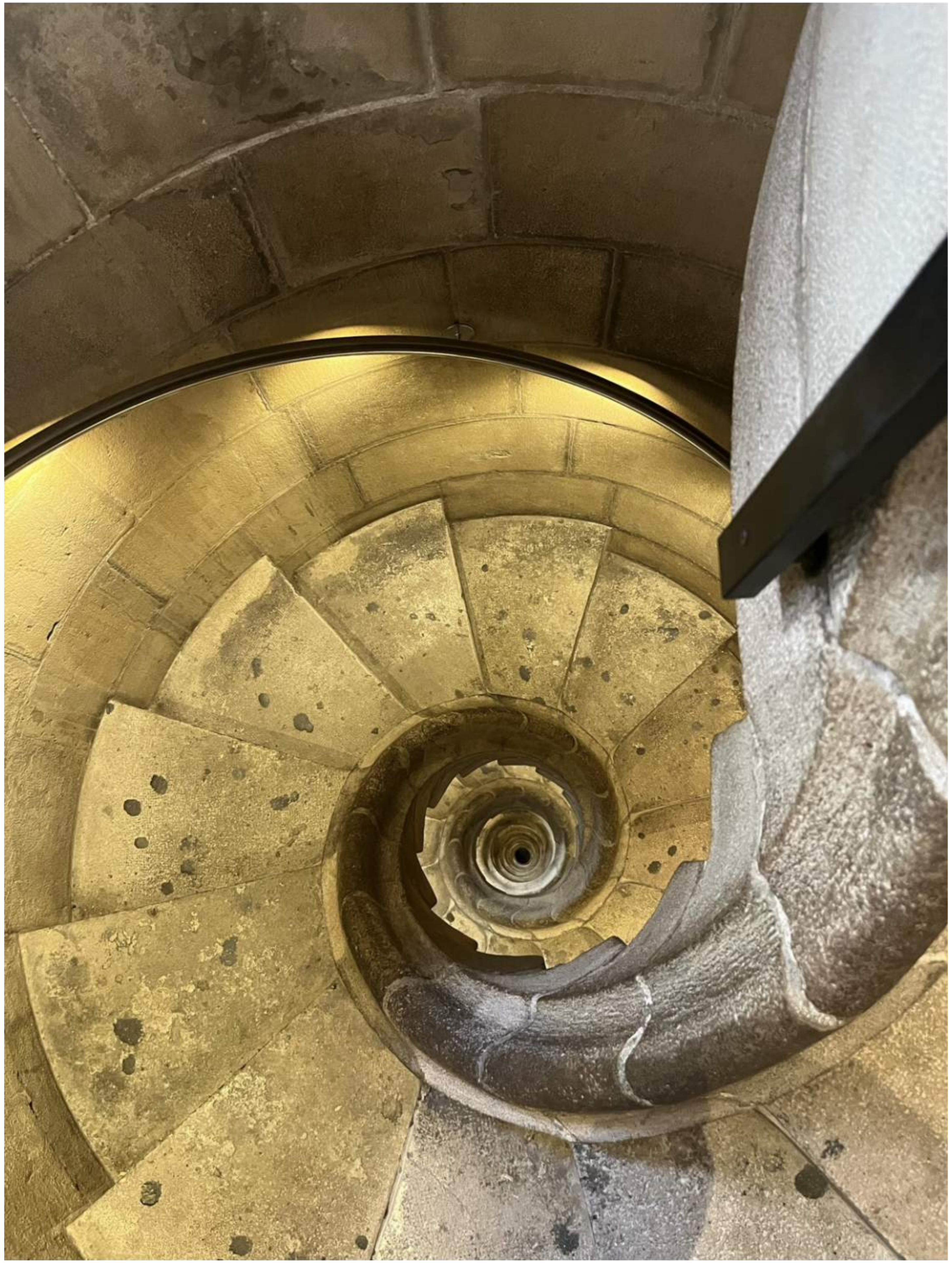
La Sagrada Familia



La Sagrada Familia

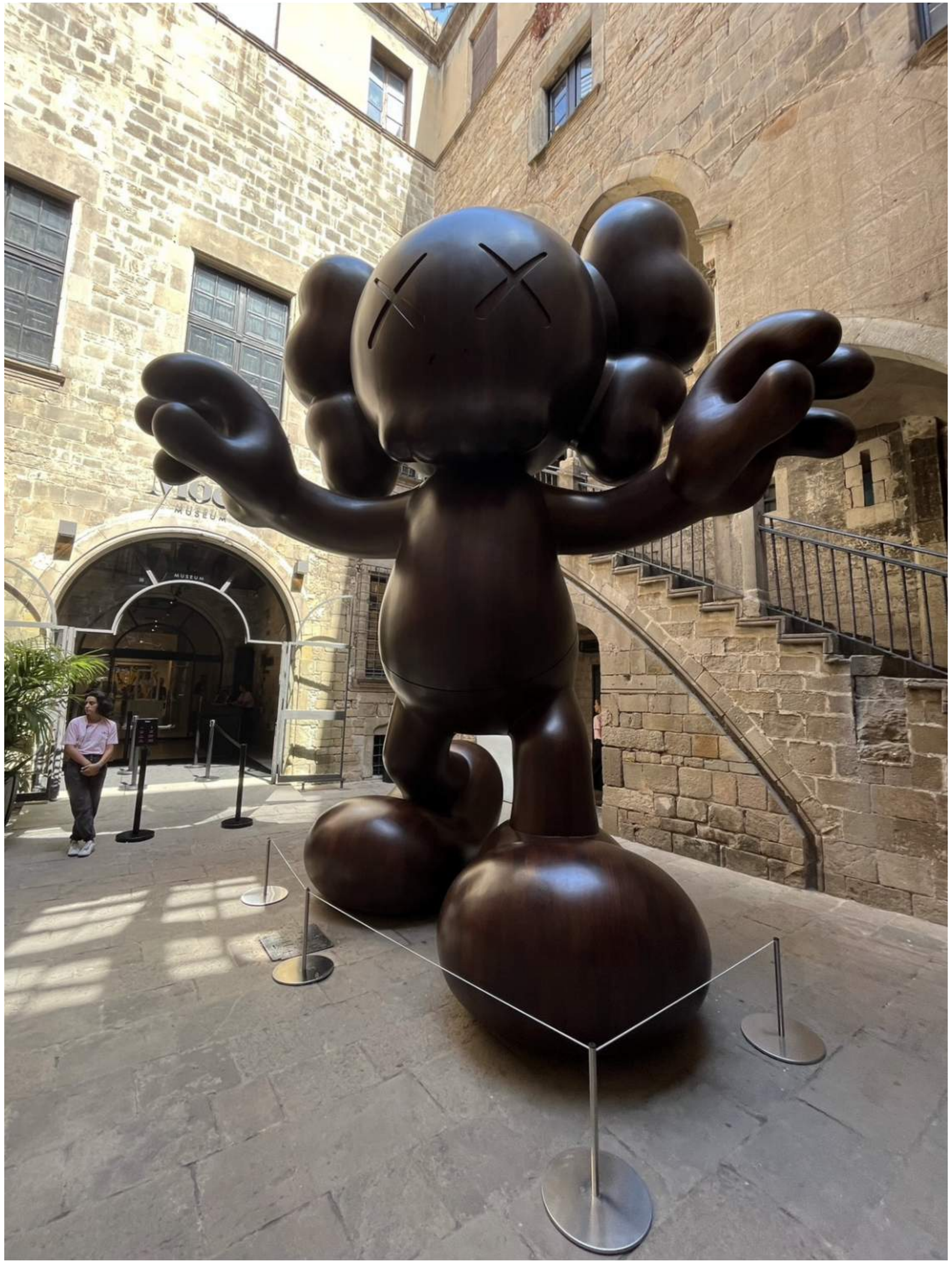
La Sagrada Familia

La Sagrada Familia

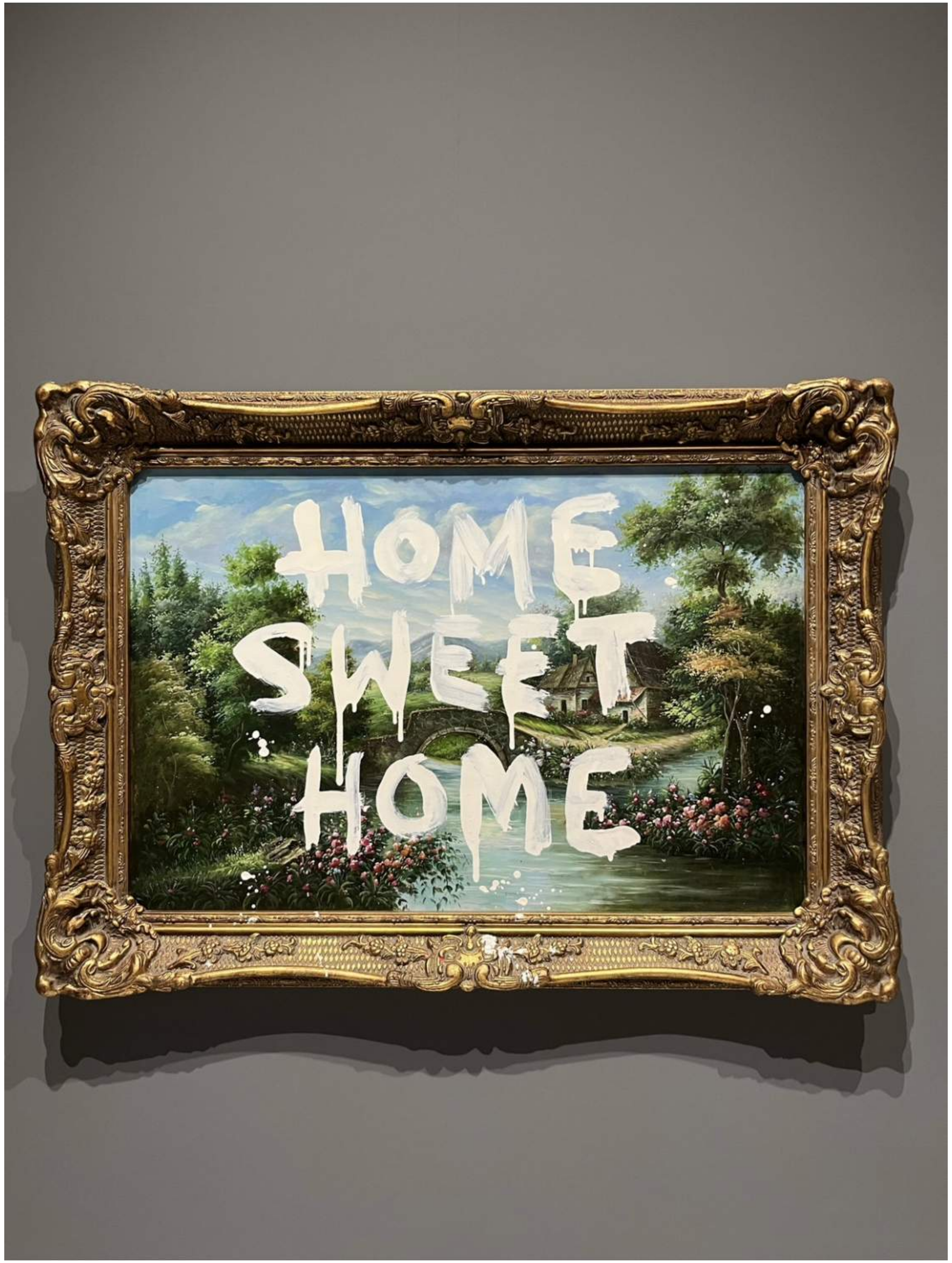


La Sagrada Familia

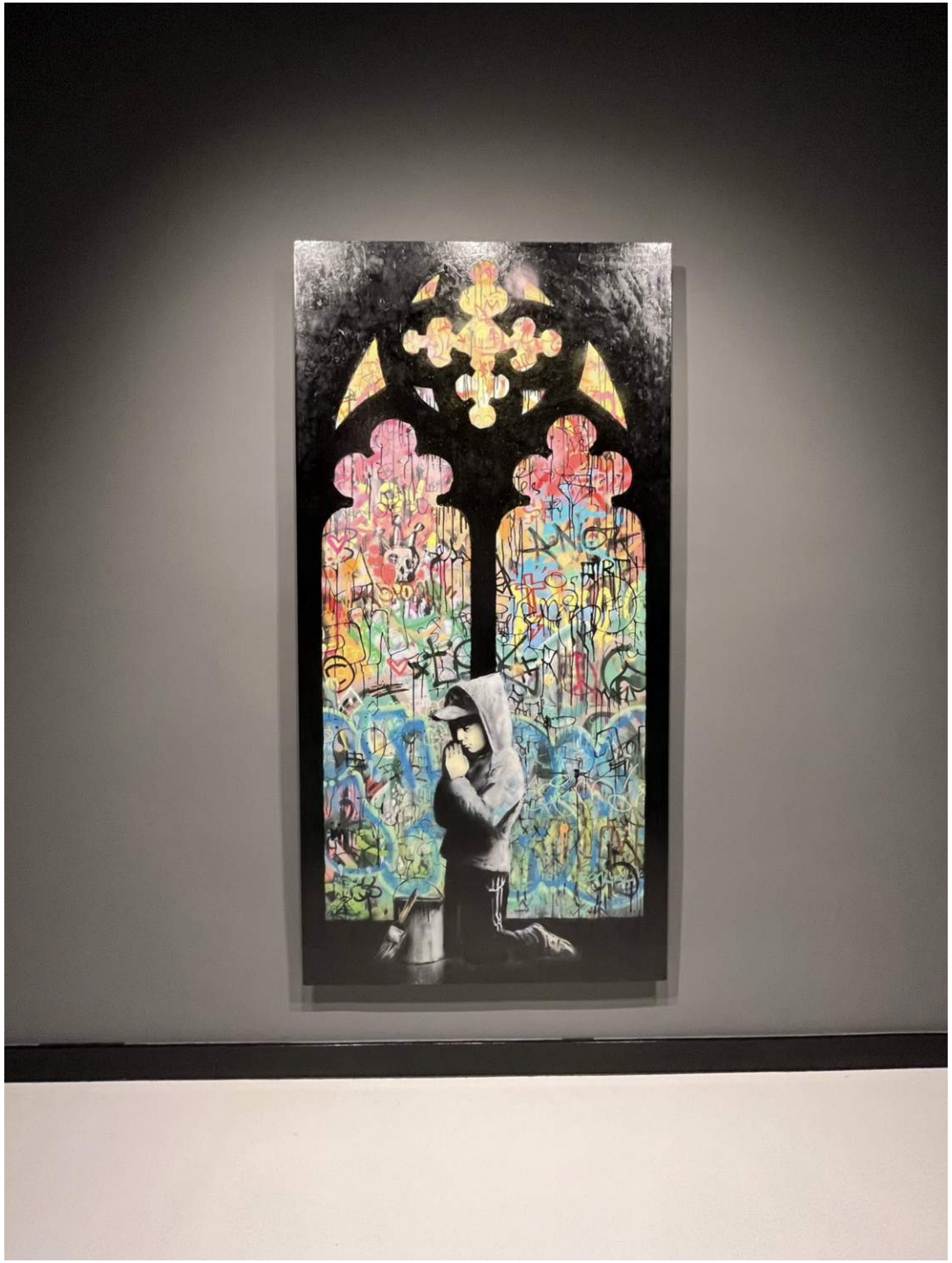
La Sagrada Familia



Moco Museum Barcelona - Kaws


HOME
SWEET
HOME

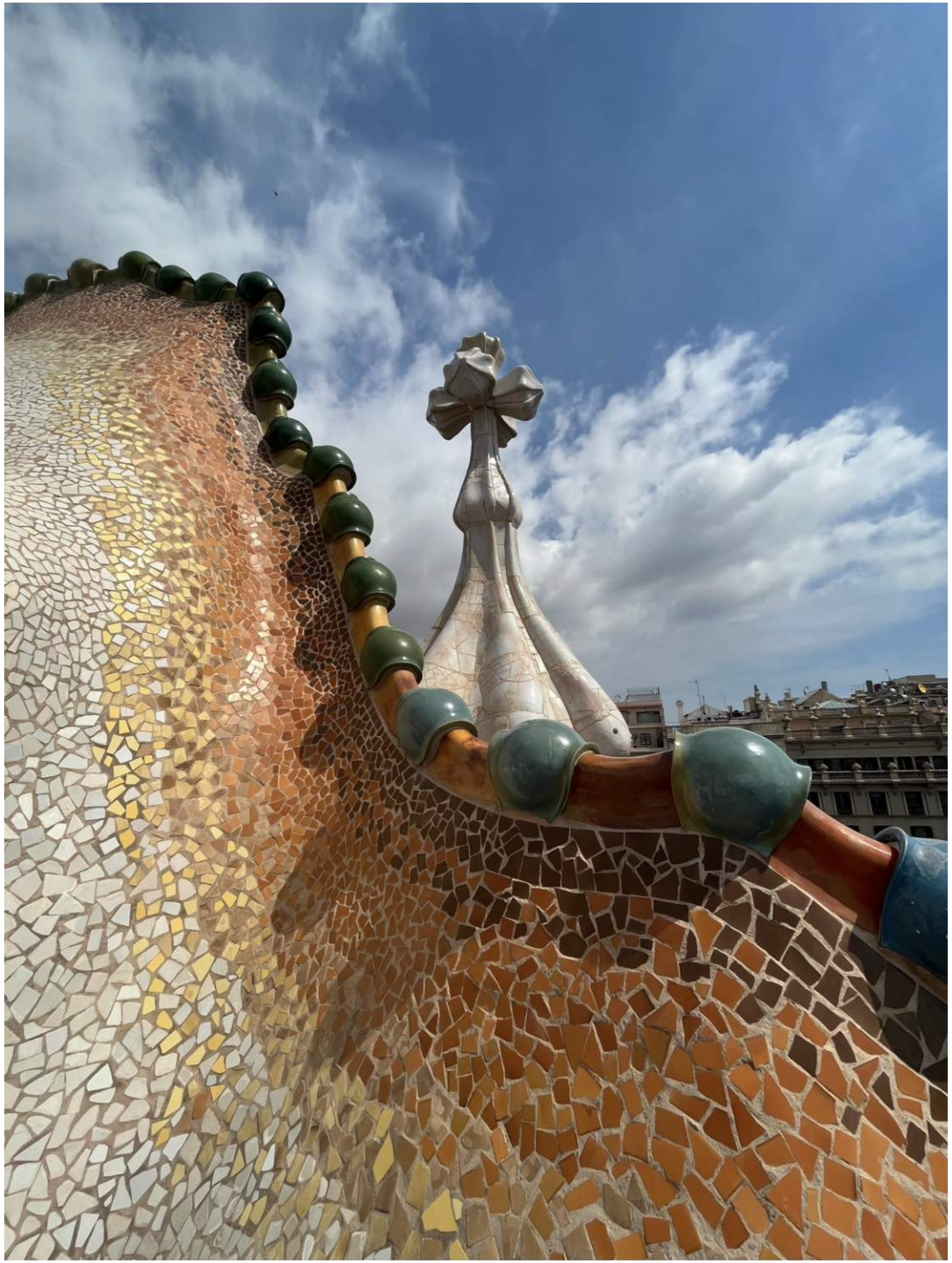
Moco Museum Barcelona - Banksy



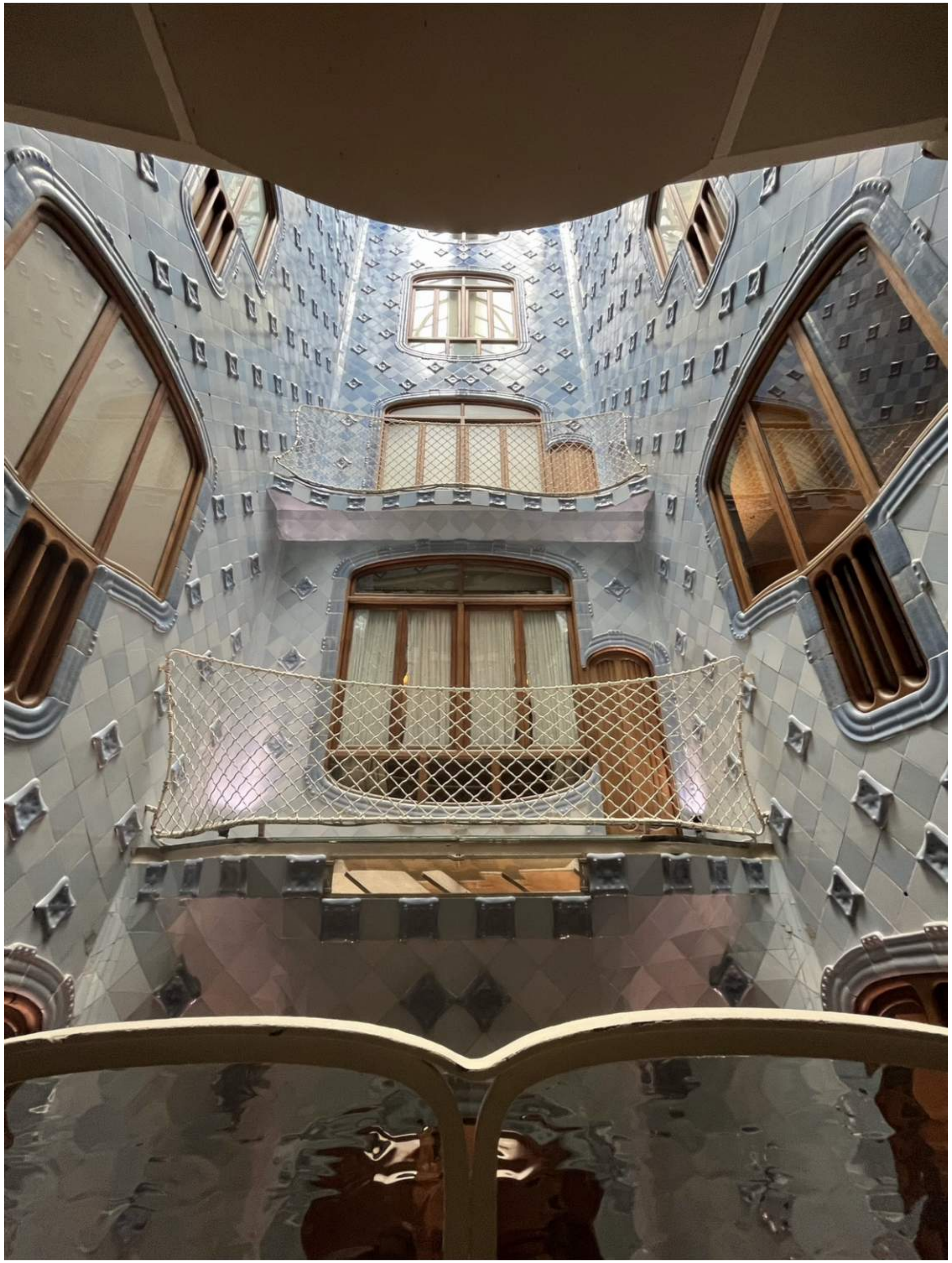
Moco Museum Barcelona - Banksy

Moco Museum Barcelona - Cyril Lancelin

Casa Batlló



Casa Batlló



Casa Batlló

Casa Batlló

ITALY

VENICE

08/22 — 08/27

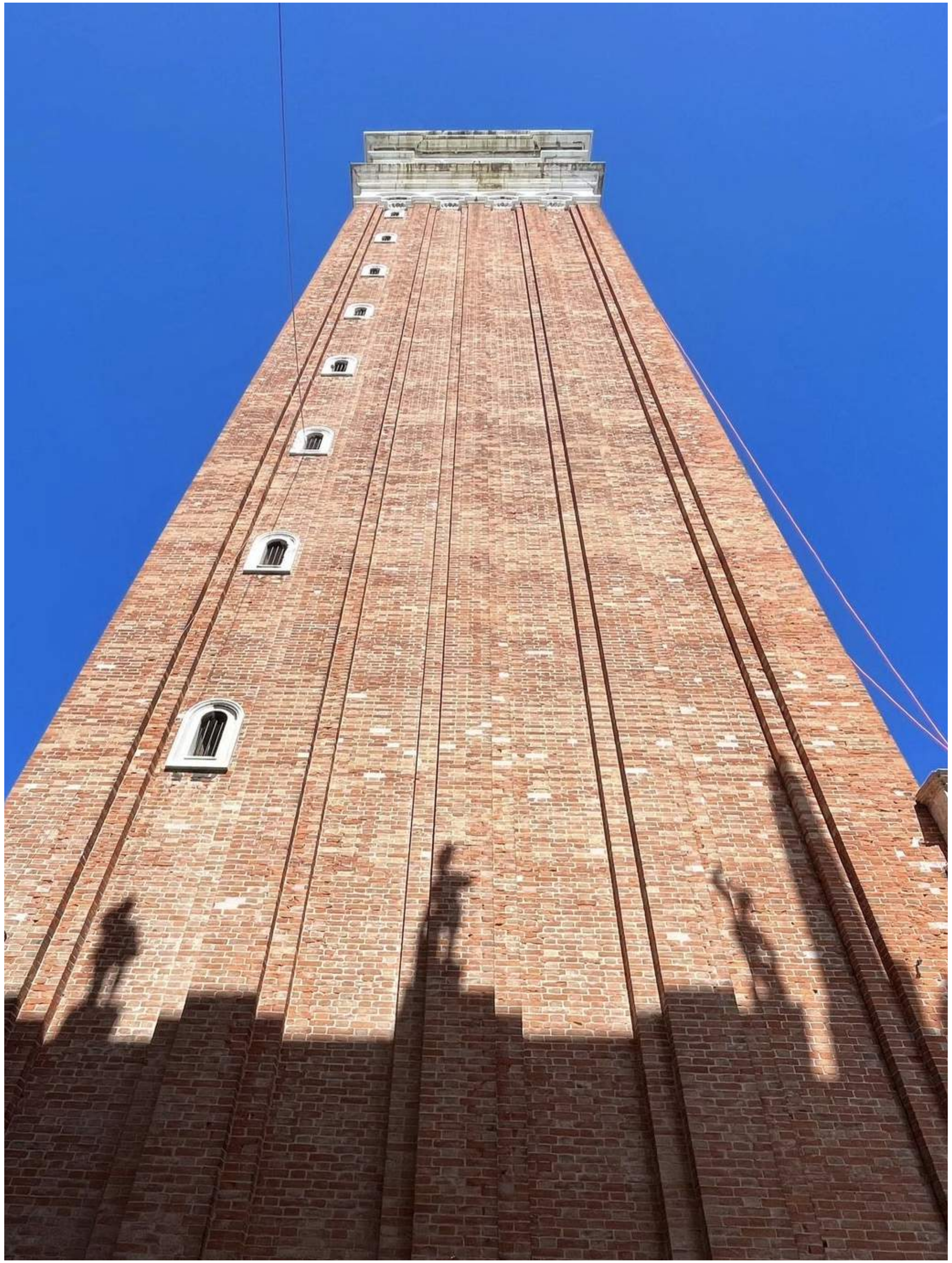
The picturesque city of Venice was exactly what I expected it to be, a city like no other. It's strange to think I didn't see any cars for 5 days, but the boats and water were much more scenic. The city is built on a series of small islands in the Venetian Lagoon and is famous for its canals, bridges, and Renaissance-era buildings. Despite being on a small island, there are loads of things to see and do. Unfortunately, I caught a cold during my stay in Venice. Considering the COVID-19 pandemic was still ongoing, I had to take precautions and rest in bed for my final few days here.

Before falling ill, I was able to visit many of Venice's main attractions including St. Mark's Square and get lost in the narrow streets plenty of times. The Venice Biennale Arte 2022 was going on during my time there, and I spent a good two days exploring that alone. The Biennale is an international art exhibition that takes place in Venice every two years. The Biennale was first held in 1895 and has since become one of the most prestigious events in the art world. It features exhibitions of contemporary art, architecture, and other disciplines, and is a major attraction for art lovers from around the world.

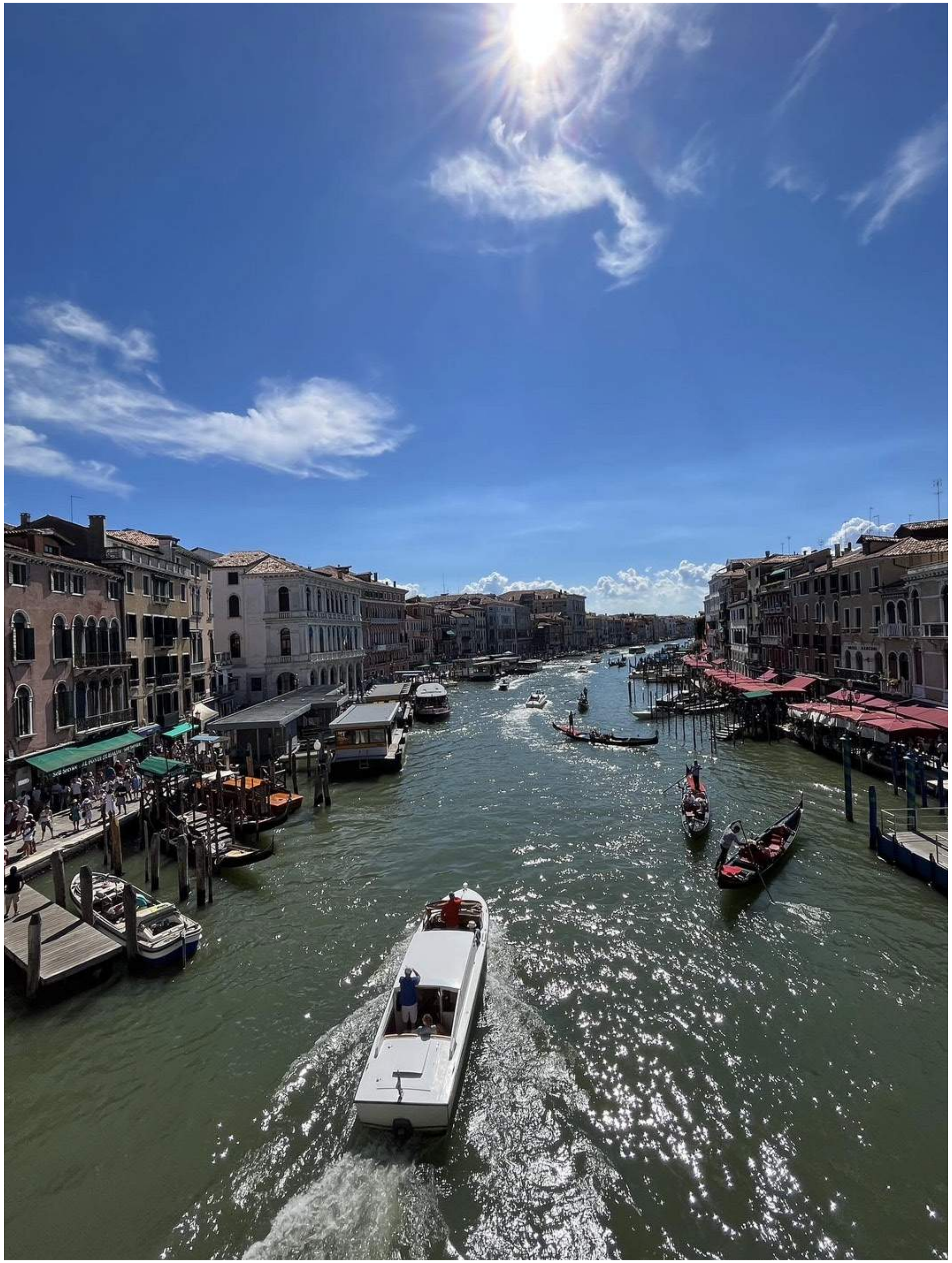
Walking at night can be particularly enjoyable, as many Italian cities come alive after dark with lively bars and restaurants, but Venice is not that type of city. After dark, a large majority of shops close and the people seem to dissapear quickly. However, walking at night through the city of canals and hearing the water is beuatiful and unlike any other place in the world.

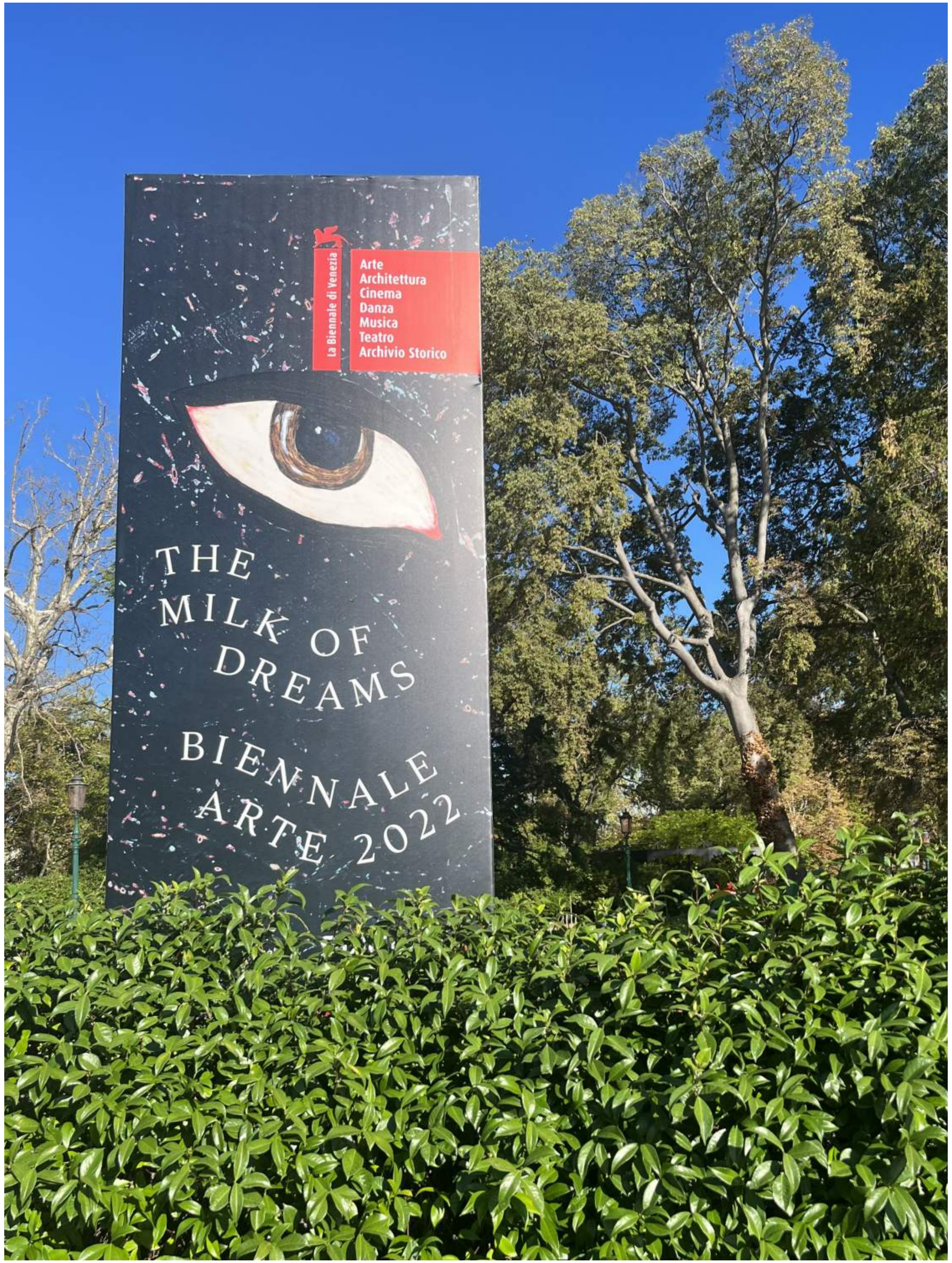
San Marco

Hostel View

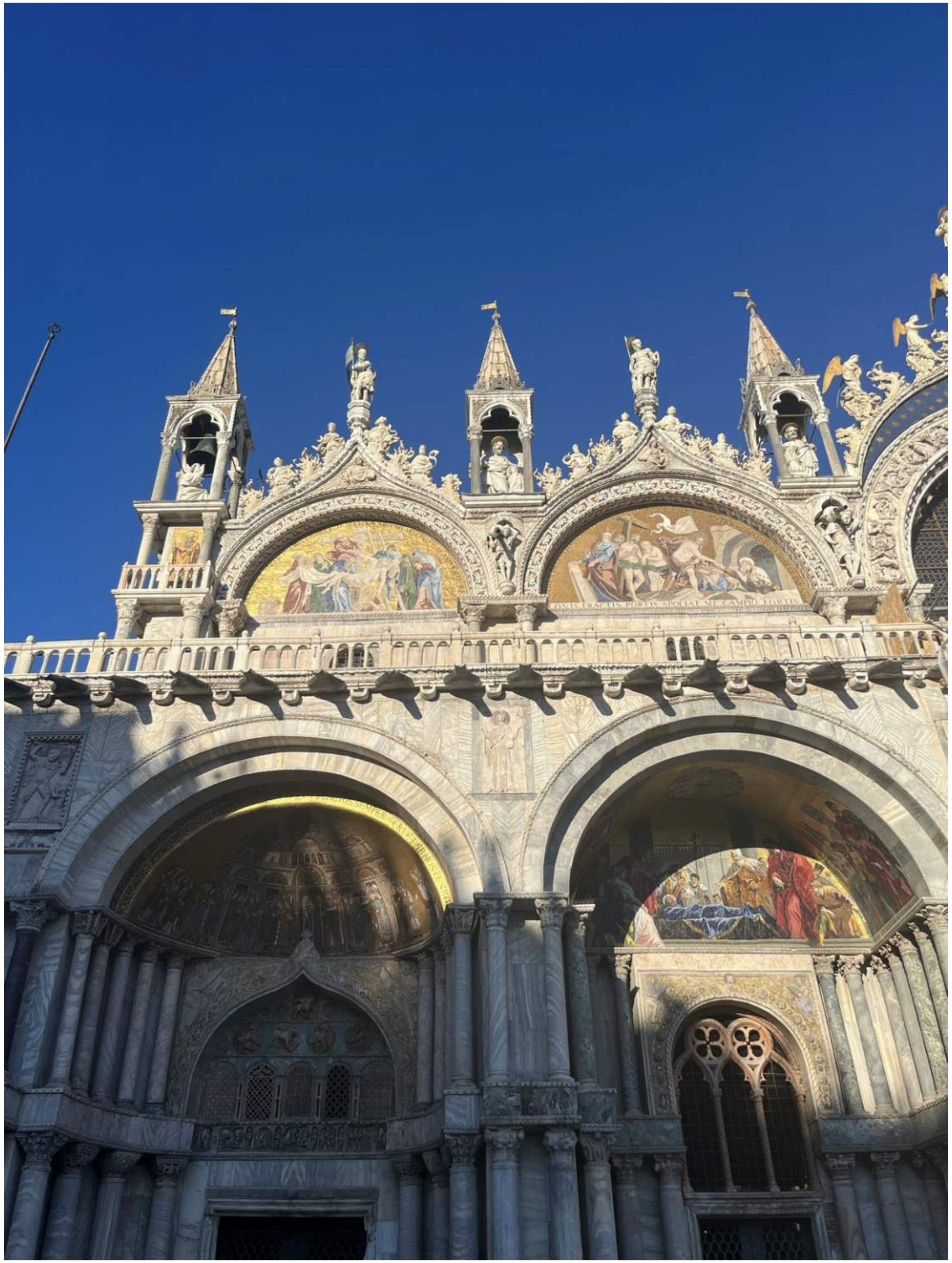


Campanile di San Marco




La Biennale di Venezia
Arte
Architettura
Cinema
Danza
Musica
Teatro
Archivio Storico
THE MILK OF DREAMS
BIENNALE ARTE 2022

St. Mark's Square



Basilica di San Marco

Finally feeling better, I was eager to resume my trip and take on the city of Florence. I was surprised to find how easily walkwable Florence was after checking into my hostel and making my way to the most iconic architectural landmark in Florence, the Duomo. A gothic cathedral that was built in the 14th and 15th centuries. The Duomo is a masterpiece of Italian Gothic architecture and is known for its elaborate facade and beautiful stained glass windows.

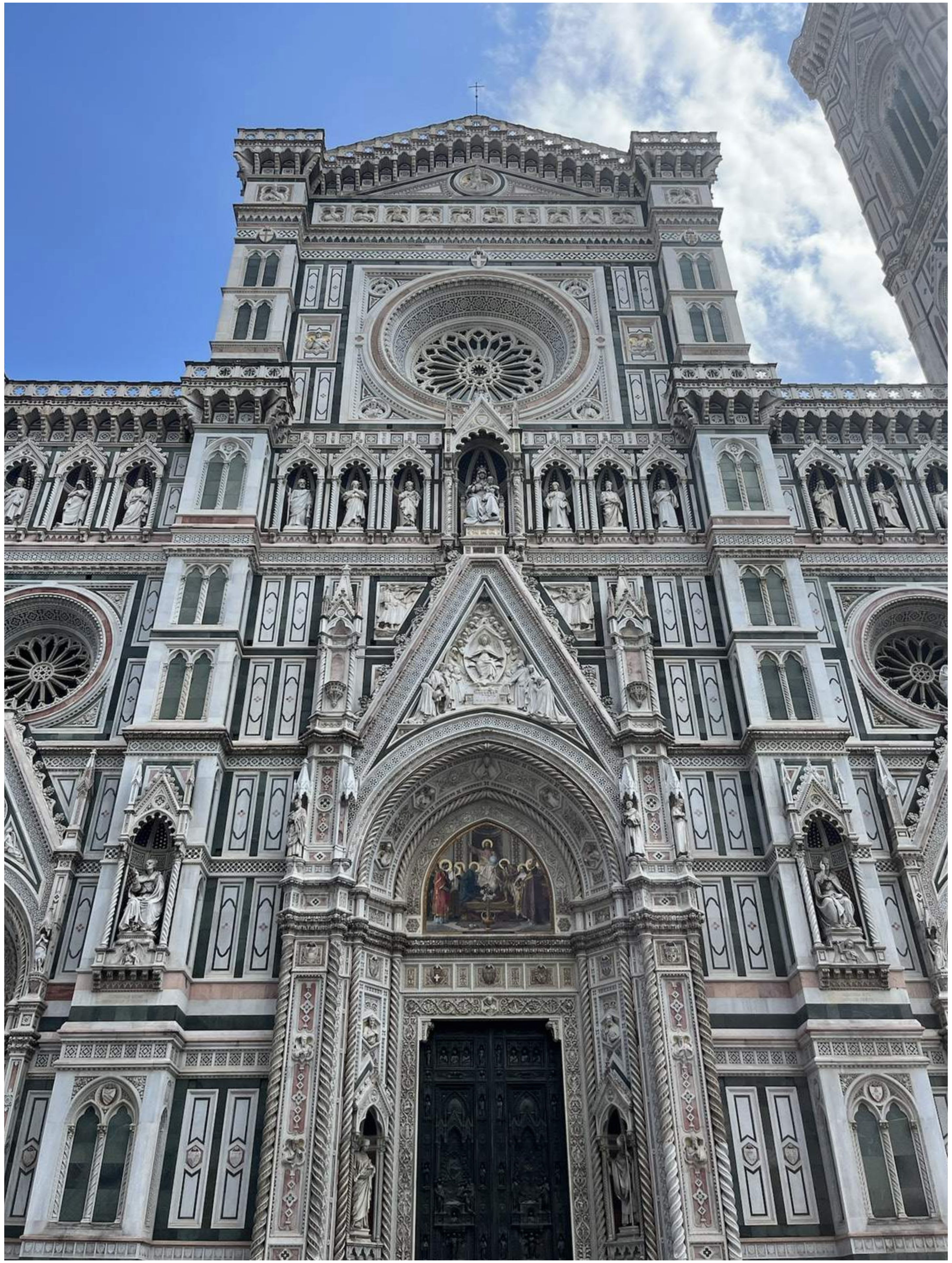
One of the highlights of the entire trip was taking a tour climbing up the cathedral and on top of the Duomo. After a long walk up the narrow spiral stair, I got a close up look at the painted ceiling and made my way up the steep steps between the double shelled dome. The 360 degree view from the top was breathtaking and worth the tiring climb. Having dinner at the bottom at sunset was a fitting close to the day.

The Ponte Vecchio is a medieval bridge that spans the Arno River and is lined with shops and houses that date back to the 13th century. This area was pretty touristy, but was a great place to take in the sights and sounds of the city. The shops and houses that line the bridge are a unique feature of the Ponte Vecchio, and they offer a glimpse into the city's past.

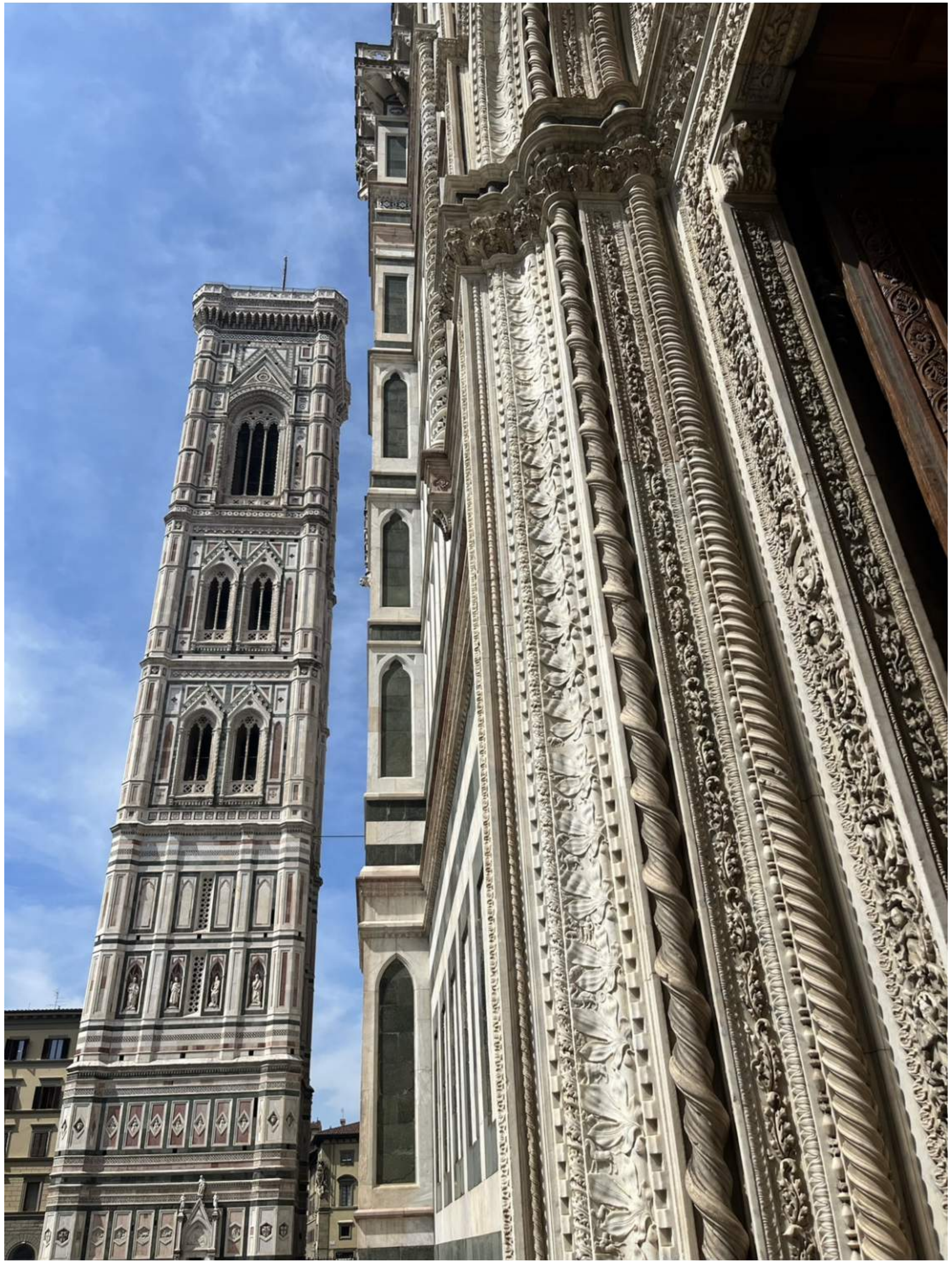
The Accademia Gallery is a must visit when in Florence to see the famous statue of David. In addition to the Michelangelo sculptures, the Accademia Gallery also has a collection of other Renaissance art, including paintings by artists like Botticelli, Leonardo da Vinci, and Giotto.

Brunelleschi Dome Climb

Cupola del Brunelleschi



Cattedrale di Santa Maria del Fiore



Campanile di Giotto

Ponte Vecchio

Ponte Vecchio

Accademia Gallery

ROME

08/31 — 09/04

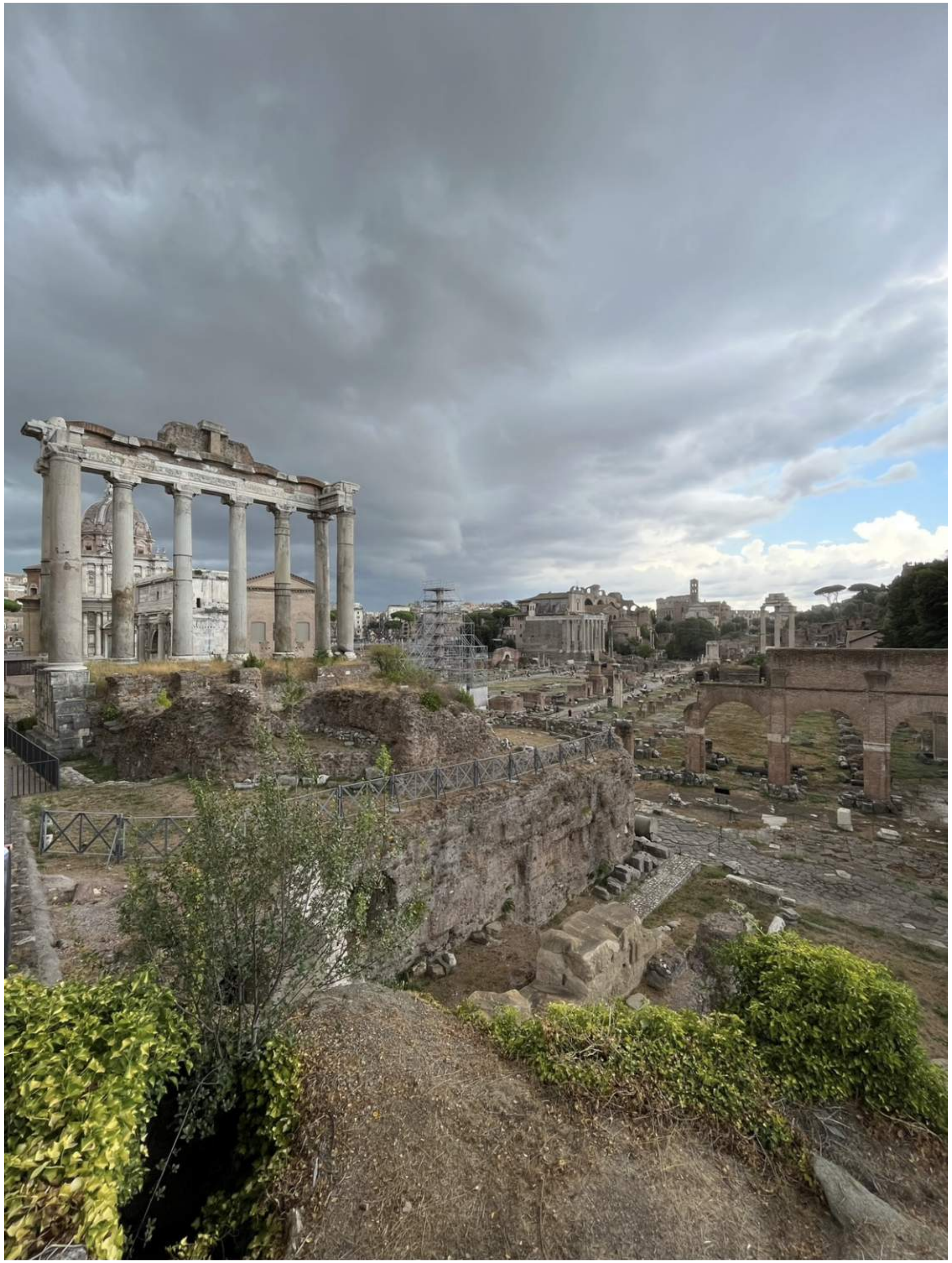
My trip to Rome was an unforgettable experience. Rome is known for its ancient ruins that can be found all over the city, which is very expansive. It's not the most walkable city I've visited, but it has very efficient and modern public transportation which made traveling to and from my hostel very easy.

The Roman Forum was an unbelievable experience to walk through a collection of ancient ruins that was once the center of political and social life in the city. The Roman Forum is a sprawling complex of ruins, including the remains of temples, palaces, and other public buildings. It is a fascinating place to explore and learn about the history of ancient Rome. I couldn't have picked a more perfect time to go, as the sky was dramatically changing from a bright blue sky to a dark and ominous one to really set the scene.

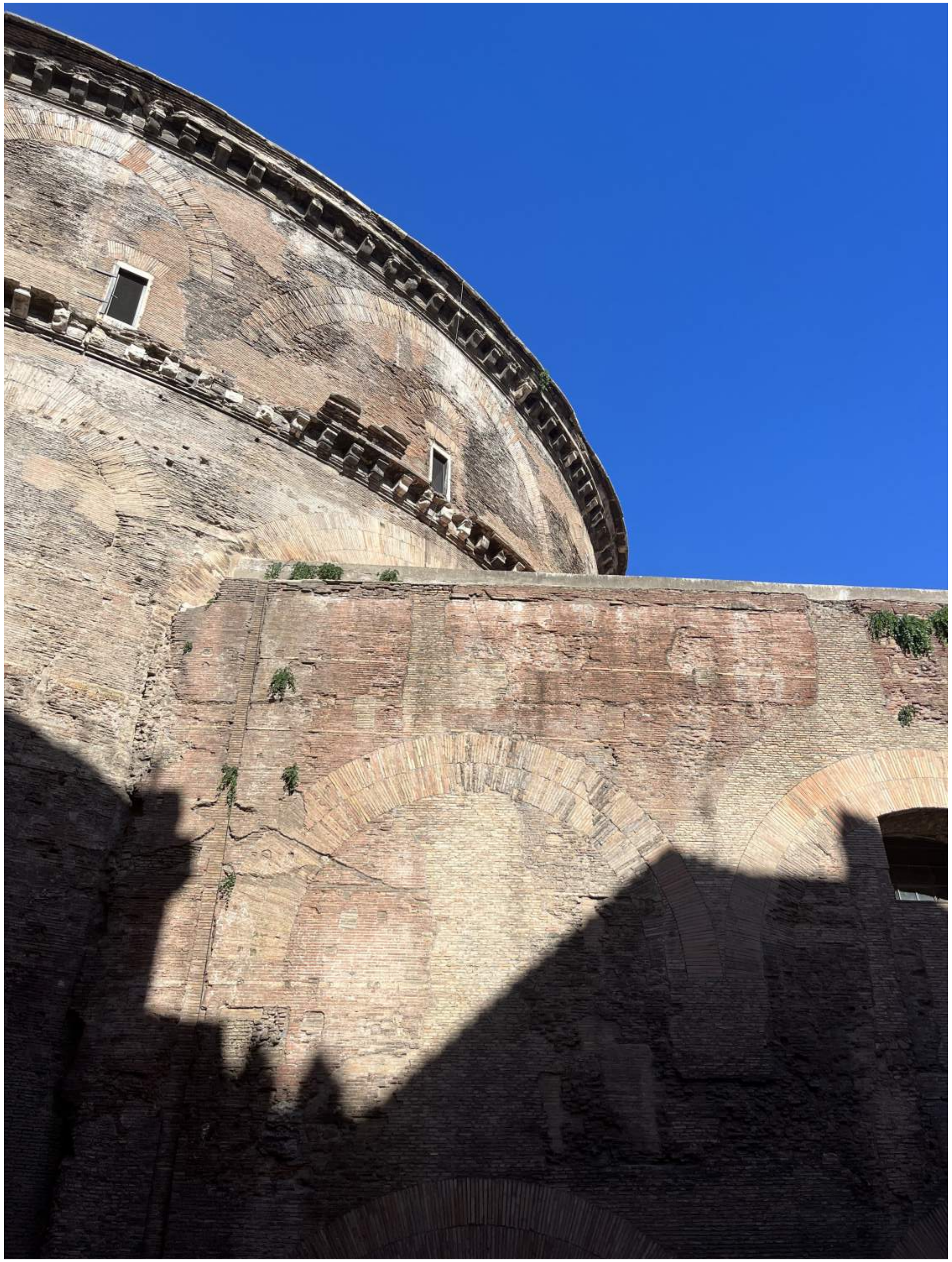
A trip to Rome is incomplete without a visit to the Colosseum, the massive amphitheater that was built in the 1st century AD. The Colosseum is an iconic symbol of Rome and its sheer size is staggering. It would be incredible to witness the Colosseum packed with people in its prime. The Pantheon is another landmark that is hard to miss. The Pantheon is a former Roman temple that was converted into a church in the 7th century. It is known for its impressive dome, which is the largest unreinforced concrete dome in the world. Seeing the sun shine through its oculus was spectacular and an architectural classic.

I found the MAXXI museum to be another interesting and underrated place to visit in Rome. The MAXXI is a contemporary art museum that was designed by architect Zaha Hadid and opened in 2010. The museum features a collection of modern and contemporary art, and its striking architecture makes it a must-see destination for art lovers. The museum had a large collection of architectural models and work by famous architects which I spent a lot of time studying.

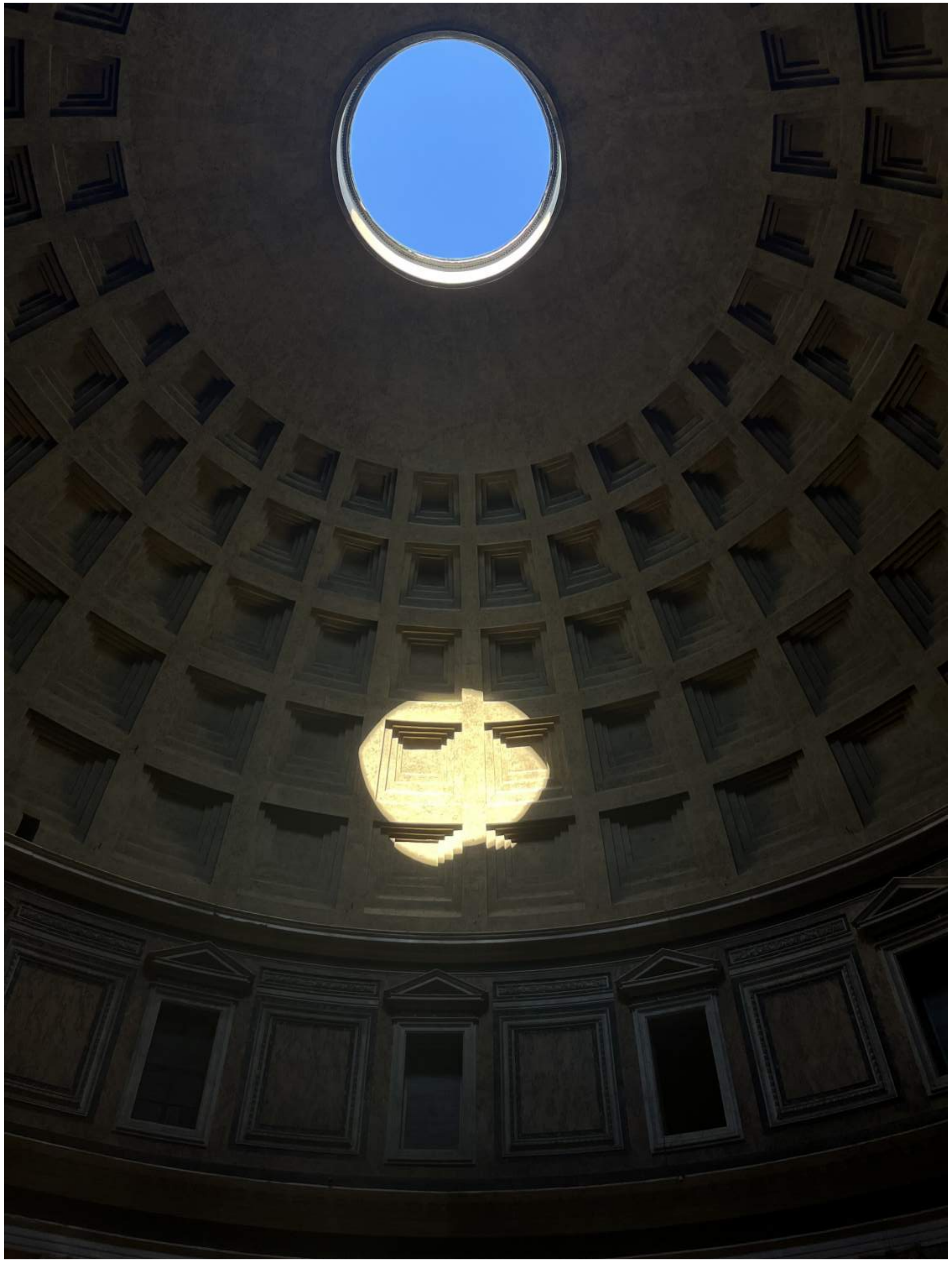
My trip to Rome was a feast for the senses, with its rich history, beautiful architecture, and world-class museums and galleries. Whether you are interested in art, history, or simply soaking up the city's unique atmosphere, Rome has something for everyone. I couldn't think of a better city to finish on this once in a lifetime trip and I am so thankful for this opportunity I will never forget it.



Roman Forum



Pantheon



Pantheon

Roman Forum

Roman Forum

Roman Forum

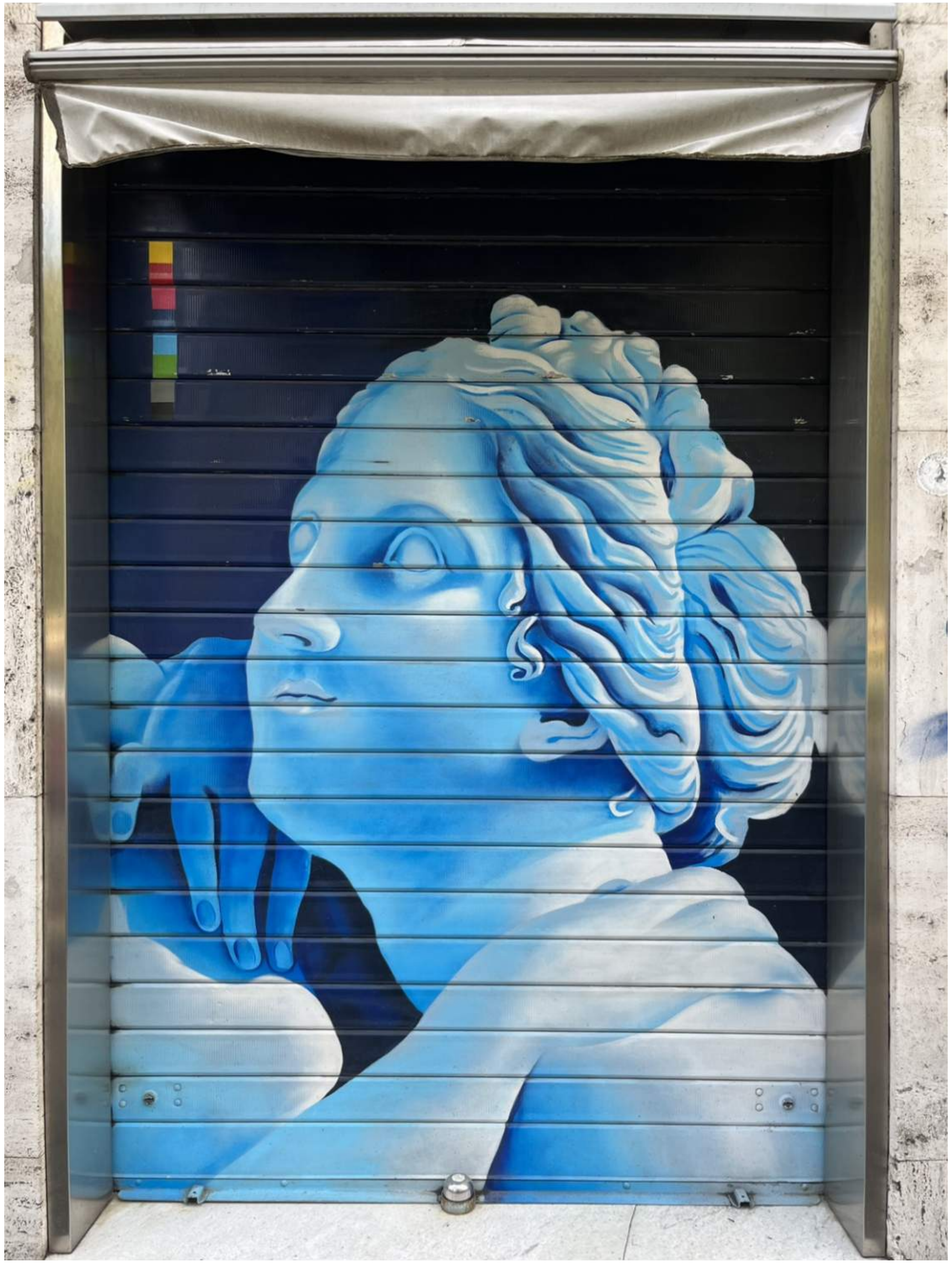
Roman Forum

Colosseum

Colosseum

Colosseum

Trevi Fountain



MAXXI - National Museum of 21st Century Art

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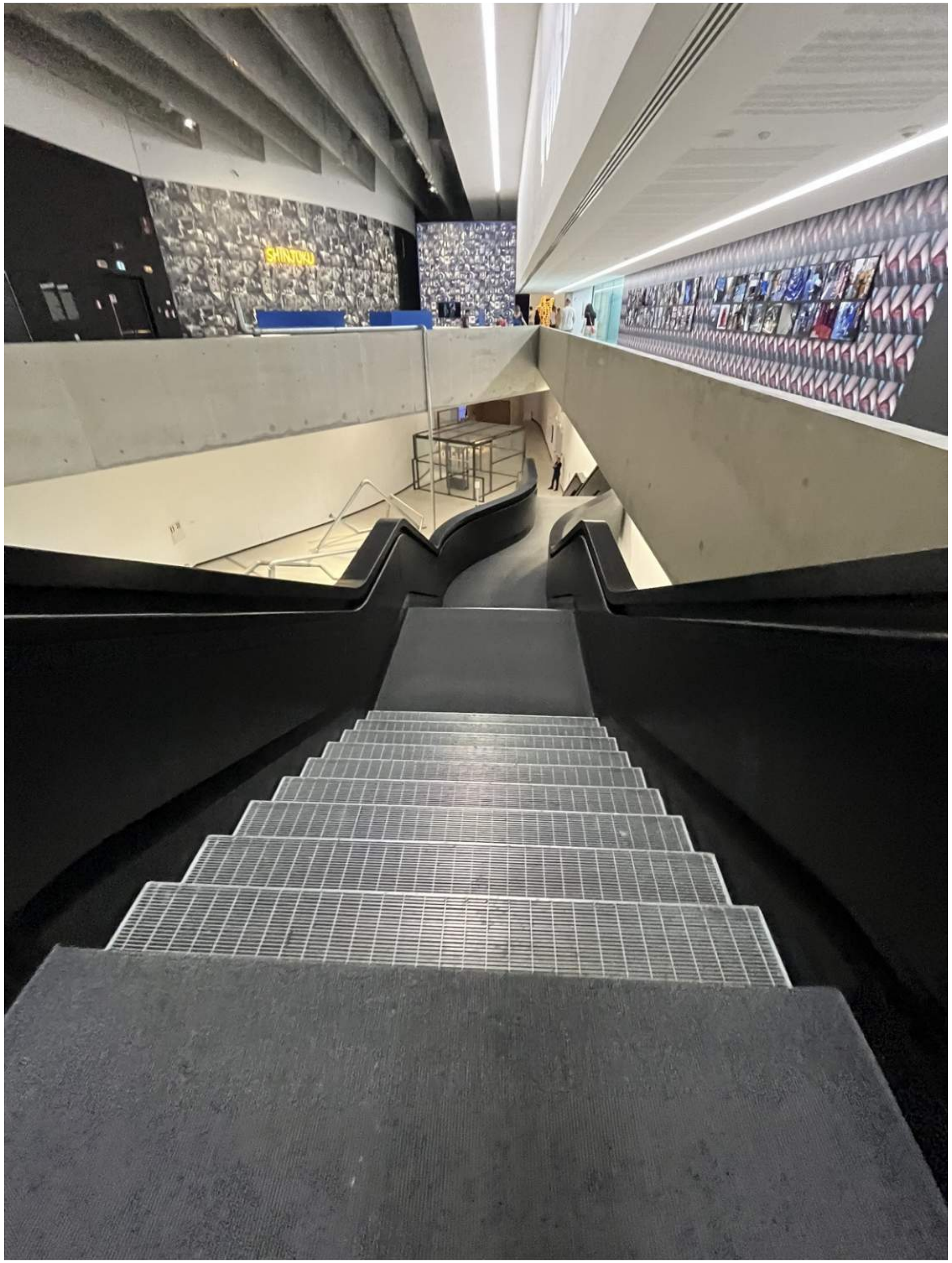
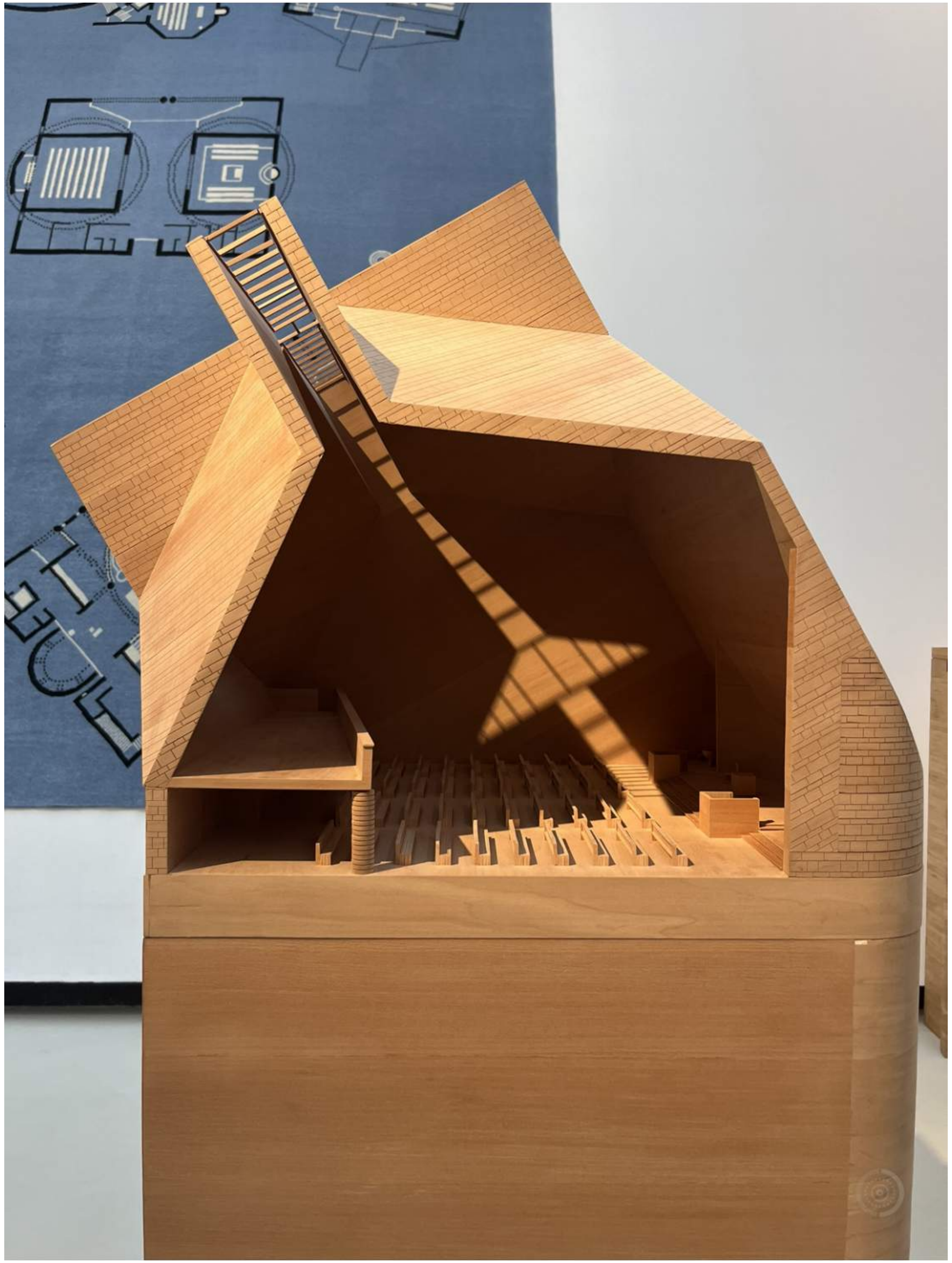
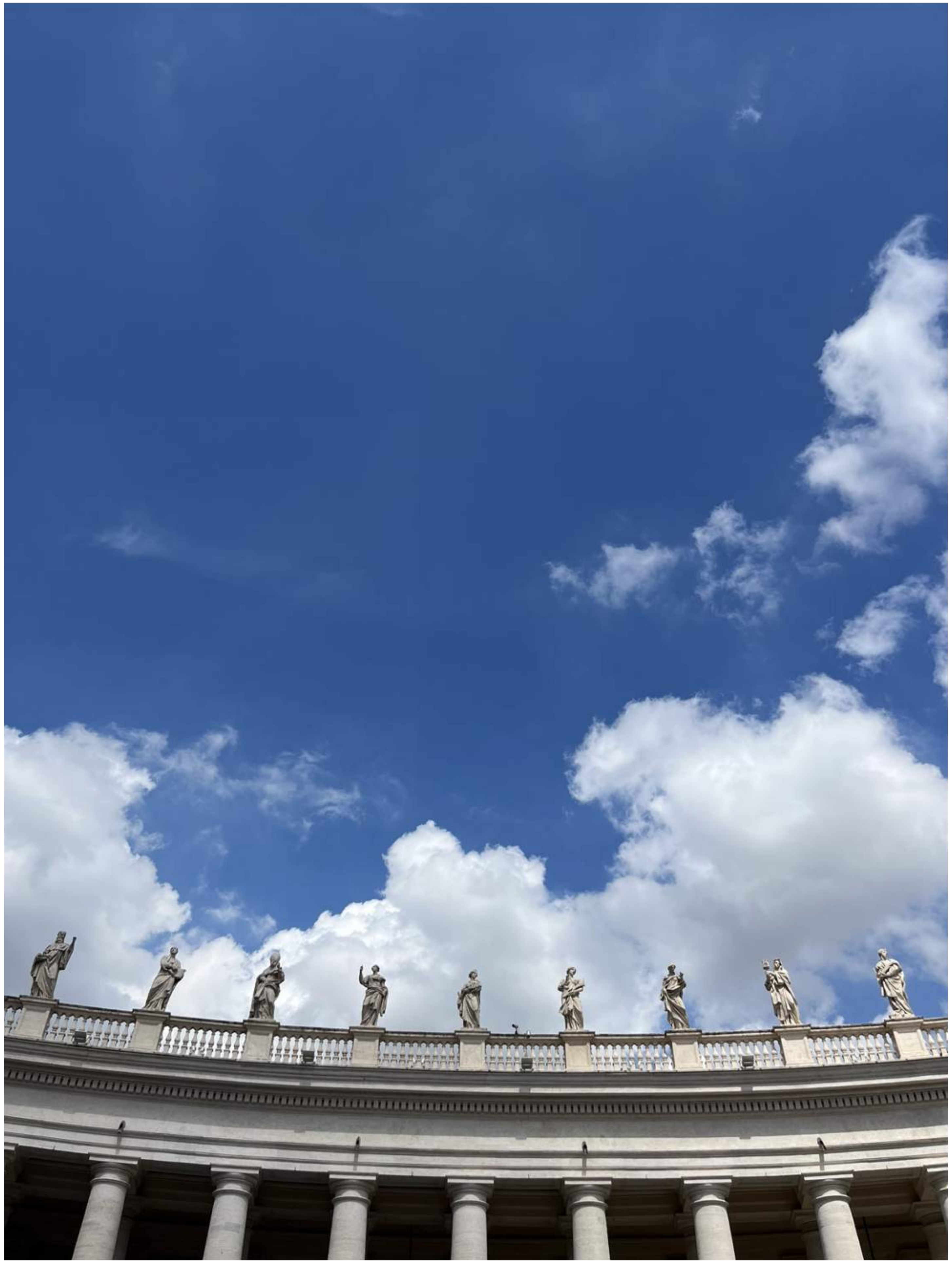

SHINJUKU



Saint Peter's Square



Saint Peter's Square