Project „The Palimpsest"

What exactly is a palimpsest? According to Wikipedia, a palimpsest is an antique or medieval manuscript page that has been cleaned by scratching or washing to rewrite it. Architecture can also be a palimpsest: When cities and buildings are changed and repositioned, traces of their former life remain visible. This is what the students at University College London wanted to know more about and, as part of the Masters Programme of the Interactive Architecture Lab, they used their palimpsest to develop a virtual reality created with 3D scanners to capture urban spaces and the communities living in them. There are two main objectives behind this: The first is to enable communities to take 3D scans of their community and the architecture that is important to them in order to preserve it. It also becomes a tool to share their stories during the debates on the project.

Second, the palimpsest acts as a neutral platform where all parties involved in the project, from communities to government authorities and companies, can contribute and discuss their ideas. In this sense, people can view government proposals in virtual reality on a 1:1 scale and provide feedback.