Precedent Analysis:
We must research what others have done with the idea of a tower in order to draw inspiration for our own designs.

CONTEMPORARY PRECEDENTS

Casa Bianchi
Location: Riva San Vitale, Switzerland
Architect: Mario Botta
Completion: 1973
This House creates a relationship with the environment. The bridge establishes the physical connection between the house and the mountain. But there is also minimal occupation of the site. The square tower is carved with geometric cuts through which light penetrates. The excavations in this solid mass also were particularly selected for the important views of the landscape. The building consists of an inner and outer shell, encasing an exterior space within.

Why we chose Casa Bianchi?
The horizontal element in the form of a bridge relates to the idea of the bridge in the downstream view of the Natchez site for an observation tower. The site topography is similar to the site in Natchez. This building is an example of a way to highlight views.
Chapel of the Holy Cross
Location: Sedona, Arizona
Architect: Marguerite Brunswig Staude, a student of Frank Lloyd Wright
Completion: 1956
This building is a Roman Catholic chapel built into the red rock with breathtaking views. The chapel’s most prominent feature is a cross that seems to be wedged into the rock. It is an unforgettable site from all angles. Looking at it directly, it seems the rocks parted to embrace the structure. From the side, it looks like it was dropped into place. From above, it resembles a diving board or runway where one might leap towards spirit.
Why we chose this chapel?
The building seems to blend with the landscape. It also emphasizes views outward while also beckoning someone towards it as an iconic image. It also has an access at the top of the building because of the change in elevation.
Bird Observation Tower
Location: Heiligenhafen in Graswarder
Architect: Meinhard von Gerkan
Completion: 2004
Analysis/use: To observe birds in this pristine environment without disturbing them, the directors of the bird sanctuary wanted to erect a proper lookout tower, which, thanks to its elevated location, also provide an exceptional view of the entire area and allow visitors to explore the details the aid of a telescope. The resulting wood construction, made of Siberian larch, integrates well with the surrounding natural environment. As a sculpture made of girders, beams and diagonal represents a stylized figure of a bird sitting. A two-section ladder provides access to the tower 15 meters high, with glass observation station can easily accommodate large groups of visitors.

Why we chose this building?
The bird observatory is highly sustainable because of its low impact materials and its structure and familiar material makeup makes it an instrument that enables ornithologists to observe birds on a more intimate basis.
Aurland Look Out
Location: Sogn og Fjordane (one of the largest fjords on the west coast of Norway, three hours from Bergen)
Architect: Saunders and Wilhelmsen
Completion: 2005
Analysis/use: Faced with such an impressive natural surroundings, the architects decided to play as much as possible the landscape and terrain. The proposed construction is a bridge to 9 m high, with a cantilevered wooden structure that you walk to the viewing. To make the situation even more dramatic, wanted to enhance the experience of walking on a bridge – a precipice, that bends down without a rail end. So visitors are on the edge of the hillside, with a glass railing against the immensity of the landscape.
Why we chose this building?
The minimal footprint and use of the landscape to enhance the landscape factor of the observation deck taught us that an observation tower does not necessarily need to conform to a standard programmatic scheme.
Tatlin Tower
Location: Never built, but it would have dwarfed the Eiffel Tower in Paris
Architect: Vladimir Tatlin
Completion: Never built
Tatlin's Constructivist tower was to be built from industrial materials: iron, glass and steel, making it a tensile structure. In materials, shape, and function, it was envisaged as a towering symbol of modernity. The tower's main form was a twin helix which spiraled up to 400 m in height, which visitors would be transported around with the aid of various mechanical devices. The main framework would contain four large suspended geometric structures. These structures would rotate at different rates of speed. At the base of the structure was a cube which was designed as a venue for lectures, conferences and legislative meetings. Above the cube would be a smaller pyramid housing executive activities. Further up would be a cylinder, which was to house an information centre. At the top, there would be a hemisphere for radio equipment.
Why we chose this Tower?
The Tatlin Tower possesses sculptural qualities that challenge the sensibilities of the Eiffel Tower, its victorious rival. It is a symbol of rebellion upon the conceived ideals of accepted design.
Cloud Towers
Location: Vienna, Austria
Architect: ENTERprise Architects
Completed: June 2007
Analysis: Open air pavilion on the 250-year-old castle grounds at Grafenegg. The Cloud Tower is a cubist structure that features a copper-clad concert hall, a 1,670 seat auditorium and a large stage that suits bands with up to 200 performers. The auditorium occupies an existing depression in the landscape, accentuated by further excavations. With great ease the pavilion inserts itself into the landscape and, through its topographical configuration, reinterprets formal elements of the landscape garden – the play with perspective and visual relations, with contraction and expansion, with enclosure and opening.
Why did we choose this?
The Cloud Tower represents an origami like unfolding structure, almost like a box that is unfolding upon itself. It creates possibilities for an exciting entry passage and exit and is greatly futuristic in its direction of programmatic space.
Busan Tower (Competition)
Location: Busan, South Korea
Architect: Axel Kilian, Michael Fox, Elite Kedan
Completion: Unbuilt
The concept for this sightseeing tower evolved into the idea of extending the existing green hill by a hanging garden-like structure that would allow for a strong experience of verticality despite its moderate height of about 50 meters, in order to be able to compete against the LOTTE 11 high-rise complex with its 500 meter height.
Why we chose this building? The building extends from the land and blends with its urban context. Also, this building is an attempt to stand out among the other buildings without having to go higher.
**Fastnet Rock Lighthouse**

Location: Small island in Atlantic Ocean off the coast of Ireland (Known as Ireland’s Teardrop)
Architect: William Douglass
Completion: 1904

The lighthouse that exists on Fastnet Rock currently is the second one to be built and is the tallest in Ireland. It is built on An Charraig Aonair, the Irish name for “The Rock that Stands Alone”. 2,047 Cornish granite dovetailed blocks were laid. As well as these blocks, 4300 tons of granite was used to fill the inside of the tower up to the entrance floor, 58 feet above high water mark. This masonry tower has a compressive structure. It produces a 0.14 second long white flash every five seconds, with a nominal range of 27 nautical miles.

Why we chose this lighthouse?
The lighthouse emerges out of the rock; the landscape becomes the building. A lighthouse symbolizes finding one’s way, or a destination. For the site in Natchez, the nighttime life should be just as important. It would light up the sky along with the bridge across the river.
Perrot’s Folly
Location: Birmingham, England
Architect: John Perrott
Completion: 1758
Analysis:
This building is an elaborate hunting lodge for the entertainment of Mr. Perrotts wealthy friends. Many of the ornate architectural features within the building reflect a hunting theme, although the gothic exterior is straight out of one of the nightmarish horror novels popular at the time.
This Monument/Observatory is a 29-metre (96-foot) tall tower. The tower is one of Birmingham's oldest surviving architectural features. There are many stories to explain why the tower was built. One is that John Perrott wanted to be able to survey his land and perhaps entertain guests. Or the tower might have been used to spot animals for hunting. Or that he built the tower so that he could see his wife's grave, 15 miles away.
Why we chose this?
The context for this tower is completely different than the context of our design problem. It forces us to think about other uses of a tower.
The Belem Tower
Location: Lisbon, Portugal
Architect: Francisco de Arruda
Completion: 1515
Analysis: The Belem Tower was erected in the year 1515 as a fortress. It was constructed so that it can serve as the way into the Lisbon Harbor. The construction of this tower was a turning point in the history of the discovery of voyage in Poland. It was the final vista of their native soil for the sailors. It is regarded as the monument in Portugal that indicates towards the age of Discovery. The Belem Tower serves as the symbol of the entire Portugal.
Built in the Manueiline style which inscribes several stone works ornamentations of the discovery, it contains sculptures in this edifice of history including figurative depictions of history.
Why we chose this? The historical significance of the monument and its educational symbolism is representative of a building that is of high national regard.
**Grand Canyon Watch Tower**
Location: Grand Canyon National Park in Arizona.
Architect: Mary Colter
Completion: 1932
The massive structure is 70-foot (21 m)-high tower made out of stone. Each stone was handpicked for size and appearance.
The most architecturally impressive is the tower interior. The space is an open shaft surrounded by circular balconies edging the walls and small staircases that lead up to subsequent levels.
Only the uppermost observation area has a complete floor area covering the circular plan, and large plate-glass windows overlooking the surrounding expanses of the vast southwest. The bottom floor of the tower contains a gift shop while the upper floors serve as an observation deck from which visitors to the national park can view eastern portions of the Grand Canyon.

**Why we chose this Tower?**
This structure provides the widest possible view of Grand Canyon yet harmonizes with its setting.

**Why did we choose this?**
The tower gives us a unique perspective of the organization of spaces, but also has a similar program.
Normanna Tower
Location: Maiori, Amalfi Coast, Italy
Architect: Unknown
Completion: Between 1250 and 1300
Torre Normanna is the biggest and the oldest Norman Tower on the Amalfi Coast. It was built between 1250 and 1300 to keep a watch for raiders from the sea and protect the local inhabitants. The tower houses restaurants, terraces, a meeting and conference room, a private bathing beach, and a sun deck.
It represents a rare example of an “increased” tower. It used to be a strategic stronghold for the whole chain of coastal towers meant to sight pirate-ships coming from the south. From the tower you may admire wonderful natural scenery and, at the same time, taste seafood specialties, the famous big pizza, typical desserts such as “delizie al limone” or the Norman cake.

Why we chose this tower?
It seems that the ancient tower would play a significant role in helping us to think historically about design and also about important aspects of our site context.
The Maiden Tower or also known locally as Giz Galasi
Location: Old City, Baku in Azerbaijan
Architect: Unknown
Completion: 12th century
It is an ancient tower with cultural affinity built in 12th century, as part of the Walled City of Baku. The Maiden Tower houses a museum, which presents the story of historic evolution of the Baku city. The view from the roof takes in the alleys and minarets of the Old City, the Baku Boulevard, the De Gaulle house and a wide vista of the Baku Bay.
Why we chose this?
It is an interesting historical building that is relevant to our present day design problem.