PROJECT PRESENTATION BOOKLET
'The Nutcracker'

By Bethan Pope

About My Project

For my final project, I designed a few set locations from 'The Nutcracker' by Tchaikovsky, as a film set. I set this in New York in the 1950s to show what life was like during the decade when this ballet first gained popularity in the West, due to the performance here at Christmas time in 1954. From these designs I then created two scale models- a white card model of the Stahlbaums Living Room/ Hallway and a colour model of the Sugar Garden. I had originally planned two white card models and some elements from the Sugar Garden made in colour and to scale, but I changed my idea to fit the aims of the project more.

Research and Design

In the first half of the project, I researched generally into life in the 1950s, including the art and design styles prominent. I settled on Mid Century Modern style with hints of Hollywood Regency aesthetics for the Stahlbaums Living Room, and used elements from life in 1950s America as inspiration for the Sugar Garden (e.g. American diner chairs, Grand Central Station, popular wood textures of the time, 'The American Dream' etc). I created a variety of rough sketches and initial designs, as well as creating moodboards and theme pages to further gather my ideas together into a cohesive metaphorical 'pile'. I created rough models both physically and digitally, to further develop my ideas together.

Procreate New York City Development

'Clara' from the 'Nutcracker'

Initial 'Land of Snow' Concept

New York City Shop Exploration

Concept Art

I learnt how to use Procreate- a drawing software for IOS Apple devices, and created three pieces of concept art on this: the 'Stahlbaums Living Room', the 'Kingdom of Sweets' and the 'Land of Snow'.

'Stahlbaum Living Room' Concept Art


'Kingdom of Sweets' Concept Art


'Land of Snow' Concept Art

More Designing

I started the second half of this project with adding to previous designs (I.e the 'Stahlbaums Living Room') so that I had a fully developed room I could create as a white card model. I also decided now to create the 'Sugar Garden' as a full colour scale model rather than just parts of it. To do this I finished designing it, continuing from where I had left off. I related it to places that Clara (the main character) would have seen in her everyday life, as it is her dreamworld so I wanted it to relate both to her real life and have 'magical' aspects that one might expect from a fantasy garden- such as oversized leaves and hanging bushes.

As part of this I used Fusion 360 (the only software co-operating with my laptop at the time) so I used this to create a general digital model before I made my actual models.
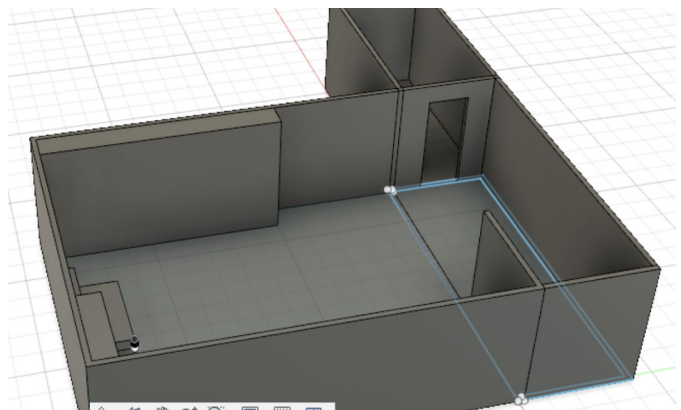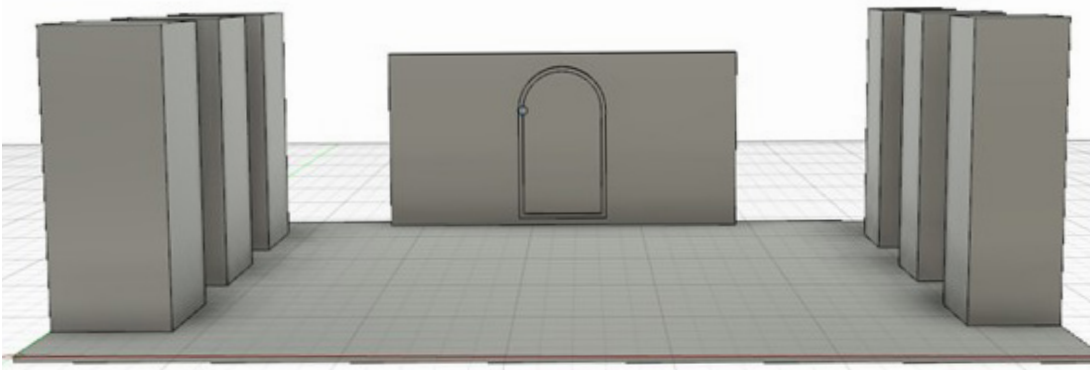
Rough Model
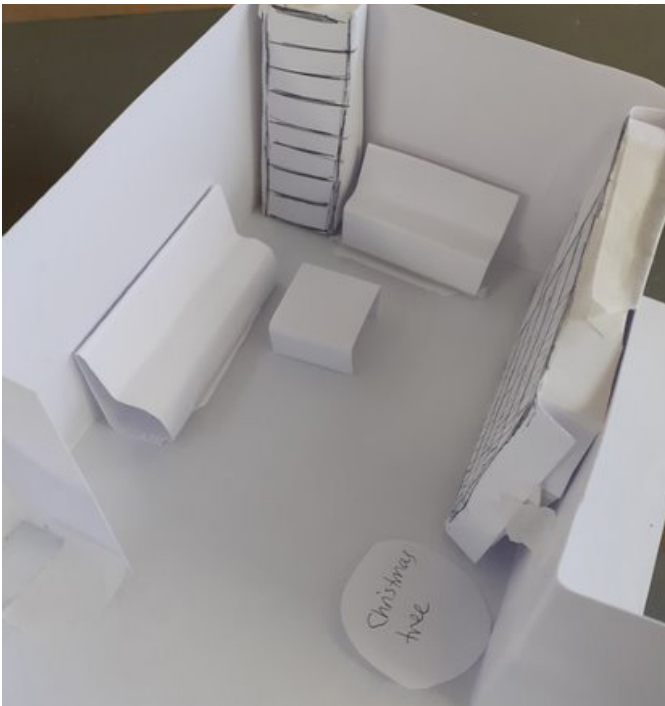
Stahlbaujm Living Room- Blender
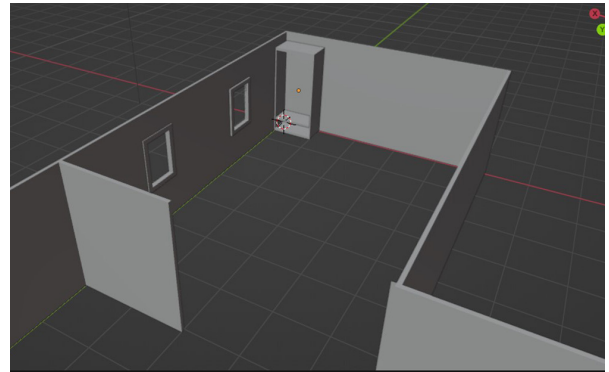
Stahlbaujm Living Room- Fusion 360

Sugar Garden- Fusion 360

More Concept Art

From this I was able to use Procreate again to create concept art based on my designs for both the 'Sugar Garden' and the hallway part of the 'Stahlbaum Living Room'.

Stahlbaum Living Room Hallway Concept Art

Sugar Garden Concept Art

Experimenting

I experimented creatively and safely with a variety of materials such as Artex, latex, vermiculite, foam, card, sponges, and Foam Clay. I also utilised Adobe Illustrator to try out ways of creating laser cut windows and tile/ brick textures.

Flocking Experiments

Artex Bricks

Laser Cut Tile Experiment

Laser Cut Window Experiment


Flower Bush

Foamclay Rose

Vermiculite Rocks

The Making of the 'Stahlbaum Living Room'

For the making of my white card model, I first created technical drawings for the various walls and furniture items I would be making. After this I photocopied them and used both white foam board and white mount board to mount the paper onto it using spray glue. I then used the correct techniques and processes to cut them out, before using Fast Tac glue and PVA glue to glue the parts together where needed.

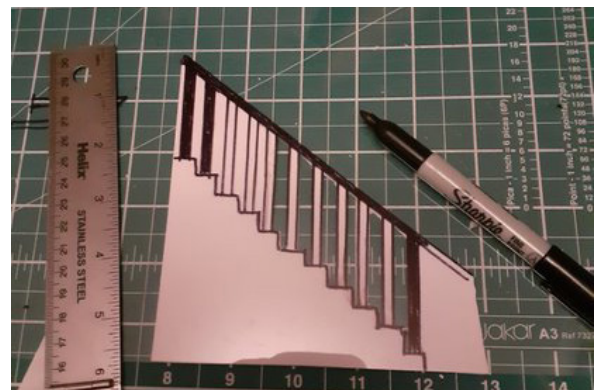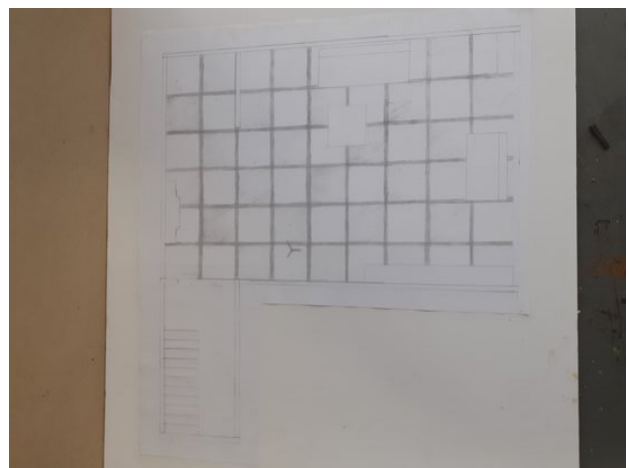Spray Mounted Copied Technical Drawings to Foamboard and Cut

Assembling the Stairs
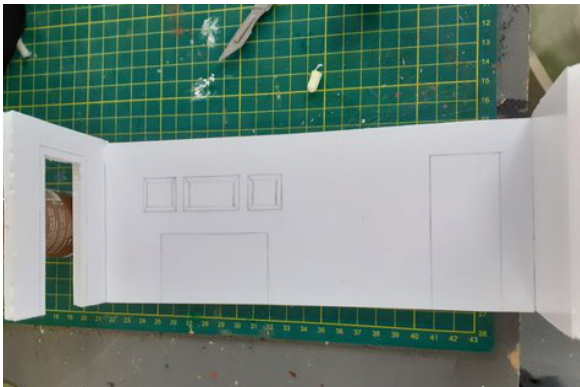
Large Bookshelf Assembled

Gluing Walls Together

Cut Windows Out

Groundplan- Sprayed and Mounted to Base

The Making of the 'Sugar Garden'

For my colour model, I used the experiments from earlier as a basis know what parts I was making with different materials. The base, and upper structure are made with recycled, reused wood, and the columns are made of laser cut MDF (that I designed on Adobe Illustrator). I varnished these then painted using gouache and acrylic paint before varnishing again. The back structure and base is made with wood and clear plastic, that was painted and textured with gouache and acrylic paint. The vines are made using wool I latexed and painted, the plants and flowers are either bought or made with Foam Clay or paper. The bushes are created of painted blended sponges, the bricks are made of painted foam pieces, the rocks are painted vermiculite and the base is made with flocking, grated pastels and crayons, and little painted flower sequins. Other details made include tiny sweets and candy canes made from recycled materials, small beads, and primarily acrylic paint.

Assembling Upper Structure

Initial Painting of Columns

Chairs Assembled Ready to Paint

Platform, Windows and Backing Before Weathering

Early Assembly of Colour Model

Base Being Flocked

Initial Painting of Brick Path
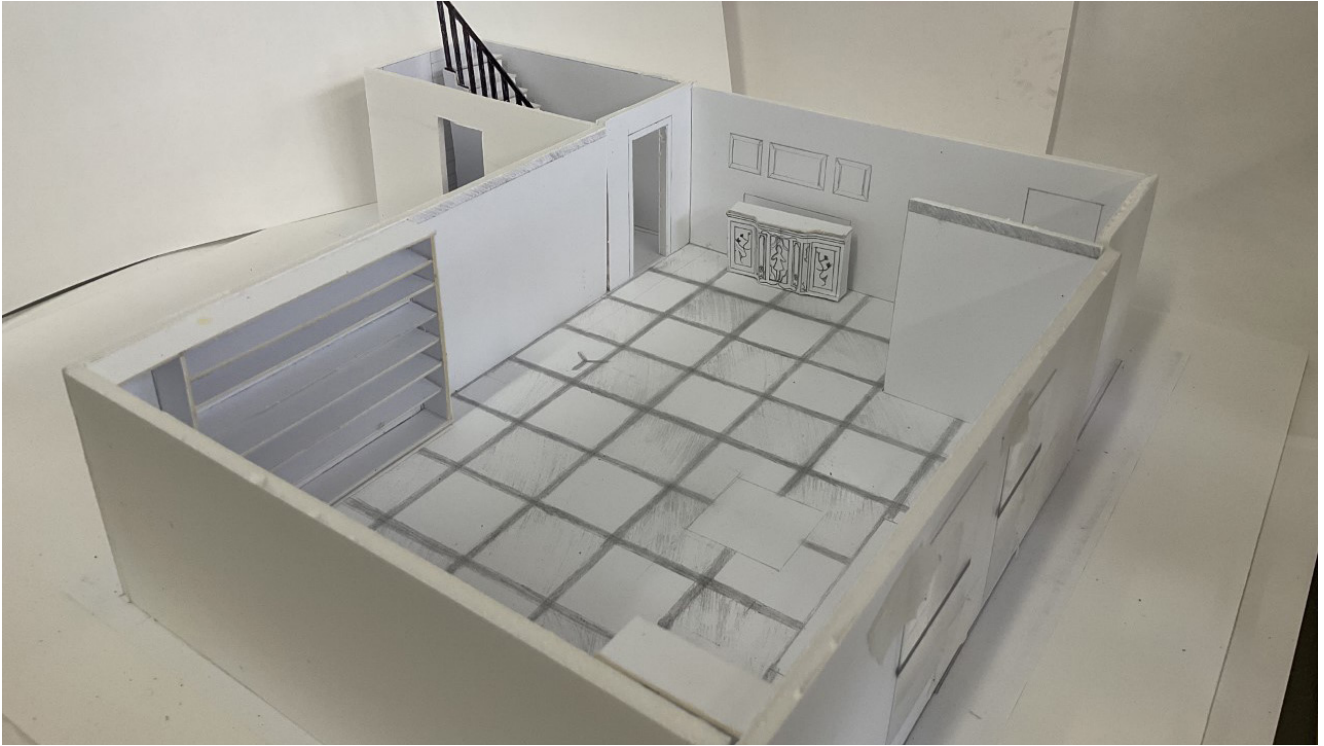

Hooks to Attach Bushes

Flower Bushes Made

Final Models

White Card Model- 'Stahlbaum Living Room'

Colour Film Model- 'Sugar Garden'

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