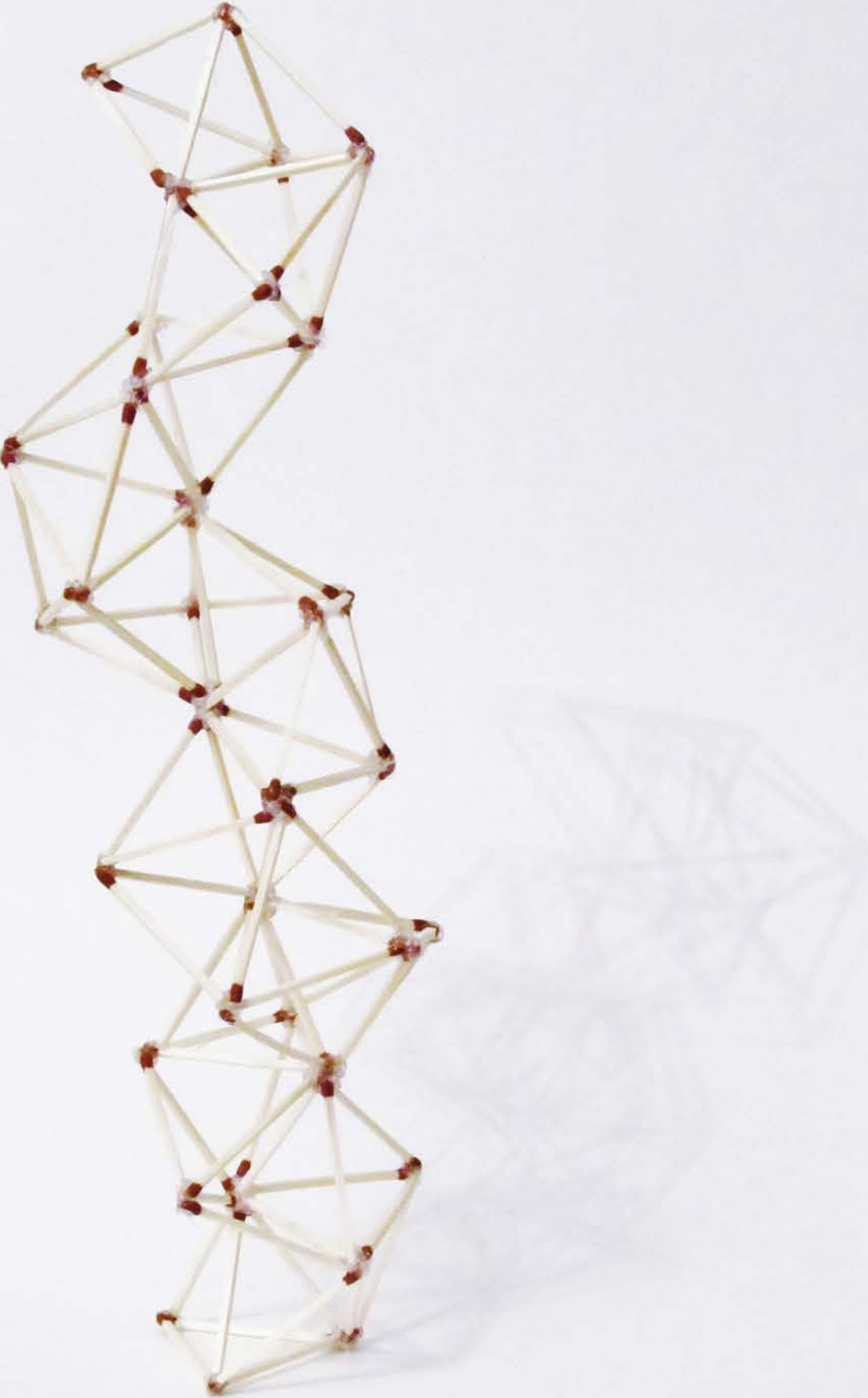




# EMERGENCE

SINGYULAM

# T A B L E O F C O N T E N T S



Rationale	01
	02
Timeline	03
Process	04
	05
	06
	07
	08
Final	09
	10
	11
	12
Reflection	13
	14



# RATIONALALE

When we were first assigned “chairs” as the topic for this summative, I thought it was a very elaborate joke. It wasn’t until the sheets started to get handed around that it began to sink in, and that my teacher was being serious.

I was ambivalent to the idea of having to make a chair for my independent study unit this year - not only did I not have any ideas for a normal summative, but I thought the concept was unique and different enough to make it interesting.

We were given a free reign over material choice and form - but such a wide degree of freedom made it hard for me to think of materials that I really wanted to use. The idea came to me in chemistry class one day after we were done our labs and I was cleaning up the matches and burnt splints we had used. I realized that matches were strong enough to be arranged to support a chair, and their obvious relation to fire gave it more possibilities for me to explore in my theme.

I had started by planning on building a chair that would look and have a comfortable form, but actually painful to sit in, reflecting the consequences of procrastination. After choosing matches as my materials, I expanded into a different meaning for my chair.

By building a chair out of matches, it expresses how easily combustible it is and it takes just one spark to ignite the entire chair and engulf the whole thing in flames, before burning itself out. This reflects my attitude when it comes to my work ethic and my consumption of many forms of media - I try and complete my art works in one sitting, and I burn through the material for a series I like non-stop until I’m left waiting for more. It may take a while for me to get started, but once I do I keep on going until I’ve finished all of it.

My inspiration for the final structure of the chair came from a variety of sources, no doubt influenced by many of my internet journeys and online art that I have seen. The main form of the chair was influenced heavily by the Magis Chair One, designed by Konstatin Grcic, a line of angular and sharp seat designs, which the base of my chair reflects heavily. The choice to construct it largely out of equilateral triangles arranged into tetrahedrons came not only from my own love of the three sided shape, but also my experience studying the sculptor Tony Smith for my Minimalism art history project.

For materials, I bought 1900 matches for five dollars, and a new glue gun to construct my chair.

# T I M E L I N E

April 16th – Obtained materials

April 18th – Started experiments

April 25th – Final proposal

April 27th – Preparation for final product

May 5th – Final product begins

May 8th – Base of the chair started

May 21st – More work on chair

May 29th – Four legs become joined

June 1st – Base of chair completed

June 2nd – Chair seat completed

June 2nd – Chair back completed



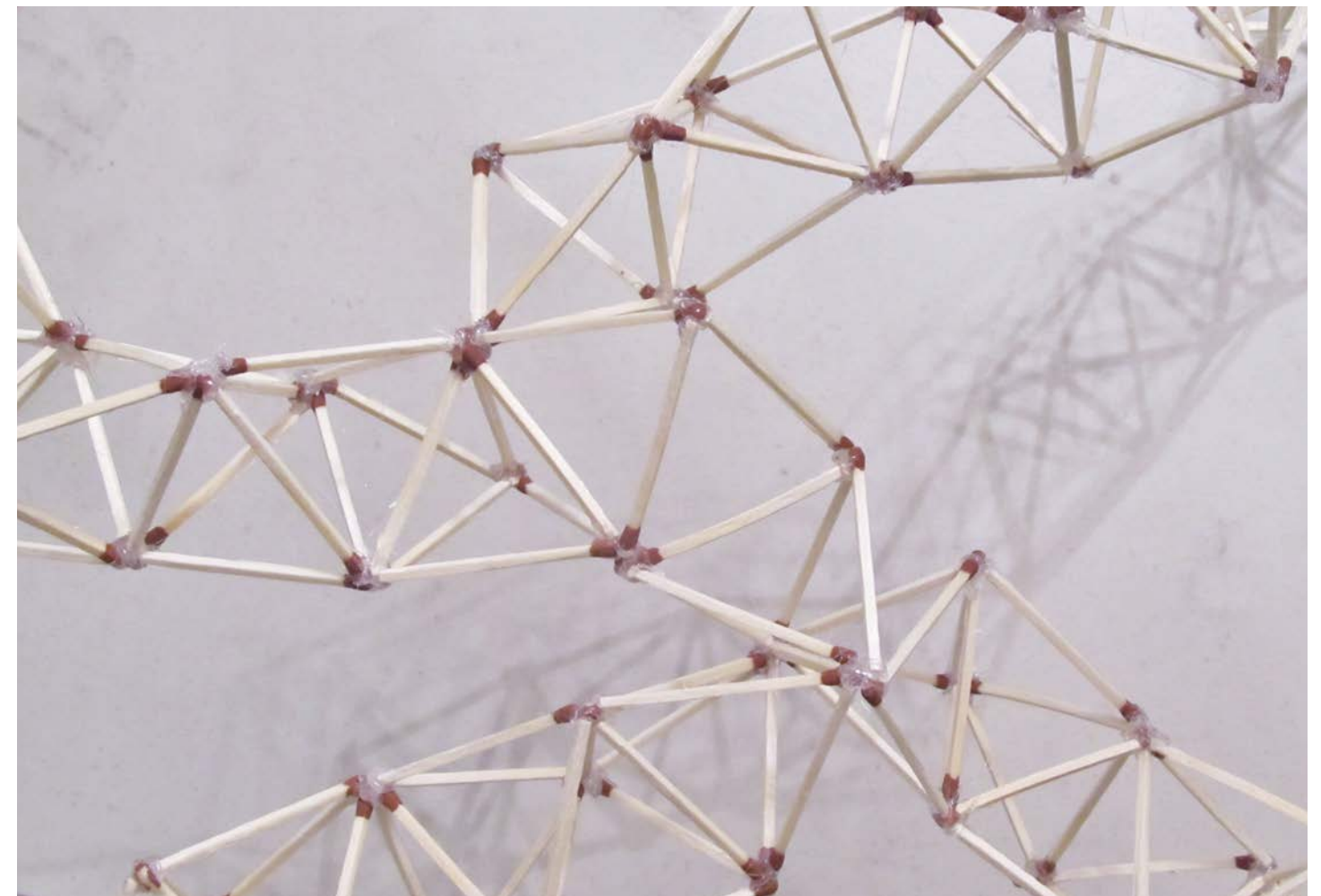
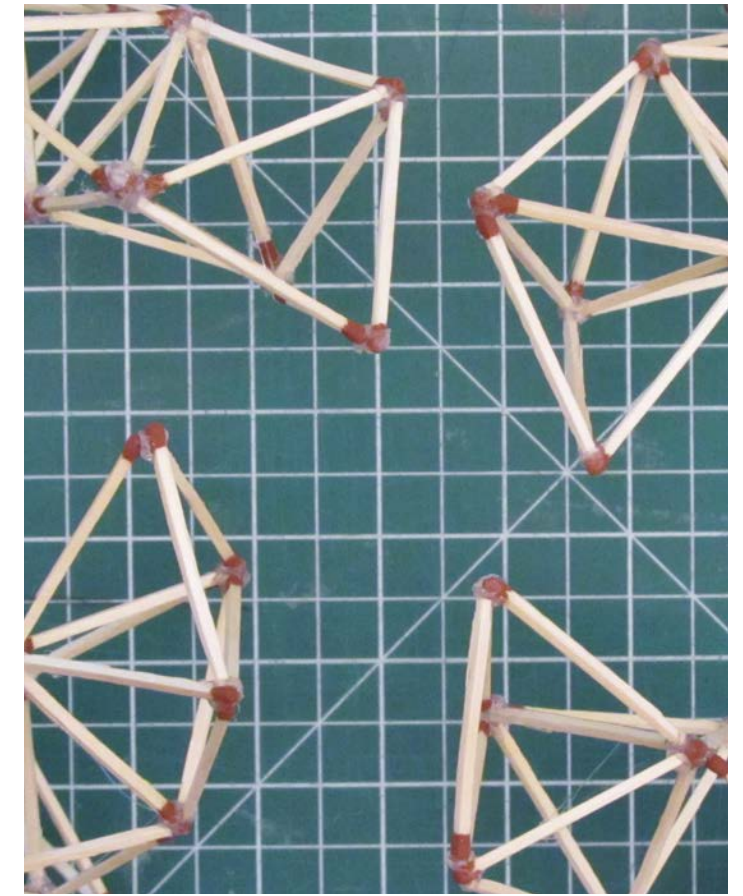
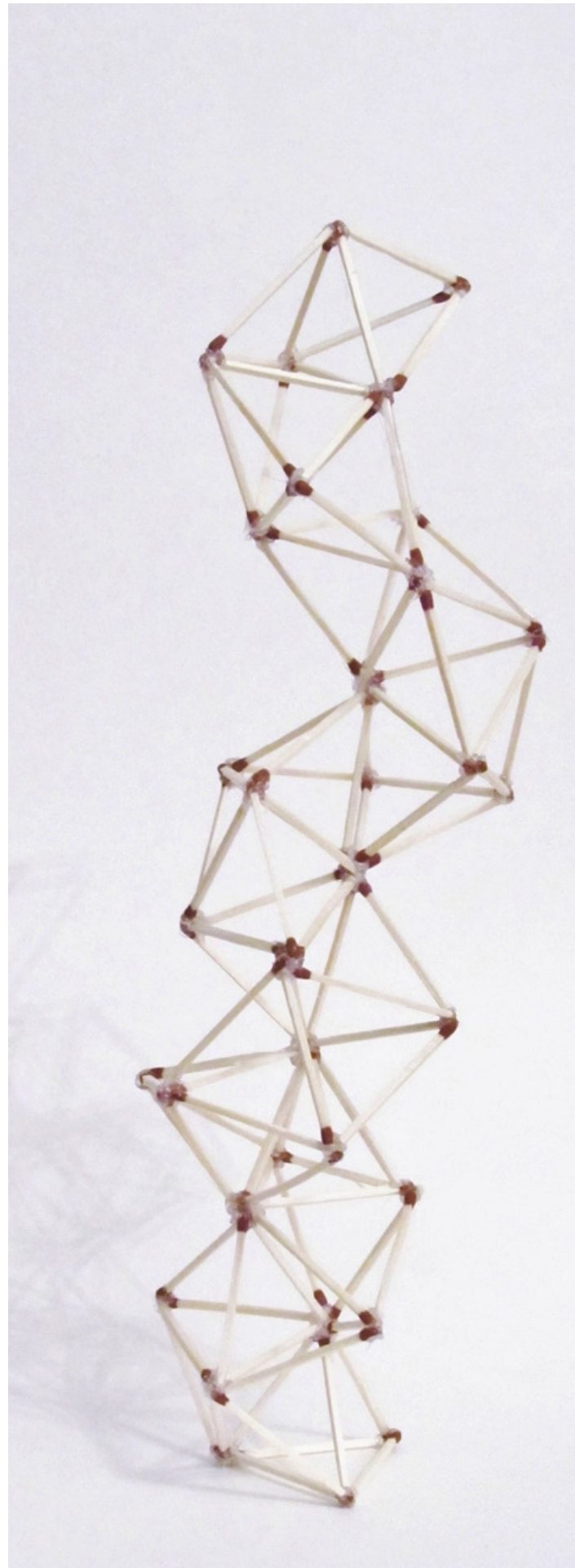
# P R O C E S S

My plan to sketch out thumbnails before starting using any of the materials fell through as I realized that I found it difficult to comprehend and imagine, let alone draw, the complicated structure I wanted to build.

So I decided to experiment and get a feel for the materials first. I completed all my preliminary models before even handing in my final proposal - I wanted to make sure it was actually going to be possible to complete the chair. At first, I wanted to use different forms and shapes instead of just replicating tetrahedrons to form the chair.

However, I quickly realized after trying to make an hourglass shaped unit to form columns, that it was going to be hard, if not impossible, to keep it consistent and straight as I expanded beyond just a single sub-unit. I developed a system to quickly construct tetrahedrons by joining two match sticks to form a V, and to repeat this until I had gathered a substantial amount. By then using these V-shaped sub-units, I could quickly form a full tetrahedron by simply adding one more match stick.

With this knowledge, I moved on to building the four legs my chair would stand on. Originally, my chair was supposed to be a reflection of my planning and analytical attitude to my work, and look very geometric and solid. Unfortunately, the end result of building four identical legs had me confounded for hours, struggling to understand why they didn't line up. After counting, recounting, and checking to make sure they were identical, I came to the conclusion that although each of the triangular faces looked equilateral, the small differences in each one that I had assumed were inconsequential led to a large deviation in the alignment of the structure. At this stage, my chair started to move in a much more organic, and unplanned direction. I abandoned trying to keep the chair symmetric and planned, instead moving to simply make it up as I went along.





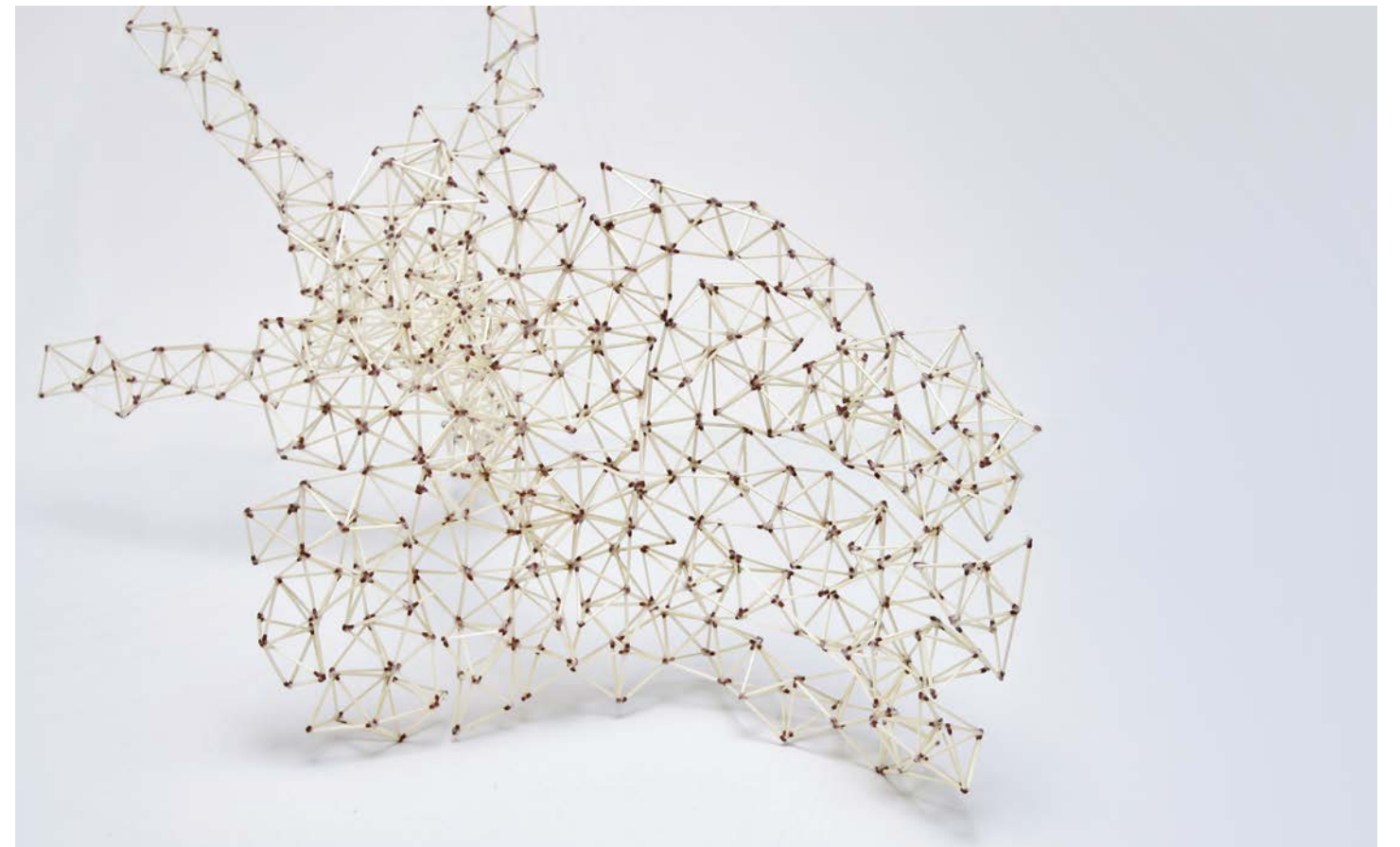
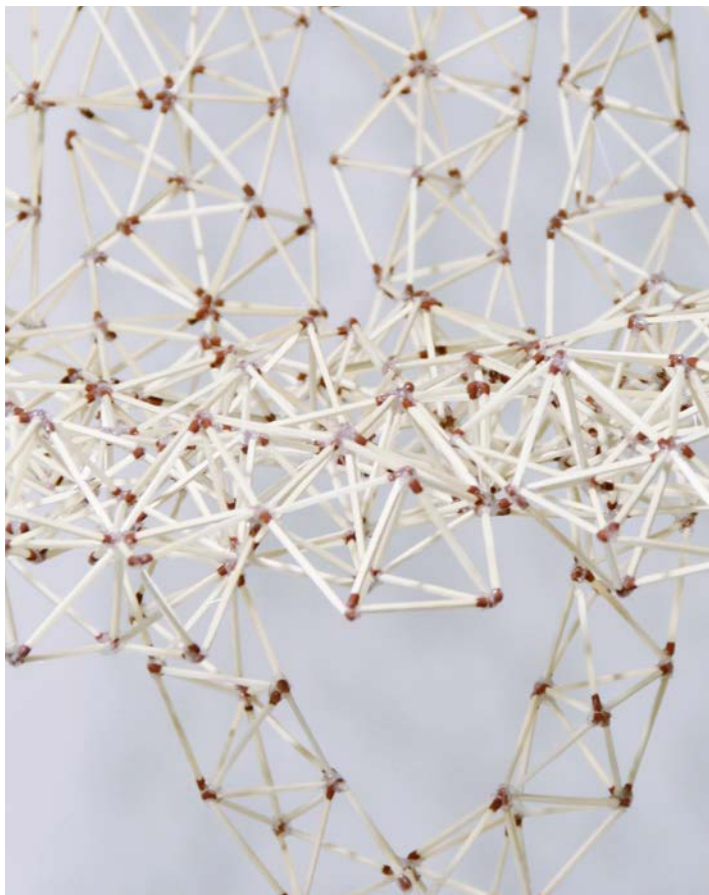
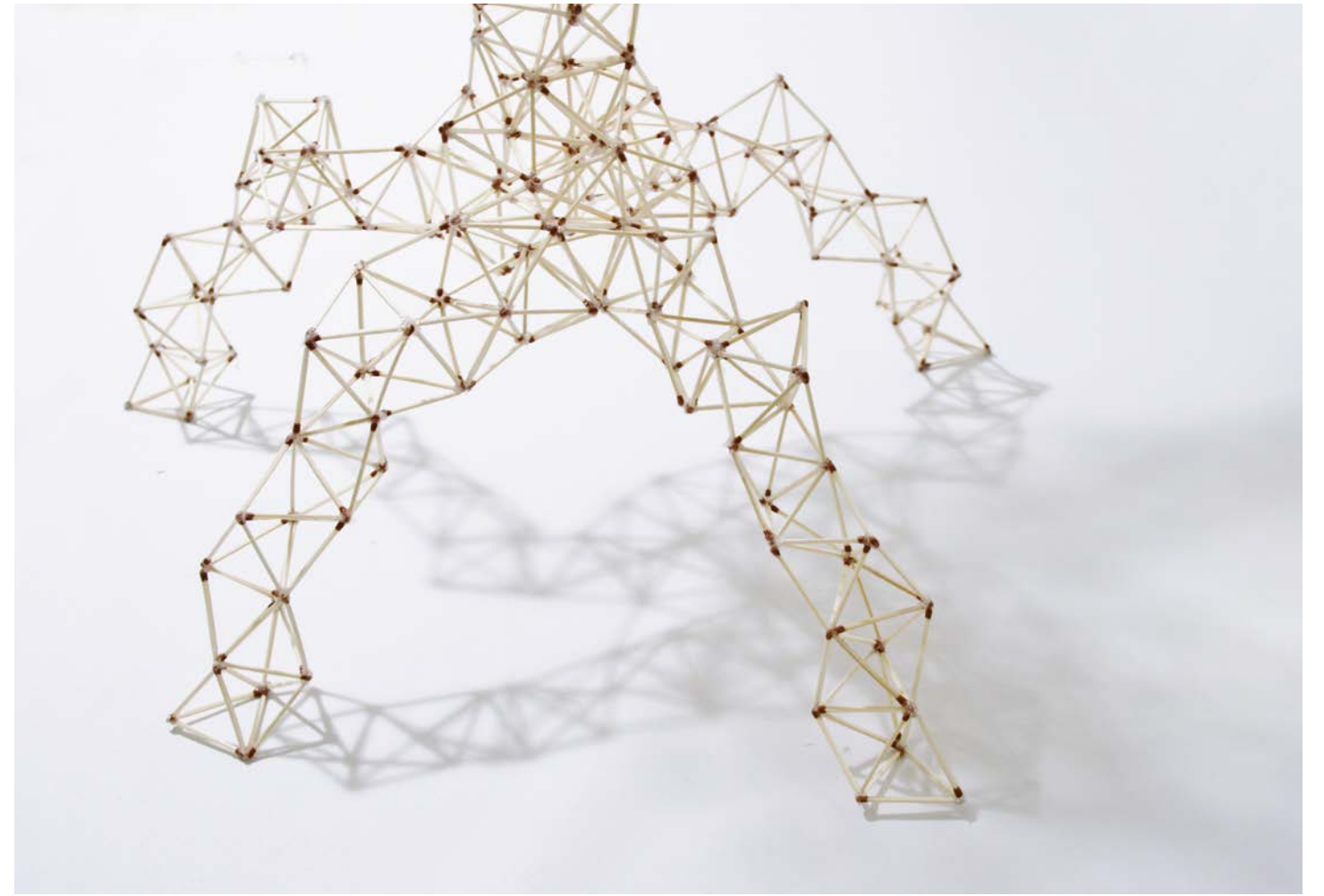
After completing the four legs, I built a column up from where they connected to form the main shaft which would support my chair. I had started out forming one tetrahedron wide columns, but to support the additional weight and stress that a seat and backing would add to the chair, I began to build thicker and more complicated forms. This proved difficult as the triangles I were creating were sometimes isosceles or scalene, and the sub-units also didn't tessellate in three dimensions very well.

My first major problems began as I finished the base of my chair. Up until that point, I had been building vertical structures, but in order to construct the seat I would have to build horizontally, and in such a way that kept an even level to maintain the form of a seat. I entertained the idea of constructing the seat separately before adding it on, but eventually concluded that it would be easier and more consistent to just build it out from the base.

Progress was easy to see at first, as with the addition of every sub-unit, the overall structure grew dramatically. However, by the time I had managed to connect the four legs of my chair, the scale had expanded large enough that it began to become hard to see the results of my work. This was very apparent by the time I was working on the seat, as even after an hour of non-stop building it was hard to see if there was any progress made at all. It could take four or even six hours to easily spot a change in the chair. It became somewhat easier to spot changes as I moved on to build the back, though because I was no longer simply adding tetrahedrons vertically, and instead had to accommodate a wider area, it was still difficult to spot the results of my efforts.

Never once did I feel like it was especially draining though, because I never felt as though I wasn't going to finish. Constructing the chair was a relatively pleasant process, albeit long and very time consuming.







# REFLECTION

The conclusion of my independent study unit was not very dramatic but rather mundane. My brother had happened to walk by as I was working on my seat, and told me that he thought I was finished. After taking a step back, I realized he was right, and that my original plan to add more height to the backing would have detracted from the aesthetic appeal of the chair.

I am proud of and thoroughly enjoy my final product, though I wish I had an extra room in my house to place it in. The final form of the chair was not one that I expected or predicted, due in some part to my decision to scrap my plans which would not have worked and instead build and plan the chair as I went along. This was a far more relaxing way to go about it, as I was no longer trying to check the symmetry of my chair every few minutes and make sure it conformed to some rigid lines and angles. Instead, it became rather organic, though maintaining a sharp and geometric quality to it.

Just as I realized and pointed out during the presentation of my chair to my classmates, the result of my building process from strict planning to lax building could be a metaphor for the future growth of my work ethic and style, though I don't plan to abandon the large amount of foresight I put into my projects before starting them.

In the end, the selection of my material and the fire it symbolized played a much smaller part in the final message as it changed into something of its own. The name I chose "Emergence" reflects how my chair eventually formed around the medium I was working in instead of conforming to what I had set out and planned for it.

I ended up using an estimated 1700 matches in my project, and the time consuming trait of working with this medium detracts me from wanting to work with it again. Though interesting and novel the first time around, now that I am familiar with it I don't think I am so inclined to dip into it again.

My year in Cyber has been amazing, tumultuous, and crazy fun. I enjoyed the time spent in art class, whether it was spent working or not, and the projects we received this year were to my liking as well. I'd like to thank all my classmates, and especially my teacher Ms. Mani, for giving me the opportunity to try and create something so unique and new.