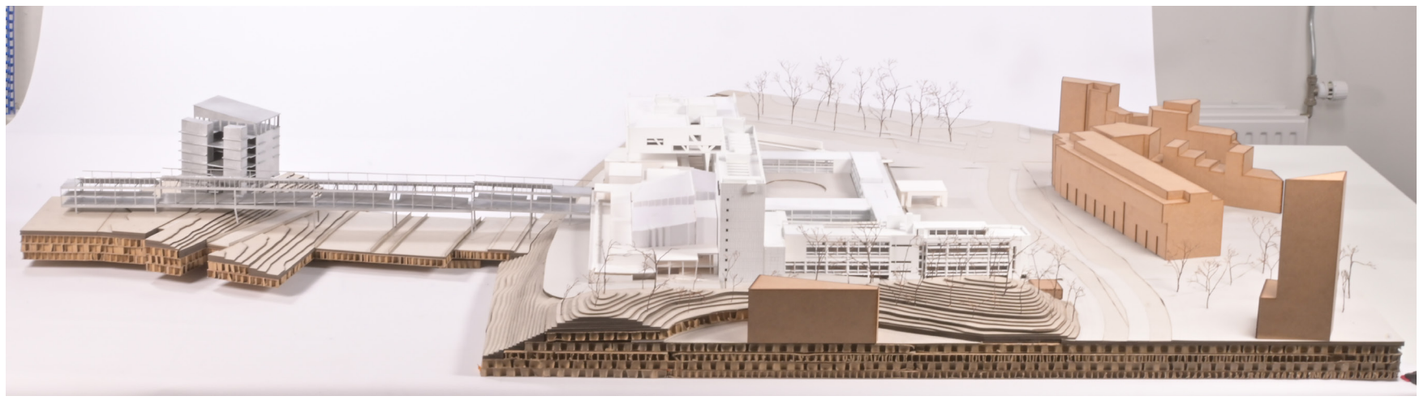
a bridge as an archive.

ARCHITECTURE ARCHIVE

DESINGEL, ANTWERP, BELGIUM 2024 2025



liren chu

interiors buildings cities
archiving architecture
part 4

CONTEXT 10min

antwerpen ring

neighbourhood

cultural park

deSingel

expo & camper park

RESEARCH & IDEA 10min

research question

3 attributes

contradiction

looking carefully

feasibility study by vai

reference

DESIGN 15min

task

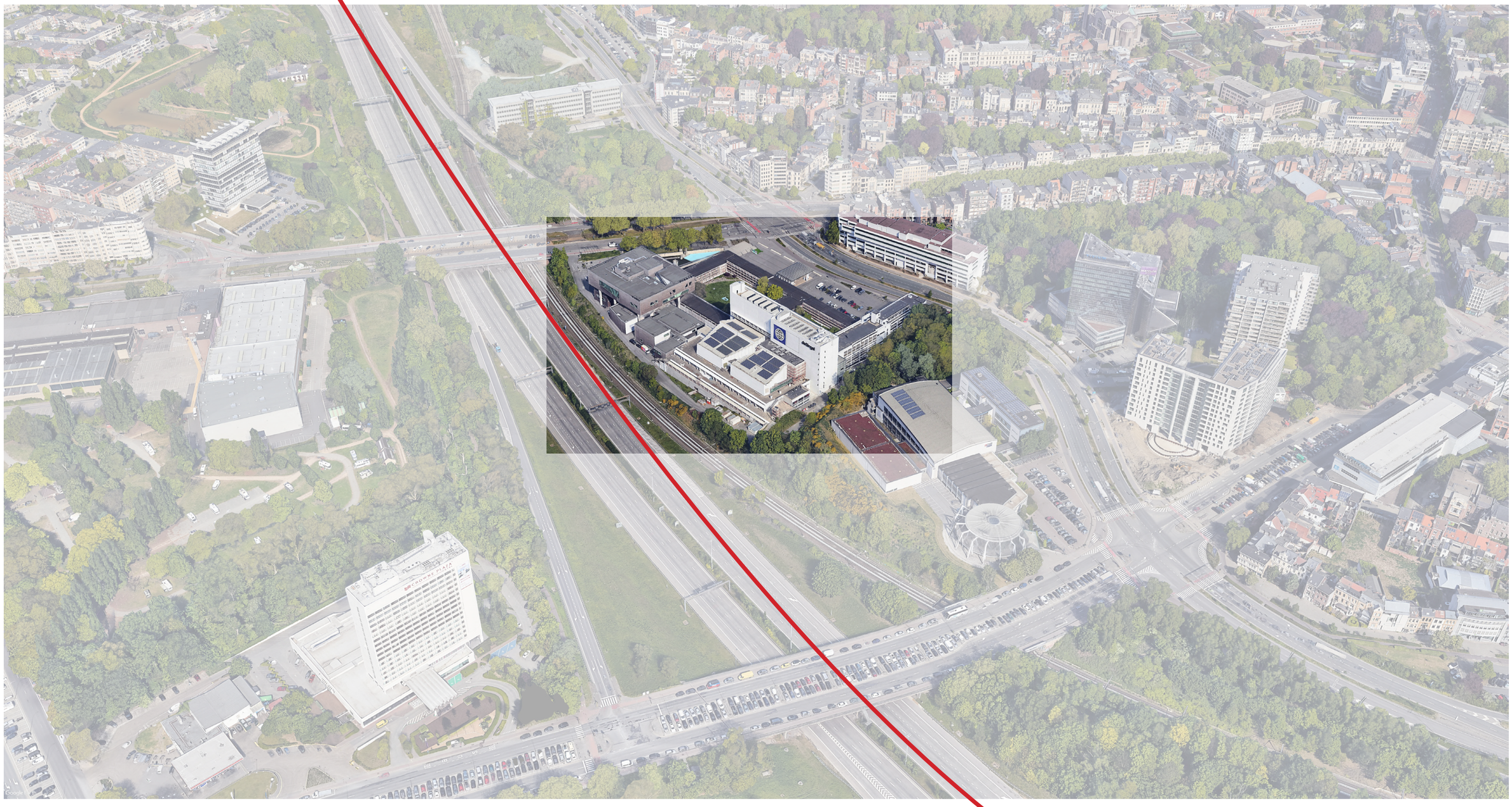
a prototype

urban gesture

master plan
1:500 plan
1:600 plan
1:100 section
zoom in

1:20 fragment elevation
1:5 detail x2
structure assemble diagram
construction diagram
hvac diagram

\ context



DESINGEL = THE RING

\ context



\ context



\ context: fortified ring



Antwerpen, Anvers. 1845 (citadel demolished, 1864–1874)

\ context: fortified ring



BRIALMONTVESTING

Nieuw plan van Antwerpen, voorsteden en dokken : met aanduiding der kaainummers, 1928 (Brialmont vestingwerken demolished, 1906–1970s)

\ context: fortified ring

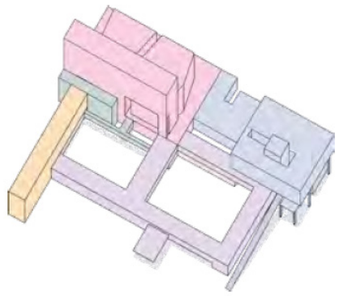
Nieuw plan van Antwerpen, voorsteden en dokken : met aanduiding der kaainummers, 1928

\ context

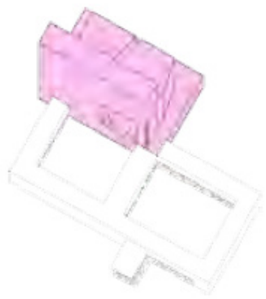


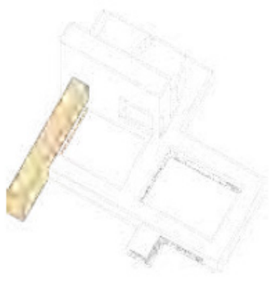


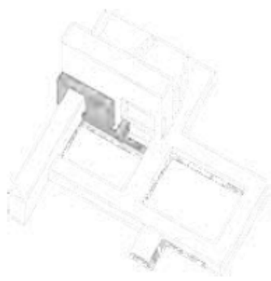
\ context

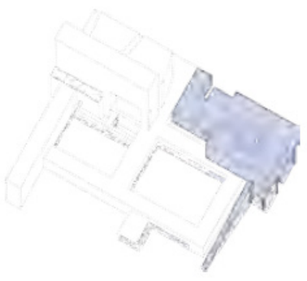












Phase 1 1963 - 1968

architect: Stynen

institution: Royal Flanders Music Conservatoire

function: classroom, auditoria, courtyard, office

Phase 2 1973 - 1980

architect: Stynen

institution: Royal Flanders Music Conservatoire & Radio 2

function: concert and theatre hall, library, radio station

Phase 3 1985 - 1987

architect: Stynen, executed under the supervision of De Meyer

institution: Royal Flanders Music Conservatoire & Cultural Centre deSingel

function: classroom, individual studio, theatre hall

Phase 4.1 1996 - 2000

architect: Beel

institution: Royal Flanders Music Conservatoire & Cultural Centre deSingel

function: theater stage, dressing room, artist foyer, corridor, terrace

Phase 4.2 2004 - 2010

architect: Beel

institution: Royal Flanders Music Conservatoire, Cultural Centre deSingel & VAi

function: office, conservatory space, reading room, cafe-restaurant

Phase 4.3 2016 - 2021

architect: Beel

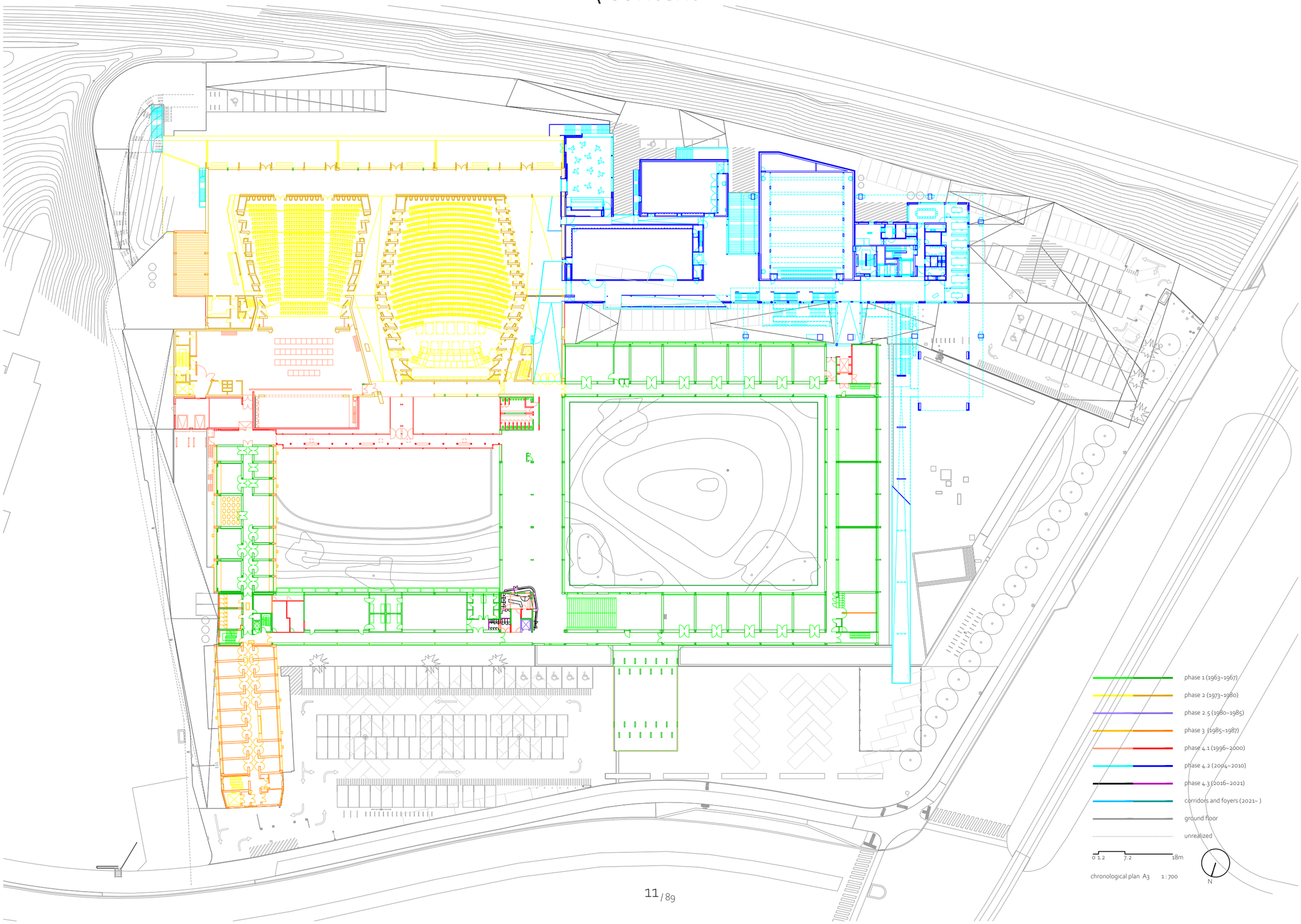
institution: Royal Flanders Music Conservatoire, Cultural Centre deSingel

function: stage, corridor, auditorium

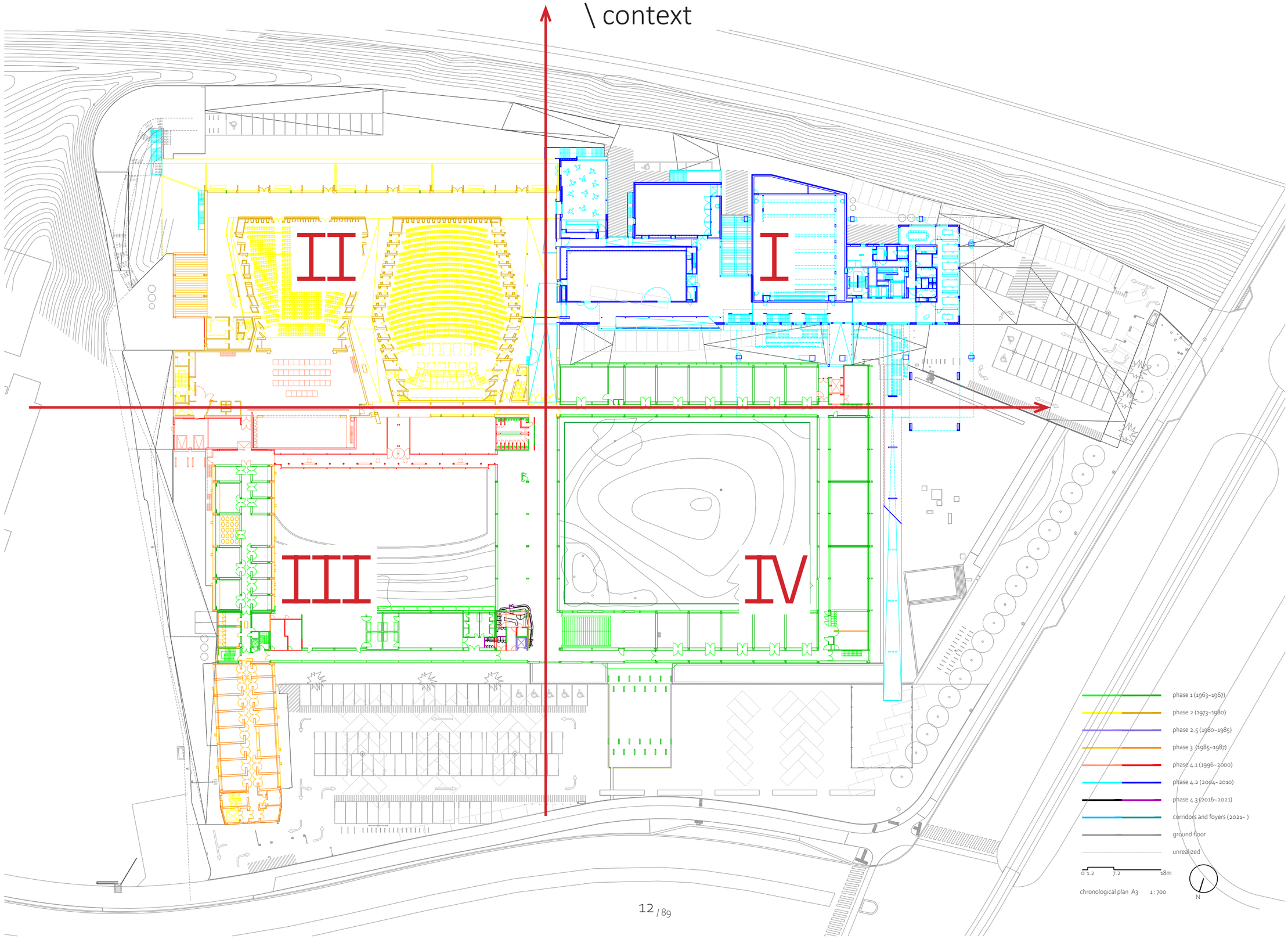
1963 1968 1973 1980 1985 1987 1996 2000 2004 2010 2016 2021

timeline detail see printed version

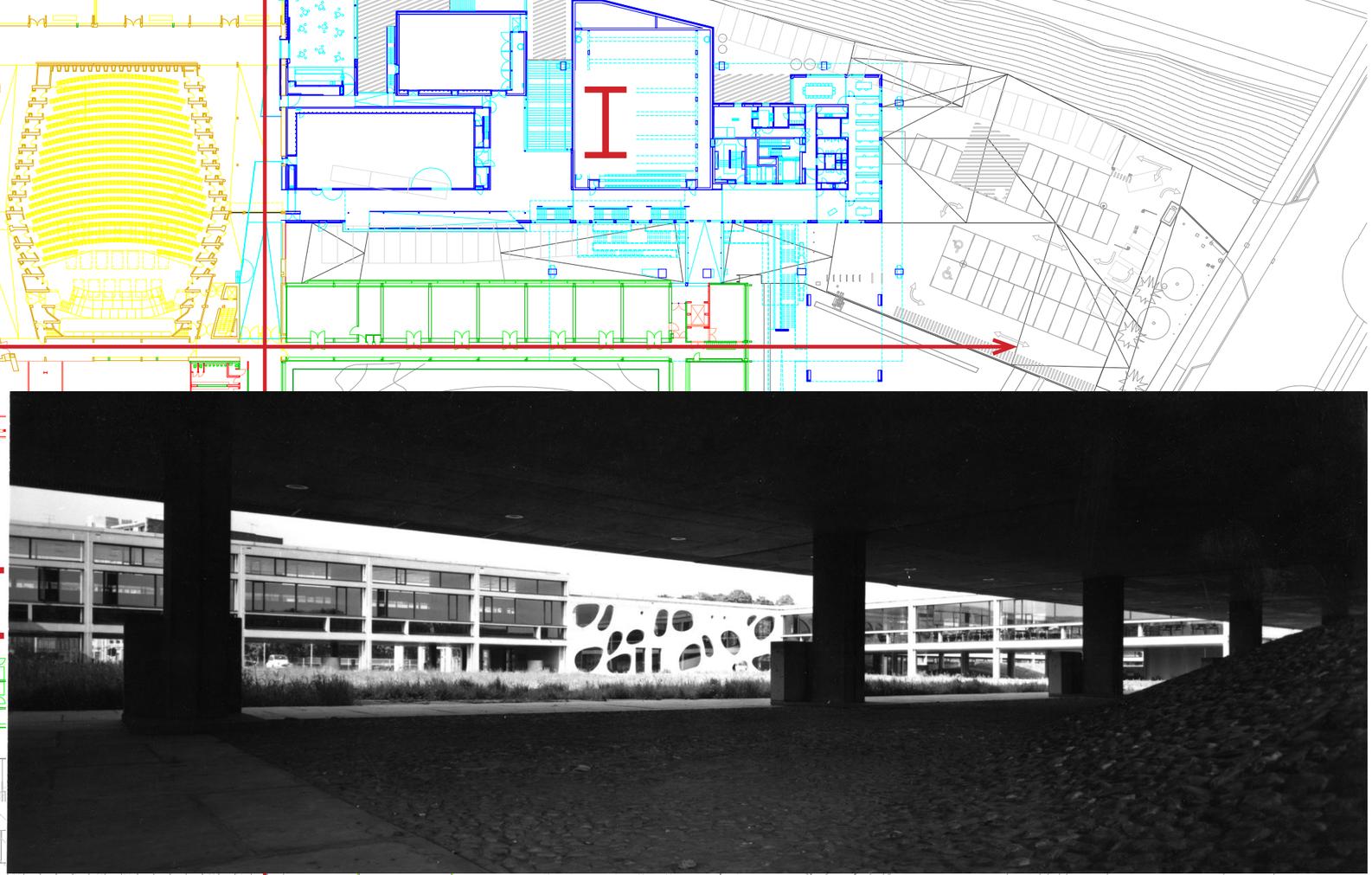
\ context


phase 1 (1963~1967)
phase 2 (1973~1980)
phase 2.5 (1980~1985)
phase 3 (1985~1987)
phase 4.1 (1996~2000)
phase 4.2 (2004~2010)
phase 4.3 (2016~2021)
corridors and foyers (2021~)
ground floor
unrealized
0 1.2 7.2 18m
chronological plan A3 1 : 700
N

\ context


II
I
III
IV
phase 1 (1963~1967)
phase 2 (1973~1980)
phase 2.5 (1980~1985)
phase 3 (1985~1987)
phase 4.1 (1996~2000)
phase 4.2 (2004~2010)
phase 4.3 (2016~2021)
corridors and foyers (2021~)
ground floor
unrealized
0 1.2 7.2 18m
chronological plan A3 1 : 700
N

\ context



II

I

III

phase 4.1 (1996~2000)
phase 4.2 (2004~2010)
phase 4.3 (2016~2021)
corridors and foyers (2021~)
ground floor
unrealized

0 1.2 7.2 18m

chronological plan A3 1 : 700

N

\ context



II

I

IV

phase 1 (1963~1967)
phase 2 (1973~1980)
phase 2.5 (1980~1985)
phase 3 (1985~1987)
phase 4.1 (1996~2000)
phase 4.2 (2004~2010)
phase 4.3 (2016~2021)
corridors and foyers (2021~)
ground floor
unrealized

0 1.2 7.2 18m

chronological plan A3 1 : 700

N

\ context



I

II

III

IV

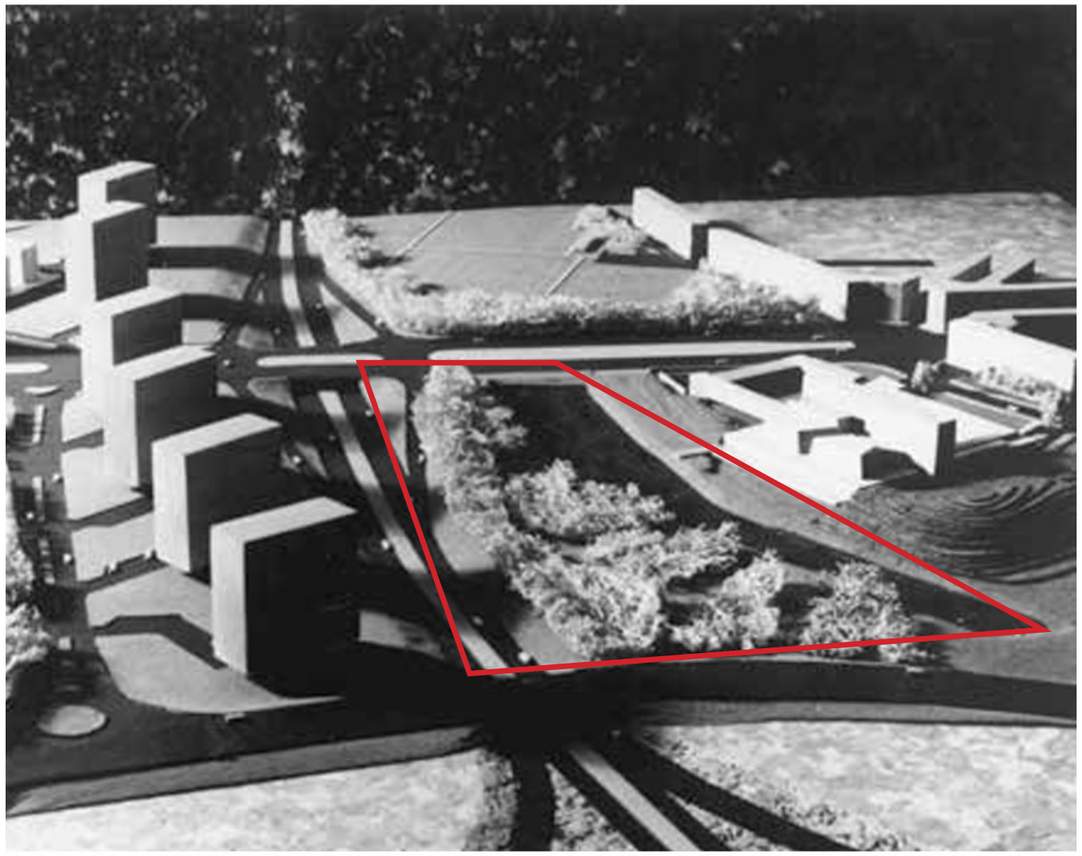
phase 1 (1963~1967)
phase 2 (1973~1980)
phase 2.5 (1980~1985)
phase 3 (1985~1987)
phase 4.1 (1996~2000)
phase 4.2 (2004~2010)
phase 4.3 (2016~2021)
corridors and foyers (2021~)
ground floor
unrealized

0 1.2 7.2 18m

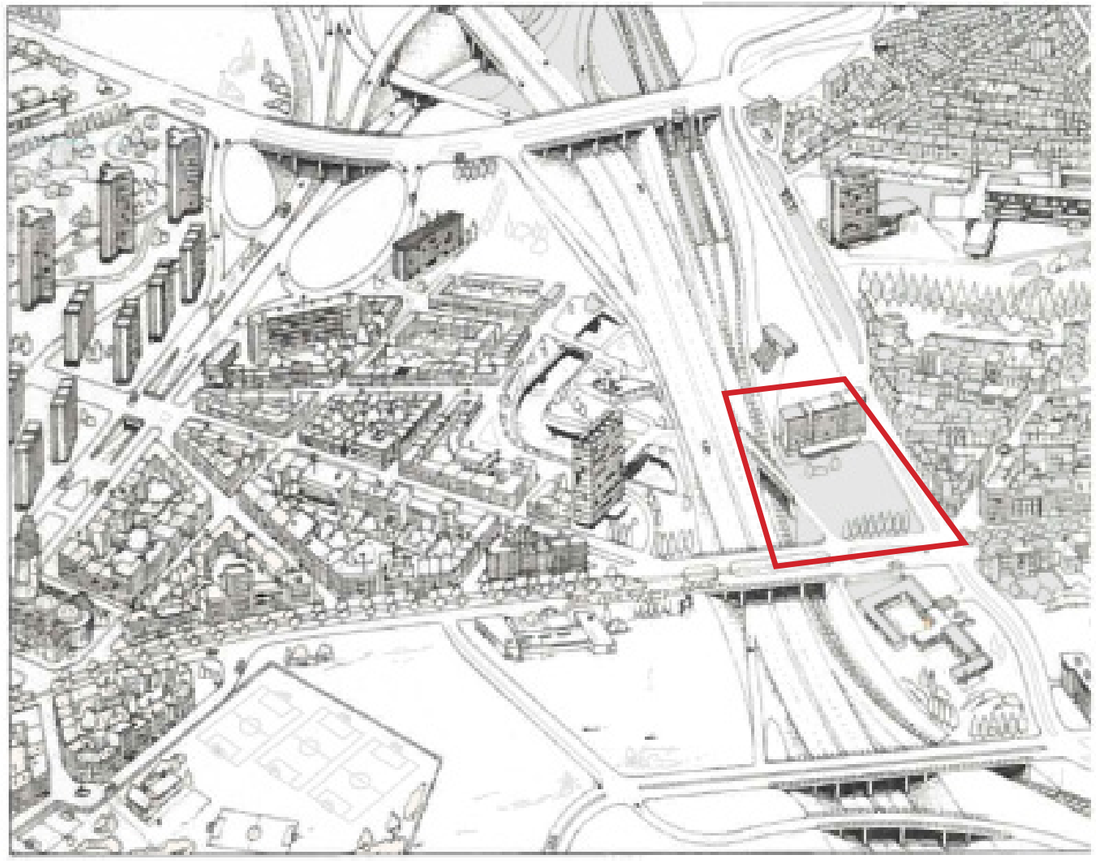
chronological plan A3 1 : 700

N

\ context



Model for the development plan of Wezenberg, circa 1962 (unrealized)



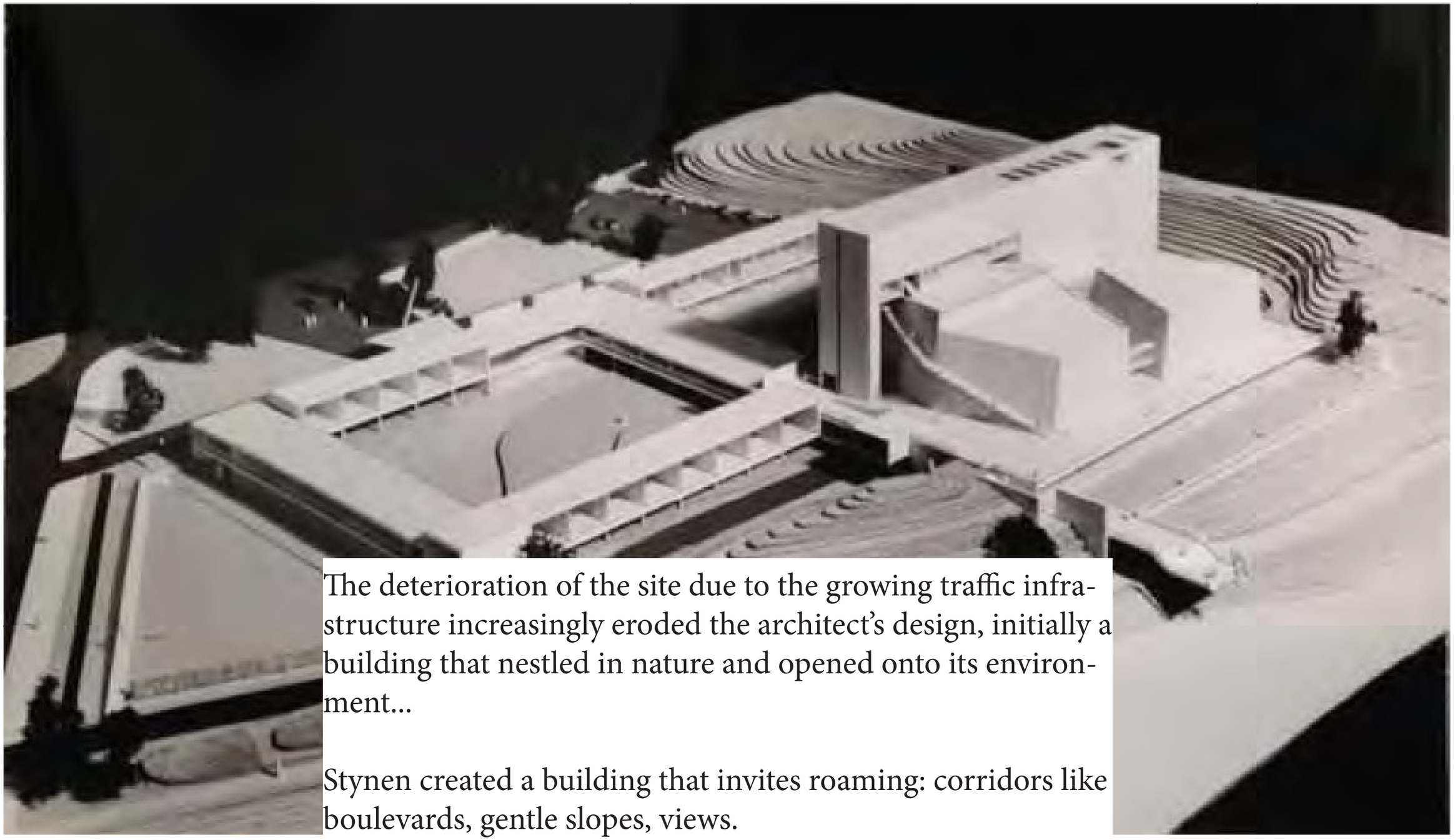
Zie Magazine, 1969. (realistic depiction)

04



1957 OPEN-AIR SWIMMING POOL
The open-air swimming pool at Wezenberg was opened in 1957.
A few years later, it disappeared due to the construction of the Ring Road.

\ context

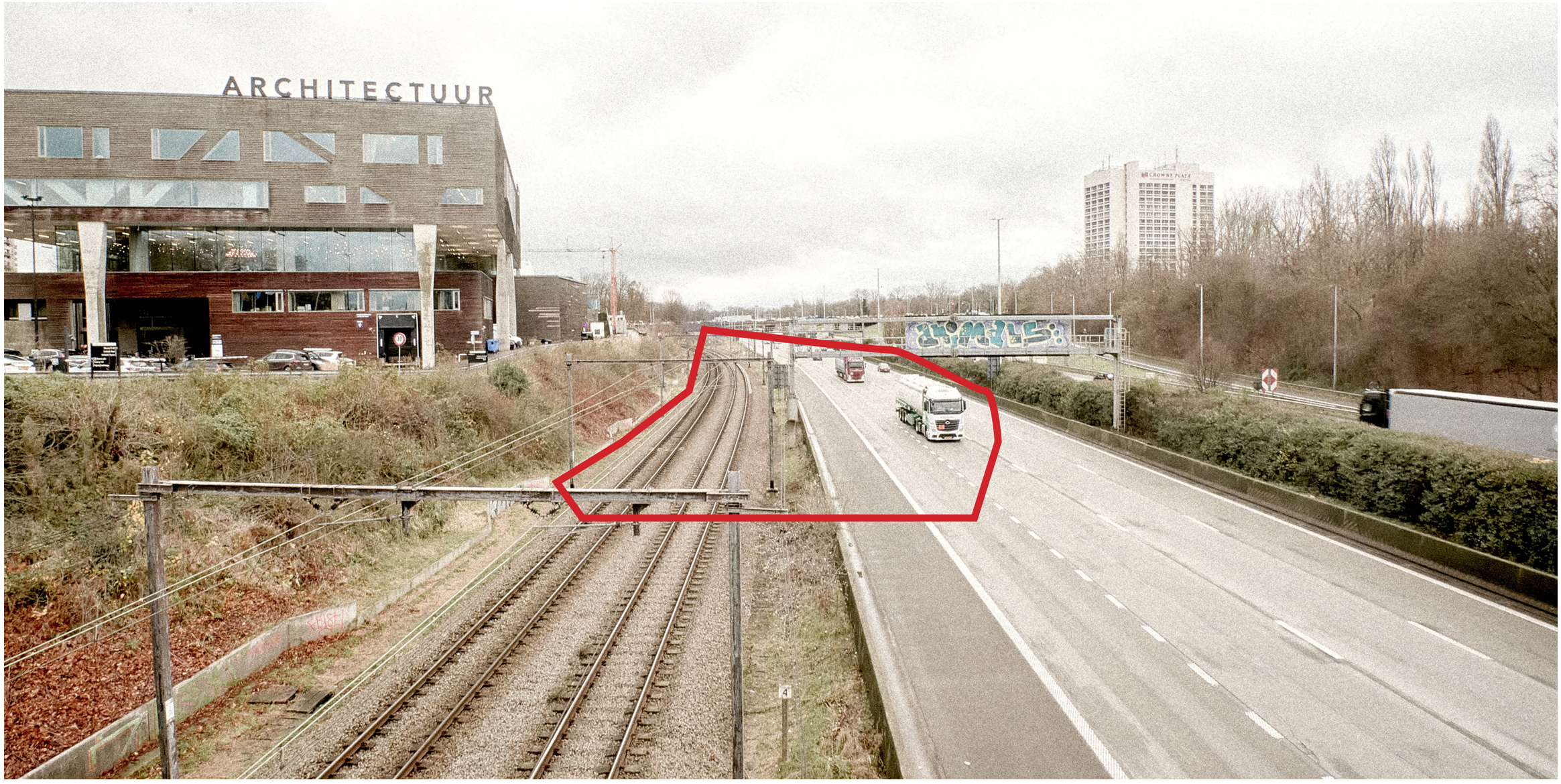


The deterioration of the site due to the growing traffic infrastructure increasingly eroded the architect's design, initially a building that nestled in nature and opened onto its environment...

Stynen created a building that invites roaming: corridors like boulevards, gentle slopes, views.

Model, first design 1959 (Antwerp: APA).

\ context



\ context



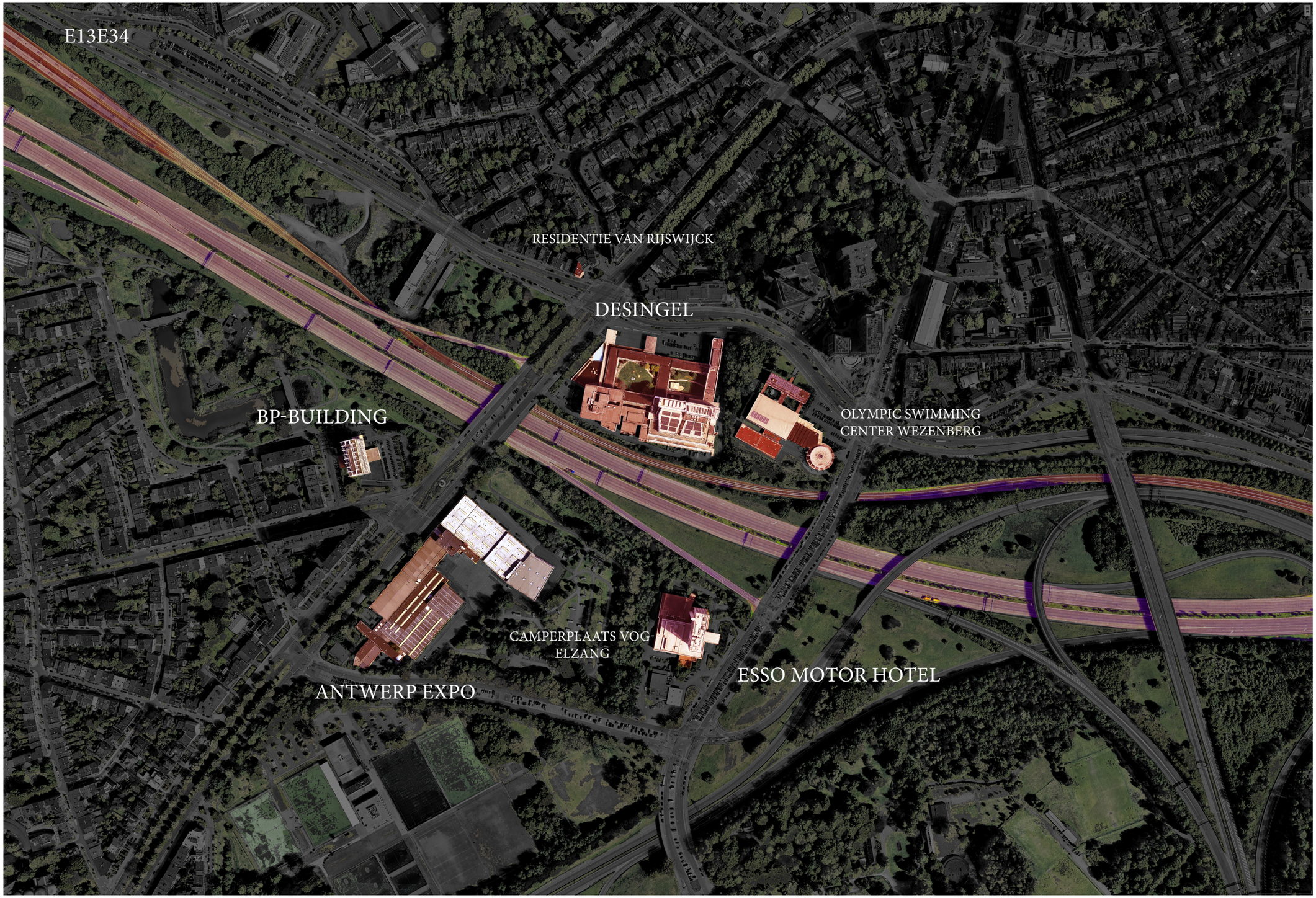
\ context



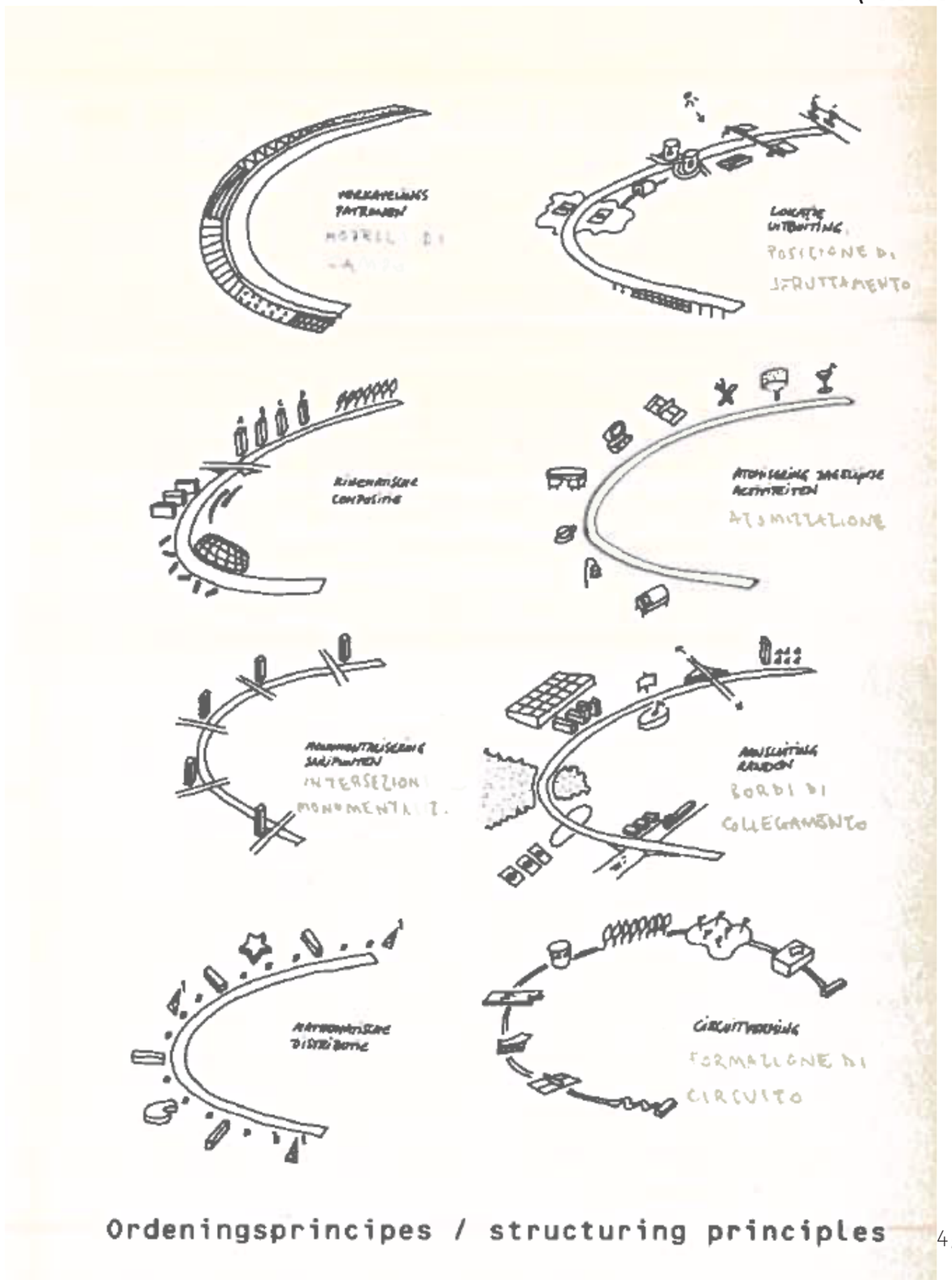
\ context



\ context


E13E34
RESIDENTIE VAN RIJSWIJCK
DESINGEL
BP-BUILDING
OLYMPIC SWIMMING
CENTER WEZENBERG
CAMPERPLAATS VOG-
ELZANG
ANTWERP EXPO
ESSO MOTOR HOTEL

\ context

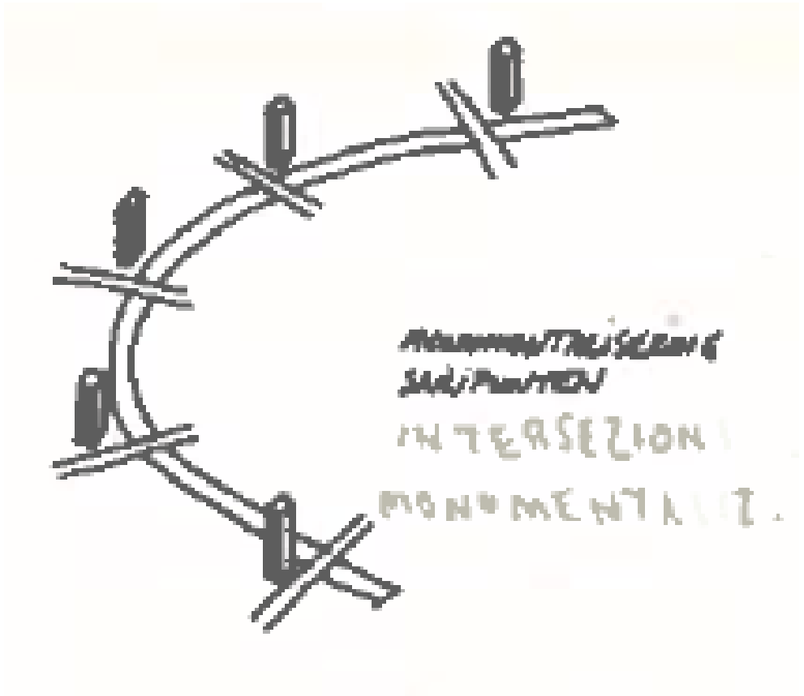


Ordeningsprincipes / structuring principles

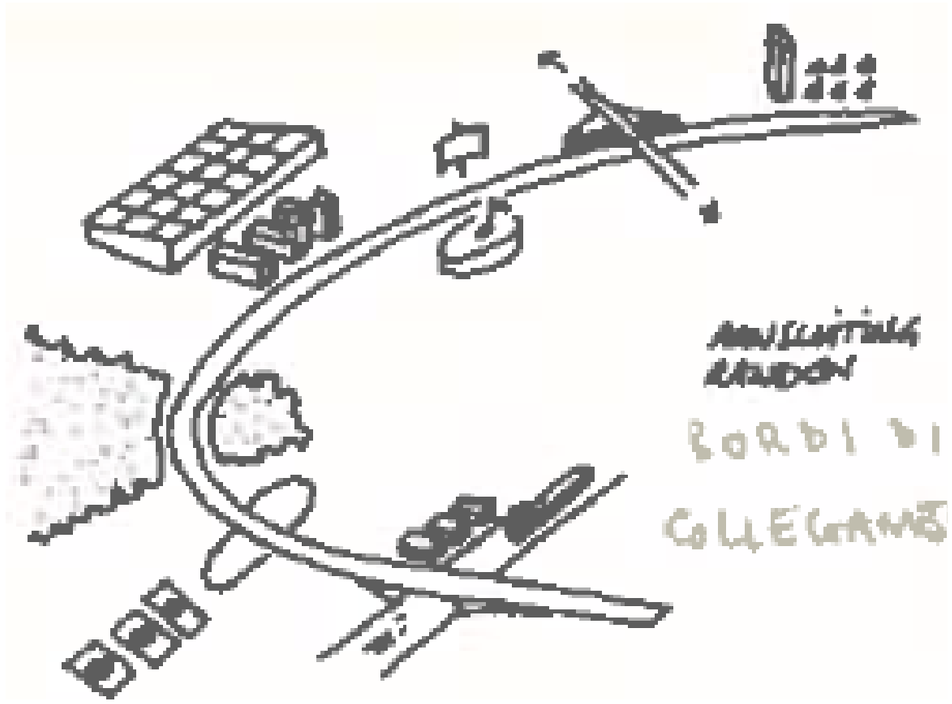
Based on an analysis of the Ring mechanism and
its physical hallmarks we can infer a number of structuring principles.

— Neutelings Riedijk Architecten

\ context

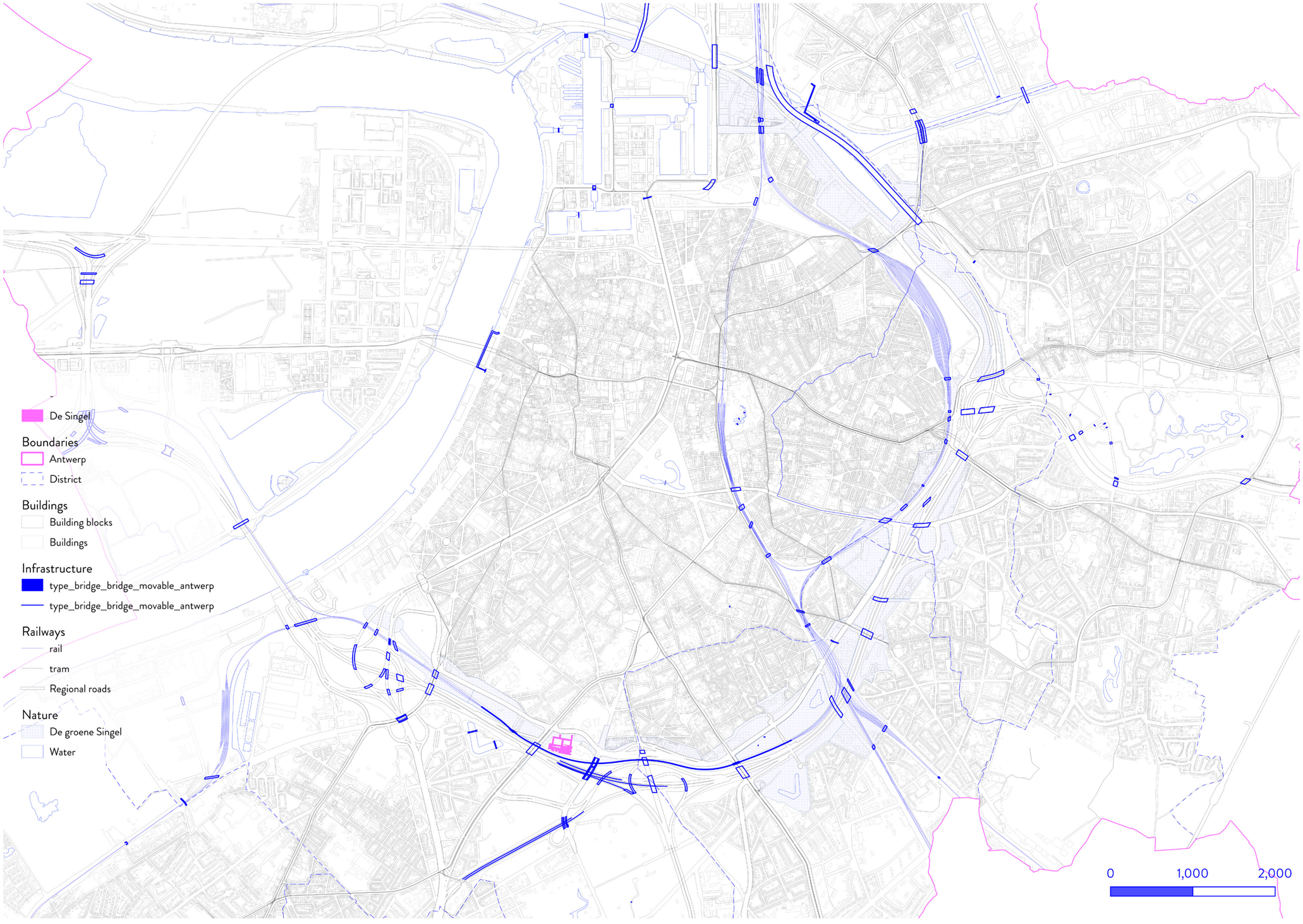


monumentale snijpunten



aansluiting randen

\ context



by Margaux



Beinecke Library, New Haven_©_ Ezra Stoller



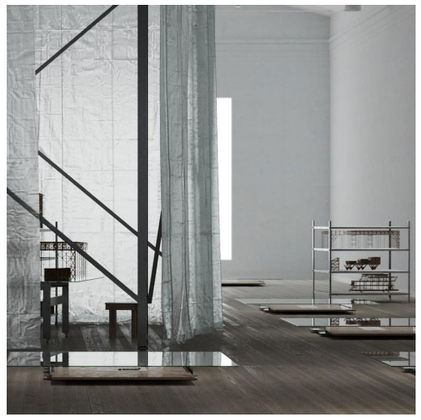
Soane_Museum_©_Derry_Moore



CCA_archive_©_Gabor_Szilasi



Ungers house extension



Drawing Matter_Archive_Office_©_ David Grandorge



Herzog de Meuron Kabinett



Archives Bordeaux_©_Filip Dujardin



Ark Des_©_Arhov Frick

LOOKING CAREFULLY

\ research & idea

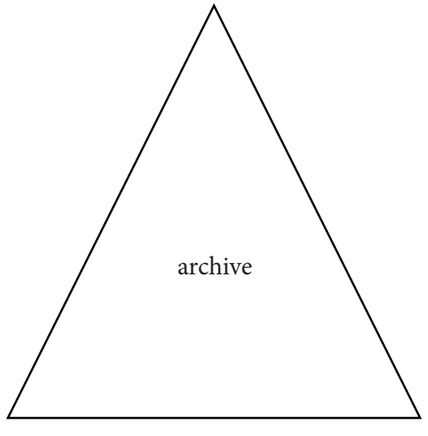




RESEARCH QUESTION 1

When the subject is not the original producer of the materials but their reproducer, aside from the need for long-term preservation, does the meaning then resemble a highly subjective curation? And can this kind of relationship between human and material exist within a public archive? Put simply, can the visitor also be the curator?

INTENTIONAL COLLECTION



SCHOLARLY INTERPRETATION
OR PUBLIC EXHIBITION

LONG-TERM PRESERVATION

RESEARCH QUESTION 2

when designing archives, we constantly encounter a challenge—how to balance preservation and display. preservation implies closure, shelving, and exclusion, thus achieving temporal robustness. this robustness is also an essential goal of archives: collecting objects deemed important, arranging them in a certain order, and making them a carrier of memory or a clue for interpretation. display, on the other hand, implies openness, where materials must be made public. frequent usage naturally leads to wear and tear, which contradicts the goals of archiving. however, whether through damage or preservation in isolation, the act of collecting and exhibiting in archives is eternal.

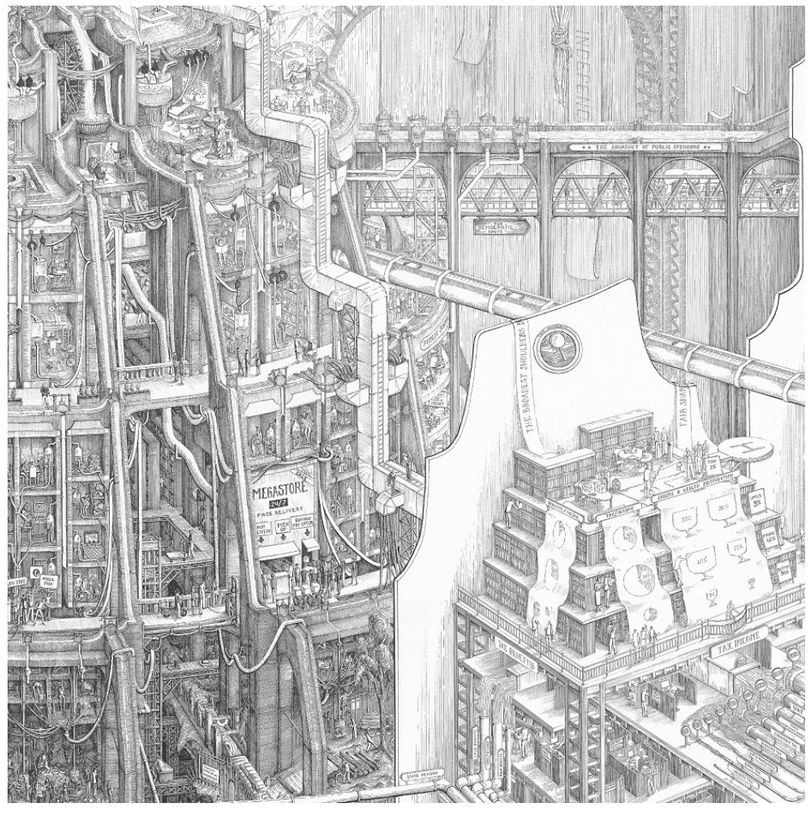
— personal statement, Liren

CONTRADICTION:

THE INHERENT RIGID AND ENCLOSED NATURE OF THE ARCHIVE
VS
THE SITE'S URGENT NEED FOR POROSITY AND CONNECTIVITY

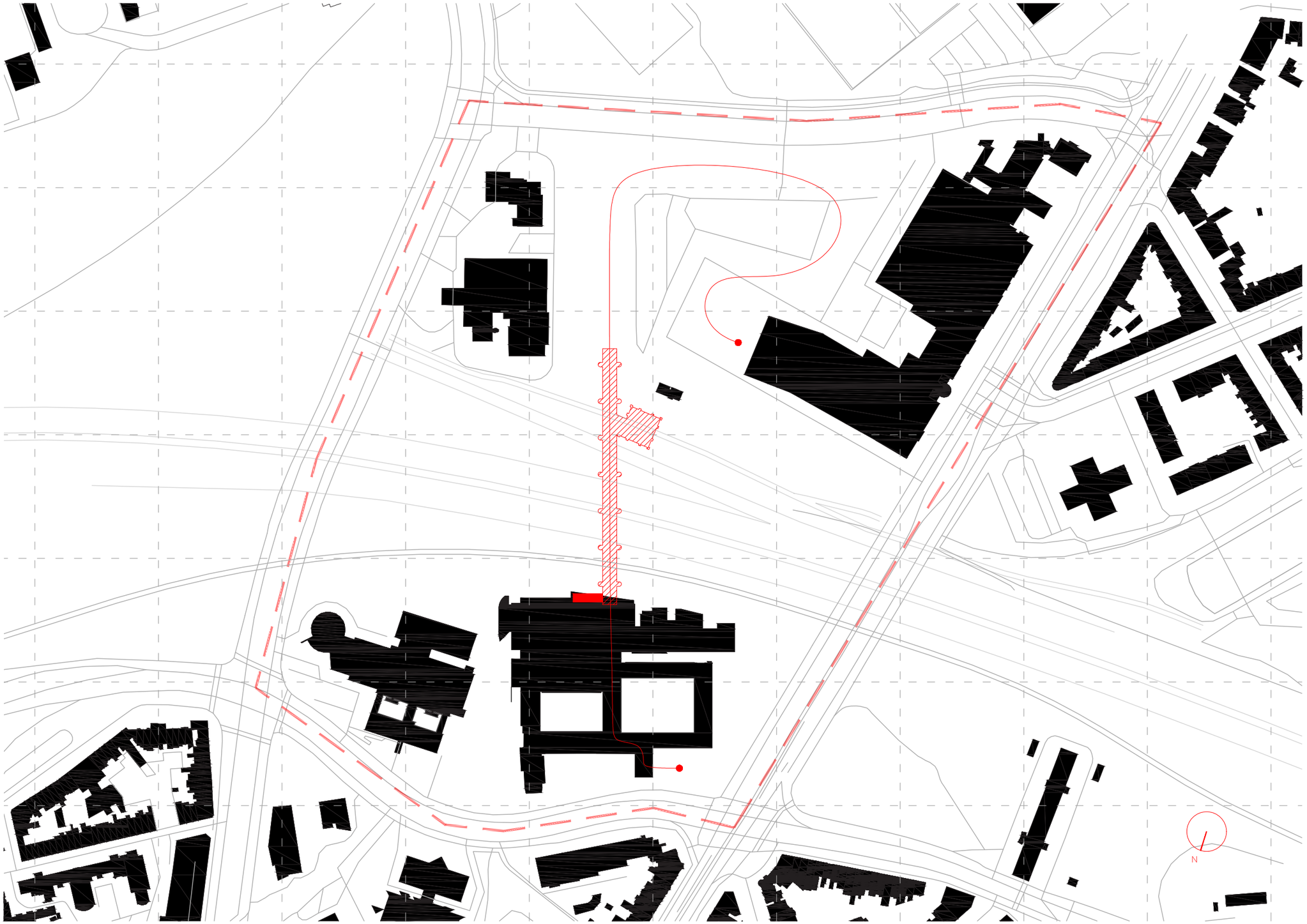


Pencil drawings of Duisburg State Archive by O&O Baukunst



Carlijn Kingma - The Waterworks of Money

\ proposal



\ context


125 JAAR
ontroering
125 YEARS
of emotion
CONSERVATORIUM
deSingel

\ context


JOUW BELEVING
WE WILLEN JE HARTELIJK DANKEN VOOR JOUW BESEF EN GEDULD TIJDENS DEZE RENOVATIE.

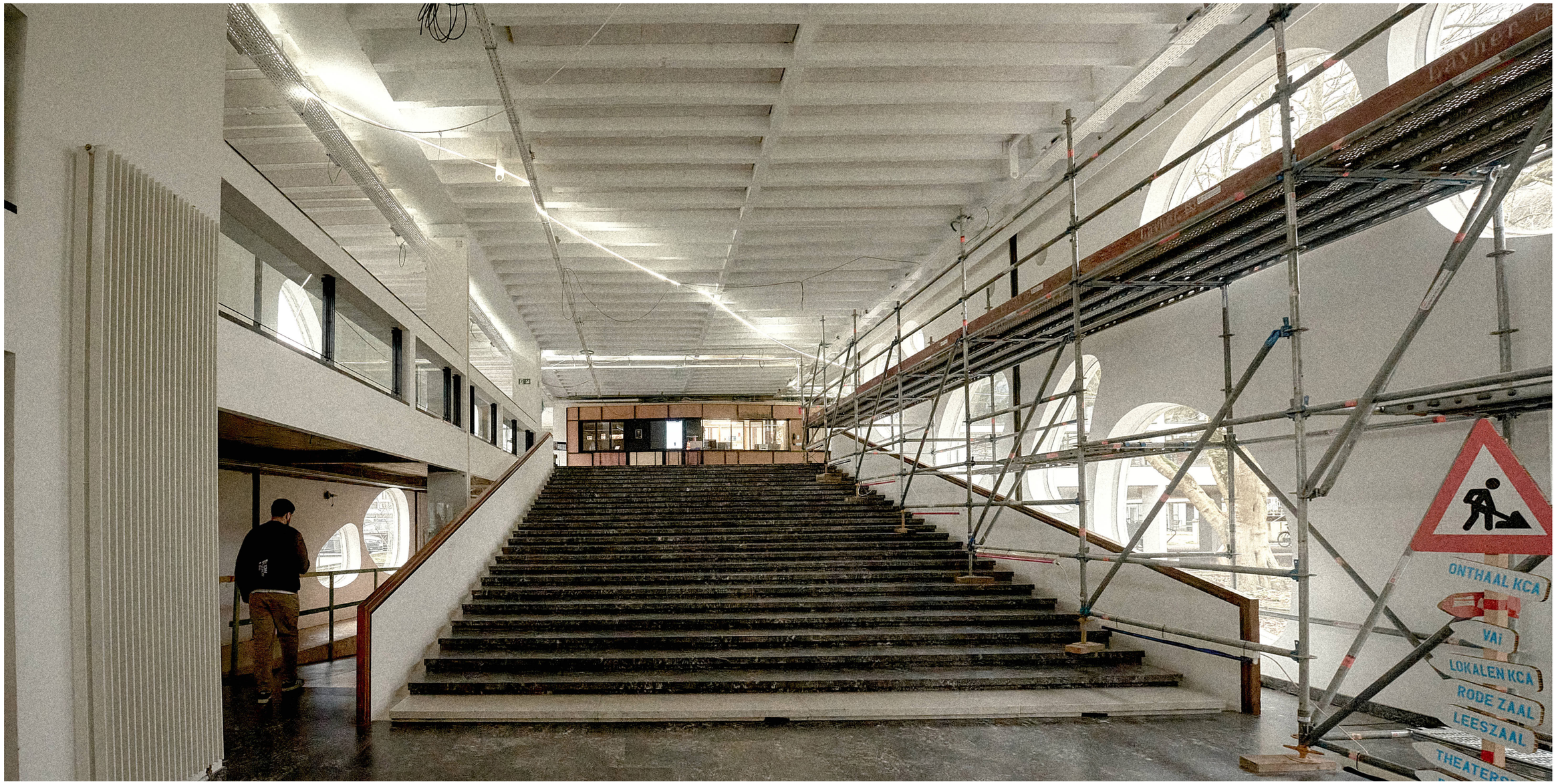
\ context



\ context



\ context



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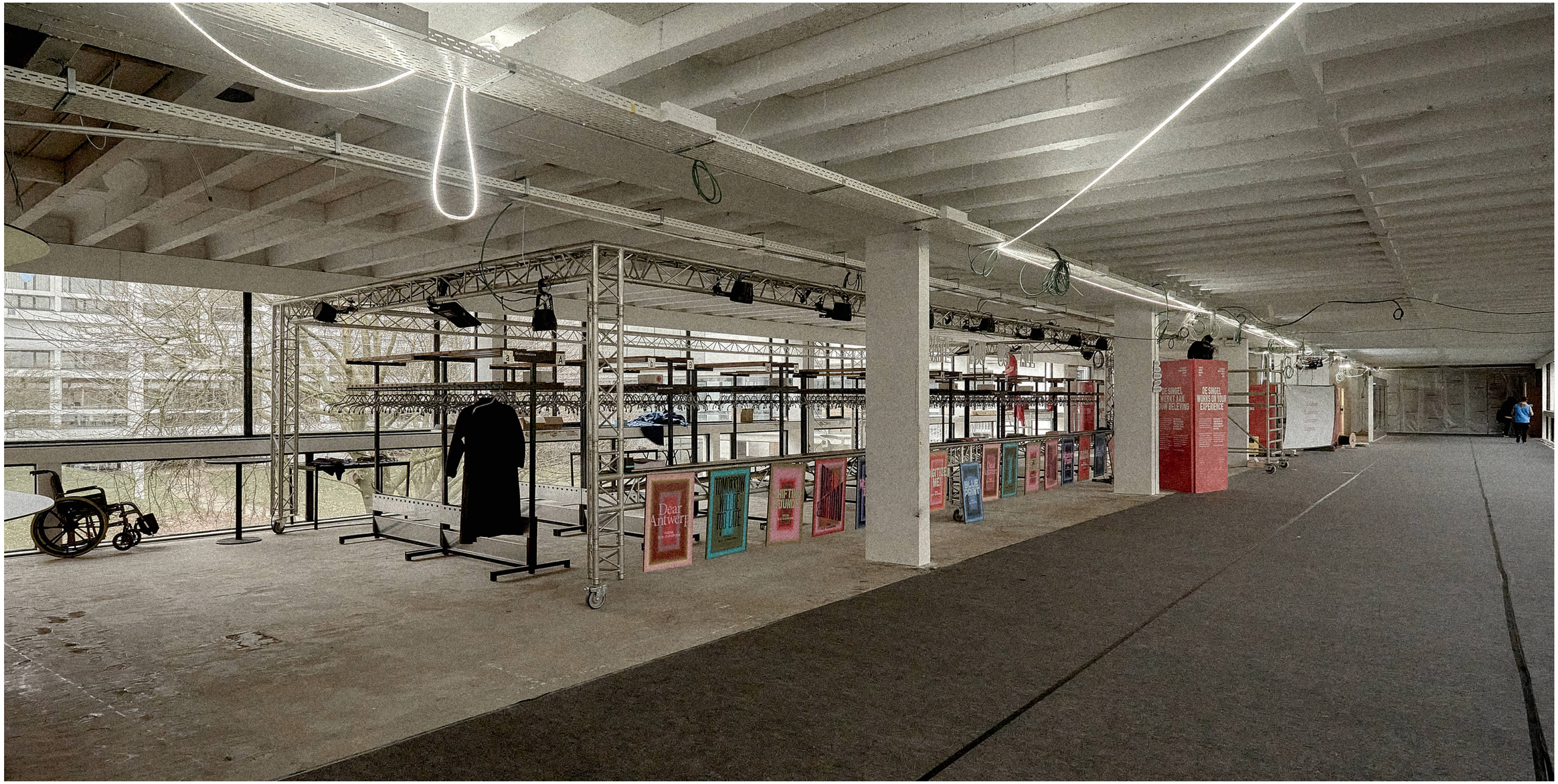

DE SINGEL
WERKT AAN
UW BELEVING
DE SINGEL
WORKS ON YOUR
EXPERIENCE
Dear
Antwerp

\ context

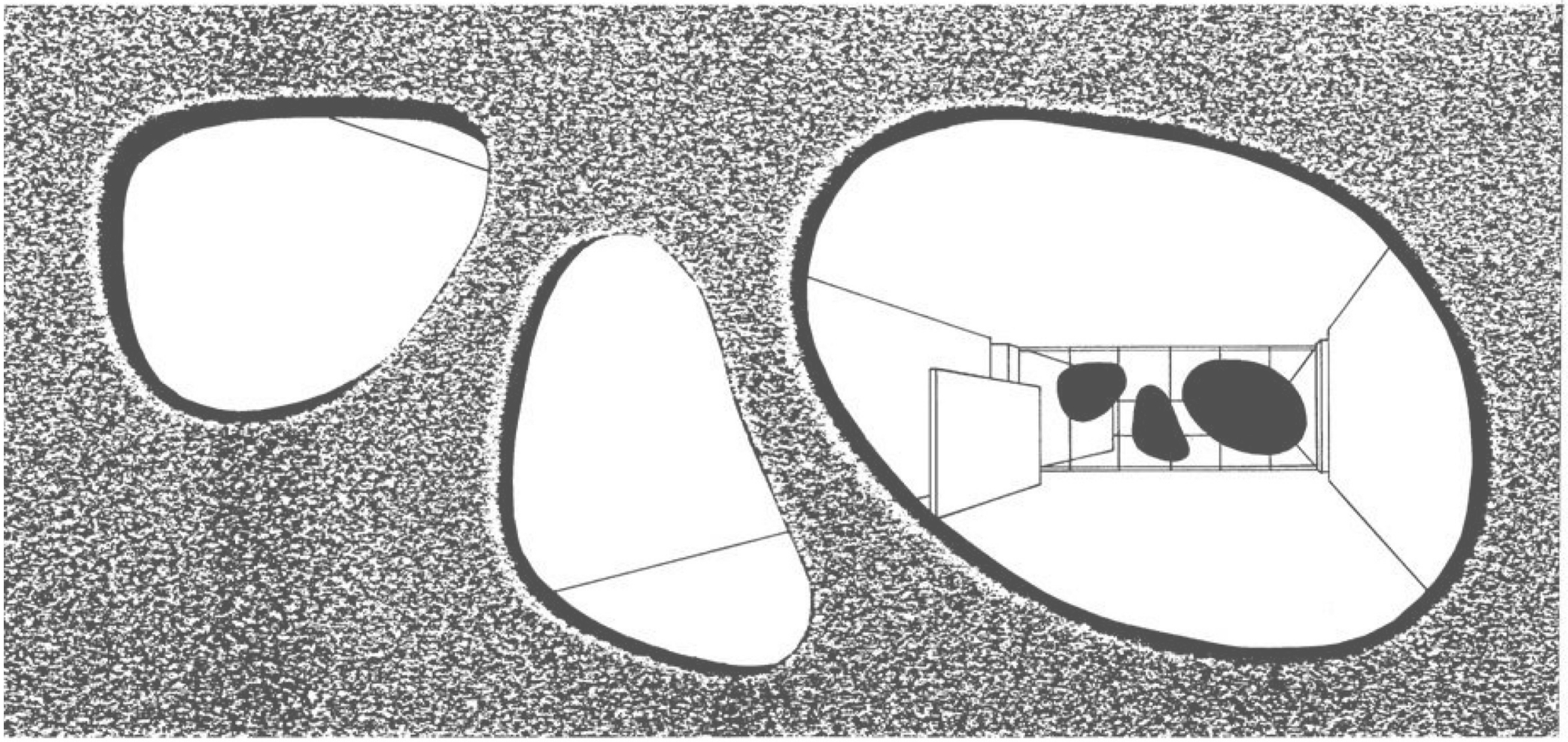

eSingel
ntwerpen
itectuur
TOILET
Stéphane Beel °1955
1987
2000
2010

\ context



the wide corridors that are assembly spaces rather than circulation spaces... Leon Stynen Architect, p166

\ context



door assembly designed by stephane beel


eSingel
ntwerpen
itectuur
TOILET
Stéphane Beel °1955
1987
2000
2010

\ context



\ context



\ context



\ context



\ context



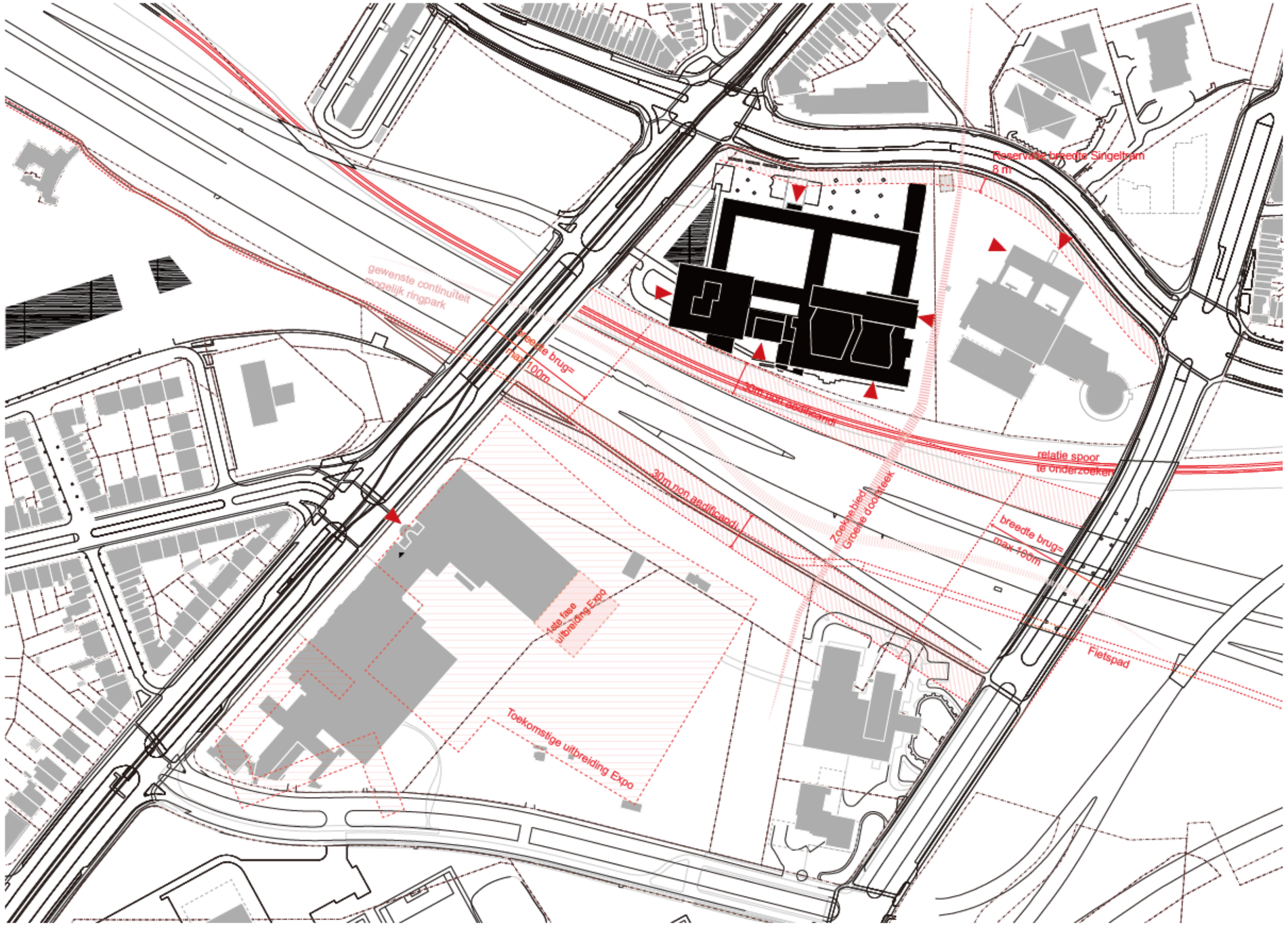
\ context



\ context

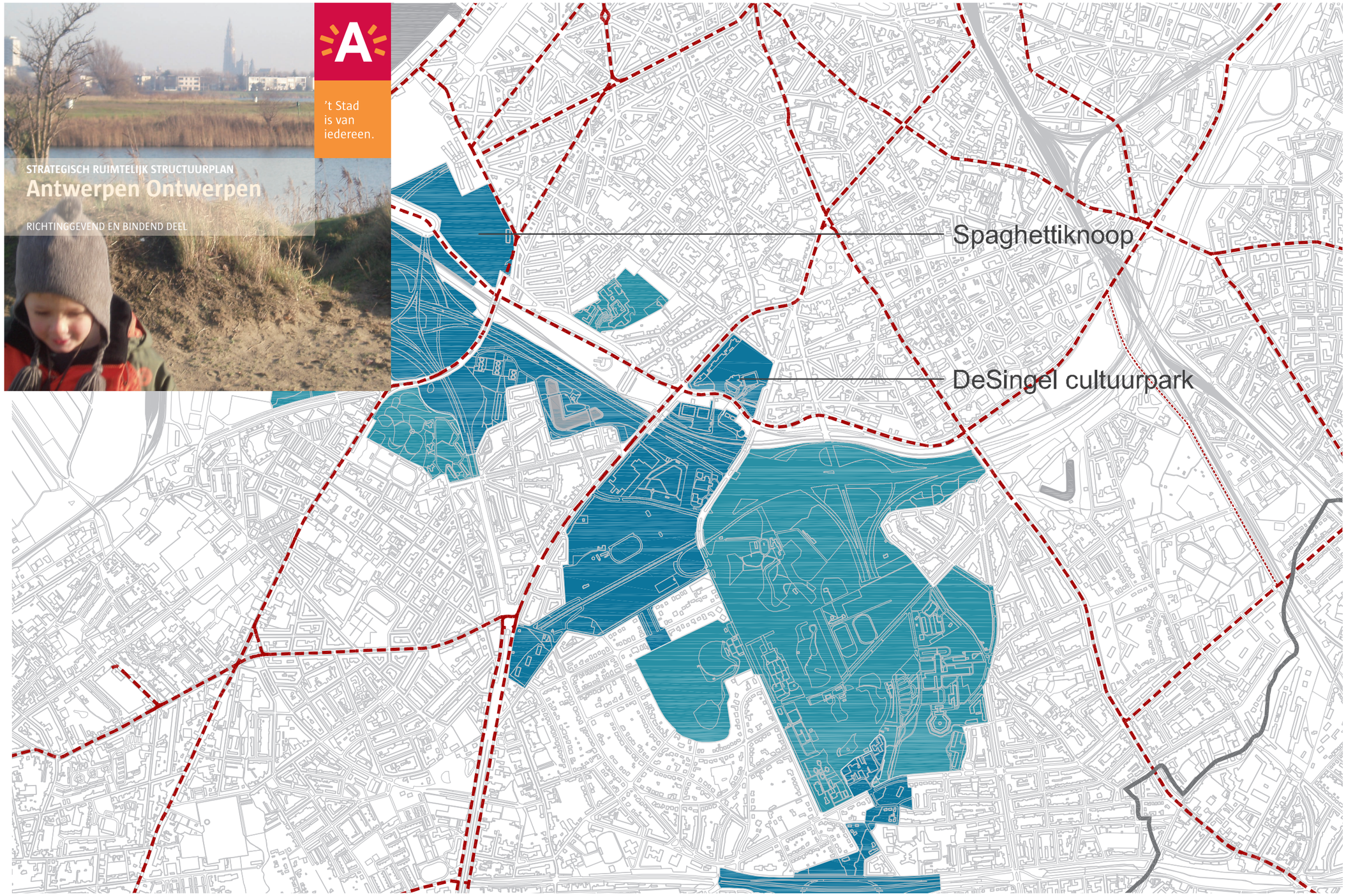


\ context

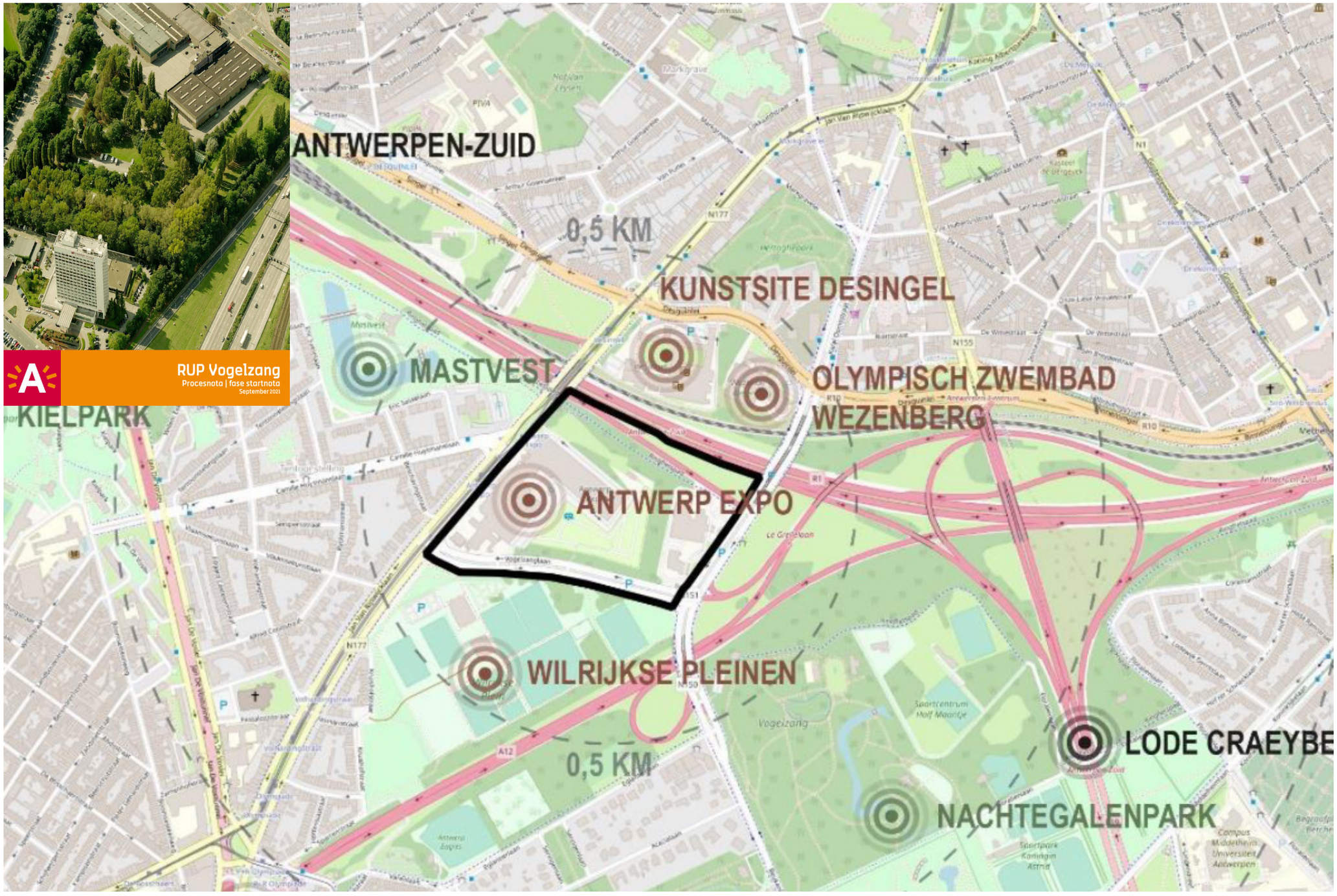


feasibility study of vai

\ context



vorig Ruimtelijk Structuurplan (s-RSA, 2006)

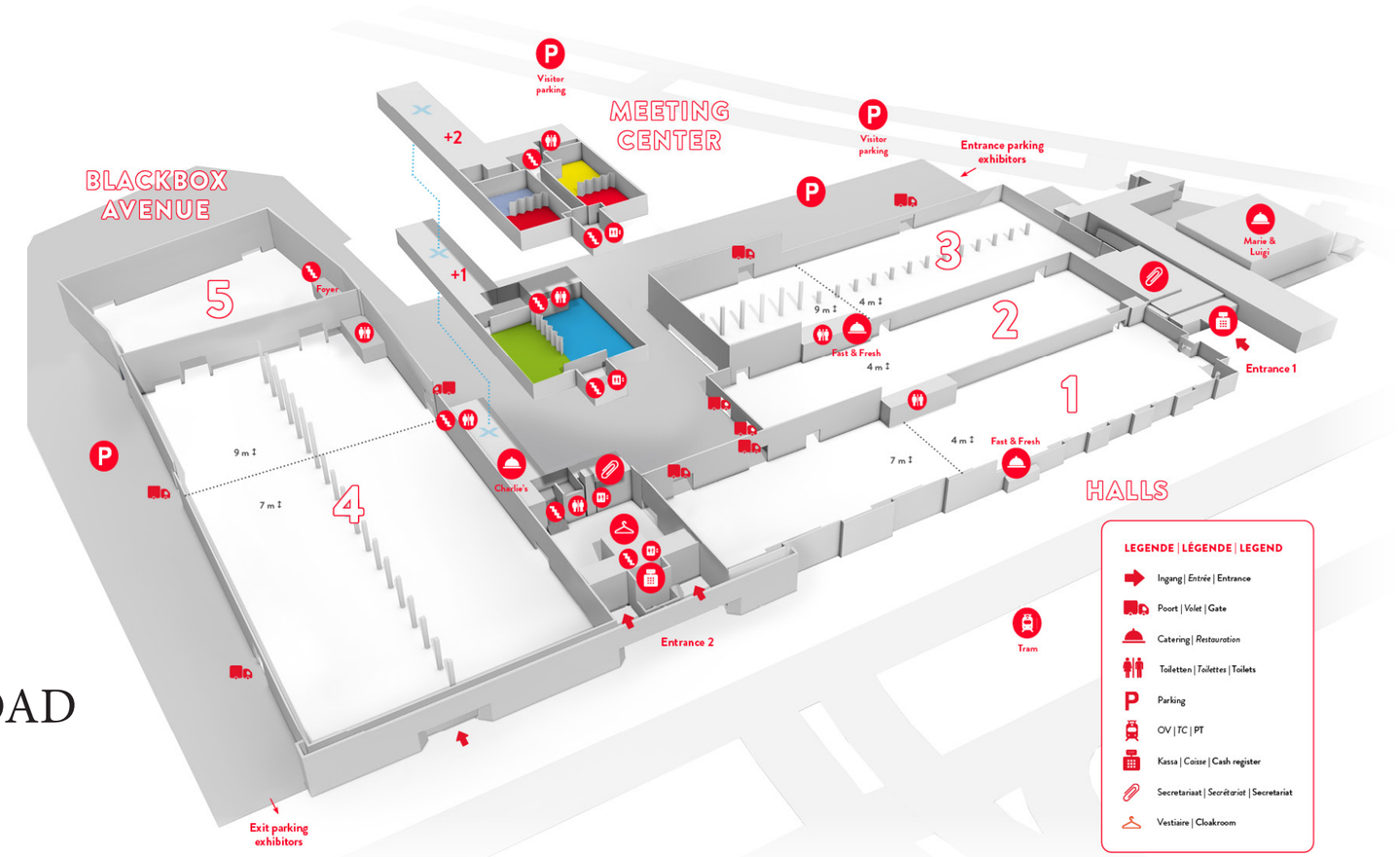

RUP Vogelzang
Procesnota | fase startnota
September 2021
ANTWERPEN-ZUID
0,5 KM
KUNSTSITE DESINGEL
MASTVEST
OLYMPISCH ZWEMBAD
WEZENBERG
KIELPARK
ANTWERP EXPO
WILRIJKSE PLEINEN
0,5 KM
LODE CRAEYBE
NACHTEGALENPARK

不如一张卫星截图

CAMPERPARK VOGELZANG

RINGROAD

DESINGEL



ANTWERP EXPO

\ proposal



\ context



\ context



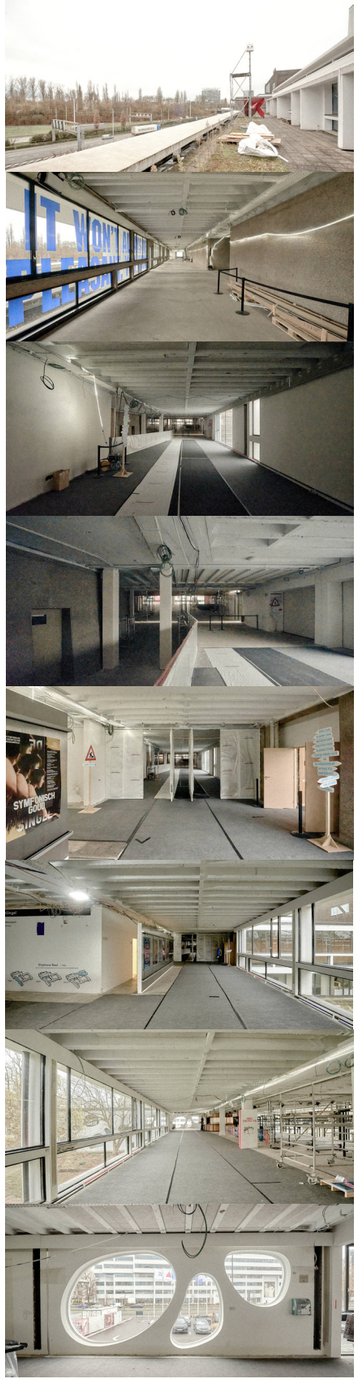
\ context



\ context

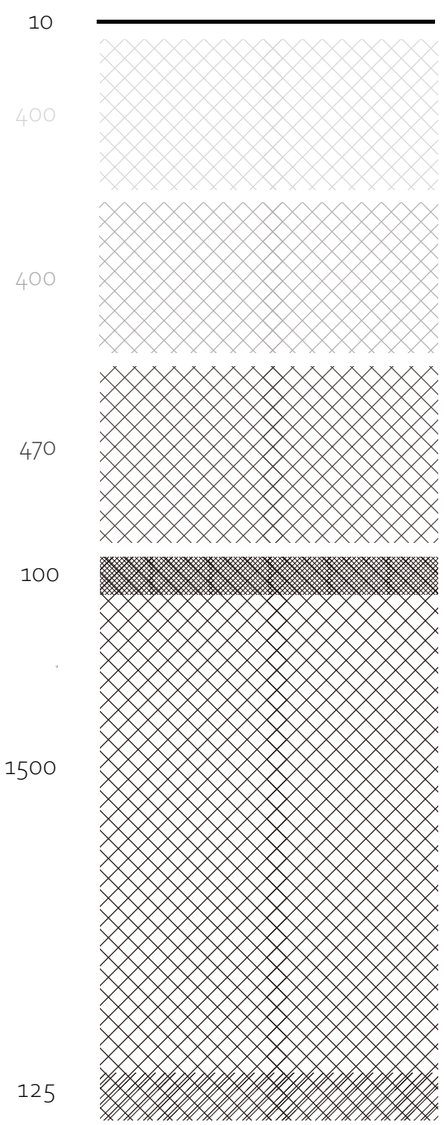


bridging...

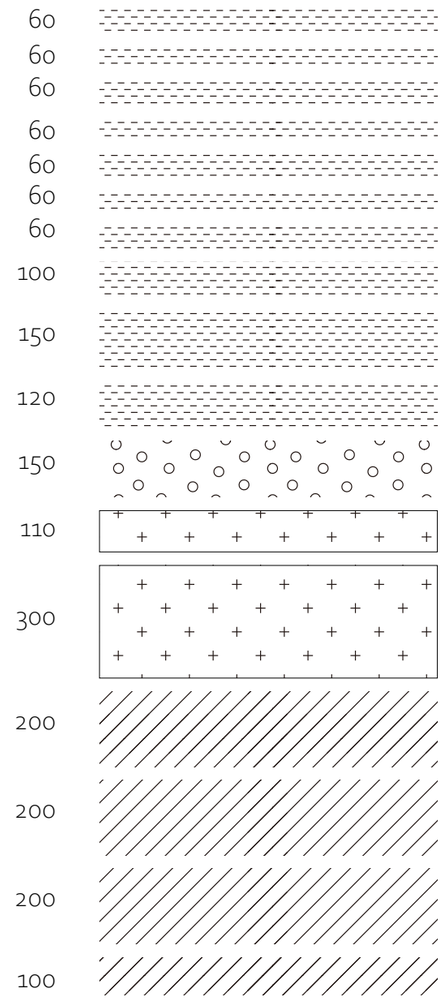




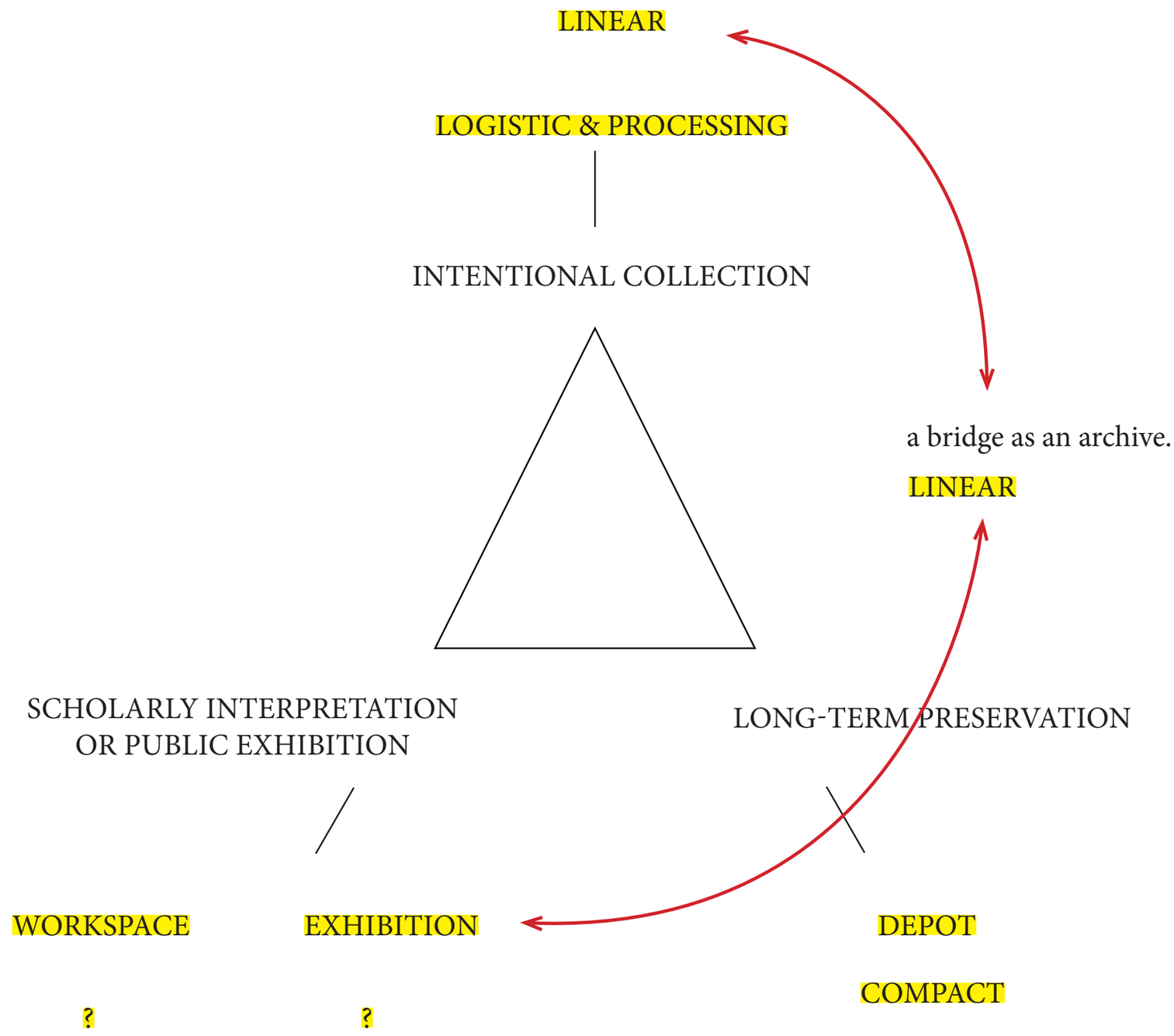
\ proposal



m² total +/- 6000



m² total +/- 6000


LINEAR
LOGISTIC & PROCESSING
INTENTIONAL COLLECTION
a bridge as an archive.
LINEAR
SCHOLARLY INTERPRETATION
OR PUBLIC EXHIBITION
LONG-TERM PRESERVATION
WORKSPACE
EXHIBITION
DEPOT
COMPACT
?
?



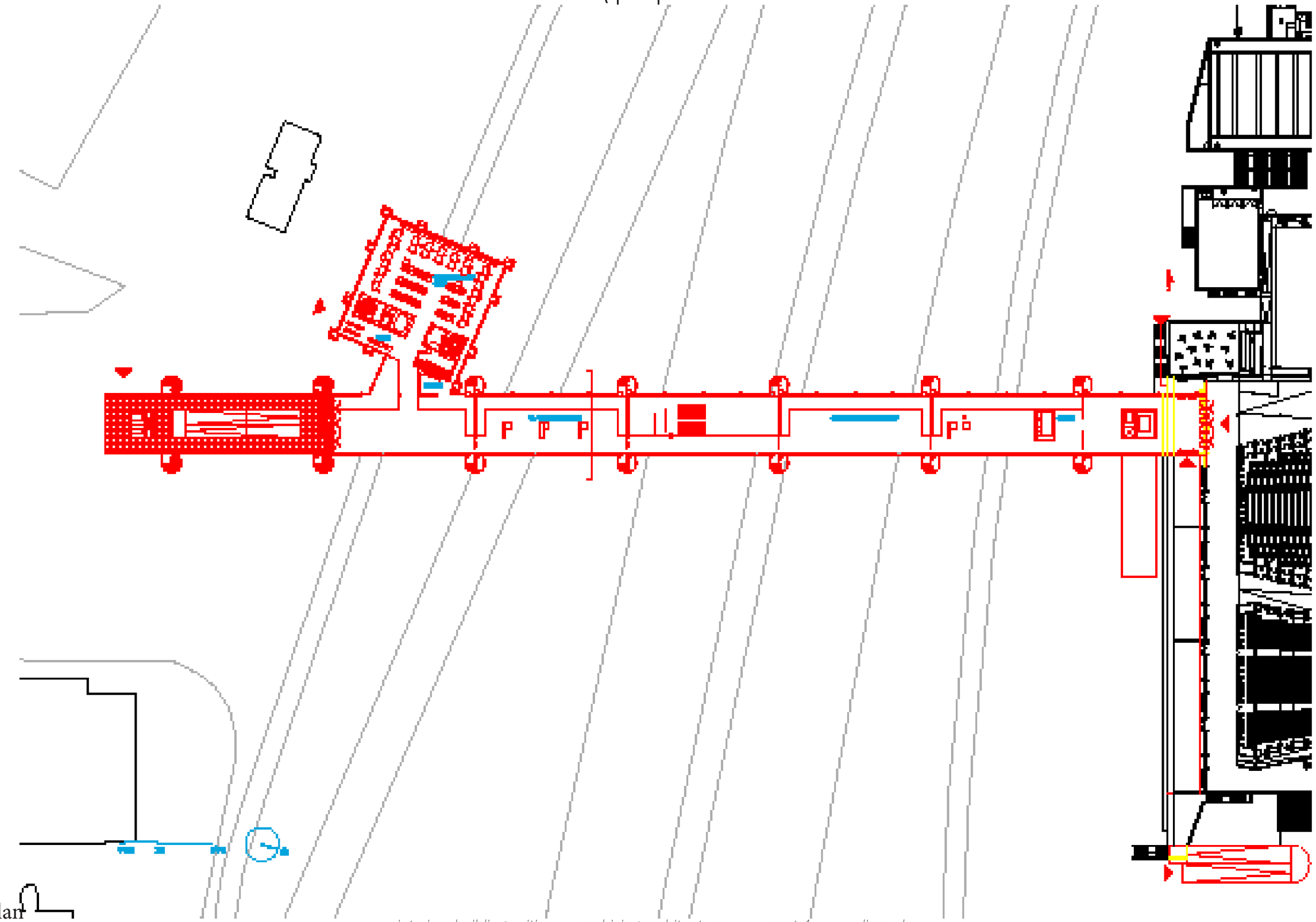
Mong Kok Pedestrian Footbridge System in Hongkong

\ reference






\ proposal

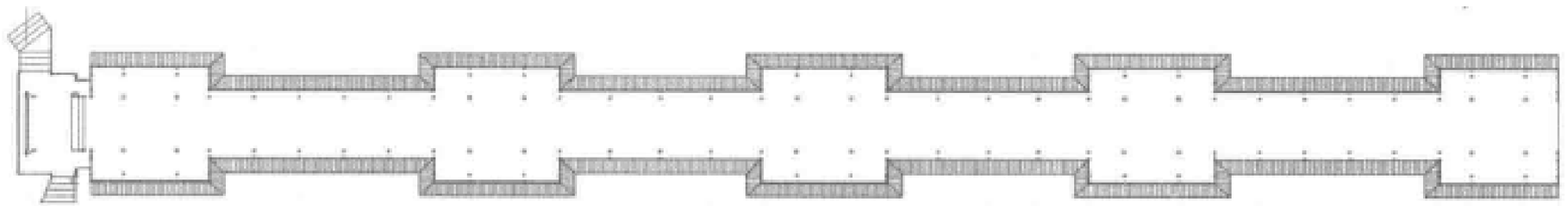


1f plan

\ reference

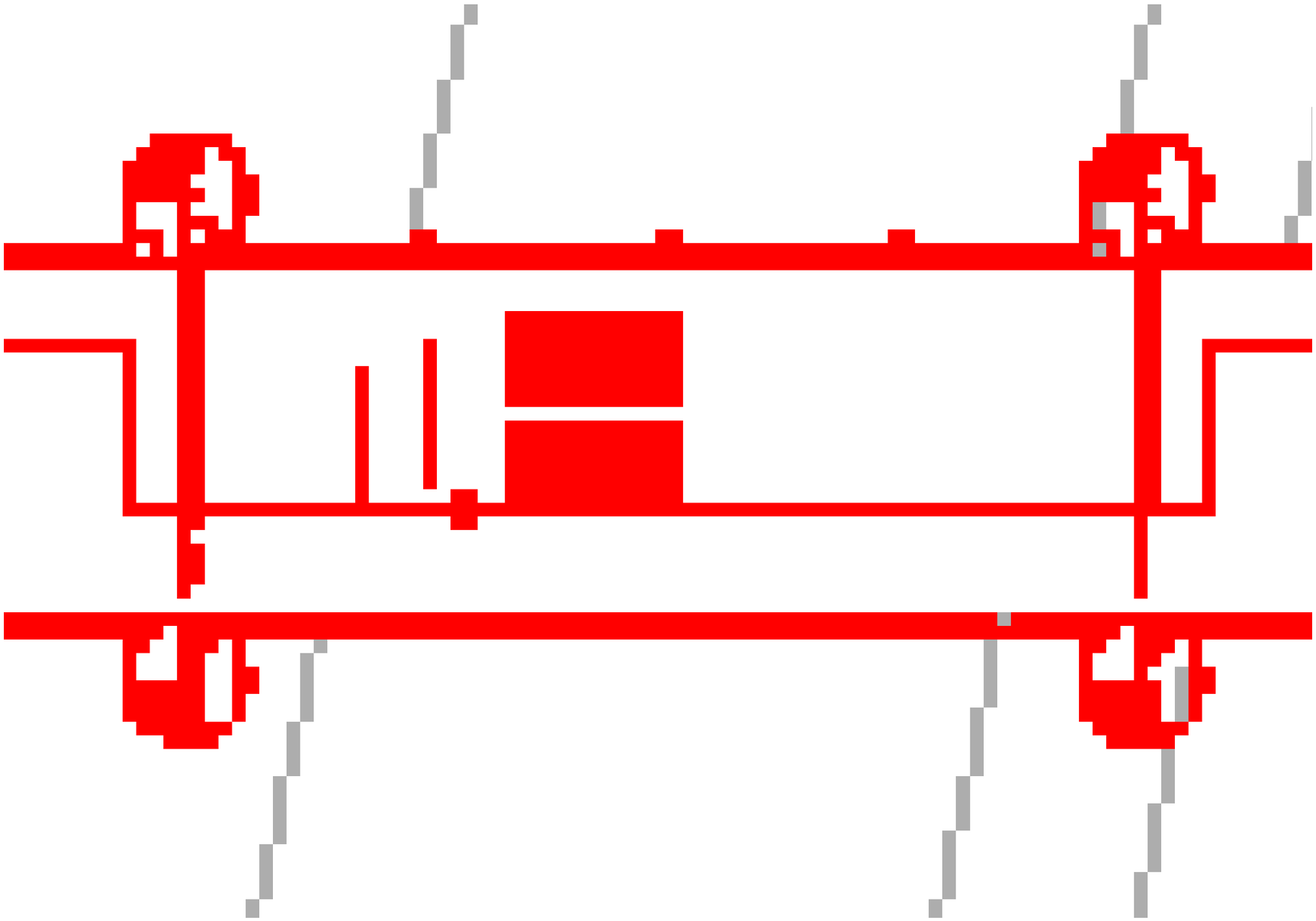


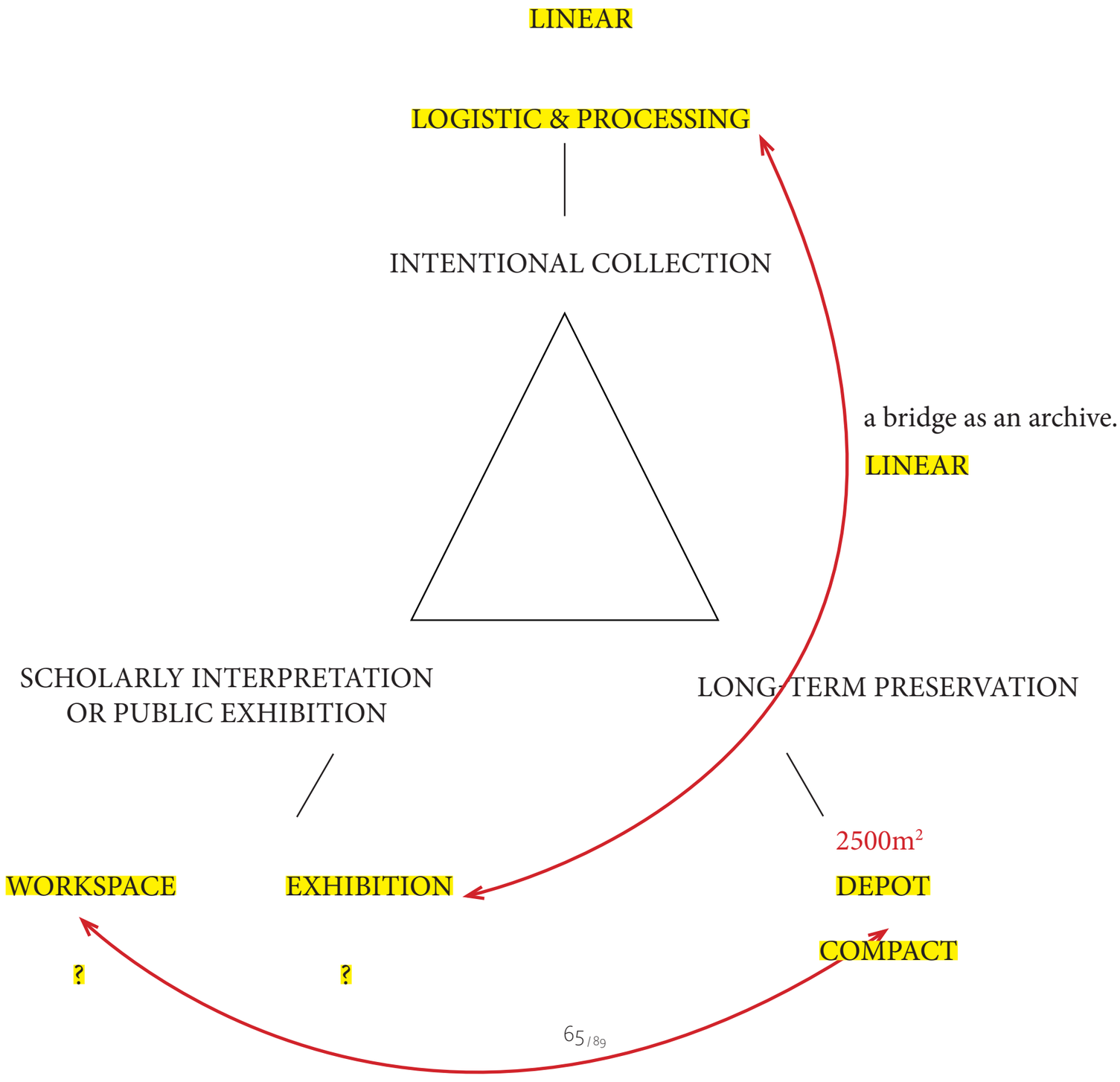
图 3－2－11　三江林溪乡程阳桥永济桥（摄影：周巍）



程阳永济桥平面图

\ proposal




LINEAR
LOGISTIC & PROCESSING
INTENTIONAL COLLECTION
a bridge as an archive.
LINEAR
SCHOLARLY INTERPRETATION
OR PUBLIC EXHIBITION
LONG-TERM PRESERVATION
2500m²
WORKSPACE
EXHIBITION
DEPOT
COMPACT
?
?

a bridge as an archive.

\ idea

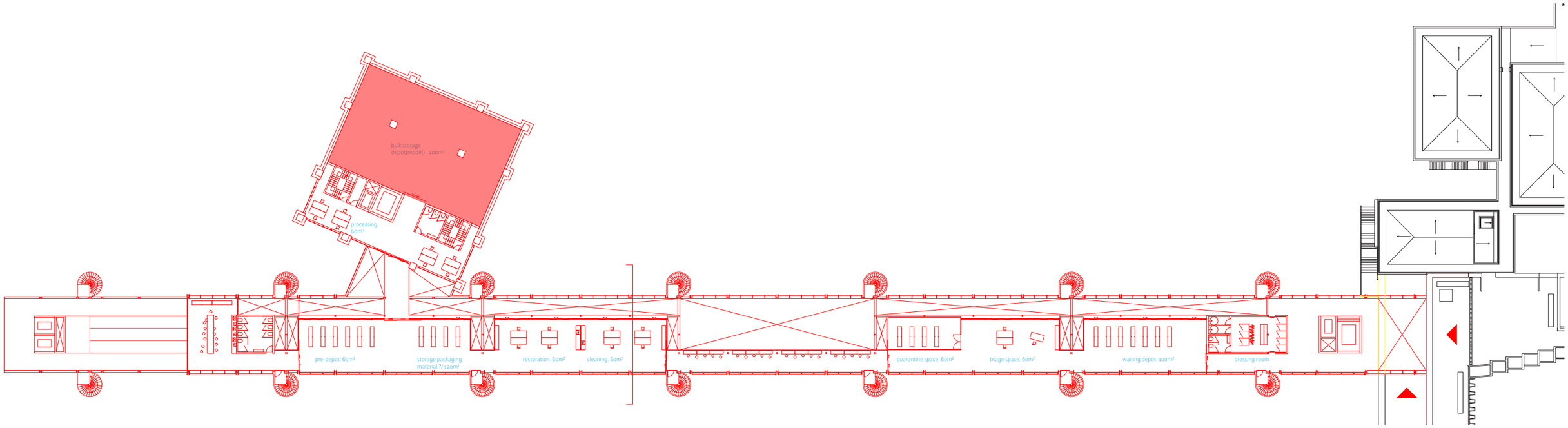
contradiction:

TWO KINDS OF SPACES THAT NEED TO COEXIST IN AN ARCHIVE:

INVITING RESEARCH & EXHIBITION SPACES

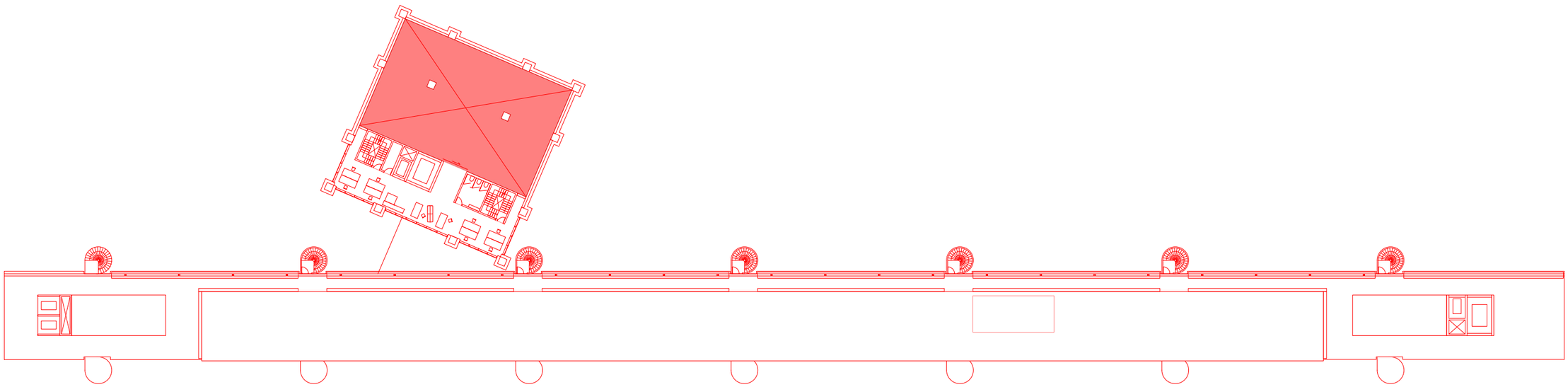
vs

ENCLOSED, DURABLE STORAGE SPACES.


bulk storage
depot(model) 400m²
processing
60m²
pre-depot. 60m²
storage packaging
material 7/ 120m²
restoration. 60m²
cleaning. 60m²
quarantine space. 60m²
triage space. 60m²
waiting depot. 100m²
dressing room

2f plan

\ proposal



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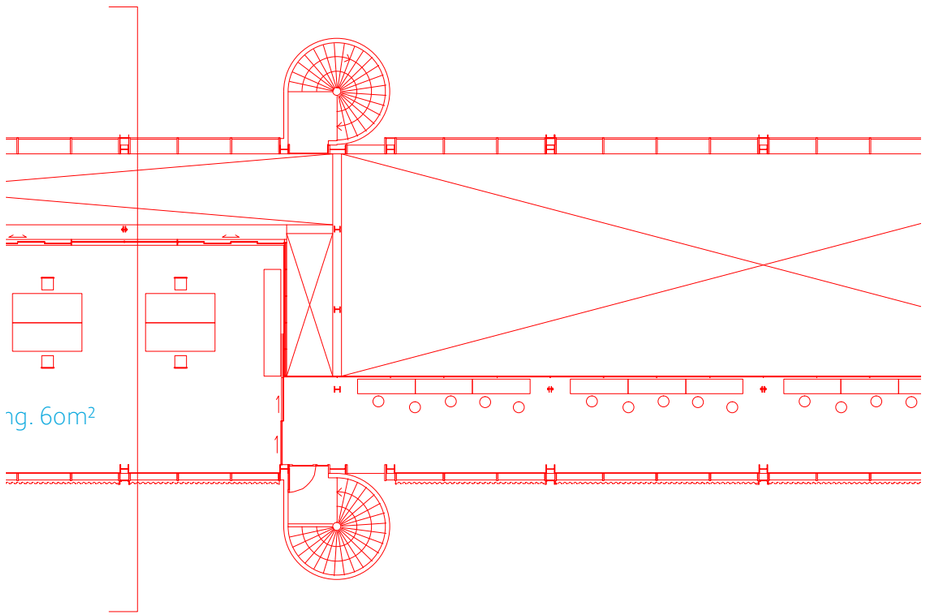

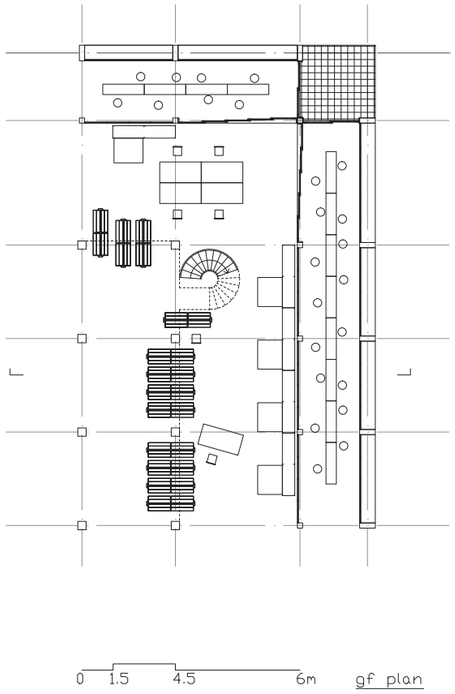

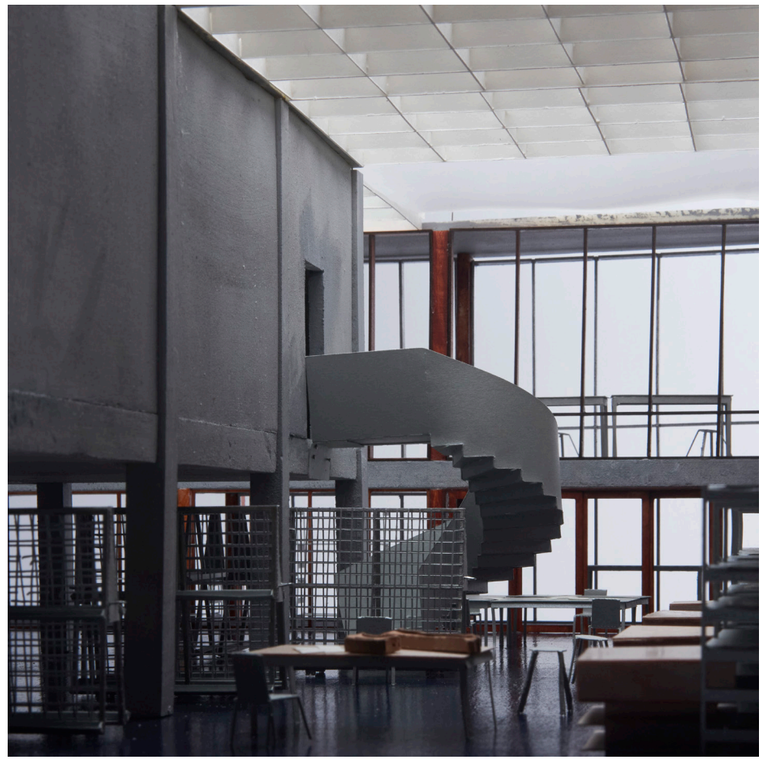

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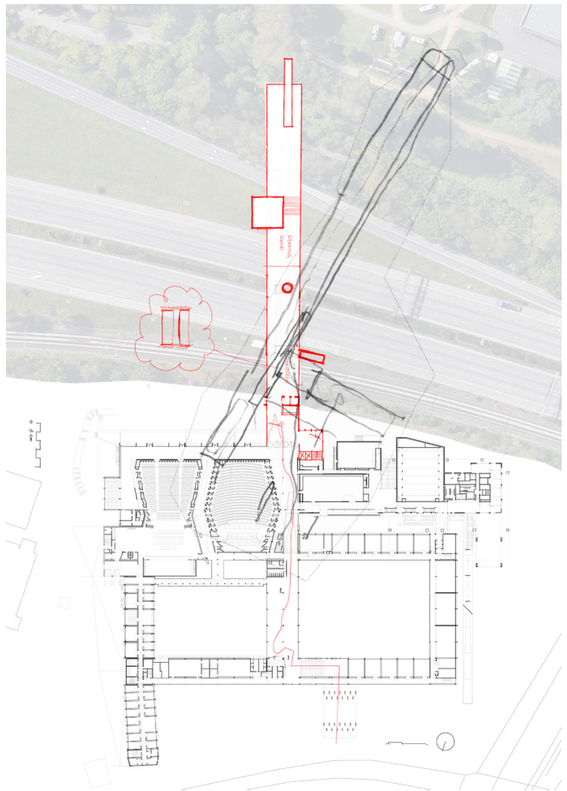

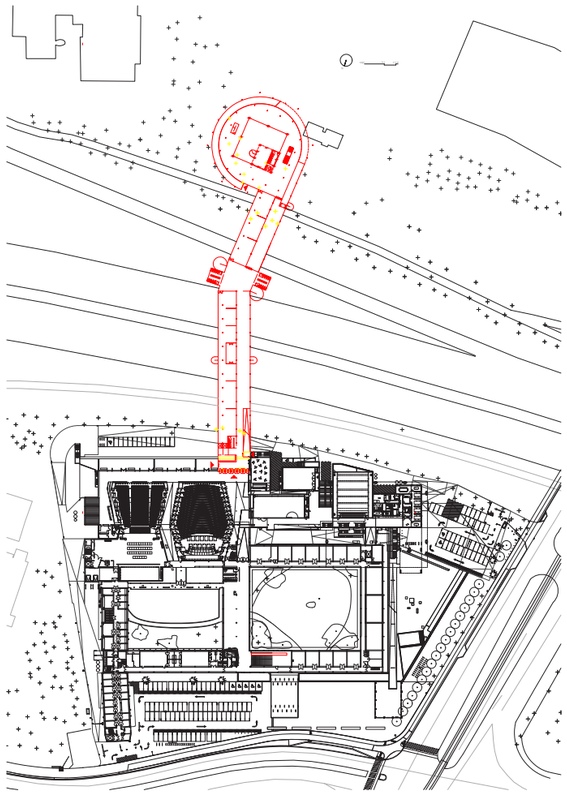

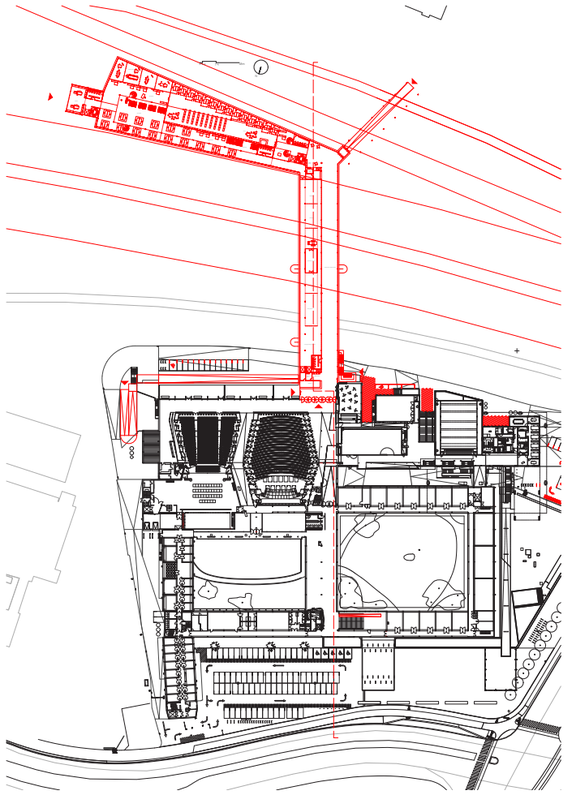

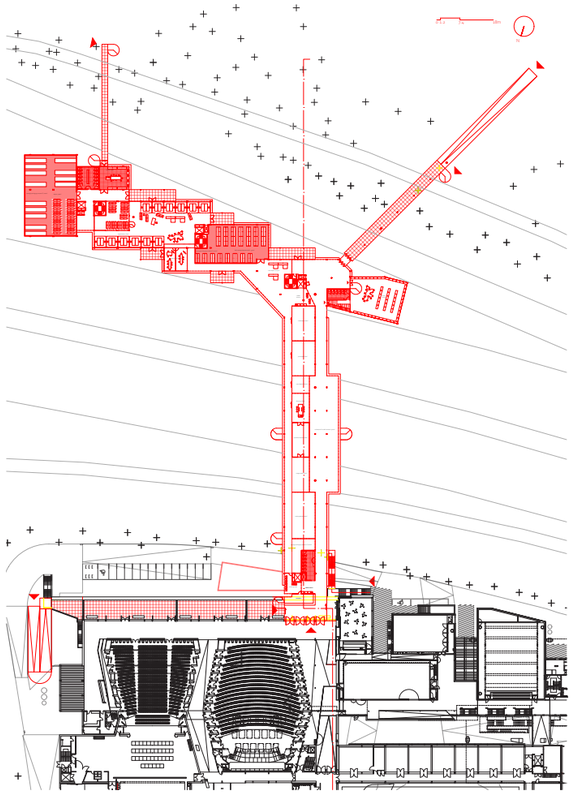

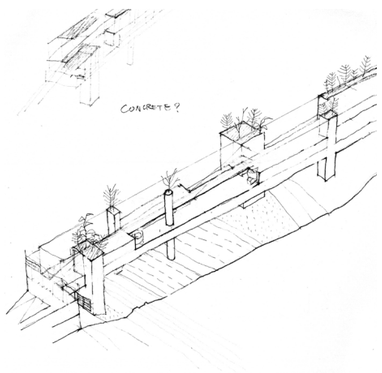

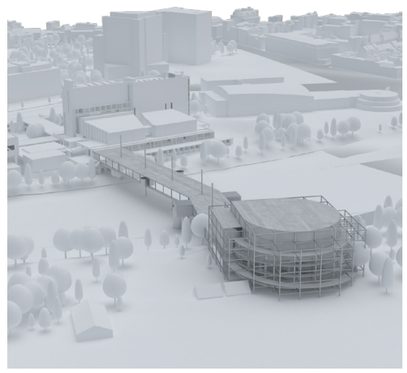

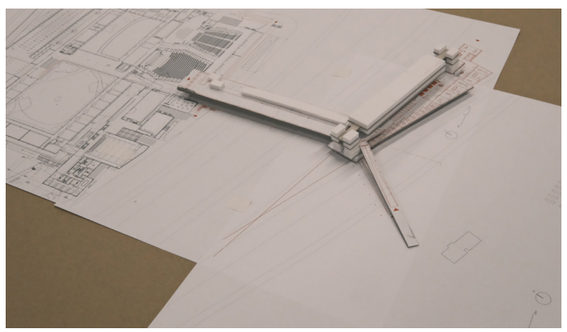

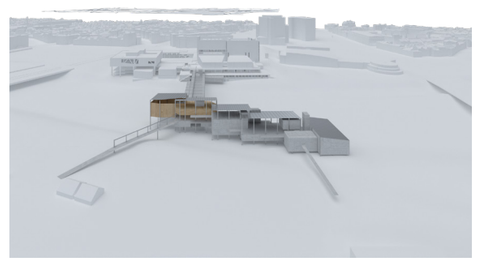

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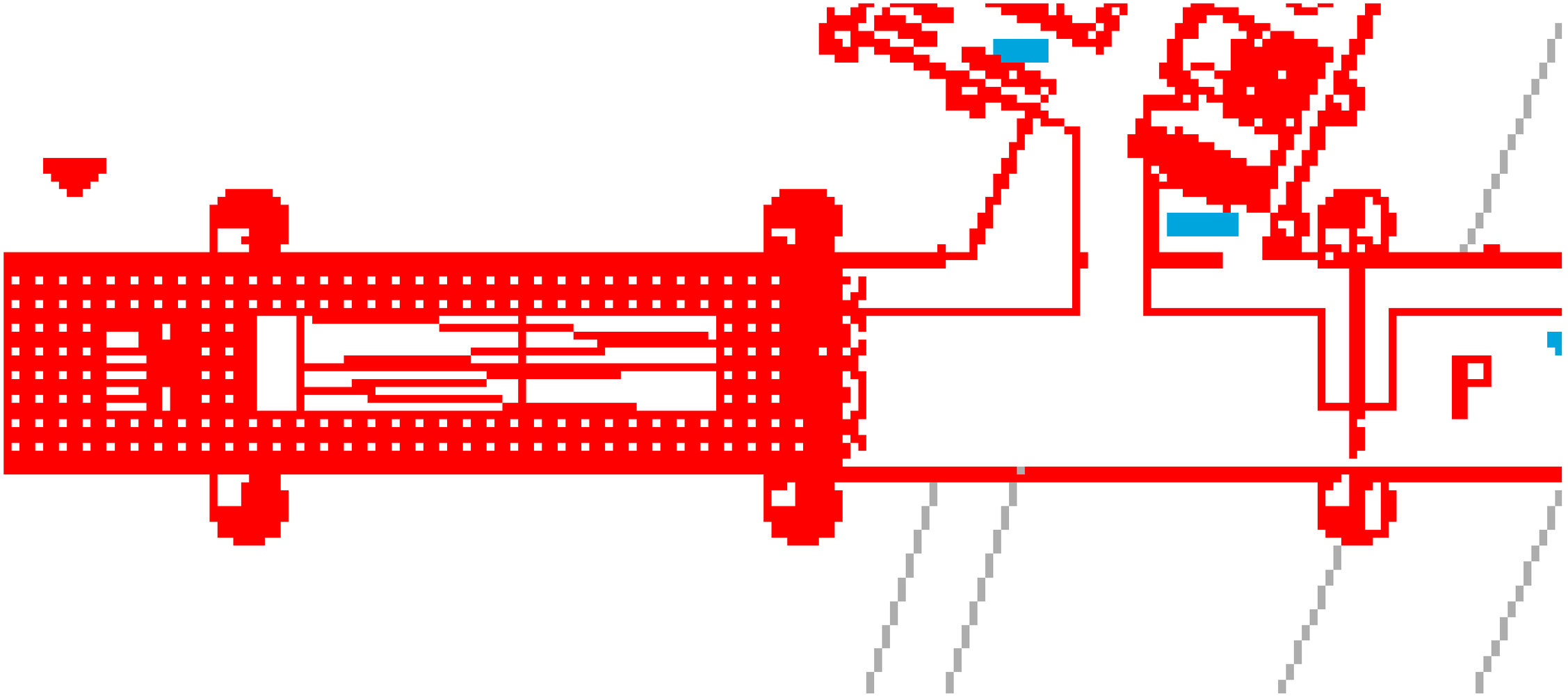

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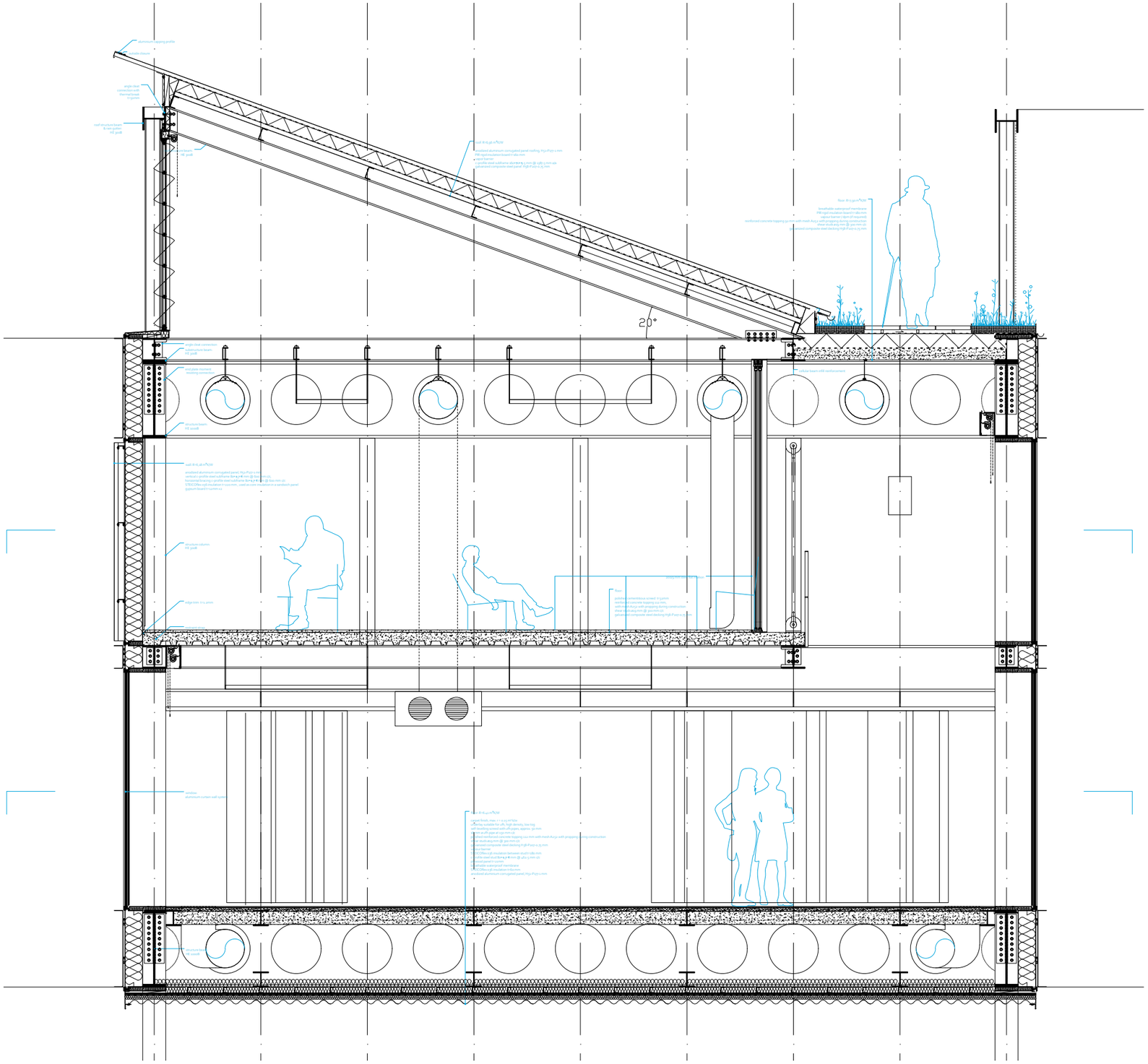
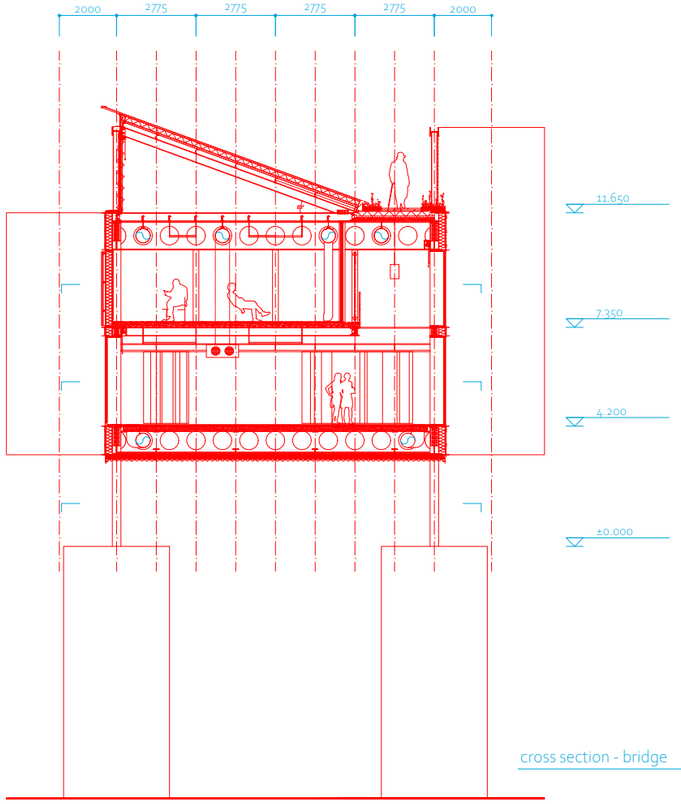
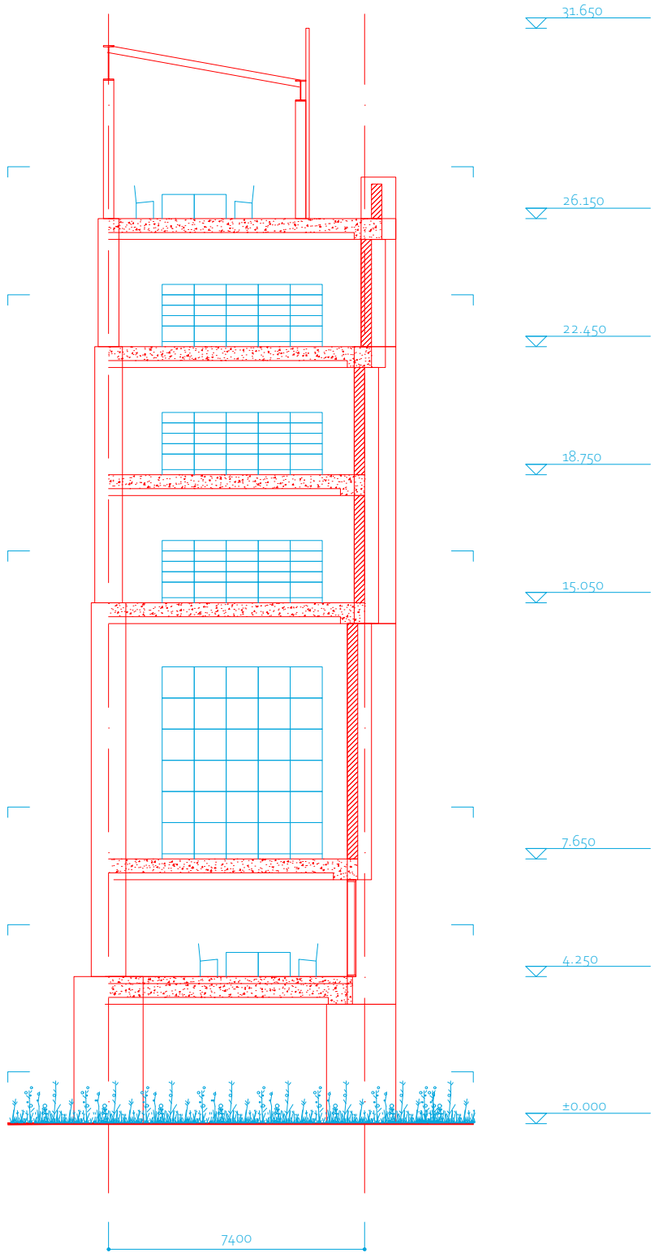




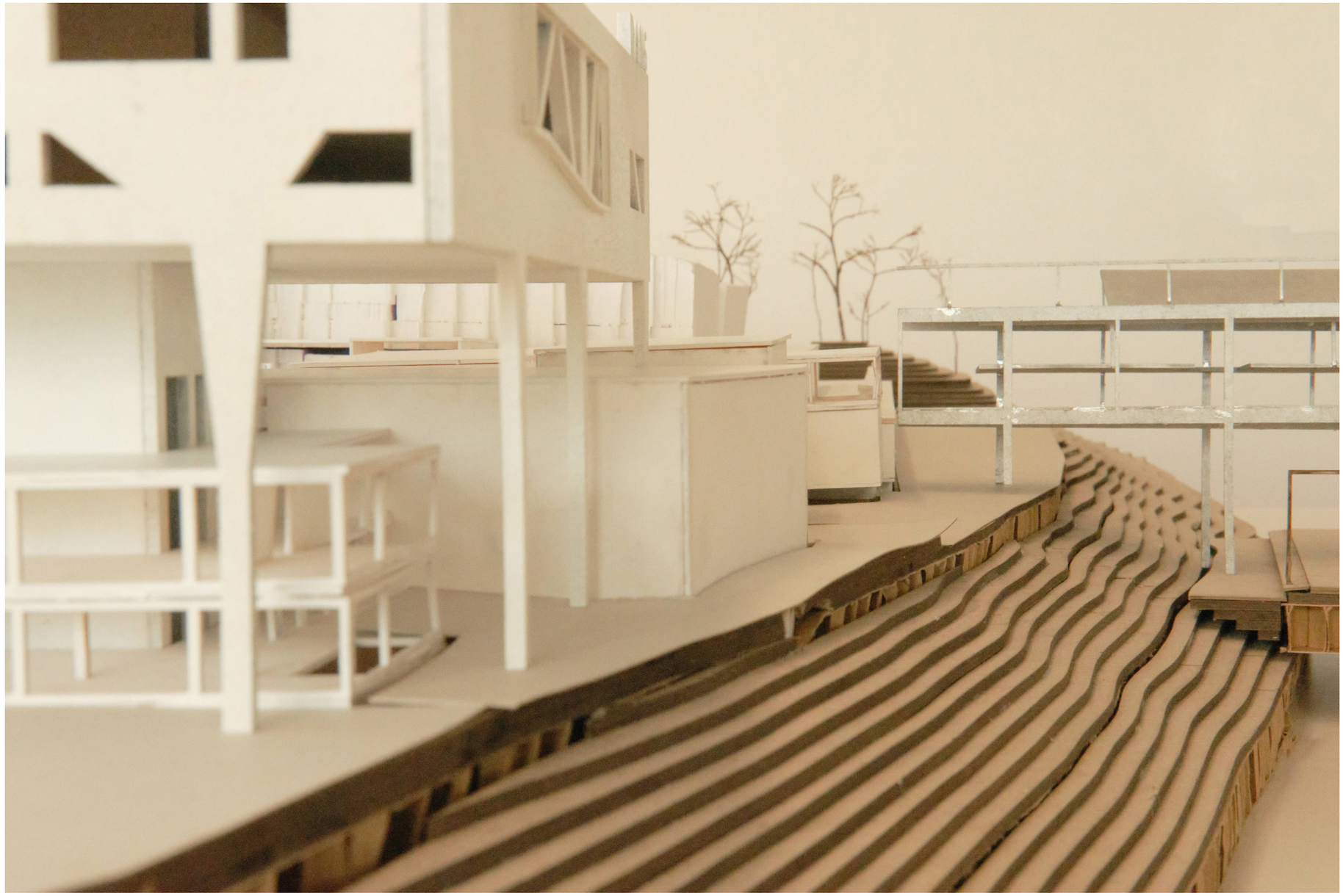
cross section - bridge 1:100



wall section - depot 1:100

a bridge as an archive.

\ proposal



\ context



\ context



\ context



\ proposal



\ context



\ proposal



\ context



\ proposal



\ context



\ proposal





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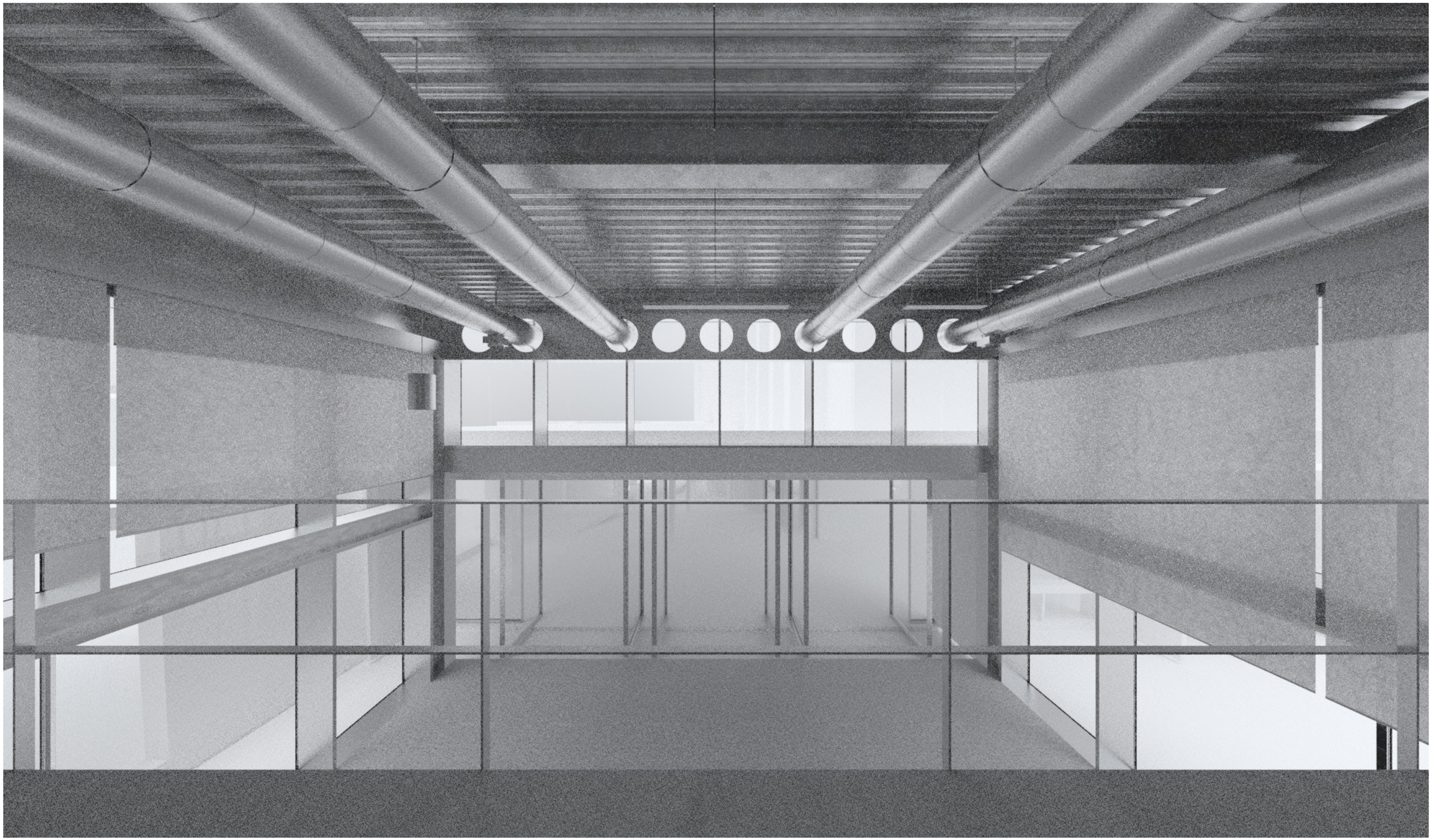

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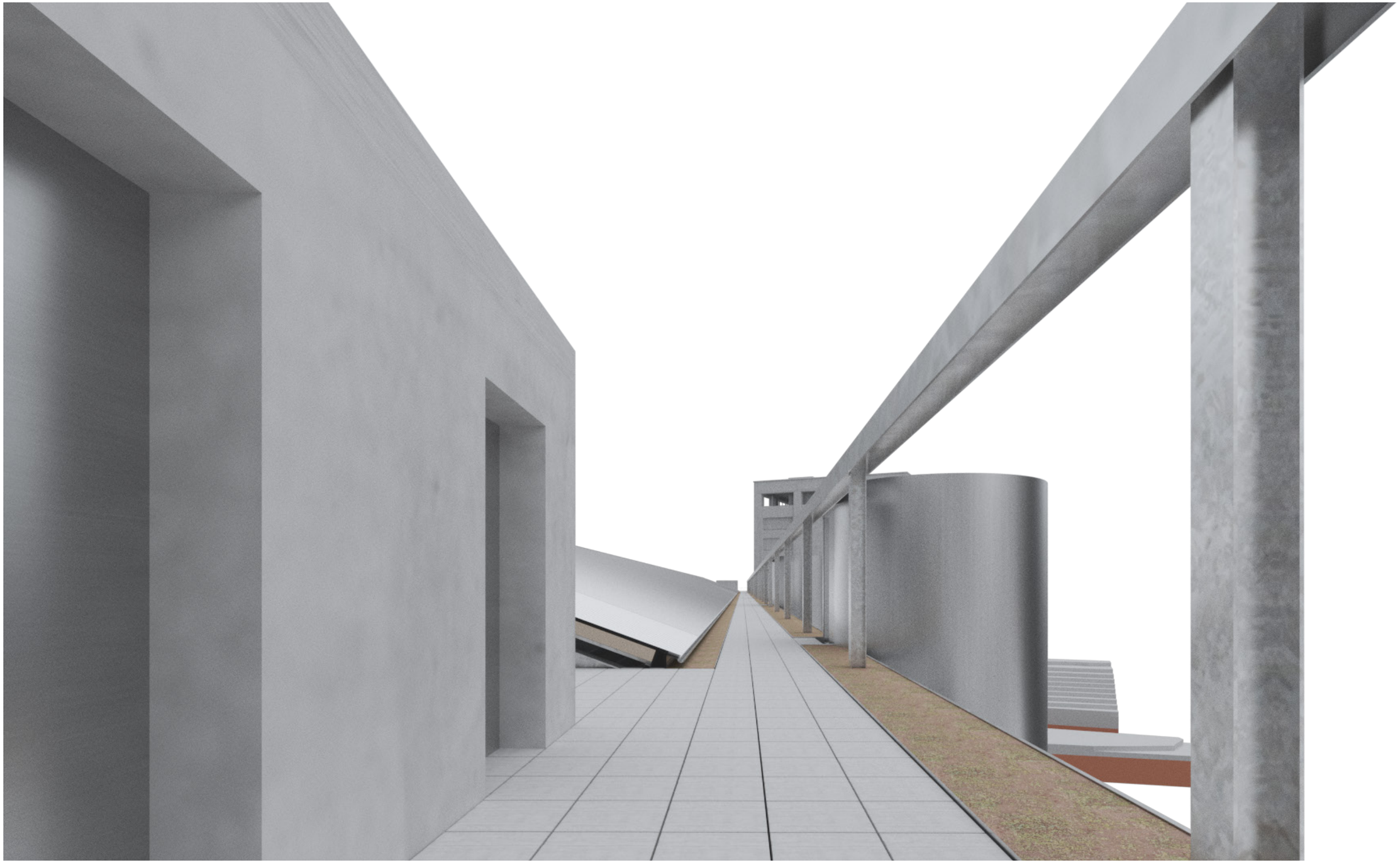

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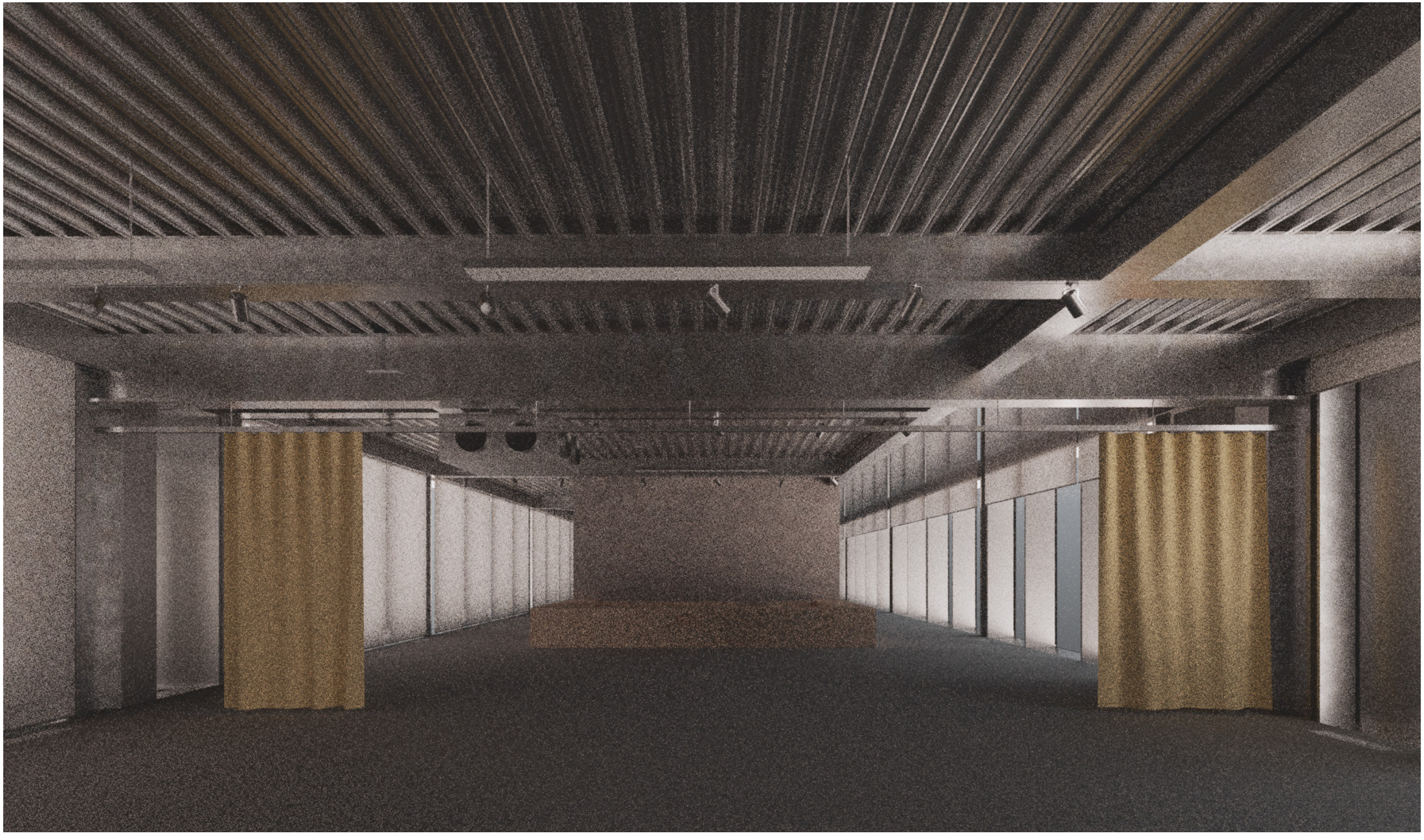

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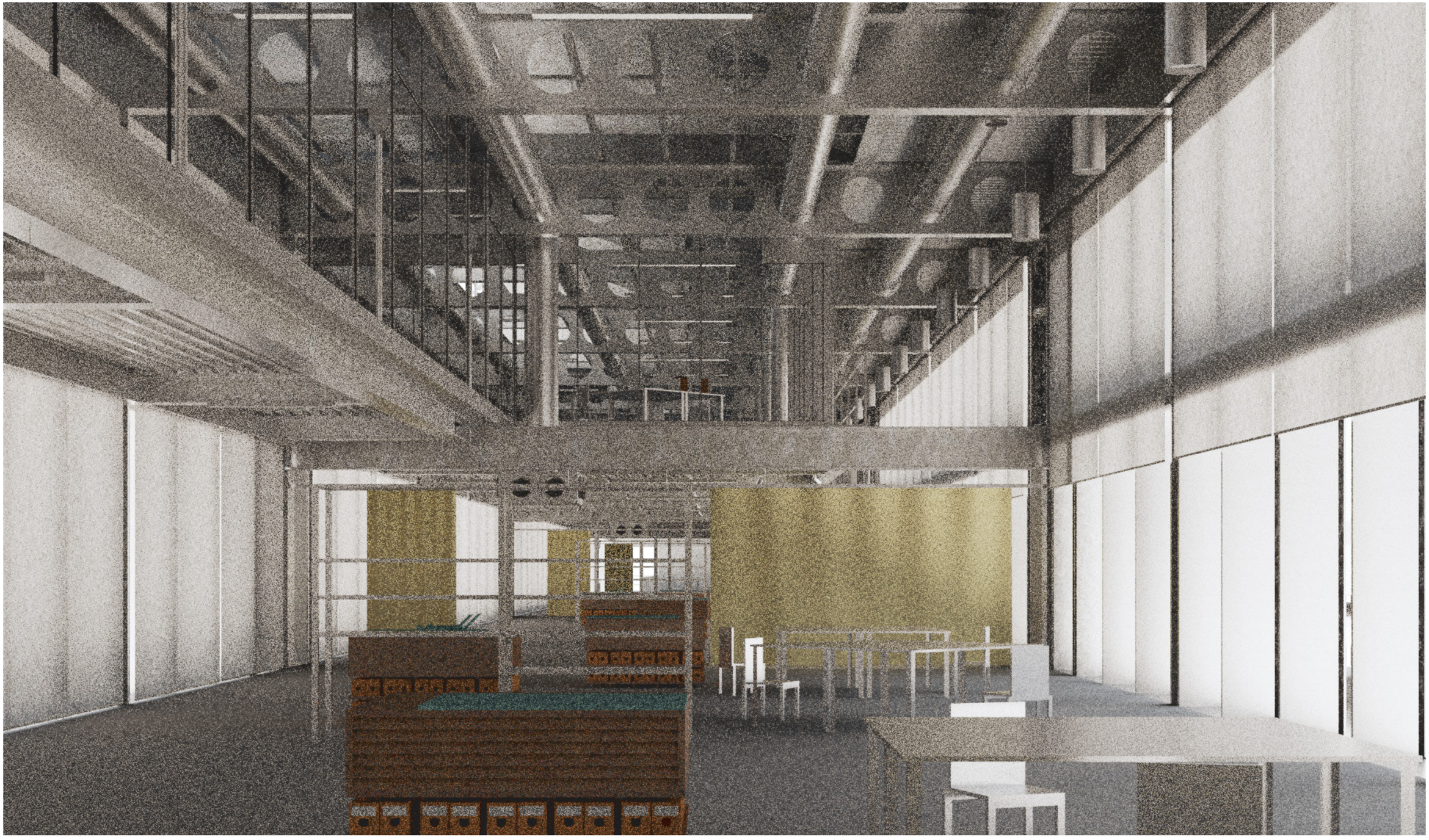

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a bridge as an archive.

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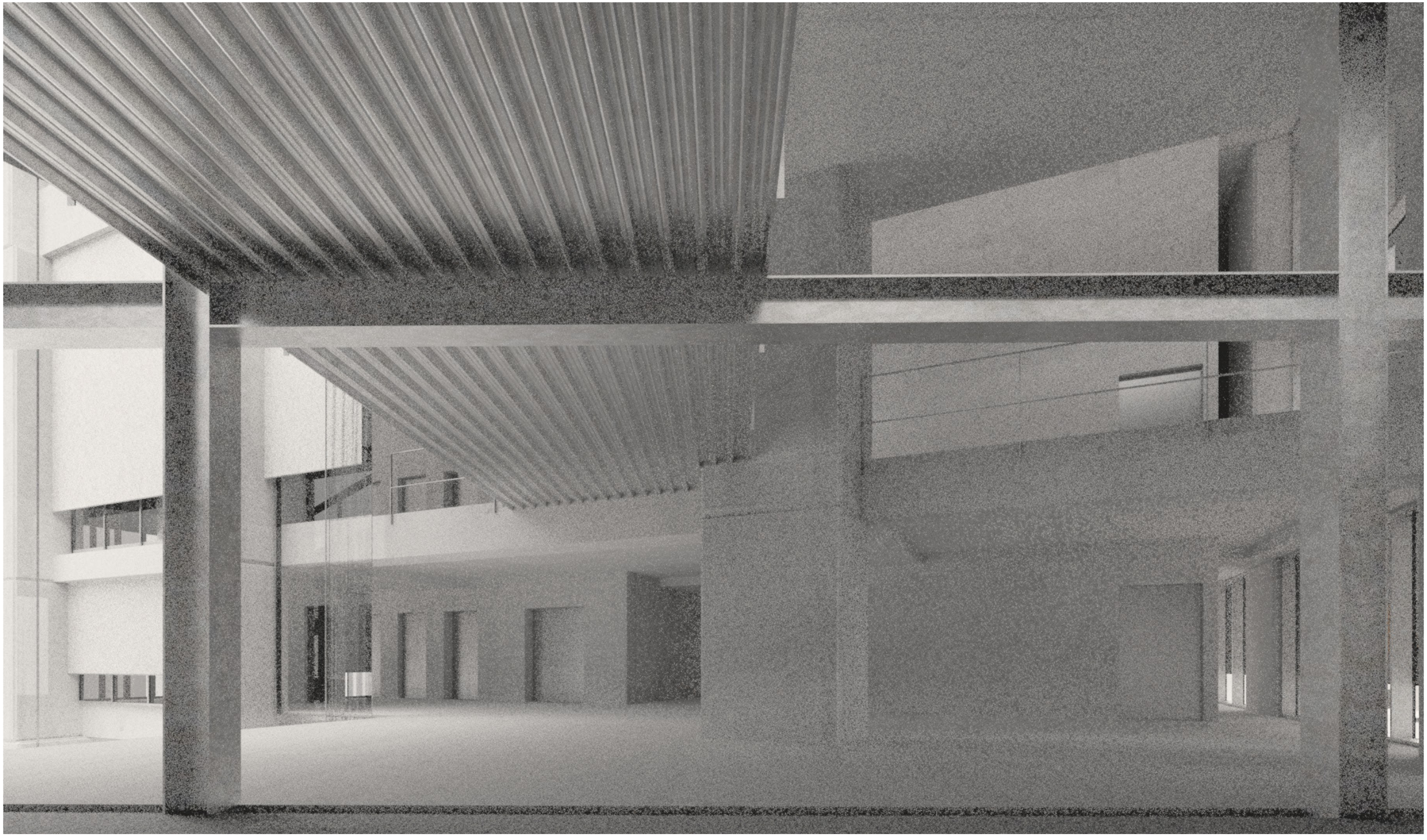

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a bridge as an archive.

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a bridge as an archive.

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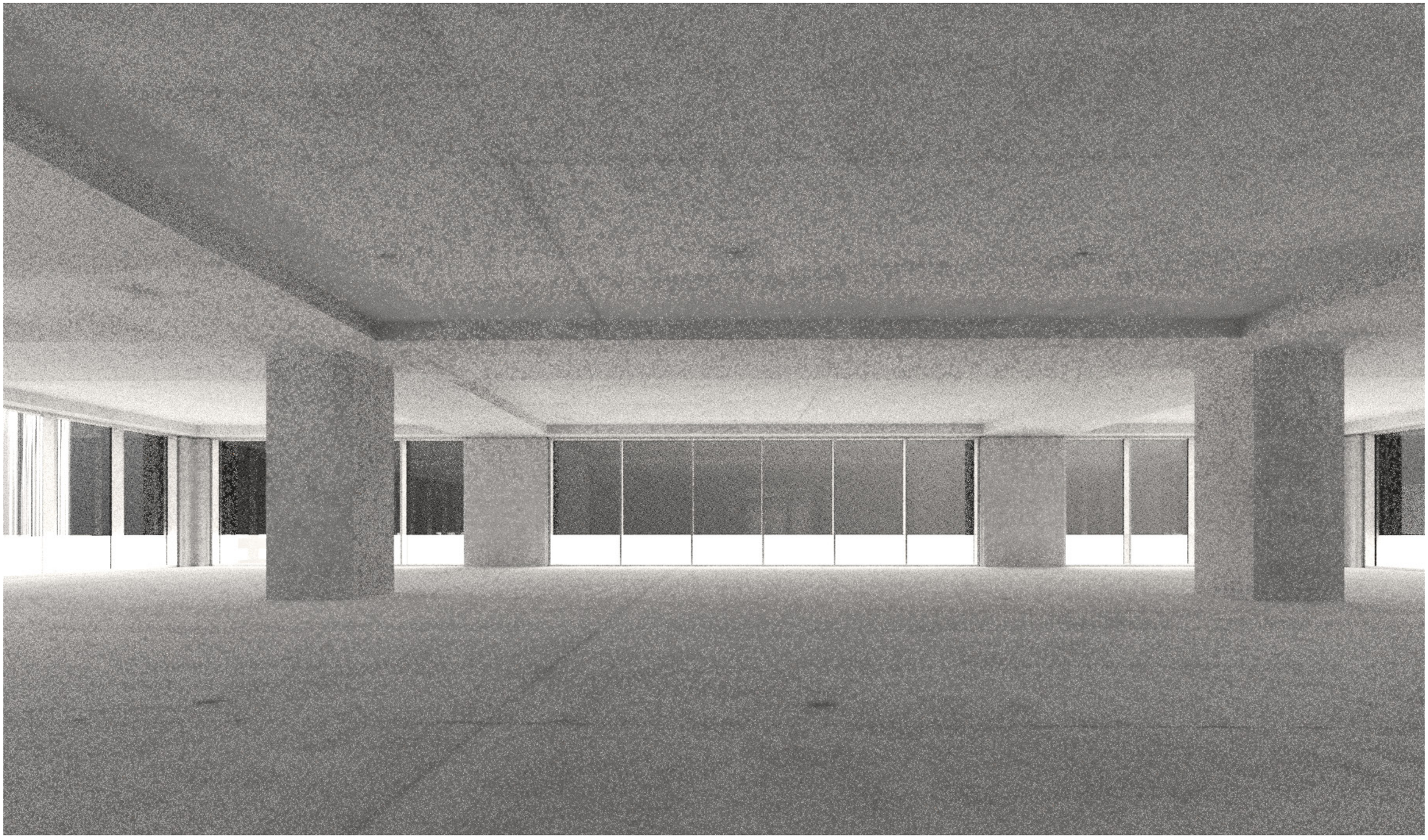

a bridge as an archive.

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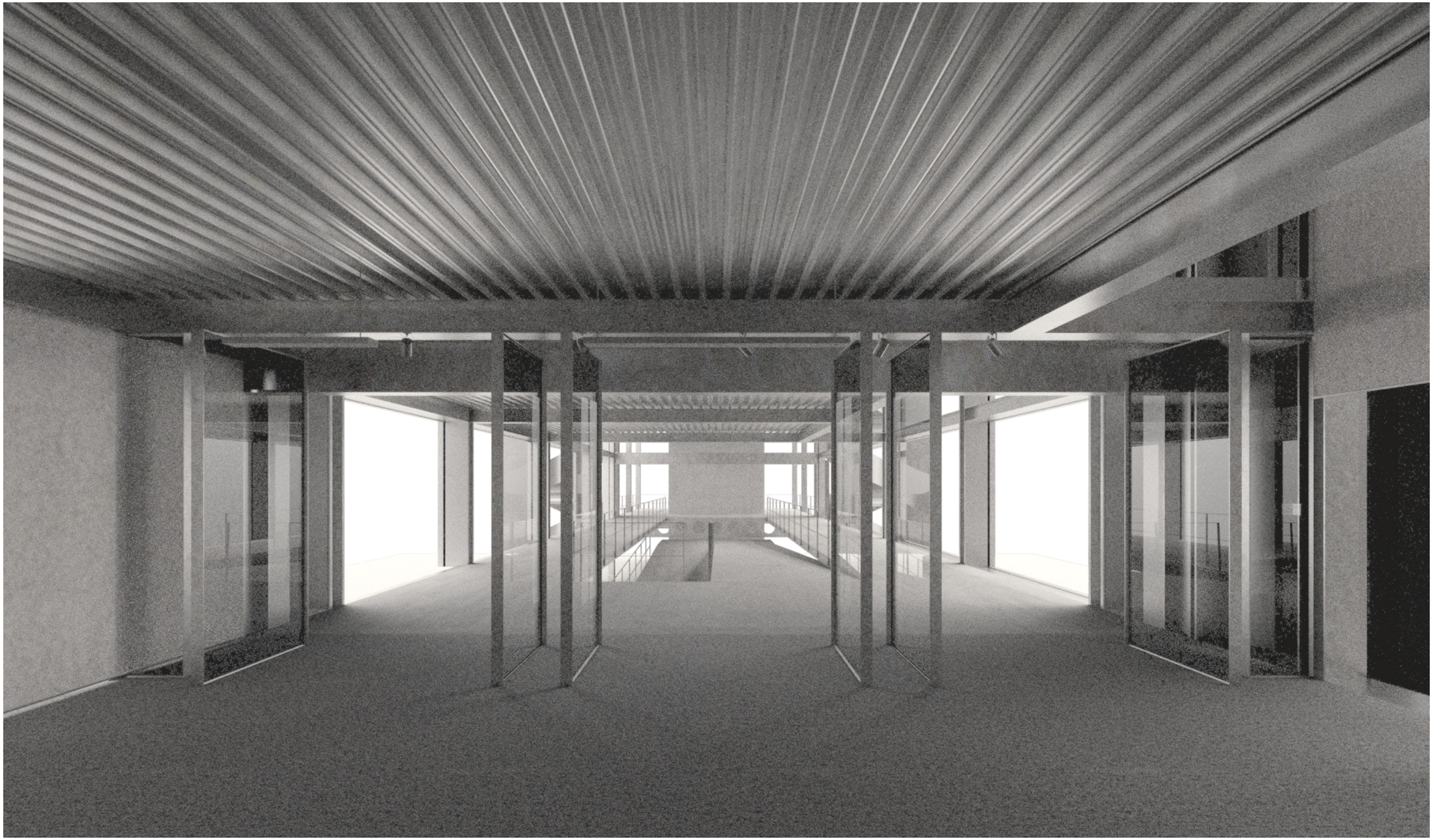

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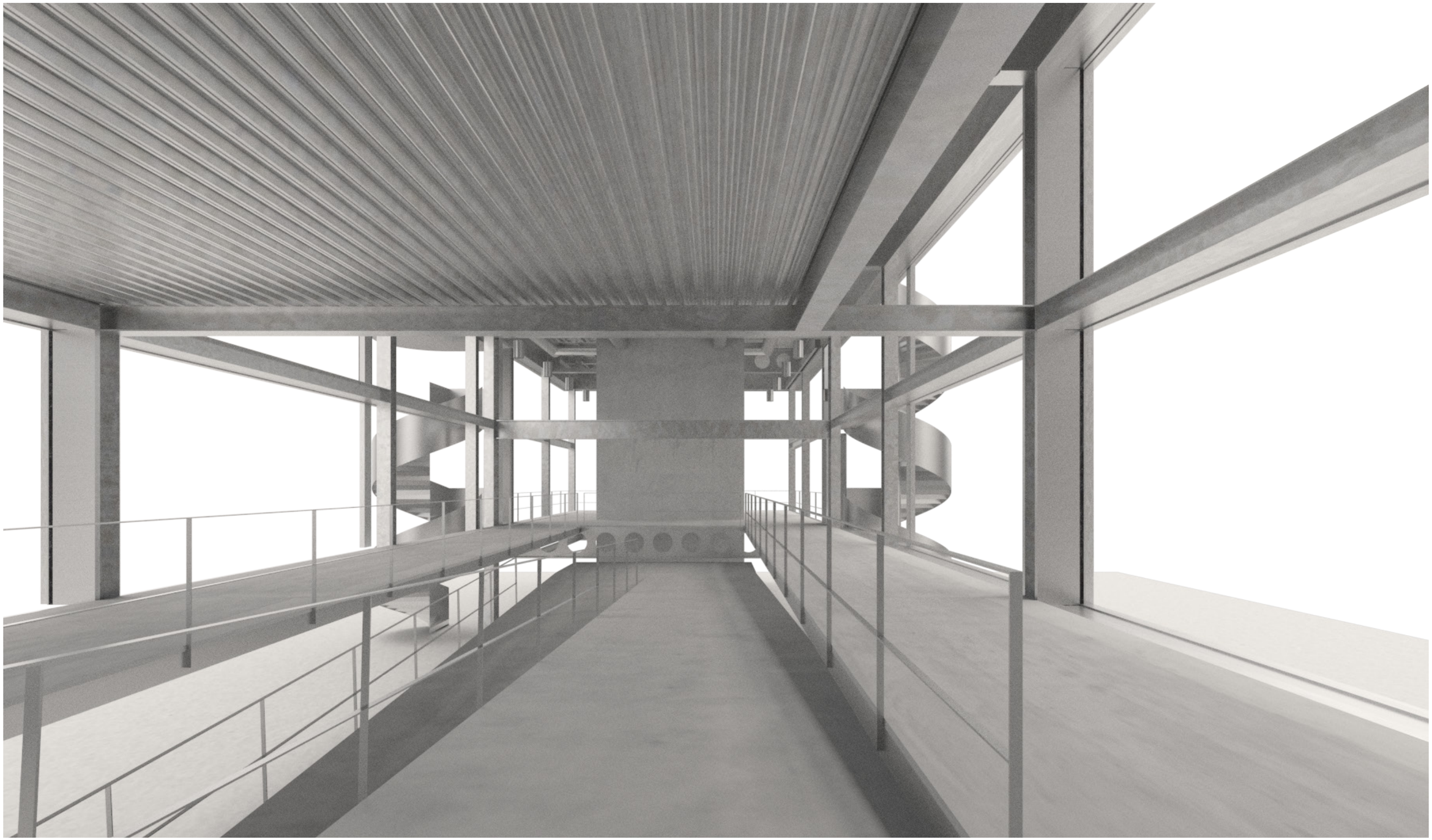

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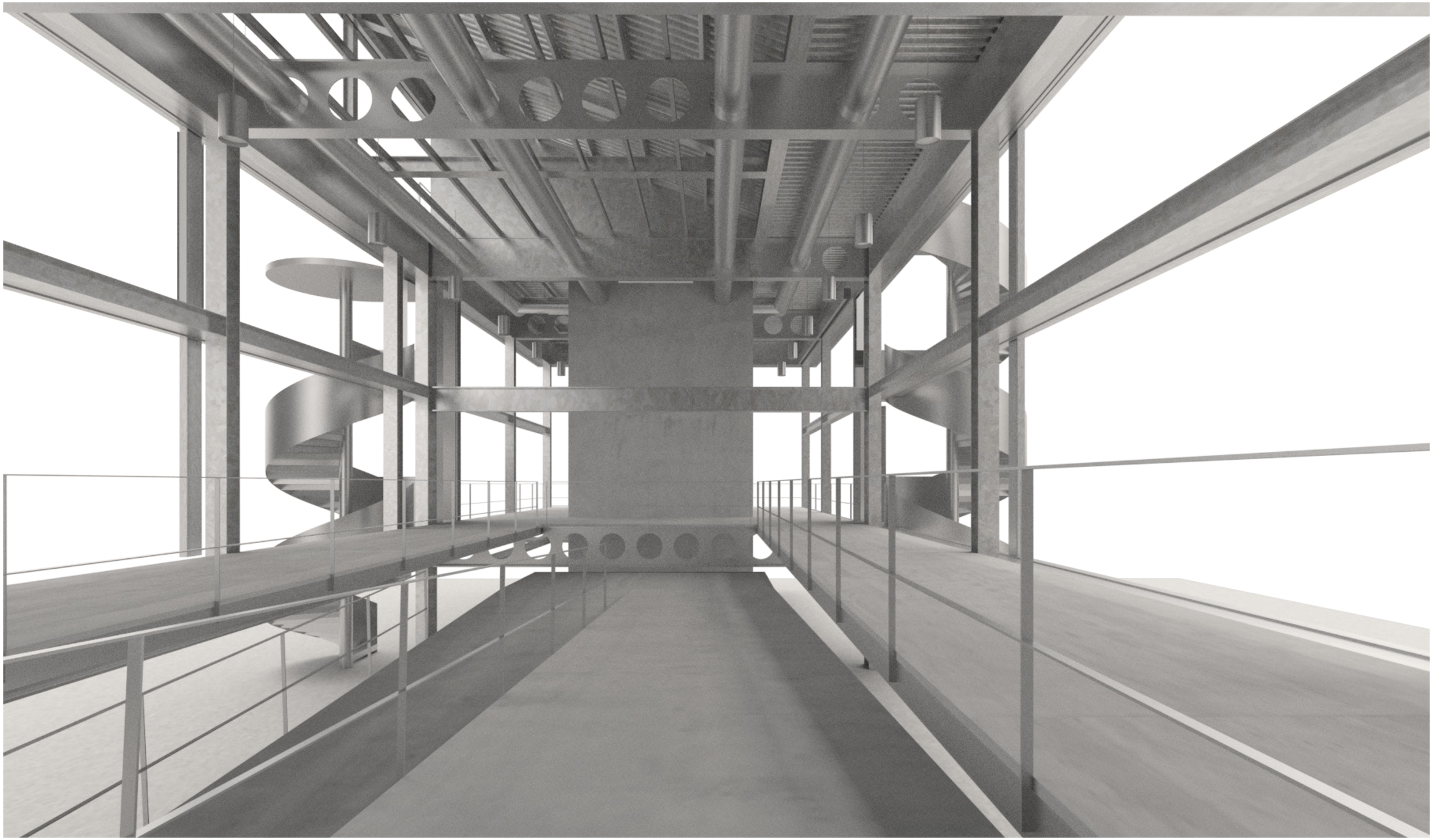

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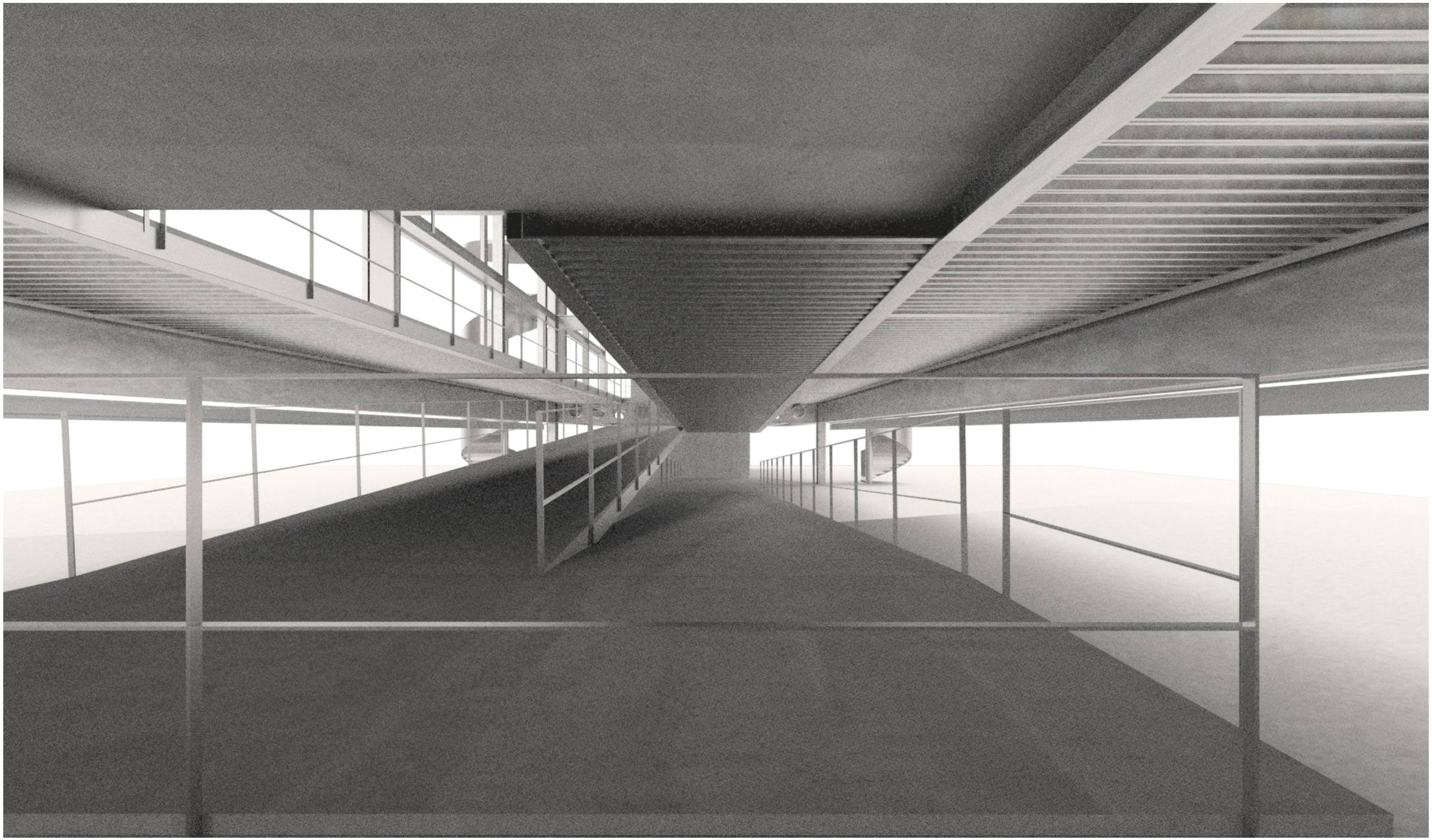



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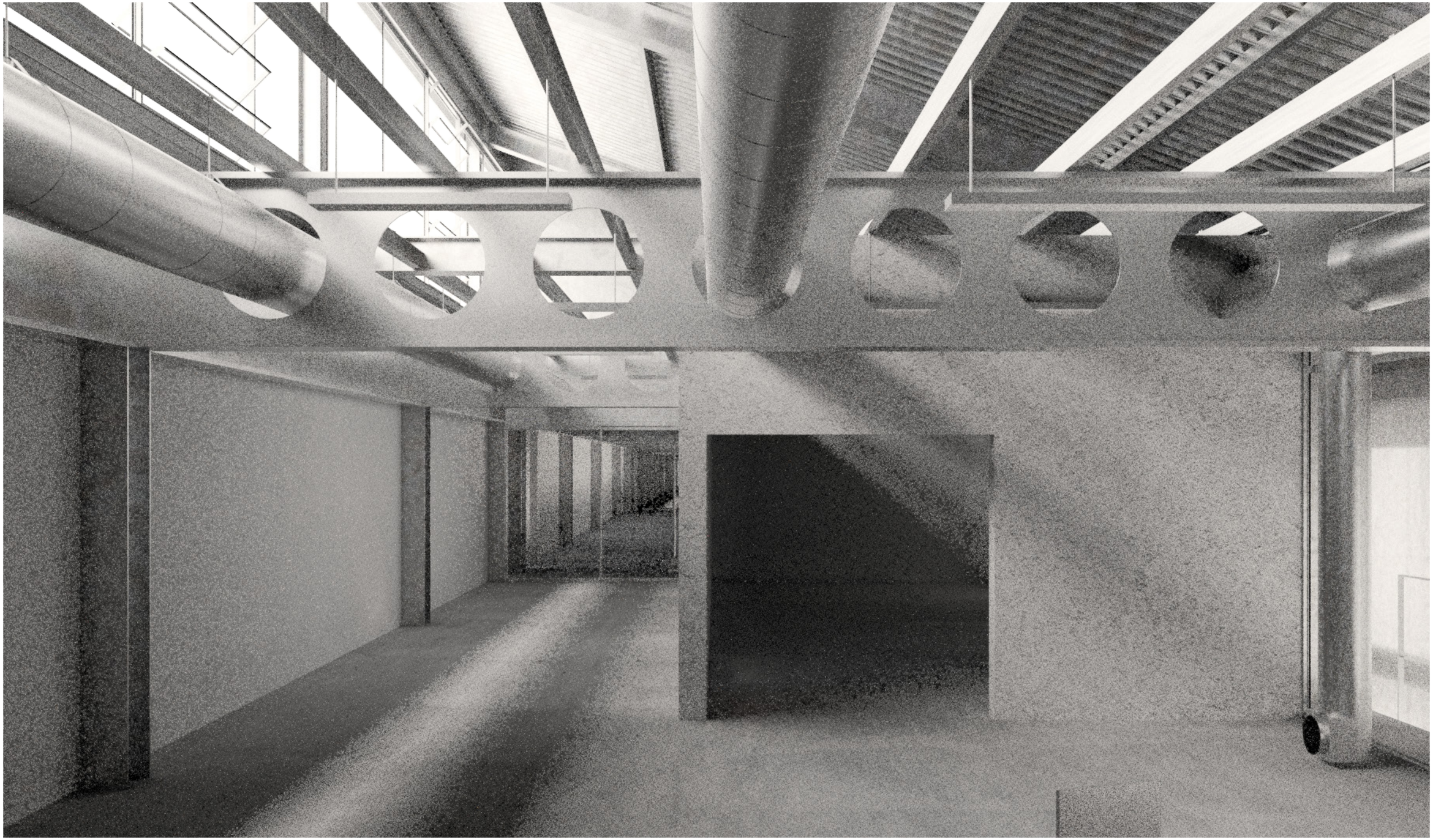

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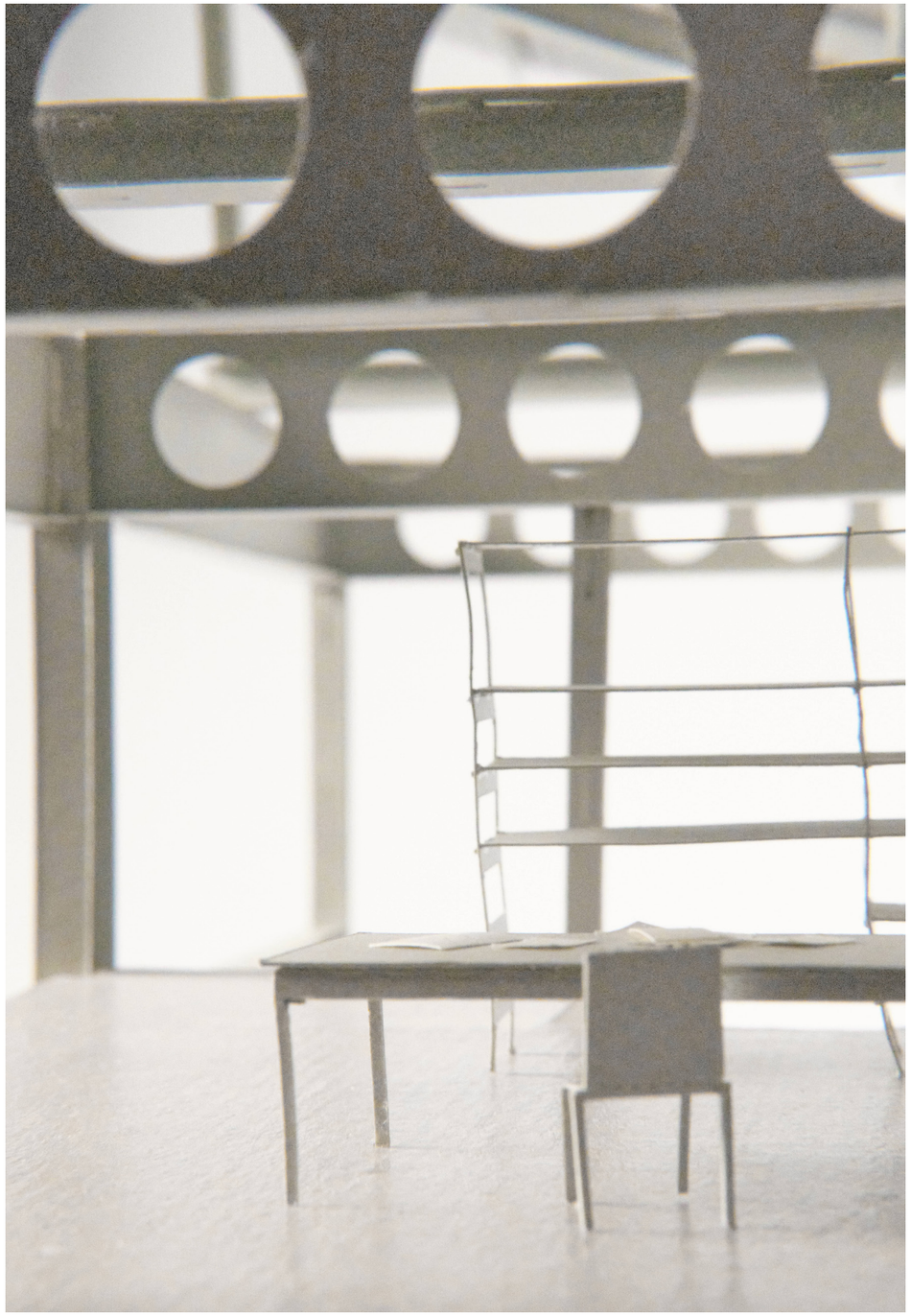

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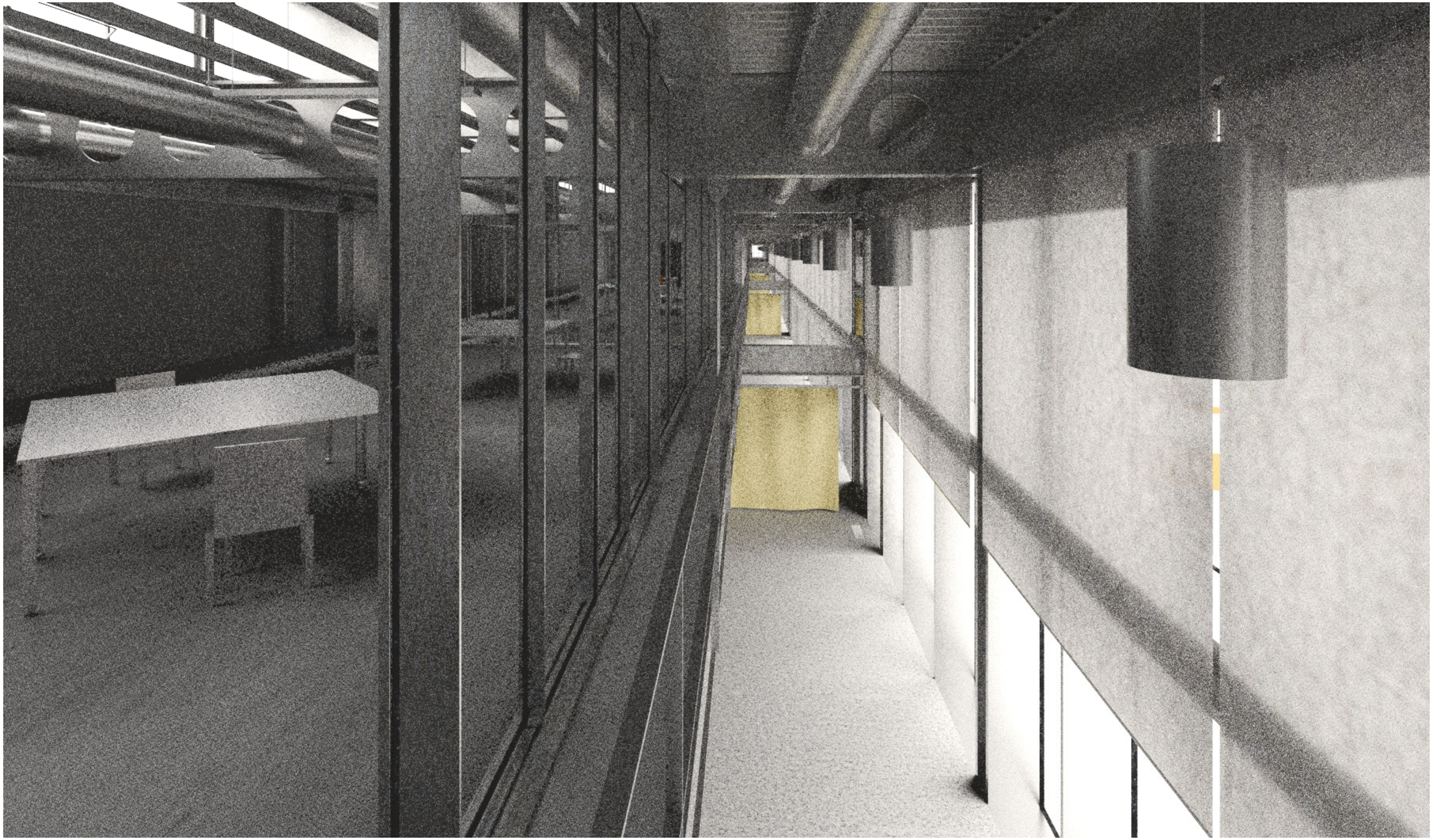

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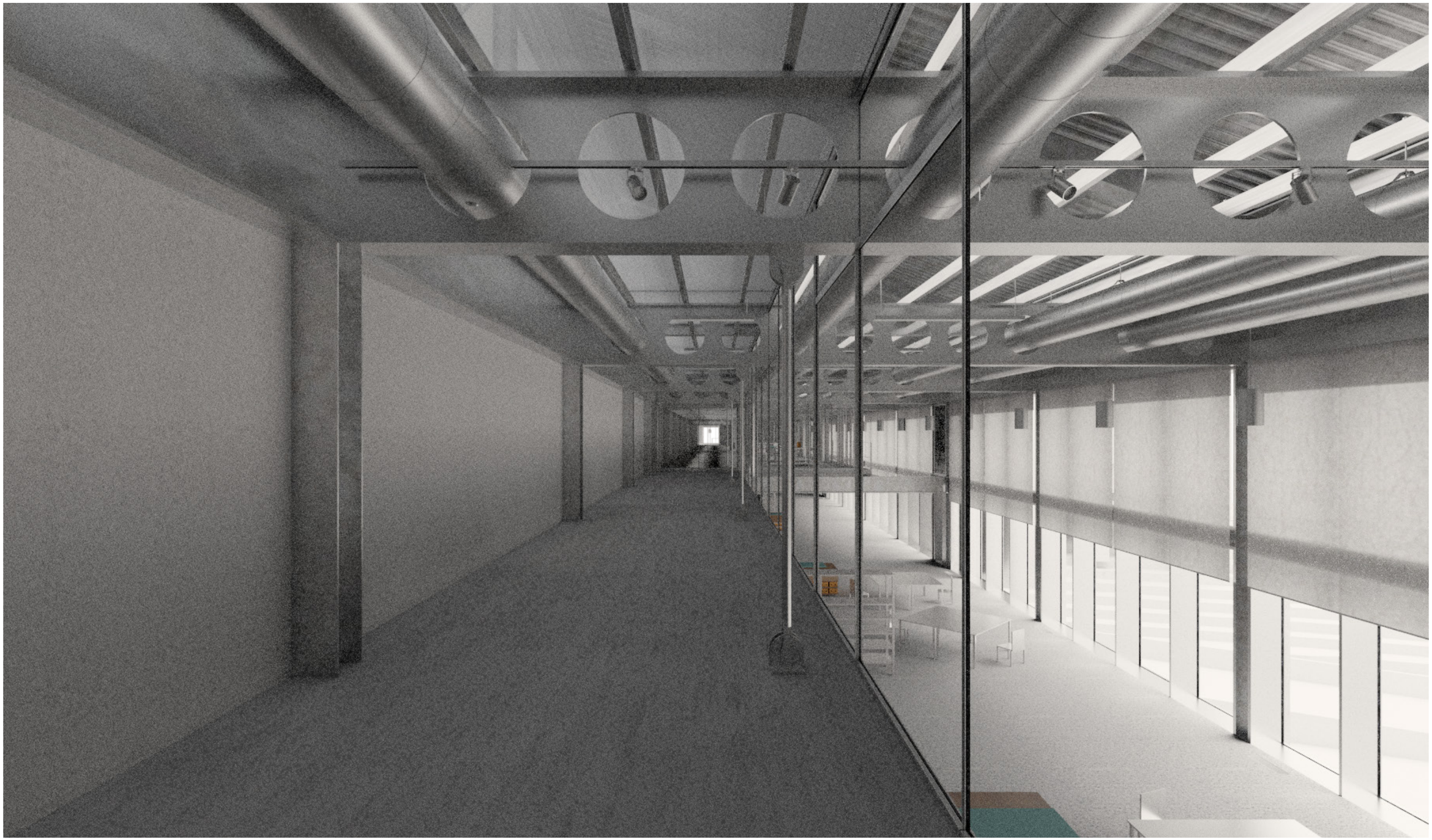

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a bridge as an archive.

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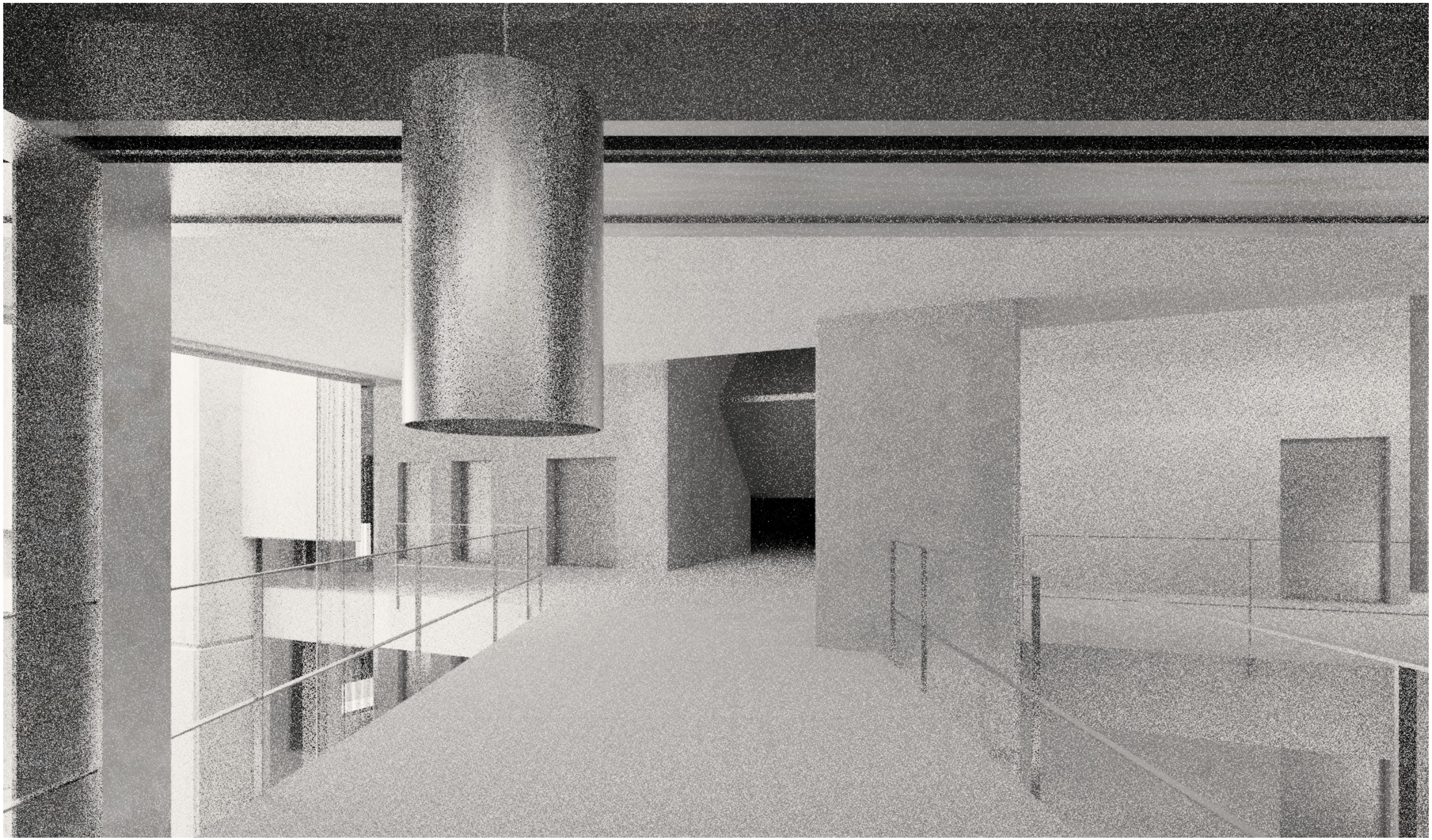

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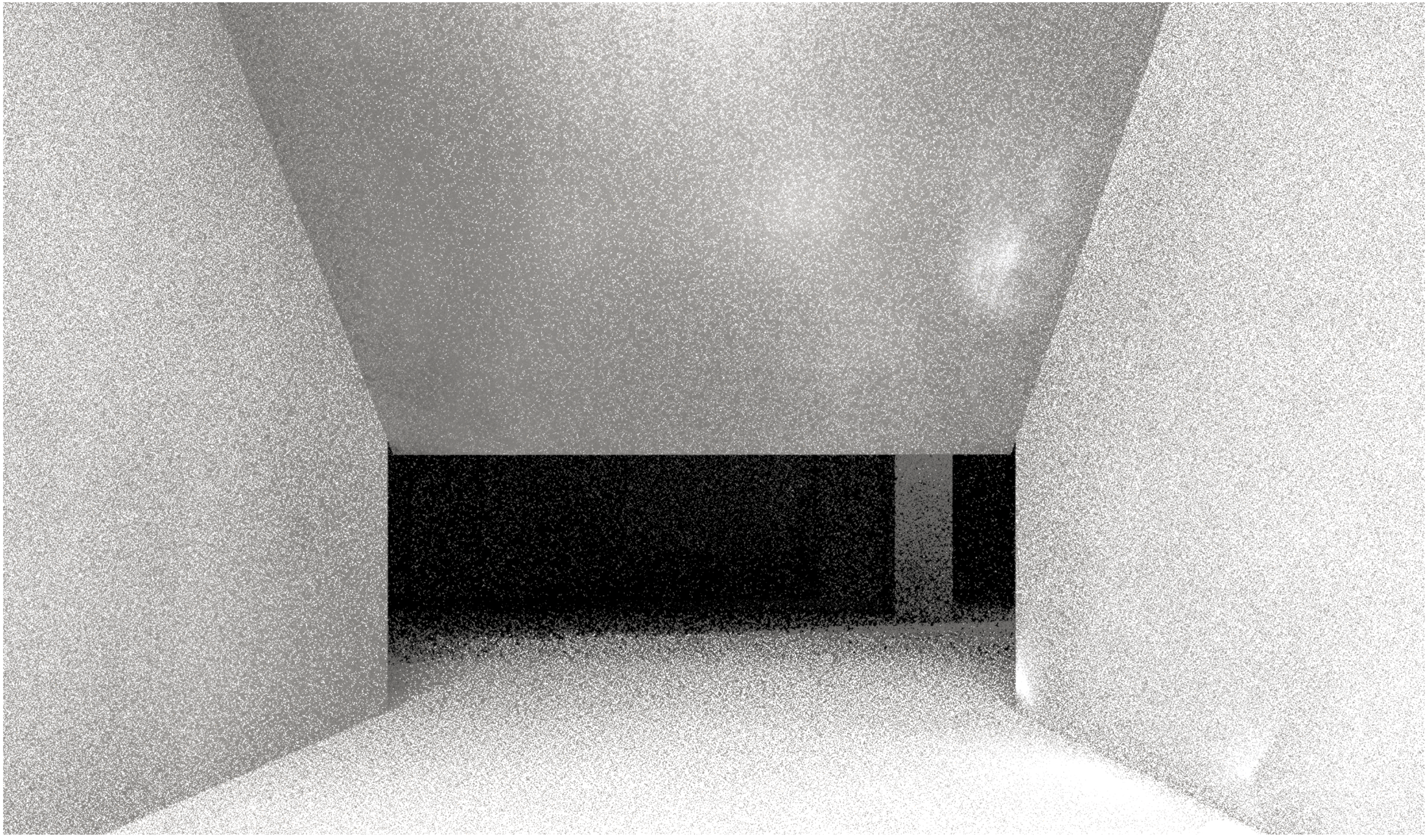

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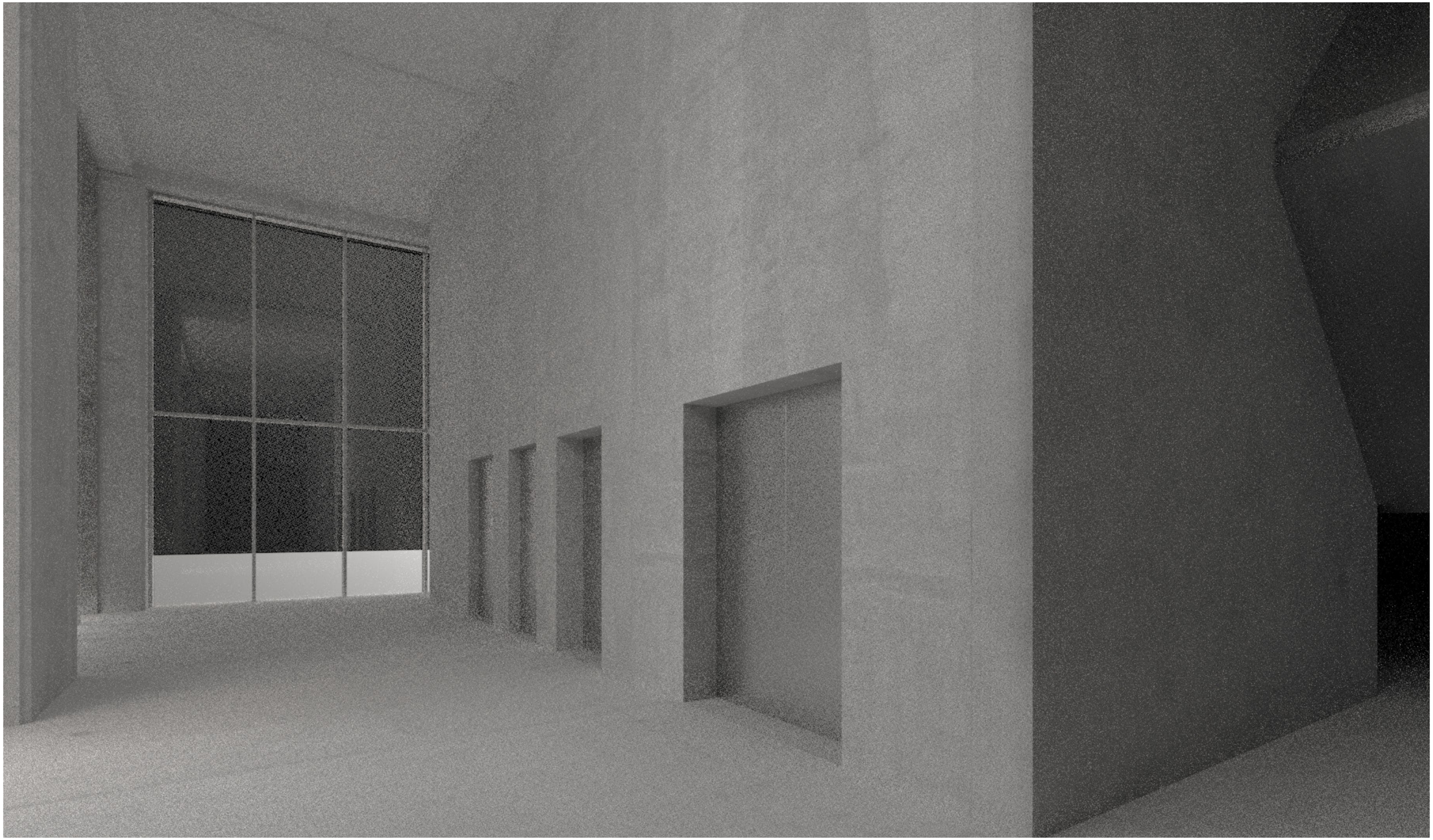

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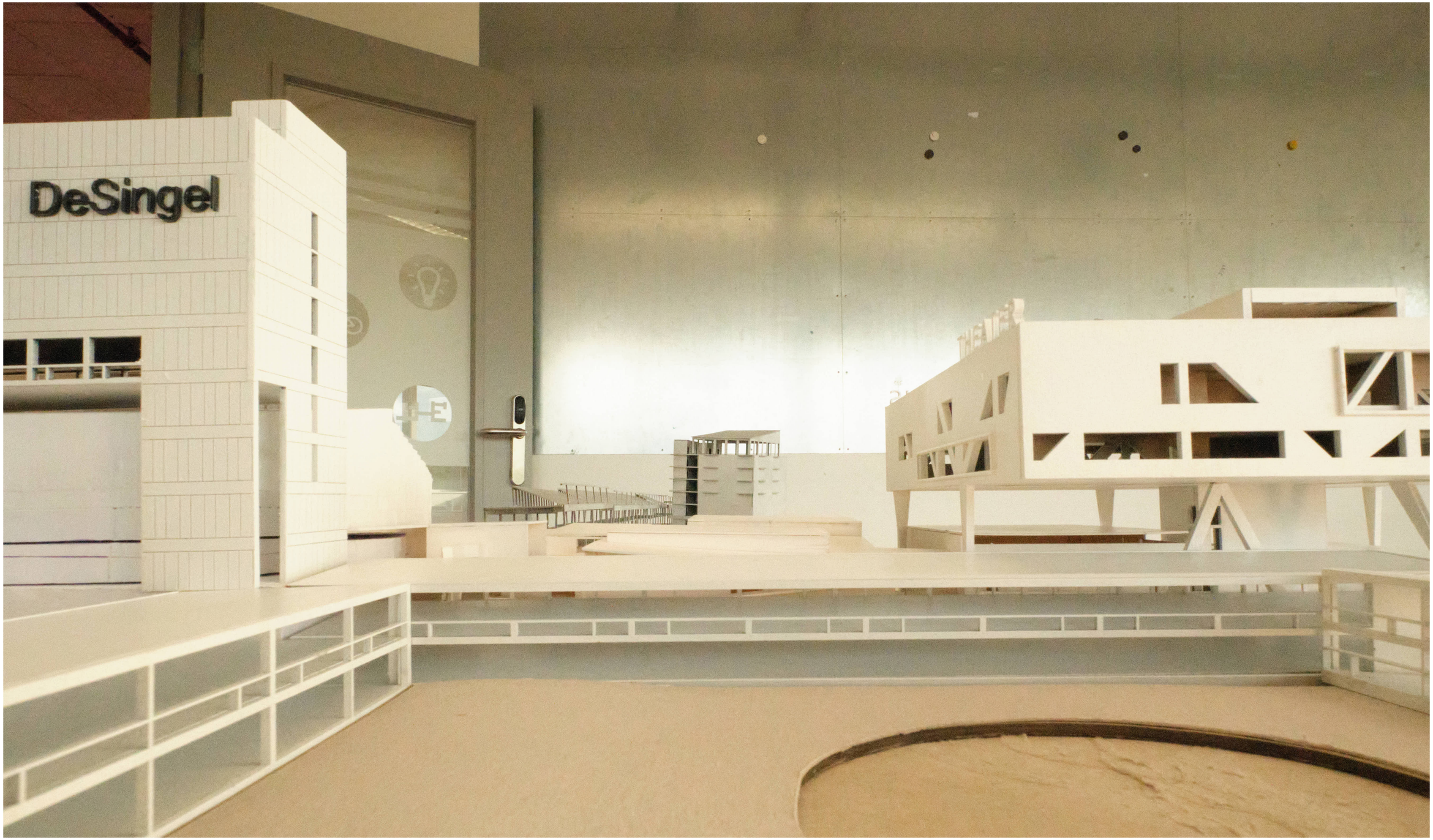

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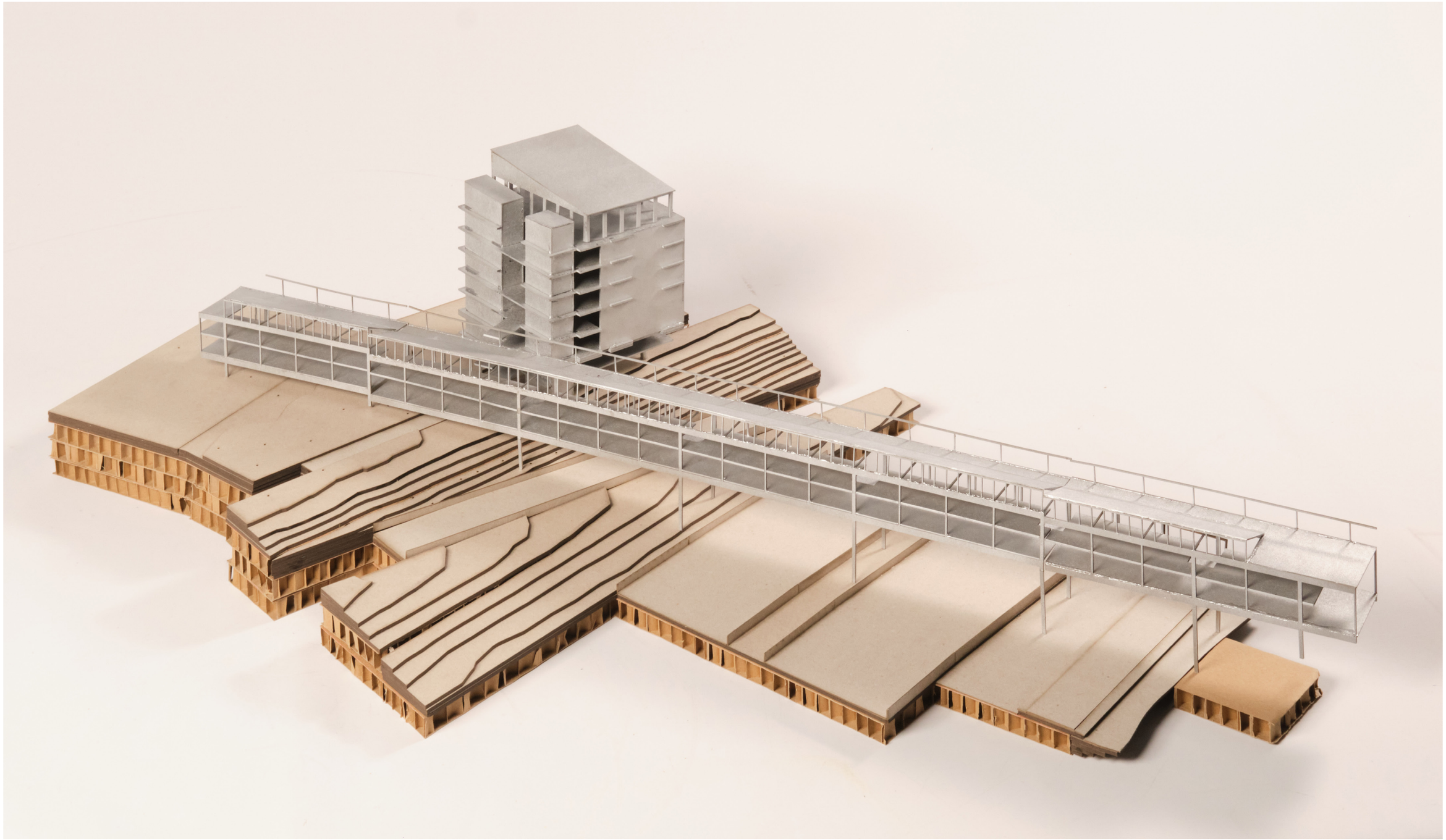
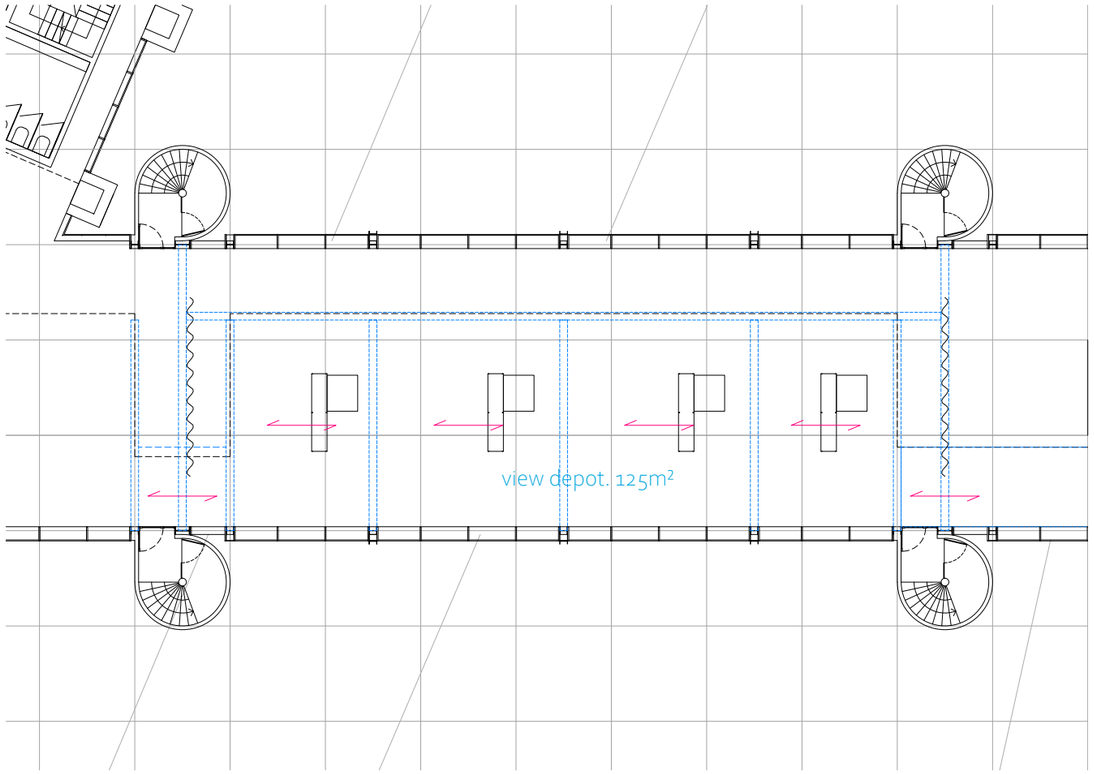
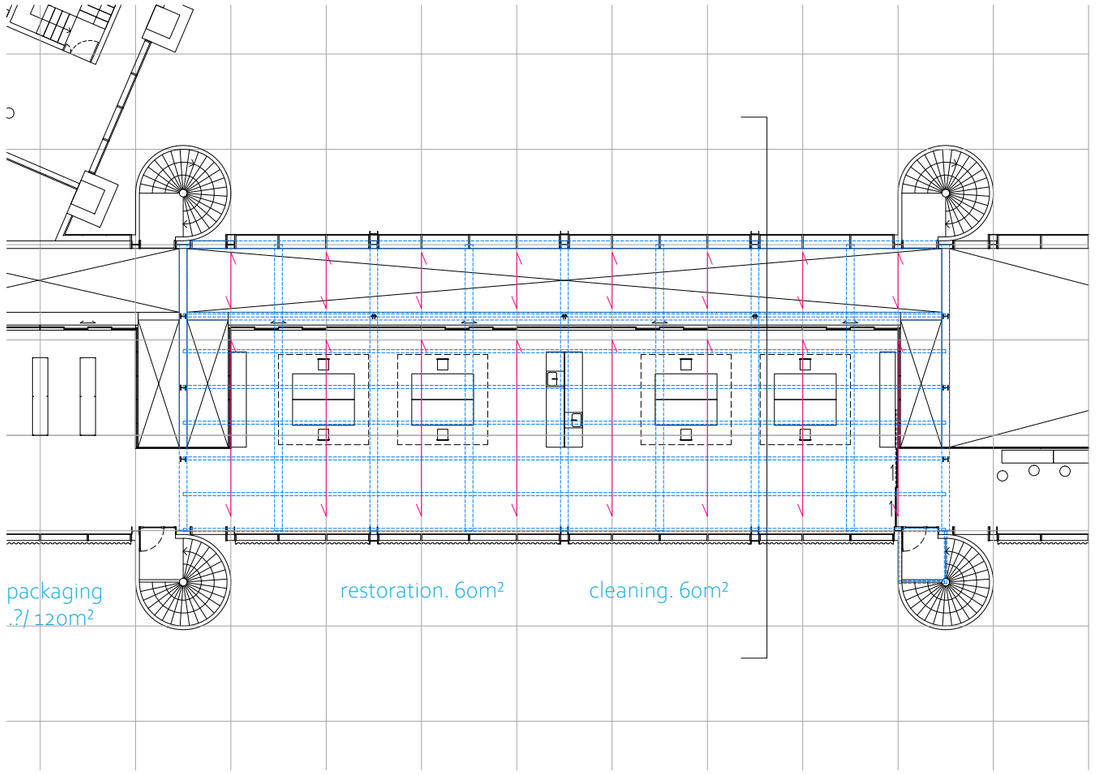
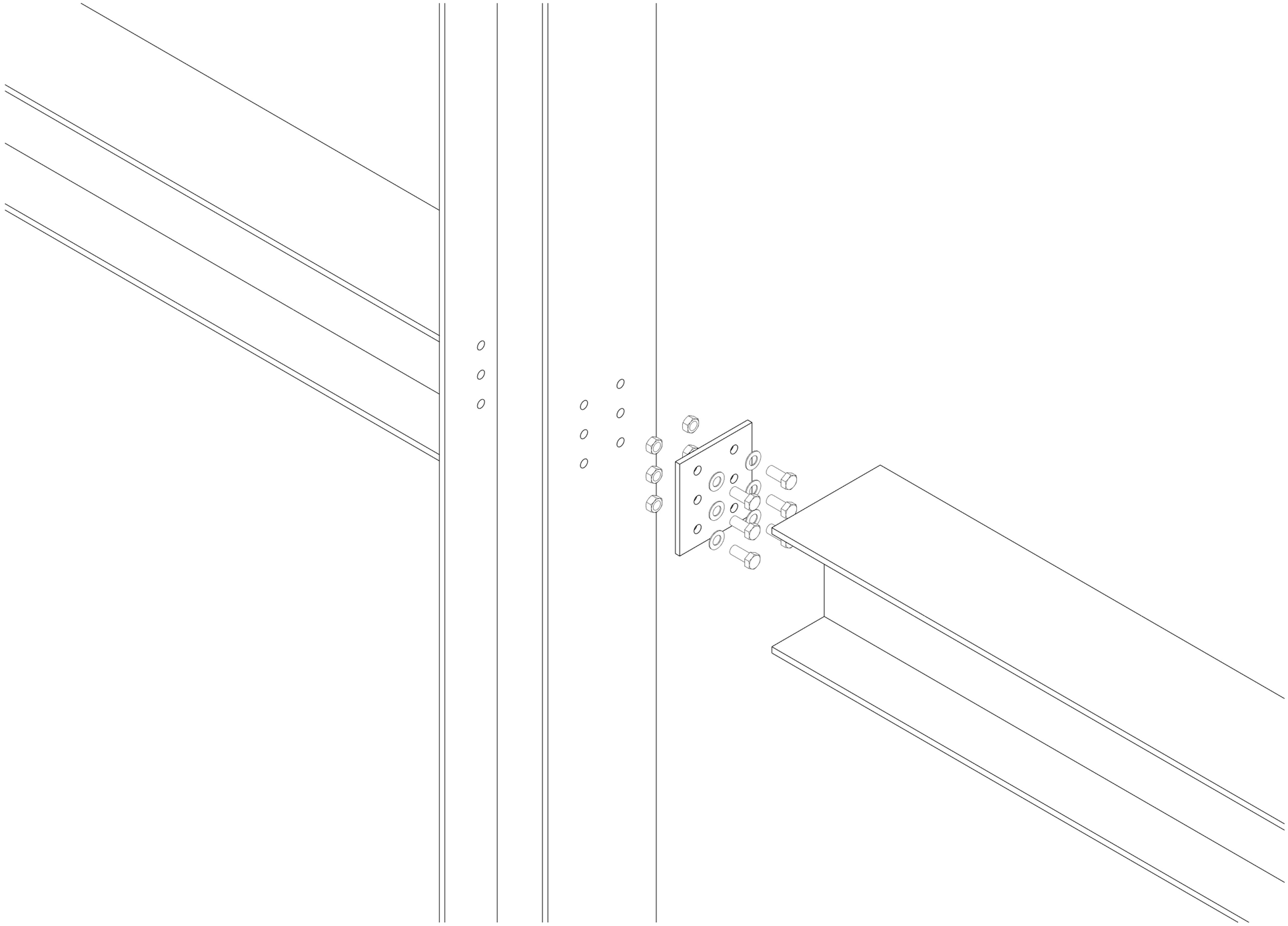


\ structure

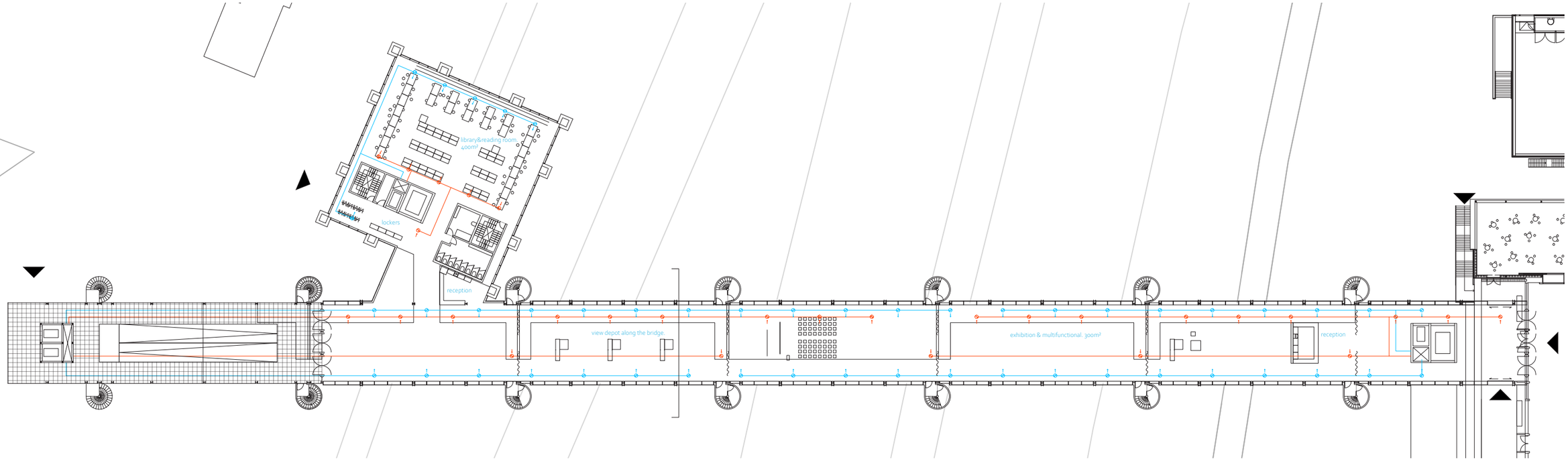

view depot. 125m²


packaging
.?/ 120m²
restoration. 60m²
cleaning. 60m²

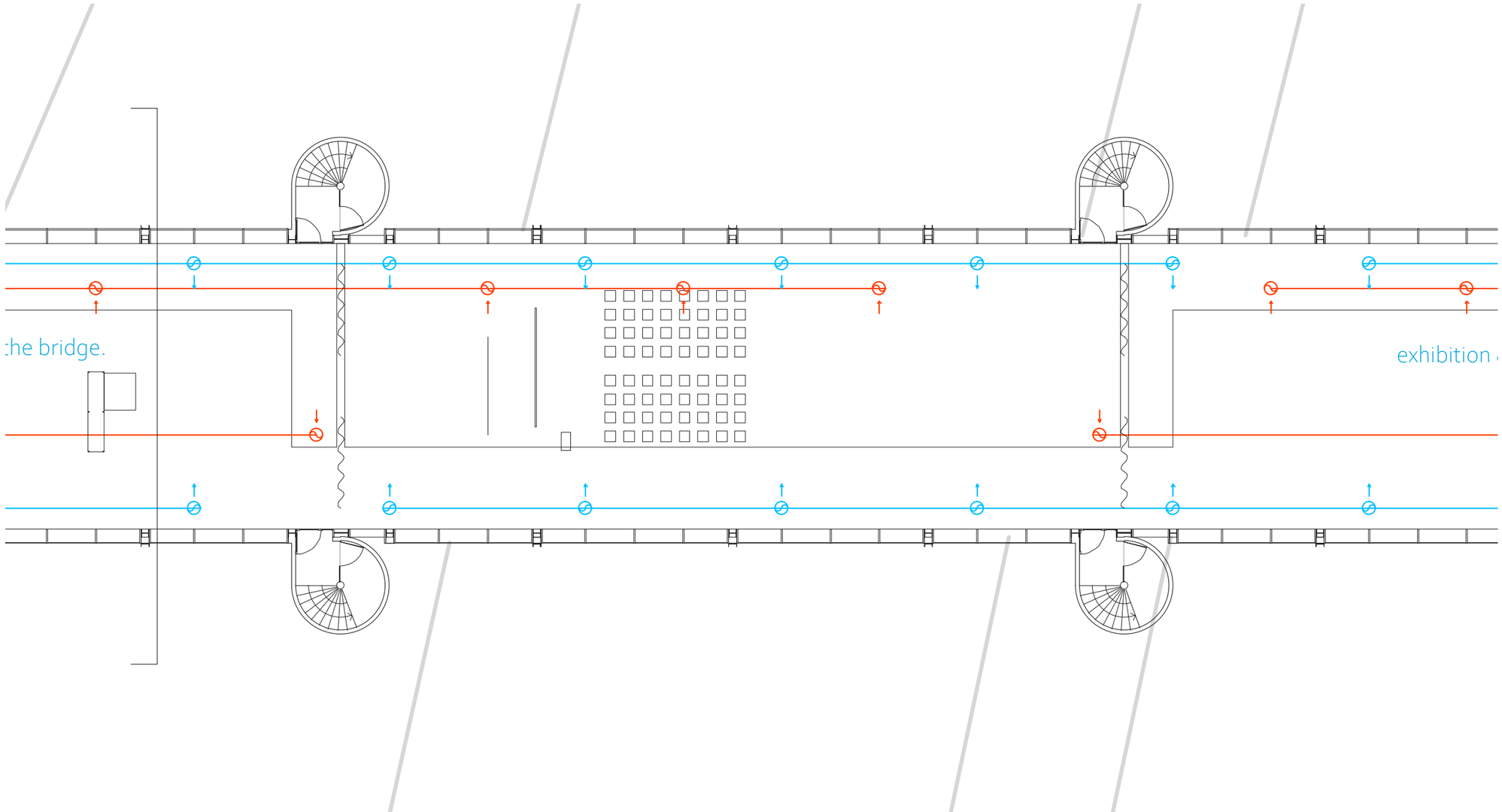
\ structure



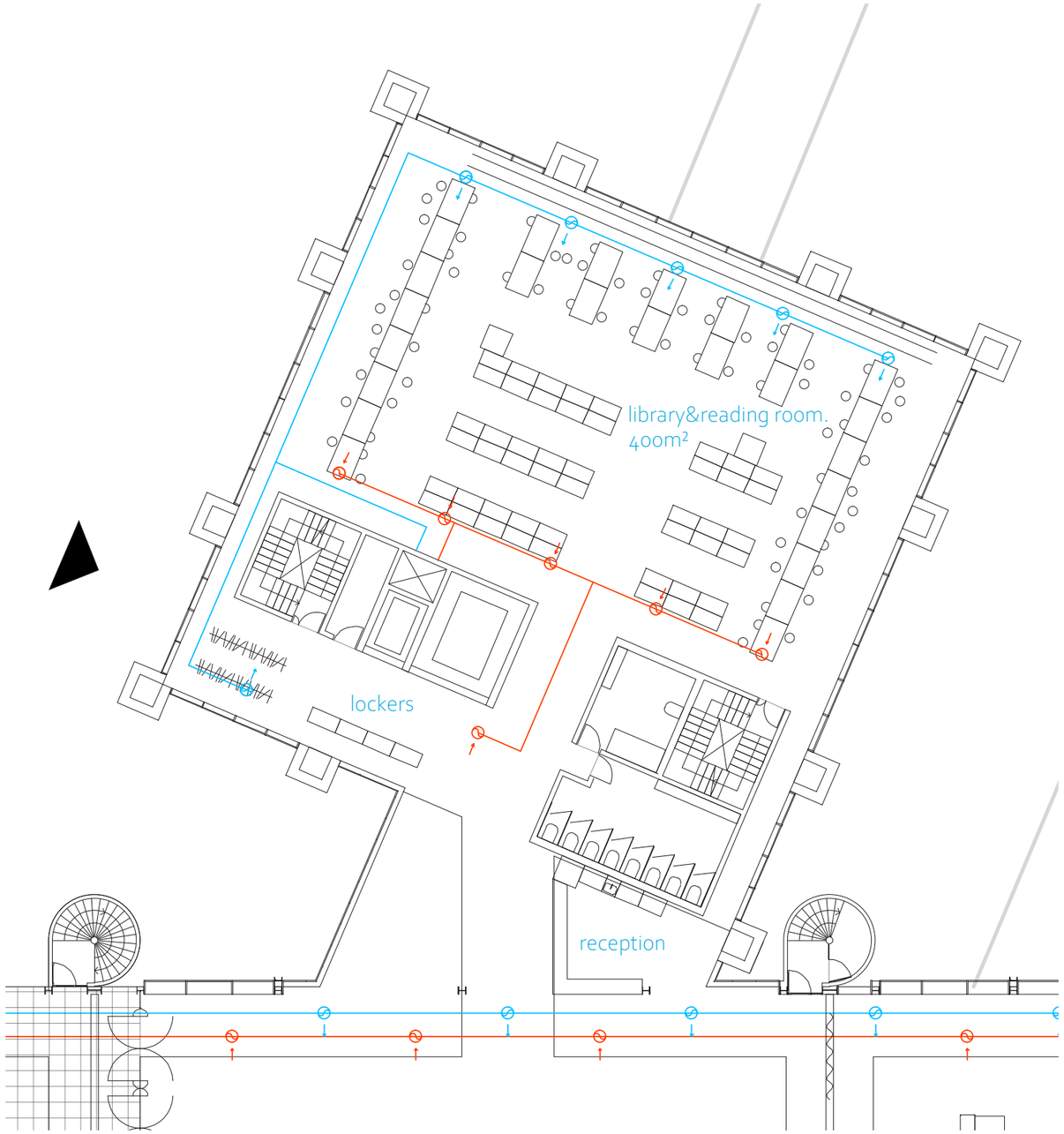
\ climate diagram



\ climate diagram



\ climate diagram



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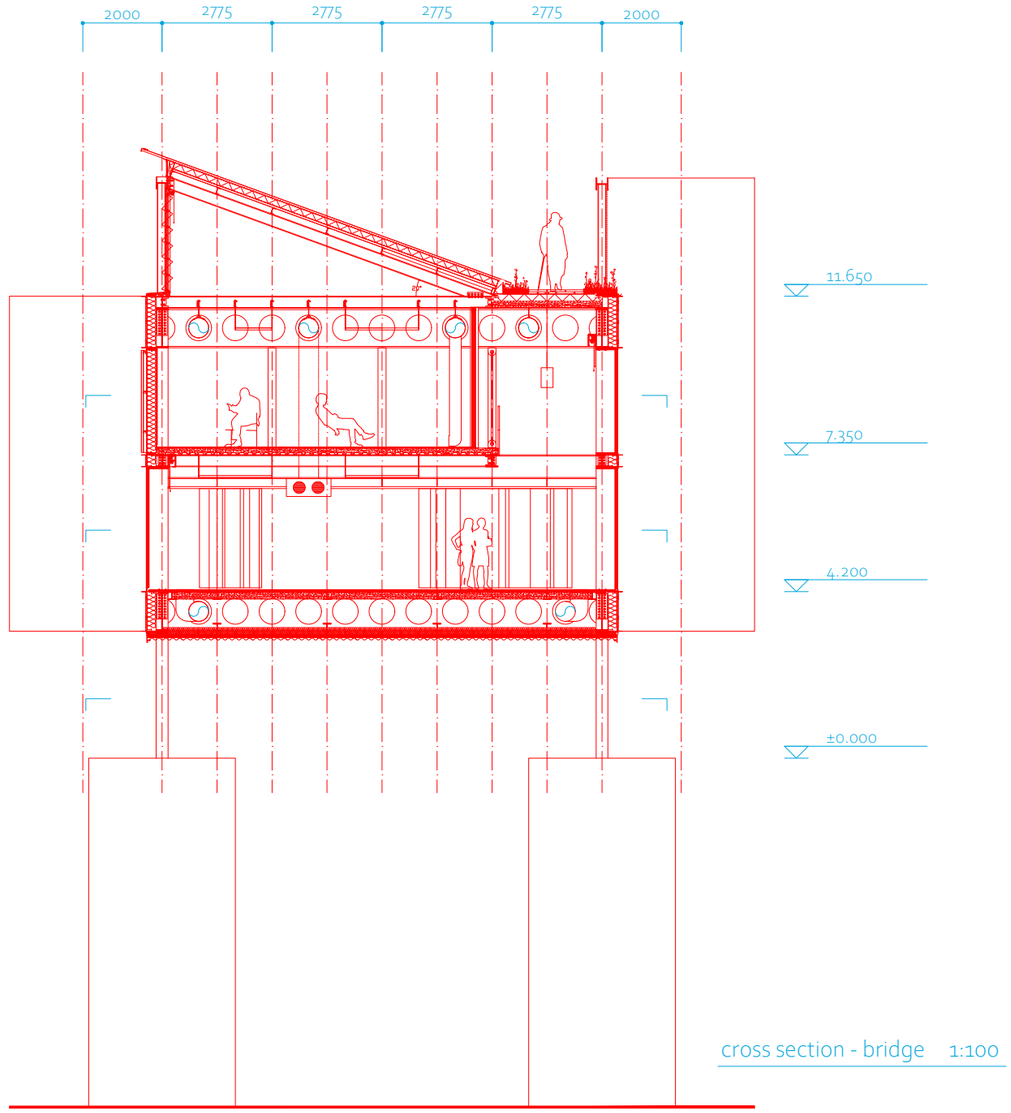

cross section - bridge 1:100