

KARREE

*Public condenser for social inclusivity in
Friedrichshain, Berlin*

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Ger Warries, Building Technology

Sang Lee, Research

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studio	Public building
theme	Public Building Graduation Studio: Public Condenser, new urban lounge & commons
main mentor	Henk Bultstra, Architecture
second mentor	Ger Warries, Building Technology
third mentor	Sang Lee, Research

ARGUMENTATION OF CHOICE OF THE STUDIO

Public buildings, besides providing various functions, also provide a place for encouraging social interactions between different target groups in an area, which is usually lacking in private buildings. This flexible handling of architecture is important for social interests.

The public building studio offers an opportunity to achieve this flexibility by focusing on the commons and exploring interfaces during the research that defines community. It uses terms such as multiplicity, hybridity, resilience, and sustainability, it generates a public condenser that can be considered a social catalyst, it acts as a place of inclusion and diversity where different demographics, ethnicities, cultures, and lifestyles can meet.

GRADUATION PROJECT

Karree

Public condenser for social inclusivity in Friedrichshain, Berlin

ABSTRACT

Gentrification is a complex and controversial phenomenon that has been the subject of numerous studies, particularly in the field of urban studies. It refers to the process by which lower income, historically working-class neighborhoods are transformed into affluent neighborhoods through the influx of higher-income residents and the associated development and improvement of the physical environment. One of the most prominent examples of gentrification can be seen in the Friedrichshain neighborhood of Berlin, where this process has been taking place for several decades.

Friedrichshain is a former working-class neighborhood that has undergone significant transformations since the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. In the 1990s, the neighborhood became a hub for the city's creative class, attracting artists, musicians, and young professionals. With the rise in popularity of the neighborhood, property values have skyrocketed, making it increasingly difficult for long-time residents to afford to live there. As a result, many have been forced to move out, making way for a more affluent population.

The impact of gentrification in Friedrichshain has been far-reaching and has had a profound effect on the social fabric of the neighborhood. One of the most noticeable impacts has been the displacement of low-income residents, who can no longer afford to live in the area due to rising rent prices. This has led to a significant shift in the demographic makeup of the neighborhood, as it becomes increasingly populated by wealthier residents.

Another impact of gentrification in Friedrichshain has been the changing cultural landscape of the neighborhood. With the influx of affluent residents, there has been a corresponding shift in the type of businesses and cultural amenities that are available. For example, the neighborhood has seen an increase in the number of upscale restaurants and cafes, while traditional working-class businesses and cultural institutions have been replaced.

One of the key drivers of gentrification in Friedrichshain has been the development of the real estate market. The influx of higher-income residents and the associated development of the physical environment has led to a significant increase in property values, which has in turn driven up rents and made it increasingly difficult for lower-income residents to afford to live in the neighborhood. This has been a major factor in the displacement of long-time residents and the transformation of Friedrichshain into a more affluent neighborhood.

In conclusion, gentrification in Friedrichshain has had a profound impact on the neighborhood and its residents. The process has led

to the displacement of low-income residents, the transformation of the cultural landscape, and the development of a more affluent population. This is the reason for designing a Public Condenser as a social catalyst, reducing the effects of gentrification in Friedrichshain. A place for people from different backgrounds to share their wealth of knowledge, experiences and creativity. This ensures that the Public Condenser serves as a breeding space for innovation and progress in the neighbourhood. Using the theme "Boundless architecture", the project is challenged to design a multiplicity concept, which might be deployed as a prototype in needy neighbourhoods.

PROBLEM STATEMENT

"Nearly three decades of division by the Mauer (the Berlin Wall) influenced the evolution of waves of gentrification and are responsible for today's very specific spatial pattern of gentrification in Berlin." (Siemer, J., and Matthews-Hunter, K. 2017). The collapse of the East Berlin economy provided the ideal conditions for gentrification projects aimed at improving living conditions in certain areas of the city, such as Friedrichshain. These projects were implemented gradually and in a concentric manner, with "pioneer" facilities (such as bars, clubs, and art galleries catering to middle-class professionals and young artists) being deployed to attract new residents. However, over time, these pioneer facilities moved on to other neighborhoods, and the results of gentrification were not as positive as hoped. On the contrary, it had an effect on the social level. It led to a loss of sense of community and belonging, as well as a shift towards an increasingly homogenous population of upper-class residents. The lower and middle classes were driven out by rising costs. Additionally, the characteristic value of the area was impacted as the withdrawal of ex-pats and stakeholders led to the disappearance of the authentic look in the neighborhoods and the emergence of monotonous Plattenbau, limited facilities, and neglected public spaces.

Overall, Friedrichshain lacks multifaceted spaces where local culture can share its characters, values, and knowledge.

RESEARCH QUESTION

The search for the public condenser as a social catalyst raises the following questions:

"How can togetherness between different social groups in Friedrichshain be fostered through a public building?"

"How can boundless architecture encourage social gatherings in the building?"

"Which programs are needed for a multifaceted use of the building that brings people together?"

"Which architectural qualities evoke a sense of belonging?"

DESIGN ASSIGNMENT RESULT

The Public Condenser aims to foster a sense of community among its users by catering to all socio-economic groups in Friedrichshain. The challenge is to design a building that supports this goal, achieved through housing functions that promote the "learn and create" process, such as a box-theatre, workshops, makerspace, exhibition space, and library. It also promotes the "share and meet" process, such as communal kitchen, lounge, co-working spaces, and exhibitions, as well as leisure activities like sports and outdoor spaces. A key design strategy is to provide a variety of spaces that can serve multiple functions, and to facilitate social interaction by connecting these spaces to a central collective space that serves as the "forum" of the building. This allows the Public Condenser to appeal to a wider audience.

METHOD DESCRIPTION

Information gathering about location (to understand the district):

- Collective analyses of Berlin and Friedrichshain through the themes of City, History, Power, People, Connection and Culture.
- Analysis of the three neighbourhoods in Friedrichshain by an excursion to Berlin
- Mapping the current facilities in the neighbourhood
- Analyse different subjects in the district, such as greenery, infrastructure, conditions, accessibility, public activity etc.

Theoretical framework (to define the concept):

- Analysing case studies with a similar theme: "boundless architecture", from which guidelines can be composed that can be used as a design tool in the process.
- Weekly TD assignments by research by design, in which positioning is defined

Design:

- Development of the main concept integrating the four themes: Prototype, multiplicity, circularity and commons.
- Weekly iteration of the design through sketches, and testing different topics.
- Use of different drawing methods both 2D drawings and 3D models to visualise the design.

After P2, the decisions made will be further elaborated and will pertain to materialization, facade design, circularity/sustainability, climate design, and building management. This will also include addressing any additional technical issues that need to be resolved.

LITERATURE AND GENERAL PRACTICAL PREFERENCE

Archdaily. (2021, 29, January). What Makes Mies van der Rohe's Open Plans.

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Wilcoproject. (2014). Social Innovations for social cohesion.

Landesarchiv Berlin Bilddatenbank

CASESTUDIES RESEARCH

De meerpaal, Dronten

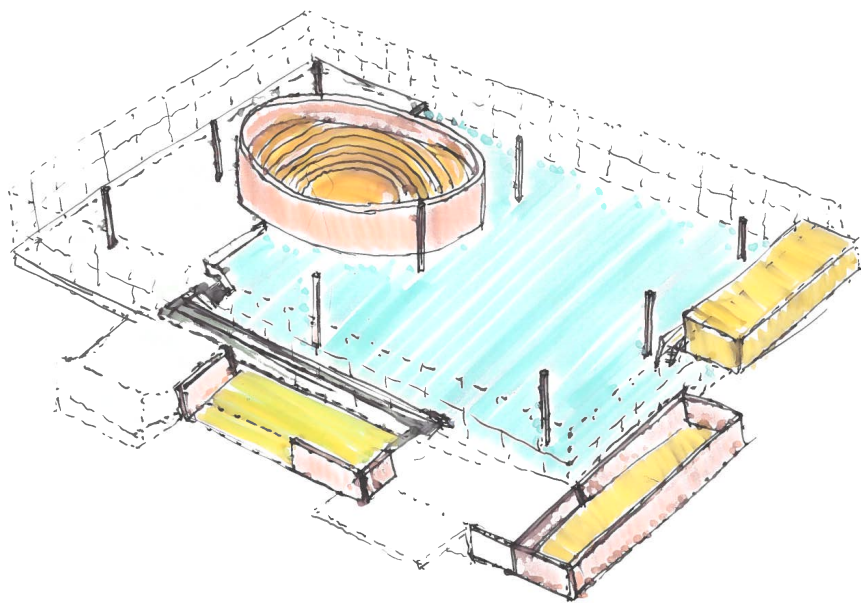
Lochal, Tilburg

RuPare, Amsterdam

TIME PLANNING

[illegible]

CASE STUDIES BOUNDLESS ARCHITECTURE



- 7
- vaste elementen (Constructie)
 - verhoogd.
 - vaste functies
 - multifunctional (open space)

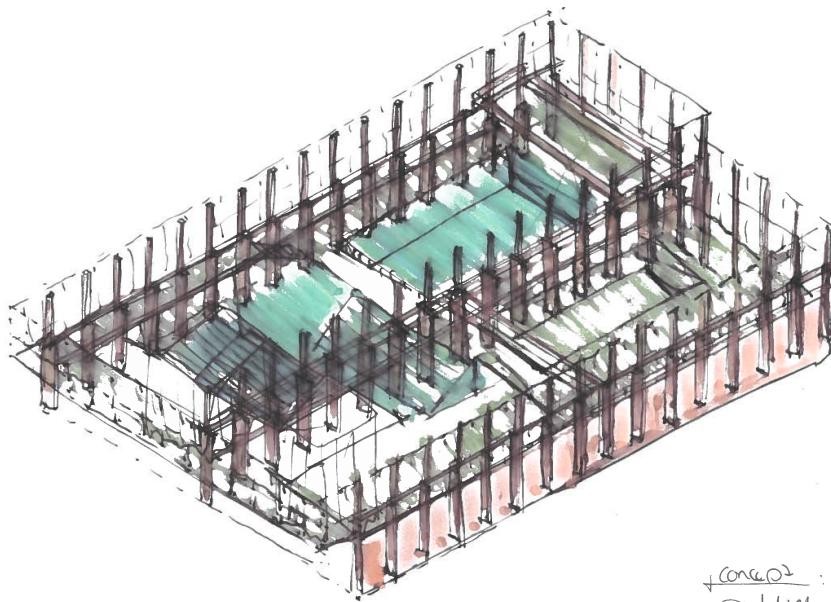
elementen voor indelen ruimte

- verhoogde delen
- losse elementen (schermen, panelen etc).

de Meerpaal

van Klingeren + atelier Pro

"A meeting place where everyone participates in an activity at the same time"



- vaste elementen (constructie)
- verhoogd. (2 verdiepingen)
- multi functioneel.

Elementen

- Gordijnen
- losse interieure.

Concept

- publieke stadsforum, dat naast de functies ook de gezamenlijke productie van nieuwe informatie stimuleert.
- Door de 'Labs', thema ruimtes verspreid over het gebouw.

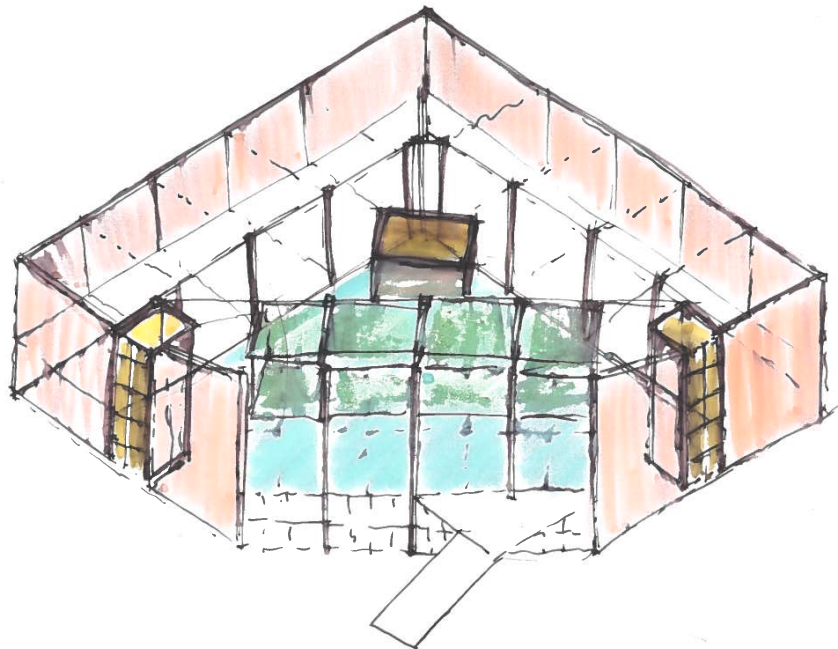
Ruimte

- Bestaande constr. loads.
- verhoogde elementen (tribune) zorgt voor het creëren van ruimtes
- Akoestische gordijnen voor het definiëren van tijdelijke ruimtes.

LocHal

Braaksma & Roos + CIVIC + Inside Outside + Mecanoo

"A covered public space in which different functions are separated by adaptable boundaries such as curtains"



- ☐ vaste elementen (constructie)
- ☐ multifunctioneel
- ☐ verhoogd
- ☐ vaste functie

elementen
 losse interieur (ruimte)

Concept
 Huiskamer vld wijh dat onderdak
 biedt aan sociaal experiment.

Ruimte
 sportzaal staat centraal en de overige
 ruimtes zijn hierop aangesloten.

RuPare

Beta

"A social condenser of the neighbourhood,
 hosting social interaction between groups from
 different backgrounds"

SOCIAL MIXING

Friedrichshain consists of three neighbourhoods with various socio-groups, during the excursion, one of the observations was that these groups are mainly focused on their "own" groups or groups with similar interests. The disadvantage of this is that it can inhibit new ideas and innovations because the groups do not interact with each other. Social mixing on the contrary helps connect these groups and leads to a more inclusive community. In which each individual has the opportunity to learn from another and develop themselves. As Gehl also described, "Social mixing occurs on a spectrum from aloneness to close friendships" in which he designed a tool to encourage social mixing. They focus on this spectrum because under the right conditions, through interpersonal contact between different social groups, you can reduce prejudice (Gehl Institute, 2023).



Passive Contact

Whenever someone is in the presence of others, they are experiencing Passive Contact.

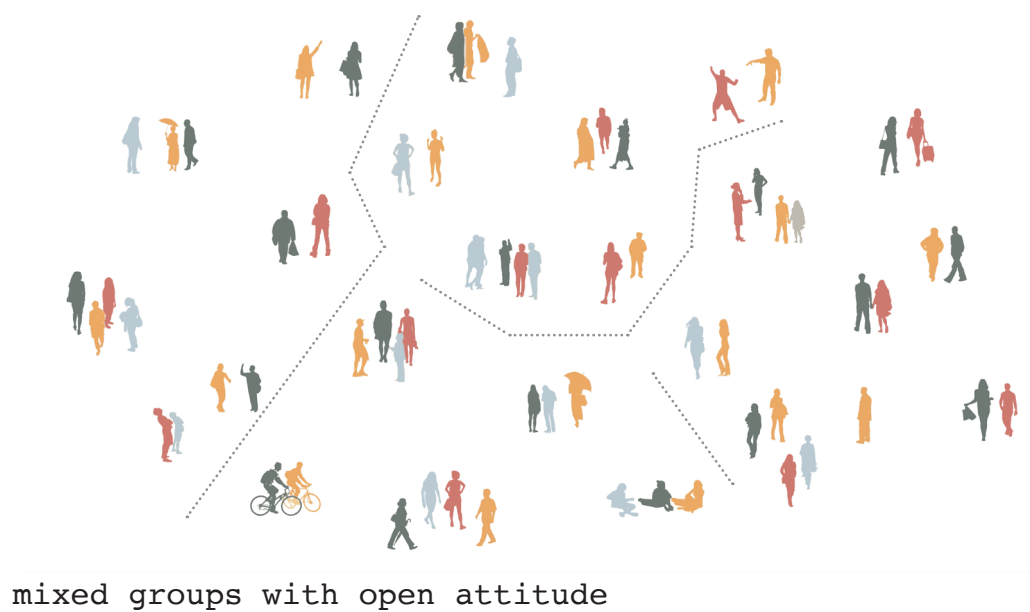
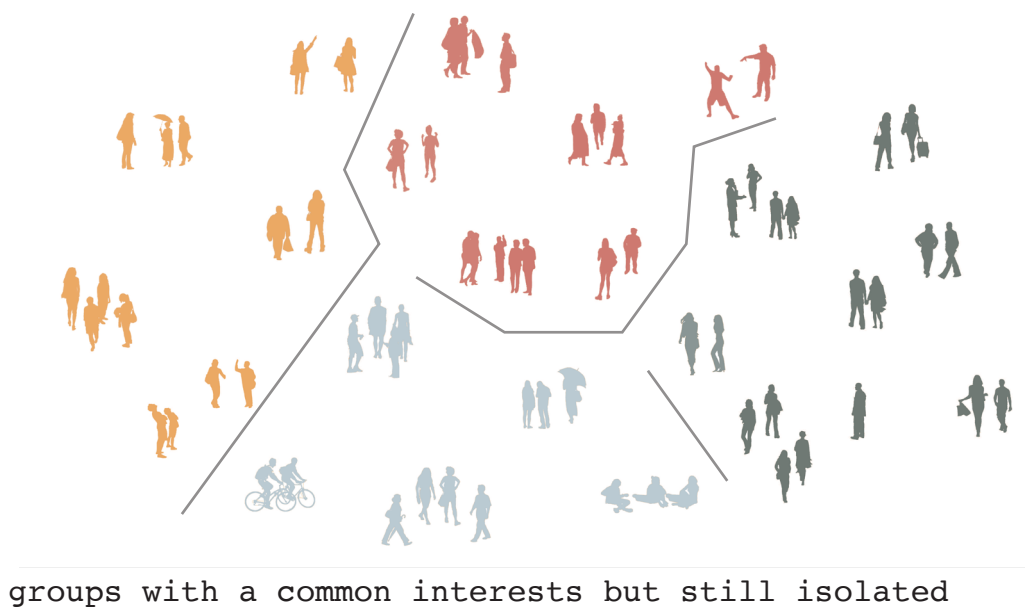
Chance Contact

A Chance Contact is when someone picks up the scarf you dropped, asks you for the time, or another non-personal interaction.

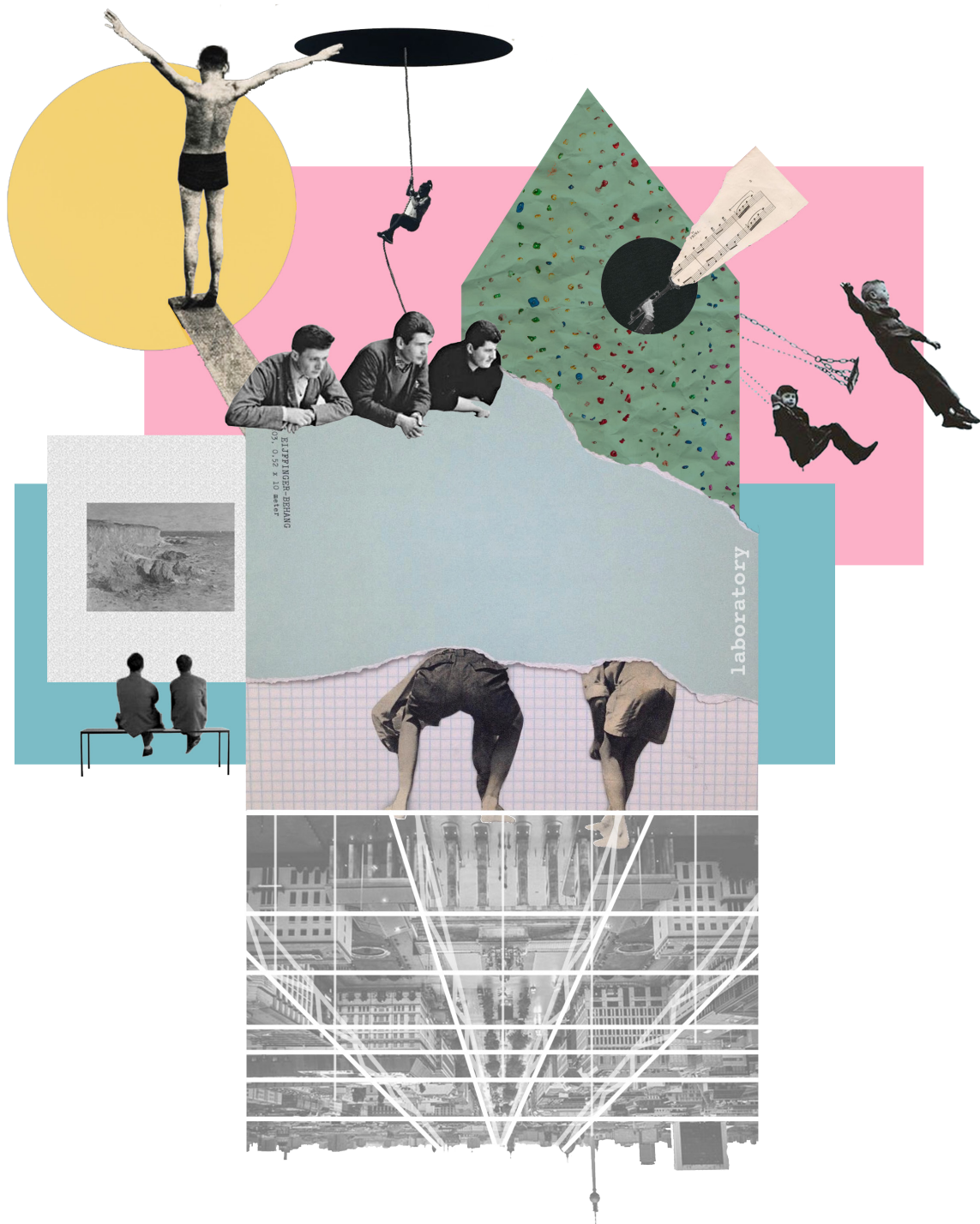
Familiar Stranger

The Familiar Stranger is someone who you recognize, but who you do not know by name. Familiar Strangers are place-based affiliations.

THEORY FOR SOCIAL MIXING IN MY PUBLIC CONDENSER

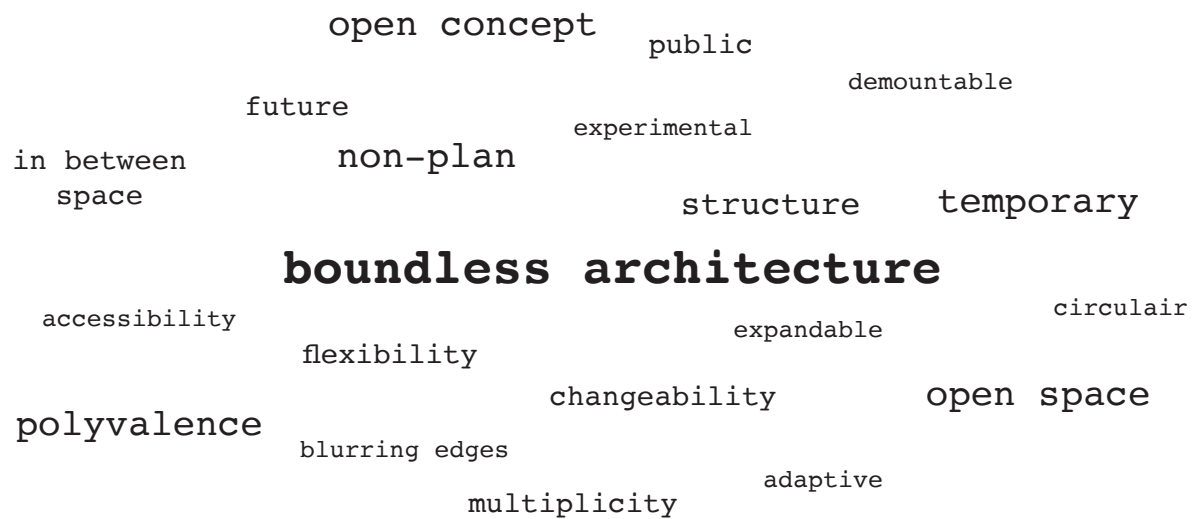


02 | Theory and Delineation research



collage/montage

"public building is a reflection of the neighbourhood that solves certain urban issues experimentally. But also evokes curiosity and a sense of togetherness for its users"



the wordcloud consist of a list of keywords which are related to boundless architecture. The font size is an indication for the level of relevance.

DEFINITION OF BOUNDLESS ARCHITECTURE

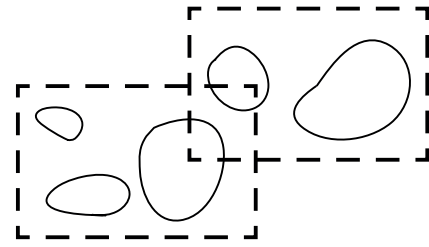
"blurring the boundaries in a design. This allows for versatile use of the building and offers the possibility of not only contributing to today's society but also being capable of possible adaptations in the future"

GUIDELINES BOUNDLESS ARCHITECTURE



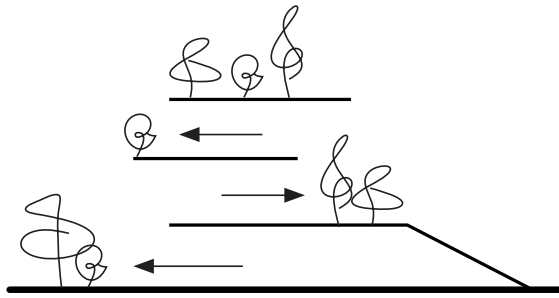
structure

flexible floor plans
allow a space to be
adapted if necessary.
Walls are like objects
in space instead of
separating rooms



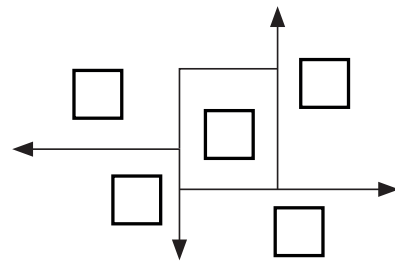
polyvalence

few solid or load-
bearing elements as
possible. This will
give more freedom for
merging functions and
quickly changing of
them



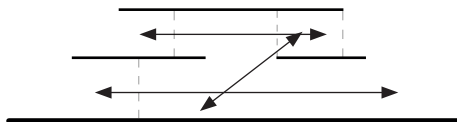
greenery

relation between outside and
inside causes blurring of
boundaries



movement

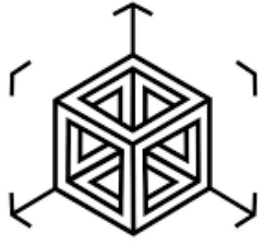
no scripted routing
allows for the
exploration of spaces.
This in-between space
can enhance social
interaction between
users



facade

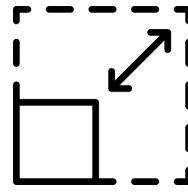
open facade and relation
between different spaces
blur boundaries

BOUNDLESS ARCHITECTURE RELATED TO THE FOUR THEME'S



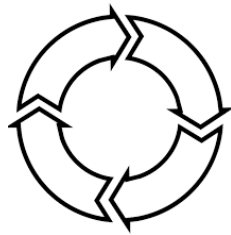
prototype

the concept is a prototype. It is not tied to a specific location, so you can apply the concept to multiple locations.



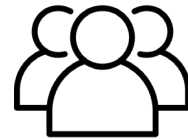
multiplicity

the concept can be seen as multiplicity. the design allows for experimentation of spaces and search for qualities, with a focus on the future.



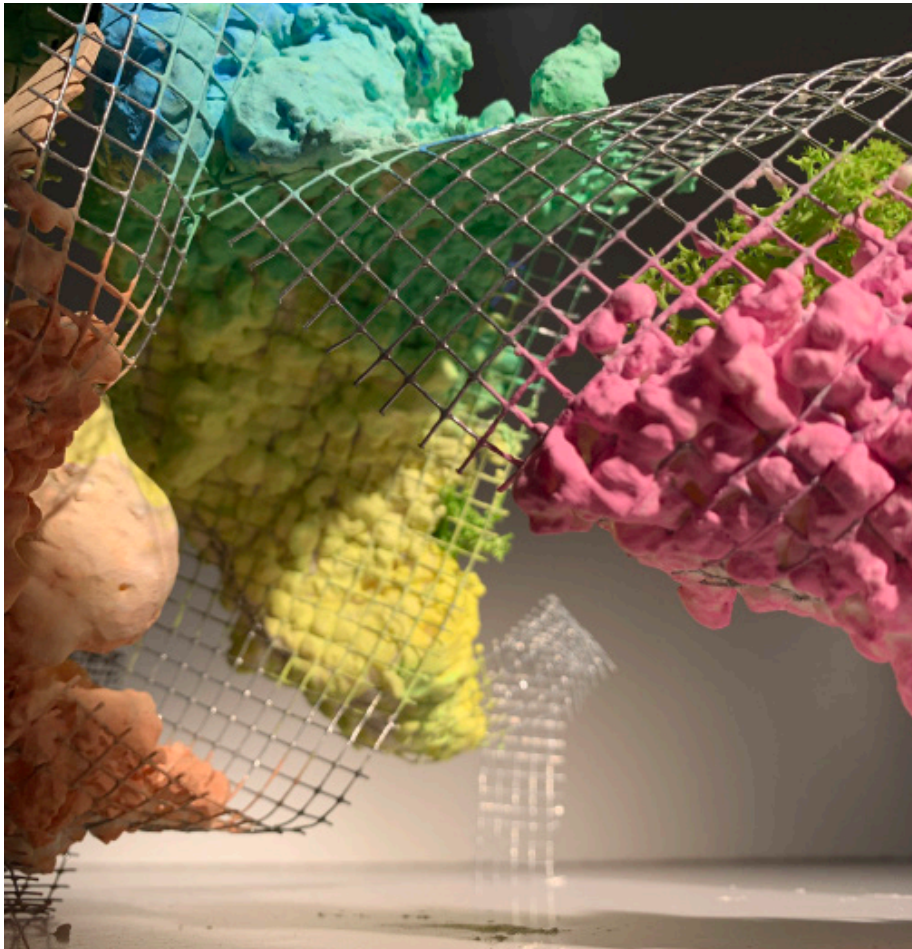
circularity

The flexibility in the concept ensures circularity, through the possibility of transformations that can be made.

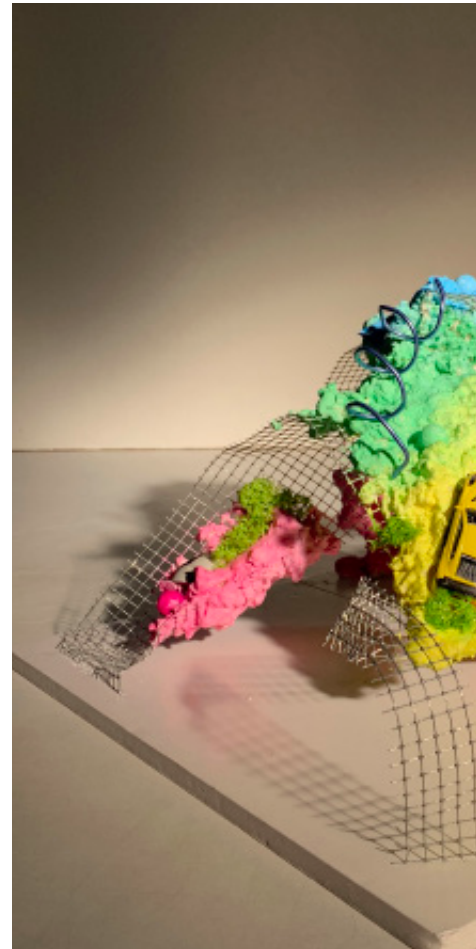


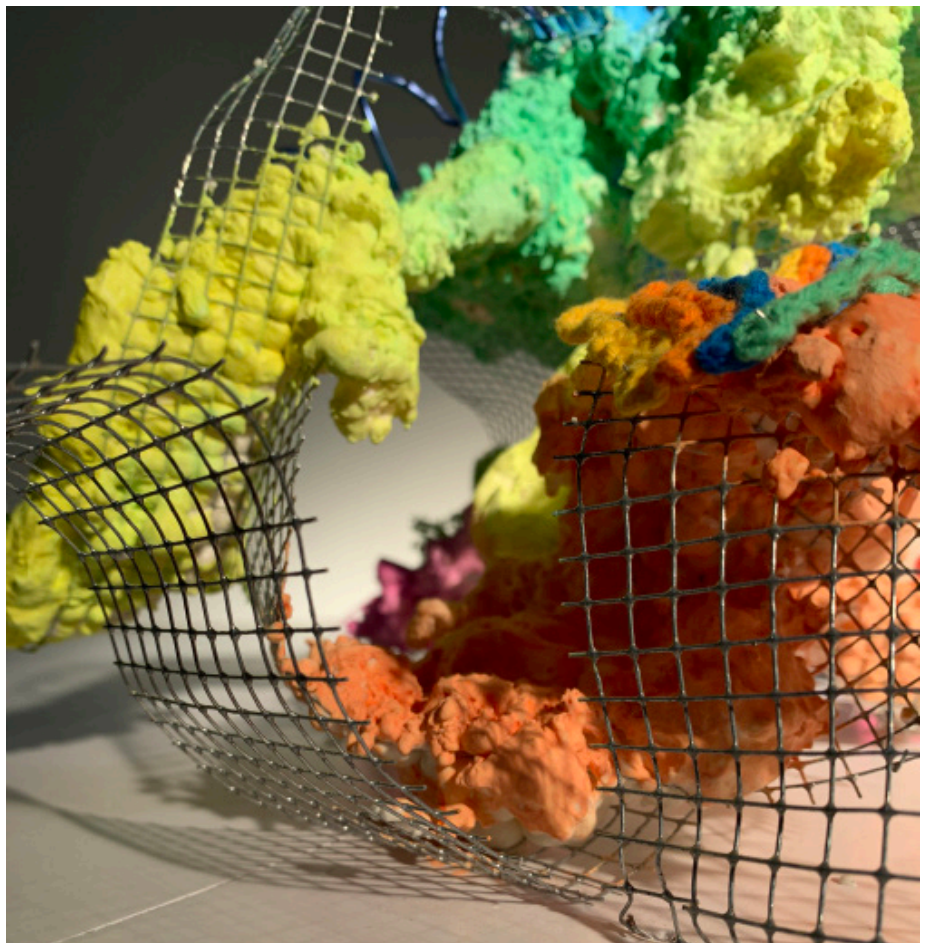
commons

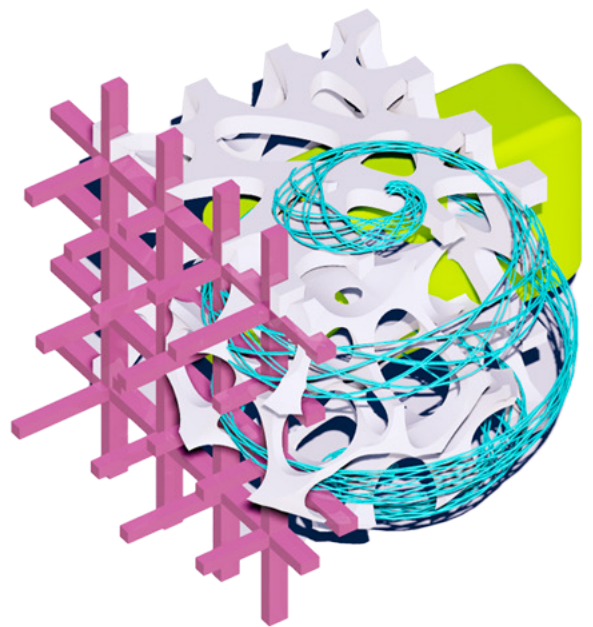
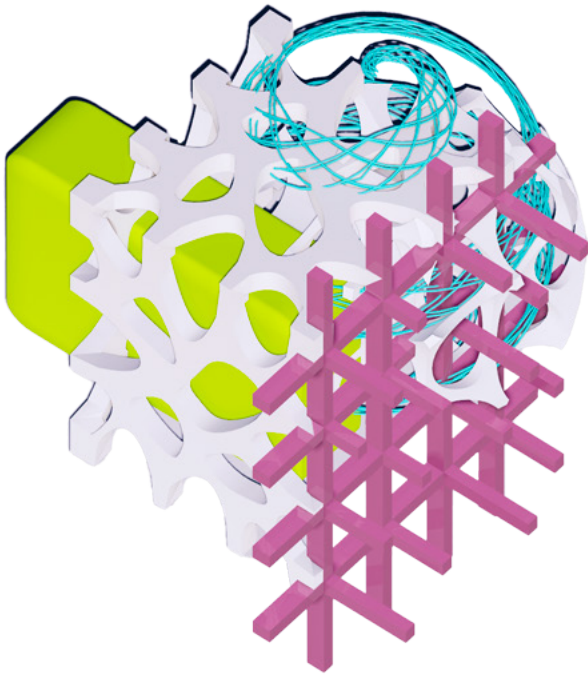
What users have in common is a need for collective activities. A place for people from different backgrounds to share their wealth of knowledge, experiences and creativity.



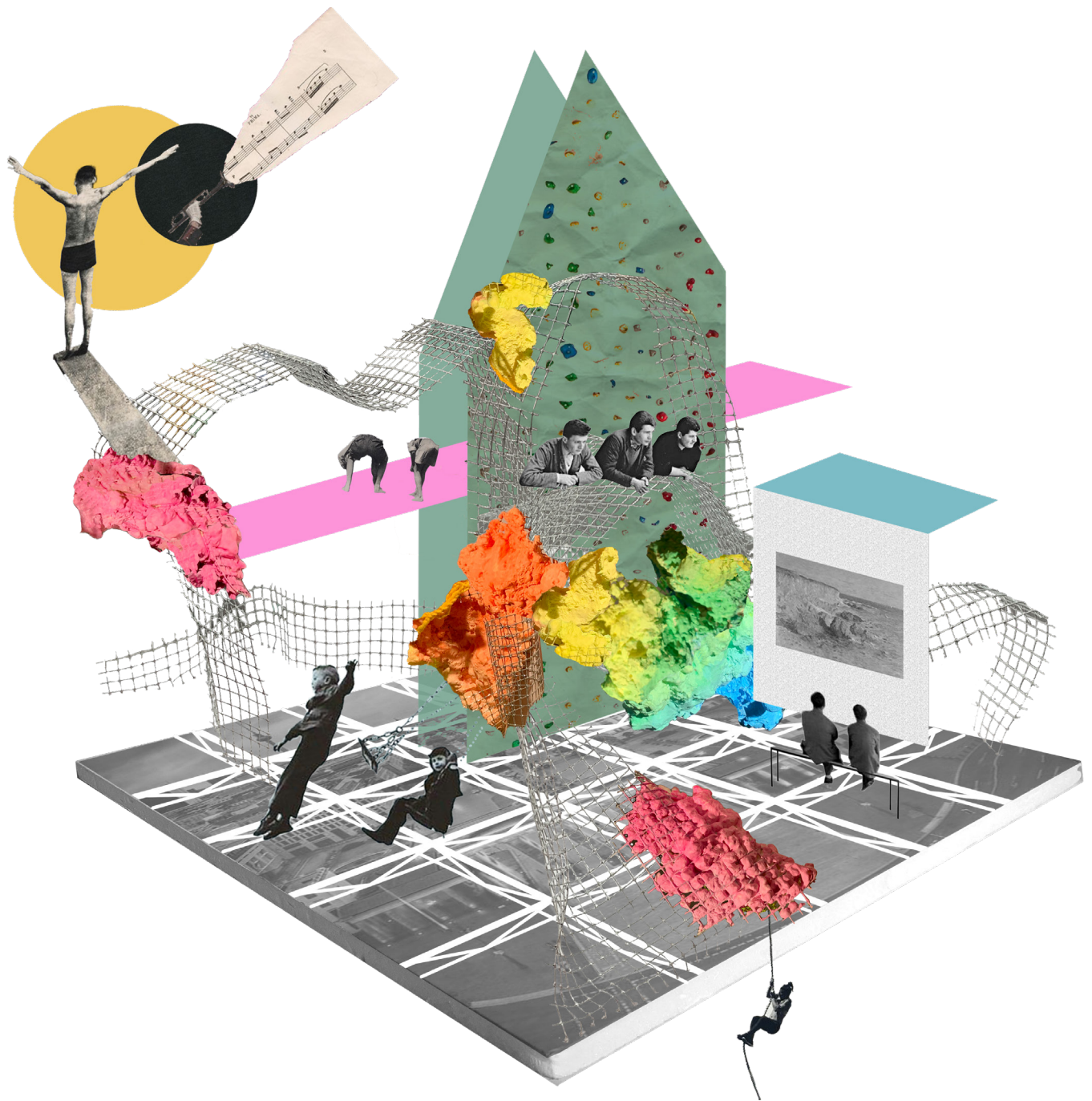
assemblage physical model





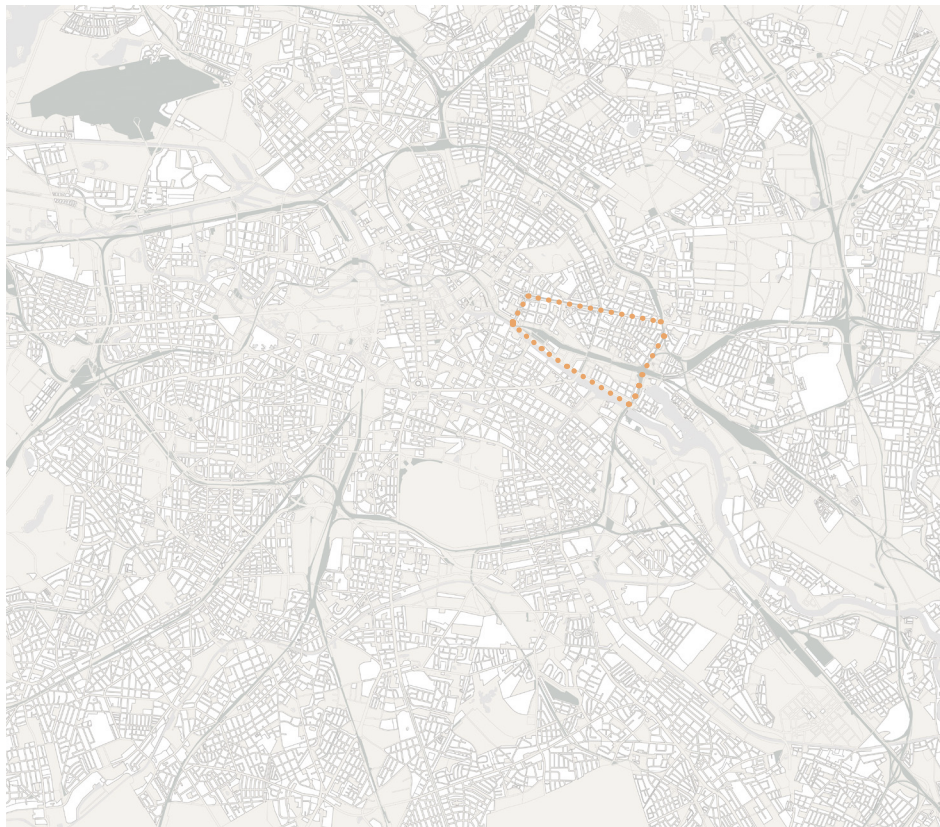


assemblage 3d model



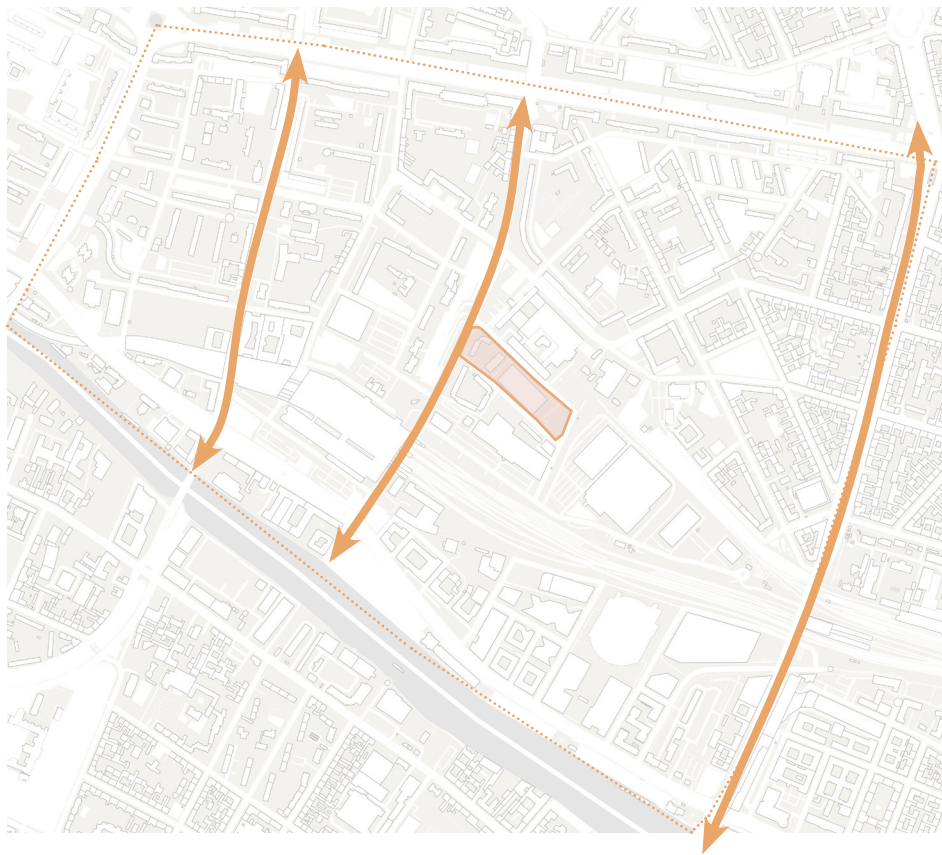
post position

03 | The project site



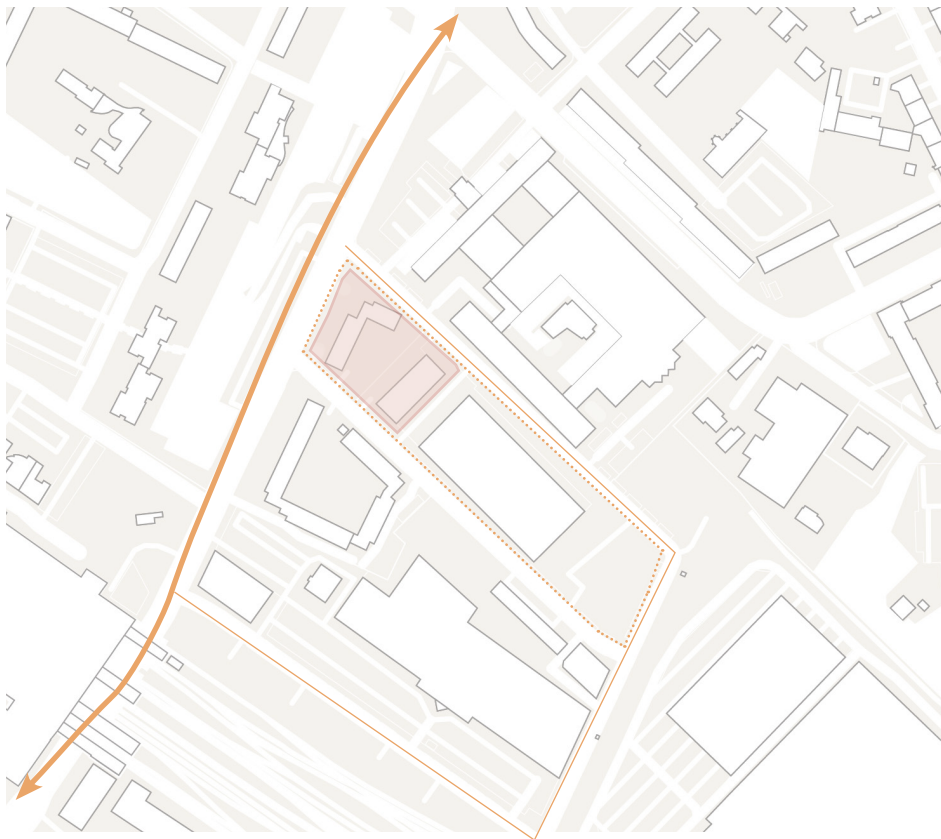
Berlin

Friedrichshain used to be located in the east of Berlin. After the fall of the Berlin Wall, the district became a part of the centre of Berlin.



Friedrichshain

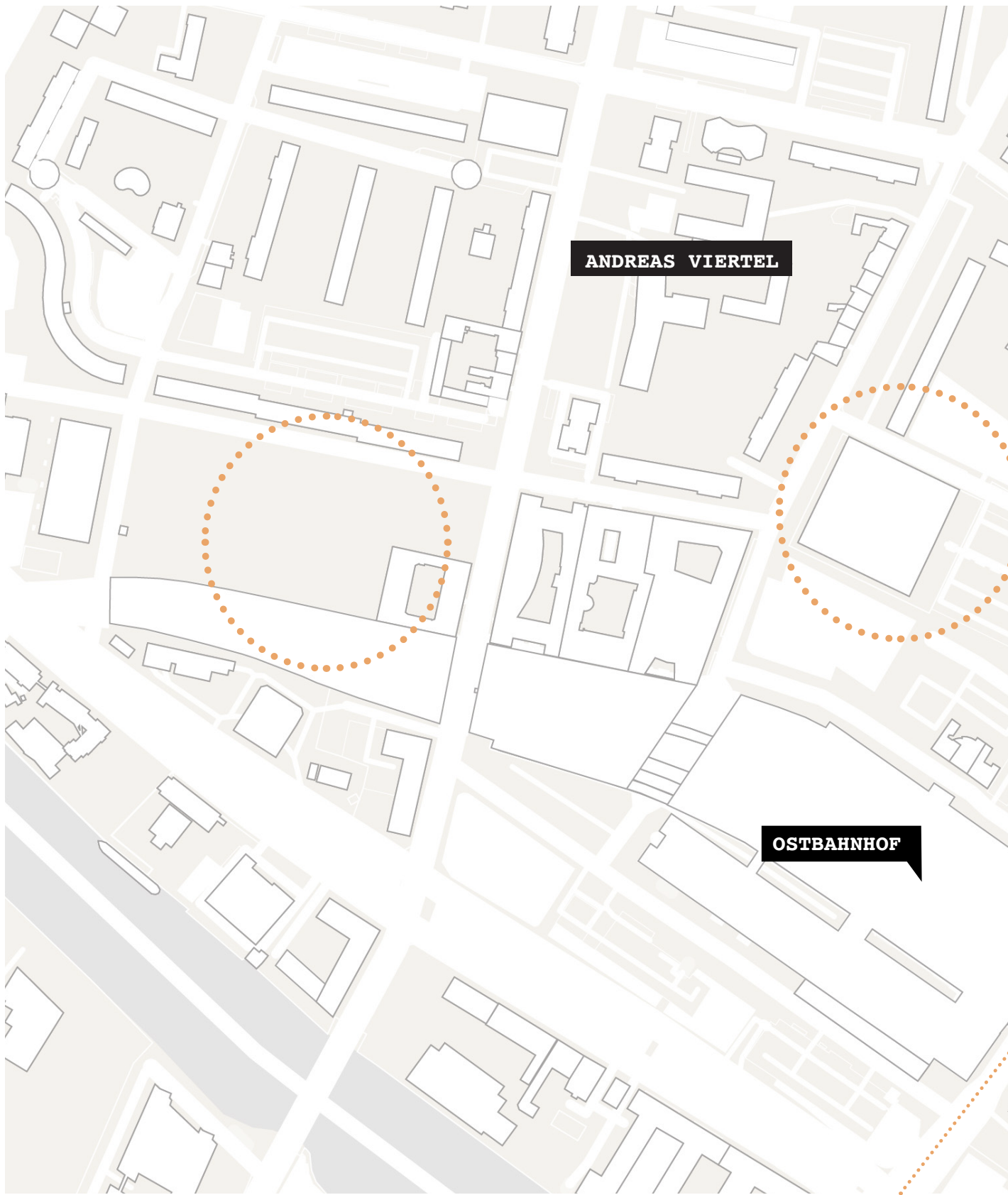
The district has three main axes connecting it to the rest of Berlin's districts. Besides transport, these axes also provide a huge barrier between the neighbourhoods in Friedrichshain.

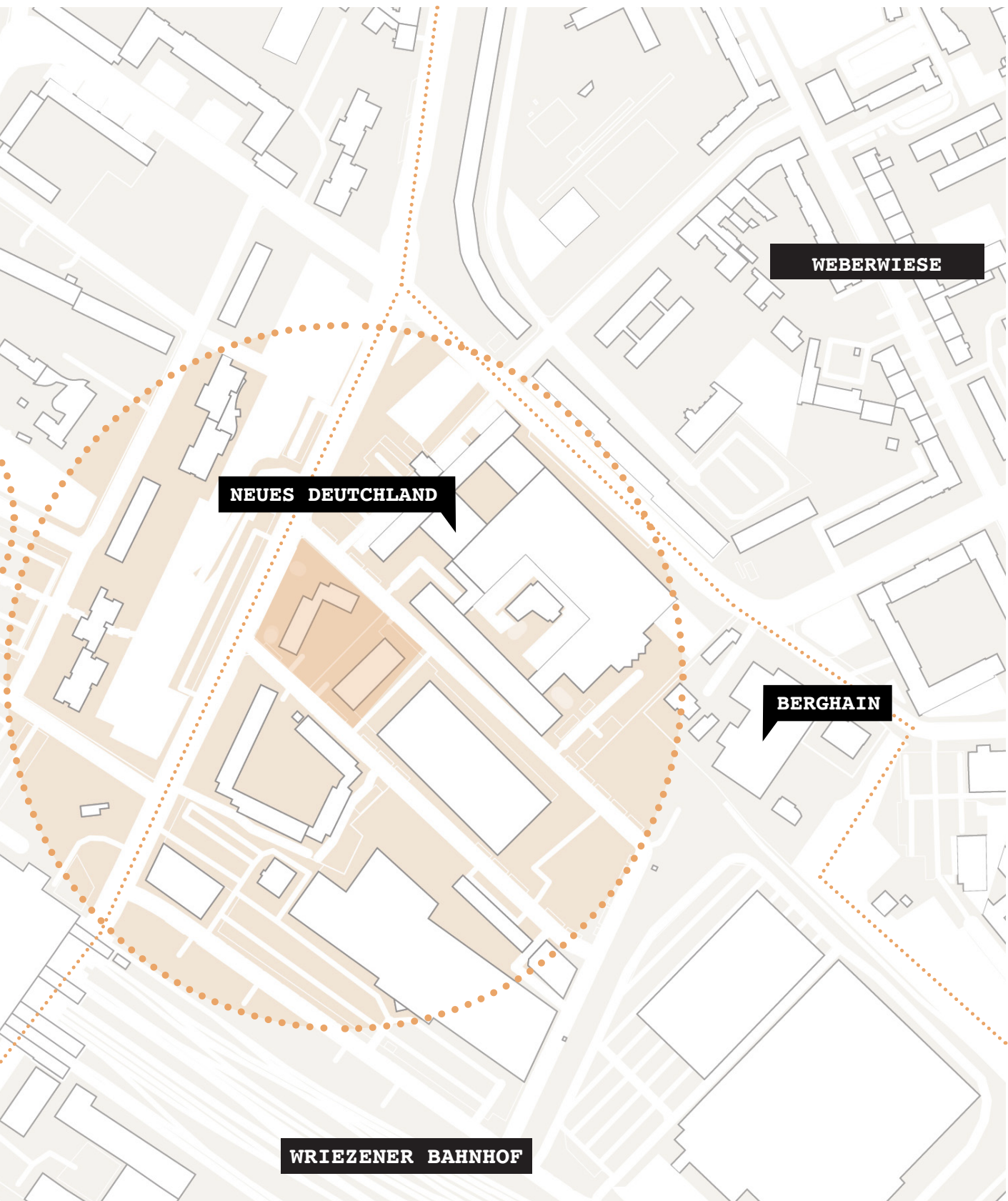


Wriezener bahnhof

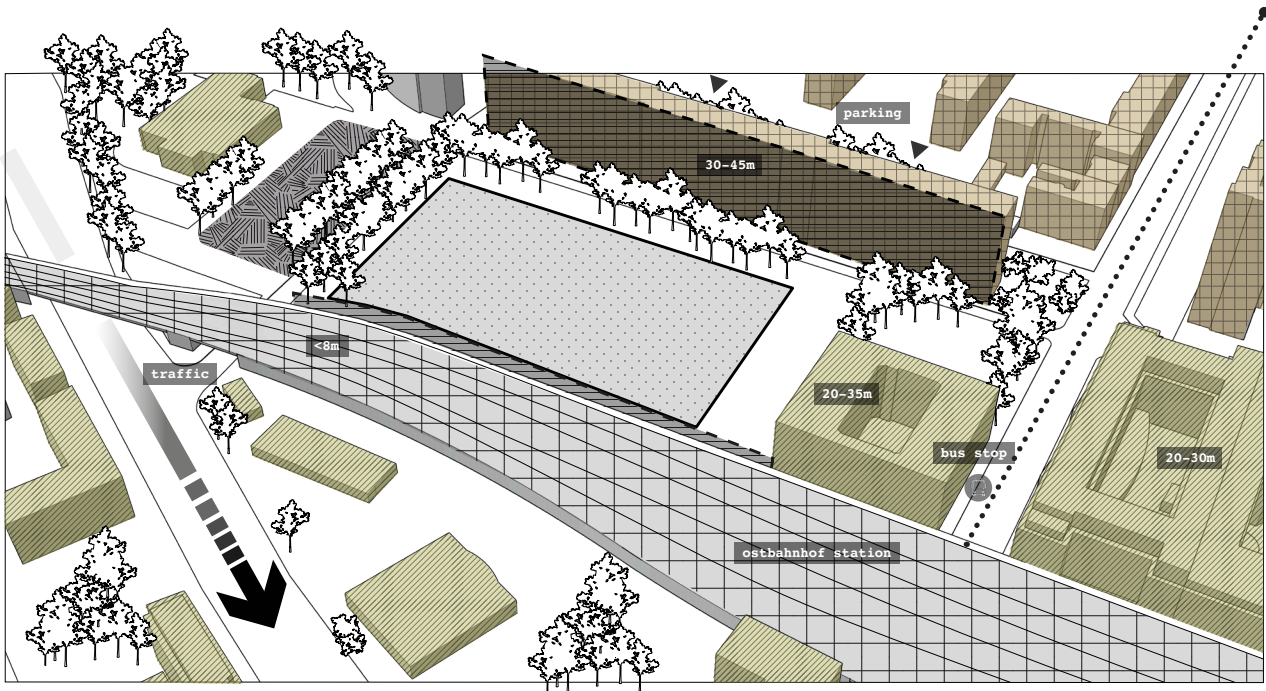
To connect the different social groups, I chose the site on the Wriezener Karree. Despite being centrally located, the site is segregated, partly due to various barriers, such as main traffic in front of the site, function as an industrial site and layout of the area.

POTENTIAL SITES

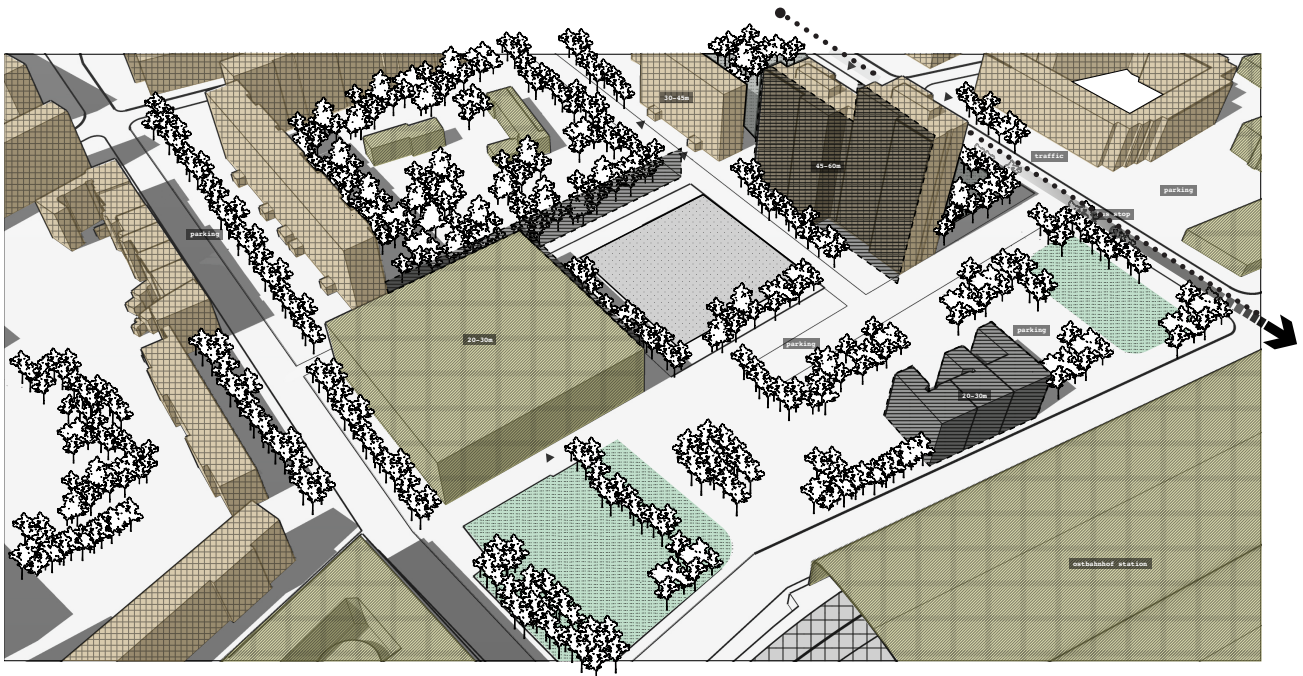




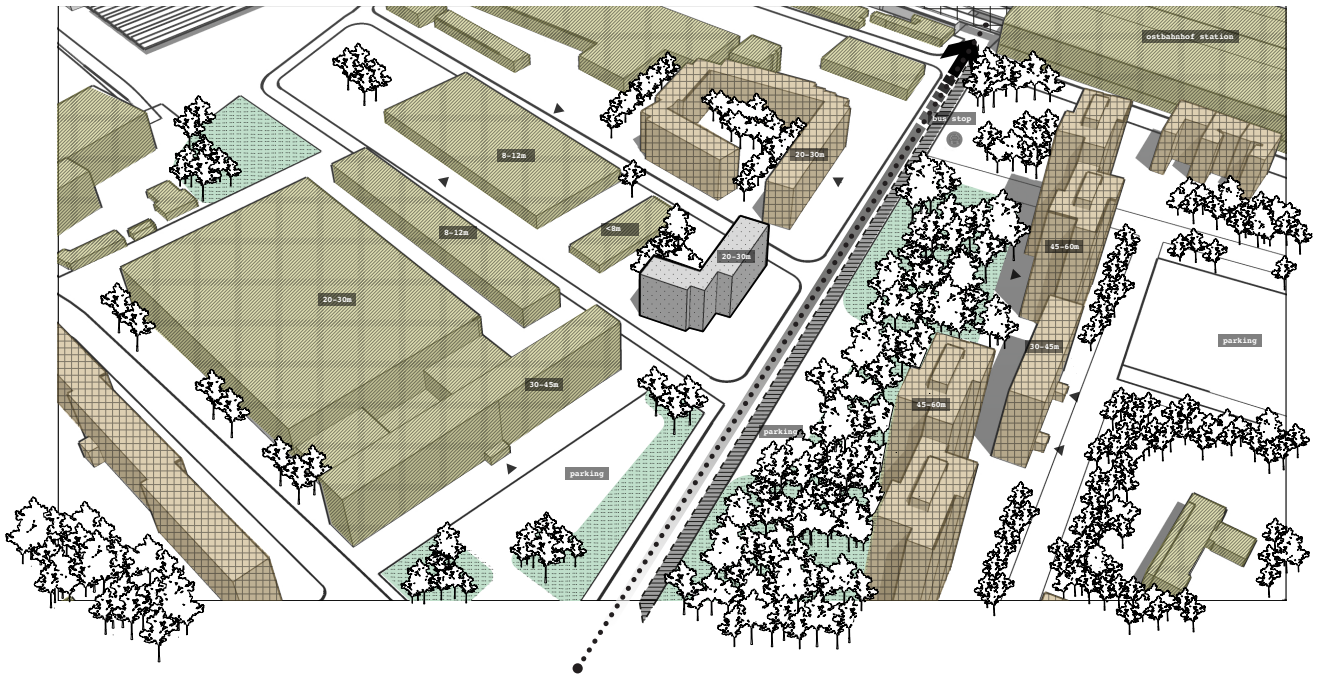
ANALYSIS CONDITIONS SITES



site 1 | andreasviertel

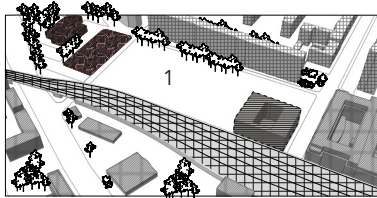


site 2 | andreasviertel

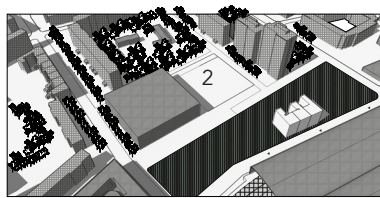


site 3 | wriezener bahnhof

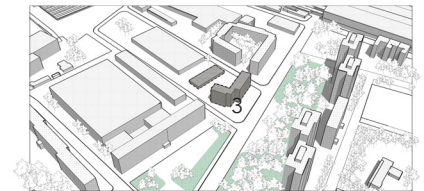
site 1 | andreasviertel



site 2 | andreasviertel



site 3 | wriezener bahnhof



accessibility
enough viewpoints



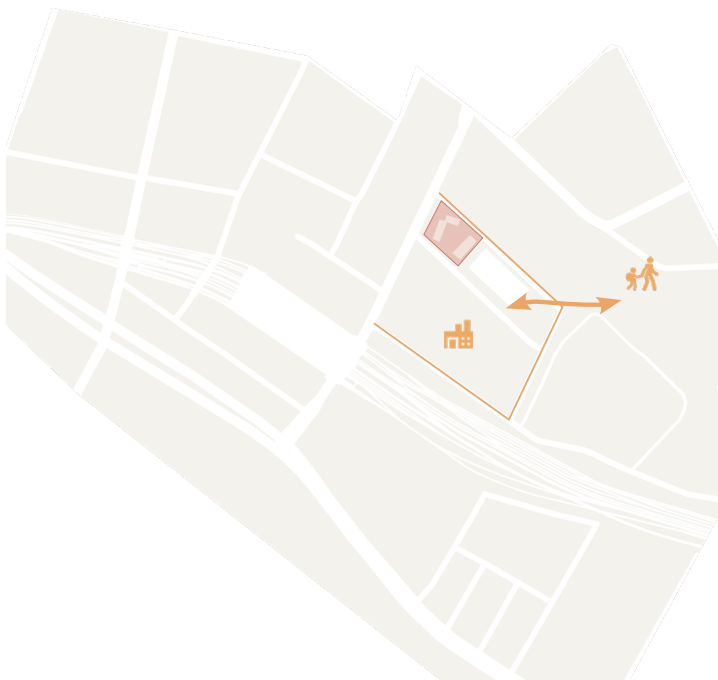
multiplicity
enough space for
clustering the program



green space
equal or more than
program



CURRENT SITUATION WRIEZENER KARREE

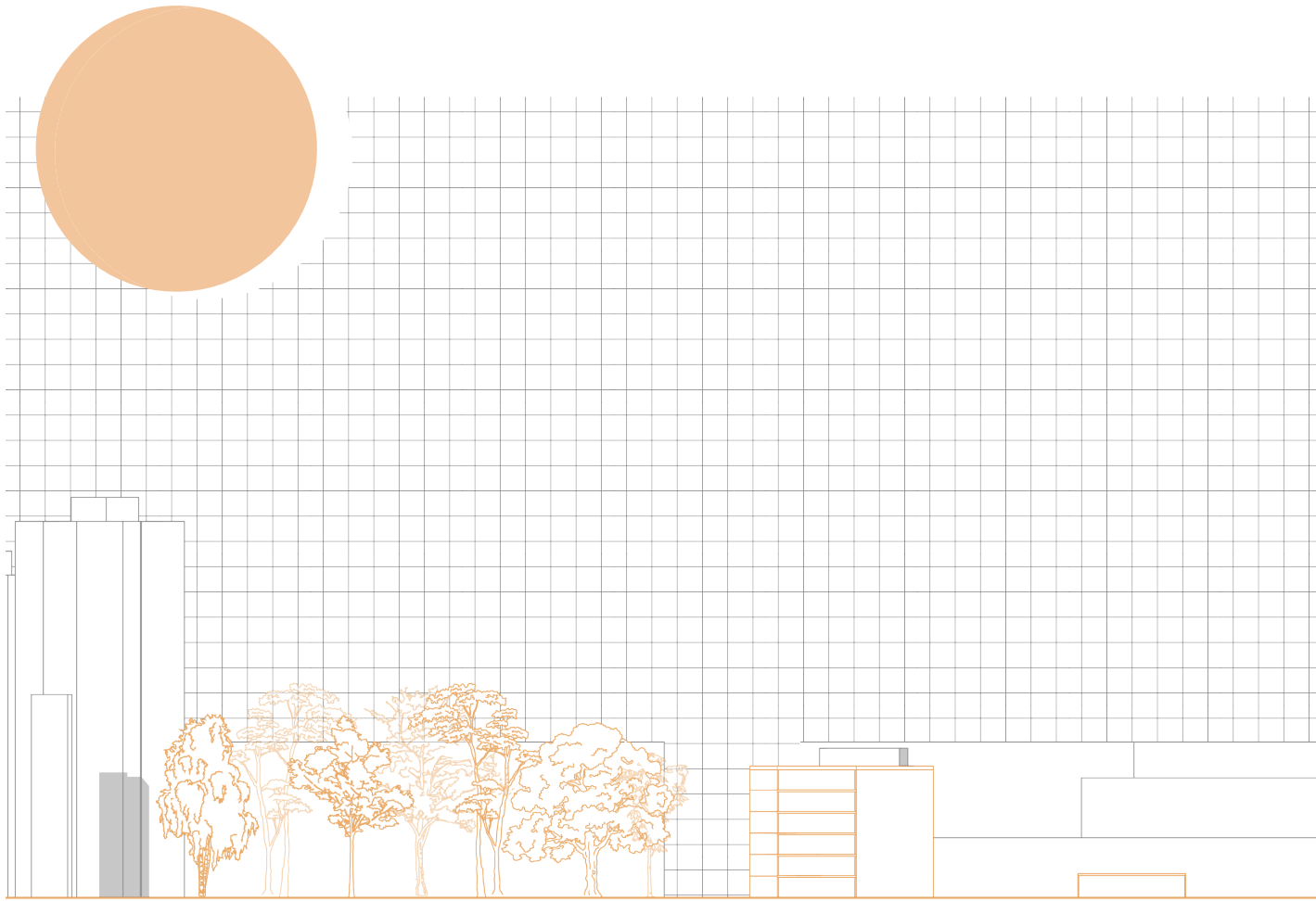


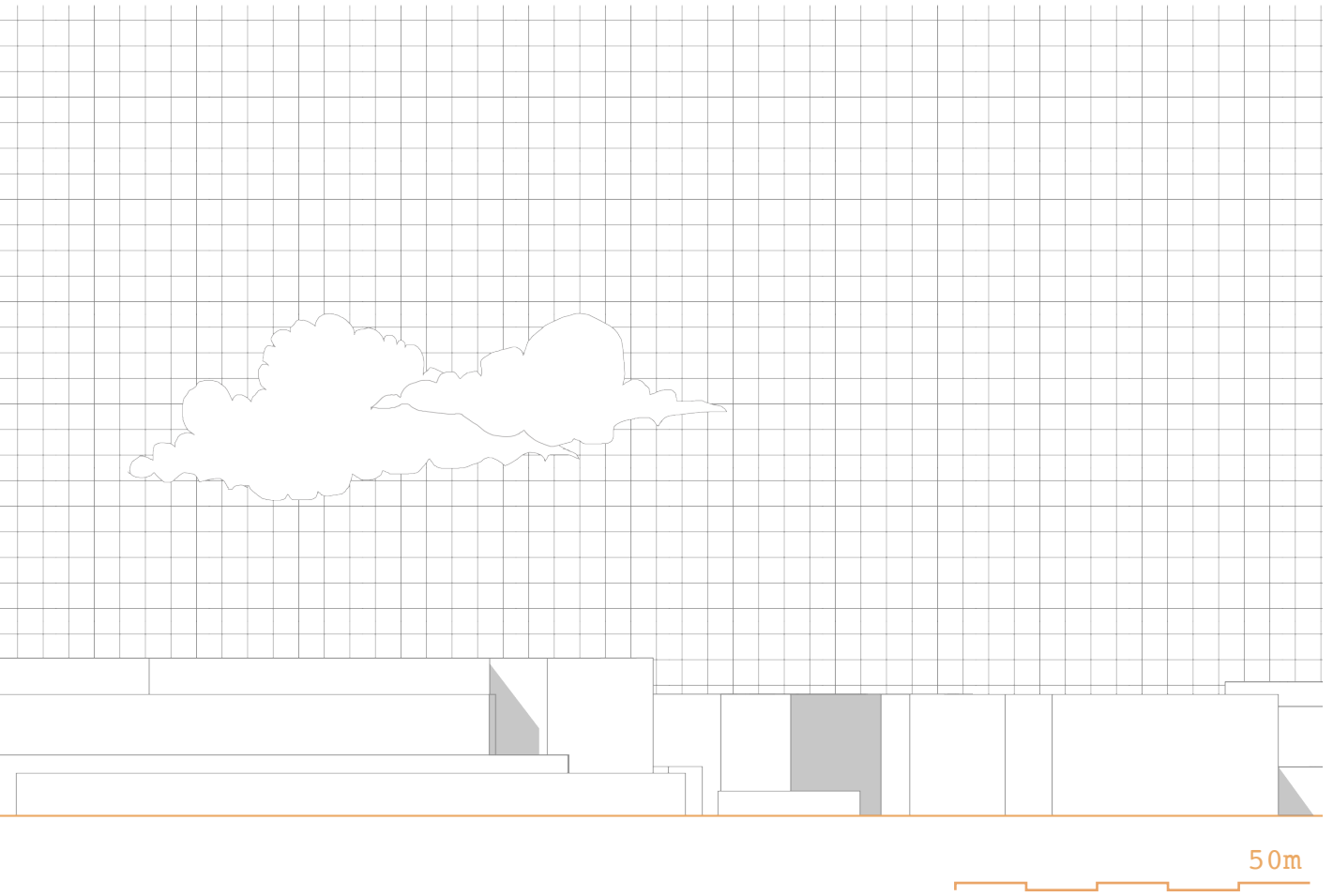
SITE PLAN



existing

SITE SECTION EXISTING






MATERIAL PALETTE EXISTING

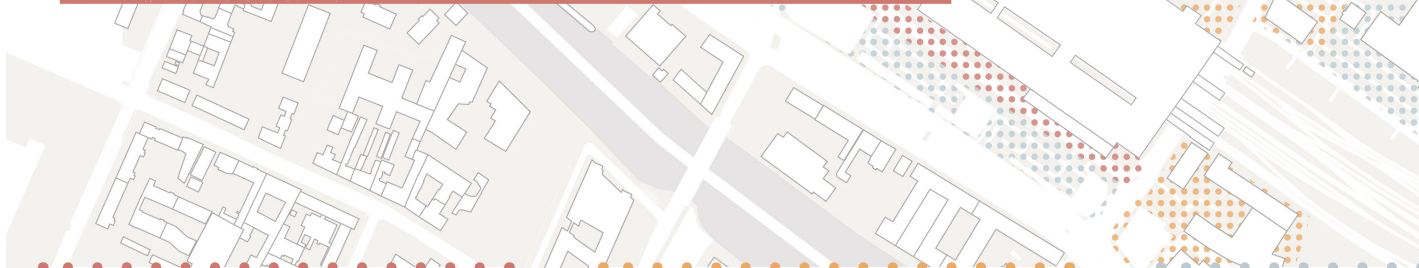


04 | Multifunctional use of spaces





WOMAN (28)
'WOULD ADD MORE GATHERING SPACES SUCH AS CAFES, ART SHOWS, AND REFUGEES CENTER TO INTEGRATE THEM INTO THE NEIGHBORHOOD'



Andreasviertel

- status: no protests
- average age: 42
- household: singles
- facilities: health/education

Weberwiese

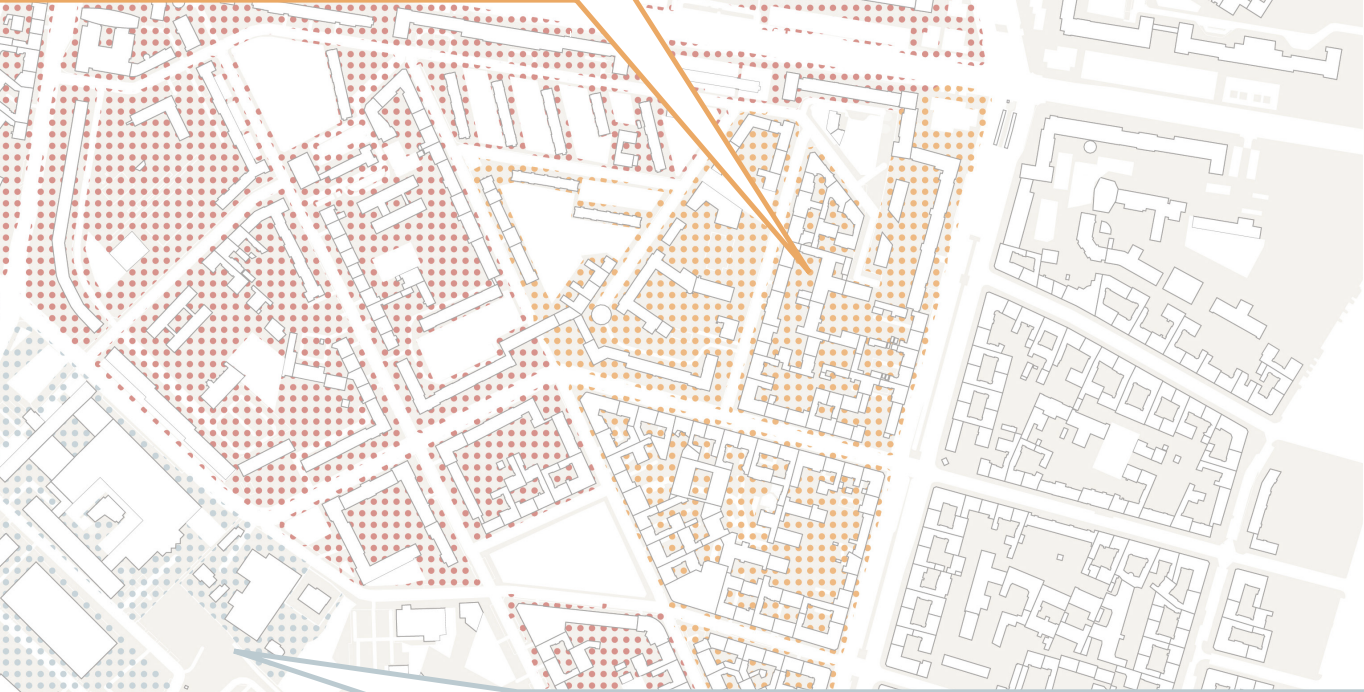
- status: active (Wir sind der milieu)
- average age: 39
- household: families
- facilities: health/education

Wriezener

- status: no p
- average age:
- household: s
- students
- facilities:

gentrification in Friedrichshain

MEN WITH HER DOG (55)
WOULD PREFER MORE BARS
WITH LIVE MUSIC AND
ENTERTAINMENT'



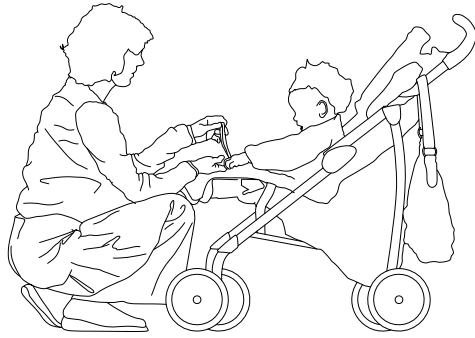
ARTIST (38)
'WOULD LIKE SPACES FOR
ARTISTS THAT ARE NOT
GALLERIES BECAUSE THEY
DON'T HELP INDIVIDUALS AND
DO NOT ALLOW THE ARTISTS TO
CONNECT WITH THE PUBLIC'



Bahnhof

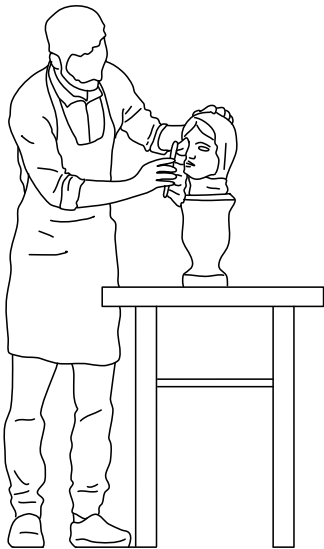
protest
30
ingles/
commerce

ANALYSIS INTERVIEWS BERLINERS



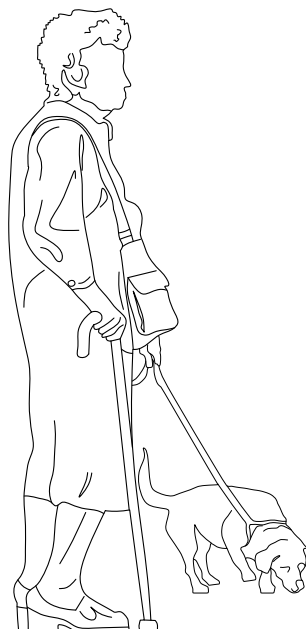
Mom (30)

'Would add more **commercial** spaces, **sports** facilities such as a swimming pool and more **gathering** spaces'



Artist (38)

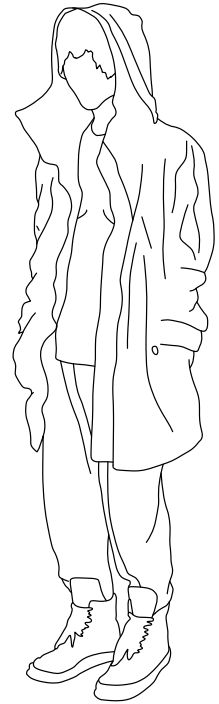
'Would like spaces for **artists** that are not galleries because they don't help individuals and do not allow the artists to connect with the public'



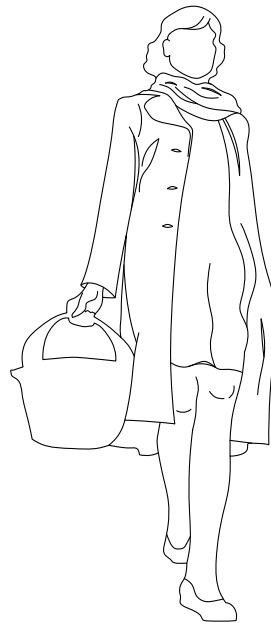
Women with her dog (55)

'Would prefer more bars with live **music** and **entertainment**'

Woman (28)
'Would add more **gathering** spaces such as cafes,
art shows, and **refugees center** to integrate them
into the neighborhood'

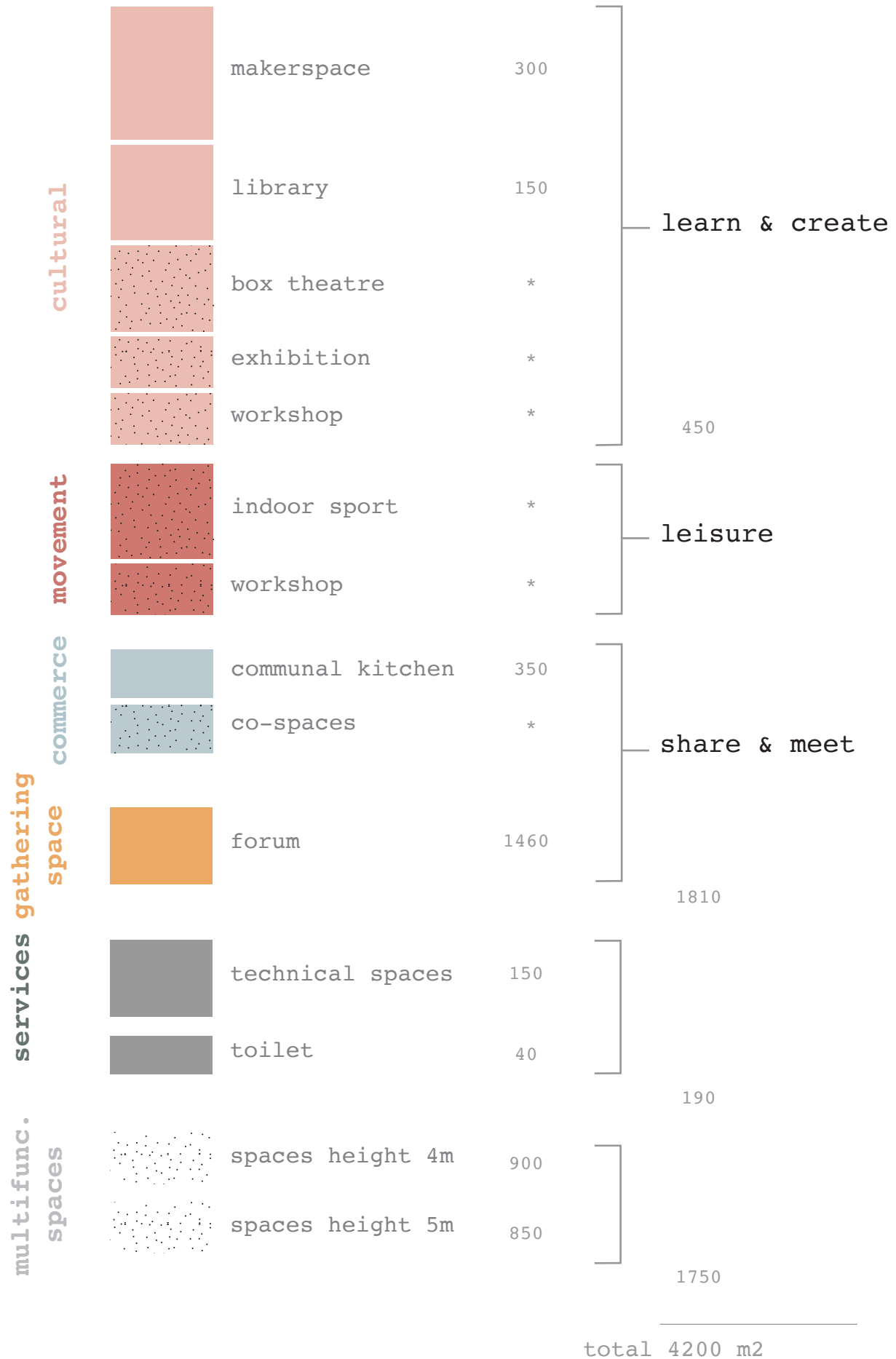


Women with groceries (35)
'Would bring back the **free** spaces
that defined Berlin before the
gentrification projects'



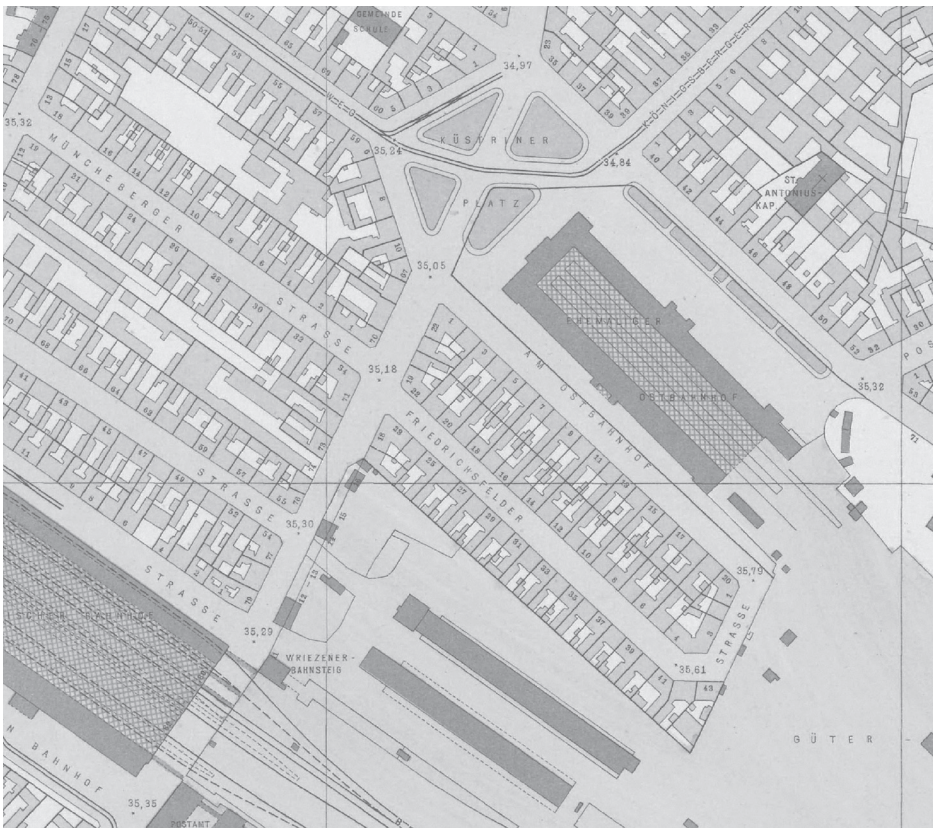
DESIGN BRIEF

GFA m2



05 | Wriezener Karree // Concept

ANALYSIS WRIEZENER KARREE // HISTORY

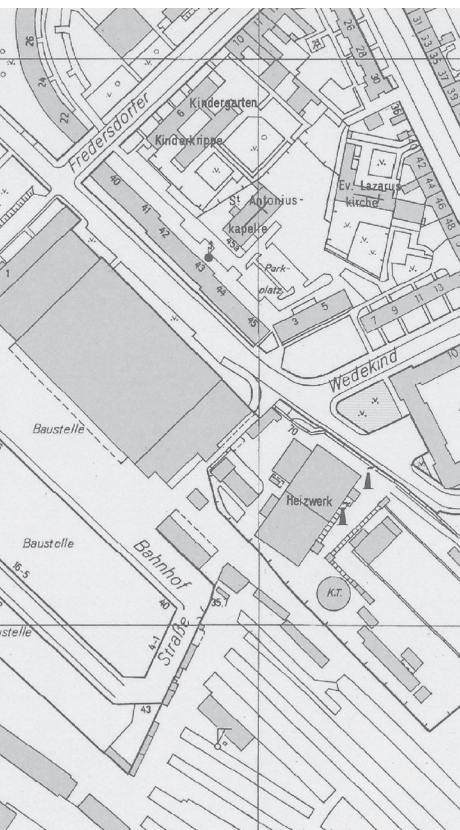


1972

development site



1972



1978

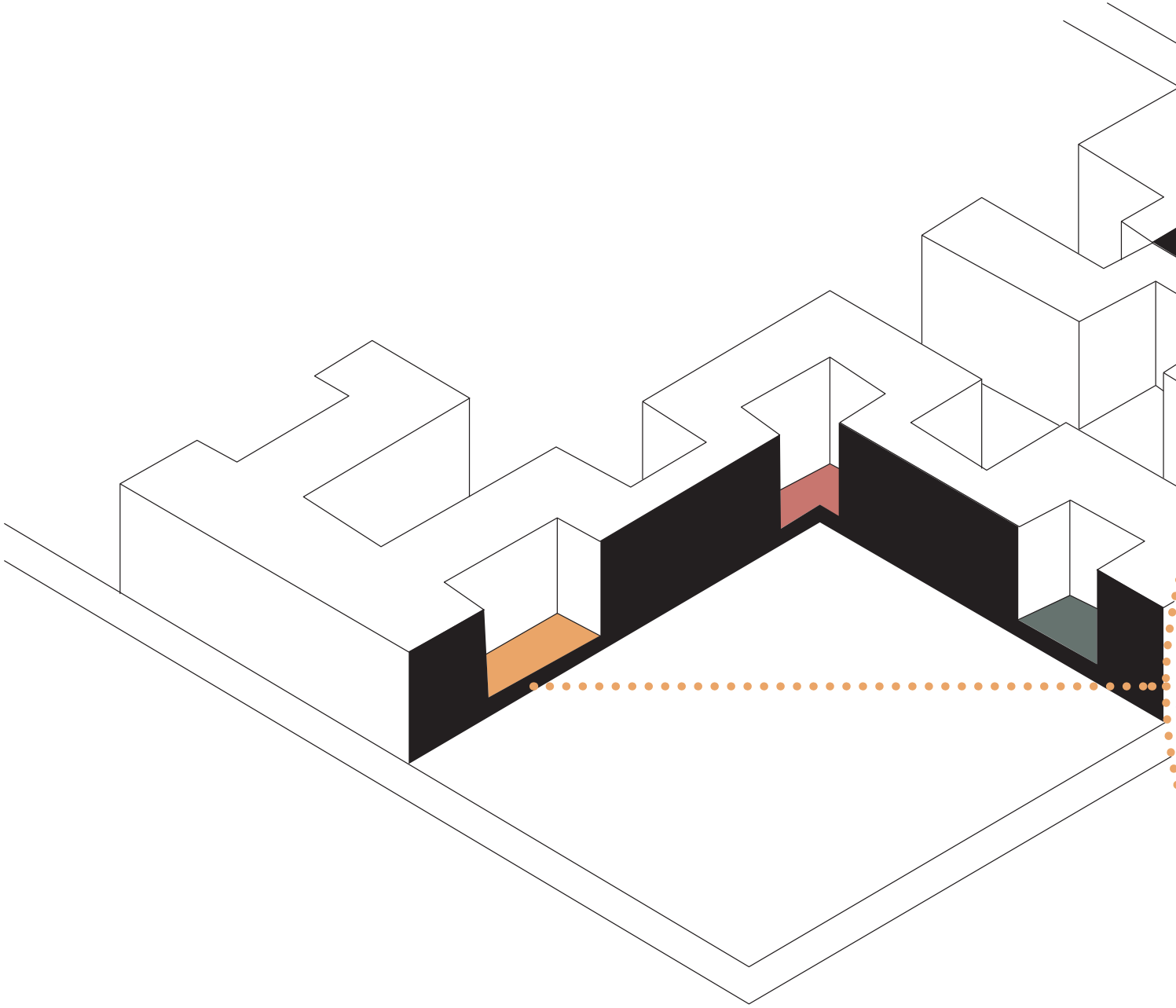


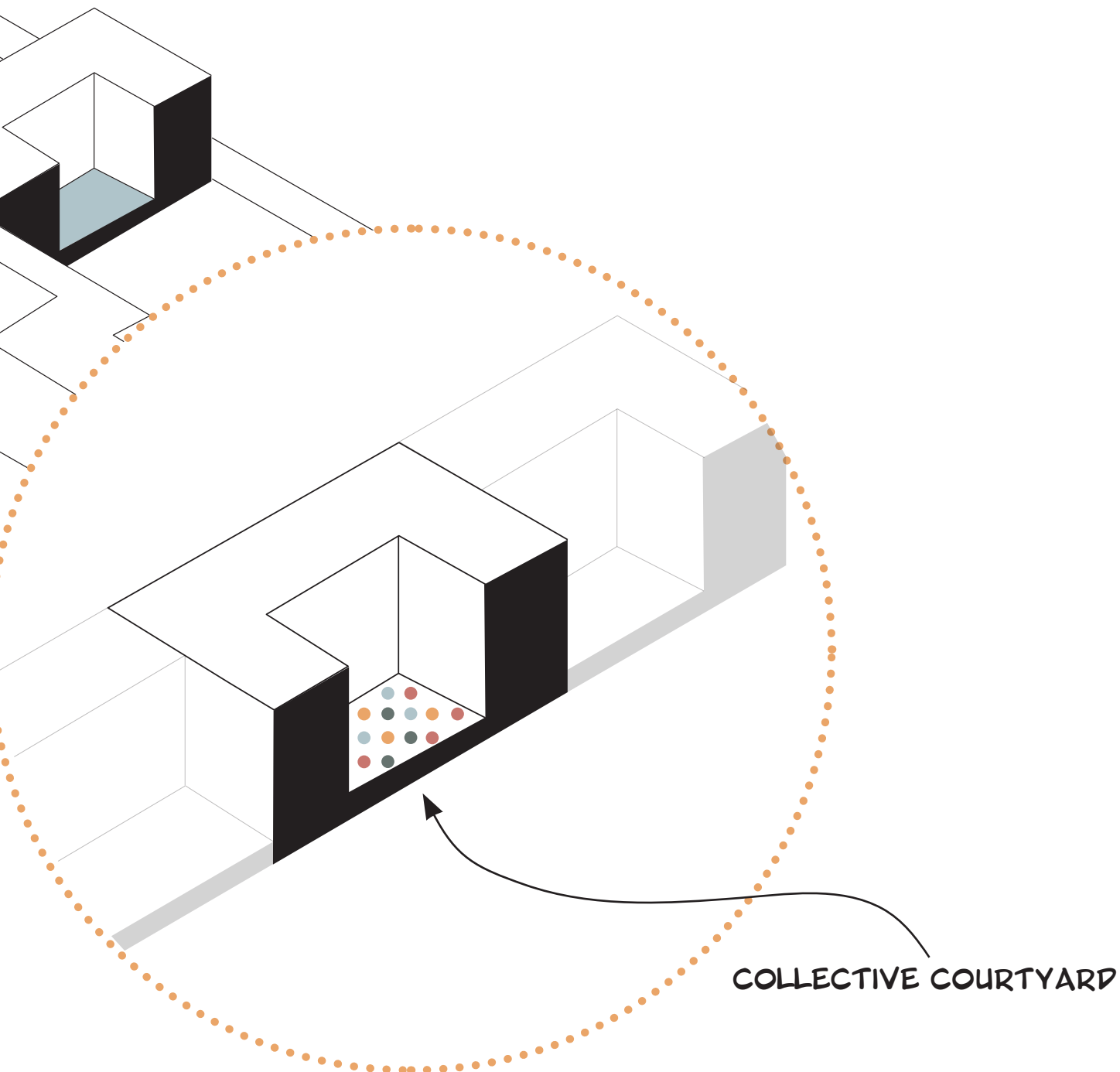
1990



archive photos Mietskaserne site







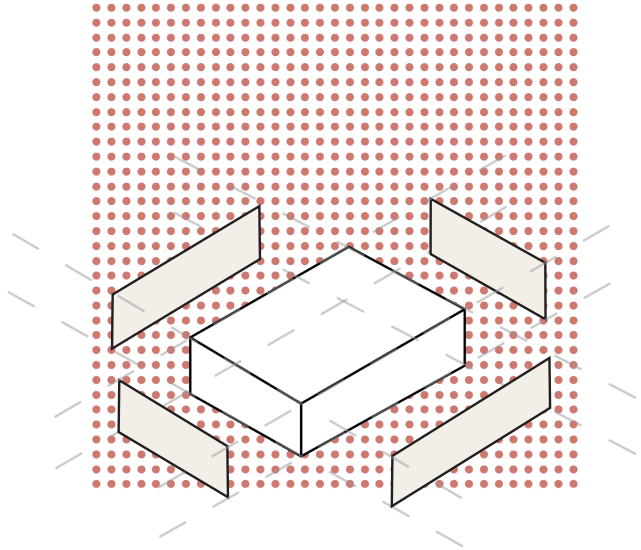
● ● ● ● *different social groups*

HOW DOES **BOUNDLESS ARCHITECTURE** CONNECT TO COMMONS?

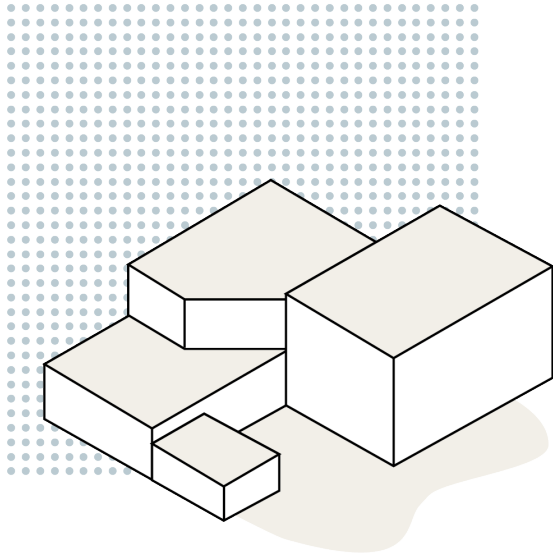
connecting through gathering space



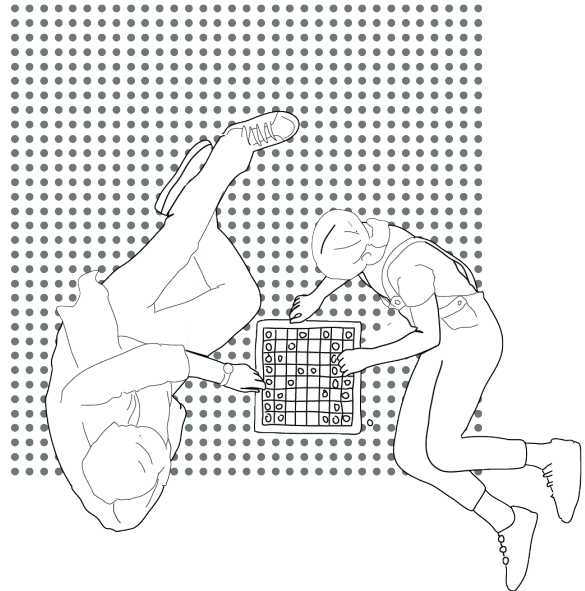
INCLUSIVE



FLEXIBILITY

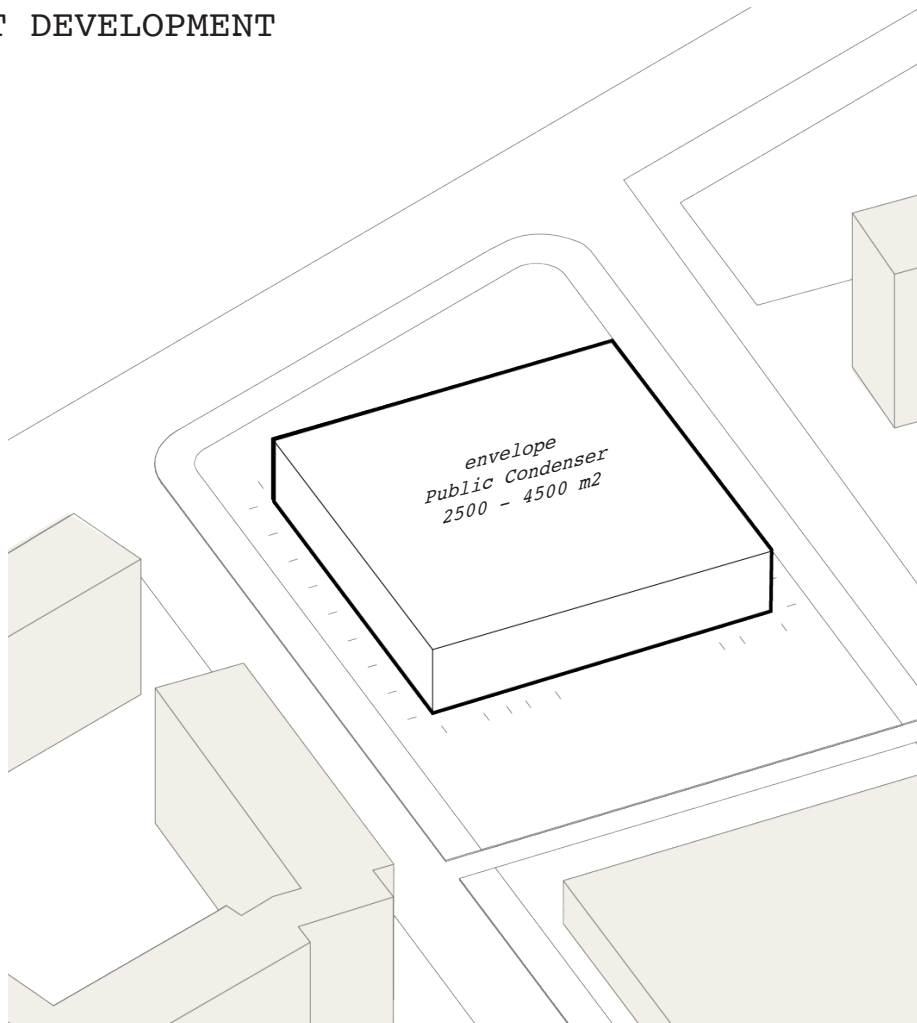


PARTICIPATION



SOCIAL COHESION

CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT



cultural

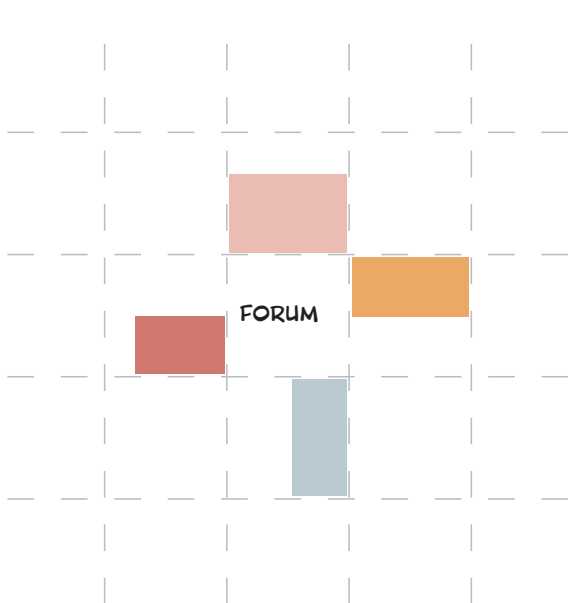
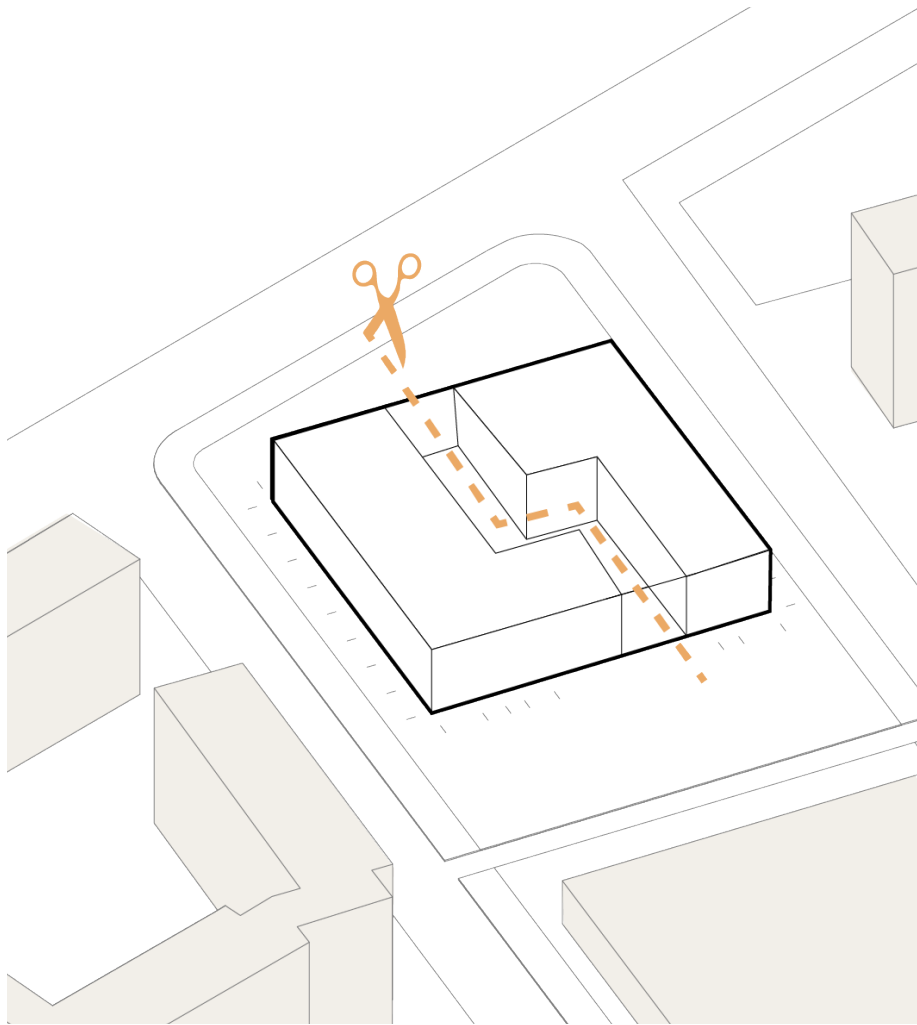
learn & create

movement

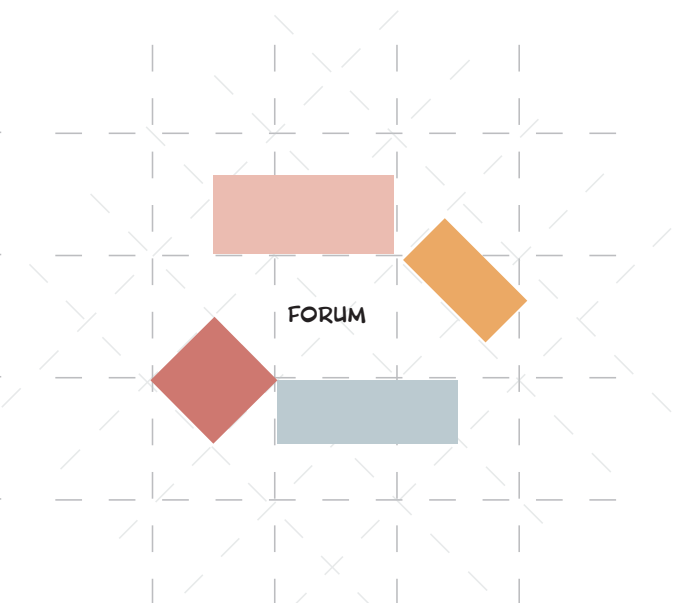
leisure

commerce

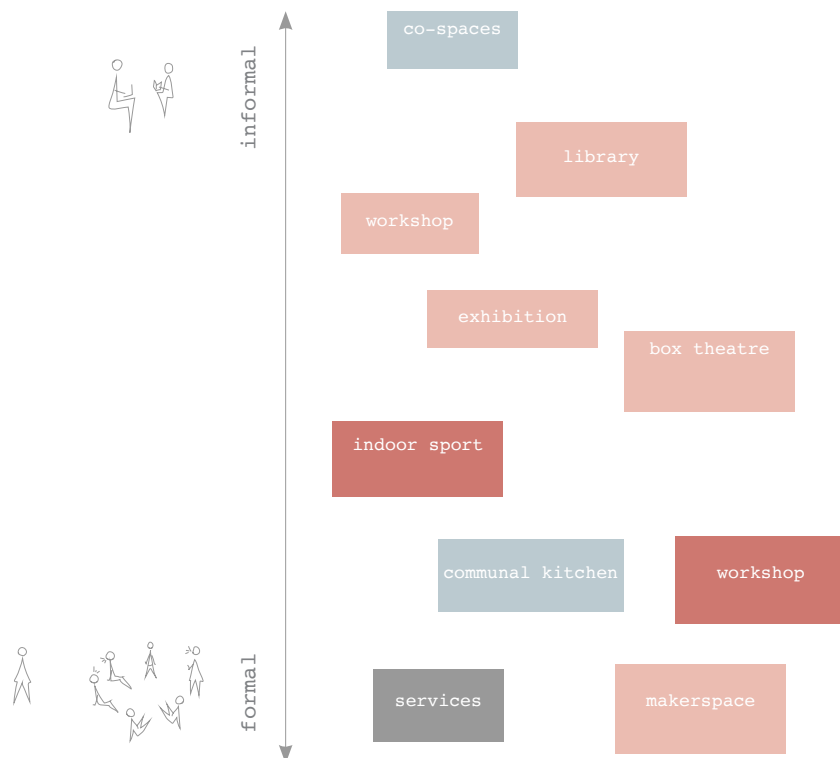
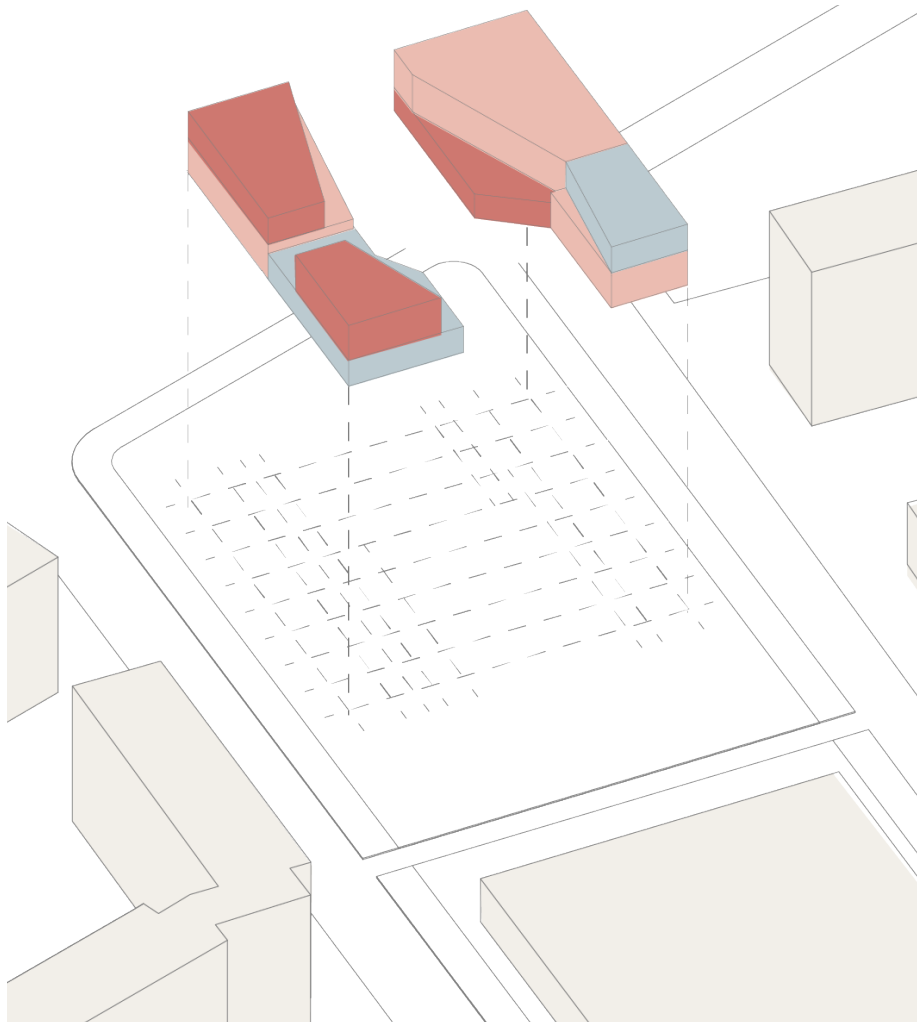
share & meet

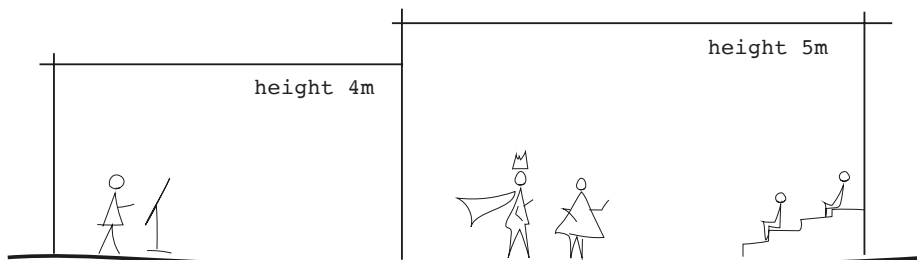
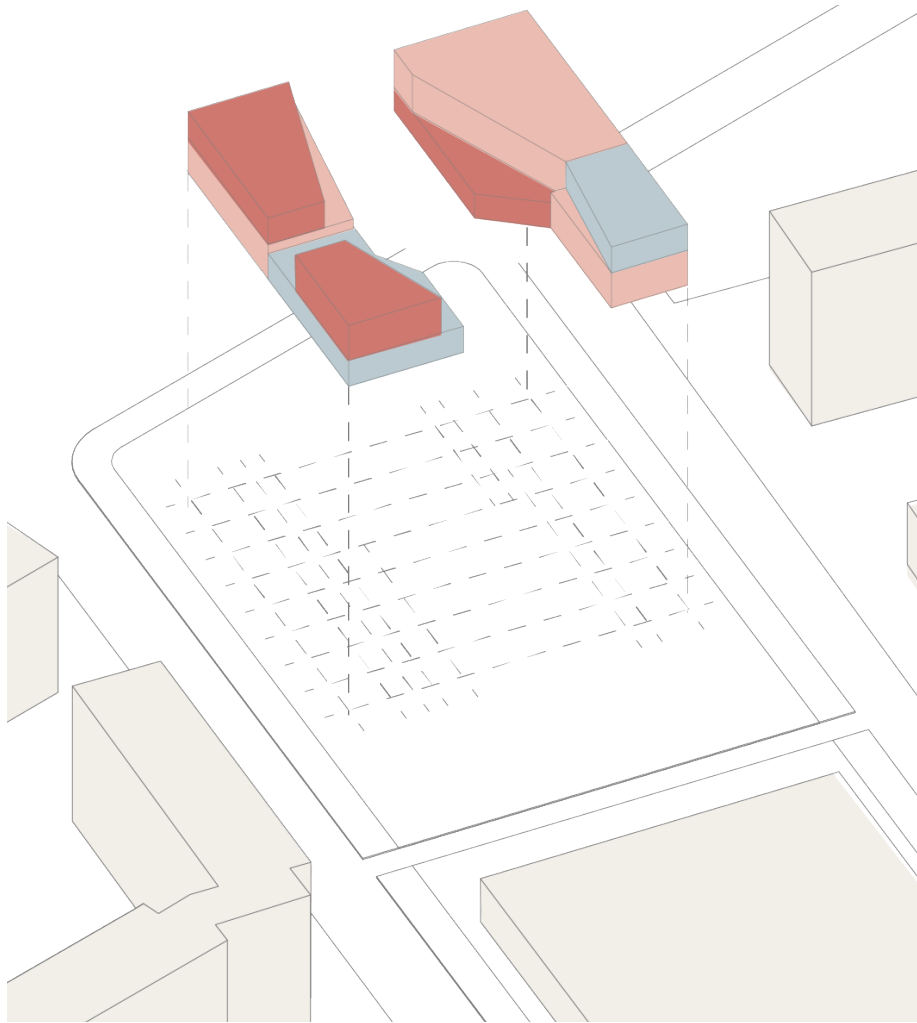


grid of 90°

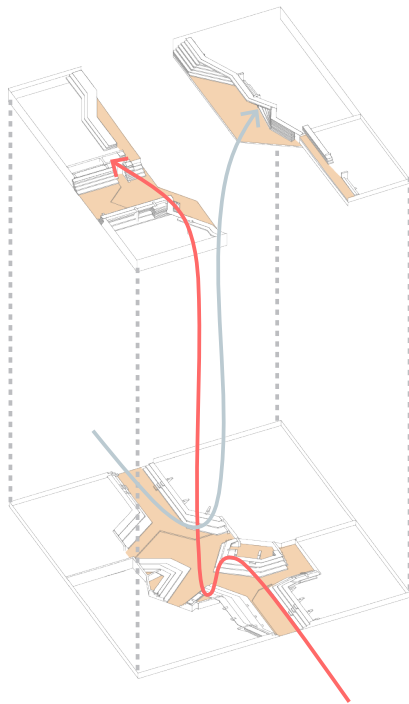
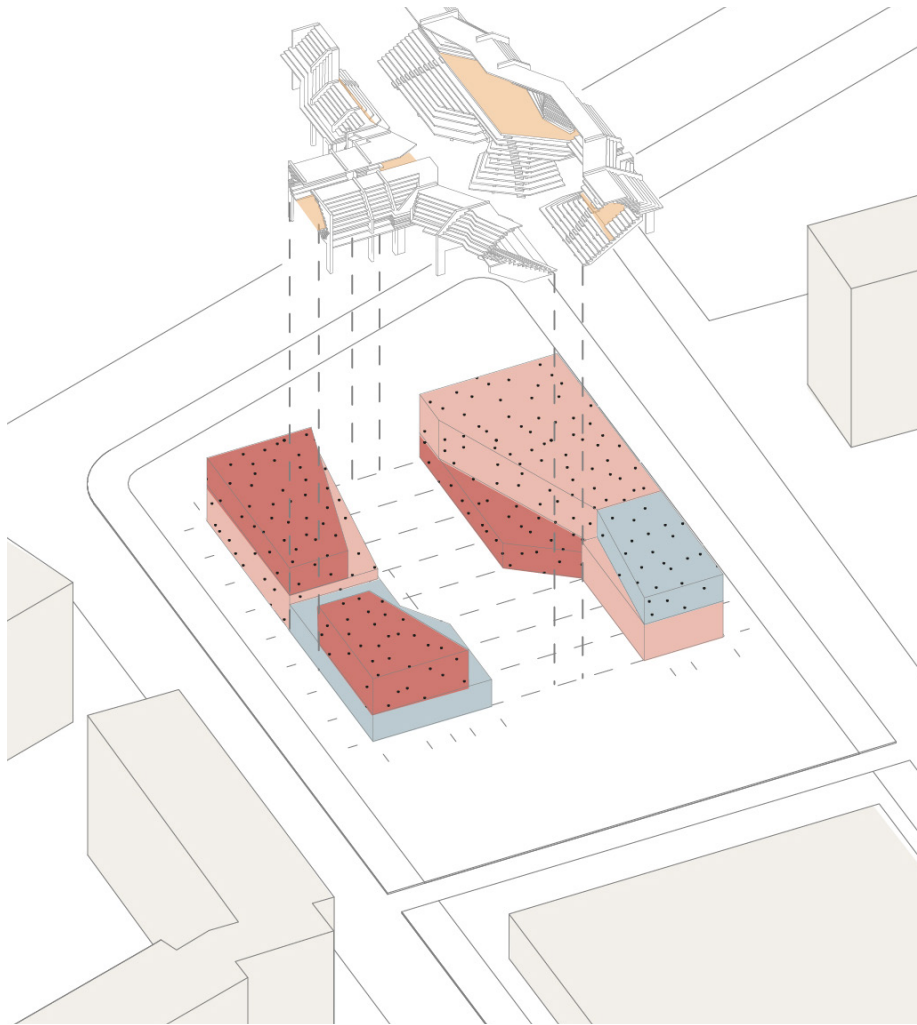


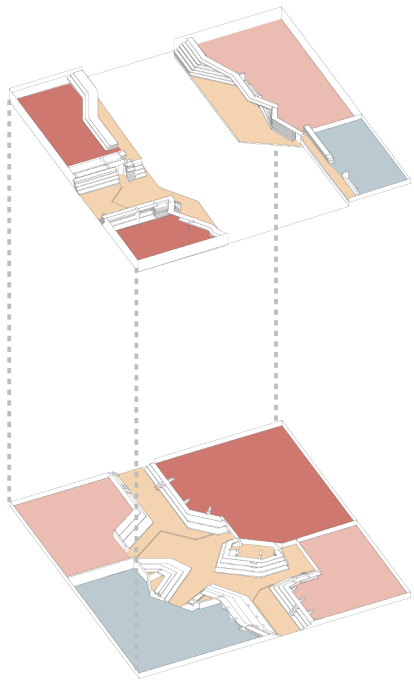
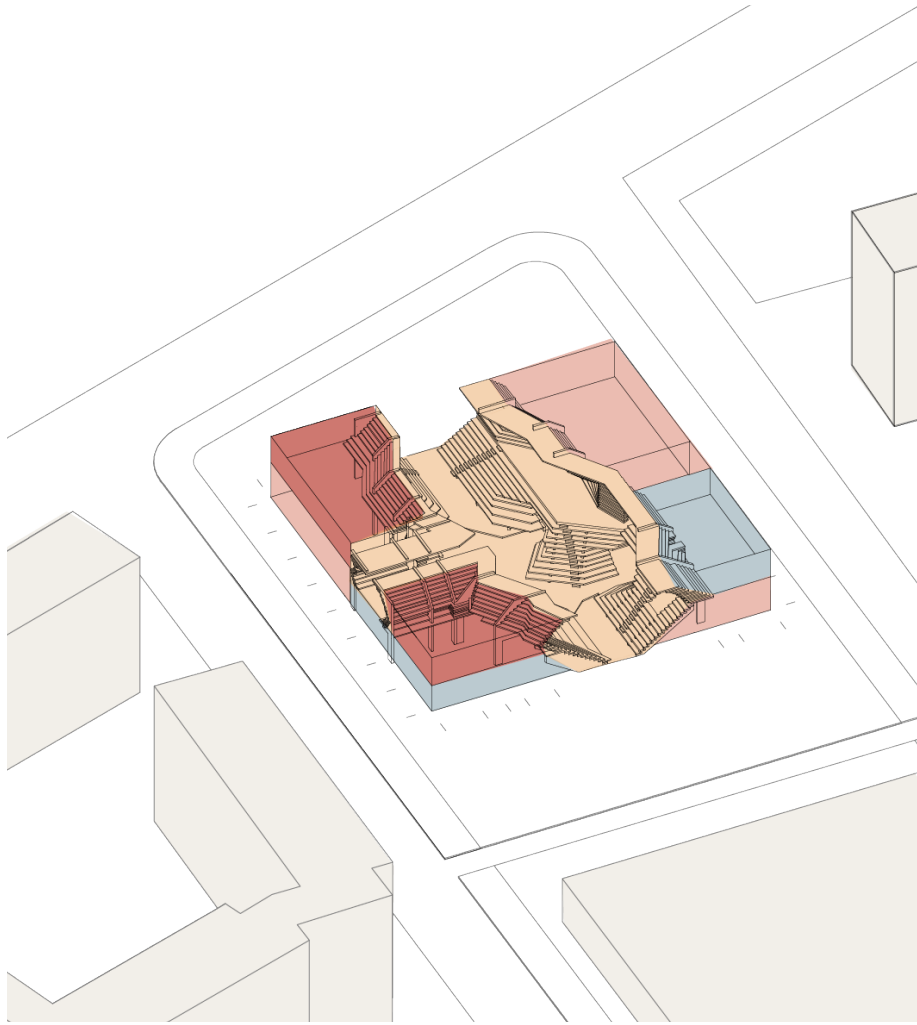
grid of 90° and secundair grid of 45°



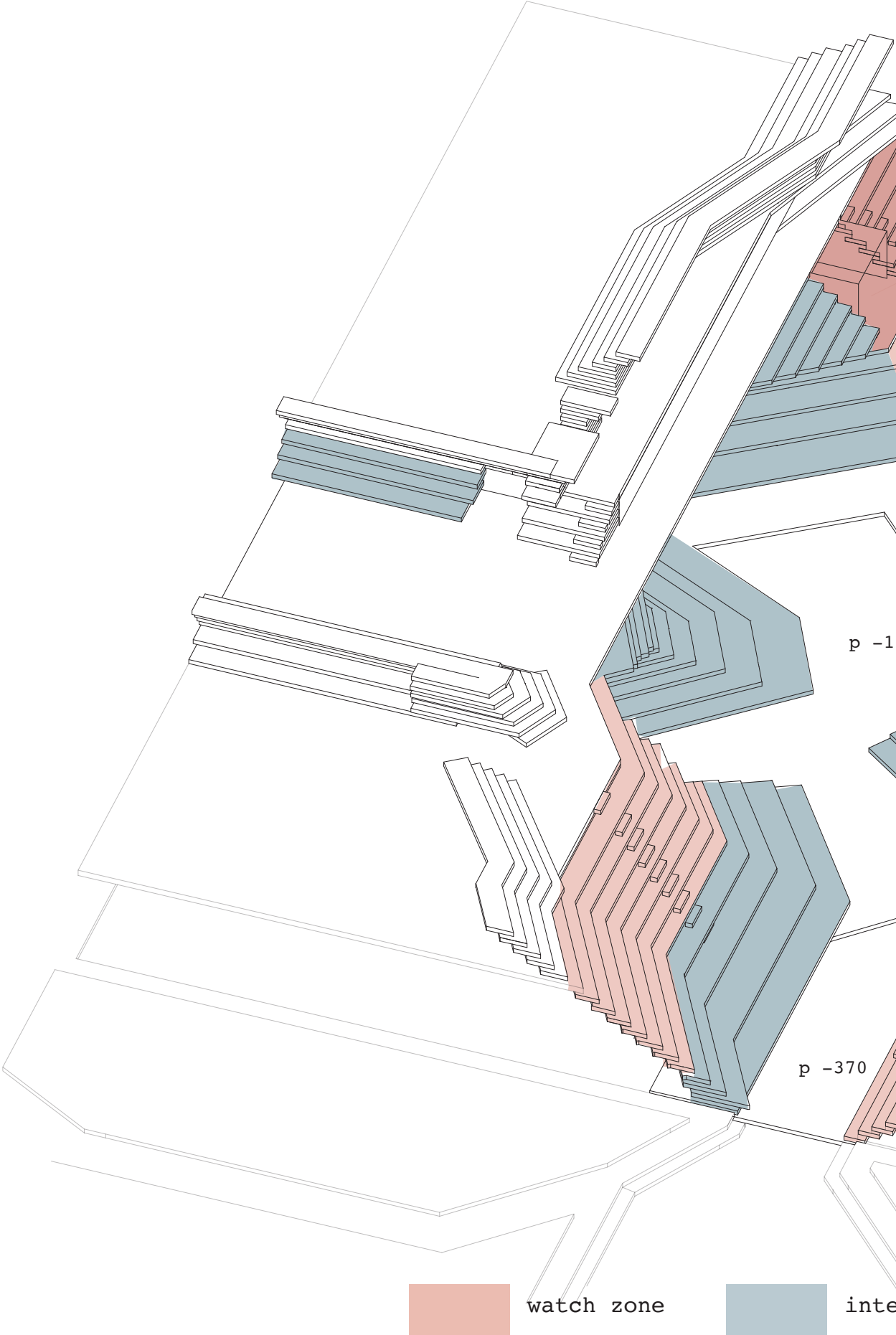


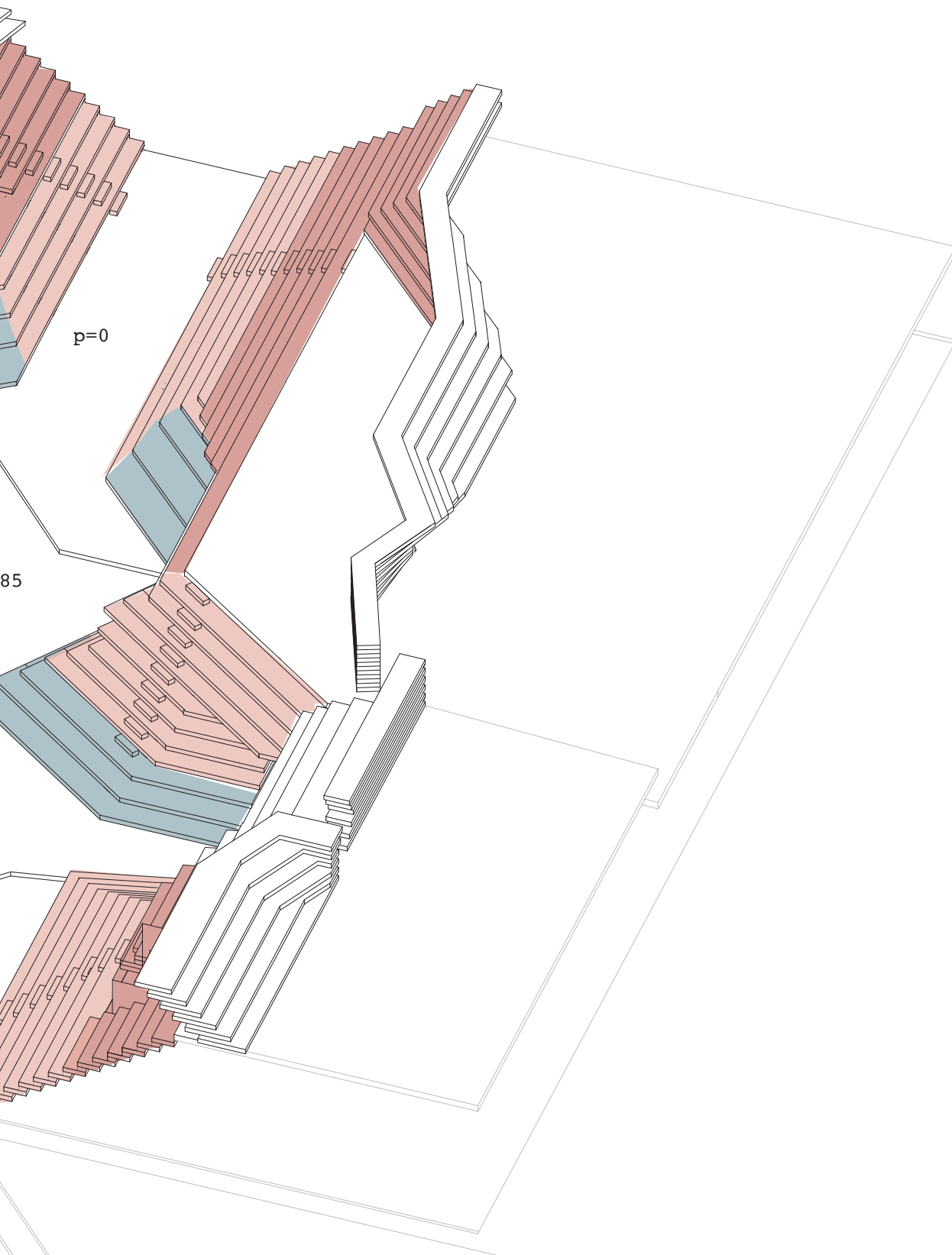
multifunctional spaces available
different heights





FORUM PRINCIPLE AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES





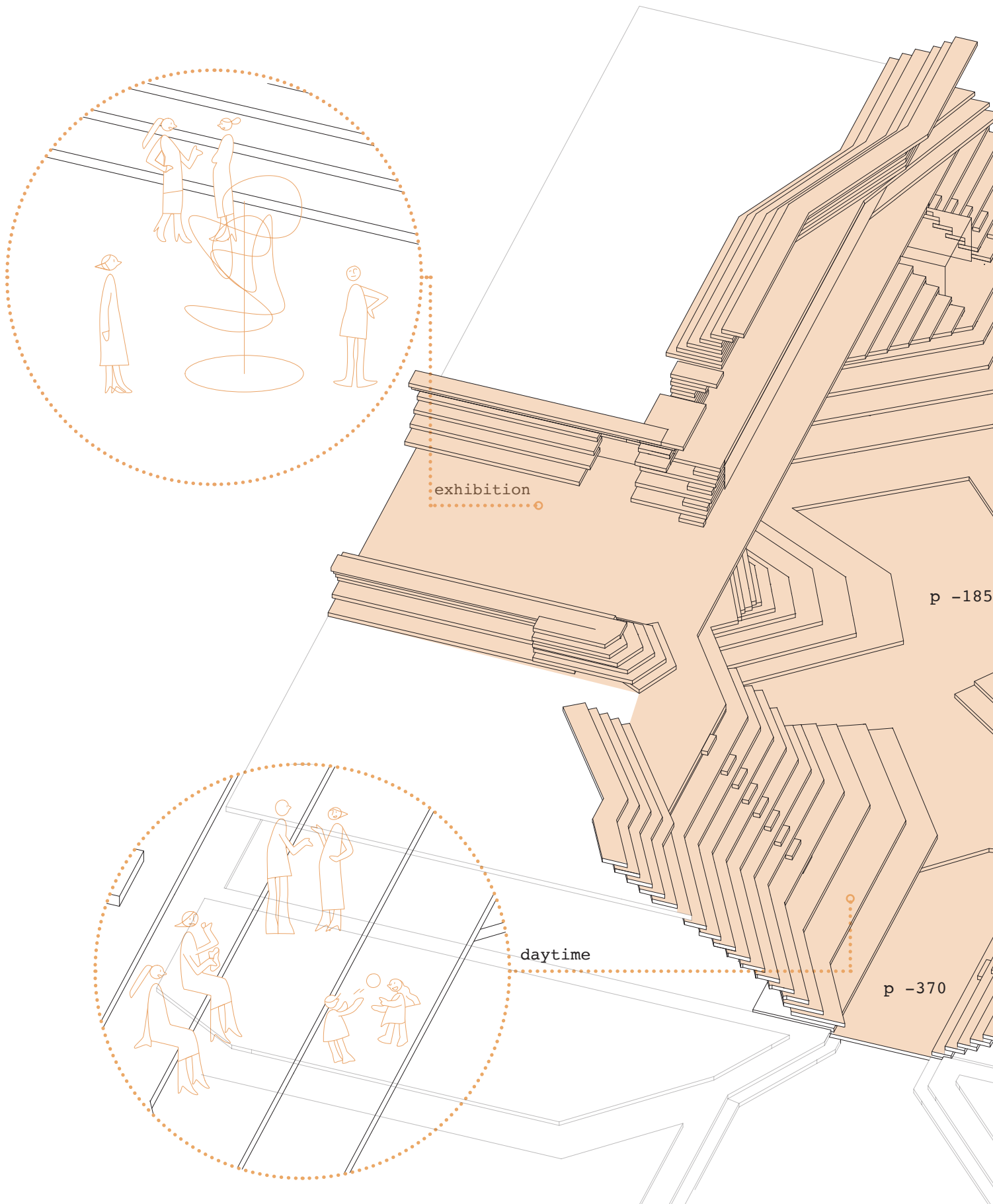
p=0

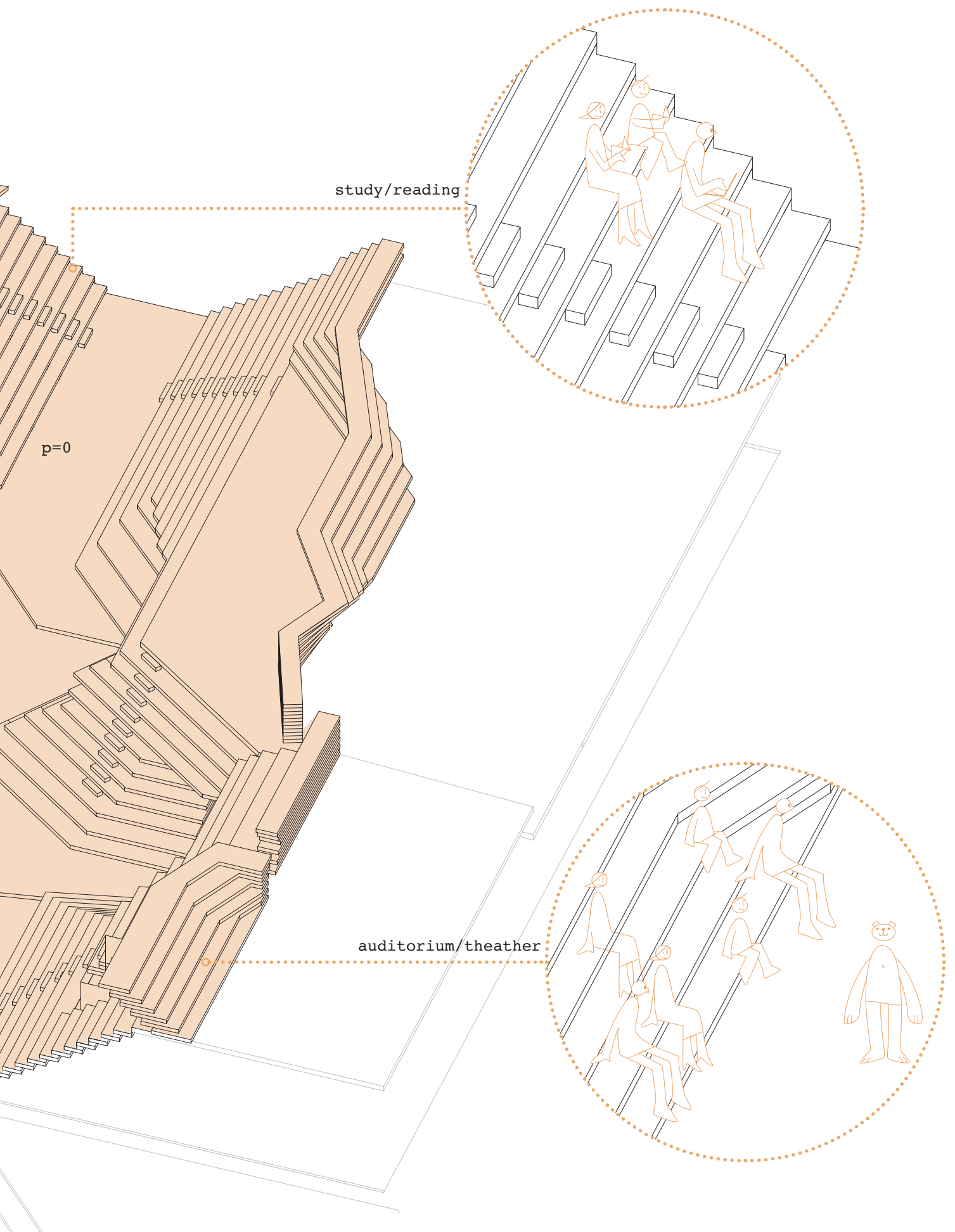
85

tract zone



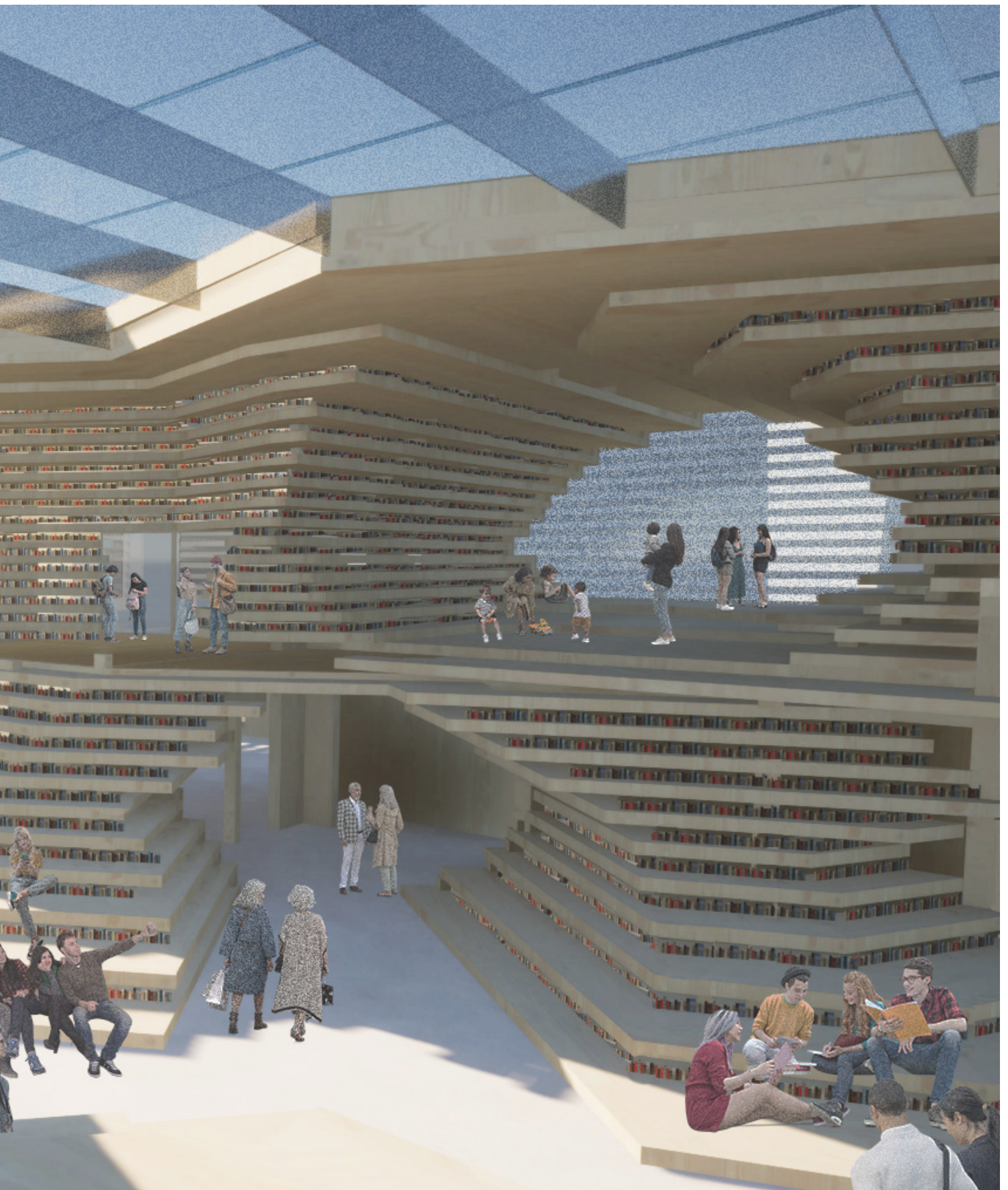
think/work zone





VIEW OF THE FORUM





VIEW OF THE FORUM





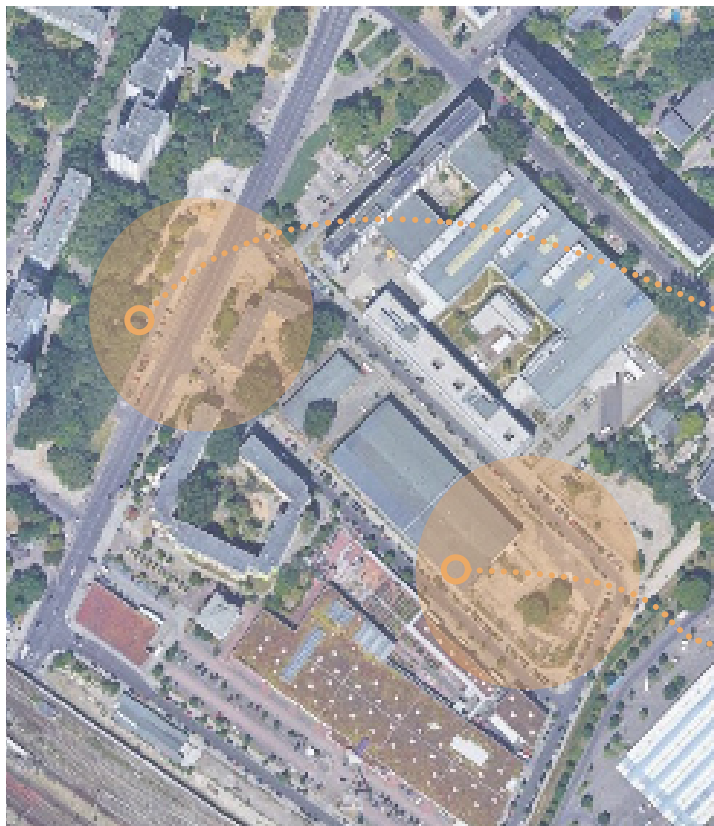
VIEW OF THE FORUM EVENING





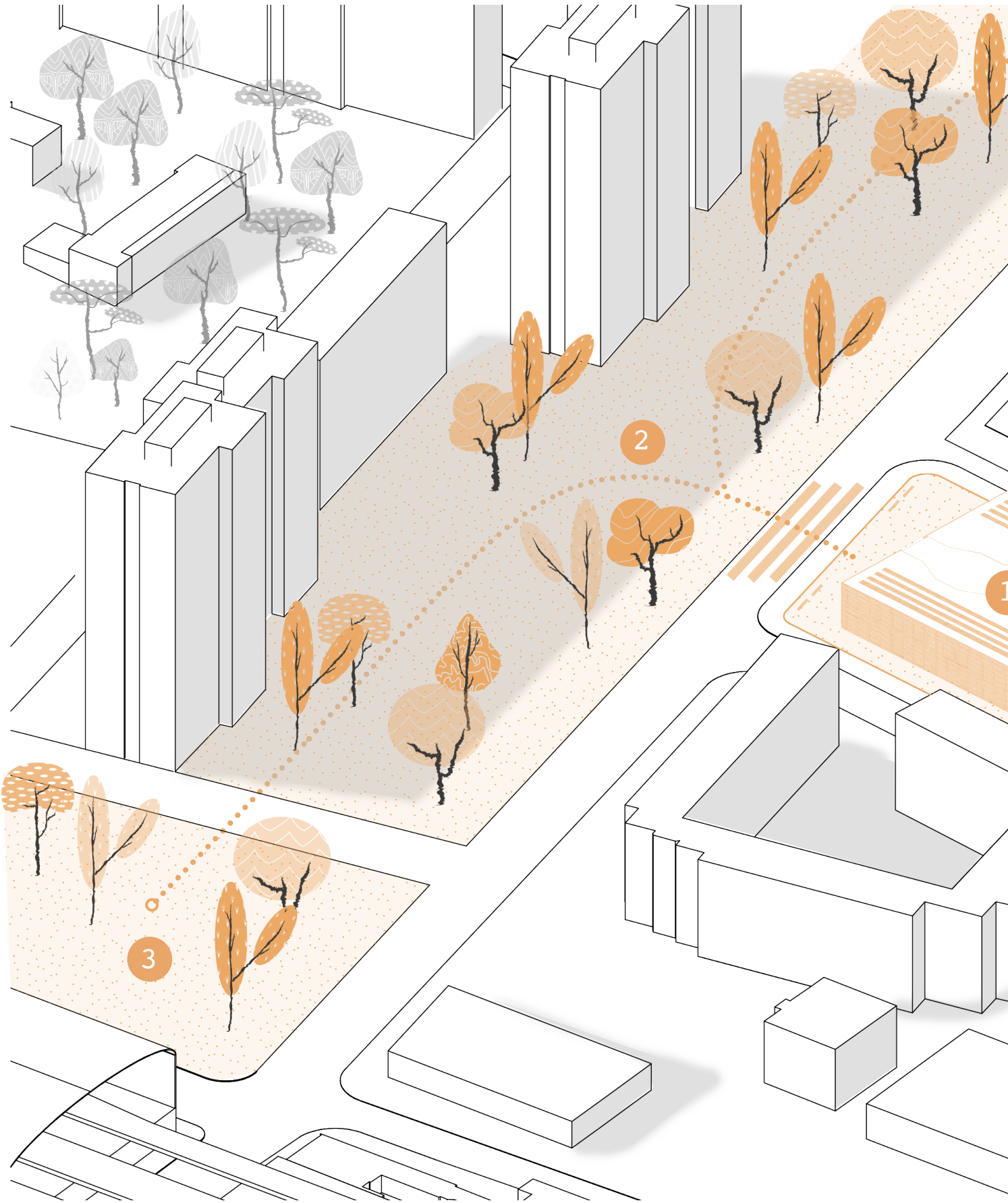
05 | Wriezener Karree // Design

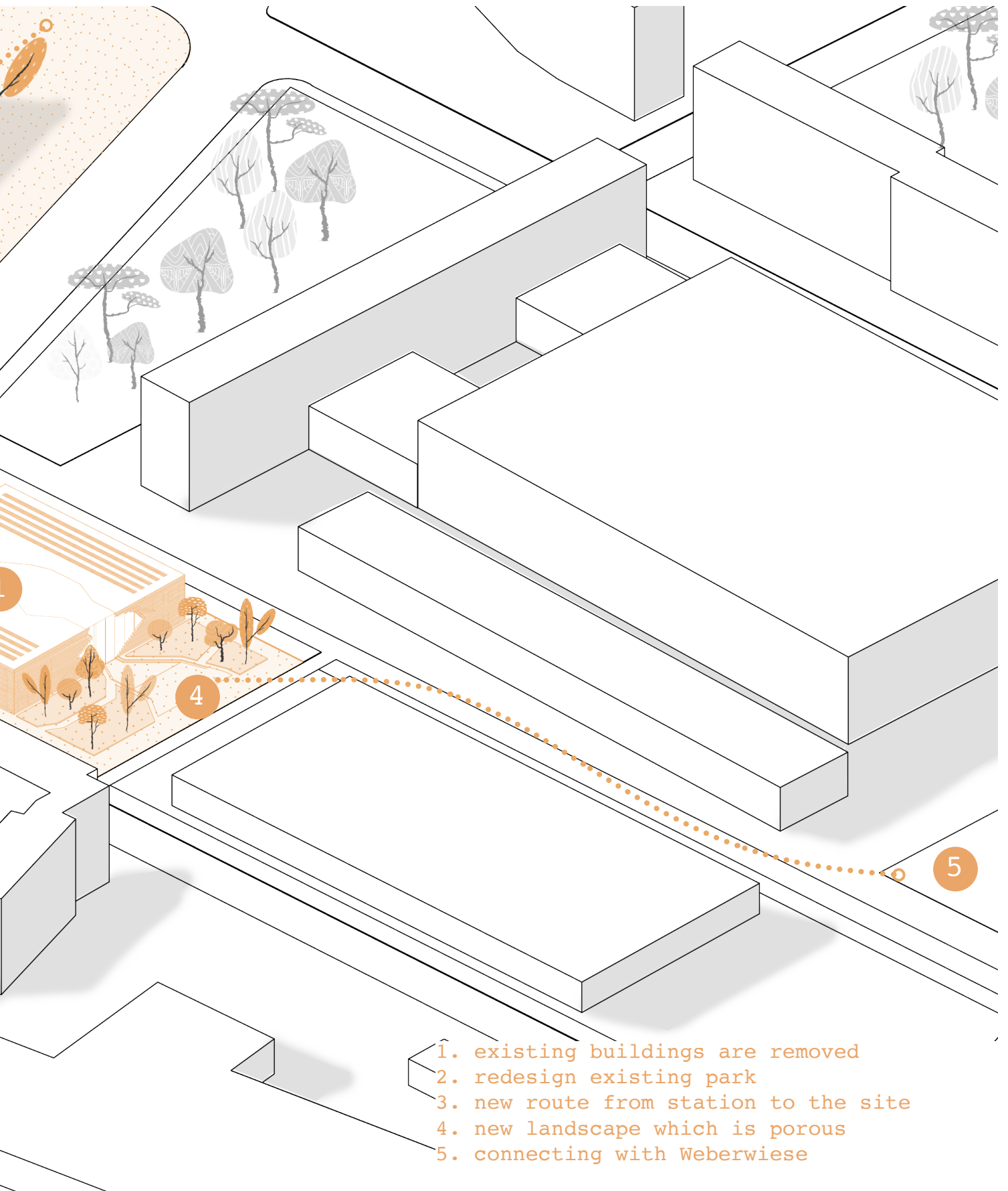
CURRENT SITUATION WRIEZENER KARREE



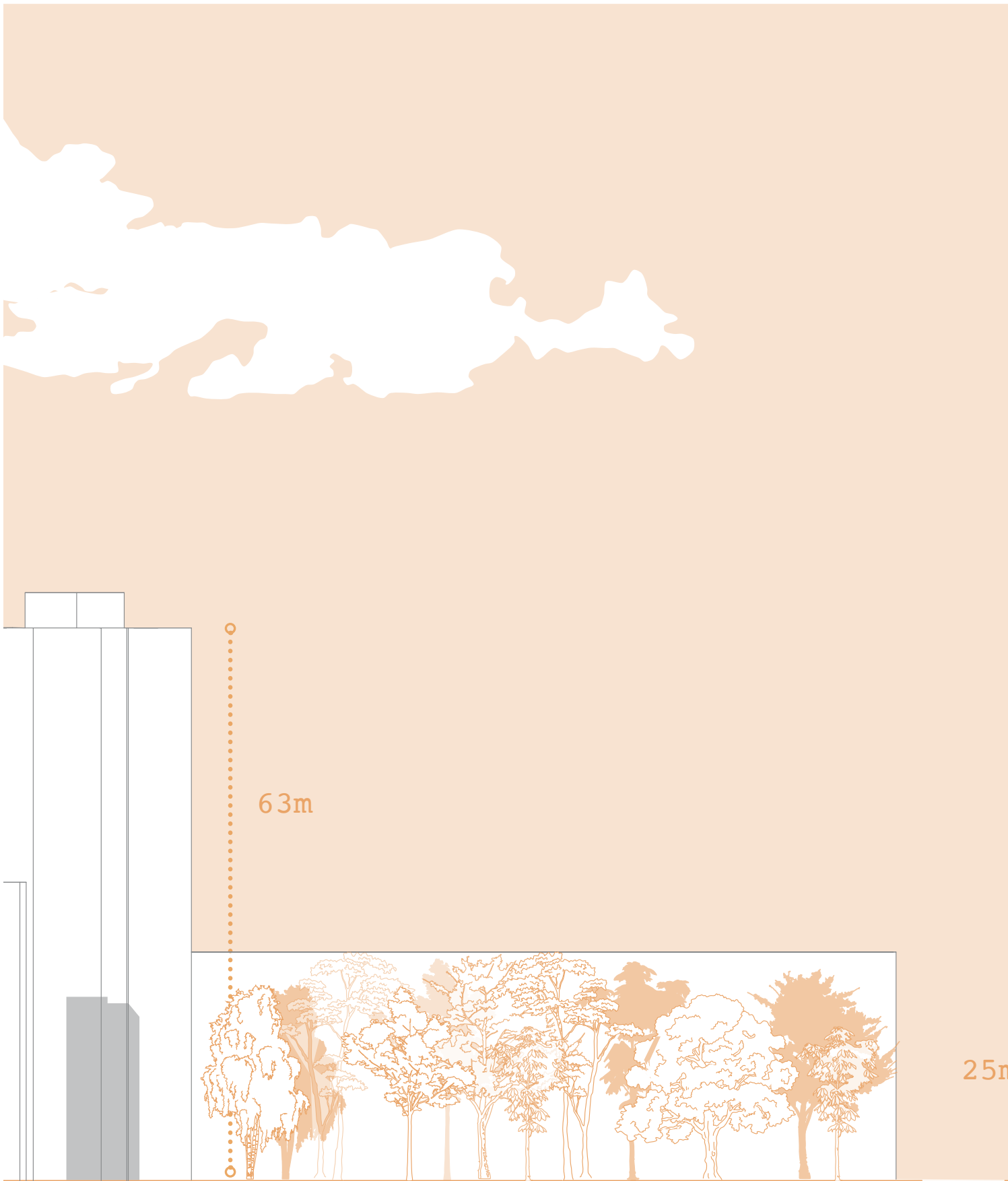
barriere through traffic and fences

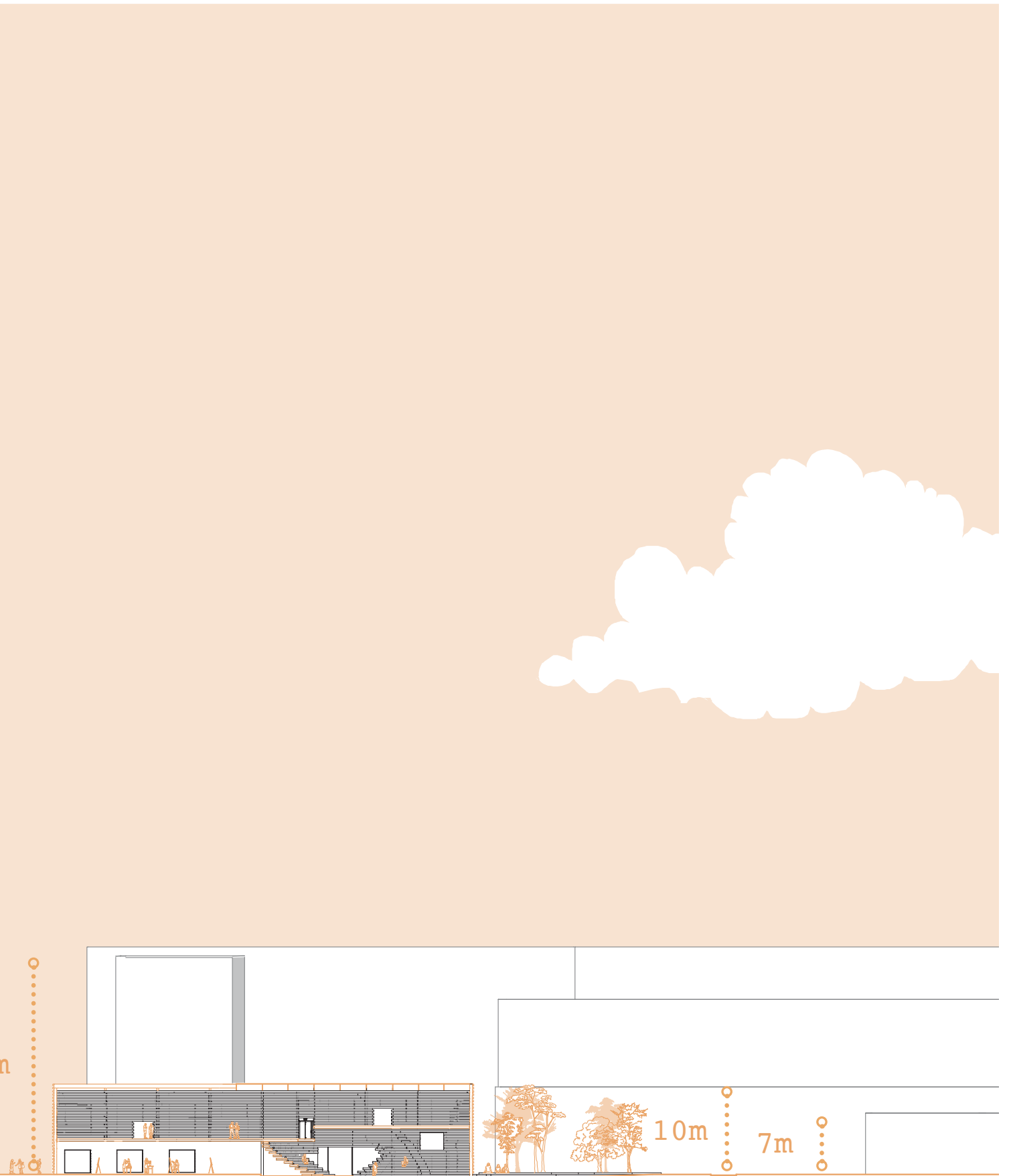
SITE STRATEGY





BUILDING HEIGHT OF SURROUNDING BUILDINGS



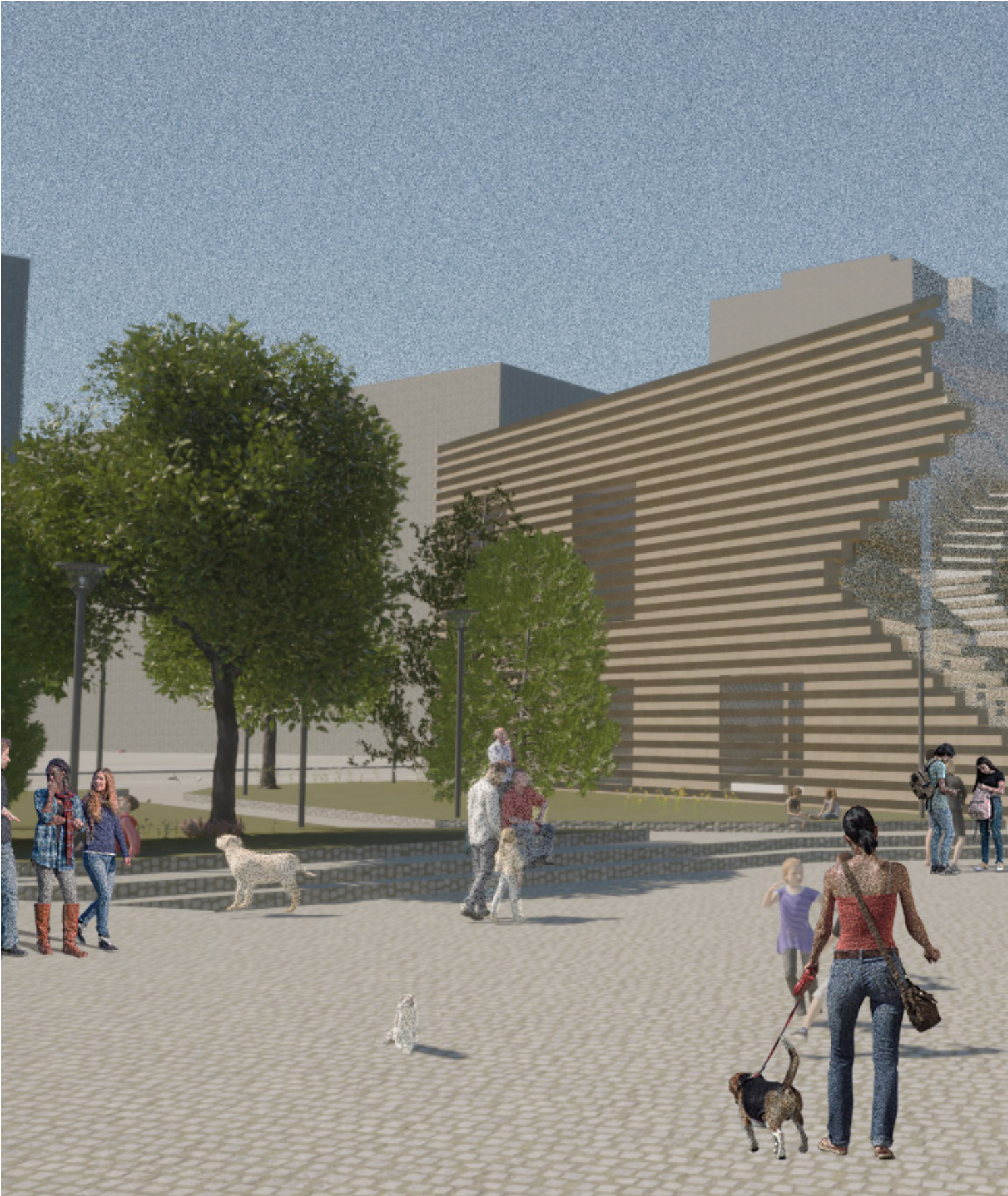


VIEW OF ENTRANCE FROM THE PARK

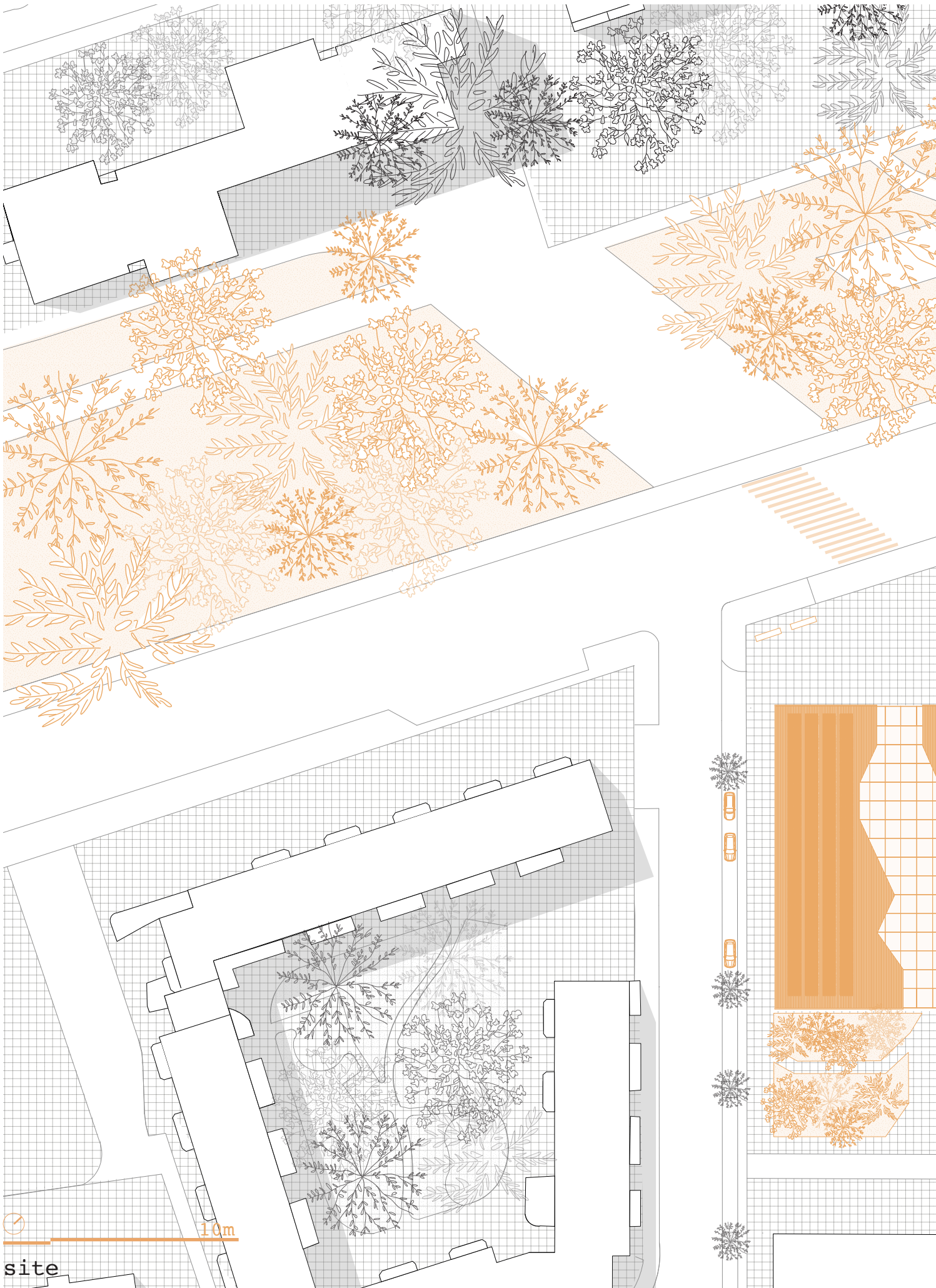




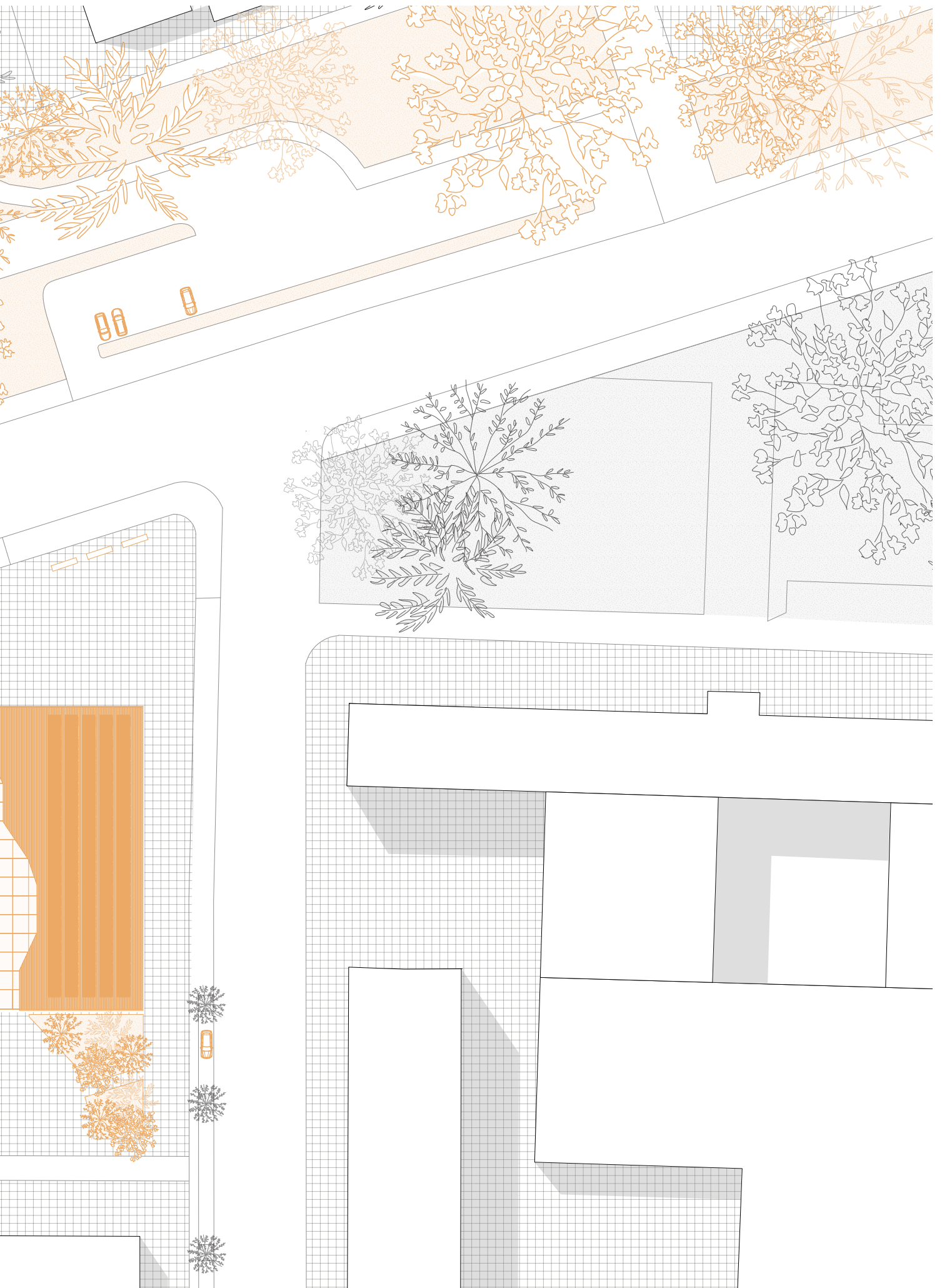
VIEW OF ENTRANCE FROM THE GARDEN



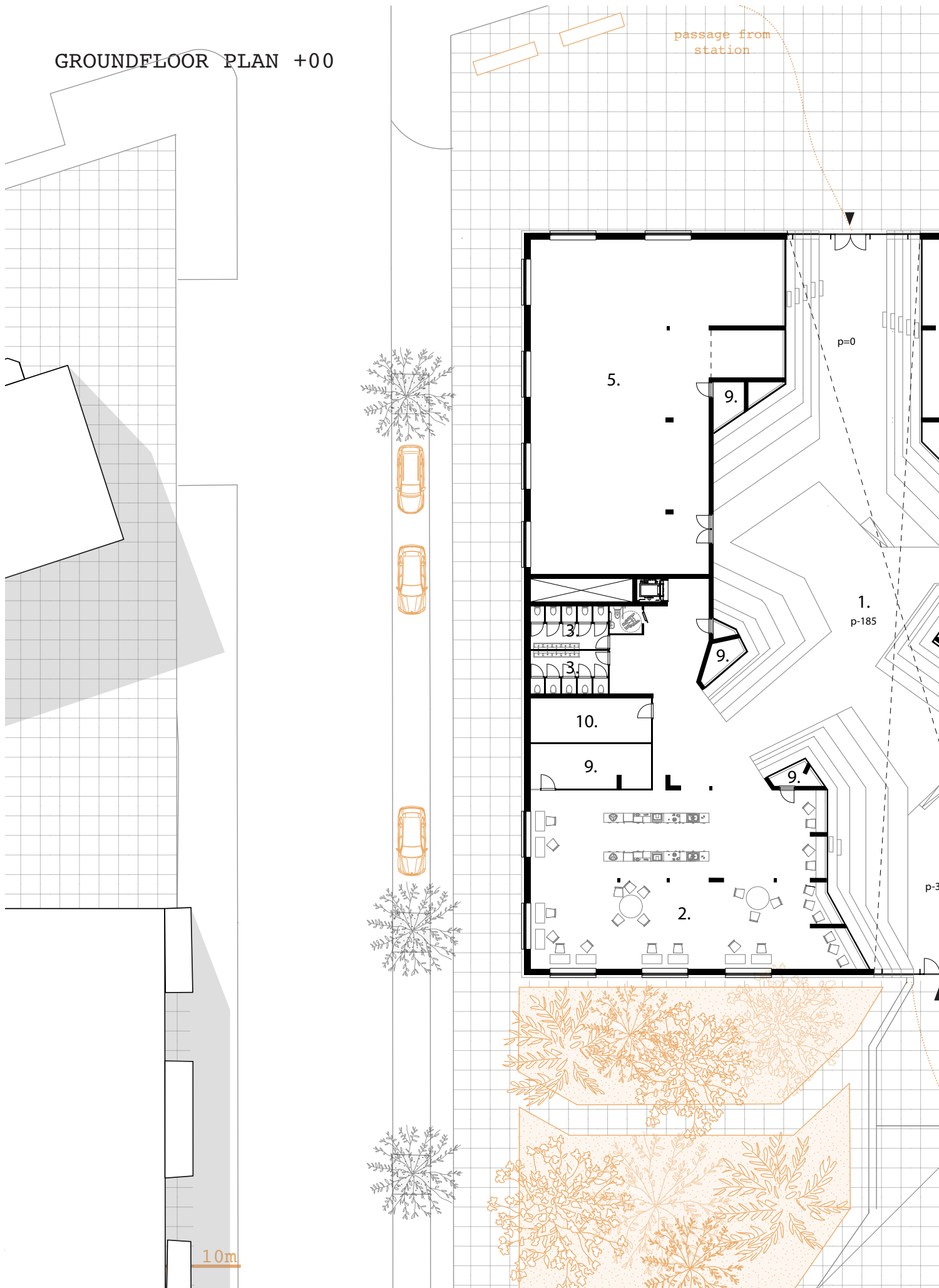


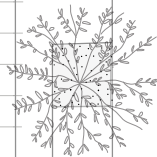
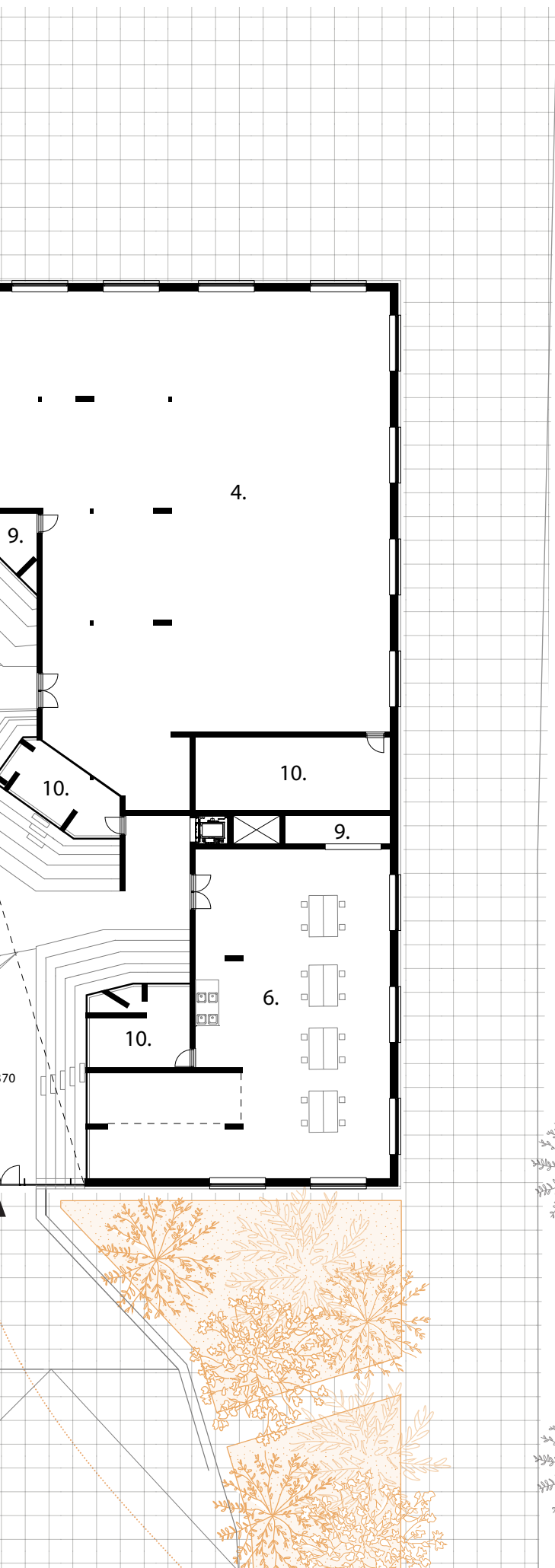


site



GROUND FLOOR PLAN +00





legend

1. forum
2. communal kitchen
3. toilet
4. multifunctional space height 4m
5. multifunctional space height 5m
6. makerspace
7. library zone
8. work/study zone
9. storage
10. technical space

communal kitchen - interior



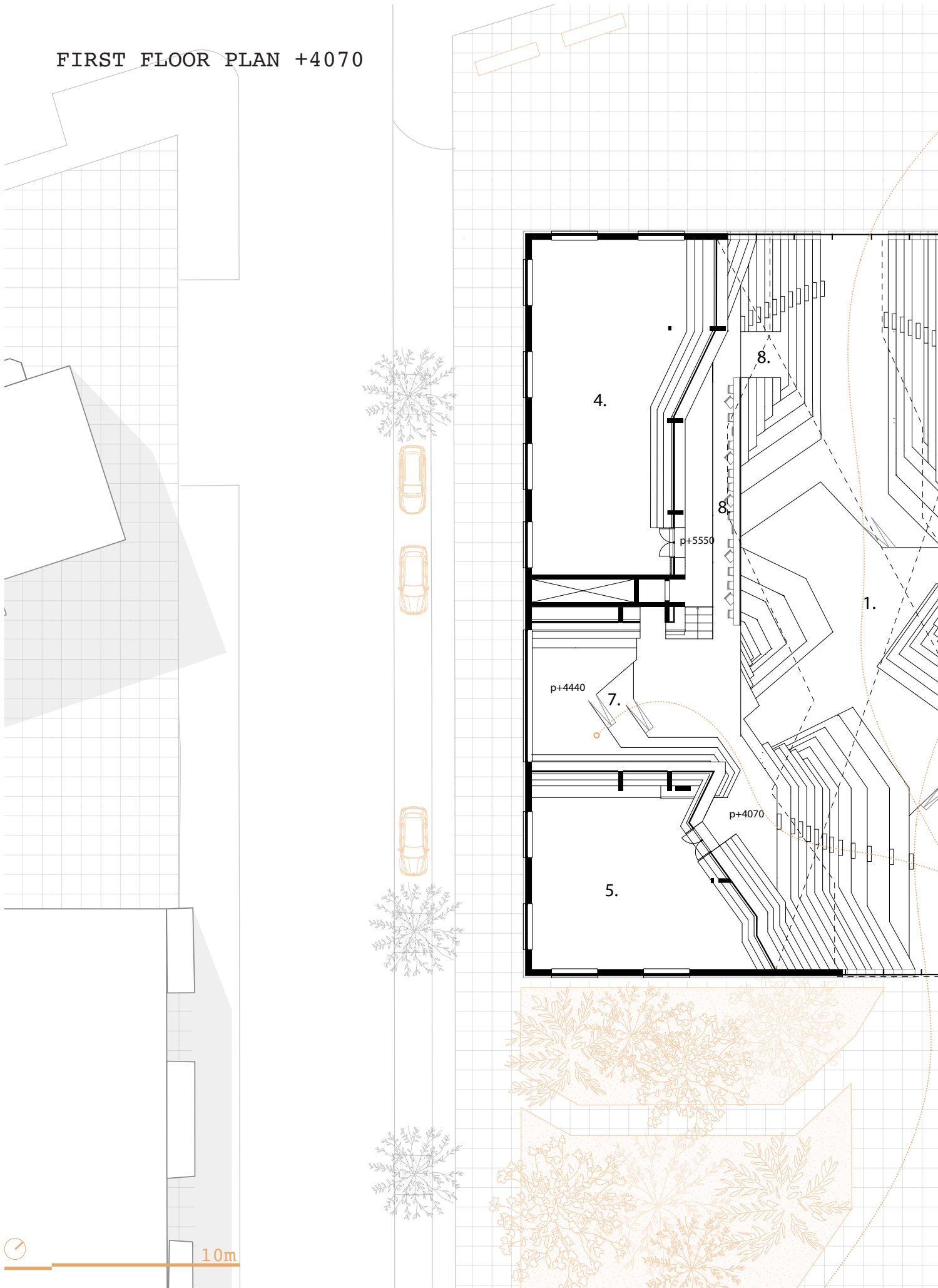


multifunctional space - interior

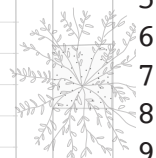
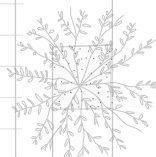
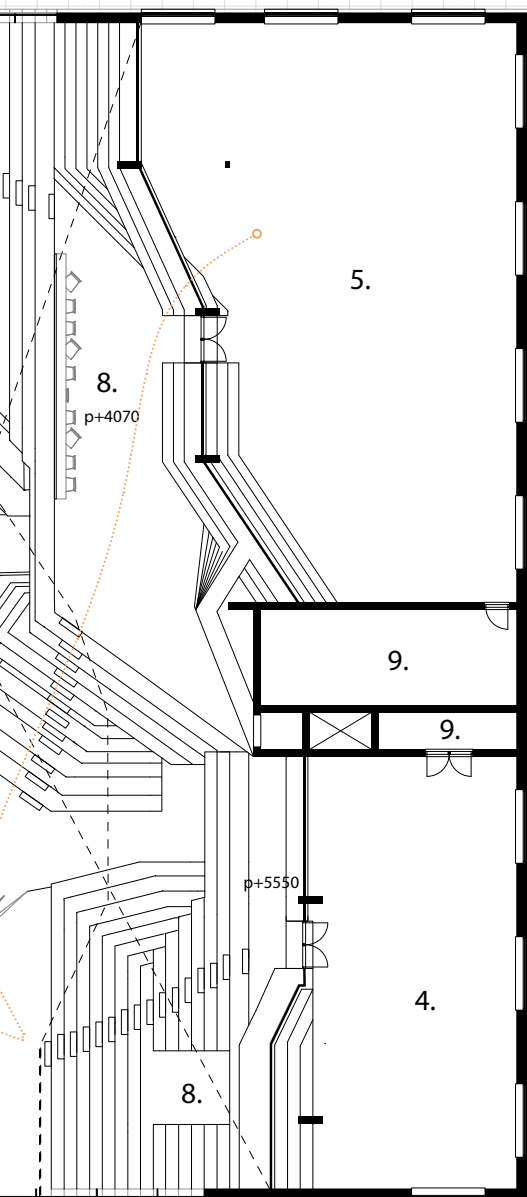




FIRST FLOOR PLAN +4070



10m



legend

1. forum
2. communal kitchen
3. toilet
4. multifunctional space height 4m
5. multifunctional space height 5m
6. makerspace
7. library zone
8. work/study zone
9. storage
10. technical space

library - interior



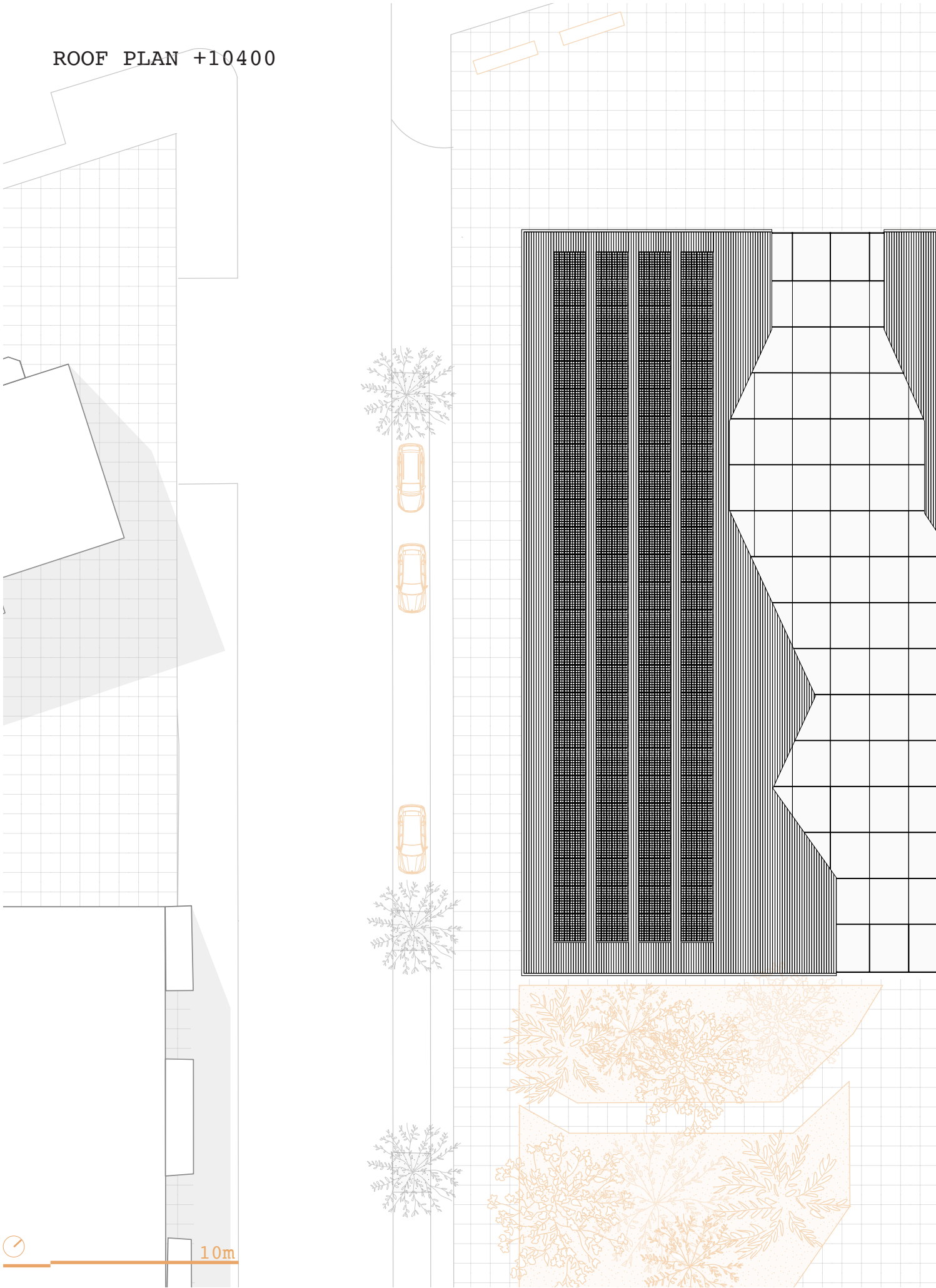


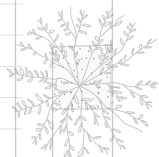
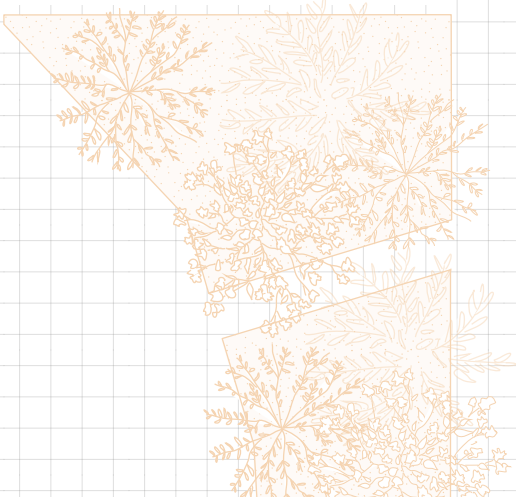
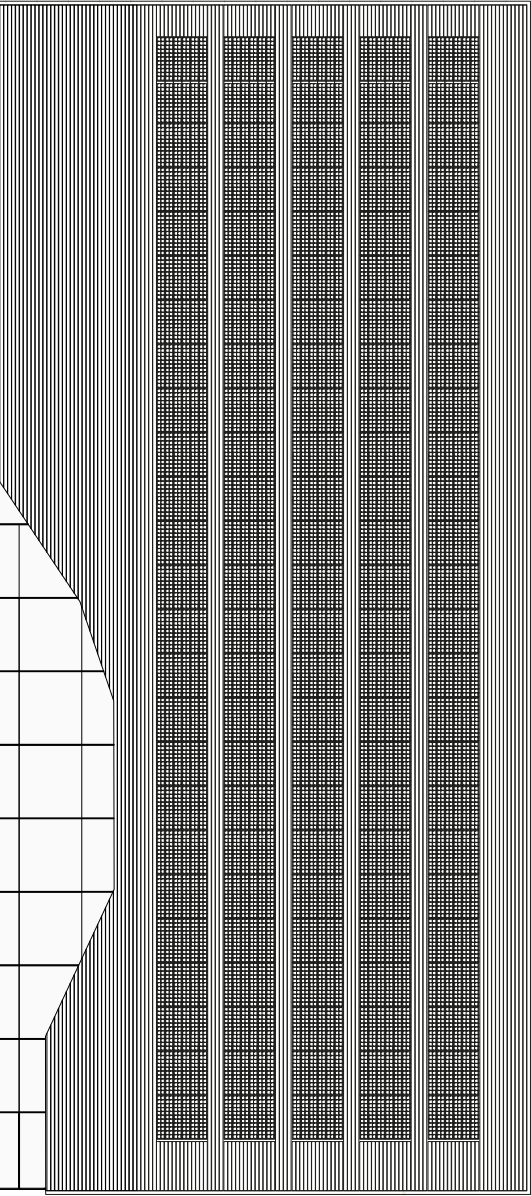
multifunctional space - interior



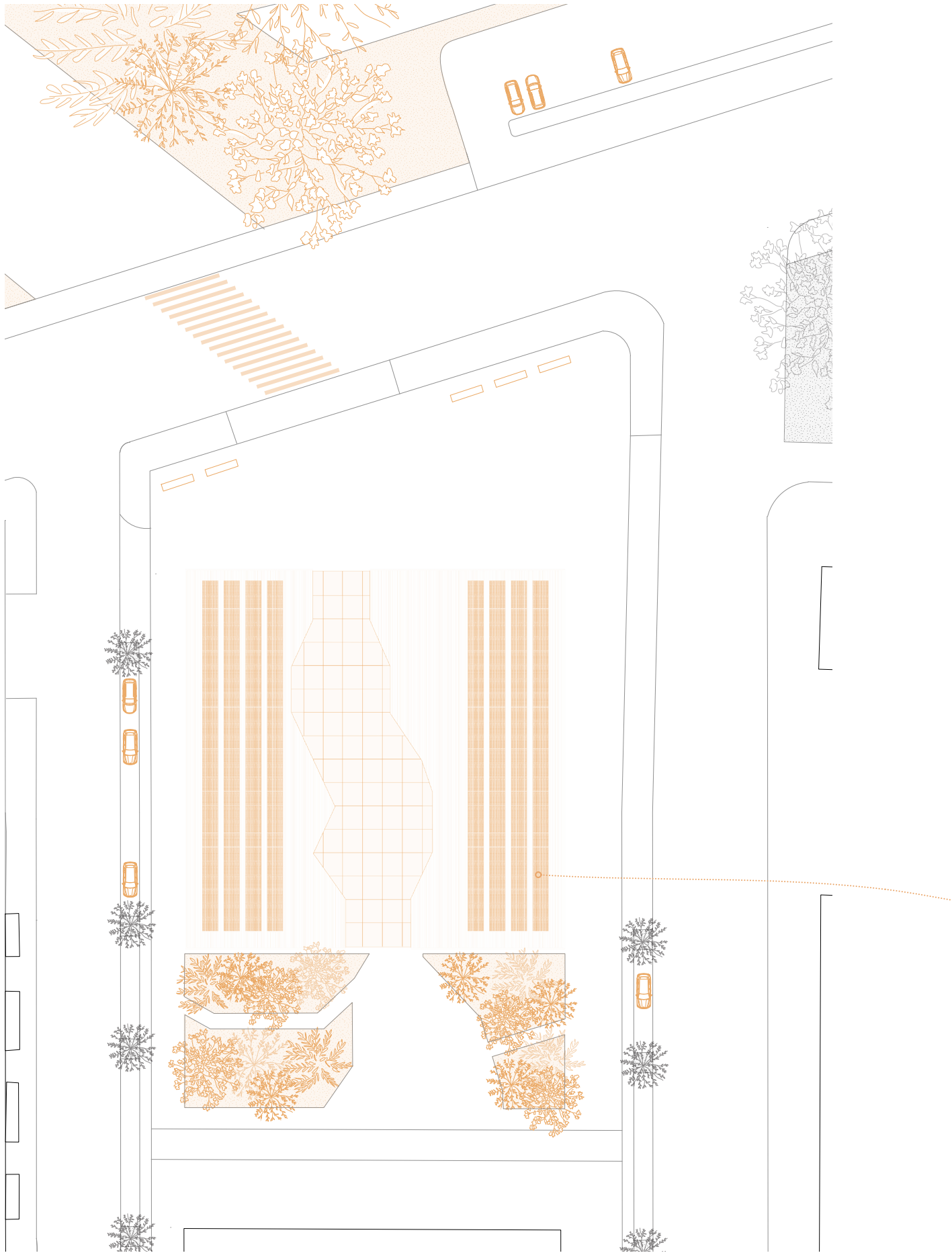


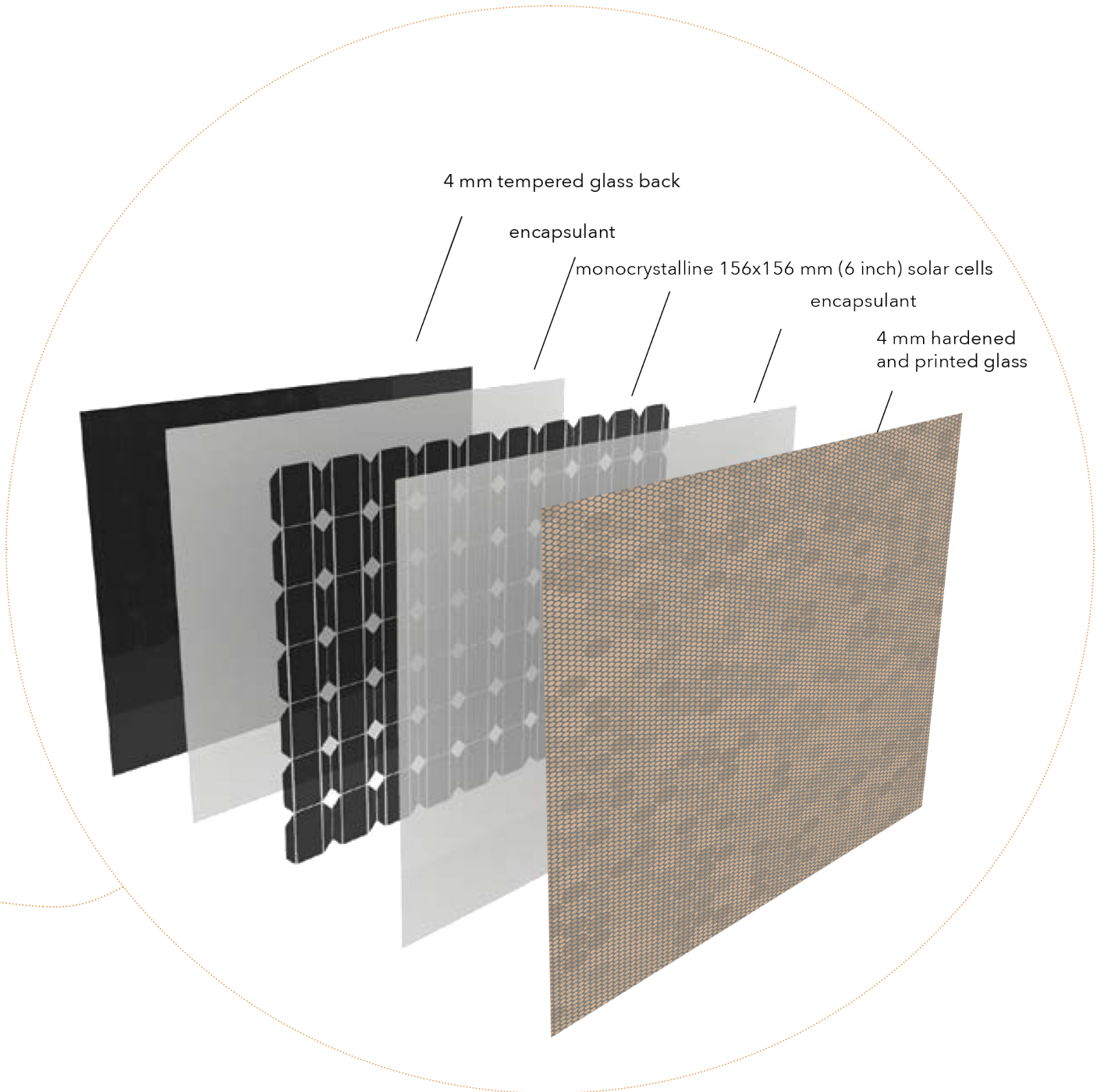
ROOF PLAN +10400





ROOFSCAPE WRIEZENER KARREE





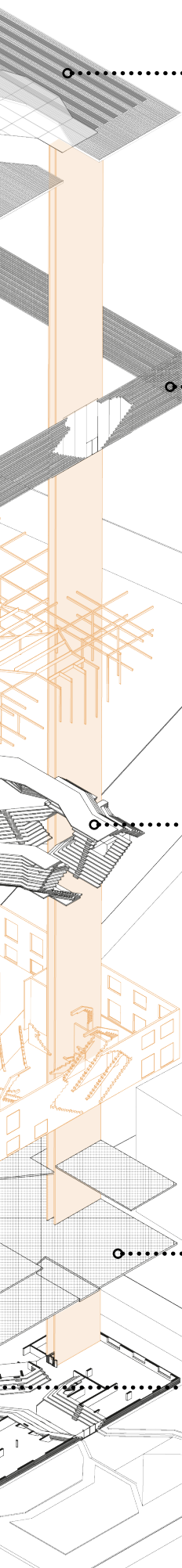
(Sources: Solarix, 2023)

STRUCTURE WRIEZENER KARREE

GLULAM column and beams
supporting the floors and
roof

structural cores
concrete cores supporting
the roof and structure

secondary structure
Cross Laminated Timber
walls and stringer tribune
Forum



roof

Gradwood cladding
skylight
colored PV panels

skin

Gradwood horizontal cladding fixed
to facade railing system
Jumbo glass panels fixed to
structural glass fins and beams

Forum

Cross Laminated Timber elements

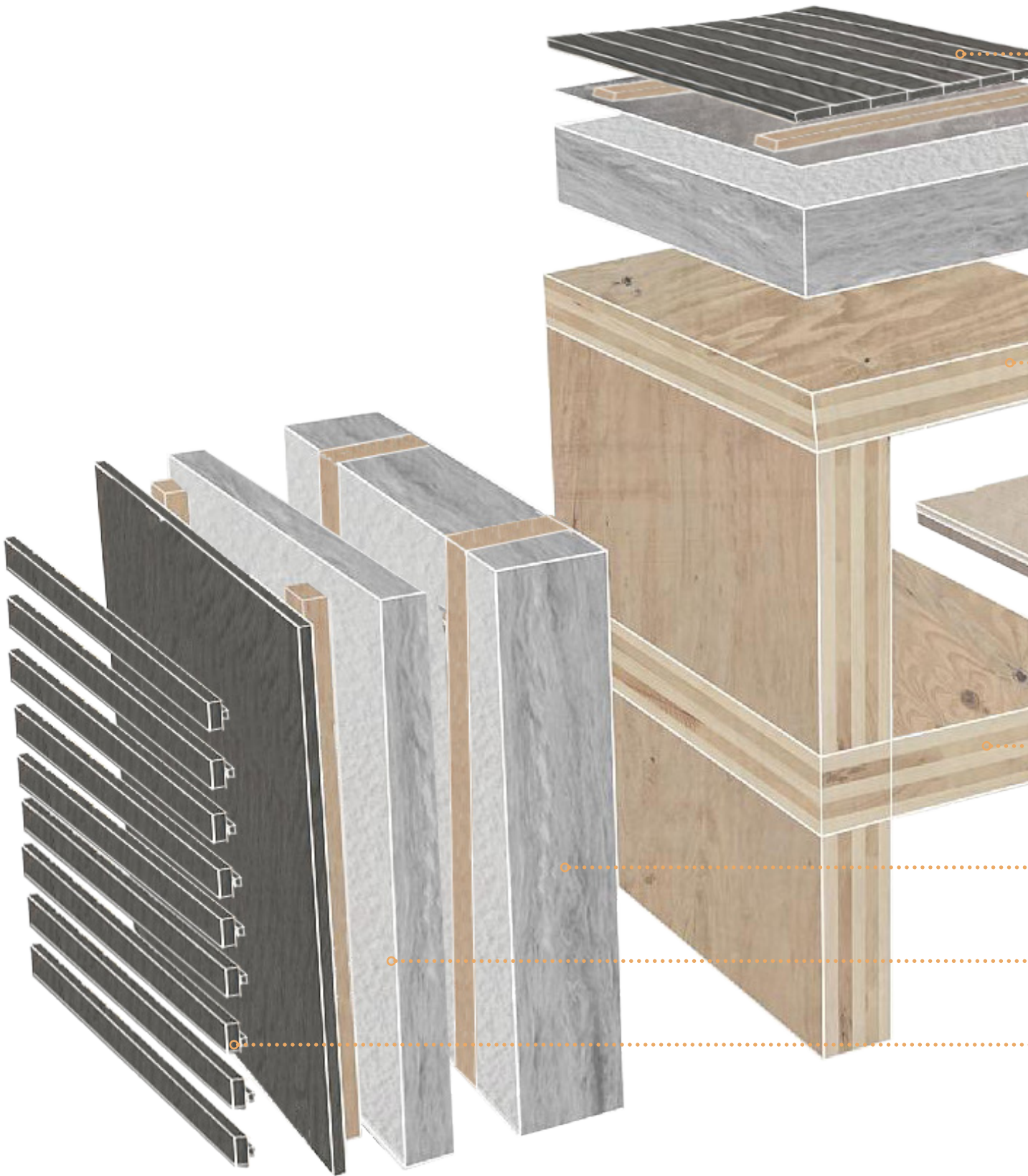
slabs first floor

Cross Laminated Timber

slabs ground floor

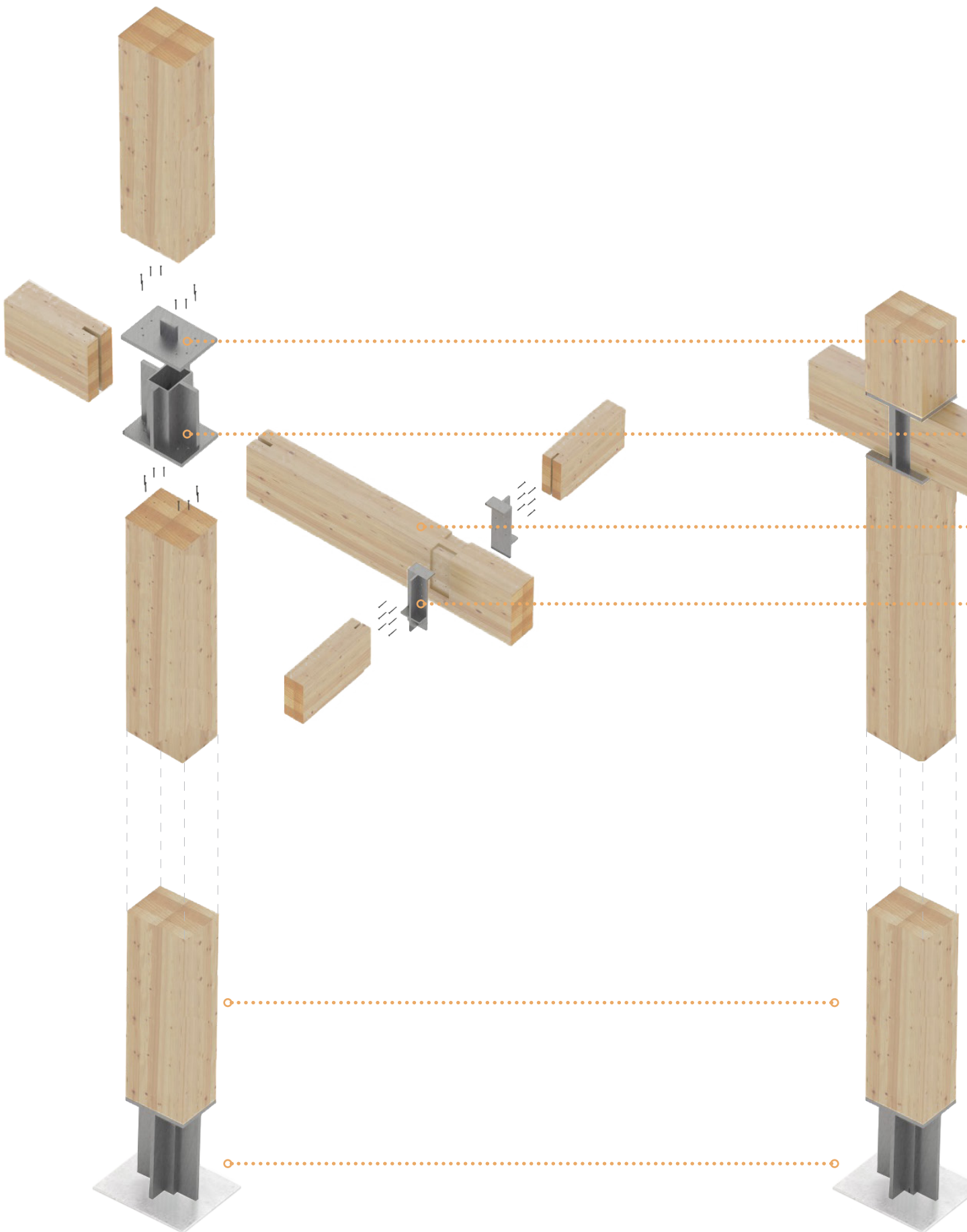
concrete

EXPLODED VIEW FACADE





EXPLODED VIEW GLULAM CONNECTIONS



..... cap

..... cross blade post

..... GLULAM beam

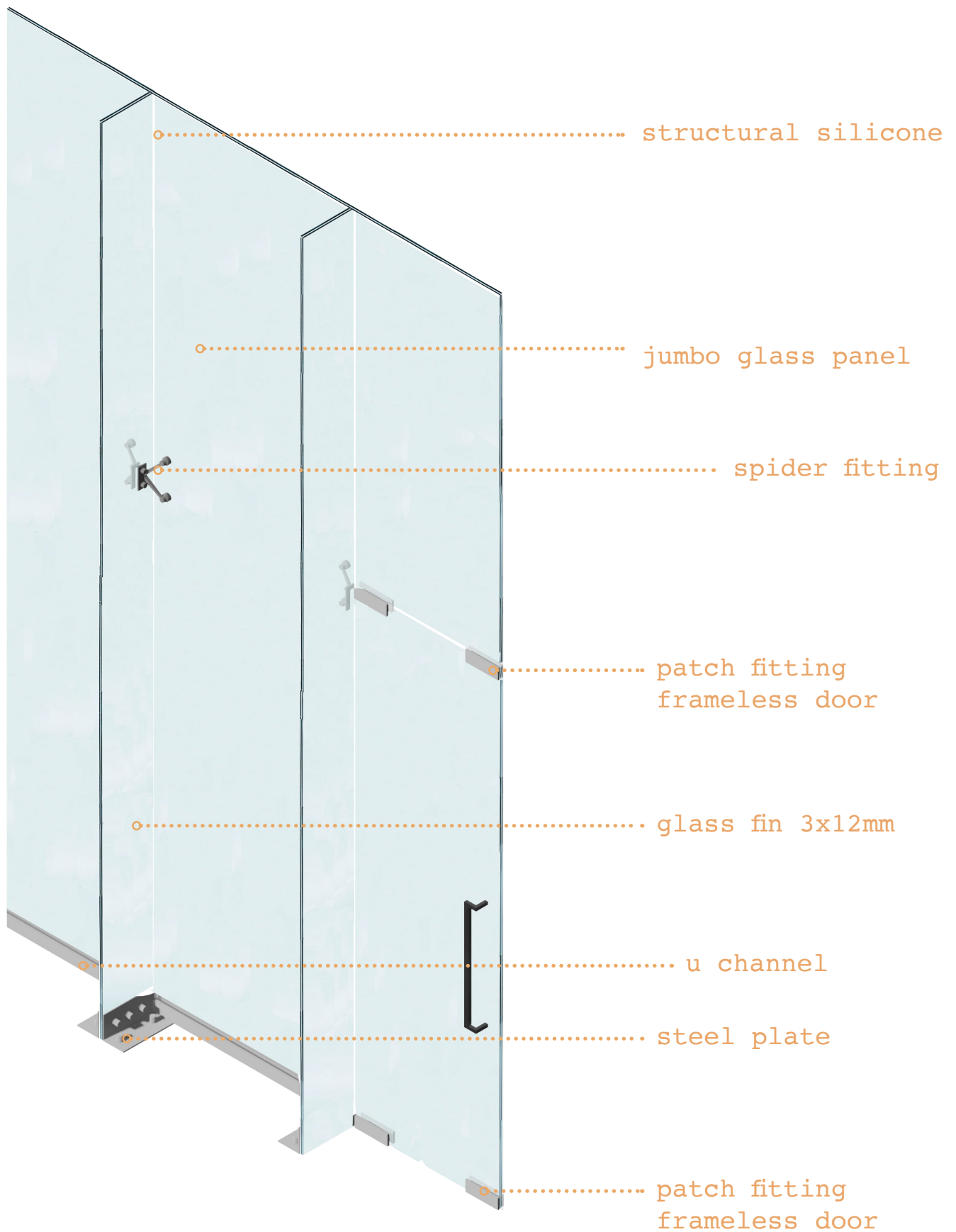
..... concealed beam bracket

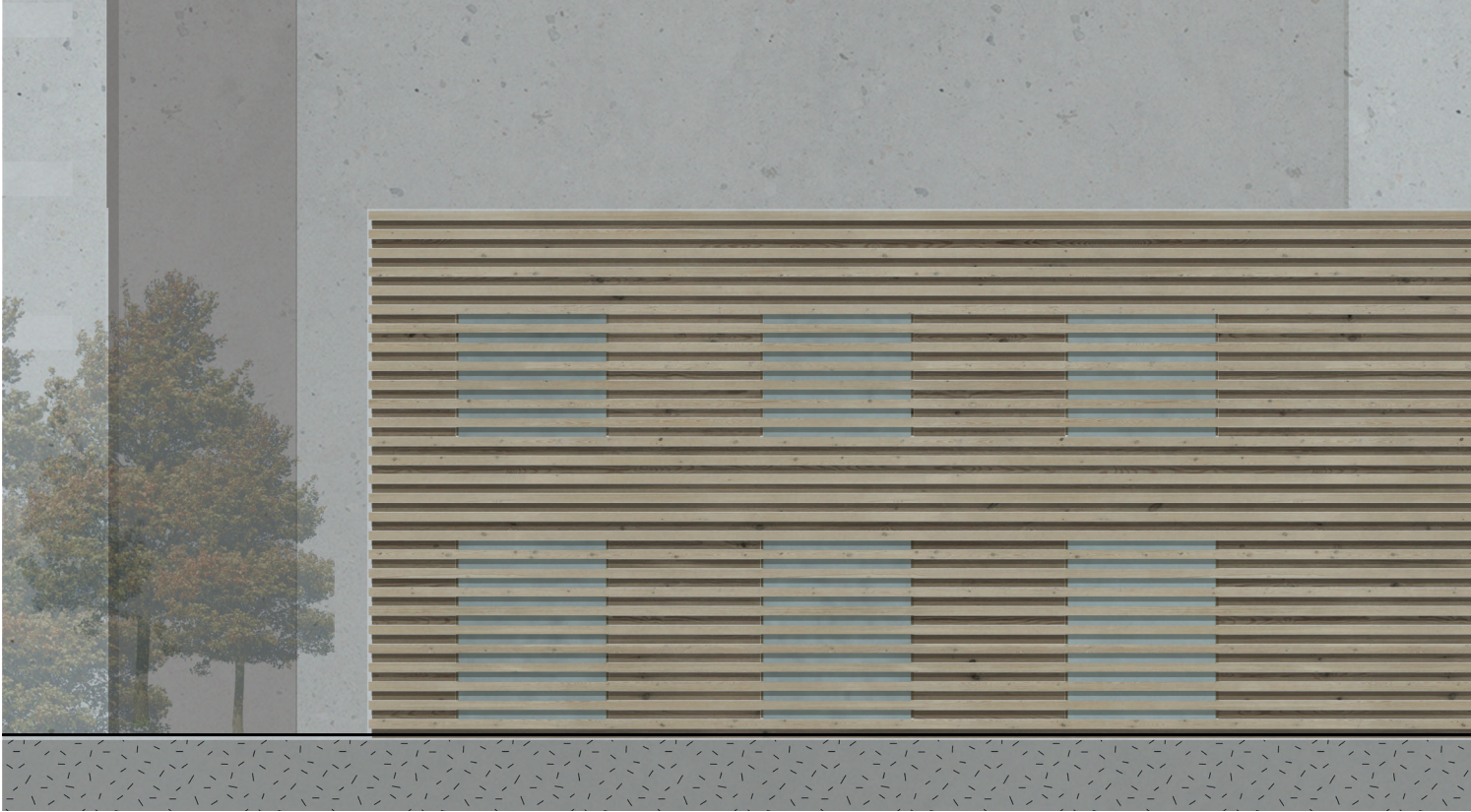
..... GLULAM column

..... cross blade post support

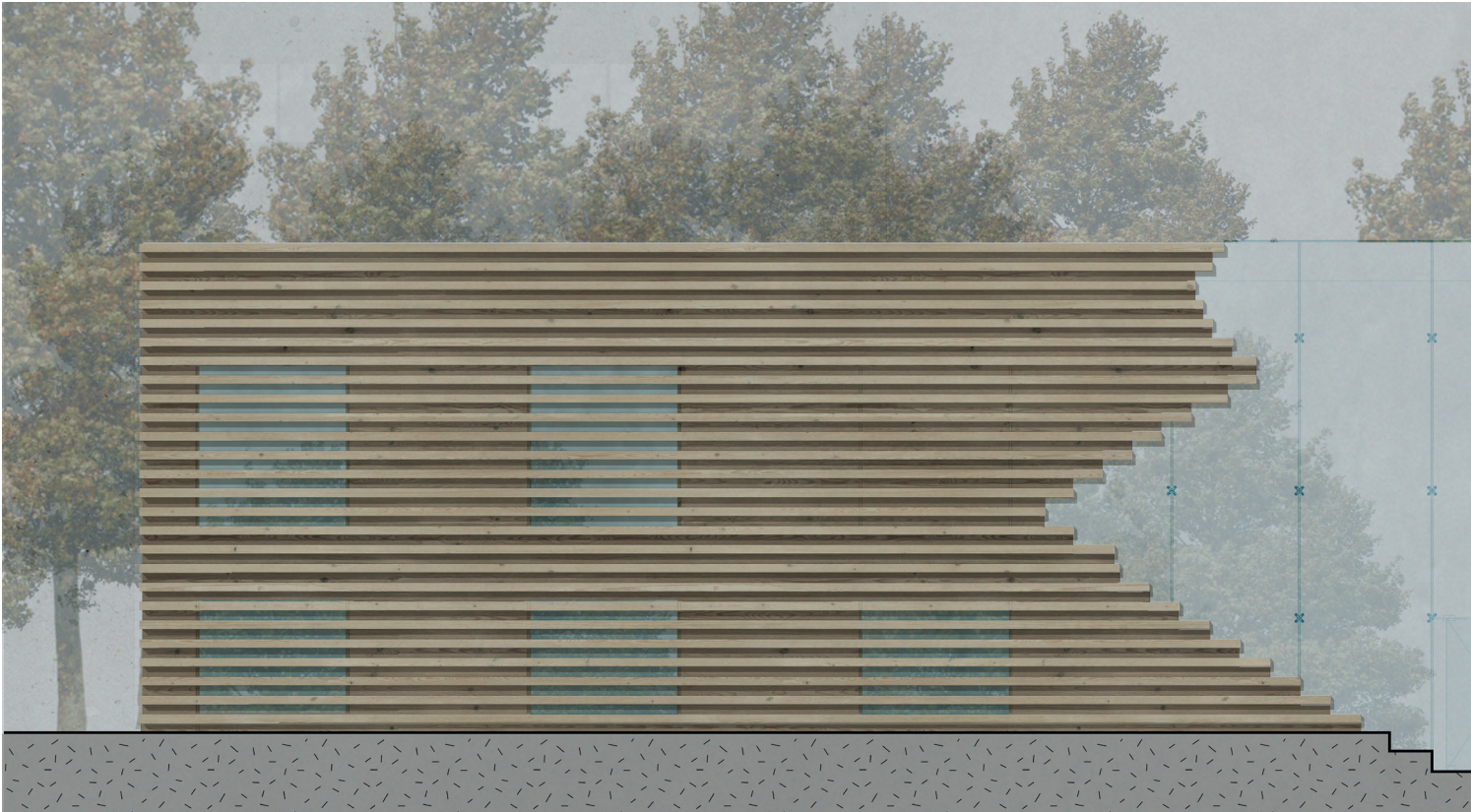
EXPLODED VIEW GLAZING



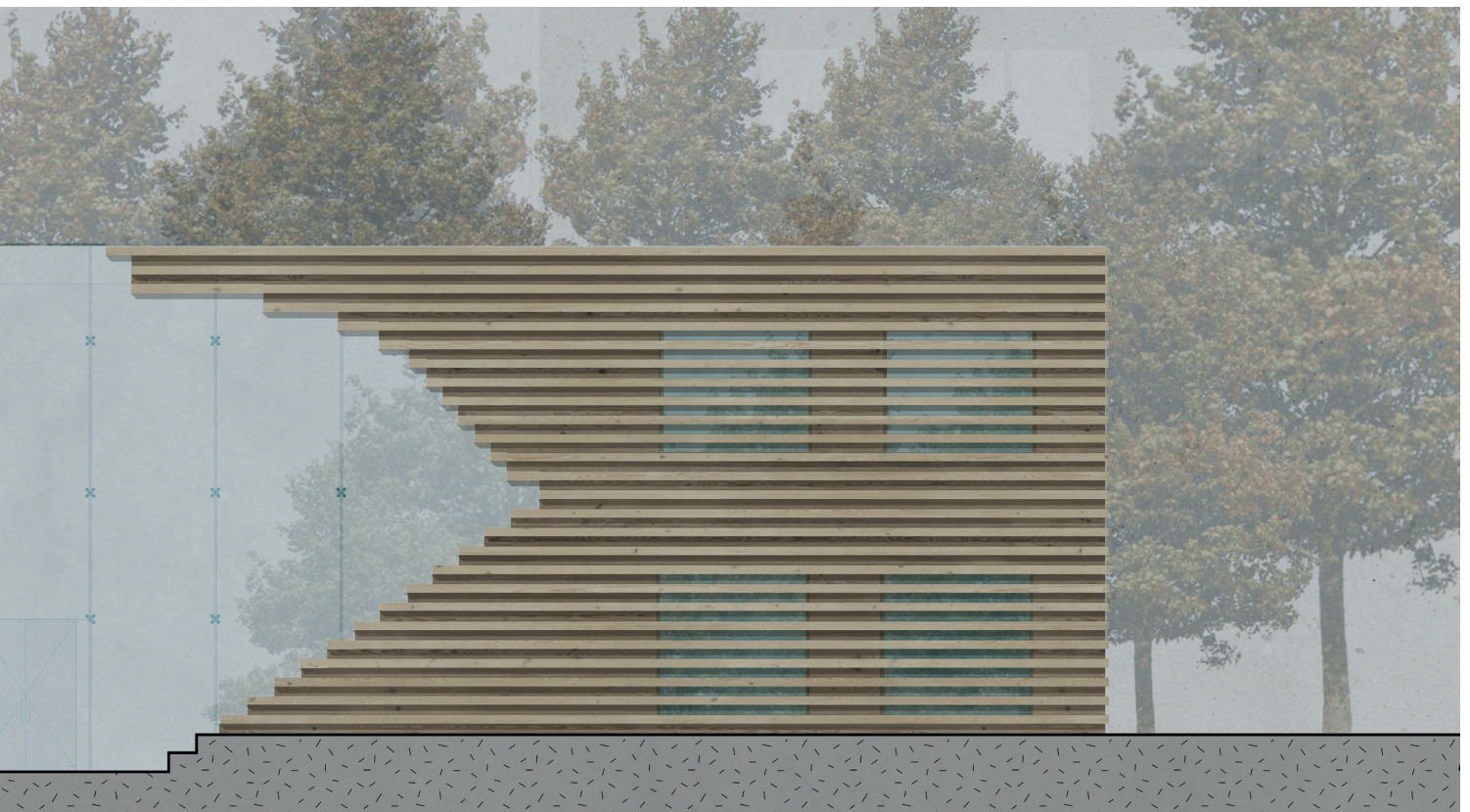
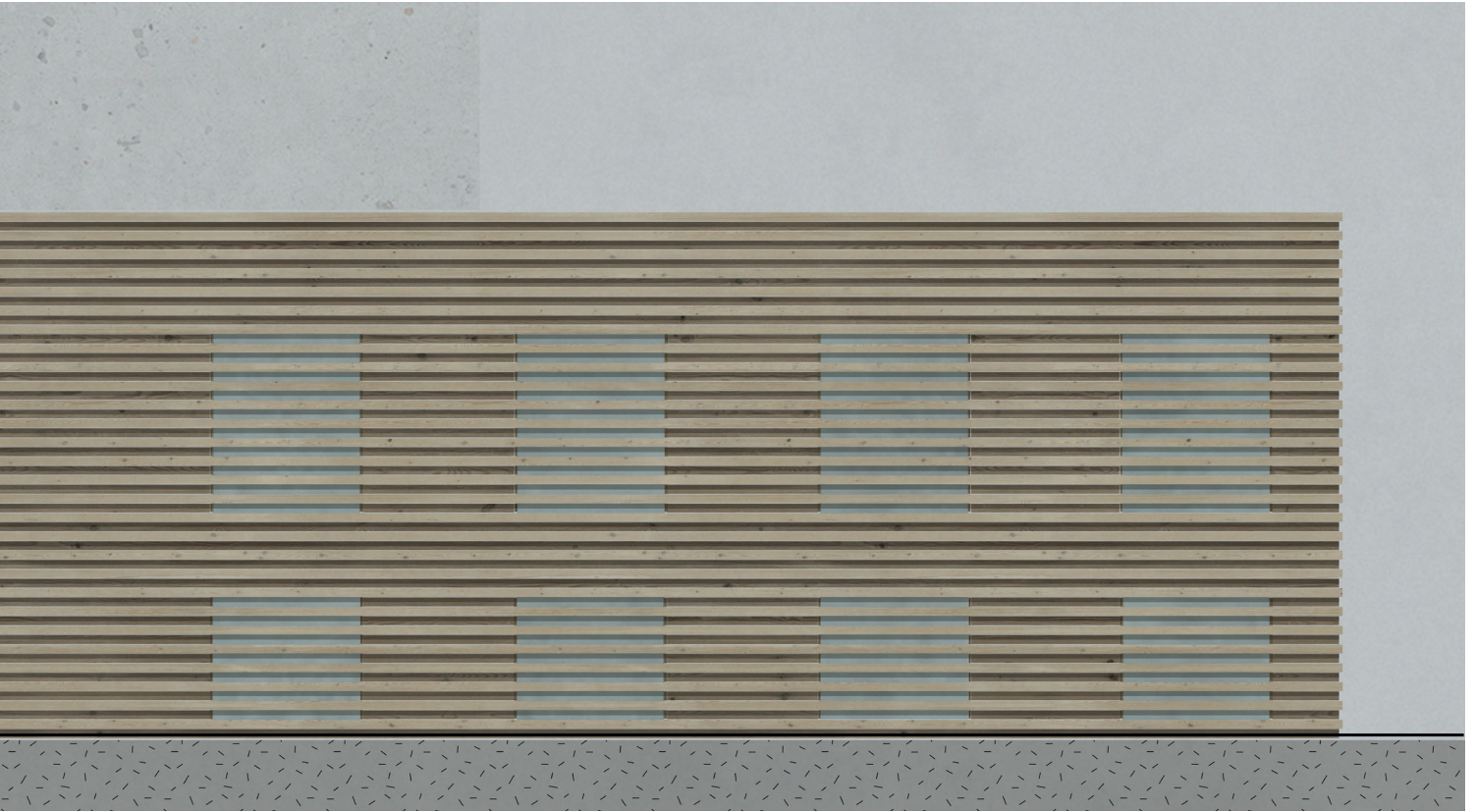


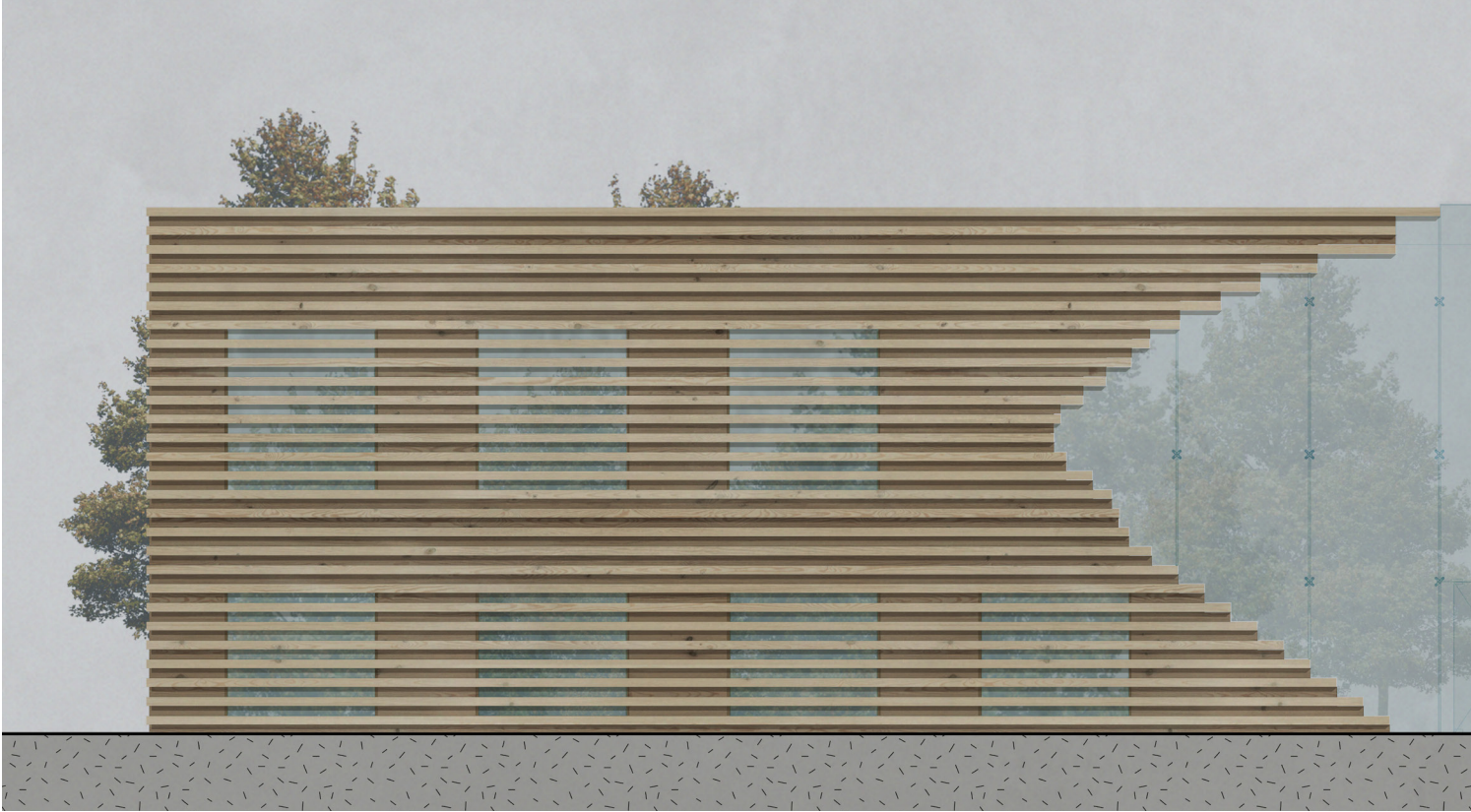


North Elevation

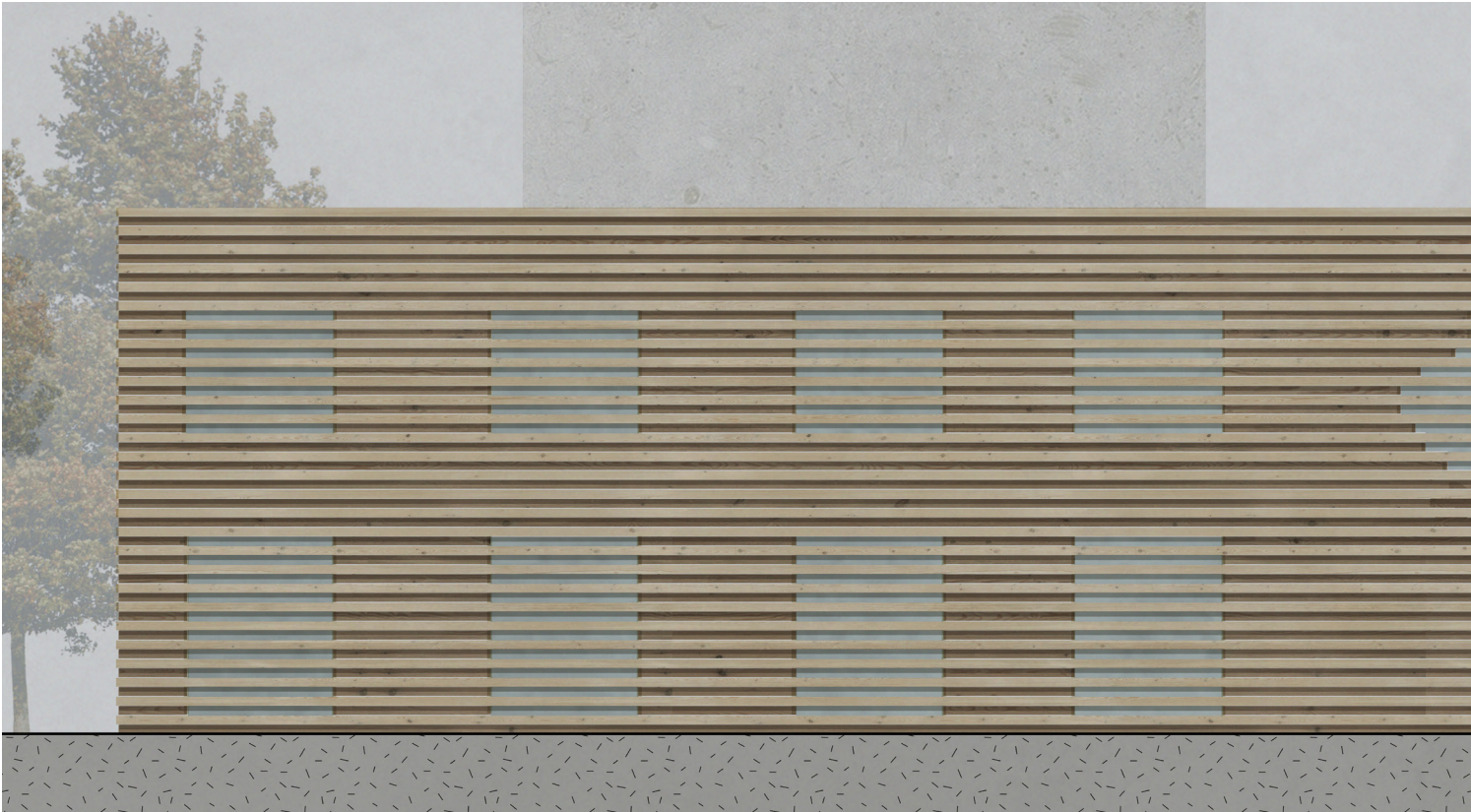


East Elevation

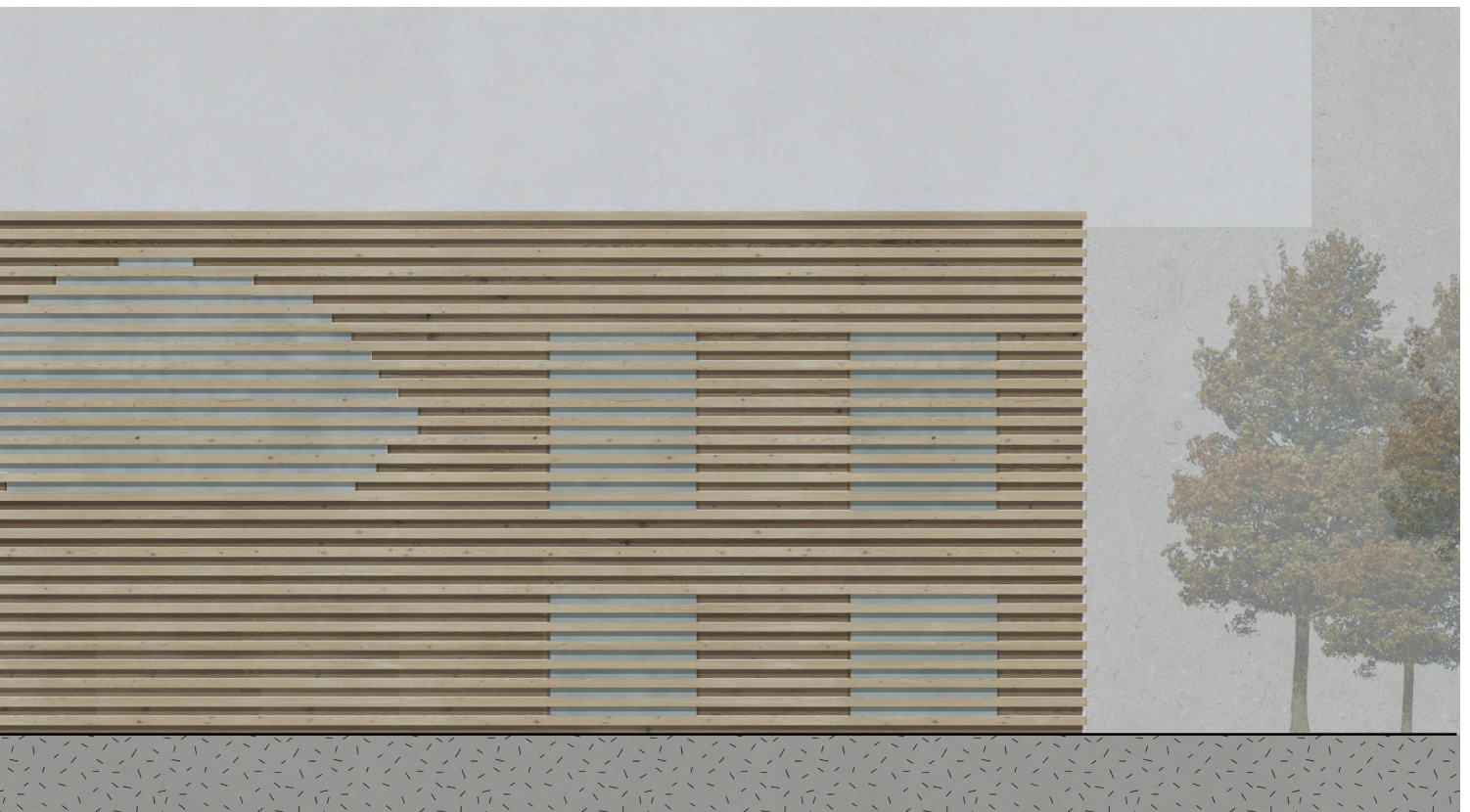
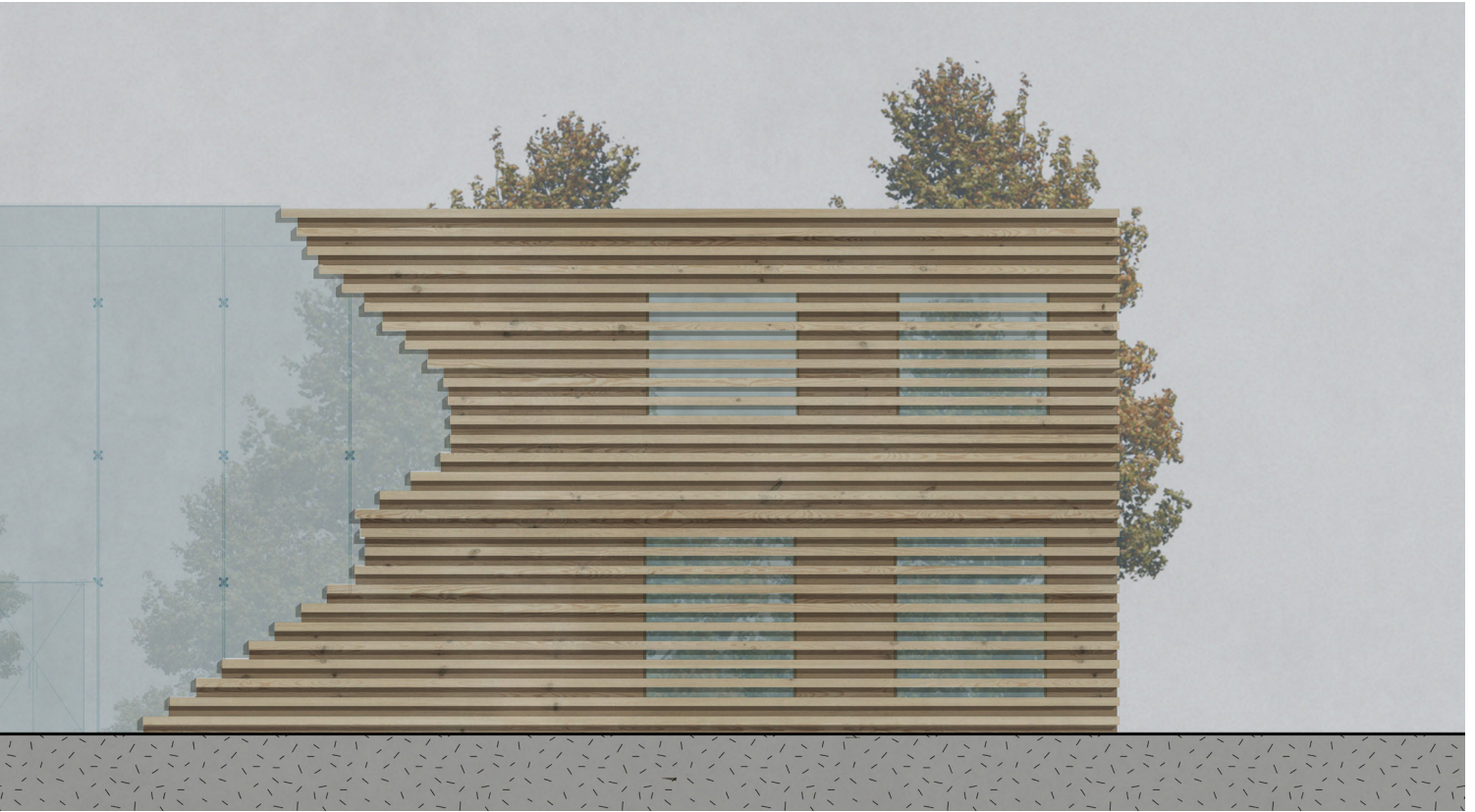


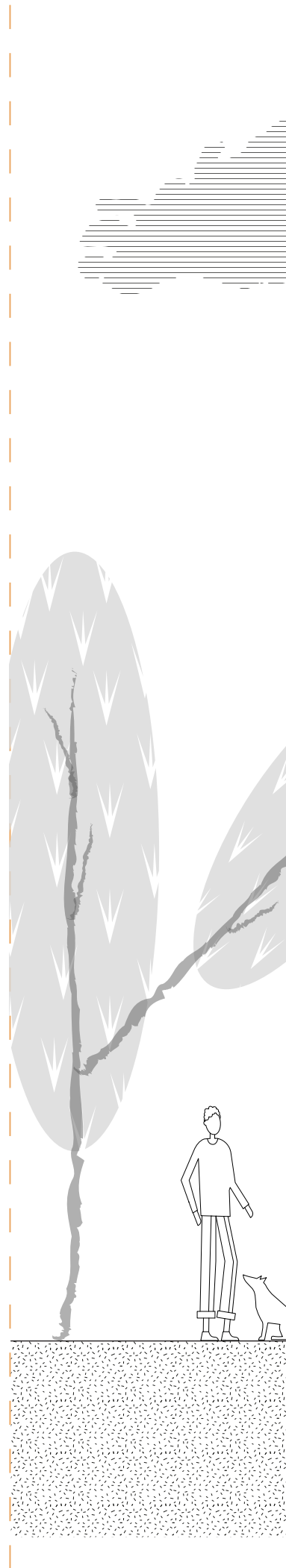


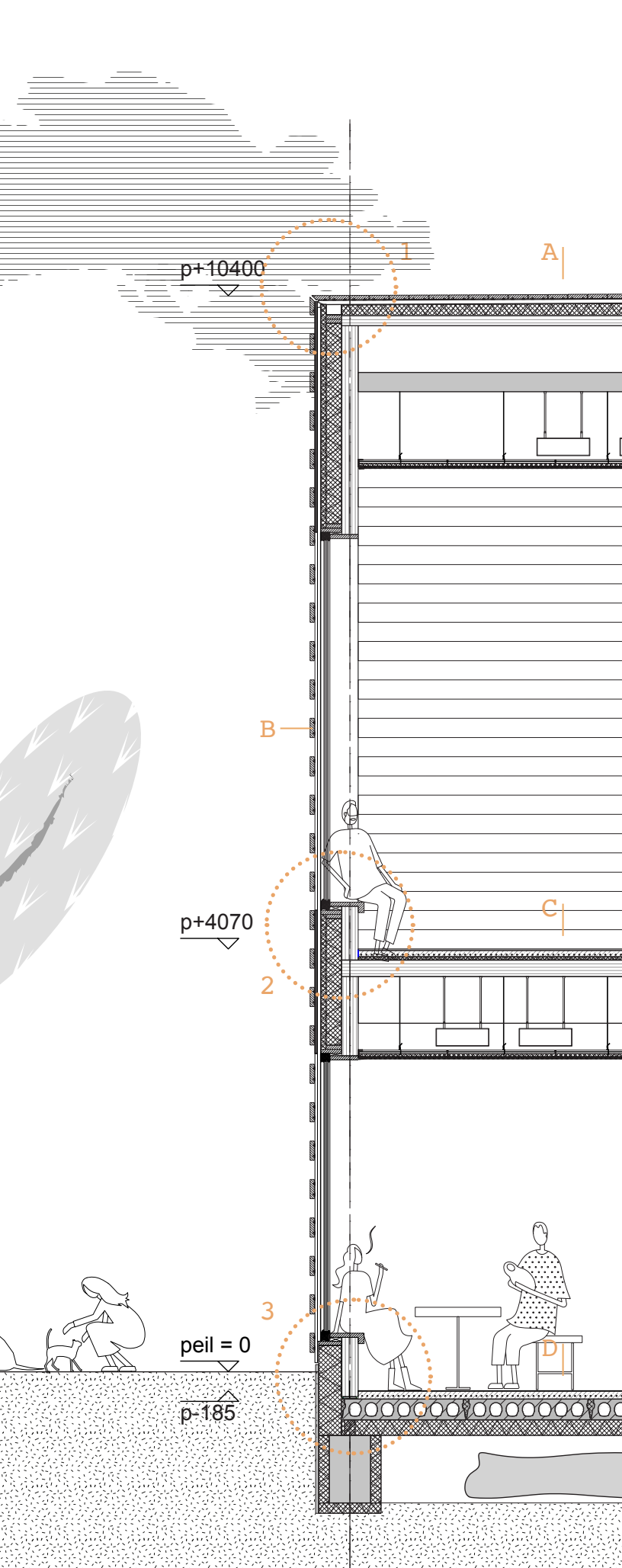
West Elevation



South Elevation







A- ROOF

Gradwood cladding panels, 40x185mm;
 Gradwood rail system, aluminium
 Battens gradwood, 40/50mm;
 Waterproofing black;
 Gutter steel;
 Vapour barrier;
 glass foam insulation 100-200mm;
 Cross Laminated Timber, 160mm;
 Glulam beam;
 Installation space, 850mm;
 Metal frame mounting system;
 Accoustic ceiling: 19mm spruce three
 layer panel, perforated 20mm soft
 wood fibre insulation

B- FACADE

Insulated triple glazing;
 Combo open and fixed timber window
 frame;
 Window sill, gradwood, planed solid;
 Horizontal cladding, gradwood, 185-
 40mm;
 Gradwood rail system, aluminium
 Gradwood solid panels, 25mm;
 Battens 32x60mm;
 Windproofing;
 Thermal insulation, 50mm;
 Thermal insulation between studs
 150mm;
 Vapour Barrier;
 Cross Laminated Timber 160mm,
 exposed;

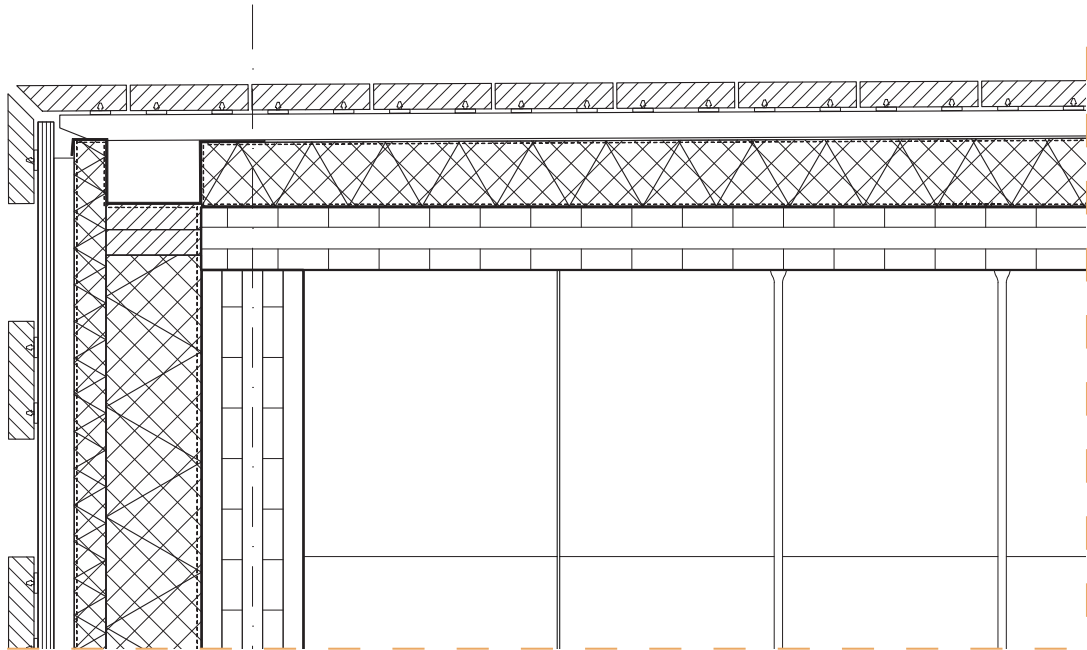
C-FLOOR

Timber floor parque, 16mm;
 Heating screed, 74mm;
 Separating layer;
 Impact sound insulation, 30mm;
 Sealing;
 Cross Laminated Timber 160mm;
 Installation space, 600mm;
 Metal frame munting system;
 Accoustic ceiling: 19mm spruce
 three-layer panel, perforated 20mm
 soft wood fibre insulation;

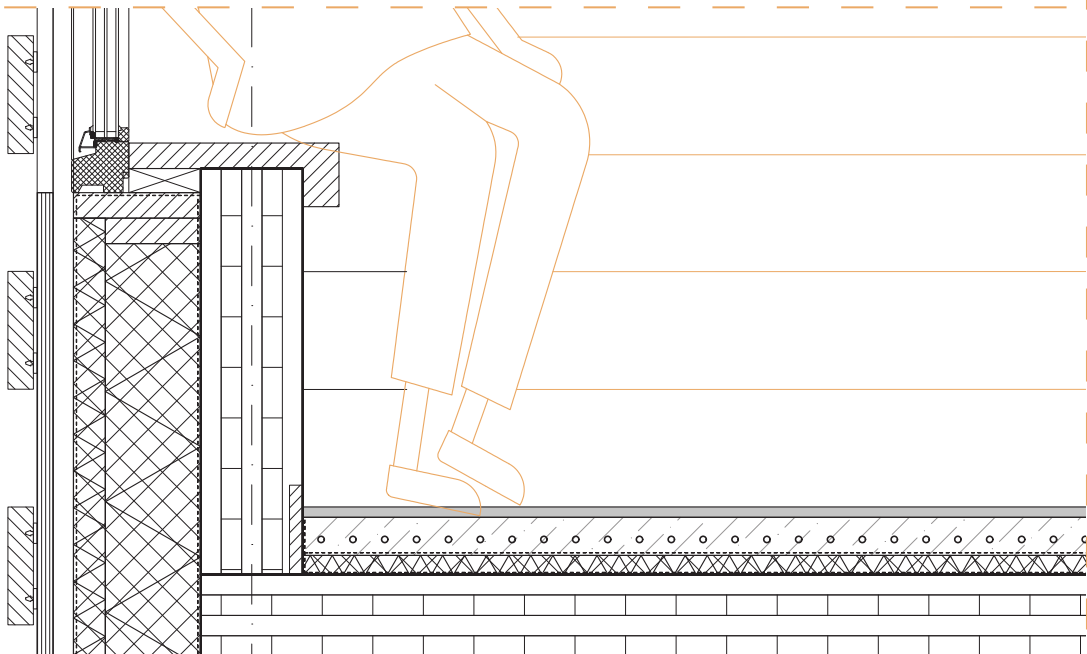
D- GROUND FLOOR

Levelling compoun, 5mm;
 Heating screed, 74mm;
 Separating layer;
 Impact sound insulation, 30mm;
 Sealing;
 Precast core floor slab, 300mm;
 Styrock base plinth;
 Thermal insulation, 150mm;
 Justnimbus Rainwater system;

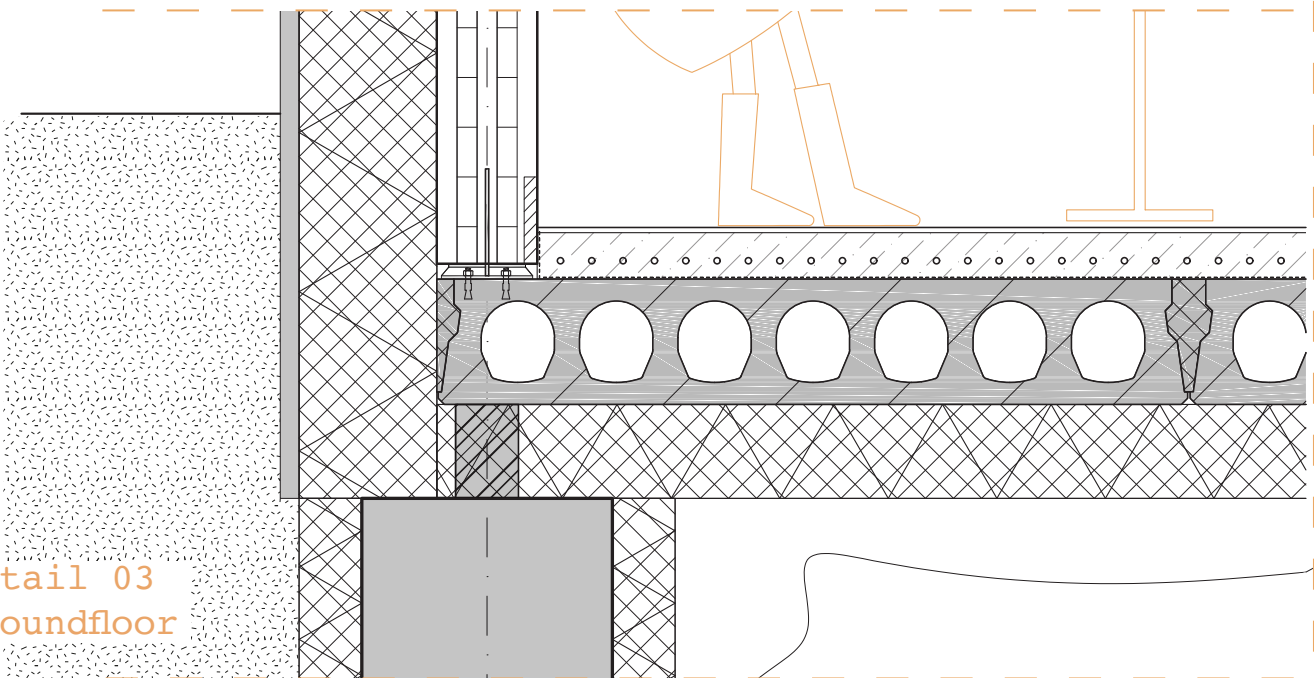
detail 01
roof

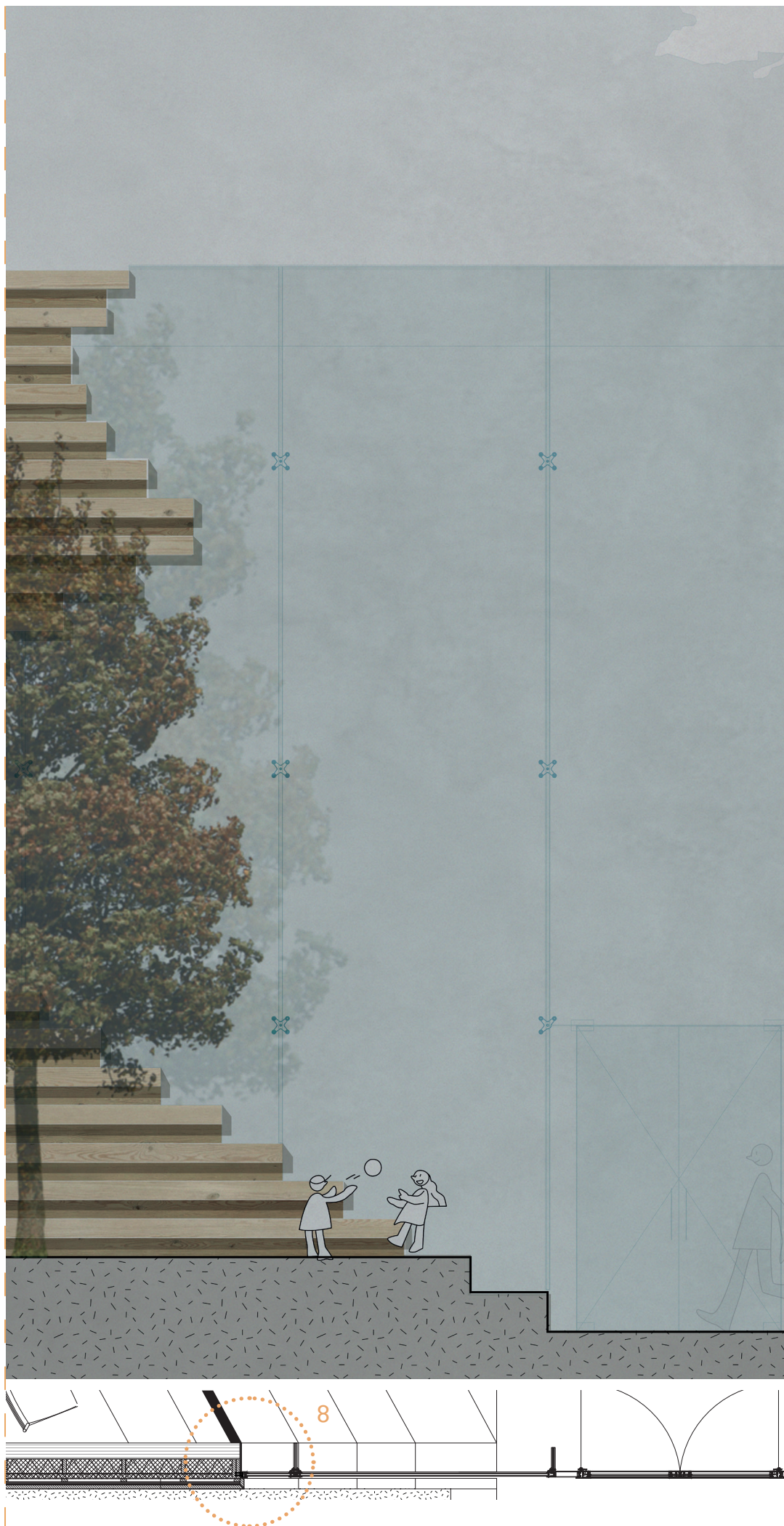


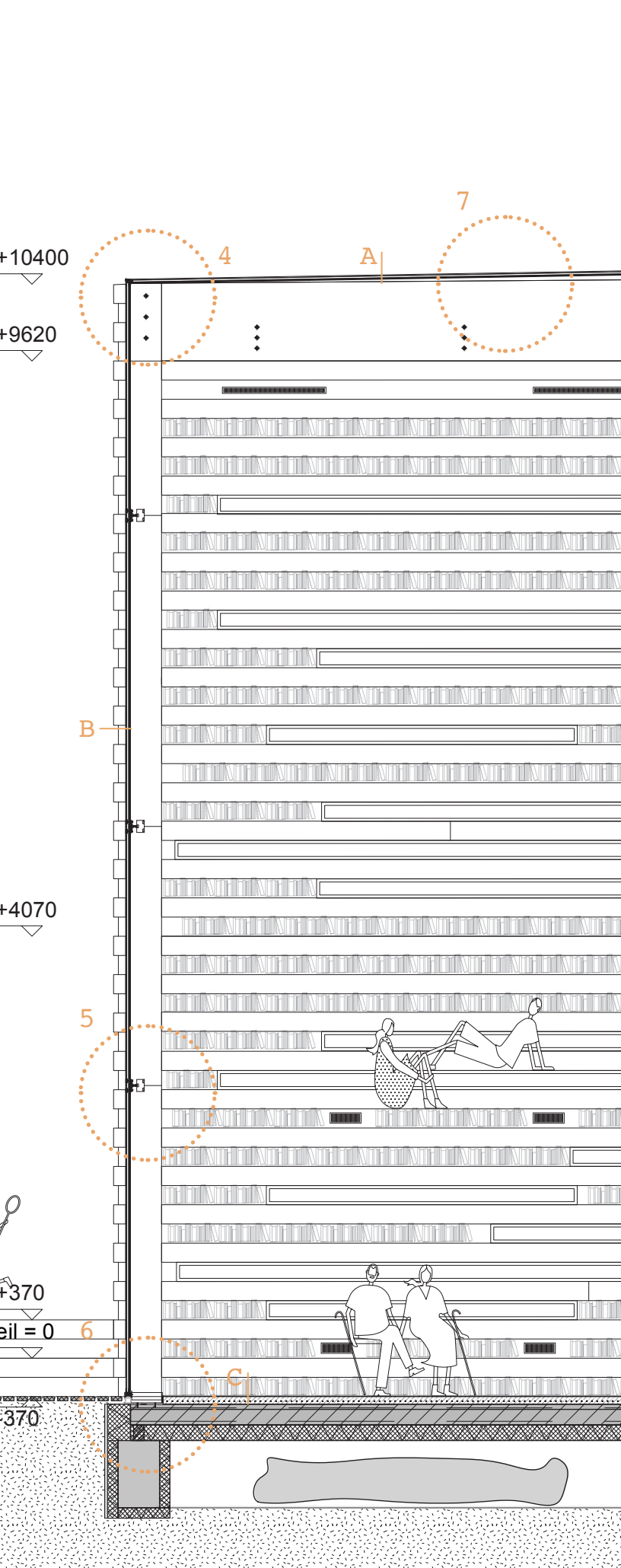
detail 02
facade



detail 03
groundfloor







A- ROOF

Jumbo insulated tempered glass panel, 2500x6000mm;
structural silicone;
aluminium frame seal;
steel gutter;
Titanium connector embedded;

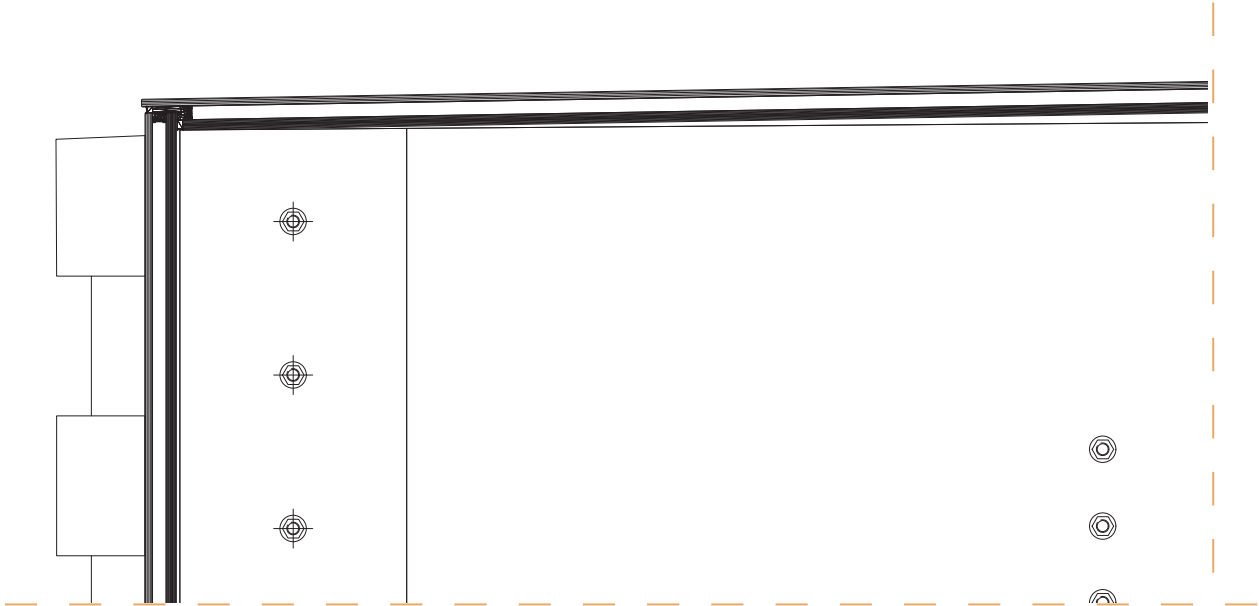
B- FACADE

Jumbo insulated tempered glass panel, 2500x(max 10000)(max. dimension panel 3300x12000);
Structural silicone;
Spider fitting;
Glass fin, 3x 12mm

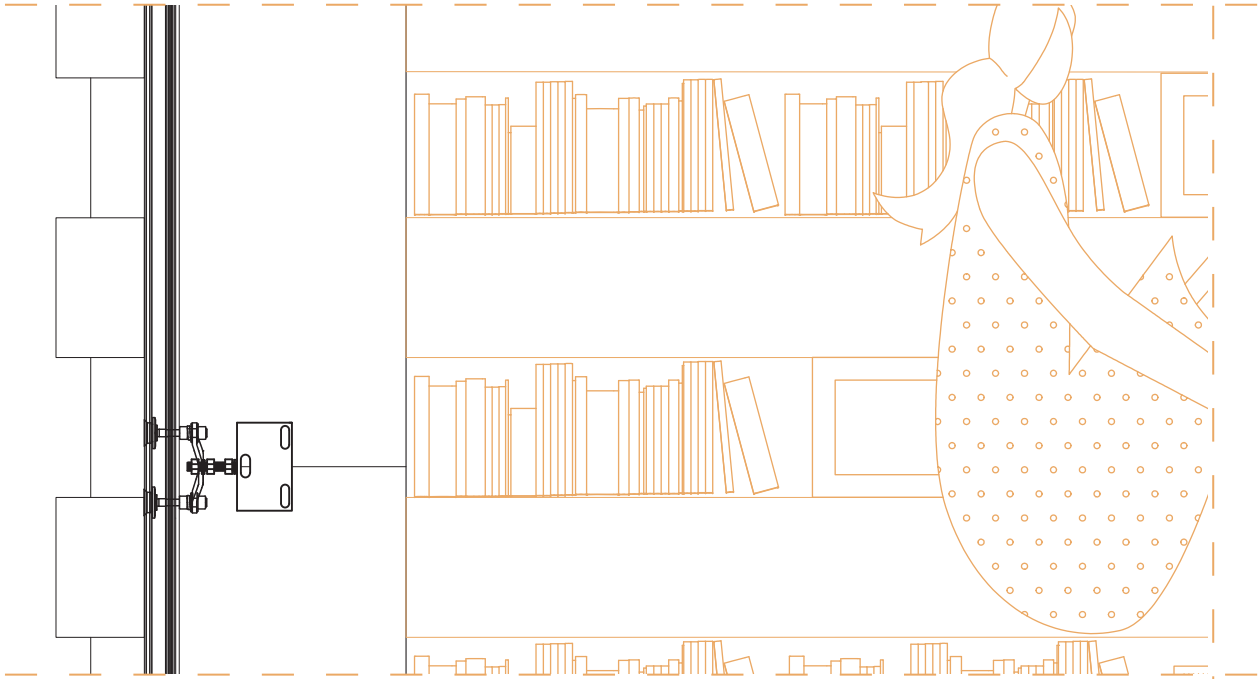
C- GROUND FLOOR

Glass fin , 3x 12mm;
U-channel;
Steel plate anchored;
Levelling compoun, 5mm;
Heating screed, 74mm;
Separating layer;
Impact sound insulation, 30mm;
Sealing;
Precast core floor slab, 300mm;
Styrorock base plinth;
Thermal insulation, 150mm;
Justnimbus Rainwater system;

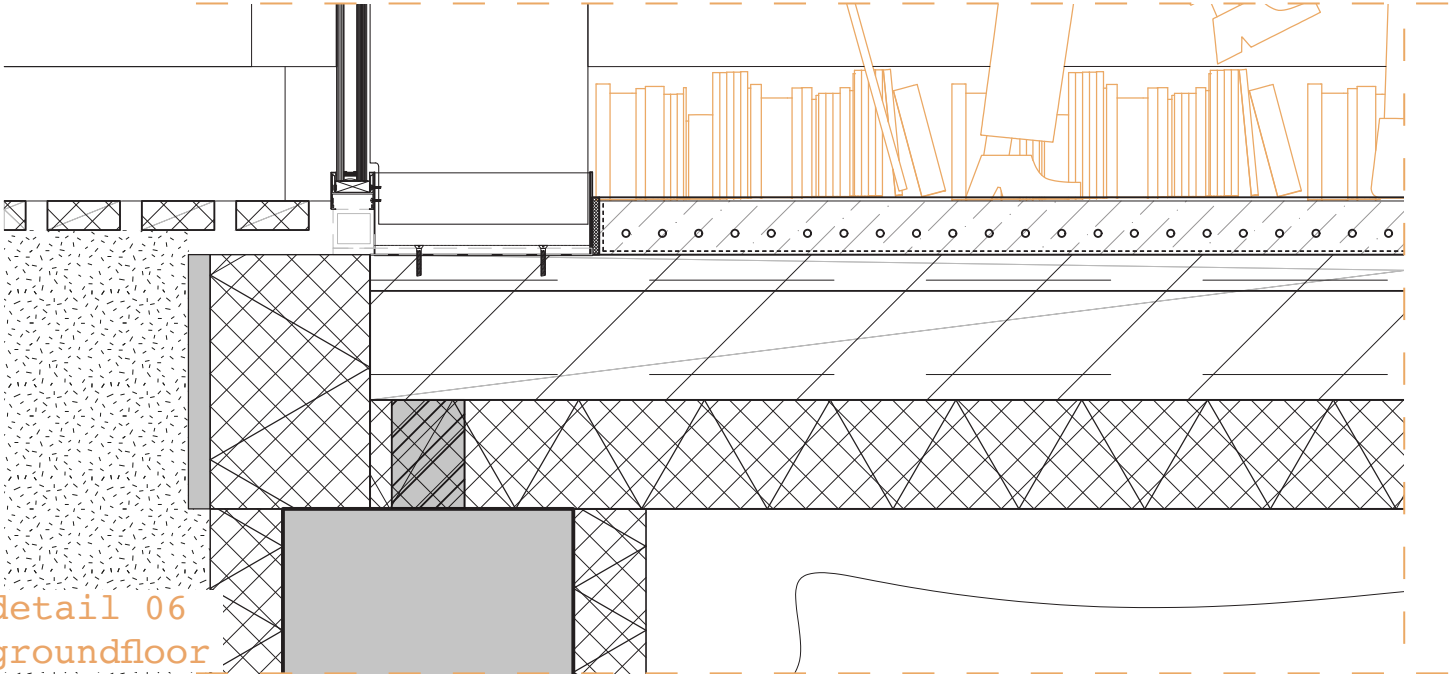
detail 04
roof



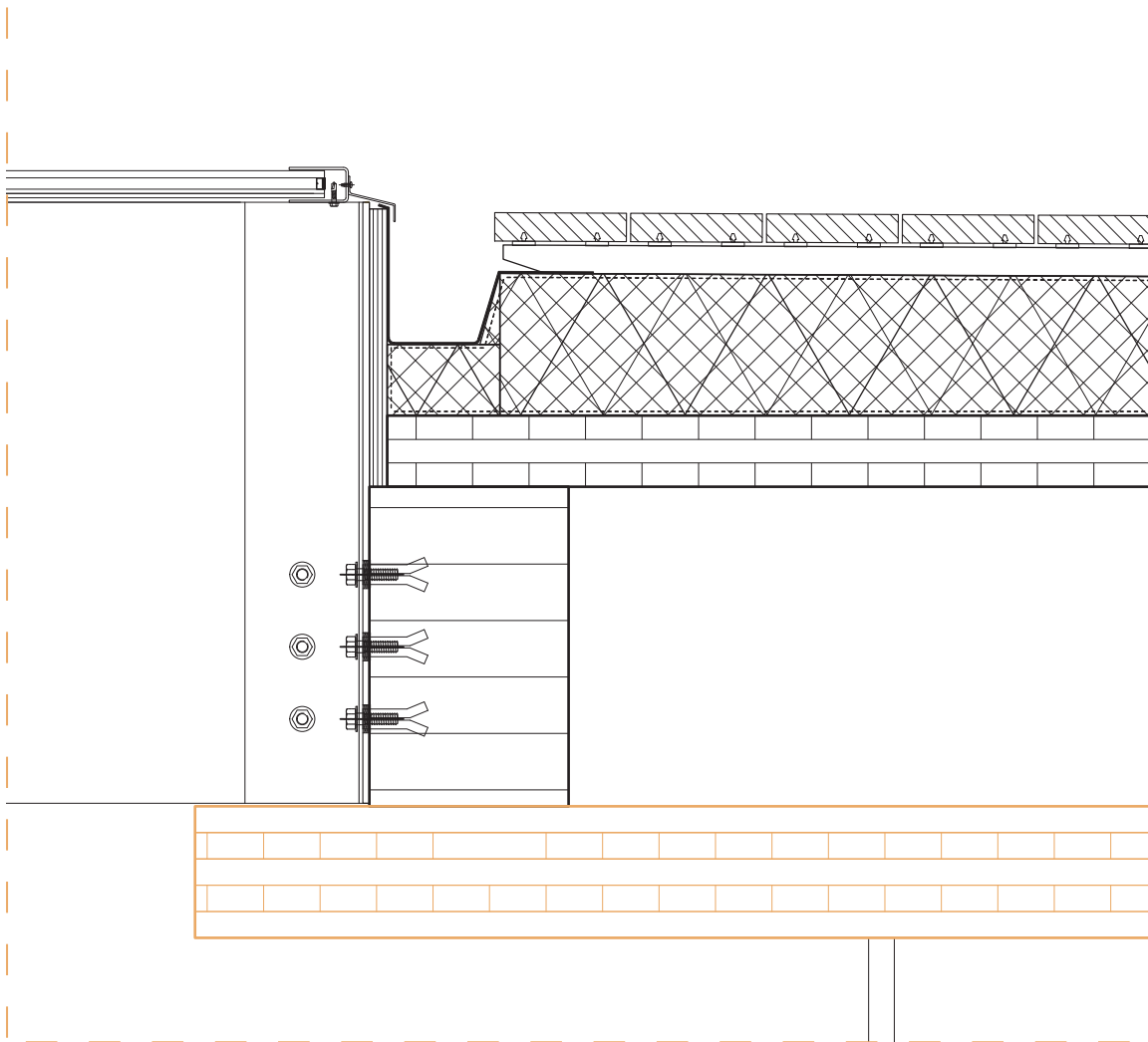
detail 05
facade



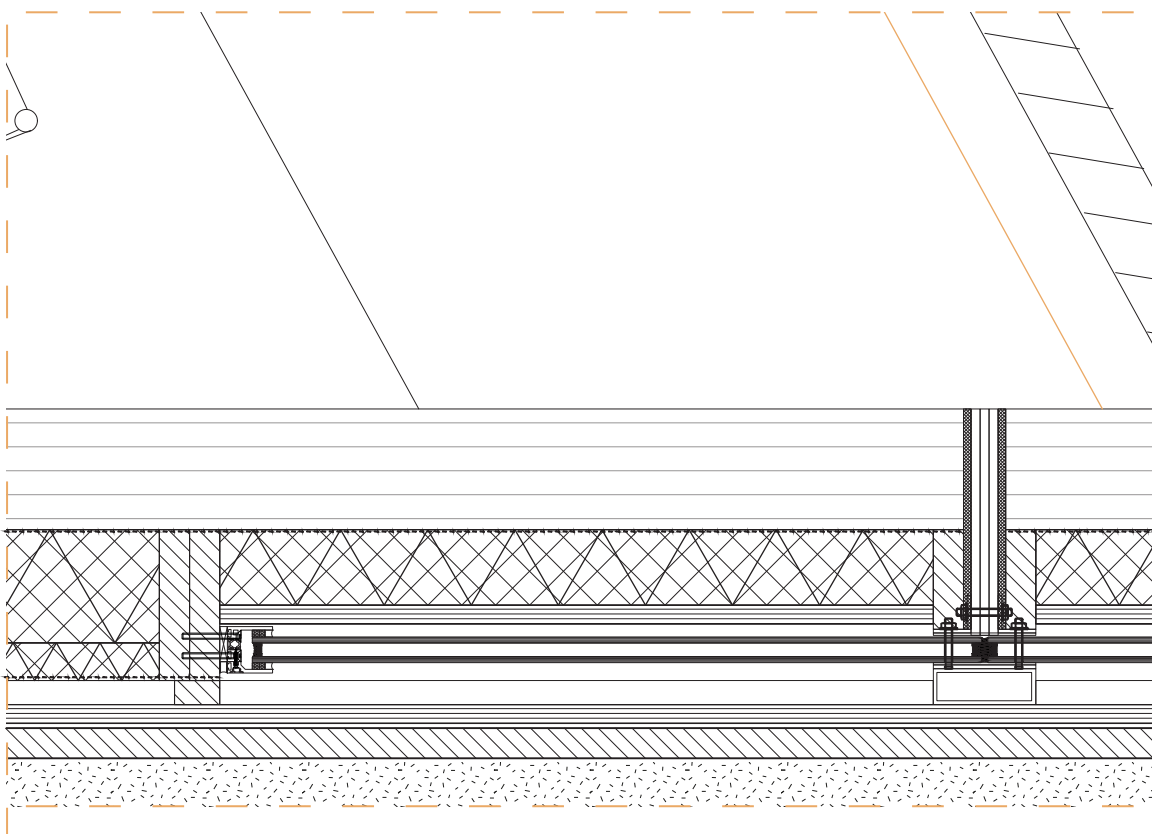
detail 06
groundfloor



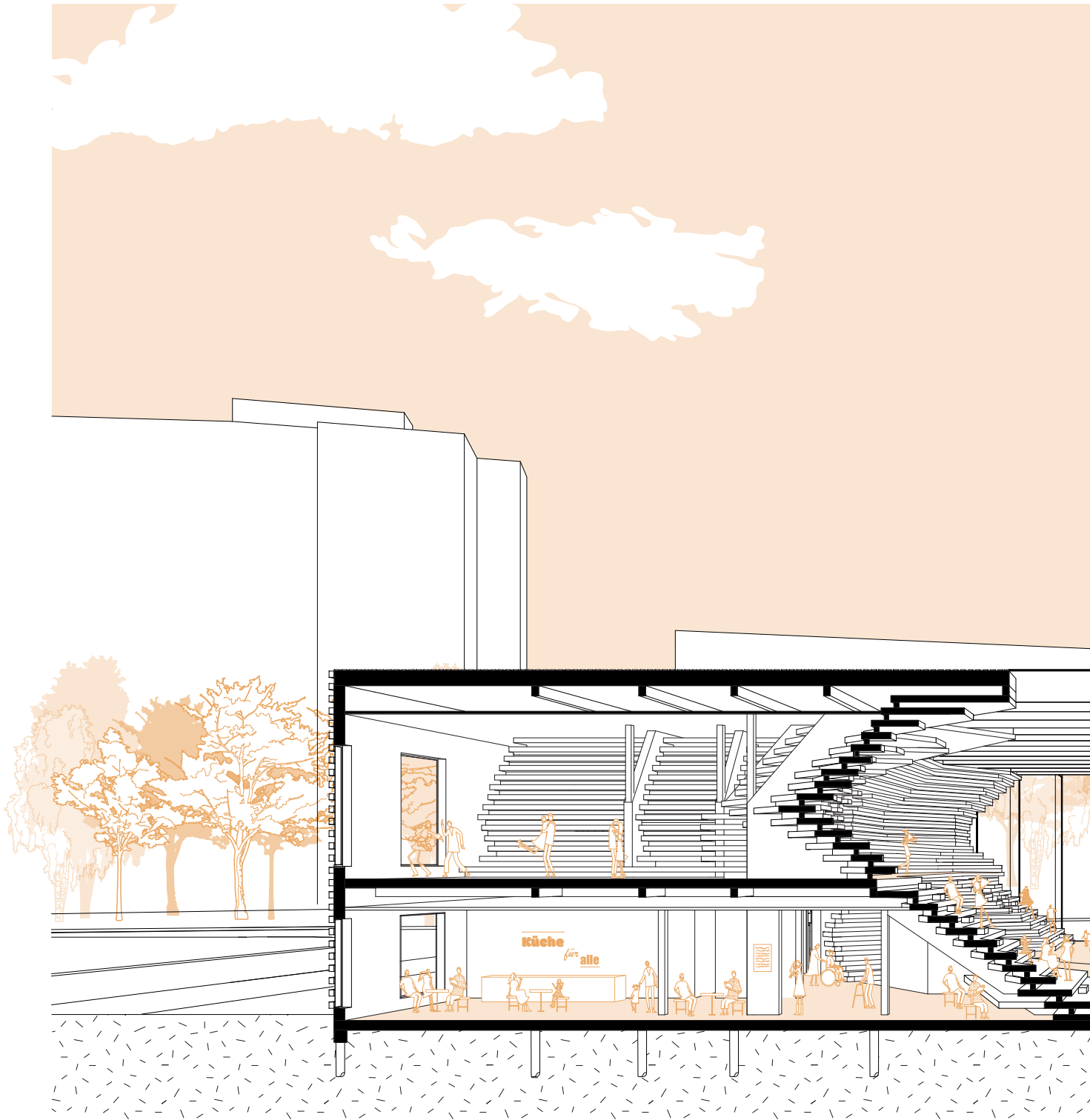
detail 07
roof

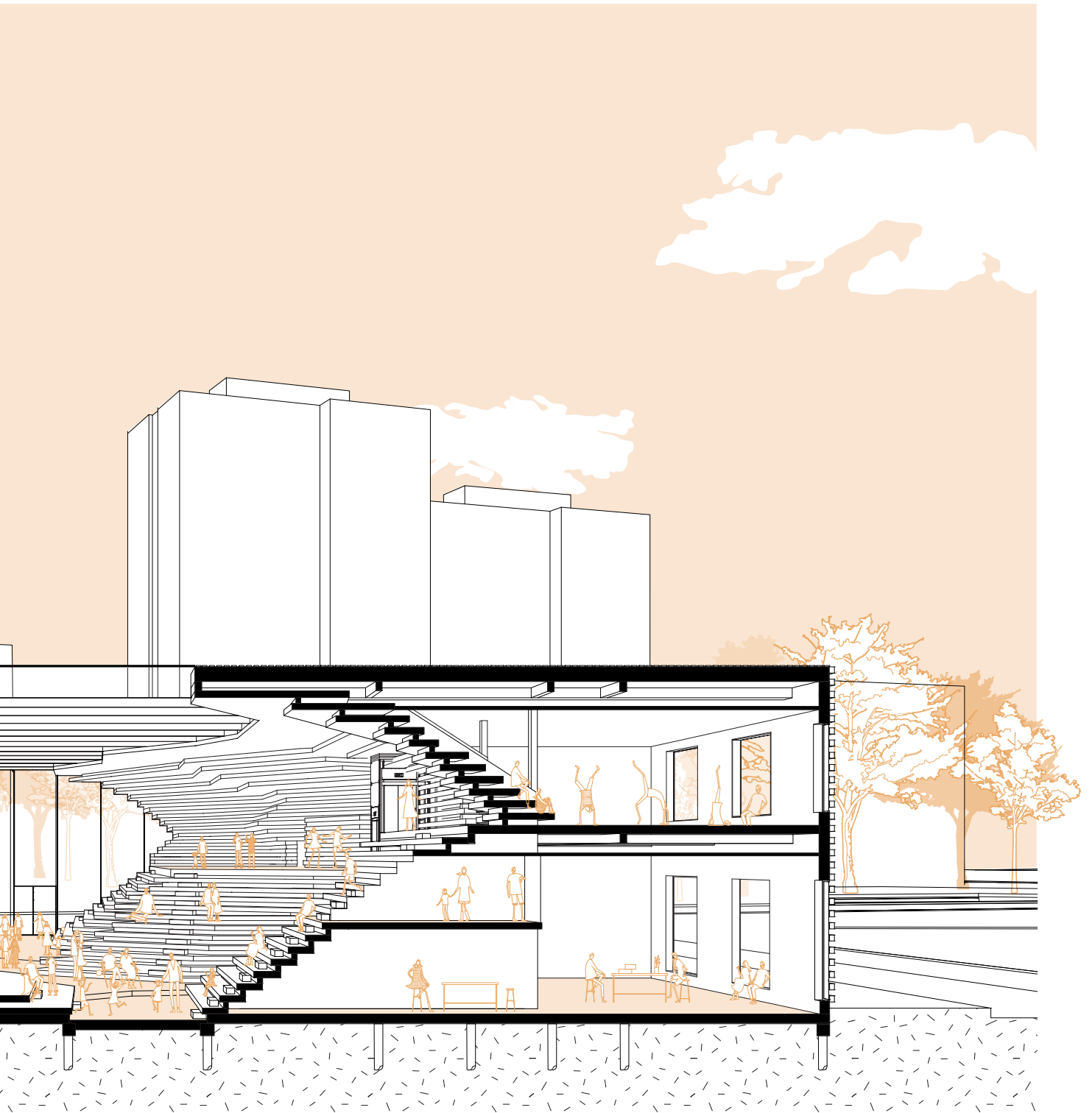


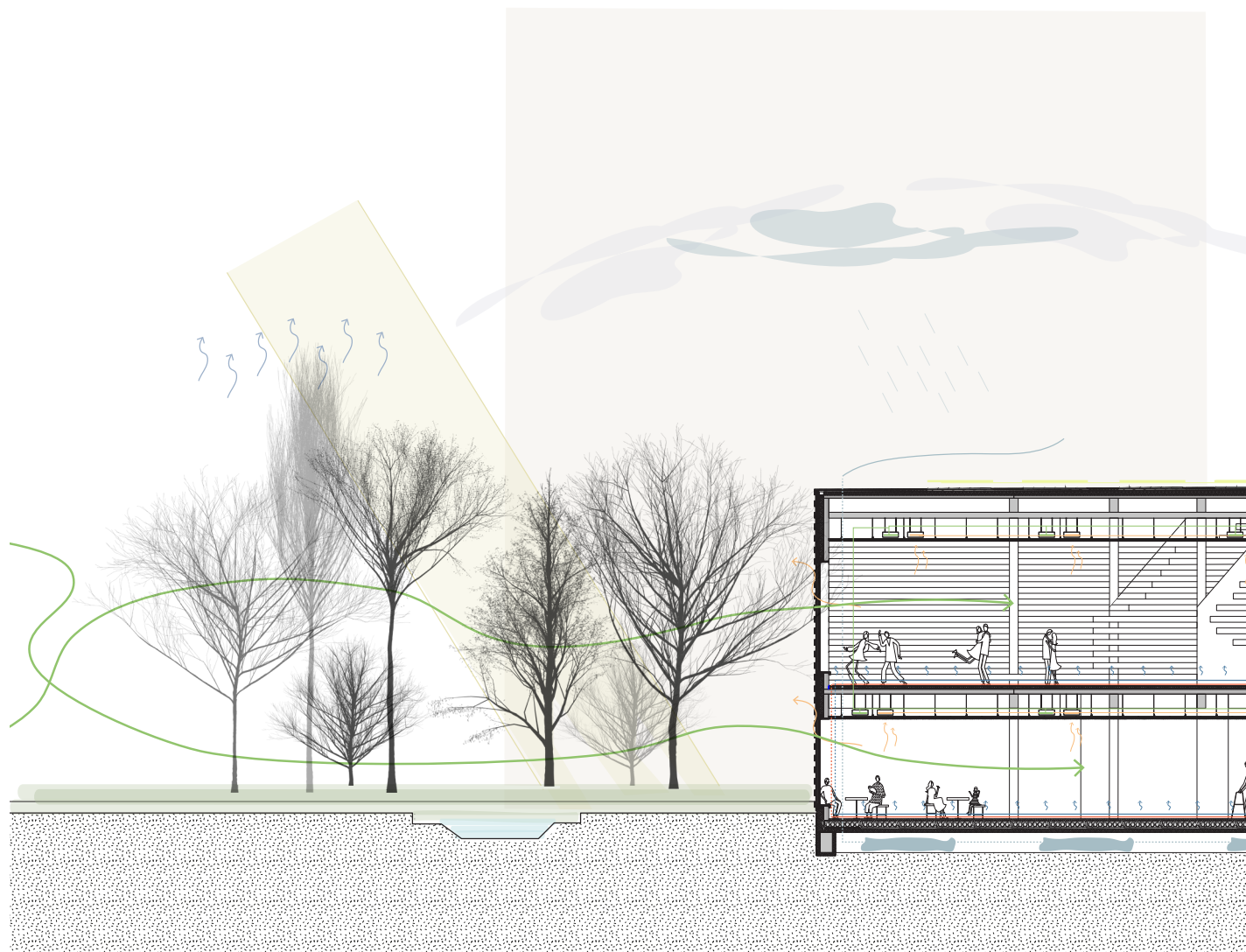
detail 08
facade
(horizontal)



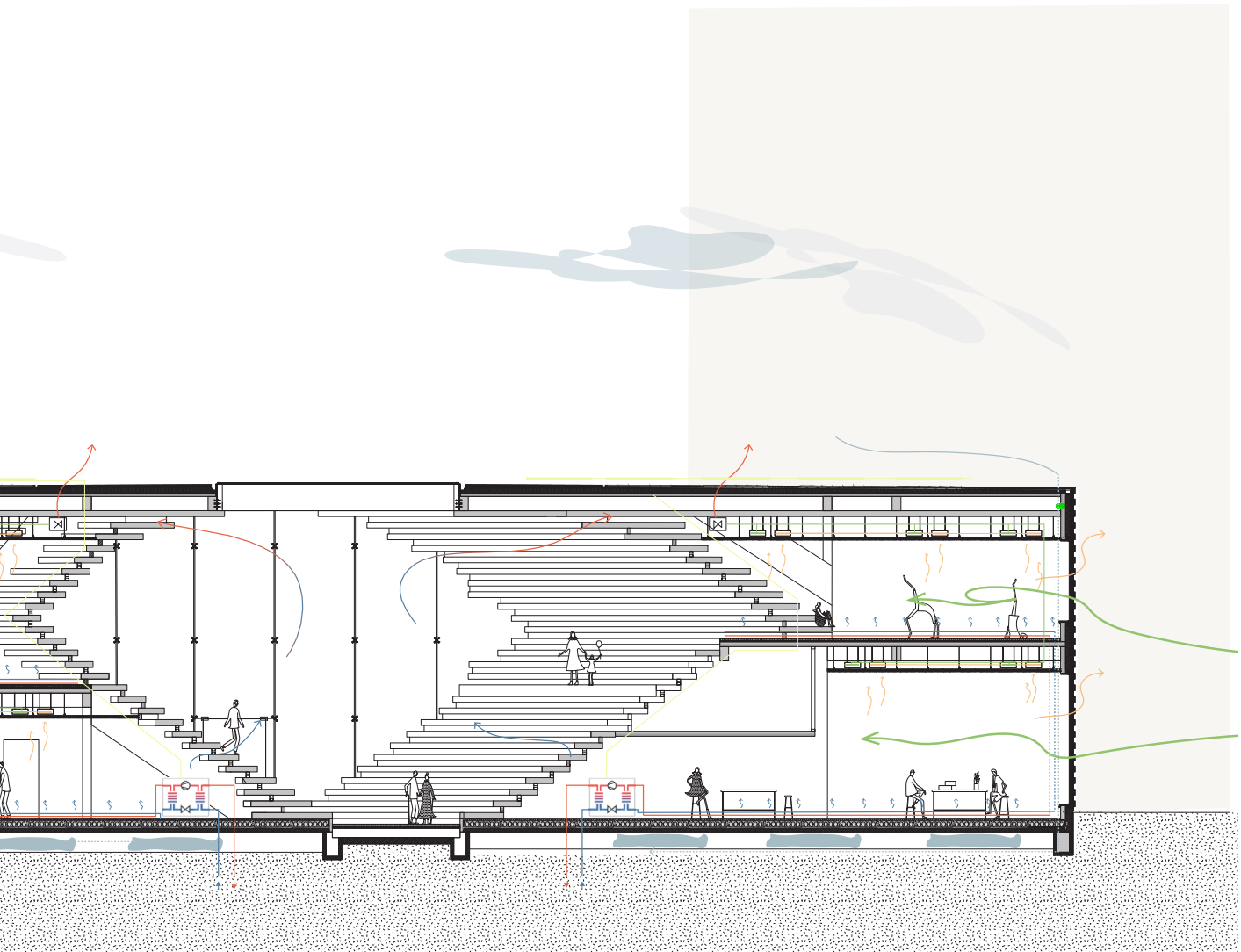
SITE SECTION

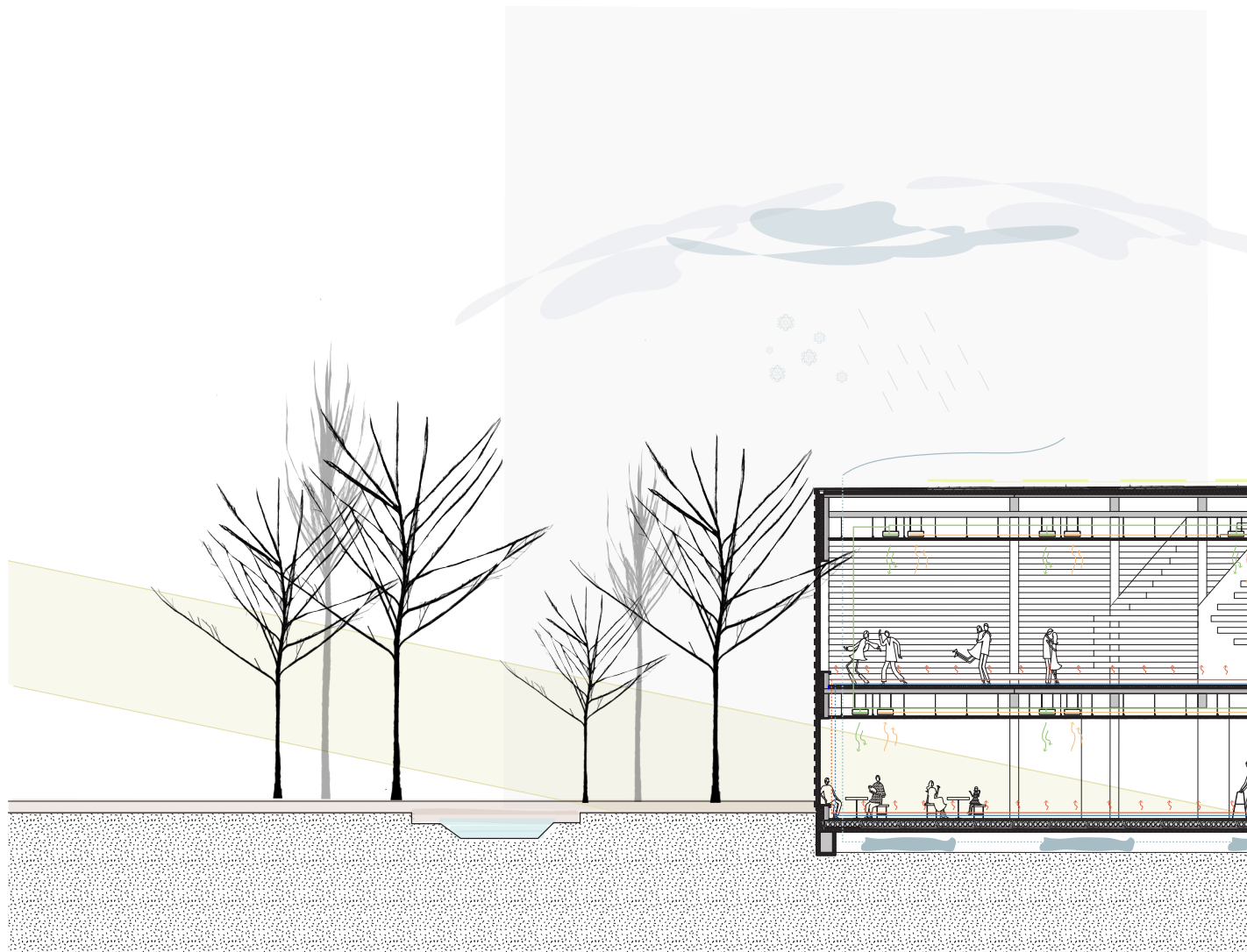




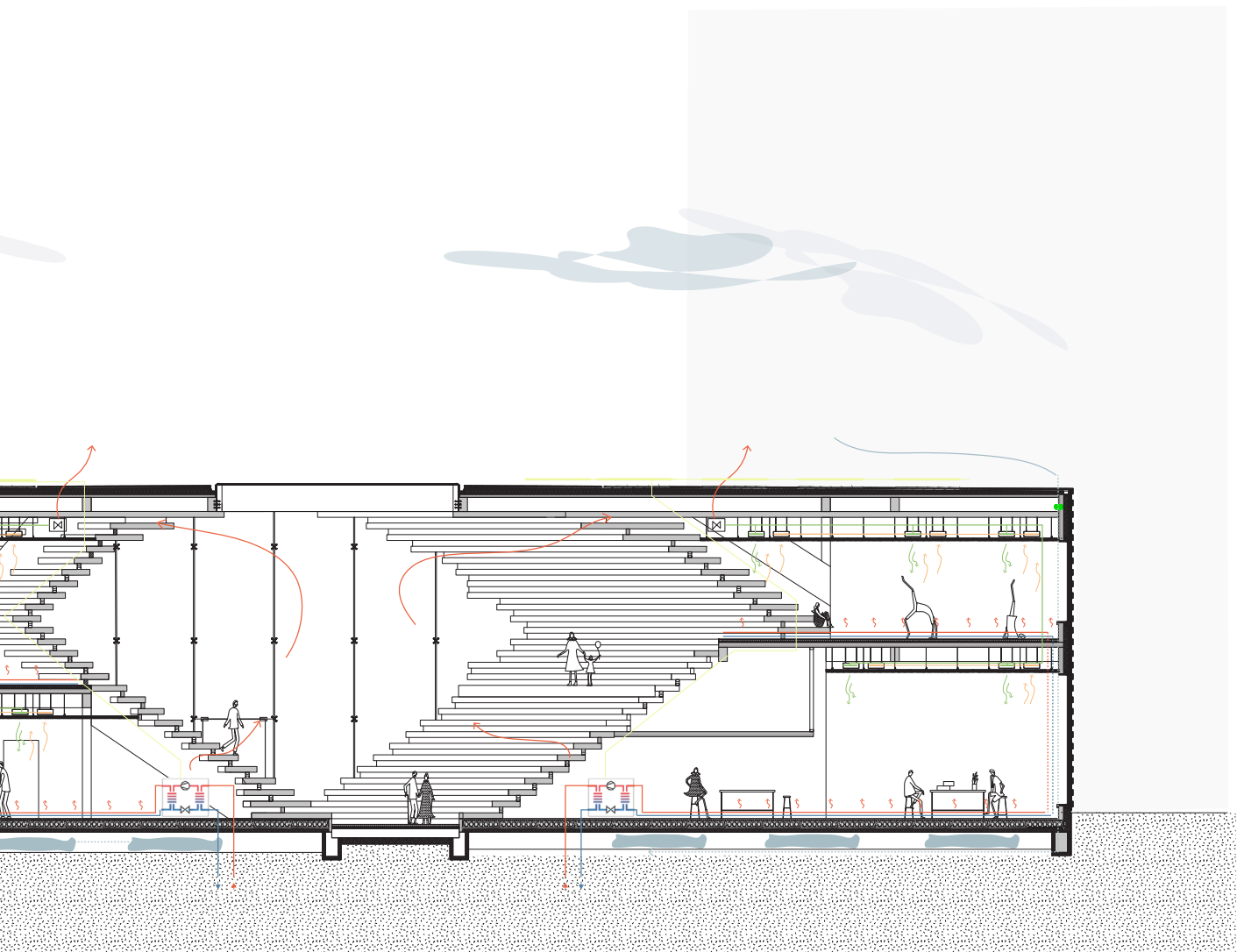


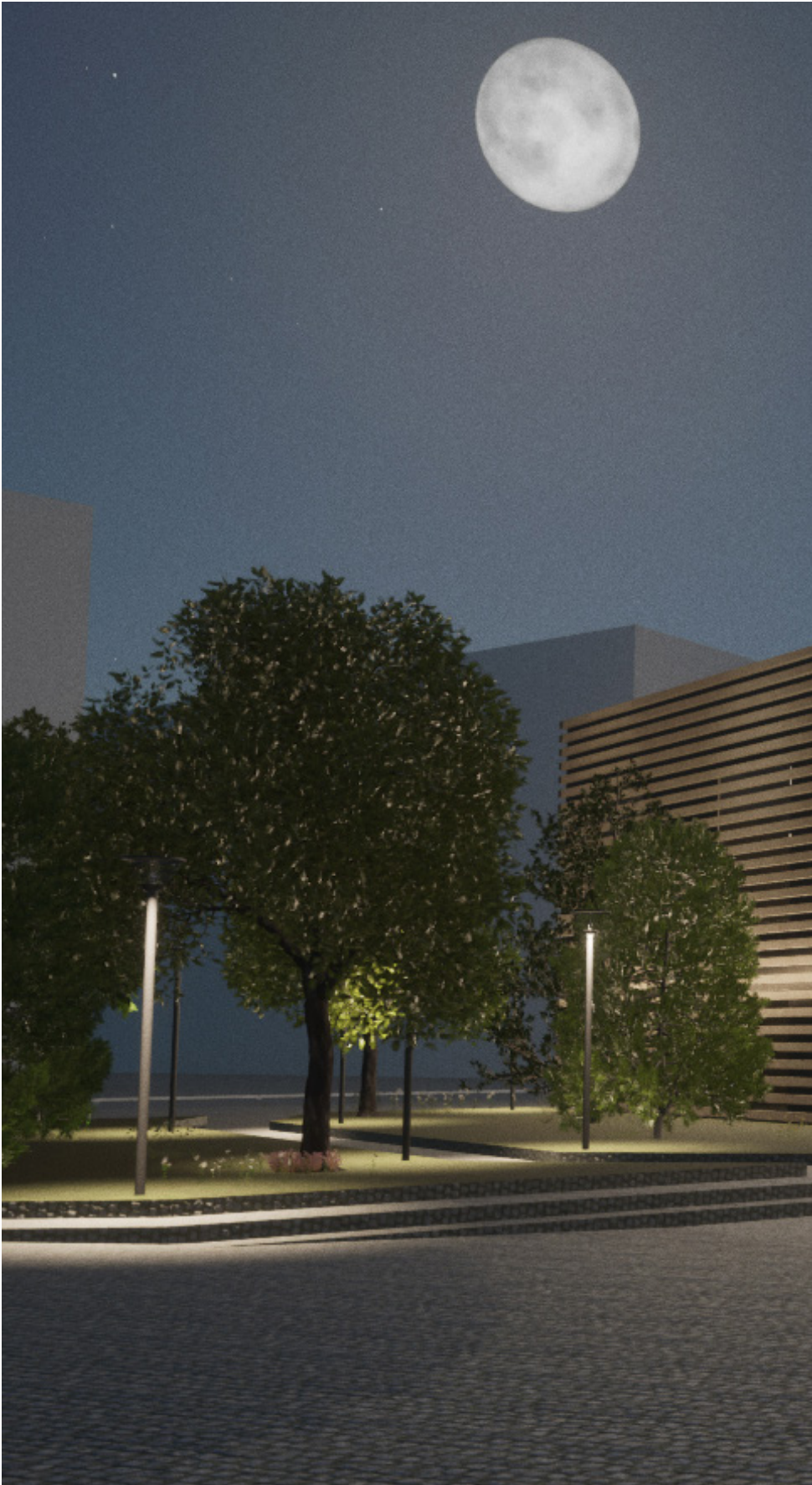
climate section summer

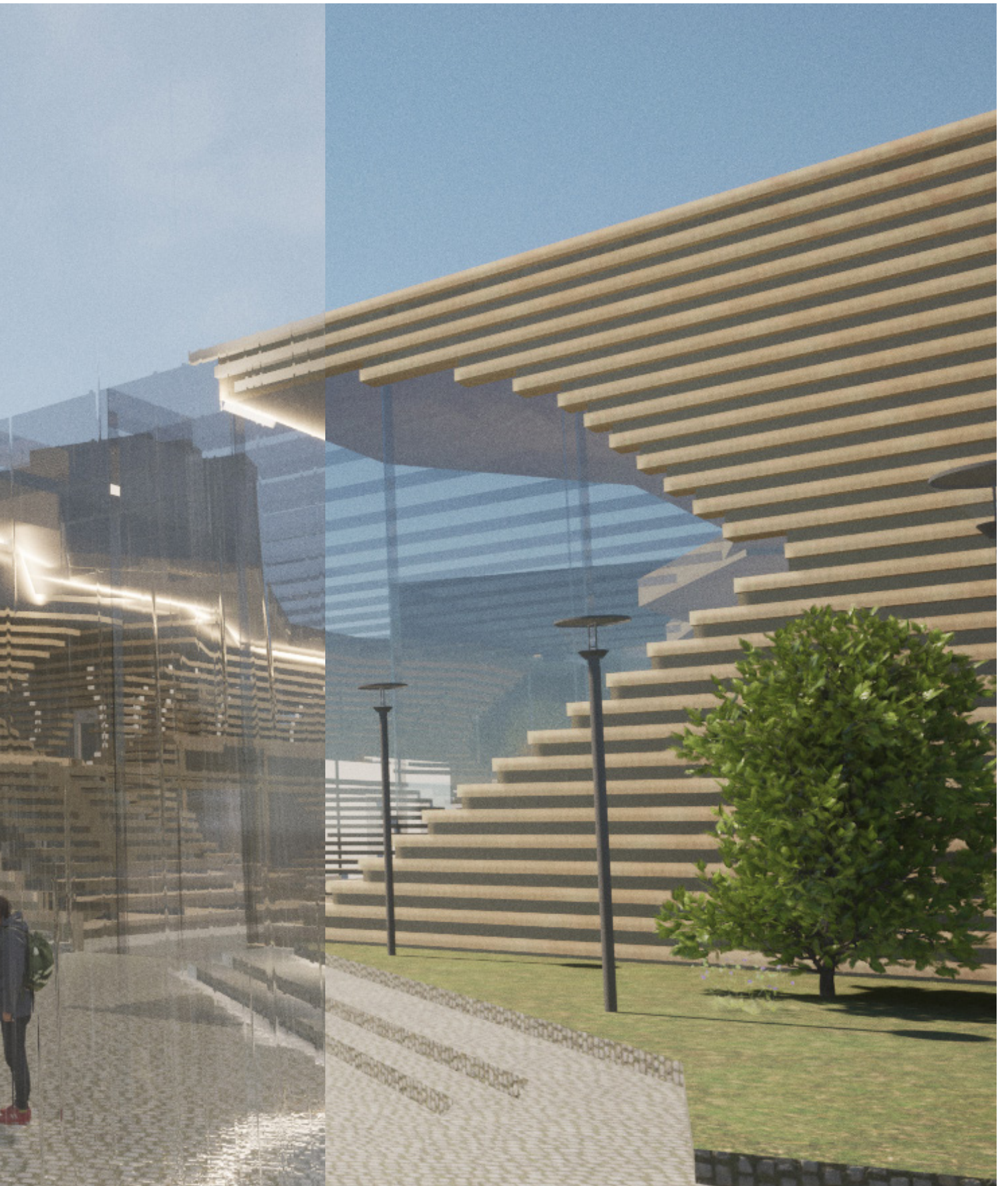




climate section winter







06 | Reflection

My project Karree is a part of the graduation studio Public Building, in which Commons and multiplicity are explored as a property of a Public Condenser. In this reflection, I will explain the results of my research and design in the graduation phase. I will chronologically describe how I approached the assignment and provide details about various developments that influenced the process and the outcome.

As I wrote in my graduation plan, my interests lie in how public buildings can stimulate social interactions between different target groups in an area, in addition to fulfilling various functions. I believe that placing social functions in a building is only a small part of increasing interaction, and that the building itself can also contribute to this goal. This flexible approach to architecture is important for societal interests. Therefore, I believe that a public condenser should be regarded as a social catalyst, serving as a place of inclusion and diversity where different demographics, ethnicities, cultures, and lifestyles can meet. In my graduation project, I began with an analysis of the assignment and the context, resulting in a personal interpretation of the problem in the area and setting a general goal for the project. Through weekly research by design assignments, it was possible to explore different topics using different means, investigating how architecture could achieve the desired effect.

Goal

In short, the assignment describes Public Condenser as a place where people from different demographic backgrounds, routines, cultures, and lifestyles meet. The project location is in Friedrichshain, a neighborhood that has undergone gentrification. The goal was to improve living conditions, but gentrification had a negative effect on the social level, leading to a loss of sense of belonging, community, and a shift towards an increasingly homogenous population of residents from the upper class. The lower and middle class were displaced by rising costs. Moreover, the characteristic value of the area was compromised as the withdrawal of expats and stakeholders led to the disappearance of the authentic look of the neighborhoods and the emergence of monotonous Plattenbau, limited amenities, and neglected public spaces.

For me, the introduction of a Public Condenser in this area is to prevent further homogenization caused by gentrification and encourage social mixing, appealing to socio-economic groups in Friedrichshain. The challenge is to design a building that supports this goal by accommodating functions that promote "learning and creating" processes, such as a box theater, workshops, maker space, exhibition space, and library. It also promotes "sharing and meeting" processes, such as a common kitchen, lounge, co-working spaces, and exhibitions, as well as leisure activities

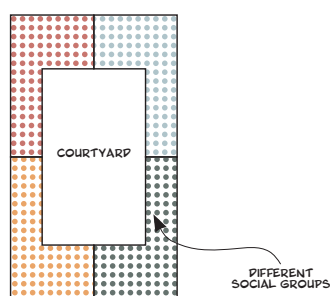
such as sports and outdoor spaces. An important design strategy is to offer a variety of spaces that can serve multiple functions and facilitate social interaction by connecting these spaces to a central collective space that serves as the "Forum" of the building. This way, the Public Condenser can appeal to a wider audience. This goes beyond simply placing different social functions in a building to attract different people. With this, I hope to ensure that the (new) residents in the area can form a community in which they can make the place their own (sense of belonging). The goal of promoting a sense of community among the people of Friedrichshain has been a dominant factor in the research and design in my graduation phase. This has been the guiding principle at each stage of both defining the program and the architectural expression, at various scales

Through the weekly research by design assignments, I came up with the theme of boundless architecture and how I can use this as a basis for my design. This includes striving for a versatile use of spaces, which leads to a more adaptable concept that can better respond to societal issues in the future. To achieve this, it is important for people to be able to open themselves up and promote different processes; "learning and creating" and "sharing and meeting". It is important to strive for curiosity in users to achieve this.

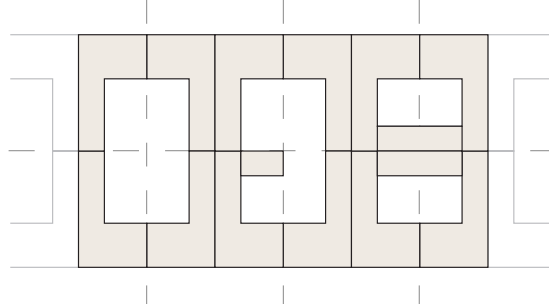
Mietskaserne as a guideline

Mietskaserne as a guideline

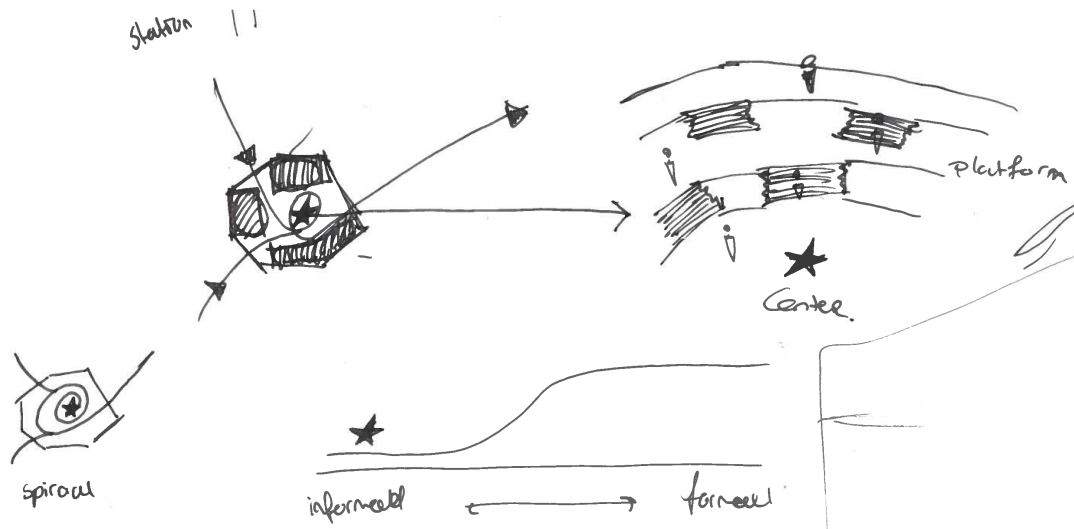
With this in mind, I researched ways in which a space can be more than just functional for certain purposes, with boundless architecture being central to this. After historical research, I came across the Mietskaserne, which shaped the culture of Berlin at the time. The principle of this was that all different social classes (rich and poor) lived together under one roof, with a communal courtyard. Despite the bad conditions (neglected) in most of these buildings, the residents enjoyed living there because of the social interactions they had. In current Friedrichshain, this is no longer the case, partly due to gentrification. But this way of thinking describes what I believe about a Public Condenser and its function. Not so much the typology of the Mietskaserne, but the idea that different social classes are not separated from each other but are instead connected through a collective space.



Principle of Mietskaserne



This led me to the Forum principle, where a central point is designed with spaces around it. The Forum creates a space for people to connect, listen to each other, understand, or even empathize with each other. The open view of each other will promote a sense of togetherness. To promote meetings between different social groups, it is important to offer a variety of spaces that can serve multiple functions. While compiling my program, I mainly looked at functions that can take place in an informal way. Since the formal way requires specific spaces, the informal way is easy to merge into a large space. This blurs the boundaries and creates a space where different groups interact with each other and inspire each other.



Function of the Forum

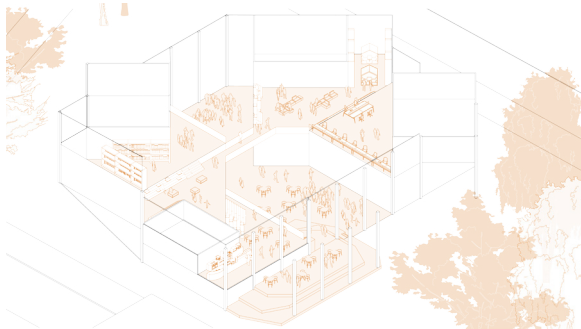
Origin of Karree

Friedrichshagen is divided into three different neighborhoods, each with its own character. The challenge here was how to bring these three neighborhoods together in some way so that the Public Condenser becomes a place for everyone in the district. To express my idea in a specific location, I looked mainly at centrally located places that are easily accessible and offer the possibility to connect the neighborhoods with each other. This led me to the location of Wriezener Karree, located on an industrial site that blocks the connection between the neighborhoods due to mainly vacant buildings and industrial function. The challenge here was primarily to attract residents of Andreasviertel, where social functions are minimally present. An important barrier on this side is the park without sight lines to the project location and the fast traffic that separates the two neighborhoods. On the other hand, the challenge is to attract residents of Weberwiese, who are largely blocked by the industrial character of the project location. I realized that the Forum in my design had to be the eye-catcher, and to do it proper, the architecture on the outside had to be in contrast. The building should attract attention without revealing too much and blend into the surroundings. While the architecture inside forms a completely different world that is isolated from the

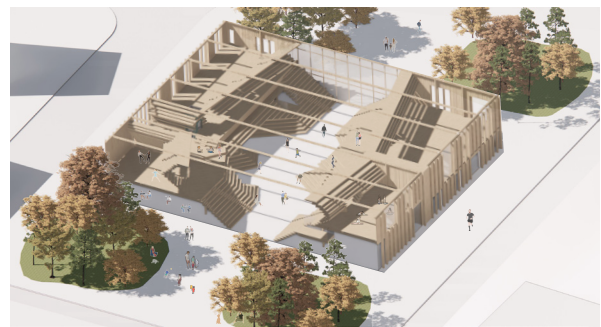
rapid changes of the outside world, a place that puts everything on hold and creates calmness. As a materialization, I chose to work with one material as much as possible, which is expressed in different ways: wood. This not only generates curiosity but also radiates unity with its own identity.

Step back

After the P2 presentation, I decided to take a step back and evaluate whether the Forum, which is the main element in my design, was being fully utilized and how I could implement it differently in the design. In this phase, the Forum was a space on its own, connected to the other spaces, but lacking a clear connection. Although the Forum was the central focus, there was a barrier between the spaces and the Forum. In the weeks following my P2 presentation, I focused on how to break down this barrier and make the Forum an integral part of the architecture. Eventually, I came up with the idea of viewing the Forum as a kind of canyon that defines the spaces, allowing users to sit in different places and heights. The canyon forms a world of its own within the building and is the connecting factor with the other spaces. By varying the size of the steps, different zones can be created to organize the collective space without physical elements. The Forum thus functions not only as a staircase, but also has multiple meanings that will stimulate social interactions between groups. Looking back, this further step strengthened my concept, which was necessary. However, I did not realize that the new design with the Forum brought about much more complexity, resulting in more time pressure than usual in the last few weeks.



Design approach for P2



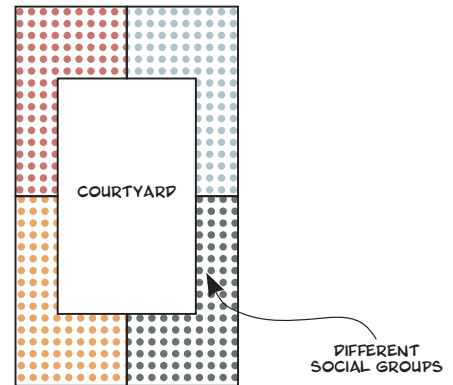
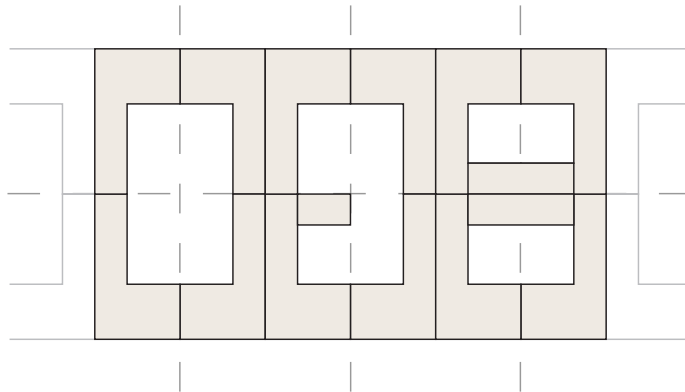
Design approach after P2

To sum up, by combining all facets of the design process, I arrived at my design for a Public Condenser that counteracts the homogeneous gentrification in Friedrichshain and encourages social interaction and mingling. The design introduces a stimulating intermediate space, described as an Forum, which serves as a connecting factor both in terms of architecture and users. The balance between functions, open and active public spaces, transforms the area into a vibrant community where people become part of the city. This research serves as a prototype and offers the possibility of applying the idea to different locations. It serves as a basis for future design by exploring the multiple use of space with various

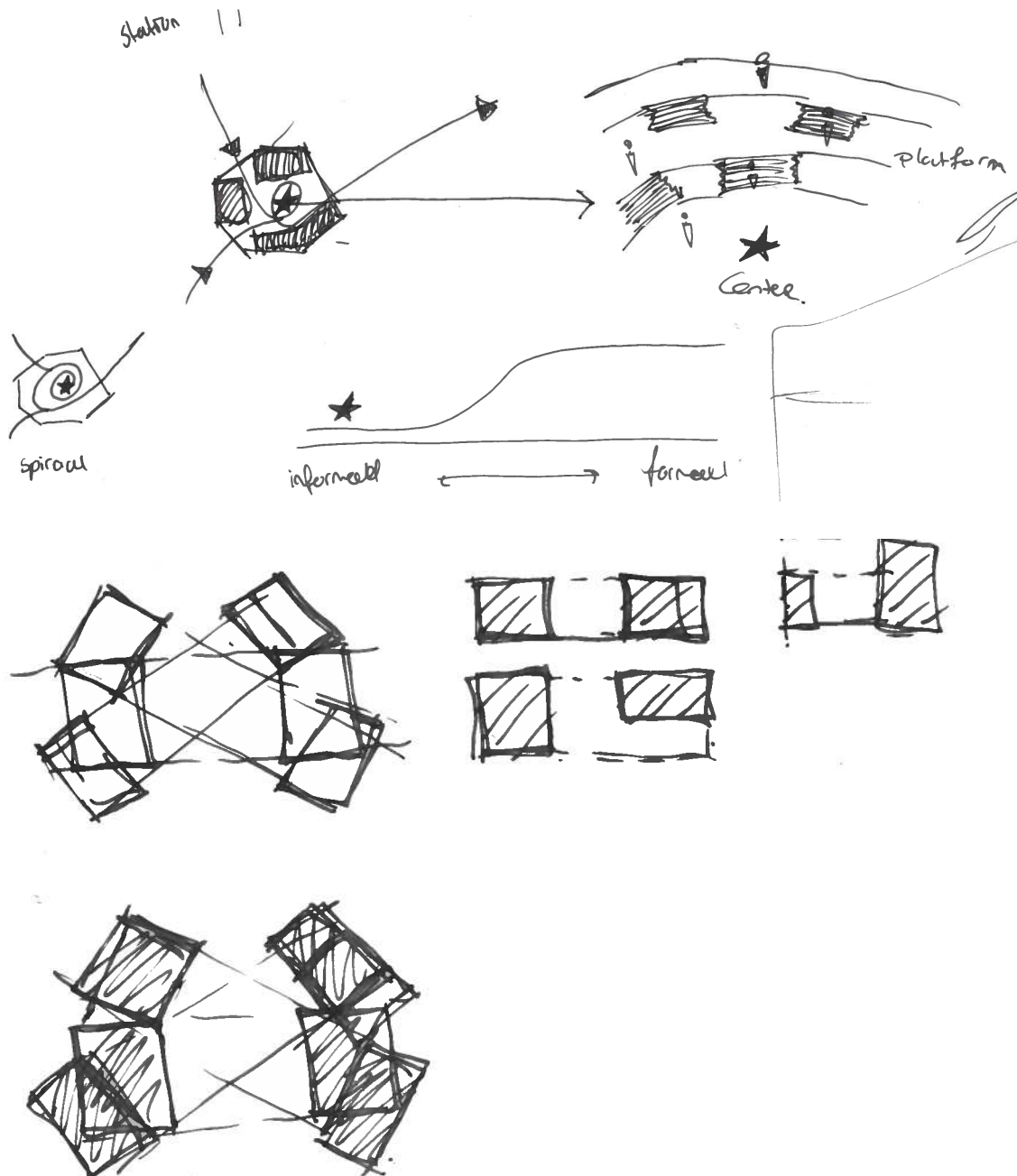
themes. Moreover, the flexible approach to spatial qualities leads to a more adaptable concept that can better respond to the rapidly changing and unpredictable future.

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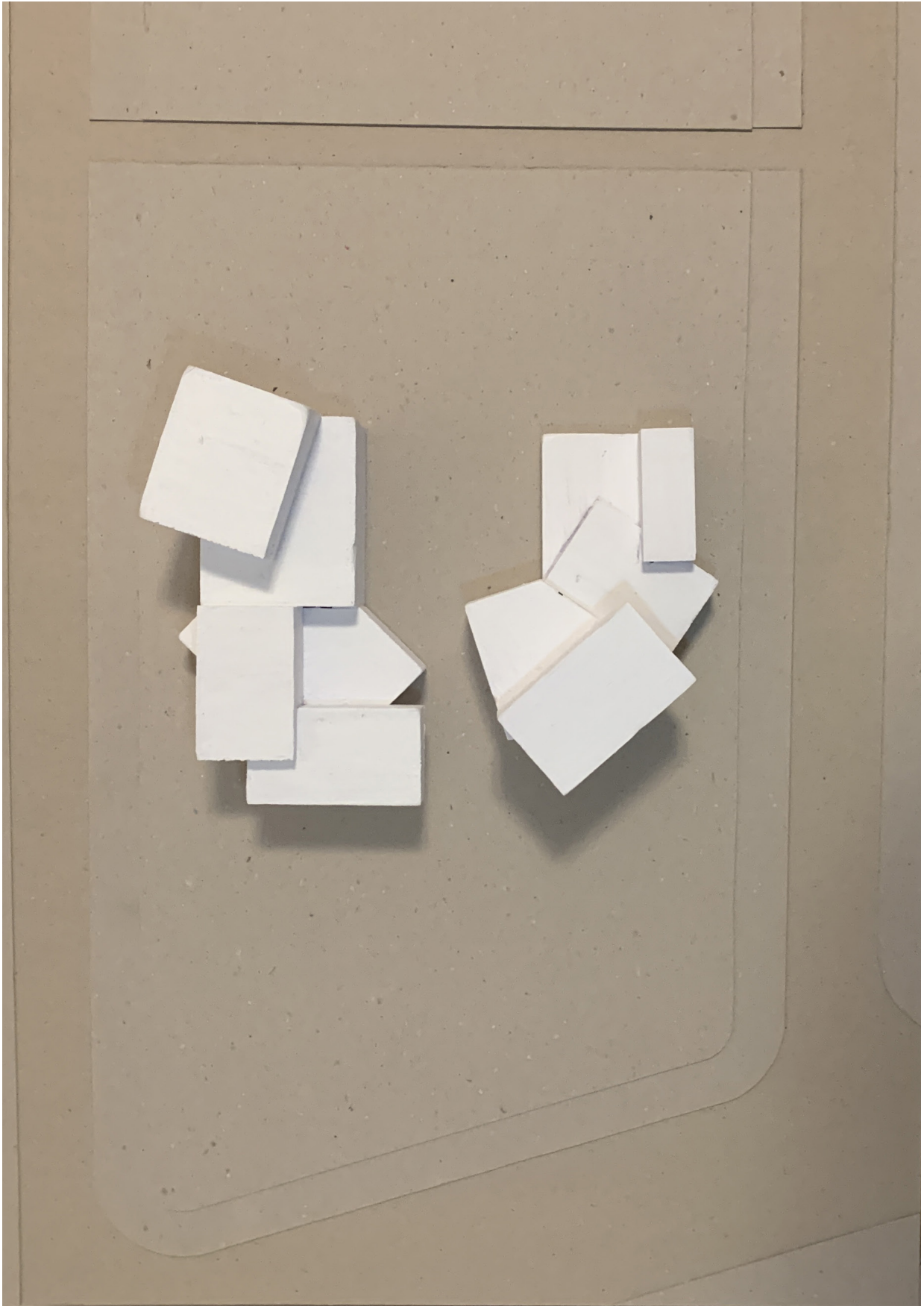
CONCEPT MIETSKASERNE

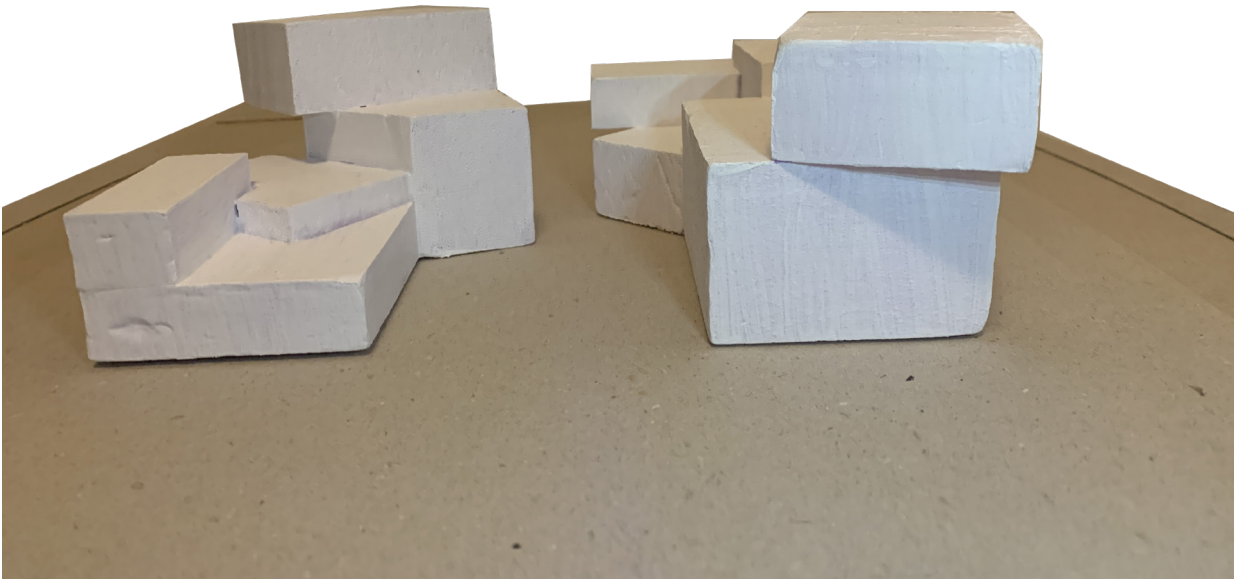
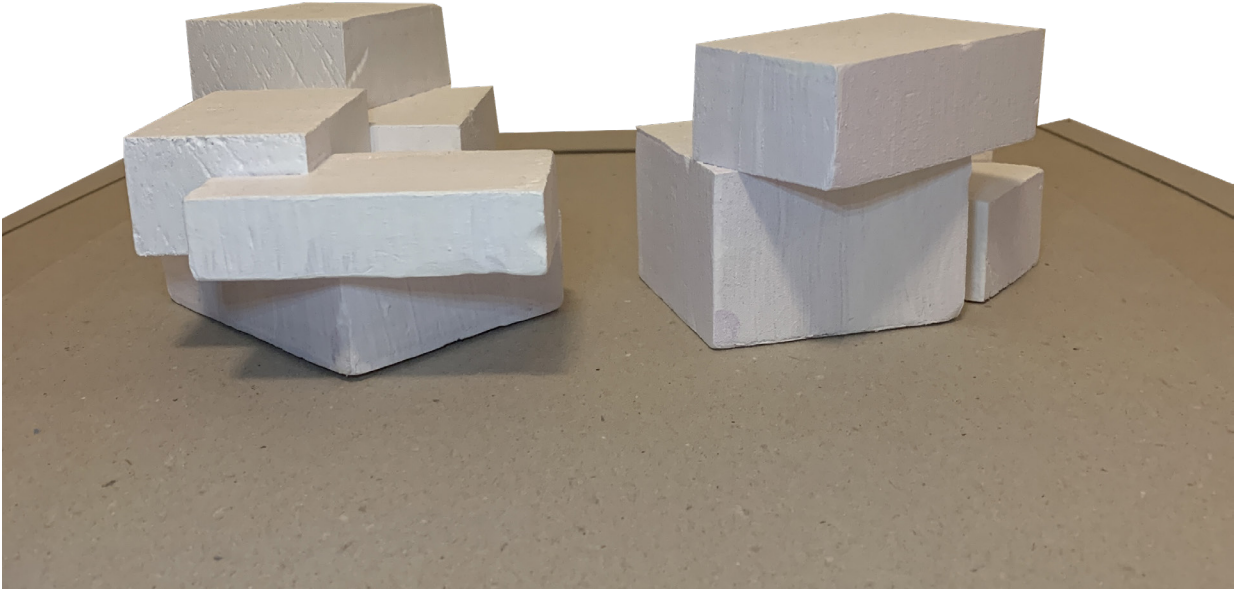


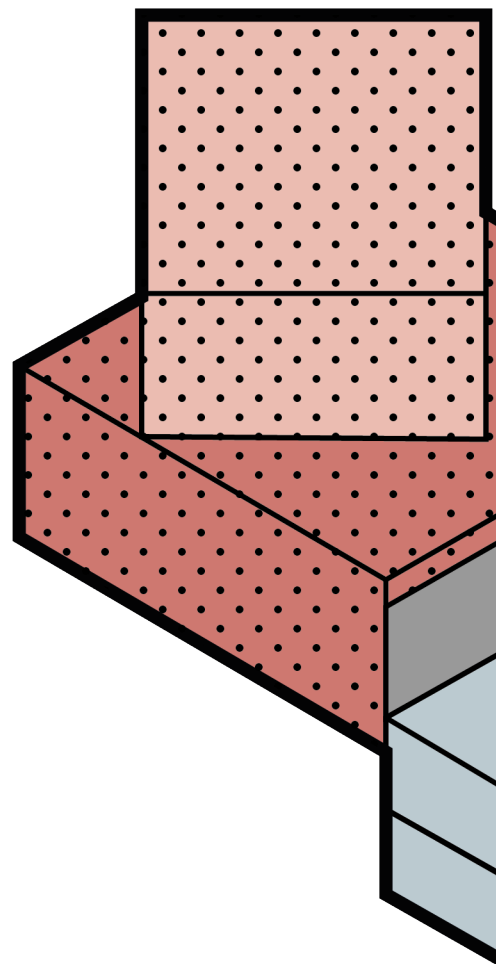
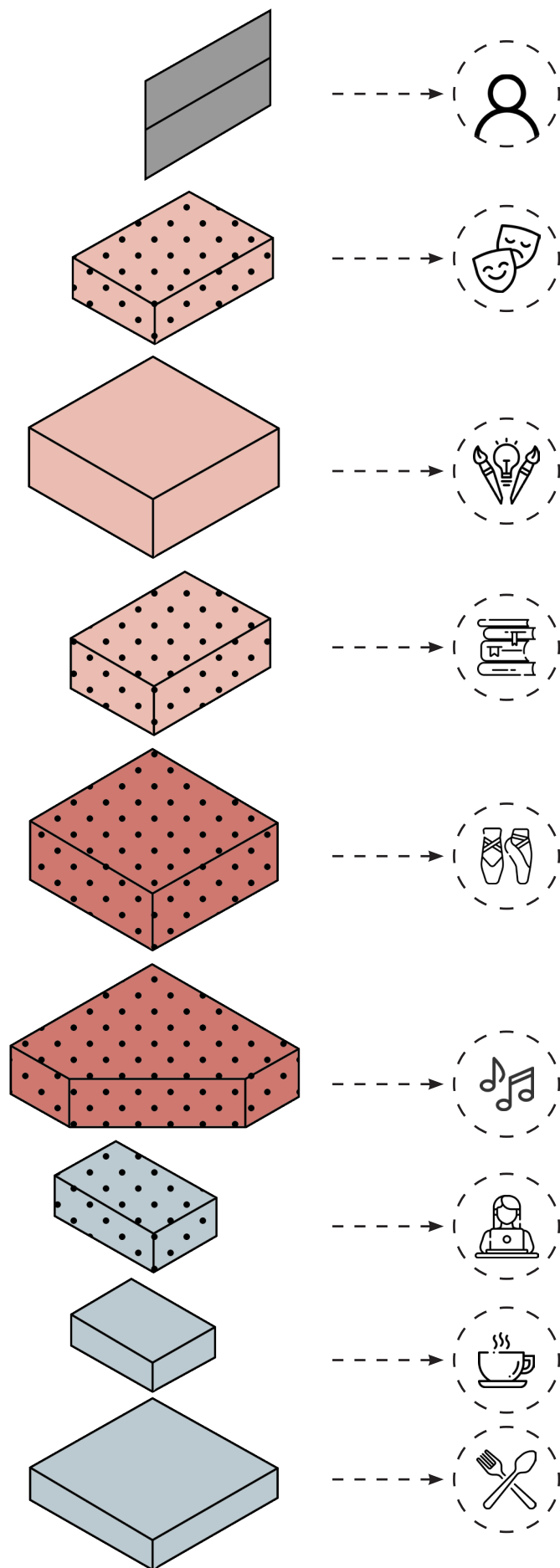
Principle Mietskaserne diagram

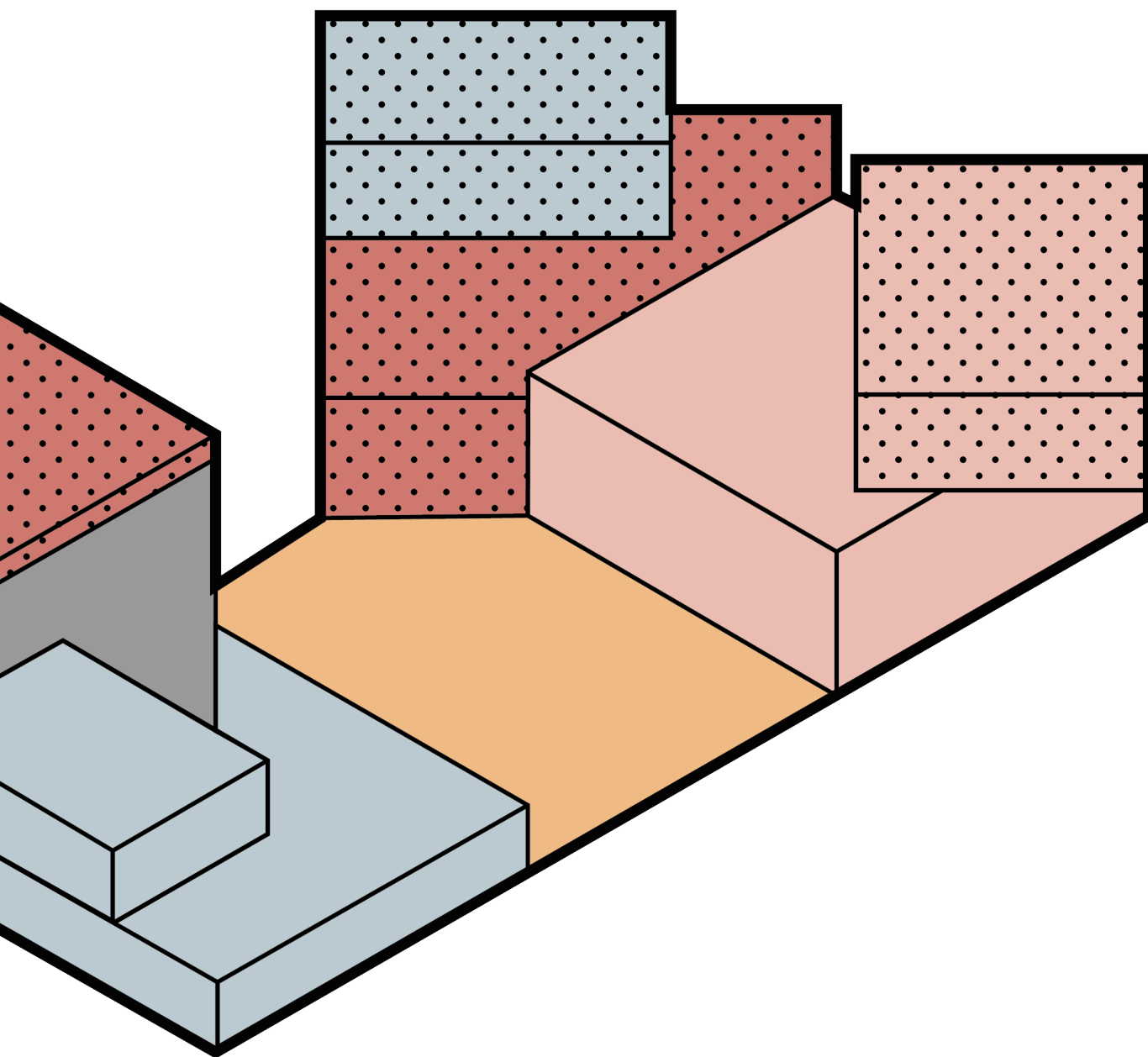


MASS DEVELOPMENT THROUGH "ARENA"









movement



commerce



cultural



staff

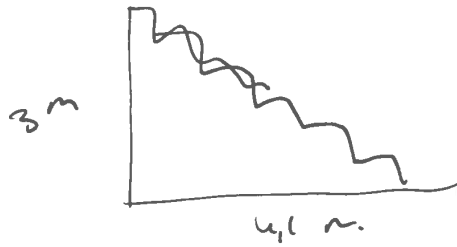


arena



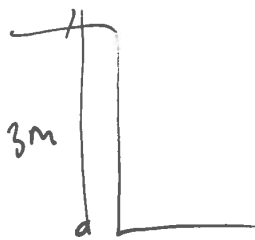
merged spaces

MULTIFUNCTIONAL STAIRS

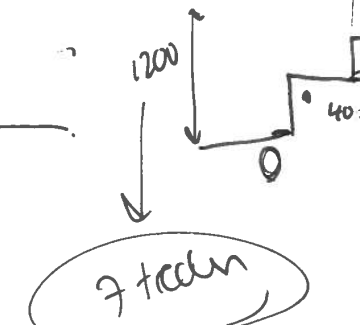
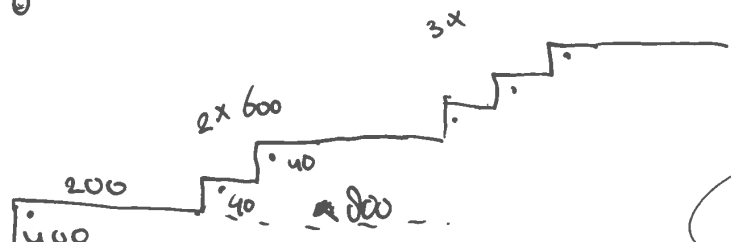
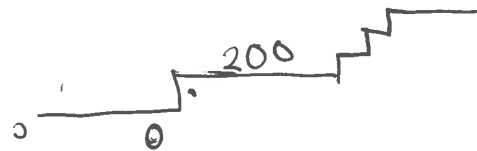
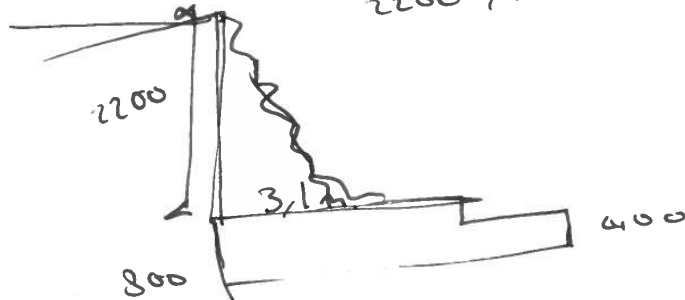


$$3000 / 165 = 18,1...$$

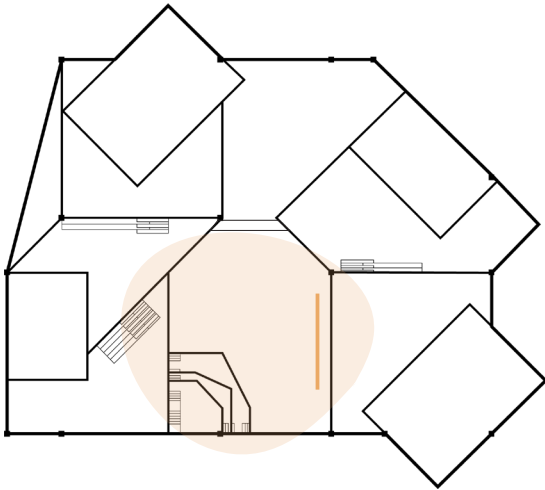
$$18,1... \times 230 = 4,1$$



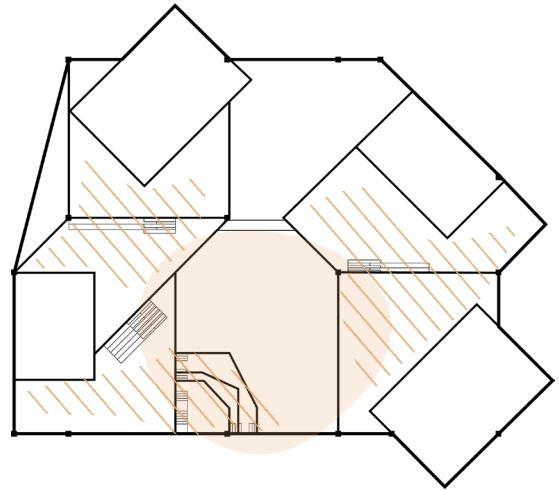
$$2200 / 165 \times 230 = 3066,7...$$



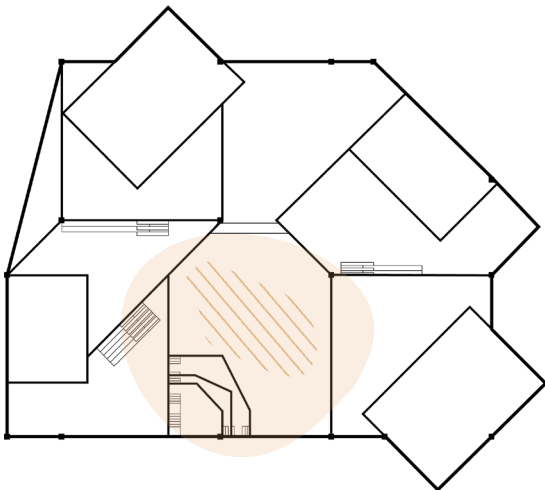
PRINCIPLE OF THE ARENA



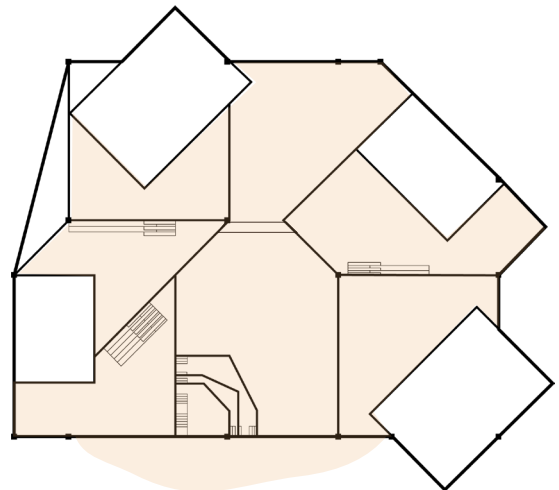
project



interact

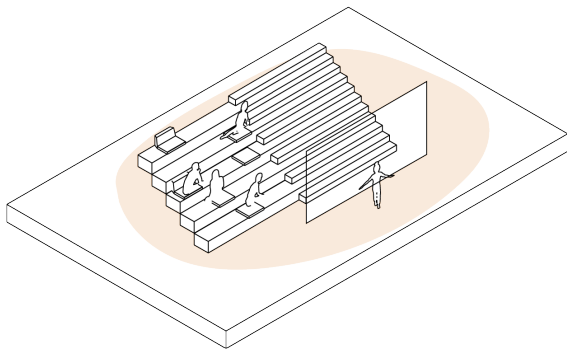


perform

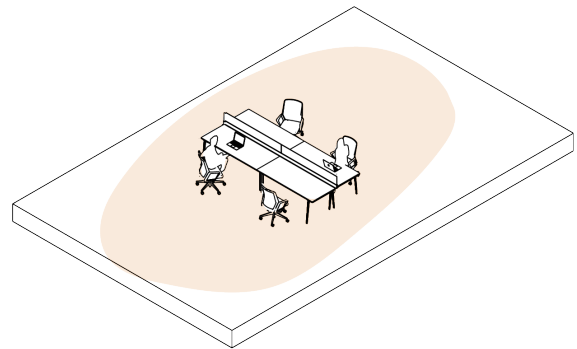


exhibit

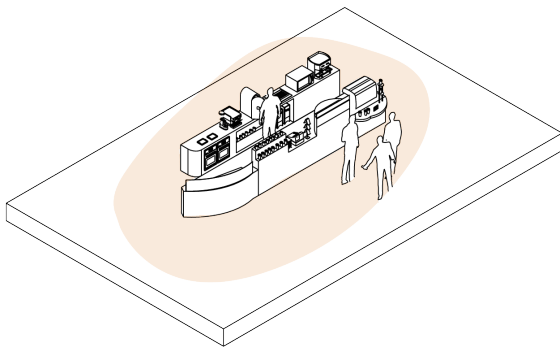
SOCIAL ACTIVITIES



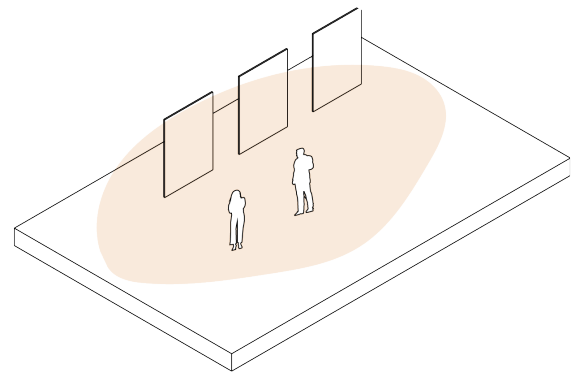
auditorium/theather



study/reading



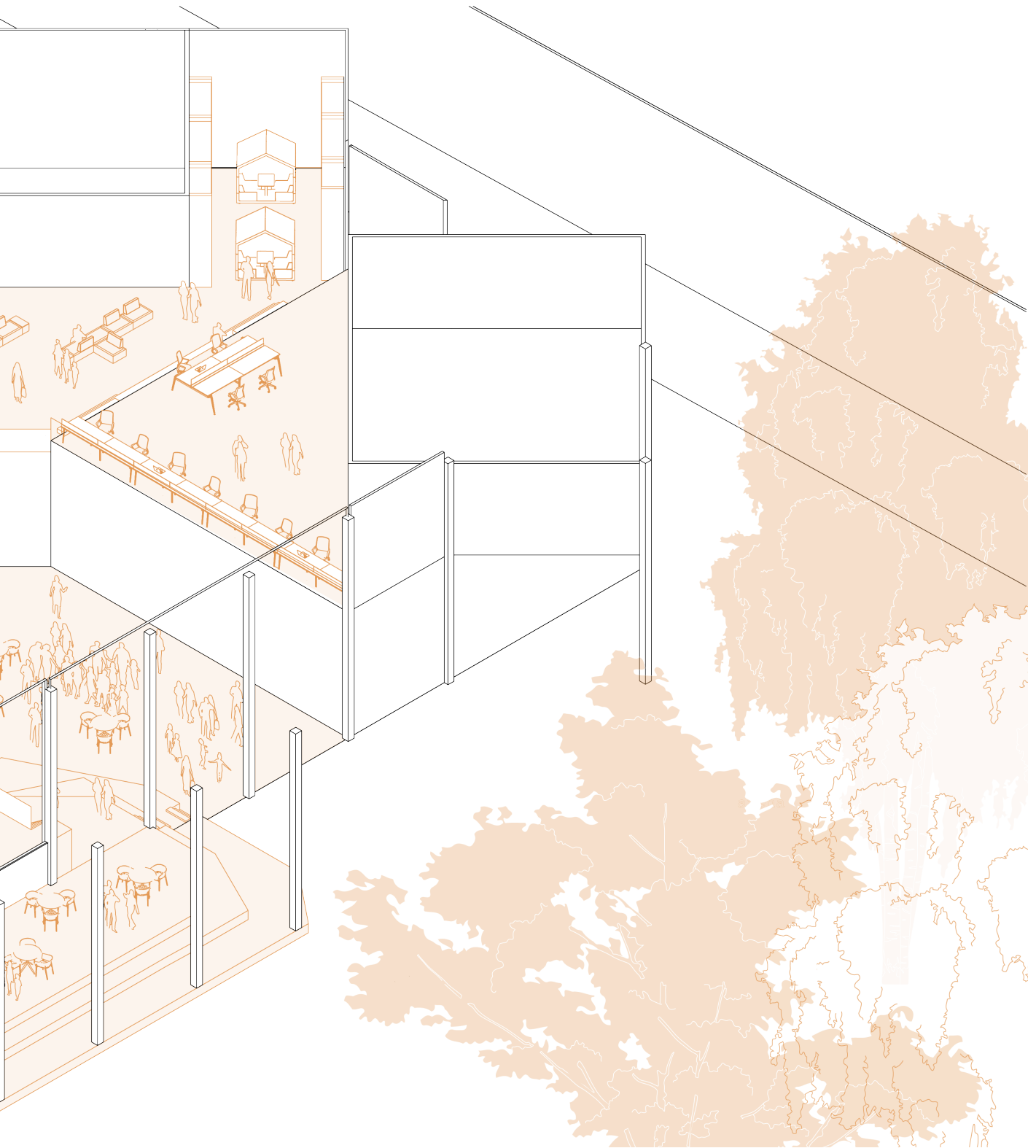
daytime

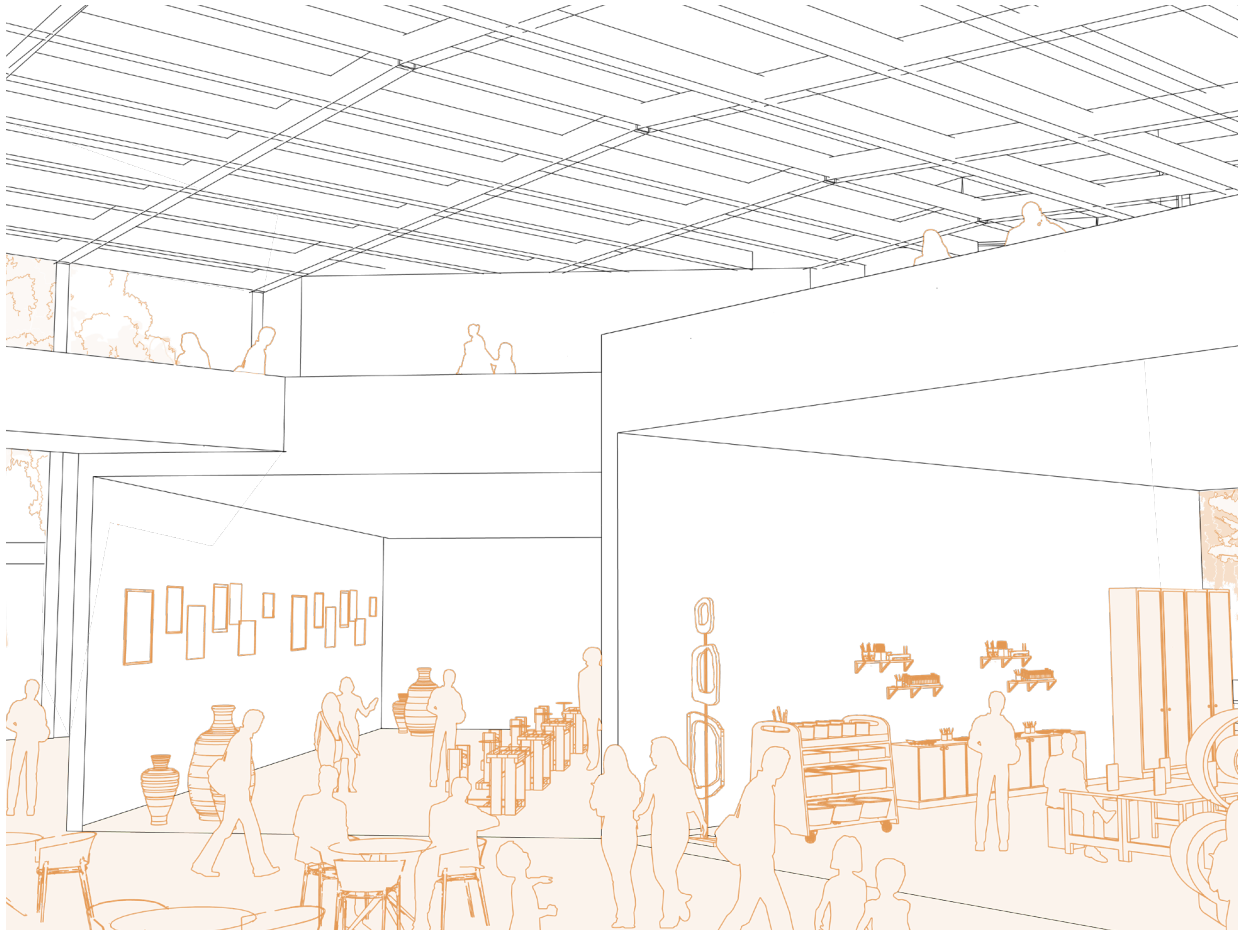


exhibition

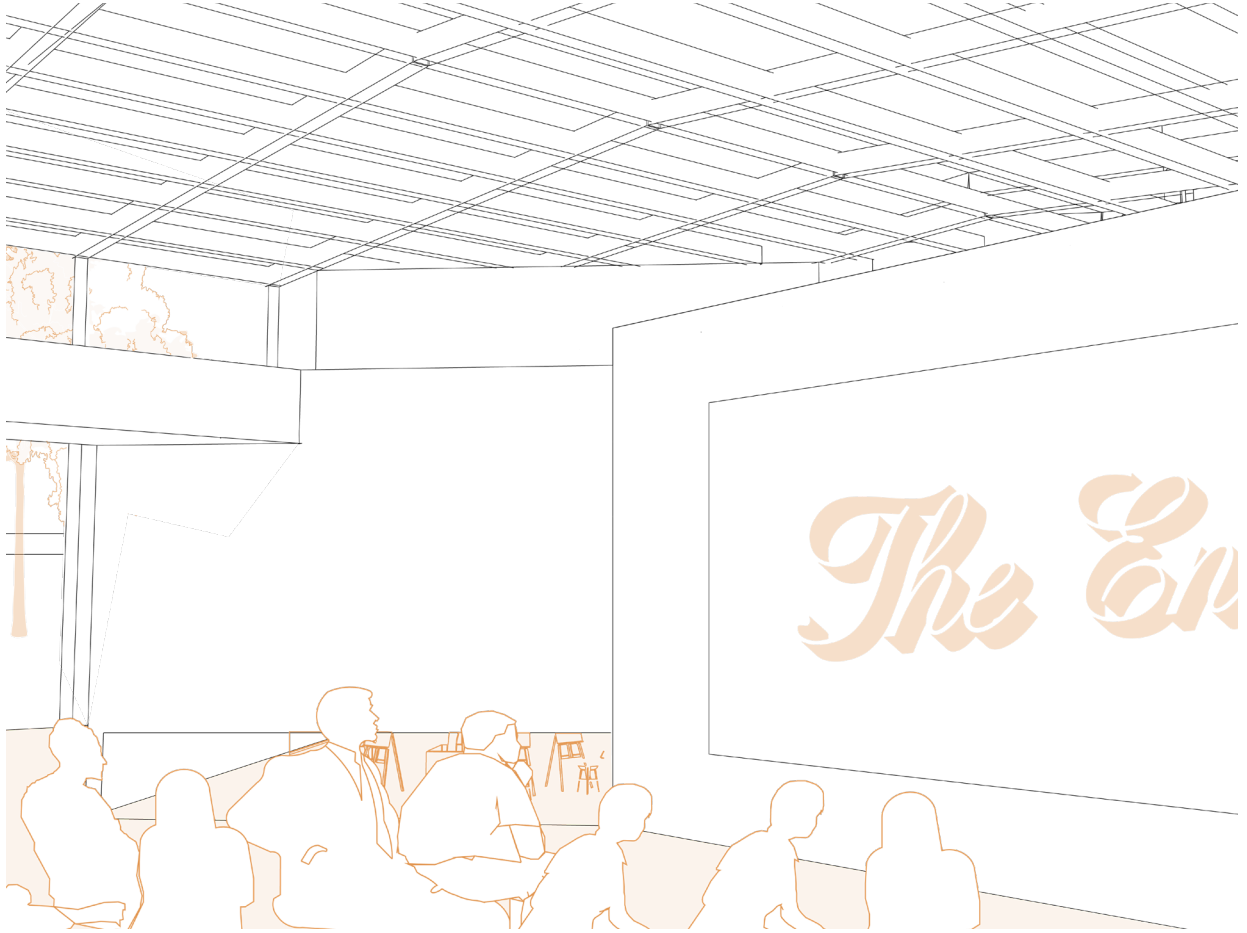


atmosphere gathering space and arena

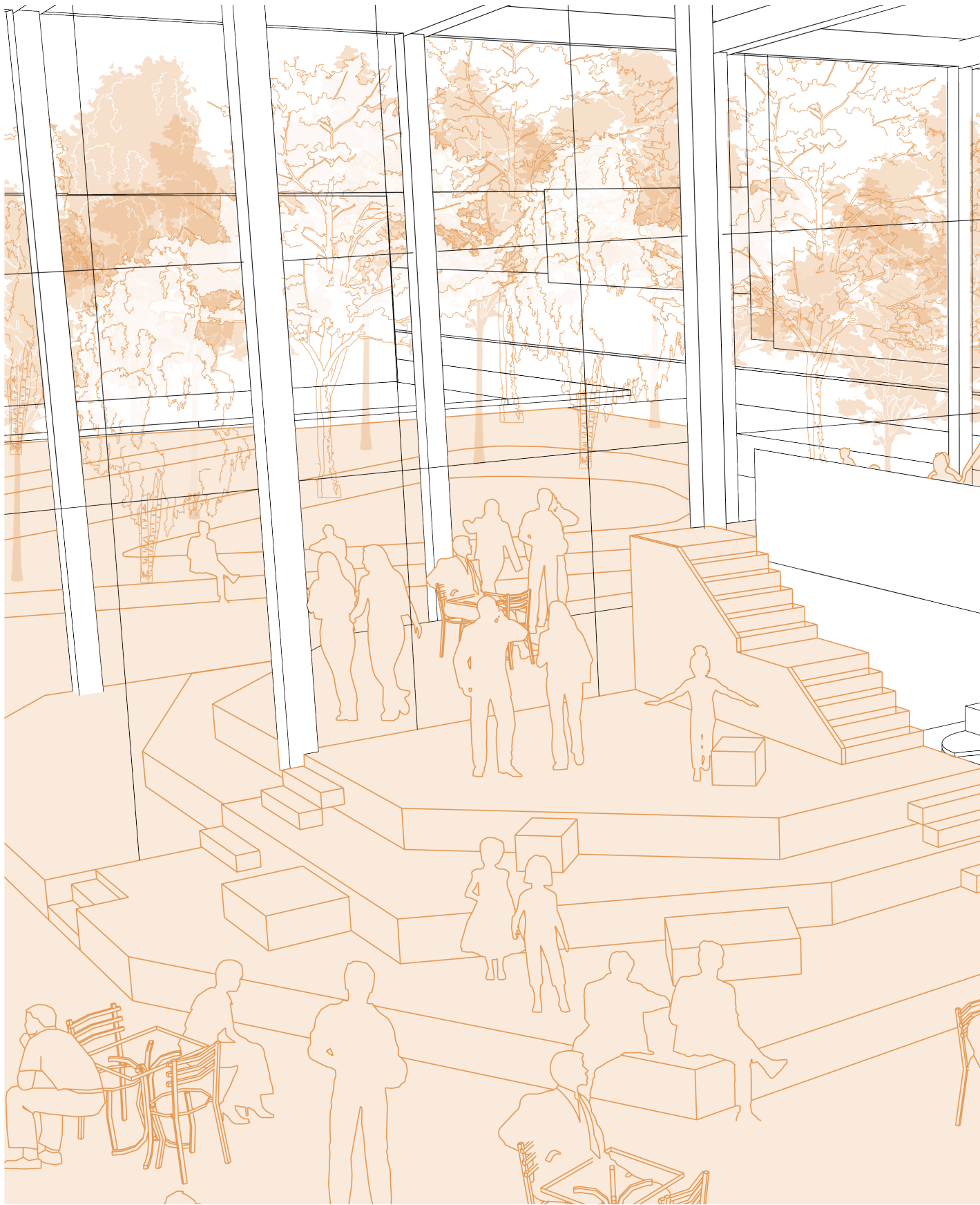




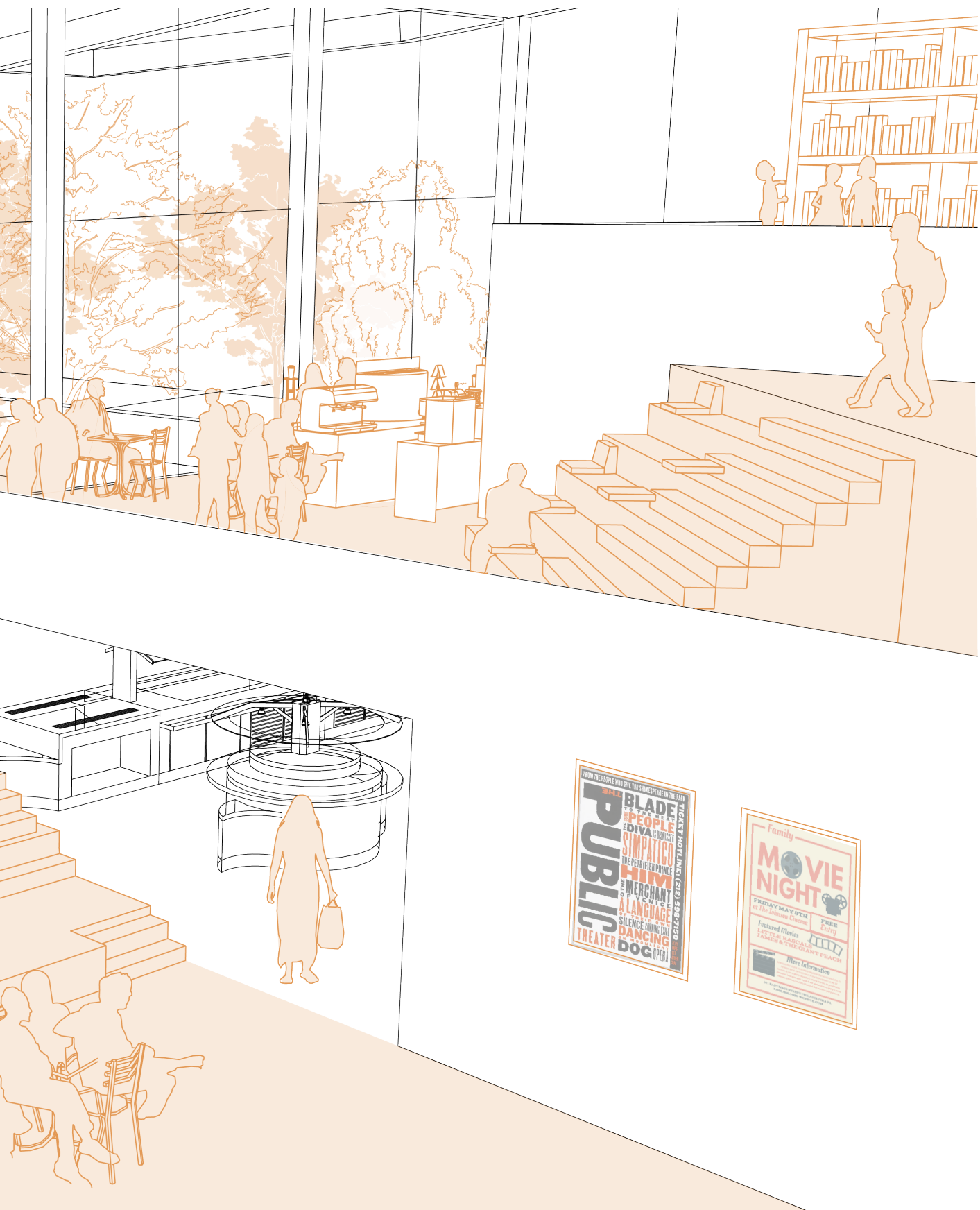
atmosphere arena daytime



atmosphere arena evening



atmosphere gathering space and arena



SITE PLAN



existing



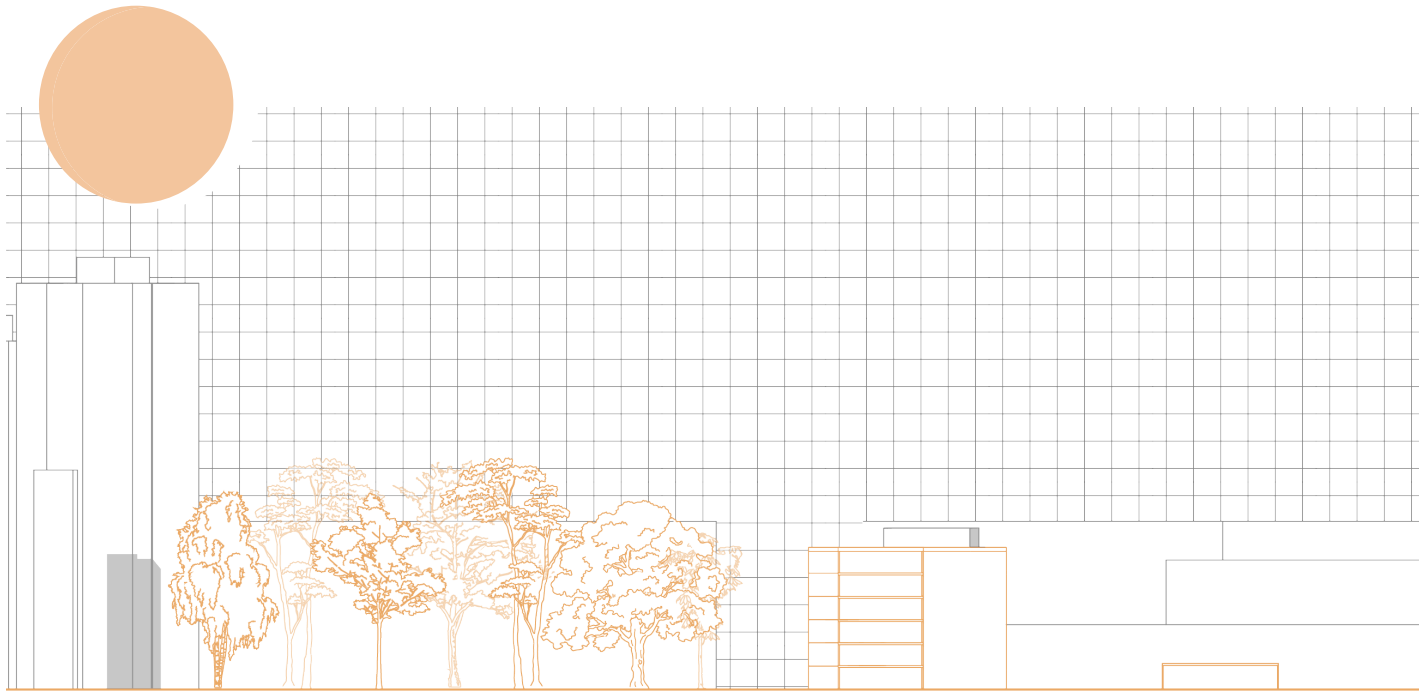


4

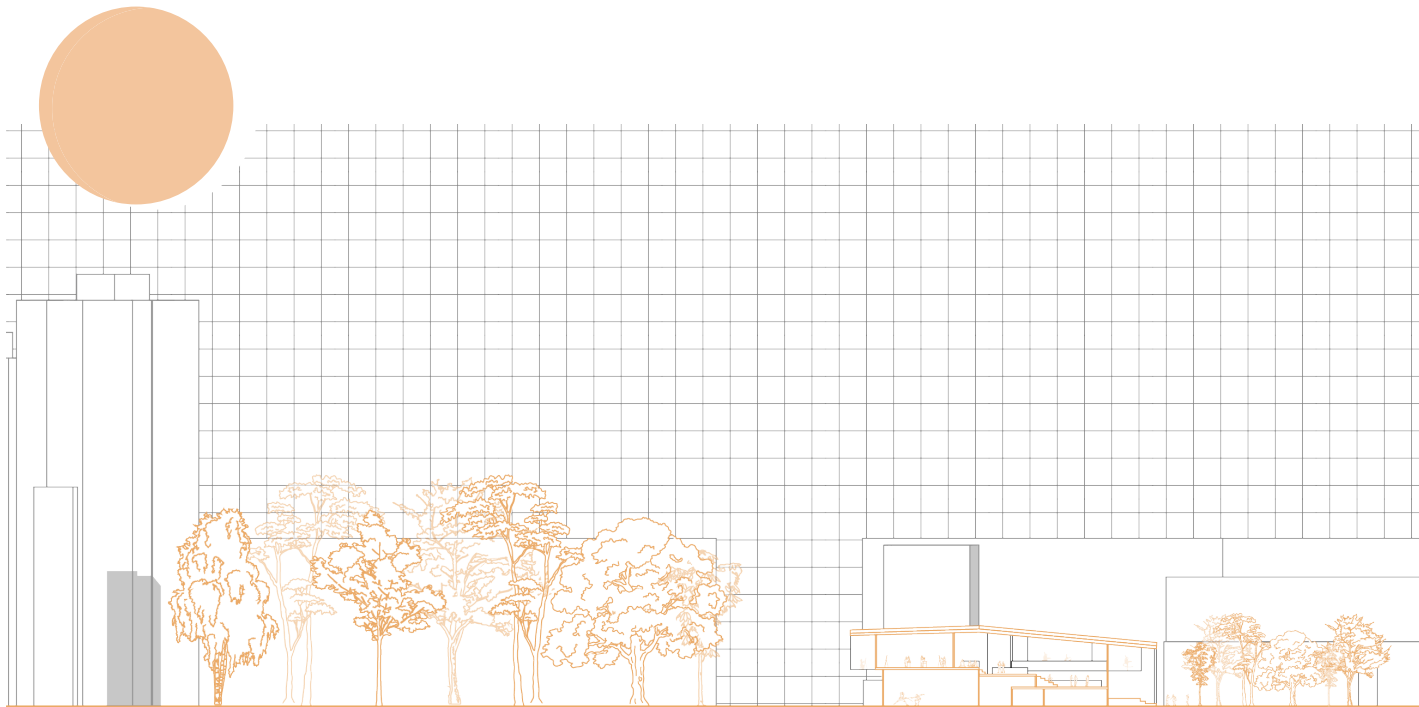
50m

new situation

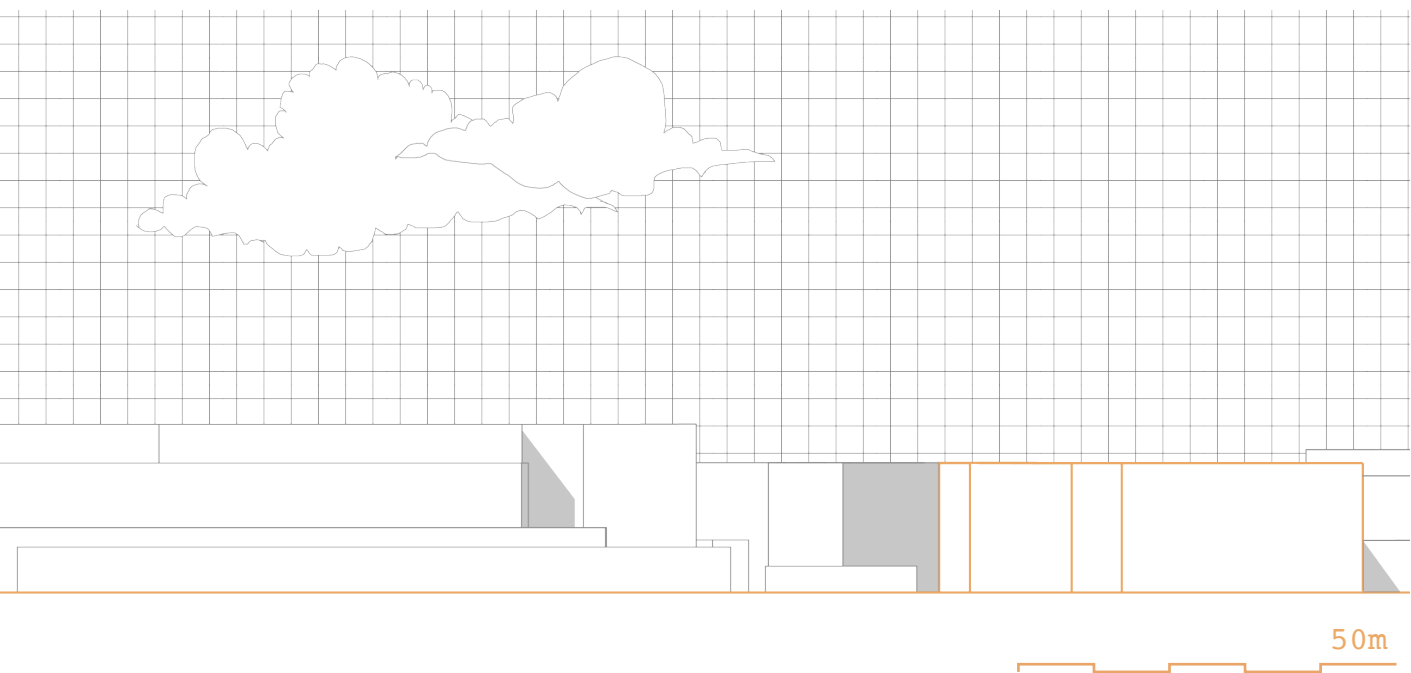
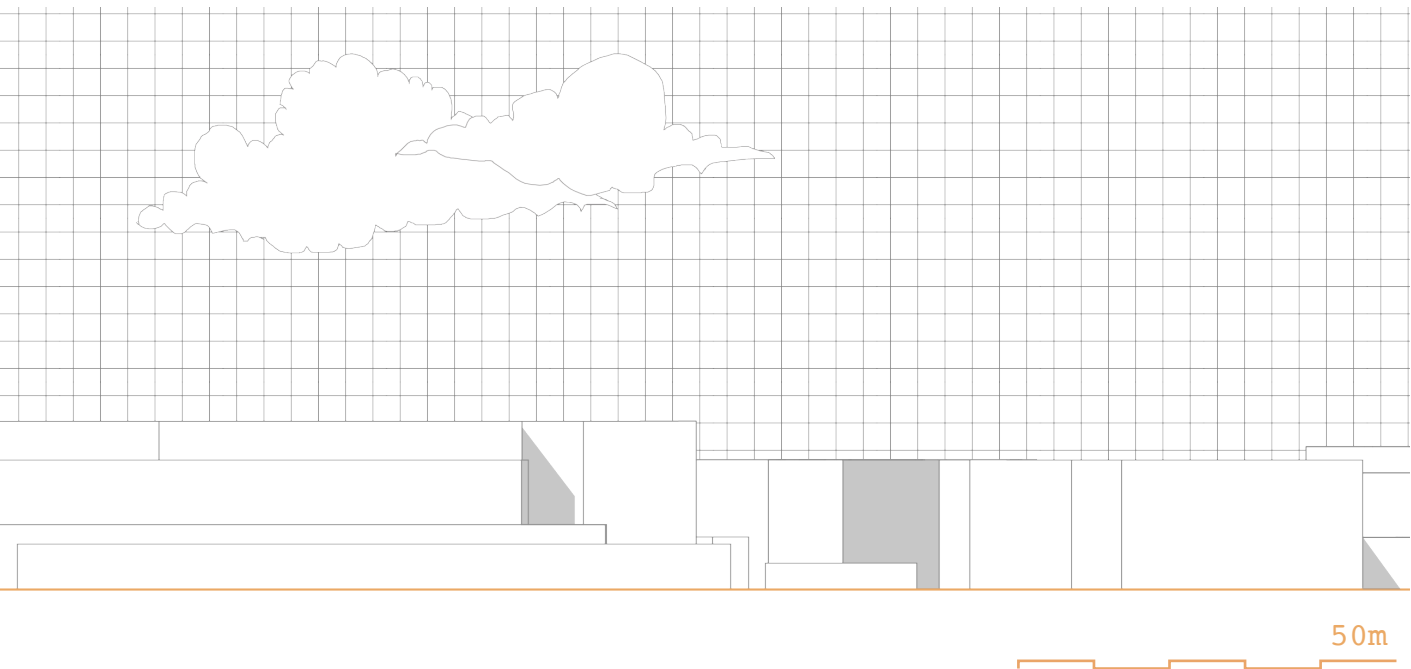
SITE SECTION



SITE SECTION EXISTING



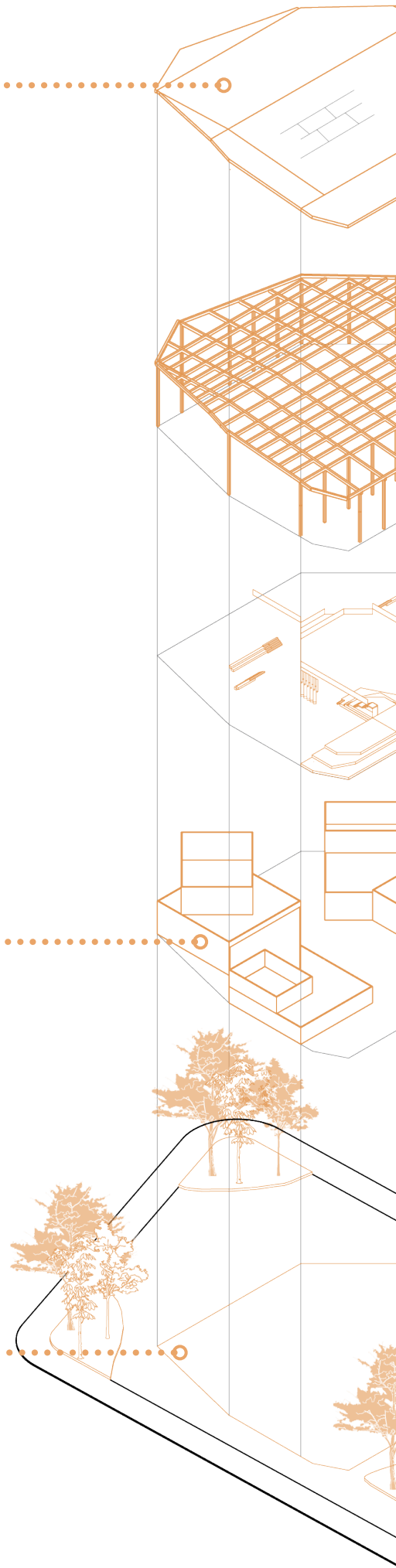
SITE SECTION NEW SITUATION



CONSTRUCTION AND CIRCULARITY APPROACH

reducing carbon
footprint

rainwater ponds





CLT roof elements

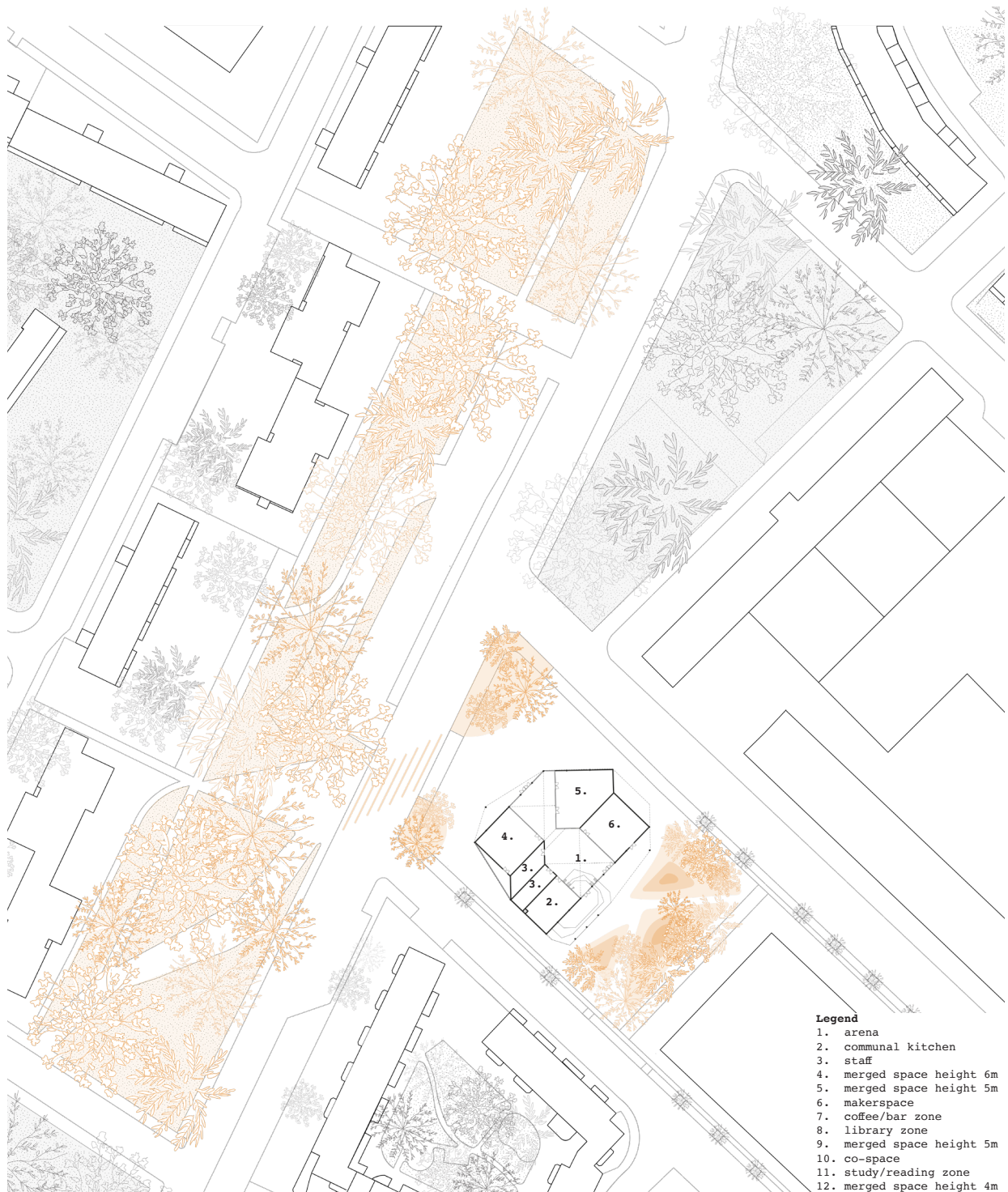
GLULAM post and beam structure

circulation through arena

CLT shear wall and floor elements

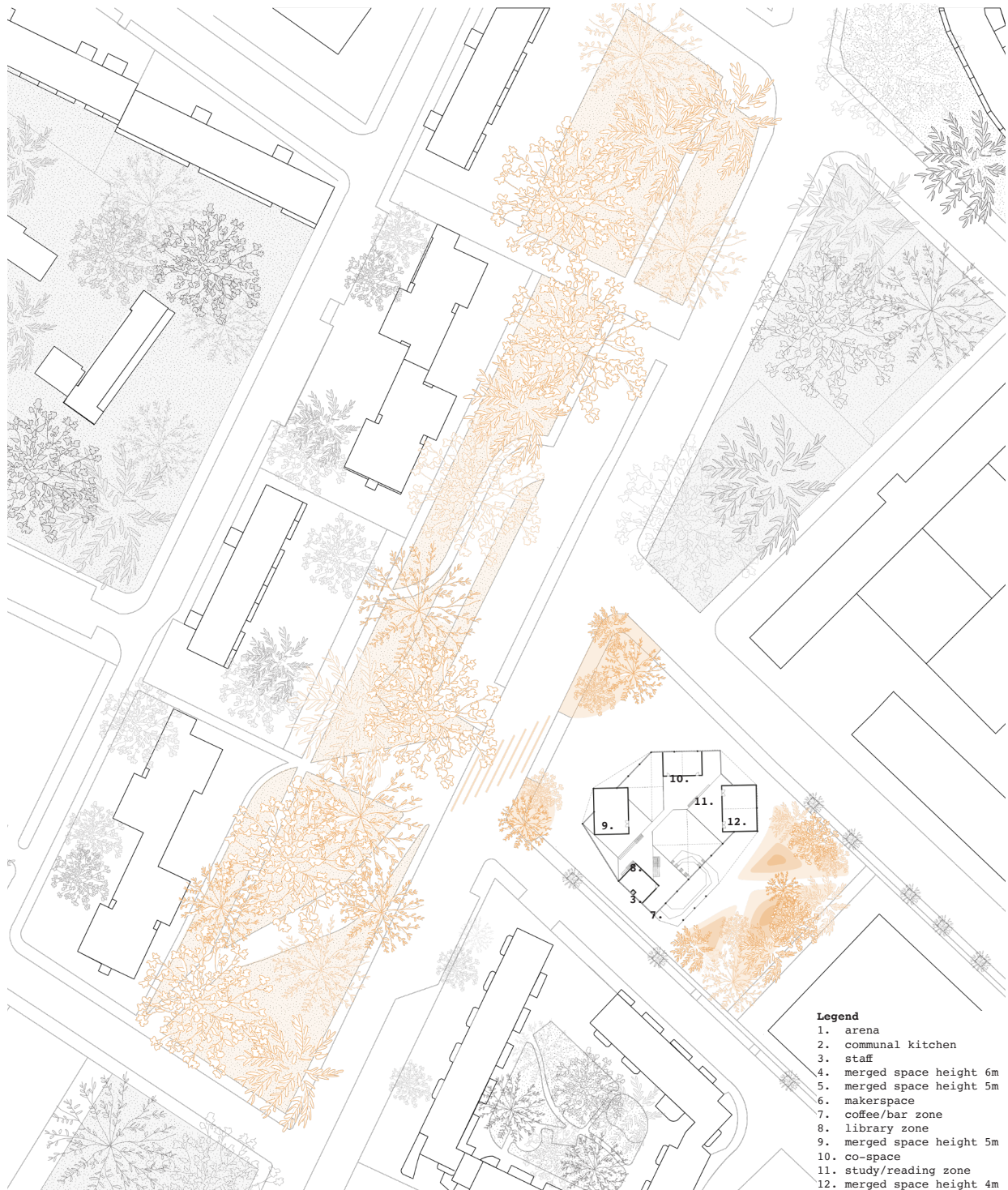
concrete foundation and ground-floor slab

PLANS KARREE



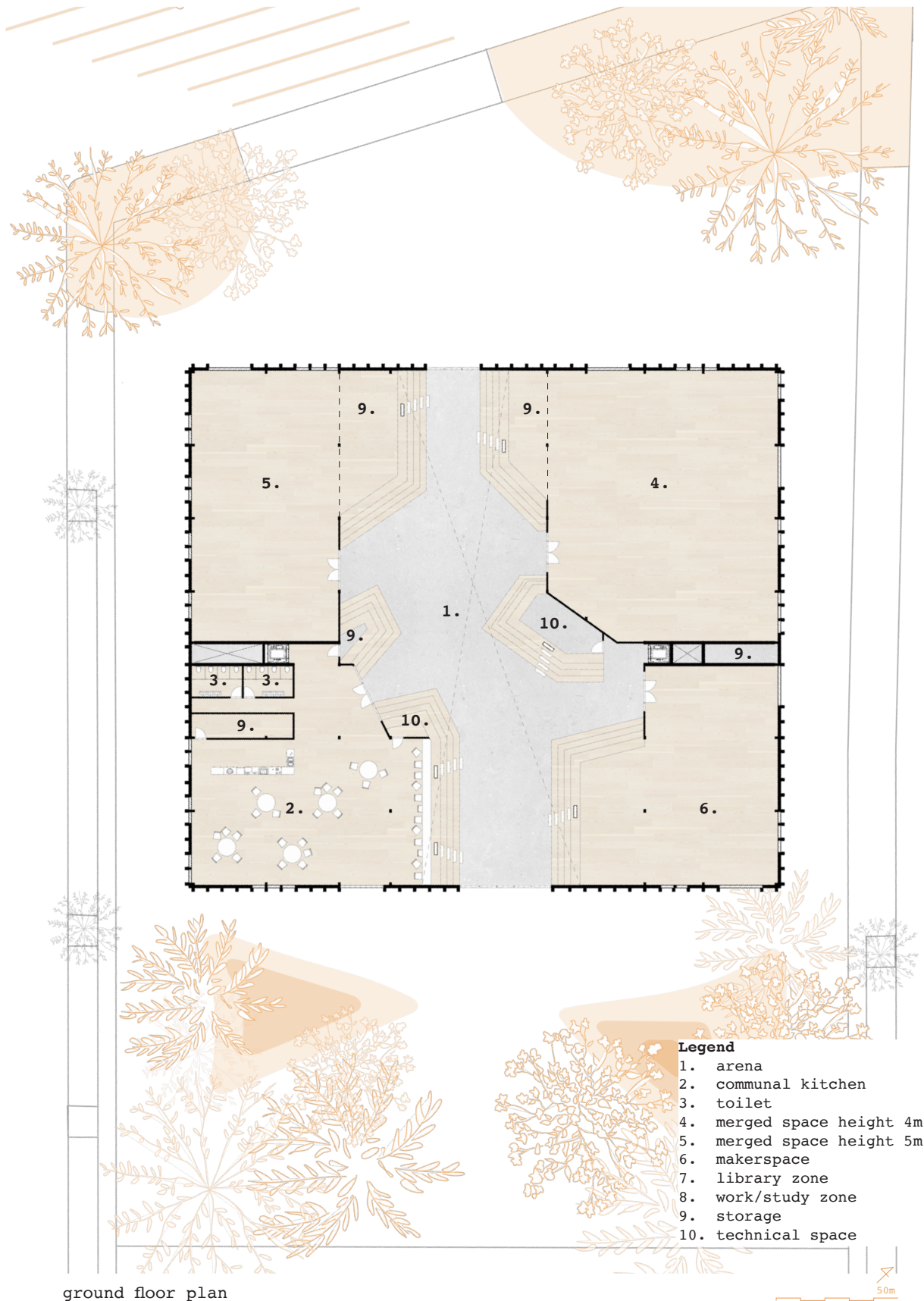
ground floor plan

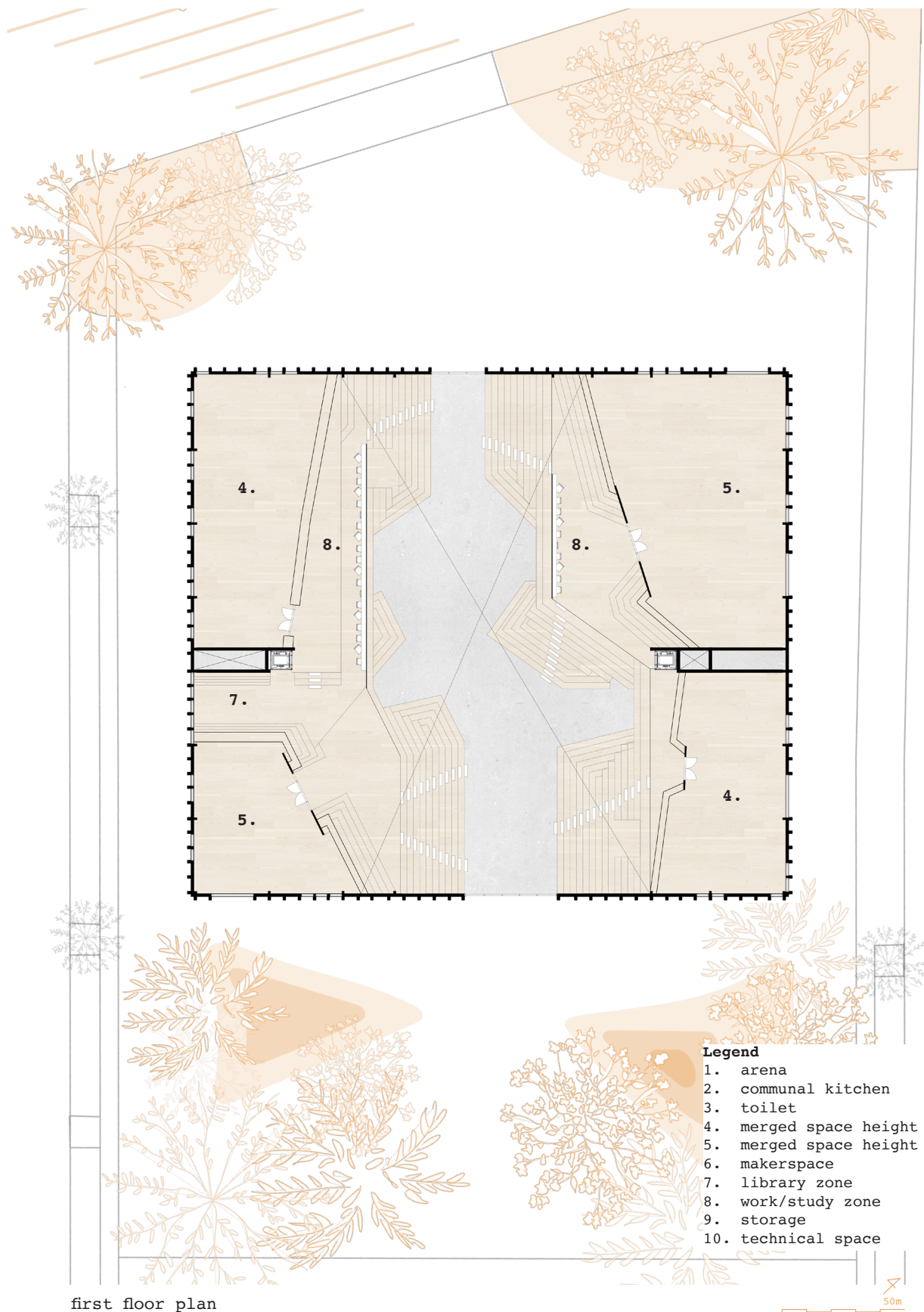
4
50m

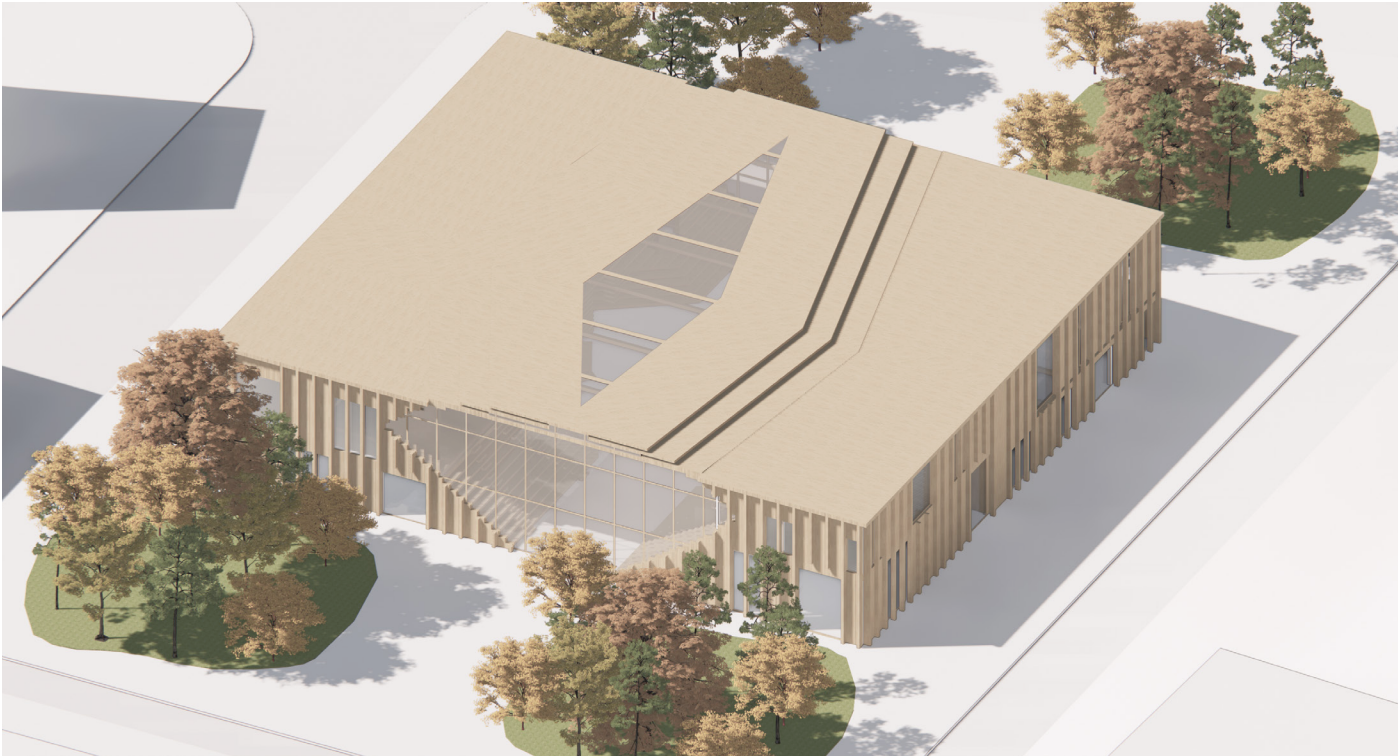


first floor plan

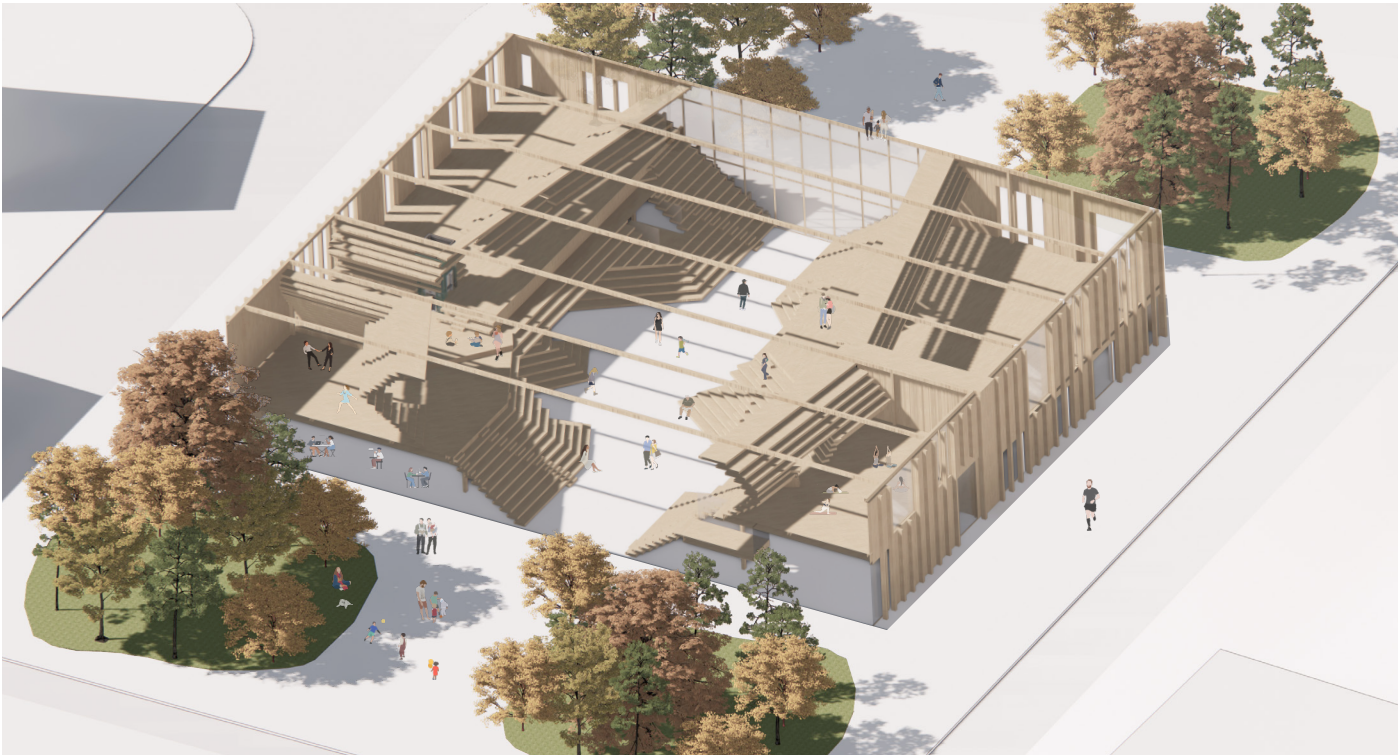
Design Journal
P3



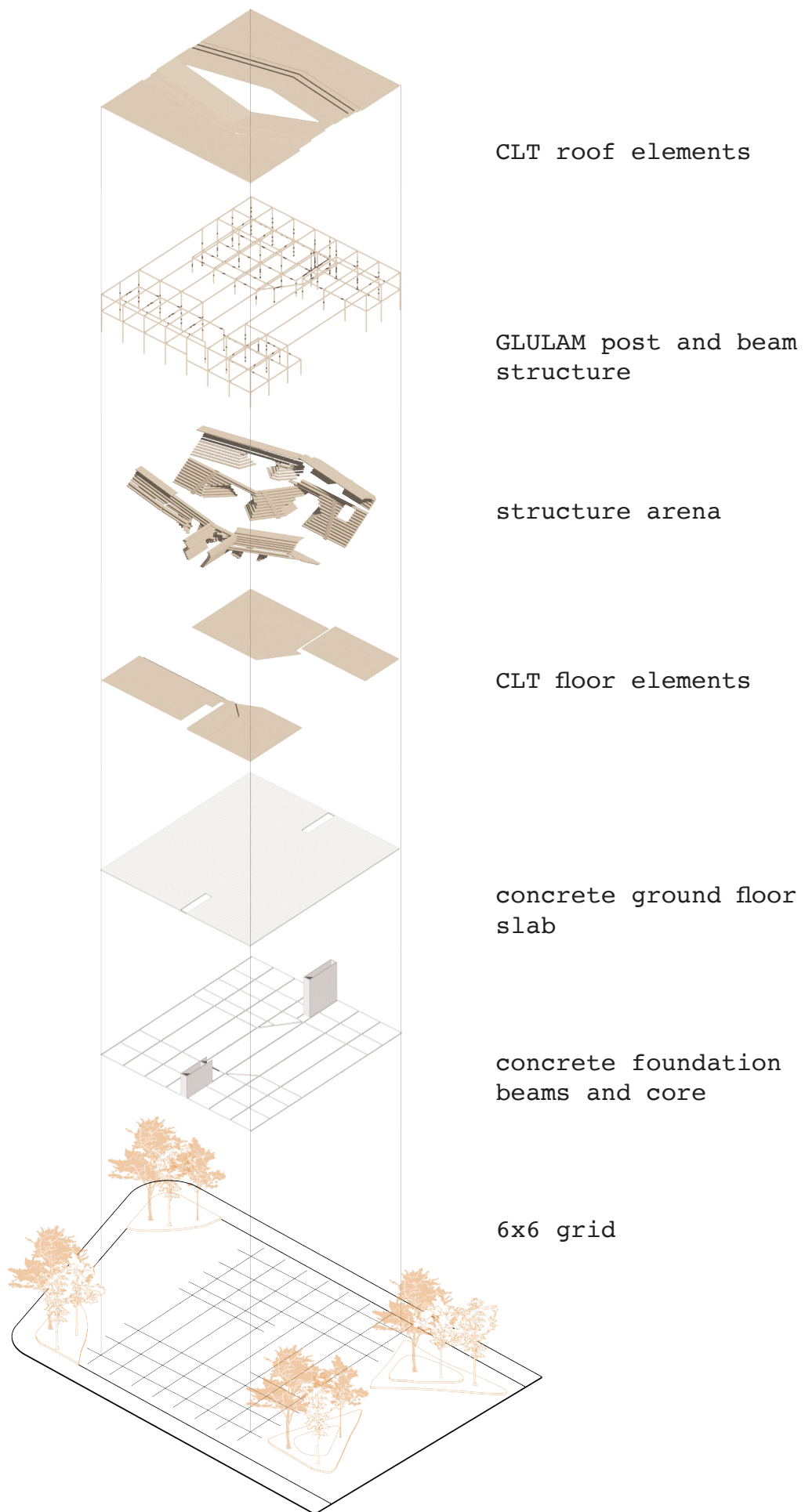


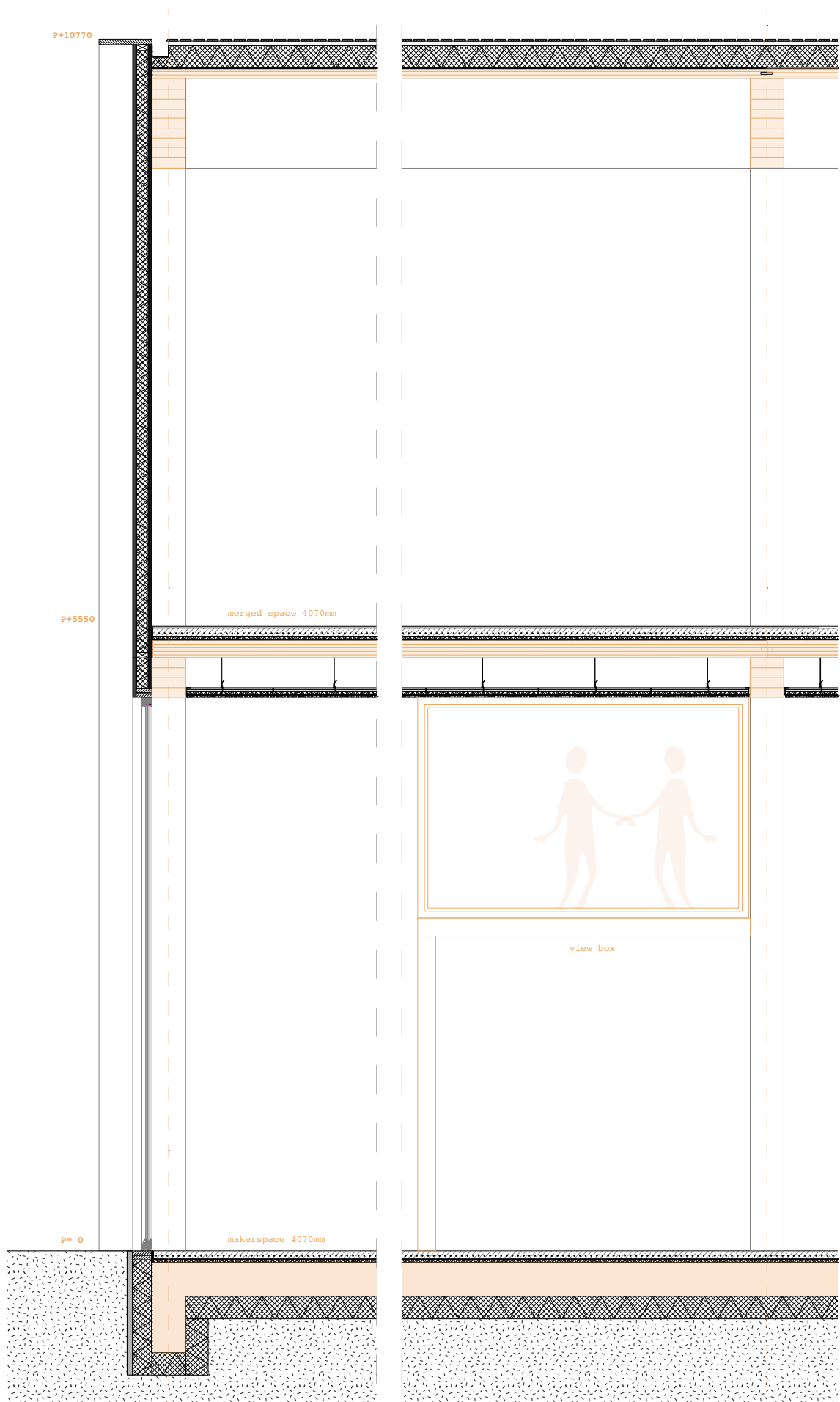


axo facade

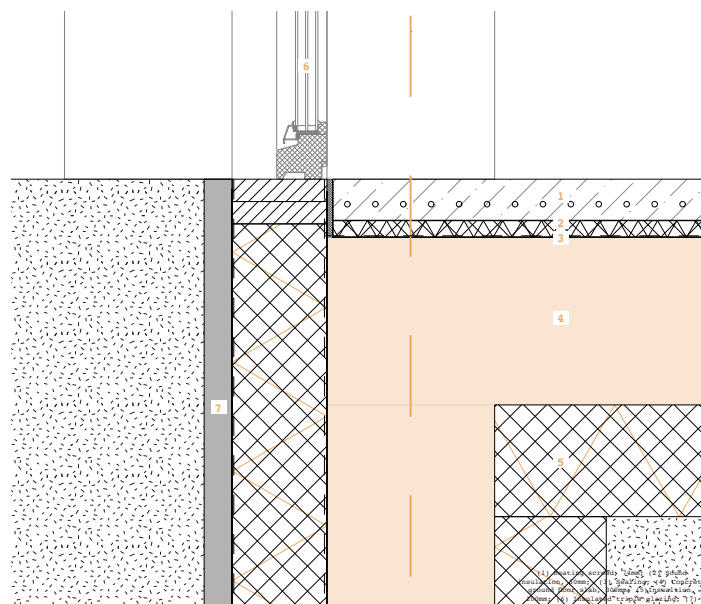
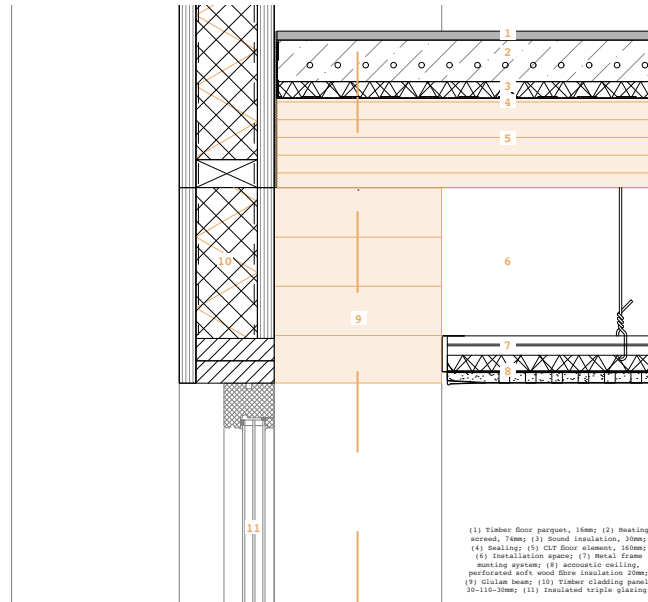
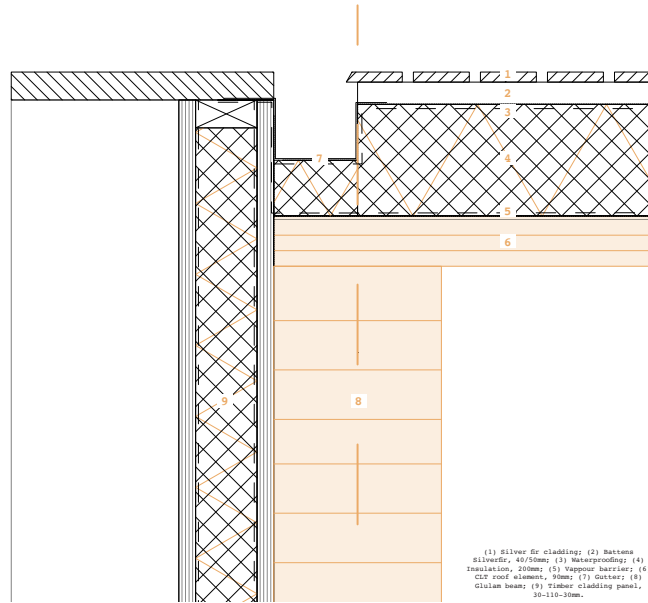


axo section





fragment section



details

