



# the STUDIO of TOMORROW

design magazine

Romée Rodriguez

fall 2023

Buildings are deeply emotive structures which form our psyche. People think they're just things they maneuver through, but the makeup of a person is influenced by the nature of spaces. Buildings are deeply emotive structures which form our psyche. People think they're just things they maneuver through, but the makeup of a person is influenced by the nature of spaces.

“Buildings  
are deeply  
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People think  
they’re just

# David Adjaye

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# INSIDE

# 01



from

## *the Editor*

Welcome to the latest edition of the magazine, where we explore the exciting and rapidly evolving topic of flexible working as a new norm for architectural offices.

As the world of work continues to change and present challenges and opportunities when it comes to creating functional and efficient, yet healthy and inspiring work environments. In this edition, I present to you my final design proposal for the implementation of flexible working into the workplace of architectural offices in the Netherlands.

I have chosen the magazine format for its visual and creative potential to present information effectively. Through case studies, images, diagrams, and info-graphics, we can better explain our research.

Overall, the format allows for a more creative and subjective writing style, including personal observations,

which can provide a more romantic perspective on the topic.

It provides the flexibility to combine both objective and subjective elements, making it ideal for presenting research in architectural practice.

You will find a range of articles and features that explain the different aspects of the design. Firstly, an overview and analysis of the design's location and building (construction) will be presented. Thereafter follows the design brief, concept and guiding theme. Then, the general design elements is shown, which is followed by its construction and climate systems. Lastly, a walk-through is presented that shows 'A Day in the Life of'.

I hope that you find this issue informative and engaging, and that it inspires you to think more deeply about your future way of working.

Happy reading!

Dear reader,

I am excited to share with you my design proposal of the translation of flexible working into the physical workspace of architectural offices. This issue presents the final design of my graduation topic, which is centred around the question how flexible working as a new work norm for architects, particularly of those located in the Netherlands - is translated into the physical workplace of architectural offices.

My interest in the topic came about as I began to question the traditional ways of working - especially in the architectural practice - and I realised that I wanted to have more autonomy in my future.

But to understand what this increased autonomy means to me, I needed to do some research in it. As I delved deeper, I also realised that my personal beliefs and values align with the idea of flexible working.

Sincerely,

Romée Rodriguez

I believe that everyone should have the opportunity to work in a way that best suits their needs.

You will be able to see how research and design comes together into this final design proposal and that ultimately leads to the answer of my research question. This issue shows solemnly shows the design proposal, whereas the previous issue explains how research and design have been woven into one another.

Lastly, I hope that my research will be valuable to you, whether you are an architect, a student of architecture, or simply someone interested in the future of work. I believe that this topic is crucial to the architectural field, and it is important that we continue to have this conversation, so I'm looking forward to hearing your thoughts and opinions on it.

Thank you for taking the time to read my proposal.



# *From Location to Inspiration*

## A Comprehensive Warehouse Analysis

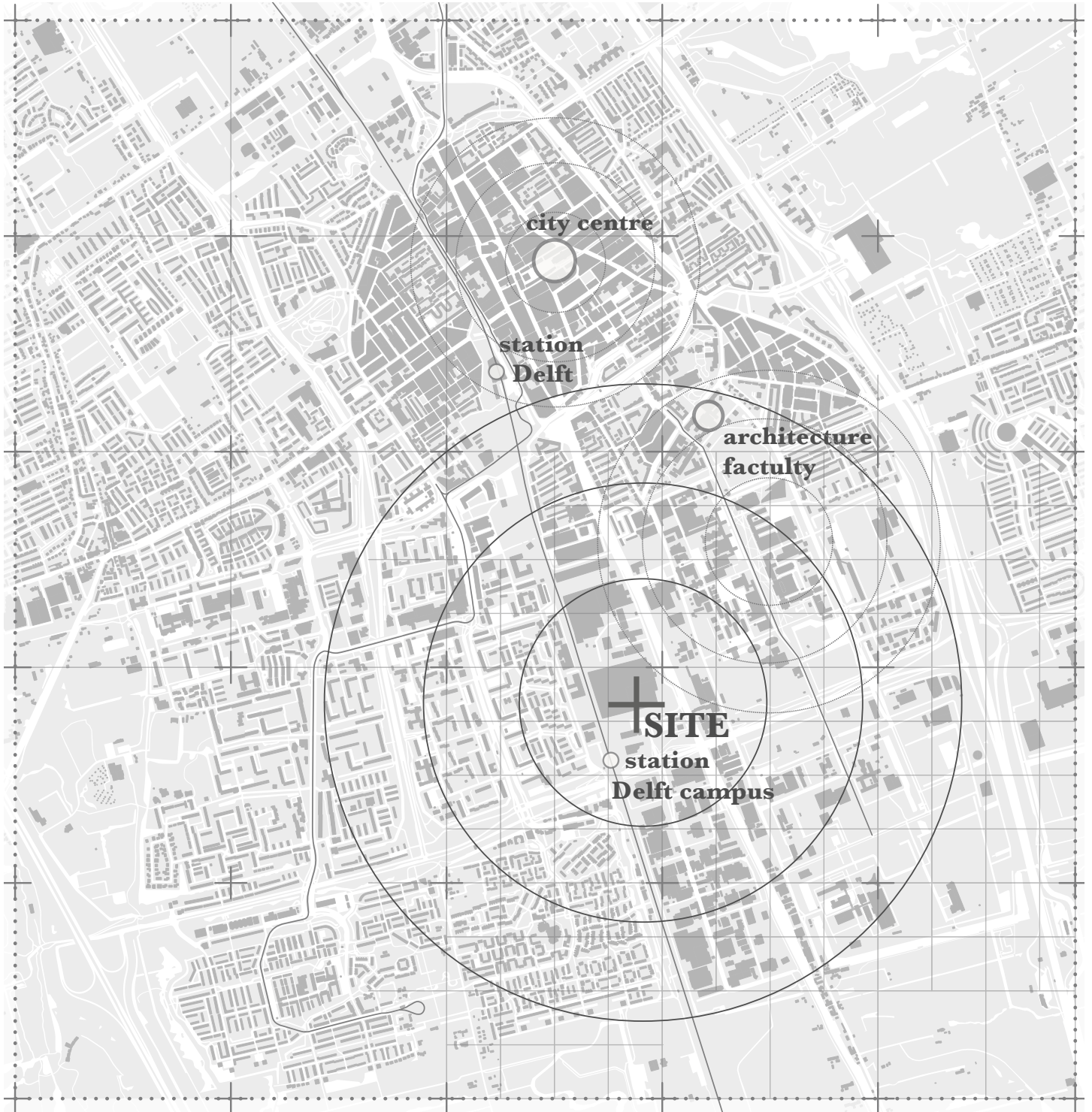
**I**n the south of Delft one can find the Kabelfabriek. This historic warehouse has a rich legacy, contributing to the cultural fabric of Delft. The city's blend of old-world charm and innovative spirit offers a unique context that shapes the design process. This juxtaposition of historical significance and contemporary dynamism drives the concept development for the design proposal.

When considering the Kabelfabriek as the design location, I contemplated the question of whether constructing a new building would be the most appropriate approach. The warehouse, presents an opportunity for adaptive reuse that aligns with sustainable architectural practices. In a time with numerous vacant structures that hold untapped potential, the idea of re-purposing existing buildings becomes increasingly relevant.

*“Kabelfabriek  
Warehouse in Delft”*

The design brief for the project allows flexibility and freedom to adapt the architectural concept to an existing structure - in this case that of the warehouse. This approach not only pays homage to the historical context but also promotes a sustainable ethos. Rather than creating a new building from scratch, the design process involves a careful analysis of the warehouse's spatial qualities, structural features, and aesthetic elements.

In essence, the Kabelfabriek serves as a canvas that blends the past with the present, and aims for a revolutionary tomorrow. By utilizing the existing building as a starting point and adapting the design to its context, I aim to create a spatial experience that not only respects the heritage of the warehouse but also fosters innovation and functionality for the future.

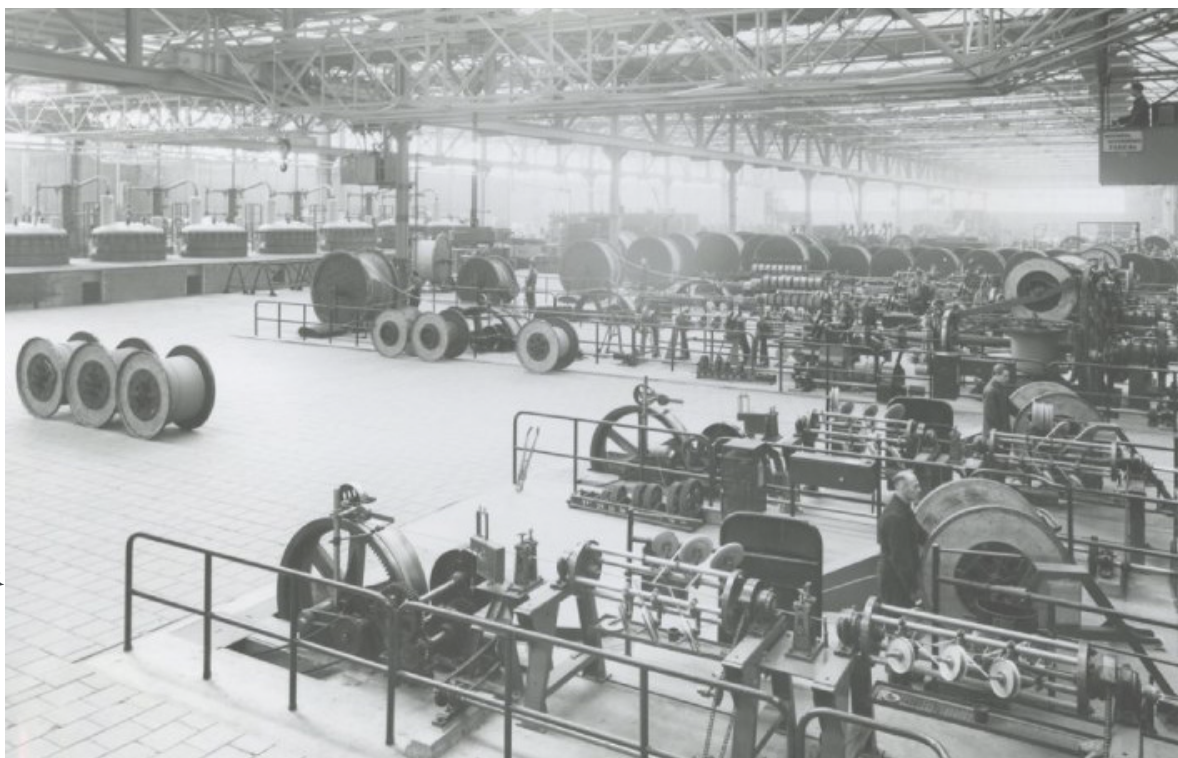


N 51.993786

W 4.367017

DELFT





Kabelfabriek

The Kabelfabriek in Delft holds a captivating history and an architectural legacy that greatly enriches its context. Situated within the charming city of Delft in the Netherlands, this former cable factory has evolved from an industrial powerhouse to a cultural and creative hub.

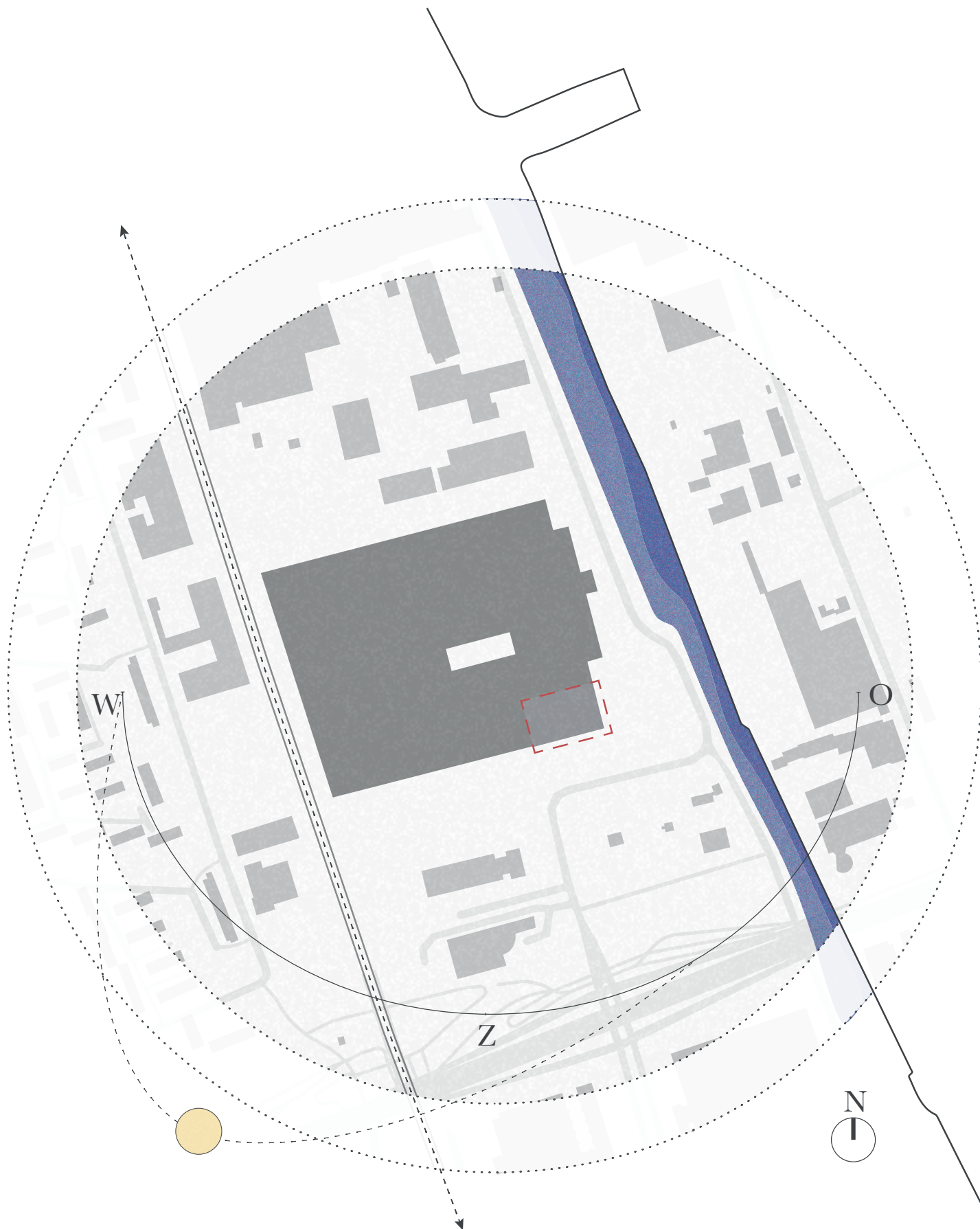
The history of the Kabelfabriek dates back to the late 19th century when it was established as a cable manufacturing facility. This industrial complex played a significant role in the development of Delft's economy, contributing to the city's growth during the early 20th century. The factory's architecture, characterised by its robust red-brick façade, large windows, and spacious interiors, reflects the functional aesthetic of the industrial era.

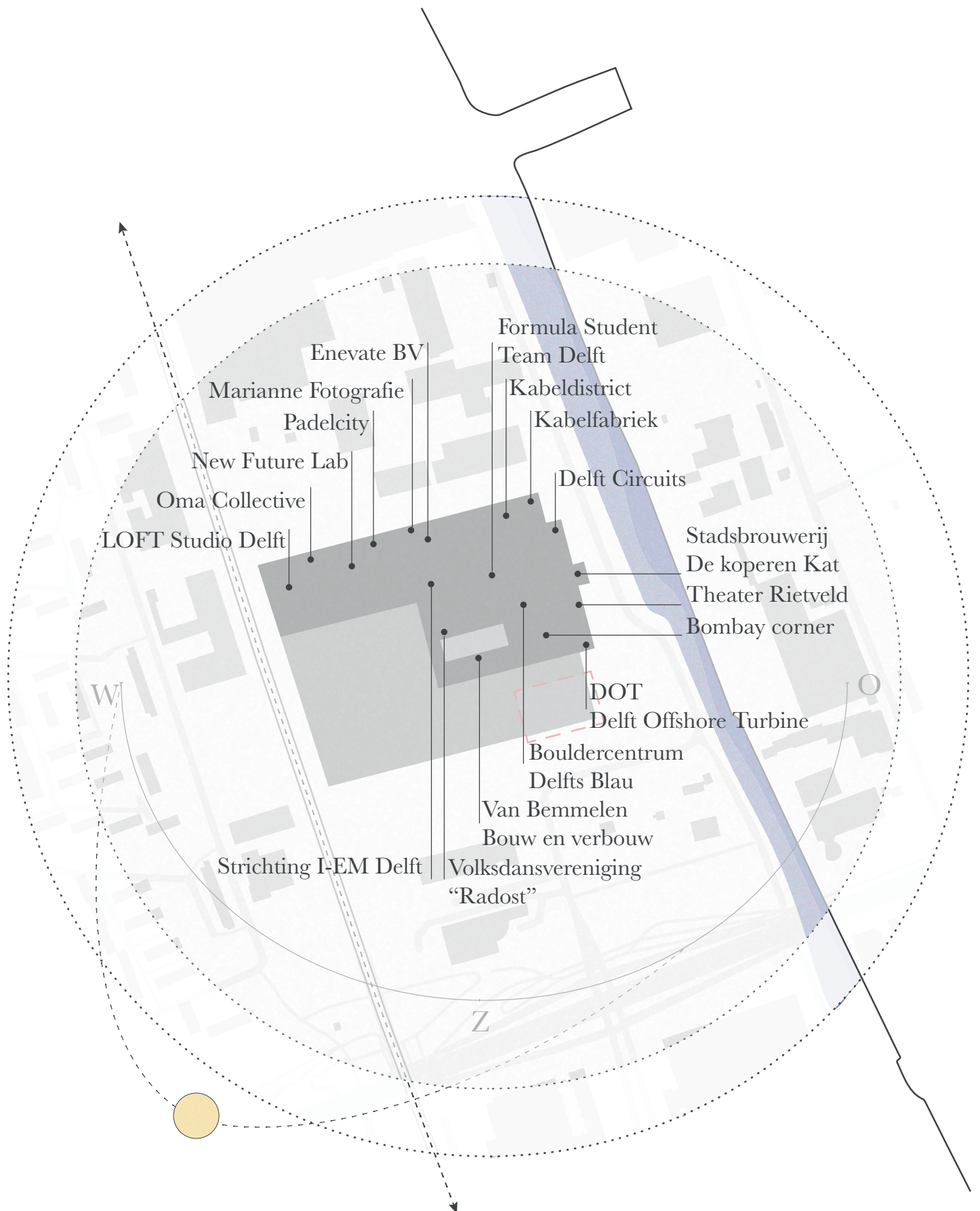
Over the years, the Kabelfabriek became an integral part of Delft's urban fabric, contributing to the industrial character of the city. The factory's architecture embodies the principles of industrial design, showcasing a balance between form and

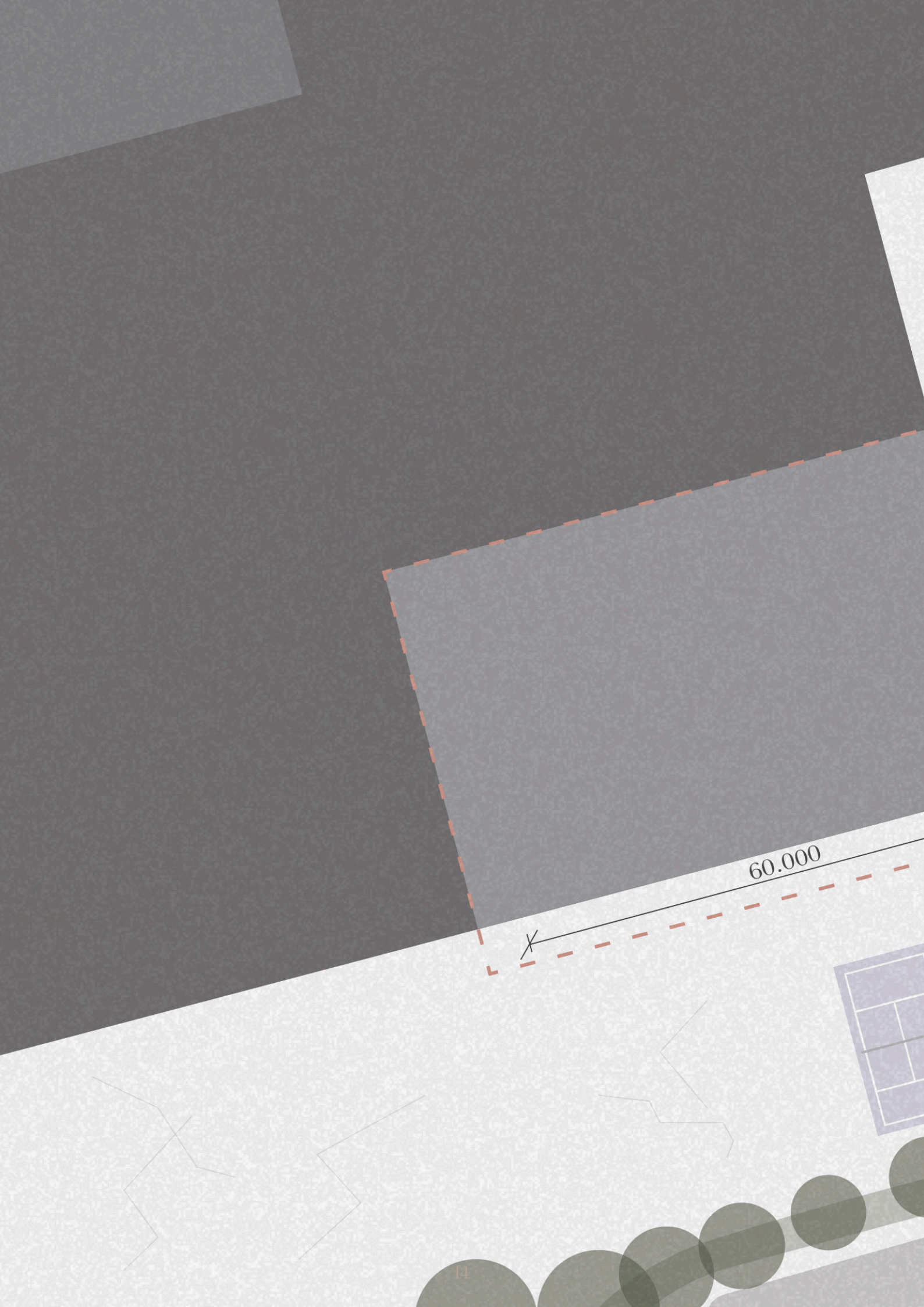
function. The use of brick and steel, large open spaces, and prominent windows not only served utilitarian purposes but also shaped the factory's distinctive architectural identity.

As the tides of industrialisation shifted, the Kabelfabriek eventually ceased its cable manufacturing operations. However, the building's adaptive re-use and transformation into a multi-functional space breathed new life into its historic walls. Today, the Kabelfabriek stands as a prime example of re-purposed architecture, reflecting the trend of revitalising industrial structures for modern uses.

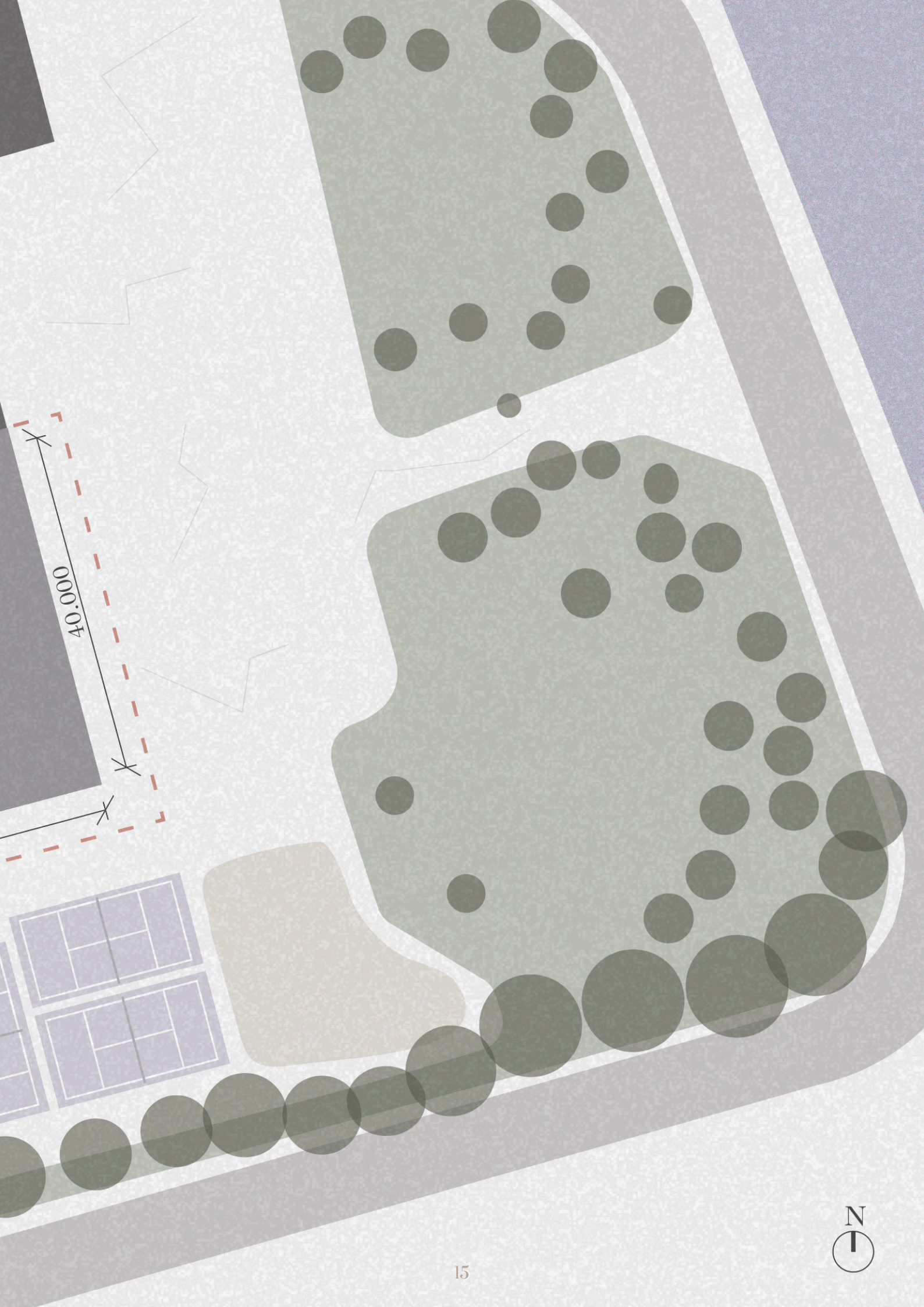
The interior spaces of the factory tell their own story. The expansive halls that once housed machinery and cables are now versatile event spaces, art galleries, and collaborative work areas. The high ceilings, exposed beams, and industrial details remain as a reminder of the building's history, creating a captivating atmosphere that stimulates creativity and imagination.







60.000



**Entrance pathway**  
East facade



**Main entrance**  
East facade



**Old warehouse door**  
South facade

Close-up main entrance  
East facade



Close-up second facade  
East facade

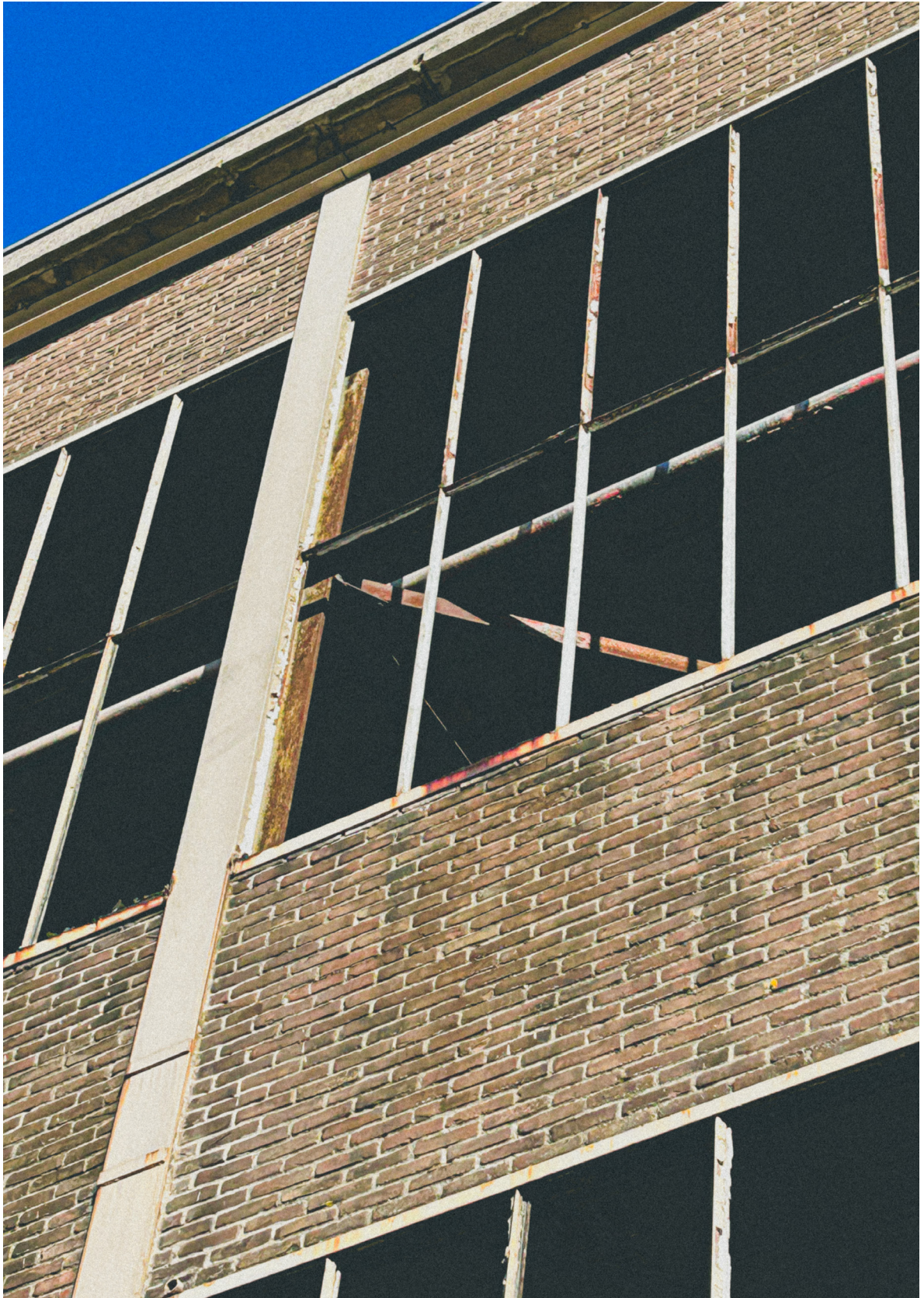


**Close-up window ventilation**  
South facade

**Corner second facade**  
South facade



**Second facade**  
East facade



**Close-up window**  
South facade



**Main entrance indoor**  
South to East view



**Main entrance indoor**  
South to North view

**Entrance corner**  
East to South view



**Indoor warehouse**  
East to West view



**Close-up broken window**  
South facade

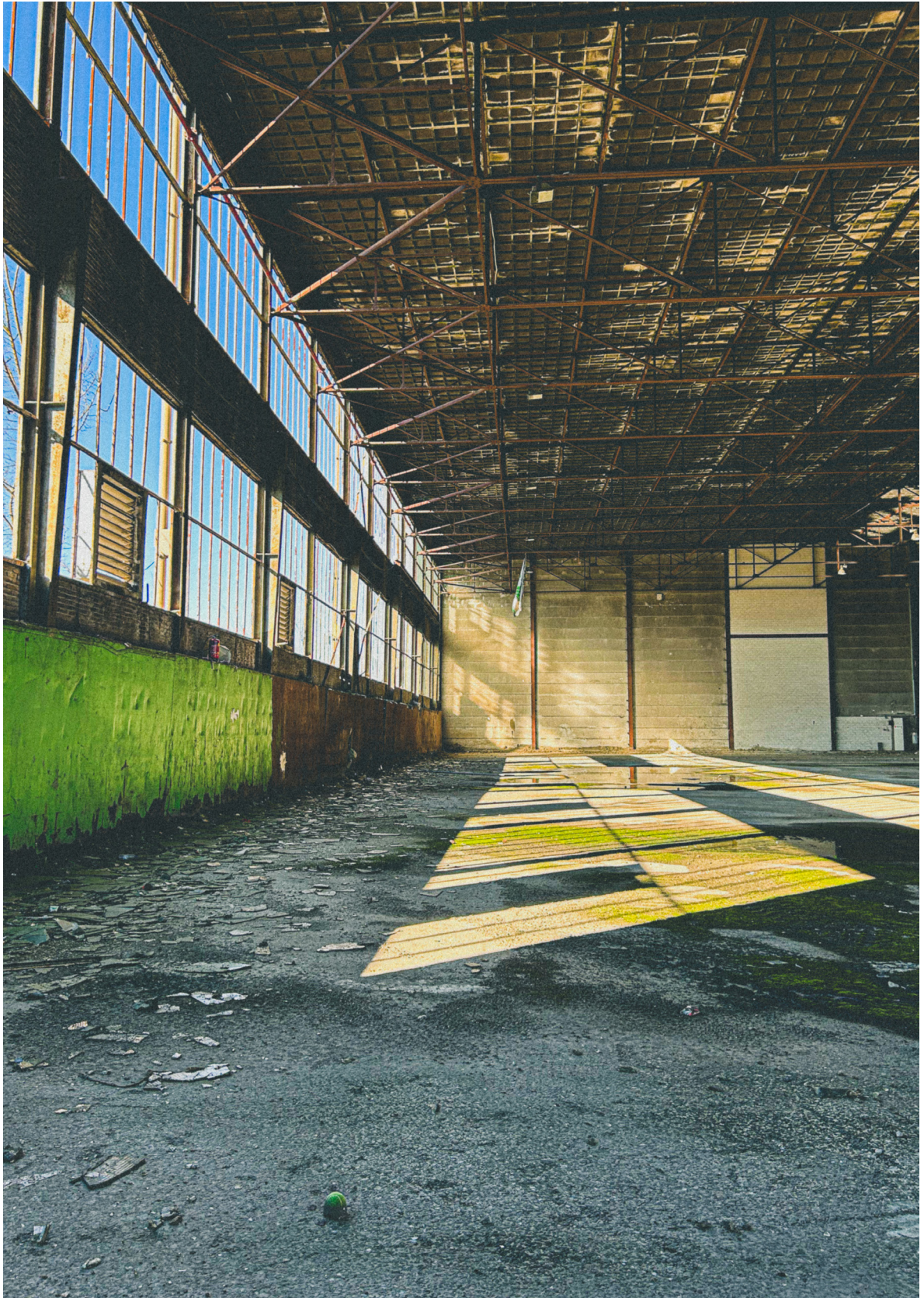
**Columns**  
South-East to North-West view



**Indoor warehouse**  
South to East view



**Indoor warehouse**  
South to West view



**Indoor facade wall**  
East to West view



**Close-up warehouse floor**  
West to East view



**Indoor warehouse**  
West to East view



**Columns and construction**  
South-West to North-East view



**Warehouse windows**  
West to South view



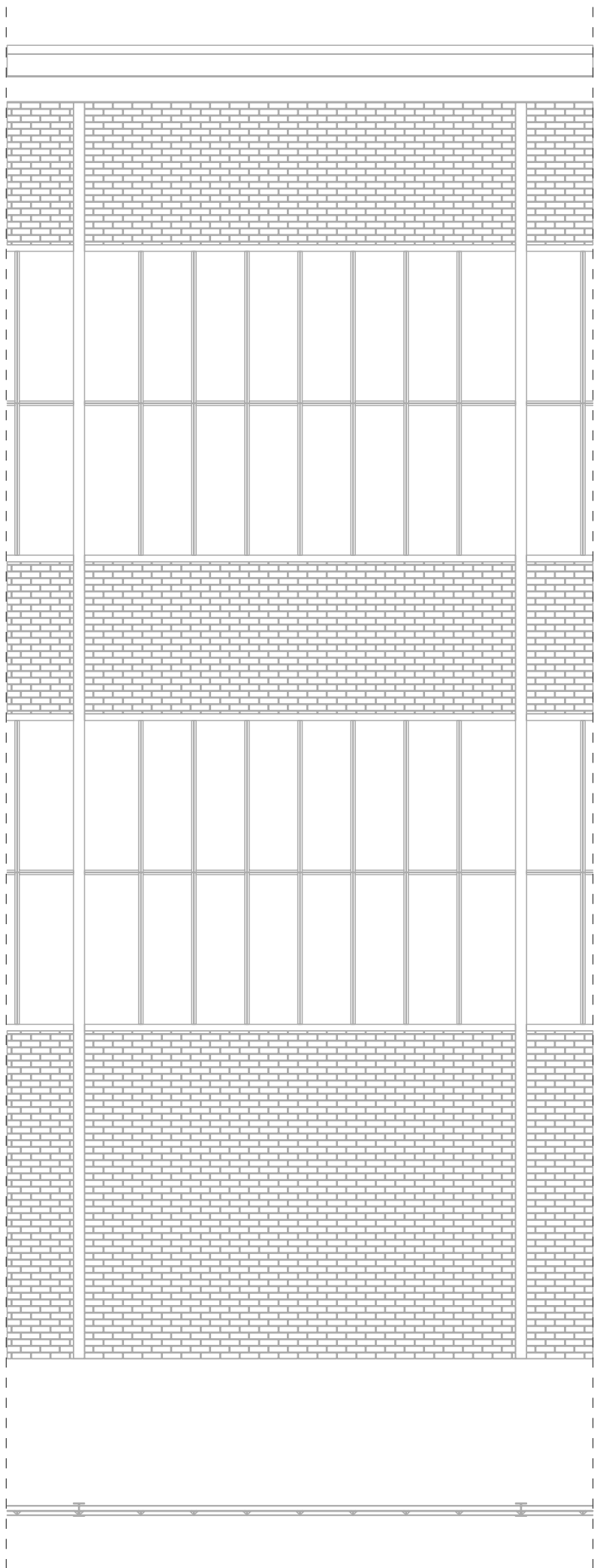
**Warehouse windows**  
West to South view

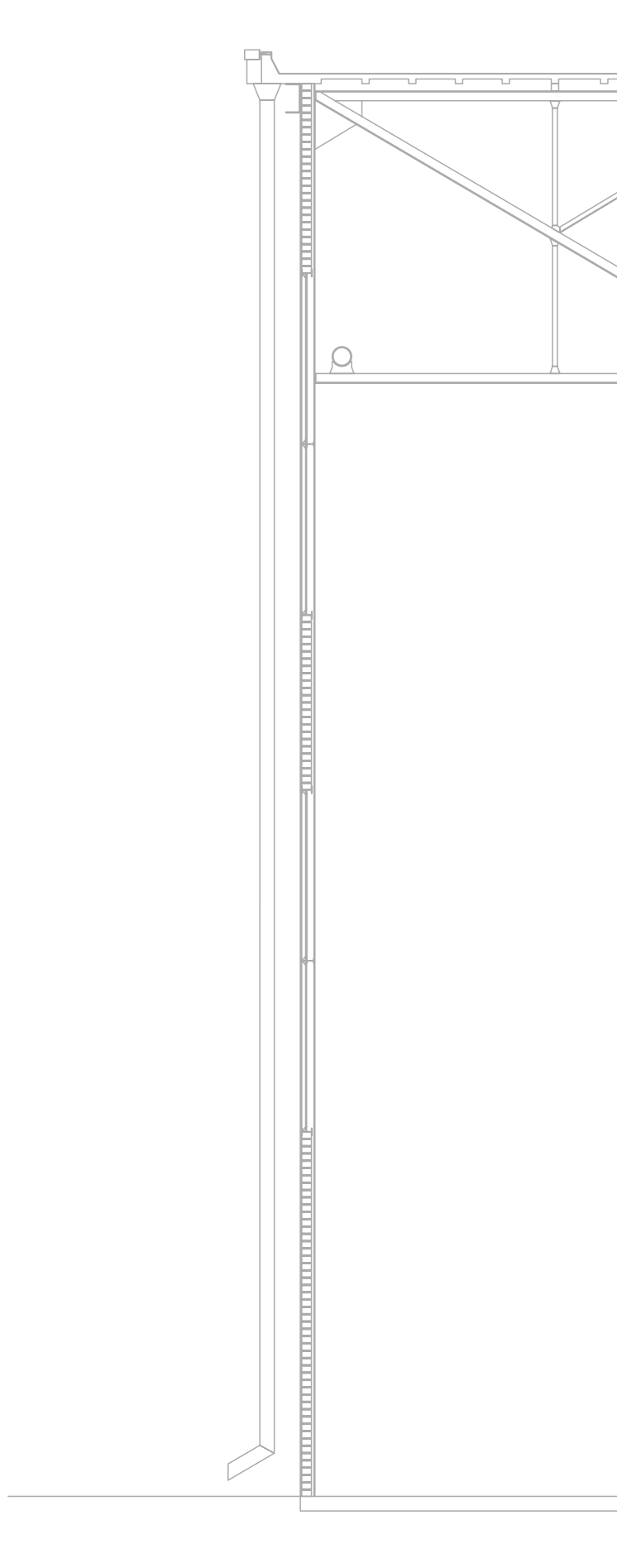


**Adjacent warehouse space**  
South to North view

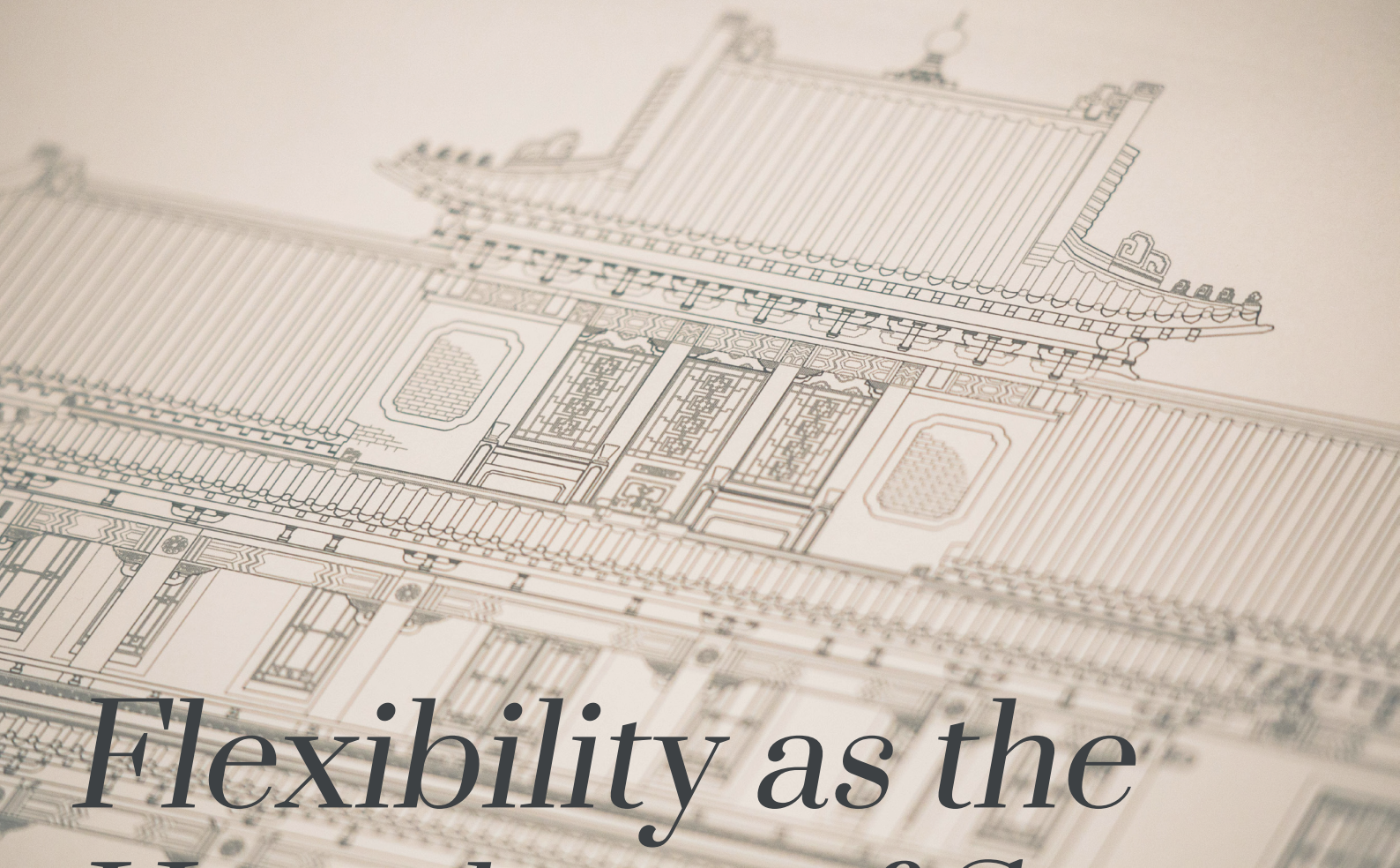


**Demolition warehouse**  
South to North view





**Facade fragment**  
Existing situation



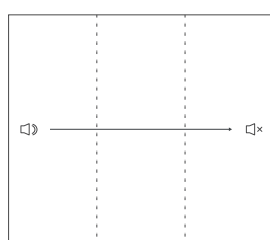
# *Flexibility as the Heartbeat of Space*

## Concept Development for Modern Realities

**T**he dynamic design journey is driven by exploration, research, and discovery. As we investigate the world of flexible working in architectural offices, insights from the Research Magazine have illuminated a desire for freedom of choice and autonomy among professionals.

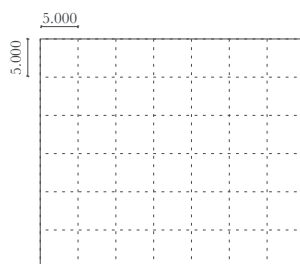
In parallel, the design process, detailed in the Process Magazine, has shaped a

methodology rooted in user autonomy. I combine these valuable resources to redefine workspaces, emphasising the user's yearning for flexibility through an "activity-based workplace design" approach. This fusion propels me to create innovative, adaptable workspaces in response to the evolving needs of today's professionals.



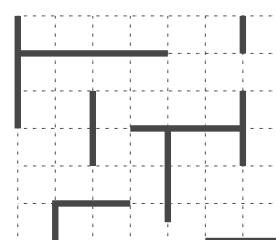
Activity-Based Design

+



Grid warehouse

+



Principle

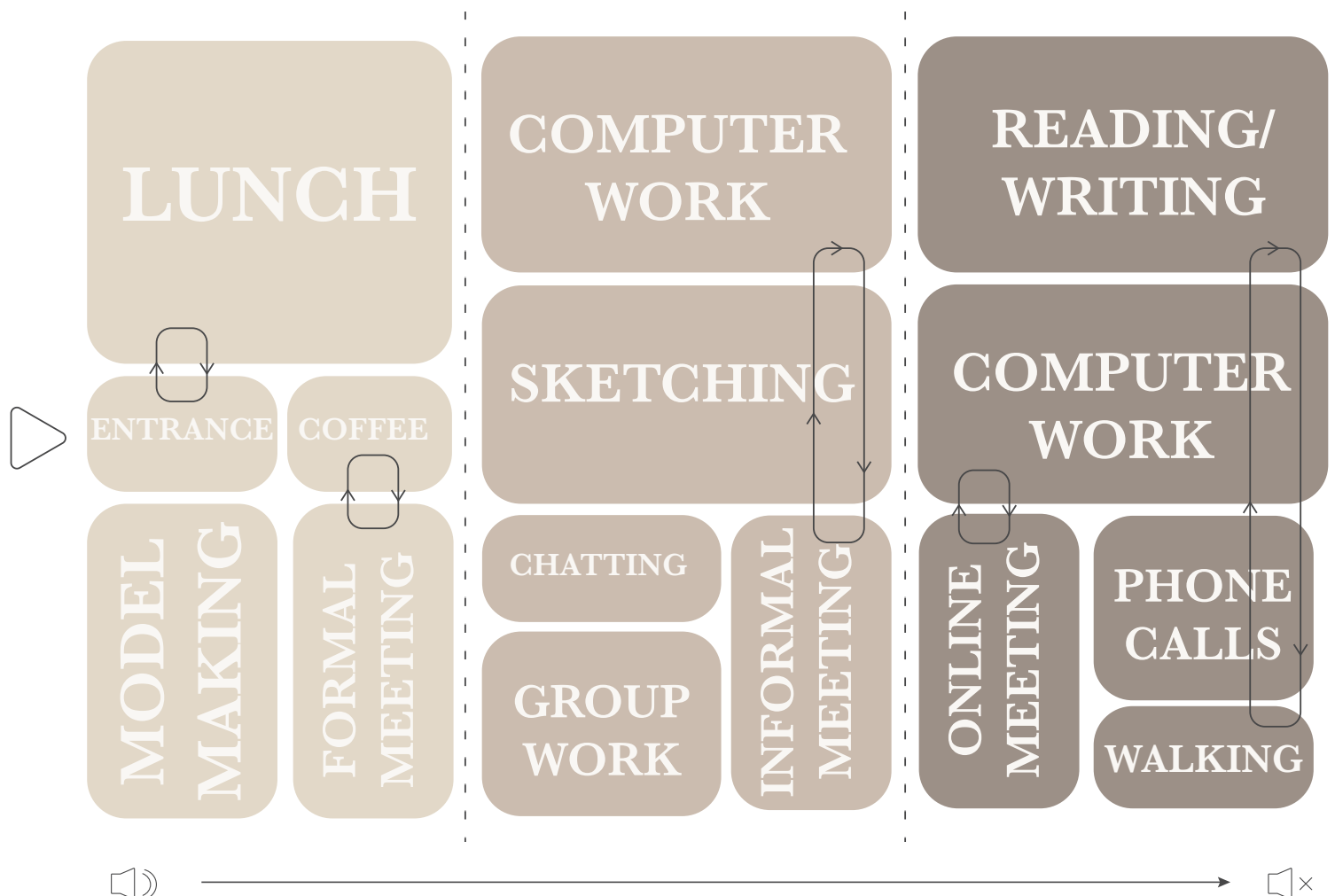
In the Research Magazine, laid out is a comprehensive programme that envisions a cutting-edge architectural office. This office not only caters to flexible working but also thrives within a shared space, striking a perfect balance between individual productivity and the cherished need for privacy. The culmination of the efforts is a concept that seeks to revolutionise the contemporary workspace.

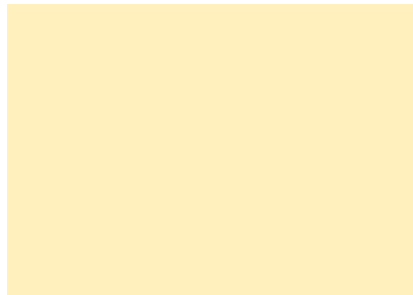
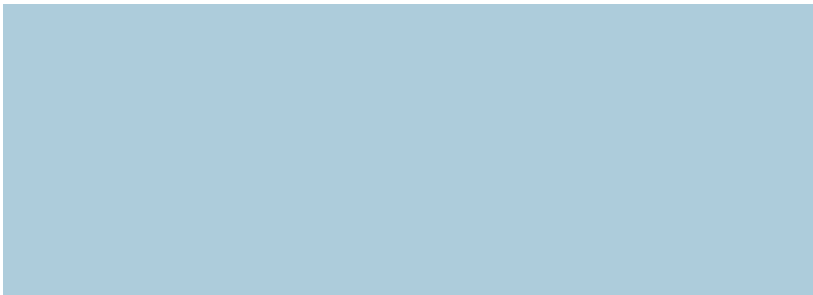
The Process Magazine, in its thorough examination of the design journey, highlighted the intrinsic nature of three fundamental work activities: working, meeting, and breaking. These activities emerged as the pillars of daily office life. Building upon this foundation, devised is a novel approach that categorises these activities based on the level of noise they generate and require. In doing so, three distinct sound zones have been identified

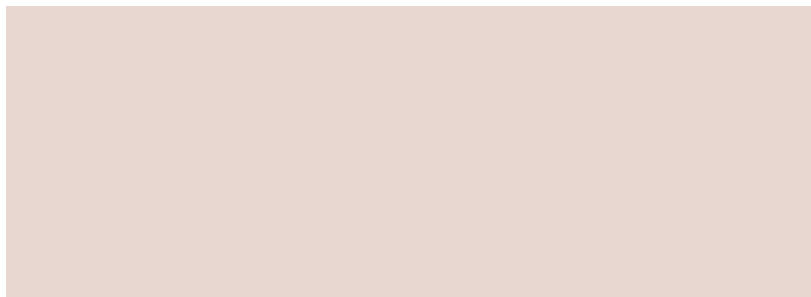
within the office environment.

These sound zones signify more than just physical demarcations; they signify a dynamic evolution in the approach to office design. Each zone offers a unique atmosphere, accommodating diverse work styles while preserving an optimal acoustic environment.

The merging of these profound conclusions from the research and design process brings to life a workspace that transcends the conventional. It empowers individuals to make choices that align with their personal work preferences and the nature of their tasks. Moreover, it serves as a testament to one's commitment to innovation, adaptability, and the user's ultimate work experience.



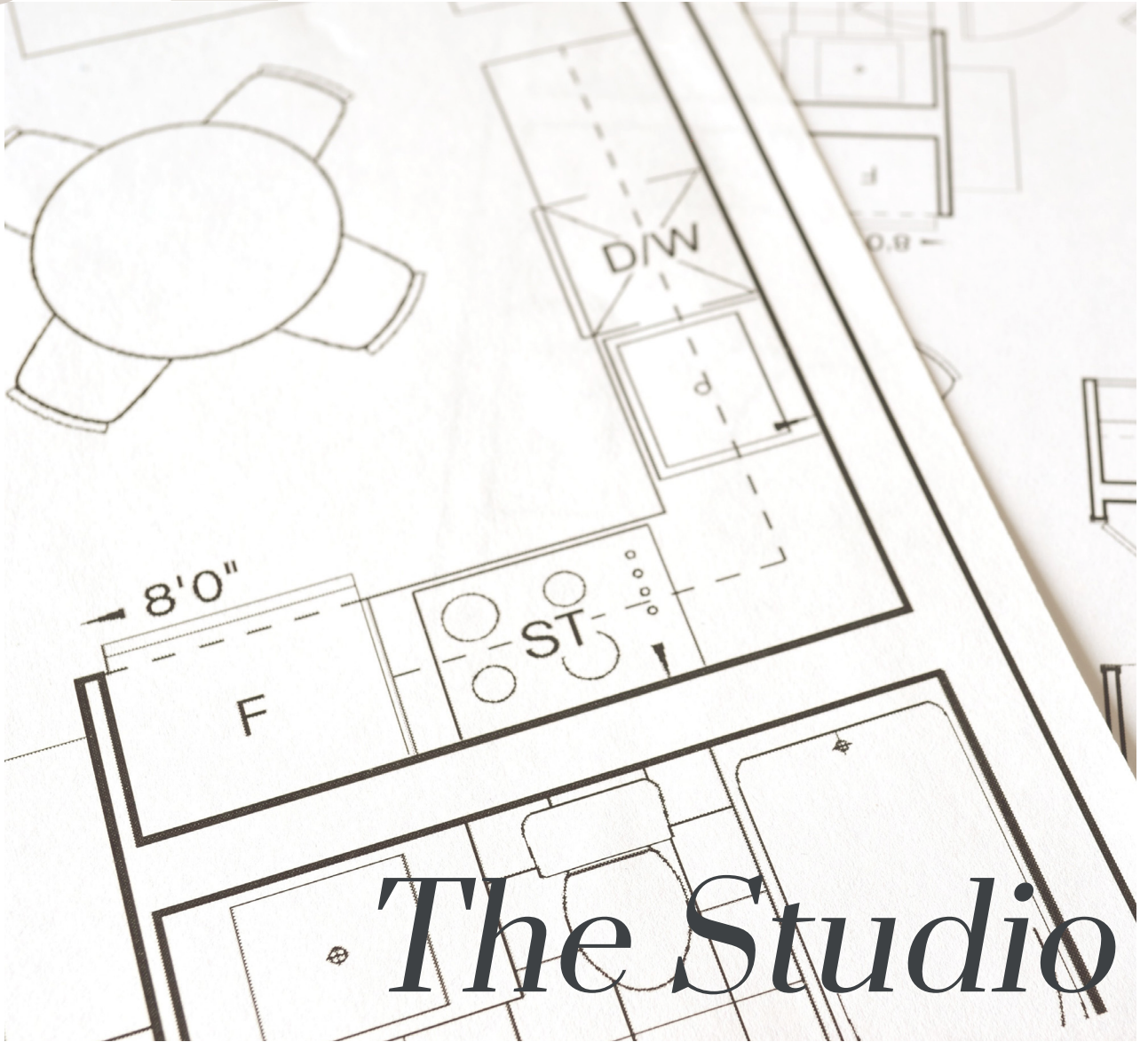




# Rodriguez Communications

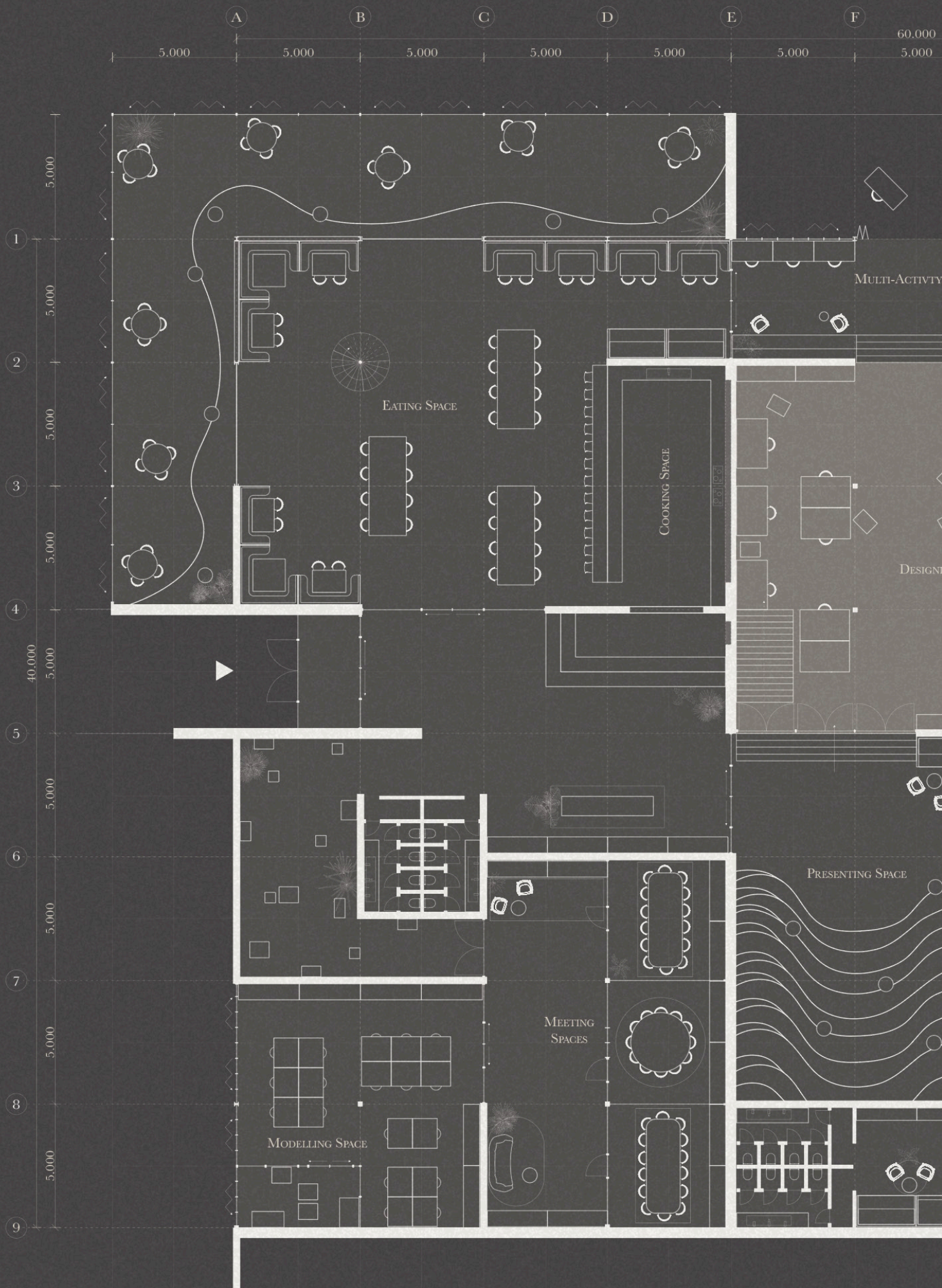


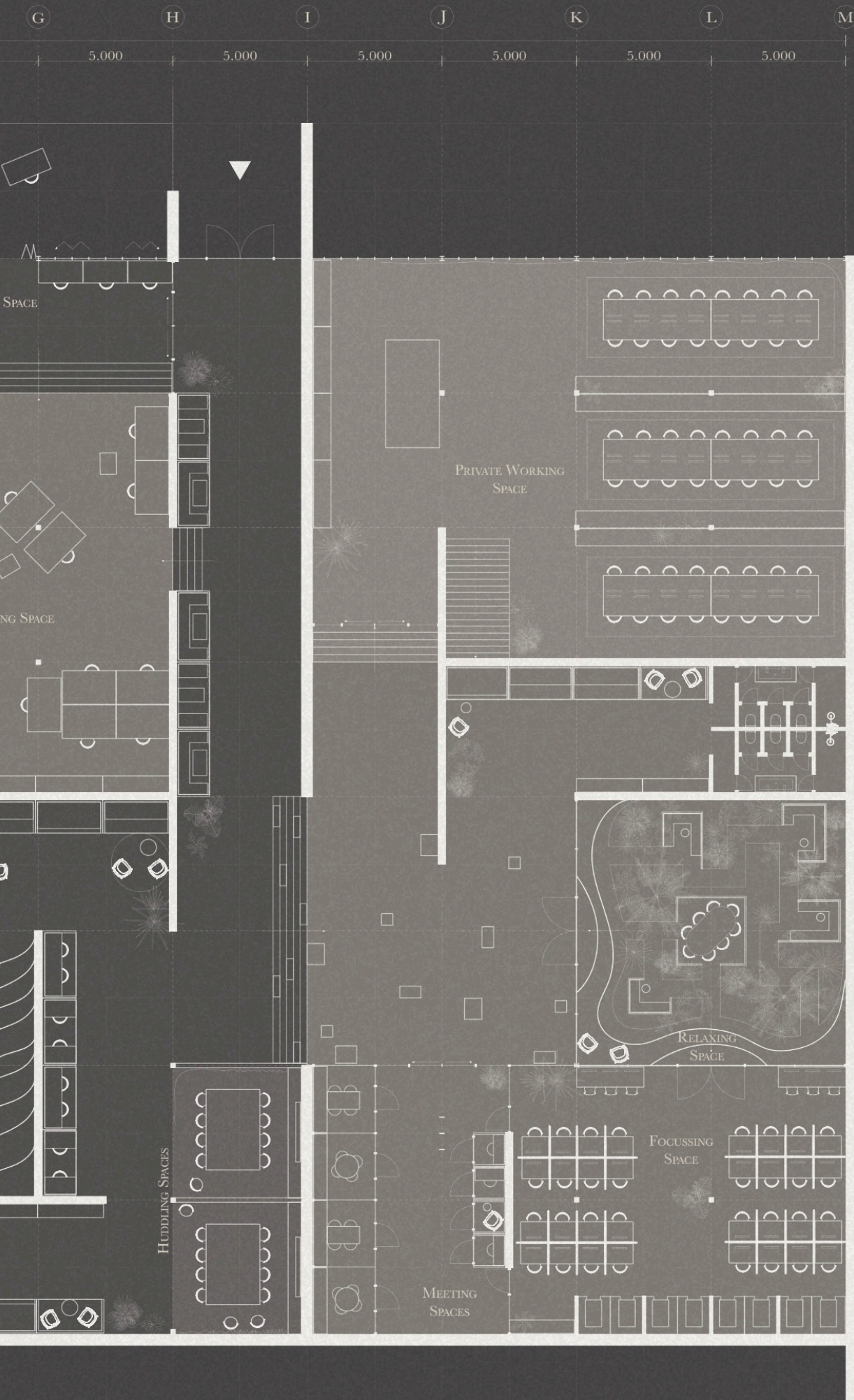
04

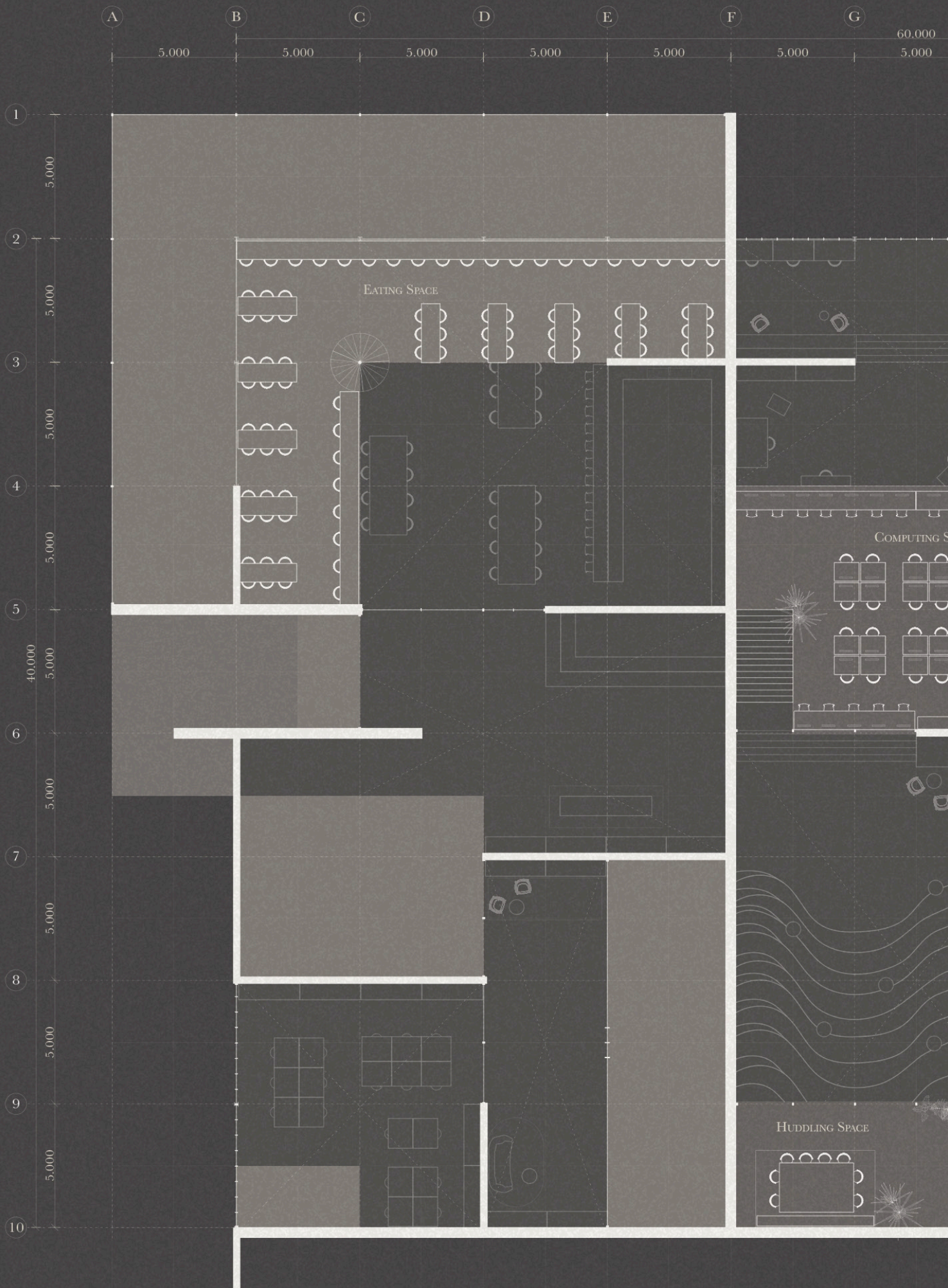


# *The Studio of Tomorrow*

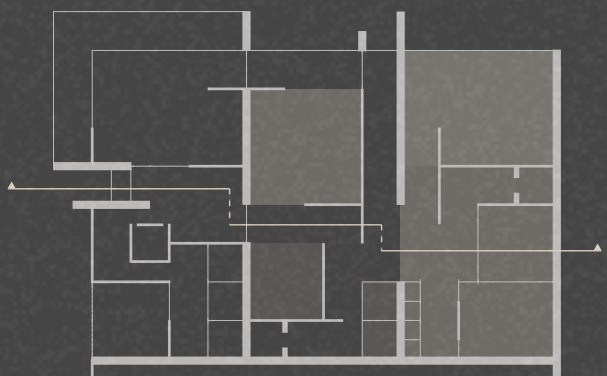
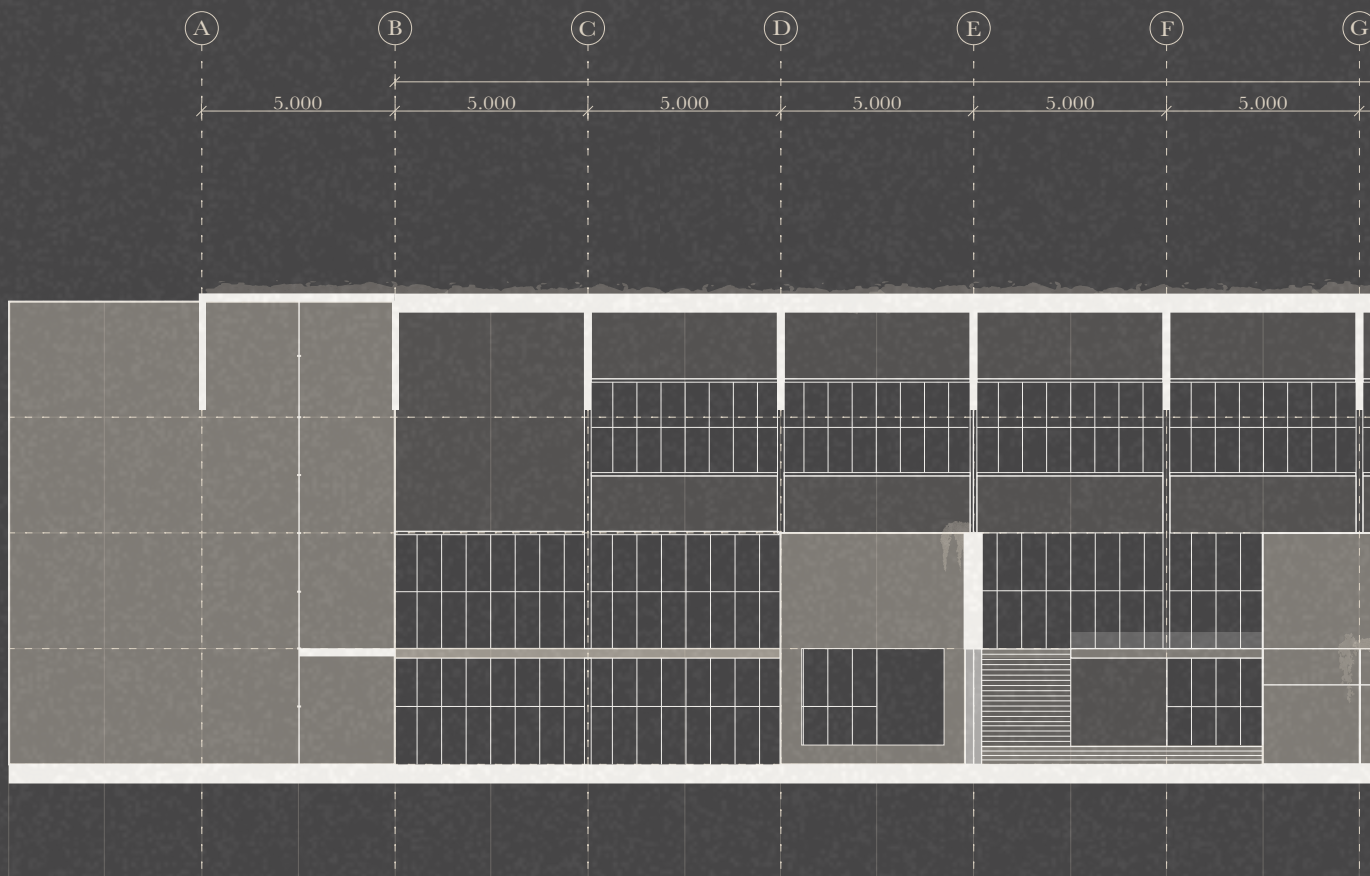
The Architectural and  
Constructive Design

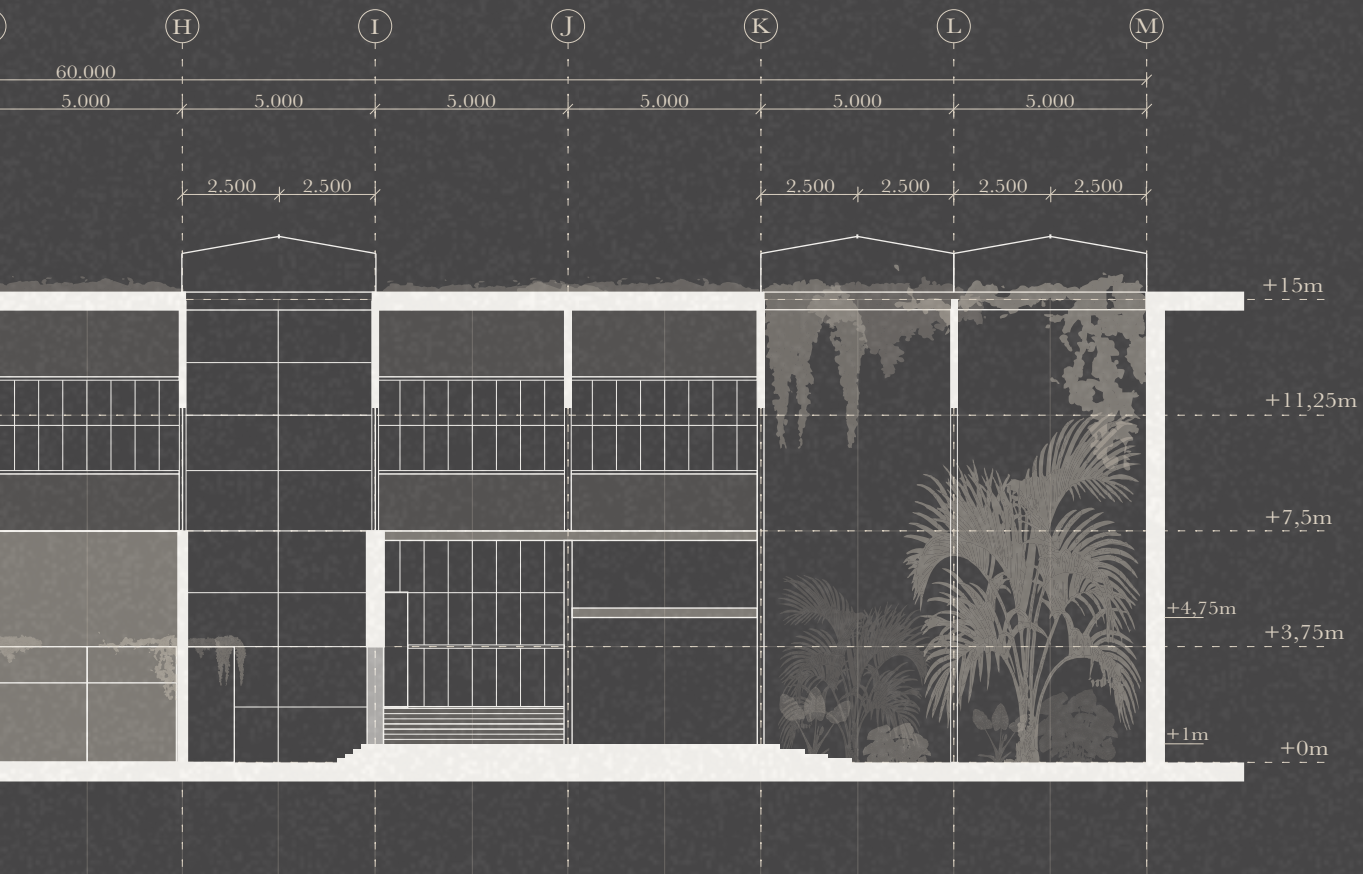


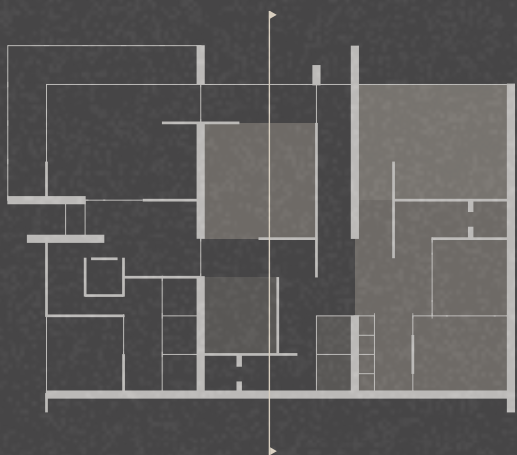
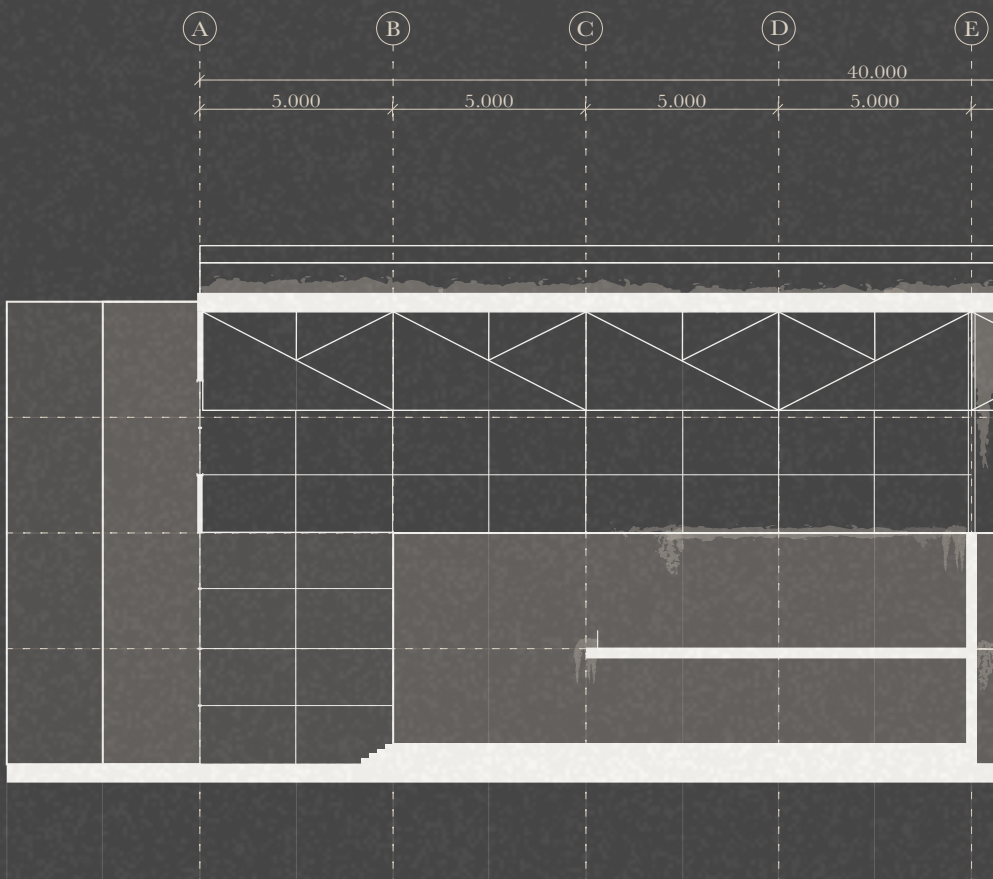


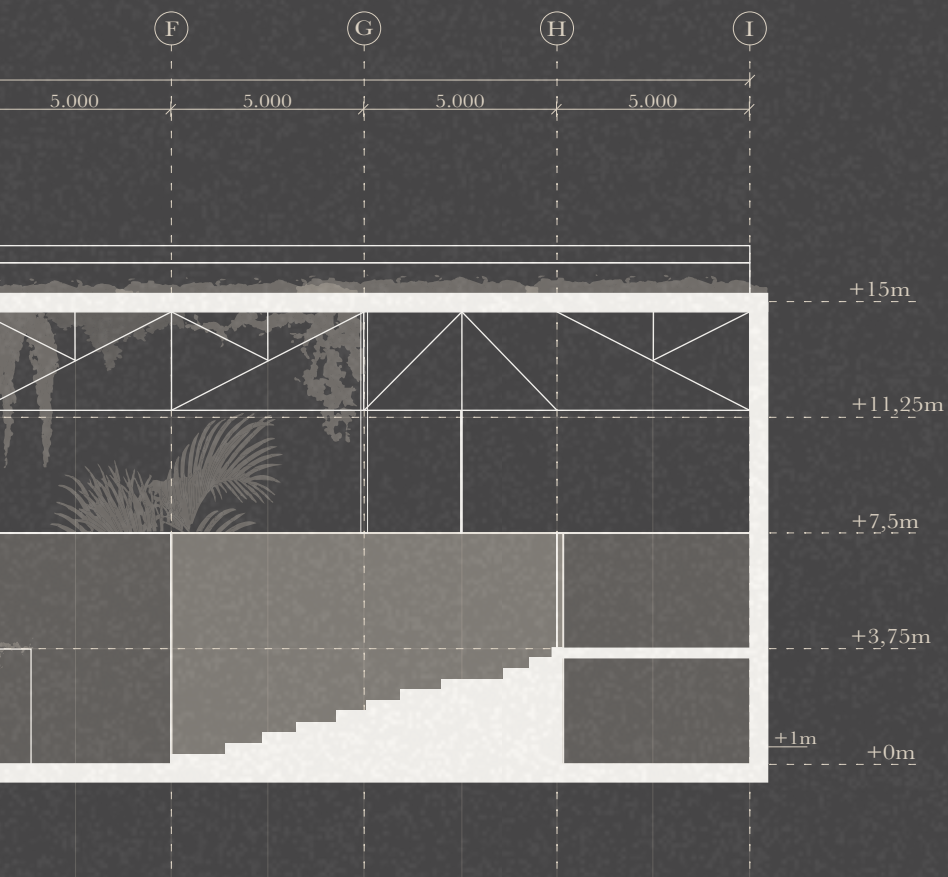






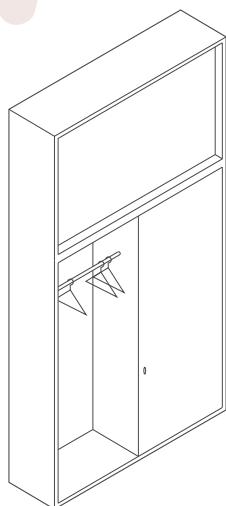








### I: Storing unit

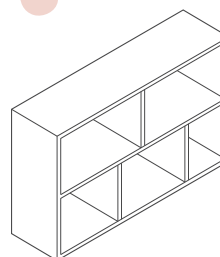


*Height: 3,75 m*

*Width: 2,50 m*

*Depth: 0,60 m*

### II: Storing unit

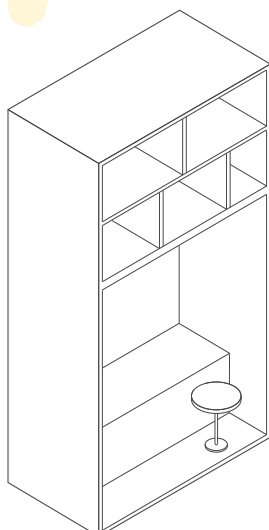


*Height: 1,20 m*

*Width: 2,50 m*

*Depth: 0,60 m*

### III: Lounging unit

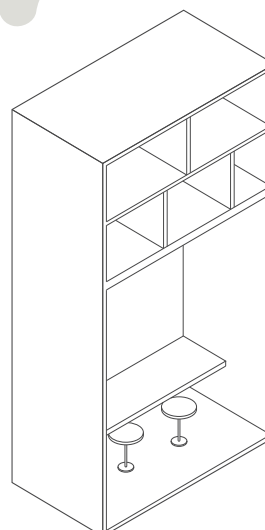


*Height: 3,75 m*

*Width: 2,50 m*

*Depth: 1,20 m*

### IV: Working unit

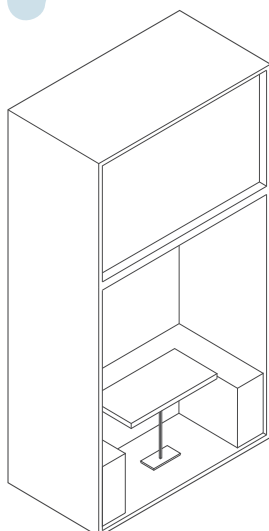


*Height: 3,75 m*

*Width: 2,50 m*

*Depth: 1,20 m*

### V: Meeting unit

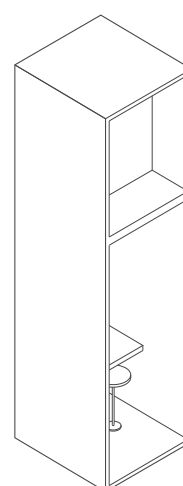


*Height: 3,75 m*

*Width: 2,50 m*

*Depth: 1,20 m*

### VI: Phoning unit

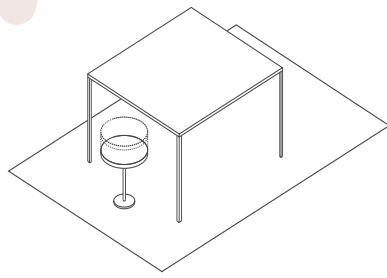


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*Width: 1,20 m*

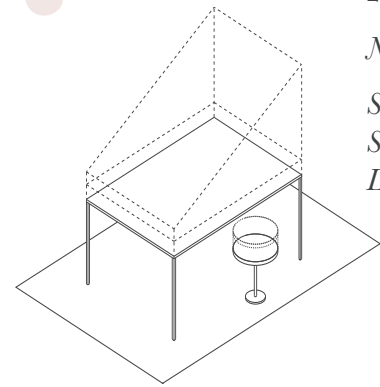
*Depth: 1,20 m*

### I: Modelling station



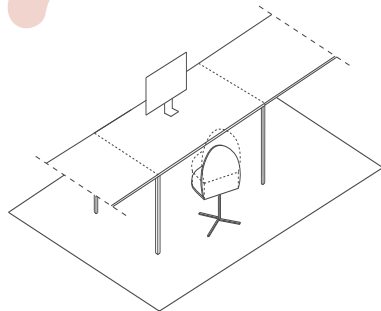
*1,2 x 1 m*  
*No electricity*  
*Sitting*  
*Standing*

### II: Designing station



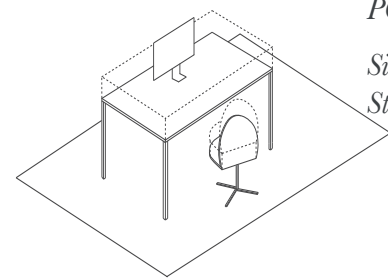
*2 x 1,2 m*  
*No electricity*  
*Sitting*  
*Standing*  
*Laying*

### III: Computing station



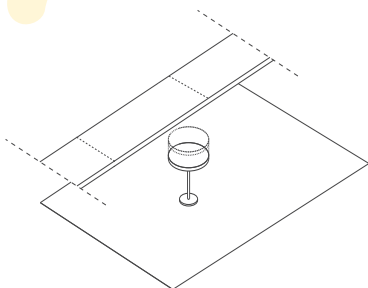
*1 x 0,75 m*  
*PC*  
*Sitting*

### IV: Computing station



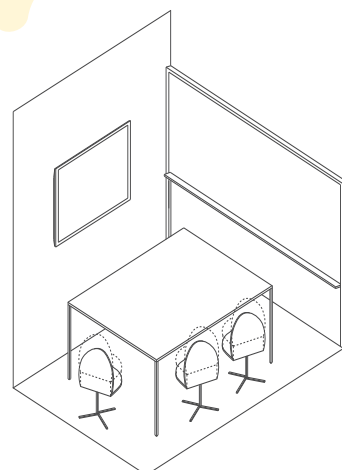
*1 x 0,75 m*  
*PC*  
*Sitting*  
*Standing*

### V: Huddling station



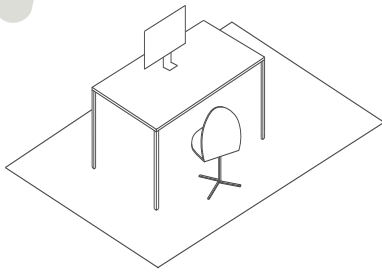
*1 x 0,75*  
*No electricity*  
*Sitting*  
*Standing*  
*Walking*

### VI: Huddling station



*3 x 2 m*  
*TV*  
*Whiteboard*  
*Sitting*  
*Standing*  
*Laying*  
*Walking*

### I: Focussing station

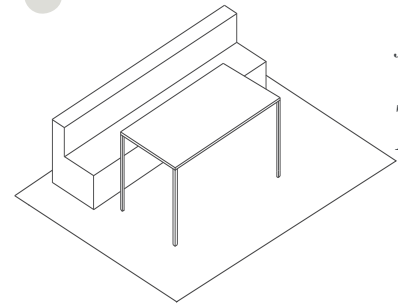


*1 x 0,75 m*

*Screen*

*Sitting*

### II: Focussing station



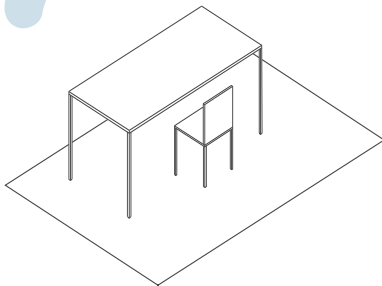
*1 x 0,65 m*

*No electricity*

*Sitting*

*Laying*

### III: Multi-activity station

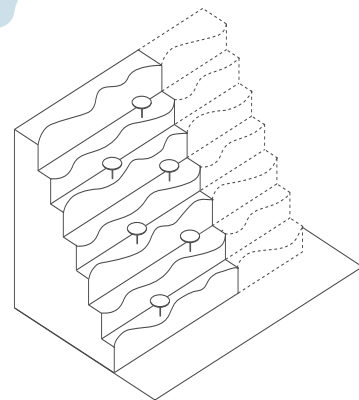


*1 x 0,75 m*

*No electricity*

*Sitting*

### IV: Presenting station



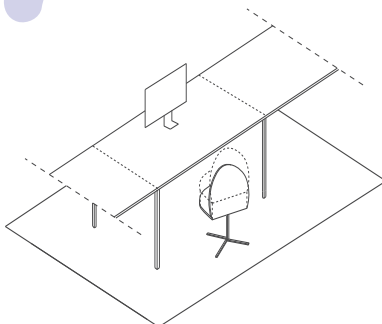
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*No electricity*

*Sitting*

*Laying*

### V: Fixed working station

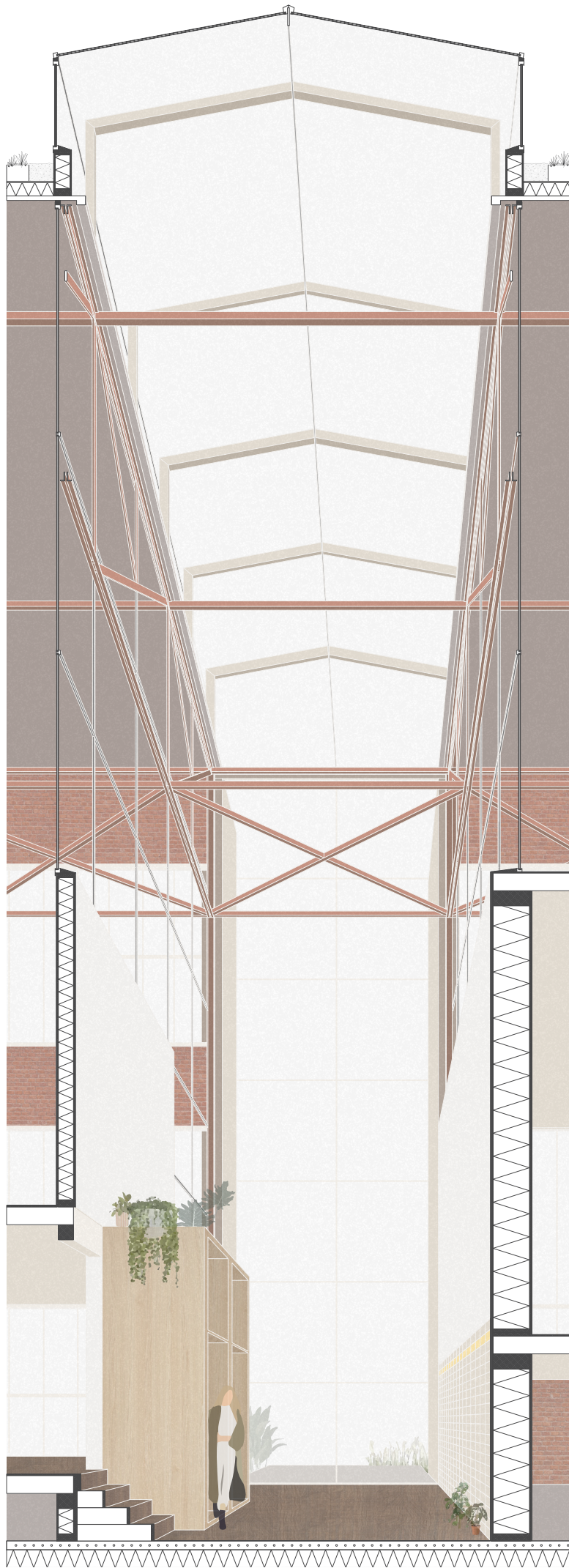


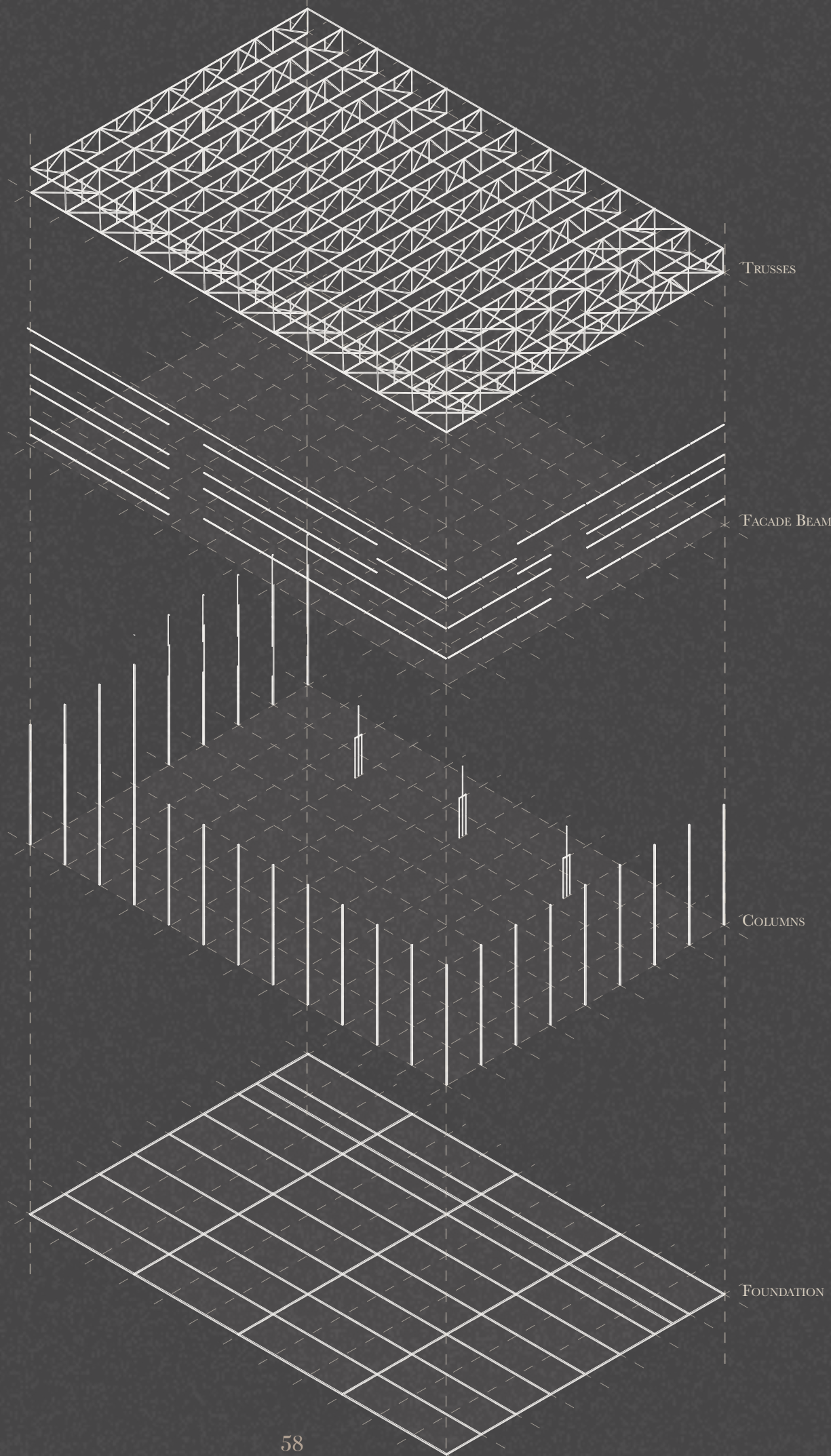
*1 x 0,75 m*

*PC*

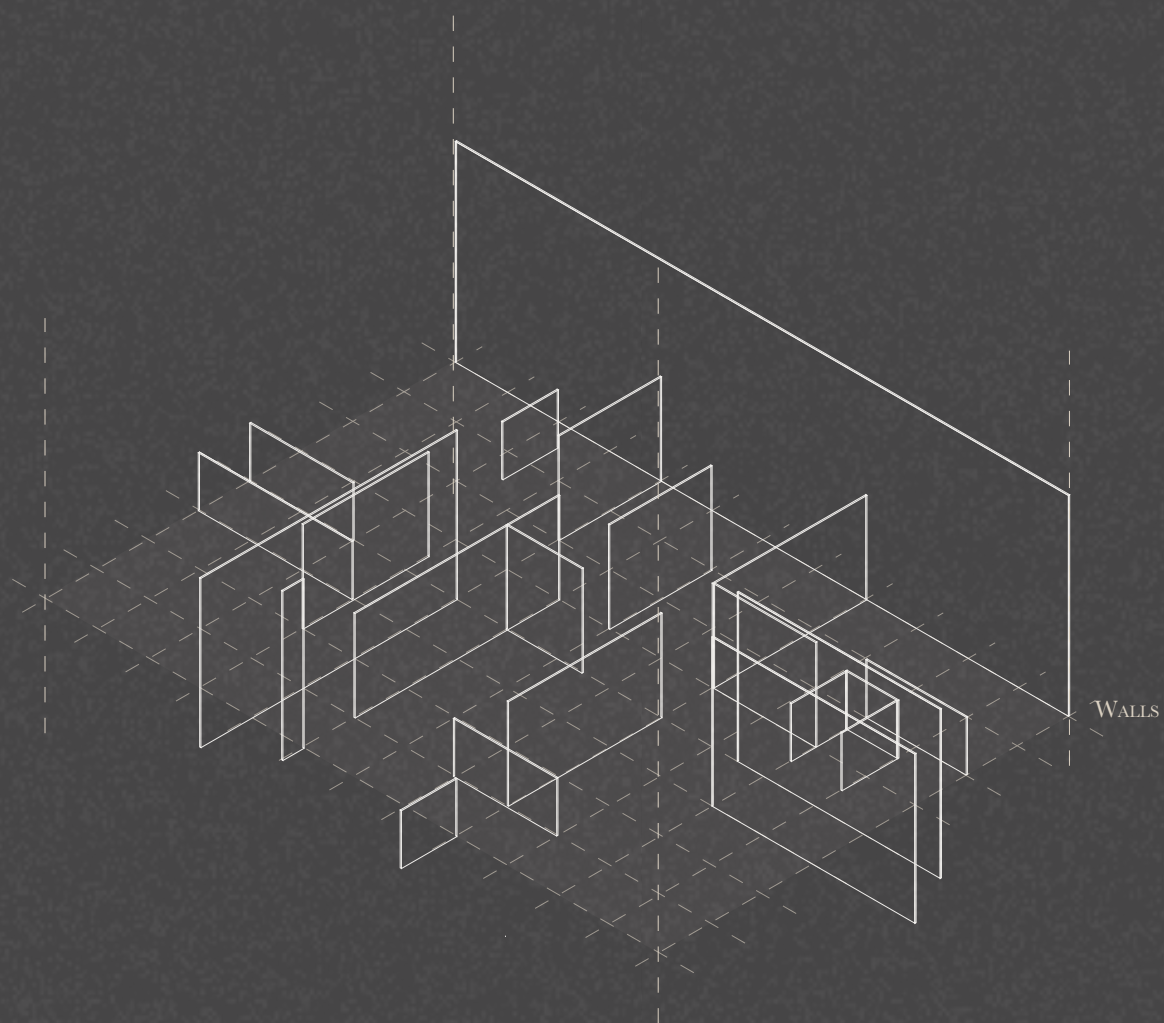
*Sitting*







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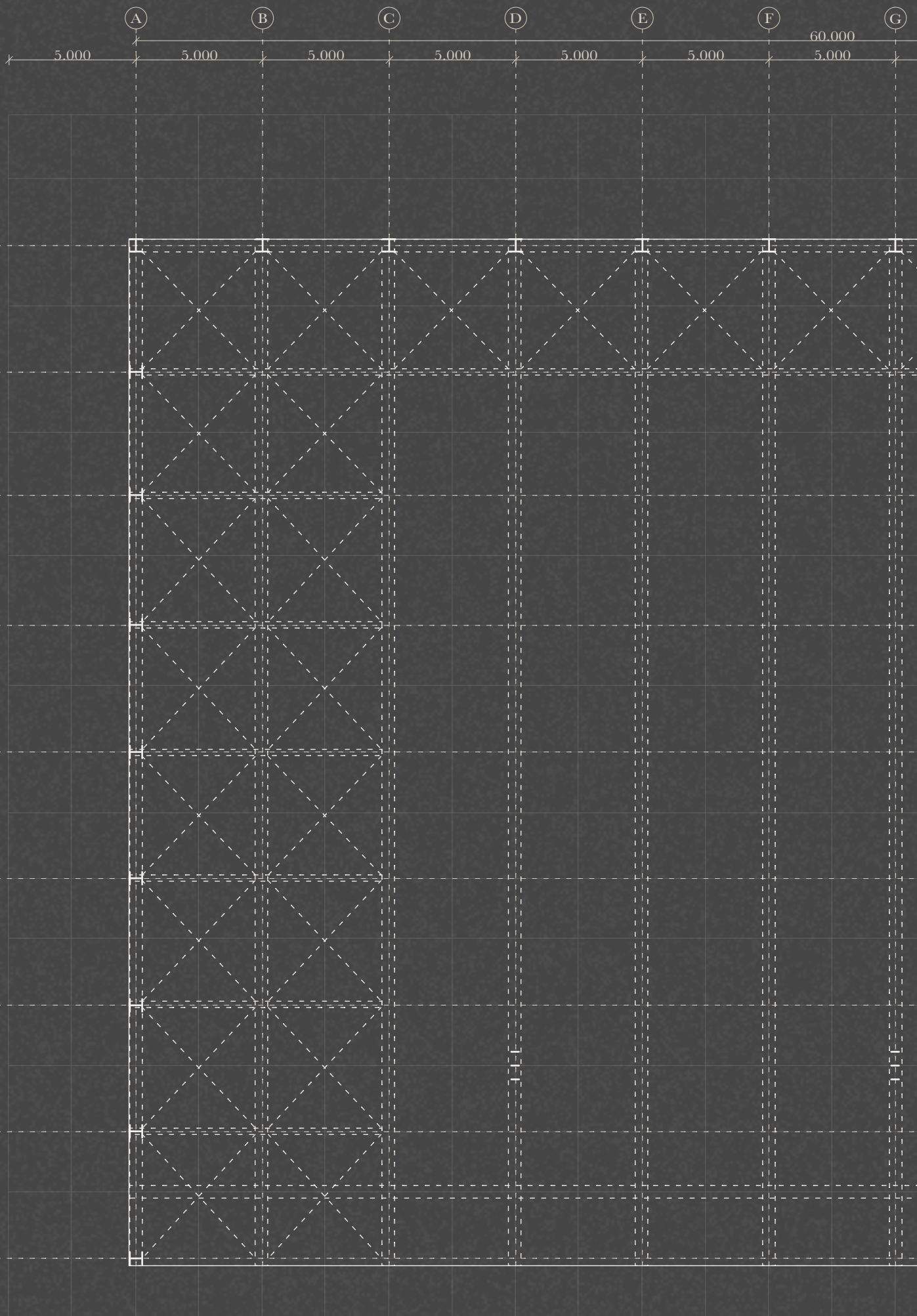


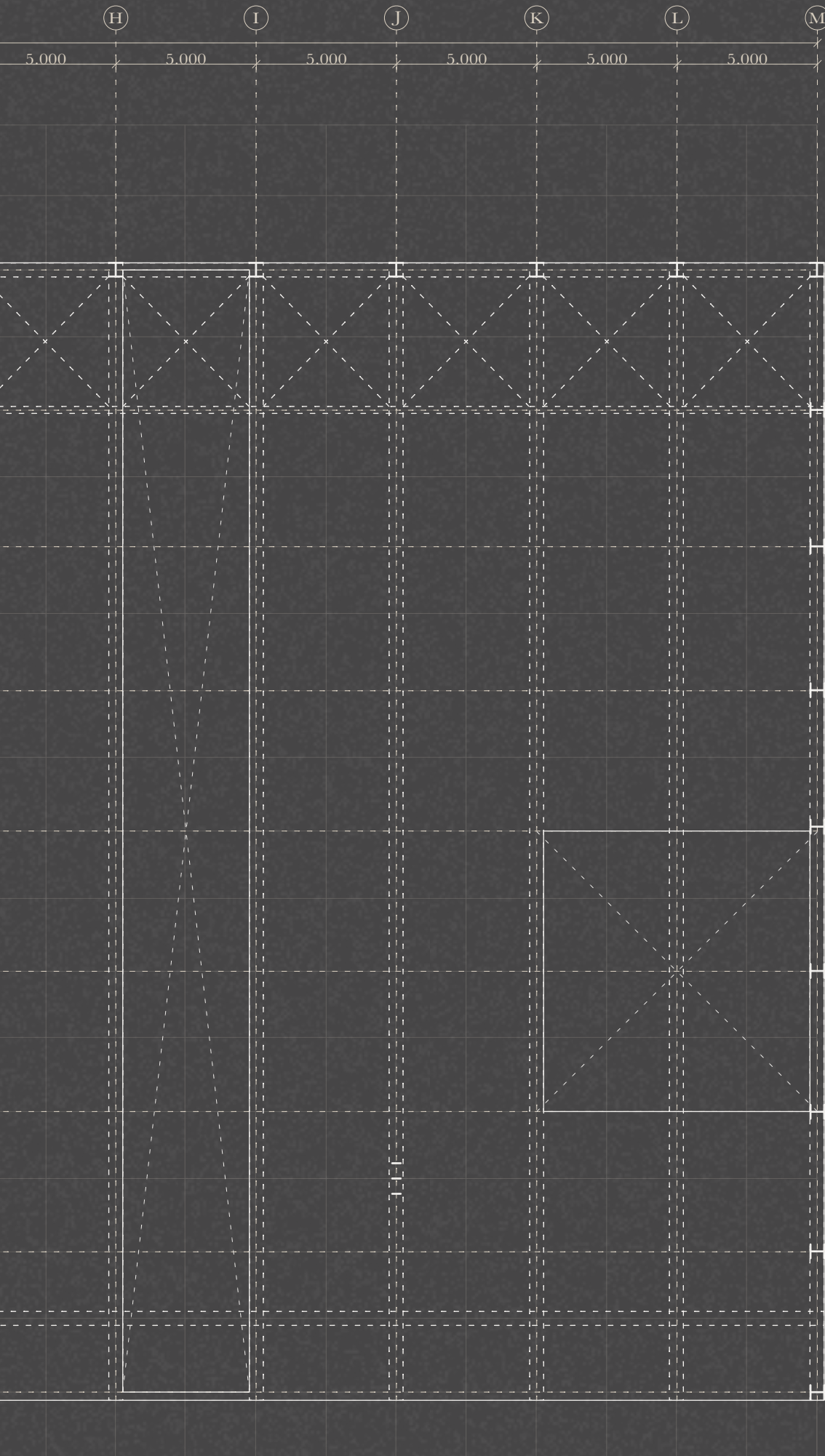




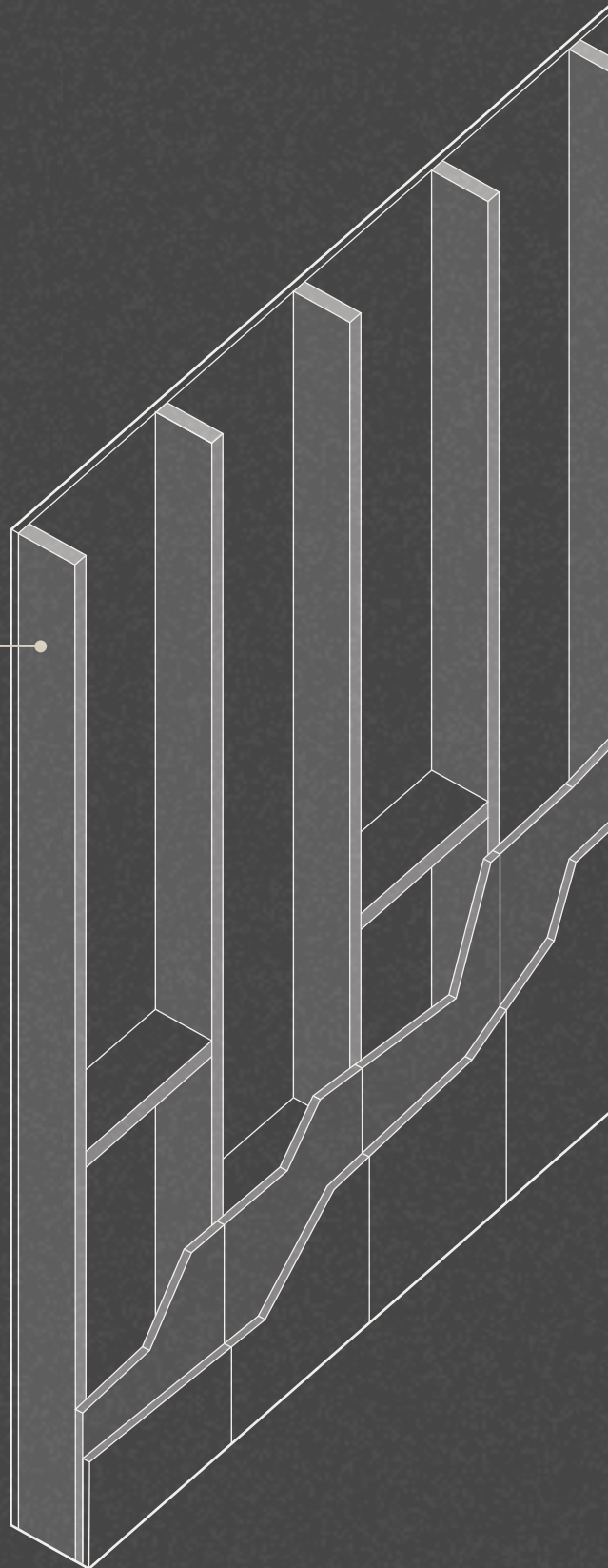


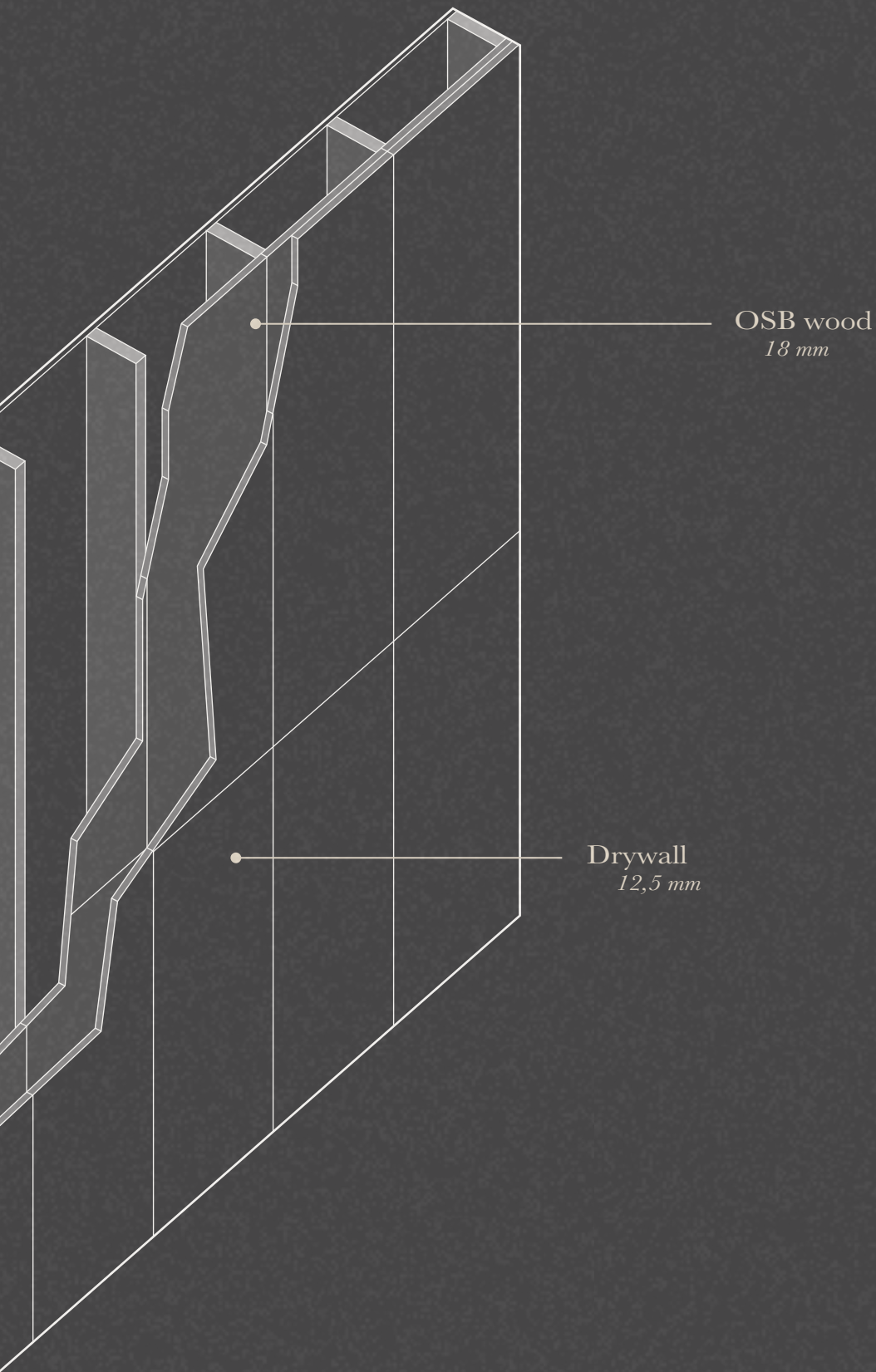


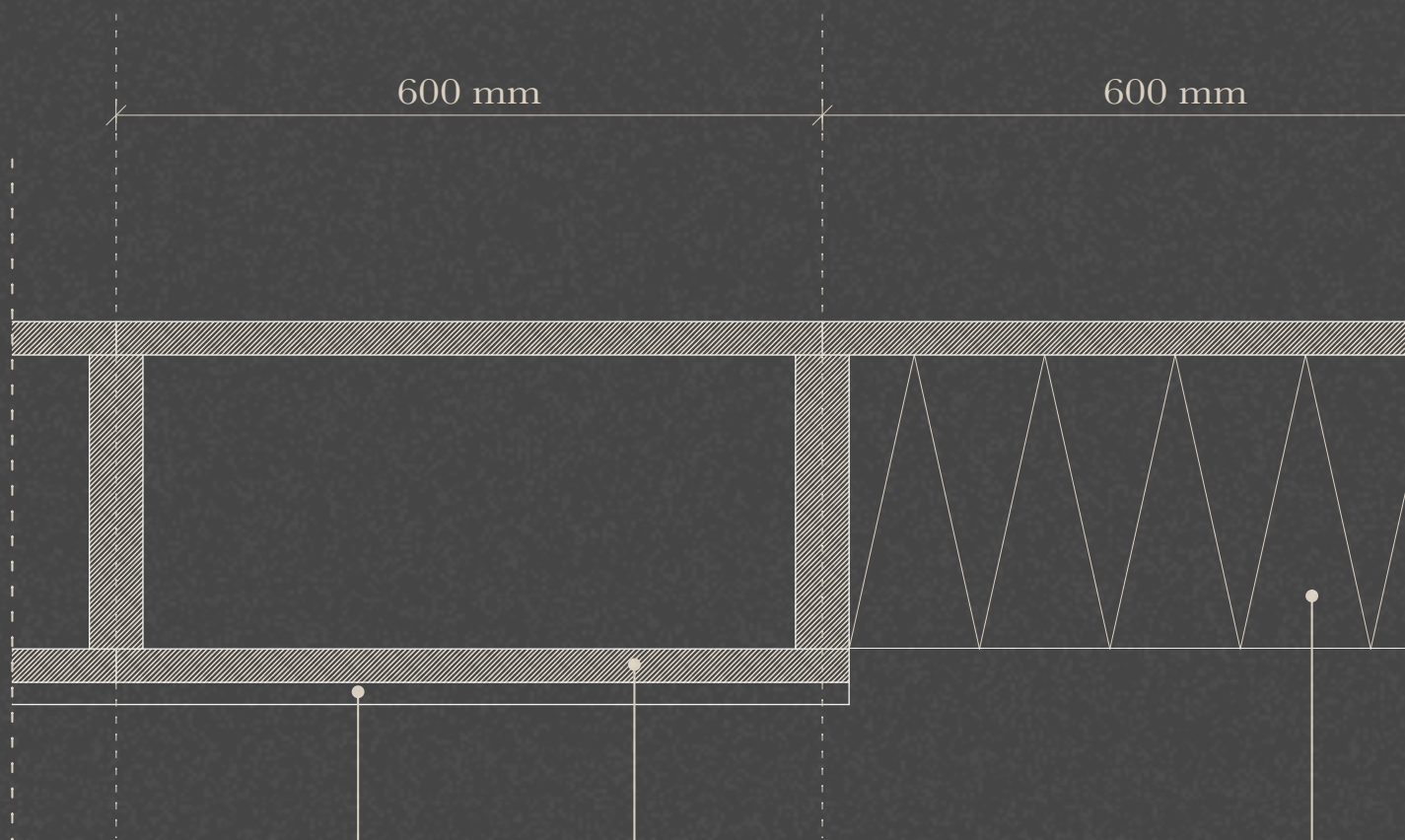




Wood framing  
*184 mm*



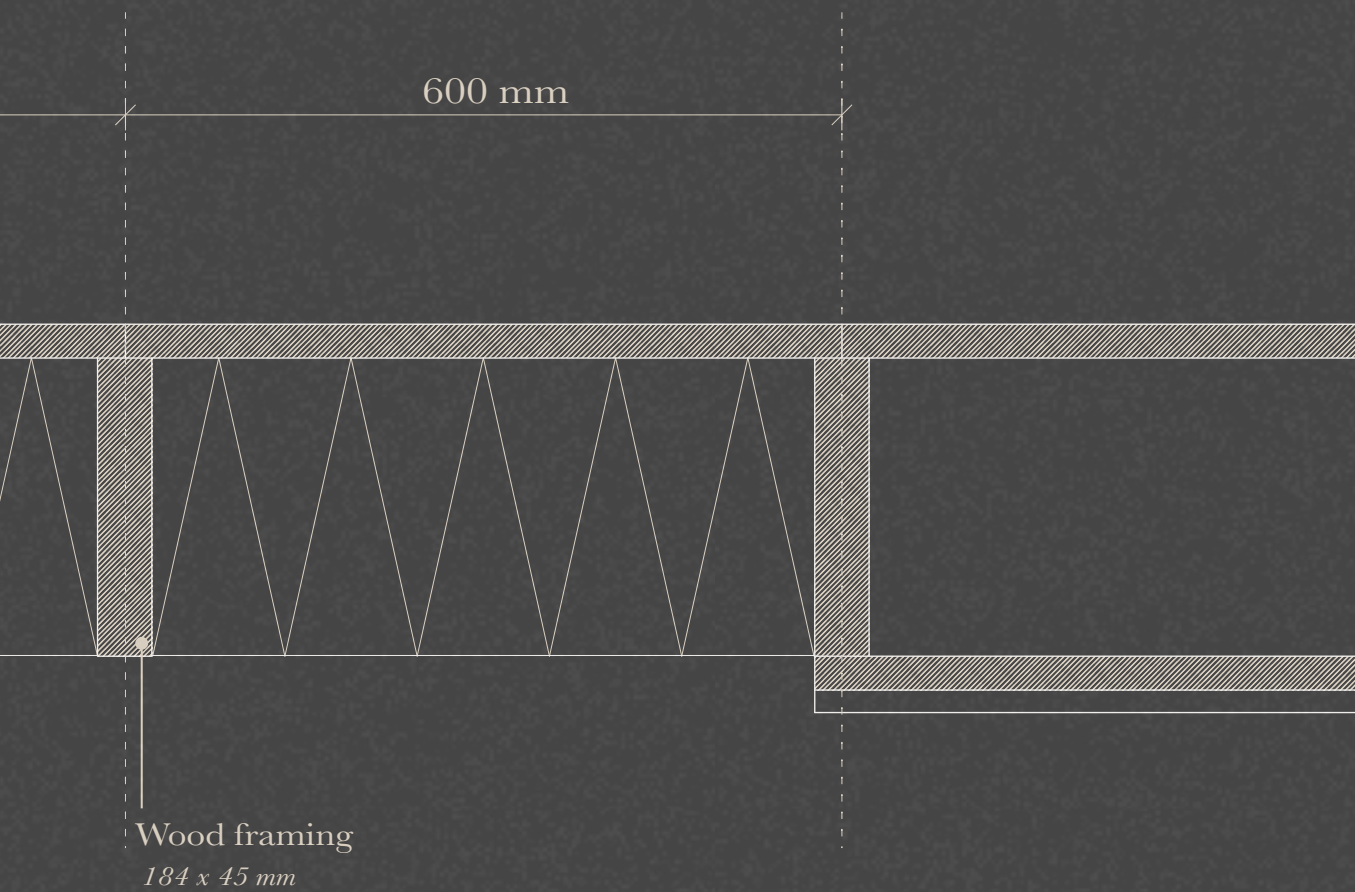




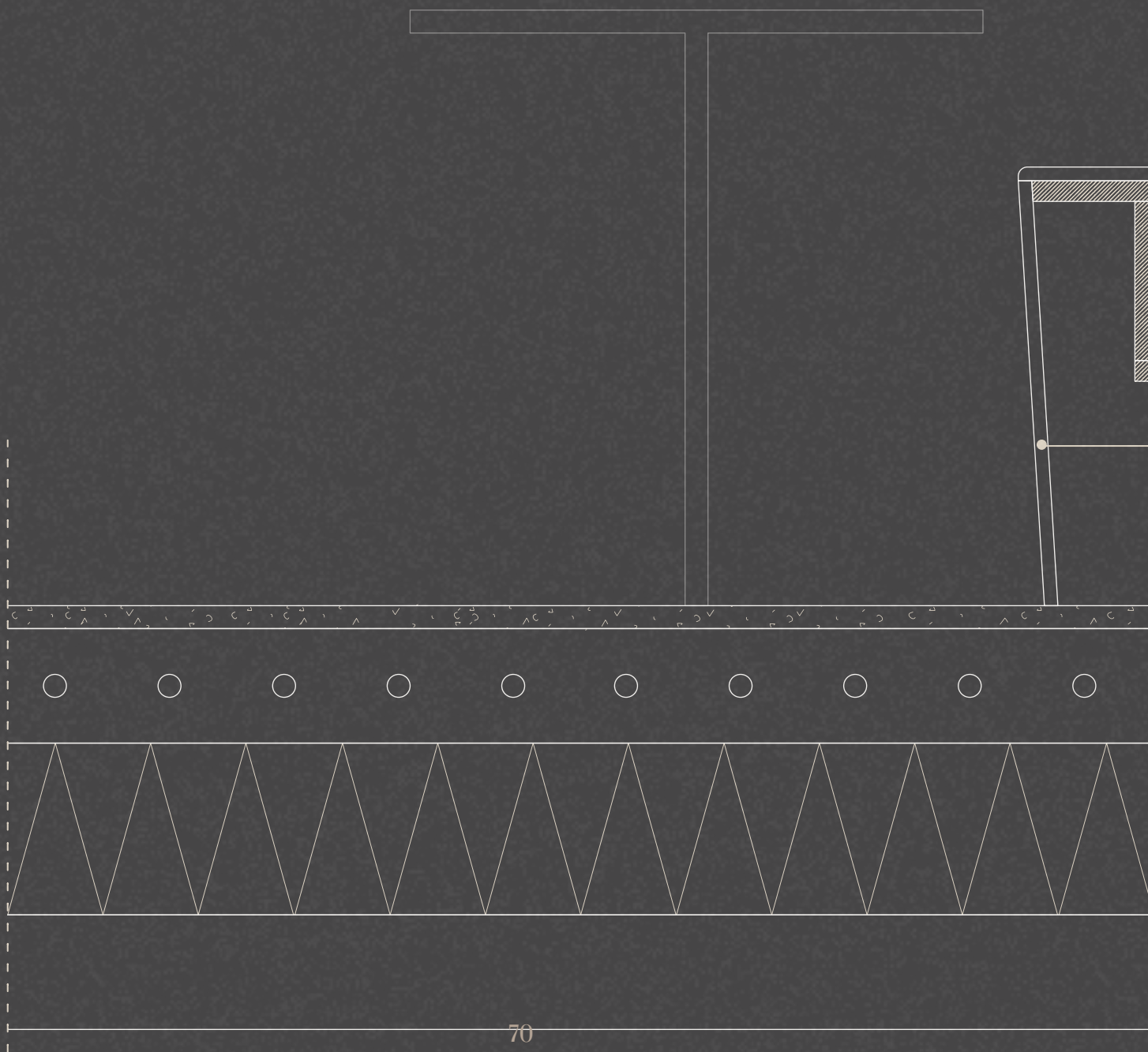
Drywall  
*2600 x 600 x 12,5 mm*

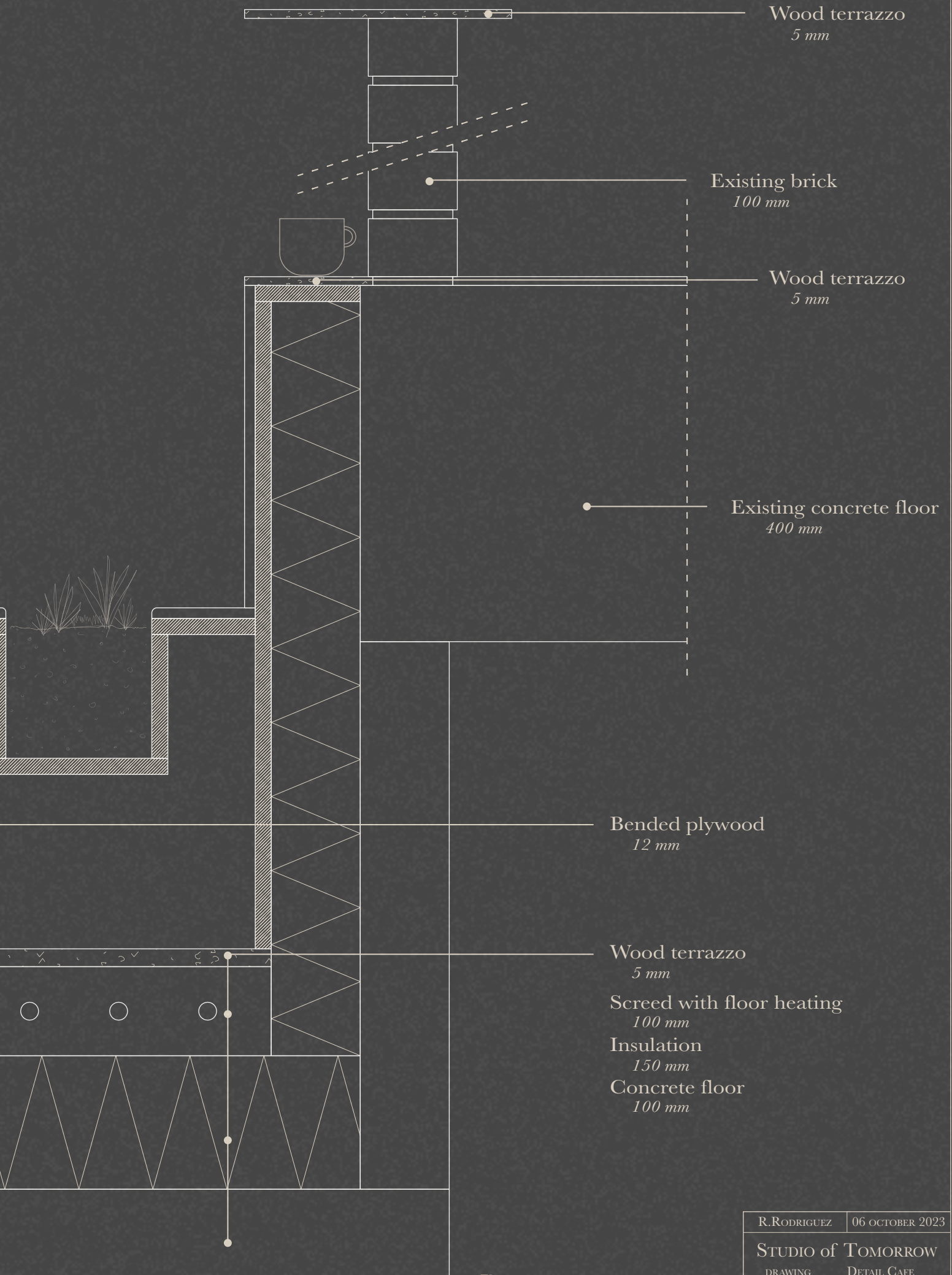
OSB wood  
*2440 x 600 x 18 mm*

Denim  
*555 x 20*

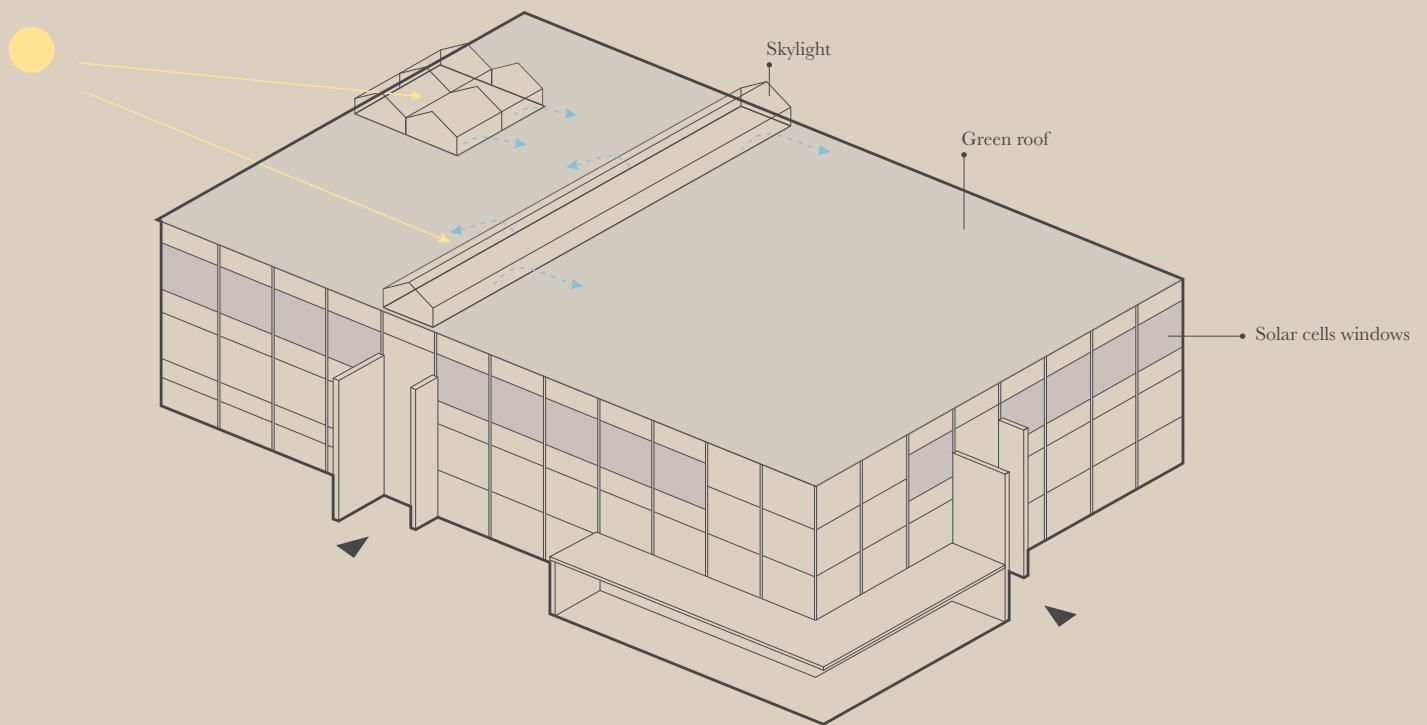


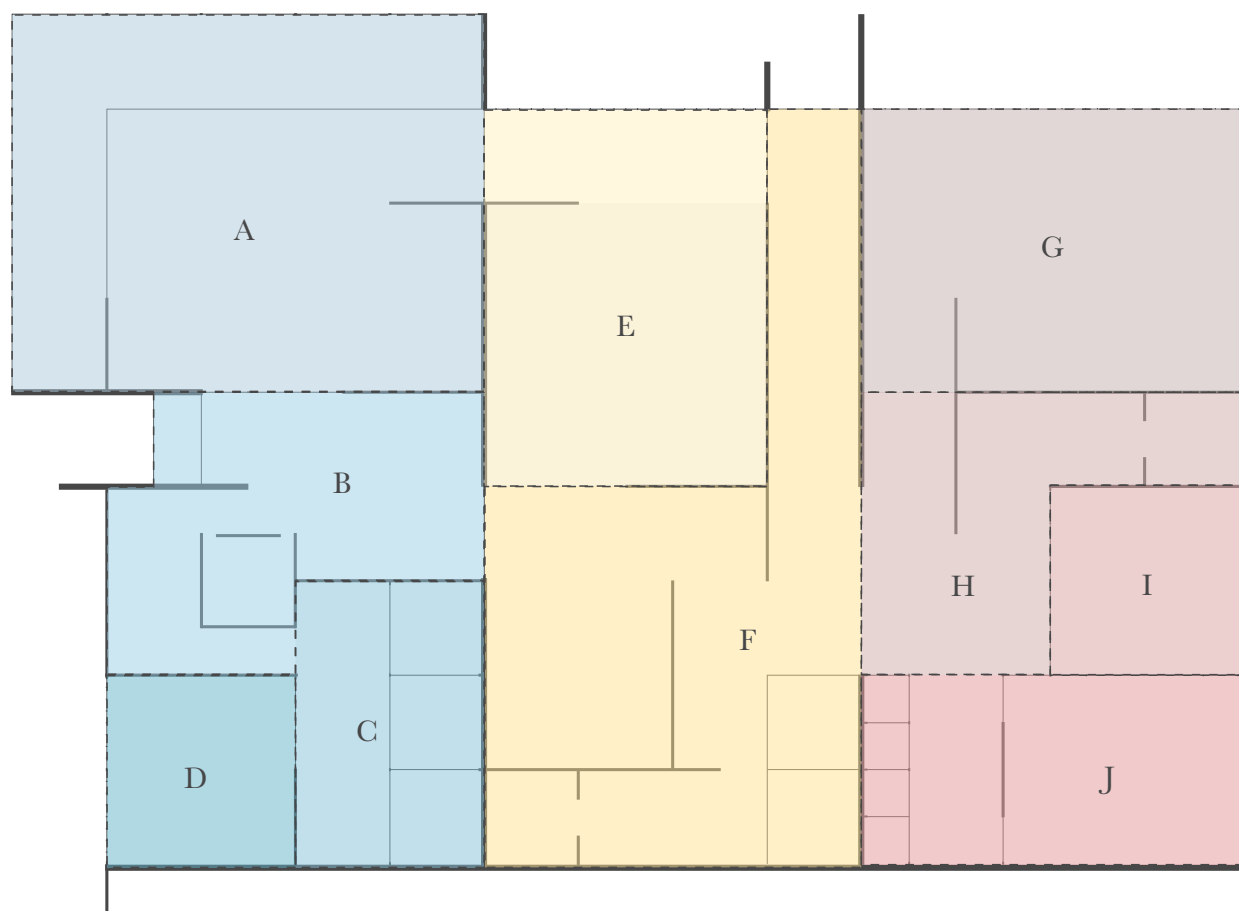
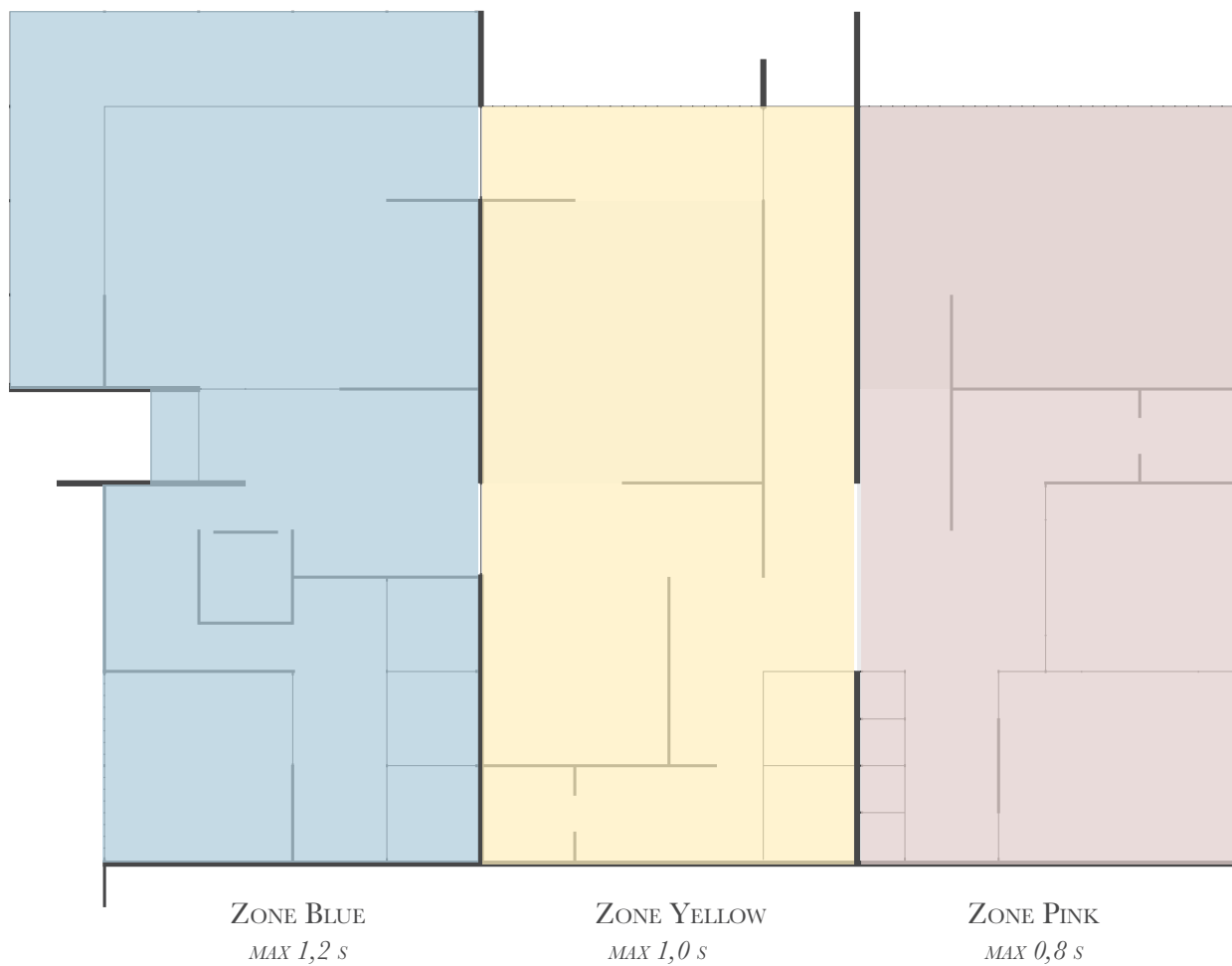
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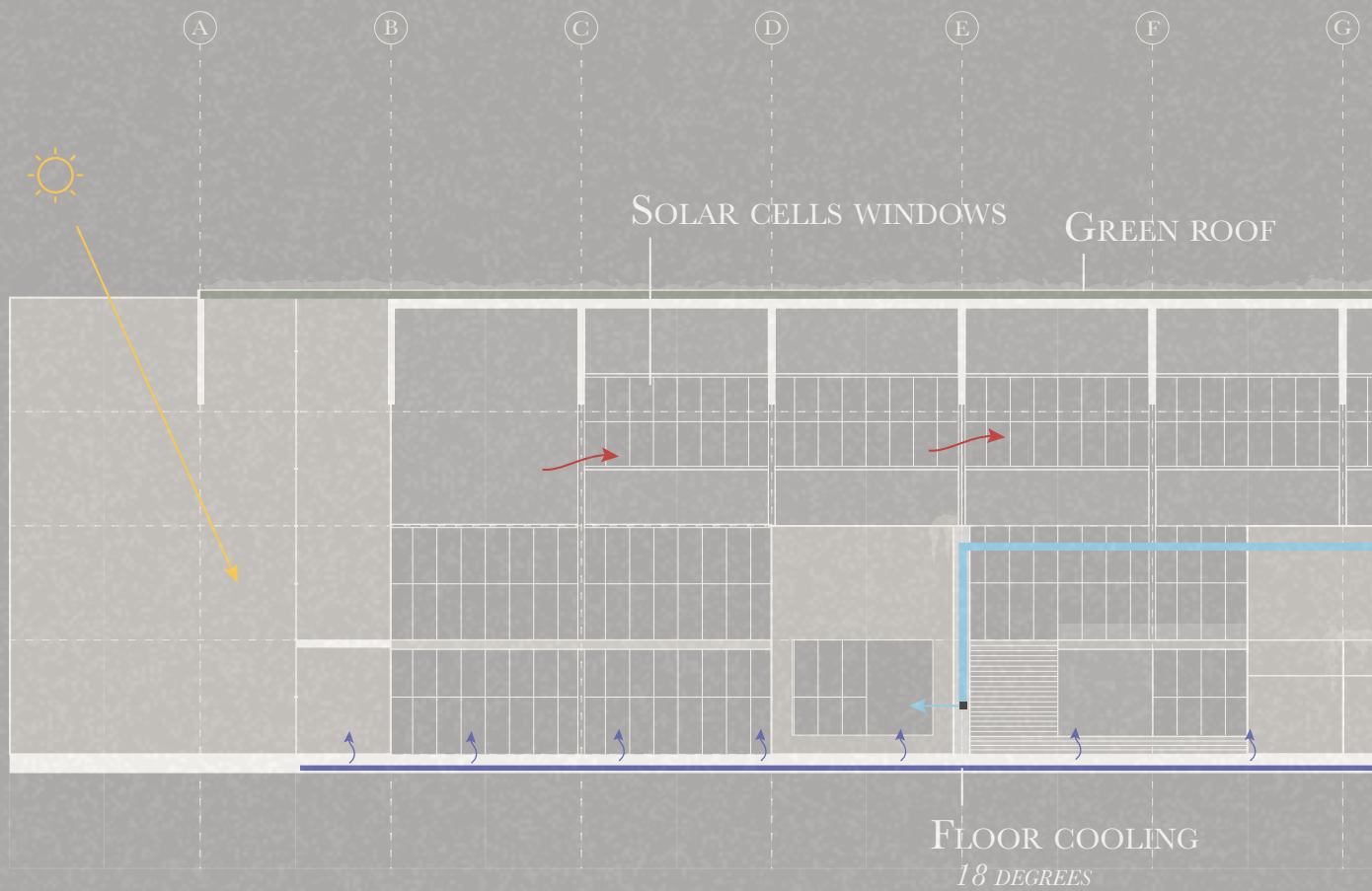


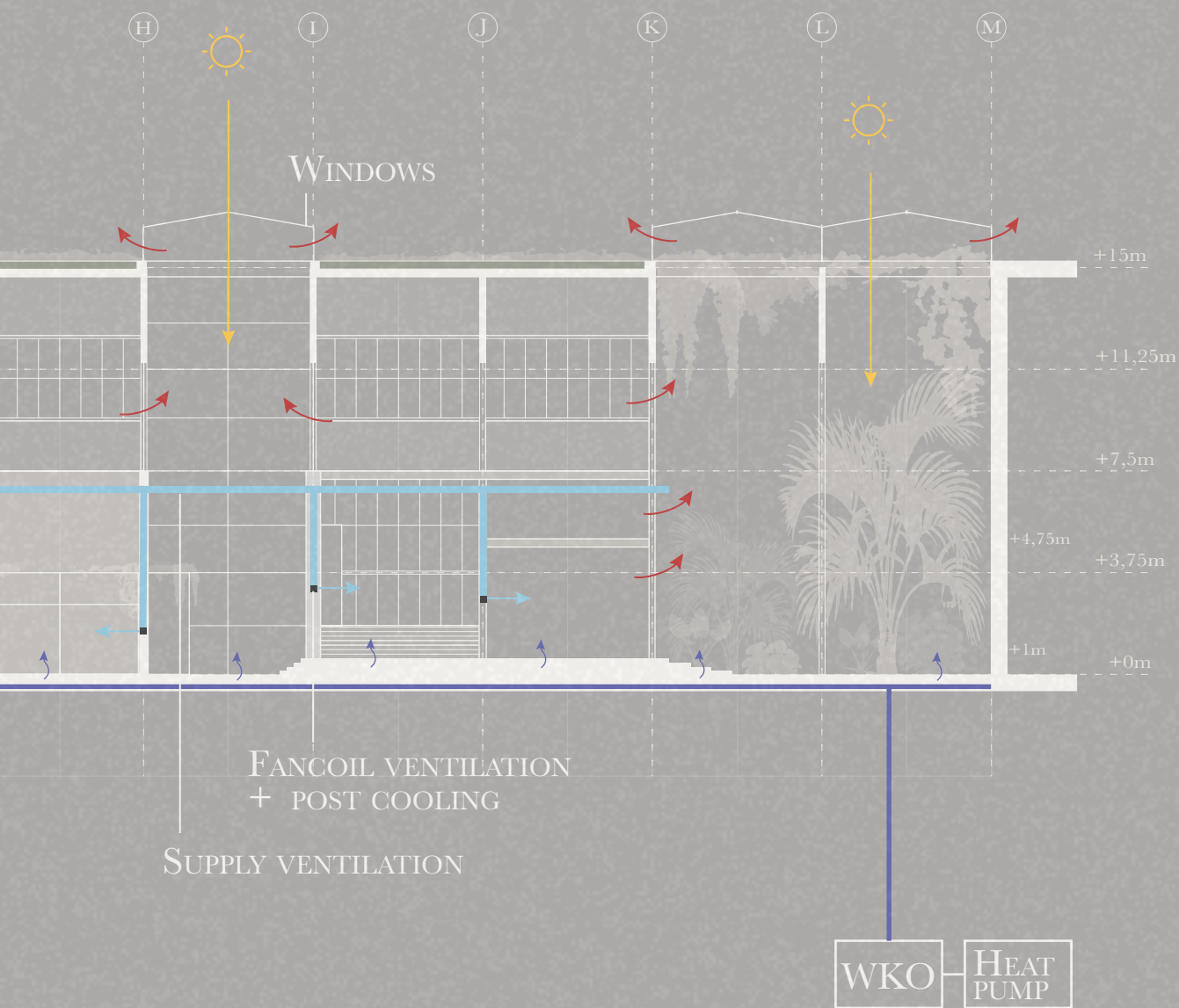
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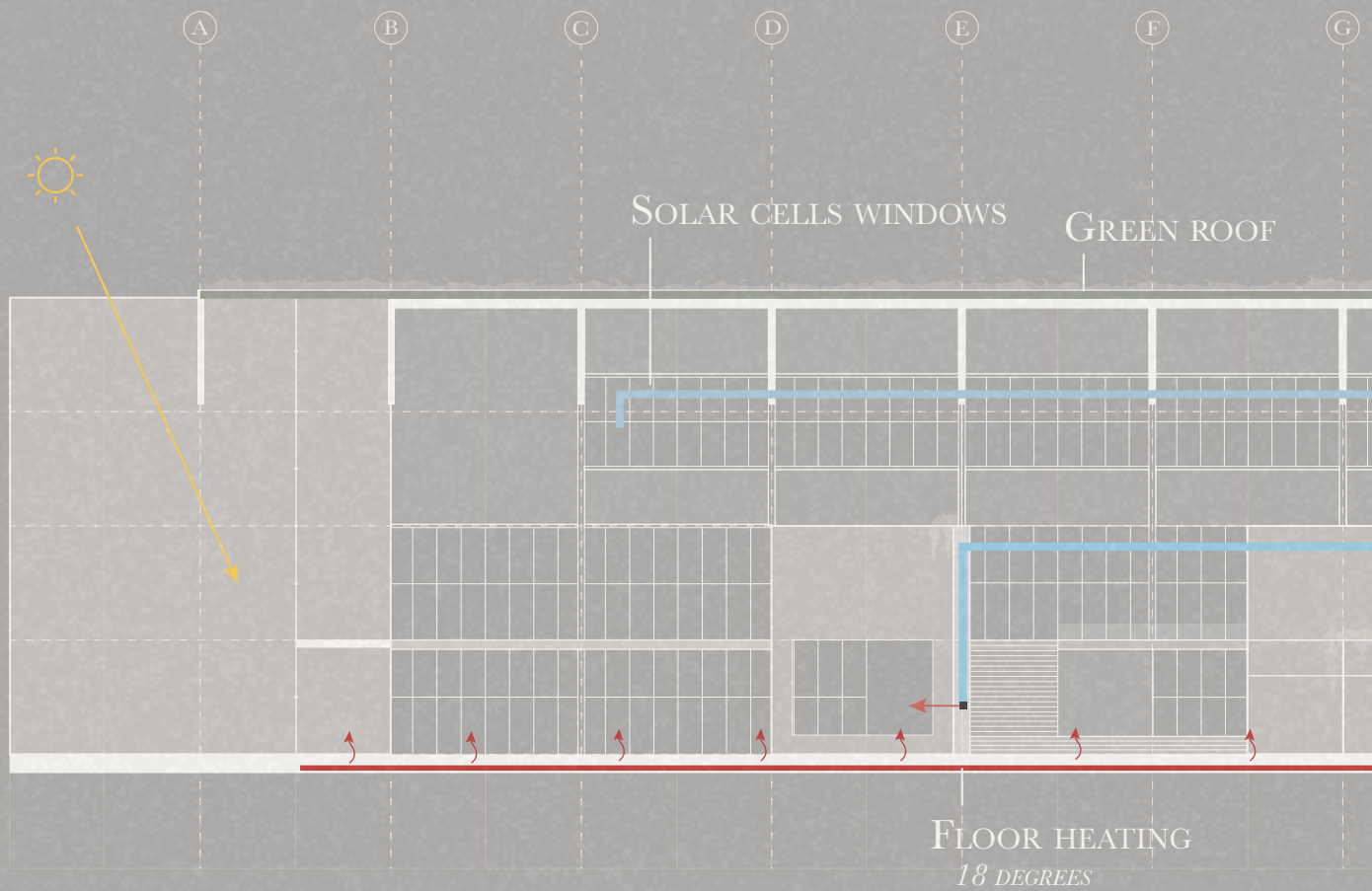


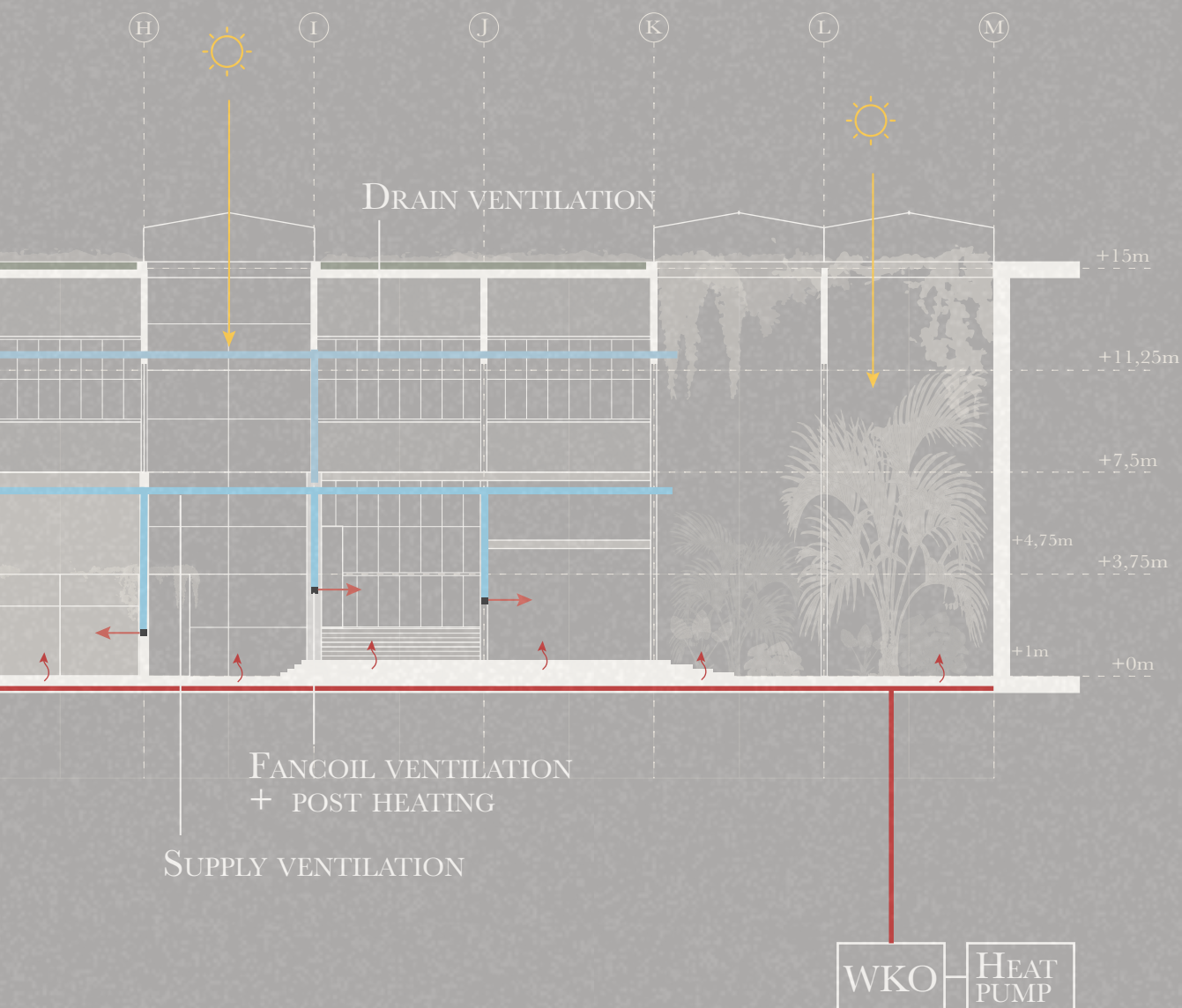


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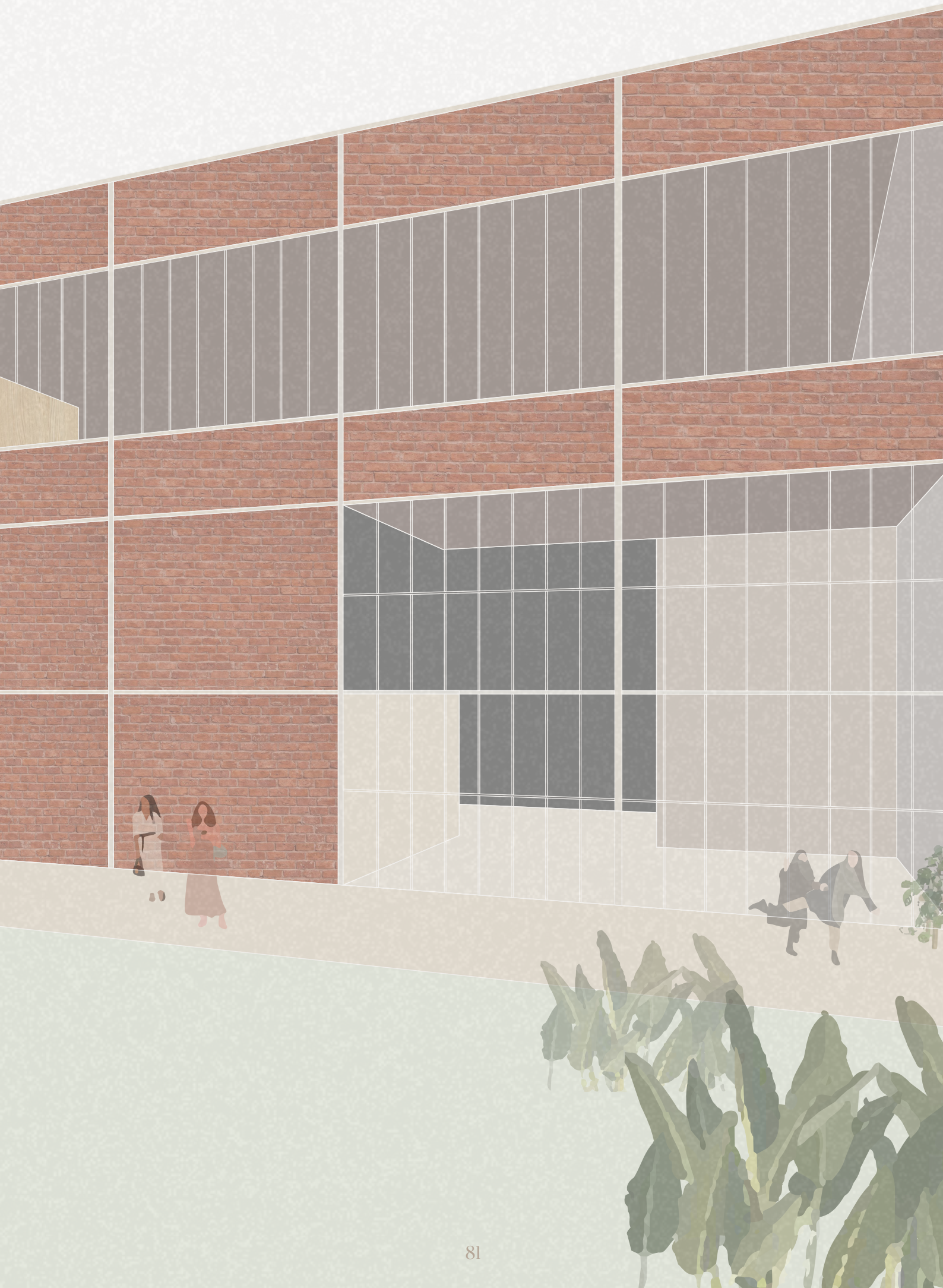
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# *A Glimpse into Tomorrow's Workspace*

*A Day in the Life at the Future Office*





But first coffee



















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Meeting space  
Focussing space  
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from

# the Editor

As I bring this issue to a close, it's been an incredible journey exploring the nuances of flexible working in the architectural profession.

In the ever-evolving landscape of modern work culture, the concept of flexible working has garnered immense attention and support. Architects, like many other professionals, have found themselves at the crossroads of this paradigm shift. It is a movement fuelled by the desire for greater autonomy, mobility, and the freedom to structure work around individual lifestyles.

As I embarked on this research journey, delving into the real-world dynamics of architectural offices, a curious interplay emerged. My study highlighted the distinct preferences, challenges, and innovations within the architectural field regarding flexible working.

The research unveiled a dual narrative — one of aspiration and the other of practicality. As architects continue to seek a work environment that adapts to their evolving needs and preferences, it is essential to acknowledge that the implementation of flexible working, as a new norm, may not be universal. There is no *one-size-fits-all* solution. The varying approaches I explored, from shared buildings to flexible office spaces, underscore the complexity of this issue.

For architects, as for any professional, the journey towards flexible working requires a delicate balance. It is the alignment of ambition with realism, as well as adaptation with fiscal feasibility. My research serves as a compass in this ever-shifting landscape, guiding architects and employers towards making informed choices that best suit their individual needs.

This journey has, furthermore, been marked by an evolution in my design philosophy, driven by the exploration of flexible working as a core concept and how it finds its place within architectural proposals. A new-found joy of design stems from trusting instincts and intuition, allowing ideas to flow and flourish unencumbered by rigid rules.

The path to flexible working in architecture may not be a seamless one, but it is undoubtedly a transformative journey. While it may not be for everyone, it is a collective aspiration, a vision of work that not only accommodates the demands of the profession but empowers architects to shape their work environment to their own creative rhythm. It is a testament to the adaptability and resilience of the architectural community, embracing change while retaining the essence of what it means to be an architect.

In closing, the exploration of flexible working in architectural offices reminds us that every space we design, every decision we make, is an opportunity for innovation. It is an opportunity to craft a future where flexibility, creativity, and collaboration thrive in harmony.

In closing, I wish to express my deepest gratitude for joining me on this expedition. I take these lessons and experiences with me, poised to leave a lasting impact on the design landscape. The vision is set, the course is charted, and the future of workspace design is in our capable hands.

Until we meet again, let your workspaces be as flexible and dynamic as your dreams.

Warm regards,

Romée Rodriguez



# Studio of Tomorrow

Romée Rodriguez

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TU Delft - Architecture - Explore Lab

**Design tutor**

**Building Technology tutor**

**Research tutor**

Veerle de Vries

Rufus van den Ban

Sake Zijlstra

EURO 25,00

