

Flanders Architecture Institute

at DeSingel

Msc3/4 Graduation Studio

Interiors Buildings Cities

Anna Klaver

"Connecting archiving with the public"

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What is the **Flander Architecture Institute** (VAi) ?

It manages the Flanders
Architectural **Archive**

It promotes **public
engagement** with
architecture



● = VAI offices and library



DeSingel, Antwerp



- = VAI archive
- = VAI offices and library



VAI archive, Antwerp

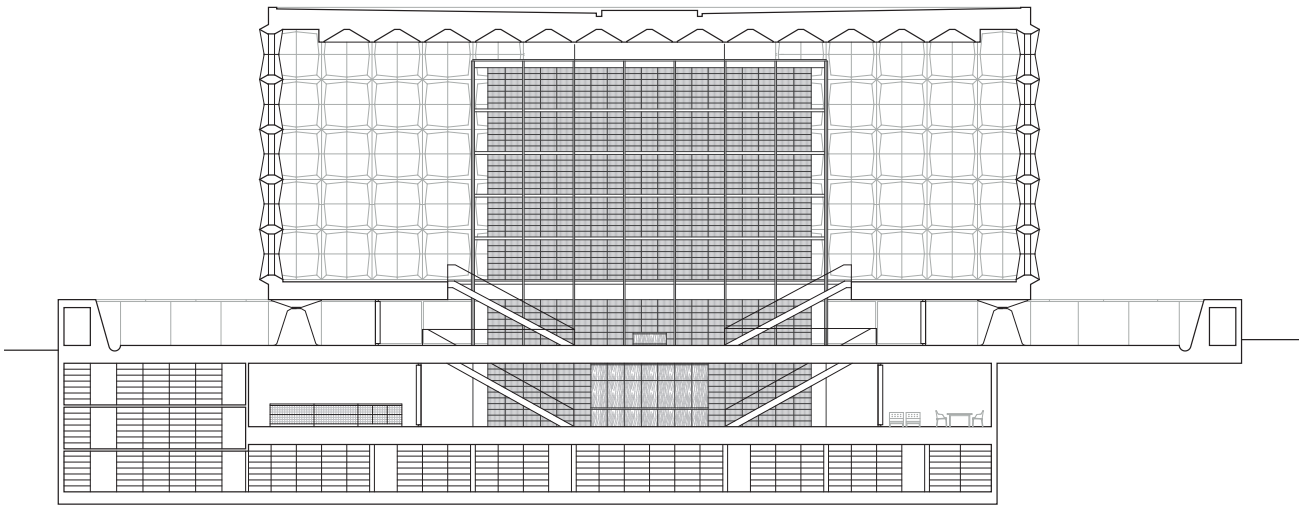


Position

Precedent studies



Beinecke Rare Book & Manuscript Library, Yale

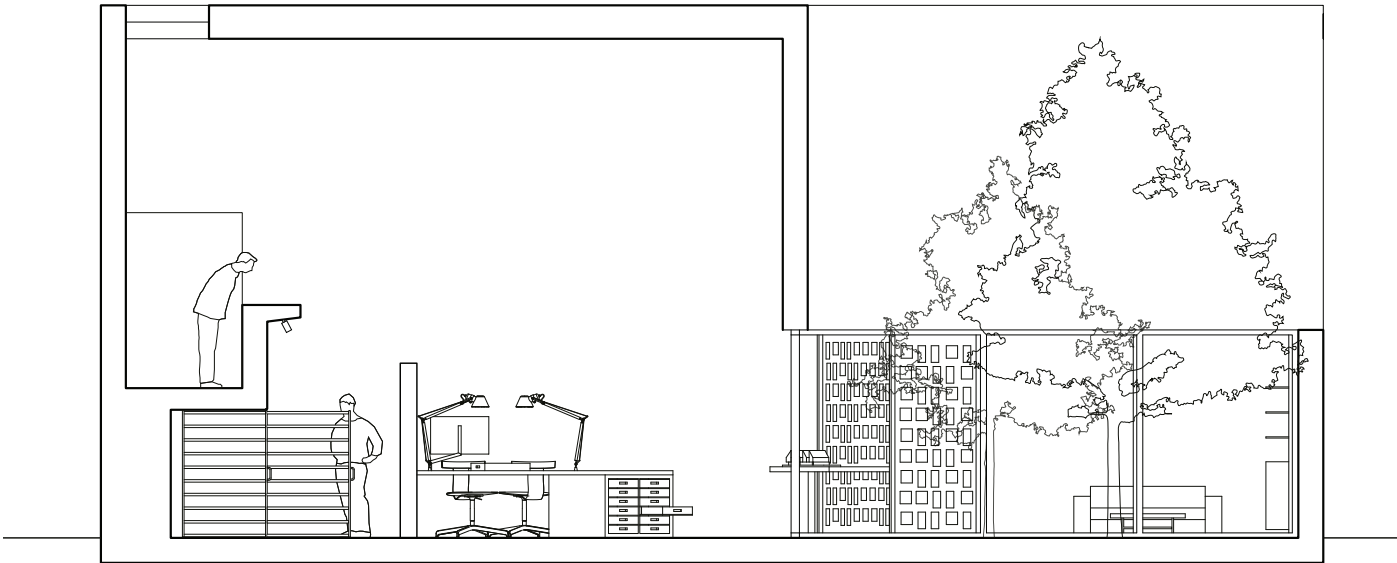


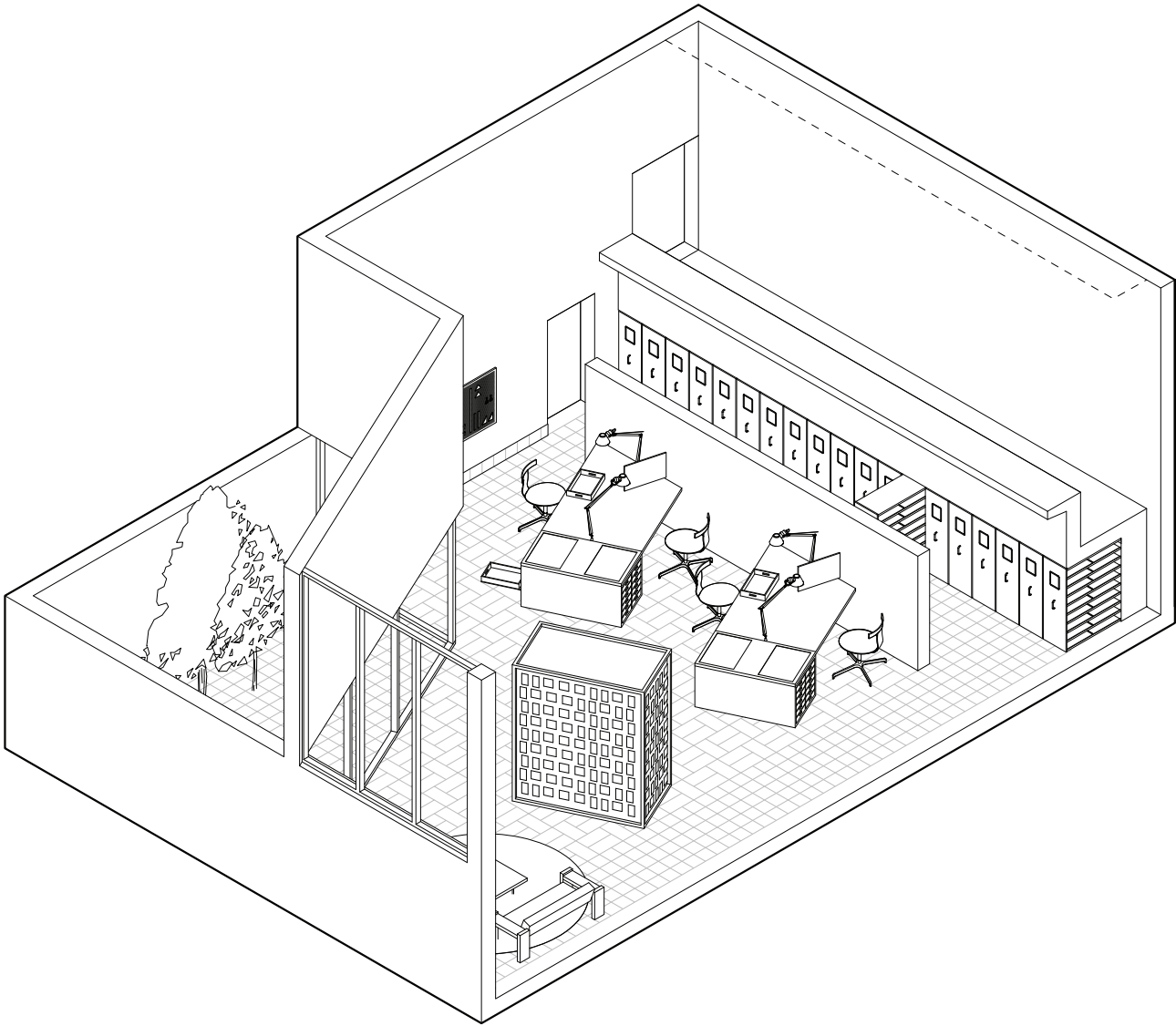
the book tower and archive

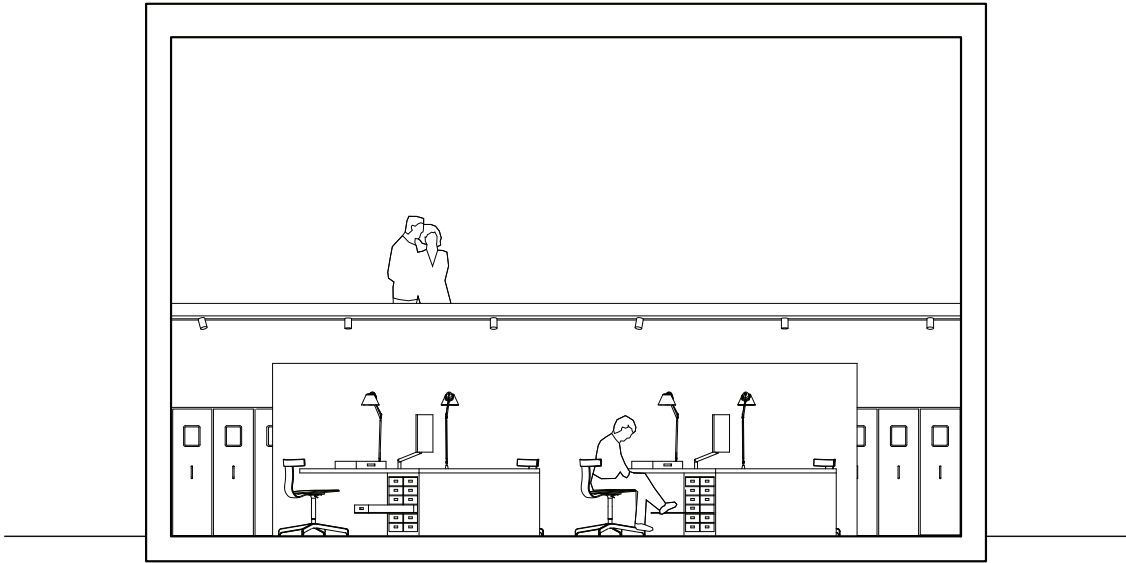


Position

A room for the archive



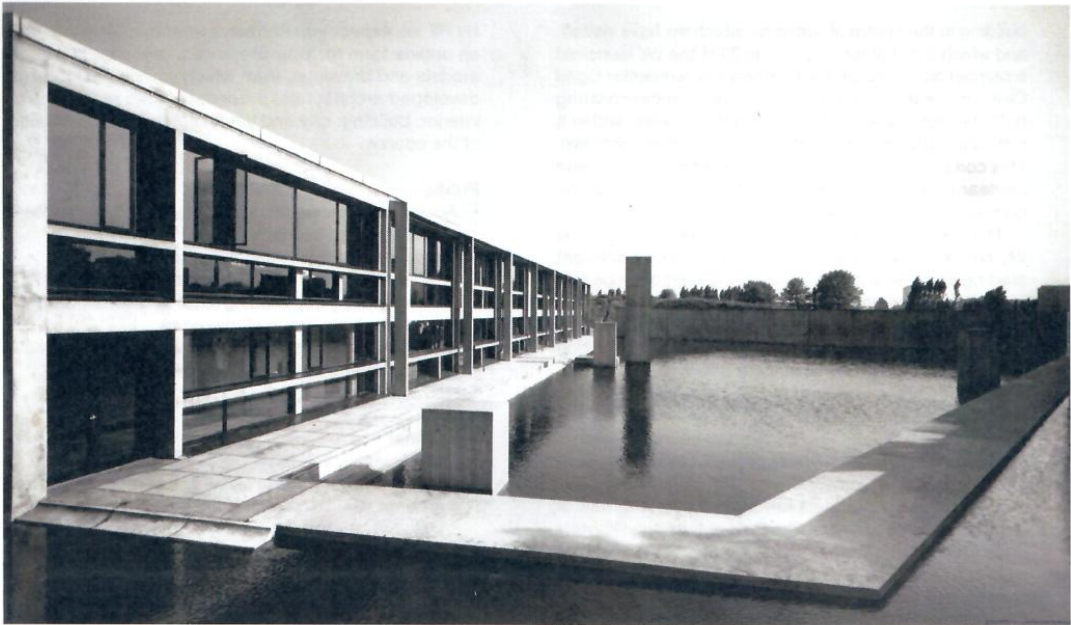




The Brief

Archiving Architecture

2024-25 MSc3 AR3AI100
Brief 03



Undated image of deSingel, Library Royal Conservatory Antwerp

Developing an Archive

VAi

The Flanders Architecture Institute (VAi) represents architecture as a subject and a discipline in Dutch-speaking Belgium. It seeks to provide a meeting place for everyone who wishes to make, share and experience architecture, through its engagement with exhibitions, lectures, debates, events and publications. The VAI offers an important critical framework, through which to consider contemporary Flemish architecture, producing a biennial yearbook and curating the Belgian Pavilion at the Venice Architecture Biennale.

Since 2018, this active participation with contemporary architecture has been extended through its appropriation of the Flanders Architectural Archive. This collection, originally built up by the Province of Antwerp but now addressing Flanders as a whole, holds more than 180 private architect archives, including those of Léon Stynen, Bob Van Reeth - AWG, Christian Kieckens, Bataille-Ibens and many others.

The relation between the archive and the VAI's other activities is a developing one. It will be the task of this project to consider what might be the role of the extensive historical material and technically defined conditions of the archive, as an integral component of the wider public mission of the organisation.

De Singel

The VAI is currently based at De Singel, a modernist cultural campus on the Southern periphery of Antwerp's historical centre. In 1958, the Ministry of Public Works commissioned architect Léon Stynen to design the first phase of this ambitious complex, a new Conservatoire as an extension to the Antwerpsche Vlaamsche Muziekschool. It featured a pavilion shaped like an open figure of eight with rooms overlooking two inner courtyards. In 1979, work began on the construction of phase two, becoming the expanded deSingel Cultural Centre and including a series of performance space for music and theatre as well as a television broadcasting centre. In 1987 the building was extended again, based on a design by Stynen and his assistant Paul De Meyer, with additional space for the Conservatoire and a small public foyer. In 1995, Stephane Beel was tasked with drawing up a masterplan for the reorganisation and extension of DE SINGEL and the Conservatoire, finally leading in 2010 to the opening of a major extension to the complex, part of which houses the office and exhibition hall of the VAI.

A New Home

With the addition of the archive, the institute has now outgrown this space. The archive is housed in a separate

Interiors
Buildings
Cities

Palace



VAi wants to become more **public-facing**

current reading room

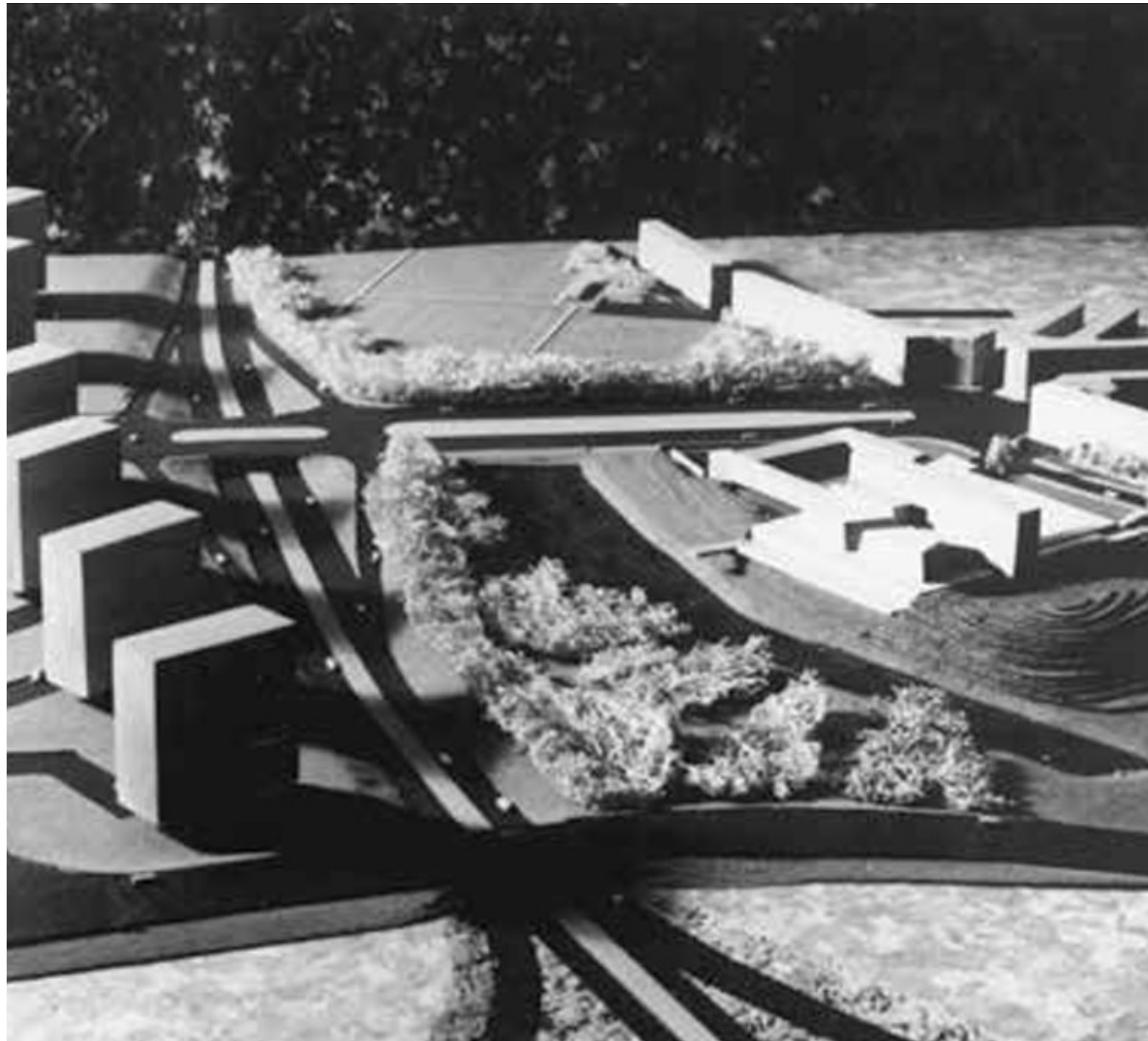


Leveraging the **potential** synergies between the VAI and DeSingel

History of **DeSingel**



historical photo before construction of DeSingel (1932)



Designed by **Leon Stynen**
(1958-1979) for the Antwerp Con-
servatory of Music









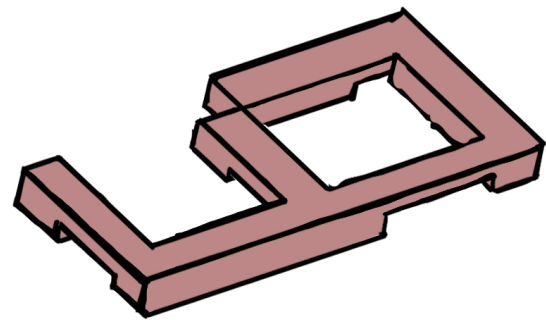


ring road under construction (ca. 1969)

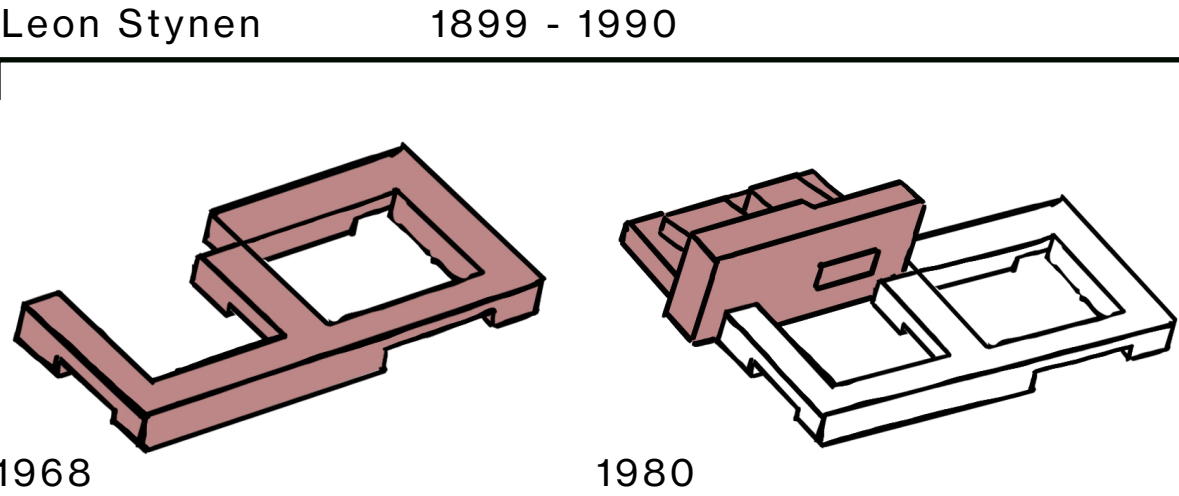


DeSingel (ca. 1980)

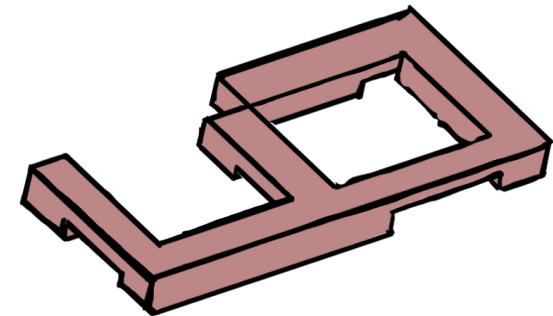
Leon Stynen 1899 - 1990



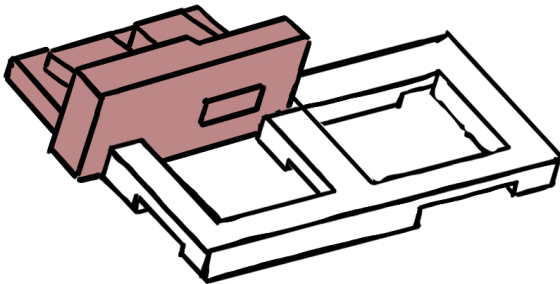
1968



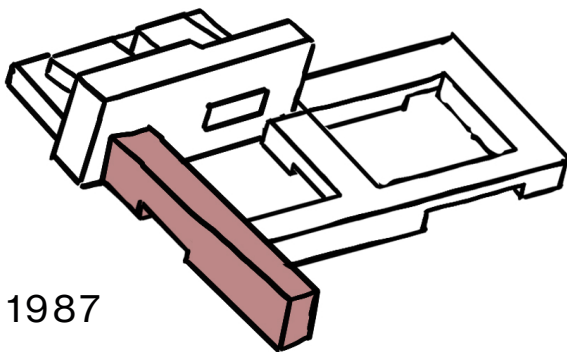
Leon Stynen 1899 - 1990



1968



1980

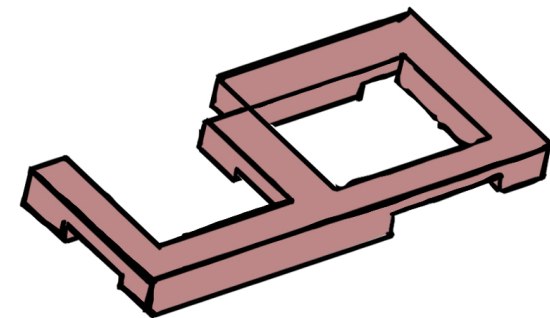


1987

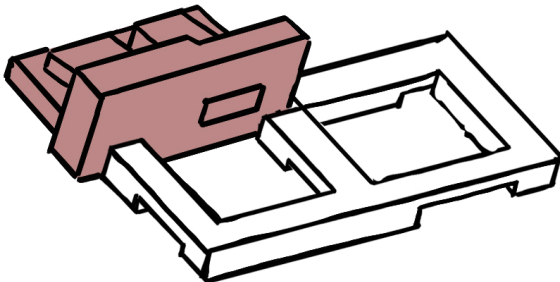
Leon Stynen

1899 - 1990

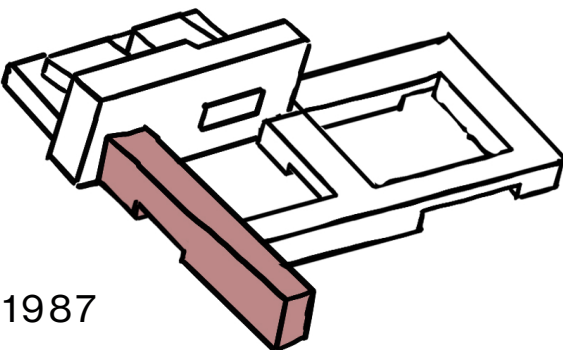
Stéphane Beel



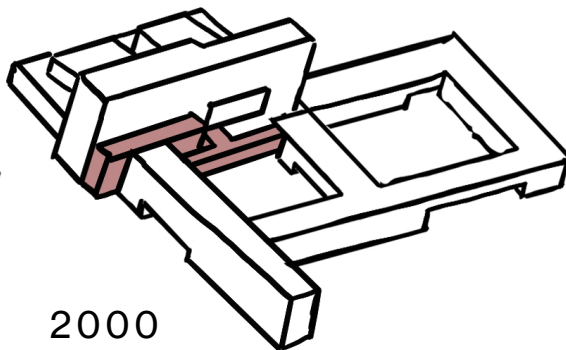
1968



1980



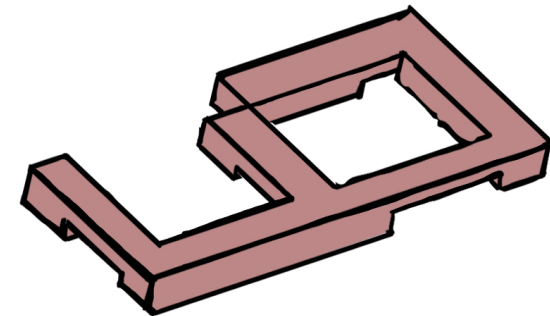
1987



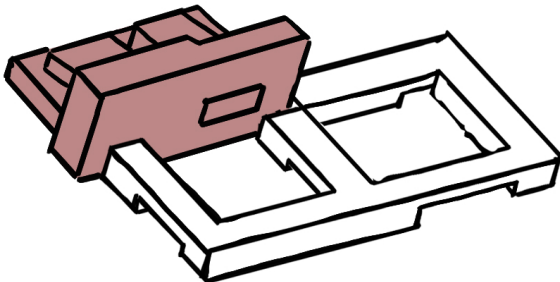
2000

Leon Stynen 1899 - 1990

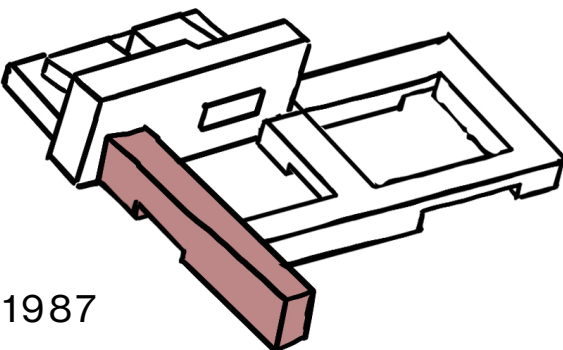
Stéphane Beel 1955



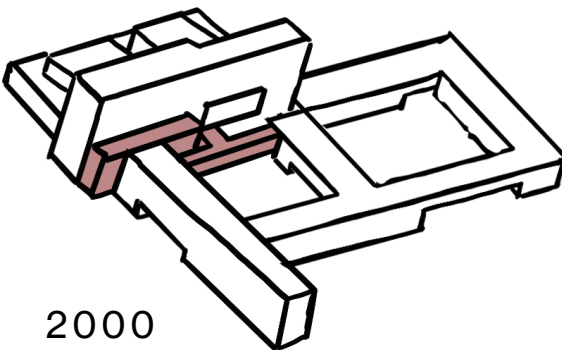
1968



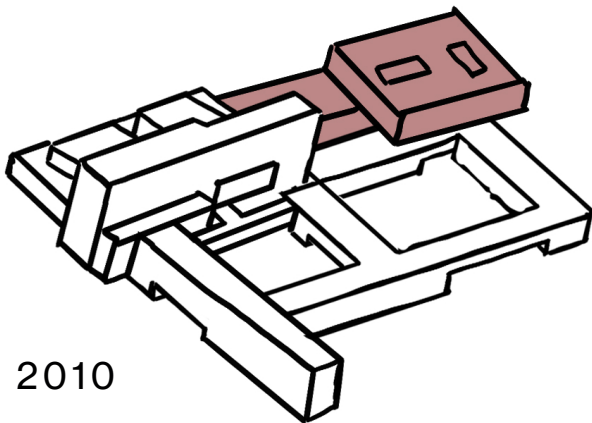
1980



1987



2000

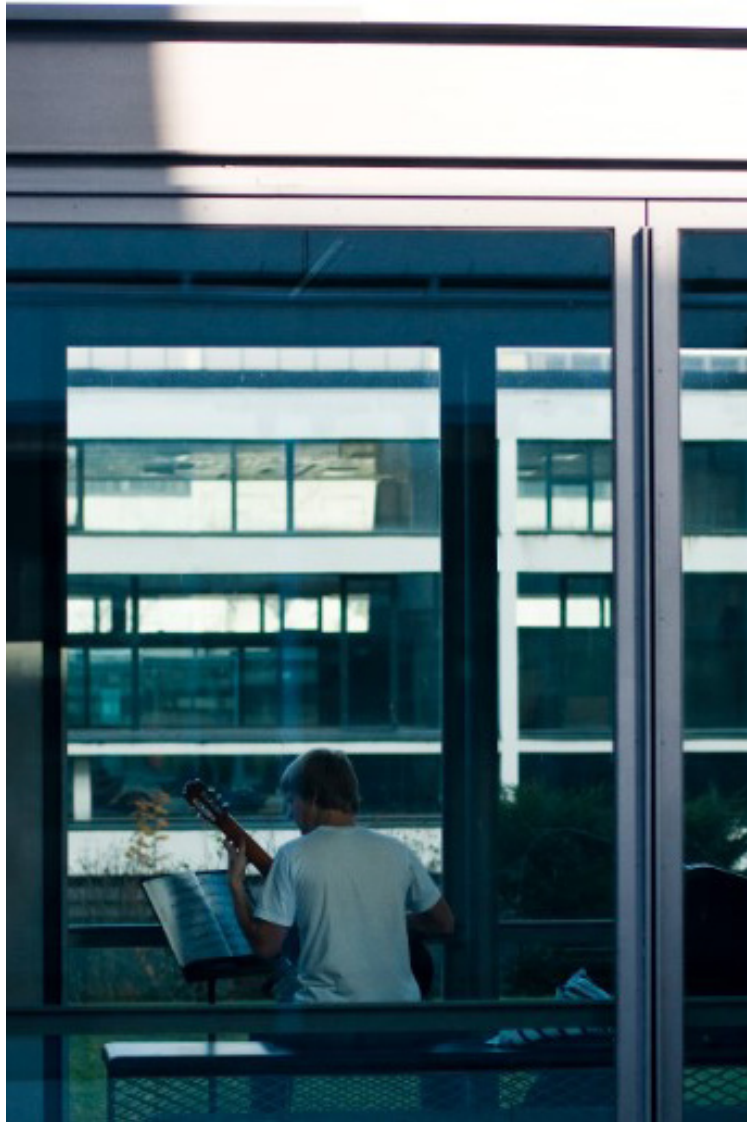


2010



current situation (2024)

Antwerp Conservatory



DeSingel Arts Centre



Vai (Flanders Architecture Institute)



Current **issues**

Situation | Circulation | Public interface

Current **issues**

Situation | Circulation | Public interface



aerial view

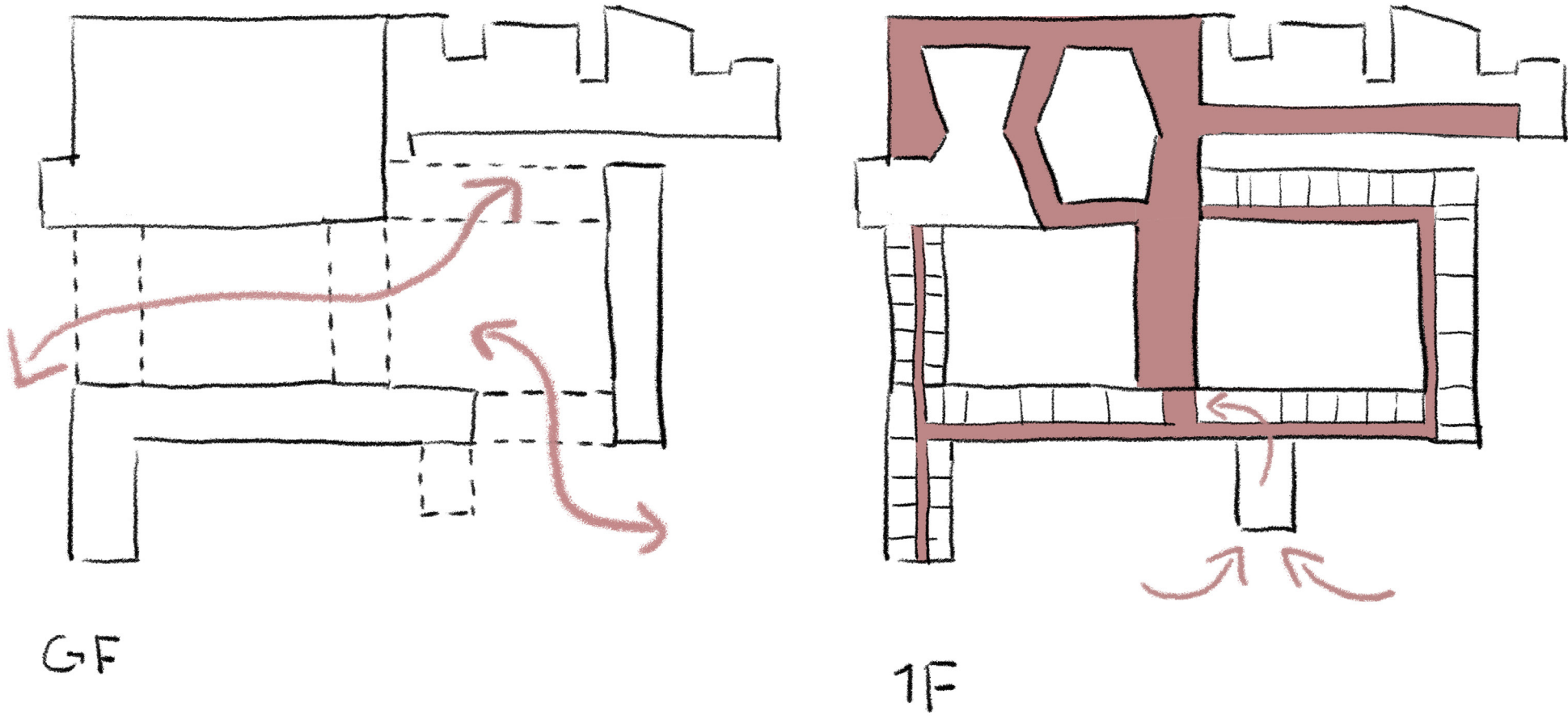


surrounding roads

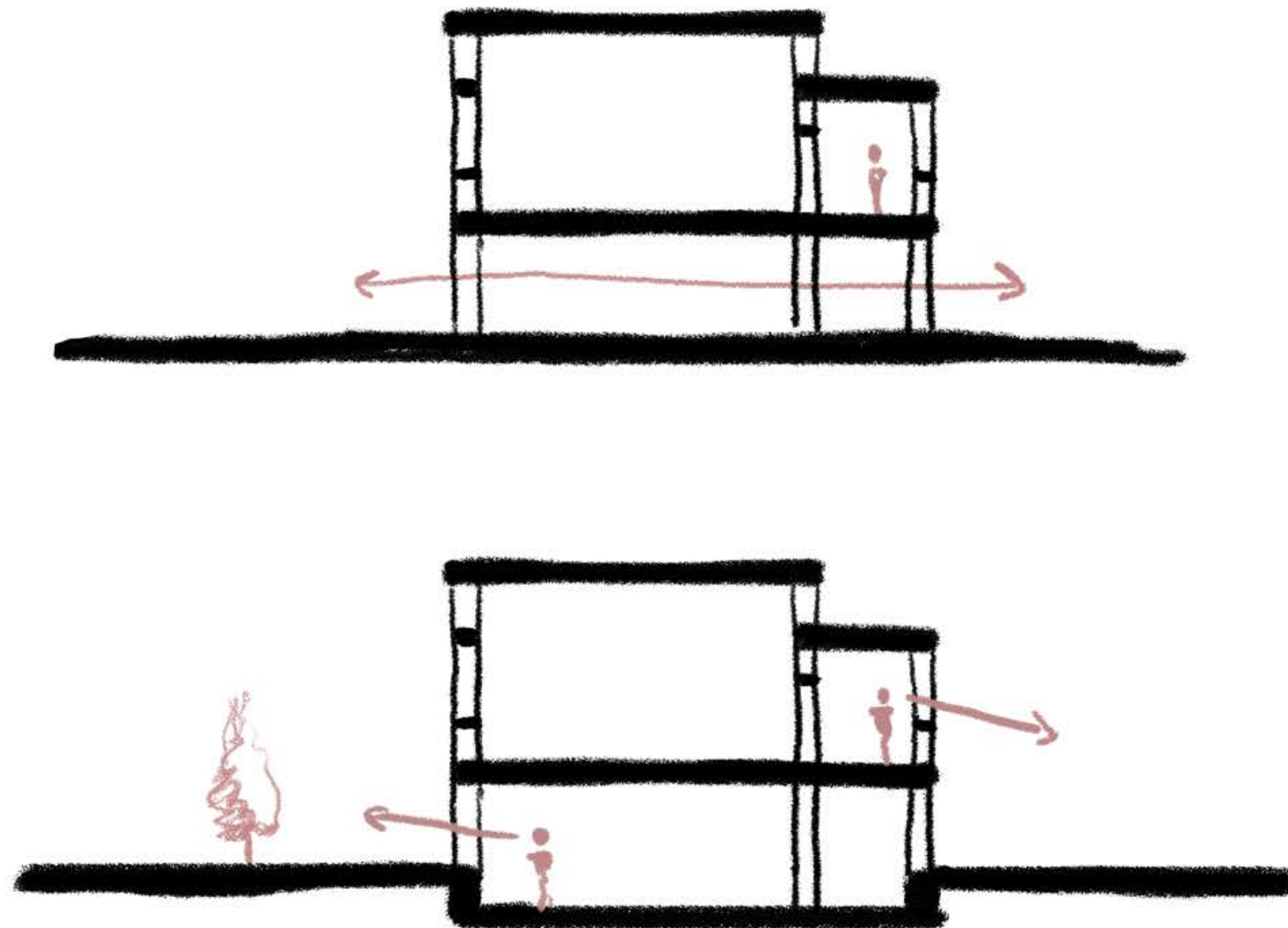


Current **issues**

Situation | Circulation | Public interface



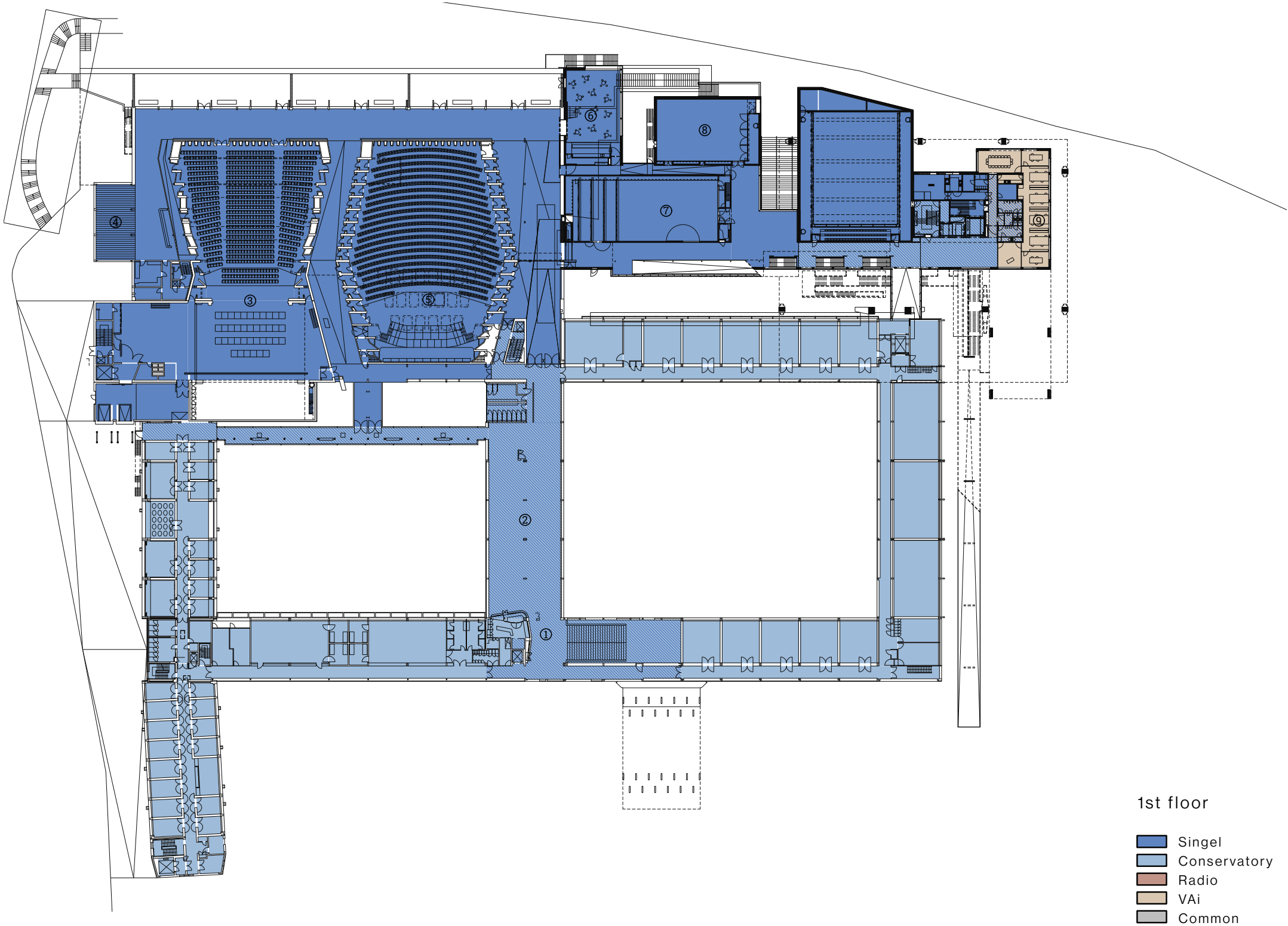
elevated circulation system





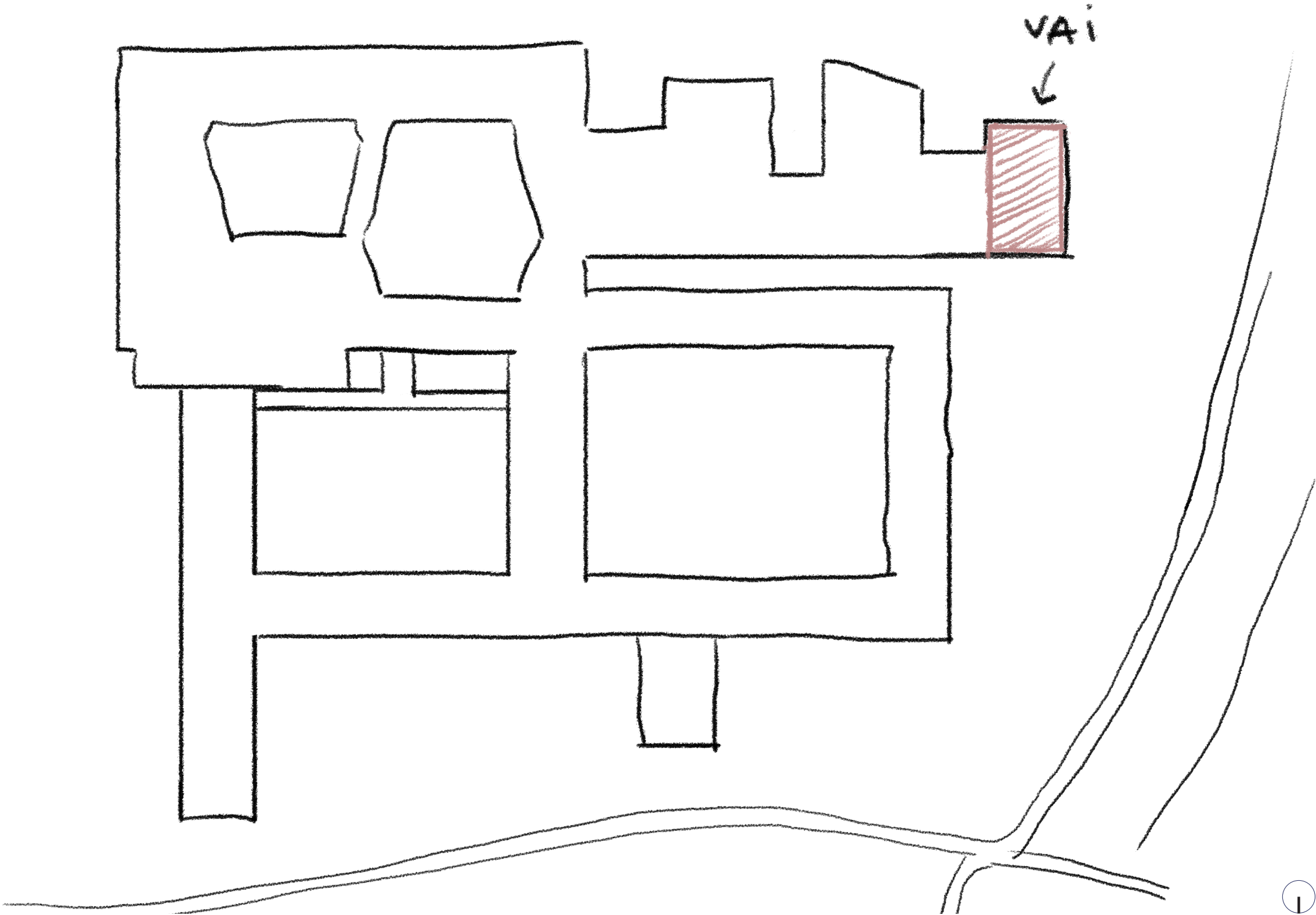
Current **issues**

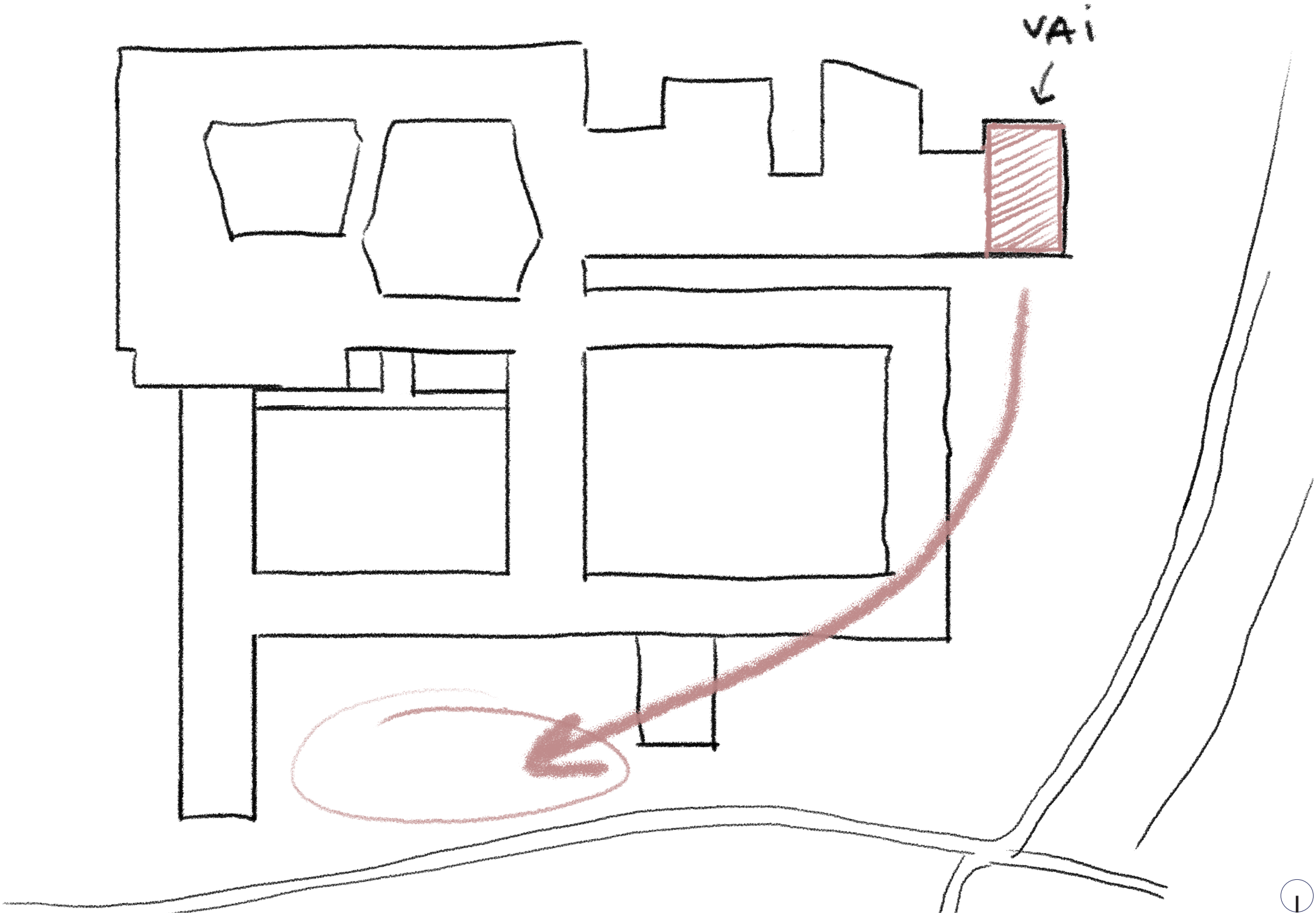
Situation | Circulation | Public interface

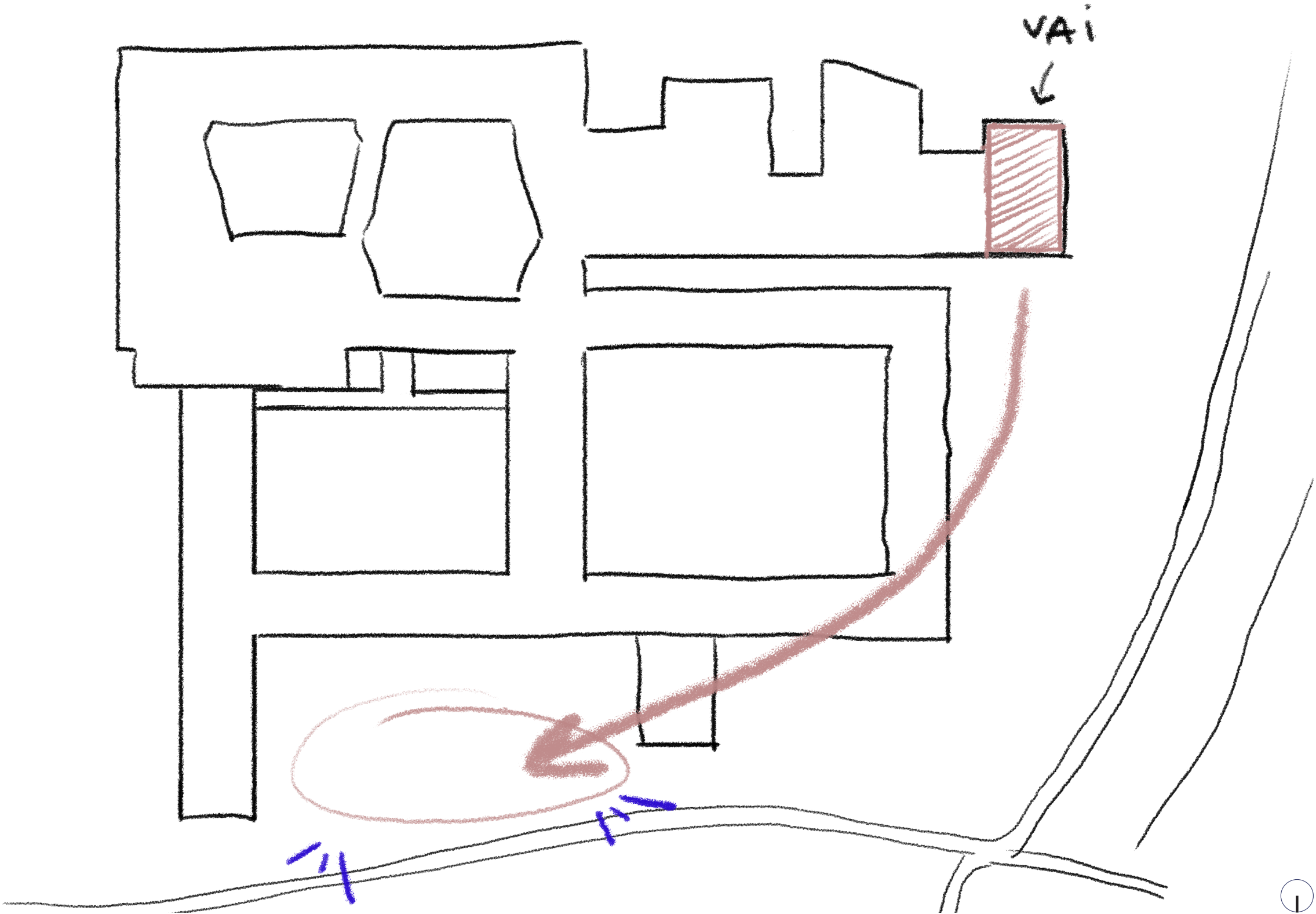


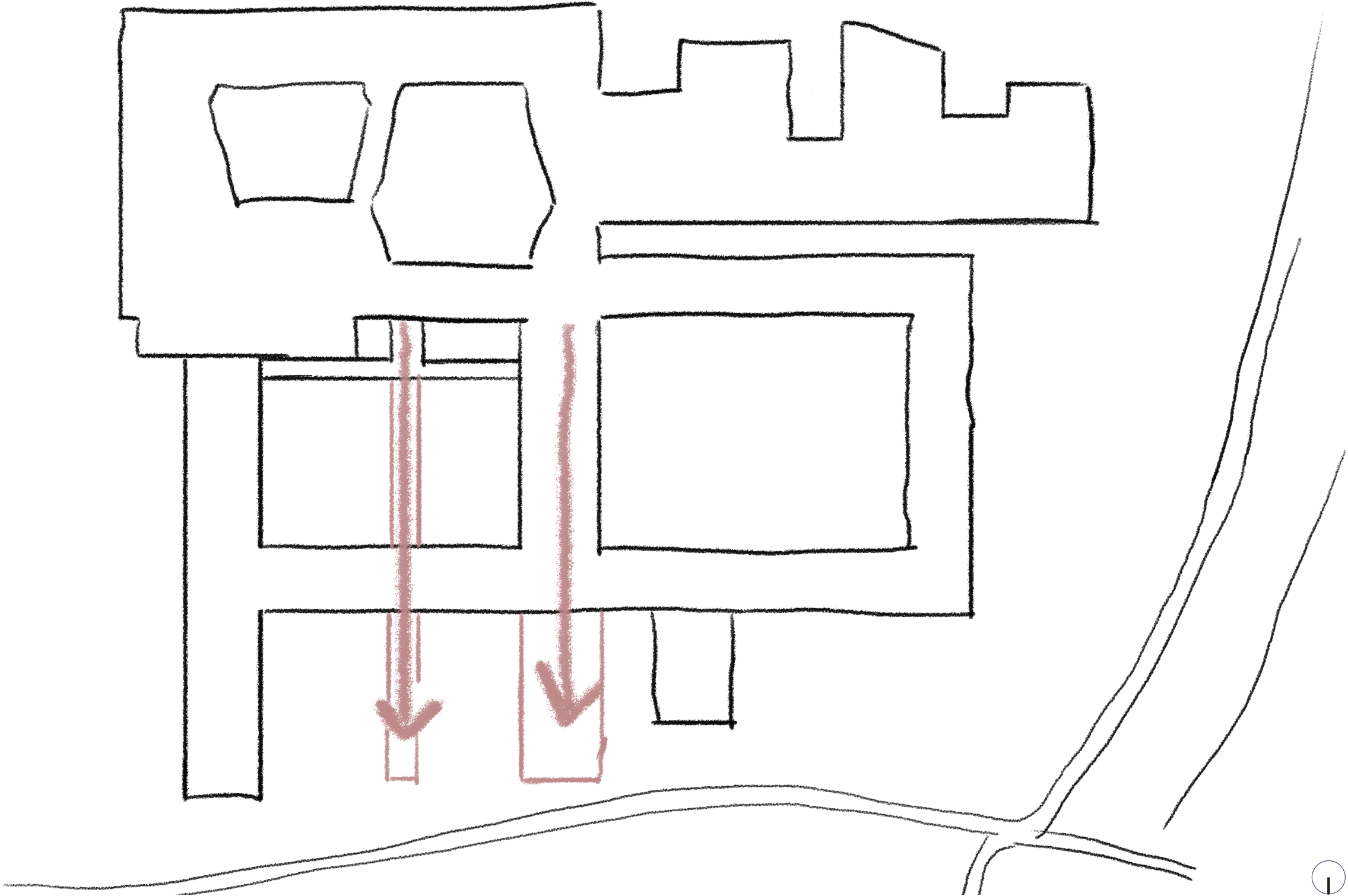
user coded plan

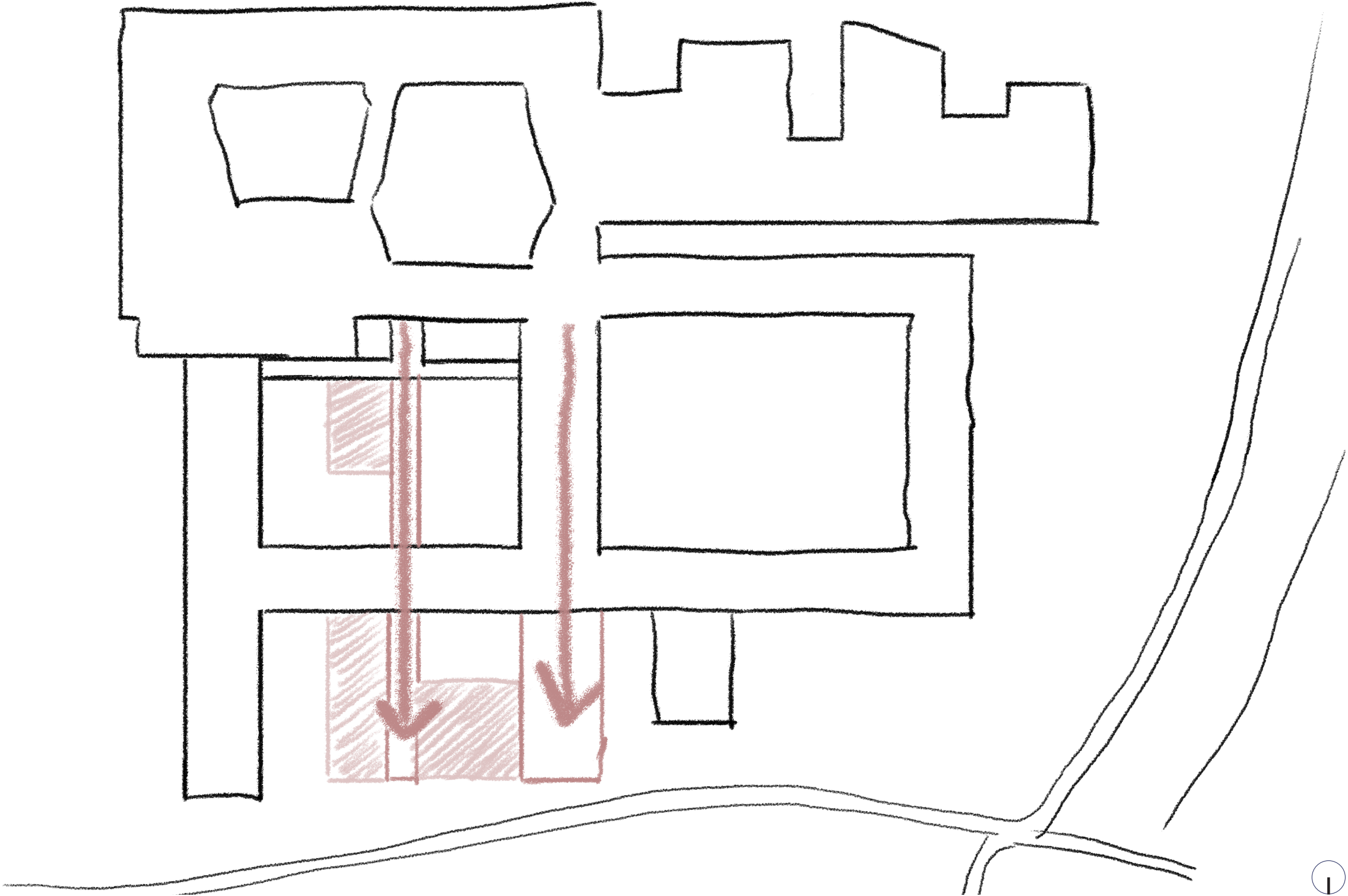
Proposal

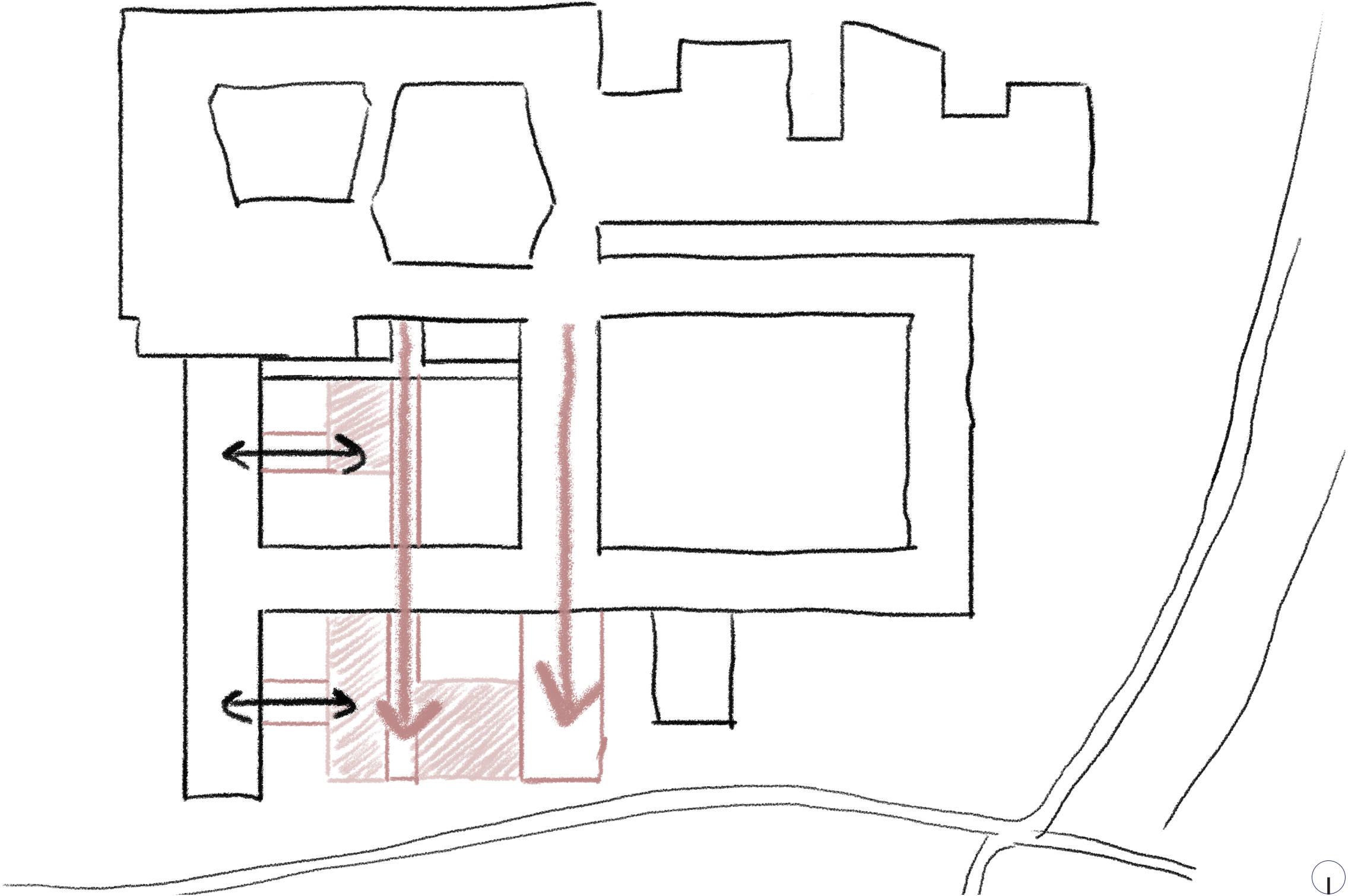


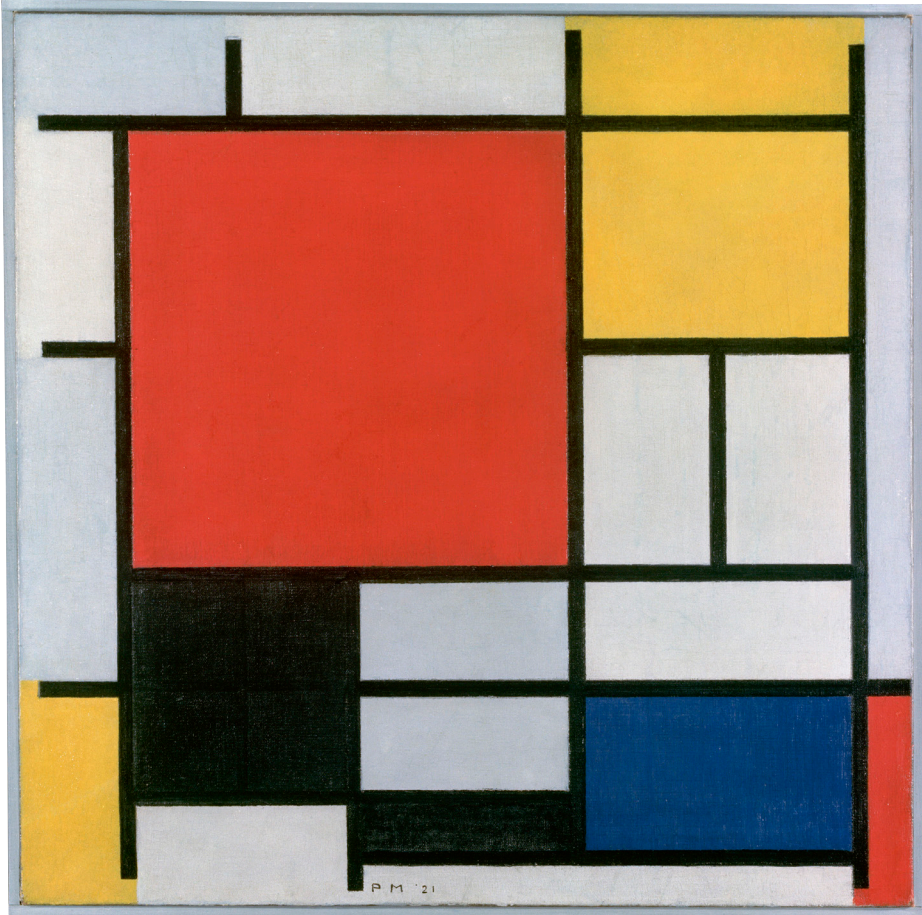
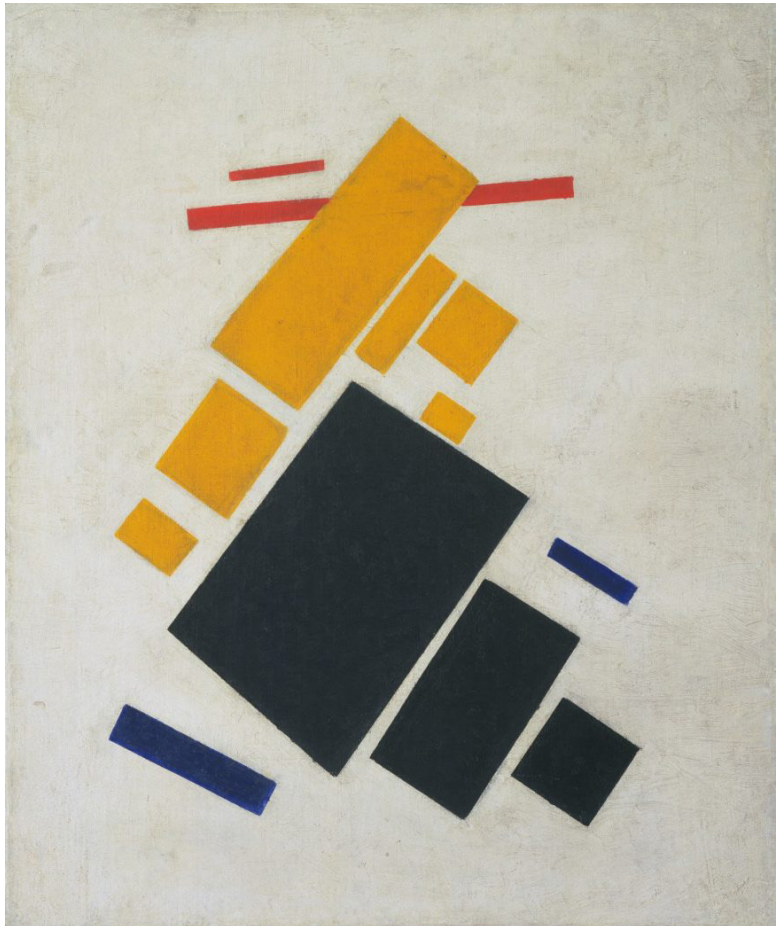


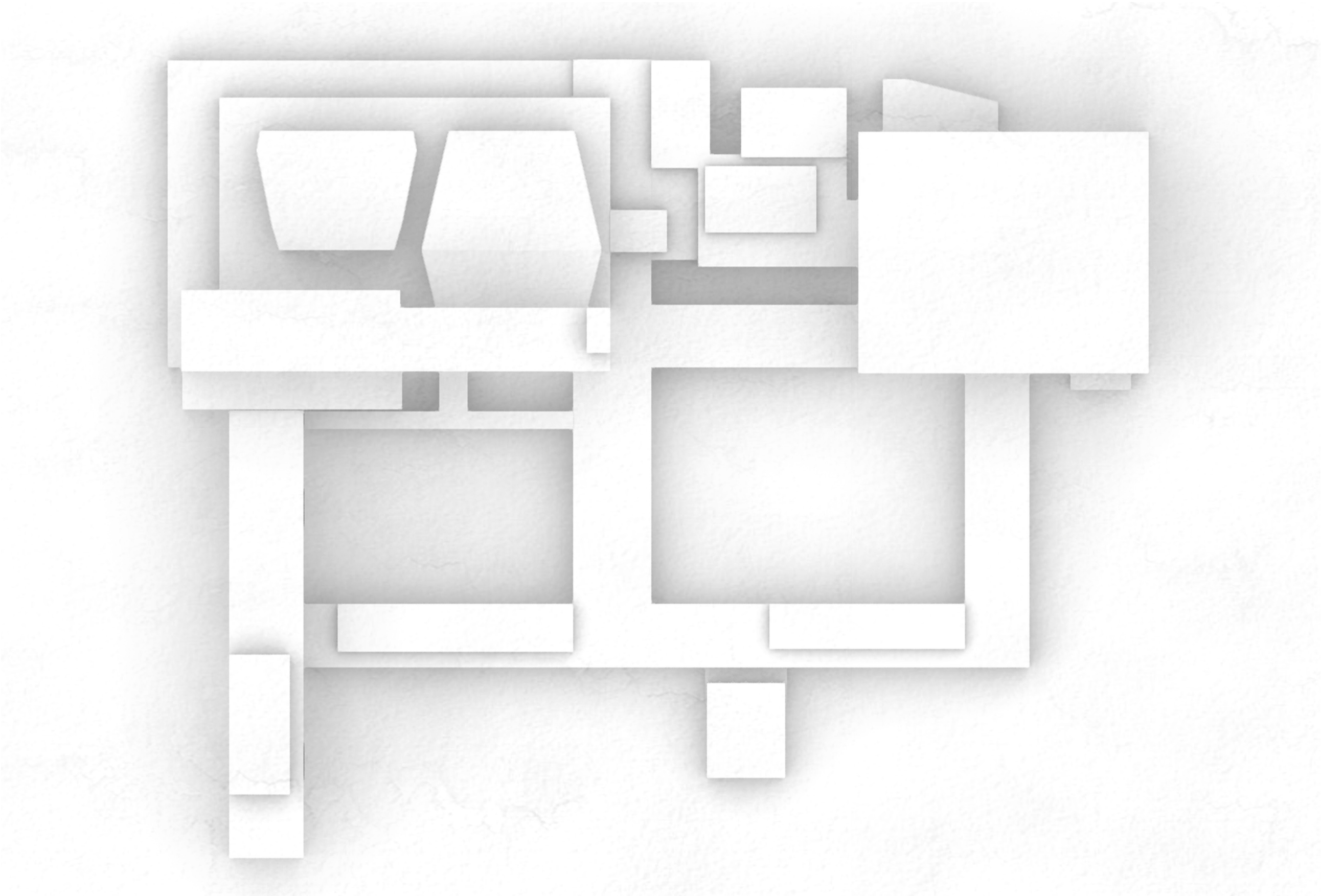


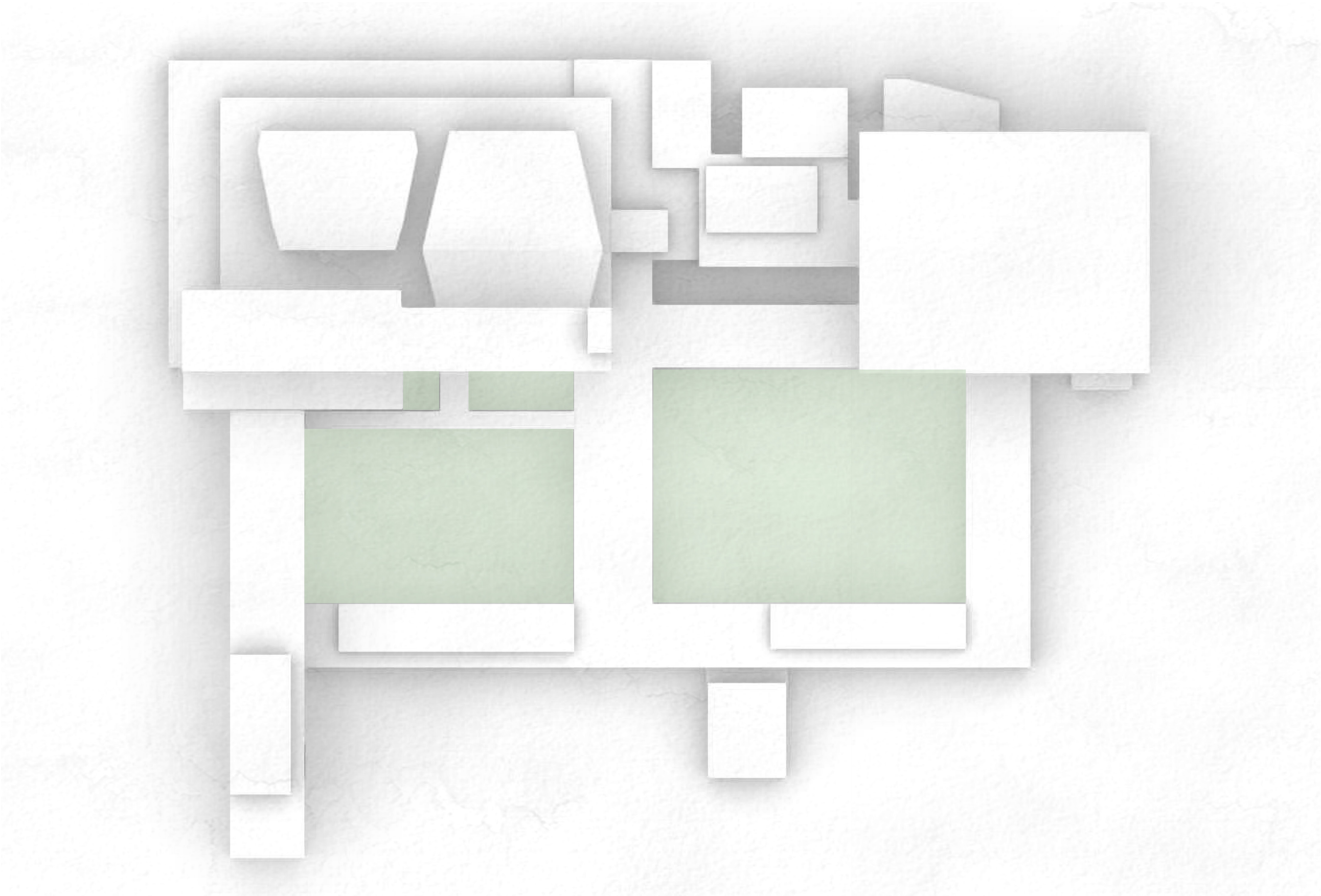




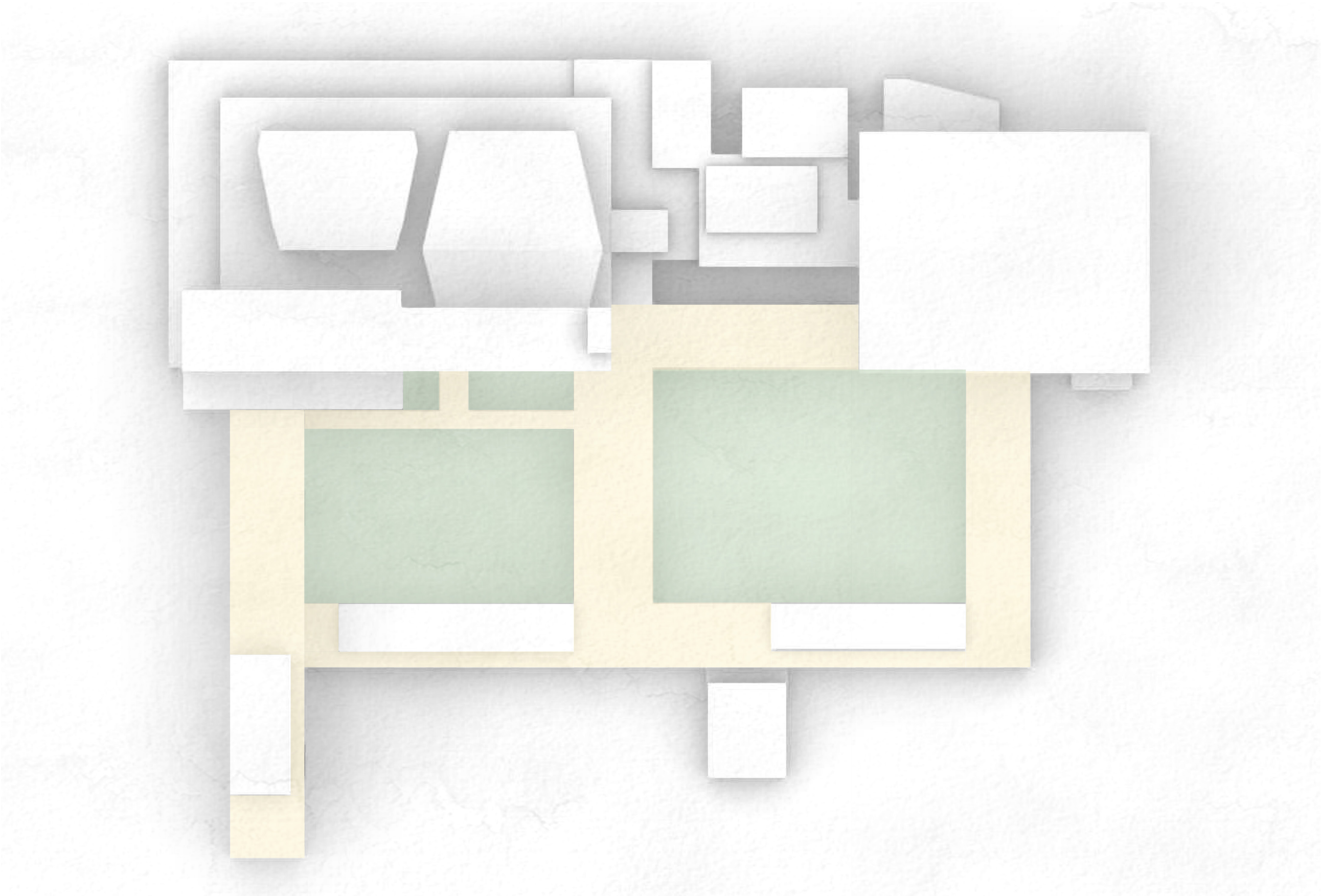


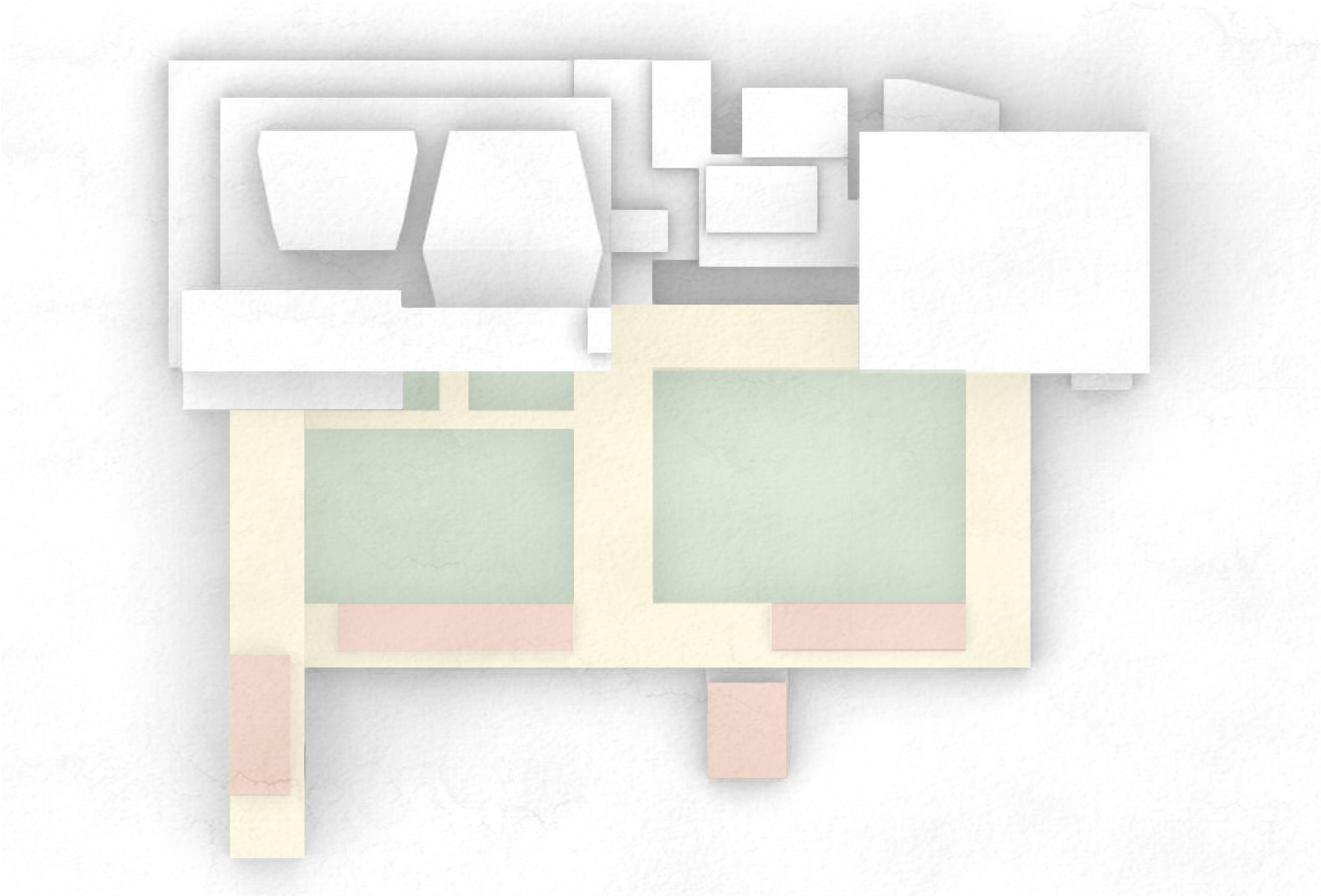




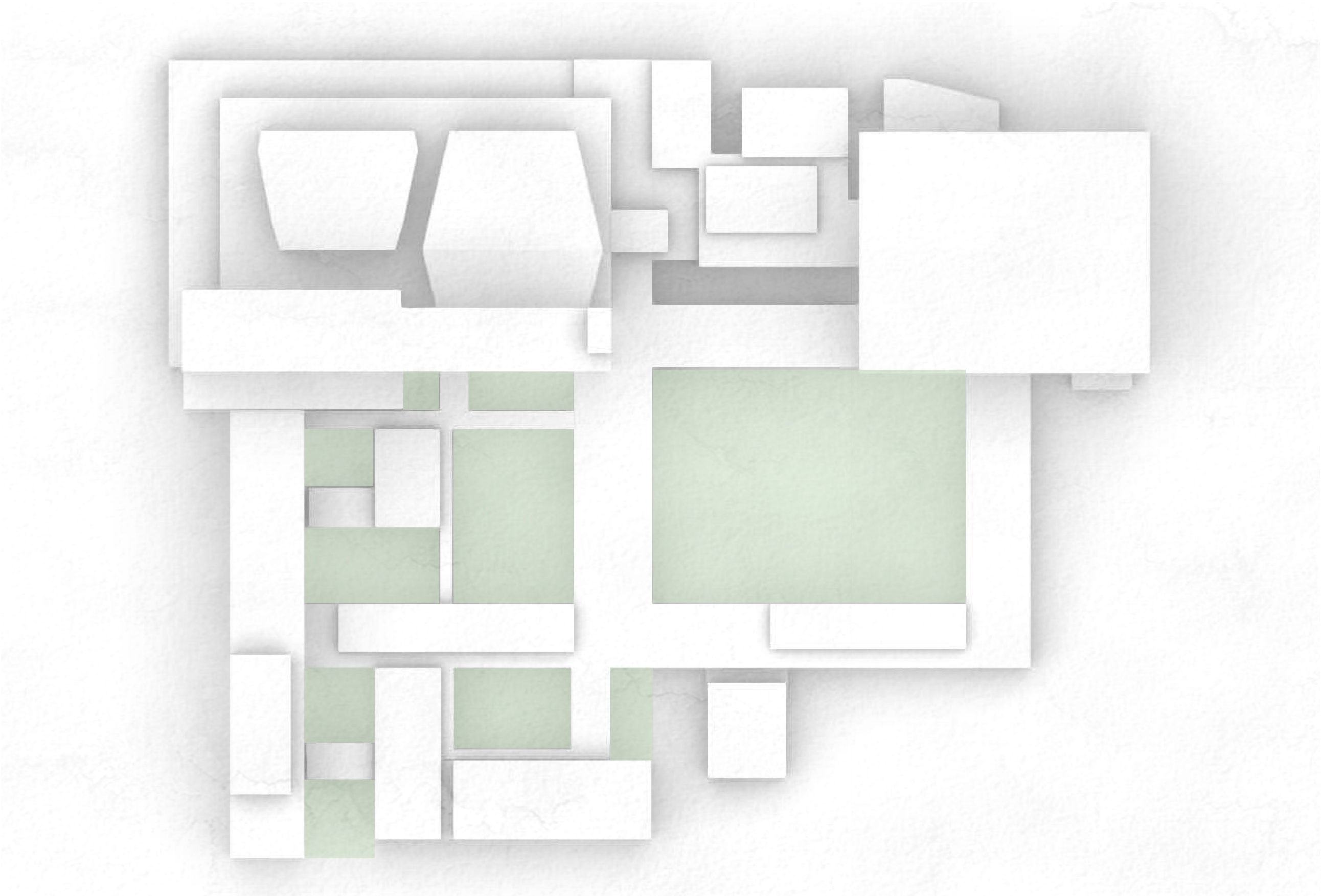


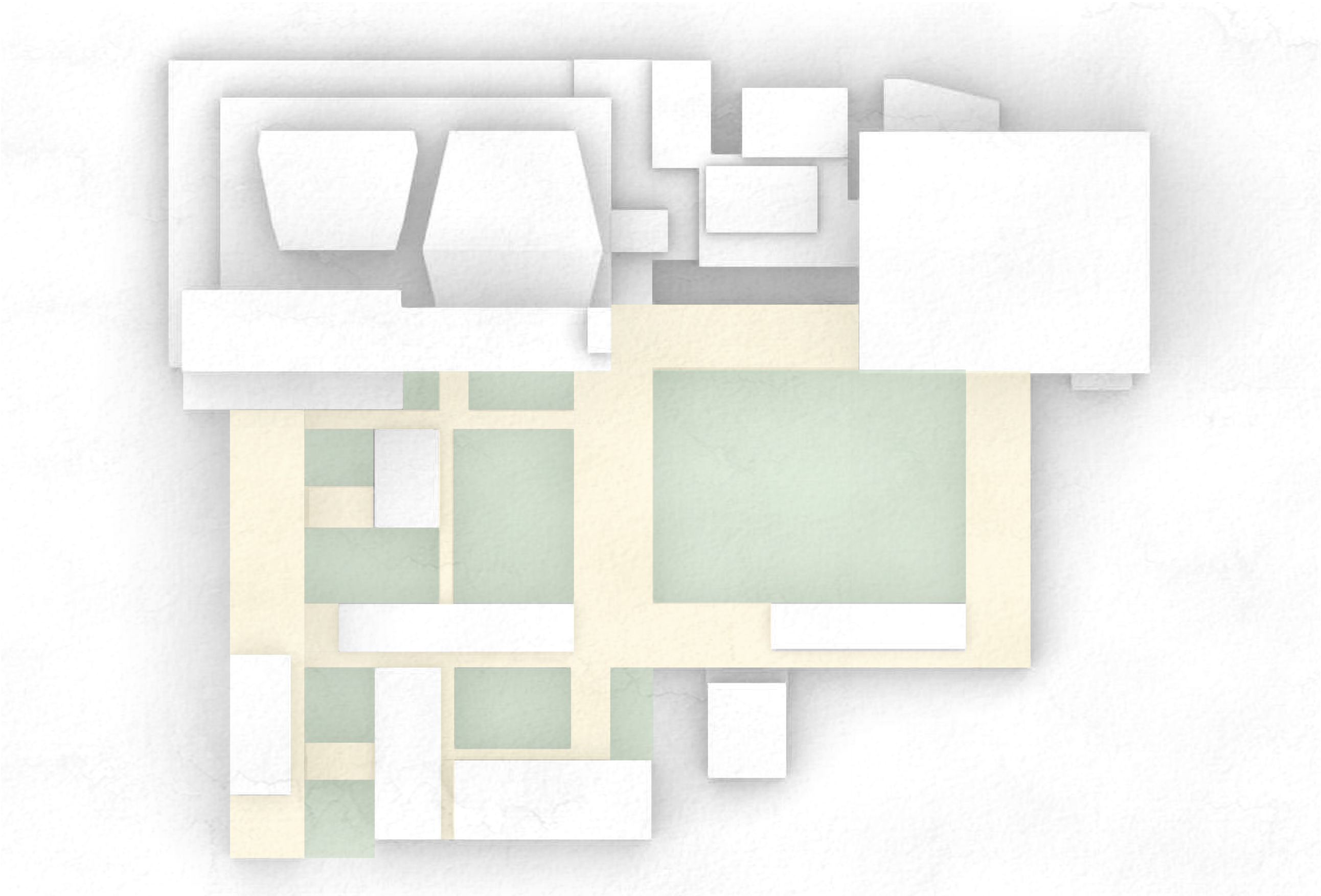
courtyards

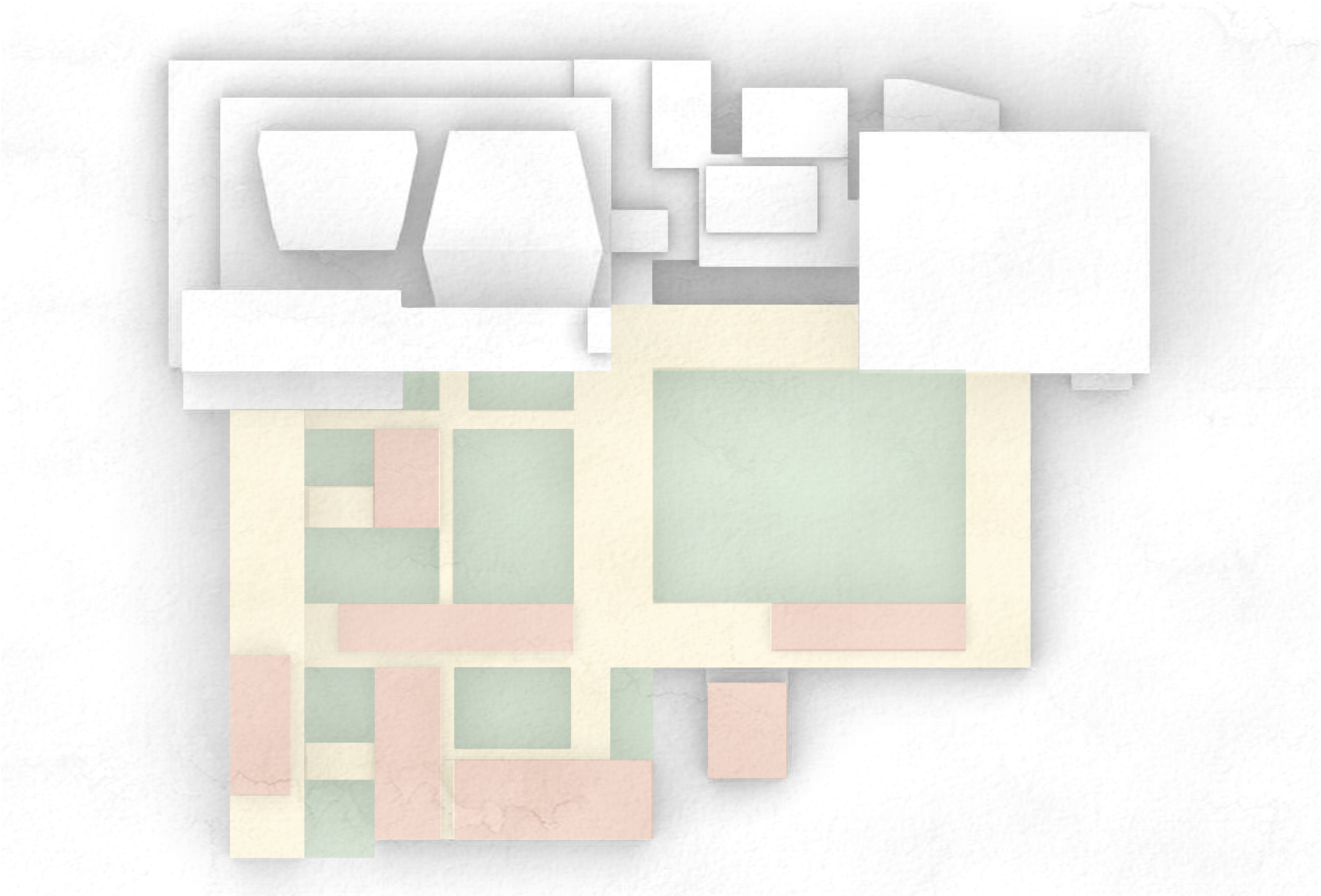




height accents







height accents



existing situation

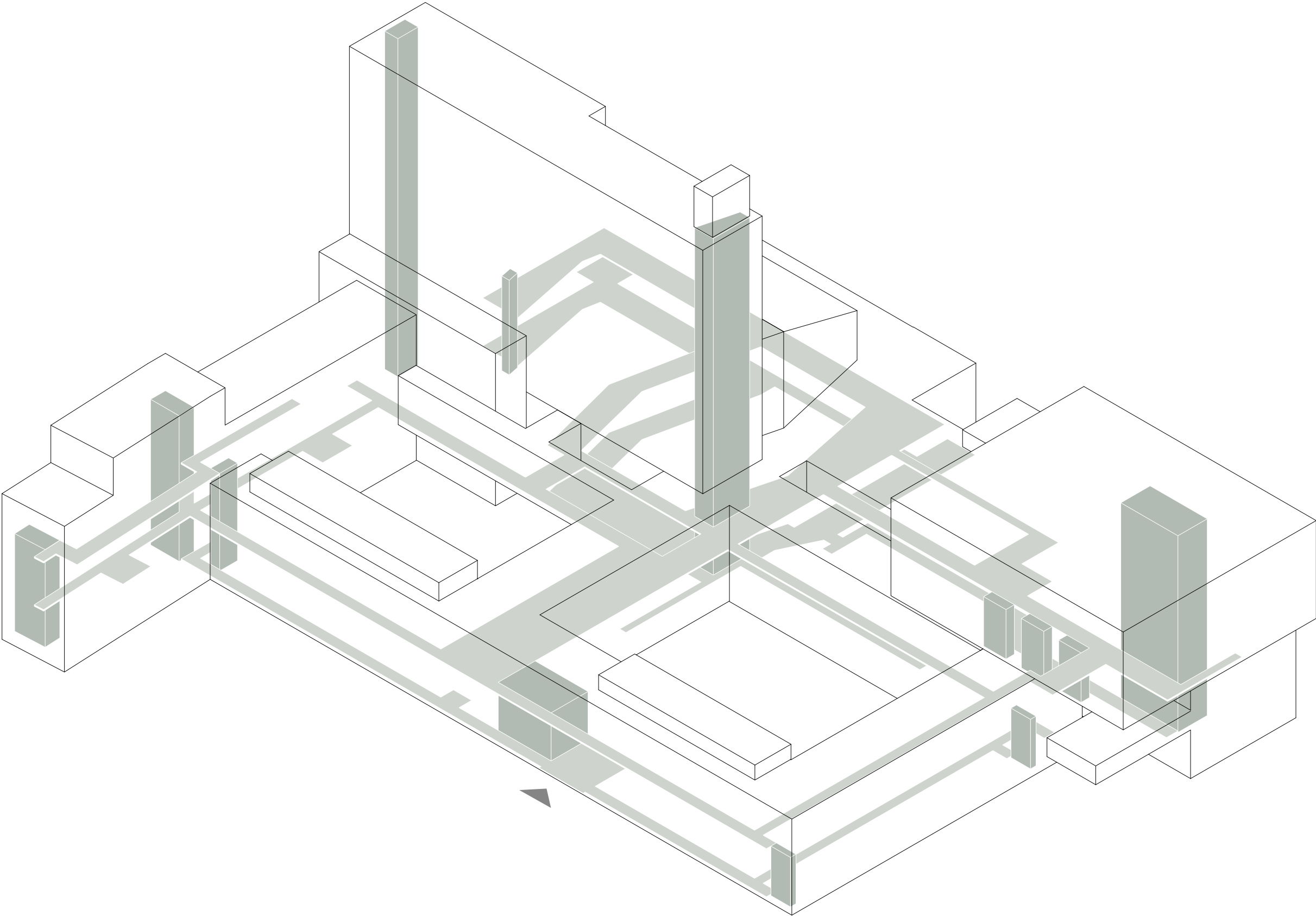


new front toward the city

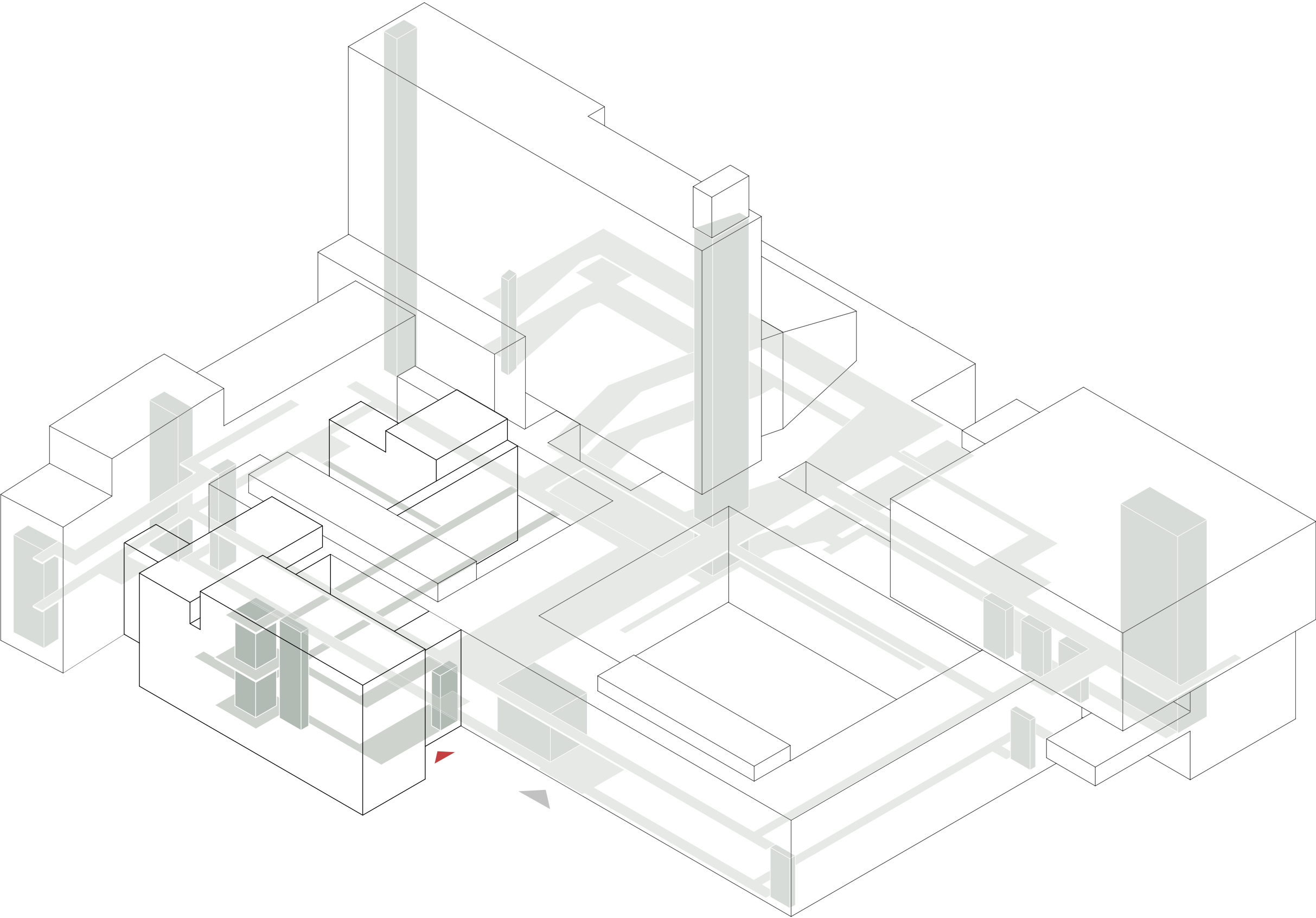


new front toward the city

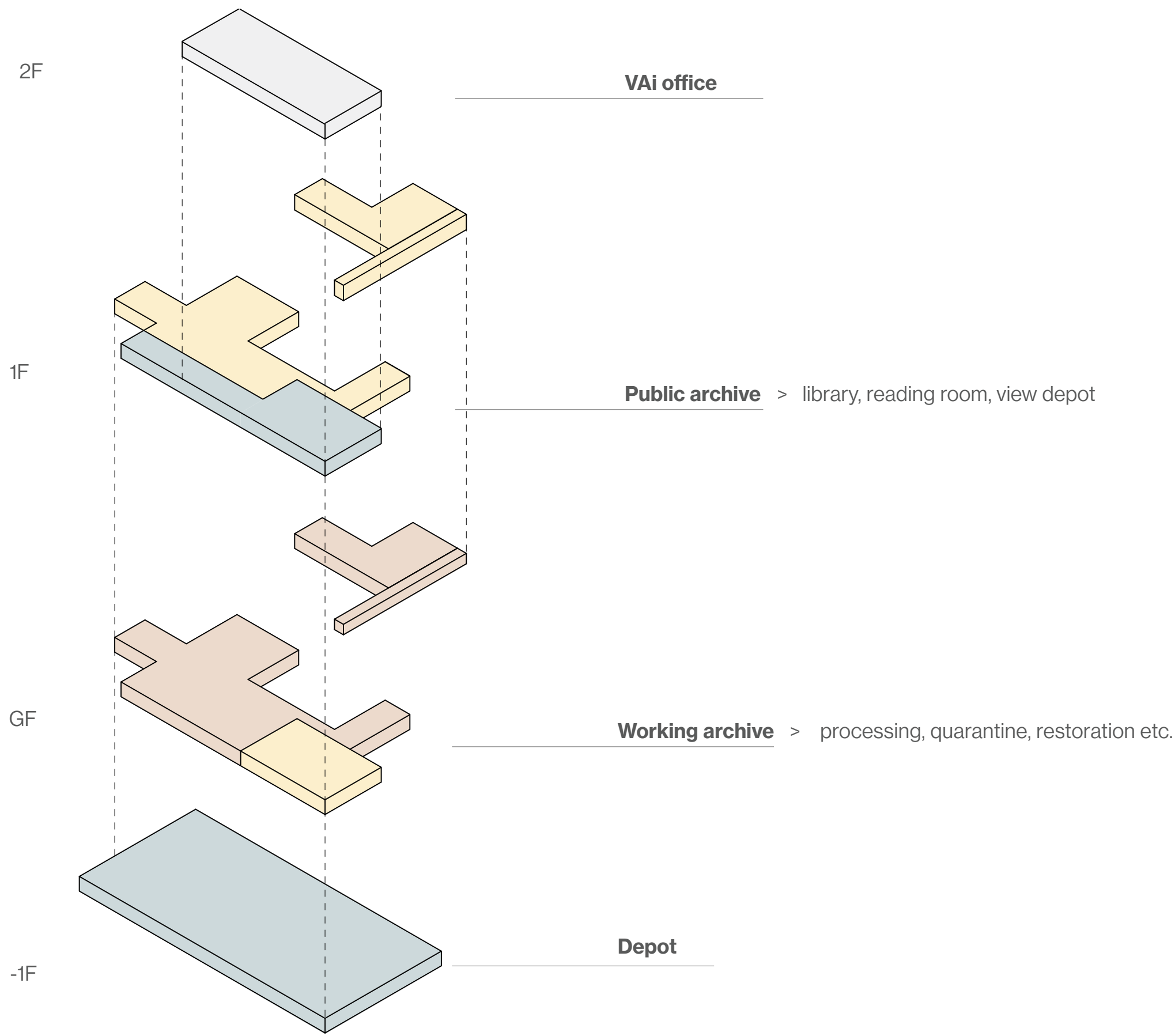
Programme

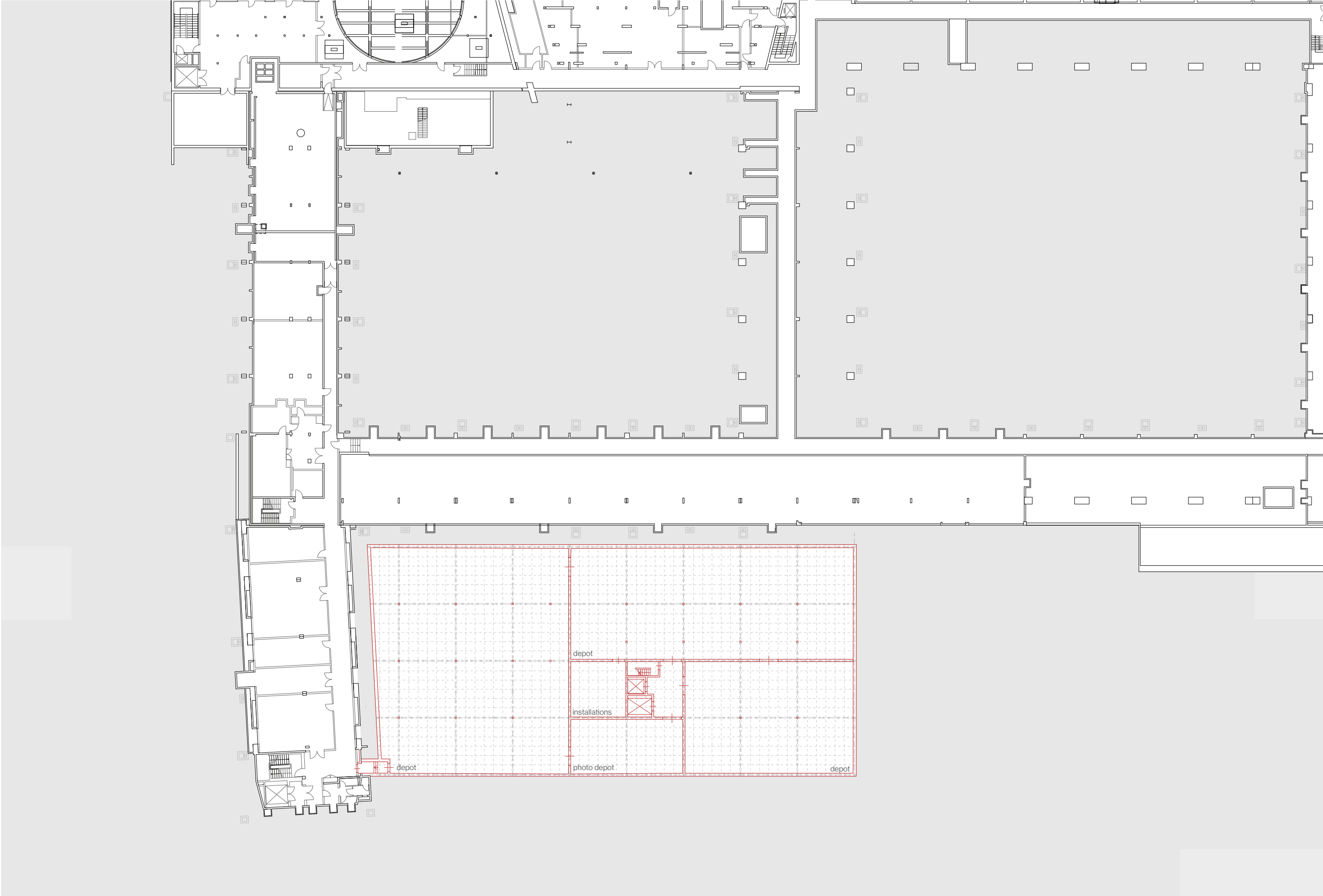


existing circulation

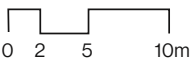


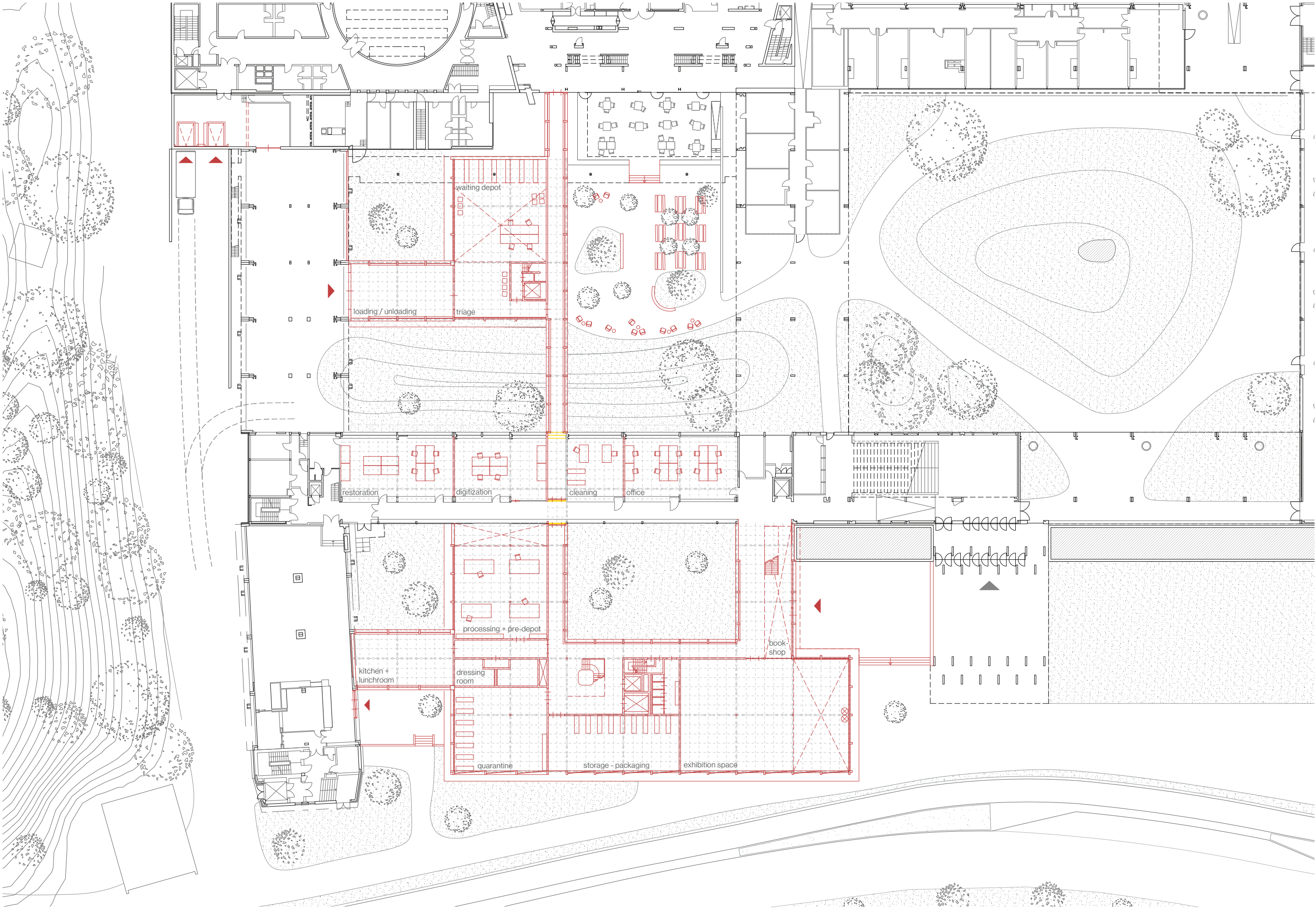
connecting to the circulation



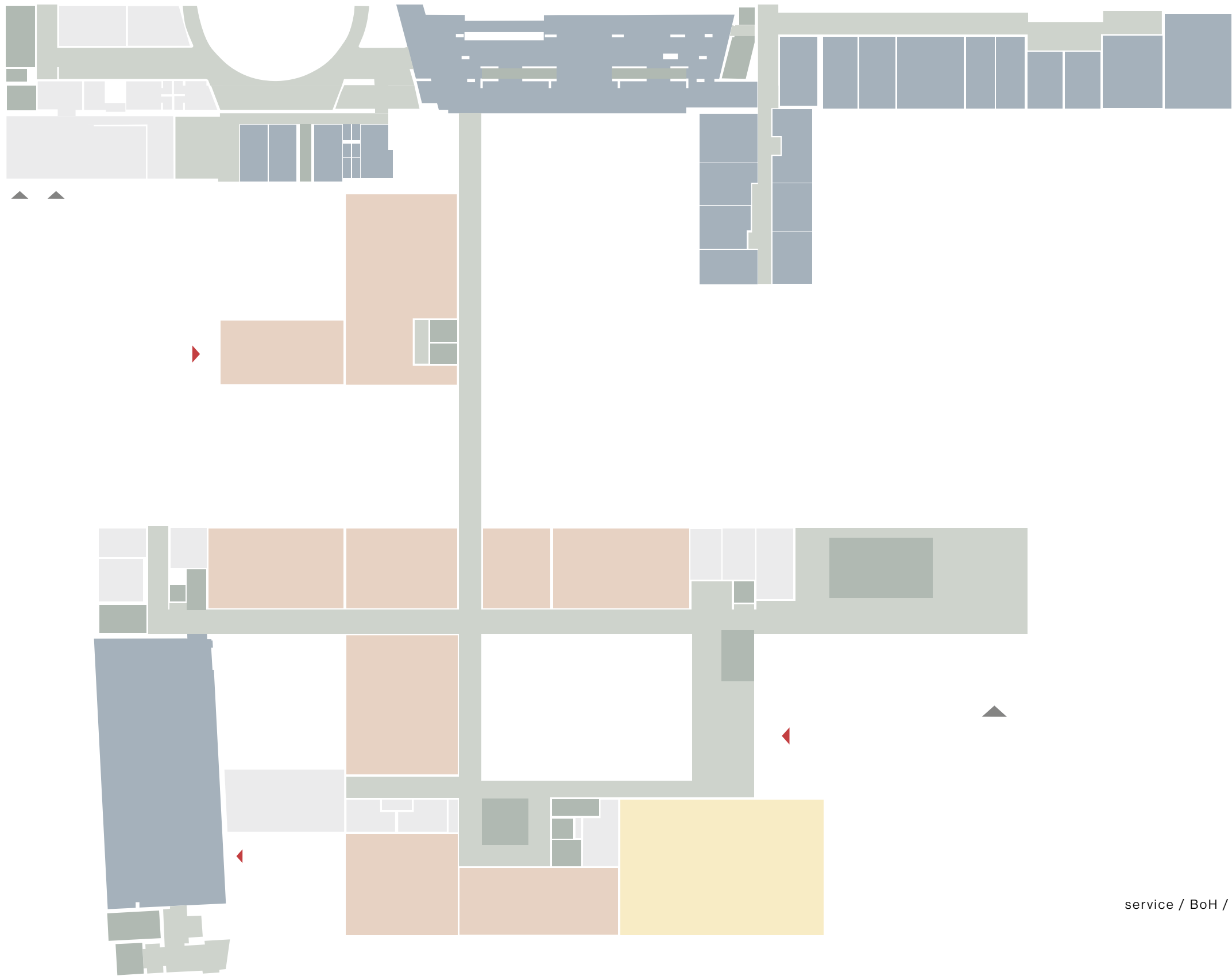


basement

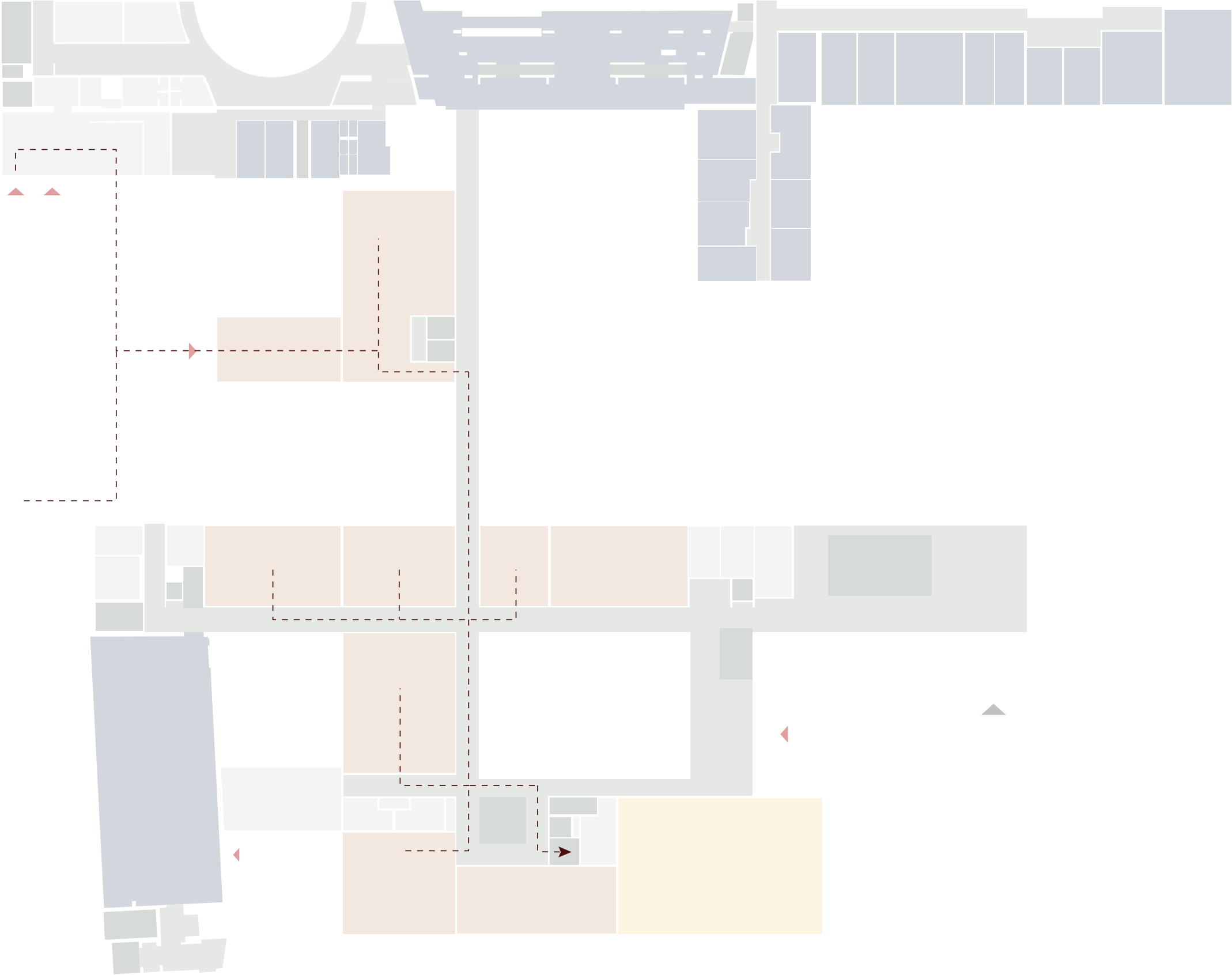




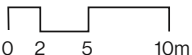
ground floor

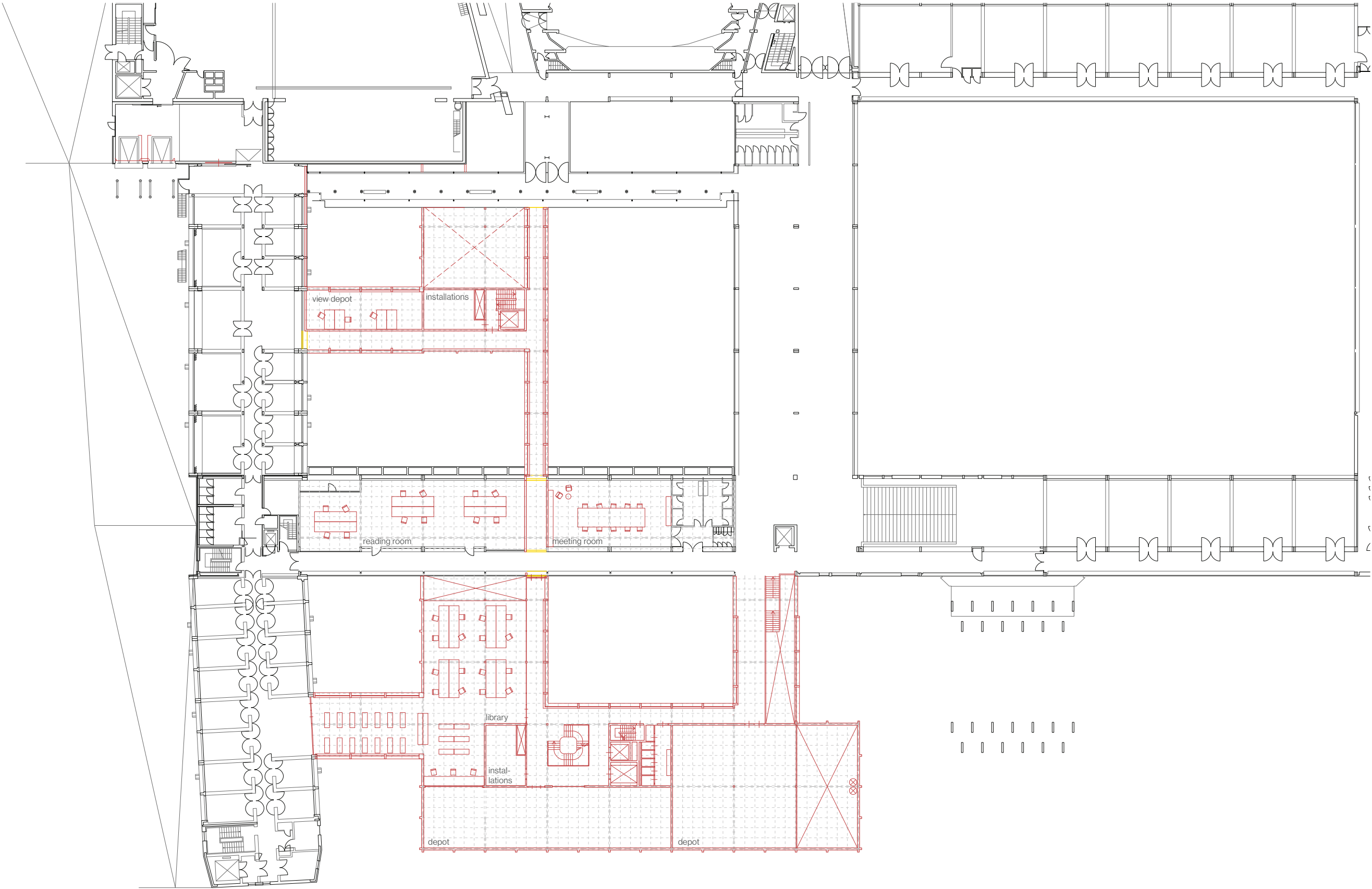


- archival work spaces
- public VAI space
- circulation
- vertical circulation
- other DeSingel users
- service / BoH / non-public circulation

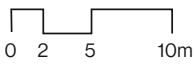


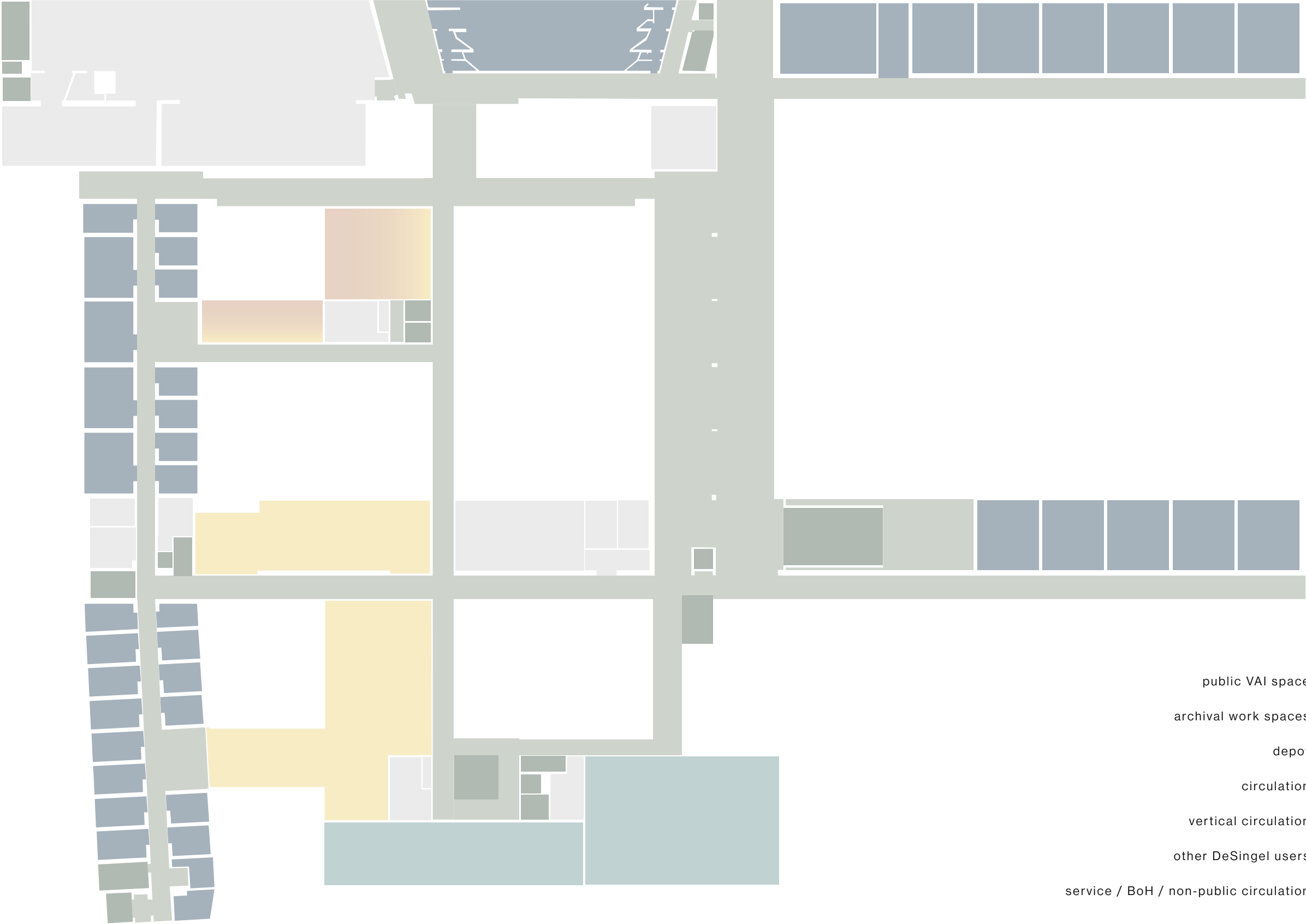
ground floor



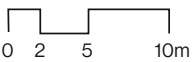


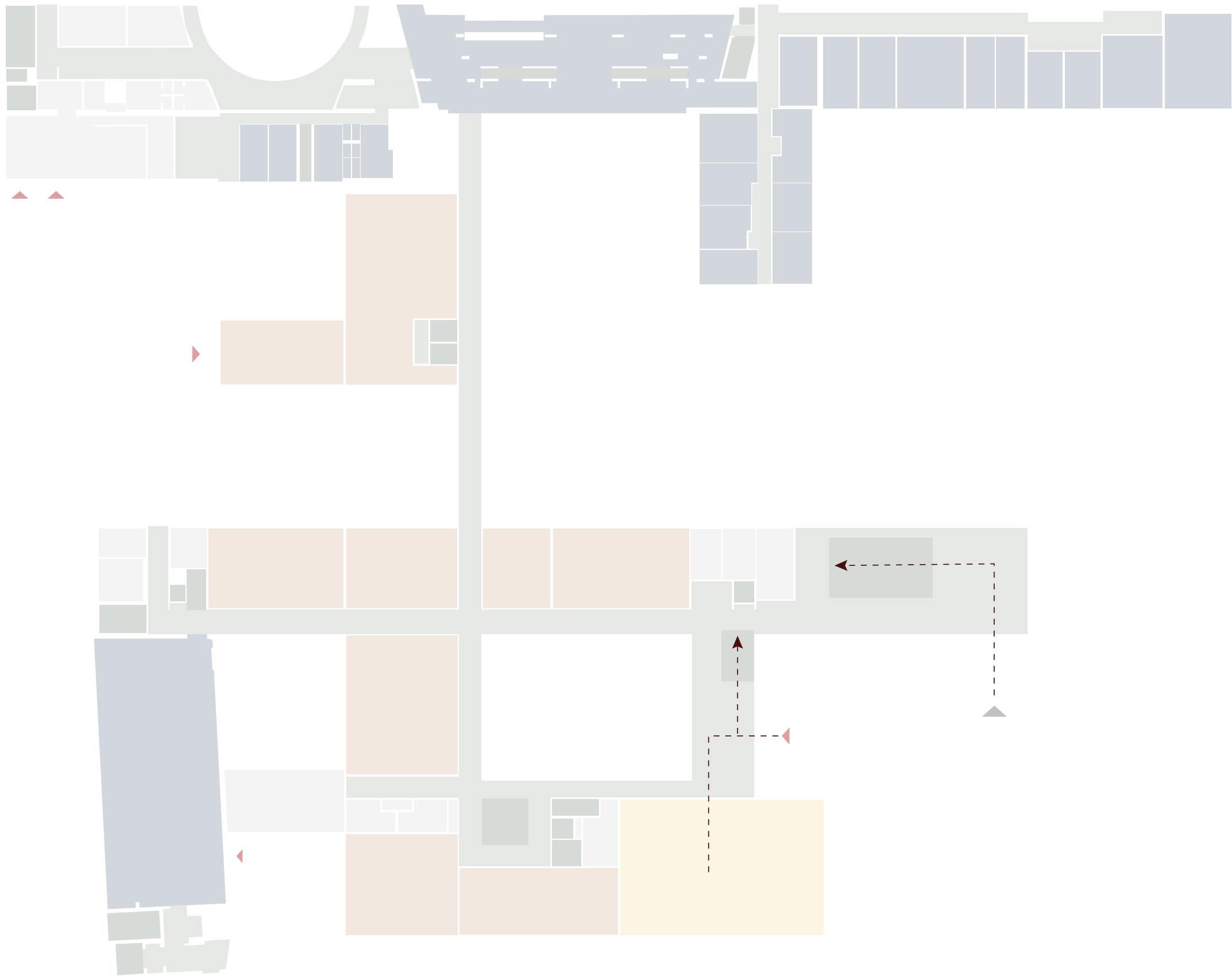
first floor





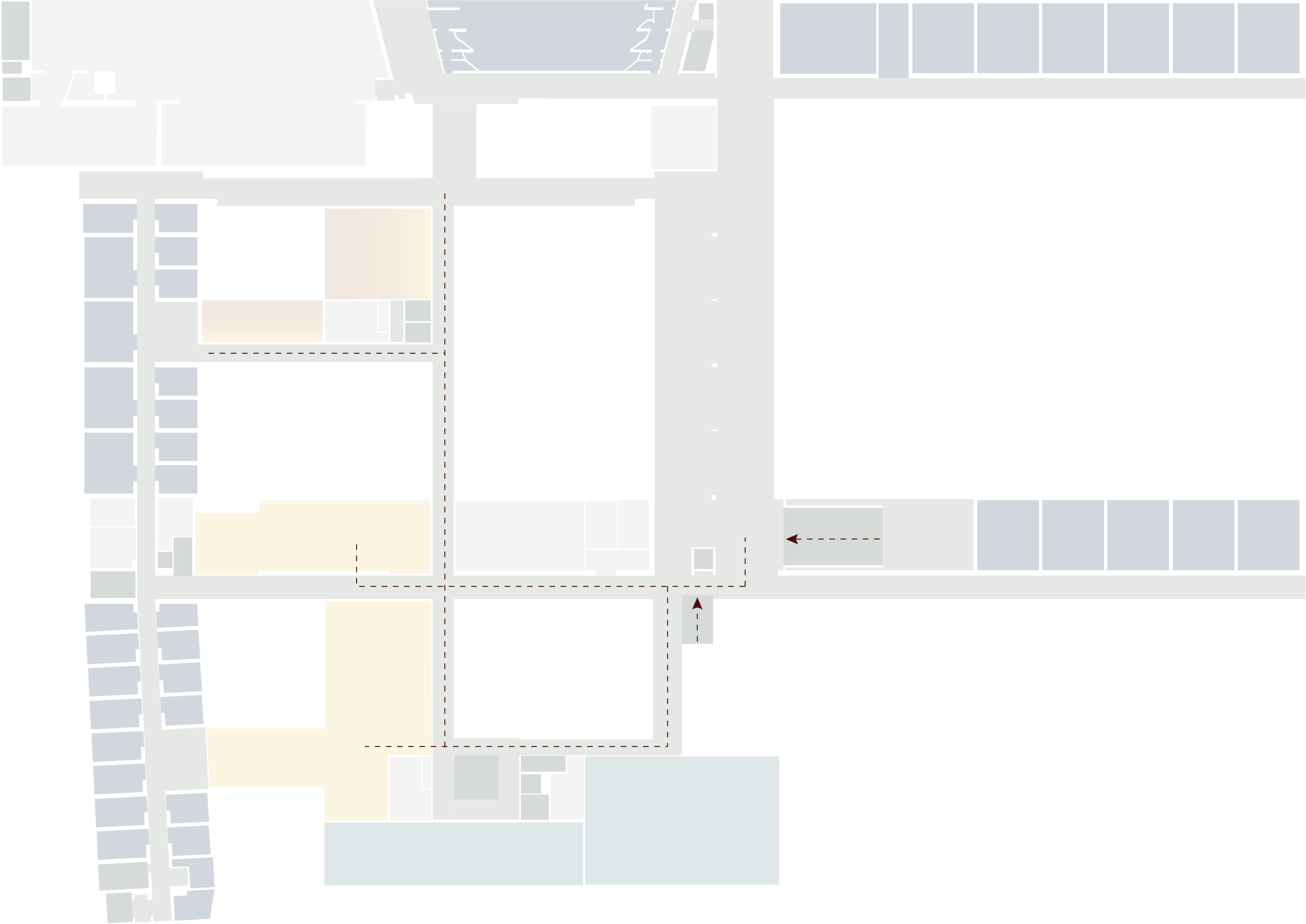
first floor



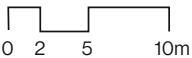


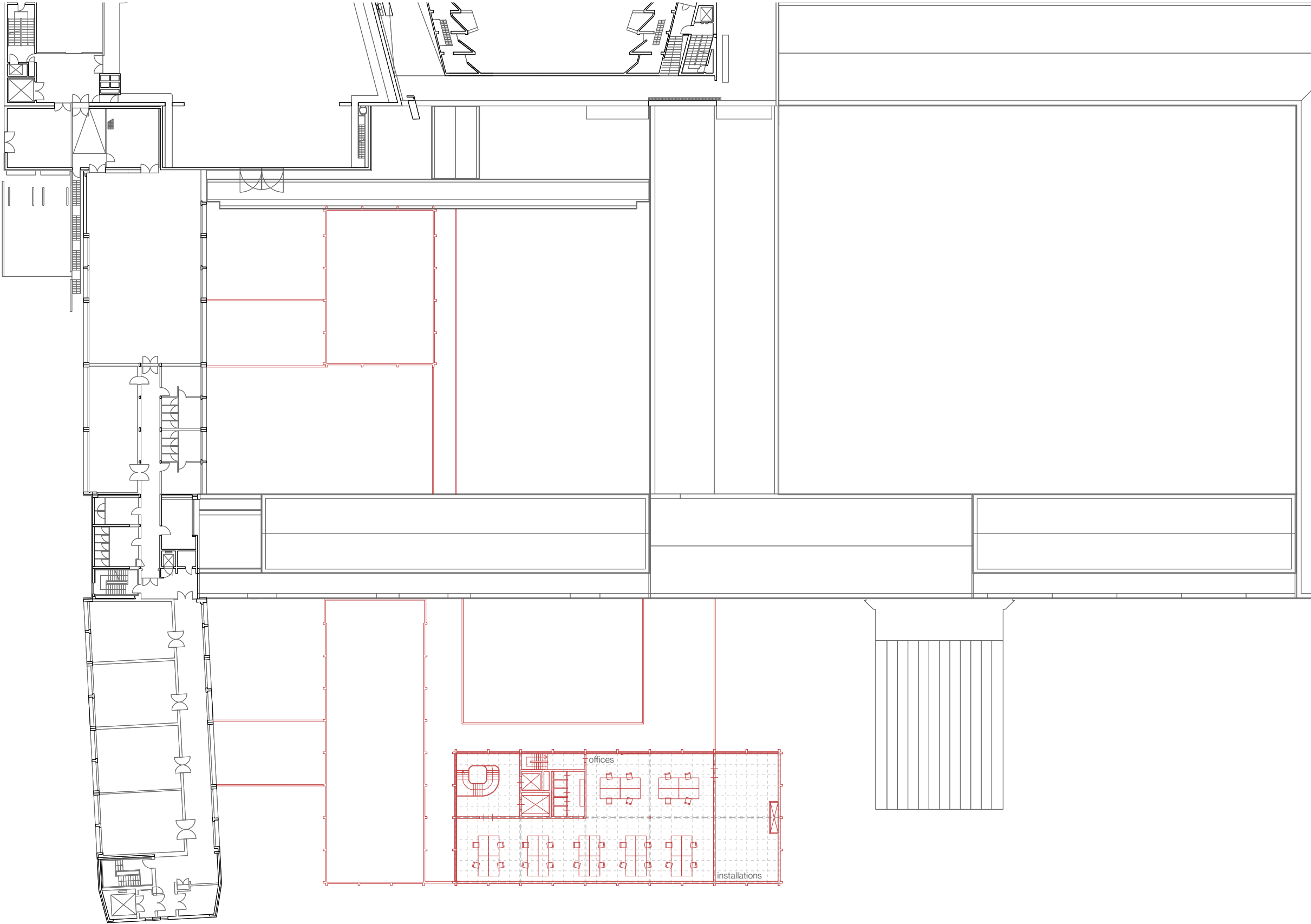
ground floor





first floor





second floor

Services & tectonics





materialisation archive zones



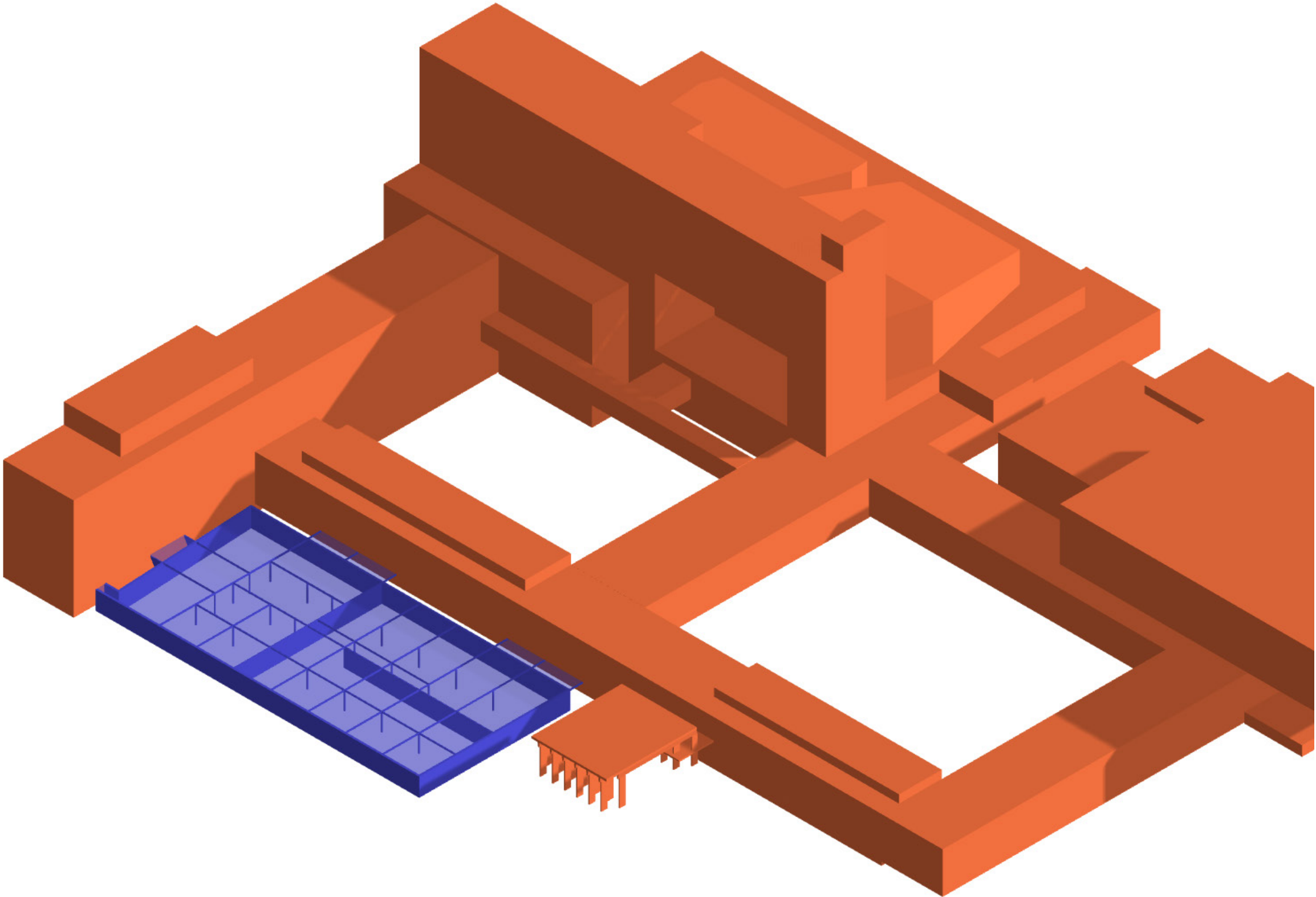
materialisation circulation zones



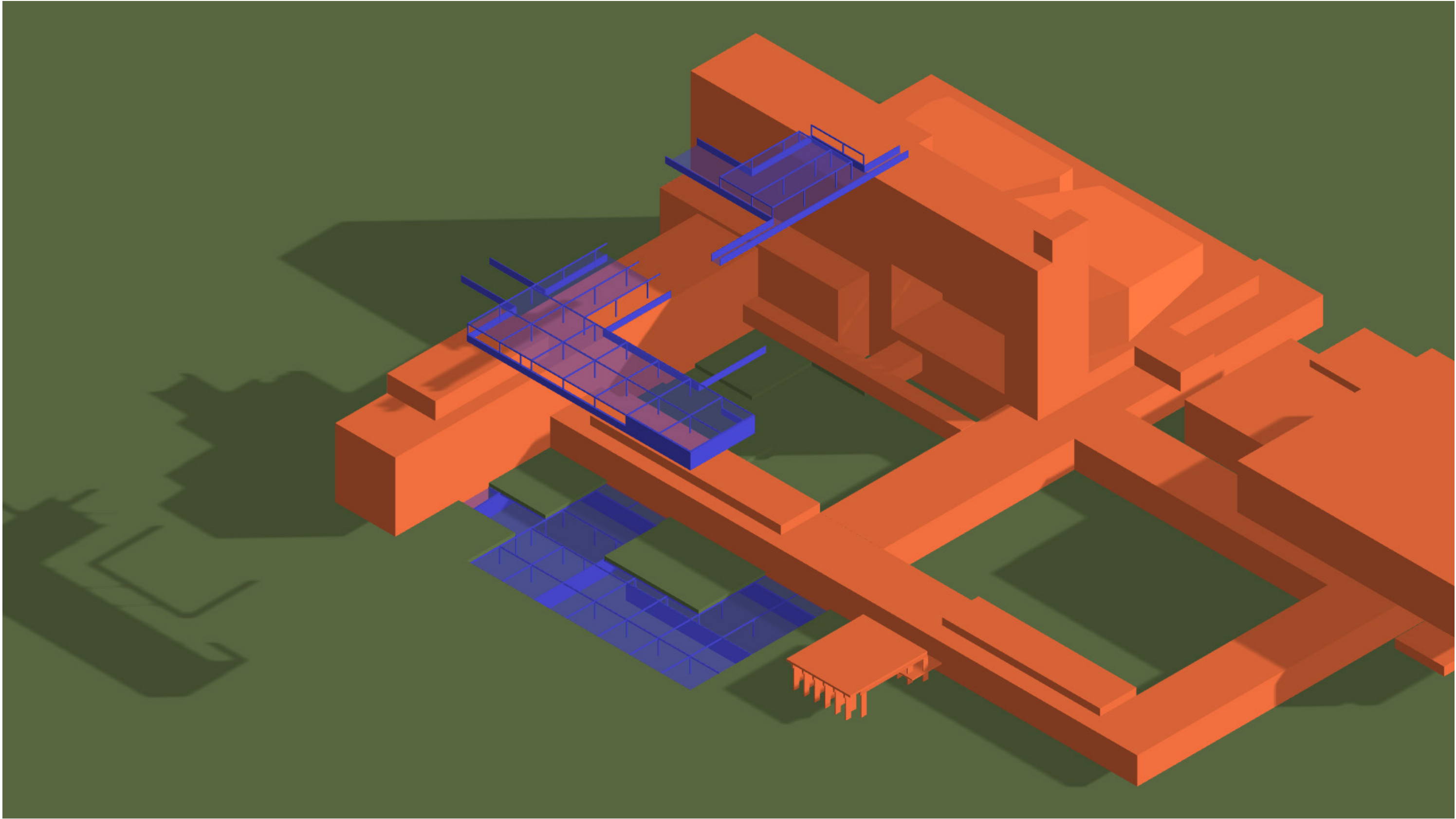
materialisation of façade

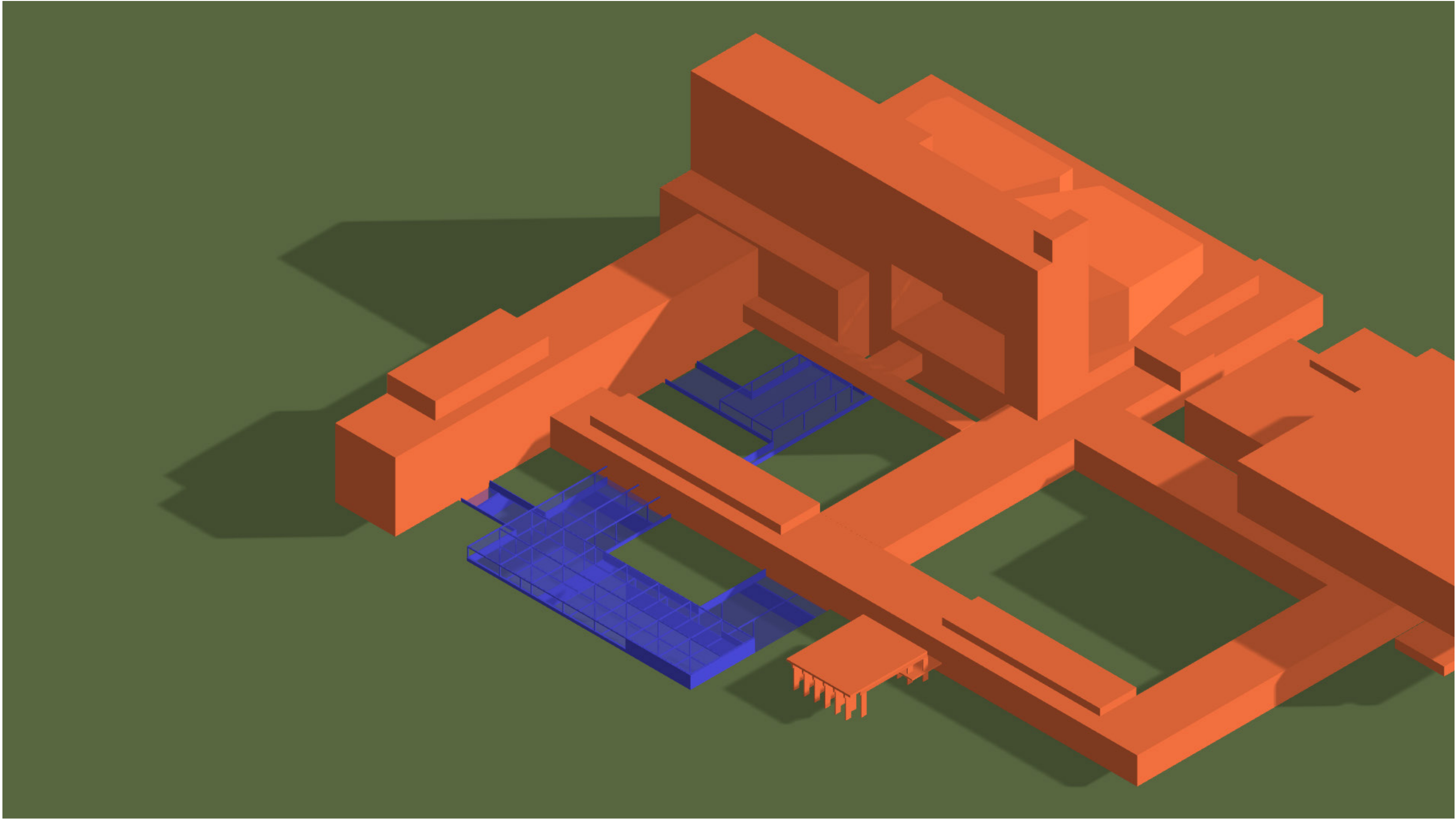


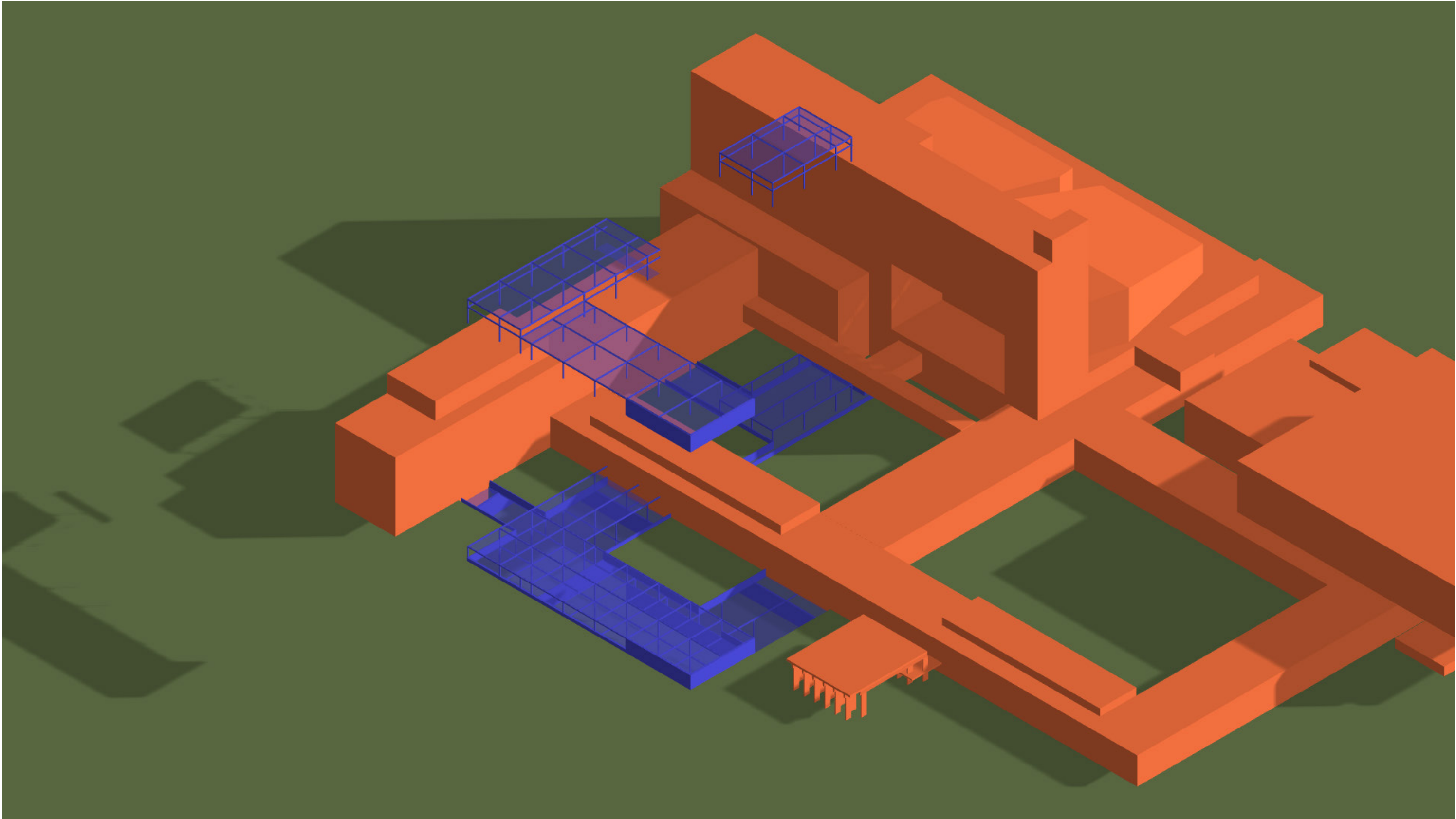
materialisation of façade

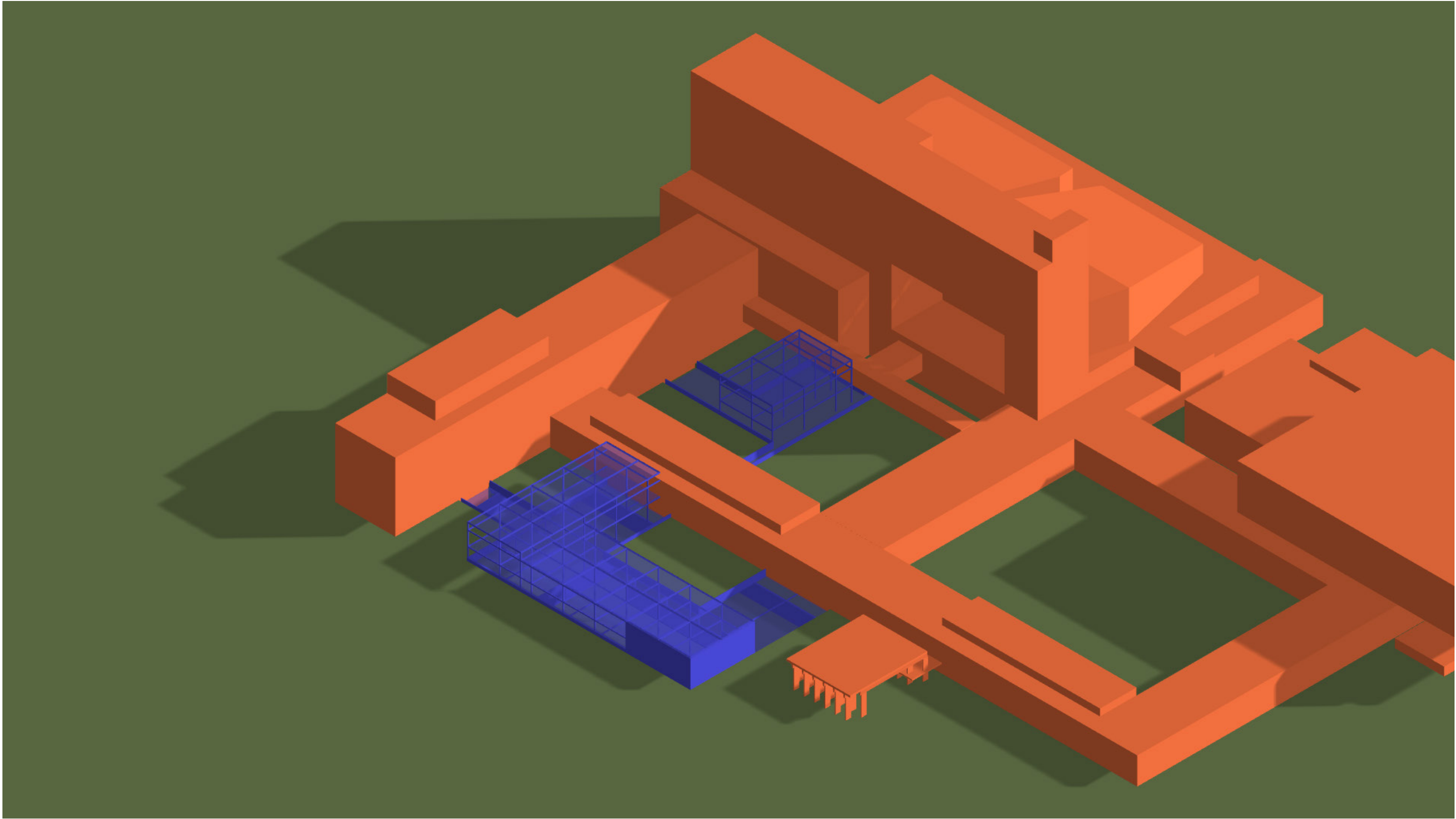


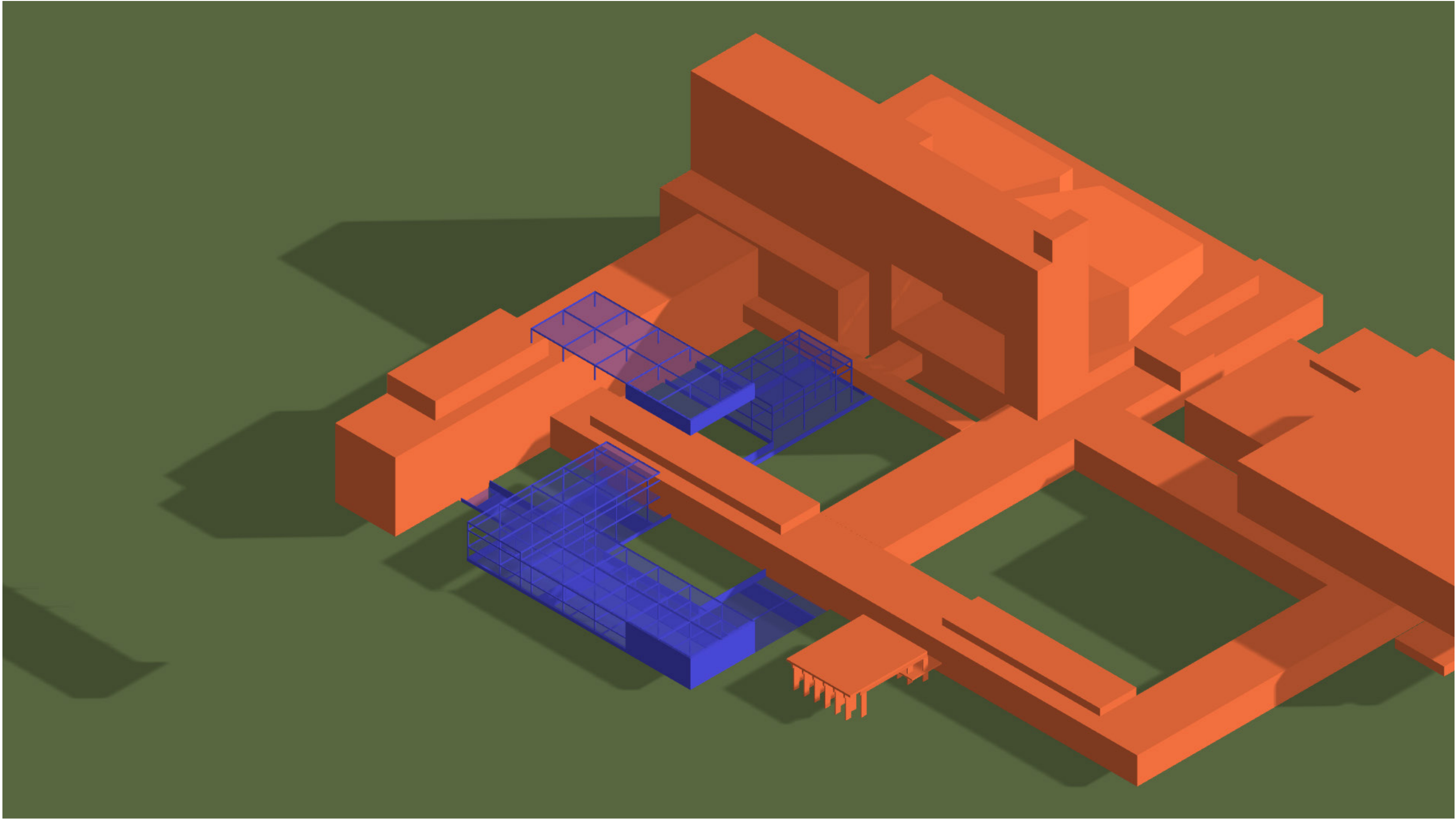
structure



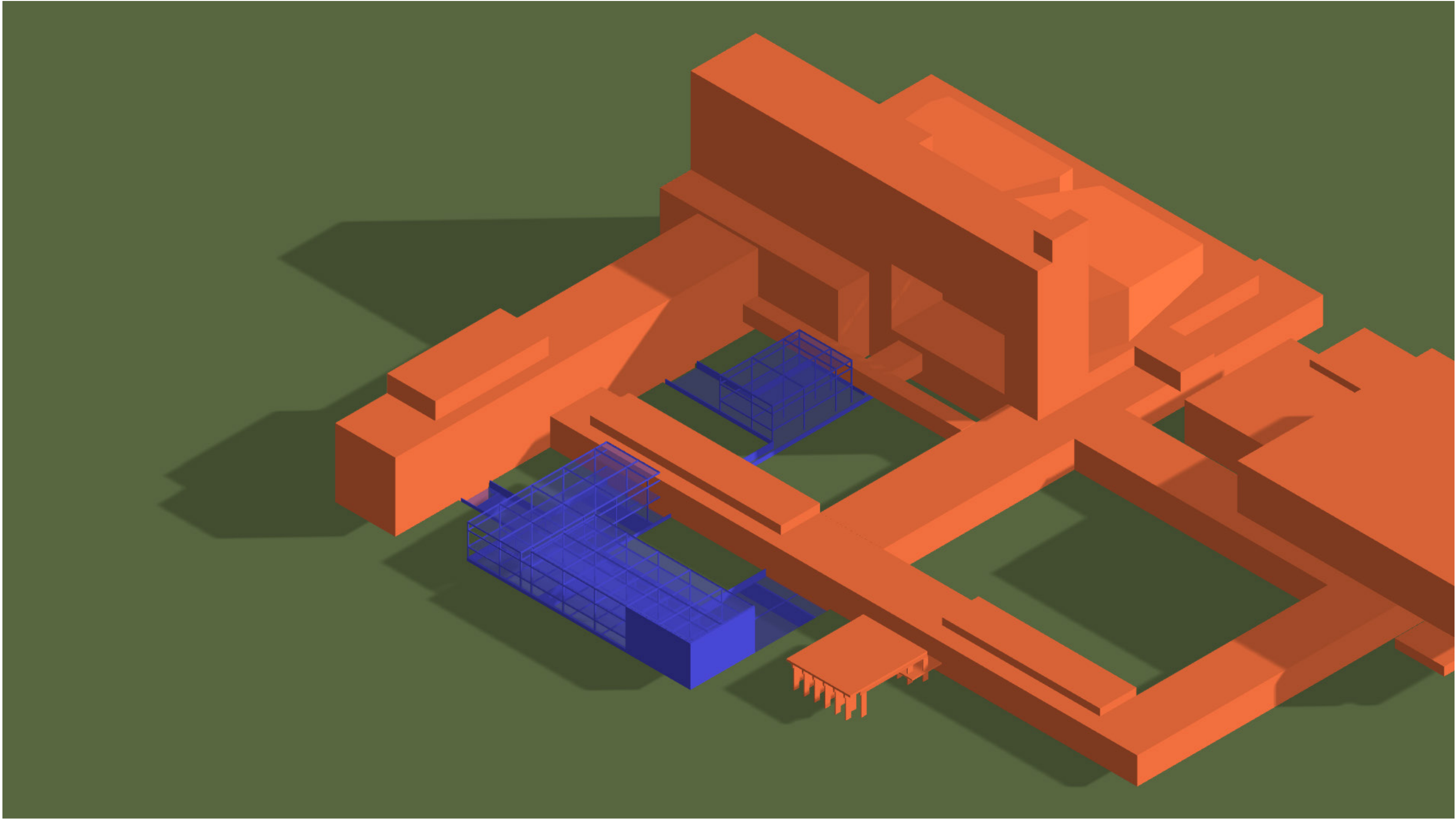




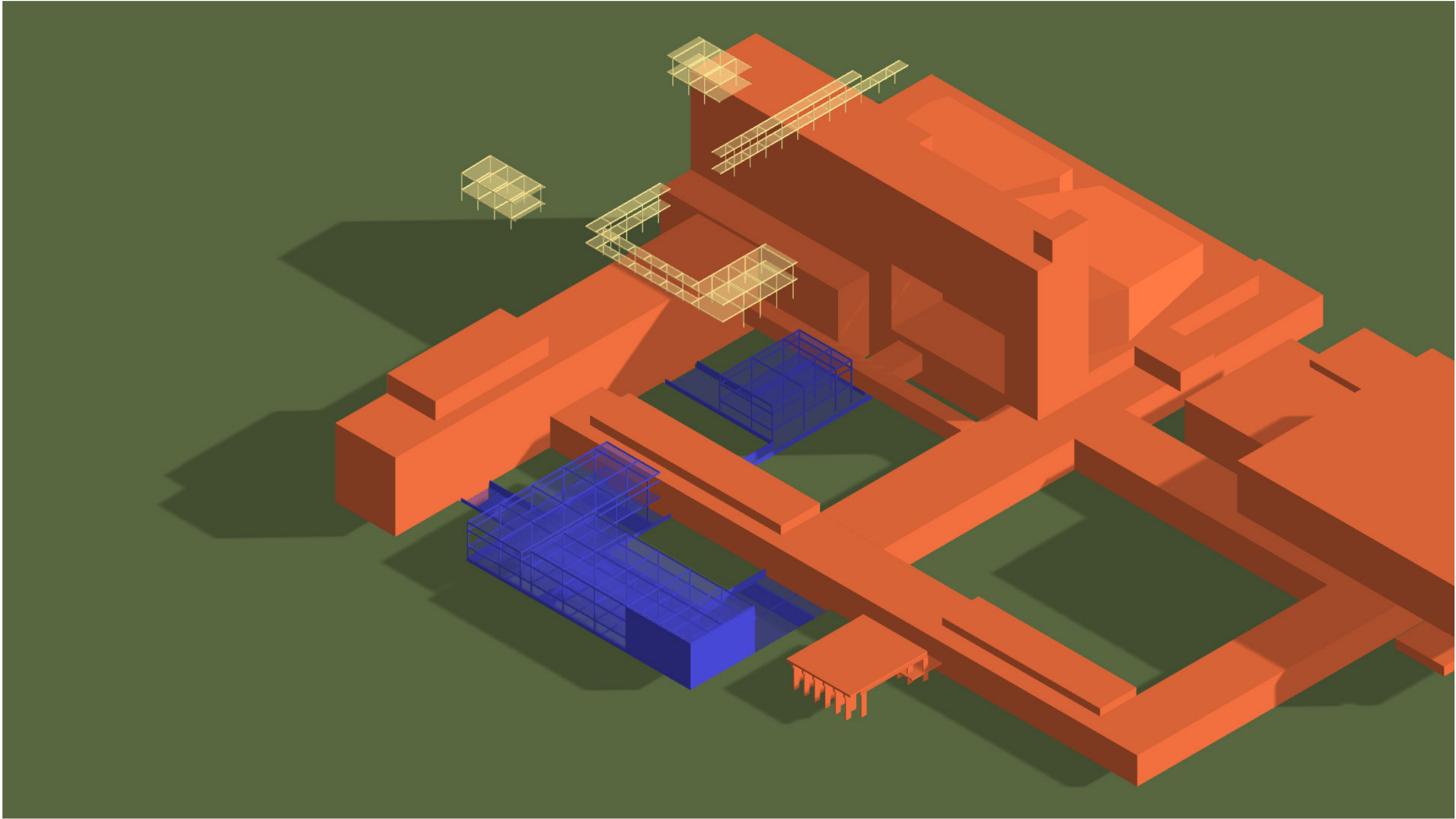


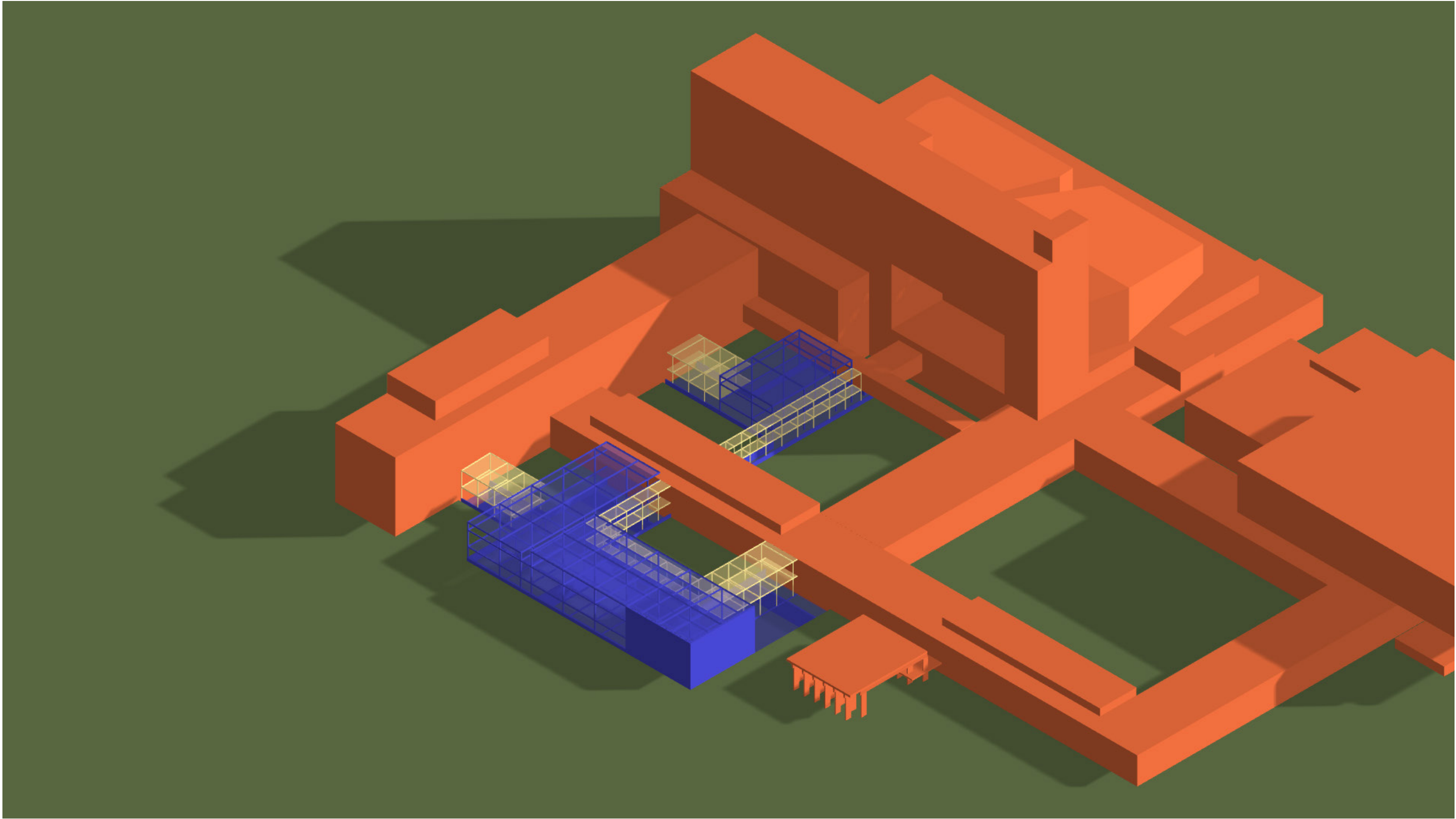


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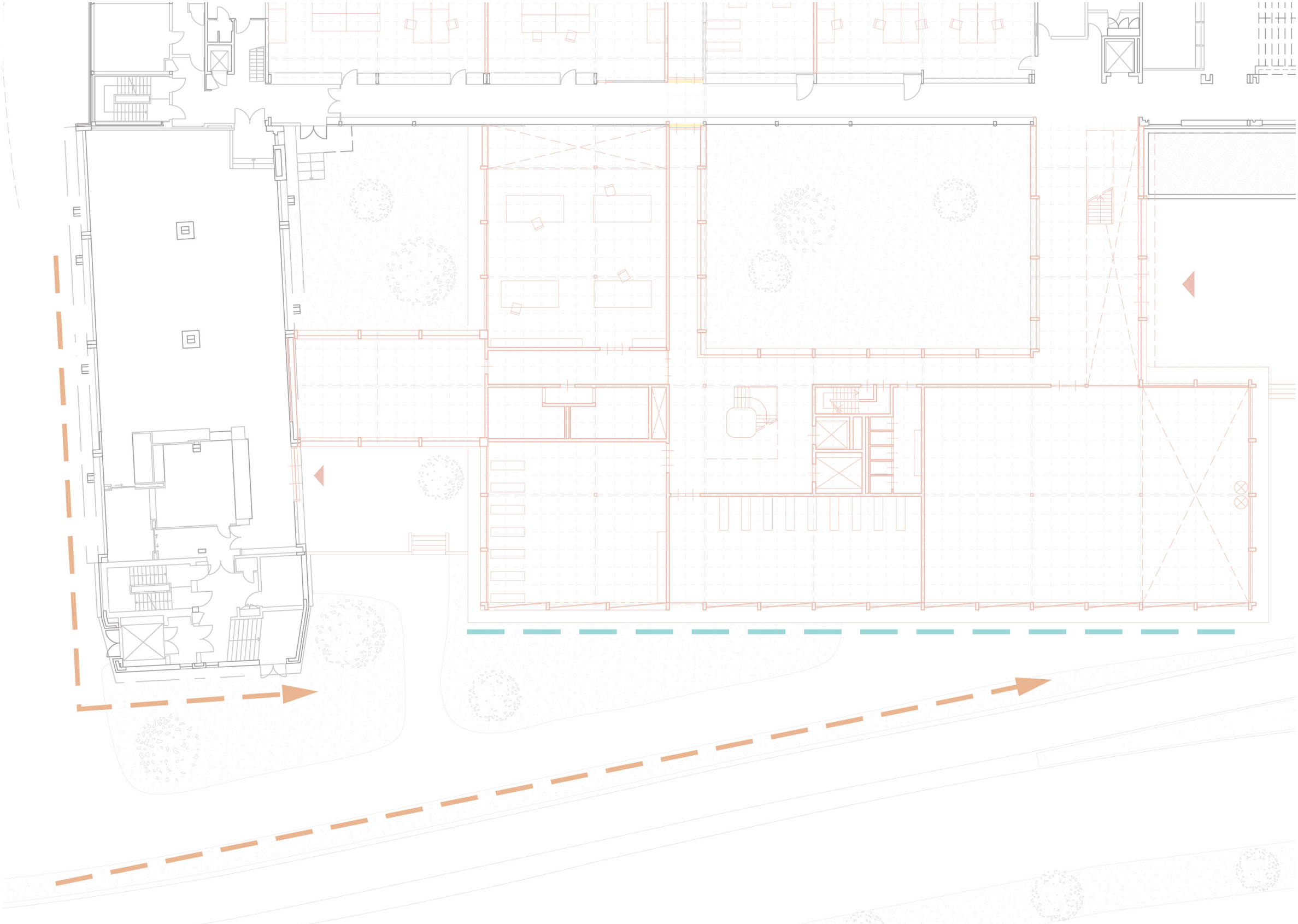


structure

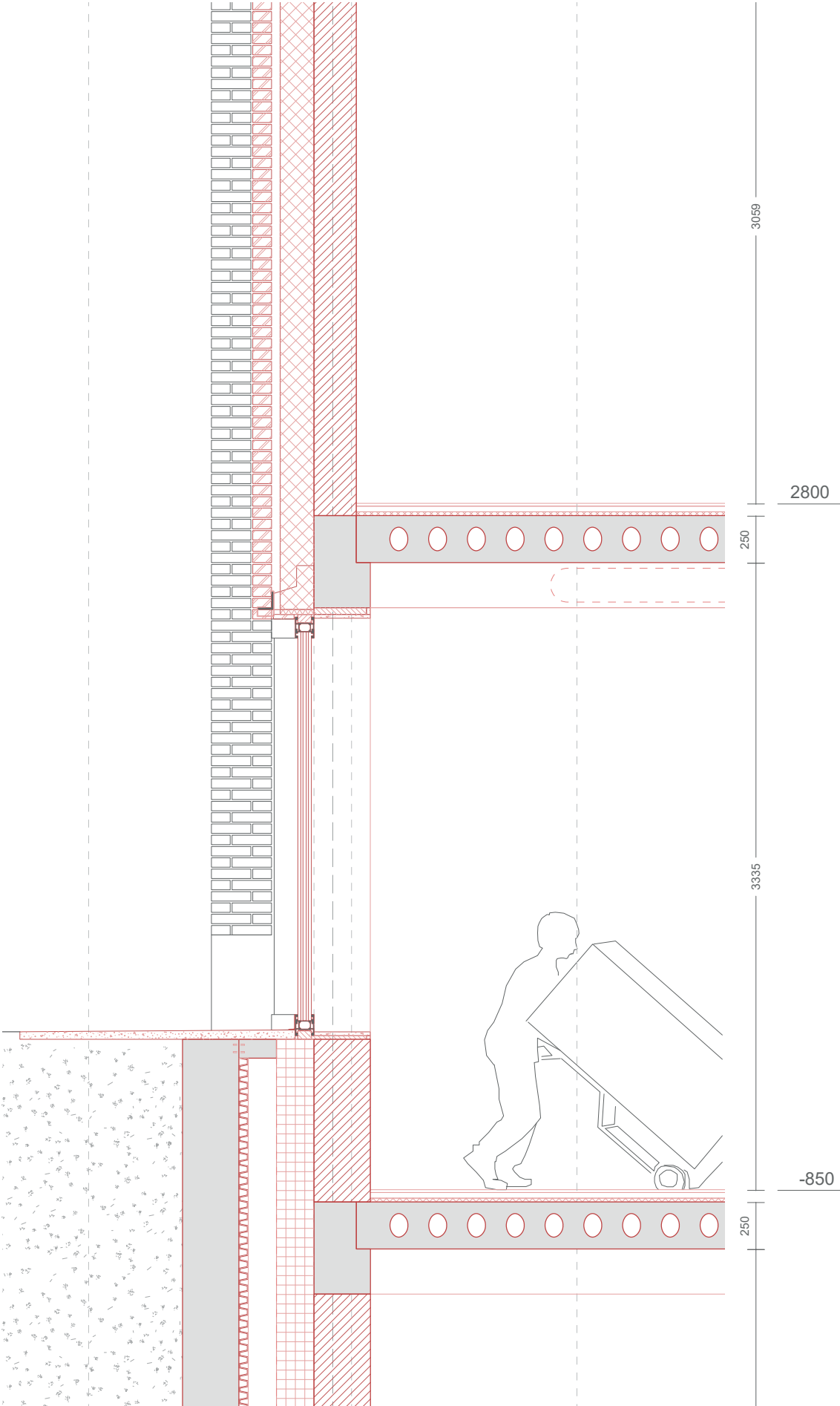


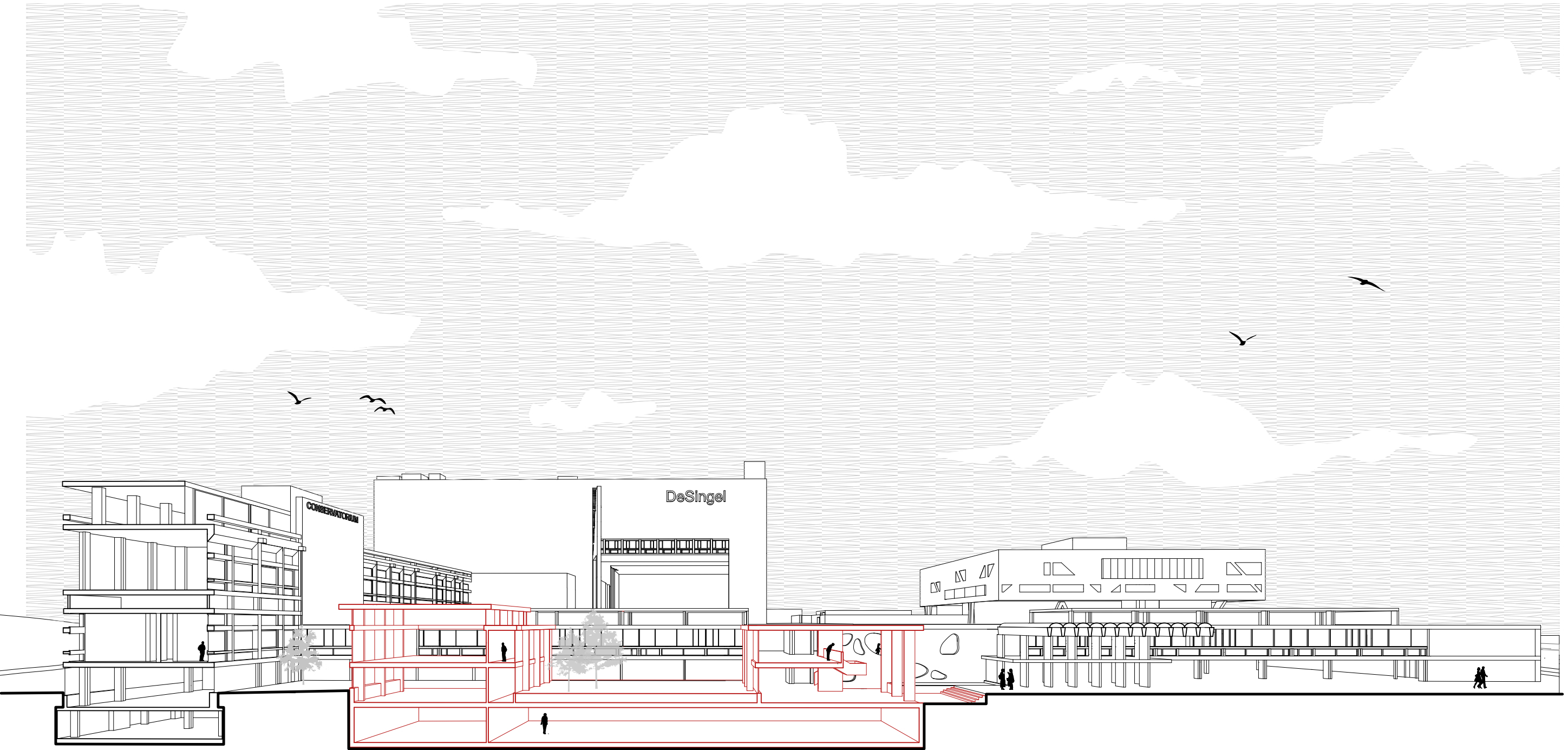


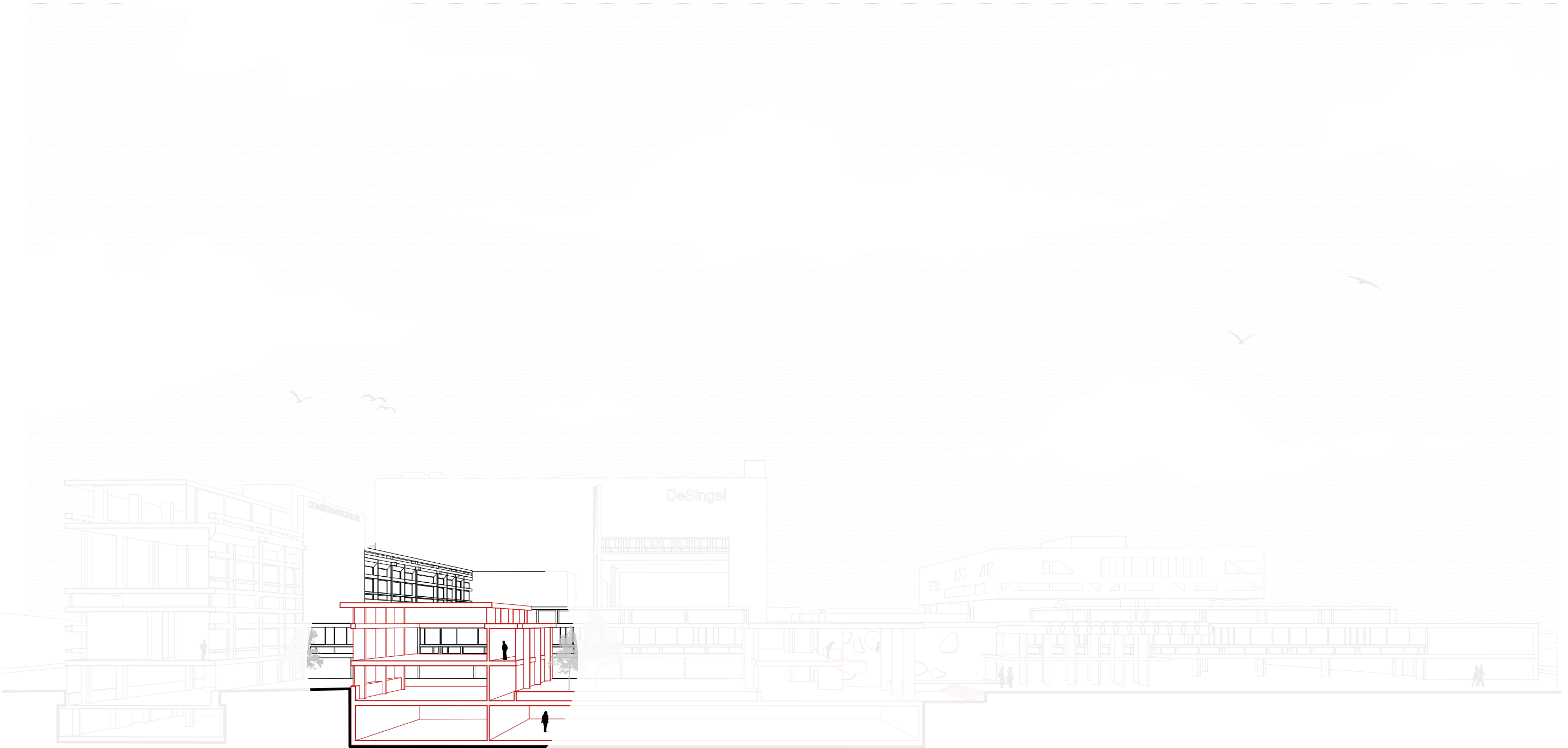
structure

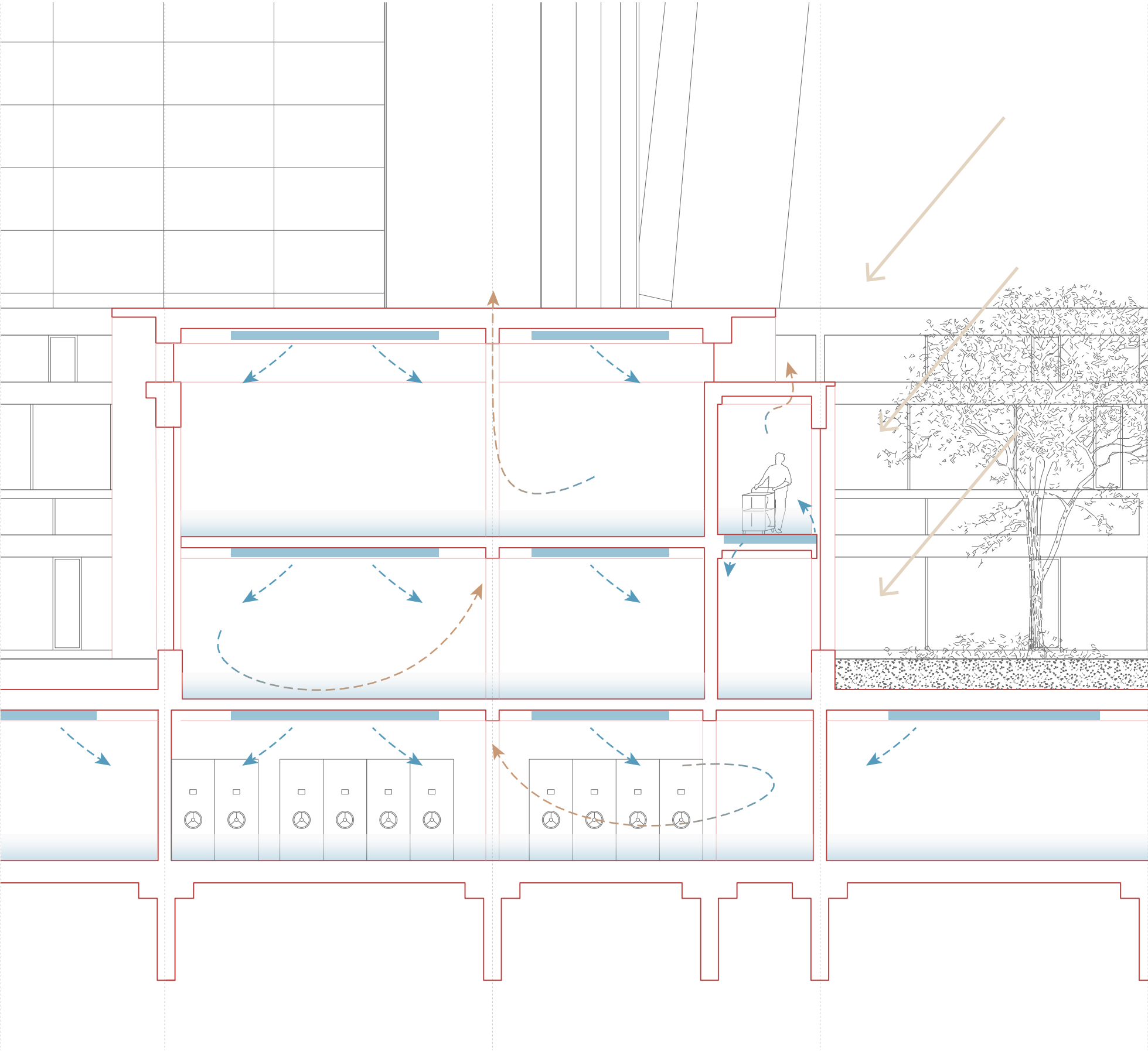


orthogonal vs. rotated geometry



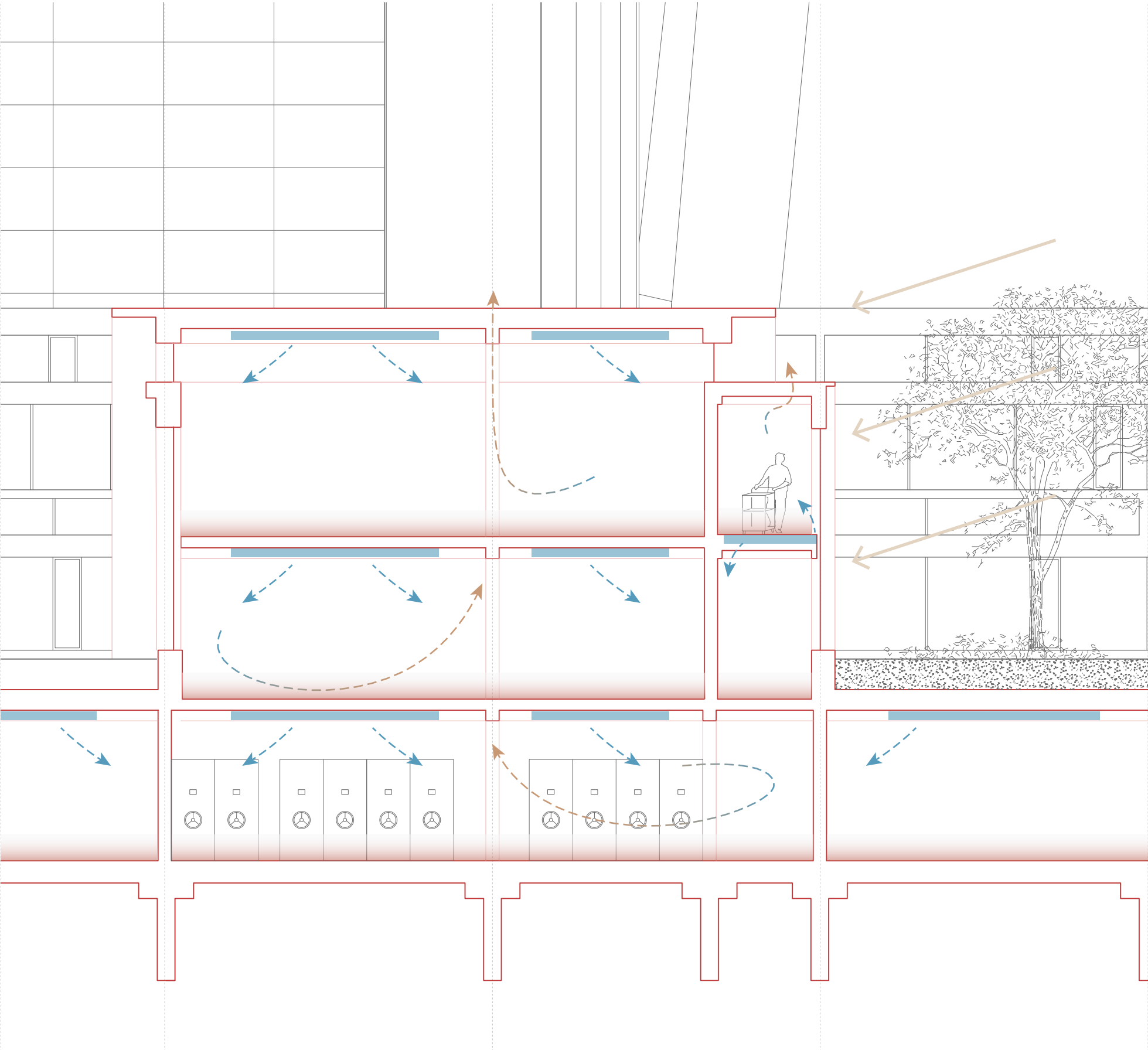






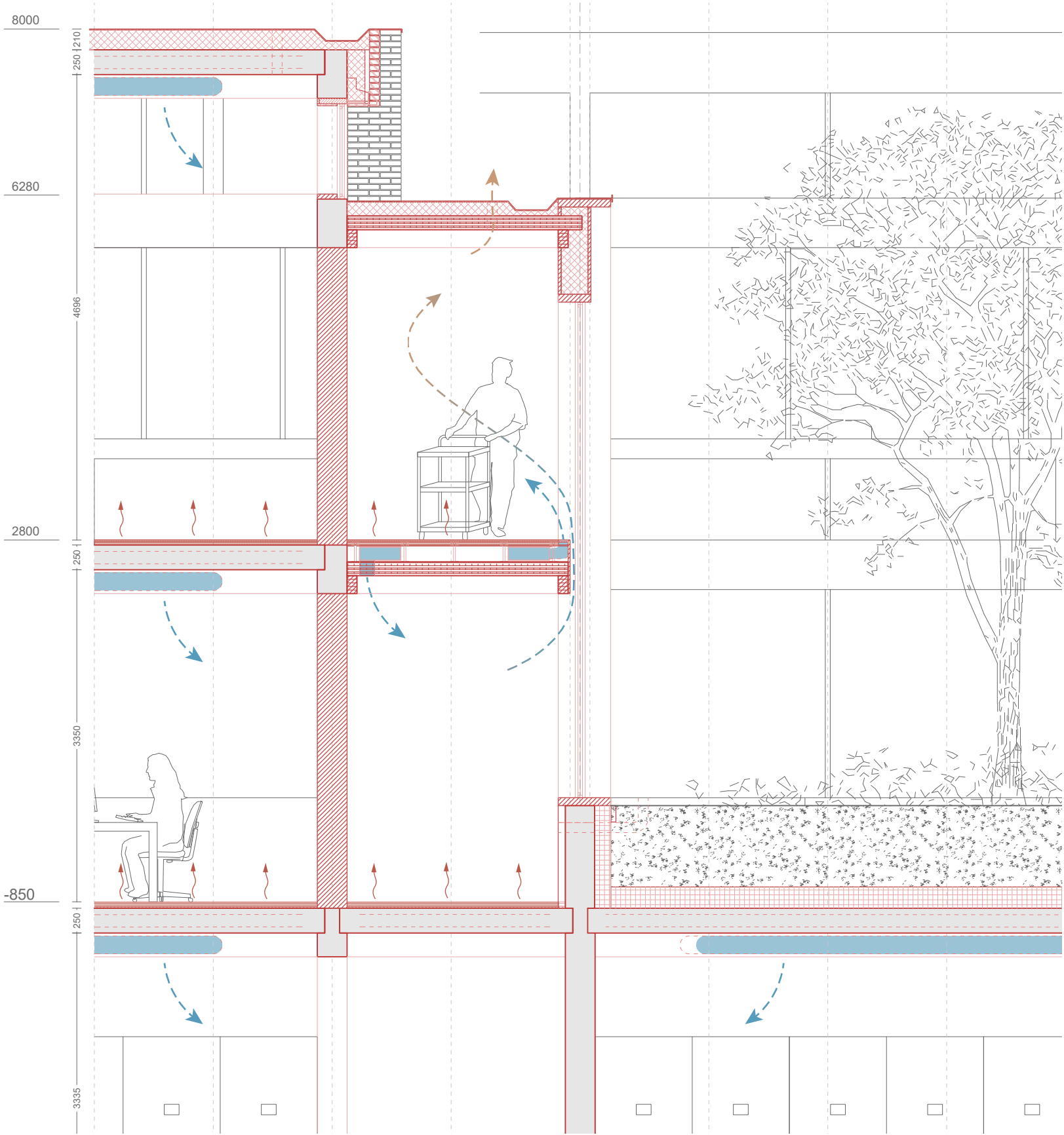
summer

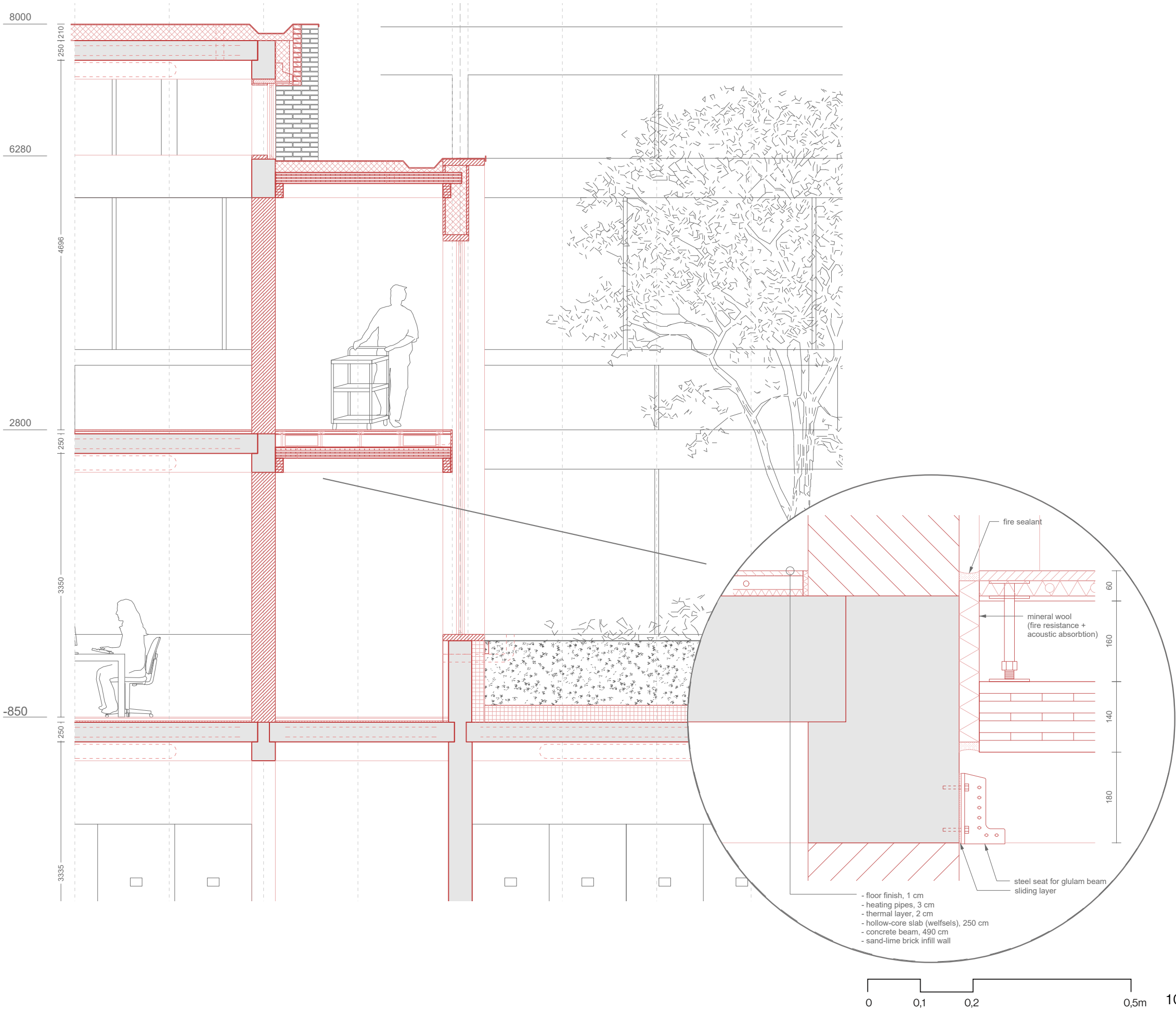




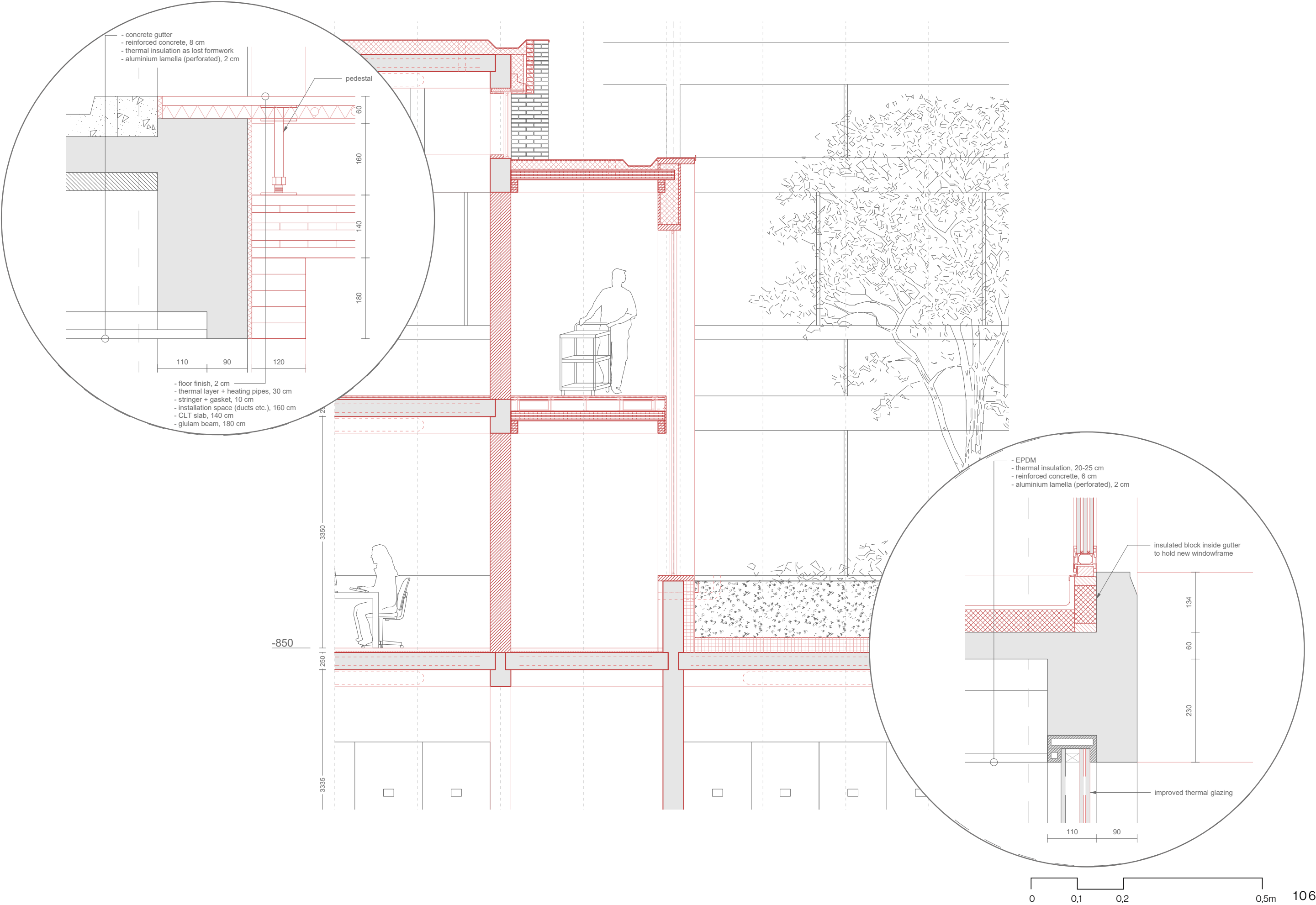
winter











Courtyards

connecting indoor with outdoor space

