

# JUST. MILANO.

MATIJN KROES



complex projects

**2024 - 2025**

**COMPLEX PROJECTS**  
**Bodies and Building Milan**  
**AR3CP100**

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**BODIES AND BUILDING MILAN**  
culture

## FLows



Train Station  
Airport  
Hospital

## AREA



Court Building  
School

## SPACE



Library  
Theatre  
Museum

## PROJECT BRIEF



MSc3

## PROJECT DESIGN



MSc4



Complex Projects studio generates projects on the intersection of building typologies and broad themes with focus on specific urban contexts which adds an additional layer atop the theme. The deliberate juxtaposition of typology, lens and city not only enriches the studio's exploration of the theme, but ultimately helps define and specify the final design project.

This year, students are encouraged to explore the multifaceted cityscape of Milan, a global centre shaped by its historical role as Italy's economic and industries capital. Milan's urban transformations reflect its post-war reconstruction, industrial growth, and the influence of innovative sectors such as design and technology. Its development has been driven by economic shifts, ecological policies, and socioeconomic factors unique to the city, including population changes, migration, urban regeneration, and the interplay between heritage preservation and modernization.

The Bodies & Building studio navigates the city research through specific lenses.

Each student has to design one of eight buildings in Milan, related to flow, area, and space.

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# BOOK CONCEPT



This booklet presents a comprehensive exploration of my research, design proposal and design, for a new courthouse in Milan, located on the site of the existing Palazzo di Giustizia. The document begins with an in-depth research plan, which frames the central question of how the design of a courthouse can transform traditionally closed-off spaces into environments that mediate between different user groups and the city, fostering trust and openness in the justice system. Key themes such as transparency and mediation are thoroughly examined.

The research then transitions into a study of the Italian judicial system, focusing on its structural challenges and public perception. Particular attention will be given to the role of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and mediation as strategies to reduce courtroom pressures and enhance more accessibility.

Building on this foundation, the booklet explores the design brief, translating

research insights into a clear vision for the new courthouse. Detailed analyses of the client, program, and site are presented, with a strong emphasis on integrating mediation spaces and redefining the building's role within the urban fabric of Milan. The proposed design aspires to balance functionality, symbolism, and security, creating a courthouse that embodies transparency, accessibility, and trust.

# RESEARCH PLAN

01





Figure 1: Milan, Palazzo di Giustizia

## INTRODUCTION

The traditional image of courthouses has often been one of monumental; imposing, closed-off structures to express power and authority. These buildings were mainly built to reflect the seriousness of the justice system and are typically characterized by closed-off façades and restricted access, separating the public from the inner workings of justice. This physical and symbolic separation between the public and the justice system has made it feel disconnected and unapproachable to the people it serves, leading to diminished public trust in the system.

However, the evolving needs of society need a reimagining of this design approach. Courthouses now face the challenge of remaining relevant, transparent, and accessible to the public. The “Inside Out Courthouse” concept represents a shift from traditionalism towards a design that prioritizes transparency, accessibility, and aims to rebuild public trust. As Lewis F. Powell Jr. noted in 1976, “Public buildings often accurately reflect the beliefs, priorities, and aspirations of people. ... From much of our history, the courthouse has served not just as a local center of the law and government but as a meeting ground, cultural hub, and social gathering place” (Project for Public Spaces, n.d.). This perspective reinforces the idea that courthouses should not only serve as legal centers, but also respond to broader societal needs and values.

To realize this vision, several principles must be addressed: improving public trust and confidence, providing greater transparency of justice, enhancing public access and accommodation, and promoting the use of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) and mediation to reduce judicial workloads (Hardenbergh, 2004). These shifts emphasize a courthouse that not only fulfills its role in the justice system but also adapts to the changing demands of contemporary society.

The “Inside Out Courthouse” concept inverts the traditional spatial hierarchy of

courthouses by making typically hidden, closed-off spaces more visible and open to the public. Rather than locating judicial functions behind intimidating façades, it creates an approachable, inclusive environment that invites public interaction and engagement. As Stephen G. Breyer noted in 2006, “The story that a building tells through its design may be as important to the community it serves as its function. By shaping our thought about ourselves and our institutions, it will directly affect our efforts to work productively together”, emphasizing the role of architecture in fostering trust and collaboration (Project for Public Spaces, n.d.).

The concept turns the courthouse into a physical and symbolic mediator between the state and its citizens. It balances transparency and security, ensuring safe and functional interactions among various user groups. Emphasizing openness and civic responsibility, it transforms circulation areas and shared spaces into places for reflection, pause, and controlled informal interaction, while maintaining necessary boundaries.

## RESEARCH QUESTION

Research Question:

Courthouse as a Mediator:

"How can the design of a contemporary courthouse transform traditionally closed-off spaces into areas that mediate between different user groups and the city to rebuild trust and openness in the justice system?"

Sub Questions:

Improving Public Trust and Space:

"How can a courthouse be more than just a functional space for legal proceedings, becoming a public place that improves trust and enriches the city's daily life, culture, and tourism?"

Transparency in Formal Spaces:

"How can the design of courtrooms and other formal spaces foster transparency and trust in the judicial process, while maintaining the respect and dignity of the proceedings?"

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and Mediation:

"How can the architectural layout of a courthouse integrate spaces for ADR and mediation, encouraging the use of these processes to reduce judicial workloads and provide alternative methods for resolving conflicts?"



Figure 2: Collage of the Future

Milan Studio

complex CP projects

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## THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

The architectural evolution of courthouses reflect the society's changing perceptions of justice and transparency. Historically seen, courthouses have transitioned from a multi-purpose public building to an enclosed, specialized space. As judicial spaces and systems became more formalized, the need for controlled and secure environments grew, leading to increasingly enclosed courthouse architecture (Tellman, 2018). Consequently, shifts in societal views on justice and transparency have influenced the openness and accessibility of justice processes. Around 500 BC, justice was held openly in public spaces under a tree, which embodied a direct, public, and accessible form of justice (Mulcahy, 2011, p.15). Later, Greek bouleuteria and Roman basilicas reflected the values of that time, emphasizing an organized space while maintaining a sense of accessibility within the justice process.

Between 1500 and 1800, medieval courts began to reflect authority and exclusivity, as courtrooms became symbols of power rather than community spaces. This intensified in the 19th and 20th centuries, when courthouse designs emphasized enclosure, distancing the justice from the public to express authority and control, which led to diminished public trust in the justice system. Recently, courthouses have shifted towards openness again, emphasizing transparency and engagement to rebuild public trust and make justice more accessible and inclusive.

Habermas' concept of the "public sphere" provides a framework for reimagining the courthouse as an open, public space that fosters trust. The public sphere defines as a domain where citizens can freely come together to discuss matter of shared interest, offering a bridge between state institutions and society. Incorporating democratic architecture, this approach promotes inclusivity and transparency, transforming the courthouse into a cultural and civic hub with open plazas, cultural spaces, and transparent façades. Acting

as a mediator, the courthouse becomes a space where diverse groups engage with the justice system, fostering trust through visibility, accessibility, and public accountability (Habermas, 1991).

Furthermore, theories of transparency have been explored by Rowe and Slutsky to examine how spatial design elements can promote both literal and phenomenal transparency. Literal transparency refers to the direct visual openness of materials like glass, to provide unobstructed views through spaces or façades, clearly defining boundaries. Phenomenal transparency is concerned with how people experience the transparency of materials and spaces and how this shapes their perception of space. This type of transparency focuses on spatial layering, depth, and the way architectural elements overlap or interact, creating a sense of openness that goes beyond physical visibility. Phenomenal transparency is how users perceive and move through a space, often through a play of light, shadow, and spatial complexity (Kang & Park, 2021).

Finally, Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) and mediation offer effective ways to reduce pressure on the judiciary by providing conflict resolution methods outside of formal courtrooms. Integrating informal mediation spaces fosters a more open and welcoming environment. Courthouses designed with ADR and mediation can promote community-centered justice, reduce backlogs, and create a more approachable legal system. (Felix, 2019).



Figure 3: The Tree of Justice

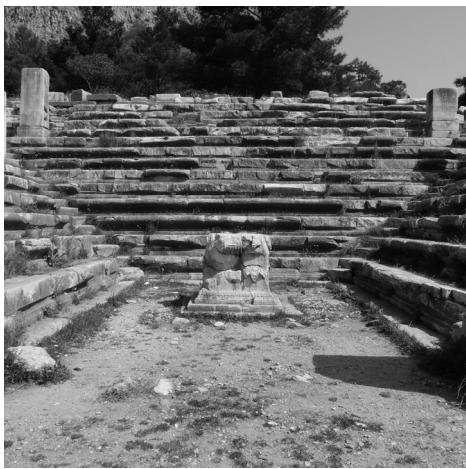


Figure 4: Bouleuterion



Figure 5: Milan Courtroom



Figure 6: Courthouse Amsterdam/ Kaan Architecten

## THEORETICAL ARGUMENTATION

The key theoretical concepts that guide this project are trust in the justice system, transparency, and mediation spaces. These concepts are fundamental in redesigning a modern courthouse to rebuild trust and openness in the judicial system.

The lack of trust in the justice system comes from the isolation of courthouses, which create a sense of separation between the public and the legal process. Habermas' theory of the "public sphere" can act as a guideline for public engagement. The design philosophy aims to position the courthouse as a space of fairness where citizens can trust that justice is being conducted openly and impartially. In the case of Milan, where trust in the legal system is 35% and perceptions of corruption are 58%, the relationship between citizens and the justice system can be tense (OECD, 2024). For this reason, it is essential for the courthouse to serve as a symbol of justice that is accountable and transparent.

Transparency extends beyond physical openness; it also refers to the visibility of legal processes and the accessibility of the courthouse to the public. The theory of transparency suggests that both literal and phenomenal transparency can help bridge the gap between the court and the society. This approach is a direct response to the closed and monumental characteristics of the current Palazzo di Giustizia in Milan, built during the Fascist era to express power and authority.

Mediation spaces support Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), a practice introduced in Italy since 2010 to meet demands for faster, more efficient justice (IBA, z.d.). Through methods like mediation, arbitration, and negotiations, ADR reduces judicial backlogs and eases case handling (Roman Law Firm, 2023). Integrating these spaces within the courthouse reflects a shift from authority-focused justice to a mediator role, bridging societal interests and positioning the courthouse as a community space. ADR also significantly shortens case processing times, reinforcing the courthouse's role as a responsive, community-oriented center for conflict resolution.

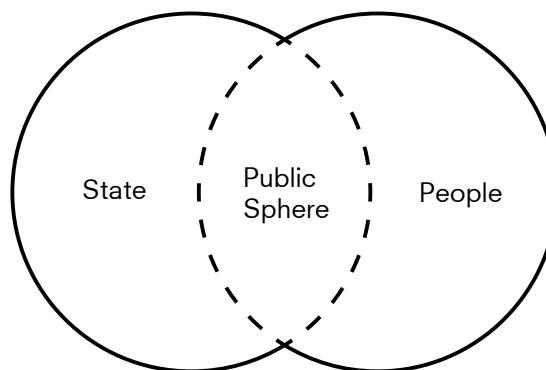


Figure 7: Public Sphere

## GLOBAL, ARCHITECTURAL AND STUDIO RELEVANCE

There is an increasing need for courthouses to adapt to contemporary expectations of transparency, public engagement, and the rebuilding of trust in the justice system.

As societal perceptions of justice evolve, courthouses worldwide are trying to balance the power and authority of the legal system with the growing demand for accessibility, openness and civic involvement. This shift toward transparency in judicial architecture is not just an issue within the legal sector, but part of a broader trend in public spaces, where communities demand more inclusive, open, and responsive institutions. This project aligns with a global movement towards “public-centric” architecture that values civic engagement, transparency, and accountability in state institutions (Rethinking The Future, 2023).

The “Inside-Out Courthouse” shifts from traditional, imposing courthouse designs to a transparent, civically engaging form.

This transformation challenges architects to balance openness with security in public buildings, rethinking the intersection of form and function in legal institutions.

The concept aligns with the Complex Projects studio by addressing the design complexity of large, civic buildings. The research investigates how courthouses can mediate between different user groups and the city, fostering trust and openness while balancing security and accessibility. This aligns with the studio’s emphasis on structured, data-informed design processes and human-centered approaches in architectural practice.

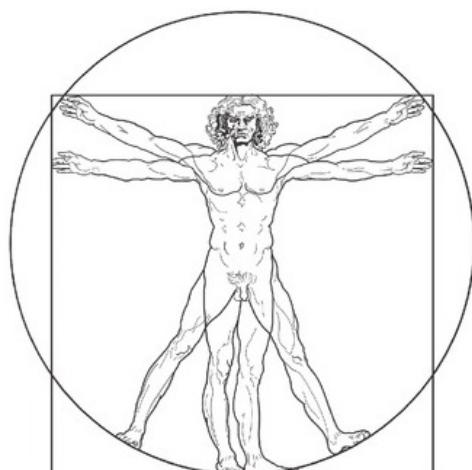
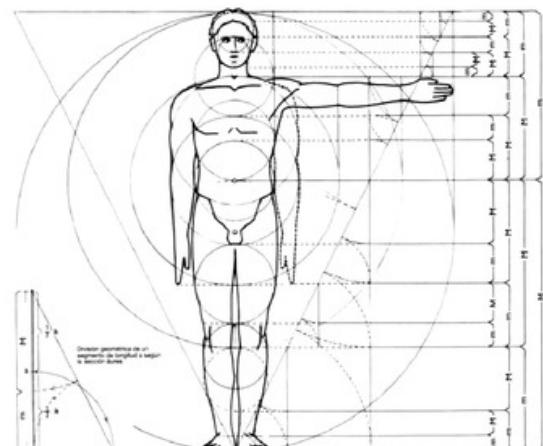


Figure 8: The Evolution in Understanding of Human Scales in Architecture



## RESEARCH METHODS

The research methods will adopt a mixed approach that use both theoretical investigation and practical design exploration. The following methodology outlines the key steps in the research process:

Literature review will serve as the foundation for the theoretical framework. This will involve examining existing research on contemporary courthouse designs, transparency in public architecture and the concept of the “public sphere” by Jürgen Habermas. Key sources will include studies on the evolution of courthouse architecture, theories on transparency (Rowe & Slutzky, Kang & Park, 2021), the role of the courthouse as a civic institution and Alternative Dispute Resolution and mediation (Felix, 2019).

Case studies will compare how different courthouses have integrated public engagement, transparency and mediation through design elements like materials, and spatial layouts. This includes examining how these aspects enhance visibility, support alternative dispute resolution (ADR), and encourage public interaction with the justice system. Definitions of ADR will be explored to understand the application in modern courthouse design, and a spatial study will analyse effective incorporation of mediation spaces. Preliminary research has already been done to analyse the program of contemporary courthouses, comparing them to the program of the existing courthouse in Milan, showing clear distinctions.

Site analysis and mapping of the Palazzo di Giustizia in Milan will be conducted, followed by a site visit to understand the existing courthouse’s context, architectural challenges, and its relationship to the city. During this visit, I will conduct research on the behaviour and reactions of people both inside and outside the building, examining how they respond to different spatial influences and environmental factors. Additionally, a guided tour and interview with Jaap Otten (Project Manager) will take

place on November 26th at the courthouse in Zwolle to gain a deeper understanding of how courthouses function and get experienced. Furthermore, I plan to attend a public trial to observe and experience the judicial process.

Research on group work regarding the cultural lens will be integrated into the methodology, aiming to understand on how the courthouse interacts with the various temporalities that shape Milan as a city. Milan’s culture is influenced by its rich history, evolving modernity, and dynamic social and economic life. This lens can support the investigation into how the courthouse can function not just as a legal institution but as an active participant in the city’s ongoing narrative.

At last, research will be conducted on the primary clients for the courthouse design; the State Administration, the Municipality of Milan, and the Fondazione Milano. Preliminary research on the municipality’s past design and urban planning ambitions has offered insights into the city’s historical vision. Further research will explore its current goals. Additionally, research on the Fondazione Milano will examine how its cultural influence can shape the courthouse design that reflects Milan’s cultural and historical identity.

# RESEARCH DIAGRAM

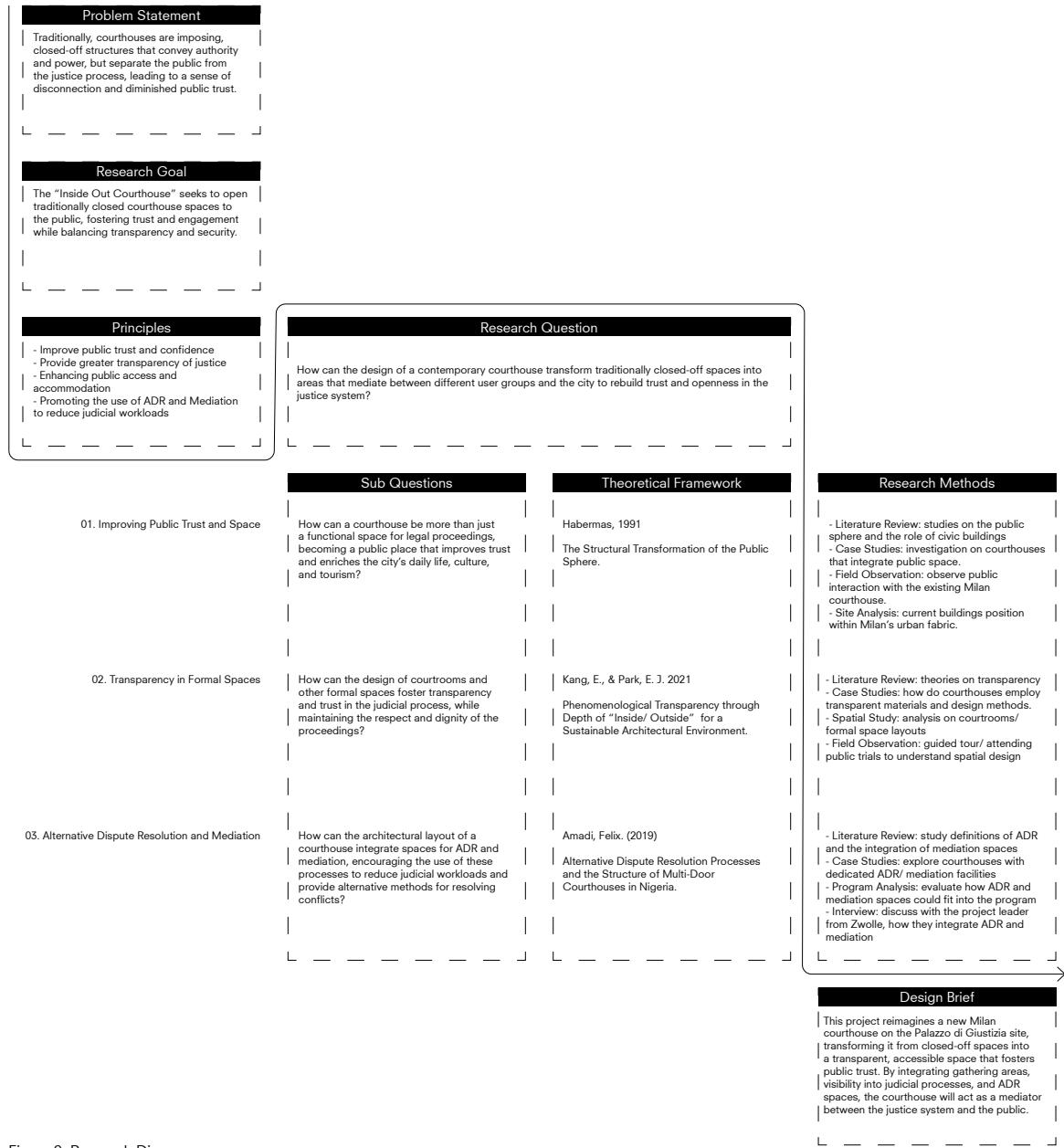


Figure 9: Research Diagram

## DESIGN BRIEF

In this project, I plan to design one of the eight buildings in the Complex Projects studio. The design will be a new courthouse located in Milan, Italy, on the site of the historic Palazzo di Giustizia assuming the plot is vacant. The original design ambitions were influenced by the need for centralization, a desire to project fascist power, and aspirations to reshape the city's image through urban renewal. These objectives resulted in a monumental, closed-off building that separated the public from the judicial process, symbolizing power and authority. The new design will reimagine the courthouse as a transparent, accessible public space, mediating between the justice system and the public to rebuild trust and openness.

When looking at site conclusions, the building is centrally located within Milan's historical context, but act as a barrier between the city's dynamics. The site requires an approach where spaces not only serve for legal purposes, but also function as public gathering spaces to invite interaction between the courthouse and the city. The courthouse should act as a mediator within its urban fabric, integrating into Milan's infrastructure both functionally and socially. This requires a design that fosters both literal and phenomenal transparency, allowing the building to blend with and enrich the urban environment. Through this approach, the courthouse can establish itself as a place of civic engagement and accessibility, reconnecting the judicial system with the community enhancing its role in Milan's urban life.

Project goals for this design include redefining the spatial and symbolic hierarchy of the traditional courthouse by transforming typically closed-off spaces into more transparent and accessible areas that encourage public engagement and interaction. The courthouse will act as a "mediator", bridging the gap between citizens and the justice system, where diverse user groups can connect within a shared civic environment. With the principles

of trust, transparency, and openness, the design repositions the courthouse as a civic institution that responds to societal values.

The design aims to foster "Public Trust and Accessibility" by creating spaces that encourage engagement and inclusivity, transforming the courthouse into a civic hub that adds social, cultural, and touristic value. By incorporating "Transparency in Judicial Spaces", the design allows the public to observe and understand legal processes while maintaining dignity. The integration of "Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)" facilities promotes accessible, collaborative legal solutions, reducing workloads and offering informal dispute resolution.

This reimagined courthouse will thus act as a visible, civic-centered institution that fosters trust and collaboration within the community, balancing transparency and security while actively engaging with the city. The project aligns with contemporary movements in public-centric architecture, prioritizing spaces that welcome, inform, and connect the public with the workings of justice.

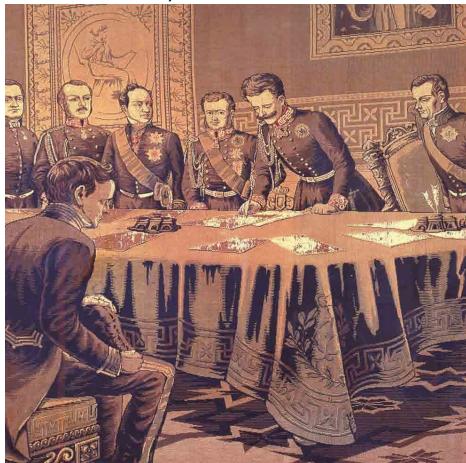
# RESEARCH

02



## BACKGROUND OF POLITICAL SYSTEM IN ITALY

Pre-Fascist Italy



Fascist Italy



The Judiciary under Fascist Italy



After the Fall of Fascism



From Kingdom to Republic



Mani Pulite (Clean Hands)





## JUDICIAL EVOLUTION

After Italy's unification in 1861, the Statuto Albertino, a liberal monarchy constitution influenced by Napoleonic law, established a system where power was shared between the king and parliament, but judicial independence was limited. This fragile balance shifted dramatically when Mussolini seized power in 1922, transforming Italy into a fascist state. Under his regime, judicial independence was further eroded, with judges appointed based on their loyalty to the fascist ideology. Special courts were created to prosecute dissenters, civil liberties were suppressed, and laws were rewritten to enforce fascist and anti-Semitic policies.

In 1945, Mussolini's regime collapsed. He was arrested, executed, and his body was publicly displayed in Milan, marking the end of fascism and symbolizing the nation's demand for transparency and justice. Italy transitioned into a republic following the

1946 referendum, where 12,717,923 votes favored a republic over 10,719,284 votes for retaining the monarchy. This monumental decision led to the adoption of the 1948 Constitution, which safeguarded individual rights, ensured judicial independence, and established the Constitutional Court.

Decades later, the Palazzo di Giustizia in Milan became the epicenter of the Mani Pulite (Clean Hands) operation, a nationwide anti-corruption investigation in the early 1990s. This operation exposed widespread political corruption and solidified the courthouse's role as a symbol of justice, accountability, and the ongoing fight against systemic wrongdoing.

## BACKGROUND OF POLITICAL SYSTEM IN ITALY

# 35%

### TRUST IN LEGAL SYSTEM

European average lays between 48-50%

Inefficiencies, slow processes and concerns over corruption

# 58%

### CORRUPTION THOUGHTS

European average lays around 38%

Skepticism about historical context

# 58%

### TRUST IN LAW ENFORCEMENT

European average lays around 63%

Historical, structural, and social factors.

## JUSTICE DISCONNECTED ...

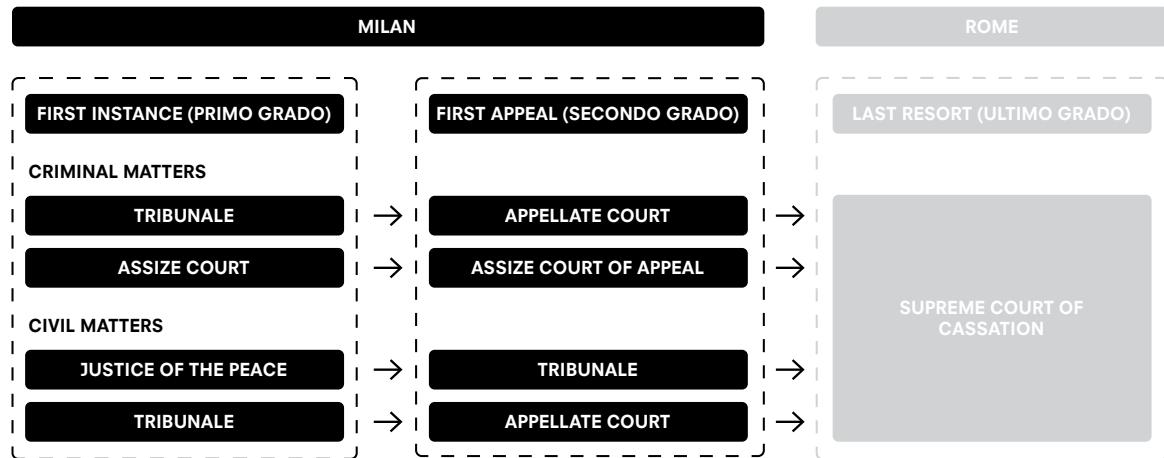


Historically seen as imposing, closed-off structures to express power and authority, courthouses are often disconnected and unapproachable from the public they serve, leading to diminished public trust in the justice system. Courthouses now face the challenge of remaining relevant, transparent and accessible to the public.

## JUSTICE ... CONNECTED



# BACKGROUND OF POLITICAL SYSTEM IN ITALY



## LEGAL SYSTEM IN ITALY

The Italian Republic was established after a popular referendum in 1946 that ended the monarchy, and the Constitution came into force in 1948. The Italian Constitution separates the legislative, executive, and judicial powers, although there is ongoing interaction between them. Amendments to the Constitution require a supermajority in Parliament.

The Constitutional Court oversees the constitutionality of laws. The President of the Republic is the head of state and represents national unity. Legislative power is vested in a bicameral Parliament, consisting of the Chamber of Deputies and the Senate. The executive power is entrusted with the Government, which includes the Council of Ministers and the President of Council, who coordinates the executive functions.

The judiciary is independent, and judges are appointed through exams. As far as ordinary courts exercising civil jurisdiction are concerned, the courts of first instance are the justices of the peace (who are honorary judges) and the Tribunali: the respective

jurisdiction is determined according to the amount of money at stake or according to the subject matter. Intermediate appeals are brought to the appellate courts and a final appeal (on points of law only) can be lodged with the Italian Supreme Court, the Suprema Corte di cassazione.

Justices of the Peace and Tribunali handle some criminal cases, but there are specialized courts for specific types of crimes. Juvenile Courts and their appeal divisions deal with crimes committed by minors. Assize Courts handle the most serious crimes and consist of six lay judges and two professional judges. Assize Courts of Appeal review appeals from the Assize Courts.

Legal representation is mandatory in civil and criminal cases, with limited options for those who cannot afford a lawyer. Paralegals are not officially recognized in Italy; law offices may have legal assistants or secretaries who handle administrative tasks but do not represent clients in court.

First instance: This is where a case is initially heard and judged. The court of first instance is responsible for determining the facts of the case and applying the relevant law to make a ruling. This stage involves hearing evidence, assessing witness testimonies, and making the initial judgment based on both legal and factual considerations. The first instance court evaluates all evidence presented, makes factual findings, and applies the law to render a judgment. It is the starting point for most cases and involves the full process of trial including evidence presentation and examination.

First appeal: To review the decision made by the court of first instance. The appeal focuses on whether the lower court made any errors in applying the law or legal procedure. It involves reviewing the case for legal and procedural correctness but does not typically involve re-examining factual evidence. The appellate court may reassess

legal arguments, review the application of the law, and sometimes consider new evidence that was not available in the first instance, depending on the jurisdiction.

Last resort: To provide a final review of the case and ensure that the law has been correctly interpreted and applied. It does not involve re-evaluating the factual evidence or retrying the case but focuses on legal consistency and the proper application of law across different cases. The last resort court typically does not consider new evidence or revisit factual determinations made by previous courts. It mainly reviews whether legal principles and procedures were correctly followed.

## ITALY HAS THE SLOWEST JUSTICE SYSTEM IN THE ENTIRE EUROPEAN UNION

Disposition Time by instance and by matter in 2021 (days)

■ First Instance ■ First Appeal ■ Last Resort



# BOTTLENECKS

Excessive caseloads due to high reliance on courts

Administrative inefficiencies and lack of digitalization

A large backlog of cases

Low number of judges per 100,000 inhabitants

Largest number of lawyers per capita in Europe



## Reduces Caseload

Faster and more efficient  
Reduces pressure on court



## Digital Infrastructure

Streamlines processes  
and reduces reliance on outdated systems



## Resolve Backlogs

Mediation resolves disputes faster



## Ease Judicial Burden

Reduce dependency on Judges by using mediators

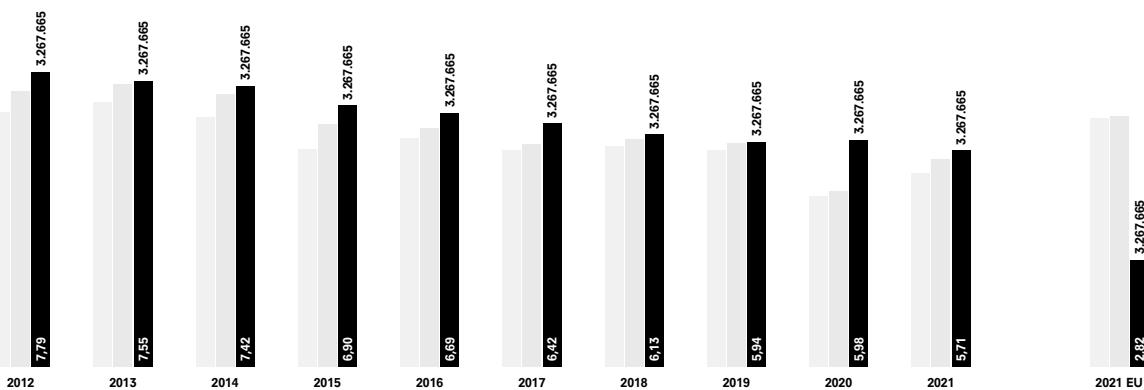


## Shift Lawyers to Mediators

Provide opportunities for lawyers to act as mediators

Evolution of number of first instance cases per 100 inhabitants.

■ Pending cases on 31 Dec. per 100 inh.



Judicial professionals per 100 000 inhabitants

■ Italy      ■ EU Median

Low number of judges per 100,000 inhabitants

12,1 = 7.154

JUDGES

24,1

Largest number of lawyers per capita in Europe

389,6 = 229.551

LAWYERS

122,4

Amount of mediators in court cases

39,6 = 23.875

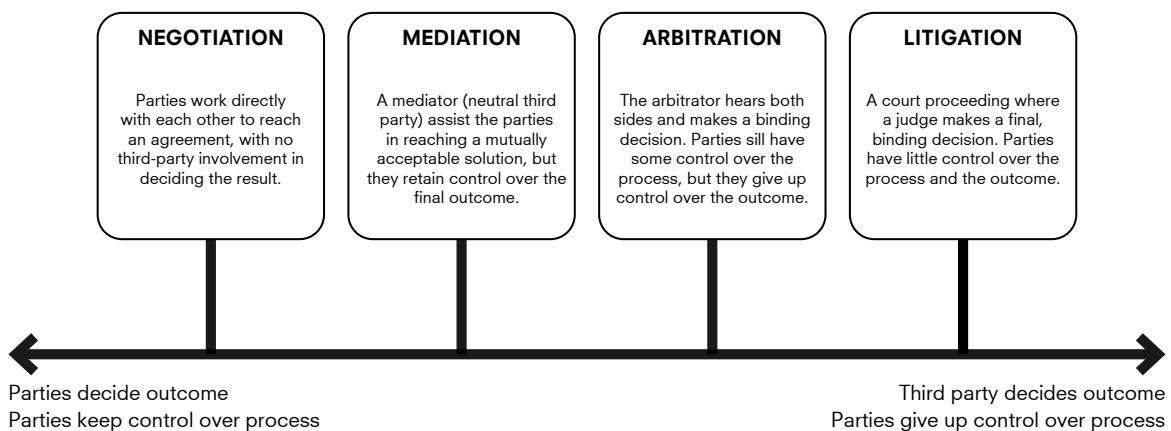
MEDIATORS

14,3

## THE PROFESSION OF LAWYER IS HIGHLY VALUED IN ITALY

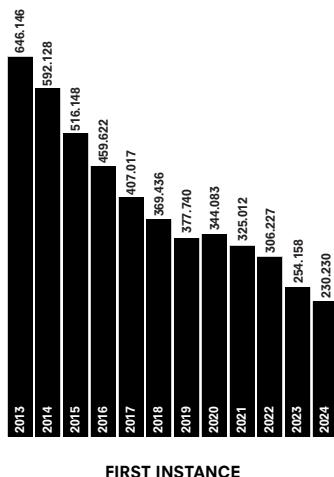


## ALTERNATIVE DISPUTE RESOLUTION SINCE 2010



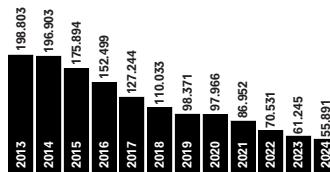
## BENEFITS OF ADR

Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) offers numerous benefits, including faster resolution of disputes compared to traditional court proceedings, which shortens and simplifies legal processes. By diverting less complex cases, ADR enables courts to focus on more intricate matters while reducing overall caseloads and associated costs for both parties and the judicial system. It provides an accessible and less intimidating means of conflict resolution, particularly for vulnerable groups, fostering fairness and openness in the process. ADR is also more cost-effective, lowering expenses for disputing parties and freeing up court resources for more efficient facility allocation. Emphasizing collaboration over confrontation, it encourages less adversarial solutions, preserves relationships, and promotes social engagement. This approach ultimately supports a justice system that is more approachable, equitable, and efficient.



**FIRST INSTANCE**

Pending cases for more than three years



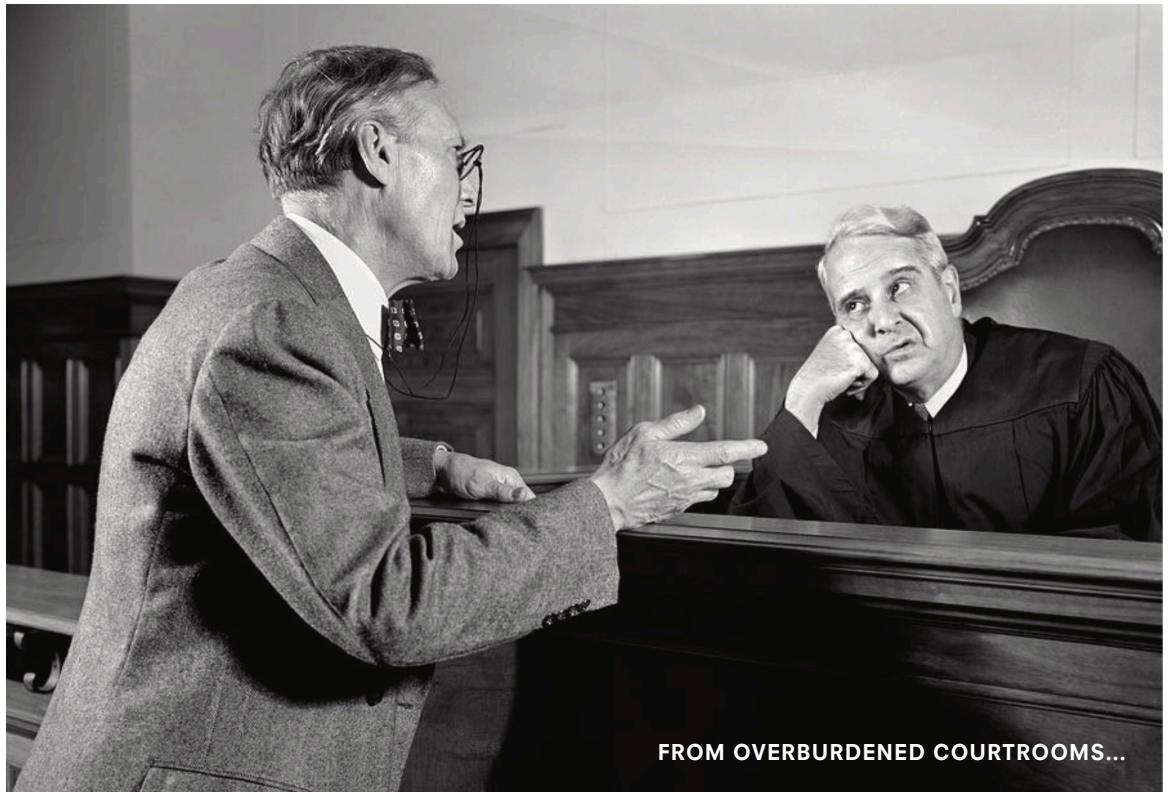
**FIRST APPEAL**

Pending cases for more than two years

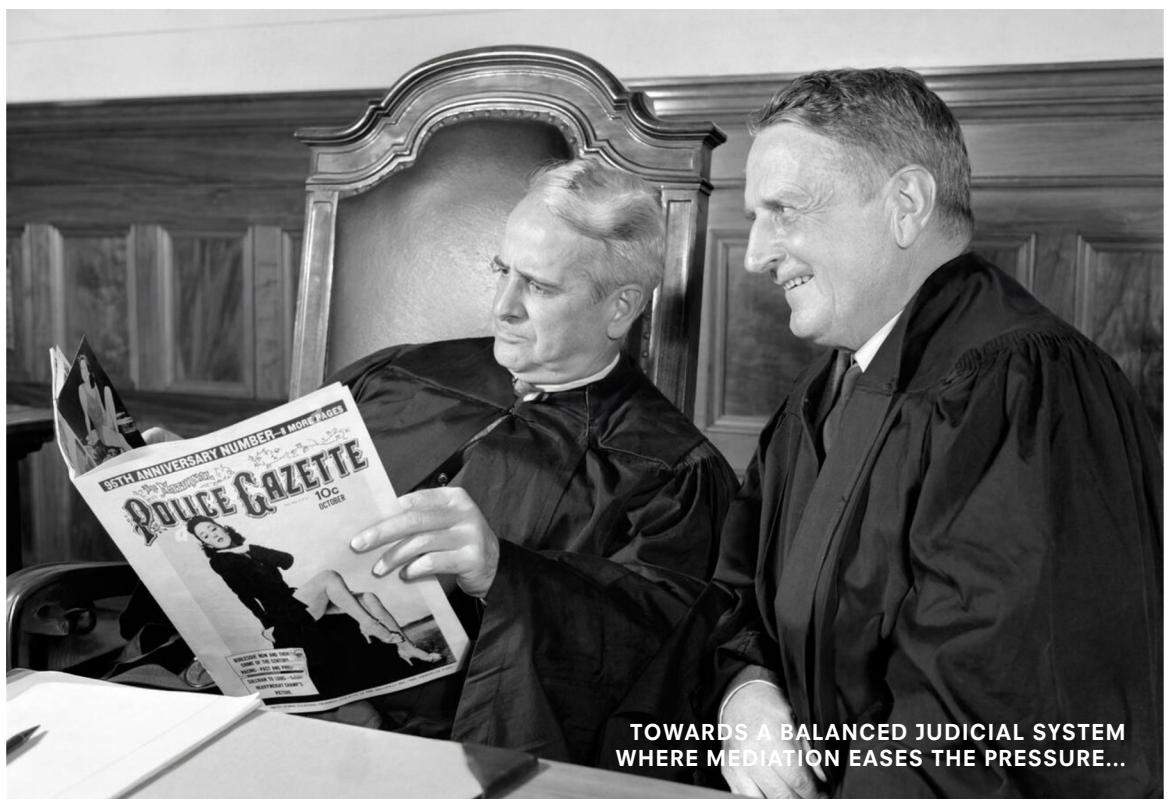


**LAST RESORT**

Pending cases for more than one years



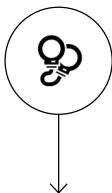
FROM OVERBURDENED COURTROOMS...



TOWARDS A BALANCED JUDICIAL SYSTEM  
WHERE MEDIATION EASES THE PRESSURE...

## TRADITIONAL COURT SETTING

Criminal Cases



Theft  
Assault  
Murder  
Fraud  
Drug Trafficking  
Cybercrime

Civil Cases



Breach of Contract  
Property Disputes  
Divorce Proceedings  
Personal Injury Claims  
Intellectual Property Claims  
Employment Disputes

Administrative Cases



Tax Disputes  
Immigration Appeals  
Zoning Violations  
Public Benefits Disputes  
Disciplinary Actions  
Environmental Permits

Non Litigious Cases



Adoption Approval  
Name Change Request  
Probate Proceedings  
Appointment of a Guardian  
Bankruptcy Confirmation  
Approval of Contracts

## MOVING CASES TOWARDS MEDIATION

Cases in Italy in 2021

Criminal Cases

10%	1.125.952	112.595
	↓	↓

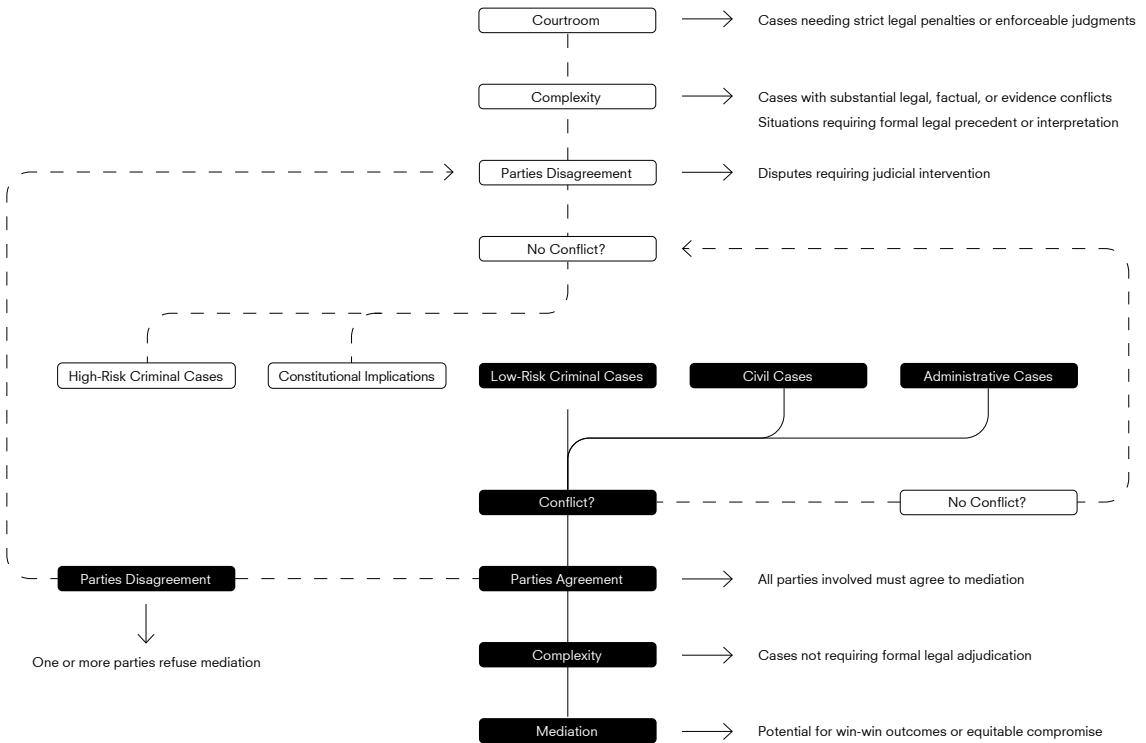
Civil Cases

75%	1.256.233	942.175
	↓	↓

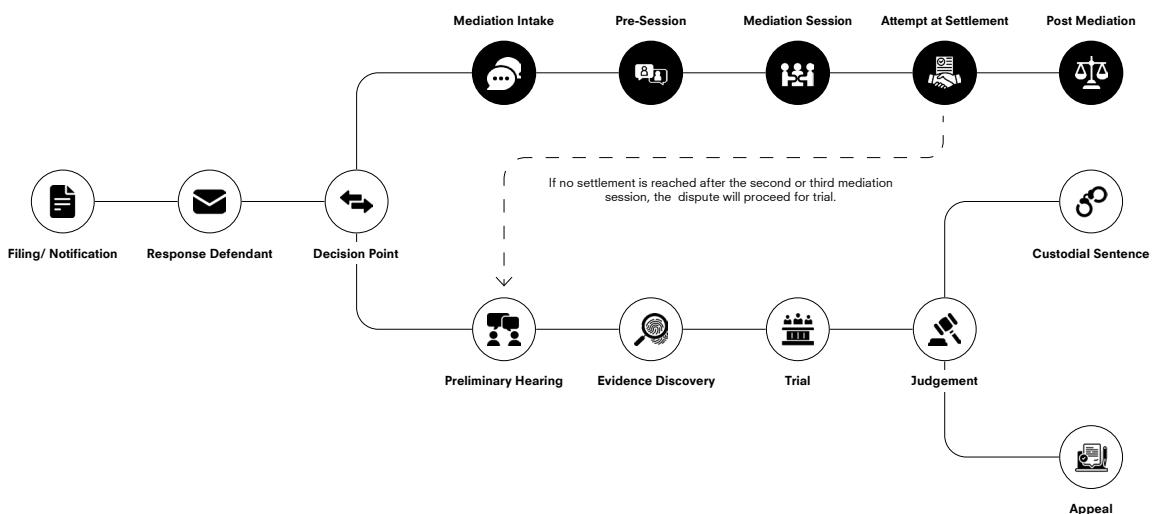
Administrative Cases

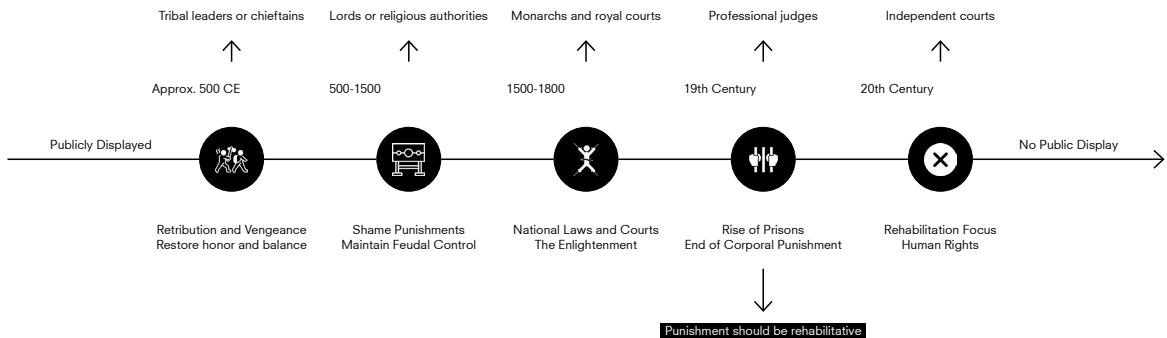
75%	48.122	36.091	= 2.430.307
	↓	↓	= 1.090.861

## MEDIATION REQUIREMENTS

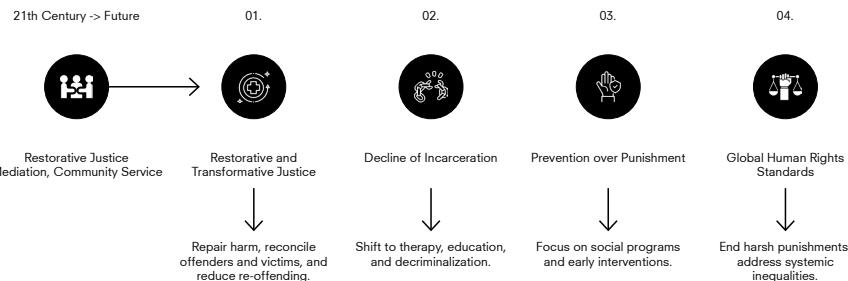


## (IN)FORMAL PROCEDURE OF A LAWSUIT





The future of punishment is likely to evolve with societal, technological, and ethical advancements, focusing more on justice reform, rehabilitation, and restorative practices.





## Why overcrowded prisons are more dangerous than releasing prisoners early

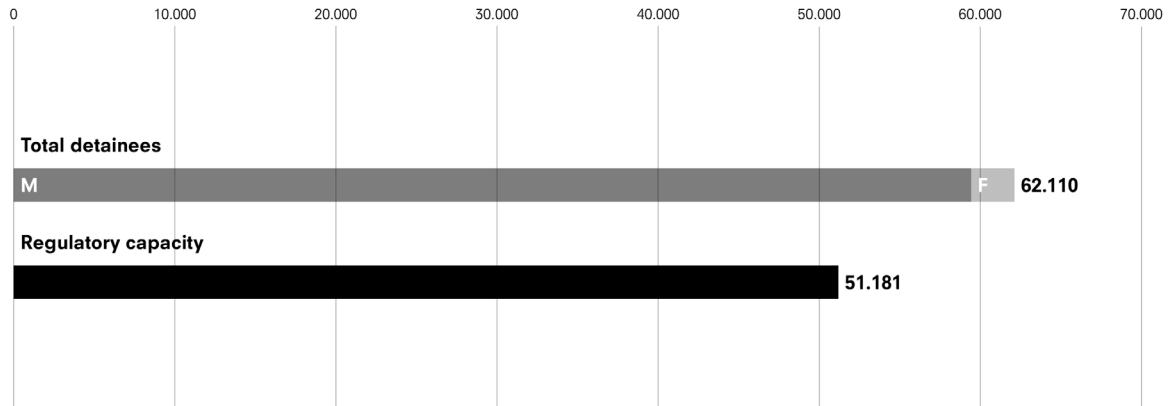
**Kabinet: gevangenissen vol, gedetineerden drie dagen eerder vrij**

**Dutch prisons too full, convicts to get early release to make space**

Jails in Britain are so full that prisoners are having to be let out early. This criminal justice expert explains what is happening

**Britse regering gaat duizenden gevangenen vrijlaten om plaats te maken in gevangenissen**

## OVERCROWDED PRISONS IN ITALY



## Overcrowded prisons

- Dangerous for prisoners and staff
- Increases pressure on the justice system

Between 2013-2023

**28%**

INCREASE IN SELF-INFILCTED DEATHS

**61%**

INCREASE IN SELF-HARM INCIDENTS

**223%**

INCREASE IN ASSAULTS ON PRISON OFFICERS

# REFORMING THE JUSTICE SYSTEM

## PUNITIVE

Recidivism refers to the tendency to re-offend after punishment.



Punitive System  
**50%** return to prison within two years

## VS

## REHABILITATION

Helps offenders reintegrate into society through support and programs.



Rehabilitative System  
**20%** return to prison within two years



- Access to education, therapy, and training
- Emphasis on mental health and substance abuse management
- Support for reintegration through housing, employment, and community programs.



# DESIGN BRIEF

03





## PAST CLIENT

Under Mussolini, who served as Prime Minister of Italy from 1922 to 1943, the ambition for designing the new courthouse in Milan was driven by three primary goals: the need for centralization, consolidating judicial functions into a single monumental structure; the display of Fascist power, showcasing the regime's authority and ideology through imposing architecture; and urban renewal, transforming the city's fabric to reflect Fascist ideals of order and progress.

The Palazzo di Giustizia became a physical embodiment of these ambitions, imposing both symbolically and physically on its urban context.





## CURRENT CLIENT

Giorgia Meloni, the leader of Fratelli d'Italia, became the Prime Minister of Italy in October 2022, after her party emerged as the largest in the general elections. She promotes nationalism, strict immigration control, traditional values, and EU criticism.

While her party has neofascist roots, she has consistently rejected fascism, positioning herself as a defender of Italian sovereignty and cultural identity. Meloni's political agenda emphasizes national unity and a return to traditional Italian values, while also advocating for a tougher stance on immigration and a more critical approach to the European Union.

Her leadership represents a shift in Italian politics, with an emphasis on preserving Italy's heritage and asserting its independence on the international stage.



## CLIENT

### POPULIST VISION



Traditional Legal System  
Limited Emphasis on Compromise  
Symbolism of Authority

OR

### EVIDENCE-BASED REFORM



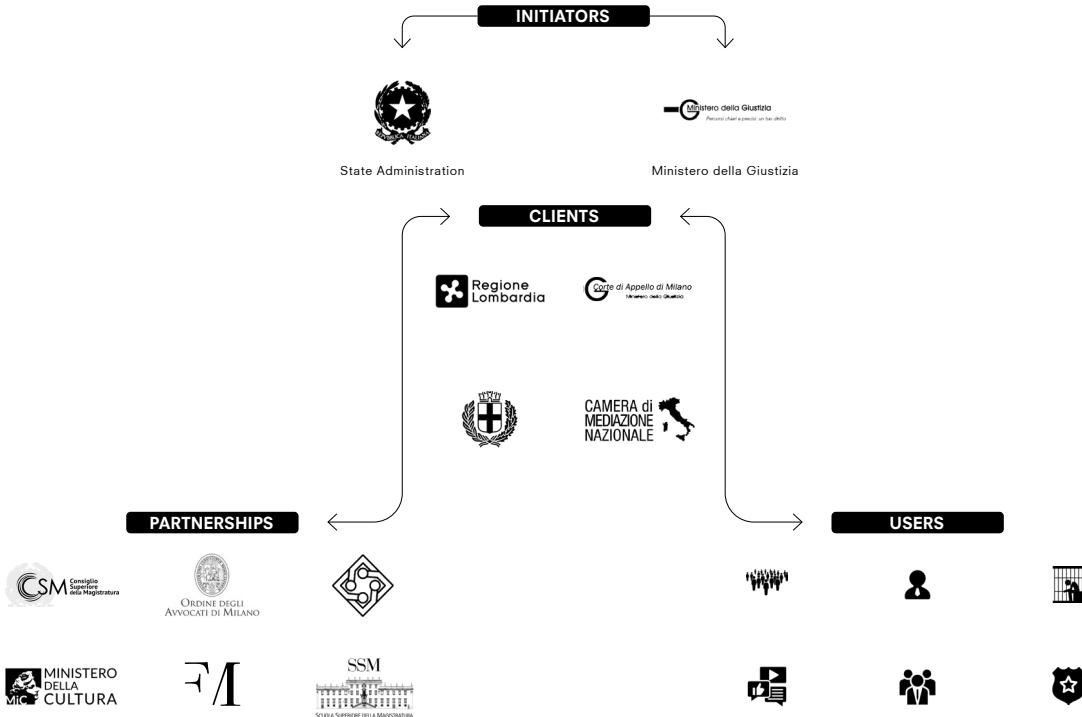
Mediation and Compromise  
Transparency  
Judicial Reform

### ALTERNATIVE JUDICIAL REFORM

A vision for a transparent, inclusive courthouse that integrates mediation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to foster trust, accessibility, and modern justice.



# CLIENT



## INITIATORS AND CLIENTS

The design of the courthouse reflects the ambitions and priorities of its key stakeholders.

The State Administration prioritizes funding and operational efficiency, with a clear ambition to rebuild public trust and eliminate systemic inefficiencies. Transparency is central to this goal, achieved through design elements like glass partitions in public-facing areas.

For the Regione Lombardia, the focus is on enhancing regional identity. To overcome the lack of innovation in the region's legal infrastructure, the design will incorporate a multi-functional atrium and green technologies.

The Municipality of Milan emphasizes urban integration, addressing the historical isolation of courthouses within the cityscape. By creating a public plaza and establishing multiple entrances, the

design ensures accessibility and promotes a seamless interaction with Milan's urban fabric.

The Ministero della Giustizia seeks to modernize the justice system through digitalization, addressing outdated paper-based processes to improve efficiency. The building will incorporate digital hubs and a centralized data server room.

The Corte di Appello di Milano strives for judicial excellence and the reduction of case delays. Spaces for judicial research, collaboration and a legal library will support these objectives.

Finally, the Camera di Mediazione Nazionale focuses on facilitating Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) to reduce courtroom congestion. Dedicated mediation spaces and private breakout rooms provide an environment to resolving disputes effectively and informally.

## PARTNERSHIPS

The courthouse design is also shaped by partnerships, each contributing with different ambitions and focus areas.

The Consiglio Superiore della Magistratura emphasizes judicial independence, aiming to equip lawyers with the skills to act as mediators in Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). The design will incorporate a mediation and ADR training facility alongside a legal library, fostering professional growth.

The Ordine Degli Avvocati di Milano seeks to redefine the role of lawyers, shifting their focus towards mediation to balance responsibilities with judges. Shared workspaces will be included to encourage collaboration and support this shift.

Milano San Vittore addresses the critical need for secure circulation and reintegration opportunities for individuals in custody. This will feature rehabilitation rooms and public-

facing workshops, addressing issues like prison overcrowding.

Cultural collaboration will be fostered with the partnership with Ministero della Cultura, which focuses on preserving Italy's architectural heritage. The courthouse will host exhibition spaces, blending functionality with cultural engagement.

Fondazione Milano fosters civic engagement through the cultural program. Spaces designed to accommodate the yearly calendar and flexible event venues ensure the courthouse remains a dynamic and accessible public institution.

Finally, the Scuola Superiore della Magistratura brings a focus on advanced judicial education. Public lecture halls and classrooms will be integrated into the design, addressing the challenges faced by aspiring judges and strengthening professional education within the justice system.

## USERS

Courthouses are dynamic environment where distinct groups of users interact while requiring carefully controlled separation for functionality, security, and privacy. The users can be categorized into three main groups:

External users represent the public-facing aspect of the courthouse. This group includes family members, visitors, journalists and media crews, and witnesses and experts.

Internal users are the professionals who facilitate the operations of the courthouse. They include judges, lawyers, attorneys, prosecutors, clerks, legal support staff, administrative and facility staff, and security personnel.

Secure users require restricted movement within the courthouse for safety and security reasons. This includes suspects in custody, prison guards, police officers and bailiffs.

Public Users



Media



Court Professionals



Supportive staff



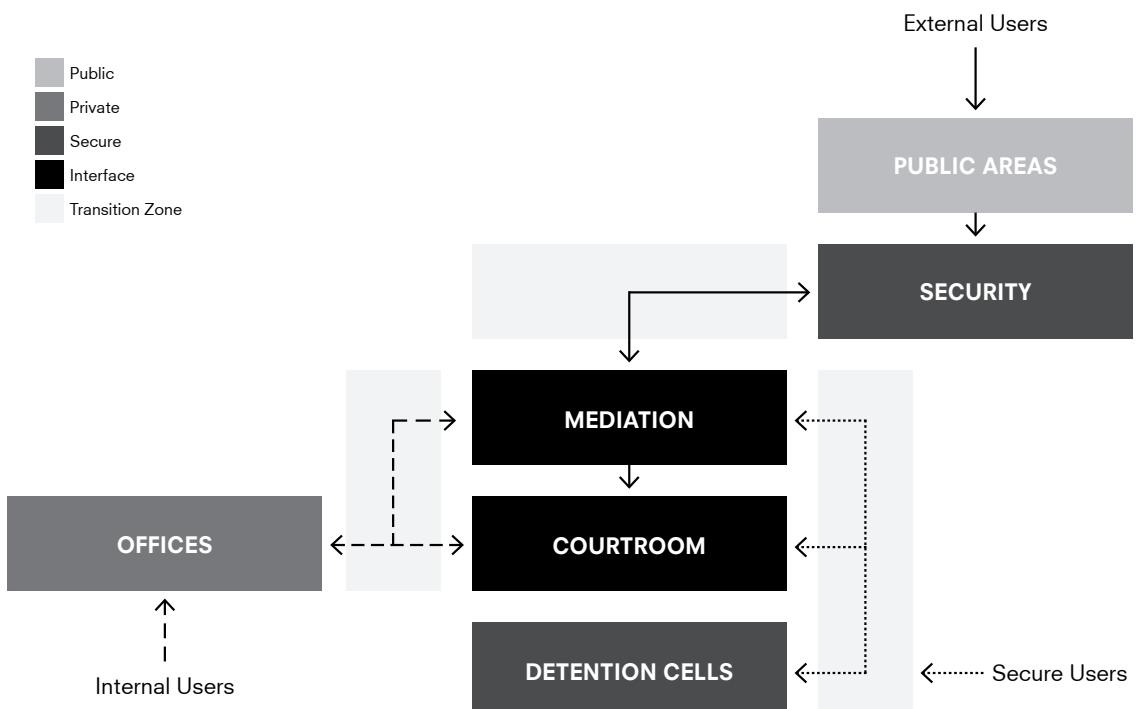
In-Custody Users



Law Enforcement



## USER MOVEMENT





CHANGE !!  
TIME FOR  
JUDICIAL  
REFORM

MEDIAT  
FOR A  
FUTU



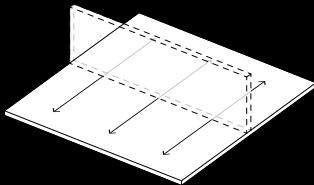
ITION  
FAIR  
URE

CHANGE.

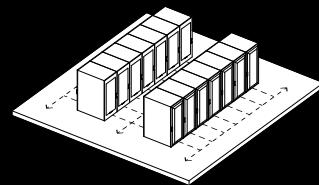
REPUBBLICA RIVA

## CLIENT DESIGN PRINCIPLES

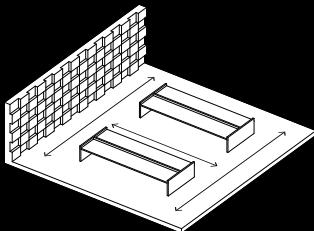
Efficiency and Transparency



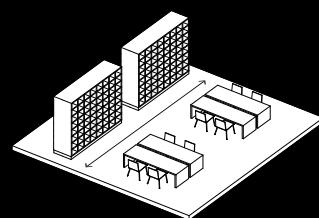
Digitalization



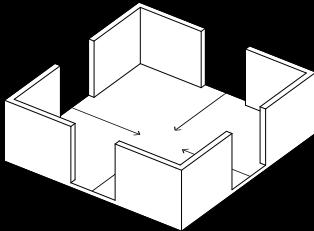
Enhance Regional Identity



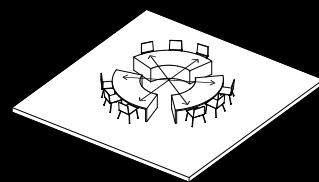
Judicial excellence



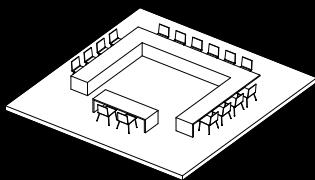
Integrate in Milan's Urban Fabric



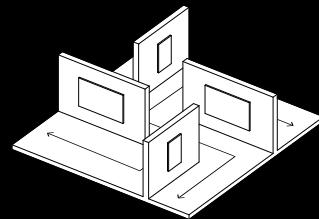
Incorporate Mediation



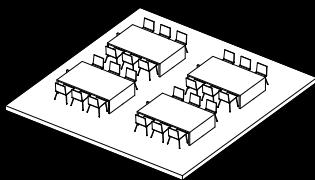
Mediator Training



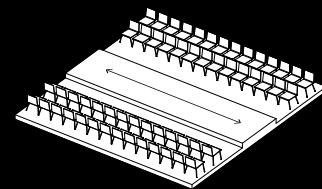
Cultural Heritage



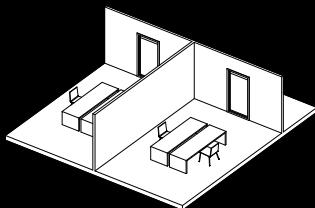
Shift Lawyers to Mediators



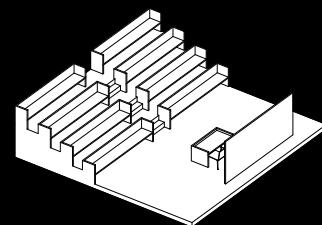
Civic Engagement



Reintegration



Advanced Judicial Education



## CLIENT CONCLUSION



Justice as a Catalyst



Designing for Connection



Innovative Justice Spaces

Overview

Trust and Transparency

Public Integration

Efficiency

Organization

Value Driven

Collaborative

Innovative

Reputation

Progressive Leadership

Inclusive & Accessible

Judicial Reform



Protest against the populist perspective on the traditional legal system



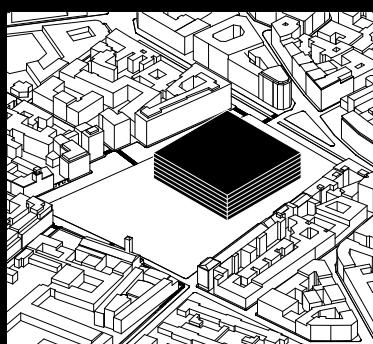
The design will be the first step towards reforming Italy's justice system



Need for transparency, efficiency and modernization to rebuild trust

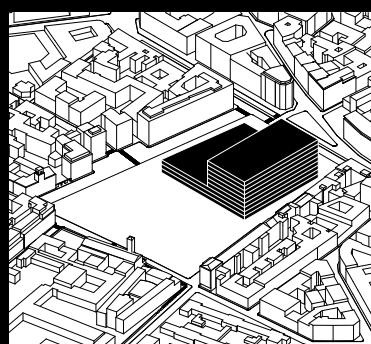


Judicial innovation and Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR)



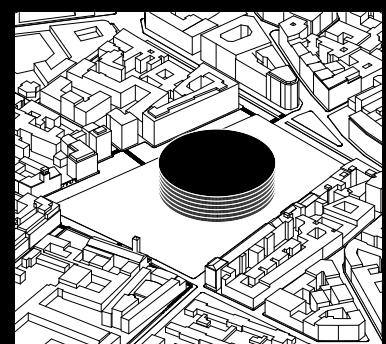
**OPTION 01: CATALYST**

Footprint: 10.000 m<sup>2</sup>      BCR: 26,9  
Height: 30 m      FAR: 1,6



**OPTION 02: CONNECTING**

Footprint: 10.000 m<sup>2</sup>      BCR: 26,9%  
Height: 45 m      FAR: 1,6



**OPTION 03: INNOVATING**

Footprint: 10.000 m<sup>2</sup>      BCR: 26,9%  
Height: 30 m      FAR: 1,6

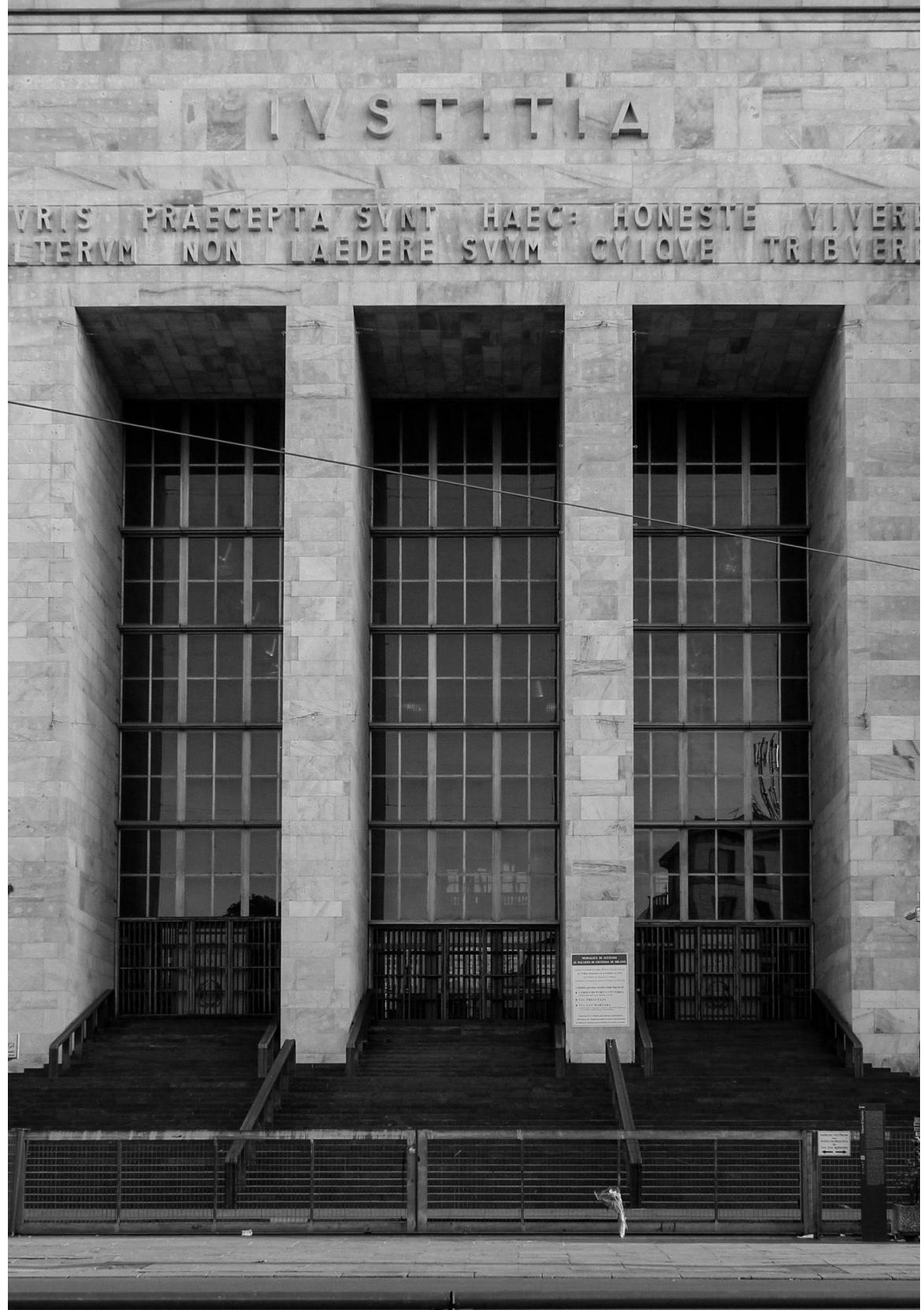


## PROGRAM HISTORY

After none of the 11 design submissions met the city's requirements, Milan awarded Marcello Piacentini the courthouse project due to his expertise, political alignment, and ties to the fascist regime.

Milan's Palazzo di Giustizia, built between 1932-1940, embodies monumental neoclassical style, symbolizing authority and judicial power. Located in the city's heart, it reflects Italy's political and legal history. The building is seen as a two-faced Janus, suspended between historicism and timid openings towards modernity.

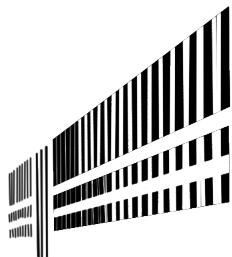




## PROGRAM

# “HEALING PICKAXE OF MILAN”

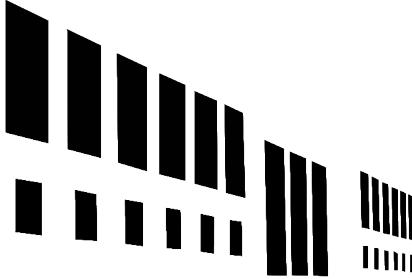
140 PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURES



LINK TO CLASSICISM

HOUSING AND JUSTICE HEADQUARTERS

MEDIA OVER-EXPOSURE



SYMBOLIC OVERLOAD

# “THE LARGEST BUILDING IN ITALY”

SERIZZO DELLA VAL MASINO BASE

UNKNOWN PIECE OF ARCHITECTURE

## PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA

The building's structural skeleton is primarily composed of load-bearing masonry, which combines brickwork and concrete elements, supported by reinforcement and incorporated in the covering floor of the classrooms and ambulatories, which feature exposed soles and ribs, ensuring enhanced durability and strength.

The structural system of the main entrance comprises two distinct orders. The first order is a series of reinforced concrete portals, each spanning 22.50 meters and spaced 7.50 meters apart. These portals rise to a height of 25 meters above the vestibule floor.

The second order is a network of light concrete trusses, each also spanning 22.50 meters and spaced 2.50 meters apart. Both portals and trusses are constructed using high-strength cement, providing exceptional load-bearing capacity and structural stability.

The archive tower is an independent structural element within the building. It consists of seven floors, four of which are tall floors, each with a height of 11.00 meters. The tower is constructed entirely of reinforced concrete. To ensure flexibility and accommodate potential relative movement, the tower is completely isolated from the rest of the building by expansion joints on both sides, maintaining its structural integrity.

The building's roof is designed using a mixed slab system, combining reinforced concrete and brickwork. This system supports spans of over 12.00 meters in some areas. The roof design allows for the circulation of external air through internal voids, promoting a natural cooling effect and enhancing the building's thermal efficiency.

The building's foundations, with the exception of those for the archive tower, are composed of a continuous reinforced concrete plate.

## MATERIALIZATION

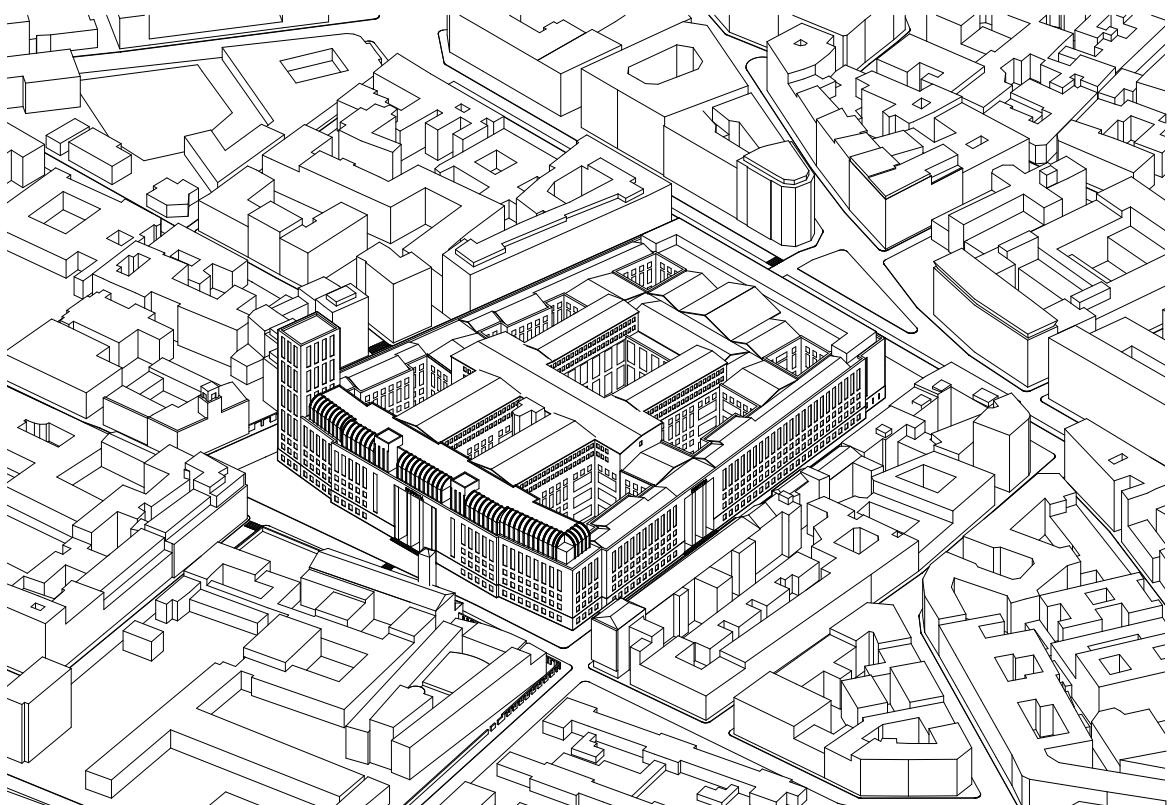
The building, designed to house a complex judicial system, features eight courtyards and 64 courtrooms, strategically organized to accommodate various functions. The building functions 'The Tribunal' with facades facing Via Manara and Via Freguglia and 'The Court of Appeal', overlooking Corso di Porta Vittoria.

At the heart of the structure, the courtrooms and offices are centrally located, forming the functional core of the building. In addition to these primary spaces, the building also includes a library, a bar, a press office and other facilities.

The exterior of the building is entirely clad in Strona Valley Marble, with a dark base made of Scrizzo della Val Masino. These materials are sourced exclusively from Vallestrona. The facade windows are framed in bronze, while windows on other facades feature painted iron.

The two central courtyards, positioned along the building's longitudinal axis, are distinguished by their Botticino cladding, accented with a polychrome base. All courtyard windows are also made of painted iron, maintaining a consistent material palette.

The interior design reflects meticulous attention to detail, particularly in areas where the public gathers or pauses. Office doors are crafted from oak, while courtroom doors are made of polished walnut, partially covered with glossy bronze slabs. Floors in office and corridors are finished in mosaic, incorporating metal bis and panels for added durability and aesthetic appeal. Wall finishes vary according to function of each space, with marble cladding prominently used in public-facing areas.



# DATABASE



**Pointe à Pitre Palace of Justice**

Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe, 2018

5.893 m<sup>2</sup>



**Palazzo di Giustizia**

Rome, Italy, 1910

52.000 m<sup>2</sup>



**Thurgood Marshall US**

New York, US, 1936

60.000 m<sup>2</sup>



**Courthouse Amsterdam**

Amsterdam, Netherlands, 2020

60.200 m<sup>2</sup>



**Central Criminal Court**

London, UK, 1907

18.000 m<sup>2</sup>



**United States Courthouse**

Salt Lake City, US, 2014

37.161 m<sup>2</sup>



**Palace of Justice**

Cordoba, Spain, 2017

48.000 m<sup>2</sup>



**Lund District Court**

Klostergård, Lund, Sweden, 2018

12.400 m<sup>2</sup>



**Courthouse Zwolle**  
Zwolle, Netherlands, 2016

16.400 m<sup>2</sup>



**Tulkarem Courthouse**  
Tulkarm, Palestine, 2015

8.938 m<sup>2</sup>



**Palace of Justice**  
Brussels, Belgium, 1883

160.000 m<sup>2</sup>



**Palais de Justice**  
Paris, France, 1868

125.000 m<sup>2</sup>



**Siedlce Regional Court**  
Siedlce, Poland, 2016

7.850 m<sup>2</sup>



**Supreme Court US**  
Washington D.C., US, 1935

11.200 m<sup>2</sup>



**Palazzo di Giustizia**  
Milan, Italy, 1940

100.000 m<sup>2</sup>



**Palace of Justice Caen**  
Caen, France, 2015

5.800 m<sup>2</sup>

# COURTHOUSE MILAN

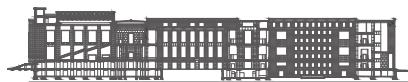
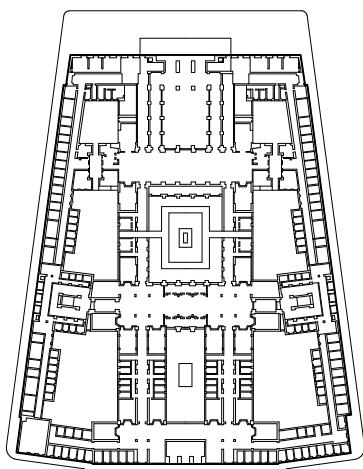
## PROJECT DETAILS

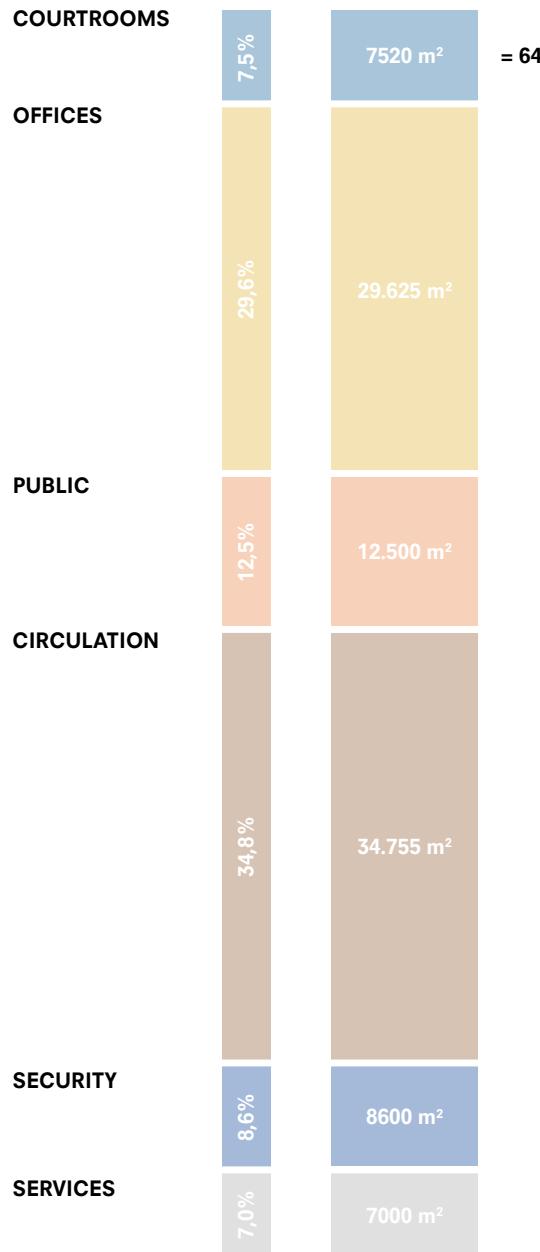
Location: Milan, Italy

Architect: Marcello Piacentini

Year: 1940

GFA: 100.000 m<sup>2</sup>





# COURTHOUSE AMSTERDAM

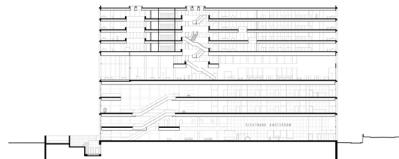
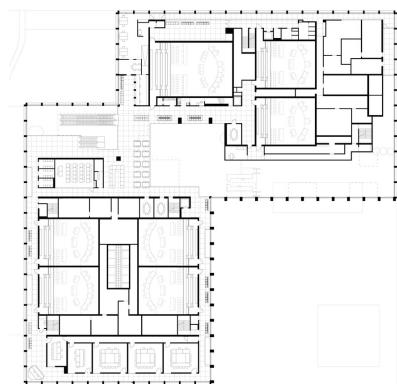
## PROJECT DETAILS

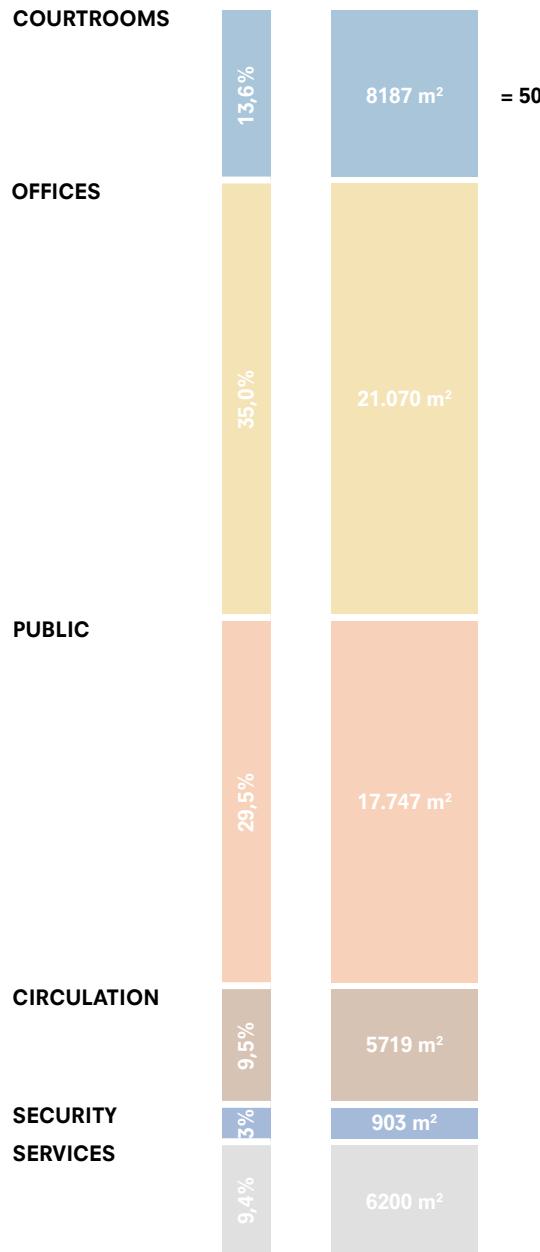
Location: Amsterdam, Netherlands

Architect: KAAN Architecten

Year: 2020

GFA: 60.200 m<sup>2</sup>





# COURTHOUSE ZWOLLE

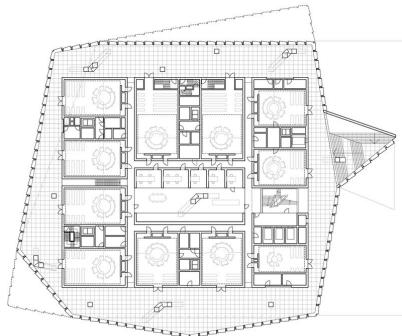
## PROJECT DETAILS

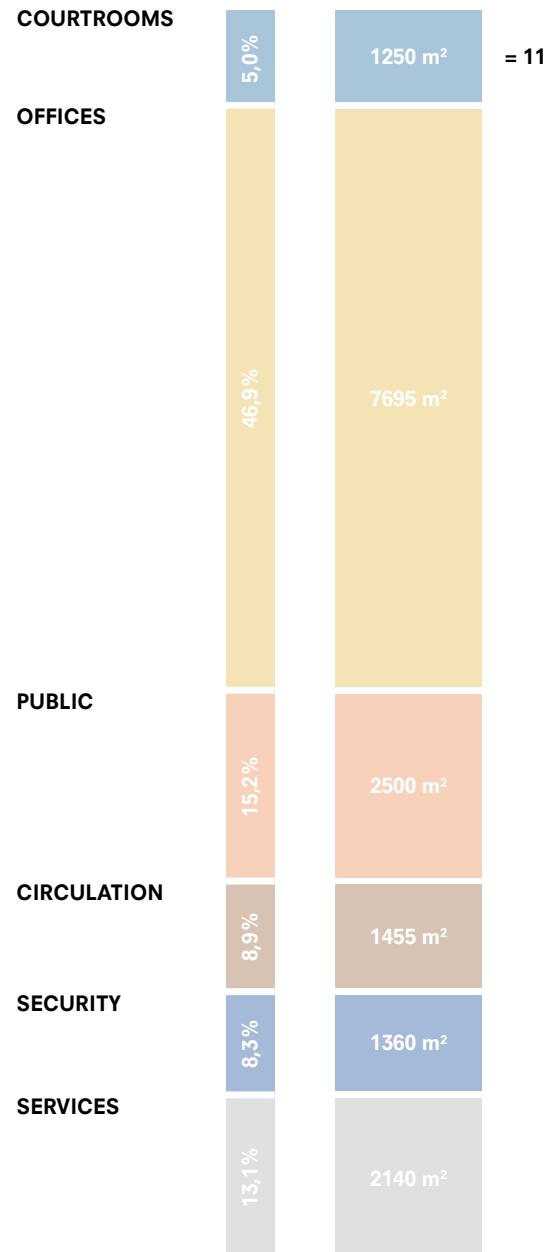
Location: Zwolle, Netherlands

Architect: Rob Hootsmans

Year: 2016

GFA: 16.400 m<sup>2</sup>





# COURTHOUSE KLOSTERS FALAD

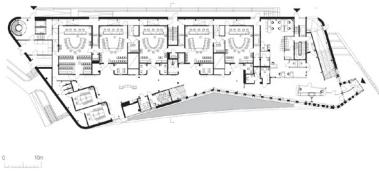
## PROJECT DETAILS

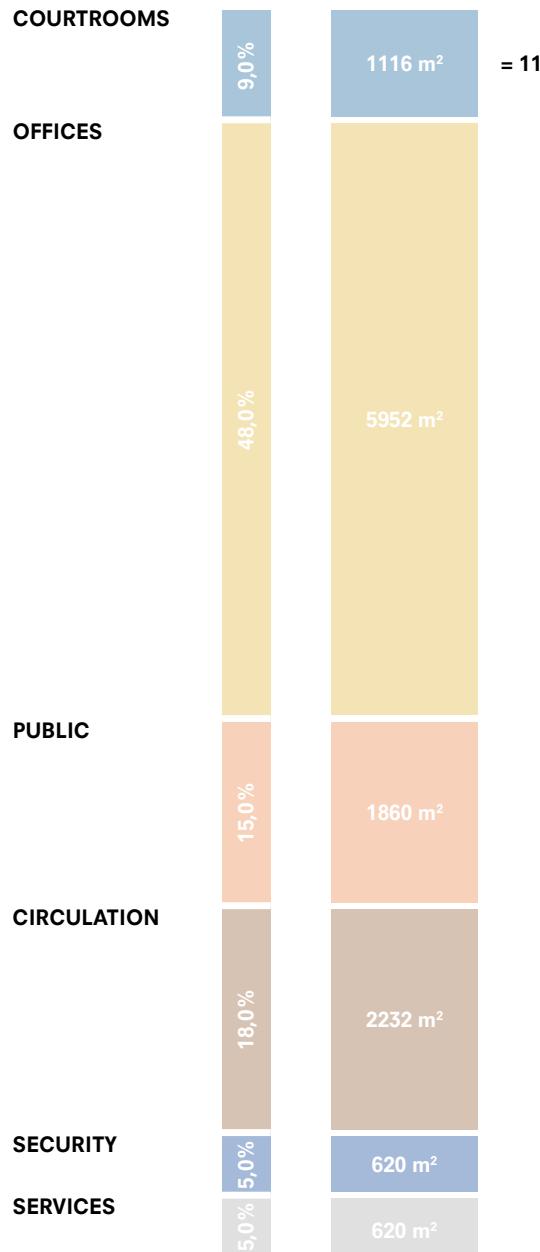
Location: Klosters Fälad, Sweden

Architect: FOJAB arkitekter

Year: 2018

GFA: 12.400 m<sup>2</sup>





# COURTHOUSE SIEDLCE

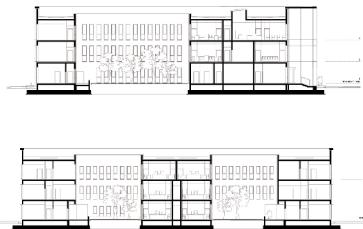
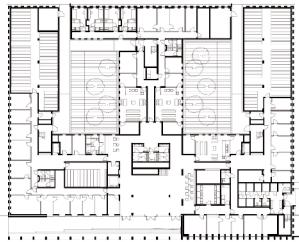
## PROJECT DETAILS

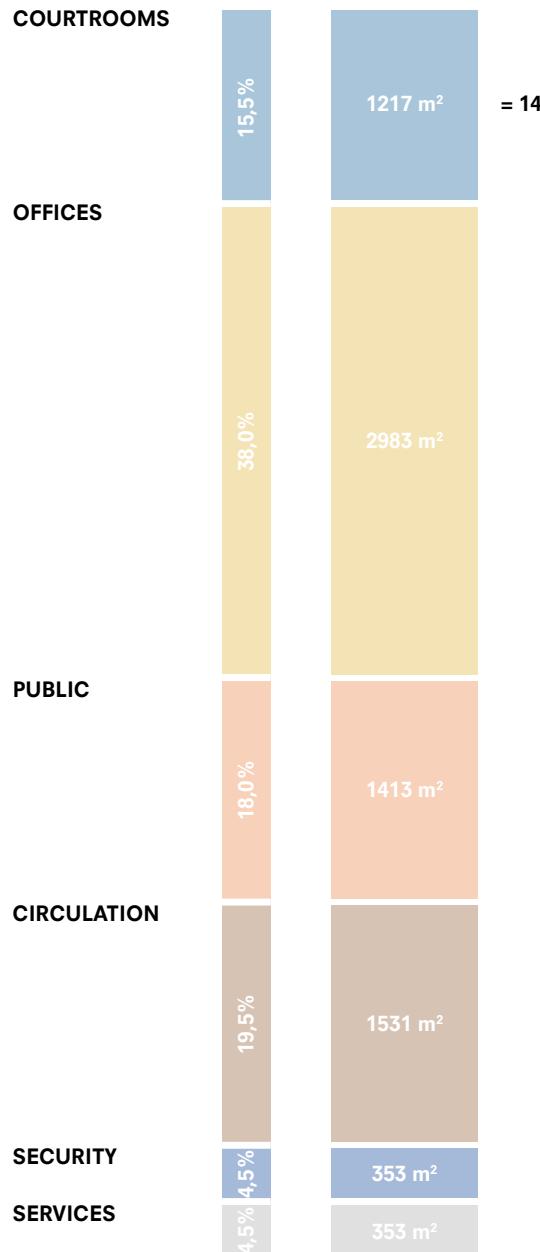
Location: Siedlce, Poland

Architect: HRA Architects

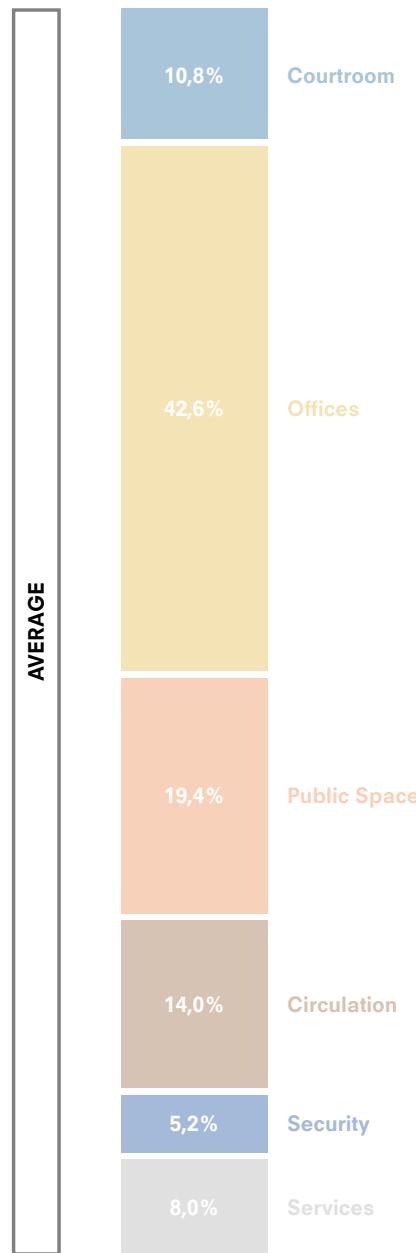
Year: 2016

GFA: 7.850 m<sup>2</sup>

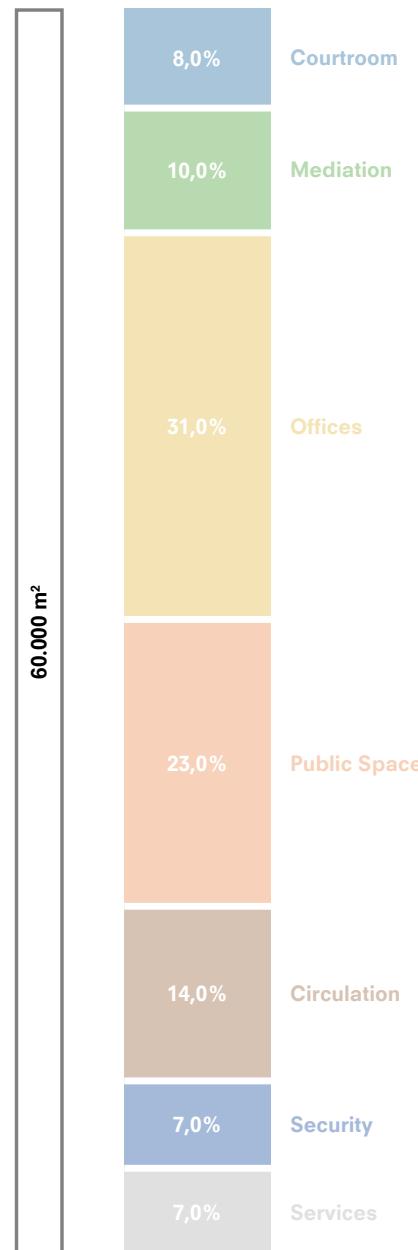




## PROGRAM AVERAGE



## PROGRAM PROPOSAL

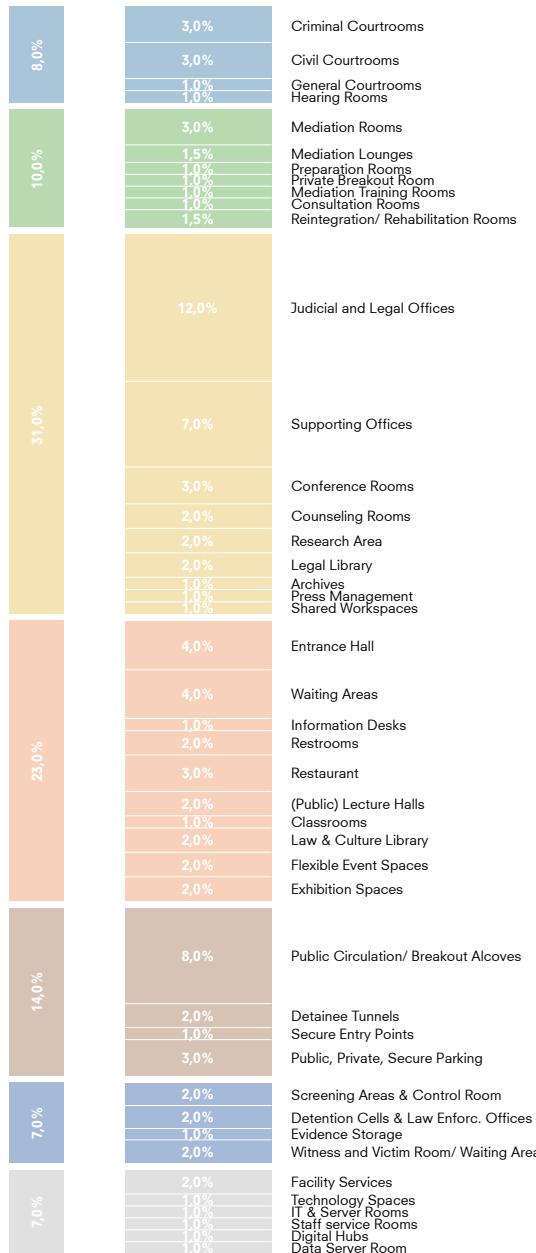


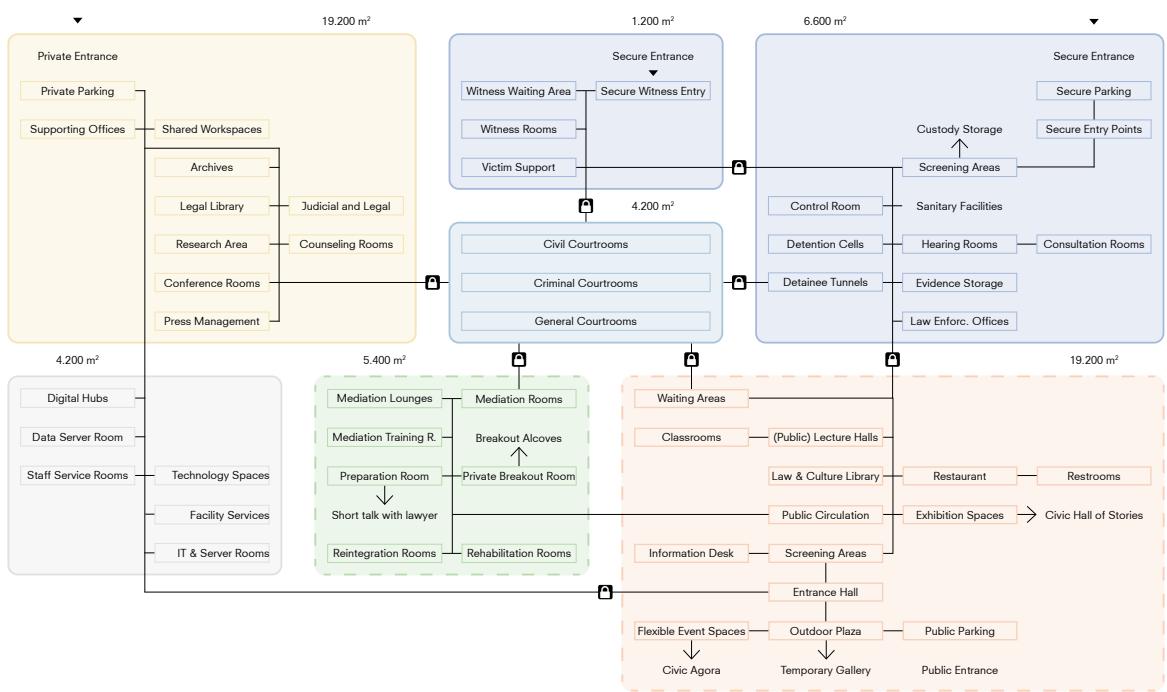
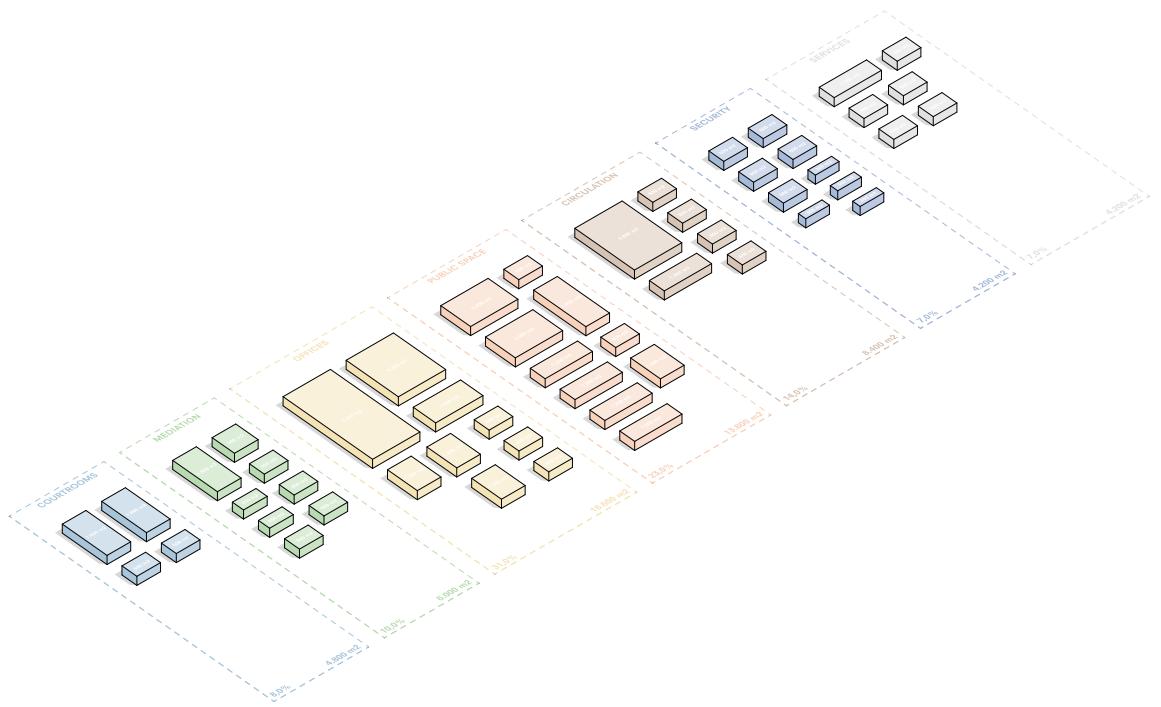
## DETAILED PROGRAM

Courtdoms	Mediation	Offices	Public
8,0%	10,0%	31,0%	23,
Civil Courtrooms	Mediation Rooms	Judicial and Legal	Entranc
Criminal Courtrooms	Mediation Lounges	Supporting Offices	Waiting
General Courtrooms	Preparation Room	Conference Rooms	Informati
Hearing Rooms	Private Breakout Room	Counseling Rooms	Restra
	Mediation Training R.	Research Area	Resta
	Consultation Rooms	Legal Library	(Public) Le
	Reintegration Rooms	Archives	Classr
	Rehabilitation Rooms	Press Management	Law & Cult
		Shared Workspaces	Flexible Eve
			Exhibition
			Outdo

Space	Circulation	Security	Services
0%	14,0%	7,0%	7,0%
ce Hall	Public Circulation	Screening Areas	Facility Services
g Areas	Detainee Tunnels	Control Room	Technology Spaces
ion Desk	Secure Entry Points	Detention Cells	IT & Server Rooms
ooms	Public Parking	Law Enforc. Offices	Staff Service Rooms
urant	Private Parking	Evidence Storage	Digital Hubs
ecture Halls	Secure Parking	Secure Witness Entry	Data Server Room
rooms	Breakout Alcoves	Witness Waiting Area	
ecture Library		Witness Rooms	
ent Spaces		Victim Support	
n Spaces			
or Plaza			

## DETAILED PROGRAM





## PROGRAM CONCLUSION



Dynamic Design



Human Centred Design



Efficient Spatial Network

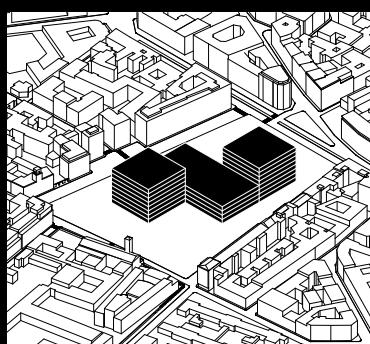
Program Goal	Multi-Functionality	Inclusivity	Optimization
Relations	Legal-Civic	Public-Private	Circulation-Function
User Experience	Accessible	Comfort	Streamlined
Key Space	Mediation Space	Public Space	Public Circulation

↗ ↘ Building size obtained from benchmarking case studies from the database

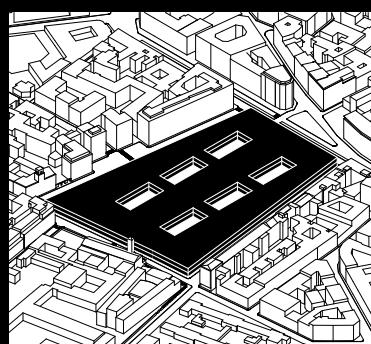
↓ ↓ Reducing the program from 100.000 m<sup>2</sup> to 60.000 m<sup>2</sup> due to efficiency

⚖ 10% of criminal cases, 75% of civil cases, and 75% of administrative cases go to mediation

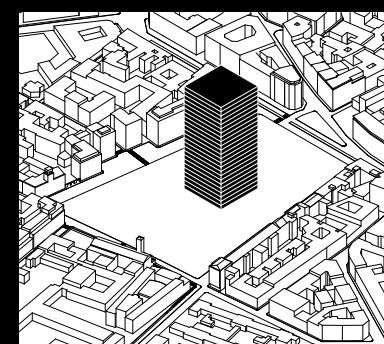
⚖ Number of courtrooms is reduced due to implementation of mediation

**OPTION 01: DYNAMIC DESIGN**

Footprint: 10.000 m<sup>2</sup>      BCR: 26,9%  
Height: 40 m      FAR: 1,6

**OPTION 02: HUMAN CENTRED**

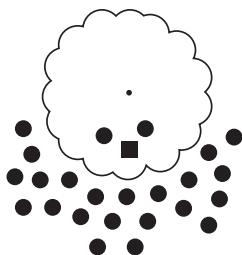
Footprint: 30.000 m<sup>2</sup>      BCR: 80,7%  
Height: 10 m      FAR: 1,6

**OPTION 03: SPATIAL EFFICIENCY**

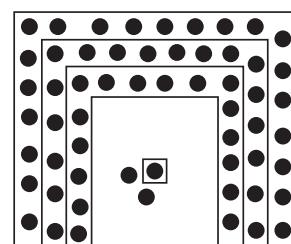
Footprint: 2.500 m<sup>2</sup>      BCR: 6,7%  
Height: 120 m      FAR: 1,6

## COURTROOM

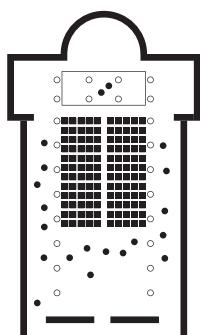
Approx. 500 BC



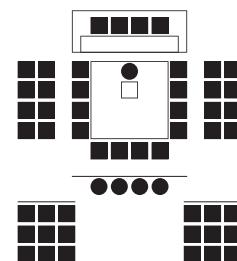
Approx. 500 BC - 500 CE



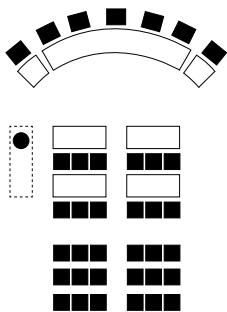
Approx. 500 CE - 1500



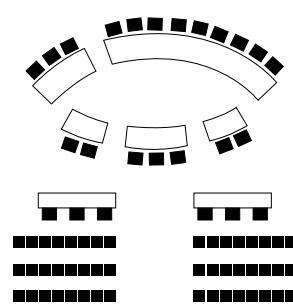
Approx. 1500 - 1800

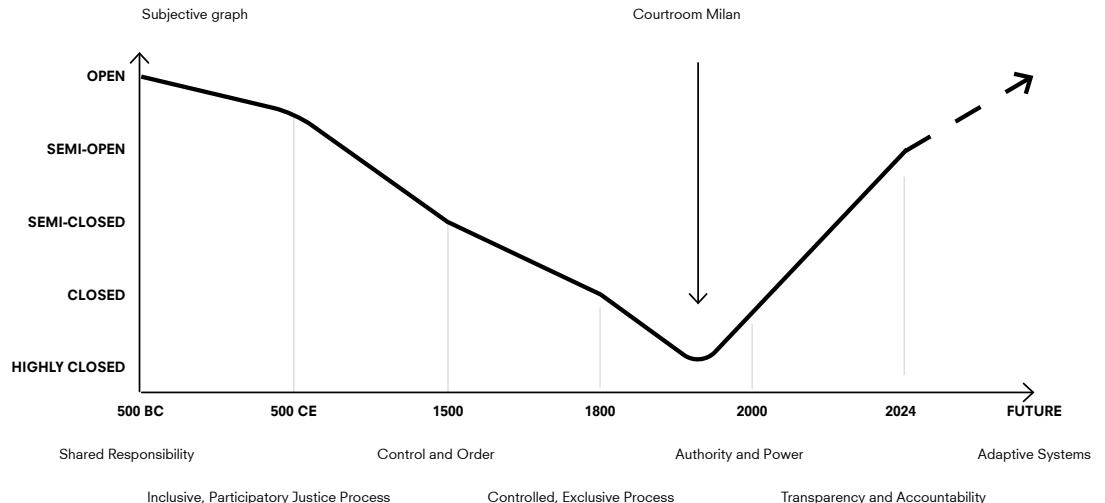


19th and 20th Century



Late 20th Century - Future





## COURTROOM EVOLUTION

Approx. 500 BCE: Justice was administered in open-air spaces, symbolizing direct, public, and accessible justice.

Approx. 500 BCE - 500 CE: The Greek Bouleuterion reflected the values of an organized public sphere in its function and design.

Approx. 500 CE - 1500 CE: Roman Basilicas served as multi functional public buildings, embodying values of law, commerce, and civic life.

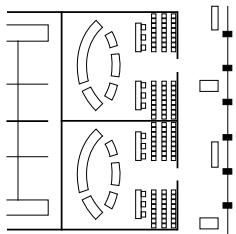
1500-1800: Medieval Royal Courtrooms symbolized authority, functioning as venues for justice, administration, and ceremonial events.

19th-20th Century: Courthouses became enclosed structures, distancing justice from public view and emphasizing power and authority.

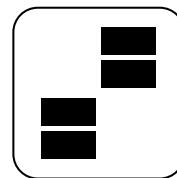
Late 20th Century - Future: Modern courthouse designs prioritize openness and public trust, promoting accessibility and inclusivity in the justice system.

## CONFIGURATIONS

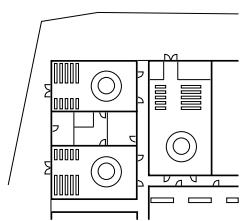
Amsterdam



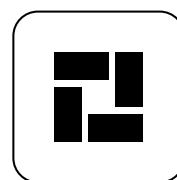
Clustered



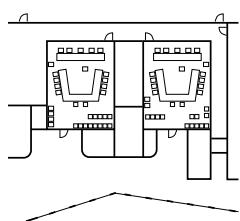
Zwolle



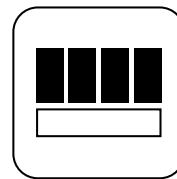
Centralized



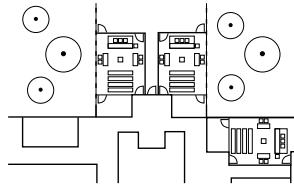
Klosters Fälad



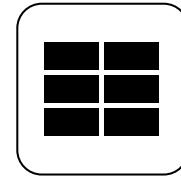
Linear



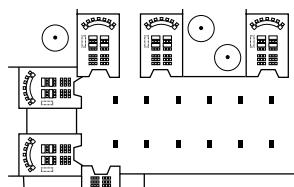
Siedlce



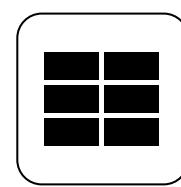
Grid



Milan

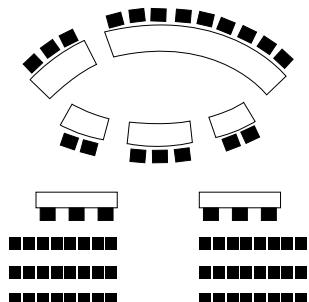


Grid



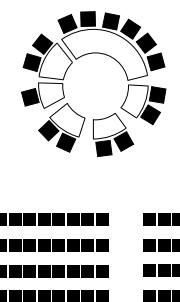
## CONFIGURATIONS

Amsterdam



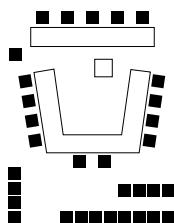
80-100

Zwolle



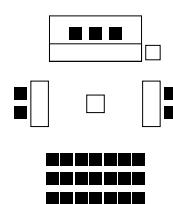
60-80

Klosters Fälad



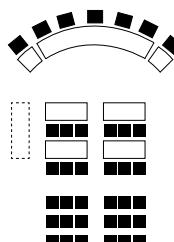
30-40

Siedlce



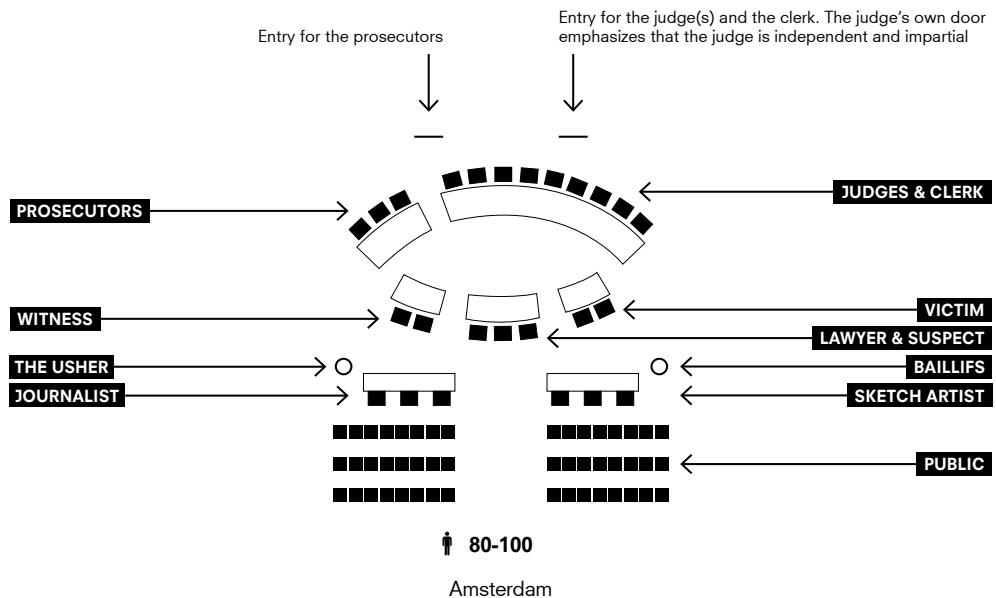
20-30

Milan



20-30

## DESIGN EXAMPLE



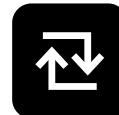
## PAST COURTROOM DYNAMICS

### ELEVATED JUDGE



Represents authority and oversight.

### STRICT PATHWAYS



Symbolizes impartiality and ensures controlled access.

### SIZES



Reflects power dynamics and spatial hierarchy.

### BARRIER



Judges desk as physical and psychological barrier.

### SIGHTLINES



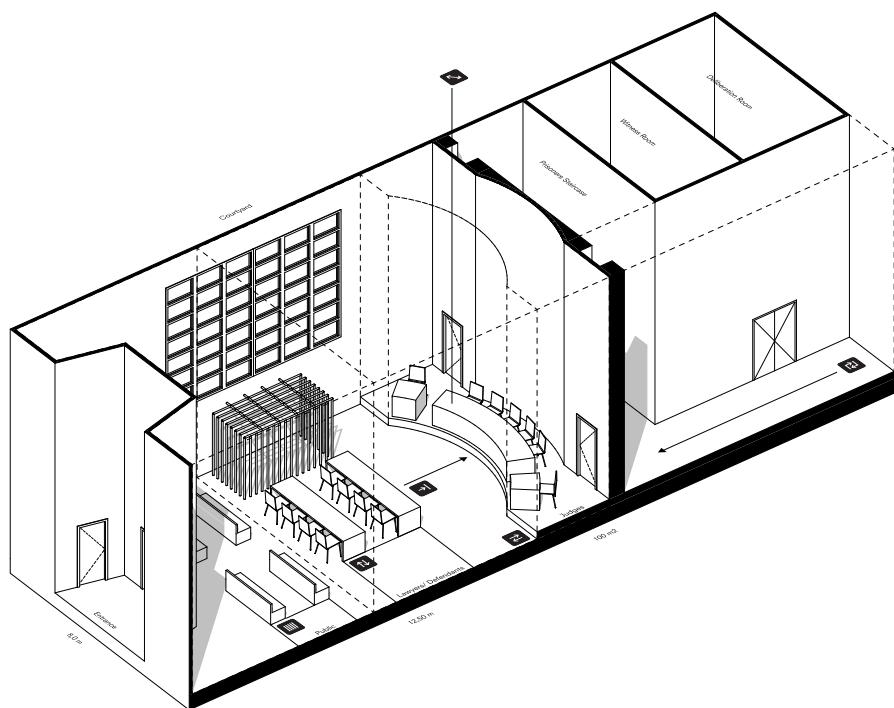
Influences psychology and courtroom dynamics.

### LAYOUT



Organizes roles, influences interactions, and fairness.

## COURTROOM MILAN



## CURRENT COURTROOM DYNAMICS

### NEUTRAL MODERATOR



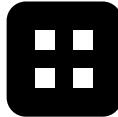
The judge is slightly elevated, subtly emphasizing their neutral role without implying hierarchy.

### INFORMAL PATHWAYS



Encourage an open dialogue while maintaining private access for sensitive cases.

### EQUALITY IN SCALE



Ensure equality in scale to remove any sense of dominance or hierarchy.

### BREAKING BARRIERS



Eliminate barriers to foster openness and direct interaction between parties.

### UNOBSTRUCTED SIGHTLINES



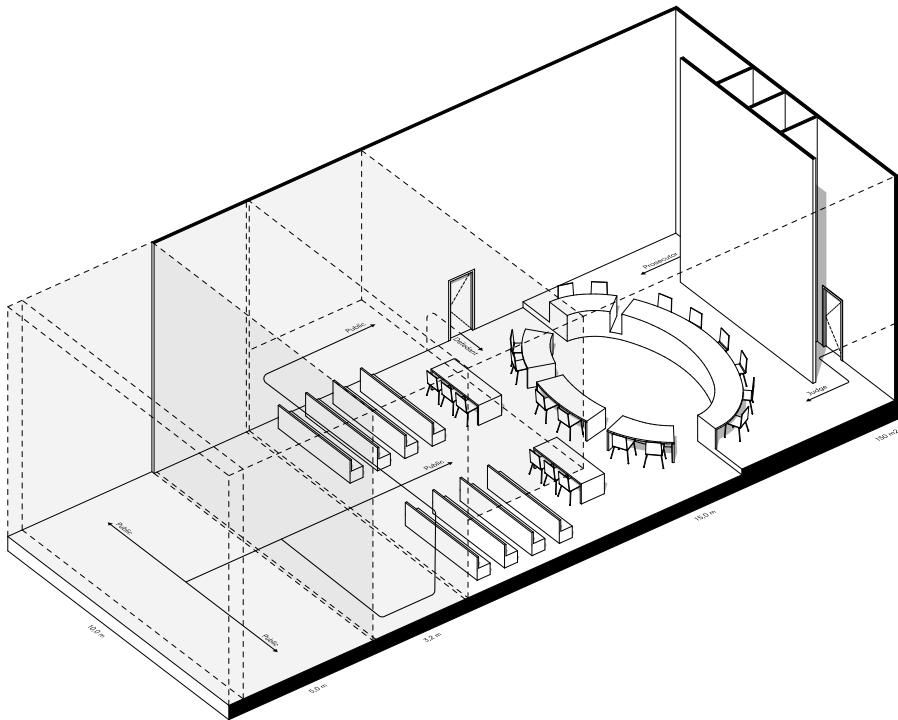
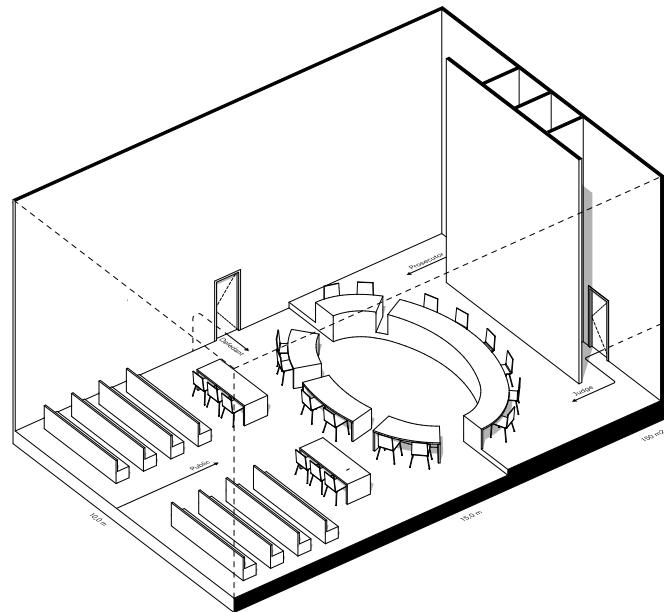
Unobstructed sightlines to enhance transparency, trust, and focus on body language.

### COLLABORATIVE LAYOUT



Emphasize equality and dialogue, reducing adversarial dynamics.

## COURTROOM ZWOLLE



## COURTROOM VS MEDIATION

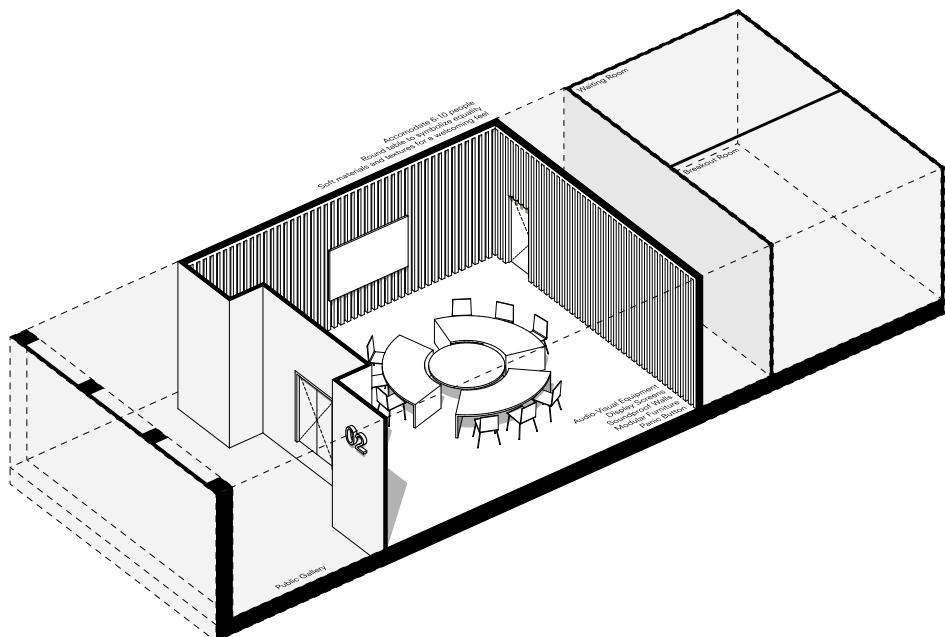
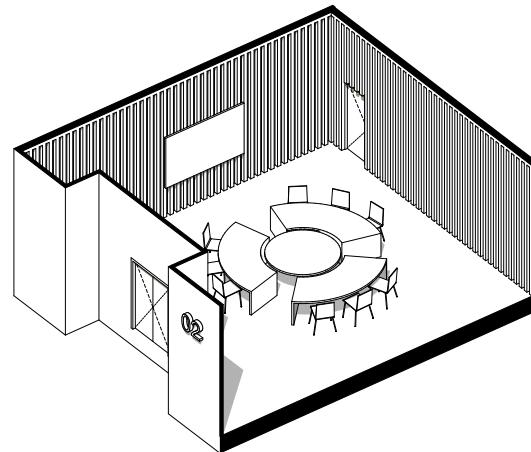
### COURTROOM

Goal	Binding decision based on the law
Atmosphere	Formal and structured
Costs	Higher costs due to legal procedures
Time	Longer duration due to procedural requirements
Role of Professional	Decision made by a judge
Focus	Legal interpretation and judgment
Space	Traditional courtroom
Relationship	Often adversarial due to conflicting positions
Accessibility	Requires legal representation

### MEDIATION

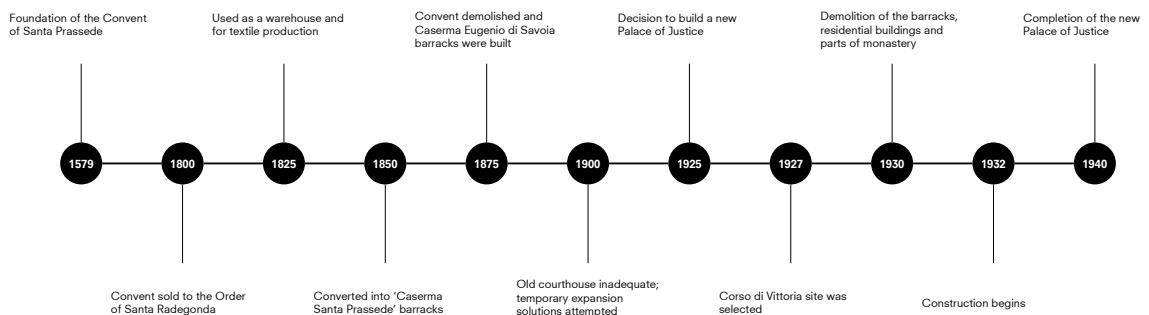
Goal	Collaboration and compromise
Atmosphere	Informal and relaxed
Costs	Lower costs for the involved parties
Time	Shorter process, quicker resolution
Role of Professional	Facilitated by a mediator
Focus	Negotiation and mutual understanding
Space	Meeting/discussion room
Relationship	Focused on restoring relationships
Accessibility	More accessible

## MEDIATION ROOM

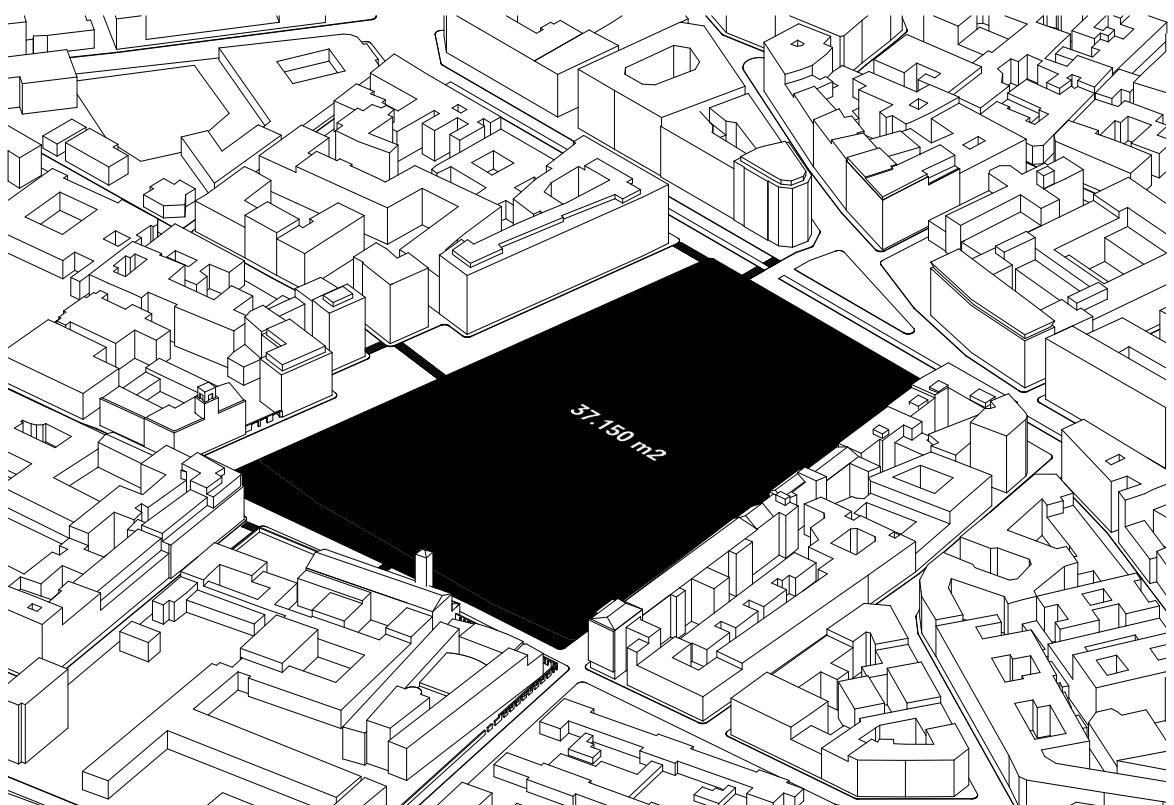
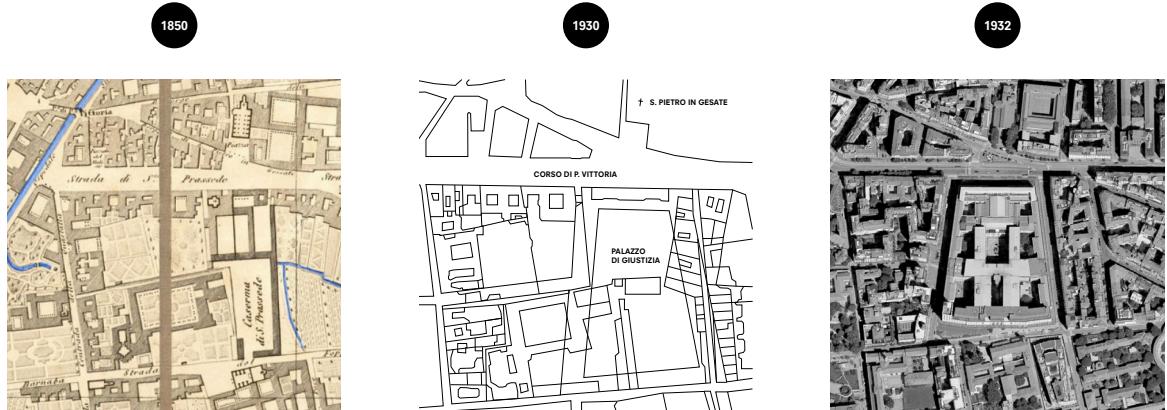




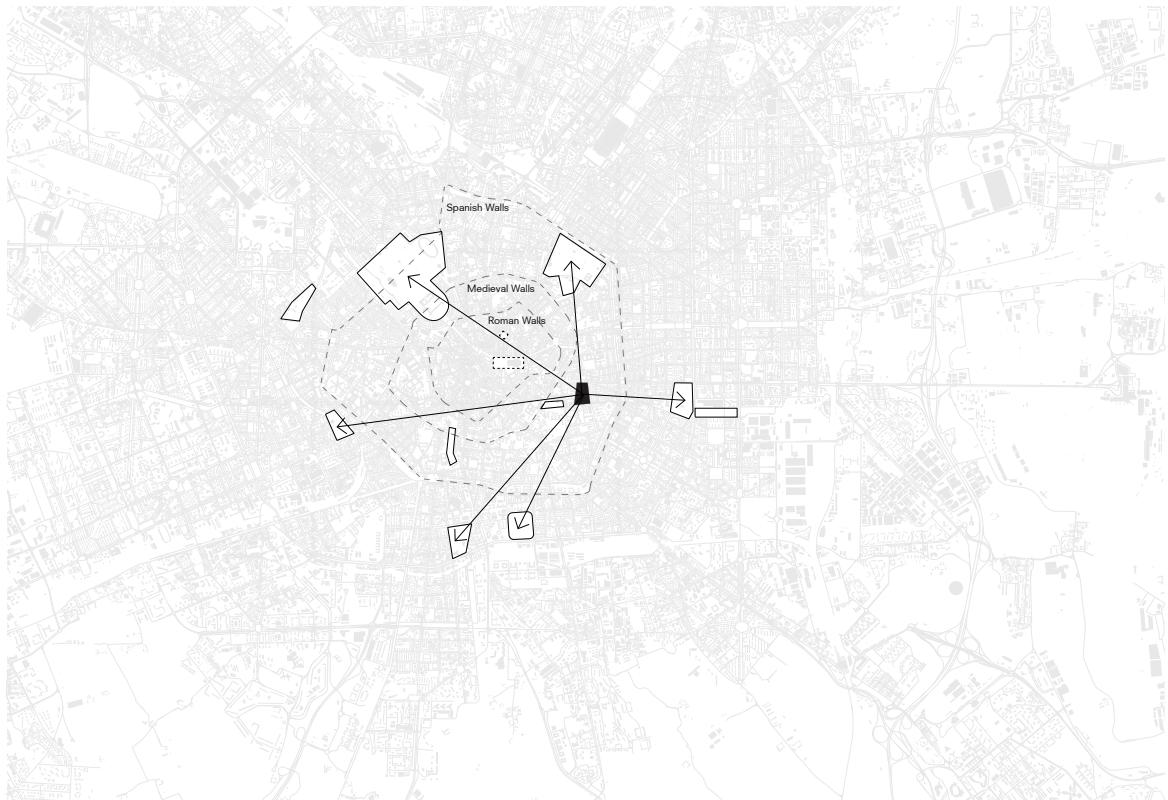
## LAYERED HISTORY



## LAYERED HISTORY

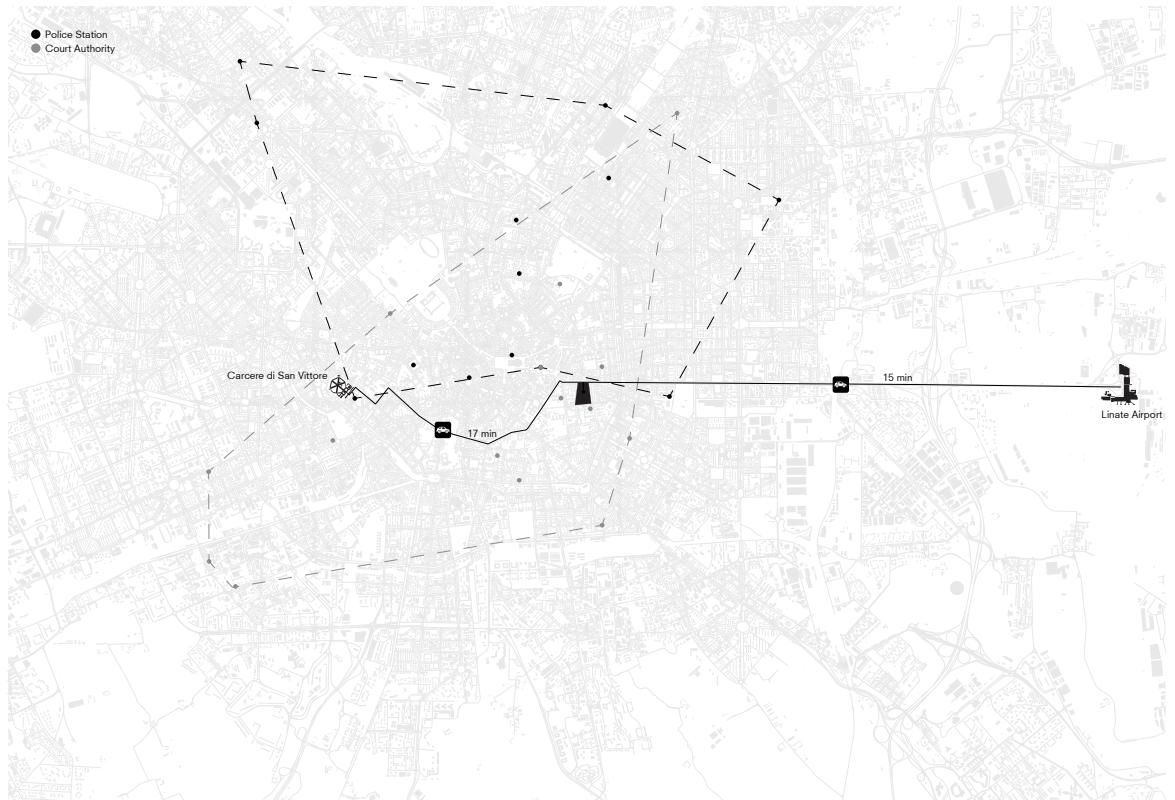


## SITE



## GREEN PARKS AND PLAZA'S

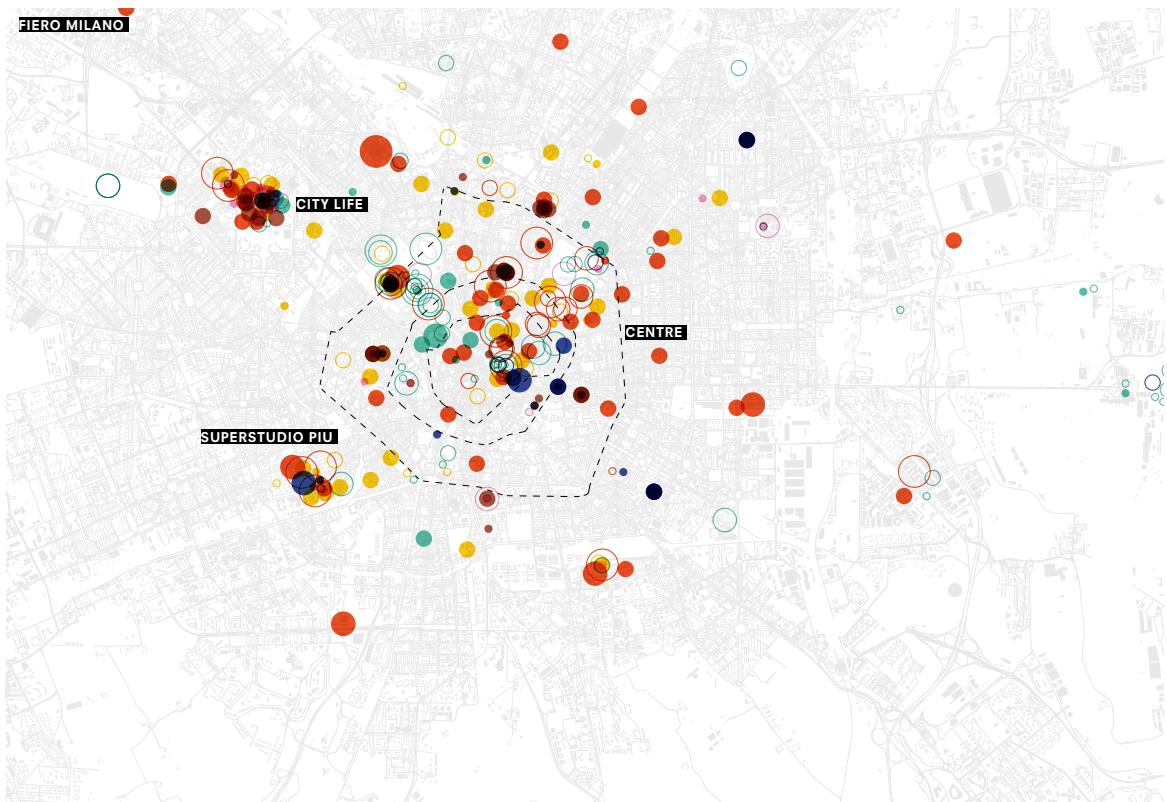




## PRISON, POLICE STATIONS & COURT AUTHORITIES

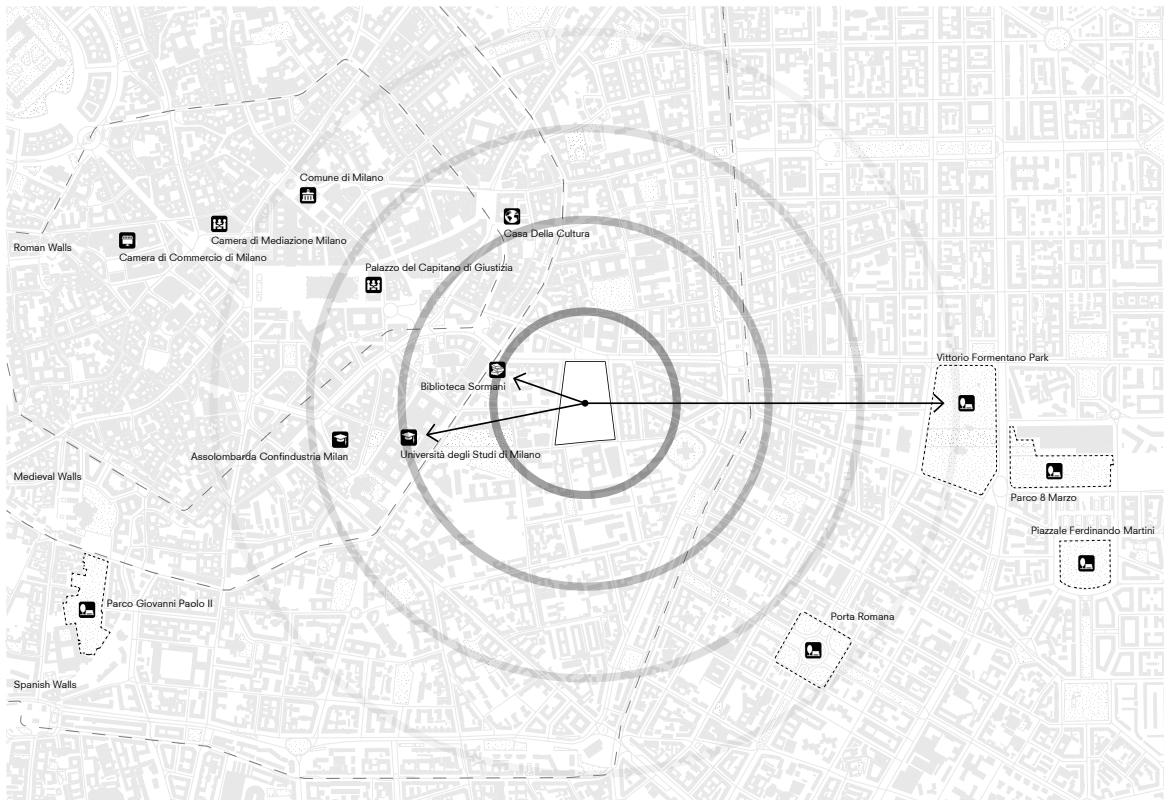


## SITE

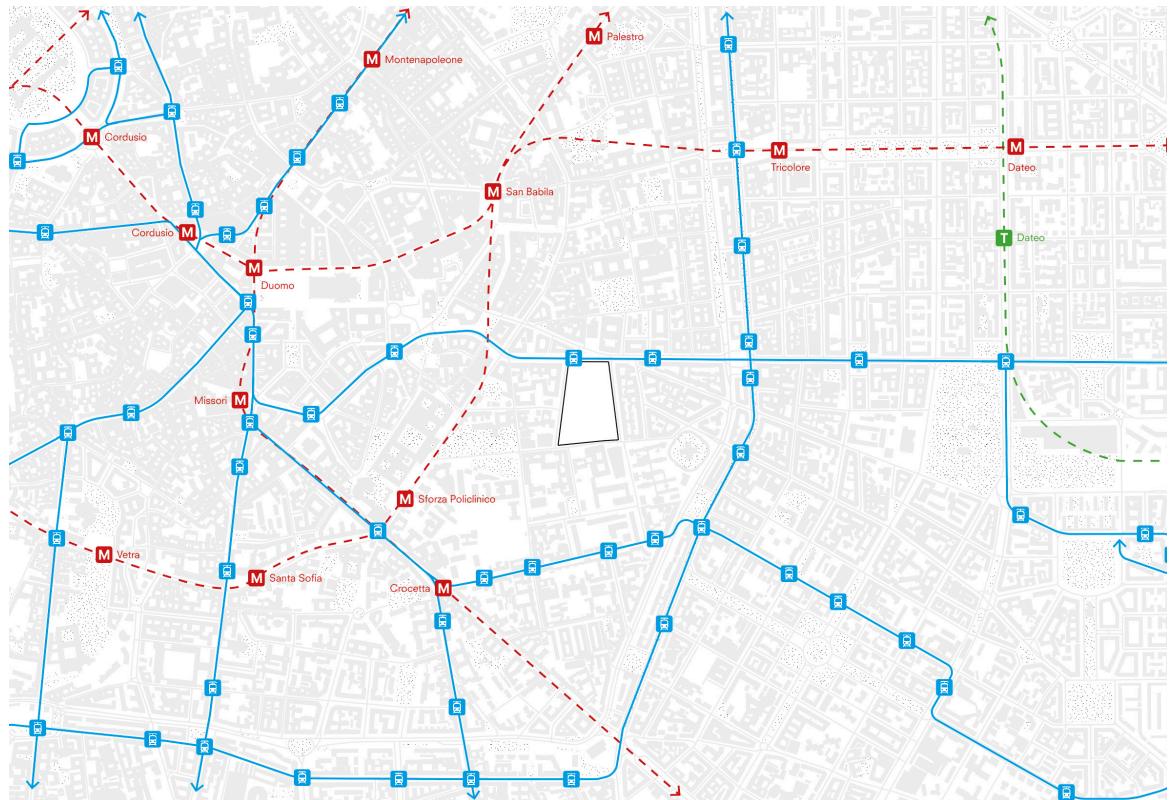


## CULTURAL EVENTS



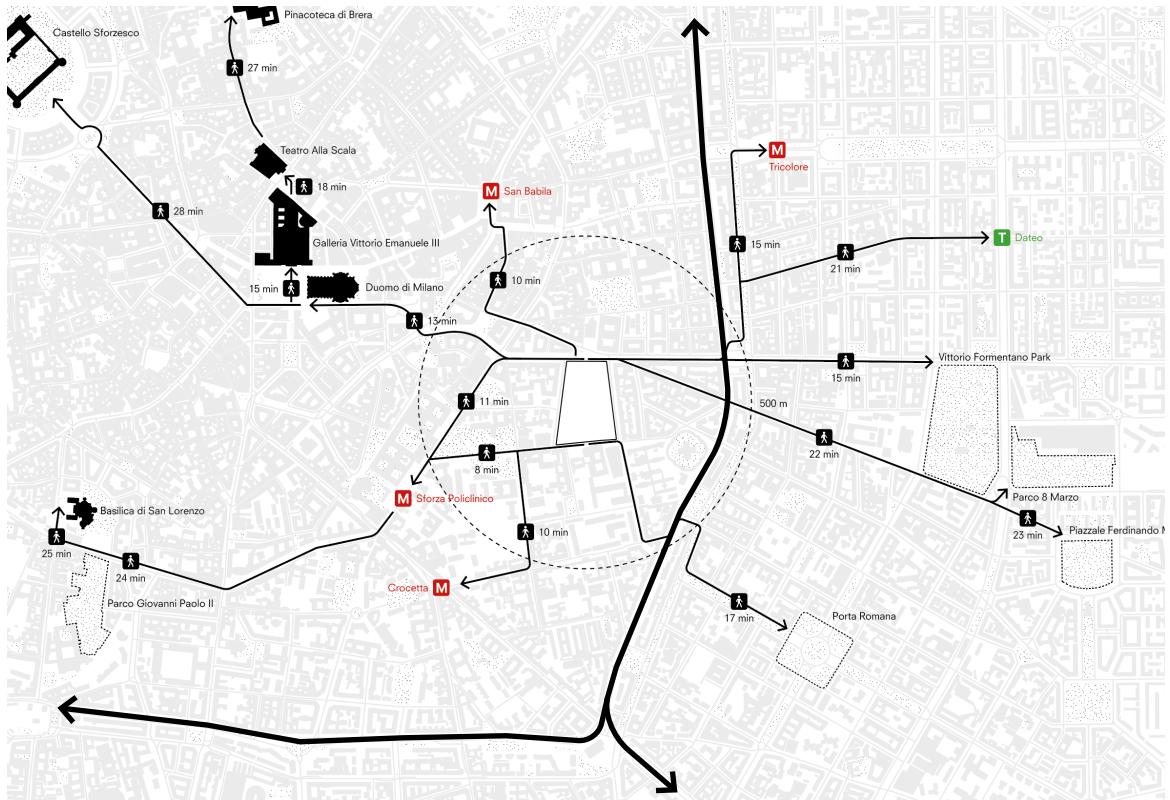
**MEDIATION CATALYST**

## SITE



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

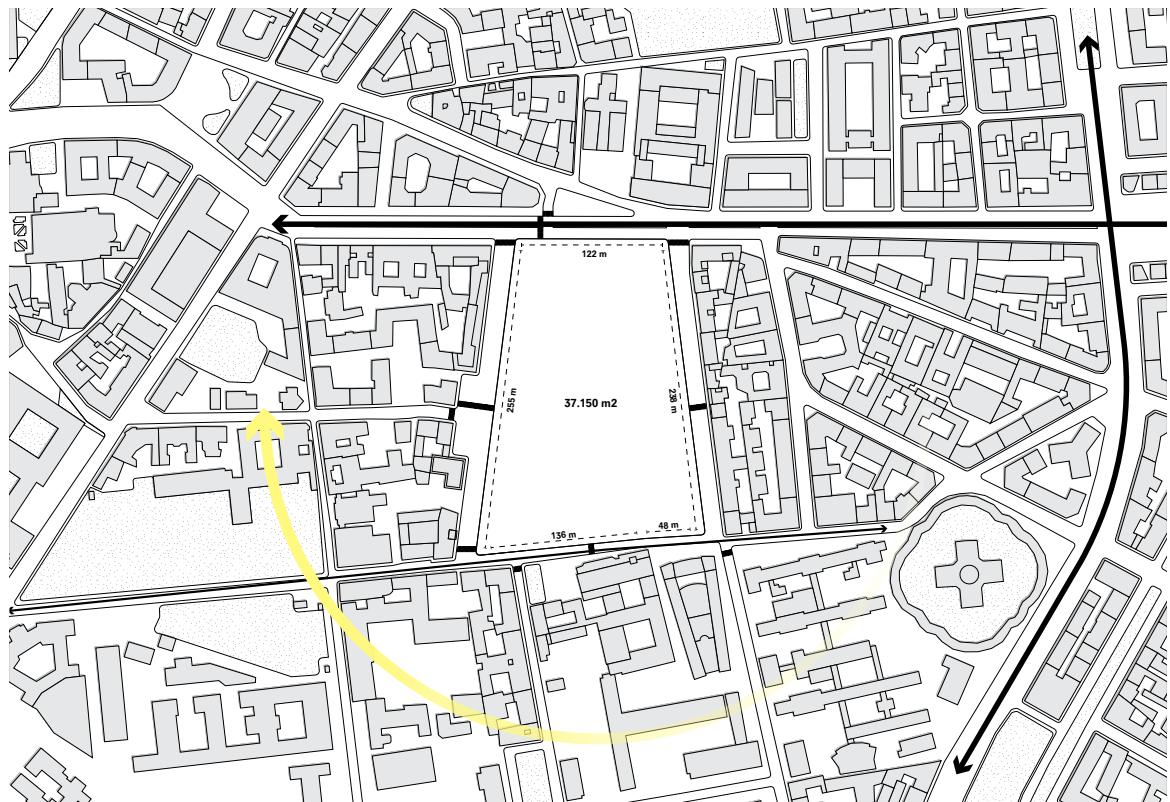




## WALKING DISTANCES

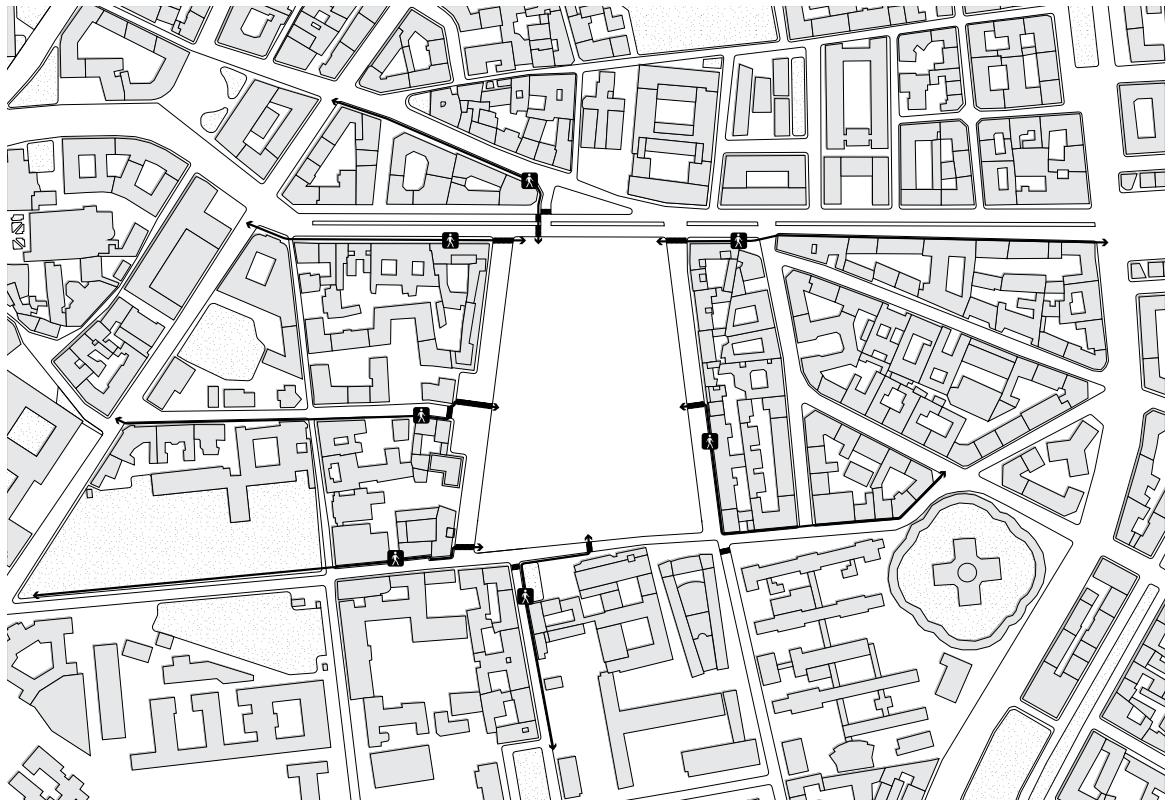


## SITE



## MAIN AXIS

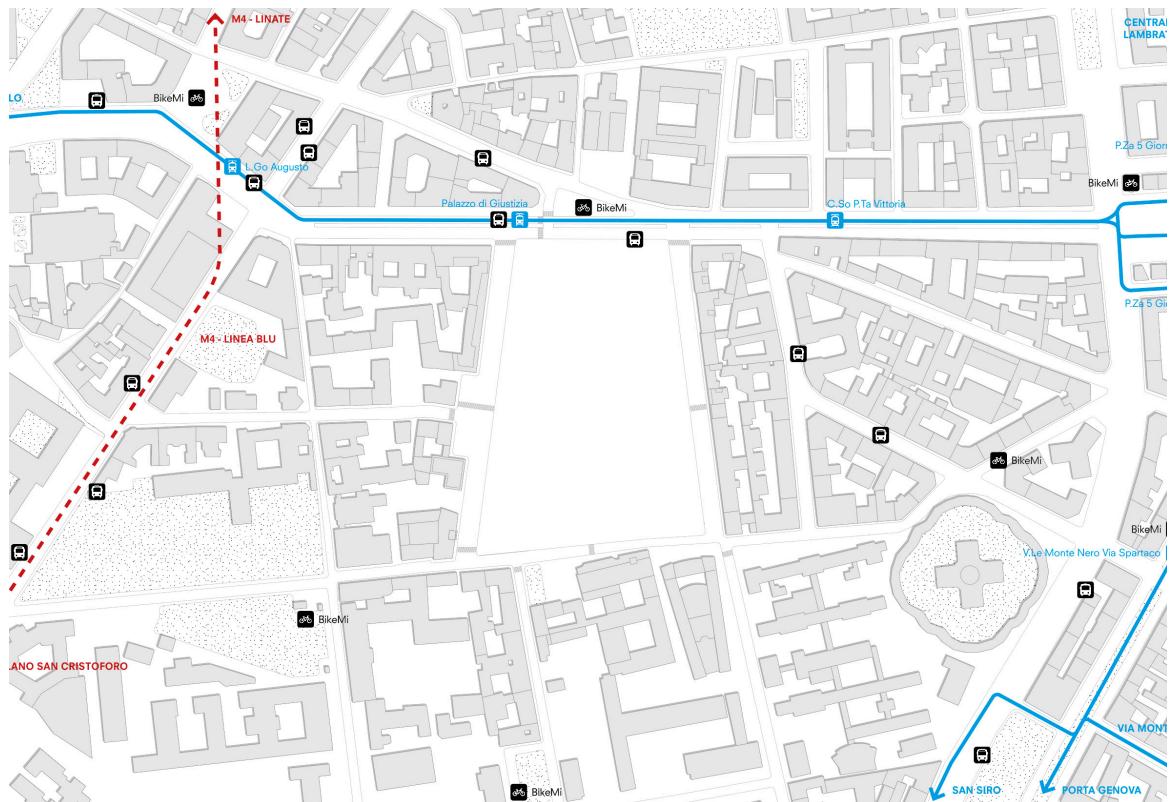




**PEDESTRIAN ACCESS**

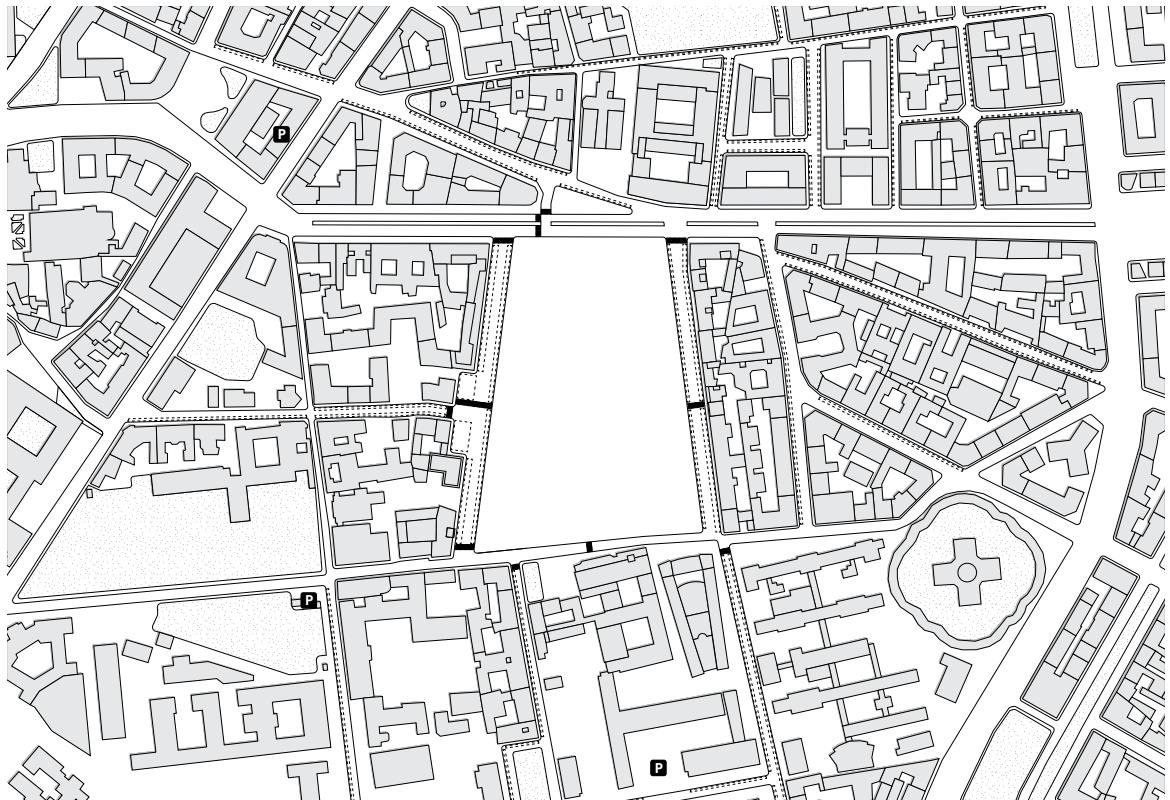


## SITE



## PUBLIC TRANSPORT

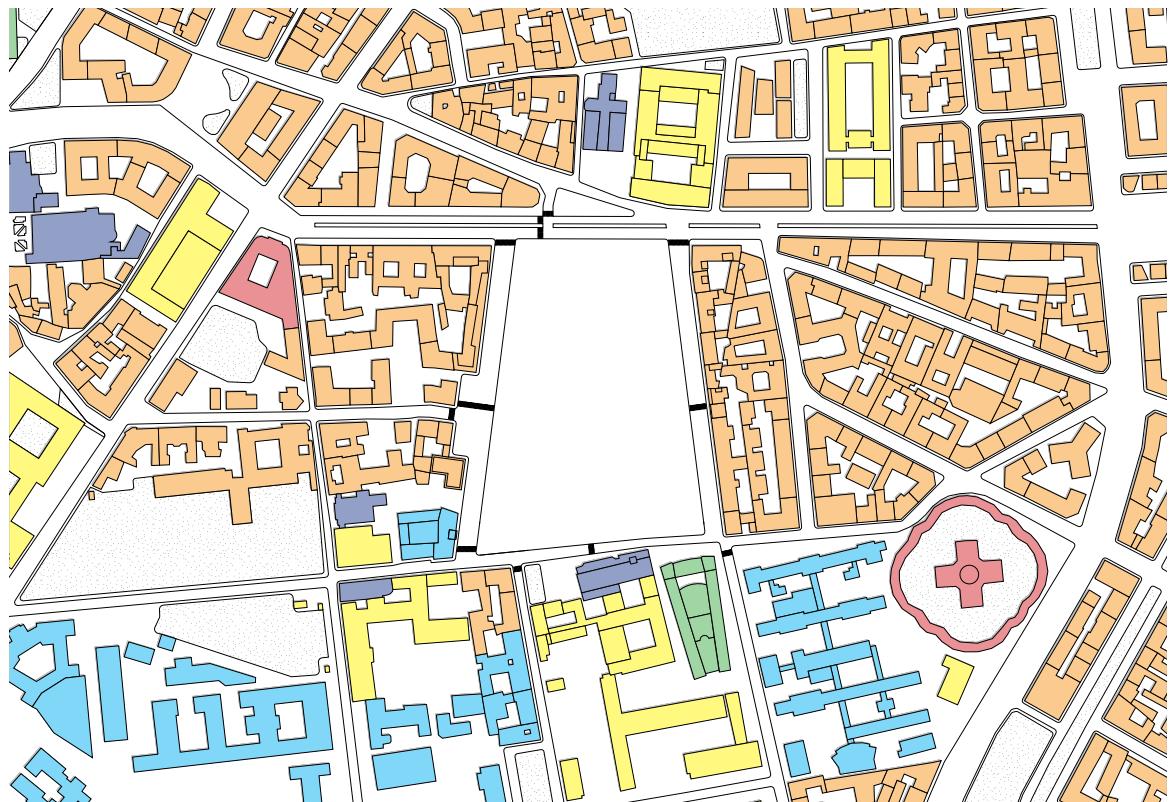




**PARKING**



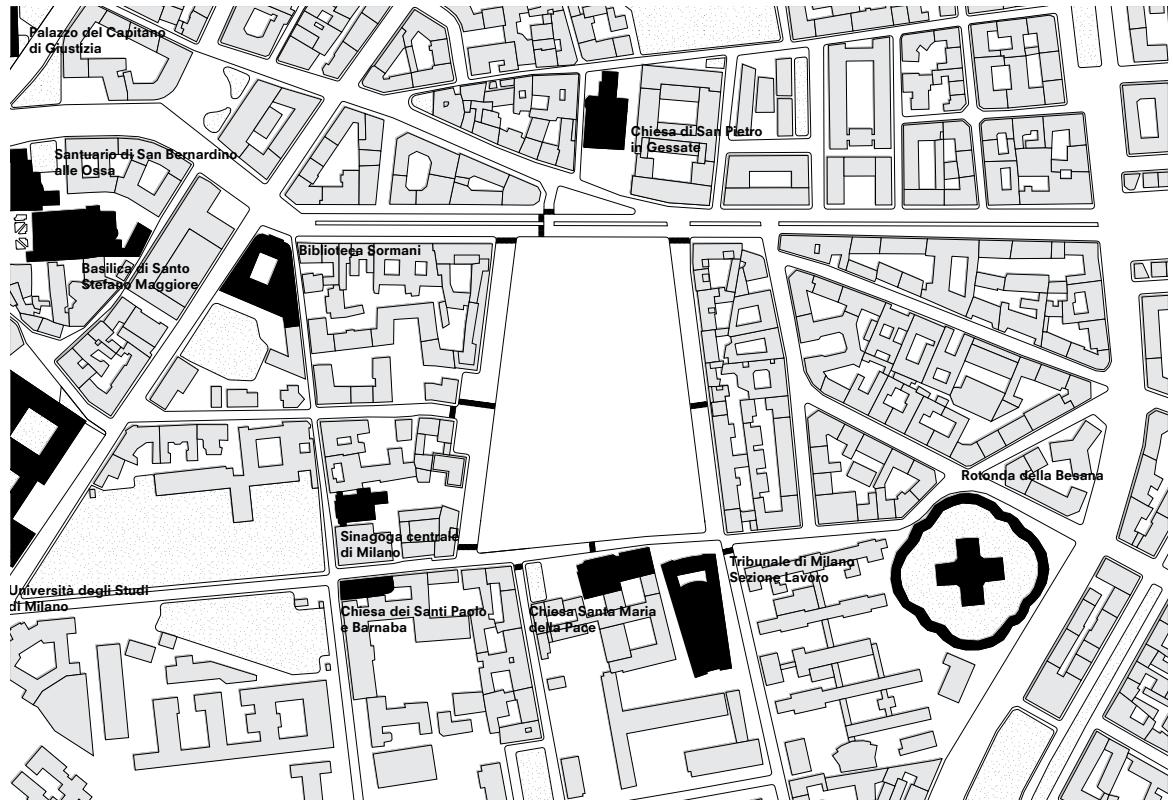
## SITE



## BUILDING FUNCTIONS



- Courthouse
- Museum/ Library
- School/ Institution
- Place of Worthship
- Hospital/ Clinic
- Residential Building



## IMPORTANT BUILDINGS



## SITE CONCLUSION



### Spatial Mediation



### Dual Transparency



### Urban Inclusion

L    Between Historical Walls

Public Visibility

Open Interface

M    Connection to Centre

Shared Spaces

Urban Park & Plaza

S    Position and Orientation

Internal Views

Multiple Entrances



Design starting point: current courthouse will be demolished



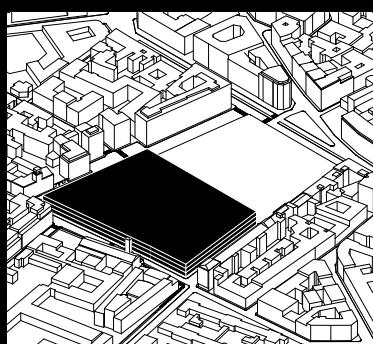
Building plot of 37.150 m<sup>2</sup>



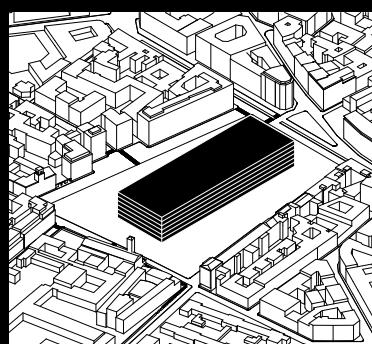
Plot size provides opportunities to give space back to the city



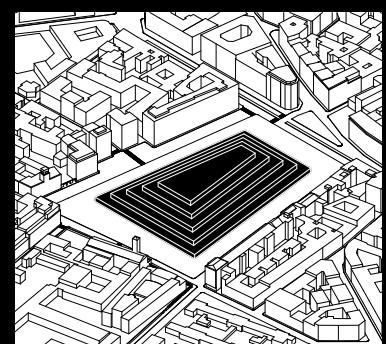
Access from all sides for both vehicles and pedestrians

**OPTION 01: MEDIATION**

Footprint: 20.000 m<sup>2</sup>      BCR: 53,8%  
Height: 15 m      FAR: 1,6

**OPTION 02: TRANSPARENCY**

Footprint: 10.000 m<sup>2</sup>      BCR: 26,9%  
Height: 30 m      FAR: 1,6

**OPTION 03: URBAN INCLUSION**

Footprint: 20.000 m<sup>2</sup>      BCR: 53,8%  
Height: 25 m      FAR: 1,6

# CONCEPT DESIGN

04



# DESIGN BRIEF AMBITIONS

## CLIENT

-  Compact and efficient building
-  Visual connection to the outside
-  Multi functional public spaces
-  Centre for mediation and reintegration
-  Strong cultural & educational component

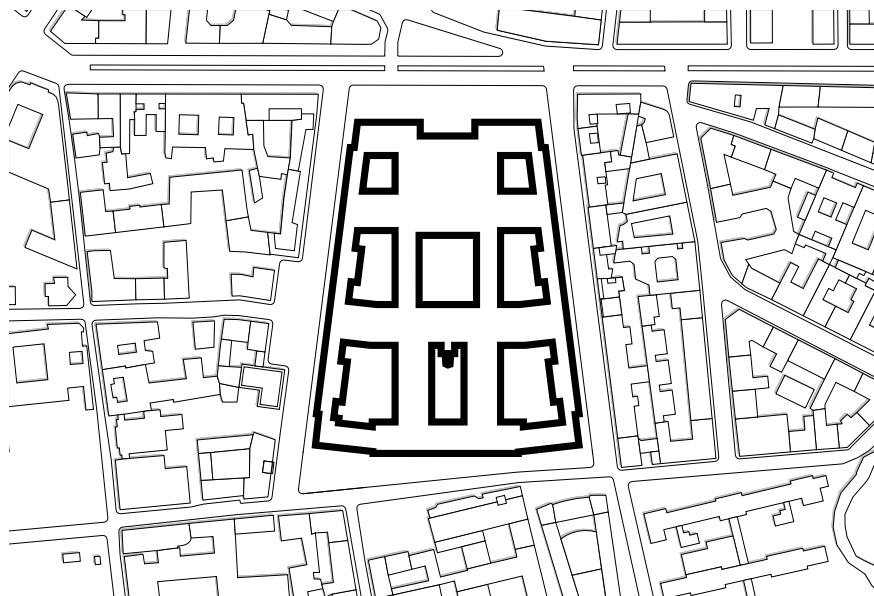
## PROGRAM

-  Layered transparency
-  Integrated atrium/ patio's
-  Public functions as transition zone
-  Showcase public routes in the facade

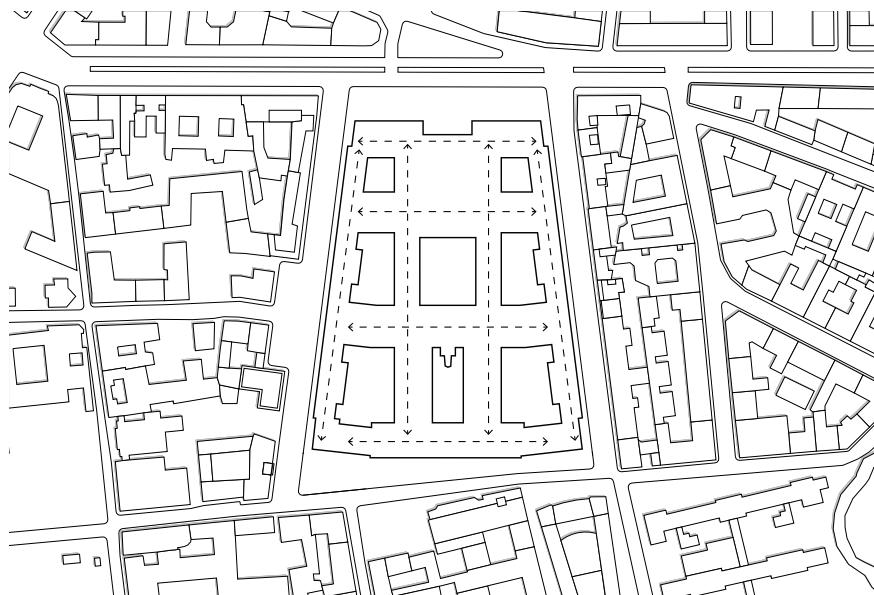
**SITE**

-  Main entrance on the north (prominent street)
-  Secondary entrance on east and west
-  Secure entry on the south side
-  Public plaza on the north, park on the south
-  Use max 50% of the plot

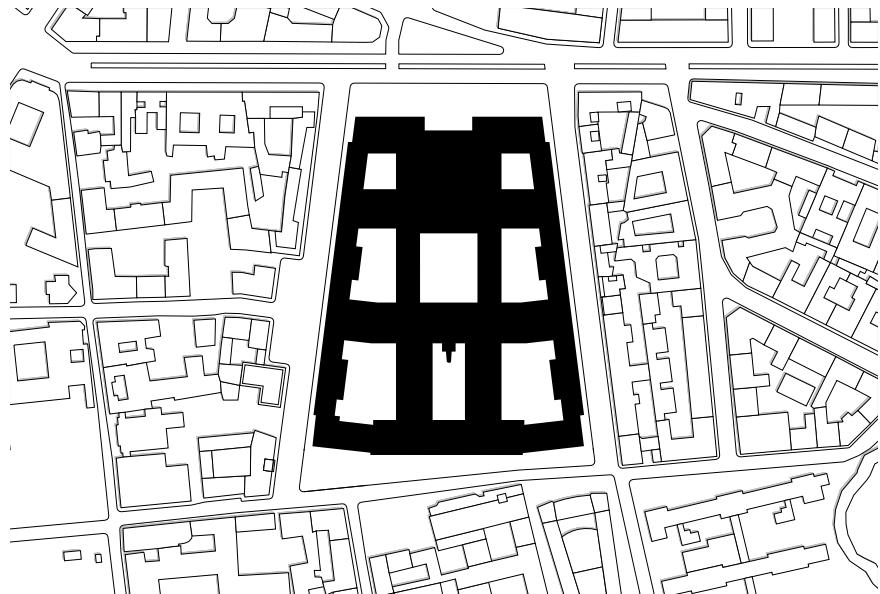
## CURRENT DESIGN PROBLEMS



Massive and Closed Architecture

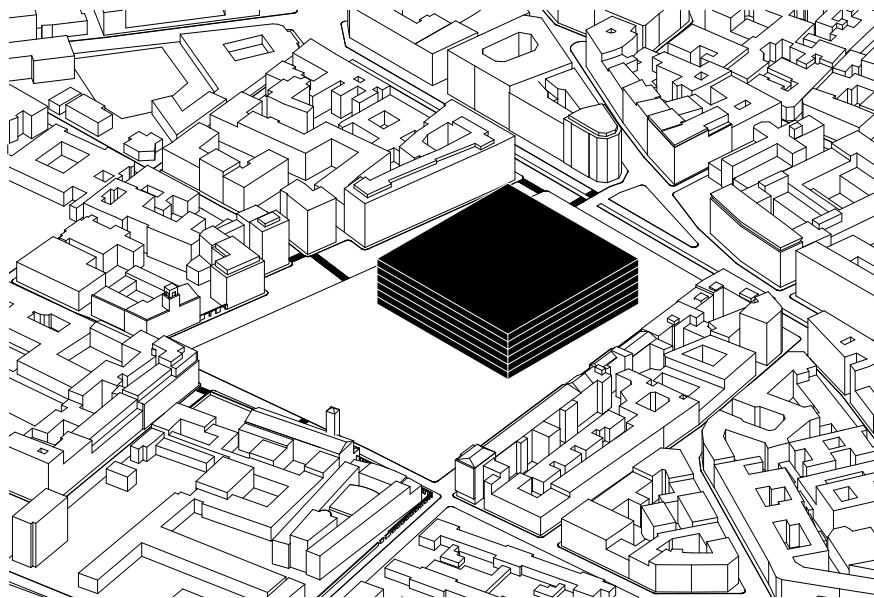


Inefficient Circulation and Security

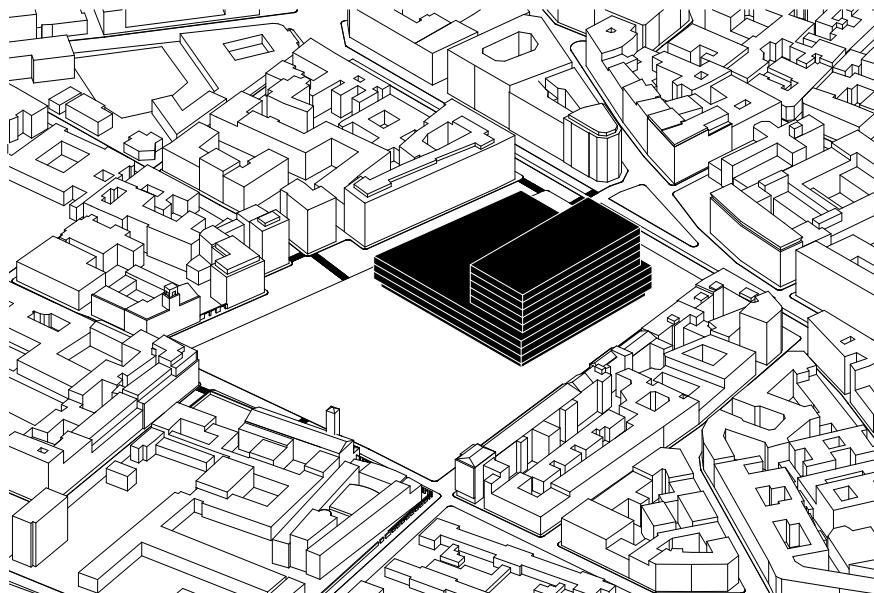


Poor Urban Integration

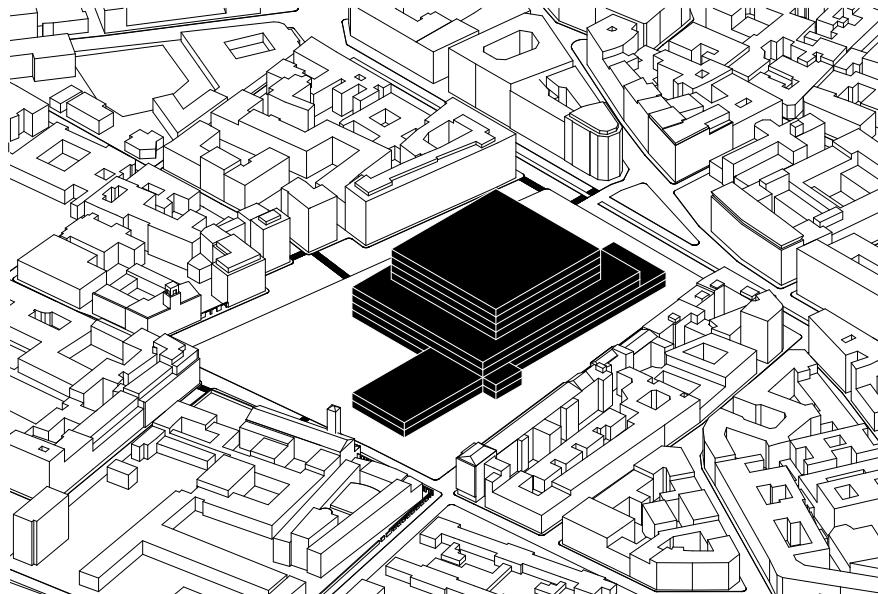
## STUDIES



**CLIENT**



**PROGRAM**

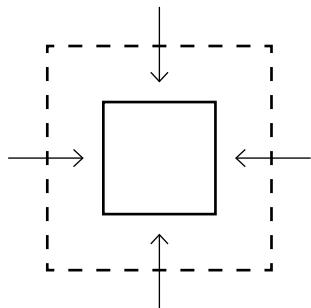


**SITE**

## CONCLUSIONS

### CLIENT

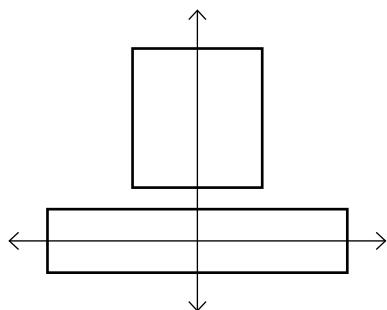
Compact Transparent Design



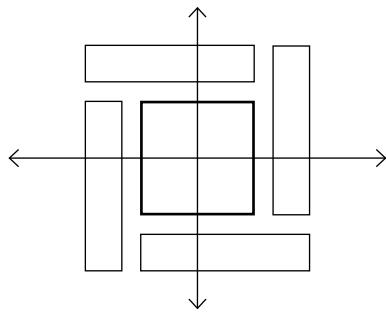
Visual and functional openness, making the courthouse more accessible and understandable for the public.

### PROGRAM

Adaptive Circulation and Connectivity

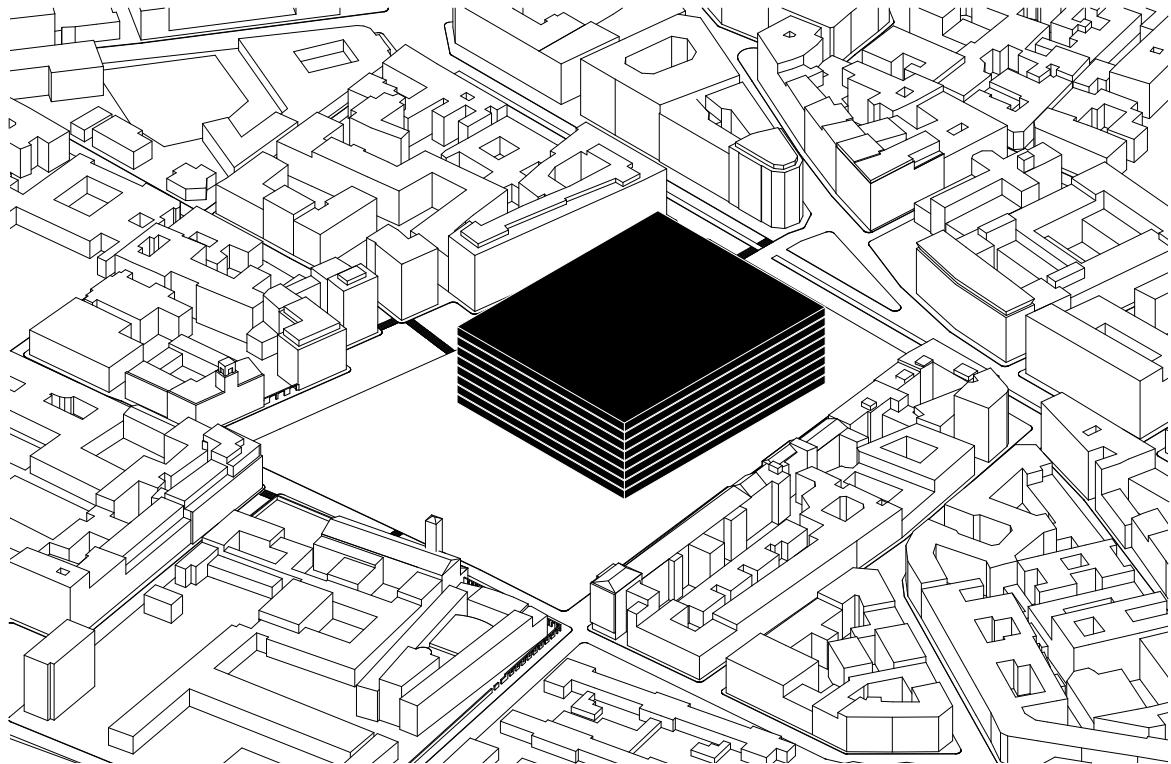


Combination of horizontal and vertical circulation that optimizes movement for different user groups.

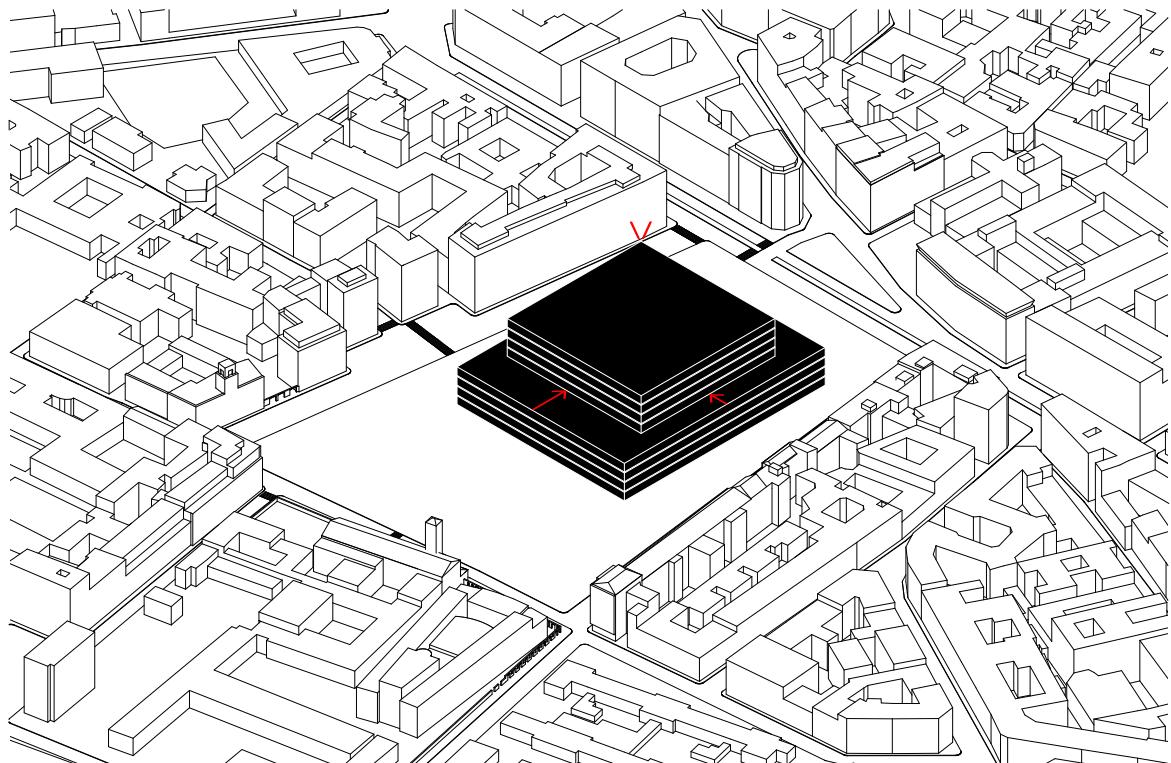
**SITE**  
Urban Integration

Integrating the building in Milan's urban fabric through gradual layered floors.

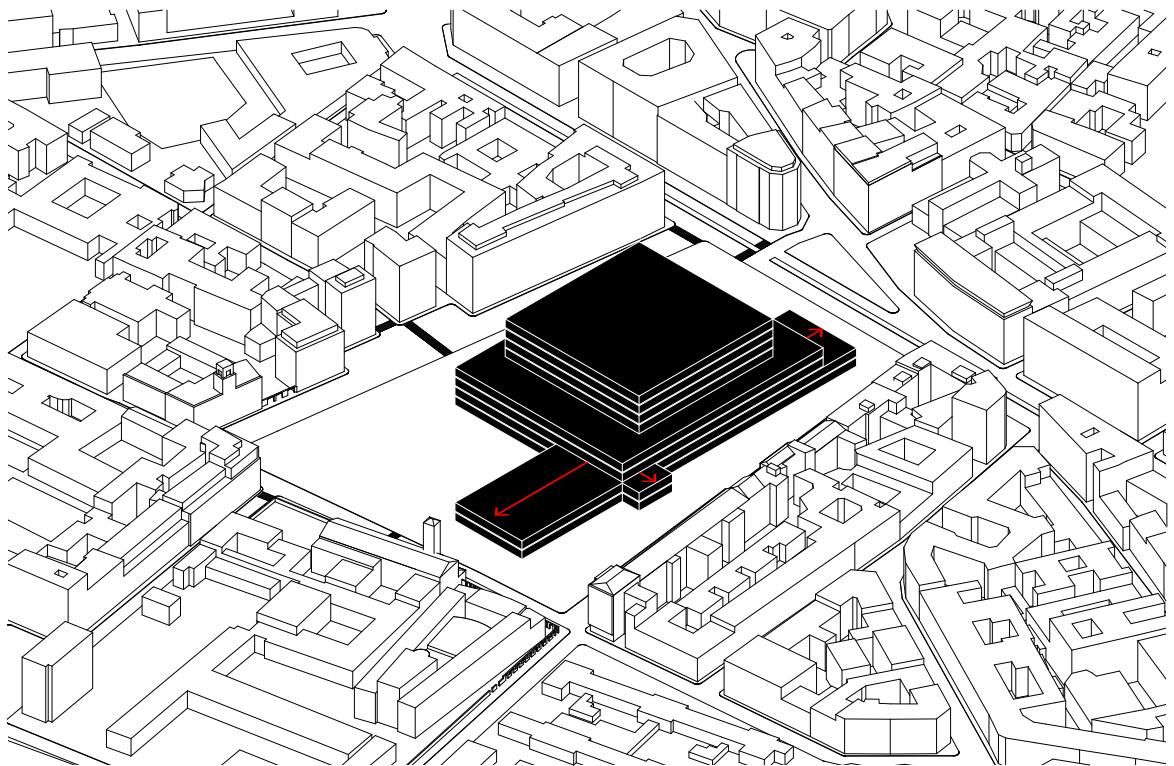
## CONCEPT STEPS



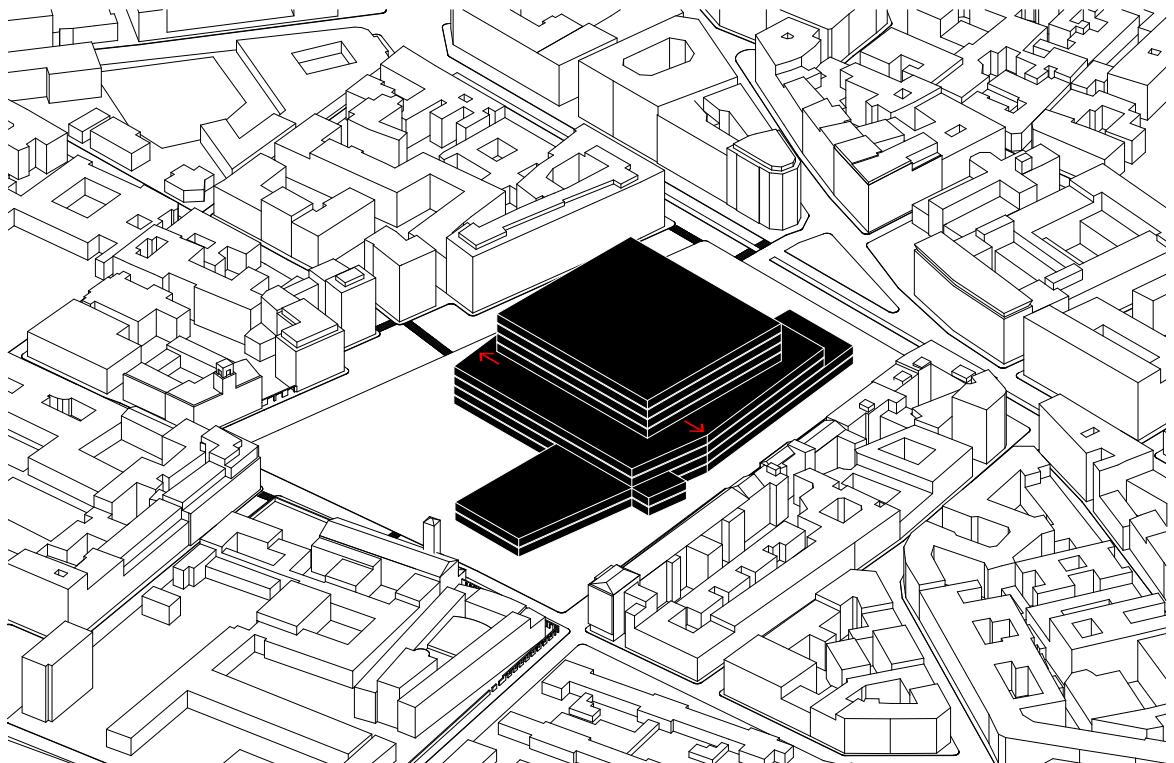
Efficient and compact



Breaking barriers

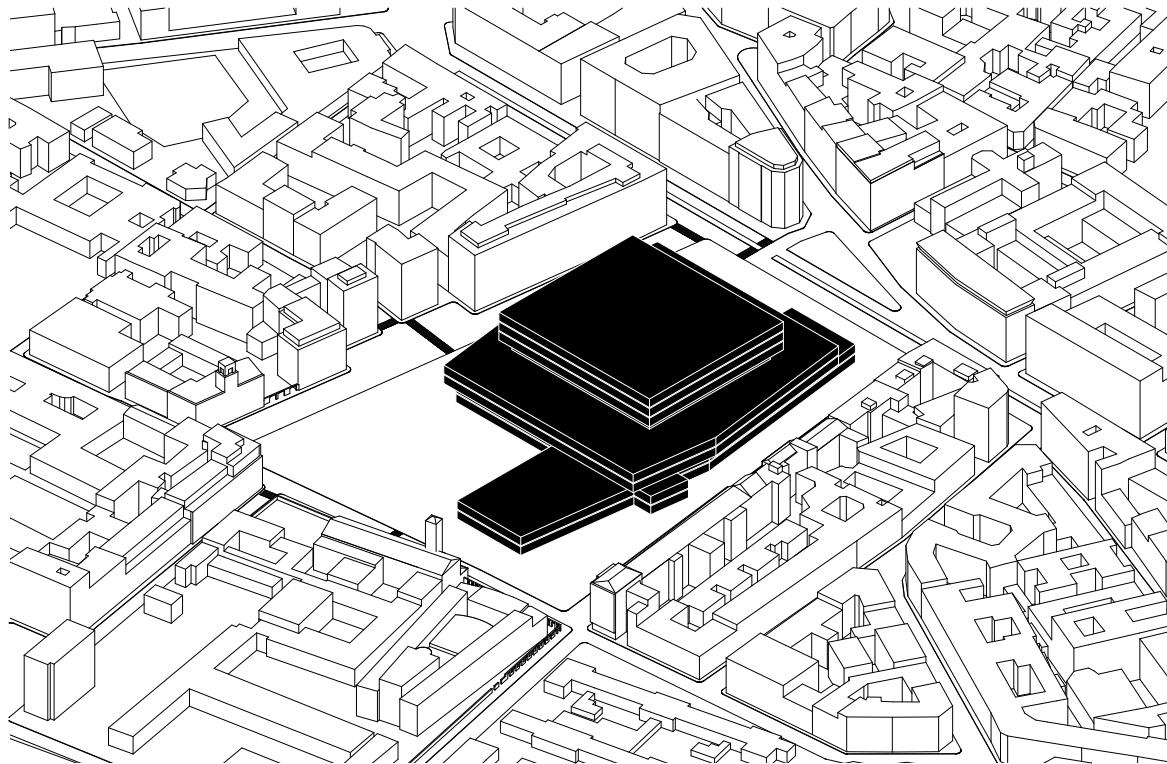


Building connectivity



Adapt to site

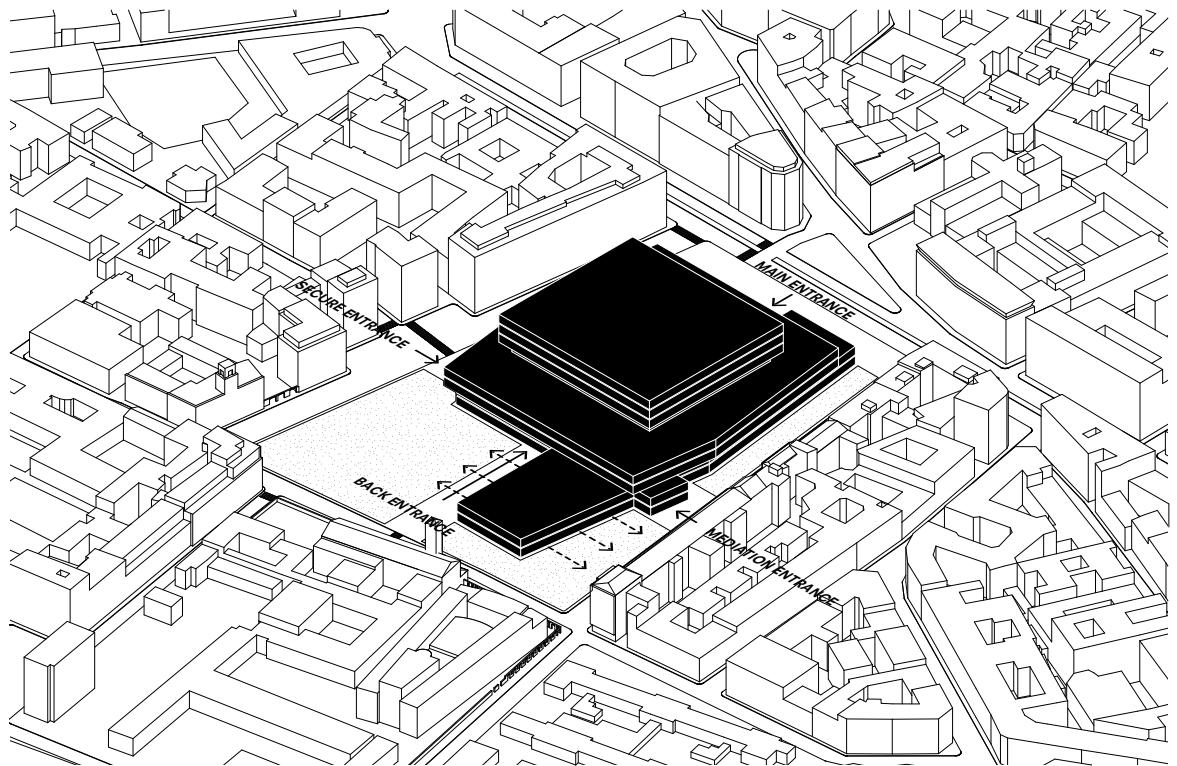
## CONCEPT STEPS



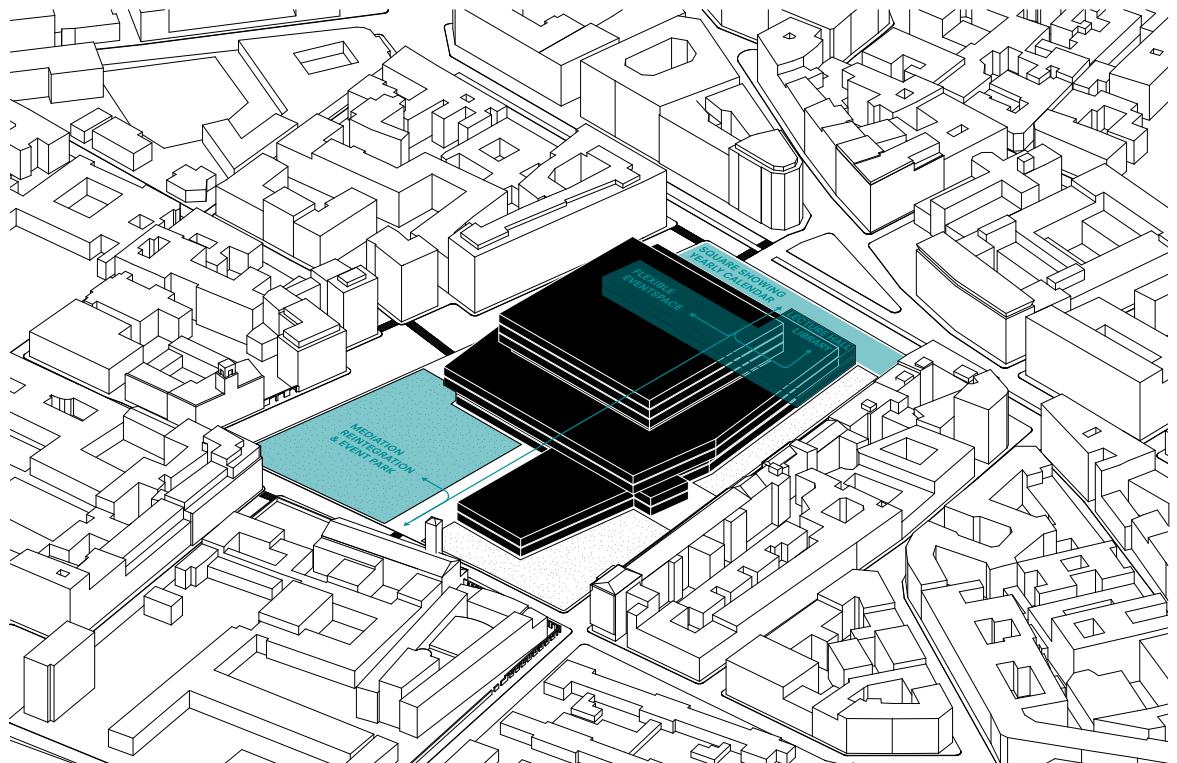
Creating overhangs



Functions

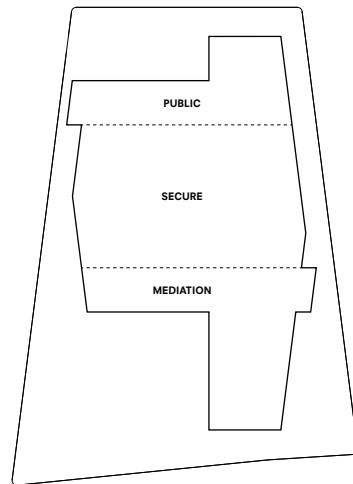


Building entrances

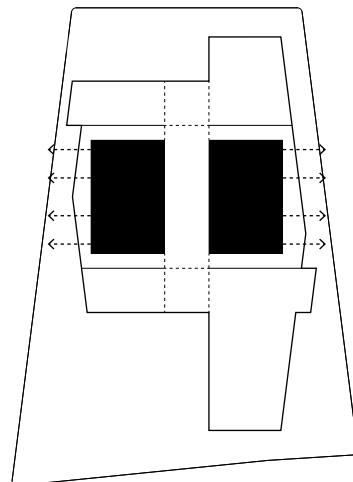


Culture in design

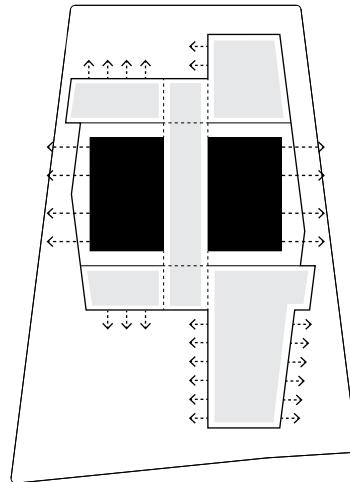
## CONCEPT STEPS



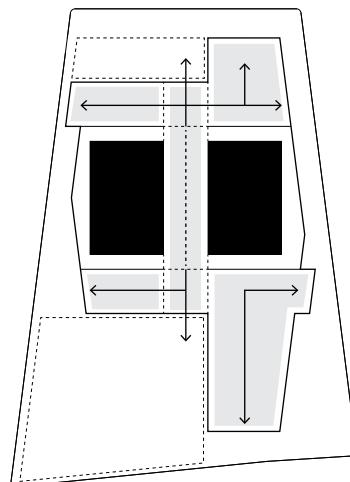
building zones of JUST. MILANO.



compact and secure, but visible courtrooms

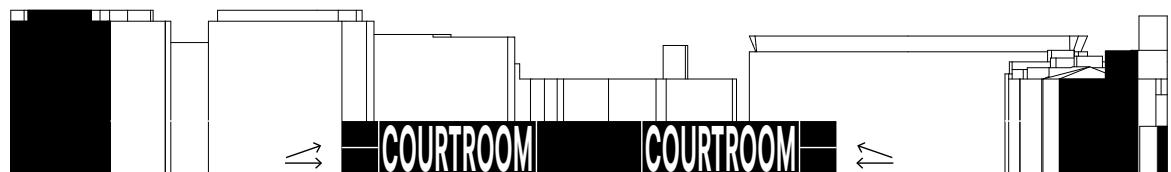


visible spaces in the urban fabric

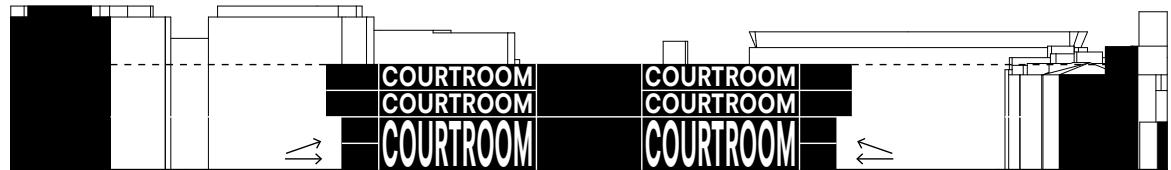


user circulation throughout the zones

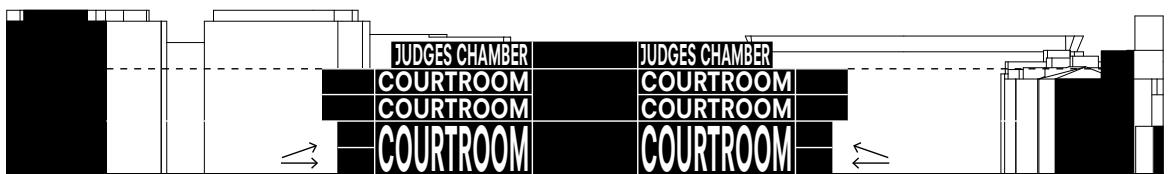
## CONCEPT STEPS



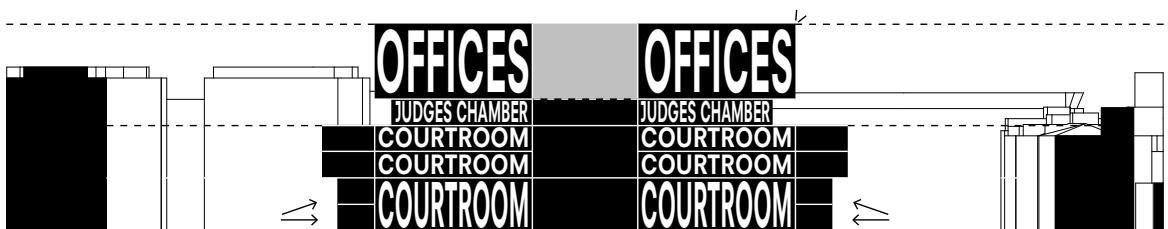
16 double height criminal courtrooms



32 flexible courtrooms

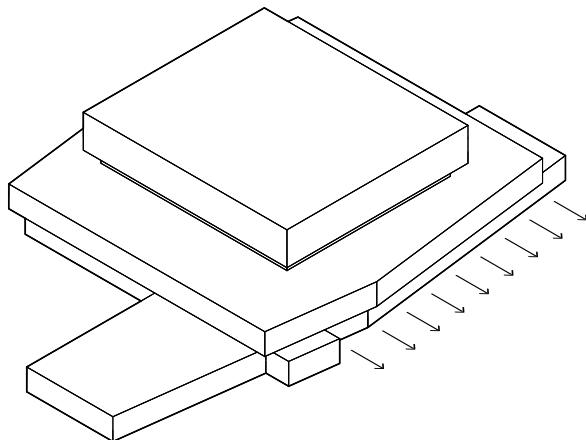


judges chambers and roof access

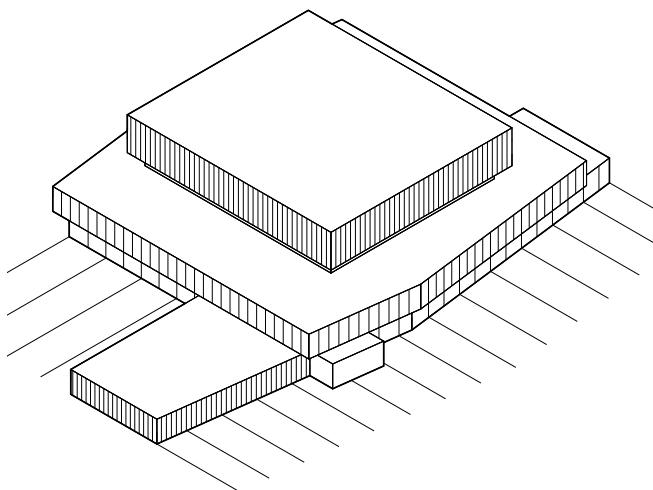


3 stories of offices

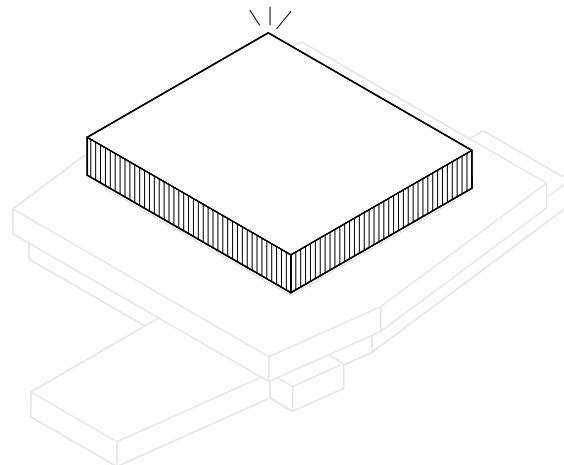
## CONCEPT CONCLUSIONS



transparent connection with urban fabric



urban scale to human scale



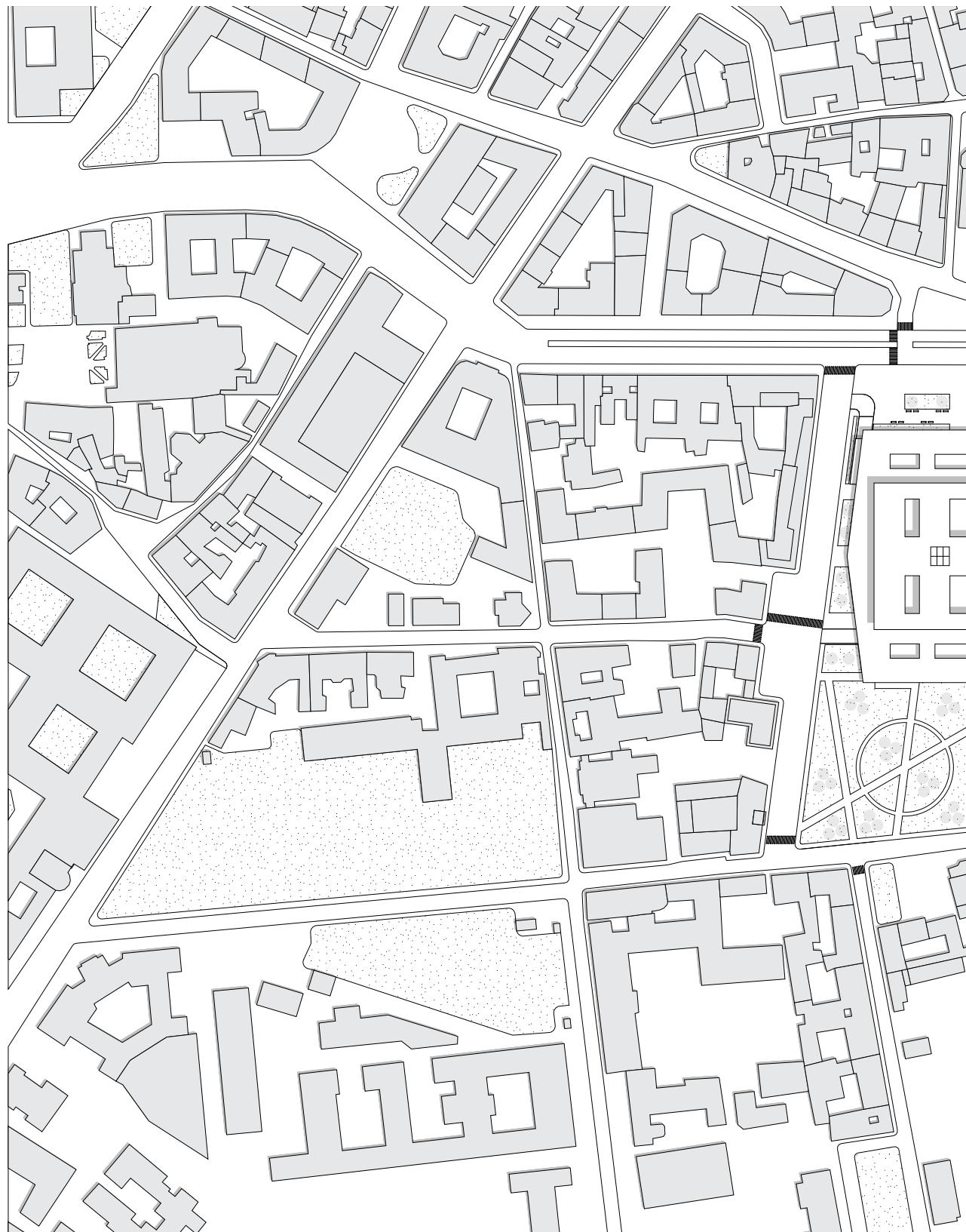
courthouse presence in urban skyline

# BUILDING DESIGN

05

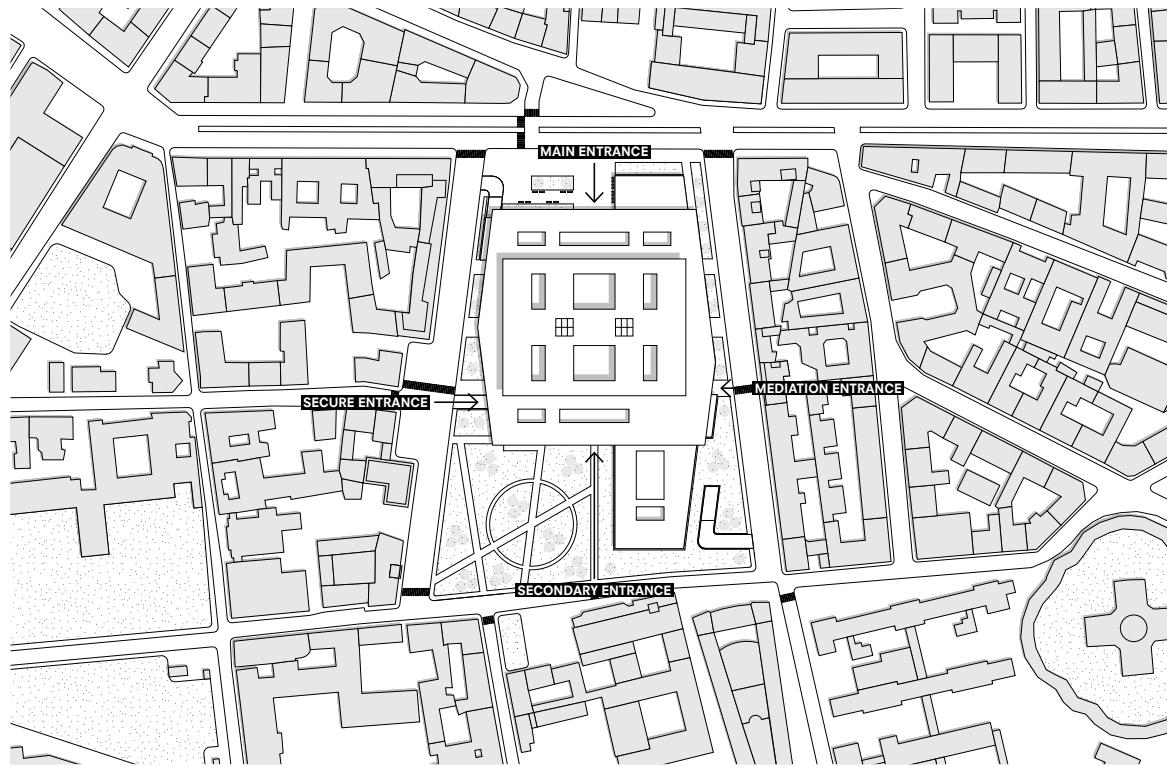


## SITE DRAWINGS

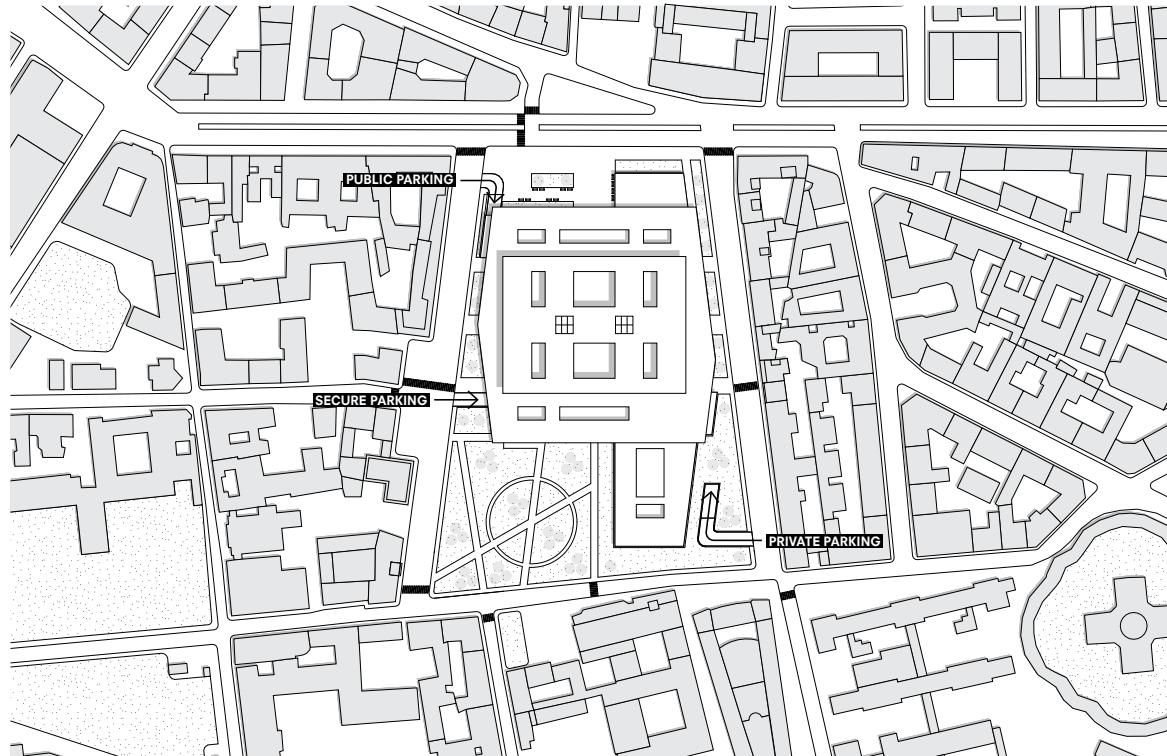




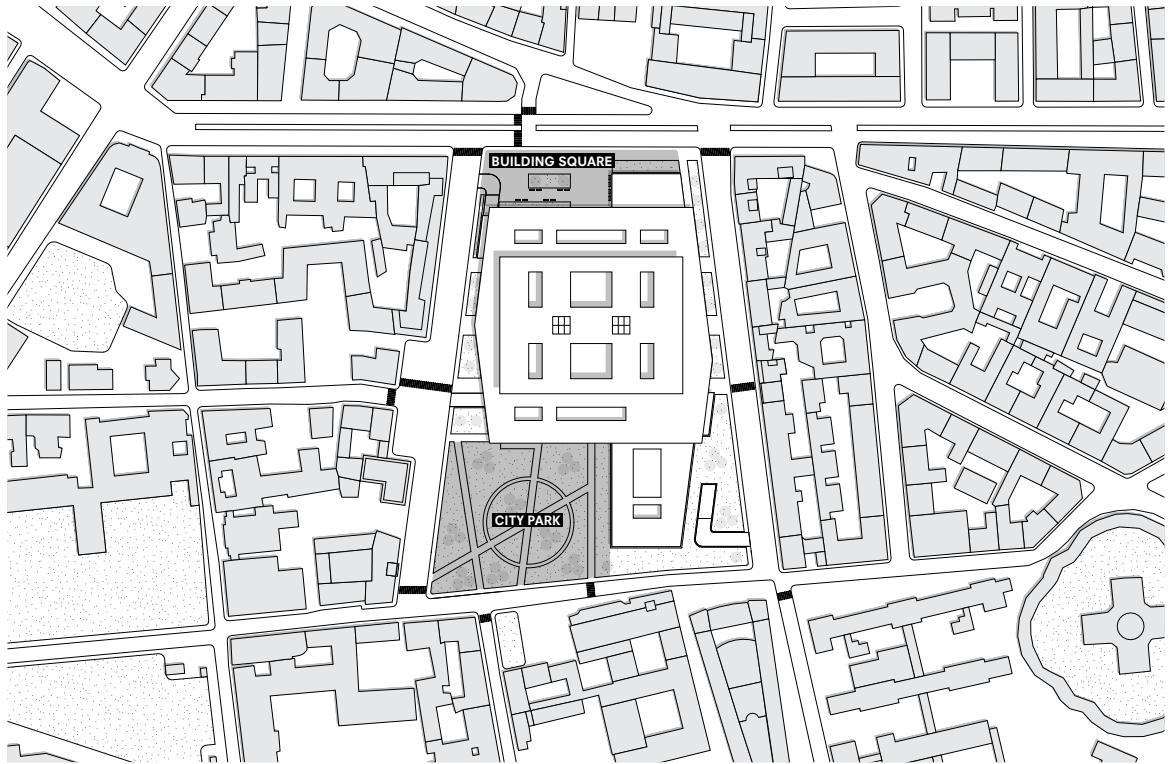
## SITE DRAWINGS



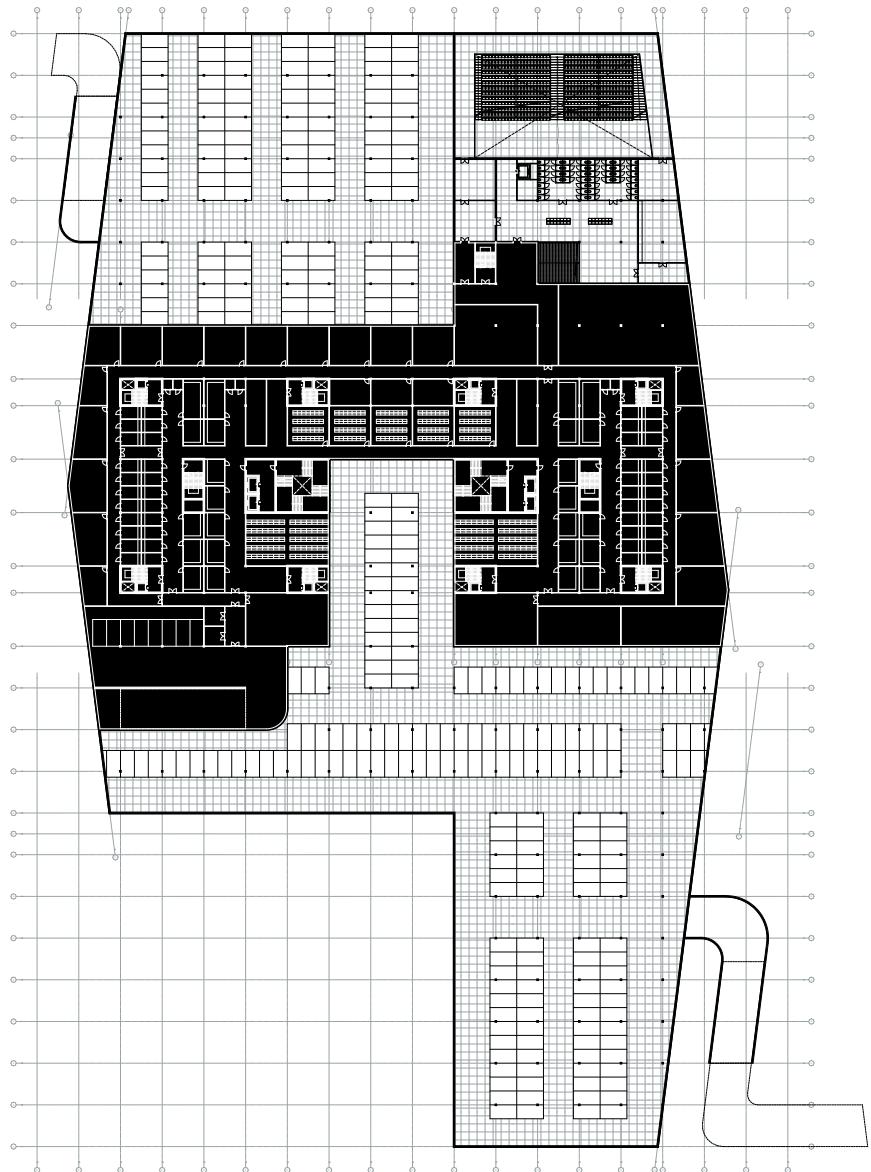
Building entrances

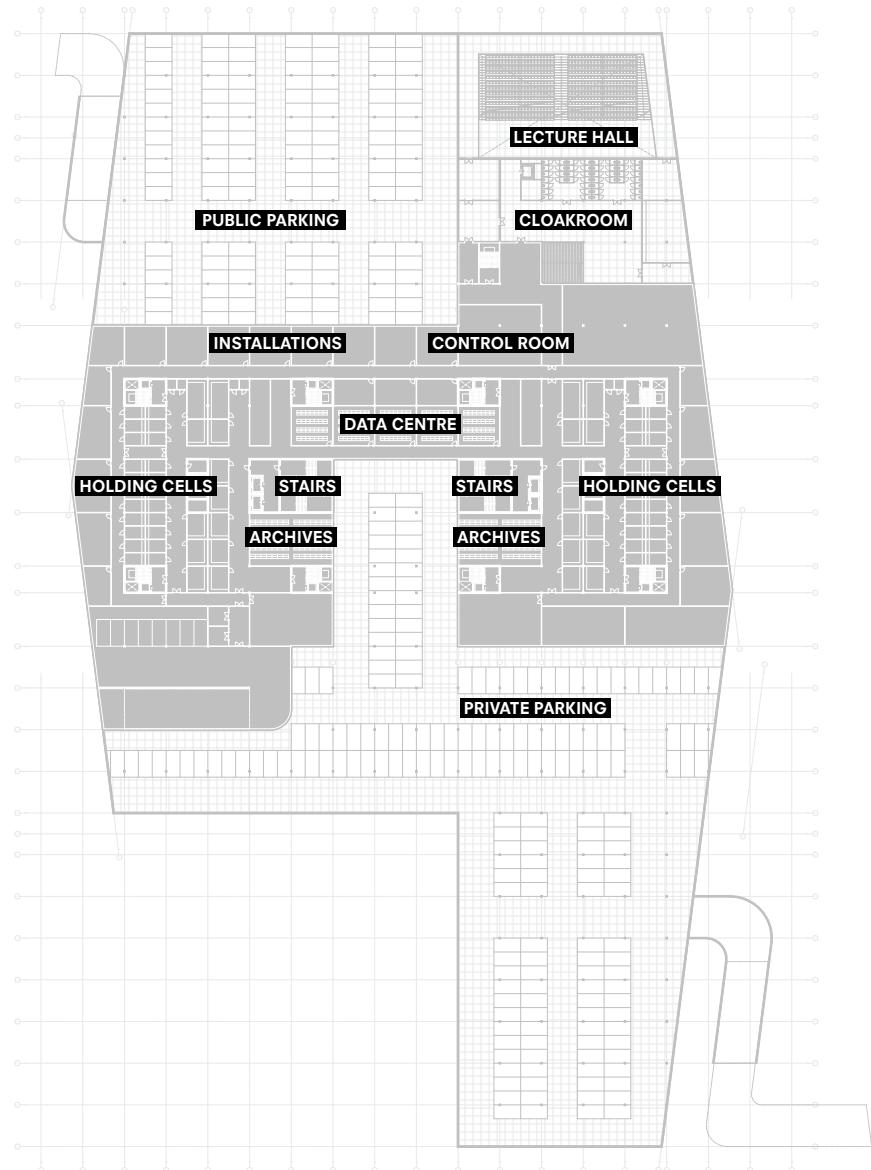


Parking

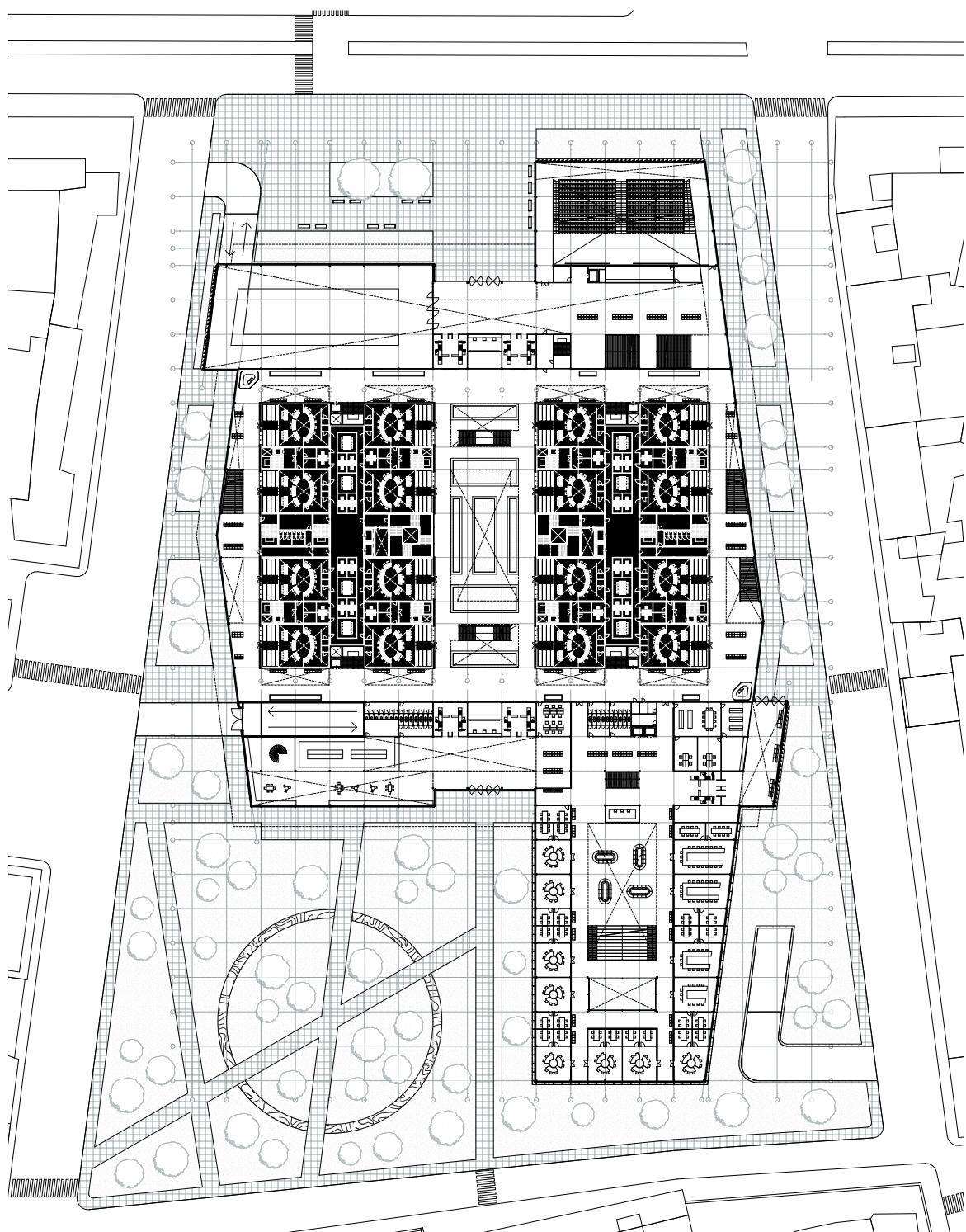


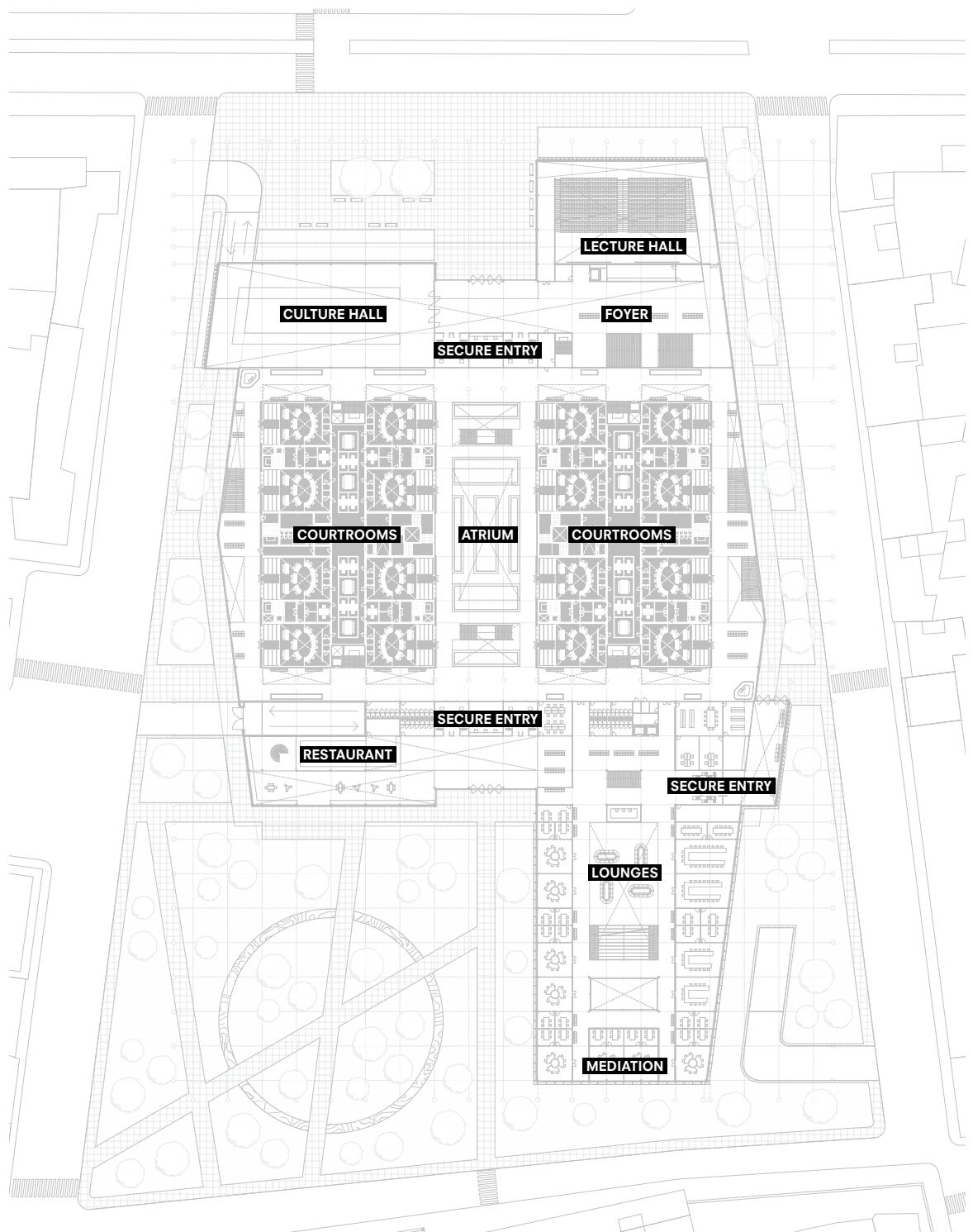
Building park and square

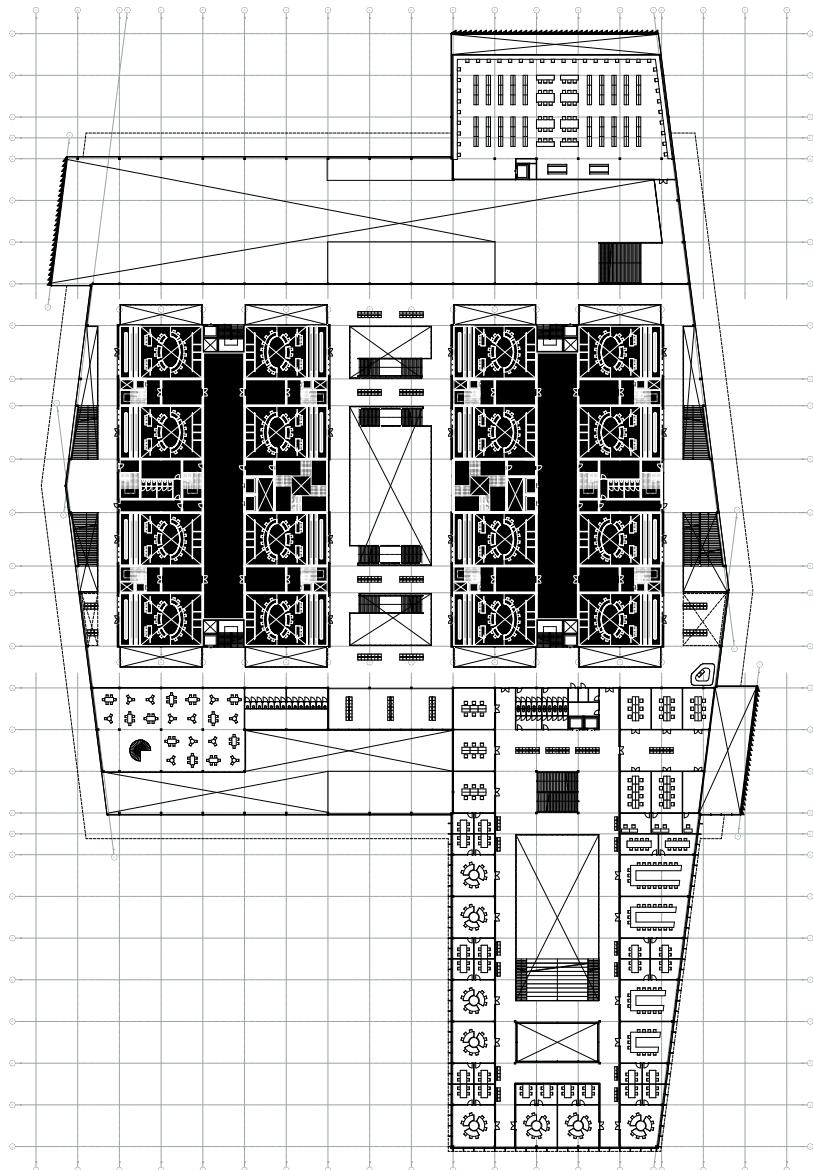


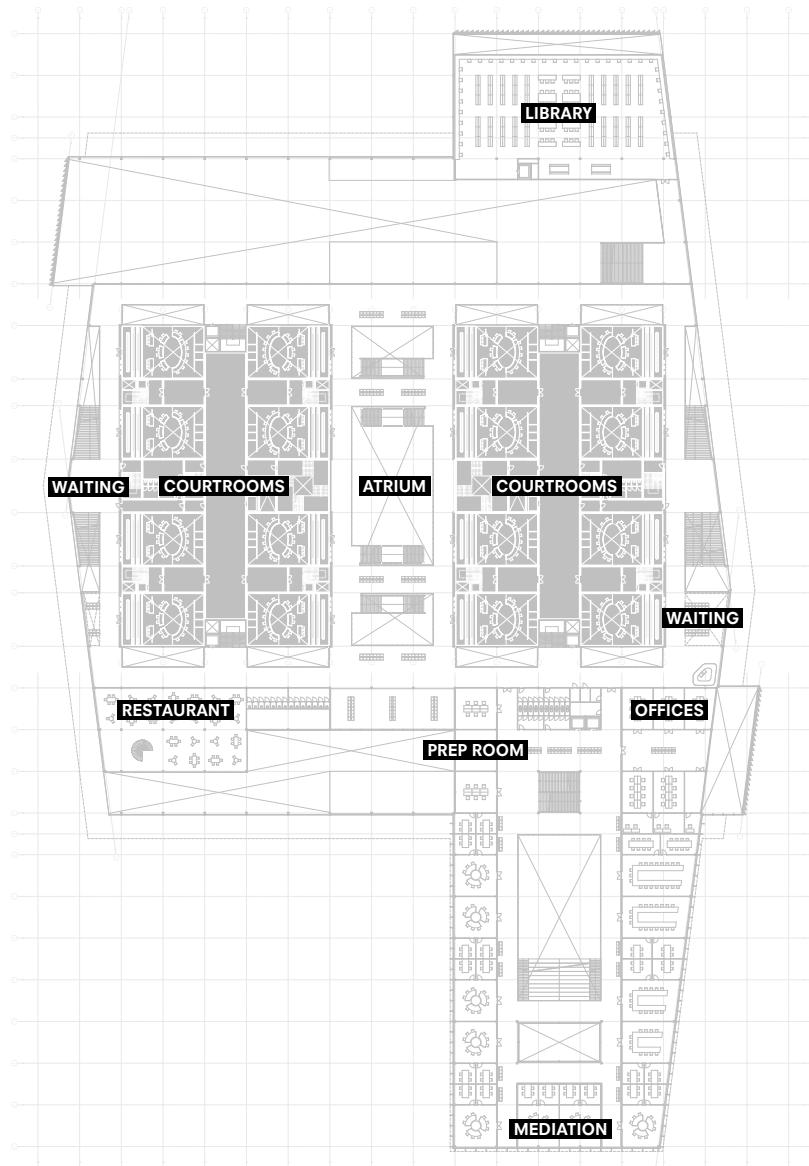


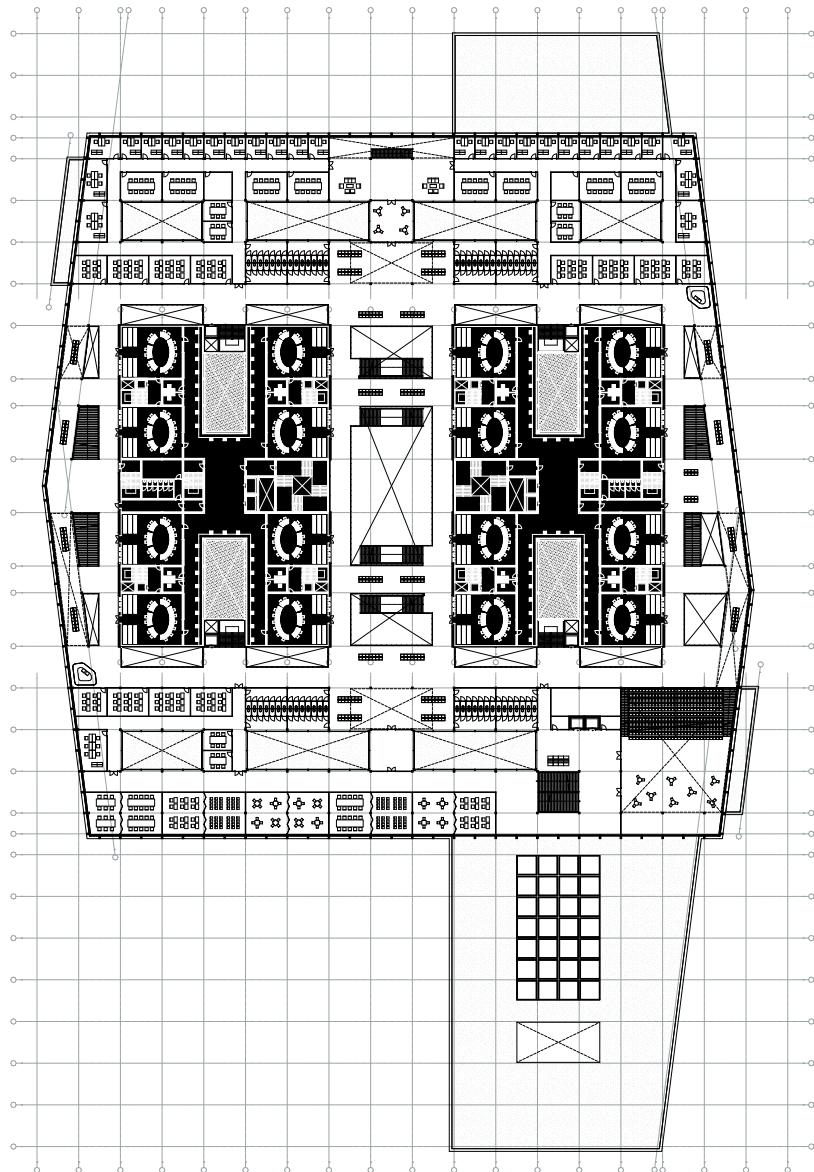
## GF-00

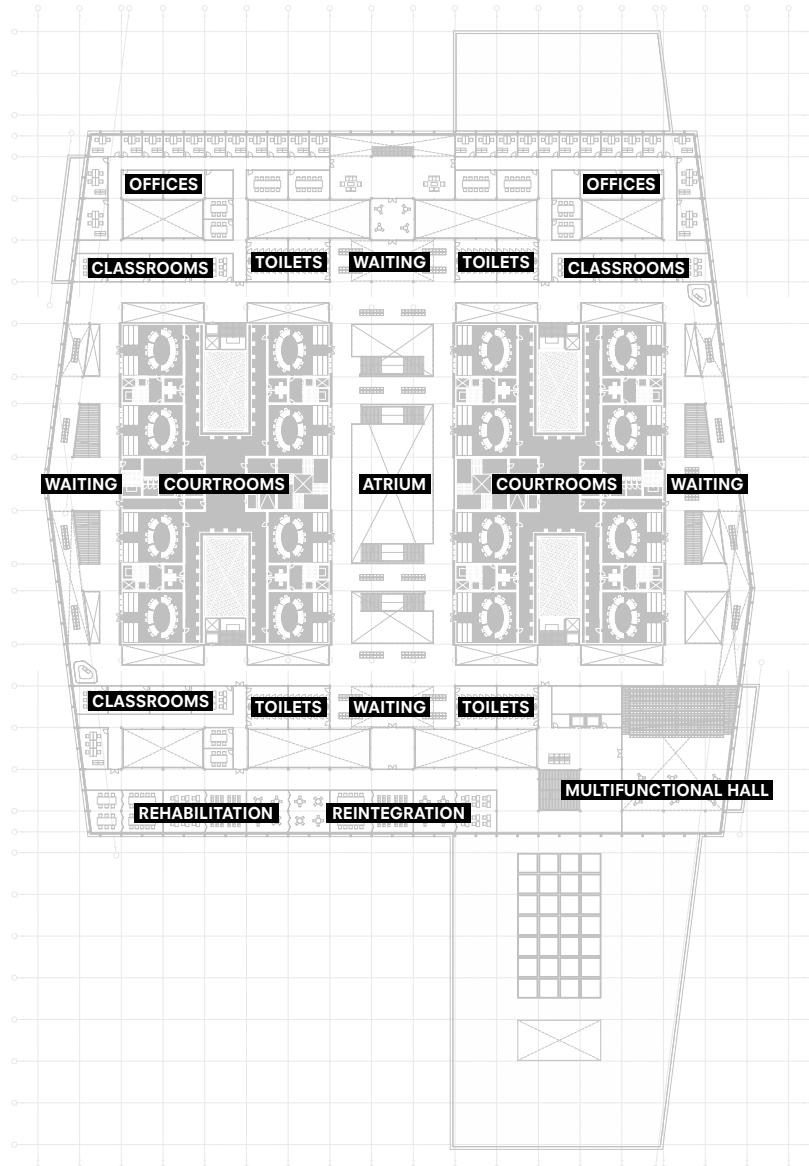


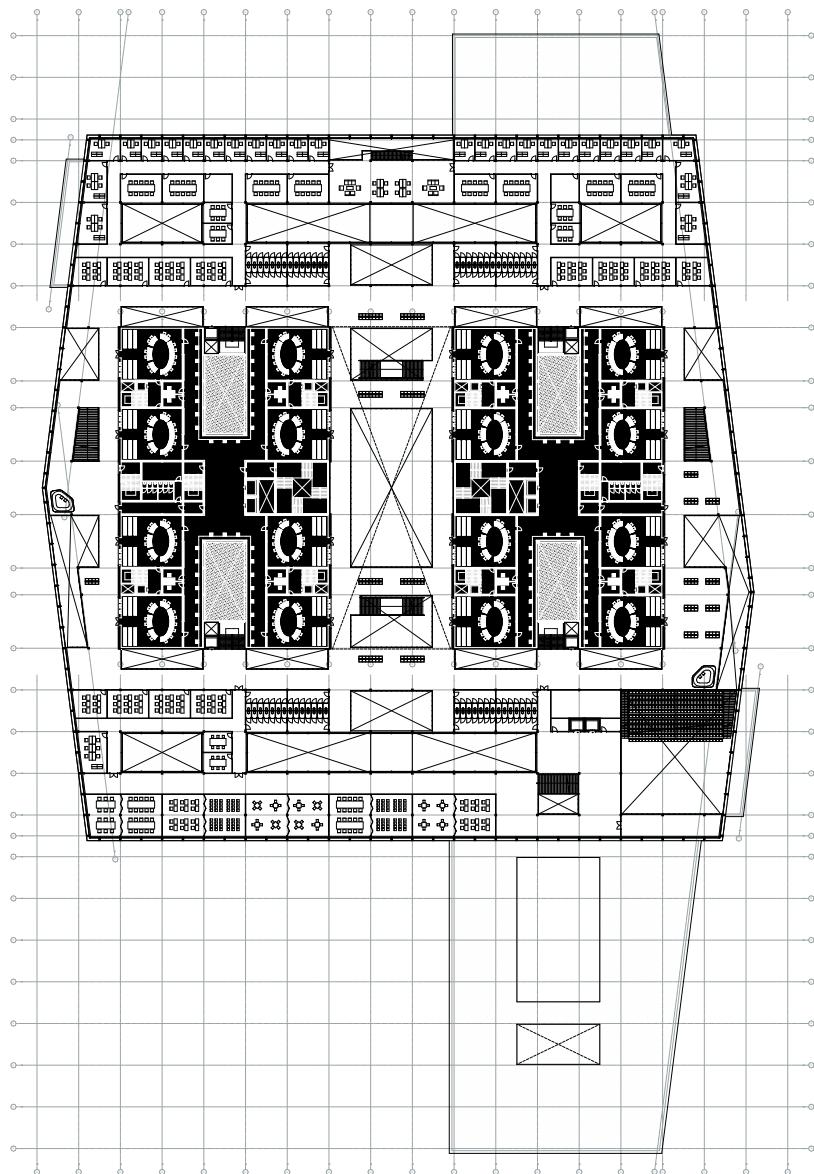


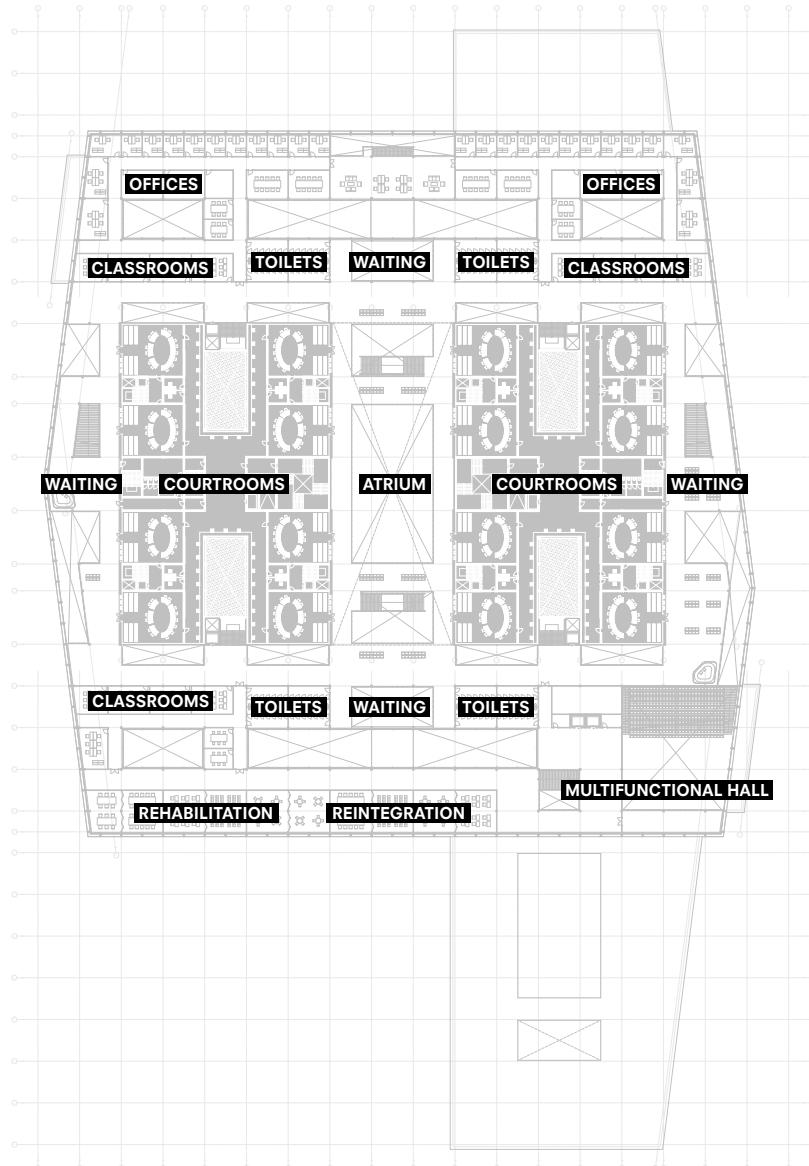


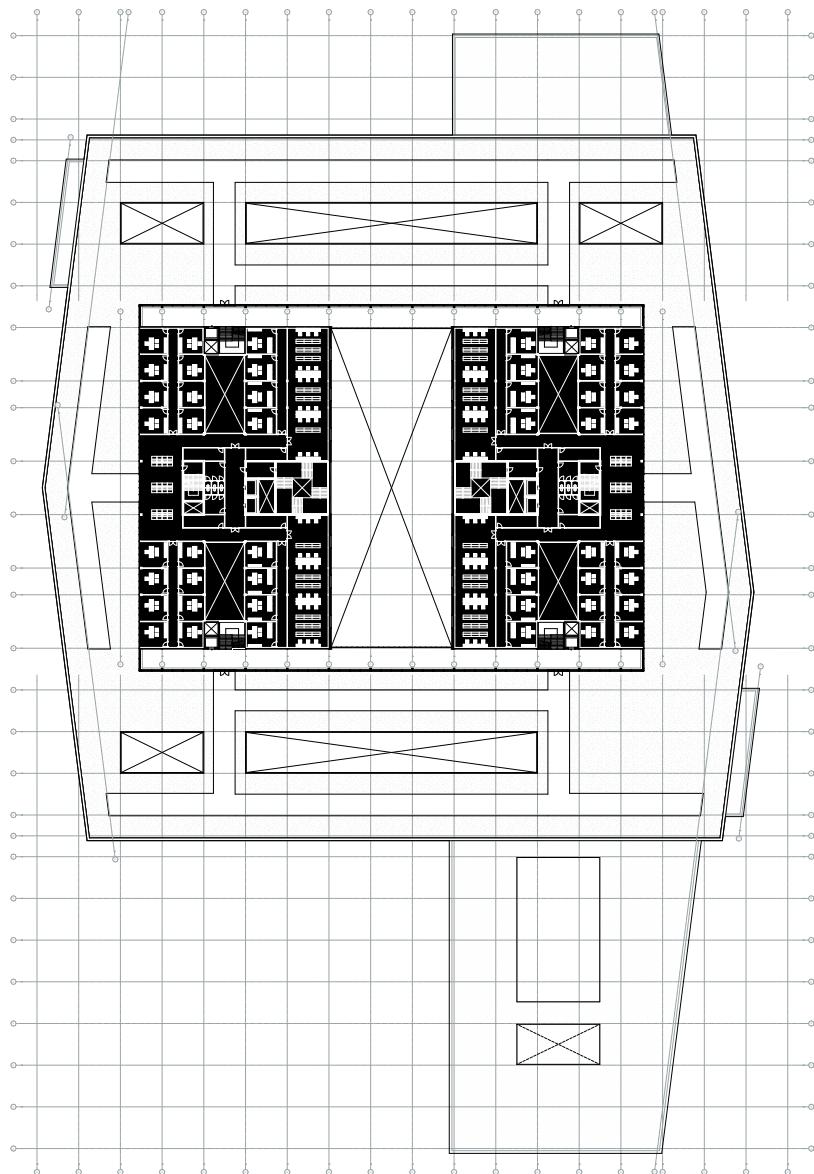


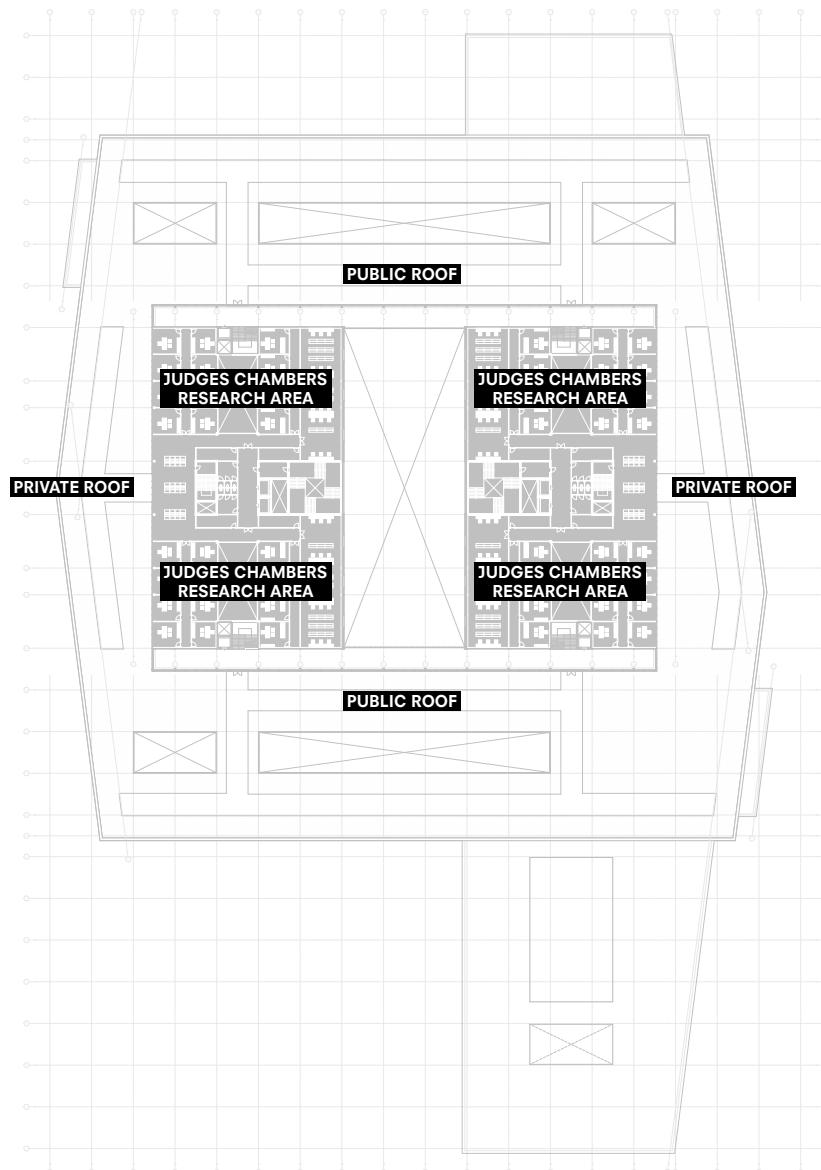


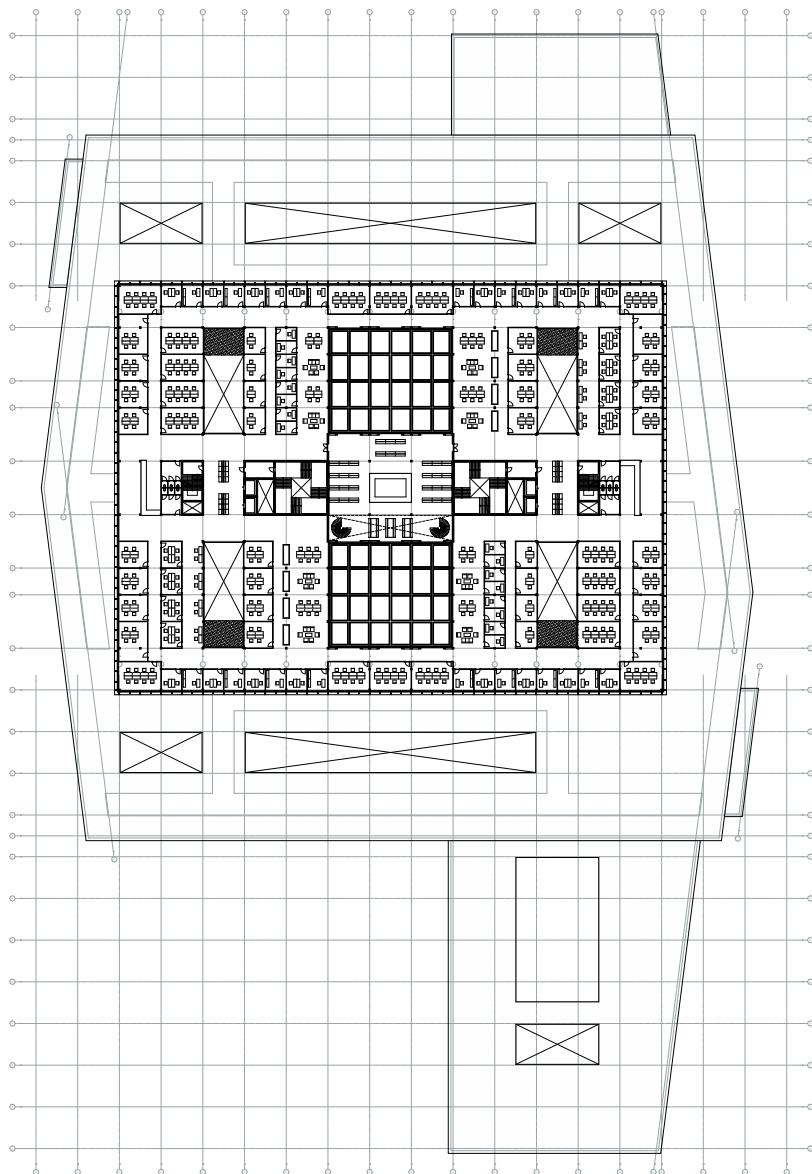


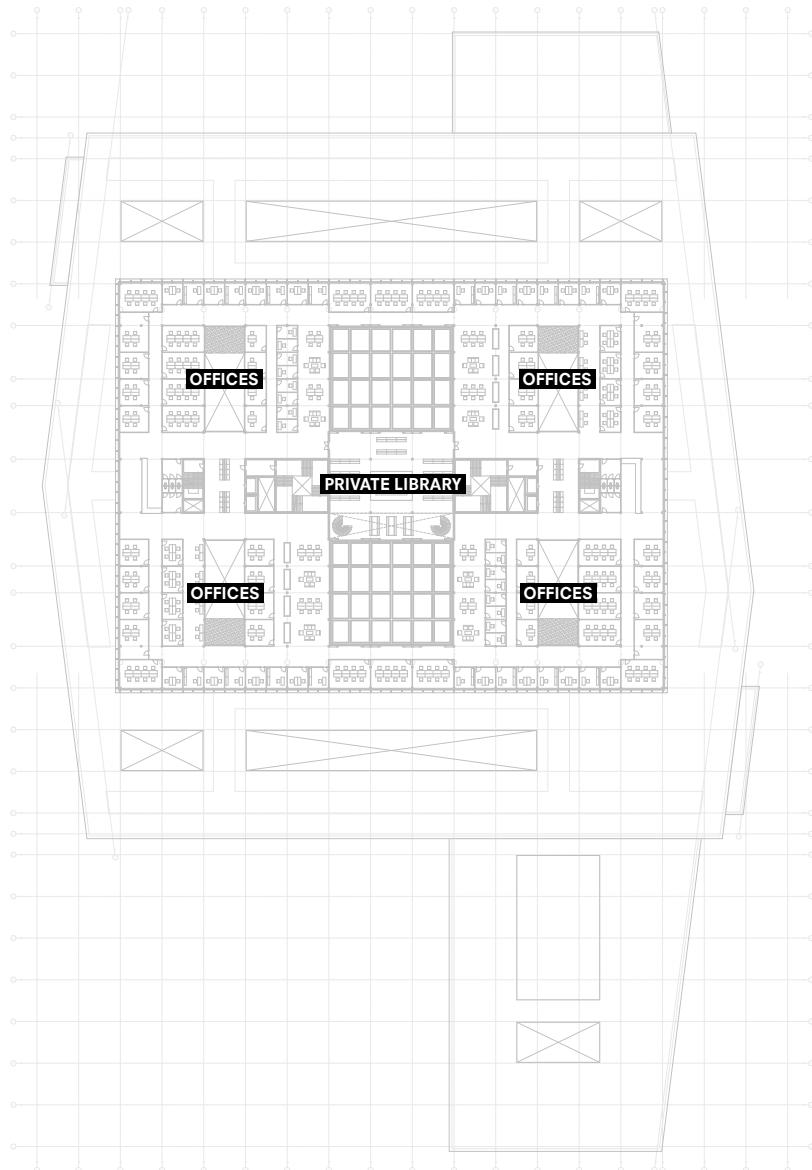


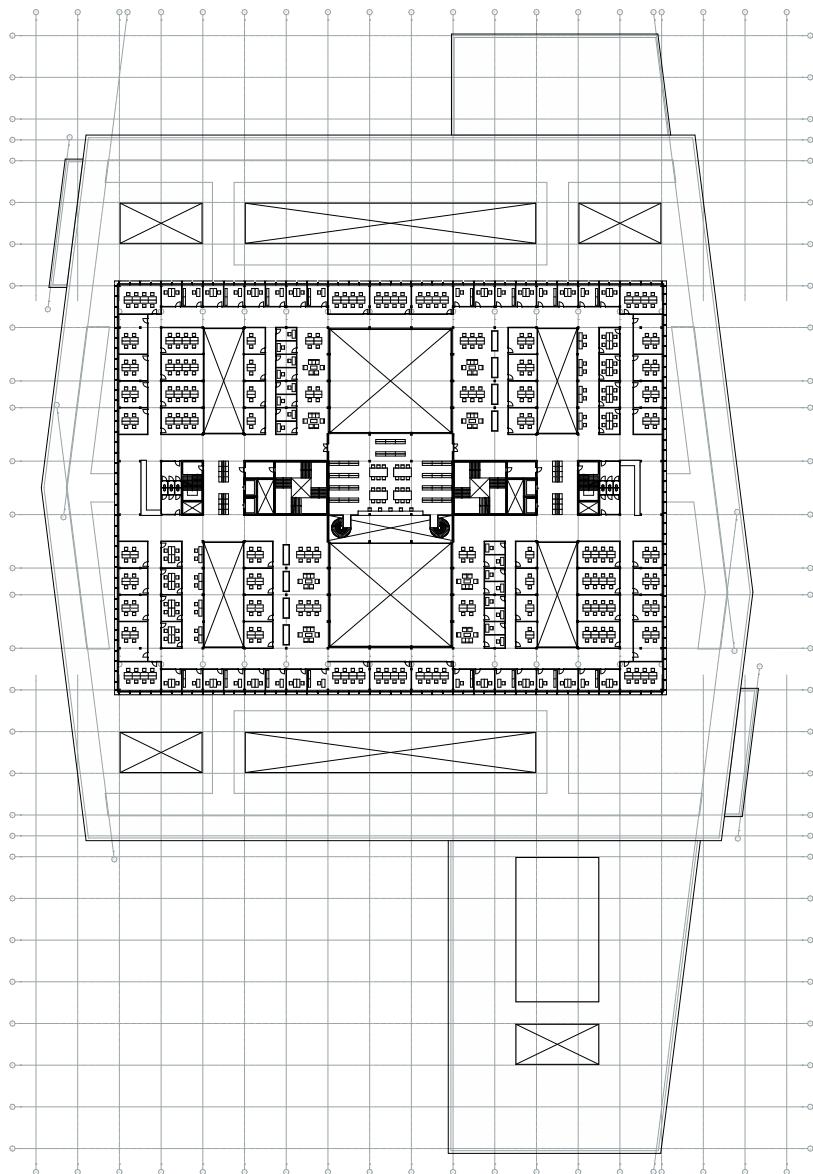


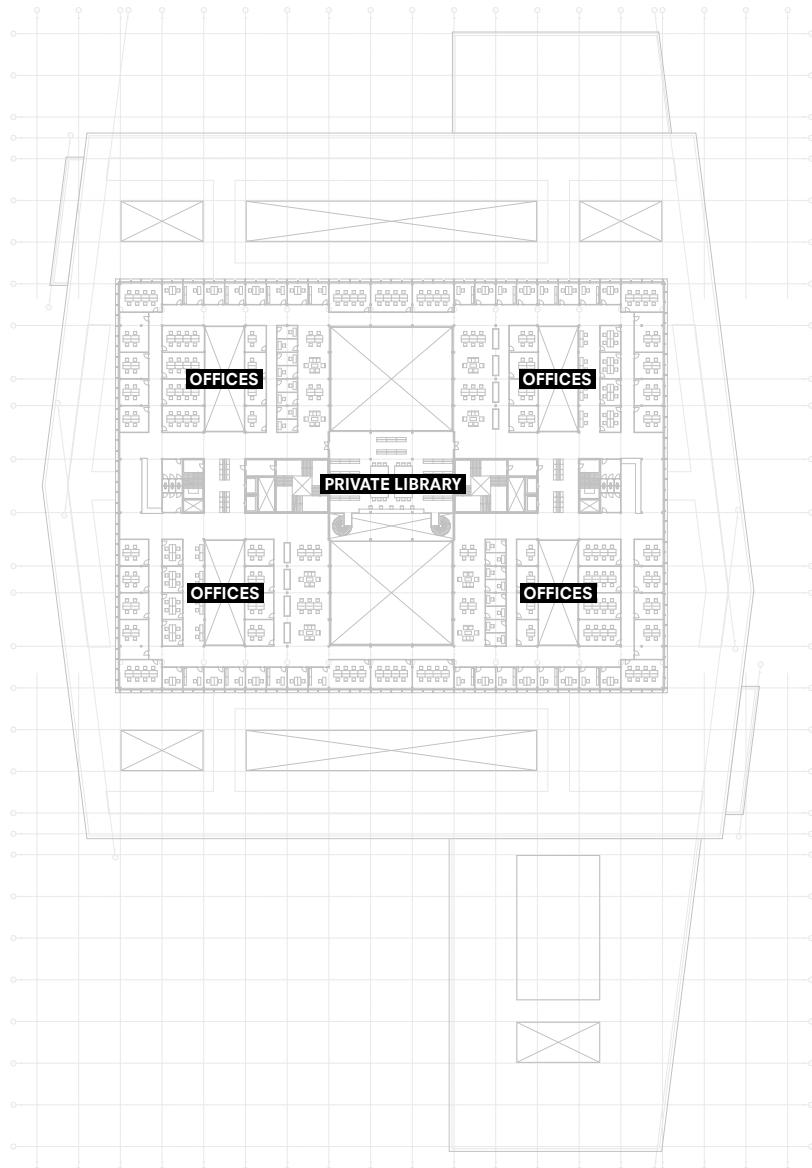


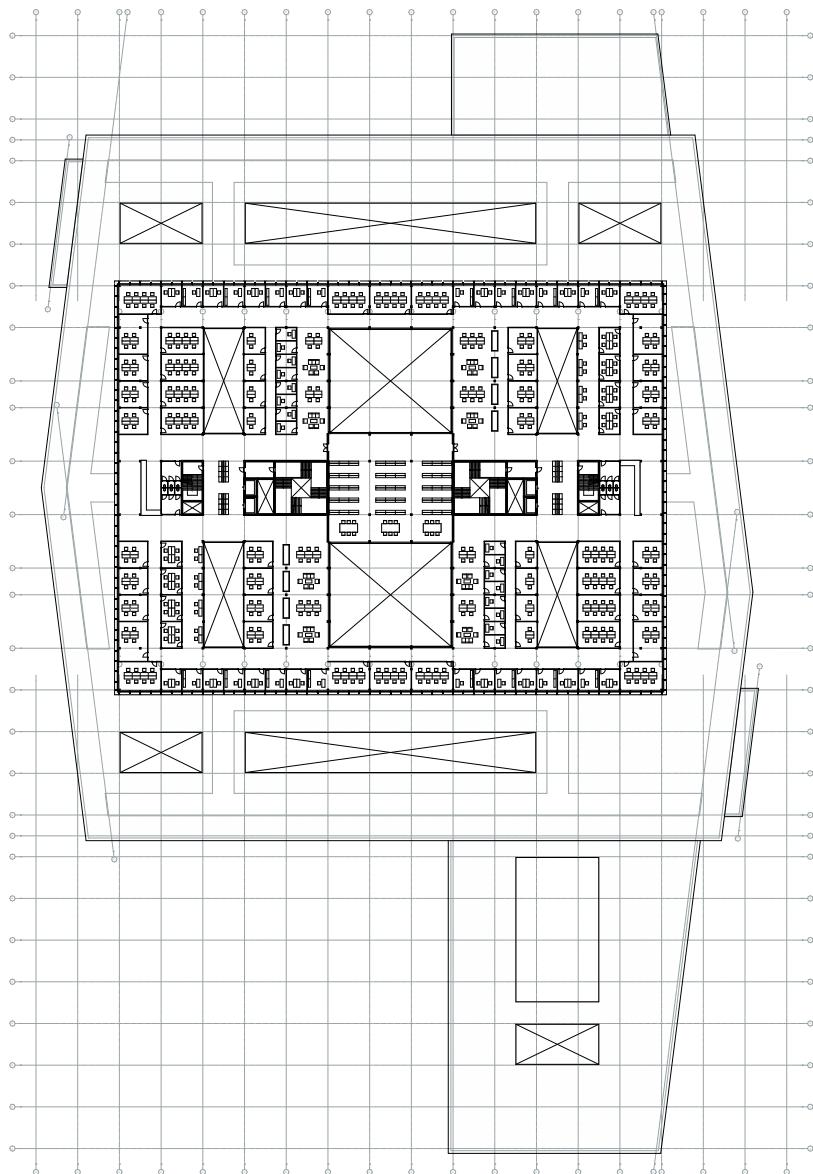


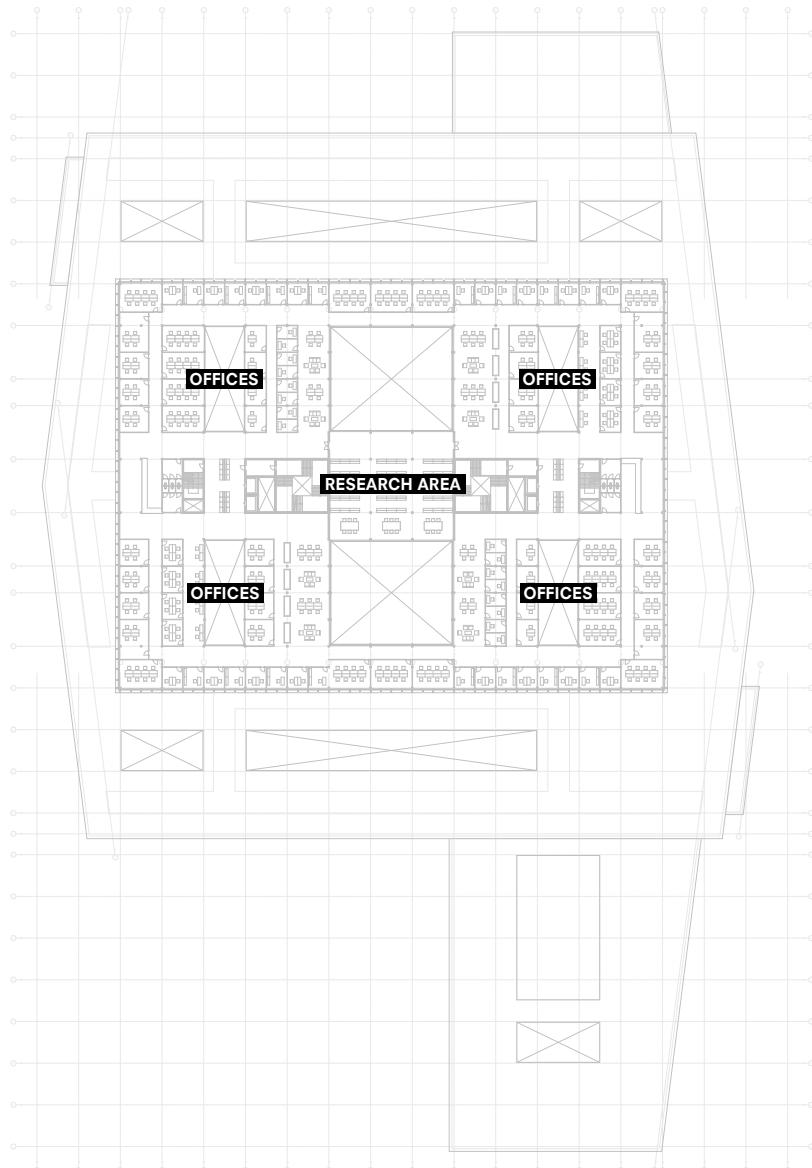


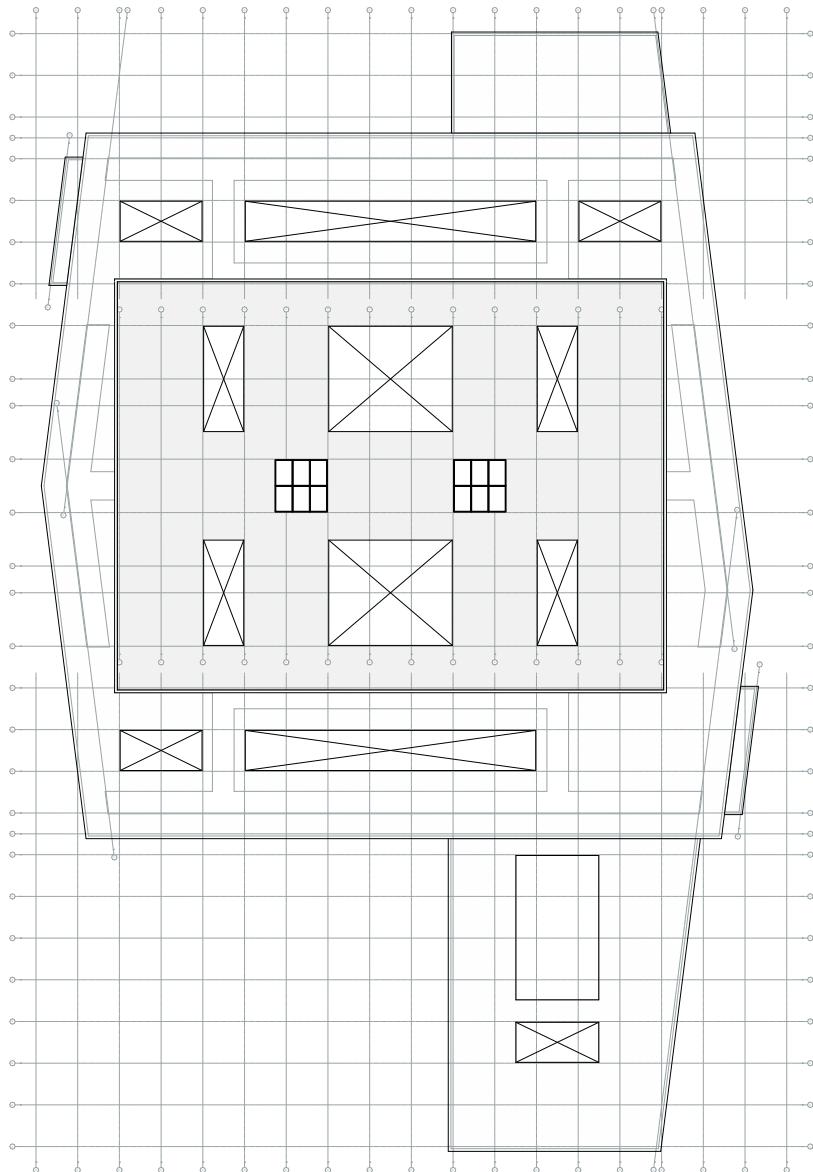


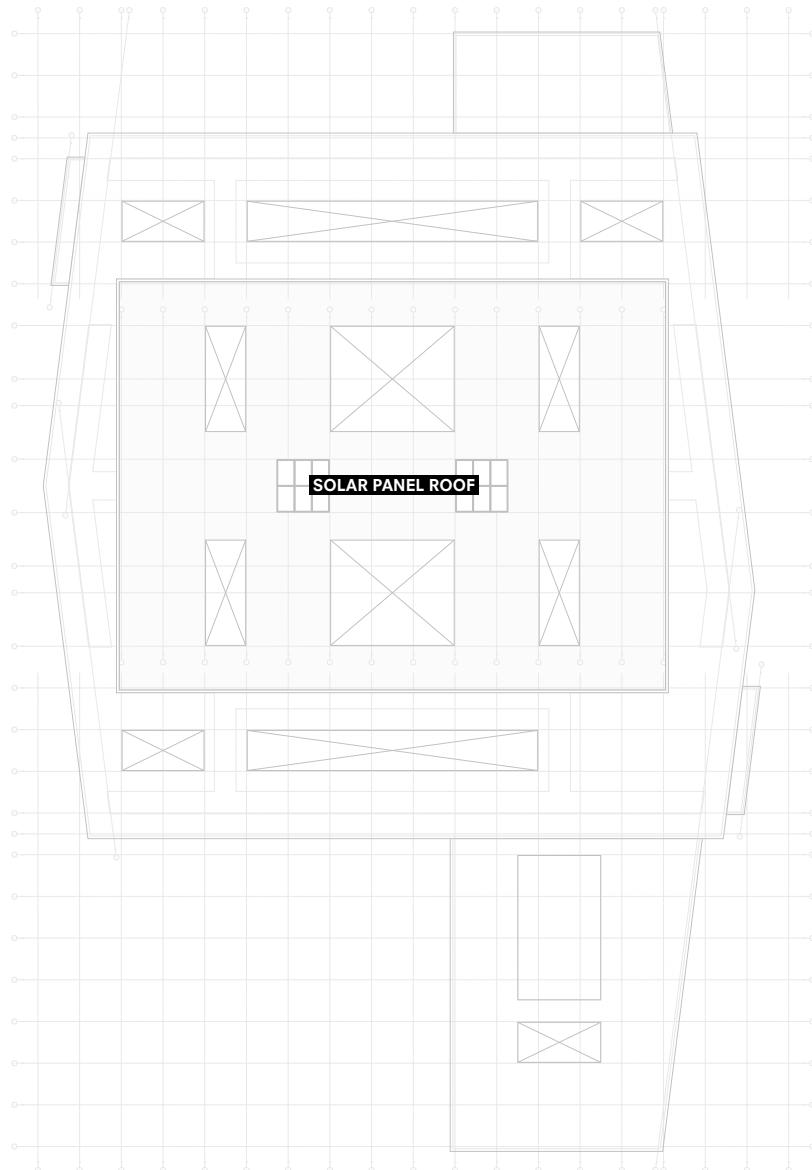












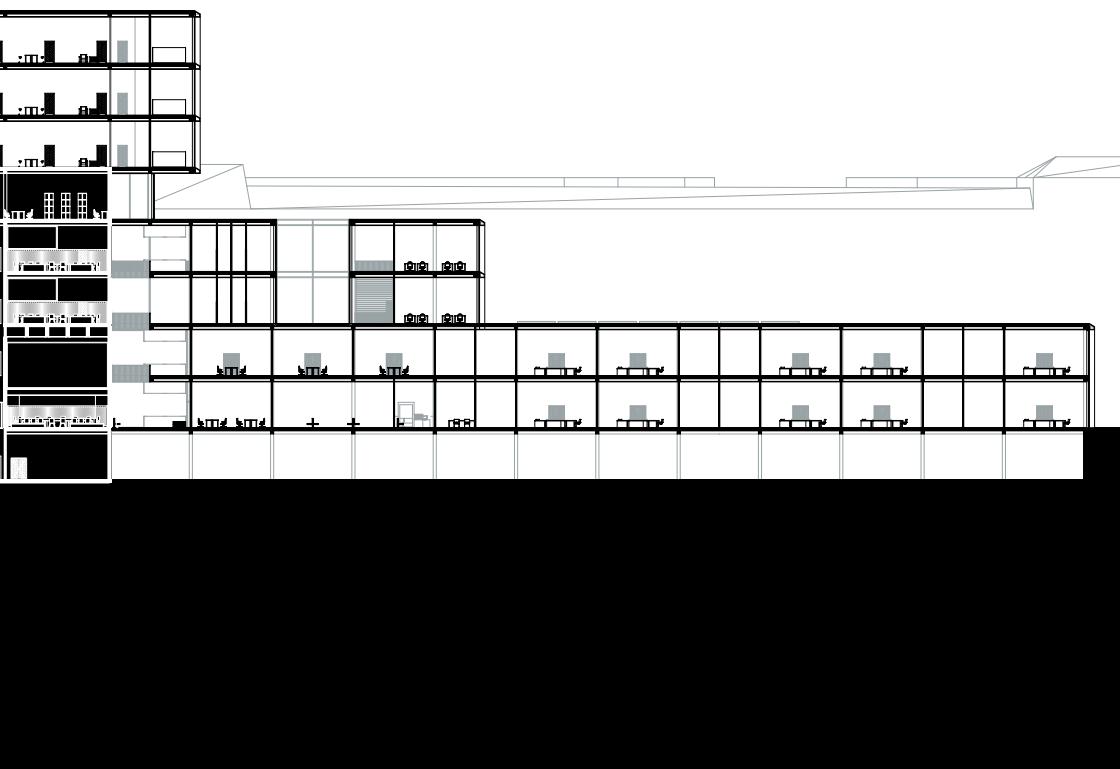
## SECTION A-A





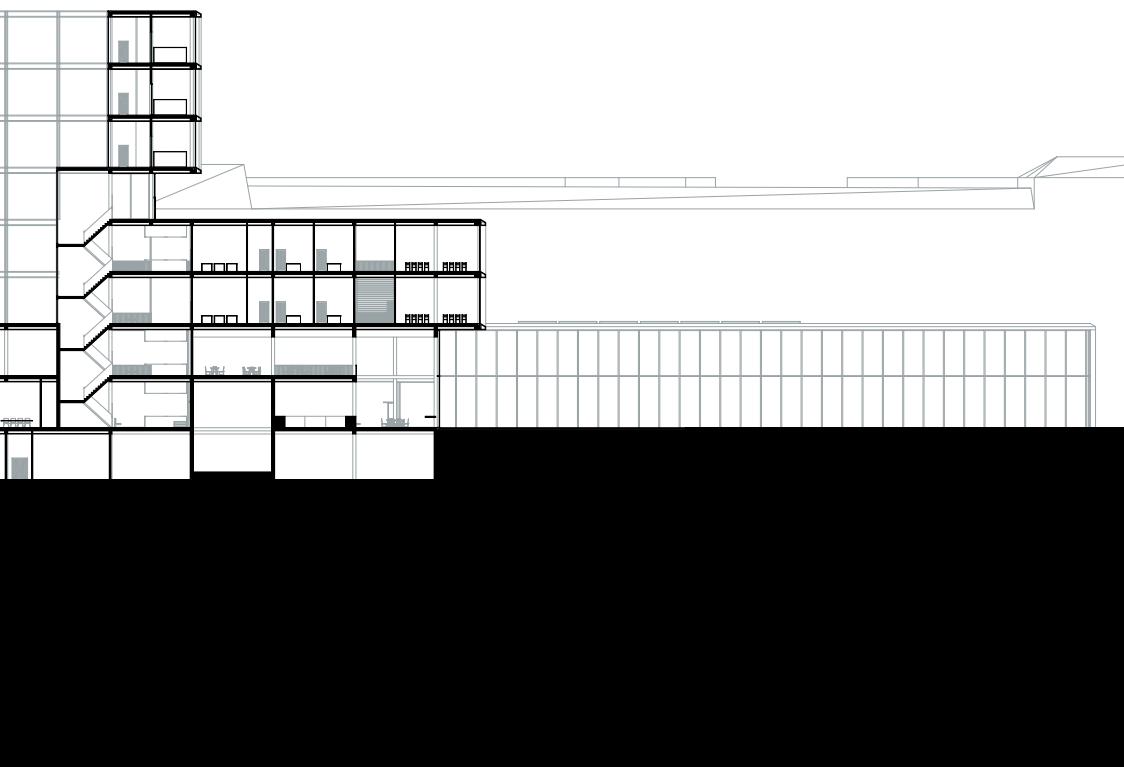
## SECTION B-B





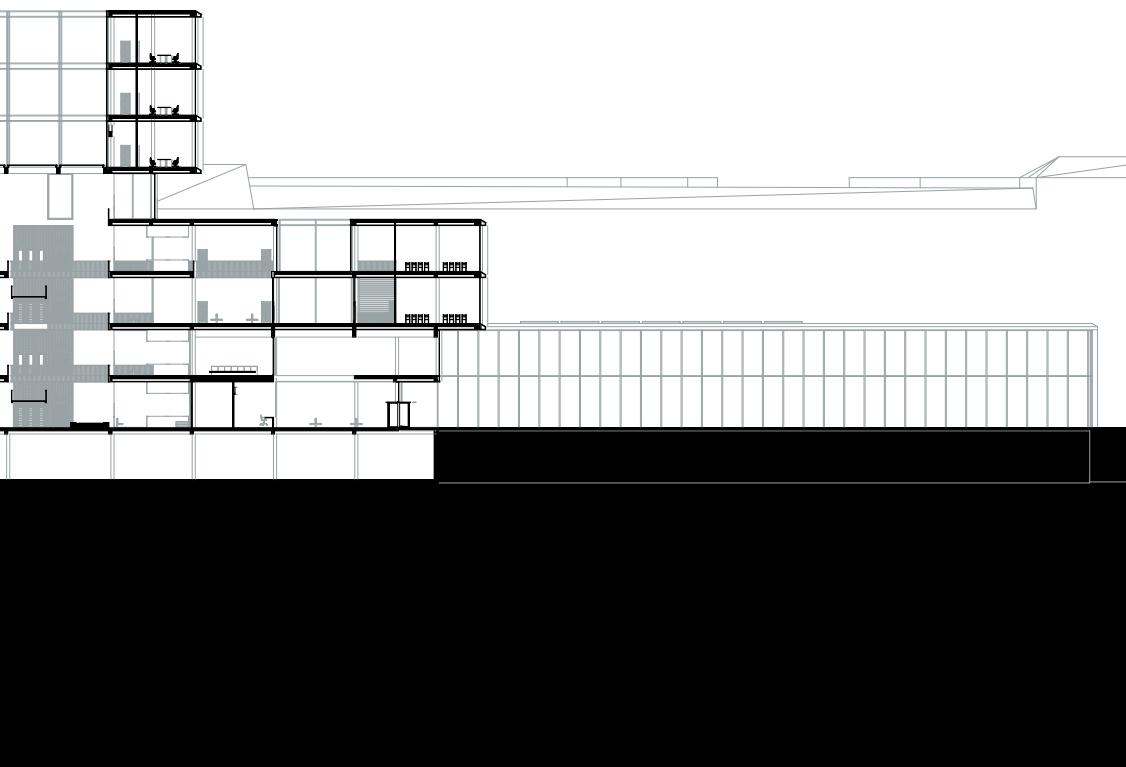
## SECTION C-C



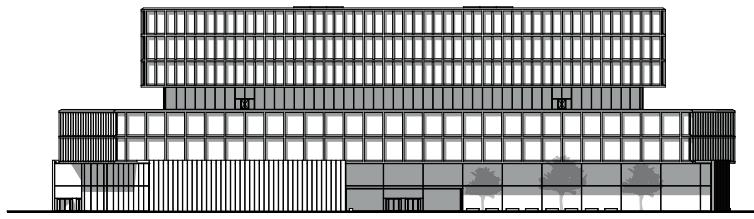


## SECTION D-D

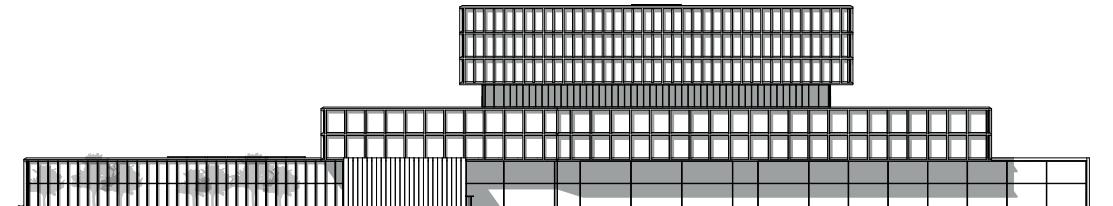




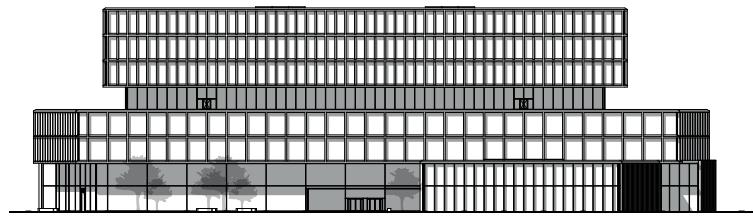
## FRONT FACADE



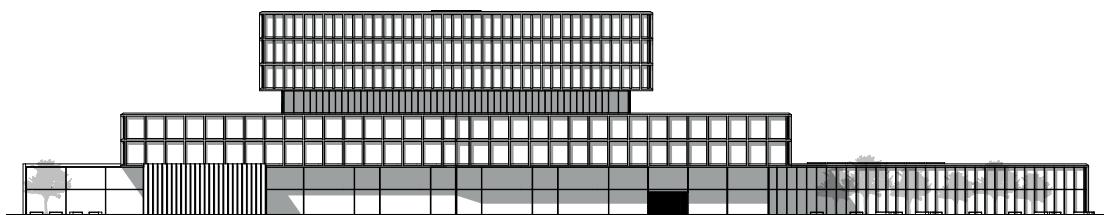
## RIGHT FACADE



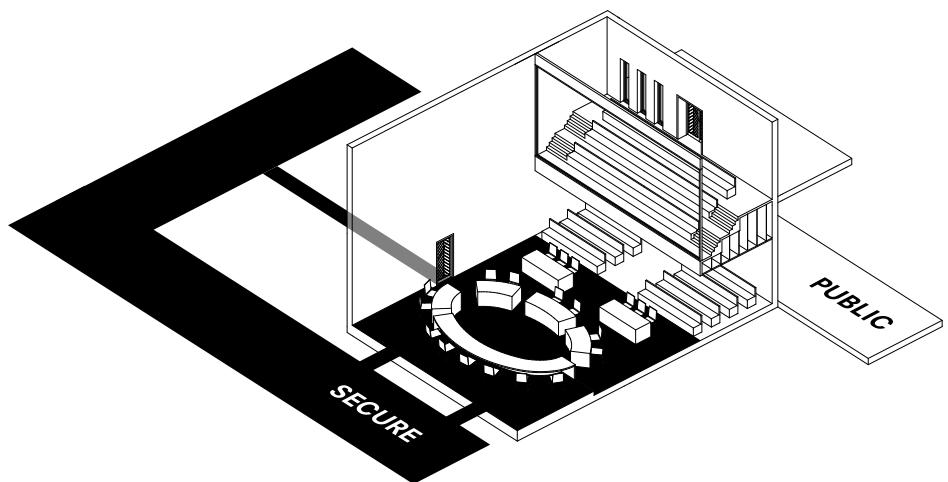
BACK FACADE



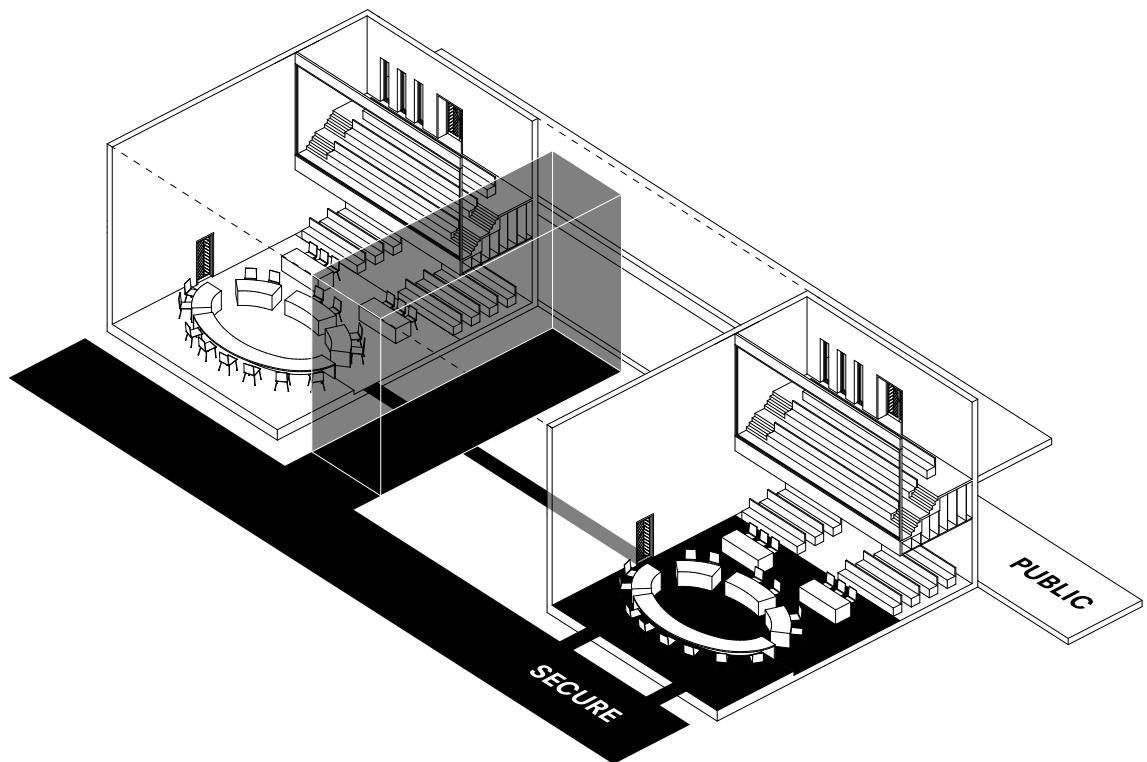
LEFT FACADE



## COURTROOM CONCEPT



Courtroom module with grandstand

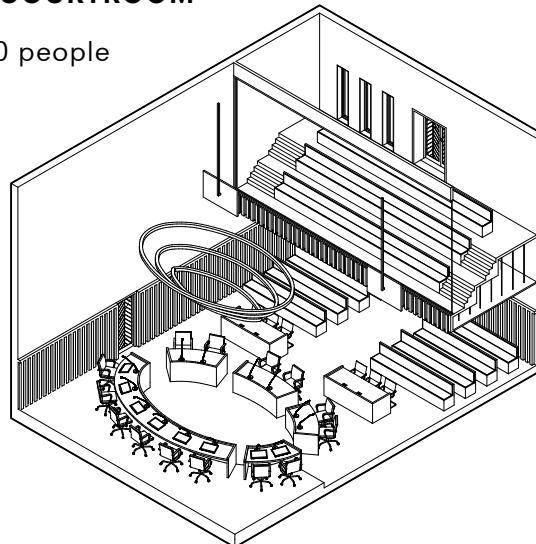


Shared holding and circulation area between 2 courtrooms

# JUSTICE ROOMS

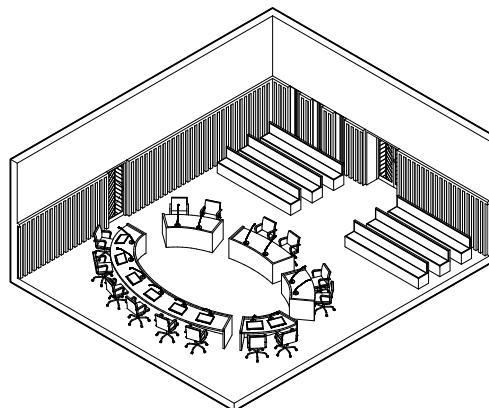
## CRIMINAL COURTROOM

185 m<sup>2</sup> - 110 people



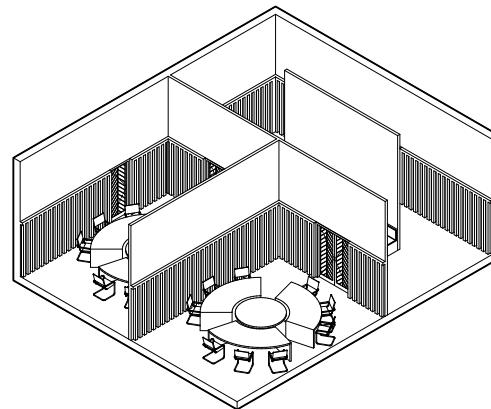
## CIVIL COURTROOM

110 m<sup>2</sup> - 50 people



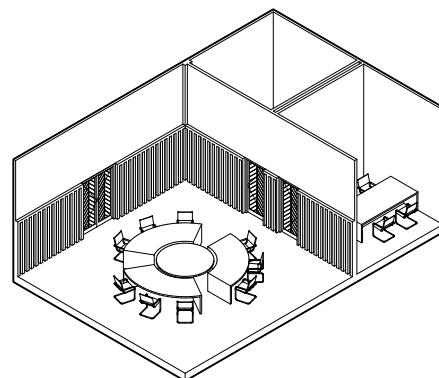
### FLEXIBLE COURTROOM

110 m<sup>2</sup> - 18 people

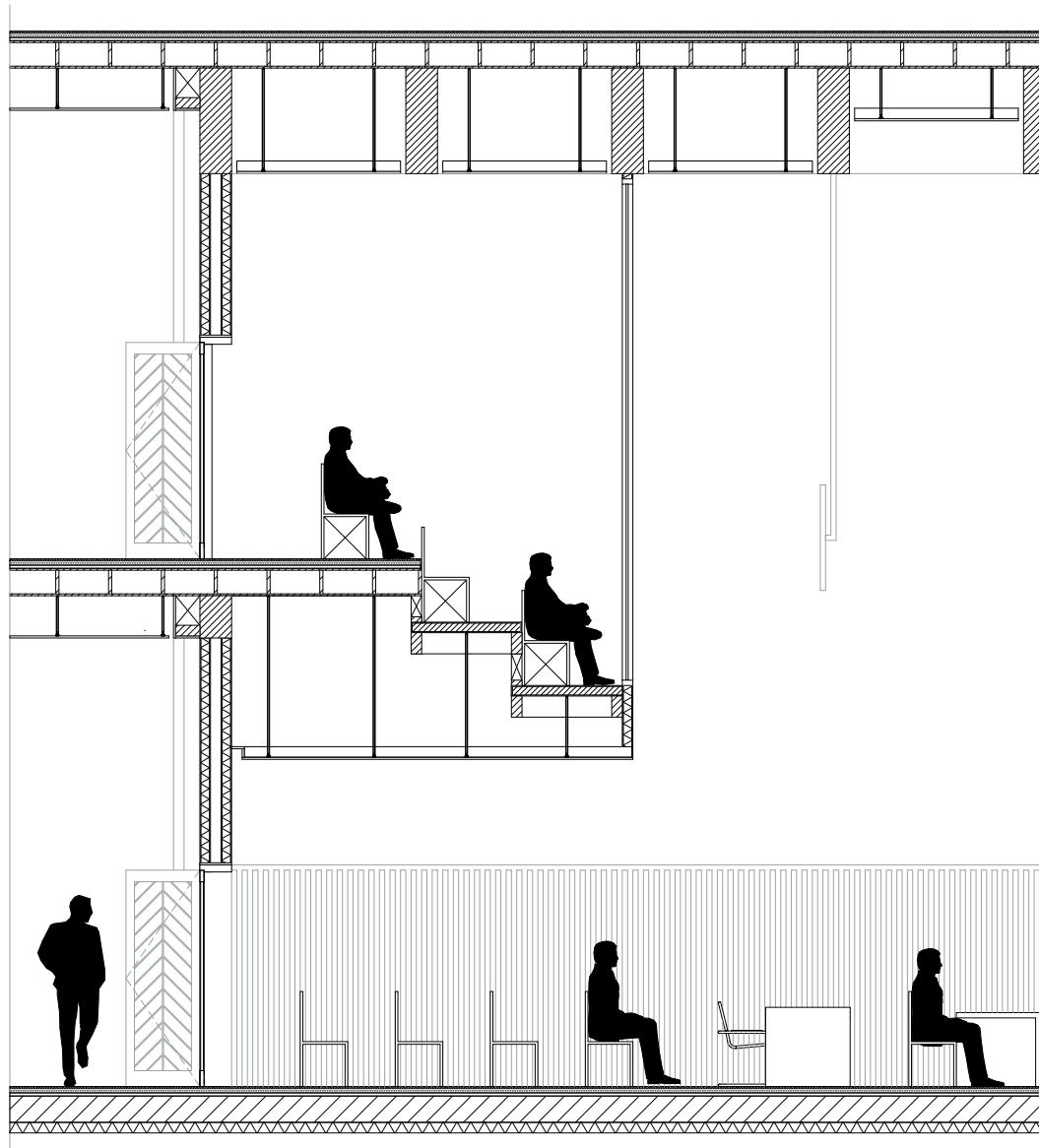


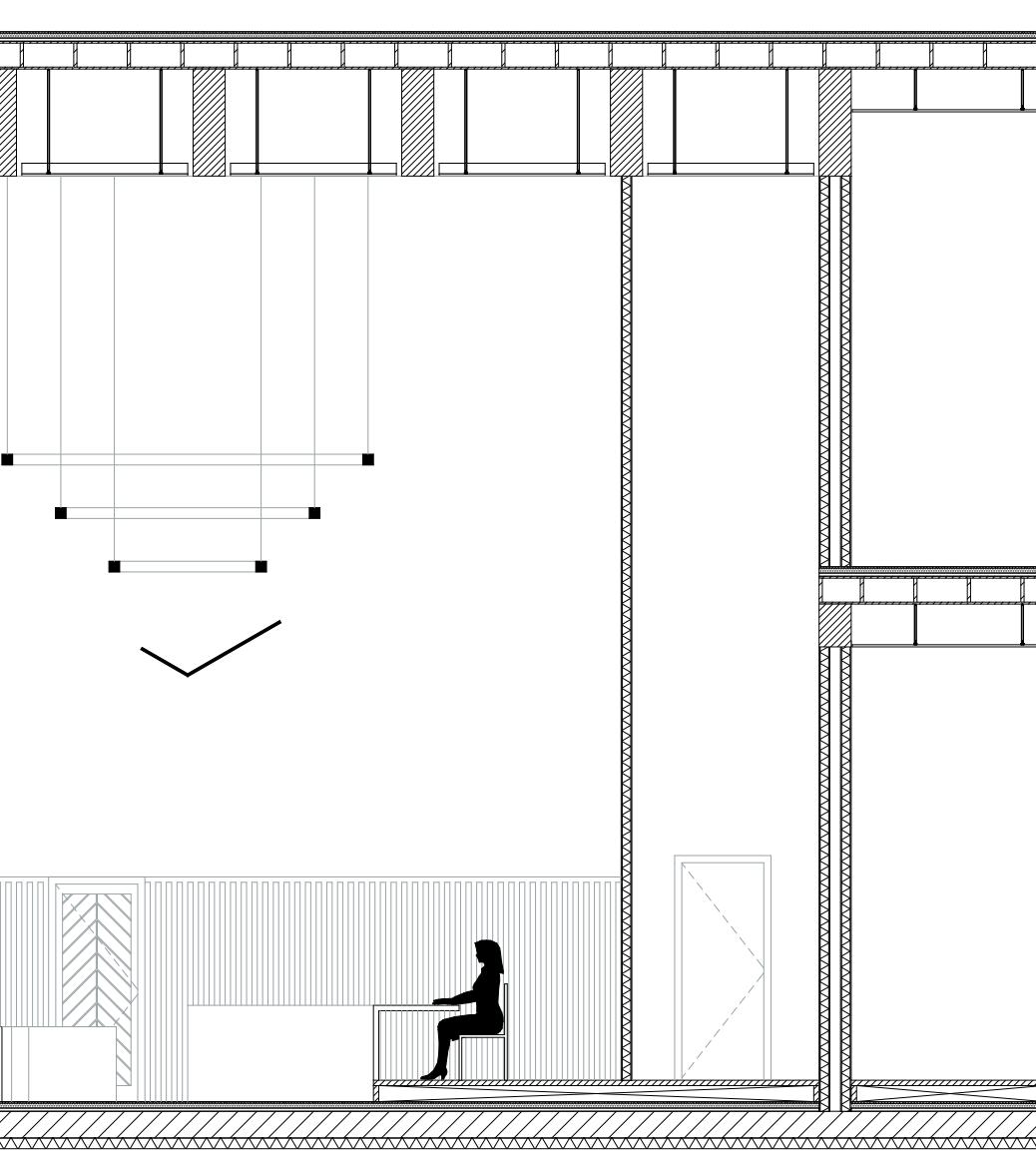
### MEDIATION ROOM

90 m<sup>2</sup> - 9 people



## COURTROOM SECTION



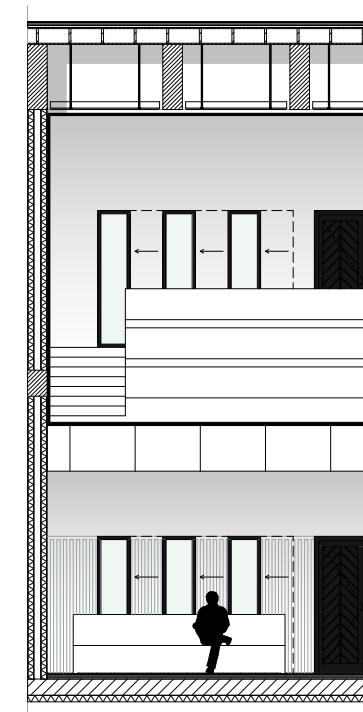


## COURTROOM CONCEPT



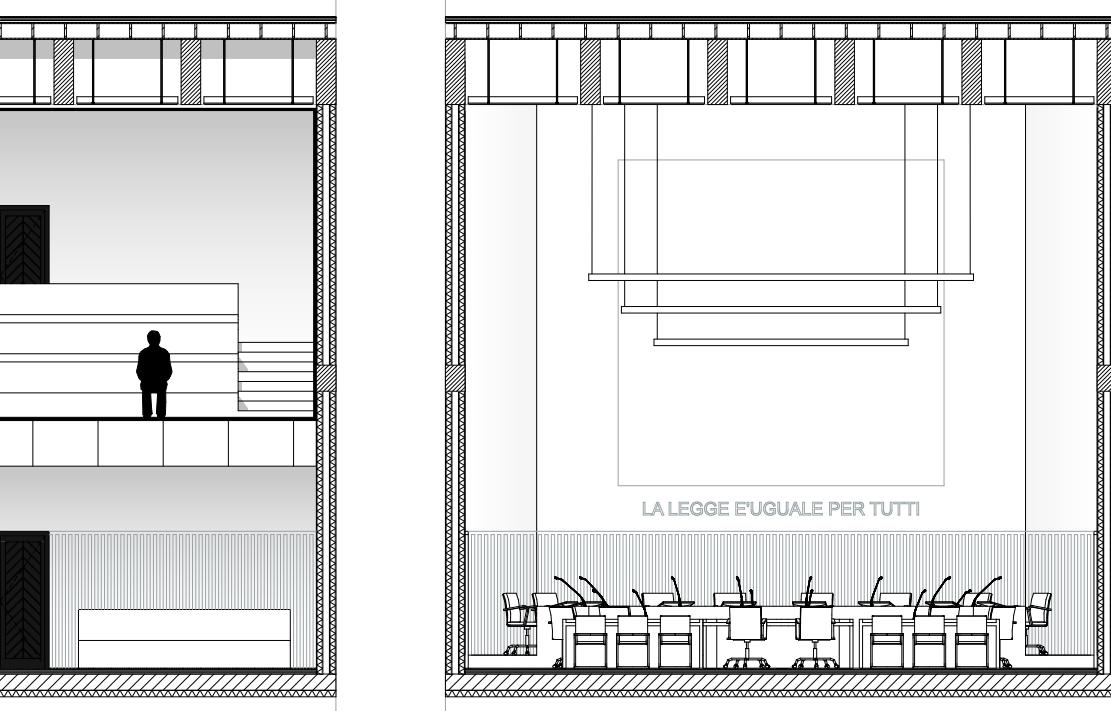
**COURTROOM SECTION**

facing the public



**COURTROOM FACADE**

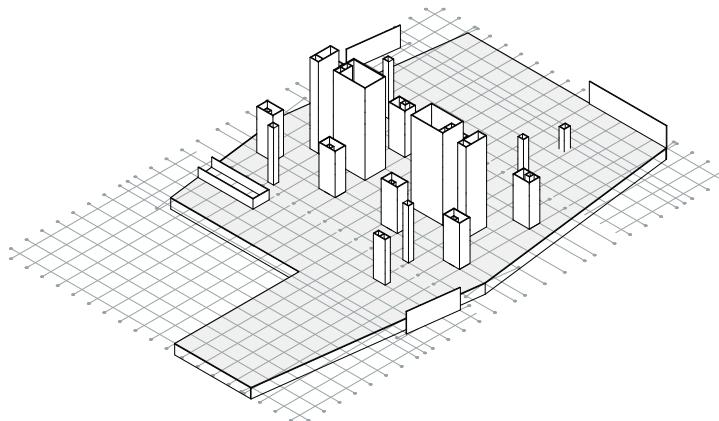
facing the entrance



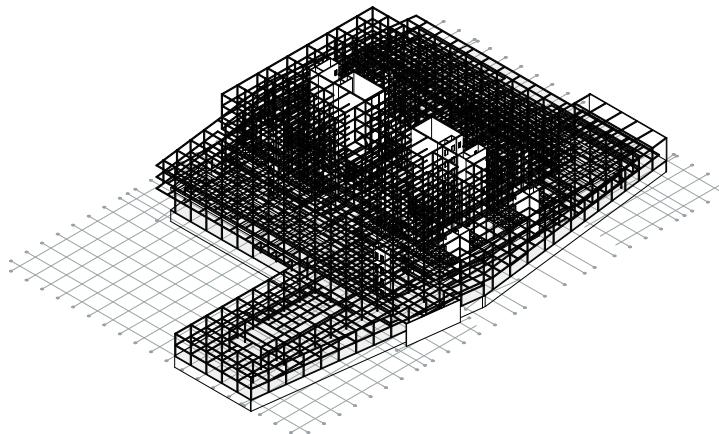
## COURTROOM SECTION

facing the court

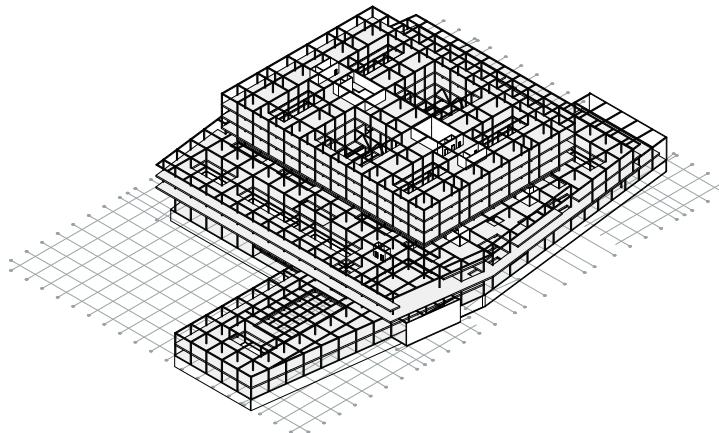
## CONSTRUCTION



Concrete basement, cores, walls and elevators

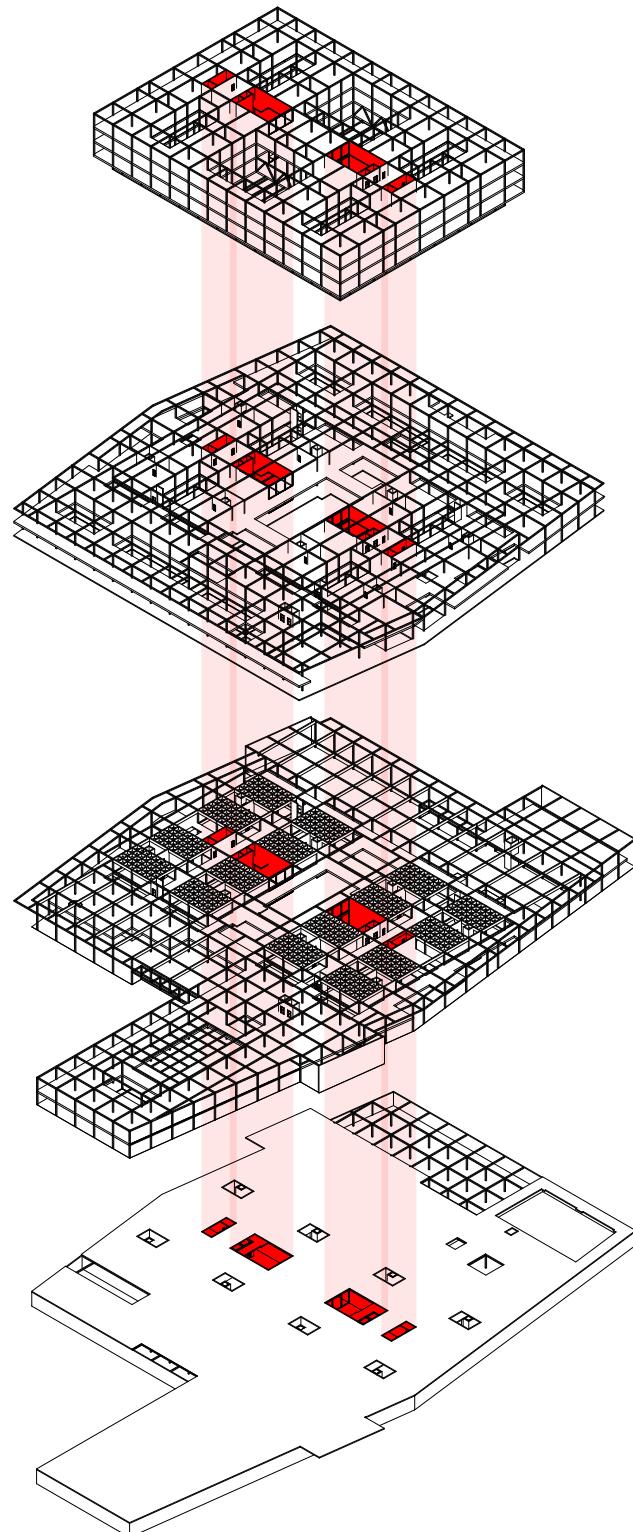


Timber columns and beams



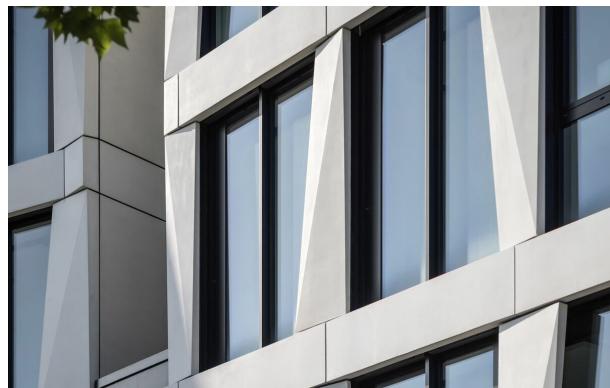
Adding construction floors

EXPLODED AXONOMETRY



# CONSTRUCTION

## FACADE



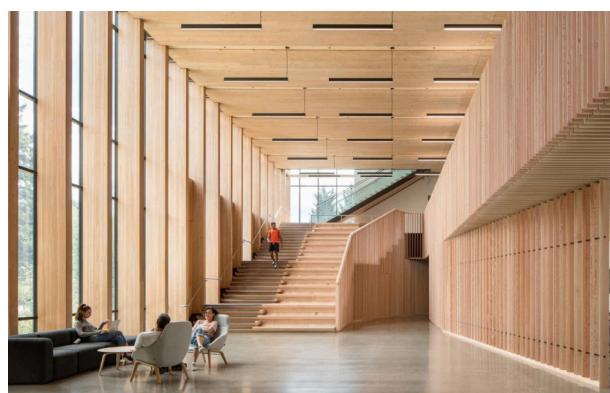
glass fibre reinforced concrete

## INTERFACE



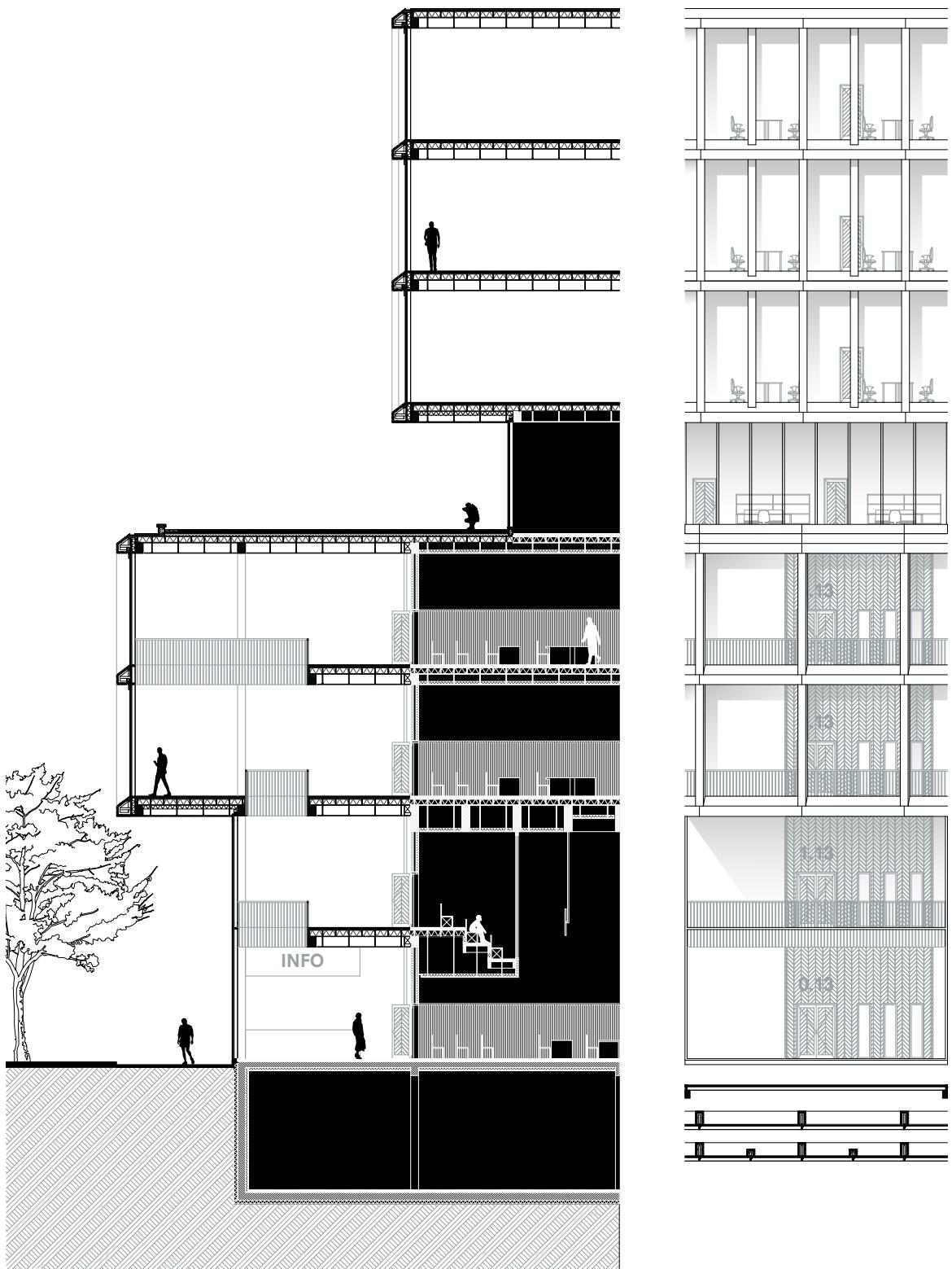
aluminium/ timber curtain wall

## INTERIOR

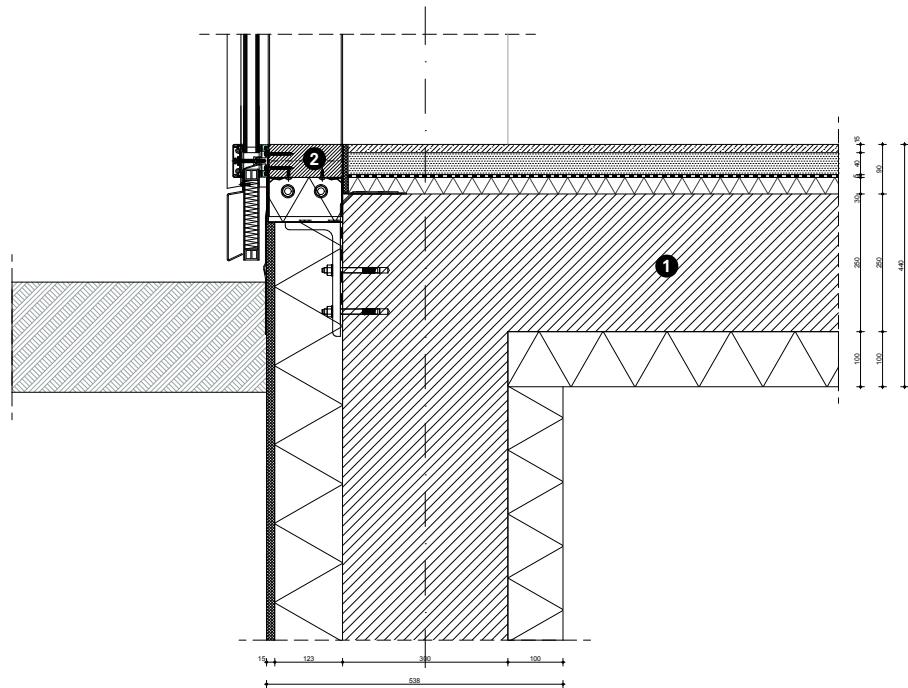


timber

FACADE FRAGMENT

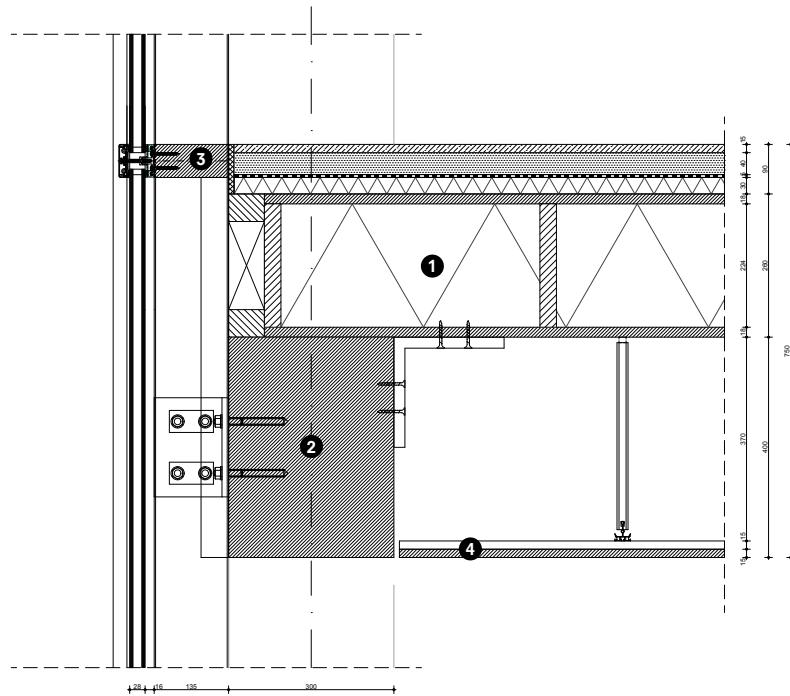


## CONSTRUCTION DETAIL - 01



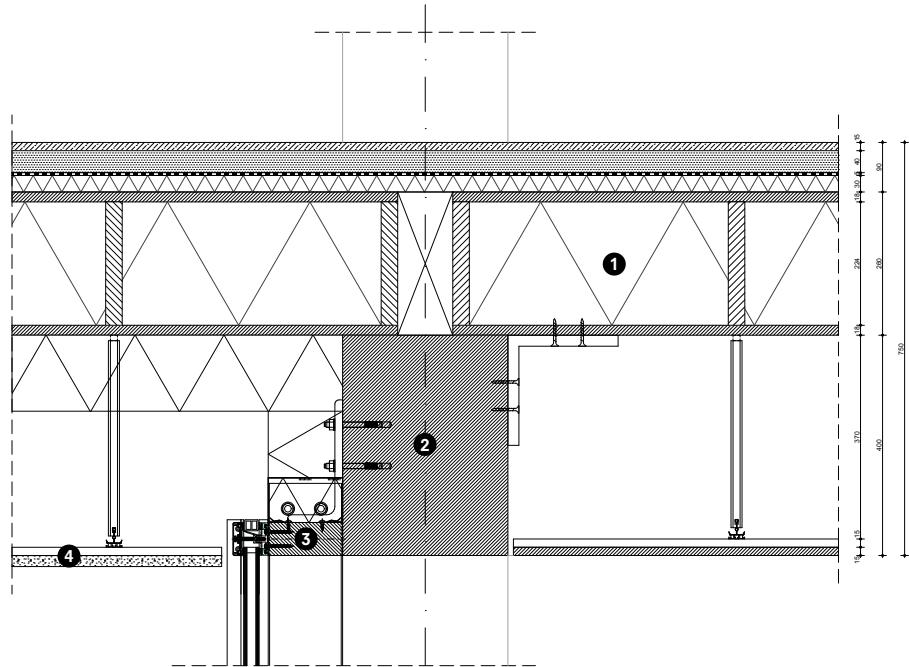
1. Terrazzo 15 mm, sand-cement screed 40 mm, acoustic separation layer 5 mm, fibre-reinforced cement-bonded board 30 mm, monolithic concrete floor 250mm, insulation 100mm
2. Stabalux AK-H wood/ aluminium curtain wall

## CONSTRUCTION DETAIL - 02



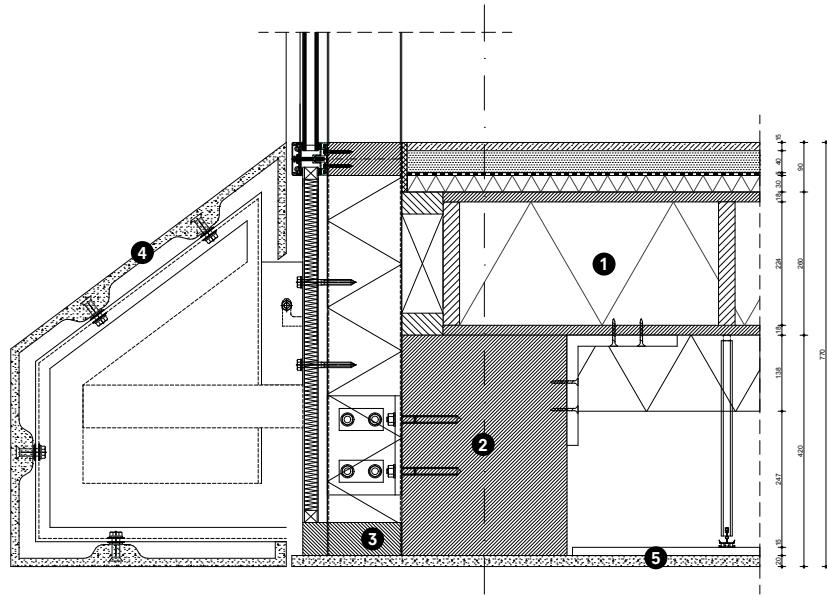
1. Terrazzo 15 mm, sand-cement screed 40 mm, acoustic separation layer 5 mm, fibre-reinforced cement-bonded board 30 mm, Kerto-Ripa floor construction with insulation 260 mm
  2. Timber Construction Beam 300x400 mm
  3. Stabalux AK-H wood/ aluminium curtain wall
  4. Suspended ceiling, wooden slats

## CONSTRUCTION DETAIL - 03



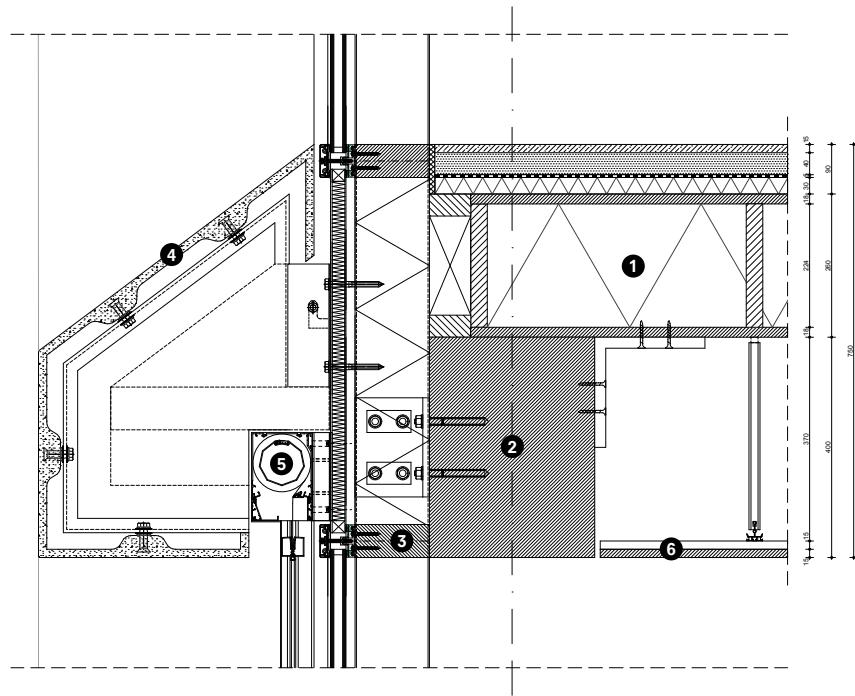
1. Terrazzo 15 mm, sand-cement screed 4 mm, acoustic separation layer 5 mm, fibre-reinforced cement-bonded board 30 mm, Kerto-Ripa floor construction with insulation 260 mm
2. Timber Construction Beam 300x400 mm
3. Stabalux AK-H wood/ aluminium curtain wall
4. Suspended ceiling, wooden slats

## CONSTRUCTION DETAIL - 04



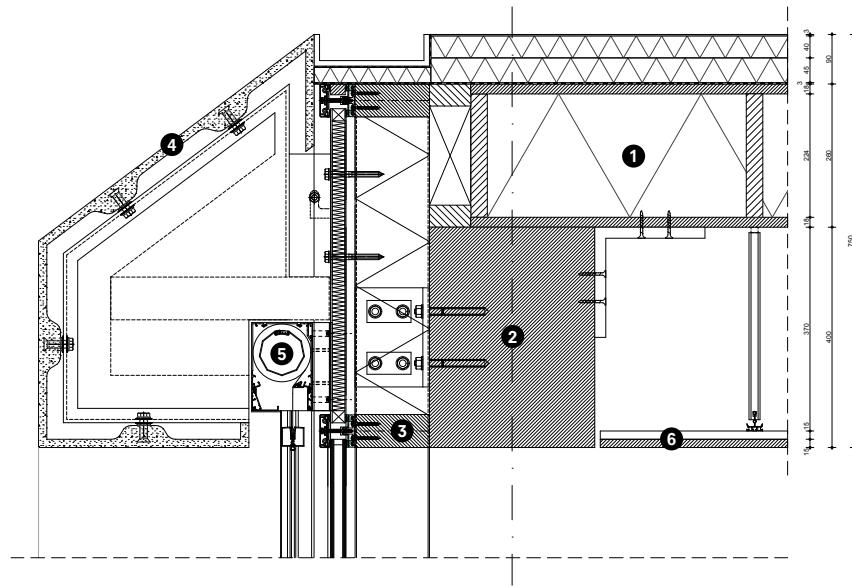
1. Terrazzo 15 mm, sand-cement screed 4 mm, acoustic separation layer 5 mm, fibre-reinforced cement-bonded board 30 mm, Kerto-Ripa floor construction with insulation 260 mm, Timber Construction Beam 300x400 mm
2. Stabalux AK-H wood/ aluminium curtain wall
3. Glass Fibre Reinforced Concrete (GRC), 15mm
4. Suspended ceiling, wooden slats
5. Foundation

## CONSTRUCTION DETAIL - 05



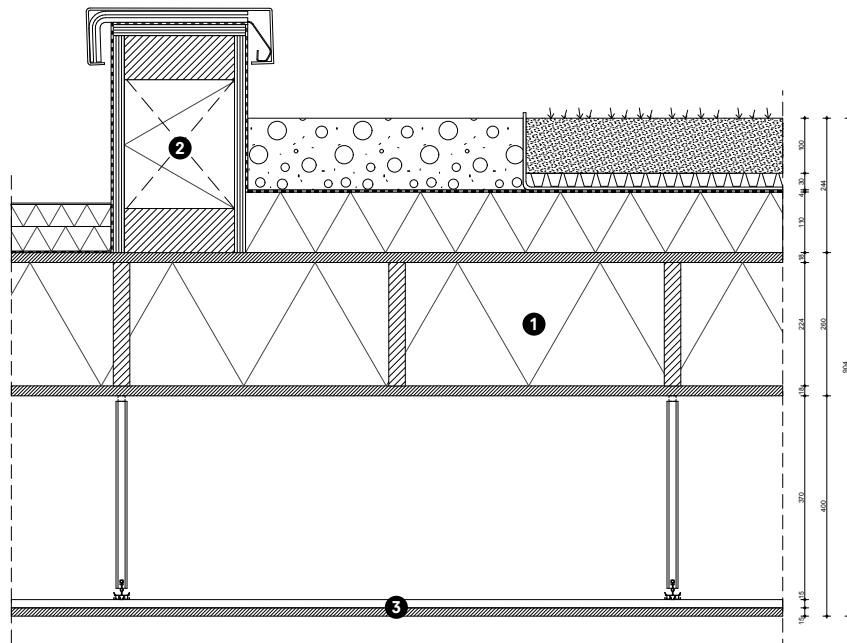
1. Terrazzo 15 mm, sand-cement screed 4 mm, acoustic separation layer 5 mm, fibre-reinforced cement-bonded board 30 mm, Kerto Ripa floor construction with insulation 260 mm
  2. Timber Construction Beam 300x400 mm
  3. Stabalam AK-H wood/ aluminium curtain wall
  4. Glass Fibre Reinforced Concrete (GRC), 15mm
  5. ENCLAD EN06 rainscreen support system hook on secret fixed
  6. Suspended ceiling, wooden slats

## CONSTRUCTION DETAIL - 06



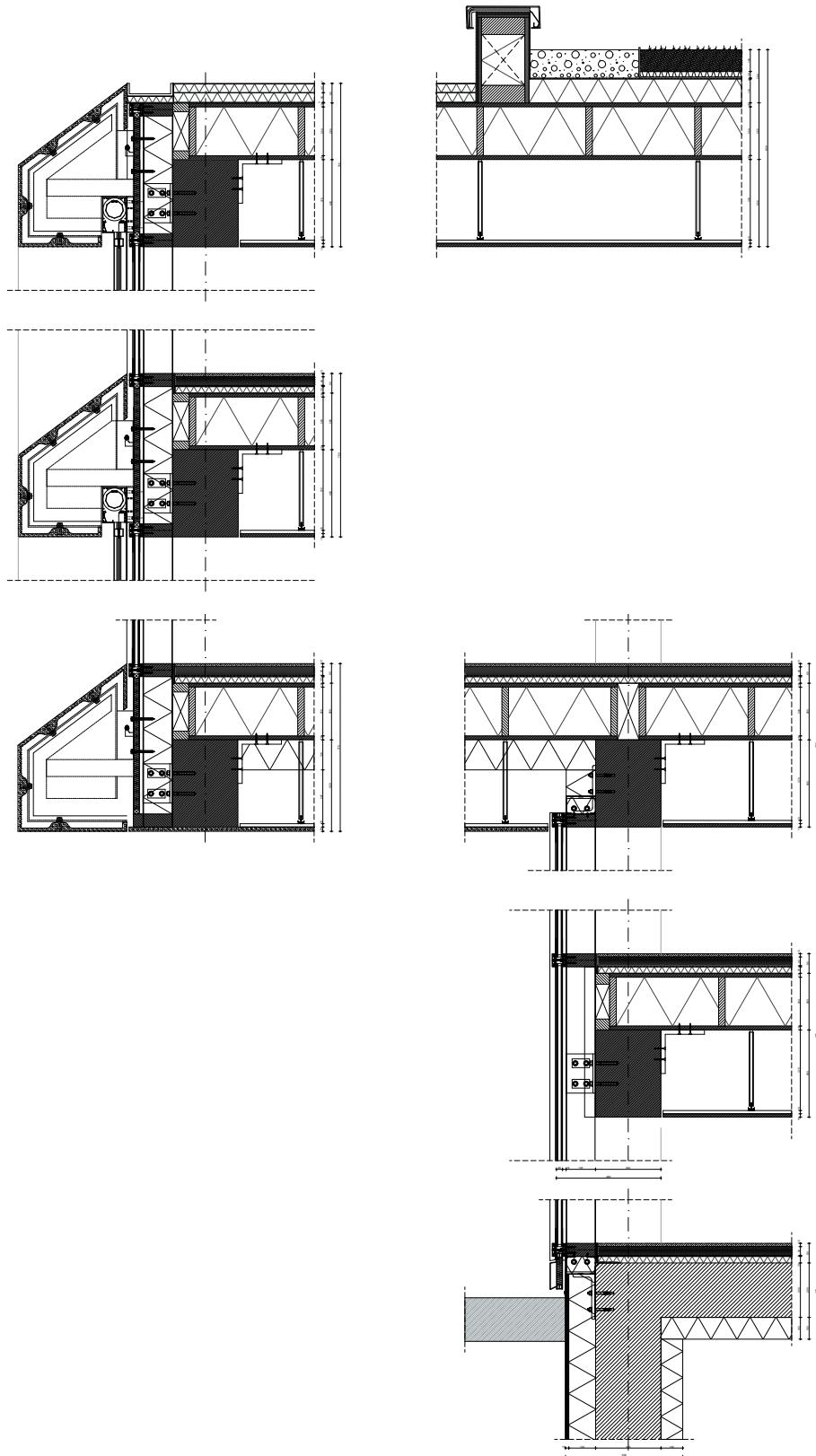
1. Roof waterproofing membrane PVC 3mm, protection layer, Thermal insulation 85 mm, Vapour control layer 3 mm, Kerto-Ripa structural roof panel with insulation 260 mm
2. Timber Construction Beam 300x400 mm
3. Stabalux AK-H wood/ aluminium curtain wall
4. Glass Fibre Reinforced Concrete (GRC), 15mm
5. ENCLAD EN06 rainscreen support system hook on secret fixed
6. Suspended ceiling, wooden slats

## CONSTRUCTION DETAIL - 07



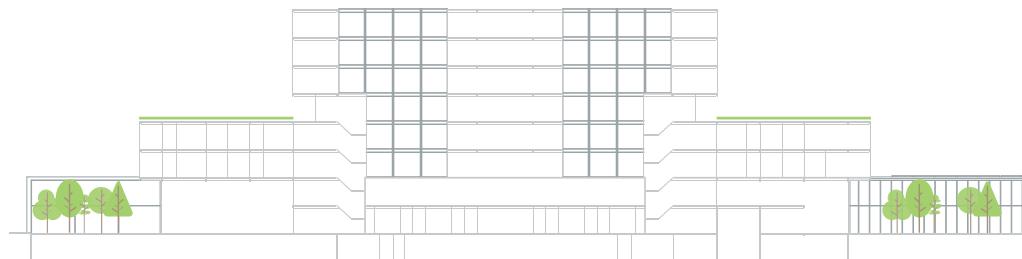
1. Gravel, substrate layer 100 mm, filter fleece, drainage layer 30 mm, root-resistant top layer 4 mm, base layer, thermal insulation 110 mm, Kerto-Ripa structural roof panel with 260 mm insulation
2. Timber framework for roof upstand
3. Suspended ceiling, wooden slats

## CONSTRUCTION DETAIL - ALL



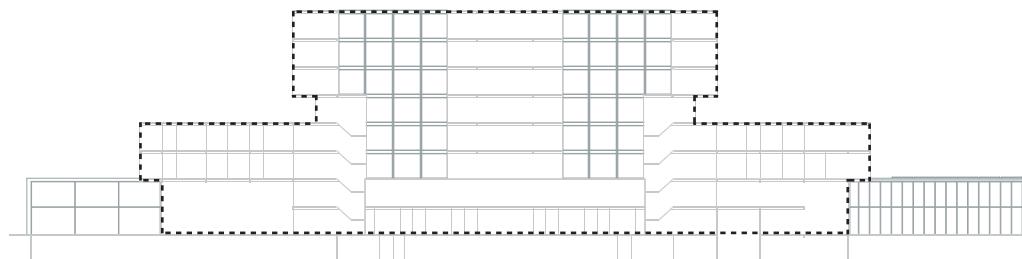
## SUSTAINABILITY

### LANDSCAPE



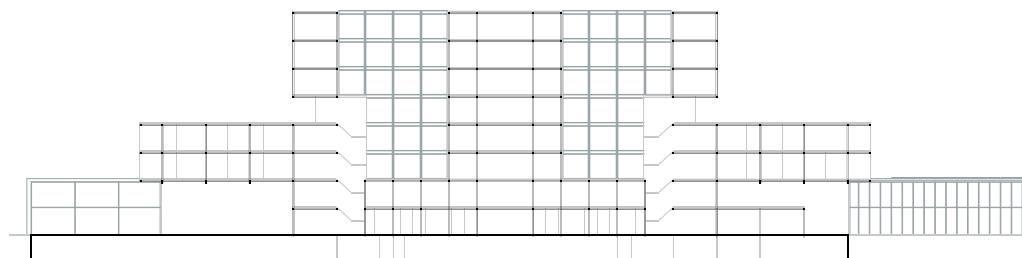
the city park and green roof increases biodiversity and reduces urban heat

### COMPACT BUILDING



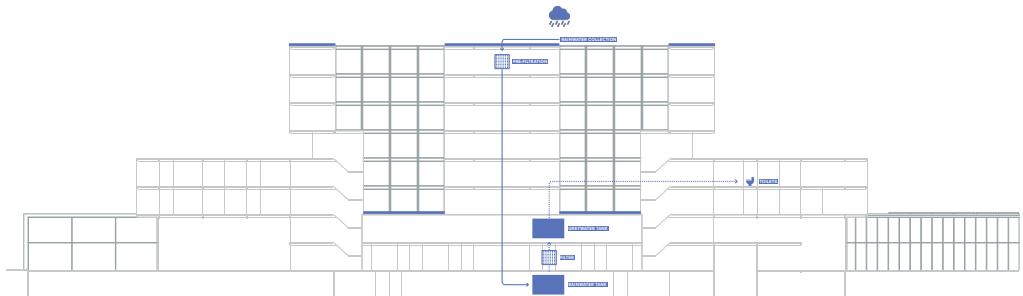
energy efficient building due to minimal building envelope

### STRUCTURE



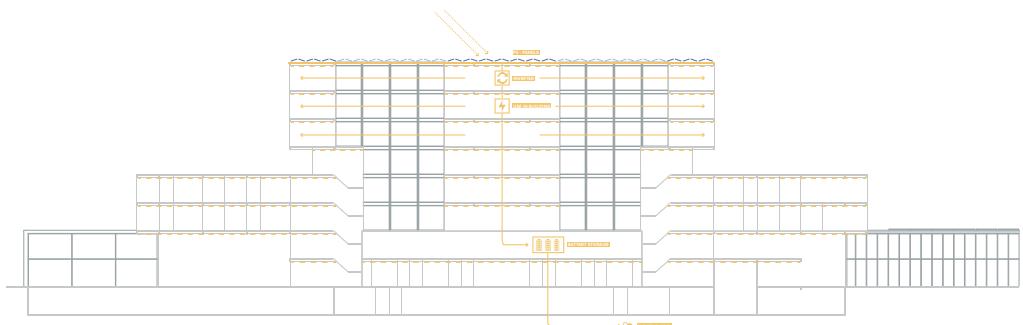
timber structure to capture and reduce CO2

## BLUE ROOF



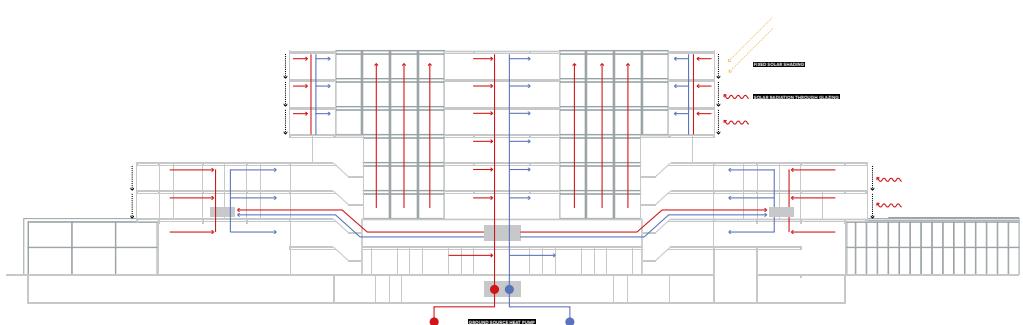
blue roof for collecting and reusing rain water

## ENERGY GENERATION



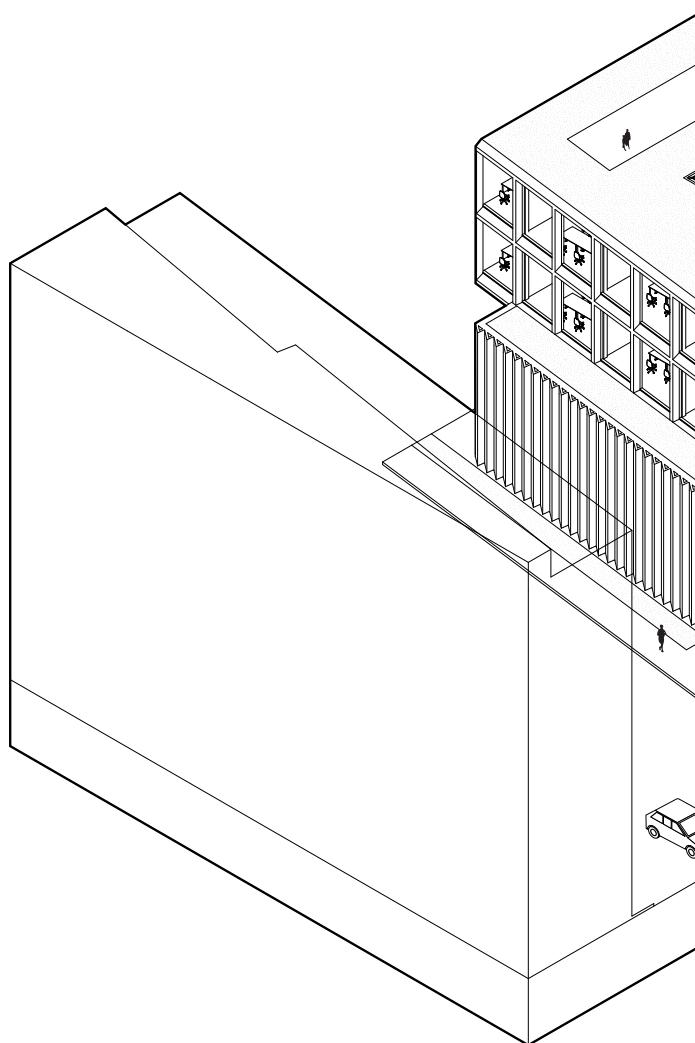
PV panels on the roof for electricity consumption of the building

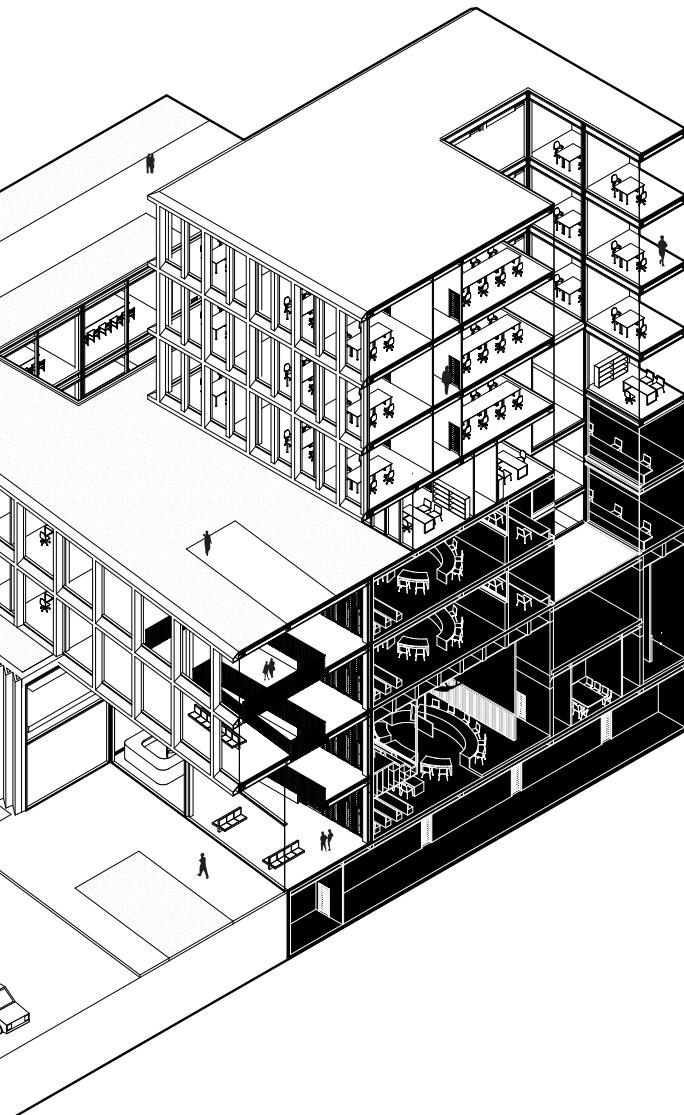
## CLIMATE CONTROL



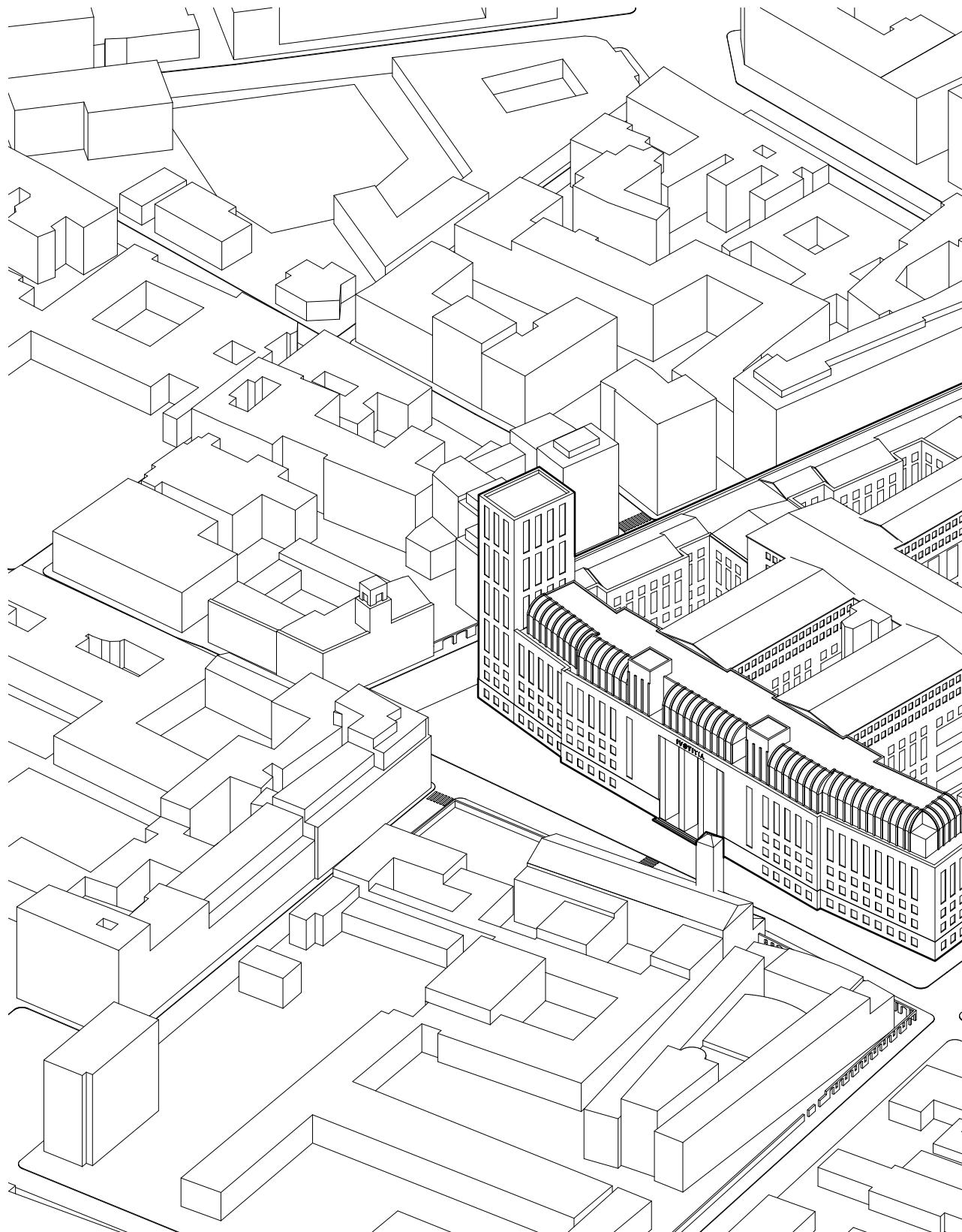
ventilation and heat recovery system

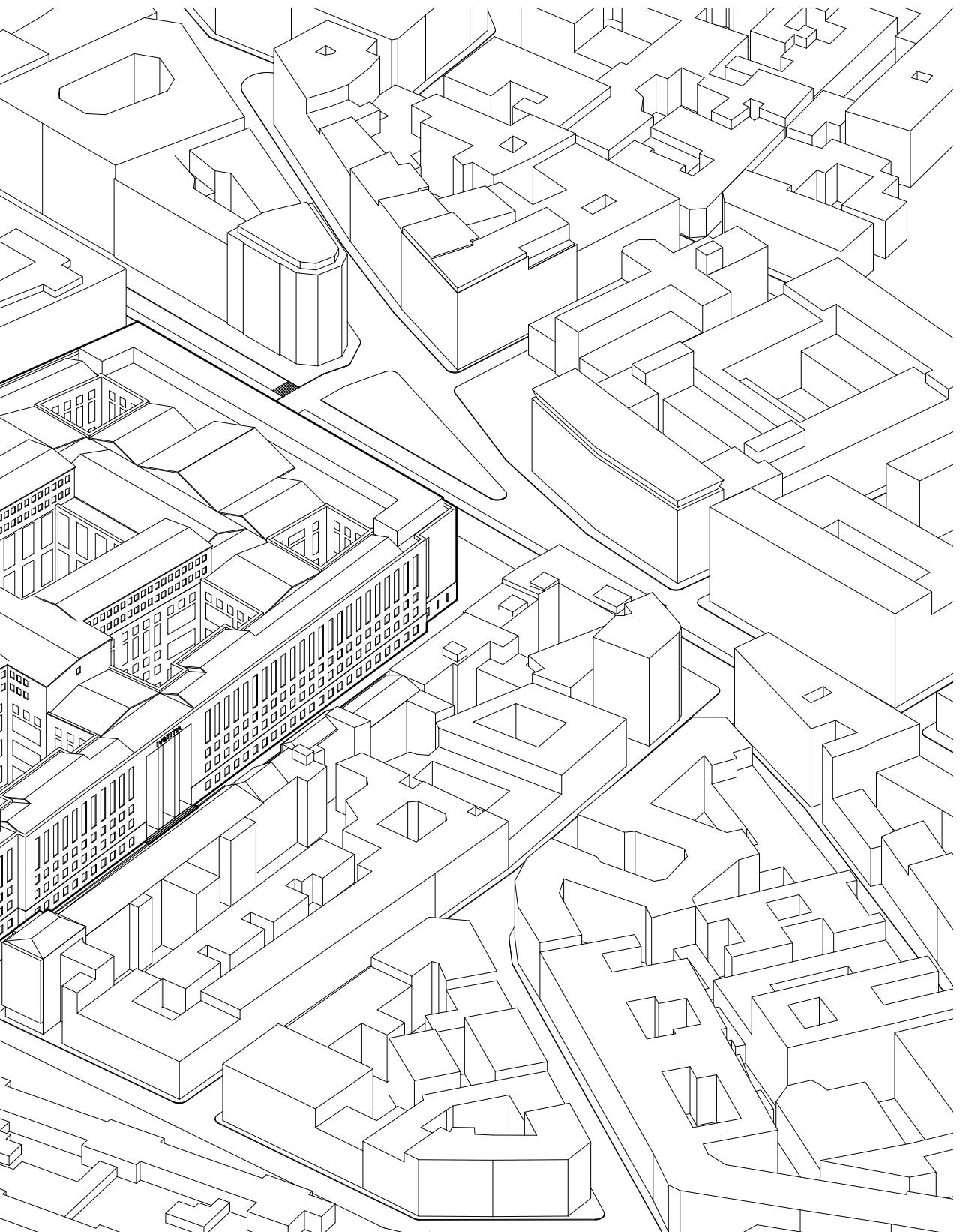
## SECTION AXONOMETRIC DRAWING



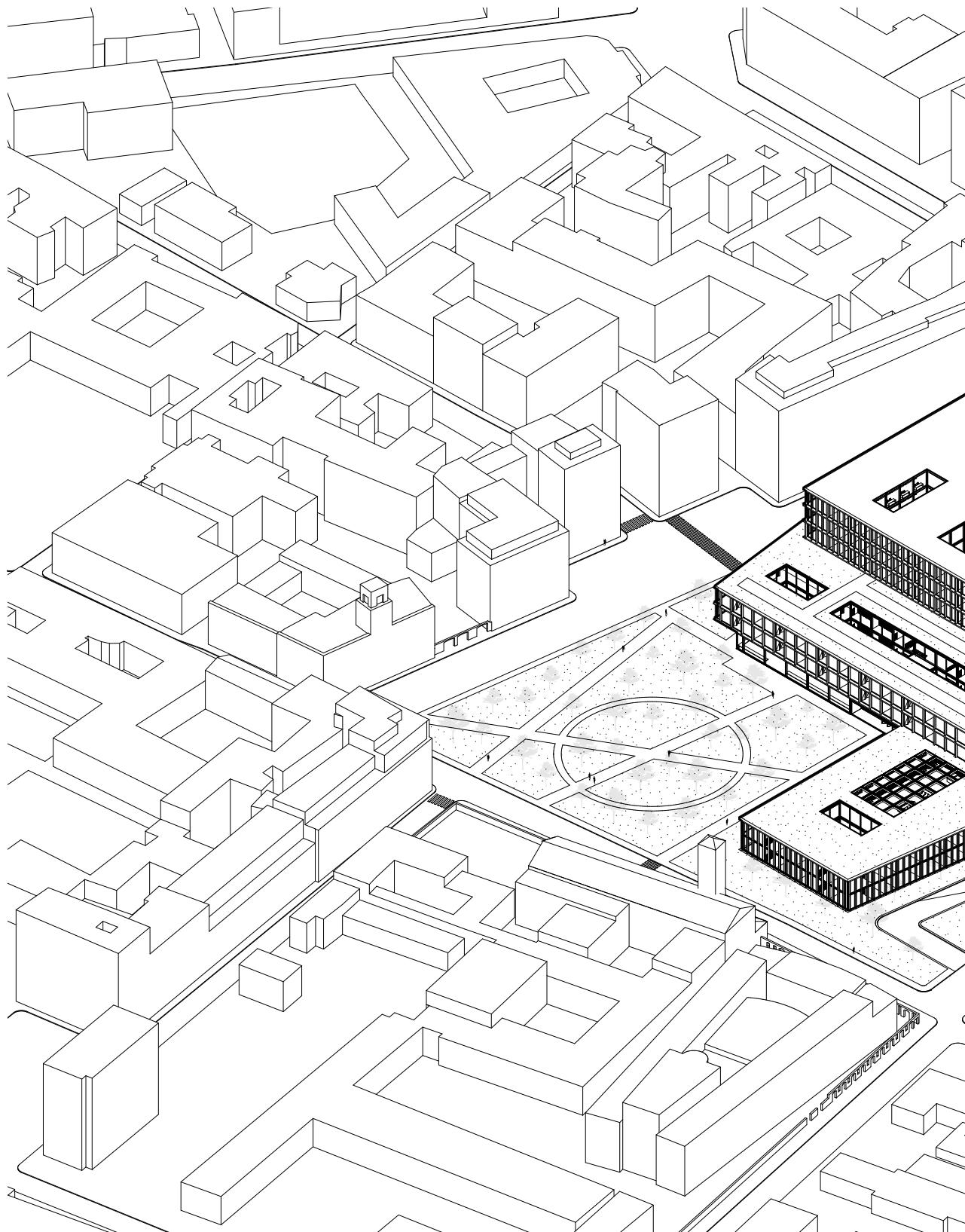


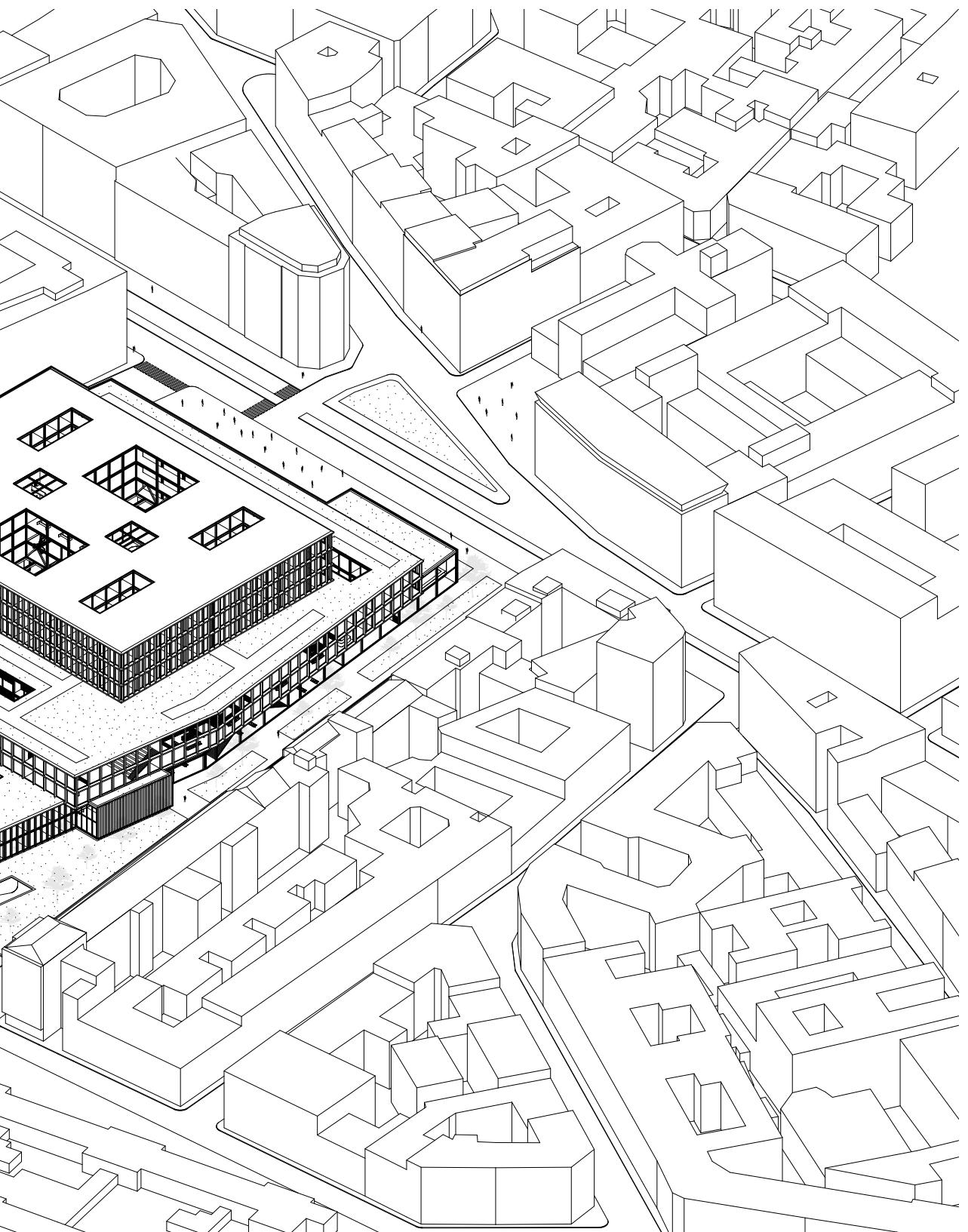
## FROM PALAZZO DI GIUSTIZIA...





... TO JUST. MILANO.





## RENDER - 00 - MAIN RENDER





## RENDER - 01 - FRONT RENDER





## RENDER - 02 - SIDE ENTRANCE





## RENDER - 03 - PUBLIC LECTURE HALL



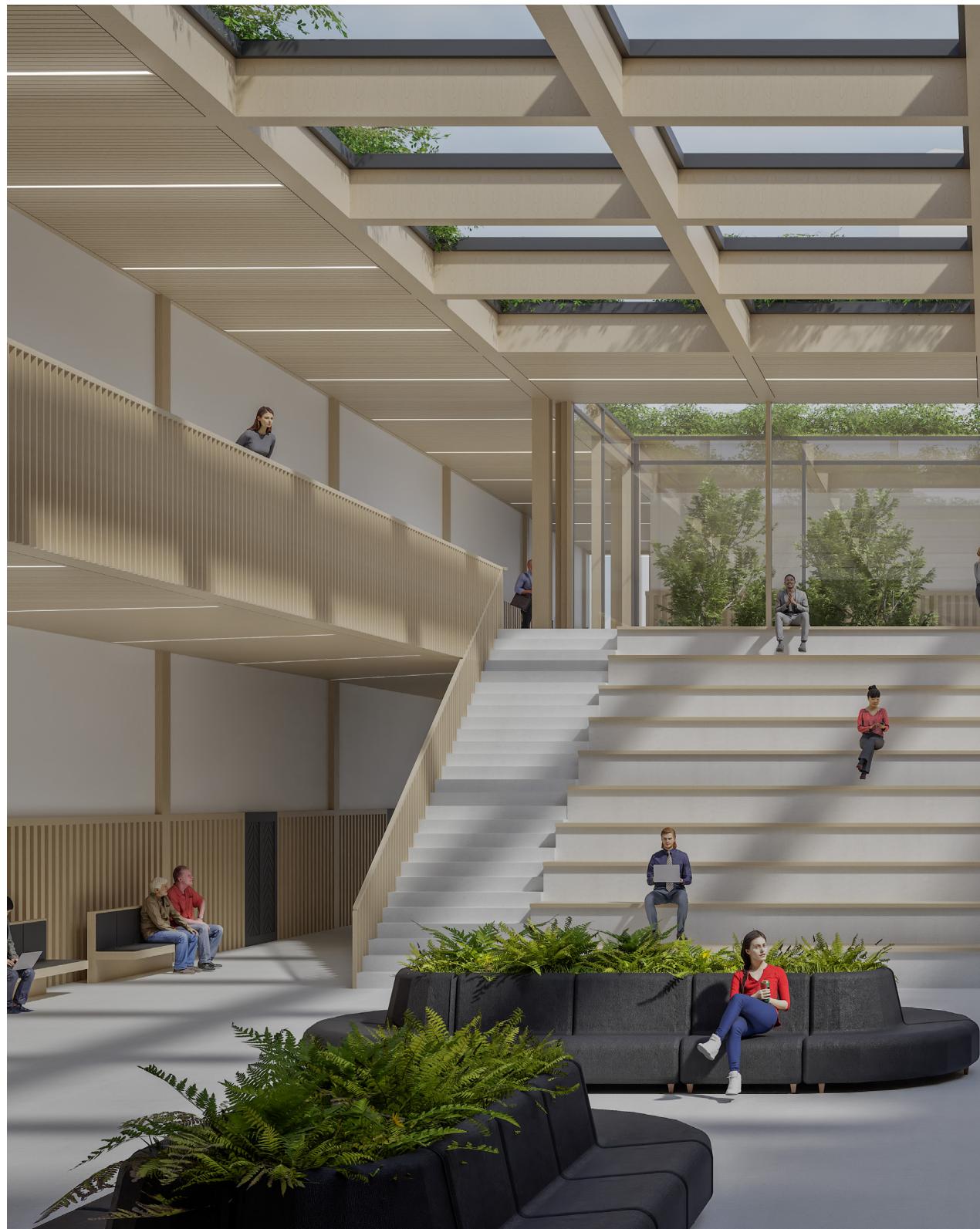


## RENDER - 04 - CULTURE HALL





## RENDER - 05 - MEDIATION LOUNGE





## RENDER - 06 - MEDIATION HALL





## RENDER - 07 - MEDIATION ROOM





## RENDER - 08 - BUILDING ATRIUM





## RENDER - 09 - SIDE COURTROOM





## RENDER - 10 - FRONT COURTROOM





## RENDER - 11 - COURTROOM





## RENDER - 12 - OFFICES





## RENDER - 13 - PRIVATE LIBRARY





## RENDER - 14 - BUILDING AXO





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06



## LIST

### LIST

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IBA (z.d.). The Italian model of mediation: an update. <https://www.ibanet.org/the-italian-model-of-mediation-an-update>

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**FIGURES**

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Figure 03: Mulcahy, L. (2011). The Tree of Justice [Photograph]. In Legal Architecture; Justice, Due Process, and the Place of Law (p.16). Routledge

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Figure 05: Sironi, L. (2016). Milan Courtroom [Photograph] Domus. Retrieved from [https://www.domusweb.it/en/photo-essays/2016/03/29/luca\\_sironi\\_fragments\\_of\\_justice.html](https://www.domusweb.it/en/photo-essays/2016/03/29/luca_sironi_fragments_of_justice.html)

Figure 06: Guerra, F. (2020). Courthouse Amsterdam/ Kaan Architecten [Photograph]. ArchDaily. Retrieved from <https://www.archdaily.com/960911/courthouse-amsterdam-kaan-architecten>

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Figure 08: Souza, E. (2020). The Evolution in Understanding of Human Scales in Architecture [Image]. ArchDaily. Retrieved from <https://www.archdaily.com/949316/the-evolution-in-understanding-of-human-scales-in-architecture>

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