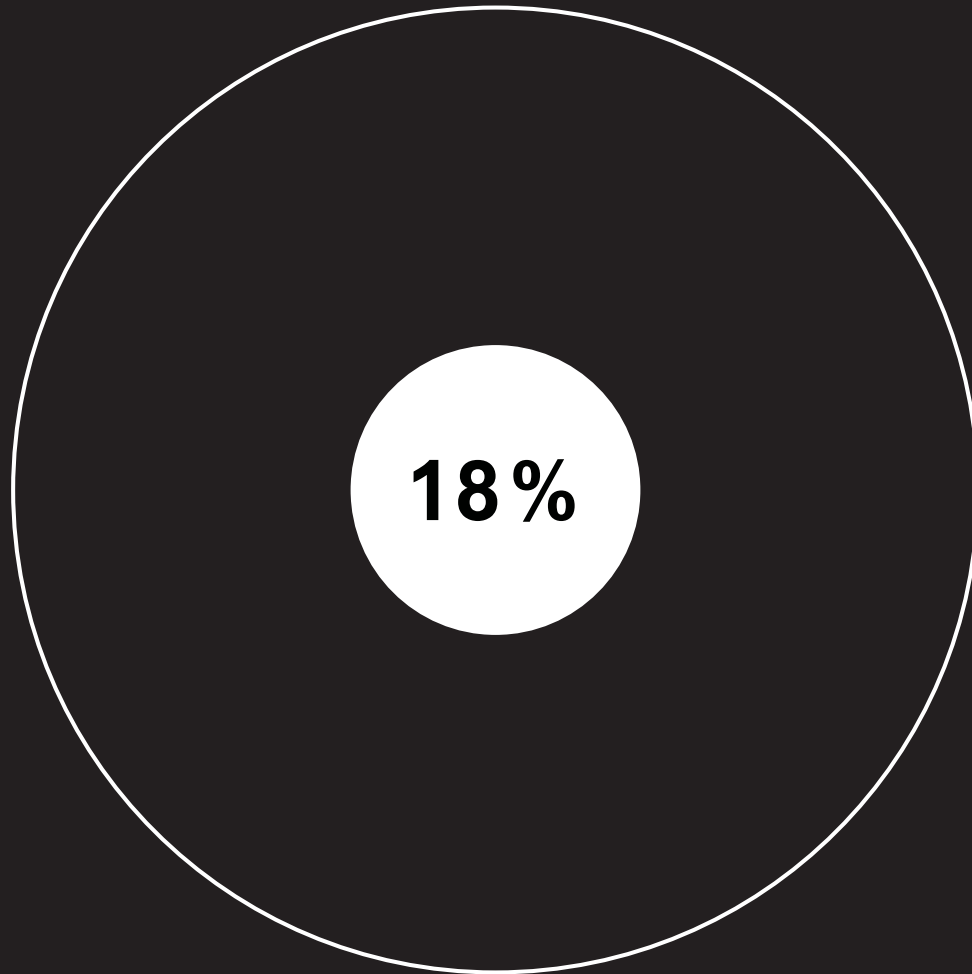


BETWEEN CITY AND CEREMONY

Staging a new relationship between La Scala and the city

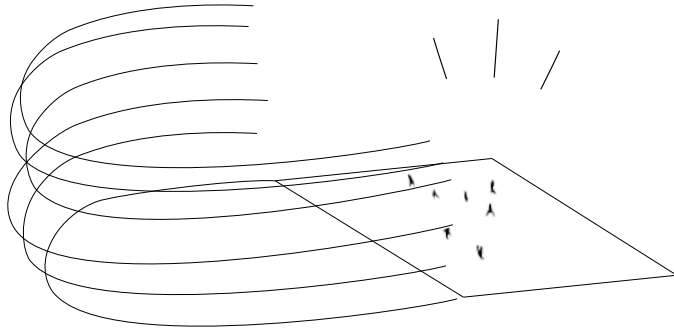




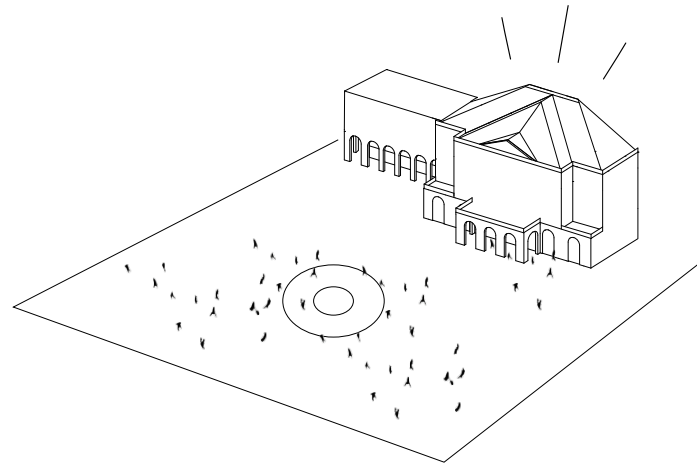




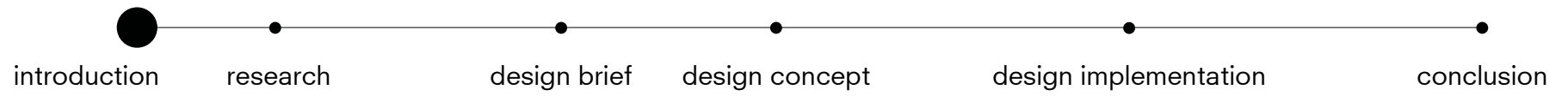




performing through art



performing through architecture



















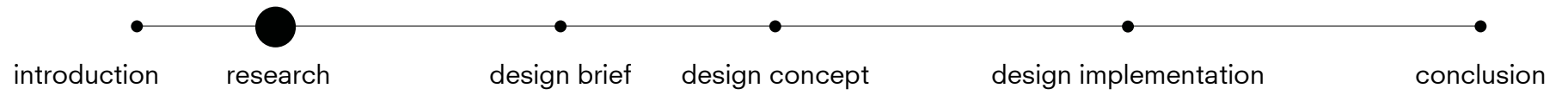
Can the architecture of an opera house **re-expand the ritual**, spatially, temporally and socially?

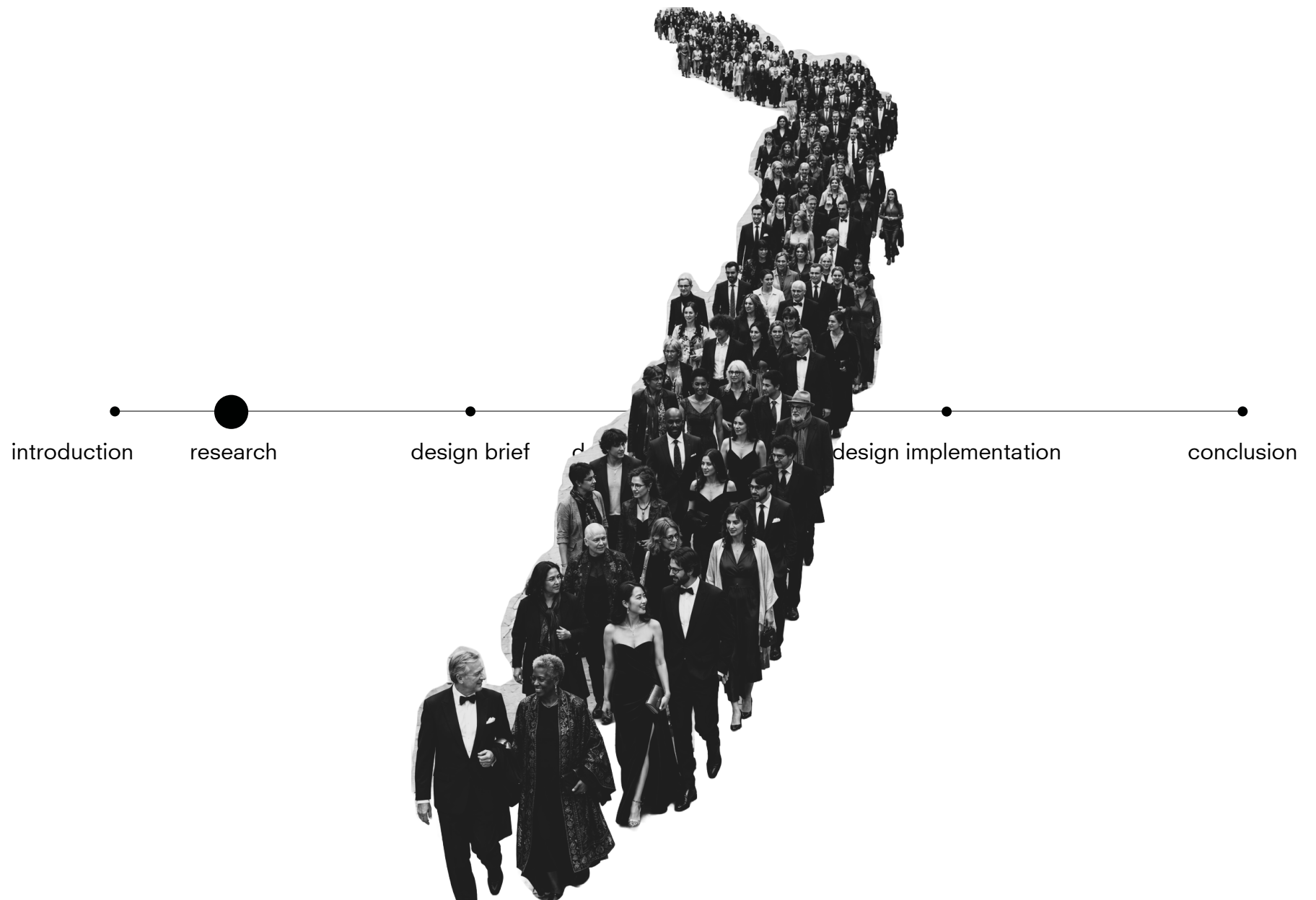
What if....

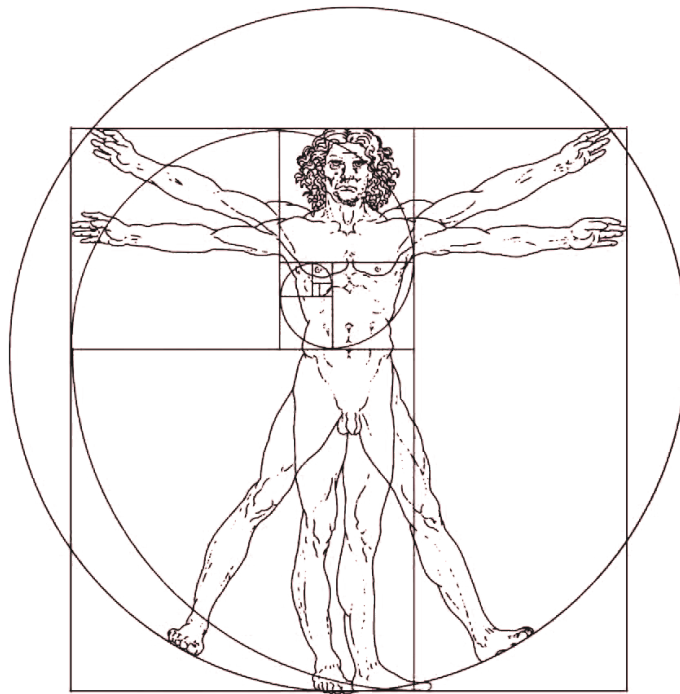
What if....

Teatro alla Scala was designed,
but was **never built**?

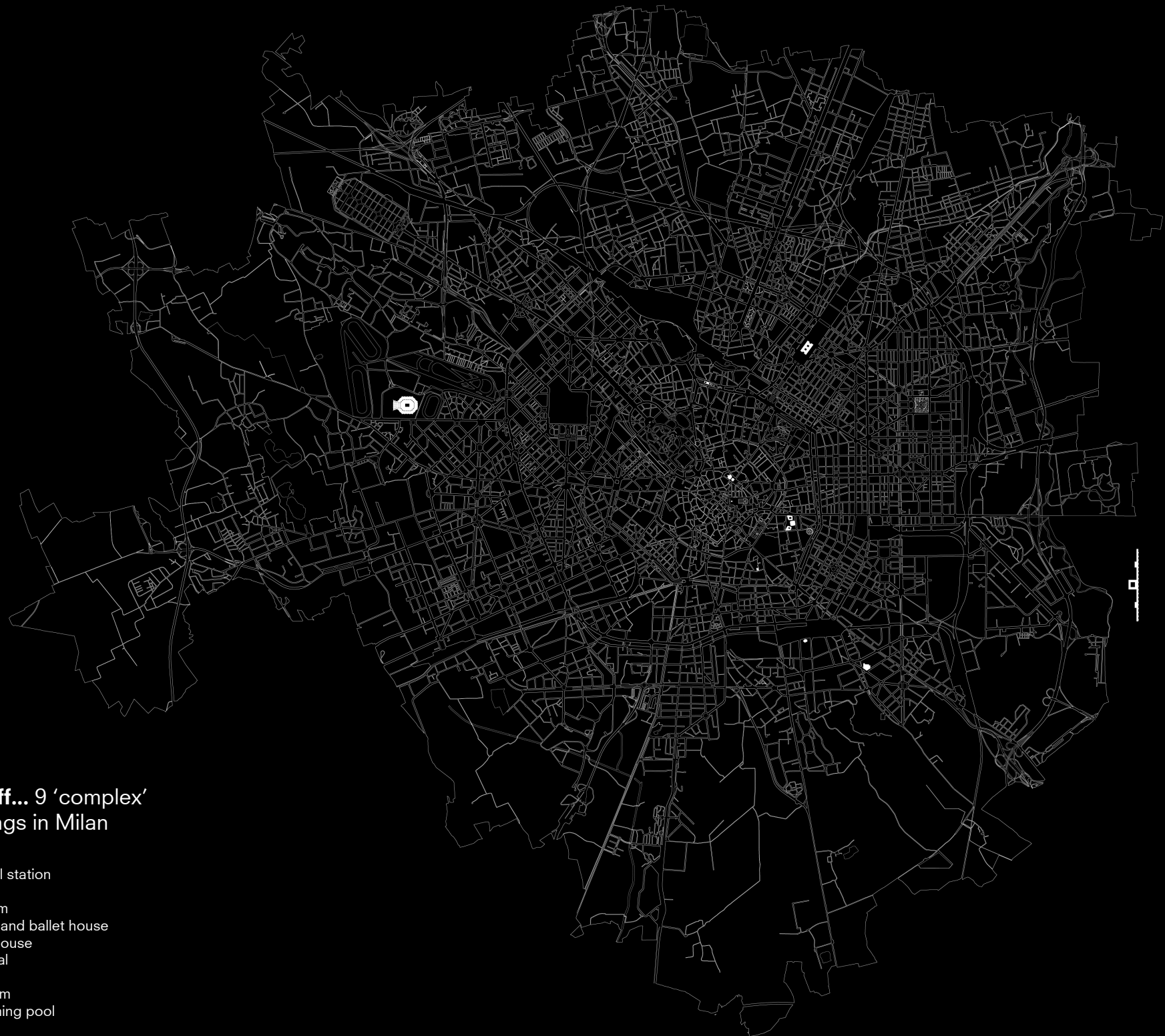






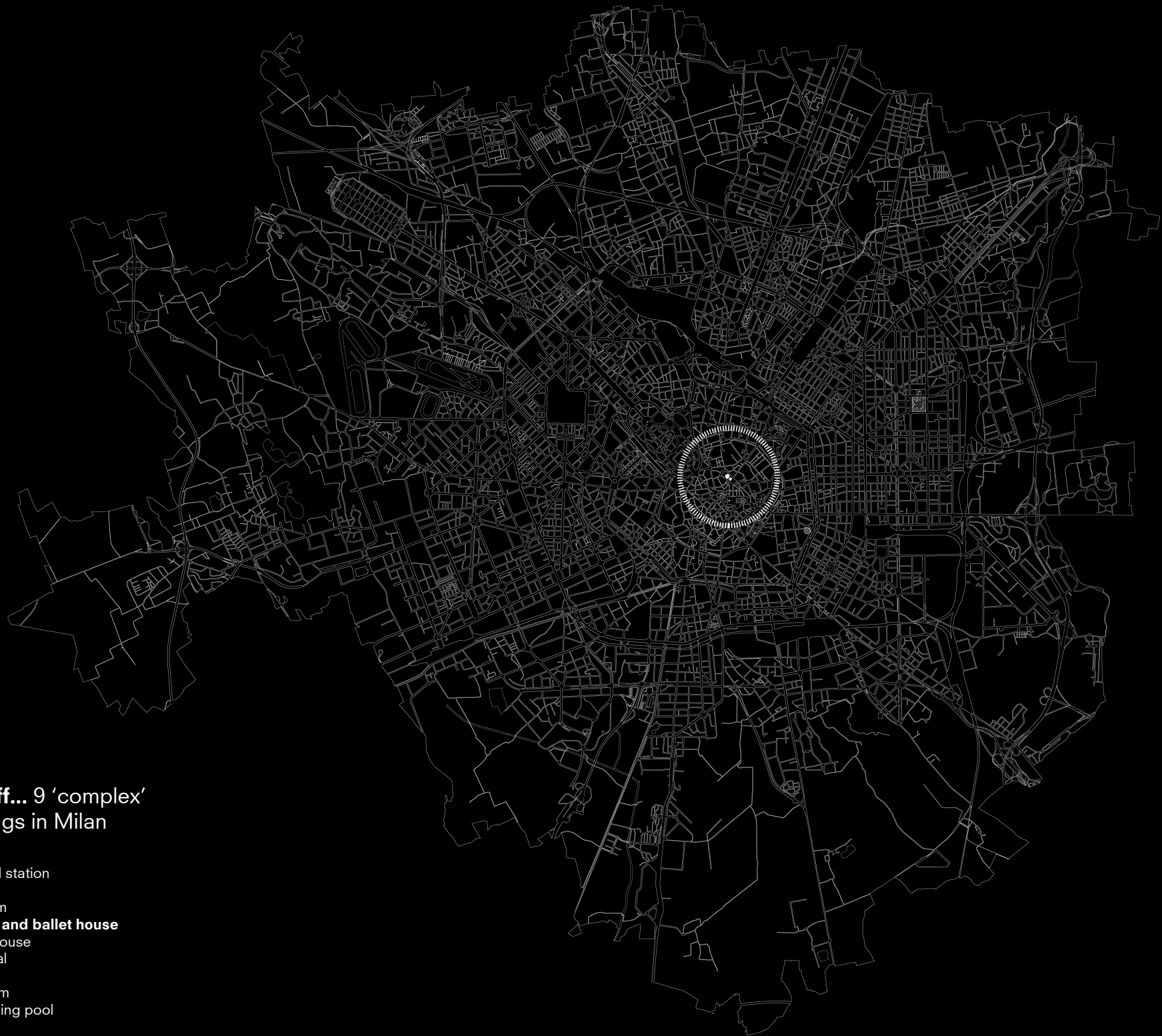


bodies & buildings



one off... 9 'complex'
buildings in Milan

1. Central station
2. Library
3. Stadium
4. Opera and ballet house
5. Courthouse
6. Hospital
7. Airport
8. Museum
9. Swimming pool



one off... 9 'complex'
buildings in Milan

1. Central station
2. Library
3. Stadium
- 4. Opera and ballet house**
5. Courthouse
6. Hospital
7. Airport
8. Museum
9. Swimming pool

Three duties of a contemporary opera house

1. Choreograph

Prepare, guide and draw the audience toward the performance.

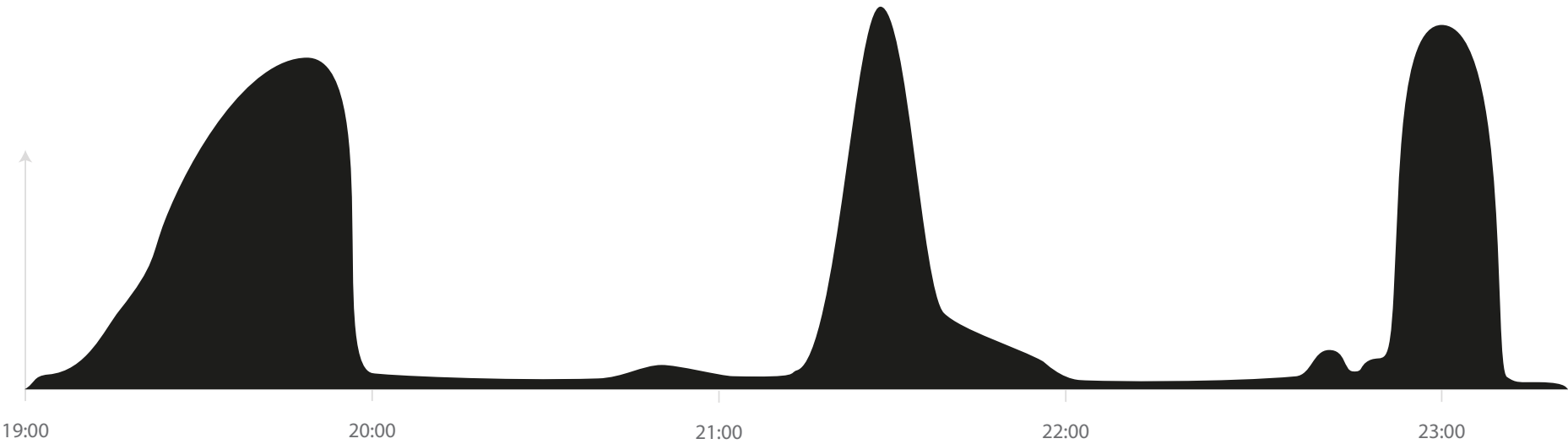
2. Create a sense of exception

Radiate talent, refinement and ceremony through quiet luxury, not ostentatious monumentality.

3. Give back

Create public space that extends the cultural experience beyond the performance hall.

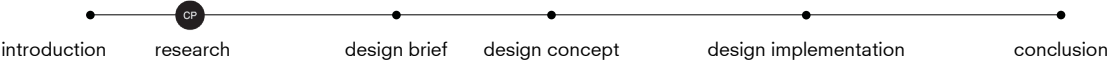
Choreograph



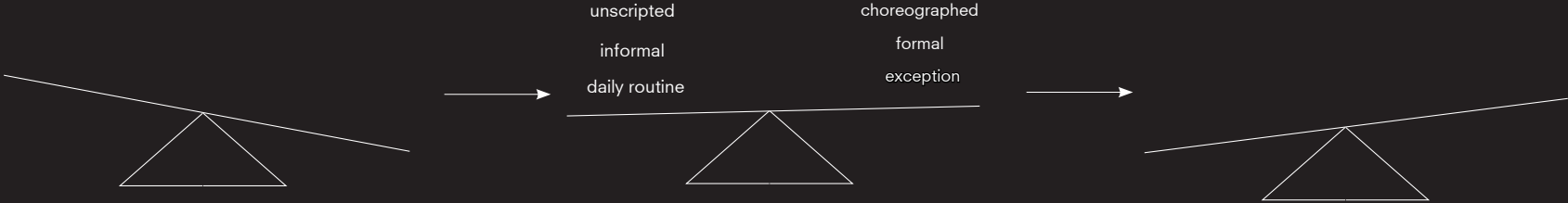
1. Pre show arrival

2. Intermission pulse

3. End of show



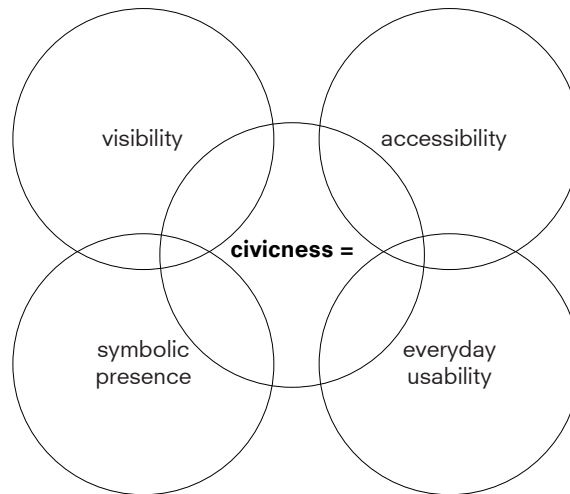
Create a sense of exception

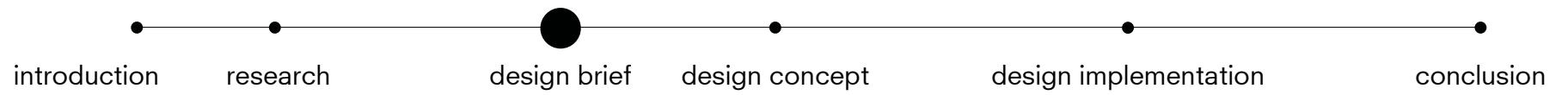


35% of Scala's money
comes from public funding

35 % private funding

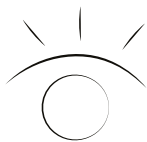
30 % ticket sales





Scala as...

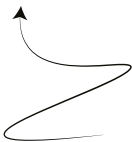
a more generous host



operate as an urban
attractor through visible
architectural
performance



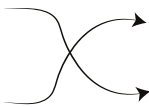
the foyer should
operate as a hybrid
between ceremonial
and civic space



use movement through
theatre as dramaturgical
sequence



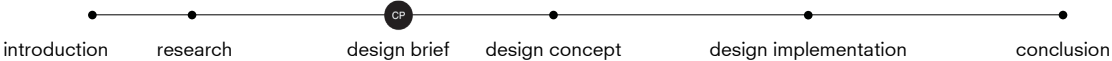
selectively reveal live
activities and the labour
of artistic production



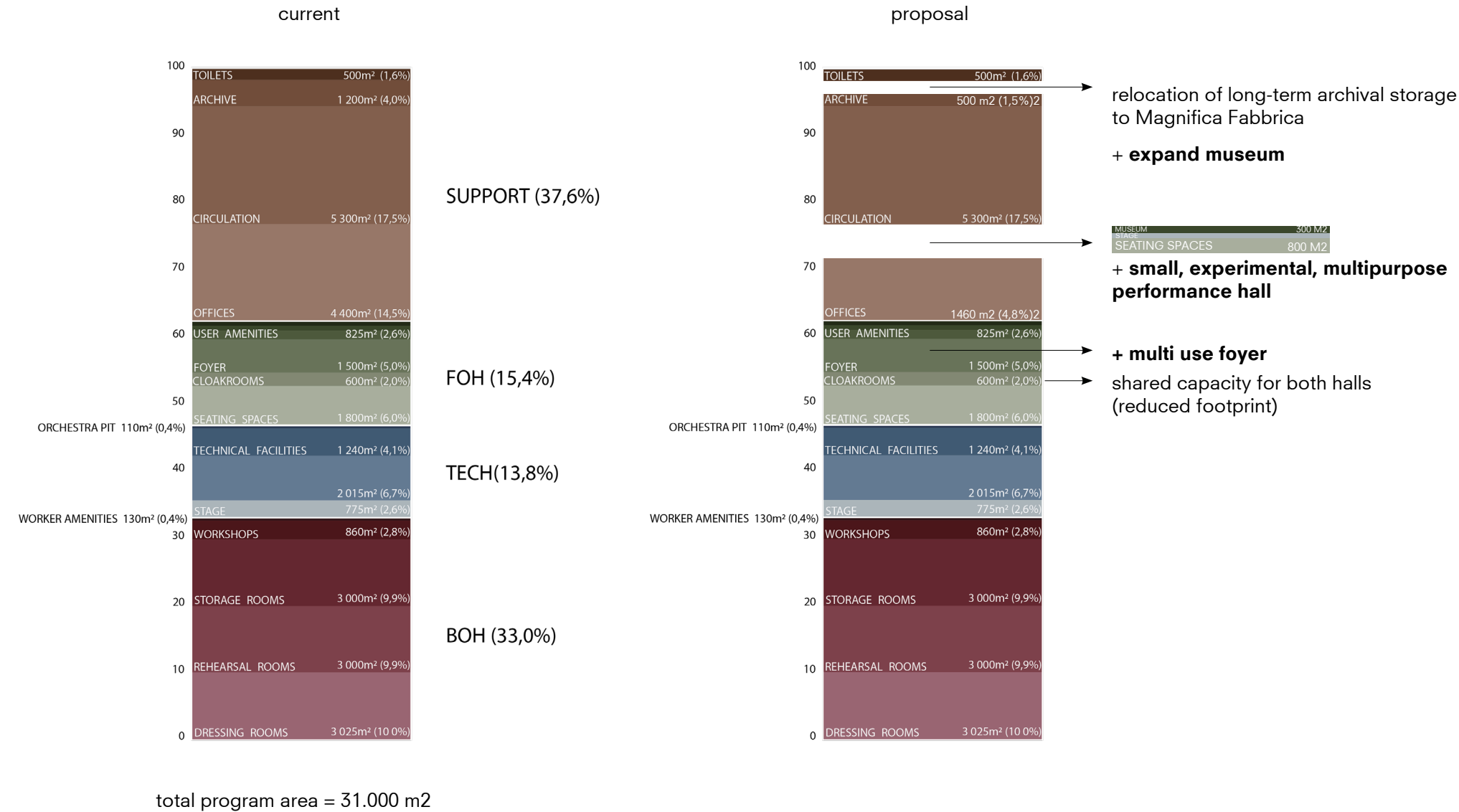
promote social mixing,
avoid hierarchical
structuring



the main and secondary
auditorium should
complement each other



Program



Teatro alla
Scala (1778)

Piazza della
Scala
(1858)

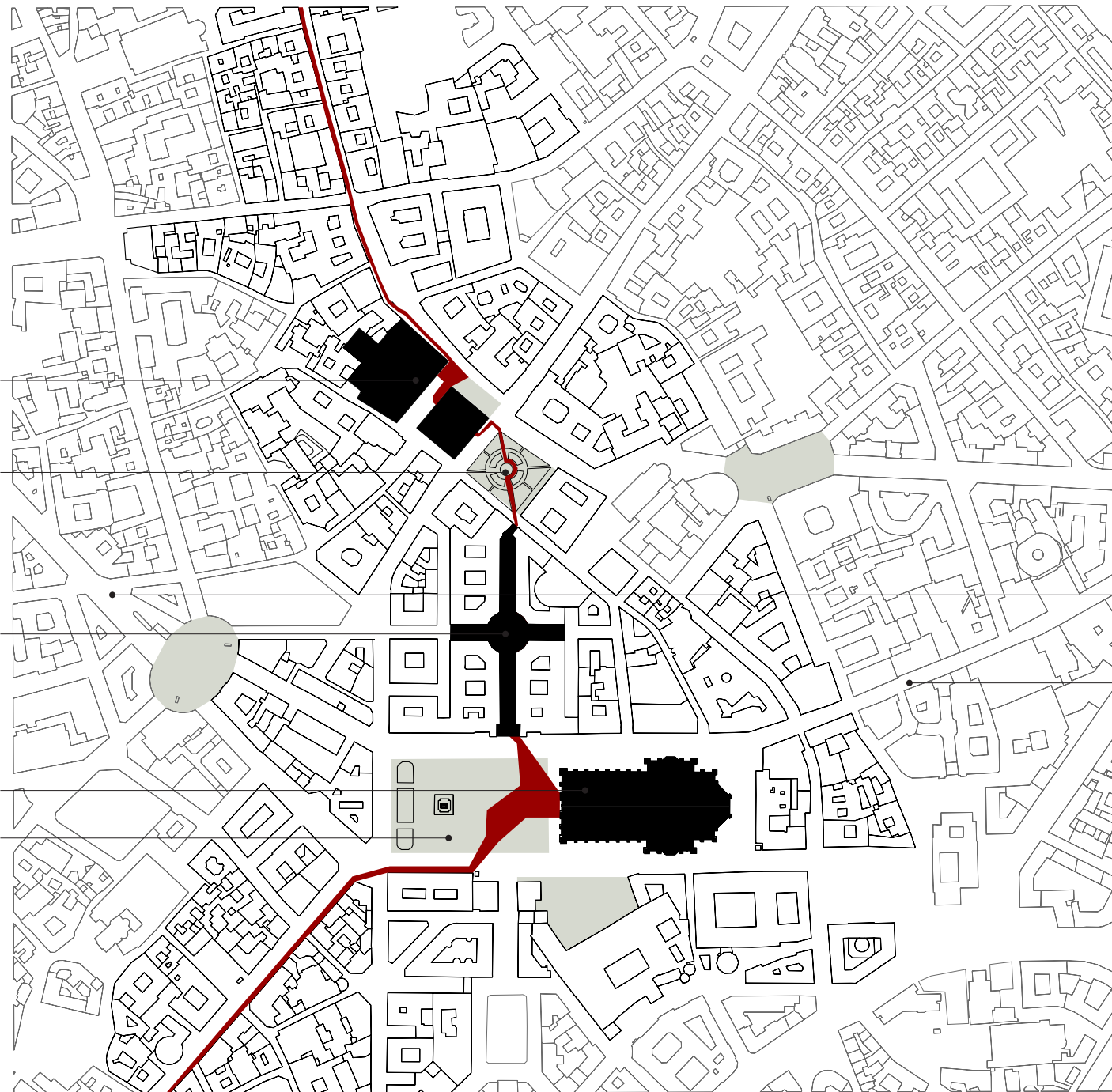
Galleria Vittorio
Emanuele II
(1865–1877)

Duomo di
Milano (1386)

Piazza del
Duomo
(1856–1877)

Via Dante (1894)
Piazza Cordusio to
Castello Sforzesco

Corso Vittorio
Emanuele II
(1870)









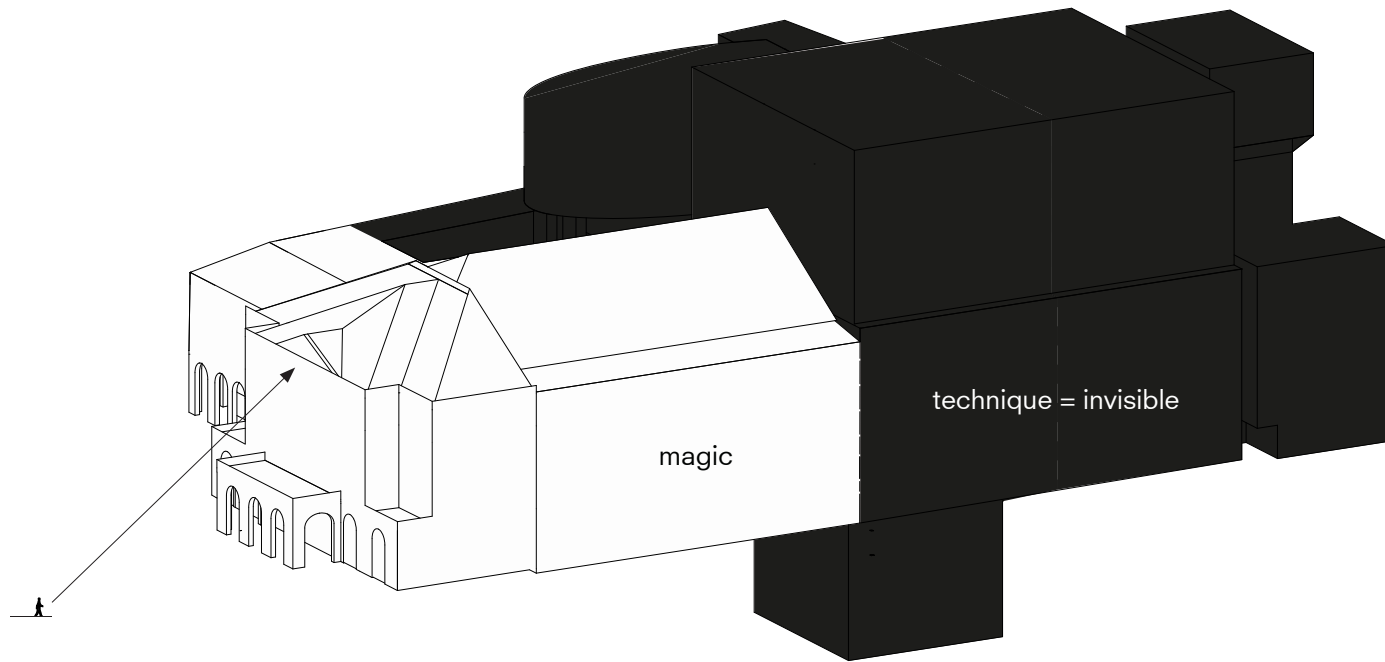




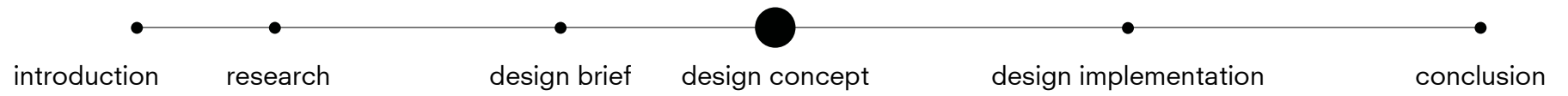
I 3x3 + 1 model exercise

site

building as a machine

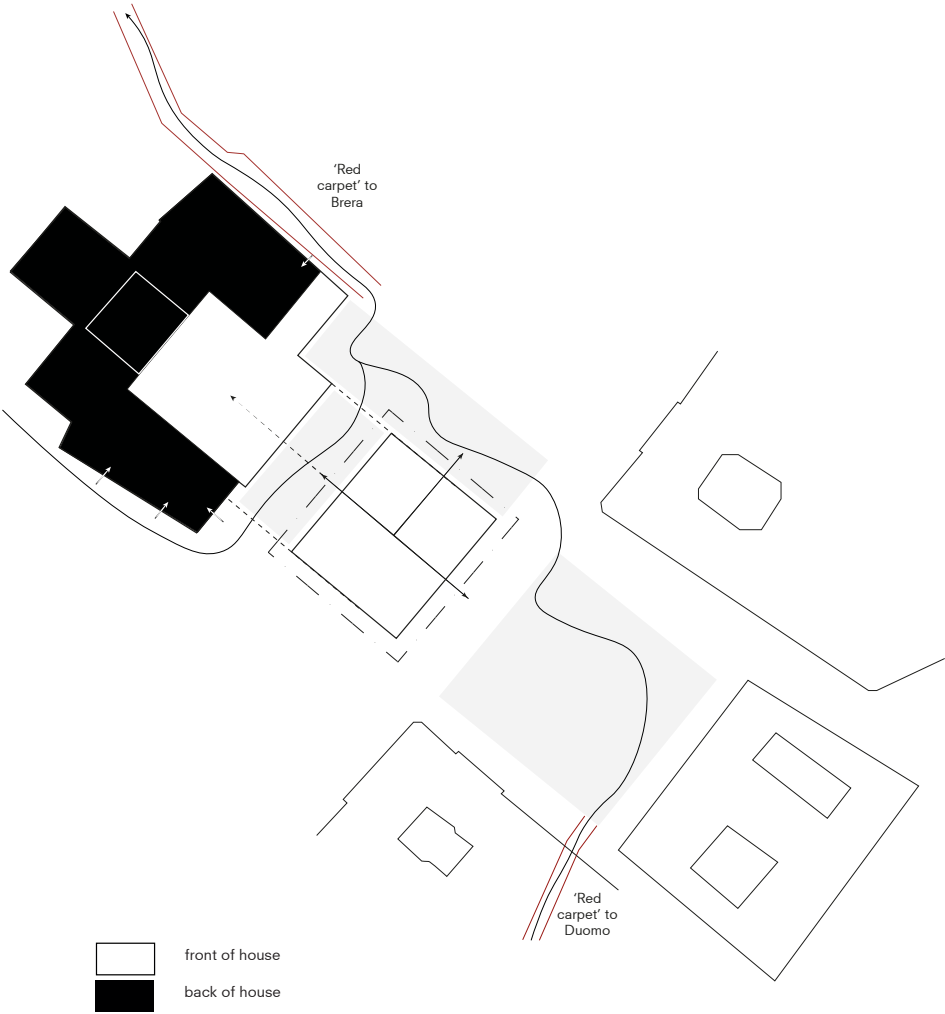






concept shape and flow

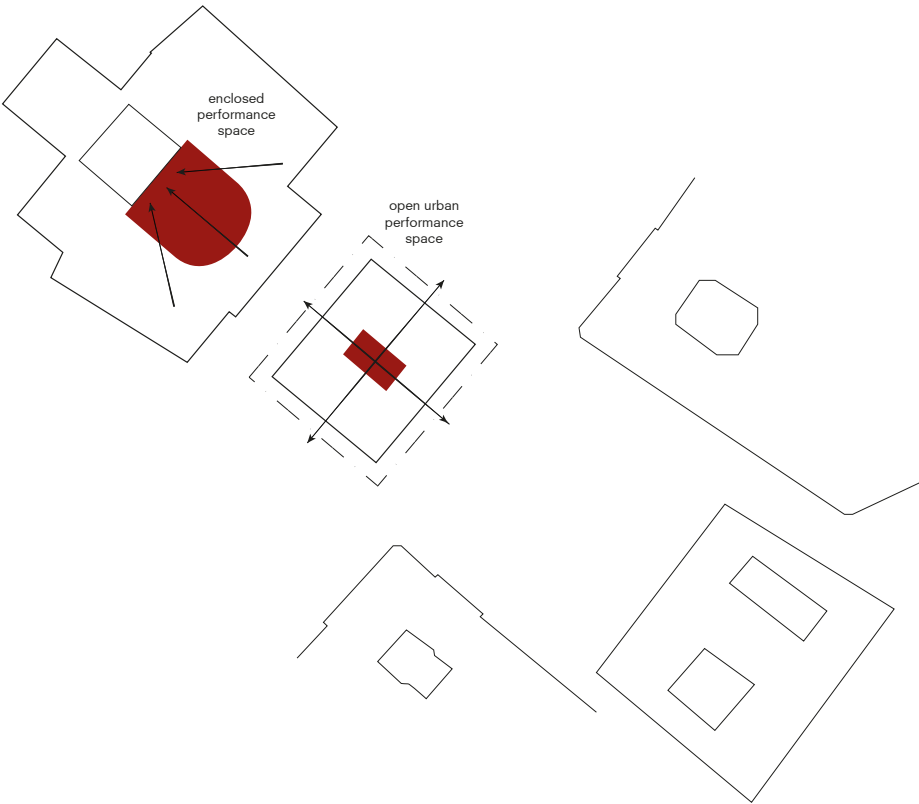
- + multiple entries
- + increased visual contact points
- + rich sequence of moments
- + enhanced user orientation
- + improved permeability and human scale



back volume blends in

frontal volume separates





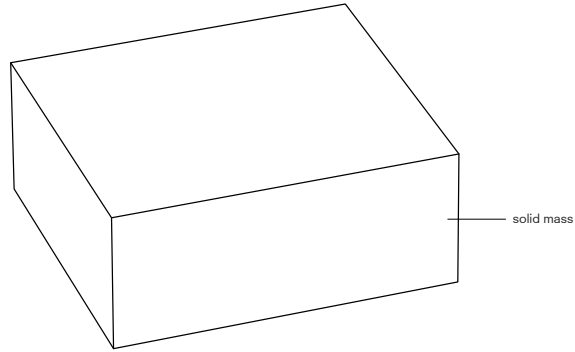
horseshoe hall
enclosed, focused, intimate, ceremonial



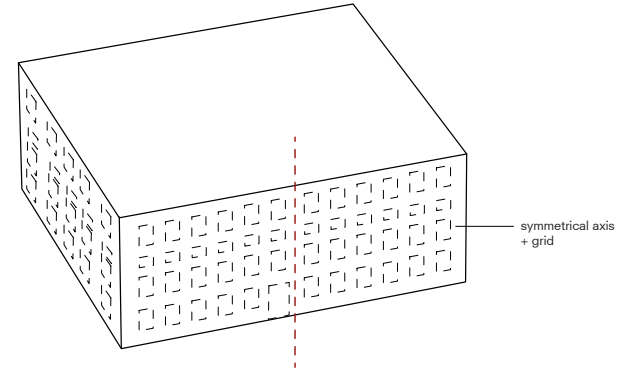
experimental performance
open, flexible, neutral, urban



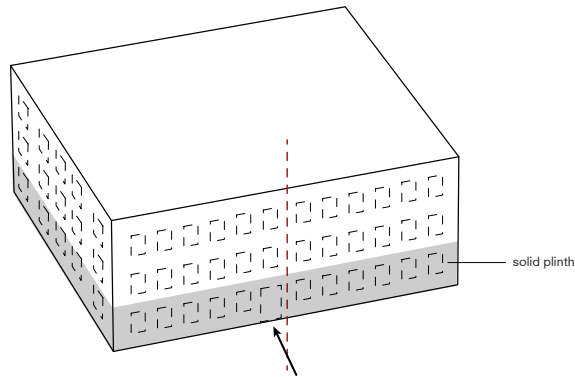
1



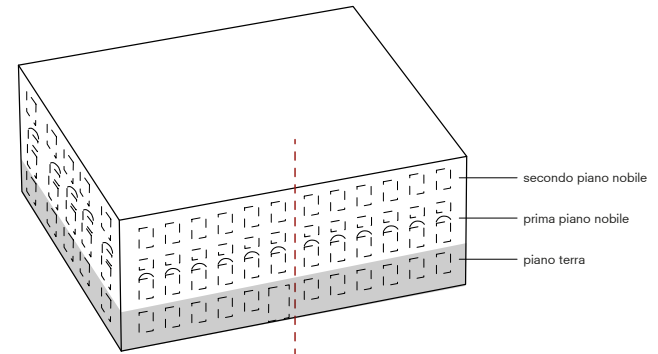
2



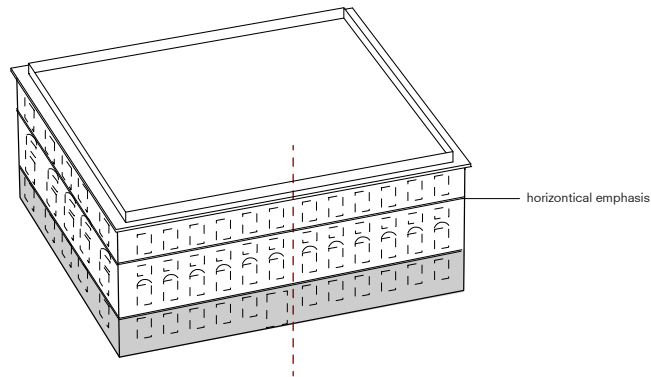
3



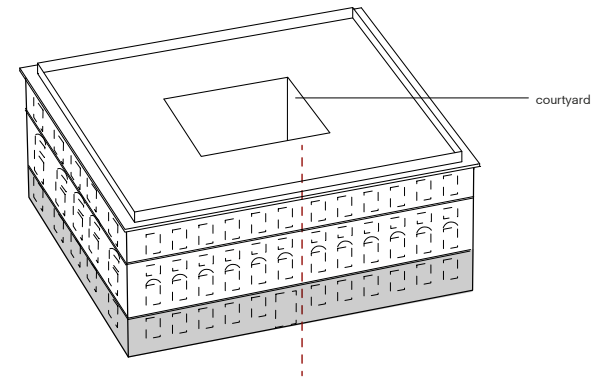
4



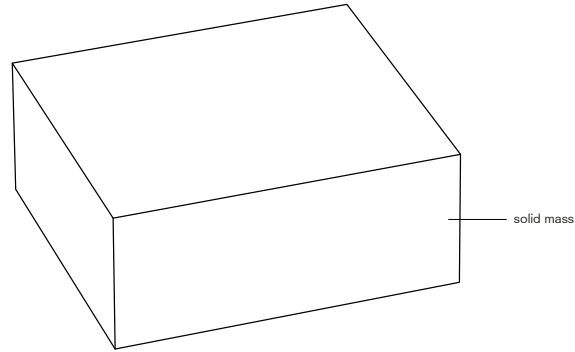
5



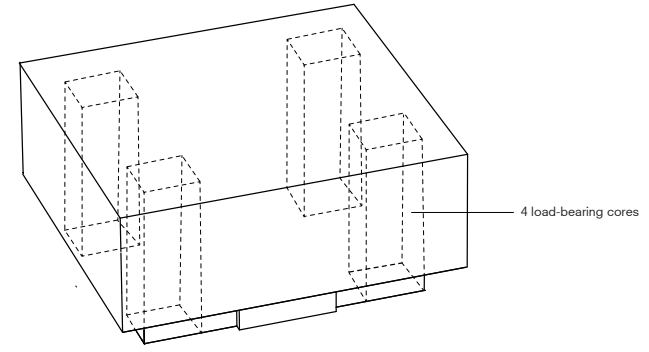
6



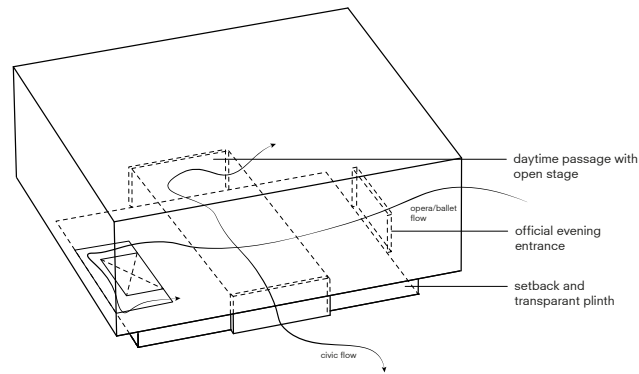
1



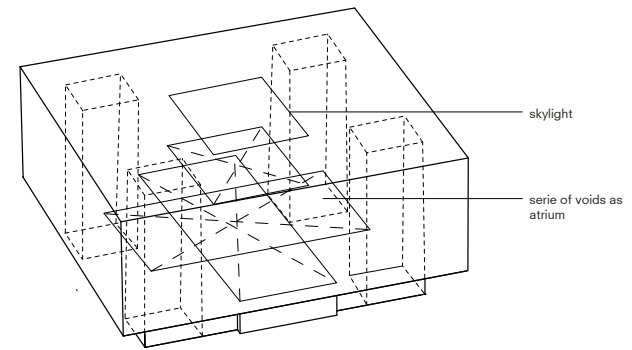
2



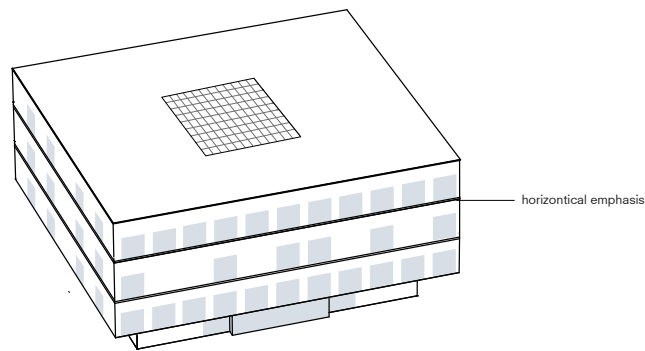
3



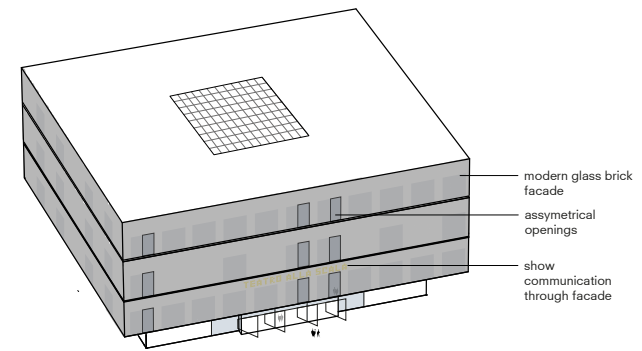
4

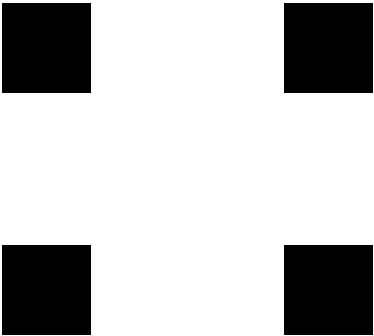


5

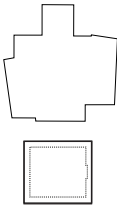


6

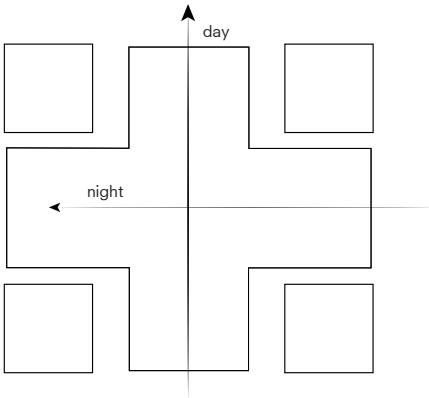




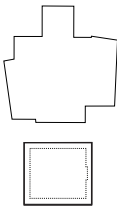
structural cores



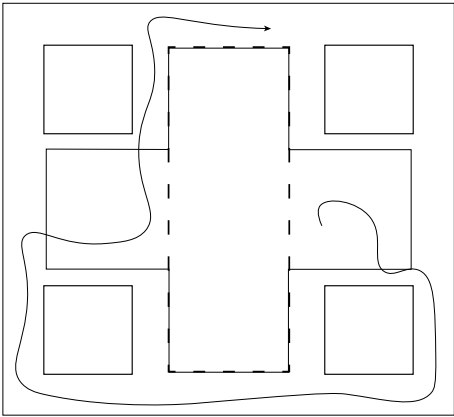
0



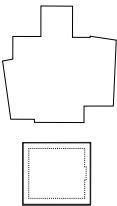
distinction in day and night
flow and access



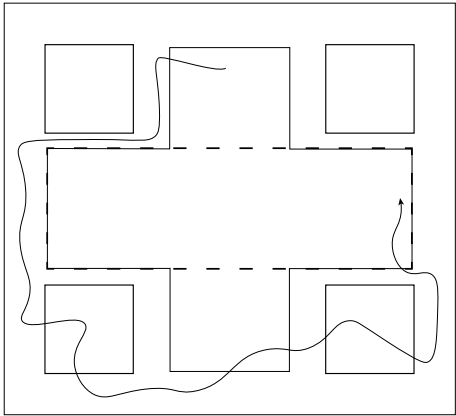
1



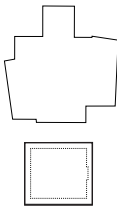
double height performance
floor, foyer created by void



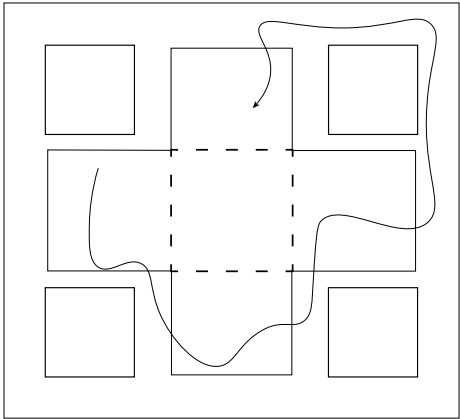
2



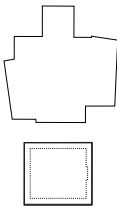
rotated void forms atrium
and museum loop



3



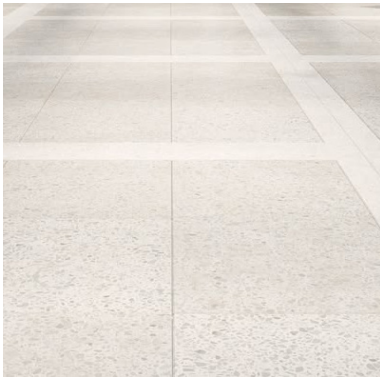
void aligned with skylight;
restaurant fills remaining
space



cool and public



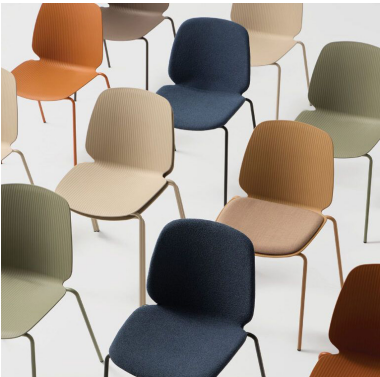
warm and intimate



grid floor
terrazzo tiles



cores
onyx tiles



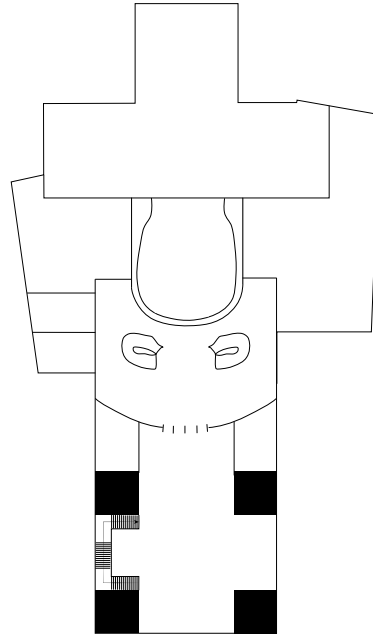
chairs open stage



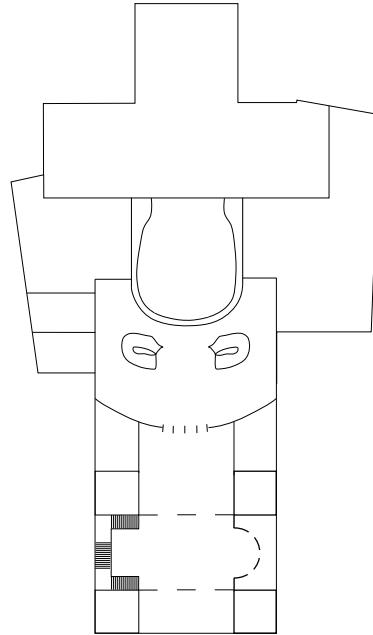
ceiling
perforated acoustic panel



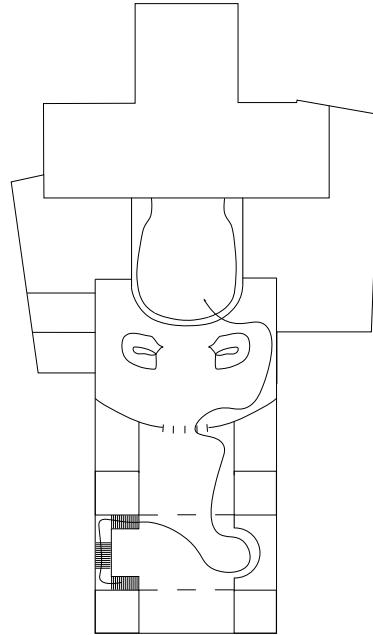
walls
glass blocks



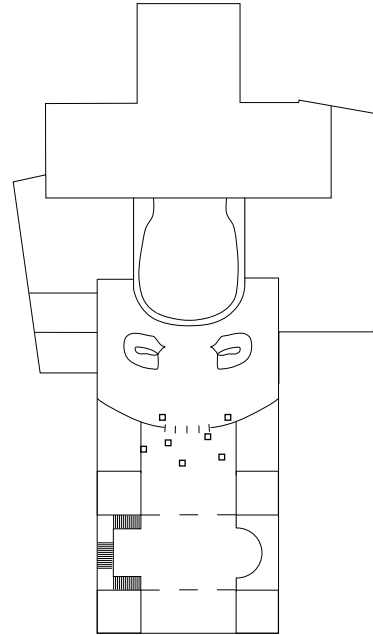
staircase, service core and
toilets



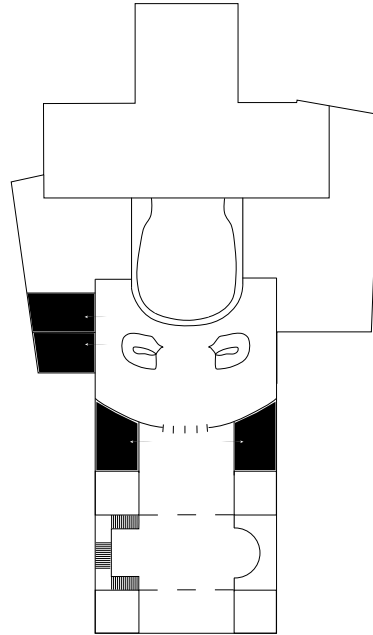
cloakrooms positioned
along the entry sequence



linear flow guides visitors
naturally to the auditorium



skylights introduce
controlled daylight into the
central interior

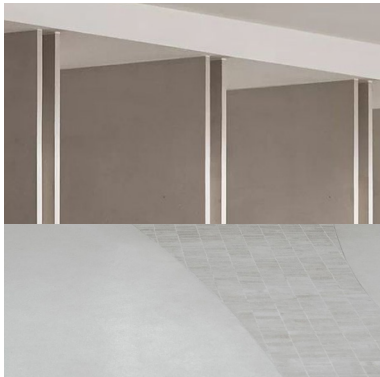


visual connections reveal
archives, wig workshop
and costume atelier

cool and public



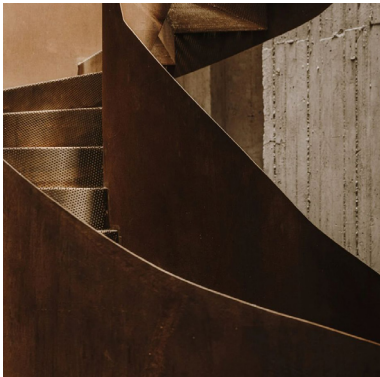
warm and intimate



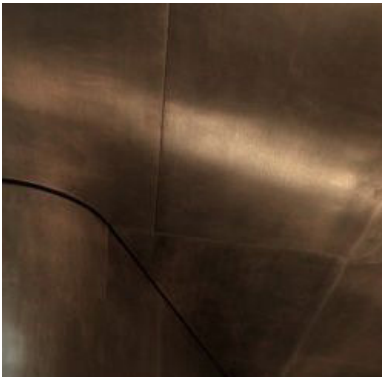
doors and floor



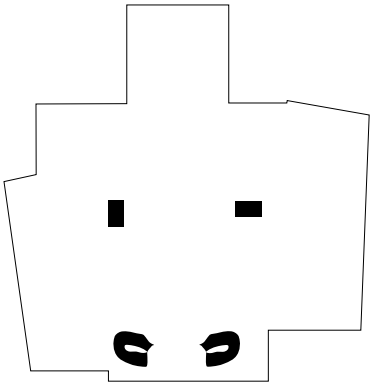
ceiling
plastered with skylights



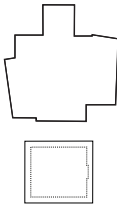
stairs
brushed bronze

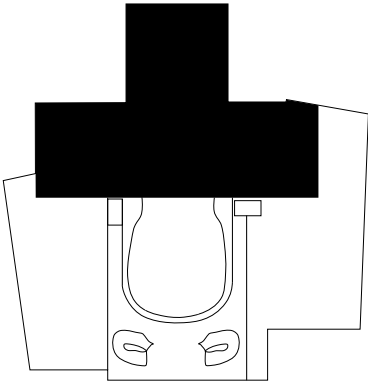


auditorium exterior
brushed bronze

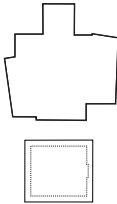


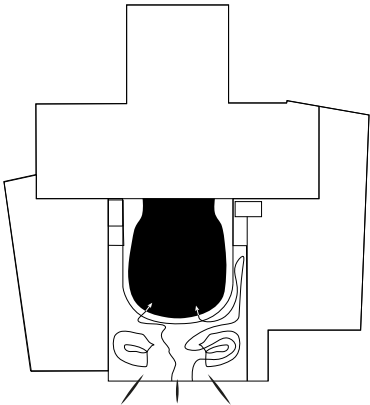
vertical circulation



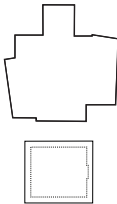


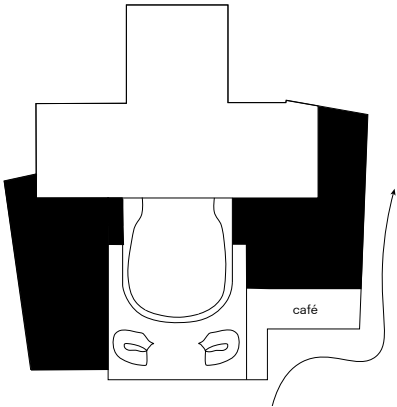
(back- and side)
stage zones



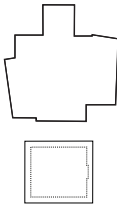


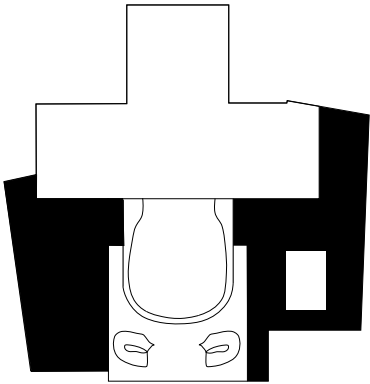
horseshoe hall becomes
the visible destination of
the flow



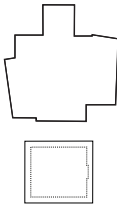


supporting functions
occupy the side volumes;
café and terrace create an
active public edge





patio for offices



cool and public



warm and intimate



chairs
burnt orange velvet



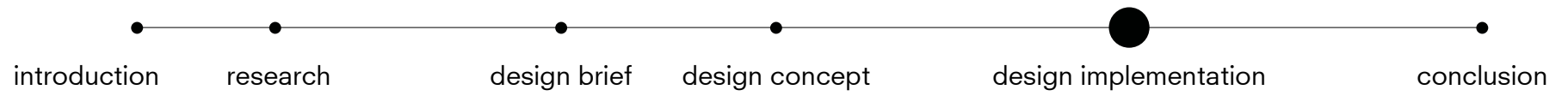
wall, ceiling, railings
walnut oak (veneer)

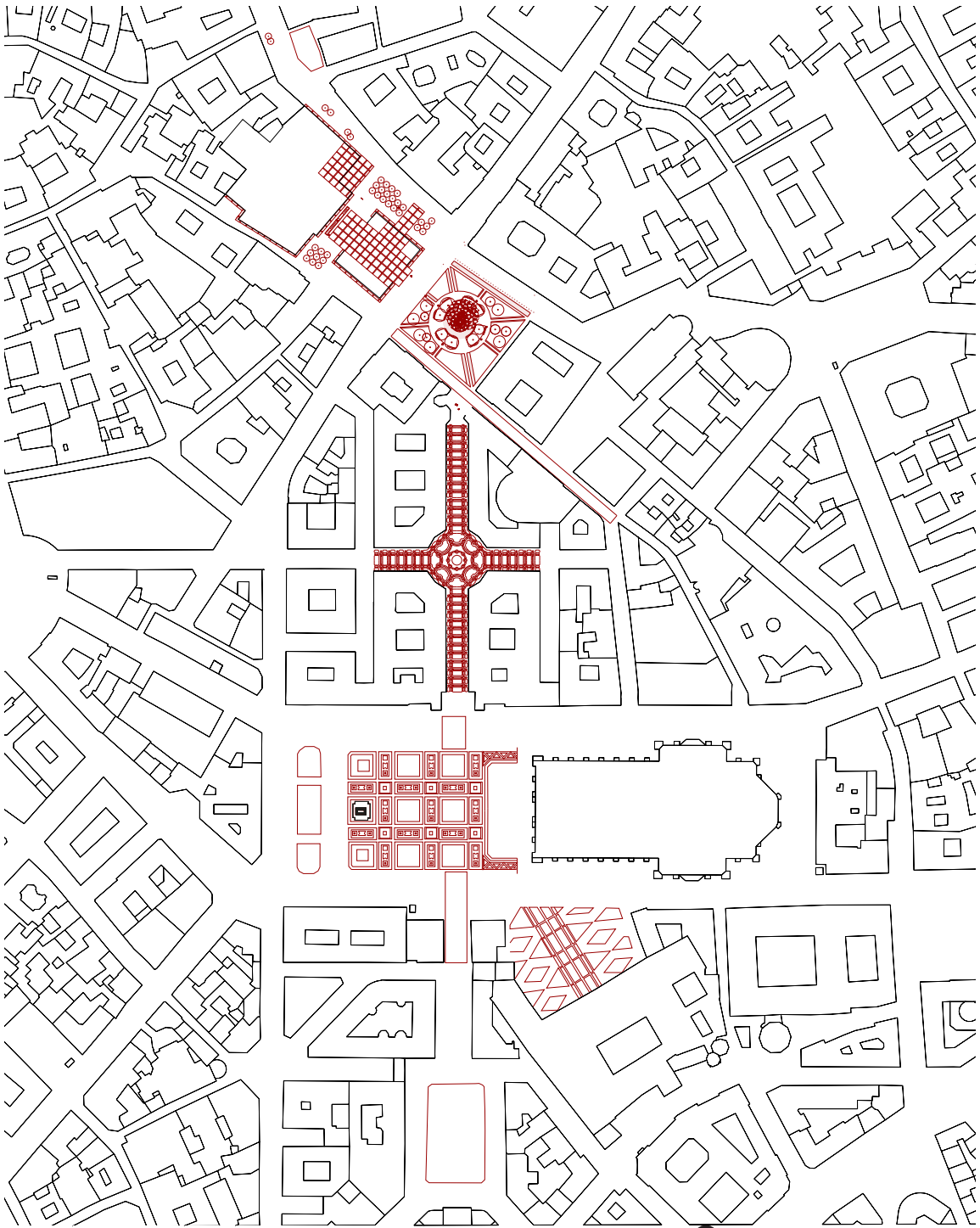


carpeting
recycled cotton



oculus
light element



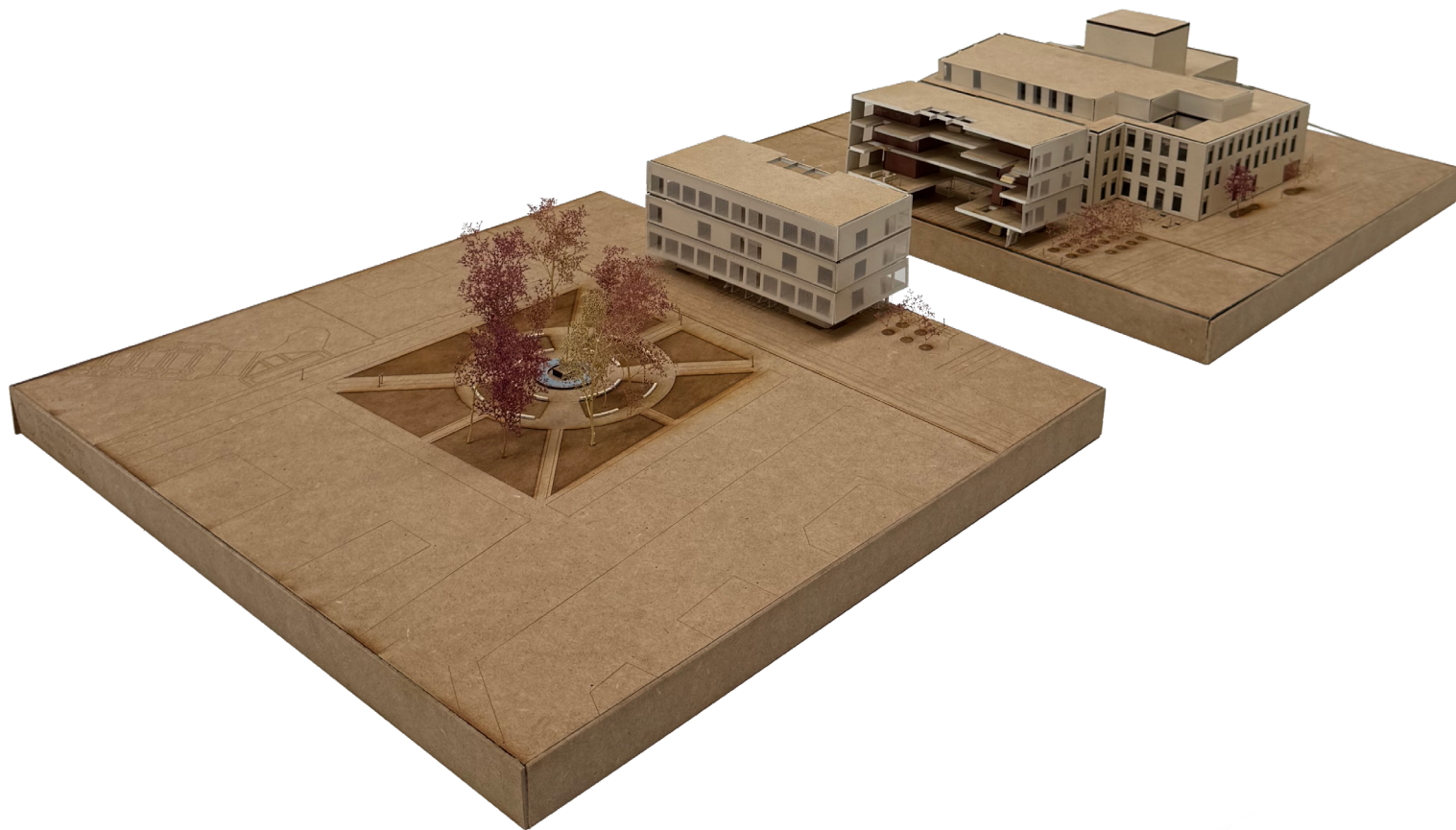


outside

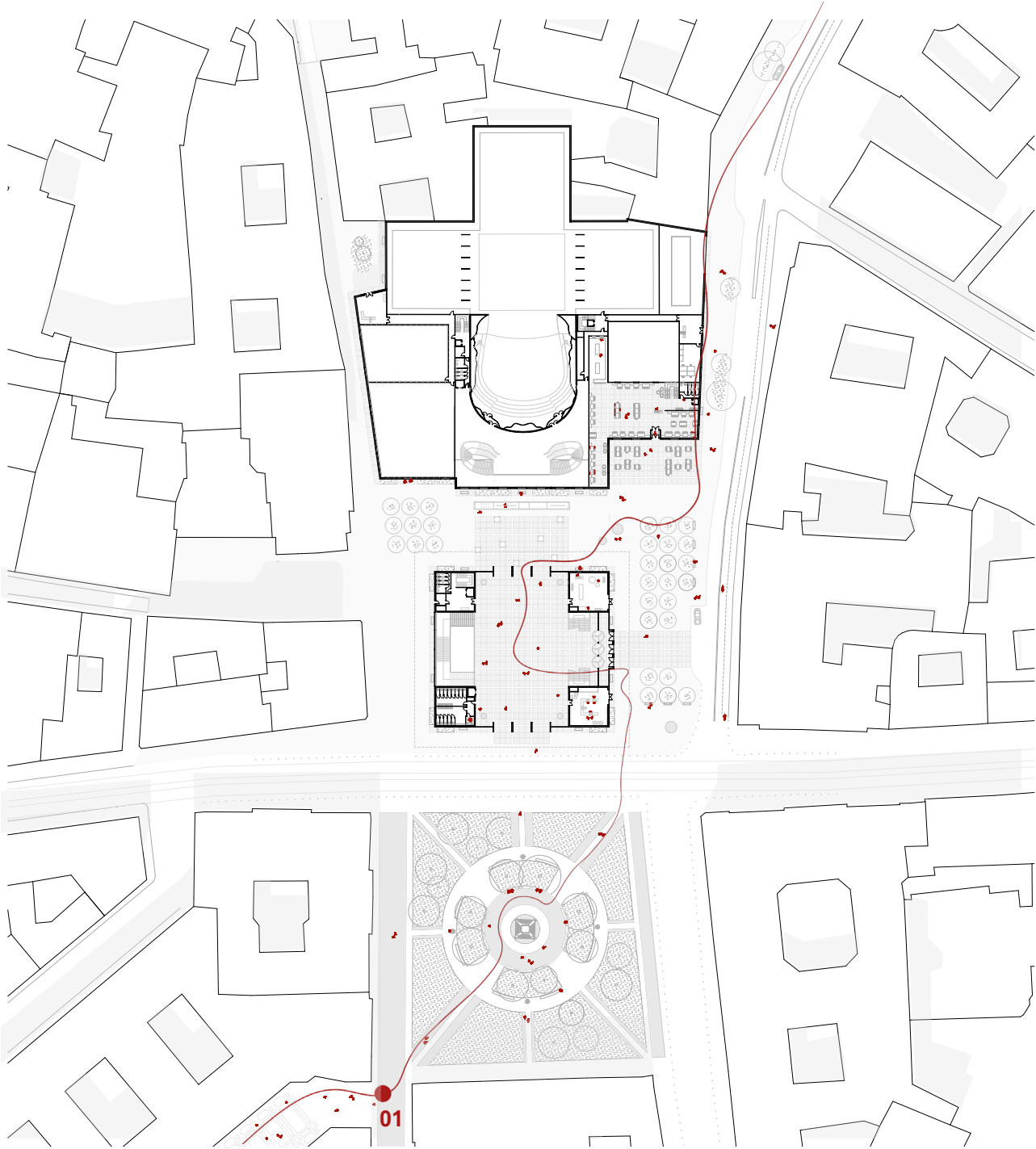


inside

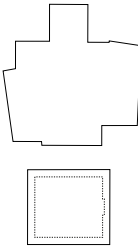
the ground floor into an extension of the city



Urban implementation
- visitor sequence 01

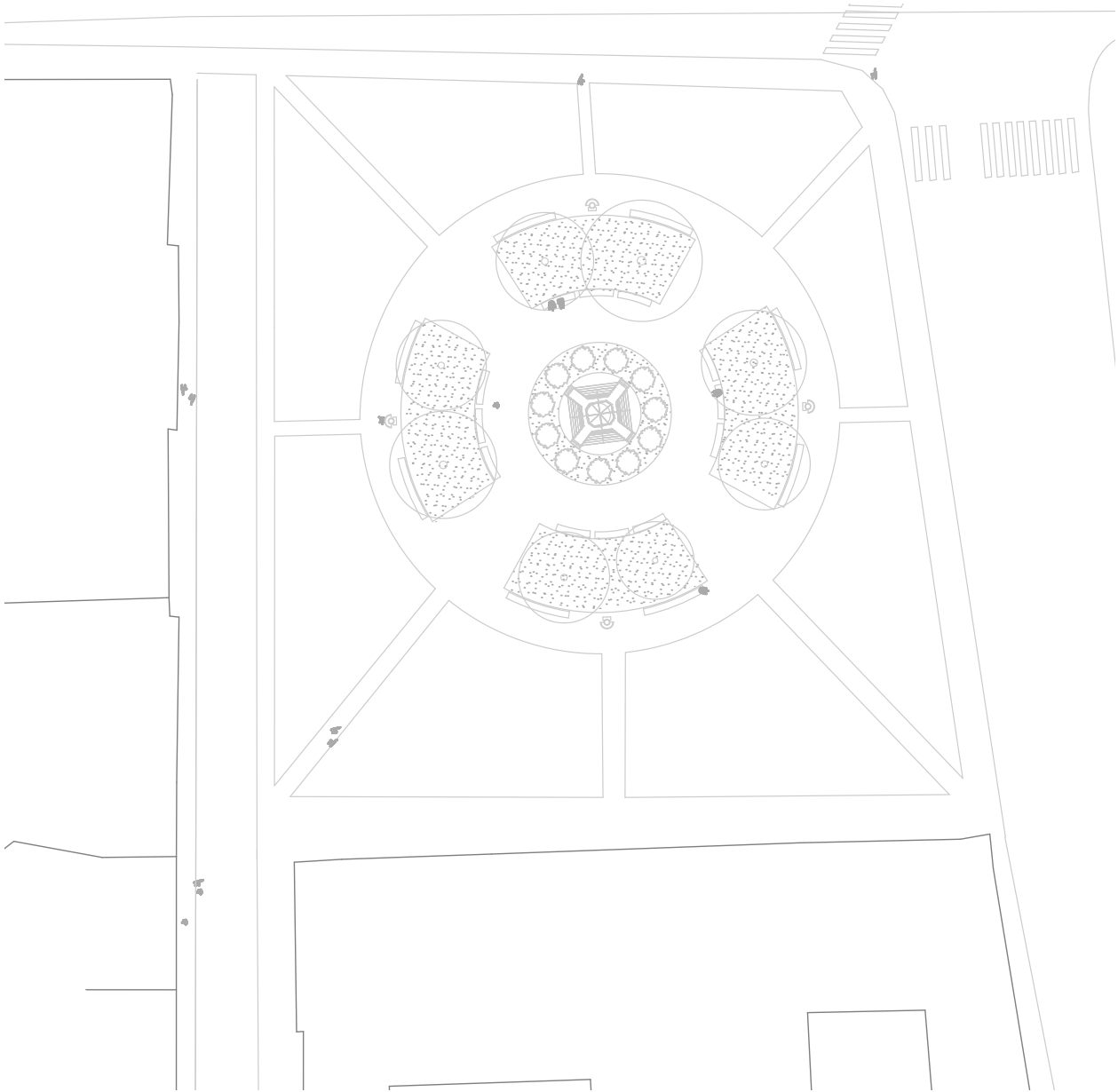


Urban context







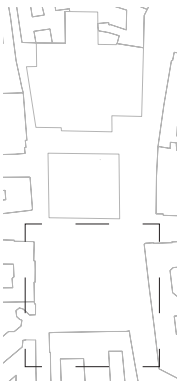
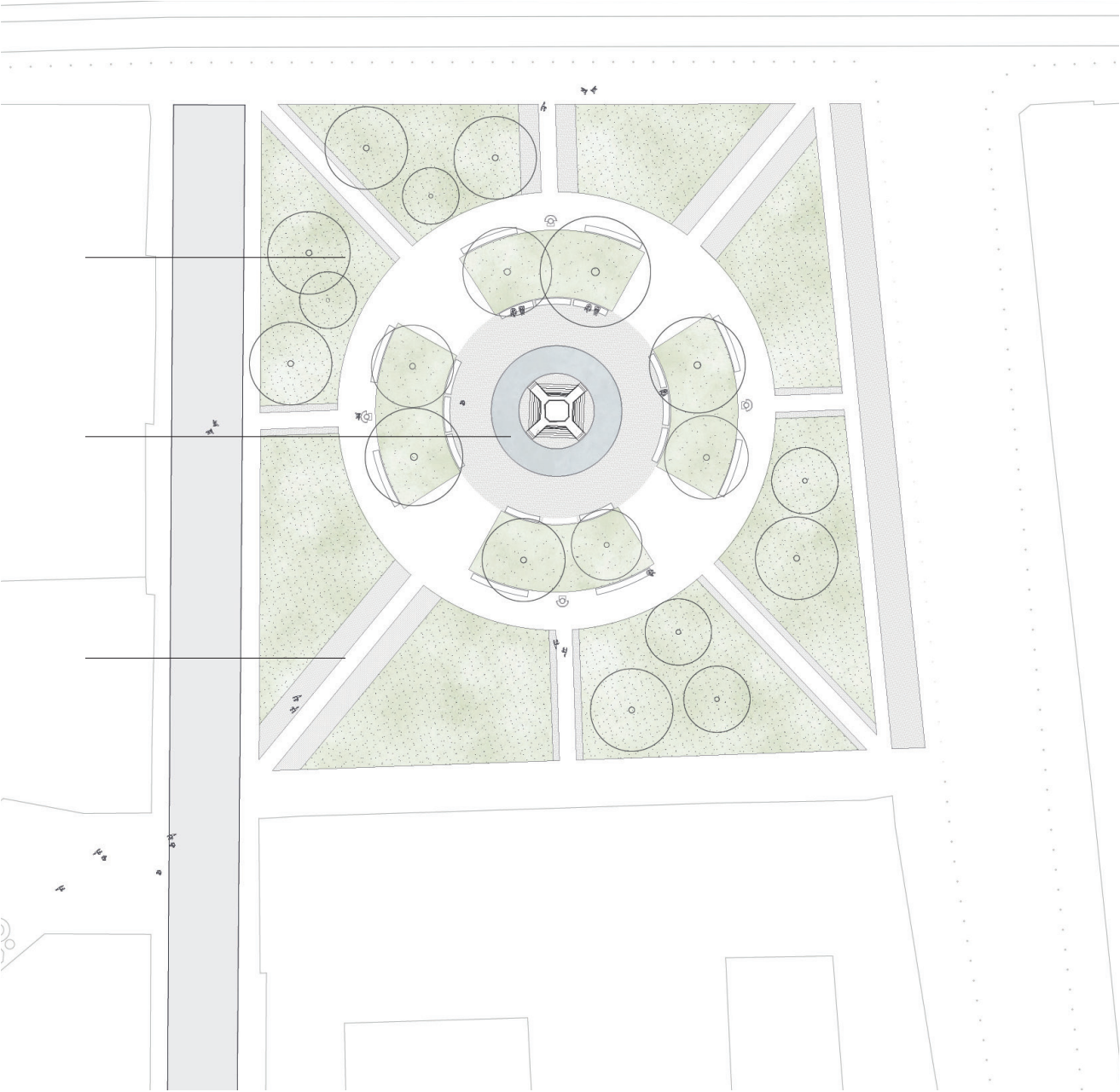


new design Piazza della Scala

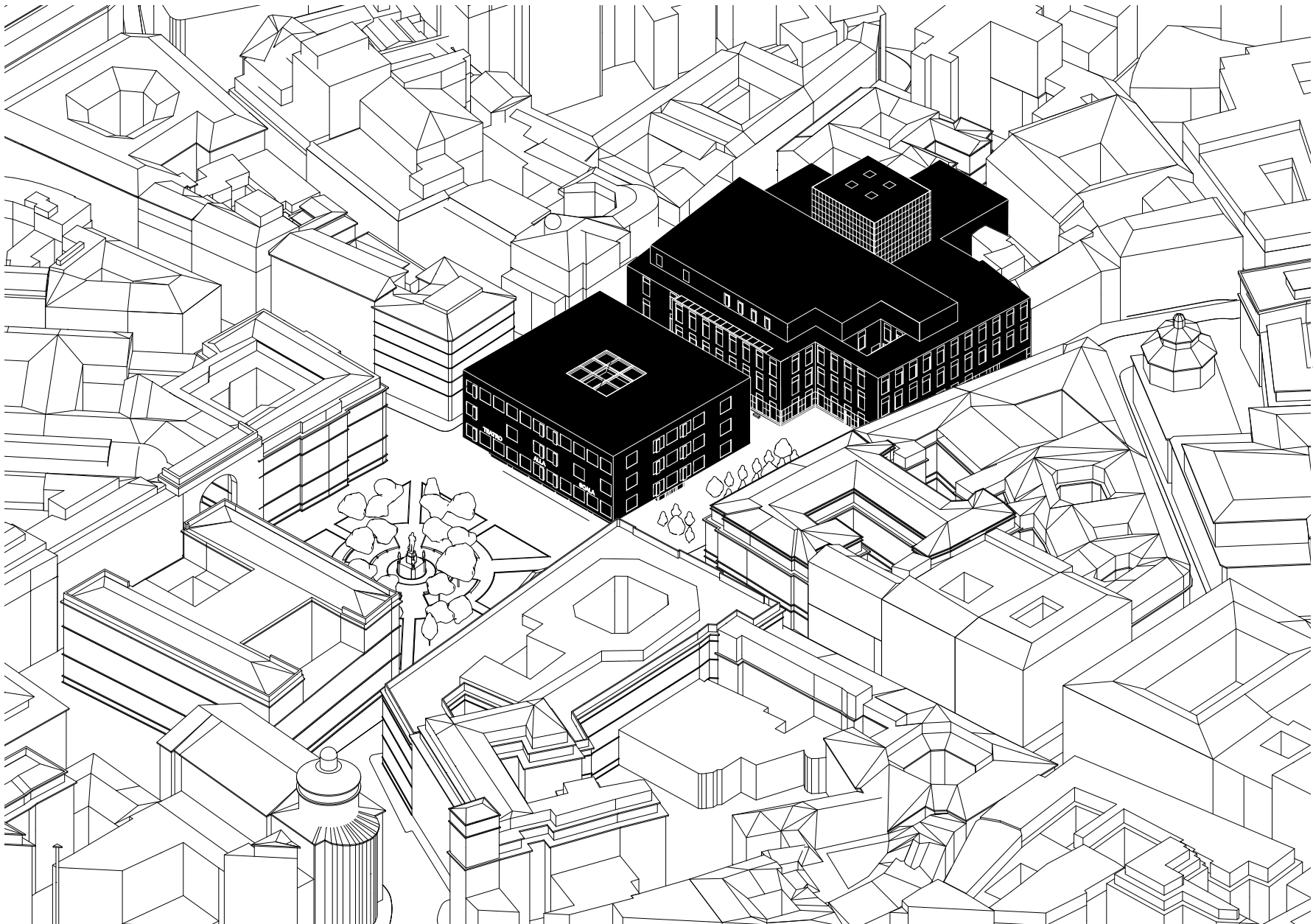
additional green

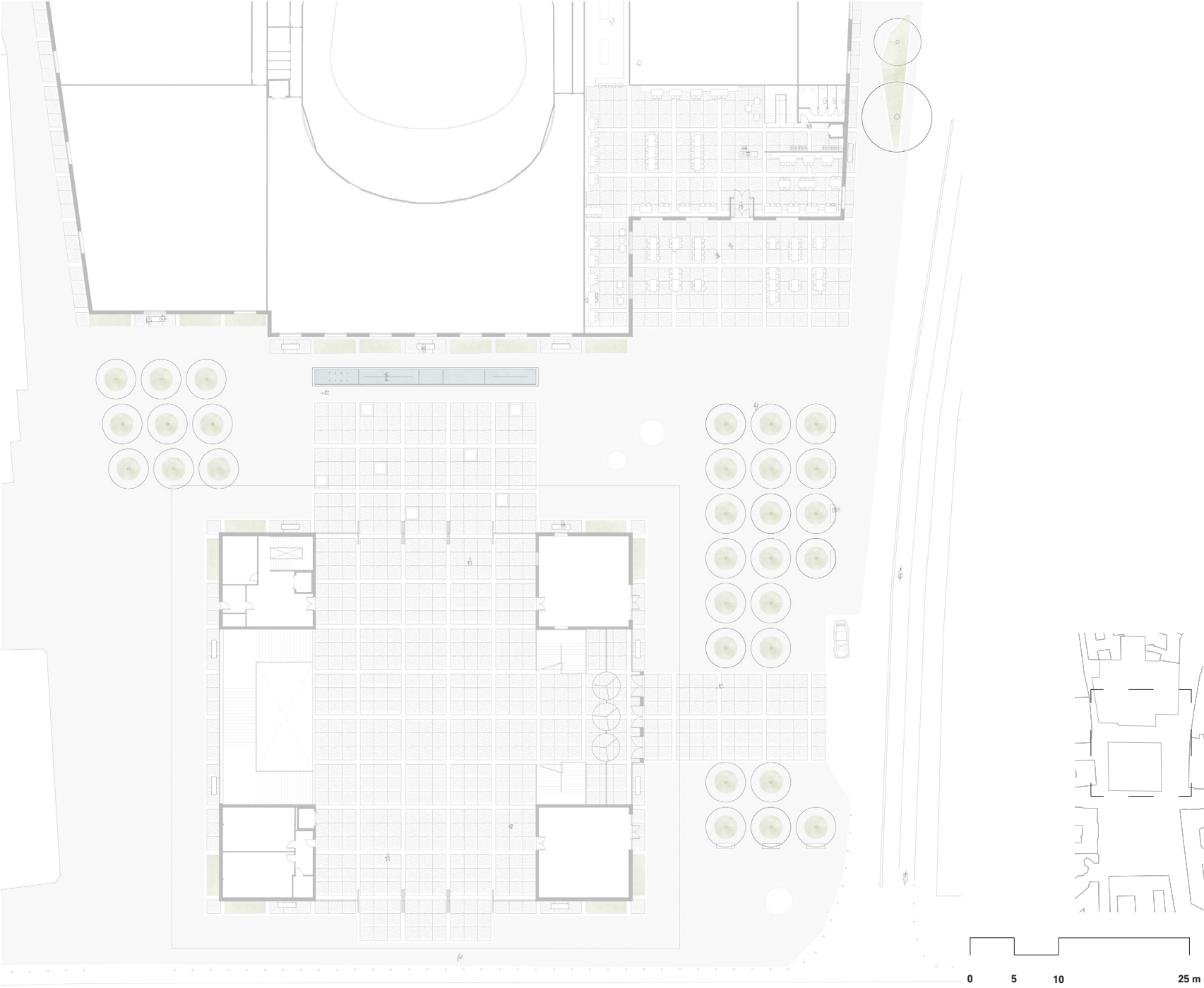
water fountain

widened path

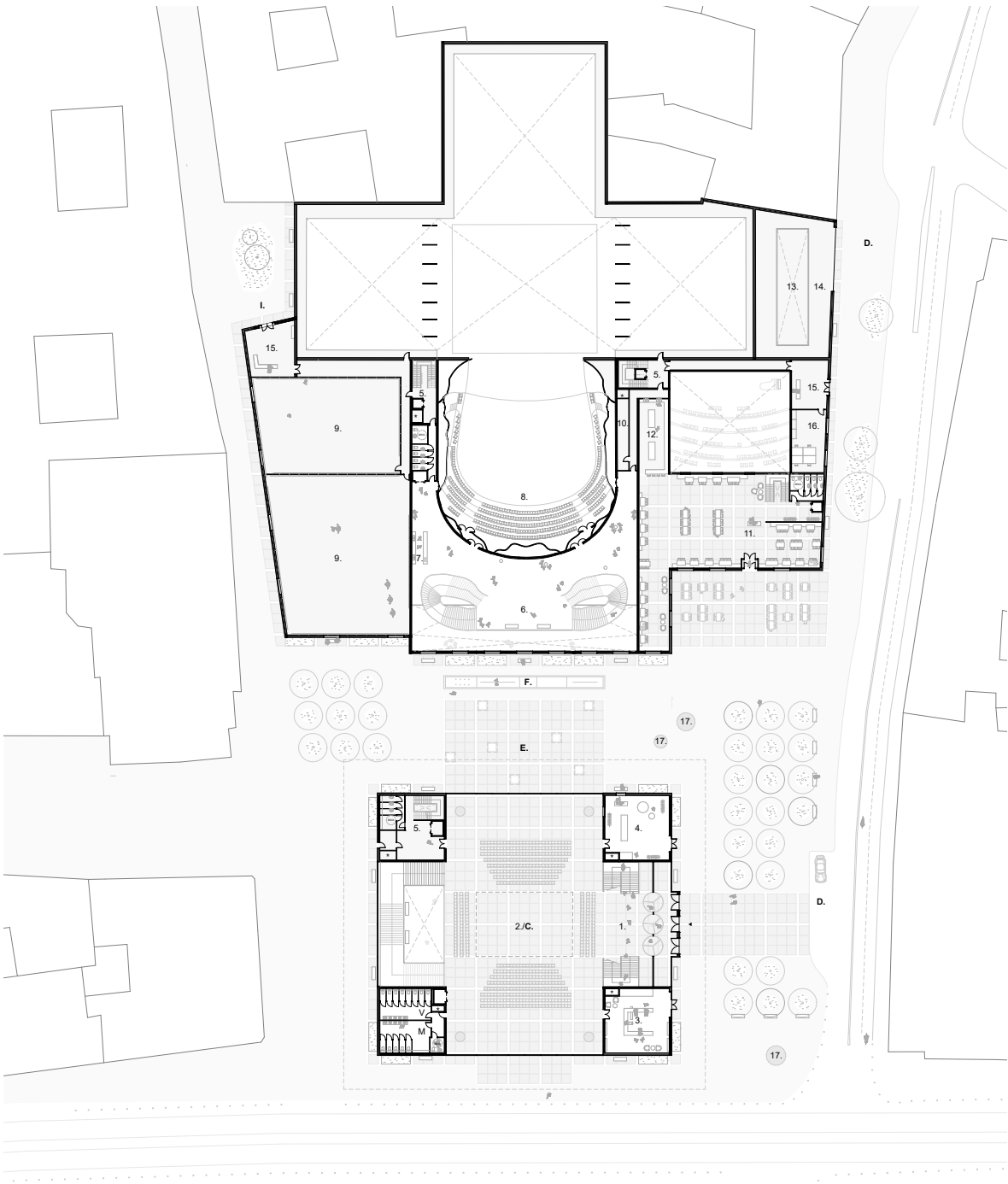








ground floor



- Interior
- 1. Official entrance
 - 2. Open stage
 - 3. Ticket office/public relations
 - 4. Shop
 - 5. Staff core
 - 6. Foyer
 - 7. Bar
 - 8. First balcony
 - 9. Ballet rehearsal room
 - 10. Pantry
 - 11. Café
 - 12. Kitchen
 - 13. Freight lift
 - 14. Loading dock
 - 15. Staff entrance
 - 16. Props workshop
 - 17. Art object
 - * ventilation shaft

- Exterior
- A. Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II
 - B. Piazza della Scala
 - C. Civic passage
 - D. Drop off zone taxi's
 - E. Outside performance area
 - F. Playing fountain
 - G. Terrace
 - H. Pedestrianised route; Duomo to Brera
 - I. Staff entrance square



glass block facade

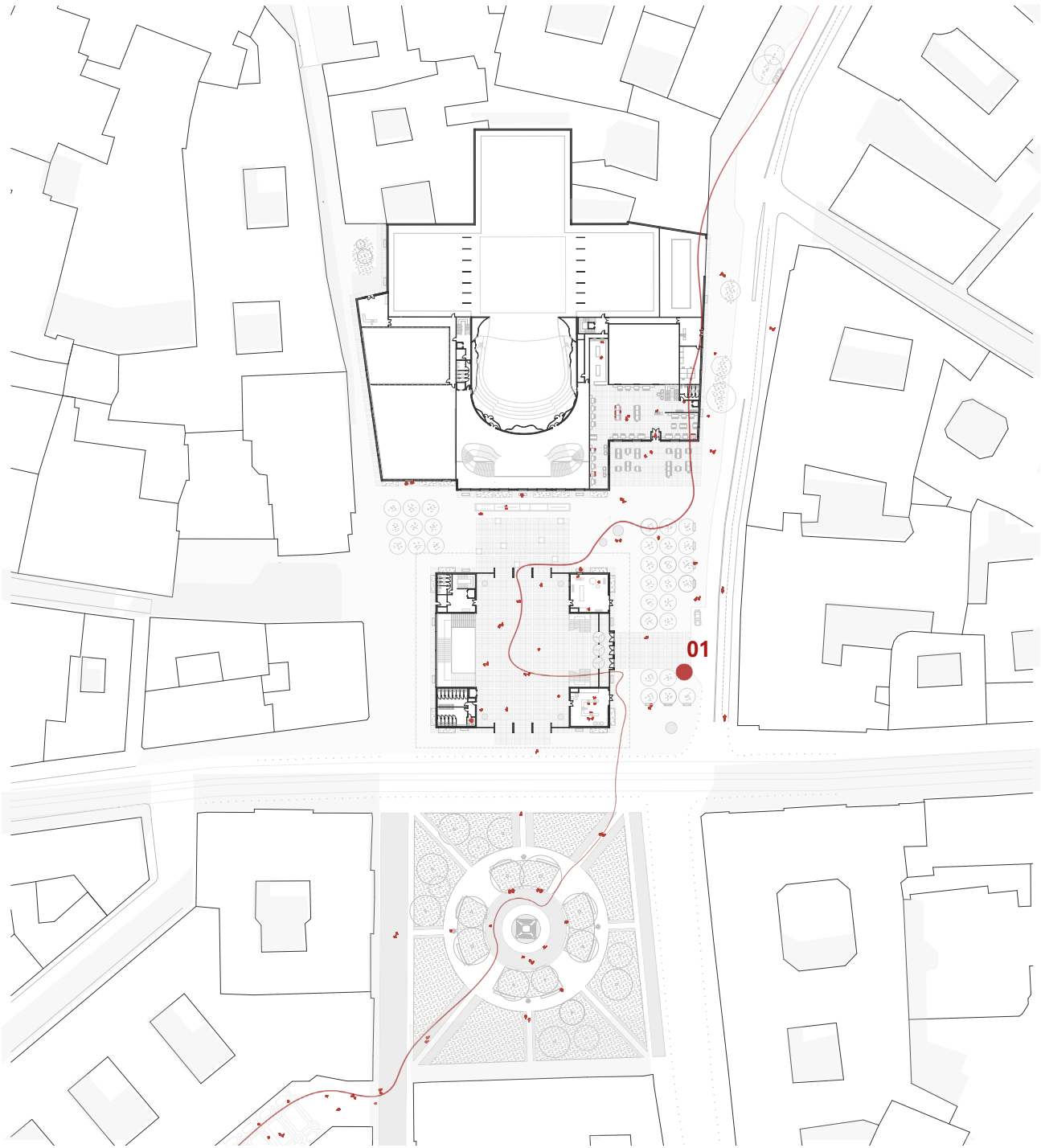


glass block facade



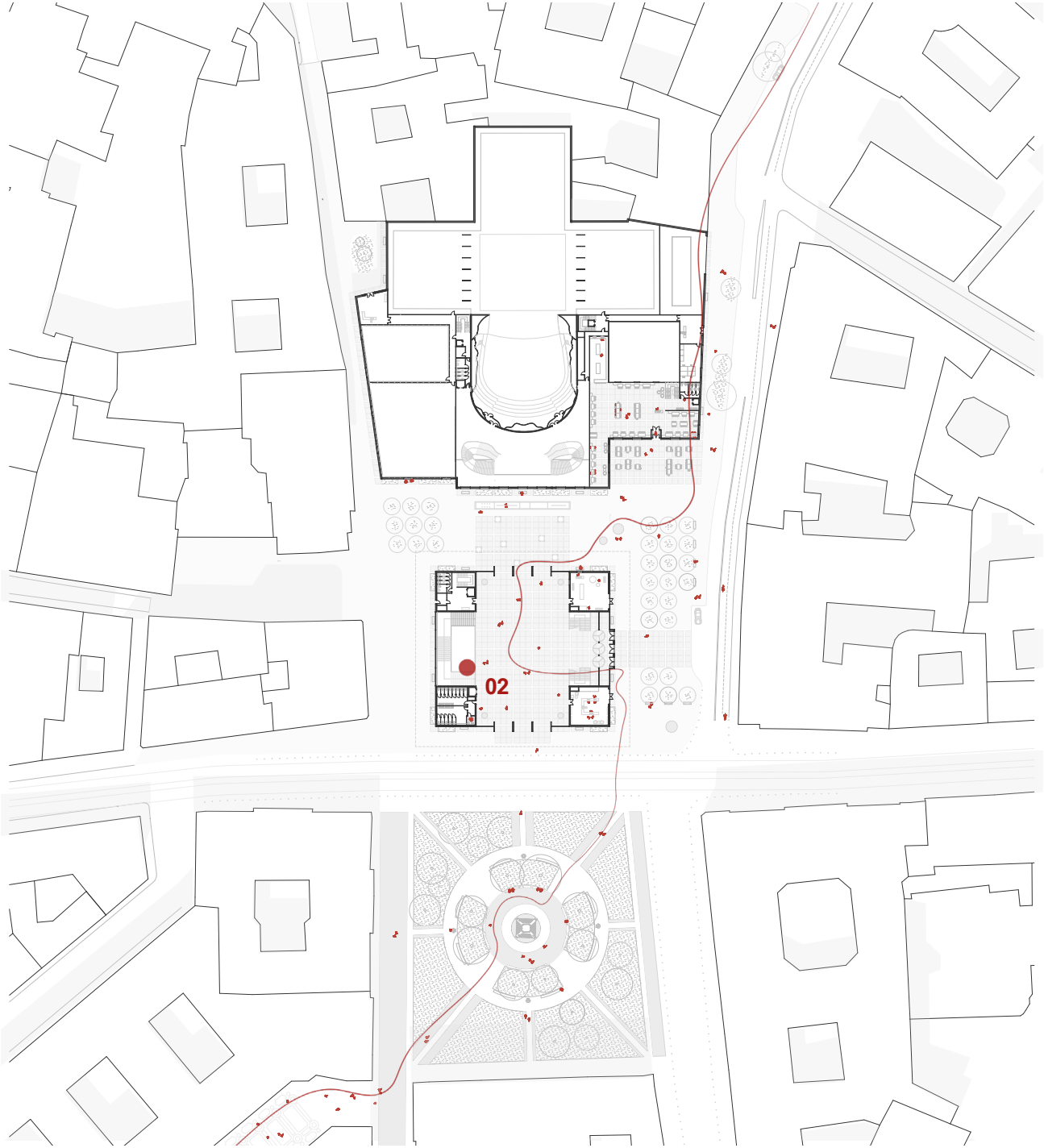
glass block facade



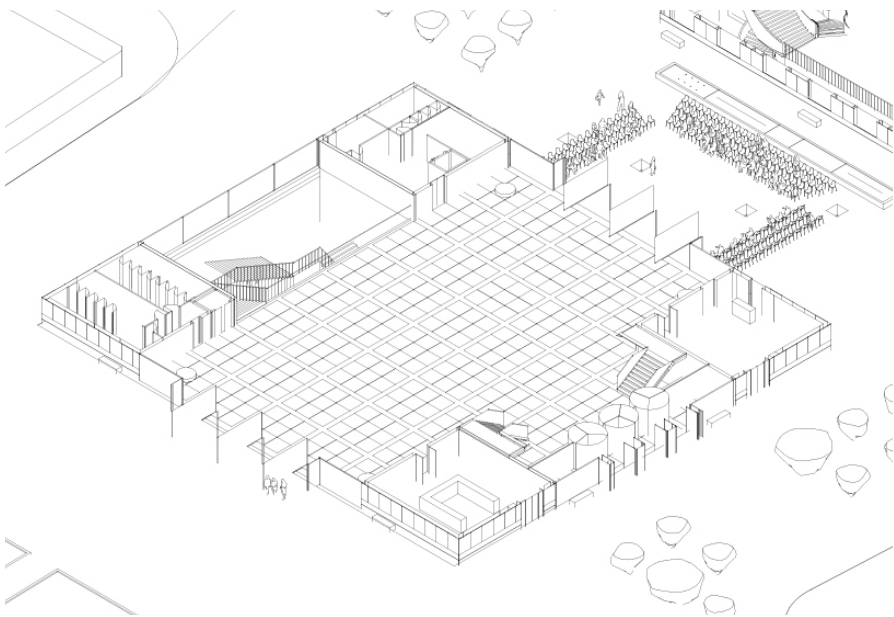
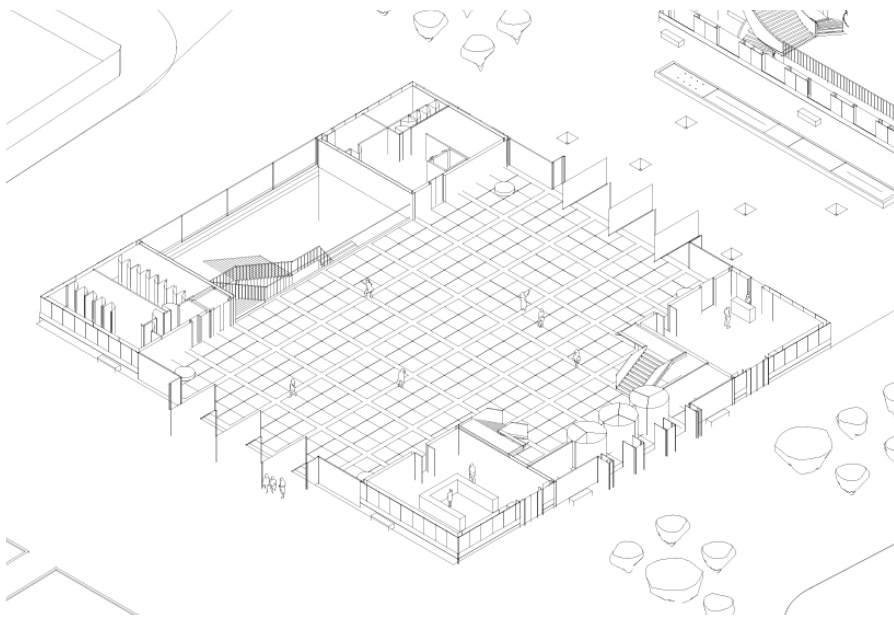






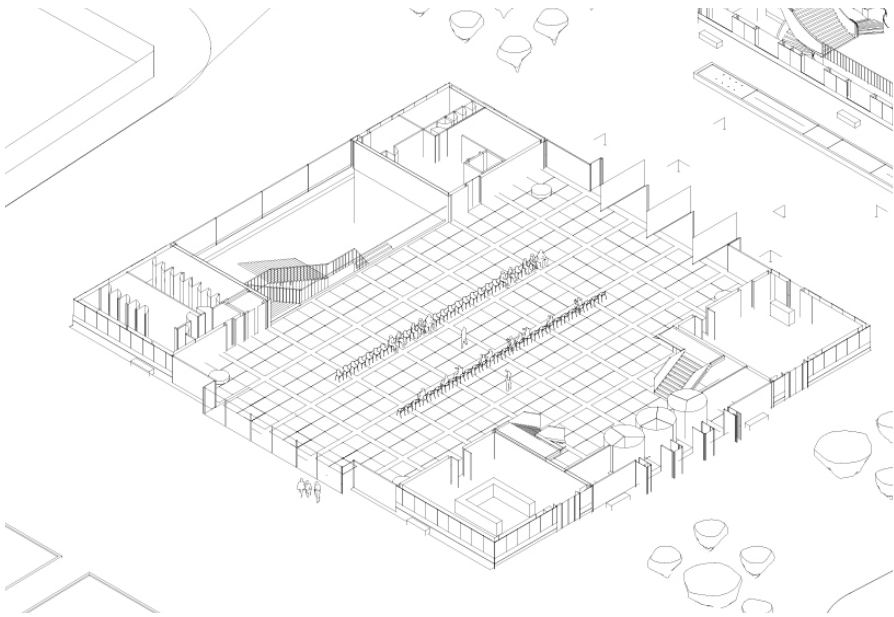
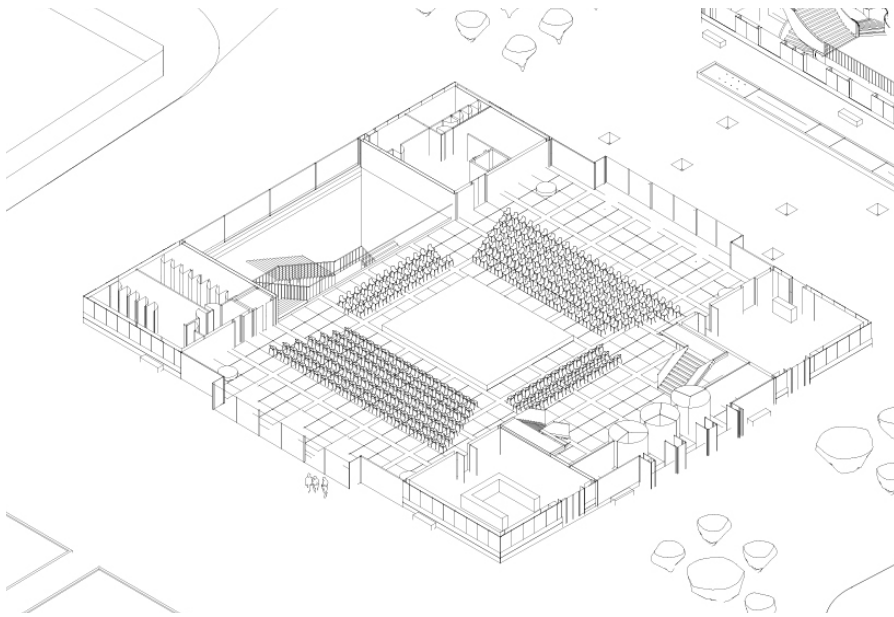


hybrid use civic palazzo



passage and urban square

outside performance

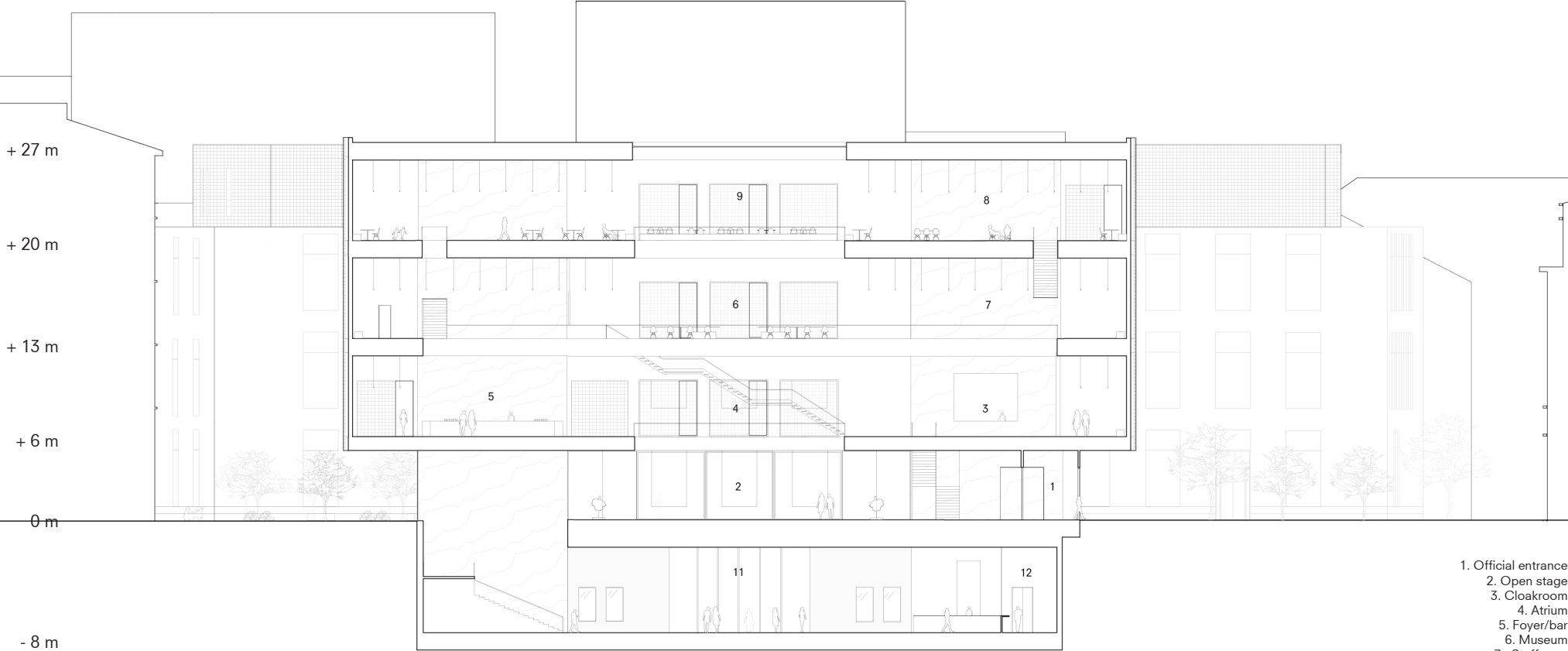


performance atrium

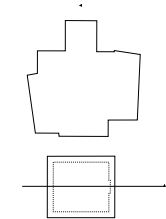
fashion week



cross-section

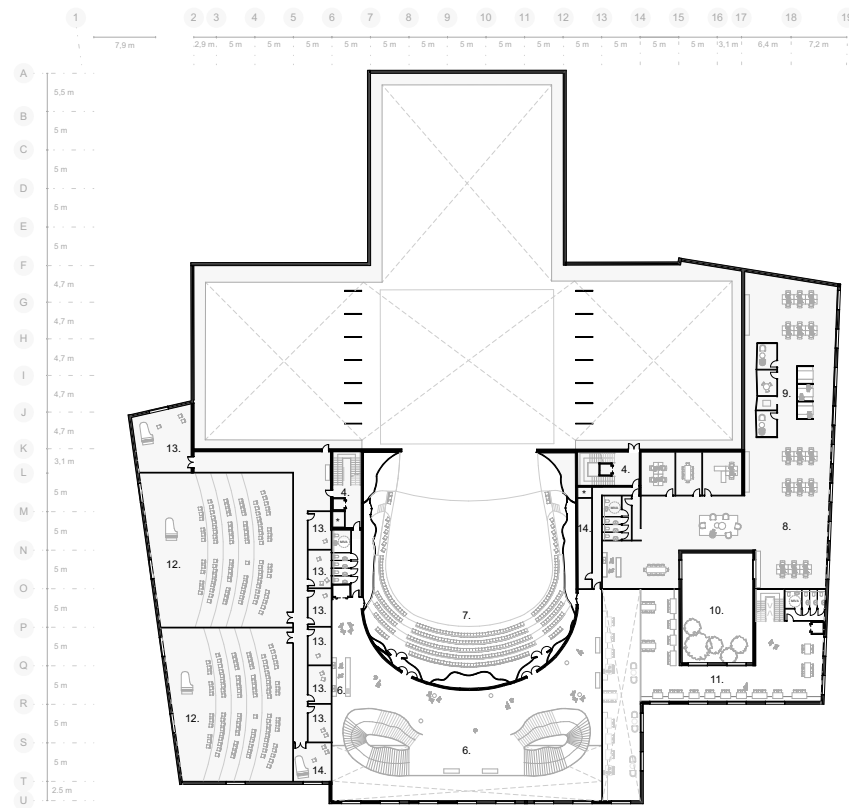


- 1. Official entrance
- 2. Open stage
- 3. Cloakroom
- 4. Atrium
- 5. Foyer/bar
- 6. Museum
- 7. Staff core
- 8. Creative workshop
- 9. Restaurant
- 10. Multifunctional space (pre performance talks, gathering space, working space)
- 11. Grand foyer
- 12. Cloakroom

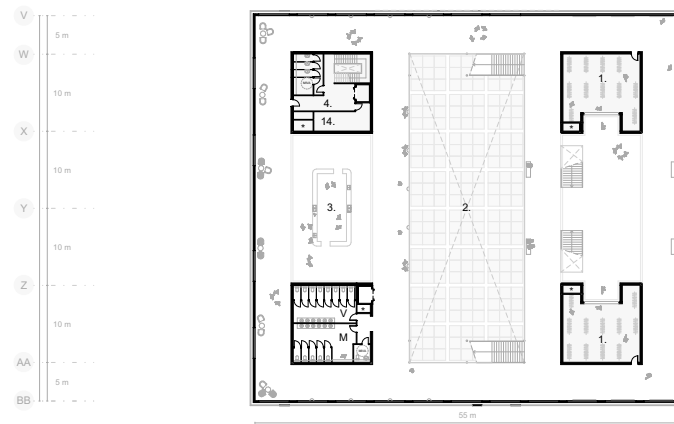




1st floor



1. Cloakroom
2. Foyer open stage
3. Bar
4. Staff core
5. Foyer first balcony
6. Bar
7. Second balcony
8. Offices
9. Meeting rooms
10. Patio
11. Café
12. Choir rehearsal room
13. Individual practice room
14. Pantry







Operable roof vents

Enable night cooling through stack ventilation.

Moss-sedum roof

Supports biodiversity and rainwater retention.

Composite steel deck + concrete floor slabs

Series of public voids with stairs

First void: 40 × 5 m
Second void: 45 × 15 m
Third void: 15 × 15 m
Roof opening: 15 × 15

Acoustic public interiors

Café and foyer areas include additional acoustic ceiling and wall panels.

Temporary truss system

Provides open stage with temporary decor and light.

Secondary HEA450 beams

5 × 5 m grid with additional edge beams around façades and voids.

Double glass block façade as a ventilated solar buffer

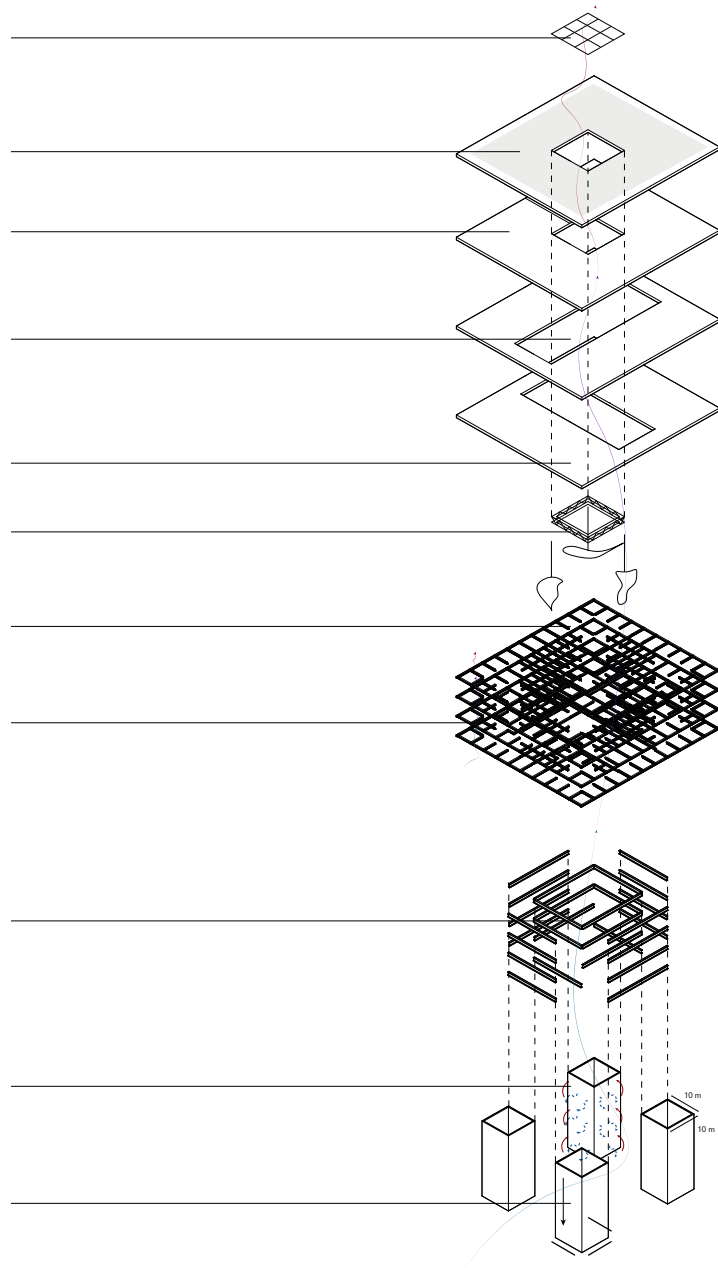
Primary welded steel transfer beams

Approx. 1.2 m deep; span 20–25 m between concrete cores.

Reinforced concrete cores

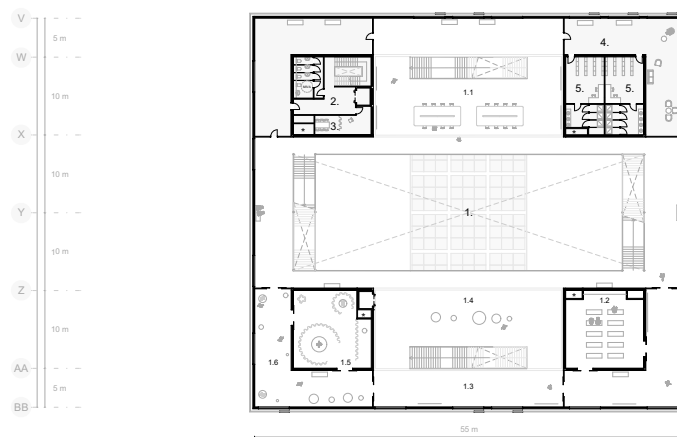
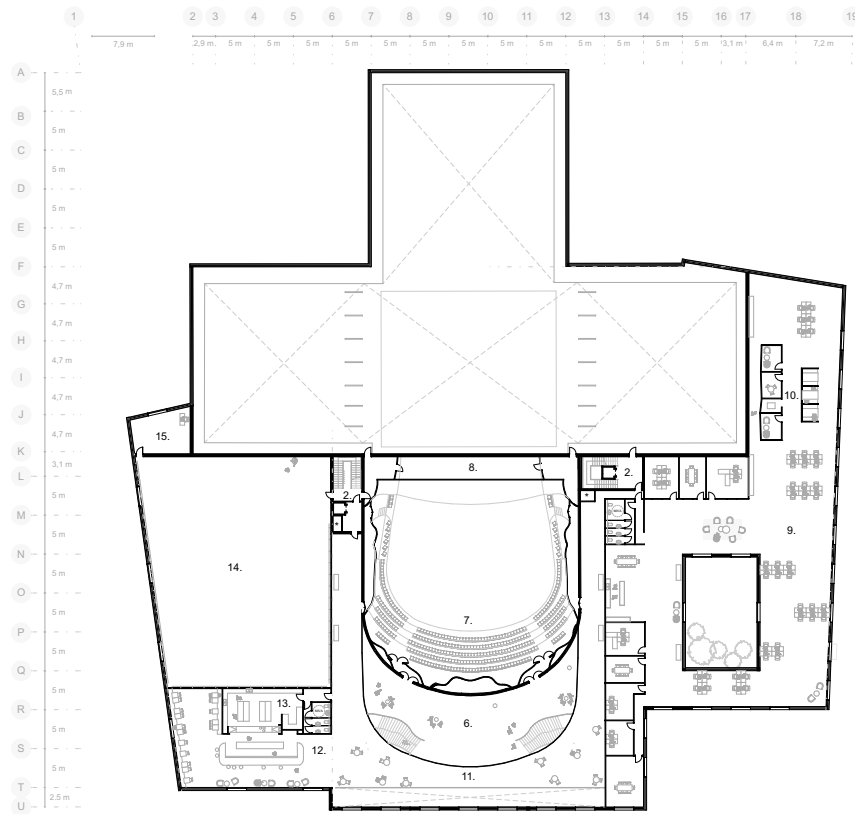
Low-velocity supply air is distributed through wall-integrated nozzles.

Carry vertical loads, resist wind loads, and integrate lifts and service zones.





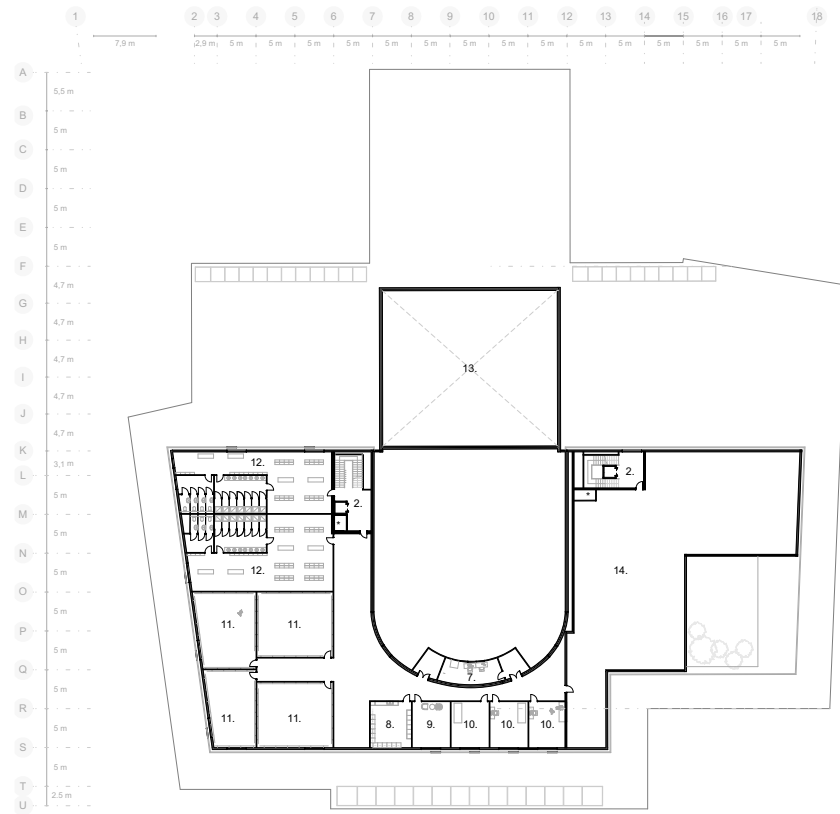
2nd floor



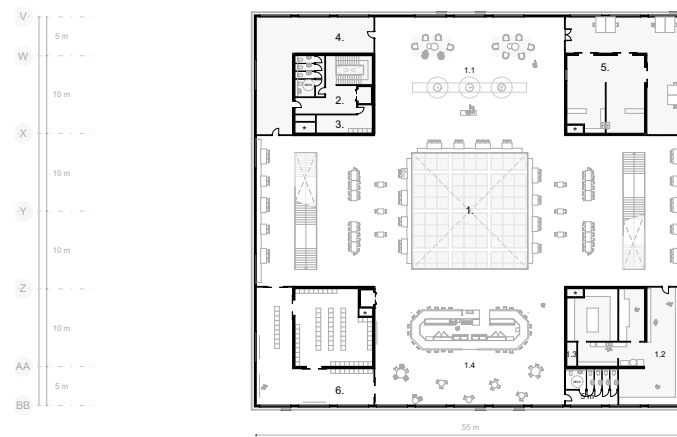
1. Museum
 - 1.1 Workshop space
 - 1.2 Cinema
- 1.3 Photography exhibition
 - 1.4 Props exhibition
- 1.5 Voice and resonance chamber
 - 1.6 Costume exhibition
 2. Staff core
3. Podcast studio/ recording room
 4. Green room
5. Shared dressing room
6. Entrance third balcony
 7. Third balcony
8. Followspot operator room
 9. Offices
10. Meeting rooms
 11. Coffee bar
12. Staff restaurant
 13. Kitchen
14. Ballet rehearsal room
15. Office ballet master



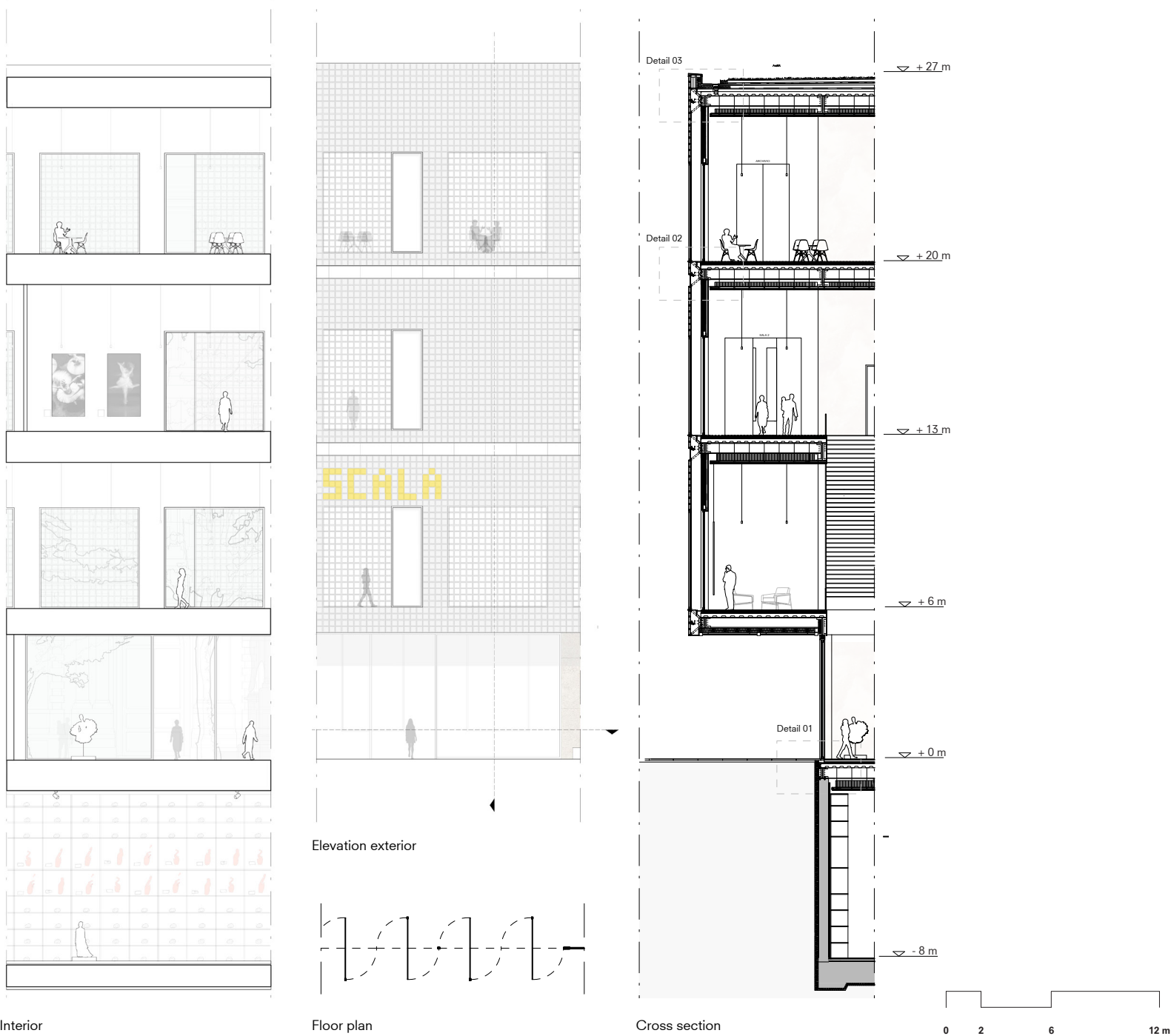
3d floor



1. Restaurant
 - 1.1 Bar
- 1.2 Waiting area
- 1.3 Kitchen
- 1.4 Changing room
 2. Staff core
 3. Storage
4. Technical space
5. Creative workshop
6. Archives (publicly accessible)
7. Technical gallery (lightning technician)
8. Laundry room
9. Breastfeeding/meditation room
10. Treatment room
11. Warm-up studio
12. Dressing room choir/orchestra
13. Fly tower
14. Technical space

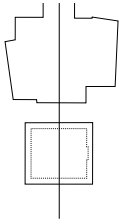
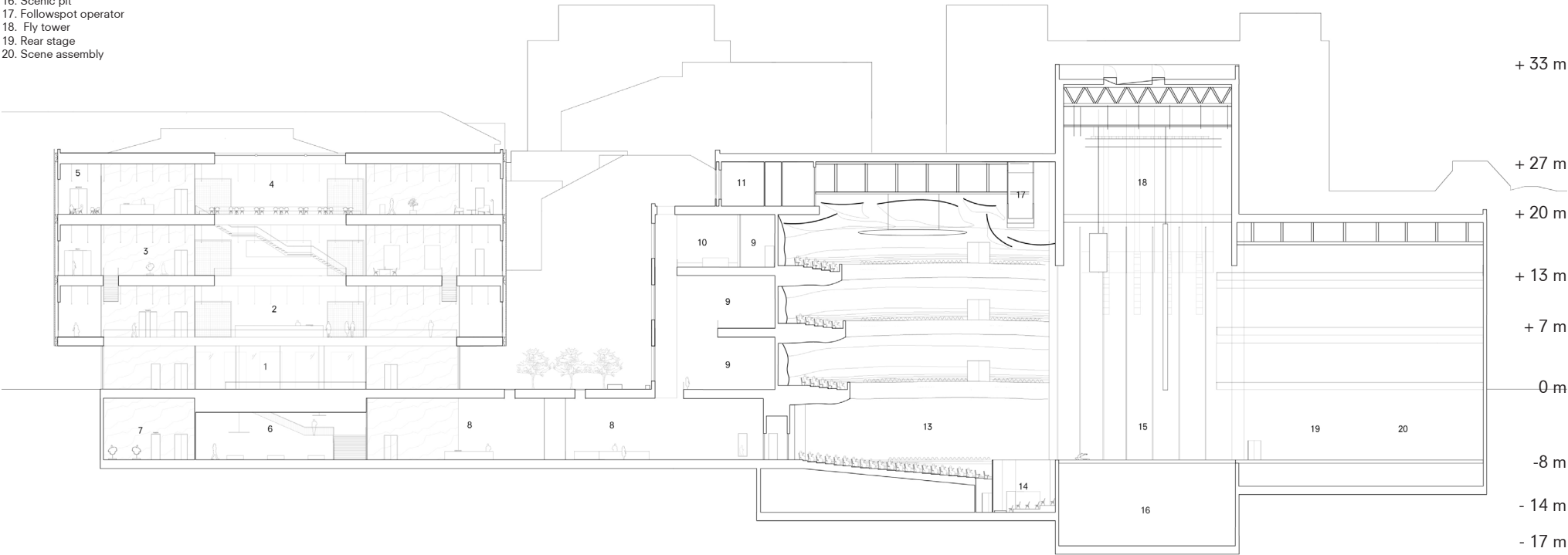


interior and exterior fragment
civic palazzo



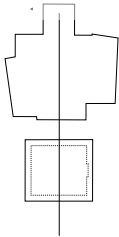
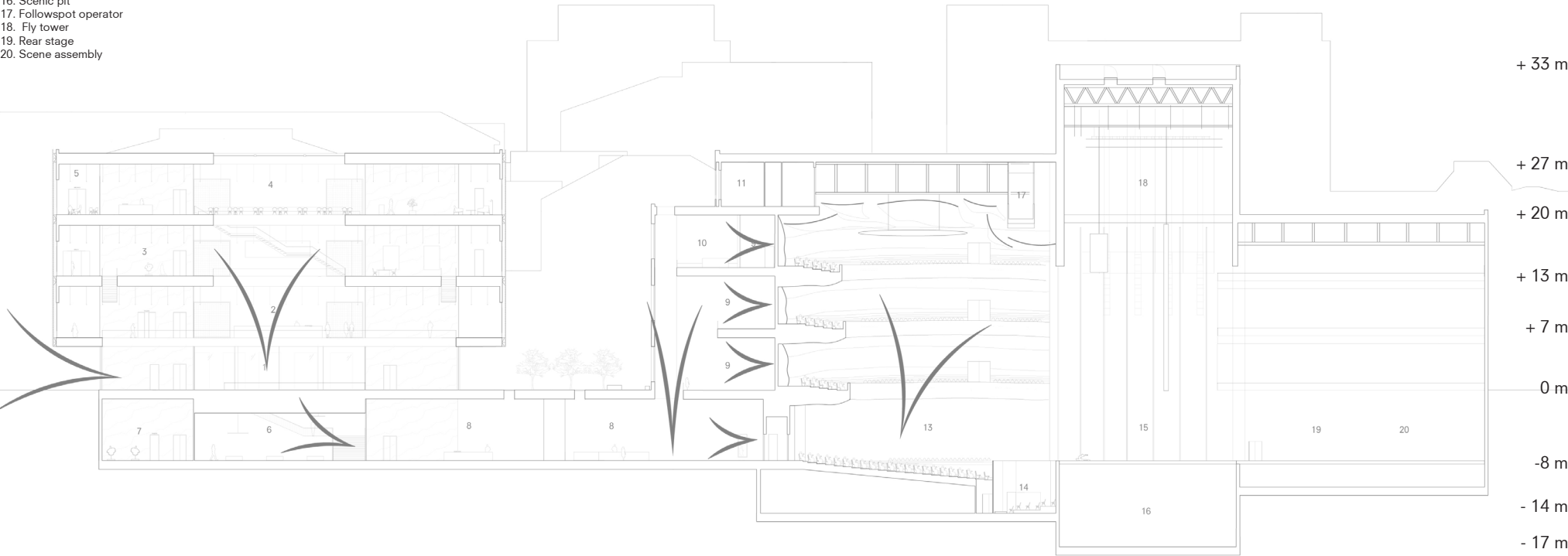
longitudinal section

- 1. Open stage
- 2. Foyer with cloakrooms and toilets
- 3. Museum
- 4. Restaurant
- 5. Archives (publicly accessible)
- 6. Multifunctional space (pre performance talks, gathering space, working space)
- 7. Costume exhibition
- 8. Bar
- 9. Foyer balconies
- 10. Staff restaurant
- 11. Treatment room
- 12. Technical gallery
- 13. Horseshoe hall
- 14. Orchestra pit
- 15. Stage
- 16. Scenic pit
- 17. Followspot operator
- 18. Fly tower
- 19. Rear stage
- 20. Scene assembly



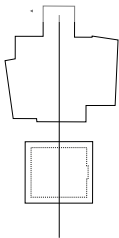
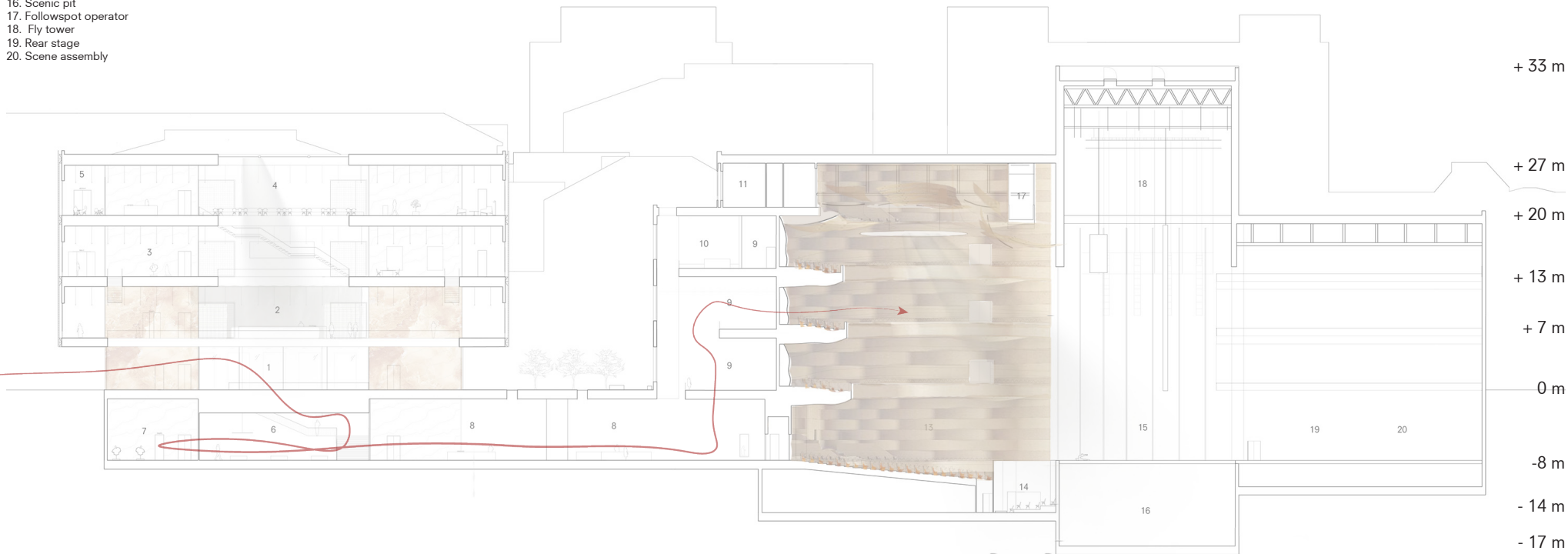
longitudinal section

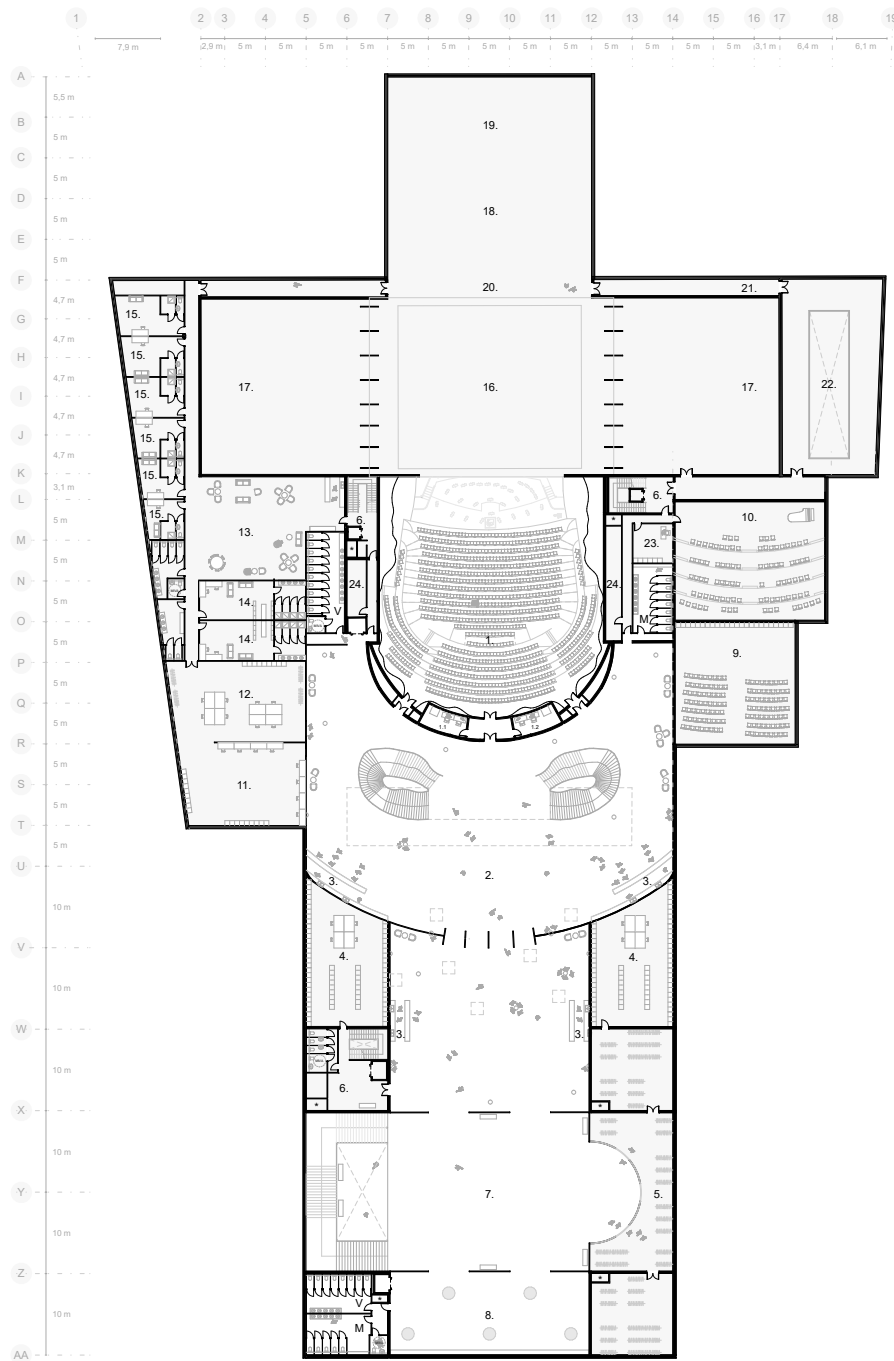
- 1. Open stage
- 2. Foyer with cloakrooms and toilets
- 3. Museum
- 4. Restaurant
- 5. Archives (publicly accessible)
- 6. Multifunctional space (pre performance talks, gathering space, working space)
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- 14. Orchestra pit
- 15. Stage
- 16. Scenic pit
- 17. Followspot operator
- 18. Fly tower
- 19. Rear stage
- 20. Scene assembly



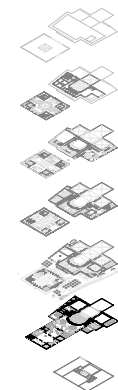
longitudinal section

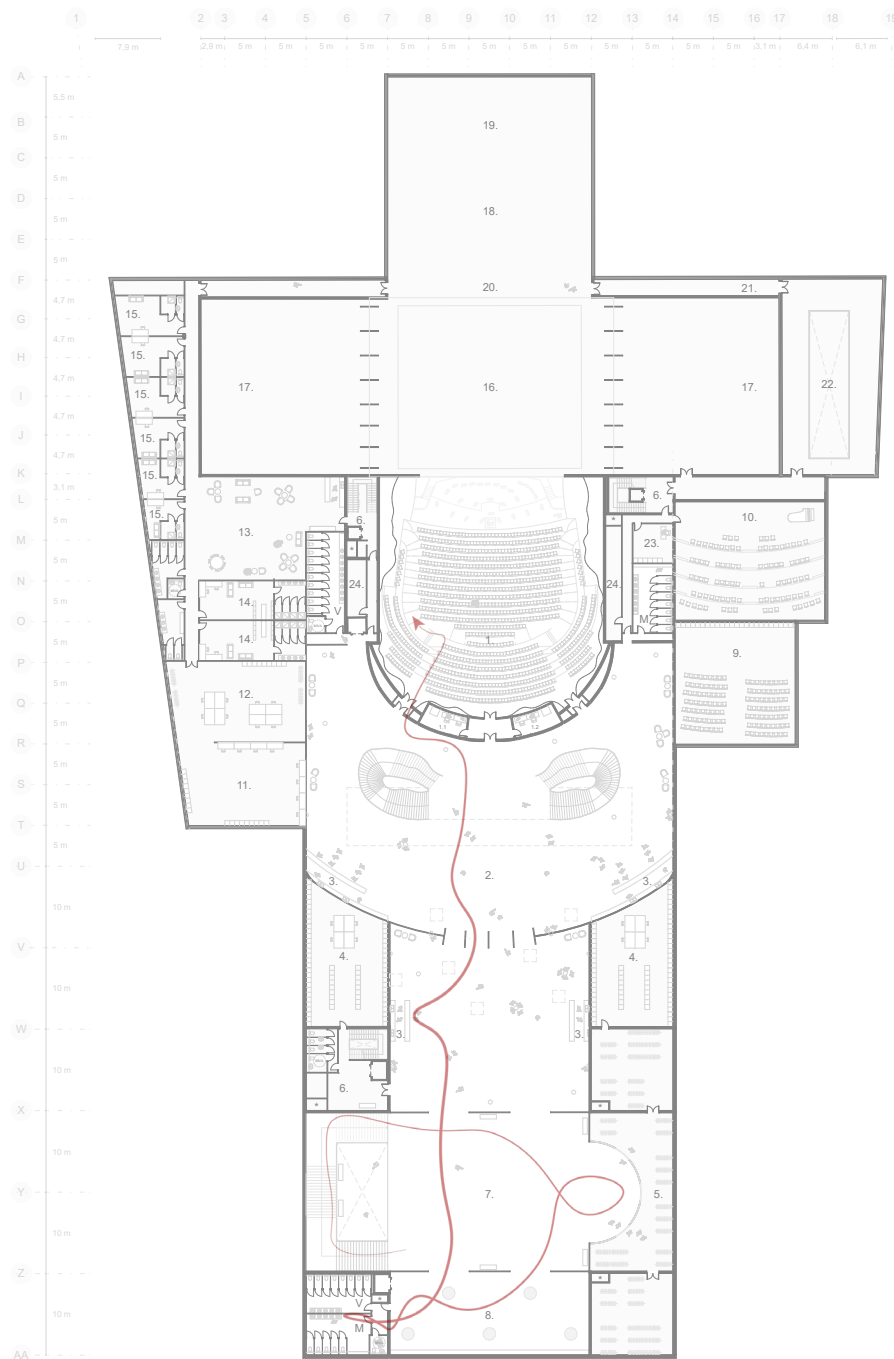
- 1. Open stage
- 2. Foyer with cloakrooms and toilets
- 3. Museum
- 4. Restaurant
- 5. Archives (publicly accessible)
- 6. Multifunctional space (pre performance talks, gathering space, working space)
- 7. Costume exhibition
- 8. Bar
- 9. Foyer balconies
- 10. Staff restaurant
- 11. Treatment room
- 12. Technical gallery
- 13. Horseshoe hall
- 14. Orchestra pit
- 15. Stage
- 16. Scenic pit
- 17. Followspot operator
- 18. Fly tower
- 19. Rear stage
- 20. Scene assembly



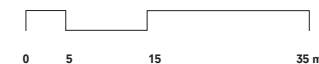
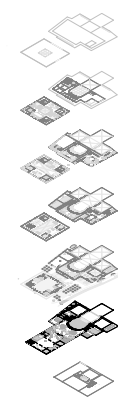


1. Horseshoe hall
- 1.1 FOH control room
- 1.2 Sound managers
2. Grand foyer
3. Bar
4. Climatized archives
5. Cloakroom
6. Staff core
7. Multifunctional reception space
8. Costume exhibition and point shoe wall
9. Storage day/pre-performance furniture
10. Orchestra rehearsal room
11. Wig and make-up workshop
12. Costume atelier
13. Green room
14. Shared dressing room
15. Soloist dressing room
16. Stage
17. Side stage
18. Back stage
19. Scene assembly
20. Cross-over route
21. Loading dock
22. Freight lift
23. Stage management office
24. Pantry



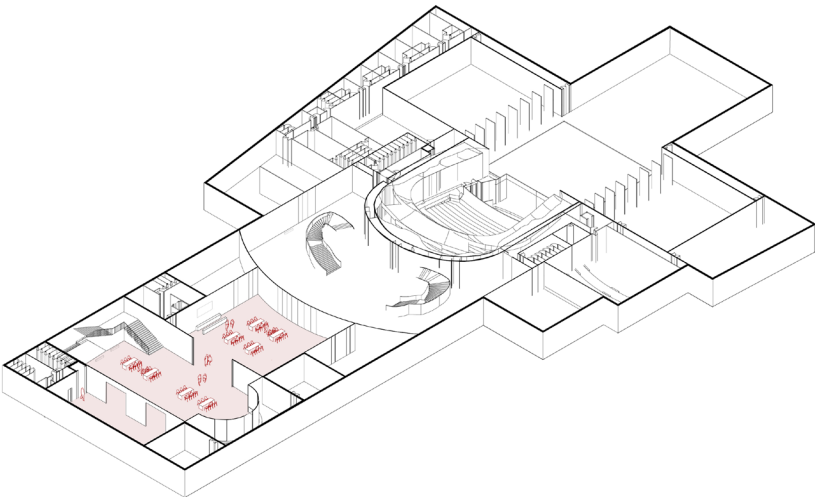


- 1. Horseshoe hall
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- 21. Loading dock
- 22. Freight lift
- 23. Stage management office
- 24. Pantry

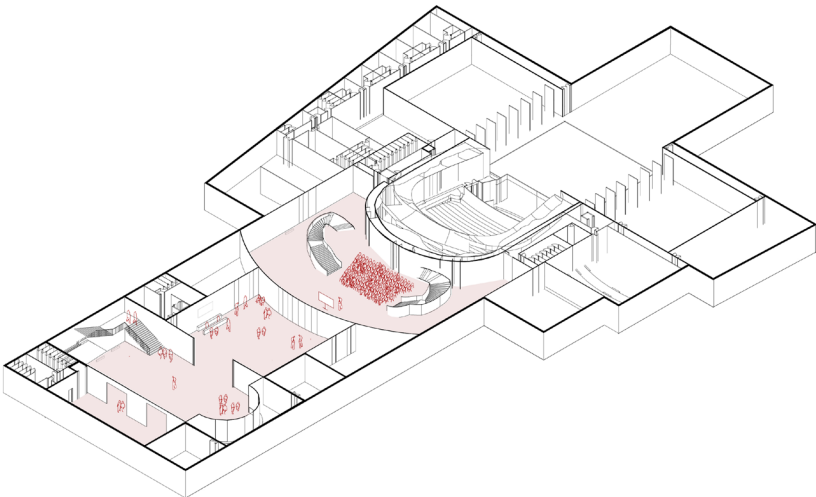




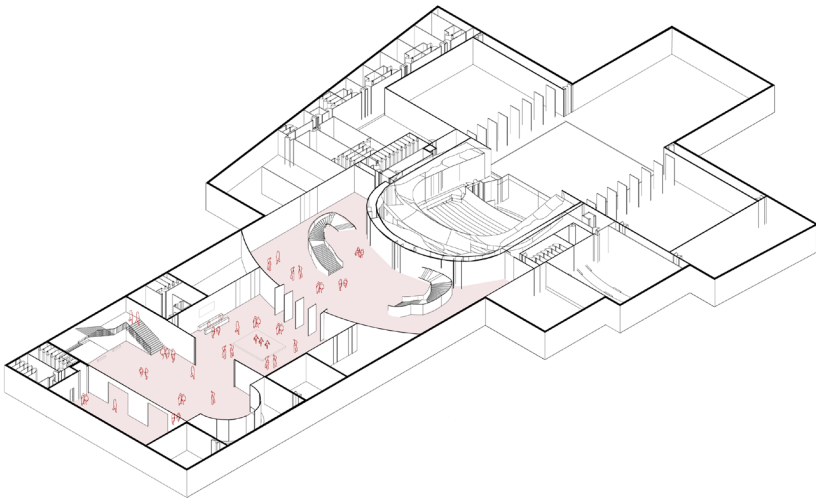
multi-use foyer



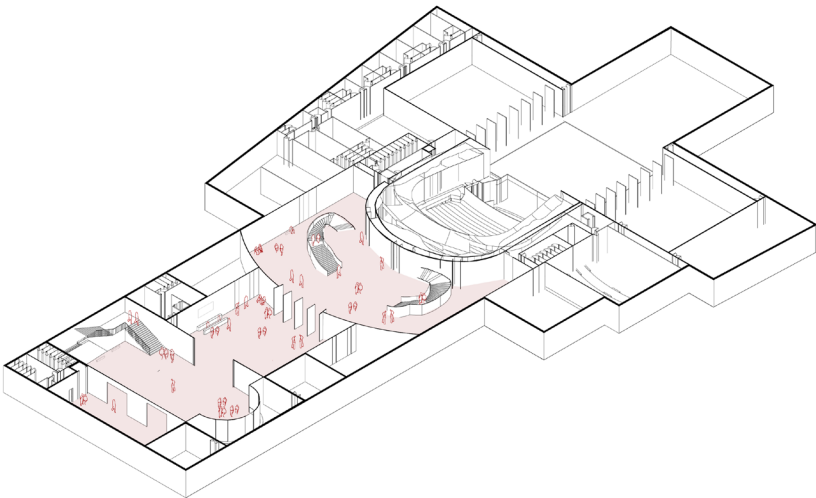
daily use



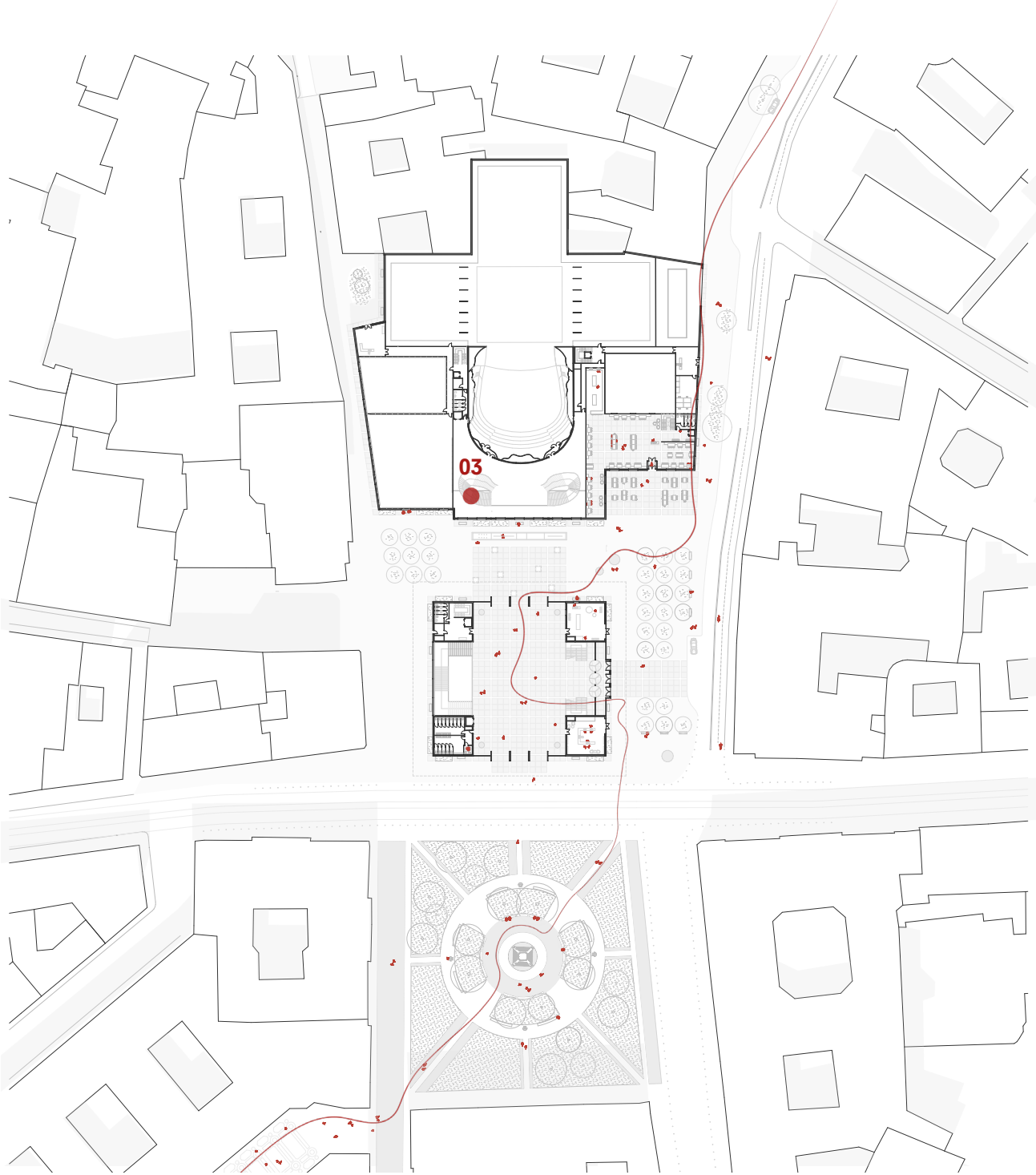
pre-show talk



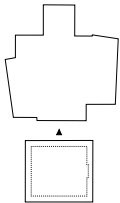
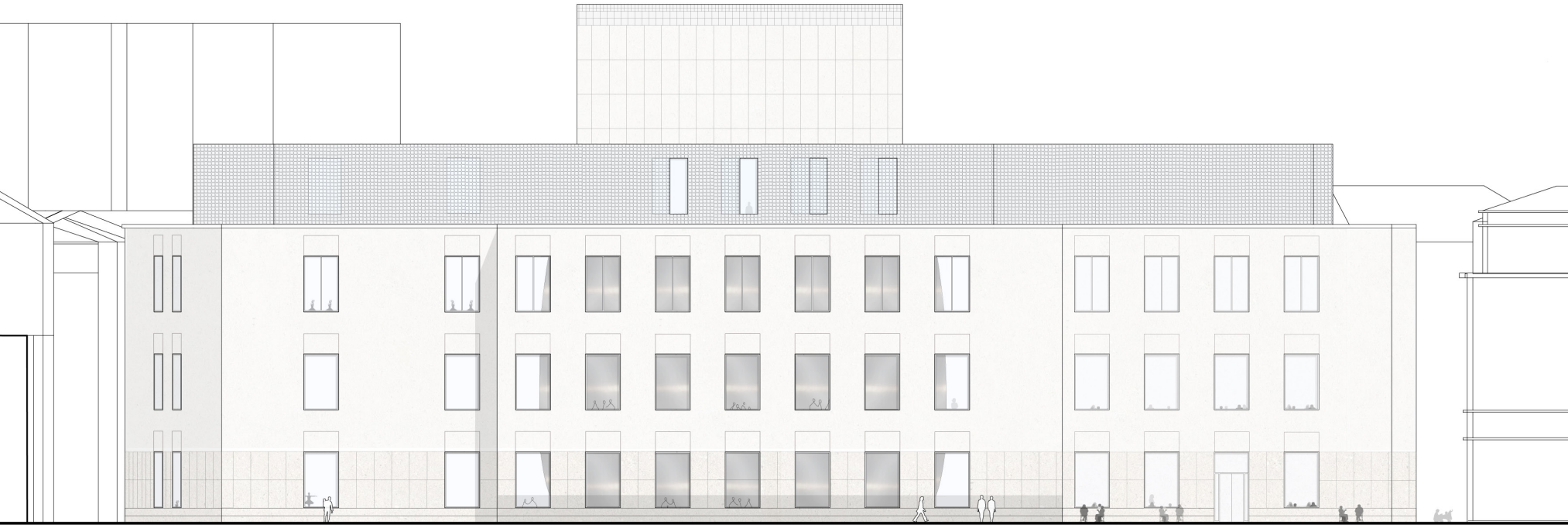
event



intermission show

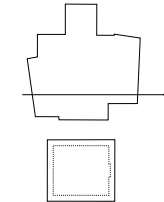
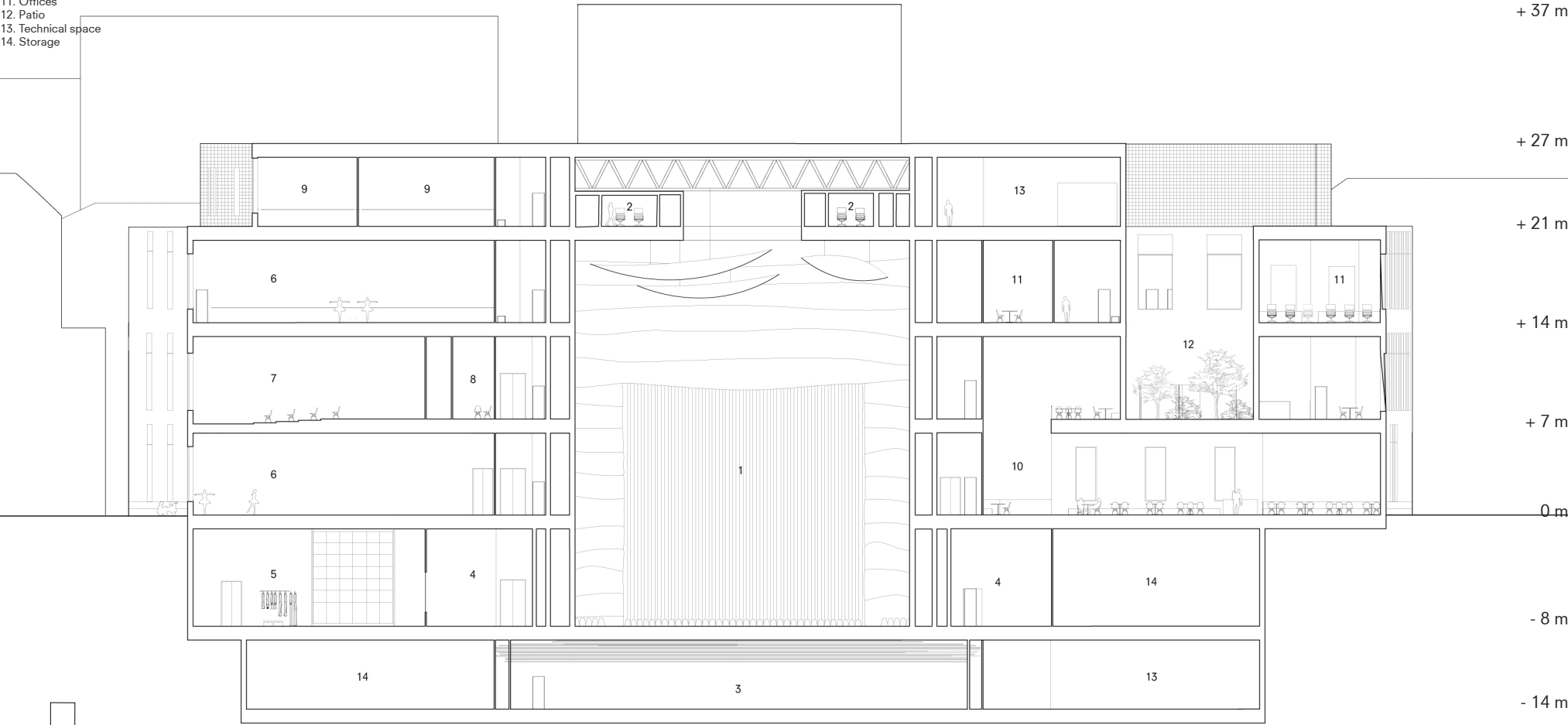


south-east facade



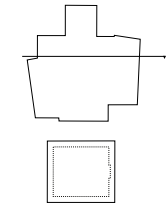
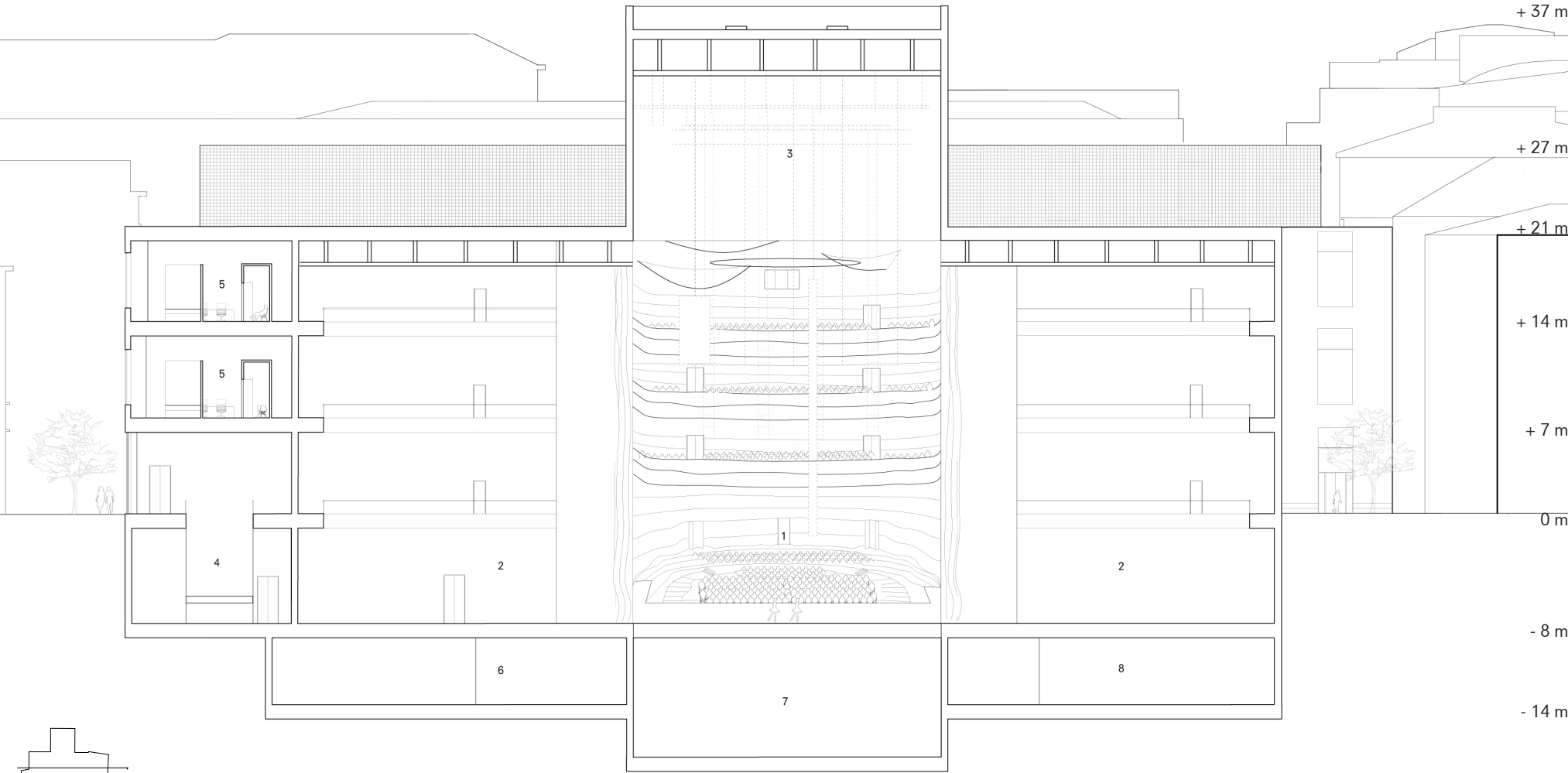
cross-section

- 1. Horseshoe hall
- 2. Technical gallery
- 3. Under-auditorium space
- 4. Foyer
- 5. Costume atelier
- 6. Ballet rehearsal room
- 7. Choir rehearsal room
- 8. Individual rehearsal room
- 9. Warm-up studio's
- 10. Cafe
- 11. Offices
- 12. Patio
- 13. Technical space
- 14. Storage

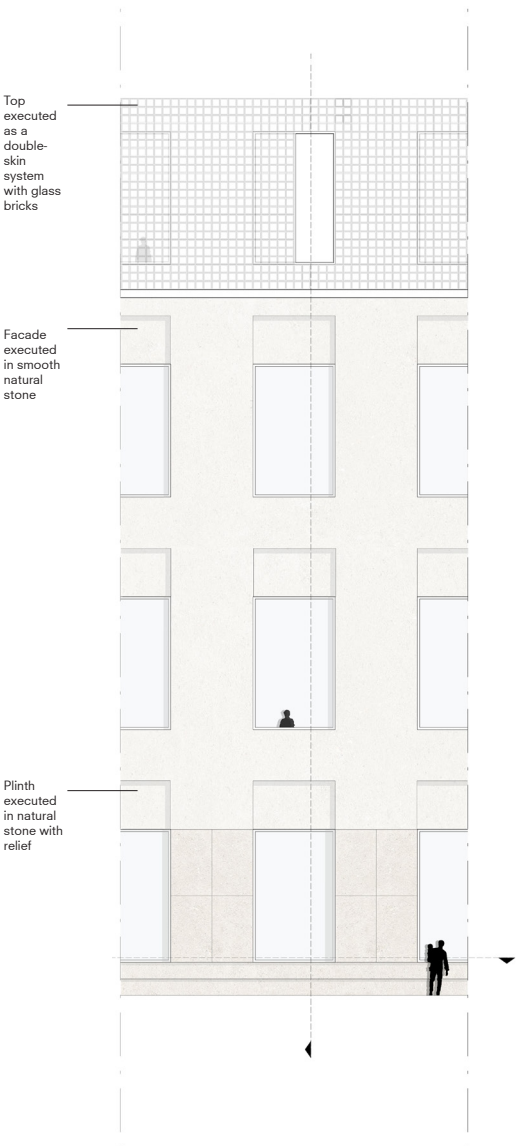


cross-section

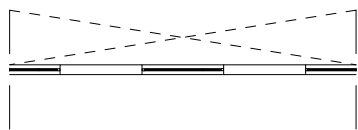
- 1. Horseshoe hall
- 2. Side stage
- 3. Fly tower
- 4. Loading dock
- 5. Offices
- 6. Technical space
- 7. Scenic pit
- 8. Storage



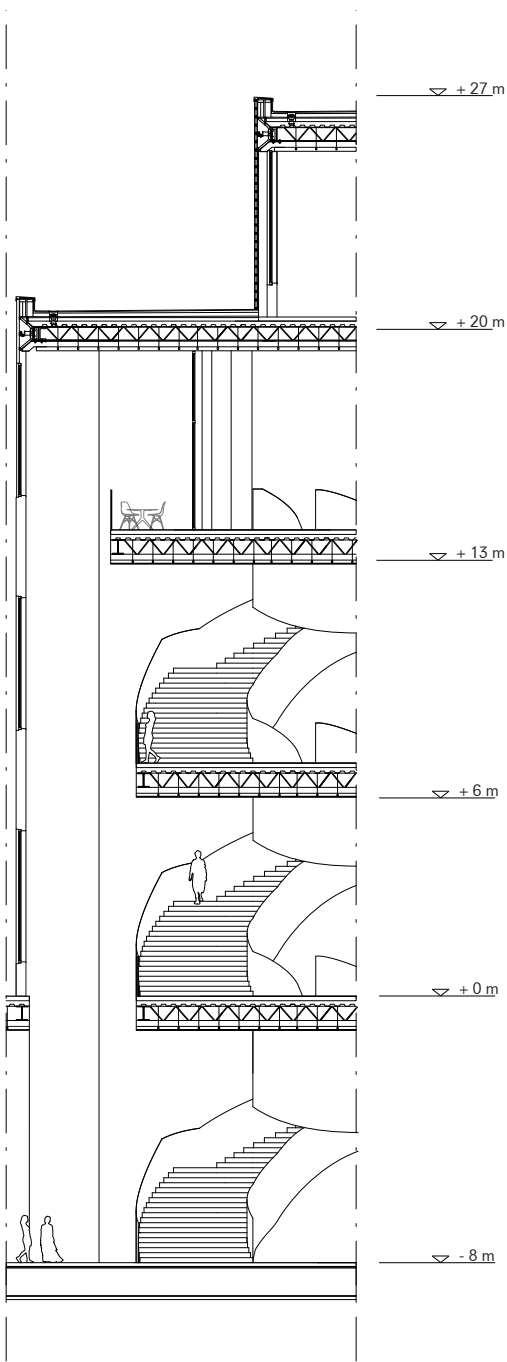
envelope fragment theatre block



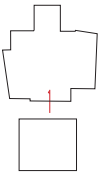
Elevation



Floor plan



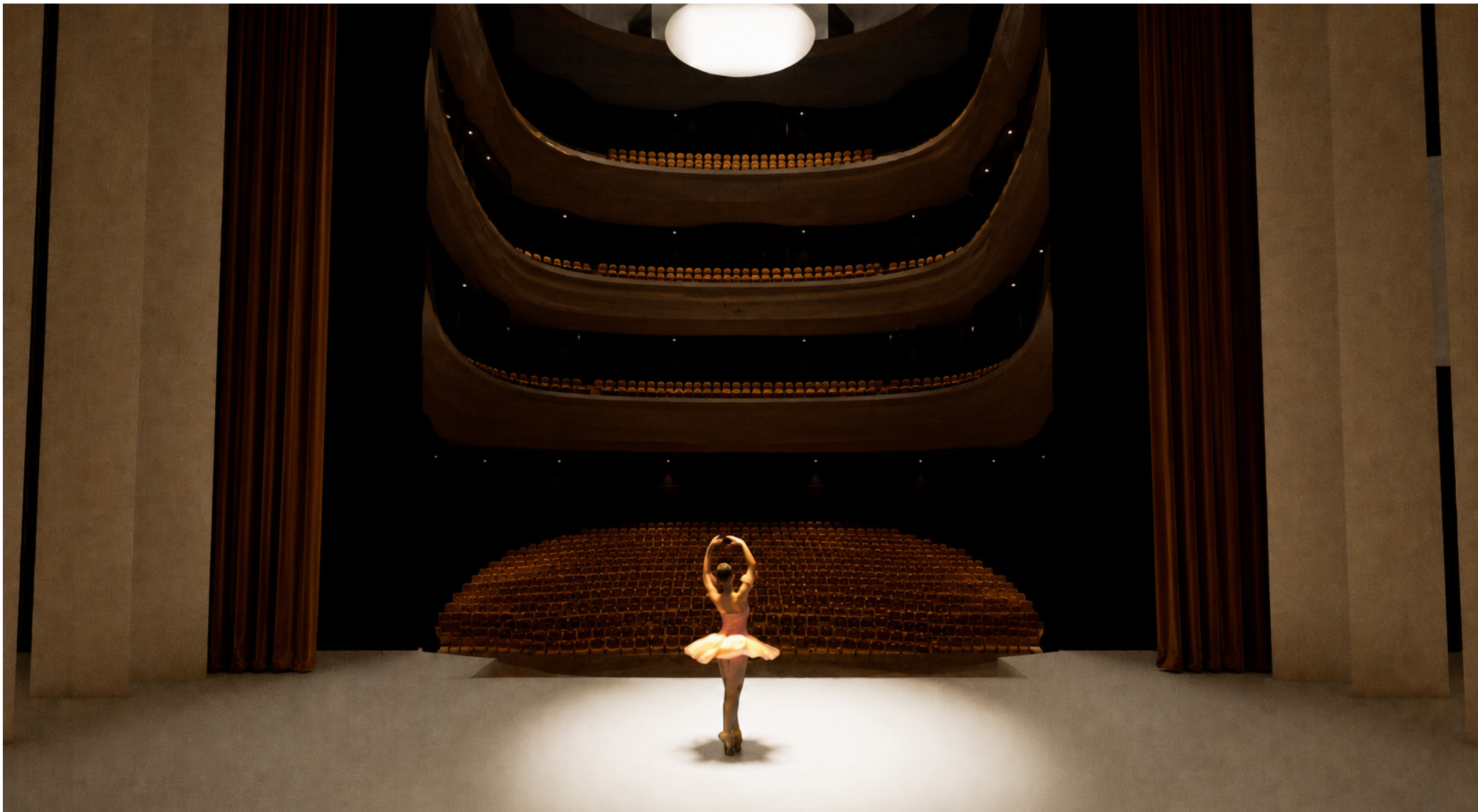
Section











**Operable windows
flytower**
For mechanical heat and
fire safety

**Steel roof trusses
supported by reinforced
concrete walls and cores**
concrete walls give mass for
acoustics, fire resistance,
lateral stability and long
span flexibility

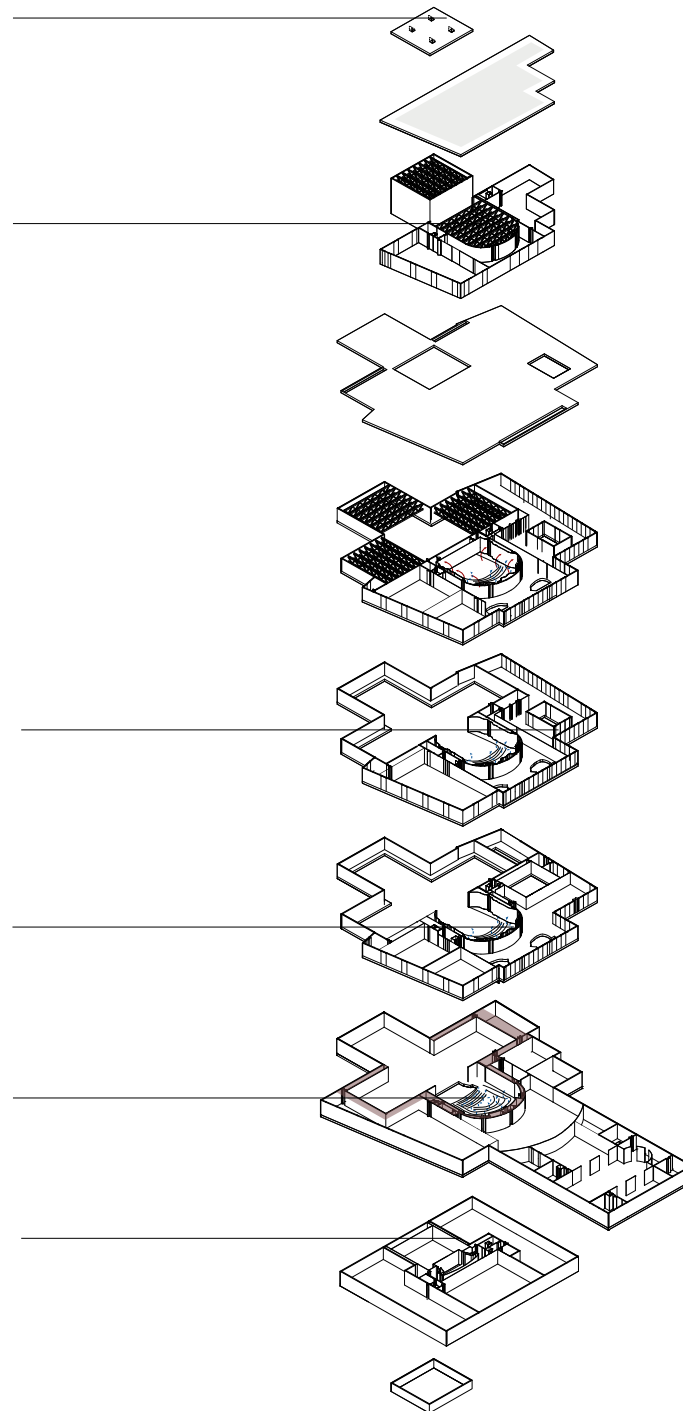
**Robust mechanical
ventilation backstage**
Equipment must be
acoustically isolated

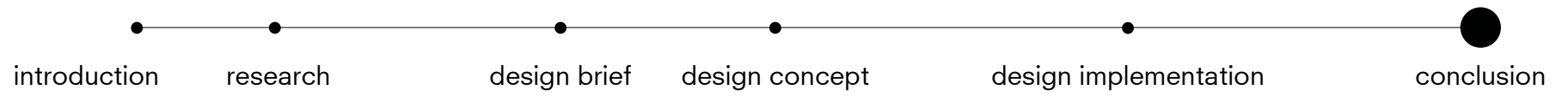
**Separated ventilation
system for offices (type C)**

**Acoustic design
auditorium walls**
Curved timber wall lining
and balcony fronts help
distribute sound, seats and
audience bodies contribute
to absorption

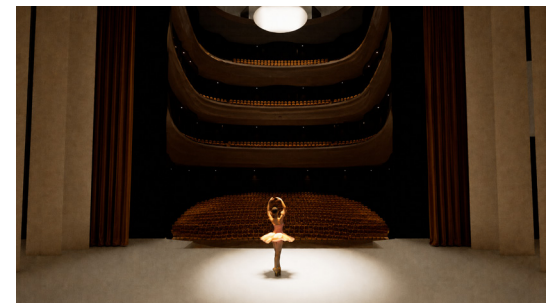
**Mechanical ventilation
system for auditorium
(type D)**
Fresh air is supplied at
low velocity from beneath
the audience seating,
creating quiet displacement
ventilation.

**Acoustic separation
between backstage and
main auditorium**
Heavy walls, acoustic doors
and buffer zones. No direct
links between technical
spaces and horseshoe hall.





Can flow
reconnect the
opera with the
city?





THANK YOU

RISTORANTE

OPERA E BALLETO

MUSEO

APPENDICES

Site drawing



front of house flow daytime

restaurant
archives

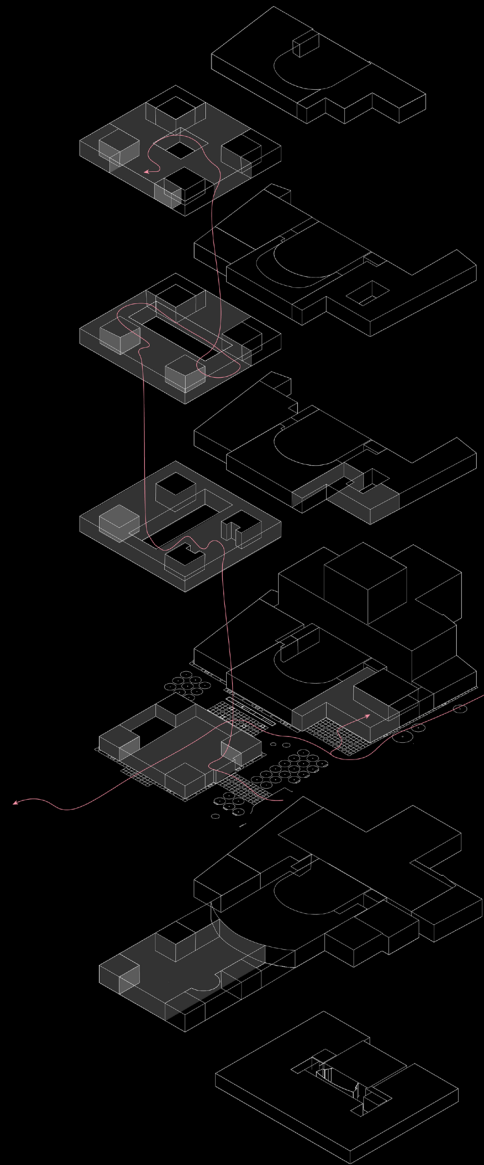
museum
workshop space

foyer
cloakrooms

passage
performance space
(ticket)shop

café

event space for talks
or studying/working



front of house flow night time

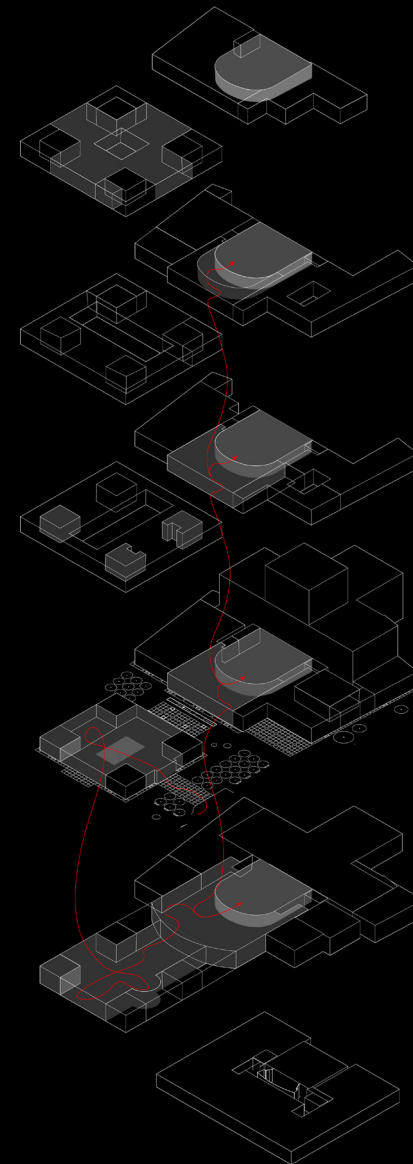
restaurant
auditorium

auditorium

foyer
cloakrooms

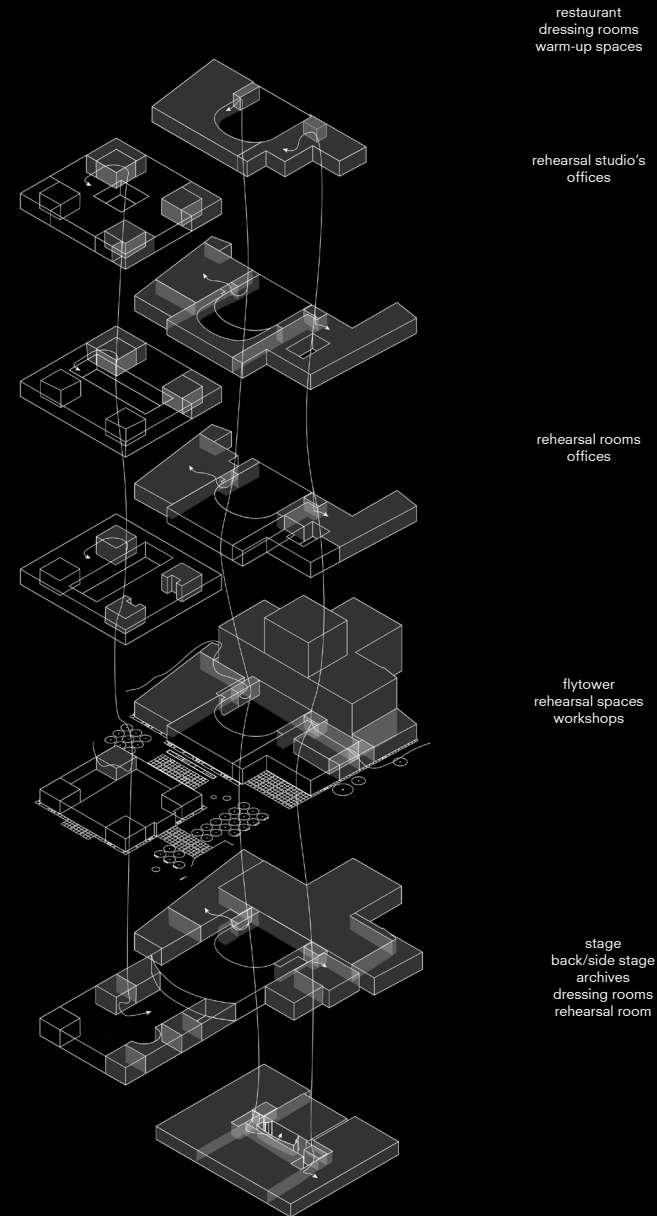
performance space

grand foyer
cloakroom
main auditorium



Publicly accessible

back of house flow
day/nighttime

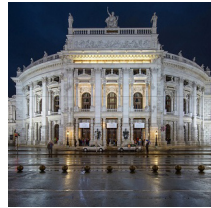


Private spaces

1700 - 1800



Teatro alla Scala
Milan, Italy, 1778



Burgtheater
Vienna, Austria, 1741



Teatro di San Carlo
Naples, Italy, 1737



Teatro Regio di Torino
Turin, Italy, 1740



Teatro La Fenice
Venice, Italy, 1792



Drottningholm Palace Theatre
Stockholm, Sweden, 1766

1800 - 1900



Staatsoper Wien
Vienna, Austria, 1869



Semperoper
Dresden, Germany, 1878



Royal Opera House
London, England, 1858



Opéra Garnier
Paris, France, 1875



Palais Garnier Monte Carlo
Monte Carlo, France, 1879



Teatro Massimo
Palermo, Sicily, Italy, 1897

1900 - 2000



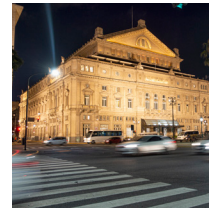
Deutsche Oper Berlin
Berlin, Germany, 1961



Gran Teatre del Liceu
Barcelona, Spain, 1999



Sydney Opera House
Sydney, Australia, 1973



Teatro Colón
Buenos Aires, Argentina, 1908



Nationale Opera en Ballet
Amsterdam, Netherlands, 1986



Suomen kansallisooppera ja -baletti
Helsinki, Finland, 1993

2000 - now



Harbin Grand Theatre
Harbin, China, 2015



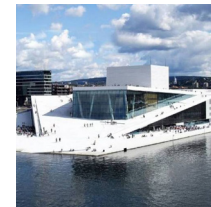
Royal Danish Opera
Copenhagen, Denmark, 2005



Cidade das Artes
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2013



Shanghai Grand Opera House
Shanghai, China, 2025

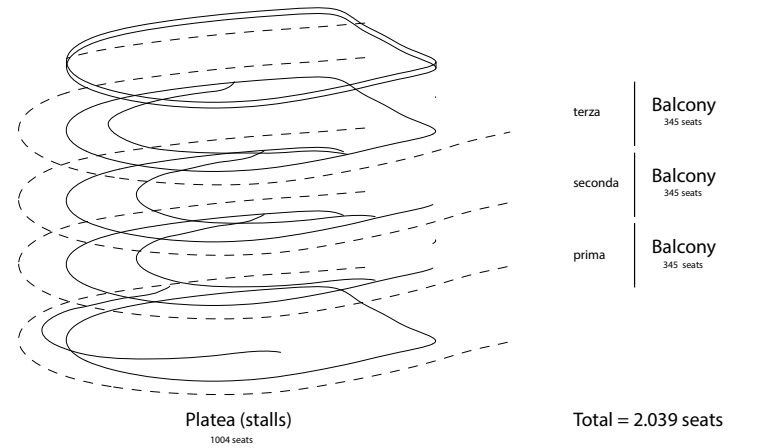
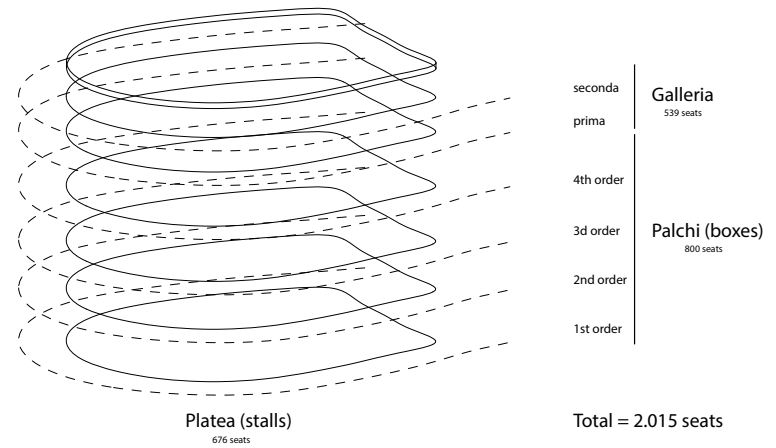
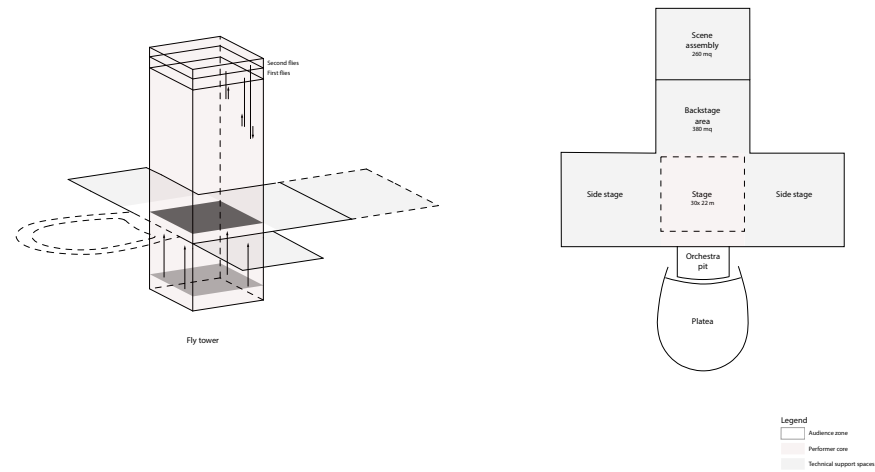
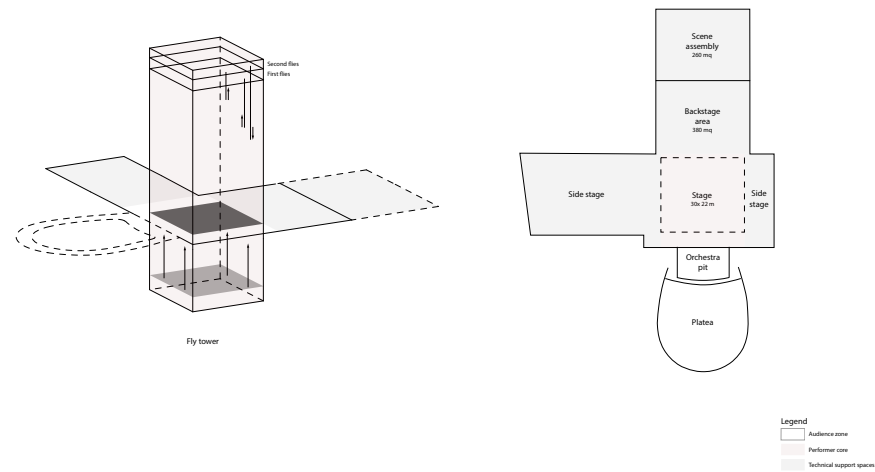


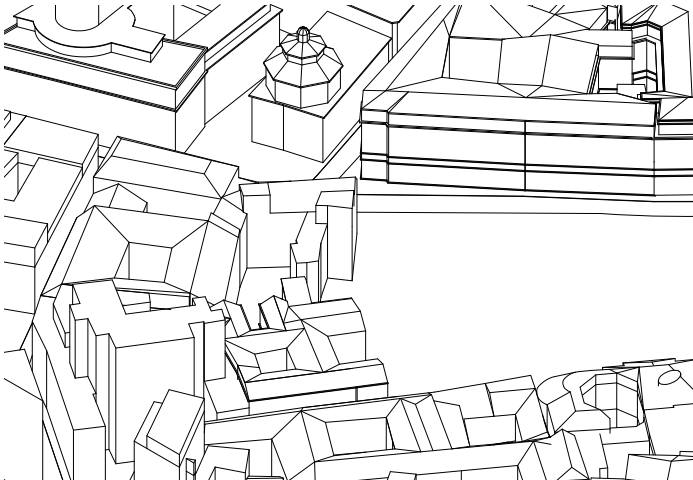
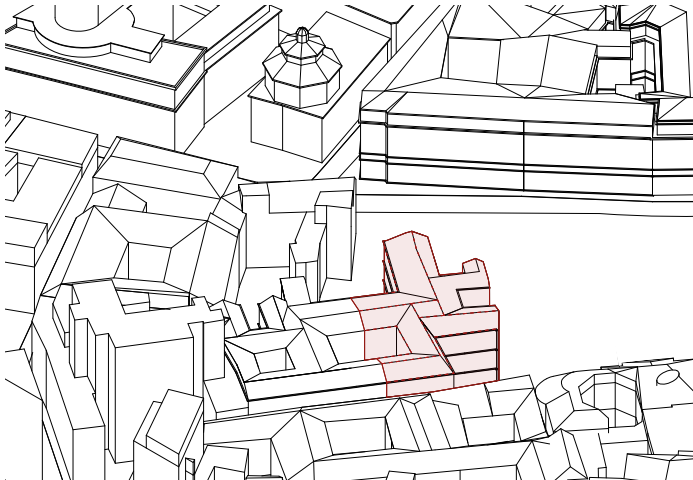
Oslo Opera House
Oslo, Norway, 2008



Neue Oper am Rhein
Dusseldorf, Germany, t.b.b.







detail 021. foundation

1. Laminated safety glass
2. Pivot door / threshold:
 - glass pivot door
 - slim aluminium bottom rail
 - bottom pivot spindle
 - recessed floor spring
- 5 mm stainless steel cover plate, flush with floor finish
- automatic drop seal / compression gasket
- thermally broken threshold profile

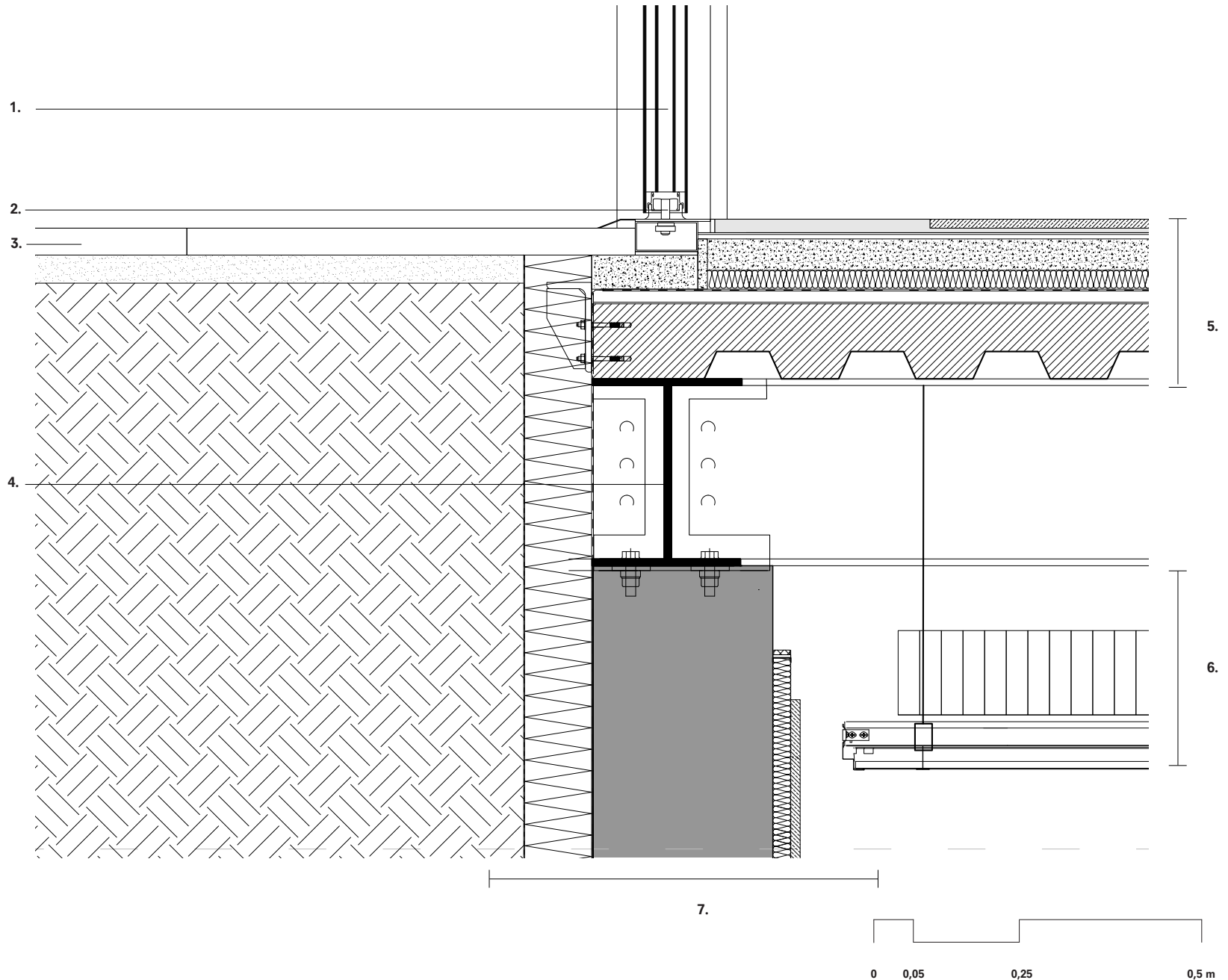
3. Outside pavement grid

4. HEA450 beam, with fire-resistant layer

5. Floor build-up:
 - 20 mm terazzo tile
 - 10 mm flexible adhesive mortar
 - 4 mm decoupling membrane
 - 10 mm self levelling screed
 - 70 mm reinforced floating screed
 - 0.2 mm PE separation layer
 - 40 mm acoustic insulation
 - composite steel concrete floor

6. Suspended ceiling build-up:
 - mineral wool
 - Vapor Syntax powder-coated aluminium torsion spring panels with soft sound backer

7. Basement wall build-up:
 - Dimpled drainage membrane with integrated geotextile
 - XPS perimeter insulation
 - Waterproofing membrane
 - Reinforced concrete basement wall (400 mm)
 - Mineral wool insulation layer
 - Vapour barrier
 - Adhesive layer
 - Natural stone cladding



detail 02. 2nd floor

1. Schuco aluminium window frame

2. Facade supporting mullion system, with perforated metal platform

3. floor build-up:
 - 20 mm polished terrazzo floor finish with 80 x 80 mm dark green marble inserts, aluminium plinth
 - 10 mm flexible adhesive mortar
 - 4 mm decoupling membrane
 - 10 mm self levelling screed
 - 70 mm reinforced floating screed
 - 0.2 mm PE separation layer
 - 40 mm acoustic insulation
 - composite steel concrete floor

4. Steel bracket system (based on Maison Hermes by Renzo Piano)

5. HEA450 perimeter edge beam + fire-resistant layer

6. 20 mm beige natural stone

7. Aluminium channels

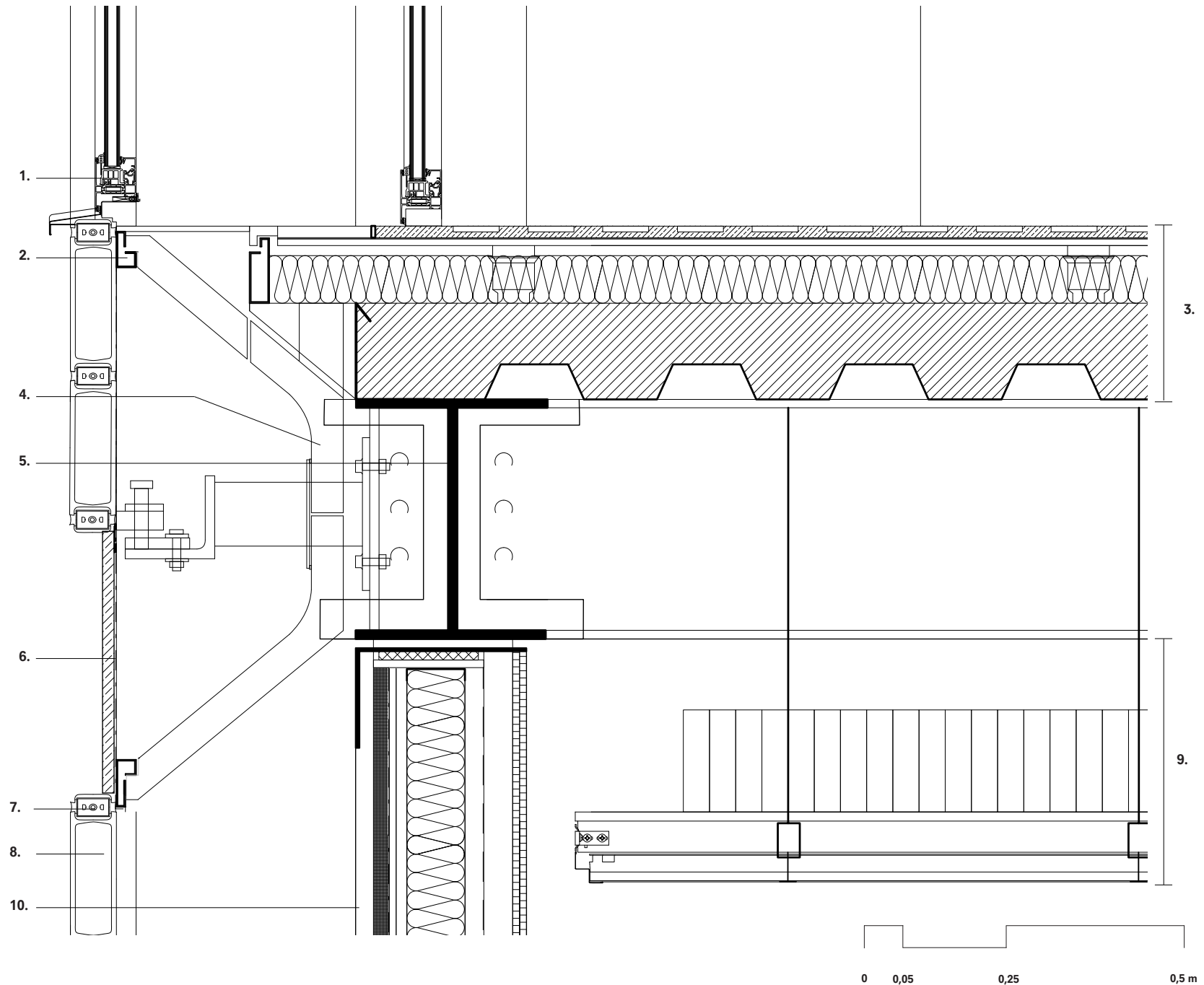
8. Glass block (240x240 x80mm)

9. Suspended ceiling build-up:

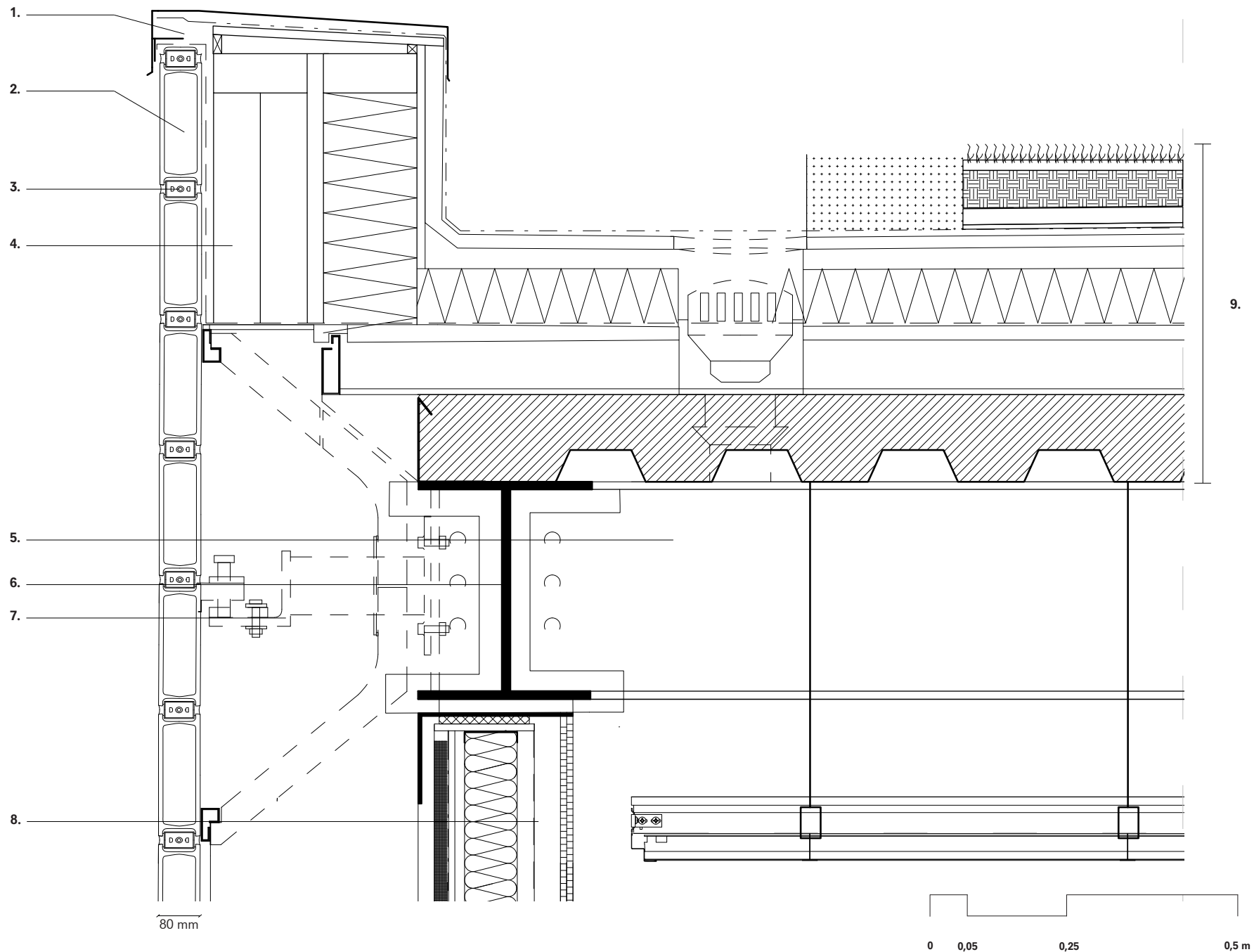
- mineral wool
 - Vapor Syntax powder-coated aluminium torsion spring panels with soft sound backer

10. wall build-up:

- 20 mm external cladding
 - 25 mm ventilated cavity
 - vapour open breather membrane
 - 12 mm cement board sheathing
 - 150 mm metal stud frame with mineral wool insulation
 - vapour control layer
 - 50 mm insulated cavity
 - 2x 12.5 mm gypsum fibre board



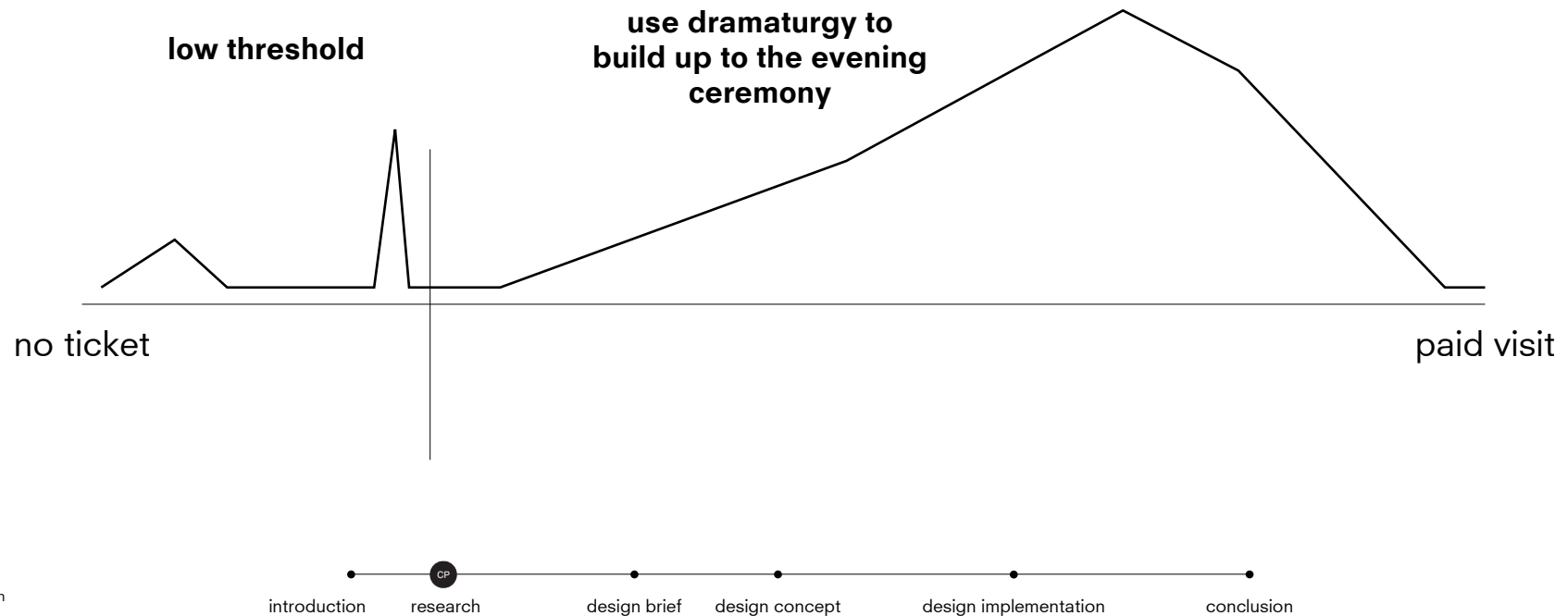
detail 03. roof

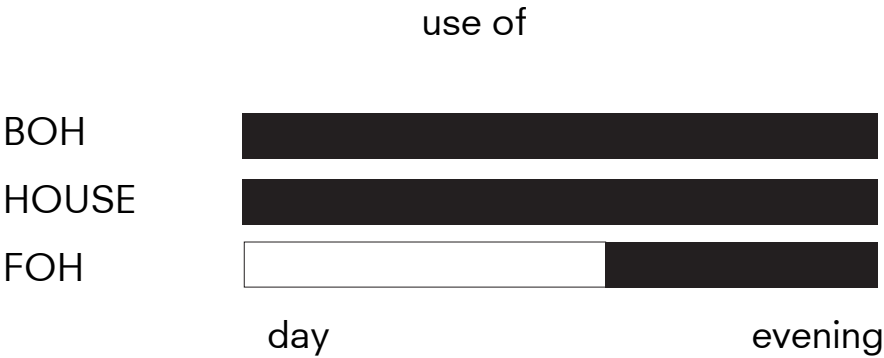


Architectural dramaturgy =

how architecture directs experience, like a performance unfolding in space.

1. sequence of spaces as a narrative,
2. playing with atmosphere, tension, release, timing and anticipation,
3. choreographing movement (delay/acceleration), sightlines, light, disclosure, sound, and encounters,
4. gradually guiding users toward a key moment (the performance).





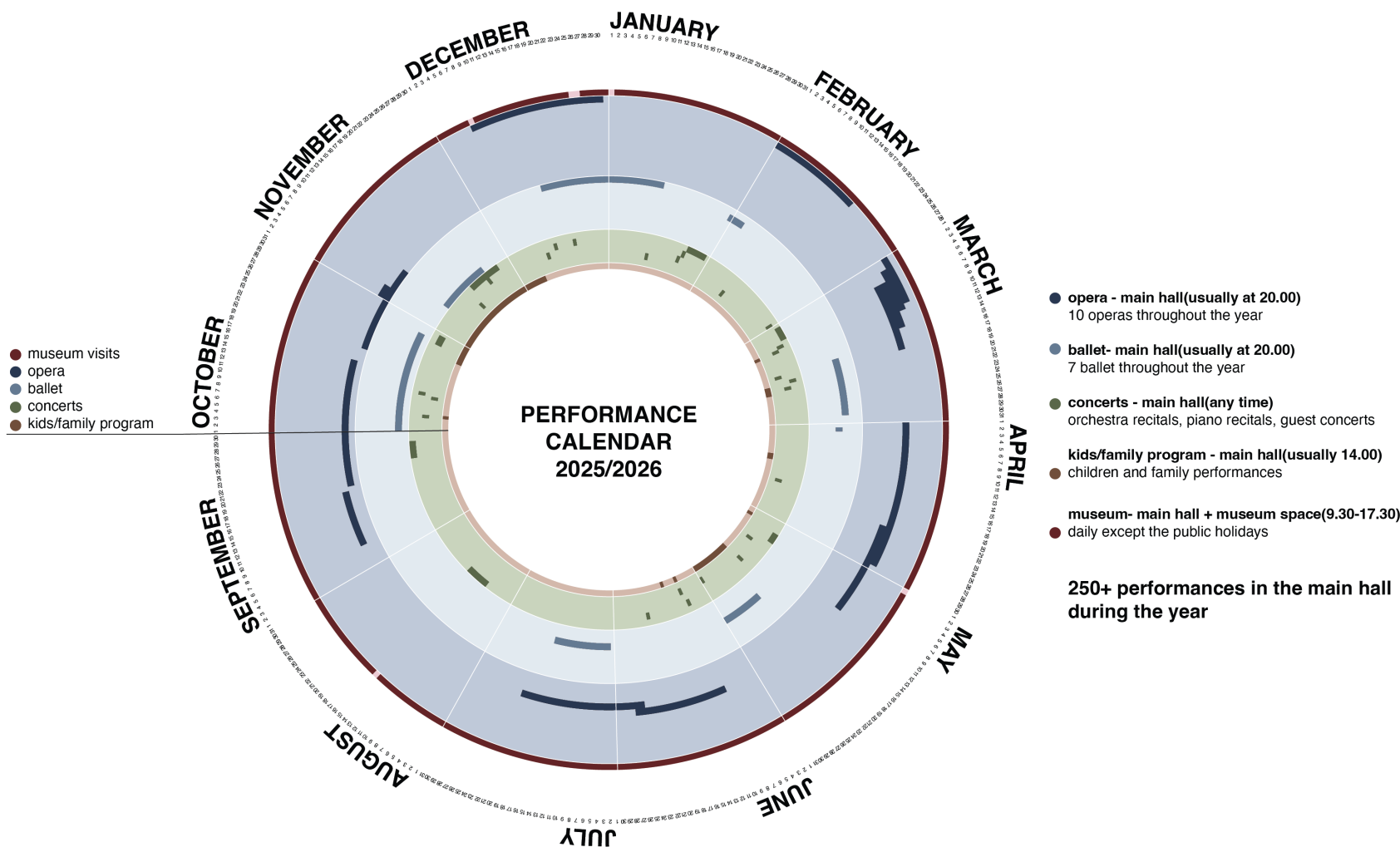
“How can architectural flow enable the opera house to accommodate both everyday civic presence and the highly choreographed rituals of evening performance?”

receive

audience by surprise



Audience gradient



client



ROLEX

Official Partner / Official Supplier (since 2012)

INTESA  SANPAOLO

Main Partner of the Season (partner since 1998)

**BMW
GROUP**
Italia



Official Supplier (since 2002)

B
BELLAVISTA
FRANCIACORTA

Partner and Official Supplier (since 2014)

MILANO
per la **SCALA**
Ente **Filantropico**

Fundraising (1991)


COLLISTAR

Partner and Official Supplier (since 2016)

BORBONE
CAFFÈ
magica emozione

Official Supplier (since 2019)



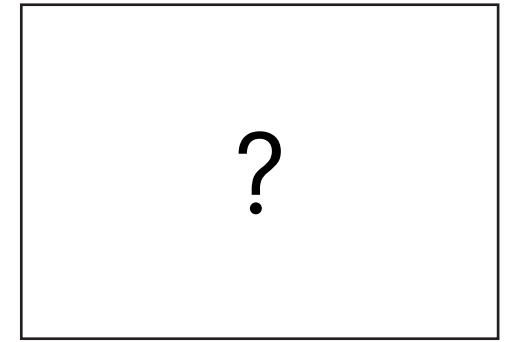
1865



60s and 70s



Current



What's next?

space functions as an active instrument of inclusion and exclusion



institutional authority
through
- scale
- symmetry
- material 'heaviness'

low visual permeability

tiny gap between
street edge and
facade causes a
formal urban wall

piazza della Scala
separated by ->

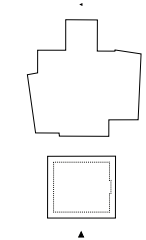
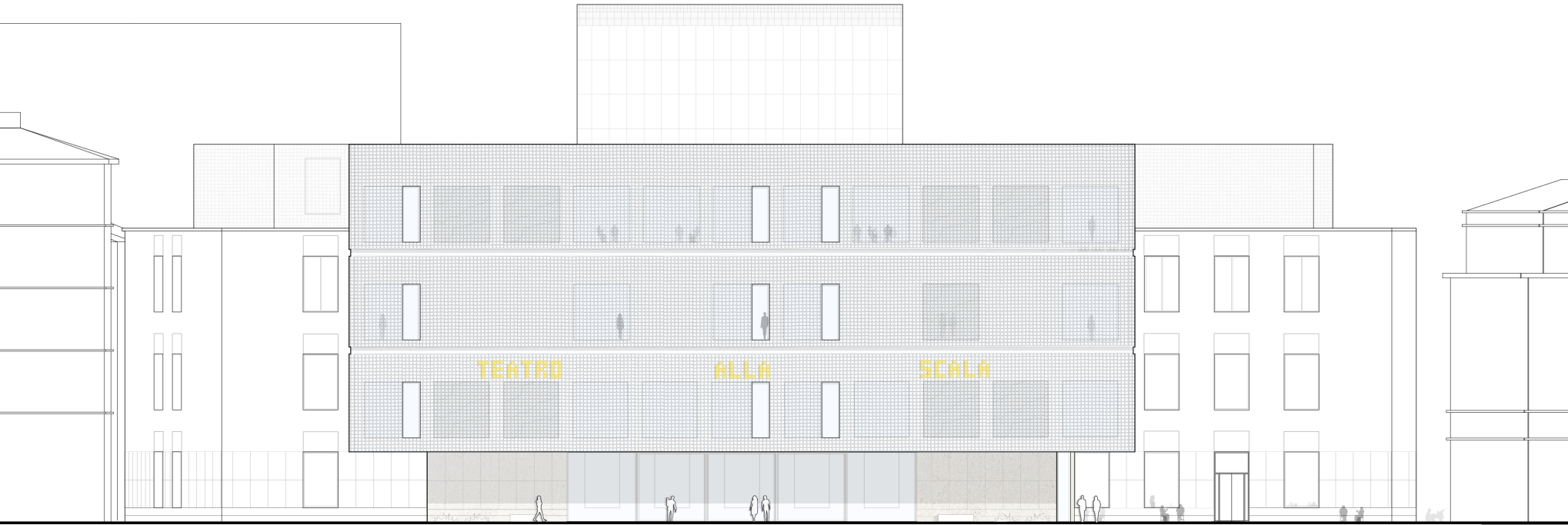
public street, dominated
by non pedestrian traffic

semi public arcade as
threshold and entrance

behind the facade is a
controlled environment



south-east facade



north-east facade

