

Shared Foundations

VAi and its Archives in deSingel cultural campus

01 | Notion of an Archive

02 | the VAI

03 | deSingel

04 | Intentions

05 | Proposal



01 | Notion of an Archive

The archive extends far beyond a mere repository of buildings. It gives access to ideas , positions, education, knowledge and images, and that across generations. It gives insight into the social context in which designs were created. At the same time, the archive shows alternatives. Archives are not repositories of truths but places of research. They are incubators of new ideas, breeding grounds for speculation about the future, ... Without research or interpretation, the archive has little meaning.

Sofie de Cagny, former director, Flemish Architecture Institute | VAI



01. Beinecke Library | New Haven, CT



02. Centre Canadien d'Architecture | Montréal



03. Drawing Matter Archive | Somerset



04. Archives de Métropole | Bordeaux



05. O.M. Ungers Archiv | Cologne



06. Kabinett | Basel



07. ArkDes | Stockholm



08. Sir John Soane's Museum | London



01. Maksymilian Jaszczuk, Stanisław Kilian, Anna Klaver



02. Veronica Danesin, Jenny Fang, Daan Franken, Yunke Li



03. Yueyi Liang, Margaux Lomax, Imre Lukacs



04. Laura Tijchon, Casper van Tilburg, Romain Touron



05. Iris Niederer, Jakub Nowak, Jur Sinia



06. Silas Windrich, Jiarui Xing, Dilek Zaid



07. Maksymilian Bernady, Bruno Teles Xavier, Yuquing Zhang



08. Alessandra D'Acunto, Liren Chu, Ertug Çiftçi, Sem Verwey



Preservation



Research

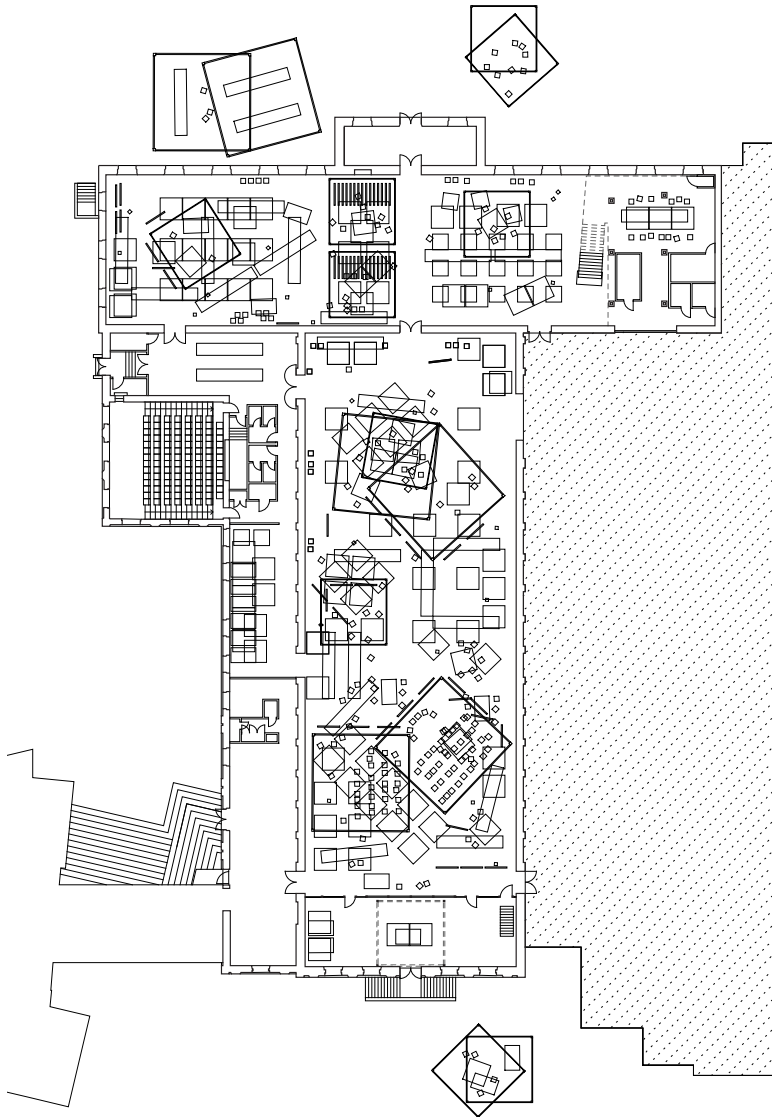


Curation

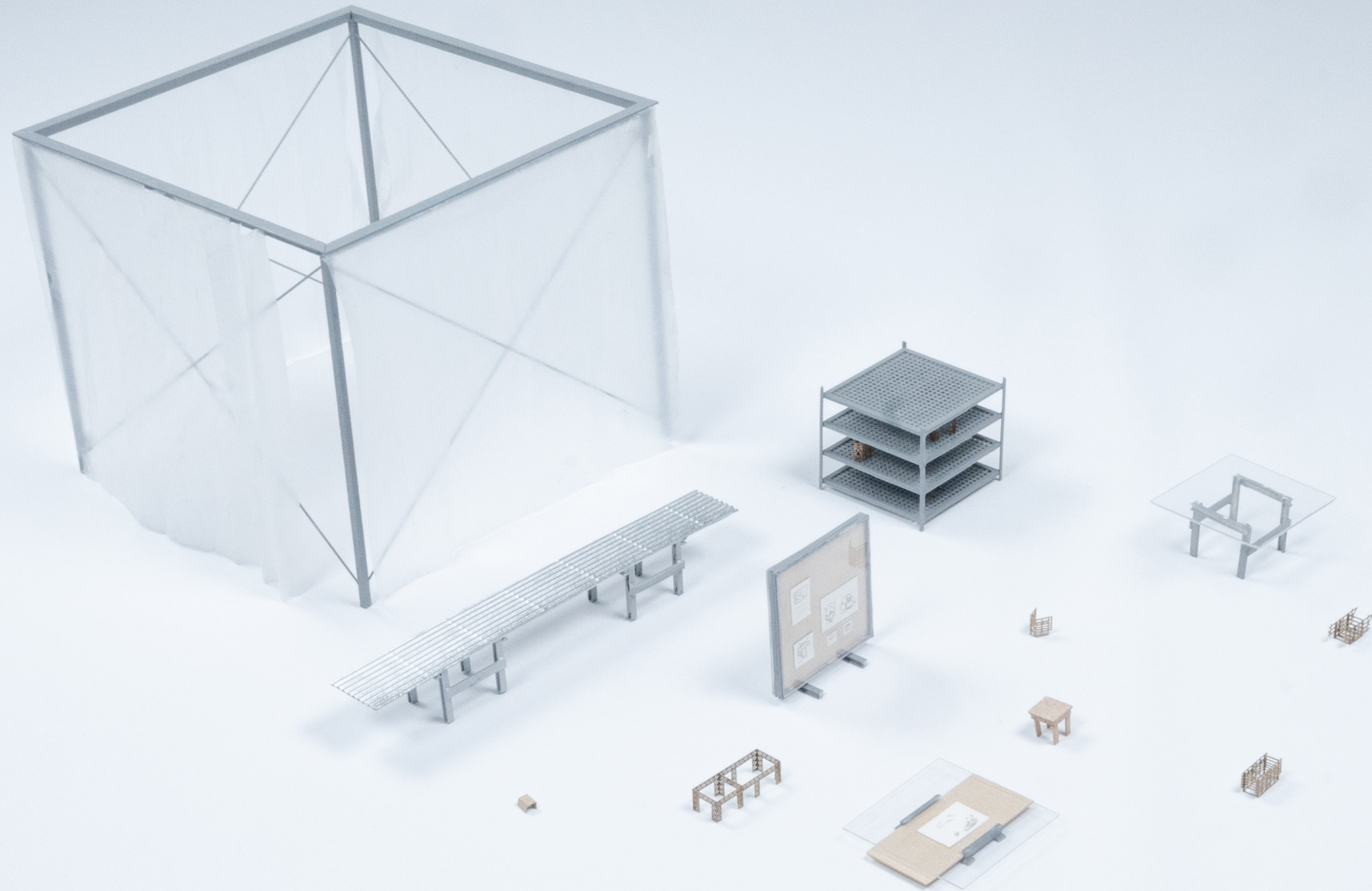


Exhibition





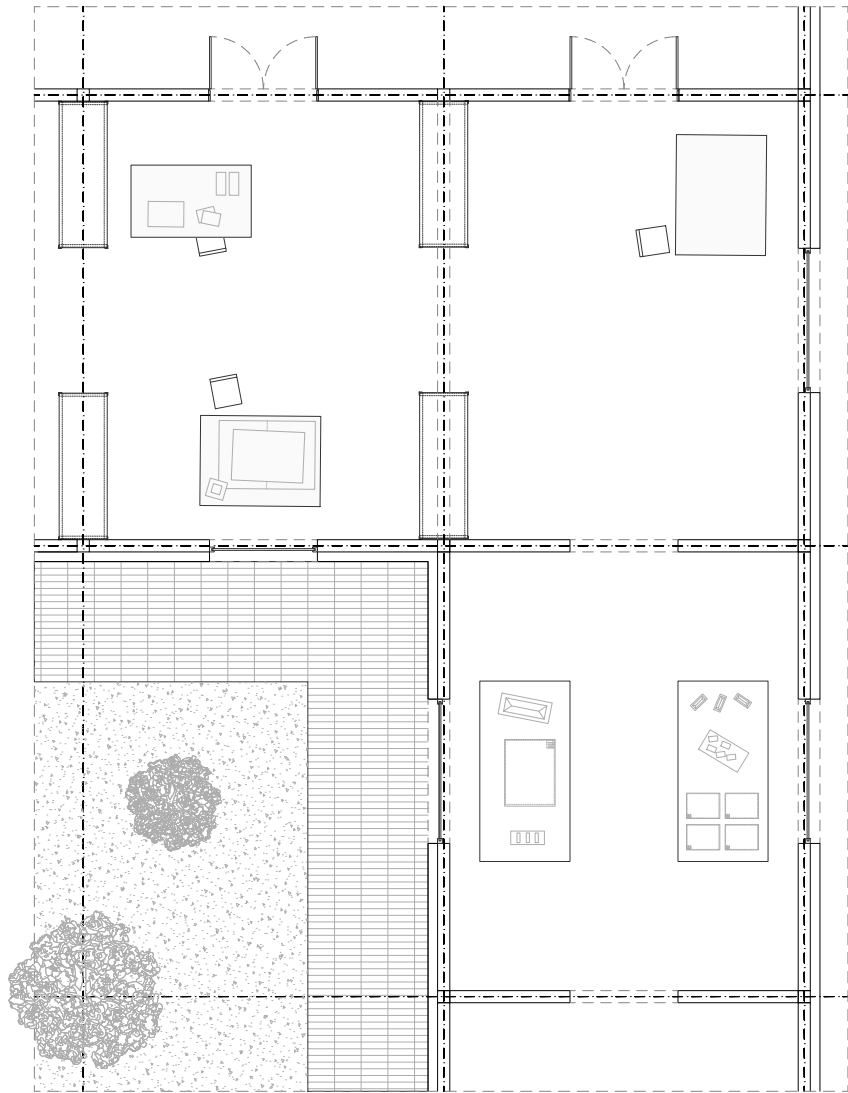
Maksymilian Bernady, Bruno Teles Xavier, Yuqing Zhang | sep. 2024





Stiftung Sittewerk, St.Gallen

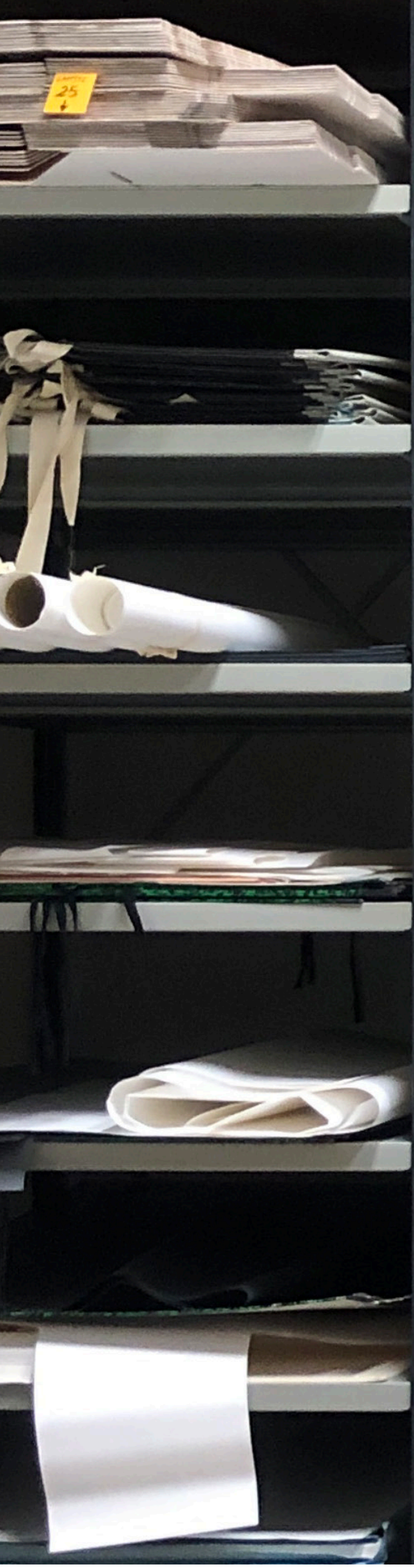




Plan | P1 drawing



View | P1 model | 1:25



02 | the VAI



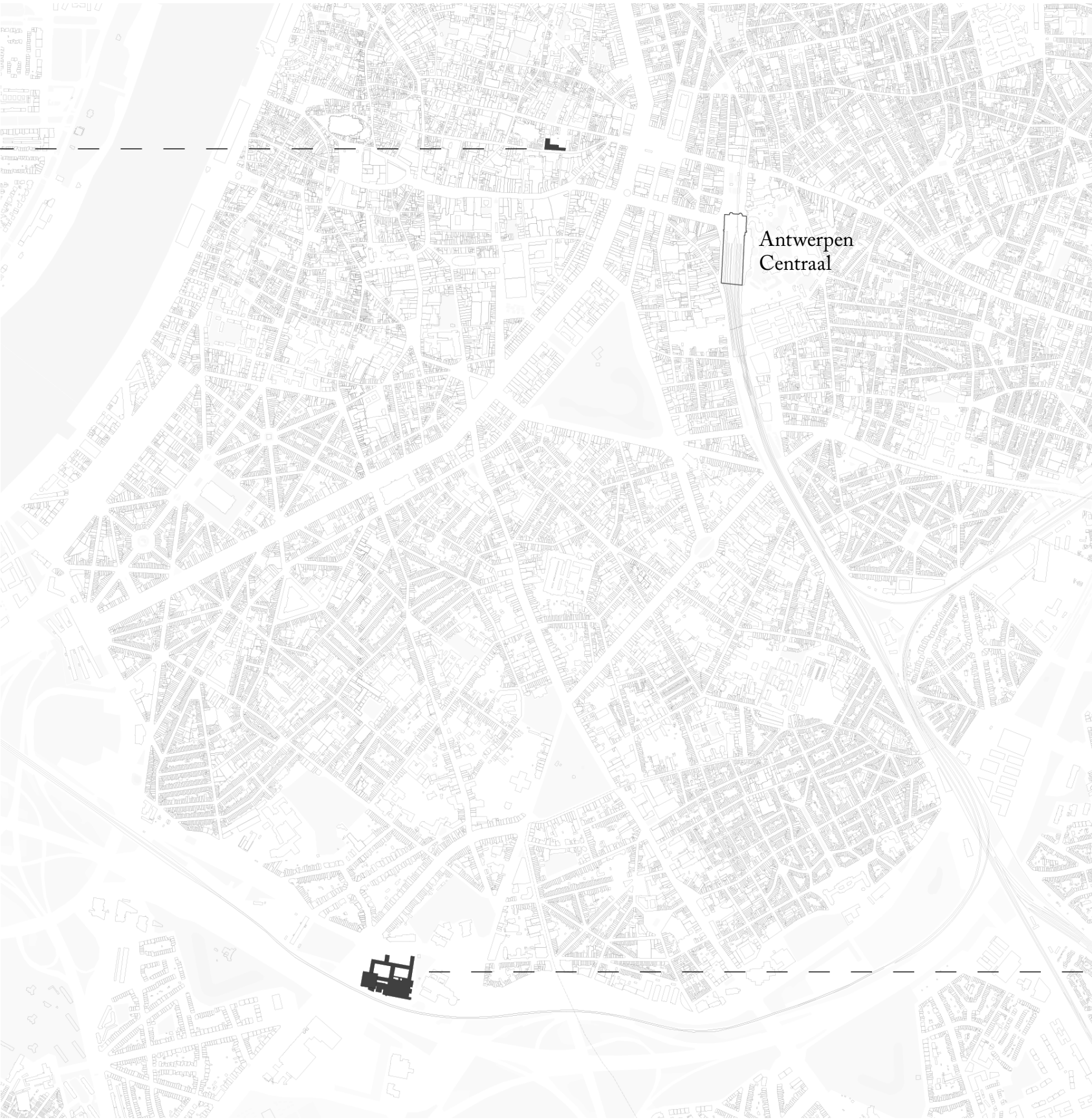


VAi offices in deSingel | photo: Jenny Fang, 2024

current archives
Parochiaanstraat

Antwerpen
Centraal

main offices and exposition space
deSingel complex







Name	Size m²	Description
Total	5157,25	
Public	700	
Reception and counter	100	incl. separate sanitary facilities and seating
Exhibition space/ multifunctional space	200	cf. current reading room 96m2, is too small, keep reading room and library separate; small separate group study
Reading room	200	
Library	200	Books and visitors' workstations
Additional	872,25	
Staff workspace	300	
Large workplace for archive employees	300	12.5 m2 per employee (+/-30 employees, including interns, temporary employees, etc.)
Large workstation with archives	12,25	3.5x3.5m
Standard office space		
Focus Spots		
1 large meeting room	80	
1 small meeting room	30	
kitchen, bathroom, dressing room	150	
Archive	3585	
Storage packaging material	120	near archive depot, office
Loading and unloading space	150	
Waiting depot	100	emergency depot, storage of non-exclusive archives, bulk pallets
Tirage space correct - contaminated material	60	
Quarantine	120	Storage of containment material =
Cleaning	60	Processing of containment material
pre-depot	60	Storage of own material
processing	60	processing of own material
Digitization space	60	own material
Restoration studio	60	own material
Depot storage	2500	Currently 1500, growth in recent years 470m in 5-7 yrs > per 5yr 400m with extensive storage system, paper climate class
Climate class photo storage	100	
Bulk storage		
Storage in racks and planning cabinets		
View depot	125	visually attractive, desire to collect more 3D objects, this could be a regular depot box with a transparant wall in
Server space	10	not on functional schedual



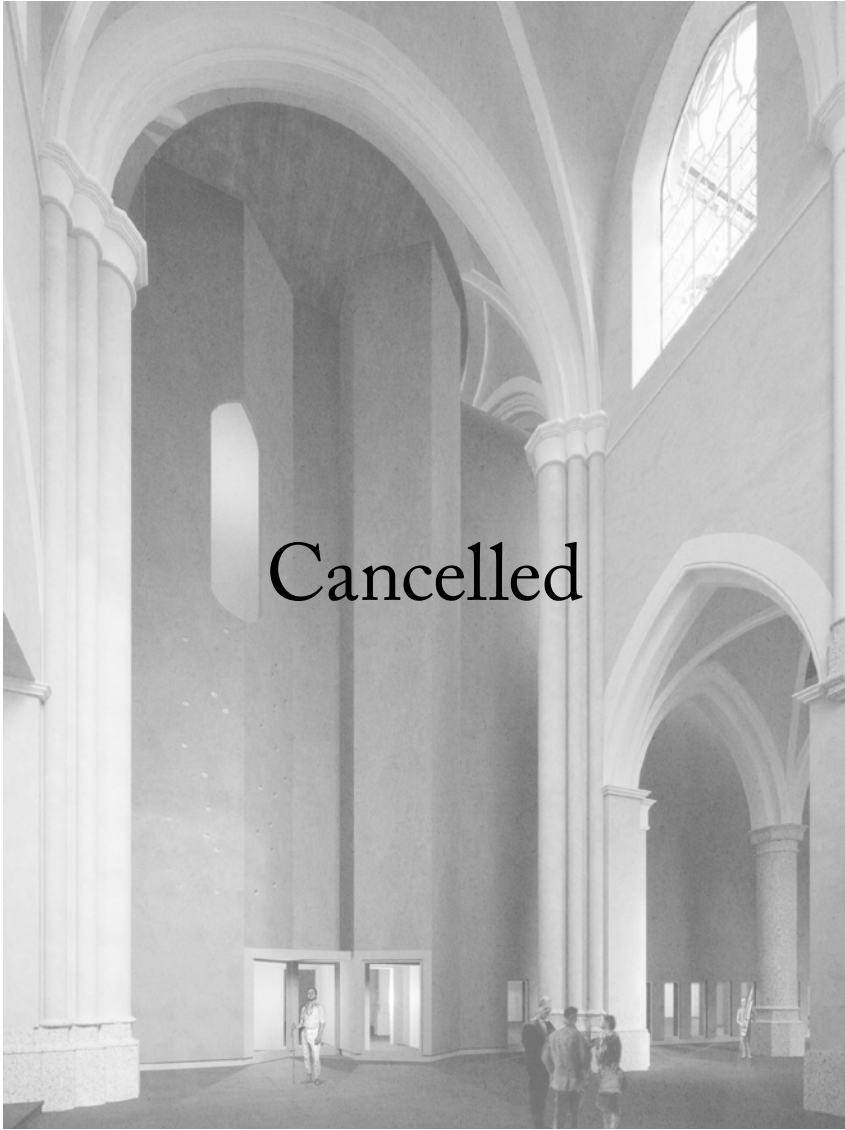
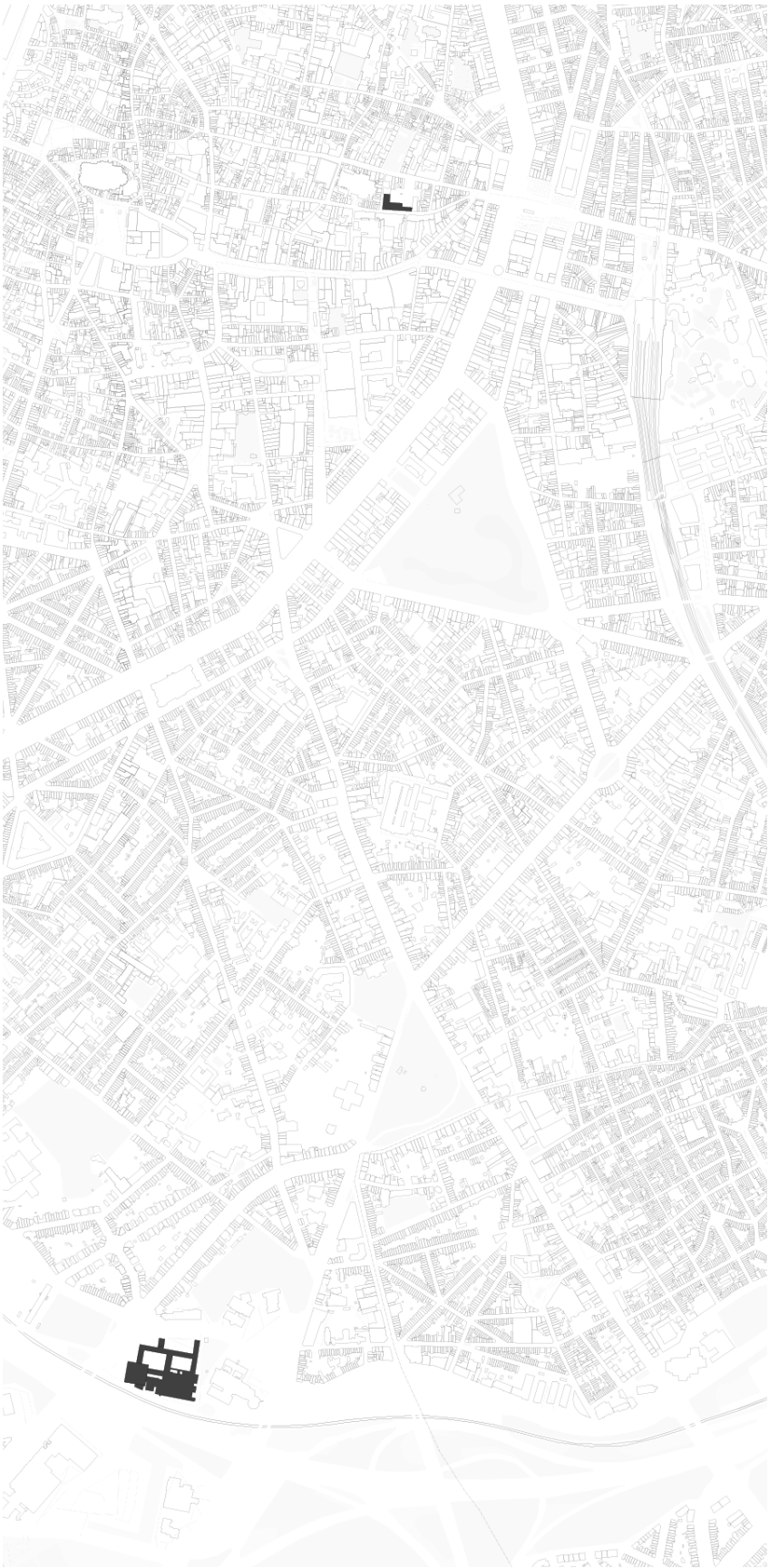
VAi offices in deSingel | photo: Jenny Fang, 2024



Expo room in deSingel



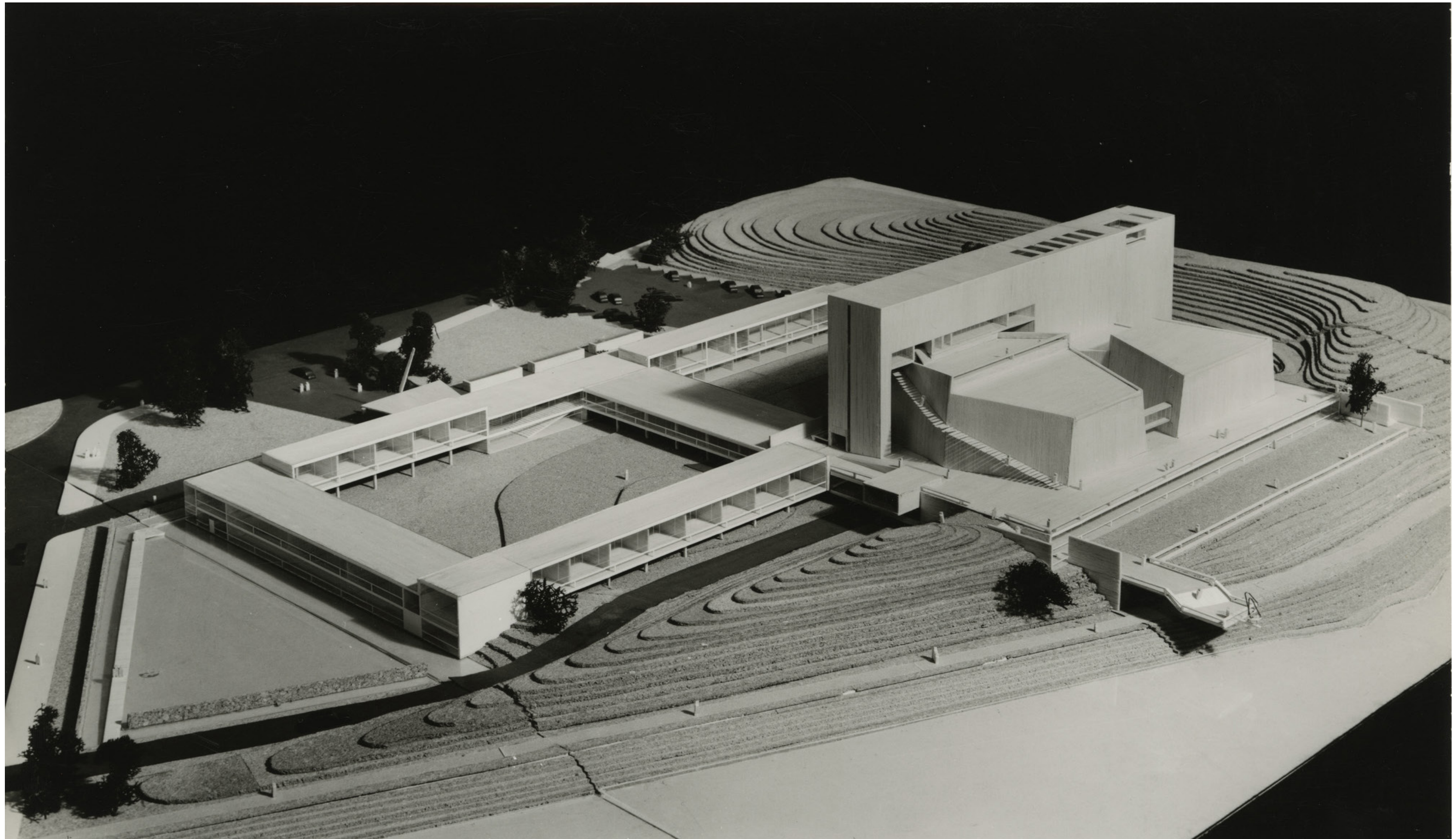
Competition proposal | courtesy: Bovenbouw Architectur

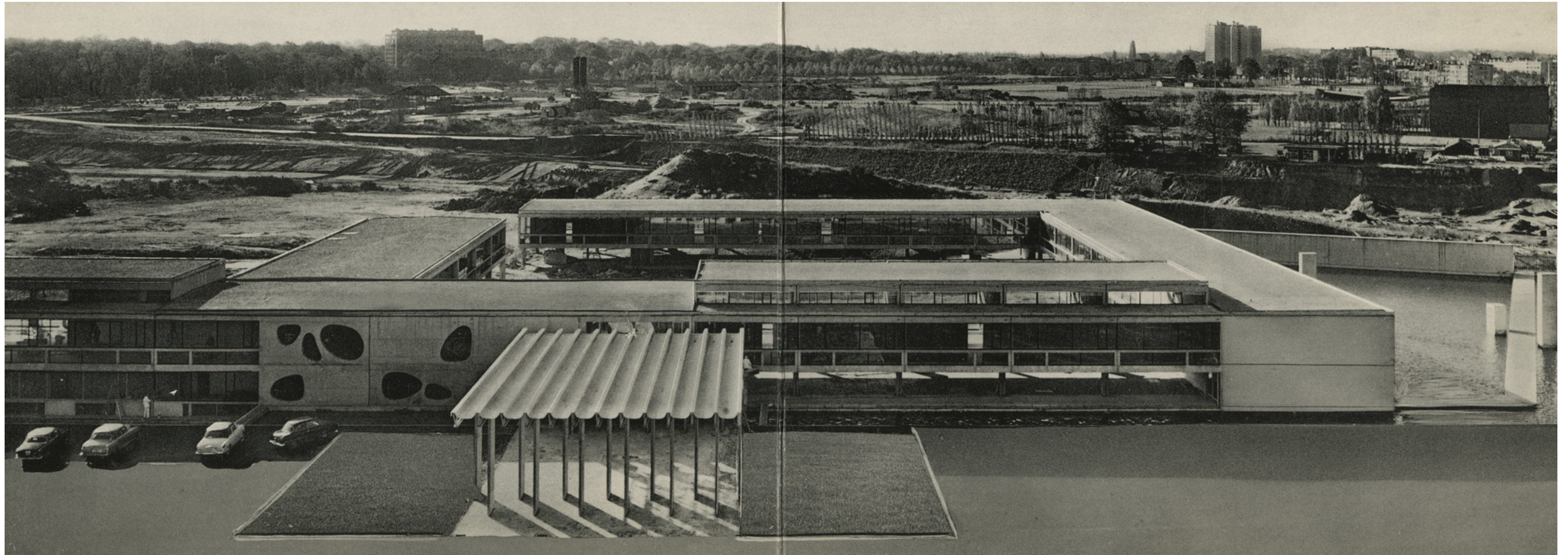


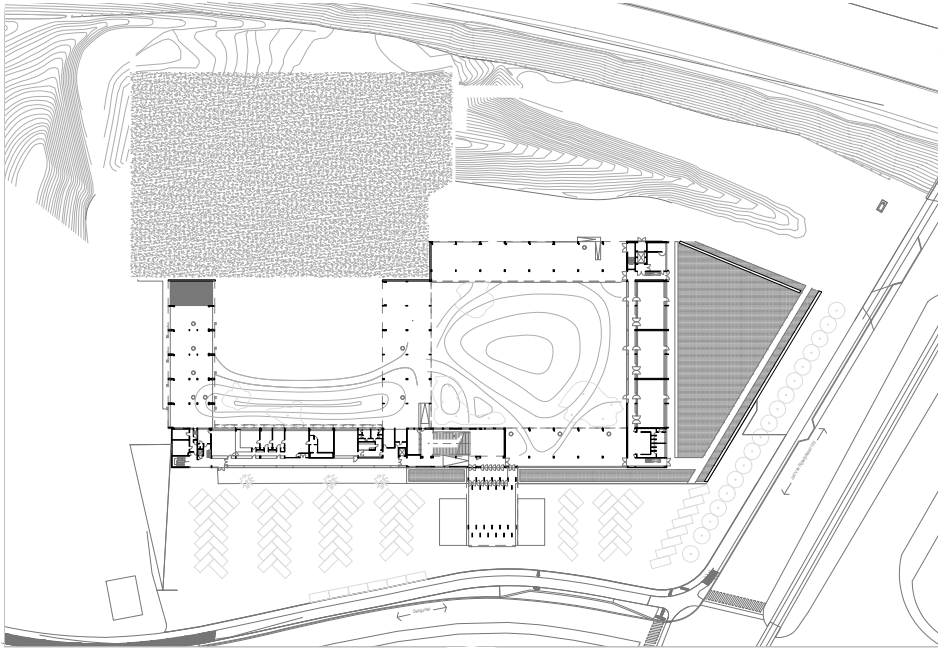
03 | deSingel



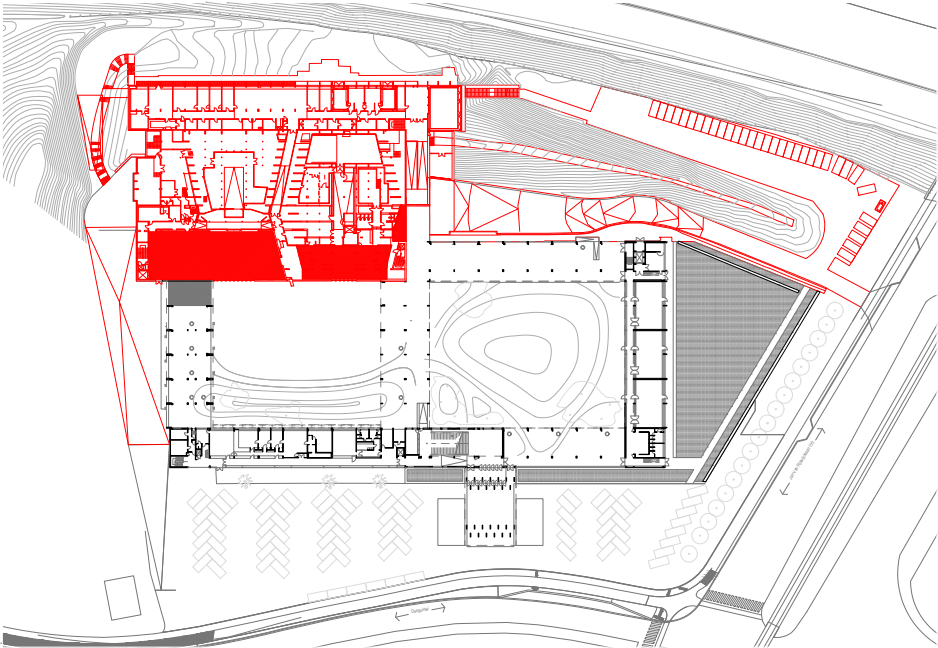




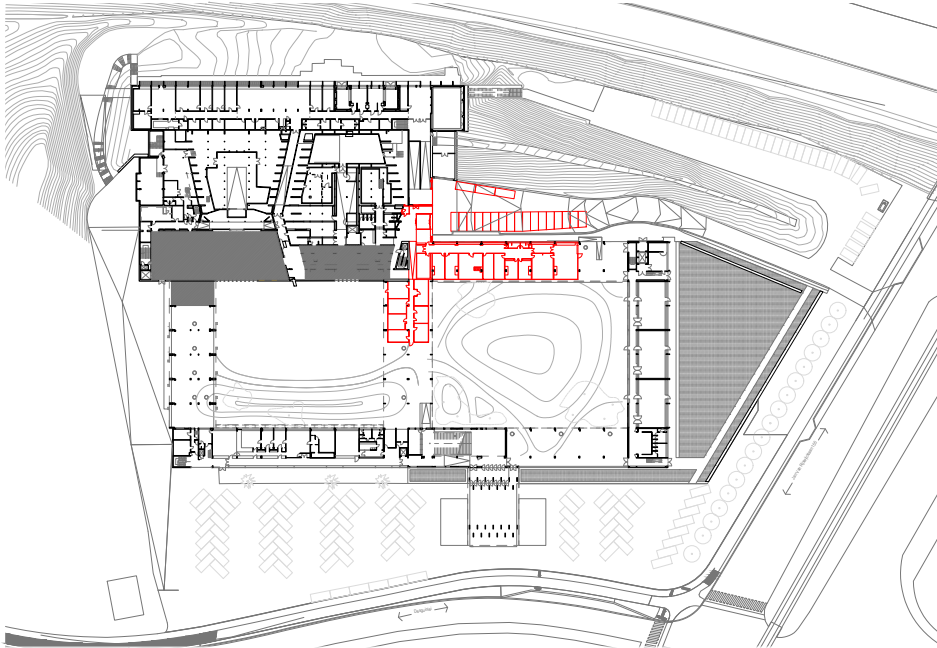




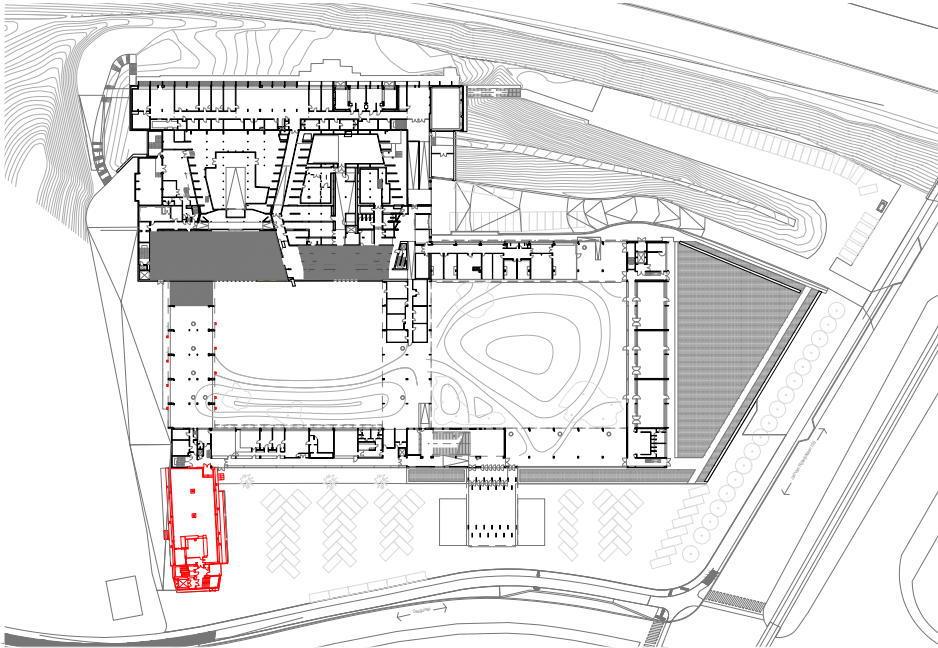
01 | Léon Stynen | 1963-67



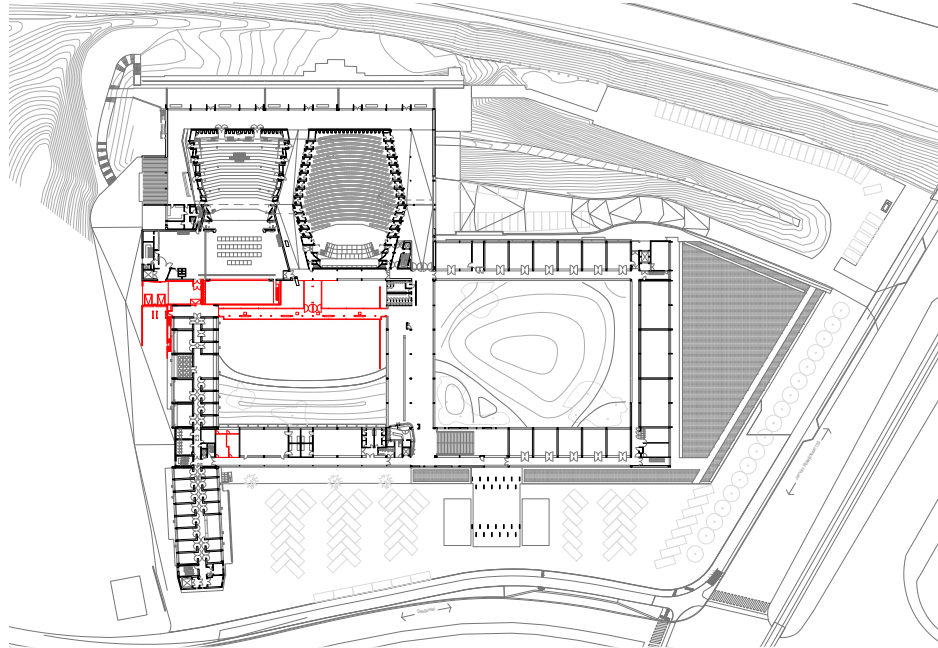
02 | Léon Stynen | 1973-80



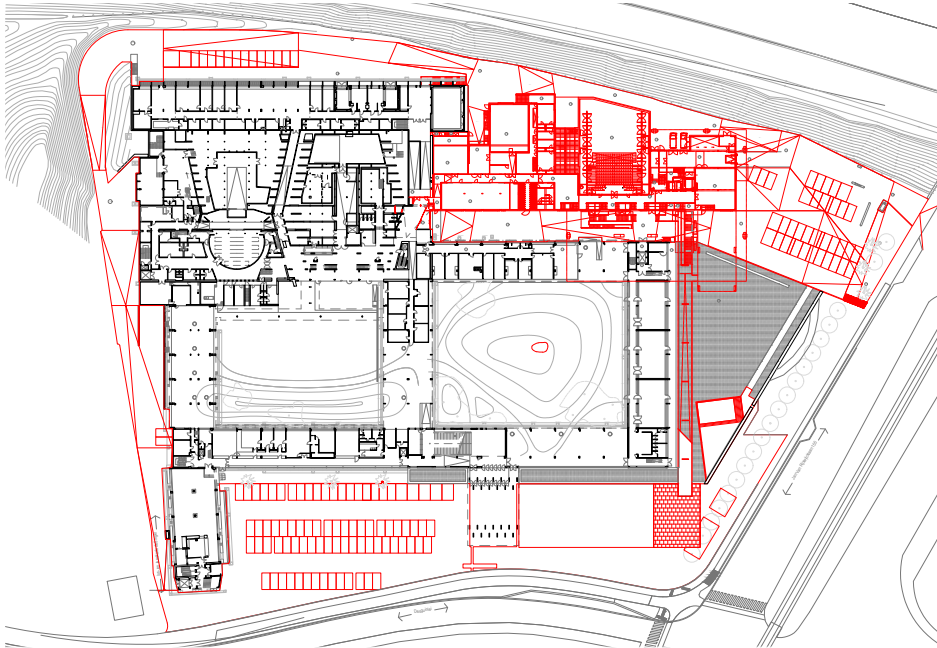
03 | L. Stynen / P. de Meyer | 1983



04 | Paul De Meyer | 1985-87



05 | Stephane Beel | 1996-2000

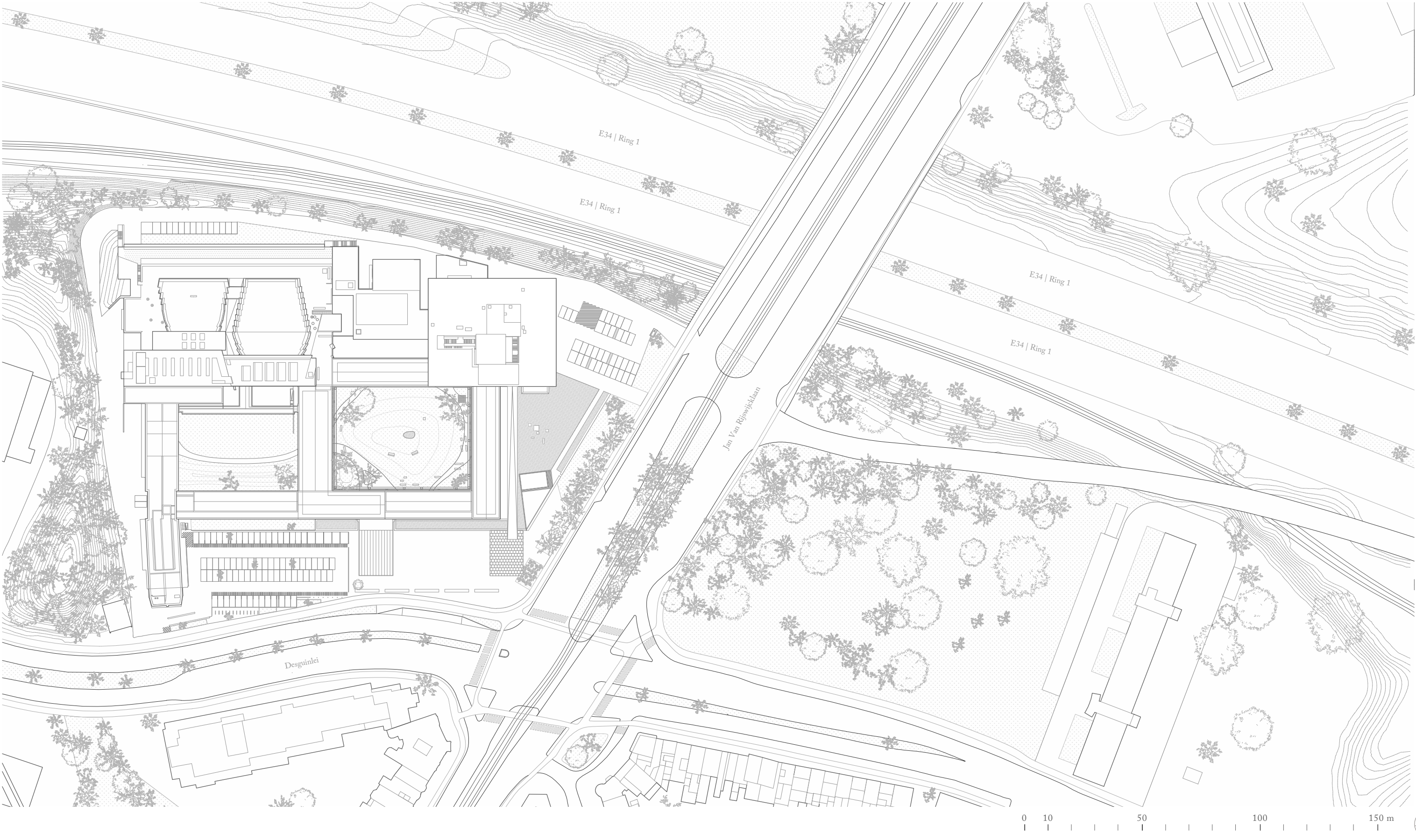


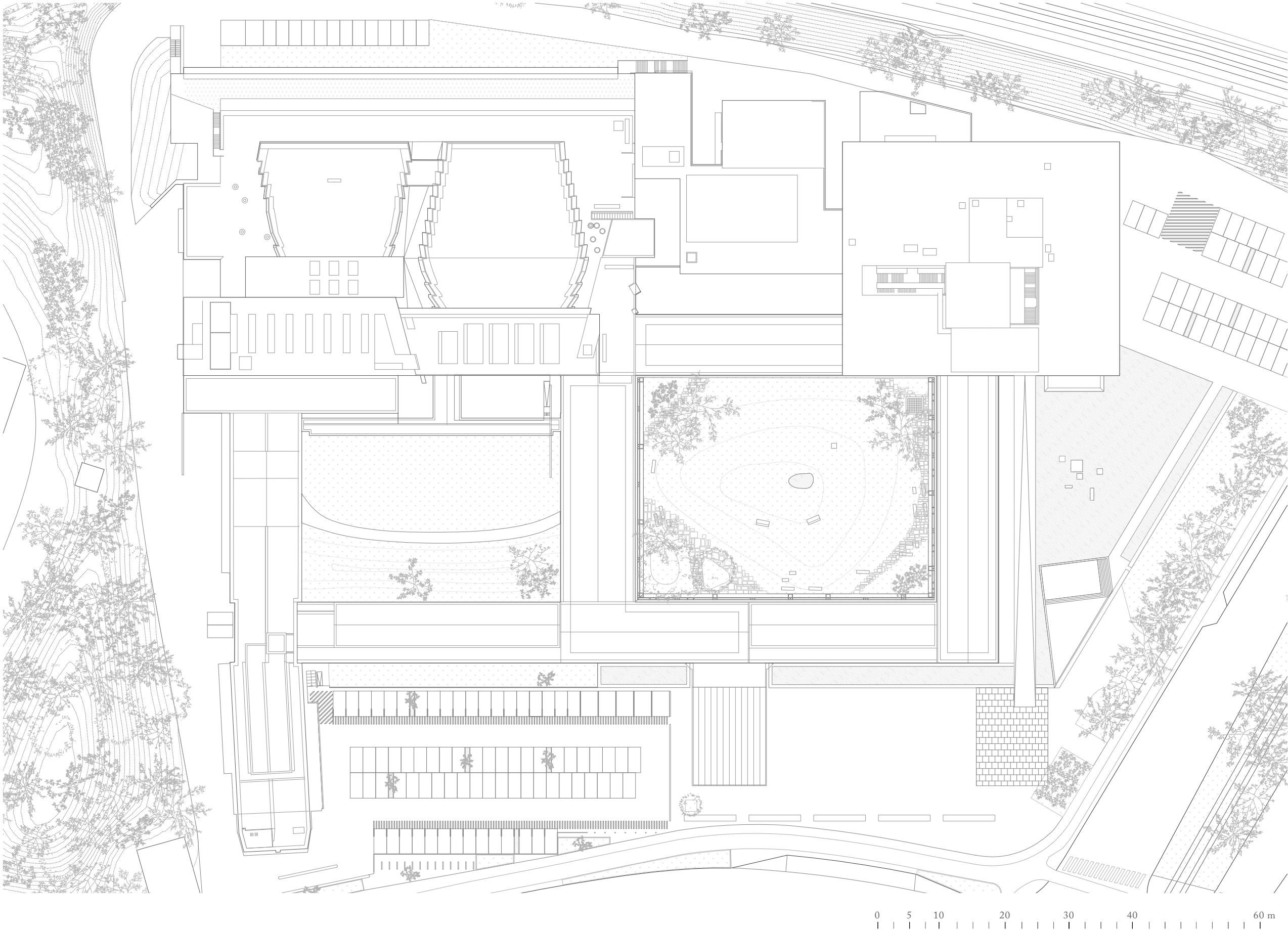
06 | Stephane Beel | 2007-2010











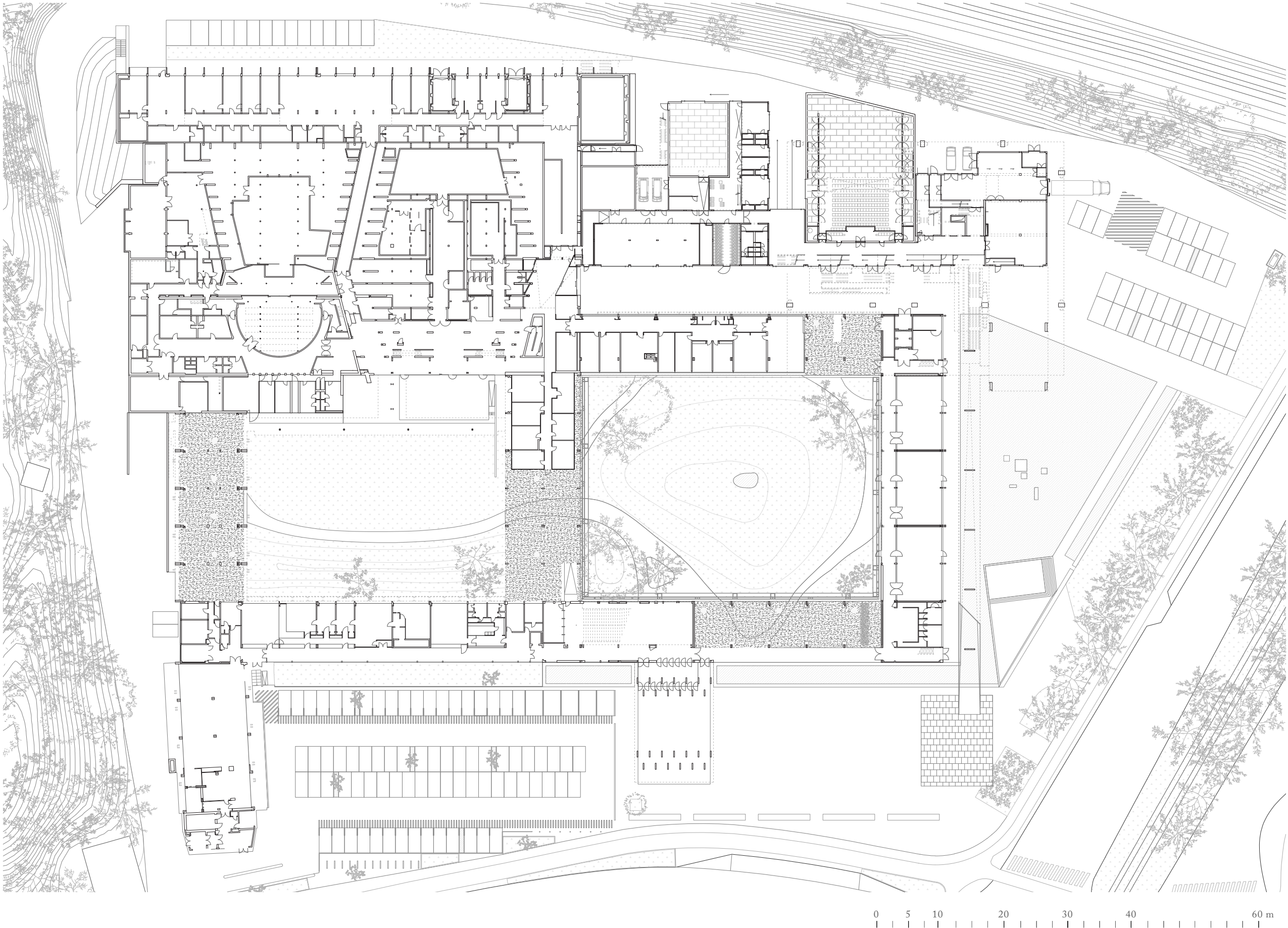


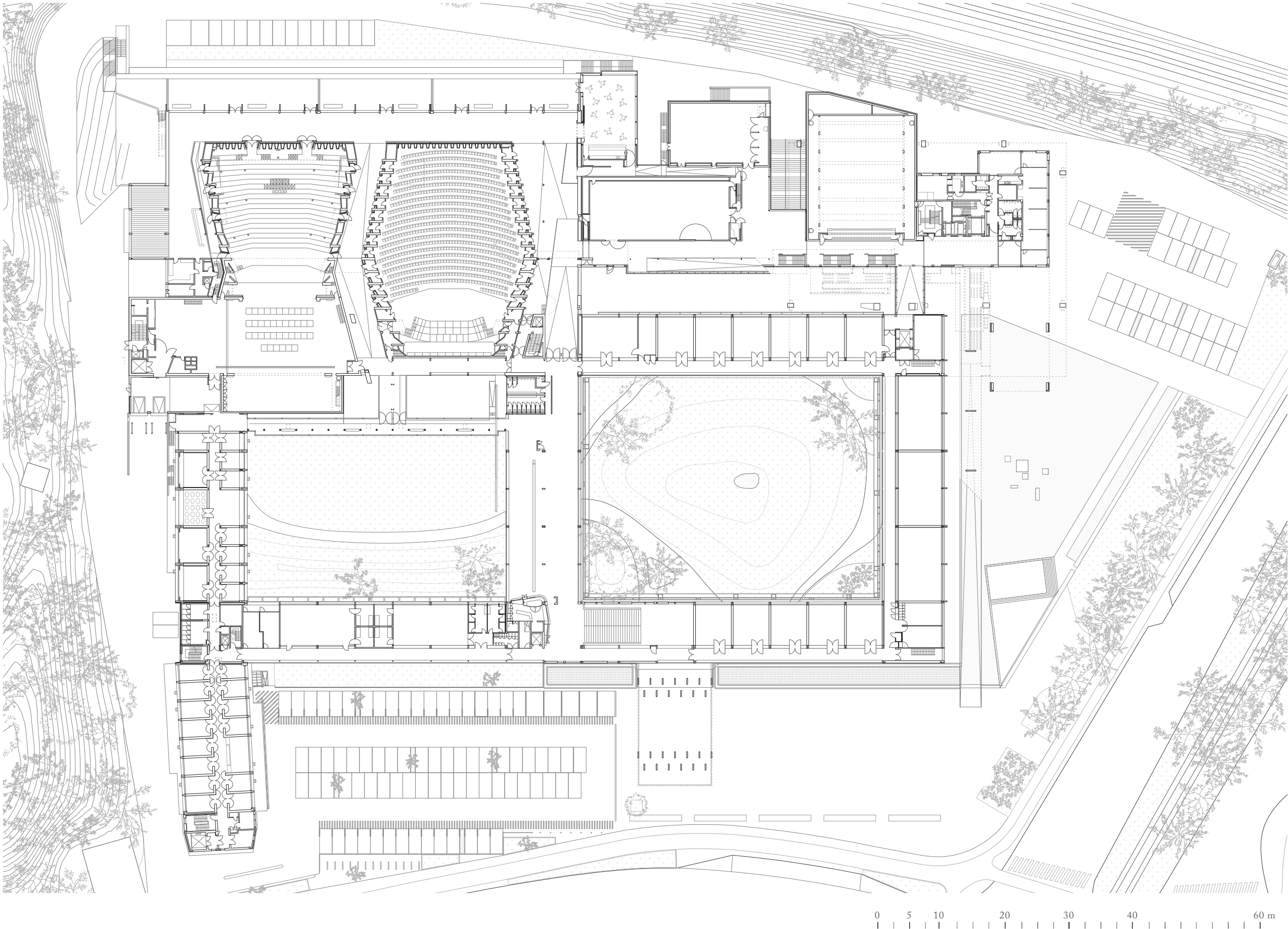


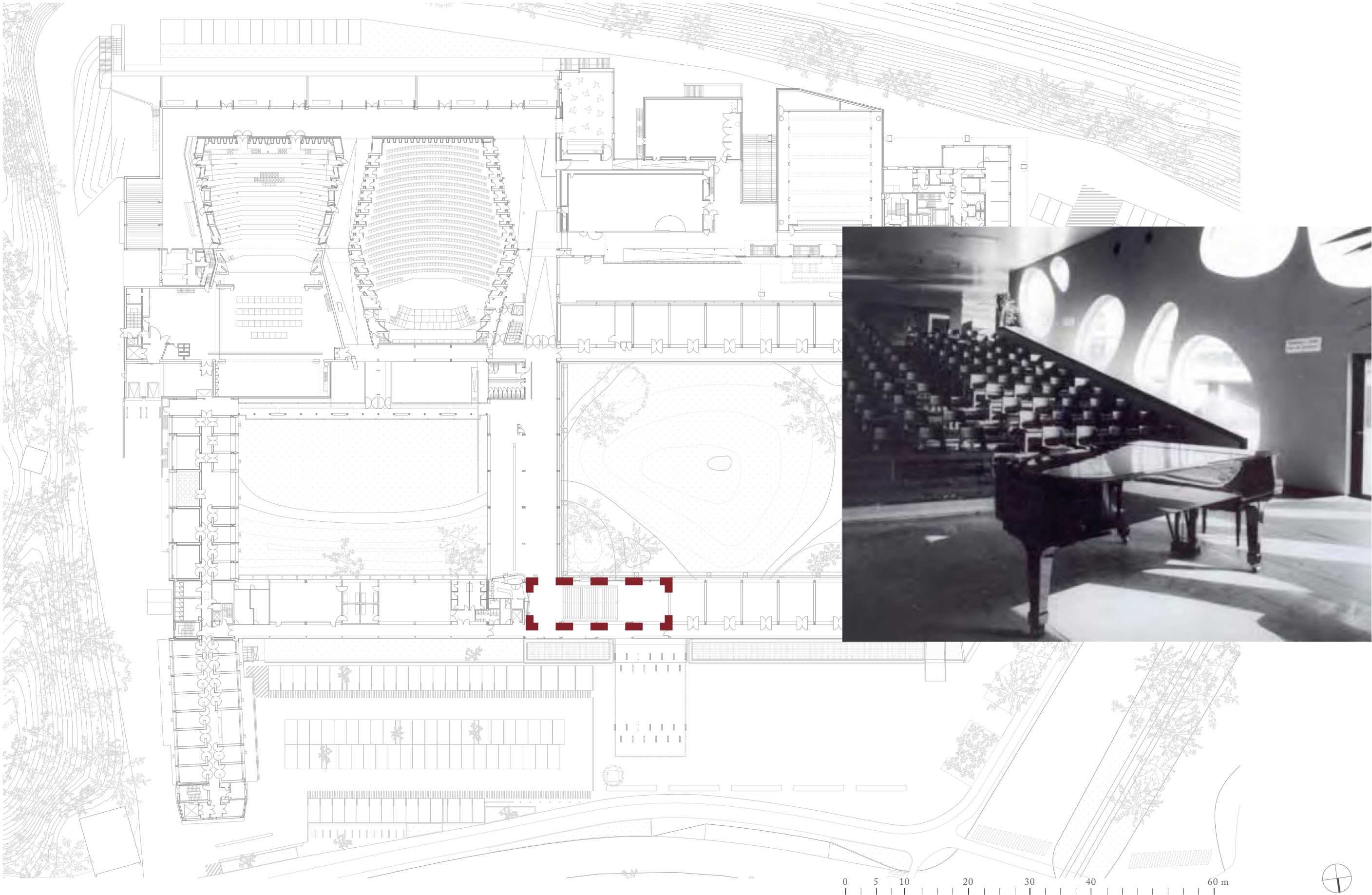


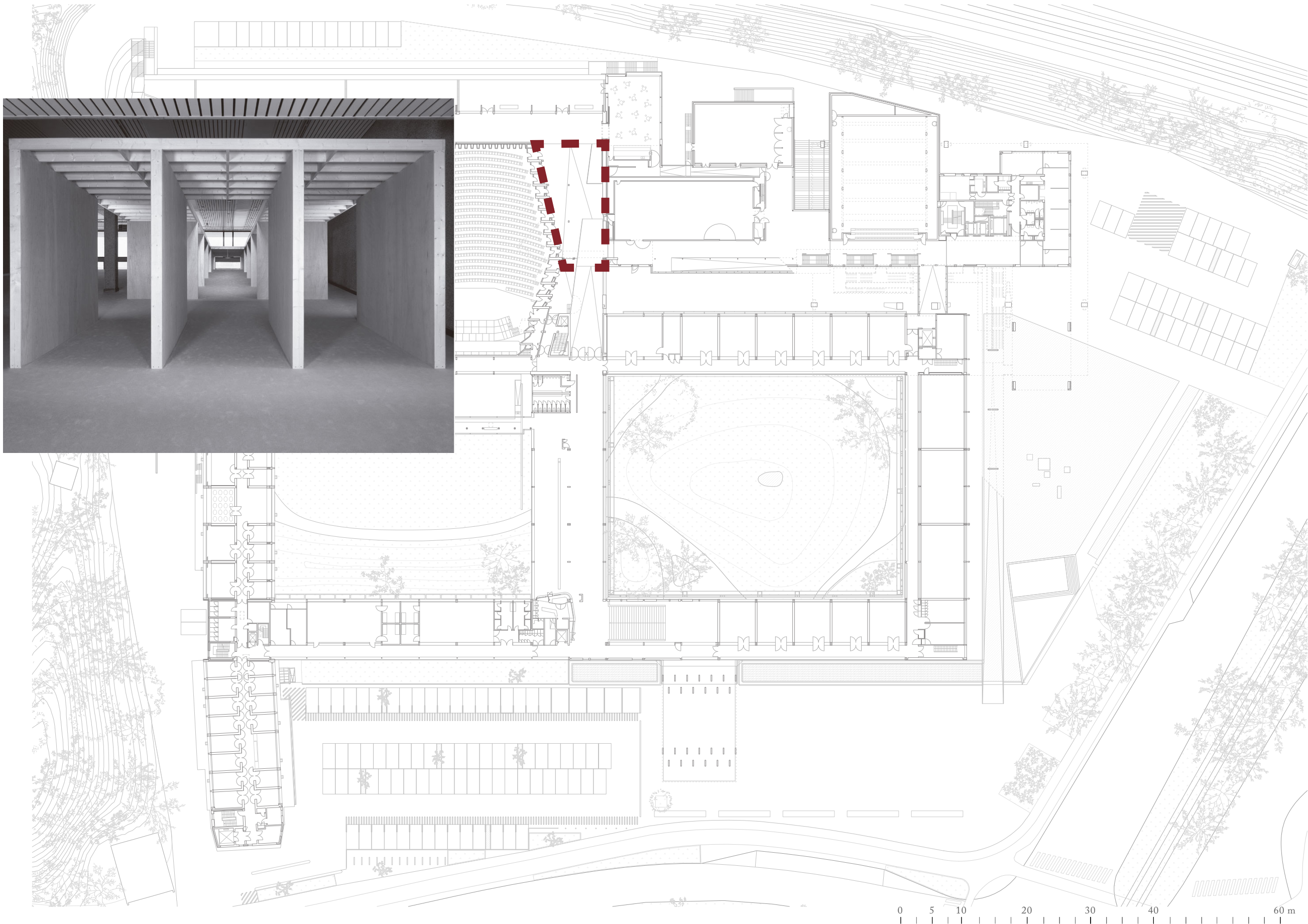
View across the first floor| photo: Jenny Fang, 2024

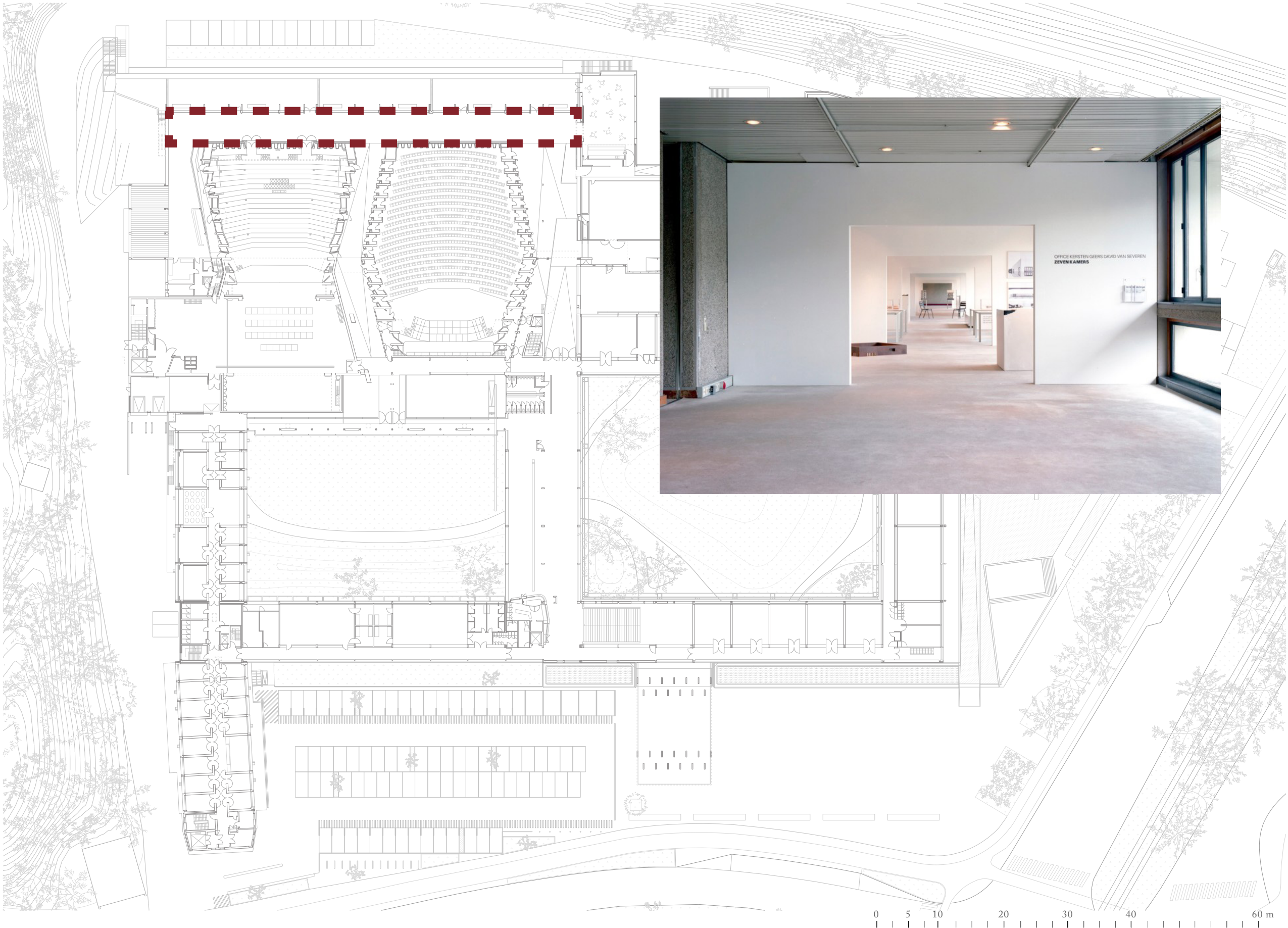


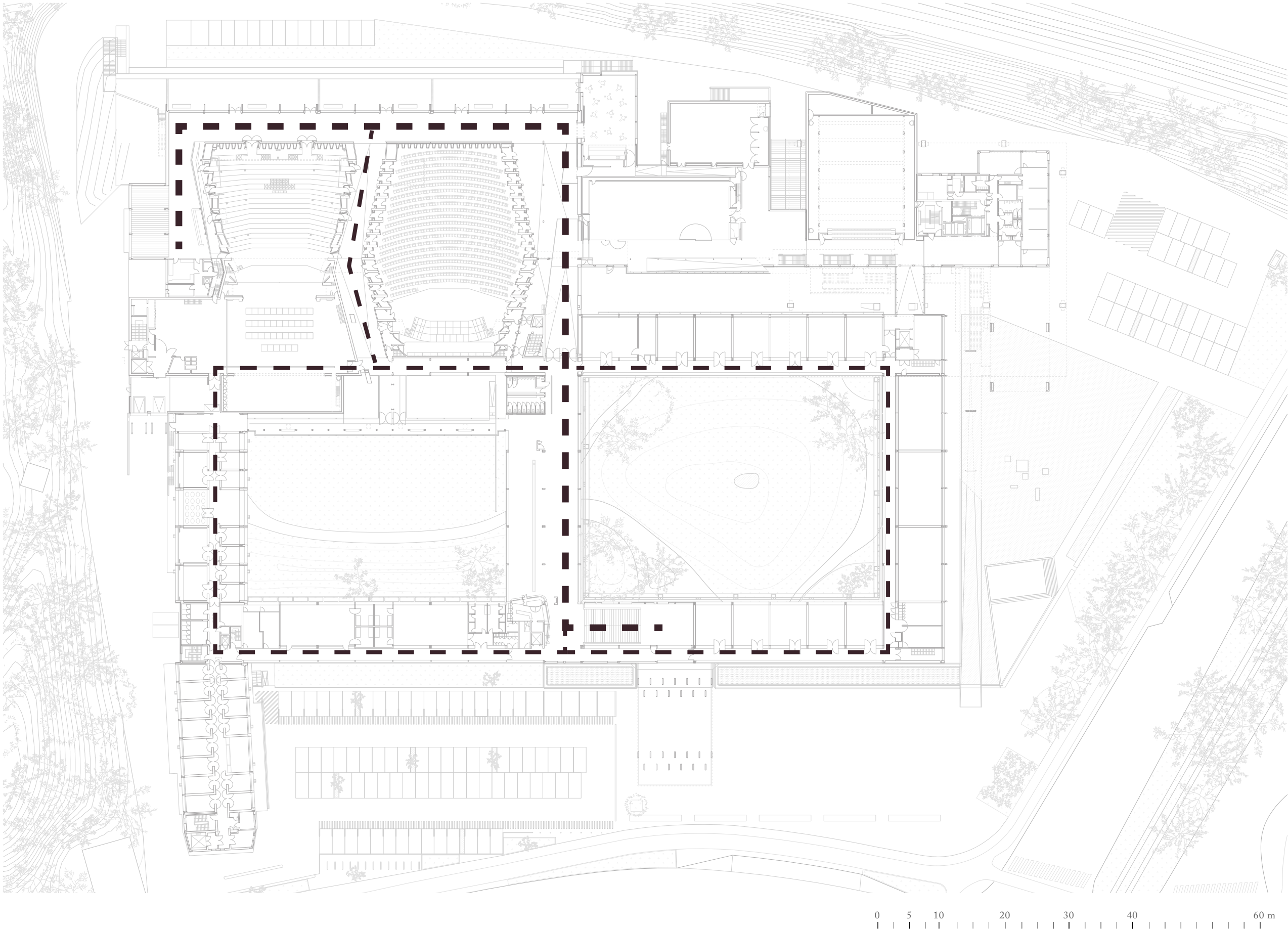


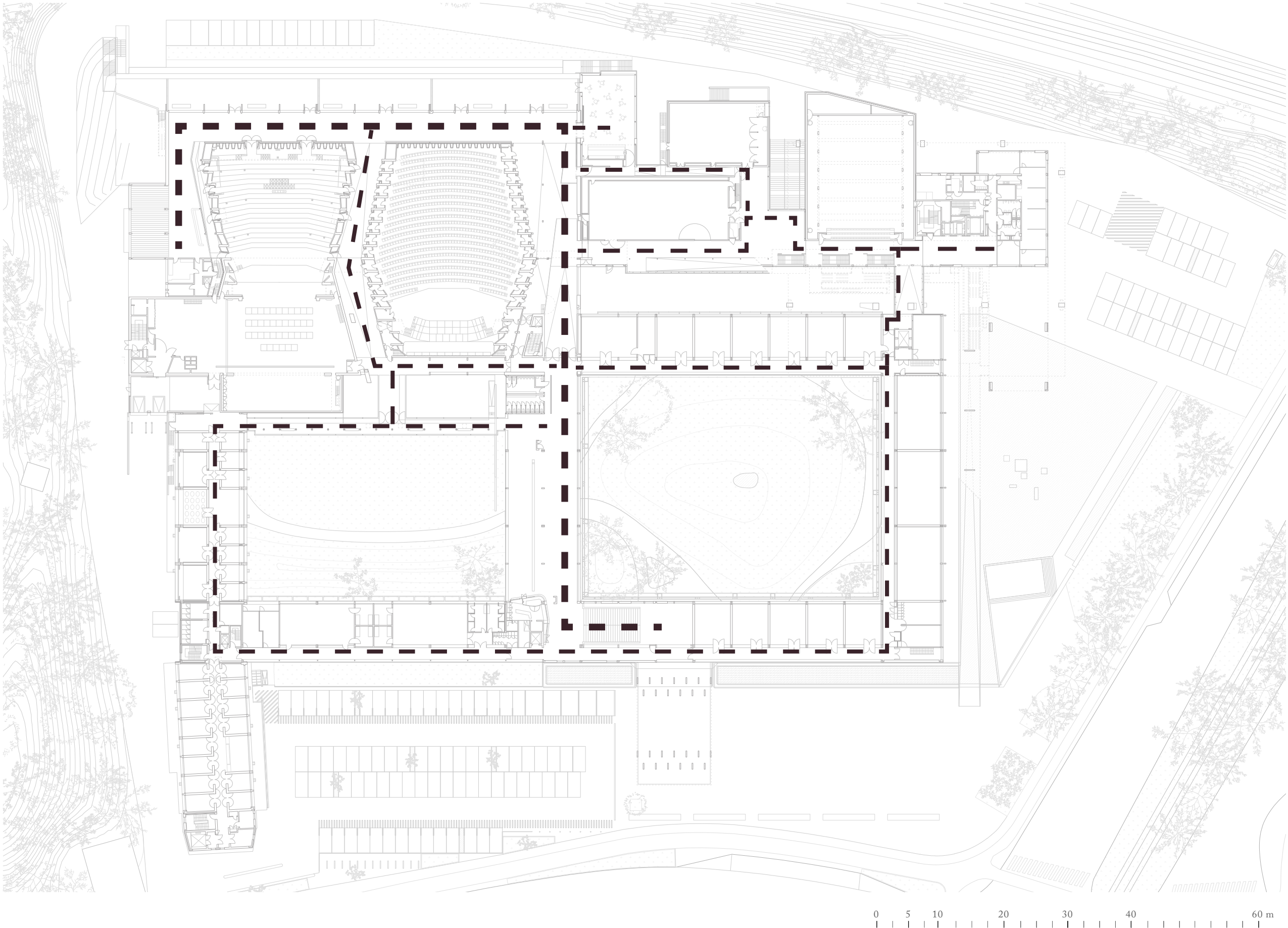


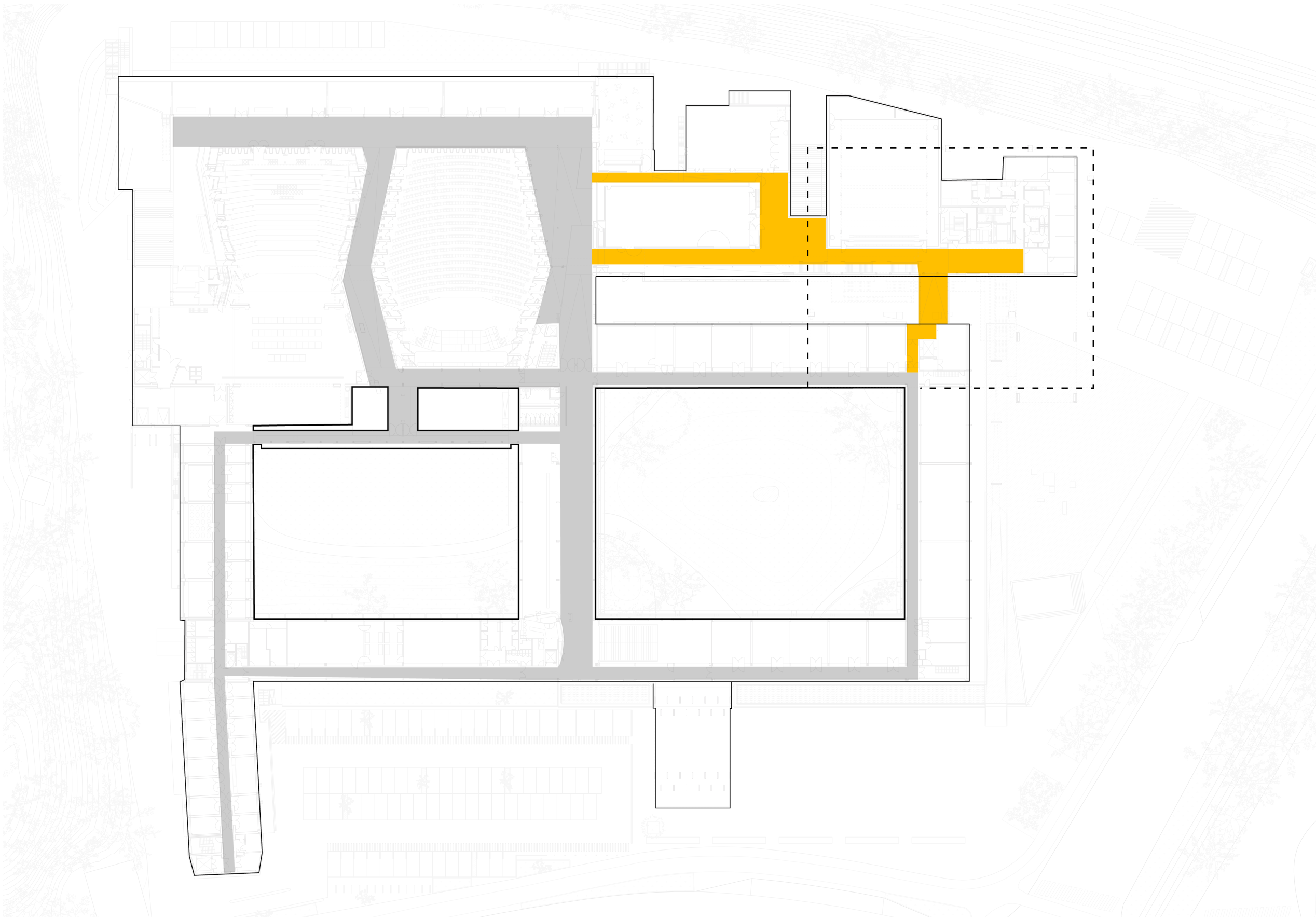


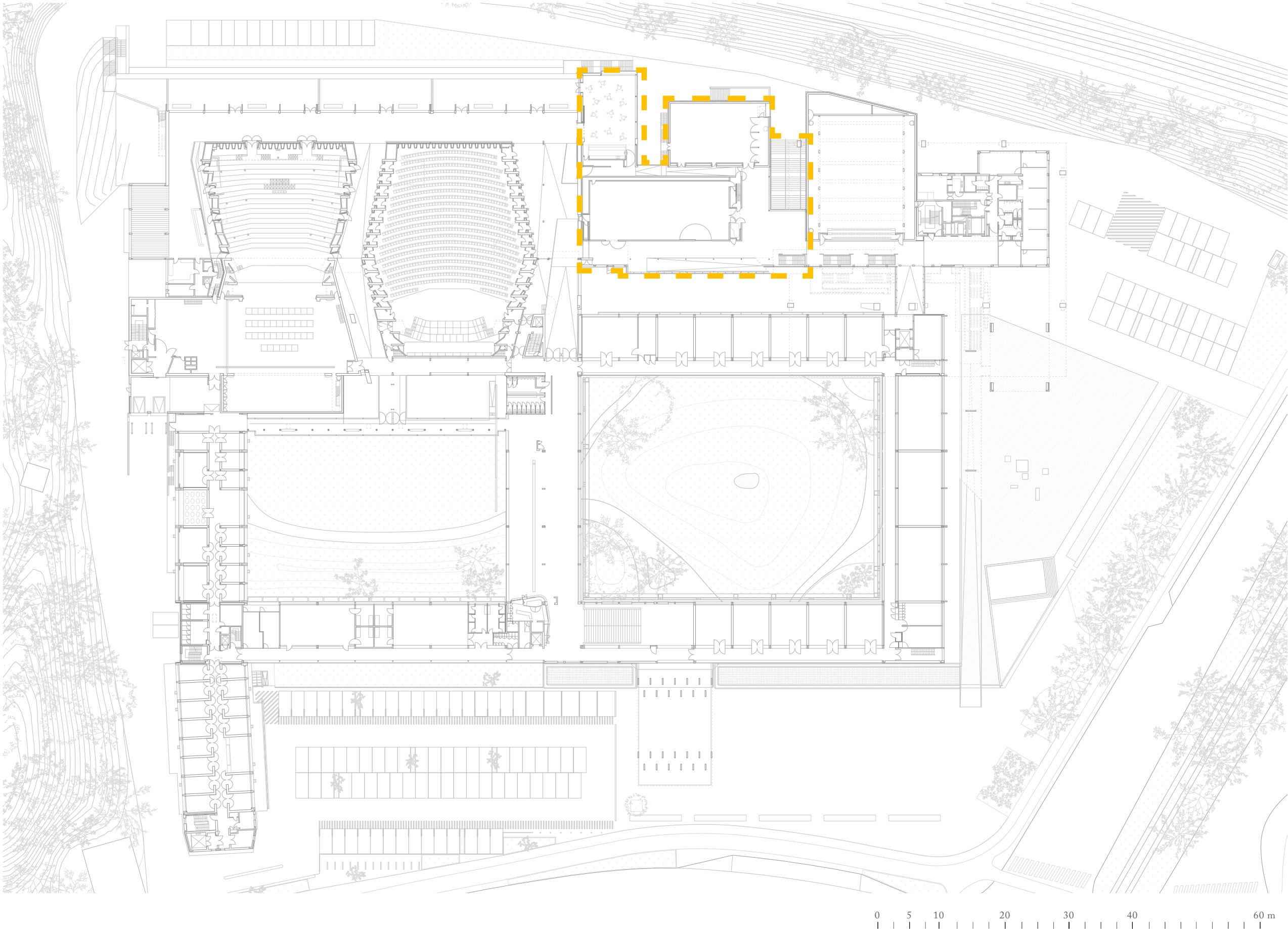






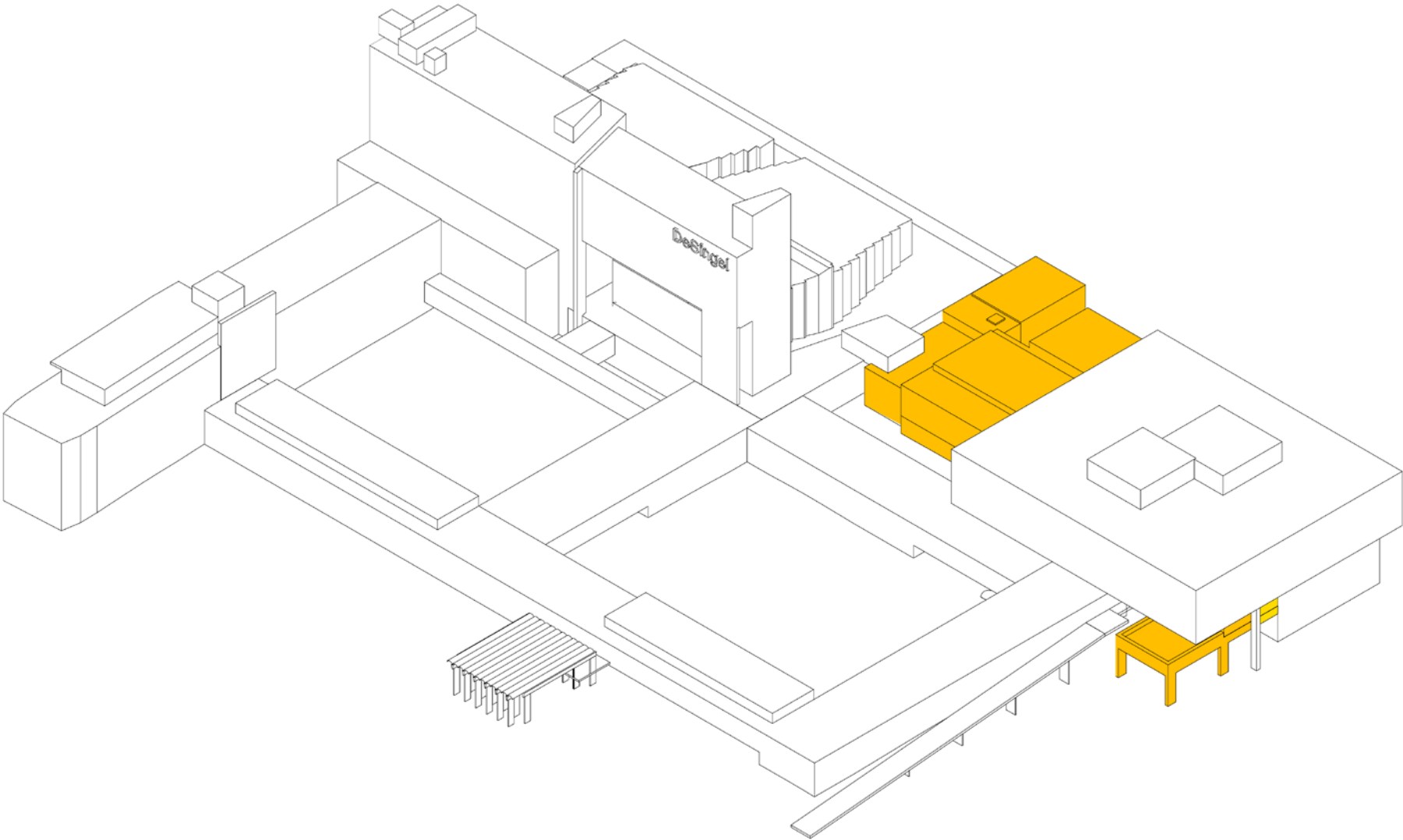


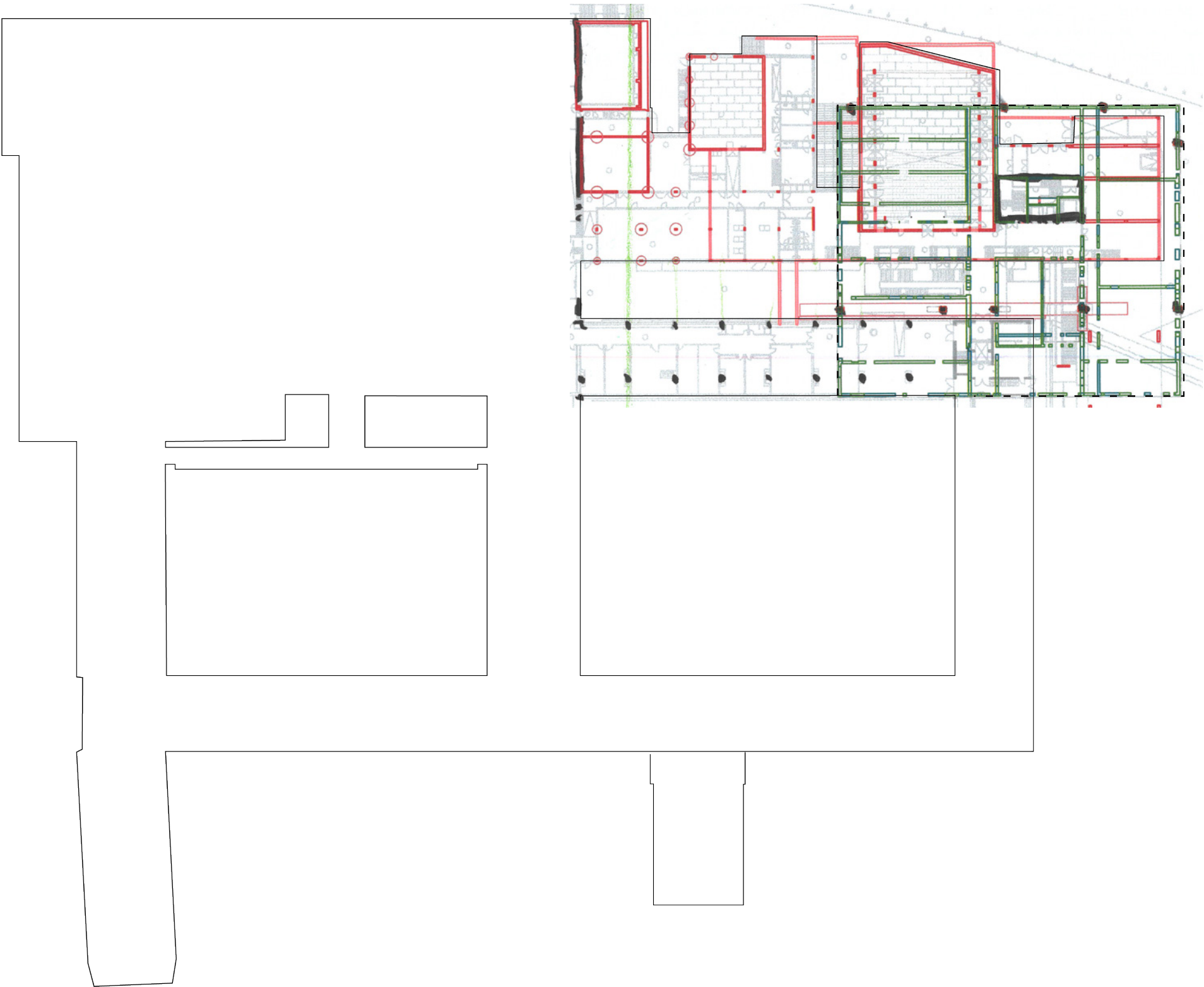














04 | Intention

1. deSingel as cultural campus:

How to form the relations between different cultural entities within one campus ?

How to negotiate zones of interest materialised in actual spaces and maintain clarity of an original idea formalised in a building?

2. VAI, their archives, and their mission:

What is the role of the archive in the mission of the VAI and how to emphasize its character through a new facility?

3. Architecture of deSingel:

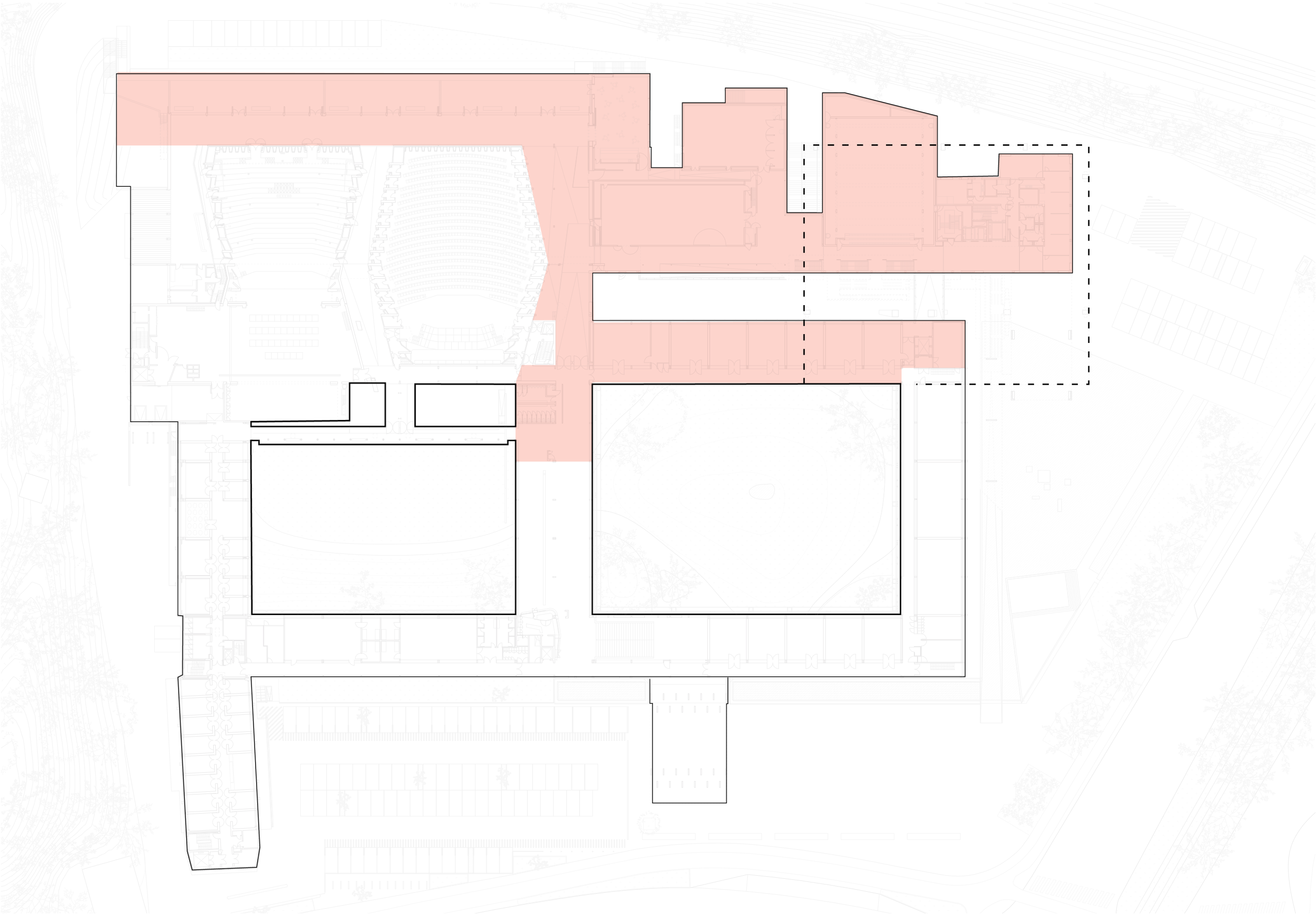
What is essential in deSingel as an architectural piece?

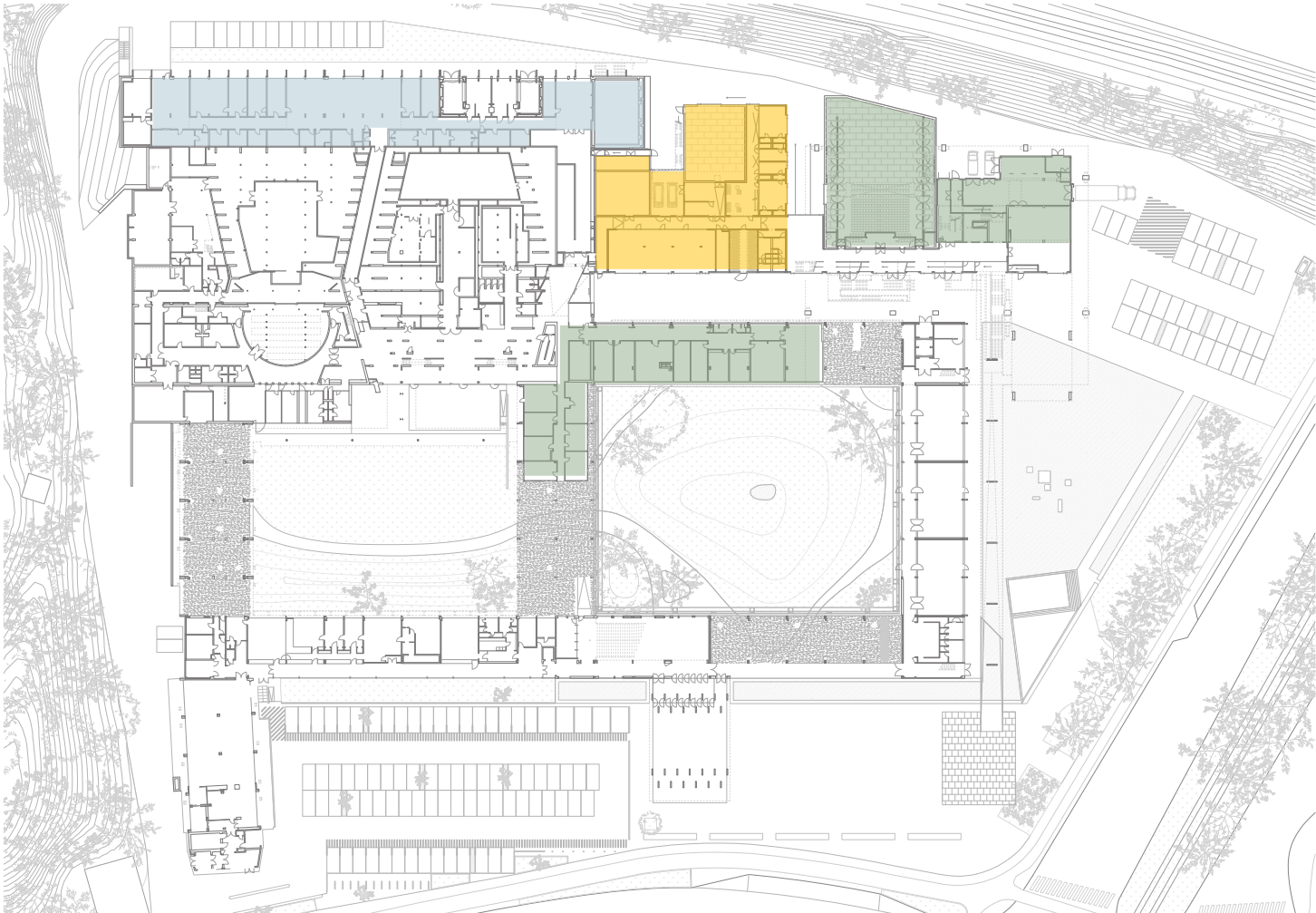
How to emphasize deSingel’s non-verbalised heritage of an evolutionary project?

VAi and deSingel are profoundly **bonded together in terms of sharing both a mission** of promoting culture to the public **in the same common spaces in deSingel’s current condition.** They should also share a common self-image.

As VAI has already failed with building its own, individual headquarters, **their institutional necessity to have its own material presence** in the city of Antwerp and the Flemish Belgium could be seen **as an opportunity to unite deSingel** structurally and architecturally.

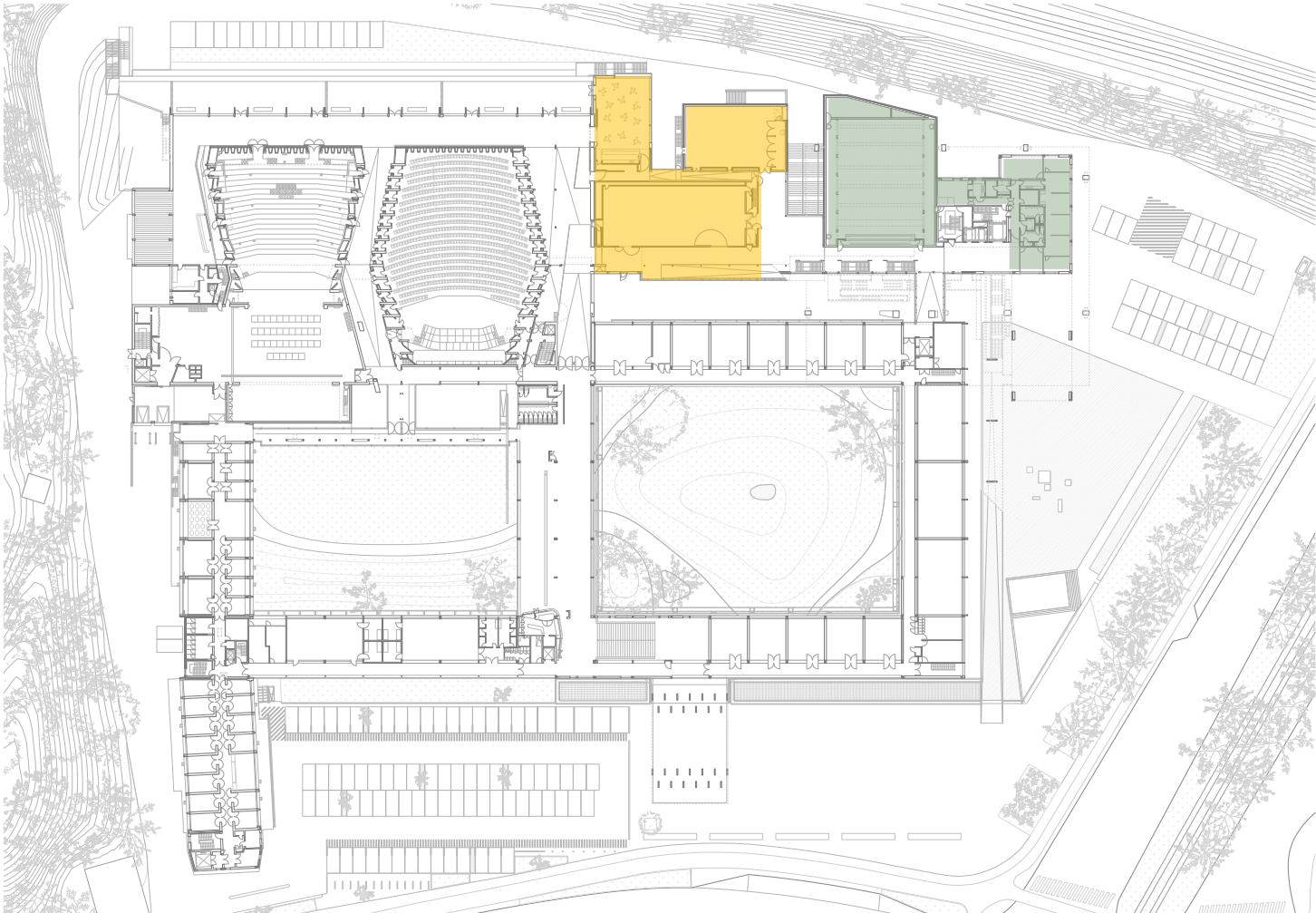
To attempt the next step of deSingel’s evolution;
To close its figure;





Ground floor

- spaces within existitng tissue - to be reused
- vacancy | to be negotiated between existing programme and brief
- areas of disruption | to be demolished



First floor

- spaces within existitng tissue - to be reused
- vacancy | to be negotiated between existing programme and brief
- areas of disruption | to be demolished

Name	Size m²	Description
Total	5157,25	
Public	700	
Reception and counter	100	incl. separate sanitary facilities and seating
Exhibition space/ multifunctional space	200	cf. current reading room 96m2, is too small; keep reading rrom and library separate; small separate group study
Reading room	200	
Library	200	Books and visitors' workstations
Additional	872,25	
Staff workspace	300	
Large workplace for archive employees	300	12.5 m2 per employee (+/-30 employeed, including interns, temporary employees, etc.)
Large workstation with archives	12,25	3.5x3.5m
Standard office space		
Focus Spots		
1 large meeting room	80	
1 small meeting room	30	
kitchen, bathroom, dressing room	150	
Archive	3585	
Storage packaging material	120	near archive depot, office
Loading and unloading space	150	
Waiting depot	100	emergency depot, storage of non-exclusive archives, bulk pallets
Tirage space correct - contaminated material	60	
Quarantine	120	Storage of containment material =
Cleaning	60	Processing of containment material
pre-depot	60	Storage of own material
processing	60	processing of own material
Digitization space	60	own material
Restoration studio	60	own material
Depot storage	2500	Currently 1500, growth in recent years 470m in 5-7 yrs > per 5yr 400m with extensive storage system, paper climate class
Climate class photo storage	100	
Bulk storage		
Storage in racks and planning cabinets		
View depot	125	visually attractive, desire to collect more 3D objects, this could be a regular depot box with a transparant wall in
Server space	10	not on functional schedual

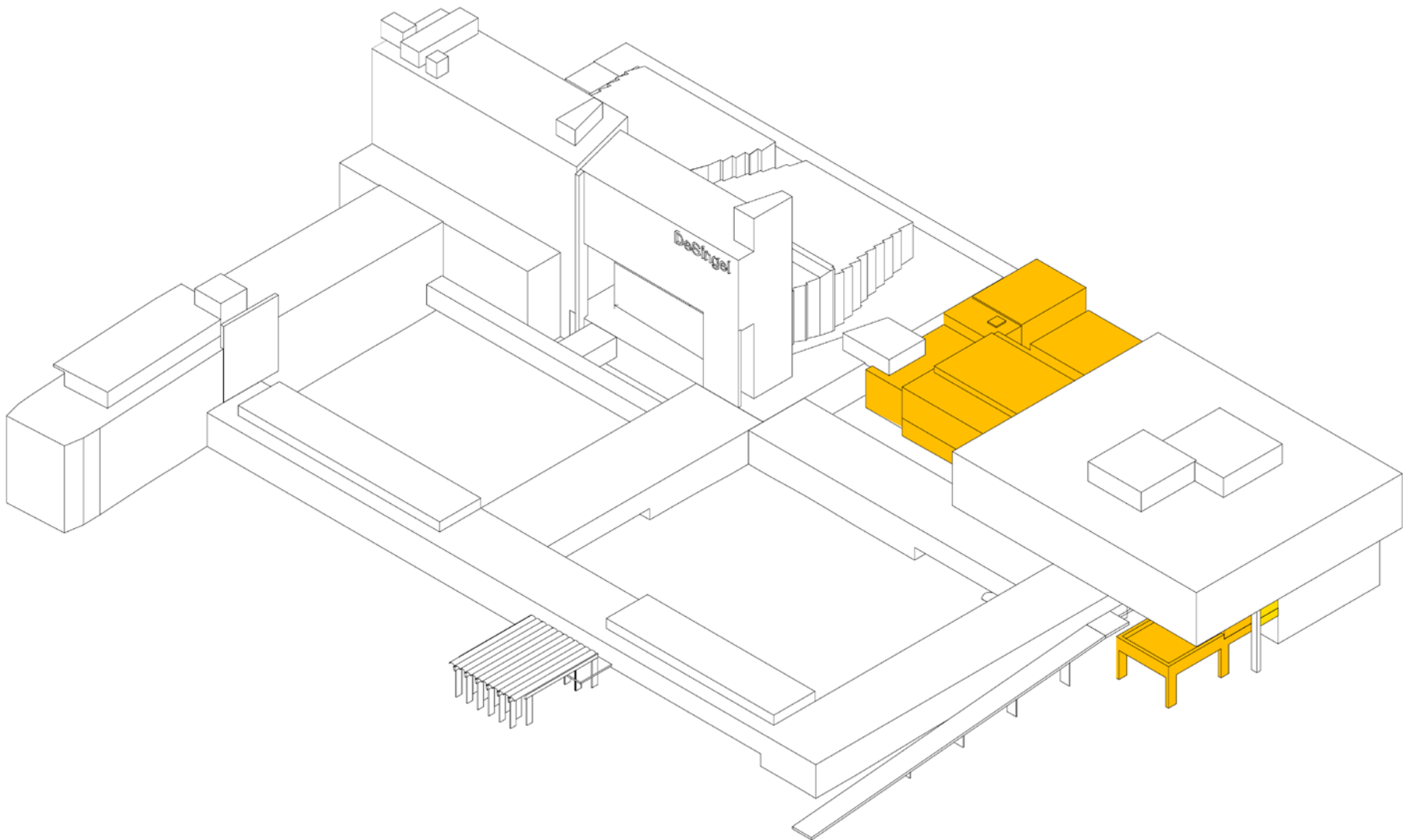
Name	Size m²	Description
Total	6163,25	
Public	1350	
Reception and counter	110	incl. separate sanitary facilities and seating
Exhibition space/ multifunctional space	300	cf. current reading room 96m2, is too small; keep reading rrom and library separate; small separate group study
Reading rooms	640	Collective (300) + archival (340)
Library	300	Books and visitors' workstations
Additional	1198,25	
Staff workspace	600	
Large workplace for archive employees	326	12.5 m2 per employee (+/-30 employeed, including interns, temporary employees, etc.)
Large workstation with archives	12,25	3.5x3.5m
Standard office space		
Focus Spots		
1 large meeting room	80	
1 small meeting room	30	
kitchen, bathroom, dressing room	150	
Recording room	115	
Archive	3615	
Storage packaging material	120	near archive depot, office
Loading and unloading space	150	
Waiting depot	120	emergency depot, storage of non-exclusive archives, bulk pallets
Tirage space correct - contaminated material	45	
Quarantine	100	Storage of containment material =
Cleaning	45	Processing of containment material
pre-depot	60	Storage of own material
processing	65	processing of own material
Digitization space	65	own material
Restoration studio	70	own material
Depot storage	2520	Currently 1500, growth in recent years 470m in 5-7 yrs > per 5yr 400m with extensive storage system, paper climate class
Climate class photo storage	120	
Bulk storage		
Storage in racks and planning cabinets		
View depot	125	visually attractive, desire to collect more 3D objects, this could be a regular depot box with a transparant wall in
Server space	10	not on functional schedual

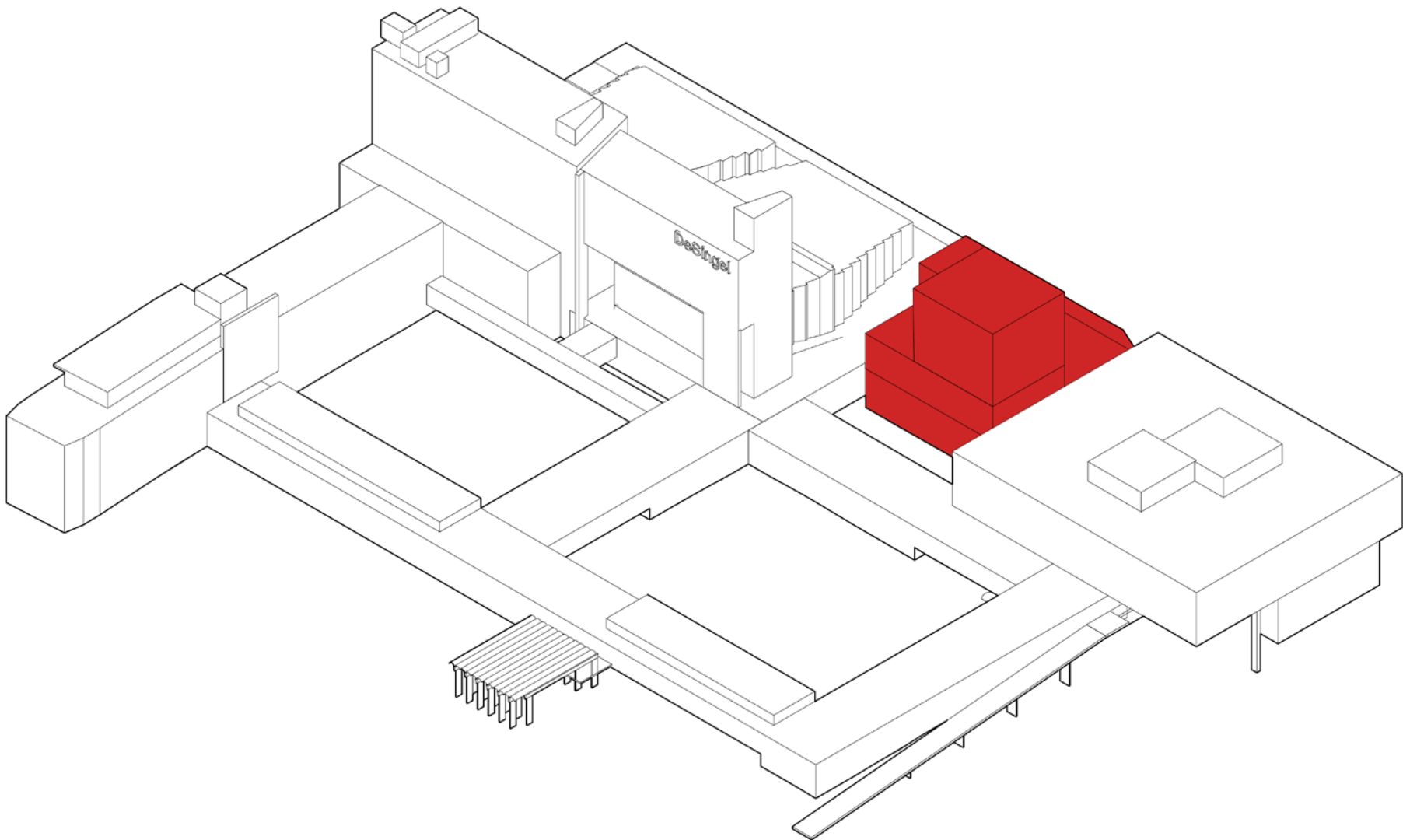
- newly added volumes
- spaces negotiated within existing tissue (several demolitions)
- spaces within existing tissue (minor alterations)



05 | Proposal

1:200 model





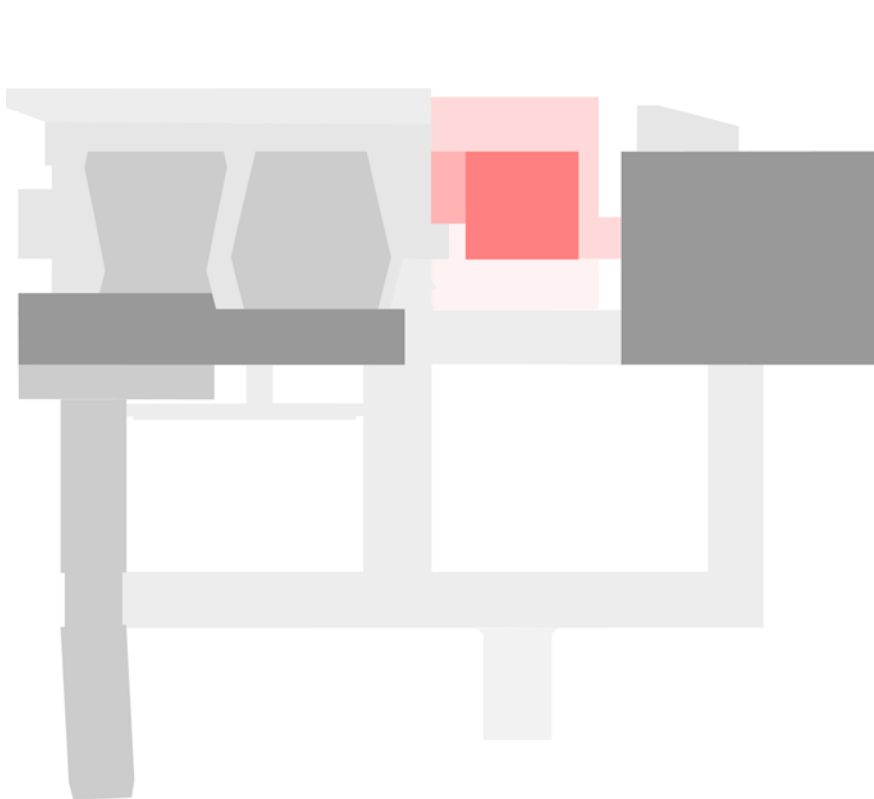
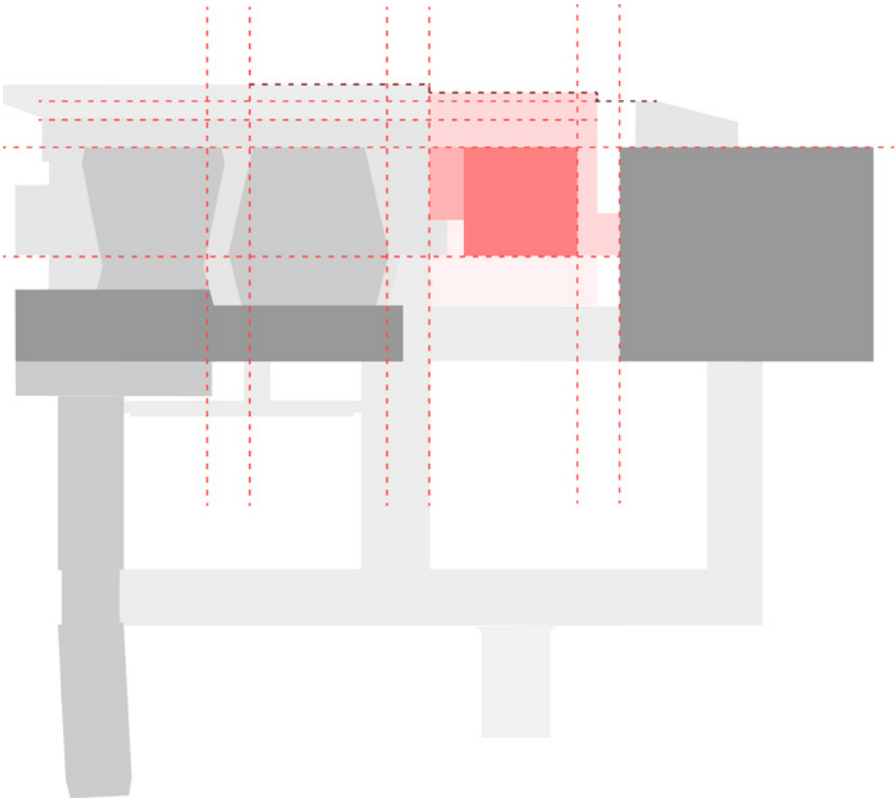
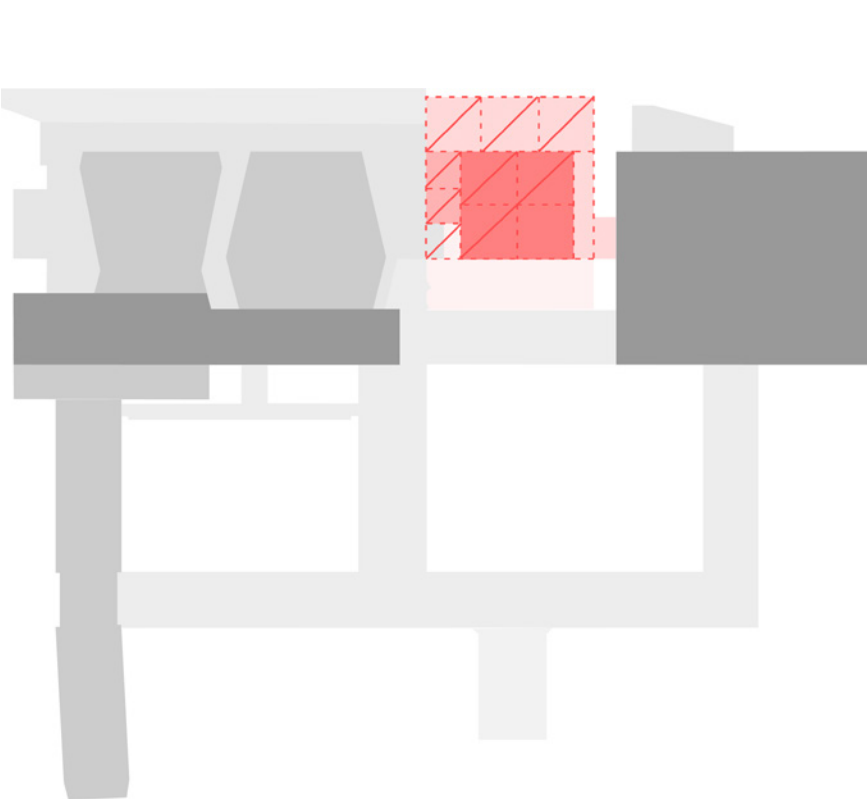


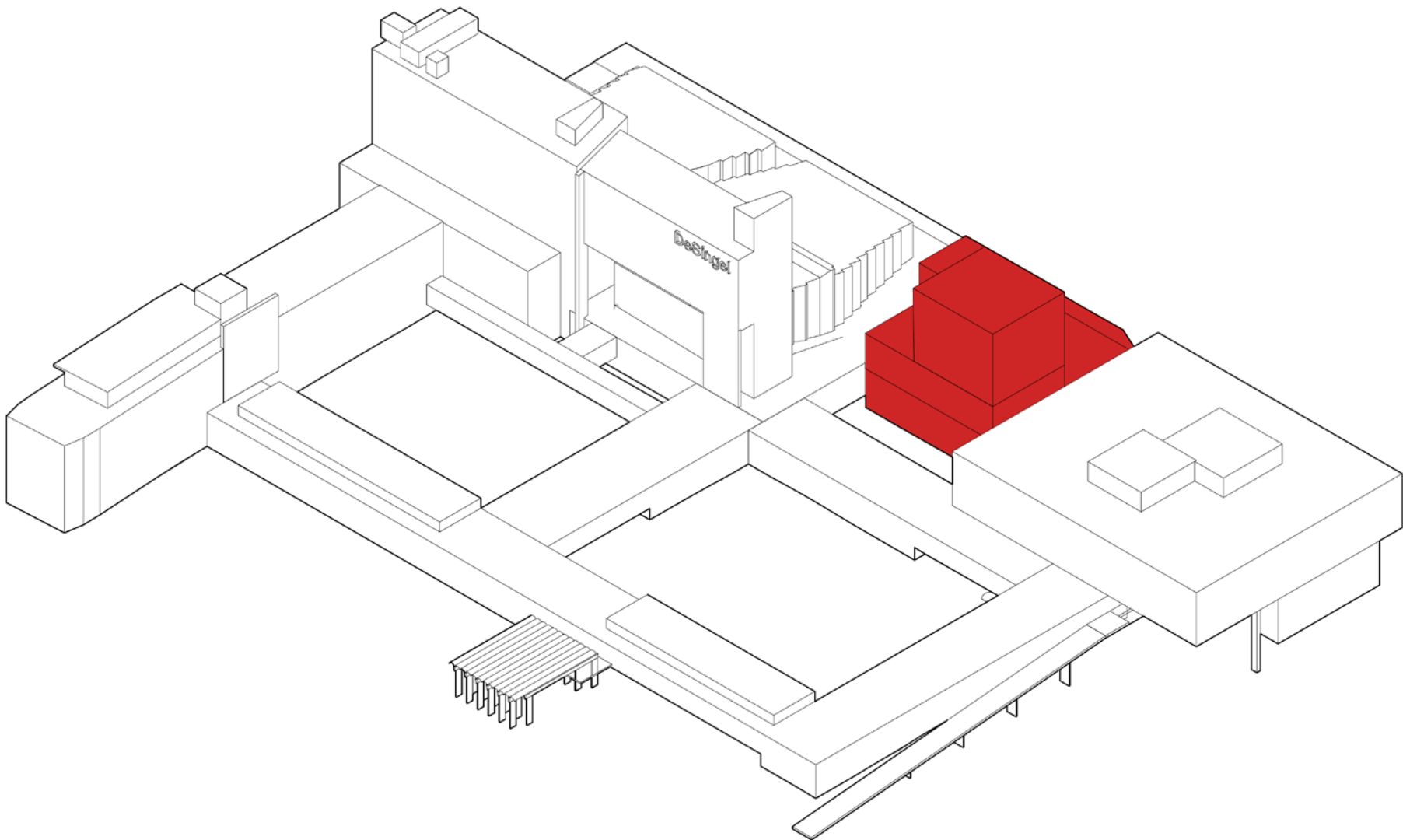
figure fit-in

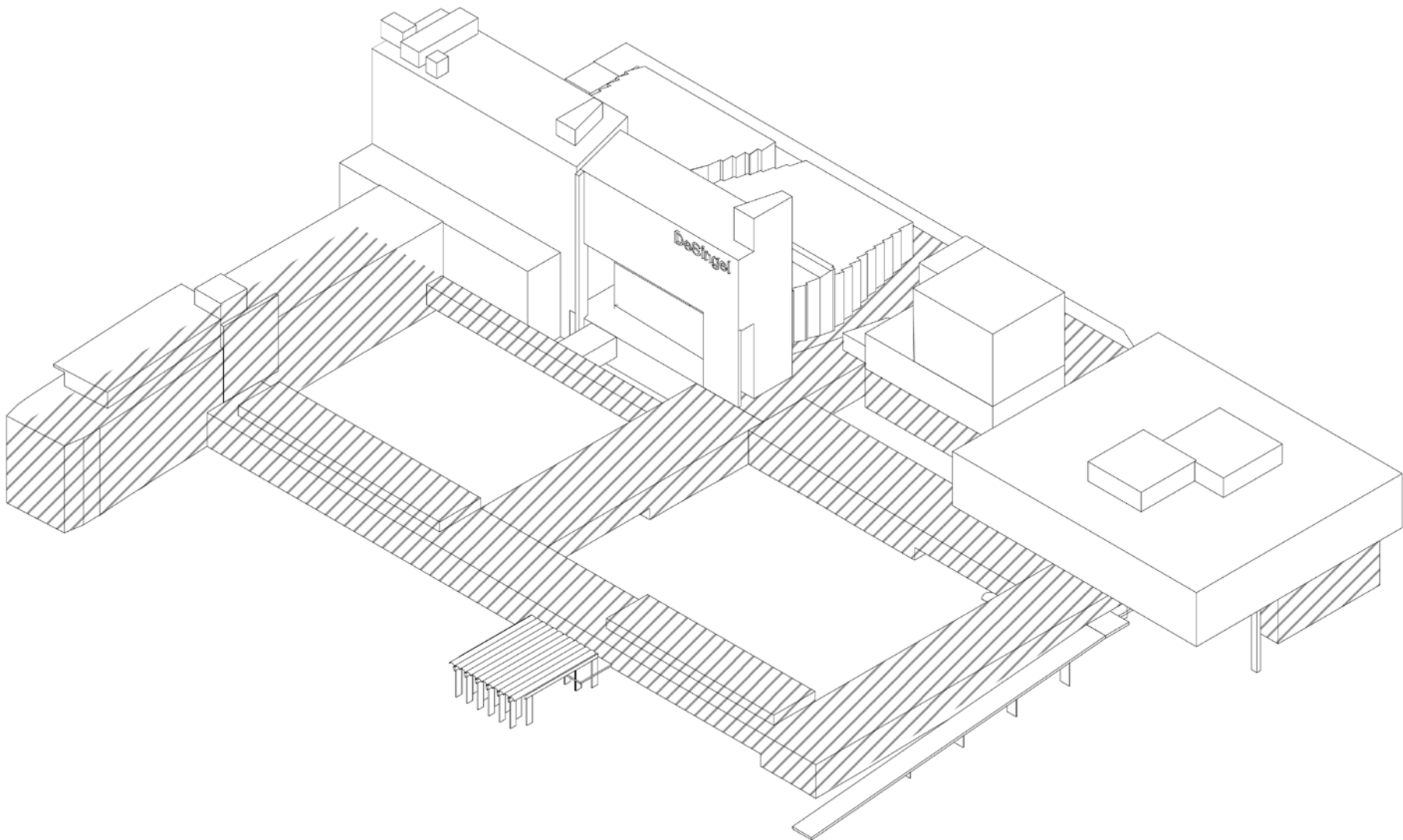


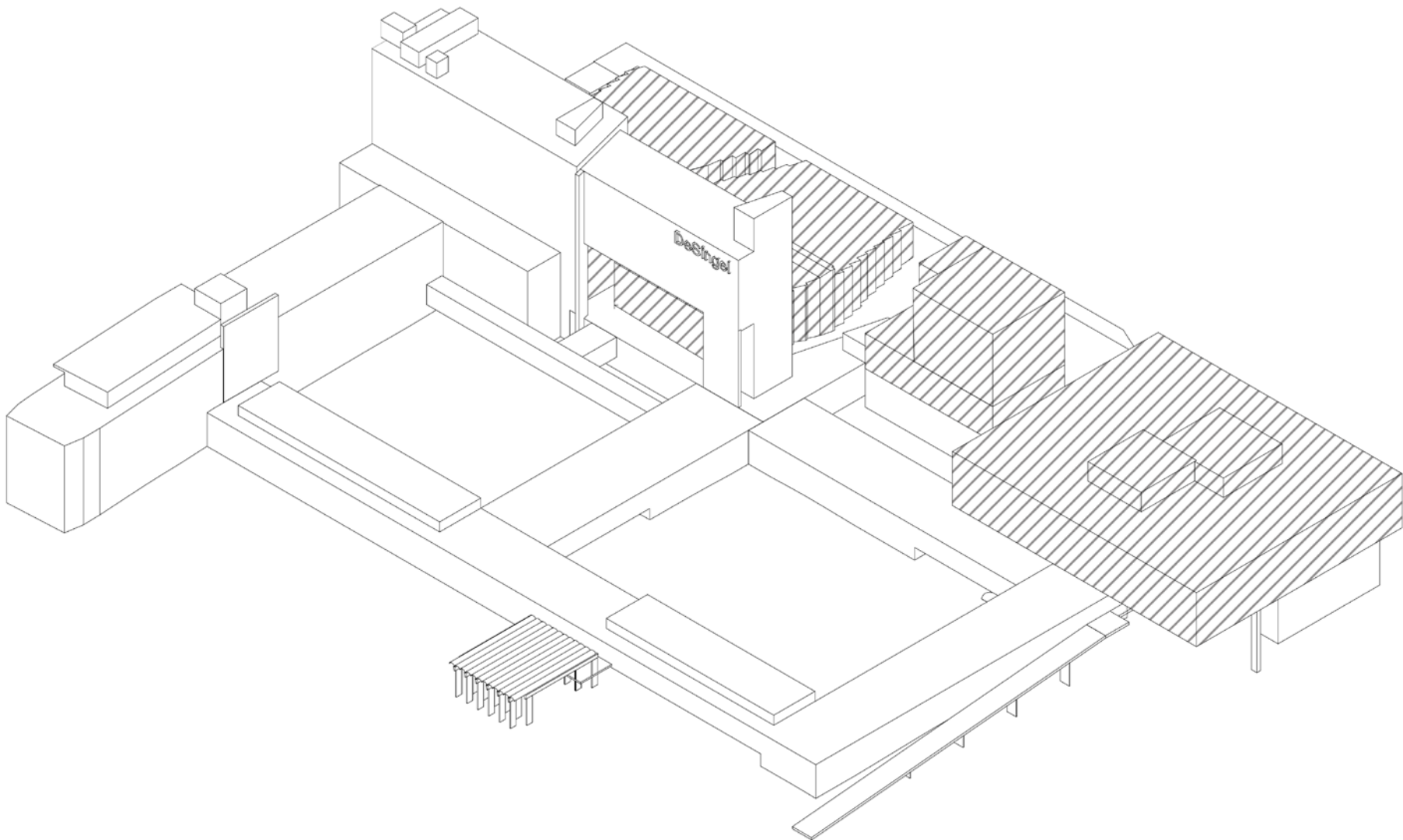
keeping the axis | enhancing the tensions

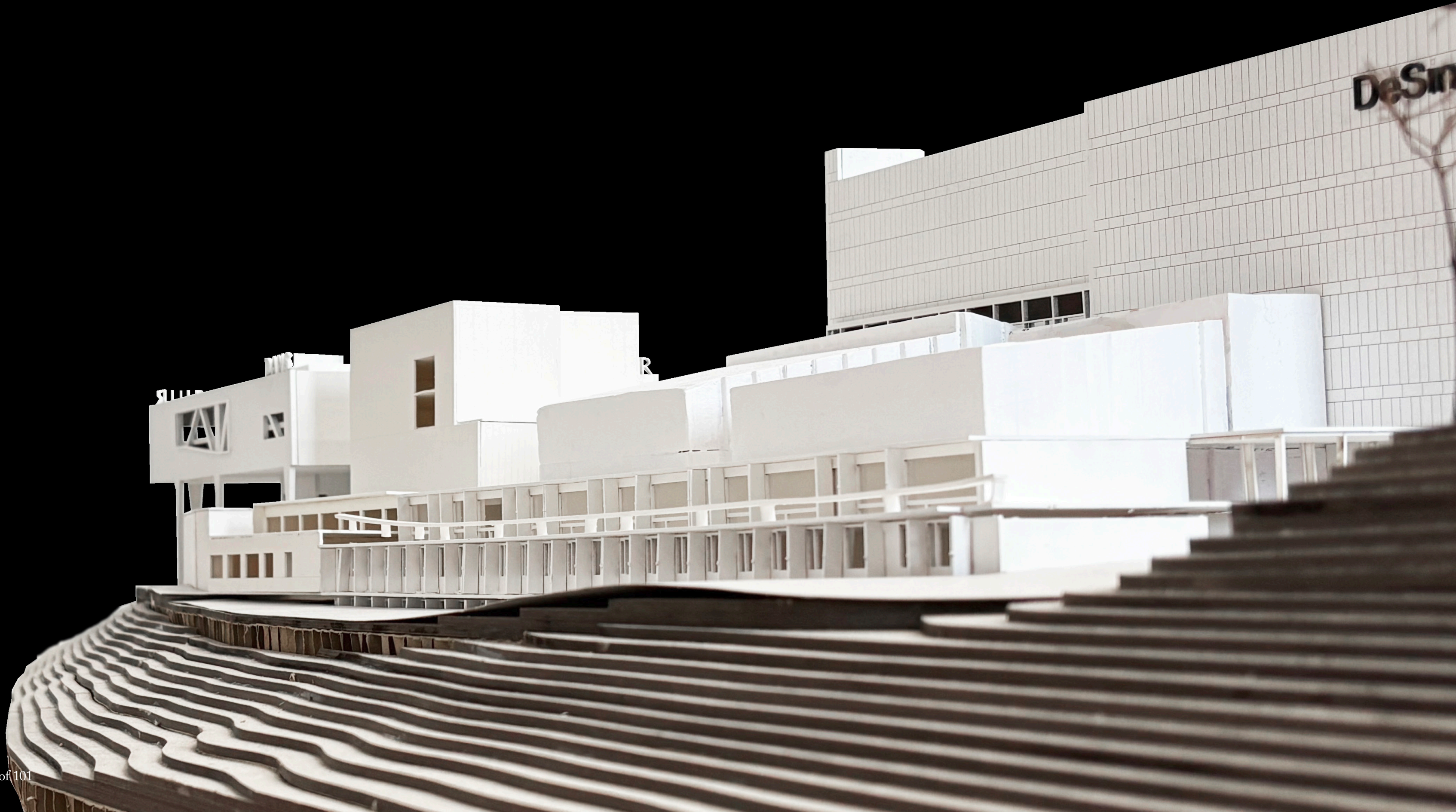


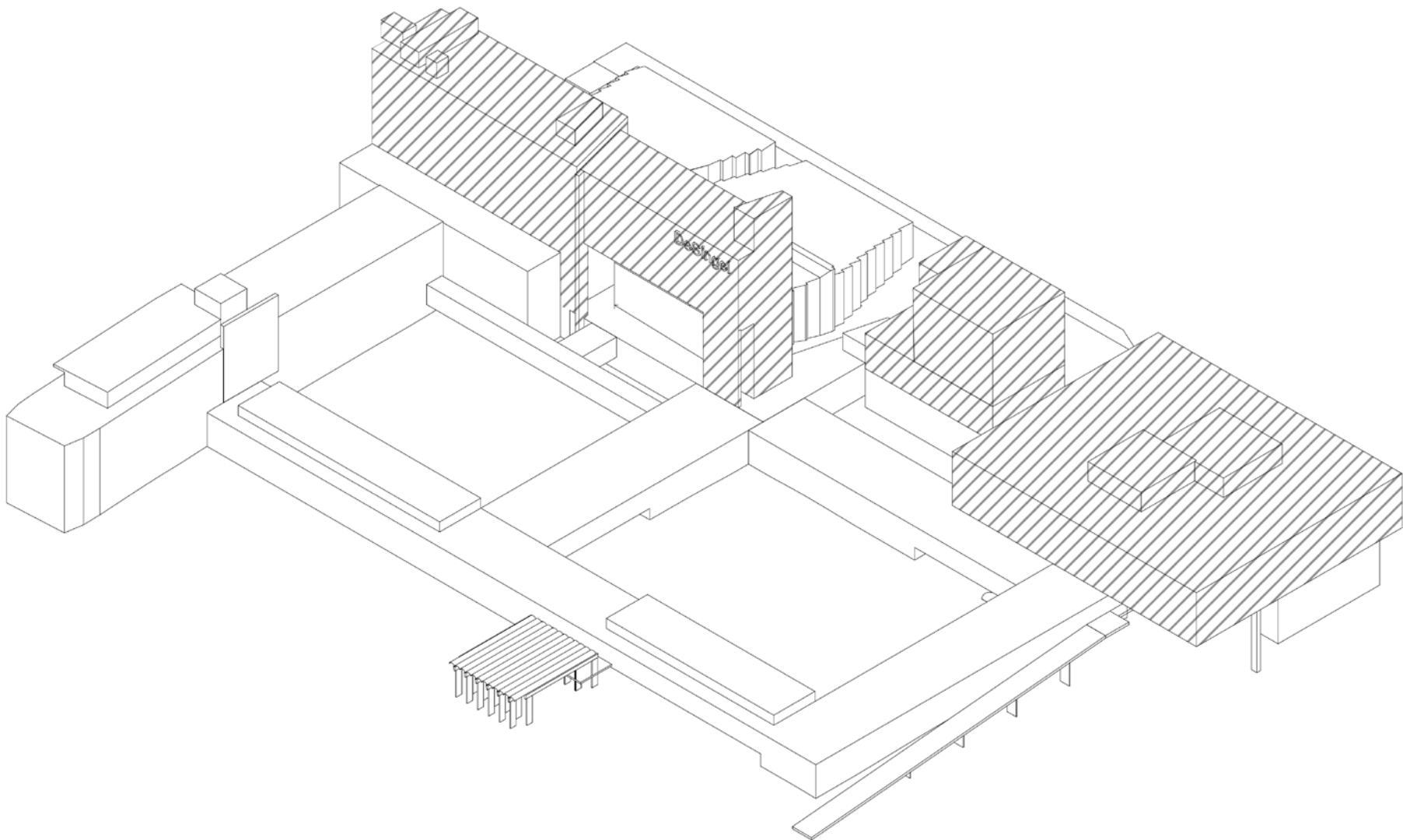
composition



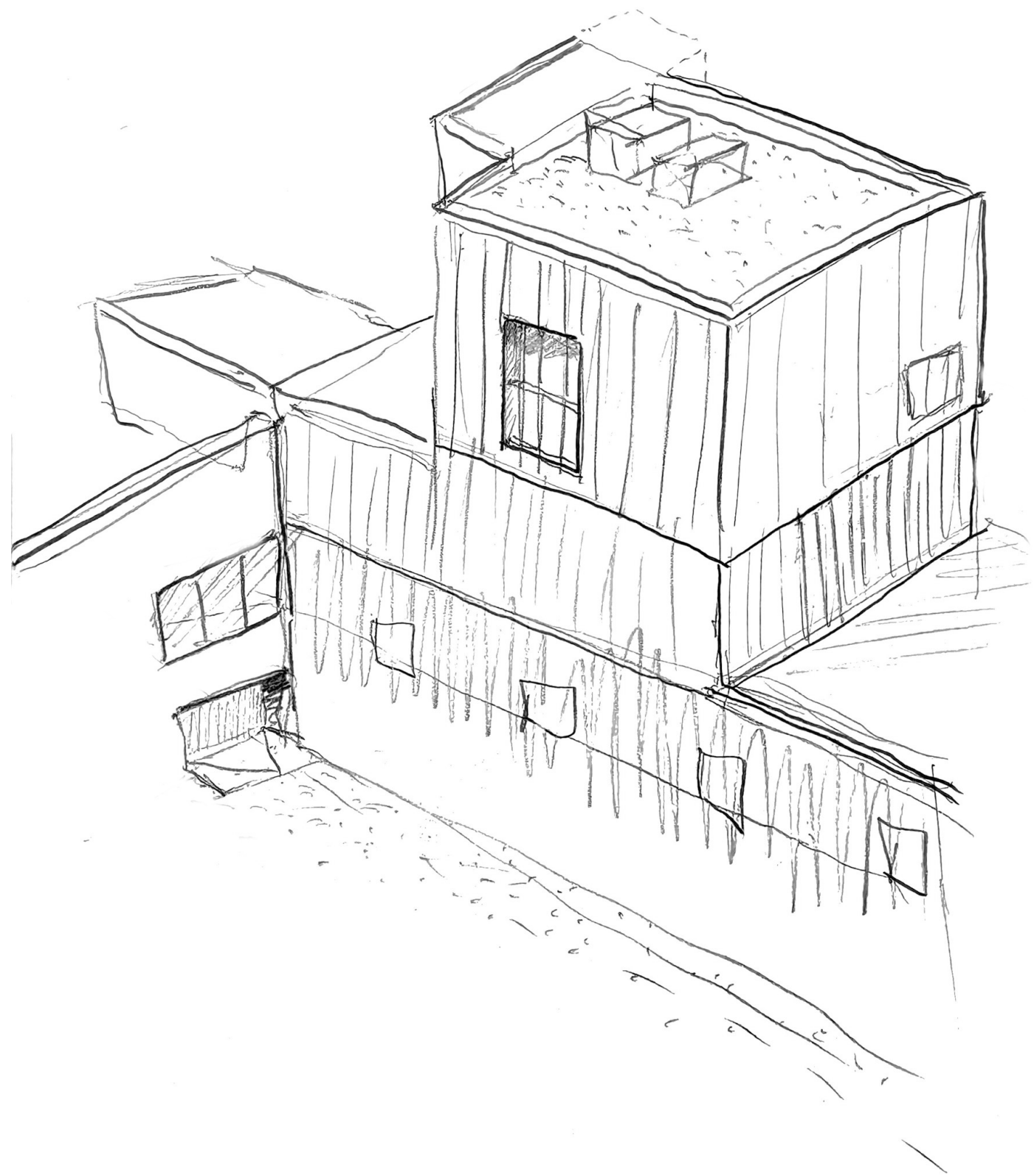


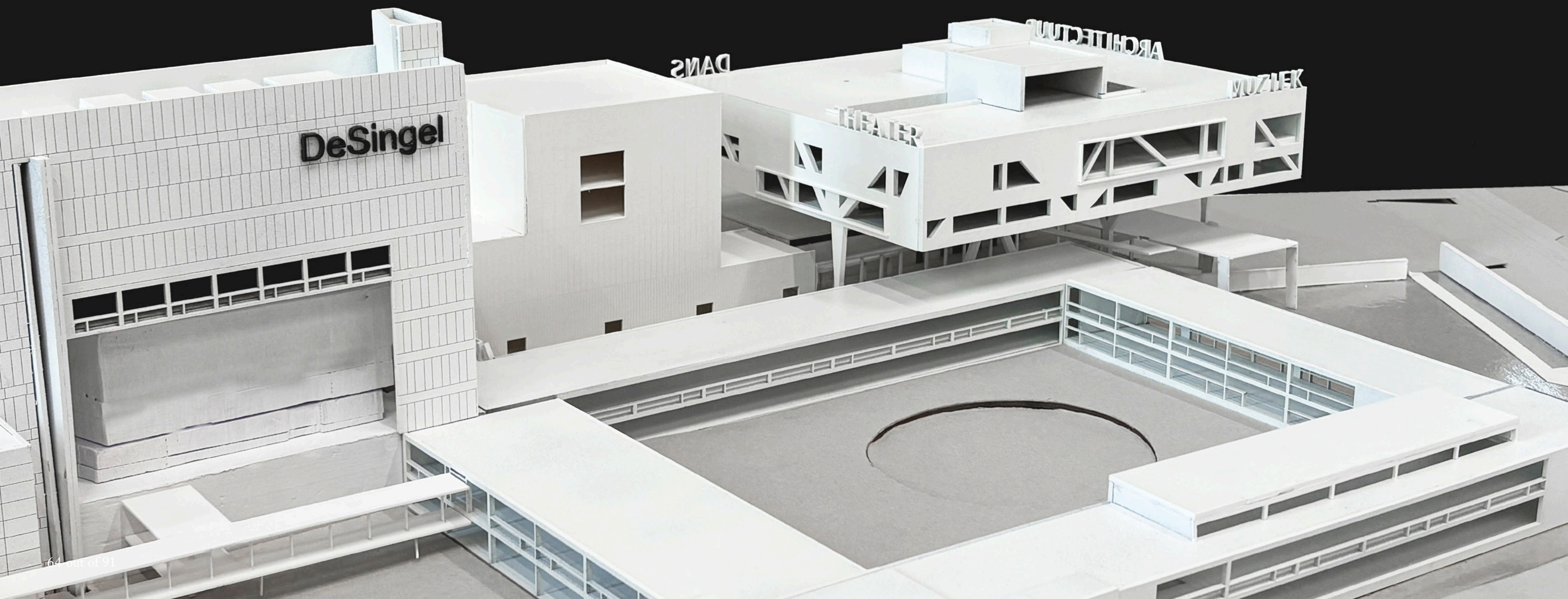


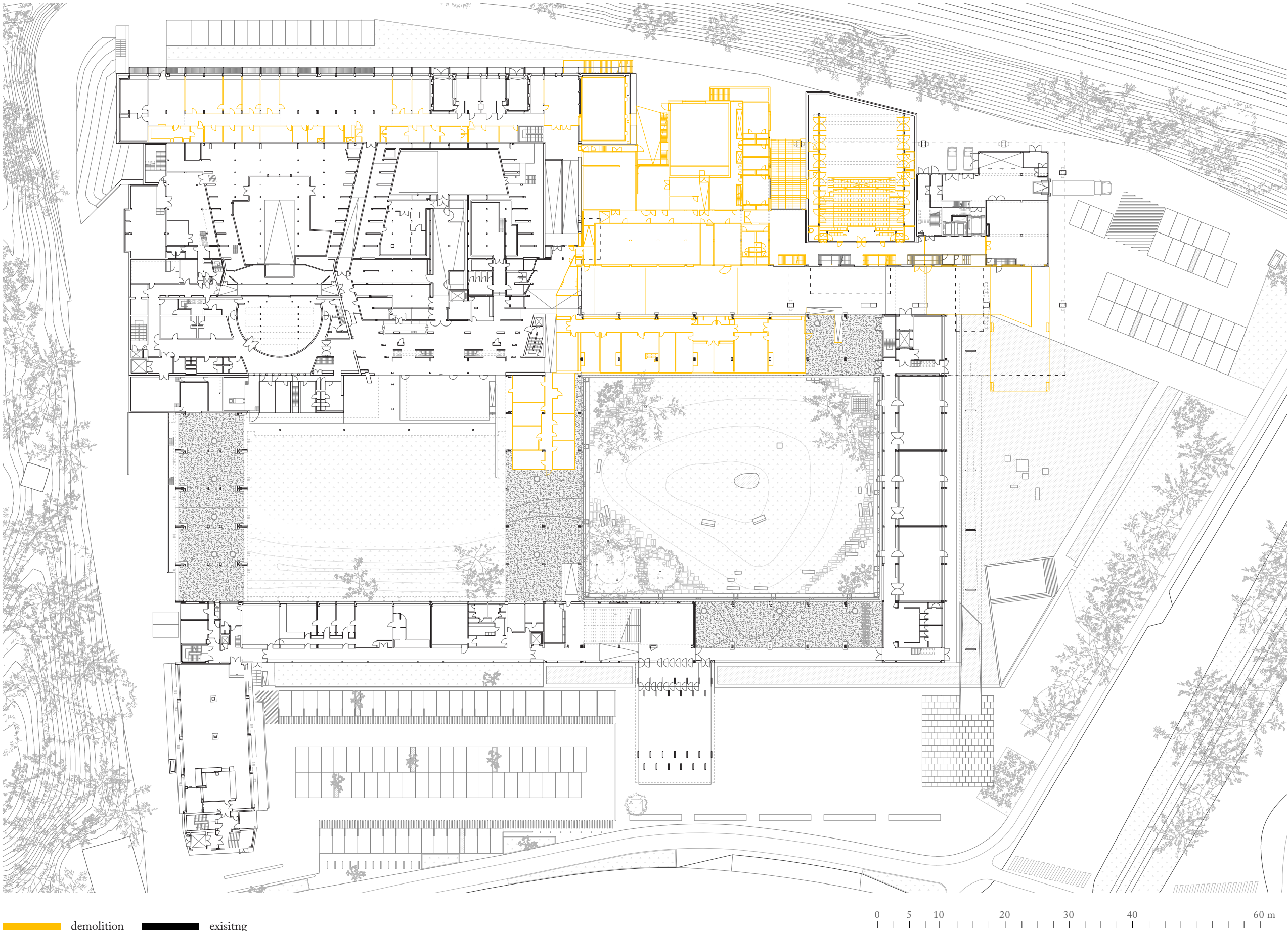


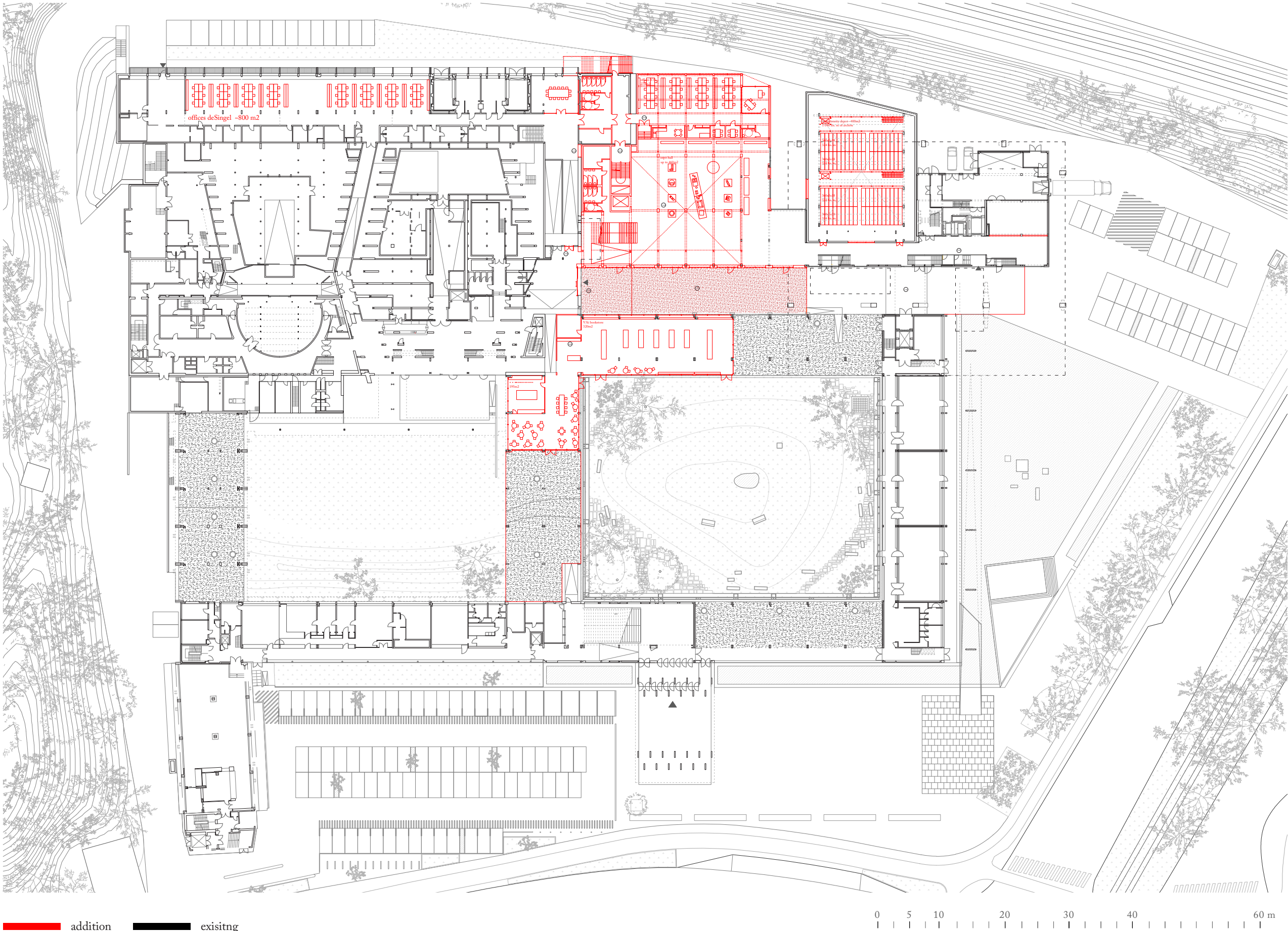


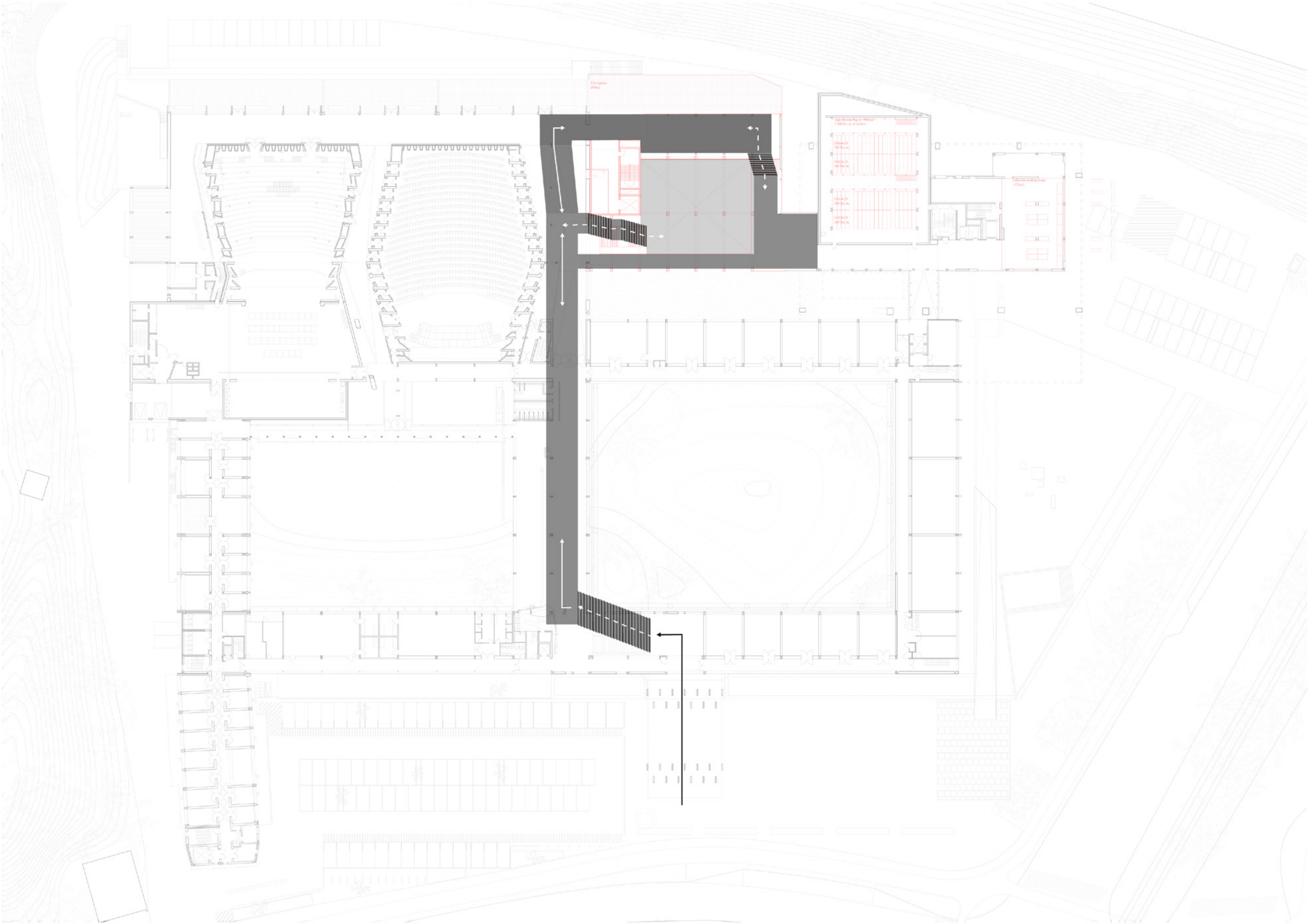






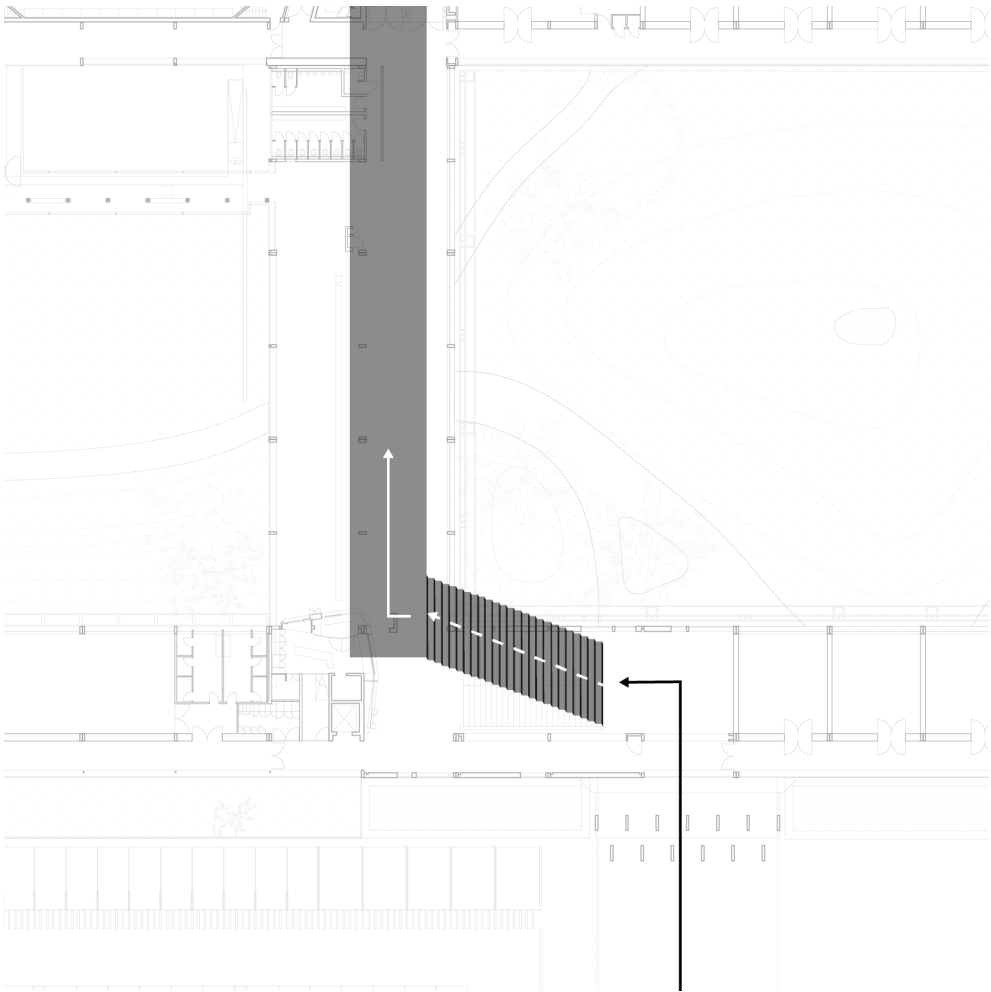




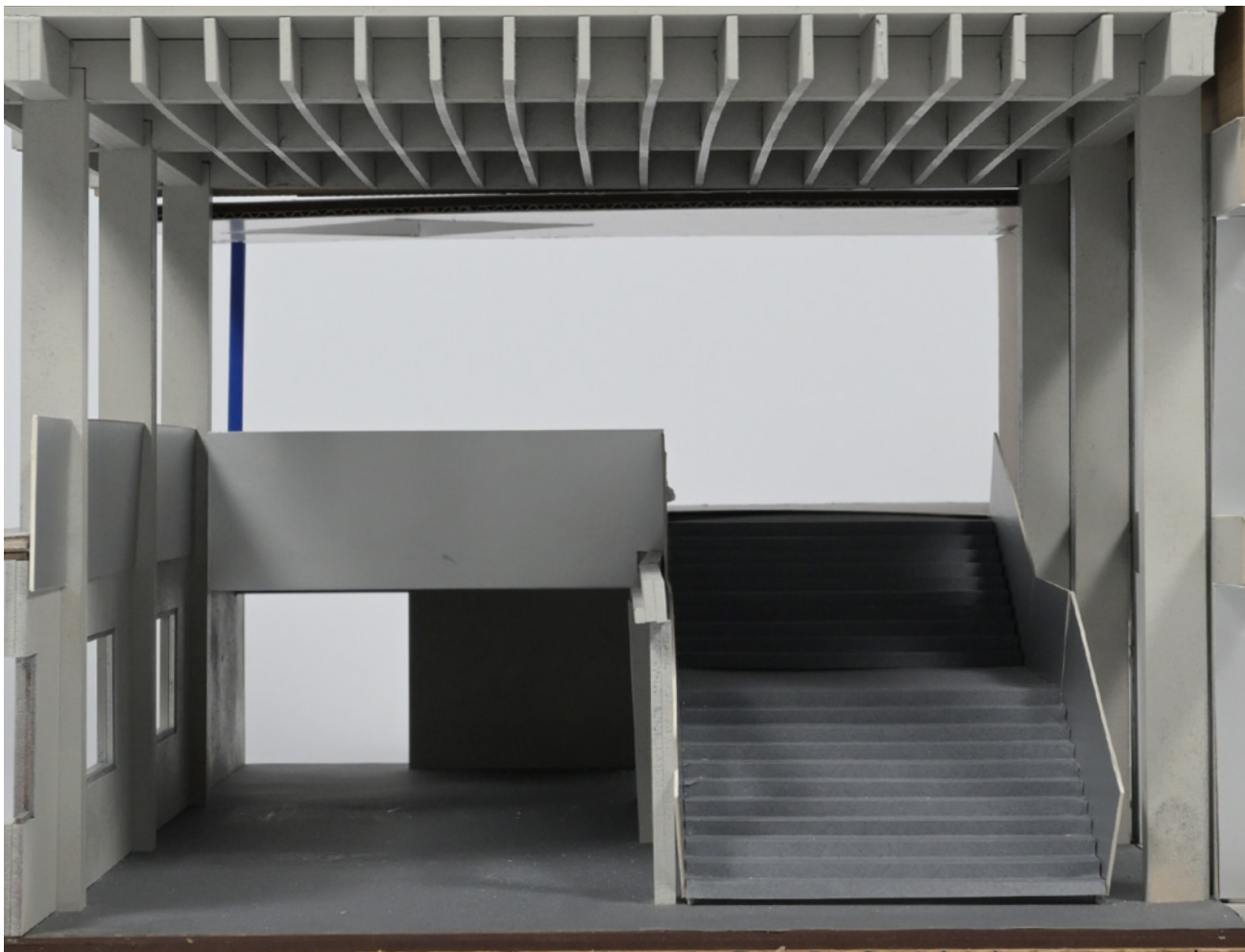
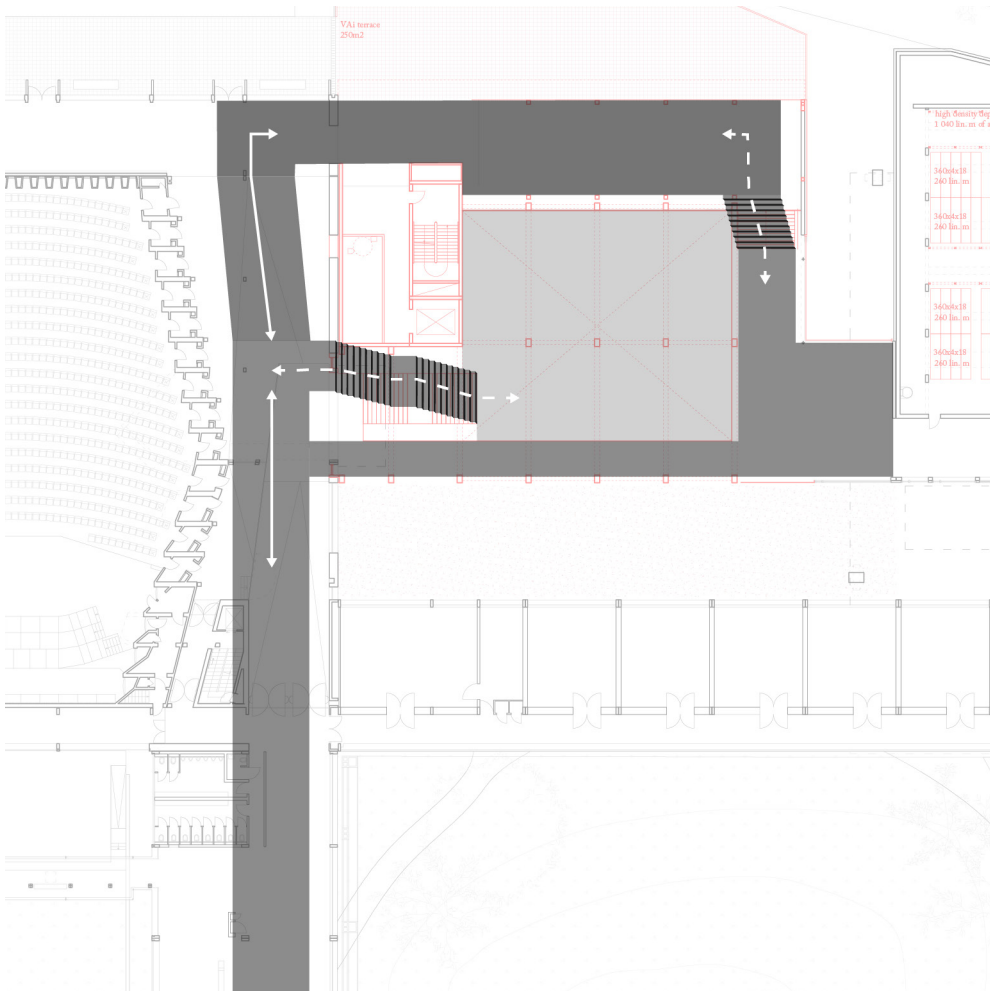




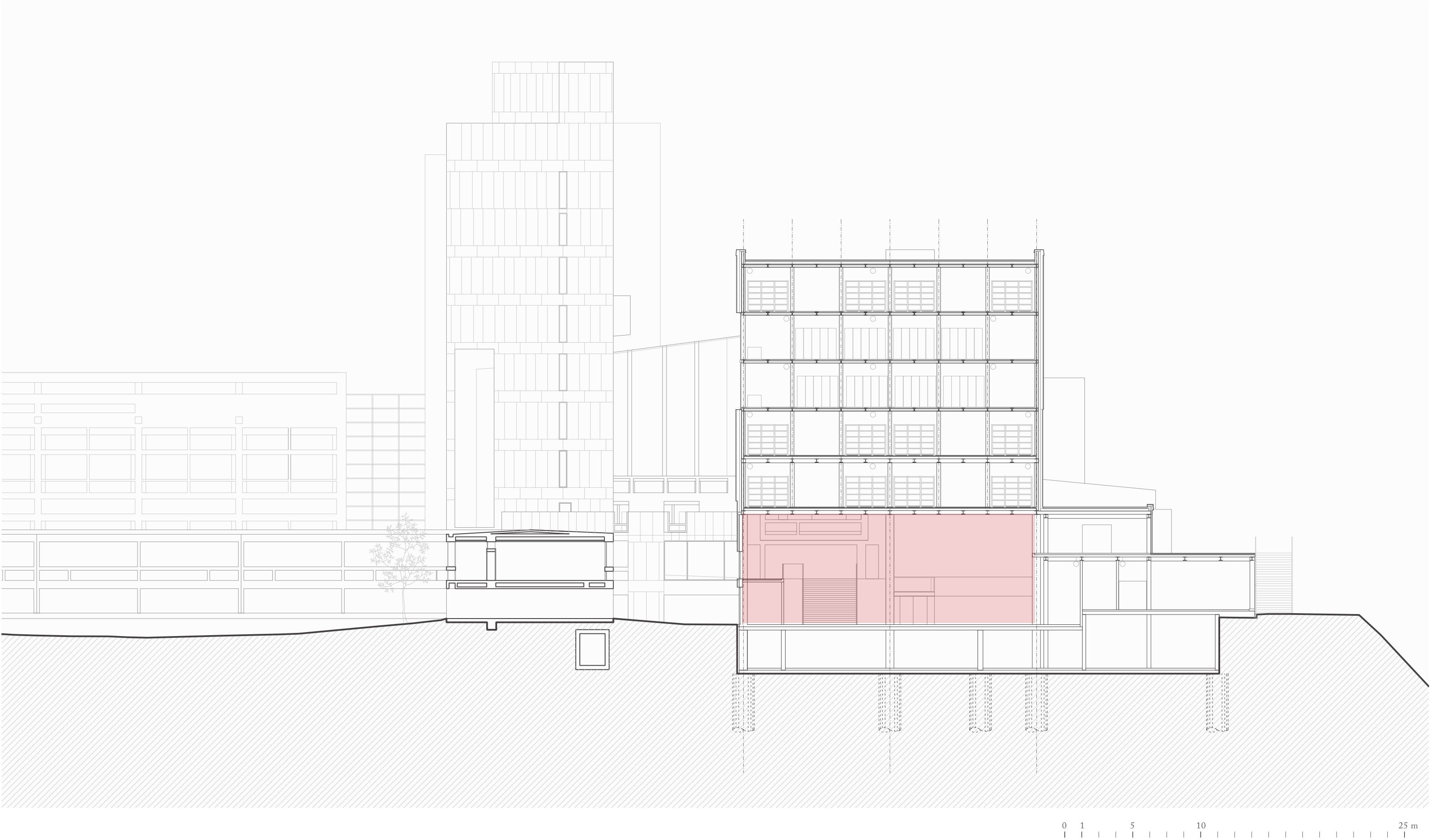
Entrance stairs by Léon Stynen

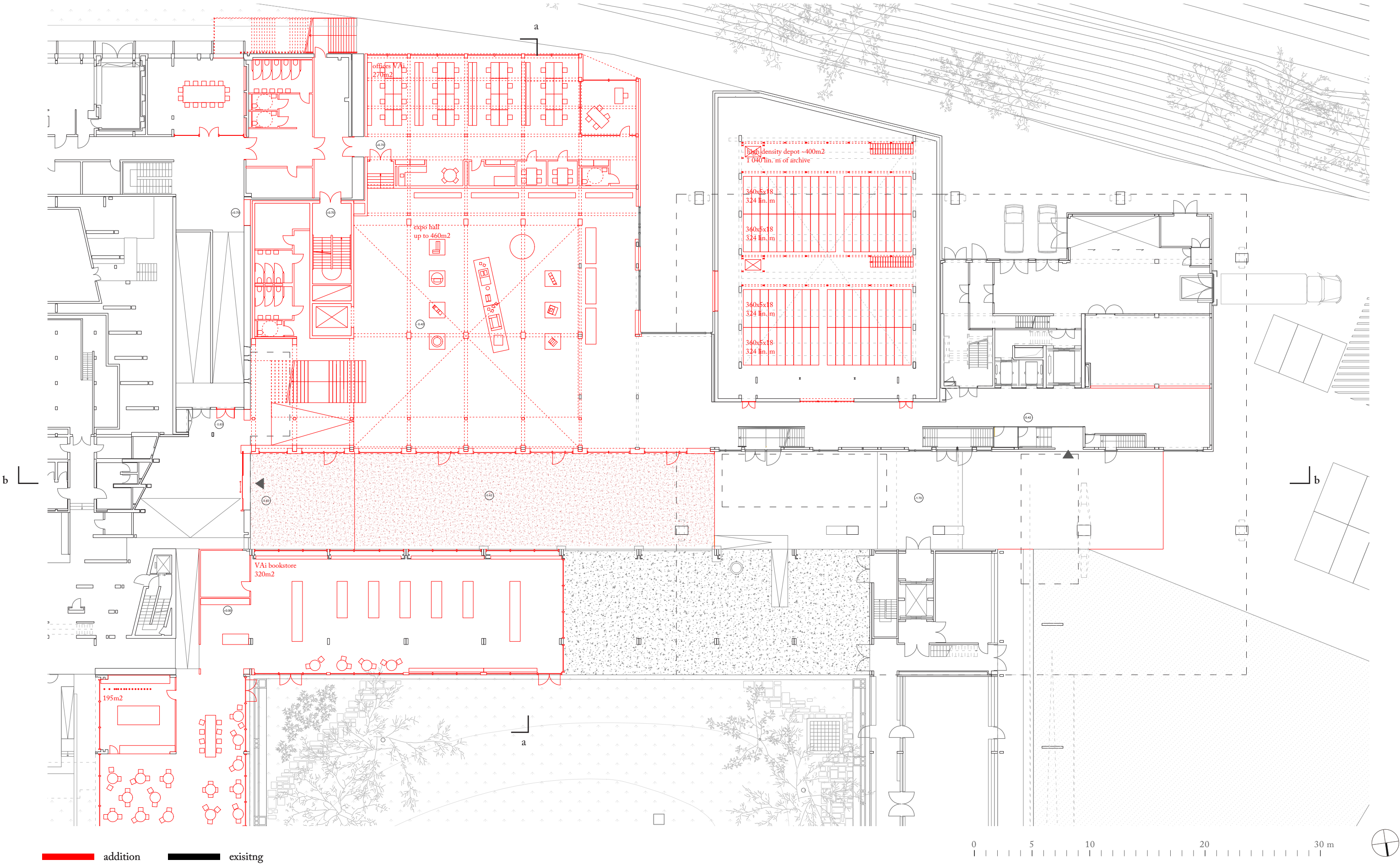


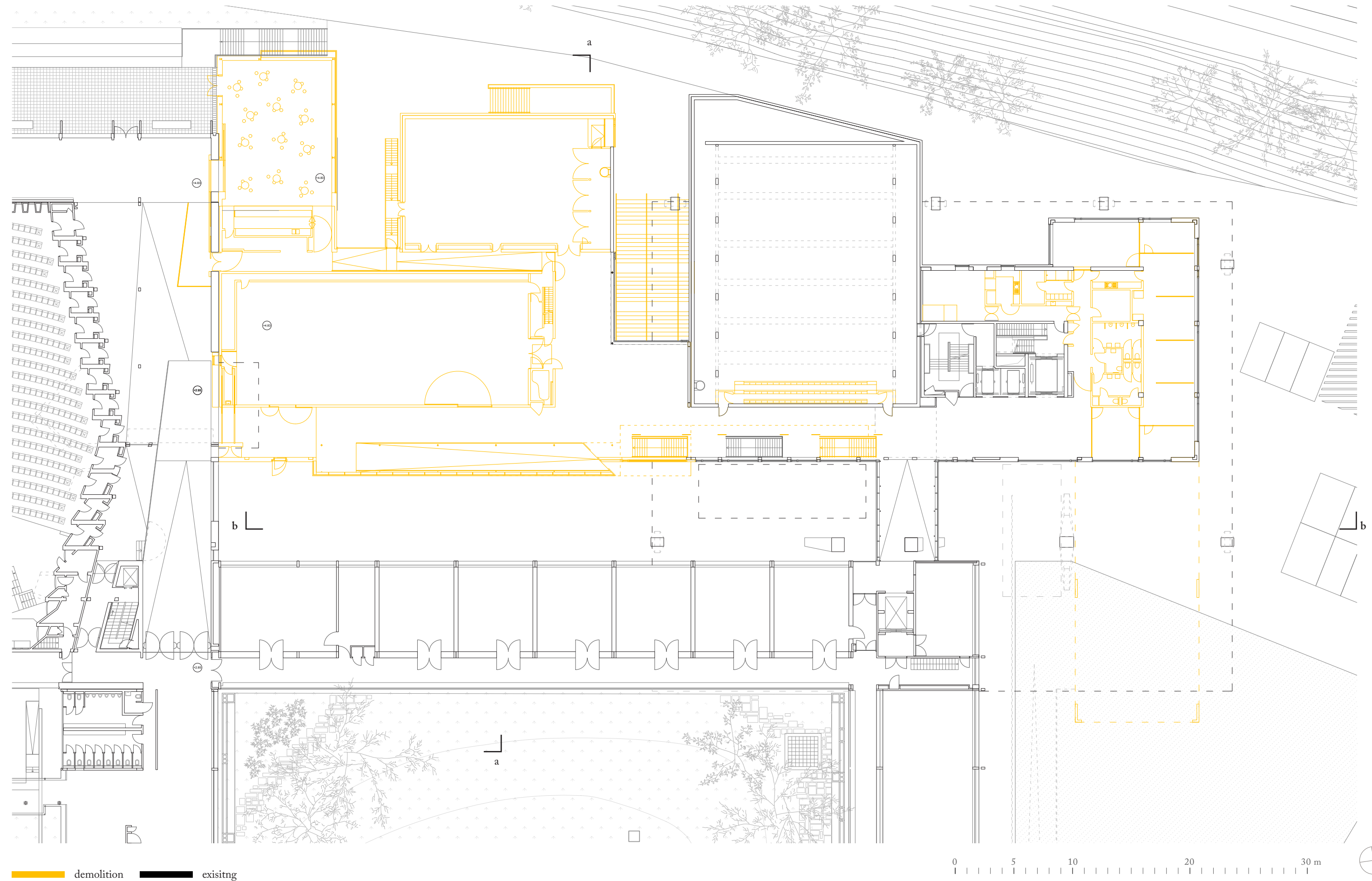
Entrance sequence | Original

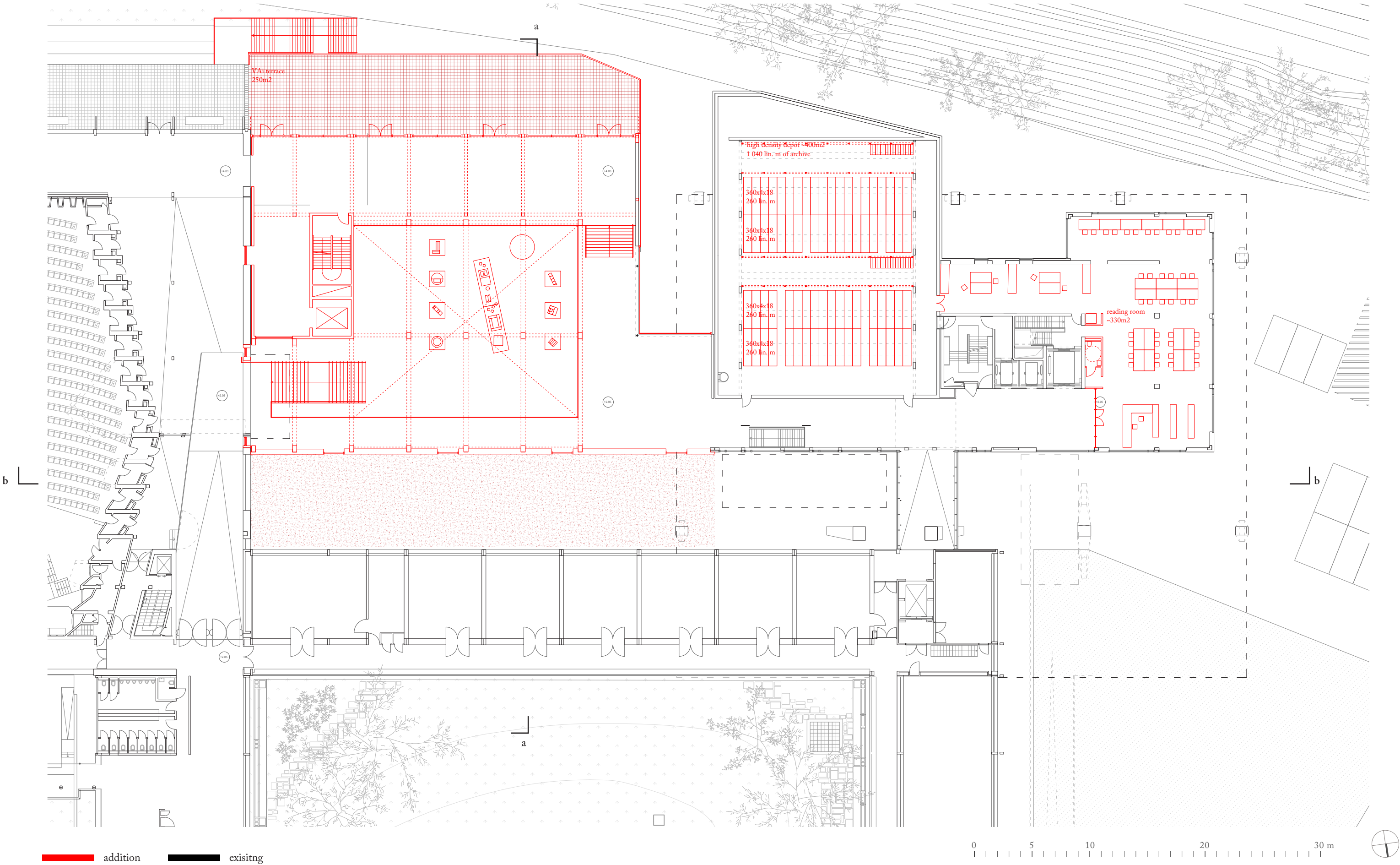


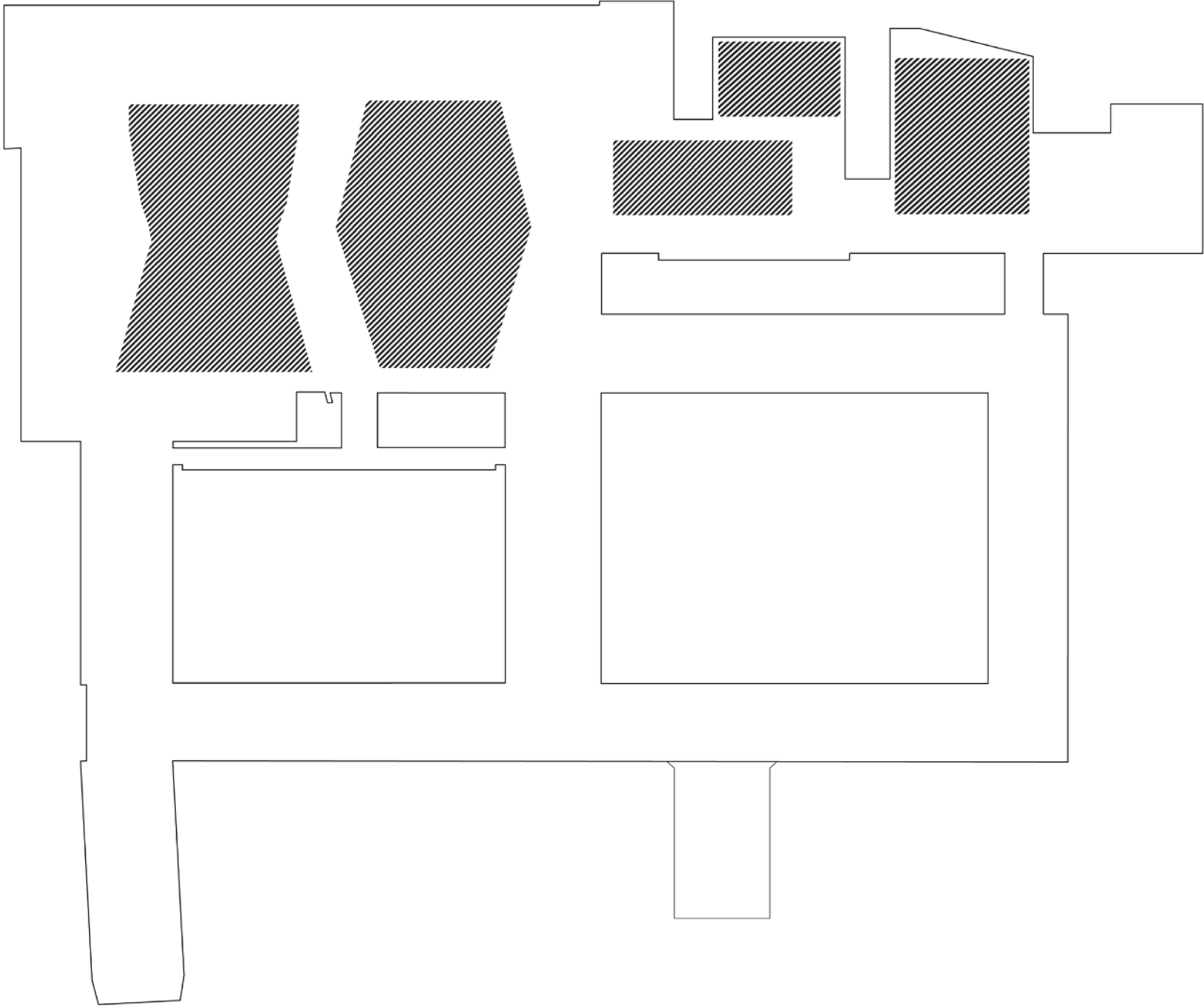
P3 | 1:33 fragment

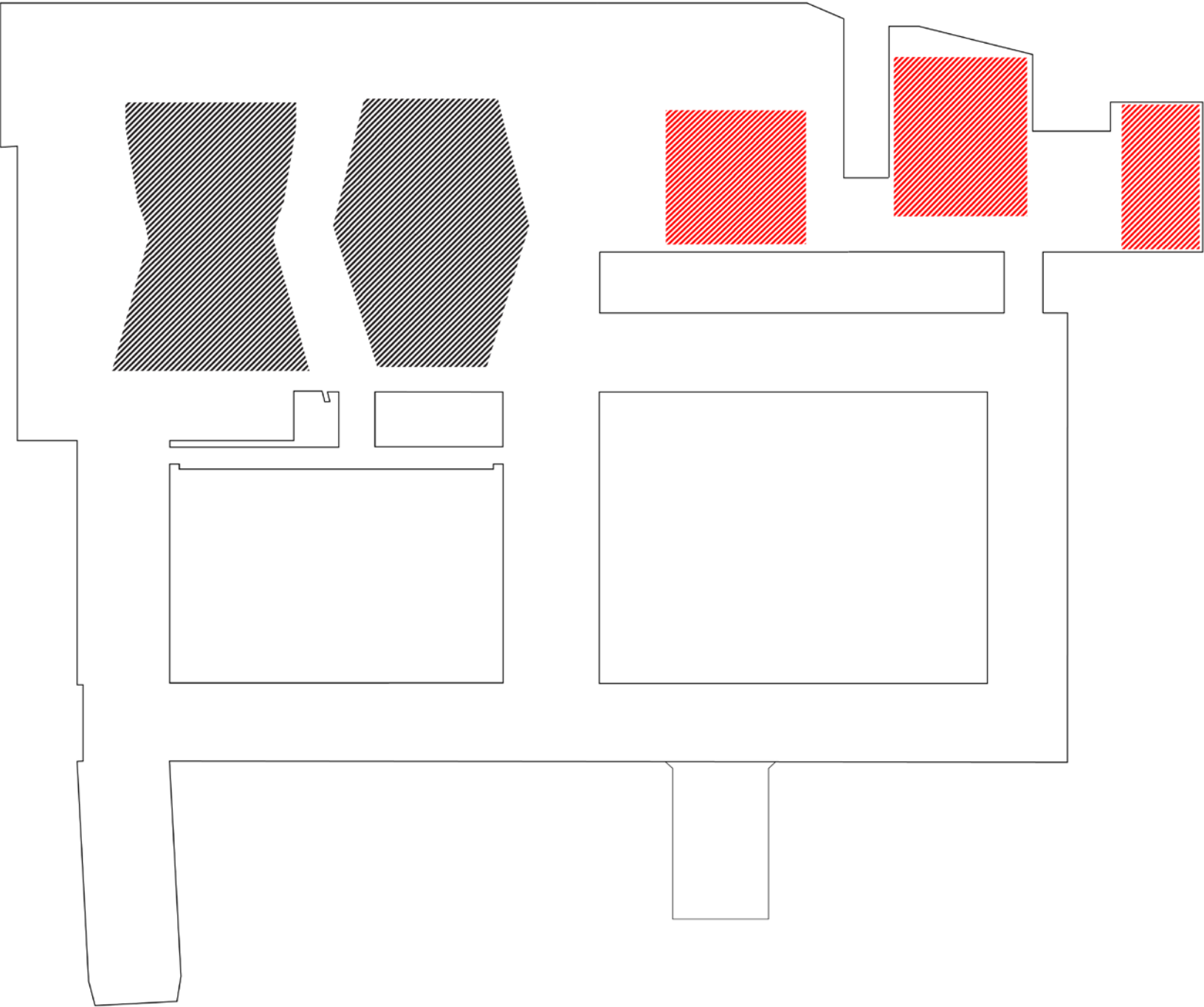


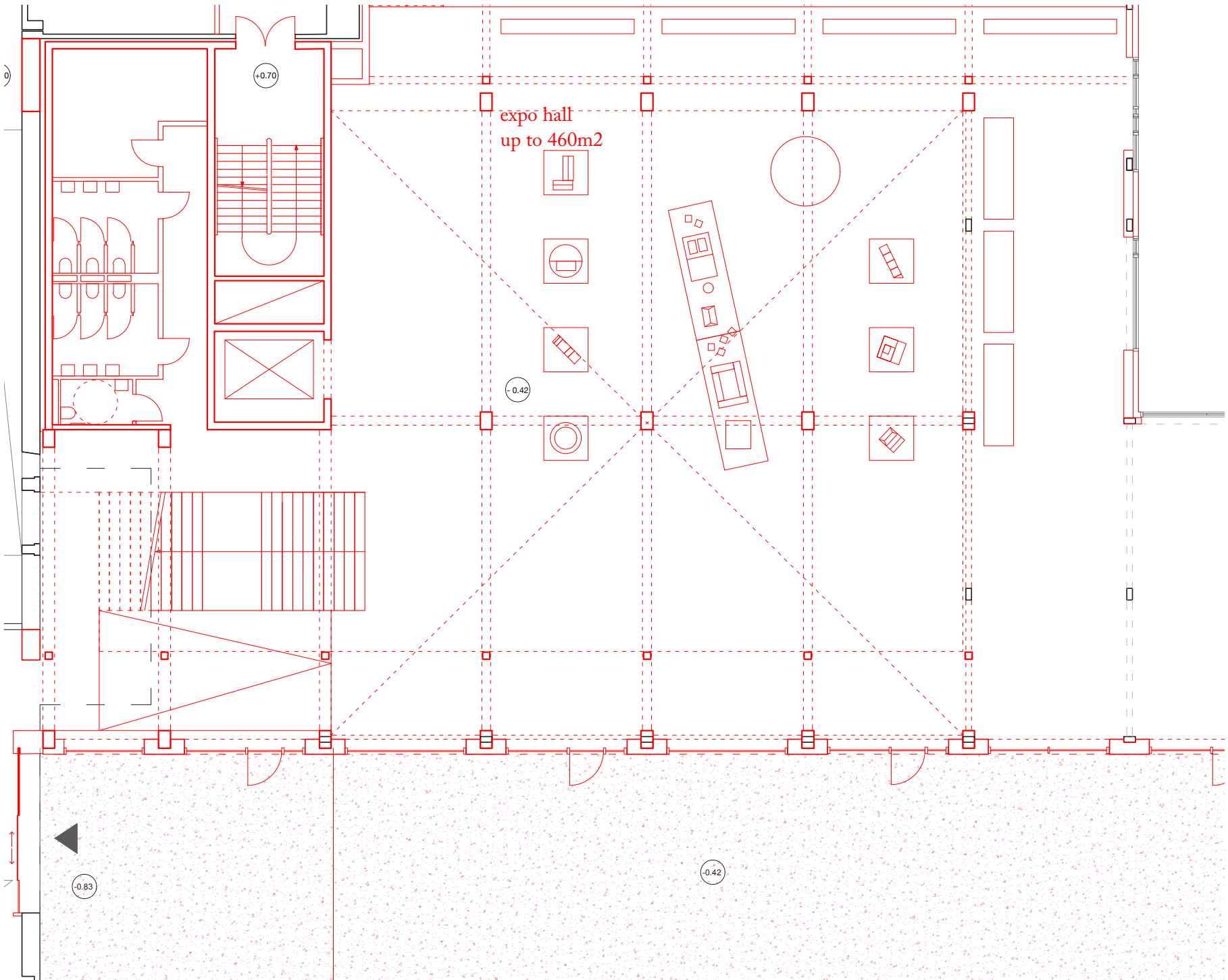














Tafel-landschap | Christian Kieckens | 1997



Seven Rooms | Office KGDVS | 2008-09



piano concerts at the entrance staircase
of deSingel | archival photograph

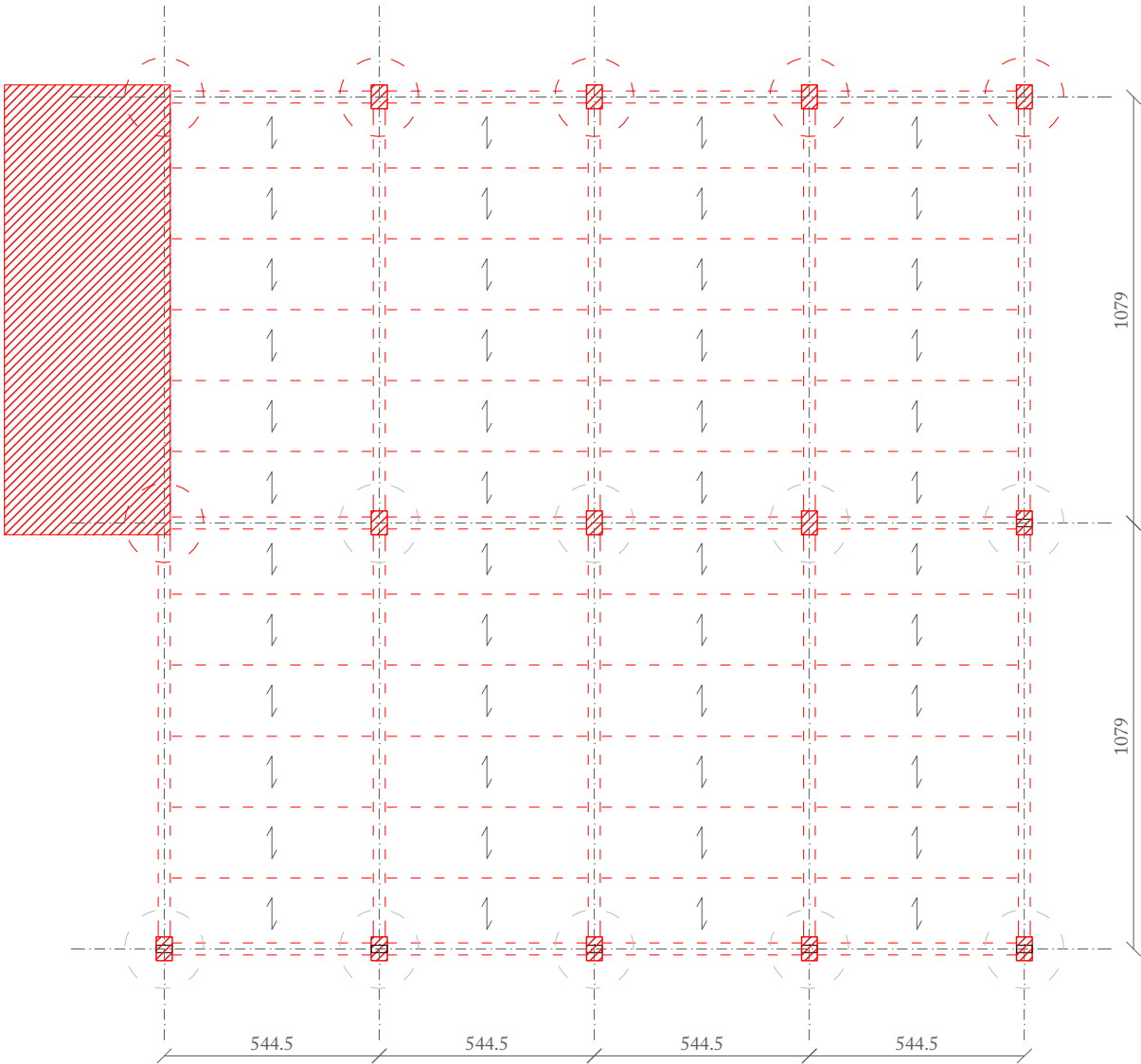


Caroussel at ETH Zurich | advvt | 2015

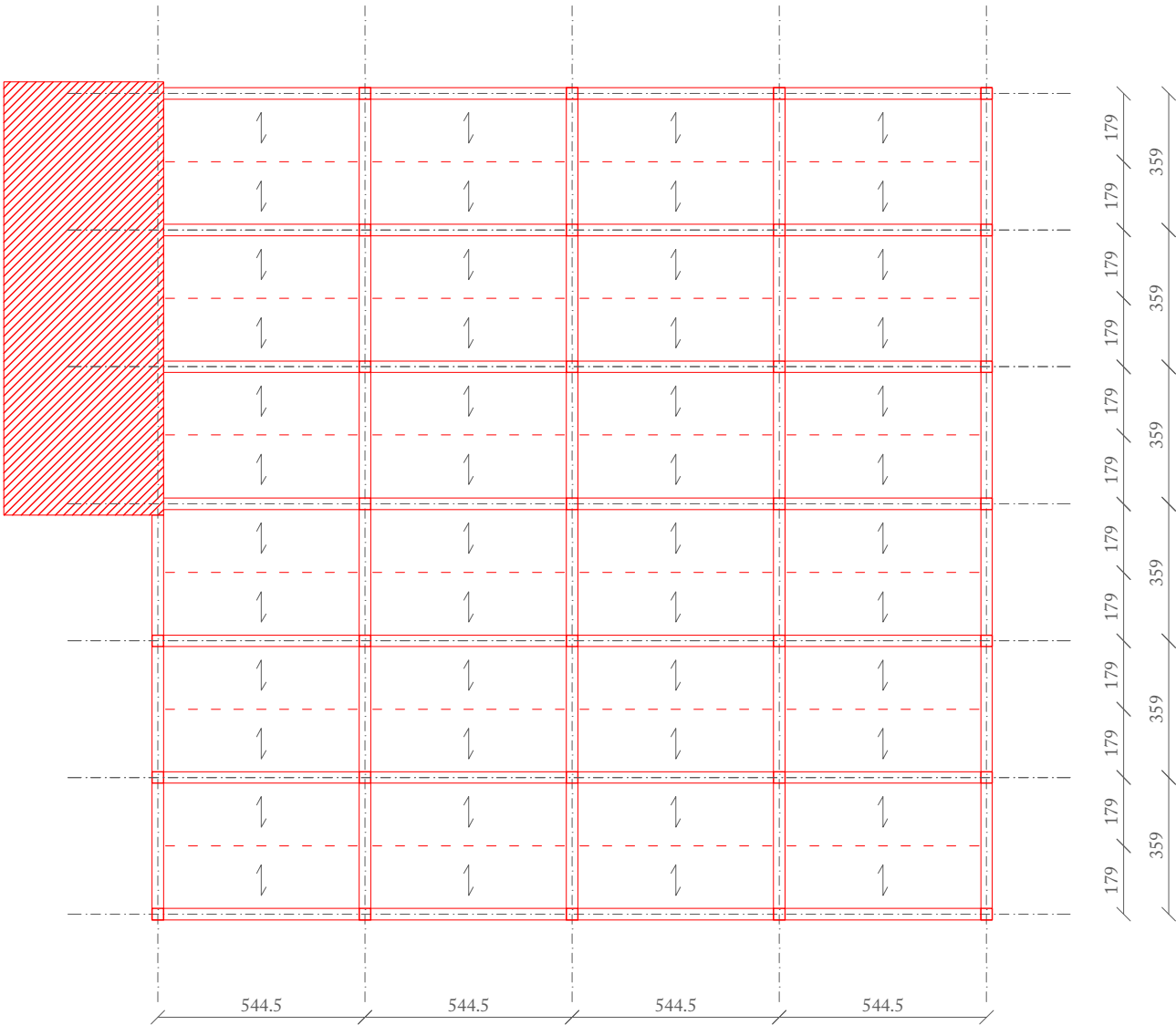


Composite Presence in Belgian Pavillon at Venice Biennale | Bovenbouw | 2021

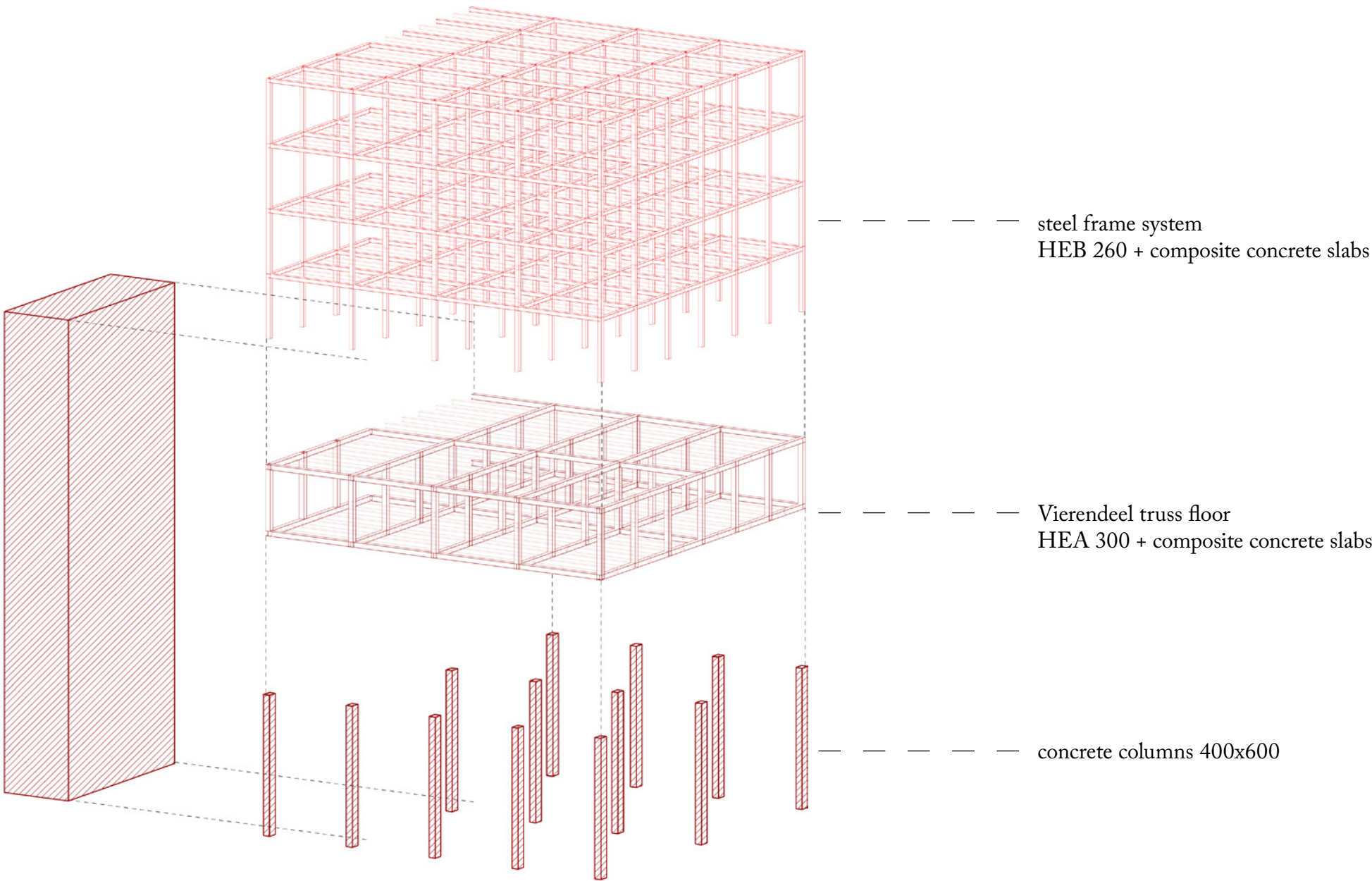


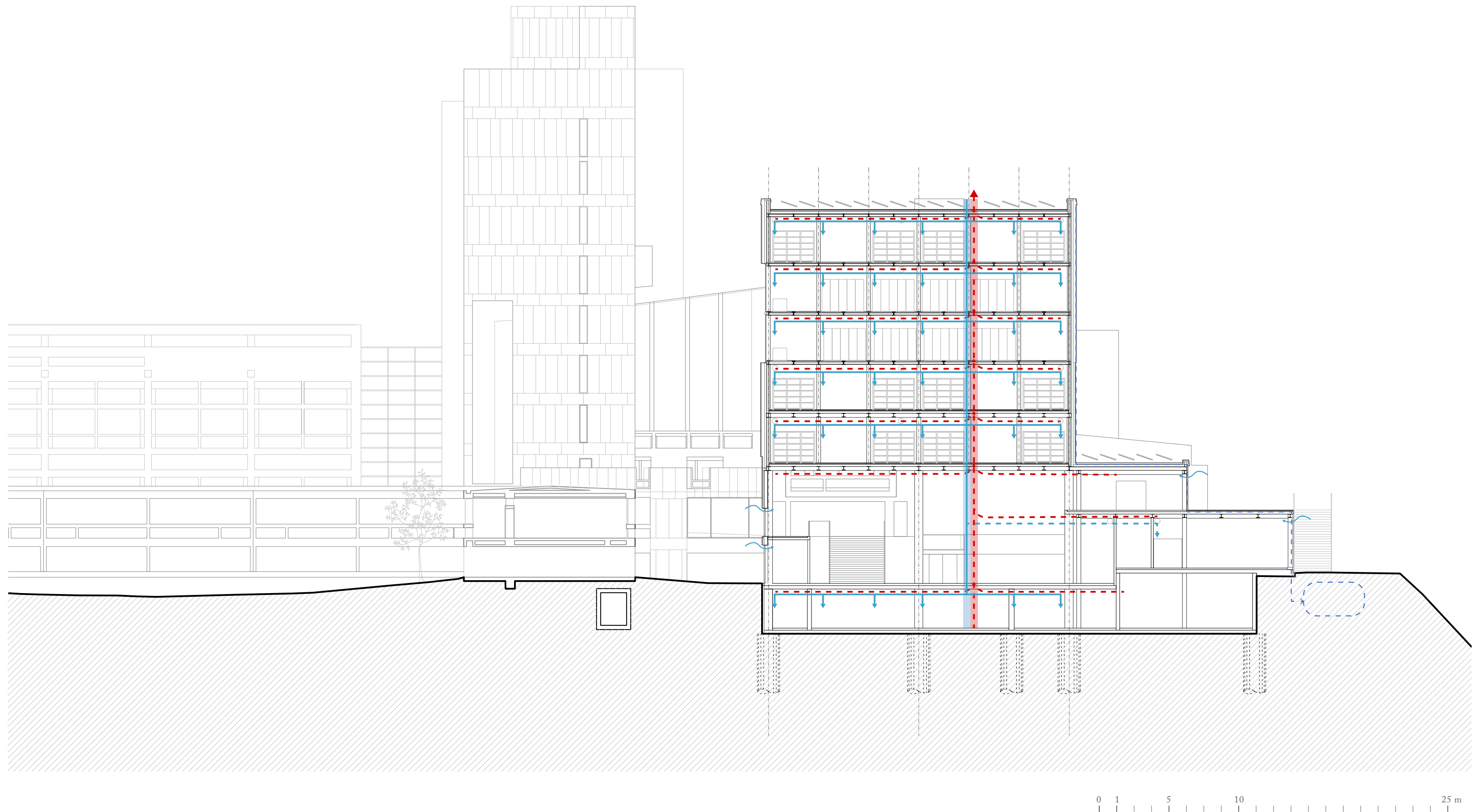


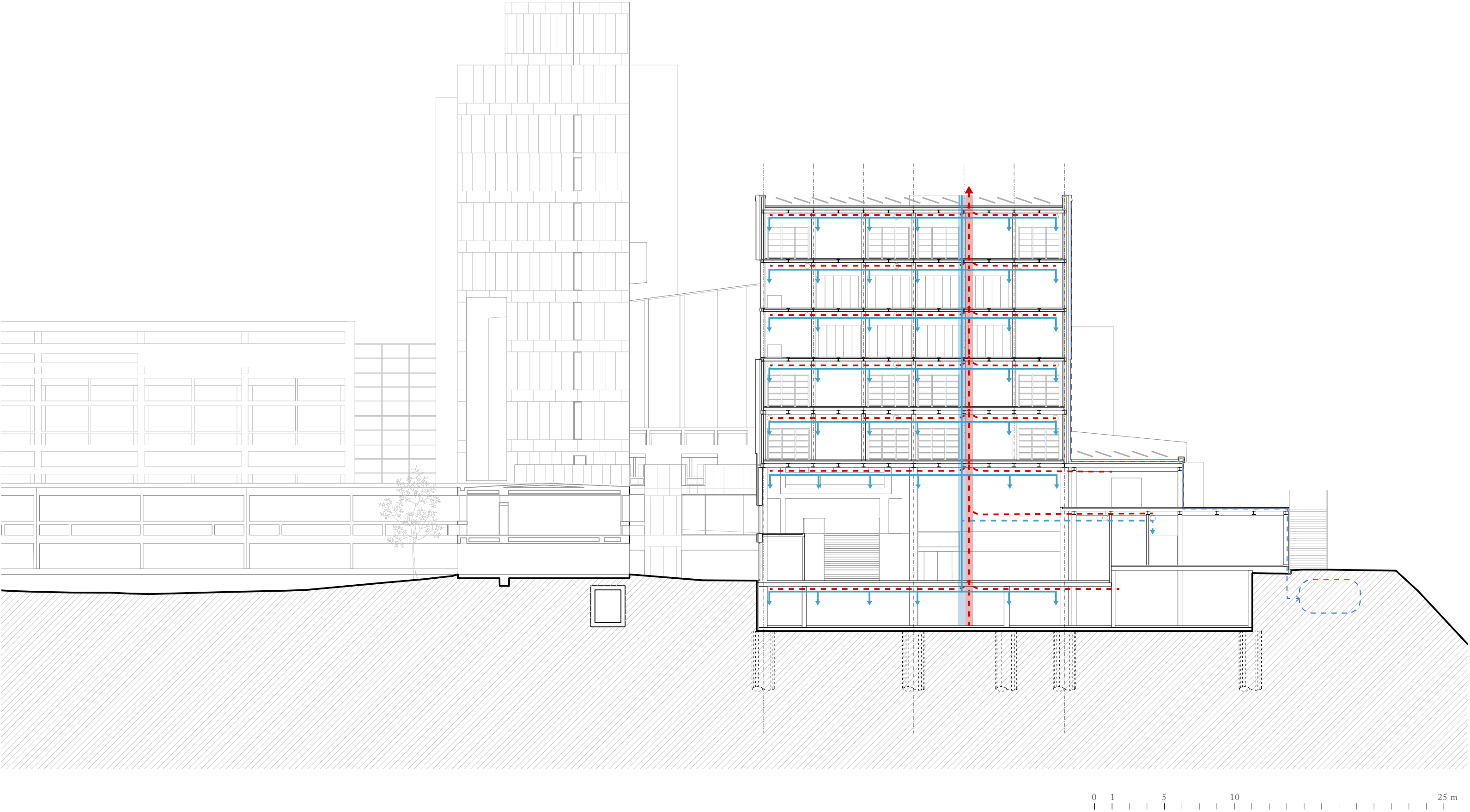
Concrete columns on new foundations

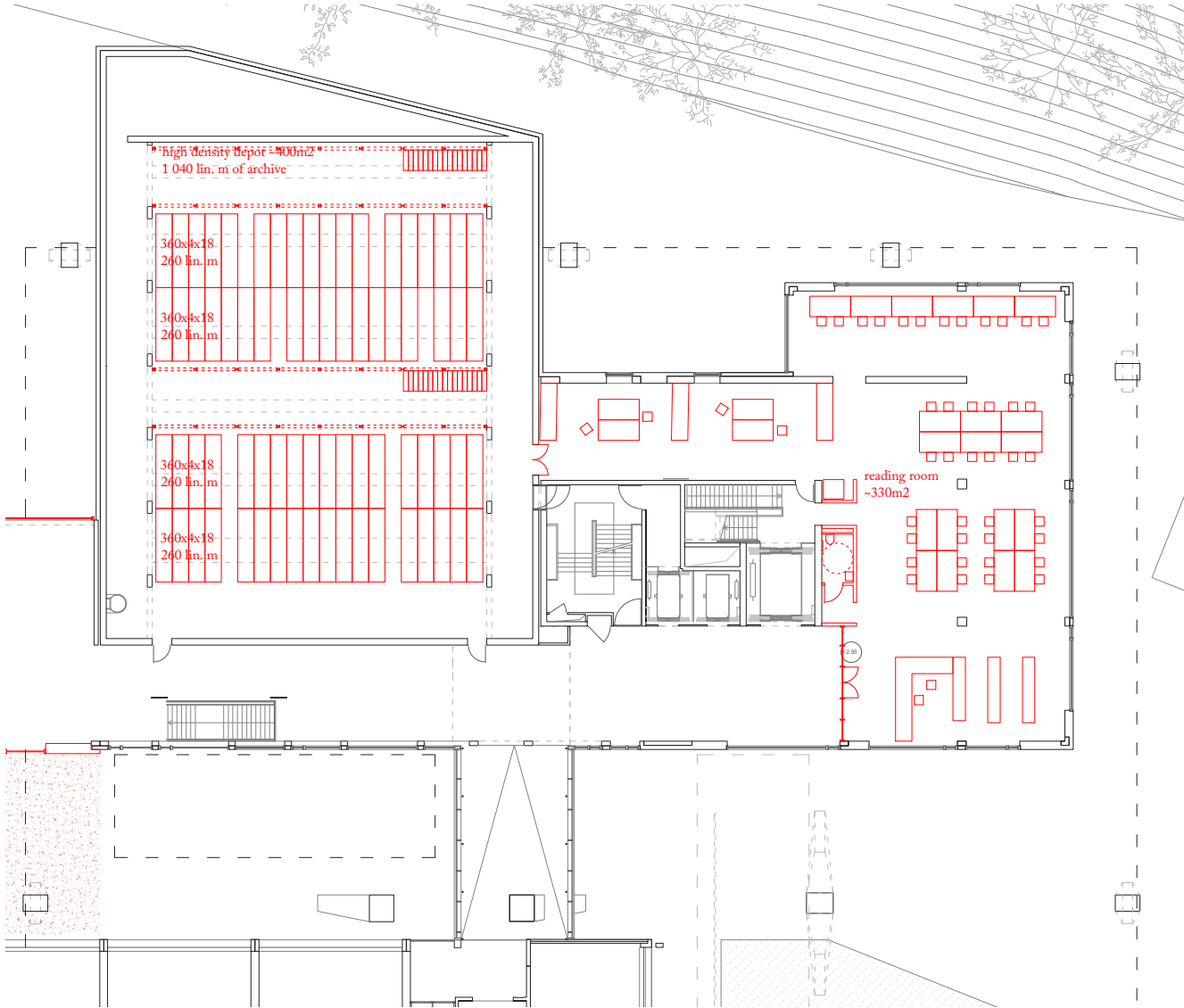


New structural grid in steel systems

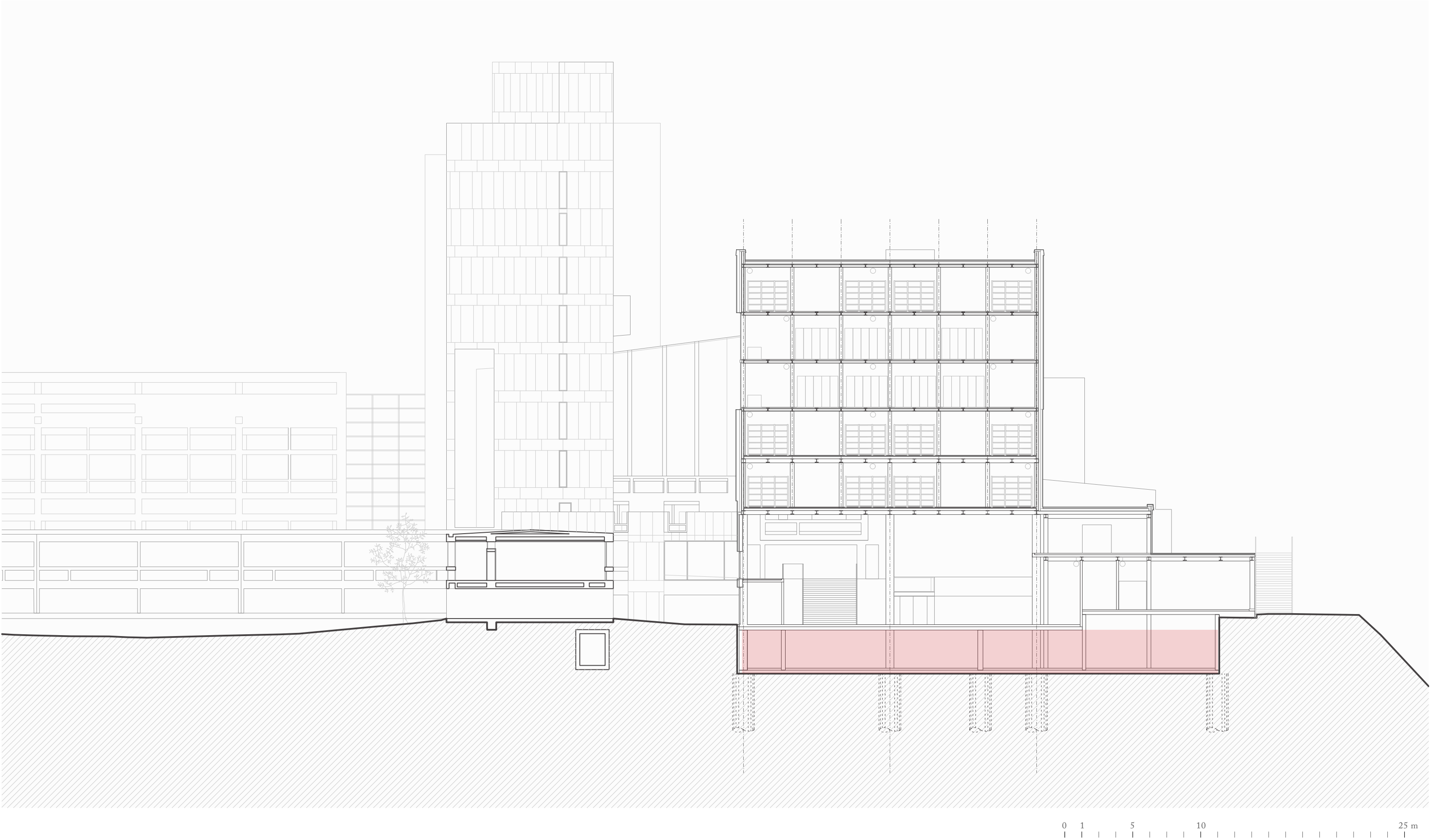


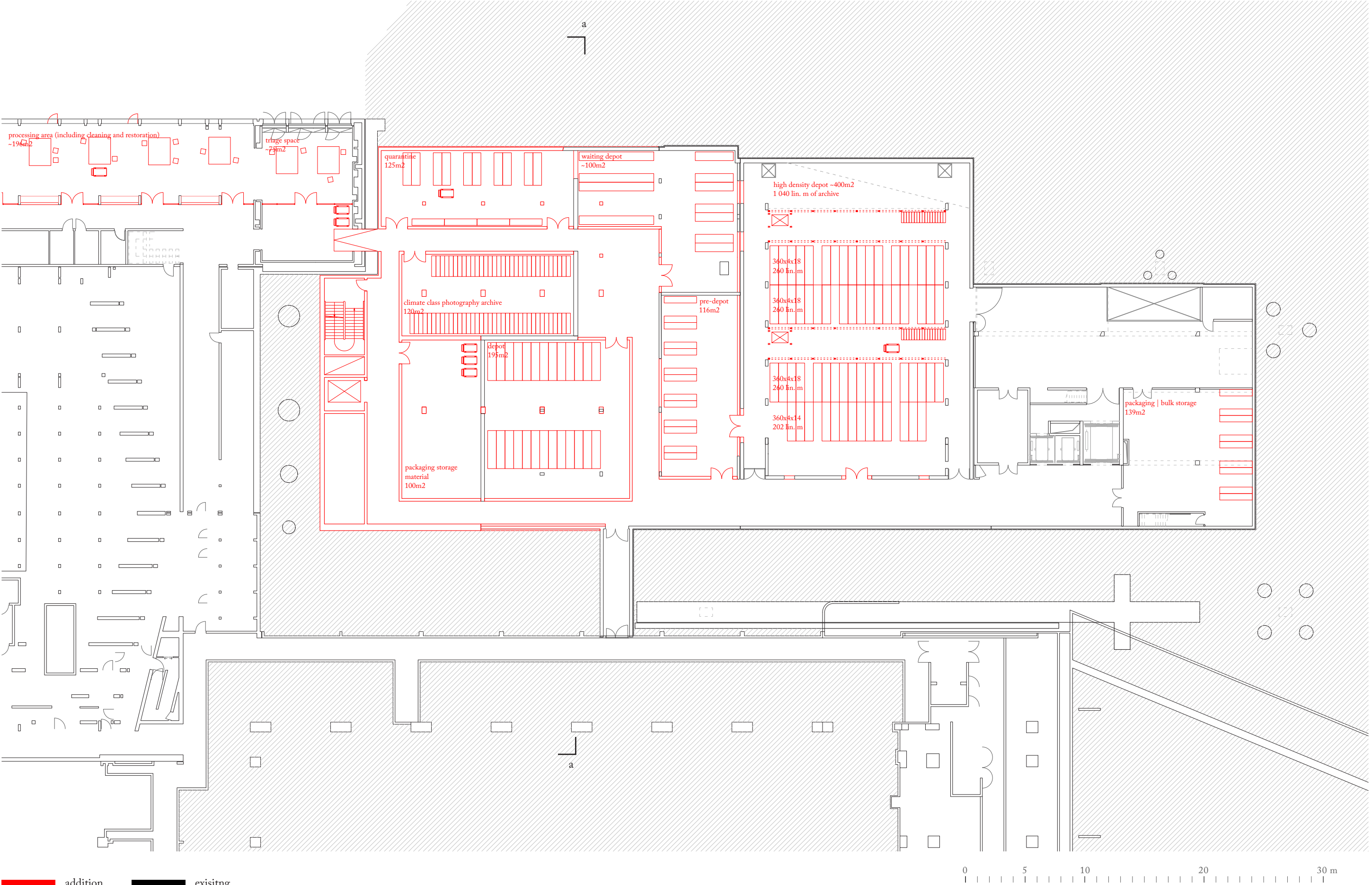


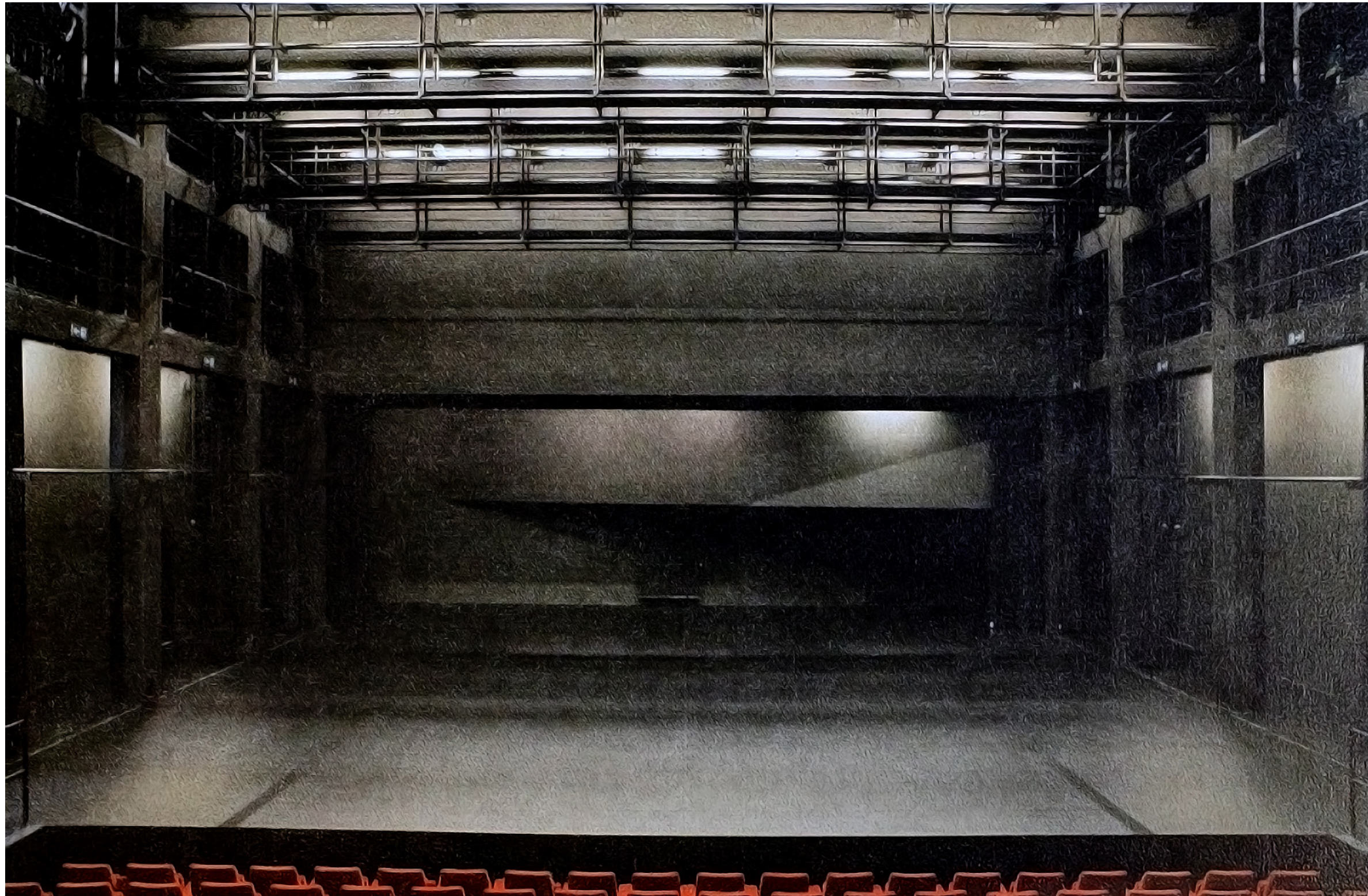


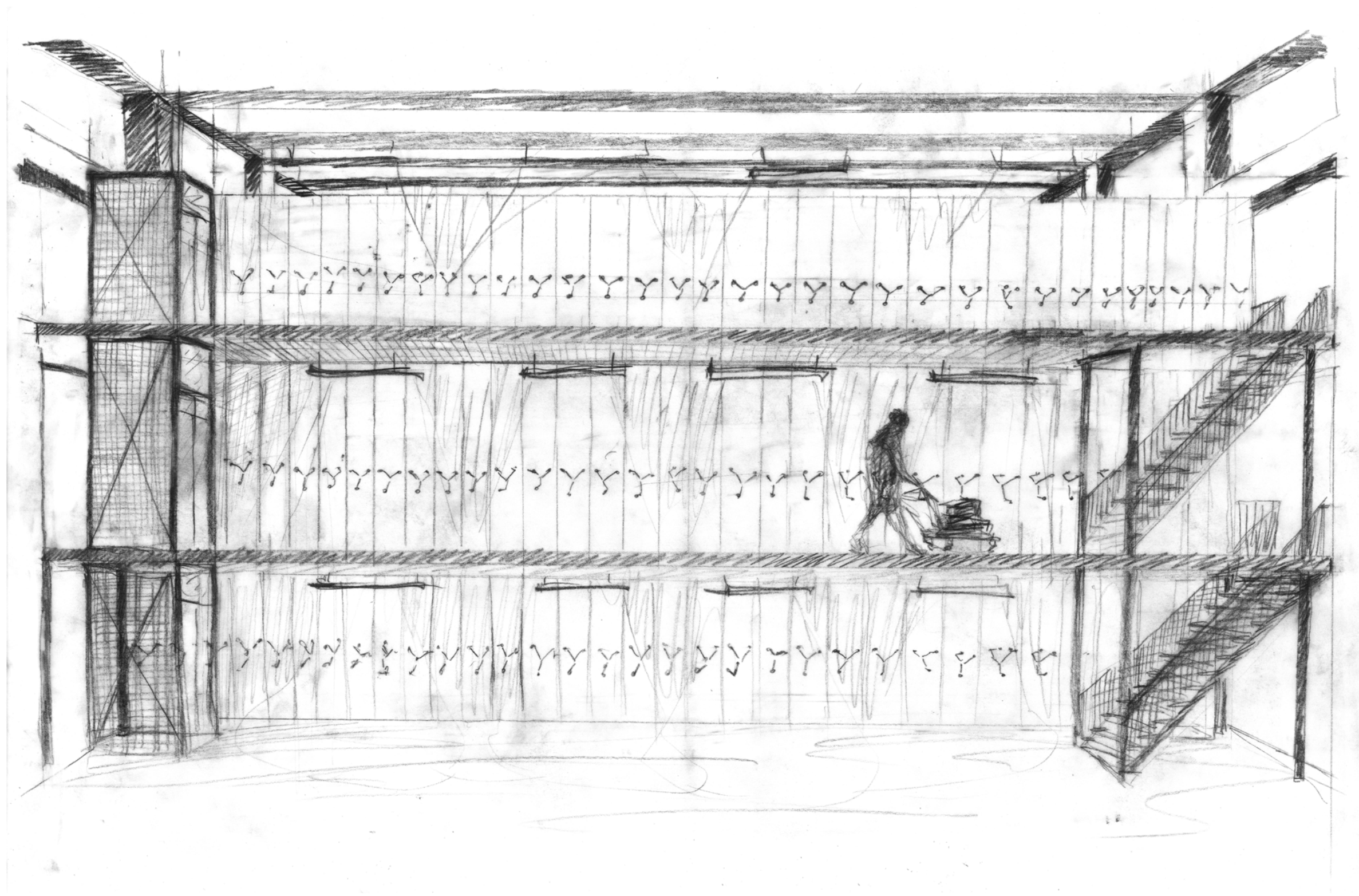


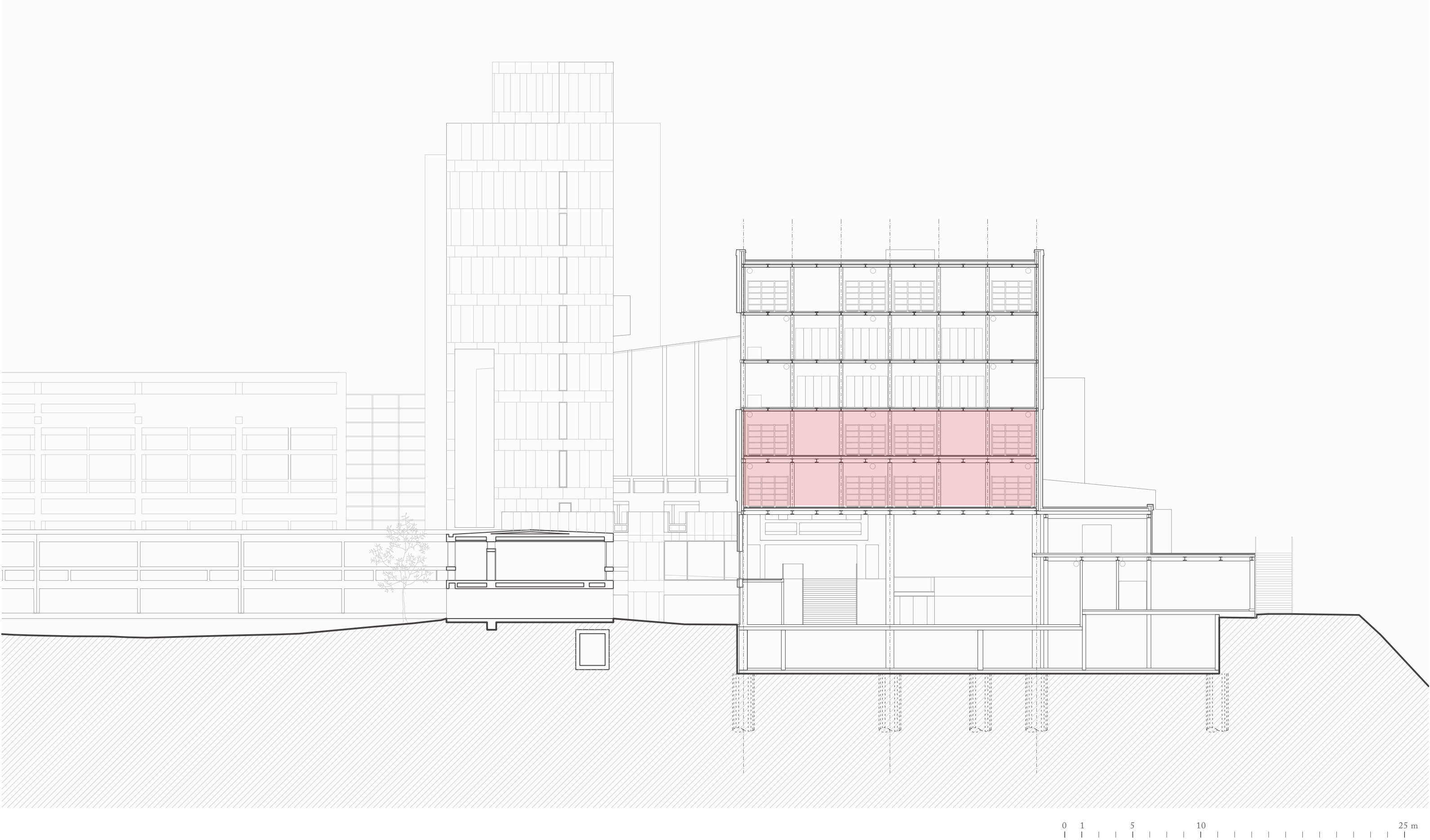
P1 | *Room in-between*

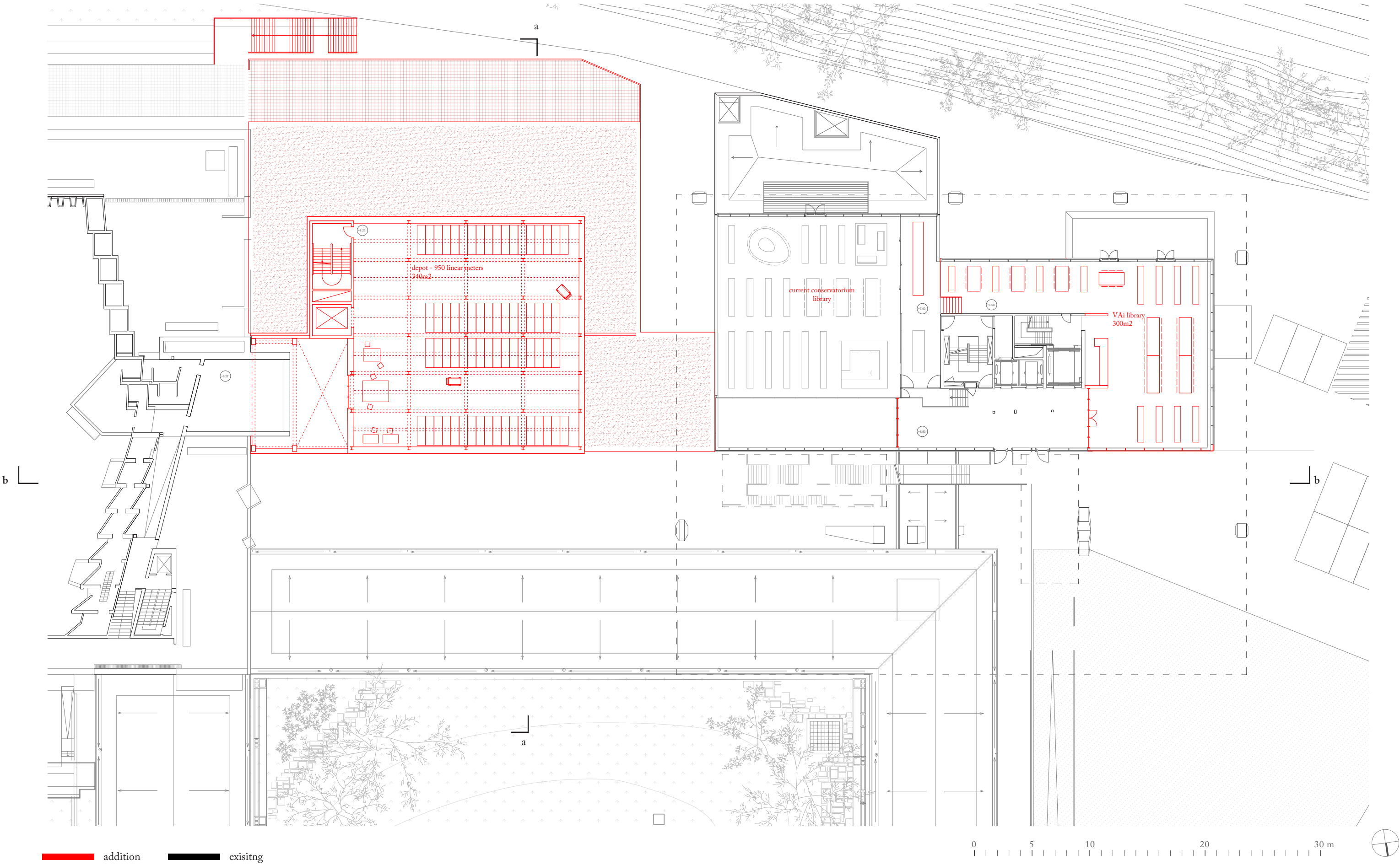


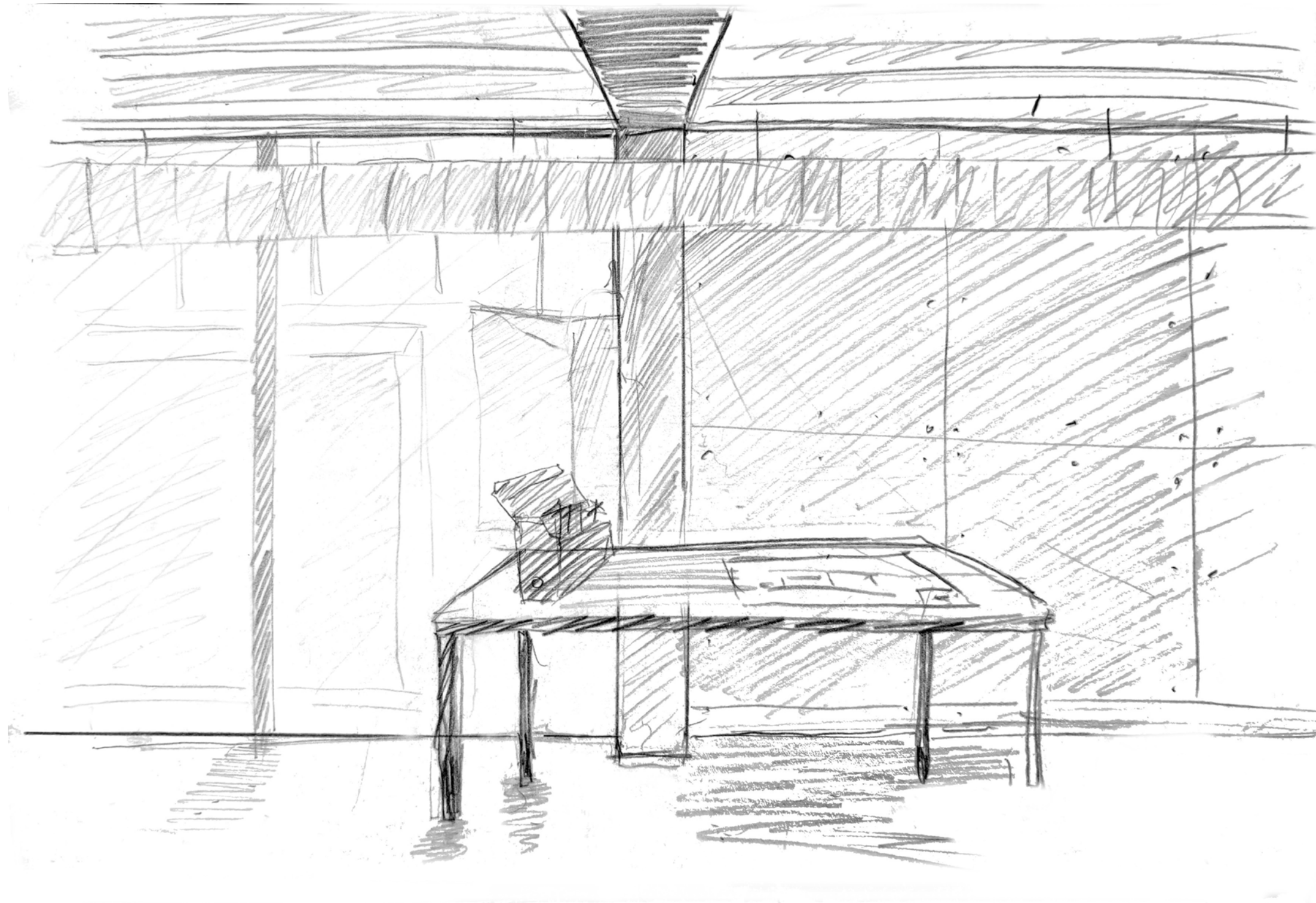


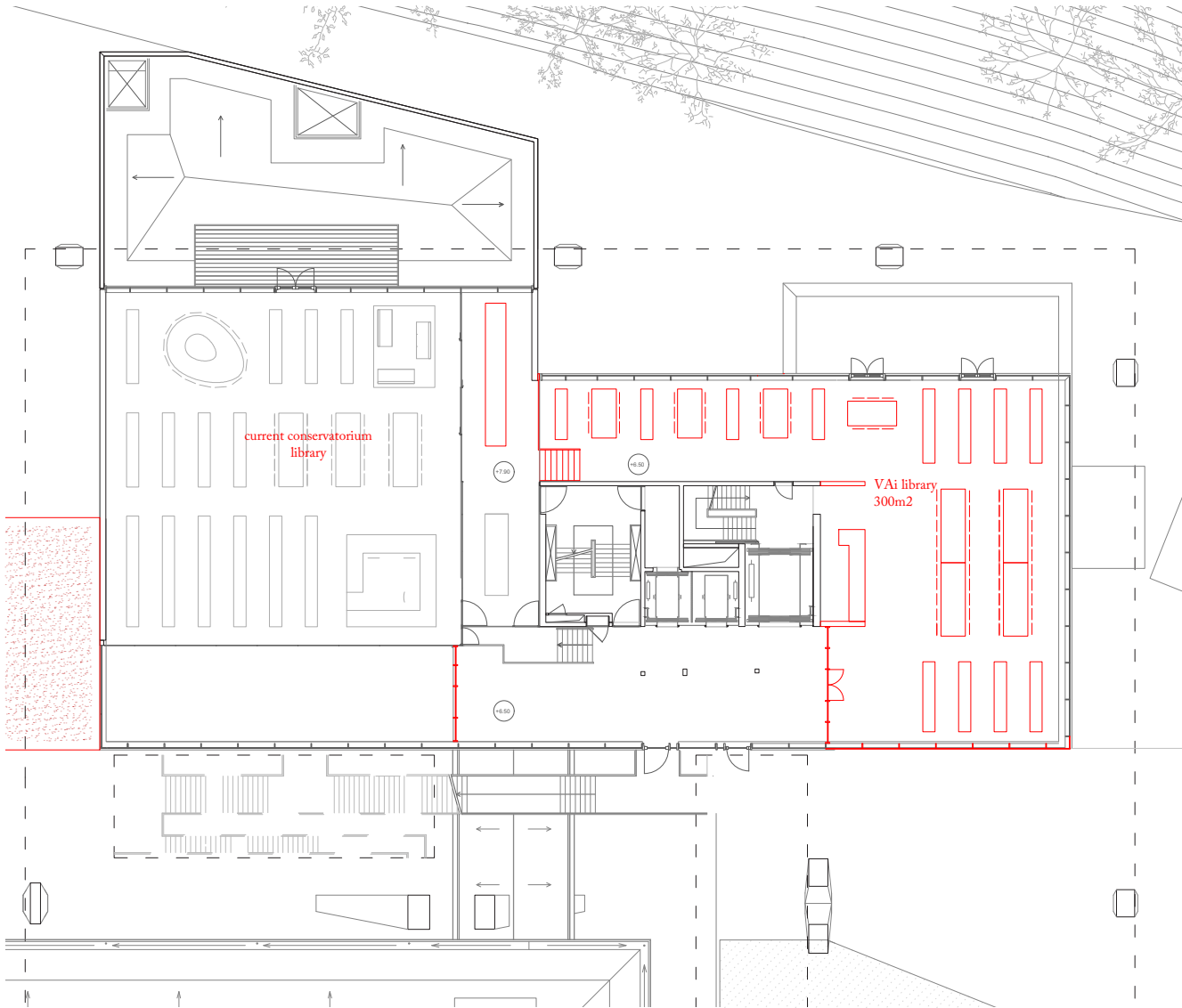








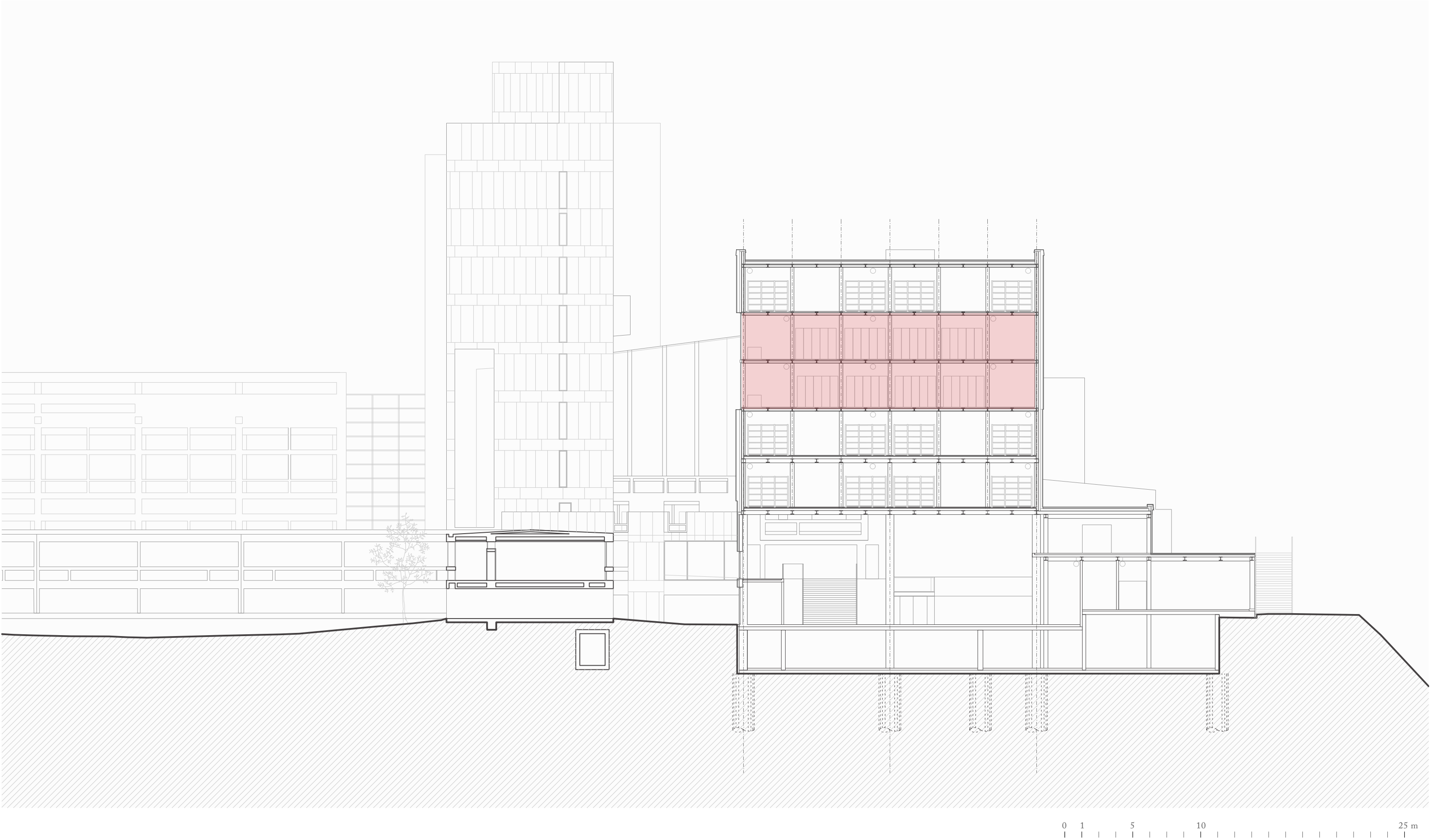


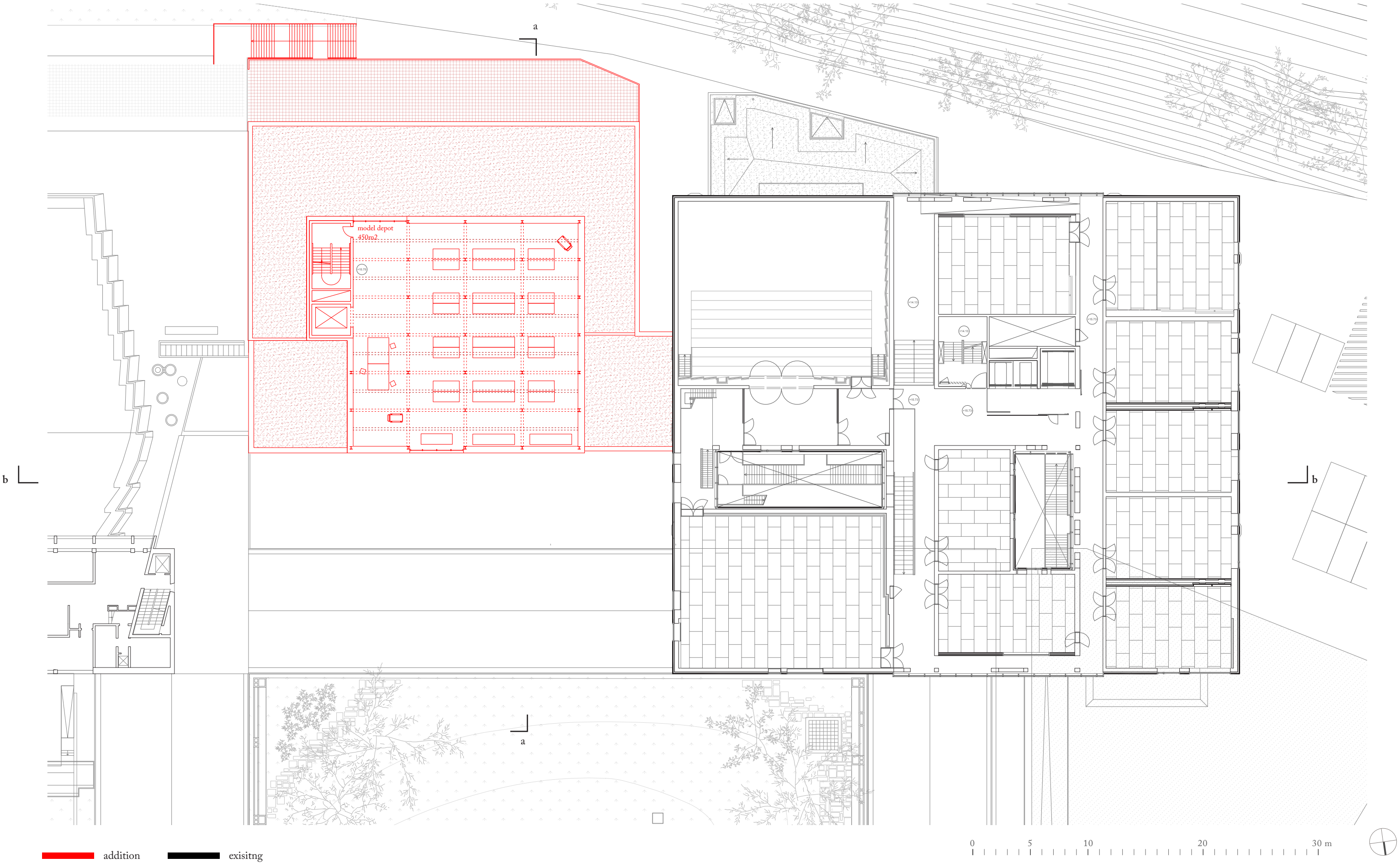


Kabinet Christian Kieckens | courtesy VAI

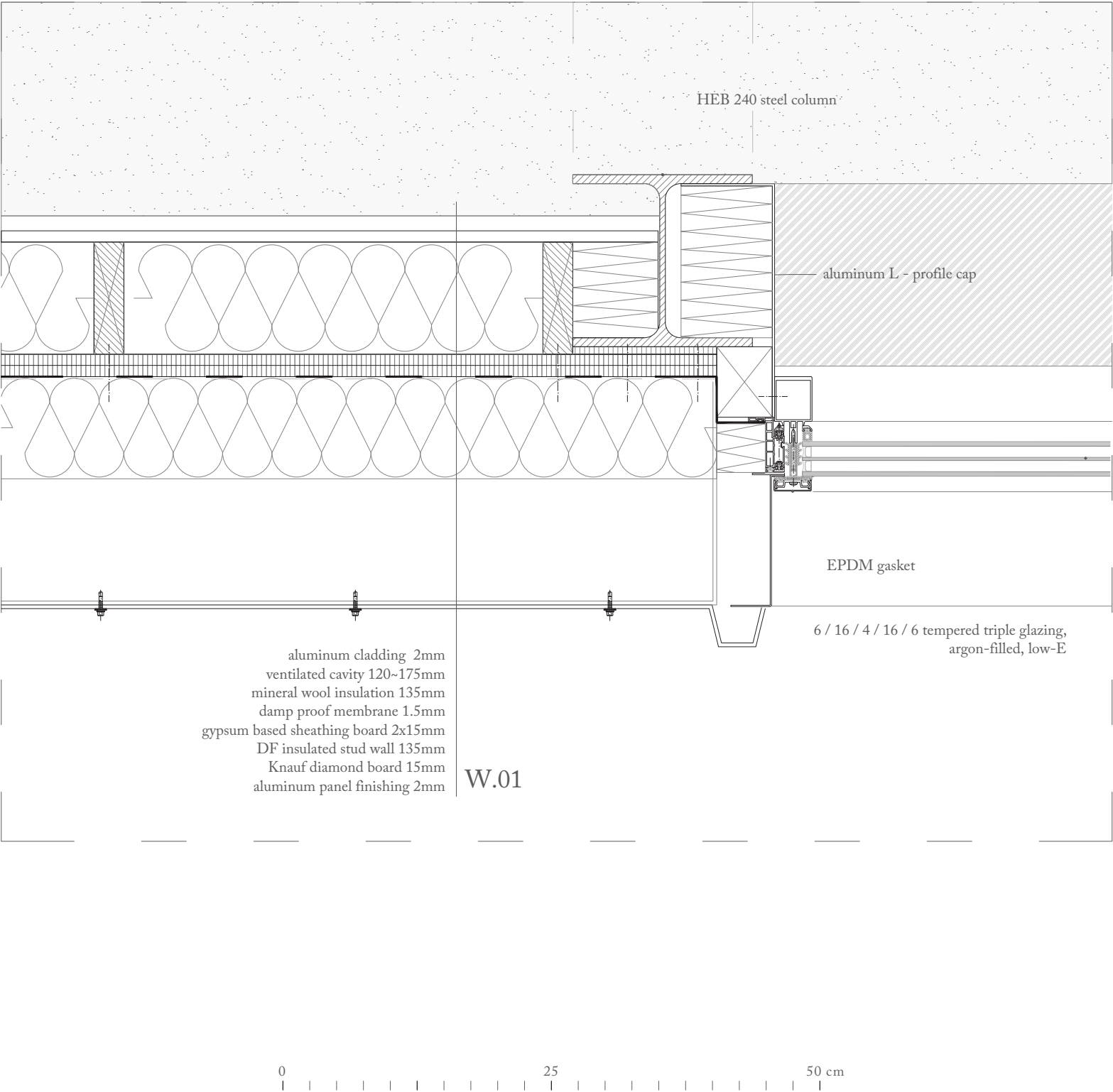


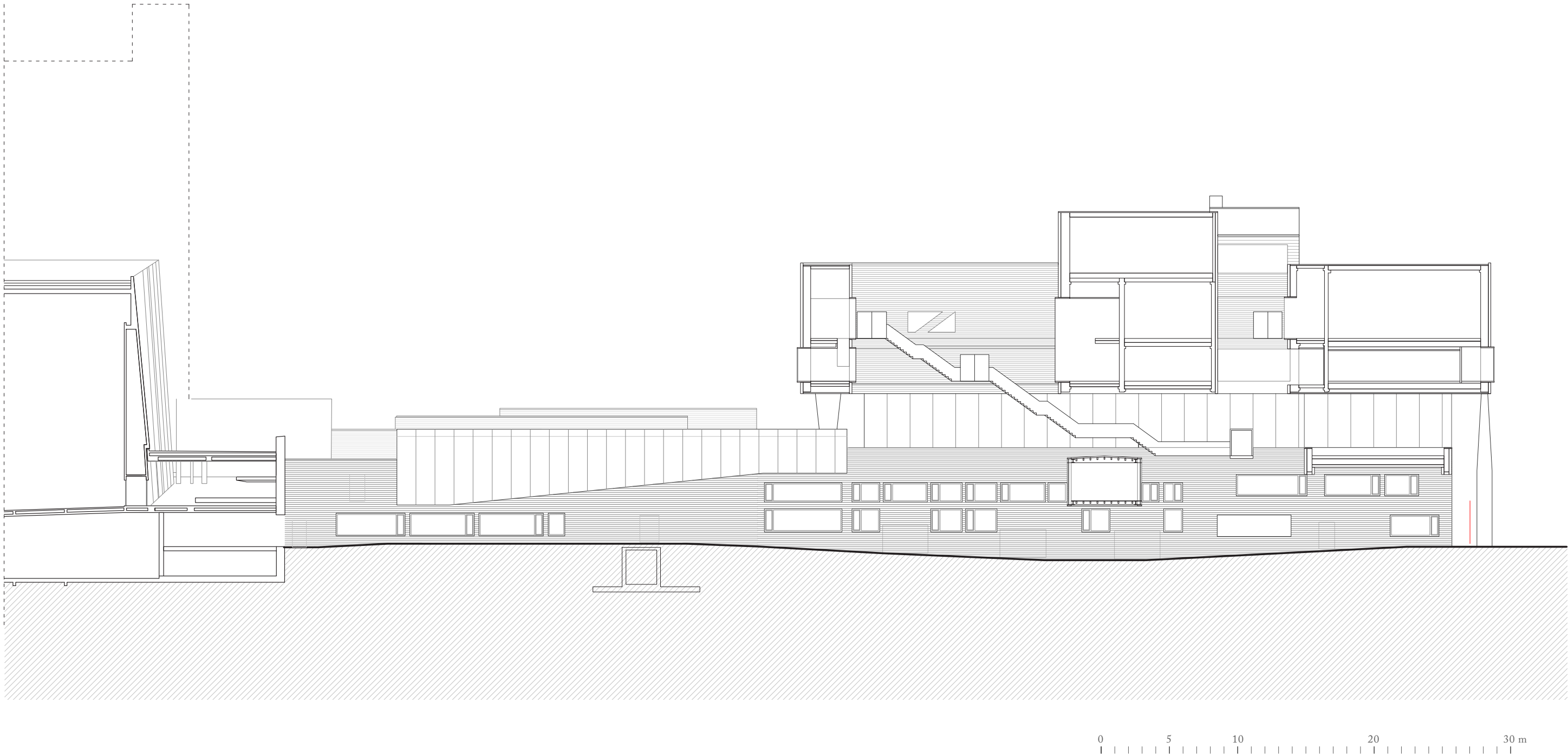


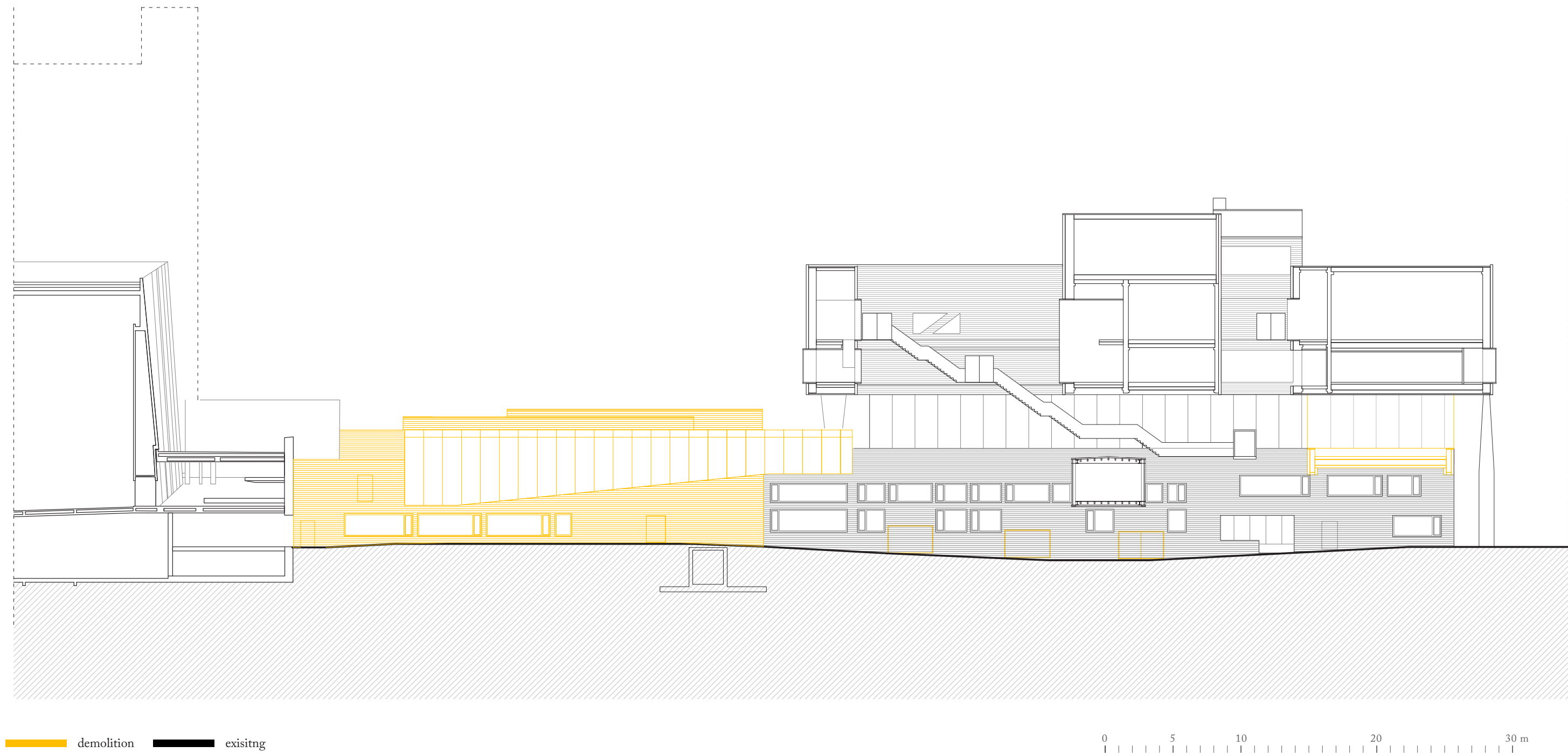


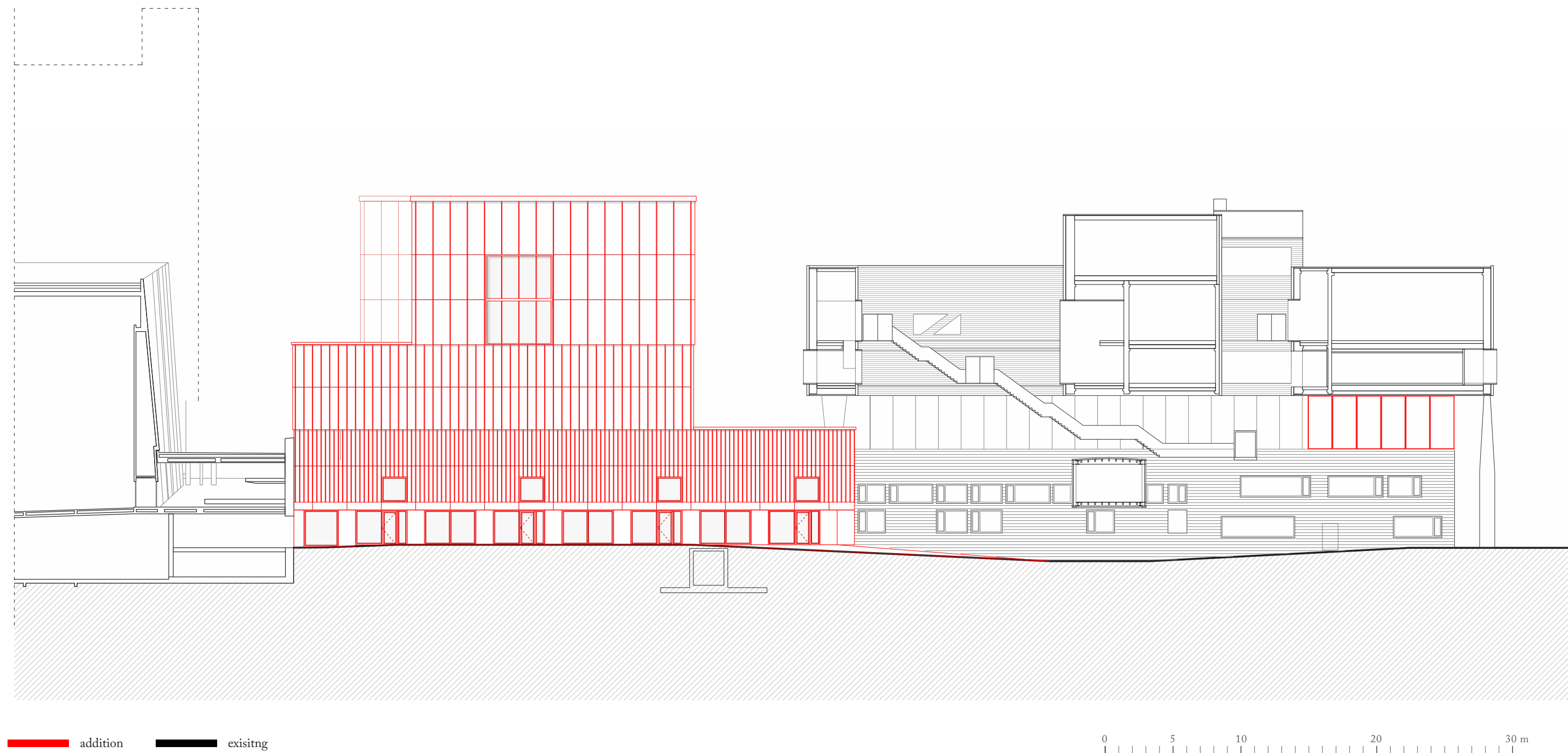






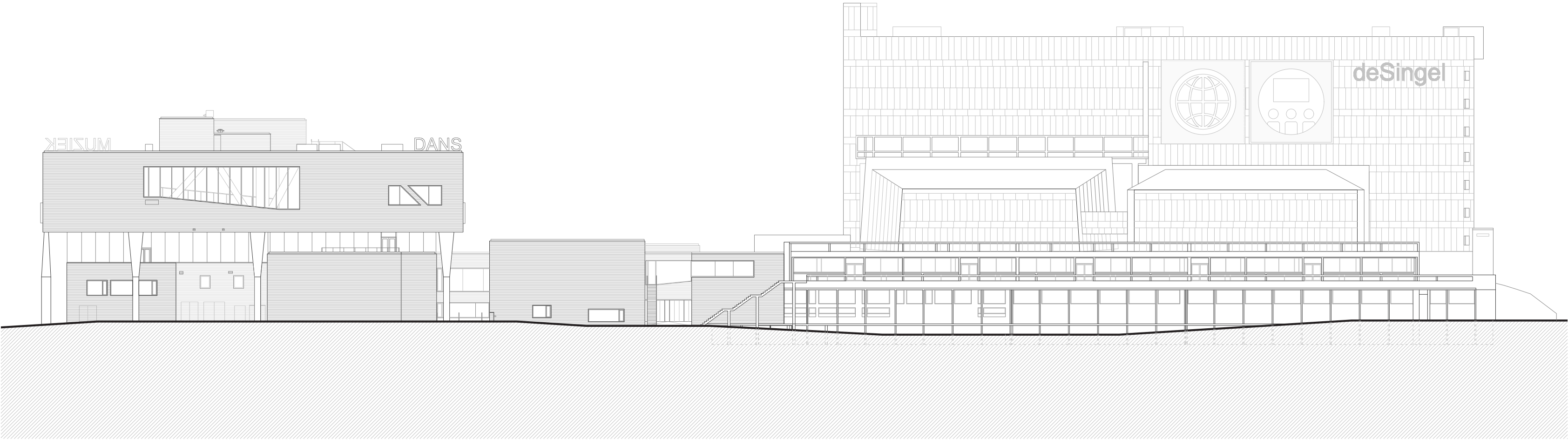


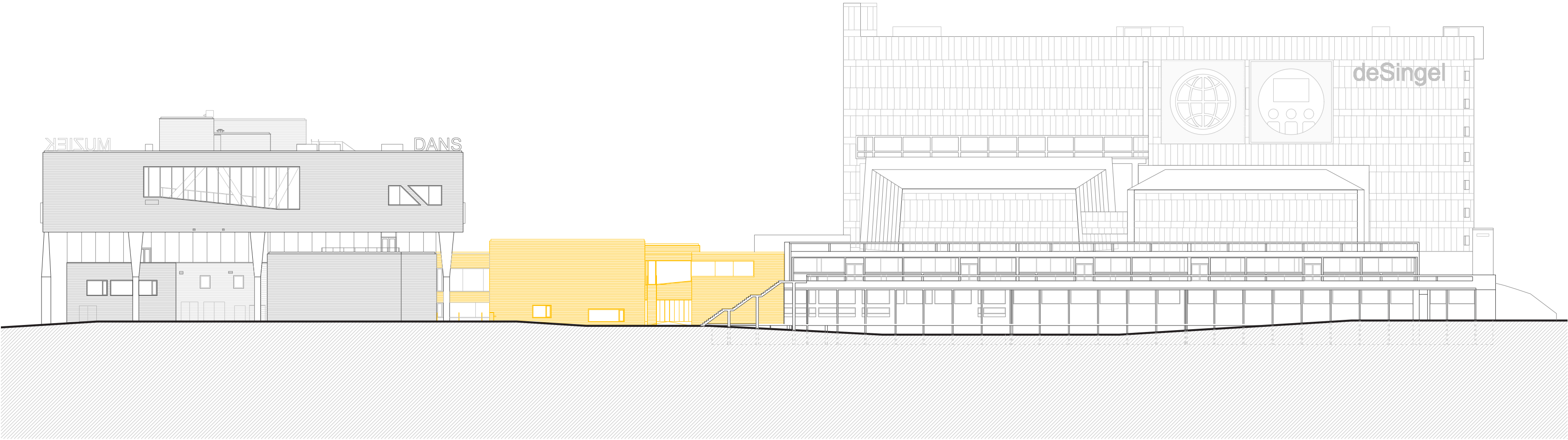




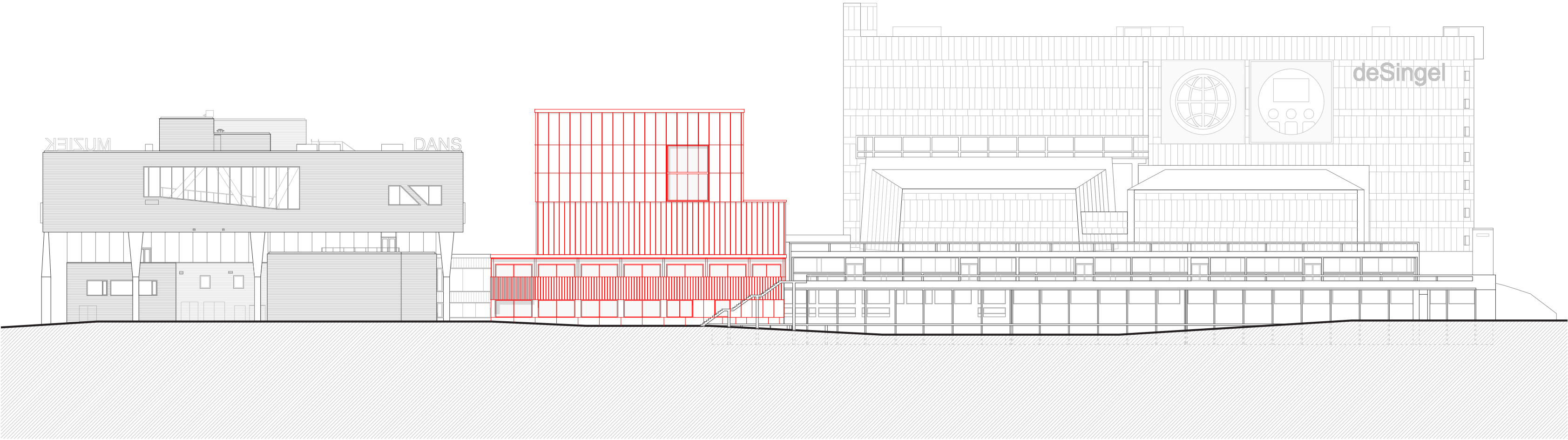




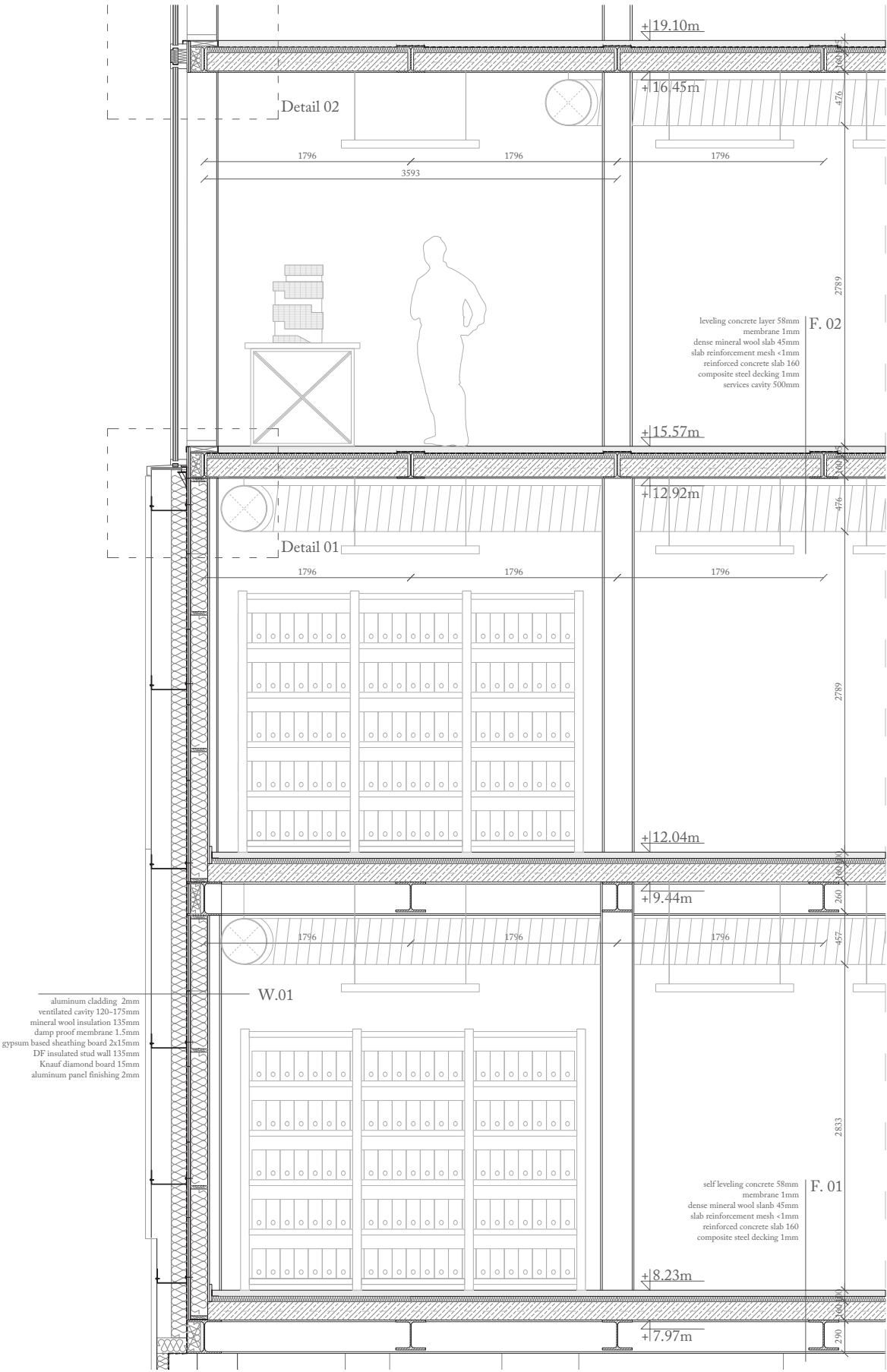
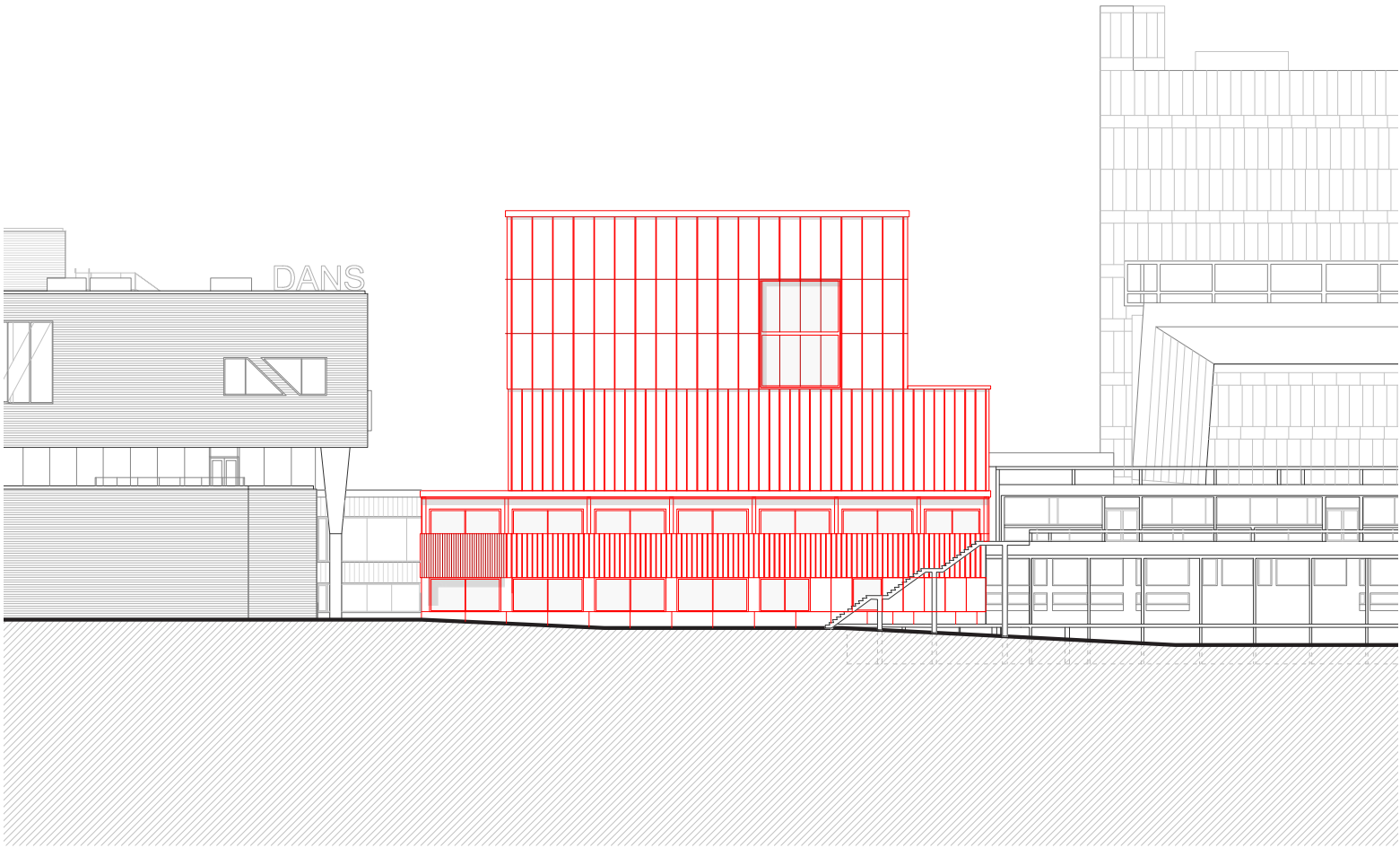


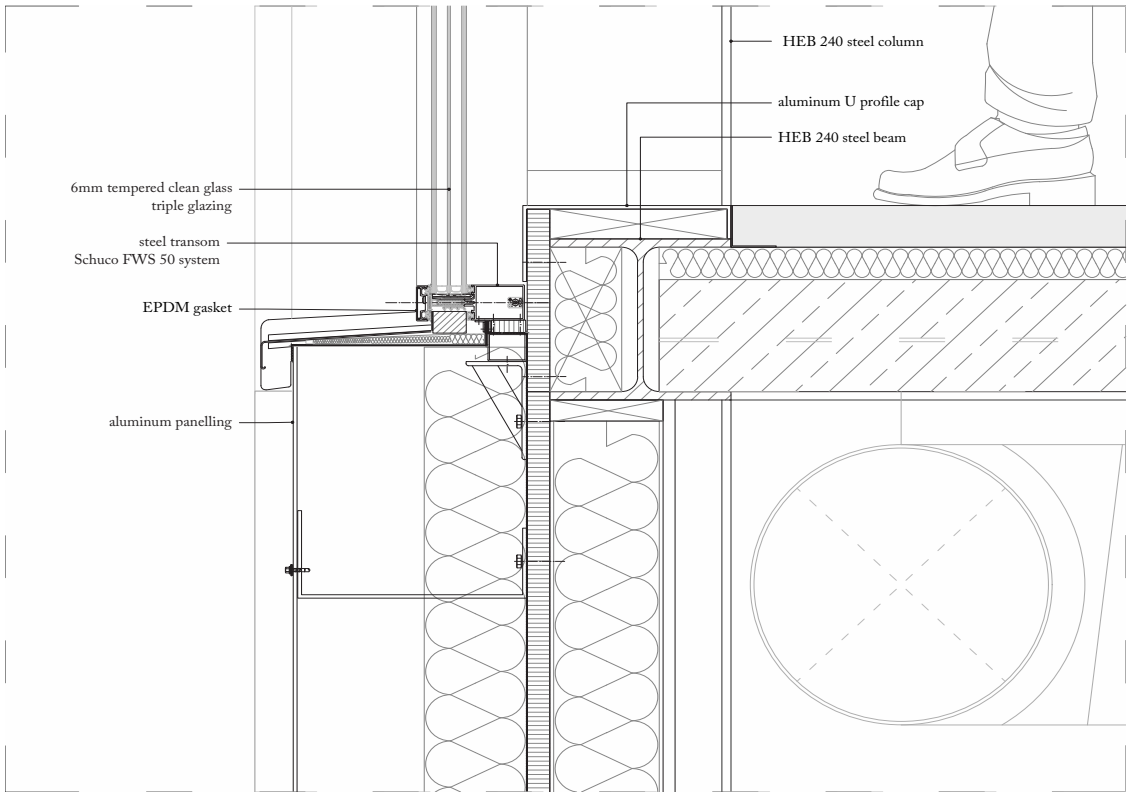
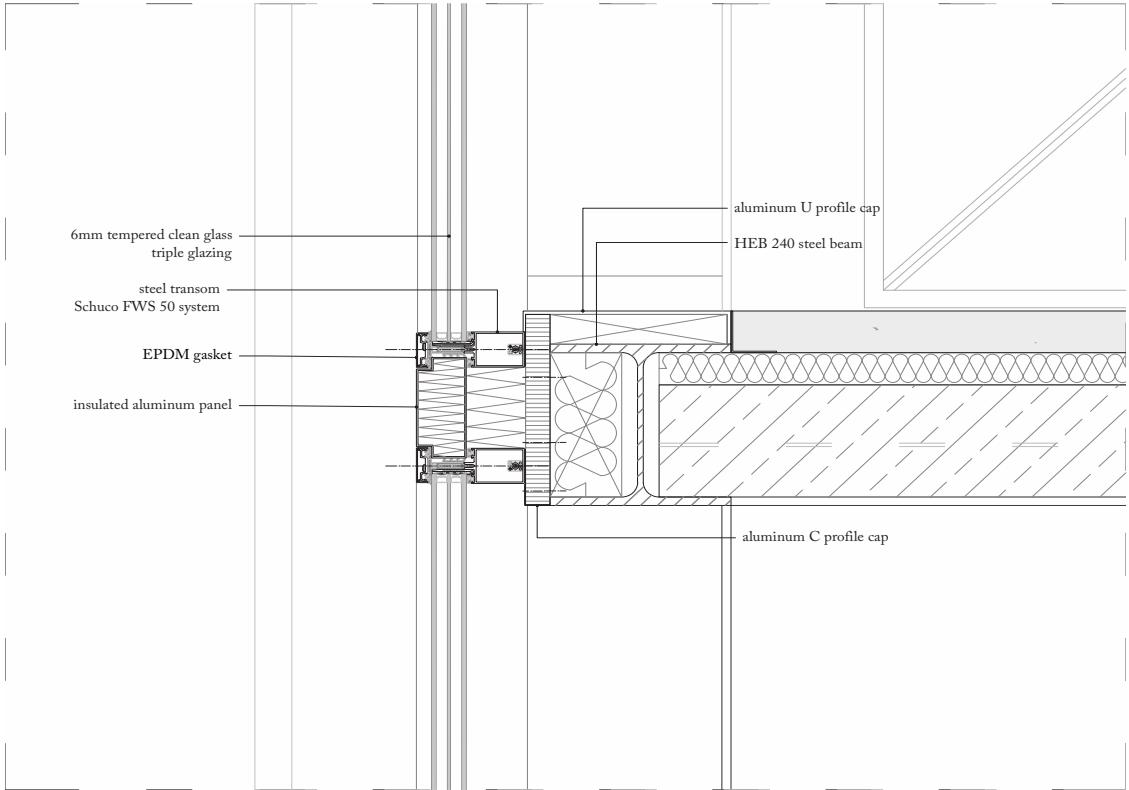


demolition existing

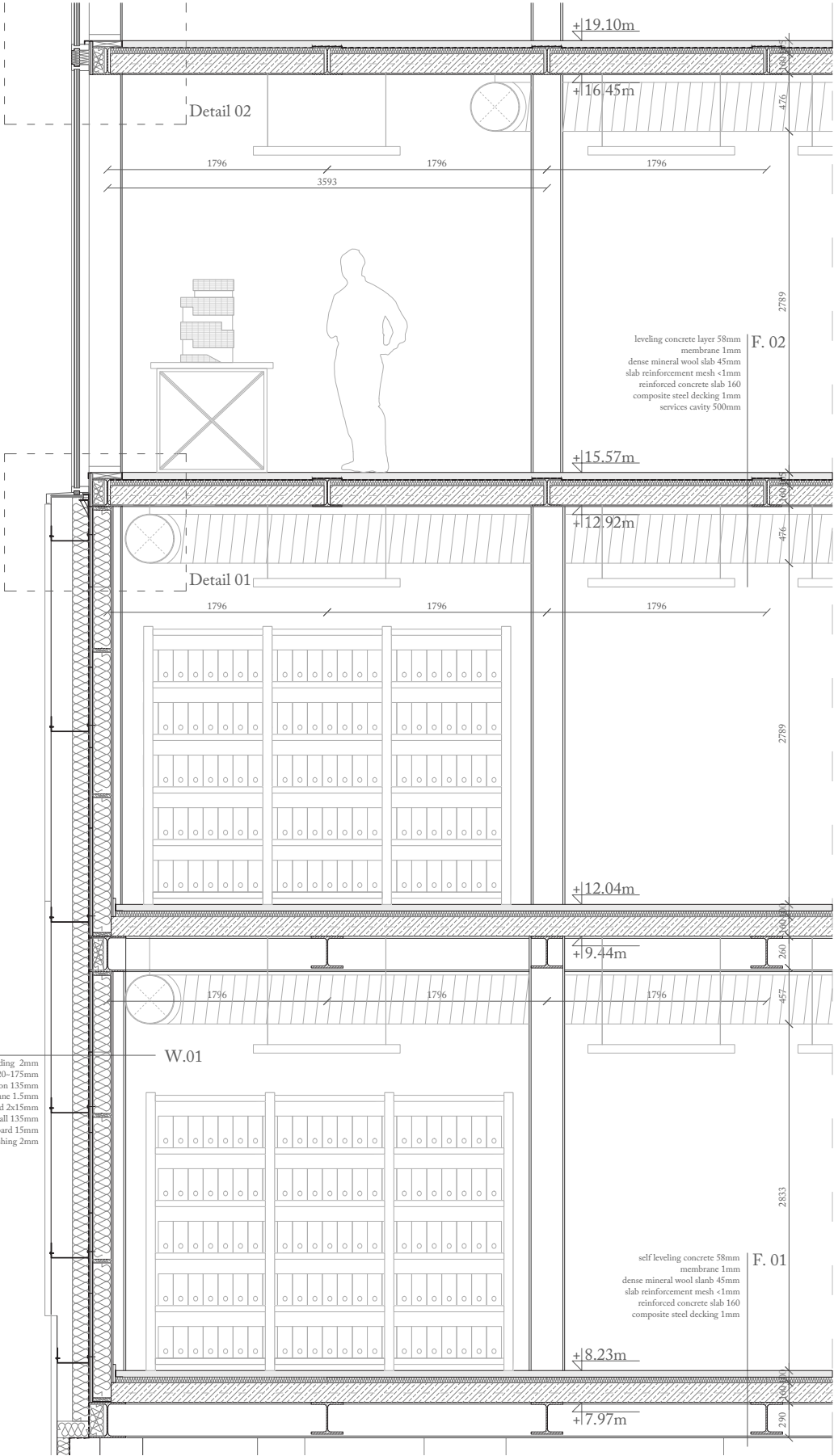


█ addition █ existing



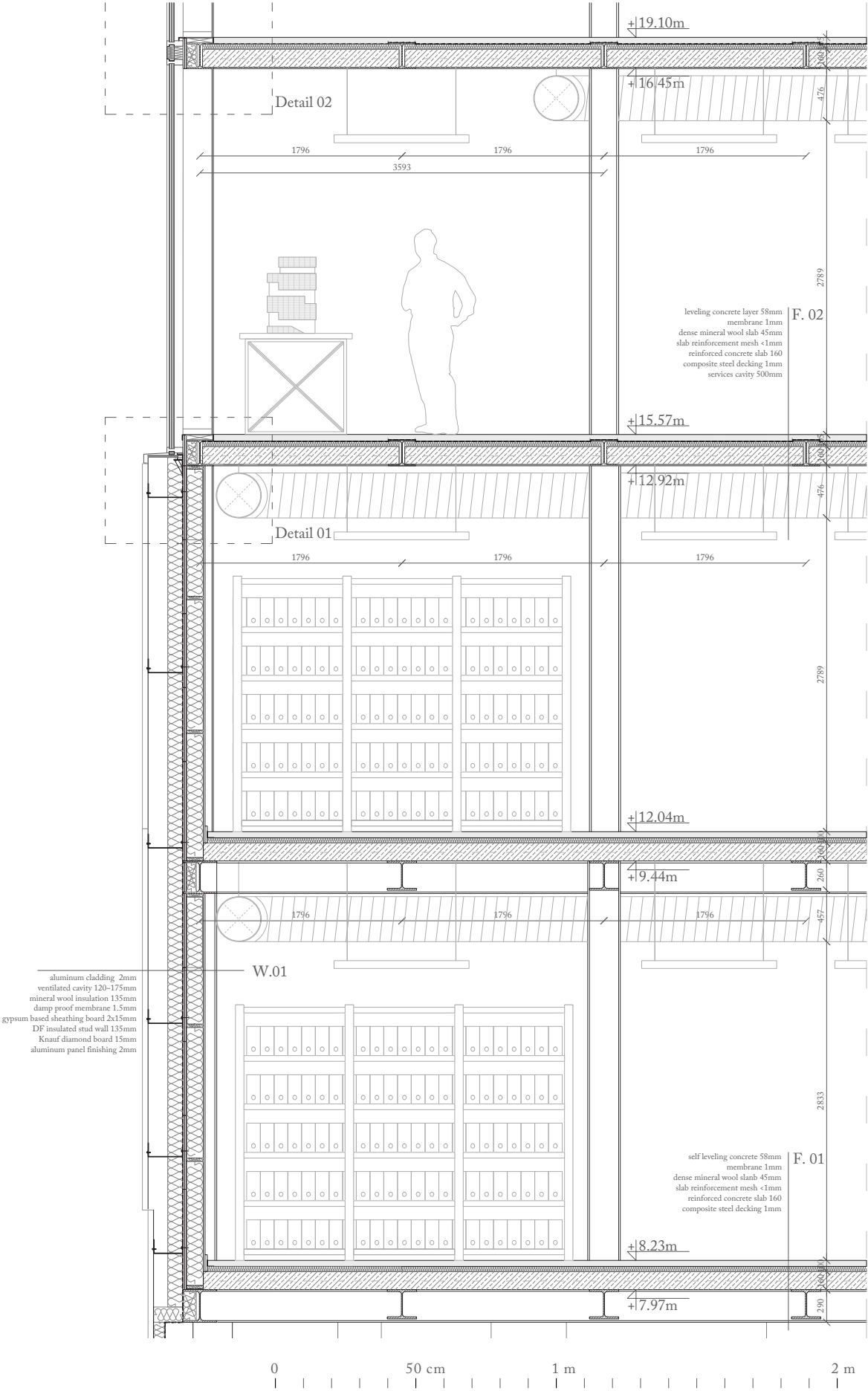


0 25 50 cm



aluminum cladding 2mm
ventilated cavity 120-175mm
mineral wool insulation 135mm
damp proof membrane 1.5mm
gypsum based sheathing board 2x15mm
DF insulated stud wall 135mm
Knauf diamond board 15mm
aluminum panel finishing 2mm

0 50 cm 1 m 2 m





Shared Foundations

VAi and its Archives in deSingel cultural campus

Maksymilian Bernady | 6080596

Main mentors:

Sam De Vocht | architecture
Matthijs Klooster | building technology
Amy Thomas | research

Prof. Daniel Rosbottom
Mark Pimlott
Susanne Pietsch
Sereh Mandias
Dr. Jurjen Zeinstra