

# From **Defence** to **Dialogue**

*The transformation of military heritage into a museum and public space*

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Adaptive Reuse of Heritage Graduation Studio  
A3 presentation  
Lidy Meijers and Thijs Bennebroek  
22 - 06 - 2026

# **Problem Statement**

*Social context*

## **Geopolitical uncertainty**

- Increasing international tensions
- Growing focus on national security
- Expanding role of Defence

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- Ministry of Defence aims to grow towards 100.000 employees by 2030
- Investing heavily in recruitment and public visibility



# Problem Statement

## *Social context*

### **Geopolitical uncertainty**

- Increasing international tensions
- Growing focus on national security
- Expanding role of Defence

### **Organisational growth**

- Ministry of Defence aims to grow towards 100.000 employees by 2030
- Investing heavily in recruitment and public visibility

### **Public engagement**

- Growing need for awareness and understanding

# Problem Statement

## *Existing Defence Museums*

### Existing narratives

- Defence Museums Foundation

### A broader story

- Information
- Education
- Recruitment

### National Military Museum, Soest



National Military Museum, Soest

### Marines Museum, Rotterdam



Marines Museum, Rotterdam

### Marinemuseum, Den Helder



Marinemuseum, Den Helder



## Scope

*Location and program choice*

### **Program choice**

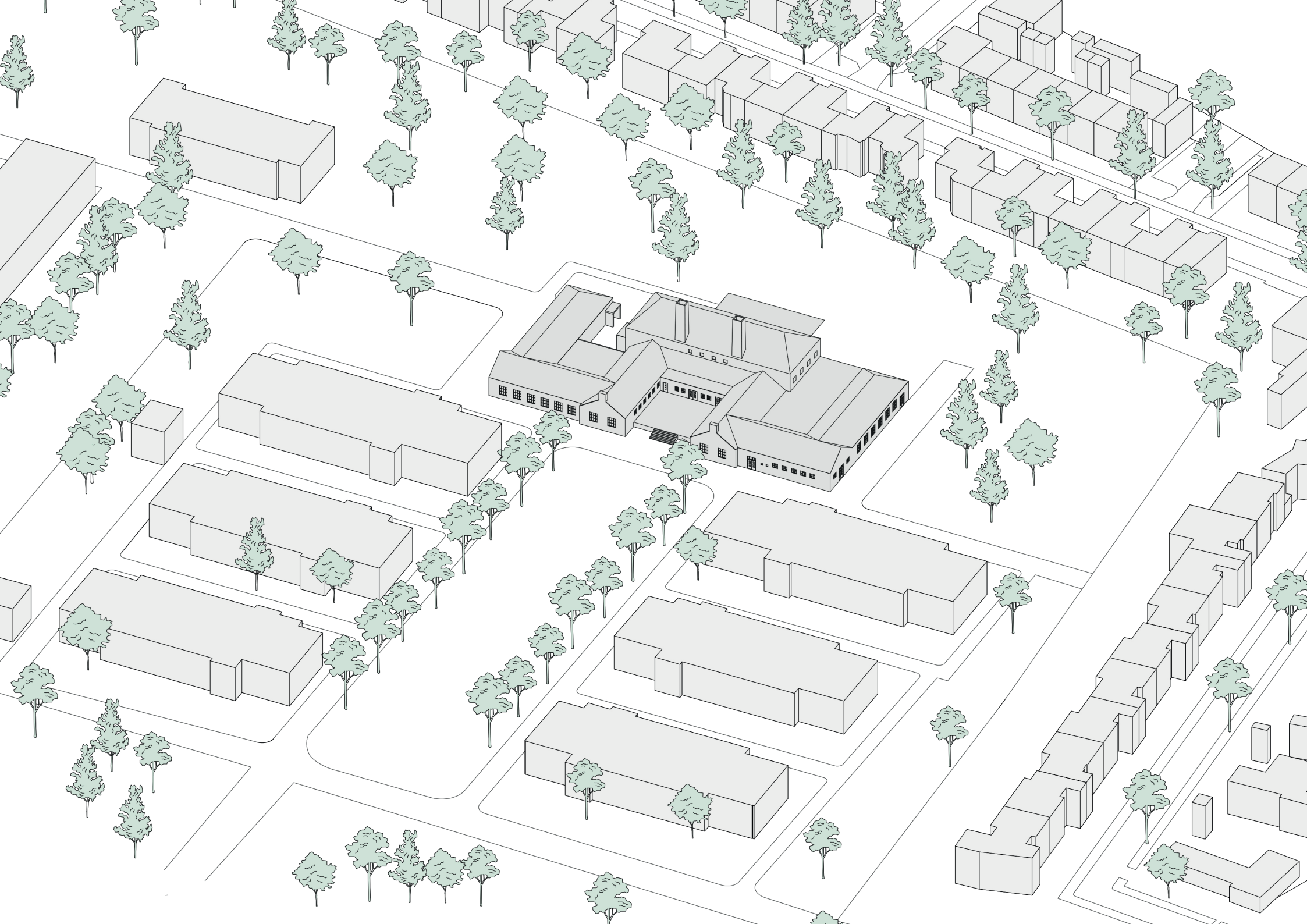
- Museum and information centre for the Ministry of Defence
- Information, education and recruitment

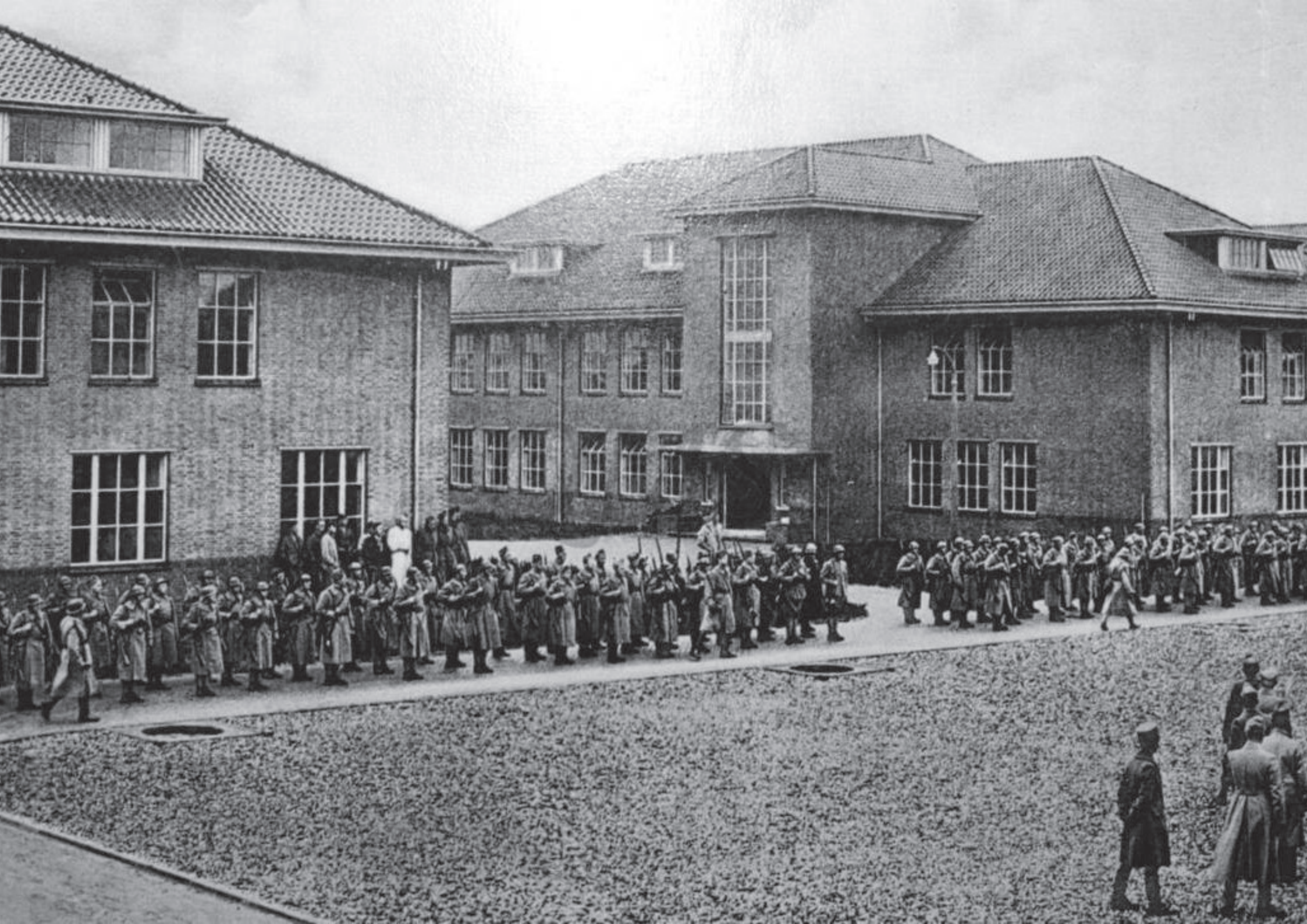
### **Kitchenbuilding, Kolonel Palmkazerne**

- Former military site , 1938
- Strategic location within the New Dutch Waterline
- Potential for a new public function



*Location of the Kolonel Palmkazerne*











## Research question

### **Research question**

*'How can the spatial layout and routing of a Defence Museum in an existing military building contribute to both public information provision and recruitment, while respecting the historical value of the building?'*

# Research questions

## Research question

*'How can the spatial layout and routing of a Defence Museum in an existing military building contribute to both public information provision and recruitment, while respecting the historical value of the building?'*

## Sub-questions / themes

- Routing  
*'How can routing in a museum both provide direction for information and leave room for individual exploration by different visitors?'*
- Zoning  
*'Which spaces are essential in a museum and how does this relate to the route through the building?'*
- Climate control  
*'What elements are crucial to maintaining an optimal visitor experience and ensuring the objects on display are presented to the greatest possible advantage?'*

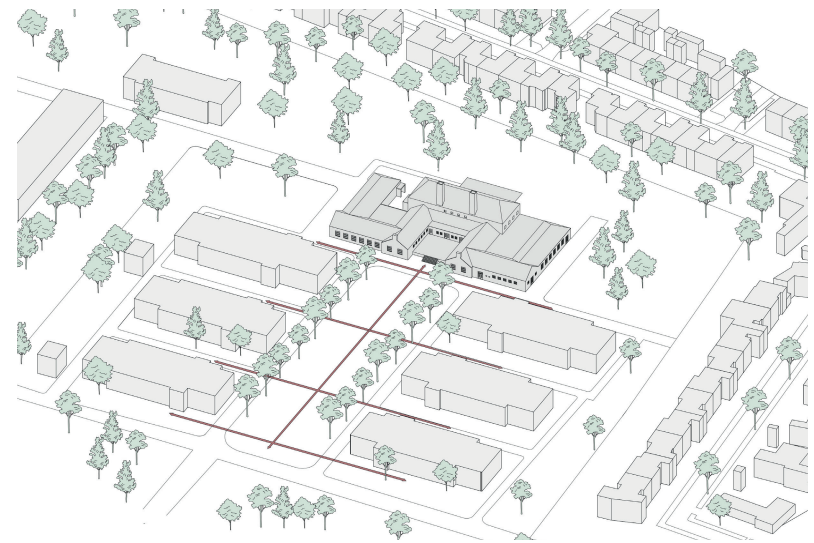
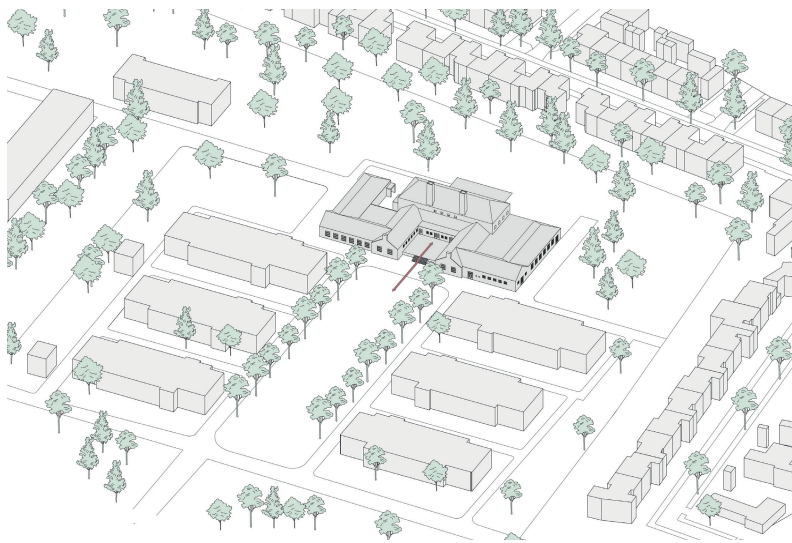
## **Value Assessment and Research**

# What should be preserved?

## *Heritage values of the Kitchenbuilding*



**High monumental value**  
*crucial to the structure and/or  
meaning of the object or area*

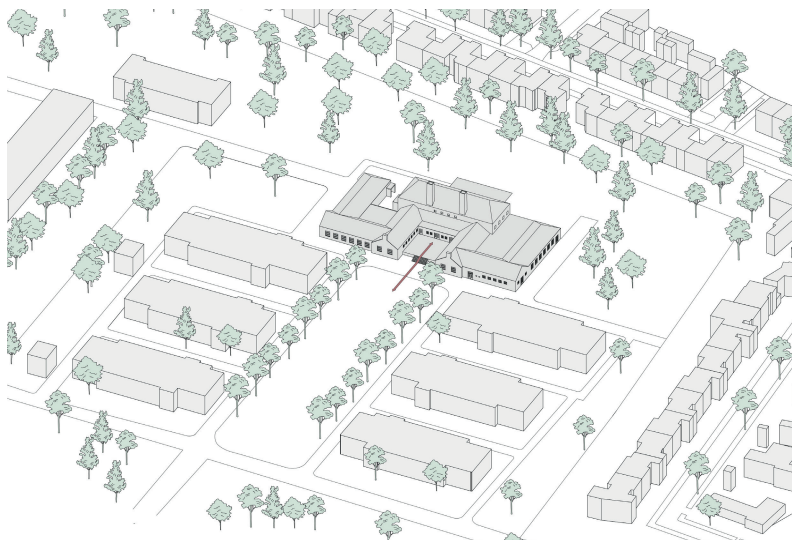


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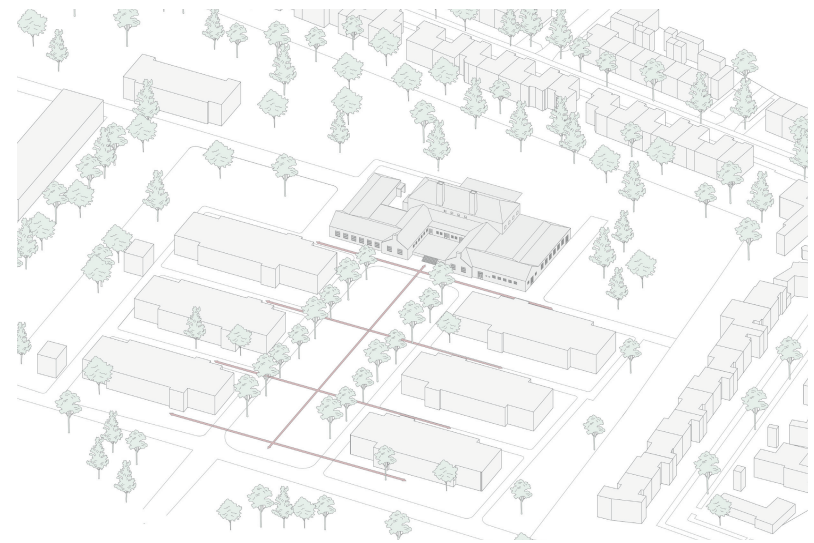
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### **Strong position and relationship at the assembly point**



The main orientation of the building focuses on  
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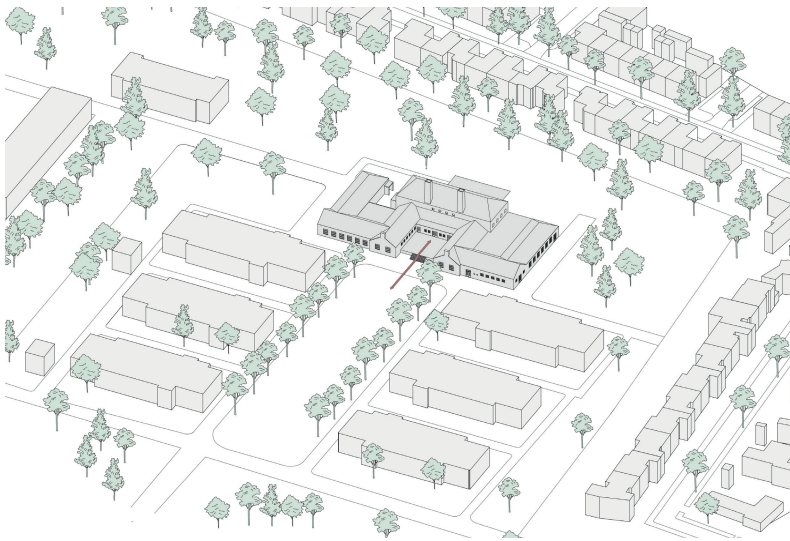


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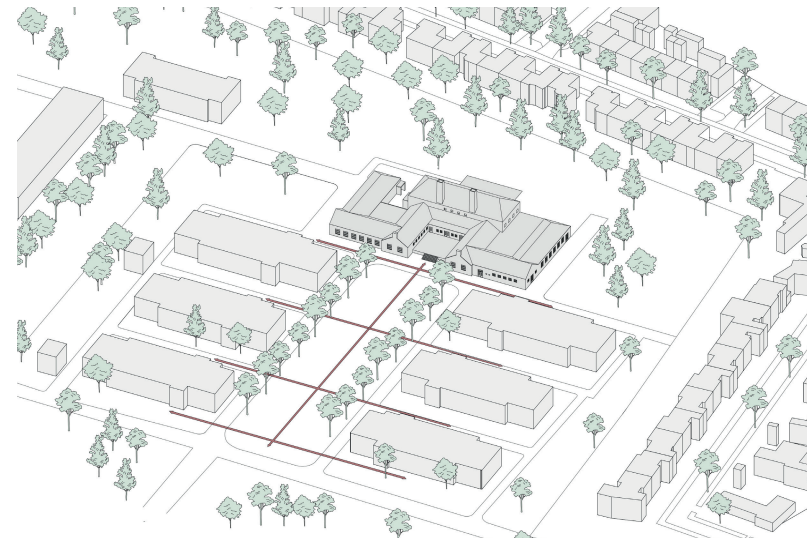
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### **Strong position and relationship at the assembly point**



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### **Keeping the building readable as part of the ensemble**



New additions respect the orthogonal structure, dimensions and hierarchy of the barracks layout

# What should be preserved?

*Heritage values of the Kitchenbuilding*

**Indifferent value**

*of relatively little importance to the structure and/or meaning of the object or area*



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## **Reprogramming the internal spatial layout**



Nonstructural walls and dividers may be moved or removed to enable new uses



# What should be preserved?

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### **Indifferent value**

*of relatively little importance to the structure and/or meaning of the object or area*

### **Reprogramming the internal spatial layout**



Nonstructural walls and dividers may be moved or removed to enable new uses

### **Replacing interior finishes**



Ceilings, finishes and colour schemes may be completely renewed

## **Research Outcomes**

*Key insights from literature*

### **Spatial organisation**

*Metamorphosis,  
the Transformation of Dutch Museums*

Job Roos, Dorus Hoebink, Arjen Kok

### **Routing and visitor experience**

*Museum Building Design and Exhibition  
Layout: Patterns of Interaction*

Kali Tzortzi

### **Climate Control**

*Het binnenklimaat in het programma  
van eisen van erfgoedinstellingen*

Ankersmit and Stapper

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- Central gathering space
- Supporting orientation

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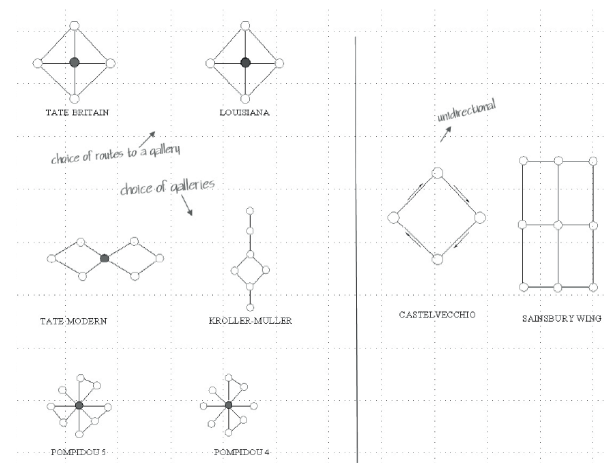
## Routing and visitor experience

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Kali Tzortzi

- Balance between structure and freedom of choices
- Multiple Routes
- Unique visitor experience

## Climate Control

*Het binnenklimaat in het programma  
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Types of routing in a museum (Roos et al., n.d.)

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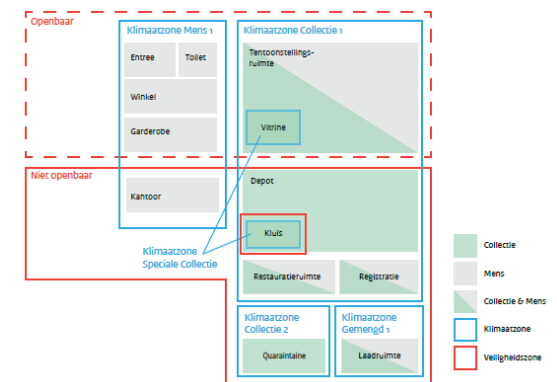
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## Climate Control

*Het binnenklimaat in het programma  
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Ankersmit and Stapper

- Collection zones prioritise the preservation of the objects
- People zones focus on the visitor's comfort

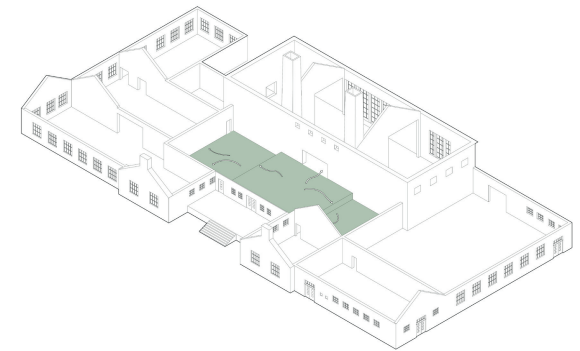
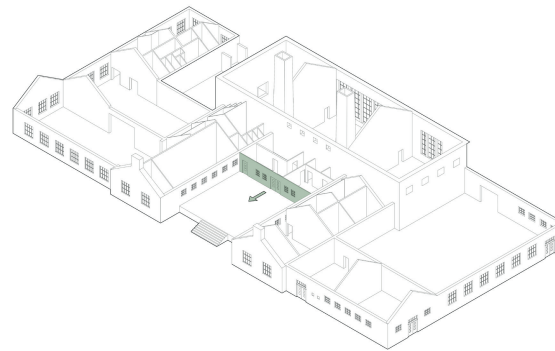
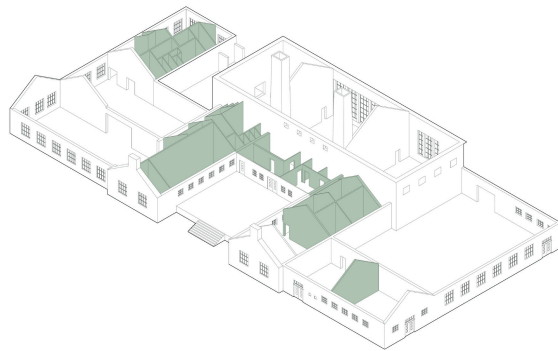


Climate zoning (Ankersmit & Stappers, 2020)

**Design**

# Design Principles

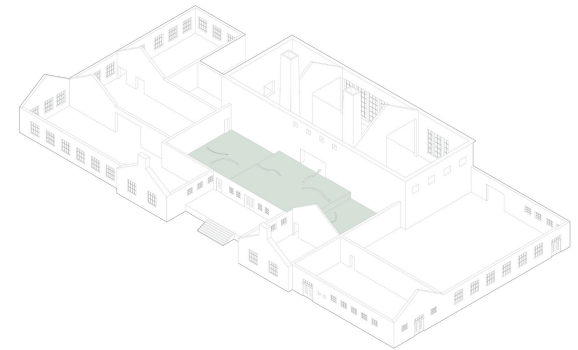
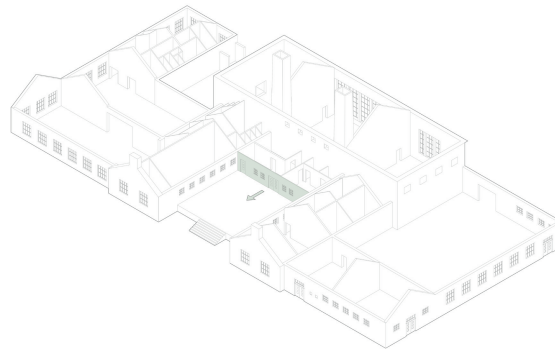
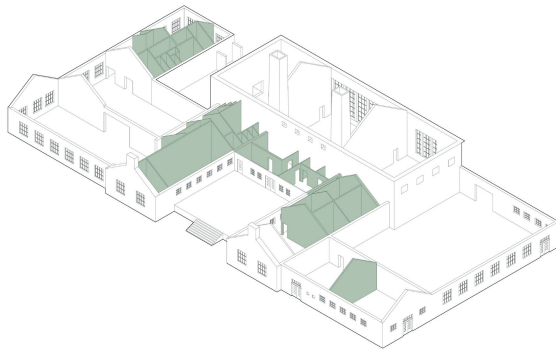
*Key principles guiding the transformation*



# Design Principles

*Key principles guiding the transformation*

## Reprogramming the internal spatial layout

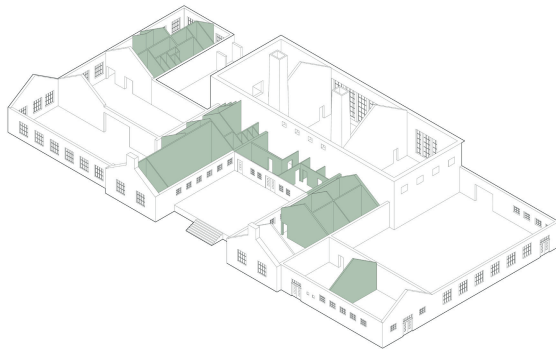


## Removing the existing non-construction walls

# Design Principles

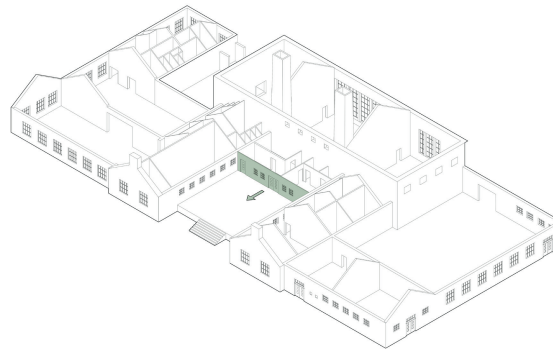
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## Reprogramming the internal spatial layout

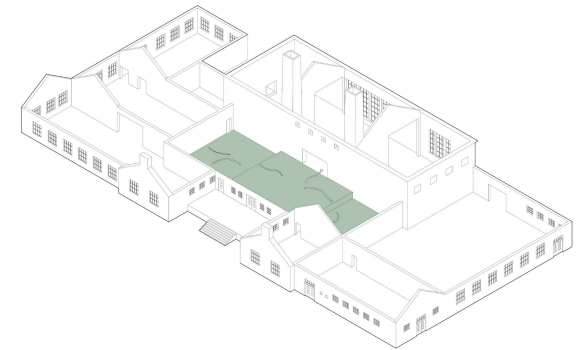


Removing the existing non-construction walls

## Relocating the frontal façade



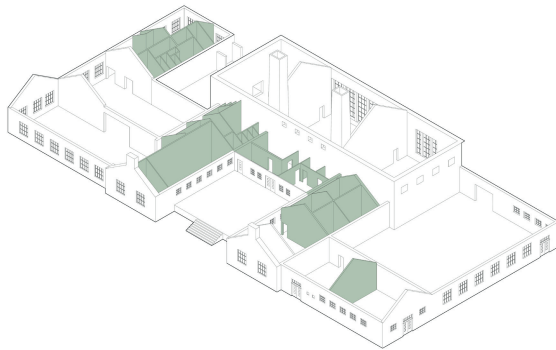
Bringing the entrance to the front for more space



# Design Principles

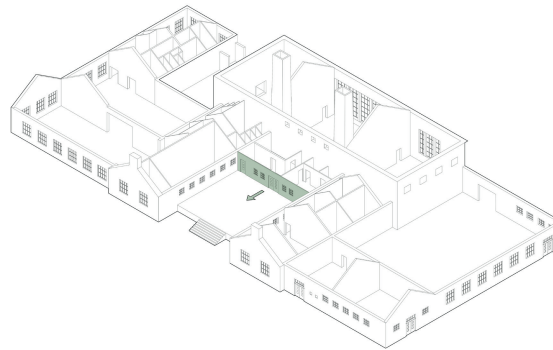
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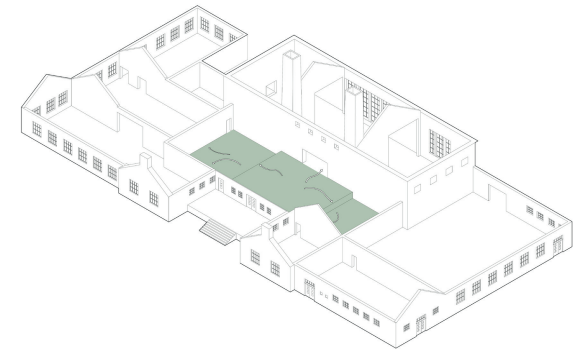
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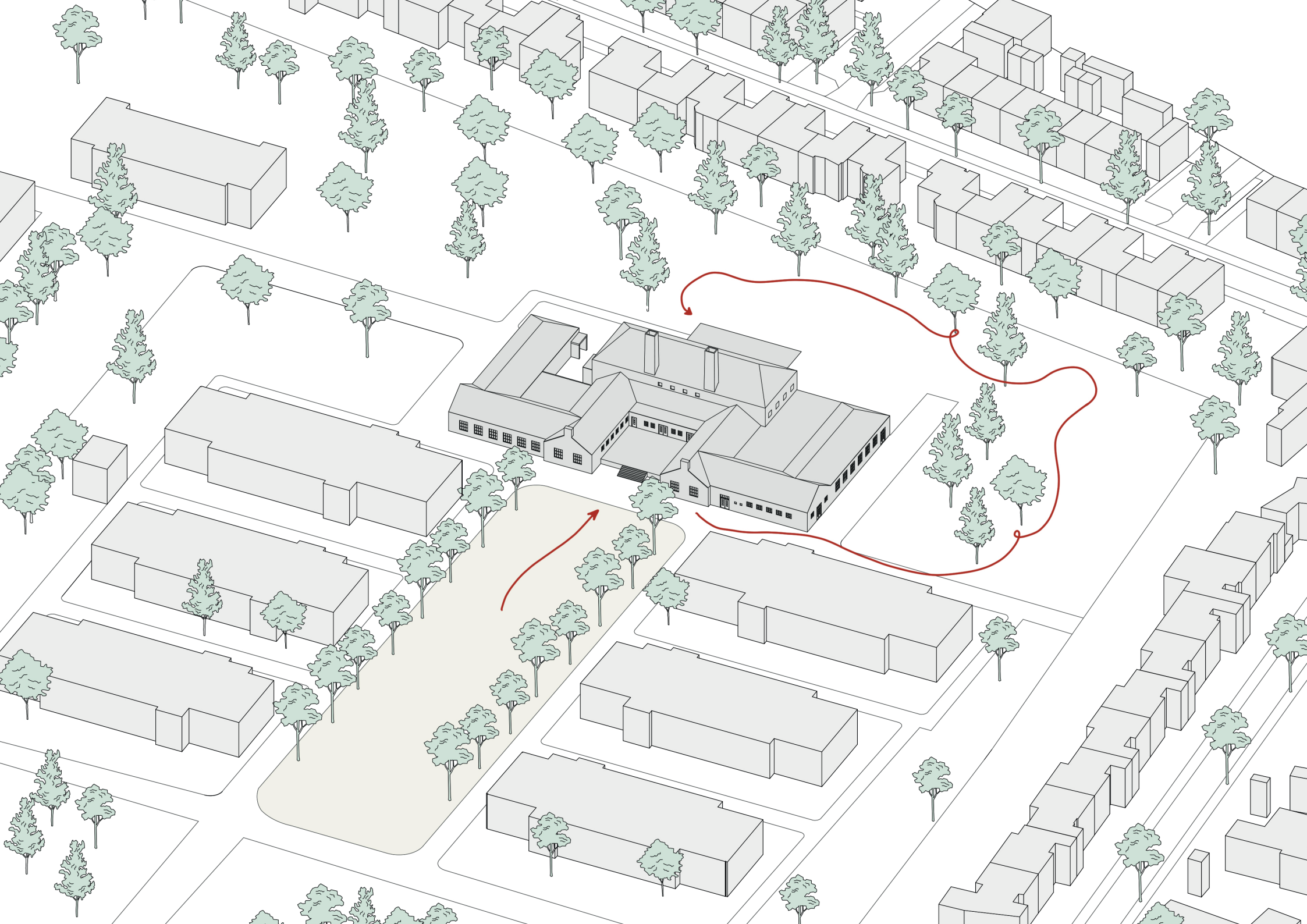


Bringing the entrance to the front for more space

## Facilitating a spacious entrance



Large hall providing circulation space and a variety of routing options









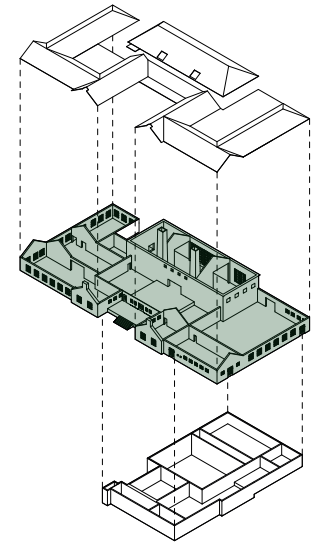
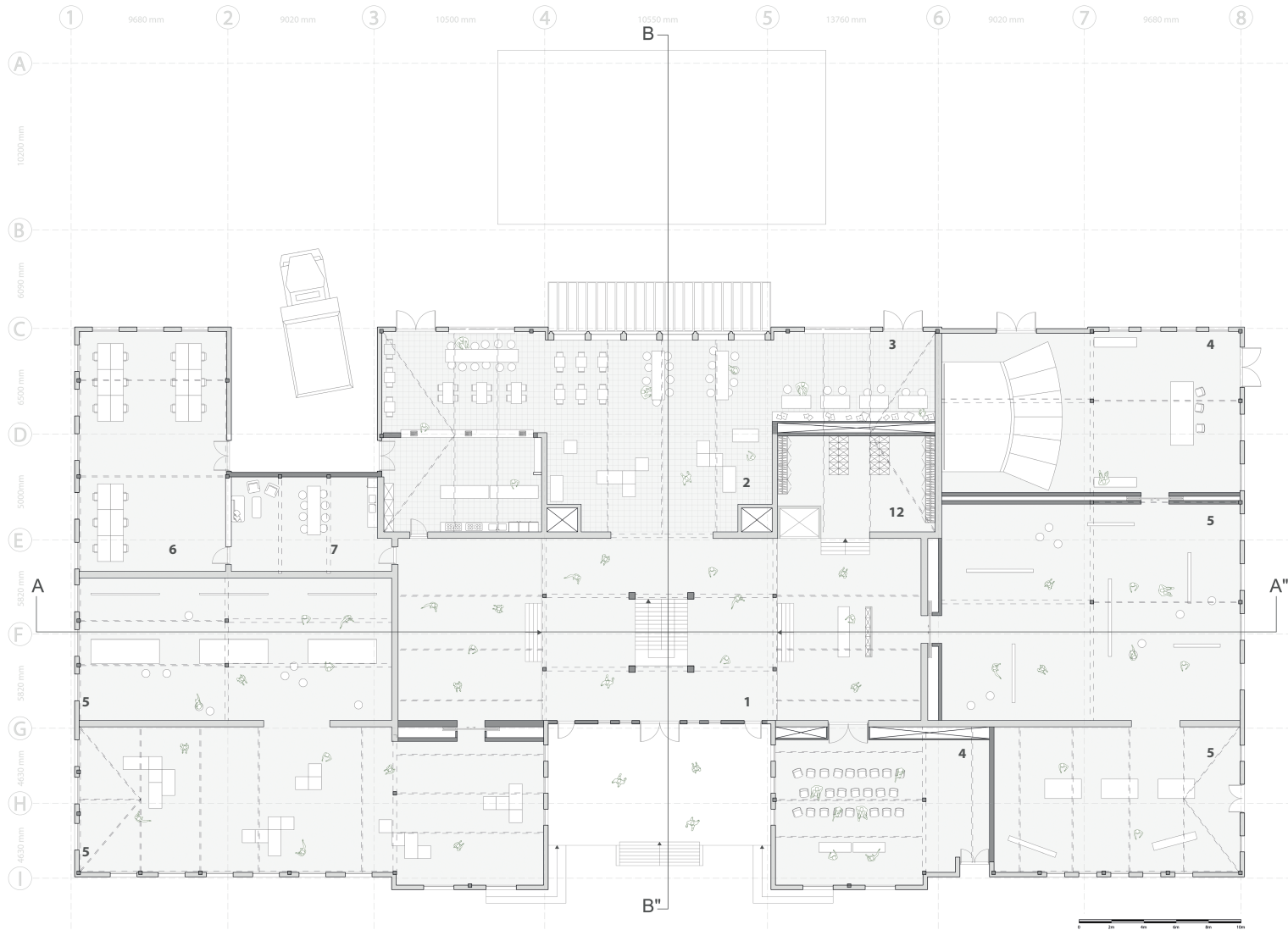
# Architectural Design

*Situation drawing 1:500*



# Architectural Design

## Floorplan ground floor 1:100



### Legend

1. Entrance
2. Museumshop
3. Restaurant
4. Interactive area
5. Exhibition space
6. Office
7. Pantry for staff
8. Auditorium
9. Storage
10. Toilet facilities
11. Changing room
12. Technical room

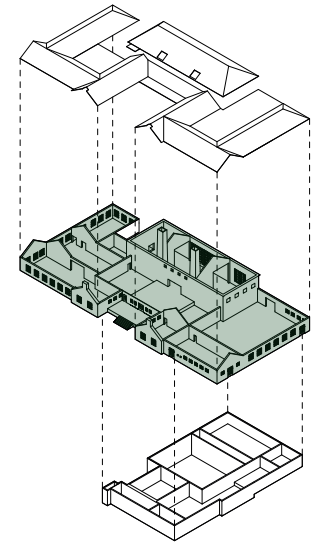
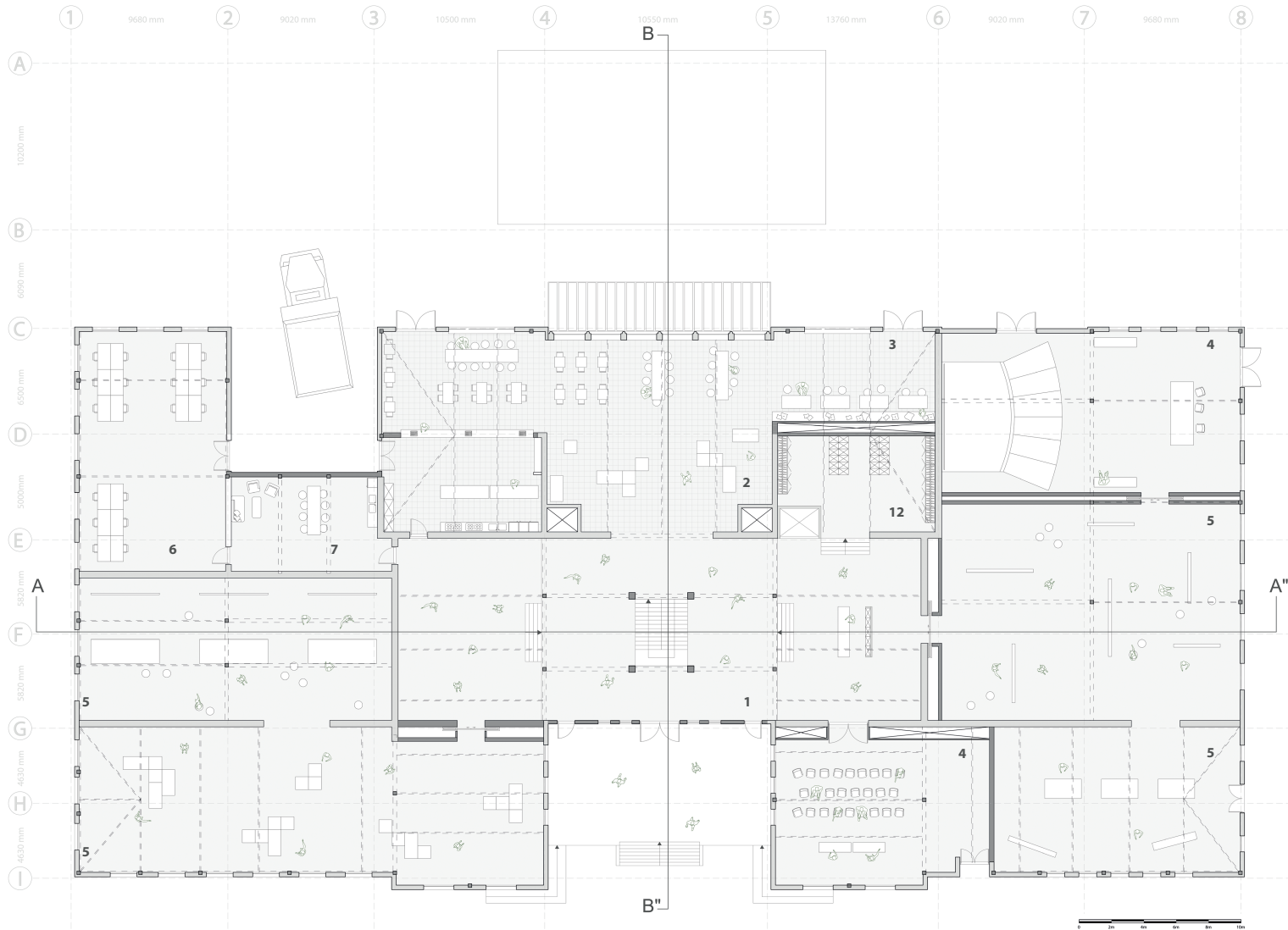
Existing elements / construction

New elements / construction



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Existing elements / construction

New elements / construction



1

2

3

4

5

6



DIGITAL SHOOTING FACILITY

1

2

3

4

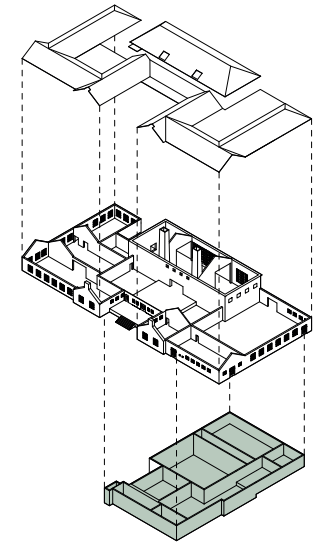
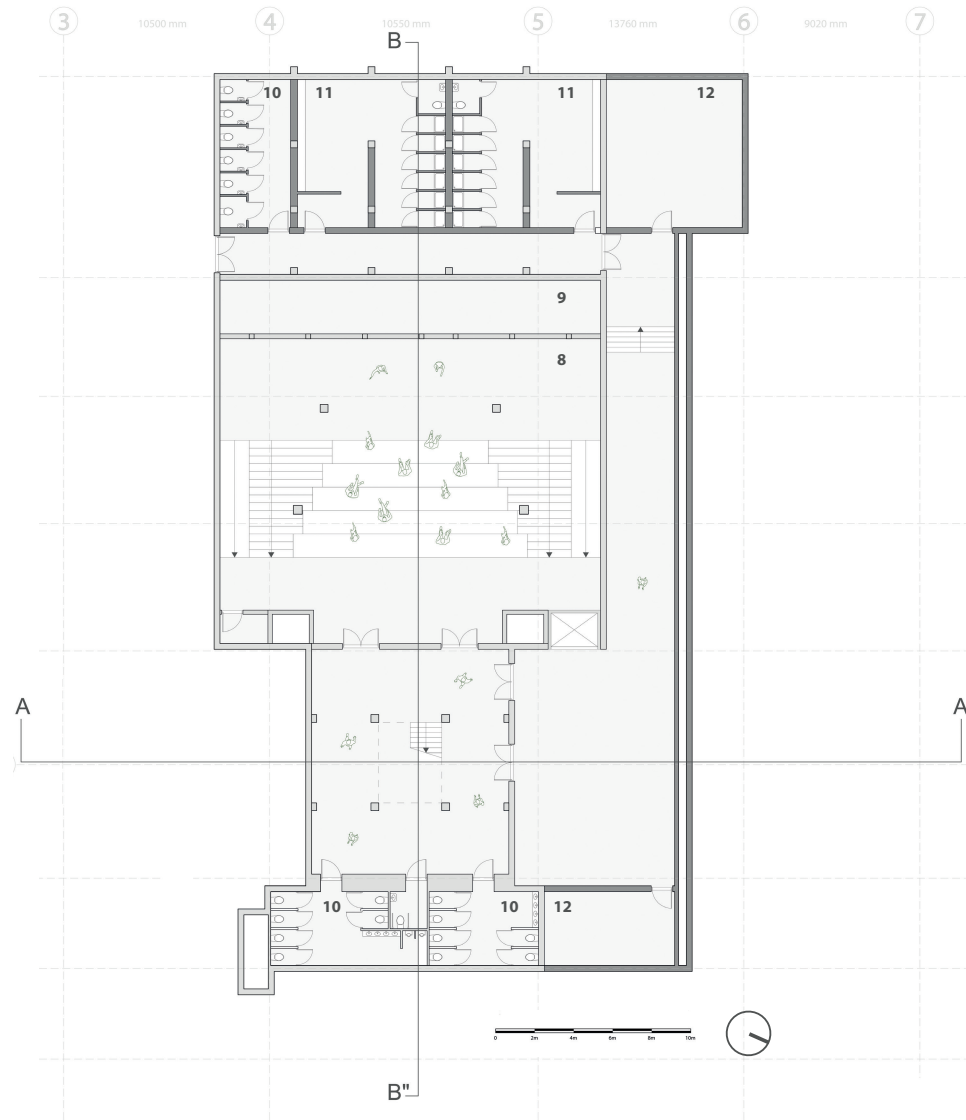
5

6



# Architectural Design

## Floorplan basement 1:100



### Legend

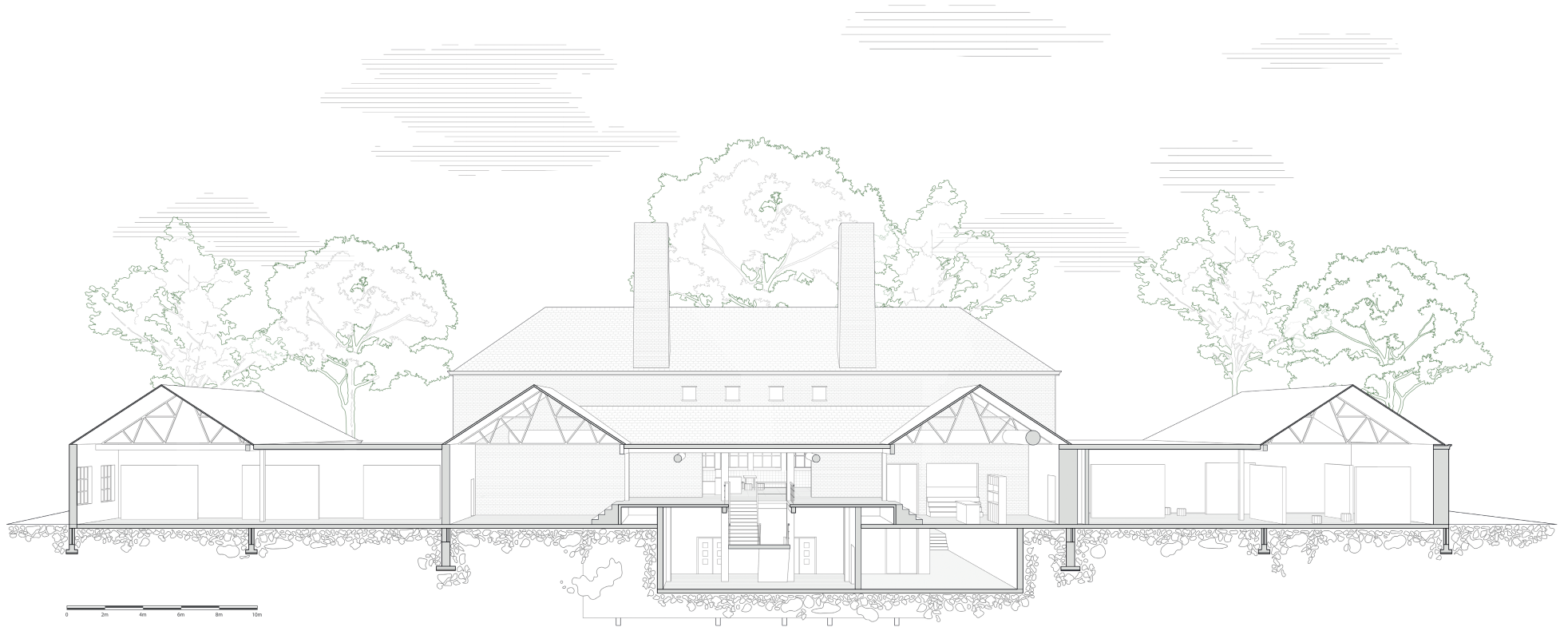
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Existing elements / construction

New elements / construction

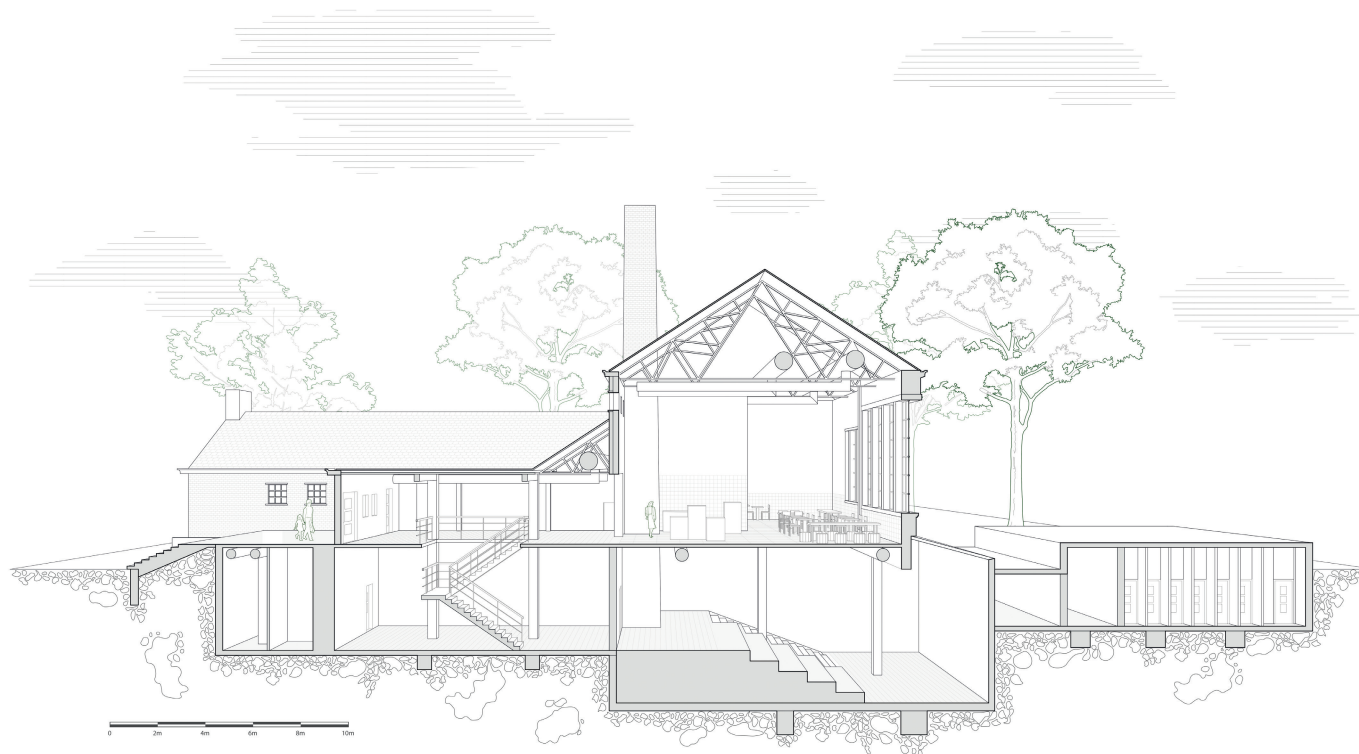
# Architectural Design

*Section drawing AA' 1:100*



# Architectural Design

Section drawing BB' 1:100



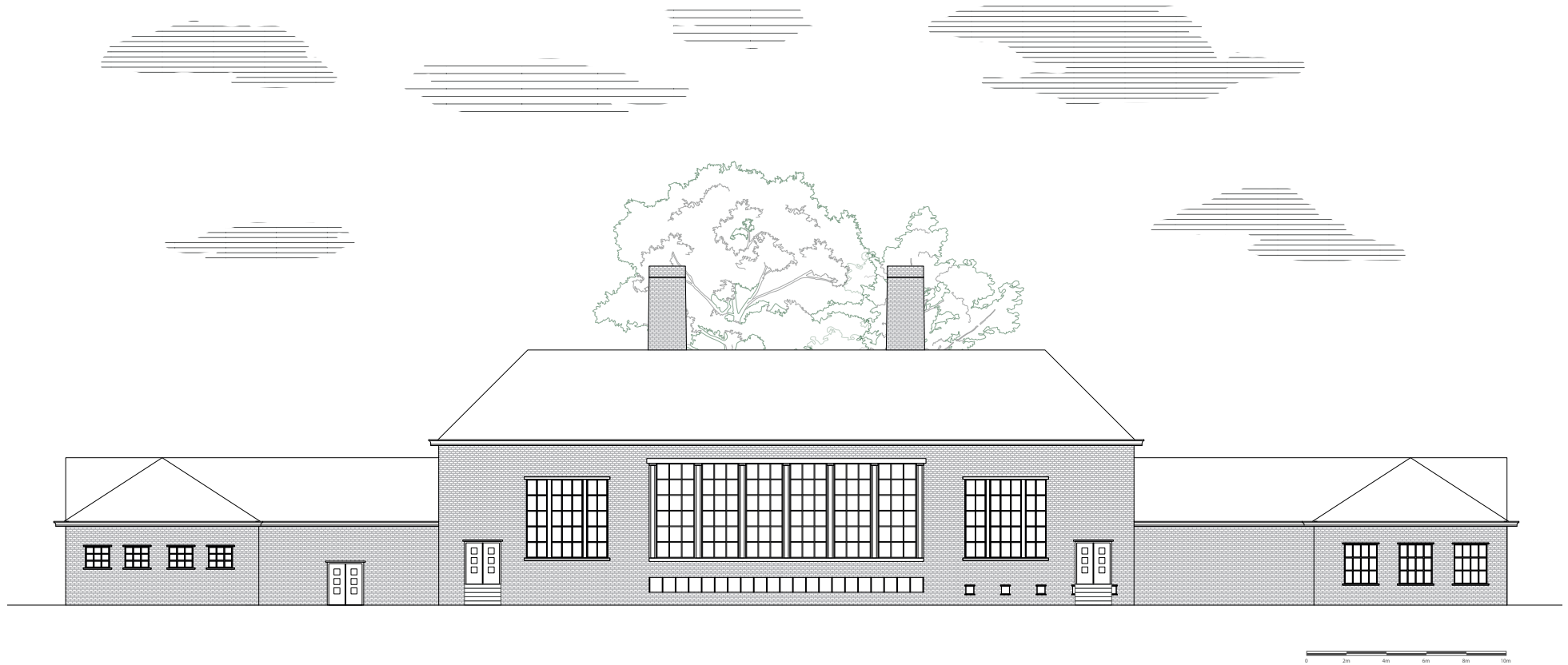
# Architectural Design

*Front elevation 1:100*



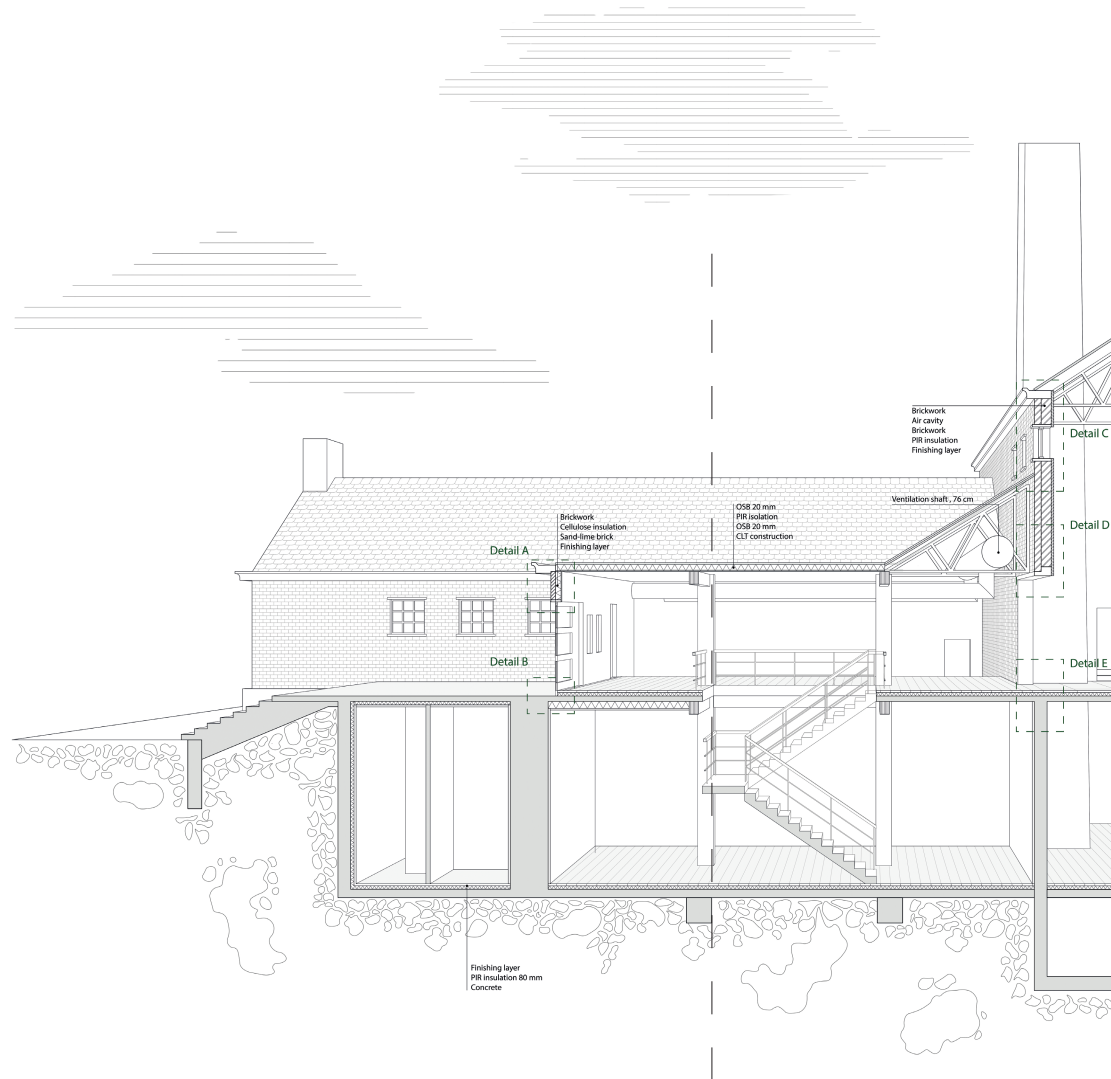
# Architectural Design

*Back elevation 1:100*



# Architectural Design

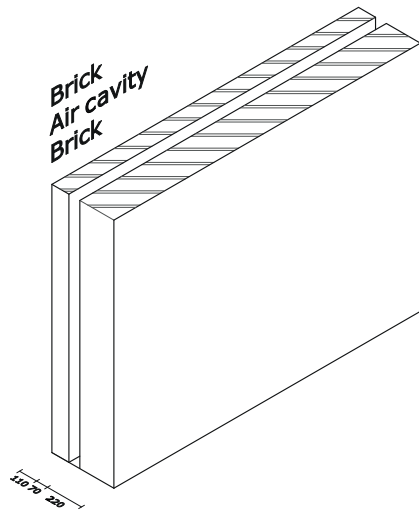
## Section fragment 1:50



# Architectural Design

*Preservation and thermal improvement*

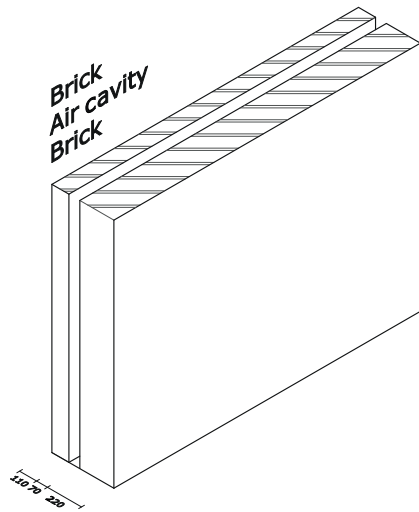
## Current situation



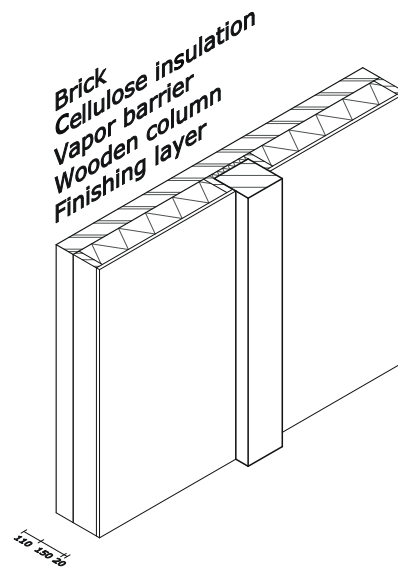
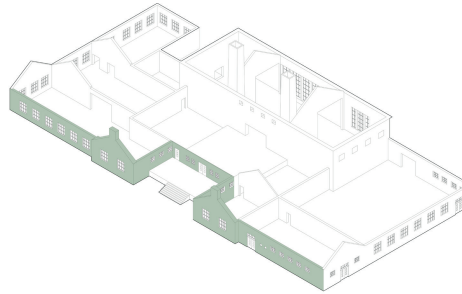
# Architectural Design

*Preservation and thermal improvement*

**Current situation**



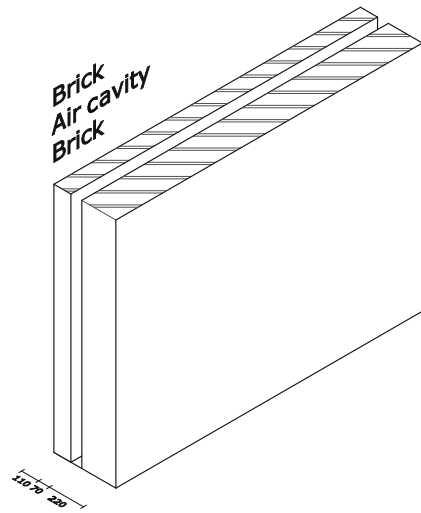
**Option 1**



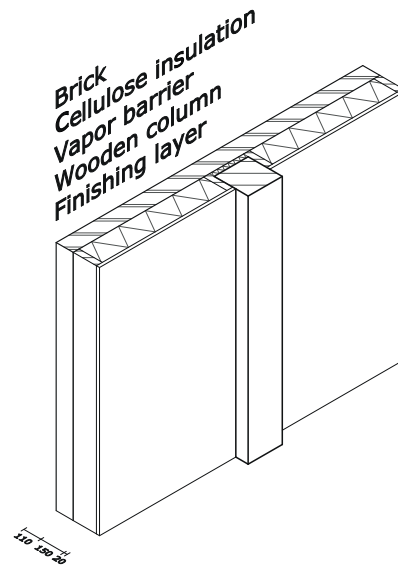
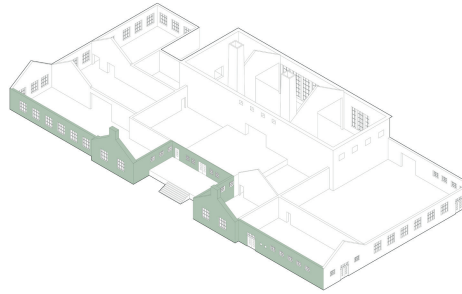
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Preservation and thermal improvement

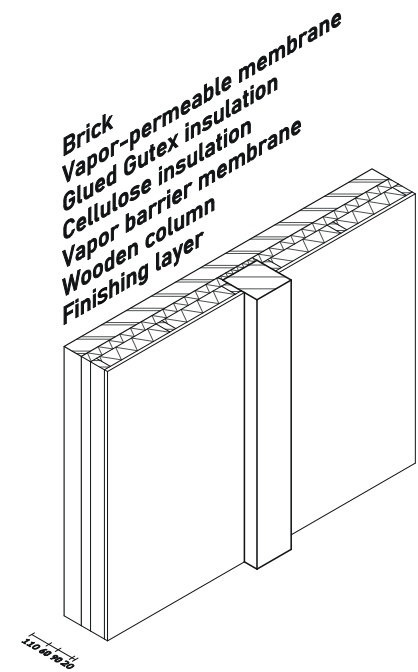
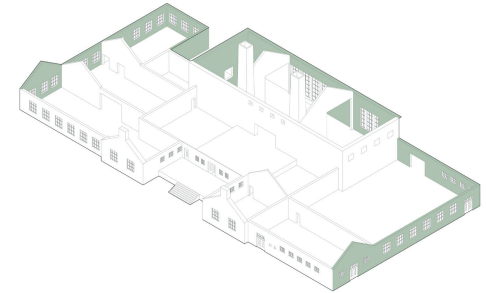
Current situation



Option 1

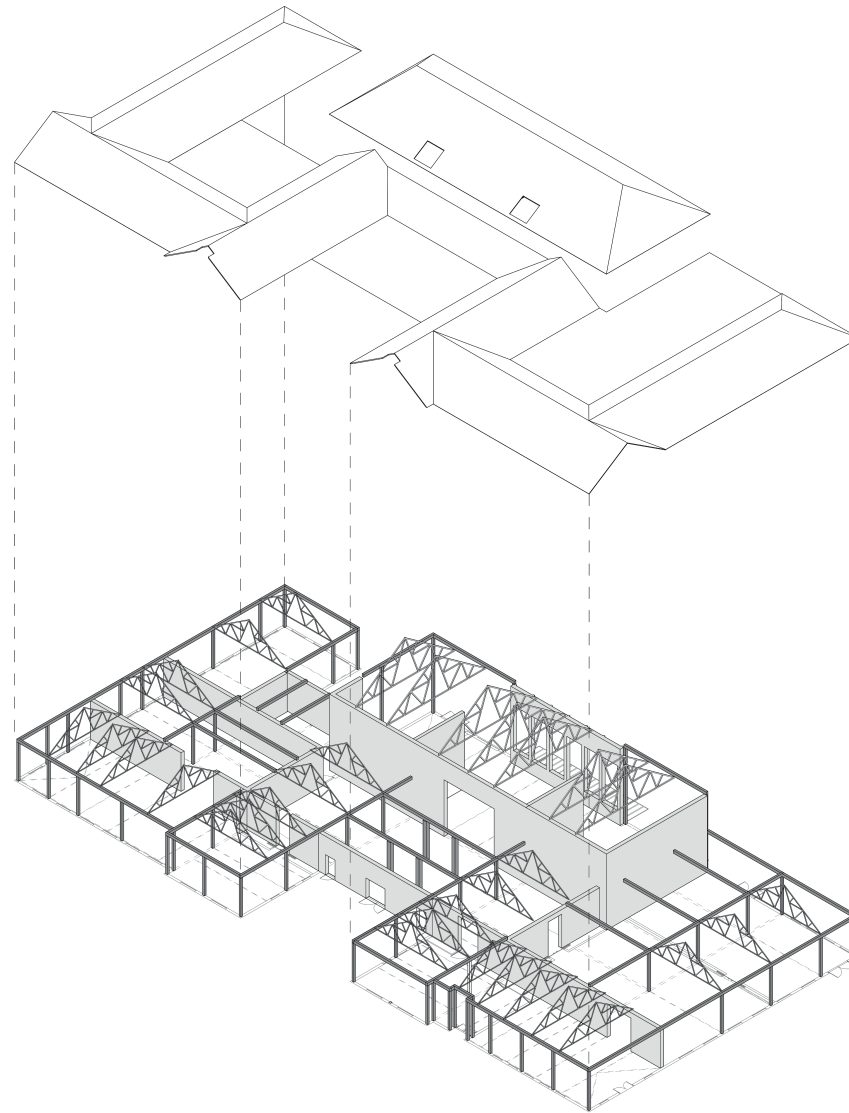


Option 2



# Architectural Design

*Combining existing and new structures*



## Legend

- Existing construction
- New construction

# Architectural Design

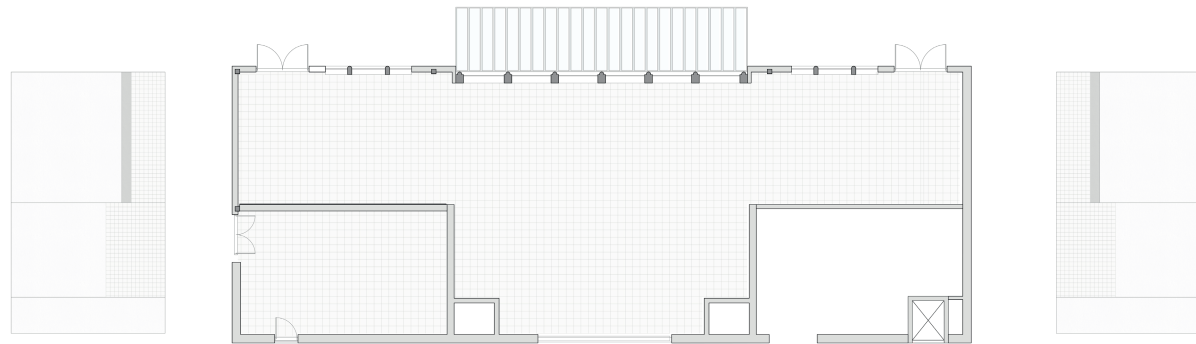
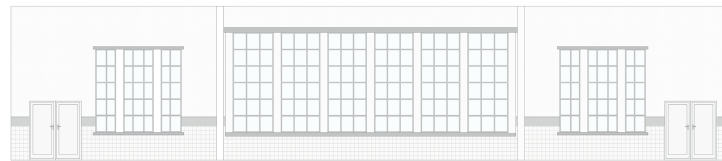
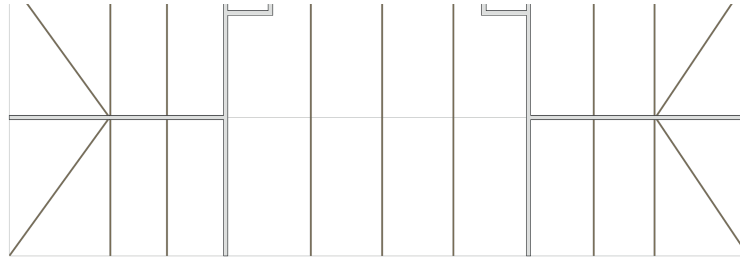
*Spatial experience*

## **Time Layers and Identity**

- Spatial experience is shaped by the building's different layer of time
- Contrast between historic and modern spaces
- Past, present and future of Defence

# Architectural Design

*Spatial experience*





# Architectural Design

*Spatial experience*





## **Conclusion**

# Conclusion

## Research question

*'How can the spatial layout and routing of a Defence Museum in an existing military building contribute to both public information provision and recruitment, while respecting the historical value of the building?'*

- Spatial organisation and routing can play an important role in supporting information provision and recruitment
- Central gathering space creates orientation and interaction
- New public functions can be introduced, without losing respect for heritage values
- Place where visitors engage with Defence in its past, present and future

**Thank you!**