

ALONG THE RING'S CONDITIONS
INTERVING ON THE INFRASTRUCTURAL EDGE OF CHARLEROI

Territory in Transit
Dorsale Wallonne

MARCO CIMENTI

Geographical Context

Europe, Belgium, Wallonia

Geographical Context

Locating the project, Sites, Survey, System

Context

The reasons of the Walloon regional layout

Theoretical Ground

New typologies for the edge of the City

Megaform

The form of the Territory

The Project

Sites

The role of Infrastructure

The Archipelago

The Project

Three mutual themes: program, site specificities, itinerary

Intervention

West Modification - The Line

Technical / constructing aspects

Intervention

South Modification - The Point

The extension of the highway

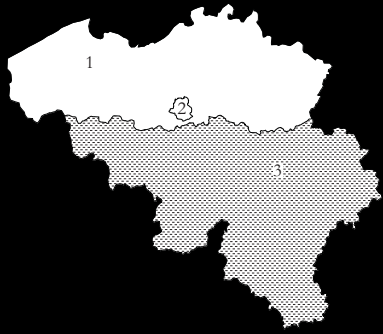
The green route

Intervention

West Modification - The Surface

The cell, Beistegui, rehabilitation

Geographical Context



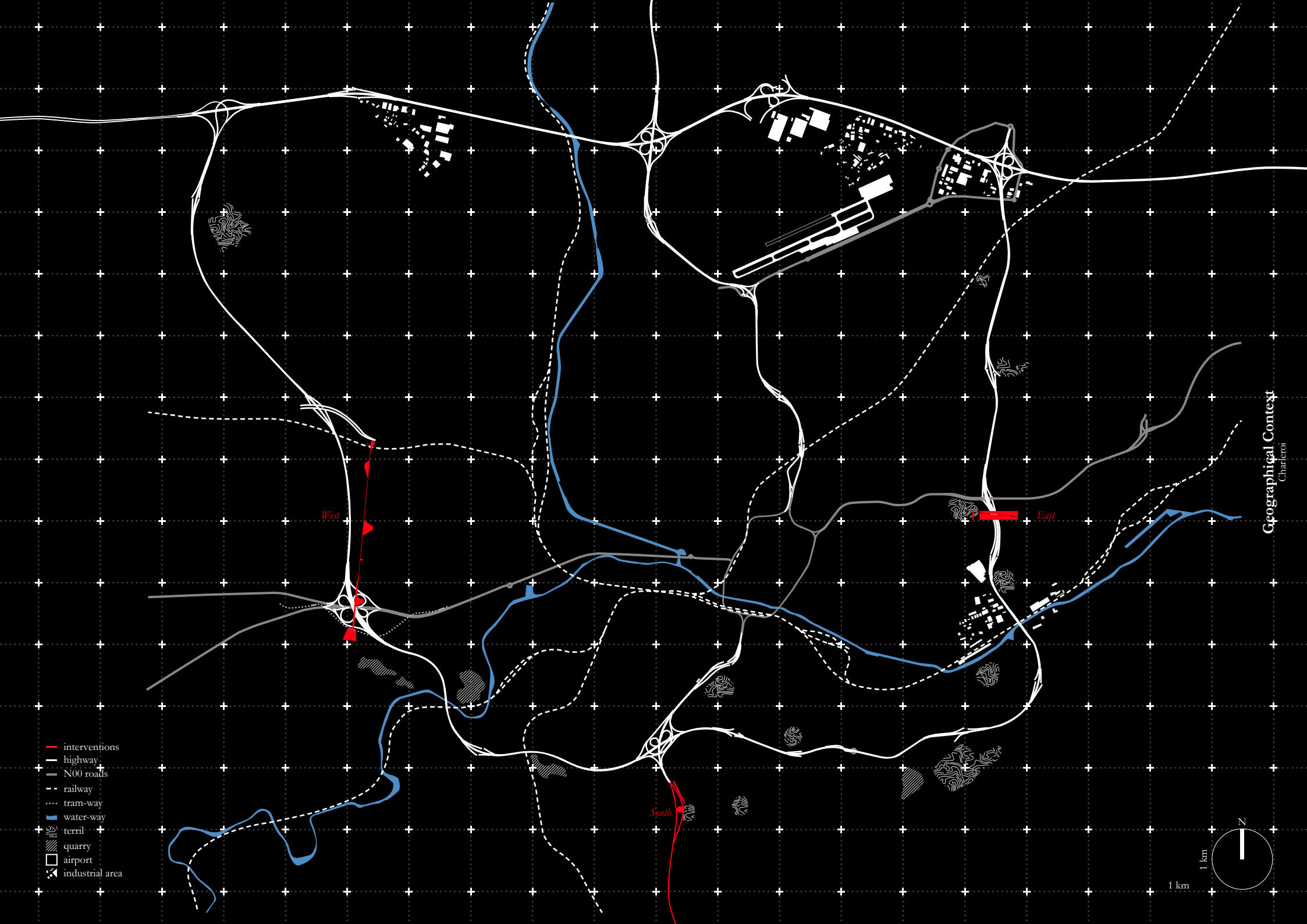
Regions of Belgium:

- 1. Flanders
- 2. Brussels
- 3. Wallonia



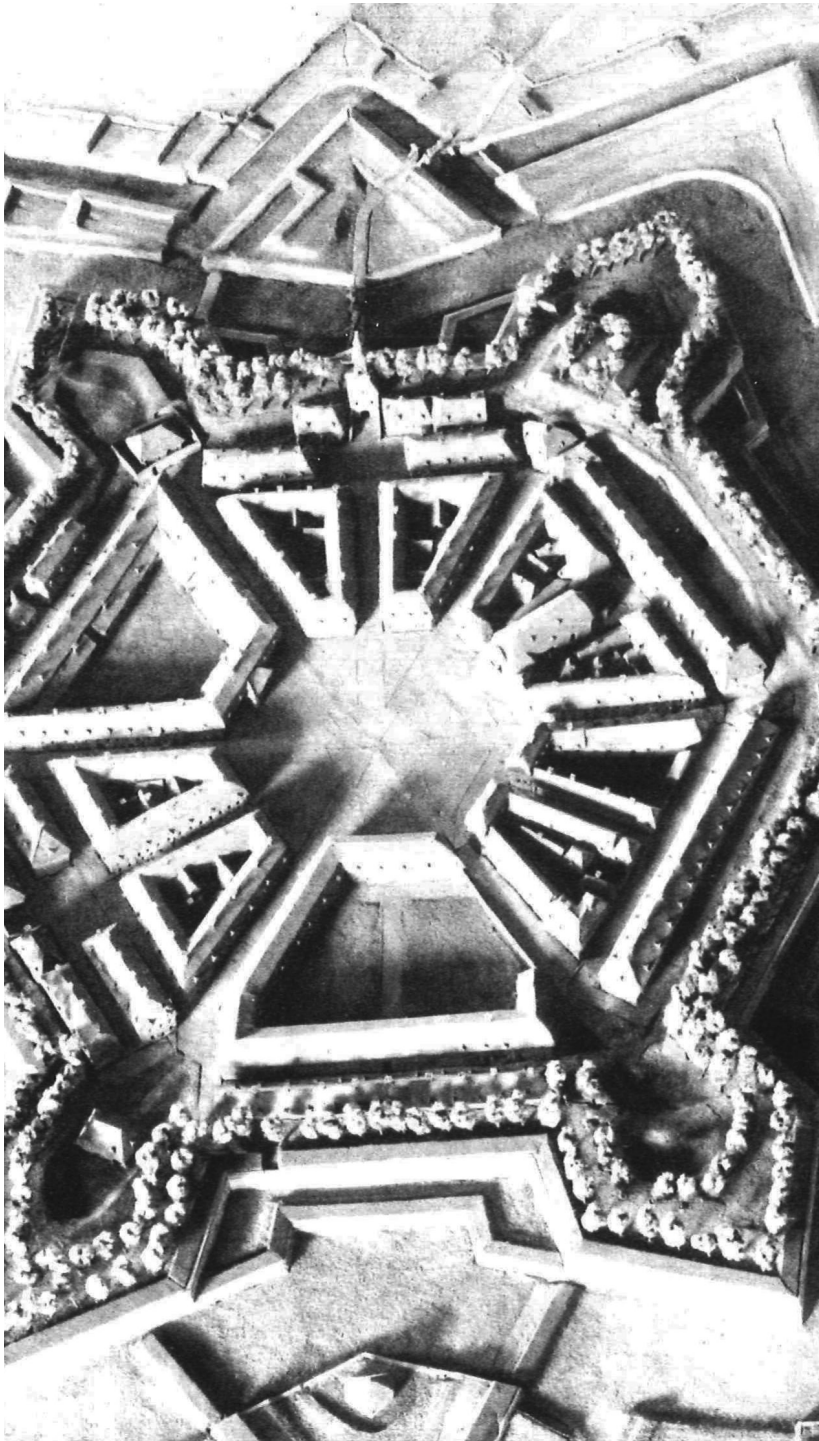
Geographical Context
Europe, Belgium, Wallonia







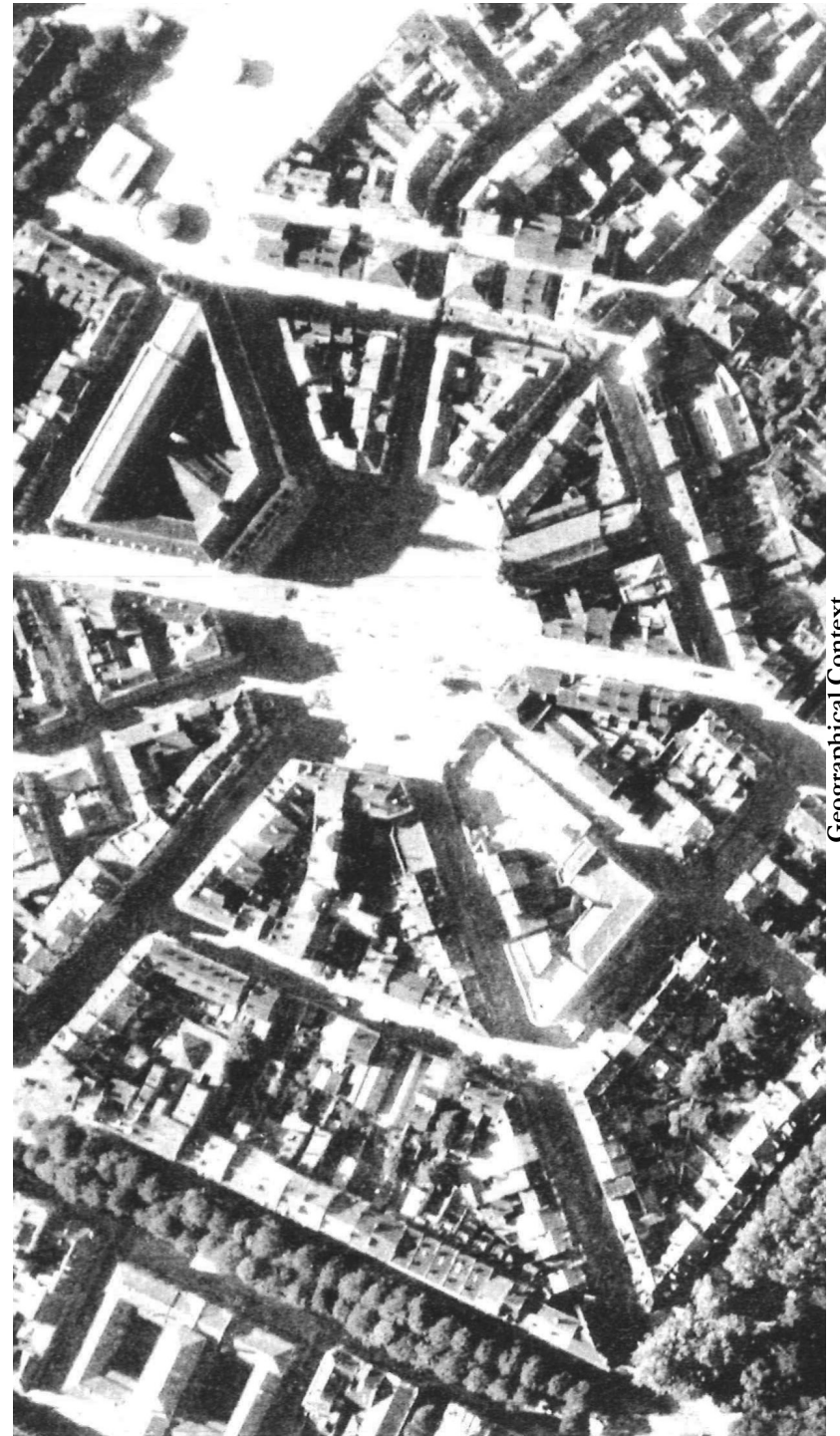
Gare de Charleroi



Charleroi, upper town on relief map. Plan of the 1669



Hand-drawing of the Charleroi's Plan (1672-1679)



Charleroi, aerial view of the upper town. Actual City center



Aerial view of Charleroi



Geographical Context

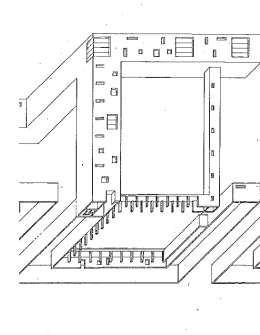
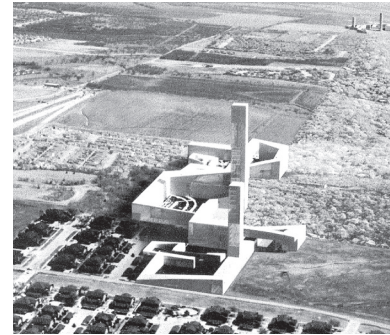
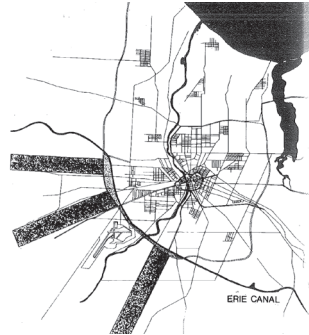
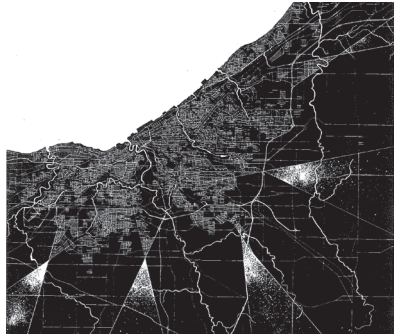
Panorama view of Charleroi

Theoretical Ground

The new typology designed by El Lissitzky is a horizontal skyscraper, hosting offices. In this project a series of these new building-types were located on precise spots along the outer ring belt of Moscow, where the main arteries leading to the center met the ring-belt.
A peripheral context.



El Lissitzky, 1925, Wolkenbügel Project, a new typology for the doors of Moscow



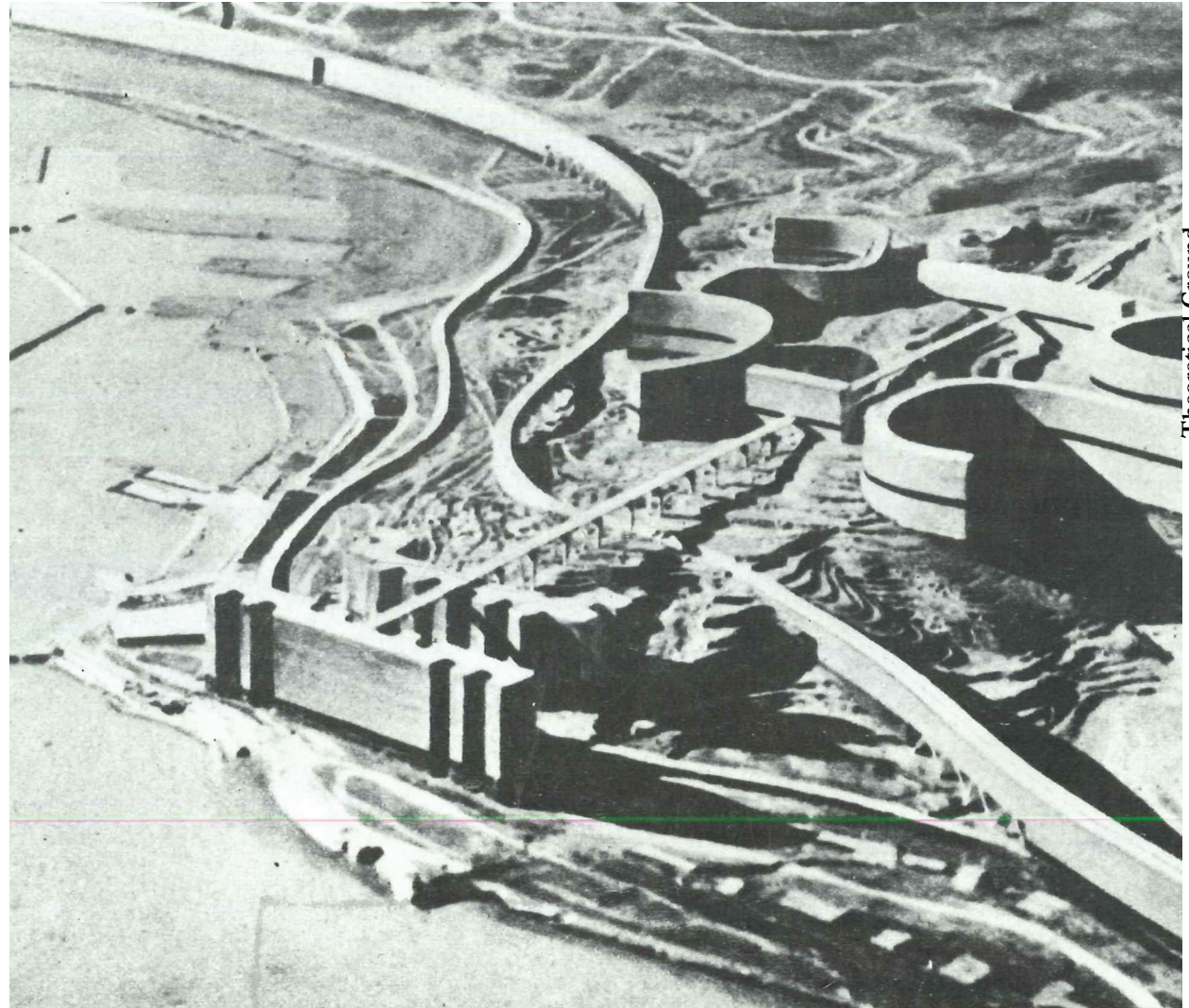
Theoretical Ground
New typologies for the edge of the City

In the Phamplet n. 13, Steven Holl inscribed a series of projects meant to frame the edge of the American cities, bringing environmental explanations as the reasons to block the city's development.

In this proposals, again there is the foundation of new typologies, one clearly inspired by the Wolkenbugel.

Megaform, it may be defined as the displaying the following characteristics:

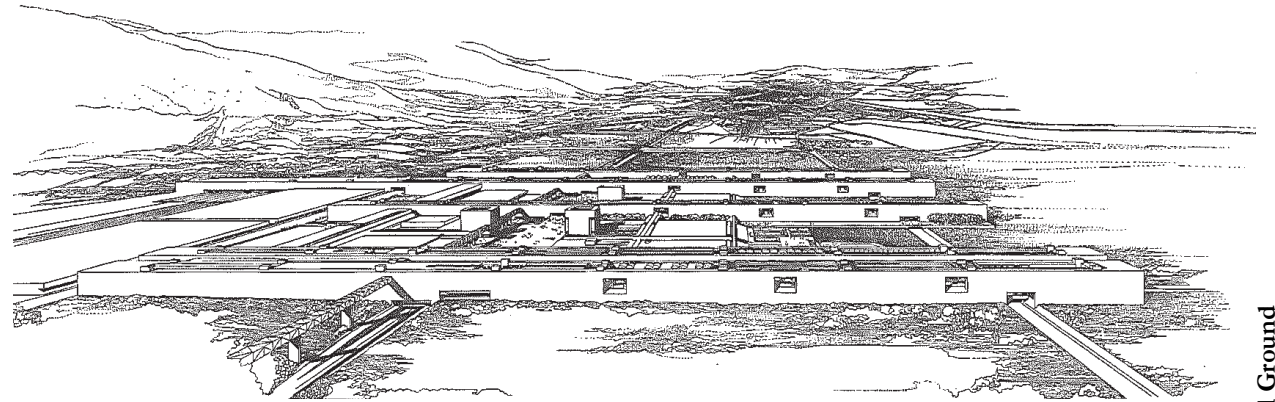
- 1) A large form extending horizontally rather than vertically
- 2) A complex form which, unlike the megastructure, is not necessarily articulated into a series of structural and mechanical subsets as we find for example in the Centre Pompidou
- 3) A form capable of its strong topographical character
- 4) A form that is not freestanding but rather insinuates itself as a continuation of the surrounding topography
- 5) A form that is orientated towards a densification of the urban fabric.



Theoretical Ground
Megaform

Modification and the Horizon:

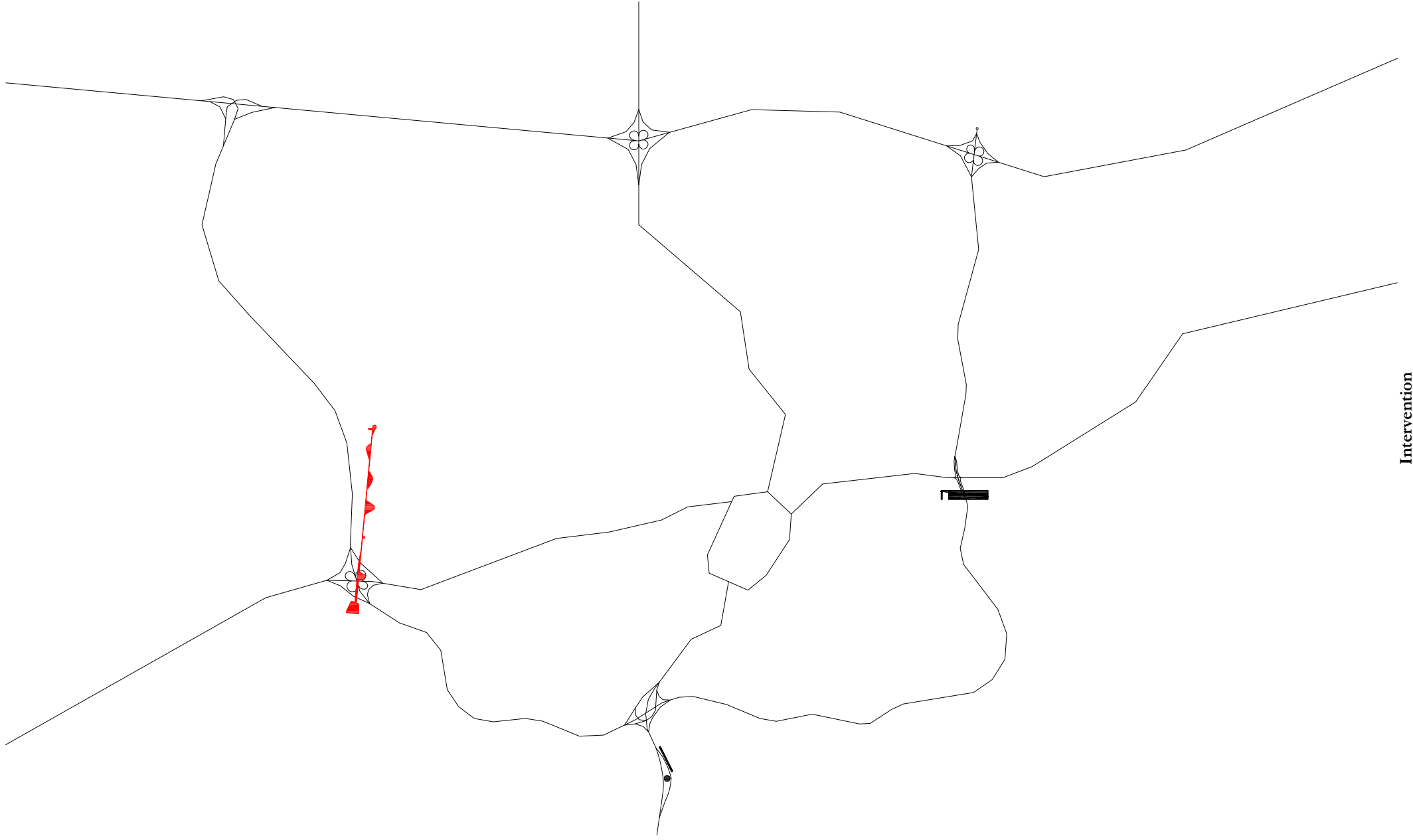
The preponderant presence of nature makes it easier to evaluate the effectiveness of human interventions: the first type of human interventions in the environment coincided with the desire to only bring about minimal changes in order to encounter as little resistance as possible; this *modus operandi* left only fragile remnants that are, however, perfectly characteristic as they involved the most essential options. But even when we are confronted with a heavily manipulated geographical space, the problem is always a question of locating the tender spot, the minimal operation. Evidence of this can be found in the modification of the horizon and its highest points, the ground plan of the main connecting axes and the dimensional and chromatic modulation of surfaces.



The Project

West Modification

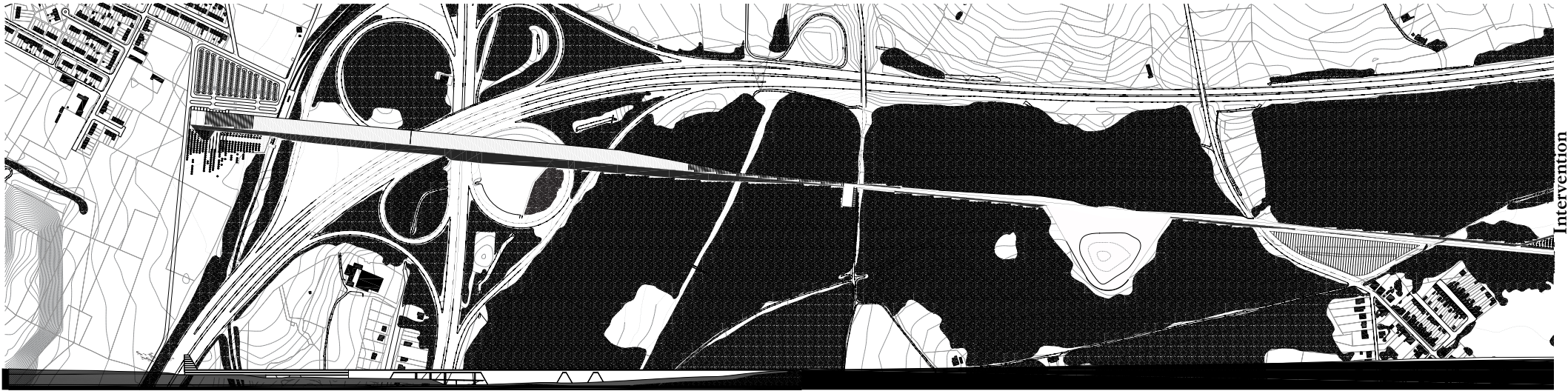
The Line



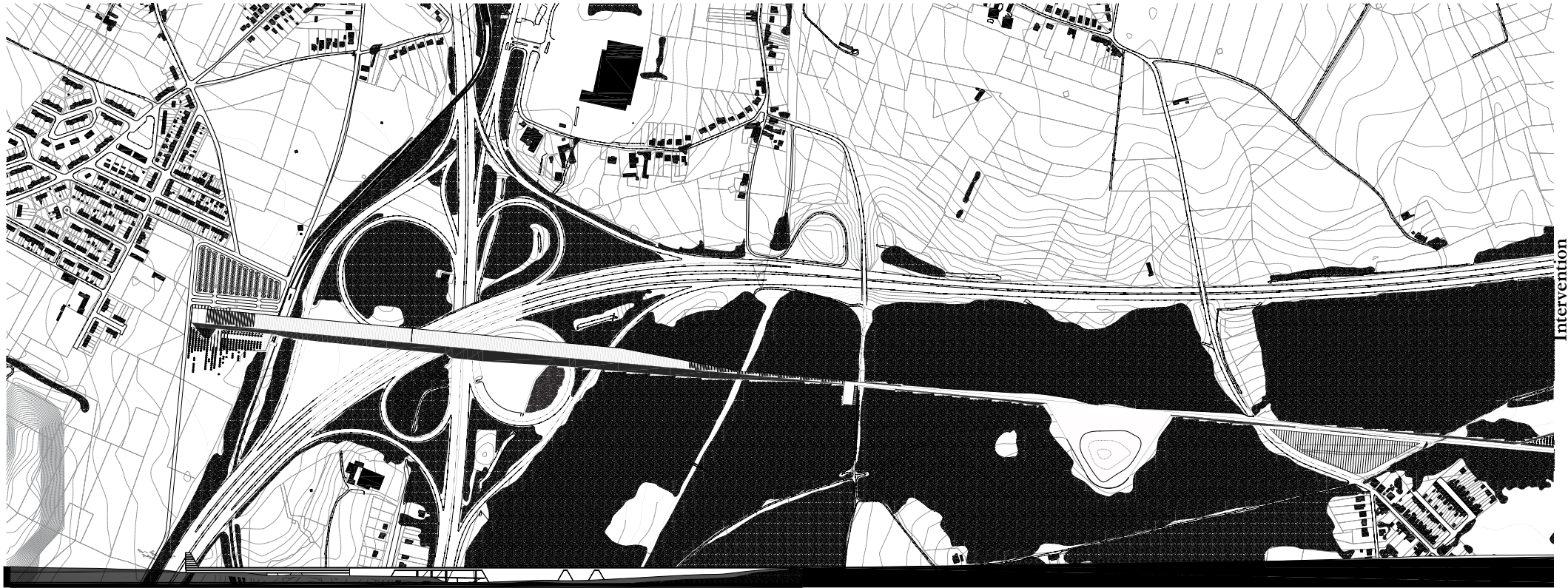
Intervention
West Modification - The Line



Site, context



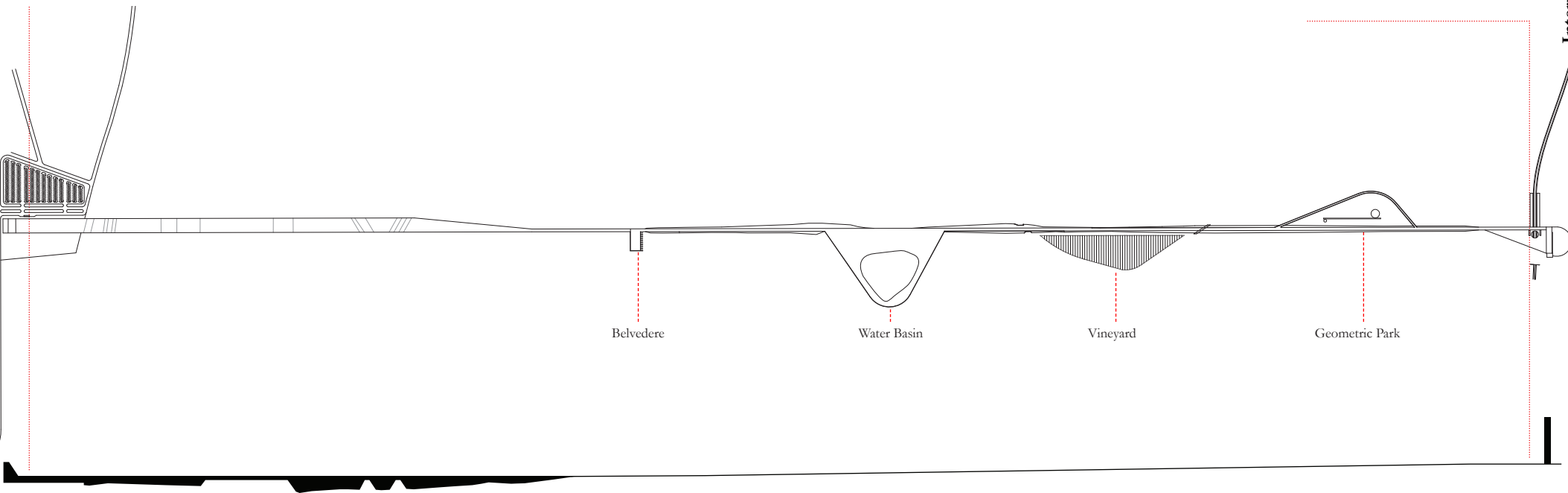
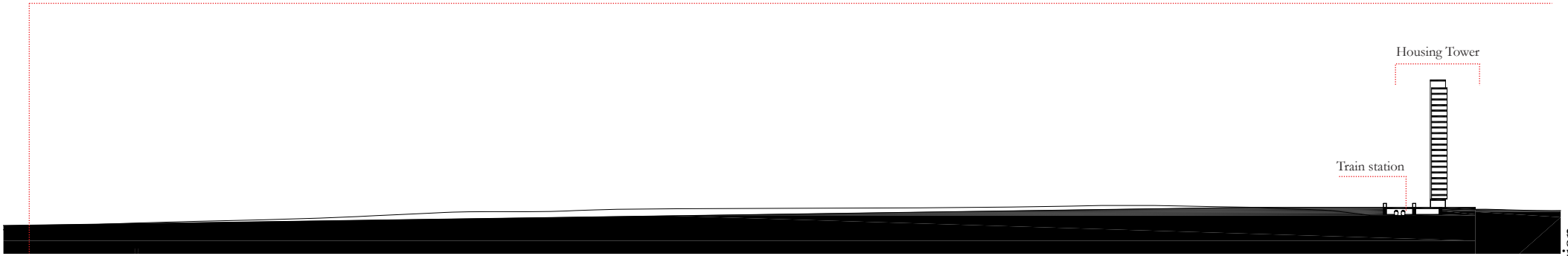
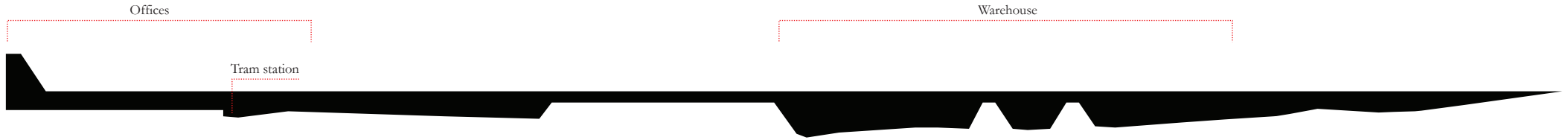
Intervention
West Modification - The Line

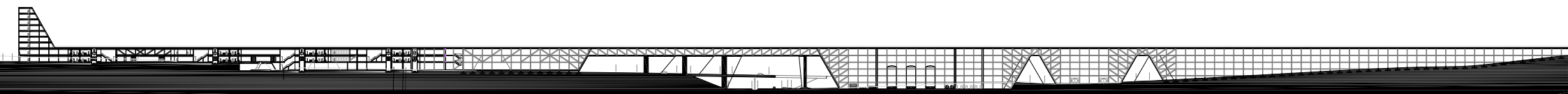
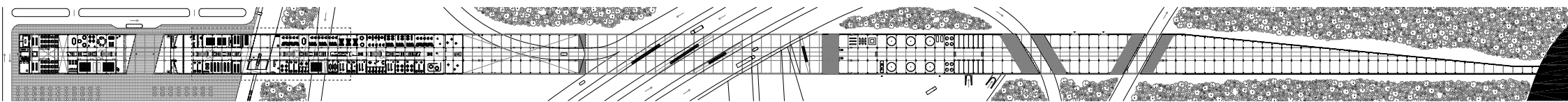


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West Modification - The Line

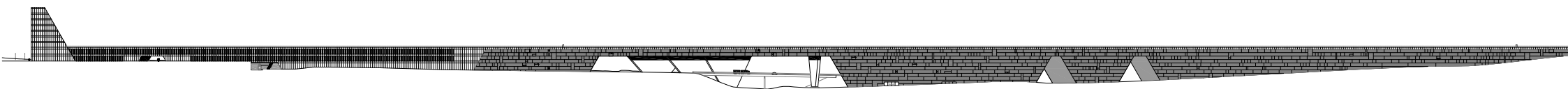
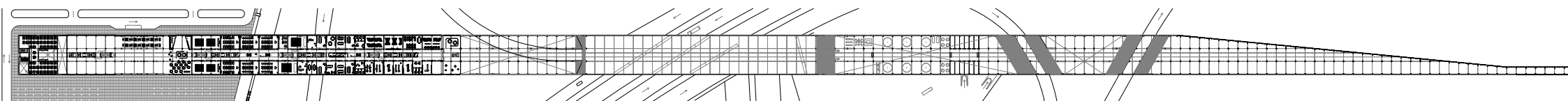


Intervention
West Modification - The Line

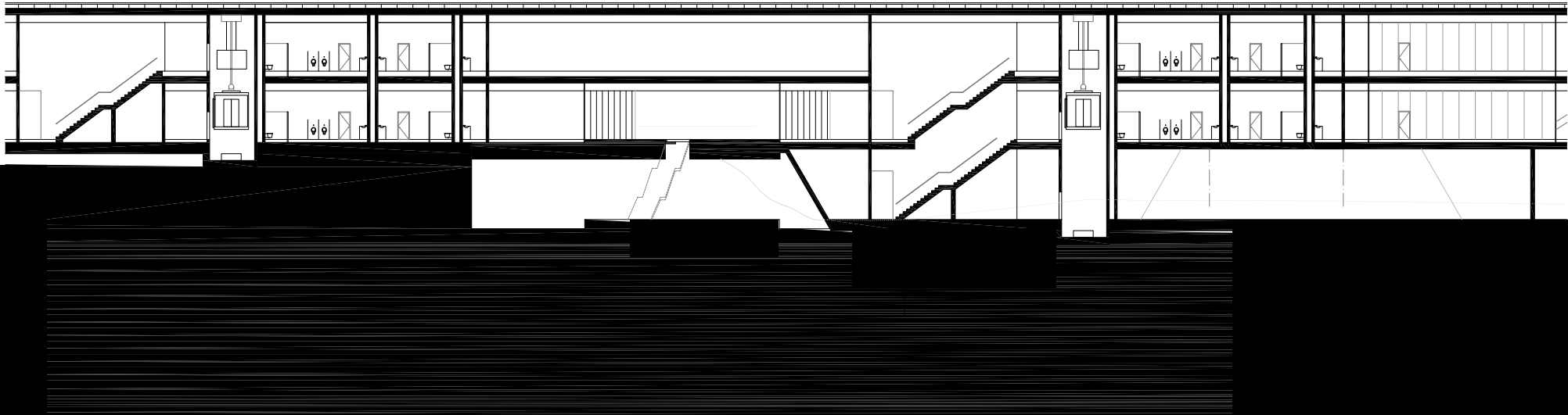
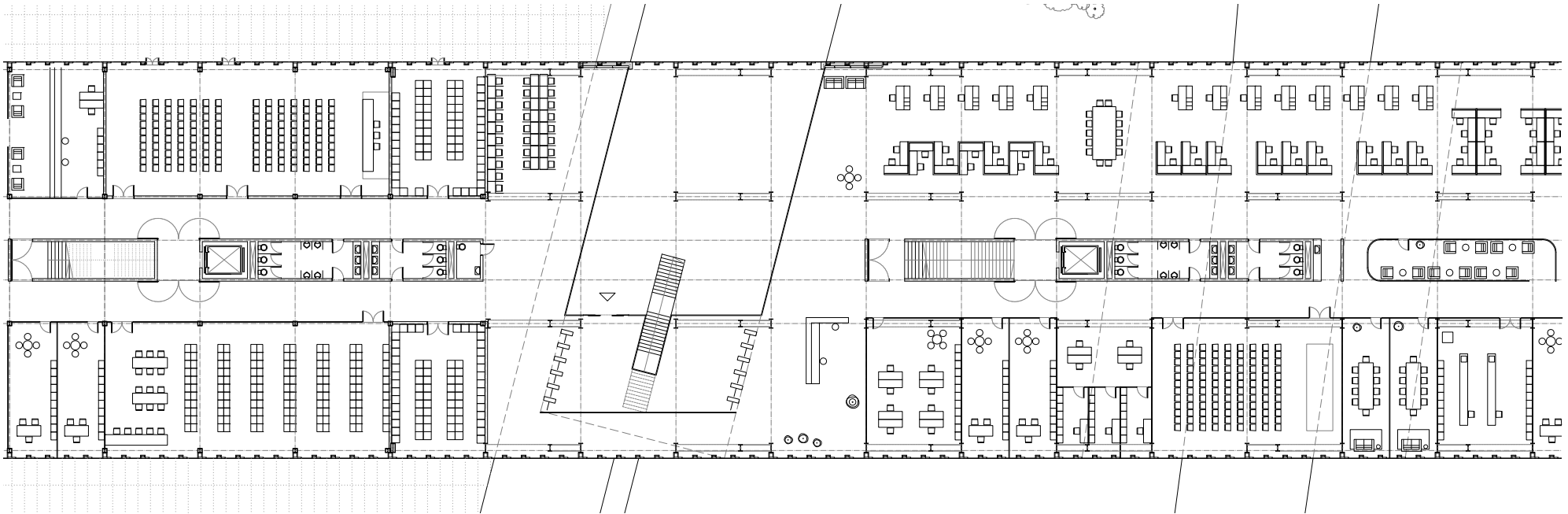




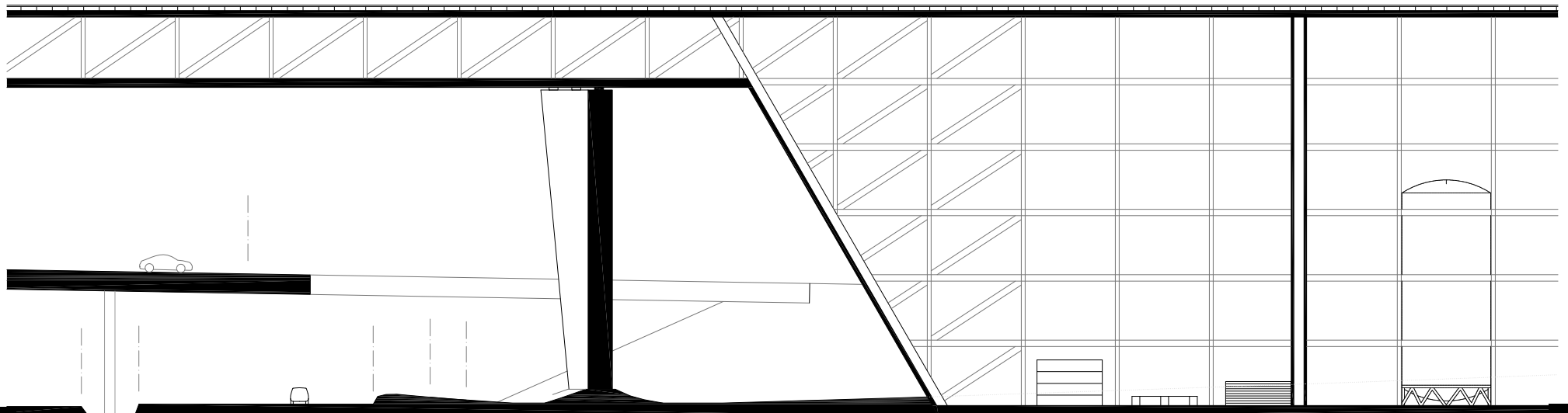
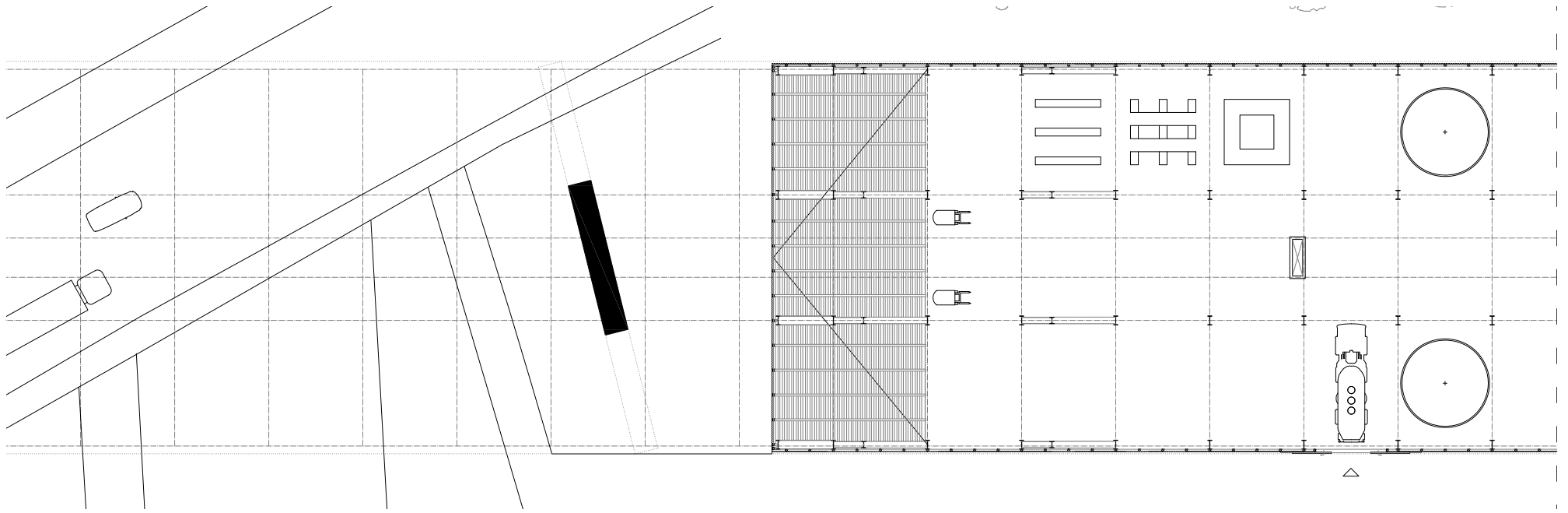
Ground floorplan and long section



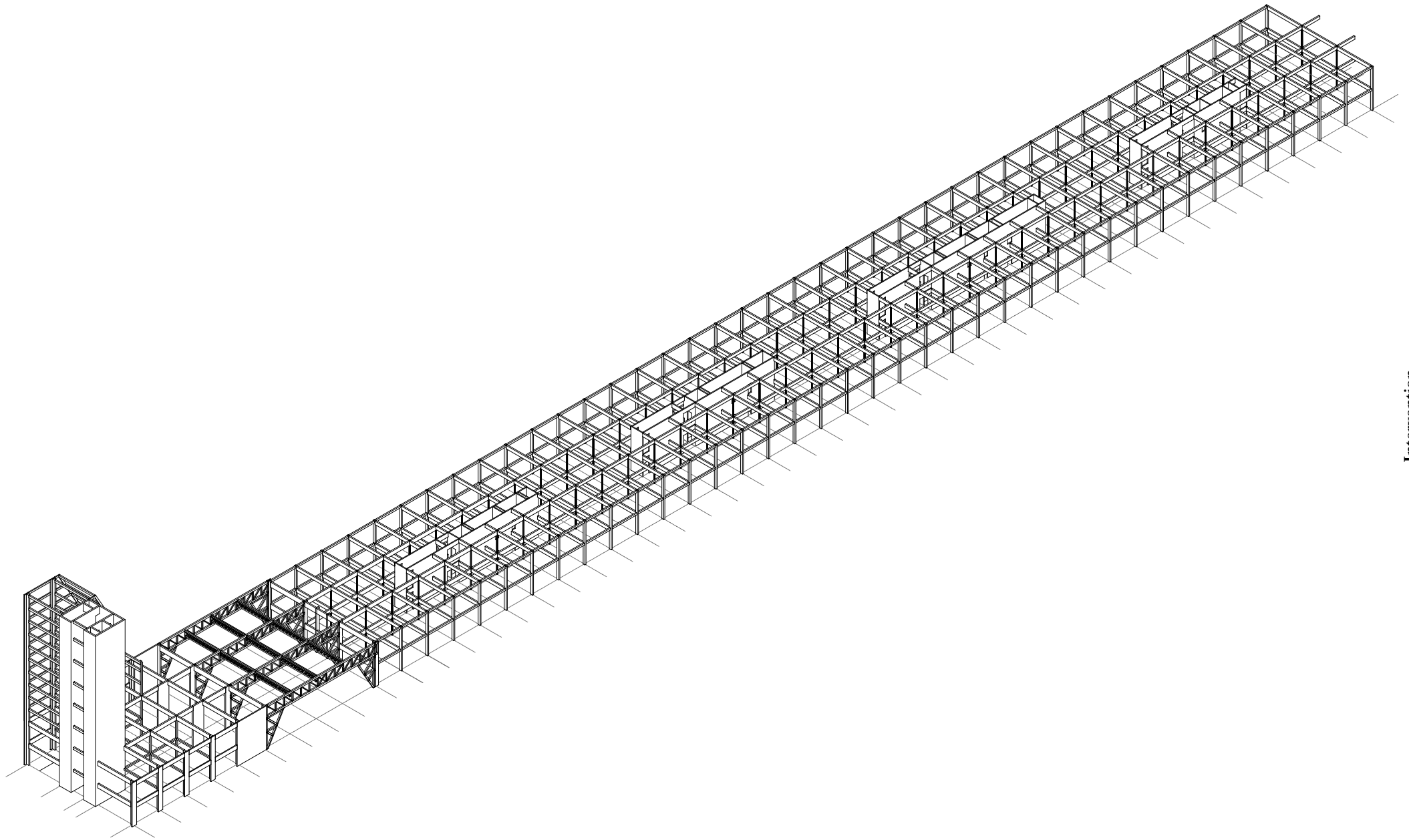
Second floorplan and East facade



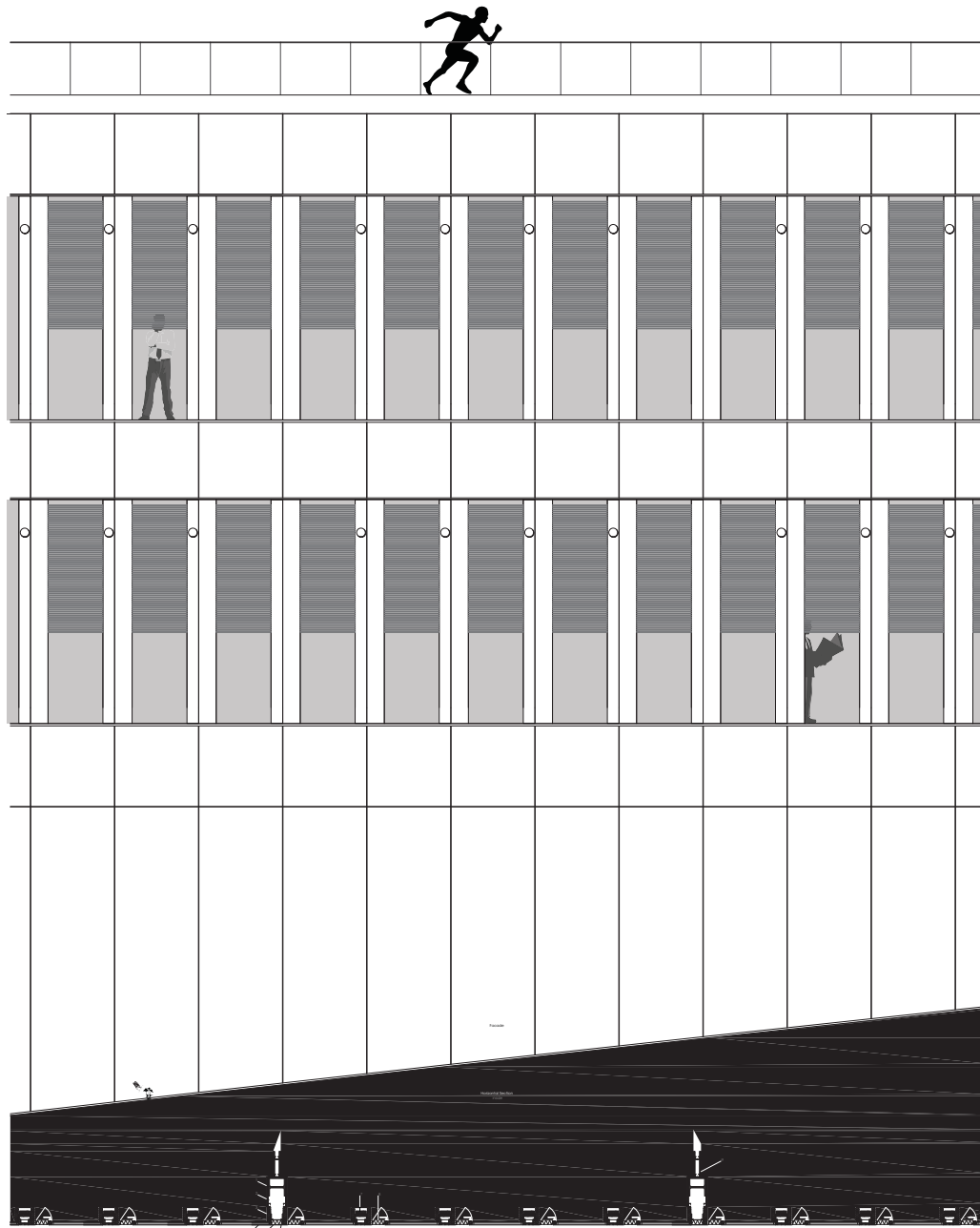
Fragment of floorplan and section: office area



Fragment of floorplan and section: ring R3 and warehouse



Principle of the structure



1. 200x200
 2. 100x100
 3. 50x50
 4. 25x25
 5. 12.5x12.5
 6. 6.25x6.25
 7. 3.125x3.125
 8. 1.5625x1.5625
 9. 0.78125x0.78125
 10. 0.390625x0.390625
 11. 0.1953125x0.1953125
 12. 0.09765625x0.09765625
 13. 0.048828125x0.048828125
 14. 0.0244140625x0.0244140625
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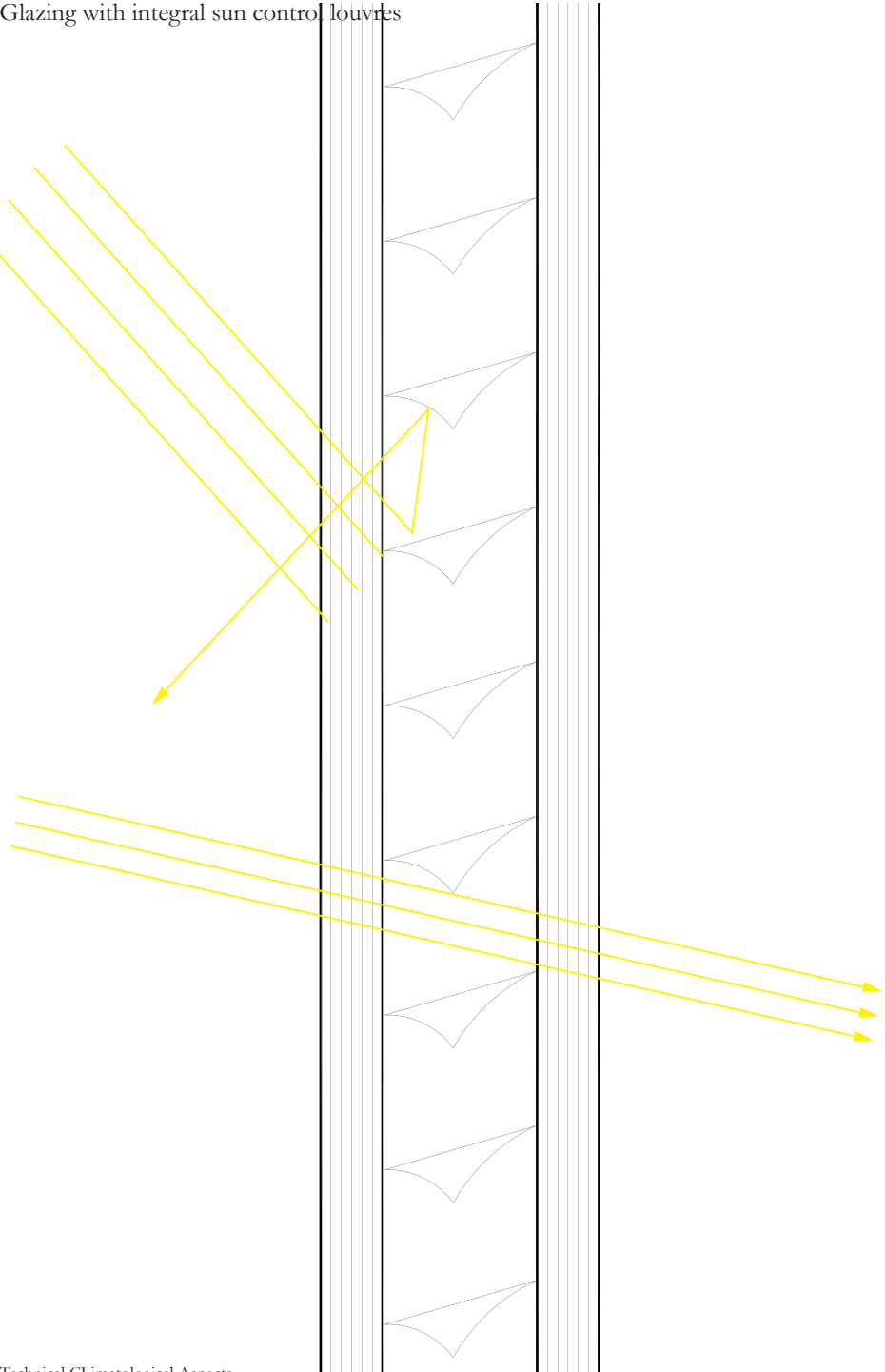
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 99. Existing structure
 100. New structure

Offices

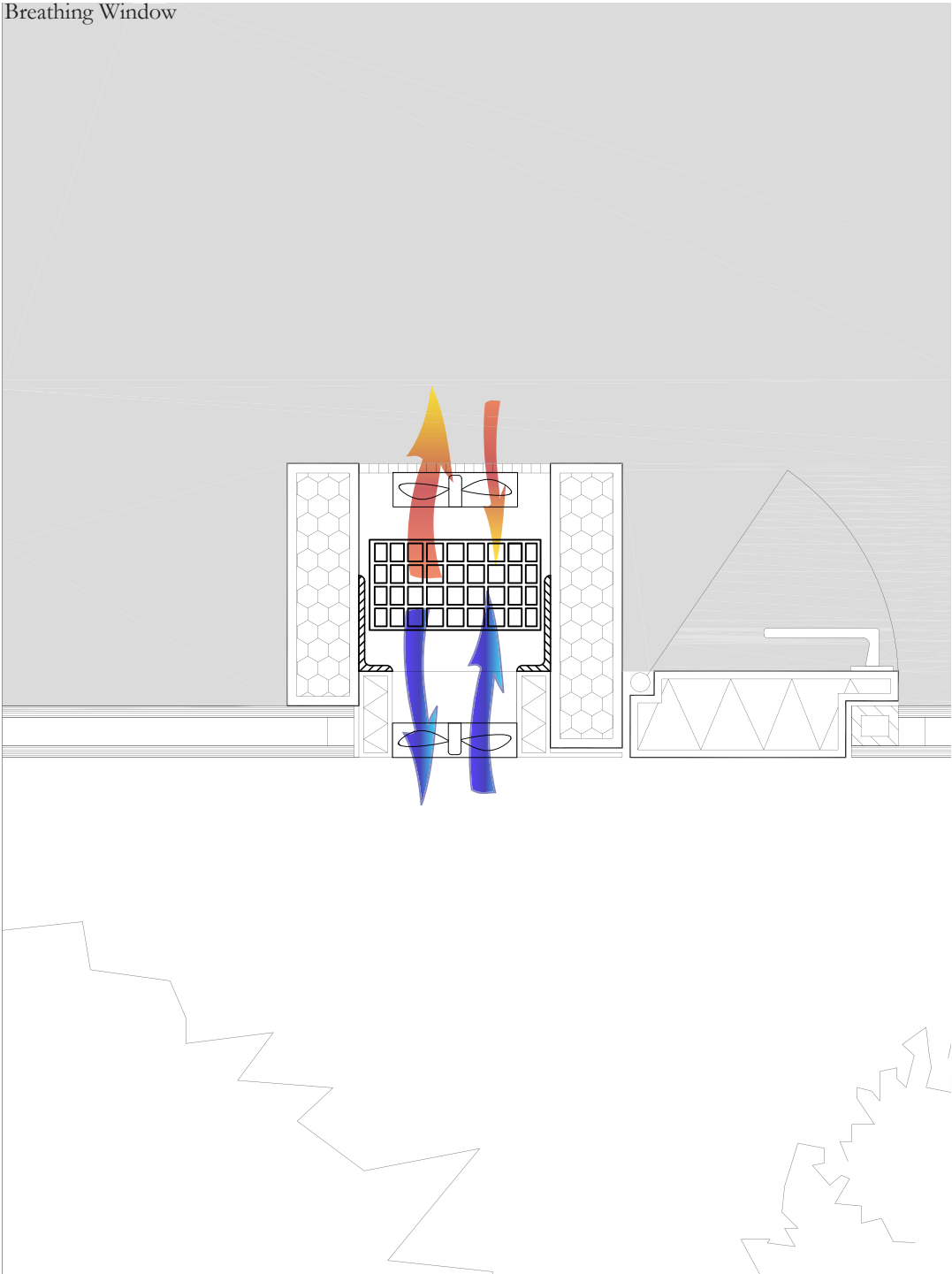
Warehouse

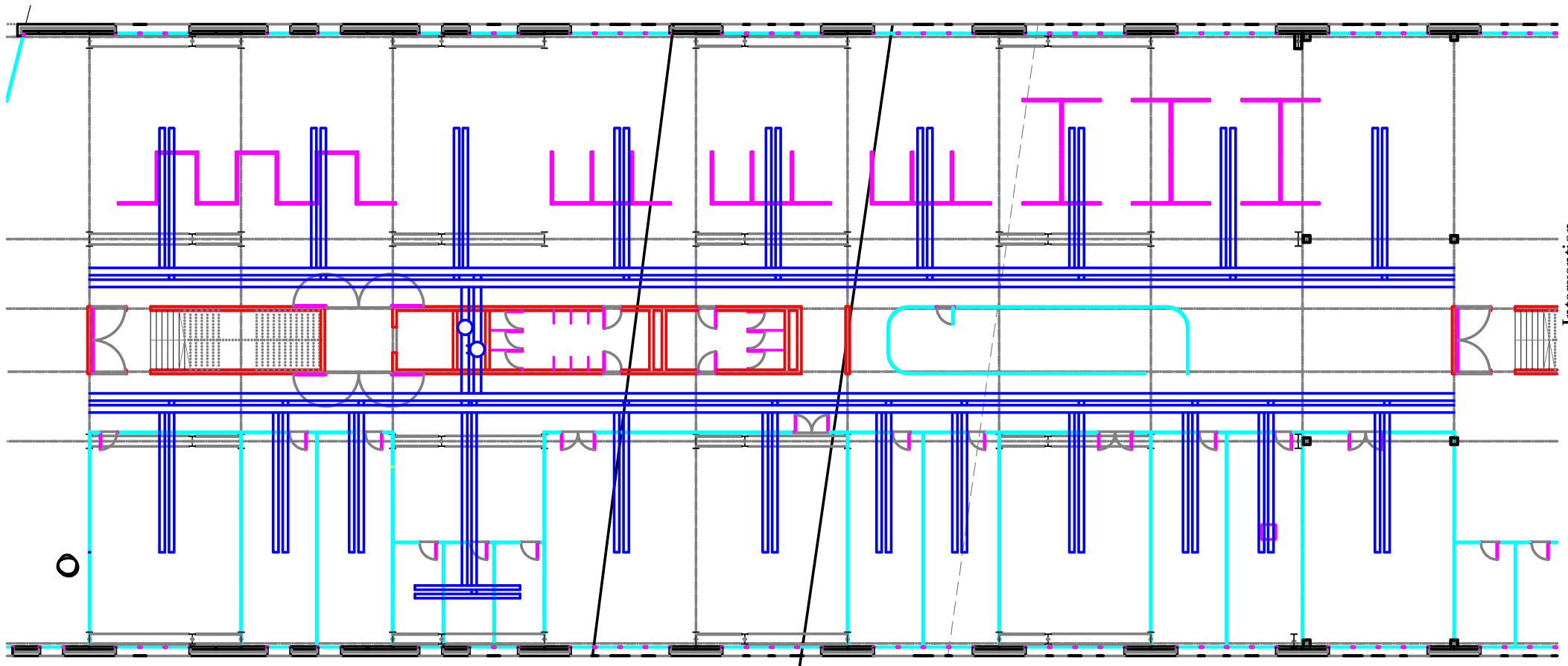
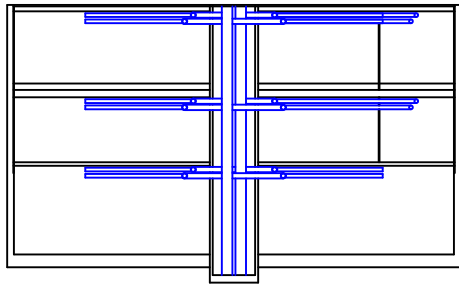
Intervention
 West Modification - The Line

Glazing with integral sun control louvres



Breathing Window

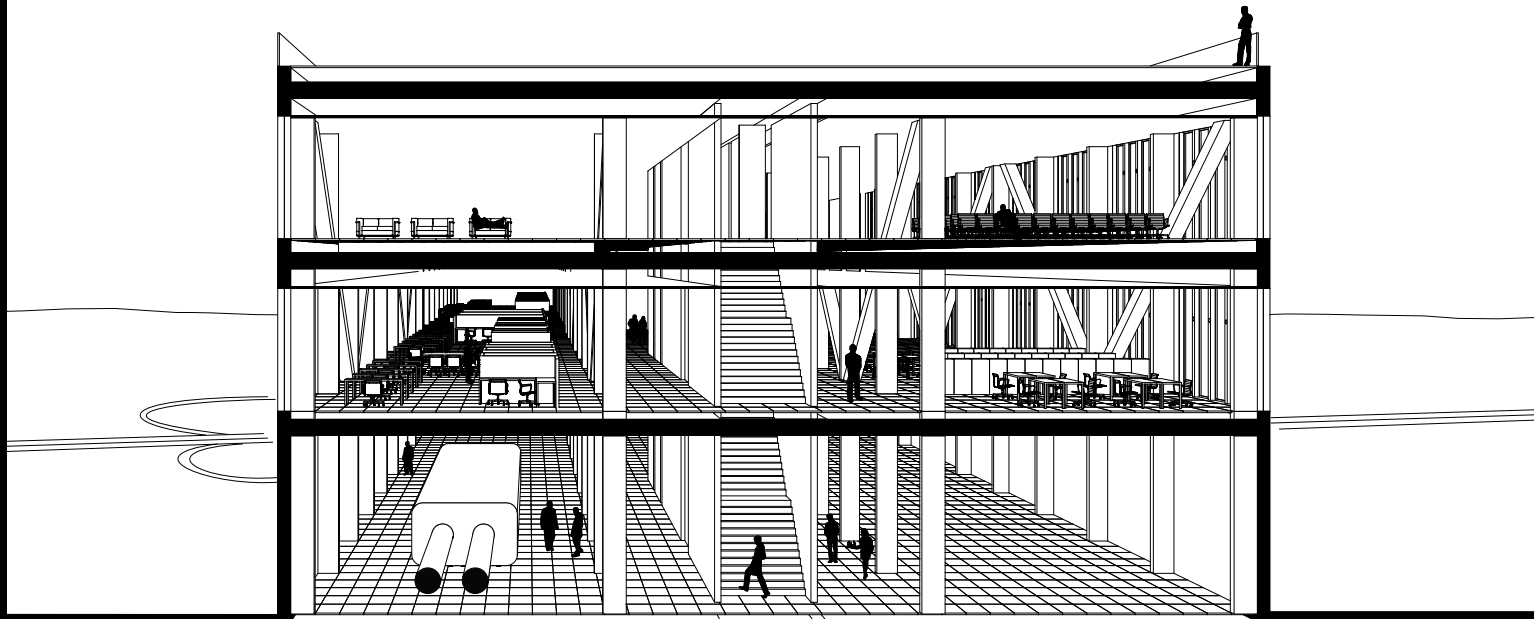




Intervention
West Modification - The Line

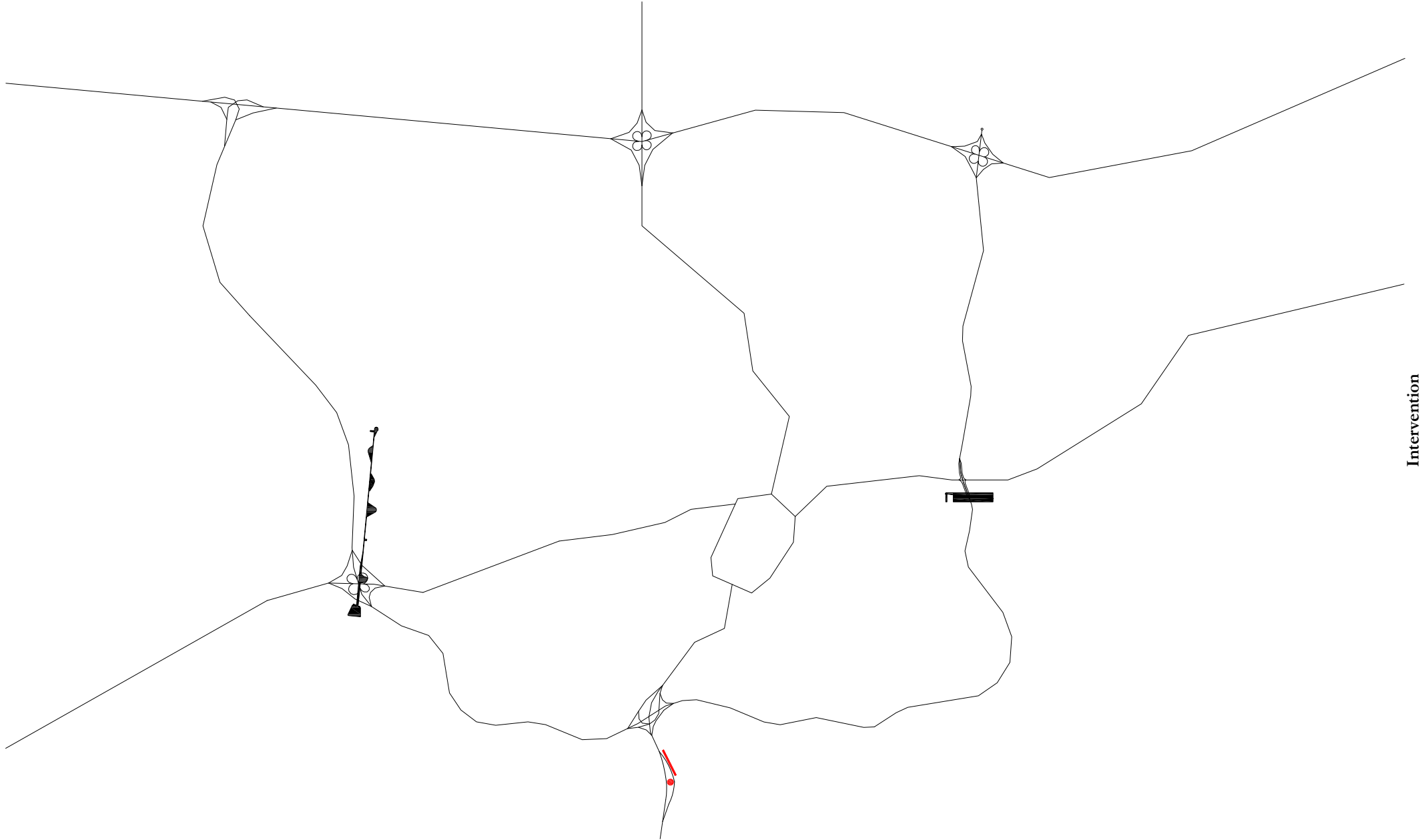
THE ENDLESS FIELD OF WORK

Site: a cloverleaf interchange. Over the roads giant gates rise. The in-between of the gates is filled by means of a generic structure. Here, in this generic space of endless extension a working field finds its natural location.
No boundaries for the labour.



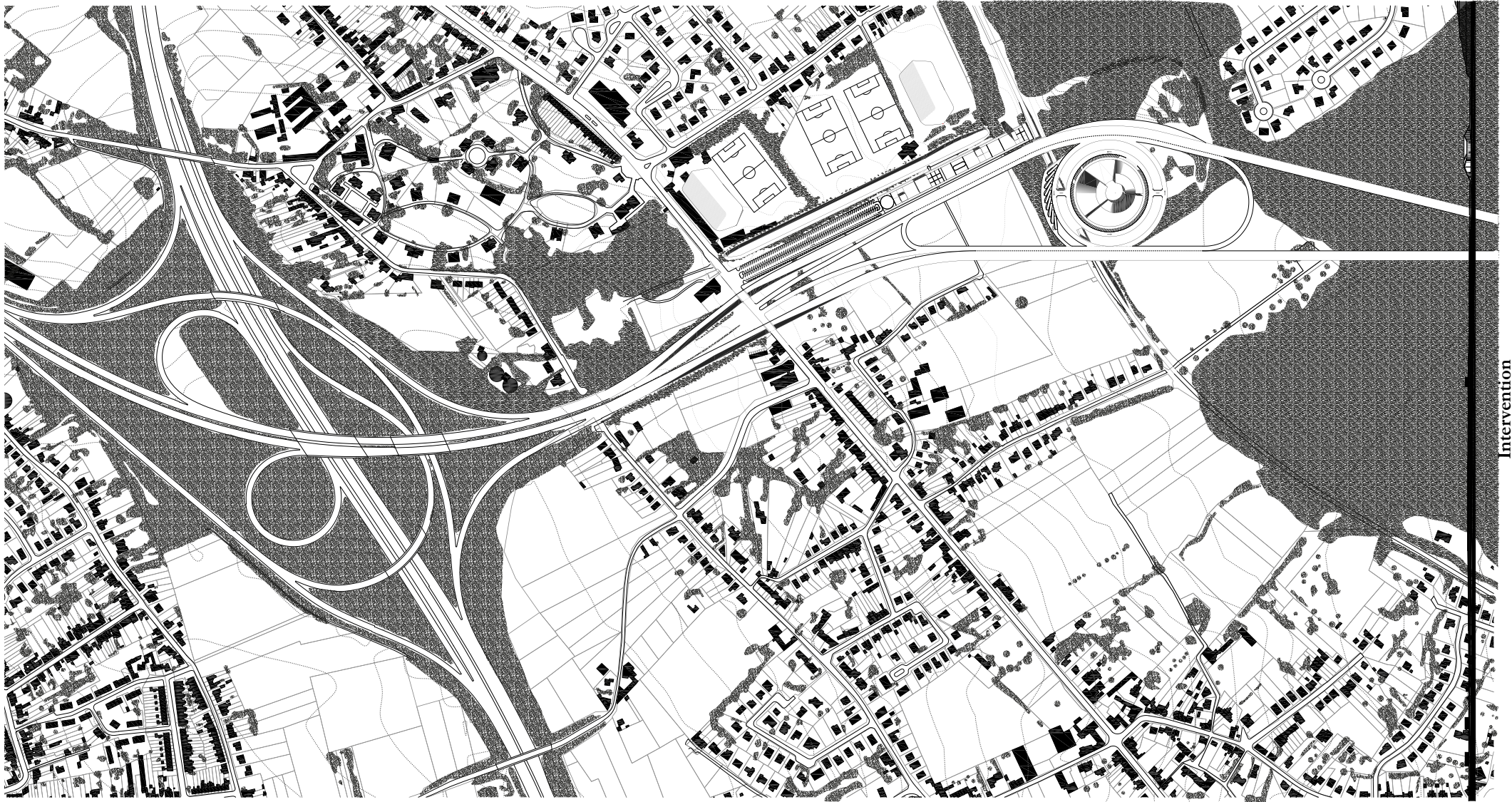
South Modification

The Point

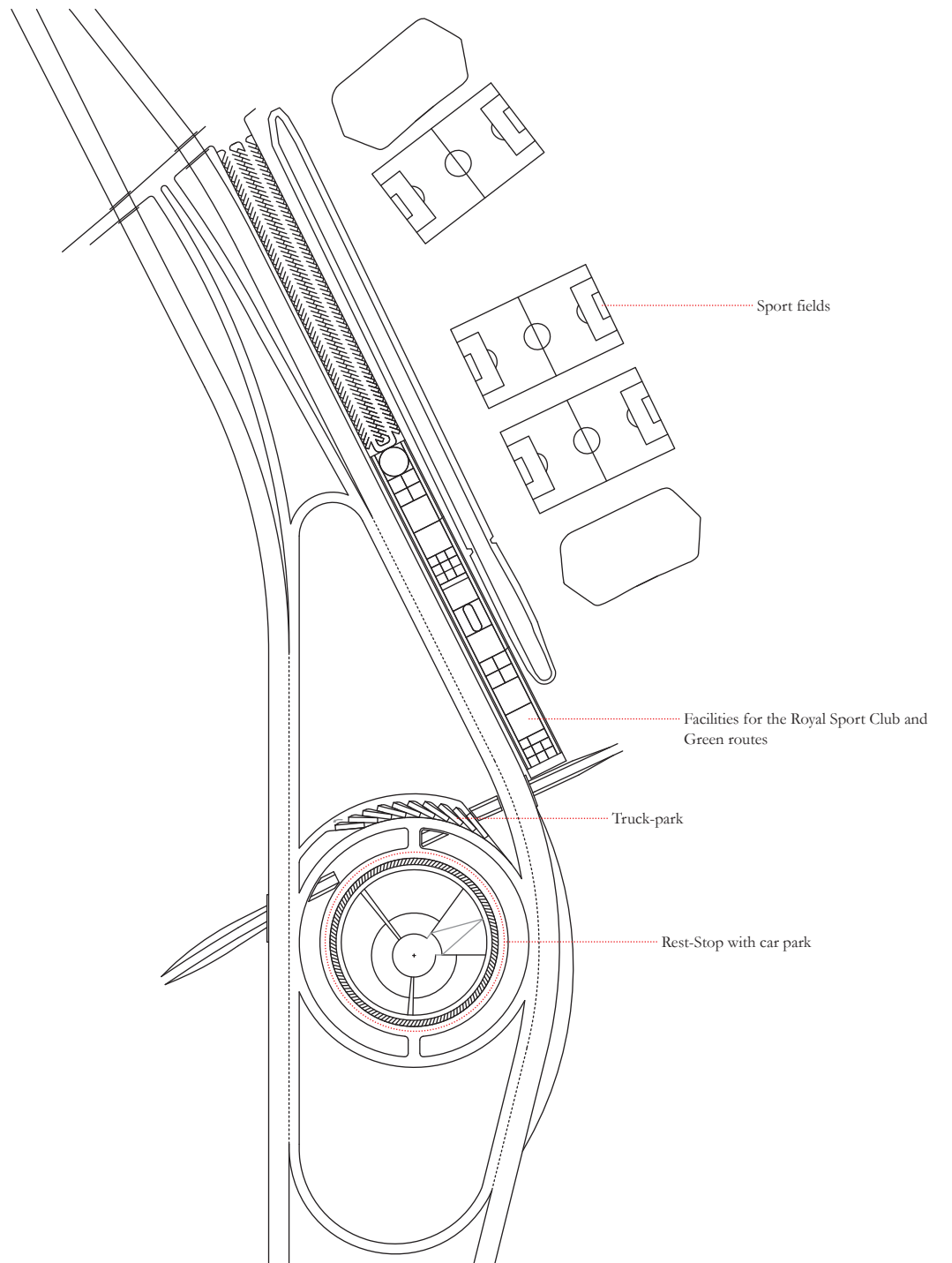
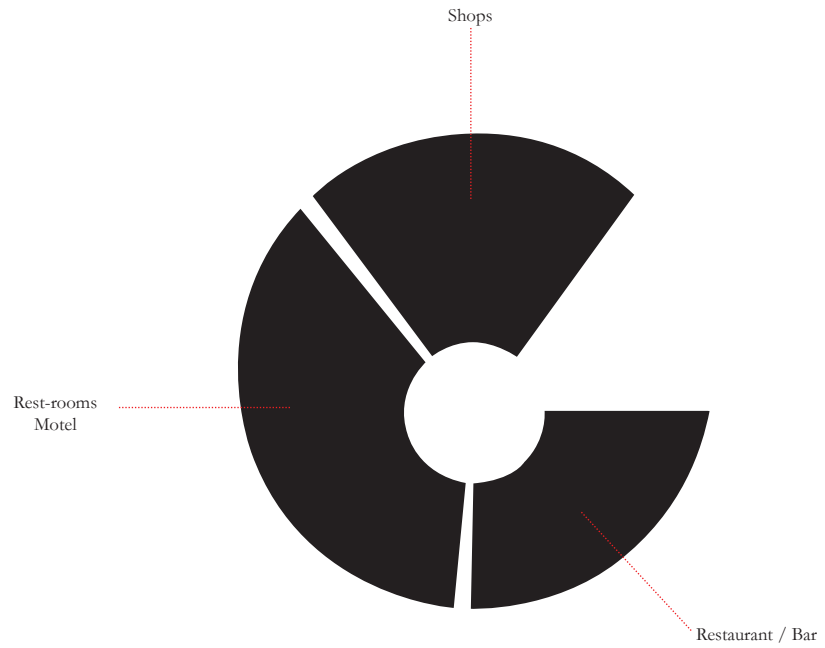


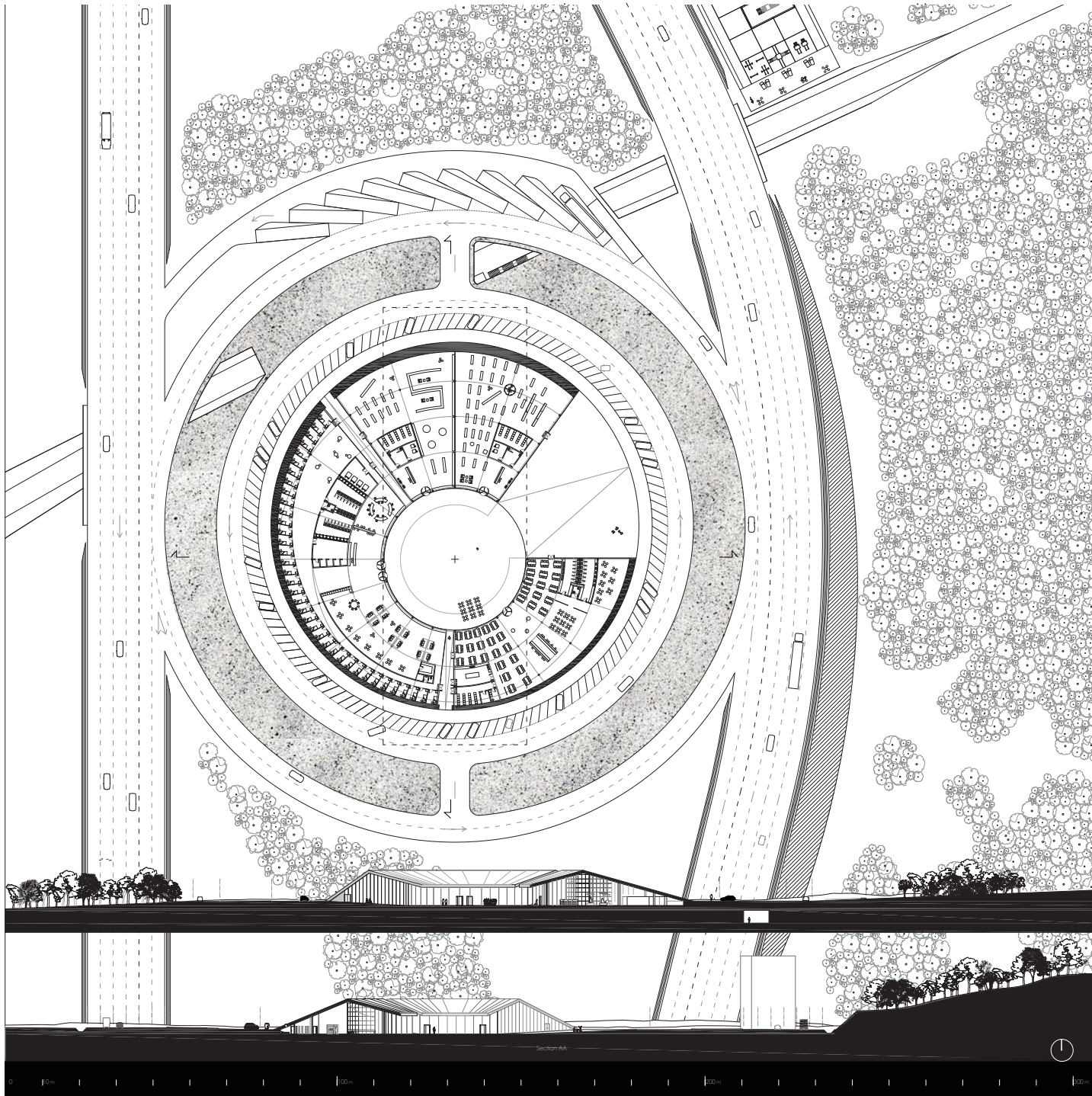
Intervention
South Modification - The Point

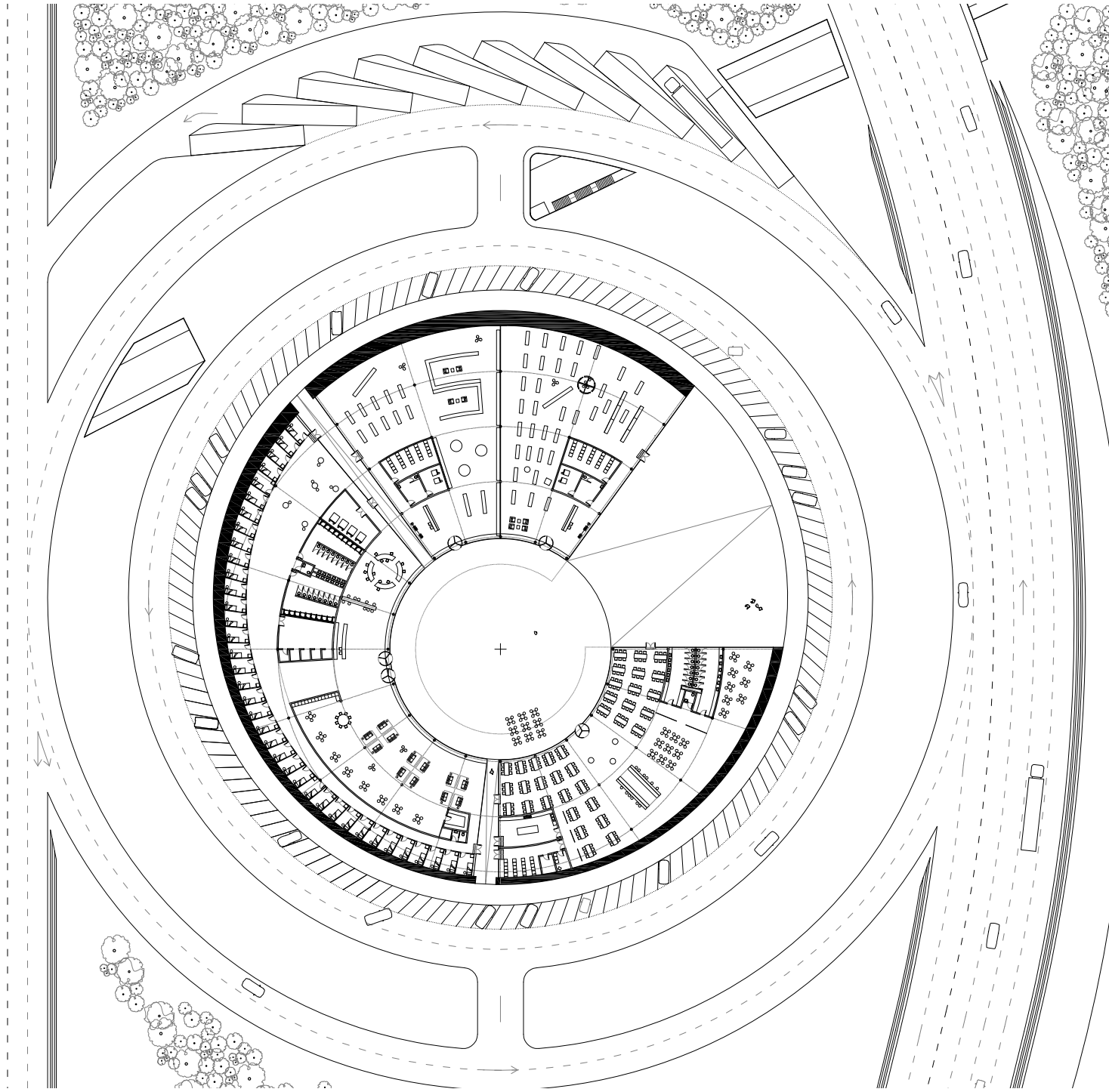


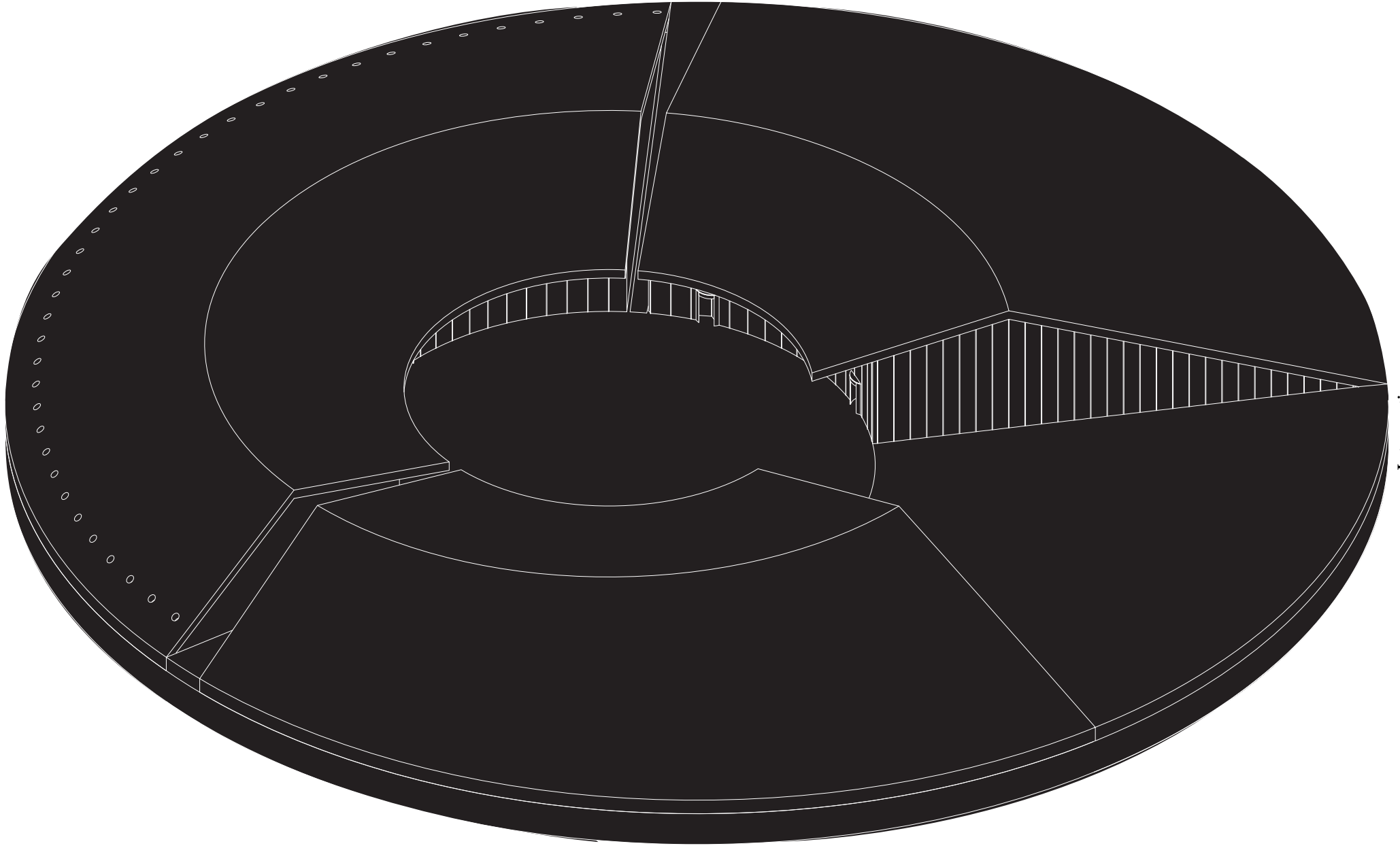


Intervention
South Modification - The Point





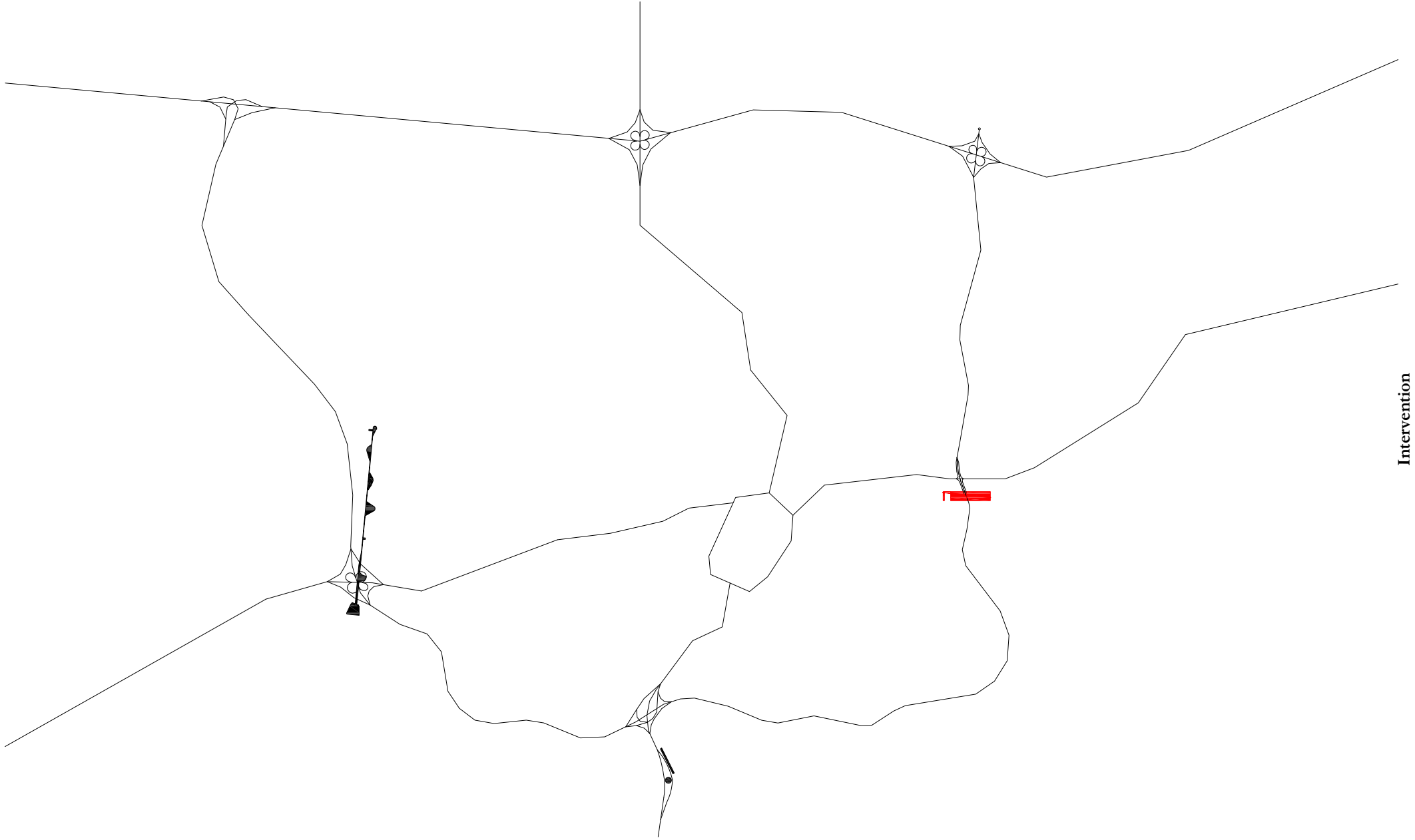




Intervention
South Modification - The Point

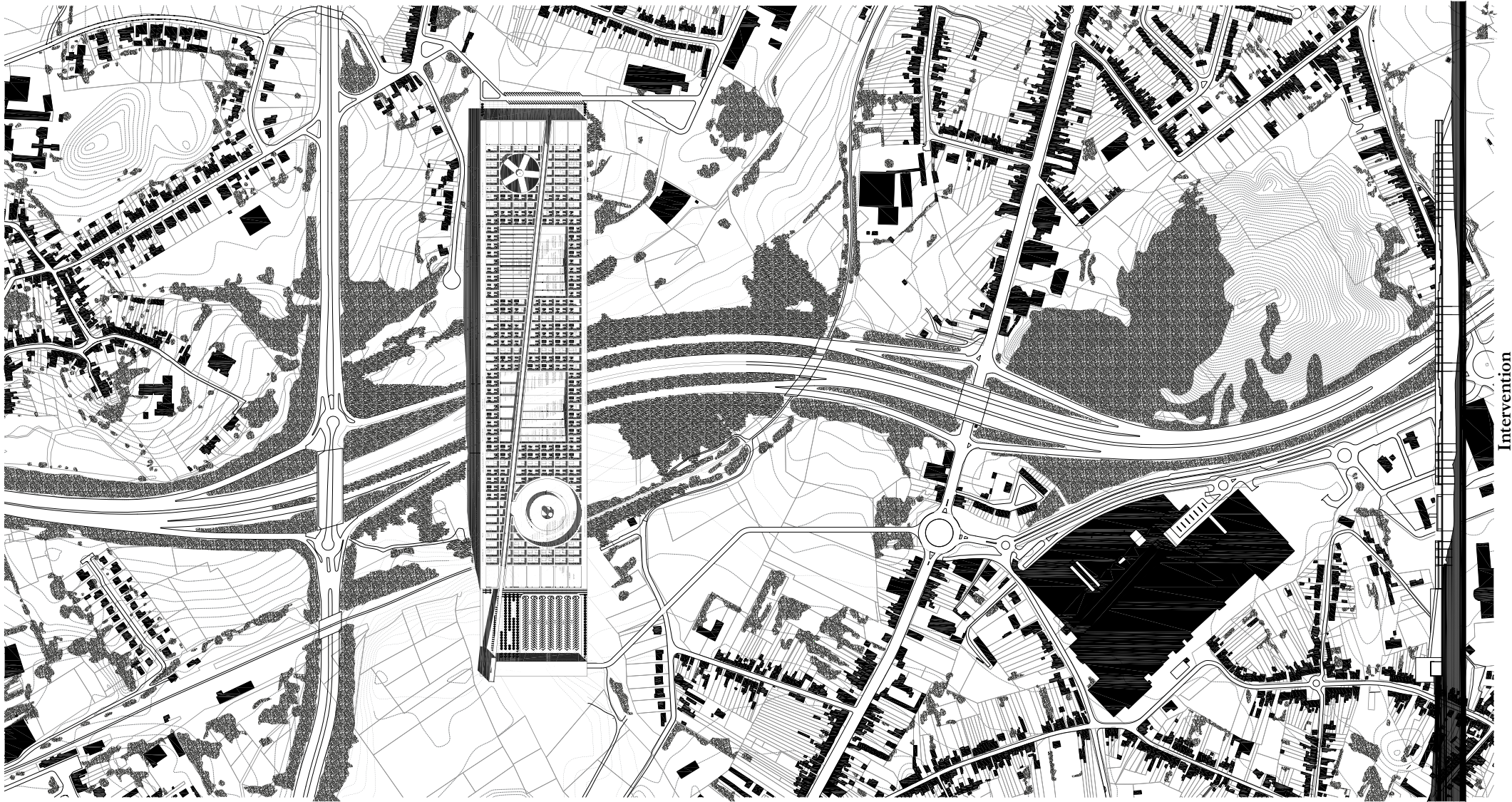
East Modification

The Surface

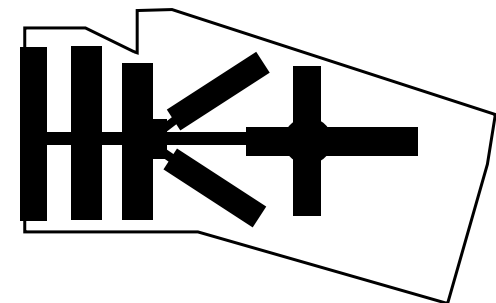
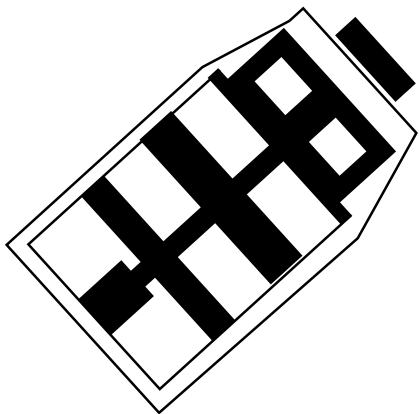
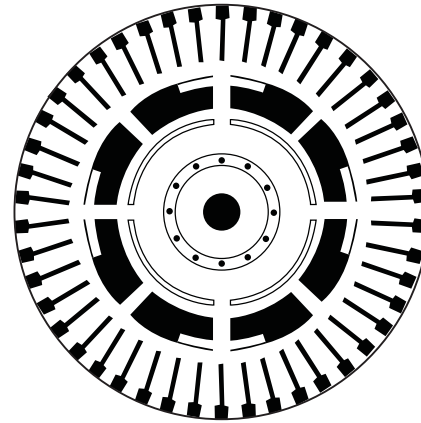
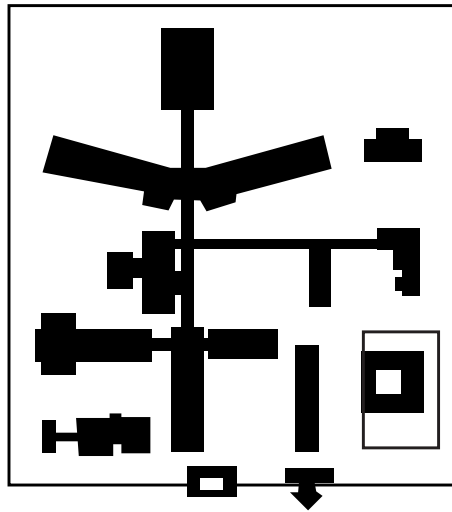
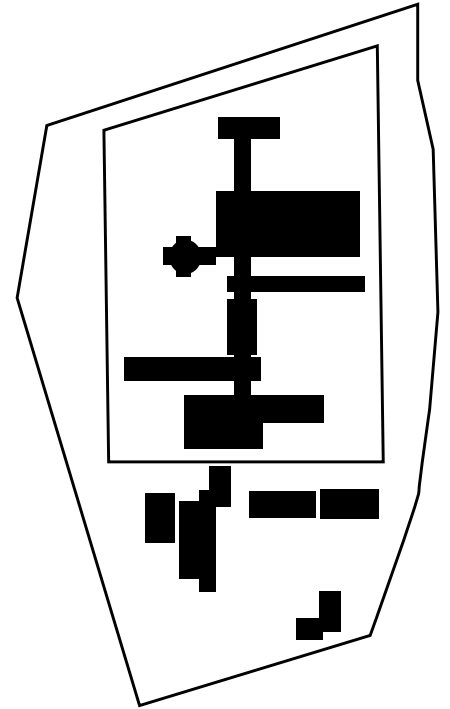
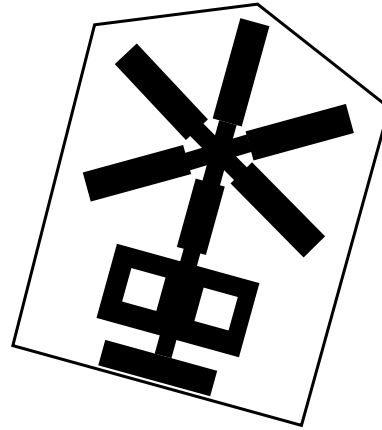
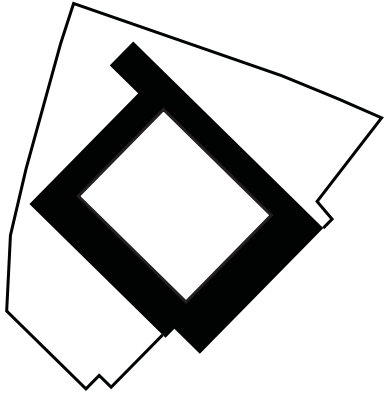


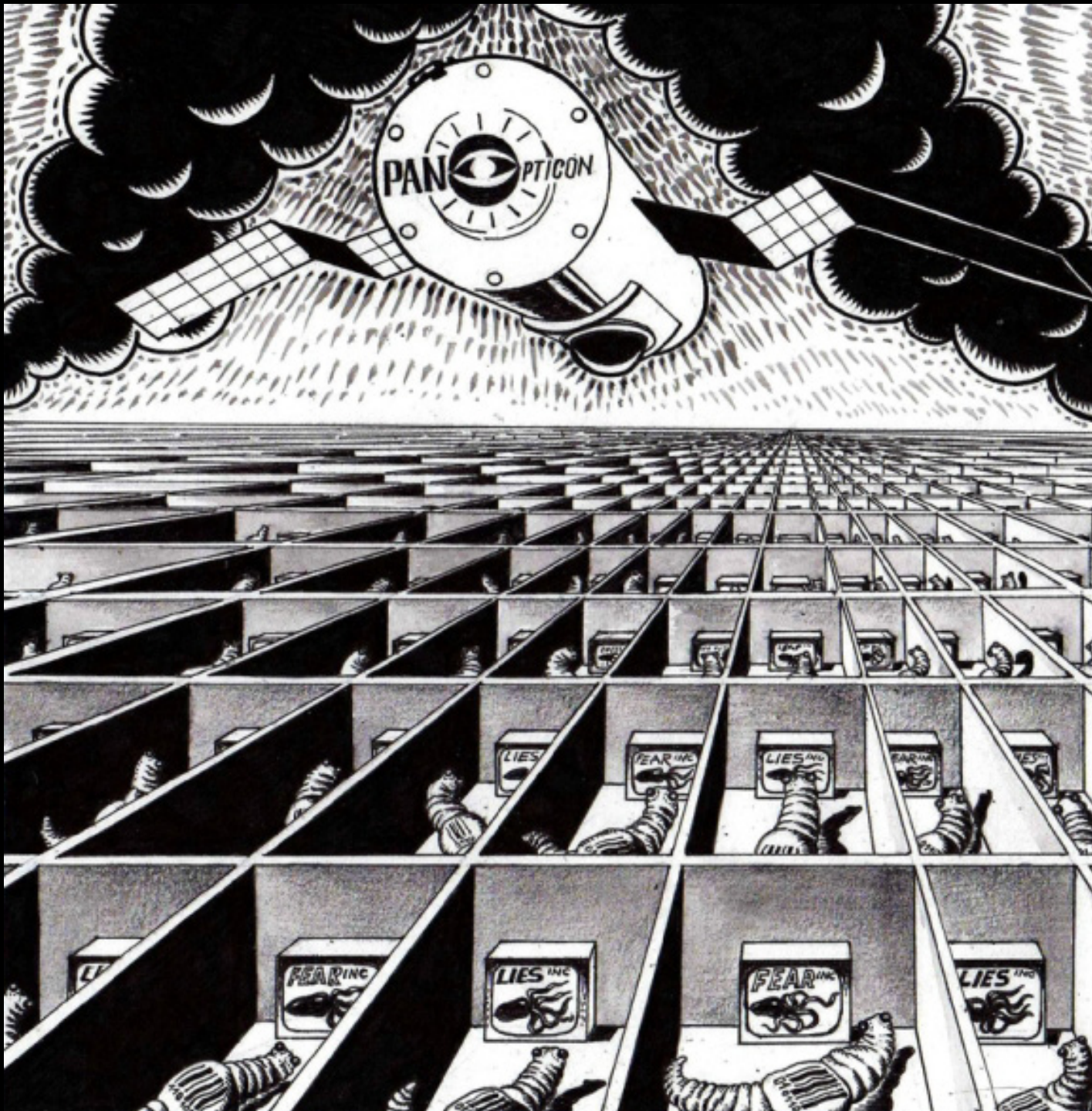
Intervention
East Modification - The Surface



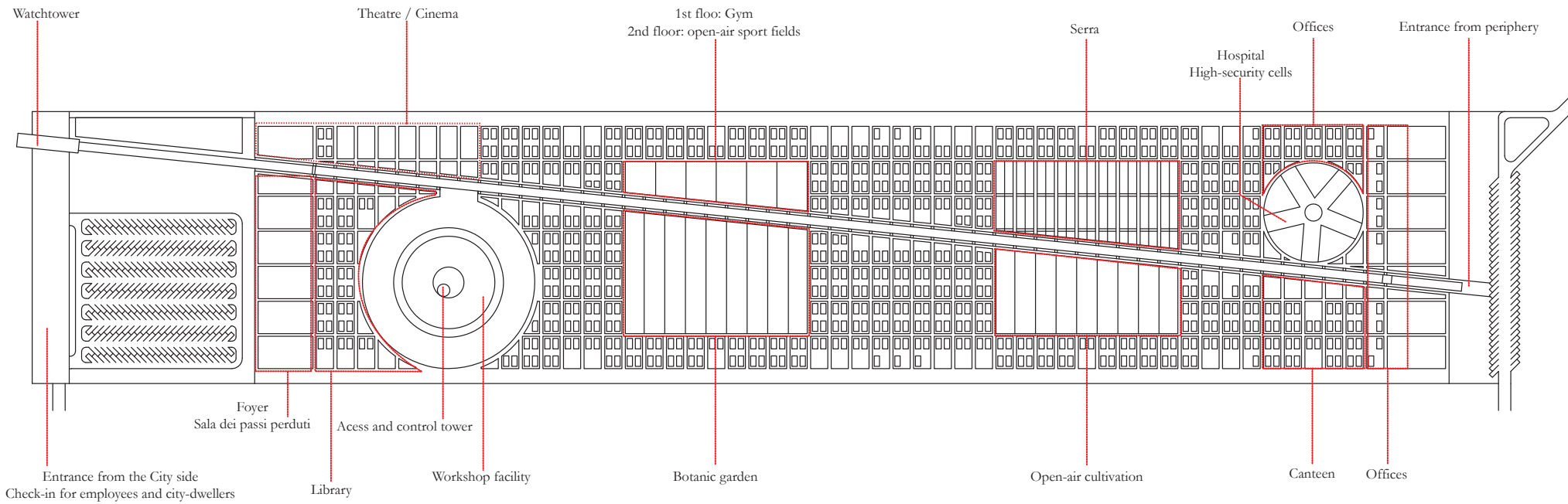


Intervention
East Modification - The Surface

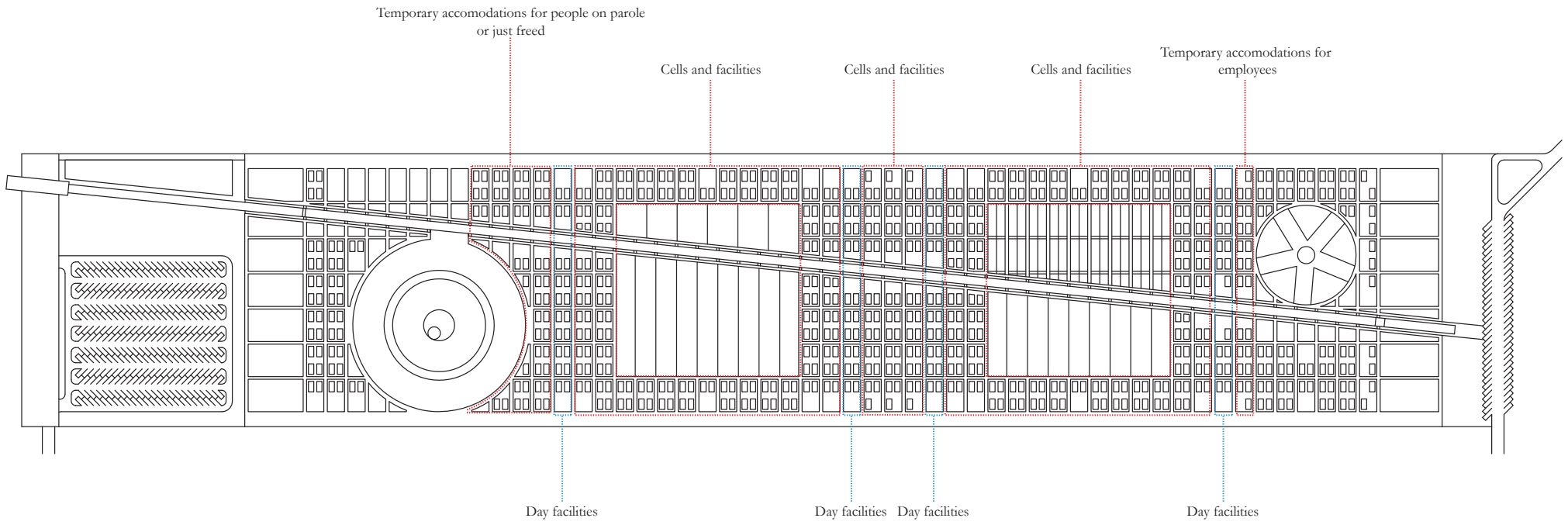
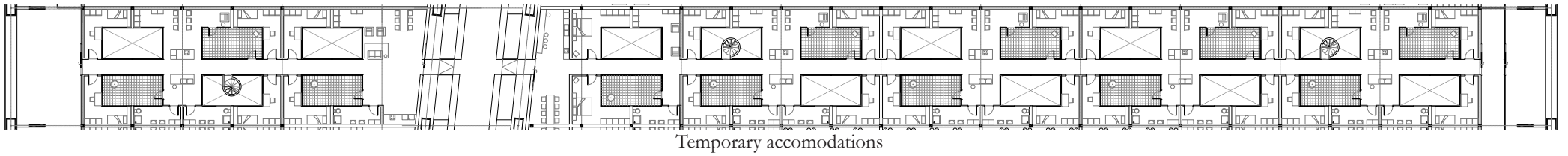




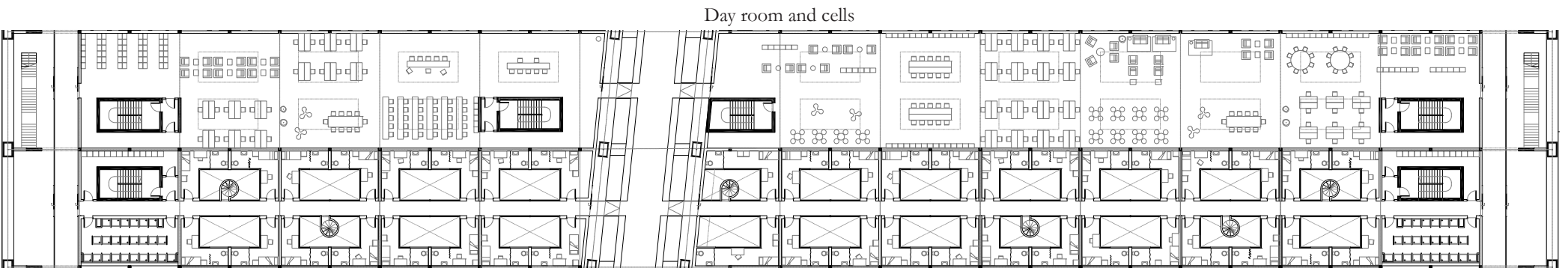
Monitoring America: A vast panopticon spy network



Intervention
East Modification - The Surface



Intervention
East Modification - The Surface



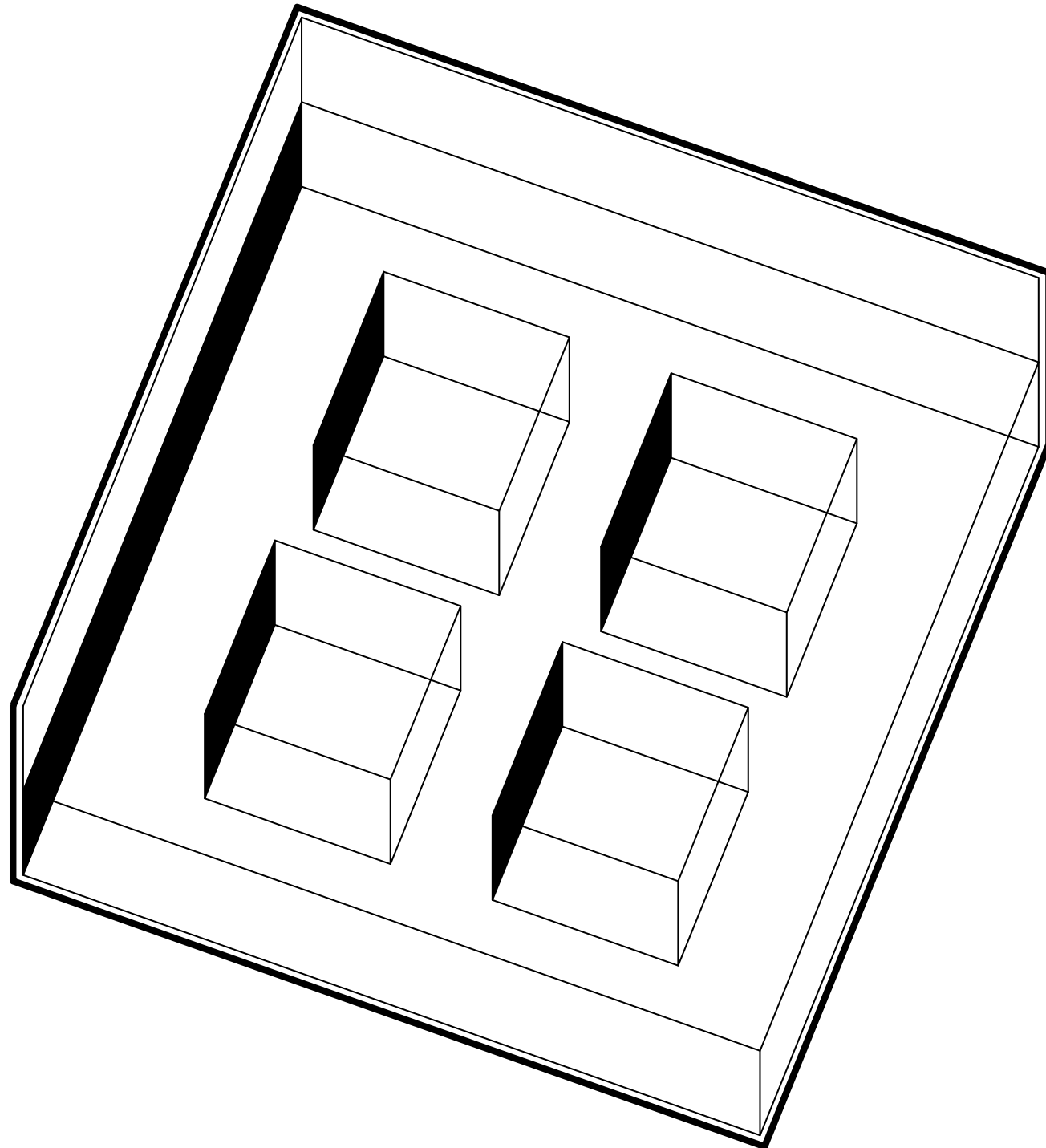
33406

380

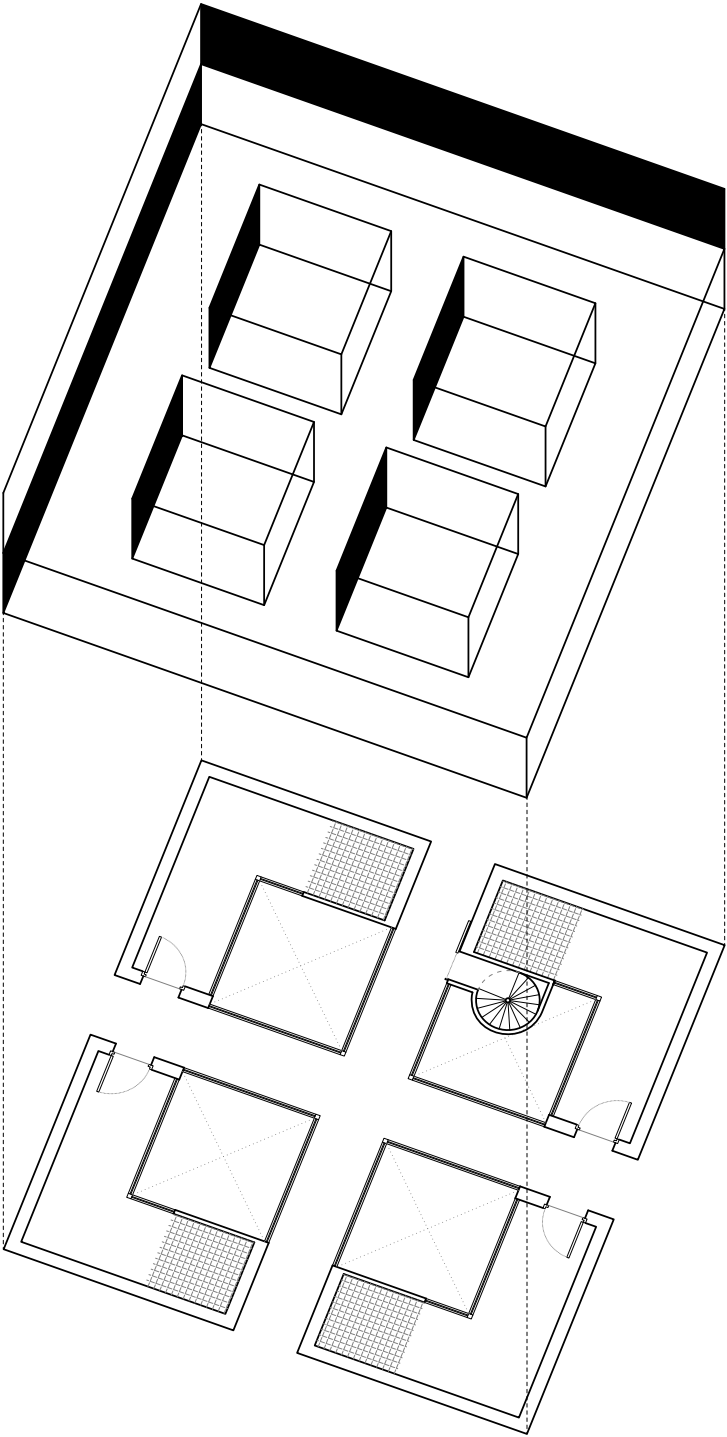




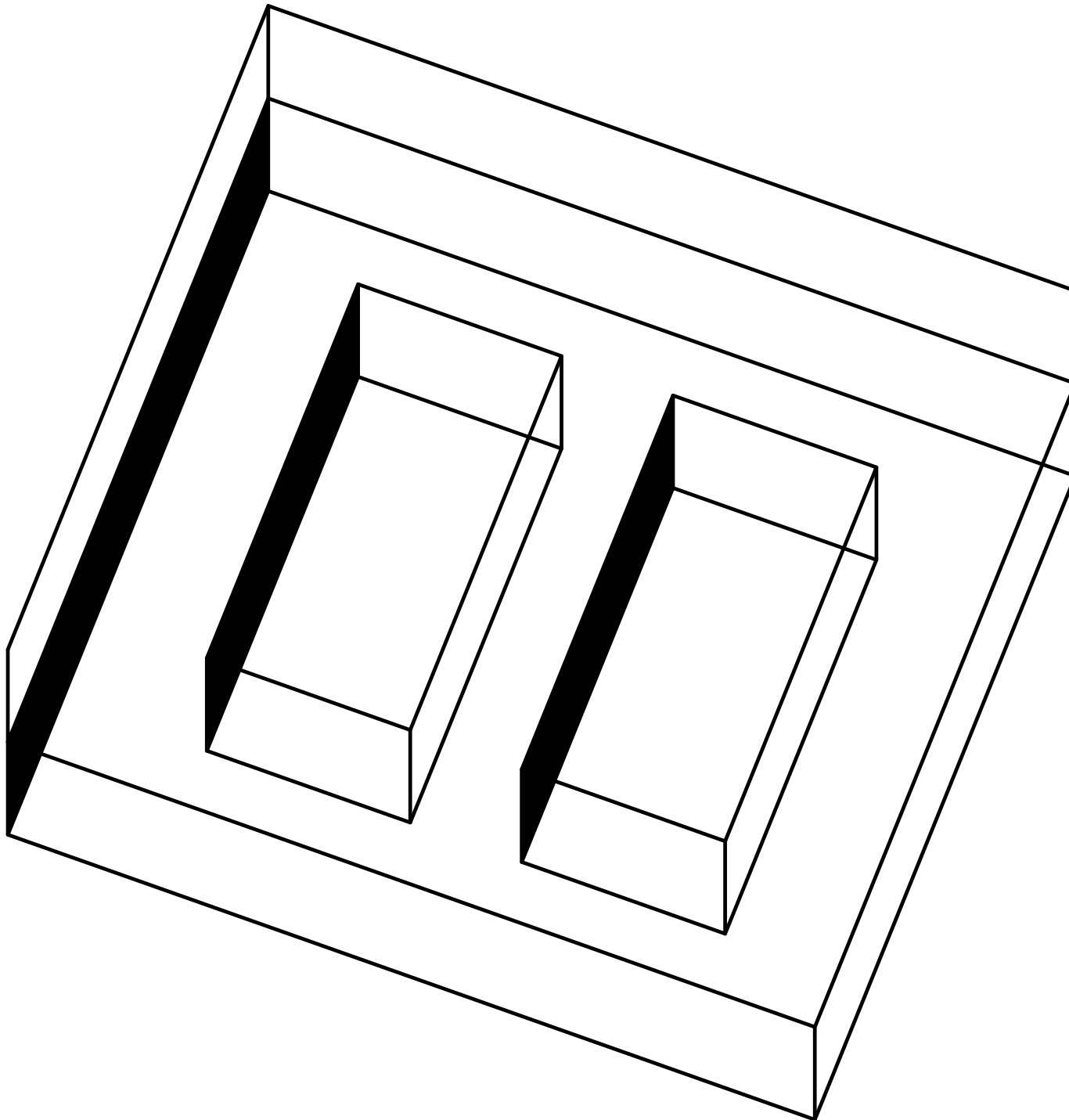
Bestegui, Le Corbusier and the Surrealism



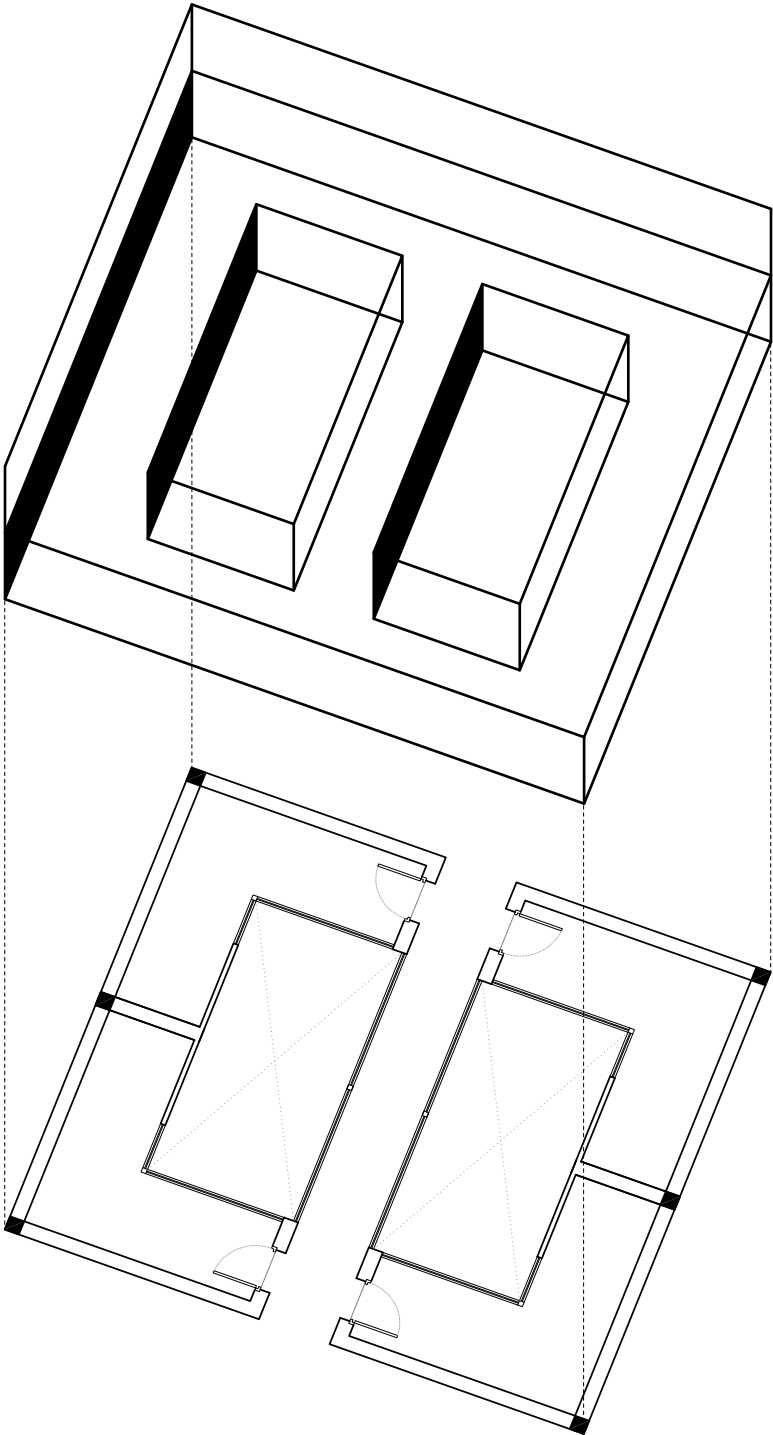
Formation of the cell and its aggregation



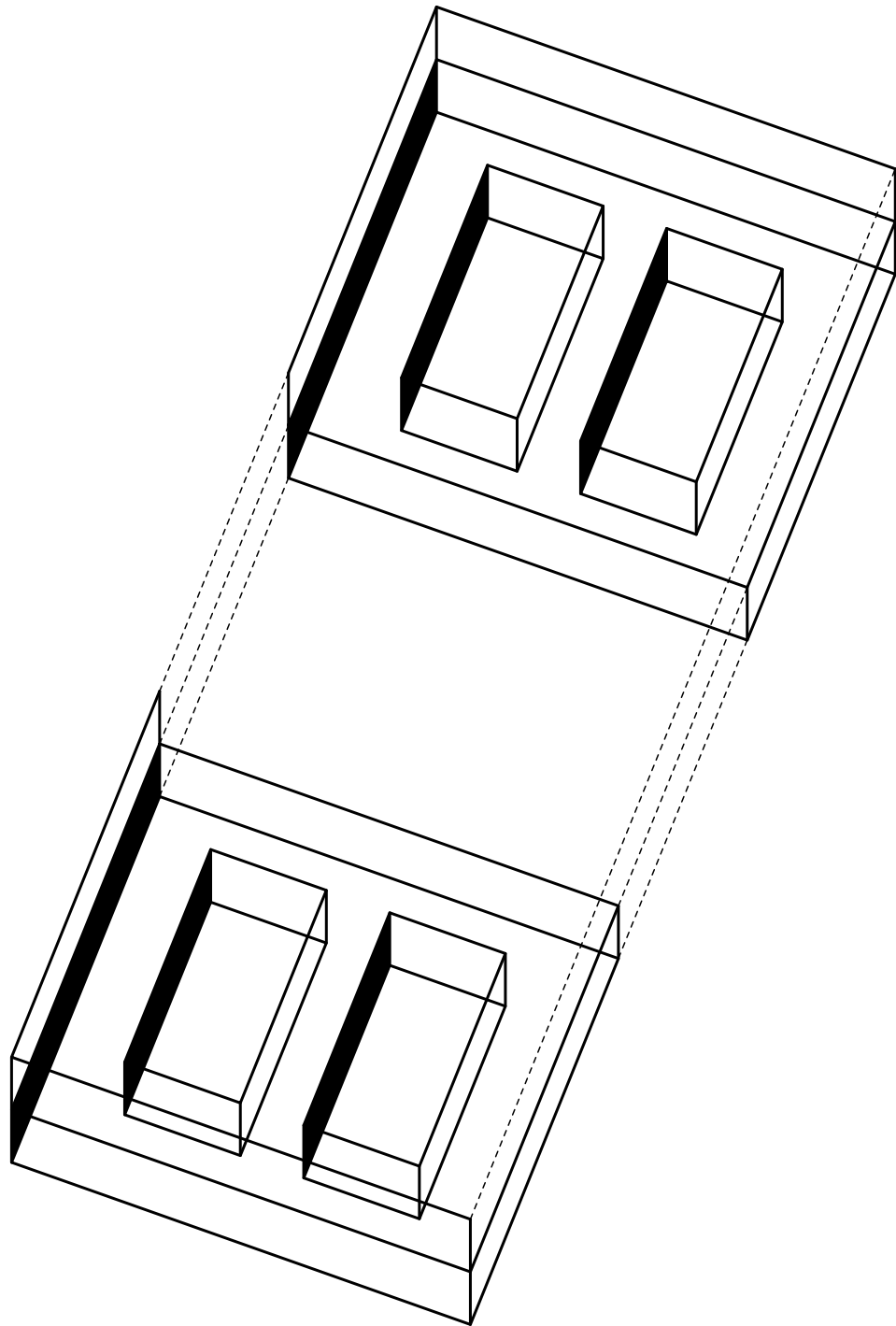
Formation of the cell and its aggregation



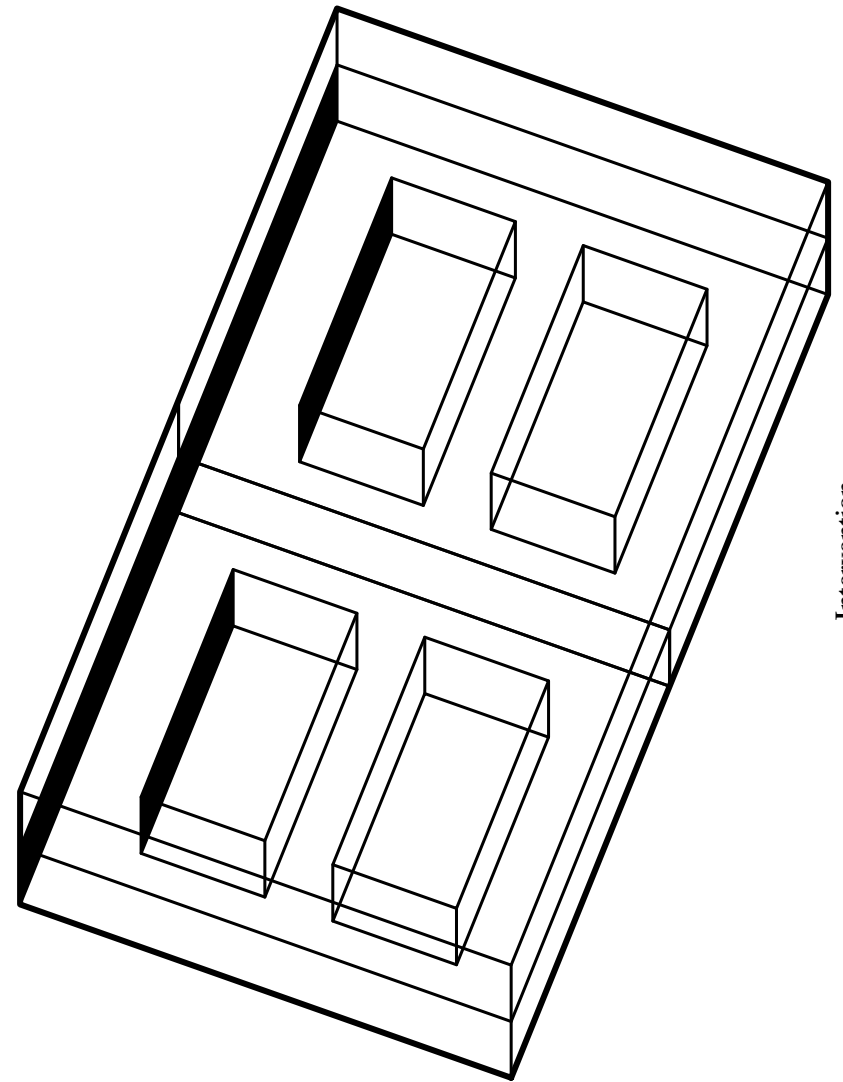
Formation of the cell and its aggregation



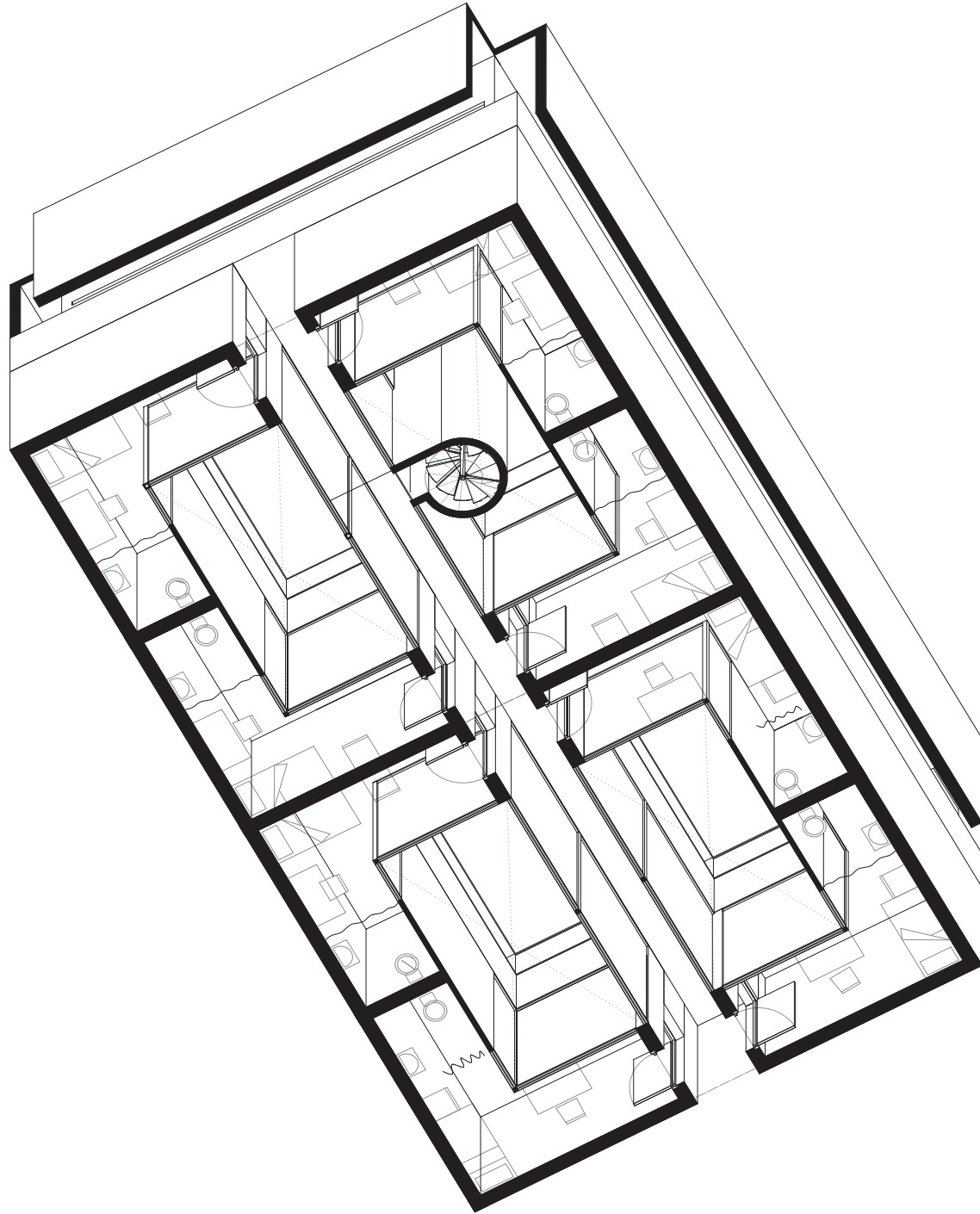
Formation of the cell and its aggregation



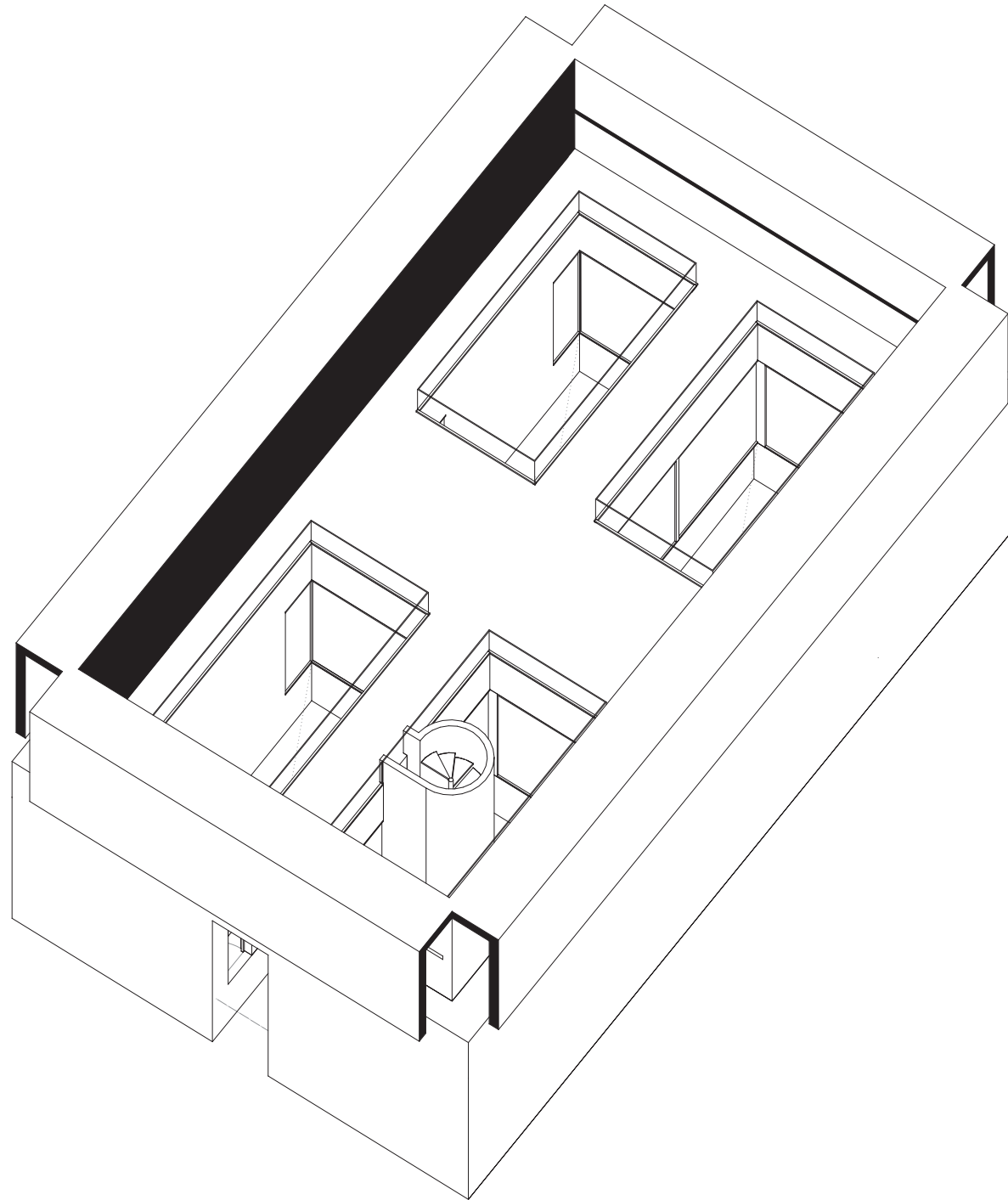
Formation of the cell and its aggregation



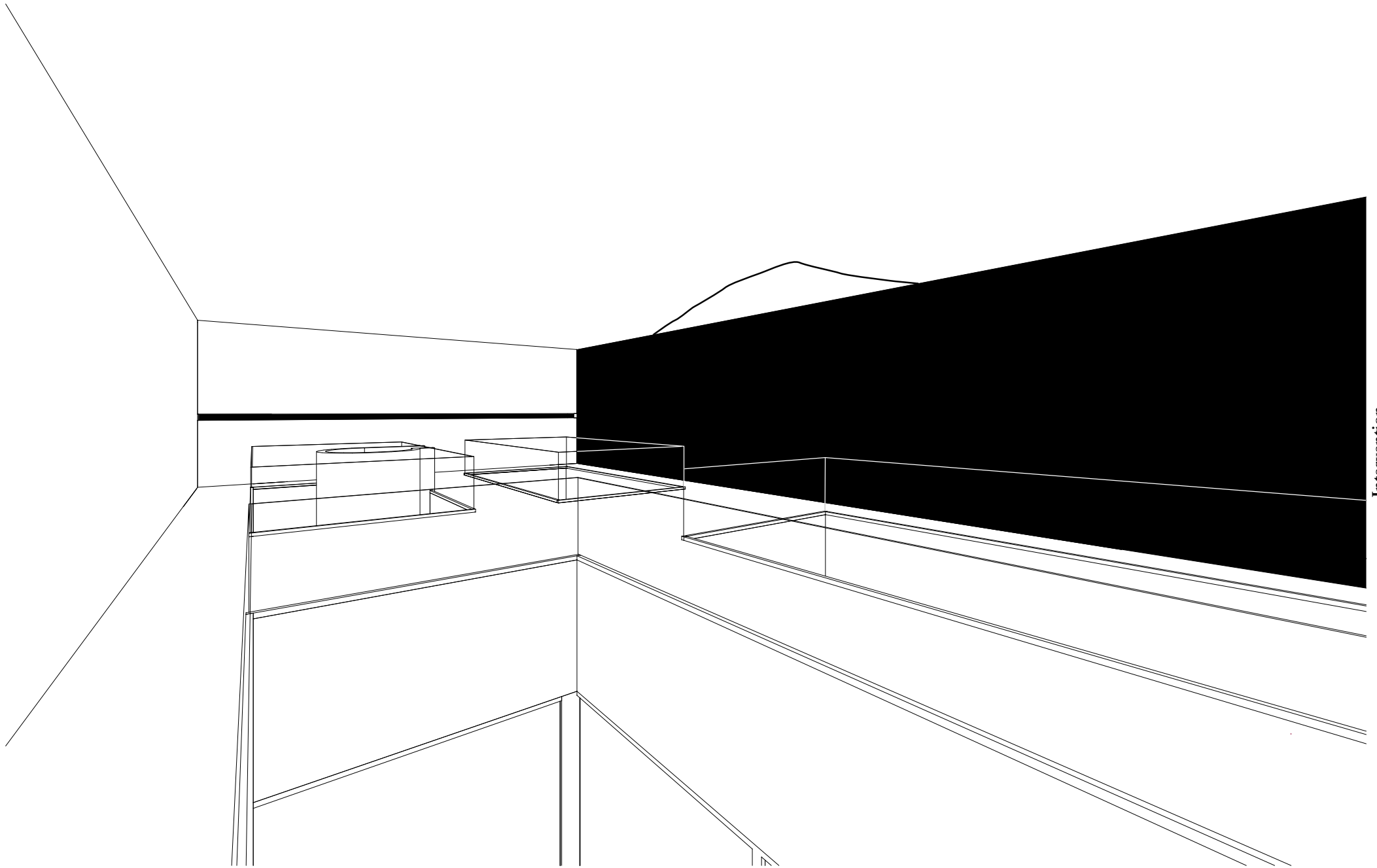
Intervention
East Modification - The Surface



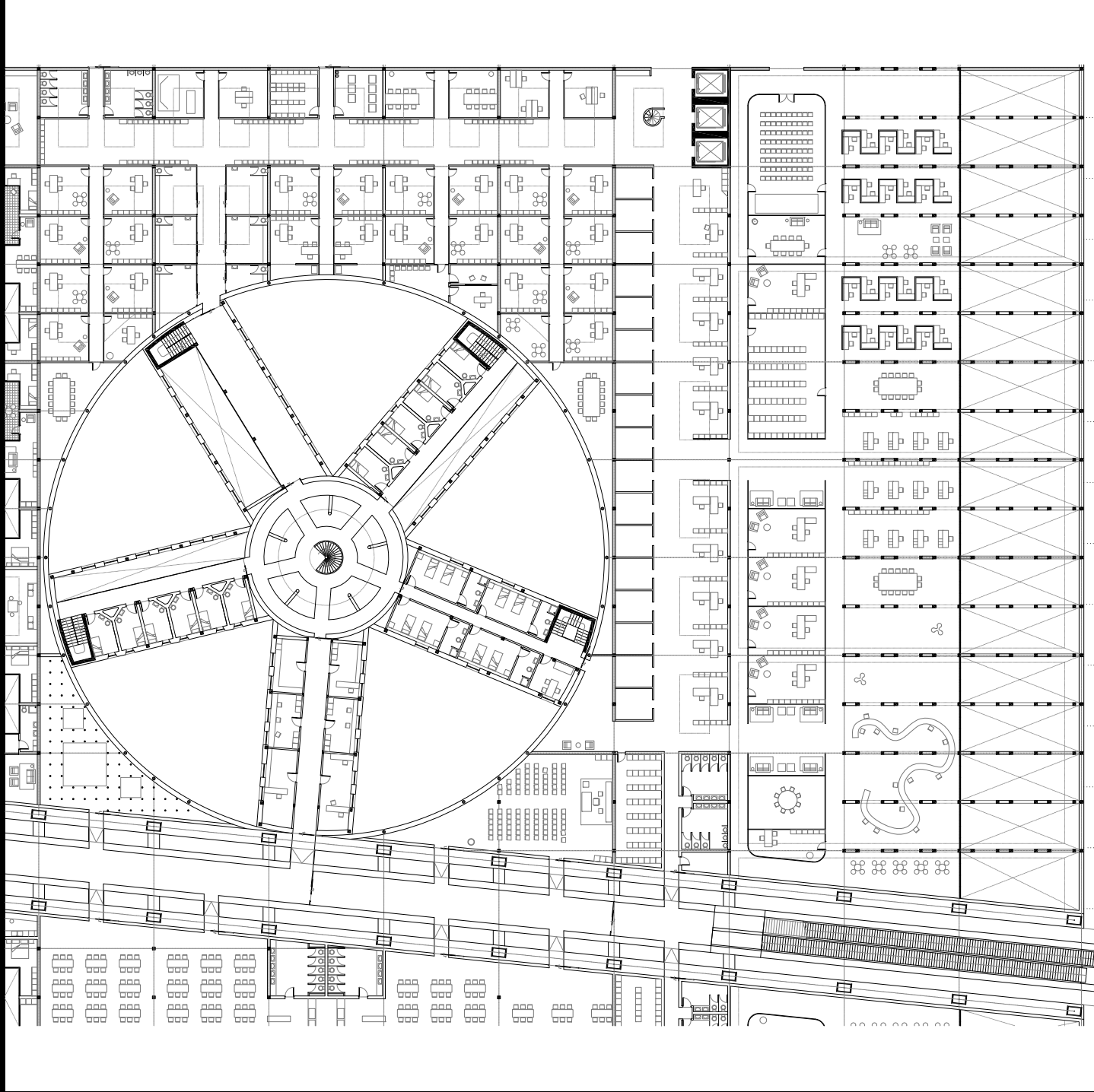
Bottom axonometric view

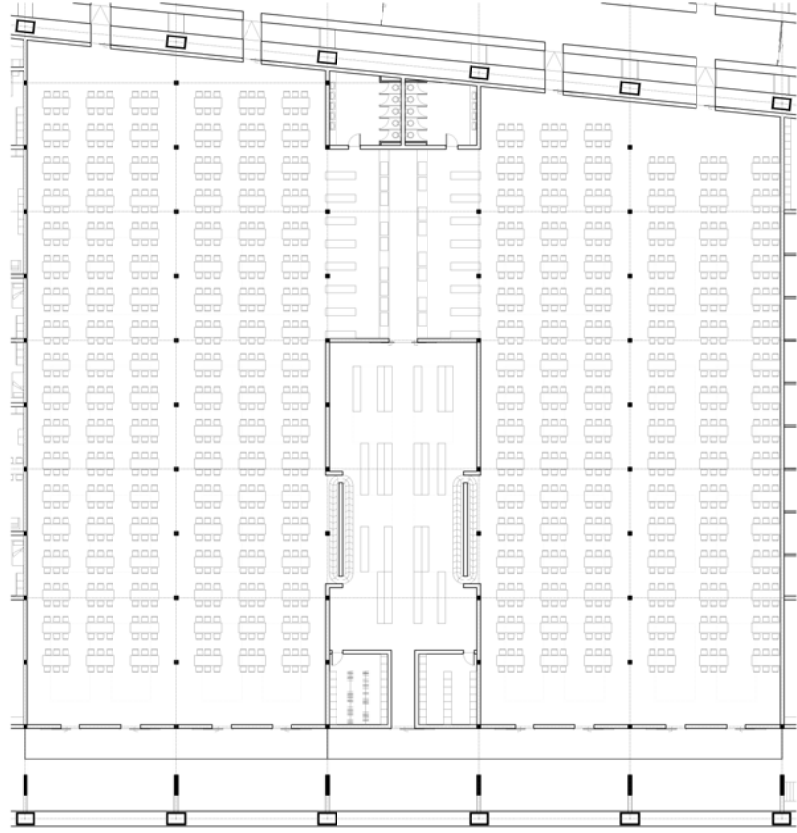


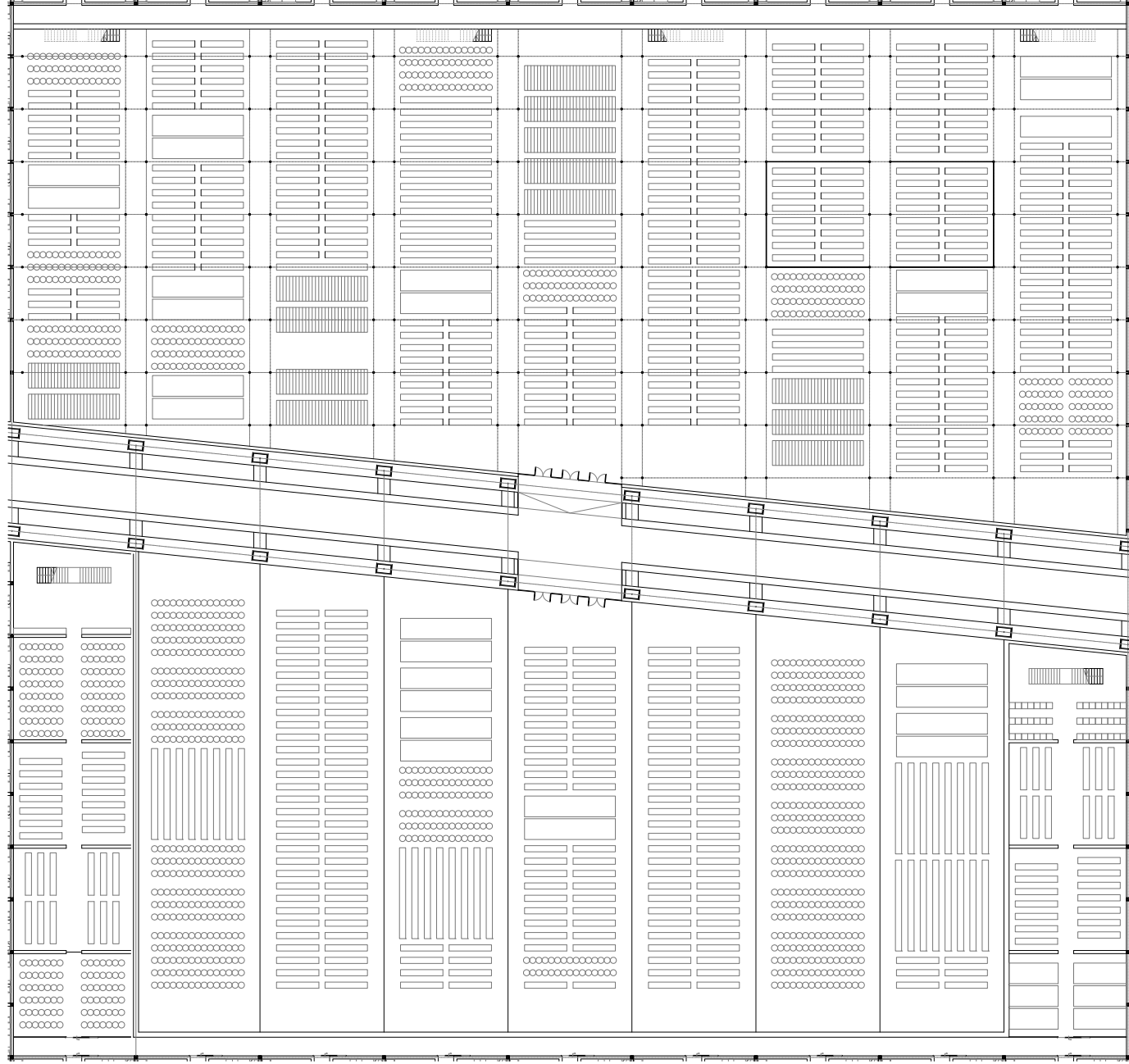
Axonometric view

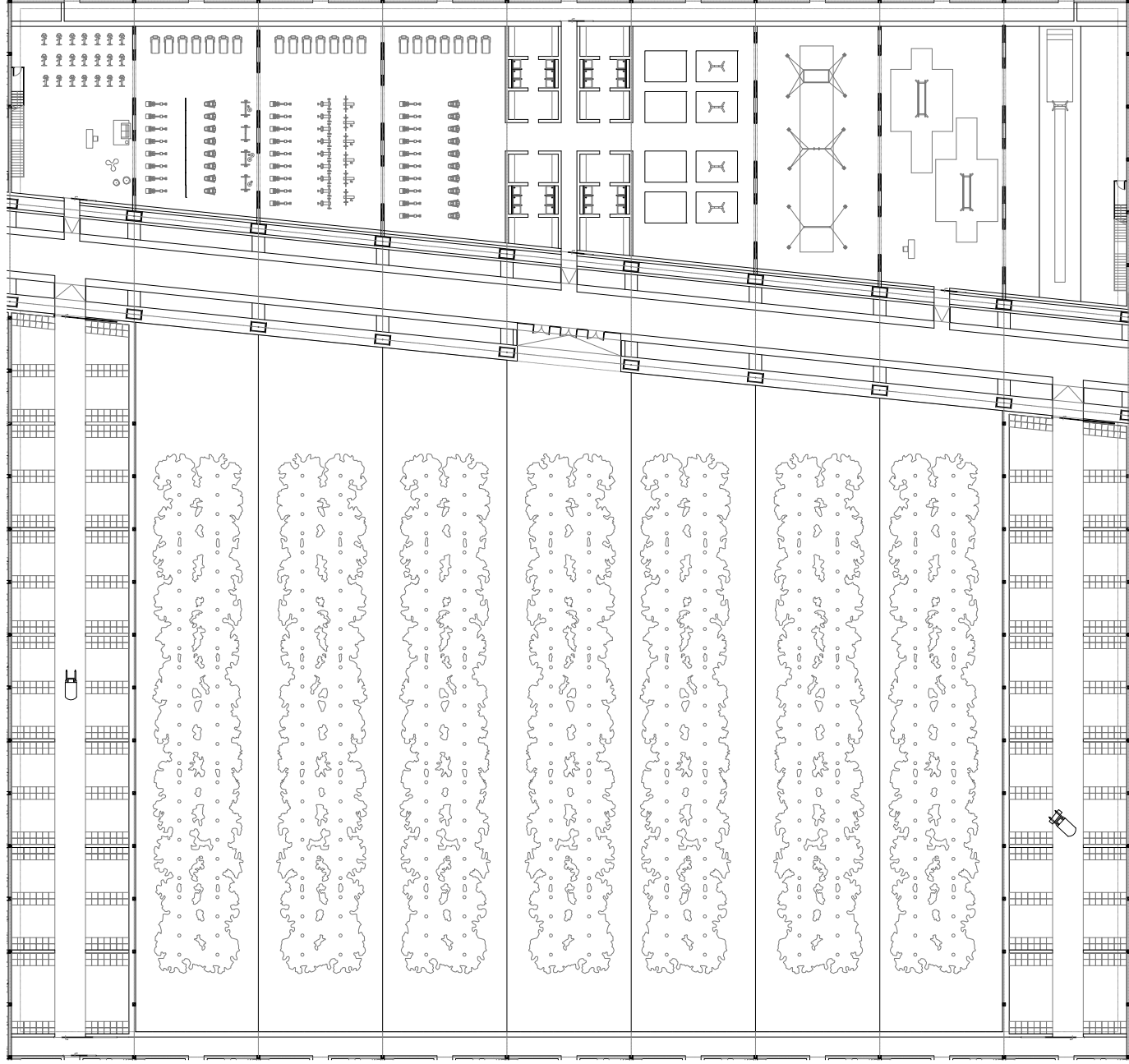


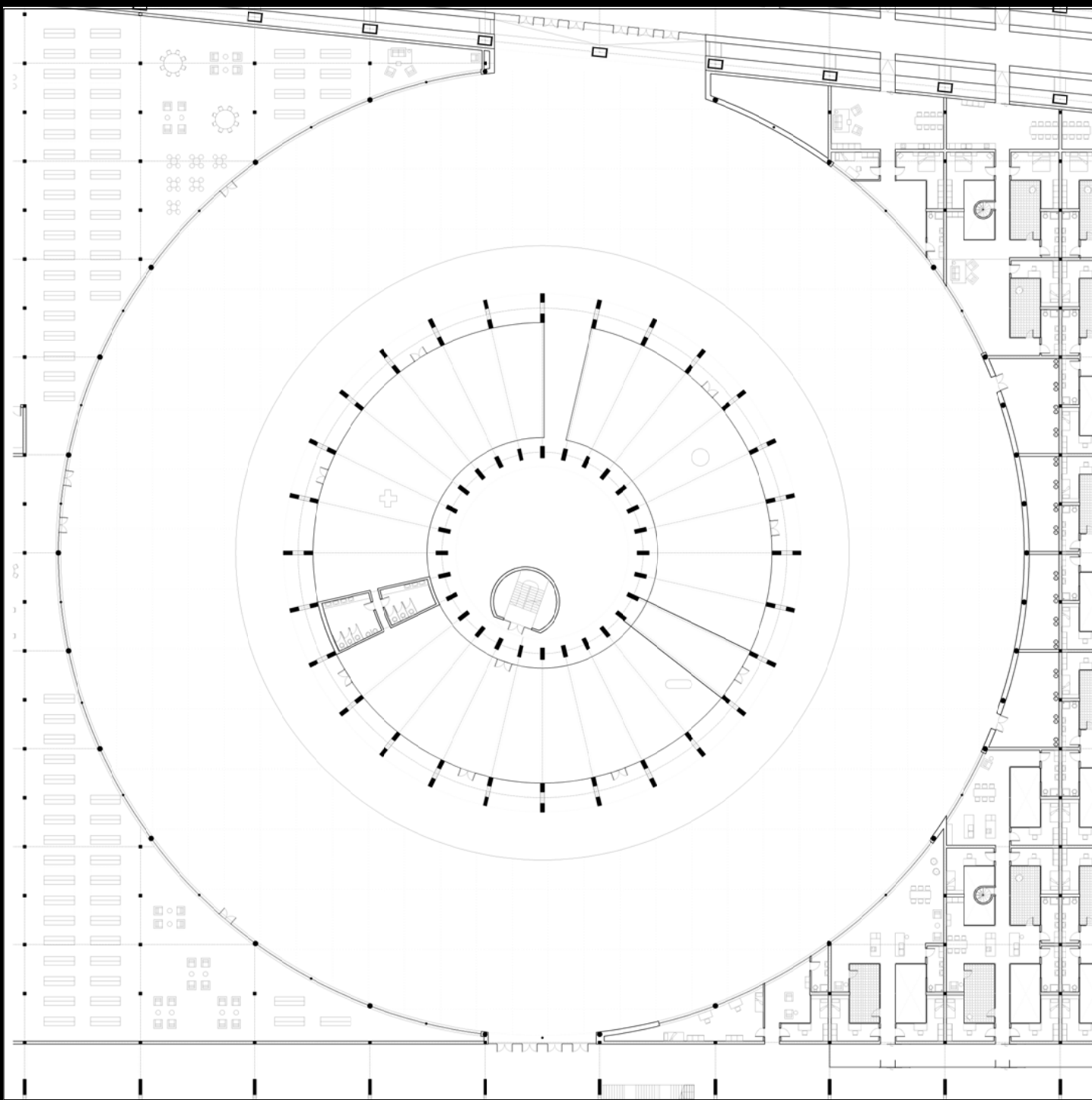
View from the terrace

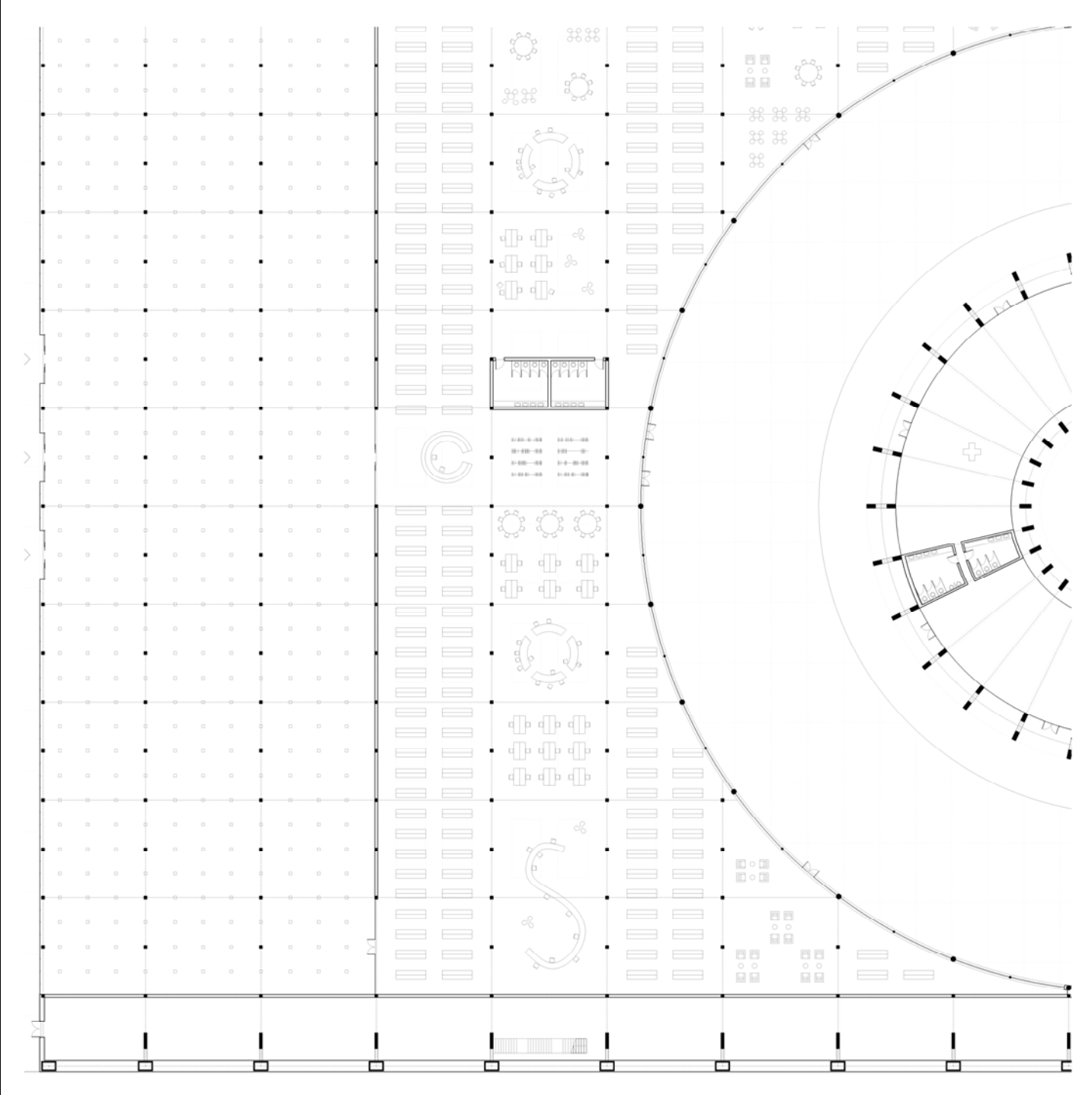


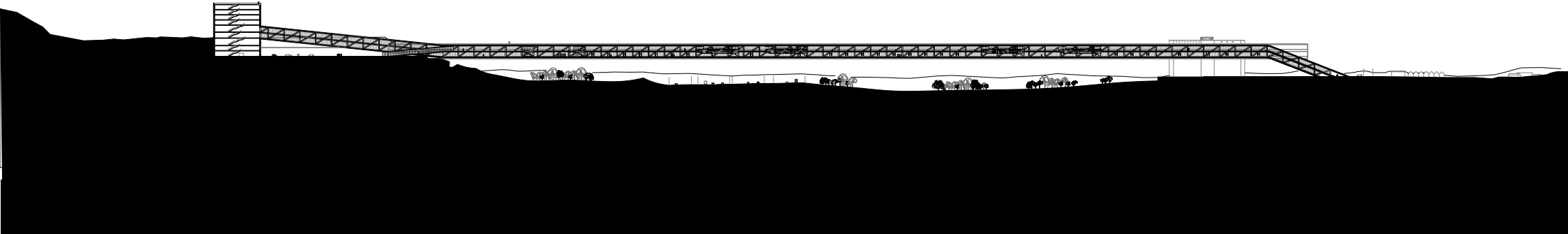






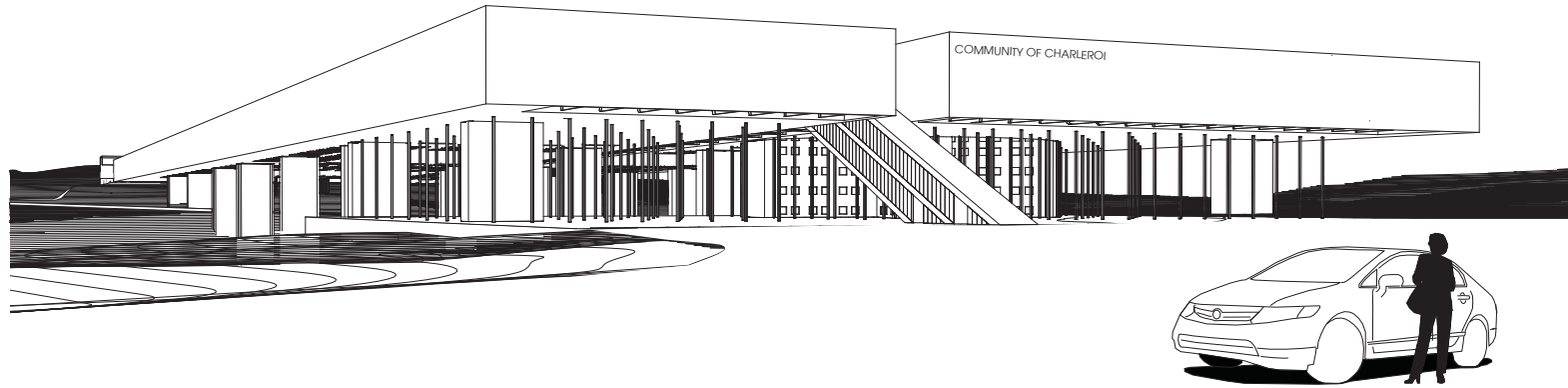






FLATTEN

It is an interface with two different sides, the top and the bottom. Both of these sides respond in a different way.
Under the surface the feeling is of being flattened by it. Another scale is revealed, humans feel as minor figures under or next to the surface.
A new environment, a new landscape is established under it.



THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF BEING

To go through the entire surface may take years for some people. The path leading to the city is a long walk, more than those 650 meters of bridge.

The outer world is represented by the ground and the sky, giving the feeling of being suspended in space as well as in time. The time in a prison is different from the time experienced outside of it; this is the consequence of a confinement state. Therefore, waiting to be freed and re-integrated in society is a status of suspension.

From the tower one may look back at what he was.

