

+ 03

+ 02

+ 01

+ 00

-01

Roof:
- A green roof is combined with solar panels to increase the biodiversity and sustainable footprint of the building.

Roof:
- Skylight allow natural sunlight to enter the building.

Construction:
- Exception on grid through hybrid (wood/steel) truss.

Double Skin Facade:
- Adjustable ventilation grille to keep the warm air inside or lets it go.

Entrance:
- Bridge allows building to connect to its surroundings. In this case the vocational education school NEXT, that will share its program.

Border 1:
Private program-Public space
- Temperature control (light)
- Noise control

Border 2:
Inter program
- Temperature control (light)
- Noise control
- Practical use/expresson

Border 3:
Inside-Outside
- Temperature control (high)
- Noise control
- Practical use/expresson
- Performance

Construction:
- Exception on grid through hybrid (wood/steel) truss.

Entrance:
- Street entrance of the makerspace is located close to the vocational education buildings from NEXT.

Cores:
- Two CLT Cores, create stability and allow space for fire escape, elevator, shafts and toilets.

Entrance:
- Street entrance of the decentralised government is located at the main street.

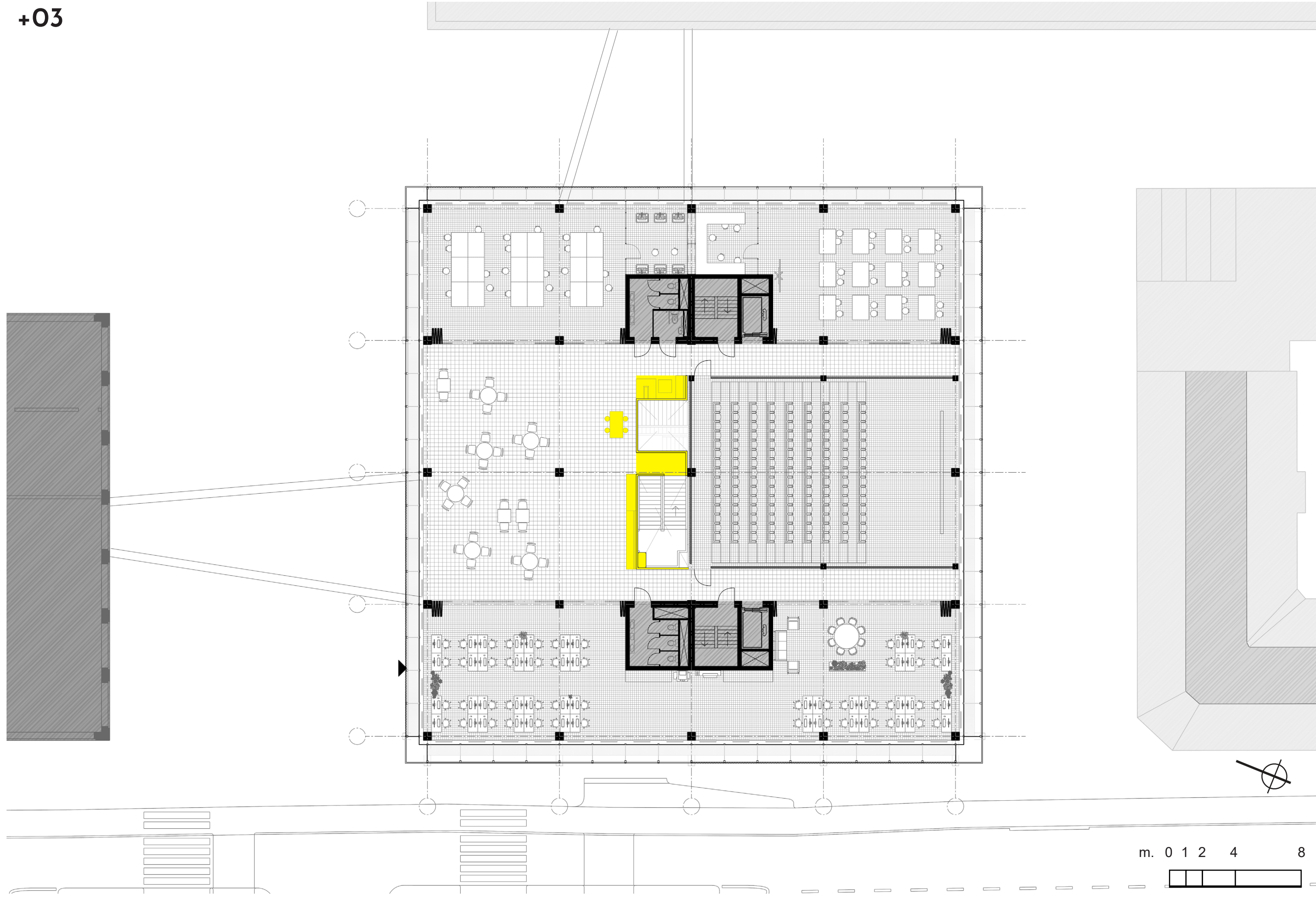
Entrance:
- General entrance of the building is located at the intersection.

Entrance:
- A disappearing door closes off the indoor public space from the outdoor public space in the center of the Forum. The Forum can be used as a whole when the door is down.

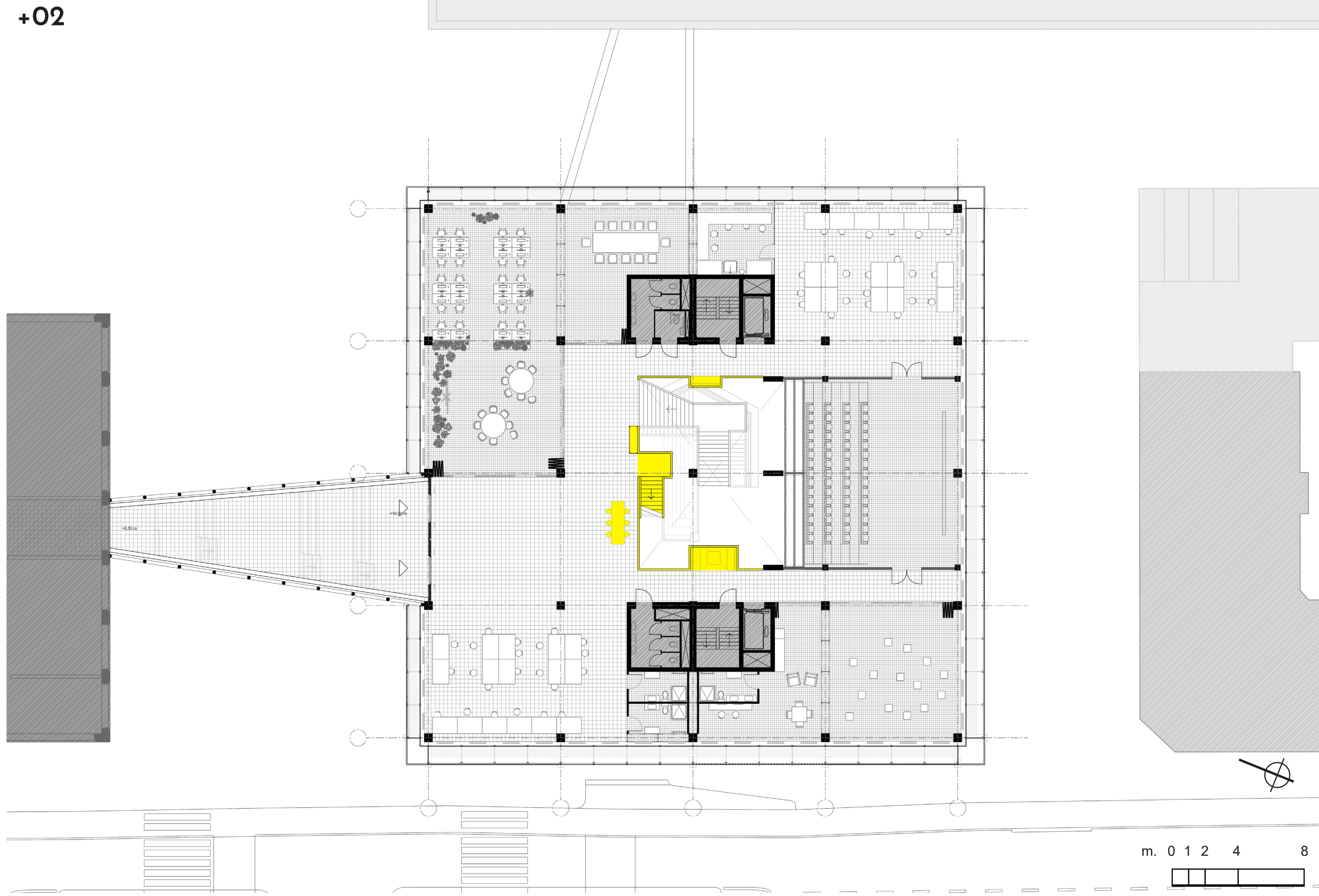
Stairs of Encounter:
- The staircase connecting the program and its users, starts at the bicycle basement to allow visitors up into the building.

Entrance:
- The building solves a local bike storage issue, by offering an underground public bicycle storage.

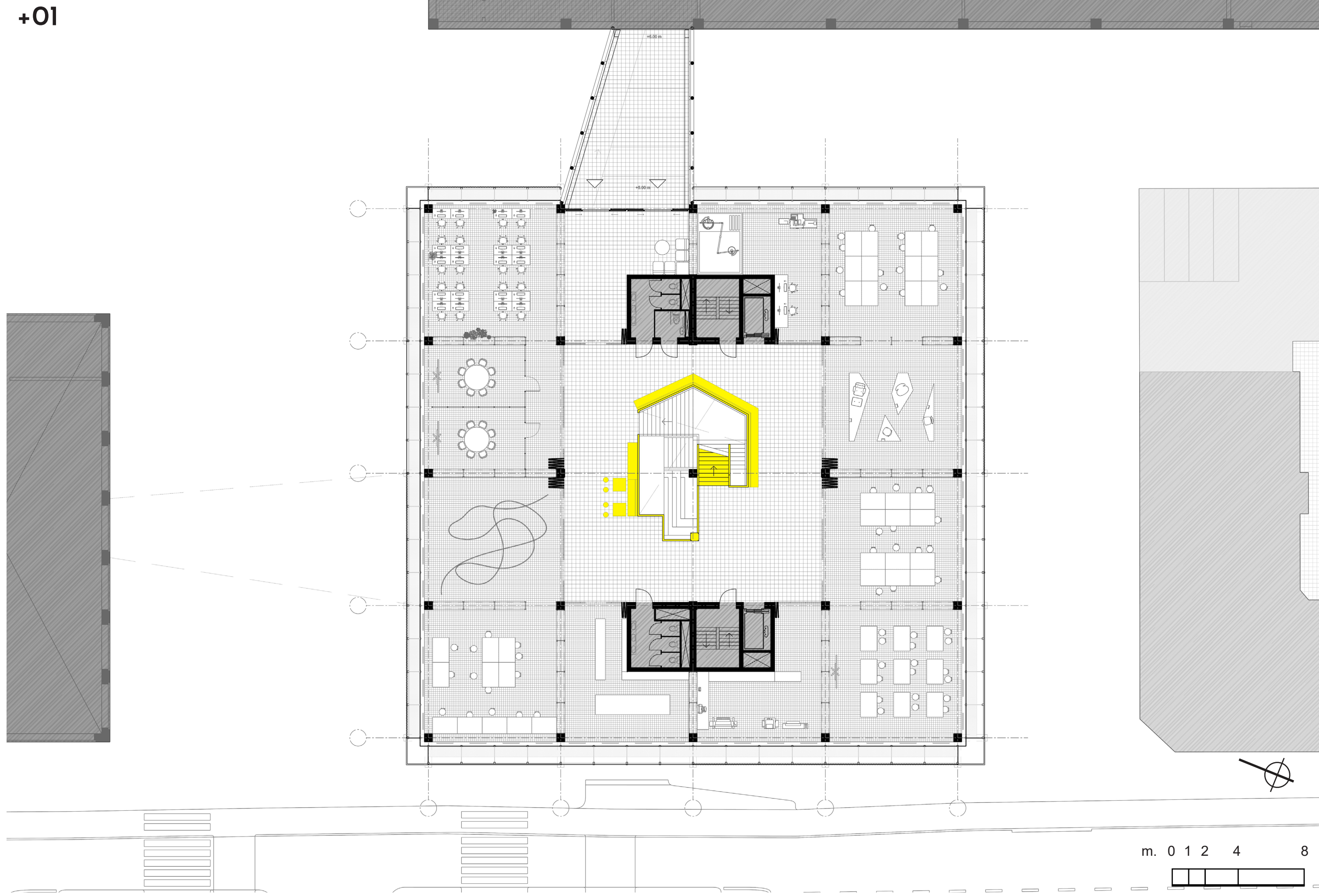
+03



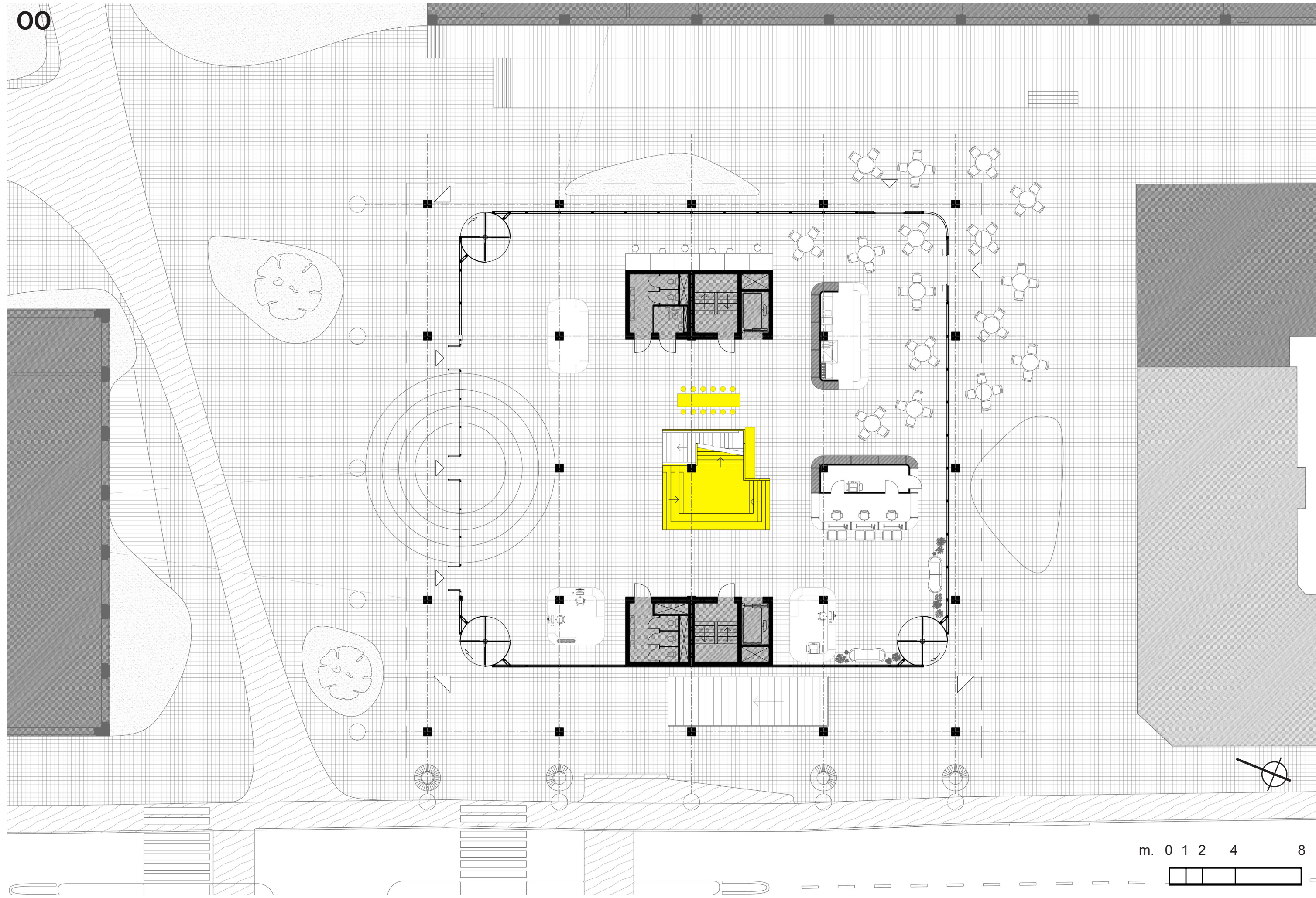
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+01



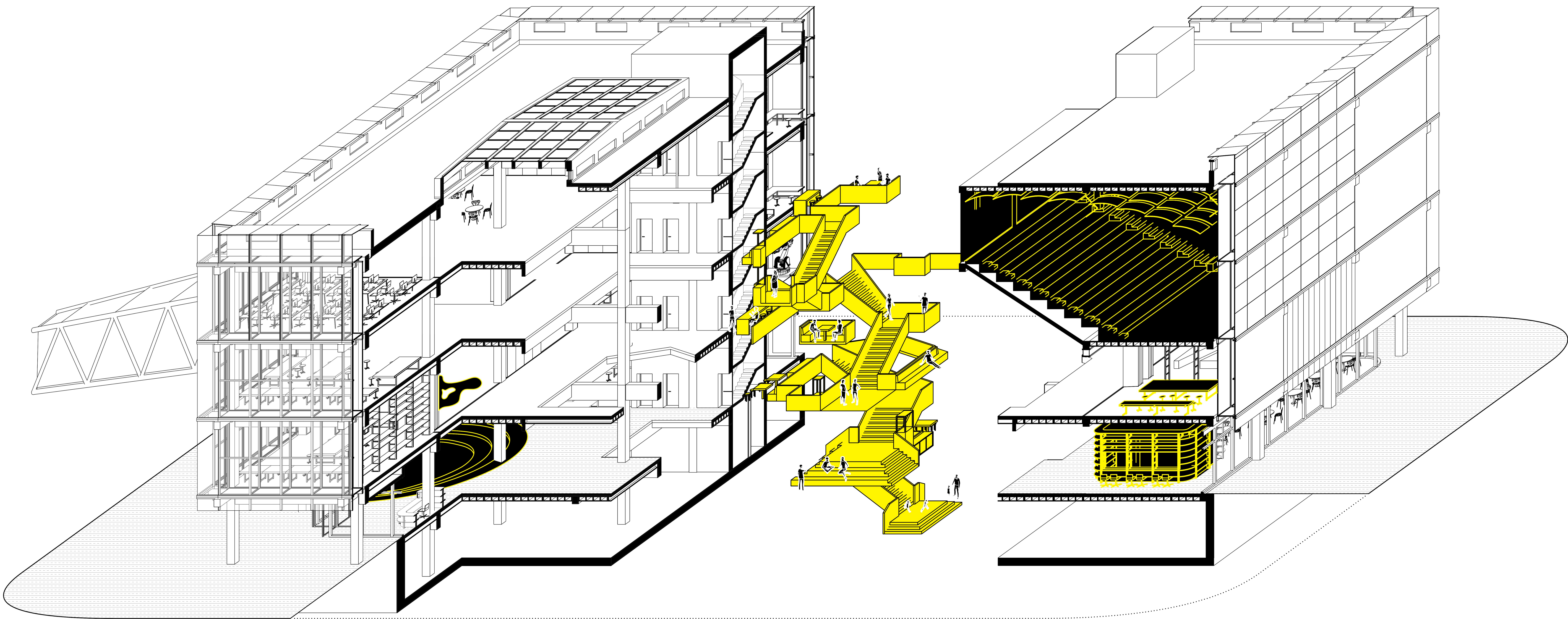
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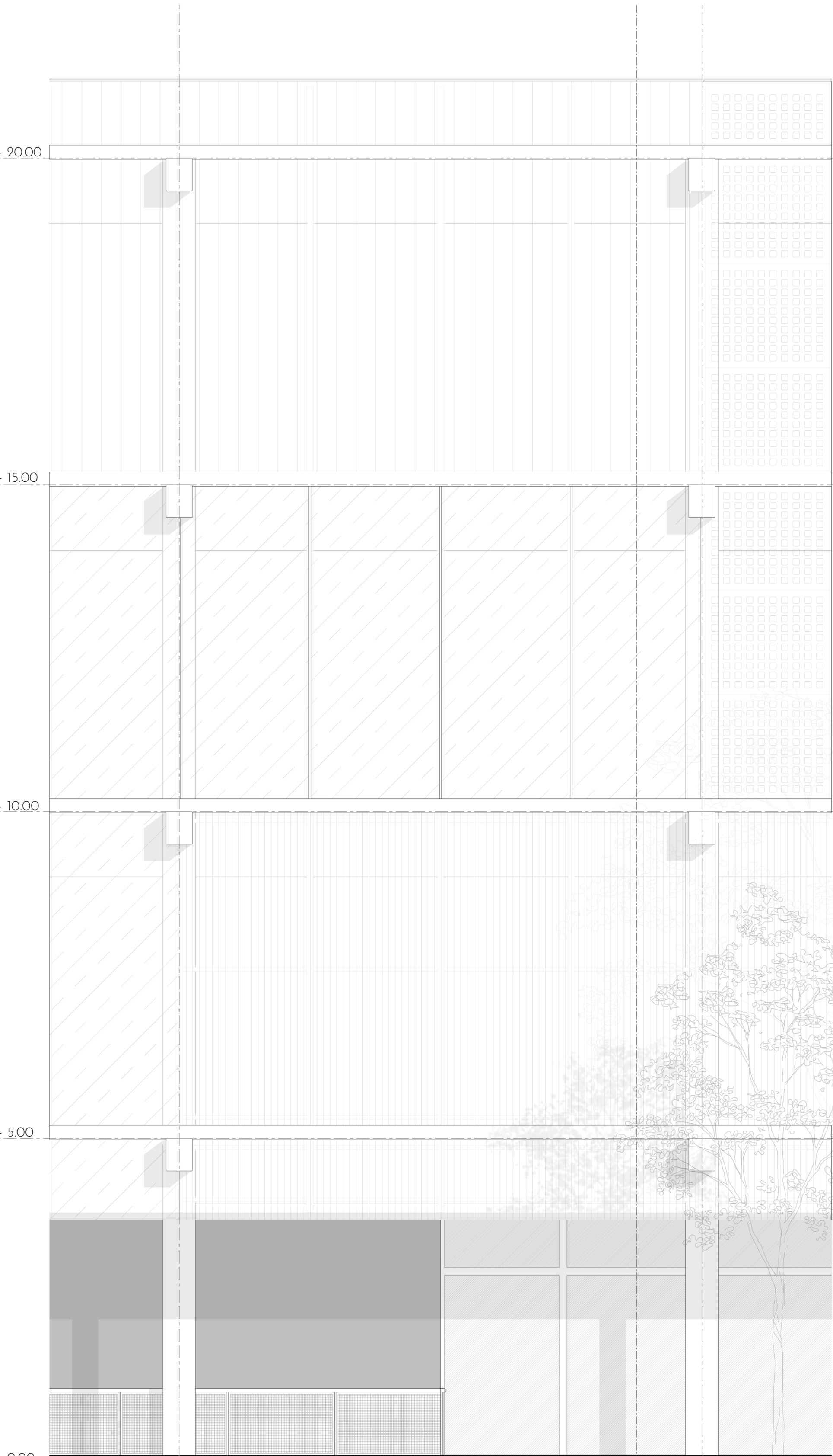
FACADE EXPRESSION



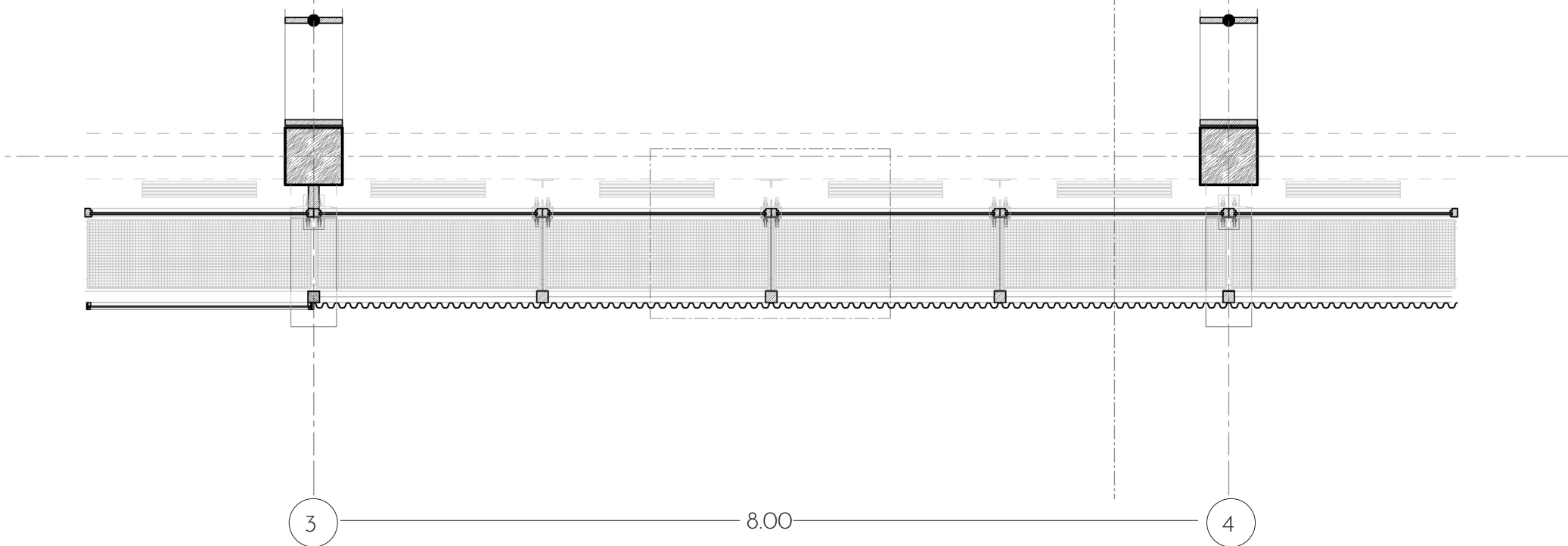
STAIRS OF ENCOUNTER, FORUM, MAKERSPACE, DECENTRALISED GOVERNMENT AND EXPOSITION



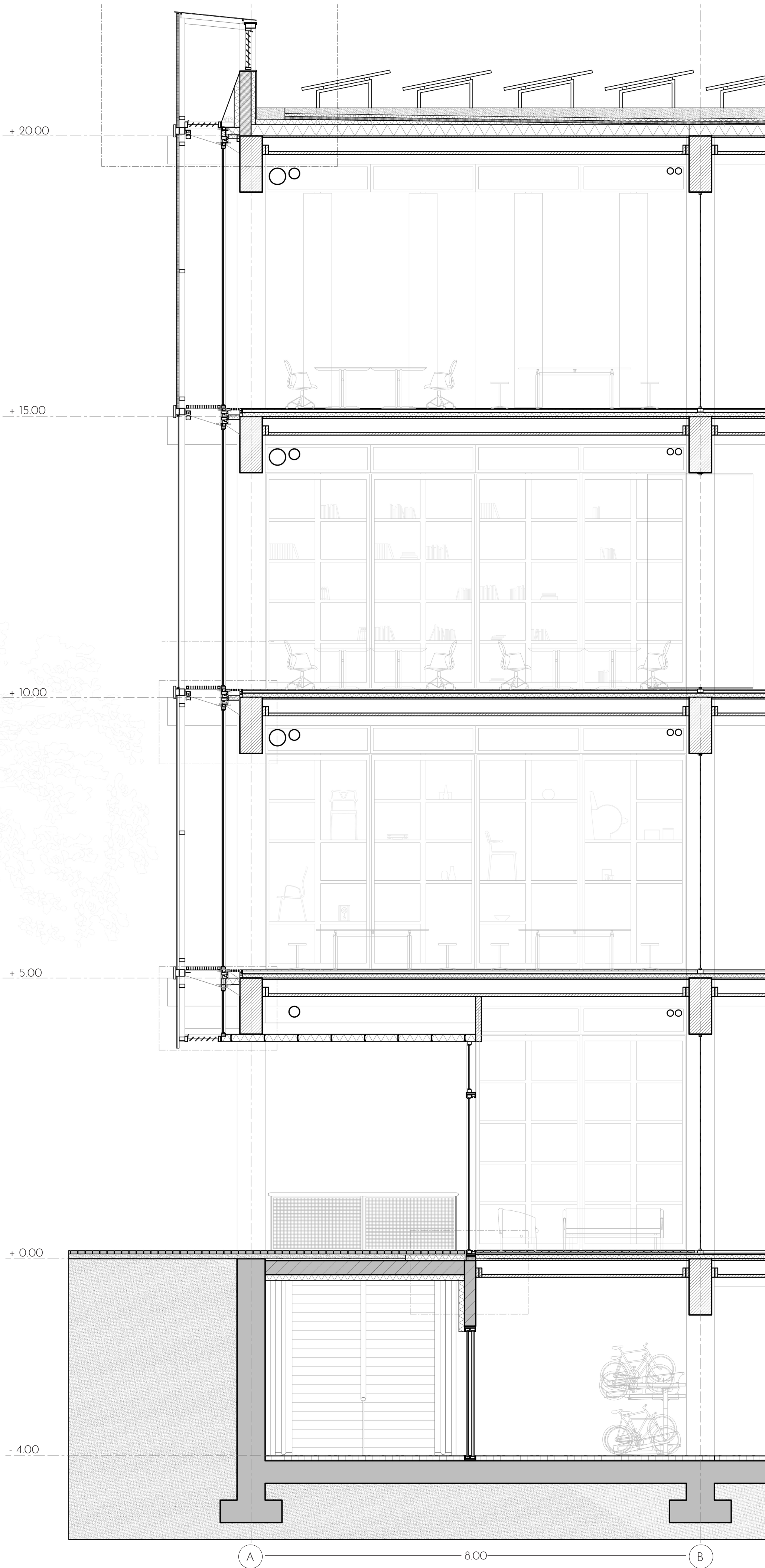
FACADE FRONT



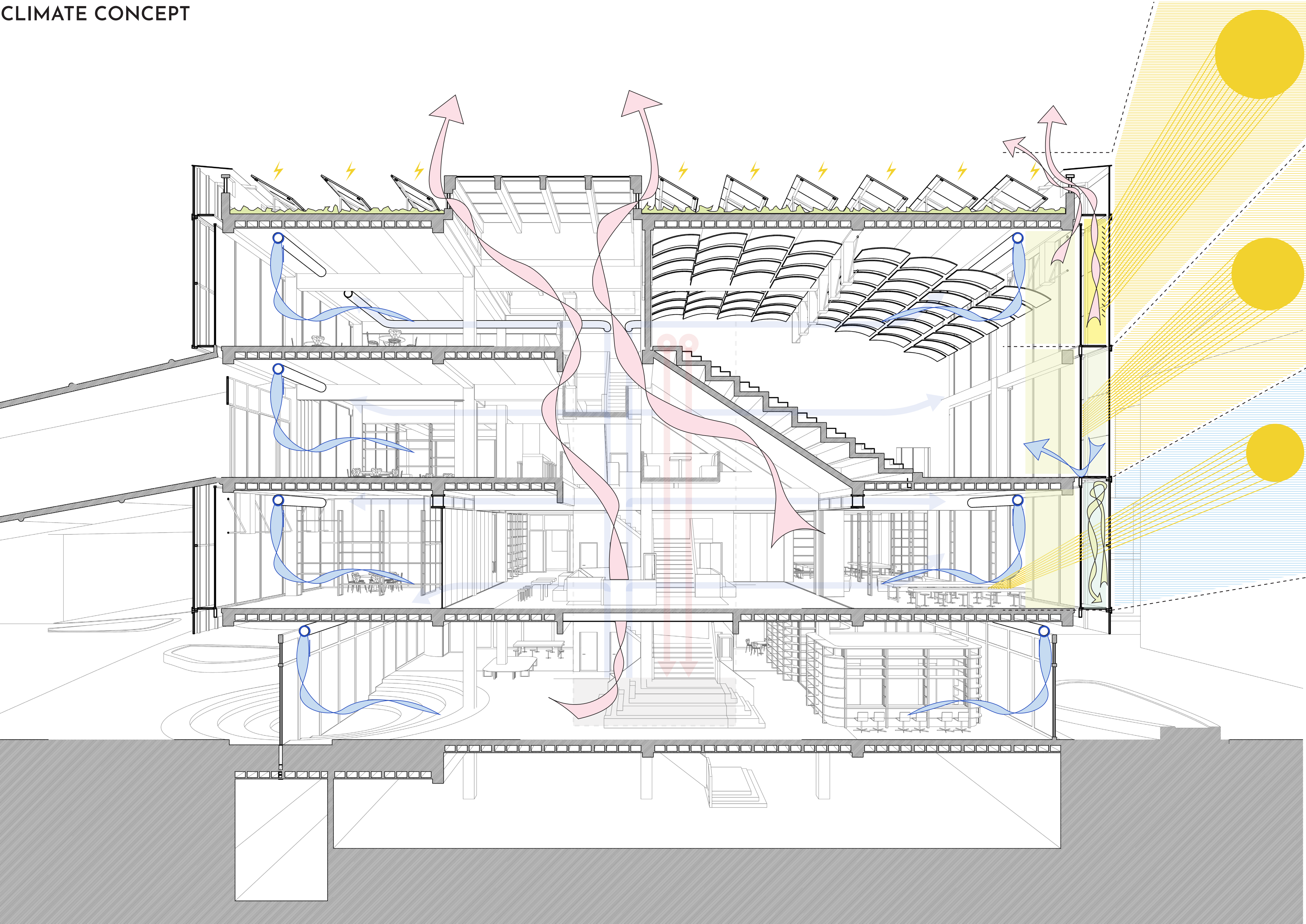
FACADE H SECTION



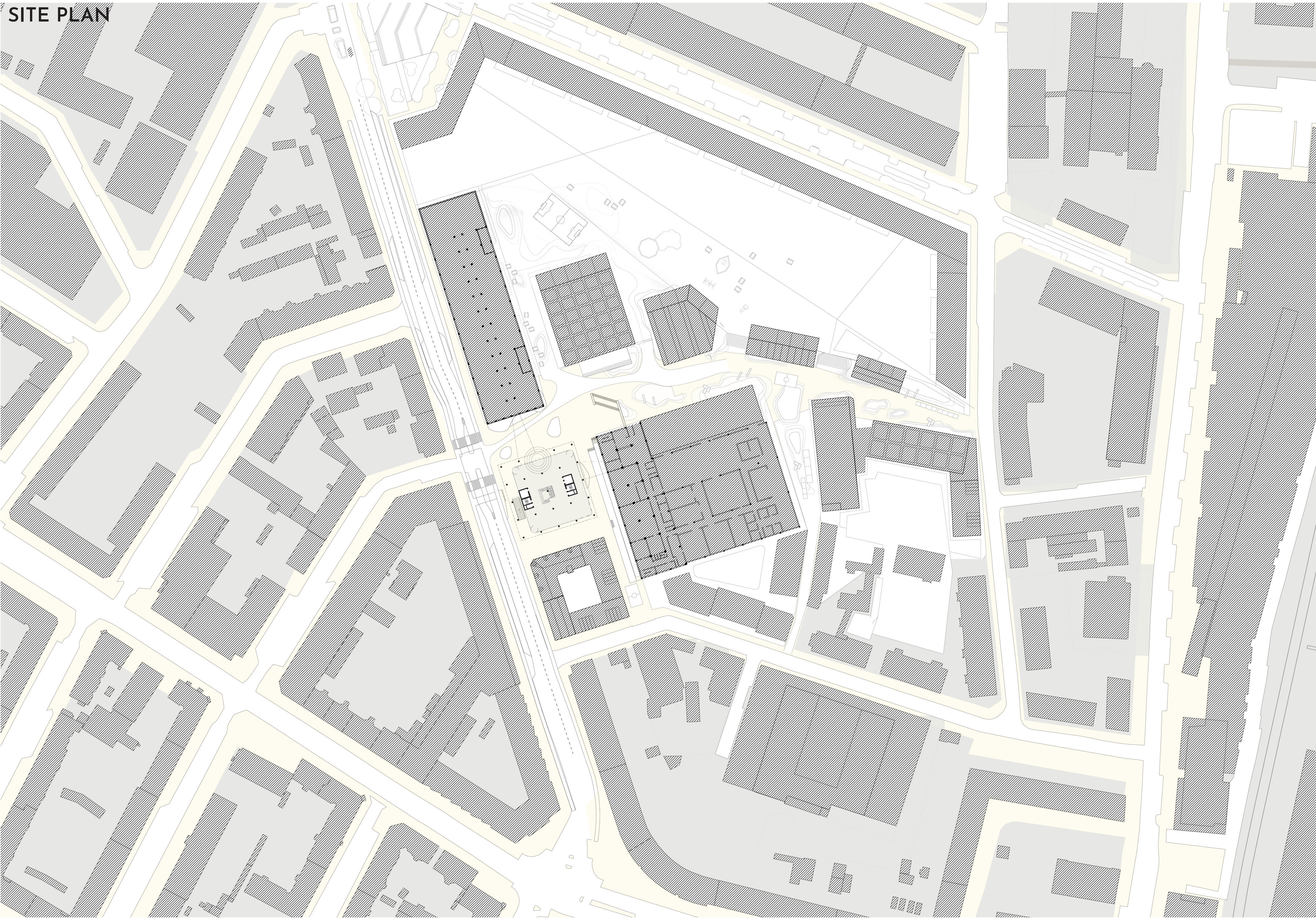
FACADE V SECTION



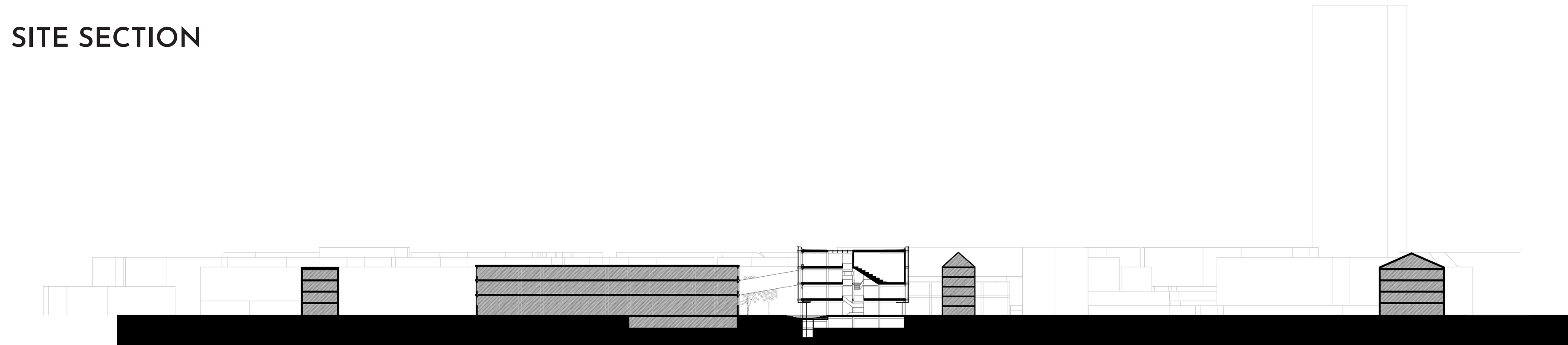
CLIMATE CONCEPT



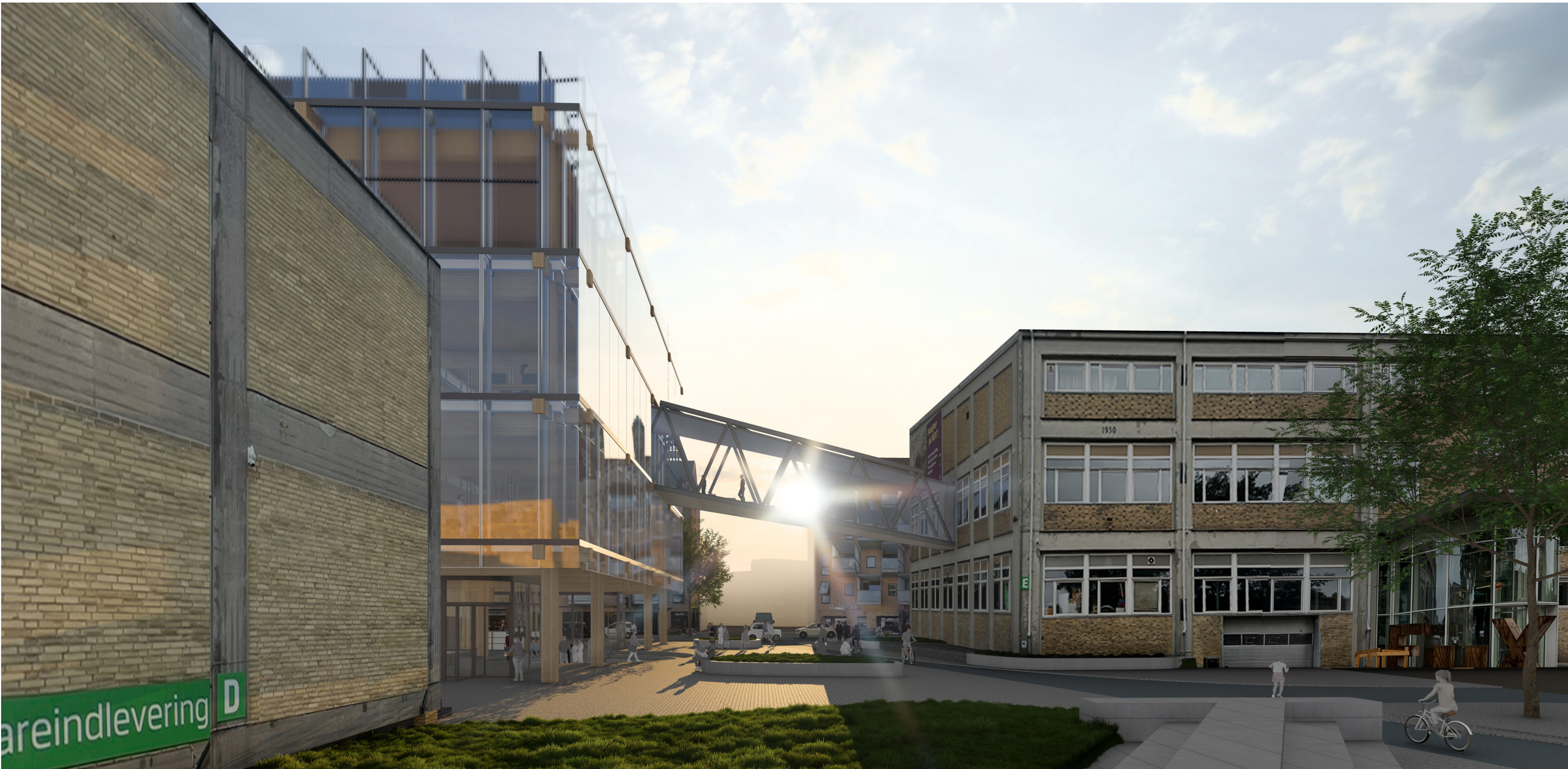
SITE PLAN



SITE SECTION



IMPRESSION STREET

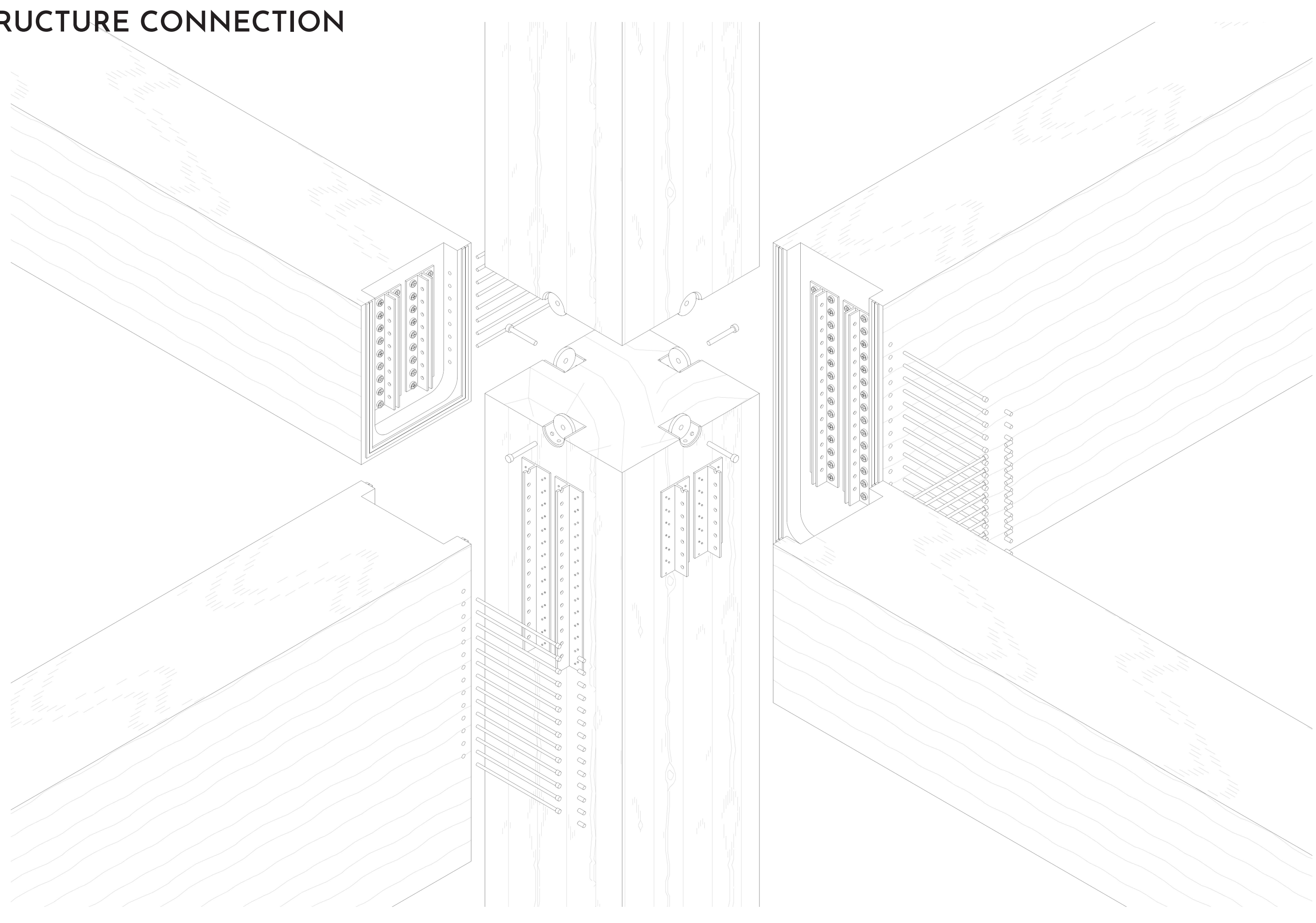


IMPRESSION NEXT SCHOOL

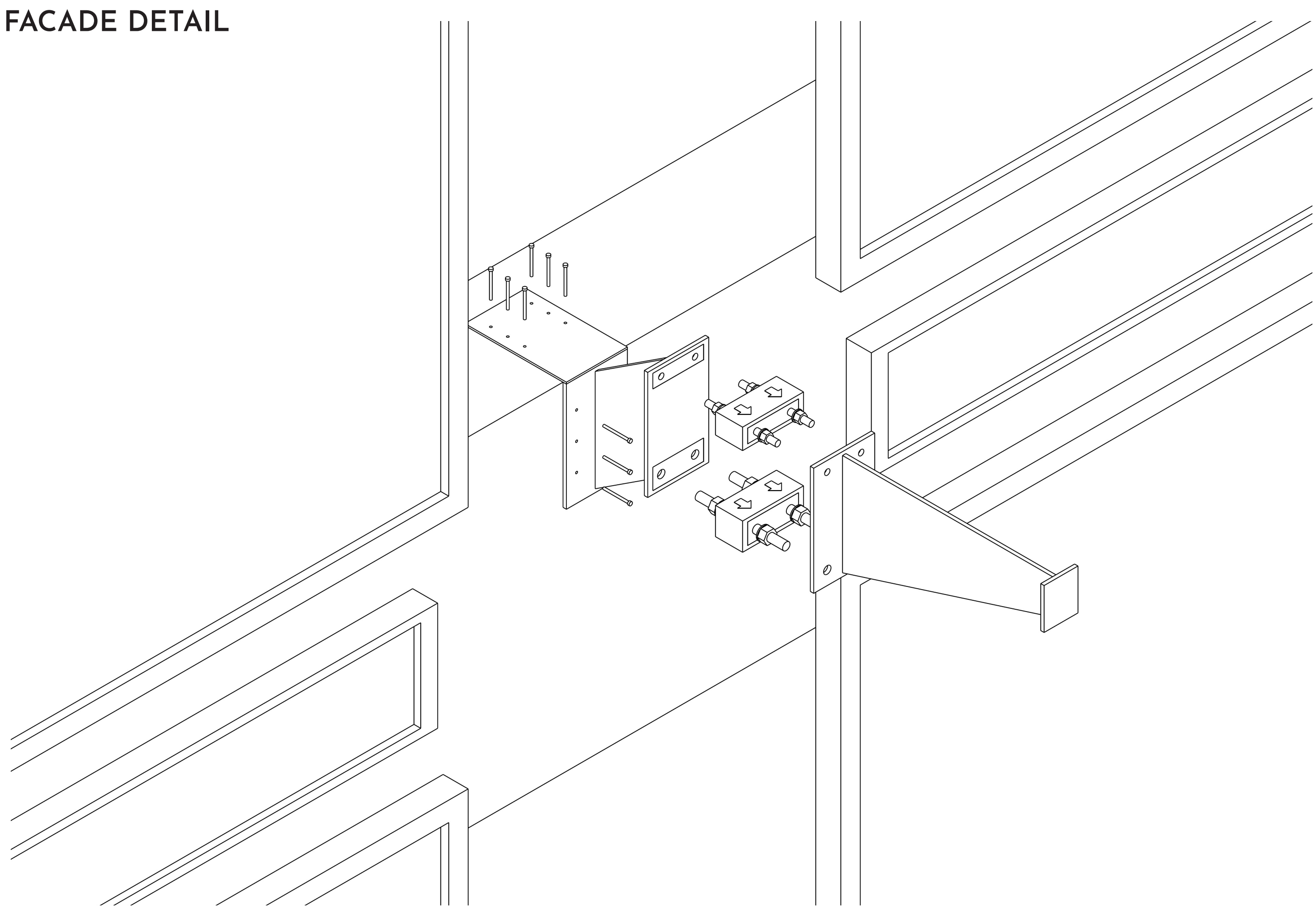




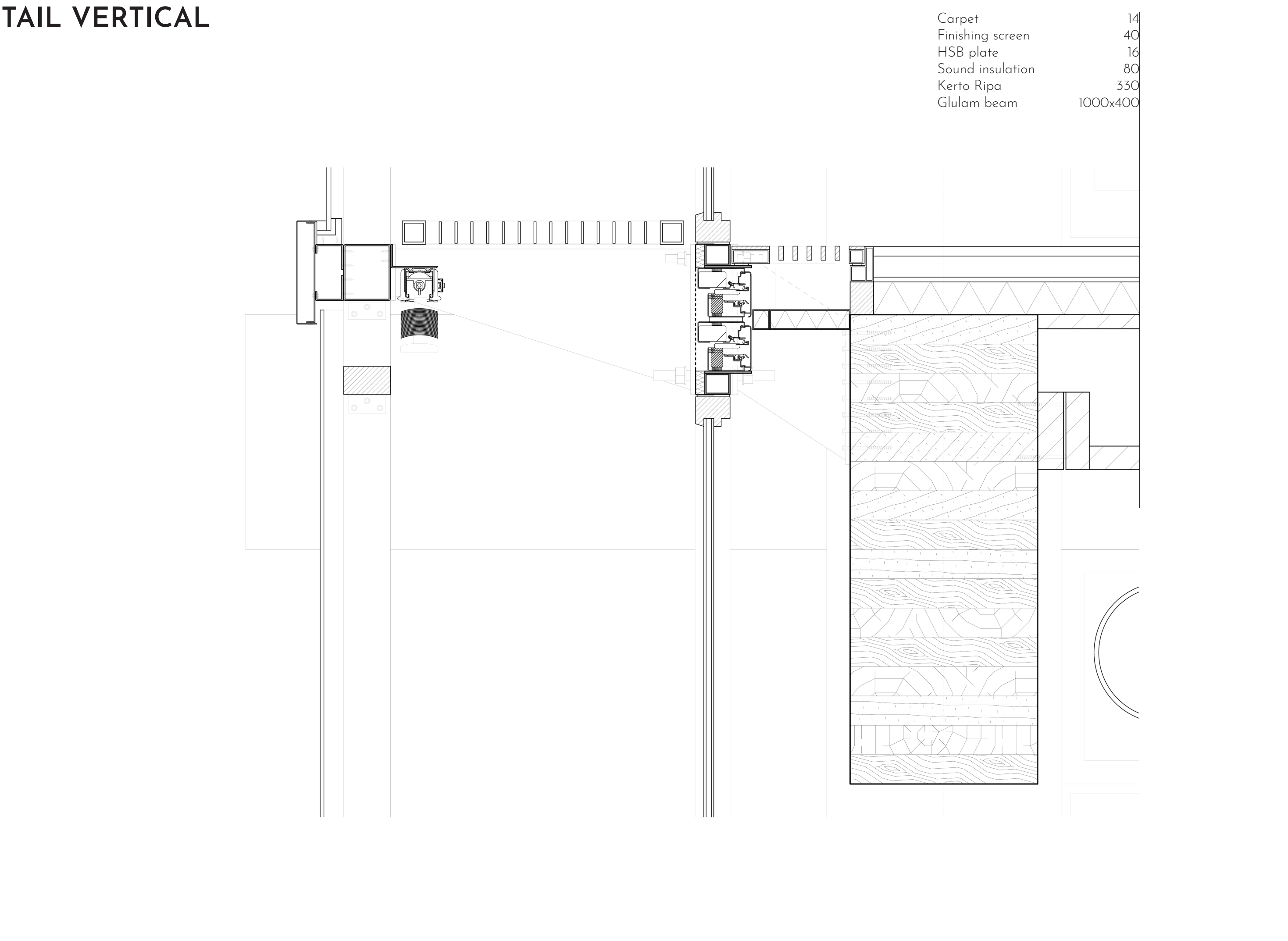
STRUCTURE CONNECTION



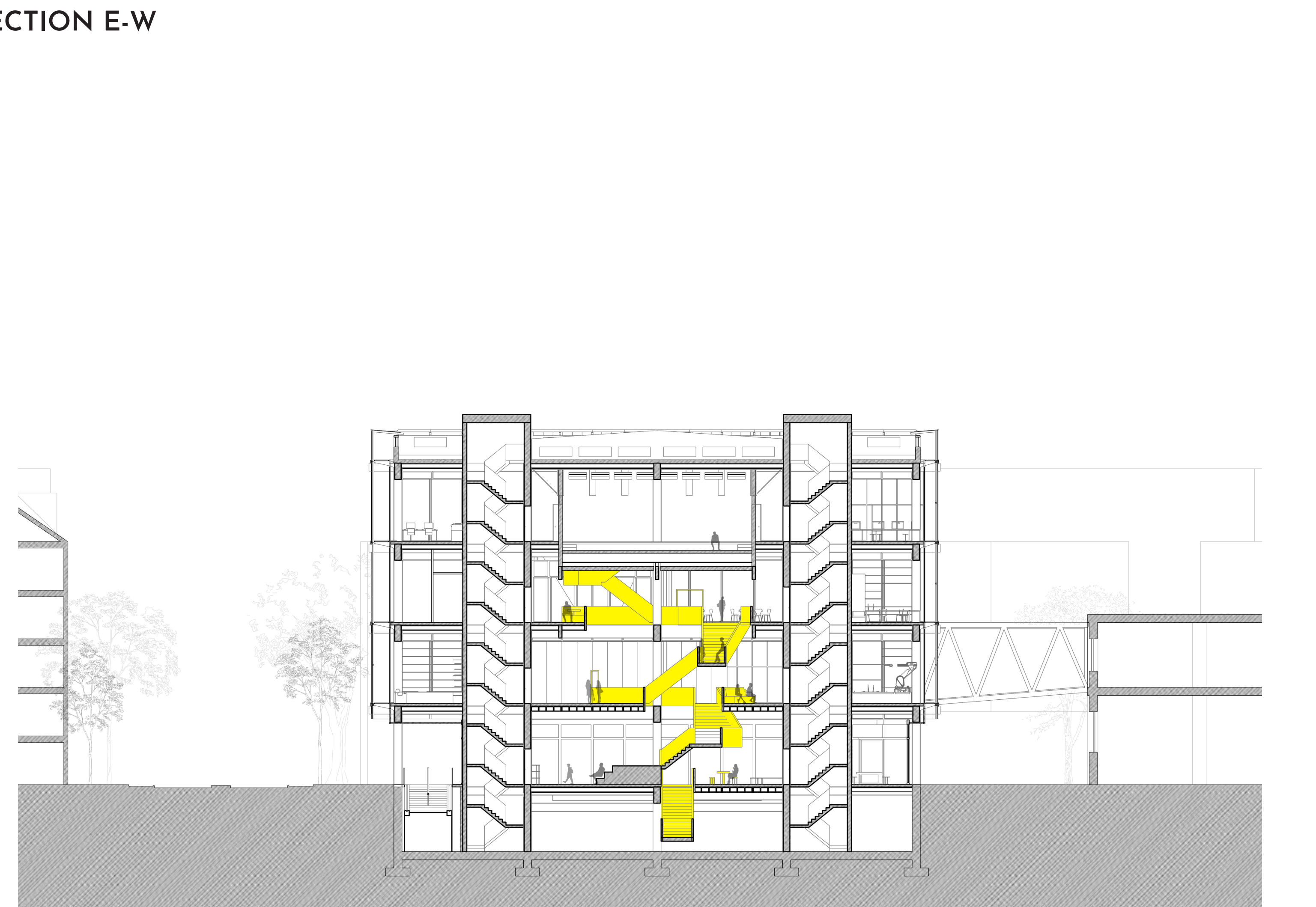
FACADE DETAIL



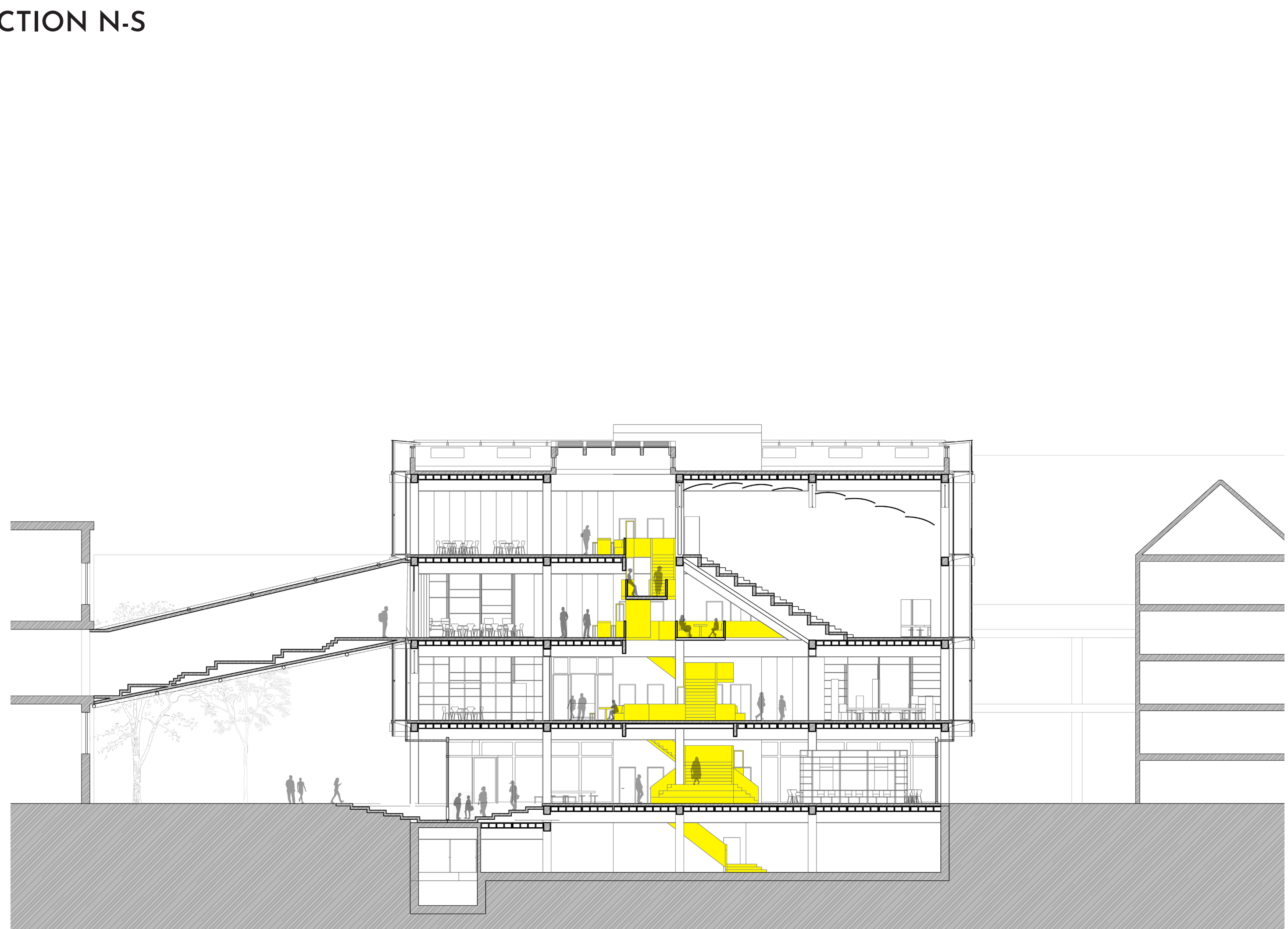
DETAIL VERTICAL



SECTION E-W



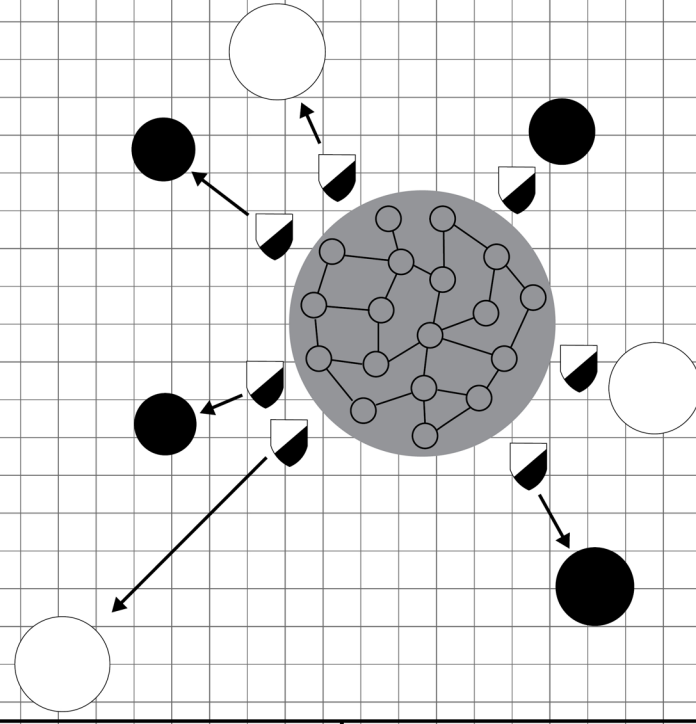
SECTION N-S



Depolarizer Prototype

Catalog of all the elements that are fundamental to the prototype of the "Depolarizer"

- Grey middle
- Polarization pushers
- Individuals
- Polarizing push factors
- Protection from polarizing factors
- Social cohesion



Shielding off Polarizing Factors

Establishing Social Cohesion

Debate takes place in the Grey Middle

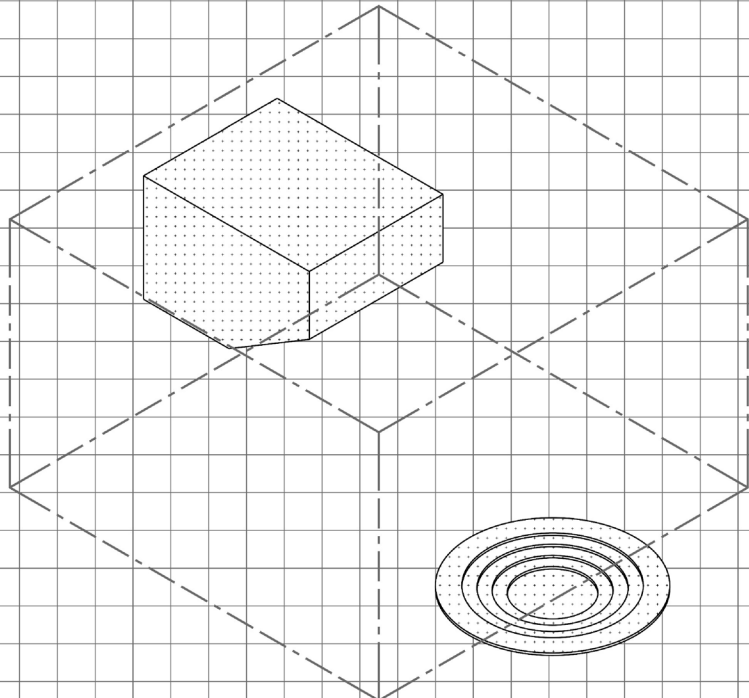
Decreasing Global/Local Polarizing Factors

Positive Encounters

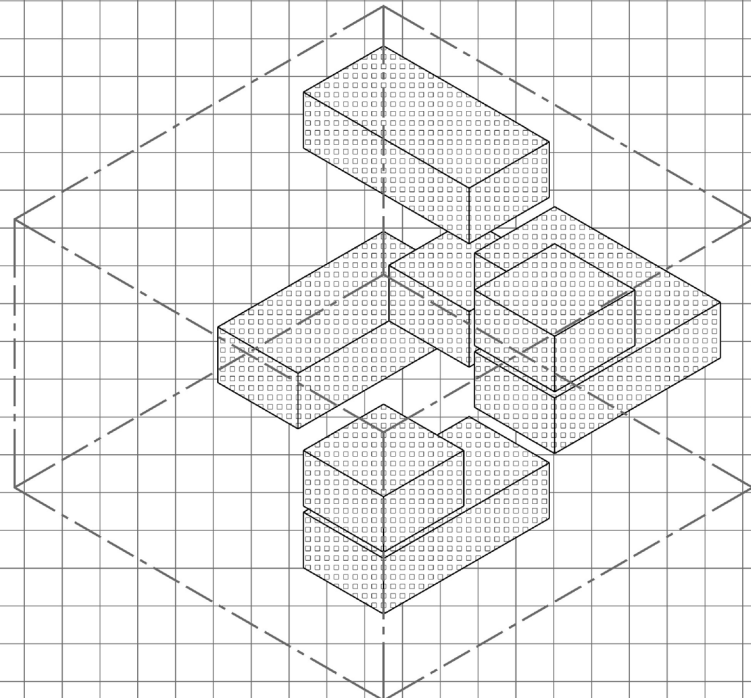
Celebrating Difference

Bringing People Together

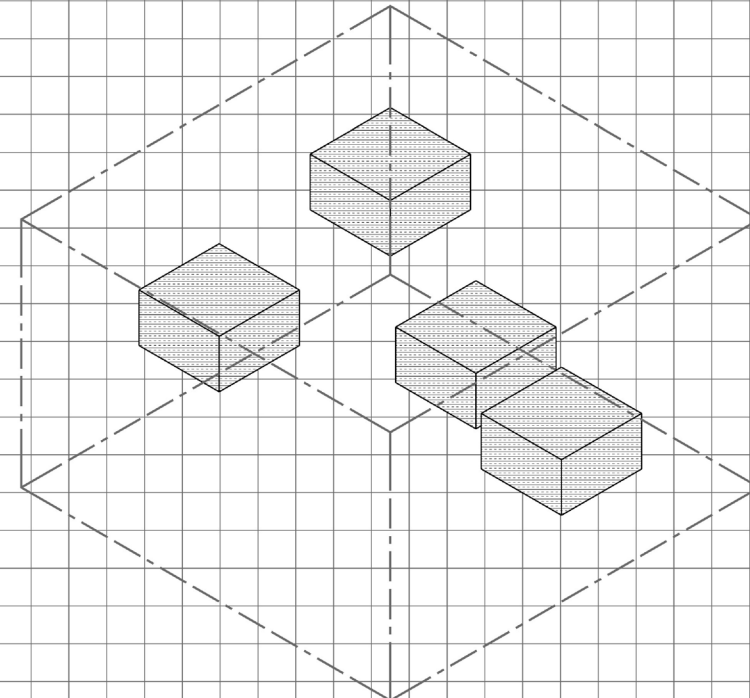
Forums



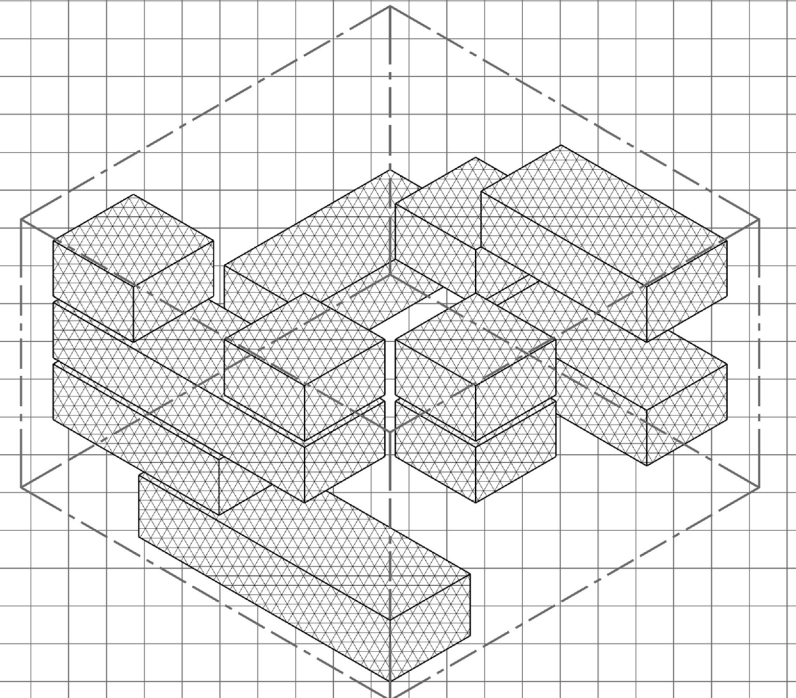
Decentralised Government



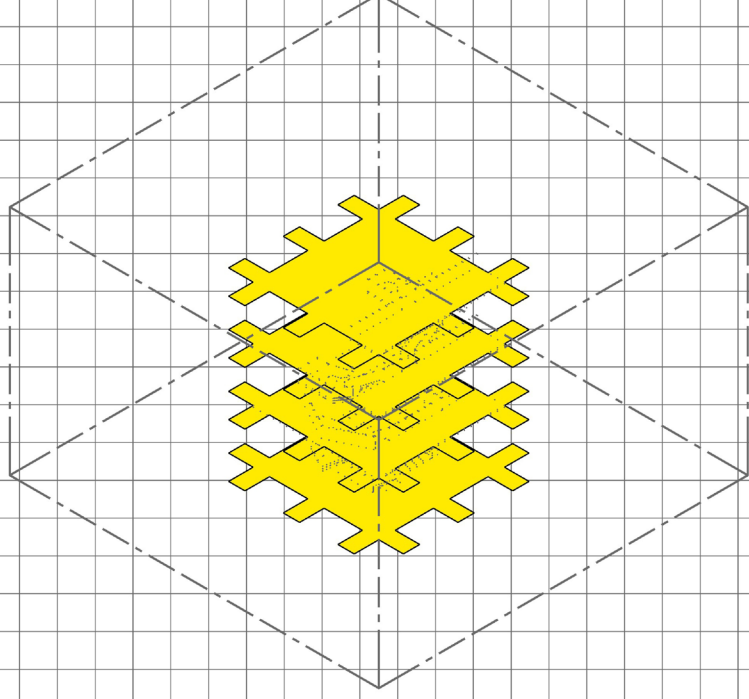
Expositions



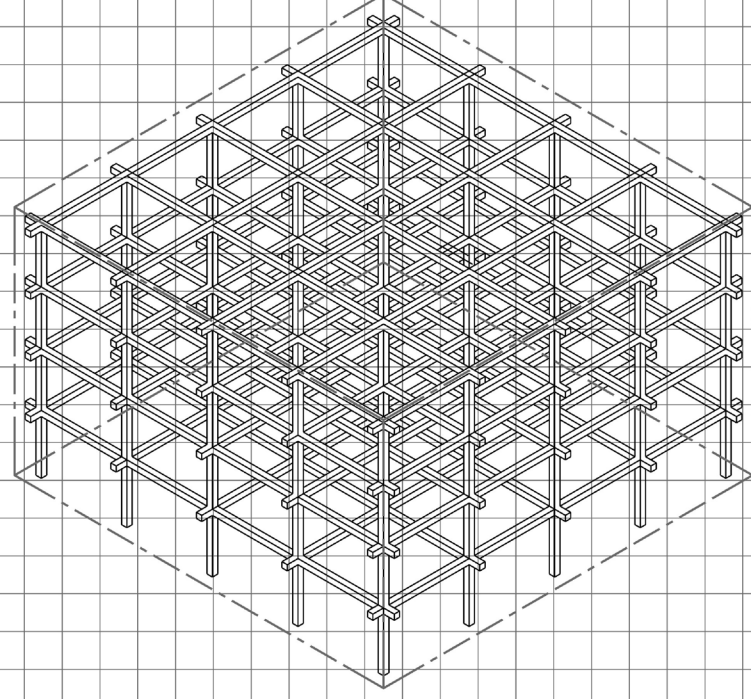
Apolitical Program:



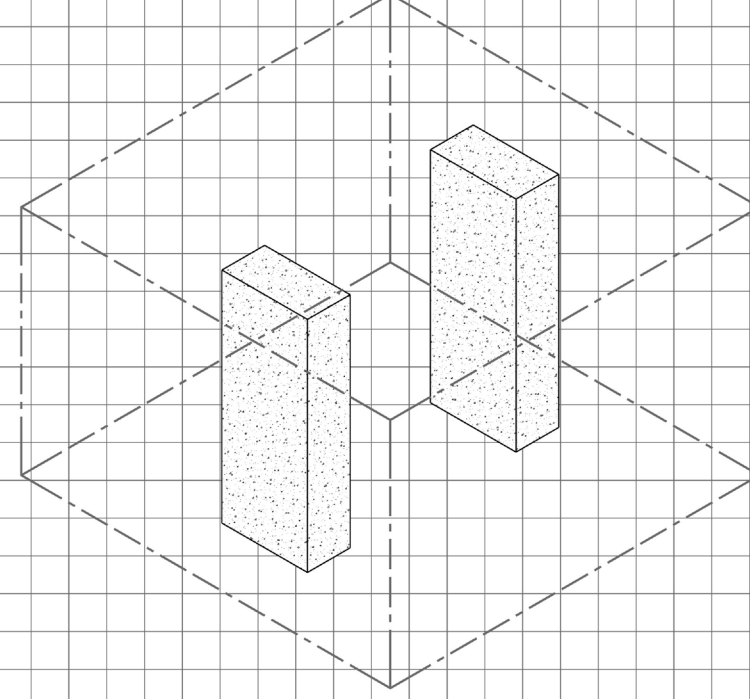
Space of Encounter



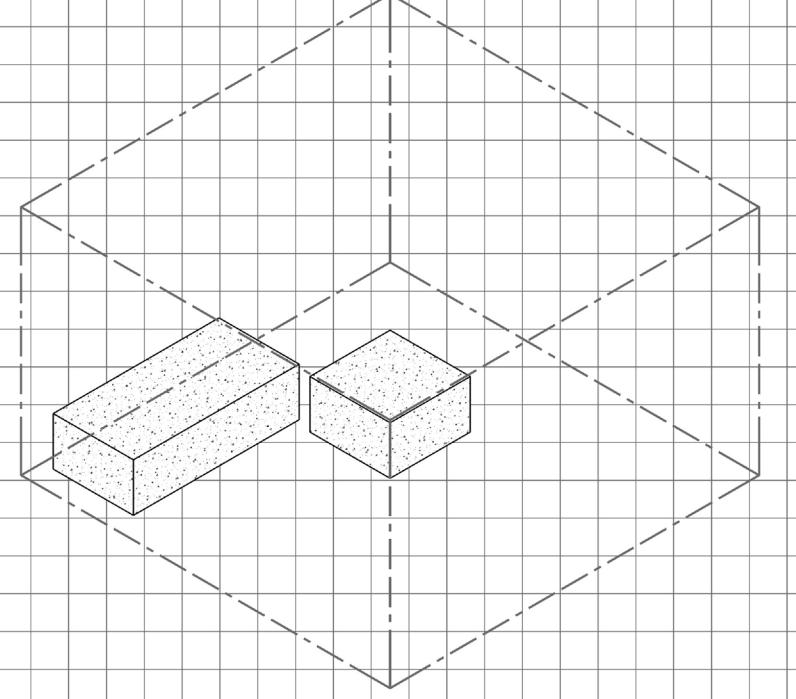
Grid Structure



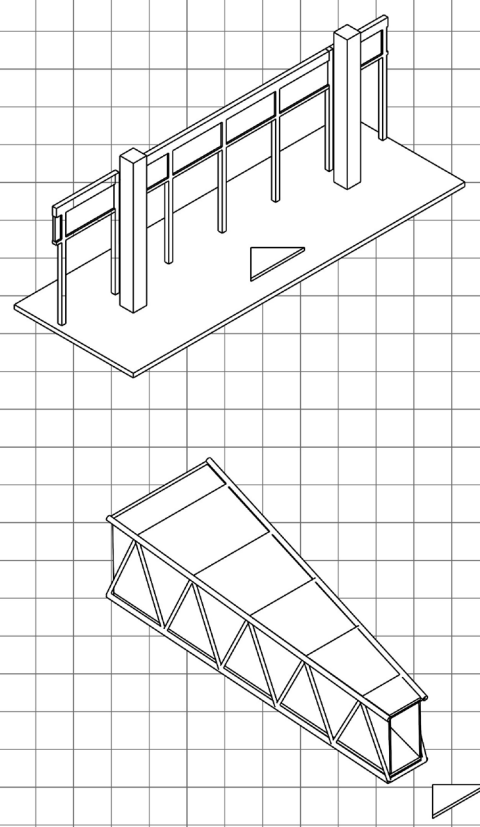
Structural Cores



Supportive Program



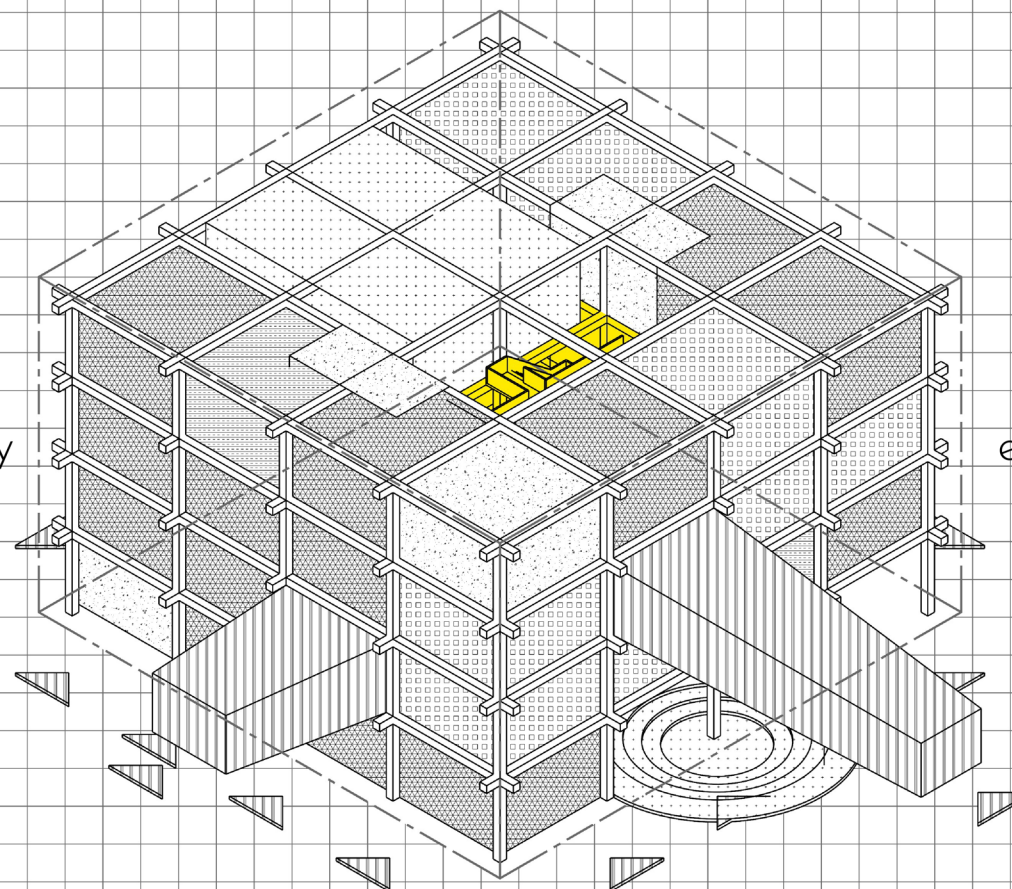
organization and program



easy entrance

accessibility

connects to surrounding

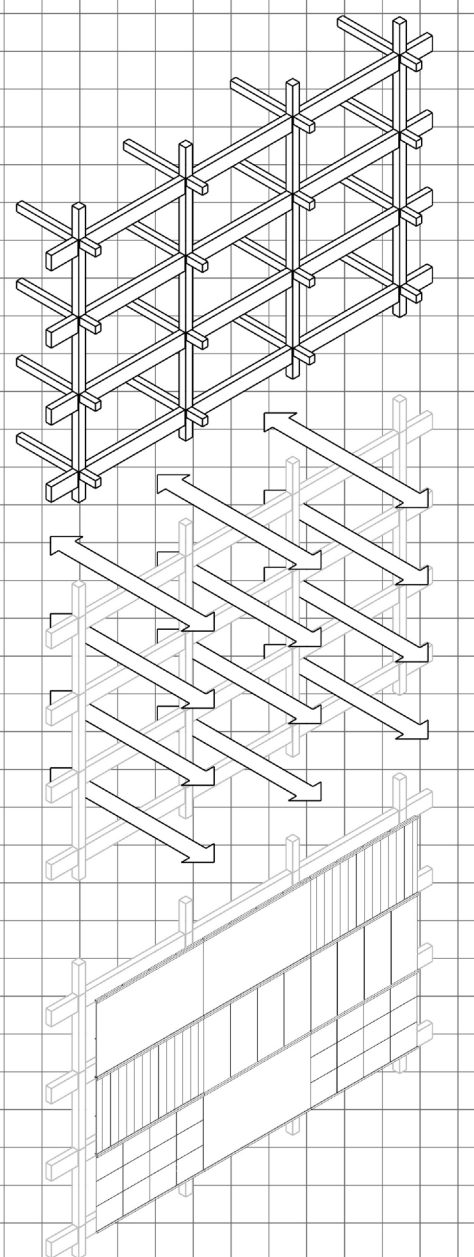


expression

structure

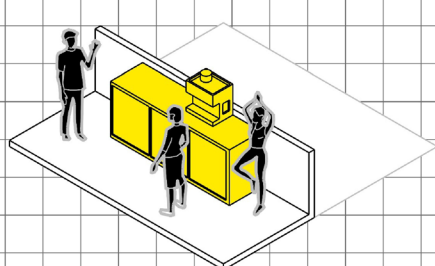
transparency

exposes diverse program

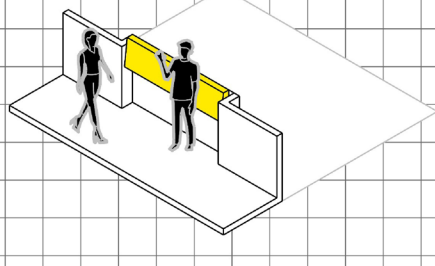


Elements

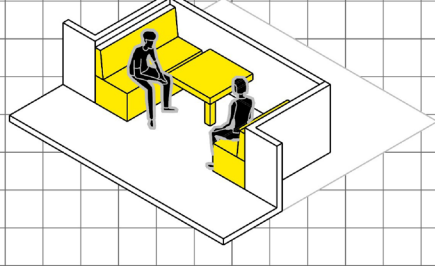
coffee counter



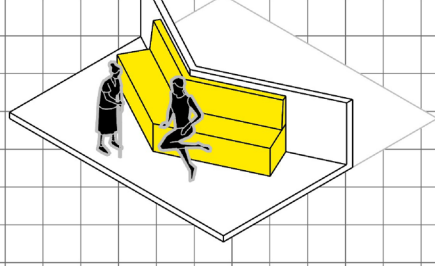
leaning bench



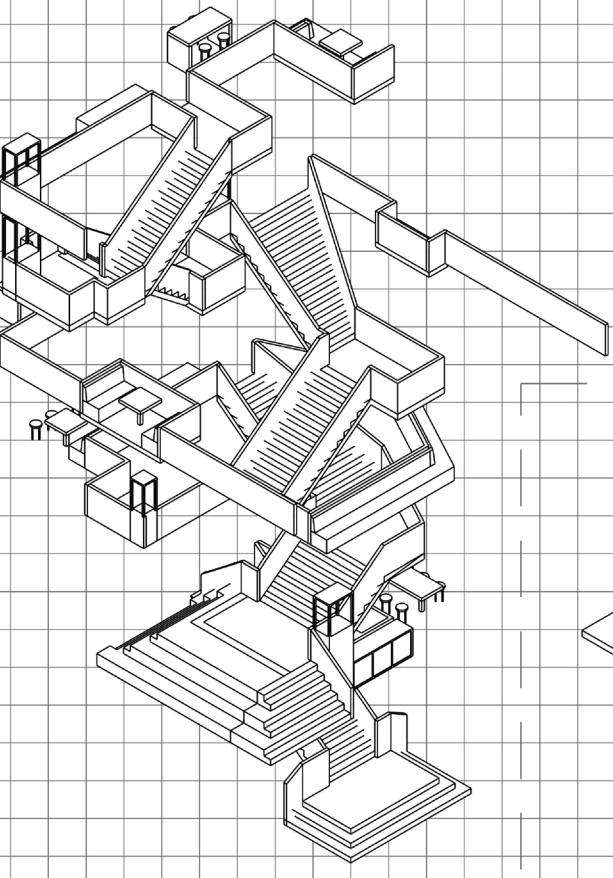
conversation booth



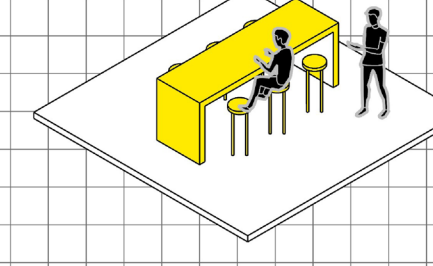
bench



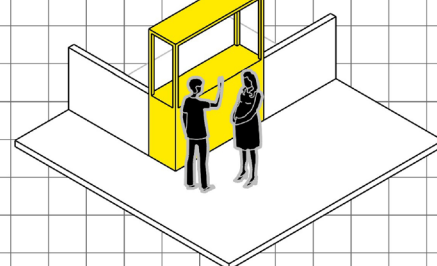
Stairs/Space of Encounter



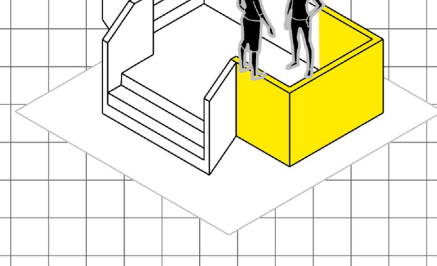
standing table



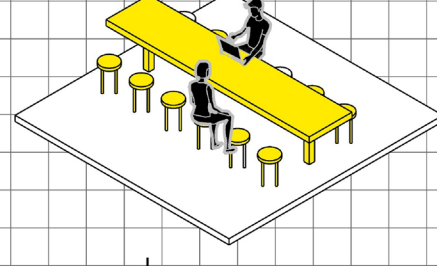
exposition box



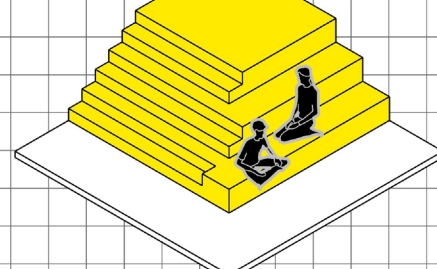
conversation corner



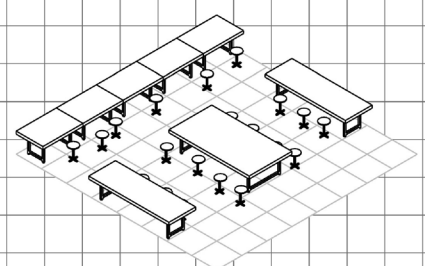
reading table



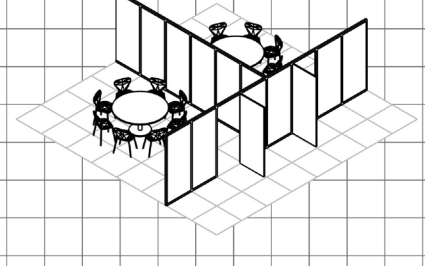
tribune seating



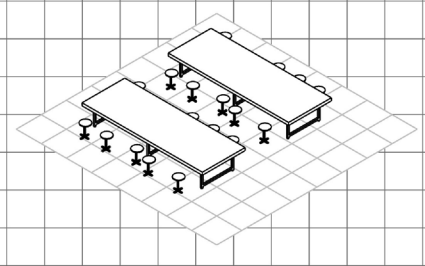
individual working



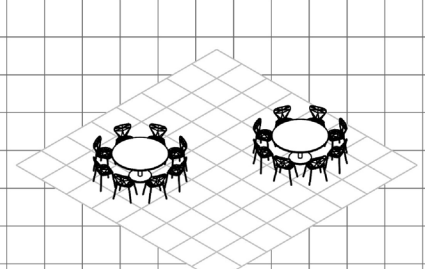
private meeting



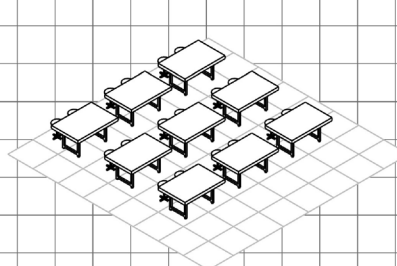
groupwork



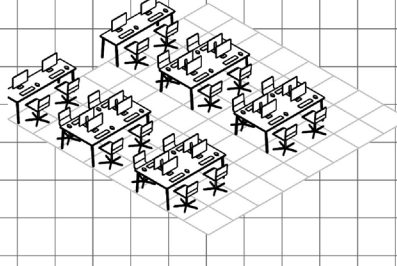
inviting meeting



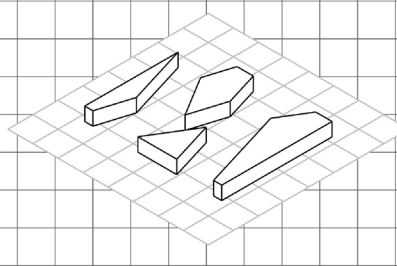
classroom



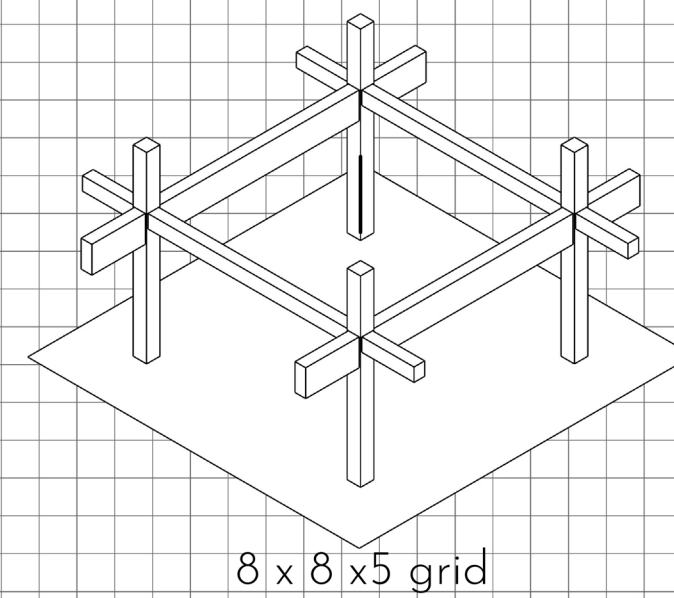
office



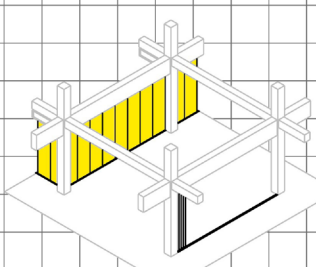
exposition



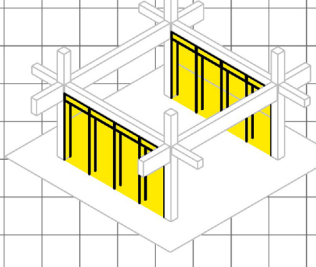
8 x 8 x 5 grid



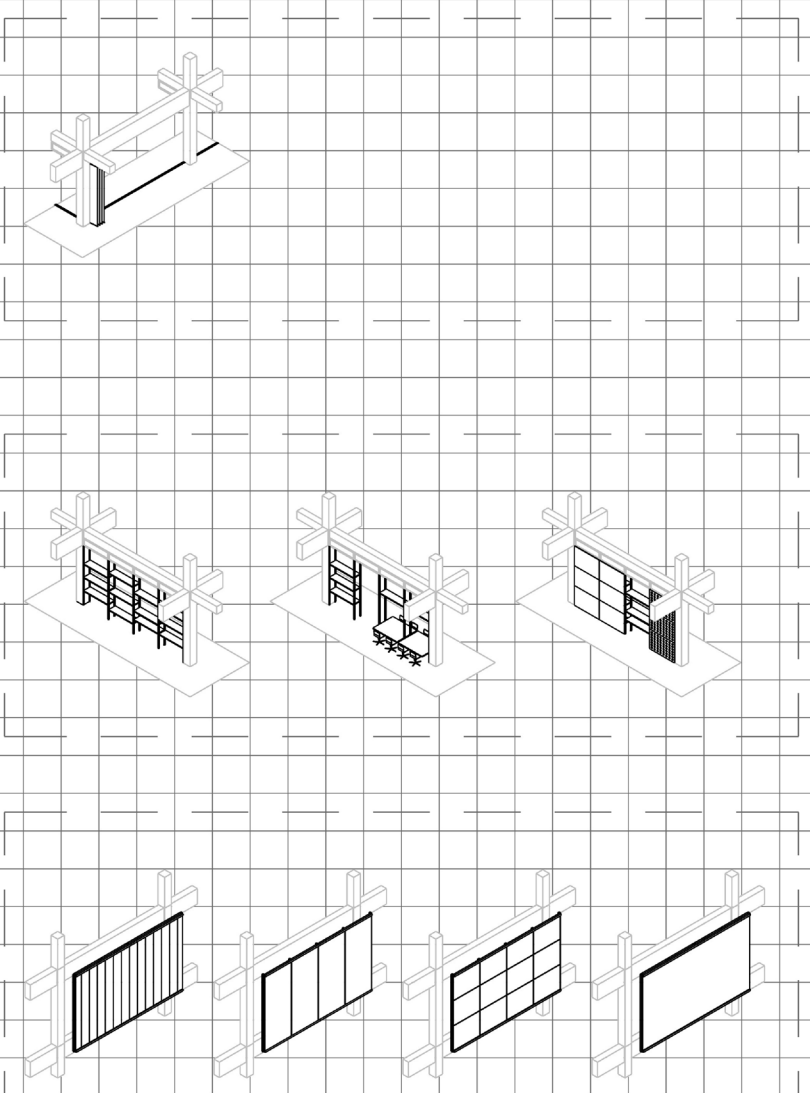
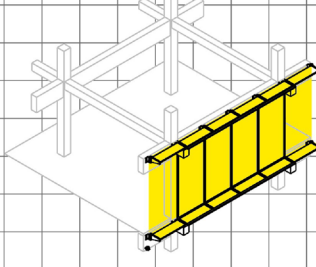
public/
private
partition

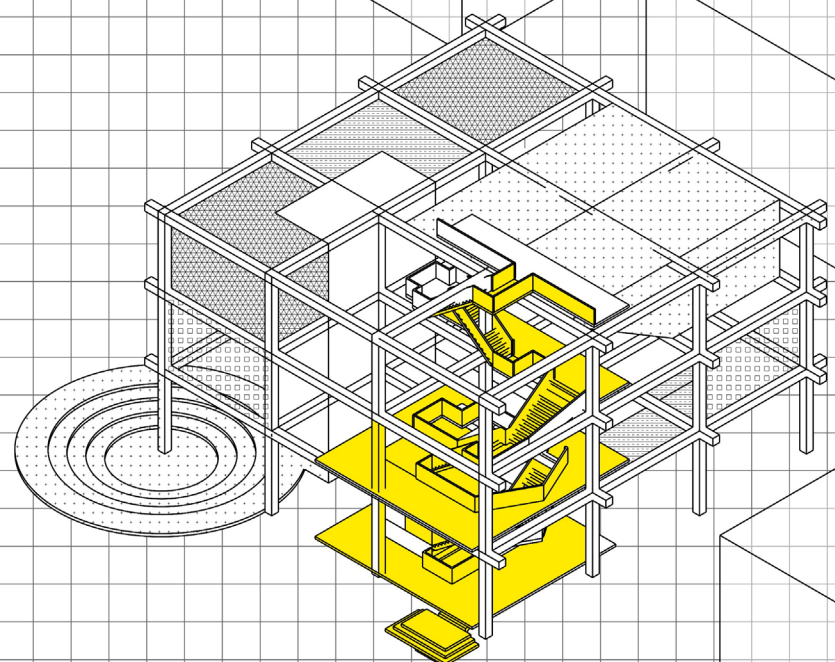


private/
private
partition

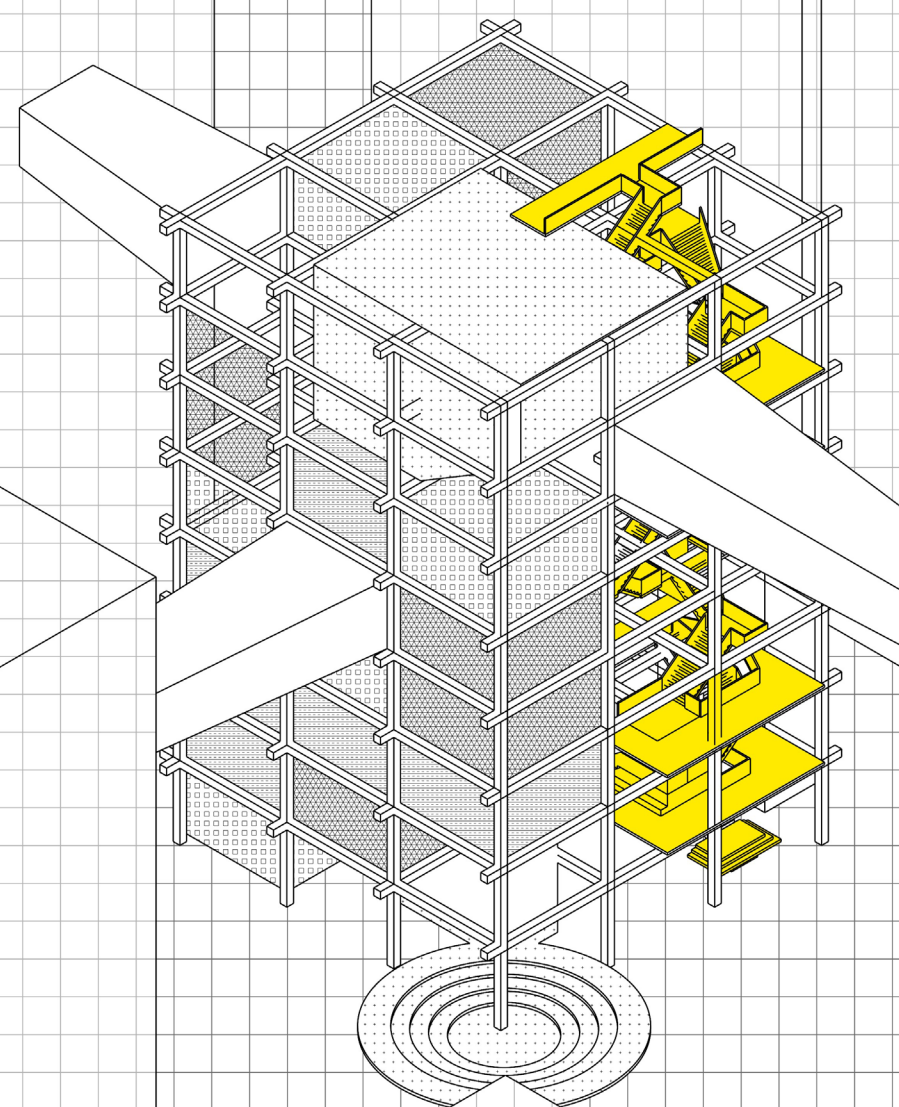


indoor/
outdoor
partition

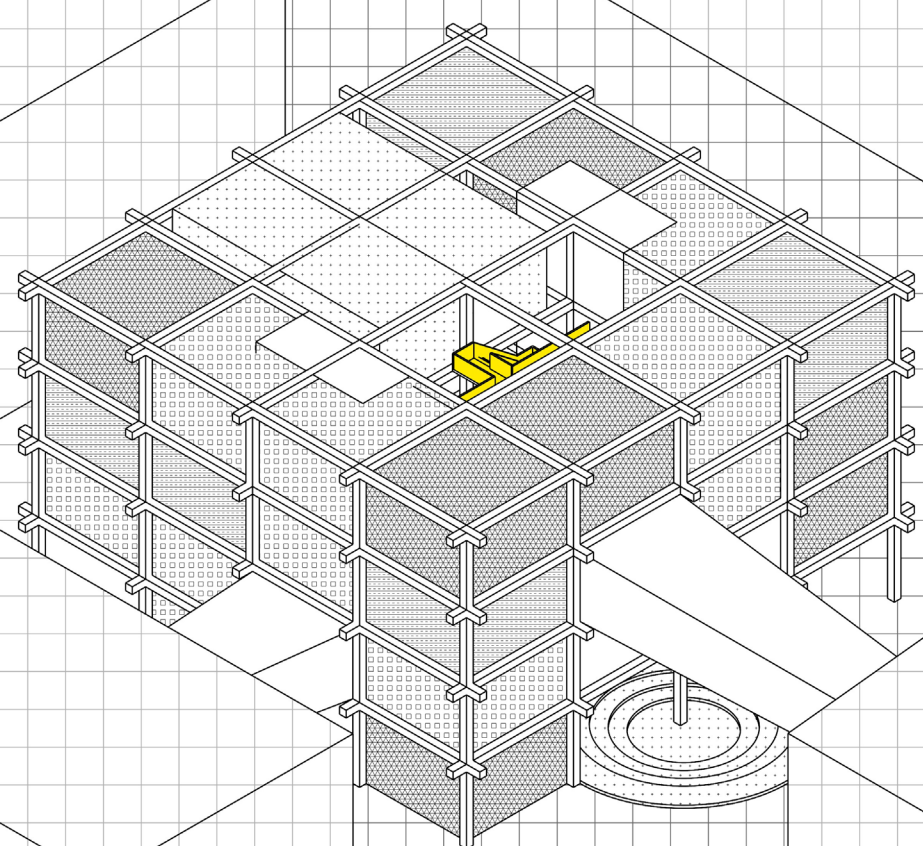




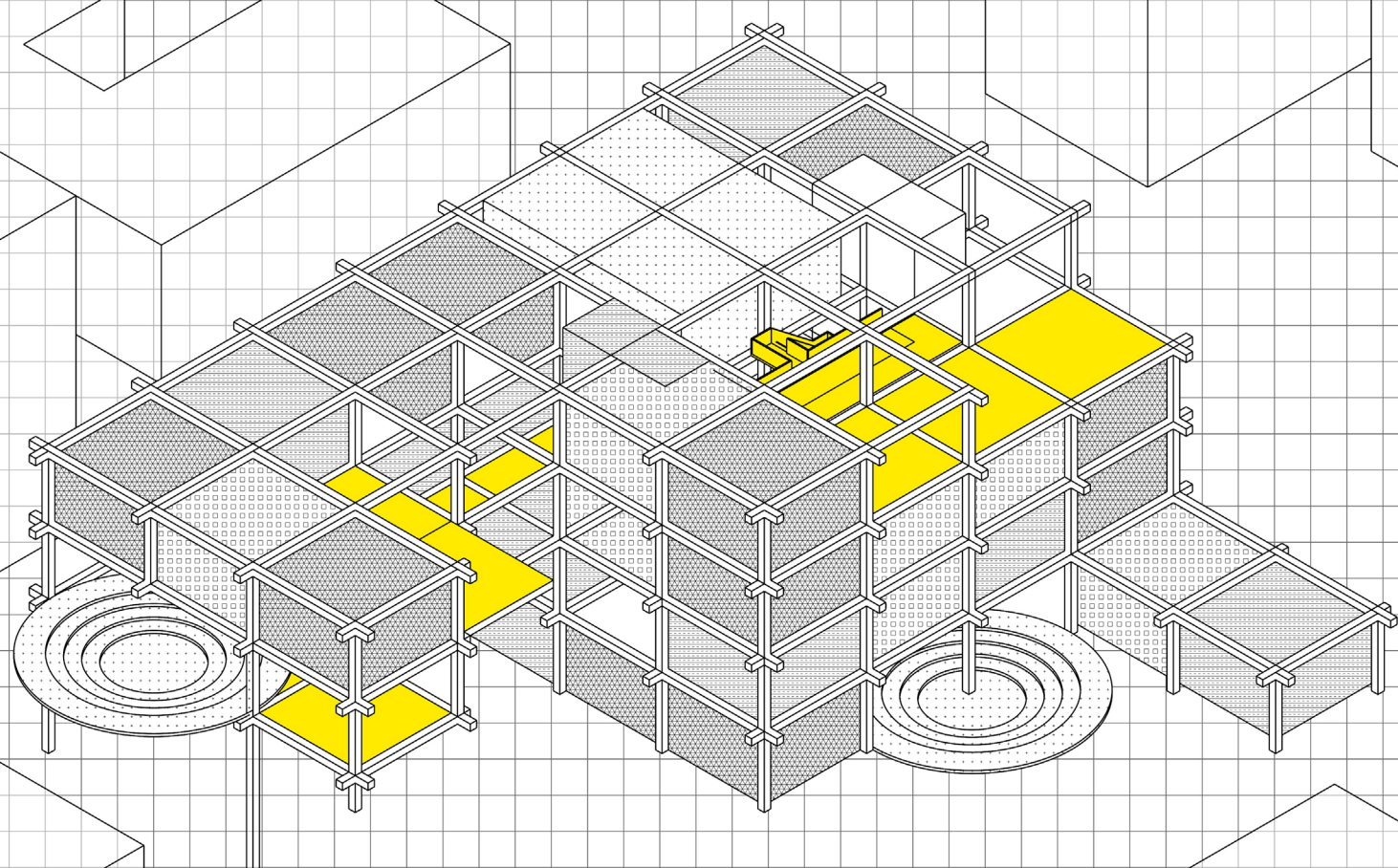
Depolarizer
Moscow



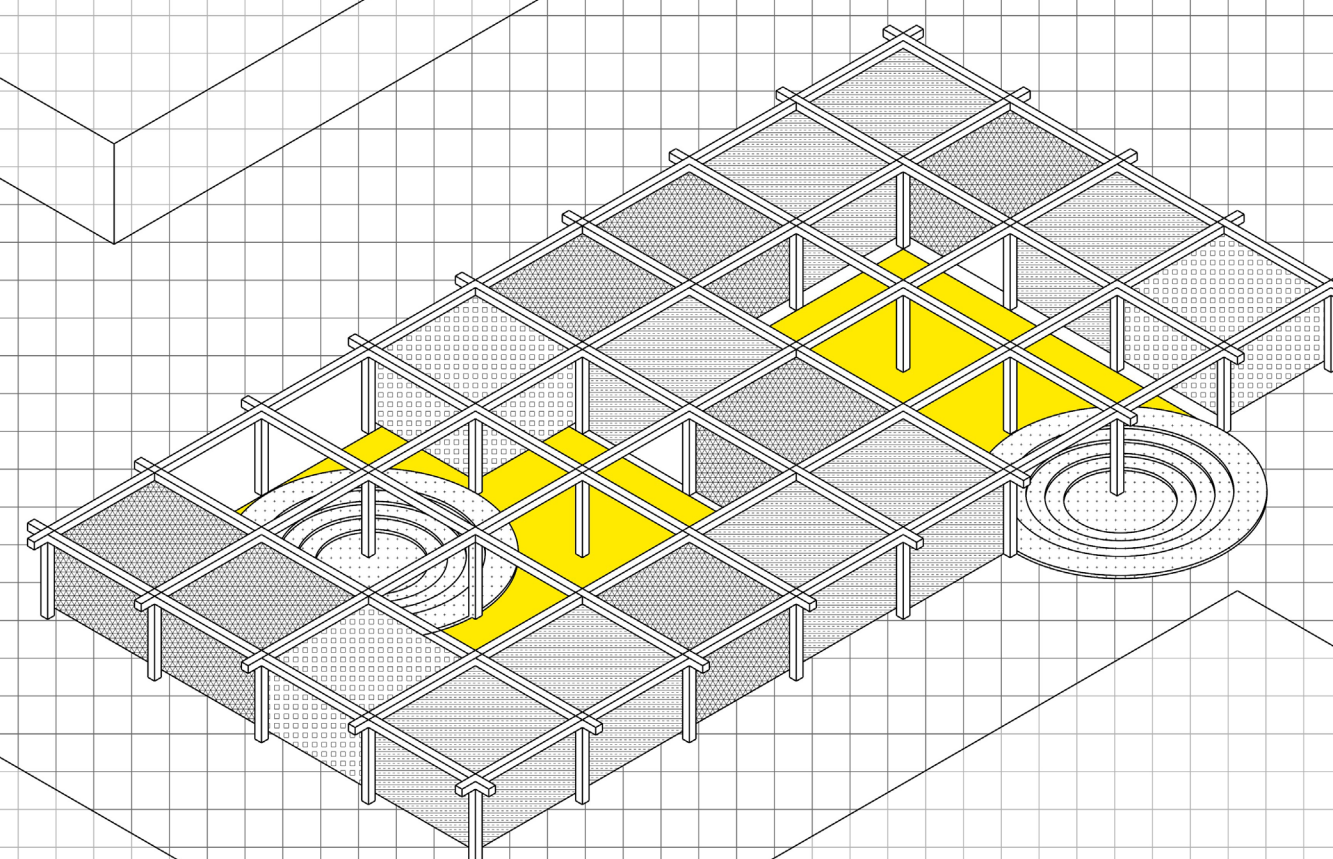
Depolarizer
Shanghai



Depolarizer
Copenhagen



Depolarizer
Sao Paulo



Depolarizer
Los Angeles

DEPOLARIZER

Manual

● Grey mid
 ● Polarized
 ○ Indifferent
 → Polarizing
 ● Protection
 ○ Social Use

Debate takes place in the Grey Middle

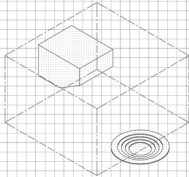
Decreasing Global/Local Polarizing Factors

Positive Encounters

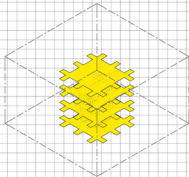
Celebrating Difference

Bringing People Together

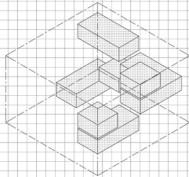
Forums



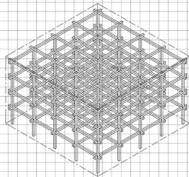
Space of Encounter



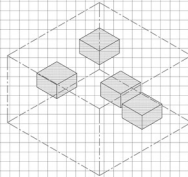
Decentralised Government



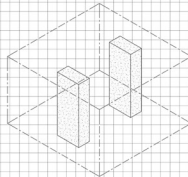
Grid Structure



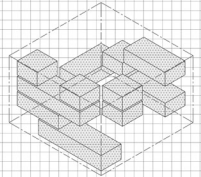
Expositions



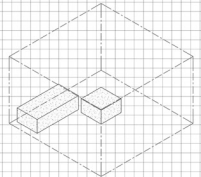
Structural Cores



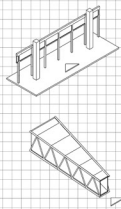
Apollitical Program



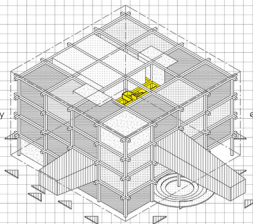
Supportive Program



organization and program

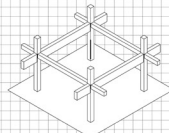
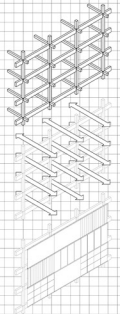


easy entrance
 accessibility
 connects to surrounding



structure
 expression
 transparency
 exposes diverse program

Elements



6 x 8 x 5 grid

coffee counter



leaning bench



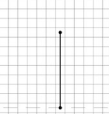
conversation booth



bench



Stairs/Space of Encounter



standing table



exposition box



conversation corner



reading table



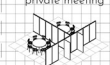
tribune seating



individual working



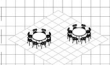
private meeting



groupwork



inviting meeting



classroom



office



exposition



inviting meeting



public/ private partition



private/ private partition



indoor/ outdoor partition



public/ private partition



private/ private partition



indoor/ outdoor partition



The Depolarizer Manual

This manual serves as an explanation of the Depolarizer as a prototypical model. What is its concept, its design principles and how should it be implemented in designs for public buildings.

Concept	3
Design Principles	4
Prototypical model to Building	14

THE DEPOLARIZER

Master: Architecture Urbanism and Building sciences

Graduation studio: Public Building

Maarten Hikspoors

19/06/2025

Concept

The concept for the prototype of the Depolarizer is based on the conceptual framework representing the phenomenon of polarization and its actors created by Bart Brandsma, a dutch philosopher and expert in the field of polarization.

Polarization: Visualised in this framework (figure 1) is the phenomenon with two important actors, The grey middle (The silent) and the Polarization pushers (The pushers). The pushers fuel the debate with division, they present topics in extremes and aim solely on getting many individuals from the grey middle into their camp. The other pushers are their enemies, but they target the grey middle. The grey middle is the group of individuals in our society that do not choose a side (yet) and is therefore willing to make compromises, have discussions and aims on increasing the wealth of society as a whole. If the pushers get a hold on to many individuals from the grey middle, our society falls apart.

Depolarization: The depolarizer aims on reversing this phenomenon. It shields of the grey middle from polarization factors, and simultaneously it strengthens the social cohesion within the grey middle to create resilience towards polarizing factors.

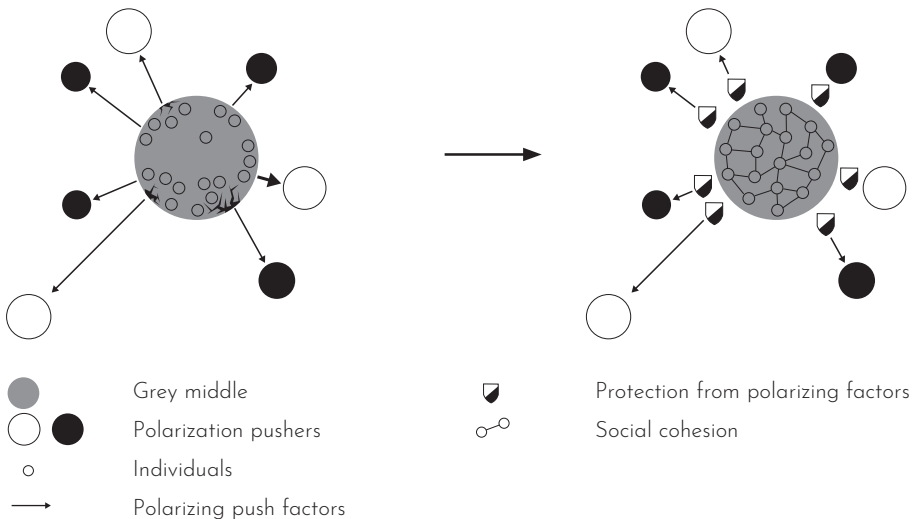
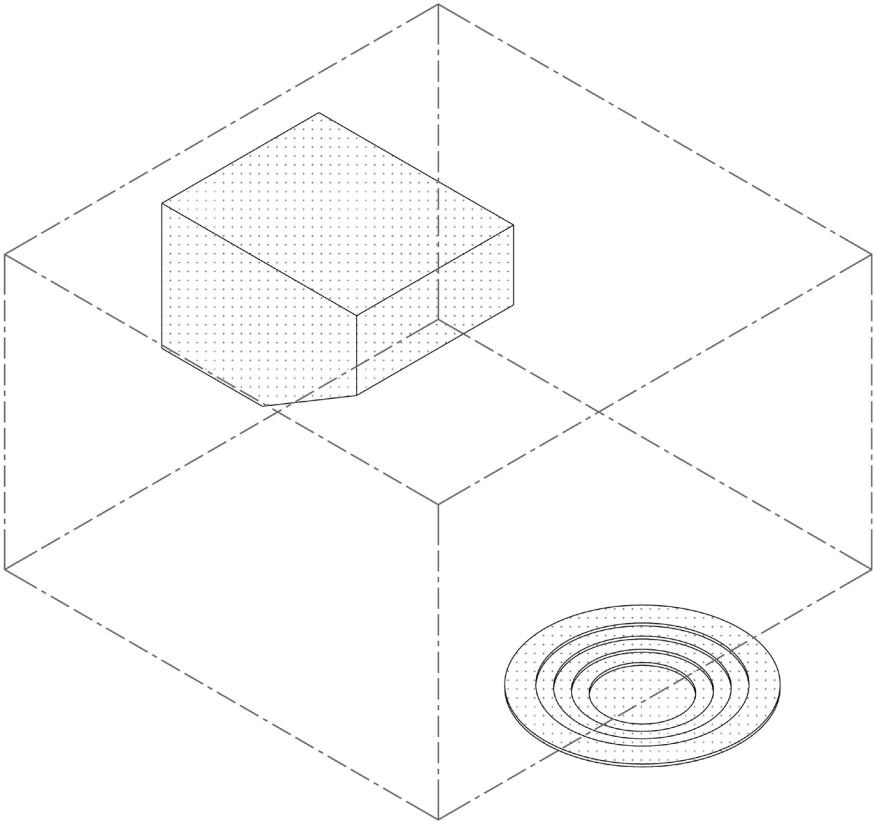


figure 1

Design Principals

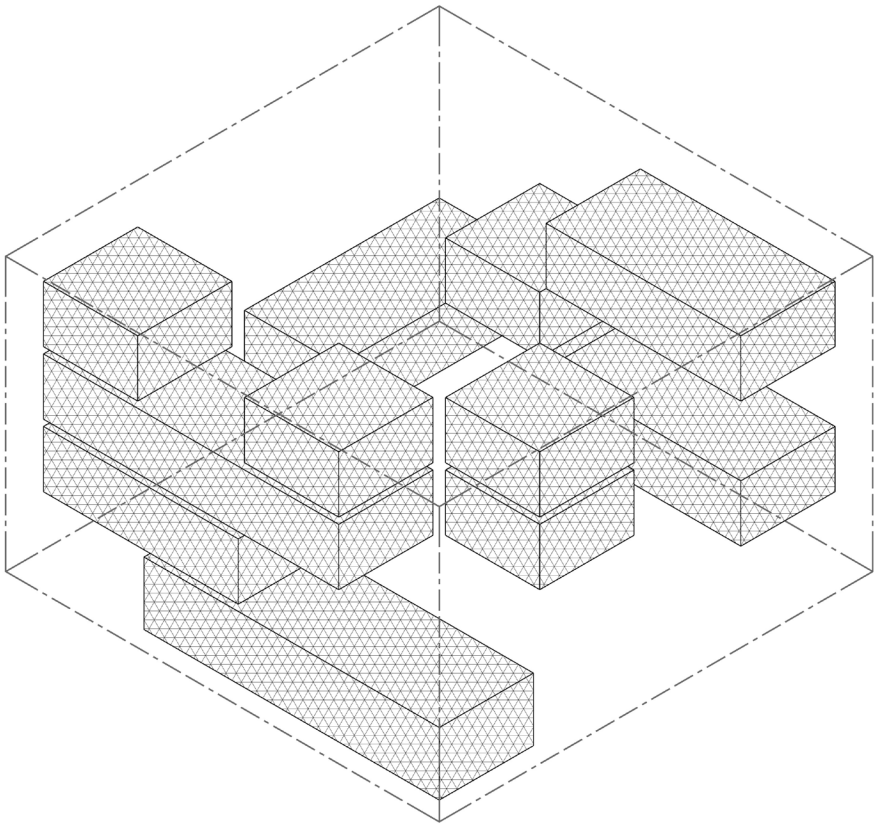
Forums

Bringing the debate to the grey middle: Every Depolarizer consists of forum spaces. This can be used for discussions around local, national and global topics. These places are open for everyone to enter and join the debate.



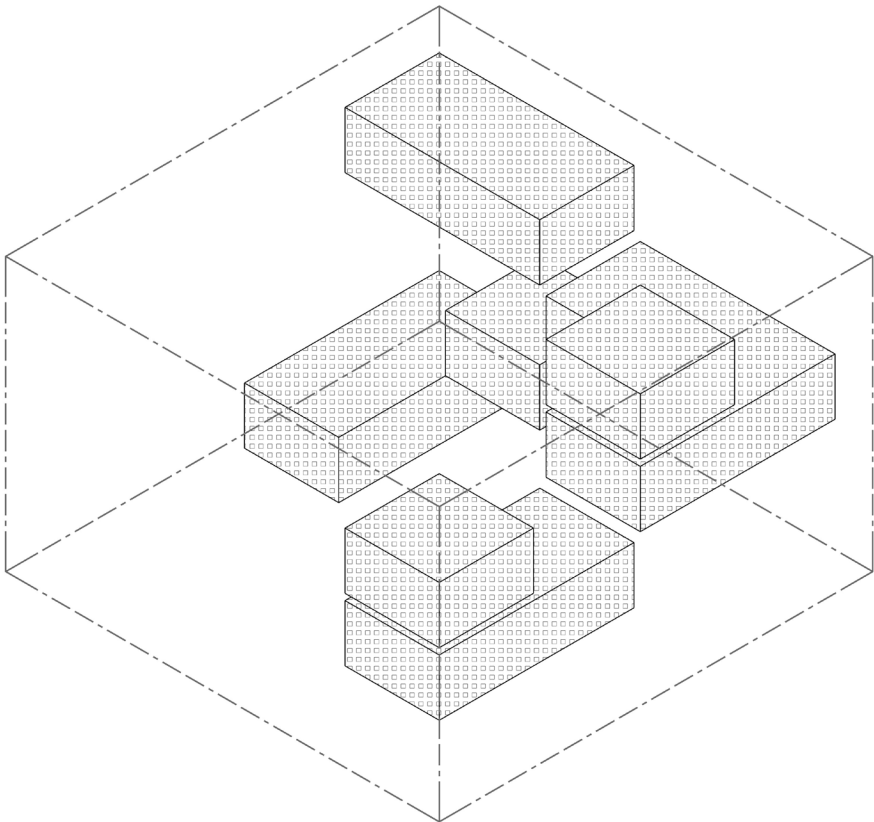
Apolitical program

Bringing people together: Every Depolarizer consists of a program that is familiar to every culture and allows for people to interact casually. For example, this can be related to food, sports, crafting, gardening, arts etc. It is the reason for people from all backgrounds to visit the building. People connect over a shared activity.



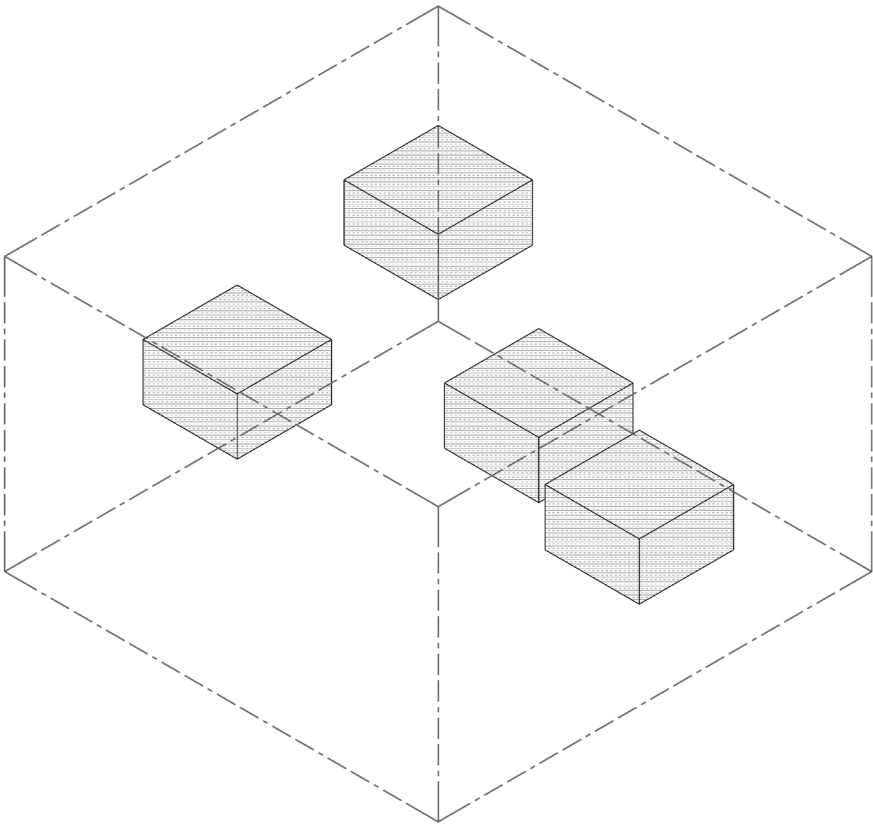
Decentralised Government

Decreasing local/global polarizing factors: Every Depolarizer consists of space for a decentralised government. The distance between citizens and government have shown to be an important factor in polarization. So by adding this program to the building, it's visitors feel empowered to join the decision making process and regain their trust in these institutions.



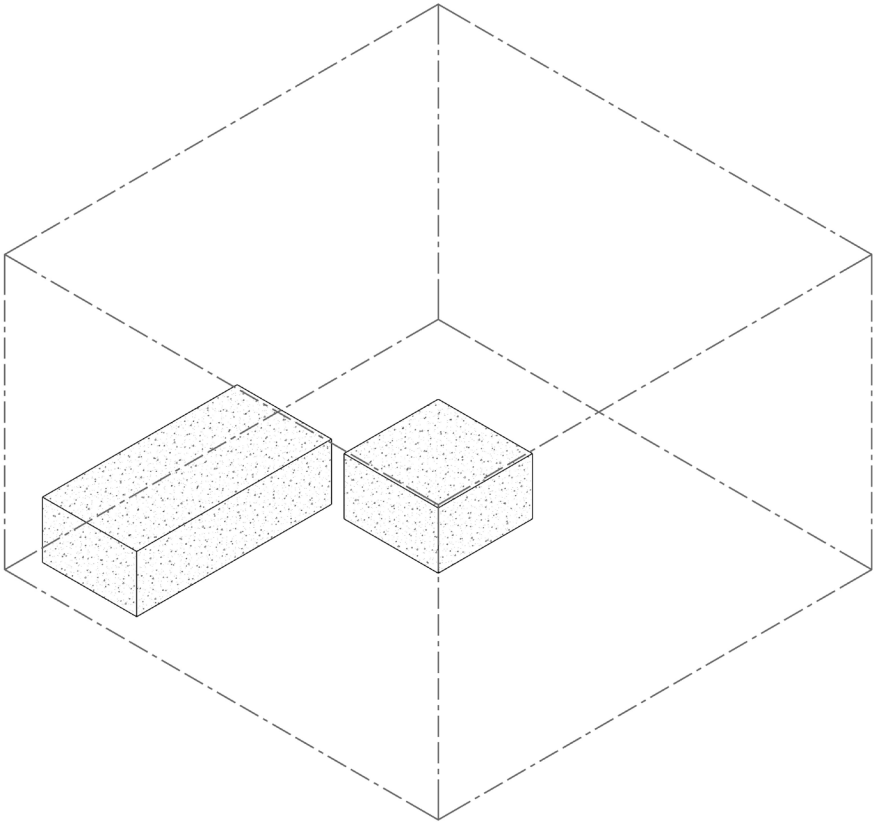
Exhibition

Celebrating difference: Every Depolarizer consists of space for exhibition. These spaces allow its users to broadcast their own identities, perspectives, and achievements. In this way, the building aims on establishing a positive mindset, understanding and respect to each other's differences. These spaces can also be used for exhibitions related to polarization, to help create more awareness.



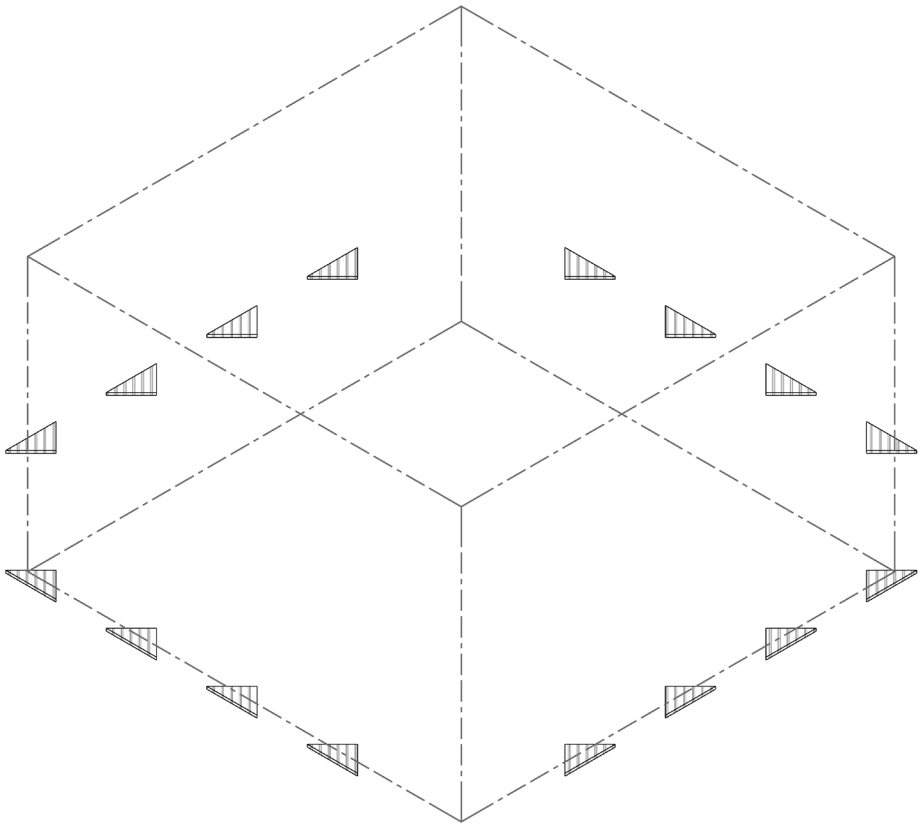
Support program

Every Depolarizer consists of support program like restaurants, information desks etc, to make visitors feel at ease in the building.



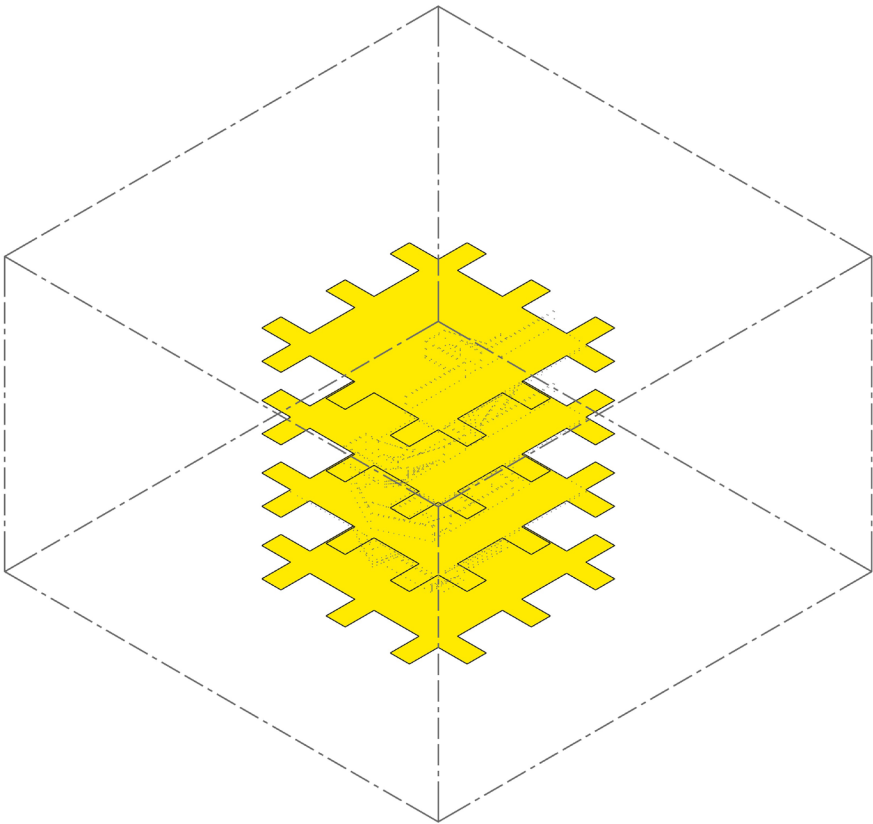
Entrances

Every Depolarizer has a strong focus on accesibility to make sure that the building is well connected to its surrounding and people can easily visit the building.



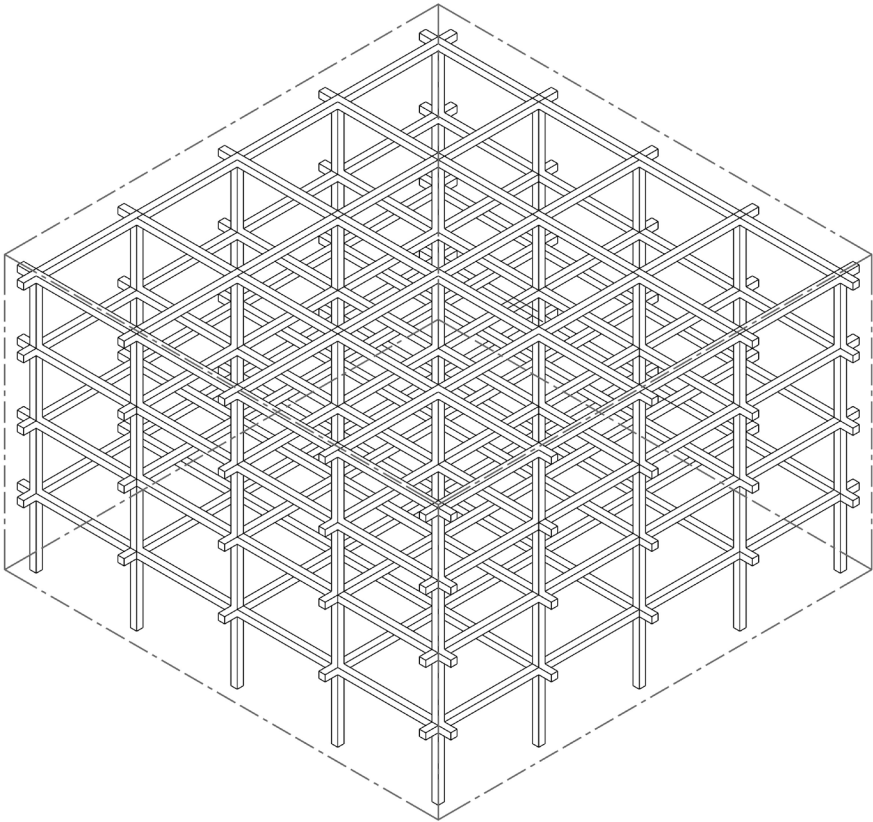
Space of Encounter

Establishing positive encounters: Every Depolarizer consists of circulation space that facilitates first encounters between different users of the building. By including human scale elements in the space, interactions will take place and could potentially lead into understanding and mutual respect.



Open Grid Structure

An 8 by 8 by 5 (l,w,h) grid structure brings all the principles together. It makes the structure modular and adaptable to different locations. Its transparency allows various programs and users to interact with each other. Additionally, the grid size offers enough flexibility to accommodate different programs, while still being compact enough to keep them connected rather than isolated.



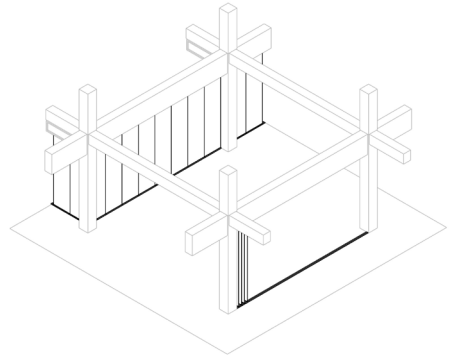
Boundaries

Positive transparency. To ensure that the combination of activities in the building is experienced positively, the borders between these should allow for transparency while minimizing potential disturbances caused by its openness. The prototype consists of 3 types of borders.

Indoor border:

Public-Private.

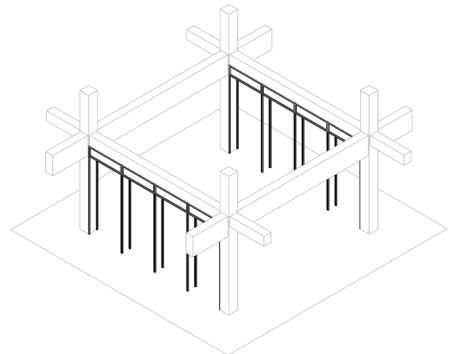
Maximum transparency + medium noise and climate control.



Indoor border:

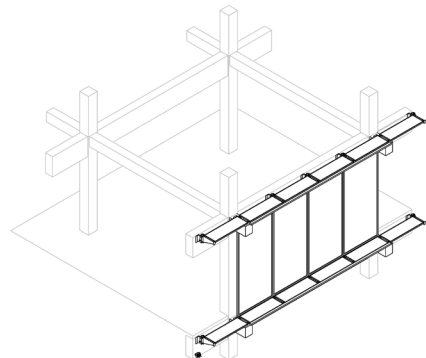
Private-Private.

Medium transparency + medium noise and climate control + practical adaptable elements.



Outdoor border:

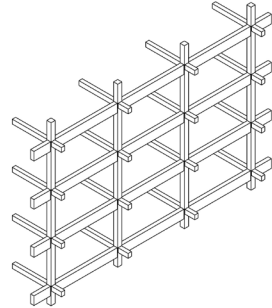
Medium transparency + Maximum noise and climate control + Weather protection + Expression



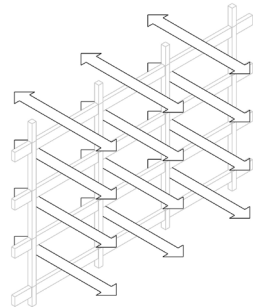
Expression

Every facade of a Depolarizer is based on the following principles for its expression.

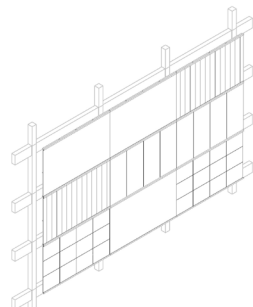
Experience Structure: A Depolarizer is part of the public realm and therefore part of the structure of our society. Because it aims to strengthen this structure while also emphasizing the freedom within it, the experience of the supporting structure is essential.



Transparency: Every Depolarizer allows for transparency so people can interact with and feel attracted to what happens inside.

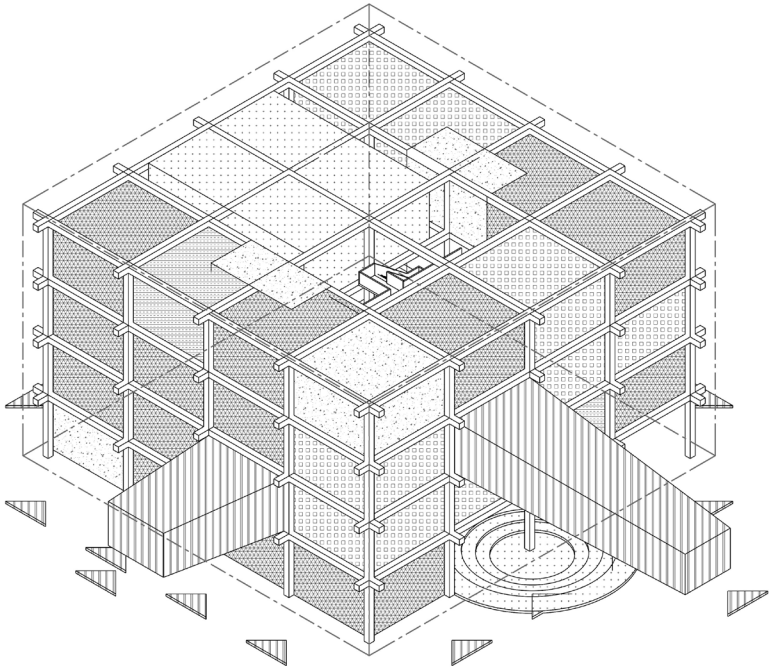


Expression of diverse program inside: Every Depolarizer expresses what happens inside, so its visible that there is a diverse program and that this program interacts with each other.



Prototypical Model to Building

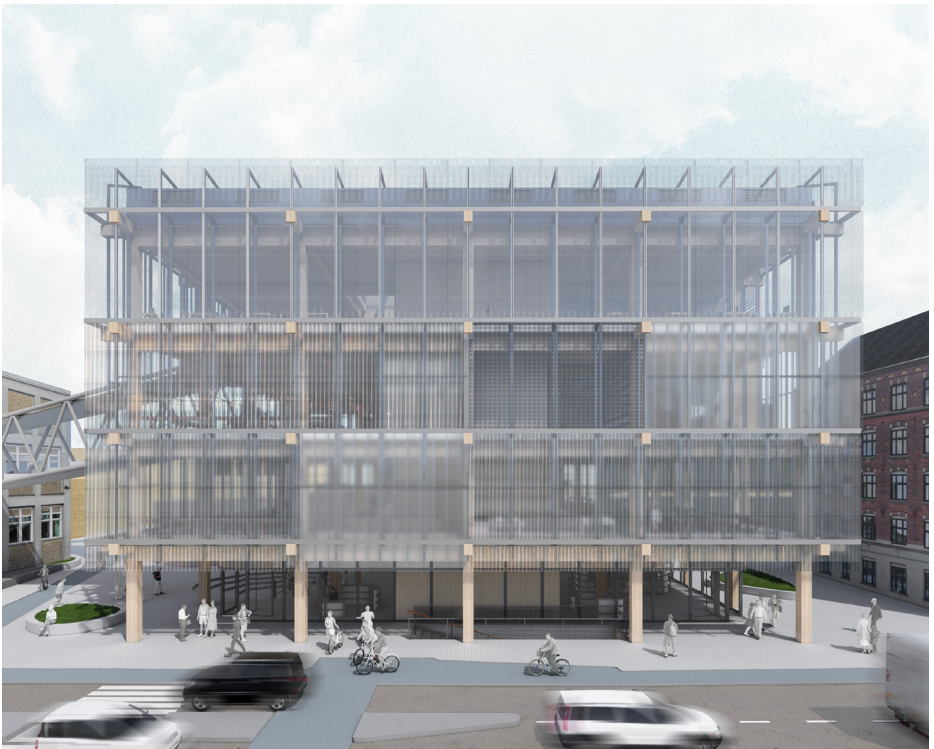
The concept and principles of the prototype are a conceptual model. This model can be used for the design of public buildings all around the world, but each one of them will look different since they will adjust to their own context.



Prototypical Model

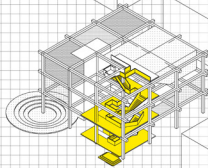
Prototypical Model to Building

The Depolarizer in Bispebjerg is an example of a public building that is built on the principles of this prototypical model, but adjusted to its context. This means that elements such as the façade, structure, space of encounter, entrances, program areas, climate control, and placement within the site are adapted to location-specific conditions.

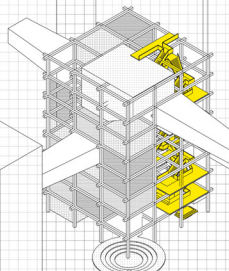


Location based design of a Depolarizer in Bispebjerg, Copenhagen

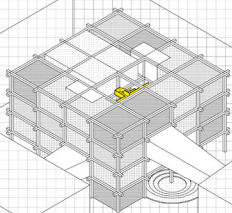
Depolarizers across the world



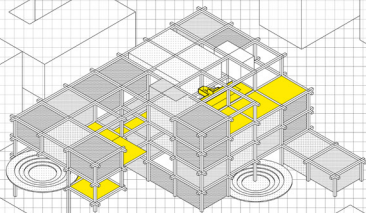
Depolarizer
Moscow



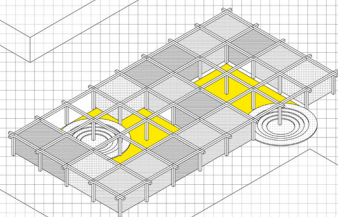
Depolarizer
Shanghai



Depolarizer
Copenhagen



Depolarizer
Sao Paulo



Depolarizer
Los Angeles