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COMPLEX PROJECTS
Bodies and Building Berlin
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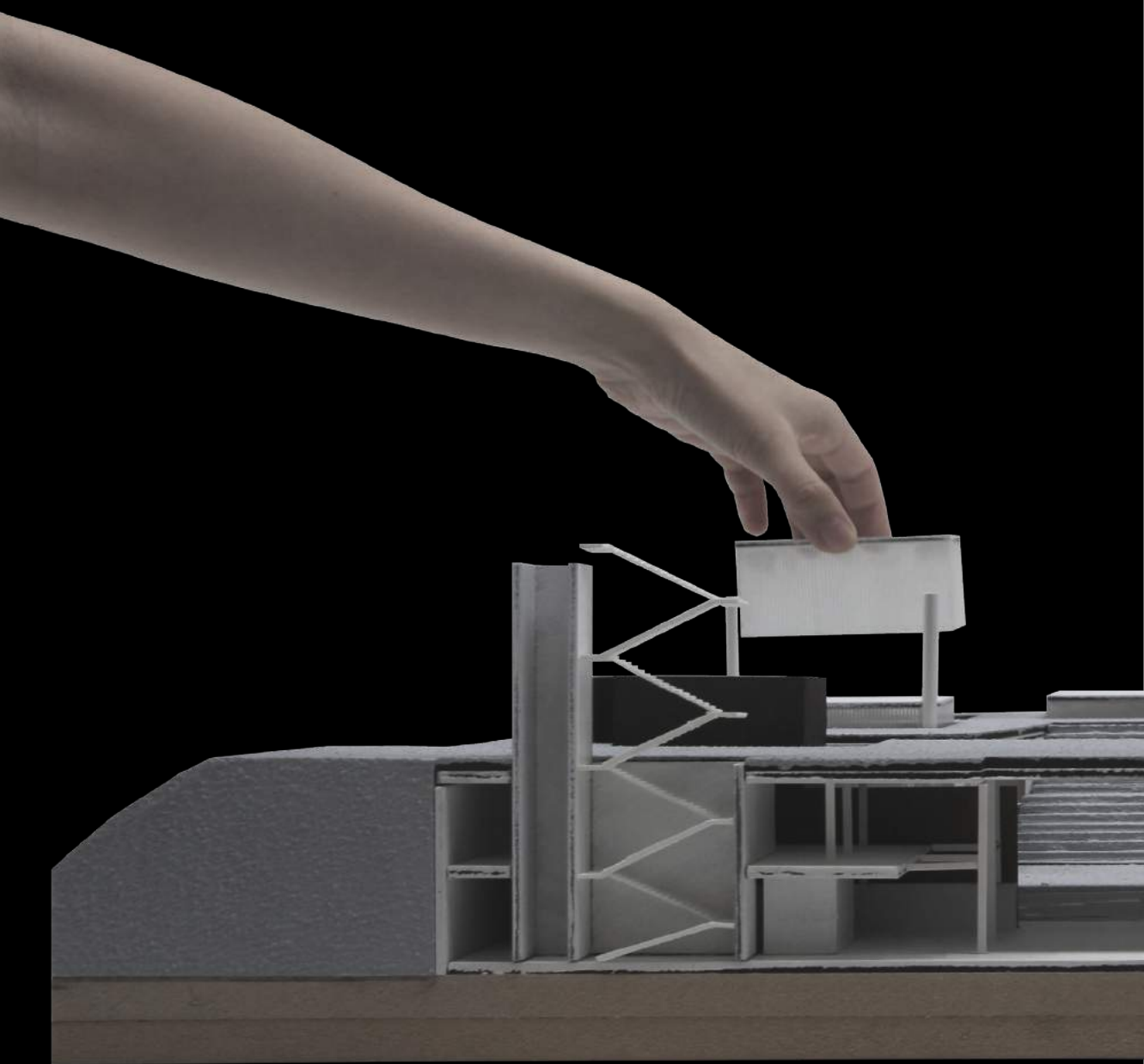
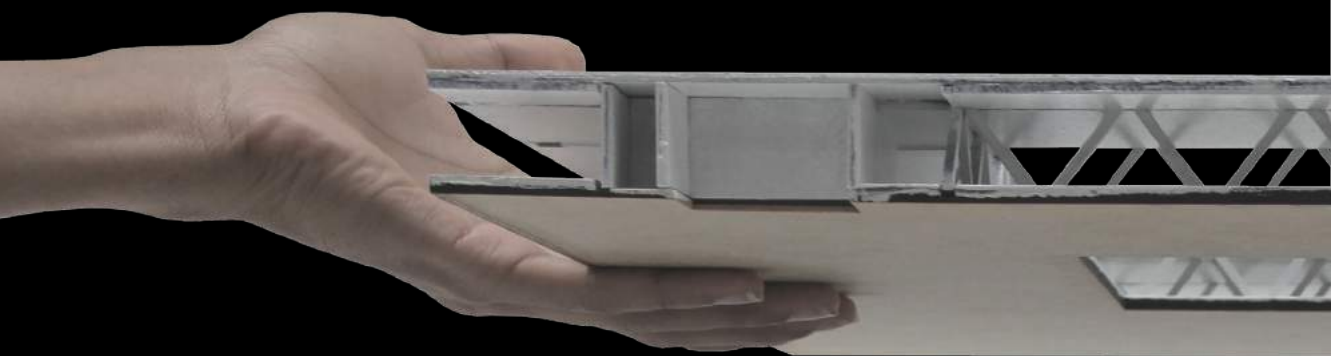
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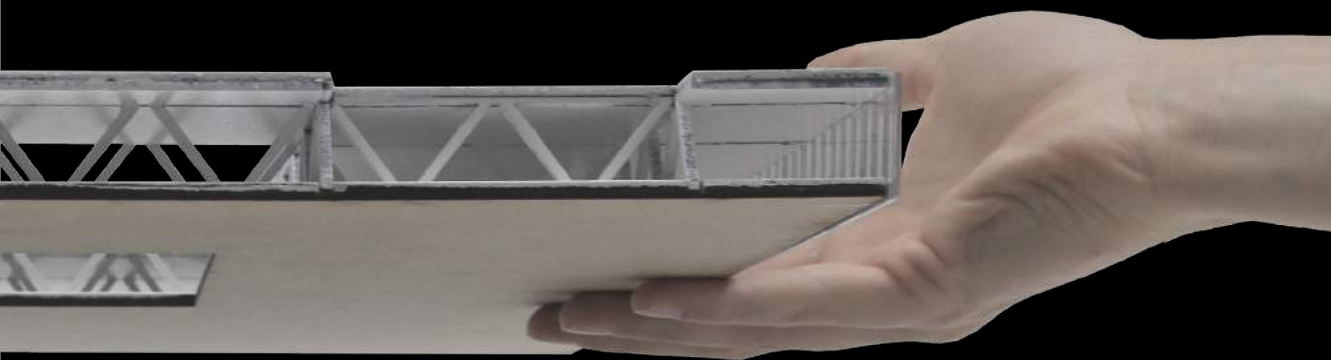
NEUER GERICHTS- KOMPLEX

Envisioning the Courthouse of Berlin
and its embodied civic identity.

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ABSTRACT

00

Courthouses are the very front face of the judicial system. It can also be referred to as a connecting link or the only link between the people and the fundamental rights to justice described under the Constitution. Situating in the city of Berlin, with a dynamic history of changing power and law, the new Judicial complex aims to open itself to the people of Berlin, bringing back the lost civic identity of the courthouse complex. The proposal finds itself in the beating heart of the city and along the future cultural spine - river Spree. The larger vision thrives towards the idea of designing a courthouse which forms the centre of public activities and blends into the daily dynamics of people's life. Bringing the law back to the city centre would allow more people to be part of it and how their involvement would shape the decisions taken, and how people's opinions could play a vital role in judicial systems. Looking at the future idea of a modern public space and the court being a part of it will not only reflect the needs of the dynamic group of Berliners but will generate an atmosphere where the city and the law can share the space. Breaking the historic stereotypical barrier will help dilute the threshold that separates the city to participate in the law.

RESEARCH PAPER

01

Introduction
Research methods
Berlin, Germany
Research question
Research
Theoretical framework

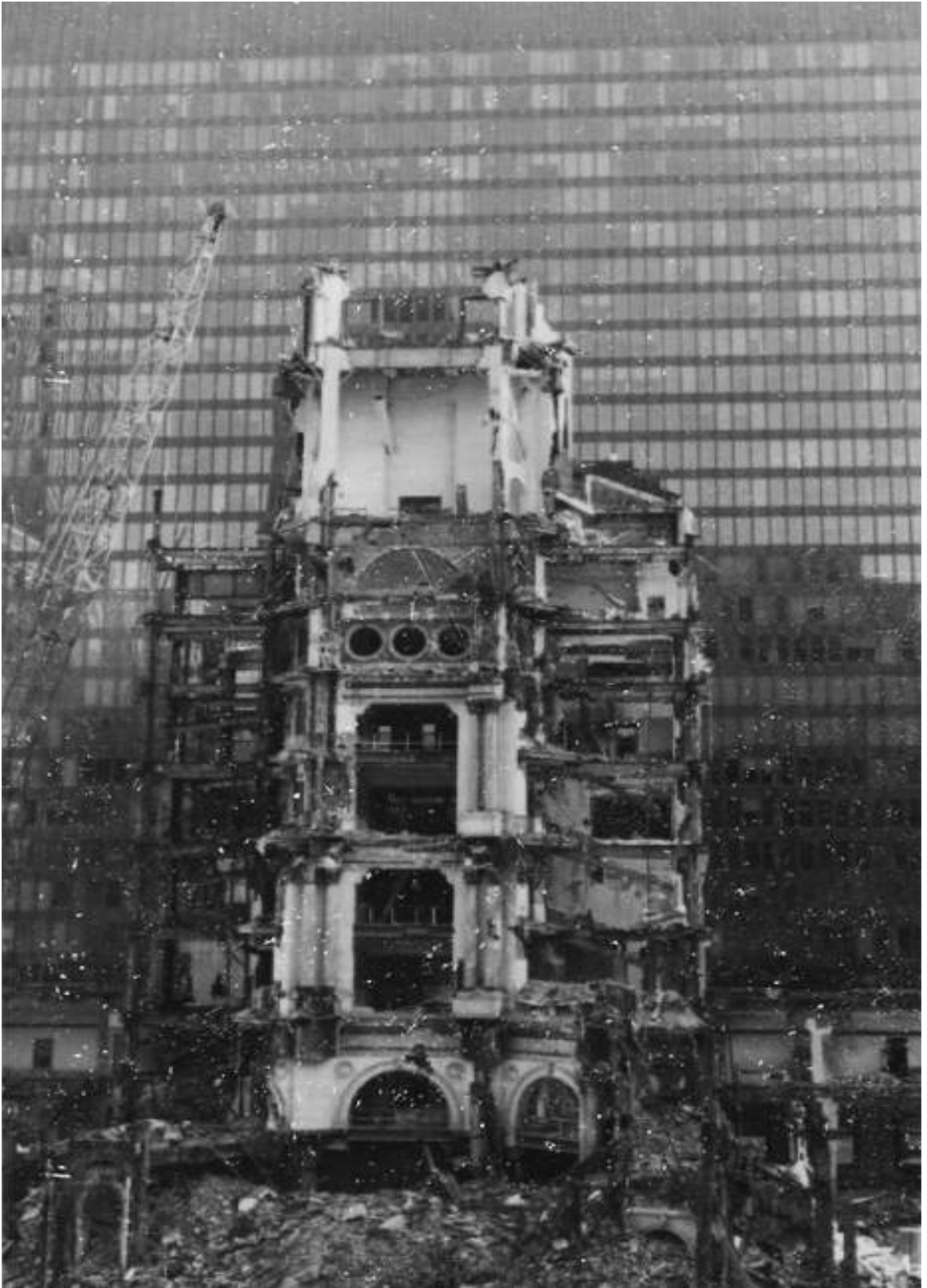


Fig - 2. Federal center of Chicago
Source: <https://chicagopast.com/post/19626102072/more-information>

01 Introduction

"...Until justice rolls down like water, and righteousness like a mighty stream."

- Martin Luther King, Jr

Law courts, Courthouses and Palace of justice are commonly used terms to define the principal judicial organ of any state, country or society. They are the very front face of the judicial system. It can also be referred to as a connecting link or the only link between the people and the fundamental rights to justice as described under the constitution of a particular country. They determine the guilt or innocence of an accused of crimes or settle sensitive matters of national security. A democratic state or a country cannot function properly if one of its columns which defines democracy is not effective or lags in its duties.

The judicial system is one of the three columns of Democracy as described by French philosopher Charles-Louis de Secondat or Montesquieu in his theory of "Trias Politica" or separation of powers. The model as described in his publication *Spirits of Law* states that the 3 powers of Democracy should remain separate and work independently to effectively promote liberty and democracy.¹ So, Court matters.

Modern courtrooms can be traced directly to the bodies that came into being around 900 years ago. Today, they sit at the heart of all democratic societies, undertaking remarkable variety of work.² Access to the judicial system is considered an important ingredient of the rule of law. But if we look at contemporary times more people have access to the internet than to the judicial system of a state. Only 46%

of Human beings live under the protection of the law, whereas more than 50% of people have access to the internet in one way or another.³ Access to the law can be directly related to access to courtrooms. But a court system which is slow, detached, secretive, and hidden can weaken the confidence of the public in the judicial processes. There are many examples where the courts are under huge backlogs.

This research further looks into the functioning of courthouses as true civic architecture in the world and in particular in the city of Berlin, Germany. To understand the topic, the research elaborates the study based on a historic time line, exploring the changes that happened to the courthouses over the years. It will be further clarified by looking particularly into the relationship between public spaces present in and around the court building. It studies the importance of civic engagement in judicial architecture.

1. "Trias Politica: Machtenscheiding En Machtenspreiding," accessed November 03, 2022, https://www.montesquieu-instituut.nl/id/vhnm7lidzx/trias_politica_machtenscheiding_en.

2. Richard E. Susskind, *Online Courts and the Future of Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2019), 19.

3. Richard E. Susskind, *Online Courts and the Future of Justice* (Oxford University Press, 2019), 27. (ORCD report)



Fig - 3. Group vision map of cultural density
 Source: Base map Qgis

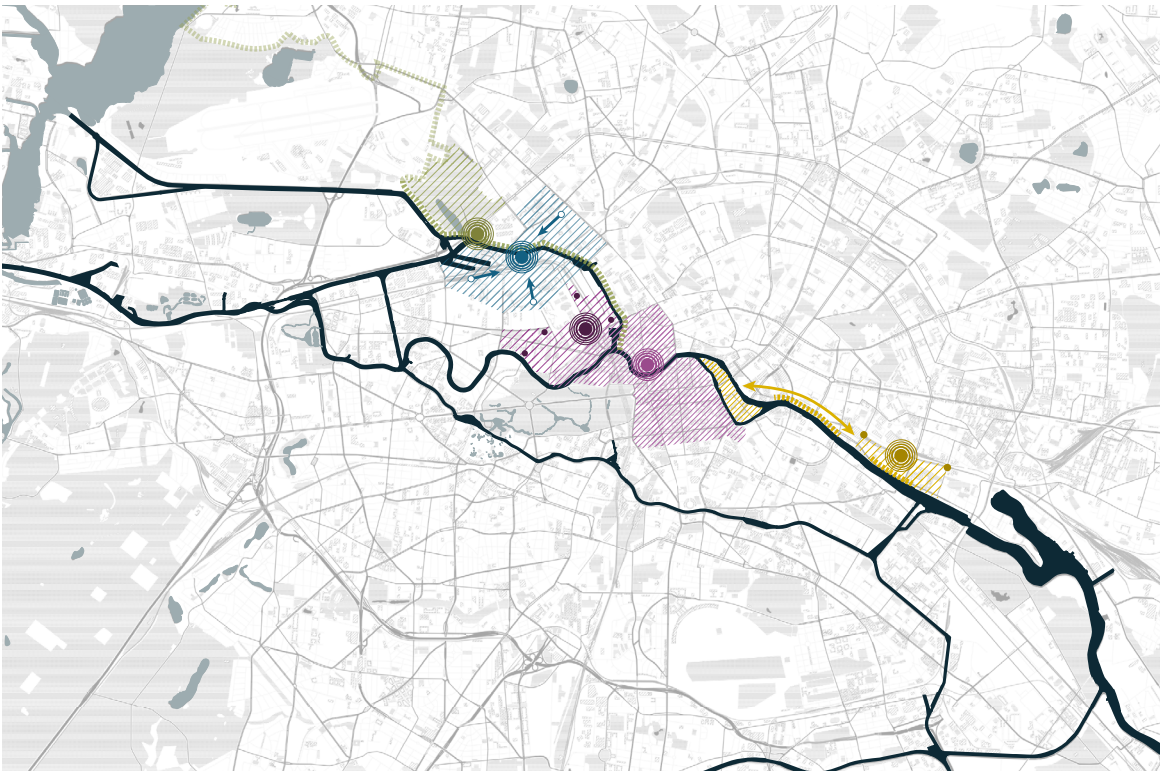


Fig - 4. Group master plan for the urban vision of rejuvenating Spree as cultural hotspot.
 Source: Base map Qgis

02 Research methods

The research consists of one overarching theme of re-imagining the courthouses as a civic space and people's court. To understand and to justify the research question it further breaks down into sub themes which in detail looks at:

1. Presence of court in the city
2. Public space in a courtroom and its people
3. Transparency and security

These topics will be discussed in following chapters which eventually leads to the development of the research question.

The graduation studio works simultaneously with both group and individual researchers. Multiple topics are researched parallel to each other which helps to relate the research at multiple scales and visions.

2.1 Group vision

The major aim of the group research is to come up with a collective theme and preliminary site research. The group vision will investigate into finding a rationale for the theme and how that theme correlates to the city of Berlin.

Group theme for this particular research is Culture. The first phase of the research involves defining culture for the city of Berlin and studying its cultural heritage. Later factors including population density, FSI, historical layers of the city and lastly clustering of building types, will be mapped on a larger urban scale to define the cultural hotspots or cultural zones in the city of Berlin.

The outcome of the research will lay down a framework of requirements which will help and guide the selection of sites for all the individual projects involved and would overall lead to the fulfilment of the group vision.

2.2 Urban vision - Re Spree

The urban vision of Re-Spree revolves around the idea of reimagining and rejuvenating Spree river as the cultural hotspot of Berlin. As traced through the map of the cultural density of Berlin (Fig - 3) it was made clear that the city of Berlin grew developed around the importance of the river Spree. It was the cultural center of the city which was actively used for various activities like water sports, river bathing, military sports events, transporting goods and much more till it was indefinitely closed and declared unfit for use in the year 1925 due to excessive pollution.⁴ After a ban of 100 years the government along with a group of Berliners wants to open a section of Spree to be used again for swimming also called the Flussbad Berlin project reviving the historic function of part of the city.⁵ Connecting to this idea of reinventing Spree the larger urban vision proposes projects in the proximity of the Spree river which would in turn help the river to grow as a cultural hotspot and beating heart of the city once again. (Fig - 4)

2.3 Individual research and field work

The individual research on the broader aspect includes current and historical judicial systems of Germany. It would elaborate the current systems and how it changed and evolved over the years. With a closer look at

4. Keith Hayward, "Berlin's Citizens Reclaim Their River after 100-Year Ban," The Source (blog), May 3, 2016, <https://www.thesourcemagazine.org/berlins-citizens-reclaim-river-100-year-ban/>.

5. "Flussbad Berlin," accessed December 3, 2022, <https://www.visitberlin.de/en/flussbad-berlin>.

the city of Berlin a time line method is used where all the courts are mapped during different eras and historical periods to understand the dynamic changes that were taking place in the city of Berlin. This research consists of collecting photos, articles, reports, maps, drawings etc. This information leads to the conclusion of the courthouses required in the city of Berlin and how the addition of these courthouses would help shape the future of justice in Berlin. Parallel to the historical research of courtrooms in Germany and Berlin a research about presence of public and its relation to the courthouses is done. This includes literature reviews and involves historical and contemporary examples to justify the argument that presence of public and other civic activities associated with a courthouse would make them more people oriented. This would change how justice is currently perceived and will act as an agent for public education and awareness.

be widely explored. The site will be analysed through mapping, photographs, finding conclusions and connecting it to a bigger picture of a central judicial district. To determine the programmatic requirements, flows, and key spaces, case studies will be done. These case studies will include examples from all over the world and some from Berlin. Specific typological study will be done to identify the key features of Administrative, Social and Fiscal courts for efficient functioning. Comparative and analytical drawings will be done to develop a proper benchmarked programme for the project. This research leads to the development of the design brief and makes us understand how a courthouse works.

Lastly to formulate the design brief, the site, program and the client for the project would

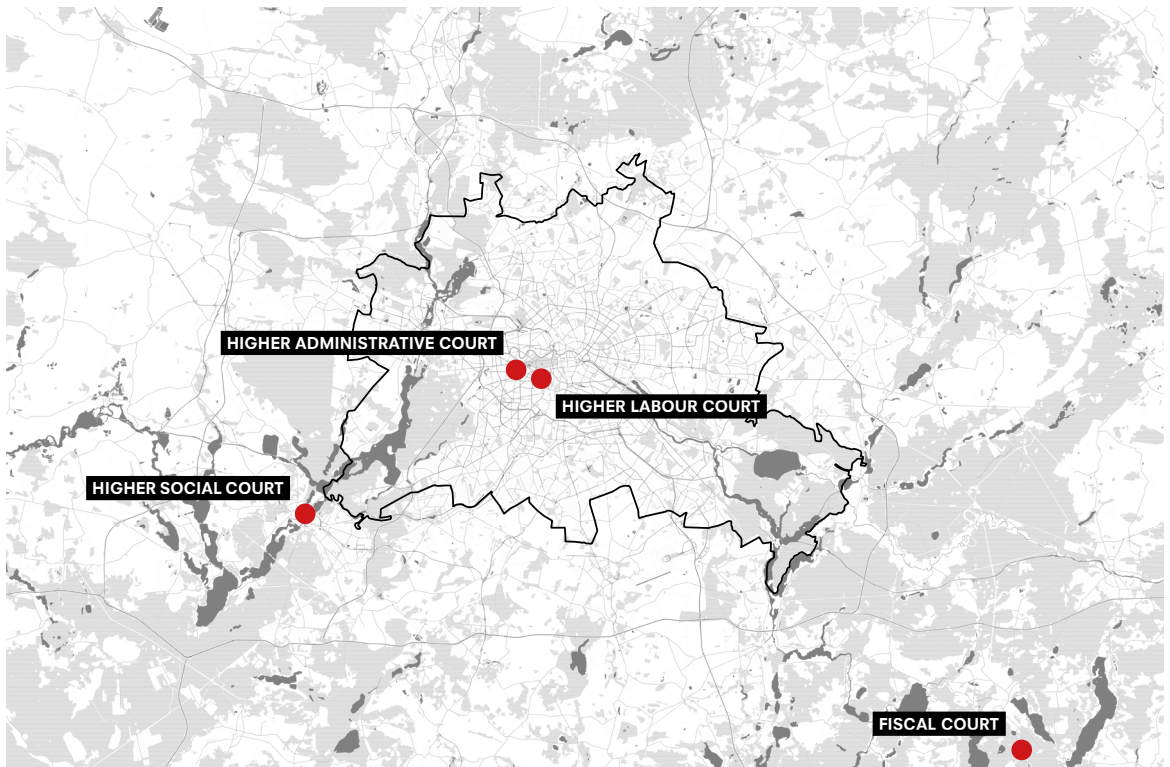


Fig - 5. Location of 4 merged courthouses of Berlin and Brandenburg
Source: Base map Qgis

03 Berlin, Germany

3.1 German judiciary

In Germany, judicial independence is historically older than democracy. The organization of courts is traditionally strong as it follows and evolves over the traditional organisation that was carried over through the years from Prussian governance. The German legal system works on the Civil code mostly based on a compendium of the Statutes, as compared to other common law systems.⁶ According to the German law system Judges are not only the referee between the defence and the prosecution but have an active involvement in investigating the facts of the case.

Jurisdiction is exercised by the country's federal courts and 16 federal states. The main work of justice lies with the Lander (federal states). The justice system is divided into 5 basic types of courts, the Federal constitutional court, and the 16 Lander constitutional courts.

1. Ordinary courts (Criminal and Civil)
2. Administrative courts
3. Social courts
4. Fiscal courts
5. Labour courts

Each of these courts is further divided into a hierarchical network of courts, from local to federal courts.

There are 828 ordinary courts, 142 labour courts, 69 administrative courts, 20 fiscal courts, 86 social courts, and 17 constitutional courts, totalling 1,162 courts in the Federal Republic of Germany.⁷

3.2 Courts in Berlin

There were multiple changes that happened in the judicial system of Berlin and as the government in control changed over the years from the Prussian Kingdom to the Federal Republic, Berlin went through numerous changes be it physical, political, or judicial.

Berlin has 21 courts from the lowest level, the First instance courts to the highest level and the constitutional court.

The state of Berlin and Brandenburg went through a one-of-a-sort referendum ever held in Germany to determine the merger of the two states in the year of 1996. The politicians insisted that the referendum would save both around 430m pounds a year in administrative costs and increase the unified competitiveness against Germany's 14 other states. "If you want to play in the big leagues, you have to join forces," said Berlin's mayor, Eberhard Diepgen. With a joint population of 6 million, Berlin-Brandenburg would have been the fifth largest land in the federal republic.⁸ The referendum was a failure as the results opposed the merger of the two states. The people were not in favour of the merger as Berlin becoming part of Brandenburg would take all the attention from other cities of Brandenburg to Berlin as its capital and the ages-old grudges and the stories of walled west Berlin from its rural background weighed more than the economical and the political aspects of the merger.

The government of both the states being very positive about the merger kept trying to make it a successful proposal. Over the years multiple attempts were made but the referendum was never successful.

In the year of 2004, another attempt was made by the ruling government to merge the states of Berlin and Brandenburg. (Appx 1 - 4)

6. "Judiciary of Germany," in Wikipedia, accessed November 06, 2022, https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=Judiciary_of_Germany&oldid=1097669646#History.

7. "The German Legal System," in Legal resources, accessed November 07, 2022 <https://www.hg.org/legal-articles/the-german-legal-system-an-overview-55559>

8. "Berlin Merger Plans Rejected," The Independent, May 5, 1996, <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/berlin-merger-plans-rejected-1345941.html>.

As a merger proposal, the higher-instance courthouses of both states were merged as an initial step. The state merger again came to a negative result and an indefinite halt on which the mayor of Berlin and Brandenburg commented that they don't have any plans now for the merger, and they don't see it happening soon. But the courthouses remain merged to date, The courts are in Brandenburg. The following courts were merged (Fig - 5):

The higher social court

The higher administrative court

The financial court

The higher labour court

3.3 Kafkaesque

The courthouses in Berlin vary in the way they portray their architecture. Ranging from Gothic Revival to Art Nouveau, they are like the other municipal buildings in the city of Berlin with a grand historic set and an architectural affirmation of the civic society.⁹ But with the changing times and the growth of the city around them these marvels of the architecture of their time are more hidden and fall in the background of the busy hustling city of Berlin. It would be not wrong to say that these are the gems hidden in plain sight. This architectural silence not only makes the building less popular but also reduces the judicial connection to the people outside the walls of the building. architecture of their time are more hidden and fall in the background of the busy hustling city of Berlin. It would be not wrong to say that these are the gems hidden in plain sight. This architectural silence not only makes the building less popular but also reduces the judicial connection to the people outside the walls of the building.

A similar disconnection was also portrayed by German-speaking Bohemian novelist Franz

Kafka in one of his parables called Before the Law contained in the novel *The Trial*. The situation developed in the novel is where a man is standing in front of a gate called the Law and he describes it by saying that "Before the Law sits a Gatekeeper" (Fig - 6). The novel directly depicts the hardship of the man to be accepted in society but at the same, the author also tries to portray the condition of justice in Germany in a more metaphorical way by naming the entrance gate or the gate of acceptance as the Law in front of which a gatekeeper sits and there are more layers as this gate each protected by a keeper.¹⁰ This kind of environment where the law is always kept behind locked doors generates an environment of unrest and distrust toward the law.

9. "Secret Berlin: Neo-Gothic Splendour: Wedding's Amtsgericht Courthouse," accessed november 11, 2022, <http://www.secretcitytravel.com/berlin-march-2014/wedding-historic-amstgericht-court.shtml>.

10. "A Summary and Analysis of Franz Kafka's 'Before the Law,'" *Interesting Literature*, August 7, 2021, <https://interestingliterature.com/2021/08/franz-kafka-before-the-law-summary-analysis/>.

04 Research Question

With the context of the problem identification and the historical study of courthouses and its relation to the public the following research question arises which would change the way the courthouses are perceived in current times.

How can a courthouse in Berlin be a people's court and reflect its role as a space for civic engagement?

The research question is further bifurcated into smaller topics to focus more on specific themes affecting the relation of public to the functioning of the court houses.

1. Connection of the courthouse to the city and continuation of the public realm.

2. Public relations to the courthouse
4. Architectural importance of courthouse

The project highlights and represents an example that would serve as an inspiration for the future of judicial architecture as a whole.

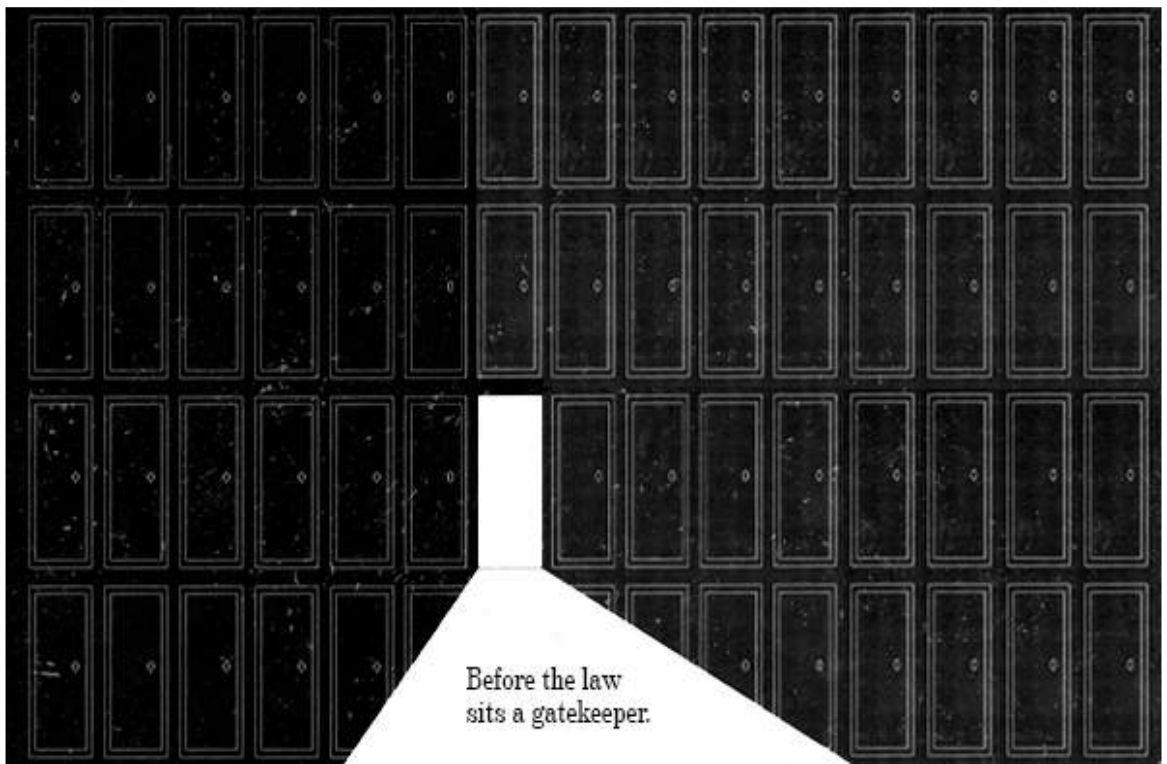


Fig - 6. Before the law - Franz Kafka
Source: Franz Kafka postcard, Postcard Finder - Norwich, United Kingdom (Edited from original)

NEDERLANDTSCHE PRACTYCOVE
van verscheyden daghelijcksche soo
civile als criminele questien,
Gecolligeert by
BERNHARD VAN ZUTPHEN
Advocaet voor den Ed. Hove Provinciael van Utrecht



TOT VTRECHT,
Bij Ian van Doorn Boeckvercooper op de Gansemerct.
Anno 1636.

Fig - 7. Engraved title page of Dutch Law and Practice in Civil and Criminal Matter, 1655
Source: https://www.goldfinheart.com/products/adriaen-pietersz-van-de-venne-after-view-in-a-courtroom?_pos=4&_sid=ce6272d45&_ss=r

05 Research

“Courthouses traditionally were found in the centre of a town; inside one found public notices, public records, and trials, where passersby sometimes watched the law in action; outside the public picnicked, celebrated the Fourth of July, set off fireworks in surrounding parks. Historically, courthouses were not office buildings.”

- Justice Stephen G. Breyer ¹¹

Judicial transparency recently gathered a lot of attention in almost all democracies.¹² There are multiple reasons why many people are focusing on the public mess of courtrooms procedures. There is a growing awareness of what’s happening around this world to have a transparent system. “Dutch Law and Practice in the Civil and Criminal Matters”(fig - 7) the image shows the spectators in the foreground who are talking to each other, while others are focused on the court proceedings. The densely populated courtrooms show the social space provided by the Town Hall and its courts, which served as communal gathering spots. If we also look a bit more into history the Basilica Julia of the Roman forum is an example of such connection to civic spaces, forums incorporating more social activities. Public performance of the rule of law helped to build and consolidate the authority of the state, that was the main reason why a lot of rulers preferred to showcase the trials in public. In the 19th century, there was a shift from an observer system to a more participatory one. Jeremy Bentham insisted on the importance of what he called the “publicity” of trials.¹³ And as described by Mohr courthouses are a combination of two most important things the ‘Public’ and the ‘Place’ which go hand in hand and make a ‘situated discourse’.¹⁴ It is important to know how these two elements unfold in relation to

each other and at the same time the courthouse also has a purpose to prove, to show its presence in the society and to successfully establish law. The research further develops on 3 main aspects which eventually justify the relationship between Public and Place.

5.1 Court house and City

I sometimes wonder if the people of a younger and more urban generation realize the way the courthouse bell, the county courthouse, shaped life, and destiny through America some sixty years ago. For us in Libya Hill, at any rate, it was the centre of the life of the entire community, the centre of the community itself – for Libya Hill was first a county courthouse, then a town – a town that grew up round the courthouse, made a Square, and straggled out along the roads that led away to the four quarters of the earth.

- Thomas Wolfe, The Bell Remembered

The Inns are (...) [a] haven of courtyards, labyrinths, passages, and cloisters, they are like a mould from which the urban takes form – more city than city, beyond the city; but paradoxically, not the city.

- David Evans, Theatre of Deferral

Un palais de justice est comme une petite ville avec beaucoup de choses différentes qui doivent se passer en harmonie (A courthouse is like a small town with many different things that need to happen in harmony.)

- Renzo Piano, on the Palais de Justice in Paris

The common point in all the quotes above as described by Patricia Branco are that they all refer to the relationship between the city and the courthouse.¹⁵

The courthouse’s presence in the city held

11. Breyer, Stephen G., foreword to *Celebrating the Courthouse: A Guide for Architects, Their Clients, and the Public* (Steven Flanders, editor). W.W. Norton & Co., New York, 2006, p.11.

12. Judith Resnik, “Courts: In and Out of Sight, Site and Cite,” *The Norman Shachoy Lecture*: 10

13. Judith Resnik, “Courts: In and Out of Sight, Site and Cite,” *The Norman Shachoy Lecture*: 13-14

14. Richard Mohr, “Living Legal Fictions: Constituting the State or Submerging the Signifier?,” *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law* 19, no. 3 (September 1, 2006): 237–58, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11196-006-9021-1>.

great significance, as it played a crucial role in establishing a distinct social order within the urban landscape, as described by Evans in *Inns of Court*. However, as time passed, the courthouse began to detach itself from the city, losing its sense of authority and hierarchy, and gradually transformed into a self-contained entity—a city within a city. This shift resulted in the courthouse becoming a standalone volume that no longer integrated seamlessly with its surrounding urban environment. Instead, it stood out prominently, dominating the cityscape.

5.2 Court house as a building type

Over the passage of decades from the time when first courtrooms were established before Christ to Renaissance and to contemporary times, the construction of multi-purpose courtrooms became more unused and the building gained a singular identity. A building only proposed for one thing that was for the court proceedings and identified as an independent architectural typology of 'Courthouses'. Its fundamental spatial principles remained unchanged since the 19th century to the modern courtrooms today.¹² The typology of the courthouse can be related to other civic architectures of importance like a temple, a parliament or a library. The courthouse of Greece was a larger public place but as the time changed, the Romans depicted it as a place of importance and was relatable to architecture of temples and other civic architecture of that time. Though being able to be compared to a range of different architectural types it can be seen today as an isolated singly purposed architectural type.

The architecture of the courthouse during the 19th century was very specific and it used facade as a means to communicate and show

the power and kind of generate fear of the system in people's minds as it also replicated the style of other government buildings. What we saw from outside had nothing to do with what was happening inside the building. Both the elements, the facade and the 2 dimensional floors were designed to serve their specific functions.

5.3 Court house and people

Public adjudication produced more accurate decisions. There was a change of landscape when the courthouses being defined as architectural typology became more independent of its functions. In relation to this in 2000 a skyscraper provided a new federal courthouse for example in Chicago the image shows the demolition of a civic center and in background the new court building by Mies van der Rohe (Fig - 2). Disconnected from what happens in the plaza below but as you enter the building it is a great functional and a masterpiece of architecture.

Bentham describes the importance of the public nature court as "Publicity is the very soul of justice....it keeps the judge himself, while trying under the trial."¹⁵ In order to make the courthouses more public, locating them on streets and open doors makes publicity possible but also raises the question of how to secure the audience and the members of the court.

The decline of public trials has had a profound impact on the public's relationship with the law and how they perceive it. This shift is believed to be one of the key reasons why everyday trials struggle to attract observers. With the relocation of courthouses from their civic context to custom-built environments outside of the city, the emphasis on public involvement has waned, giving way to a more

15. Patrícia Branco, "City/Courthouse Building: A Mirror Game. Examining Connections Between Courthouse Buildings and Location in the Urban Environment," *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law* 32, no. 3 (September 2019): 597–620, <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11196-019-09622-7>, p. 598.

16. Judith Resnik, "Courts: In and Out of Sight, Site and Cite," *The Norman Shachoy Lecture*: 7

17. Bentham, *Supra* note 29 : 355

rigid layout marked by barriers and divisions. Spaces designated for the public have become divided into multiple spheres that are inaccessible to people.

These changes over the years appear to have been driven by a fear of the public. In the modern context, the implementation of a so-called transparent viewing balcony has resulted in a confined area for the public, packing them into a small space. This outcome reflects a perspective where both litigants and the public are perceived as irritants in the trial process, leading to a growing tendency to limit public access to legal proceedings.¹⁸ This shift marks a departure from the open and inclusive nature of traditional courthouses and raises important considerations regarding the need to strike a balance between security concerns and the importance of public involvement in law.

03 Theoretical framework

As discussed earlier in the research topic, the involvement of the public sphere as a part of the courthouse would shape how the decisions are taken and the peoples opinion could play a vital role in the judicial system. Using the public sphere as a theoretical framework to further develop the research plan and design brief. Public sphere as described by Oxford bibliographies: "The public sphere is the arena where citizens come together, exchange opinions regarding public affairs, discuss, deliberate and eventually form public opinion."

In major cities of the world there are many examples where the courthouses of the city or states are concentrated in a smaller proximity of areas like Washington DC in the USA, Hamburg in Germany etc. There are also many recent instances where the government took a step to combine courthouses scattered in multiple locations to one complex or one building like the Palace of justice in Antwerp and the palace of justice in Barcelona which was recently completed and shifted to the new judicial complex. This helps make the system more efficient and easy to operate. Concentrating them in a smaller proximity also generates an option of sharing infrastructure and facilities.

18. Linda Mulcahy, "Architects of Justice: The Politics of Courtroom Design," *Social & Legal Studies* 16, no. 3 (September 1, 2007): 383–403, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0964663907079765>.

DESIGN BRIEF

02

Introduction
Client and Users
Programme
Site
Ambitions
Conclusion

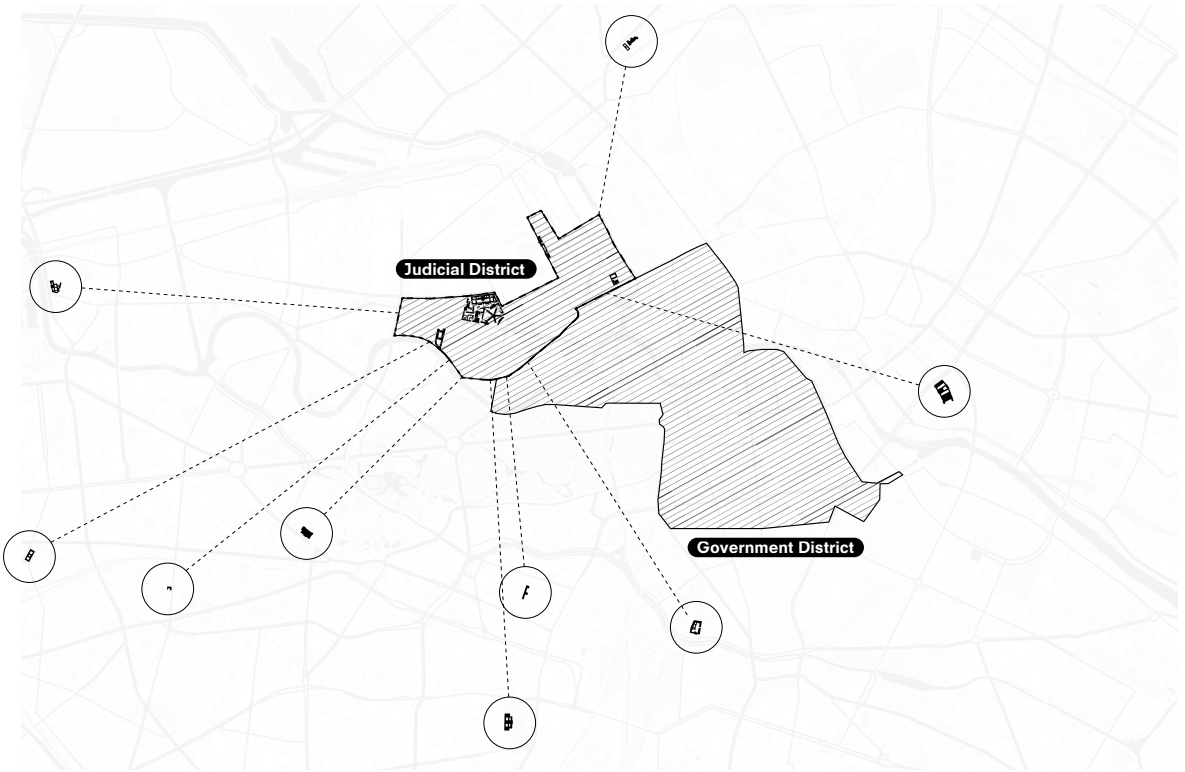


Fig - 8. Illustrated map showing the collection of old courts as the future judicial district with the proposed site.
Source: Base map Qgis

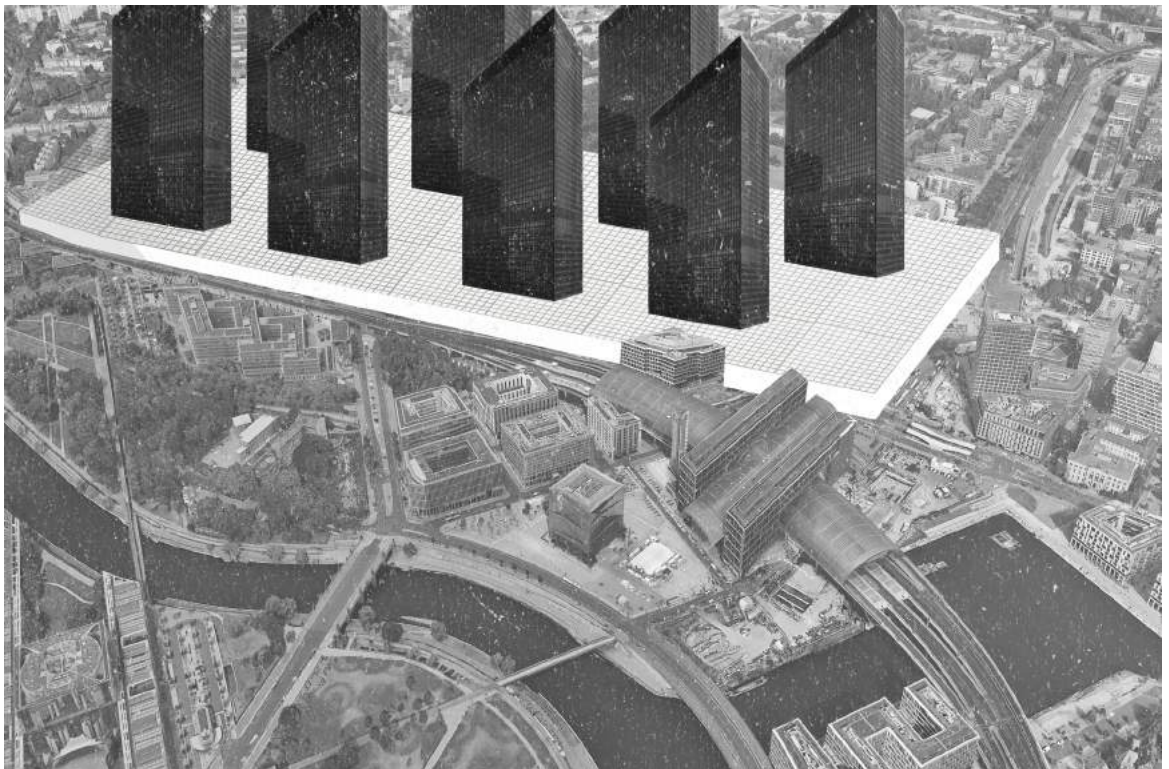


Fig - 9. Collage depicting the future of vertical office like judicial complex

01 Introduction

The main ambition of the project is to design a new judicial complex in Berlin Mitte which will house the Higher Administrative court, the Higher Social court and the Fiscal court of Berlin along with a public forum and a plaza which would help putting the project on a bigger urban vision of activating the river Spree.

Bringing back the long lost civic identity of the courthouse which would help reduce the distance between the people and the court making them more people friendly, transparent and accessible. This will offer the people of Berlin a new way of seeing and getting justice. They can be a part of the system which they can trust and rely on. Thus, the project intends to propose a solution which will both make people more aware of the system and would bring the back the lost

civic identity of the court and onto the city's map.

Combining the three courts that were initially merged with the higher courts of Brandenburg in a single ensemble, a complex or a building would help increase efficiency of the way these courts function. Since they are part of the same administrative system they can be advantageous by using common supportive spaces and infrastructure. It can be the starting point of a larger vision of bringing all the courthouses of Berlin in a closer proximity to form a future amalgamation of a new Judicial district. (Fig - 8)

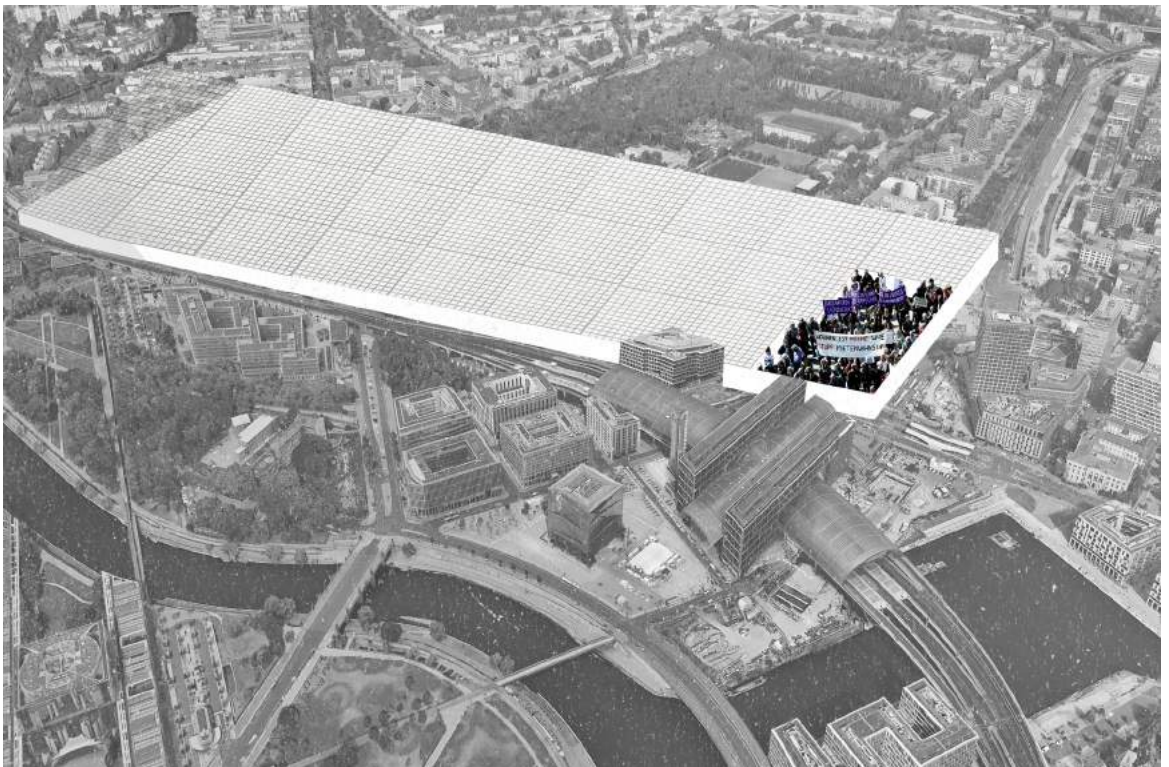


Fig - 10. Collage depicting horizontal spread more civil complex with public spaces

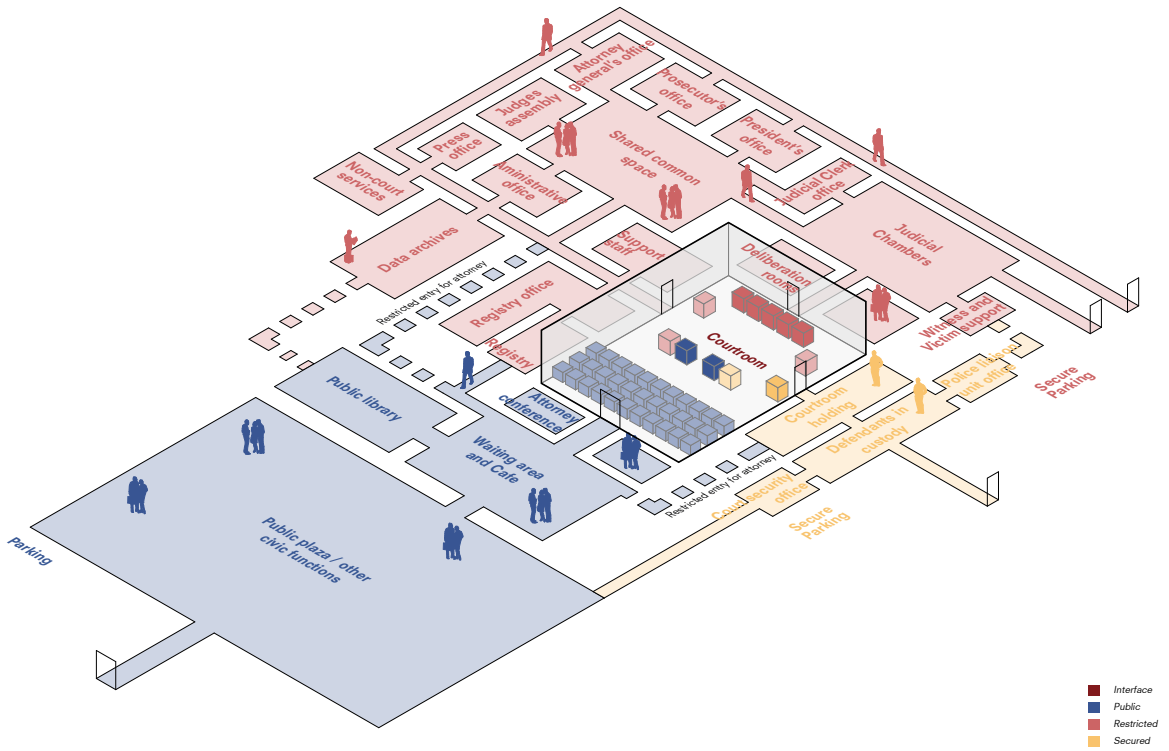


Fig - 11. Programmatic scheme

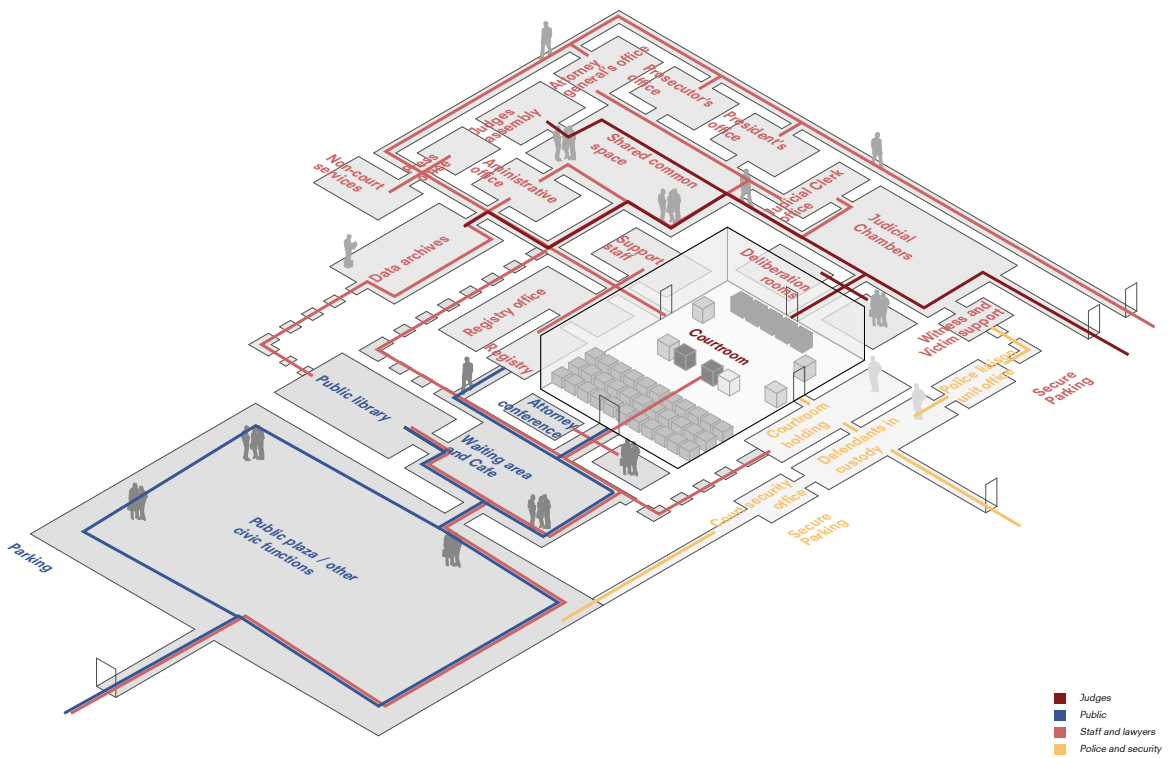


Fig - 12. Schematic flows

02 Client & Users

The main client of the project is the Berlin state government, The Senate Department for the Urban Development, Building and Housing. Department for Urban Development will cover the initial investment costs and for the future maintenance and renovations and will be the owner of the complex. Urban Development department takes care, initiates and funds all the government and public projects in the city of Berlin.

Since the projects embodies the courthouse and a public forum other Senate departments for Justice, Interior and digitization, education and Culture becomes the co clients of the project.

The judicial council of these courts forms the running management and the permanent users of the building. The other users like the attorneys, public and media are the ones that doesn't stay in the building for longer durations but are the most frequent visitors for a given day. On the other hand, local people, tourists and daily commuters who has nothing to do with these courts also becomes the silent users of the complex, regularly crossing through it getting the glimpse of what is happening inside as it becomes a part of a larger urban network of greens and pedestrian paths and plazas.



Fig - 13. Users chart



Judicial complex



Berlin state government

Senate Department for Urban Development, Building and Housing

Senate Department for Justice, Diversity and Anti-discrimination

Senate Department for the Interior, Digitization and Sports

Senate Department for Education, Youth and Family

Senate Department for Culture and European Affairs

Fig - 14. Client breakdown

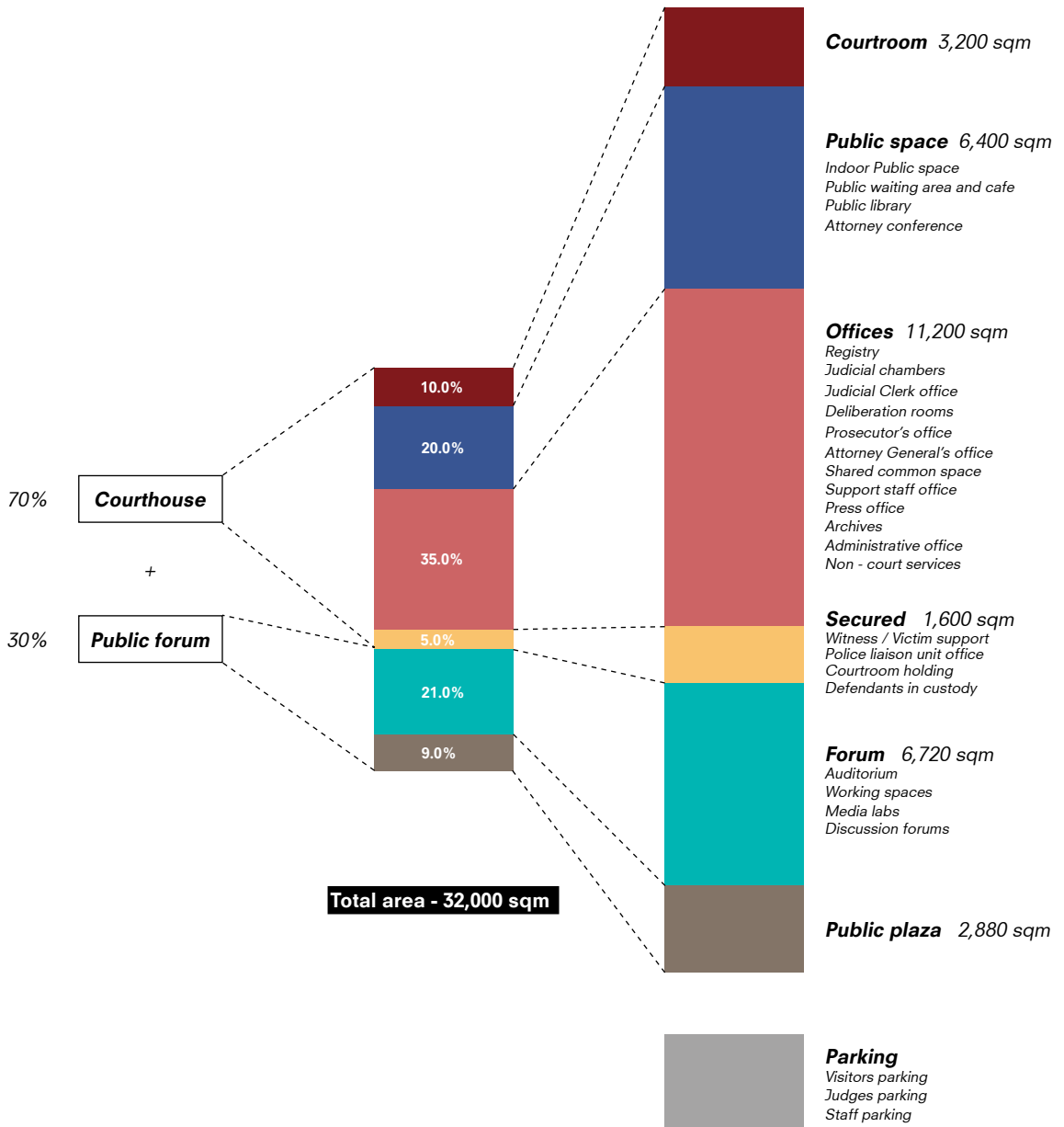


Fig - 15. Programmatic breakdown

03 Program

The main aim of the project is to introduce the new judicial complex to the people in a more fare, free, accessible and transparent way. It needs to full fill the technical requirements of courthouse spaces for its optimal operations as well as spaces that help bring people closers to law and make it a tangible aspect of their life which they can trust and depend upon and call it 'theirs'. Therefore a large part of the building needs to be fully accessible and visible to the public while also serving the unban connections.

To properly understand the function and interrelation of spaces in a court houses and to establish its new relation to a forum the study of program was divided into 3 different scales. Each scale focusing on different aspect that would at the end help bring the entire program together.

Starting from the smallest scale it focusses on the most critical space and element of the courthouse the courtroom. They the form base guideline for developing the entire building program as each and every space develops around this critical element of courtroom. It traces the sitting arrangement of multiple courtrooms across the world, all focusing of different laws and spatial arrangements. The examples of courtrooms of the Palace of Justice in Antwerp and the Tribunal de Commerce in Paris help to understand the flows and connection of the courtroom to its adjacent critical spaces namely the Attorney conference, Deliberation room and court holding. These spaces act as a buffer or the only point where multiple users flows interact apart from the courtroom. These elements are essential for the proper and smooth functioning of the courtroom without any disturbance or hassle.

The medium scale focuses on the courthouse as a building unit and draws the network of interrelated spaces and functions that help run justice. The larger scale considers the overall

envelop of the public plaza and forum that would hold all these functions in place. It looks into examples like the Green square library in Sydney, Sao Paulo museum of Art and the Apple store in Milan of how these spaces function to bring people together to rejuvenate the civic qualities of public buildings and public gatherings. It forms a medium of exchange of ideas.

Concluding from the requirement of number of courtrooms and their sizes and the percentage of space it takes in the overall plan, it rounds the entire program to around 31,450 sqm. It is divided into two parts the courthouse and the forum (Fig - 15). The courthouse is further bifurcated in to spaces on the basis of their accessibility and security. More general public function like auditorium, outdoor plaza, social gathering areas, media centre and others come under the forum.

The public plaza of the project is to be design that it becomes a continuous route that takes you through the sequence of the courtroom environments of joy, sorrow, grief, etc. This public space would extend it self beyond, to connect the Europlats and the Berlin Hauptbahnhof re-establishing the connection to Spree. Following the cases studies and the programs the relationship diagram is made(Fig - 11,12).

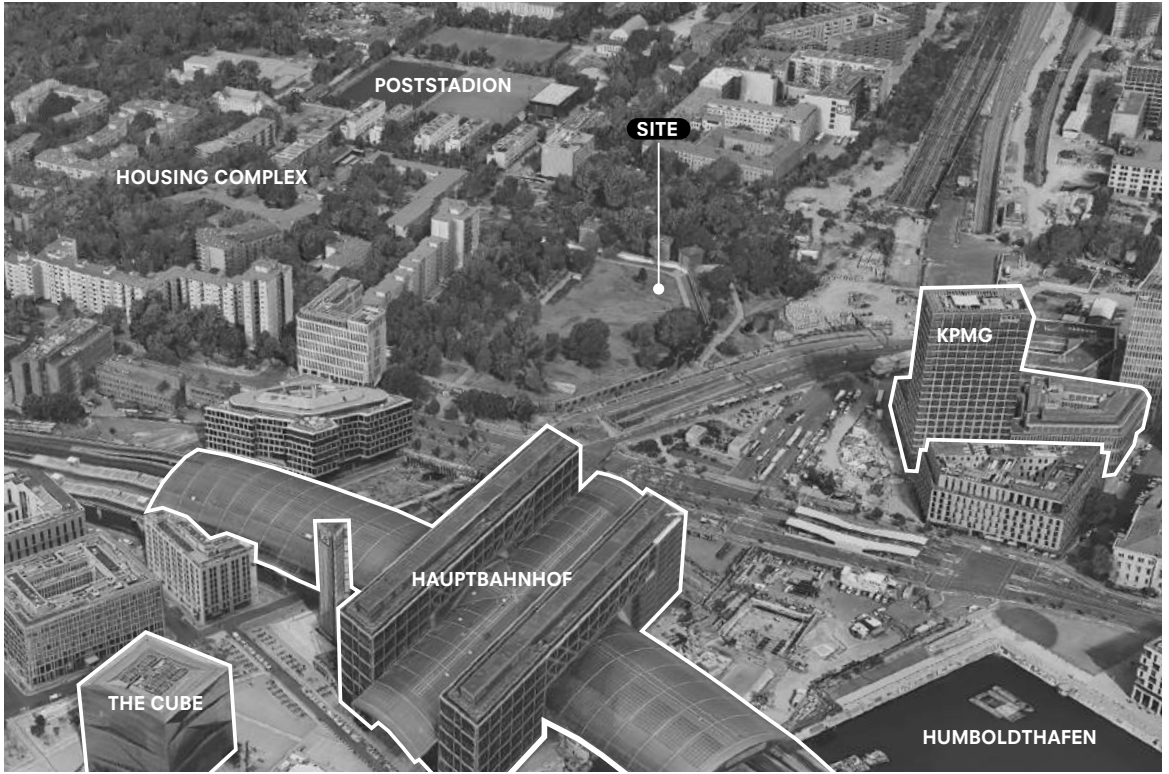


Fig - 16. Aerial view of site context



Fig - 17. Site location

04 Site

The project is situated in the centre of the city of Berlin. The location is north to the Hauptbahnhof Berlin, the main, biggest and the busiest stations of the city facilitating a range of public transport within and outside the city. The prominence of the site is also emphasised due to its proximity to the government district on the other side of the station. Its surroundings and the site itself reflects a long historical time line of significance. The site 'Geschichtspark Ehemaliges Zellengefängnis Moabit' has symbolic and historic values. It represents its identity through the historic remains of the previous prison parts. Since being on the edge of the area from where the Berlin wall used to pass, it remained abandoned for a long time until 2012 when the government built a heritage park on the location of the previous prison. It possesses historical layer still visible, the remains from the prison complex of Moabit which got destroyed in WWII. 4.5m high walls enclose the area from 4 sides out of 6 and present along with 4 structure which used to be officers houses on the north of the park.

The site sits in a diverse urban fabric with different layers of infrastructure that surrounds it. To the South is the Government district marked by prominent, powerful and landmark architecture, like the Chancellery, Paul-Lobe-Haus, Marie-Elisabeth-Lüders-Haus forming the Federal Ribbon and the Reichstag. To the west majority of all the buildings are residential and almost all built around 1900's. On north west side it is directly connected to the poststadion and state park giving the site a green touch towards the north. The adjoining street of Heidestraße on the north east is the centre of the newest construction works in the city with the about to complete Europacity master plan. The site is in the middle of these varied urban fabrics as it possesses the potential to establish this missing link of connectivity between these isolated fabrics.

4.2 Analysis and Historical layer

Today the site represents an area that has become silent of its potentials. There have been transformations over the years but was seen as a potential location for competitions and future proposals. The very first building to be built on the site was the prison of Moabit, constructed in 1849. The design of the prison was influenced by the design of the Pentonville Prison in London, so the plan looked almost similar. In 1930 when already a new prison was in function in the proximity of 500m to this site, a competition was launched to design a new judicial complex to house multiple of the scattered courts in Berlin by removing the existing prison. The competition was never realised. The site again became a prominent spot in the Albert Speer's plan of Germania. According to the plan drawn by Speer, the site would have housed the police headquarters followed by the combined courthouse. The plan was never realised as Nazi Germany lost the war and the Nazi government was stripped down of its power. But it was damaged during WWII and was demolished later. During the time of Allied, Berlin wall used to pass near the debris. Finally in 2012 a historical park was constructed to remember the historical past the site. Thus the site possesses a long back logged potential to be explored as site for future judicial complex.

The site is well connected with the major part of the city with varied road connections and the tunnels. It is connected to other cities and states as well since it is adjacent to the Federal corridor. The site is directly connected with 4 major roads on 3 sides of the site each capable to be used as an inmate transfer passage. The site sits in the 500m radius proximity to the judicial network of current prison and emergency services. It has all possible public transport connectivity at walking distance of 500m. Site has the potential of extending its reach to form the fore court of Hauptbahnhof and to the Humboldthafen. (Appx - 23-30)

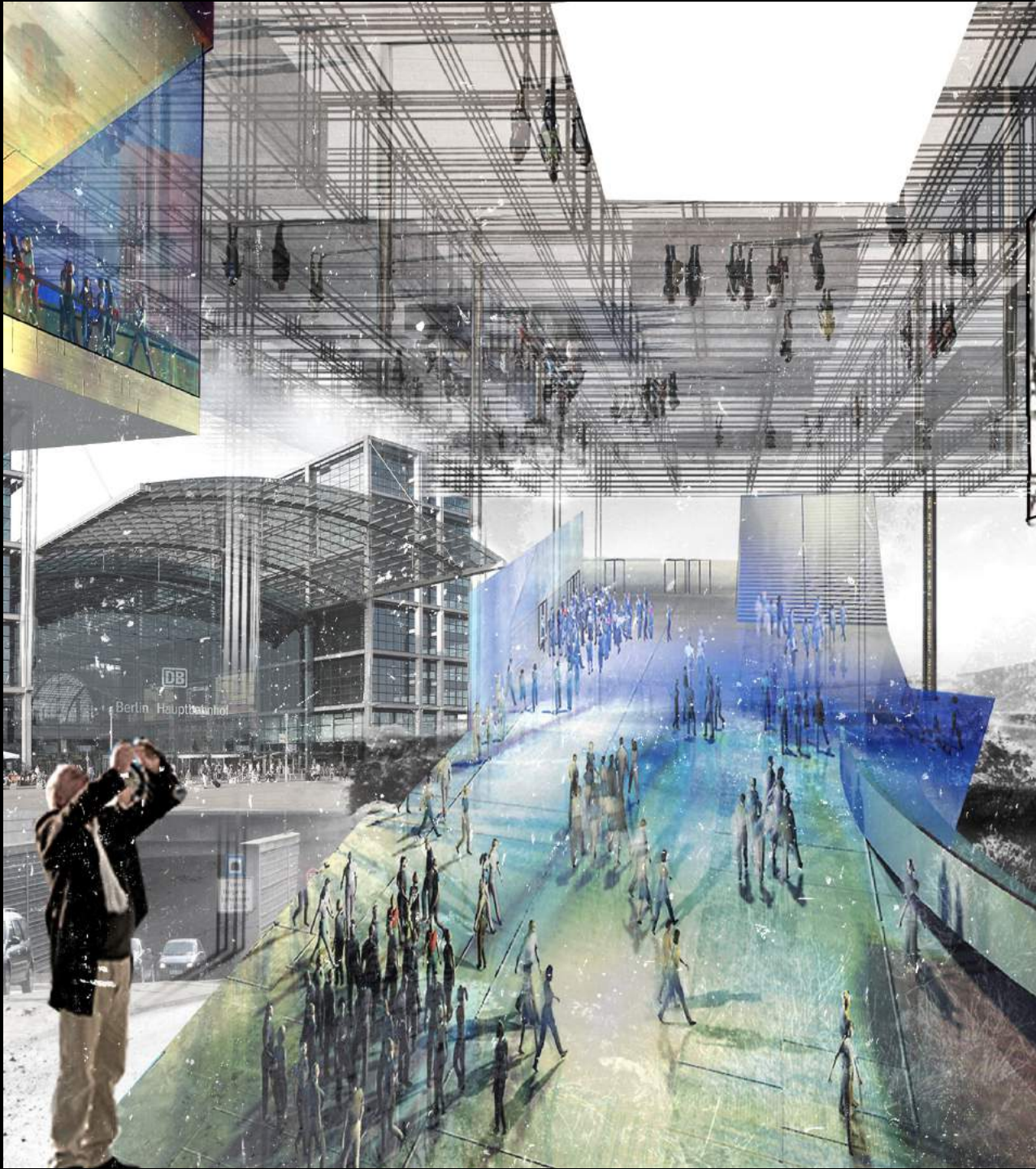
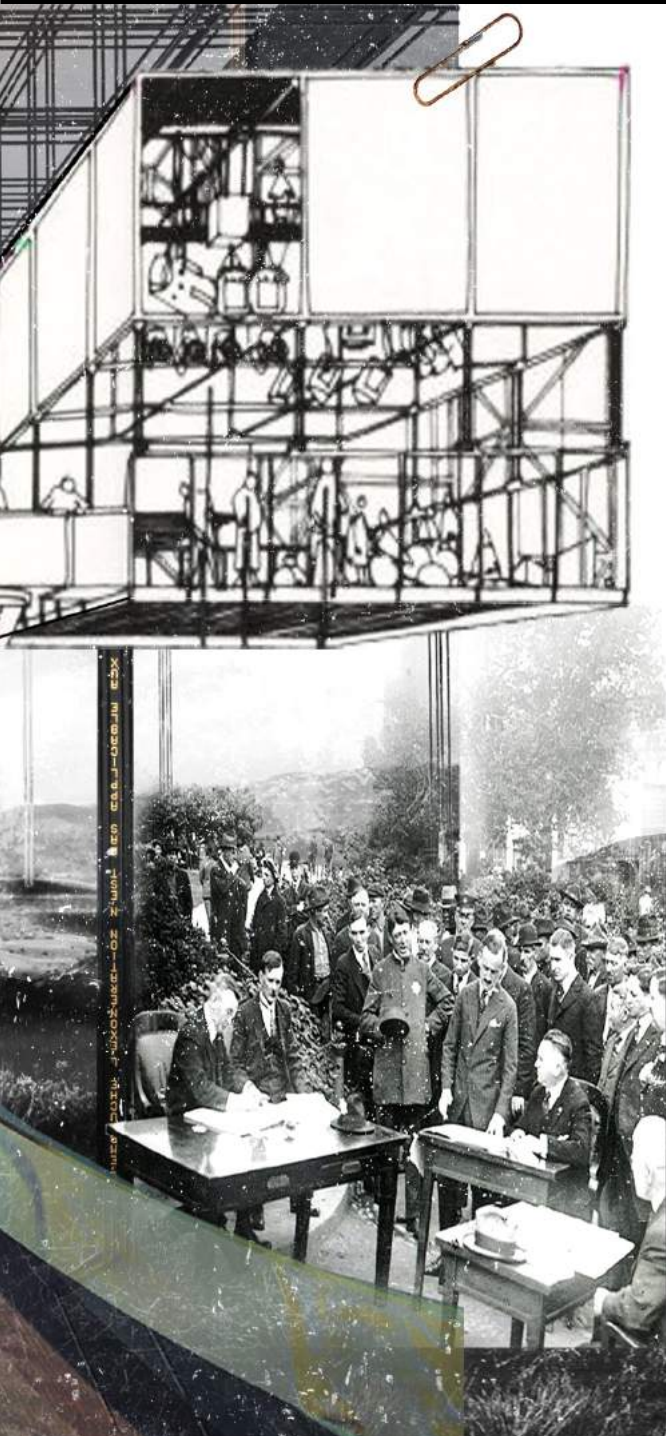


Fig - 18 Collage for the proposal of the new Judicial district

06 Conclusion

The main design ambition would be to design a courthouse that functions efficiently maintaining its fundamental functions and security plus at the same time be seen as a new civic center of the city of Berlin. A place where people are attracted, a place where children, youth and seniors and families are willing to come together on a daily basis.

The goal would be to bring the courthouses back to the center of the city, so justice is seen as a fundamental part of the society and not an office building or a single institute that sits independently away from the center or cultural hotspot. A new judiciary edifice that combines the Financial, the Higher social court and the higher Administrative court of Berlin which would continue into the city's public space evolving in a new type, serving the people of Berlin.



DESIGN DESCRIPTION

03

Introduction
Urban Fabric
The Building
Dispensation of Justice
Technical Concept



Fig - 19. Remains of the prison walls and the Guard residences.

Source: <http://www.berlin-shots.de/index.php/artikel/geschichtspark-ehemaliges-zellengefaengnis-moabit.html>



Fig - 20 Cell prison on an aerial photograph, July 1886

Source: https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vom_Hagen_Lehrter_Bahnhof.jpg

01 Introduction

The design's main ambitions as emerged from the initial phase of research were reconnecting the courthouse and justice with the larger audience of local people, making it a part of a larger urban network of pedestrian routes and green belt, connecting to the cultural hotspot - river Spree, and incorporating the historical glimpse of the remains of old structures. Incorporating these ambitions will make the larger idea of establishing the civic nature of the courthouse and making it a people's court a step closer. The final design composes itself with smaller gestures and fragments that react to the conceptual ambitions of the project in different ways and at different locations throughout the building, making the building complex more responsive and respectful of the context it sits in.

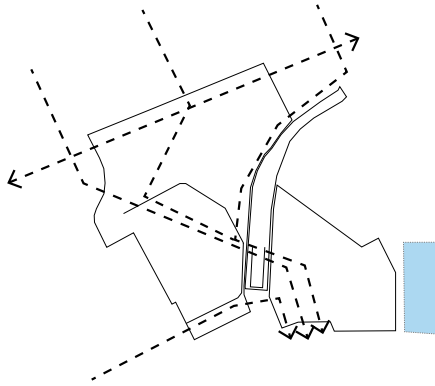
Positioned in front of the Berlin Hauptbahnhof and along the Europaplatz, the new Judicial Complex sits in the historic location of the Zellengefängnis Moabit (Moabit cell prison) (1842 – 1958). The design of the prison was closely inspired by the Pentonville prison in London following the ideology of an isolated world. Any communication between the inmates was prevented leading to the construction of high separating walls around the walking yards and a huge periphery wall that separated the internal world from the outside. The complex was built according to the most modern aspects of that time which made it the model prison in the state of Prussia.²⁰

The architect and student of Schinkel, Carl Ferdinand Busse (1802-1868) designed this prison along with others while on the contrary, he also designed multiple courthouses, some still standing and functioning. While the Moabit prison was being built the architect also

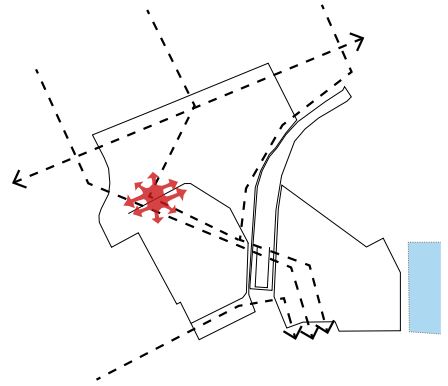
designed the courthouse of Wuppertal, but both were built on very different principles of architecture. His beliefs clearly reflect in the design of the courthouse where he created clear structures and reflected transparency and openness of judiciary in the architecture of the building.²⁰ The new proposed judicial complex follows similar conceptual ideas of openness and transparency of justice wherein bringing it closer to the people would have appealed to Carl Busse.

19. "Geschichtspark Zellengefängnis Moabit," berlin.de, accessed July 20, 2023, <https://www.berlin.de/tourismus/parks-und-gaerten/4216129-1740419-geschichtspark-zellengefaengnis-moabit.html>.

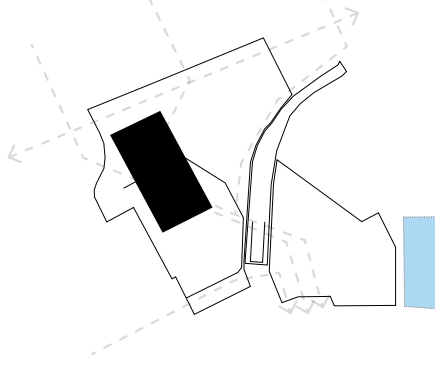
20. "Wuppertal District Court: Old Building and New Building," March 29, 2014, https://web.archive.org/web/20140329033057/http://www.lg-wuppertal.nrw.de/wir_ueber_uns/altneuba/index.php.



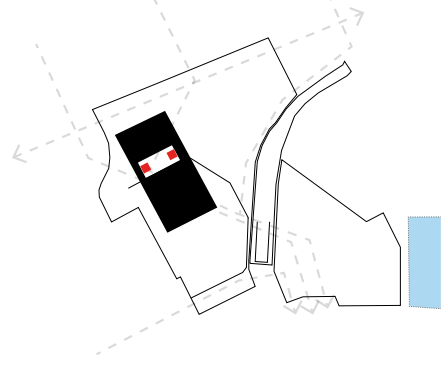
1. Pedestrian flows on site



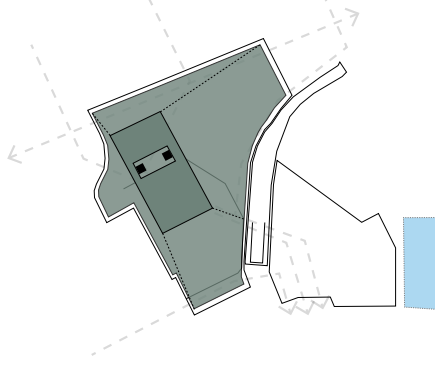
2. Converging point



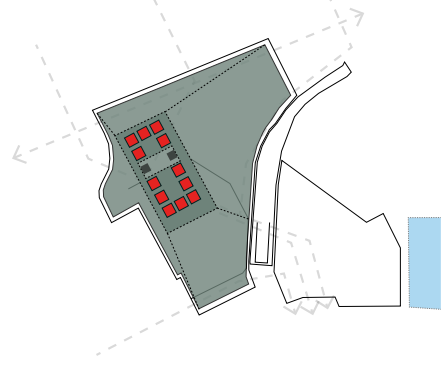
3. Built mass



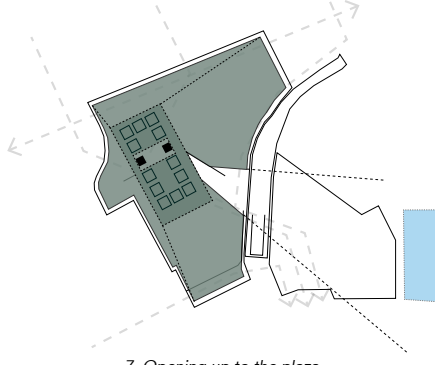
4. Existing structures



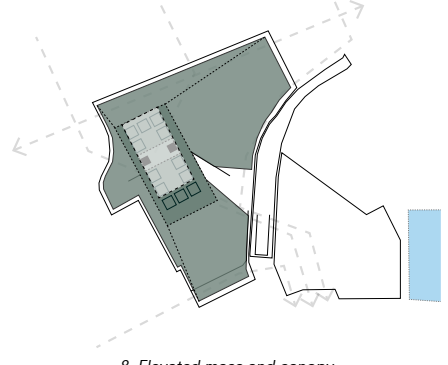
5. Landscape cover



6. Courtrooms



7. Opening up to the plaza



8. Elevated mass and canopy

Fig - 21. Design evolution

02 Urban Fabric

2.1 Design Evolution

The site with the memorial park along with the historical remains of the prison possesses an existing pedestrian pattern of how the park and the periphery are used by people throughout the day to cross and access the plaza of Hauptbahnhof. The idea is to retain the existing pattern and use it as the starting point of the design. The built mass emerges from the location where multiple pedestrian routes conjoin within the site. (Fig - 21 (1-2))

The built mass opens itself up forming a courtyard at the centre to incorporate the existing remains of the wall and the residential guard towers. The courtyard celebrates the existence of this heritage and its relation to the new judicial complex making them a coherent whole. (Fig - 21 (3-4))

It appears as a continuation of the surroundings as the park rises to drape the built mass with a green cover rather than an object standing out against it. It is open to the public from nearly every angle, offering a gesture to the city. A wedge shape cutout opens the building towards the Humboldthafen establishing a crucial connection between the building, its plaza, and the river Spree. The plaza here acts as a physical connector helping to regain the significance of the city's cultural connection to the river. (Fig - 21 (5-7))

The courtrooms pop up through the roof of the building becoming a part and the central elements around which the meandering paths of the urban park revolve. A quarter of the building is raised to form an elevated canopy which would eventually house the chambers of the Judges. The elevated mass provides a shadow to the essential part of the park where large plantations are not possible and can be understood as an archaic gesture that the law protects everyone. (Fig - 21 (6-8))

All these elements come together as a whole to form a new Locus in the dense and busy city of Berlin. (Fig - 22)

2.2 Integrating into the context

The very dominant and nearest of all contexts in and around the site are the existing heritage structures, the wall and the two residential guard towers. The wall that was once used to separate the prison from the outer world now serves as an element that invites, directs and celebrates the public nature of the new judicial complex. The wall forms a part of the public square with a reflecting pool which becomes the place where the city meets the building.

Approached by the Hauptbahnhof the reflecting pool fills the space between the historical wall and the façade of the building reflecting their dynamically opposite natures. The wall at the same time speaks about the horrific past with a written quote on it from one of the inmates of that time. The pool forms an attractive water feature as it imitates the project 'Silence' by Tadao Ando with atomizers which produce mist creating a psychologically stress-free and calm environment as people enter the courthouse. At large also helps to increase the environmental humidity maintaining and boosting the ecosystem of the park above. The main aim is to enhance the experience of the people working and particularly the pedestrians passing by the plaza. (Fig - 22)

The new courthouse is 25m high following the contextual play of heights. The elevated mass rises above the park by 10m opening ample space for the park to function and have its independent identity. The elevated office space is supported diagonally by 2 large cores and on the diagonally opposite sides by a pair of masts keeping the diagonal visual axis following the direction of the public plaza. The architectural language of the courthouse distinguishes itself from its context but at the same time keeping a subtle approach to achieve its public nature.

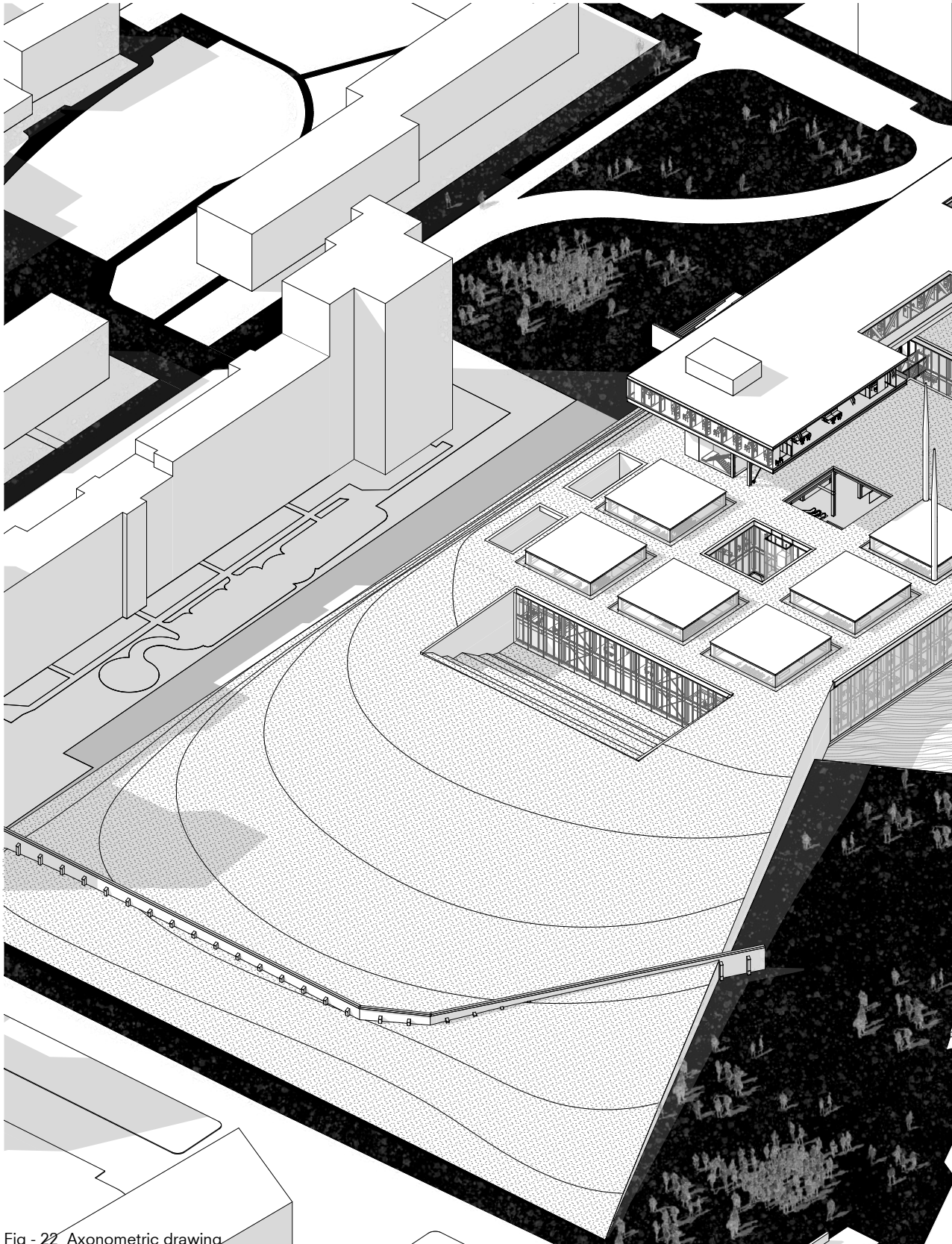


Fig - 22 Axonometric drawing

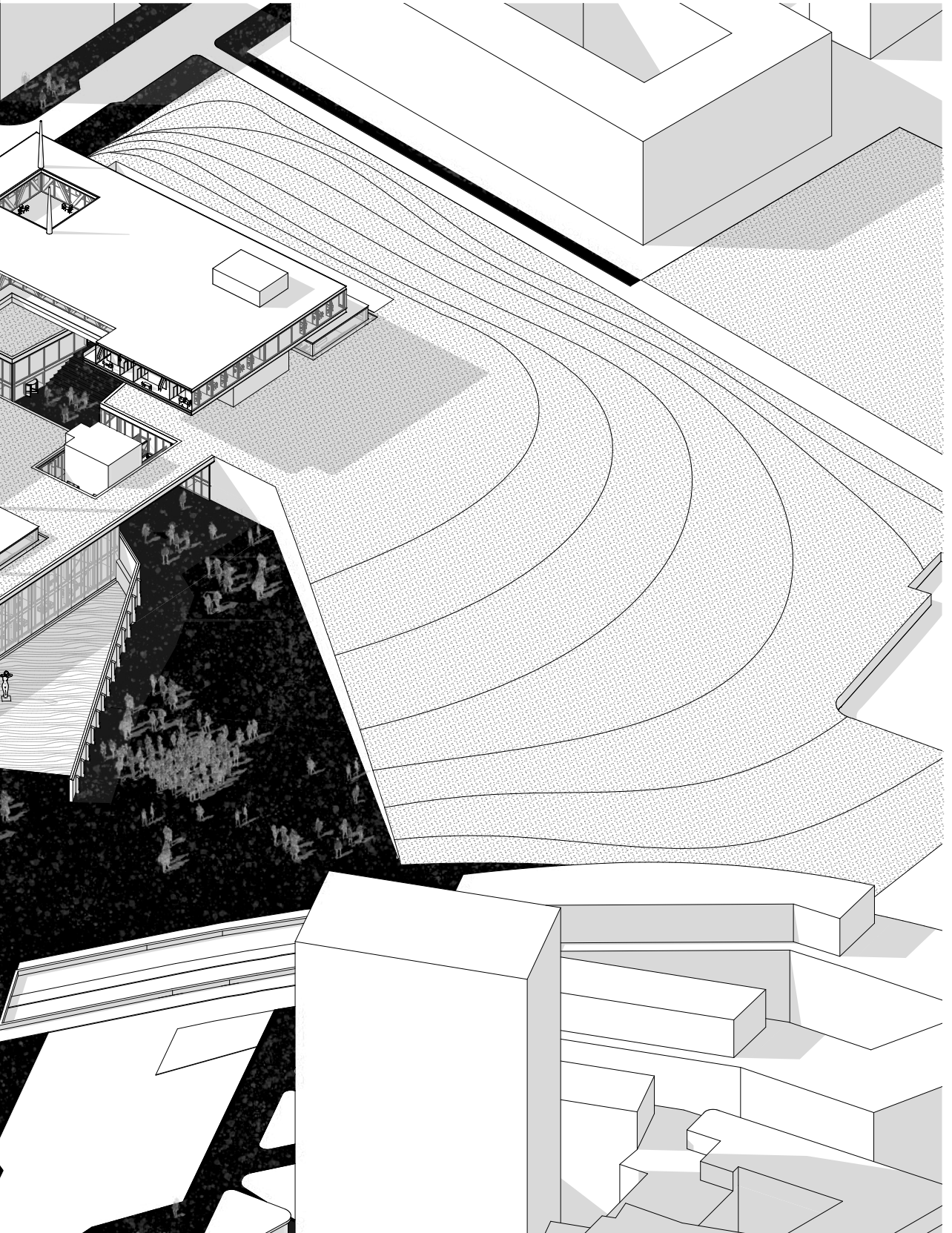




Fig - 23 View of the bridges crossing the Public passage also to referred to as 'Corridors of Power'



Fig - 24 View of the Courthouse entrance and the Oculus from the forum

03 The Building

3.1 The Passage

The building is conceived as emerging out of the ground submerged into nature which welcomes everyone to gather, share, and spread the spirit of law. Submerging the building 3m below the plaza allows respect for the height of the existing wall which becomes one of the most important façades of the entire complex. The spaces, intricate detailing, and functional layout of the building all come together to achieve a common goal of freeing the building from any conventional restrictions and placing it in a realm free of any barriers.

As the public passage along the heritage wall leads to the entrance, the space reveals itself as a street connecting different plazas and city squares imitating the traditional cityscape and following a much controllable human scale. As it reaches the centre it creates an effect of crescendo towards the entrances to 3 different functions, the courthouse, the auditorium and the workspaces and the most celebrated space the forum. This transition of spaces helps to derive and highlight the space giving it a unique identity in the entire complex. A spotlight through the oculus in the elevated structure highlights and illuminates the space in an esthetical way offering a view of the sky and celebrating the movement of thousands of people across it.

This central space at the same time brings the 'Corridors of Power' together showing segregated circulation but at the same time reducing the class of hierarchy and the notion of superiority as they all come together in this space cherishing its transparency and the versatile nature of the complex.

3.2 The Park

Since the Second world war when the prison was taken down, the site was utilized as a wasteland on the border of the Berlin Wall being used for storage of rubble from demolished buildings and storage for building materials. Later the heritage park was built using the prison wall as its compound but due to security reasons it maintains strict time regulations for its opening. The proposal for a lush green park rises above the ground covering the judicial building. The proposed park is equivalent to Museumplein Park in Amsterdam and Washington square park in New York City with a size of around 10.5 acres (44,000 sq m). It is an oasis in the busy and dense city grid of Berlin making it a monumental starting point for the growth and future of justice.

Accessible from directions, it welcomes visitors of all ages and backgrounds from throughout the city while filling the gap in the urban fabric by fulfilling the urban visions of a larger green network and a continuous network of pedestrian routes. It acts as an urban connector, cultural campus, play area and most important of all a penetrable layer diluting the threshold between the city and the law as visitors forge new connections with courtrooms and courthouse procedures.

The courtrooms actively become part of this park as they extend beyond like sculptures in the park. These courtrooms being made of Channel glass make them translucent as they allow partial vision through them giving glimpses of what is happening inside the courtrooms. As people move by the courtrooms be it inside or outside, they experience the flow of light, the transitioning of two different environments and views from one level to another and from outside to inside and vice versa. During the day the façade of the courtrooms helps get diffused light to the court and the waiting areas while in the evening they glow due to their internal light maintaining their presence and becoming part of the park even when the courts are closed as the local people treat it as an active



Fig - 25 View from park



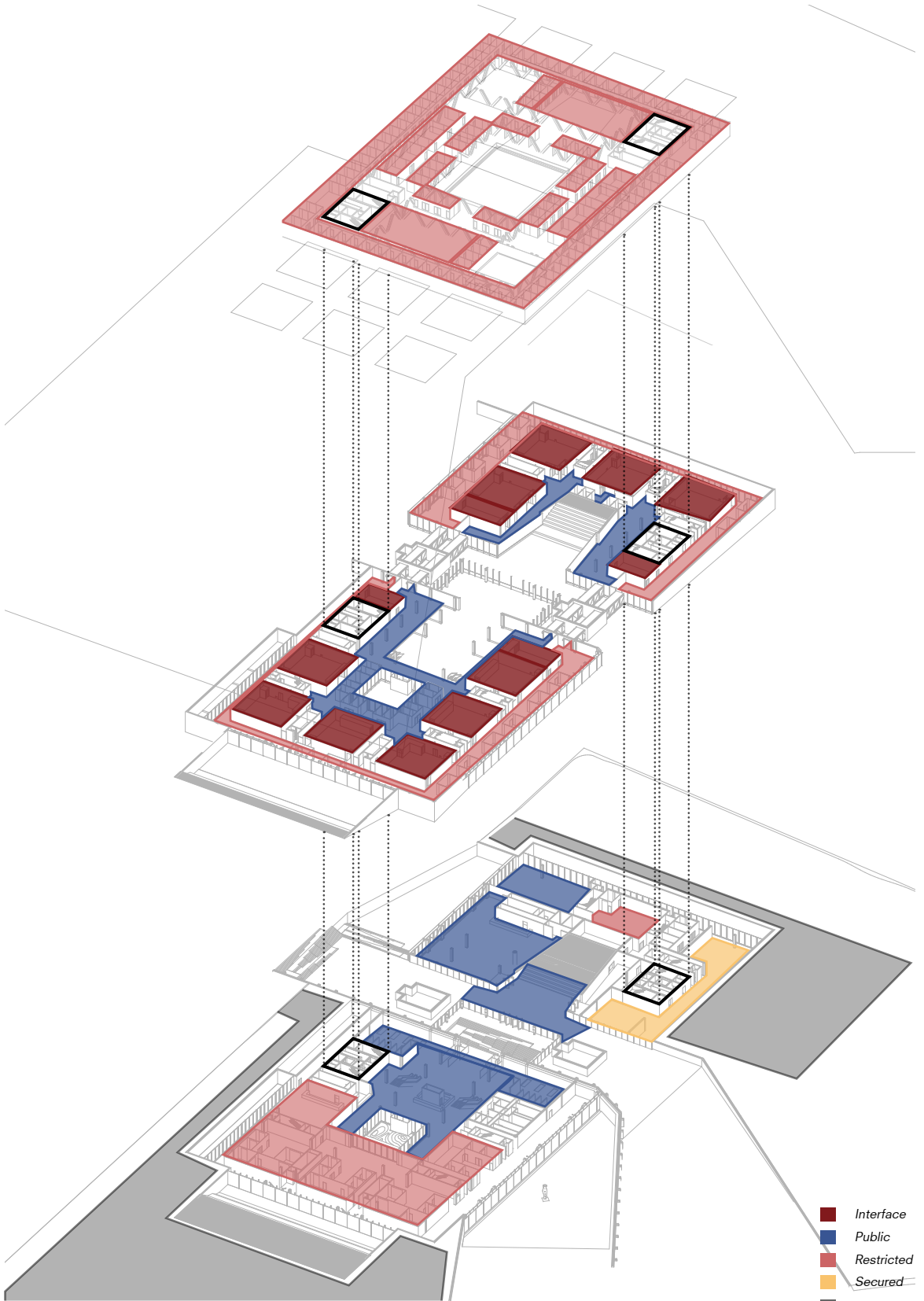


Fig - 26 Exploded zoning diagram

piece of landscape. There are cutouts, breaks and recessions in the landscape creating courtyards, skylights and revealing parts of the façade strategically to gain the advantage of natural light and are meant to be ways in which the public can become part of the day-to-day dynamics of the courthouse.

3.3 Facade

The building incorporates extensive park-covered spaces, while some articulated areas are open to the outside world with captivating glass facades. These spaces are a testament to thoughtful design aiming to create optimal interaction with the surrounding environment. The facades are deliberately kept minimal, ensuring unobstructed views of the inside. To achieve a sleek look, structural façade profiles are minimized, allowing for larger glass openings on the inner leaf of the façade. The outer layer consists of laminated safety glass,

creating a cavity that serves as a ventilated double façade. To maintain consistency in the facade design, the elevated office block above the park also incorporates the same double facade system and similar details.

When it comes to the facade, the most extensive exposed area within the entire complex consists of the elevated office block's slab and the connecting cores that link it to the lower floors. These two primary cores serve as the main circulation hubs, accommodating lifts, stairs, service risers, as well as service lifts and staircases. The cores boast a partially transparent design, revealing the lifts and staircase facing the park, animating their appearance with the movement of people using them. As for the other half of the cores and the elevated office block's slab, they are clad with perforated steel panels. This creates a striking contrast against the lush green surroundings, as the panels are painted in a matte black finish, effectively highlighting the bright, white, and clear interiors of the building.



Fig - 27 View of the courtroom and exposed facade during evening time

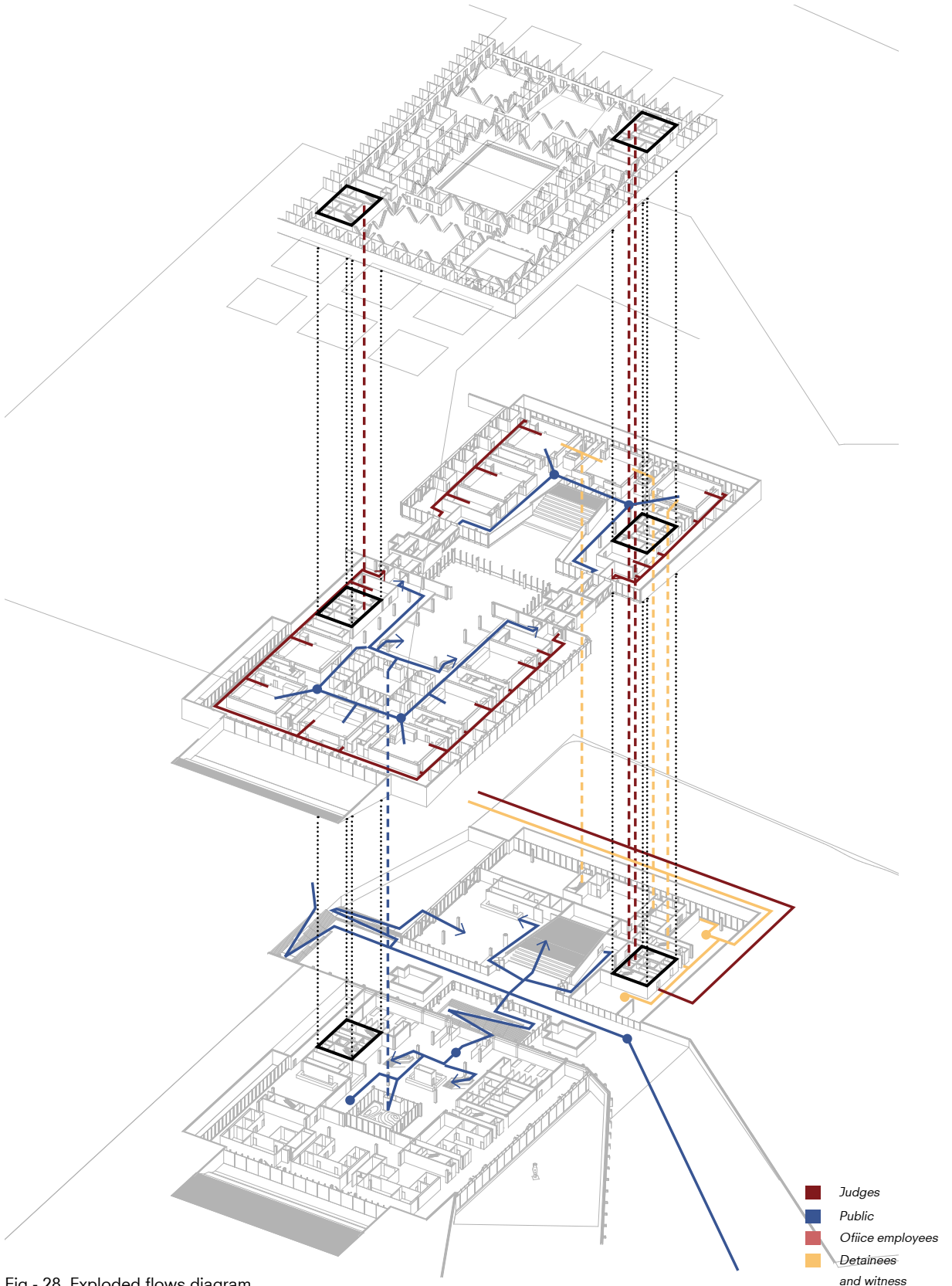


Fig - 28. Exploded flows diagram

04 Dispensation of Justice

The zoning of the areas was derived from comprehensive case studies and research, culminating in the final design outcomes. In contrast to conventional arrangements where private corridor walls remain concealed while the public areas in which the spectators and the defendants are caught in the field of visibility, the proposed layout prioritizes active engagement with the courthouse dynamics. It deliberately exposes the functioning of the courthouse to the outer facade, while the public spaces are concentrated at the heart of the complex. (Fig - 26)

Participants in the courtroom adhere to a well-defined and distinctive flow. This emphasis on designated pathways is vital to ensure that all parties involved are perceived as independent, contributing to a fair and impartial public affair. For instance, judges travel directly from their chambers to the courtroom without any interactions with external parties. Similarly, public prosecutors, court clerks, and detainees follow their specific routes to the courtroom, maintaining a clear separation and preserving the integrity of the judicial process. (Fig - 27)

4.1 Public spaces

Upon entry, the grand central hall, affectionately known as the 'Salle des pas perdus' or the 'Hall of Lost Steps,' immediately conveys the significance and importance of this space. It serves as the vibrant heart of the complex, seamlessly connecting to the forum and the outside passage. This hall acts as a transitional zone, guiding individuals from the outside world into the judicial realm, where various protagonists engage with one another or interact with the media before entering the courtrooms. Within the spacious hall, essential amenities such as the information desk, registries, representation desks, and a café

are integrated. From here, visitors can catch glimpses of the upper floor, accommodating courtrooms, deliberation rooms, attorney conference, and interview rooms, totalling around 30 rooms accessible to the public. The upper floors are conveniently connected by escalators and lifts, encircled by a serene courtyard garden. This courtyard garden serves as an extension of the hall, with the café providing access to it. Enhanced by a sculptural wooden pathway, the courtyard offers a tranquil retreat. Separating the public hall from the offices, it acts as a backdrop and a protective screen, ensuring necessary security measures while also providing ample views through the gracefully changing birch trees, offering a delightful seasonal spectacle.

The 1st floor features a continuous, elongated corridor encircling the double-height central hall, which serves as an efficient arrangement for waiting areas and attorney conferences. Abundant natural light fills the corridors and waiting areas throughout the day, streaming in through the skylights surrounding each courtroom. This design imparts a sense of structural independence to the courtrooms, creating an atmosphere of openness and transparency. The strips of skylights not only infuse the space with ample daylight but also contribute to an ever-changing ambience of light and shadow. This plays a role in creating a captivating and restorative experience for all those visiting the court, including individuals such as detainees, victims, and others. By fostering a sensuous and calming environment, this design approach helps alleviate stress and anxiety, making the court a more comfortable and supportive place for all who interact with it. (Fig - 29)

4.2 Offices

Office areas within the building are strategically divided into two main sections. The ground floor houses the general administration, registries for the 3 courts, public prosecution, archives, police, and security offices. On the other hand, the



Fig - 29 Entrance to the Courtroom





Fig - 30 View of the central courtyard garden



Fig - 31 View of the chambers in the elevated office block (3rd floor)

judge's chambers, and offices of supporting legal staff are situated in the elevated block. This deliberate arrangement distinguishes between services that require direct accessibility to the public and those that necessitate minimal interaction. Office spaces on the ground floor are oriented to maintain a strong connection with the wide spine that traverses the entire complex, running from the extreme north where detention areas and archives are situated to the south where registries and administrative offices are located. This corridor serves as a seamless link between the two opposite sides, passing beneath the public passage. As it does so, it becomes a striking feature, exposed to the outer plaza and serving as a backdrop to the water body, enhancing the overall aesthetic appeal of the space.

A key focus of showcasing transparency lies in the highly transparent facades, allowing full visibility of everything inside. The elevated office block, which serves as a symbolic identity for the complex, adheres to the same aesthetic principles as the floors below. It embraces bold structural choices, exposing the raw and unrefined beauty of bare concrete ceilings and steel columns. Individual cabins, chambers, and meeting rooms are constructed with extra clear glazing and white lacquered aluminium profiles, offering a balance between openness and privacy. To maintain a certain level of privacy and reduce external disturbances, fixed curtains are incorporated between two cubicles. Additionally, internal spaces are equipped with secondary structures like shelving units, cabinets, and cladding made of oak wood, enhancing the aesthetic value while contributing to acoustic purposes.

Arranged along the periphery of the elevated block (third floor), the cubicles enjoy external views. As one moves towards the centre of this floor, the spaces adopt a more informal atmosphere, culminating in a large outdoor balcony structure (previously mentioned as the Oculus). This area provides a relaxed and informal setting for interactions, offering a captivating view of the bustling public passage and the courthouse entrance.

4.3 Courtrooms

The courtrooms hold a pivotal role in the entire judicial process, serving as the focal point where all parties come together on equal footing to dispense justice. The design of these courtrooms becomes of utmost importance in this complex, as they embody the essence of participatory justice and public trials. Based on the arguments presented in the theoretical framework chapter of the research about the Space - Place dynamics, many design ideas were formulated as solutions or responses to those specific problems and considerations.

The courtrooms were meticulously designed to accommodate different layouts, considering their size, location within the complex, and their intended usage. To ensure flexibility, all rooms were initially designed based on the requirements of the largest room, measuring 14m * 14m. Smaller rooms were created by dividing the larger ones in half, resulting in dimensions of 14m * 7m. Furthermore, some rooms were equipped with an additional connection to the detention area, specifically intended for cases involving police and imprisoned detainees. The design approach prioritized maximum modularity, allowing for various arrangements within the courtrooms. This design flexibility allows for a seamless combination of two smaller rooms to create a larger one or vice versa, offering versatility to meet future needs.

The courtrooms deviate from the traditional wedding cake layout and adopt a flat landscape, placing all parties involved on the same stage and eliminating any sense of superiority or physical partitions. This innovative approach enhances the courtrooms' flexibility in their internal layout, allowing for future reconfigurations. It also promotes a more fluid and harmonious environment by avoiding unnecessary vertical partitions between seating areas, ensuring a seamless integration of the public with other parties of the court. In contrast to being confined to a glass balcony or a segregated space with limited seating, the new courtroom



Fig - 32 View of the Courtroom interior

DESIGN DESCRIPTION



design prioritizes the public, placing them back in the front seats of the judicial process as equal contenders in law. With larger seating capacities and the possibility for more free gatherings around the seating area, people can actively and equally engage in legal proceedings, transforming the courtroom experience into a true public affair.

The façade or walls of the courtrooms play a crucial role in enhancing the ambience and fulfilling the fundamental requirements of a functional courtroom. These courtroom walls consist of two distinct elements: an outer façade made of channel glass and an inner wall adorned with wooden panels. The outer façade extends beyond the building's roof level, protruding into the park, while the wooden wall reaches a height of 4 meters. The translucent nature of the outer wall serves multiple purposes. It allows a soft, diffused light to enter the courtrooms, reducing glare and visibility issues caused by harsh sunlight. Additionally, it enables a visual connection with the outside world, allowing occupants to stay aware of the weather and the time of day. During the evening, the same façade emits a gentle glow due to the presence of wall washers within its cavity, complementing the internal pendant lights, and enhancing the overall illumination and ambience of the courtrooms.

The internal wall features drywall with wood cladding on the interior, creating a striking contrast against the translucent outer façade. The addition of wooden panels not only adds warmth to the space but also significantly contributes to the acoustics of the room. Ensuring proper sound transmission is crucial for all parties involved to hear both amplified and unamplified sounds clearly and accurately. Moreover, the access doors are designed to follow a similar pattern of wood, seamlessly merging with the surrounding panelling. This cohesive design approach enhances the overall aesthetic appeal.

Overall, this façade design not only addresses practical considerations but also contributes to the aesthetics and functionality of the courtroom spaces.

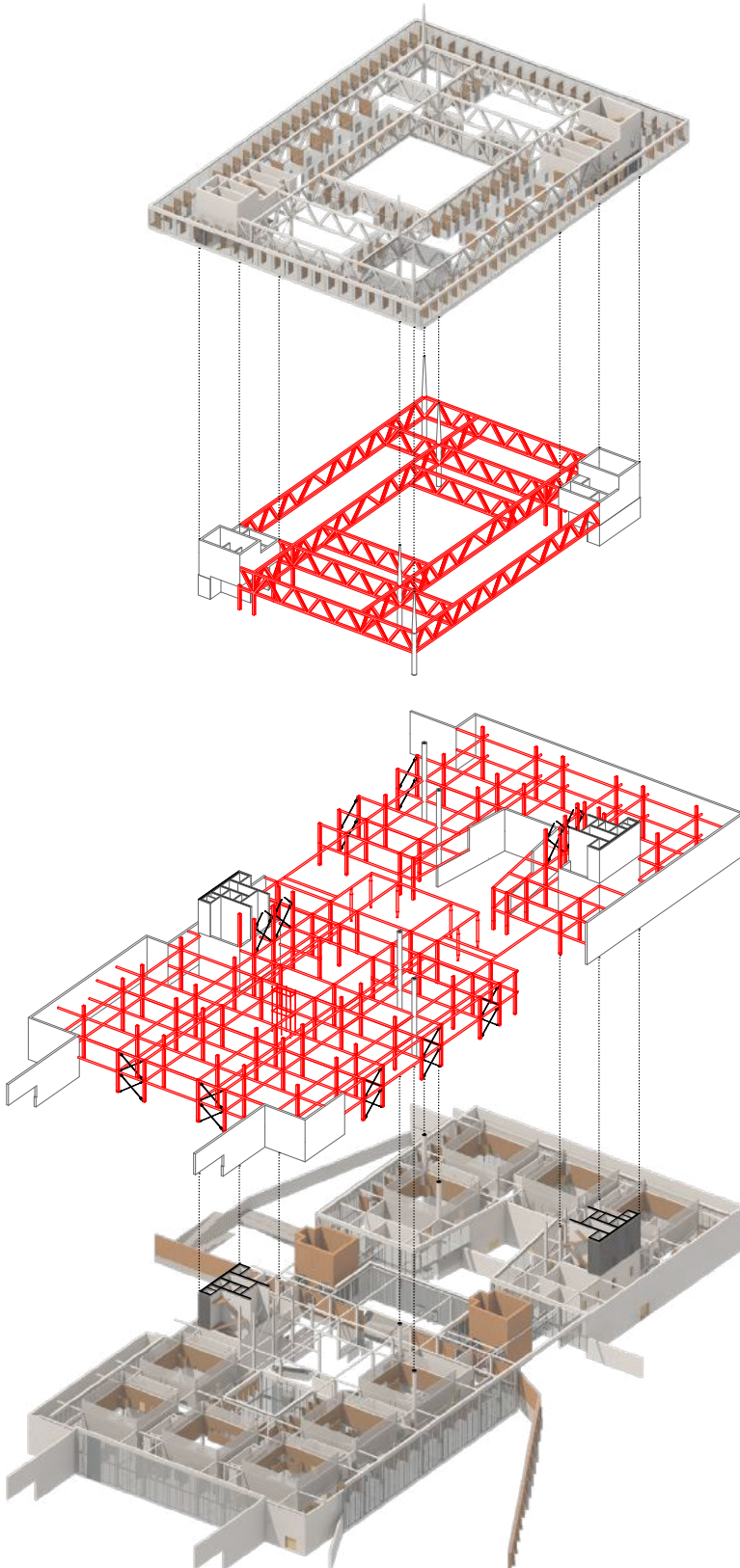


Fig - 33 Structural scheme exploded diagram

05 Technical Concept

5.1 Structure

The fundamental concept of construction methods and structure centres on maximizing the use of dry connections and construction wherever feasible. This approach is aimed at optimizing reuse, facilitating easy expansions, and allowing for future modifications, all within the principles of the Circular economy. The building's structure is primarily divided into two parts: one for the lower floors and another for the elevated office block.

The lower floors feature a recurring structural grid, with measurements alternating between 14m and 7m in both directions. Steel Universal Columns, each measuring 500*500mm and coated with fireproof paint, serve as the primary structural elements, openly displayed within the interiors. This grid size was carefully planned based on the size of the courtroom, allowing for future expansions in any direction. IPE beams support the grid of columns in both directions, except at the periphery where larger square profile box beams are utilized. Additional smaller IPE profiles, oriented in the north-south direction, create intermediate divisions within the larger grid. As for the floor slabs, precast hollow core concrete units are used, resting on the bottom flange of the beam. This design creates a nearly flat floor soffit, showcasing the raw nature of the interior structure. The use of hollow core units serves to minimize embodied carbon and reduce the overall weight of the structure. The entire lower part of the building efficiently distributes its load over a shallow raft foundation.

To ensure external lateral stability, cross braces are employed on every alternate grid of 7m width at the periphery on the lower floors. These cross-bracings adopt a distinctive 'Fork and Spade' connection, inspired by the New York Times building, where rods forming the

cross are coupled and arranged in different planes, resulting in a crossing pattern without any intersections. This design not only eliminates bulky intersection modules but also gives the appearance of slender and unobstructed rods, allowing for clear vision through them.

The elevated office block is supported by a distinct structural system, with its foundation independent of the rest of the building. The block is supported by two diagonally placed cores and two pairs of diagonally placed masts, each of which transfers its loads onto a deeply piled foundation. The cores are constructed using a prefabricated concrete 'twin wall' system, which consists of two thin precast reinforced concrete panels spaced apart and joined together with triangulated rebar. This system eliminates the need for formwork during construction, resulting in a rapid and efficient building process. In areas where the core is exposed to the open, the cavity can be filled with thermal insulation, providing a thermally controlled environment within the core. This design approach ensures proper functionality of the elevated office block.

Apart from the vertical supports, the upper office space comprises a box of Vierendeel trusses, connected to the cores and masts at the corners of the office space. This box structure is composed of 5 pairs of trusses: 2 pairs running along the longer direction and the remaining 3 pairs spanning in the shorter direction, perpendicular to the others. This arrangement offers the possibility of having a central cutout, serving as a balcony with a view of the entrance, while also efficiently reducing the load and stress on the trusses spanning in the longer direction. The load is first transferred to the trusses, which then pass it on to the bottom member of the truss, acting as a transfer girder. Finally, the load is transferred to the cores and masts, ensuring structural integrity and stability for the entire upper office space.

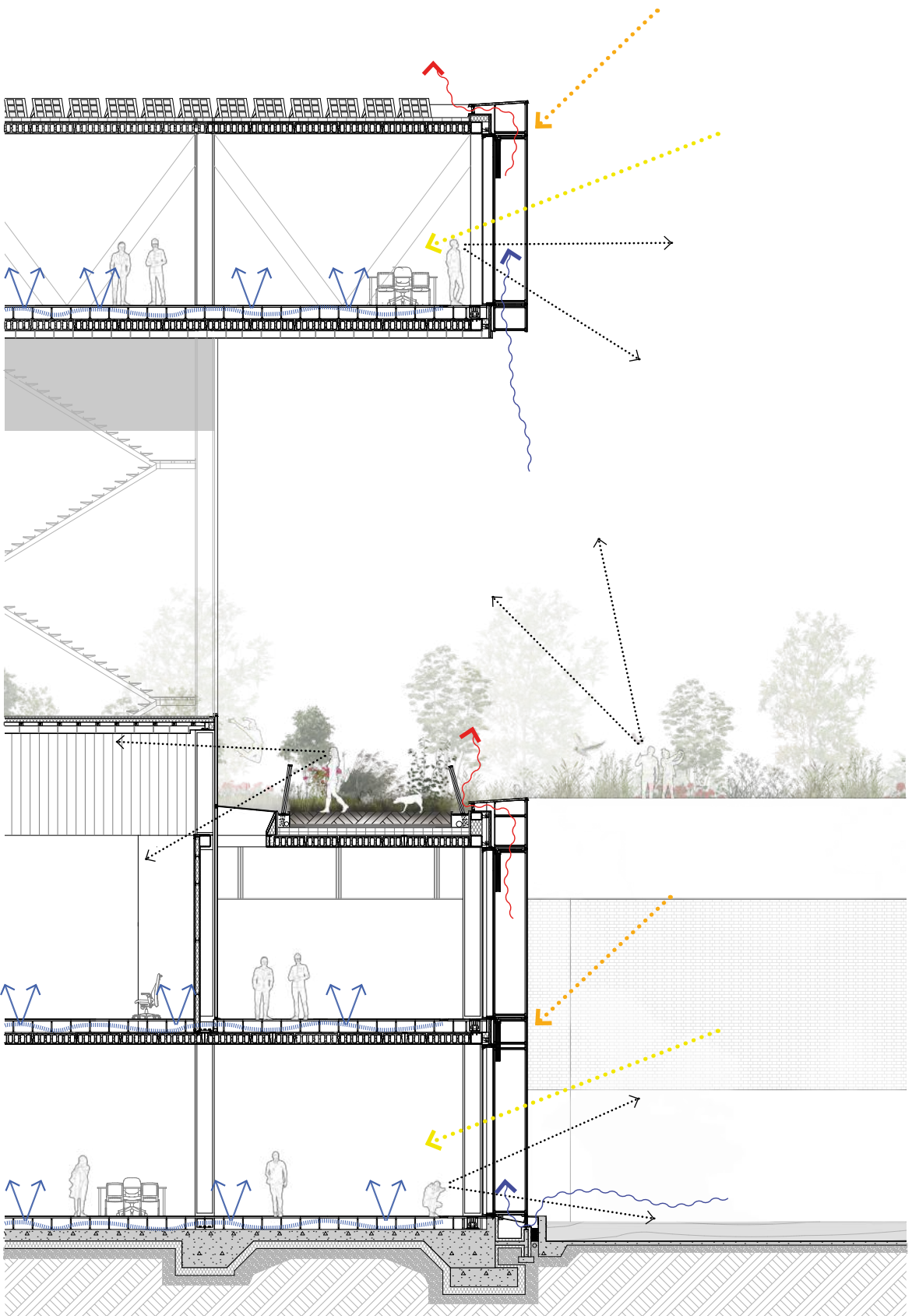


Fig - 34 Wall section

5.2 Climatic strategies and Energy

The complex employs multiple strategies to achieve a high level of sustainability and energy efficiency. Sustainability is deeply integrated into the design, forming a symbiotic relationship with natural elements, and utilizing renewable energy sources, such as photovoltaic panels installed on the roof of the elevated office block. The park serves as an anchor for the complex's sustainable goals, as other strategies revolve around it. The green roof serves as an insulating layer, effectively mitigating drastic temperature fluctuations in the lower floors, which encompass a substantial area of the entire complex. By doing so, it significantly reduces the need for excessive energy consumption for cooling and heating purposes. Moreover, the green roof aids in retaining rainwater and contributes to noise reduction within the interiors.

The complex adopts an open-loop geothermal system for both cooling and heating, capitalizing on the stable groundwater level

and its proximity to the river. Coupled with a displacement ventilation system within the raised floor plenum, delivering fresh air supply. The utilization of a raised floor system offers the advantage of flexibility, enabling easy relocation, modification, or addition of new supply grills in the future, accommodating any layout changes. Moreover, this raised floor approach results in 20% cleaner air as compared to the conventional air supply from the ceiling.

The double skin façade, enveloping the exposed structure, incorporates a ventilated cavity that is controlled by BMS. This system regulates the flow of air through the cavity based on prevailing weather conditions. Furthermore, a solar shading device is integrated within the façade's cavity. Overall, the façade functions as a thermal buffer during summer, effectively moderating temperatures, and facilitating solar gains during winter. This ensures energy efficiency and comfort throughout the year, aligning with the building's sustainability objectives.

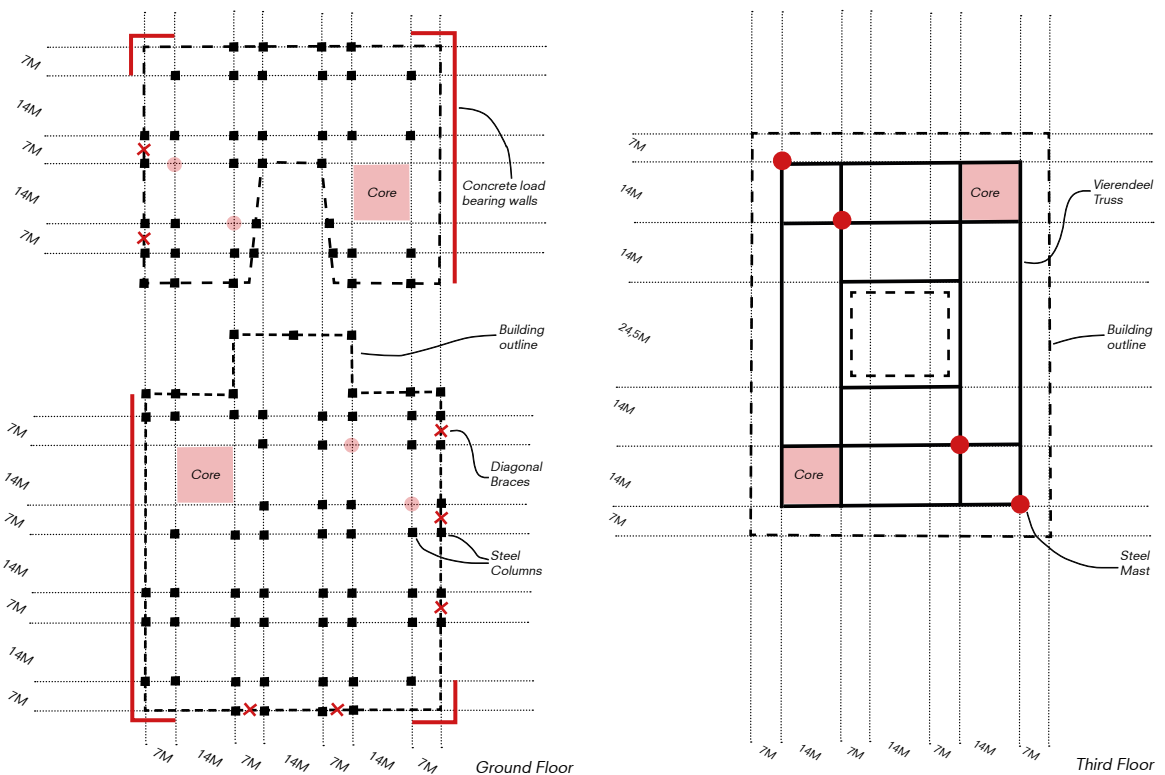


Fig - 35 Structural grid diagram

REFLECTION PAPER

04

The building will stand as a testament to public service, enhancing the daily lives of those passing by, and creating a dignified urban experience that will be cherished for generations to come.

1.1 Relationship between Graduation project and Studio topic

The studio of The Complex Projects under the title "Bodies and Buildings Berlin" looks at large-scale urban studies and interventions across the city of Berlin. The base of the studio classifies 9 typologies of one-of-a-kind buildings in Berlin which further incorporates cross-studio themes further streamlining the research. The very basis of these themes was to develop a rationale and how it correlates to the city of Berlin.

The theme of Culture was the driving point for the base research of the proposal of the New Judicial District. The research finds its base in the people of Berlin leading to the research question which takes about the public nature of the courthouses and the civility of their functions and its ability to be part of the cultural centre of the city of Berlin. The proposed courthouse at the design stage also forms a part of the larger Cultural urban vision of reactivating the Spree River as the cultural core and axis of the city and giving back to Berliners the long-lost connection to water.

Therefore, the intermediate research and the proposed topic of the new Judicial district hold high potential in the study of the correlation of people to its buildings, which at large addresses the studio topic Bodies and Buildings Berlin.

1.2 Relationship between Research and Design

It is a very common notion that research forms the base work from where the Design picks up but personally and how it has been done in this project is that the research and the design form a coherent whole, influencing each other even at the smallest level details in the Design.

Looking at the design proposal and the research

question that help drive it always went hand in hand and at multiple levels in the design process. The research question: How can a courthouse in Berlin be a people's court and reflect its role as a space for civic engagement? which formed the basis of larger ideas of designing a courthouse which forms the centre of public activities and blends into the daily dynamics of people's life. This further developed the research into smaller aspects of what happens in the enclosed public spaces within the building resulting in the study of Space - Place dynamics of how small architectural gesture changes inside the dynamics of a courtroom.

Research should be involved in all stages of the project, this heuristic process enables us to understand, analyse and de-construct the knowledge gathered throughout the process.

1.3 Relationship between the Research method and the approach chosen by the student in relation to the graduation studio

The graduation framework provided by Complex projects and used by students is well planned and structured while permitting gaps to expand your personal interest and research apart from the larger group visions and other analytical typology-based research.

The structure was to develop a design brief built upon the research question, programmatic requirements, client, and users and finally, the site where the proposal would be located. There were multiple methods used to develop the brief including the studio trip to Berlin. The basic research started by formulating the Cultural theme which in a later stage would form the framework for selecting and evaluating different site options to become a part of a larger urban vision. Apart from this, research at the individual level was structured much on the hierarchical levels of understanding and analysing the Judicial systems of Germany and Berlin and its historic pattern of evolution to conclude the project of 3 new courthouses in Berlin.

Parallel to the historical research of courtrooms in Germany and Berlin research about the presence of the public and its relation to the courthouses is done. This includes literature reviews and involves historical and contemporary examples to justify the argument that the presence of public and other civic activities is associated with a courthouse.

Further into the design stage framework from different critical literatures forms the basis of the topic of Space - Place dynamics which eventually would shape the formation of the inner user environment of the courthouse and the activities thereby. Overall, it also adds up to the ambitions of the studio to understand these given typologies of one of a kind in Berlin to see how people and the buildings bend towards each other to give a holistic experience of a space.

1.4 Relationship between the graduation topic and the wider social, professional, and scientific relevance

The courthouse has been formed with the idea of it being a part of a larger public and cultural network. The idea behind this was to retrieve the lost civility of a courthouse which once in history used to be the centre of all the civic activities of the town and in the centre of the city which has now been converted into an architectural type and has been moved far away from the centre making it a more isolated public building.

Bringing the law back to the city centre would allow more people to be part of it and how their involvement would shape the decisions taken and how people's opinions could play a vital role in judicial systems. Eventually making it more public-oriented and a people court where they freely participate on a day-to-day basis.

Looking at the future idea of a modern public space and the court being a part of it will not only reflect the needs of the dynamic group of

Berliners who are present now but for different purposes and will generate an atmosphere where the city and the law can share the space but different urban life. The gesture of courtrooms becoming a part of the active landscape on the roof not only breaks the historical security barrier but helps dilute the threshold that separates the city to participate in law.

1.5 Relationship between the studio outcome and the value of transferability

The outcome of design does try to spread itself in multiple directions to try and bring the essence of a modern courthouse space which might overcome several unseen problems developed into the minds of people and how they feel within the building. It does try to overcome the unseen barriers of society and the courthouse but takes more of a philosophical approach wherein quoting Kafka and his story before the law and many other philosophical gestures that compose the final design.

It does coincide with how the German government and the system portray the German judicial system that it is fair, completely accessible and uses a corrective method of punishing. It is said that the system is transparent, the design brings this idea of transparency not just physically but also how it seamlessly becomes part of other activities that take place in and around the site. It full fills the responsibility to the streets and plazas and to the people who pass by them. Unconsciously making the courthouse a backdrop for people's daily itineraries.

DRAWING SET

05

Plans
Sections
Elevations
Fragments
Details

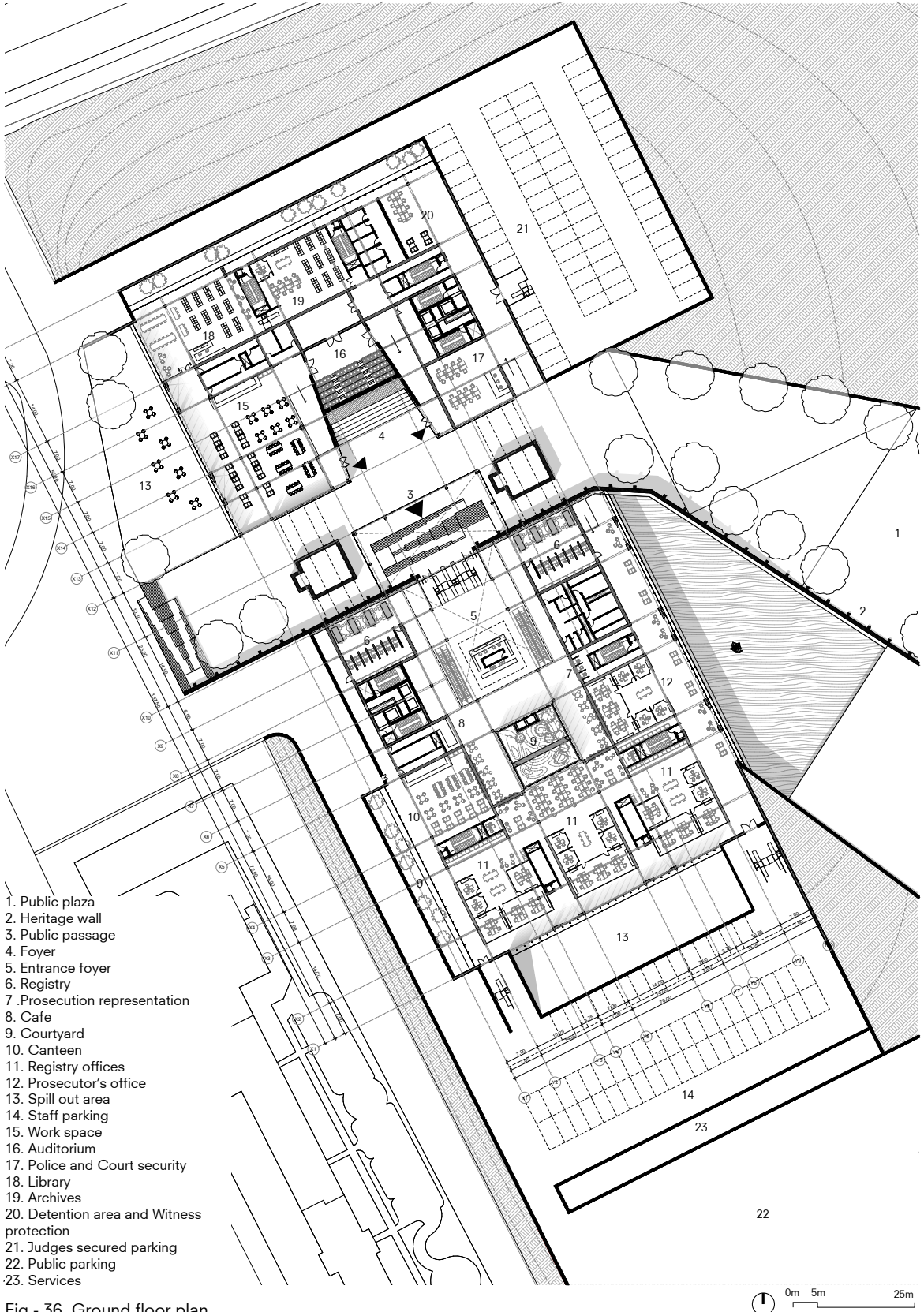


Fig - 36. Ground floor plan



Fig - 37 First floor plan



Fig - 38 Landscape plan



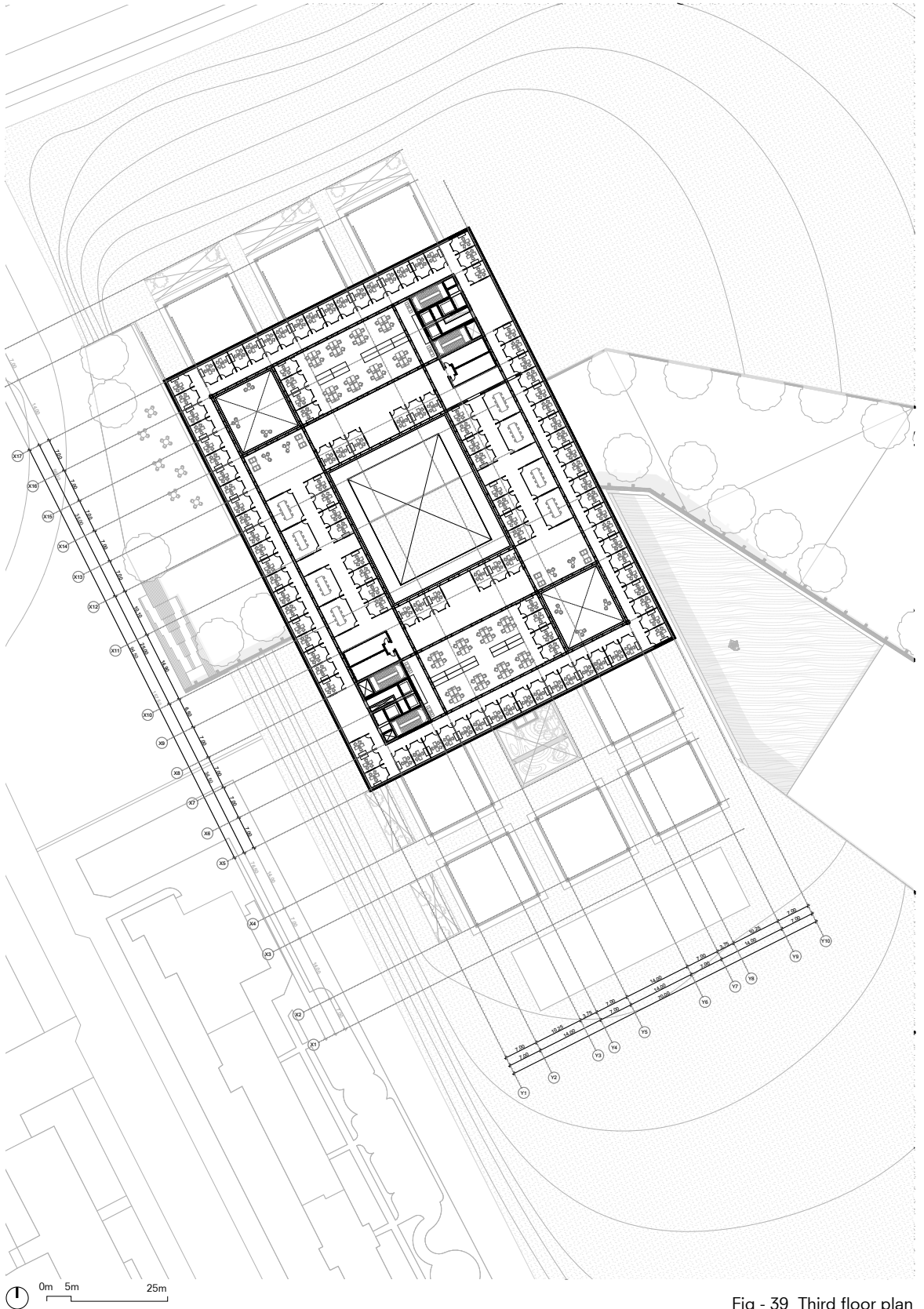


Fig - 39 Third floor plan

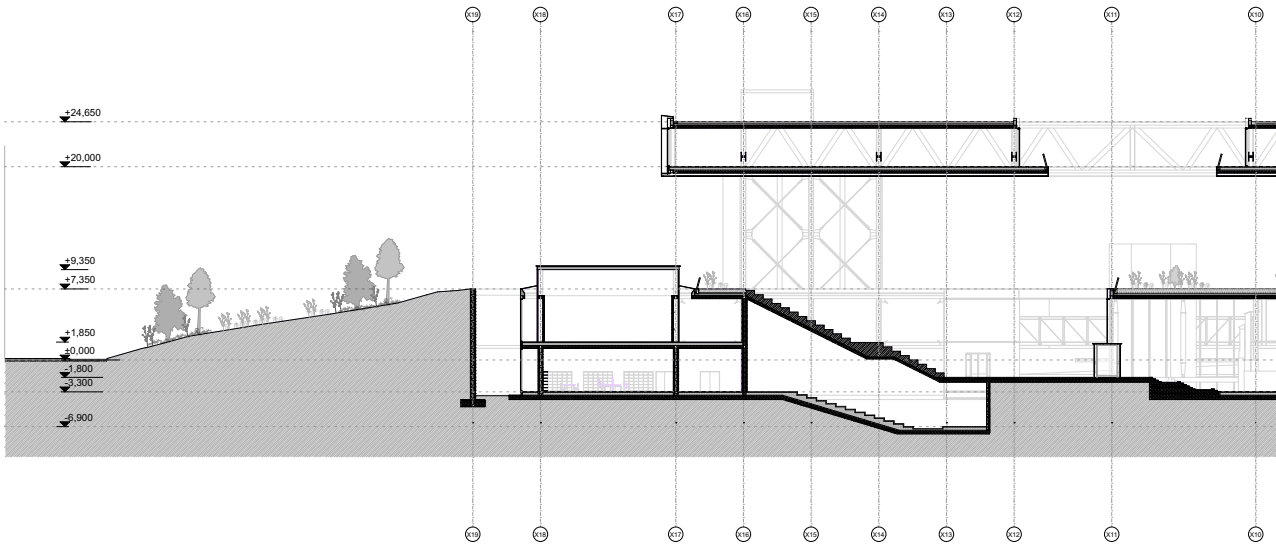


Fig - 40 Section 1

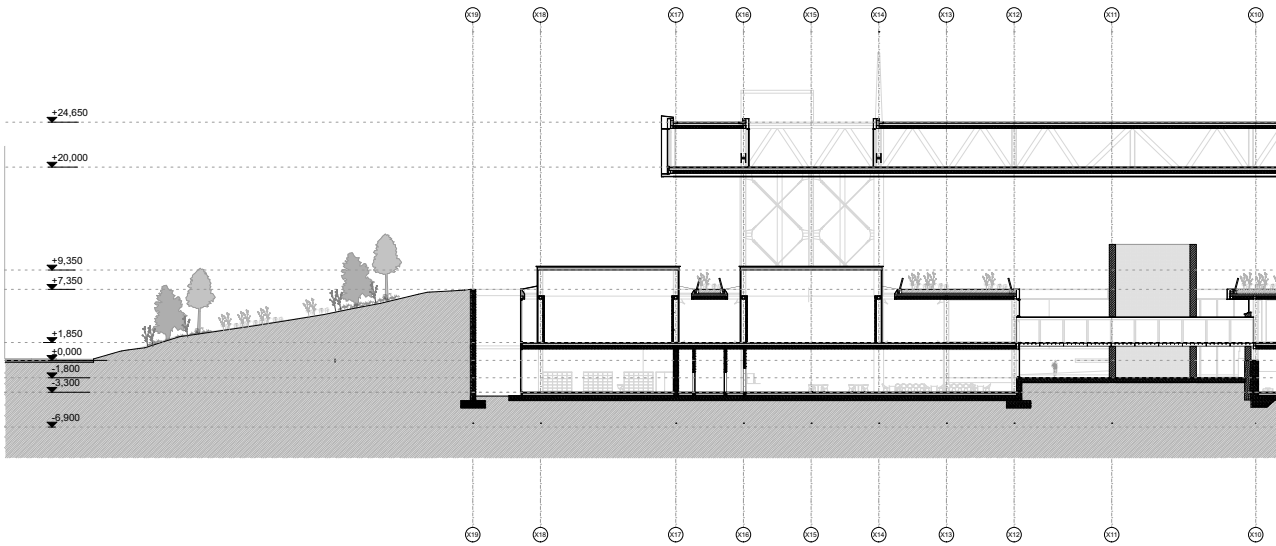
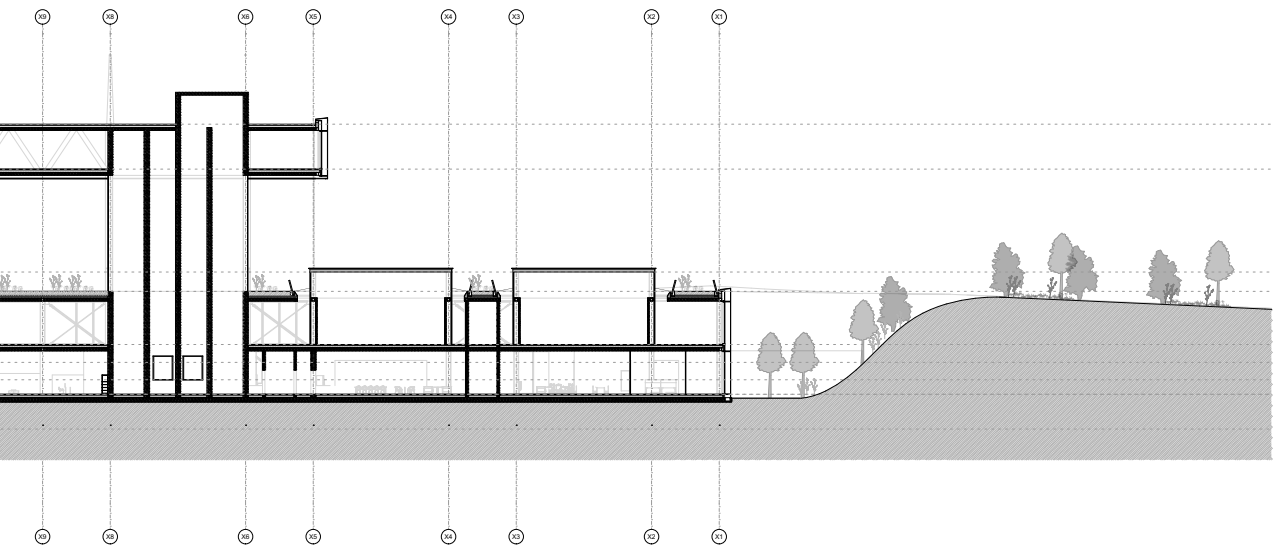
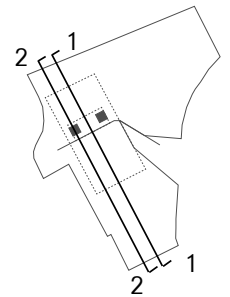


Fig - 41 Section 2



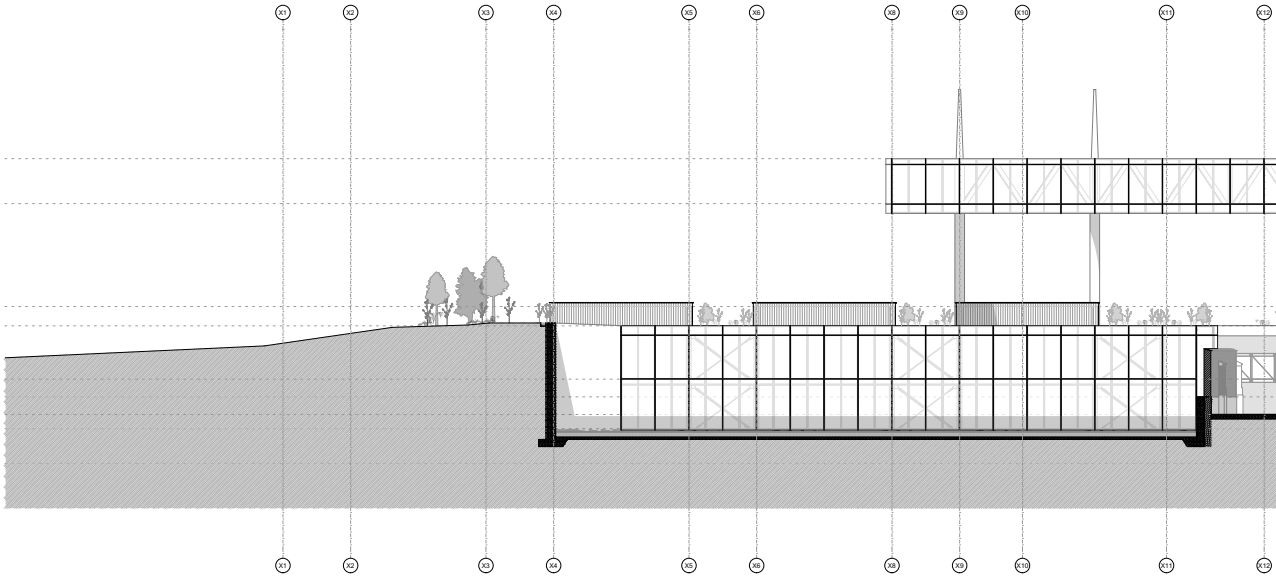


Fig - 42 Elevation 1

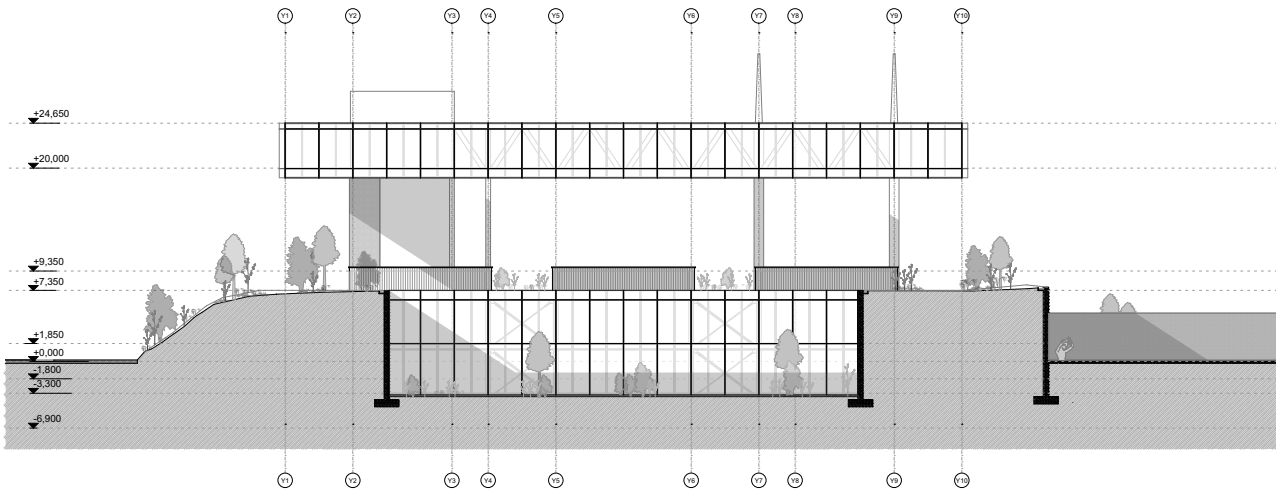
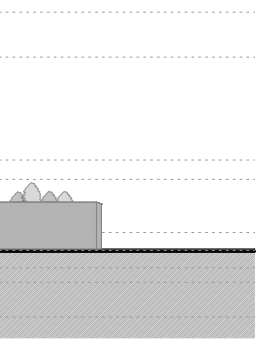
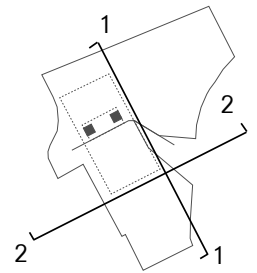
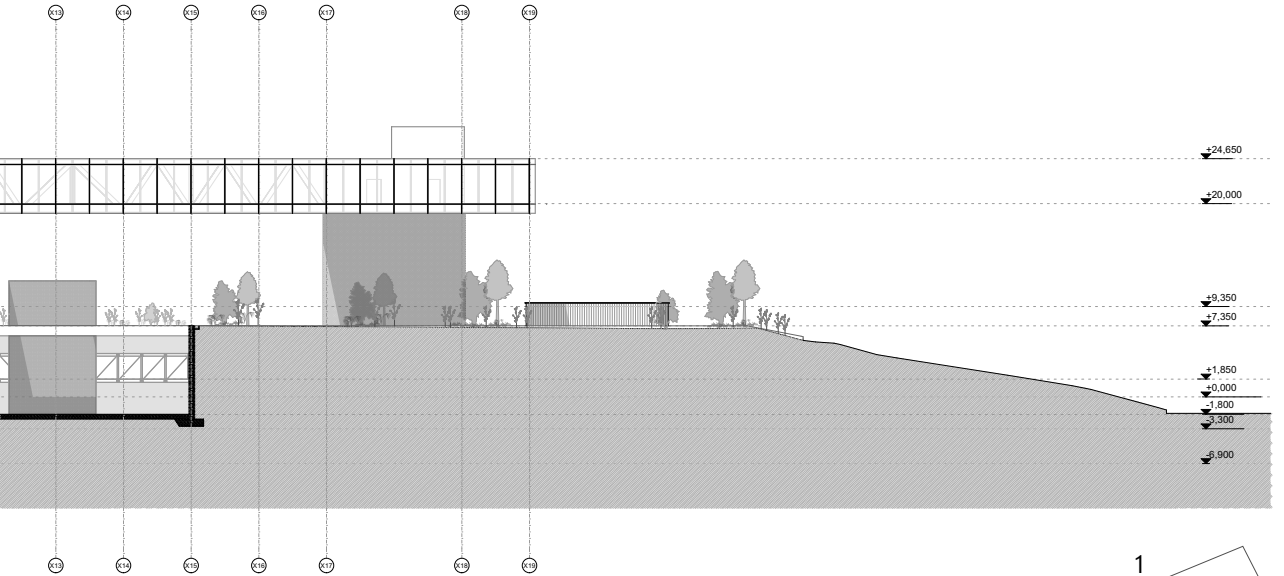


Fig - 43 Elevation 2



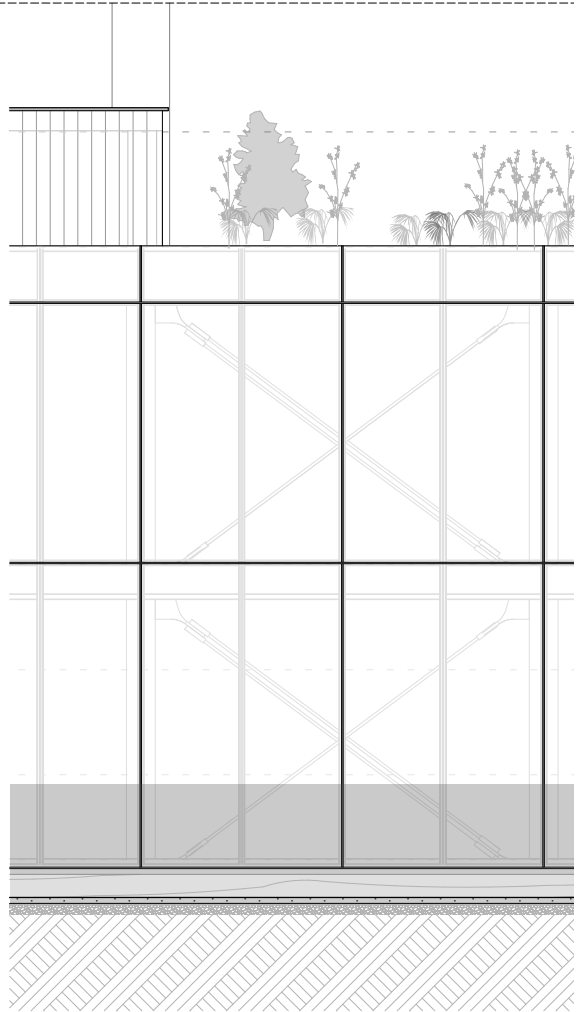
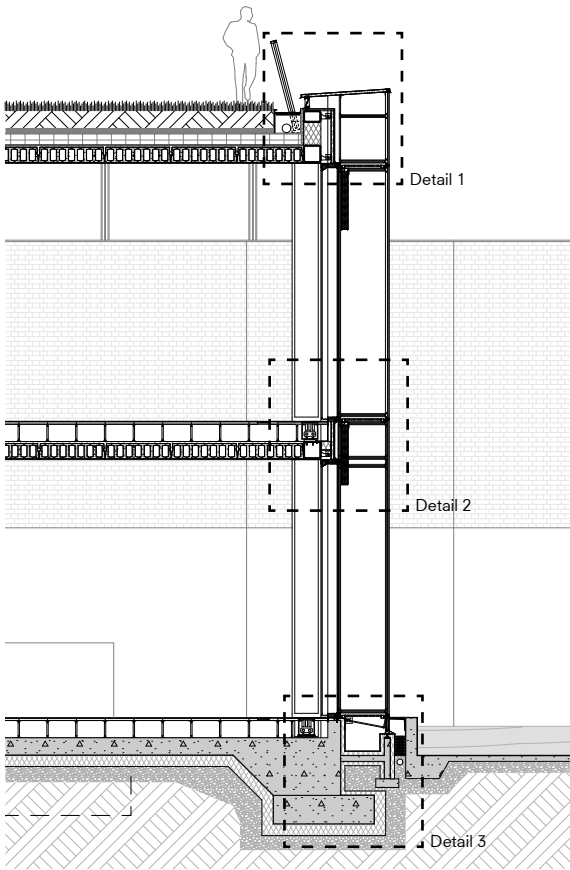
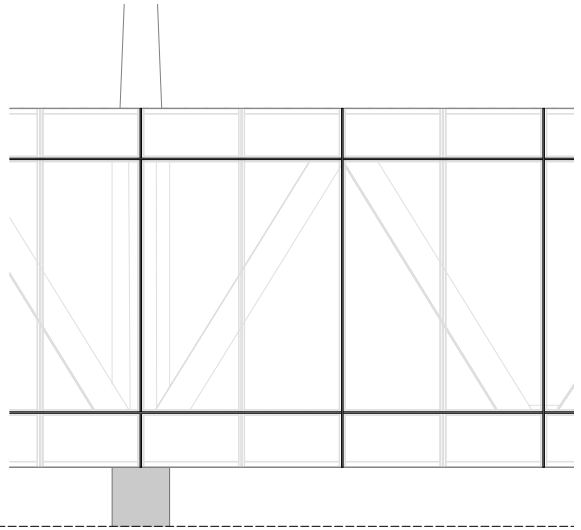
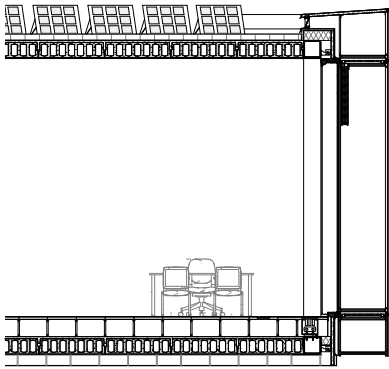


Fig - 44 Fragment 1

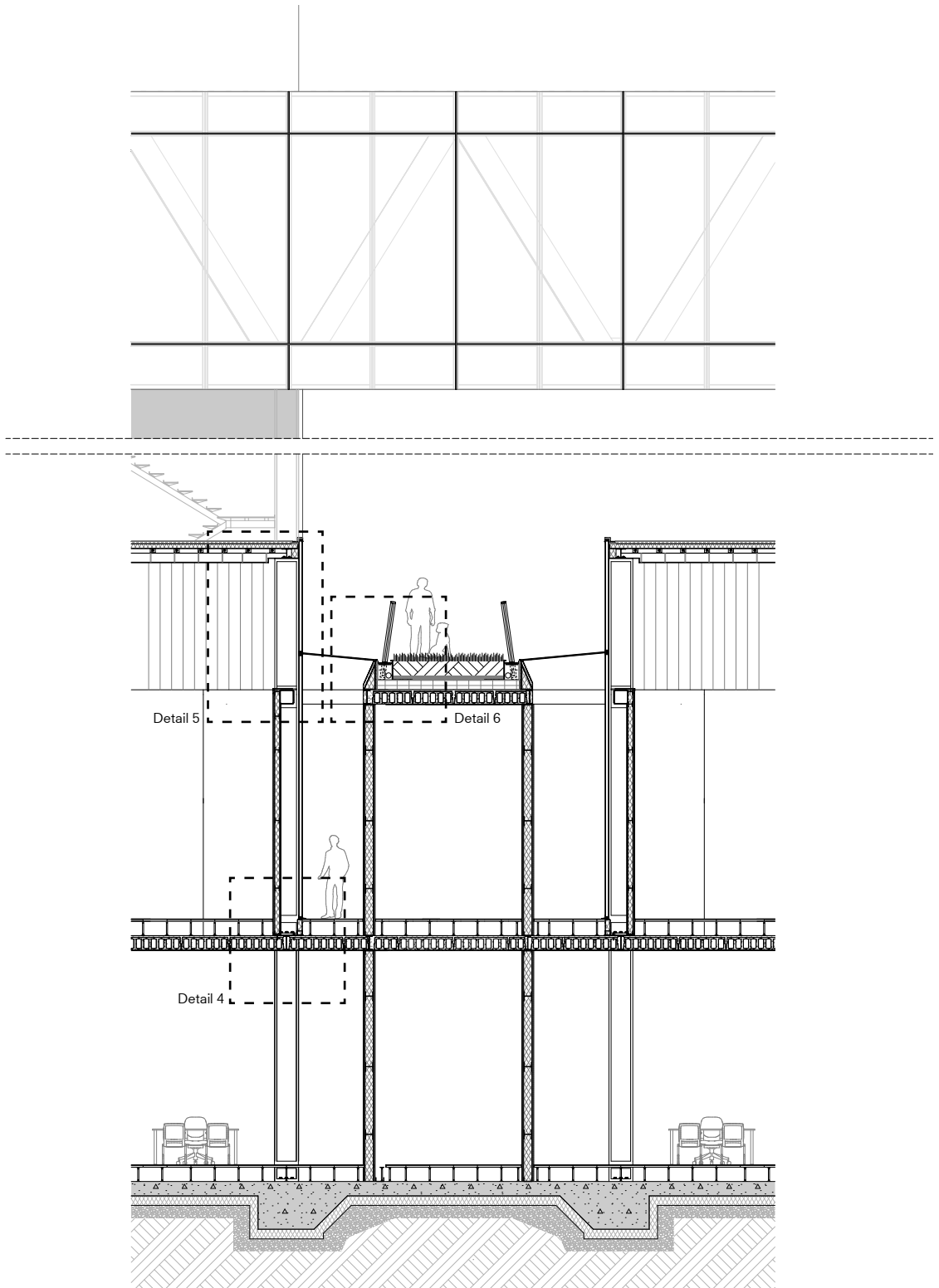
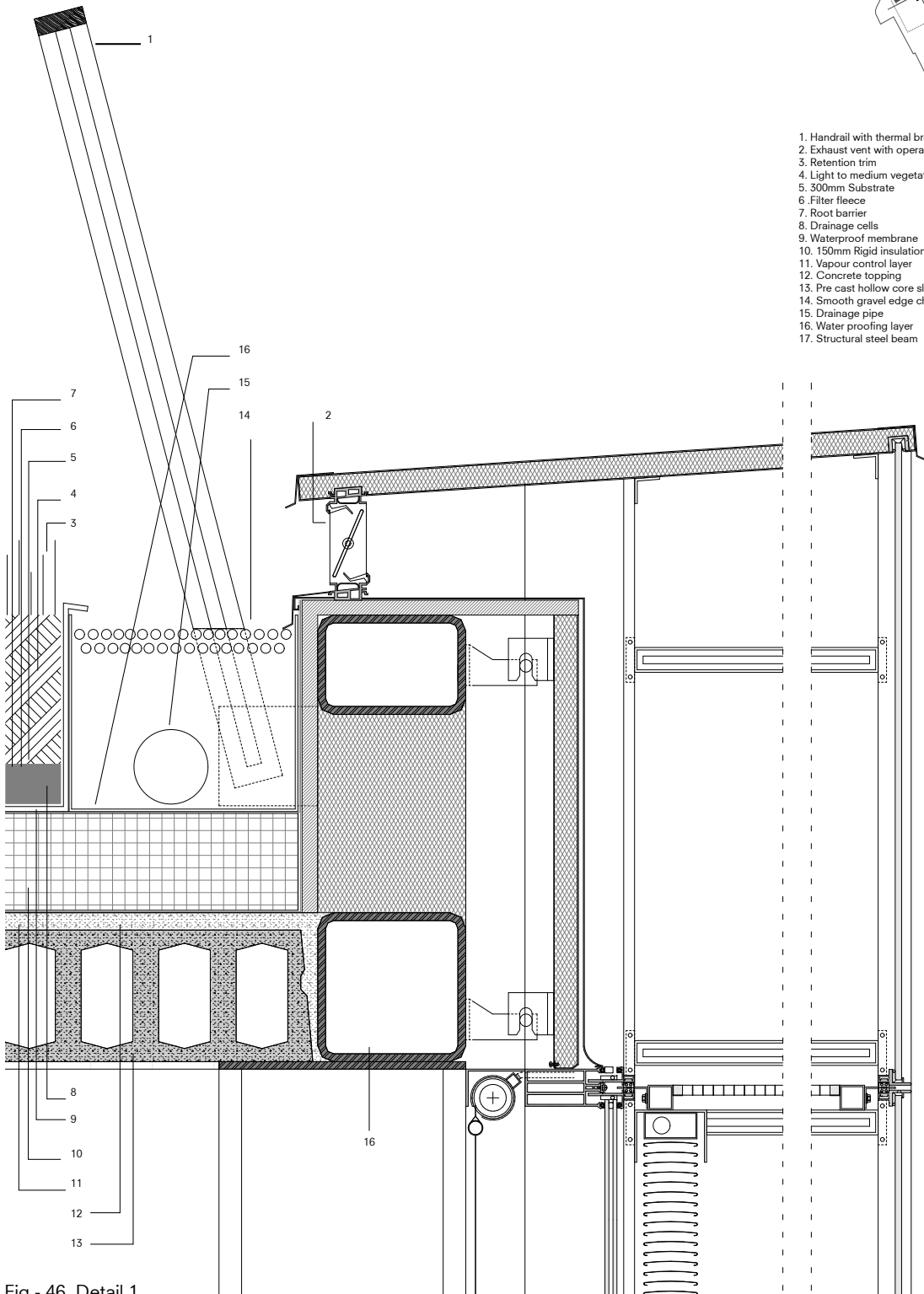
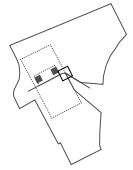
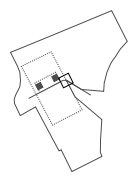


Fig - 45 Fragment 2



1. Handrail with thermal break
2. Exhaust vent with operable louvre
3. Retention trim
4. Light to medium vegetation
5. 300mm Substrate
6. Filter fleece
7. Root barrier
8. Drainage cells
9. Waterproof membrane
10. 150mm Rigid insulation
11. Vapour control layer
12. Concrete topping
13. Pre cast hollow core slab
14. Smooth gravel edge channel
15. Drainage pipe
16. Water proofing layer
17. Structural steel beam

Fig - 46. Detail 1



1. Outer facade glazing : laminated safety glass
2. Blind with perforated lightweight metal louvres
3. Inner facade : double glazing insulated glass
4. Interior blinds
5. Monolithic spandrels glass
6. Back pan with insulation
7. Extruded bracket
8. Carpet tile floor finish
9. Raised access floor as Plenum
10. Concrete topping
11. Pre cast hollow core slab
12. Perimeter heating trough with grill
13. Service catwalk - grating

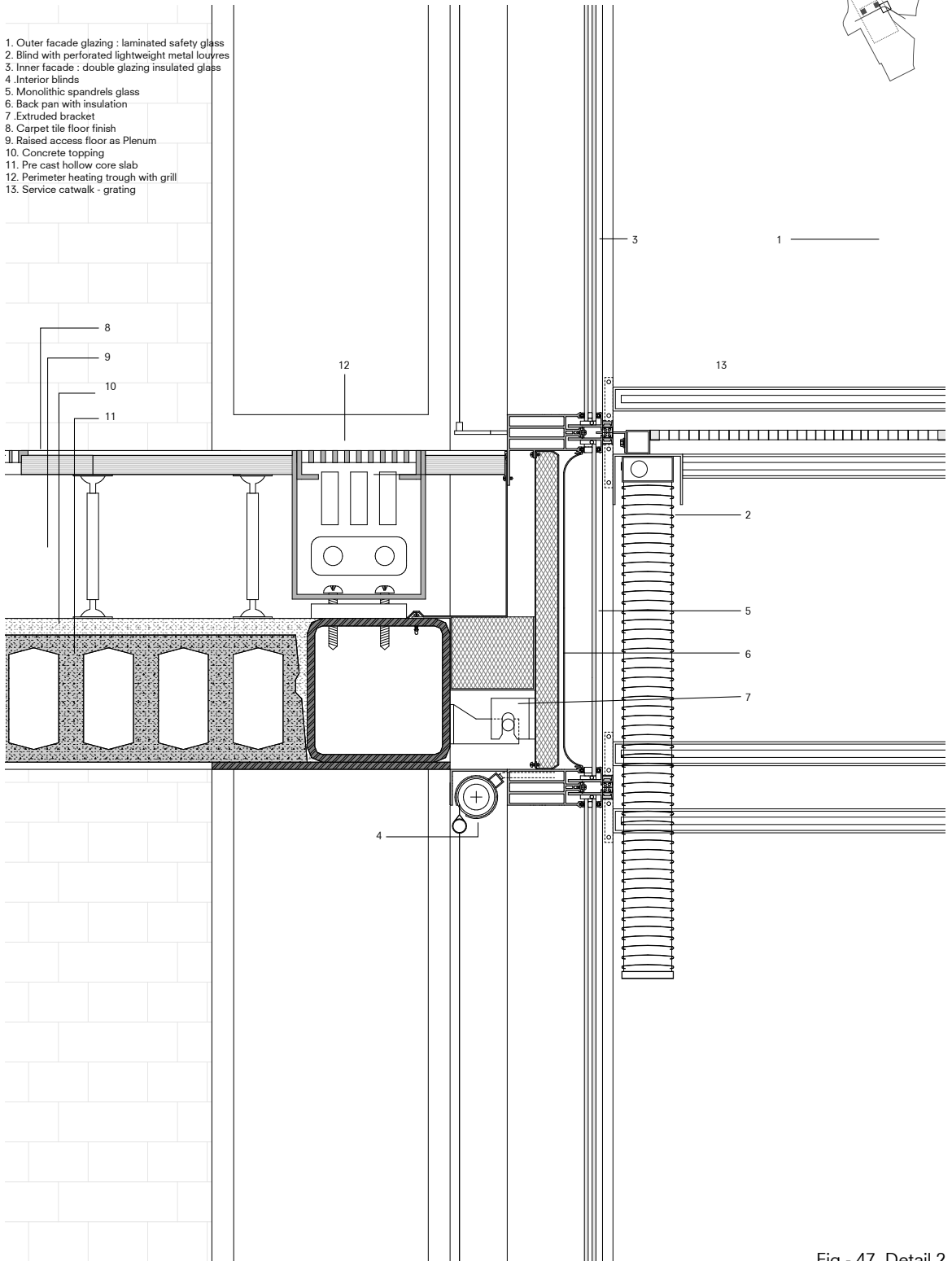
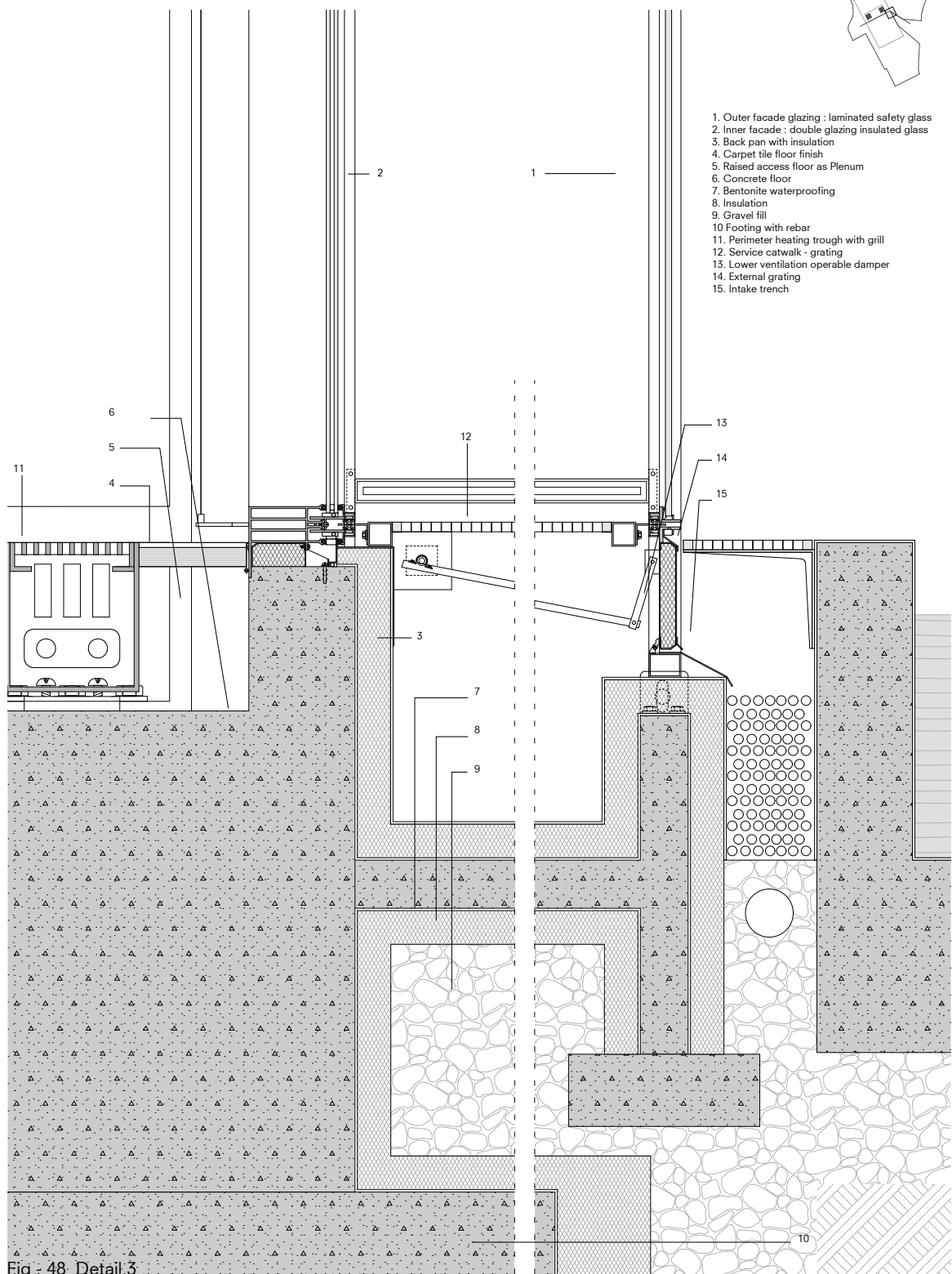
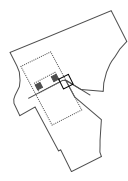


Fig - 47. Detail 2



1. Outer facade glazing : laminated safety glass
2. Inner facade : double glazing insulated glass
3. Back pan with insulation
4. Carpet tile floor finish
5. Raised access floor as Plenum
6. Concrete floor
7. Bentonite waterproofing
8. Insulation
9. Gravel fill
10. Footing with rebar
11. Perimeter heating trough with grill
12. Service catwalk - grating
13. Lower ventilation operable damper
14. External grating
15. Intake trench

Fig - 48 - Detail 3

1. Dry wall assembly; Plaster board
2. Fireline board
3. Insulation
4. Intermediate studs
5. Floor channel wrapped with moisture barrier
6. Dry wall assembly with internal wooden panel in courtrooms
7. Carpet tile floor finish
8. Raised access floor as Plenum
9. Concrete topping
10. Precast hollow core slab

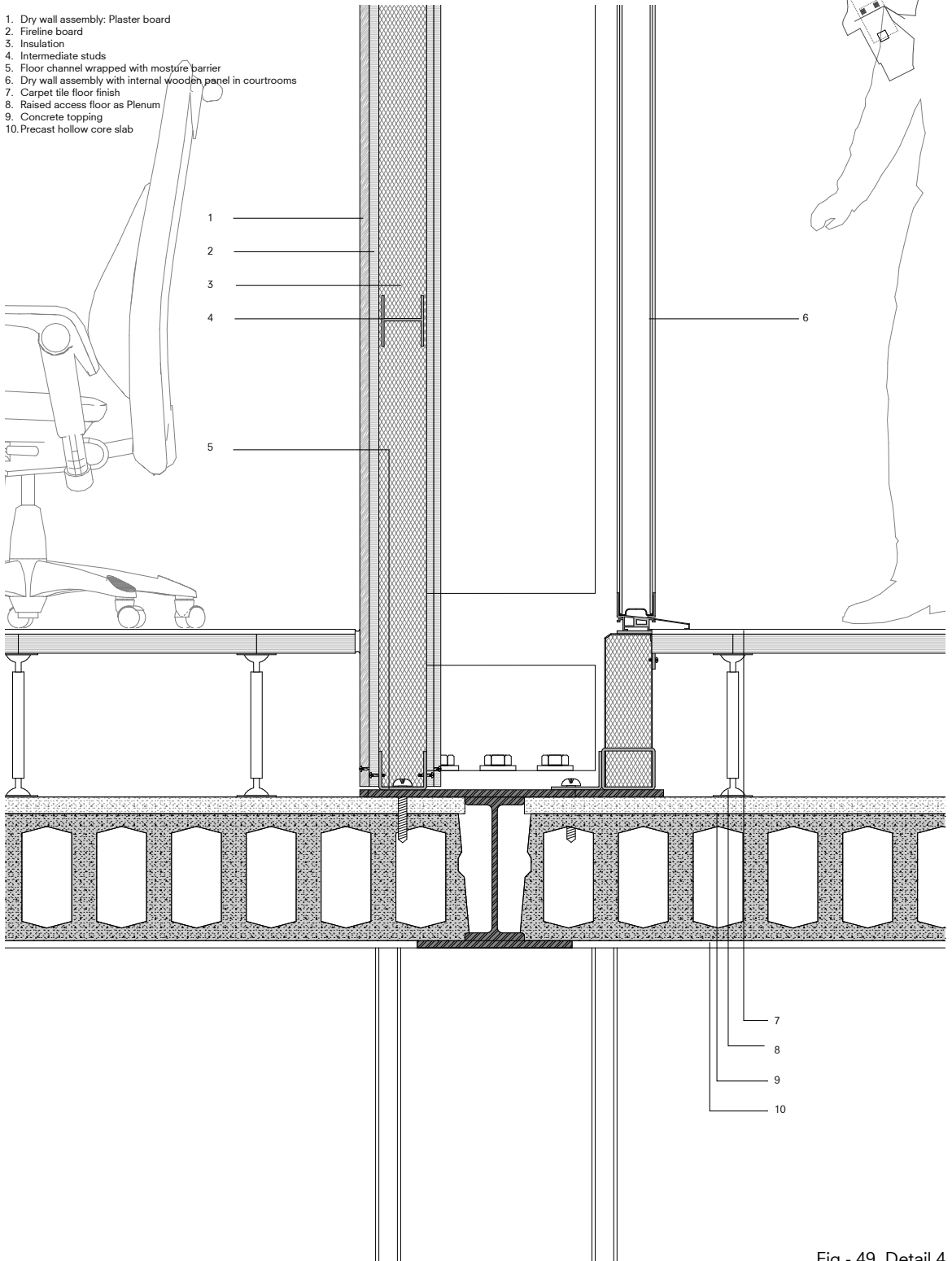


Fig - 49 Detail 4

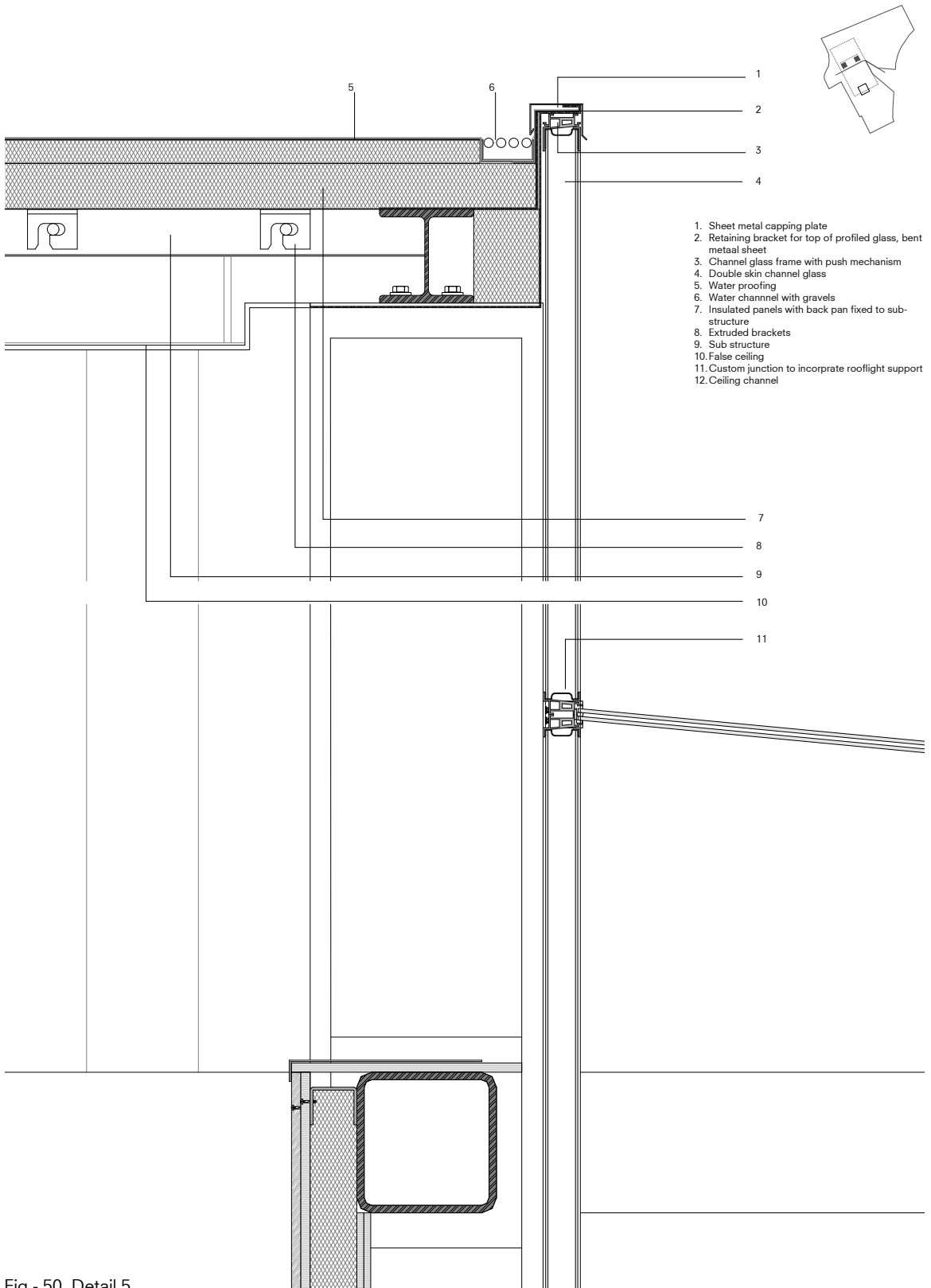


Fig - 50 Detail 5

1. Thermally insulated rooflight support
2. Insulated rooflight - 12mm toughened glass + 8 mm laminated glass
3. Steel angle with cover sheet
4. Retention trim
5. Light to medium vegetation
6. 300mm Substrate
7. Filter fleece
8. Root barrier
9. Drainage cells
10. Waterproof membrane
11. 150mm Rigid insulation
12. Vapour control layer
13. Concrete topping
14. Precast hollow core slab

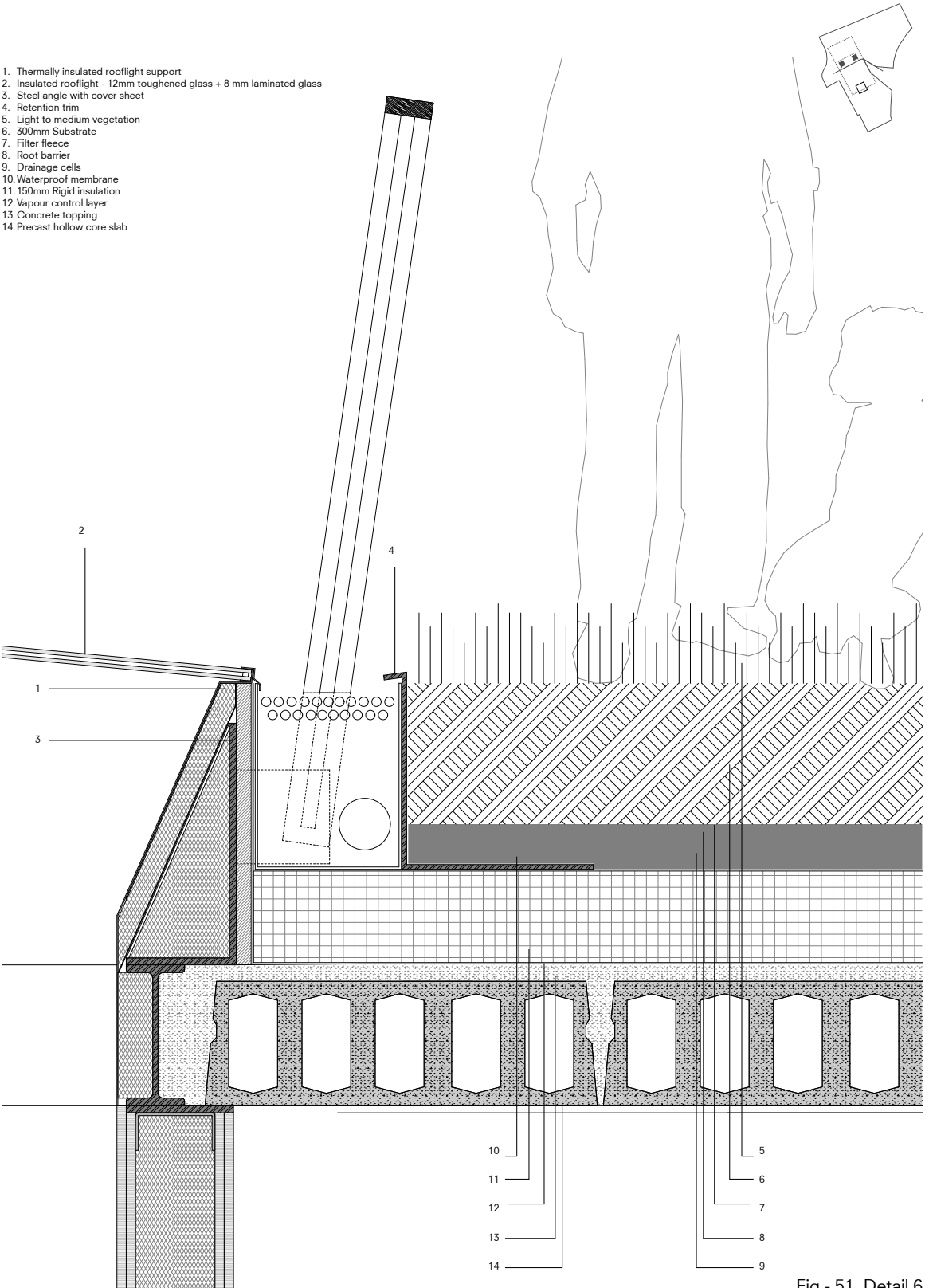


Fig - 51 Detail 6

APPENDIX

06



Appx - 1. 1996 Berlin - Brandenburg fusion referendum advertisement

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fusion_of_Berlin_and_Brandenburg#/media/File:1996_Berlin-Brandenburg_fusion_referendum_advertisement.jpg



Appx - 2. 1996 Berlin - Brandenburg fusion referendum cartoon after its failure

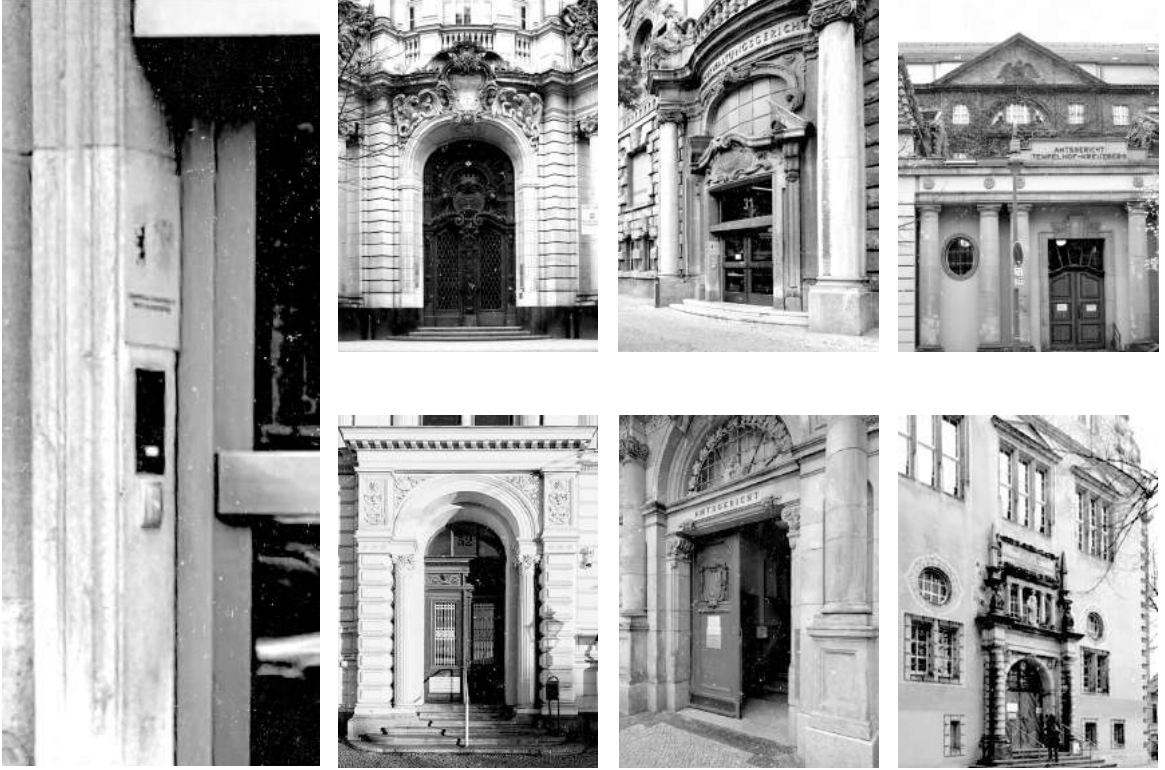
Source:



Appx - 3. Merger of higher courts of Berlin and Brandenburg
Source: <https://www.alamy.com/labor-court-berlin-germany-image435449096.html>



Appx - 4. The official Berlin- Brandenburg was never successful
Source: Edited image



Appx - 5. Closed doors
Source: Google images



Federal Ministry
of Justice

Federal Office
of Justice

Courts Constitution Act

(Gerichtsverfassungsgesetz – VVG)

Full citation: Courts Constitution Act in the revised version published on 9 May 1975 (Federal Law Gazette I p. 1077), as last amended by Article 8 of the Act of 7 July 2021 (Federal Law Gazette I, p. 2363)

Fourteenth Title Publicity and court officers

Section 169

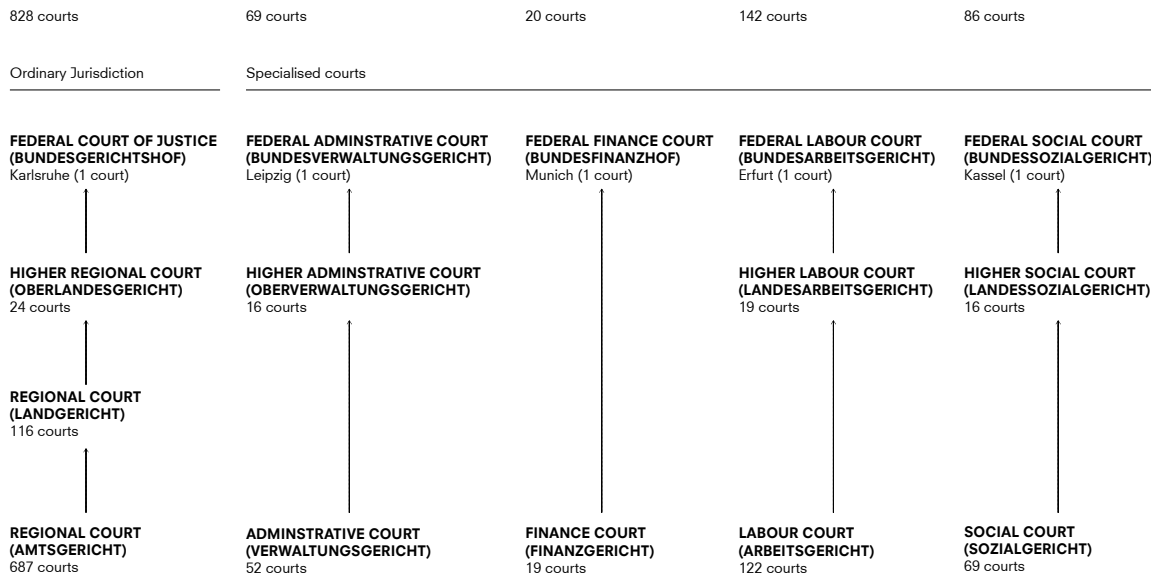
(1) Hearings before the adjudicating court, including the pronouncement of judgments and rulings, shall be public. Audio and television or radio recordings as well as audio and film recordings intended for public presentation or for publication of their content shall be inadmissible. Audio transmissions to a workspace for persons reporting for the press, radio, television or other media may be authorised by the court. Audio transmissions may, in part, be prohibited in order to protect the legitimate interests of the parties or of third parties or to ensure the proper course of proceedings. In all other respects, sentence 2 shall apply to audio transmission to a workspace accordingly.

Appx - 6. Accessibility to Courthouse and proceedings
Source: https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_bverfgg/englisch_bverfgg.html

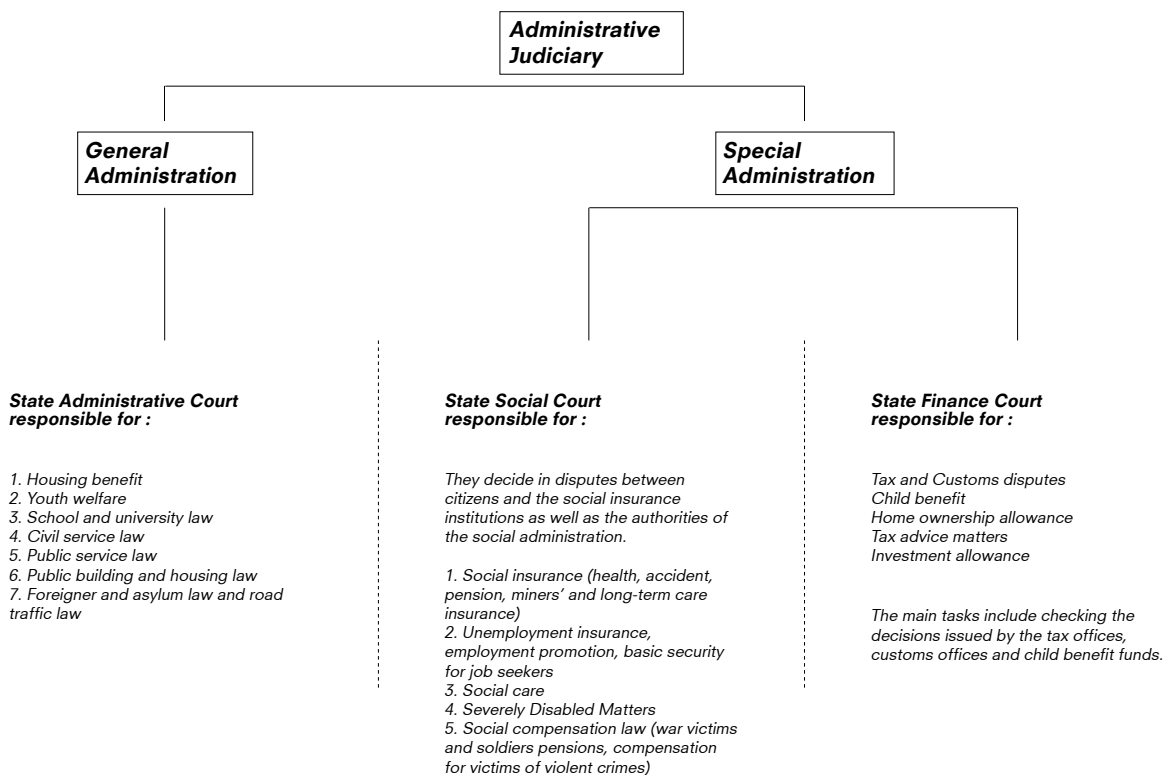
FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL COURT (BUNDESVERFASSUNGSGERICHT)

Karlsruhe

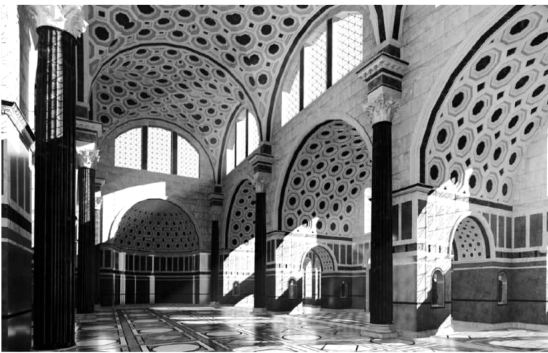
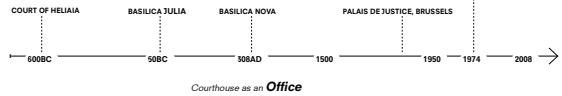
CONSTITUTIONAL COURTS OF THE STATES (16 COURTS)



Appx - 7. German Court system



Appx - 8. Reasons behind combining the 3 courts



Appx - 9. Time line of courthouse evolution

Source: https://www.gesetze-im-internet.de/englisch_bverfgg/englisch_bverfgg.html

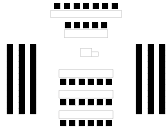
Courthouses were often indistinguishable from other public buildings; this Architectural silence was dangerous as the erosion of legal symbolism . . . threaten the very foundations of the legal system.



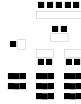
Appx - 10. Antoine Garapon, a French essayist and magistrate
Source: <https://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/people/antoine-garapon>



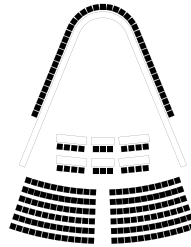
Appx - 11. Civil Rights Memorial, Southern Poverty Law Center, Montgomery, Alabama
Source: <https://www.gettyimages.co.uk/detail/photo/civil-rights-memorial-by-mya-lin-in-front-of-the-royalty-free-image/520318798?adppopup=true>



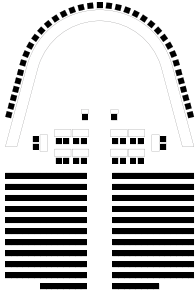
County Court, UK



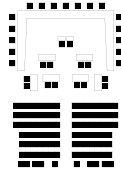
East African Court of Justice, Tanzania



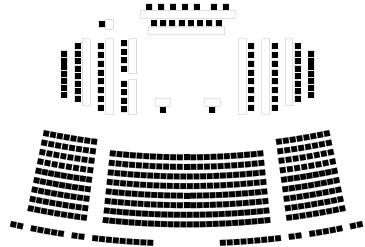
European Court of Human Rights, France



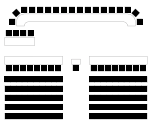
European Court of Justice, Luxembourg
Courtroom 1



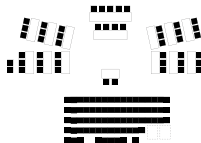
European Court of Justice, Luxembourg
Courtroom 2



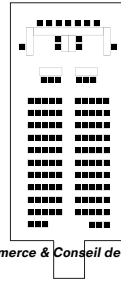
Extraordinary Chamber in the Courts of Cambodia



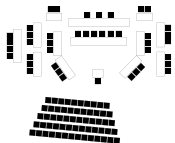
International Court of Justice, Netherlands



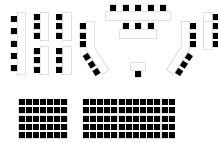
International Criminal Court, Netherlands



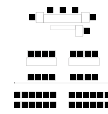
Tribunal de Commerce & Conseil de Prud'hommes, France



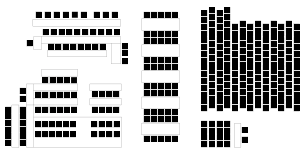
International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda



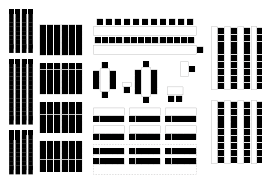
International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia



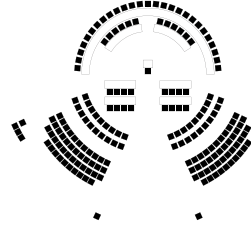
The Palace of Justice, Antwerp



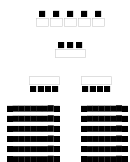
International Military Tribunal, Nuremberg trials



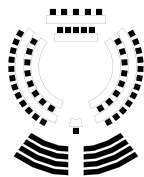
International Military Tribunal, Tokyo trials



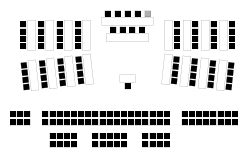
International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Germany



Southern African Development Community Tribunal,
Namibia



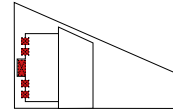
Special Court for Sierra Leone



St. Louis City Municipal Court, Missouri

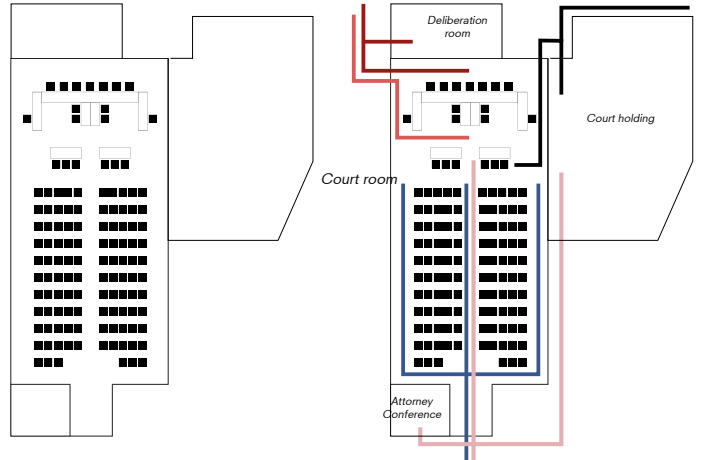


Courtroom arrangement :
Area - 170 sqm
No of seats - 106
Panel of Judges - 5 to 7



Skylights for Natural light in the court rooms above the Judges dias.

- Judges
- Public
- Judicial staff
- Attorney conference



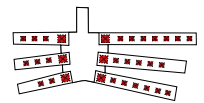
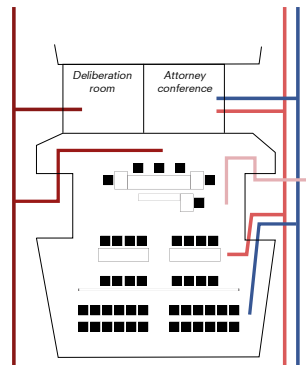
Plan

Flows within the court room

Appx - 13. Courtroom study - Tribunal de Commerce & Consil De Prud'hommes, Bobigny, France



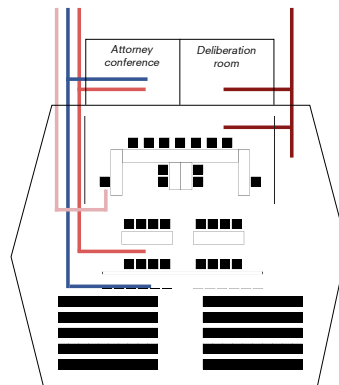
Courtroom arrangement 1
Area - 80 sqm
No of courts - 30
No of seats - 24
Panel of Judges - 1 to 3



Skylights for Natural light in the court rooms



Courtroom arrangement 2
Area - 225 sqm
No of courts - 6
No of seats - 100
Panel of Judges - 5 to 7



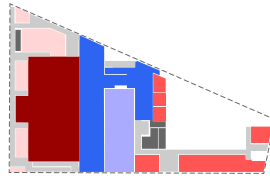
- Judges
- Public
- Judicial staff
- Attorney conference

Appx - 14. Courtroom study - Palace of Justice, Antwerp, Belgium

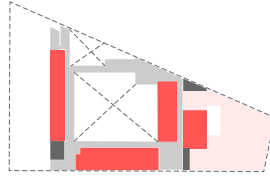


Location - Bobigny, France
Architect - Ateliers 2/3/4/
Year - 2010
Built up area - 7,000 sqm
Ground coverage - 2,800 Sqm
Floors - 4
Number of Court rooms - 5

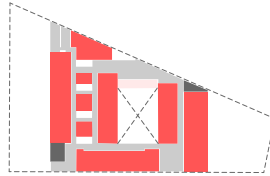
■ Courtroom
 ■ Judicial office
 ■ Public space
 ■ Circulation
■ Other office
 ■ Public amenities
 ■ Parking
 ■ Services



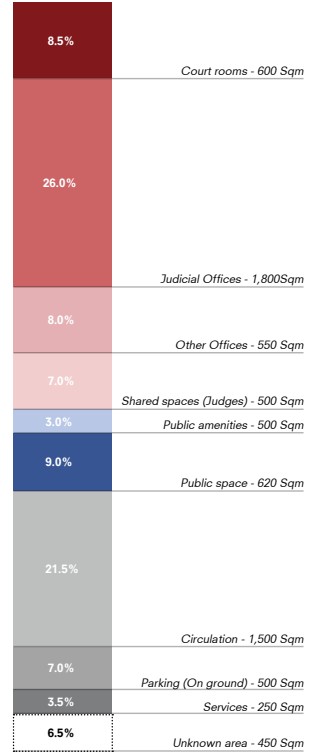
Ground floor



First floor



Second floor

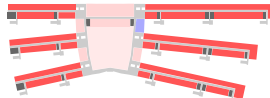


Appx - 15. Case study - Tribunal de Commerce & Conseil de Prud'hommes, Bobigny, France

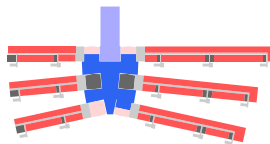


Location - Antwerp, Belgium
Architect - Richard Rogers
Year - 2005
Built up area - 77,000 sqm
Ground coverage - 15,600 Sqm
Floors - 6
Number of Court rooms - 36

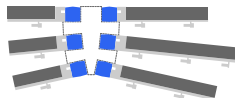
■ Courtroom
 ■ Judicial office
 ■ Public space
 ■ Circulation
■ Other office
 ■ Public amenities
 ■ Parking
 ■ Services



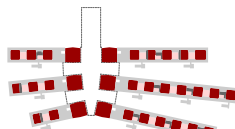
Ground floor and First floor



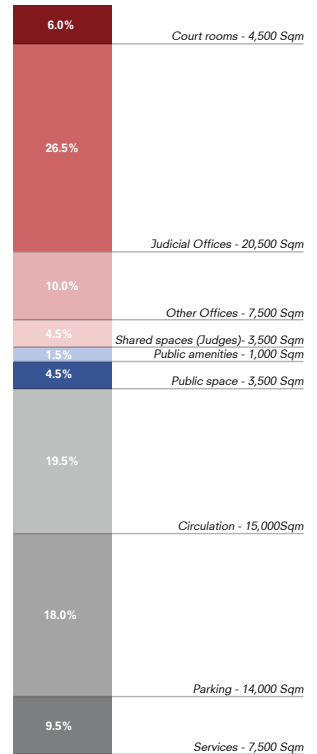
Second floor



Mezzanine



Second floor

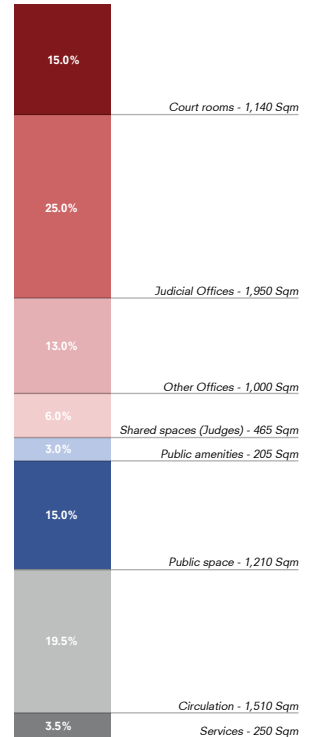
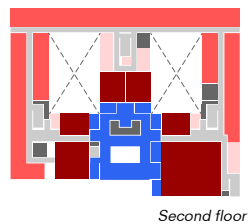
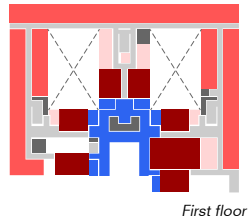
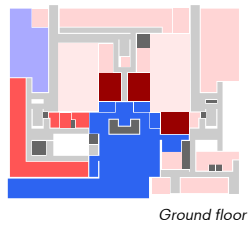


Appx - 16. Case study - Palace of Justice, Antwerp, Belgium



Location - Siedlce, Poland
Architect - HRA Architects
Year - 2016
Built up area - 7,850 sqm
Ground coverage - 3,500 Sqm
Floors - 3
Number of Court rooms - 12

■ Courtroom ■ Judicial office ■ Public space ■ Circulation
 ■ Other office ■ Public amenities ■ Parking ■ Services

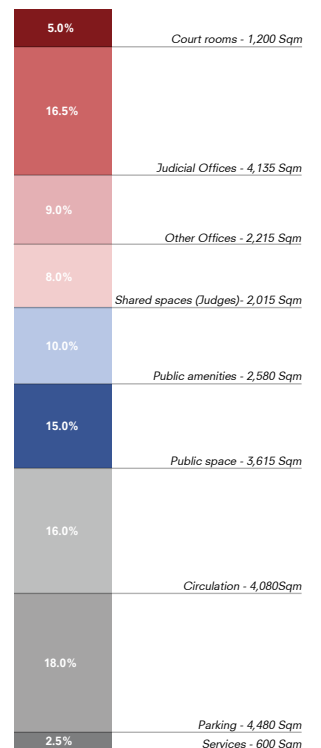
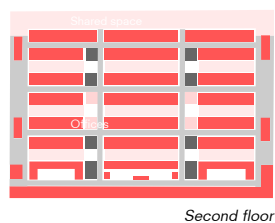
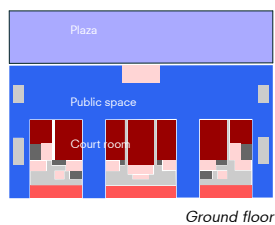
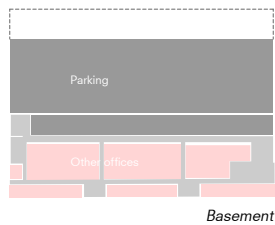


Appx - 17. Case study - Regional court building, Siedlce, Poland

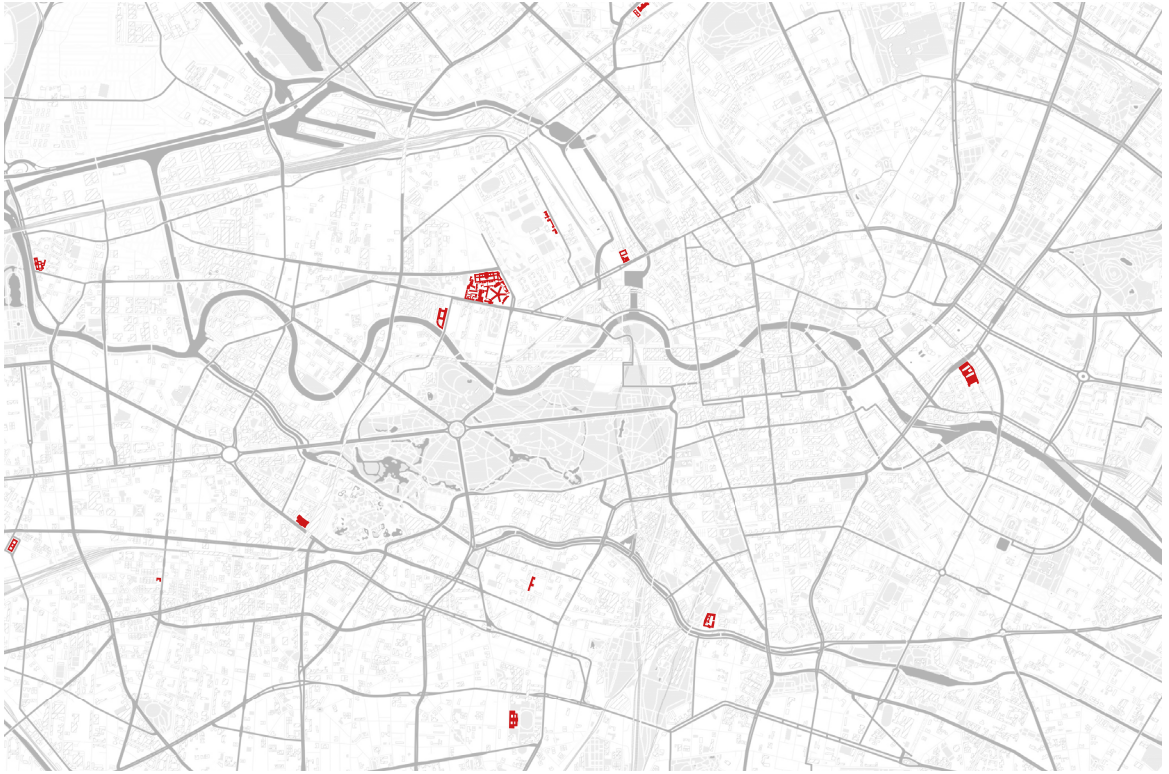


Location - Nantes, France
Architect - Ateliers Jean Nouvel
Year - 2000
Built up area - 24,250 sqm
Ground coverage - 8,000 Sqm
Floors - 3
Number of Court rooms - 9

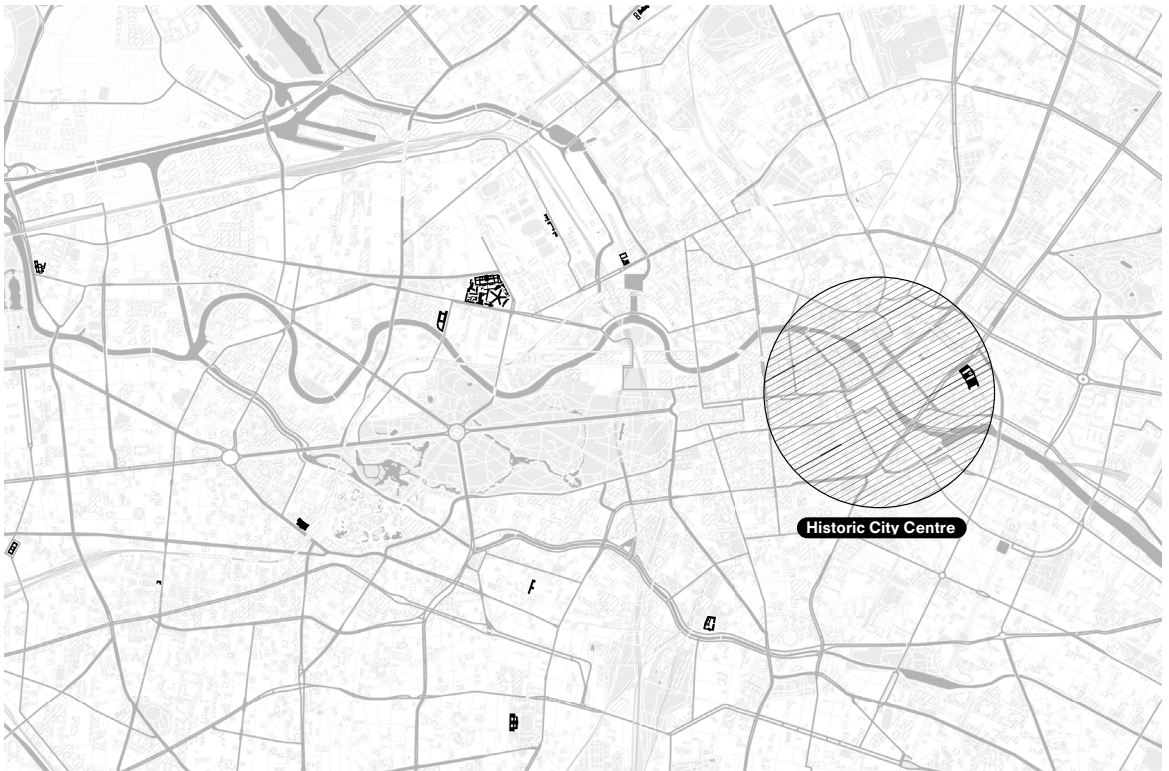
■ Courtroom ■ Judicial office ■ Public space ■ Circulation
 ■ Other office ■ Public amenities ■ Parking ■ Services



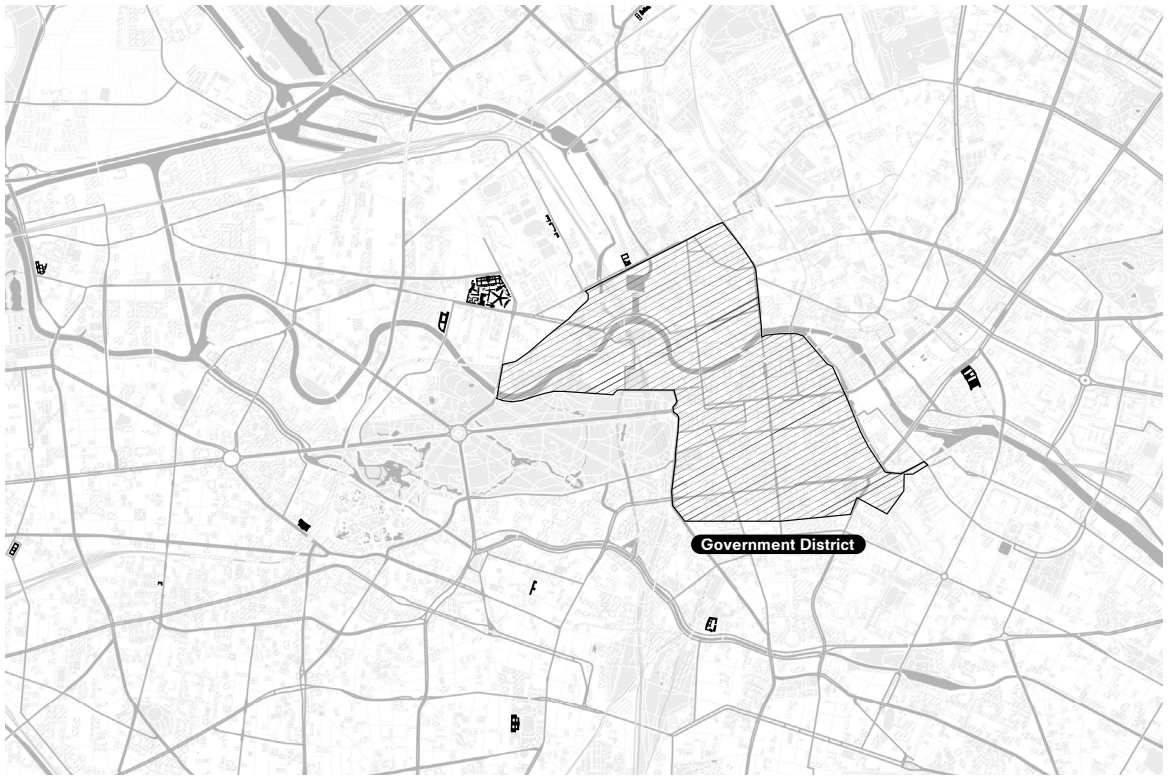
Appx - 18. Case study - Palace of Justice, Nantes, France



Appx - 19. Courthouses in Mitte



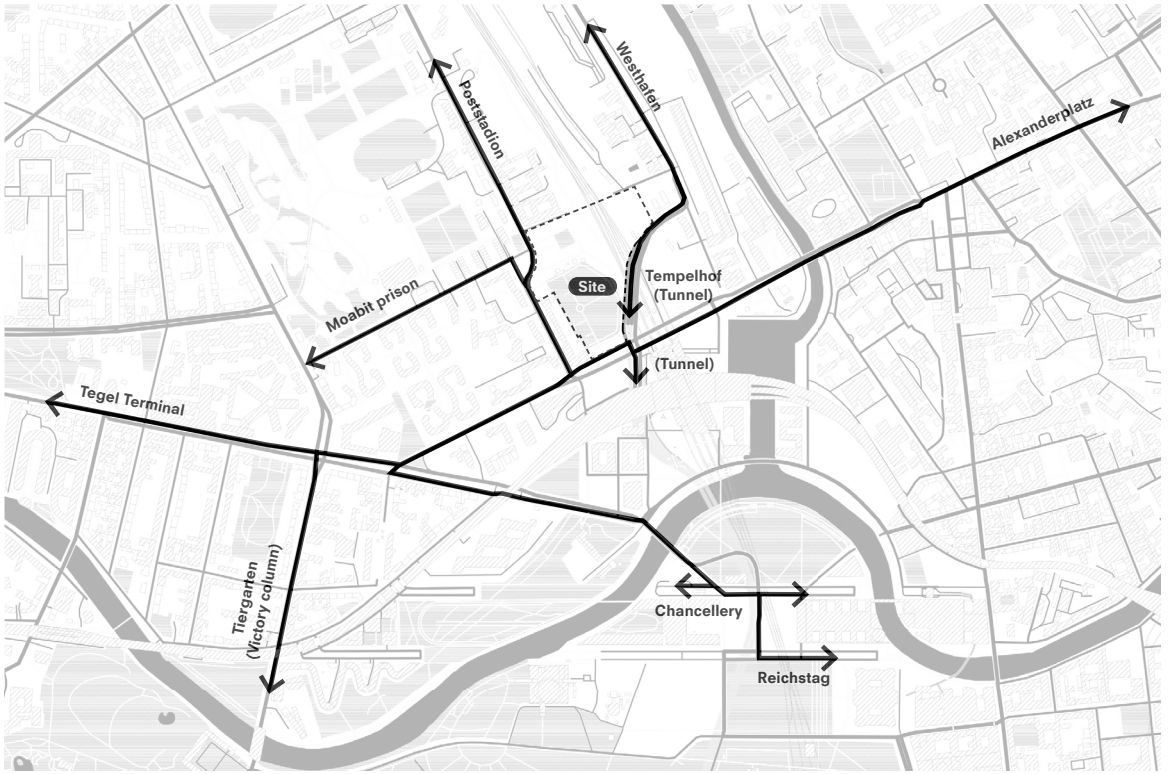
Appx - 20. Courthouse and city center



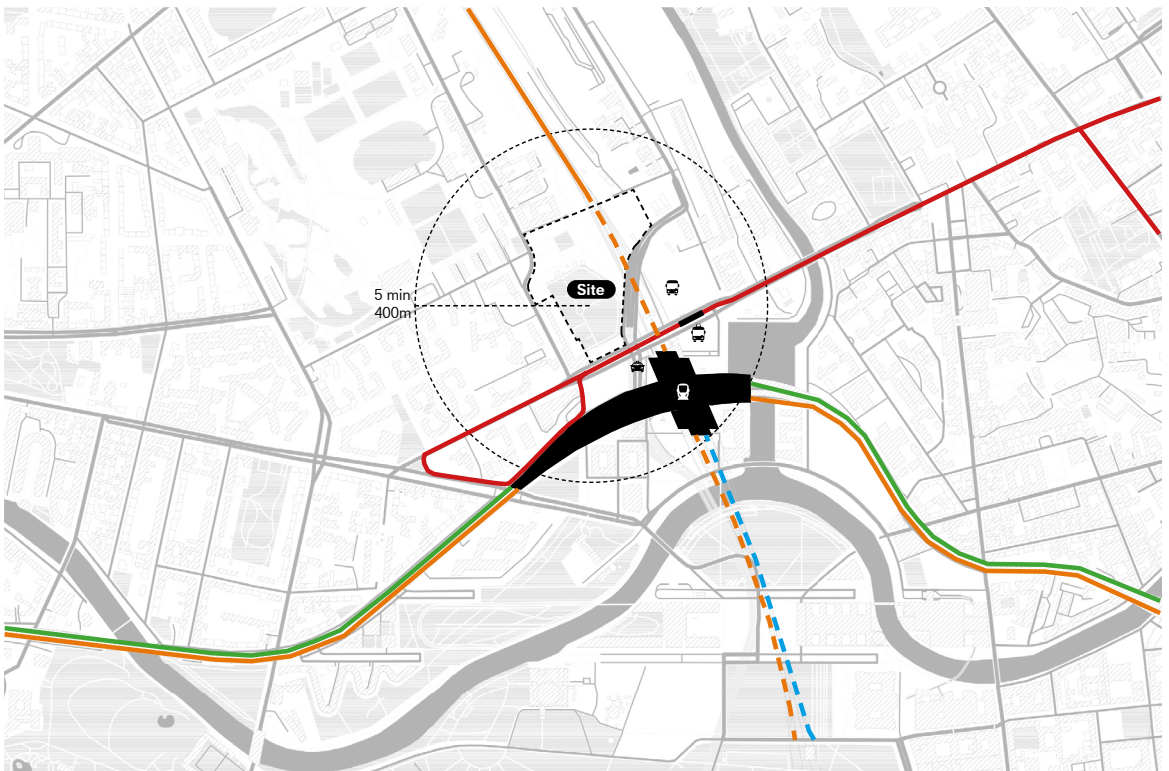
Appx - 21. Courthouses and Government district



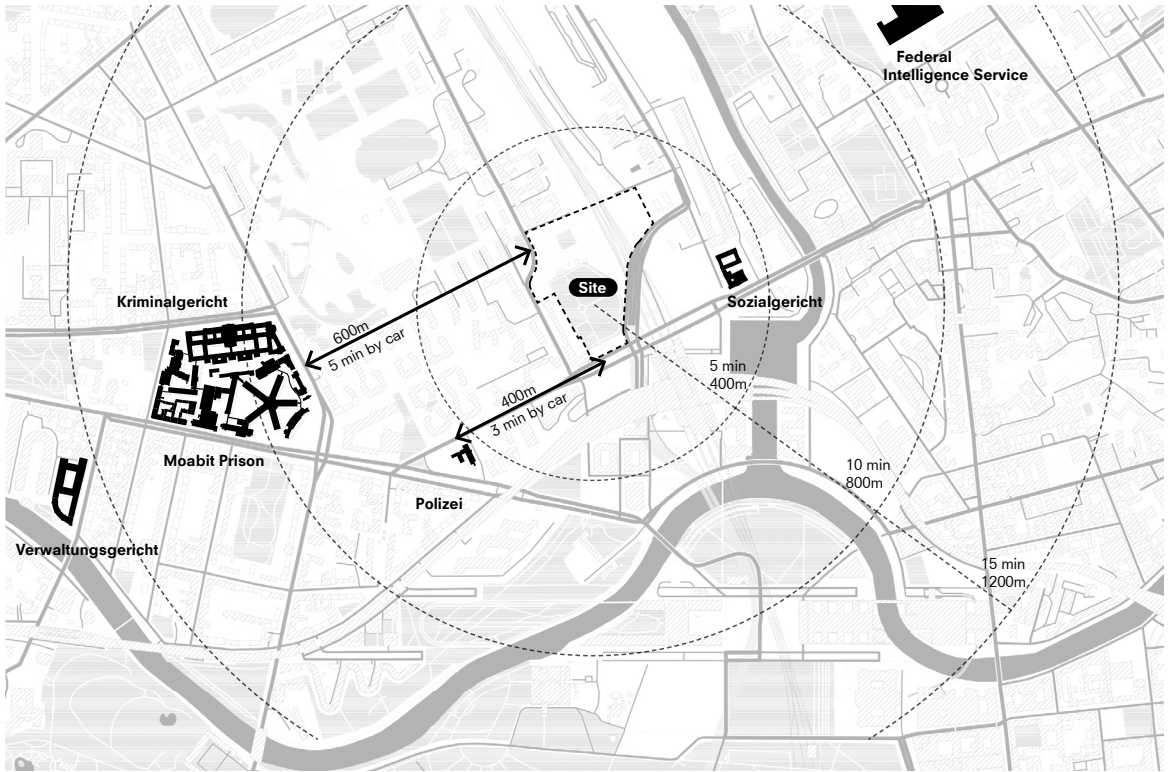
Appx - 22. Law firms and lawyer office in Mitte



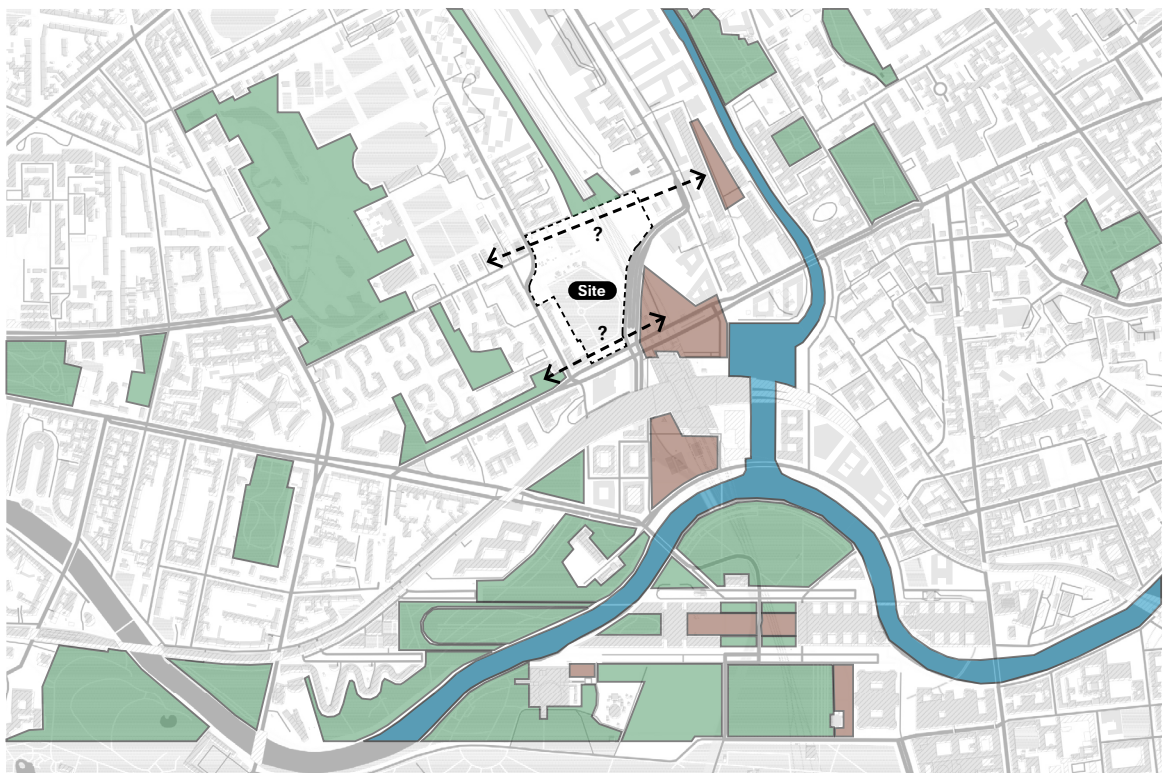
Appx - 23. Site with important road connections



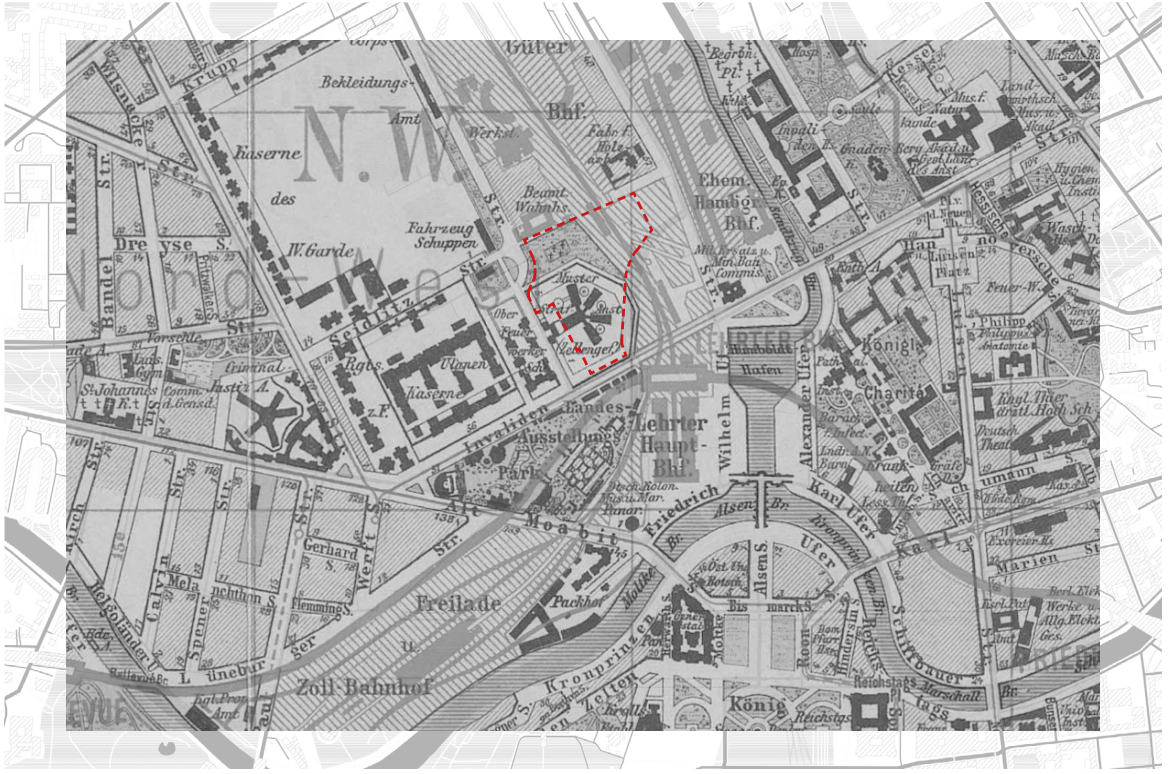
Appx - 24. Site with public transport connectivity



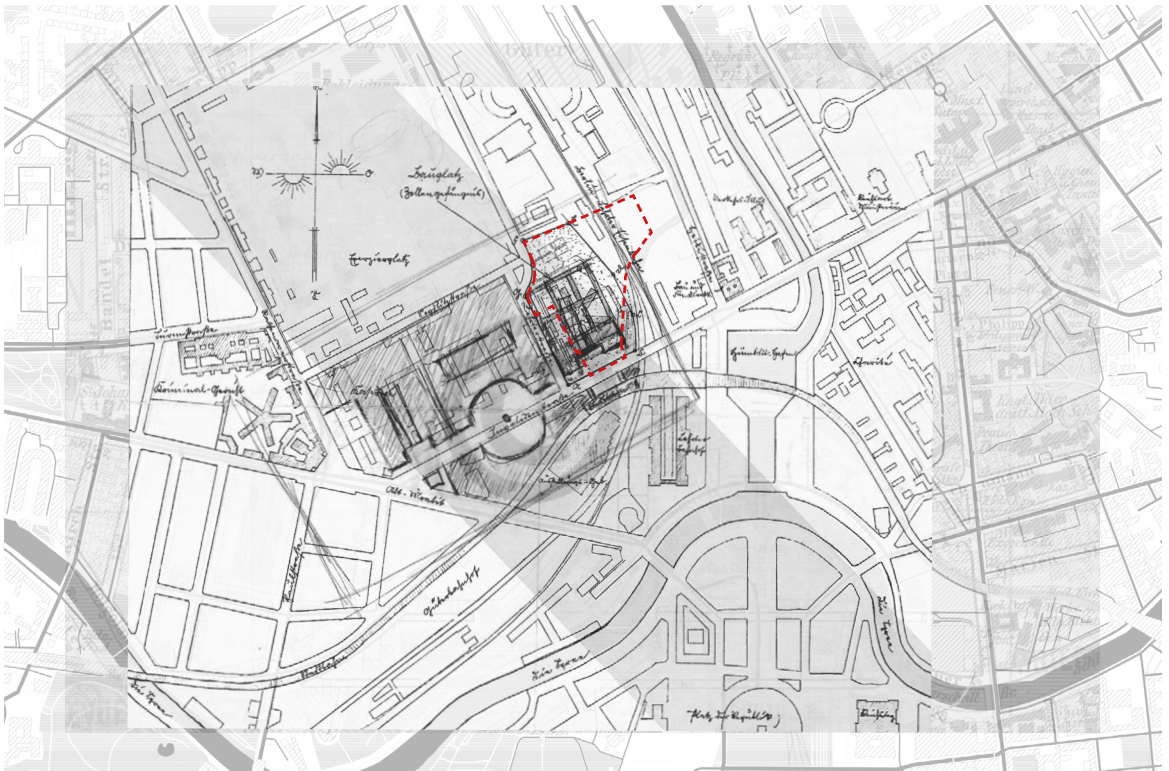
Appx - 25. Map showing the judicial activity



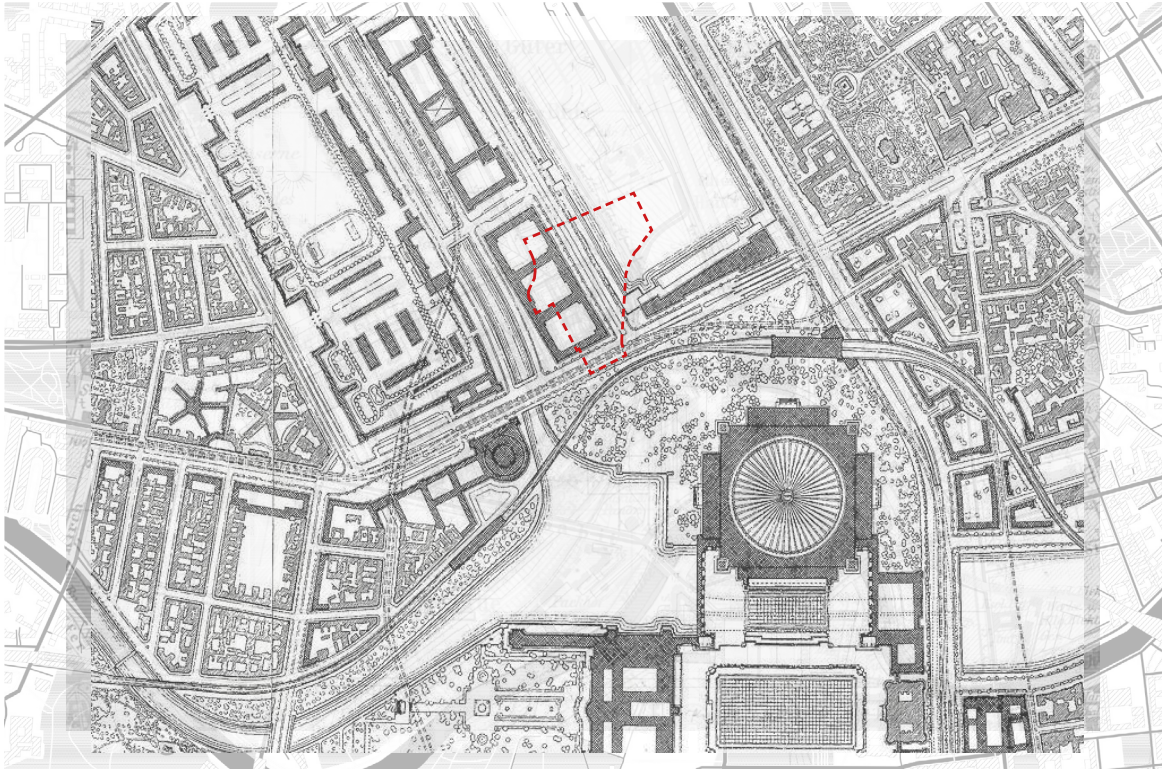
Appx - 26. Green and plaza network around the site



Appx - 27. Berlin 1925



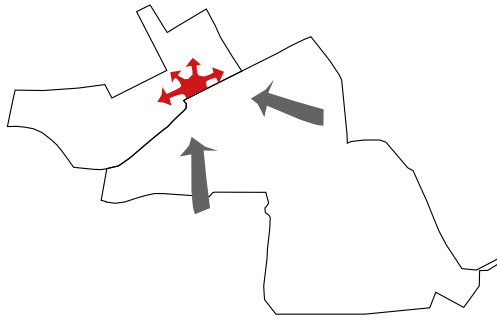
Appx - 28. 1930, Architecture competition for new Judicial center



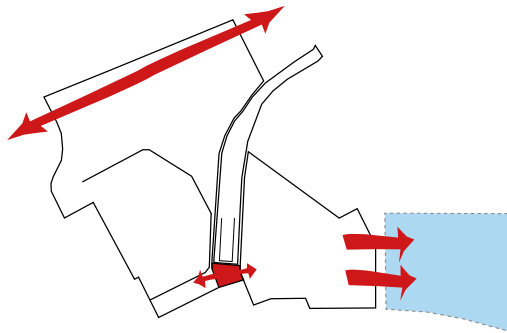
Appx - 29. Plan of Germania with the proposal of Police headquarters



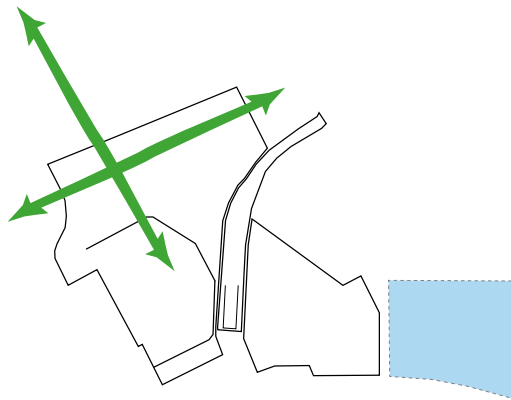
Appx - 30. Berlin 1950, bombed and destroyed prison



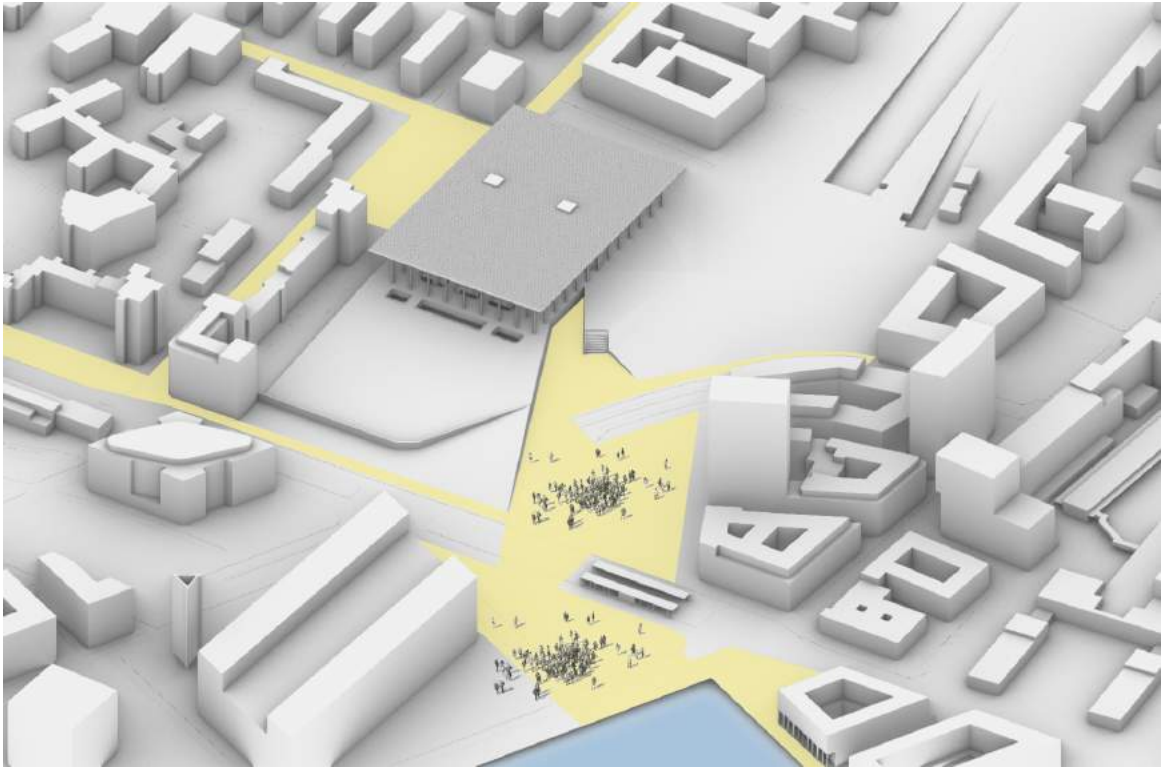
Can be developed as a connecting link between the two districts and as the front face of Judicial system to the city.



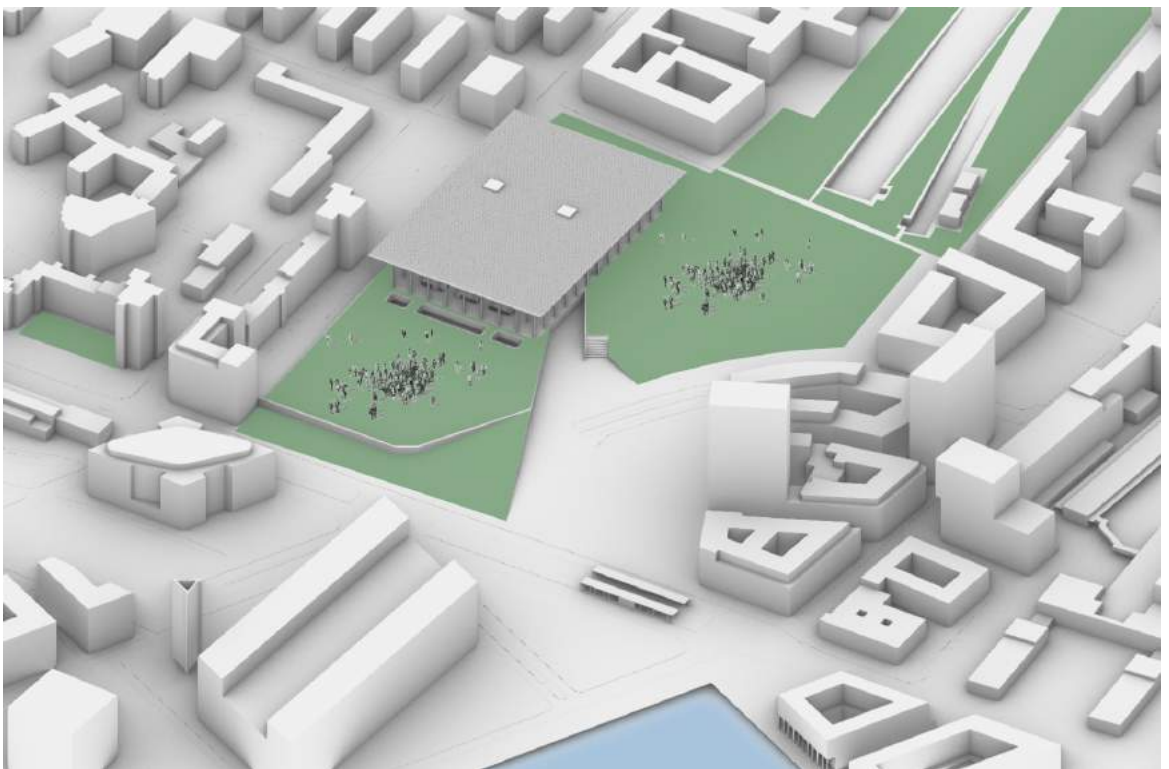
A potential connection through Europlaza would help establish a relation to Humboldthafen and would further help in directing public flow to new mixed used neighbourhoods.



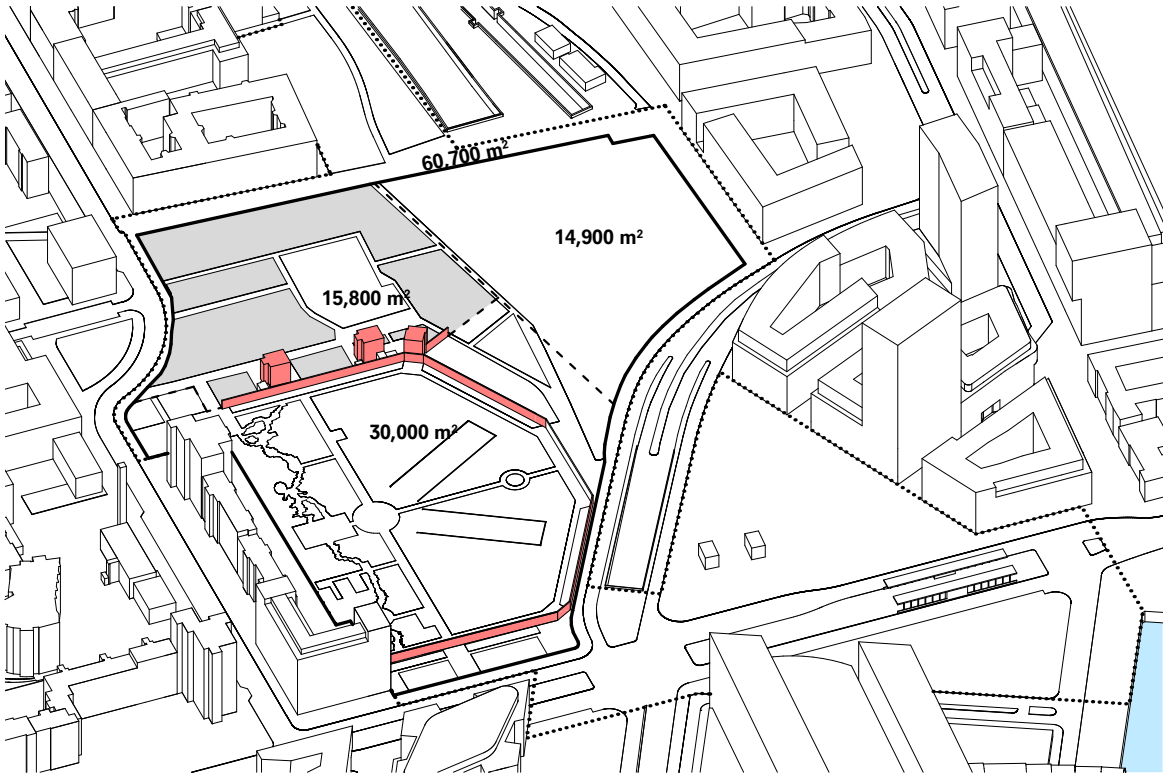
To become a larger green network connecting the scattered greens around the site and a part of Döberitz green belt.



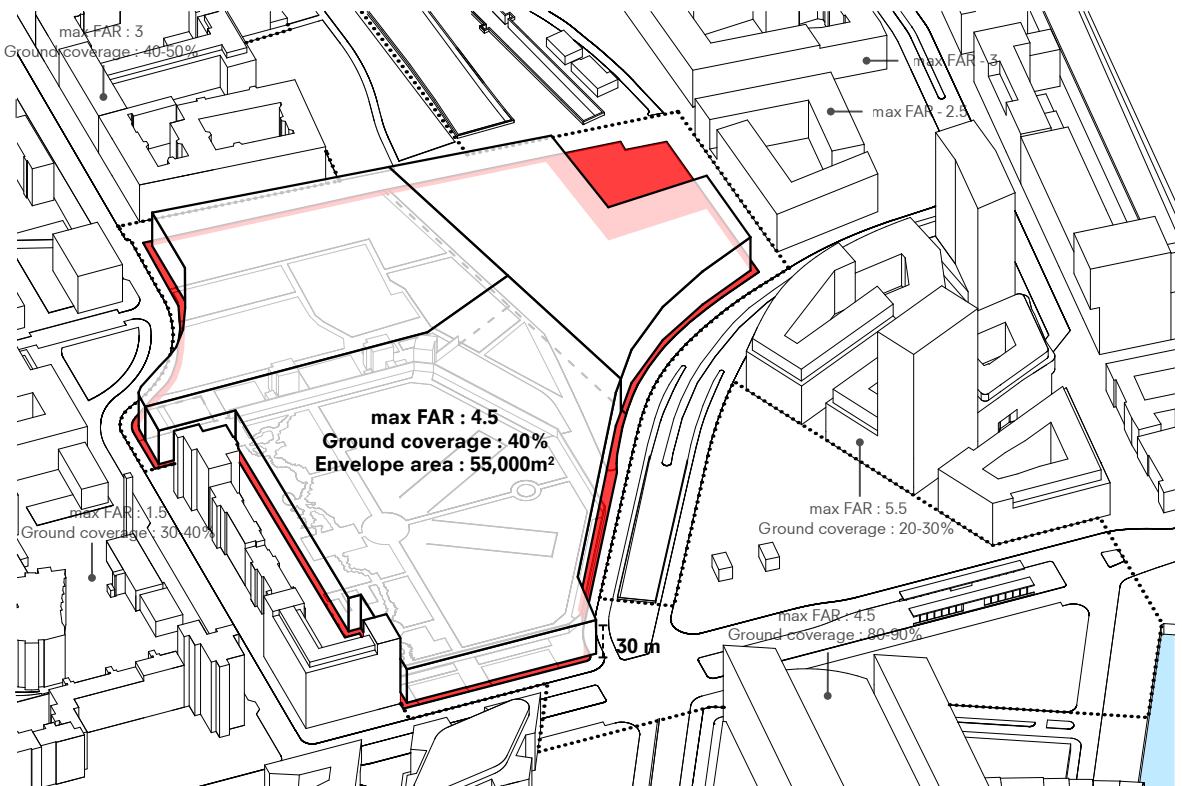
Appx - 32. Urban vision - pedestrian connectivity



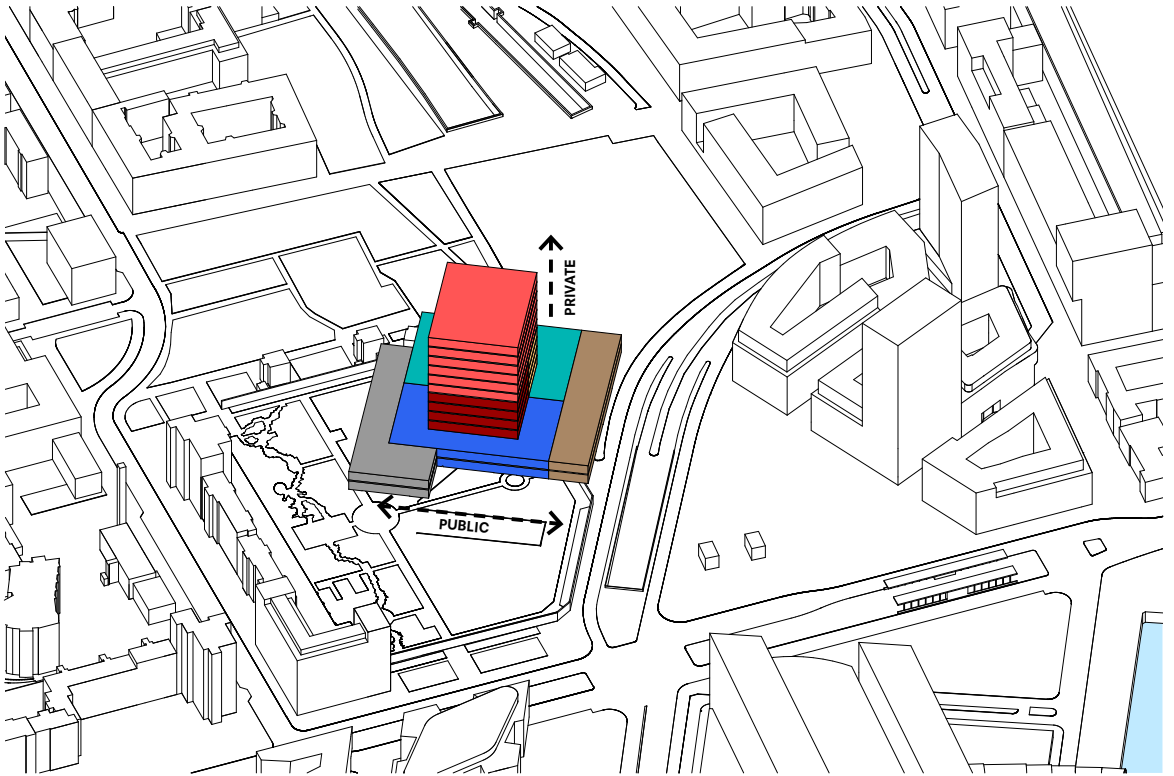
Appx - 33. Urban vision - green connection



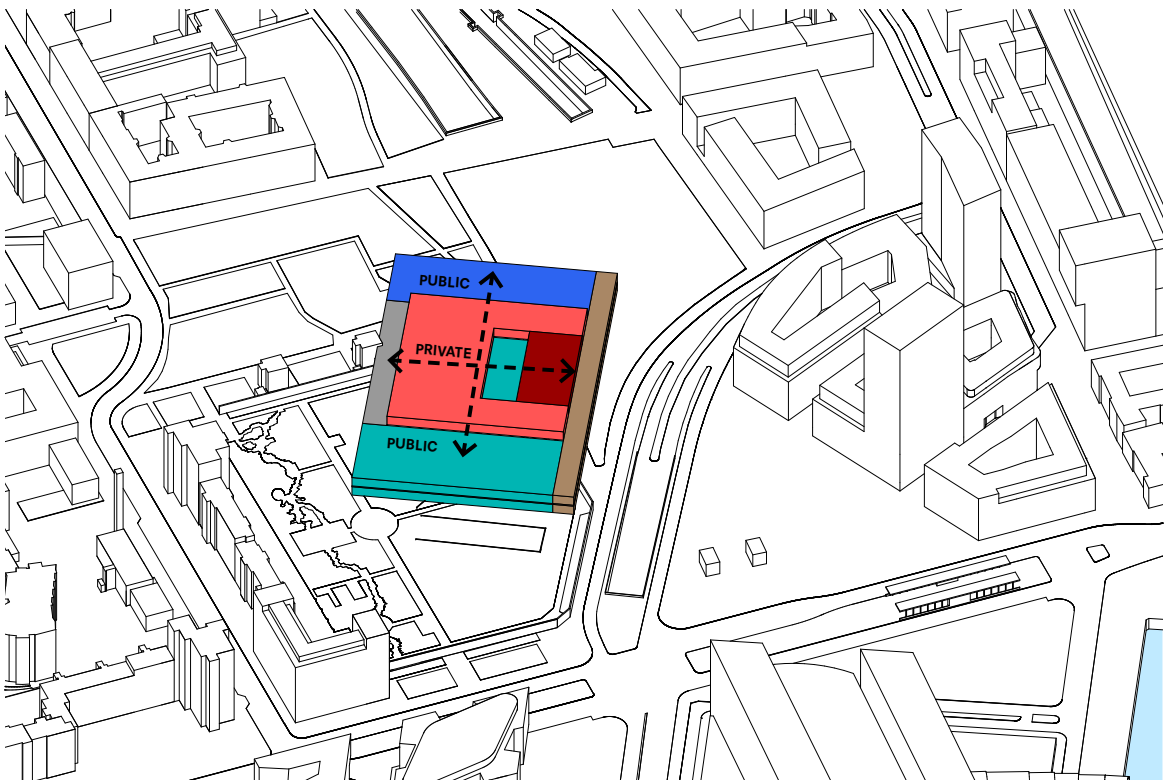
Appx - 34. Site with plot areas



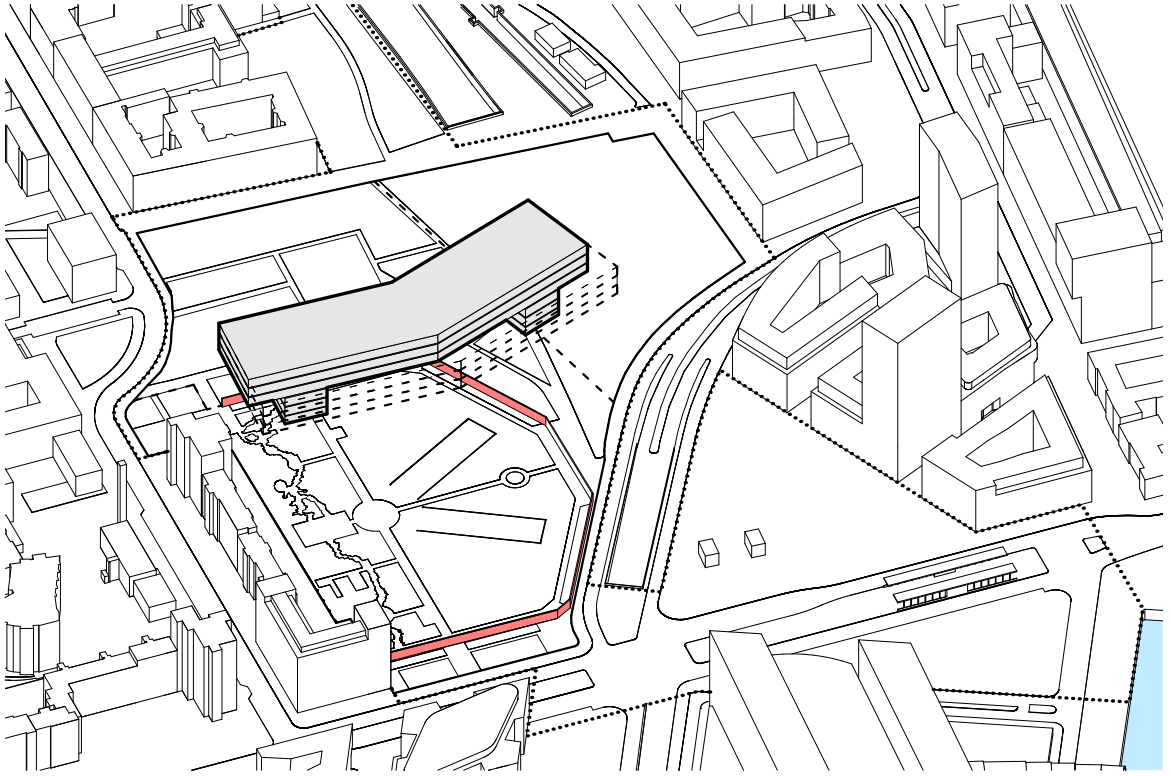
Appx - 35. Design envelope



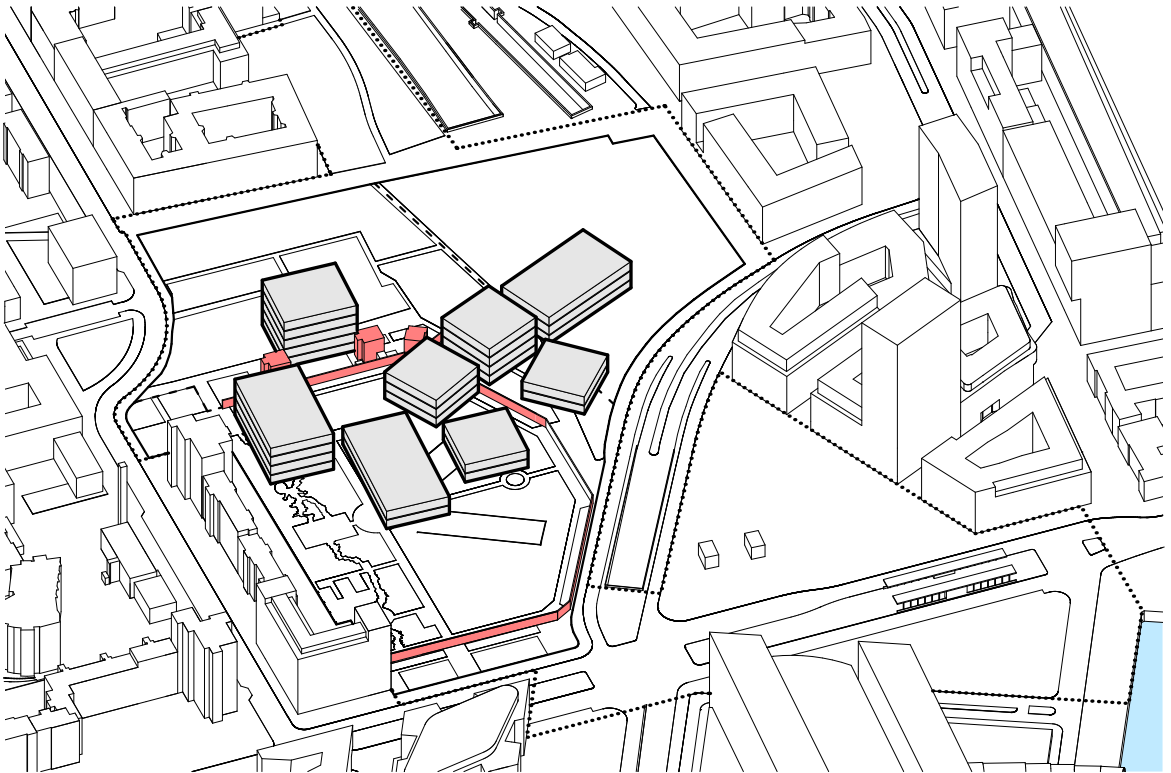
Appx - 36. Programmatic massing - Vertical order showing superiority, strenght adn power



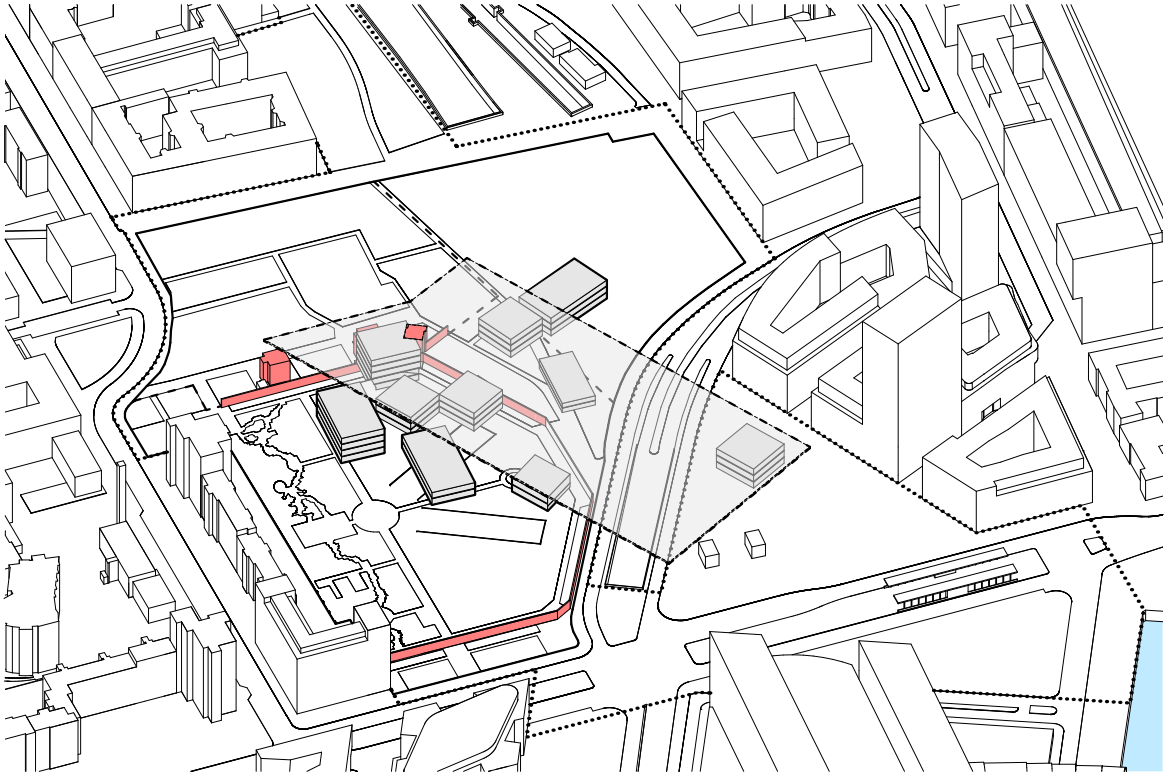
Appx - 37. Programmatic massing - Horizontallity communicating civility of functions



Appx - 38. Massing option 1 - Bridge



Appx - 39. Massing option 2 - Urban mass



Appx - 40. Massing option 3 - Forum



Appx - 41. Conceptual impression of courtroom floor

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