

Week

1.1

Evolution of a library

A form of library has always been an reflection of relationship between human and culture.

In ancient times books were considered as the highest and most important form of representation of knowledge that current society or nation possessed. They were always highly guarded and only the most prominent and well educated people from the society could access them.

That had a clear representation in the form of library which has not been an open and welcoming public space but rather a form of a temple of knowledge, education and culture.

“Privileged space for scholarly pursuit, they jealously guarded collections of books and manuscripts that were handmade, precious and often unique”

~Interiors Buildings Cities graduation studio brief



Fig.1 Interior of the Library of Alexandria



Fig.2 Ulpian Library of Trajan's Forum

Public Library

A form of library has always been an reflection of relationship between human and culture.

Idea of a public library as a place of production of higher social awareness, culture and knowledge arrived with the French Revolution at the end of the 17th Century. Important factor which allowed for disclosure of many sources of valuable pieces was a technology development of printing press.

That occurrence eternally changed the meaning and idea of a book what has had a substantial influence on the meaning and idea of a library. With a possibility of easy, fast and considerably cheap reproduction of written word book were no more meant only to maintain an information but rather became a tool which allowed

to spread highly guarded wisdom to less prominent parts of society.

If a library is a reflection of relationship between human and culture, this phenomenon had to leave a mark on its future role. As a consequence of that the first ideas of a public library appeared where it became an accessible place for public rather than carefully guarded temples for elites. Place where state took responsibility for collection and provision on knowledge became a centre of emerging social democratic changes.

“Libraries changed that world, becoming spaces where scientific, cultural and political ideas were fermented and changed”

~ Interiors Buildings Cities graduation studio brief

Fig.3 Digital representation of National Bibliotheque designed by Étienne-Louis Boullée





Fig.4 Enlightenment era librarian in a library, 19th-century painting by Georg Reimer, National Museum in Warsaw

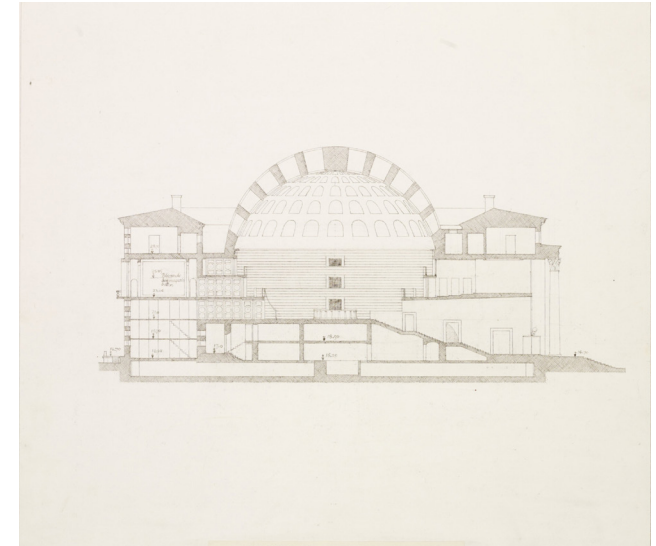


Fig.5 Section of Aslpund's first proposal for the Stockholm Public Library from 1921

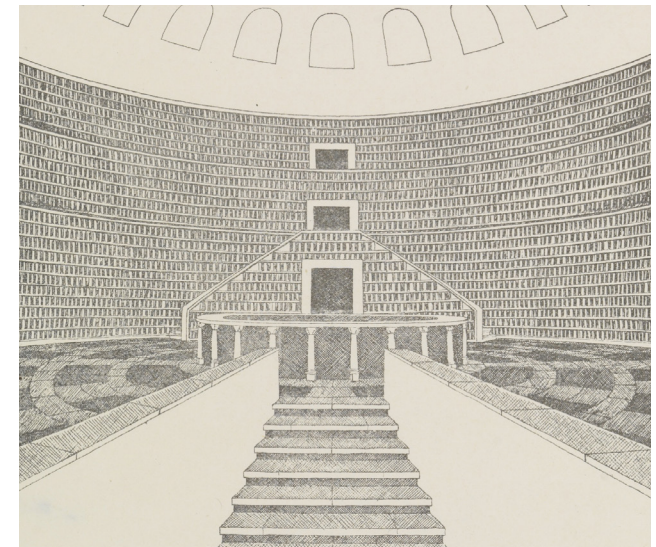


Fig.6 Interior of Aslpund's first proposal for the Stockholm Public Library from 1921

New Purpose

Library could not be just a place facilitating an access to knowledge but had to become a space of social resistance.

Access to books and combined in them information was spreading around the world. At the end of XX Century society confronted neoliberalism's privatisation of space, alongside questions of its own role. That social occurrences like all others in the past also had an reflection on the new social and political purpose of a library. In the face of current challenges library could not be no more just a place facilitating an access to knowledge but had to become a space of social resistance against the increasing power of capital. That metamorphosis of a role of public space reflected on the Stockholm Public Library designed by Gunnar Asplund in 1928.

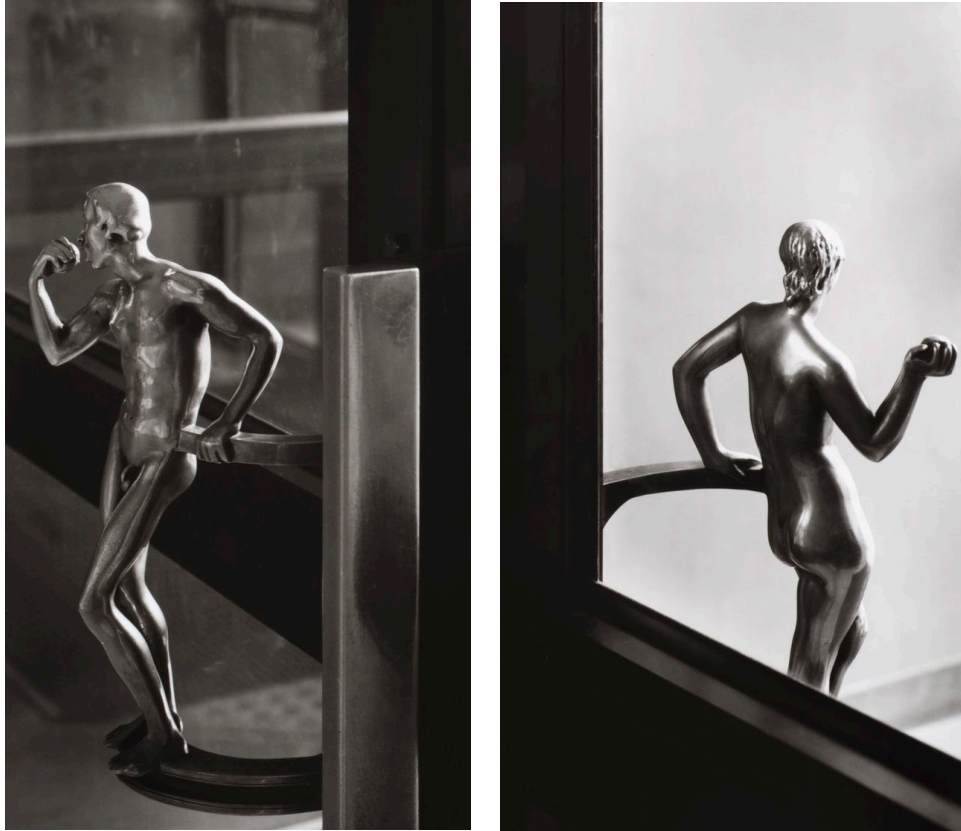
"public libraries transformed from places devoted to the lending of books and quite study into open and largely expectation-free environments embracing issues of equality and multiculturalism"

~ Interiors Buildings Cities graduation studio brief

Fig.7 Stockholm City Public Library designed by Asplund



Fig.8 Stockholm City Public Library designed by Asplund



In the mid-XX Century libraries in Sweden and Denmark gained a reputation as the most progressive of their kind. Erik Gunnar Asplund played a large part in this process with his design of one of its most celebrated and influential manifestations: The Stockholm Public Library. This build will be a topic of further investigation, research and design of the graduation studio of Interiors Buildings Cities. Neo-classical design with references to the Swedish heritage combined with a clear influence of modernistic ideas emerging at that time around Europe makes this project one the most avangard proposition at that time.

Fig.9 Stockholm City Public Library designed by Asplund

"[...]broader commitment to creating an educated populace, understood as a vital and fundamental component of the more enlightened social construct that emerged across Scandinavia during Twentieth Century"

~ Interiors Buildings Cities graduation studio brief

Week

1.2

About Gunnar Asplund

Research, analysis and understanding of Gunnar Asplund's projects as a context building to the design of a Public City Library in Stockholm.

The first steps into the project of The City Public Library in Stockholm started with getting familiar with Gunnar Asplund's other works to find a deeper understanding of his approach, design and strategy. As a consequence we were able to trace the development of certain ideas, how they were implemented in other projects and finally how they influenced the design of the library.

Asplund's unique style was often groundbreaking in those times. The interweaving of classicistic architecture with brave nods towards modernity not devoid of certain humorous gestures became recognisable elements of his works. That made the research even more reasonable and fascinating because only by seeing the whole network of connected motives we were able to understand where certain ideas come from and what is their meaning.

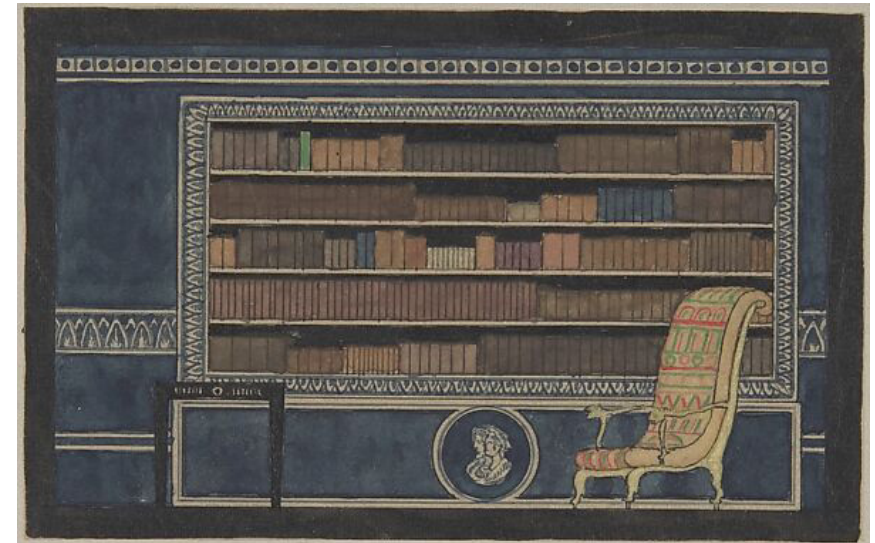
Fig.1



Fig.1 View of Interior for Paris Exhibition 1925, with Rugs - sketch Gunnar Asplund

Fig.2 View of Interior for Paris Exhibition 1925, Bookcase Wall Elevation - sketch Gunnar Asplund

Fig.2



Lister Country Courthouse

*The place where Asplund tested his ideas
before implementing them in The City
Public Library in Stockholm*

*Analysis of the building prepared in the
group of four people:*

Julia van der Ploeg

Liuying Chen

Conor O'Kelly

Kamil Urban

In the process of researching the building of Lister Country Courthouse in Sölvesborg at the very beginning became obvious the amount of similarities between this building and future Asplund's design of the Library in Stockholm. In our analysis, we focused on situating the building both in the urban and cultural context.

That helped us to decode some of the esthetical gestures made by Asplund like the colour of the façade, details in the interior or ornamental arched entrance. All those aspects created a full dictionary of architectural patterns which have been used by the architect both in this and other buildings.



Fig.3 Photo of The Lister Country Courthouse designed by Gunnar Asplund

Entrance to the main space and solution for vertical movement are the main functional similarities between the library and the courthouse. The idea of placing a staircase between the walls of the rotunda was first implemented in the country courthouse and then developed in the project of the library. This strategy makes it almost absent in the main spaces of the building.

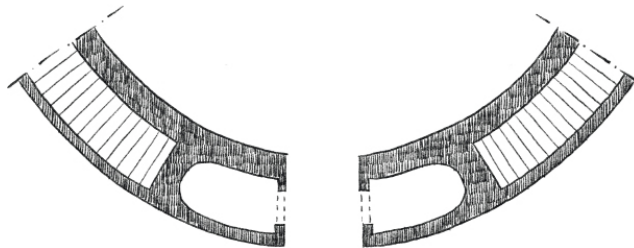
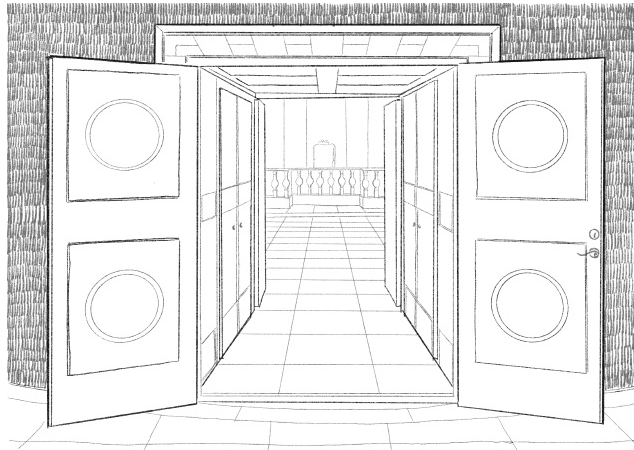


Fig.4 Drawing of the entrance to the courtroom in the Lister Country Courthouse

Fig.5 Drawing of the part of the plan with staircase and rotunda in The Lister Country Courthouse

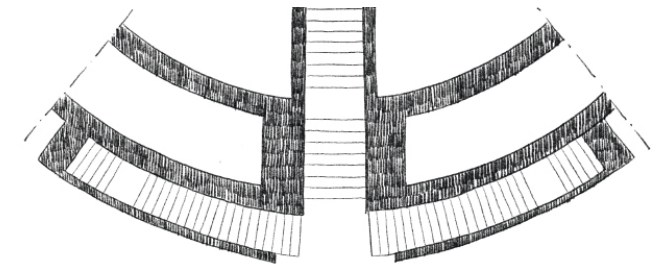
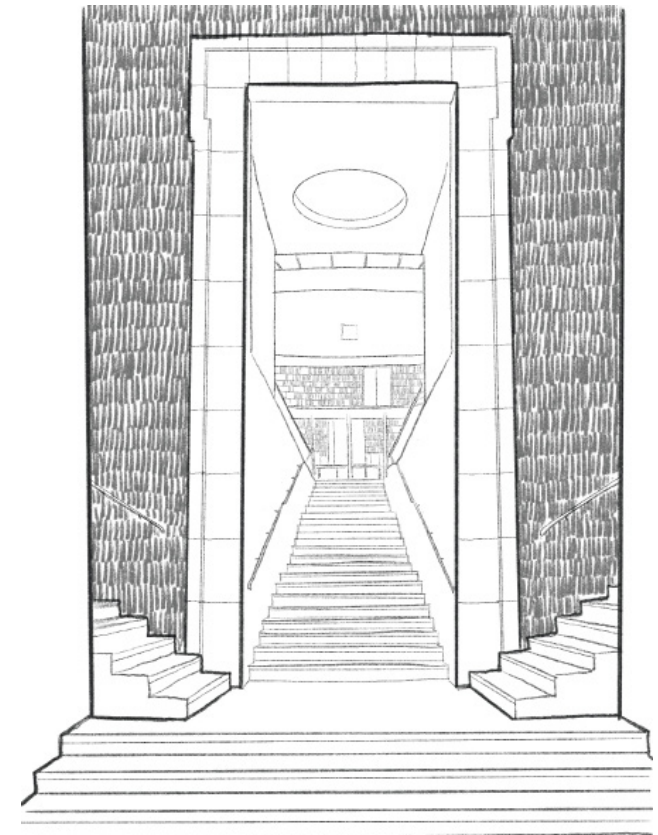


Fig.6 Drawing of the entrance to the main library space in The Stockholm Public Library

Fig.7 Drawing of the part of the plan with staircase and rotunda in The Stockholm Public Library

A recognisable element of Asplund's design is attention and care of every detail. In the Country Courthouse, he also designed furniture or announcement boards.



Rustical detail of balustrade and railing of the staircase. Everything from the beginning to the end is made according to Asplund's design.



Fig.10 Photo of the bench in The Lister Country Courthouse

Fig.11 Photo of the details in The Lister Country Courthouse



Fig.12 Photo of the courtroom in The Lister Country Courthouse

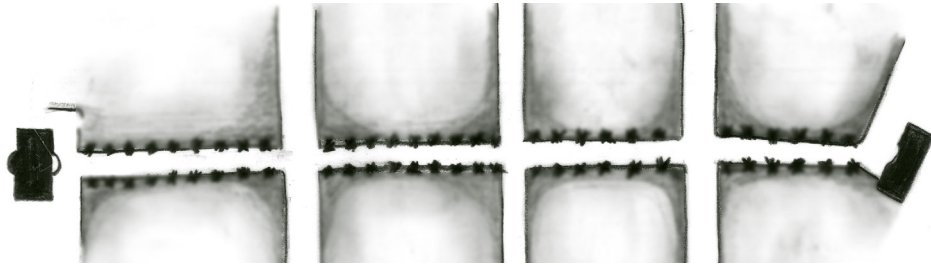
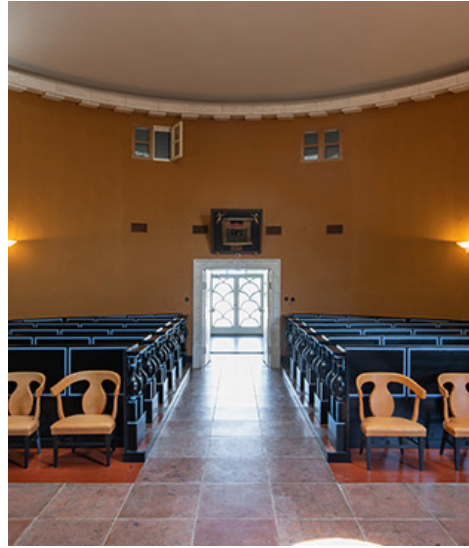


Fig.13 Photo of the entrance to The Lister Country Courthouse.

Fig.14 Current photo of the courtroom in The Lister Country Courthouse.

Fig.15 Map of the urban context of The Lister Country Courthouse.

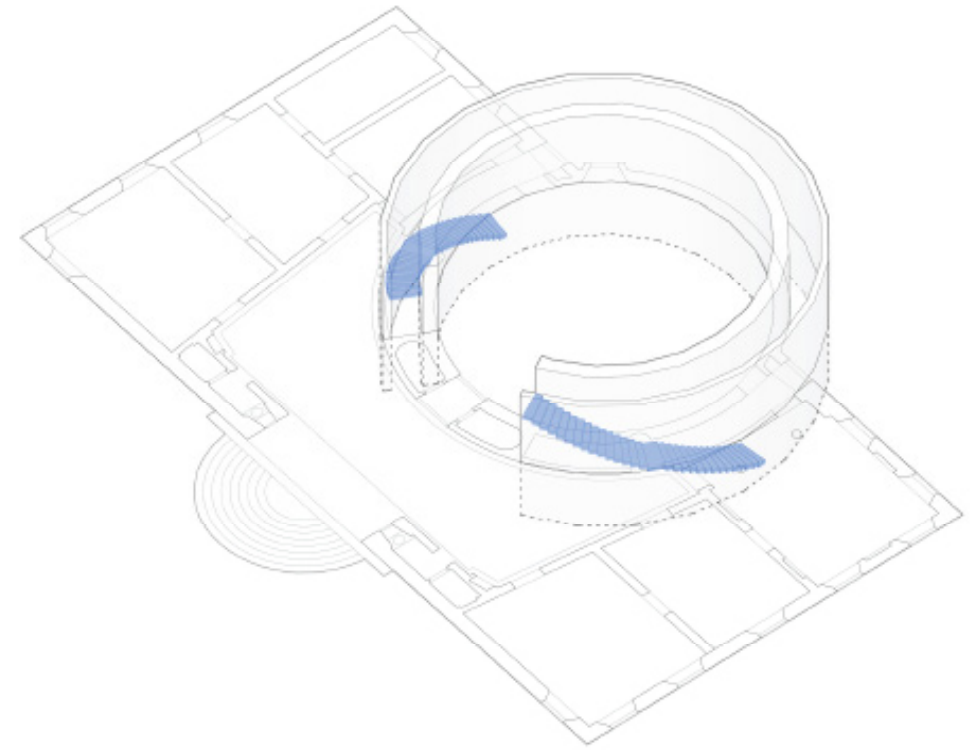


Fig.16 Axonometry of the rotunda and vertical circulation the Lister Country Courthouse

Rotunda was first present in the project of Lister Country Courthouse which in this case accommodated a function of the courtroom. It is a defining element in the plan which was placed on the axis of the building which emphasizes the symmetry of the whole project. The rest of the rooms were organized around the

rotunda in a way that we feel that the round space almost pushed them to the sides of the plan. The unique solution used by Asplund is a strategy for vertical circulation which is represented in the drawing above. It is one simple gesture which connects all the levels of the building.

Final Drawing

The final drawing of the unique Asplund design emphasized the symmetry and composition of elements arranged on the plan

In the final drawing, we decided to depict how the symmetry of the building is represented not only on the facade but also has a continuation in the interior of the courthouse. Every element involved in the drawing is another story told by Asplund. From the entrance which imitates the one from the train station to the play with symmetry consciously broken by the placement of window in the courtroom.

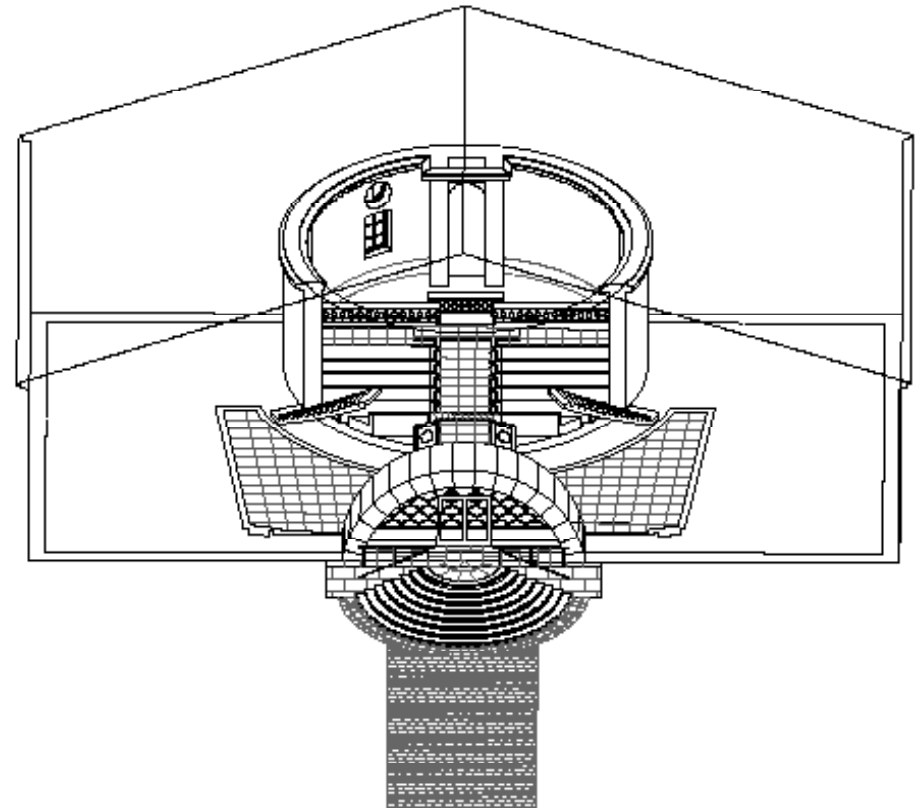


Fig.17 Final Drawing prepared by Julia van der Ploeg, Liuying Chen, Conor O'Kelly and Kamil Urban

Understanding the Rotunda

Week 1.2 was our first step into modelling the Rotunda. Which meant collecting any available pieces of information in order to create an image of our future model

Rotunda is a special place in Asplund's library because it is a central space which links all other rooms. It's a space which you have to visit when you are going through the library. That meant that coordination of materials, colours, and style was an essential element for the process of modelling as the esthetic of Rotunda should be a defining element for other spaces



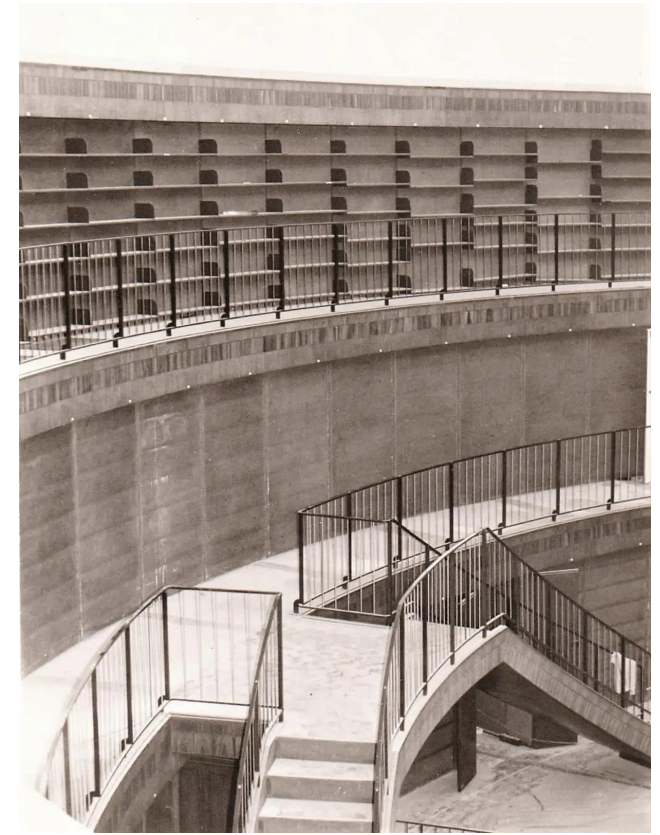
Fig.18 Photo of the bookshelves in the rotunda after first renovation



Fig.19 Photo of the interior of The Rotunda in The Stockholm Public Library



Fig.20 Photo of the interior of The Rotunda in The Stockholm Public Library



The library has undergone a renovation which was proceeded by Gunnar Asplund's son who added to the rotunda a symetrical staircase. The idea behind this design was to give people access to the bookshelves on the first level so not only employees of the library were able to have contact with them.

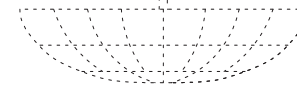


Fig.21 Drawing of the main lamp in the Rotunda

Fig.22 Photo of the staircase later added by the Gunar Asplund's son.

Lamps, Furnitures, Details

Researching through modelling allowed to understand the materiality and essence of Asplund's design much deeper.

Modelling the rotunda meant that we needed to get to know and deeply analyse Asplund's design to such details as furniture and lamps. I found it as a unique way of researching which allows to understand certain elements such as materials, dimensions, and proportions of the design. Recreating them creates a deeper relationship between objects and the building itself.

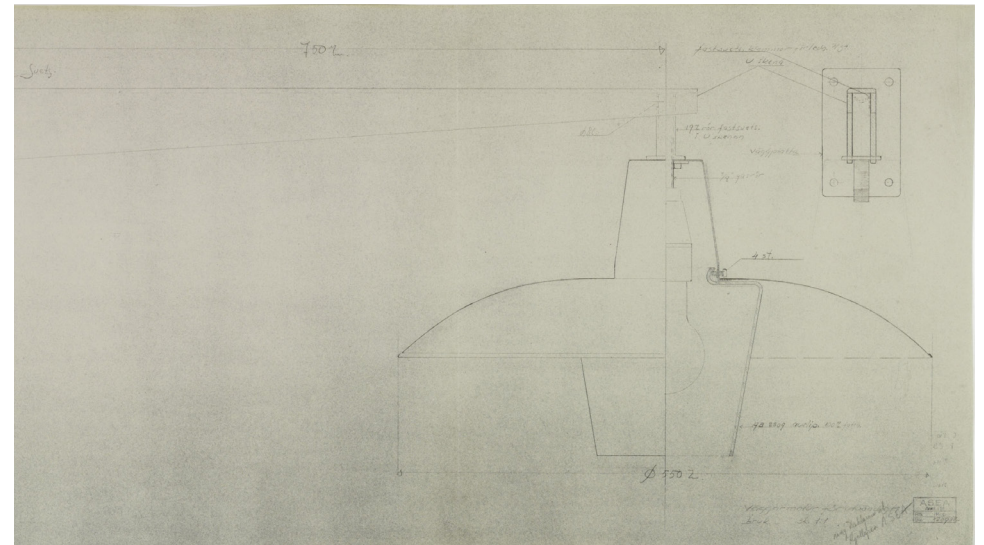
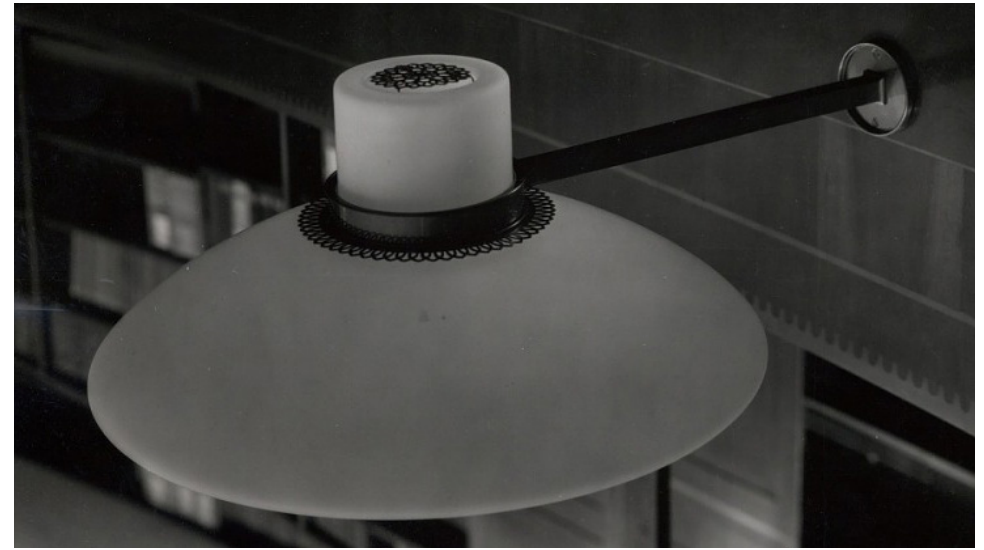


Fig.22 Photo of the original Asplund's Lamp designed for The Stockholm Public Library.

Fig.23 Drawing of the lamp designed by Asplund's for The Stockholm Public Library.

Week

1.3

Learning from Asplund

Asplund as an architect with a high awareness of materiality, light and details creates his architecture around these three elements. What makes it highly satisfying to analyse and understand.

Immersing deeper into Asplund's projects. To build up a context of his design it was also important to get to know others of his project and situate the library within this situation. Seeing the evolution of his design and where in this process the Stockholm Public Library is placed is an important element of research. Asplund's appeared as an architect with a high awareness of materiality and light. These two aspects are very often dominant elements of his design. It's also a designer with high attention to the details. He wants to control and design everything. As a result of that his architecture can be read as a book. Every single element has a story behind it that you as a viewer and user want to understand.



Fig.1 Photo made by Mark Pimlot. WoodlandChapel designed by Gunnar Asplund



Desolving the building into the forest by roofed space. Timber columns as an extension between building and trees.

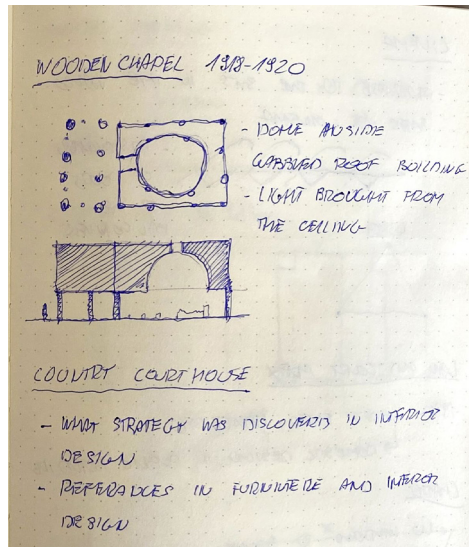


Fig.2 Photo made by Marius Grootveld of Woodland Chapel designed by Gunnar Asplund

Fig.3 Sketch of the Woodland Chapel

Fig.4 Sketch of the Villa Snellman

Fig.5 Photo of the round room in The Villa Snellman designed by Gunnar Asplund

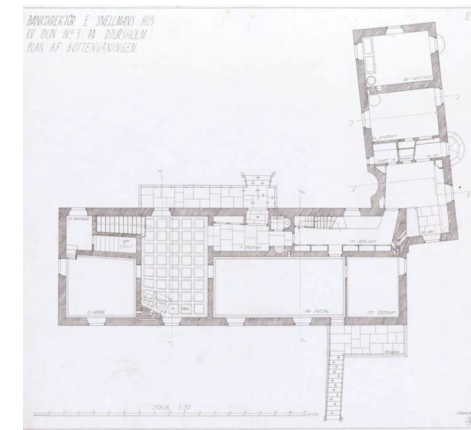
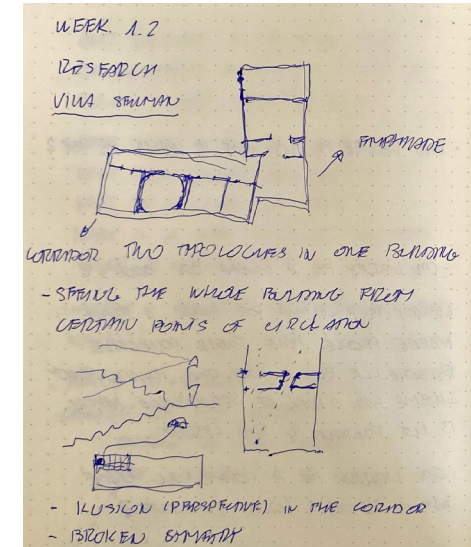


Fig.6 Ground floor of The Villa Snellman of Gunnar Asplund

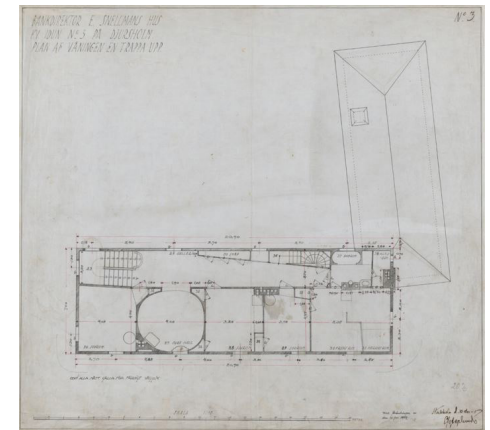
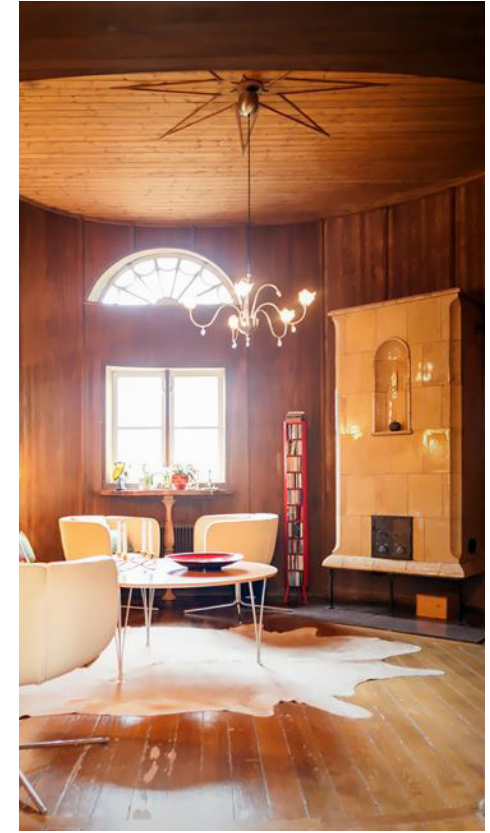


Fig.7 First floor of The Villa Snellman of Gunnar Asplund

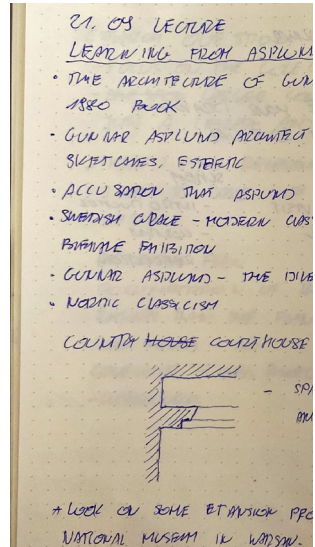


Fig.8 Sketch of the detail in The Lister Country Courthouse.

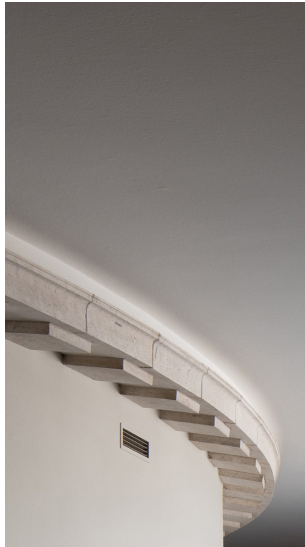


Fig.9 Photo of the detail in The Lister Country Courthouse.

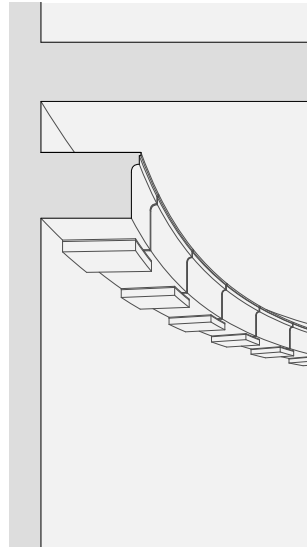


Fig.10 Perspective section of the detail in The Lister Country Courthouse.

Playfulness with details in the building sometimes creates a humorous atmosphere. The architect plays with the visitor of the building.

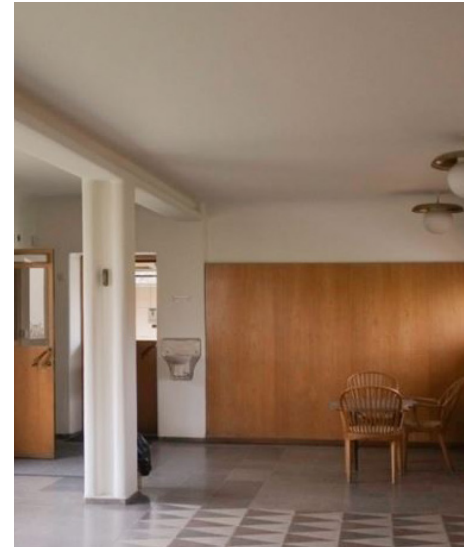


Fig.11 Photo made by Marius Grootveld of Woodland Cemetery Chapels designed by Gunnar Asplund.

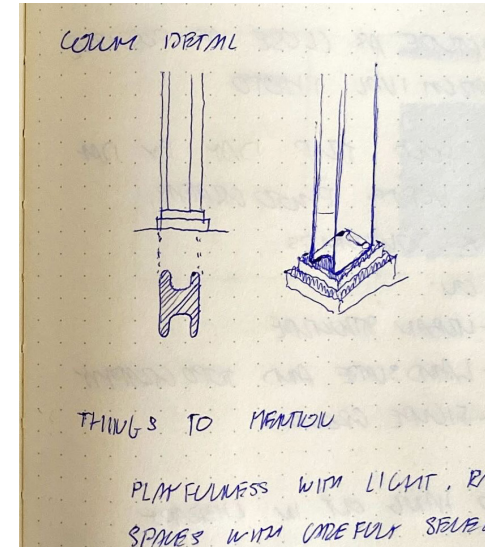


Fig.12 Sketch of the detail of the column in The Woodland Cemetery Chapels designed by Gunnar Asplund.

The detail of the column in the Woodland Cemetery Chapels plays with the light and shadows of the structural element.

Research through modelling

Model as an actual three-dimensional space not only its representation allows for a better understanding of dimensions, proportions and materiality.

Structural planning of the modelling of the Rotunda requires an understanding of the construction of the space, thickness of the walls, proportion of the rooms and dimensions of the building. Modelling as a research method allows for a closer relation with the space which is an actual three-dimensional space not just a representation of the place in the picture.

Fig.13 Sketch of solving the model making technique.

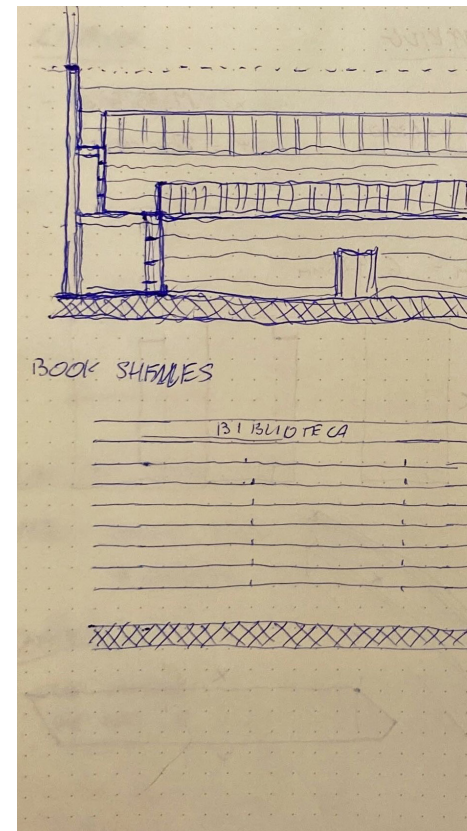
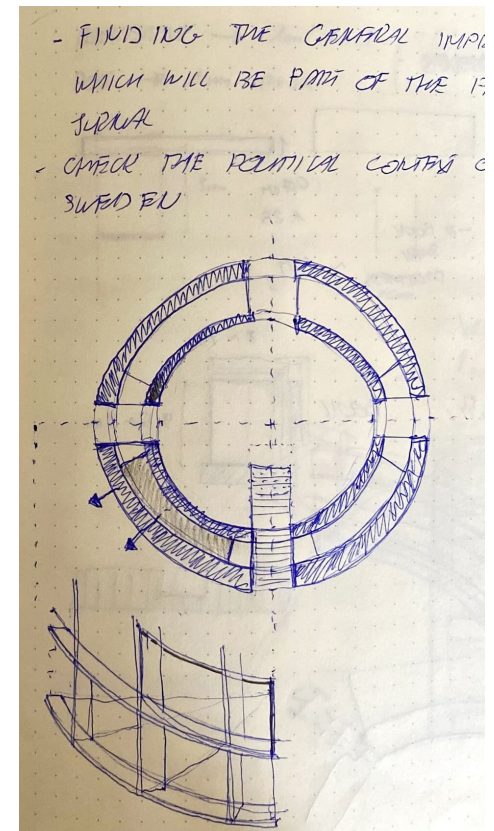


Fig.14 Sketch of the idea of separating the elements of the model.





Analysing the role and meaning of the bookshelves in the Asplund's design. In the rotunda books are not only equipment of the library but it is a material which creates the internal facade of this space. This is why it was important to understand how these bookshelves were made to create the same impression in the model.

Fig.15 Photo of the bookshelves in the rotunda after first renovation.

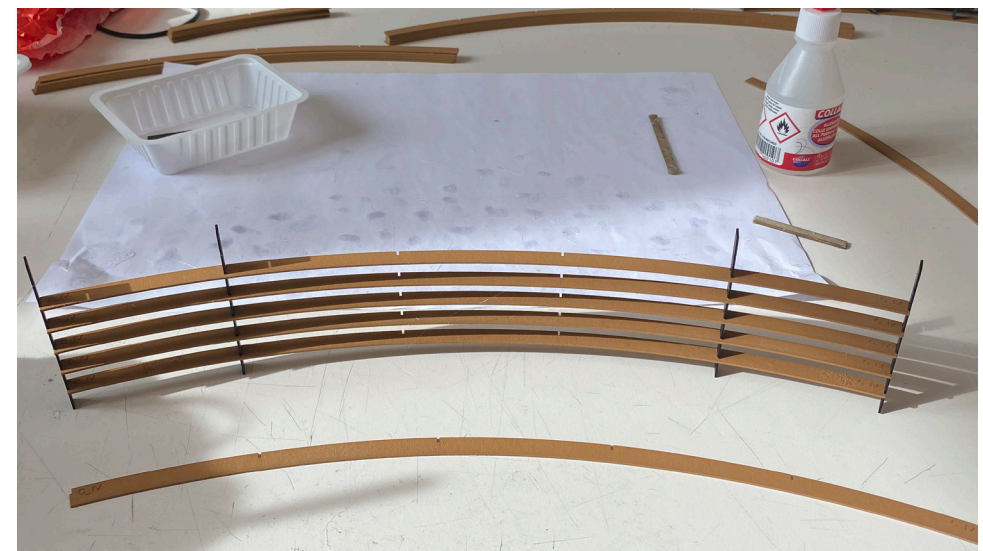
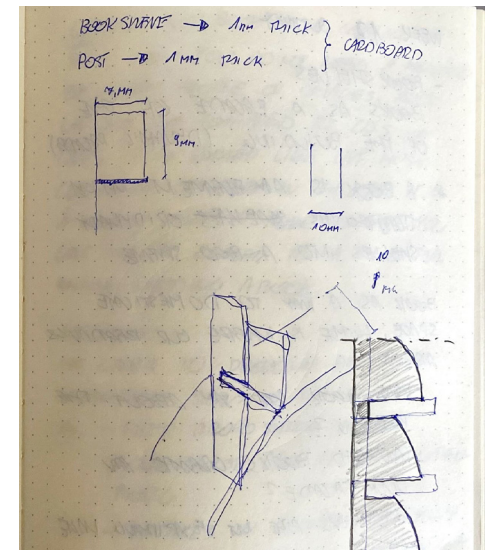
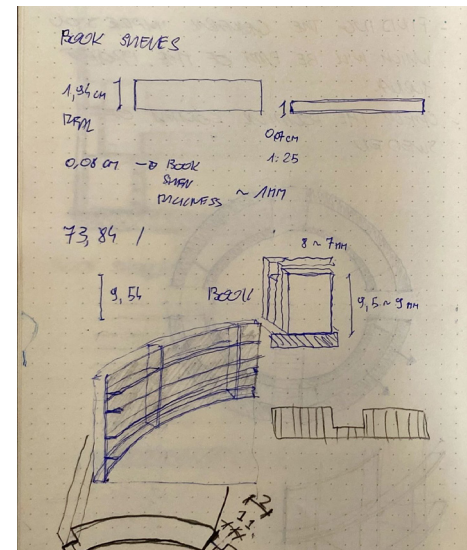
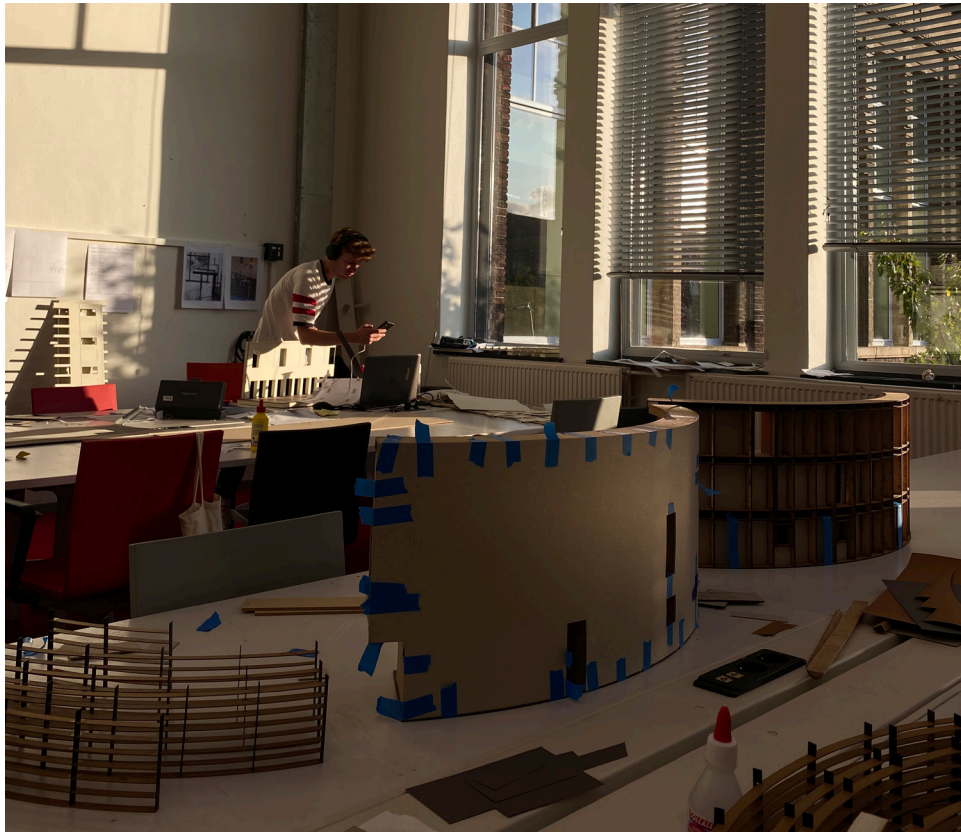
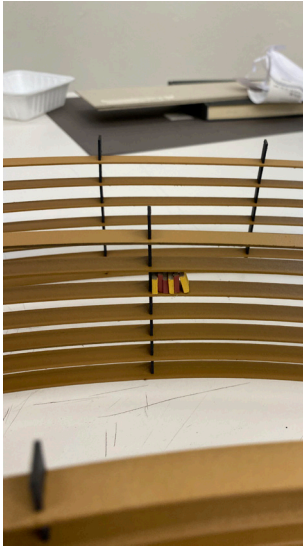


Fig.16. Sketch of the idea of creation of the bookshelves for the model.

Fig.17 Sketch of attempt to understand the dimensions and technique to fix the bookshelves.

Fig.18 Photo of the first set of the bookshelves in the making.



Collective effort in assembling the first elements of the rotunda. Moment when we finally saw a three-dimensional effect of our work from the previous weeks.



Fig.19 Set of photographs made in the studio space from the process of model making.

1.4

Week

Stockholm

Stockholm is a city with a unique social, political and architectural context. Discovering and attempting to understand the entanglement of factors which creates a complex context of the library became a main theme of the trip.

Visiting the city of Stockholm was our final personal meeting with the library we had been working on through the last few days. Confrontation of our imagination, and expectation with reality of The Stockholm Public Library. The reality turns out to be much more complex not only in terms of architecture but mostly

in its political and social context. During this trip, we managed to set the library in a much wider context. See other projects of Asplund and other architects like Sigurd Lewerentz. Get to know the city, its urban character and social framework. Both our observations and lectures, and conversations with citizens created a



Fig.1 Photo of the building in Stockholm

Day 1

Situating The Library

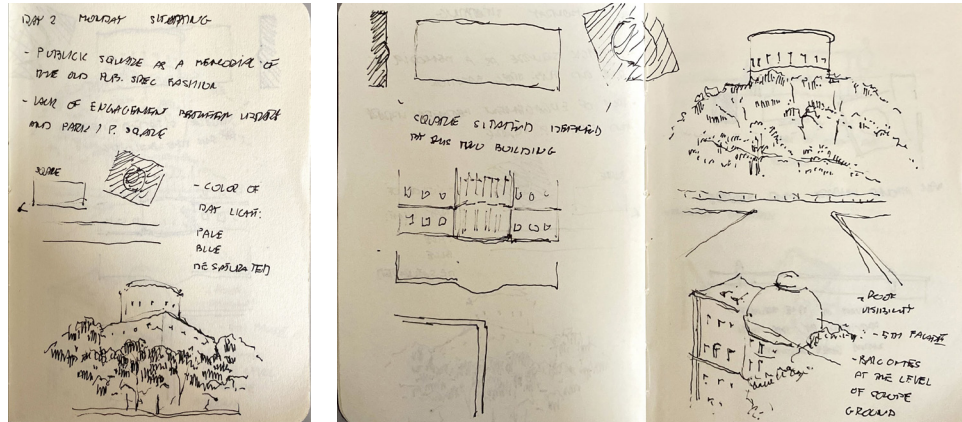


Fig.2 Sketches and photos made during the first approach to the library.

Aware situating of the library in landscape and city context makes it visible in a well-selected sequence of views.

The first steps around the library were dominated by understanding the landscape attributes of this building and how it plays and uses the topography. It is impossible to not notice the relation to the Economic Stockholm University and how it constitutes the square between them. Another unique feature provided by the hilly landscape is that the library can be observed from every side both facades and rooftop.



Fig.3 Photo of the south entrance to the library from the side of the public square and park.

Day 1

Situating The Library



The Wall which reflects the landscape.

Another element in public space which gently reflects on the topography is the wall surrounding the main square. The horizontal level of the higher part slowly distances itself from the lower part which follows the slope of the terrain. Thanks to that small maximum 80cm high element

gradually turns into a wall which closes and designates the border of the square. It is also a background for all the actions which are happening inside. At the end wall makes a small step down and accommodates a bench which faces the entrance to the metro station.

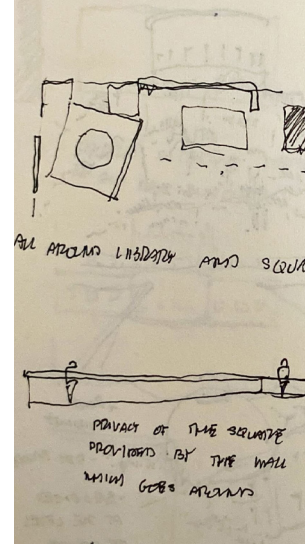


Fig.4 Photos of the surroundings of the Stockholm Public Library taken during day 2.

Fig.5 Photos and sketches of the Stockholm Public Library made during day 2.

Day 1

Situating The Library



Fig.5 Sequence of photos showing the approach to the library.

The sequence of photos shows how the library reveals itself when we approach it from its east side to the main entrance. The library is hidden in a row of other buildings. The colours and proportion of the high plinth fit into the context. The moment when the Rotunda appears the building reveals itself as not a regular townhouse.



Day 2

The Library

The place which lives its daily life like it didn't know is one most discussed and sensitive spaces in Stockholm.

The most awaited and emotional day during this trip as we finally managed to see a thing which we had been analysing and building for the last three weeks. Moment of confrontation of our imagination about the Library with its reality. The reality turned out to be much more prosaic and casual than expected but maybe it's a complement to Asplund's work.

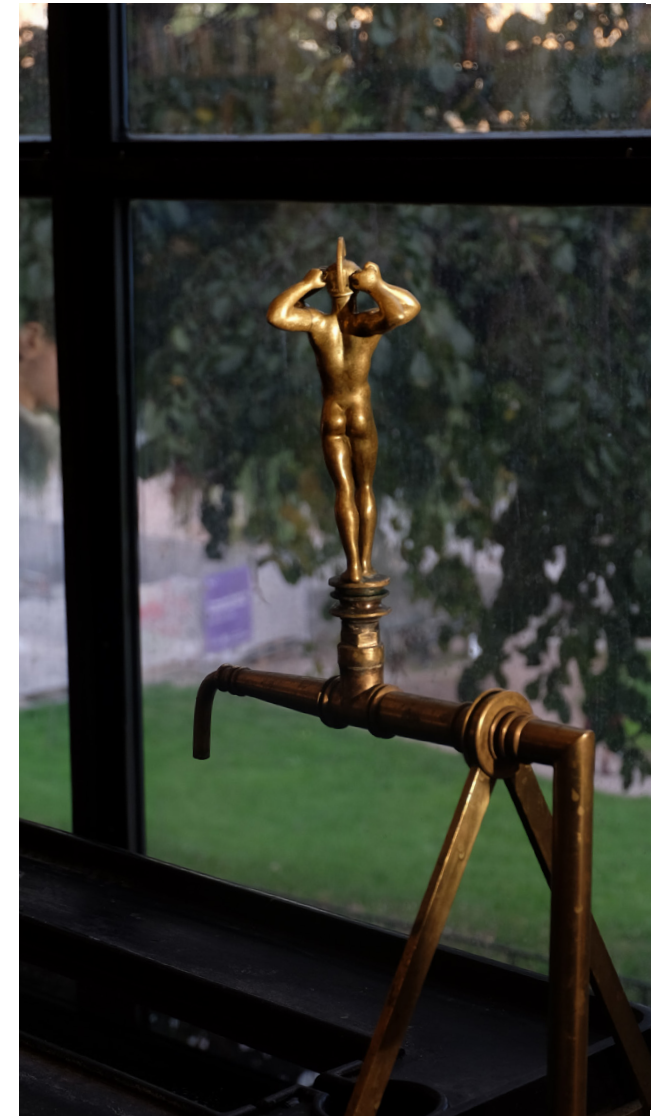


Fig.6 Photo of the water fountain designed by Gunnar Asplund.

Day 2

The Library

The celebrative act of going from place to place so how Asplund creates different experiences within one reading space.

The first thing noticed during free walks around the library is the transition moment from one space to another. The feeling of entering the Rotunda is strengthened by going through quite low and dark almost tunnel-like space. After that, the main space feels even more spectacular, light and high. The same solutions were used also when we go between other spaces. Asplund wants to make spaces with different characters inside the library and wants to celebrate the moment of going from one space to another.

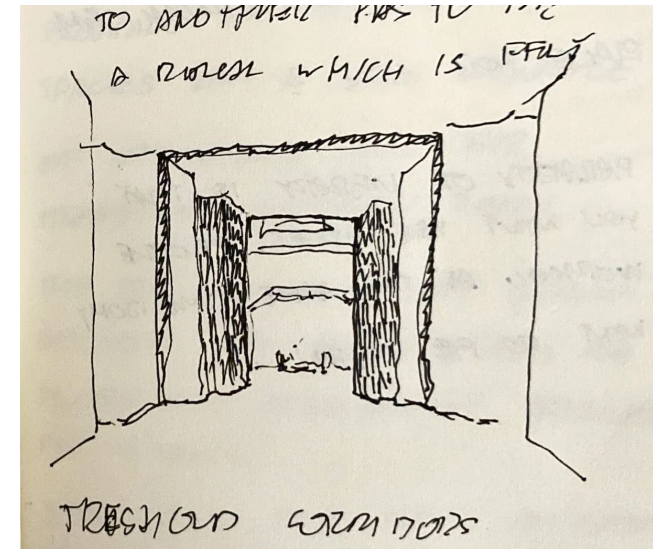


Fig.7 Sketch of the entrance to the Rotunda from the reading room.



Fig.8 Photo of the entrance to the Rotunda from the reading room.

Day 2

The Library

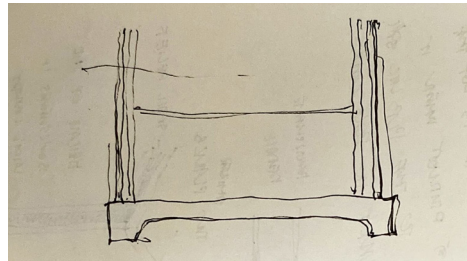
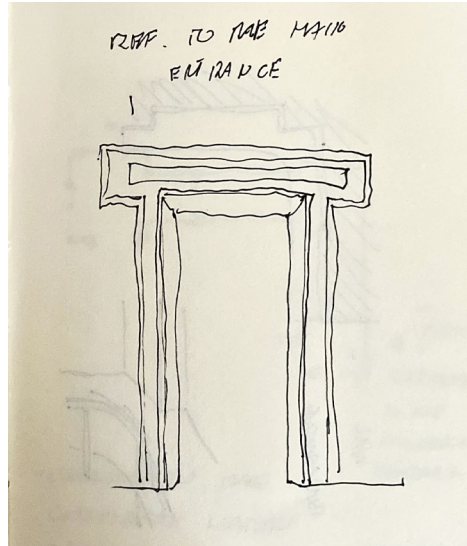


Fig.9 Sketches of timber details designed by Asplund.



Fig.10 Photo of the timber frame around the doors in the children library.

The Amphilad of rooms makes a journey of walking through them a designed experience where the narrative ends in the storytelling room.

The section of the children's reading room was filled with details designed by Asplund. Impressive design of timber entrances, bookshelves and furniture. Spaces for the library were placed in the amphilad sequence of rooms that surrounded the space of the rotunda. At the end of the journey through all of the rooms, we reach the children's storytelling room.

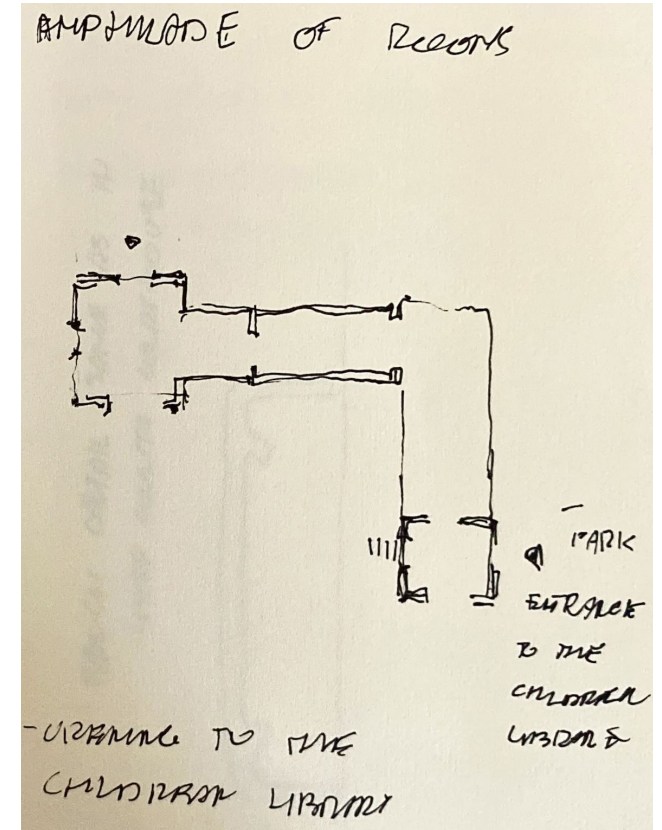


Fig.11 Sketch of the circulation around the children library.

Day 2

The Library

Bench, chair, desk – how different ways of sitting imply different actions.

The last moments in the library I spent watching what activities were occurring in the library and what places and furniture people chose to do them. In the Stockholm Public Library, most of the reading rooms are still kept in the form how Asplund designed them but some of the furniture where changed. For example in the Rotunda appeared benches which are mostly used by people who want to talk or read a book or newspaper. It's a place for a casual situation rather than studying or working. The place which is meant to do that are desks placed in such a way that we can only see people back which helps to avoid distraction.



Fig.12 Photo of the desk in the reading room in Stockholm Public Library.

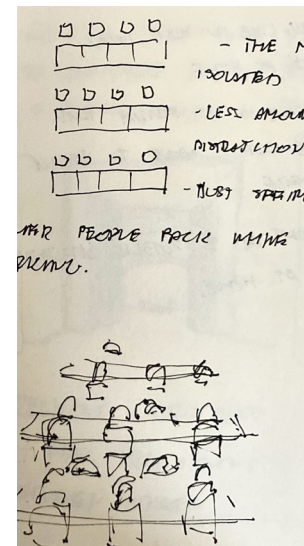
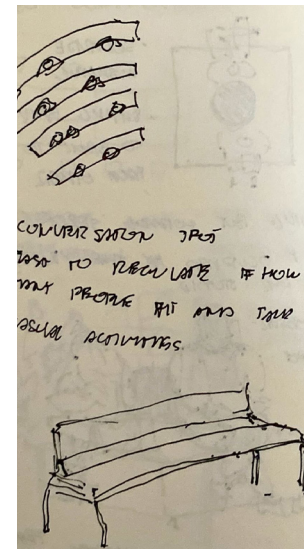


Fig.13 Sketches of desk figuration in Stockholm Public Library

Fig.14 Photo of people reading in the Rotunda in The Stockholm Public Library.

Day 2

The Library



Fig.15 Photo of the accessible bookshelves in the Rotunda.

The feeling of locality in the building which manifests itself as a place with much bigger importance.

Leaving the library with a lot of doubts. Stockholm Public City Library feels much more like a local small community centre. People who mostly come here are either students or older people who would like to read their newspaper. Maybe the idea of a library which is supposed to be the main library in the city does not work and what we need is a network of smaller local libraries.



Fig.16 Photo of the lamp designed by Gunnar Asplund for the reading room.

Day 3

Spatial and Political context

Stockholm—what a straining city.

The day we found out what is happening in Stockholm but what is not visible at first sight. The political and sociological context of the city, the problems they are facing right now and the role of public institutions in this process became the main topic of discussions, lectures and observations we made that day.



Fig.17 Photo of the discussion about the City Hall in Stockholm.

Day 3

Spatial and Political context



Fig.18 Photos and sketches made on a day 3 of the trip.

Fig.19 Photo of the spontaneous lecture given on the street by Long Kieran.

Day 3

Spatial and Political context



Unique usage of elements of interior which are shaping the exterior image of the facade.

Bank designed by Sigurd Lewerentz. Inspiring trip to the building designed with great sensitivity and care about details. Idea how the interior of the building can shape the exterior and arrange the facade. The placement of lamps in the middle of every window creates a feeling of depth in the facade.

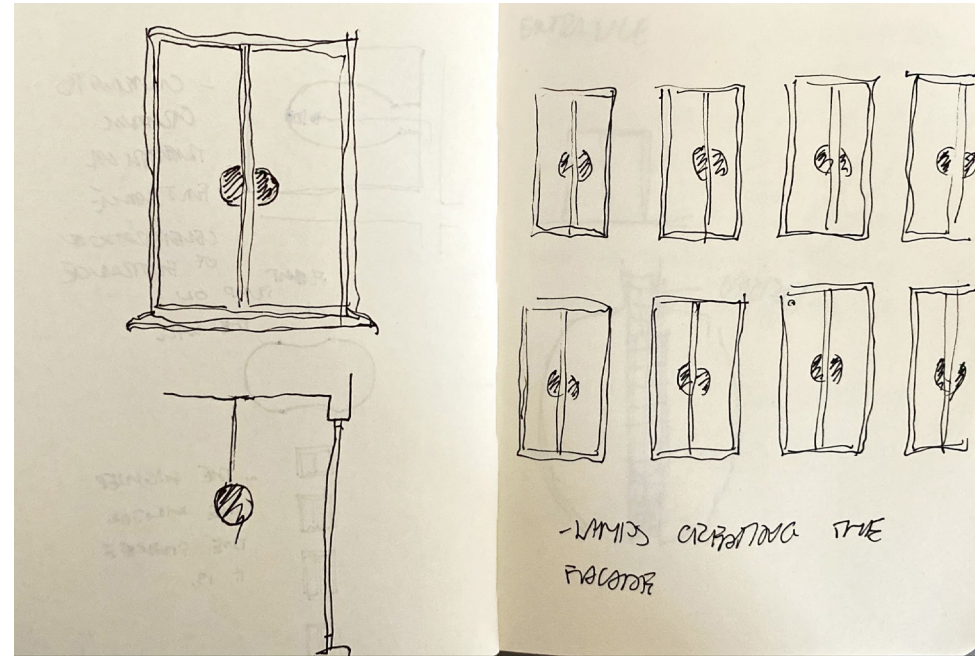


Fig.20 Sketches of the lamps visible in the facade.



Fig.21 Photos of the lamps inside the building.

Week

1.5

Finalizing the model

Correcting, redoing and finalizing. Seeing the building life influenced our imagination about what we want to present in the model.

Visiting the Library clarified a lot of aspects regarding the model. We were able to see, compare and choose a colour of materials for our model. What unfortunately meant that some elements needed to be redone. After seeing the building in real life it was easier to specify what kind of effect, atmosphere and level of detail we wanted to achieve in our model.



Fig.1 Photo of the process of removing the old floor from the model.



Fig.1 Photo of the process of removing the old floor from the model.

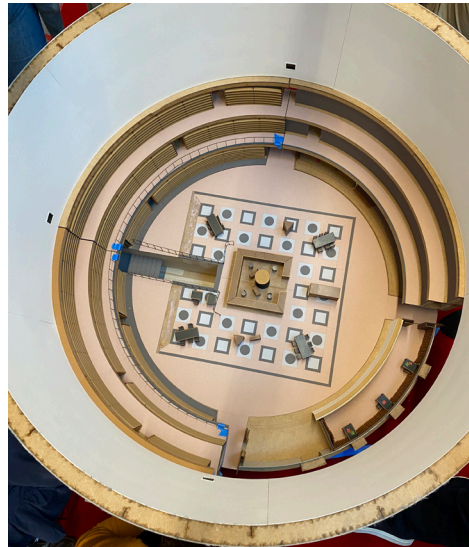


Fig.1 Photo of the process of removing the old floor from the model.



Fig.1 Photo of the process of removing the old floor from the model.

Week

1.6

What is a library and what it wants to be

In the face of radicalization of society libraries are an institution which can and should defend democratic ideas with particular emphasis on the creation of commons.

The first approach to construct our position towards a institution like public library. In the time of radicalization of society in Sweden, public libraries carry the responsibility of being a place where those democratic values can be promoted and shared with people. It is not enough for a modern library to be just a workplace or a storage for books. Libraries have the potential to shape local identity which then can be transformed into the form of social responsibility.

After spending almost six weeks researching, modelling and visiting Asplund's Public Library in Stockholm I wanted to distance myself from the topic of the library and decided to look on through the lens of other public institutions which is close to me so the cinema.



Fig.1 Photo of the newspaper section in the Stockholm Public Library.

What is a library and what it wants to be

I. We go to the cinema with particular expectation to see and experience an intensify story in a form of a medium like movie.



Fig.2 People waiting in the line to the Randall Park Mall Cinema in 1976.

II. In the screening room we experience something together but on our own. It's a collective activity but confronted on our own.

III. After the screening cinema offer you a space where you can stay and talk about what you just saw. This is the moment where local bonds are being created.



*Fig.3 People in the cinema
photo taken by J.R.
Eyerman*



*Fig.4 Cafe and bar in the
Filmhuis Den Haag. Own
photo.*

Space to stay after

I. Entrance II. Lobby III. Screening room IV. Space to stay after

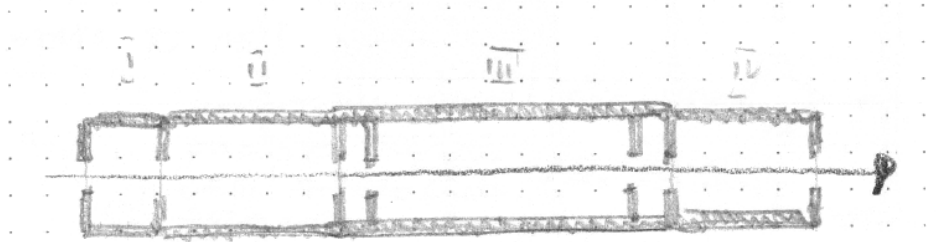


Fig.5 Sketch of the sequence of actions in the cinema.

Fig.6 Photo of the common space in Kino Iluzjon in Warsaw.



Fig.7 Photo of openair event at Kinoteka in Warsaw.



Fig.8 Sketch from the newspaper section in The Stockholm Public Library.



Fig.9 Sketch of imagination of a common space.

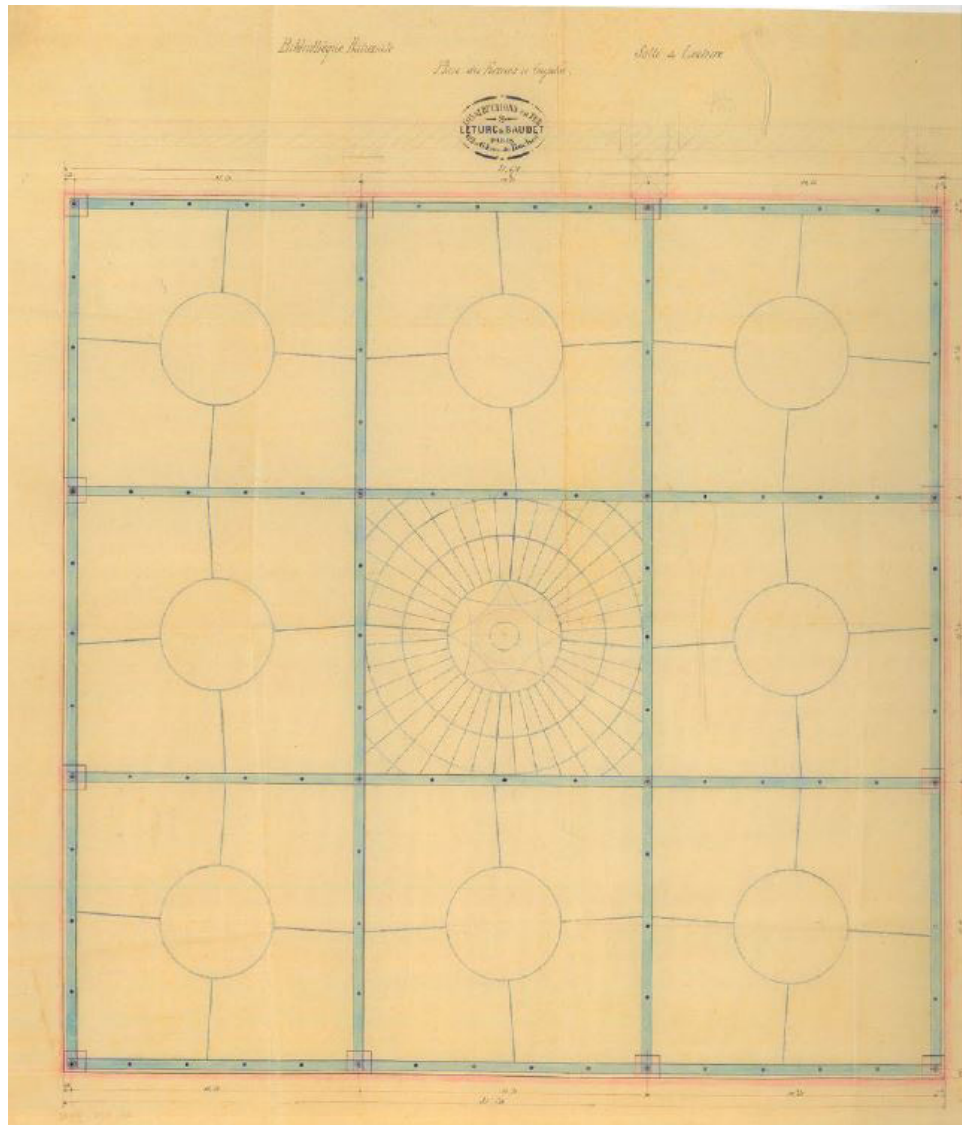


Fig.10 Structure drawing of the domes in the Lebrust reading room.

Correcting, redoing and finalizing. Seeing the building life influenced our imagination about what we want to present in the model.

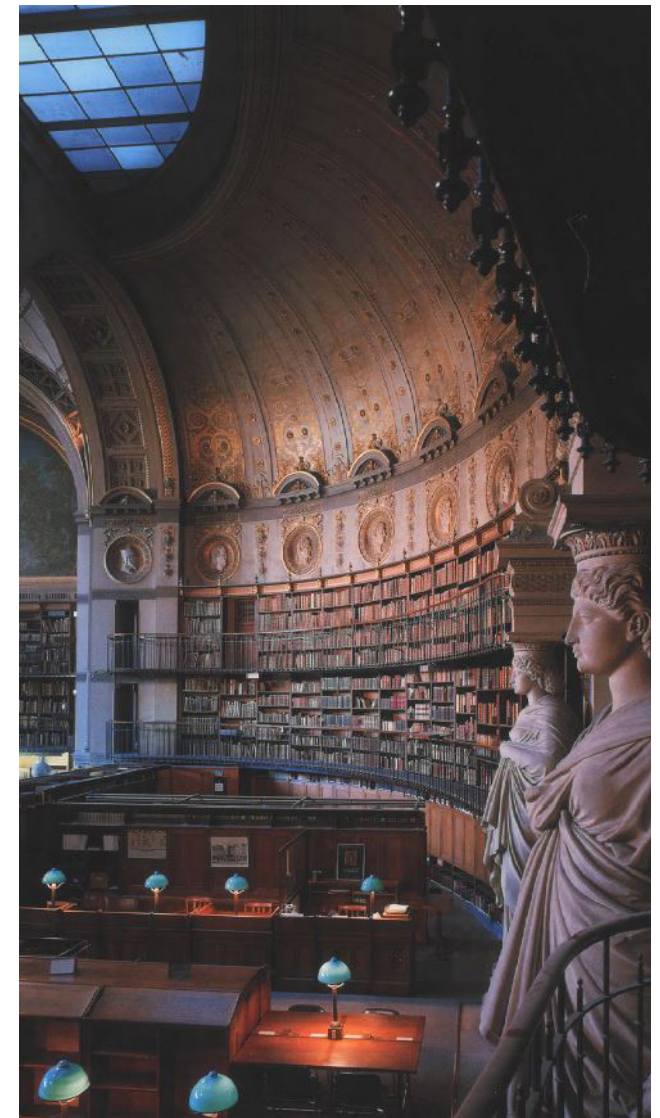


Fig.1 Photo of the process of removing the old floor from the model.

Week

1.7

Being in a library without a reason

Libraries as public organisation which aim not to make a profit but to gather people together and provide knowledge is a great tool in the building of social resistance.

The institution of the library works both on the political and sociological levels. In my theory essay, I analysed the topic of Possibilities of Architecture as a mechanism of resistance and one of the conclusions was that contemporary architecture together with public institutions carries the responsibility to facilitate social resistance. The Public Library has a special role in this process because it not only gathers people together but also provides knowledge. In the face of that, I started wondering how a library can accommodate resistance and where and when can it happen.

Social resistance against the system that is monetizing everything in our lives can be built by the creation of commons. The need to be together is not motivated by the need to make a profit so it's the only reason which is from outside the system.



Fig.1 Shot from the Sergei Parajanov's movie "The Colour of Pomegranates".

Space to be bored, procrastiante or do nothing

In the framework of a rigid and organized space, a moment of freedom, boredom and confusion can be a moment where ideas and relations are shaped.

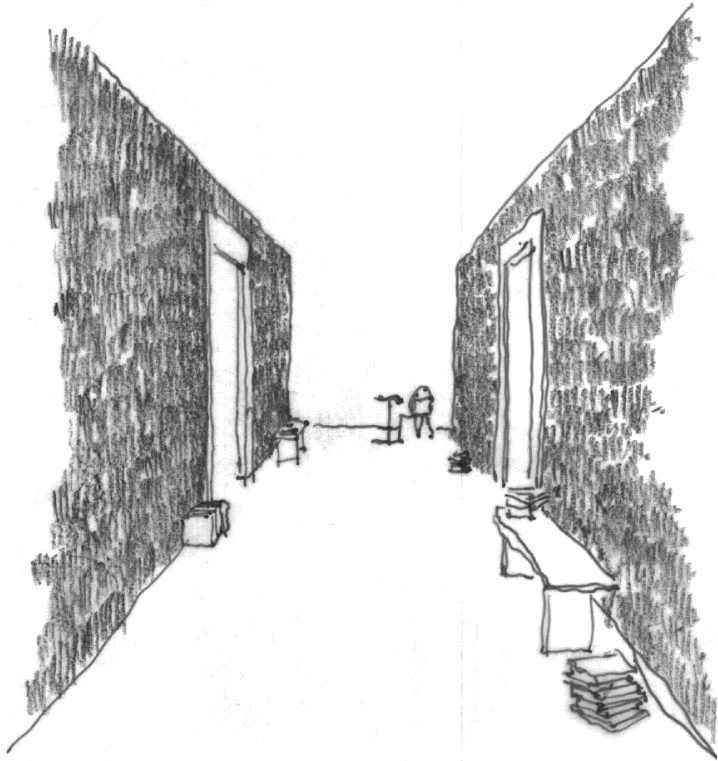


Fig.2 Sketch of the model of in between space in a library.

The Colour of Pomegranates

“The Colour of Pomegranates” is Sergei Parajanov’s movie about the life of a poet. The story told by a non-narrative series of shots. For me particularly interesting was the idea of spending time with books sometimes even without reading them just being around.

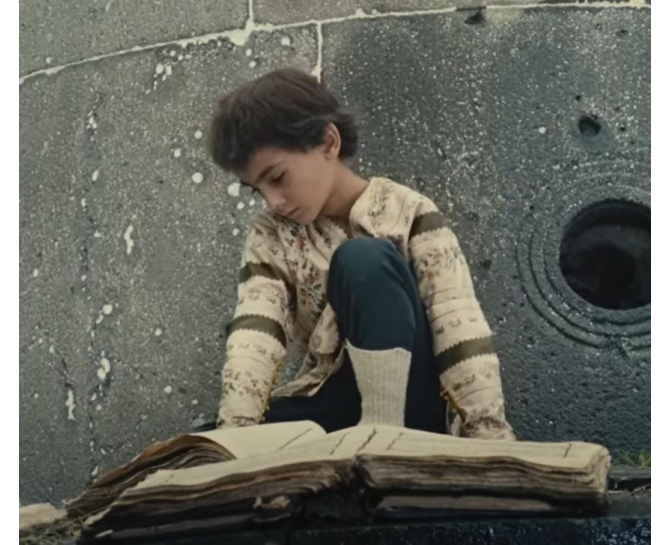


Fig.3 Shot from the Sergei Parajanov’s movie “The Colour of Pomegranates”.



Fig.4 Shot from the Sergei Parajanov’s movie “The Colour of Pomegranates”.

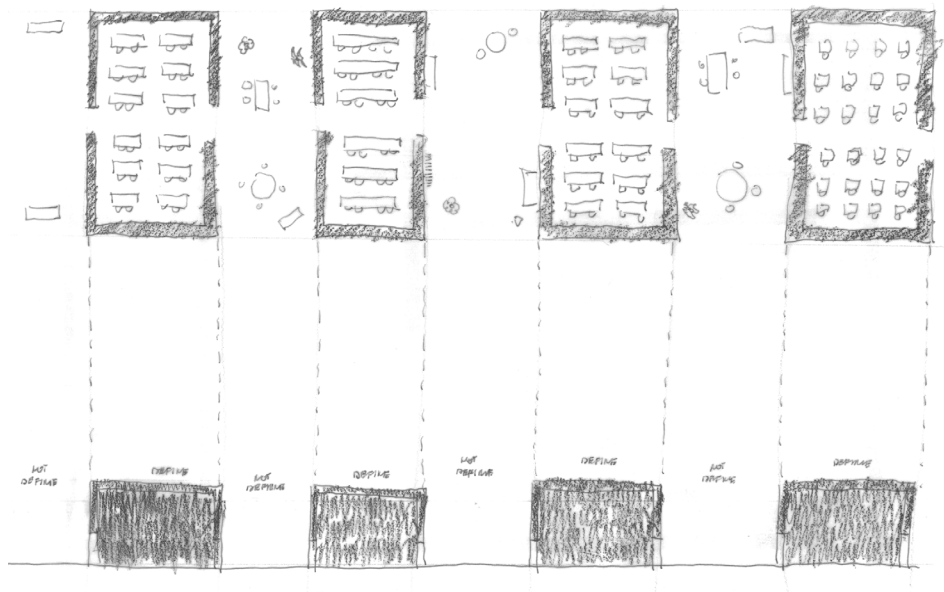


Fig.5 Sketch of the sequence of defined and not-defined spaces in a library.

Fig.6 Sequence of shots from the Sergei Parajanov's movie "The Colour of Pomegranates".

Fig.6

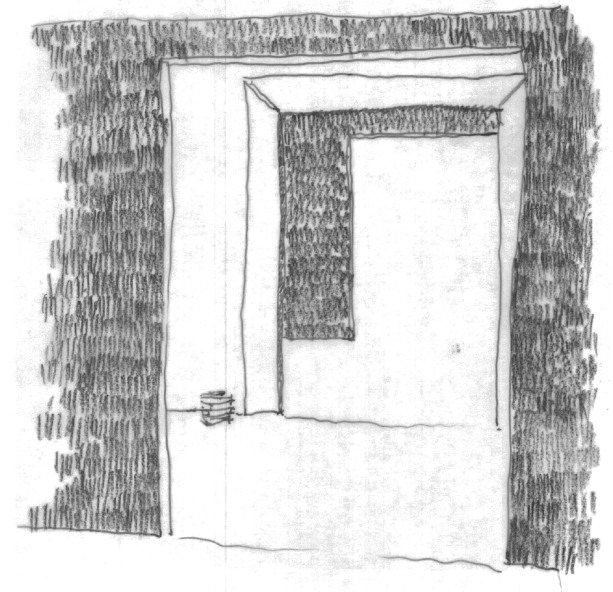


Fig.7 Sketch of sequence of defined and not-defined spaces in a library.

Creating a not-defined space among the rigid organised structure of rooms with a clear purpose. Space which will slightly distract us from our task, free our brain and leave some space for spontaneity and creativity.



Week

1.8

Room for a library

One of responsibilities of institution of a Public Library is to create community which is crucial element in the mechanism of creatin social resistance.

As a consequence of the previous week's tutorials are started defining my room for a library as an in-between space which is a place with less rigid boundaries, functionality and atmosphere. The aim is to create a space where social resistance can be created by using the educational potential of the institution of a library. A community to be created and cemented needs a space of common experience which can be shared between its participants. Such an occurrence can happen in a library but to achieve that there is a need for a space where social interaction is likely to happen. To achieve that I believe it is important to not only provide a space for study, working or reading but also an informal space where people can stay after being in the library. A combination of formality and informality can create a contrast in which community can be created.

Fig.1 Photo of the sketch model of inbetween space in the library.



“Rigid structures and closed defined spaces kill an opportunity to learn”

~Christopher Alexander, A Pattern Language (1977)

One of responsibilities of institution of a Public Library is to create community which is crucial element in the mechanism of creatin social resistance.

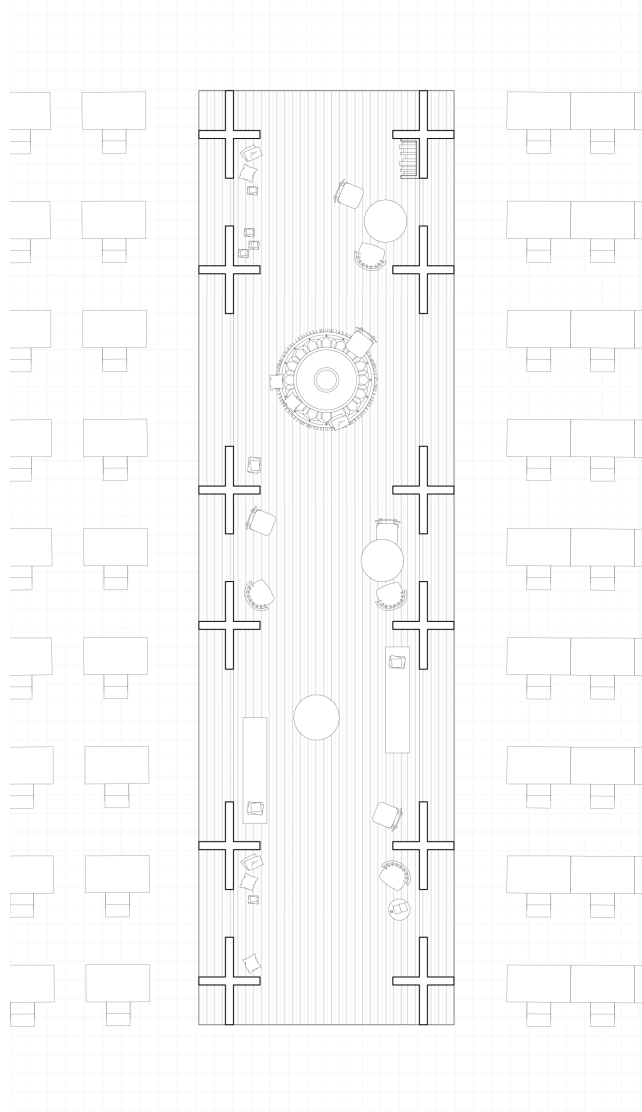


Fig.2 Floor plan of the proposition for the room for a library

One of responsibilities of institution of a Public Library is to create community which is crucial element in the mechanism of creatin social resistance.

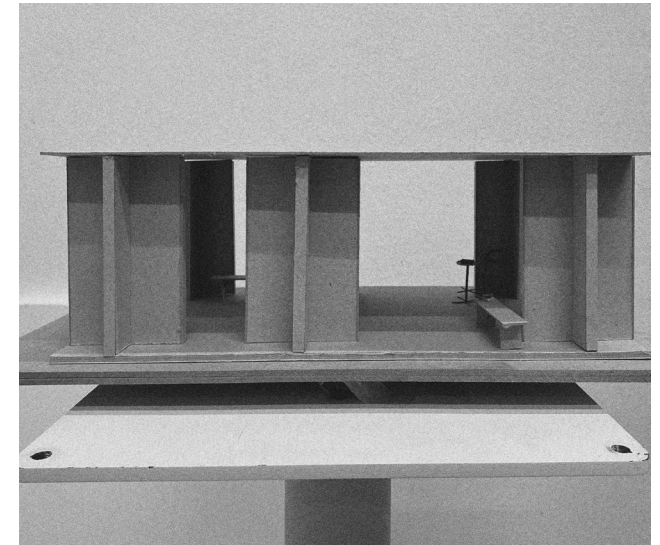
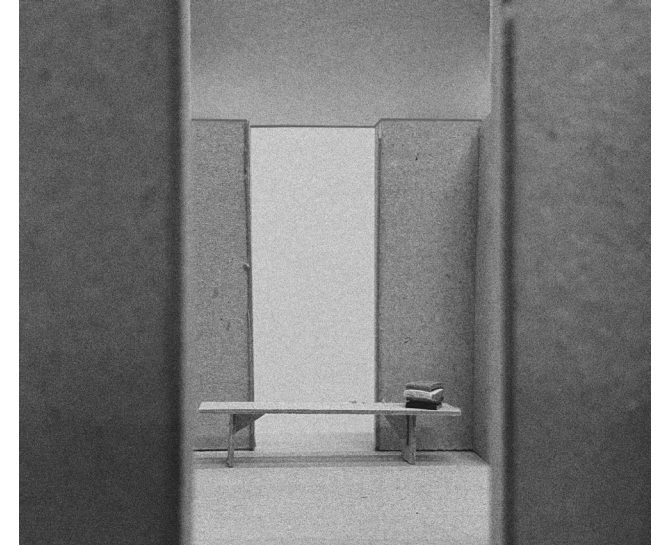


Fig.4 and Fig.5 Photo of the sketch model of inbetween space in the library.

P 1

Week

1.9

P1 Final Reflection

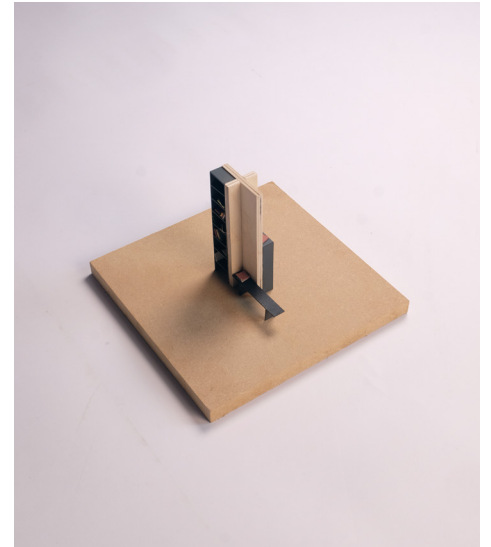
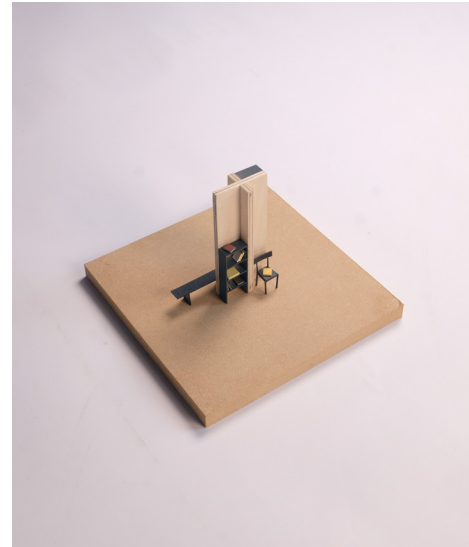
Task of designing a room for a library in abstract context where our only limitation is our own concept and idea was a valuable warm up before approaching the main brief. Challenge of formulating our own position towards a public library, how it should operate, what it should be and what should not and then transforming this position into a room with architectural values revealed many possibly dangers and issues.

What I will take into next parts of the graduation studio after this exercise is a fact that your own idea can be self-limiting. Defining my own position, creating a concept and setting a meaning for a design is needed when it helps to make coherent specific decisions for a project. Nevertheless at some point can

become an obstacle which stops you from developing a project for a sake of maintaining clear concept.

Besides learning from a design process this task helped to formulate and test our first imagination about contemporary library. The approach that I will stay with me for next briefs is a fact that a Public Library can not be only a place for book, work or study. In a face of current affairs in modern societies institution of a library carries a responsibility of educating and creating a community based on acceptance, curiosity and knowledge. To do that it is necessary to rephrase the program of a public library in order to make it belong more to people than rigid, closed and official institutional regulations.





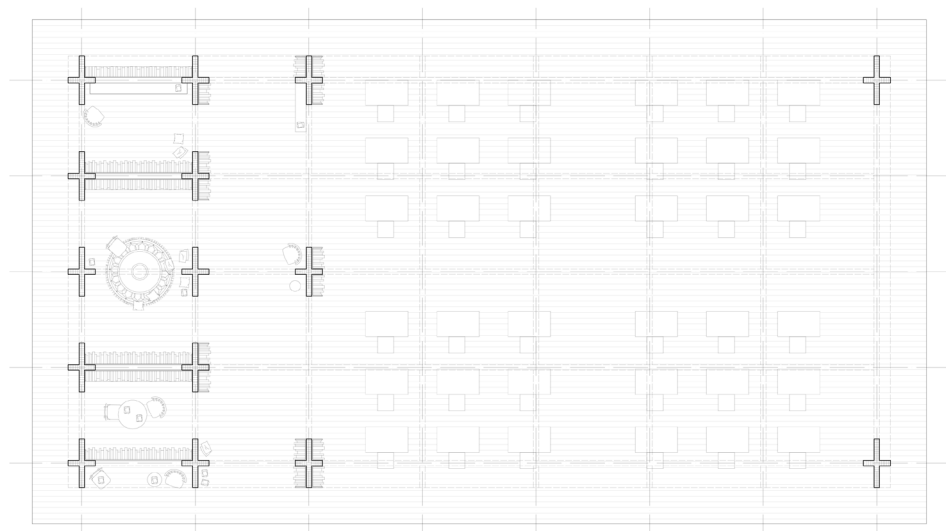


Fig.4 and Fig.5 Photo of the sketch model of inbetween space in the library.

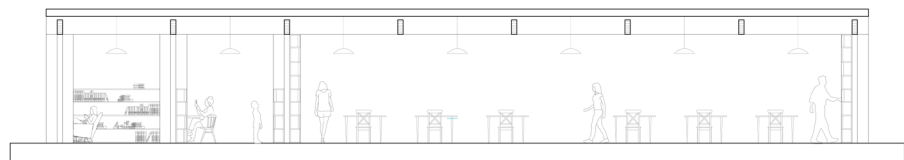


Fig.4 and Fig.5 Photo of the sketch model of inbetween space in the library.



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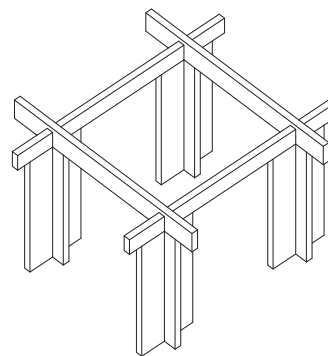


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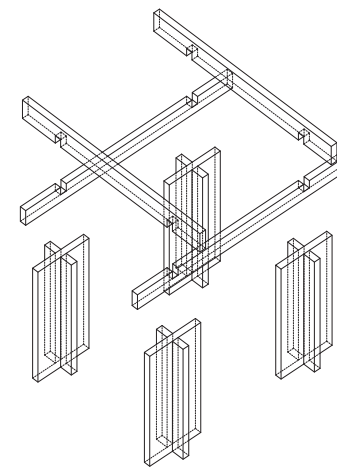


Fig.4 and Fig.5 Photo of the sketch model of inbetween space in the library.

P1 Final Reflection

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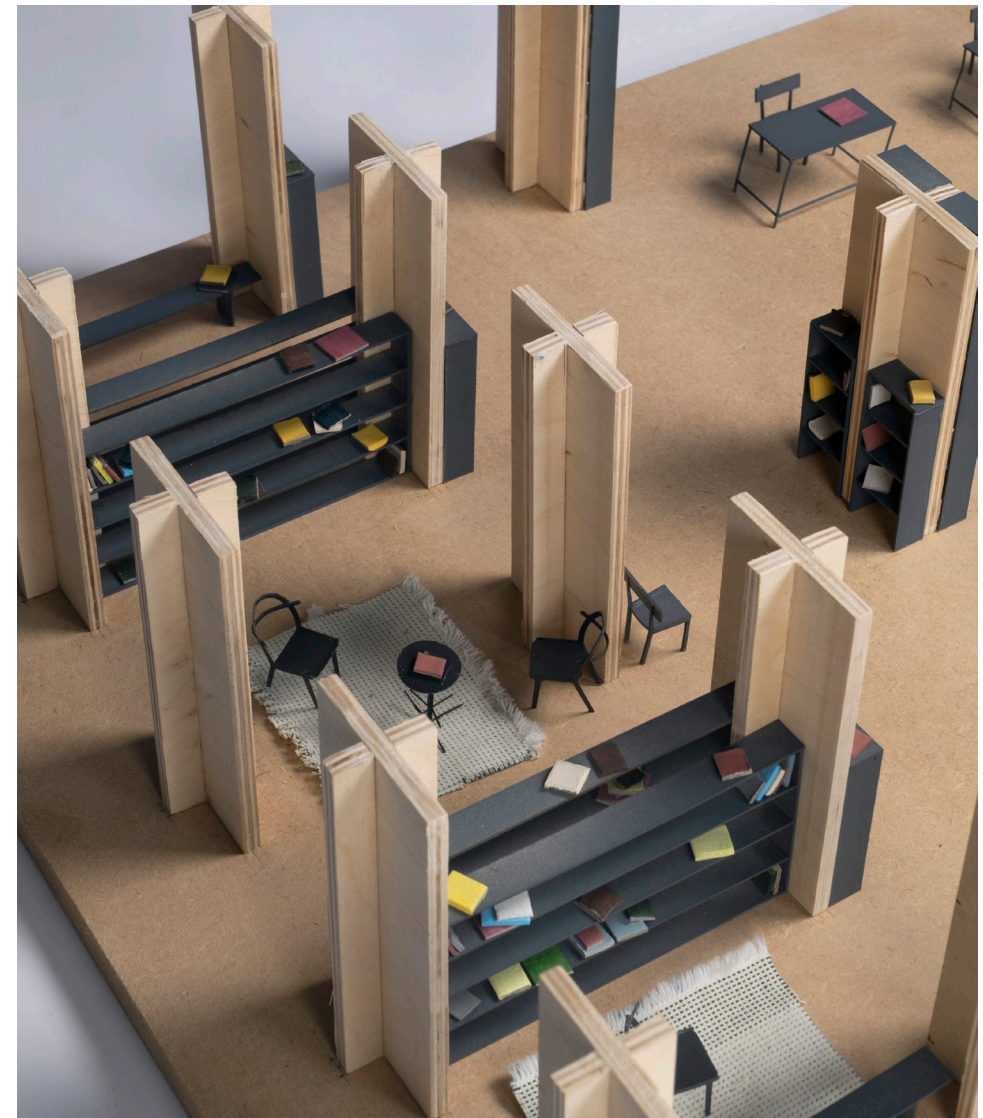


Fig.4 and Fig.5 Photo of the sketch model of inbetween space in the library.

Week

2.1

What does it want and what does it need

The very first steps into project was to define a set of rules, principles and objections which will create a framework fo the future design.

Stockholm City Library is a place where a lot of discussion about it's future alredy had place. As much as it is highly recognisable, respected and pricuful building it is also a problem which puts preasure on the whole system of public libraries in Stockholm. The Building does not have enough space to fit all the functions and ambitions of a city library. Storage spaces started "eating" the public zones. In the first days I wanted to focus on defining a starting points for the project. A set of principals, golas and objections which will create a framework for the future design.



Fig.1 Photo of the Stockholm Public Library taken by

What does it want and what does it need

“Arranging the facilities in a smarter way can ensure cost effectiveness and increase sustainability overall. Efficiency and performance are prioritised over softer values.”

The customer survey shows that the city library is both a local library for those who live and work in the neighbourhood and a library where people come from other parts of the city and county. 42% of those who use the City Library live in Stockholm, outside the Normalm district, 33% live in Normalm. Of those who visit the city library, 33% are students at different levels (for IB only). the corresponding figure is much lower, with 16% stating that they are students).

Fig.2 Fragment of the 2014 brief

library, Asplundhuset, is despite being “a famous very beautiful building..., it isn’t really adjusted to the needs of library visitors today.” Although Mager and Matthey (2015) remind us that libraries designed to be iconic can have an exclusionary effect, they must also be an extension of their surrounding public space (Di Marino & Lapintie, 2015) and from the interviews, it appears Asplundhuset is somewhat lacking in this regard.

Earlier plans to extend the city library into the retail space below were left unrealised due to insufficient public funds for the project. One of the building’s librarian’s reflects on this, suggesting that “it would have been nice to see something more, some more guts, some more courage, from the politicians.” As shown in Picture 2, there is both a 7/11 and a McDonalds within the library’s architectural boundaries and as one local librarian asks, “why should we eat McDonalds when we have a lot better stuff to eat. I think we could make a change there, but I’m not the one to decide.” It is clear from the results that while professional stakeholders from Stockholm’s public libraries would rather it not reflect 7/11, political priorities and limited budgets suggest that for now, 7/11 must still play a part.

Fig.3

standpoints, the responses from the interviewees suggest a different reality. While Jonas Naddebo states that the library “should not be reflecting a political stance”, one library manager points out that politicians are indirectly managing the library anyway “by deciding the finances and the budget and the framework.” While deciding that the library should have a limited budget does not mean that the library internally reflects a political standpoint, it is clearly a political stance on the library’s place within society, as well as how it should be funded. On similar, but definitely separate topic, one librarian states that the Swedish Democrats (a far right political party who are in control of several municipalities, and therefore libraries, in Sweden) want libraries to “let go of... human rights values like no discrimination, multicultural curation etc.” He points out that preventing them from doing this is not a neutral act, but a political one. Therefore, by resisting right wing populism through the promotion of fundamental human rights (which the library legally must do), the library becomes a political institution.

Many of the interviewees witnessed budget cuts as an extension of market logic and with the help of the literature, can be framed under New Public Management. Many of Gruening’s (2001) stated characteristics of NPM such as the measurement of performance, accountability, and customer-oriented language were referenced during the interviews. The minister for culture stated that “by arranging the facilities in a smarter way, we can ensure cost effectiveness and increased sustainability overall.” Efficiency and performance are prioritised over softer values, with criteria, according to one librarian,

Fig.3 Fragment of the essay “Stockholm’s Public Libraries Essential Public Spaces” written by William Hilliard

Fig.4, Fig.5 Photos of the bazar with McDonald and 7/11 around Stockholm City Library.

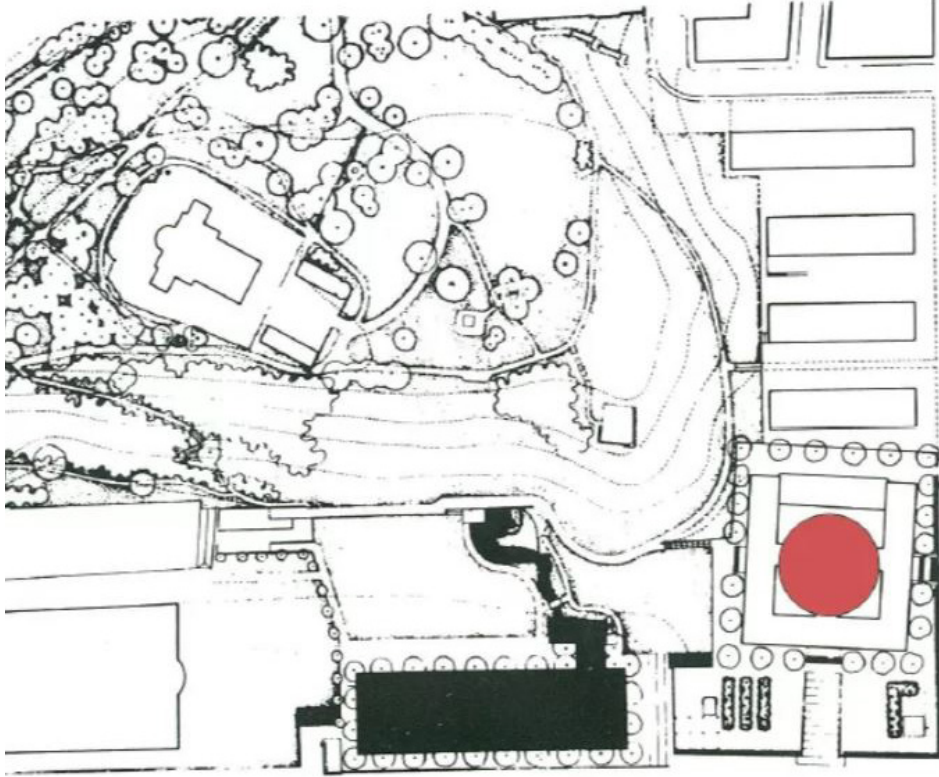
“What makes a successful park? What makes a successful road? I see the library very much as infrastructure. Infrastructure is good and working when it’s not breaking down, so as long as the library is not breraking down, then it’s working”

~Librarian of Stockholm City Library



First postion

The very first steps into project was to define a set of rules, principles and objections which will create a framework fo the future design.



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Fig. 5,6,7 Renders of the first spatial tests of working with 4th annex.



Week

2.2

How does it work

First exercise of testing the spatial solutions in the urban context with referring to Asplund original plan for this area.

Natural next step after defining the framework for the project was the first spatial attempts to check how certain volumes work in space. What do they imply and what might be their possibilities and limitations. Facing the challenge of designing in a strictly defined structure. Balancing is about adapting, fitting and finding its expression.

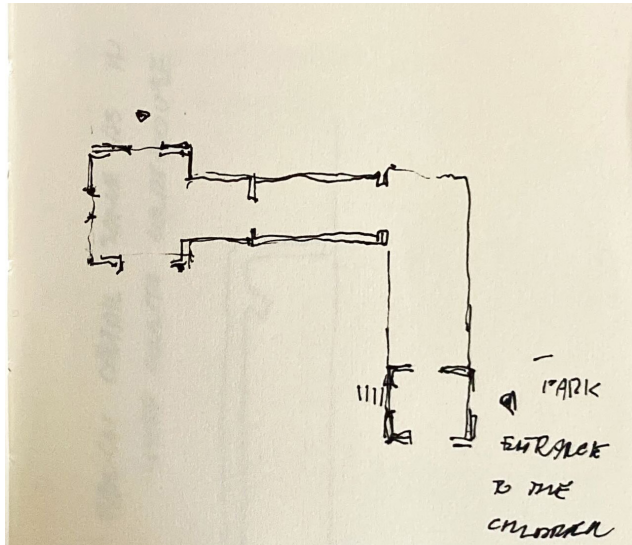


Fig.1 Sketch made by author

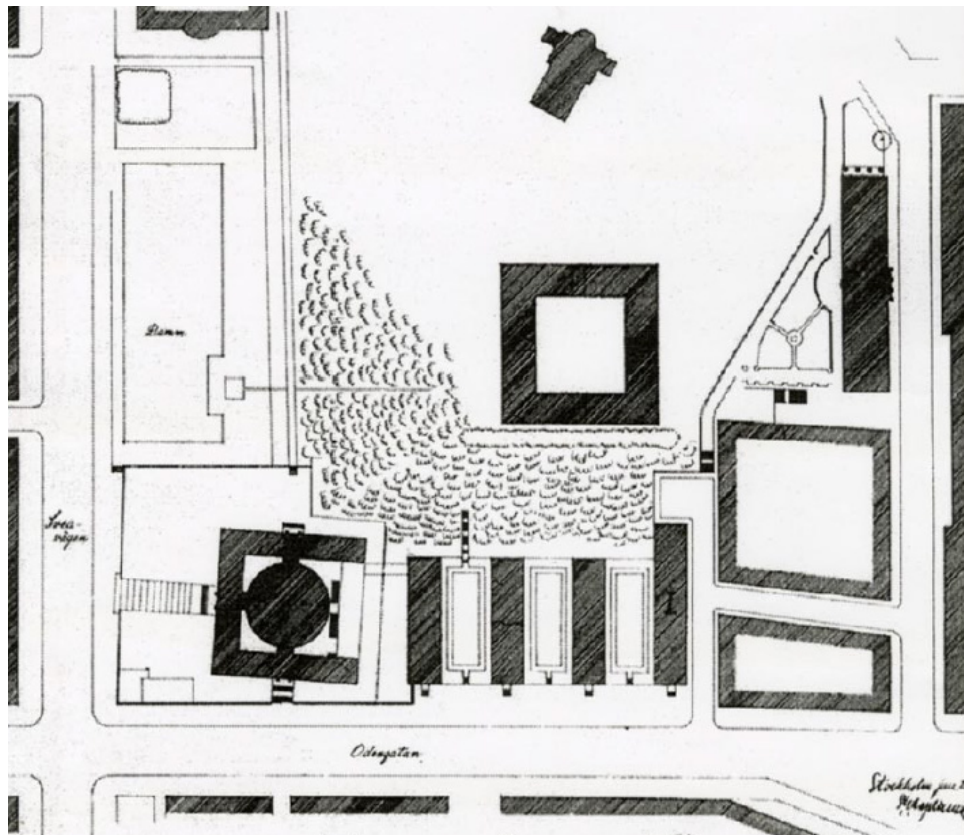
Fig.2,3 Photos of 1.25 made by students of interiors buildings cities



Strategy of complement

Working in the strongly defined context of Asplund's monument of Stockholm City Library in my opinion requires a careful spatial strategy. Knowing the political and sociological context and history of this place I believe that it is important to value the current urban structure and try to solve the facing problem within this structure.

My first approach was to complete Asplund's original site plan for this area and add the 4th annex. Positioning it closer to the library allowed for increased density to this part of the urban fabric and brings annexes closer to the library which gives a possibility for their stronger interrelation.



The first approach was focused on providing a new space with a respect to the existing structure. Knowing its importance to the citizens and authorities I found that important to be preserved.

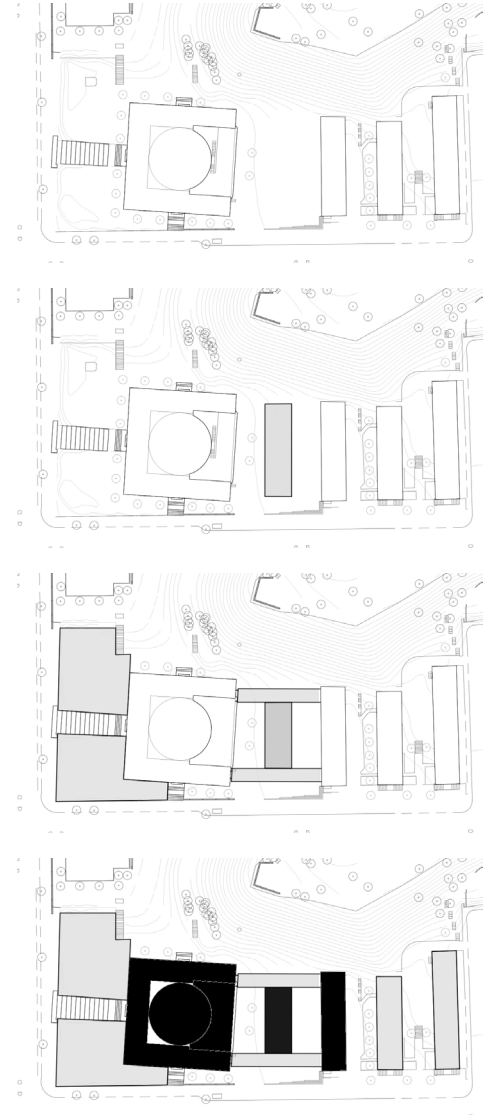
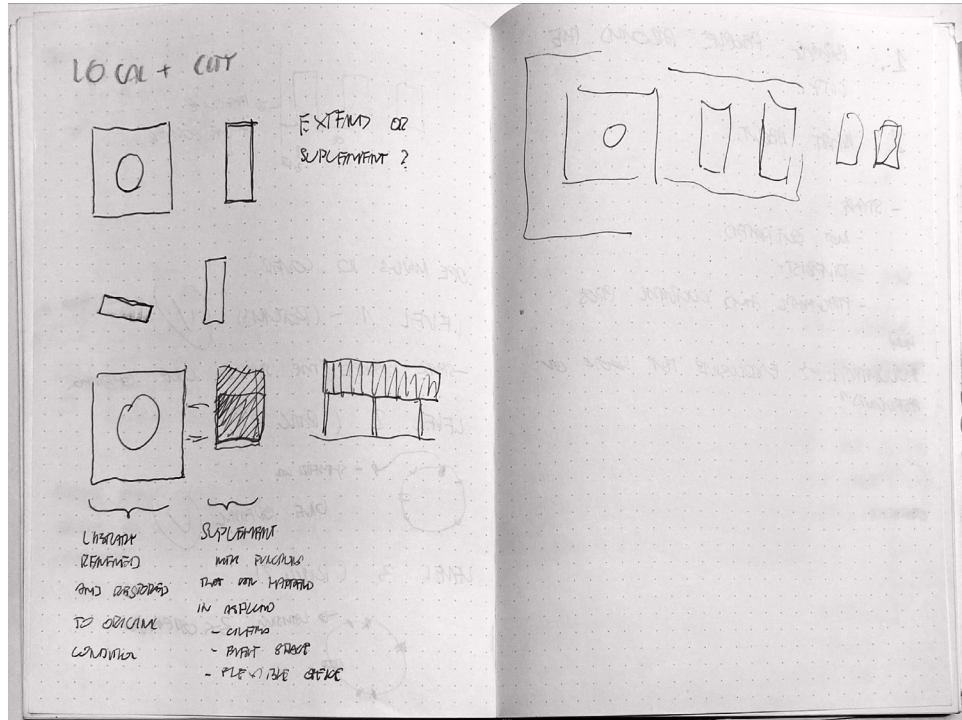


Fig.3 Plan for the site made Gunar Asplund

Fig.4 Sequence drawing of the completing the first position made by author.

Finding its architectural language



According to brief and own observations from the visit the library attracts both people from the local neighbourhood and the other parts of the city. This leads to the conclusion that it has been and will be in the future both local and city library.



Fig. 5 Renders of the first spatial tests

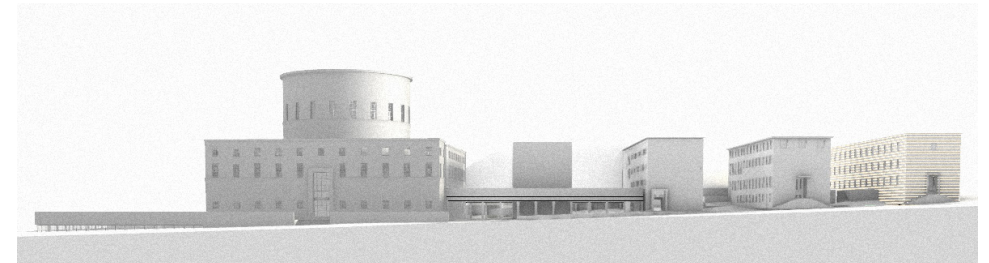
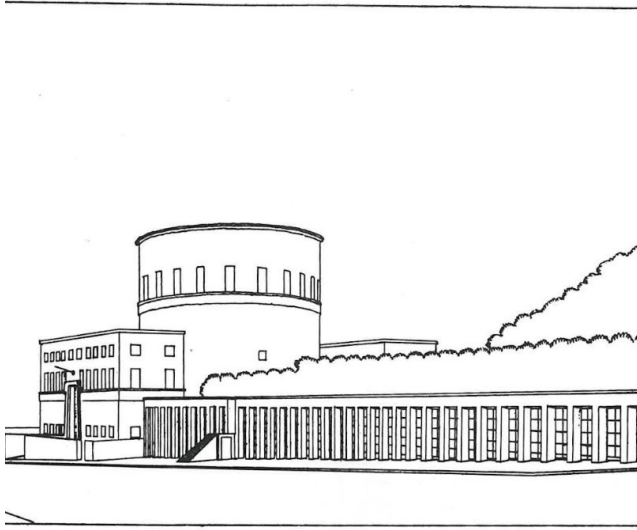


Fig.6 Renders of the first spatial tests with the wider context

Finding its architectural language



In the second step, I tried to extend the idea to all annexes and create one big organism functioning in the form of a campus. That is also supported by Asplund's original ideas for the site. Nevertheless, I found it quite an overwhelming proposal which extends the building to an enormous size.

Fig.7 Renders of the second option assuming bigger extension of the pavilions

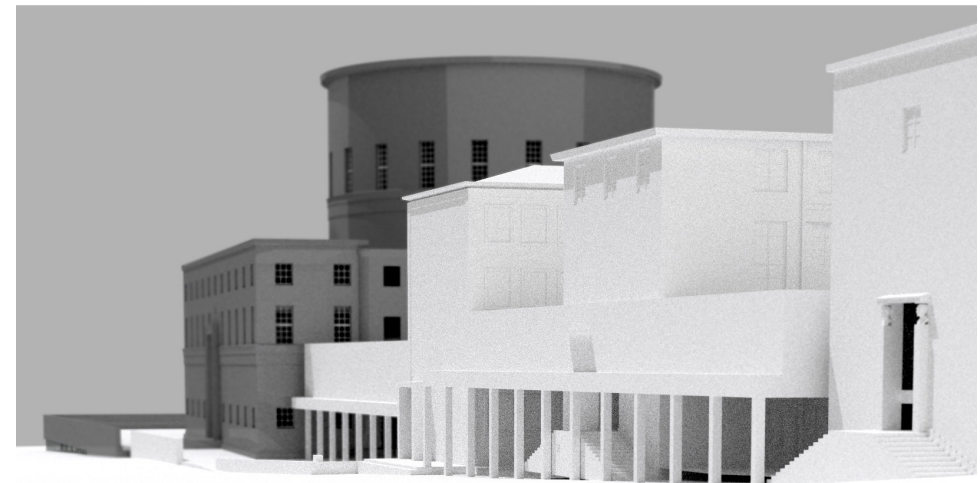
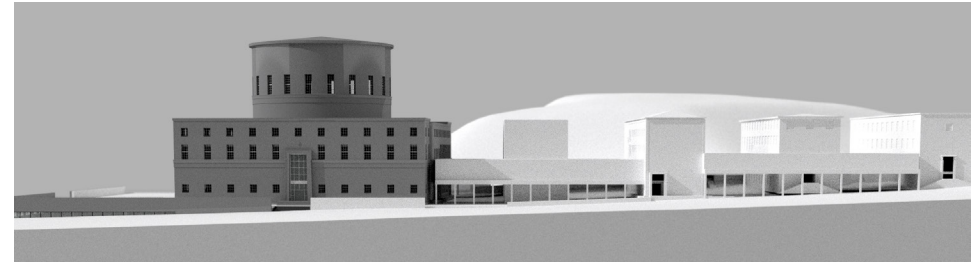


Fig.8,9 Renders of the second option assuming bigger extension of the pavilions

Week

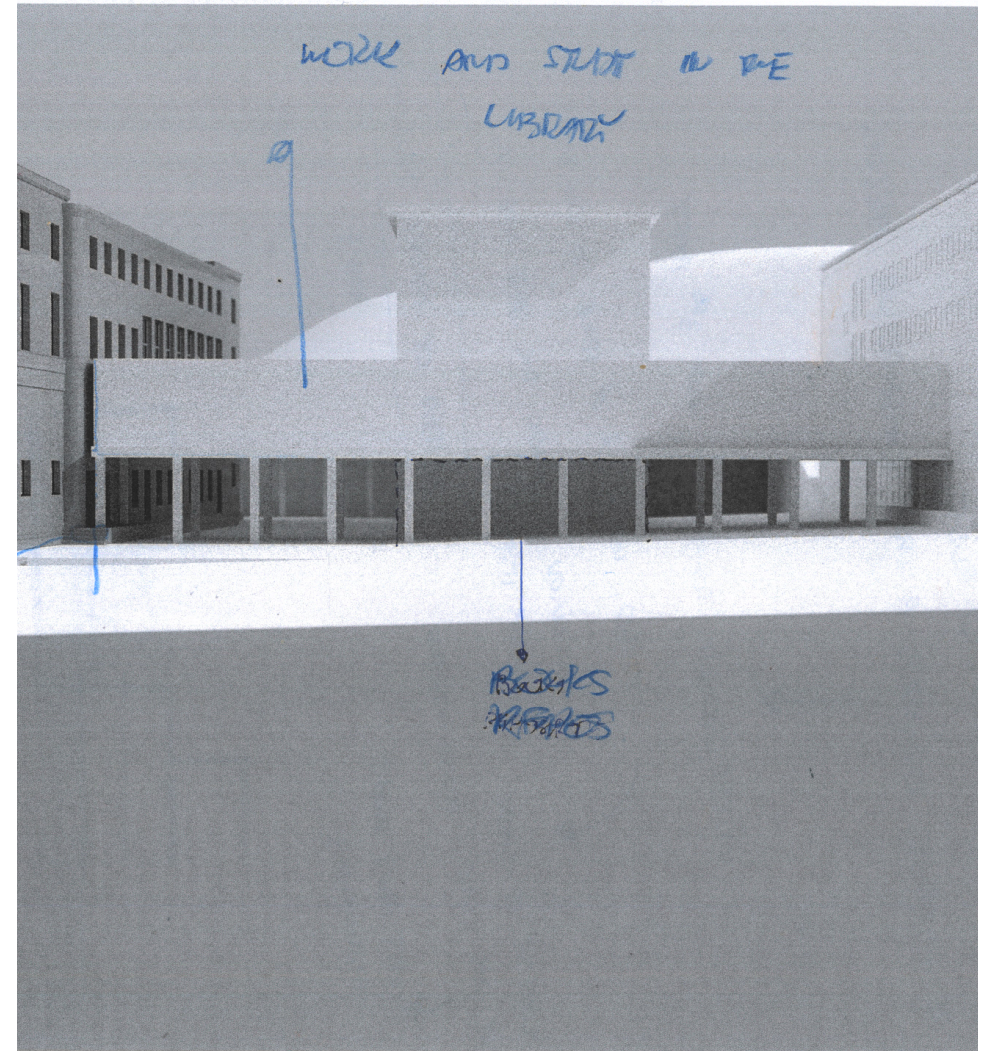
2.3-2.4

Moments of connection

Touch where you can touch it. Find a moment of connection between organisms of the rotunda, west wing and annexes.

The important aspect of the strategy of extending the current library was a moment of connection. Visitors operate mostly on the first floor of the building which is a floor of the Rotunda. All of the librarian activities are happening there so to maintain this value and take advantage of the natural presence of the people I decided to connect on the first floor.

Moreover west wing was a later addition to the original design and contains a core which can be transformed into a distribution space between Asplund House and annexes without interfering with the natural proportions and qualities of the current reading rooms.



Moments of connection

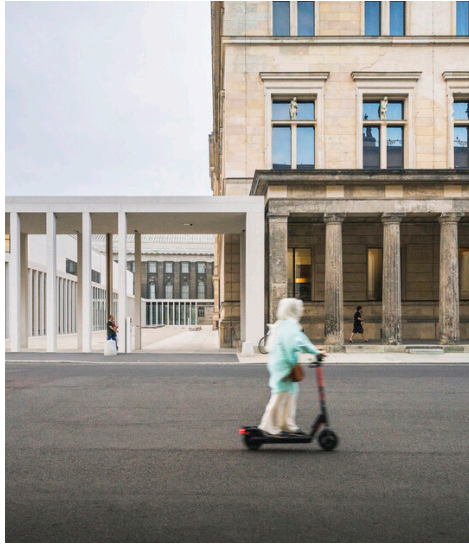


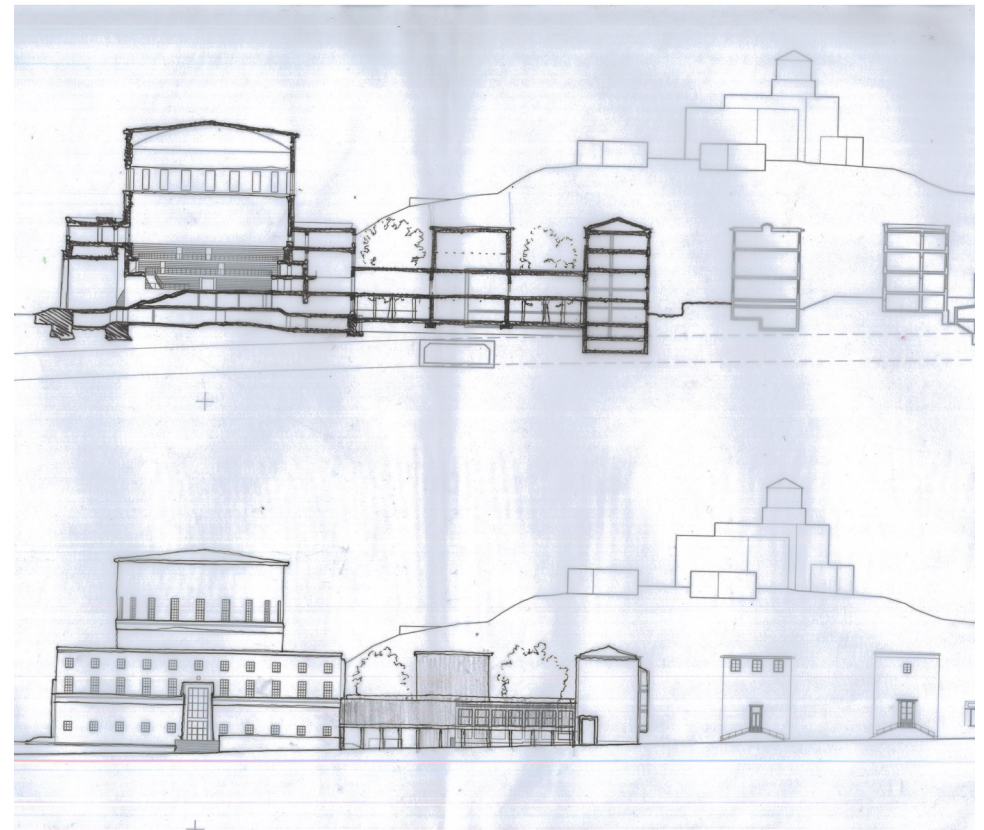
Fig.1 Connections between building, James-Simon-Galerie designed by David Chipperfield.



Fig.2 Connection between buildings, James-Simon-Galerie designed by David Chipperfield.

The next step in the project was focused on the aspect of touching the existing building. In the selected strategy it came out as a most important and delicate moment. That's why I focused on investigating a way of touching and connecting to the existing.

Fig.3 Sketches of moments of connection made by author.



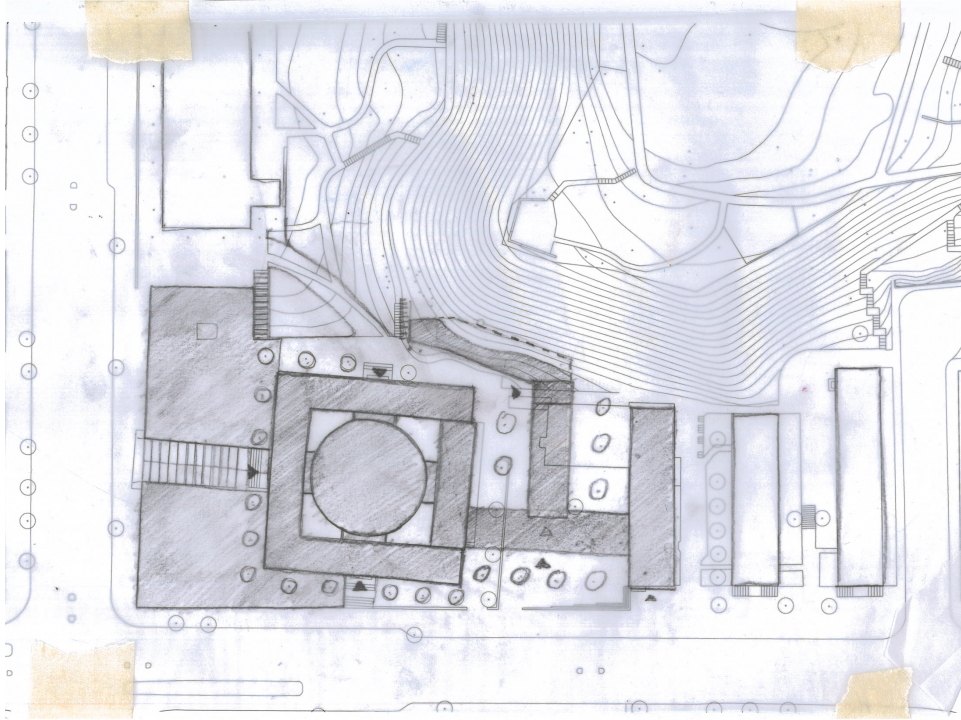


Fig. 4 Sketch of the extension of the library to the hill

Connecting the extension not only to Asplund but also to the landscape. The back side of the building opens a possibility to address the landscape of the surroundings. That gives the possibility to open a library to nature, connect it with the ground and trees and make it present in its interior. It might be a new quality to be rather close and independent characteristic to the current library.



Fig. 5 Render of the back view to the new extension

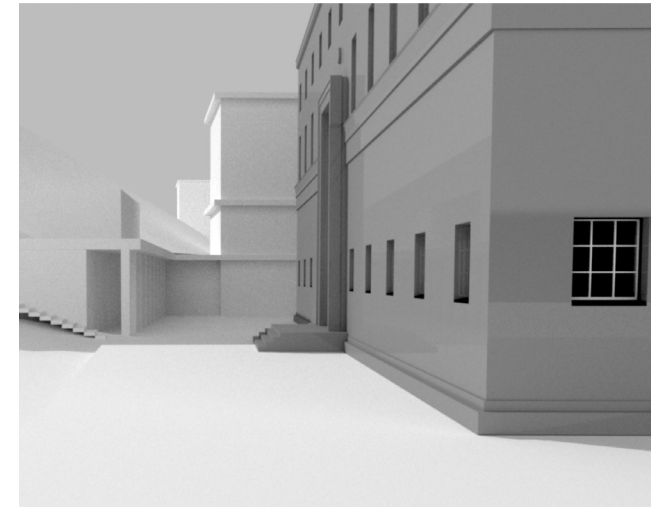


Fig. 6 Render of the back view to the new extension

International Library

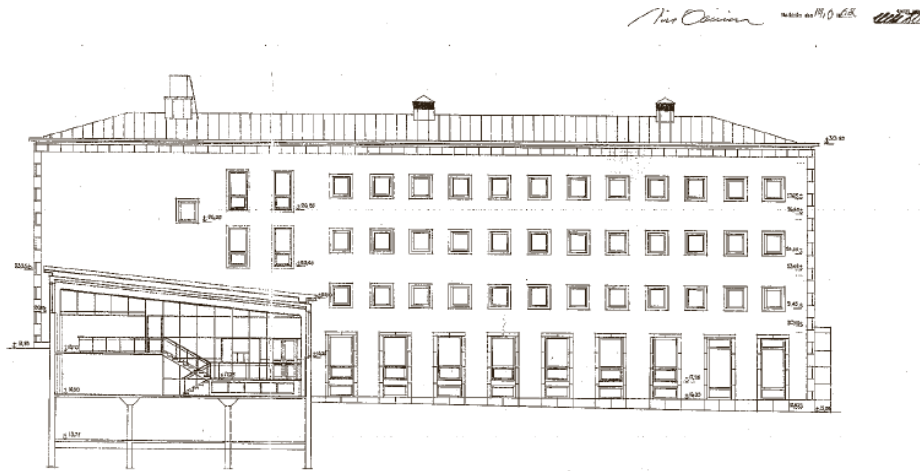


Fig. 7 North facade of the 3rd annex

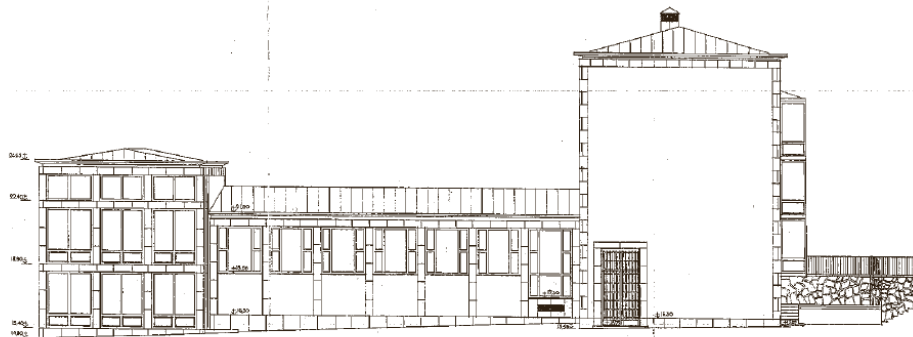


Fig. 8 Front facade of the 3rd annex

Connecting the library to the 3rd annexe extended spatial research to the buildings around it. This building used to accommodate an international library which was programmatically connected with the main library but did not have any physical connection which resulted in the poor functionality of that building.



Fig. 9,10 Photos of the reading room in the International Library in the 3rd annex. Photo from the book "Spelbomska 13, 3, del av 16 lamellbyggnaderna vid stadsbiblioteket"

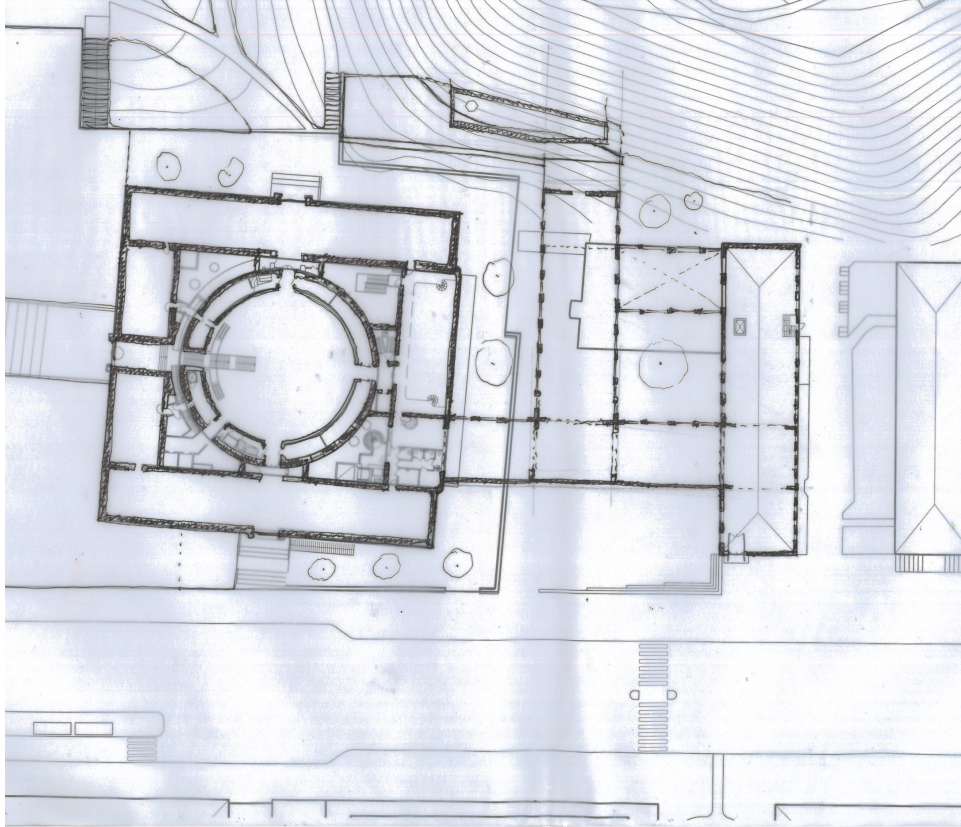


Fig. 10 Sketch of the idea assuming bigger integration of the annex with new volum on the site. Sketh made by author

*Attempt to preserve the reading room in the 3rd annexe
for better efficiency of reusing the existing building.*

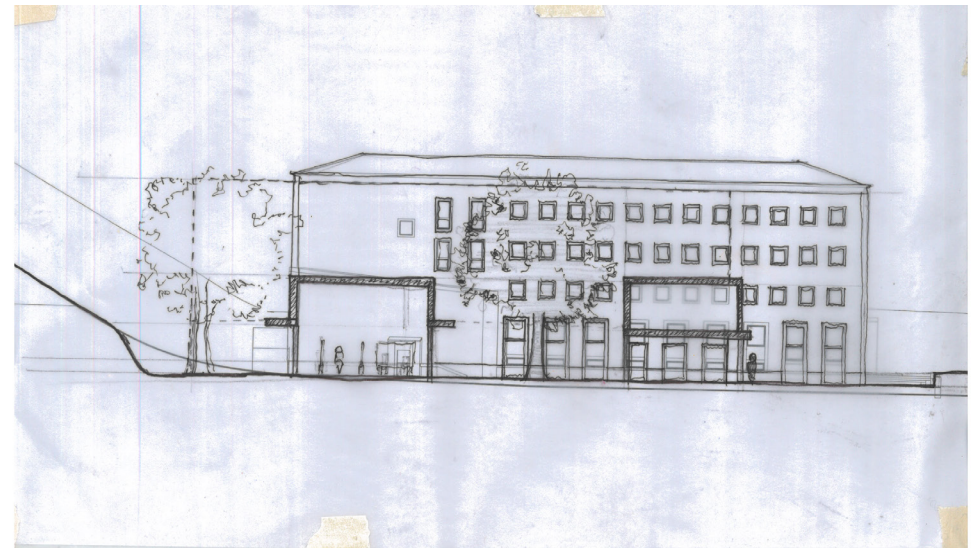


Fig. 11 Sketch of the idea assuming bigger integration of the annex with new volum on the site. Sketh made by author

Week

2.5-2.6

Network of libraries

A task of maintaining citiness while at the same time decentralizing the Asplund's Library. Orienting it more to the outside as action shifts the attention from one library to the network of libraries.

Asplund's library as a result of its status and position in the network of libraries in Stockholm became a factor which puts financial pressure on other local branches. The program of this library has been extending for years to fit the requirements and ambitions of the city central library. As a reason of that it started eating itself by consuming its space and pushing all storage and facilities to smaller and smaller spaces.

There should be a shift of attention and requirements from one library to a network of libraries. Collections do not have to be stored in one building, they can be distributed to other institutions and at the same time strengthen the interrelations within the network and free some spaces in Asplunds Library.



Fig. 1 Photo of the basement of the City Library in Stockholm. Provided by the chair of Interiors buildings cities.

P2 Crit

Content presented on P2 Crit. Changing scale and looking closer at the spatial qualities of the proposed strategy. Building that might even not be noticeable but it's there. What does it generate that the library didn't have?

Fig.2 Diagram showing a longitudinal space between annexes and Asplund Library

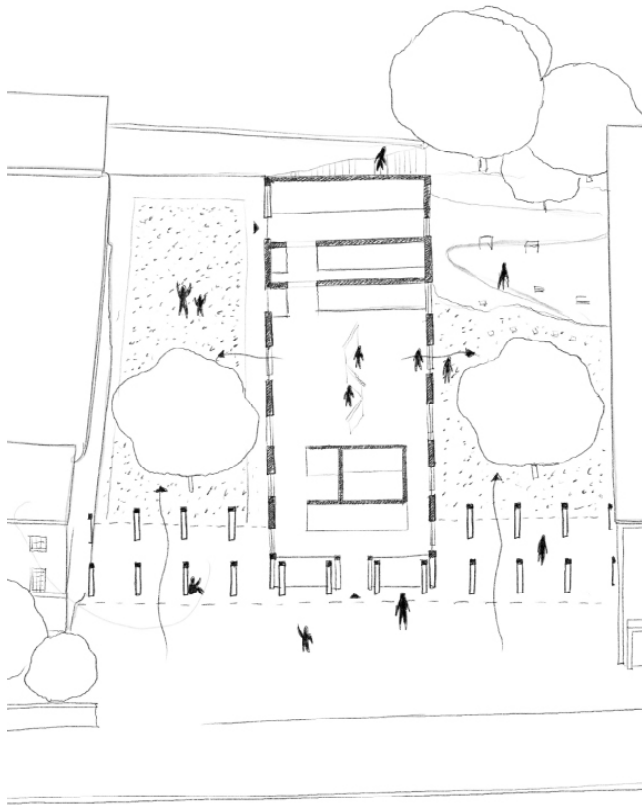


Fig.3 Section and front view on the extension and connection to the Asplund Library.

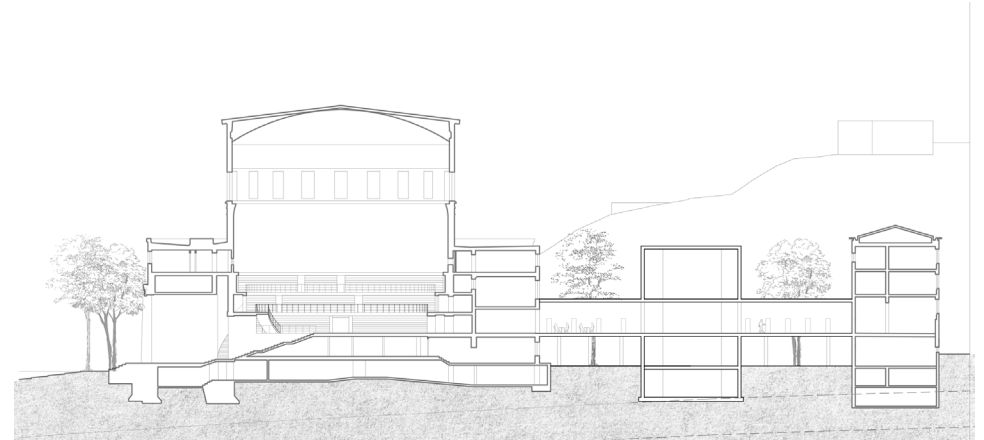
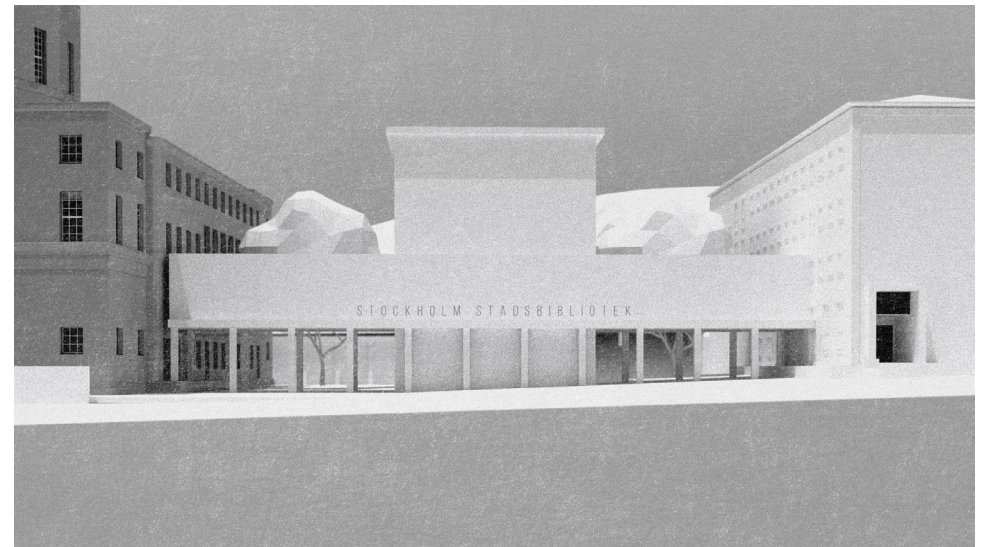
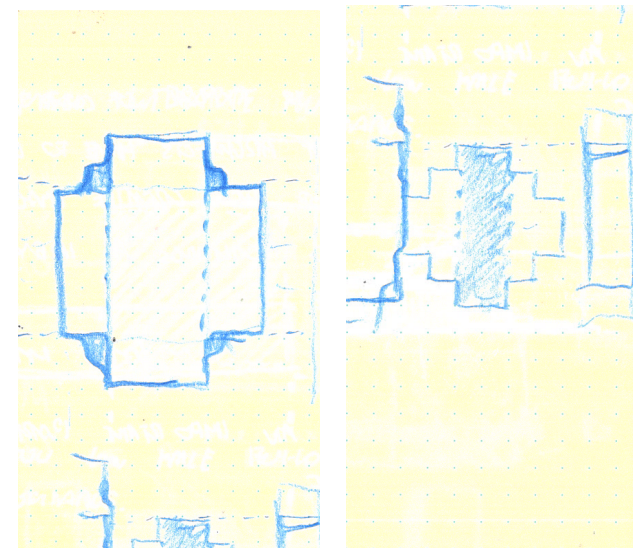
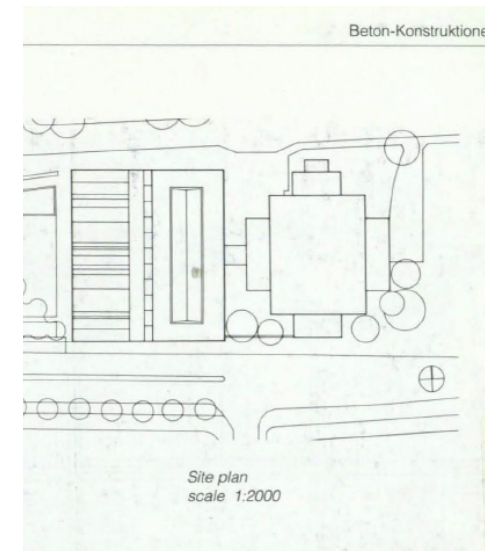
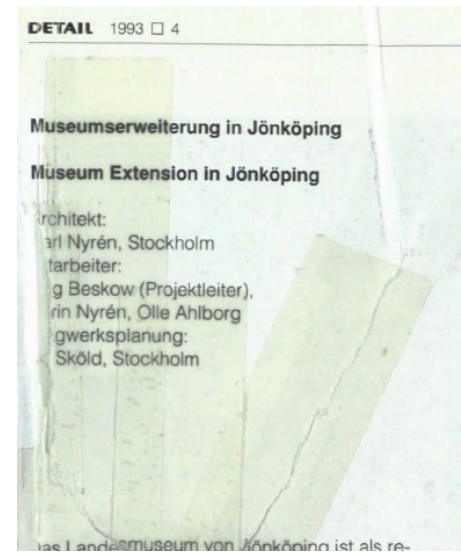


Fig.4 Front view on the extension and connection to the Asplund Library.



P2 Crit Reflections

What does it generate? what is a new quality? Narrow long spaces, maybe there should be more diversity? Delicate project which carefully sits in the context. Connection with the landscape should be more direct. Relation between auditorium and landscape.



Reference from the P2 Crit comment that investigates different options of connection with a very similar context.

Fig. 5 Interior photo of the Museum Extension in Jönköping designed by Karl Nyren.

Fig. 6,7 Drawings of the extension sourced from the Detail architectural magazin.

Fig. 8,9 Sketches of incorporation of that idea into my design. Made by author.

Week

2.7-2.8

Investigating different connections

Ground floor connection continues the natural flow of the people in the main building. Creates a connection which is easily accessible for the public. However, it is a visible intervention in the architecture of Asplund's Library.

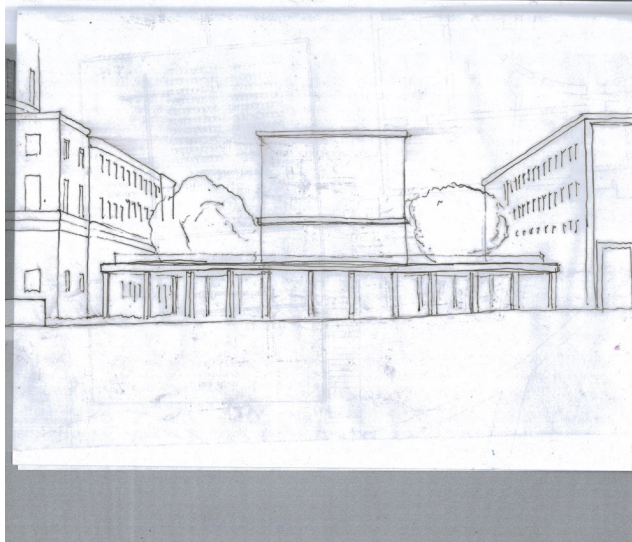


Fig. 1 Sketch of the facade of the groundfloor connection. Made by author

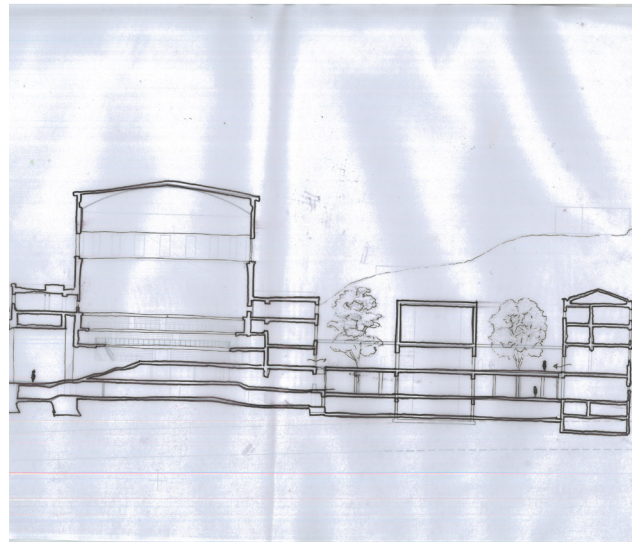


Fig. 2 Sketch of the groundfloor connection section. Made by author

Underground connection is more respectful to the architecture of the original monumental library. Treats it as an independent object sitting on the site. However, the functionality of this space is mostly served for technical movement.

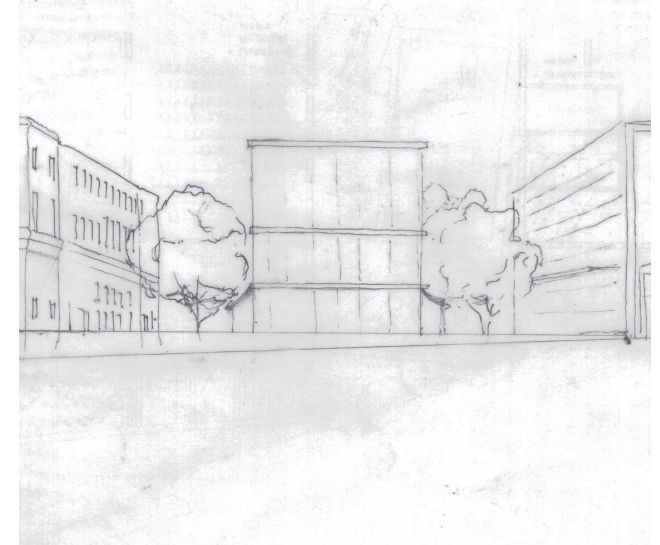


Fig. 3 Sketch of the facade of the underground connection. Made by author

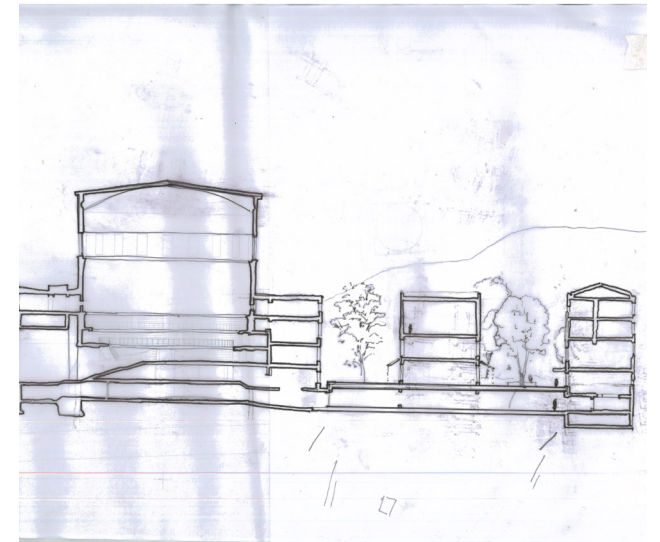
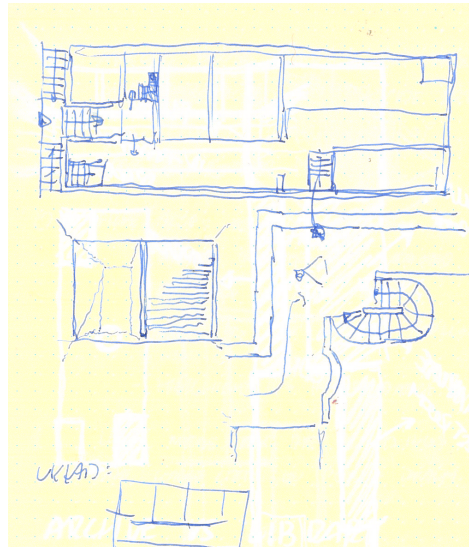


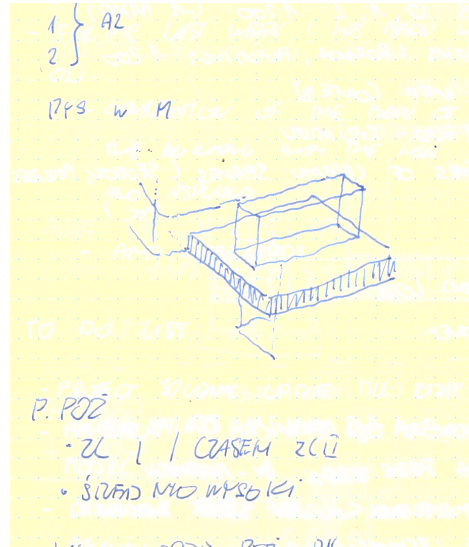
Fig. 4 Sketch of the section of the underground connection. Made by author

Investigating geomatry



The next step in the process of defining the connection between buildings was investigating its possibilities and form.

Fig. 5 Sketches of the analysis of the circulation in the annexes



In that process, I focused on generating many options to test and compare what they provide for the site.

Fig. 6 Sketch of the ground floor pavilion as a connection between library and annex

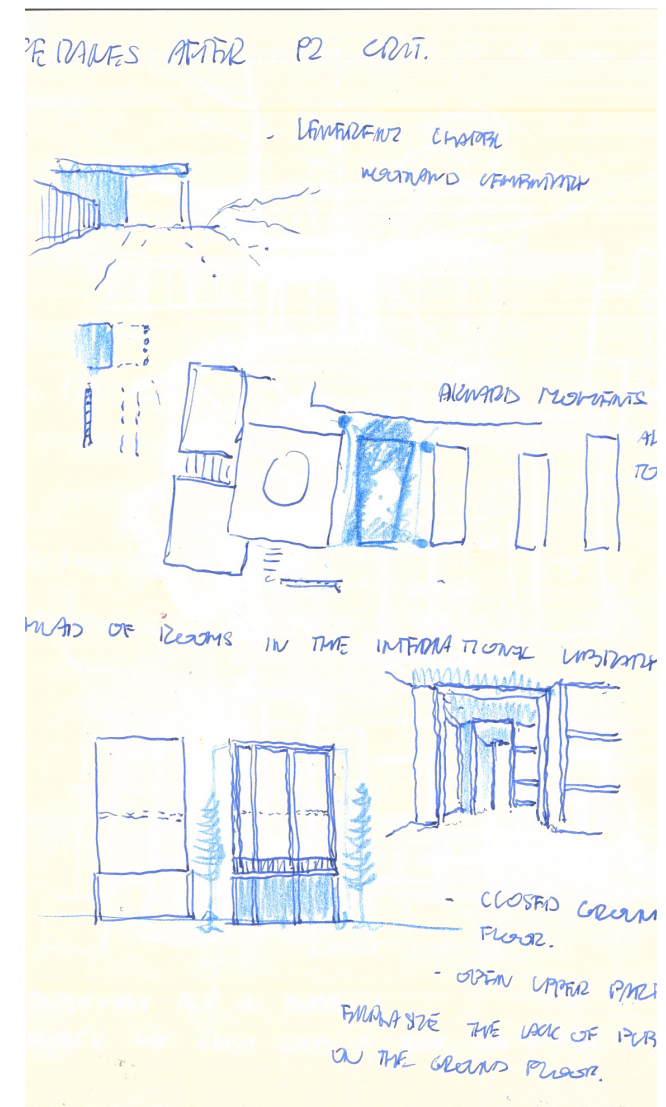
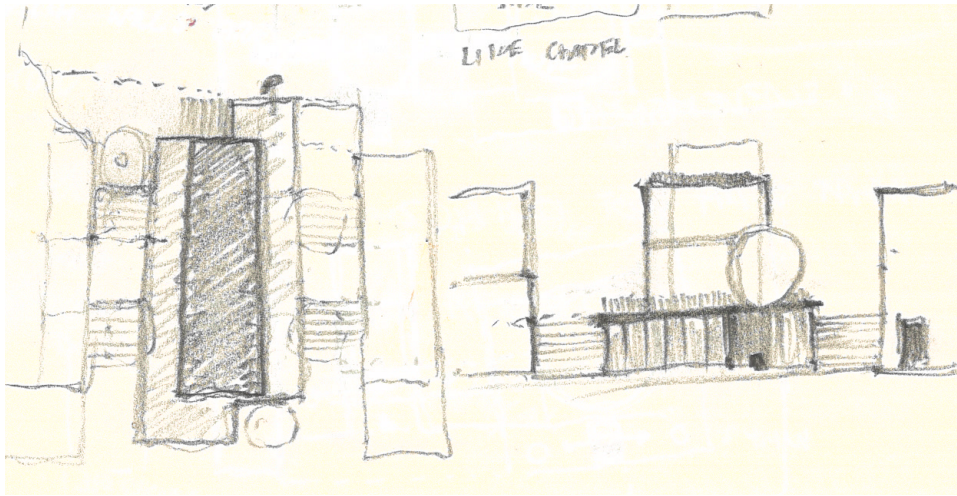


Fig. 7 Sketch of the building as itself without visible connectin between buildings.

Landscape solution

Looking into the possibility of connecting the building with the hill. The main building does not create a connection between itself and landscape which provokes to improve that status with a new extension.



*Fig. 8 Sketch of the connection with landscape and hill.
Made by author.*



Fig. 9 Photo of the Stockholm City Library seen from the hill.

Clarifying connection

Working on clarification of the circulation between buildings and general strategy of how do they work together.

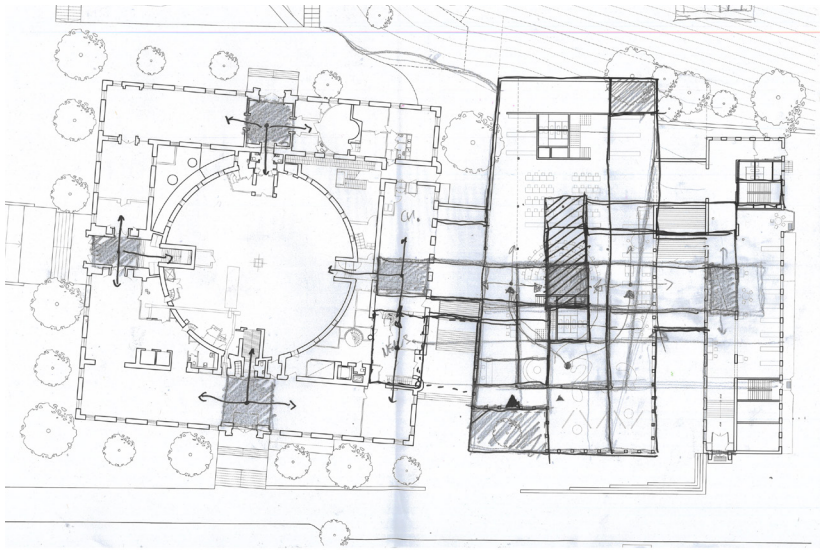


Fig. 10 Sketch of the circulation diagram between buildings. Made by author.

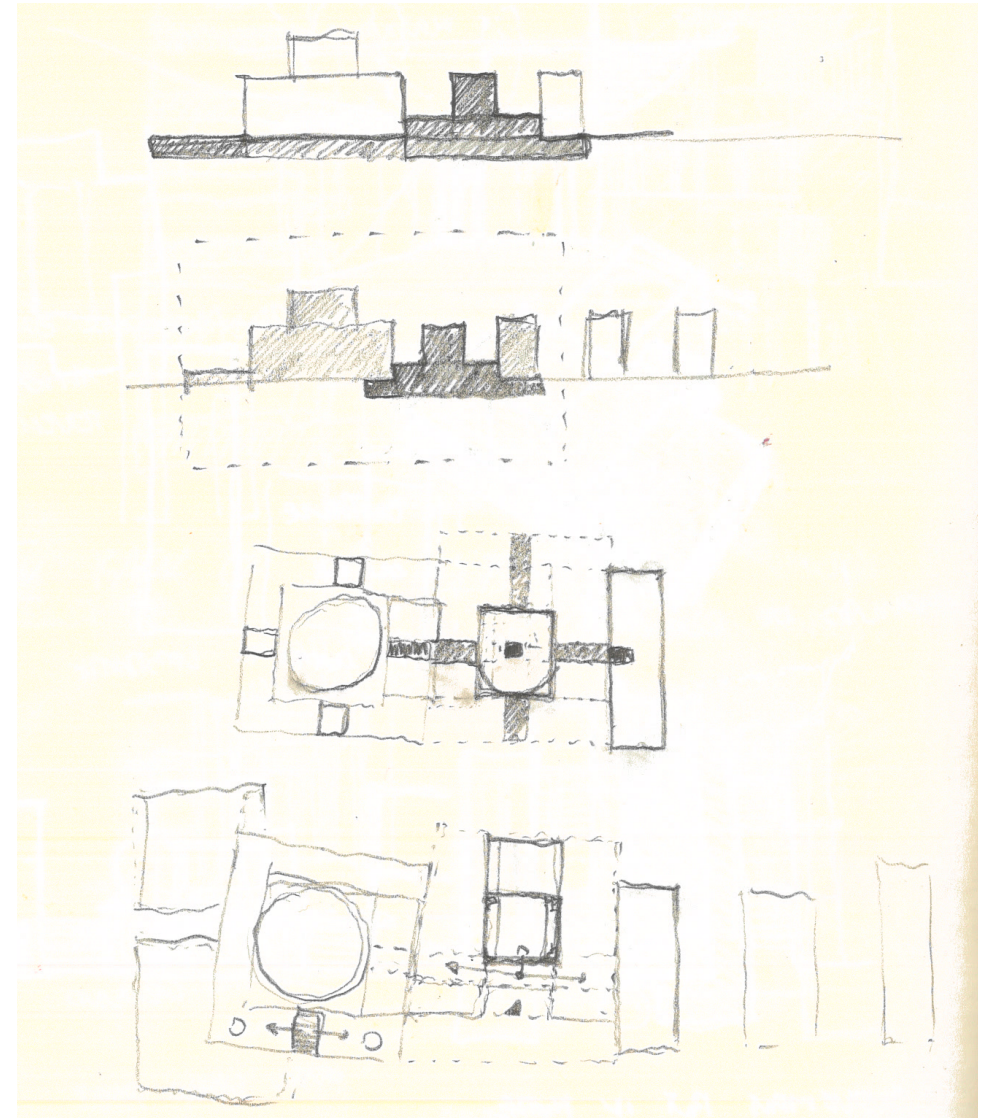


Fig. 11 Sketch of the circulation diagram between buildings. Made by author.

Week

P₂

Midway Reflections

In this chapter, I am going to reflect on the view of the assignment after all the research and design conducted in the first half of the year.

Summary of the first semester of our work. At this stage of the process leading to the design of the Library in the city of Stockholm the characteristics of the exercise, its main problems and challenges have been defined. The structure of my presentation follows the process I have been going through so far. The complexity of the assignment was decomposed into prime factors that contributed to identifying the problem of the design task.

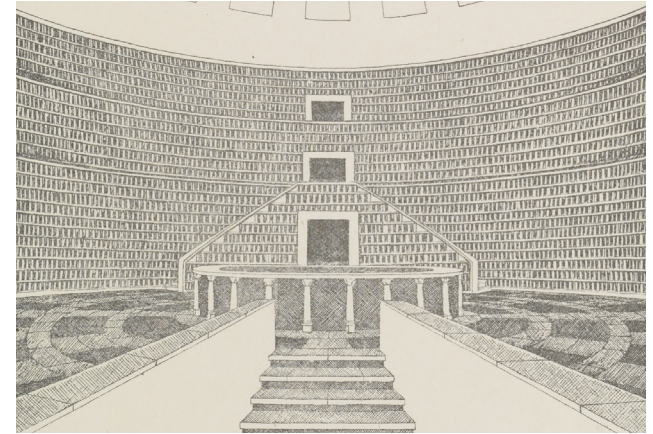


Fig. 1 Photo of the model of the 1.25 library made by the studio of interior buildings cities.

Fig.2 Sketch of the Rotunda made by Asplund.

The Posed Problem

It has been and will be both the city and local library. According to a 2014 brief 42% of users are from outside of the Normlam district

Decentralize – the library has to serve more people that idea. Distribute collections to other libraries in the city network as a result free some storage spaces.

Modernize the library to the current social and cultural requirements and emphasize or create a stronger connection with a city, landscape and surrounding buildings.



Fig. 3 Photo of the Stockholm City Library

Fig.4 Photo of the basment of the Stockholm City Library.

Position and goal

It has been and will be both the city and local library. According to a 2014 brief 42% of users are from outside of the Normlam district

Decentralize – the library has to serve more people that idea. Distribute collections to other libraries in the city network as a result free some storage spaces.

Modernize the library to the current social and cultural requirements and emphasize or create a stronger connection with a city, landscape and surrounding buildings.



Fig. 5 Archival photo of the bazar on the south side of the library.

Strategy

Clarify and clean the Asplund's Library. Make it easier to function, circulate and use.

Extend the functional program inside the library where possible without drastic changes in the building's architecture.

Add new functional spaces with a new quality which is hardly possible to achieve in The Asplund's Library

Connect a new extension with Asplund's Library so they create one coherent functional organism.

Connect and open the library to the city and landscape to make it more part of the city and not only a temple for books

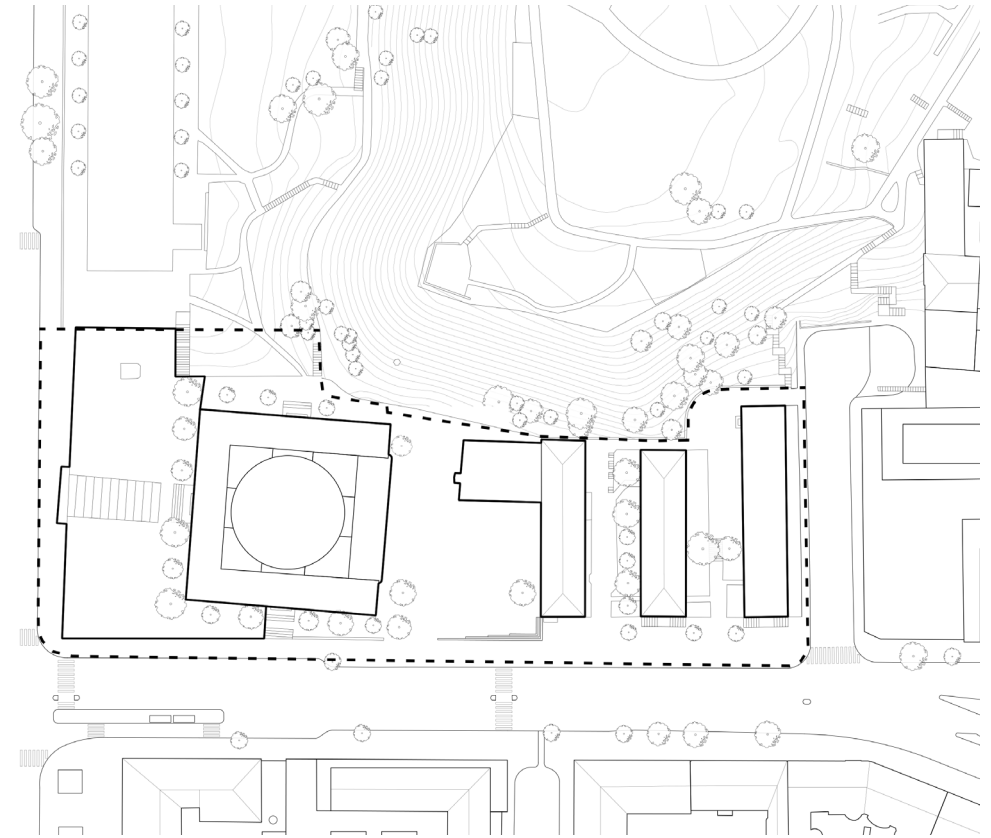


Fig. 6 Site plan of the library. Drawing made by author.

Design

The proposal is answering the main questions humbly by completing the existing structure concerning the Asplund original plan..

The answer to the presented problem and suggested strategy was to complete the existing urban structure on the site with a missing volume of the 4th annexe and connect it with the library and neighbouring building. In that way, I managed to provide more usable and flexible space for a library concerning the existing buildings which have a big value for the citizens and authorities. The new volume extends the program of the main library by more adaptable space, a children's library, offices and an auditorium.

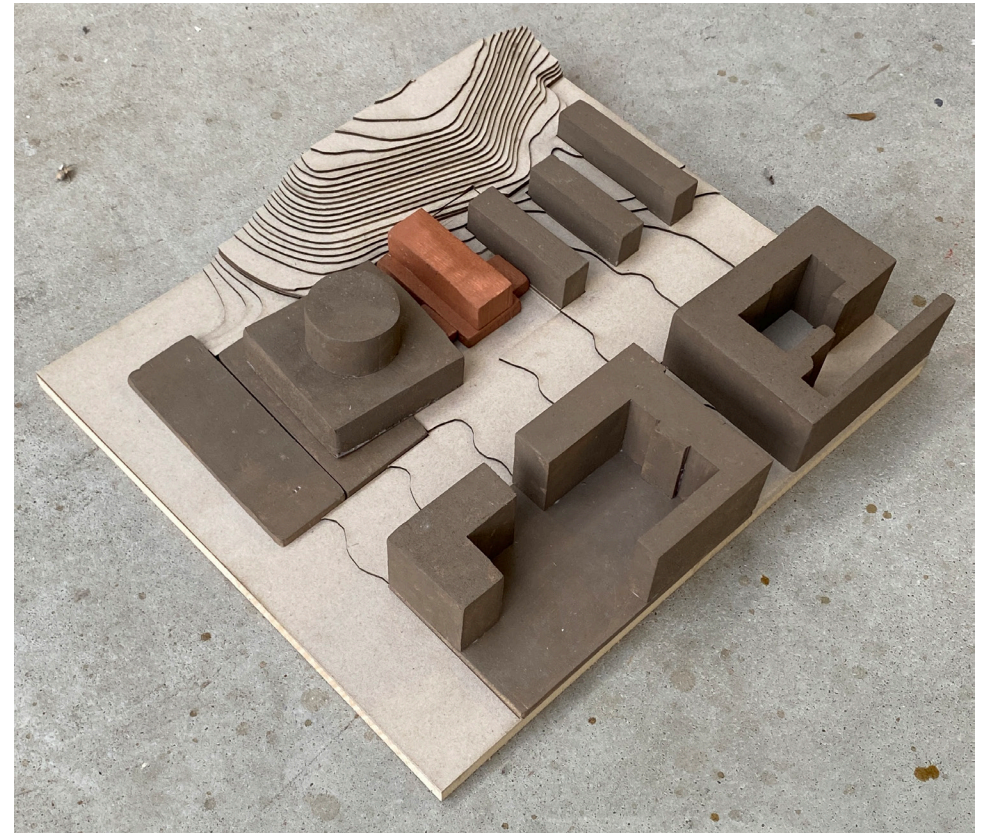


Fig. 7 Photo of the 1:500 model of the proposal. Model and photo made by author.

Reflection

Focusing and resolving the issues of the identity of the building while maintaining the advantages of the project such as its reasonability and simplicity.

Post my P2 presentation the main advantage of the project turned out to be its reliability and credibility. It seems to resolve existing problems in a way which do not drastically change the character not only of the main library but the whole site. On the other hand, the issue on which I will want to reflect in the next part of the year is its identity. So far it's a bit unclear what this building is. Is it an extension of a library? Is it a 4th annexe? or is some flexible structure mediating between these two entities? These are the questions I would like to answer in the next steps.

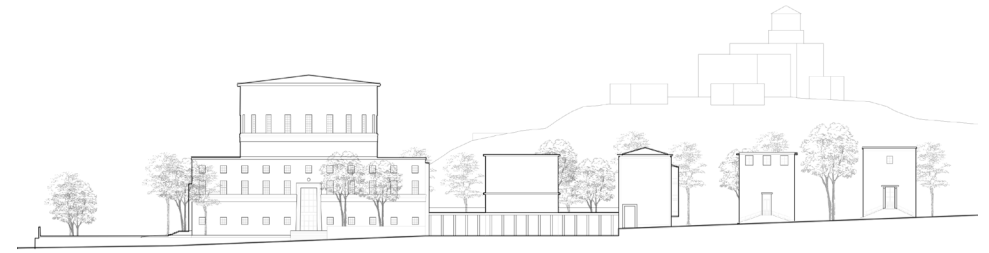


Fig. 8 Front facade of the proposal in 1.200 made by author.

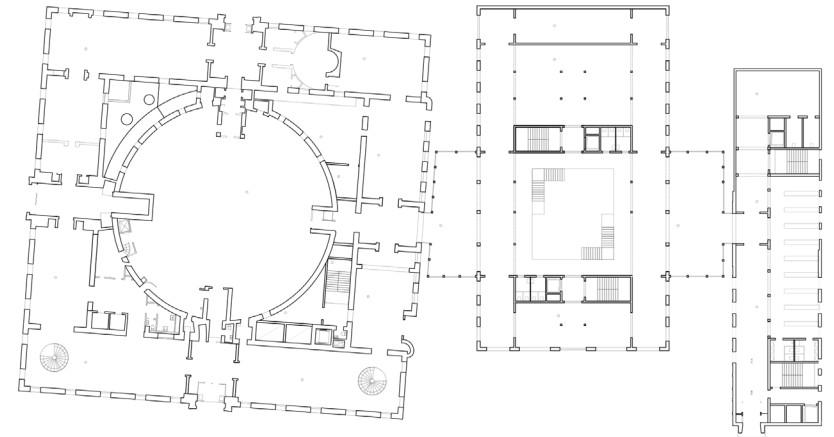


Fig. 7 Plan of the proposal in 1.200 made by author.

Week

3.1

Building and Square

How the idea of a square can be expressed in the building, and what does it mean to put a building on an existing public place?

The main aspect on which I had to reflect at this stage of a project was the identity of a building. Does it want to be an extension of the library? a 4th annexe or something else. From the ideas created so far, I had to select the most important one and build the project around it.

Such an element appeared to be a square. The building as a library and other annexe is a part of the street and city. It is taking the place of a current square which creates a question, how to put a building on a square. How the idea of a square can be expressed in the form of a building and how it can contribute to the role and functioning of a contemporary library.

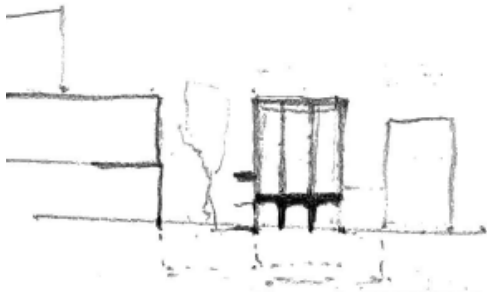


Fig. 1 Sketch of the idea of building sitting above a square. Made by author

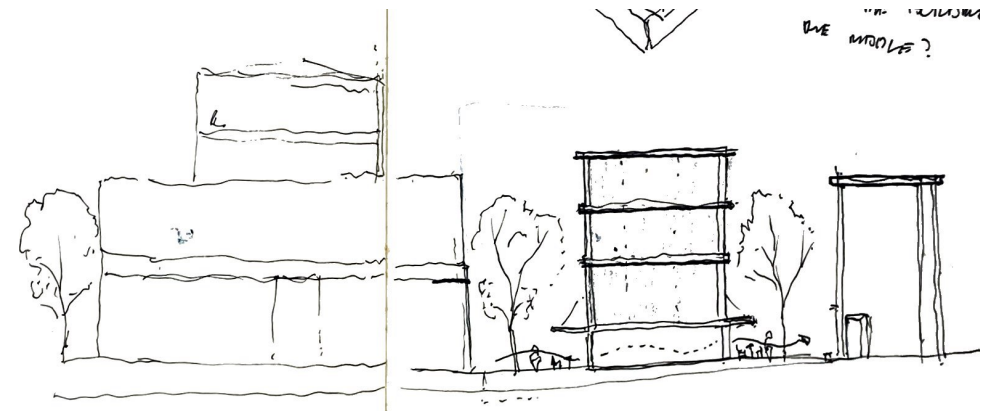


Fig. 2 Sketch of an idea of a building sitting above a square. Sketch made by author

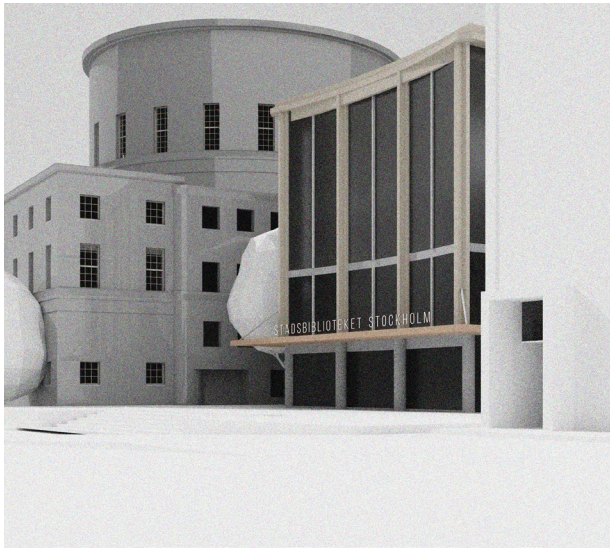


Fig. 3 Render of the idea



Fig. 4 Referncial building on the opposite side of teh street.

Referencing the awning present in many buildings in Stockholm and also on the one directly in front of the plot to differentiate a ground floor - part of a square from the other floors - parts of the building.

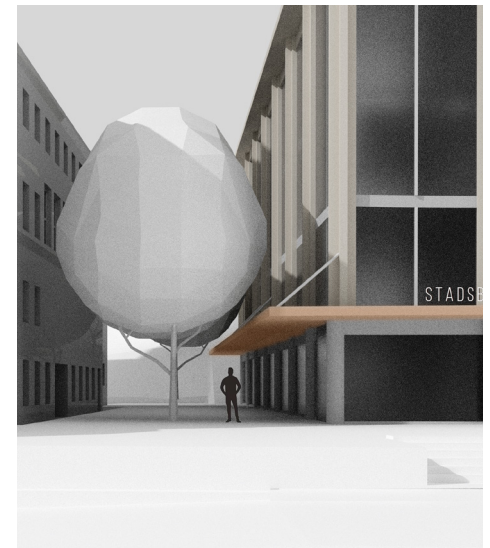


Fig. 5,6 Renders of the idea of awnings as a part of the language from the site

Week

3.2

Idea of a ground

The idea of ground and sky has very often been visible in Asplund's architecture, During this phase of the project I became also an inspiration in thinking about the identity of the project

As a consequence of thinking about this building in the form of a volume divided into two themes the idea of ground so much present in the Asplunds building has appeared.

Treating this building as a part of the square which gave its identity to the ground floor became even stronger with the underground connection to the main library. As a result, these two worlds of what's under and what's above the ground became the main factors shaping the architecture of the building.

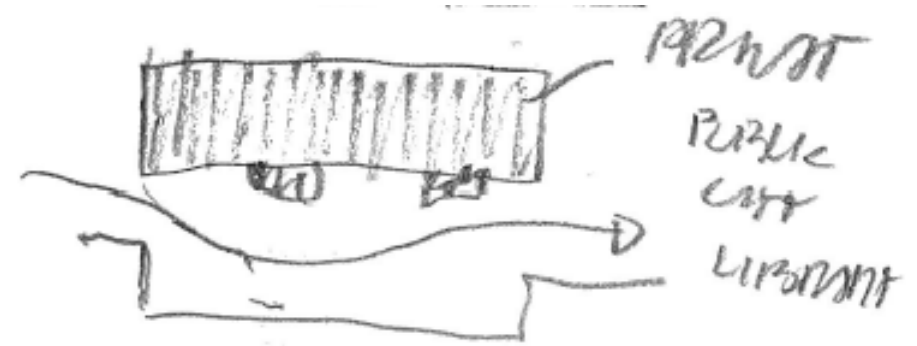
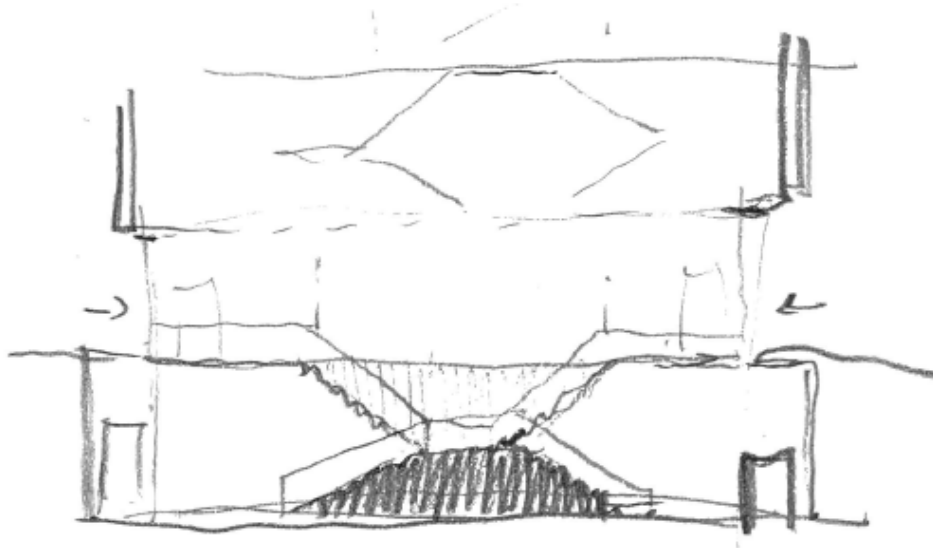


Fig.1 Sketch of the idea of a building haning above the ground with open below gorund spce

Idea of a ground



Space where from the city, passing by the building we can stop and look down and see the world revealed under our feet. Where the libraries are connecting and where the library is happening.

Double-height space can serve as a place for participation. Where people can meet and work together in the form of a workshop or flexible working space.

Fig. 8 Sketch of the idea of a double height underground public space visible from the street level.

Fig.9 Render of the idea for the space visible from the street.

Fig. 10 Render of the idea for the space visible from the inside

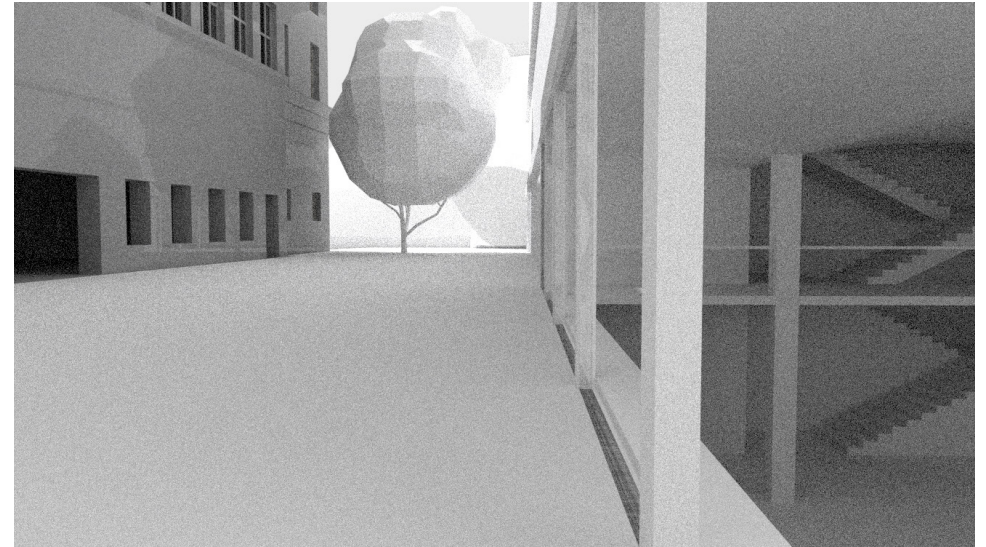




Fig.11 Photo of the University Luigi Bocconi designed by Grafton Architects.

A residential project which was an inspiration by the idea of an underground space present in the city was a University Luigi Bocconi designed by the Grafton Architects. The moment of standing on the edge and looking down to the big foye space below us was a quality I wanted to recreate in the Library in Stockholm. It allows us to emphasise the meaning of underground space and its connection to the library.



Fig.12 Photo of the University Luigi Bocconi designed by Grafton Architects.

Week

3.3-3.5

The Difficult Whole

New and the last brief captures the upcoming challenge of combining all goals and values into a coherent idea of one whole.

Introduction of a new brief which captures the challenge of “grabbing the whole” building. From now on our working method is to pick a significant part of the project and resolve it in a closer more detailed way. That can be a starting point for defining the identity of the entire building.

Functional Connection

The key moment of the building is its connection with the main library both spatially and functionally. This is why I chose to particularly focus on this part of the building.

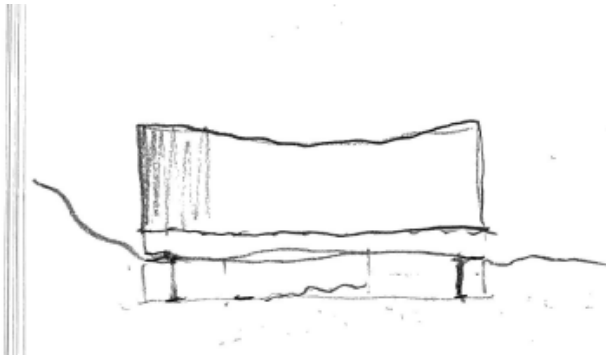


Fig.1 Sketch of the idea of a building hanging above the ground with open space

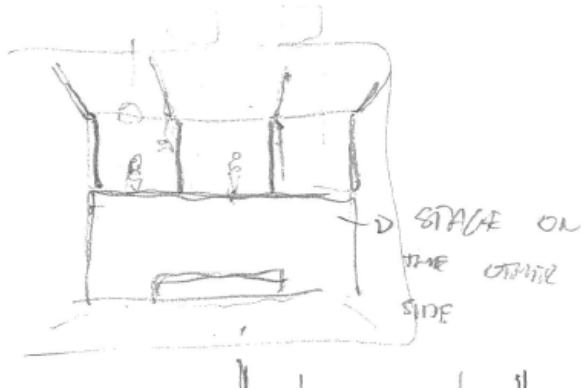


Fig.2 Sketch of the view from the underground spcae to the outside.

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The auditorium is a natural functional connection between the main library and my addition. The function which is missing in the original building works as its natural programmatic supplementation.

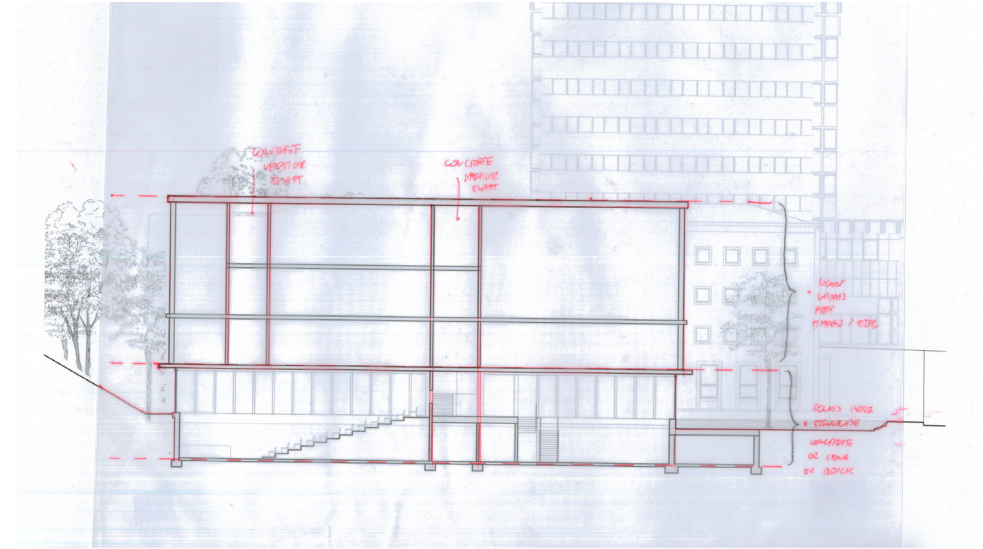


Fig.3 Section of the relation between the hill and auditorium

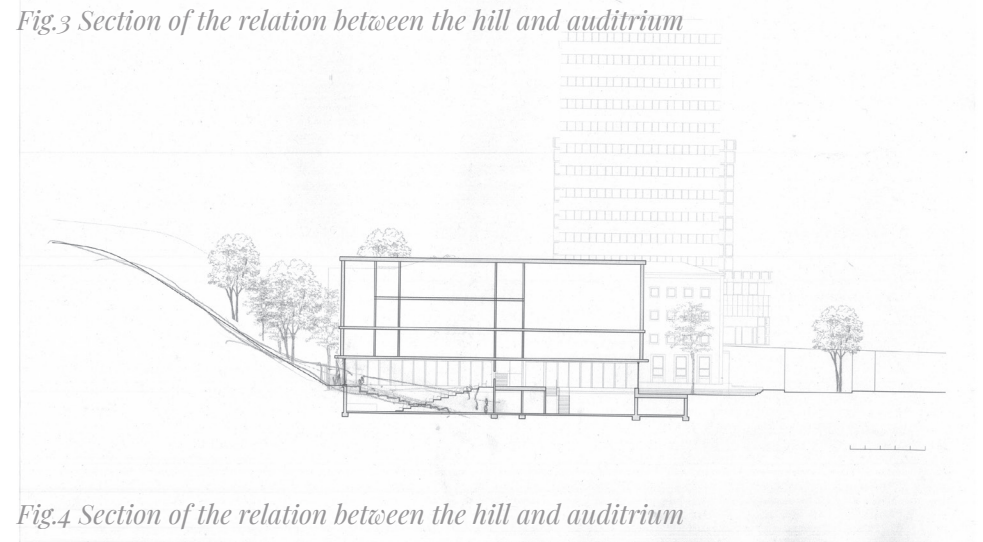


Fig.4 Section of the relation between the hill and auditorium

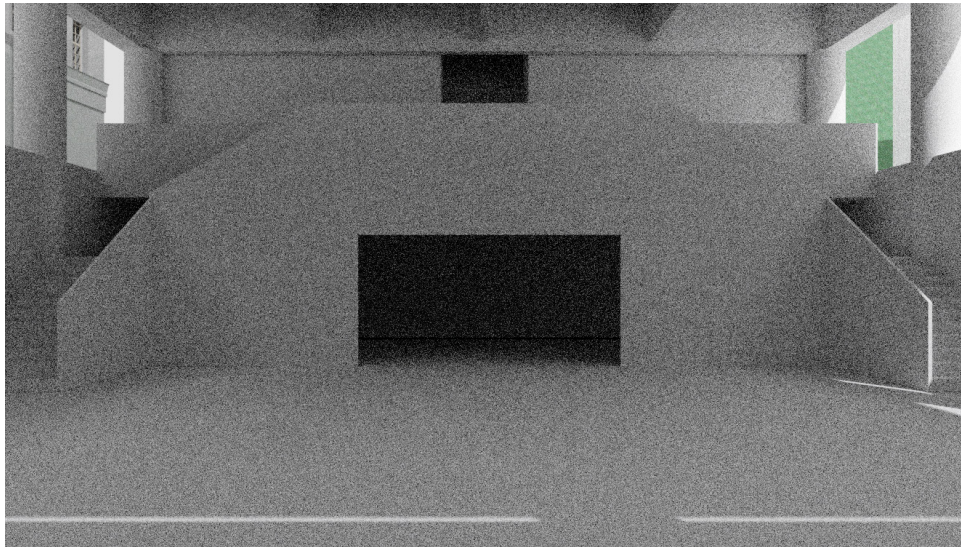
Foyer

Flexible open double-height space visible from the street level might be used both as a workshop space, reading room or foyer for an auditorium.



Fig.5 Sketch of the double height space in the ground.

Fig.6 Render of the idea of double height space underground.



Stairs

The stair in the entrance zone connects expressing in its tectonic esthetics the idea of being under the ground.

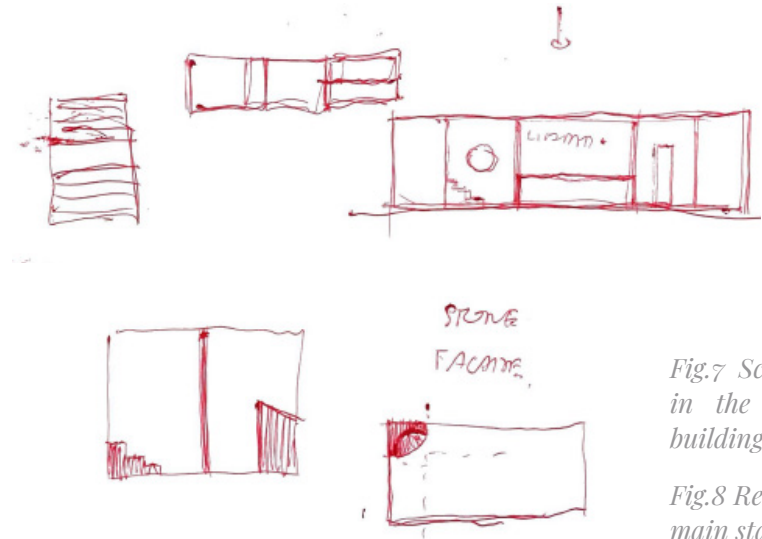
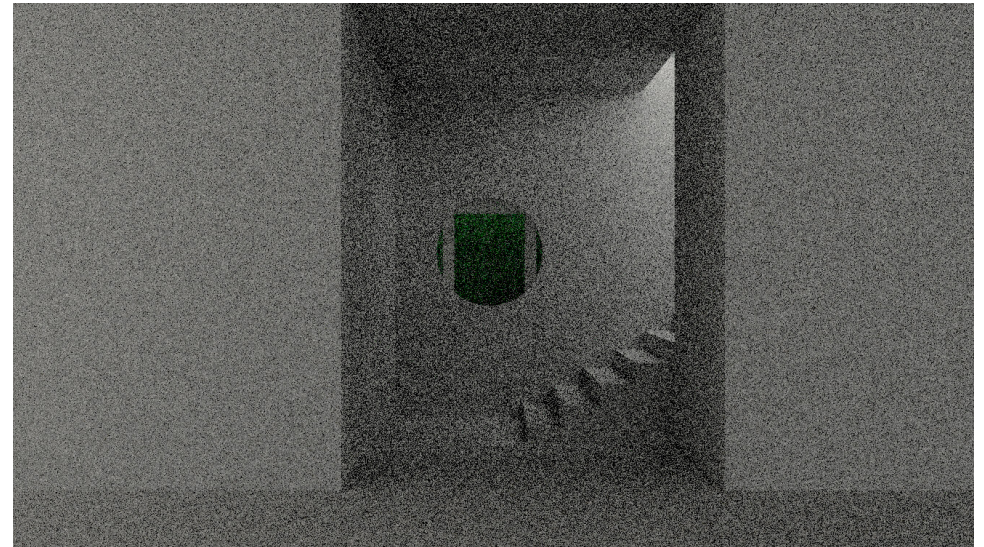


Fig.7 Scetch of the stairs in the entrance of the building

Fig.8 Render of the idea of main staircase



Structure

I decided for a structural system which will follow the idea for the whole building and emphasis different entity of the space below ground and above ground. Space at the bottom is made out of concrete what allows for bigger spans for auditoriums. On top of that I put a light structure for a library.

Fig.9 Sketch section of the structural system for a building.

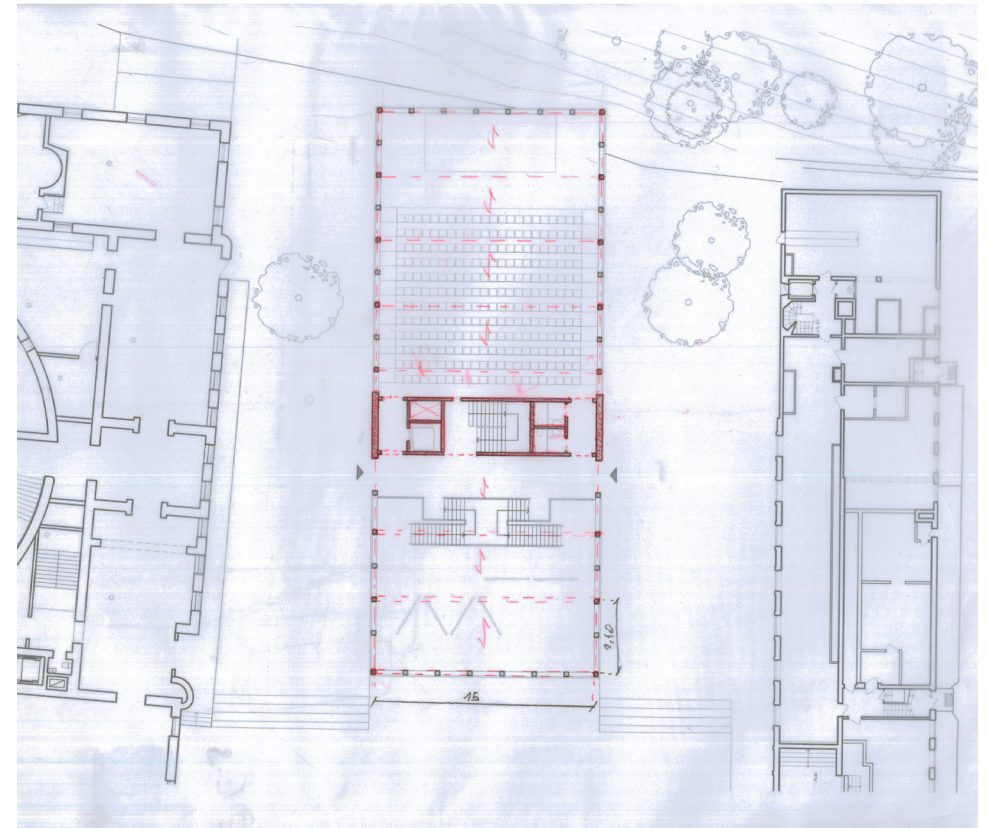
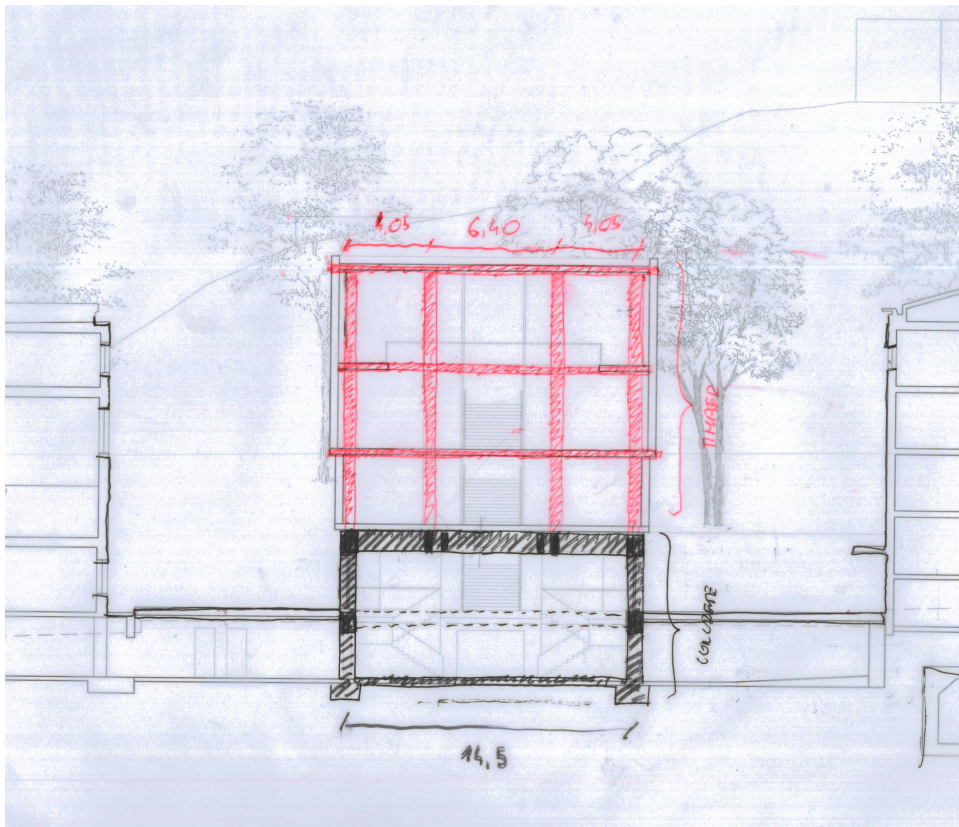


Fig.10 Sketch splan of the structural system for a building.

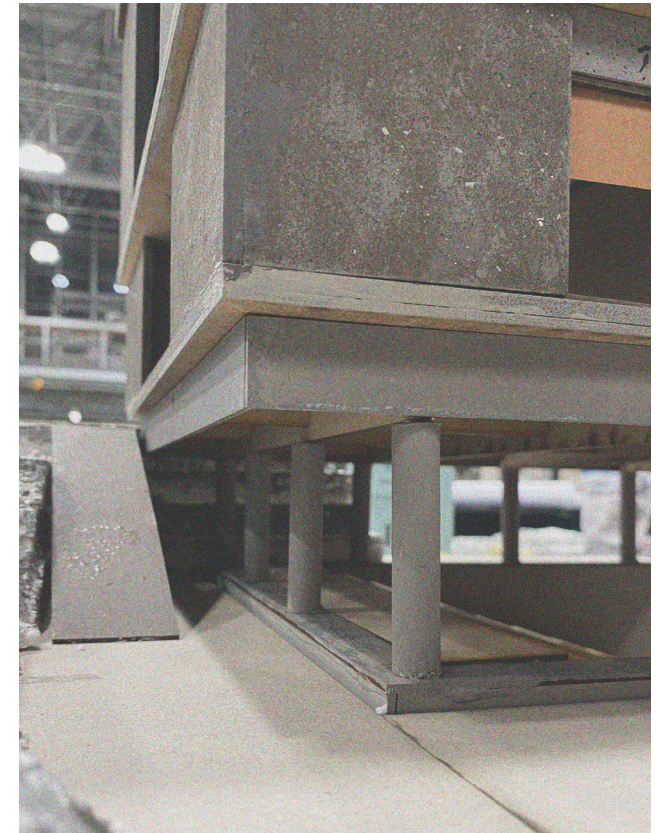
Week

P_3

Capturing The Difficult Whole

Fragments turned out to be a very powerful tool in defining the identity of the project and its most important and fragile moments.

I found the structure of the design process as a focus on smaller fragments as an adequate tool to create a highly defined space. Nevertheless, it is very easy to get lost in that fragment and forget about the actual whole. A valuable lesson after that brief is that fragments are a very powerful tool in the creation of identity and atmosphere of the project. In fragments, we can express more in terms of what we want to archive. At the same time to finalize the project, it is important to translate this fragment onto a bigger scale and answer the topic of what it means for the project and how it is related to the general strategy.



*Fig.1 Photo of the 1.25 model, part of p3 presentation.
Made by author.*

Idea of a Ground

As a key fragment of my building, I selected its underground space and ground floor. It is a space that mediates between the existing library, the new volume and the city.



Fig.2 Sequence of sketches showing the design process. Made by author.

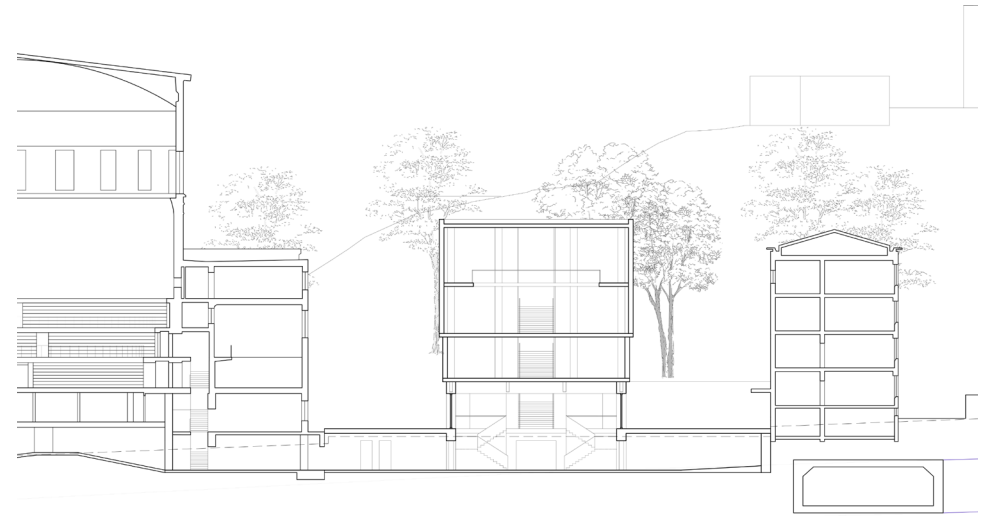


Fig.3 Cross Section of the proposal. Made by author.

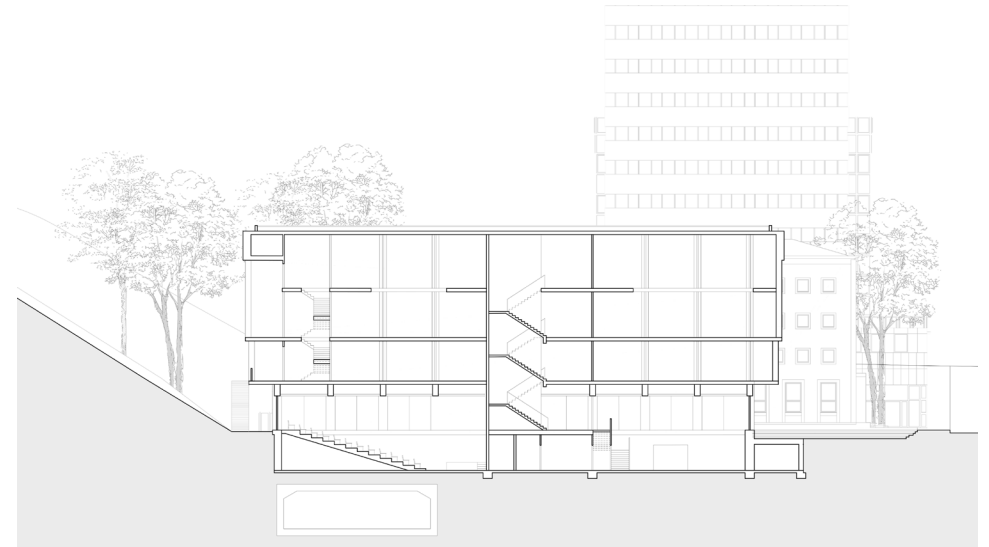
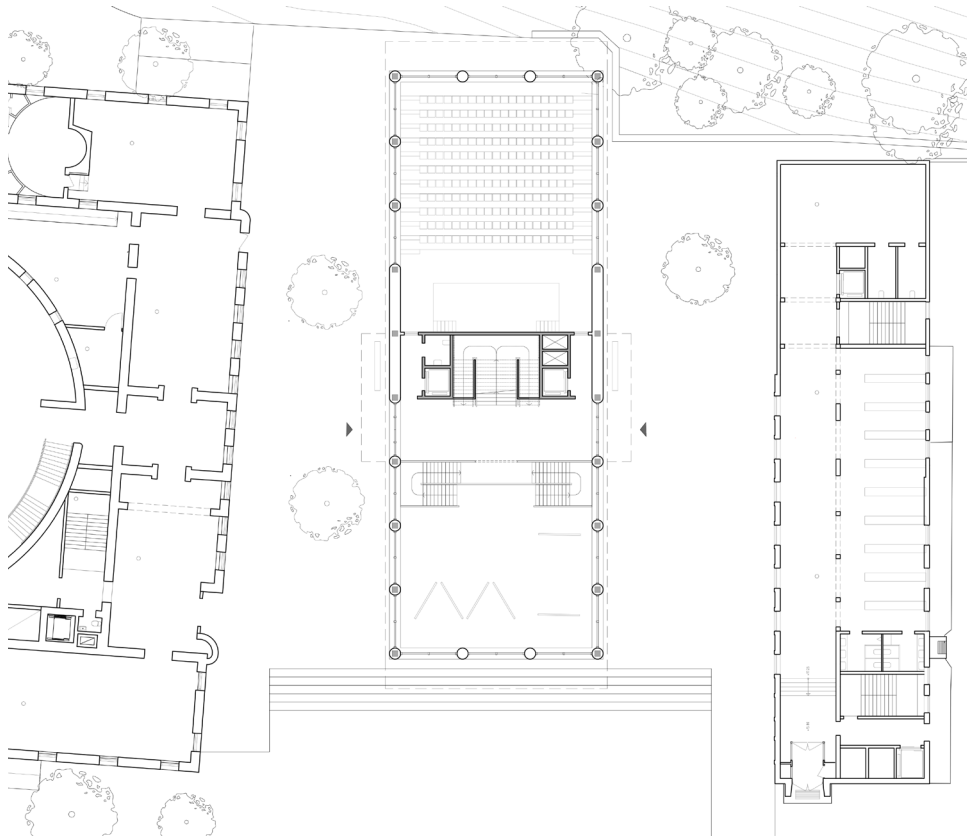


Fig.4 Longitudinal Section of the proposal. Made by author

Auditorium and hill

Fig.5 Plan of the proposal. Made by author.

Fig.4 Photo of the 1.25 model of the proposal. Made by author



Connection with the hill is constituted by the auditorium which continues the slop and allows the hill to come to the inside of the building in the form of an audience.



Reflection

Reflecting on the value of the connection with the hill when it is too steep to see it from the inside. Moreover adjusting the floorplan to the requirements of the structure for the metro tunnel

Post P3 I decided to reflect more on the aspect of the metro underneath the building. The requirement of bigger beams can be met by placing an auditorium on top of them which provides bigger spans anyway. Moreover, I need to move my core so it does not stay on top of the metro. That can lead to bigger changes in the general layout of the floor plan and change to more asymmetrical solutions.

Week

4.1

Using the shape of an auditorium to fit bigger beams to span the metro and also reflecting on the symmetry of the plan does not seem like the right answer considering the asymmetrical presence of the metro tunnel.

The first steps after P3 were to incorporate the fact that the metro is coming under my building and that it will have a visible impact on the building. Tunnel does not allow me to put any forces on top of it so I need to bridge it with my foundation. What requires bigger beams on the floor of the building? That will be possible thanks to placing the auditorium on top of it. Moreover symmetrical plan does not seem to be right in the case where forces can not be distributed evenly in the building.

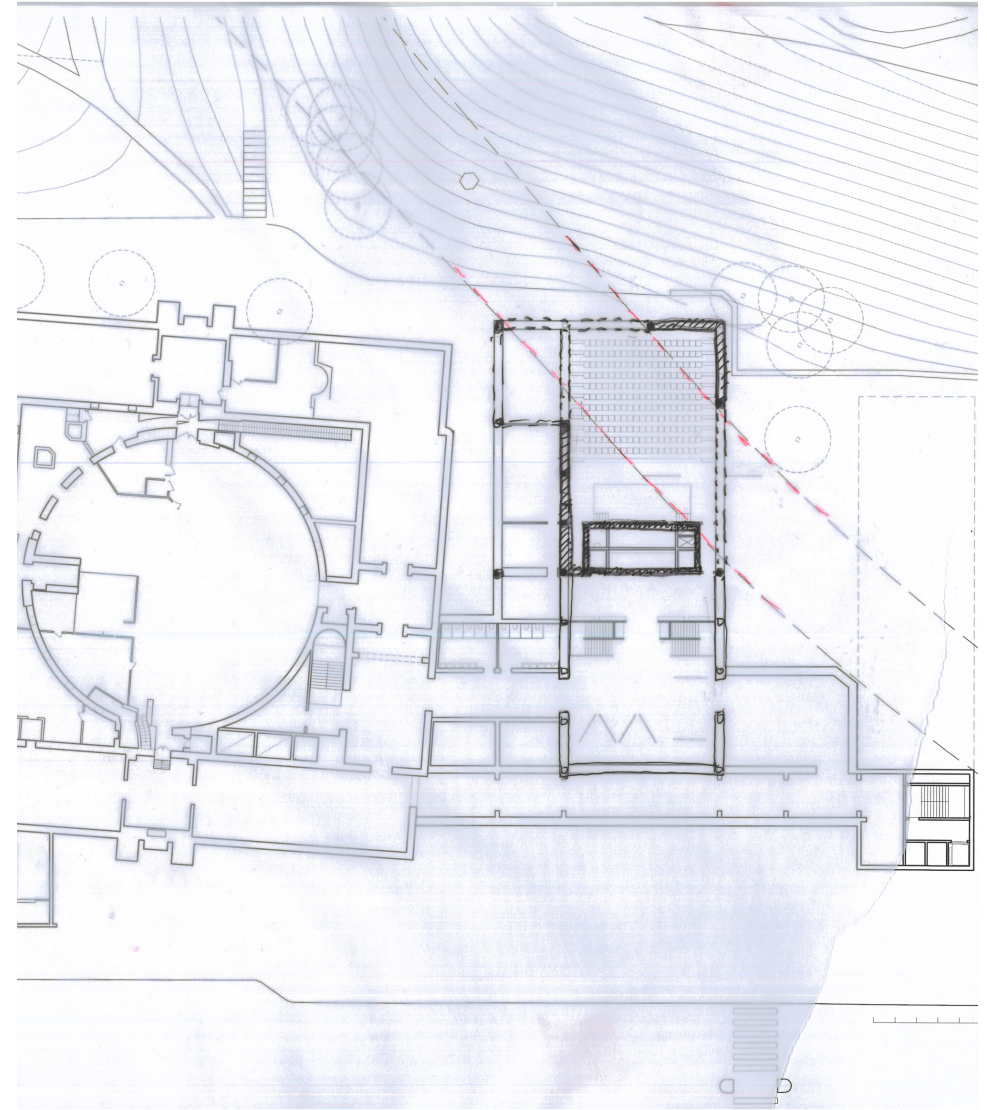


Fig.1 Plan of basement showing the presence of the metro tunnel. Made by author.

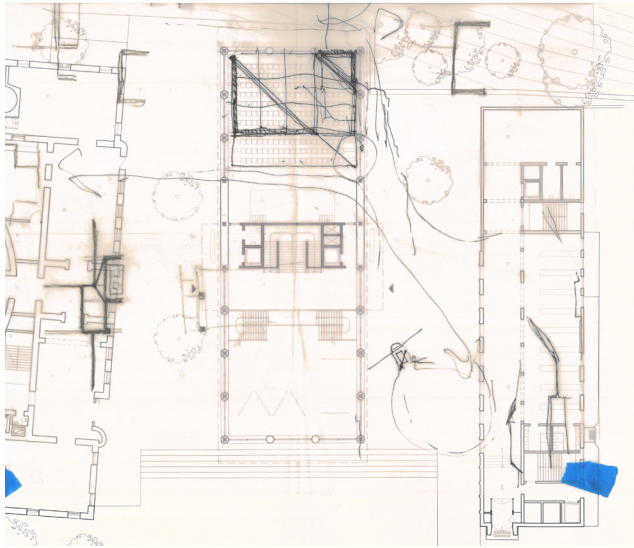


Fig.2 Sketch from the tutorial. Made by author.

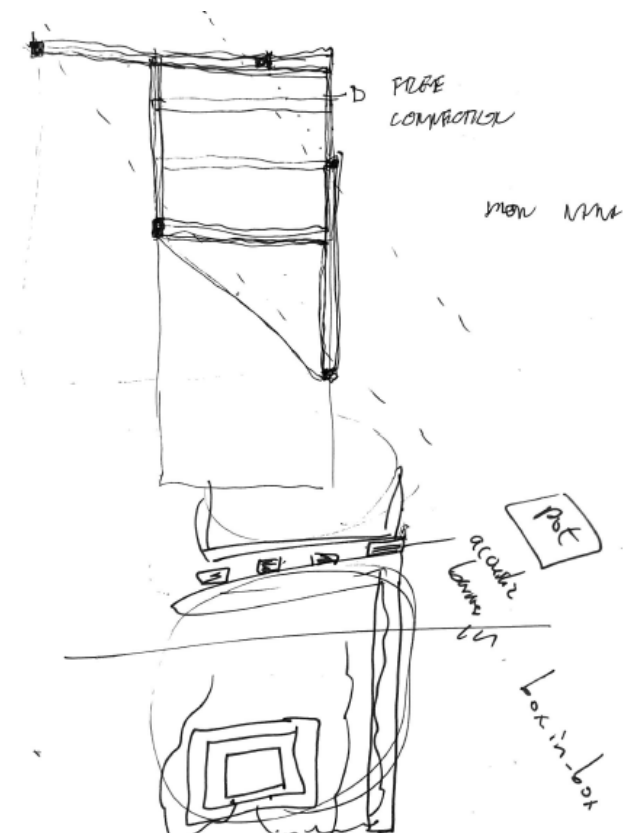


Fig.3 Sketches from the tutorial. Made by author.

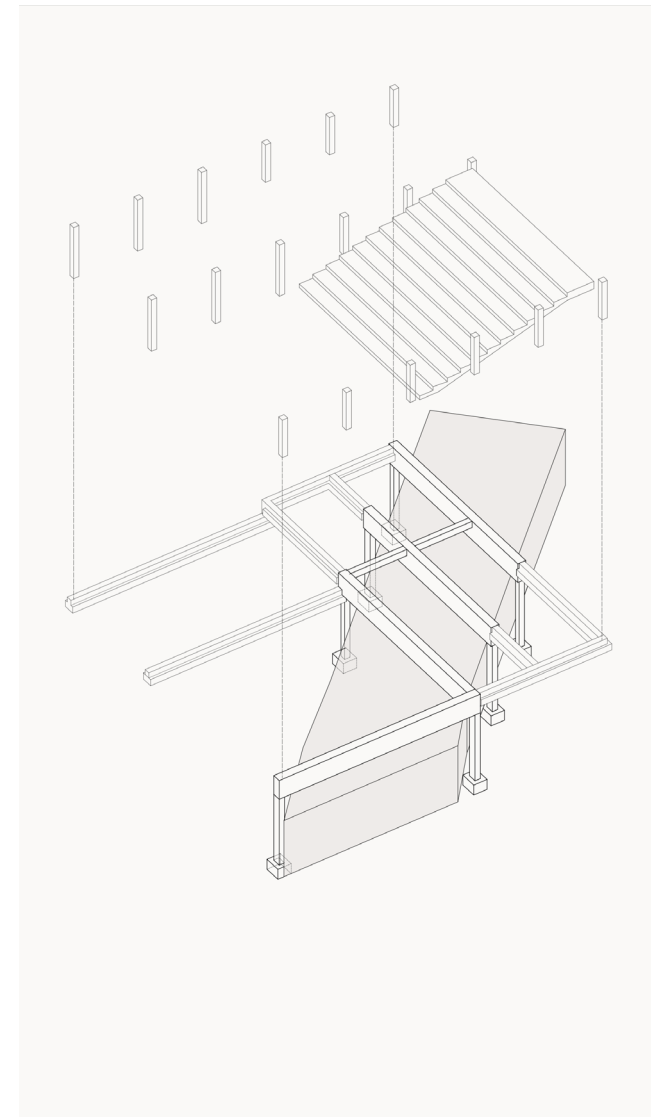


Fig.4 Axonometry showing the solution for dealing with metro tunnel. Made by author.

Week

4.2-4.3

Decentralize core

Looking for the possibilities on decentralize cores on buildings. Two cores instead of one allows for a more efficient fire escape solutions and as a result bigger flexibility in shaping the spaces in the library.

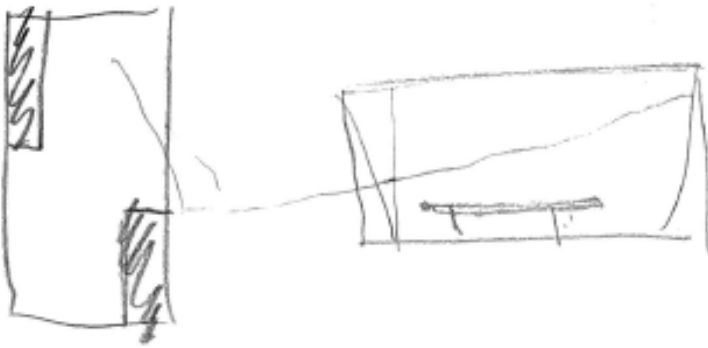


Fig.1 Sketches of the positioning of cores. Made by author

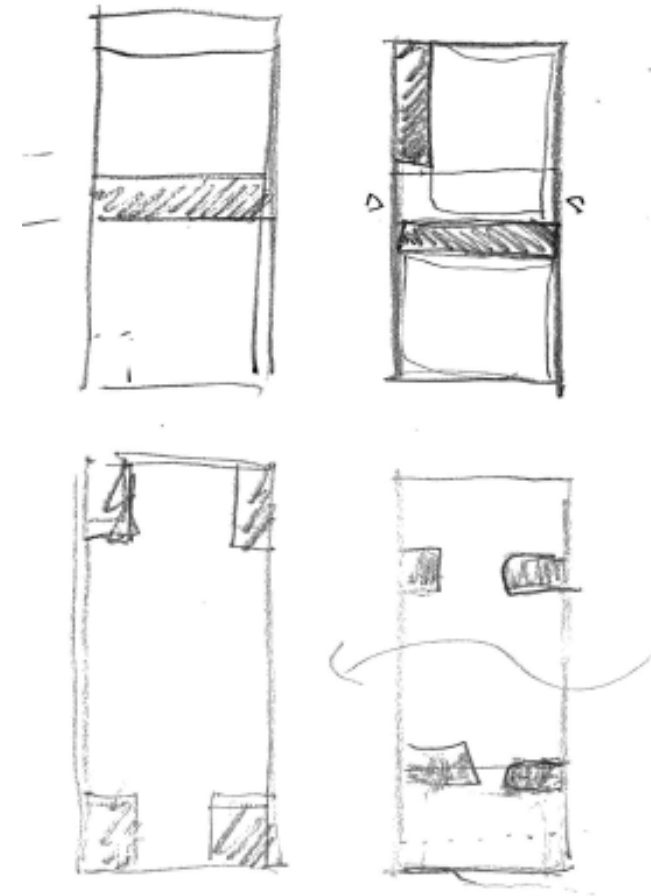


Fig.2 Sketches of positioning of coresl. Made by author.

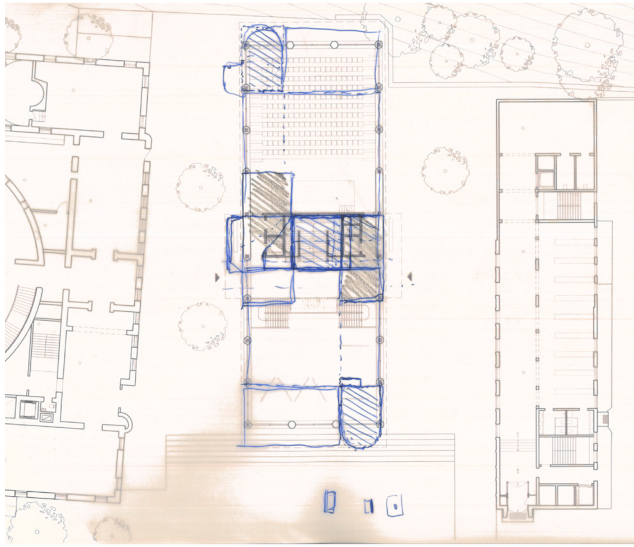


Fig.3 Sketches of the positioning of cores. Made by author

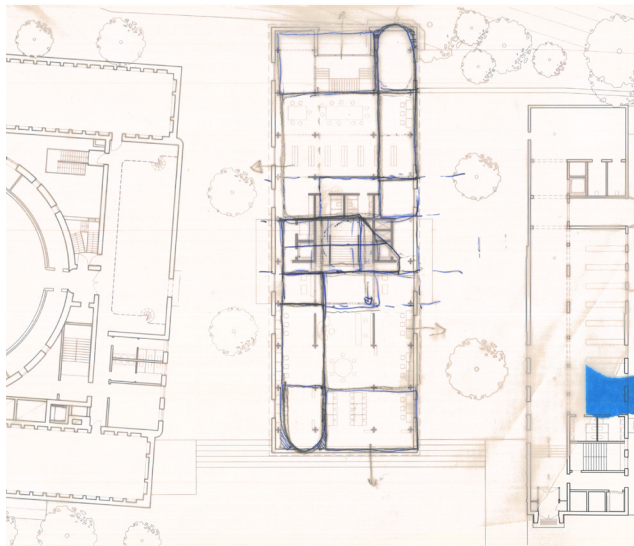


Fig.4 Sketches of the positioning of cores. Made by author

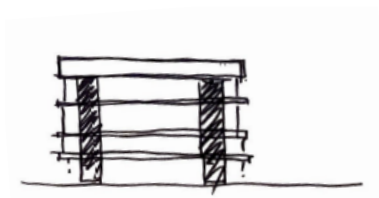


Fig.5 Sketches of the positioning of cores. Made by author

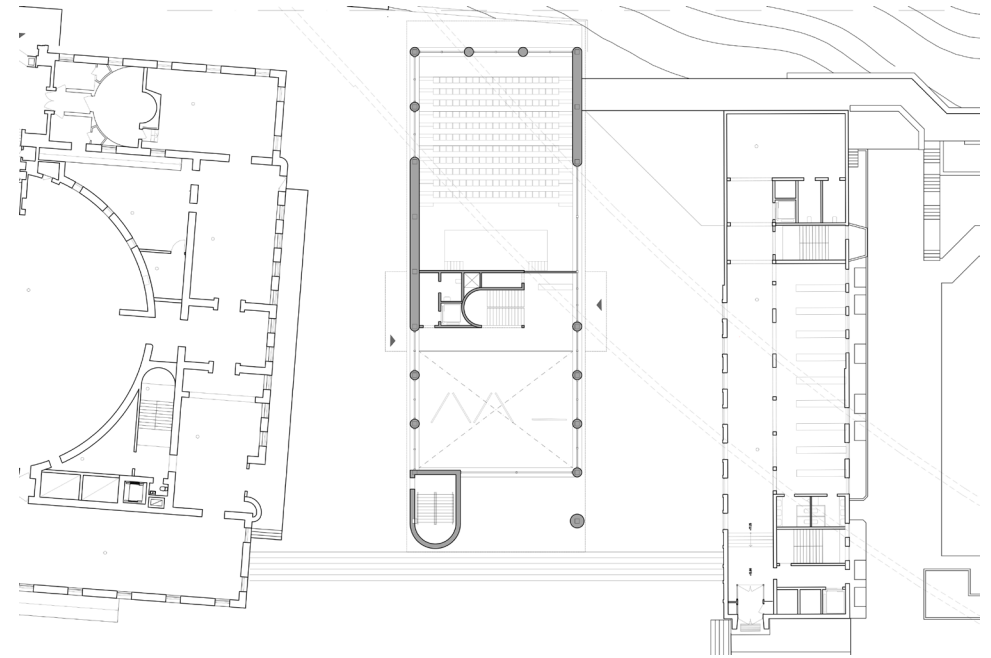


Fig.6 Ground floor plan of the decentralize proposal. Made by author.

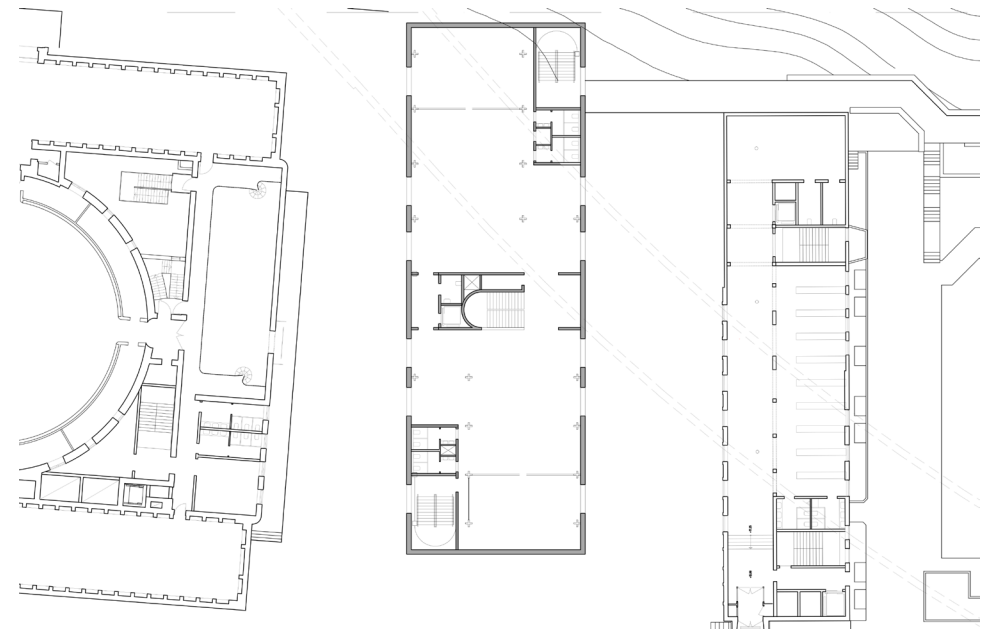


Fig.7 First floor plan of the decentralize proposal. Made by author.

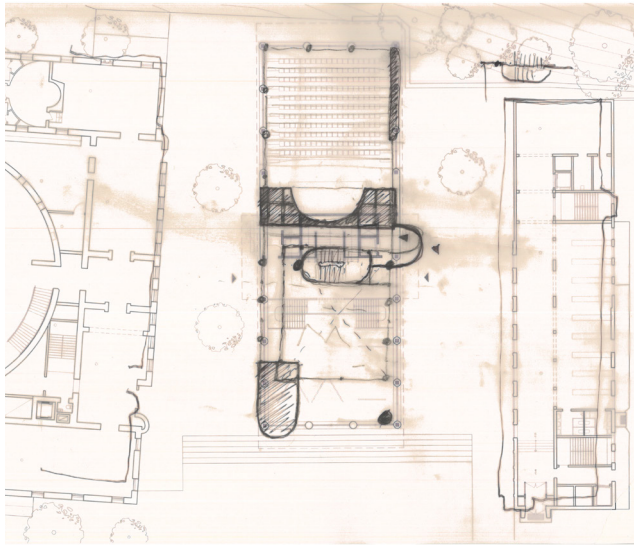


Fig.8 Sketches of the positioning of cores. Made by author

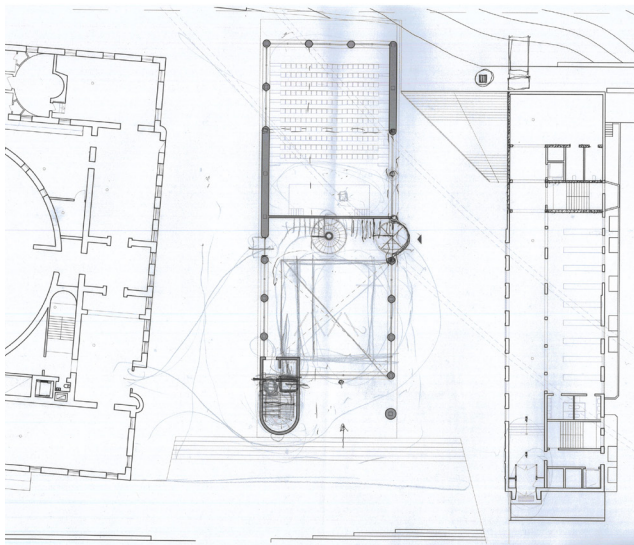


Fig.9 Sketches of the positioning of cores. Made by author

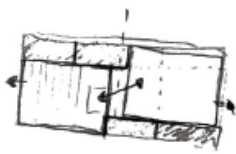


Fig.10 Sketches of the positioning of cores. Made by

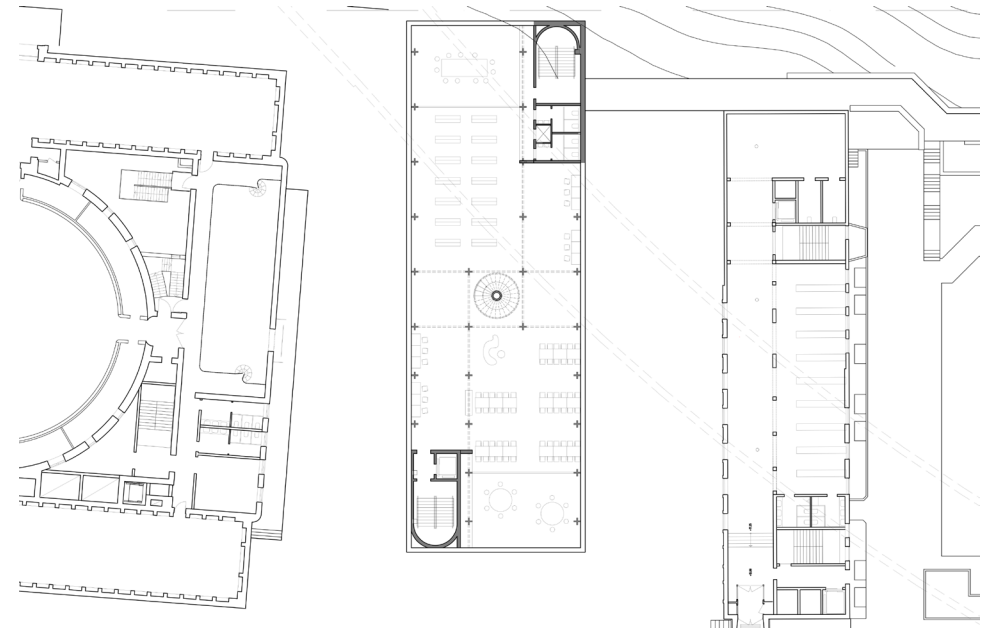


Fig.11 Ground floor plan of the decentralize proposal. Made by author.

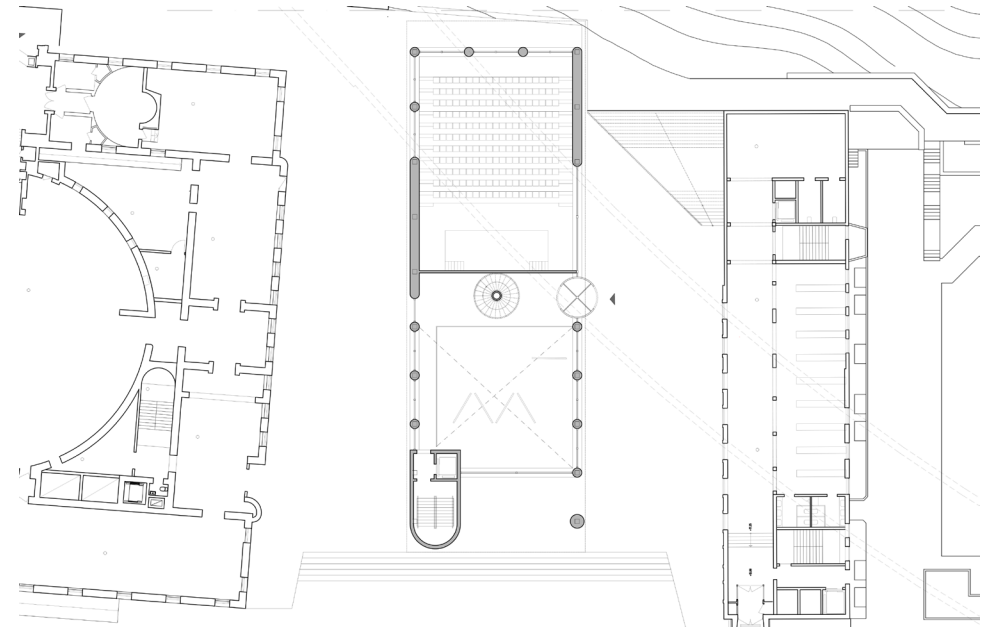


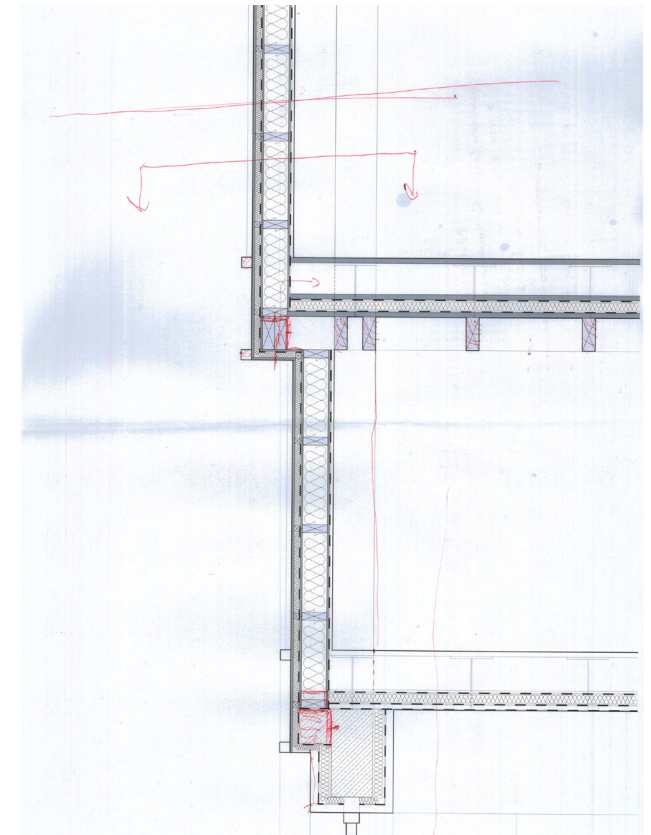
Fig.12 First floor plan of the decentralize proposal. Made by author.

Facade

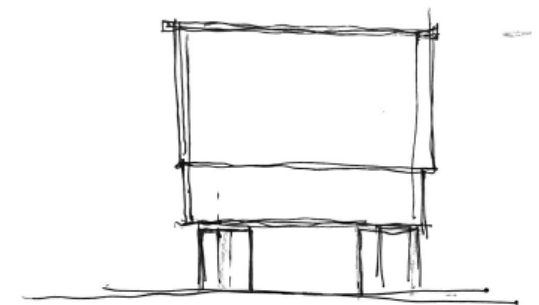


Decentralized cores also allowed for different solutions on the facade which emphasised the difference between ground and what is above the ground. The core is revelling itself on the ground floor which creates an asymmetrical feeling of the building standing on one leg.

*Fig.1 Sketchs of the moment on the facade.
Made by author.*



*Fig.2 Detail of the facade.
Made by author*



*Fig.3 Sketch of the front
facade. Made by author*

National Library in Warsaw

Visting the National Library in Warsaw. Building was a great inspiration showing the diversity of spaces in the library and very unique light condition.



Fig.4 Main working space in the library. Photo made by author

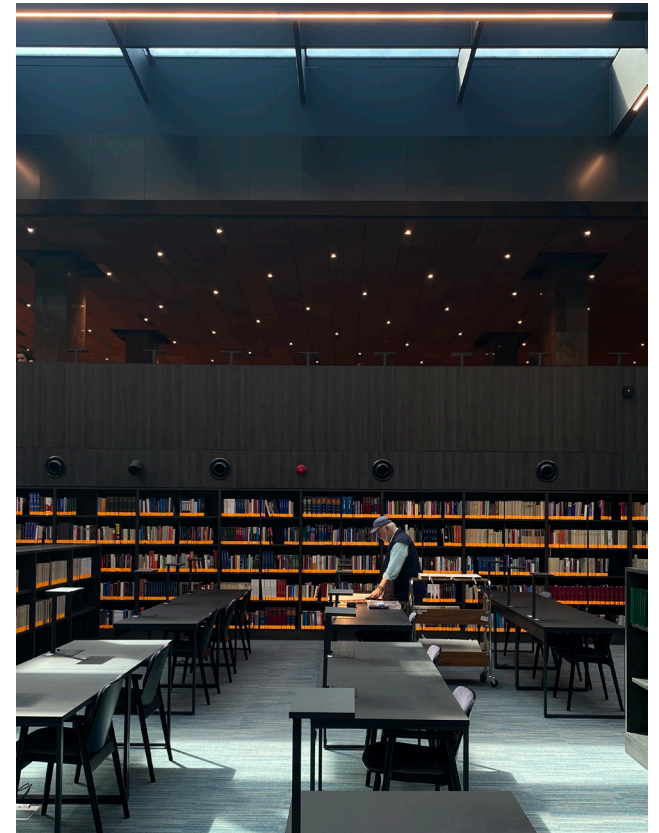


Fig.5 Main working space in the library. Photo made by author



Fig.5 Facade of the library. Photo made by author

Week

4.4-4.6

Materiality

Reflection on the different materiality used on the structure of the building.

Approaching the materiality of the building I aimed to make a clear reflection on the different identities of the ground floor and upper part of the building. The concrete solid structure is expressed by the earthy concrete material on the facade and interior of the building. The upper part then reflects on the lighter timber structure where the facade and interior of the building are also made out of timber.



Fig.1 Render for testing materiality of the building. Made by author.



Fig.2 Ice hockey arena in Stockholm. Designed by Jagnefaltmilton.

Inspiration for usage and treatment of timber on the example from Stockholm. Undercuts in the facade allowed for better protection of timber and also created a rhythm for the facade.

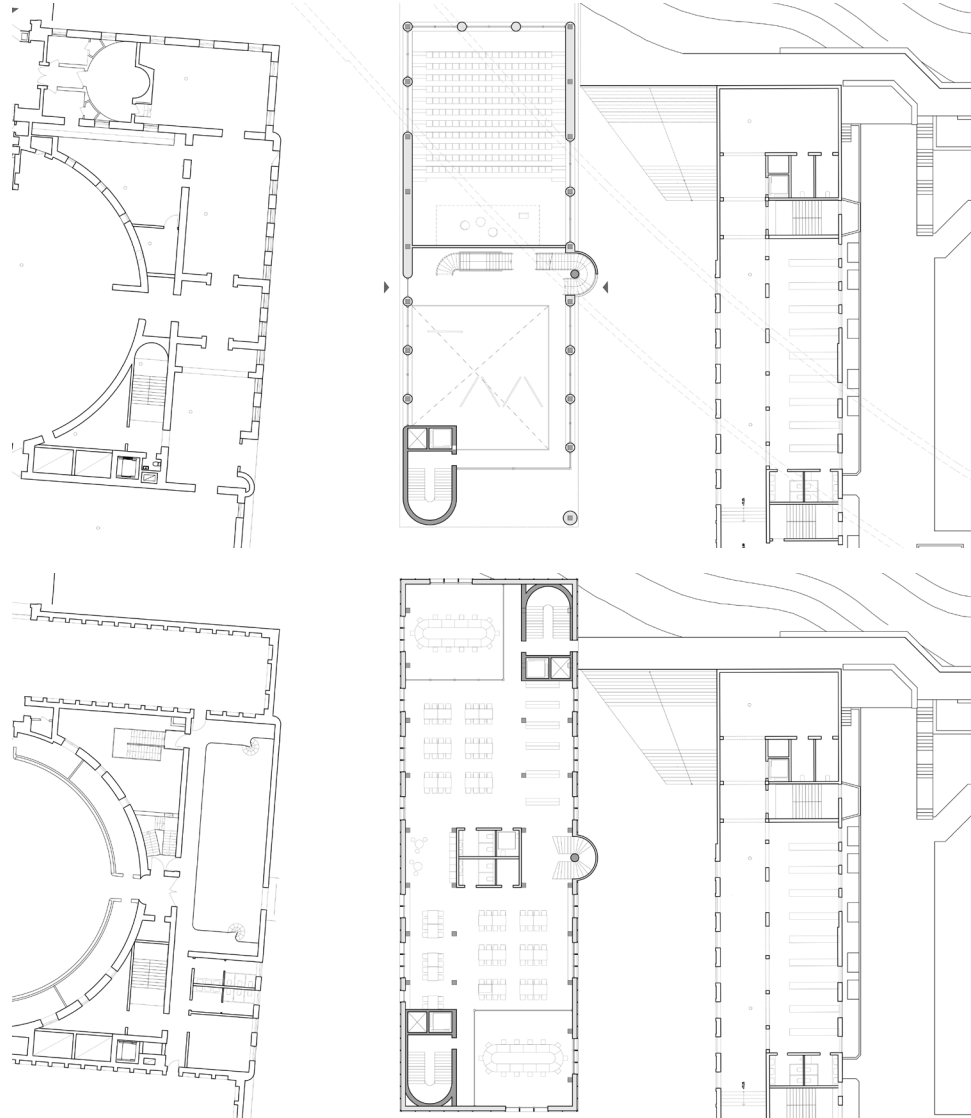


Fig.3 Ice hockey arena in Stockholm. Designed by Jagnefaltmilton.

Finalizing floor plans

Fig.4 Ground floor plan. Made by author

Fig.5 First floor plan. Made by author



Looking for the relation between exterior and interior. How architecture can shape the interior and be a coherent part of its design.

Fig.6 Sequence of renders showing the exterior, entrance and interior of the buuilg.

Details and facade

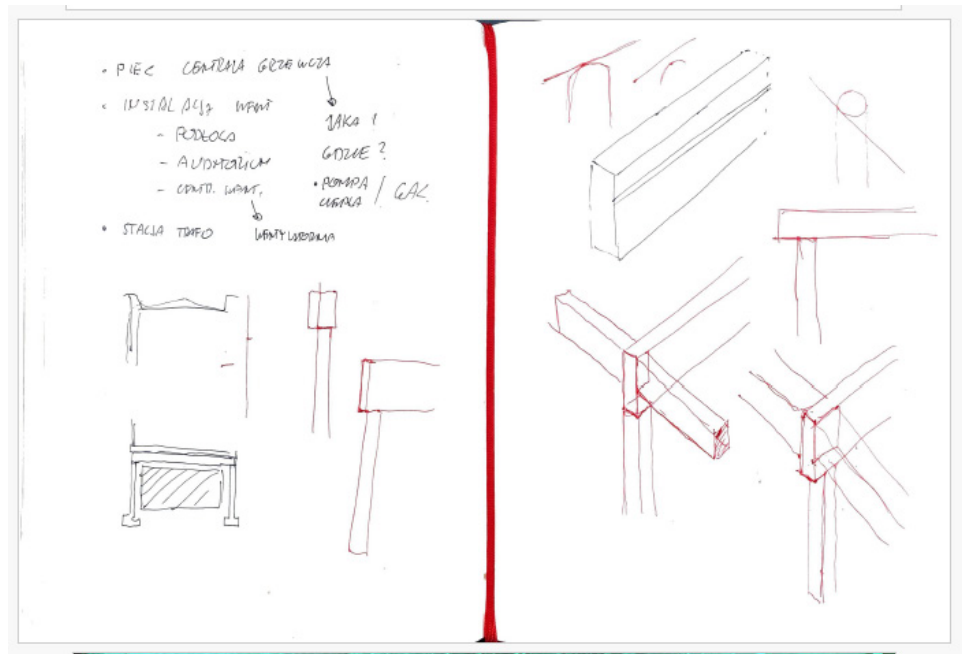


Fig.7 Sketches showing the process of working on details and structure. Made by author.

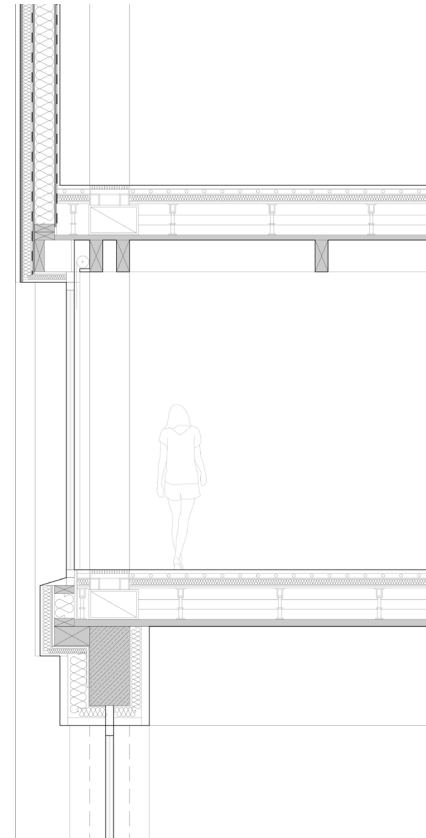


Fig.8 Detail Section of the facade. Made by author.

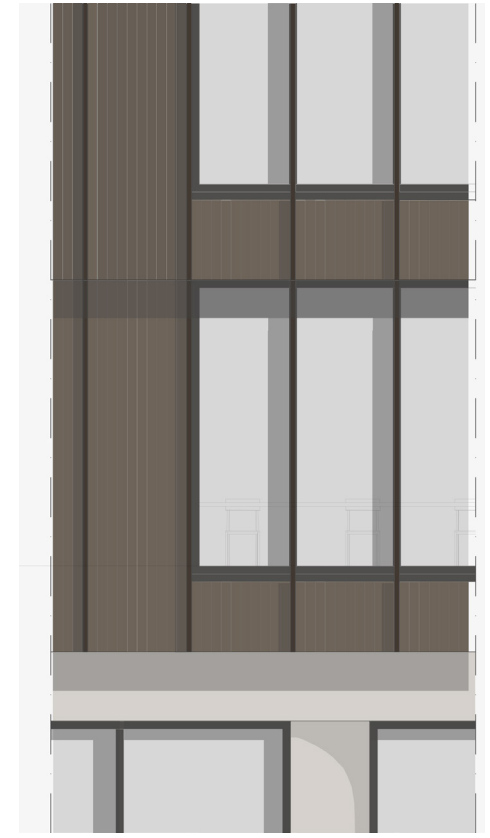


Fig.9 Detail drawing of the facade. Made by author..

Week

P₄

Position and goal

I. Library should be maintained as an independent figure on a site. Characteristic of this building, it's complex political and social context and spatial programming make it highly difficult to extend or adapt. The building was taught as an independent figure and should remain like that.

II. Modernize it where possible to adapt it to the current requirements and needs of contemporary library.

II. Decentralize it's functionality with distributing it's functions and collections to other libraries to put bigger emphasis on the network rather than it's centralized aspect



Fig.1 Site plan in 1.1000. Made by author.

Strategy

- Clarify and clean the Asplund's Library. Make it easier to function, circulate and use.
- Extend the functional program inside the library where possible without drastic changes in the building's architecture.
- Functions which can not be placed inside Asplund's library place in the new volume on the site
- Connect a new extension with Asplund's Library so they create one coherent functional organism.
- Provide a new quality of spaces to provide bigger diversity and more flexible functionality

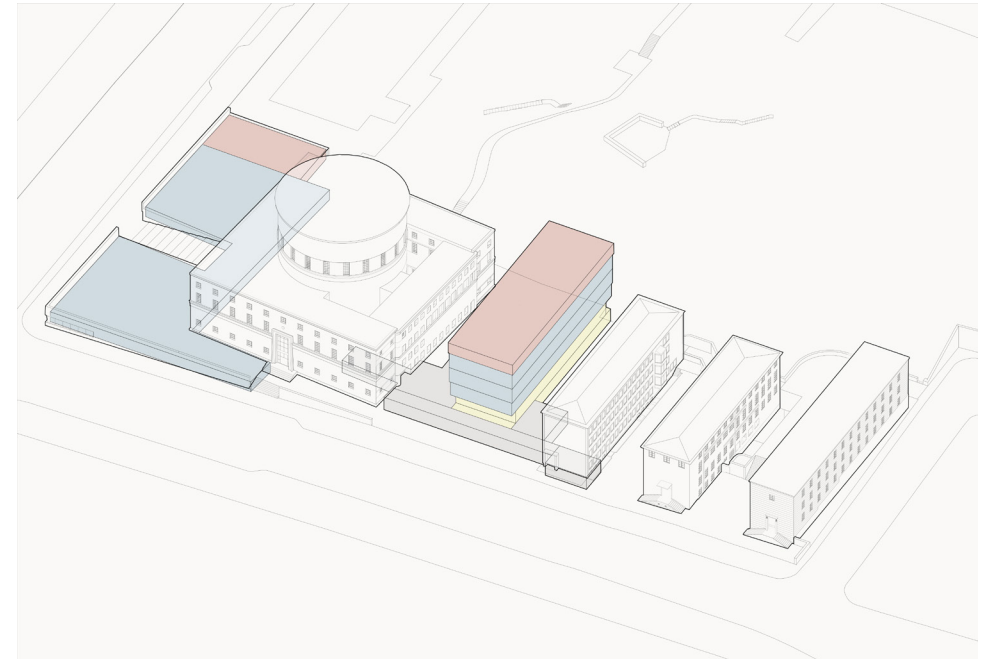


Fig.2 Axonometrical diagram of the proposal. Made by author.

The architectural part of the p4 presentation is divided into themes of ground and above the ground expressed in the construction, materiality and functionality of the building.

The architectural part of the P4 presentation was focused on showing the design as a result of research and analysis conducted on the site. The presentation was divided into two themes. Ground and a space below the ground as a moment of mediation between buildings and the city and the upper part which contains the library itself.

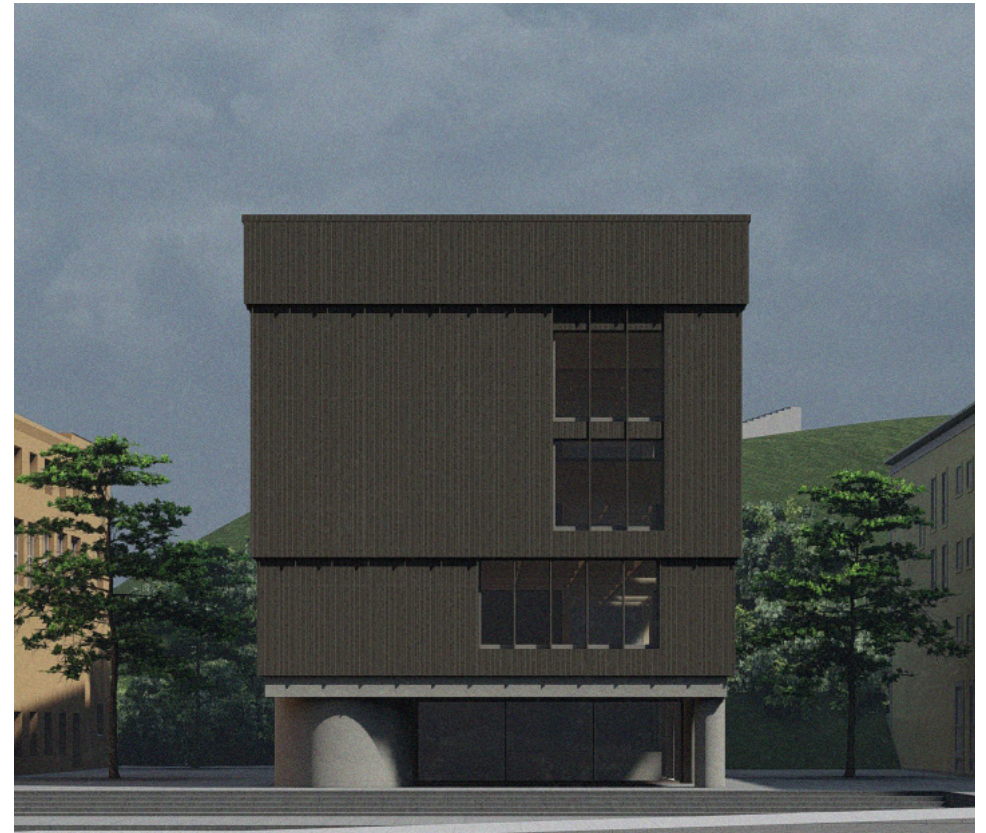


Fig.3 Render of the front of the building. Made by author.

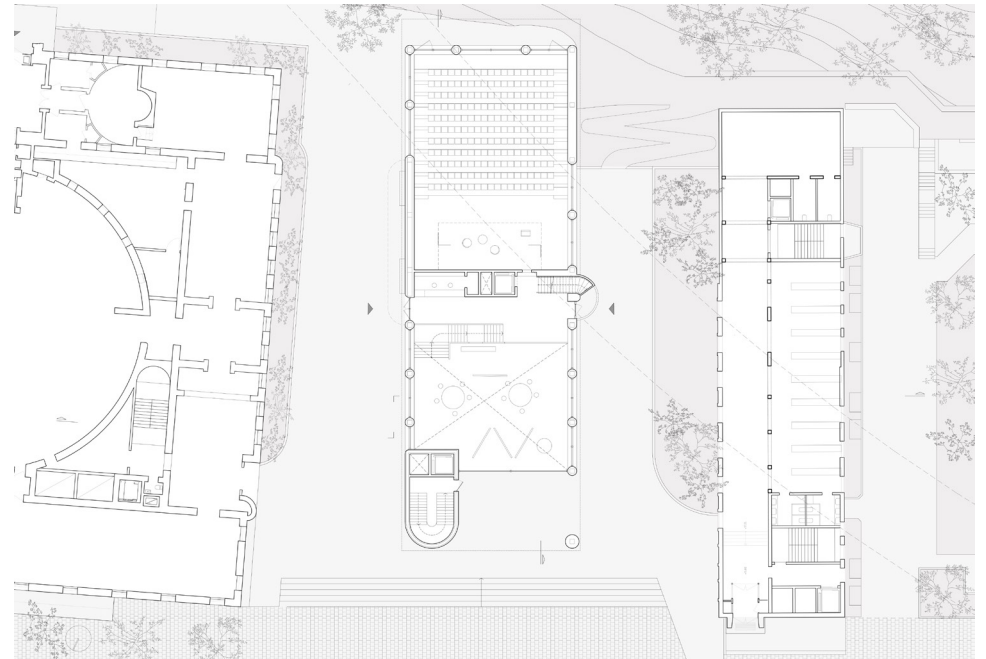
Ground

Ground floor with the entrance to the building and underground flexible space of a foyer, workshops and exhibitions for a library.

Fig.4 Render of the underground space. Made by author.



Fig.3 Ground floor plan in 1:200. Made by author.



Library

Reading and working spaces are located on the upper floors of the building. Offering the diversity of spaces, small private niches on the site, bigger open spaces in the middle and higher double-height spaces for events at the end.

Fig.6 First floor plan in 1:200. Made by author.

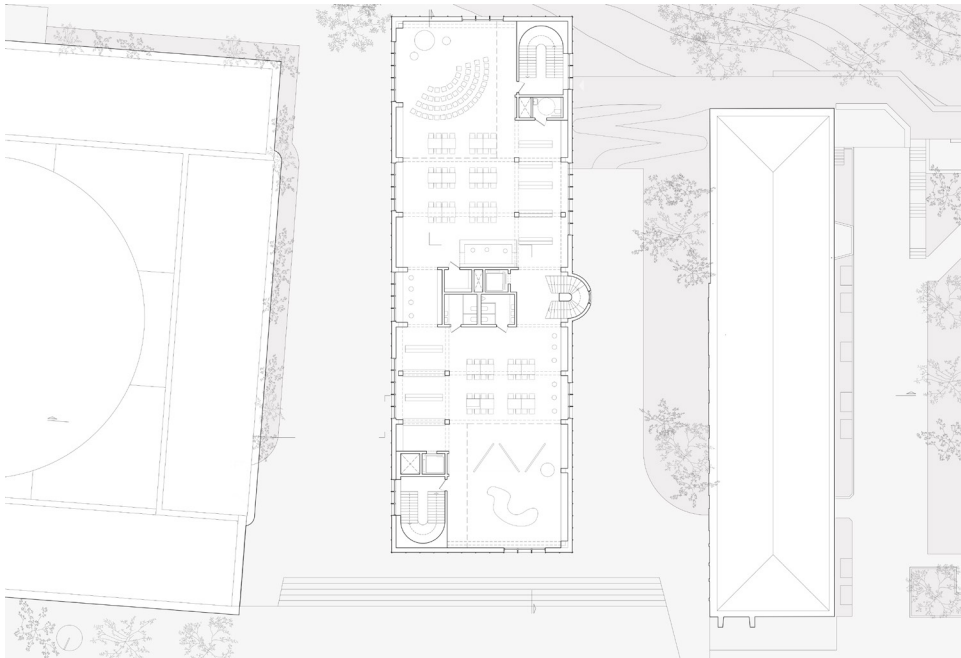


Fig.7 Render of the double height space. Made by author.



Architecture

Undercuts on the facade refer to the layers of the main library. At the same time referring to the classical way of building in timber in Sweden.

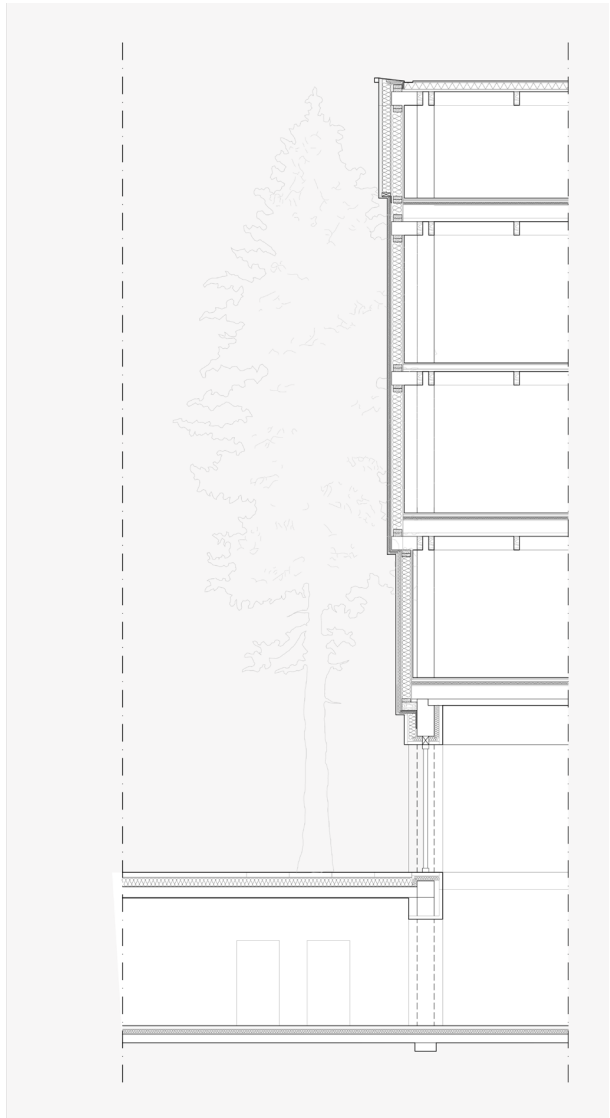


Fig.8 Section of the building in 1.50. Made by author.

Fig.9 Render of the facade fragment. Made by author.



Week

4.7-4.10

Reflection

In my reflection after p4, I decided to focus on answering the questions about elements which remain unresolved for better coherence and elaboration of the project.

In the Time between p4 and the final submission, I wanted to make clear the idea of the project and its contribution to the problem which libraries in Stockholm are facing nowadays. My project is a complement to the Asplund's plan for the site. It operates within a clear framework proposed by the architect by also developing its own identity. Thanks to that it manages to be a rather humble answer to the questions raised by two previous competition briefs.

Answering the question from my p4 presentation I would like to reflect on the size of the building which is slightly taller and wider than the annexes. That allows it to differentiate itself from them. The building is completing the existing structure but has its own identity, moreover, that allows for a better functionality and adaptability of the floor plan.

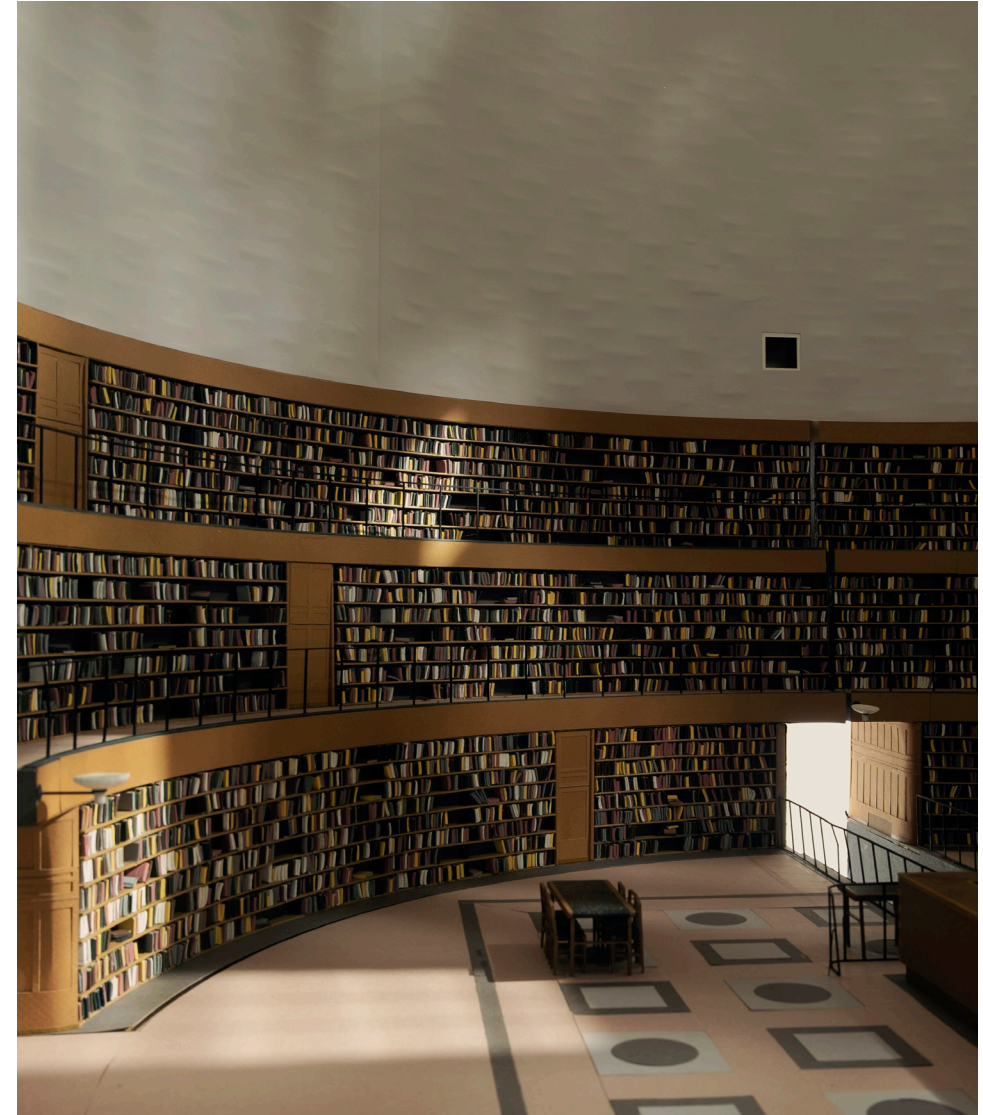
Regarding the interior of the building, my aim in the design was to create a coherent relation between architecture, and its outside and inside parts. Knowing the fact that in the reality of the Swedish architectural market interior design is very often separated from architectural design my objection was to provide a good quality of spaces by its architecture. Structural systems creating different scales of rooms allow for maintaining that

quality regardless of the aspect of interior design. Nevertheless, I imagine that spaces in terms of materiality continue the theme from the outside. Inner walls will be finished with timber which creates a better acousitic and more domestic atmosphere.

Moving to the outside spaces between buildings I didn't want to treat them in the same way which would suggest the equality between the main library and the annex. For that reason, the space between Asplund's building and my volume operates more as a square with the majority of the surface covered by pavement. It is also a transition space between the street and the park so its functionality requires a harder surface. The other space is a pathway leading us to the hill. For that reason I allowed myself to arrange that space more like a small garden between buildings which follows Asplund's original ideas for areas.

The material on the ground floor is concrete. For better insulation and bigger control over the esthetic of materiality, I decided to not expose real structural material but to cover it with insulation and casted concrete panels. That allows us to express the real materiality of that part of the building while maintaining higher control over its appearance.

Fig.1 Photo of the 1.25 model. Made by students of interior buildings cites.



Towards P5

Towards the P5 presentation, I intend to focus on emphasizing the key moments of the project and extracting the essence of its existence on the site.

For the P5 presentation, I would like to focus on emphasizing the advantages of the project and make them more visible in the presentation. Lots of time in the design process was spent on connecting all the fragments into a coherent whole. For that reason, the ground floor space appears to me as an element with significant value. Moreover, the library itself presents a wide variety of spaces intended for very different activities which was my point already in the p1 presentation. In these two moments, I will try to show the detail 1.33 model together with its exterior façade. For the presentation itself, I would like to extend the research part and make it more focused on the aspects which then will lead and explain the design.

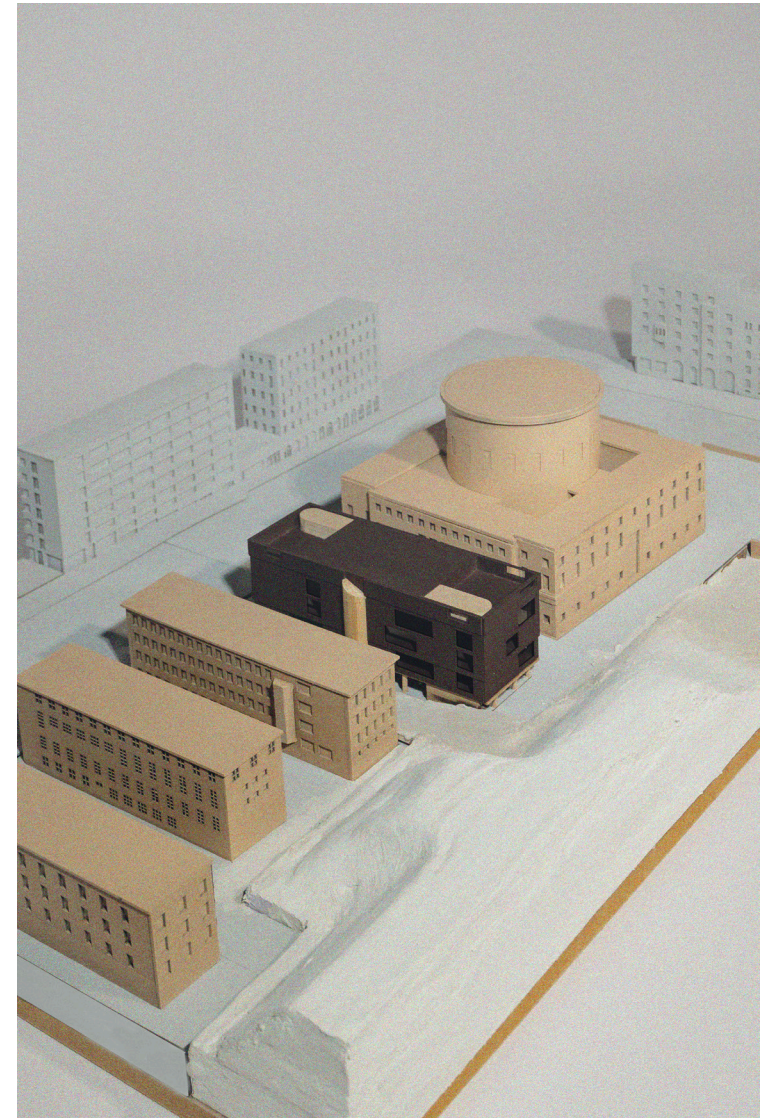


Fig.2 Photo of the 1:200 model. Made by author.

Colophon

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Project Journal

Delft University of Technology

Interiors Buildings Cities

Graduation Studio 2023-2024

Palace, Stockholm Library

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