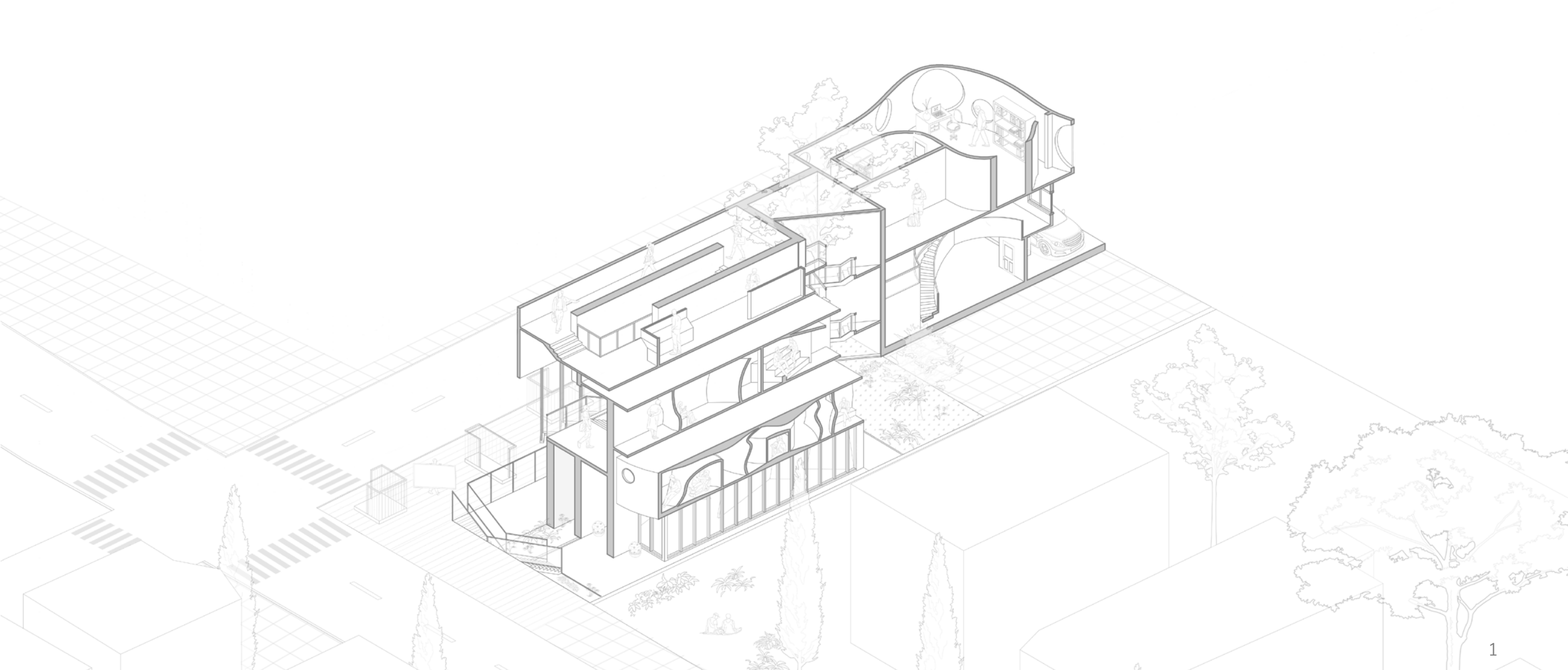


YIWEN GU

ARCHITECTURE PORTFOLIO

Selected Works 2023-2025

yiwengu0904@outlook.com • (+1)267-760-4281 • Los Angeles, CA



CONTENTS

ABOUT ME

Curious, driven, and detail-oriented—I thrive on transforming ambitious ideas into tangible, meaningful designs. As an Architectural Designer with a Master’s degree in Advanced Architectural Design from the University of Pennsylvania and a Bachelor of Architecture earned in 2021, I have spent the past two years immersing myself in projects that blend creativity with purpose.

Currently, I’m a Project Designer at Tom Wiscombe Architecture, where I’ve had the privilege of playing a pivotal role in groundbreaking projects. One of my most notable achievements was my work on the Qiddiya Performing Arts Centre in Saudi Arabia. From concept design through development design, I led key aspects of spatial design, 3D modeling in Rhino and Revit, and technical drawings, while shaping the interior design of the project’s main spaces. Through high-quality renders and animations, I helped bring the design to life for client presentations, leaving a lasting impression.

I also made a significant contribution to the firm’s competition for The Line, where my creative input was instrumental in securing a winning submission. These experiences taught me how to approach challenges with ingenuity and balance innovation with practicality, ensuring designs meet both creative aspirations and functional requirements.

Proficient in industry-leading tools like Rhino, Revit, Enscape, V-Ray, AutoCAD, SketchUp, and the Adobe Creative Suite, I bring a versatile skill set to every project. More importantly, I thrive in collaborative environments where big ideas come to life through teamwork and a shared commitment to excellence. My curiosity drives me to dig deeper, my problem-solving mindset keeps projects moving forward, and my dedication ensures results that exceed expectations.

I’m eager to continue growing in a space where creativity and strategy align, contributing to bold designs that inspire and connect people.

01 EARTH PROTECTOR **01-14**

Qiddiya Performing Arts Centre

Concept Design/Schematic Design/Design Development
Tom Wiscombe Architecture + Brewer Smith Brewer Group
09/2023 – Present
Qiddiya, Saudi Arabia
Total Net Area: 49,434 m²

02 STARGATE **15-24**

A new form of billboard for the 21st century

Concept Design
Tom Wiscombe Architecture + Brewer Smith Brewer Group
10/2024 – Present
Qiddiya, Saudi Arabia

03 NEOM THE LINE - NEIGHBORHOOD **25-32**

Design with a sense of vastness and endlessness over containment

Competition
Tom Wiscombe Architecture
01/2024 – 02/2024
Neom, Saudi Arabia
Total BUA: 1,563,501 m²

04 HYPOSTYLE **33-38**

A hypostyle building with a dual-profile roof with modular cells

Academic work/Upenn MSD-AAD
Instructor: Barry Wark
Spring 2023
Seville, Spain
Group member: Yiwen Gu, Yutao Chen

05 WEAVING AND HINGE **39-44**

A wood wall system fabrication with 3D printed ceramic shingles

Academic work/Upenn MSD-AAD
Instructor: Nathan Hume
Summer 2023
Group member: Wentao Pan, Yiwen Gu, Yutao Chen



01 EARTH PROTECTOR

Qiddiya Performing Arts Centre

PROFESSIONAL WORK

PROJECT INFO

Tom Wiscombe Architecture + Brewer Smith Brewer Group

Type: Cultural

Duration: 09/2023 – Present

Location: Qiddiya, Saudi Arabia

Total Net Area: 49,434 m²

PHASE

100% Concept Design

100% Schematic Design

50% Design Development

RESPONSIBILITY

Coordinating with consultants

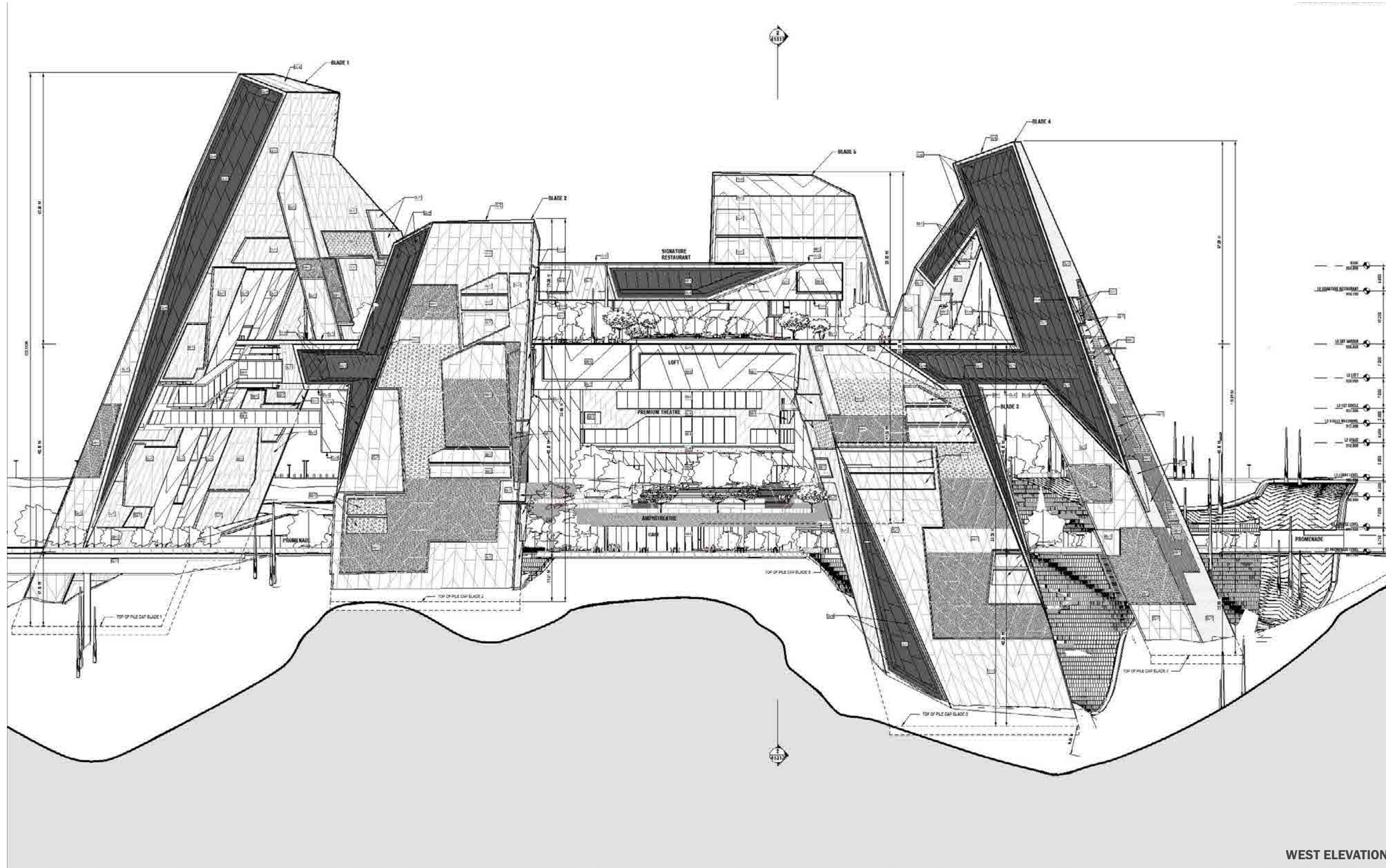
Project design and 3D modeling

Technical drawings

Interior design and render

Earth Protector lands in Qiddiya, creating a massive shaded realm on the edge of Qiddiya's cliffs, sheltering people, supporting the ecology of the site, and protecting the public realm from sun and wind. The building, by itself, creates an Arts District, expanding into the city, beyond any conventional building footprint.

Rather than reflecting a 20th century model of theatre, Earth Protector shows us the 21st century and beyond. The goal is to engender fresh interest in the performing arts in the youth of Saudi Arabia, who have many different ideas about what "performance" means today.

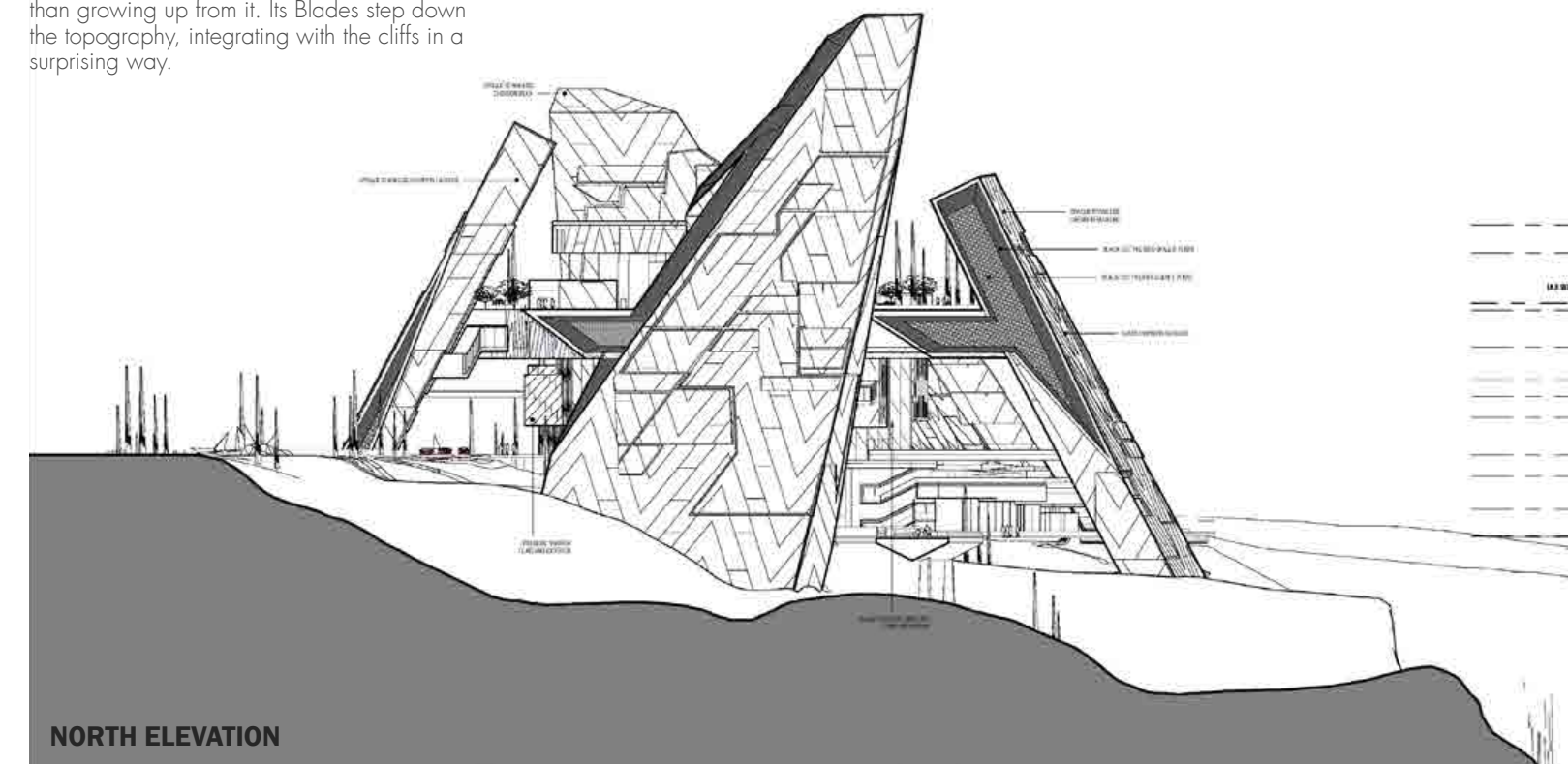


WEST ELEVATION

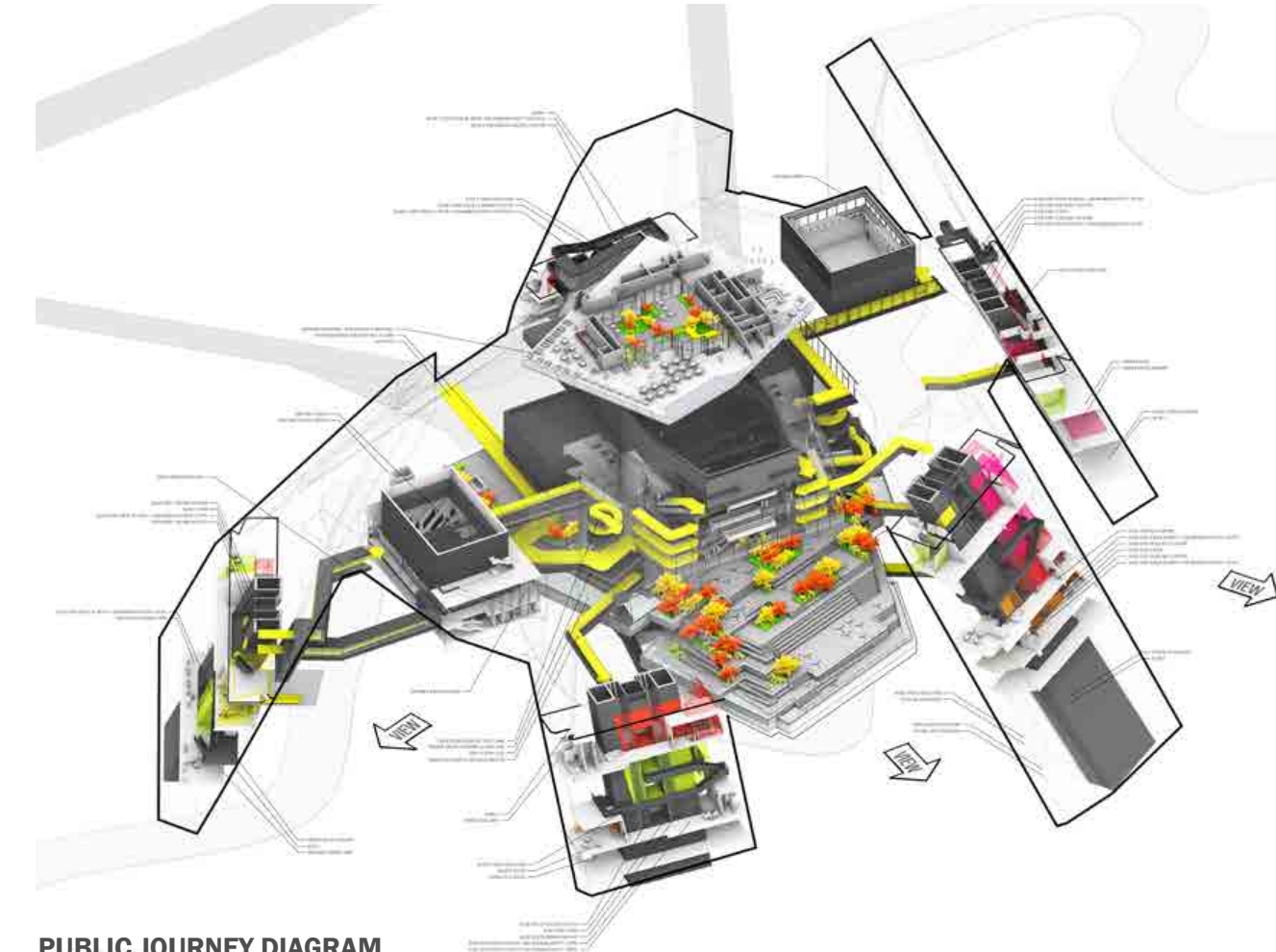


SHADOW PLAZA RENDER

Earth Protector lands on the ground, rather than growing up from it. Its Blades step down the topography, integrating with the cliffs in a surprising way.

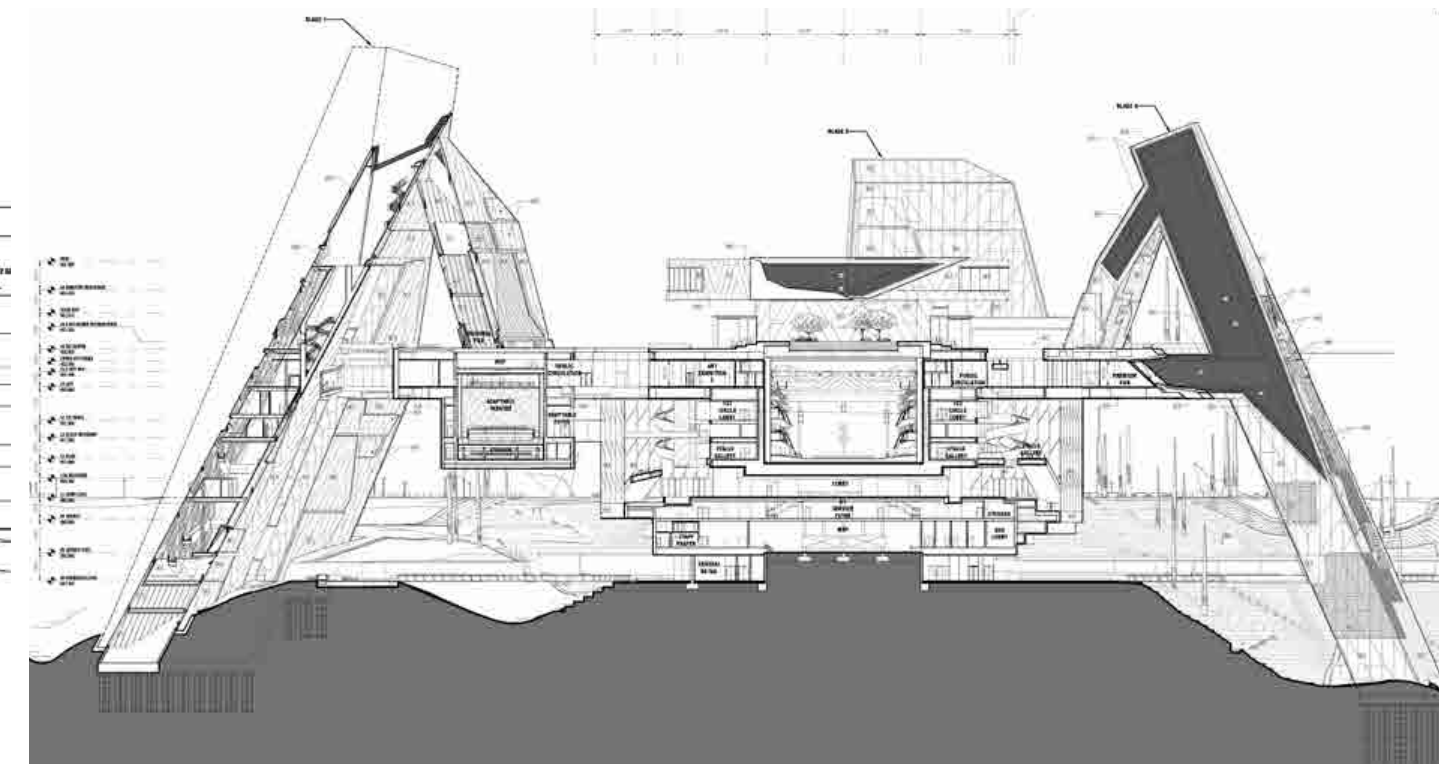


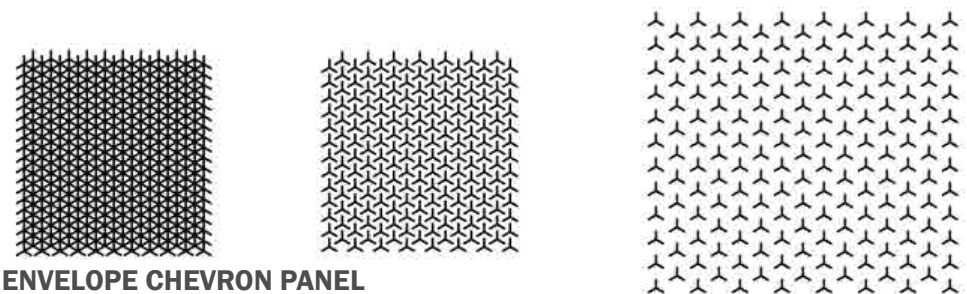
NORTH ELEVATION



PUBLIC JOURNEY DIAGRAM

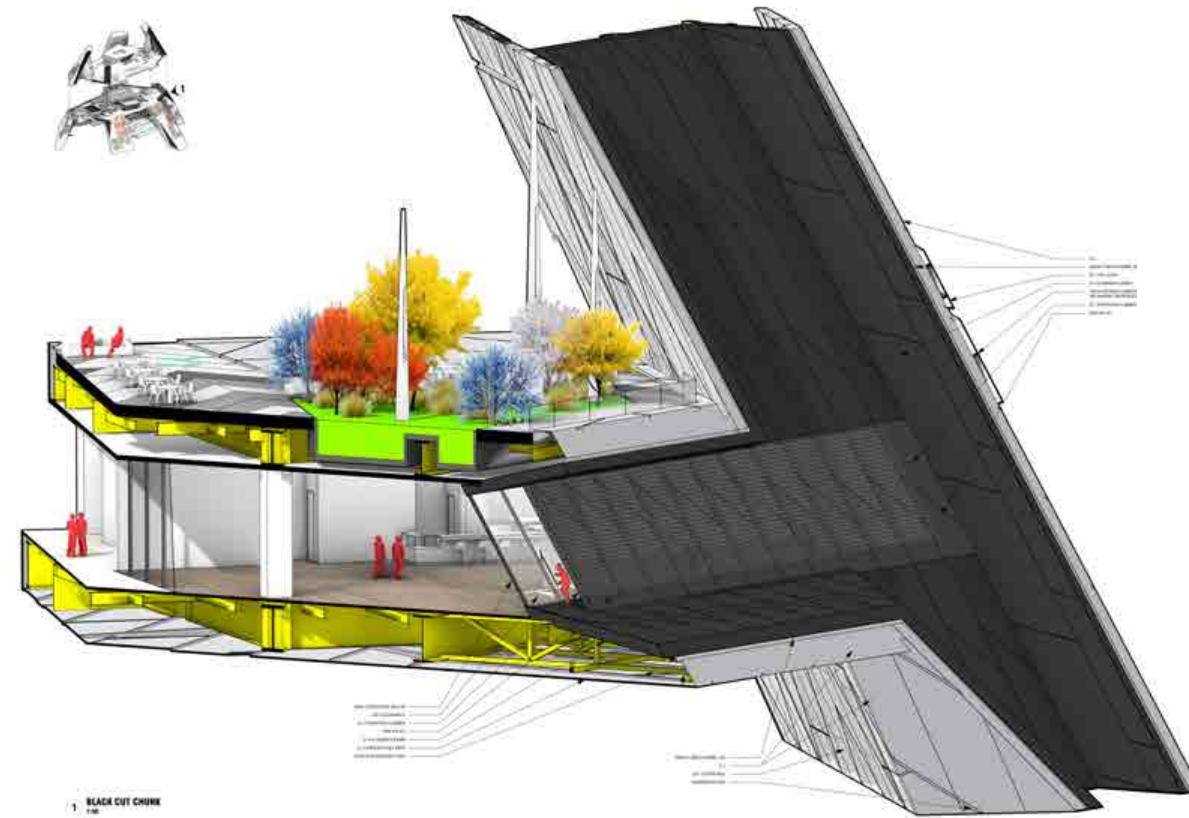
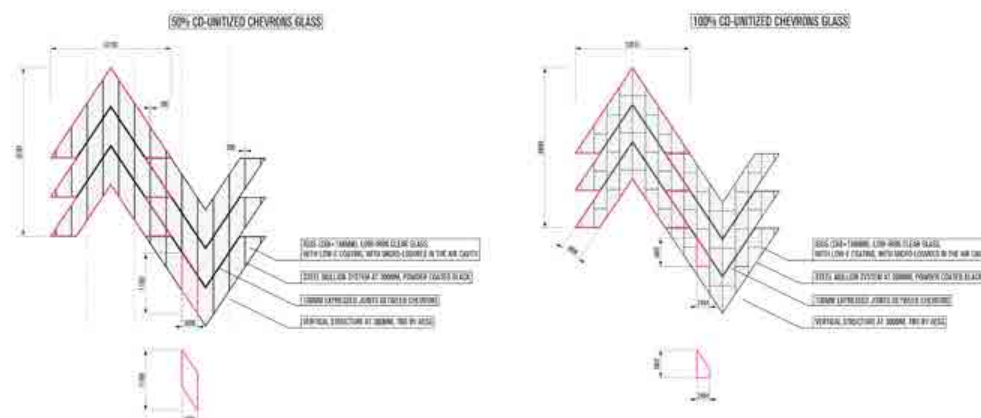
Earth Protector lands on the ground, rather than growing up from it. Its Blades step down the topography, integrating with the cliffs in a surprising way.





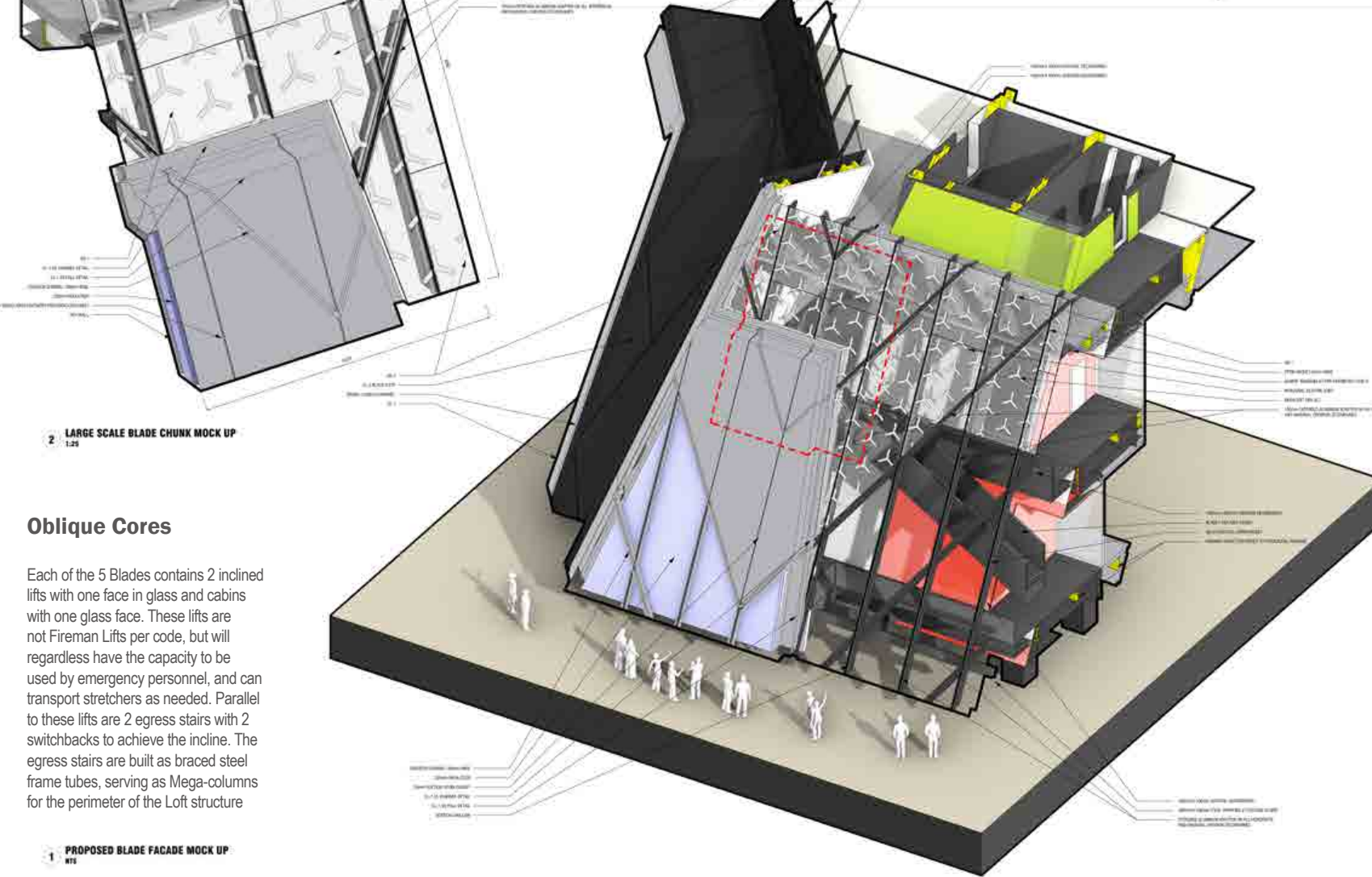
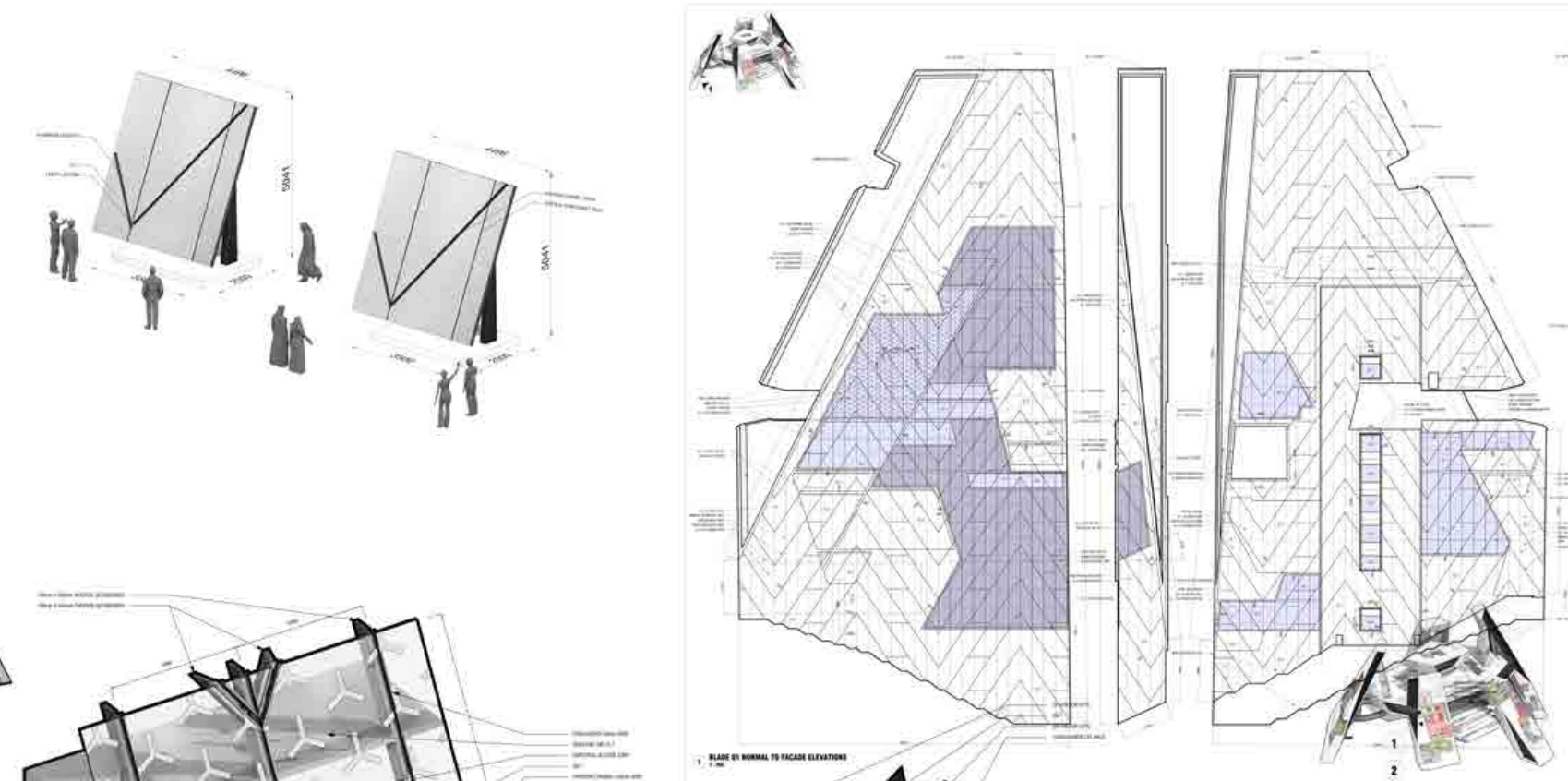
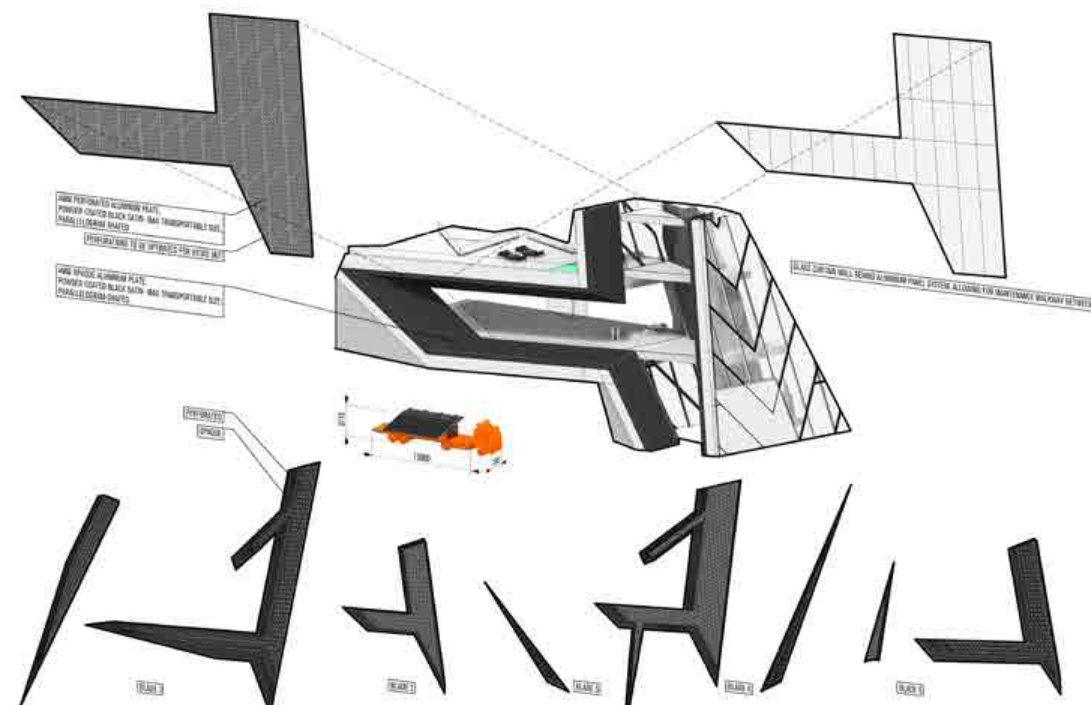
ENVELOPE CHEVRON PANEL

This is a summary of the theatre design and acoustic input provided throughout the 100% Concept Phase of the Qiddiya Performing Arts Centre (QPAC). Theatre design focus during this phase has been on brief review and providing key geometrical parameters, design and planning guidance on the general arrangement, logistics and auditoria design. Acoustics focus has been on brief review and providing key geometrical parameters and initial guidance on massing for the Premium Theatre.



	PATTERN 1	PATTERN 2	PATTERN 3
Visible Area	65%	45%	85%
Covered Area	35%	55%	15%
Total Glass VLT Required (Max)	20%	20%	20%

Table 4: Metallic Frit comparison (Note: Further reduction of VLT is achieved by the solar and thermal control coating applied to the glass)

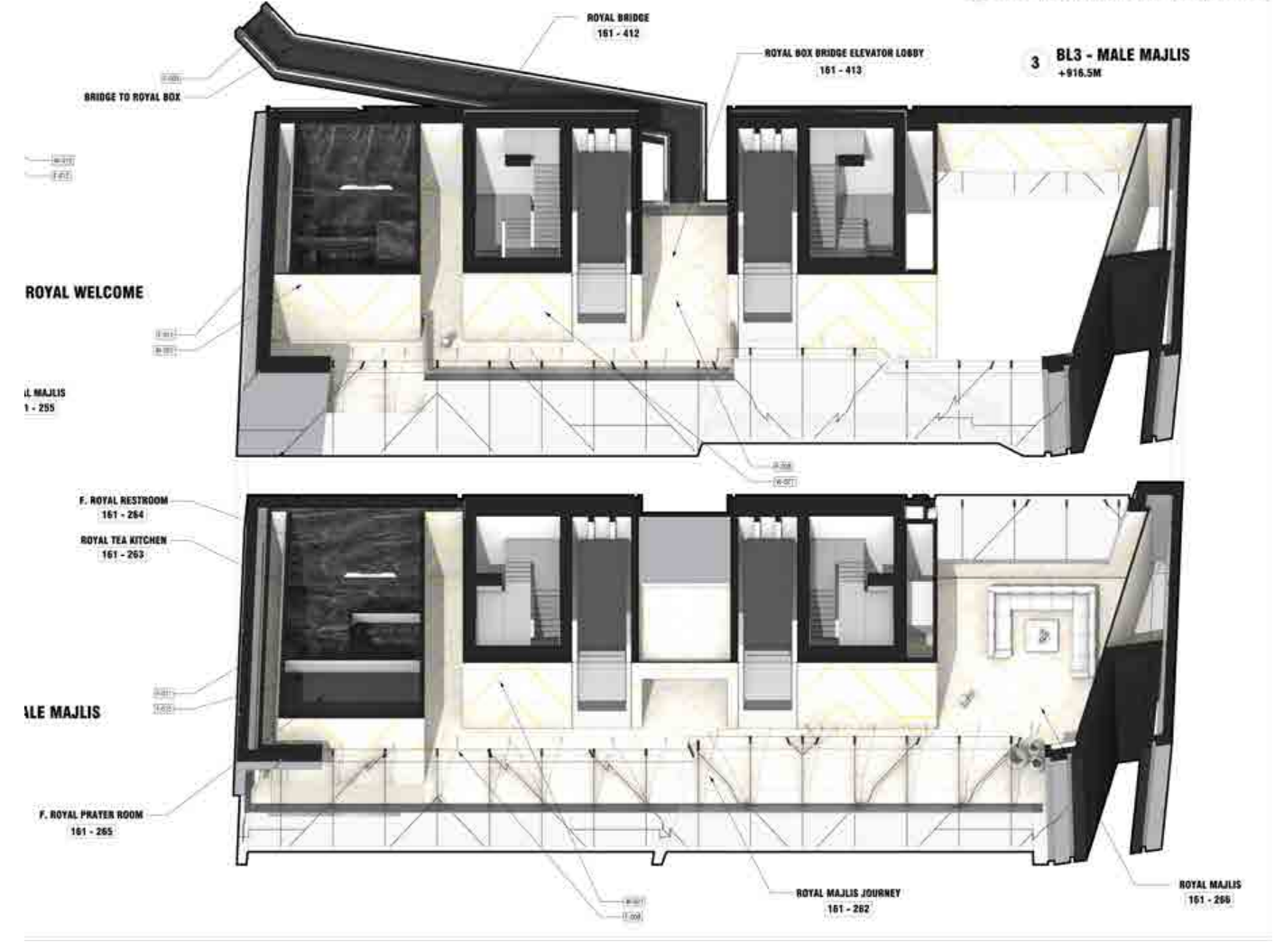


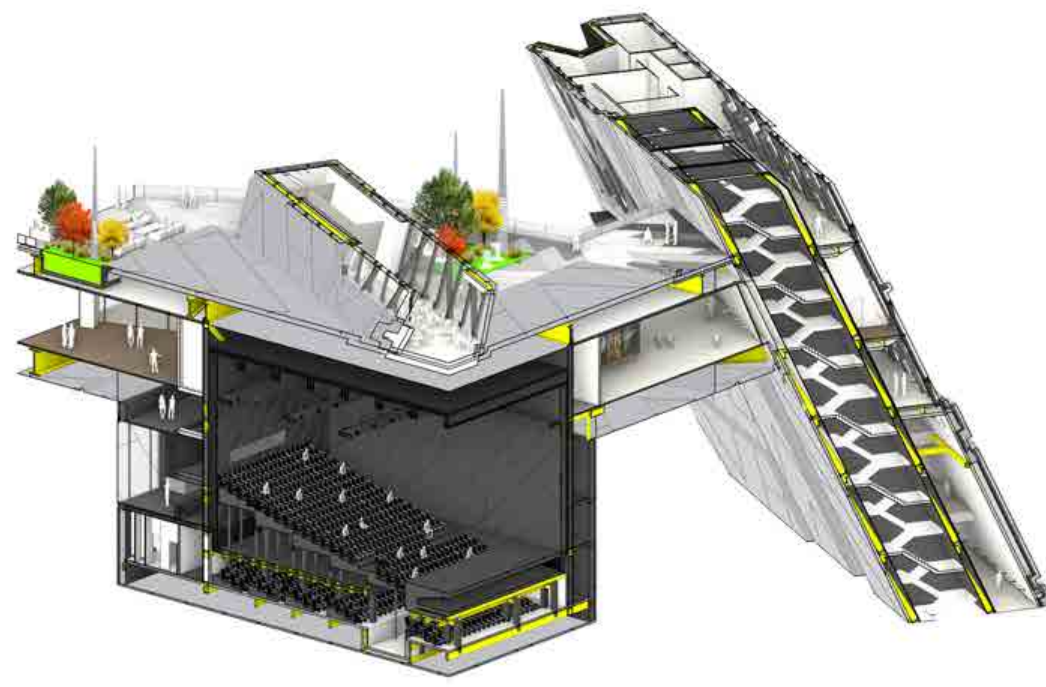
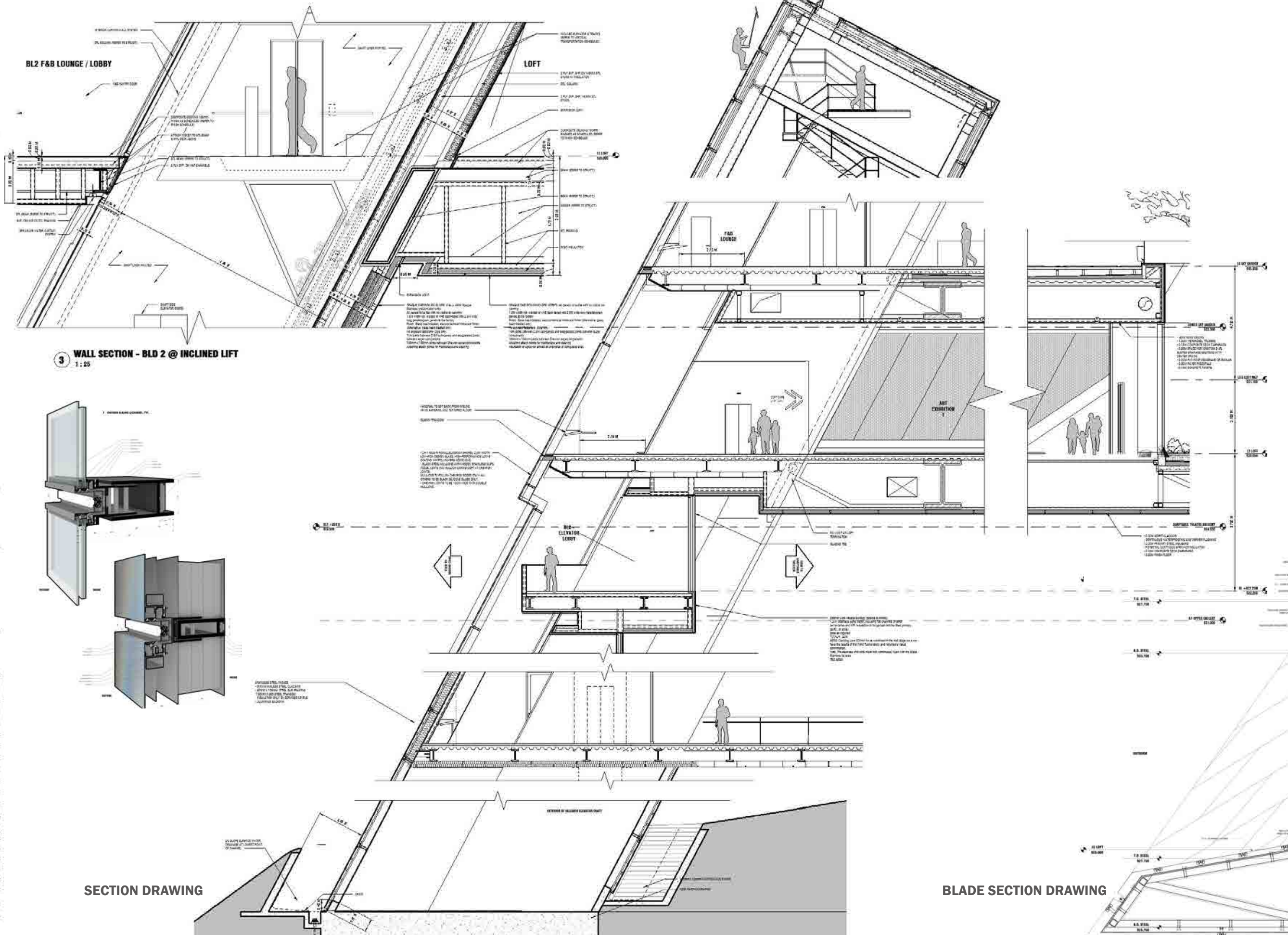
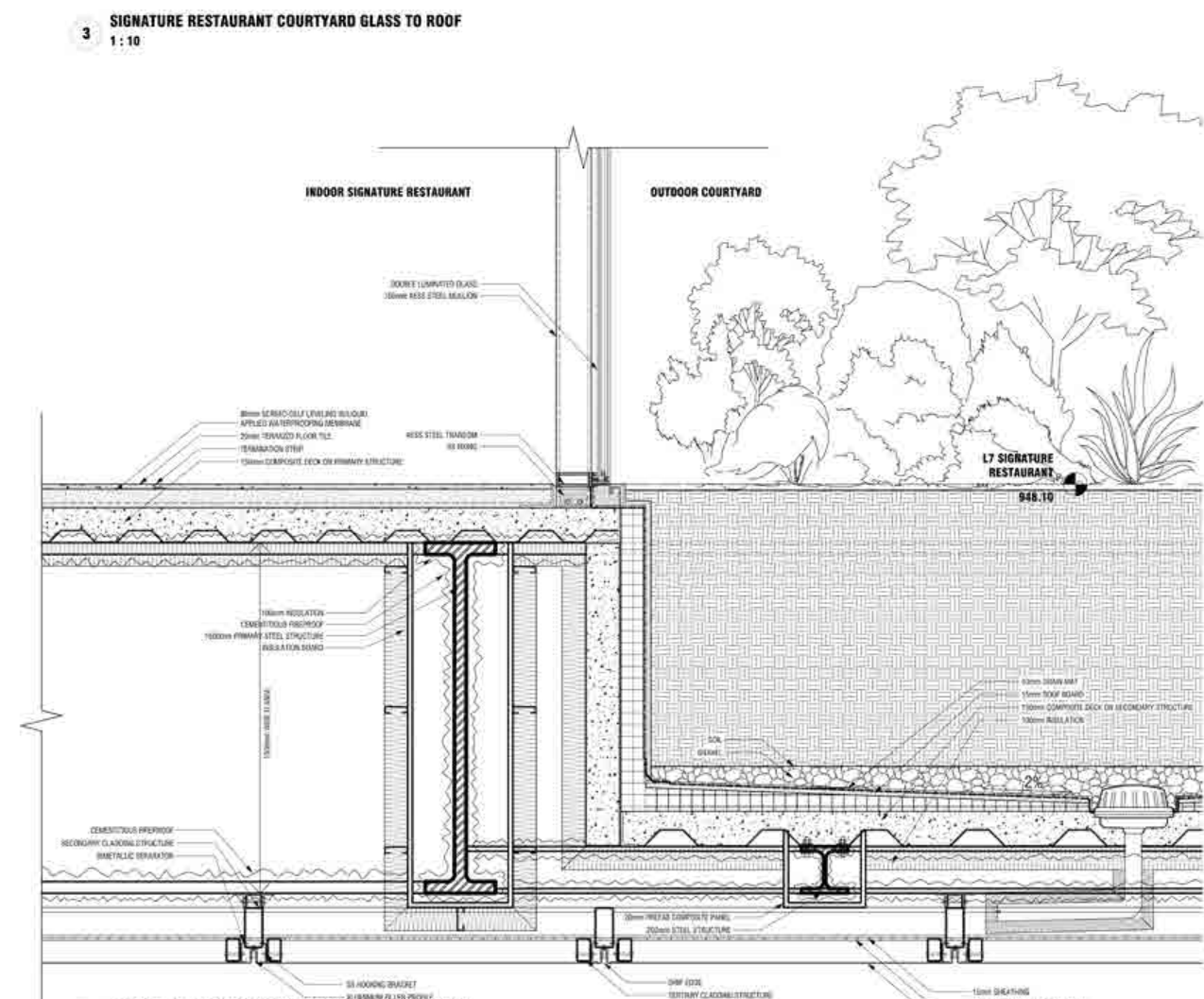
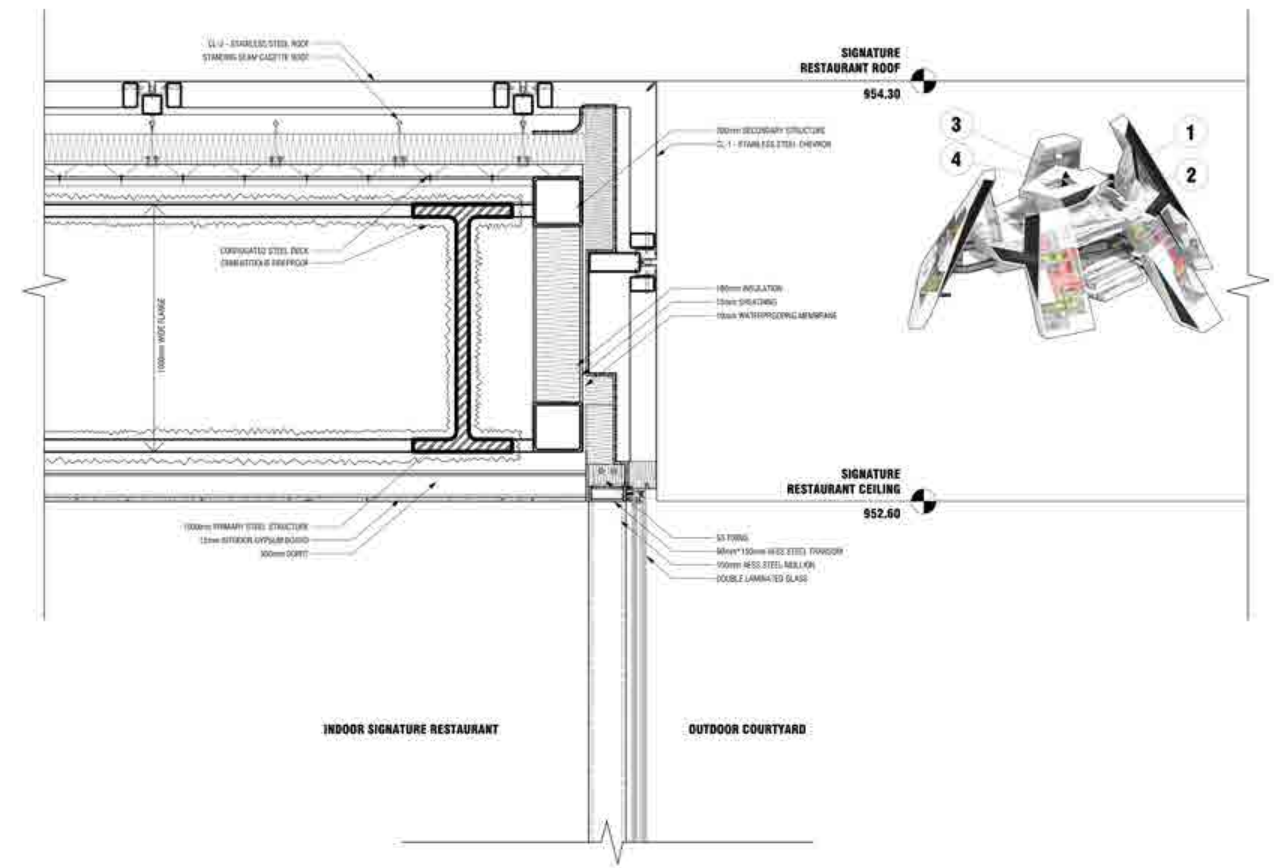
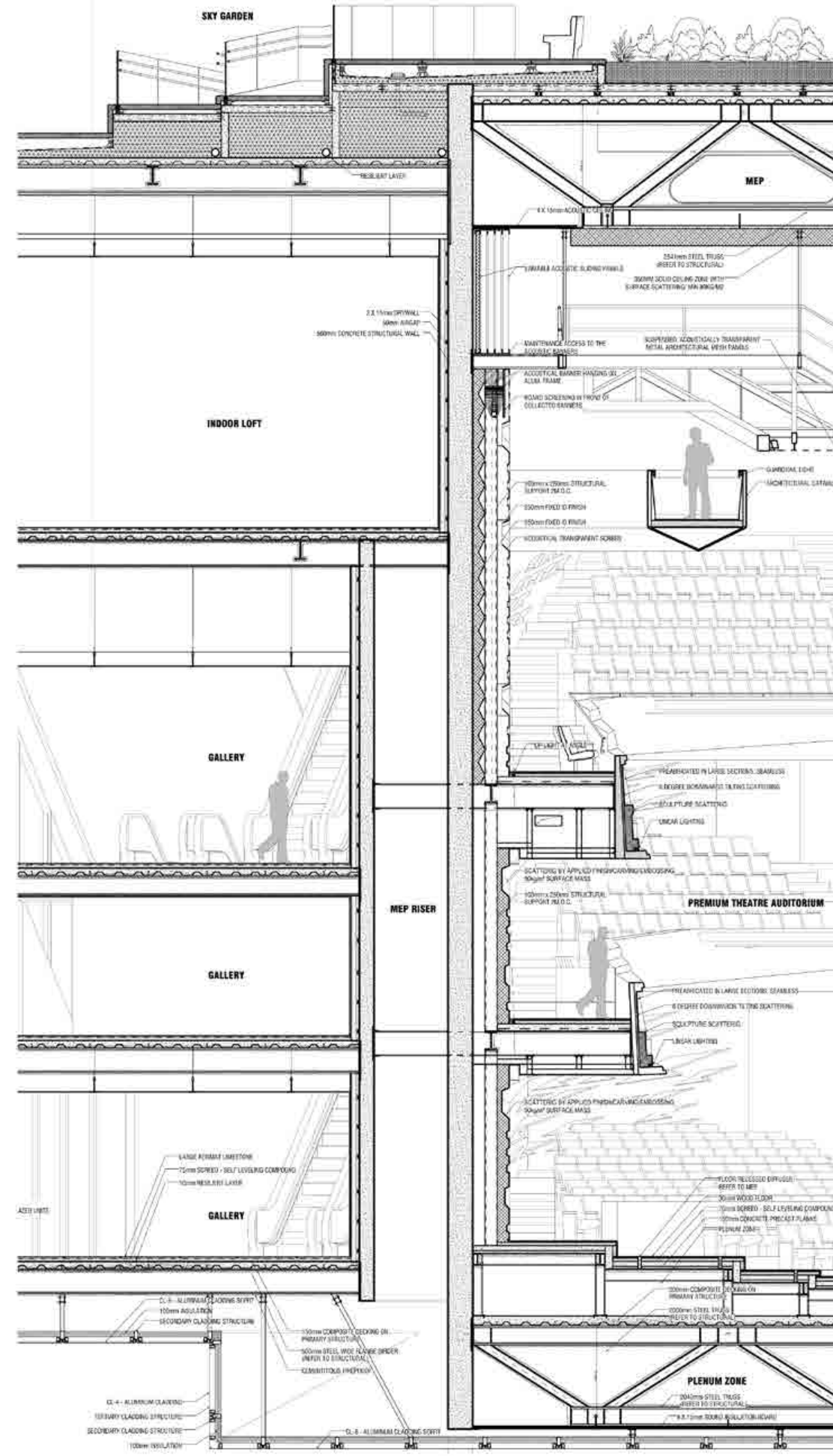
Oblique Cores

Each of the 5 Blades contains 2 inclined lifts with one face in glass and cabins with one glass face. These lifts are not Fireman Lifts per code, but will regardless have the capacity to be used by emergency personnel, and can transport stretchers as needed. Parallel to these lifts are 2 egress stairs with 2 switchbacks to achieve the incline. The egress stairs are built as braced steel frame tubes, serving as Mega-columns for the perimeter of the Loft structure

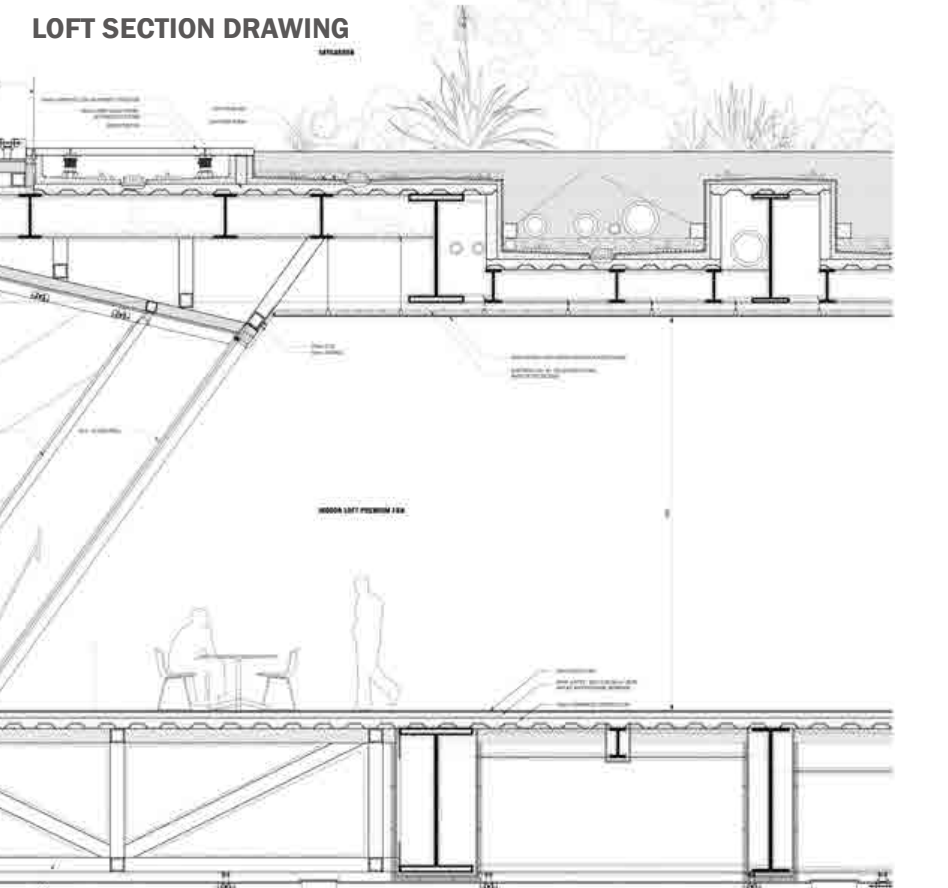


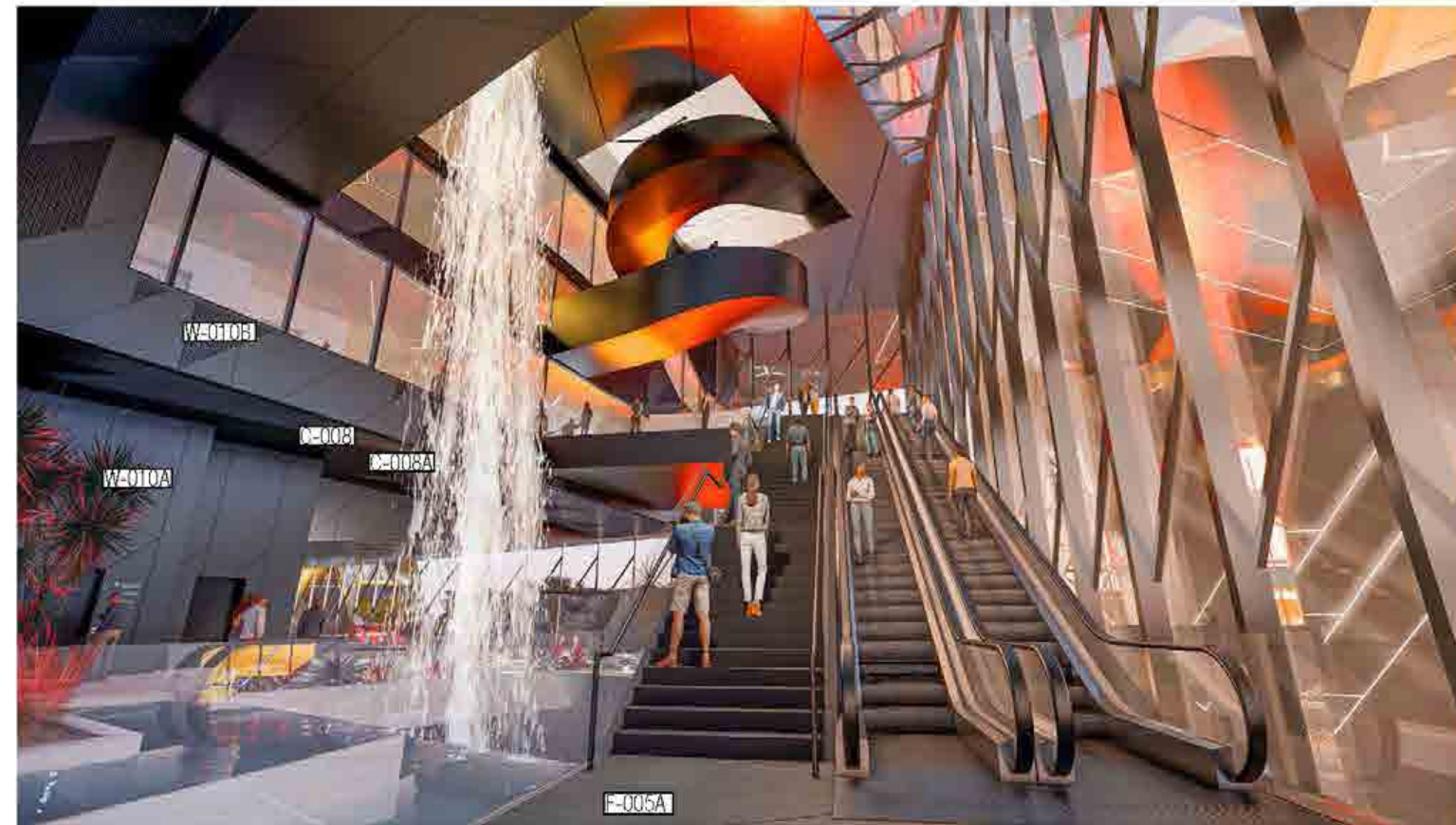
4 BLS - ROYAL MAJLIS INTERIOR RENDER





ADAPTABLE THEATRE-CORED OUT
The Lobby is a glass box, protected by the Loft above. It is a sanctuary, welcoming guests from the desert heat outside.





CEILING



C-008 Solid flat 4mm aluminum parallelogram-shaped panels with minimal joints; black satin powder-coated finish, with integrated lighting



C-008A Perforated flat 4mm aluminum parallelogram-shaped panels with minimal joints, backed by mineral wool. Black satin powder-coated finish with integrated lighting



C-008B Solid flat 4mm stainless steel parallelogram-shaped panels with graphic seams, bead-blasted finish

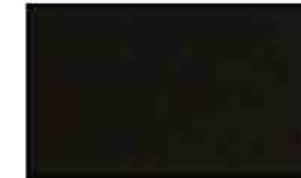


C-008C Perforated flat 4mm stainless steel parallelogram-shaped panels with graphic seams, bead-blasted finish

FLOOR



F-003 Warm-toned Travertine or Limestone in chevron pattern with legible organic patterns, including 10mm stainless bar at chevron perimeter-TBC



F-005A Lapitec Nero Assoluto Velluto finish, 60cmx120cm in running bond pattern, honed finish

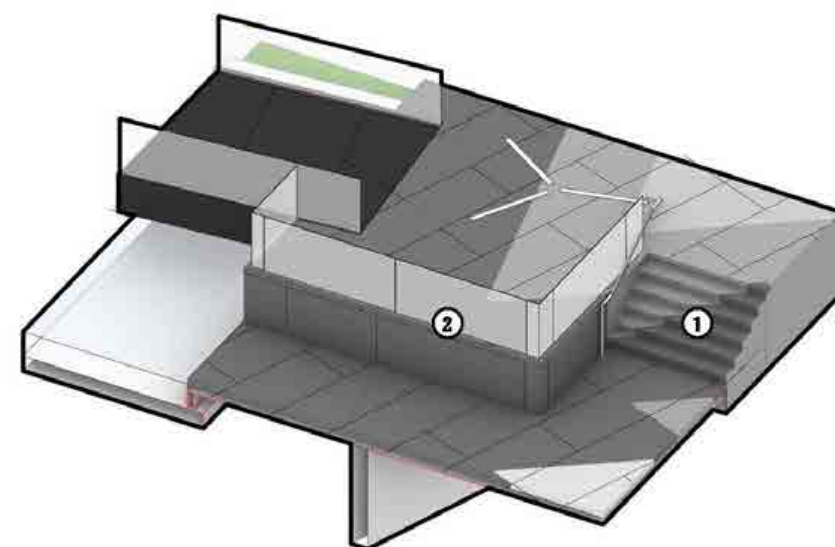
WALLS



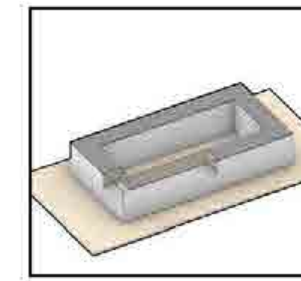
W-010A 4mm solid flat aluminum panels in large-scale parallelogram pattern, black satin powder-coated finish



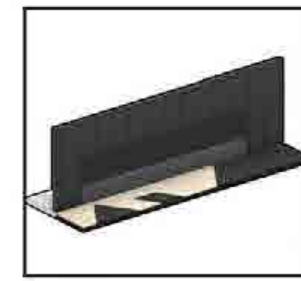
W-010B 4mm perforated aluminum panels in large-scale parallelogram pattern, black satin powder-coated finish



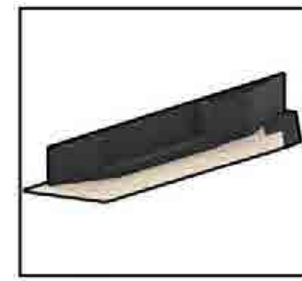
ITEM NAME	SPECS (DIMENSIONS)	MANUFACTURER	QUANTITY
1. INFO DESK ON WHEELS	L 550 x W 280 x H 110 cm	MILLWORK, WHITE CORIAN	2
2. CONCIERGE	L 1,450 x W 54 x H 110 cm	MILLWORK, BLACK CORIAN	1
3. CONCESSIONS	L 1,330 x W 250 x H 110 cm	MILLWORK, BLACK CORIAN	1
4. PRONTA STACKING CHAIR	D 59x W 53.2 x H 81 cm	HERMAN MILLER	30
5. CONCRETE BENCH LIGHTWEIGHT	W160 x D 41 x H 46 cm	TEAK WAREHOUSE	8



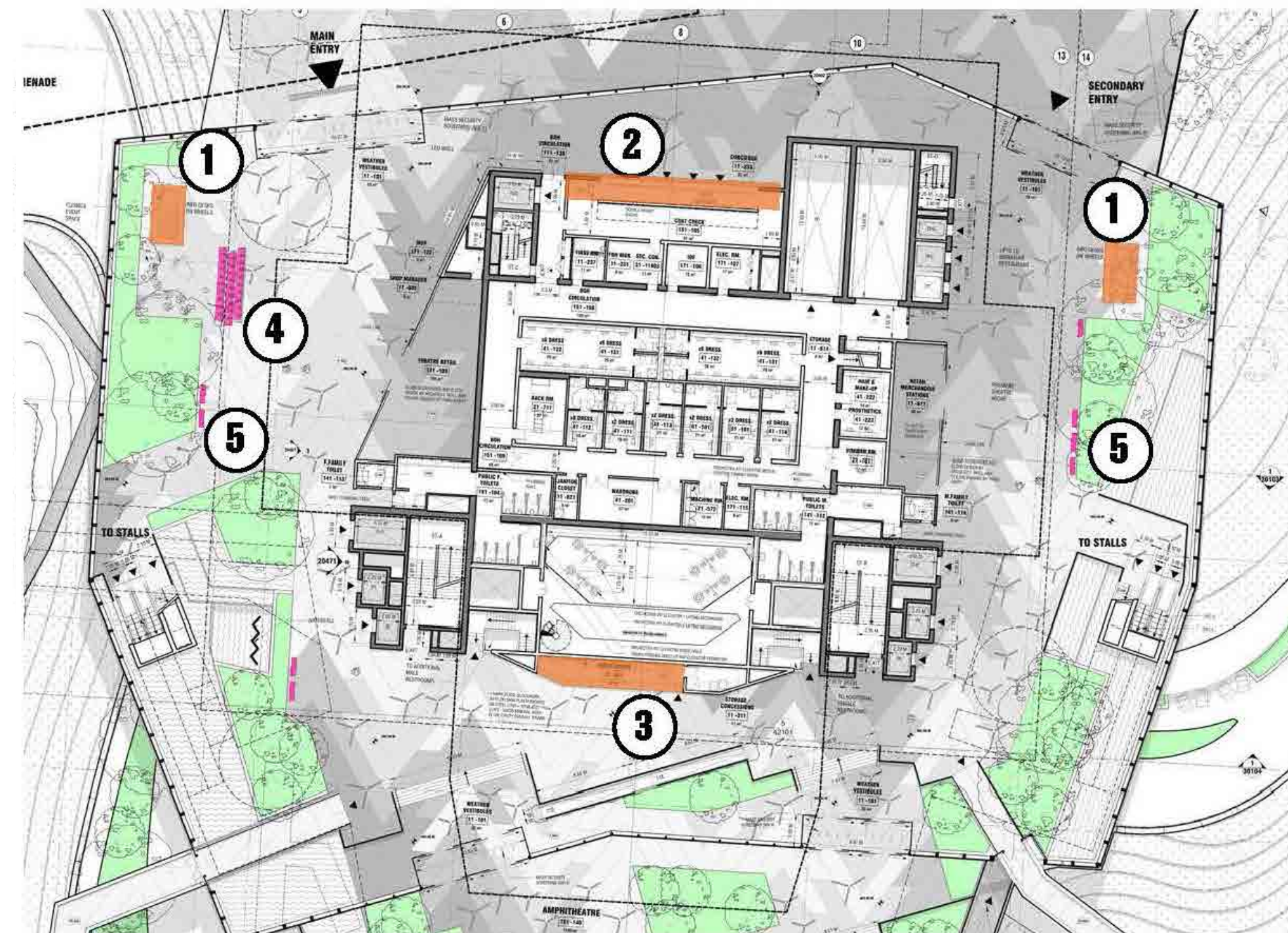
①



②



③



LOBBY LEVEL PLAN DRAWING





02 STARGATE

A new form of billboard for the 21st century

PROFESSIONAL WORK

PROJECT INFO

Tom Wiscombe Architecture + Brewer Smith Brewer Group
Type: Commercial
Duration: 10/2024 – Present
Location: Qiddiya, Saudi Arabia

PHASE

100% Concept Design

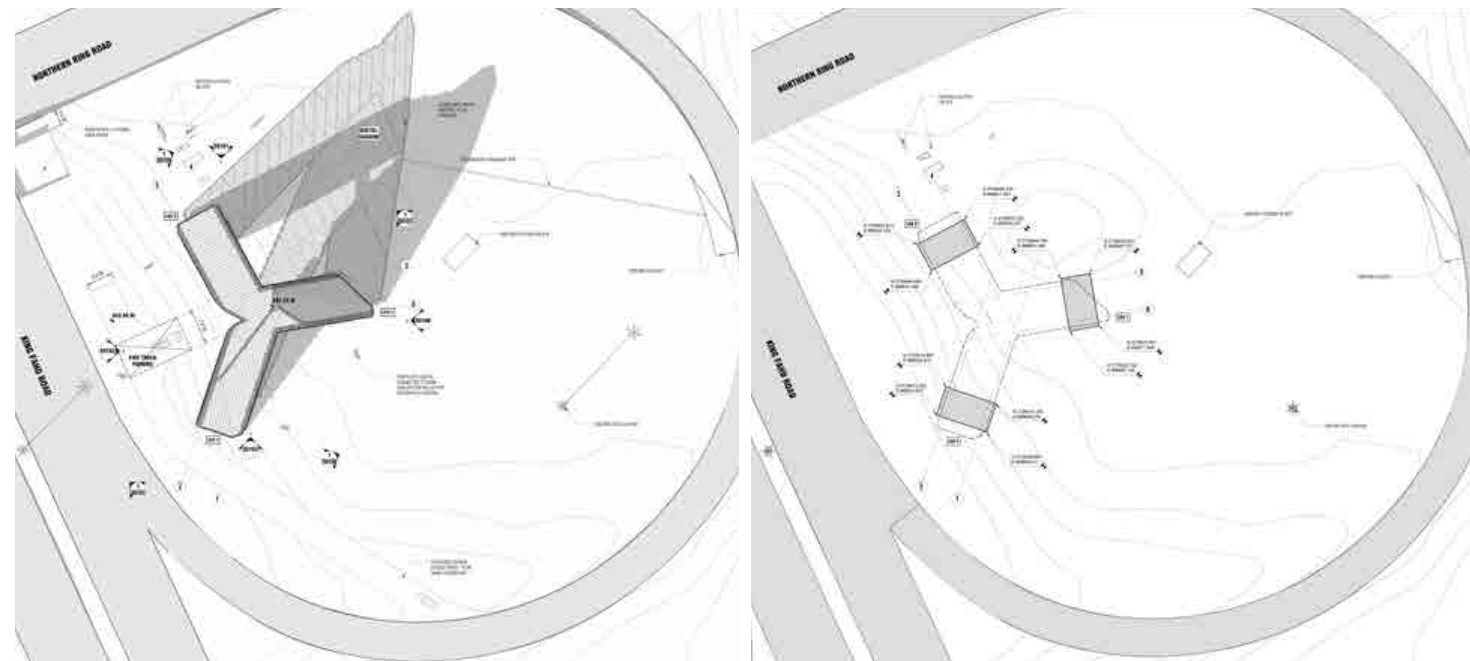
RESPONSIBILITY

Coordinating with consultants
Project design and 3D modeling
Physical modeling
Diagram drawings
Render

Rather than a sign-on-a-stick, Stargate is a massive new form of billboard; rather than growing out of the ground, it lands on the earth. Its primitive, cleaved shape is clad in glittery digital surfaces, black aluminum panels, and mirror polished stainless steel components, creating the feeling that it is ancient, but also from the future. With no obvious expression of its time or origin, it becomes an object full of mystery and delight.

The language of the Gateway - with its monolithic form and tiny triangular surface patterns- resonates with the language of Najd Architecture of the region, linking to local Saudi heritage.

SITE PLAN

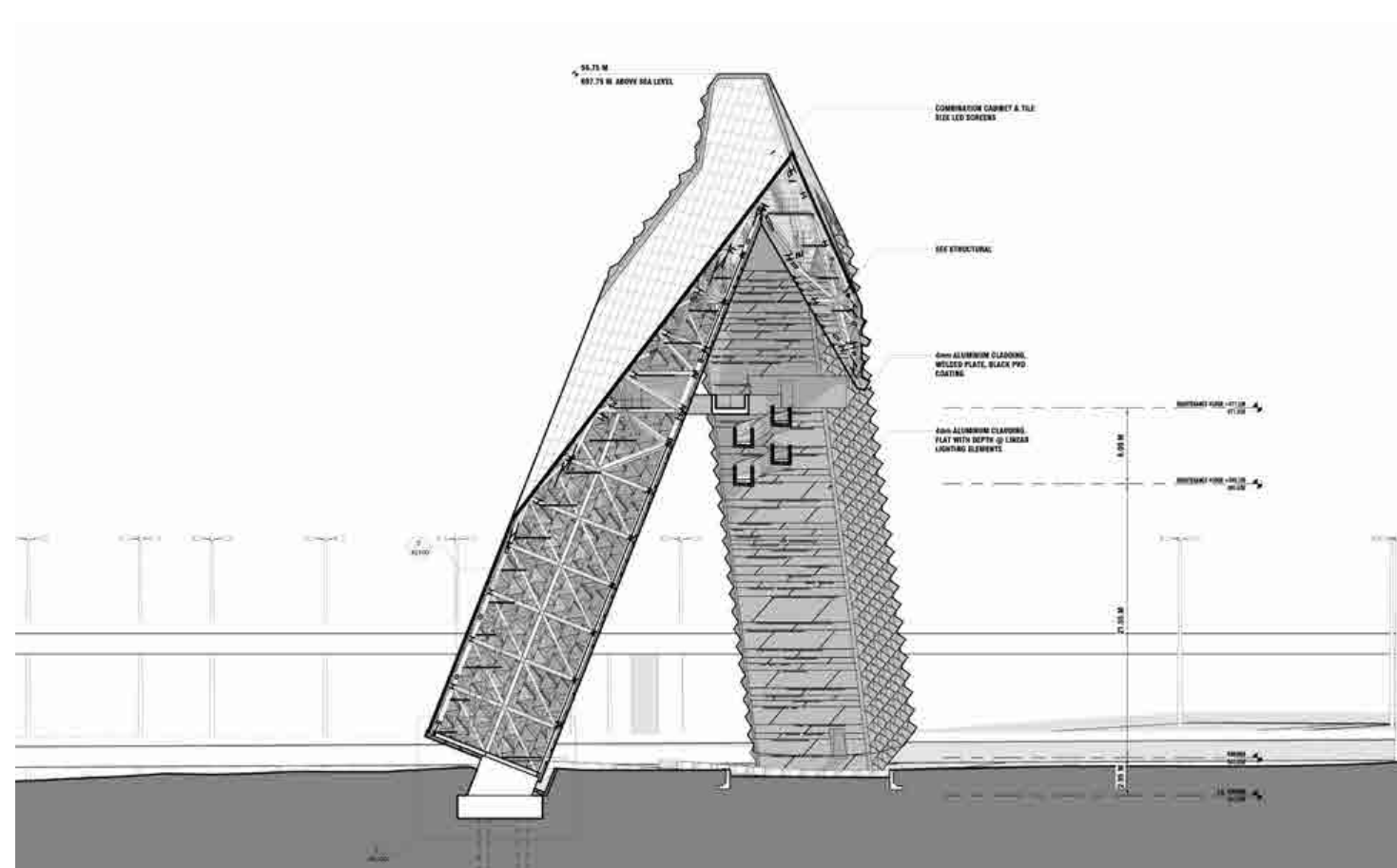
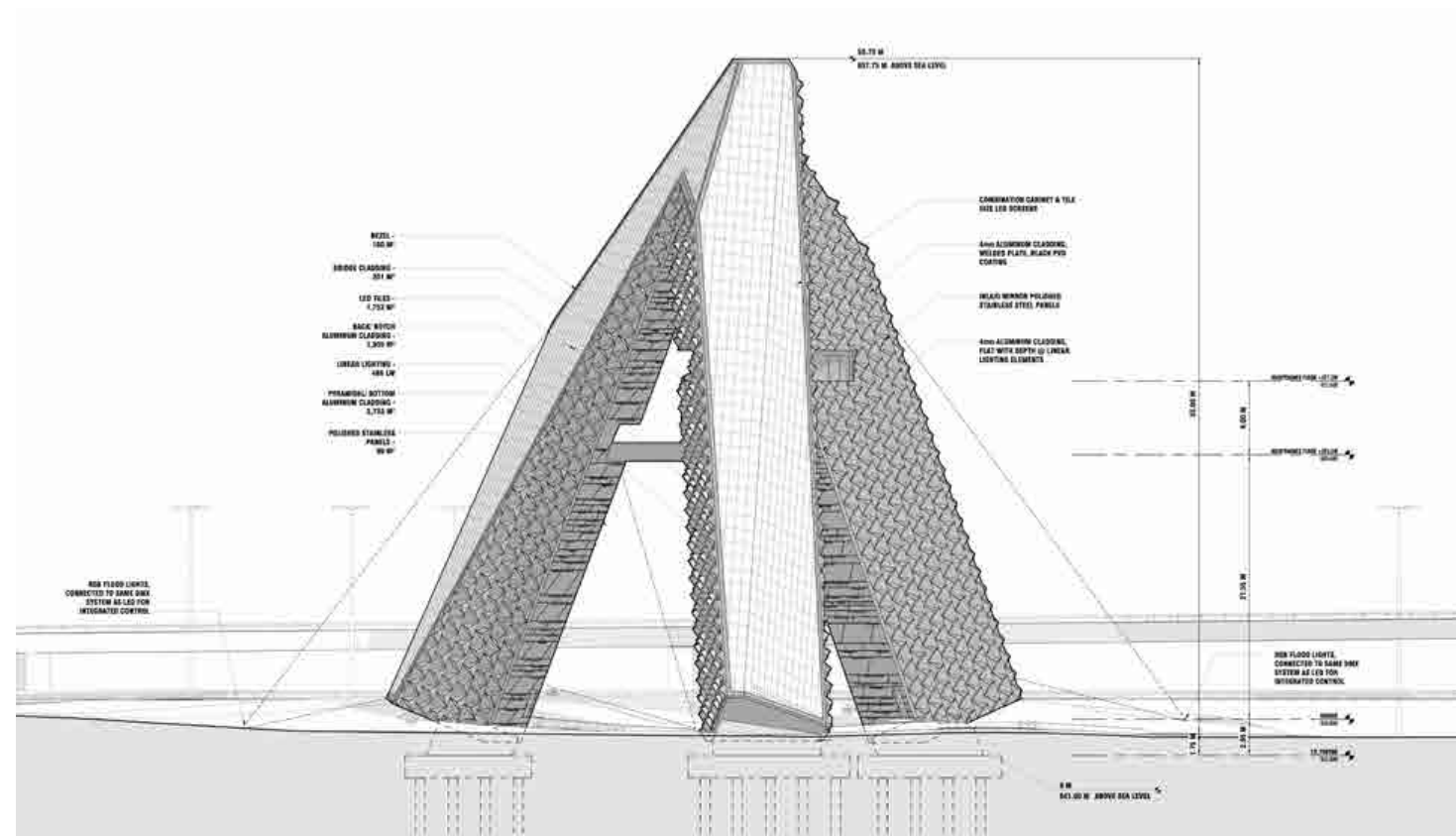


Three massive vertically-oriented digital faces can be used for different advertisements, or all unified into a total experience that can be owned by a single brand.

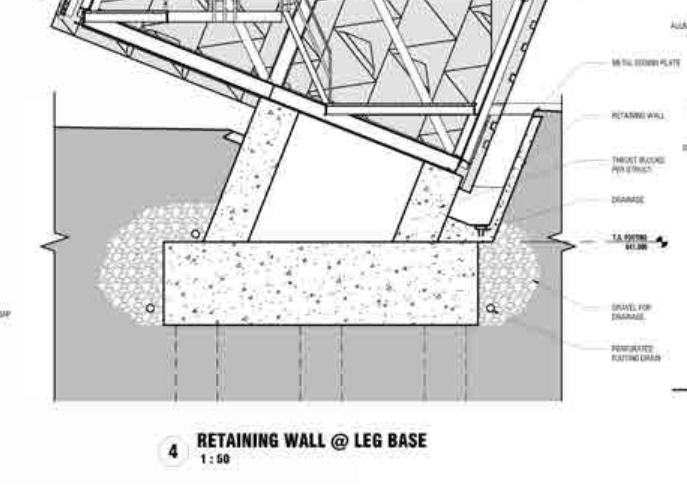
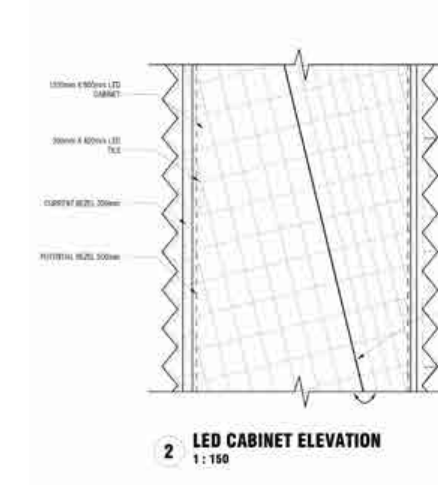
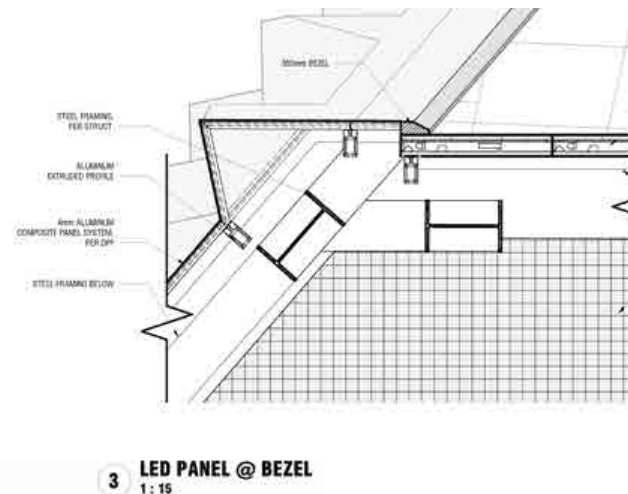
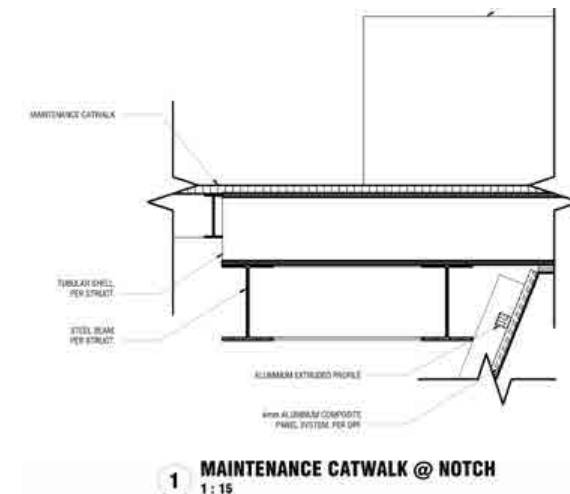
MAINTENANCE FLOOR PLAN +665.5M



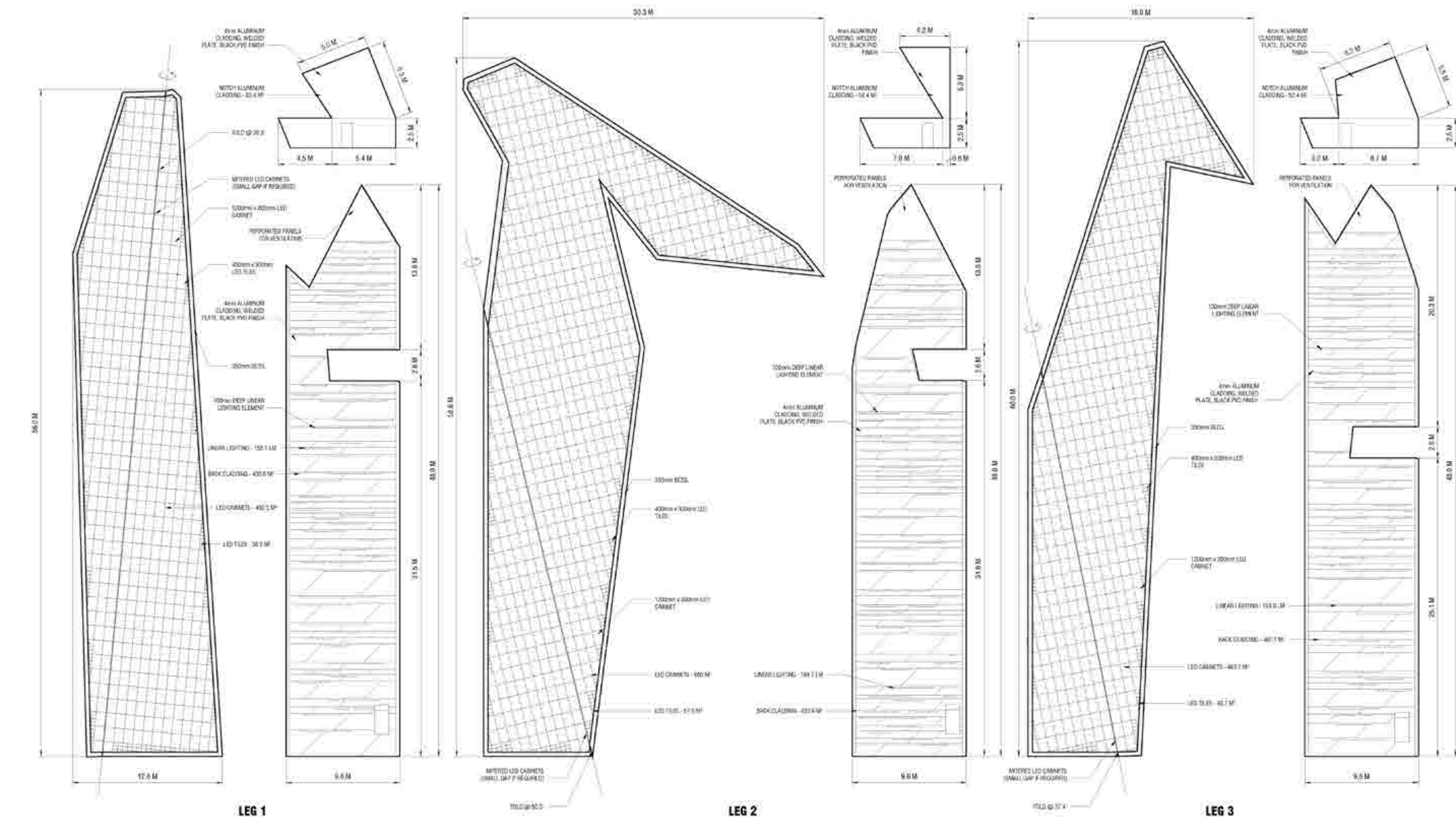
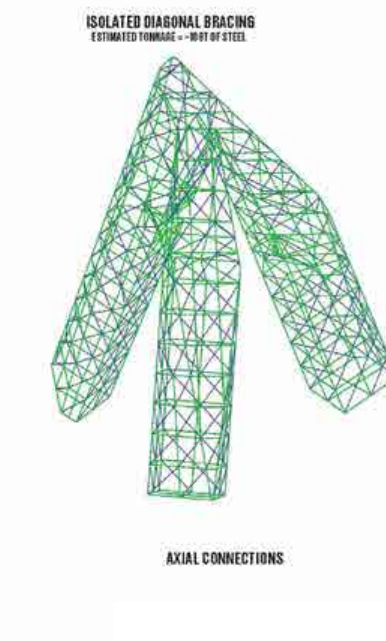
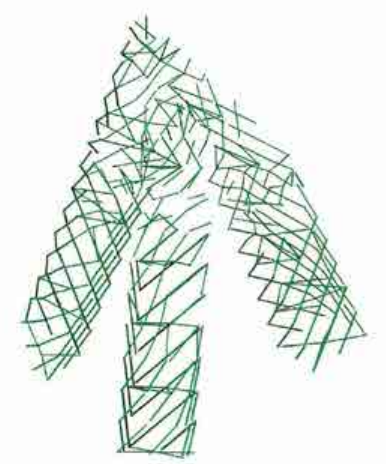
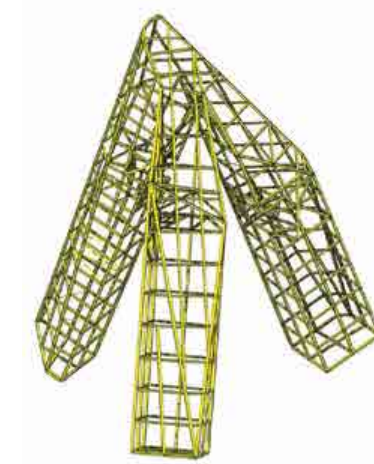
SITE PLAN



DETAILS



STEEL FRAME STRUCTURE



UNFOLED LED CABINET / BLACK CALDDING



03 NEOM THE LINE - NEIGHBORHOOD

Design with a sense of vastness and endlessness over containment

PROFESSIONAL WORK

PROJECT INFO

Tom Wiscombe Architecture
Type: Residential / Commercial
Duration: 01/2024 – 02/2024
Location: Neom, Saudi Arabia
Total BUA: 1,563,501 m²

PHASE

Competition

RESPONSIBILITY

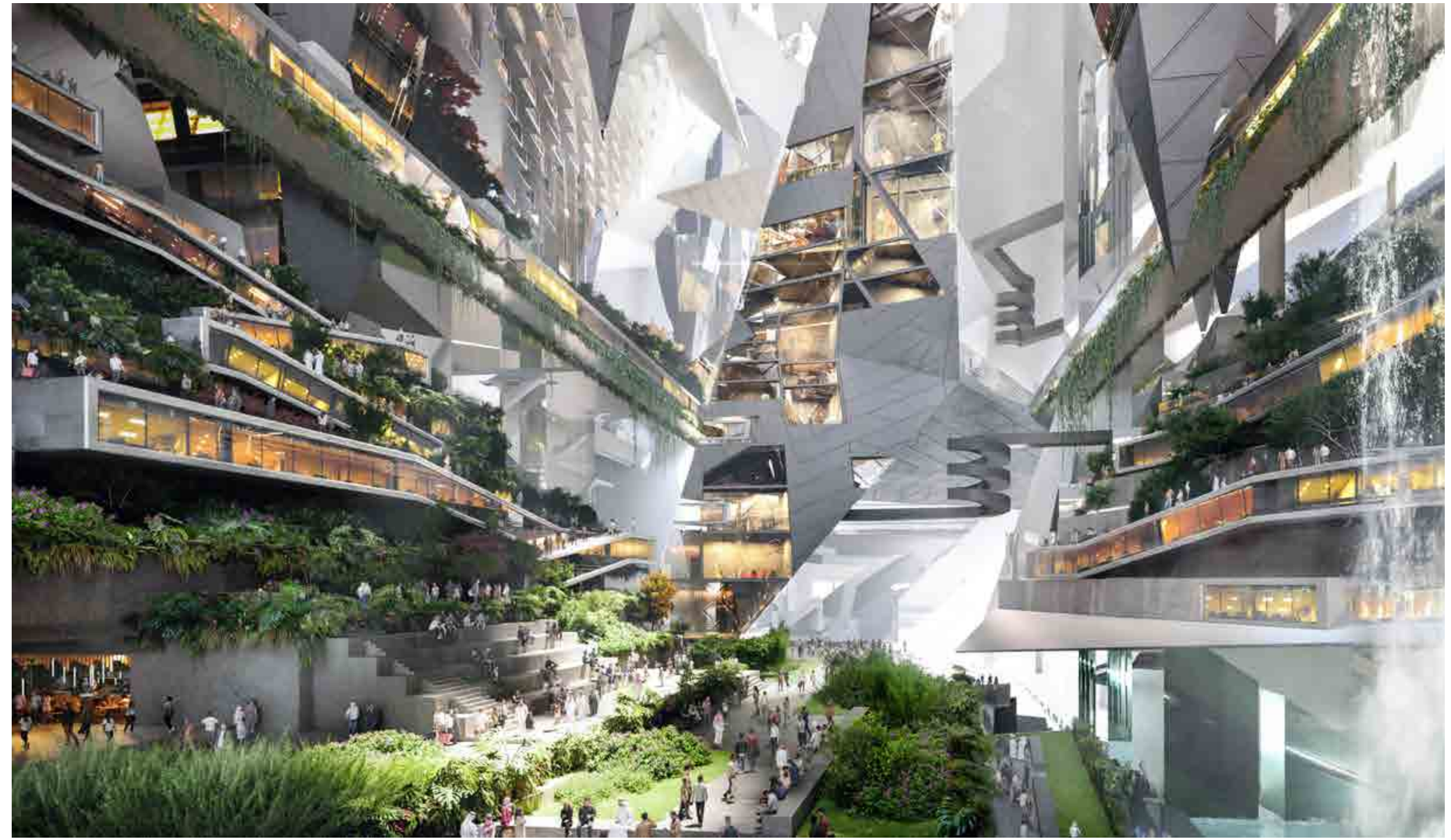
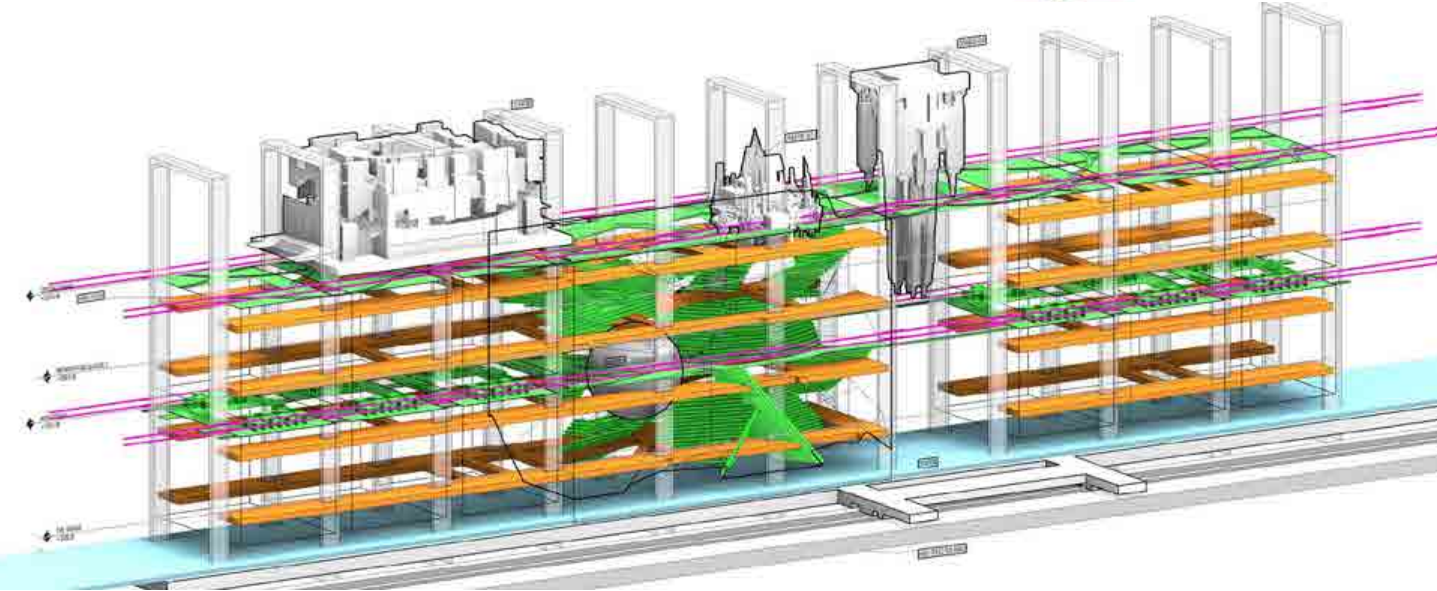
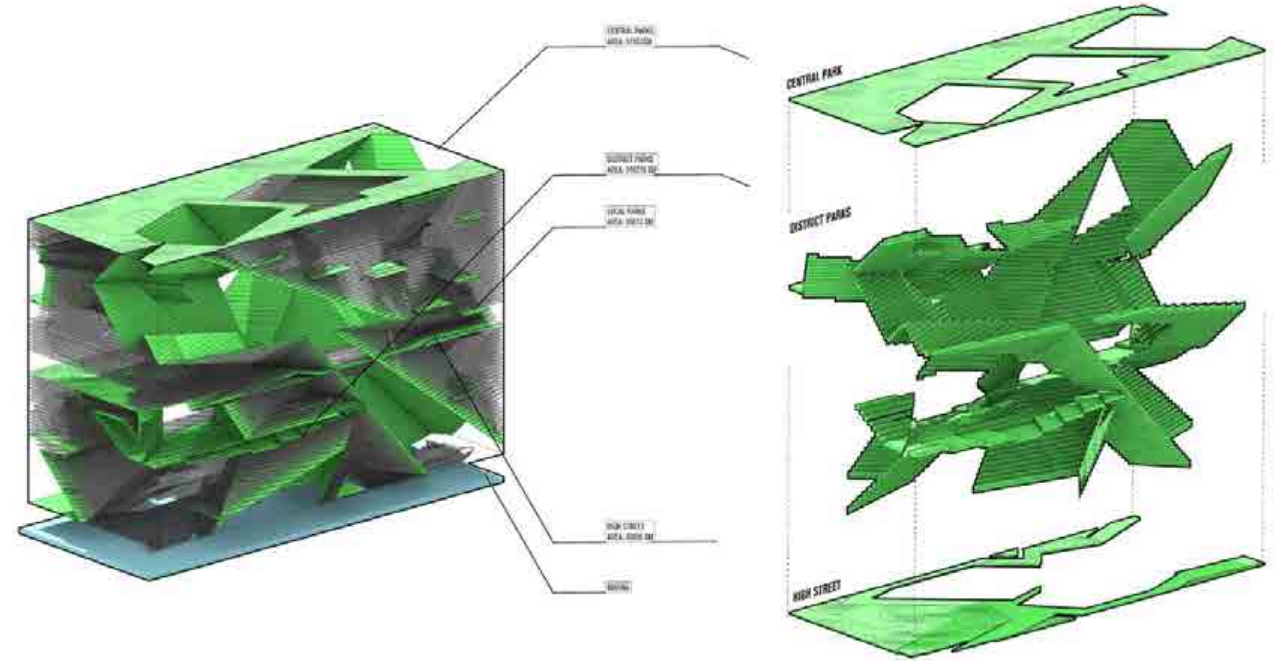
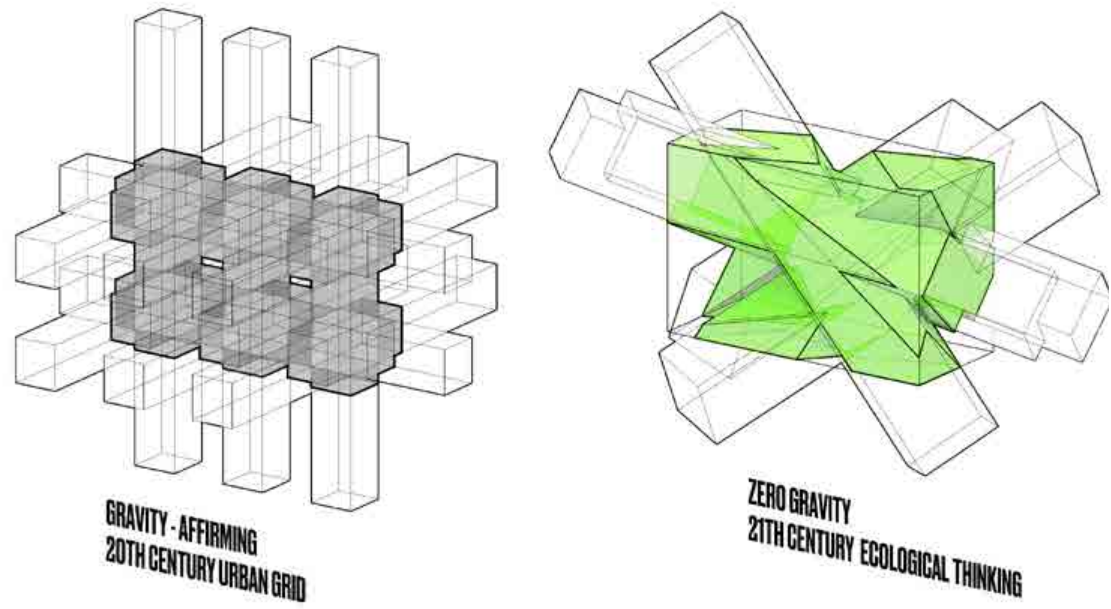
Project design and 3D modeling
Technical drawings
Diagram drawings
Physical Modeling

The power of The Line's masterplan relies on discreteness and independence of its blocks, a la Delirious New York. Each block is a world, and implies that architecture is a collection. However, we think that the key to unlocking this concept is to create interior universes that cross over between blocks, rather than stopping at cube boundaries, creating vastness and wonder. Urban diversity is otherwise limited to medium-scale spaces that confirm the reality and cities we know. Ultimately, we think that the 20th century Manhattanism of the masterplan concept can include this kind of 21st century multiverse thinking, advancing the original dream of zero gravity urbanism at The Line.



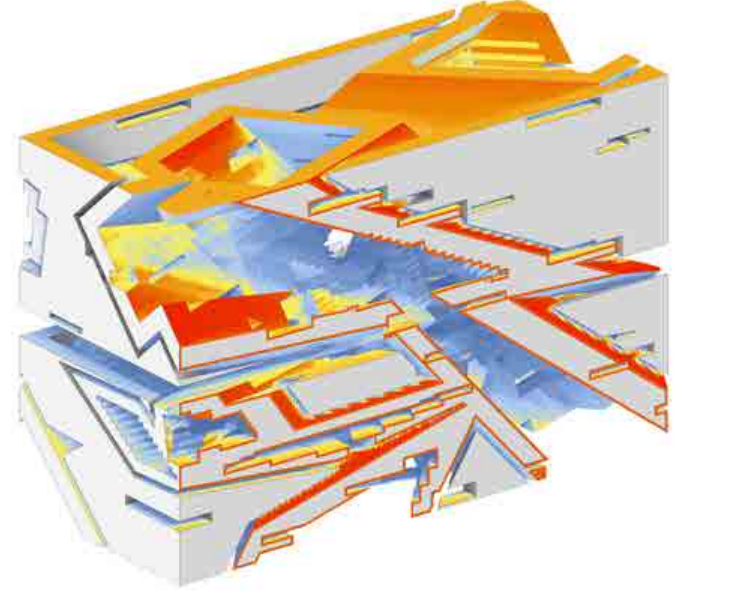
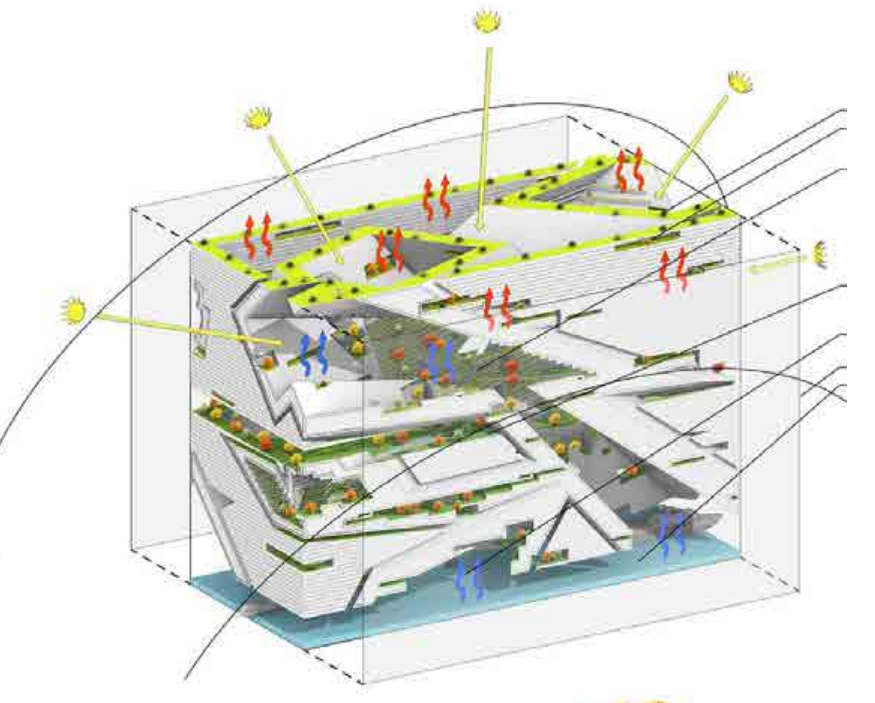
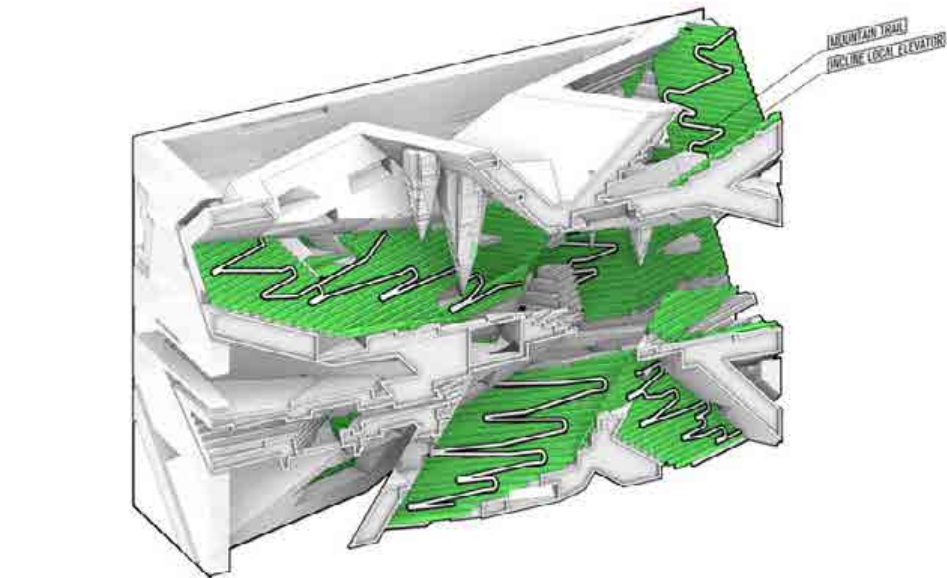
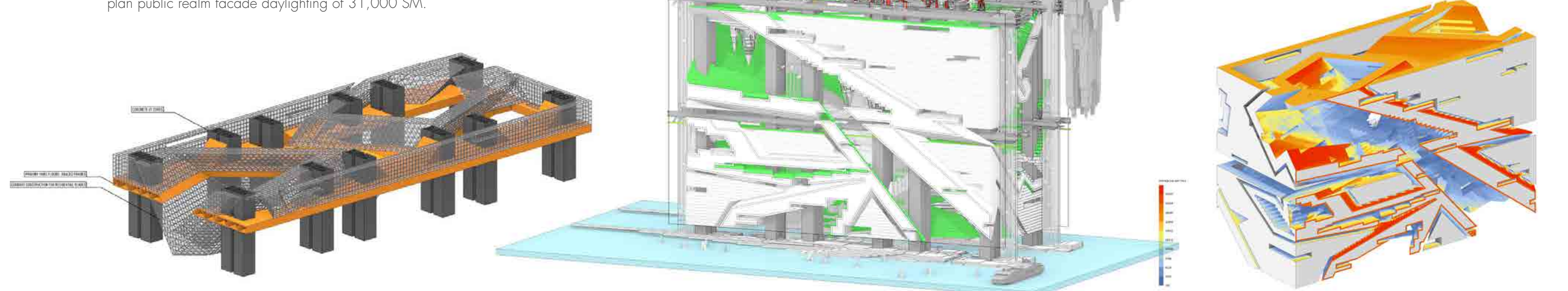
HOW TO PROVIDE MAXIMUM DIFFERENCE?

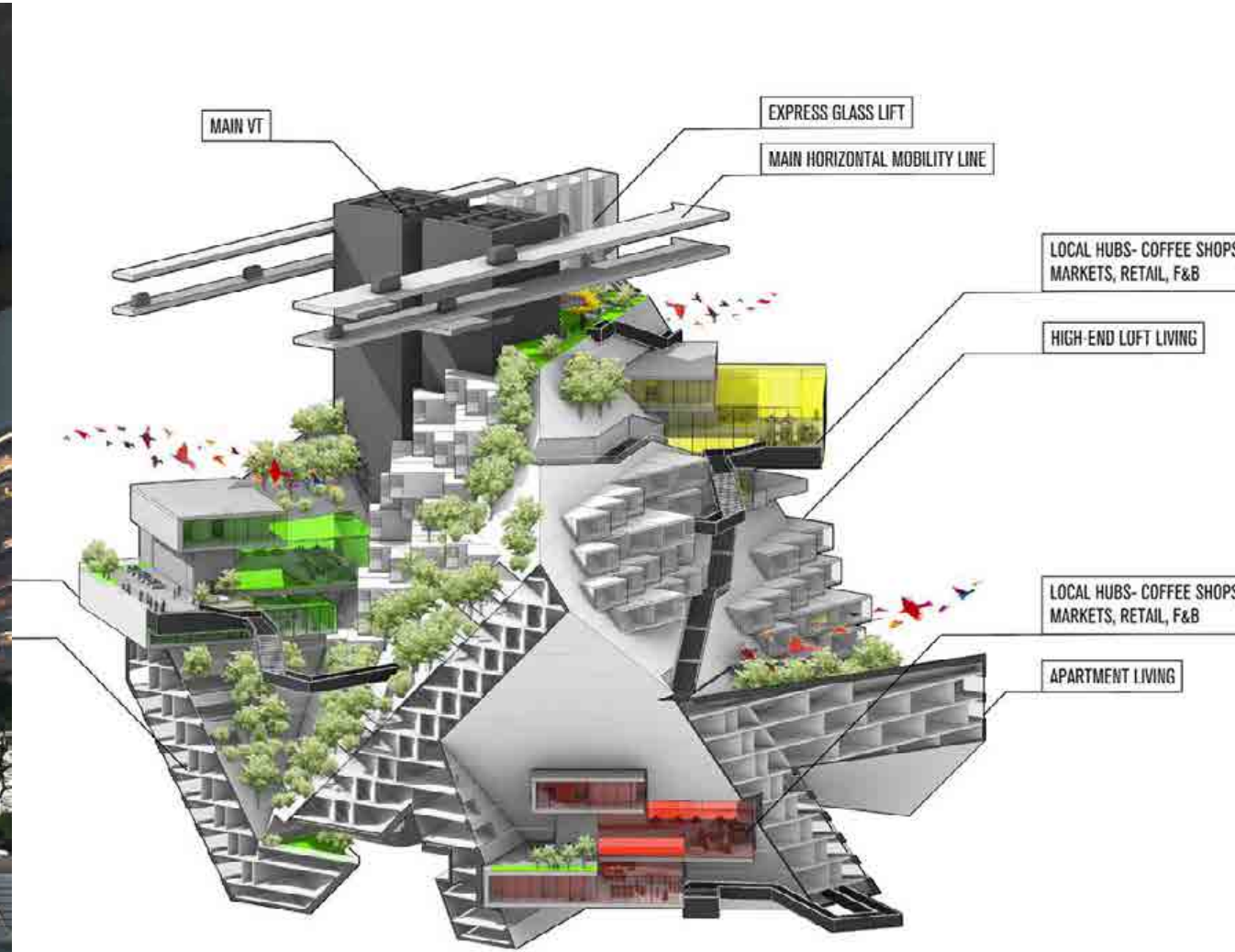
Our units of design are oblique, intersecting bars rather than the vertical and horizontal bars of the base Blocks. This creates a lively, exciting atmosphere at the portal, which immediately communicates the fundamental ethos of The Line - A Zero Gravity City. This oblique base focus vistas across the neighborhood and connect the neighborhood together with deep green valleys.



Given View Corridors and Daylighting

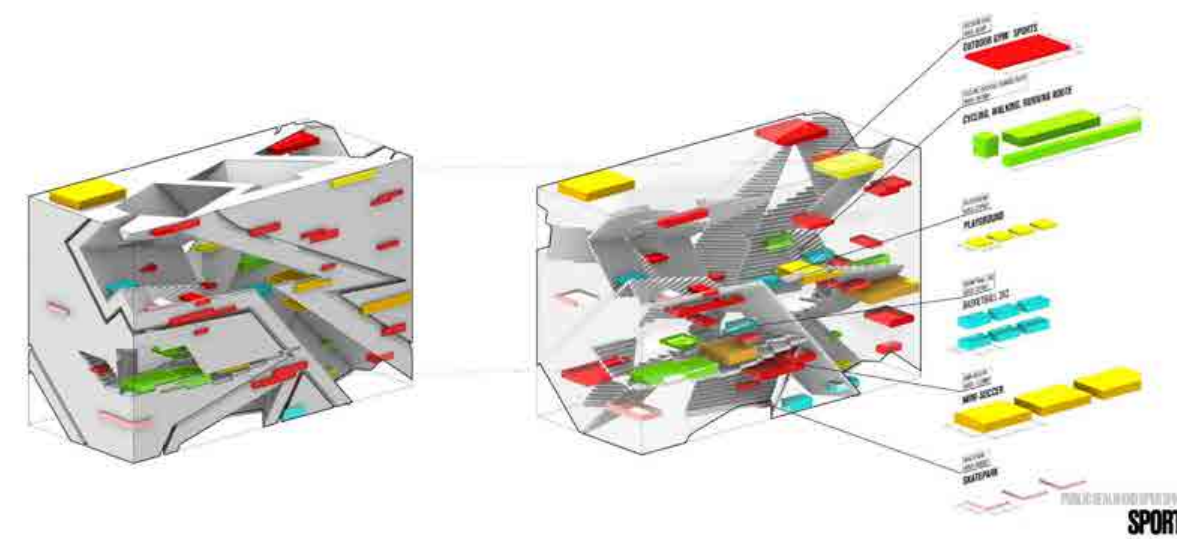
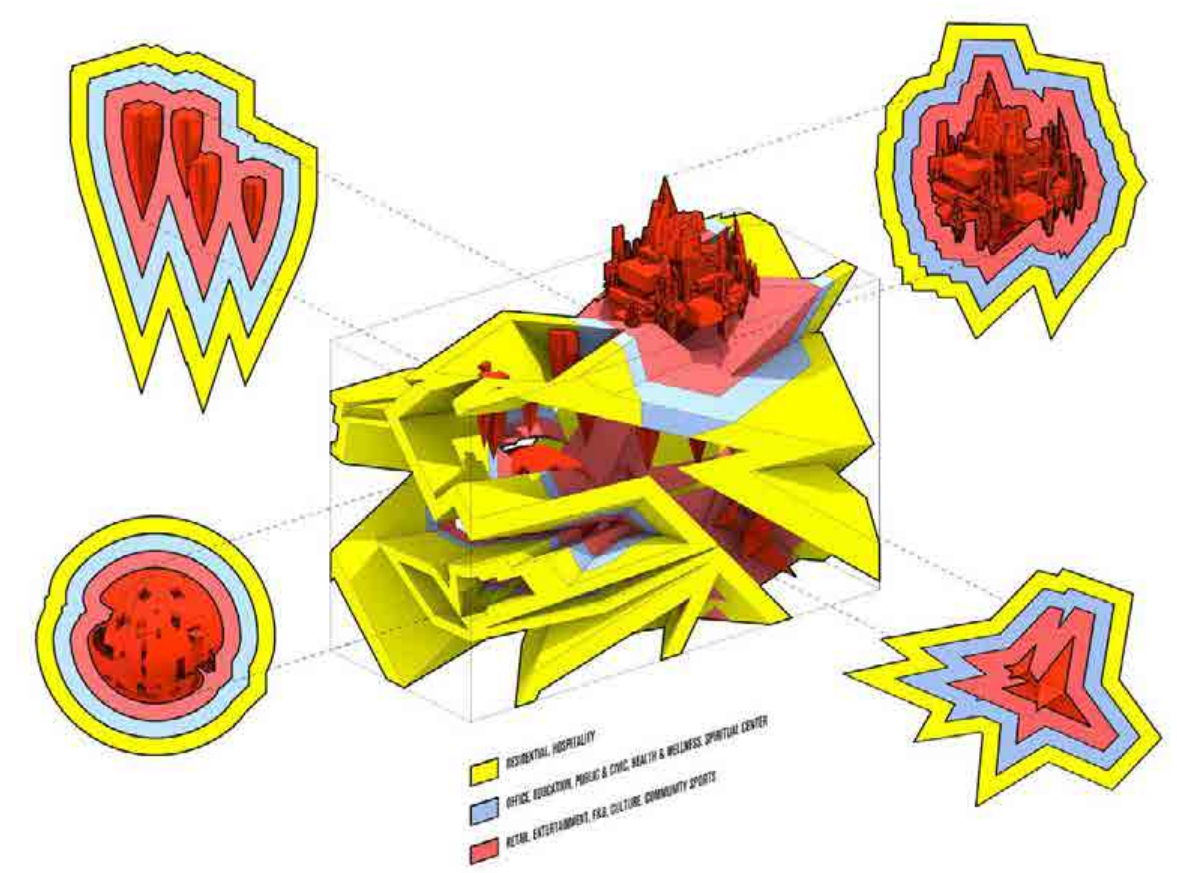
Our daylighting strategy is based on the figures created by the bars breaching through the facades. The large scale of these figured caverns increases overall daylight in the deepest areas of the building. Public Realm facade daylighting is between 41,000- 48,000 SM vs. the master plan public realm facade daylighting of 31,000 SM.





NEGATIVE SPACES GOVERN NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN

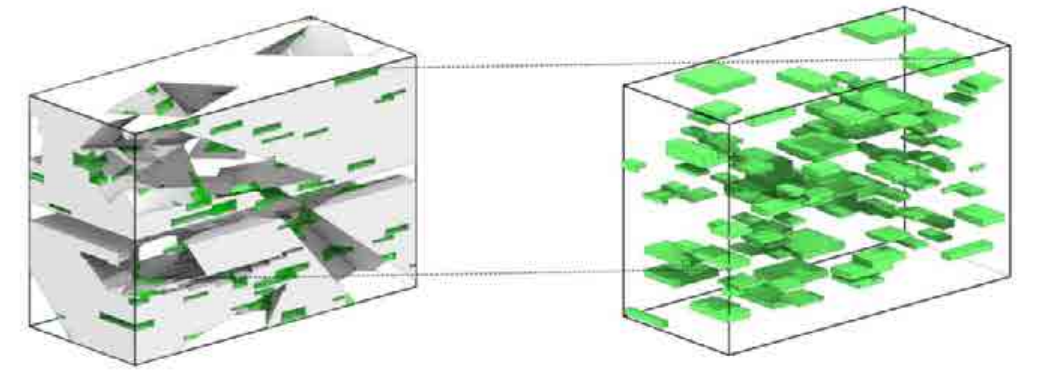
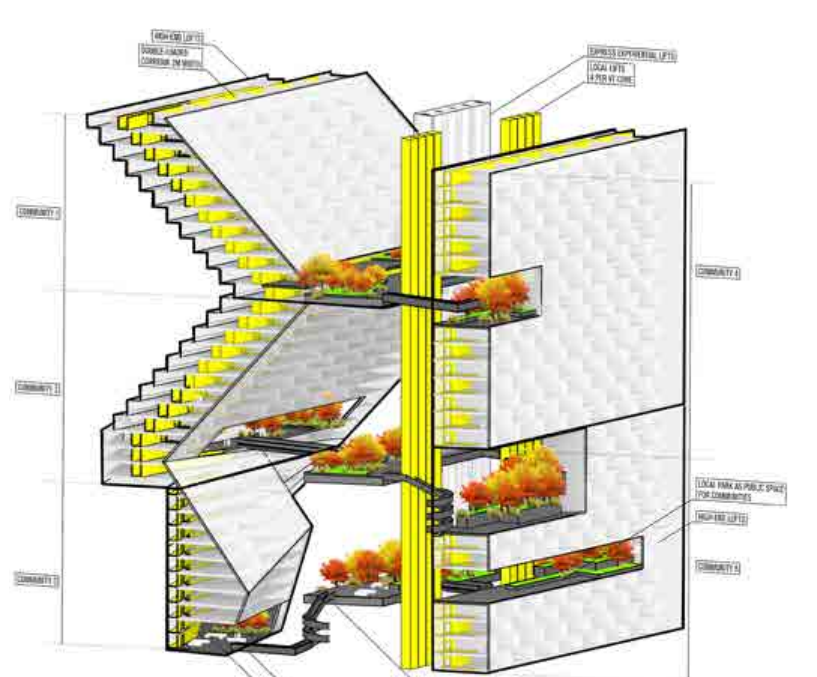
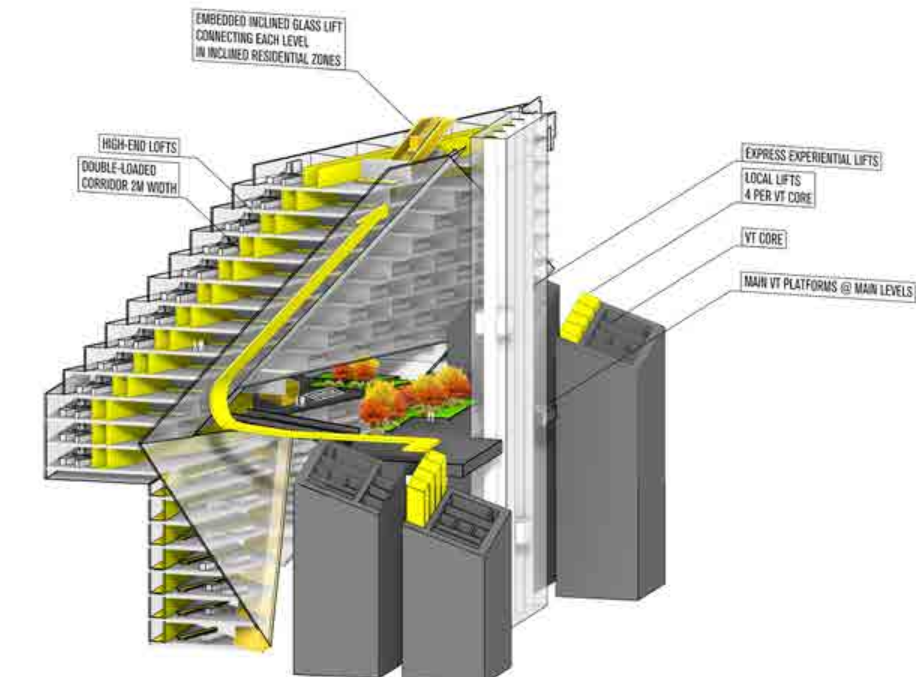
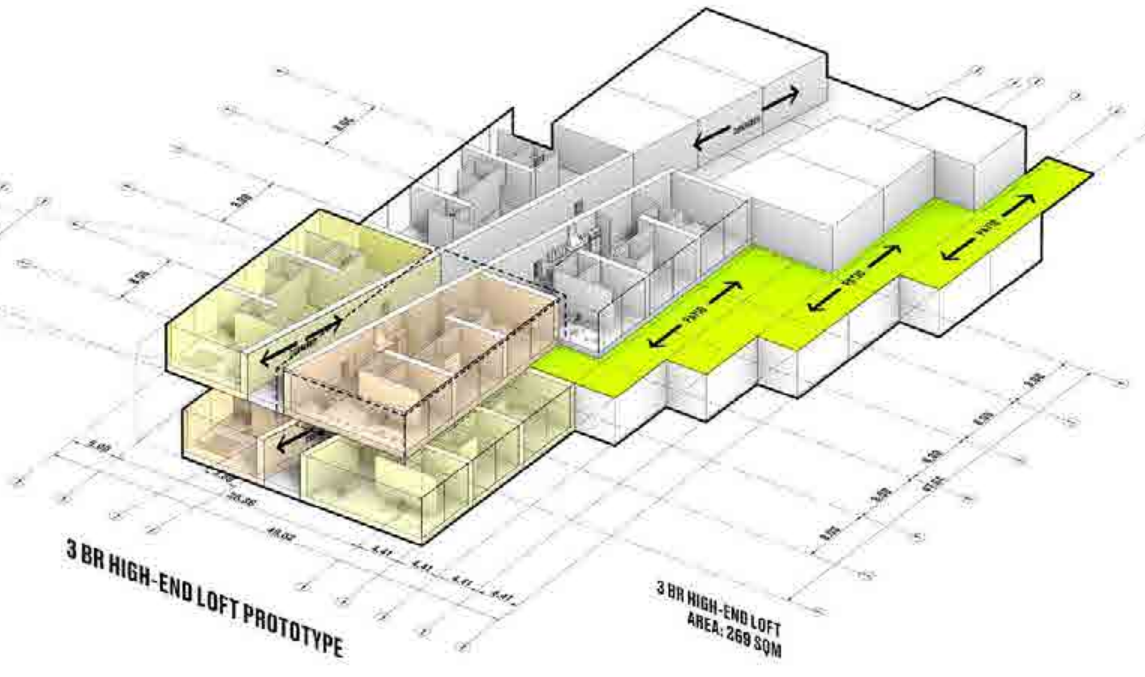
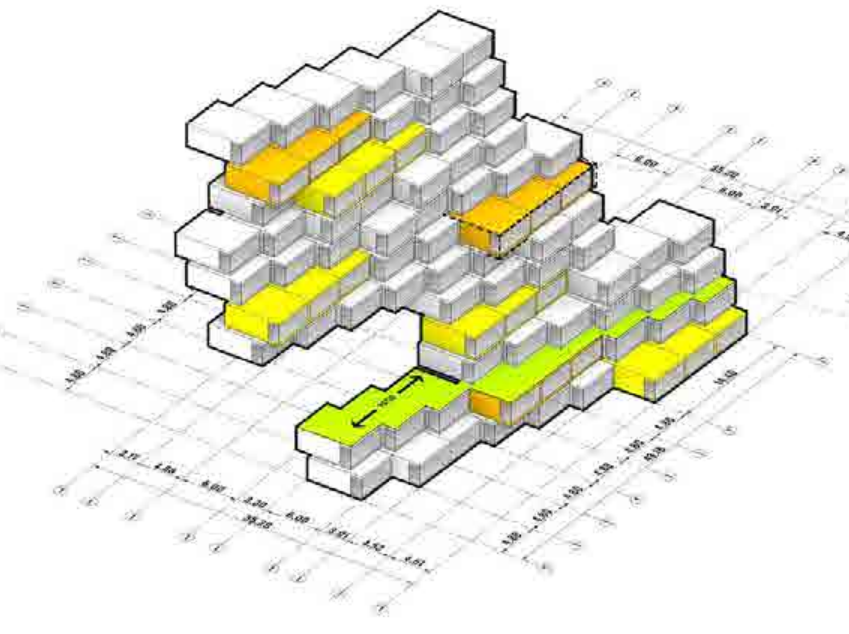
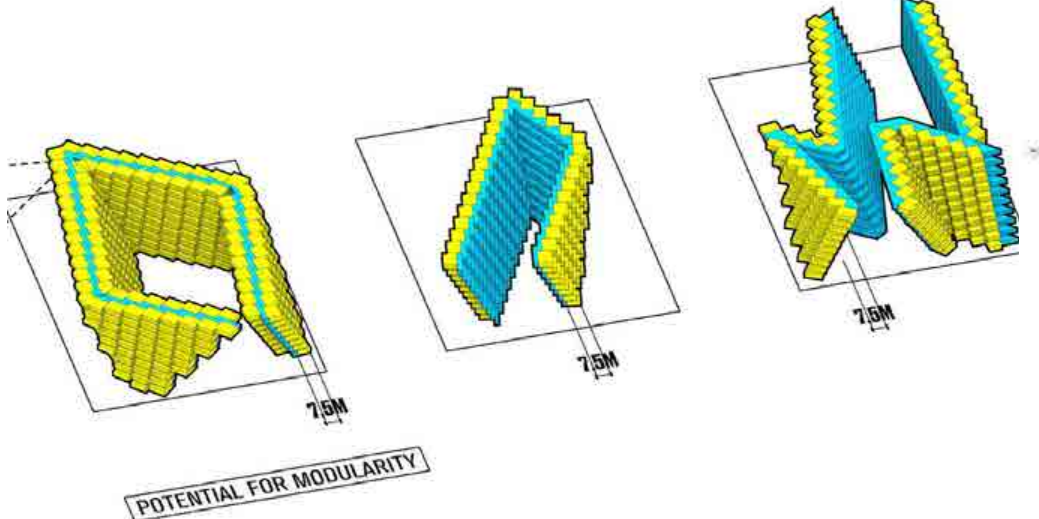
Negative spaces in our design include the View Corridors, the top, bottom, and side daylight voids, the High Street and Central Park cuts, and the loose-fit voids around the Iconic Assets. City. These oblique bas focus vistas across the neighborhood and connect the neighborhood together with deep green valleys.

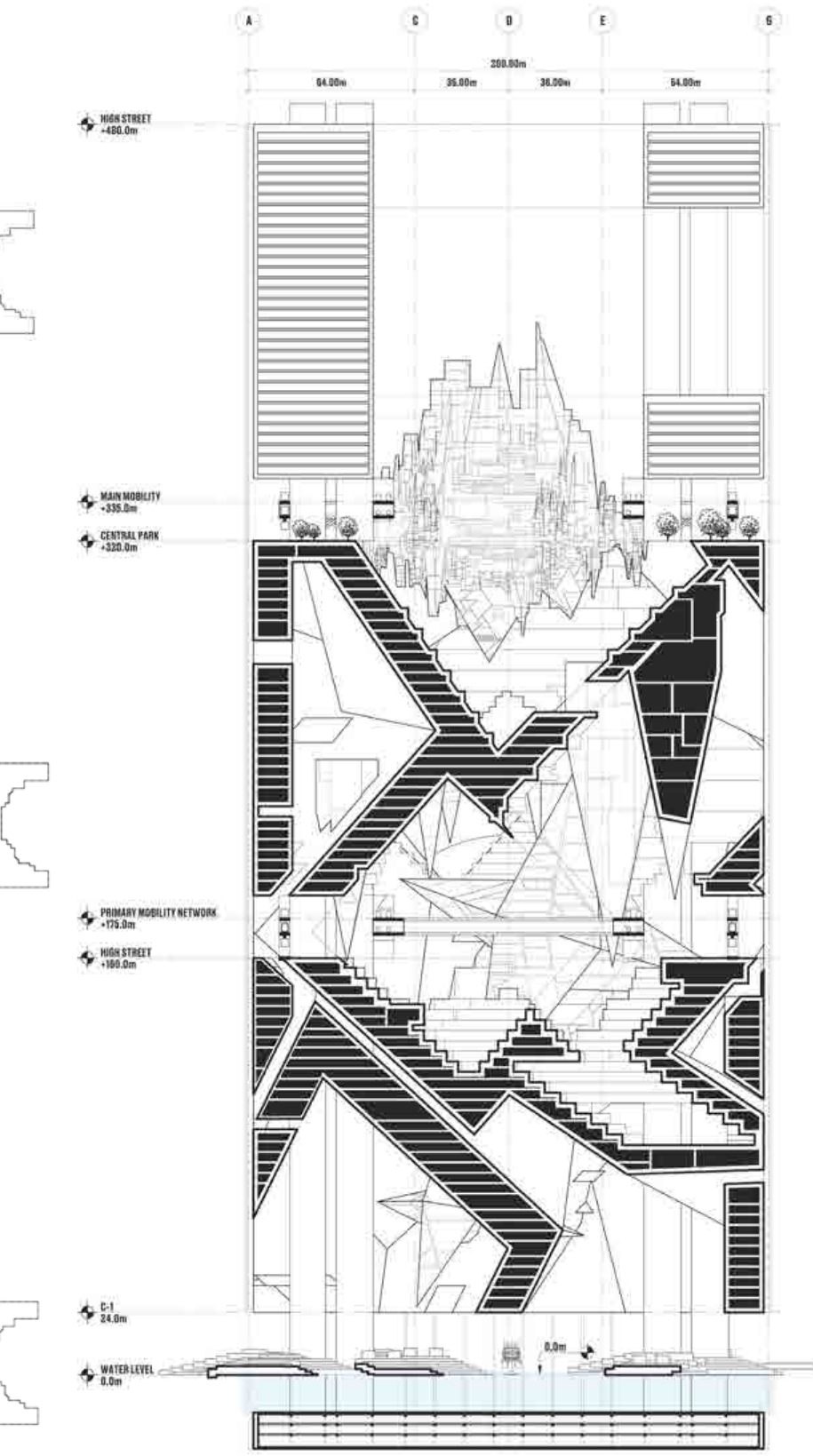
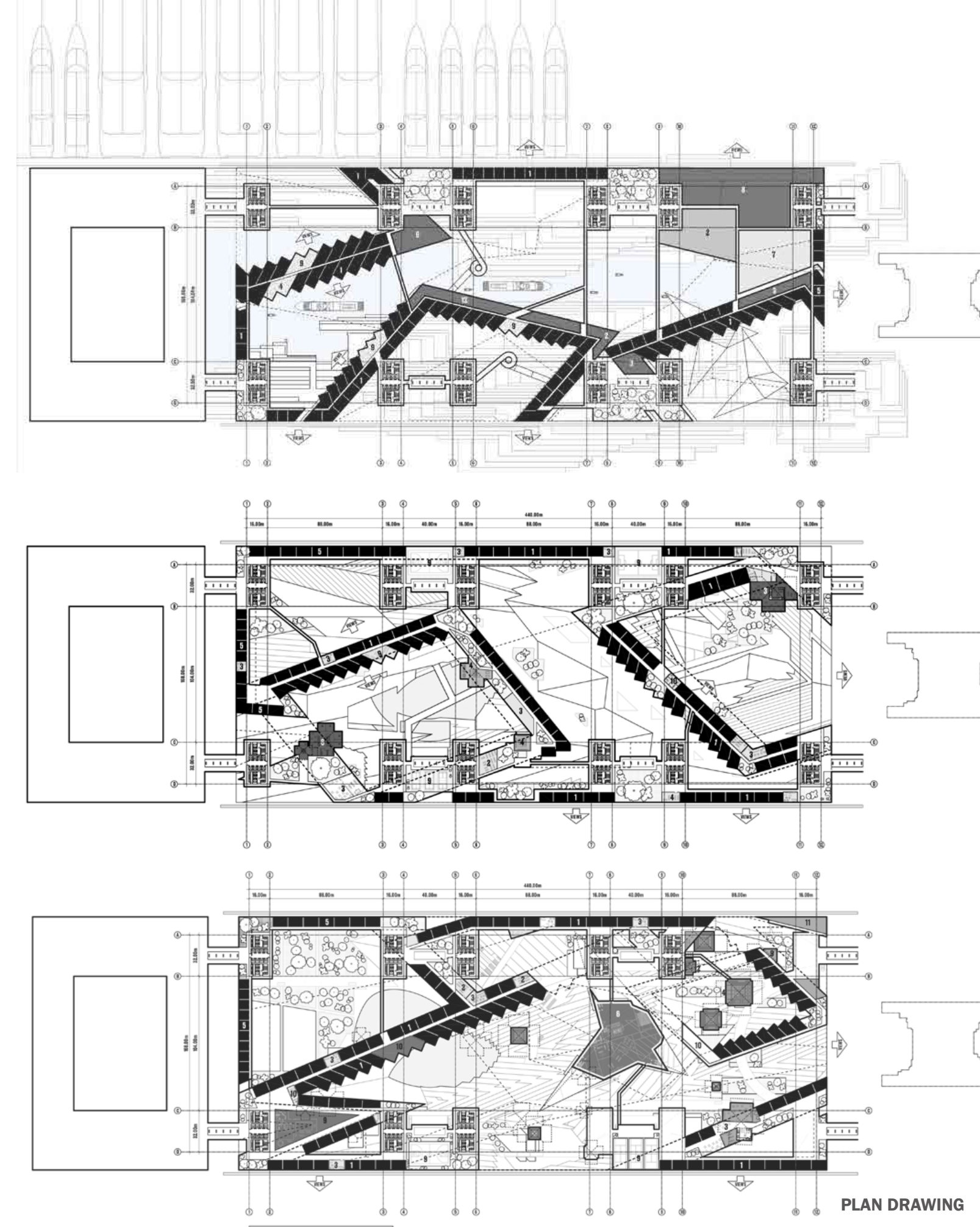
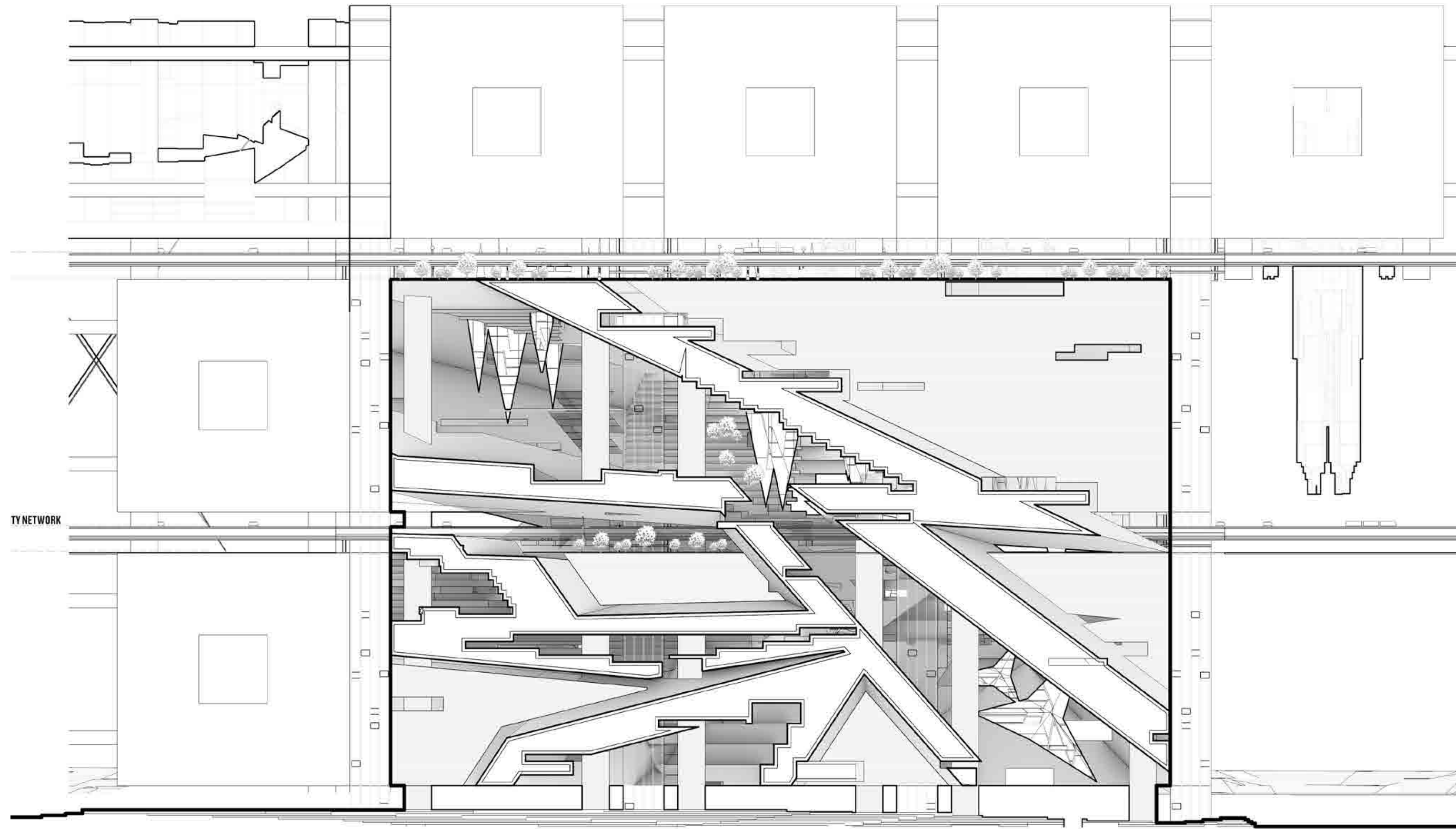


A Variety of Housing Types

Loft living allows residents to choose to live in urban creative spaces with epic views and on one level for maximum flexibility. Single units can be combined into doubles or triples to make them wider and more luxurious.

Local coffee shops, markets, and other retail amenities are available just down the pathways of the Valleys.







04 HYPOSTYLE

A hypostyle building with a dual-profile roof with modular cells

ACADEMIC WORK

PROJECT INFO

Team with Yutao Chen

Type: Cultural

Duration: 01/2023 – 05/2023

Location: Seville, Spain

Instructor: Barry Wark

RESPONSIBILITY

Design and 3D modeling

Diagram drawings

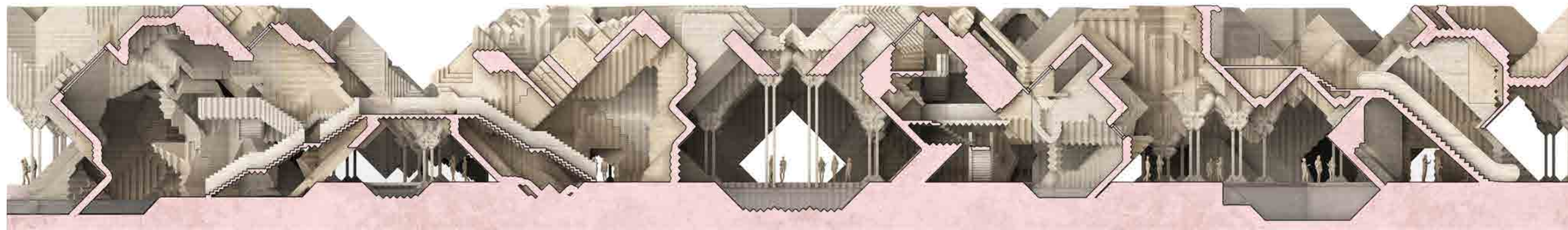
Physical modeling

Render

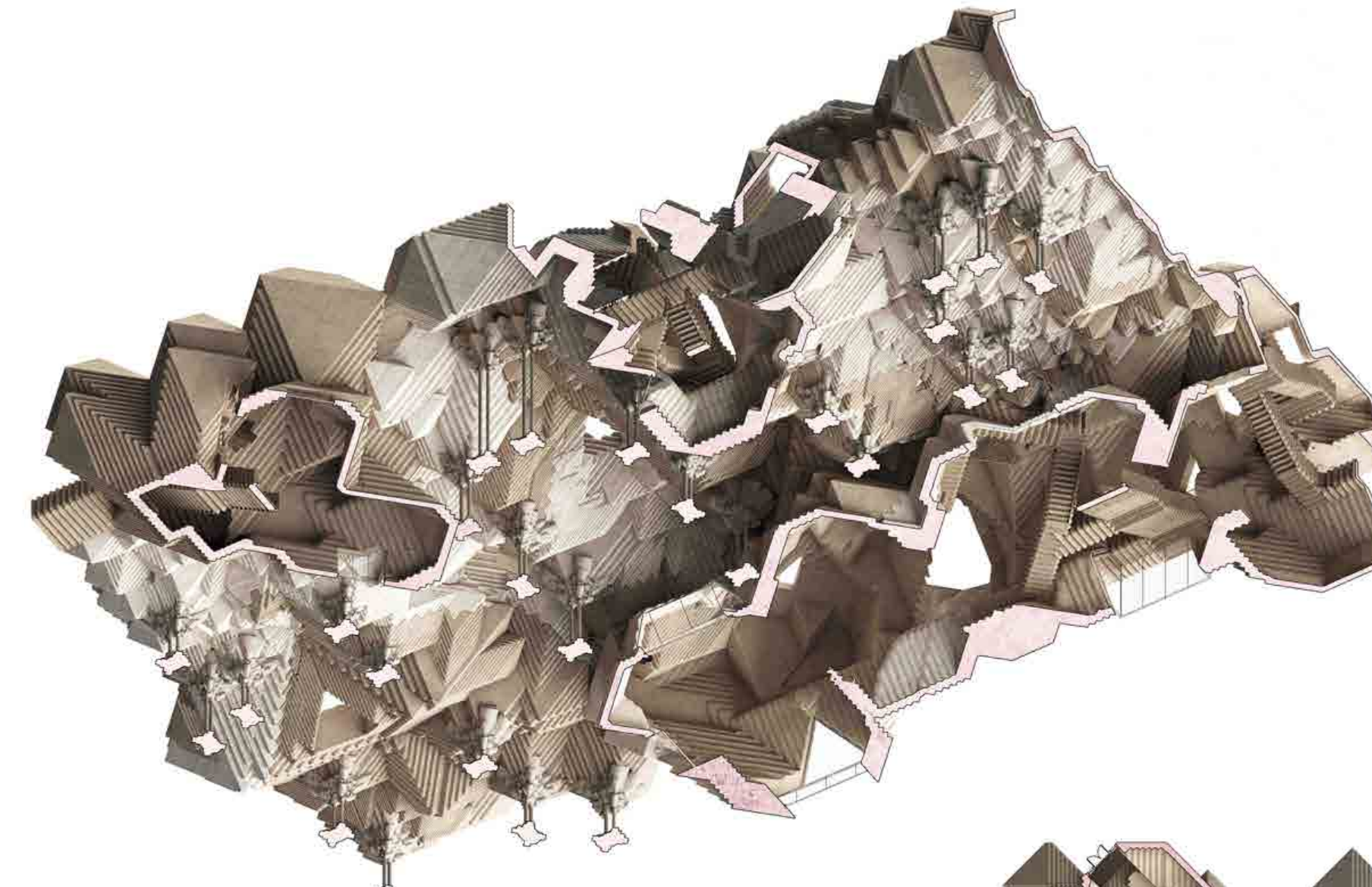
By studying the Moorish and Mudejar architecture of Andalusia, Spain, we speculated on how intricately designed tectonic assemblies could be informed by the regional architecture, aiming to accelerate the manifestation of environmental interconnectedness. The project envisioned architecture not as a fixed and static entity from its initial construction, but rather as a composition of matter that is continually constructed, reconstructed, and perpetually evolving, piece by piece. By adopting this perspective, a building can embody both qualities of "dirtiness" and pristine conditions simultaneously, as different parts exhibit varying degrees of environmental integration. This approach prevents the sole inclination towards obsolescence and decay.



FACADE The project is located on the eastern bank of the Guadalquivir River, which runs through Seville. The building extends out towards the river, creating a waterside space.

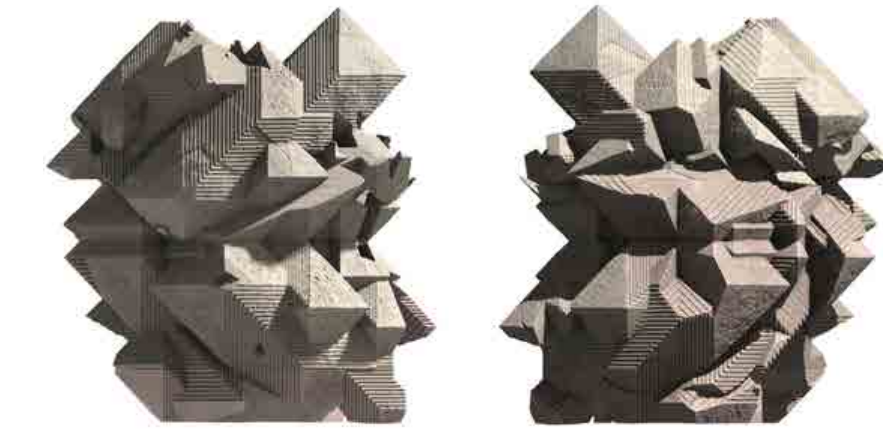
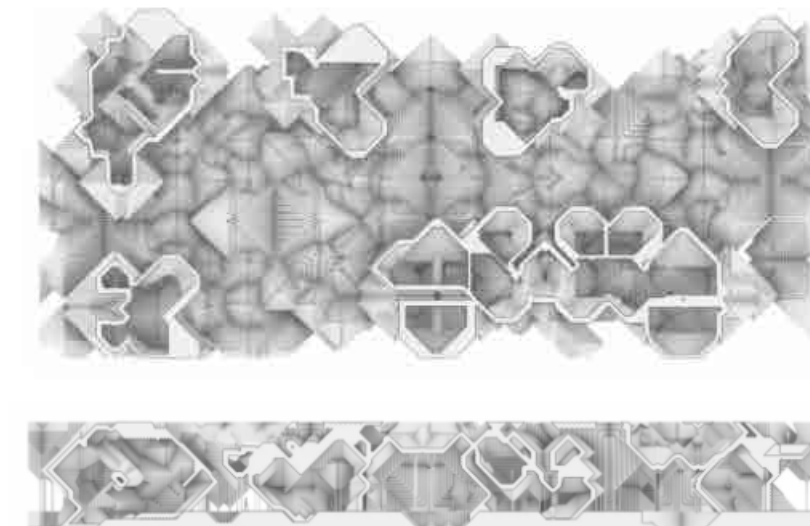


SECTION The design logic is based on a three-dimensional diamond shape as a prototype, with a 45-degree angle, which is achieved through stacking, mirroring, and transforming.



GLOBAL MASSING

Regarding the overall layout, considerations need to be given to its flow, issues related to indoor and outdoor boundaries, as well as the nature of the space. Spatially, it is mainly divided into a Hall and Pocket Room, without considering specific functions.



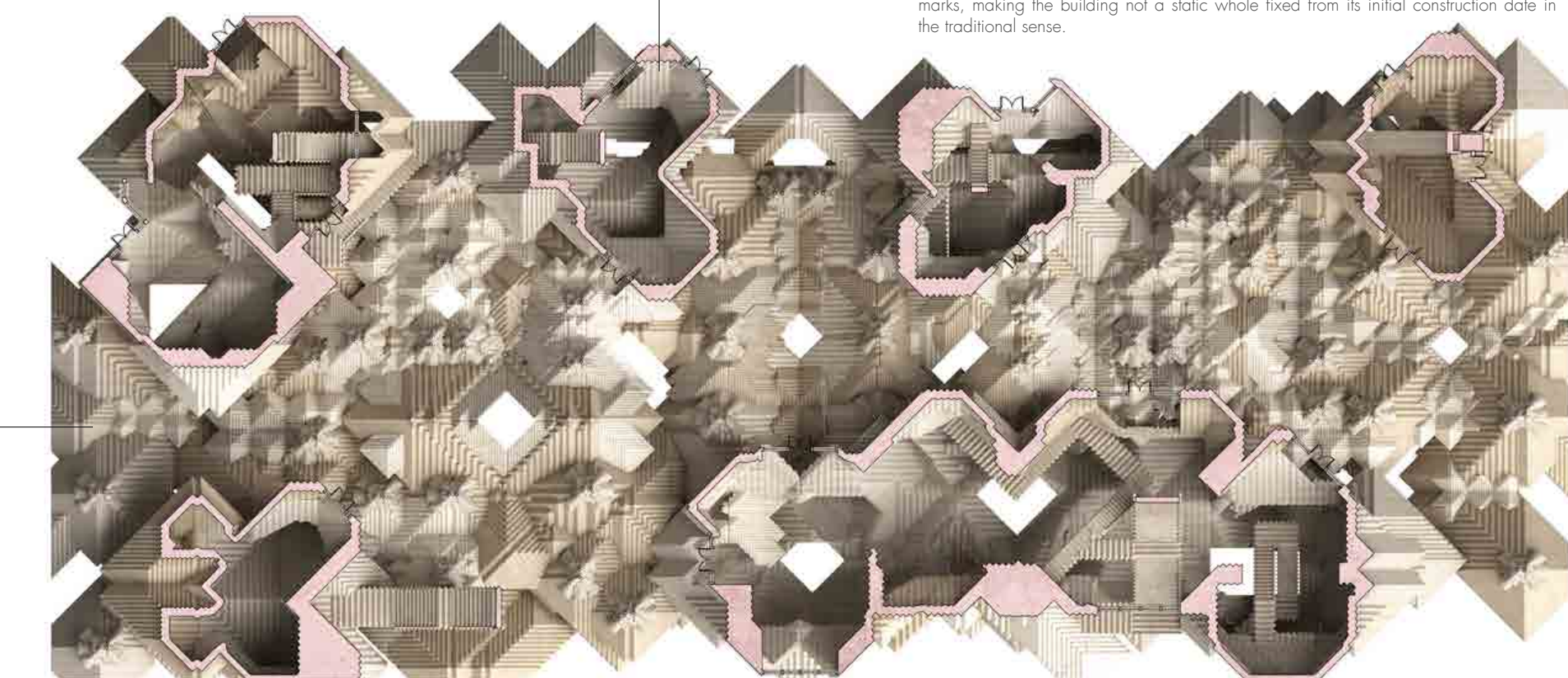
INITIAL SEED MODEL

The design logic involves using a three-dimensional diamond shape as a prototype with a 45-degree angle in space. This prototype is formed through stacking, mirroring, and transformation techniques to create the Initial Seed Model (DNA Model), also known as a combination logic.



WEATHERING

We express these material characteristics to create varying degrees of weathering marks, making the building not a static whole fixed from its initial construction date in the traditional sense.



Pocket Room

Hall



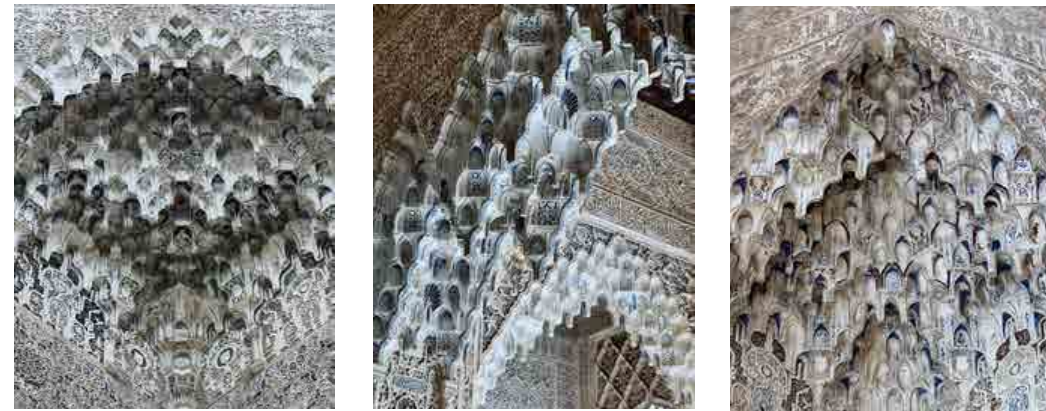
Alhambra

First and foremost is the colonnade in the Alhambra Palace, as well as the intricate carved friezes on the columns. This transition from complexity to simplicity, and the sense of layering from top to bottom, are distinctive stylistic and classical features of Islamic architecture.



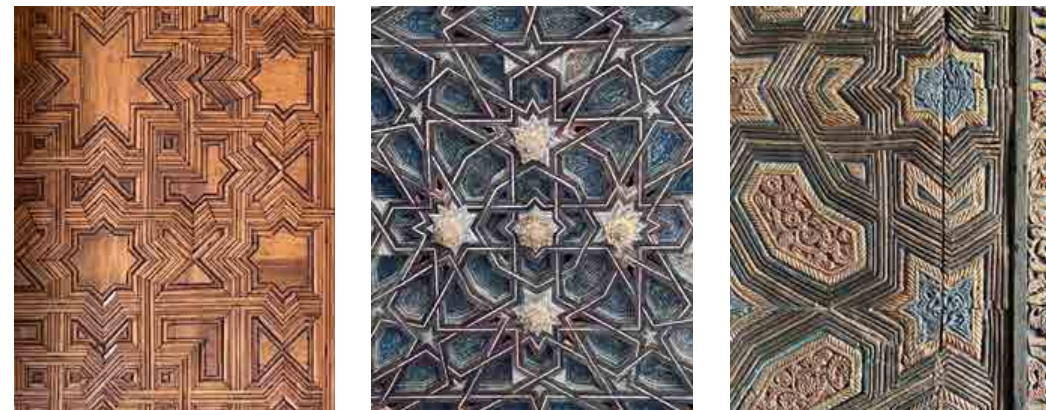
Mukarnas

The intricate Mukarnas ceiling in the interior of the building is exquisitely breathtaking. It begins with simple geometric patterns but continuously stacks, mirrors, and transforms within the space, forming a complex yet orderly and clever spatial structure. This has been the guiding principle in our design process as well.



45 degree

In Moorish architecture and Islamic architectural art, one can often observe textures and forms that follow a 45-degree angle. Using the 45-degree angle as a design module allows for easy control in spatial manipulation and provides a rich variety of variations.

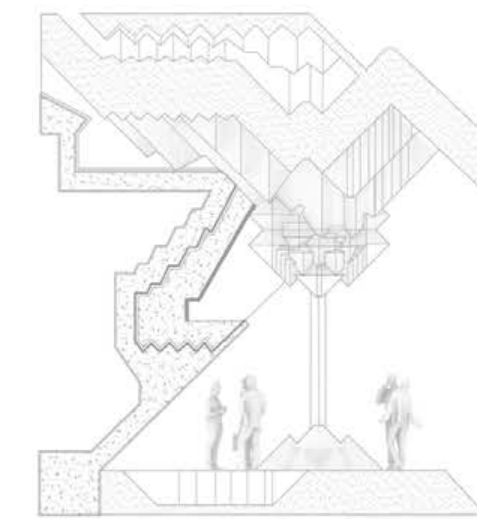


Weathering

The weathering marks on the building materials are also distinctive characteristics of such architecture. Andalusia, located in the southern part of Spain. As a result, the buildings in Andalusia often exhibit varying degrees of weathering, forming different layers. It is precisely this weathering and layering that contribute to the formation of the "Andalusian style."



MATERIALS The expression of materials takes into account the unique climatic characteristics of the local region. Andalusia experiences the hottest and driest summers in all of Spain.

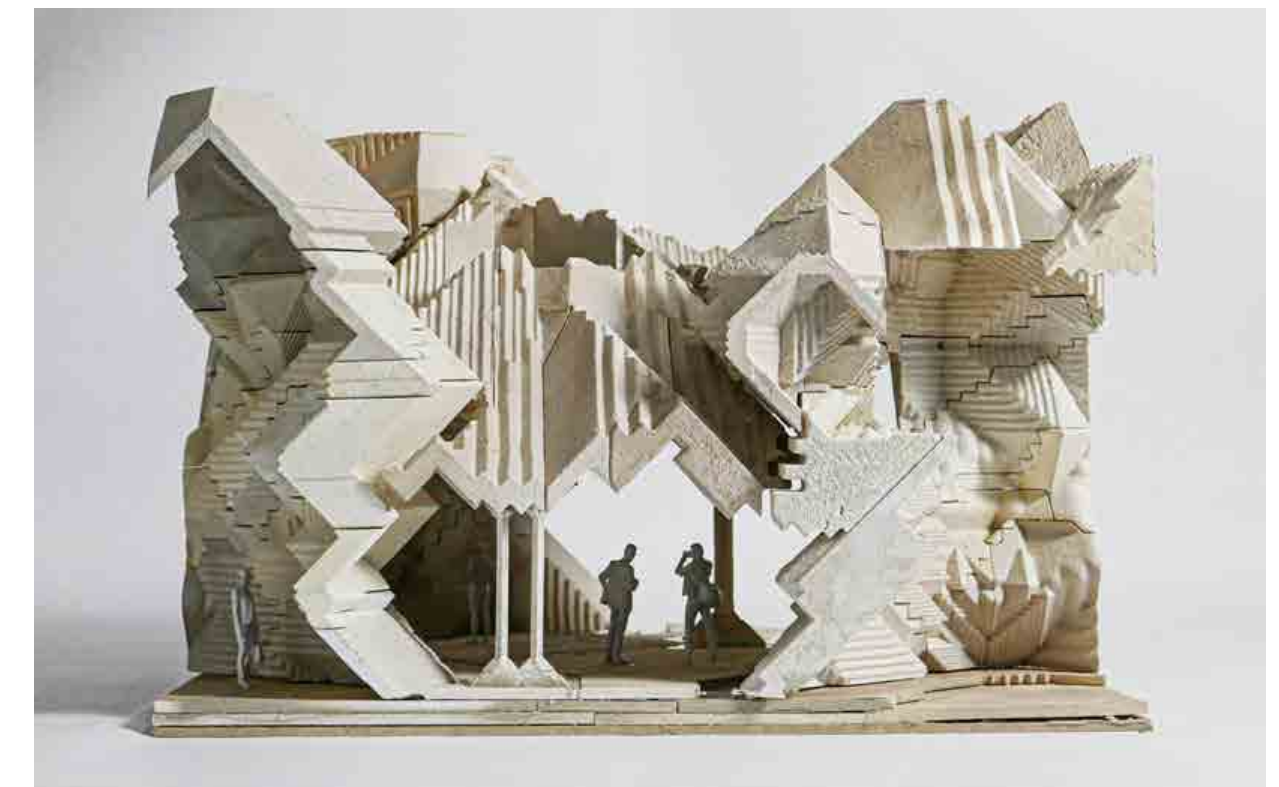


1	2
4	3

The presentation of physical models is indeed a crucial part of the design process. When creating models, our focus lies in expressing the materials and showcasing the construction logic. These two aspects are of utmost importance to us.



HYPOSTYLE The assembly and segmentation logic of the model align with the relationship between the "permanent piece" and the "temporary pieces." The permanent pieces are assembled first, followed by the temporary pieces. In addition, the model segments are connected using interlocking joints and pins, with a minimal use of adhesive whenever possible.



05 WEAVING AND HINGE

A wood wall system fabrication with 3D printed ceramic shingles

ACADEMIC WORK

PROJECT INFO

Team with Wentao Pan, Yutao Chen
Type: Fabrication
Duration: 05/2023 – 08/2023
Location: Philadelphia, PA
Instructor: Nathan Hume

RESPONSIBILITY

Design and 3D modeling
Diagram drawings
Physical modeling
Render

One application of ceramics at the building facade scale would be tiles or shingles. These components, despite being thin and lightweight, offer excellent coverage across surface areas. What sets our shingles apart is their potential for greater texture and a broader spectrum of color options compared to conventional examples. Additionally, we have explored different methods for joining and distinctive outer profiles. Our efforts have resulted in the development of varying 3D printed shingles, each featuring interesting textures and customized shapes. Moreover, we have conducted research into their connection and support systems.



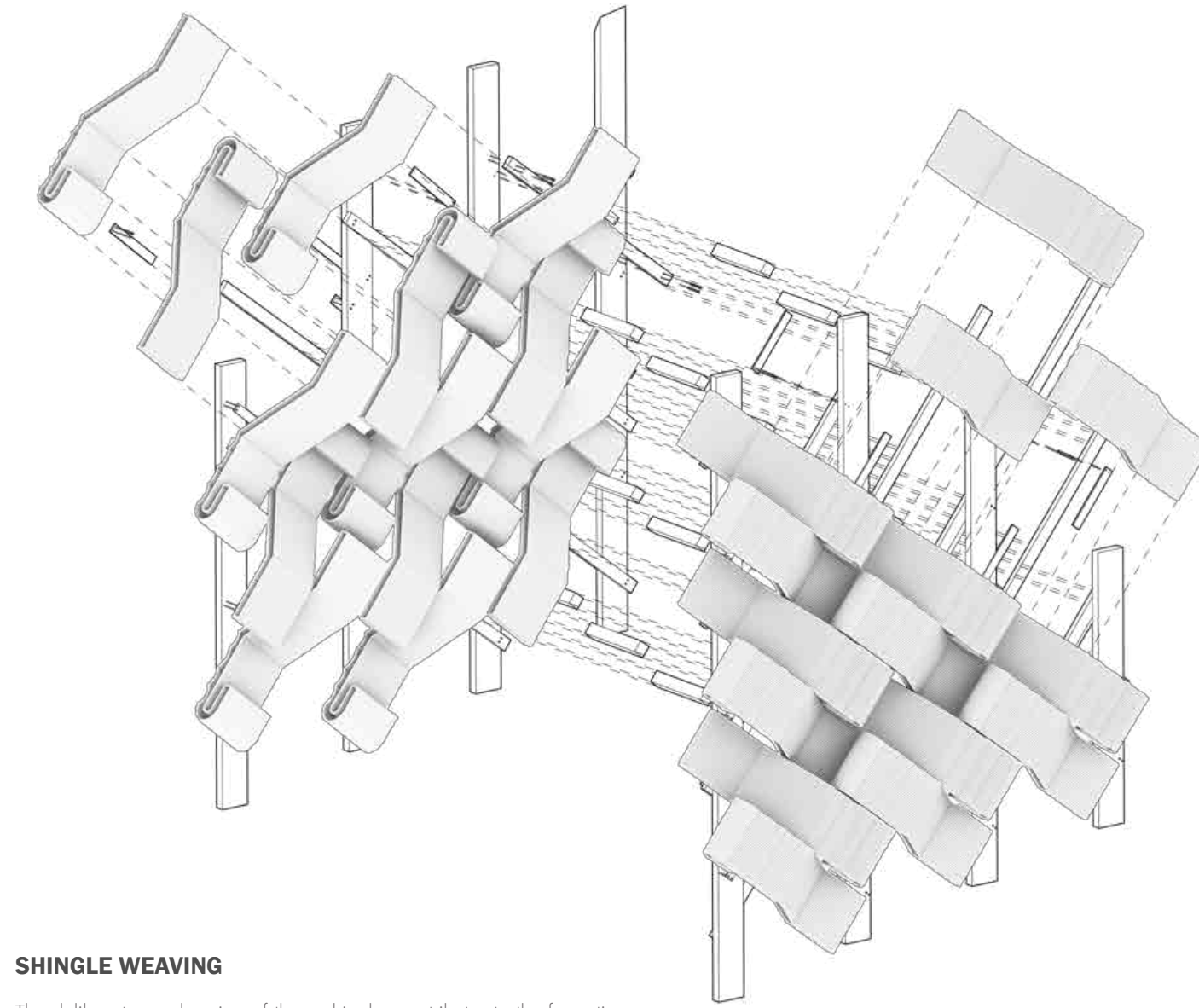
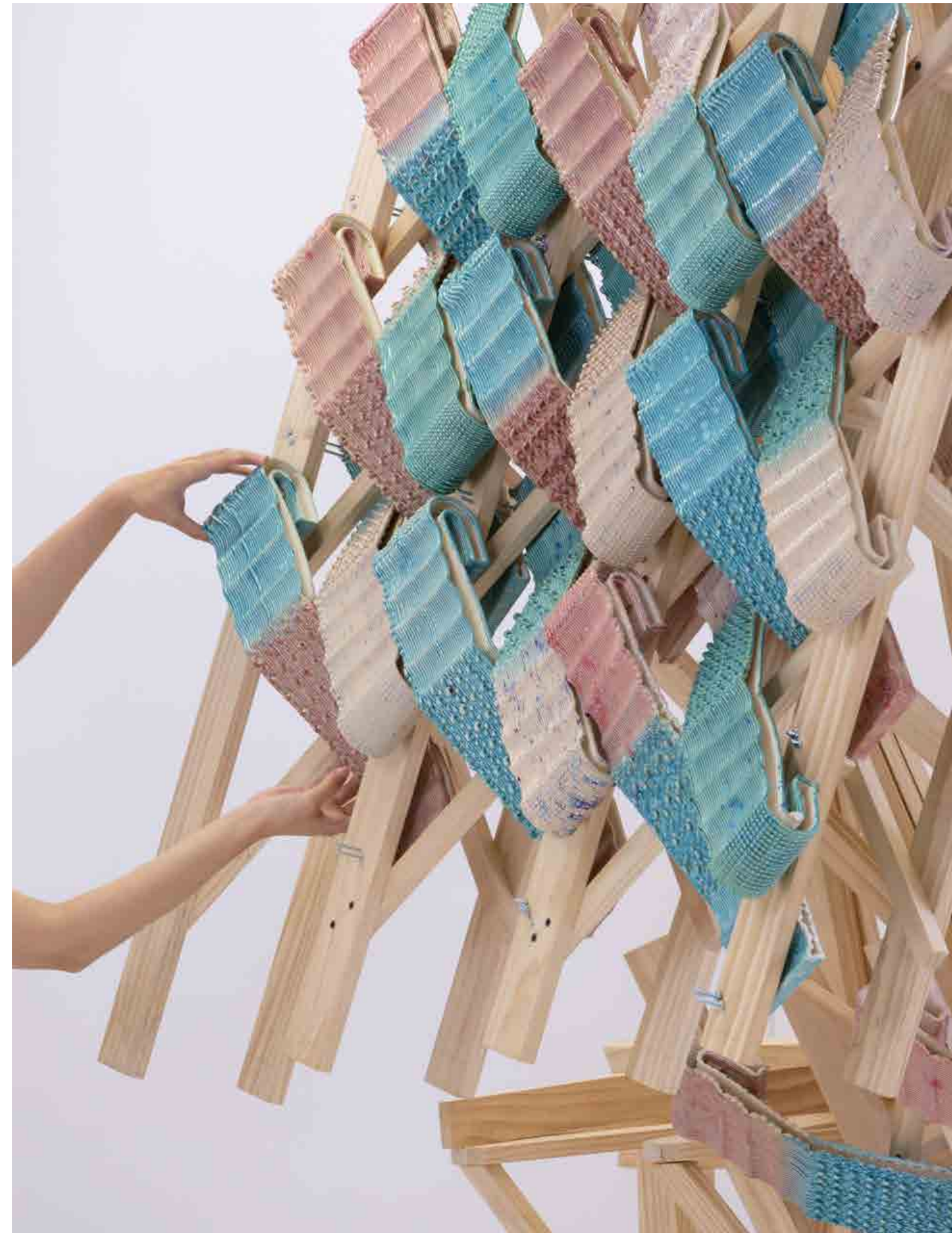
CAGE the core concept of the project is re-orientation, the cage itself assumes a distinct angle compared to the frames. The finest beams of the cage align with the orientation of the shingles they support, concealing themselves to achieve a cleaner overall facade appearance.



WEAVING LOGIC The deliberate overlapping of these shingles contributes to the formation of a weaving pattern that ripples across the surface. As the shingles move forward and backward, they have a more intriguing interaction with the cages. Each line of the shingle has a color pattern different from its neighbors. The colors fade along the length of each shingle, creating a gradient effect, as they gracefully blend into one another.

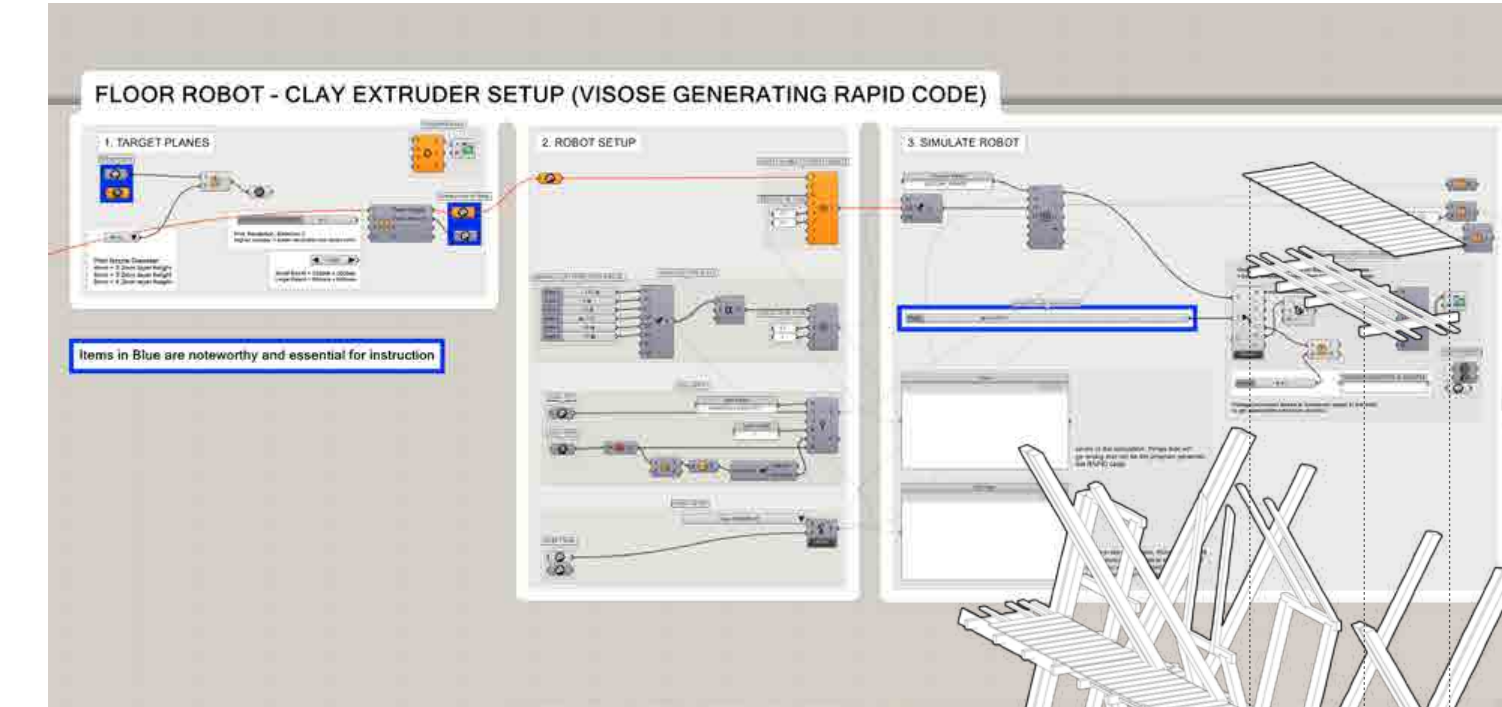
FACADE One application of ceramics at the building facade scale would be tiles or shingles. These components, despite being thin and lightweight, offer excellent coverage across surface areas. What sets our shingles apart is their potential for greater texture and a broader spectrum of color options compared to conventional examples.





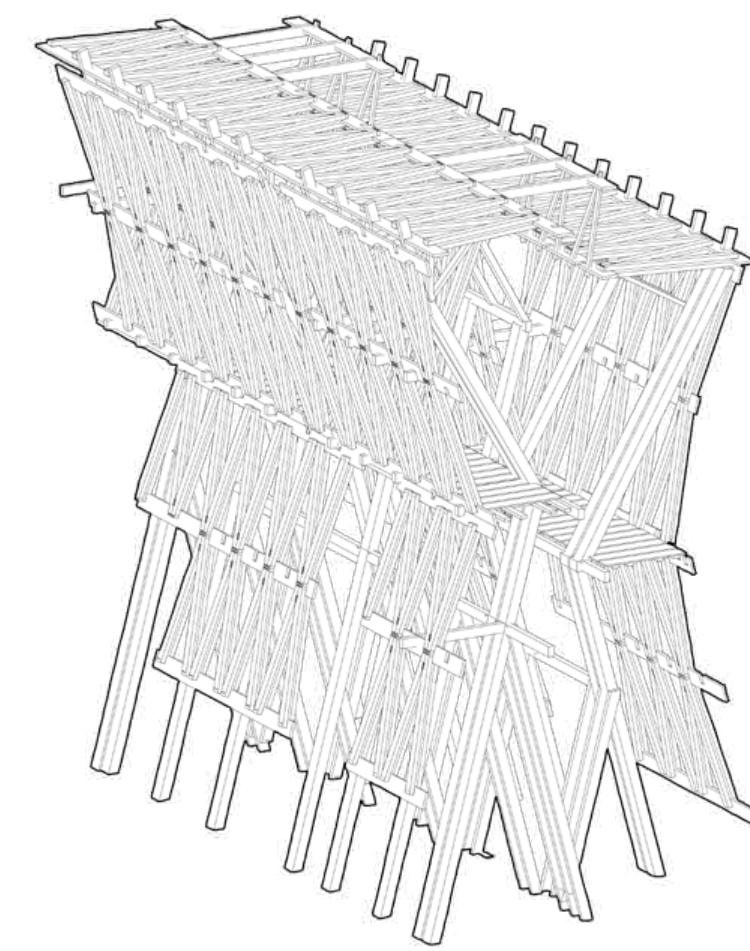
SHINGLE WEAVING

The deliberate overlapping of these shingles contributes to the formation of a weaving pattern that ripples across the surface. As the shingles move forward and backward, they have a more intriguing interaction with the cages. Each line of the shingle has a color pattern different from its neighbors. The colors fade along the length of each shingle, creating a gradient effect, as they gracefully blend into one another.



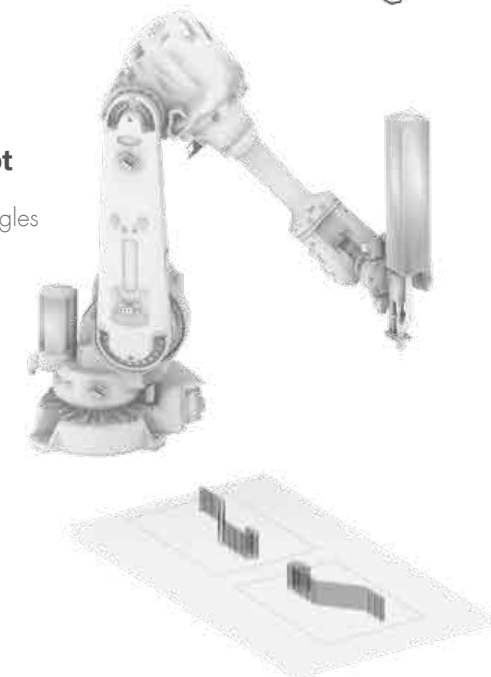
Concept- Hinge

The concept for whole project draws inspiration from an specific architectural plan by McKim, Mead, and White for the Misses Appleton House (1883-84). This concept arises from certain strategic points within the plan's layout that can be likened to hinges.



Shingles by Robot

3D-print ceramic shingles by Robot





06 THE WHITE/BLACK HOUSE

Single Family House Design

Competition Work

PROJECT INFO

Team Work with Yutao Chen, Wenhao Yan

Type: Residential

Duration: 01/2019 – 05/2019

RESPONSIBILITY

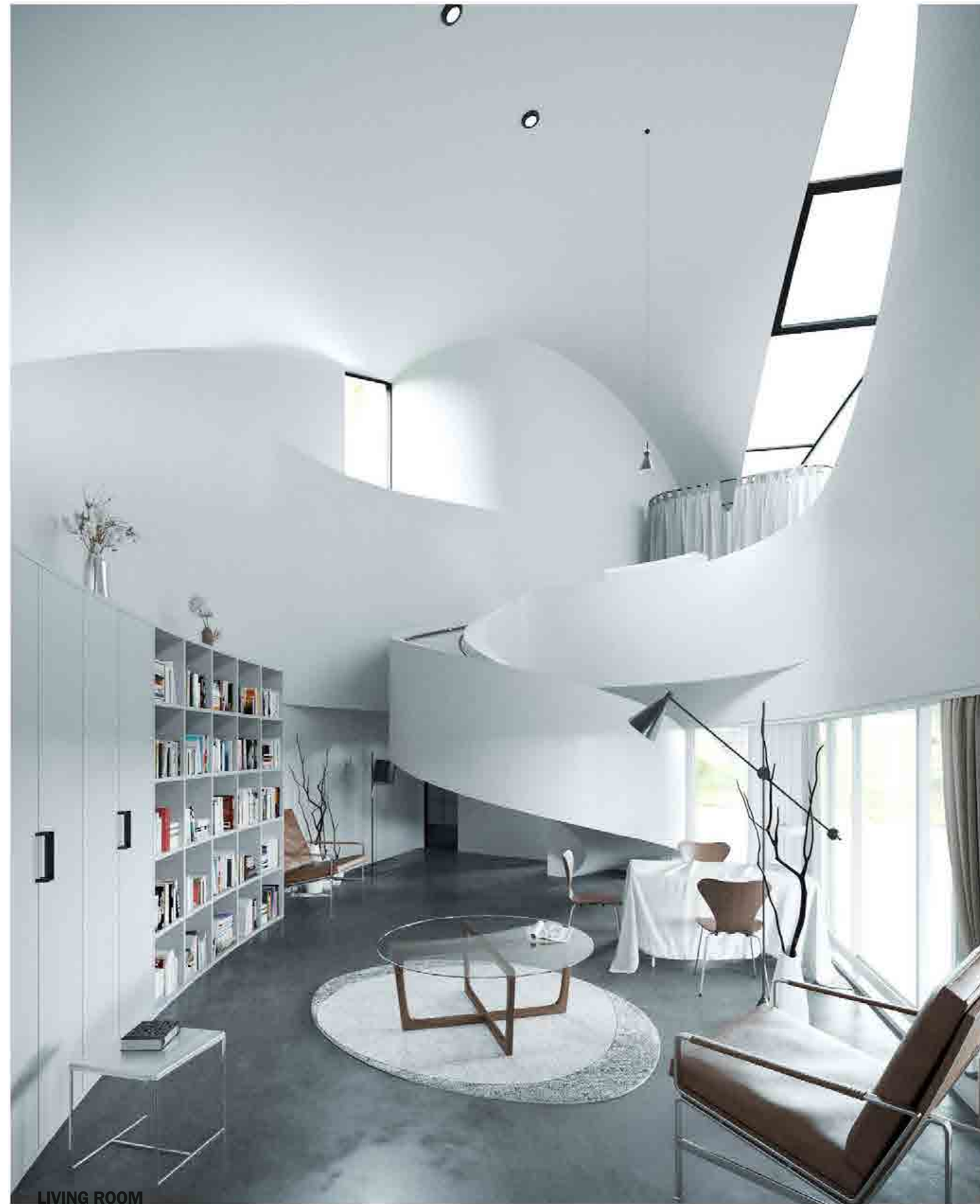
Project design and 3D modeling

Technical drawings

Diagram drawings

Physical Modeling

INTERIOR DESIGN

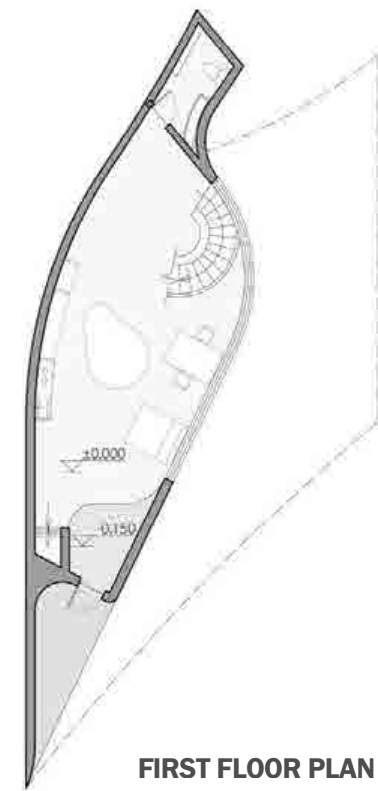


LIVING ROOM

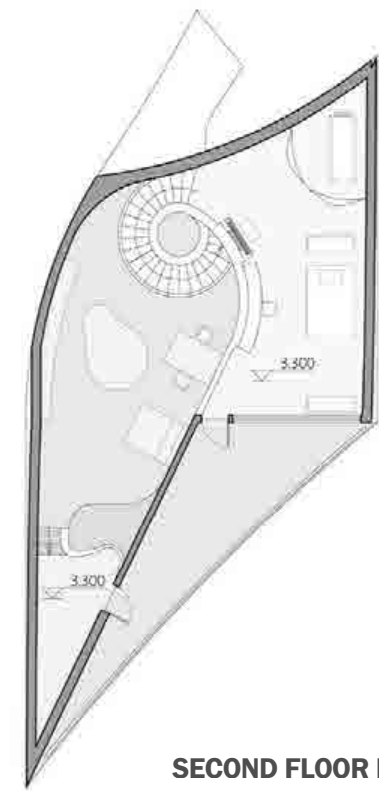


BED ROOM @SECOND FLOOR

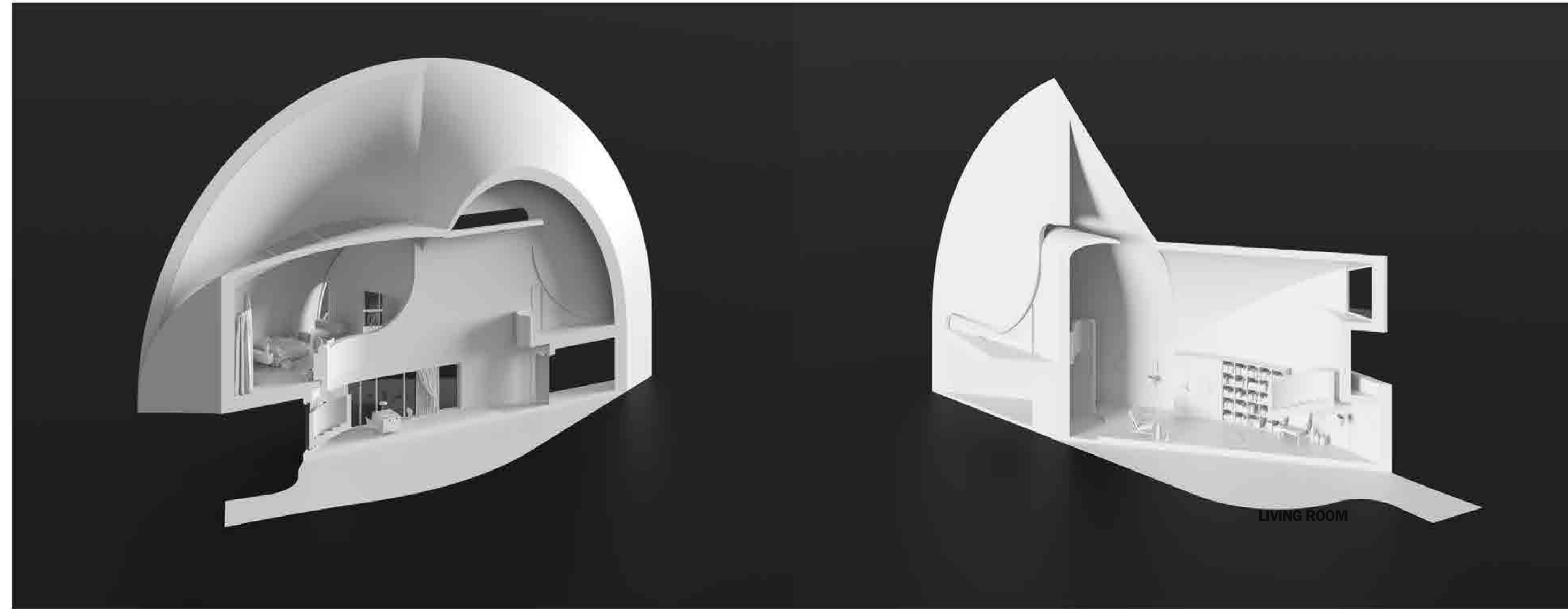
The **contrast** between the pure and beautiful white and the gloomy black in her heart is reflected in the contrast between the wall and the ground, like her favorite piano with black and white keys.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



INTERIOR DESIGN INTENTION

In this project, a large number of curves are used to reflect the characteristics of the character, with the main material being white matte material.

SPIRAL STAIRS_LIVING ROOM



White is not only the **purest** color, but also the most **easily influenced** color by the environment. She moves elegantly like curves, but her heart is also **intertwined and struggling** like curves. She has a bright and open hall to entertain friends and guests, but it is only a limited display - she places her beloved piano on a private upper floor where no one can enter, even through the window view. Only natural scenery is allowed to enter.

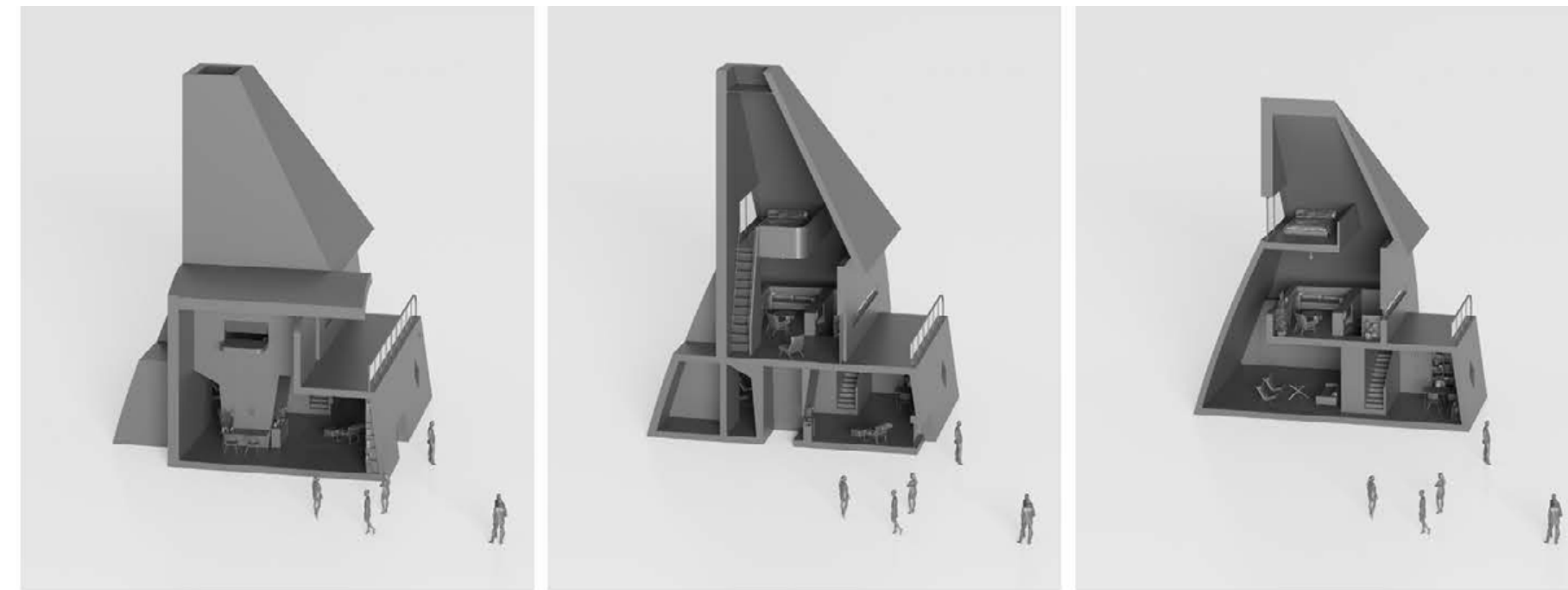


THE BLACK HOUSE



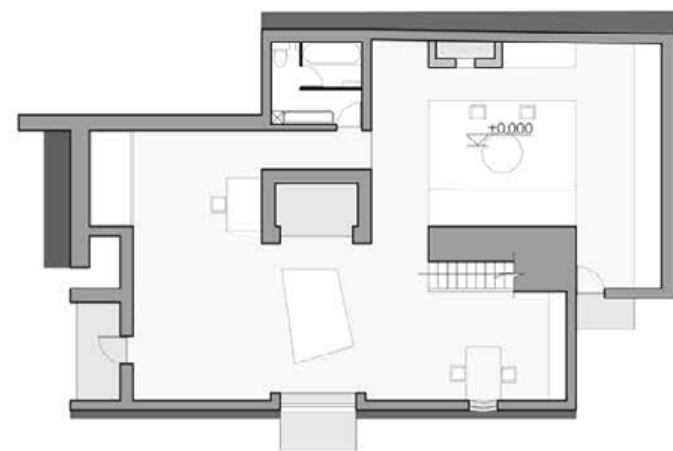


LIVING ROOM

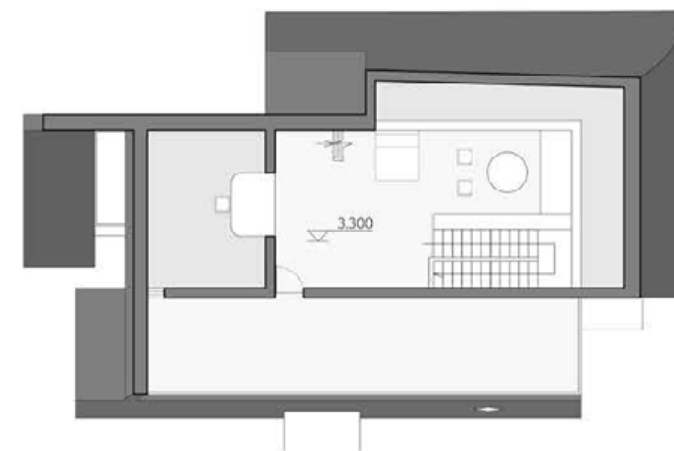


SECTIONAL CHUNK

Her cottage was like a chimney, giving people a *warm* feeling even in the cold winter, like the pottery she made, *simple* and *rough*. The combination of black walls with wooden floors and furniture creates a striking and secure impression that she leaves on others. She revels in the feeling of living within her own creations, as if embraced by sloping walls and curved windows.



First floor plan



Second floor plan

Despite residing in a remote area, she is warmly hospitable, arranging multiple sets of sofas and coffee tables to welcome potential visitors. Her living space, however, is small and simple. She delights in watching the snow during winter and has even created a small window in the low area opposite the fireplace, captivated by the sight of snowflakes drifting into her room.



MEZZANINE



LOUNGE @ SECOND FLOOR

INTERIOR DESIGN INTENTION

In this project, The combination of black walls with wooden floors and furniture creates a striking and secure impression that leaves on others.



LOUNGE @ SECOND FLOOR