

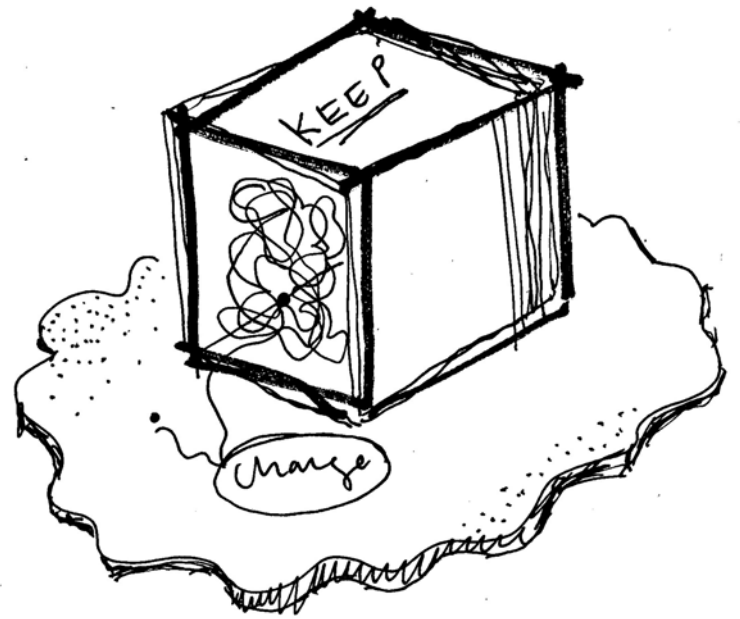
Outside-In

rearticulating the expression of gamla Hovrätten

The project is part of the studio Architectural transformation and environmental care. The overall theme of the studio is the critical discussion and debate on the transformation of the built environment and critically investigating aspects that relate to this topic. Each year a different building is investigated.

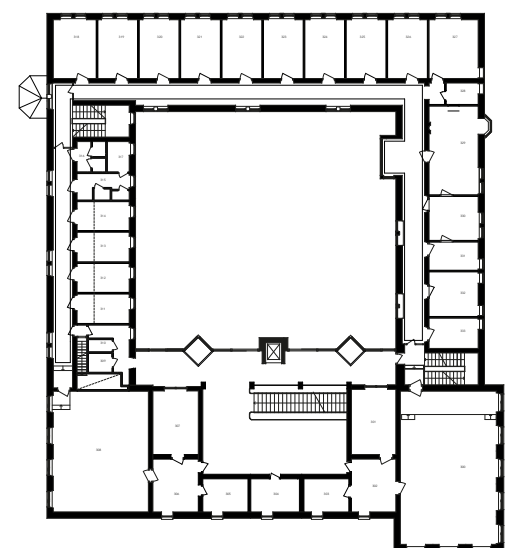
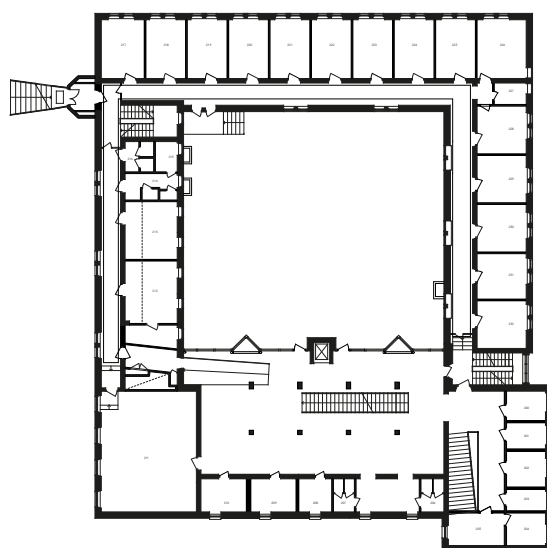
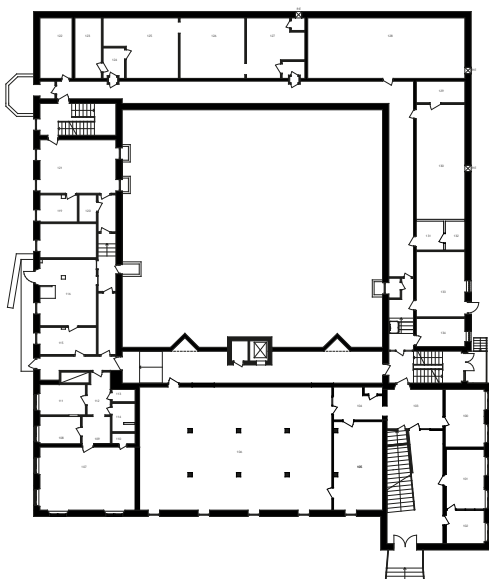
This year the studio has worked with the former Court of Appeal for western Sweden by architect Hakon Ahlberg, constructed in 1948. The building is currently owned by Akademiska Hus. The building is considered to have a high architectural and historical value and is subject to a demolition ban and protection regulations in the zoning plan. It is also identified in the Gothenburg conservation programme as being of great importance for the environment around Renströmparken.

The studio is initiated by commonly analysing and creating an understanding of the broader site context as well as the building context. Aspects included in the analysis were historical, urban as well as nature and cultural qualities. The analysis was then used as a point of departure for an in-depth project. Several issues regarding the building's ability to be used flexibly in the future as well as its way of being embedded in the urban fabric became visible



This project addresses these challenges and aims to provide an approach to strengthen the building's expression in regard to the hyper-urbanisation within this active urban area, to activate and give it a long lasting purpose, as well as making adaptable uses possible through adequate interventions within the interior.

The project is organised in two parts. The first part covers the analysis of the building and context as well as the conclusion drawn from the analysis in regard to a suitable transformation strategy as well as defining zones of intervention. In the second part the project goes in depth into the zones of interventions showing how they will help fulfil the intended aim.



Analysis

The analysis makes the contrast evident between the introverted former courthouse and its by hyper-urbanization affected surroundings apparent.

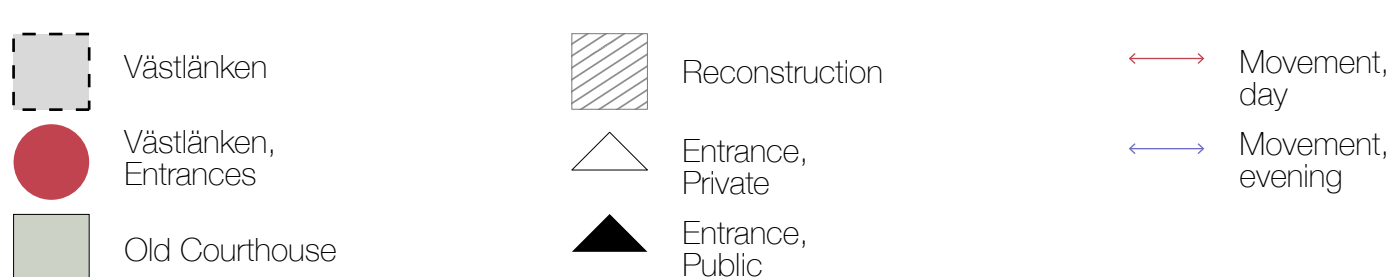
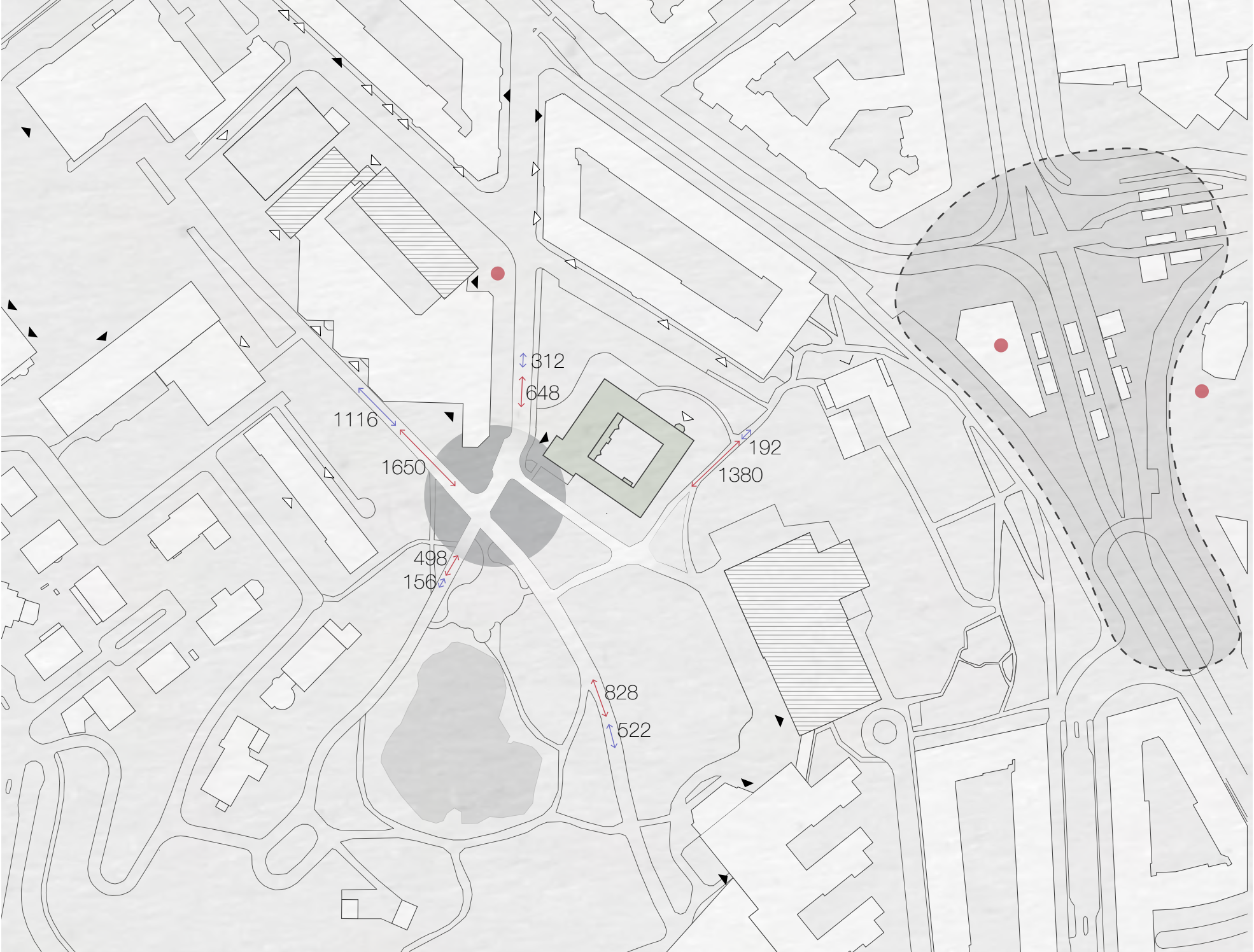
Being located between Chalmers and GU as well as its close proximity to several public spaces and being surrounded by residential areas is important when regarding the future of the building. The analysis of the urban context made the vast amount of building development planned in the area and close to the site apparent. The new library will have the most effect on the perception of the building, since the big volume with its eleven floors is being built directly next to the former courthouse. The construction of Västlänken is another relevant factor to take into account, since the entrance will be facing the building. In addition, current movement flows in its close proximity were analysed.

On the building scale the rigidness of the current floor plans was striking. There is a high density in small scale rooms, causing difficulty in regard to a more flexible and adaptable use. Additionally there is a substantial amount of circulation space existing, that has no particular use.

Coherent with the floor plan the facade is also very regular. Currently it does not hint at activities taking place on the inside and discourages a connection with the adjacent surroundings. Simultaneously, within the transformation it provides the opportunity to contribute as a historical layer in facing the park.



Context plan 1:20000



Future changes | Movement 1:2000

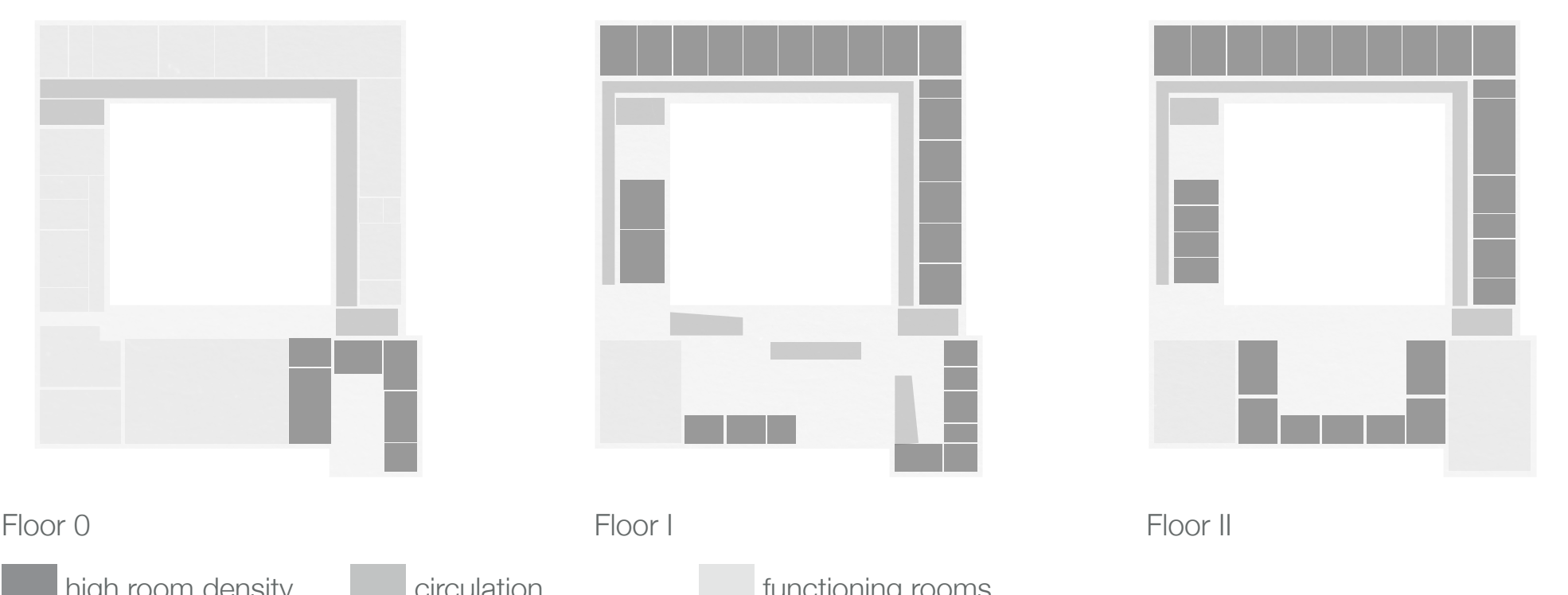


Diagram Building Analysis | Plan

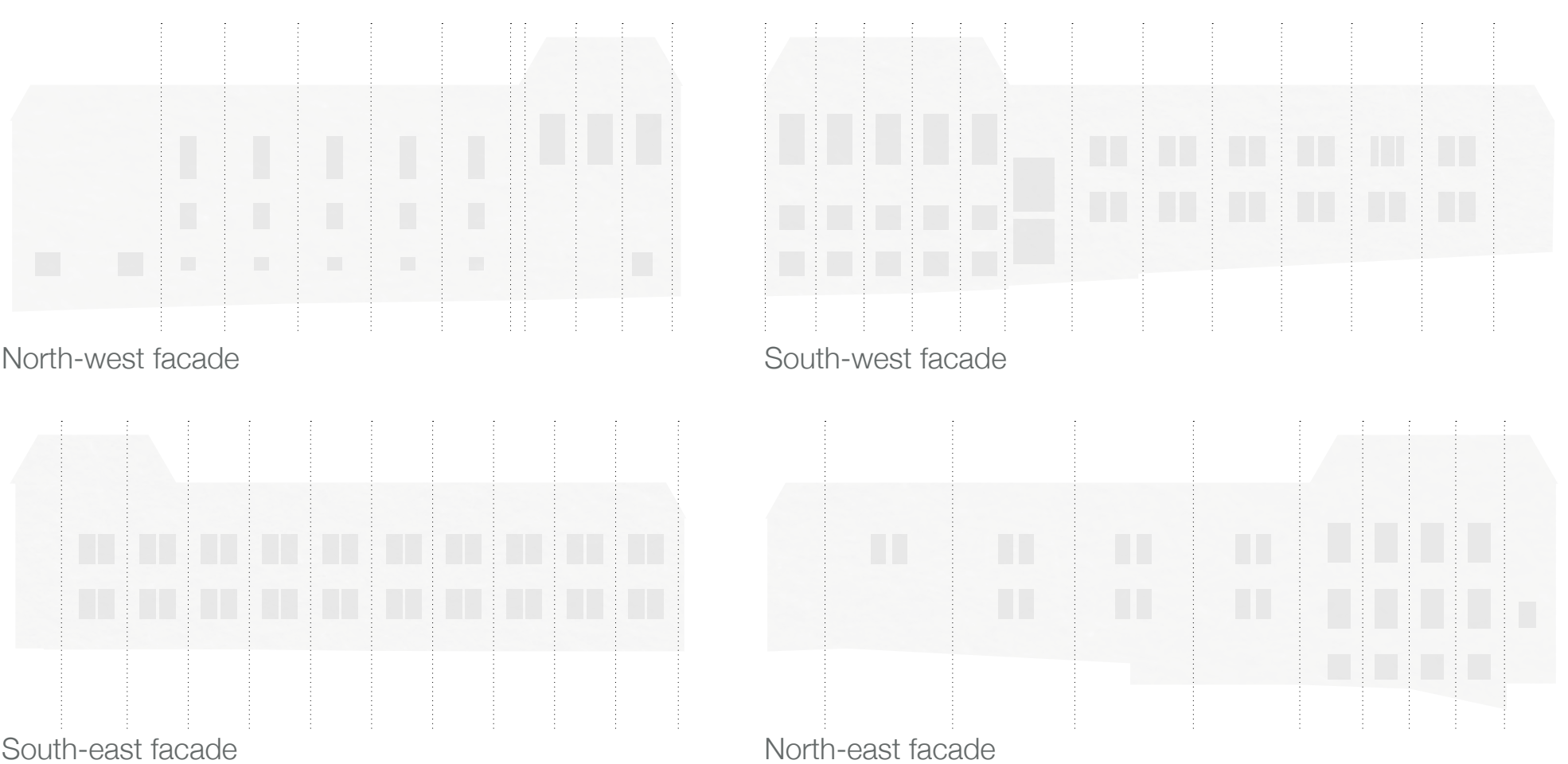
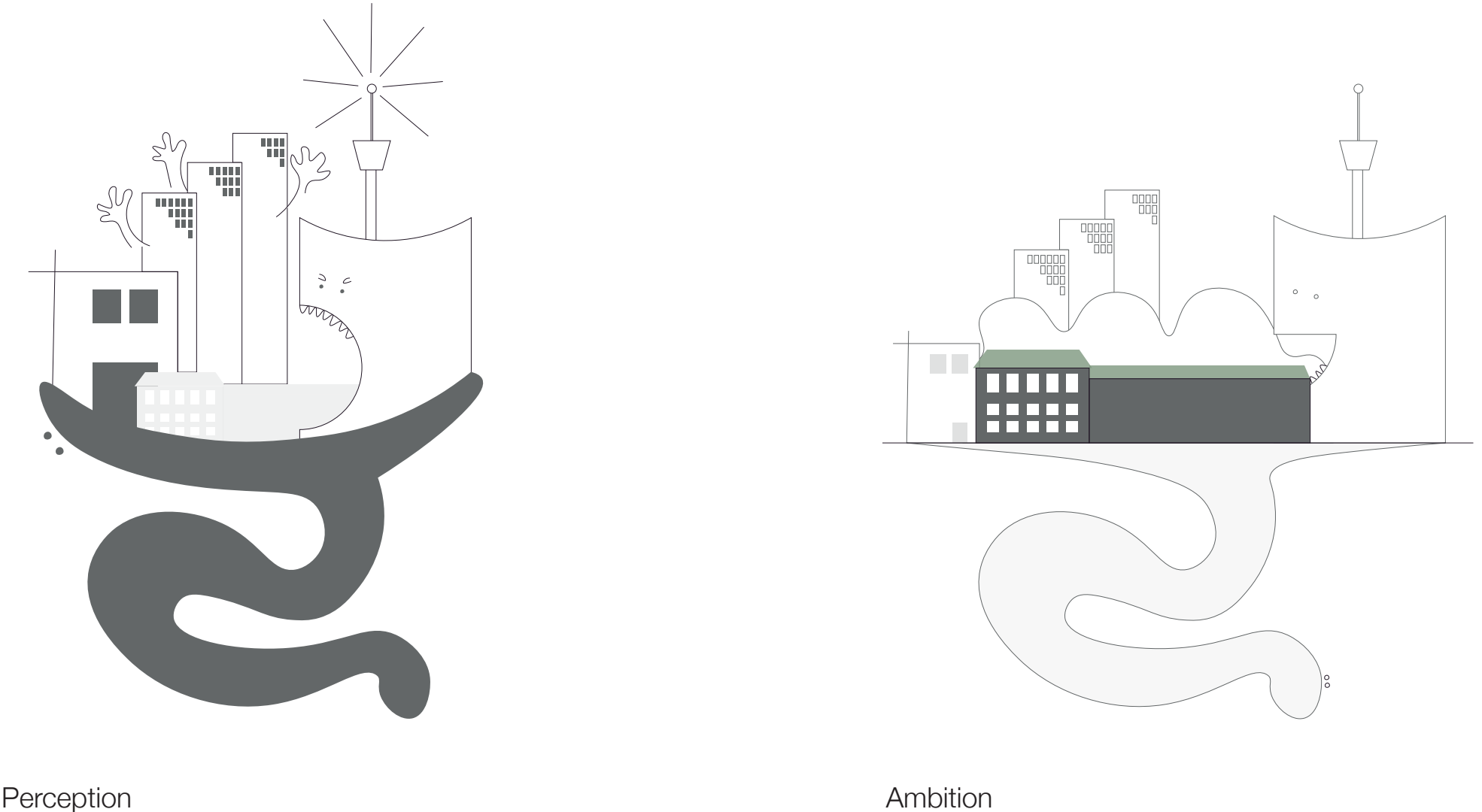


Diagram Building Analysis | Facade



Perception

Ambition

Interventions | Program + Design

The idea for the transformation of the building is **adaptive reuse in contrast to complete preservation** so as to not make it a relic of the past.

Through working with the landscape the idea is to preserve the timid exterior expression, but create interest by better integrating it with its surroundings. Through smaller interventions in the interior, we respect the cultural heritage of the building as well as provide the possibility of diversity in use. At the same time we support the intention of adaptable and flexible use through a purpose that will not be redundant.

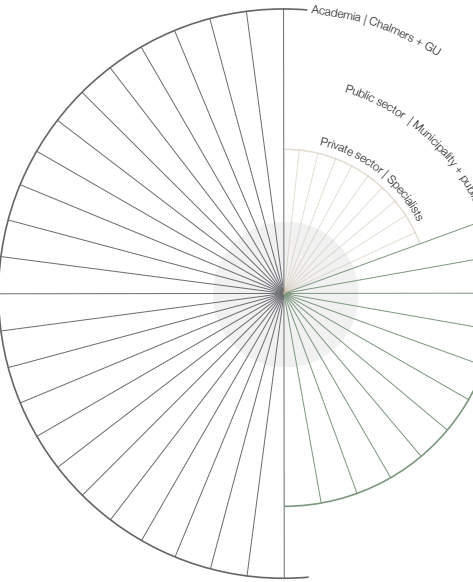
The program will be educational. The building will contain collaborative spaces for research, experimentation, investigation and exhibition. The aim is to encourage new research through cooperation and collaboration between: Akademia, the private sector and the public sector. Each sector has their field of knowledge, but within the building different spaces are provided that promote common areas. Public space we find especially important as a connecting point for all actors and supports the intention as to not create an exclusive space for akademia.

The interventions regarding the built environment of the former courthouse extend from exterior oriented interventions - the landscape and the two as "public" defined facades - over to the interior including the courtyard as well as the characteristic corridors and dissolving the density of rooms.

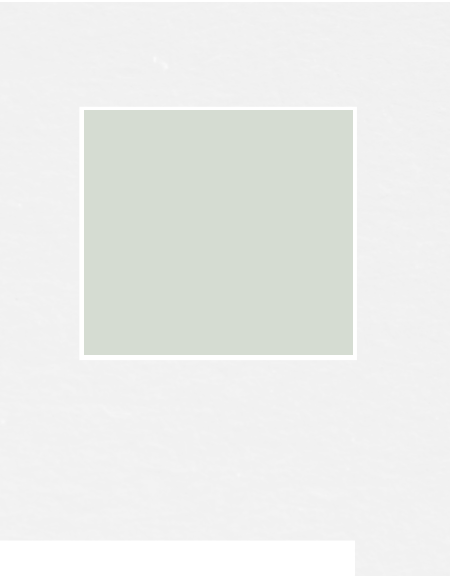
Transformation Strategy



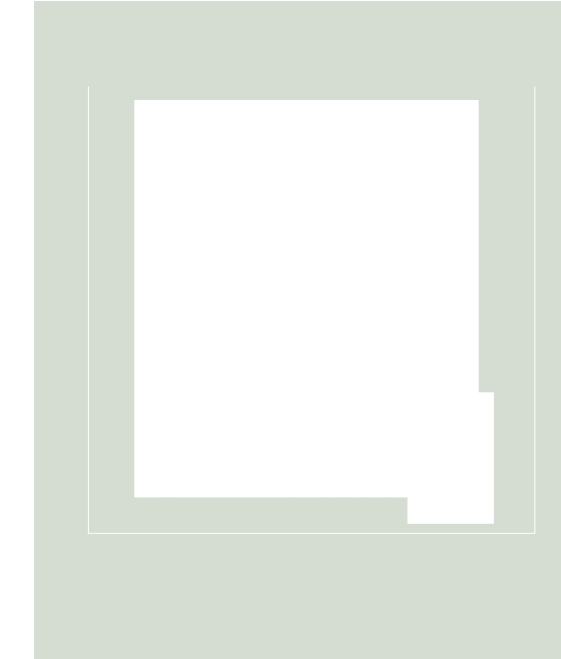
Program | Function



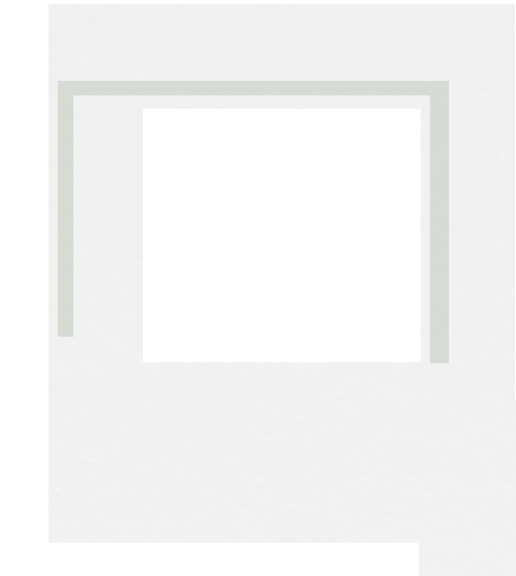
Courtyard



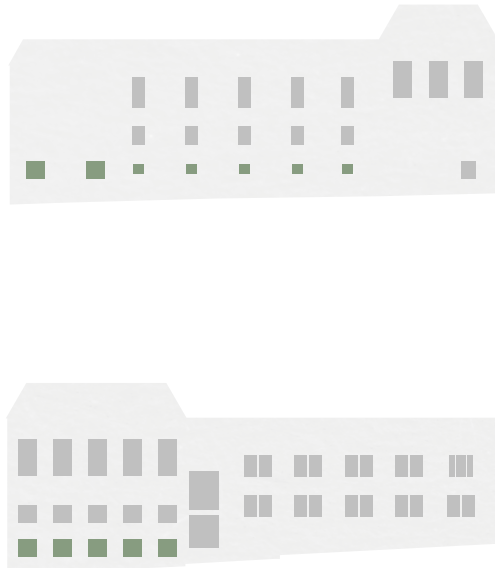
Landscape



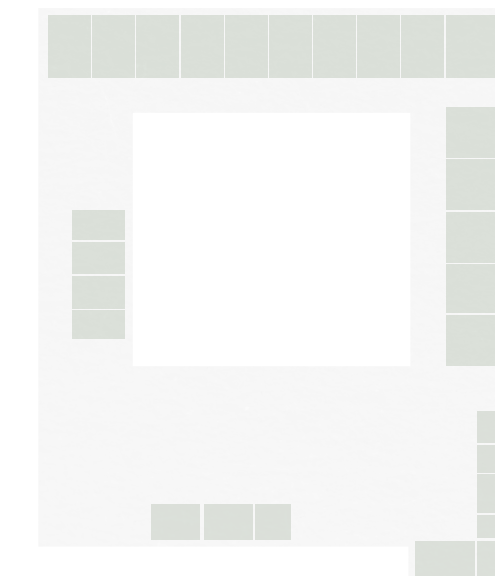
Corridors



Public facades



Room Sizes



Intervention | Landscape

With the landscape the main intention is to create an **engaging entrance towards the building** leading people there and also functioning as an **attractor for the exhibition**.

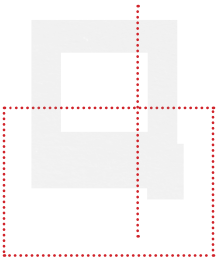
New paths are leading over the property. Also important was to connect the building better to Renströmsparken and Näckrosdammen, to improve the buildings' embedding in the landscape. The road currently used by cars will be more attractive for pedestrian activity since car traffic is reduced, allowing overall for a more pedestrian friendly area. Different seating located in the west also functions as an attractor to give people the opportunity to linger in the park for a while. Another important factor is not only the entrance of Västlänken, but also the junction in the south west of the building as an important node of distributing pedestrian movement.

Site plan 1:6000



Exterior perspective





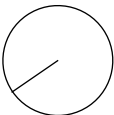
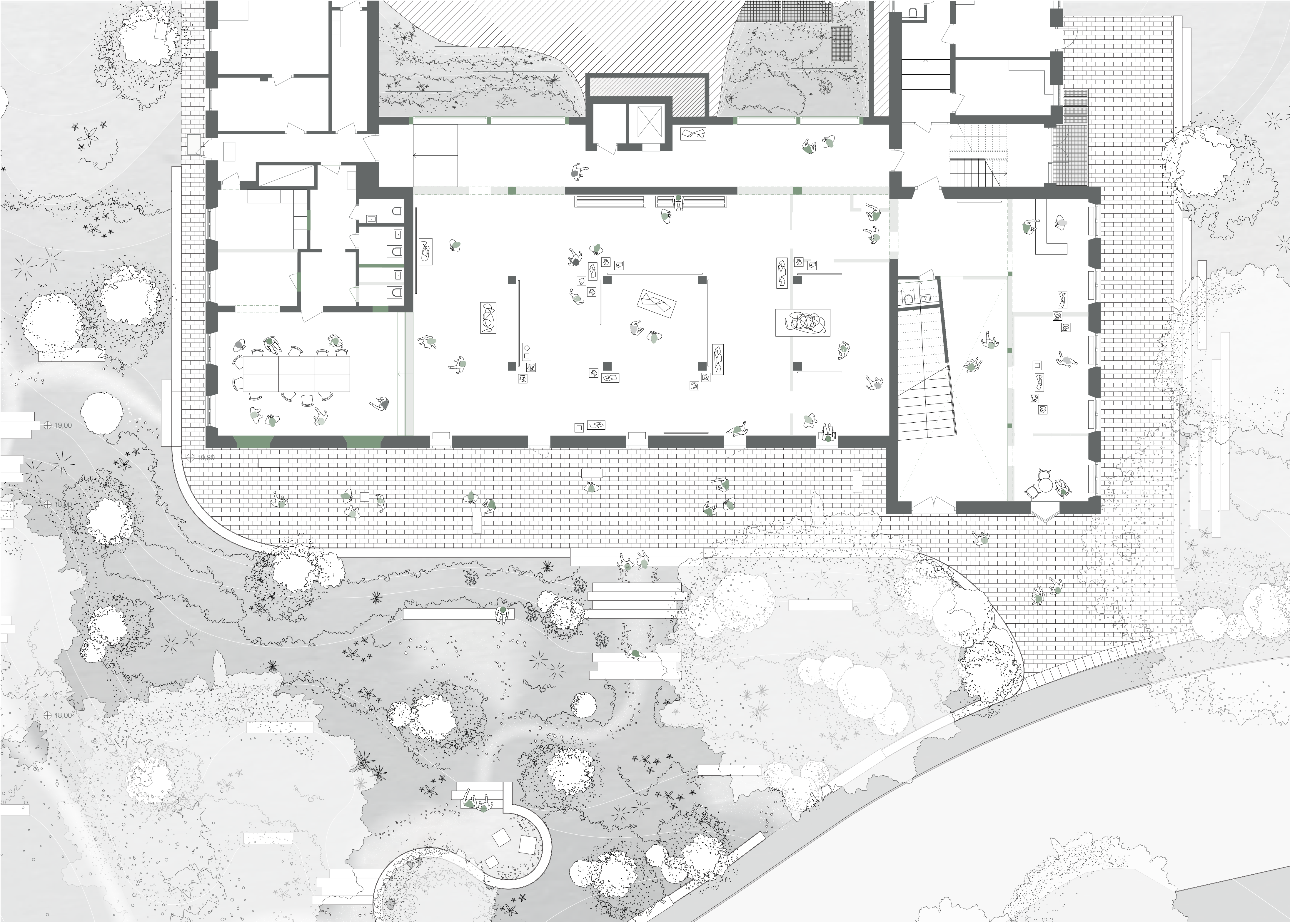
Intervention | **Exhibition**

The exhibition serves as an important connector that promotes the interaction between different actors and allows the building to become less exclusionary.

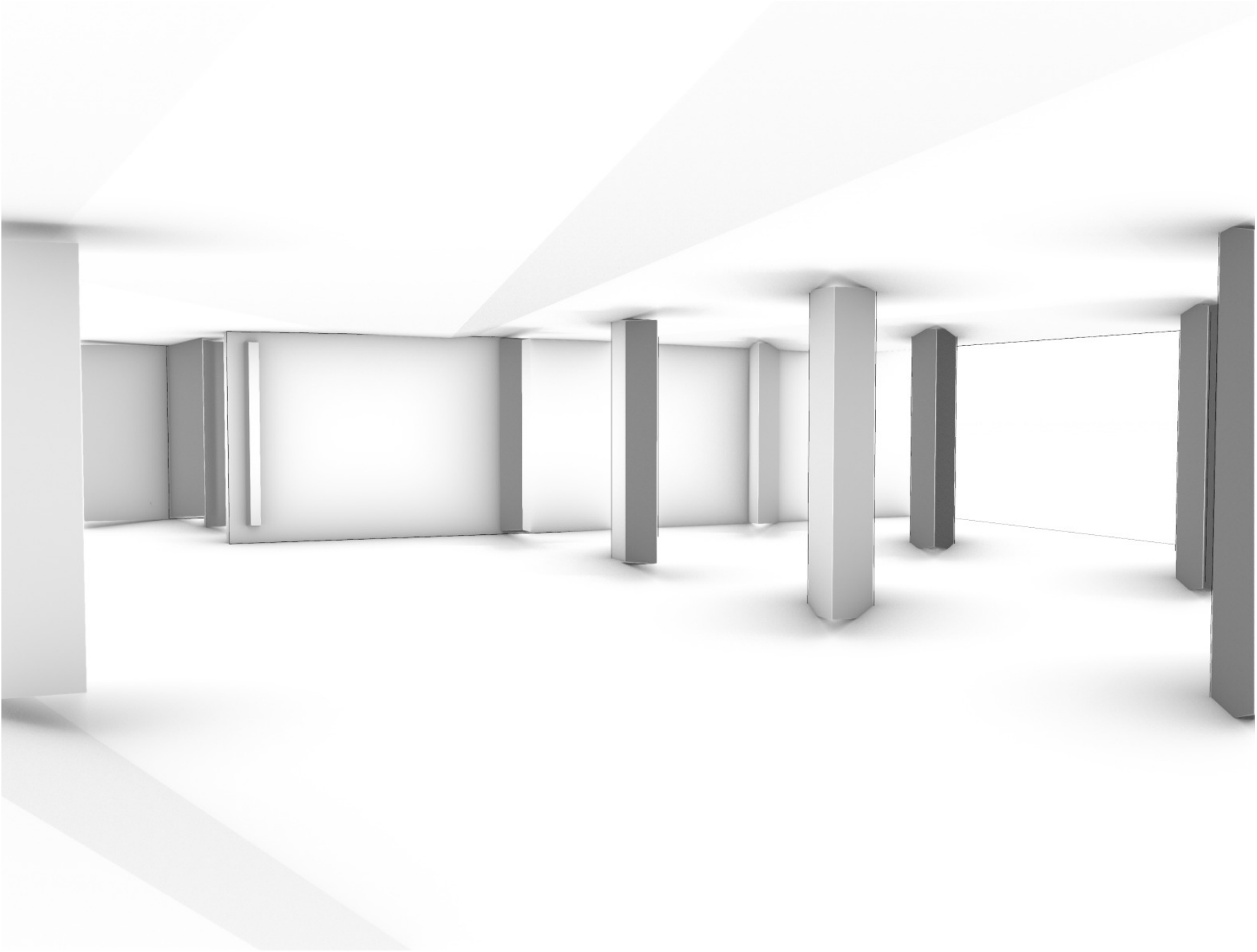
The exhibition is an important point within the building where the public and private part of the users will be able to interact, exchange and connect. Several sets of stairs, which are adjusted to the existing topography, lead up to the public exhibition and entrance. The windows on the ground floor of the south-west and part of the north-west facade were extended enabling a visual connection between outside and inside. Additionally this will increase the natural light within the exhibition. Several walls within the exhibition have been taken away to create a more open space which also supports the visual connection between the outer landscape and the central courtyard. In the main entrance hall a concrete slab was taken away resulting in double height which created a more generous entrance situation.



Section Landscape 1:400



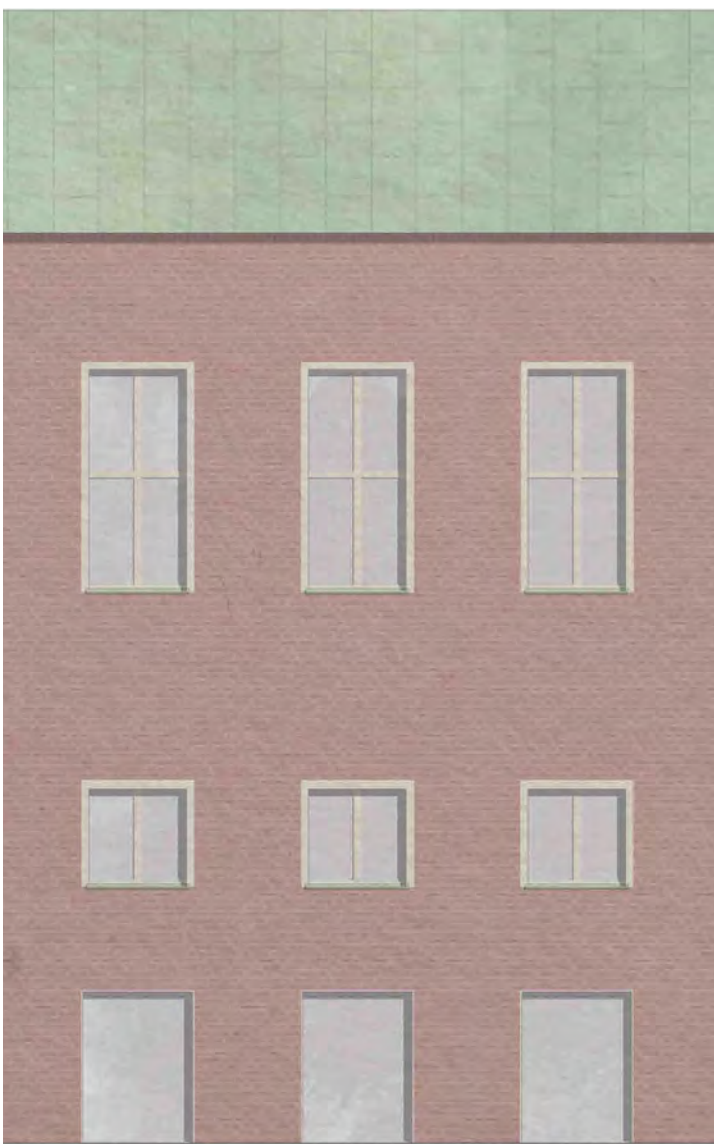
Floor Plan Exhibition 1:100



Interior perspective | Exhibition



Section Exhibition 1:100



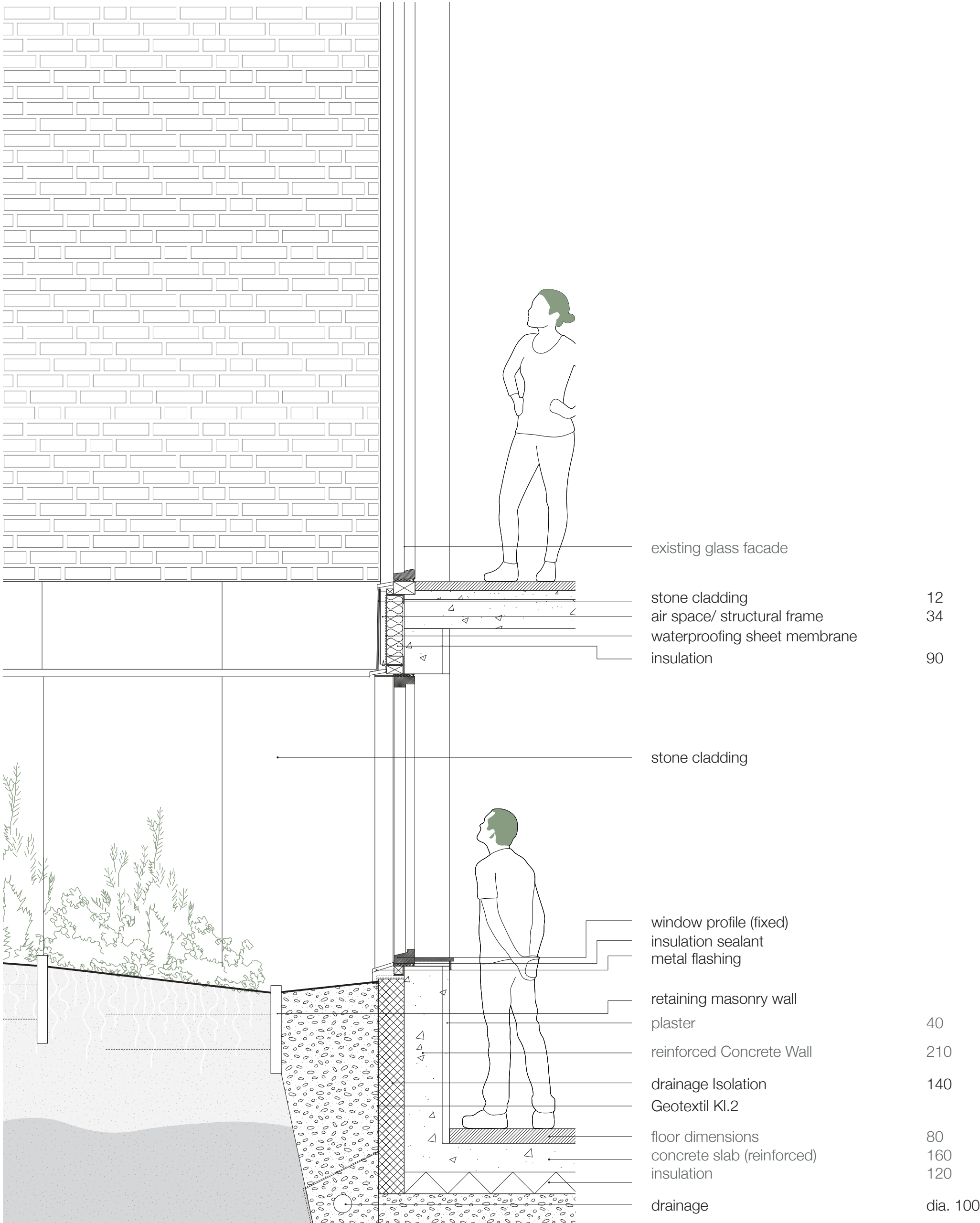
Facade Extract 1:100



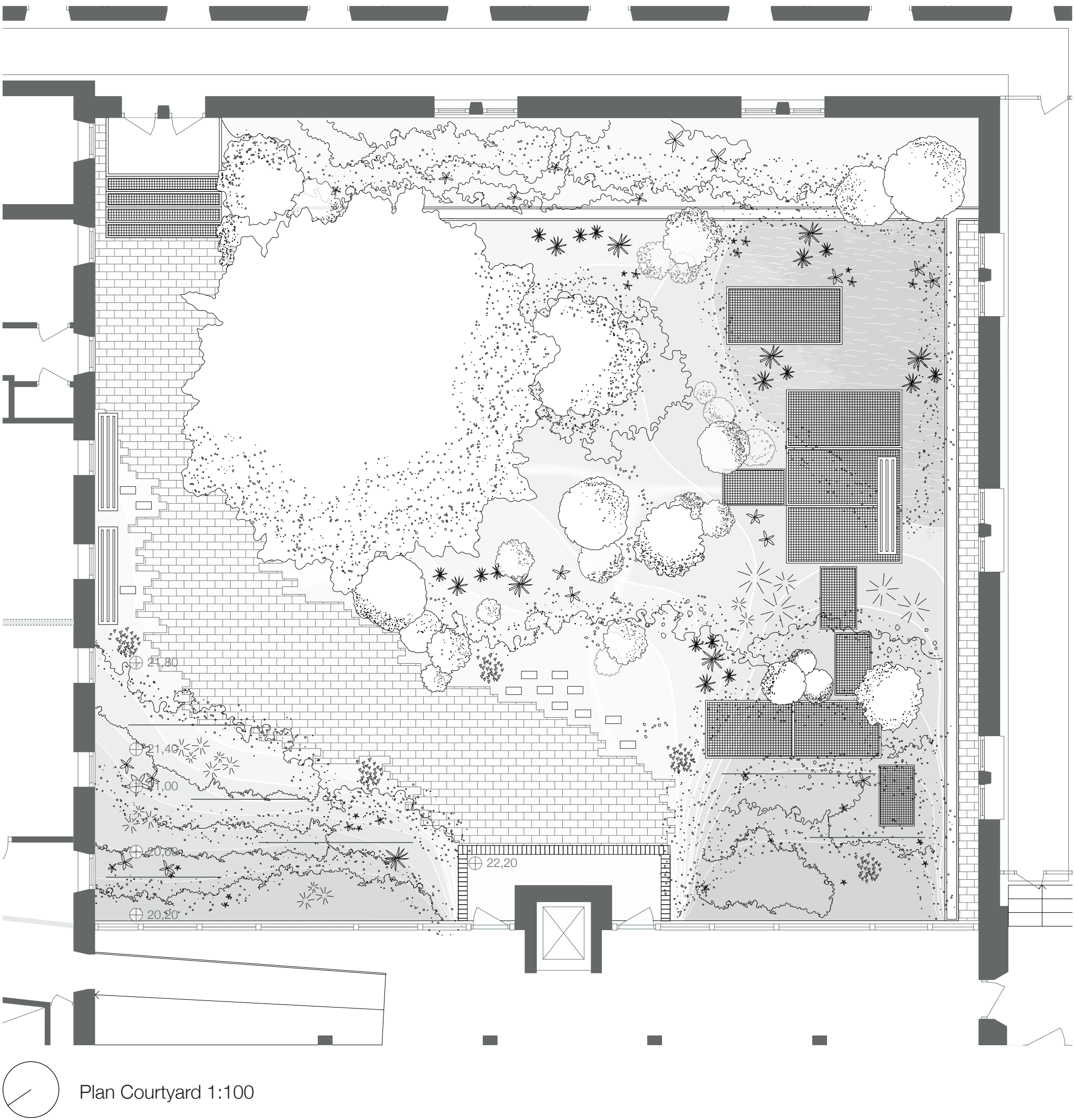
Intervention | Courtyard

Through working with the topography and creating a gradient towards the exhibition windows, a visual connection is generated which makes it feel like the exterior landscape is continuing into the core of the building.

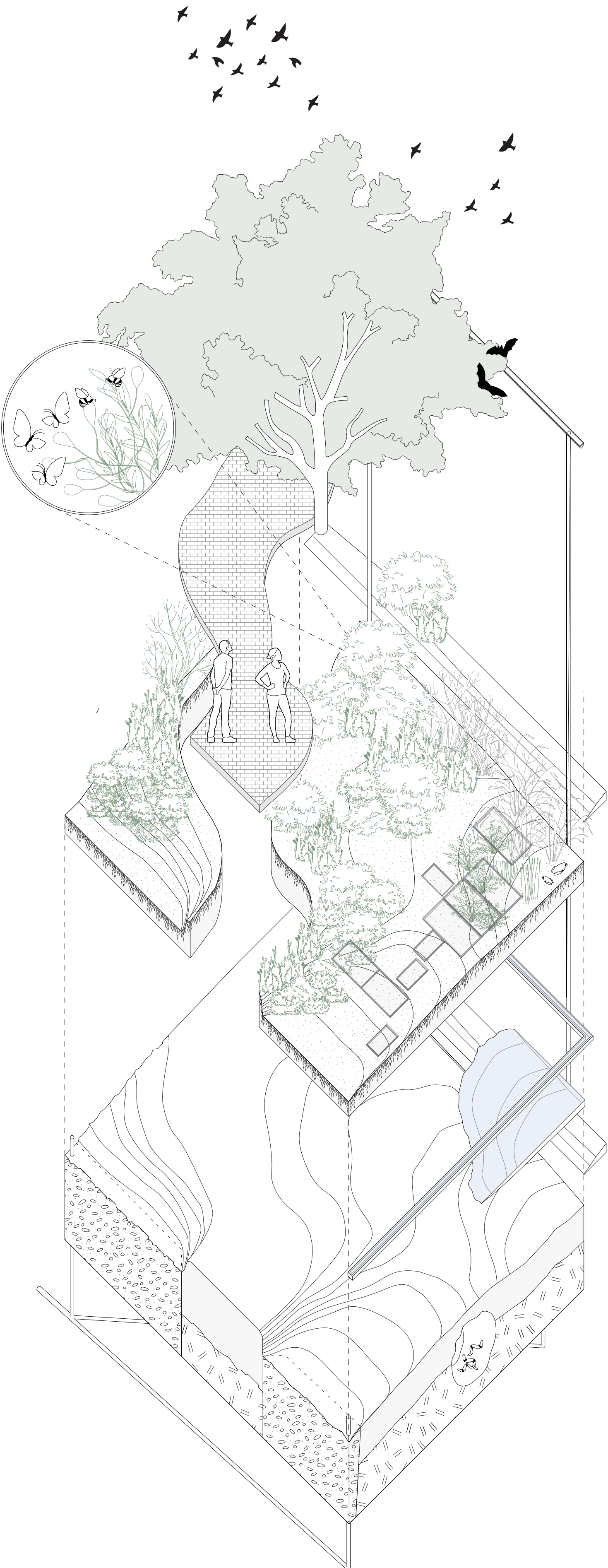
By adding a window towards the courtyard on the ground floor in the exhibition room, a visual connection is created - from the inside to the outside. The courtyard will be entirely redone. The tree, which has been standing there since the building was constructed, is preserved in its current state. Within the courtyard stormwater management is a relevant aspect and additionally to the topography is defining the new layout of the courtyard. Because of the stormwater management, different zoning of the courtyard is necessary. This also causes different plants being integrated into the courtyard, generating diverse spaces for different non-human users.



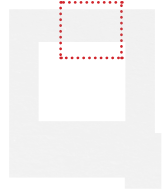
Section Courtyard | Exhibition 1:20



Perspective | Courtyard



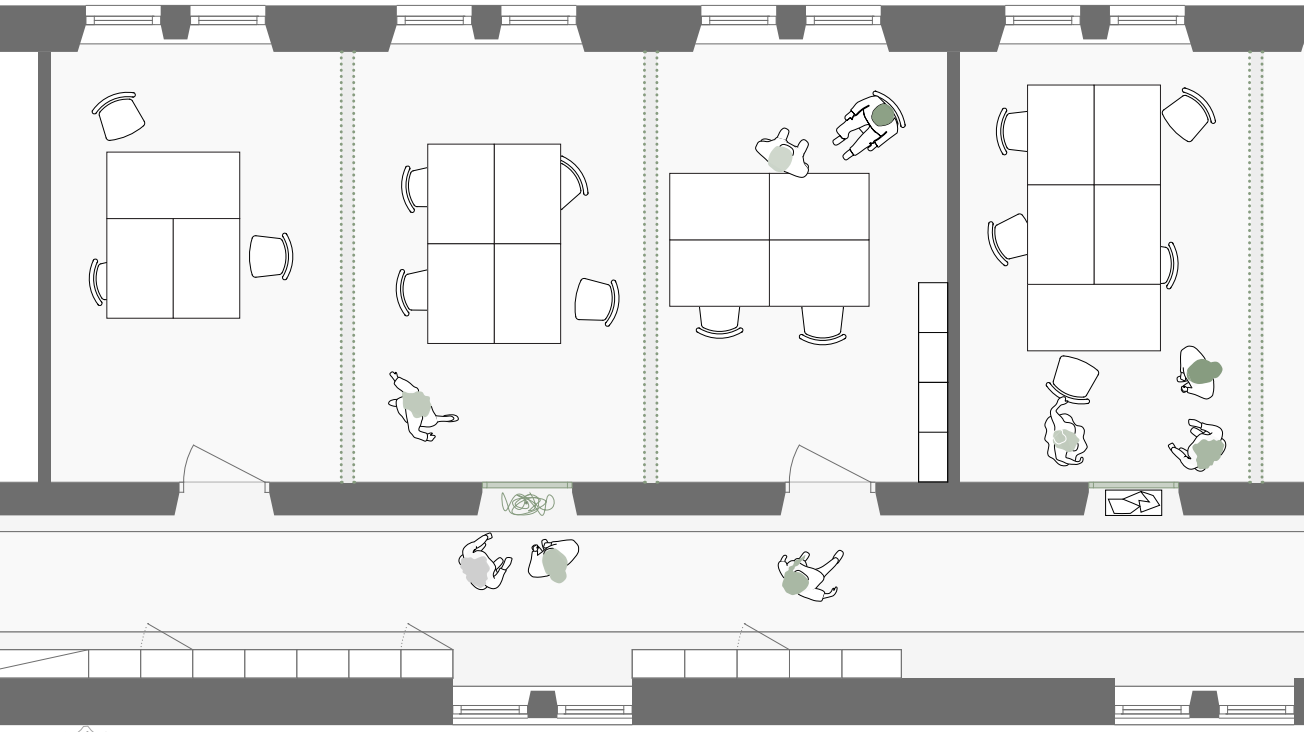
Axonometry | Courtyard



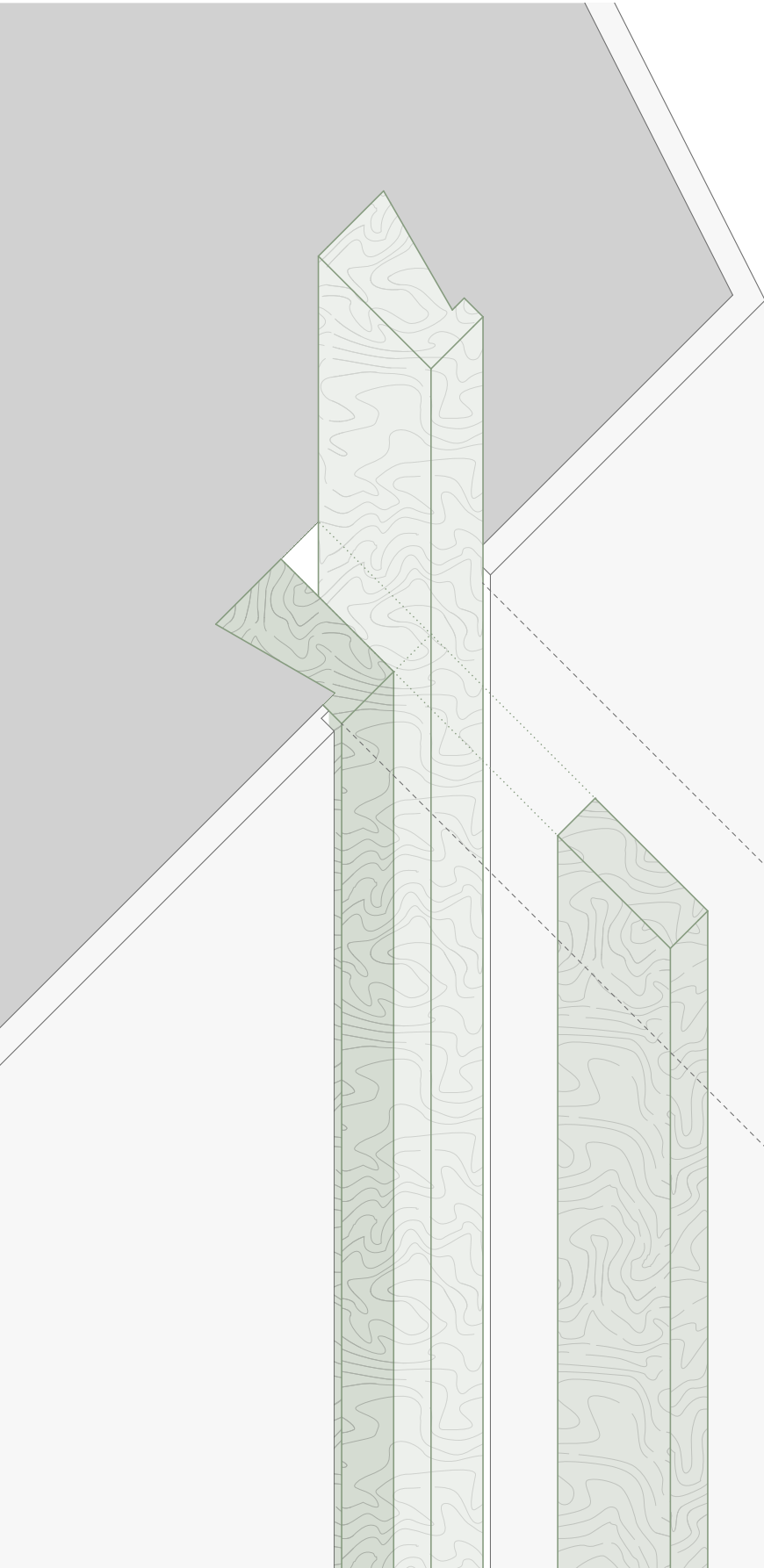
Intervention | Interior

Apart from the exhibitions the interior interventions concern the characteristic corridors as well as the rooms located along it.

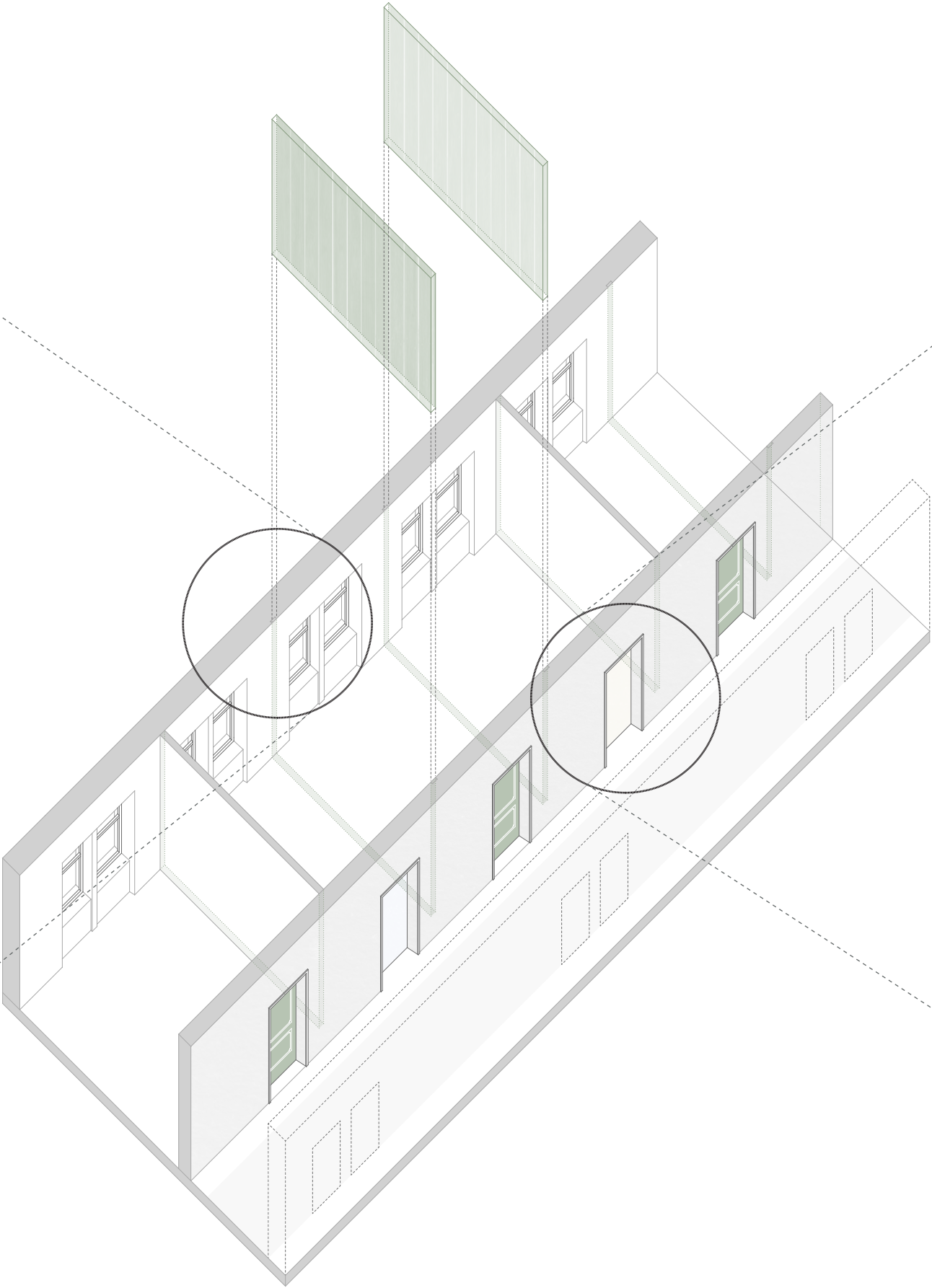
Removing walls will create more diverse sized spaces. To enable an uncomplicated way of adapting the room sizes, a wooden provision indicating where walls once were placed. The frame simplifies adding a wood stud frame structure in the future if smaller spaces are needed. Alternating the doors with glass panels creates flexibility in changing the rooms. The glass panels are located in the same position as the doors and fixed to the frame allowing for easy removal. This results in a new use of the space with niches that can be used for exhibitions which also keeps the existing cultural value of the corridor. They initiate unplanned interaction of users and give a purpose to the substantial amount of circulation space.



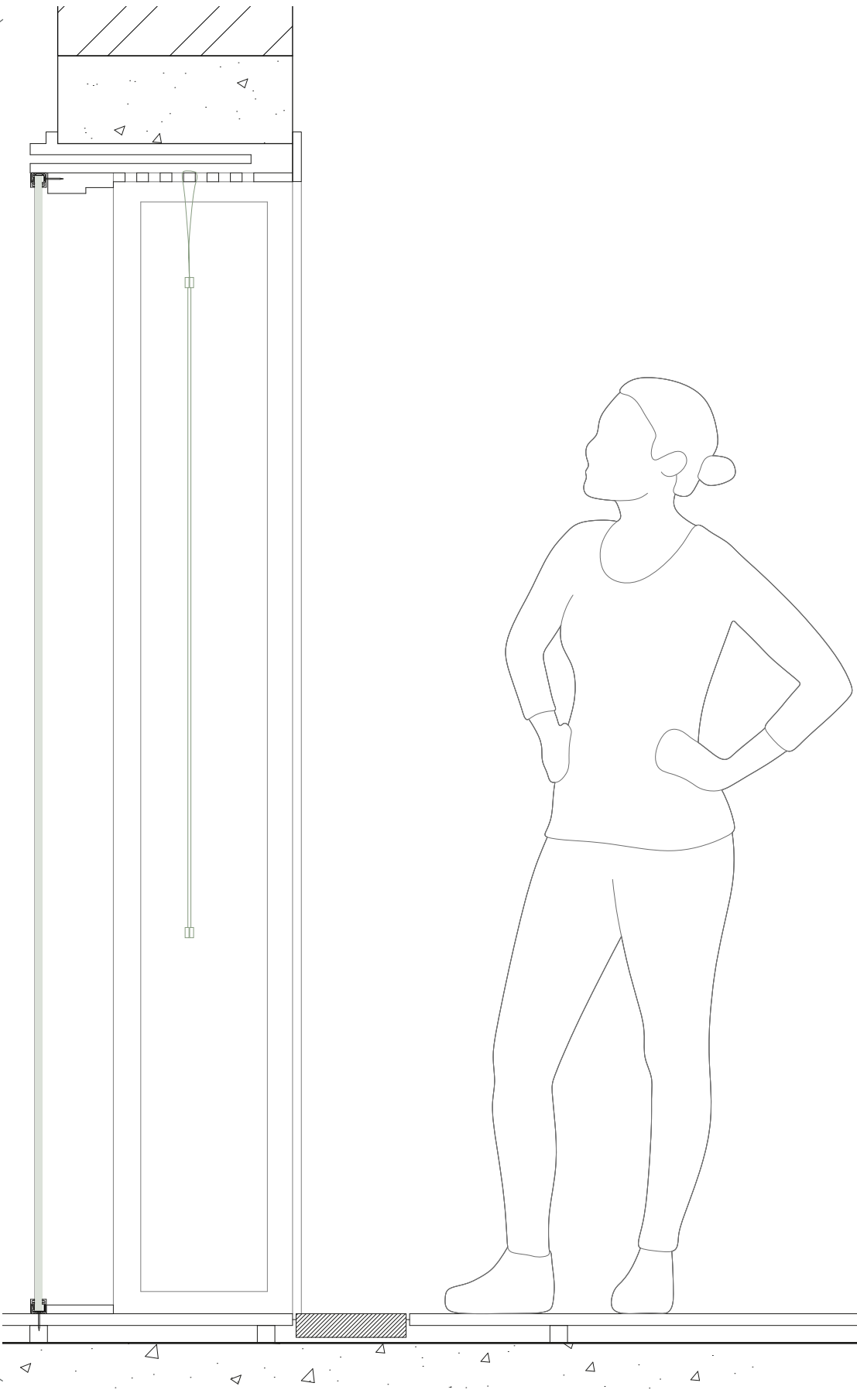
Floor Plan Work Space 1:100



Wall Provision



Axonometry | Corridor and wall provision



Corridor Detail 1:10