



GATEWAY for justice

a human rights and legal aid centre, batho



Title of thesis: Gateway for Justice, A Human Rights and Legal Aid Centre, Batho

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Declaration of original authorship

The work contained in this thesis has not been previously submitted to meet requirements for an award at this or any other higher education institution. To the best of my knowledge and belief, the thesis contains no material previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made.

Acknowledgement of editorial, proof-reading and graphic layout services

The work contained in this thesis has been submitted for proof-reading and editing by Mr P.G. Southey and graphic layout by Mr J. C. Deetlefs.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "LMF".

L Fourie | 30 September 2014

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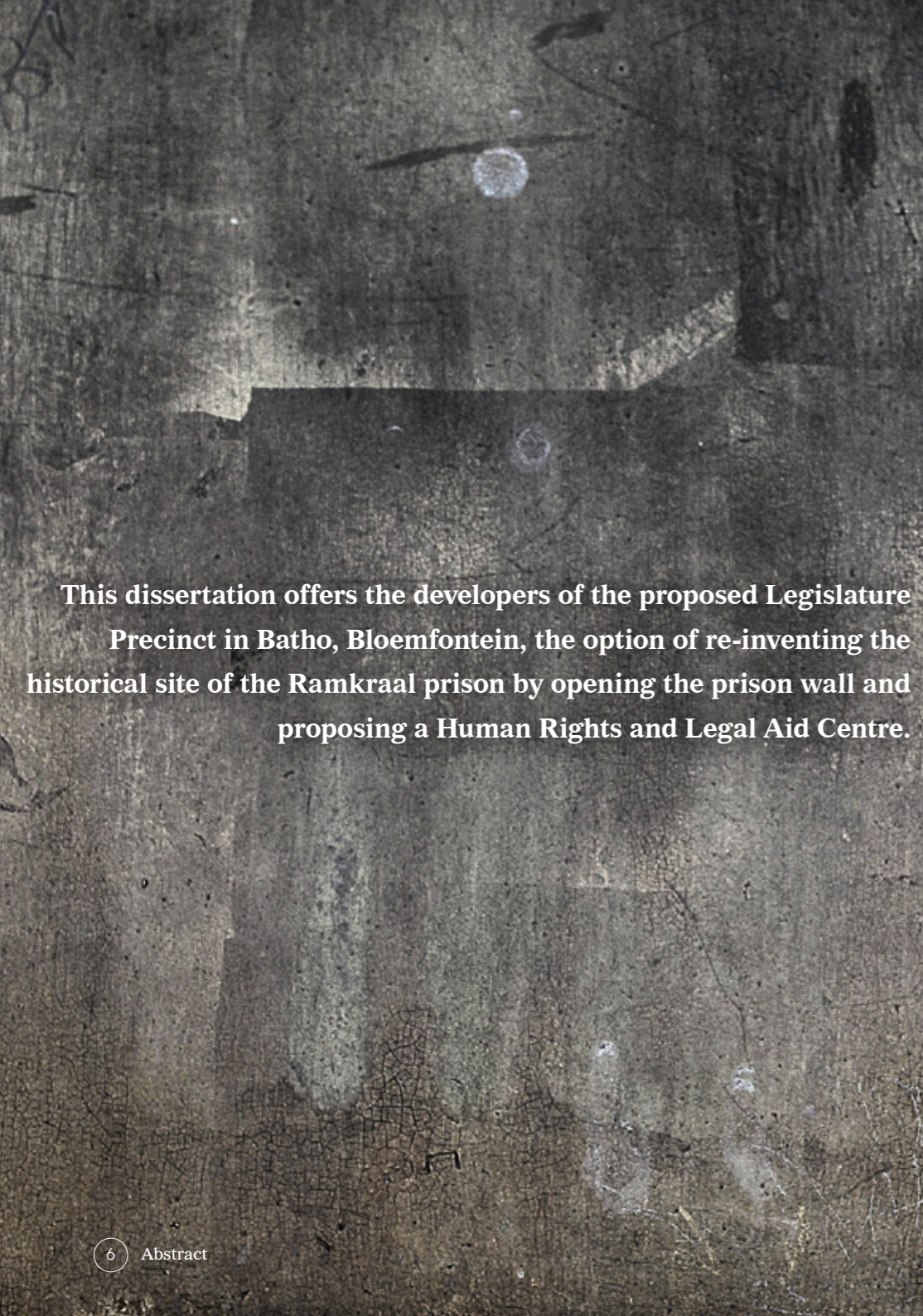
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This dissertation offers the developers of the proposed Legislature Precinct in Batho, Bloemfontein, the option of re-inventing the historical site of the Ramkraal prison by opening the prison wall and proposing a Human Rights and Legal Aid Centre.

The design of a rebuilt section of the wall will reflect the *rite of passage* by which a prison building is transformed into a structure of service to the community.



PART 1: ORIENTATION

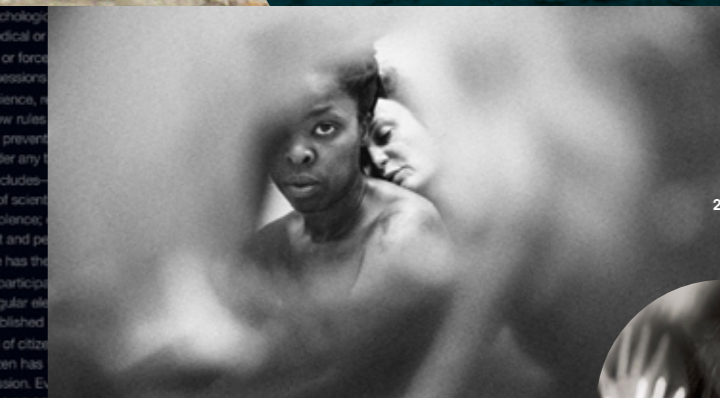
Chapter 1 Introduction

^{1,1} Project rationale

“Many South-Africans appear to find themselves slightly overwhelmed or confused in their personal understanding of the legal system in the country.

Some may not be aware of their basic rights within this system and others are hesitant to or unsure of how to gain access to justice by using it. Knowing one’s rights and being able to successfully claim them in a responsible fashion is a key element of making accountability matter.” (IFAISA: 2012: 01)

In the article, *Know Your Rights*, Mubangizi confirms that while South Africa is still a young and fragile democracy, the success of fighting poverty relies on how the Constitution and The Bill of Rights are interpreted, enforced and applied (2005: 46). It is therefore of utmost importance to create a thorough awareness of human rights and educate the broader society (especially the poor) on the means of enforcing them. This will ultimately empower the previously disadvantaged social groups of South Africa and systematically bridge the economic gap.



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- 1 <http://static.guim.co.uk/sys-images/Guardian/Pix/pictures/2013/8/12/1376308778354/Domestic-violence-008.jpg>
 - 2 <http://superselected.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Zanele-Muholi-Art-03.jpg>
 - 3 <http://ncaaw.org/wp-content/themes/EDUCO/about2.jpg>
 - 4 <http://cdn.24.co.za/files/Cms/General/d/2534/3a004552f44ba89fe/2eb9679abadf.jpg>
 - 5 <http://www.anthonybila.com/category/photography/the-township-diaries/>

^{1,2} Project background

The Ramkraal Prison building, situated in Batho, Bloemfontein, dates back to 1895. It served its purpose for almost a century until it was abandoned along with apartheid in 1994. Prisoners were moved to Grootvlei Prison and the Ramkraal building became redundant. After several failed attempts to regenerate the structure, it was finally abandoned. Despite being in existence for 120 years, it has never been declared a national monument. After almost 20 years of neglect, the Department of Public Works finally stepped in and proposed the site as the new Legislature Precinct of the Free State.

As part of the planned Precinct, the existing prison building will be transformed into a political museum and the east of the site will be developed as the new legislature. My project proposes that a Human Rights and Legal Aid Centre be built on the western side of the prison building and that part of the wall surrounding the prison be re-invented so as to invite users of the proposed Centre to visit the new museum. The Project thereby both feeds off and contributes to the planned Precinct development.



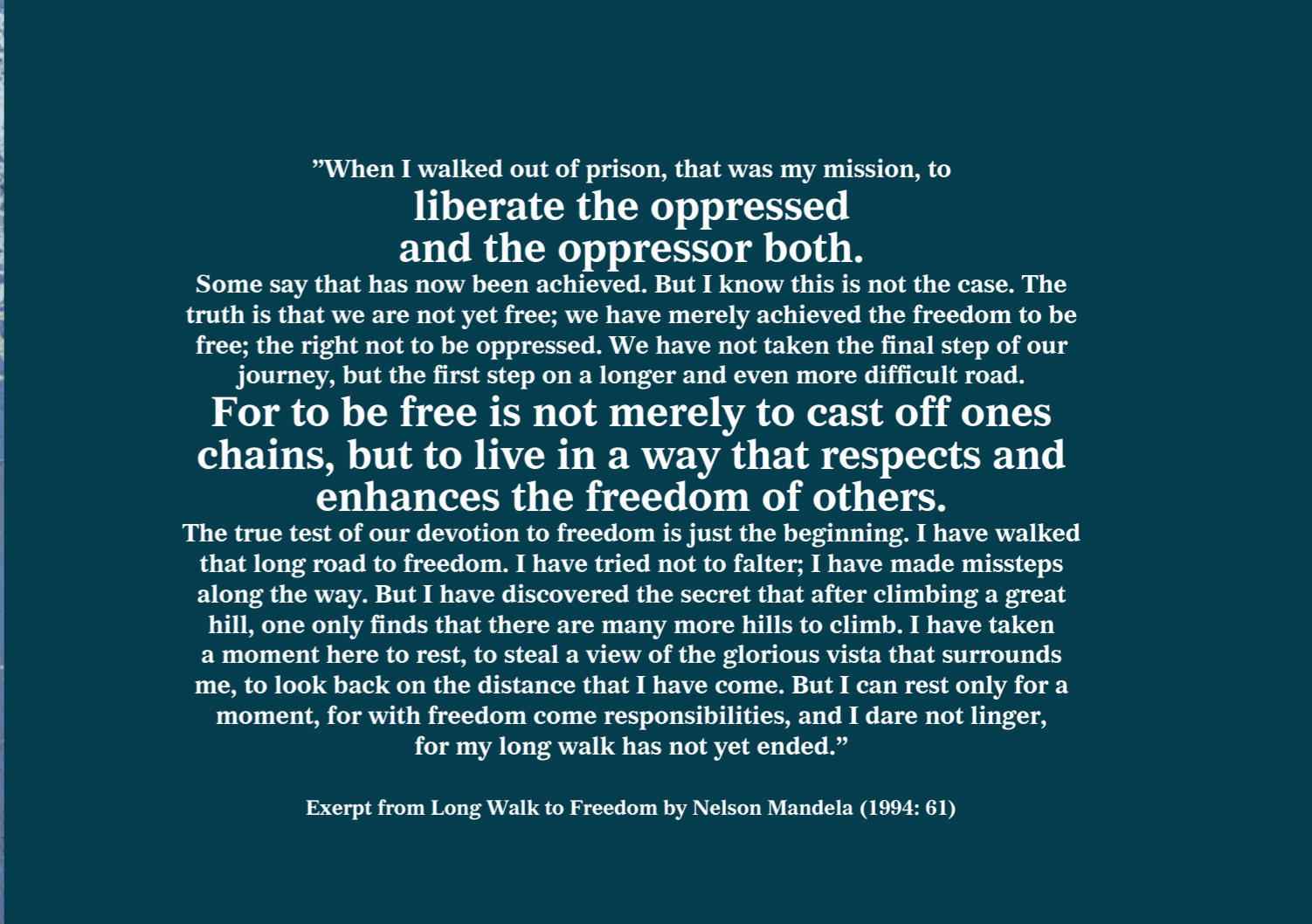


PLANNED NEW LEGISLATURE DEVELOPMENT
images restricted

1.3 Project approach

As the prison operated during the years of apartheid, it came to symbolize the violation of human rights. Consequently the local community has no respect for the building, which has led to problems in attempts to conserve the historical structure. The new Legislature Precinct development provides an opportunity to restore what was once destroyed. Therefore this thesis aims to address the functionality of an institutional building while elevating the site as an inclusive site of dialogue that provides a gateway to human rights.

By dissolving the historically enclosed area, the site will be made accessible to the public. Different approaches are investigated to accommodate a functional institutional building while applying the concept of *the rites of passage* on the site.



”When I walked out of prison, that was my mission, to
**liberate the oppressed
and the oppressor both.**

Some say that has now been achieved. But I know this is not the case. The truth is that we are not yet free; we have merely achieved the freedom to be free; the right not to be oppressed. We have not taken the final step of our journey, but the first step on a longer and even more difficult road.

**For to be free is not merely to cast off ones
chains, but to live in a way that respects and
enhances the freedom of others.**

The true test of our devotion to freedom is just the beginning. I have walked that long road to freedom. I have tried not to falter; I have made missteps along the way. But I have discovered the secret that after climbing a great hill, one only finds that there are many more hills to climb. I have taken a moment here to rest, to steal a view of the glorious vista that surrounds me, to look back on the distance that I have come. But I can rest only for a moment, for with freedom come responsibilities, and I dare not linger, for my long walk has not yet ended.”

Exerpt from Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela (1994: 61)

Chapter 2 Project considerations and Architectural challenges

This chapter discusses the architectural challenges arising from an examination of the client, the brief and the site, and outlines a unique approach to address them.

2.1 Client

The client body for the Centre arises from collaboration between Legal Aid South Africa and the Law Clinic of the University of the Free State.

Their main goal is to assist and inform local communities in the Free State on all human rights related issues by providing free legal services to those who cannot afford them. At the same time they provide practical legal training to final year law students (UFS Law Clinic, 2014: online). With their independent status and balanced approach, their intention is to enhance justice concerning human rights and foster public confidence in its administration (Legal Aid, 2013: online).

“...the community will benefit through access to justice and the student benefits through the attainment of legal skills and the development of a positive attitude towards civic responsibility.” (UFS Law Clinic, 2014: online)



Architectural Challenge

- A community orientated institutional building is required which accommodates the public in a humane and approachable manner.

images available online: www.legal-aid.co.za

Who qualifies for legal aid

Legal Aid South Africa has a mandate from the South African Constitution to help the poor get tax-funded legal assistance. It is important that we make sure the people we help need our assistance the most.

If you ask us for legal assistance we will ask you to complete a form so we can understand how much money you get each month and what things you own, like a car or house. This is called the Means Test. A Legal Aid South Africa official is always available to help you fill this form in.

The Means Test – we look at what you earn

Legal aid for individuals

If you are employed, you must earn less than R5,500.00 per month after tax has been taken off.

Legal aid for households

If you live with other people for more than 4 nights per week, and these other people share in the cost of food and other costs, then we will look at your total household income. We will only give legal aid to households that earn less than R6,000.00 per month. Again, we will only look at the amount that the household receives after tax has been taken off.

We also take into account what you own

If you or your household:

- **own a house**, then the total value of the house and all your belongings must not be worth more than R500,000. You must also only have the one house and you must live in it.
- **do not own a house**, then the total value of all your belongings (for example, your car, furniture, clothes and other personal things) must not be worth more than R100,000.

Some people automatically qualify for legal aid

People on state grants and the elderly

If you receive any state grant or old age pension, you automatically qualify for legal aid. You do not have to take the Means Test. You will need to show us official documents that prove you receive a state grant or pension.



We provide professional legal advice and representation to those who can't afford it.

Family matters

Do you have any disagreements between members of your family? [Find out more ...](#)

Evictions

Are you being forced out of the place where you live? [Find out more ...](#)

Employment issues

Are there issues between you and co-workers or management at work? [See what we recommend ...](#)

Contract matters

Do you feel you have been treated unfairly by somebody that has sold you something? [Find out more ...](#)

Deceased estates

Are you having problems finalising the affairs of someone who has passed away? [Find out more ...](#)

Impact Litigation

Do you have a legal case that could affect the lives of many South Africans? [See how we are trying to help](#)

Criminal cases

Have you been accused of a crime and need the services of a lawyer? [See if Legal Aid South Africa will help ...](#)

There are many ways to get in touch ...

Legal Aid South Africa tries to make it easy for you to get help with your legal problems. You can contact us by phone, through the website or come visit us at a branch.

[See what's easiest](#)

How we help

The types of cases Legal Aid South Africa helps with

Provided you *qualify for help*, we can assist with:

- **Criminal cases** - These are cases where you are suspected of committing a crime.
- **Civil cases** - These are cases where a judge needs to decide on a dispute between you and someone else or a company.

Sometimes an issue may include both a civil and criminal case. For example, you may be charged with a crime (under criminal law) and by another person (under civil law).

Cases you can get legal aid for

Legal aid is available for the following legal issues, including:

- Criminal offences
- Consumer issues (Consumer Protection Act)
- Contract law
- Debt issues (National Credit Act)
- Deceased estates
- Equality Court Cases (Promotion of Equality and Prevention of Unfair Discrimination Act 4 of 2000. But personal damages claims that are excluded under this Guide may not be dealt with as part of an equality court action or claim.)
- Problems accessing payment of benefits
- Employment claims, such as unfair dismissal or discrimination
- Separation, divorce or disputes about children
- Actions against the police, such as wrongful arrest
- Challenging the decision of a local authority
- Housing, such as threatened eviction
- Threatened evictions from farms
- Mental health, such as legal advice if you're detained in a mental hospital
- Domestic violence
- Any case where your rights have been violated

2.2 Brief

2.2.1 Basic requirements of the Centre

The functional requirements of the proposed Human Rights and Legal Aid Centre are divided into five categories and accompanied by a brief description of what each should include.

- 1 Legal advice centre: with consultation cubicles for individuals and small groups, it should be publicly accessible yet private enough to discuss sensitive matters. (semi-public)
- 2 Legal information centre: it should serve the purpose of both sharing and retrieving information which could be conveyed in various formats, from artwork and short films to exhibitions, workshops, short courses and digital interfaces. It should ultimately consist of a digital information hub, a library and a gallery which connects to the community service functions. These functions should be publicly accessible. (public)
- 3 Community service function: a multifunctional hall, an auditorium, a kiosk and an open air theatre should be included and be publicly accessible so as to include places for workshops, seminars, gatherings and exhibitions. (public)
- 4 Administrative facilities: these should include offices for formal staff, including a boardroom and staff amenities. (private)
- 5 Student centre: this should include open plan student offices connecting to the administrative facilities and a research hub that connects with the library. (semi private)

The Centre should serve both as a legal advice centre and a platform for the community to share information regarding human rights. Ultimately the building should support the client's mission to provide the public with free legal services. A detailed accommodation list is included in chapter 9.



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<http://secondstory.com/projects/browse/featured-work>



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image available online:
<http://secondstory.com/projects/browse/featured-work>



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http://www.lex100.com/images/student_in_class.jpg



image available online:
<http://secondstory.com/projects/browse/featured-work>



image available online:
http://www.griffith.edu.au/_data/assets/image/0020/356033/staff_alumni.jpg

2.2 Brief

2.2.2 Users

A total of approximately 200 people can be expected to make daily use of the building. The primary users are categorized below.

Staff:

Professional staff
Permanent staff
Temporary staff
Final year Law students
Domestic staff
Cleaners
Security

Clients:

Formal appointments
Informal gatherings

Visitors:

Individuals
Tour groups

Architectural Challenges

- The building should meet the basic requirements set by the client brief
- The program should be functionally laid out
- It should cater for the variety of possible users and adhere to the basic building regulations for public buildings.

2.3 Site overview

The site is located on the grounds of the former Ramkraal Prison in the Batho suburb of Bloemfontein. It is south-east of the city centre and forms part of the threshold between the city centre, the industrial zone and Batho location.

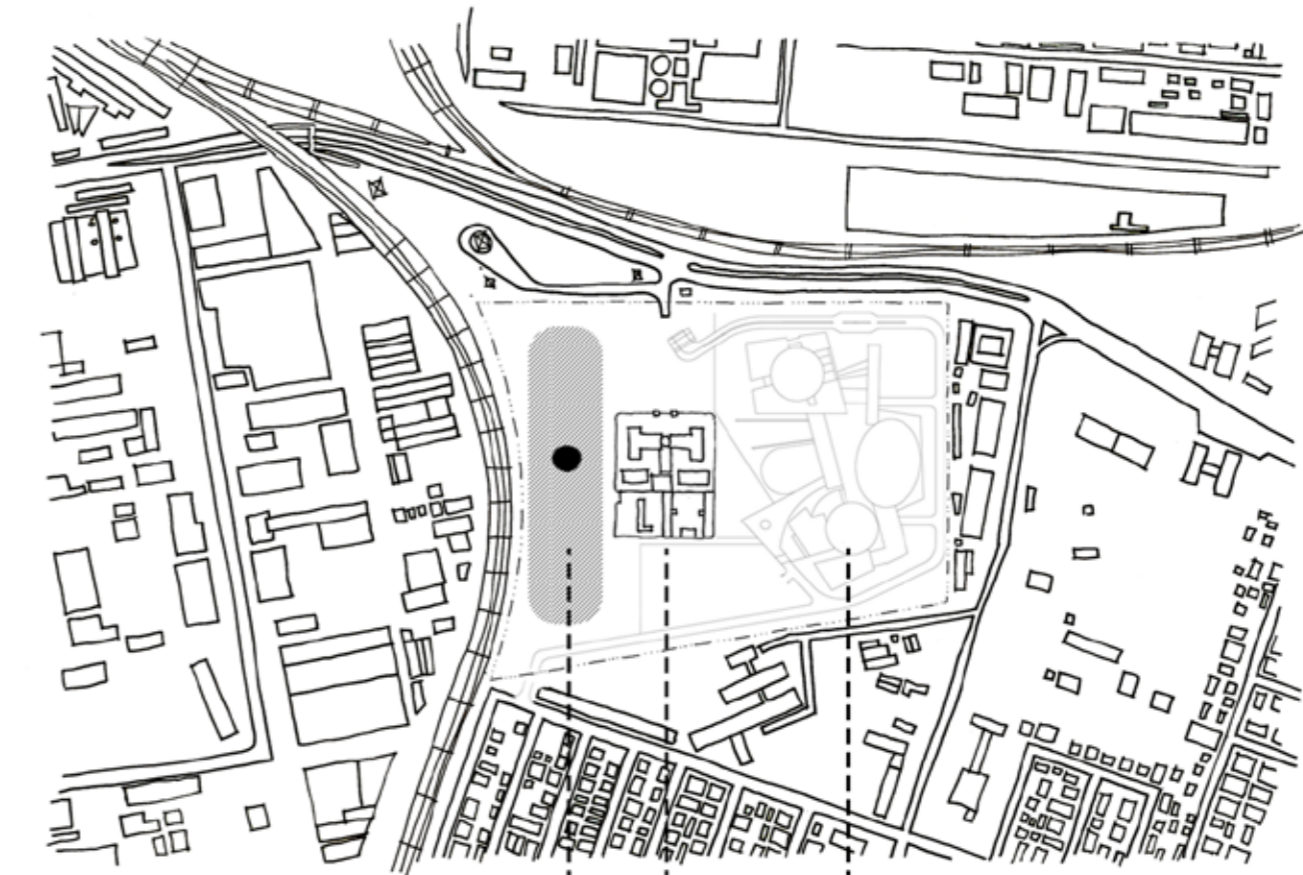
As part of the Precinct, the Centre will be one of three interventions planned on the large Ramkraal site. The others are the new building for the Legislature of the Free State and the transformation of the Ramkraal Prison itself into a political museum.

With the historical Ramkraal building situated in the middle of the site, the Legislature building is planned towards the eastern side and the Centre towards the west.

The site considerations that are pertinent to the Project are the proposed Centre and the wall surrounding the Ramkraal prison.



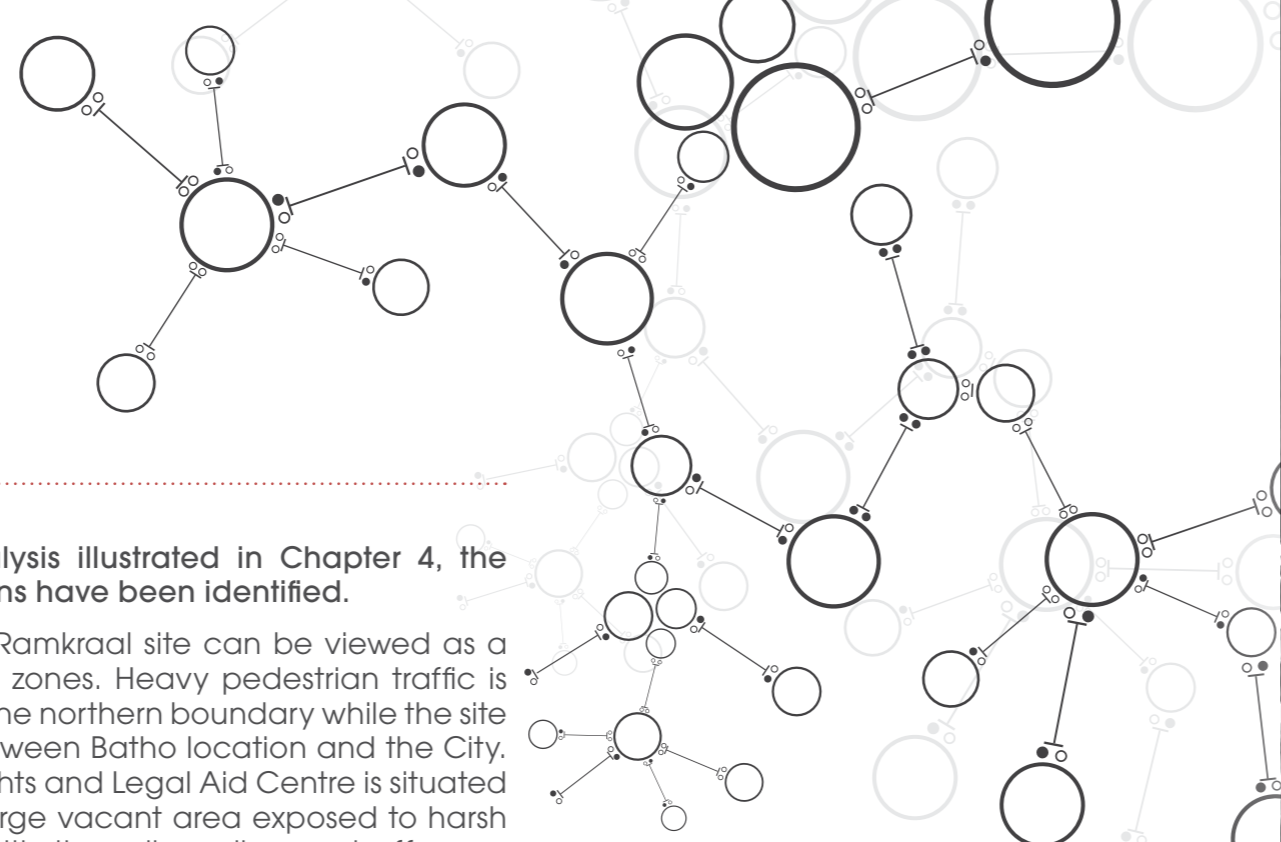
New Legislature Precinct: Ramkraal, Batho



Proposed site for Human Rights Centre

Planned Legislature Development

Ramkraal prison to become Political Museum



2.3 Site overview

2.3.1 Physical site considerations

According to the Project site analysis illustrated in Chapter 4, the following physical site considerations have been identified.

Being located on a threshold, the Ramkraal site can be viewed as a transitional space between several zones. Heavy pedestrian traffic is noted on the walkway adjacent to the northern boundary while the site obstructs pedestrian circulation between Batho location and the City. The site available for the Human Rights and Legal Aid Centre is situated on the western side of the site, a large vacant area exposed to harsh weather conditions that borders with the railway line and offers an unsightly view of the industrial area. The development of the historical site, which dates back to 1895, should be seen as a conservation project.

“Here I am, a bundle of past recollections and future dreams, knotted up in a reasonably attractive bundle of flesh”
Sylvia Plath

(Goodreads, 2014: online)

Architectural Challenges

- The transitional qualities of the site should be celebrated.
- Pedestrian traffic on the northern boundary can be used to activate the site.
- The site should allow for pedestrian circulation through it.
- The unpleasant western boundary of the site should be addressed climatically and visually.
- The design development should serve a conservational function.



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2.3 Site overview

2.3.2 Theoretical site considerations

Since the planned Precinct will enhance the already rich political heritage of the site, it is crucial to acknowledge the effect that the current political state of the country has on the site. The following theoretical site considerations were identified.

a. Socio-political transition

Twenty years after the termination of apartheid, South Africa is still in the process of dealing with its legacy. Apartheid has been abolished and South Africa is called a free country, but it is still in a process of becoming a fully functional democracy. As a result, there are conflicting views on the cultural significance of the site.

b. Conflict in cultural significance

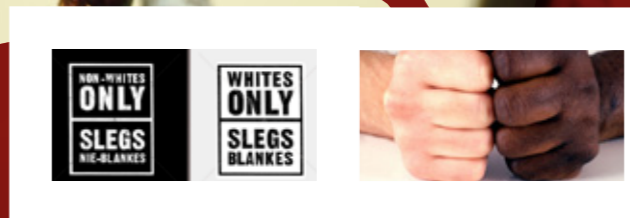
Ramkraal Prison is protected under the Heritage Resources Act (1999: 58). It is regarded as architecturally striking and should be considered as a building to conserve. However, as the prison came to represent the heritage of apartheid, the local community resents it.

c. Disconnection between the public and the government

More than 40% of the participants in the survey done on site indicated that they refuse their right to vote in the upcoming election. It was clear that the community has lost trust and confidence in the leadership of the country.

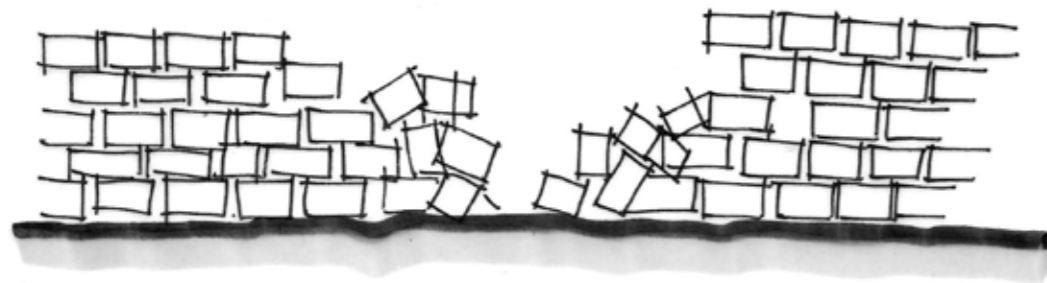
Architectural Challenges

- The effect of the socio-political transitional state of the country on the site should be considered.
- The conflict in the cultural significance of the site should be settled.
- The disconnection between the public and the government should be resolved.



^{2.4} Unique approach

The Project is unique in that the symbolism of breaking down part of the existing wall that encloses the prison is as important as the symbolism implicit in the position and shape of the proposed new wall. This is strengthened if the community is called in to assist in destroying the existing section of wall and what it represents. By transforming the initial barrier into an invitation to approach and enter the museum, a new cultural significance will be instilled on the site that would ultimately re-invent it. This will be reinforced by the services that would be provided by the proposed Centre for Human Rights and Legal Aid.



Chapter 3 Hypotheses and project aims

The functional building requirements together with the physical and conceptual site considerations determine the architectural challenges which should guide the design process. By merging the challenges with their desired outcomes, four hypotheses are proposed, concluding in the project aims.

3.1 Hypothesis 1

If the client brief can be accommodated with a sensible program that caters for the different users of the Centre and which adheres to the specific building regulations of the project, a functionally successful building will be generated.

3.2 Hypothesis 2

If the transitional qualities of the Project site could be celebrated while providing pedestrian circulation through the site, addressing the western boundary and accommodating the requirements of conservation, the proposed design reinforce the developers' aims for the site and contribute to its re-invention.

3.3 Hypothesis 3

If the *rites of passage* concept is applied to the Project site by means of an architectural intervention, it will enhance the site's liminal state, inject a positive attitude towards it, establish harmony regarding its cultural significance and create a community orientated institutional building.

3.4 Hypothesis 4

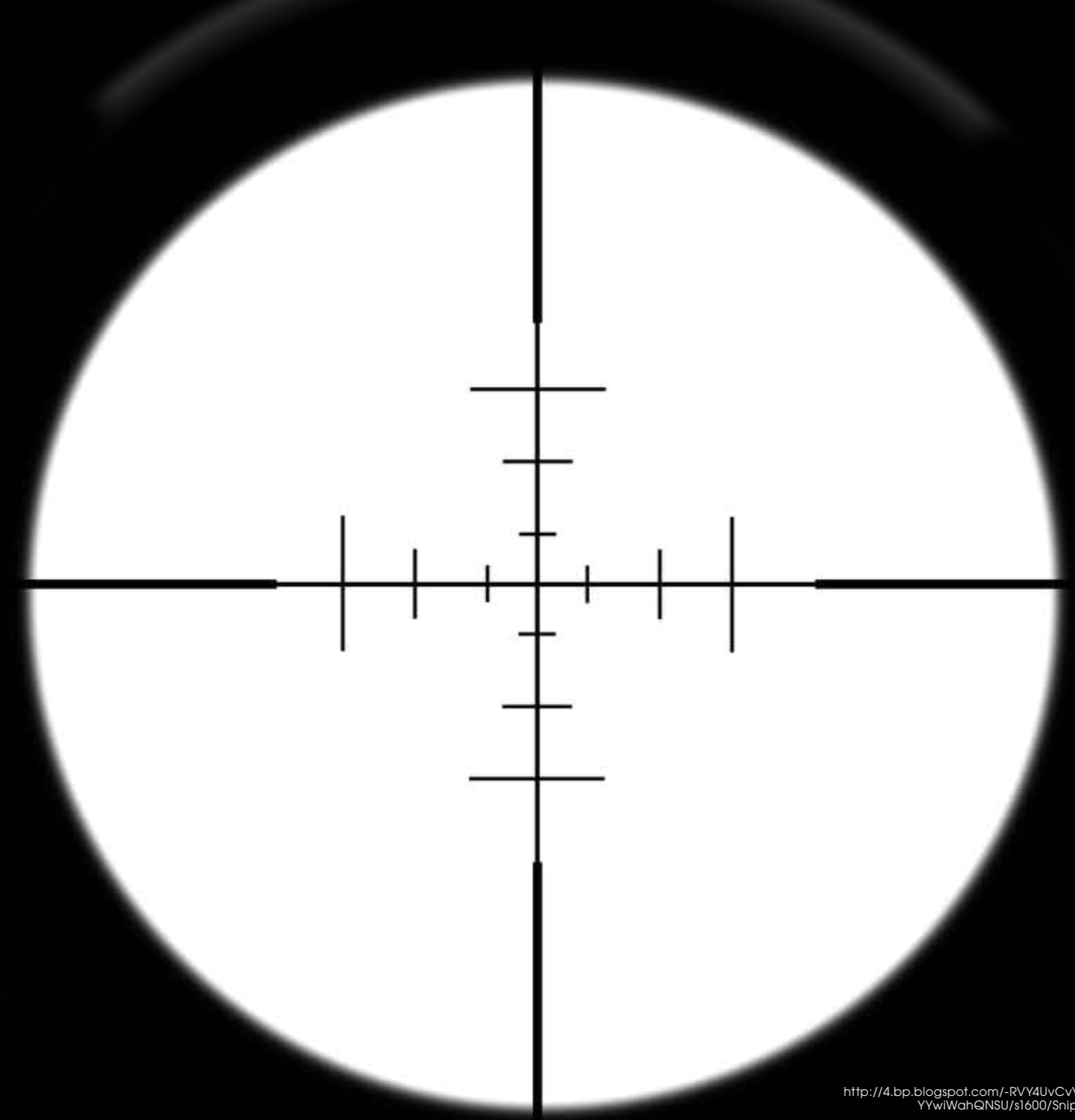
If the Human Rights and Legal Aid Centre becomes a gateway to gain and share legal information, the justice system will become an interface to establish a connection between the public and the government.



3.4 Project aims

Derived from these hypotheses, the proposed Project aims to:

- Develop the Centre as a functionally successful building;
- Improve the qualities of the site so as to re-invent it;
- Create a community orientated institutional building by establishing harmony in the cultural significance attributed to the site;
- Establish a connection between the public and the government.



PART 2: DESIGN INFLUENCES

Chapter 4: Site analysis and historical background

4.1 Locality and brief history

4.1.1 Bloemfontein

Bloemfontein, as part of the Mangaung municipality, was established in 1850. It is the capital city of the Free State and the judicial capital of the country (FAK, online). Being situated in the geographical center of the nation, Bloemfontein is an important transport node from where several national railway lines and road networks extend (My Geskiedenis: online).

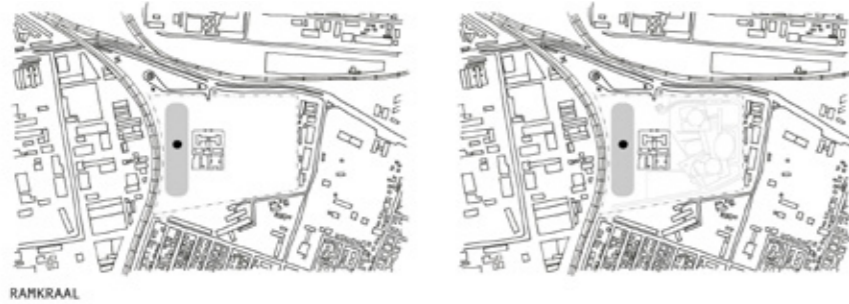


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http://www.fantom-xp.com/wp_21_-_Abandoned_railway_lines.html

4.1 Locality and brief history

4.1.2 Batho

Batho location was born out of the relocation of the former Waaihoek community and was the first planned black township in the Mangaung district (Abraham, online). Waaihoek is known as the birthplace of the ANC, the current governing political party of South Africa. After the founding of the ANC in 1912, the Waaihoek township was relocated to Batho location, which then became the host of several ANC meetings and gatherings.



4.1 Locality and brief history

4.1.3 Ramkraal Prison

Ramkraal is a building with a very rich political, social and cultural history. The abandoned Ramkraal Prison, an impressive fort-like sandstone structure, dates back to 1895 (Schoeman, 1980: 113). It is situated on the south-eastern boundary of the Bloemfontein city centre alongside Batho location. The prison served its purpose up until 1994 when it was abolished together with apartheid (Hugo, 2009: 01). Its detainees were relocated to Grootvlei Prison and Ramkraal was deemed irrelevant.

Ever since the closing of the prison, several failed attempts have been made to regenerate the structure, after which the building was left abandoned and served as a shelter to the homeless. After it had stood empty for almost 20 years, the department of Public Works finally stepped in and proposed the site as the New Legislature Precinct of the Free State. Site works started in 2012, and all the structures surrounding the prison were demolished to make way for the new planned Precinct. Unfortunately the historic building has been pillaged by locals and is in desperate need of attention. The development is pending at the moment and the site is under constant surveillance to secure it from further deterioration.

Bloemfontein Report 1900:

“On approach, the building gives one the impression of an ancient stronghold of [a] feudal baron of a past age, as [a] high stone wall forms the outer enclosure with two massive turrets as watch towers.”

(Schoeman, 1980: 115)

2008

Images by Louwings, J.



2010

Images by Hugo, G.



2014

Images by Fourie, L.



1895 Opening of Ramkraal Prison



1910 Establishment of the Union of South Africa and the Republic of the Orange Free State

1910

The South African Native National Congress is formed (ANC) with John Dube as its first president.

1912

Native Land Act: Blacks are prohibited from owning land outside their granted region.

1913

Female protest: black females from Waaihoek Location protest against the pass laws. Many women are arrested and sentenced to Ramkraal Prison.

1913

1918

Termination of Pass laws: after Charlotte Maxeke negotiated with Louis Botha, the pass book law for black females in the OFS was dropped.

1918

Relocation of Waaihoek to Batho Location

1924



1948 Apartheid Policy adopted by National Party

1948

1950 Group Areas Act implemented; racial groups separated

1950

1961 SA declared a Republic

1961



1980

International boycott campaigns against SA

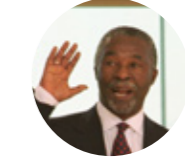
1991 New Constitution: State President F.W. de Klerk calls for the drafting of a new constitution.

1991



1994 1st Democratic Elections: Nelson Mandela (ANC) elected as the first President of Democratic South Africa

1994



1999 2nd Democratic Elections: Thabo Mbeki elected President

1999



2004 3rd Democratic Elections: Mbeki elected to serve his second term as President.

2004



2009 4th Democratic Elections: Jacob Zuma elected President

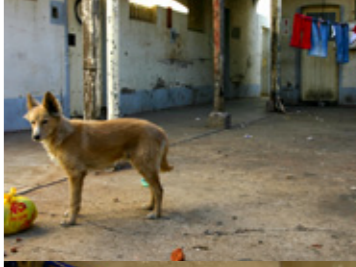
2009

20 Years of a Free South Africa

2014

1994

Prison Closed: prisoners were relocated to Grootvlei Prison, just outside Bloemfontein



2008 Xenophobic Attacks: Ramkraal became the temporary home for Zambabwean refugees trying to escape xenophobic attacks in the townships.

2008

2012 Legislature Precinct planned: the Department of Public Works proposed the site for the development of the new Free State Provincial Legislature Precinct. The cluster buildings surrounding the prison walls on the site were demolished.

2012

4.2 Physical site considerations

4.2.1 Node & Patterns

4.2.1.1 Threshold

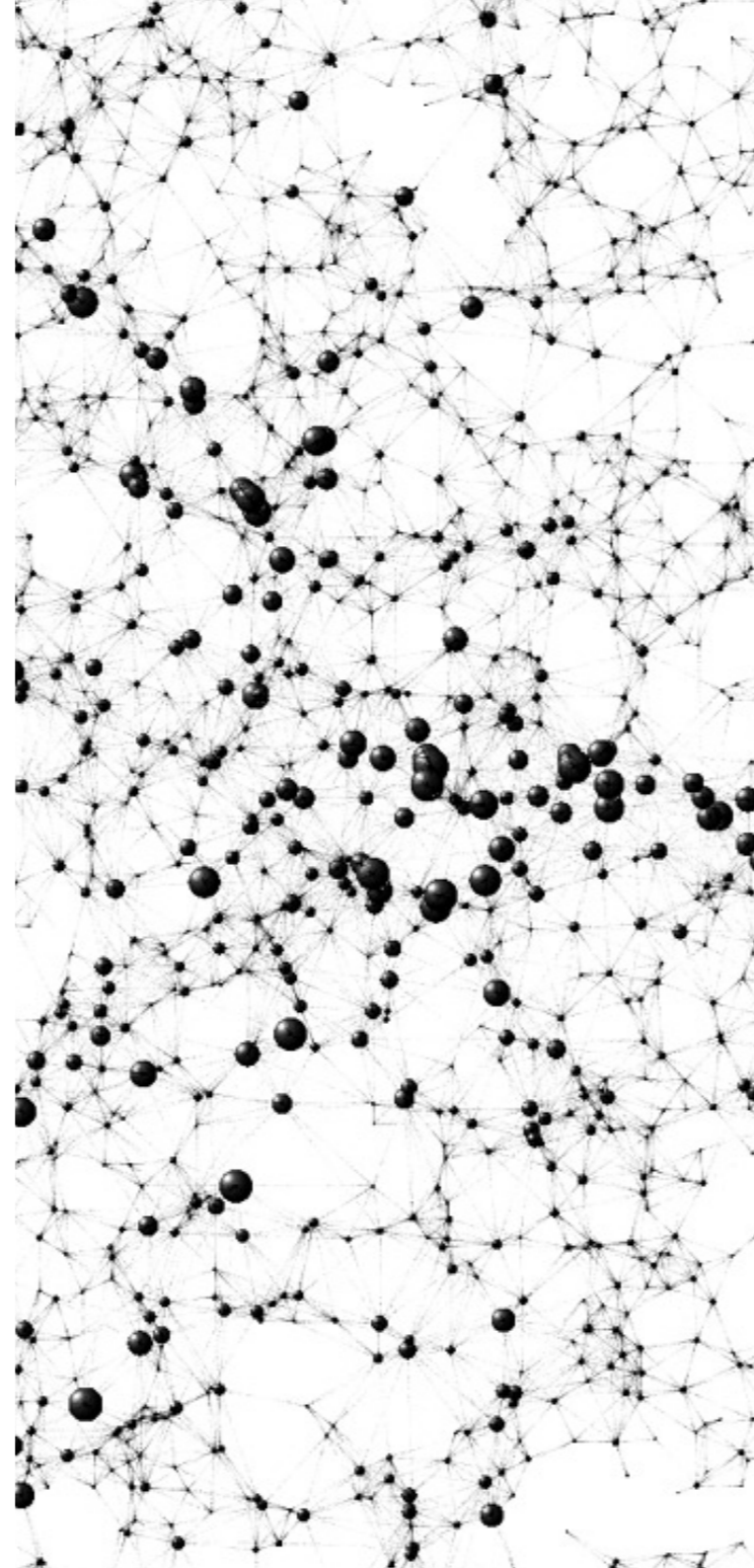
The site becomes the threshold between the city, the industrial zone and Batho location. With the development of the city, Ramkraal Prison, which was initially on the outskirts of town, is now located centrally to several convenient nodes including Bloemfontein's city centre, Abram Fischer Airport, Pelonomi Hospital and the N1. Fort Street is a prominent route connecting townships located to the east of Bloemfontein with the city itself.

- Transitional qualities should be celebrated

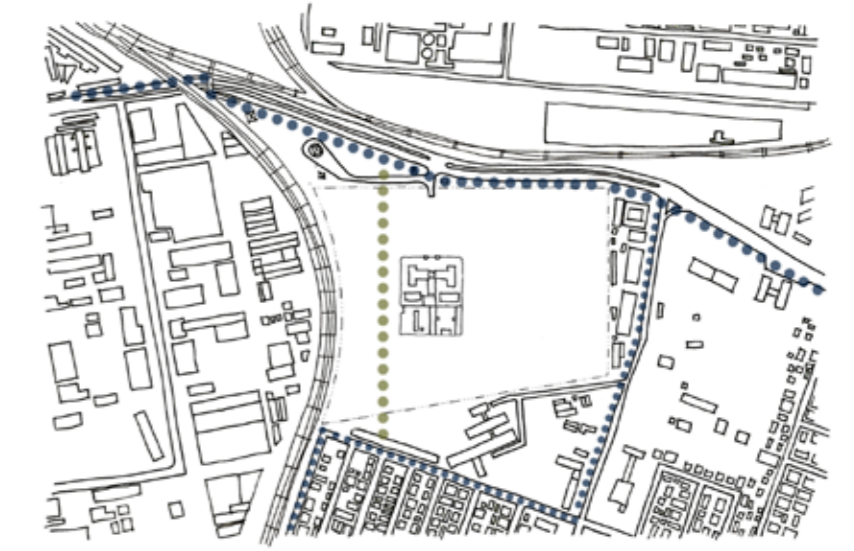
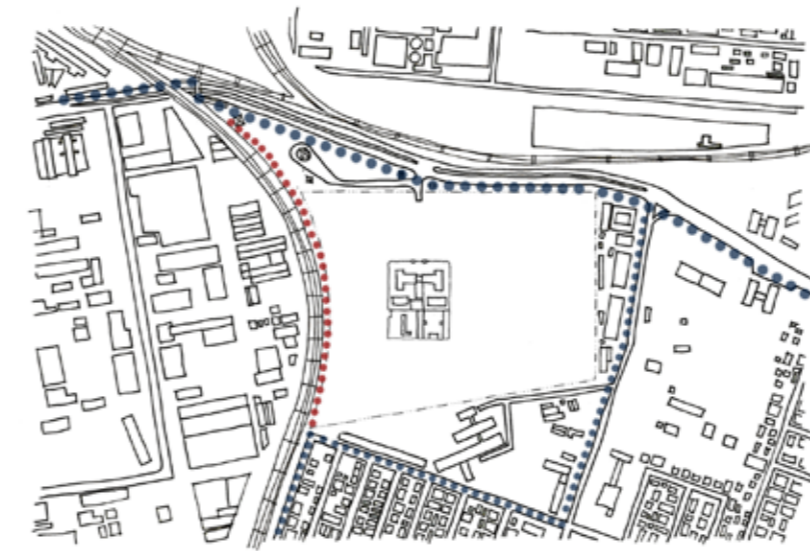
4.2.1.2 Pedestrian circulation

A strong pedestrian pattern is evident around the boundary of the site. The site is obstructing the pedestrian circulation which connects Batho location with the city

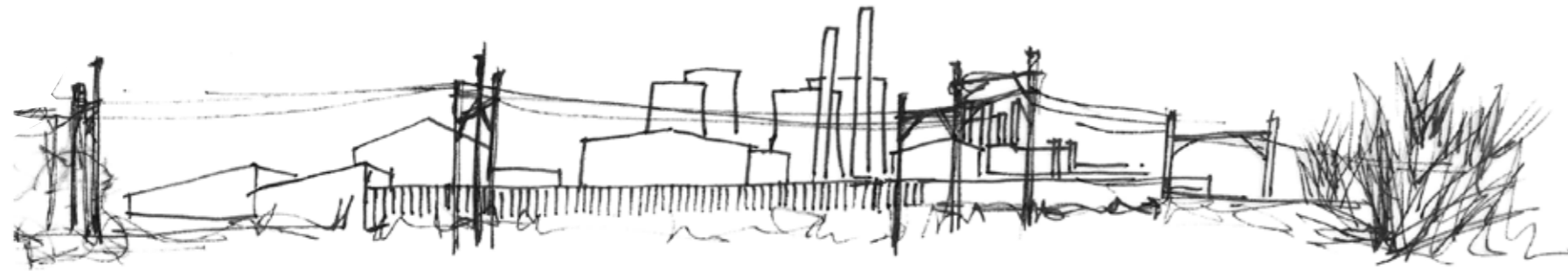
- Pedestrian traffic can be used to activate the site
- The site should accommodate pedestrian circulation through it



Threshold



Pedestrian circulation



4.2 Physical site considerations

4.2.2 Layout & scale determinants

4.2.2.1 Position of the site

The site available for the proposed Centre is situated on the western side of the plot. It is a large vacant area exposed to harsh weather conditions and borders with the railway line that offers an unsightly view of the industrial area.

- The western boundary can be addressed climatically and visually by incorporating a barrier along it.

4.2.2.2 Climate

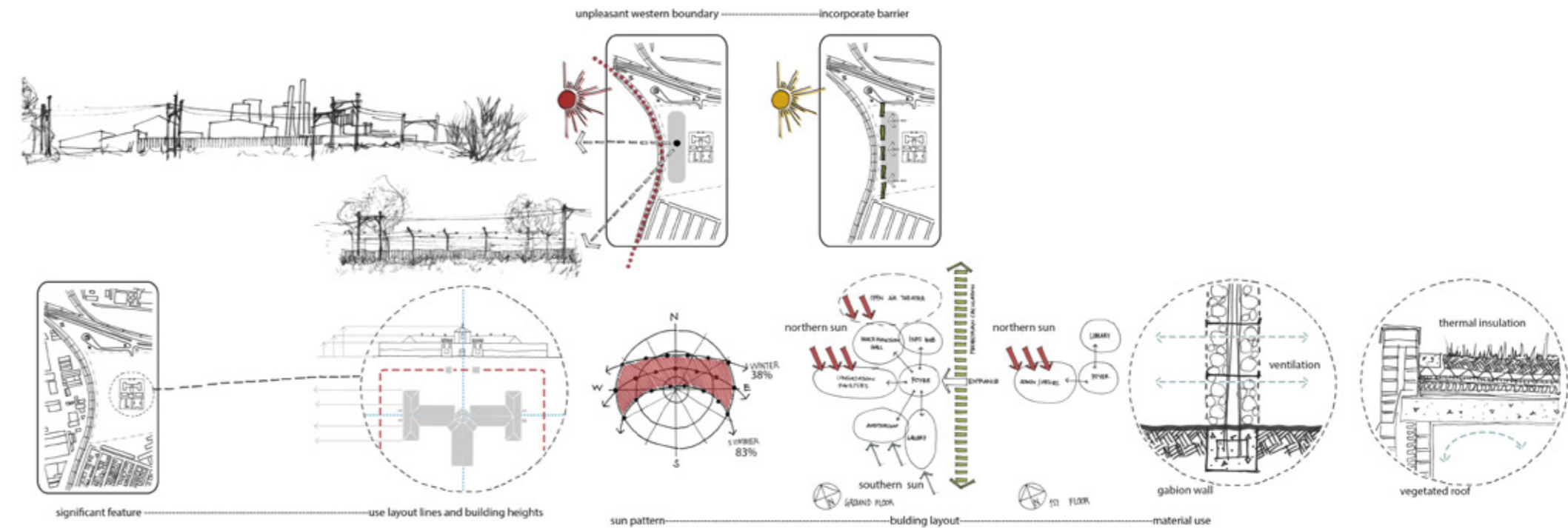
Bloemfontein has the semi-arid climate typical of the interior plateau, with summer rainfall, usually afternoon showers, and cold, dry winters with frequent frosts. The prevailing wind is north-westerly. As South Africa is in the Southern Hemisphere, north facing walls get winter sunshine and western walls are exposed to harsh sunshine throughout the year.

- The orientation of specific functions should be laid out according to the sun pattern
- Building materials used and the incorporation of sustainable elements in the design should be considered accordingly

4.2.2.3 Significant features

The sandstone structure combines a colonial symmetric architecture with classical features. A six meter high wall surrounding the prison, with two intimidating watchtowers framing the entrance, is the most prominent feature of the site.

- To respect the historical structure, its building heights and plan layout proportions will be incorporated in the design.
- The wall will be used as a transitional tool to reinvent the site



4.2 Physical site considerations

4.2.3 Fabric of the site

4.2.3.1 Solid & void space relationship

All traces of human occupation have been eliminated around the prison wall. It seems as if the prison is almost standing in the vast Free State plains, as it was in the past. Dry highveld grassland surrounds the historical structure.

- By incorporating the landscape into the design, the building extends from it and creates an opportunity for a sustainable design.

4.2.3.2 Textures on site

On the interior of the building, its historical layers are represented by paint layers that peel off the walls, together with graffiti and engravings inside the former prison cells. Fortunately mother nature has conquered on the site, vegetation having invaded the inside of the structure and its surrounding landscape.

Materials rich in texture such as gabion walls will be used to resonate with the historical layers and a vegetated roof will reflect the power of nature on the site.



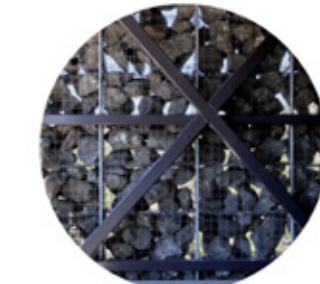
demolished buildings on site



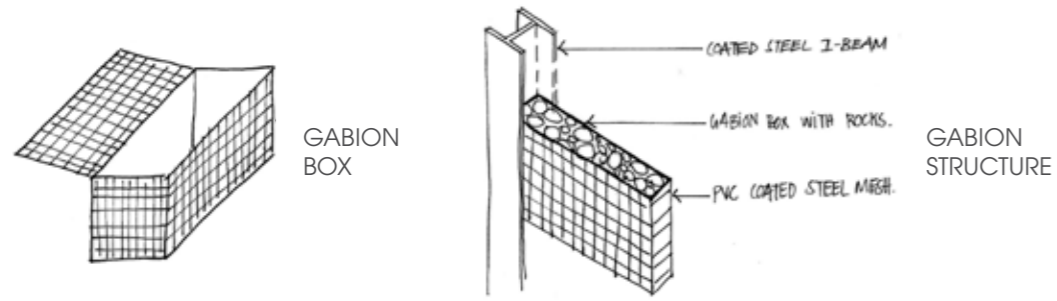
south western view of site



nolly diagram



material use



4.2 Physical site considerations

4.2.4 Precedent studies on proposed structural and sustainable elements

4.2.4.1 Gabion wall

Apartheid Museum

Project details

Primary Function	Museum
Location	Johannesburg, South Africa
Architect	Mashabane Rose Architects, GAPP Architects and Urban Designers, Britz Roodt Association, Linda Mvusi Architecture and Design.
Completed	2001

The Apartheid Museum translates the political history of South Africa through material use and a series of architectural elements.

Gabion walls are used to conceal the building from the street area and to provide symbolical meaning in the exhibition space of the museum.

The word *gabion* is directly translated from an Italian word, meaning "big cage". These cages are compared to the apartheid era where black people were separated from public life, as if tied up in a huge cage of apartheid. This theme was translated inside the museum where exhibitions inside mesh cases separate viewers from one another. (Gerneke, 2009: 126)



- images available online:
- 1 <http://www.mashabanerose.co.za/projects/images/apartheid1.jpg>
 - 2 <http://www.mashabanerose.co.za/projects/images/apartheid3.jpg>
 - 2 <http://www.mashabanerose.co.za/projects/images/apartheid7.jpg>
 - 4 http://roodtarchitects.co.za/images/Portfolio/Architecture/Institutional/Apartheids_Museum/Apartheids_Museum_Image000.jpg
 - 5 http://images.dpchallenge.com/images_challenge/1000-1999/1254/800/Copyrighted_Image_Reuse_Prohibited_903990.jpg
 - 6 cited from google earth 2014



Design Relevance in the proposed Project

- By framing the gabion wall with a steel structure, the "cage" effect is evident and conveys a notion of captivity. In an attempt to get the cages to represent the freedom of today, a hidden steel structure will be used in the assembly of the proposed Centre's design. From a distance, only the rock mass will be visible and perceived as a continuous element.



4.2 Physical site considerations

4.2.4 Precedent studies on proposed structural and sustainable elements

4.2.4.1 Gabion wall

Dominus Winery

Project details

Primary Function	Winery
Location	Napa Valley, Northern California
Architect	Hertzog & De Meuron Architects
Completed	1997

This refers to a case study of an Alternate Masonry System done at the Dominus Winery, which is in the middle of Northern California's Napa Valley near the small town of Yountville, 25 km north of San Francisco (Choi & Lee, 2000). This agricultural land got monument status by a reinterpretation of traditional masonry construction.

From a distance the stone wall appears as a single block of stone, but behind the mesh of rocks is a glass-and-steel curtain wall system.

Design Concept

The "box-within-box" illustrates an inner box containing different programs and an outer masonry skin as an economical temperature regulator for the functions within. This self-supporting stone wall was a primary design concept. The gabion system met the main design objectives

- ecological compatibility with the surrounding vineyards
- an efficient thermal system and
- economical uses of materials by eliminating mechanical systems.



4.2.4.1 Gabion wall

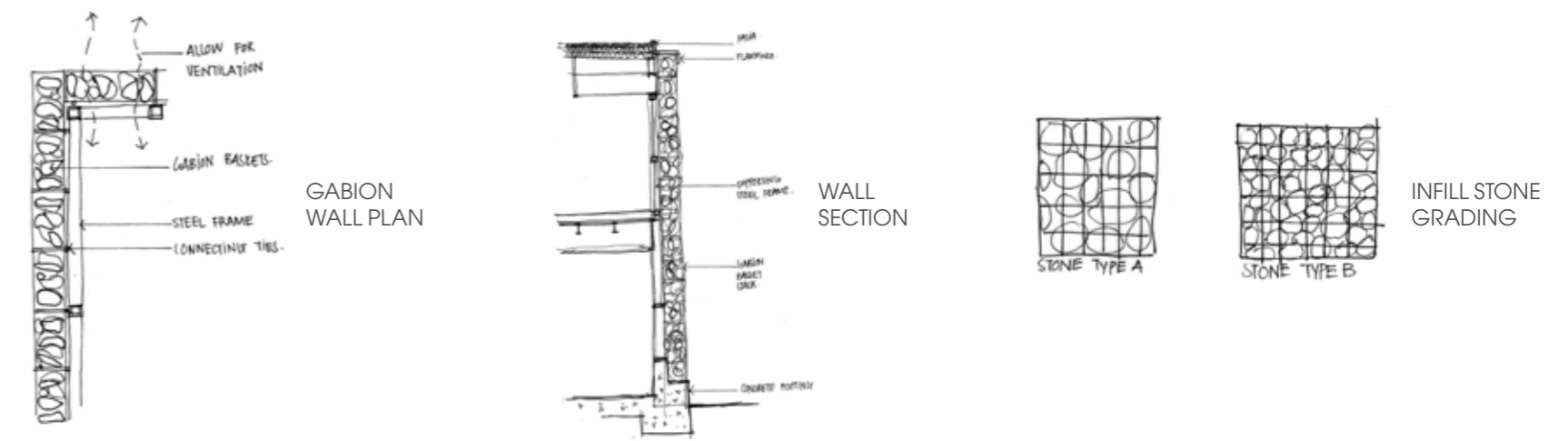
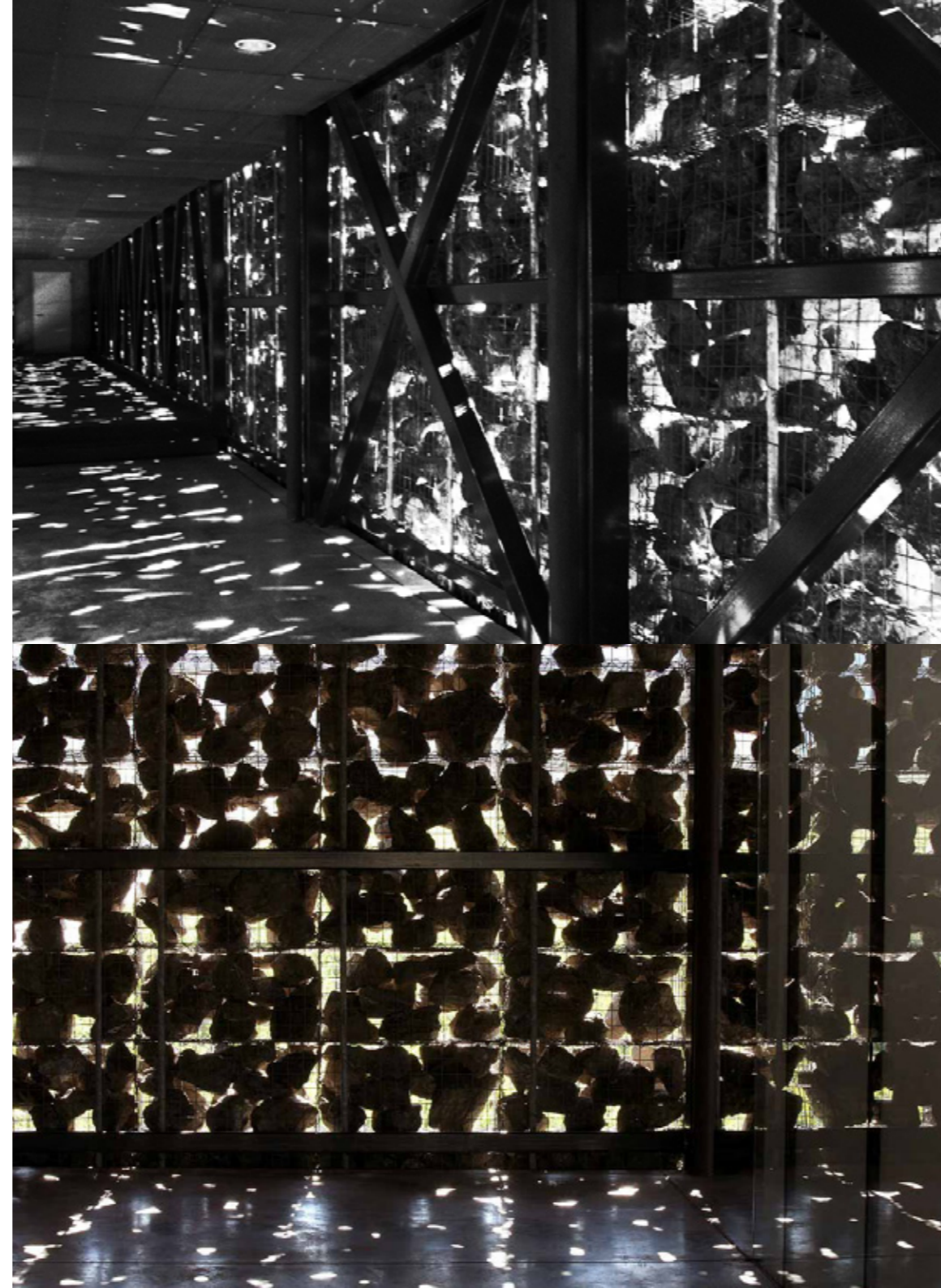
The gabion stone wall has the thermal ability to contain and retain cool air during the night and to regulate the hot temperatures during the day, a passive thermal control system. The construction at Dominus contradicts traditional methods of building. Usually a dry stone wall has been used for division or a boundary. Stones in this gabion system stay in place by weight and friction against each other. This stone wall allowed soil and small plants to exist within the joints. Both construction and maintenance are simple.

Materials

Two grades of stone were used :

- Type A: Larger grade, (20-36cm) more openings in between to allow sunlight to enter and for air ventilation.
- Type B: Smaller stones (10-20cm) were used and more densely packed at the base for pest prevention, where more shading were necessary and where thermal protection and enclosure were needed.
- Different mesh types were used according to the different stone types they contained: mesh type A: 7,5 cm and mesh type B: 0,5 cm.

The sizing and thickness of the cages were calculated with regards to structural efficiency, light penetration and aesthetics. The connection between the concrete walls and the steel structure to the gabion cages is very simple and "rough" in character. Instead of using cement as in brick construction to join the next layer of gabion cages, steel wires were twirled manually to stabilize the wall.



For the door openings a steel lintel plate was attached to the structural steel frames to give support to the gabion cage above. The larger mesh type was used to surround the entire building envelope. Each pair of cages was placed into position and restrained by ties to stainless steel pipes cast into the concrete wall panels. In the areas of the steel frames, brackets were used to secure the gabion stone wall.

By using a single module of 900x450x450mm for all gabion cages in the entire building, a large variety in transparencies was achieved in a very cost-efficient way.

Water Drainage

The roof structure allowed the water to run directly onto the stones inside the cages and the water drainage accentuates the dark color of the basalt stones. The gravel roof sloped 3 degrees, with the highest point at the mid-point of the short section to accommodate the flow of water. Drainage pipes were included within the building.

Maintenance

Mice and other pests nesting in the rock were controlled by a maintenance crew once a year. It was decided to let nature take care of the accumulation of dirt and vegetation.

Conclusion

This gabion wall is simultaneously transparent and solid, traditional and innovative, contextual and a-contextual. By varying the mesh and the stones at different places on the wall, the light that would penetrate the walls was controlled. Despite its solid appearance from a distance, it is actually a thin wall that merely surrounds a secondary wall system.

This wall controls aspects of human needs such as light, ventilation and heat protection with predictable precision. It serves as an alternating ecological smart-skin that provides traditional masonry with a new and richer creative solution.

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BACK ELEVATION OF UNIT



SECTION THROUGH UNIT



SECTION ELEVATION HOTEL

4.2 Physical site considerations

4.2.4 Precedent studies on proposed structural and sustainable elements

4.2.4.2 Green roof

Forum Homini Boutique Hotel, Cradle of Human Kind

Project details

Primary Function	Hotel
Location	Tshwane environs, South Africa
Architect	Activate Architects
Completed	2005

Nestled in the Cradle of Human Kind Precinct, the Forum Homini Boutique Hotel is situated in a significant context. In an attempt not to disturb the low horizon of savannah vegetation the design is burrowed into the landscape with its flat concrete roofs entirely covered by grass.

By mimicking the concept of the pre-historic incisions on the site, the Hotel achieves a sense of authenticity by creating an impression that it has always been there. (Kotze, 2009: 102)



4.3 Theoretical site considerations

4.3.1 Survey results

4.3.1.1 On the site

- All identified people on or near the site are on route to a destination.
- The site is dominantly experienced as negative and unsafe.
- An overall positive reaction towards the planned Precinct is evident.

4.3.1.2 On politics

- 60% of the participants indicated that they were planning to participate in the national elections of this year (2014), and 40% indicated that they were not willing to cast their vote
- Only 50% of the indicated voters were definite about the vote they were about to cast.
- A general lack of knowledge about the political structure of the country was identified.



participants indicating that they were not willing to cast their vote in the upcoming national elections



participants who were definite about the vote they were about to cast

^{4.3} Theoretical site considerations

^{4.3.2} Socio-political context

The site has a rich political history, being the home of the former Ramkraal Prison which was in use during the years of apartheid. The planned legislature precinct and the transformation of the prison into a political museum enhance this political presence.

^{4.3.2.1} Socio-political transition

In their essay *Transition and Justice*, Anders and Zenker note that a decade after the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) published its first report, the transition phase is not yet over. They confirm that President Zuma called for a “second transition” at the ANC National Conference in 2012, emphasizing the ongoing need to deal with the legacy of apartheid (2014: 406). Furthermore, Gibson states in his article *Truth, Reconciliation, and the Creation of a Human Rights Culture in South Africa*, that: “The South African democracy is still in its infancy.” (2004: 34).

^{4.3.2.2} Conflict in cultural significance

The former Ramkraal prison, a fort-like sandstone structure almost 120 years old, is regarded as architecturally striking and as contributing to the heritage of the built environment. It should be seen as a conservation project to be valued and respected.

On the other hand, the prison evokes multiple negative associations with apartheid. It stifled the voices of the freedom fighters during the struggle against apartheid and imprisoned people for breaking laws that violated human-rights. It represents the oppression of the majority of the country and therefore symbolizes apartheid. Consequently the local community does not respect or value this historical building.

A clear conflict in cultural significance towards the site exists: the urge to conserve the heritage of our built environment on the one hand and rejection of the apartheid past of our country on the other.



image available online:
[http://www.slate.com/content/dam/slate/blogs/ behold/2013/FUTURE%20\(Alyssa\)/Apartheid%20book/17.-Bieber_Protest-again-Chris-Hani's-assassination.jpg.CROP.original-original.-Bieber_Protest-again-Chris-Hani's-assassination.jpg](http://www.slate.com/content/dam/slate/blogs/ behold/2013/FUTURE%20(Alyssa)/Apartheid%20book/17.-Bieber_Protest-again-Chris-Hani's-assassination.jpg.CROP.original-original.-Bieber_Protest-again-Chris-Hani's-assassination.jpg)

^{4.3} Theoretical site considerations

^{4.3.2} Socio-political context

^{4.3.2.3} Disconnection between the public and the government

South Africa is in a continuing battle of transition in order to democratize the country and to establish a proper human rights culture. Gibson argues that for this to happen it is essential to first create a culture respectful of the rule of law (2004: 10). This statement is supported in the *SA Reconciliation Barometer Survey* done in 2013 where it reports that if citizens do not view leadership as accountable and legitimate, reconciliation will not proceed. It concludes that the citizens' trust and confidence in governmental leadership of South Africa are derailed (2013: 41).

Interviews done on the specific site of Ramkraal in the week prior to the national elections of 7 May 2014 correspond to the expressions from a group from Worcester during the *SA Reconciliation Barometer Survey*:

“When it comes to local elections people are refusing to vote because they say it’s not worth the effort. Most times they just don’t care because every promise that gets made does not get delivered. They don’t benefit. If you vote for the ANC you don’t benefit and if you vote for the DA you still don’t benefit. That’s what threatens democracy at the end of the day because people just don’t care anymore. Things are just carrying on. Nobody cares about them, so why must they vote people into positions, which don’t do anything for them” (2013: 19).

It is sad that merely twenty years after the victory over apartheid, the right to vote is already disregarded. This might be attributed to mistrust of the current governmental system. After a thorough analysis, Gibson concludes that South Africans in general are not unusually supportive of the rule of law (2014: 32). Undelivered promises and the failure of performance on governmental level may be part of the long list of explanations. It is assumed that the gap between the public and the governmental system is extending every day; action needs to be taken to prevent the same separation between the government and the public that our country suffered from during apartheid.



Chapter 5: Ideas and Concepts

5.1 Liminality, rites of passage and transitional state

Liminality will be investigated as part of the ritual process to provide a framework for the design process for the project.

According to the Oxford English Dictionary (OED) the word *liminal* is derived from the Latin term *limen*, which means boundary or threshold. It is defined as: "A transitional or indeterminate state between culturally defined stages of a person's life, such as a state occupied during a ritual or rite of passage, characterized by a sense of solidarity between participants" (2014: online).

Arnold van Gennep (1873-1957) introduced *liminality* to the field of anthropology through his work "*Les Rites de Passage*" (*The Rites of Passage*). Rites of passage are usually connected to social rituals and customs, where certain transitional stages are present. Anthropologist Victor Turner (1920-1983) adopted the term from Gennep and rediscovered and elaborated on it in several publications¹. Turner confirms Gennep's model of the rites of passage and focuses in depth on the liminal phase.

Gennep divided the ritual passage into three sub categories: the rites of separation, transition rites and the rites of incorporation (1960: 11). Transition rites are also recognized as liminal rites; the other two categories are identified according to their relationship with liminal rites. Consequently the rites of passage comprises three liminal stages: the rites of separation, referred to as a pre-liminal stage, the transition rites as the liminal stage and rites of incorporation as the post-liminal stage (Gennep, 1960: 11).

Liminality, being the midpoint of the Rites of Passage framework, can ultimately be seen as a point between an end and a starting point. Being a transitional state, it contains the whole concept of the rites of passage, which refers to a transitional ritual.

Charles La Shure, a literature professor in the Korean language, published an academic discussion on the subject of liminality. He explains the rites of passage by summarizing that the ritual subject (the person undergoing the rite of passage) is first stripped of his initial social status, then instated into the liminal period of transition, after which he receives a new social status and is re-incorporated into society (2005, 03). The rites of passage is a threefold structure and is discussed accordingly.

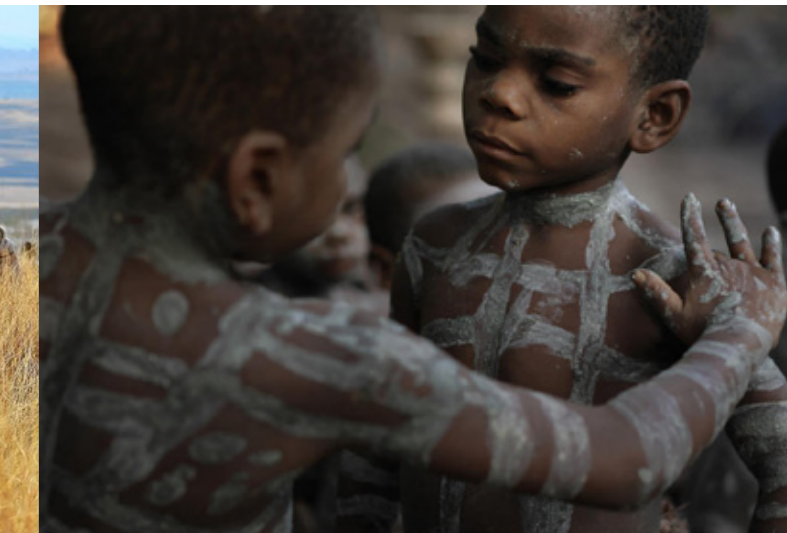
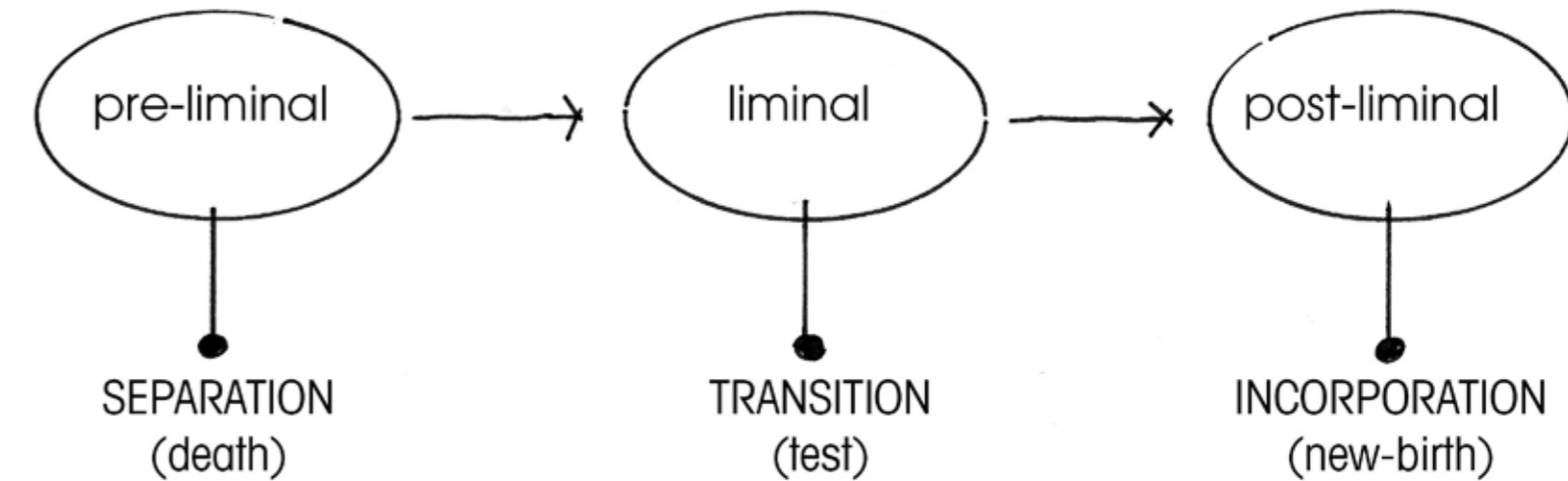


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 2 <http://online.wsj.com/news/articles/SB10001424127887324694904578599862578566352>
 3 <http://www.those-photos.co.za/ariami---deon-wedding.html>

5.1 Liminality, rites of passage and transitional state

5.1.1 Separation (pre-liminal) initial – the rites of passage process begins with something that comes to an end.

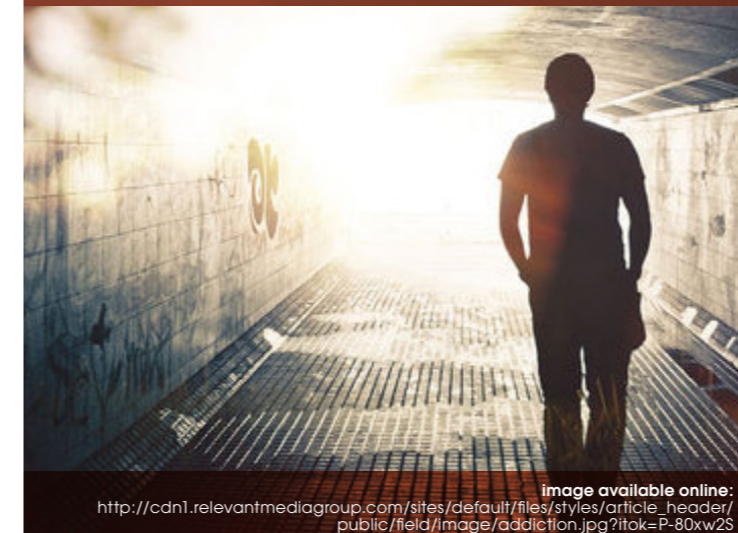
According to Turner the phase of separation represents the detachment of a ritual subject from a previous social status (1982: 24). It can also be seen as an ending of a custom. This ending usually suggests a change in one's social situation and can be compared to a "death" of something. Separation can either be on an individual or a societal level. Turner wrote that this phase is about moving away from everything the ritual subject is involved with, culturally and socially (1982: 24).

5.1.2 Transition (liminal) middle – this phase is the midpoint of the process and contains the notion of change.

The transitional phase, also known as liminality, represents the "margin" or the "threshold" through which the ritual subject passes. It is the stage of "in-between", where all previous associations have been stripped away. Turner explains that in this phase "the ritual subject passes through a period and area of ambiguity, a sort of social limbo..." (1982: 24). He writes that it appears to be an uncertain or negative stage, often creating a sense of vulnerability because it is no longer the past condition nor yet the future condition (1982, 41). But it should be considered as a positive stage, for it announces change and growth. A good example is the engagement phase in western culture, where the couple are no longer courting, but are not yet married. It could also be recognized as an initiation ritual or even identified in transportation. Liminality is the phase when the ritual subject is caught in the process of change.

5.1.3 Integration (post-liminal) final – the rites of passage process ends with a new beginning

Integration consists of the return of the subject to the new social environment, usually a further stage from where the subject was initially separated (Turner, 1982: 25). A new frame of reference is created and a new beginning is born. This phase is mostly seen as positive for it introduces the ritual subject to its new position in society.



5.1 Liminality, rites of passage and transitional state

5.1.4 Experiential elements

An element of constant movement is clear in the ritual passage. The ritual subject enters the ritual passage by separation, then moves to the liminal phase and then to the incorporation phase, after which he returns to the social society. The experience of the ritual subject becomes an important factor as he moves through these phases, as it will give him the “license” to move onto the next phase. It is therefore crucial to incorporate an experiential element in the rites of passage.

5.1.4 Experiential elements

5.1.4.1 Movement

Movement and expression are elements that will contribute to the experience of the ritual subject in the rites of passage process. It will support the ritual subject and ease the extensive process.

Turner writes that “The passage from one social status to another is often accompanied by a parallel passage in space,” which involves the geographical movement from one place to another (1982: 24). This passage, he explains, could be simple or complex. It could be the mere act of opening a door or it could be a literal crossing of a threshold; it could even be a complicated spatial passage that involves a pilgrimage (1982: 24). It symbolizes any movement from one place to another, the initial position representing the pre-liminal phase and the final position the post-liminal phase. Movement is a crucial element in the rites of passage process, which is accompanied by expression.



5.1.4 Experiential elements

5.1.4.2 Expression

Transitional phases require experiential qualities in order to be comprehended. Turner writes in his book *From Ritual to Theatre*, that an experience is never completed until it is expressed: “every type of cultural performance, including ritual ceremony ... is an explanation and explication of life itself...” (1982:13). He then refers to Dewey Diltthey and says that these “performances” of life become an expression where meaning is “squeezed out” (1982: 13). The expression completes the experience.



5.1 Liminality, rites of passage and transitional state

5.1.5 Precedent study : *Intersection II*, Museum of Modern Art

Project details

Primary Function	Art installation
Location	New York, United States
Artists	Richard Serra
Completed	1993

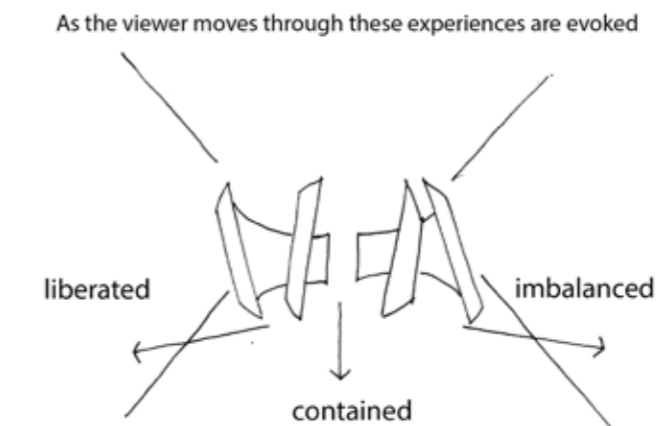
Serra's work is known for challenging the viewers' perception of spatial experiences and often encourages movement in and around his sculptures, taking the viewer on a journey of compression, containment and release. (Ibrahim, 2012: 23). *Intersection II* confirms these qualities, where four context steel slabs create a tapered shape comprising three separate juxtaposed spaces. Experiences such as containment, imbalance and liberation are created by the positioning of the four planes.

By curving the planes the spatial quality is manipulated and the concept of *rites of passage*, with an emphasis on liminality, is found.



Design Relevance in the proposed Project

- The threefold structure of the rites of passage and experiential elements such as movement and expression can be interpreted on the site and incorporated in the design to celebrate its liminal features, to create a positive attitude towards the site, and to restore harmony to its cultural significance.





5.2 Wall as prominent factor

The enclosed wall around the former prison represents the barrier which was set by the laws of the apartheid regime, which constricted certain racial groups in society. The wall is proposed as the tool for transition on site.

5.2.1 The existing wall represents apartheid

According to the site analysis done in Chapter 4, the wall is identified as the most prominent feature on the site. This enclosing wall, with the two watchtowers framing the entrance, resembles the city walls of historic towns. But whereas these walls offered protection by excluding unwanted people, the Ramkraal Prison walls did the opposite by keeping unwanted people inside.

There is a parallel with apartheid itself, which acted as a wall to keep different racial groups separated. When apartheid was banished, this prison was also abolished and the building was abandoned.

Something there is that doesn't love a wall, ...

Before I built a wall I'd ask to know

What I was walling in or walling out,

And to whom I was like to give offense.

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,

That wants it down.' ...

Exerpt from Mending Wall by Robert Frost (1989, 11-13)



^{5.2} Wall as prominent factor

^{5.2.2} Wall as transitional tool

Oliver Creighton writes in the abstract of his essay *Contested townscapes: the walled city as world heritage*, that most walled towns and cities are considered as World Heritage Sites (2007, 01). But according to Creighton, it is clear that in places where the past is in contrast to the present, these sites do not support the fundamental guiding principle of the UNESCO World Heritage Site list which states that "properties are designated for the benefit of all," (2007: 01). He argues that many of these places have violent histories and have changed political structures and that city walls still serve to "...exclude or marginalize other social groups..." (2007: 01). Creighton concludes by stating that the identities of these sites should be receptive to being re-invented (2007: 01).

This site can definitely be categorized as a place where the past is in clear contrast to the present and which should be re-invented. The initial purpose of the building is deemed irrelevant two decades later and an opportunity for reconciliation arises.

According to the above arguments and comparisons, the WALL can be identified as a transitional tool that would serve an important role in re-inventing the site. As the most prominent element on the site, it contains a lot of symbolic meaning and will be used as a transitional tool in the proposed design.



5.2 Wall as prominent factor

5.2.3 Precedent study: Wall of Berlin

Primary Function Political Boundary

Location Berlin, Germany

Period of existence 1961-1989

The Berlin Wall represented the "Iron Curtain" that divided the democratic western and communist eastern countries in Europe during the Cold War.

After the Second World War, Germany was divided into two countries: East Germany became a communist country under the control of the Soviet Union and West Germany became a democratic country and allied with America, France and the United Kingdom (Duckster, online). As tension grew between the Soviet Union and the other allied countries, a safeguard was implemented between East and West Germany. In 1961 the wall was constructed to prevent crossings of the border. A wall 3.6m high and 1,2m thick surrounded Berlin and restricted any movement across the border (Duckster, online).

During 1987 the Soviet Union started to collapse and pressure from East German protesters revolting against the failing communist system led to the demolishing of the wall in 1989 (Duckster, online). As the borders were opened the people began to chip away the structure and celebrated the reunited country of Germany in 1990.

The Berlin Wall represents a typical wall of exclusion and oppression. By demolishing the wall and allowing the public to participate in the process, the re-unification of the country was catalyzed. Just as a wall is a crucial element in establishing division, eliminating it becomes a critical tool to re-unite that which once was separated



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0 location cited from google earth 2014 • 1 <http://www.nationaltravel.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/worlds-too-small.jpg> •
2 <http://www.truthinsideofyou.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/berlin09-1.jpg>

The notion of destroying the wall partially, as a powerful tool in the design proposal, would have an immense effect on the site by exposing the prison building, which in a sense sets it free. In addition, breaking down something that symbolises apartheid provides an opportunity for celebration and promoting a positive attitude towards the site as a whole.

5.3 Design application

By summarizing the investigated concepts and by referring to Frances D.K. Ching's classification of the wall, a set of design principles will be laid out to form part of the framework for the design approach.

5.3.1 Ching's classification of the wall (plane)

Frances D. K. Ching, wellknown author of *Architecture, form, space and order*, describes the plane as one of the primary generators of form, the others being the point, the line and volume (2007: 03).

He explains that form begins at a single point; when the point is extended, it becomes a line. The line extended then becomes a plane, and when the plane is extended it creates a volume (2007: 03). All four of these elements contain dimensional properties, which evolves a simple dot to a three dimensional volume.

The plane is defined as the wall plane, base plane and overhead plane (2007:19). With both the base and the overhead planes being horizontal, the wall plane becomes the only vertical plane, and is therefore the most important to create a form or volume. The vertical plane also plays a crucial structural role in supporting both the base and the roof planes (2007: 124).

"The wall plane, because of its vertical orientation, is active in our normal field of vision and vital to the shaping and enclosure of architectural space." (Ching, 2007: 19)

Vertical elements of form do not only play a critical role in establishing the visual limits of a spatial field but also separate one space from another and serve as a type of boundary between the interior and the exterior spaces, which offers shelter and protection from the exterior elements (Ching, 2007: 124).

"Architecture appears for the first time when the sunlight hits a wall. The sunlight did not know what it was before it hit a wall." Louis Kahn (Goodreads, 2014: online)

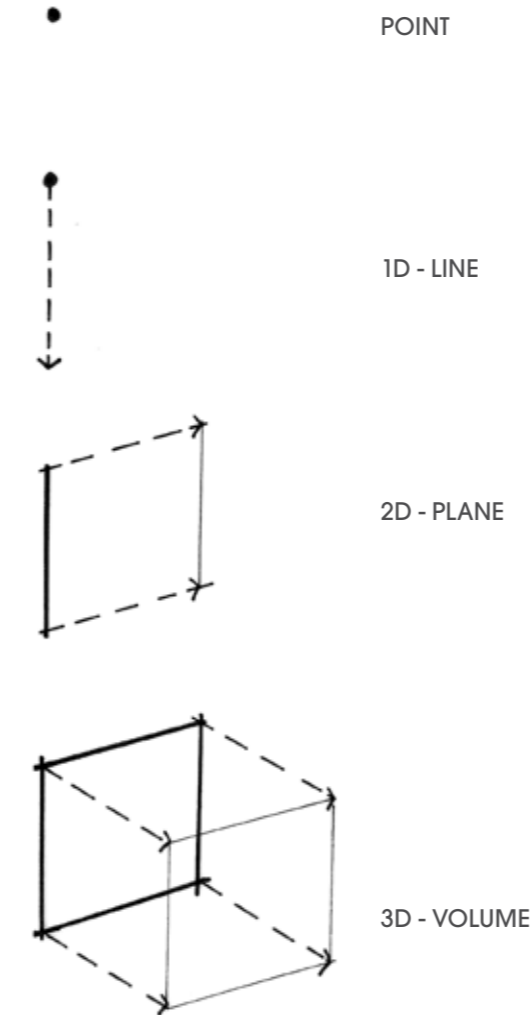


Image traced from illustration in Ching, 2007: 03

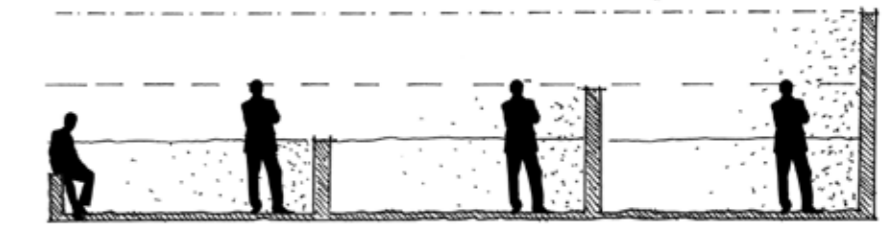


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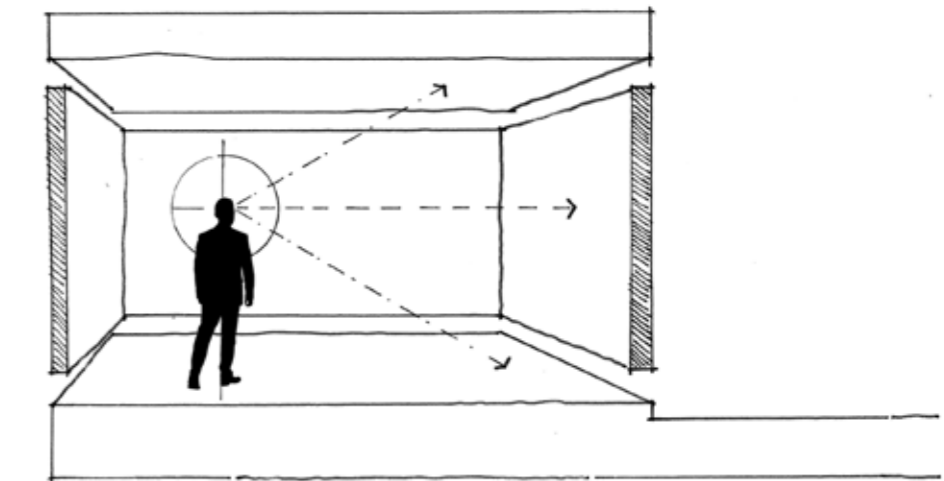


Image traced from illustration in Ching, 2007: 124

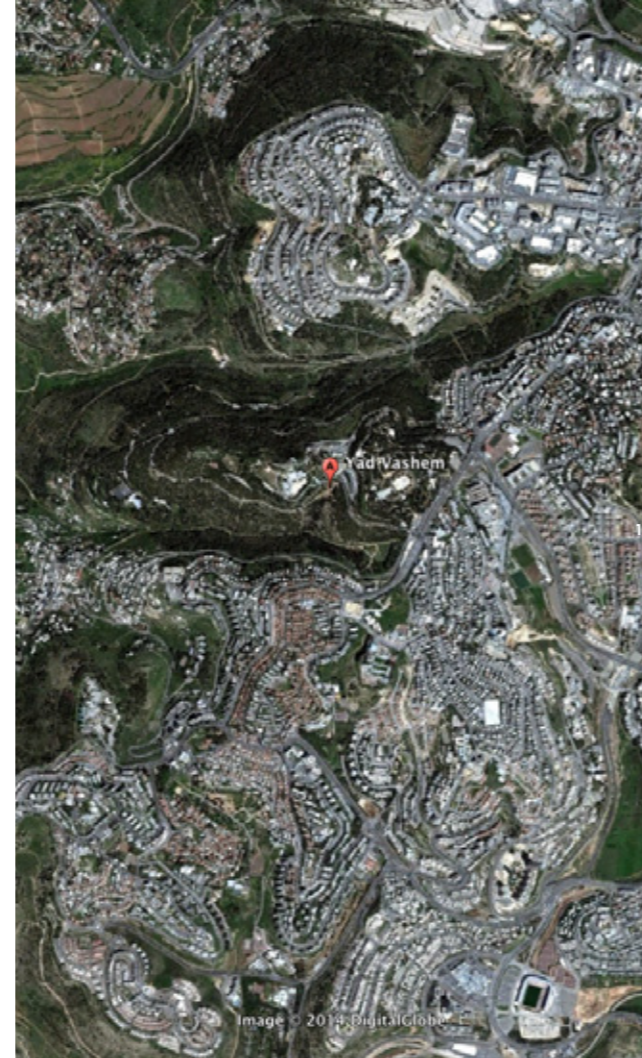
5.3 Design application

5.3.2 Precedent Study: Holocaust History Museum, Yad Vashem

Primary Function	Museum
Location	HaZikaron, Jerusalem, Israel
Architect	Moshe Safdie
Completed	2005

The building portrays the experience of the individual victim by showcasing the Holocaust from a Jewish perspective (Yad Vashem, Online: 2014). The 183 meter long 16.5 meter high triangular concrete structure carves into the hillside of Yad Vashem, hiding the main body of the museum in the mountain. It pierces the mountain from the south and protrudes to the north, cantilevering on both sides (Archdaily, Online: 2011). This creates a linear walkway that represents the visitor's journey. The triangular form of the building supports the weight of the mountain and the 200 metre-long skylight running along the upper edge allows sunlight to fall deep into the building (Yad Vashem, Online: 2014).

The museum is based on the concept of an unfolding narrative. The architecture of the building is used to unfold the historical narrative of the Holocaust by dictating the visitor's movement through the Museum (Yad Vashem, online: 2014). The narrative is emphasised by making use of different light qualities, height differences and narrow and wide spaces (Arcspace, online: 2014).

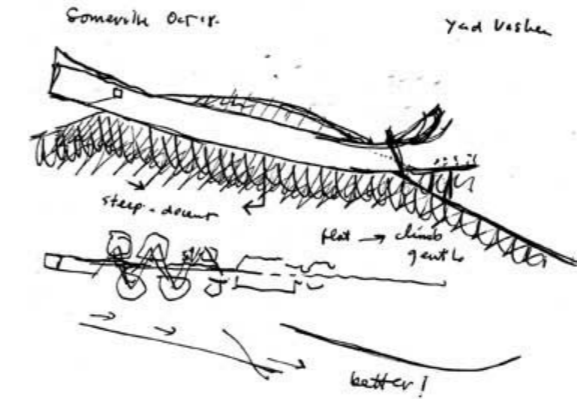


Design Relevance in the proposed Project

- Spatial qualities in the interior of the building are manipulated by the two wall planes that lean towards each other to create a triangular shape. The incorporation of sunlight and the guiding route through the building provide a journey that can be seen as a liminal experience.



The building dictates the visitor's route by establishing the evolving narrative with a beginning and an end. The triangular prism consists of a longitudinal axis, the central walkway, of history and memory. This axis is crossed as the visitor moves between the system of galleries located along the main route. The galleries are not visible upon entering the building but are revealed as the visitor's journey continues. The visitor is forced into the galleries by impenetrable breaks in the walkway (Arcspace, online: 2014). The route then concludes with an upward slope, breaking out of the mountain, revealing present day Jerusalem (Arcspace, online: 2014).



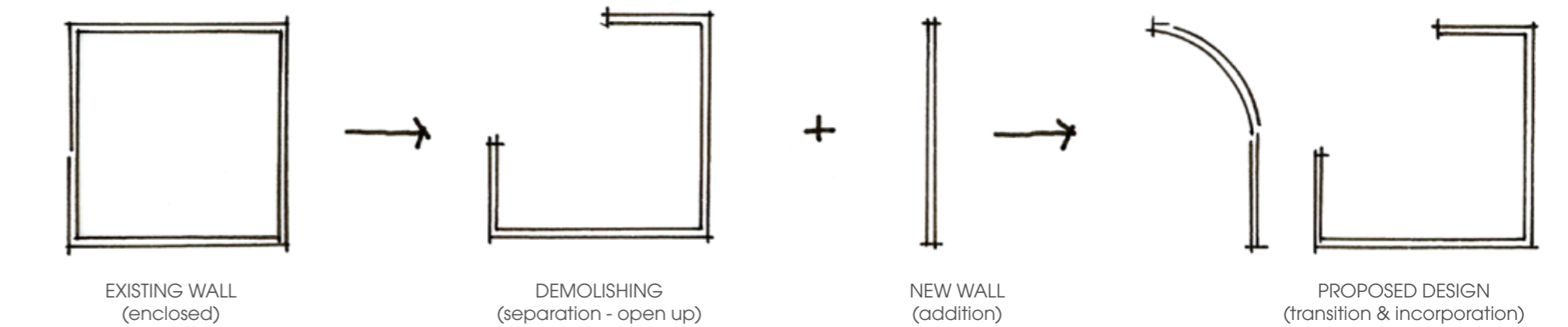
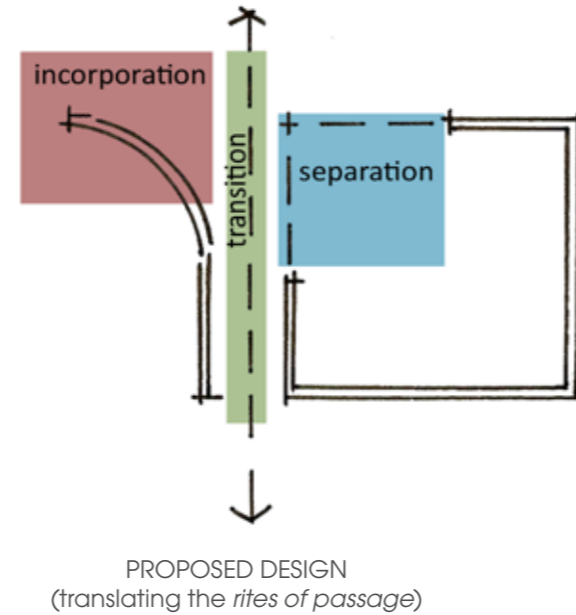
5.3 Design application

5.3.3 Design principles

The rites of passage categories can be translated directly on the site. By demolishing part of the existing wall, the phase of separation will be implied. By partially breaking down the wall, the breaking of apartheid and its legacy will be symbolized. An opportunity will be given for the locals to demolish the wall physically, which provides an opportunity for a symbolic break with the negative history of apartheid on this site.

When the existing enclosed structure is opened, it becomes a U-shaped structure. Introducing a new wall-plane parallel to the remaining wall facilitates movement through the old and new structures. A liminal space is created between them and the "in-between" space becomes a threshold between them. The existing wall will become an interactive wall for engagement and the new wall will become one of exhibition which will facilitate the expression of the clients.

The new wall communicates with its two adjacent boundaries. By placing it parallel to the existing square, it respects the orientation and starts to communicate with it to transform it into a dynamic space. The wall also communicates to the site on the West which borders with a curved railway line. A curve in the wall provides a transformed space and symbolizes the phase of incorporation.



5.3 Design application

5.3.4 Form generating elements

- a Rites of passage categories & Wall as transitional element
- b Design intervention, consisting of the following:
 - Demolition: separation phase
 - Addition of new wall: transition phase
 - movement
 - expression
 - New structure: incorporation phase

5.4 Conclusion

Through the investigation and analysis of the mentioned concepts, the wall becomes the archetypal element of liminality in the design. La Shure states that, for Turner, liminality is one of the most visible expressions of anti-structure in society, but at the same time represents unlimited possibilities for social structure (2005: 03).

“Yet even as it is the antithesis of structure, dissolving structure and being perceived as dangerous by those in charge of maintaining structure, it is also the source of structure. Just as chaos is the source of order...” (La Shure, 2005: 03).

Therefore liminality represents the unlimited possibilities from which social structure emerges; opportunity lies in the period of liminality. By translating the rites of passage process through architecture on the site, the socio-political liminal state of the country is enhanced and an opportunity is created to establish harmony in the cultural significance of the site.



2



Chapter 6: Conservational Investigation

In South Africa a growing awareness of heritage conservation reflects an international trend in which conservation of the cultural heritage has become a specialized field (SAHRIS: online). Because of the nature of this project and the building being over 60 years old it is essential to investigate the conservational aspect. Guidelines taken from three international conservational charters are identified and summarized to guide a conservation analysis of the site and the building and to establish the approach in the design intervention. This chapter concludes with a set of principles to be incorporated in the design process to support its conservational aspect.

^{6.1} Building as conservational project

Despite the almost 120 years of its existence, the building has never been declared a national monument. Certainly it still qualifies as a place of cultural significance with a strong historical background. Inevitably this means that the building and its site should be conserved.

South Africa's Heritage Resources Act protects all built structures older than 60 years old (Act no. 25 of 1999: 58). When working with historical projects of architectural significance, certain conservational principles should be taken into account. Guidelines taken from international heritage charters can assist the design intervention.

60+



6.2 International conservation Charters

Three main sources of reference have been identified from which a set of design principles will be drawn to guide the conservation process of the Project.

- The International Charter for the Conservation & Restoration of Monuments and Sites (The Venice Charter 1964).
- The Australia ICOMOS₁ Charter for Places of Cultural Significance (The revised Burra Charter, 2013).
- The Appleton Charter for the Protection and Enhancement of the Built Environment (ICOMOS Canada 1983).

The *Getty Conservation Institute* is a non-profit institution whose aim is to advance international conservation practice through research, education, applied field work and the distribution of knowledge. This institute provides the following information on these charters.

6.2.1 The Venice Charter 1964

The International Charter for the Conservation & Restoration of Monuments and Sites.

According to Getty, the Venice Charter established principles of conservation based on the concept of authenticity and the importance of maintaining the historical and physical context of a site or building. It states that monuments are to be conserved not only as works of art but also as historical evidence (2010: online).



ICOMOS - ISCEAH
International Scientific Committee
on Earthen Architectural Heritage
International Council on
Monuments and Sites

“Every place has its own story and people to whom it has associations and meanings. Conservation is based on respect for the story and the fabric and people associated with it. Think of the place as an historical document that keeps its history in its fabric, use, setting, associations and meanings as well as the records of the place. All changes – large or small – may have the potential impact on significance.”

(Illustrated Burra Charter, 2004: 20)

6.2.2 The Burra Charter 2013

The Australia ICOMOS Charter for Places of Cultural Significance.

The Burra charter is internationally seen as an established set of principles for the management and conservation of cultural sites. Getty states that it is particularly significant

for its definition of cultural significance and the standards it outlines to manage and conserve cultural sites (2010: online). The conservation approach is summarized in the statement that: *“It requires a cautious approach of changing as much as necessary but as little as possible”* (ICOMOS, 2013: 03).

6.2.3 The Appleton Charter 1983

The Canada ICOMOS Charter for the Protection and Enhancement of the Built Environment

Principles for the preservation of the built environment are set out in the Appleton Charter. Issues such as protection, value, setting, relocation, enhancement, use, additions and environmental control are addressed. Getty writes that this charter emphasizes management of the urban environment as an important aspect of conservation of cultural heritage (online, 2010). Certain levels of intervention and associated actions are described and listed below. Furthermore, the charter recommends that public participation should be encouraged in the conservation process.

Conservation, depending on the circumstances, includes several processes of intervention and activities of execution. The conservation processes set out in the Appleton charter are as follows:

Levels of intervention

- Preservation • Period restoration • Rehabilitation
- Period reconstruction • Adaption or Redevelopment

Activities

- Maintenance • Stabilization • Removal • Addition

It is clear that international charters form a valuable framework for the conservational approach to the design. Several conservational principles have been identified and summarized to form part of the concluding segment of this chapter on the established design principles.

6.3 Conservational analysis

Although guidelines from international charters assist the design process relating to architectural interventions of historic buildings and sites, every project should be analyzed individually and approached uniquely. The Appleton Charter (ICOMOS, 1983: 02) states that the appropriate level of intervention can only be identified after careful consideration of the merits of the following:

- Cultural significance
- Condition and integrity of the fabric
- Contextual value
- Appropriate use of the available resources.

6.3.1 Cultural significance

Ramkraal symbolises the oppression which the majority of the country suffered during apartheid. It could be assumed that the walls of this building detained people who were arrested for violating laws that infringed human-rights in the first place. This provokes bitterness regarding the cultural significance of the site, resulting in a disrespectful attitude towards it.

On the other hand, the historical legacy this building represents is a symbol of history that should be regarded as significant and therefore respected.

Cultural values of the site are in conflict, with the urge to conserve the heritage of our built environment on the one hand at odds with the ill-feeling towards the apartheid past of our country on the other.



6.3 Conservational analysis

6.3.2 Condition and integrity of the fabric

The general disrespectful attitude towards the site has led to the building being neglected and plundered by locals. Building materials have been stripped off and structural elements are in a very poor condition. Despite the decent quality of the original construction, after the demolition of the surrounding buildings the prison building has been abused and is in need of urgent attention.

6.3.3 Contextual value

Being situated on the intersection between several settings in Bloemfontein, the site becomes a gateway to the city. When the Ramkraal Prison was first established it was situated on a remote location in the Free State landscape. With the development and expansion of the city, the site is now on the boundary between the city centre, Batho location and the Industrial area of Bloemfontein.

The Historical significance of the site lies in the British influenced architectural language of the building: the fort like structure expresses the authority, power and control that once prevailed. Unfortunately the significance is only relevant for a single cultural group that finds its heritage in Western influenced architecture.



^{6.3} Conservational analysis

^{6.3.4} Appropriate use of the available resources

During the archeological and heritage assessment of the old Ramkraal Prison done by Cobus Dreyer, archeological and heritage specialist, no archeological or significant materials were found on the site other than the building itself (2012: 04).

Oliver Creighton states that a fundamental guiding principle according to the UNESCO World Heritage Site list is that “properties are designated for the benefit of all,” (2007: 01). He argues that a site whose present state contrasts negatively with its past should be receptive to re-invention in order to comply with this principle.

A strong sense of conflict of interest is noted on the site and it should be addressed. To merely conserve the building would contradict this principle: the local community would not be considered and no cultural significance would be found in the mere conservation of the historical structure. The way the community sourced building materials from the site may possibly be their desperate attempt to gain something useful from this building.

This site has a violent history and the surrounding wall symbolizes the exclusion of certain social groups and should be re-invented. The site asks for restoration on a social and physical level. The proposed development aims to restore harmony on the site and to bring a sense of healing and freedom in an attempt to reconcile the site’s culturally conflicting significance. Ultimately the site should respect the existing building but contradict its former use and what it stood for. It should transform the site into a place of liberation instead of oppression, freedom instead of containment and a place where information is gained, not withheld.



6.4 Case study: Ramkraal Prison

Project details:

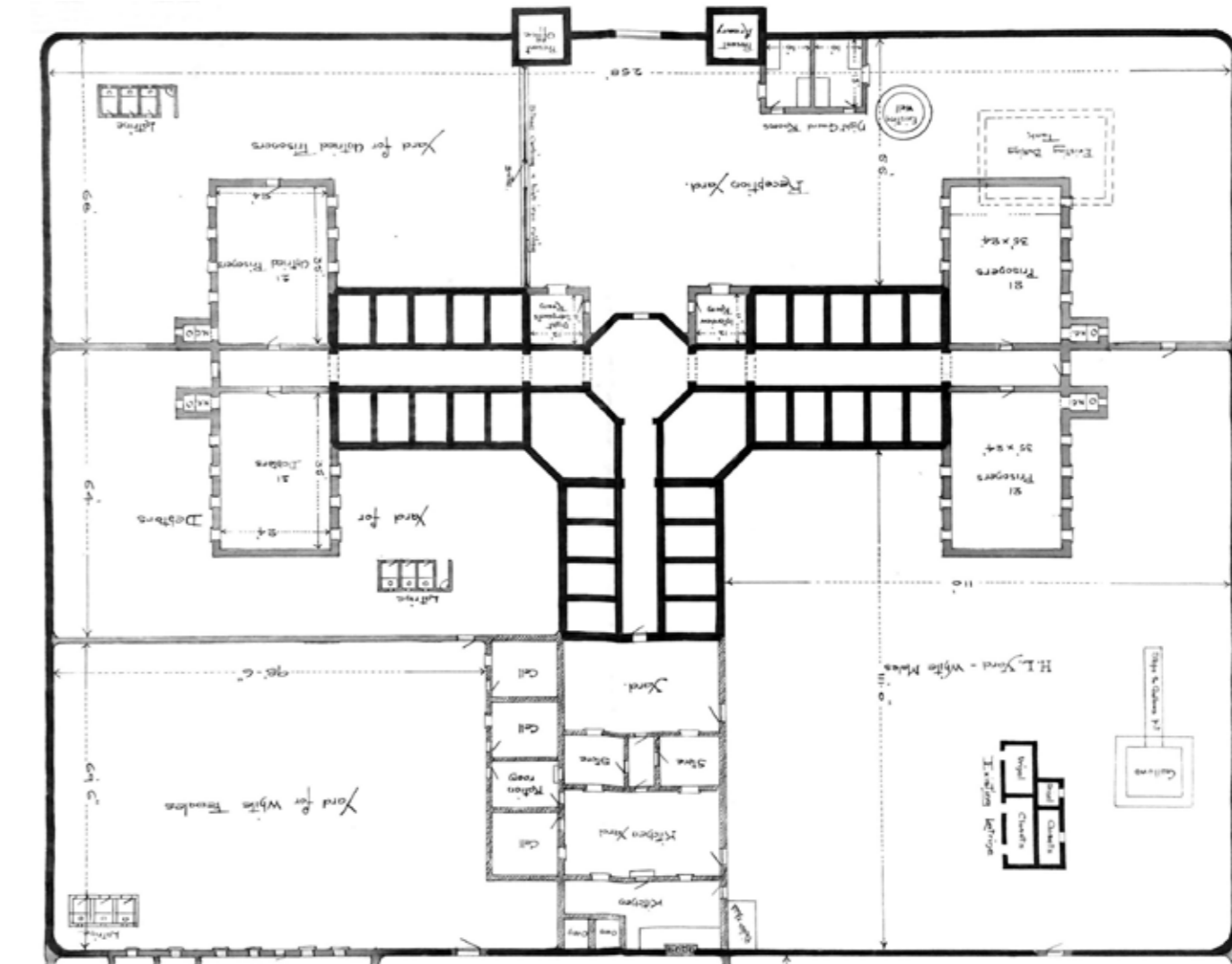
Former Function	Prison
Location	Bloemfontein, South Africa
Completed	1895

6.4.1 Architectural Significance

As mentioned earlier, the Ramkraal building is a 120 year old fort-like sandstone structure. A prominent ring wall with two watchtowers and symmetrical design reflects its classical colonial influence.

An important north-south axis through the building announces the entrance of the prison and the prison gate which lines up with the entrance of the site. The east-west axis of the building runs through the corridor that feeds the individual prison cells on both sides and ends at the building edge with service openings to sanitary fittings. Each of the two wings is split by the corridor on both sides, providing four separate groups of cells.

The entrance foyer has a height of 8,5m but is well provided with sunlight due to large window openings which contributes to the intimidating feeling of this dominant structure. The single story structure has an interior height of 5,5m, which creates a peculiarly oppressive experience in relation to the narrow corridor of 3m and the prison cells of 3.5m x 2m. Sunlight is restricted into the building by the small windows on the longitudinal plane in each cell.



6.4 Case study: *Ramkraal Prison*

6.4.2 Structure

A stereotomic construction of sandstone and brickwork provides a solid impenetrable structure. Wall thicknesses vary from 300mm to 500mm . Basic roof construction of wooden trusses and corrugated iron sheeting completes the building. An arch-like construction is used in the main entrance, foyer and corridor to support the span of the openings.

6.4.3 Current state & condition

Unfortunately the building is in a very bad condition; roof sheeting is non existent in some areas which causes rain damage. The structure is seemingly stable but is in desperate need to be rehabilitated. Vegetation has infested the structure and concrete slabs are lifted.

6.4.4 Conservational elements

Elements to consider in the conservation approach should be the exterior building height of the entrance foyer, the two planes and wings and the height of watchtowers and the ring wall. The cross axis of the building should be regarded as important and respected in the proposed design.



6.5 Conservational approach

The need to encourage and respect the co-existence of different cultural values on the site leads towards different conservational actions. Apart from the already planned rehabilitation of the prison building, the proposed intervention will consist of three integrated components. A new structure on the site will be proposed (the Centre), the connection of the Centre to the prison/museum will be addressed by breaking through the original prison wall and the surrounding site will be redeveloped.

The following scales of intervention and activities will be applicable and will determine the design principles to follow:

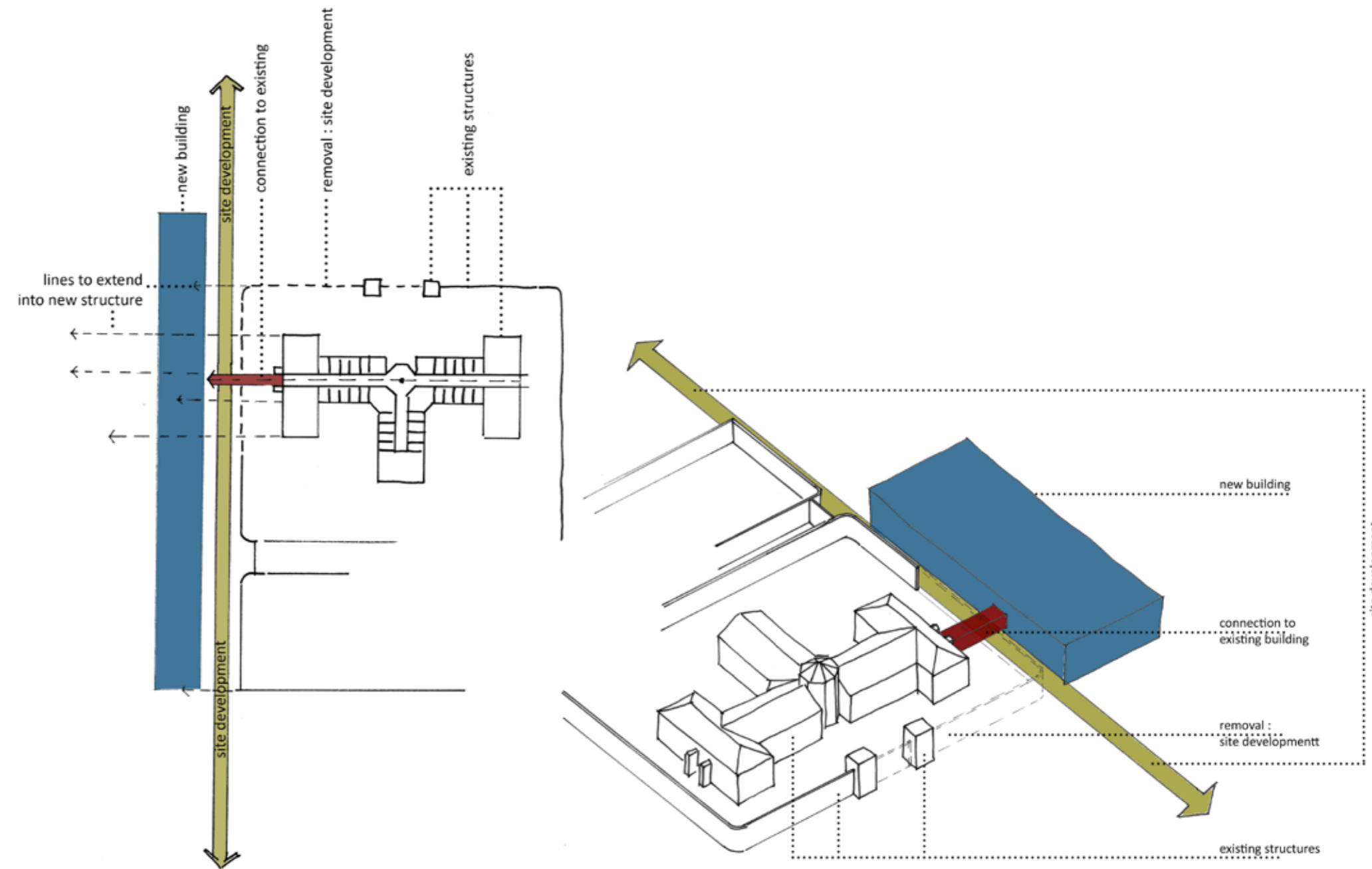
- New Building redevelopment
- Connection to existing building partial removal & addition
- Site development partial removal & redevelopment

6.5.1 Level of intervention

Redevelopment: intervention of contemporary structures and additions should be sympathetic to the setting and respect original patterns of movement and layout (ICOMOS, 1983: 03).

6.5.2 Type of activities

- Removal: a periodic activity which consists of modification which involves the subtraction of surfaces, layers, volumes and elements (ICOMOS, 1983: 04).
- Addition: a periodic activity which consists of modification which involves the introduction of new material and structures (ICOMOS, 1983: 04).

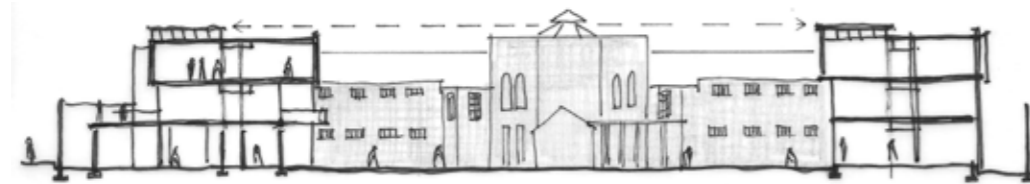


^{6.6} Precedent study :
Women's Jail Precinct, Constitution Hill

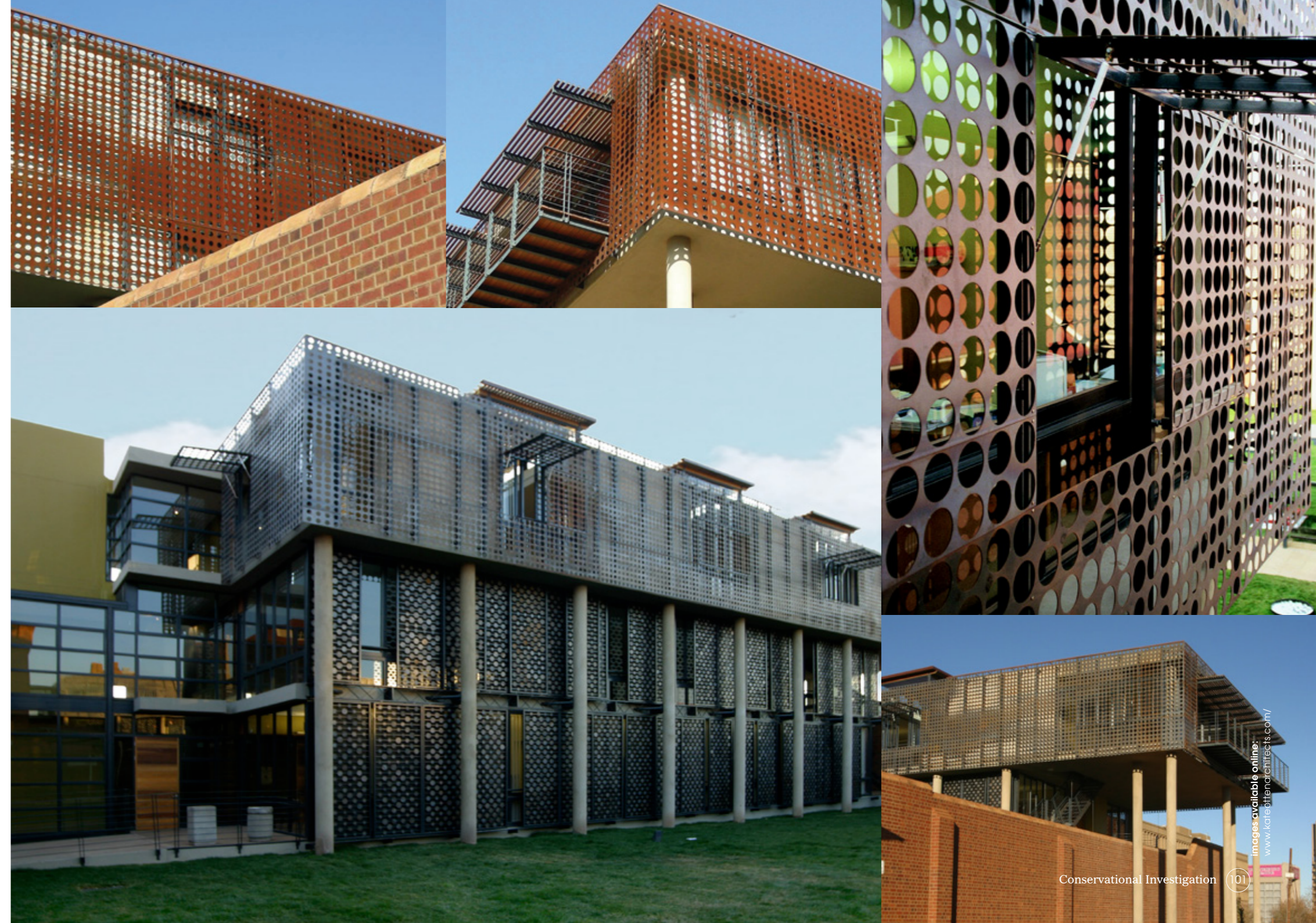
Primary Function	Living Memorial, Offices for the Commission of Gender Equality
Location	Johannesburg, South Africa
Architect	Kate Otten Architects
Completed	2005

The conservation of the old women's prison on Constitutional Hill consists of an intervention that stretches over the entire site, connecting the existing building with the new precinct that extends beyond the once impenetrable walls of the prison. Landscaping and a pair of office wings were introduced on the site. Out of respect for the formal layout of the historical buildings, the new office building is symmetrically linked to the existing structures. (Lipman, 2009: 120)

Material use differentiates clearly between the old and the new structures. Furthermore, the new structure acknowledges the existing structure by maintaining the height of the historical buildings. A delicate relationship between the old and the new structures is created and shows that considerate architecture can transform a formerly oppressing scene into one of liberation and celebration (Lipman, 2009: 120).



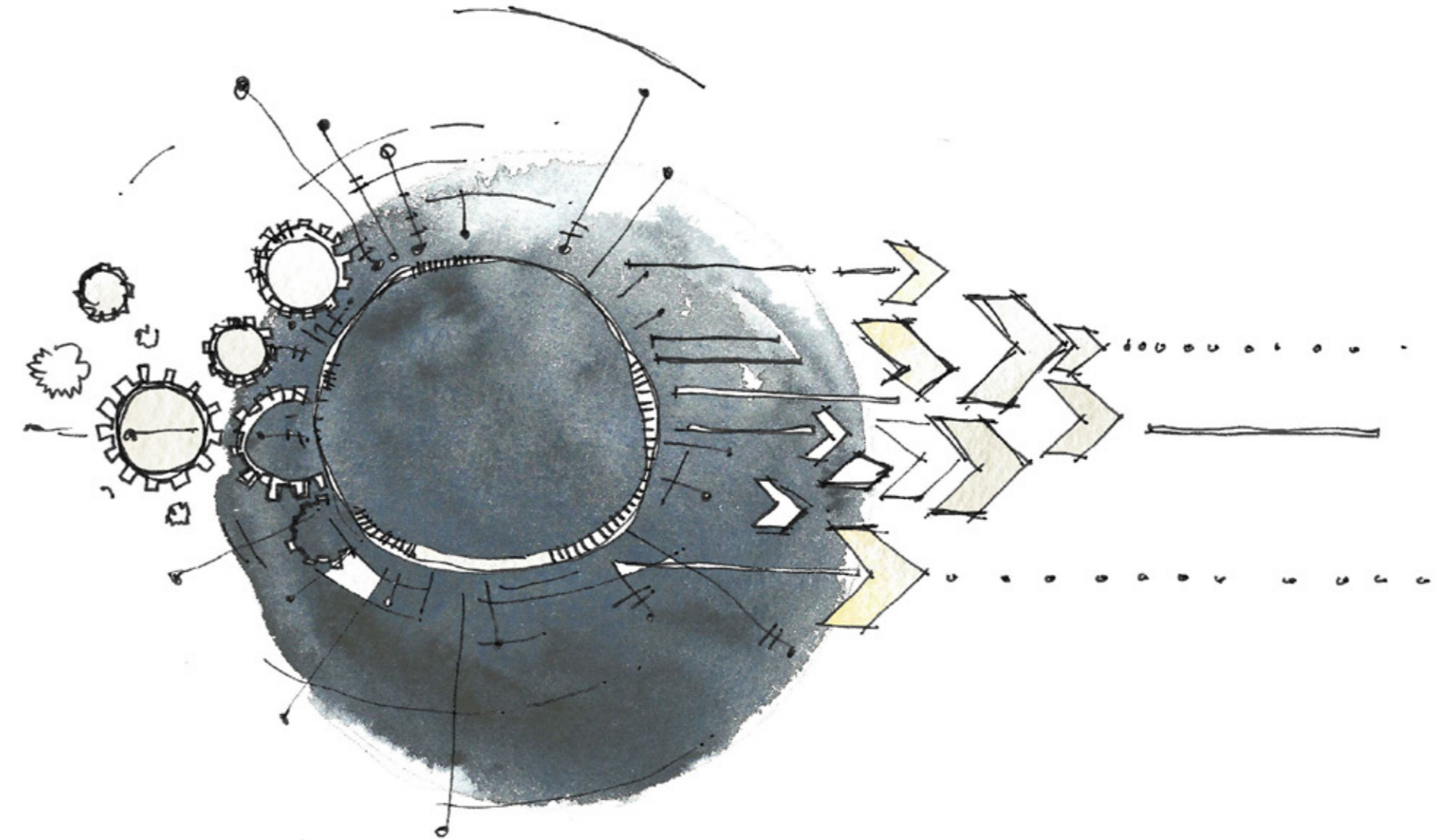
SECTION ELEVATION, NEW OFFICE BLOCK VS EXISTING STRUCTURE



PART 3: DESIGN SYNTHESIS

Chapter 7 Design Development

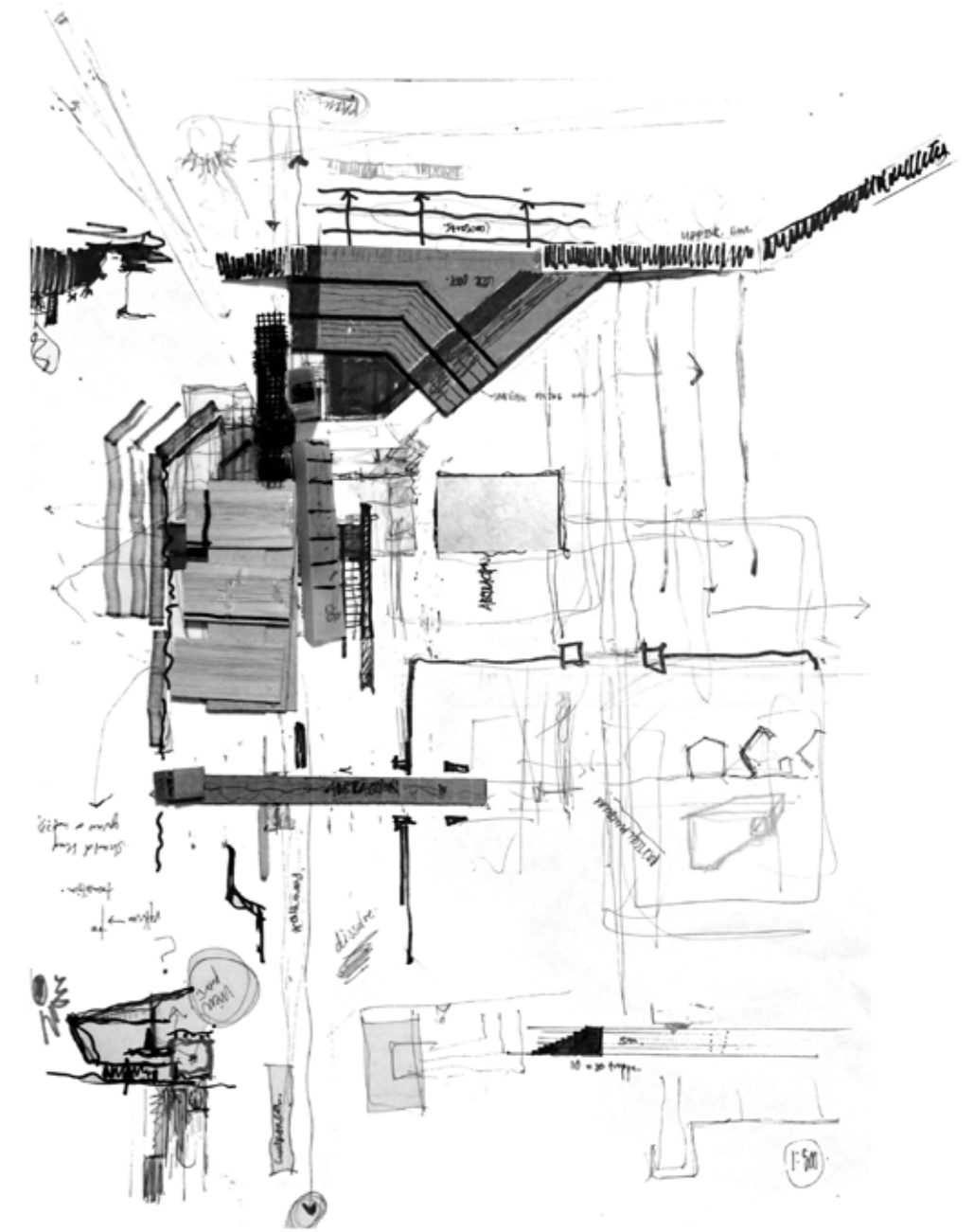
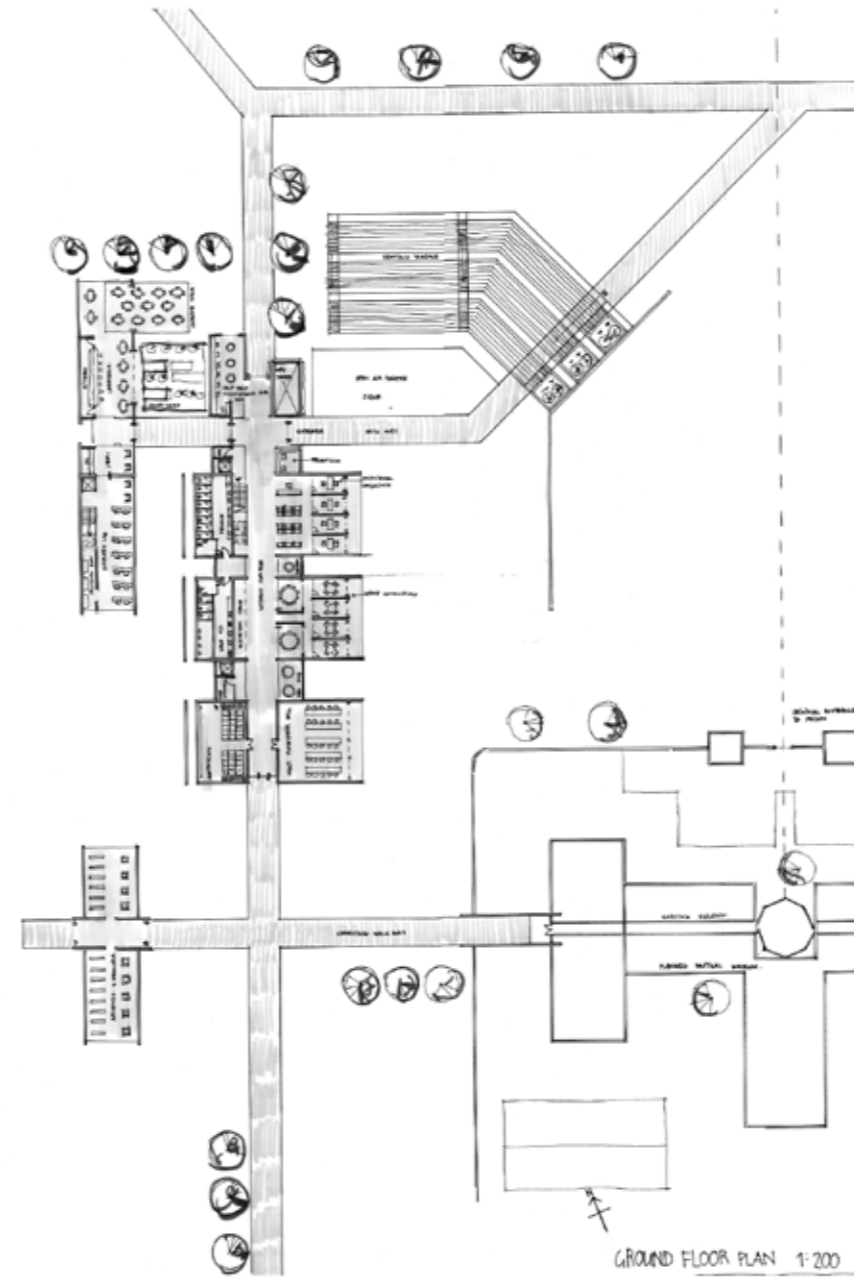
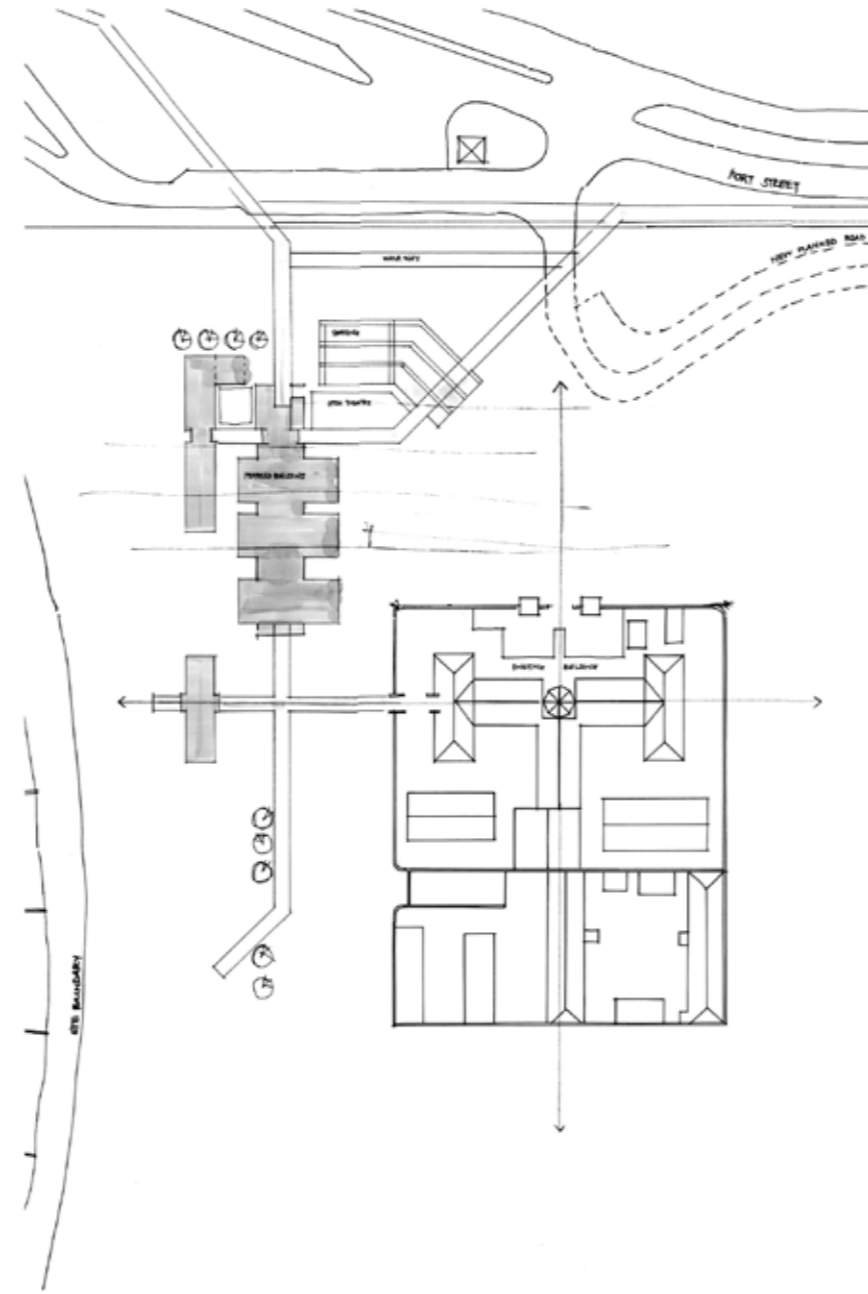
The design focuses on the development of the proposed Human Rights and Legal Aid Centre's relationship with the Prison and its surrounding wall. The design approach evolved through five phases before arriving at the final design proposal. This process is briefly discussed and illustrated.

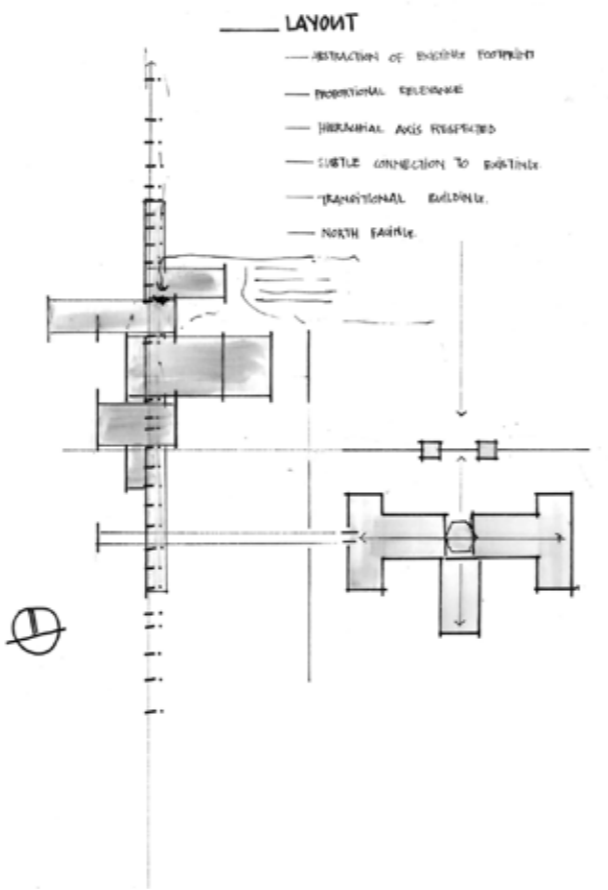
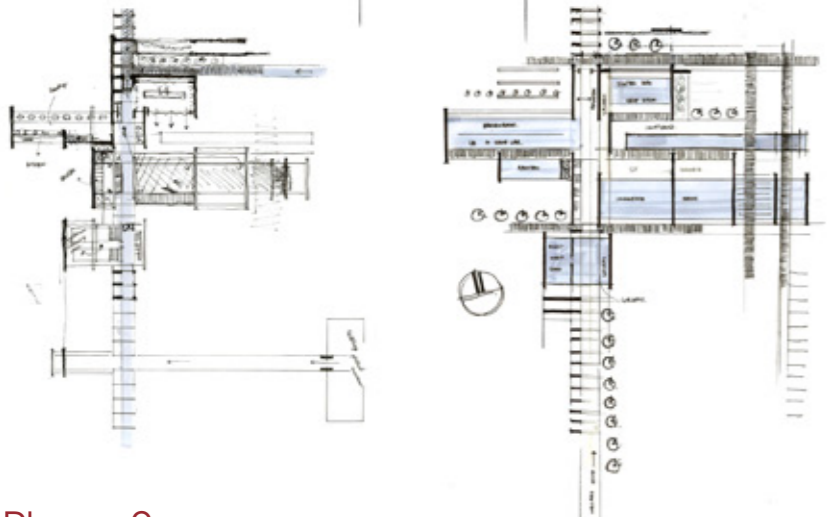
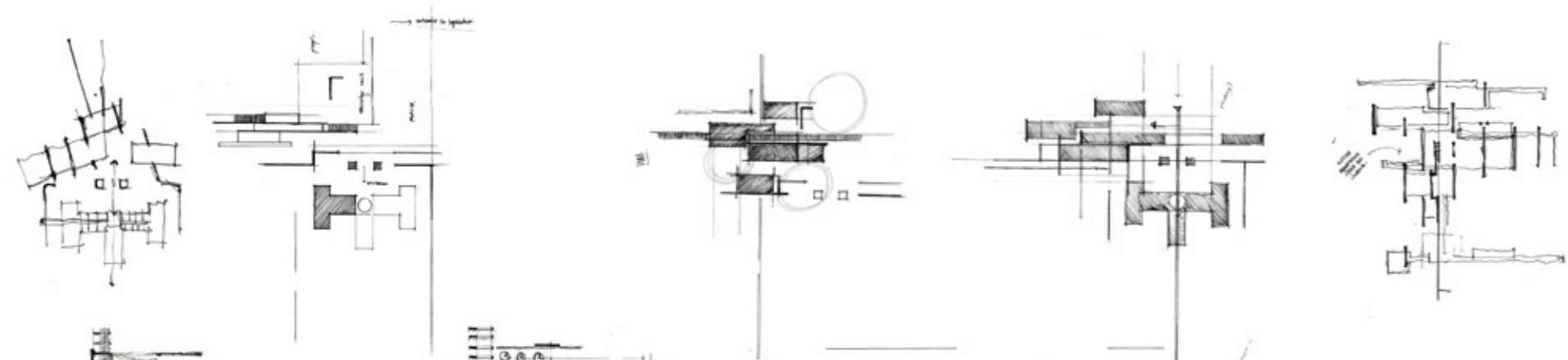


7.1 Phase 1

The initial design proposal of the Centre, derived from a walkway that would invite the existing pedestrian traffic to engage with it.

- The structure stood in a disconnection to the existing building and should engage more with the site

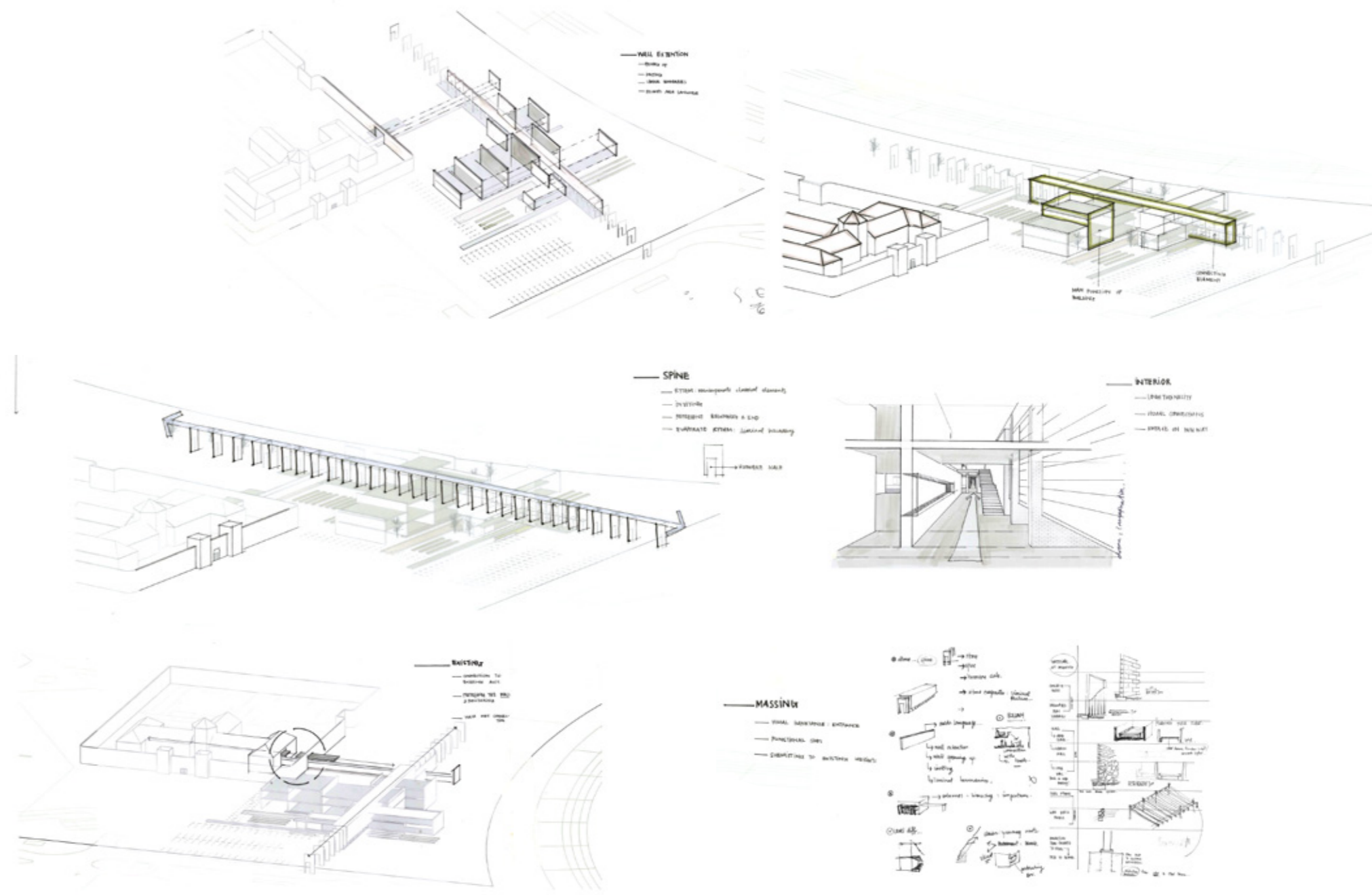




7.2 Phase 2

In this phase the wall have been identified as a prominent factor to comment on the existing enclosed structure. In an attempt to create an open and free experience the wall element played an important role in the morphology of the building. The layout became an abstraction of the existing.

- A conventional layout inside the Centre contradicted the intention of reinventing of the existing site. The placement of the Centre had still not been addressed successfully .



7.3 Phase 3

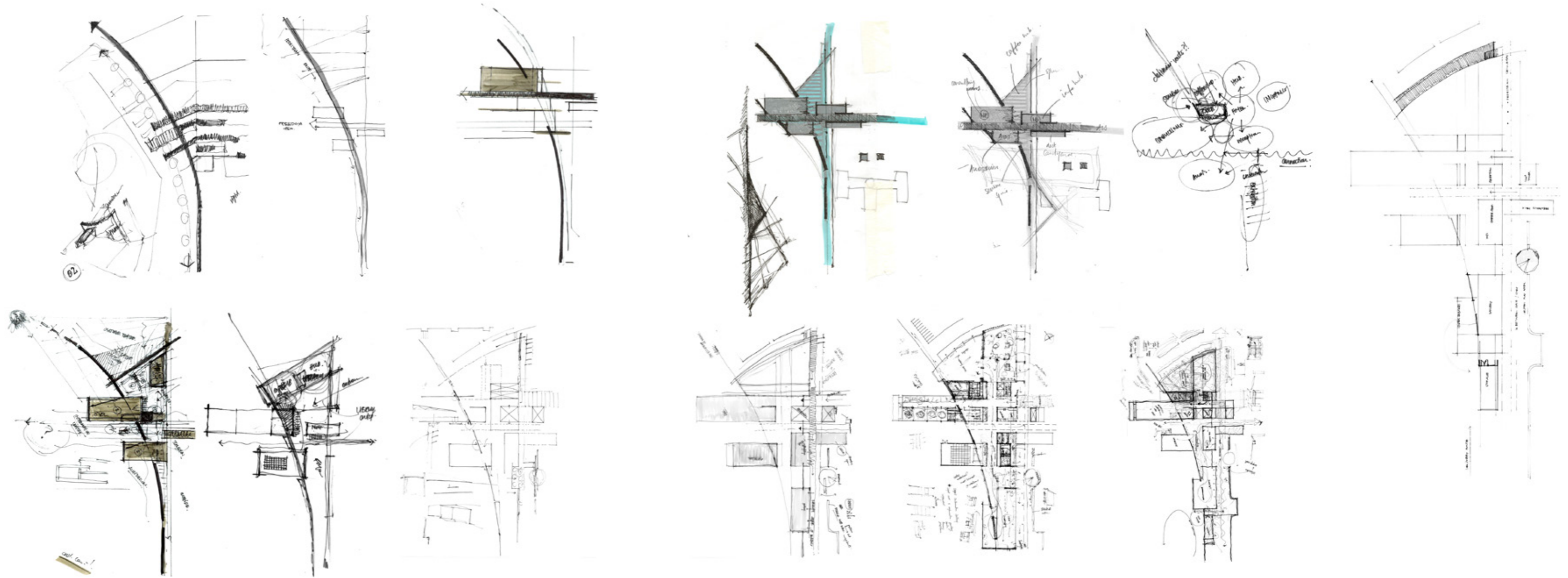
By placing the Centre directly next to the prison, the position establishes a dialogue between the new and the old. The western boundary was acknowledged by placing a single continuing plane along it - a new wall - which follows the curve of the adjacent railway line.

- This new wall is a dynamic structure that contributes to the reinvention of the site.

7.4 Phase 4

The breakthrough in this phase was the idea of involving the local community in demolishing one side of the wall quadrant enclosing the prison. This would enhance the dialogue between the Centre and the prison, establish the transitional element in the process and invite harmony in the cultural significance attributed to the prison and, by association, to the Precinct as a whole.

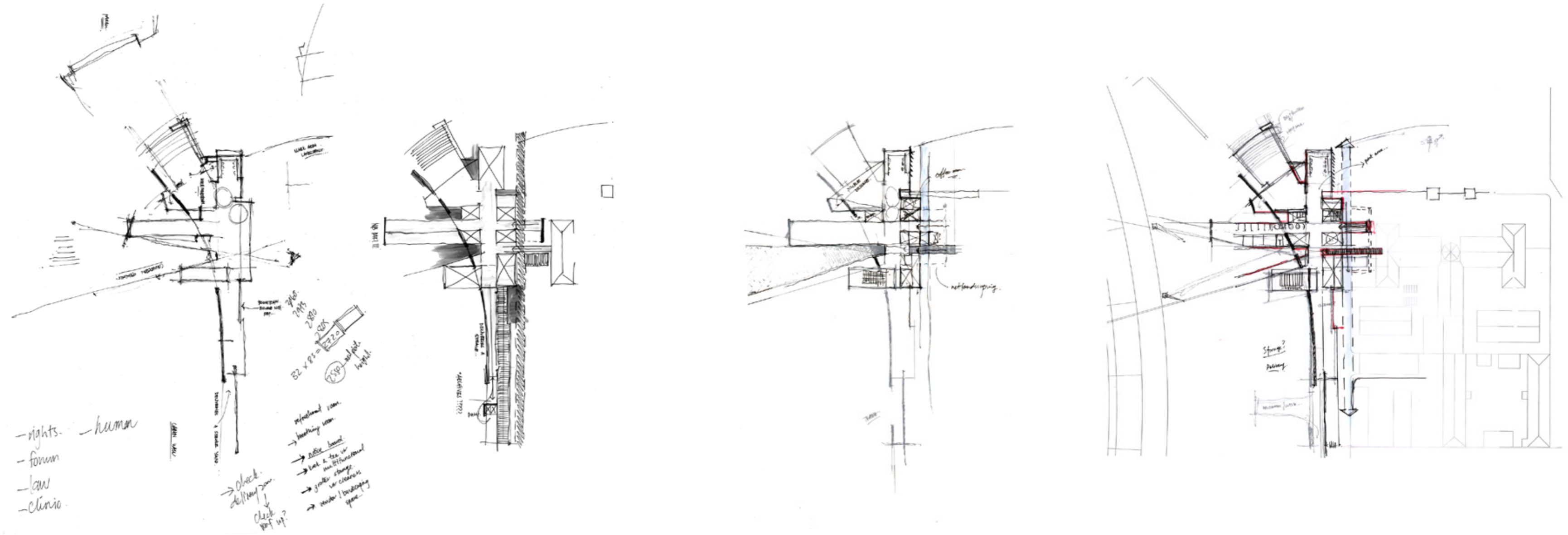
- The wall becomes a powerful tool of transition in the design process

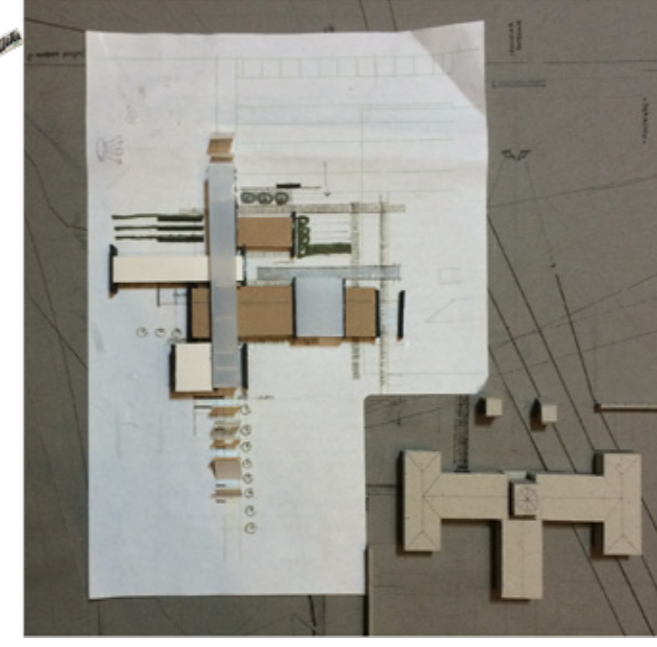


7.5 Phase 5

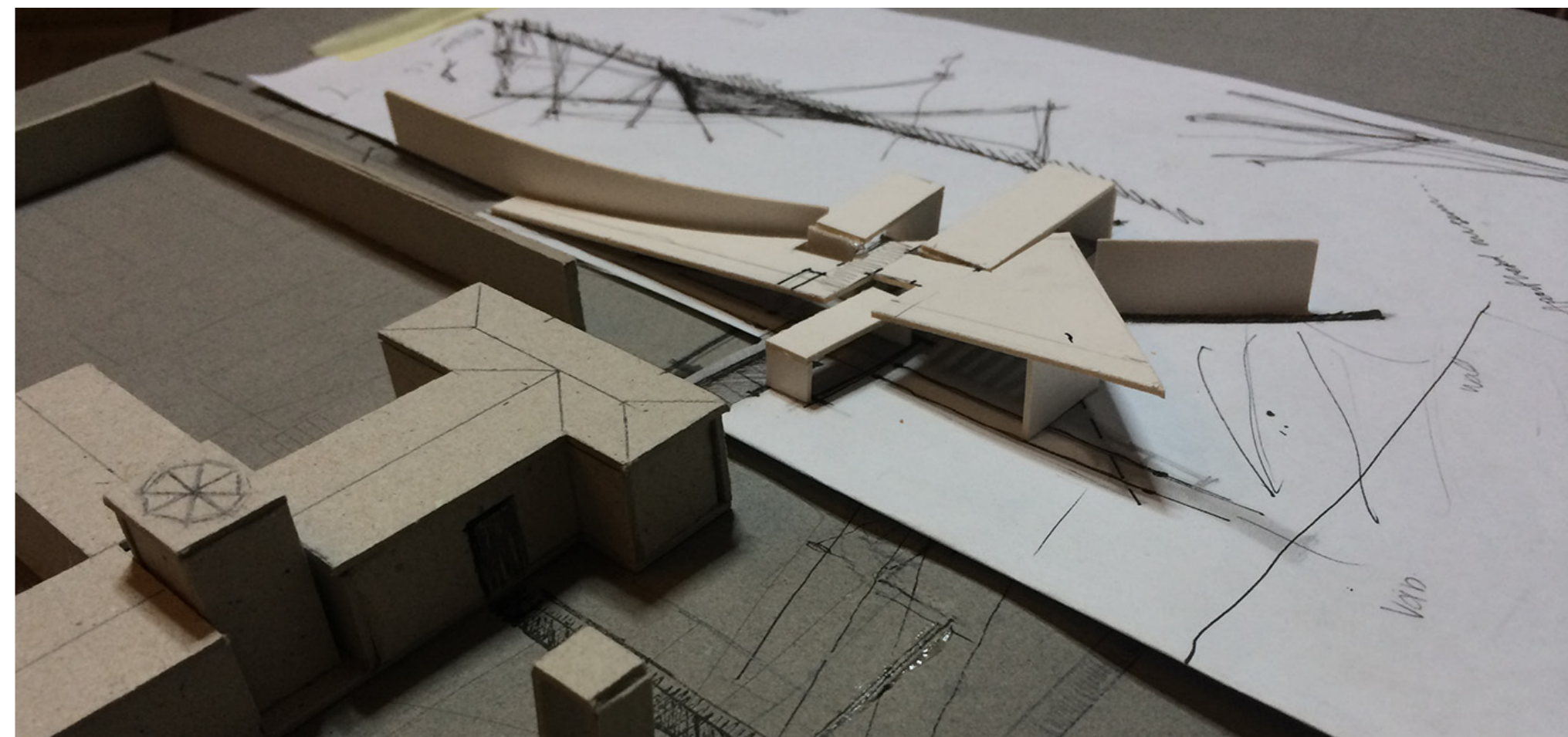
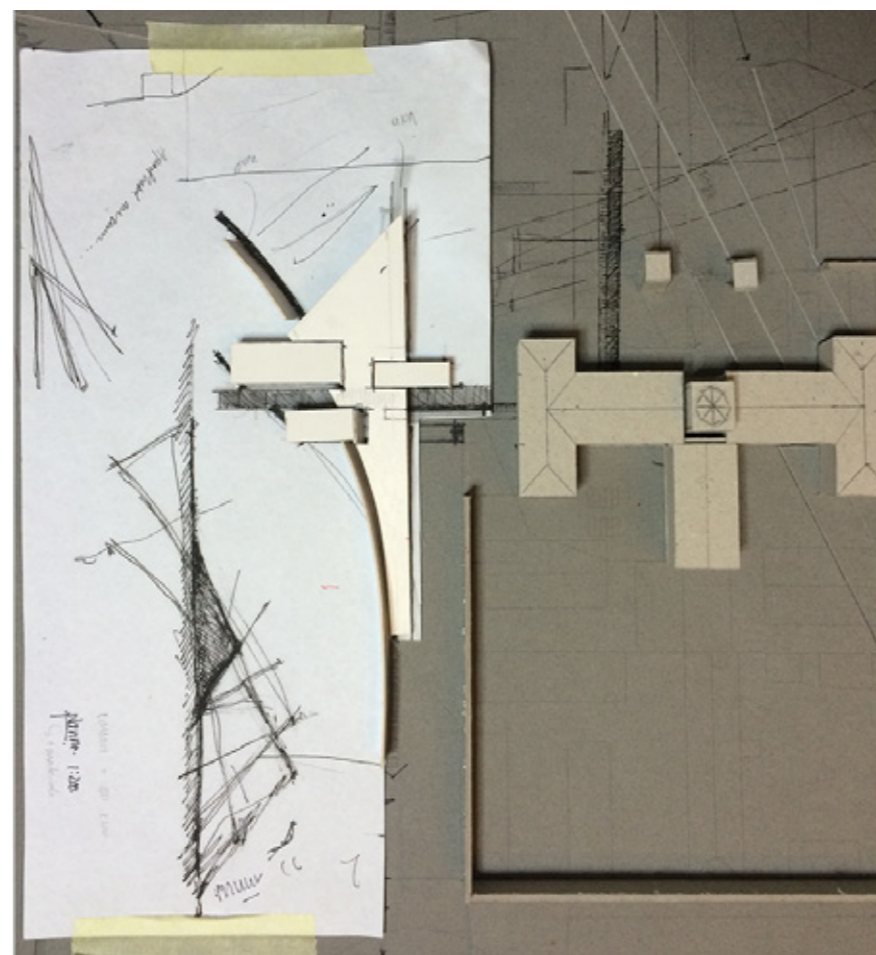
The design now extends into the landscape and becomes part of the broader site development. By means of landscaping and material use the morphology invites the visitor to engage with the Centre, thereby reinventing the site of the former Ramkraal Prison.

- A community orientated institutional building is created.

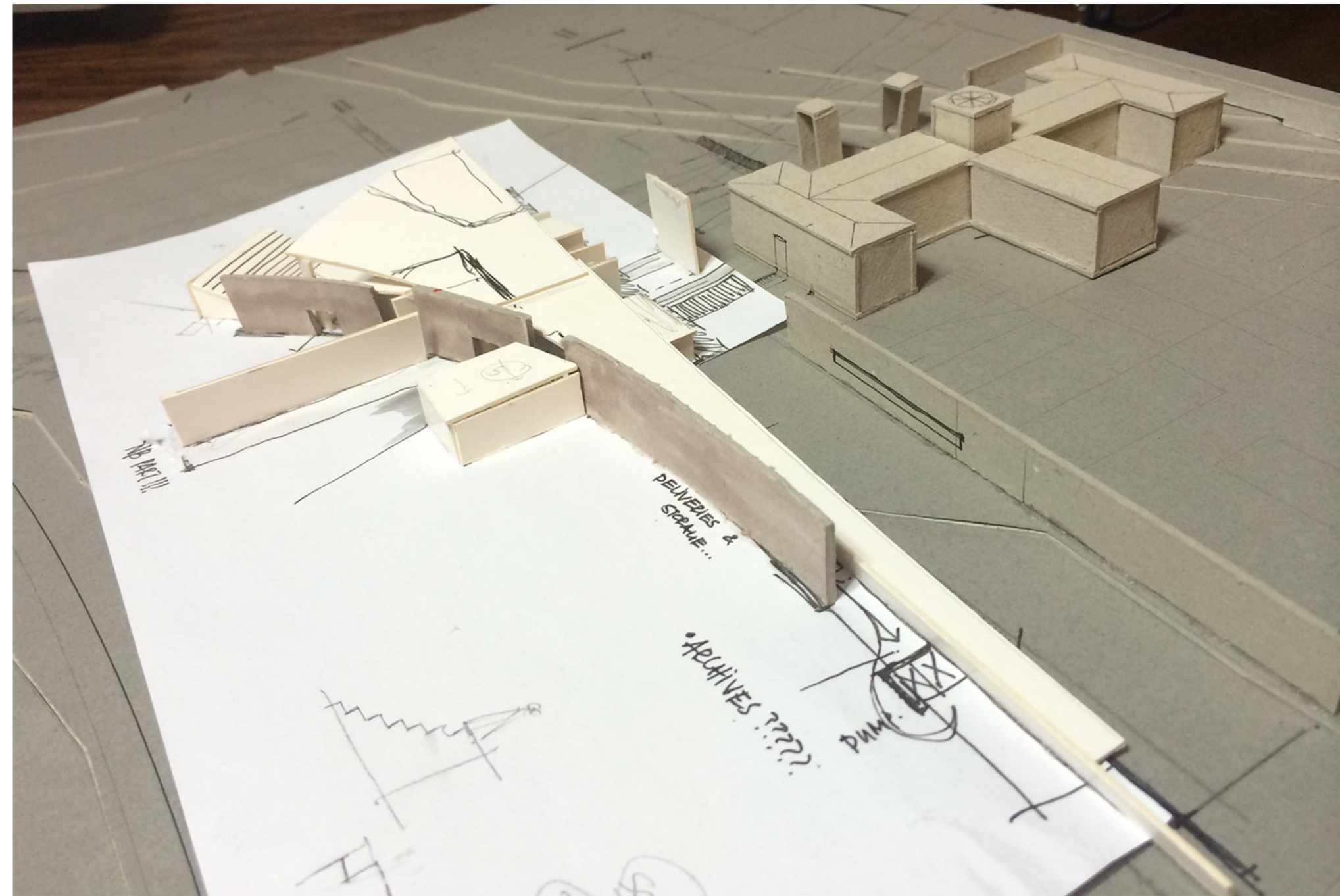
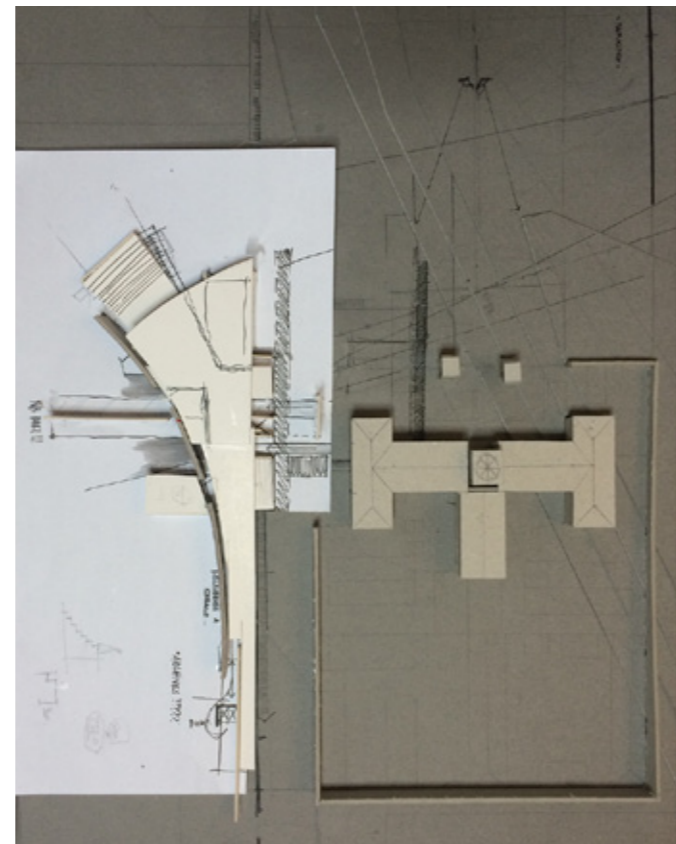
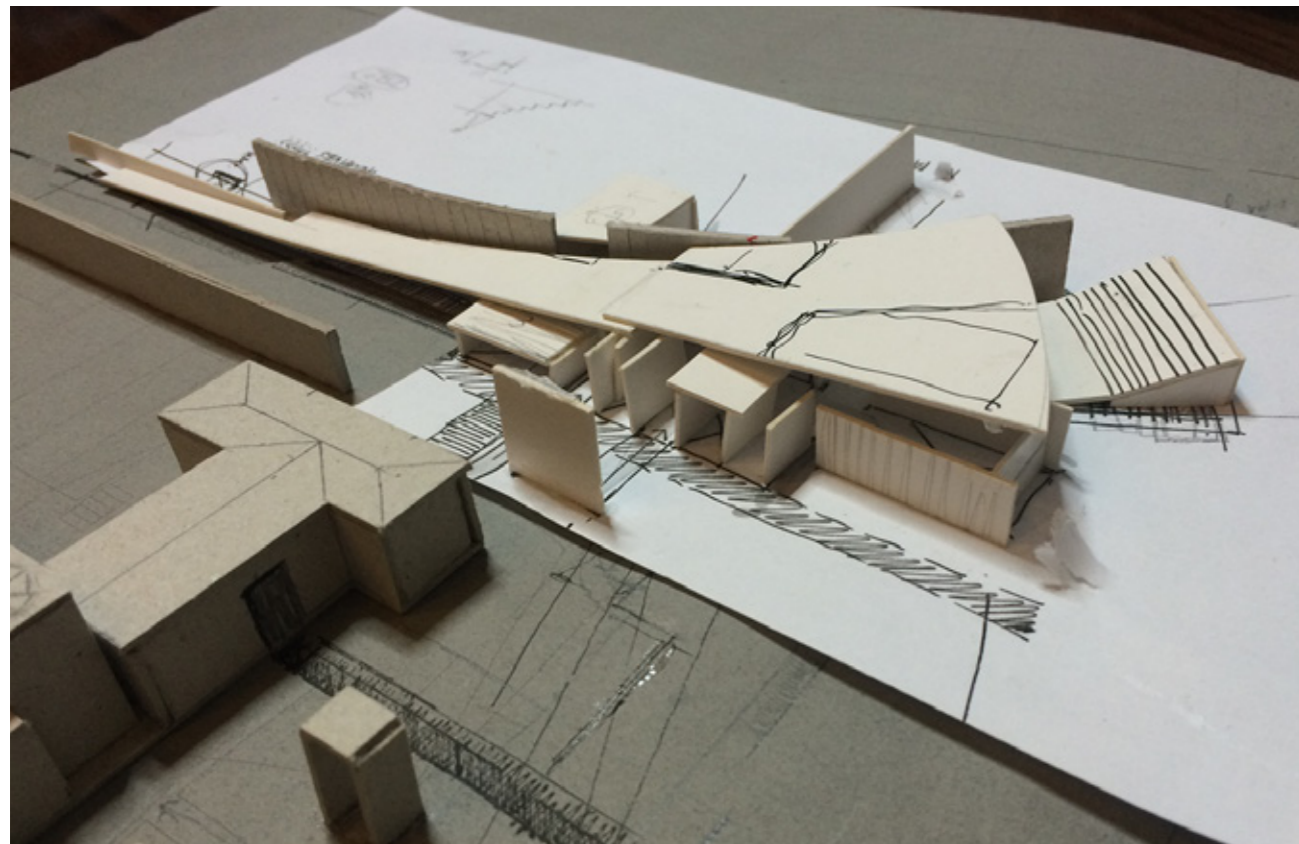




Concept Models



Concept Models



Concept Models

Chapter 8: Design Proposal

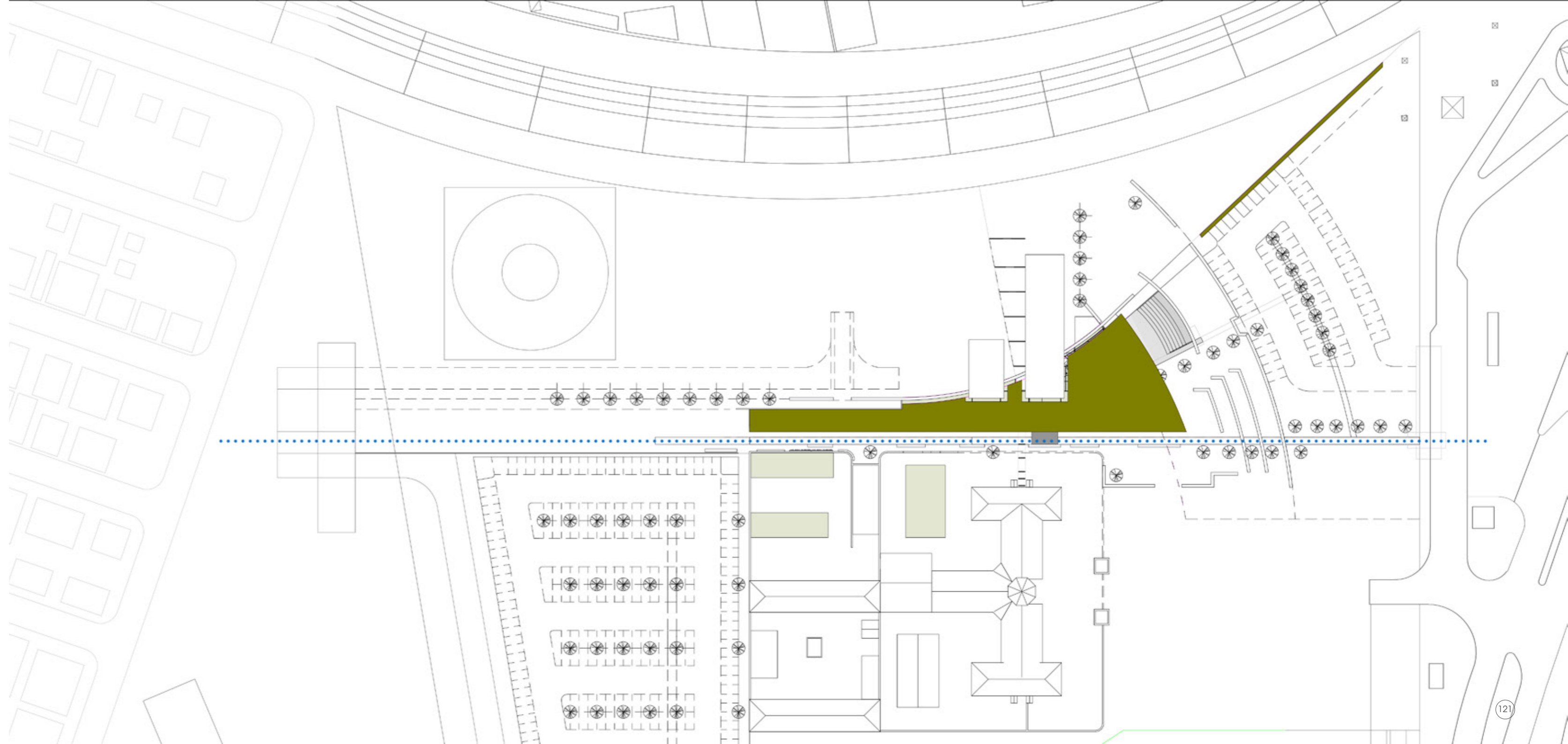
Macro Site Plan

The site becomes a node of transition within the threshold of the city.

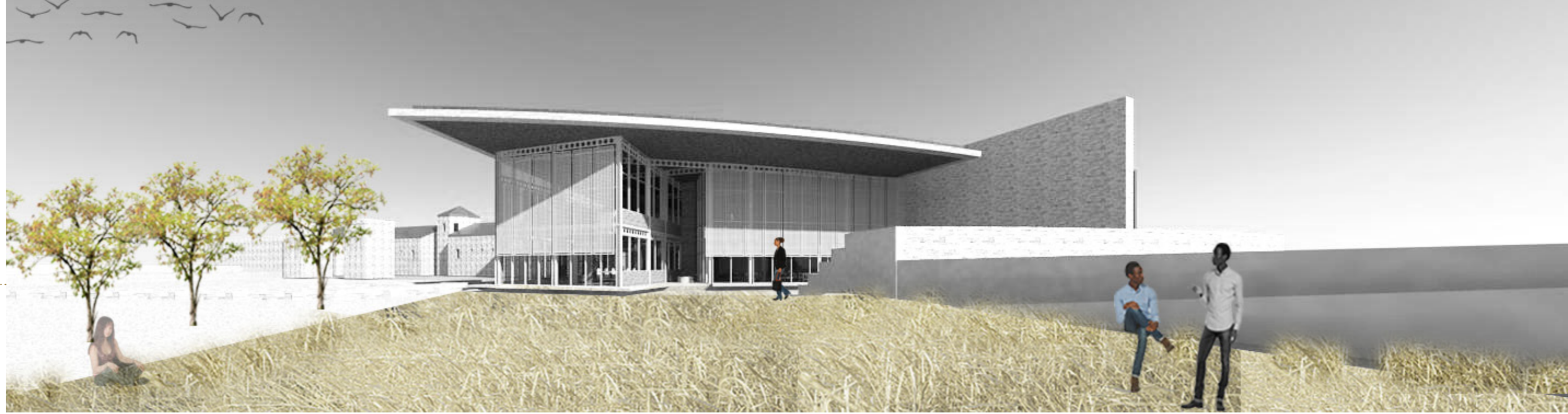


Site Plan

Pedestrian circulation through site



North Western View

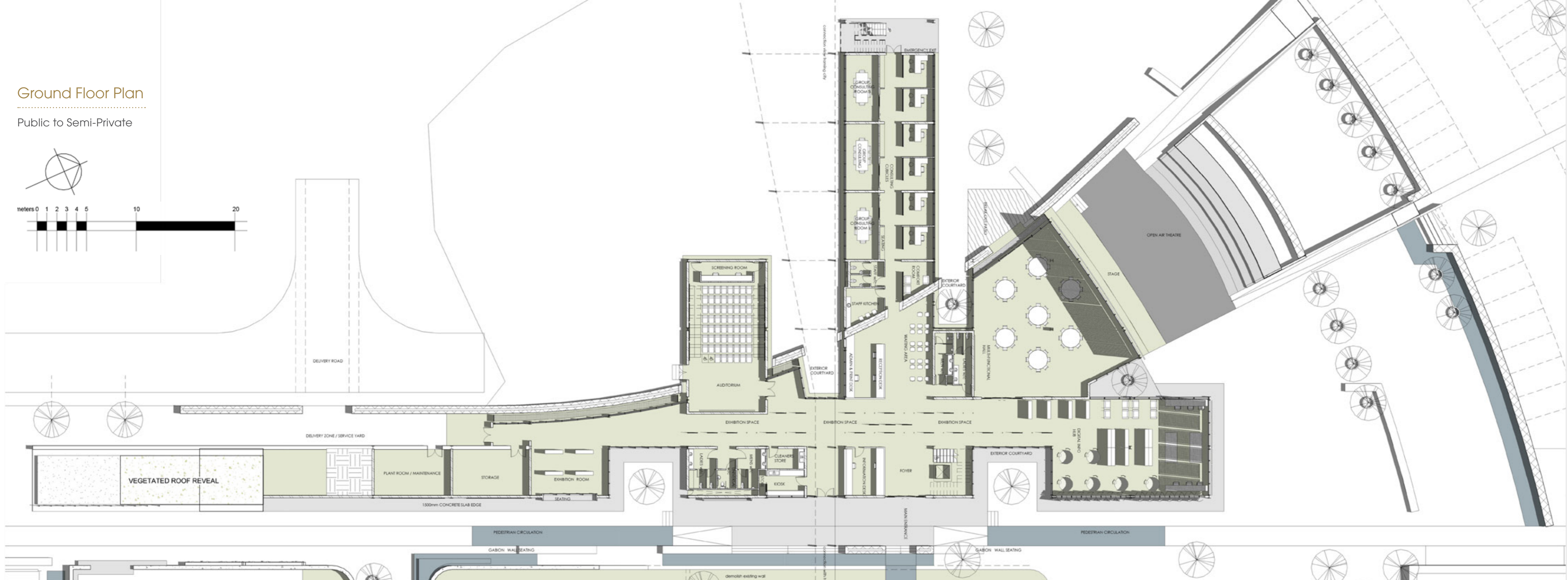
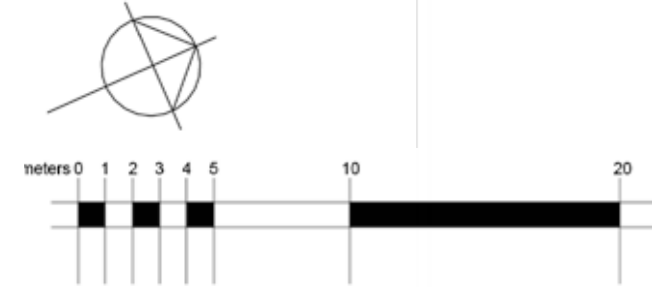


Western View



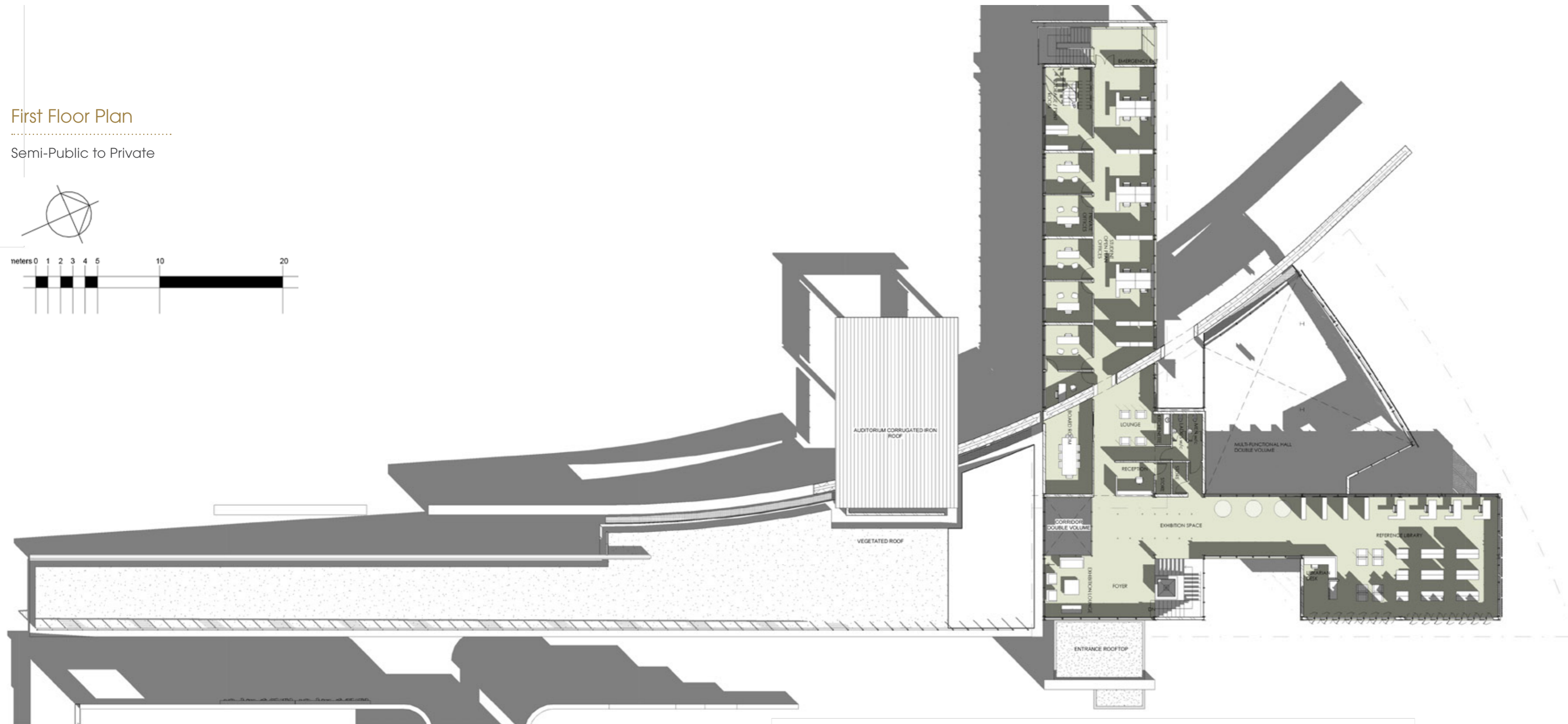
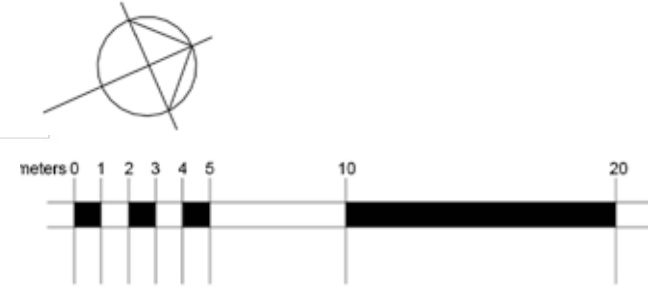
Ground Floor Plan

Public to Semi-Private

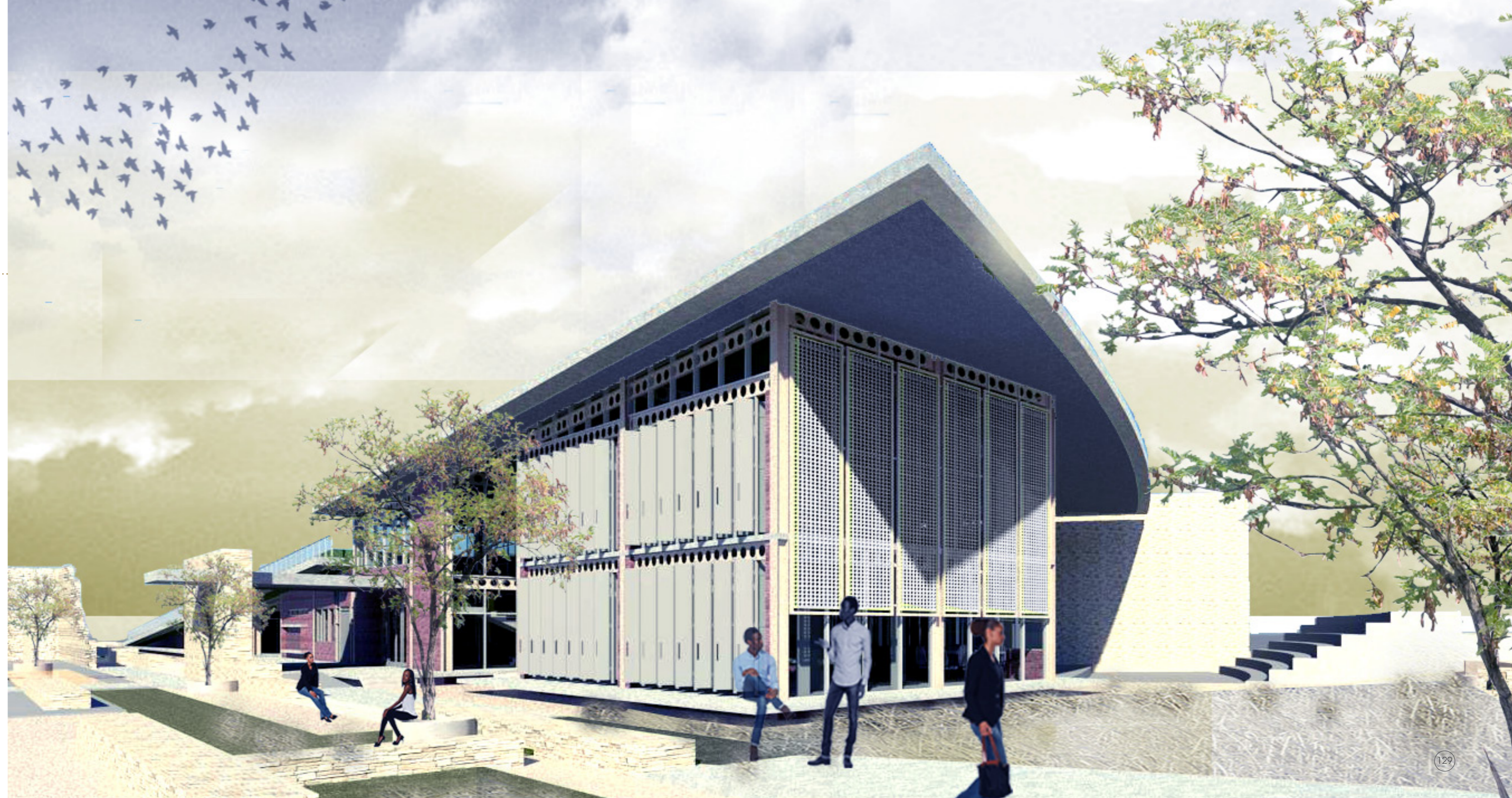


First Floor Plan

Semi-Public to Private

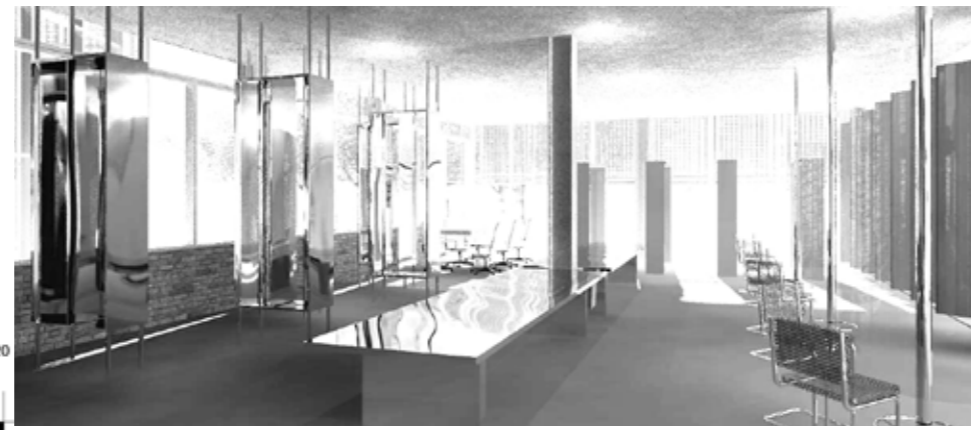


View towards Centre



Cross Section

meters 0 1 2 3 4 5 10 20



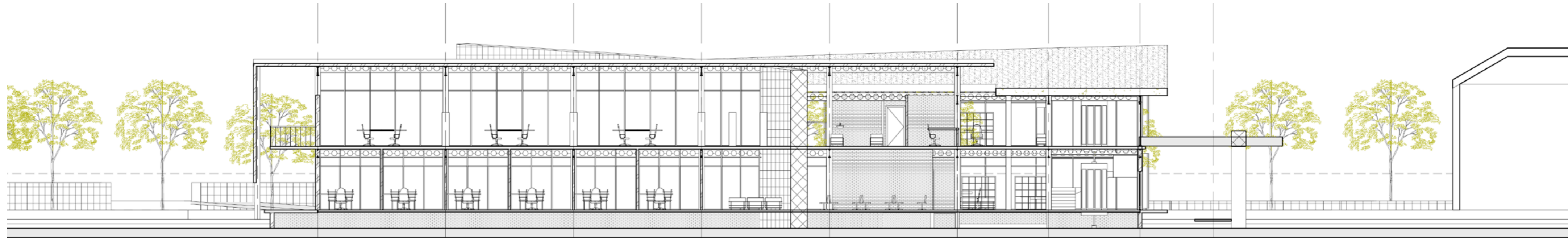
Information Hub



Waiting Area



Foyer with Exhibition Panels



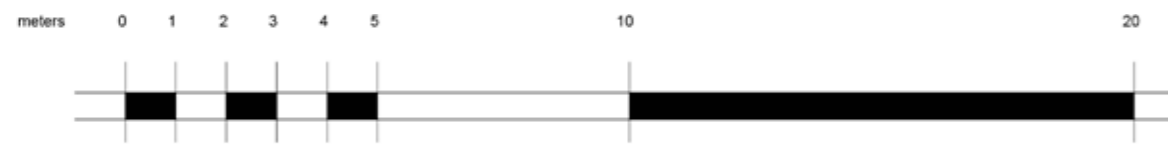
Main Entrance to Centre



Exterior Courtyard & Pedestrian Circulation



Longitudinal Section



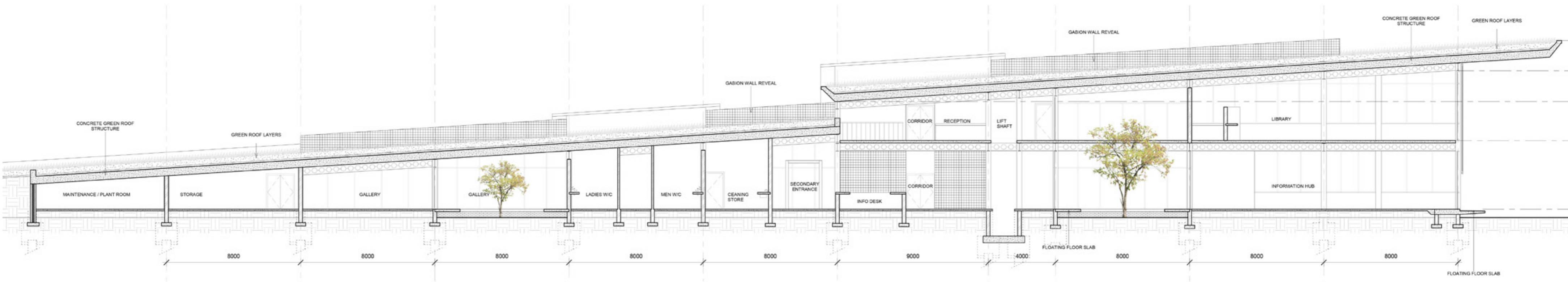
View to Consulting Cubicles



View to Gallery

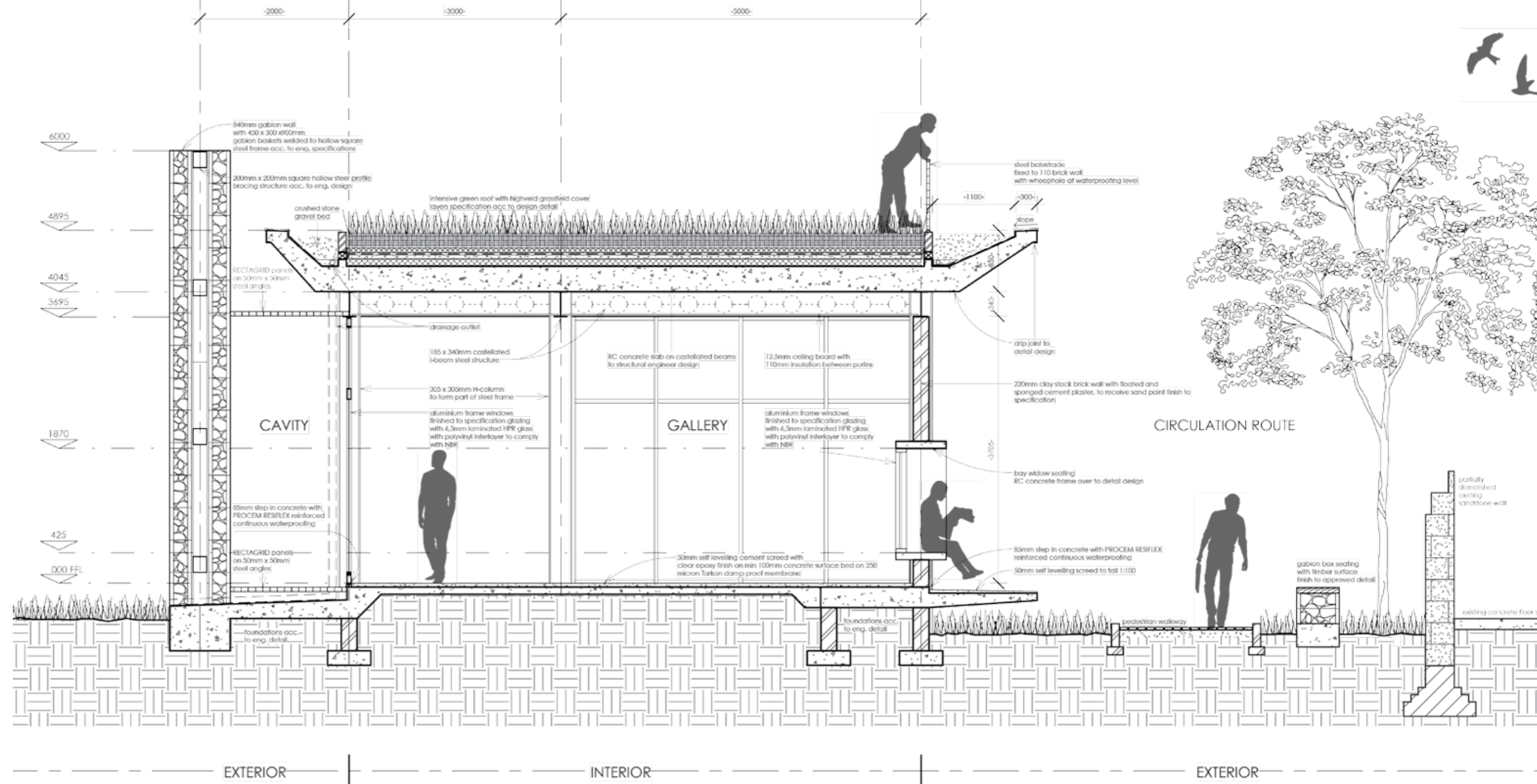


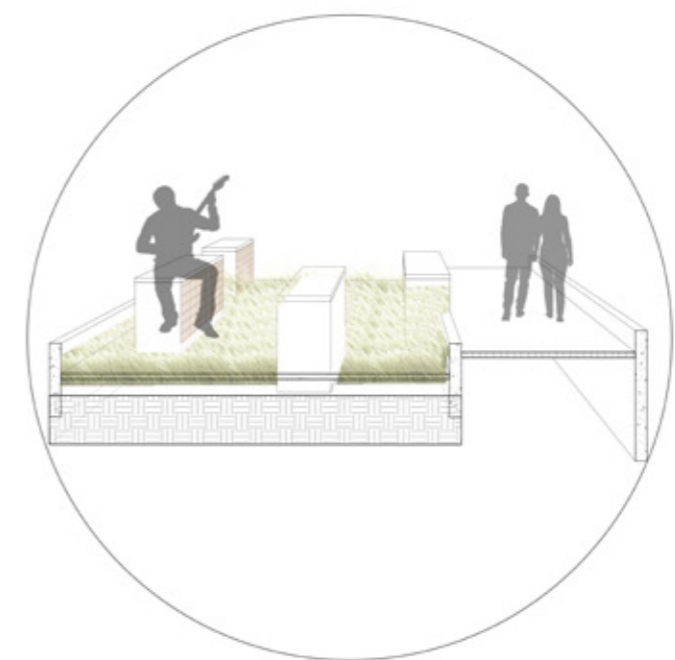
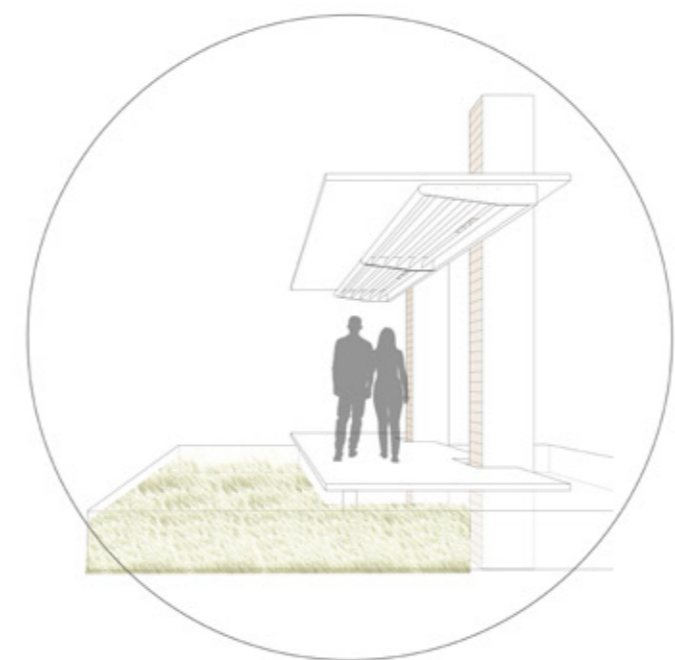
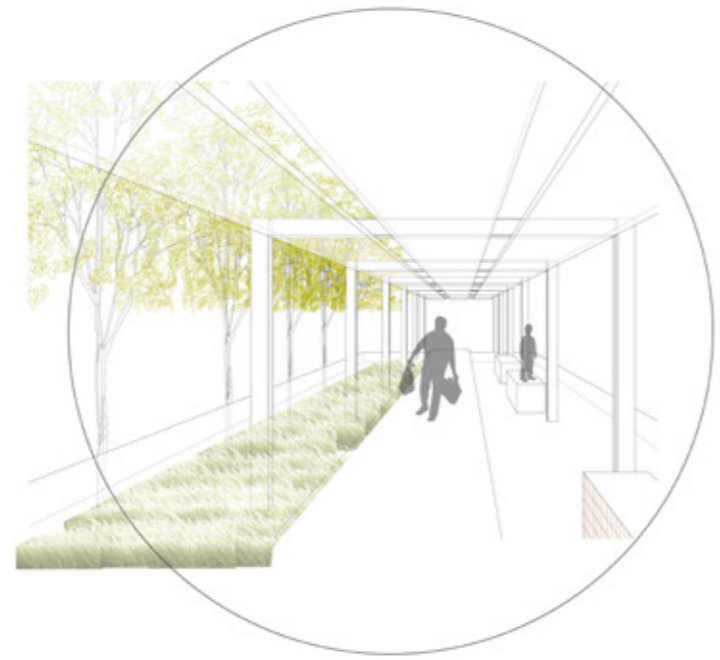
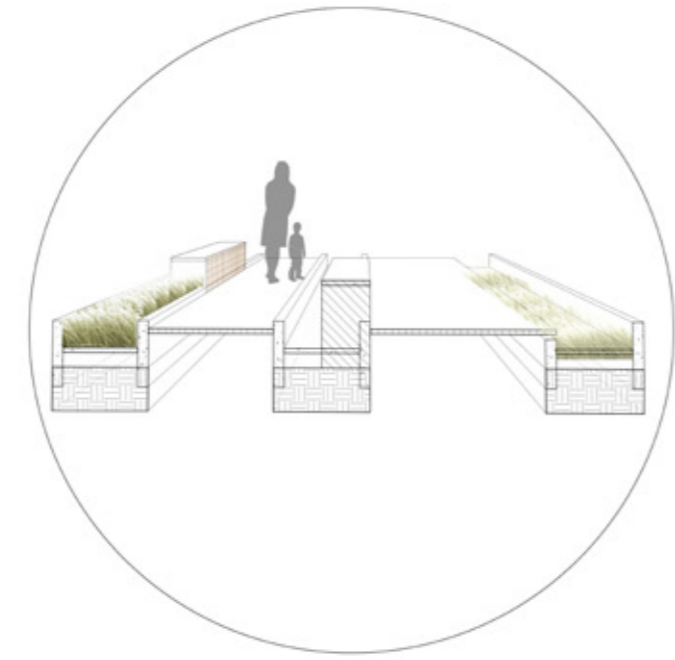
View to Library



Short Section

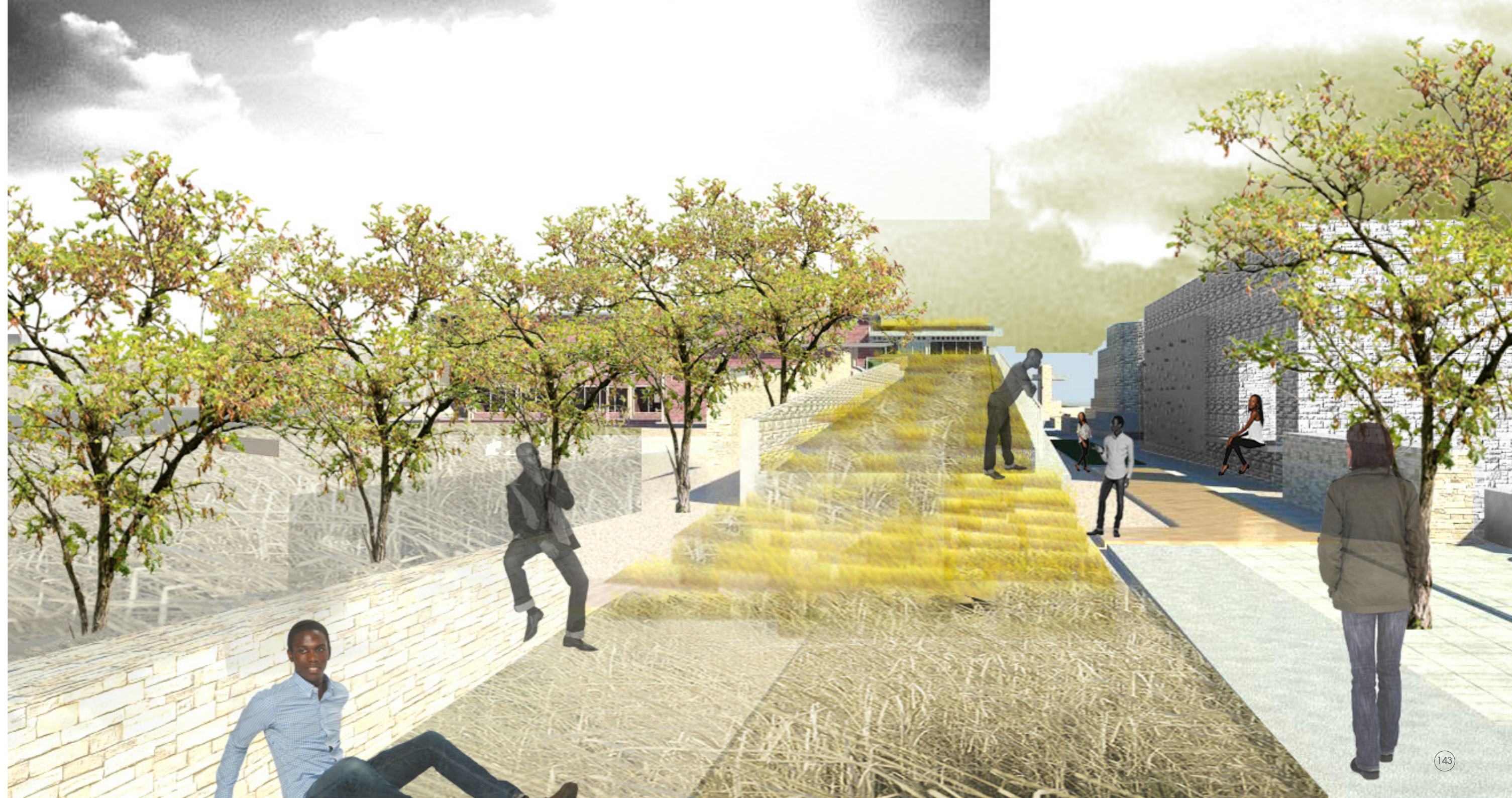
not to scale



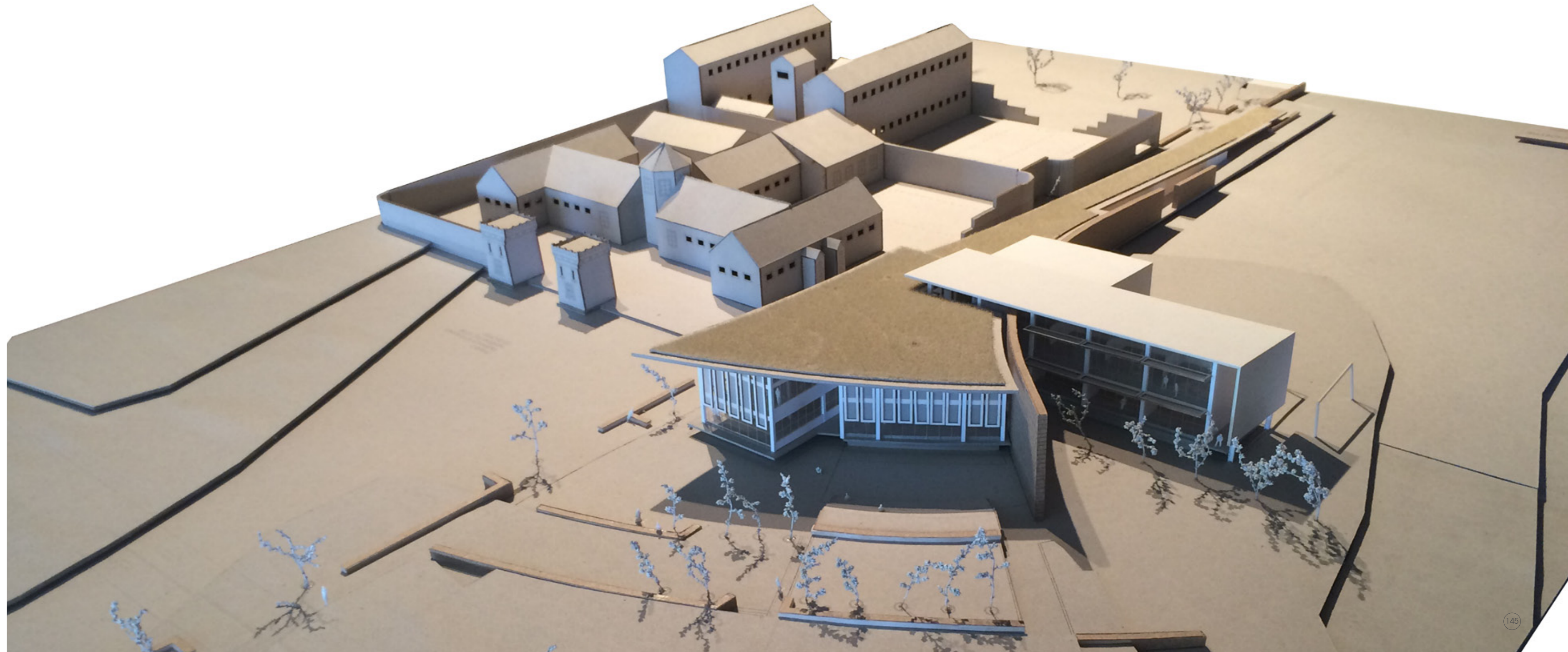


Pedestrian Circulation & Landscaping

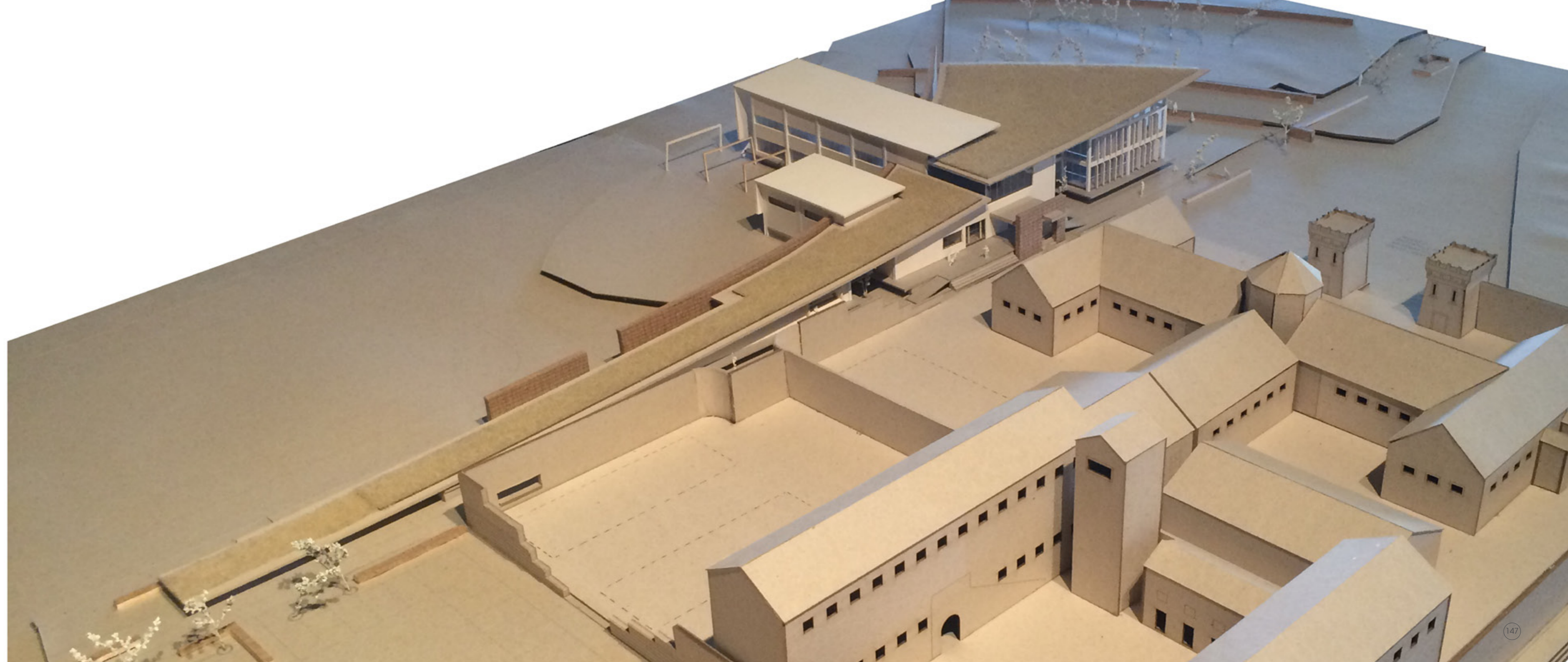
Approach towards Green Roof



3D Visualisation
Northern Aerial View



3D Visualisation
South Eastern View



3D Visualisation
North Eastern View





3D Visualisation
.....
South Western View

Chapter 9: Structure & Sustainability

In this chapter the proposed structure will be explained and illustrated together with the sustainable qualities of the materials to use and processes to follow. The technical development and sketchplans of the structure will conclude this chapter.

9.1 Accommodation list

A total of approximately 200 people can be expected to make daily use of the building

GROUND FLOOR			
1. GENERAL			
Entrance Foyer		25	m ²
Secondary Entrance		20	m ²
Information Desk (2 ppl)		20	m ²
Main Circulation shaft (lift & stairs)		20	m ²
Emergency Exit		12.5	m ²
Cleaning store		8	m ²
Storage (plantroom, maintenance, deliveries)		100	m ²
Toilet Facilities - public	4 ladies	22	m ²
	4 men	22	m ²
	1 universal	4	m ²
Toilet Facilities - staff	1 ladies	4	m ²
	1 men	4	m ²
Parking bays	70 normal	875	m ²
	2 universal	30	m ²
2. LEGAL ADVICE (semi-public)			
Reception desk (2ppl)		24	m ²
Waiting area (seat 20ppl)		24	m ²
Individual consulting cubicles (6)		54	m ²
Small group consulting rooms (4)		64	m ²
Large group consulting room (1)		24	m ²
Comfort room		15	m ²
Staff kitchen		8	m ²
Corridor		70	m ²
3. LEGAL INFORMATION CENTRE (public)			
Digital Information Hub		160	m ²
Gallery - exhibition room		56	m ²
Gallery - corridor exhibition		105	m ²
4. COMMUNITY SERVICE FUNCTION (public)			
Multi-functional Hall		180	m ²
Multi-functional Break out area		30	m ²
Auditorium (seat 64ppl)		120	m ²
Auditorium screen room		10	m ²
Kiosk		15	m ²
Open Air Theatre (seat 240ppl)		234	m ²
TOTAL AREA GROUND FLOOR		2359.5	m²

1ST FLOOR			
1. GENERAL			
Main Circulation shaft (lift& stairs)		20	m ²
Emergency Circulation stairs		12.5	m ²
Exhibition lounge		16	m ²
Cleaning Store		3	m ²
Toilet facilities	1 ladies	4	m ²
	1 men	4	m ²
2. LEGAL INFORMATION CENTRE (public)			
Library - main shelves		160	m ²
Library - Librarian desk & storage		15	m ²
Gallery - corridor exhibition		60	m ²
3. ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES (private / semi-private)			
Reception & store		15	m ²
Board room		24	m ²
Formal staff Offices (6)		84	m ²
Student open offices (12) & corridor		100	m ²
Storage and print room		28	m ²
Staff kitchenette		3	m ²
Staff Lounge		24	m ²
TOTAL AREA FIRST FLOOR		572.5	m²

9.2 General structure

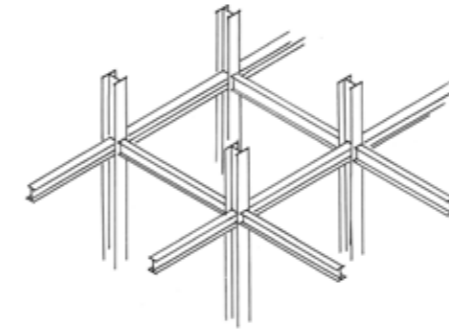
Steel framing is proposed as the general structural system of the design. A skeleton frame composed of H-columns and I-beams will support the building components. The proposed design contains three morphological components which provide structural and sustainable qualities simultaneously.

Column and beam construction

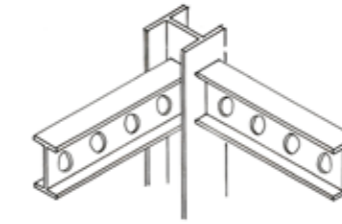
- H-columns will be used throughout the whole structure.
- Castellated I-beams will be spanned laterally and longitudinally along the structural grid layout.

Infill wall and floor construction

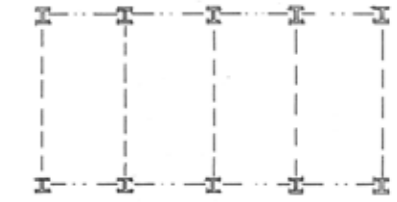
- walls: brick work and glass curtain walls
- floor: concrete composite steel deck floor



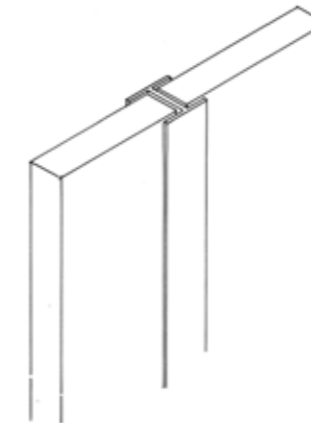
STEEL FRAME



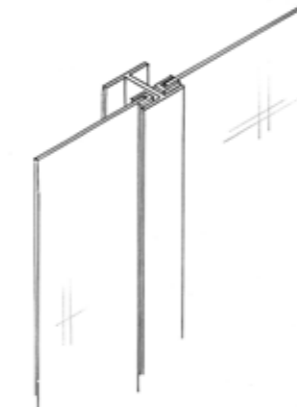
CASTELLATED BEAMS



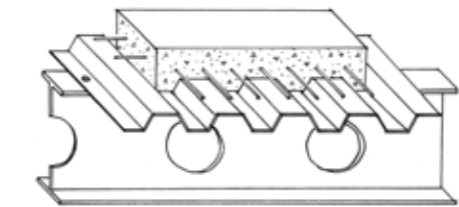
STRUCTURAL GRID



BRICK INFILL PANELS



GLASS INFILL PANELS



COMPOSITE DECK FLOOR

9.3 Morphological components

9.3.1 Gabion wall

Gabion construction consists of large multi-celled wire mesh boxes, known as gabion baskets. They are filled with quarried stone and assembled vertically to create a structural plane. Gabion structures can be used as cladding, structural support and free standing walls. This dissertation proposed that a structural steel frame will support the gabion walls. Gabions are free draining walls and are used in civil engineering to build walls along riverbanks, for road building, for erosion control, for dams and foundation construction. In this case, the gabion wall will be used for its aesthetic and striking qualities.

Gabion baskets are manufactured according to customized sizes and delivered to pack and assemble on site. It is a relative easy process that can involve the local community.

The structure hosting the gabion wall will connect to the other structural components and form part of the total steel frame of the proposed design.

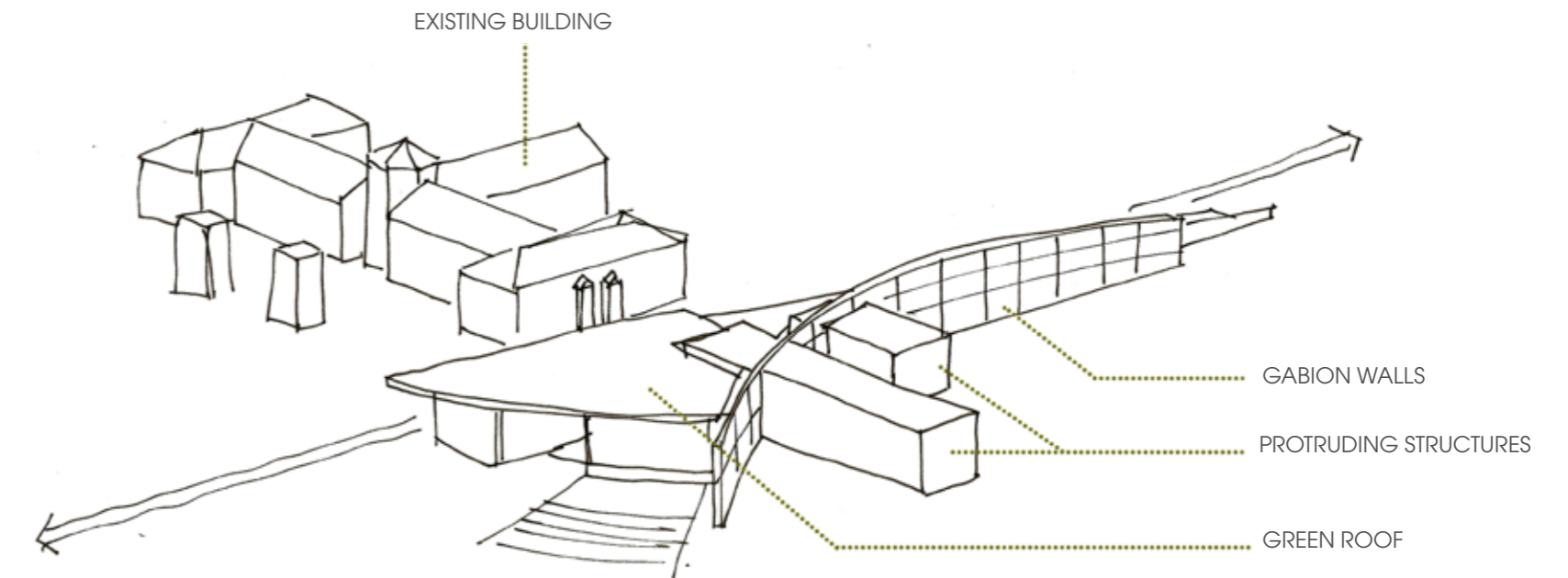
A passive climate control system can be implemented by clever use of the gabion wall construction.

Graded sizes of rock can be manipulated to provide certain functions. Smaller rocks create a more dense and compact structure. With bigger rocks, the gaps between them will be larger and create a porous surface.

A porous surface assists ventilation, where air can flow through the wall and cool the building in the summer. Being solid, the rocks have thermal capacity that can be used as heat stacking, to heat the building in the winter.

Structure and Sustainable purpose

- **Gabion wall** Allows for ventilation and heat stacking
- **Green roof** Environmental façade, thermal insulator
- **Protruding structures** Passive climate control system



9.3.2 Green roof

As a way of inviting the community to engage with the building, a vegetated roof is proposed on which it will be possible to walk.

A green or vegetated roof contributes several sustainable uses to a structural element that is usually an unused space. A wide variety of vegetation can be planted on the roof depending on the load capabilities and structural requirements.

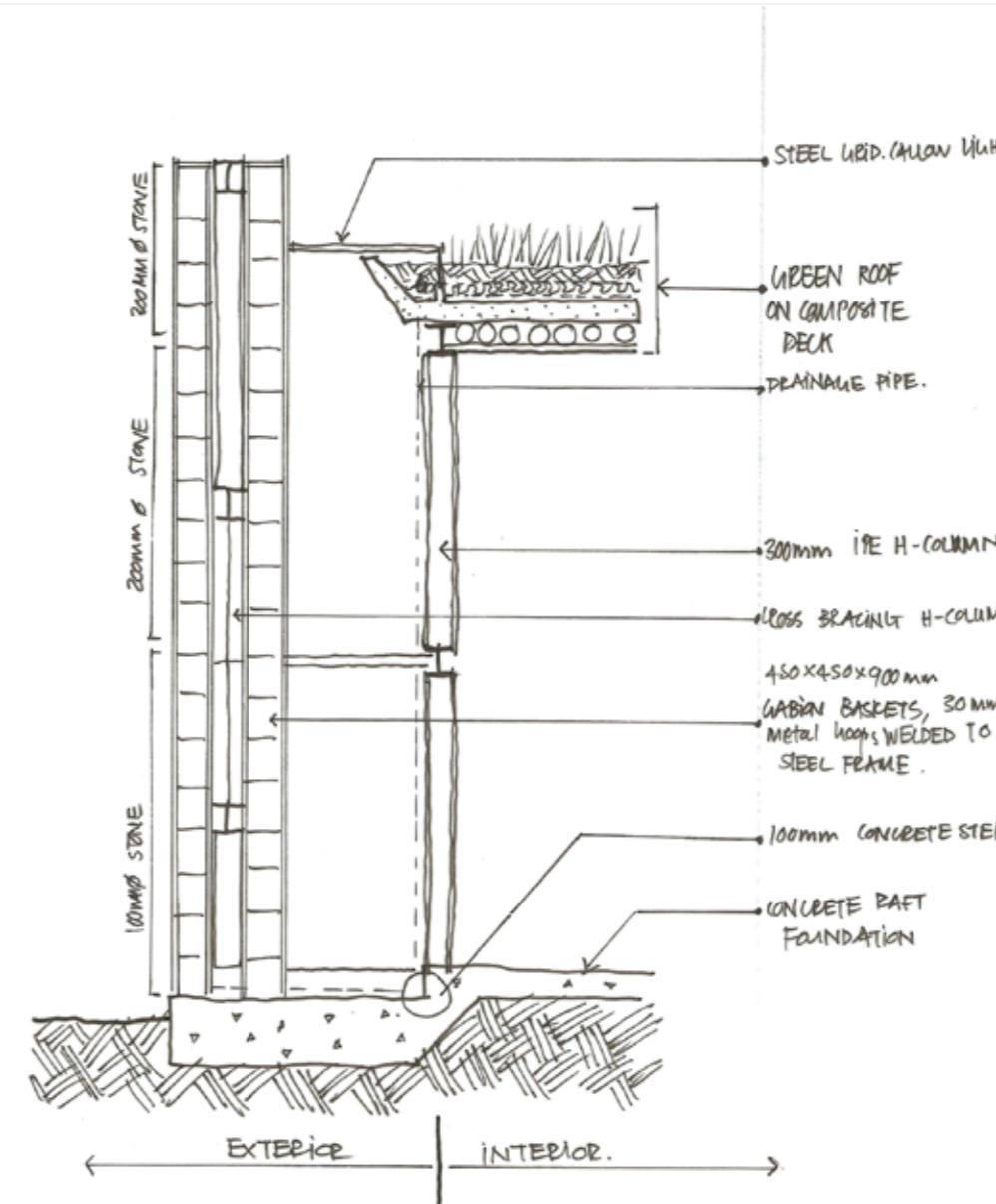
Sustainable qualities of a vegetated roof:

- Great thermal insulation
- Reduced storm water run-off
- Improved air quality
- Noise pollution reduction
- Link to the natural surroundings of the building (Sarnafil: online)

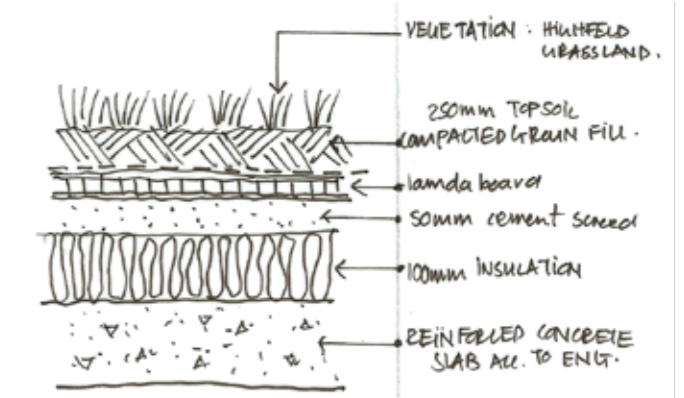
The concrete roof will be supported by the steel frame construction with an insulated concrete composite deck.

9.3.3 Protruding structures

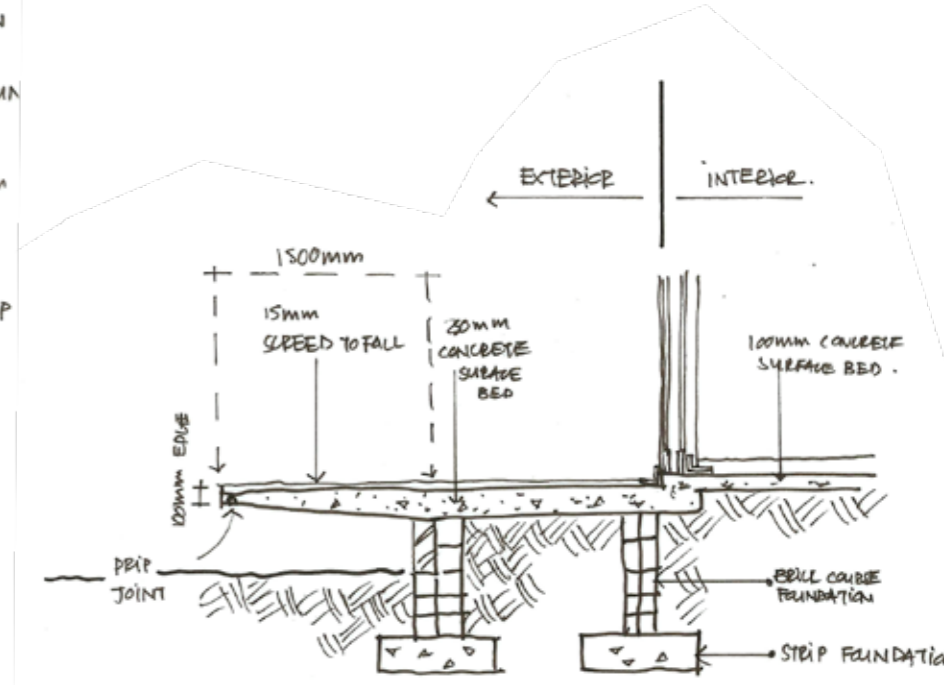
The third morphological element is the set of protruding structures forms part of the steel frame structure. A basic assembly of steel columns and beams with infill curtain walls will support the corrugated iron roof structure.



CONCEPTUAL WALL STRUCTURE



TYPICAL PLANTED ROOF DETAIL



FLOATING FLOOR SLAB

9.4 Sustainability principles

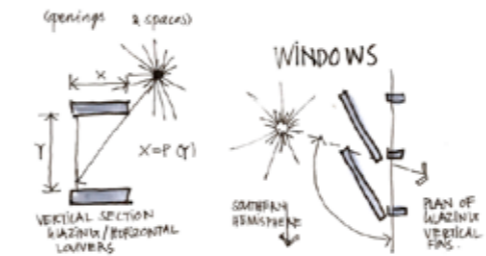
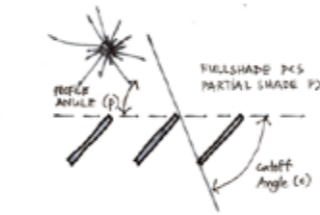
General sustainable elements that are considered in the design:

- North orientation
- Cross ventilation
- Louvre system
- Ventilation
- Passive heating & cooling
- Involvement of local community in design process

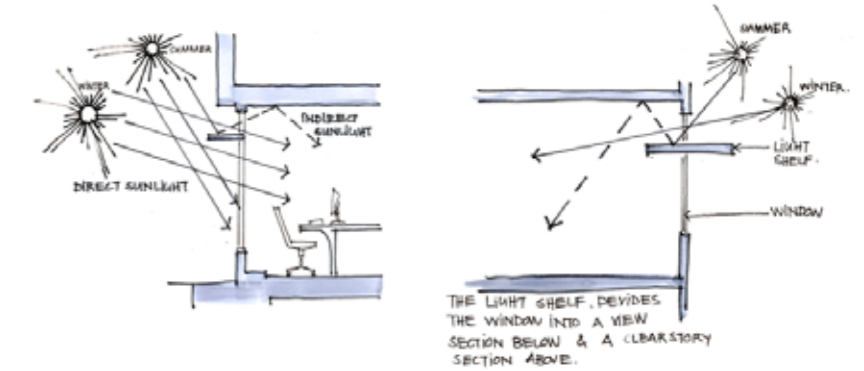
Community orientated sustainable approach

The wall, symbolizing the boundary of apartheid and its unjust heritage, will be partially removed to accommodate the local community in the conservational approach. An opportunity will be created for the community itself to partake in demolishing the wall and to attribute a new cultural significance to the site. In the basic construction process of the new gabion wall an opportunity arises for the community to partake in its assembly, thereby making use of local labour and contributing to the upliftment of the area.

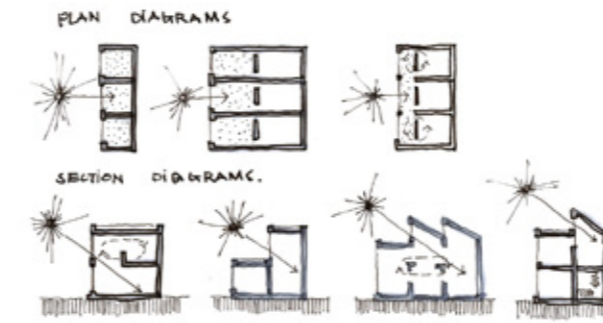
The steel frame construction connects the three different morphological components of the design (the gabion wall, the green roof and the protruding elements) into a single structure. This combines their form-giving, structural and sustainable qualities, allowing them to serve multiple functions simultaneously.



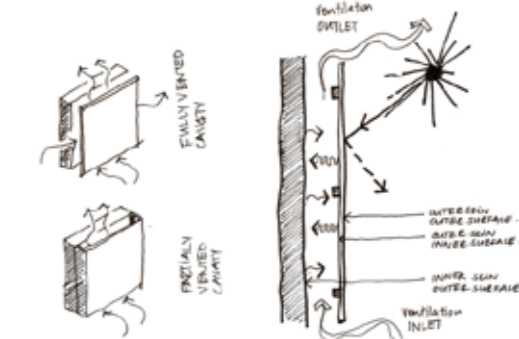
LOUVRED SUNSHINE



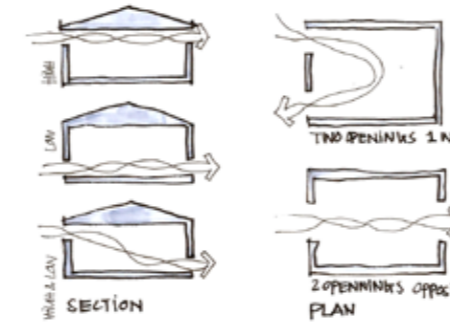
DAYLIGHTING TECHNIQUES



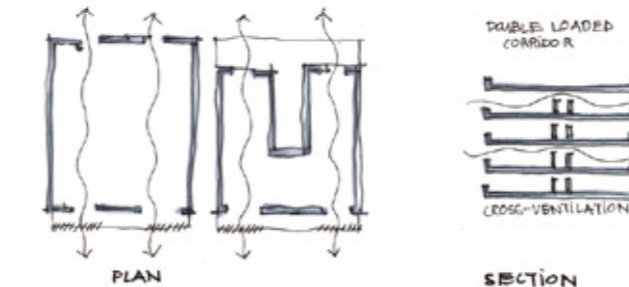
SOLAR ORGANISATION



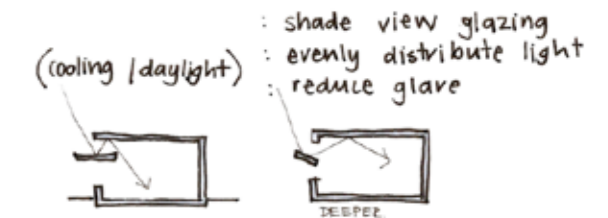
DOUBLE SKIN WALL VENTILATION



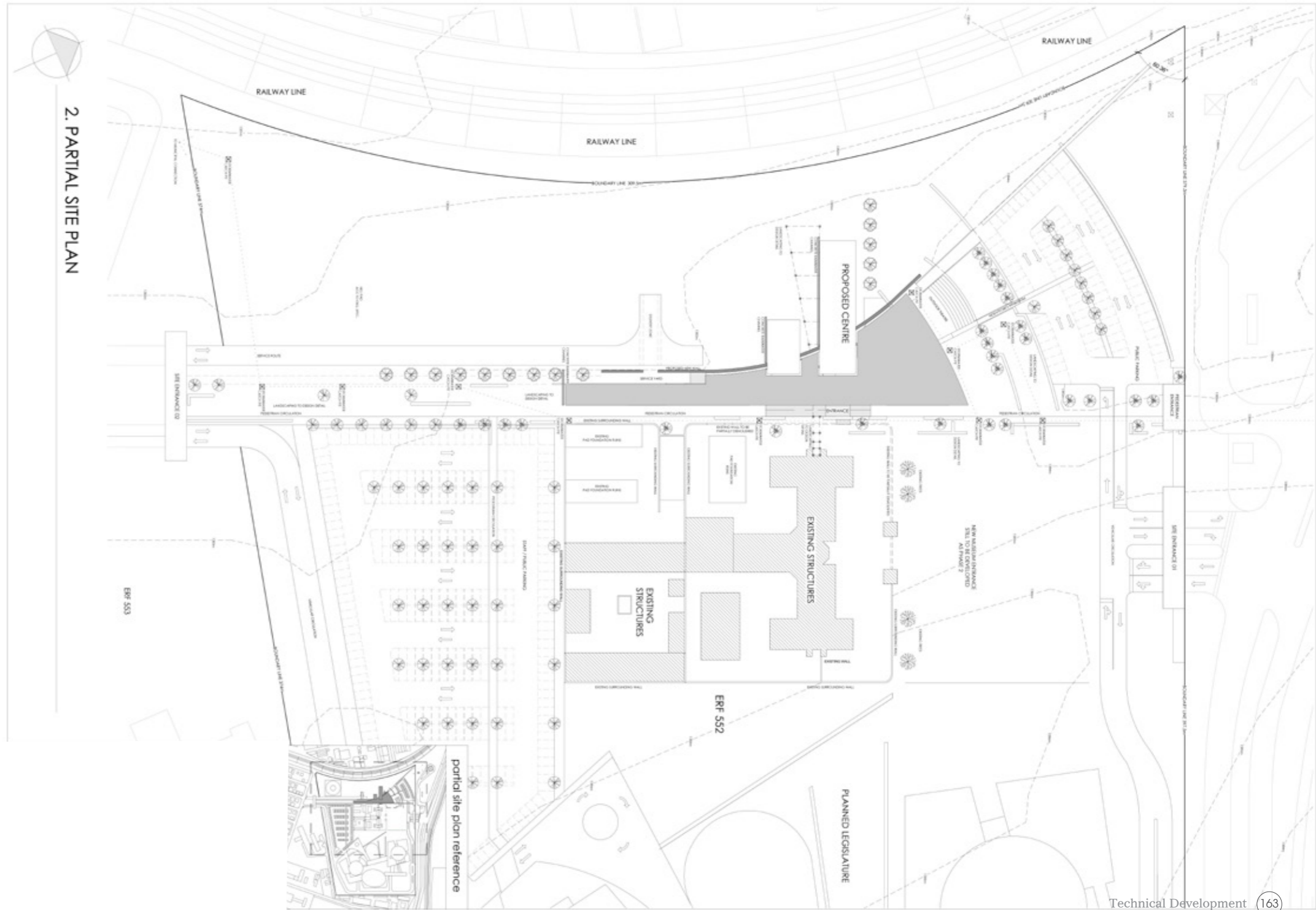
VENTILATION OPENINGS



CROSS VENTILATION

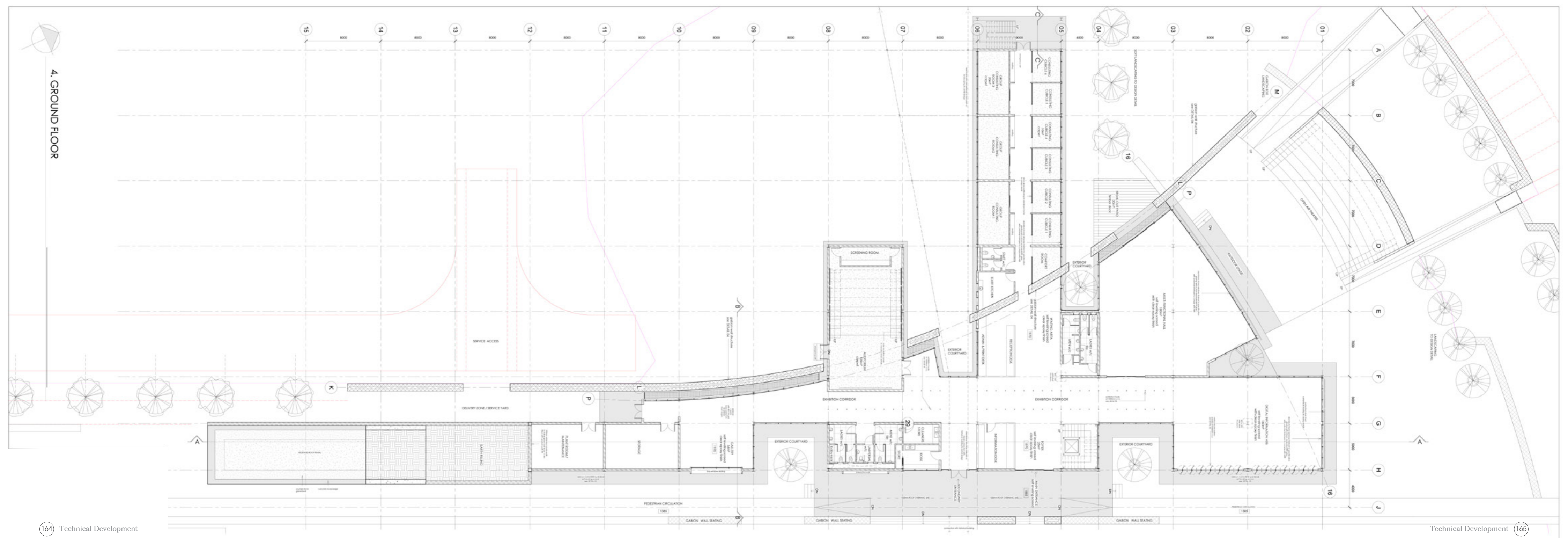


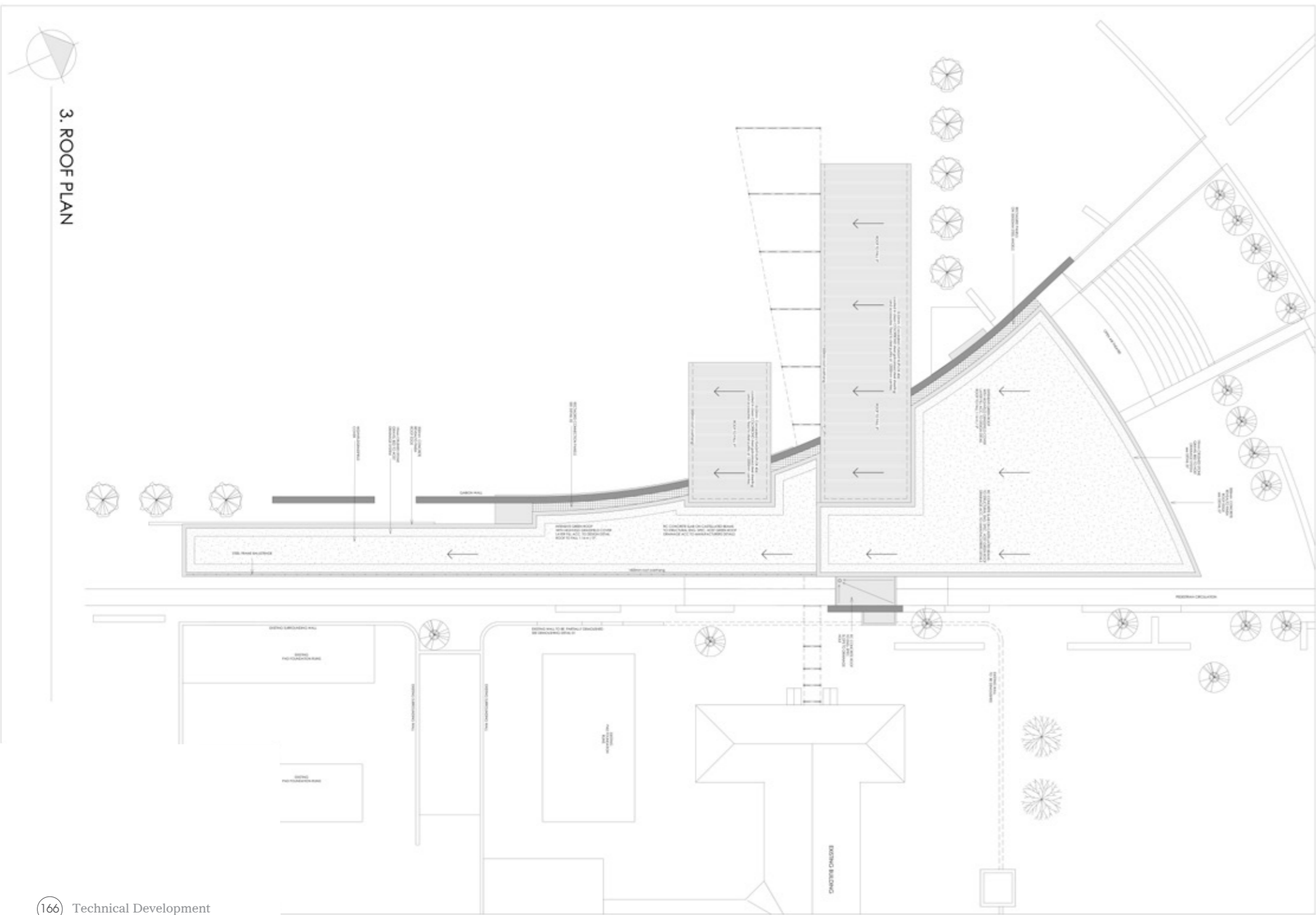
LIGHT SHELVES



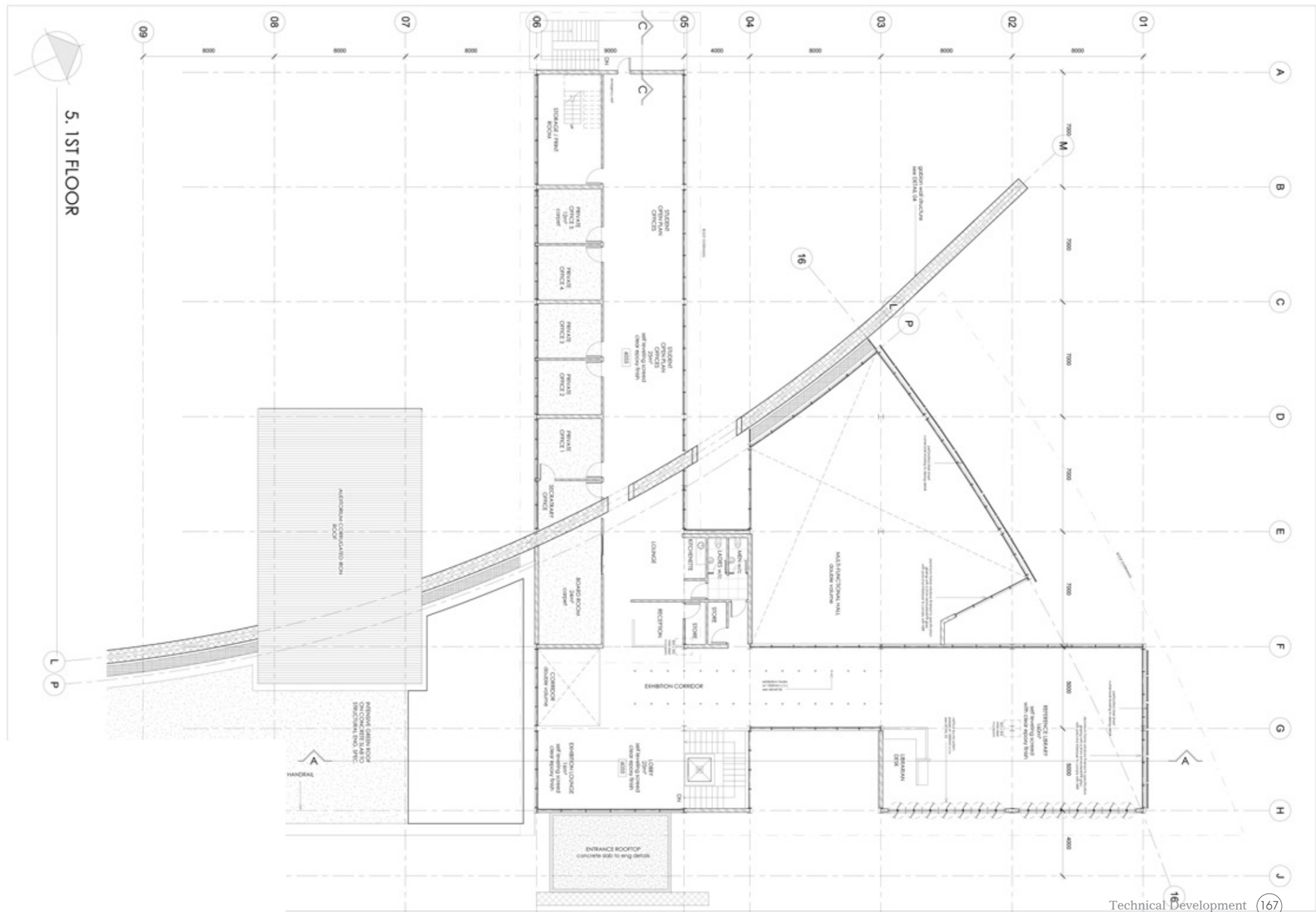
9.5 Technical Development & Sketch Plans

4. GROUND FLOOR

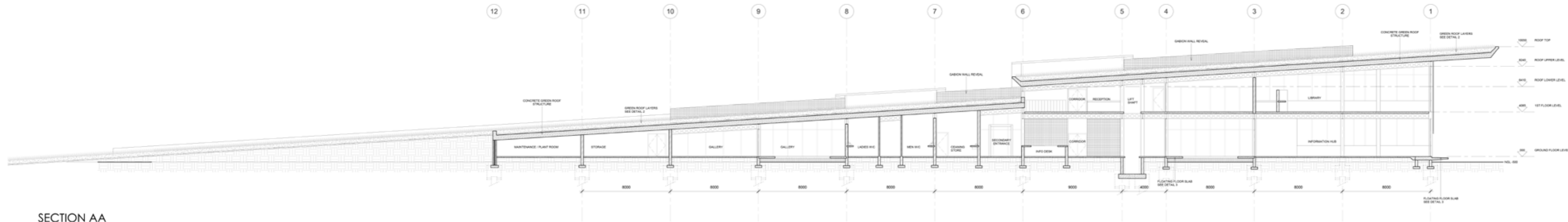




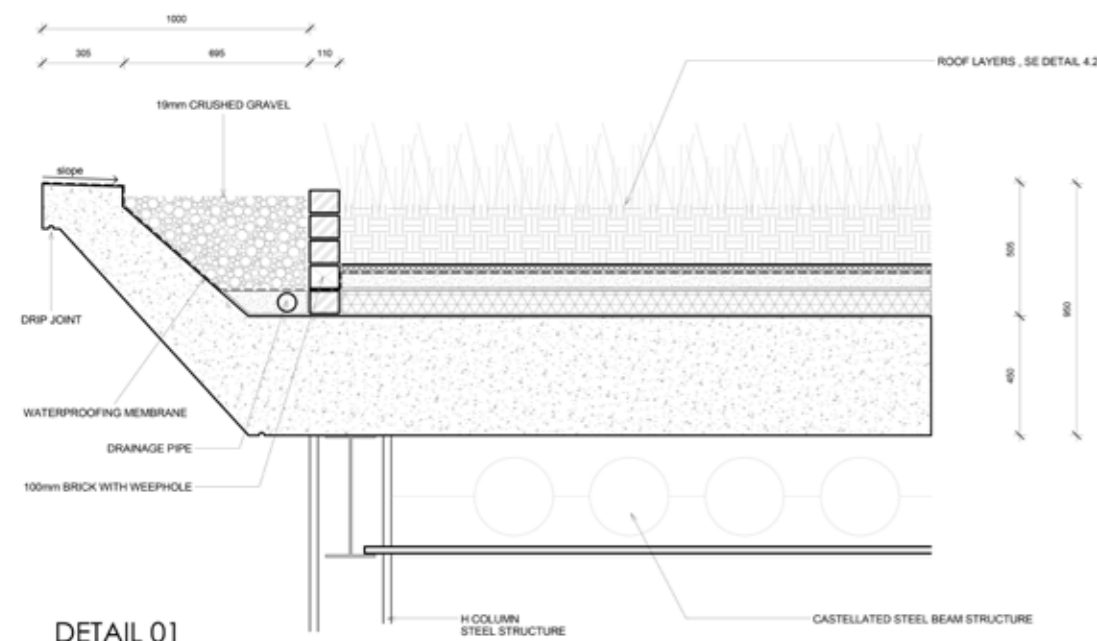
3. ROOF PLAN



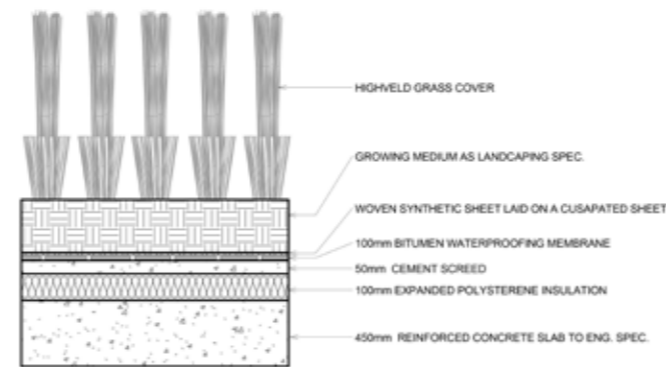
5. 1ST FLOOR



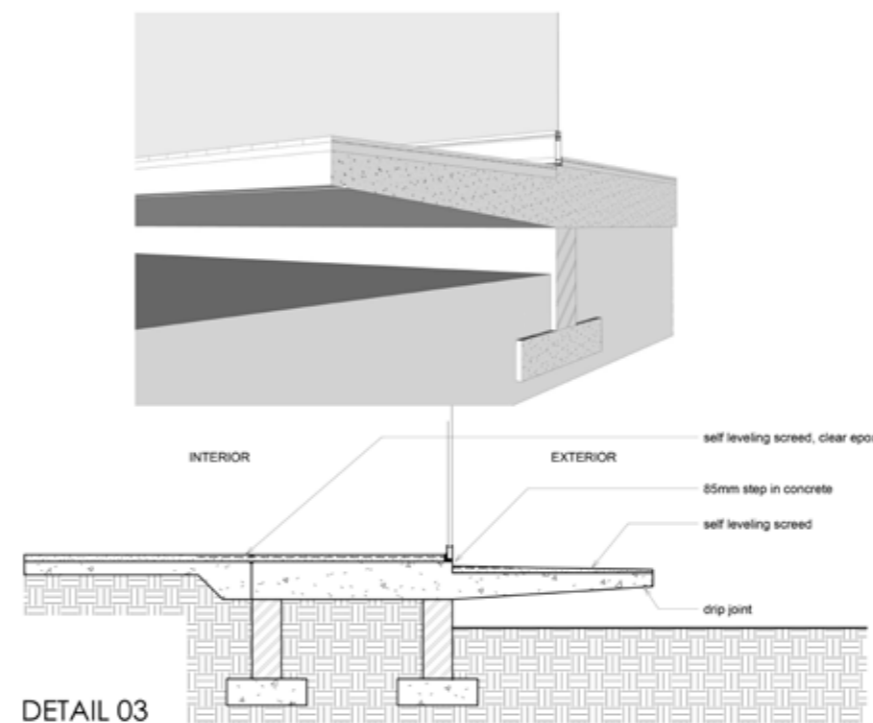
SECTION AA



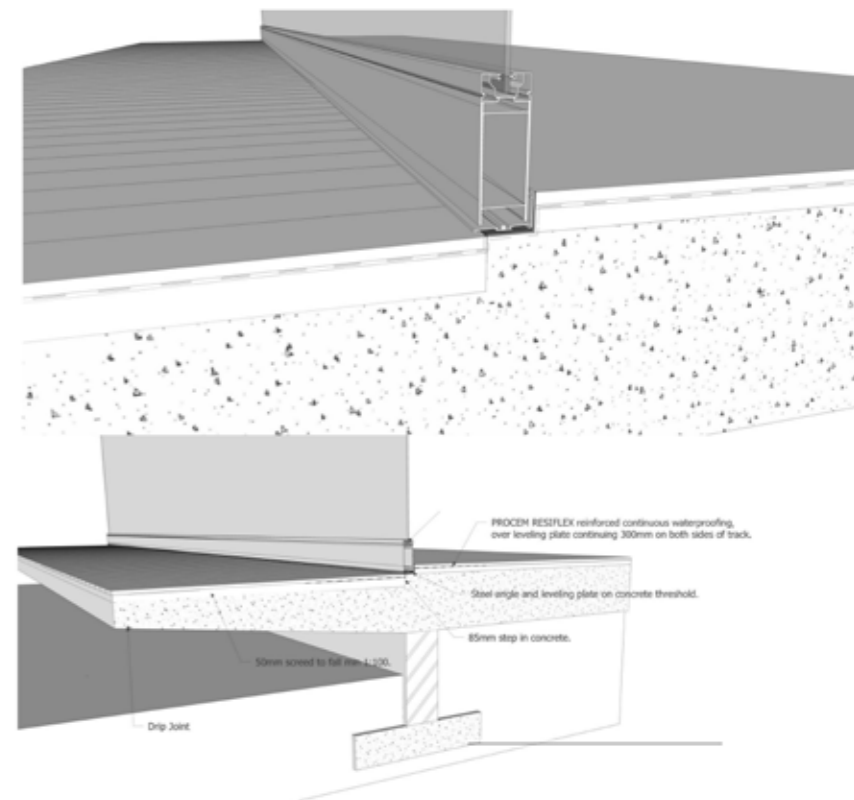
DETAIL 01

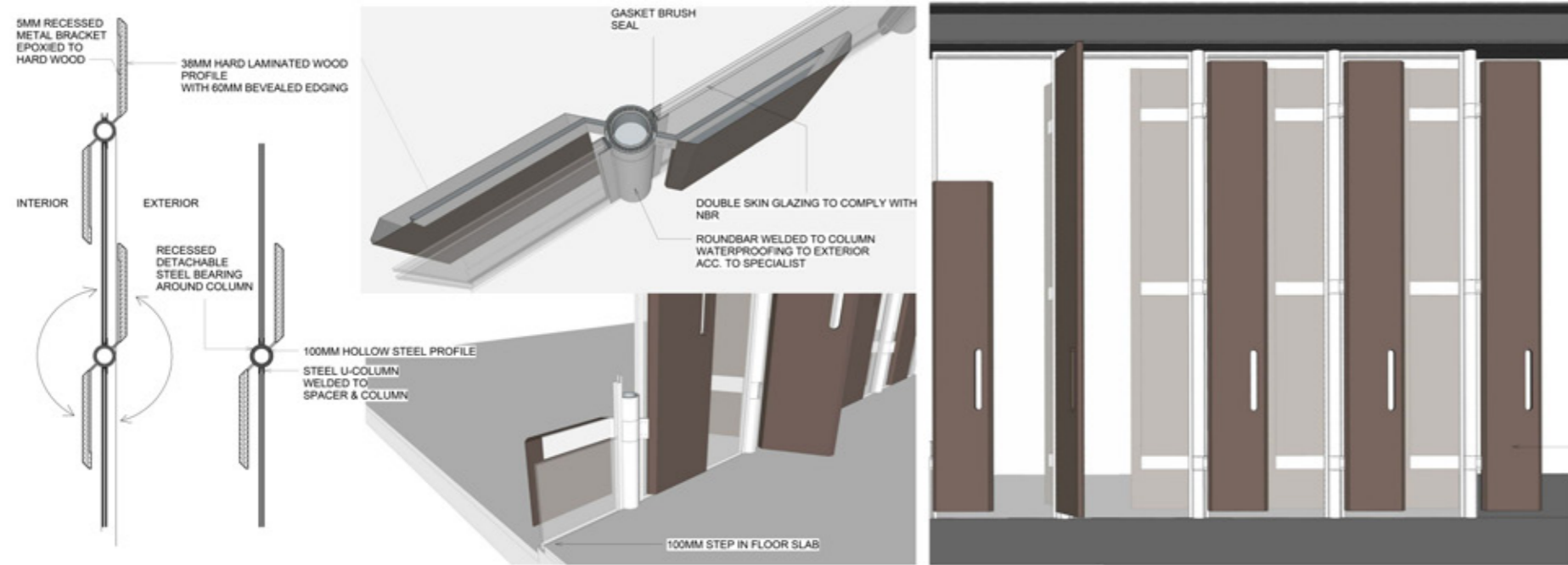


DETAIL 02

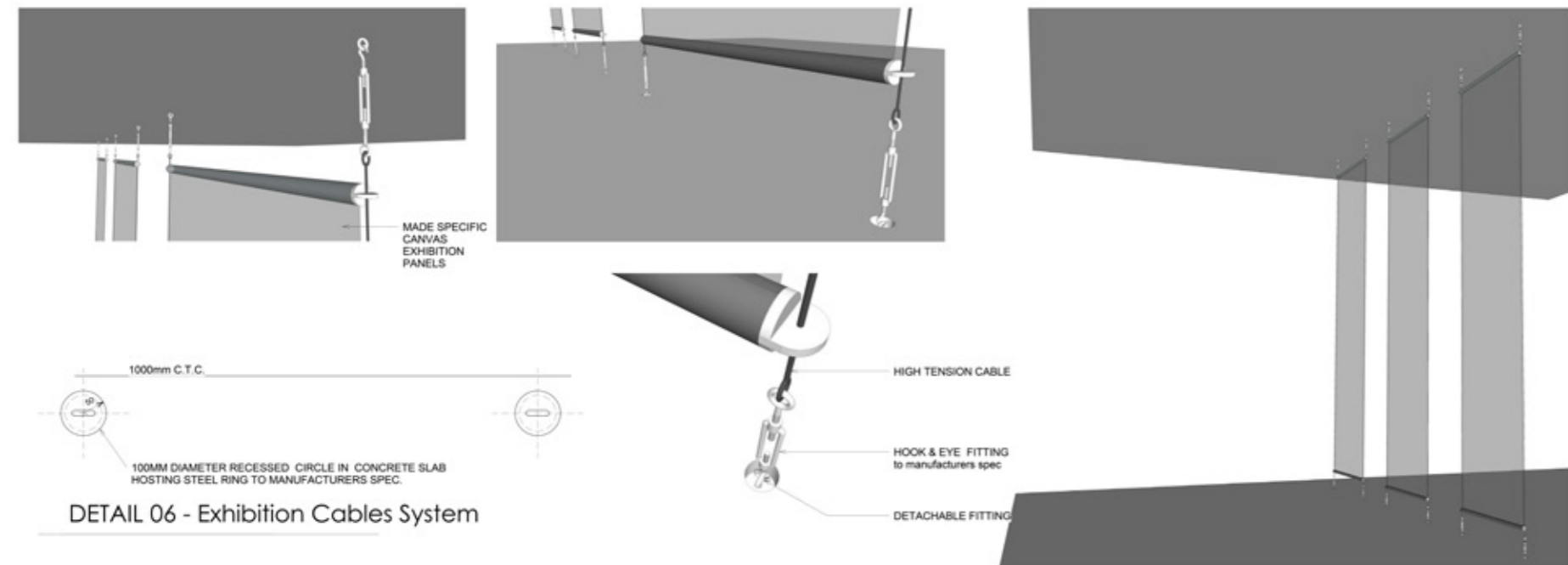


DETAIL 03

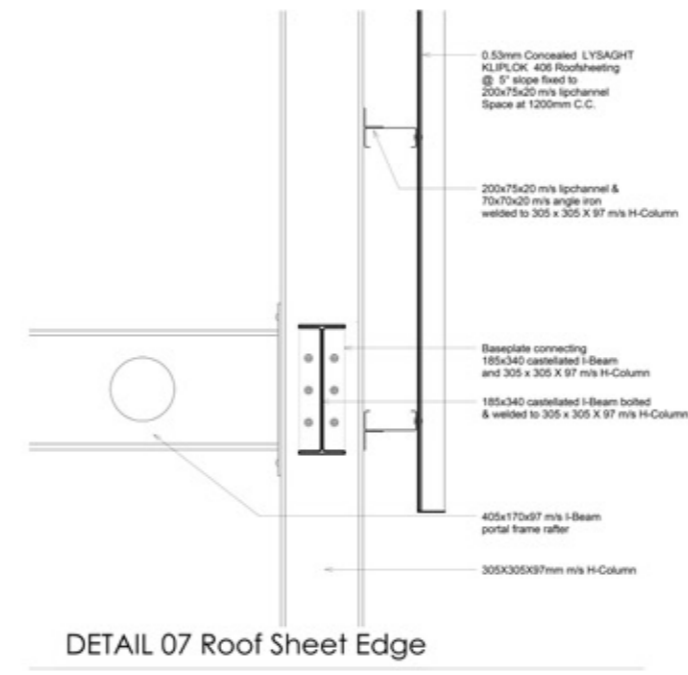




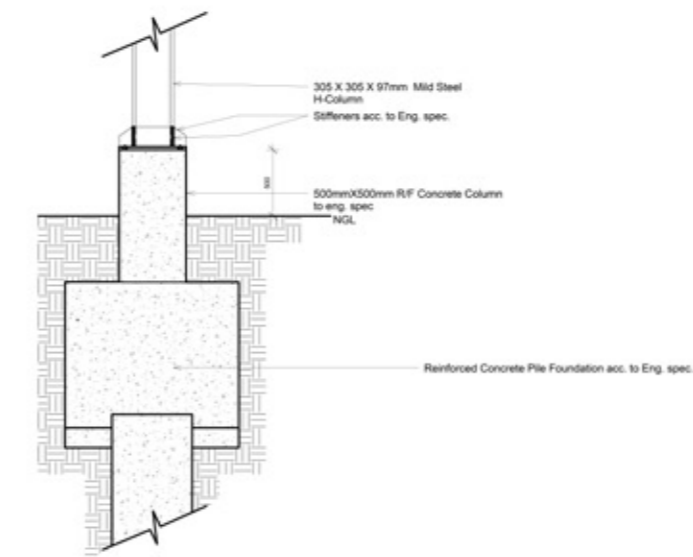
DETAIL 05 - Vertical Louvres



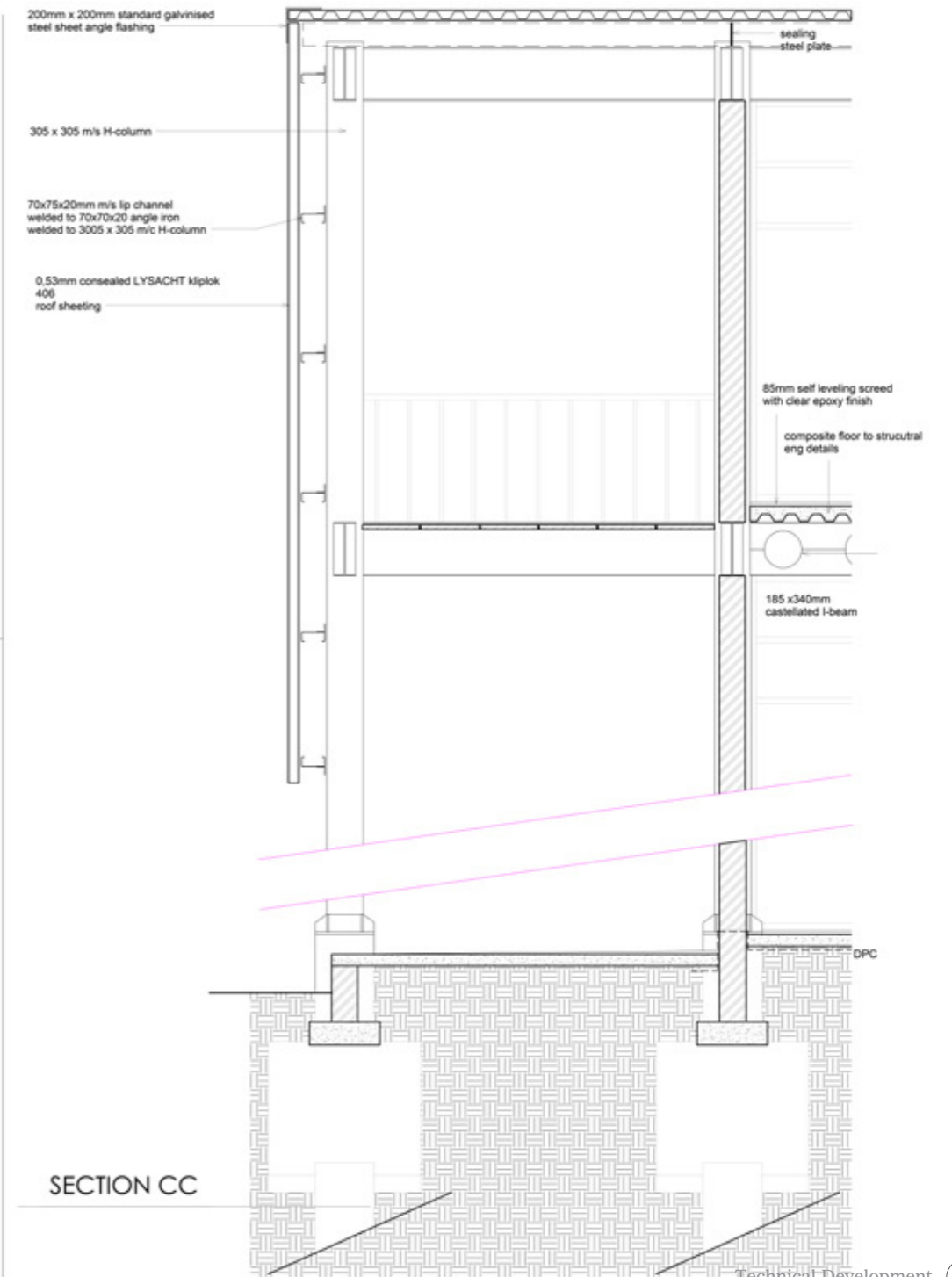
DETAIL 06 - Exhibition Cables System



DETAIL 07 Roof Sheet Edge



DETAIL 08 Column connection with Pile foundation



SECTION CC

Chapter 10: Conclusion

The Department of Public Works has not yet implemented its decision to rehabilitate the site of the Ramkraal Prison by building the Legislative Precinct next to the prison and converting the prison into a museum. The transitional period provided in this interval can be seen as the liminal stage in the rites of passage by which the Ramkraal Prison site will come to house the new Precinct. This liminality can be exploited by architectural interventions so as to reinforce the objectives of the Department of Public Works, transform the cultural significance of the site in the eyes of the local community and restore dignity to the historical site of the abandoned Ramkraal Prison. In practice this means building a new Centre for Human Rights and Legal Aid alongside the prison/museum and opening the repressive prison wall so that it is no longer a barrier.



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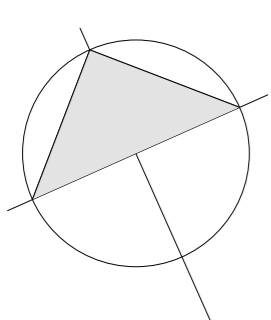
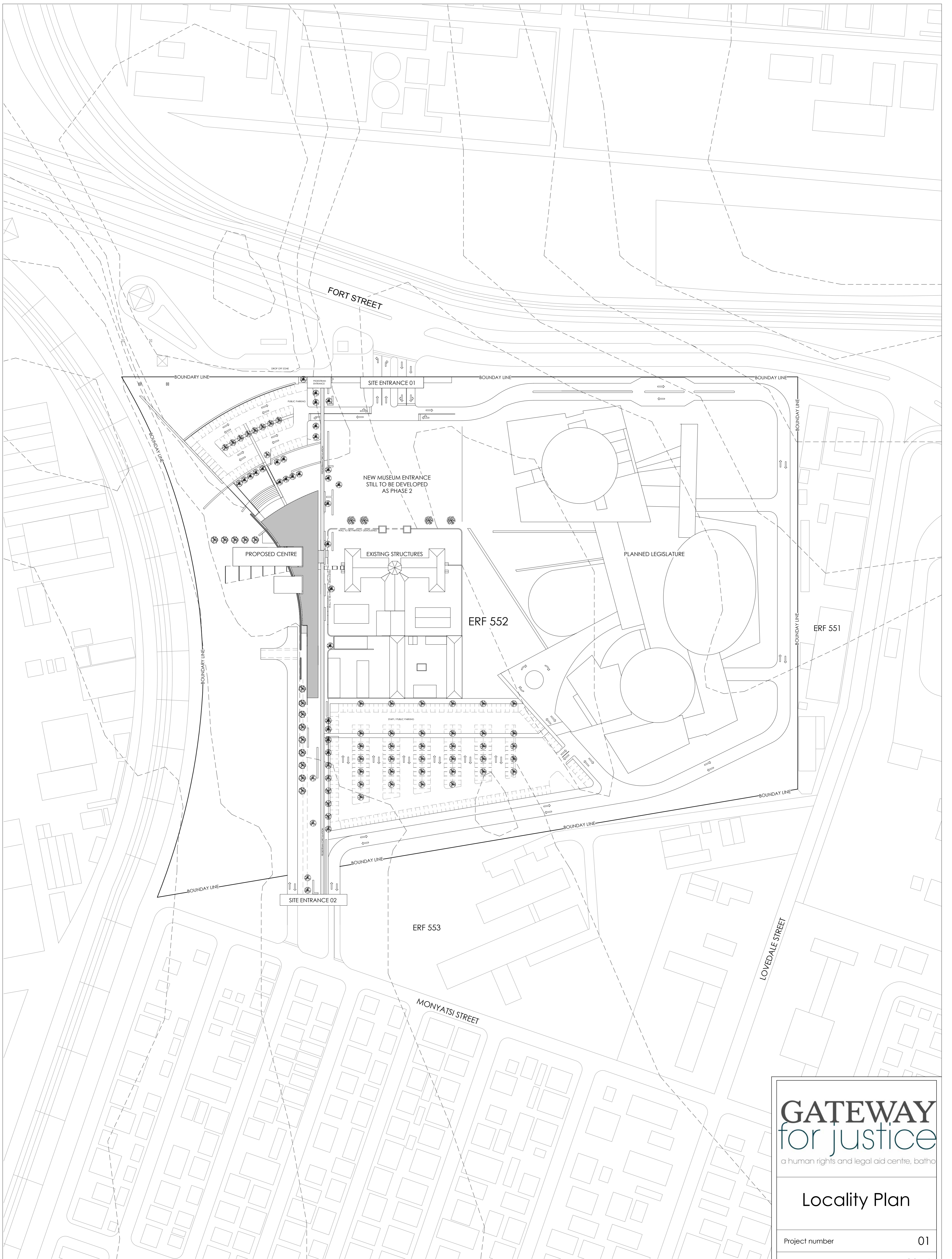
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Lize-Marié Fourie 2007034693





1. LOCALITY PLAN

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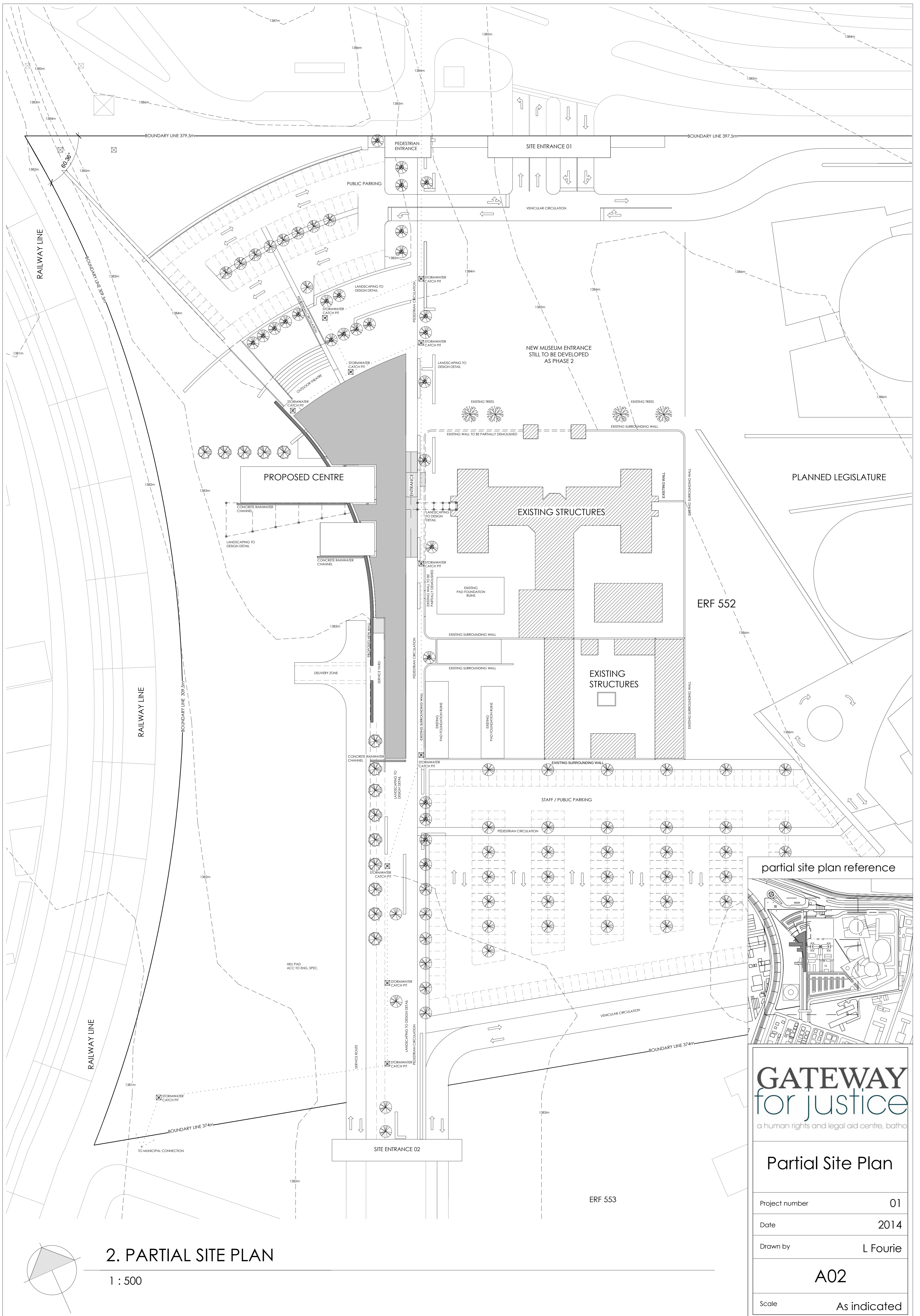
GATEWAY
for justice
a human rights and legal aid centre, batho

Locality Plan

Project number	01
Date	2014
Drawn by	L Fourie

A01

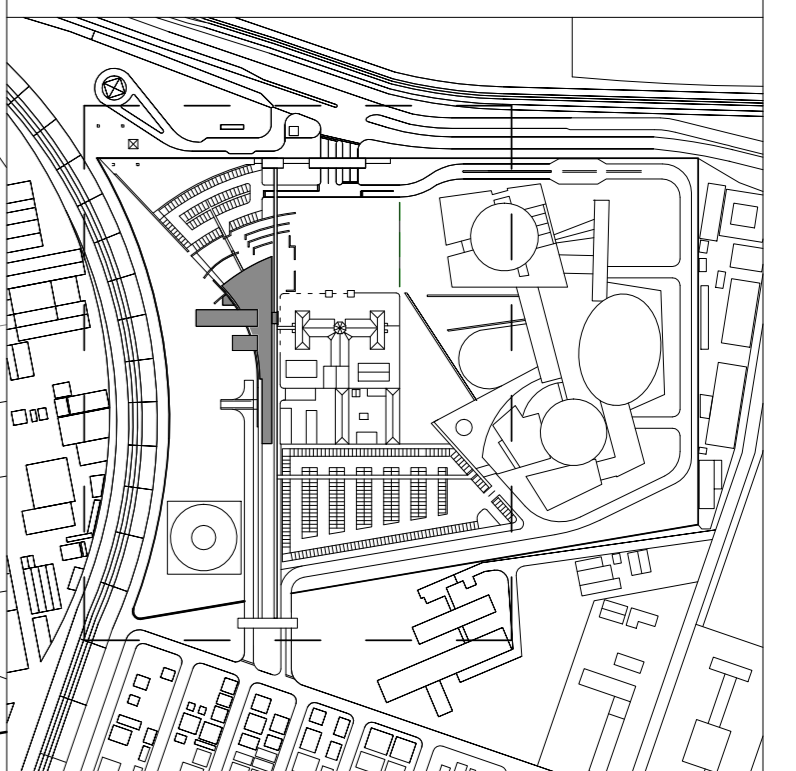
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2. PARTIAL SITE PLAN

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partial site plan reference



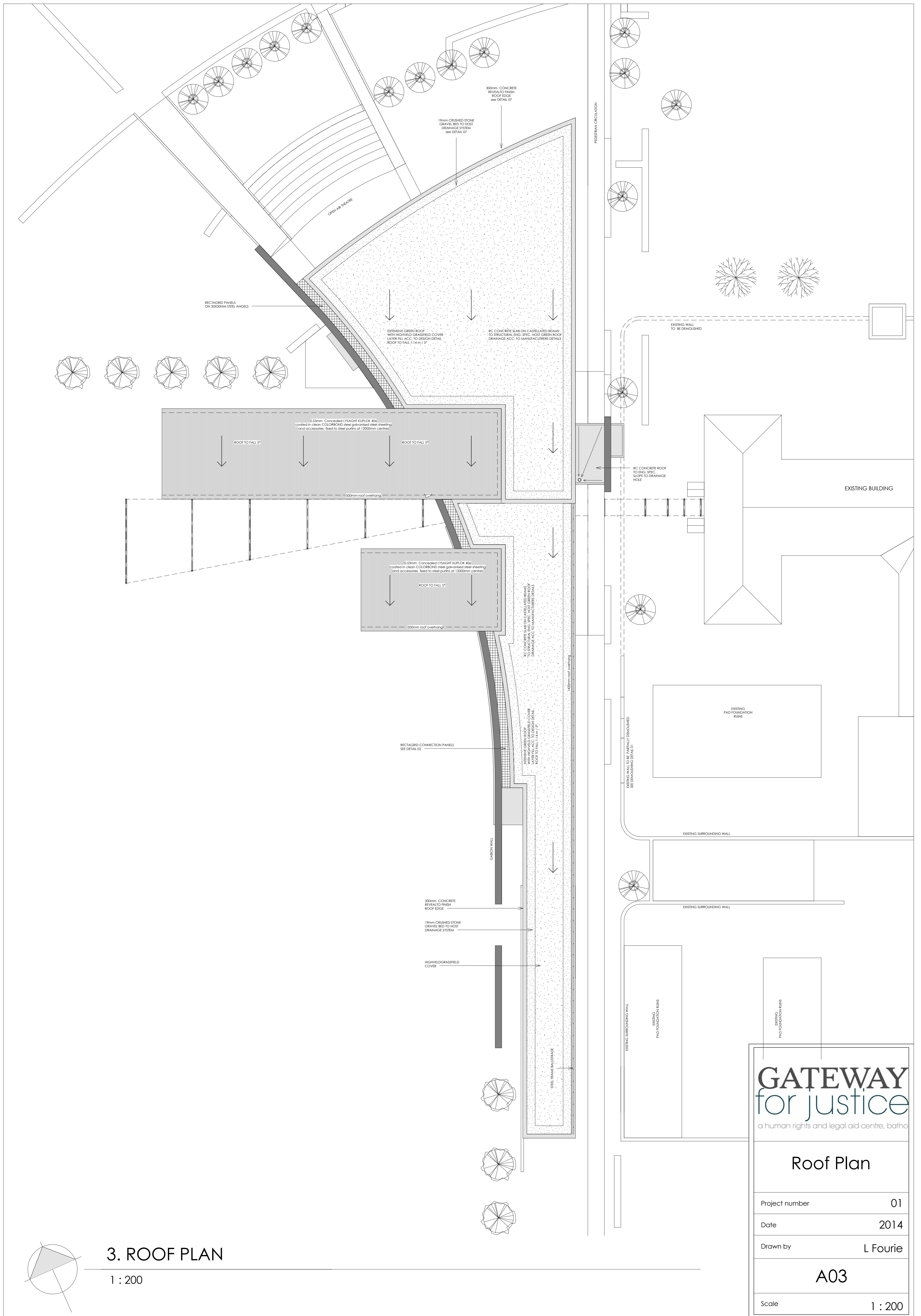
GATEWAY
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Partial Site Plan

Project number	01
Date	2014
Drawn by	L Fourie

A02

Scale	As indicated
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3. ROOF PLAN

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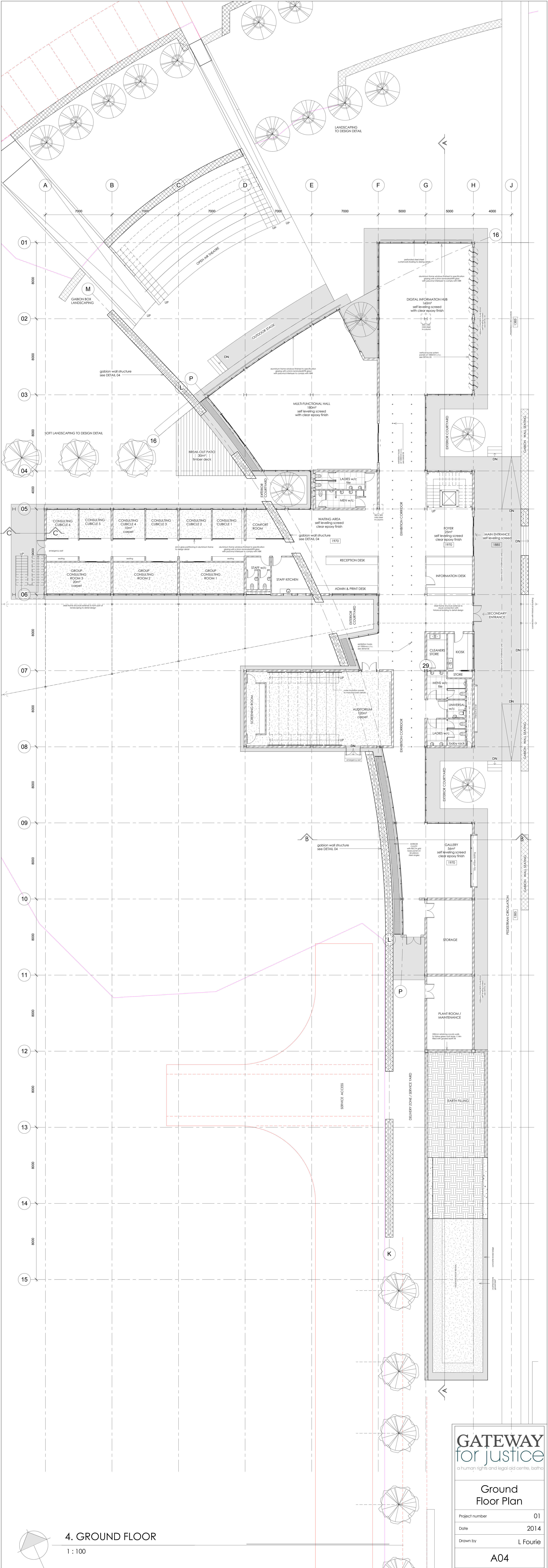
GATEWAY
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Roof Plan

Project number	01
Date	2014
Drawn by	L Fourie

A03

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4. GROUND FLOOR

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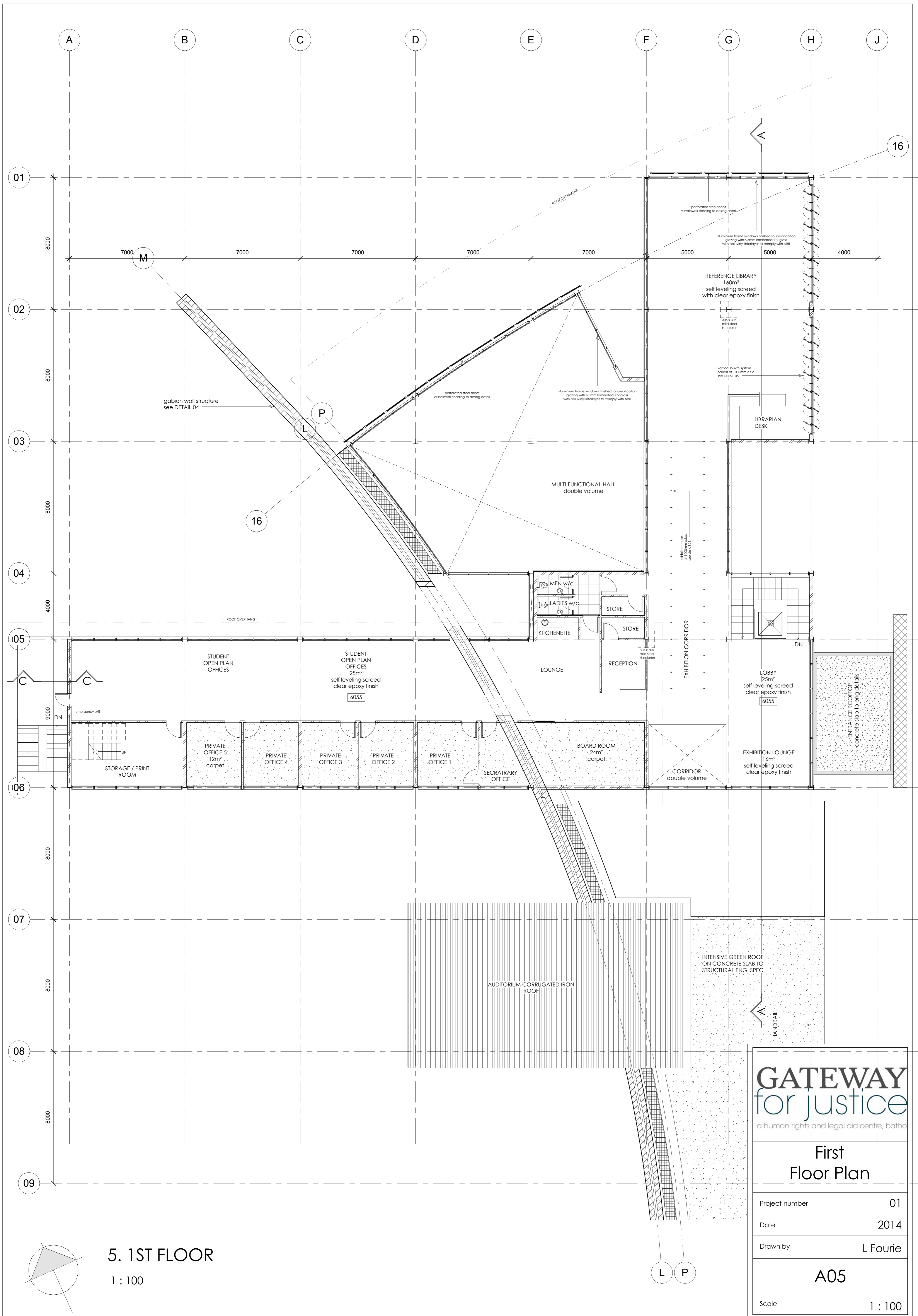
GATEWAY
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Ground Floor Plan

Project number	01
Date	2014
Drawn by	L Fourie

A04

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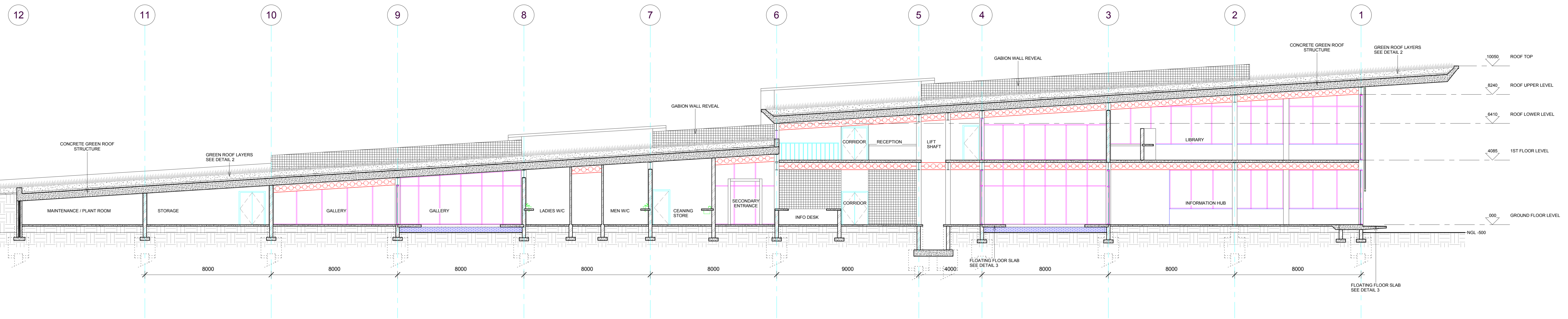
GATEWAY
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First Floor Plan

Project number 01
Date 2014
Drawn by L Fourie

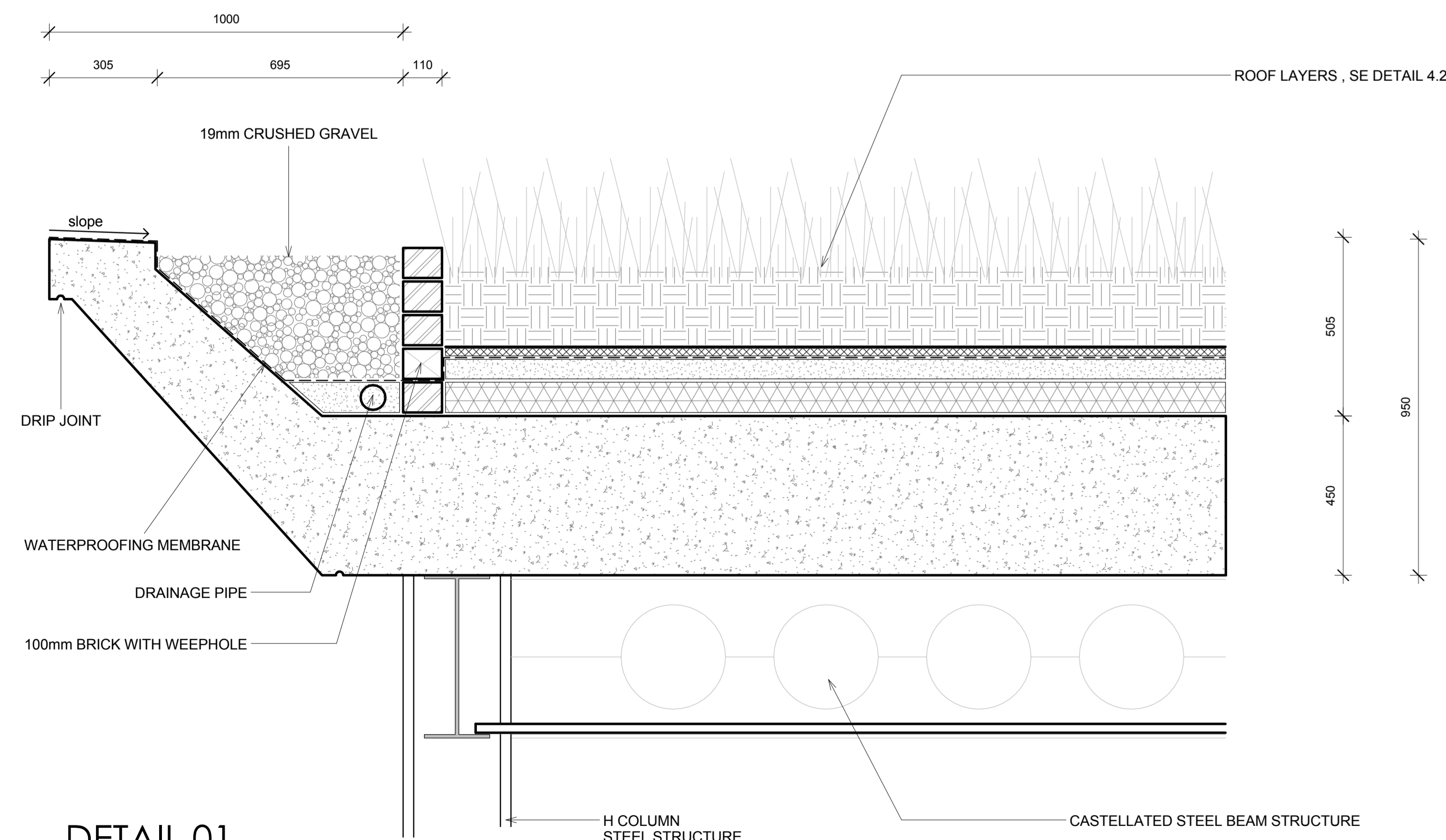
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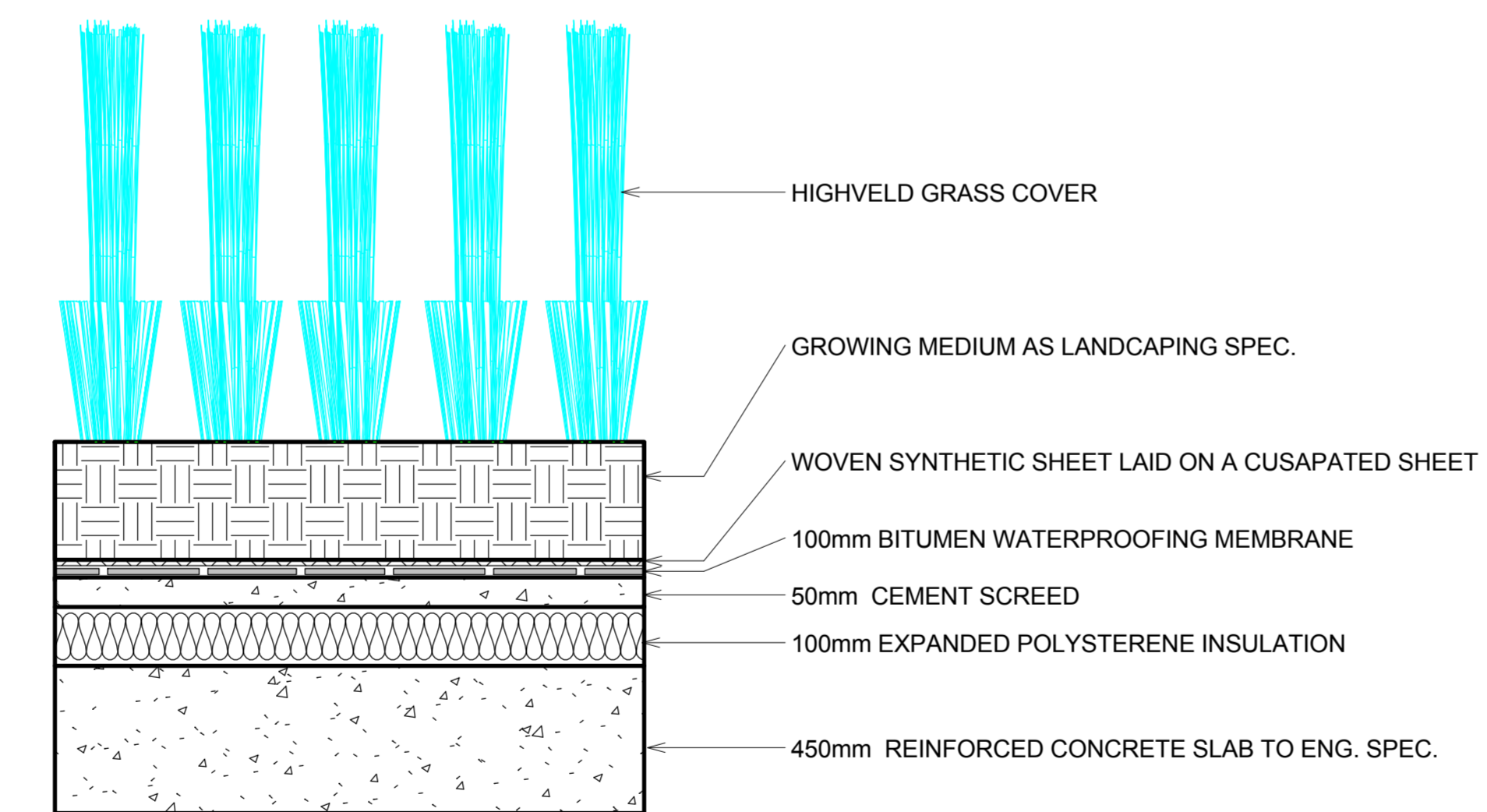
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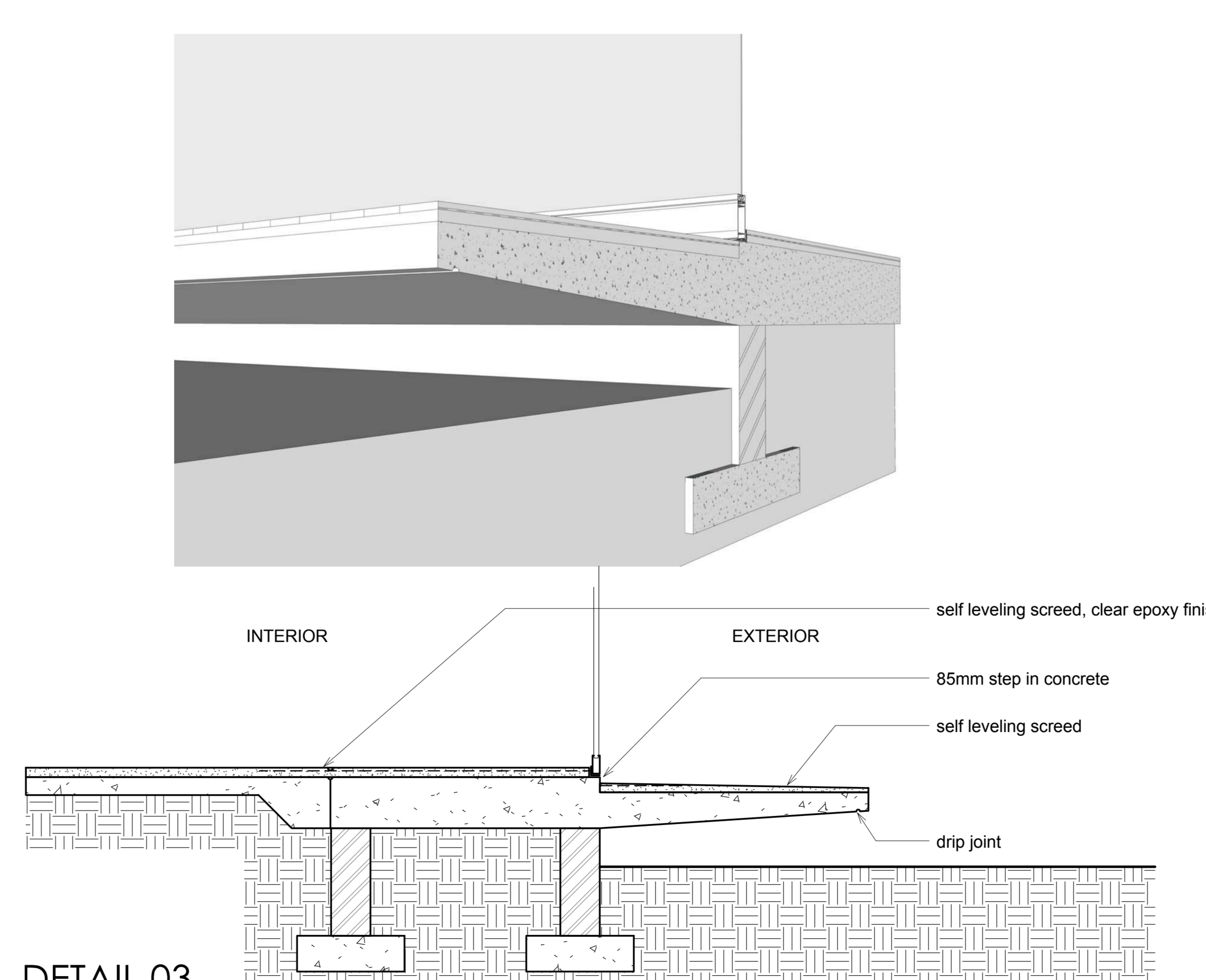
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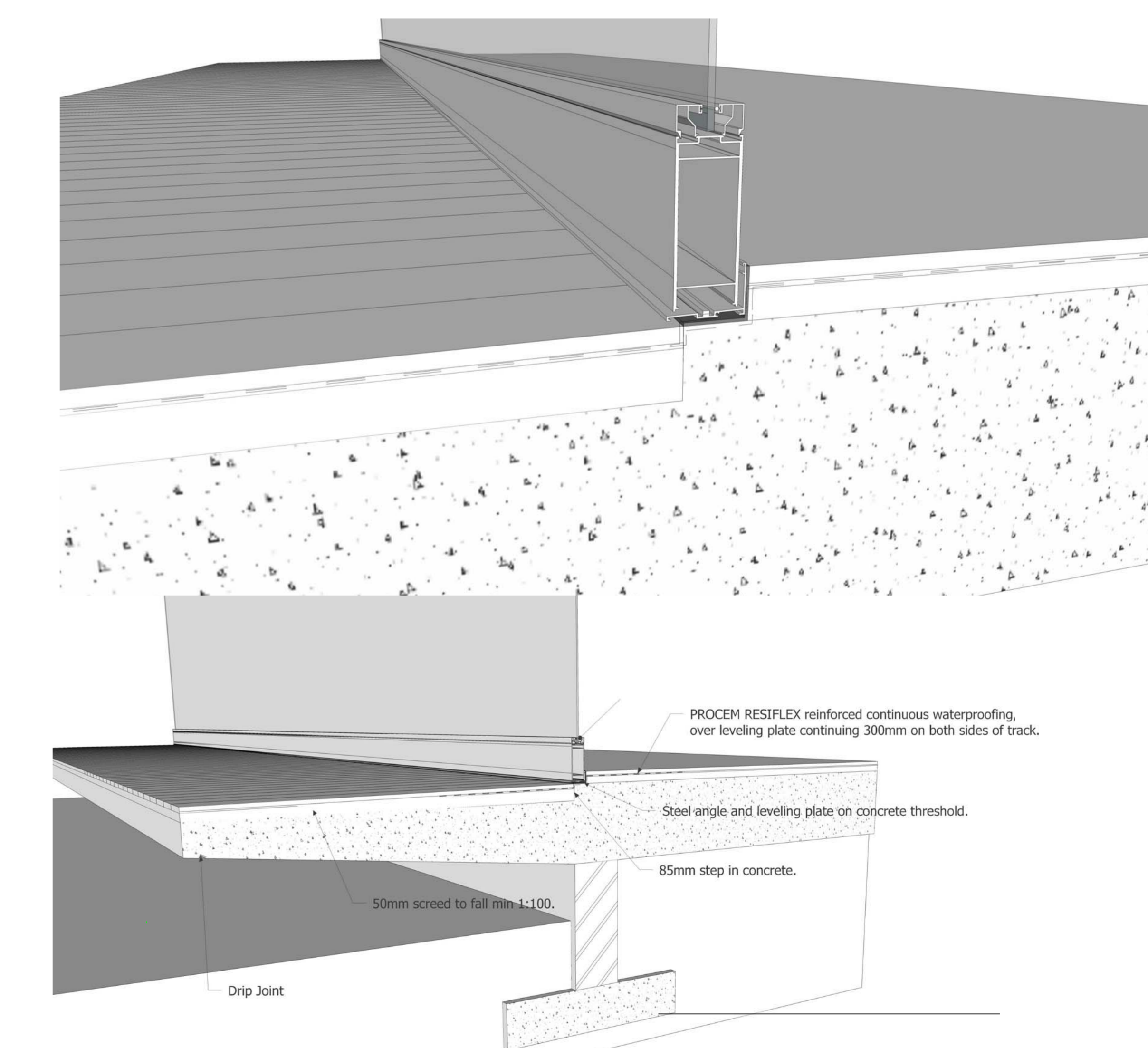
DETAIL 02

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DETAIL 03

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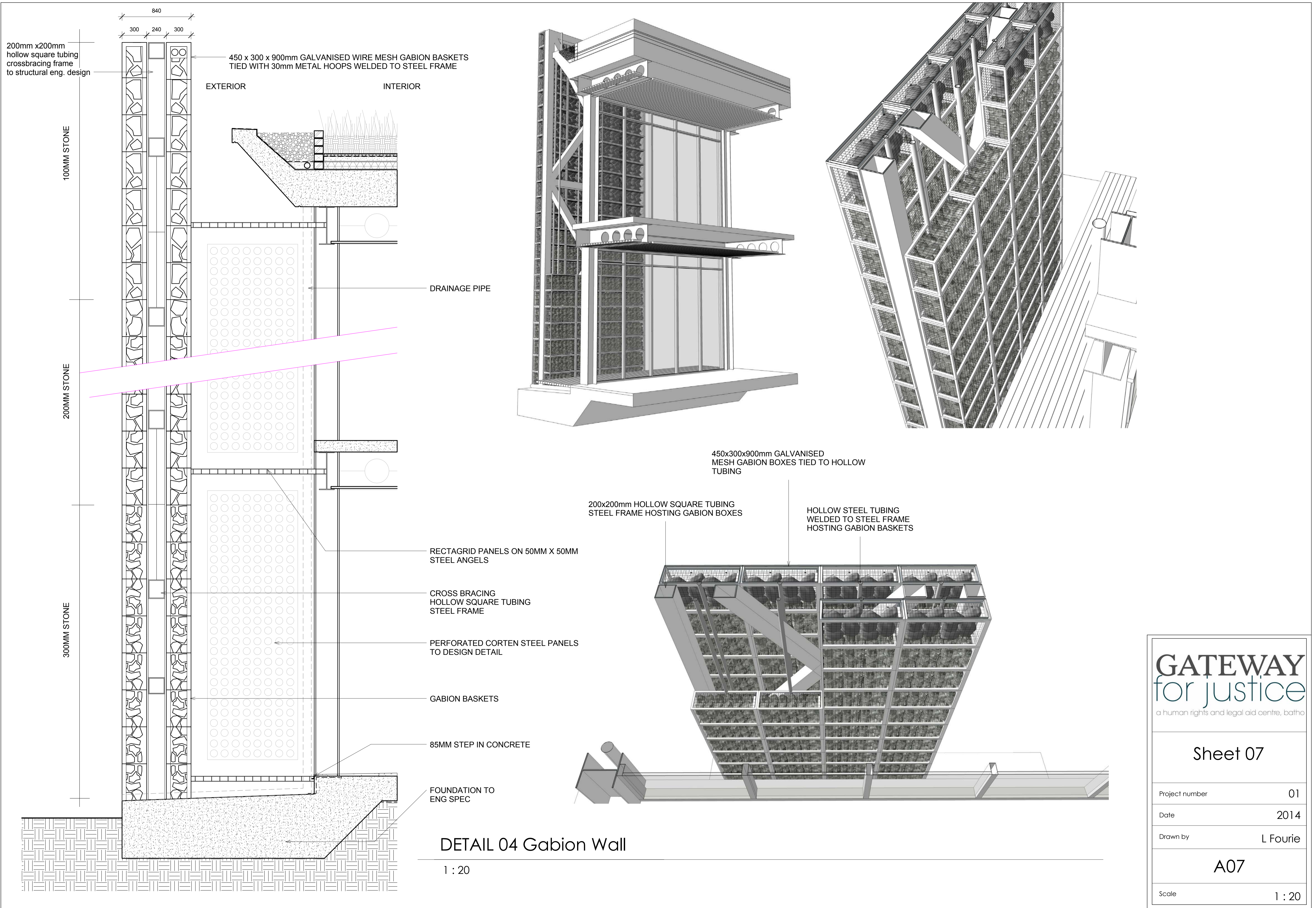


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Sheet 06

Project number	01
Date	2014
Drawn by	L Fourie
A06	
Scale	As indicated

05/11/2014 08:19:48



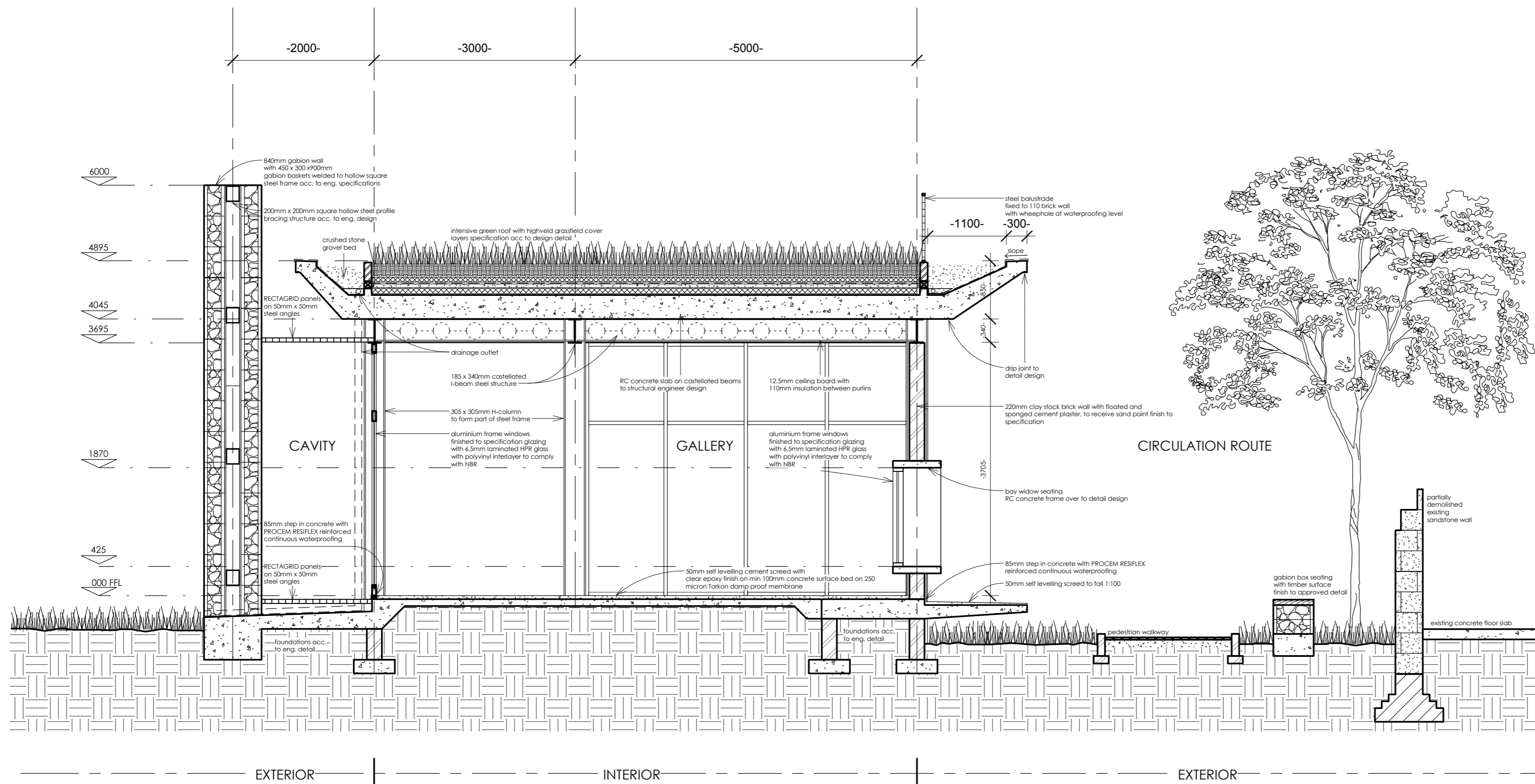
GATEWAY
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Sheet 07

Project number	01
Date	2014
Drawn by	L Fourie

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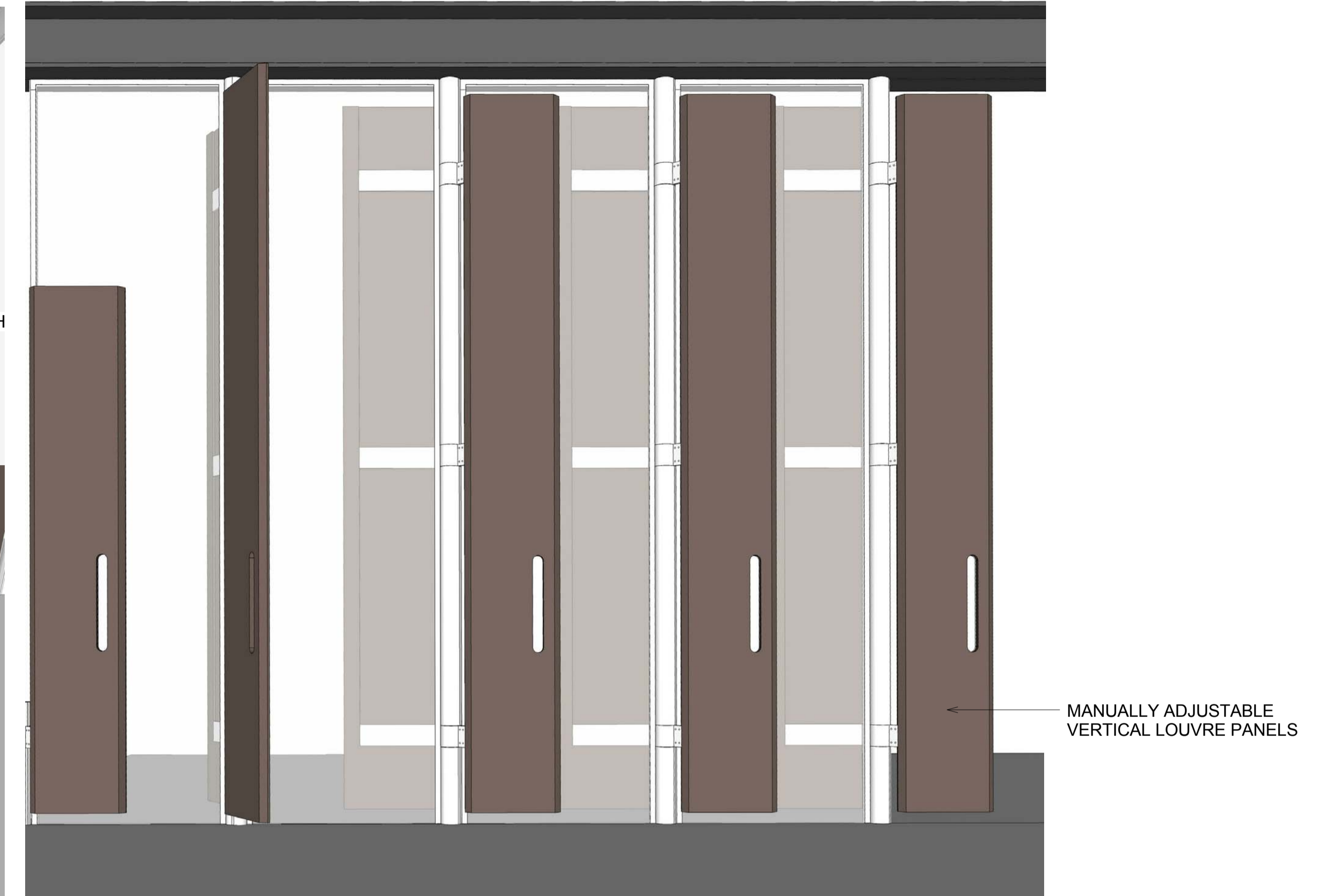
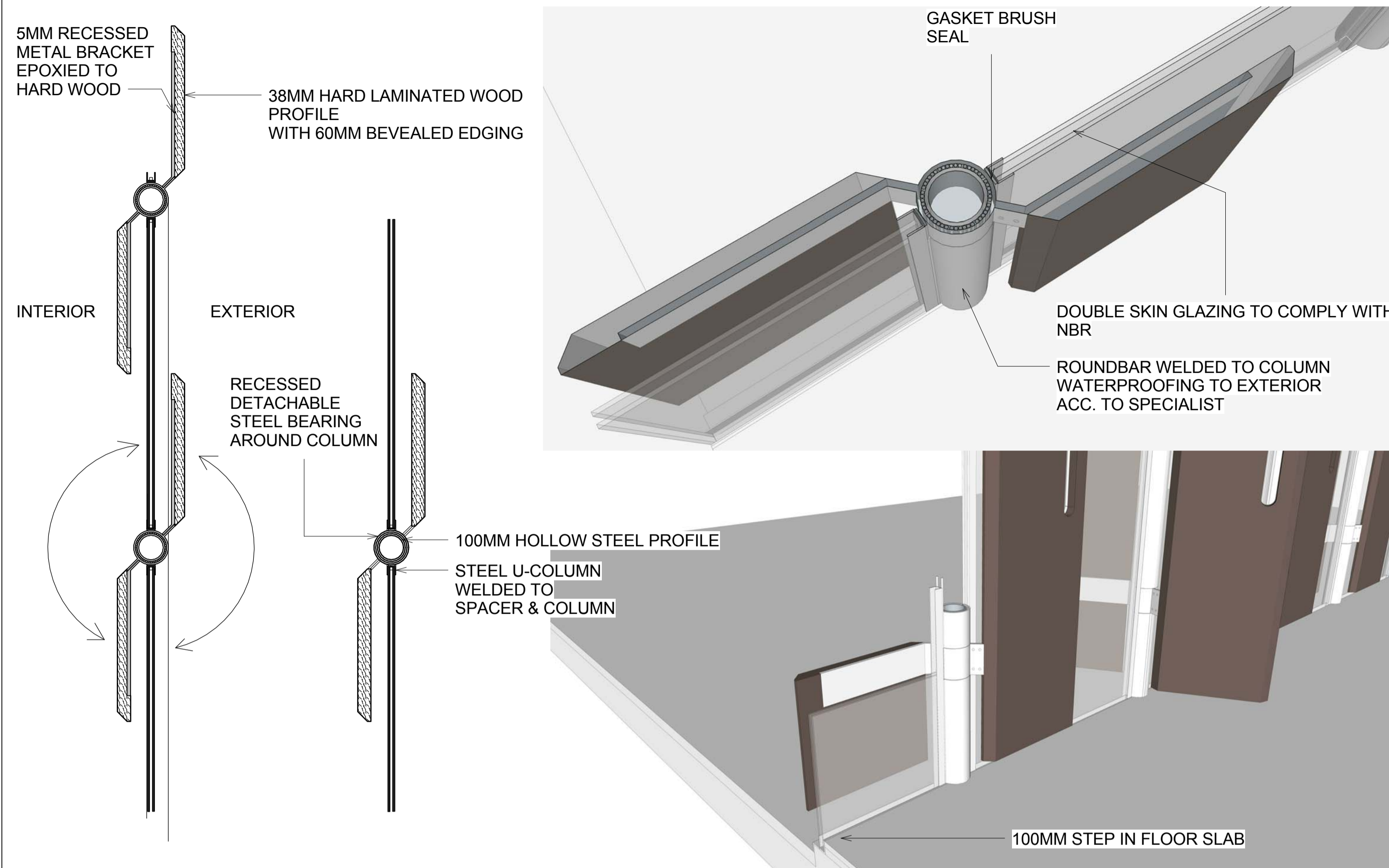
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Section BB

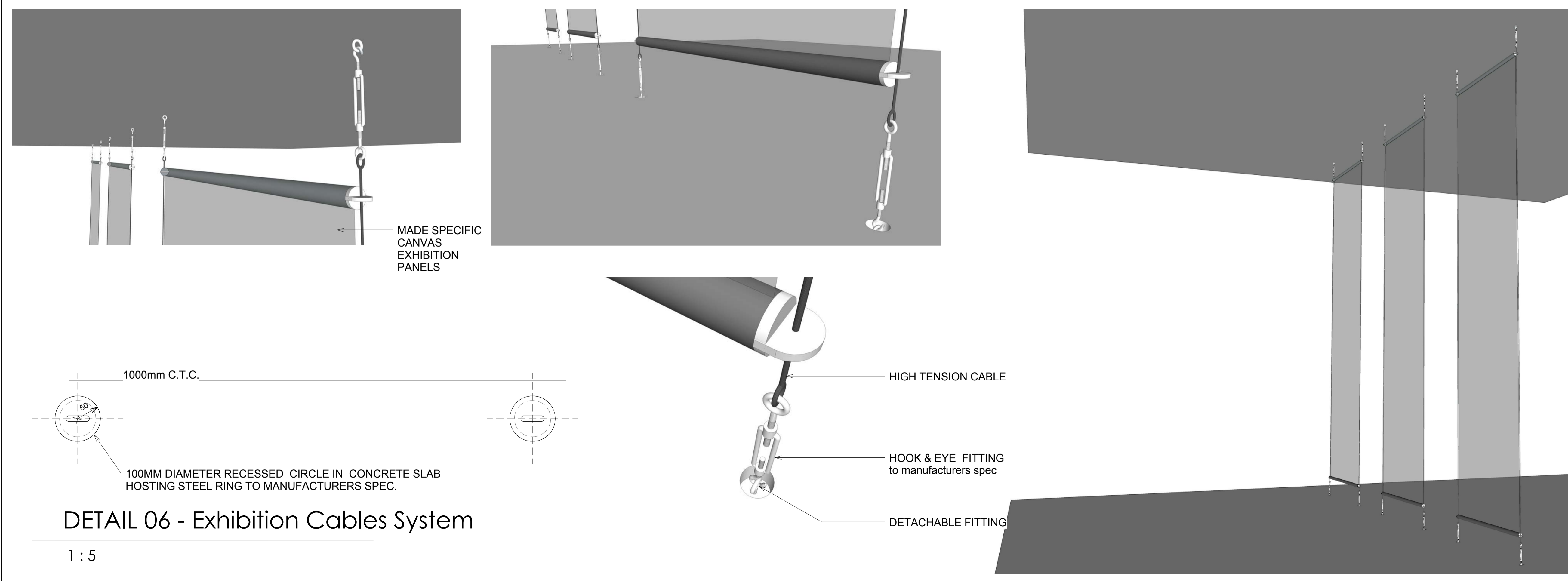
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Project number	01
Date	2014
Drawn by	L Fourie
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DETAIL 05 - Vertical Louvres

1 : 10



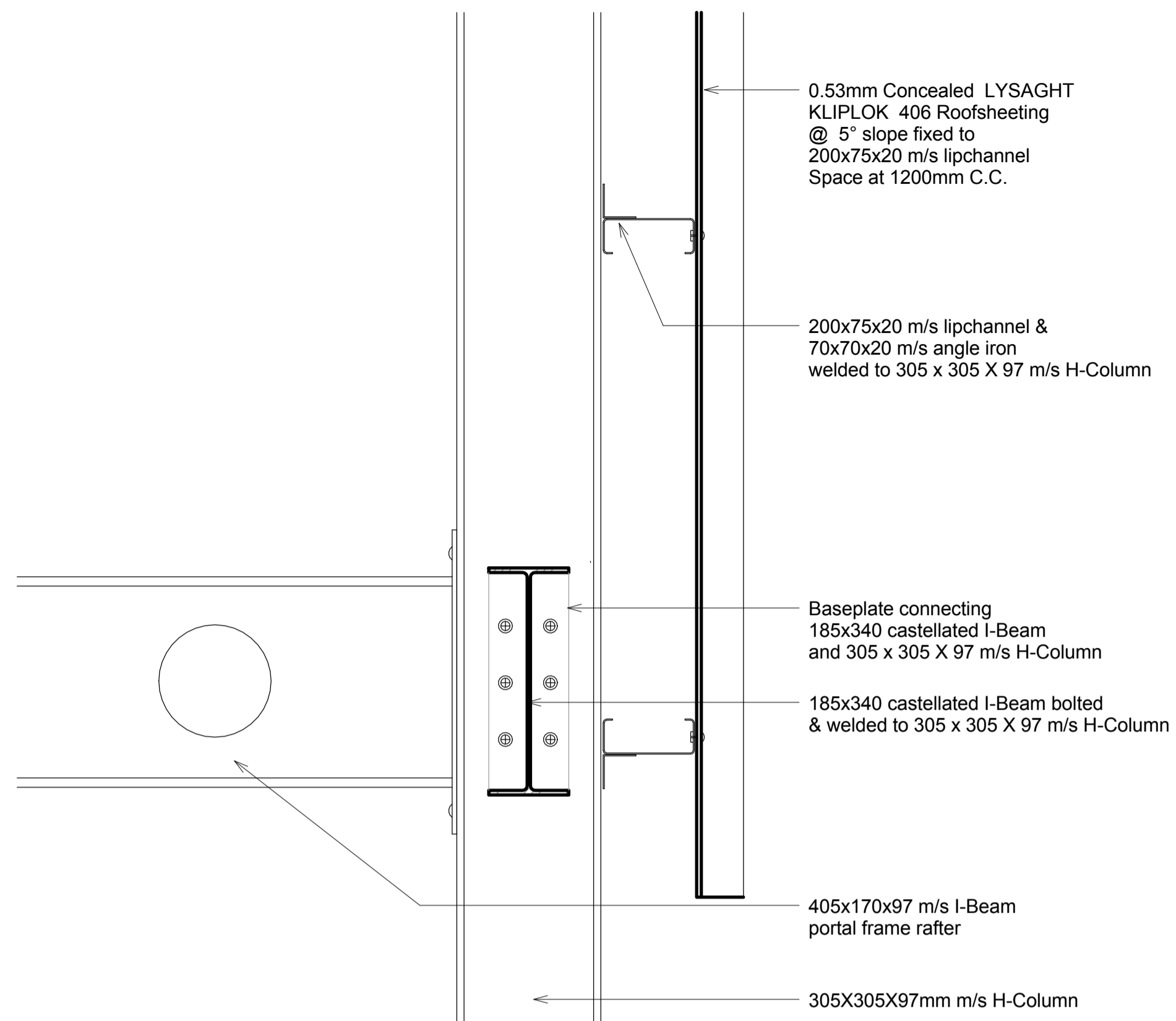
DETAIL 06 - Exhibition Cables System

1 : 5

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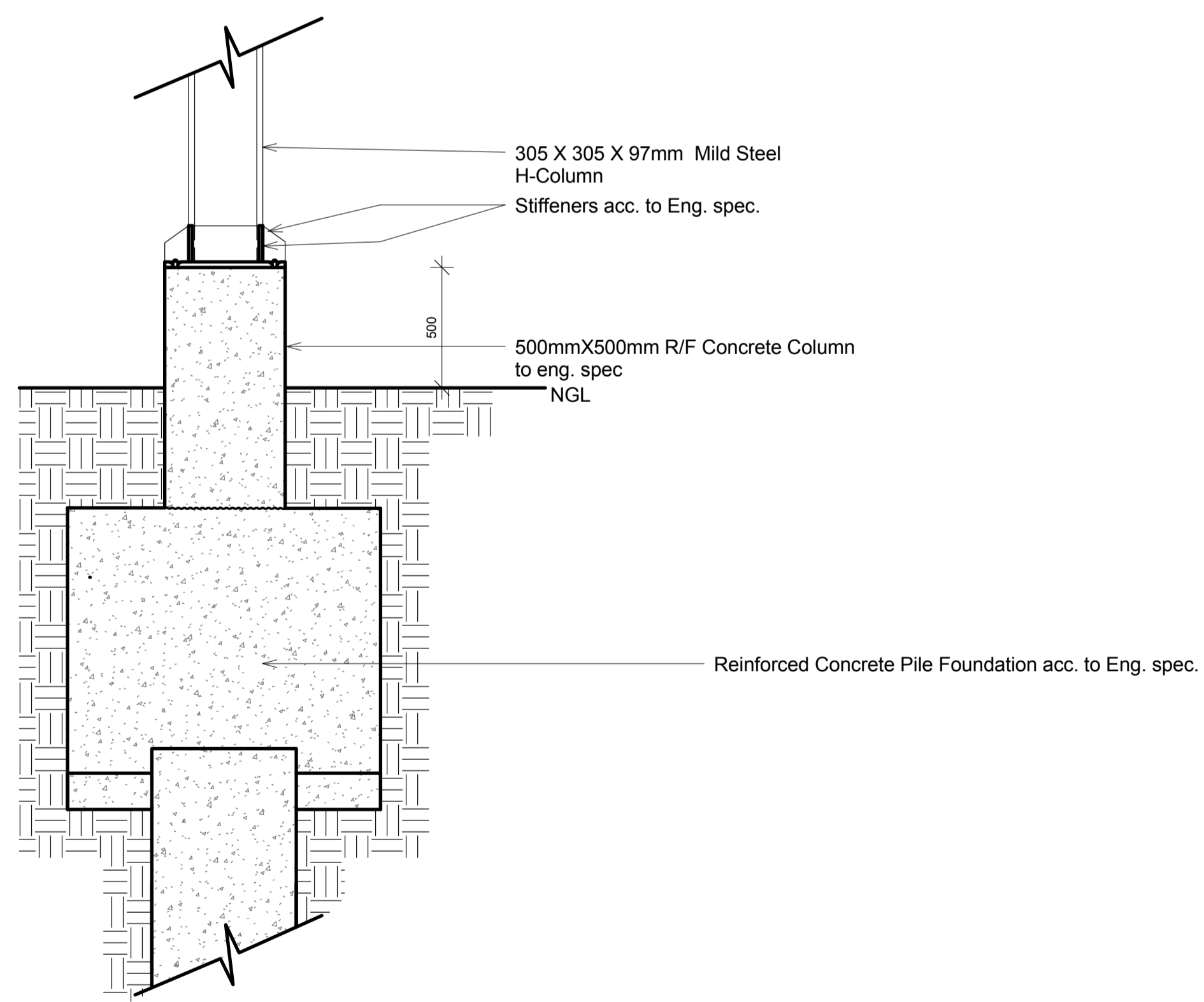
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Date	2014
Drawn by	L Fourie
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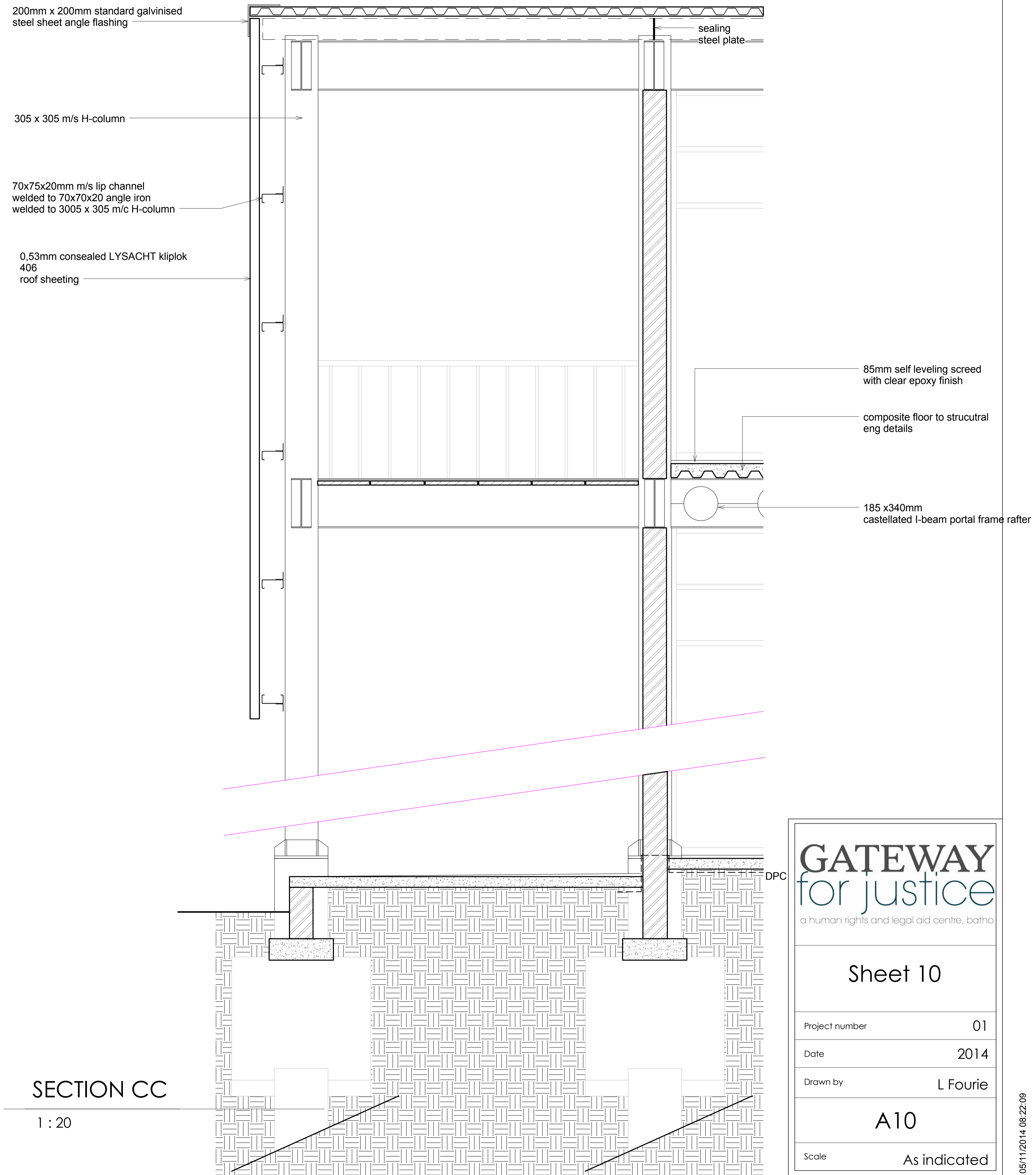
DETAIL 07 Roof Sheet Edge

1 : 10



DETAIL 08 Column connection with Pile foundation

1 : 20



SECTION CC

1 : 20

GATEWAY
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Sheet 10

Project number	01
Date	2014
Drawn by	L Fourie
A10	
Scale	As indicated