

A NEW CHILDREN'S PALACE IN NANJING

CENSOR BOOKLET OF YINAN ZHANG

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RESEARCH DESCRIPTION

Based on a special building type in socialist countries: Children's Palace, setting in an urban context, the project will design a new building close to an existed primary school in China.

As a point of departure, I studied PALACE as a reference or theme, to capture the appropriate atmosphere for a children's palace.

Also I kept a critical think about the building type Children's Palace and the complicated urban context.

These studies led me to different tests on different organizations of volumes and functions.

- FOR THE URBAN CONTEXT

- 1 The site is on a cross corner of two streets, where asking an appearance towards the urban space.
- 2 The entrance of the school should be included into the project.
- 3 The project should act as the border inbetween the school and the city, it can borrow the schoolyard as a garden.
- 4 With so many different trees around the site and schoolyard, the project obtain a possibility to be organized vertically.

- FOR THE BUILDING TYPE CHILDREN'S PALACE

- 1 Originally, Children's Palace was actually set in an existed noble palace.
- 2 These functions are quite different and not so connected to each other, which influences the organization of spaces a lot.

- FOR THE THEME PALACE

- 1 Originally, palace is a kind of building type, which usually refers to the house of nobilities. Now, the meaning of palace is expanded as a theme, which was used in public architecture or infrastructure, to arouse an splendid imagination, it became the house of the people.
- 2 The palace retained the obligation to be representative in all ages, not only the authority of the individual ruler, but also representing something else, like the achievements of the new political or social order.
- 3 As a theme, the palace has been translated into the phenomenon of transparency, and was even reduced to an open frame or infrastructure, the functions of rooms were not necessarily prescribed and appeared to be interchangeable.

FOR THE URBAN CONTEXT



The site is on a cross corner of two streets



The entrance of the school should be included.



The project should act as the border inbetween the school and the city.



The site and schoolyard is surrounded by a lot of trees



The east direction of the school yard



The south direction of the school yard

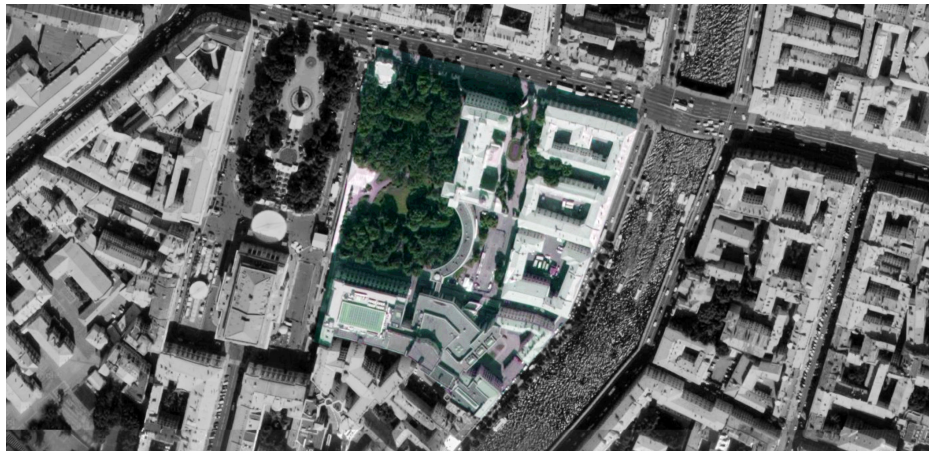


The west direction of the school yard



The north direction of the school yard

FOR THE BUILDING TYPE - CHILDREN'S PALACE

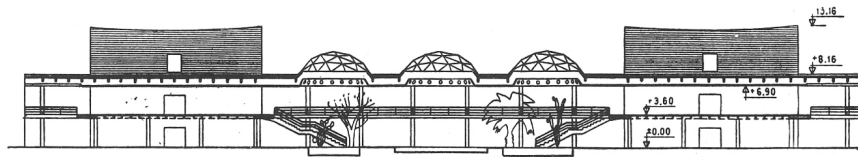


LENINGRAD'S PIONEERS' PALACE, ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIAN, 1934

Anichkov Palace was commissioned by Empress Elizabeth in 1741. The original architect, Mikhail Zemtsov, gave the building its form and dimensions, while Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli completed the original baroque decorations.

After the October Revolution, the Anichkov Palace was used briefly as a museum of St. Petersburg, and since 1934, it was converted into Leningrad's Pioneers' Palace.

Now named the Palace of Youth Creativity, it is home to a variety of organizations offering after-school education in arts and crafts, sport, sciences, and engineering.

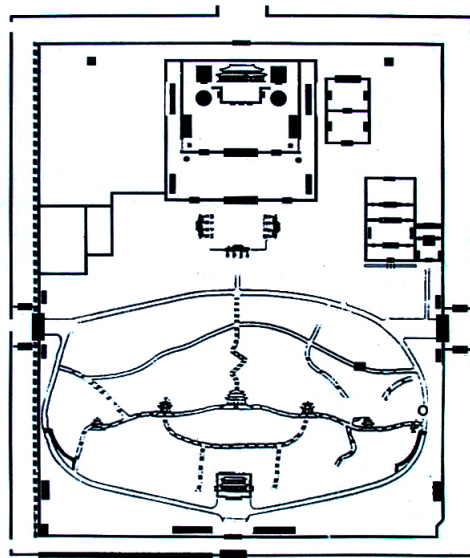


MOSCOW CITY PALACE OF YOUNG PIONEERS AND SCHOOLCHILDREN, RUSSIAN, 1962

This building is perhaps the best example of the new course of Soviet architecture at the end of the 1950s and beginning of the 1960s. Planned by a group of like-minded young people, the Pioneer Palace demonstrated the wide spectrum of aesthetic possibilities afforded by modern compositional methods, materials, and construction.

In essence the Pioneer Palace is a whole town, a complex of buildings, picturesquely situated on an abundant green area.

The main building is a functionally complicated architectural organism; its compositional relationships correspond to its functions.



THE OLD CHILDREN'S PALACE IN BEIJING, CHINA, 1956

In 2013, the 57-year-old Beijing Children's Palace officially moved out of the Shouhuang Palace on the north side of Jingshan Park.

The Shouhuang Palace, where the old Beijing Children's Palace located, was once used to place the portraits of ancient ancestors of the Qing Dynasty's emperors. In the beginning of 20th century, it used to be changed to an antiquities exhibition hall here.

This Children's Palace is so special that many people missed it after hearing the news of its moving out.



THE OLD CHILDREN'S PALACE IN NANJING, CHINA, 1954

Founded in 1954, the first children's palace is originally called "Nanjing City Youth House", which situated on the Huanzhou island in Xuanwu Lake.

This building is used by the "Leidong Alumni Association" in the beginning of 20th century, which has been listed as a cultural relics protection unit now.

There was also a children's playground on the island. During the holidays, the children came here to play and then could visit the Xuanwu Lake Zoo besides.

FOR THE THEME - PALACE

PALACE AS A BUILDING TYPE

...

When it is proposed that one might think of a room that is much grander than our own, more perfect in every respect, we might think of one, and would possibly go on to imagine a series of such rooms: a sequence of different, special rooms of various sizes that carry on in succession.

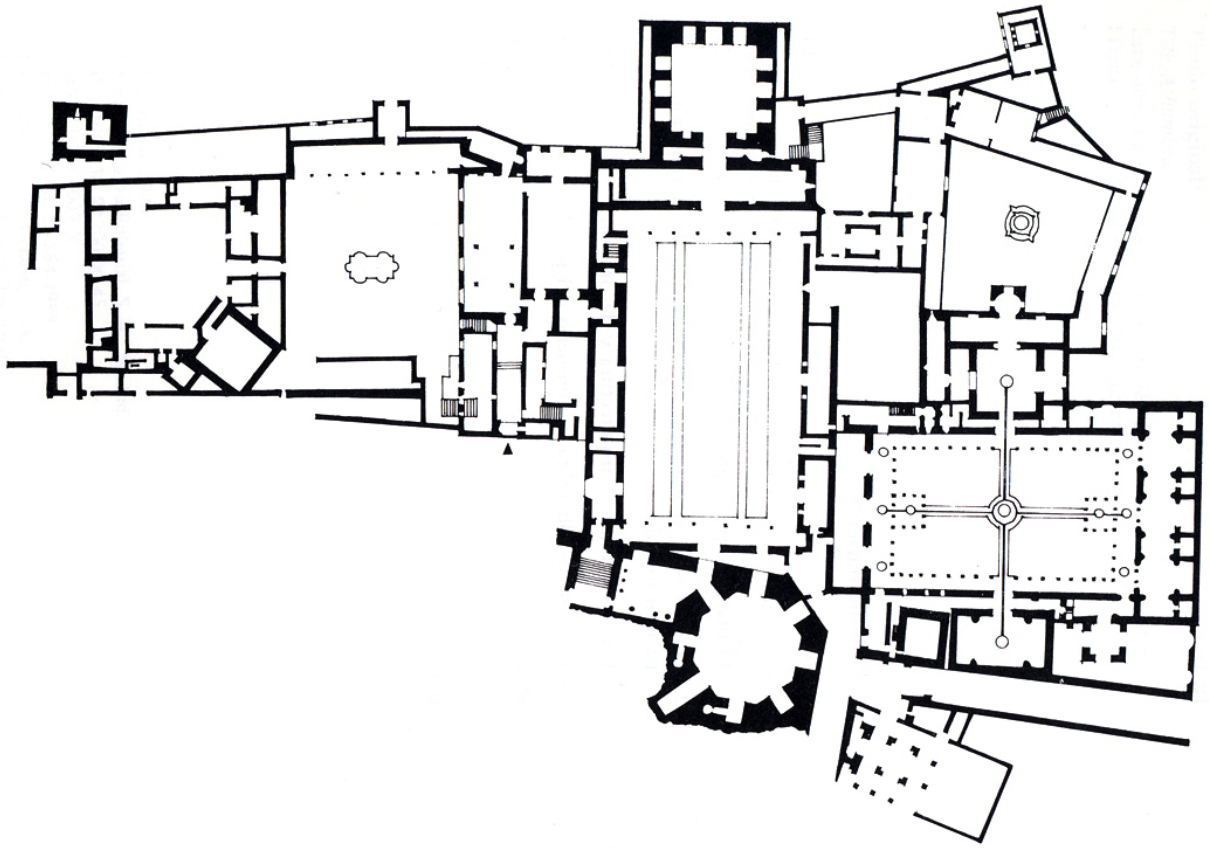
One might dwell upon a complex organization of such rooms, combined horizontally and vertically to form an elaborate, exceptional house that could be used for anything that one dreamed of: a house that would offer rooms of every possible purpose and appearance.

The special house would accommodate many: family, friends, guests, strangers: an ever-changing flow of people passing from one room to the next. Visitors would be in wonder at the variety and spaciousness of the rooms' their proportions and beauty, their features and appointments, and the apparent endlessness of their succession.

One might become excited at the prospect of even being in such a house, and feel privileged to be there...



The winter Palace, now part of the Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, Russian
Francesco Bartolomeo Rastrelli and others, late 1730s-1837
Images from the film Russian Ark (2002)



Plan of Alhambra Palace, Granada, Spain

PALACE AS A THEME

1

In much of Western Europe, changes within the context of Modernity-the transformation from feudal society to a civic society-saw changes to the distribution and representation of power, from the hands of nobles, dynastic monarchies and feudal lords toward emergent governing classes and to private citizens who were increasingly enfranchised.

Therefore, the Palace changed as its ownership or 'master' changed. 'New' palaces were made to accommodate institutions rather than rulers, which retained the obligation to be representative...

The Public Interior as Idea and Project, Mark Pimlott, p71-72

2

In the crystal Palace, London, ...Visitors became 'owners' of the artifacts and 'rulers' of the Palace; and it is this effect that caused the crystal Palace to be adopted by the department store or grand magasin as a preferred format of enclosure for the public interior and disclosure within it.

The Public Interior as Idea and Project, Mark Pimlott, p77

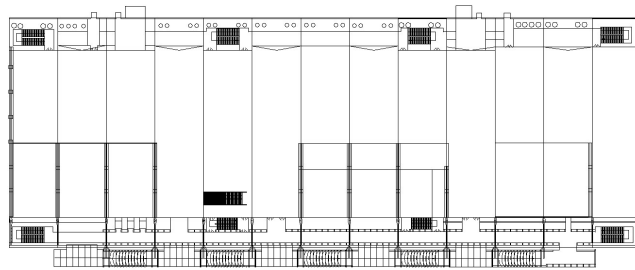
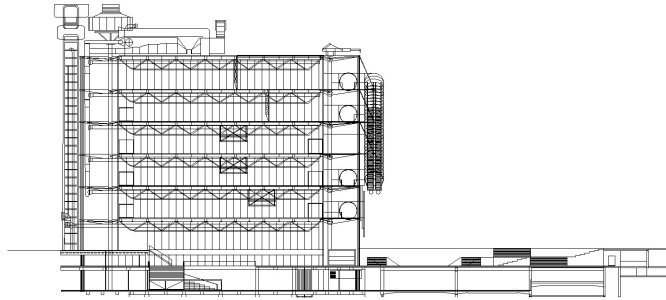
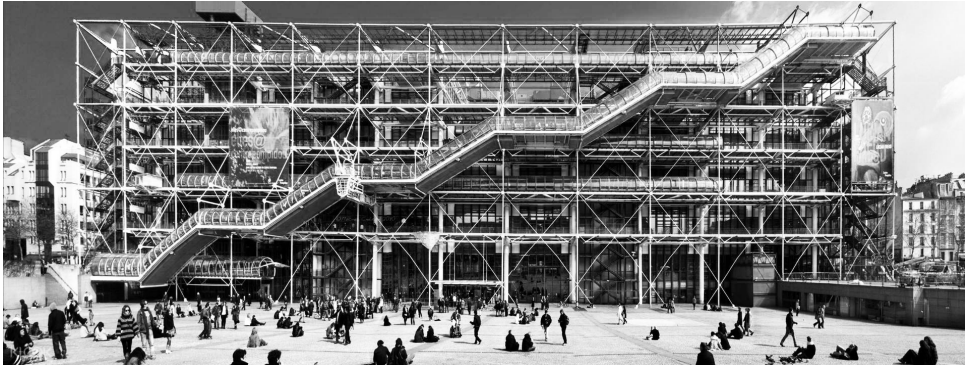
3

Its open floors, their free space enabled by their wide-span structures, could accommodate any kind of internal arrangement, inviting constant change and constant re-interpretation, in the manner of a multi-level Fun Palace.

...

All of these factory-like palaces featured a promise of phenomenal transparency and a concomitant complete flexibility, wherein the 'palace' as name or motif suggested a carapace or scaffold that could be claimed for any desired purpose as long as it 'produced' culture.

The Public Interior as Idea and Project, Mark Pimlott, p87



Pompidou Center, Paris, France, 1971–1977
Renzo Piano, Richard Rogers

APPROACH

1

In the beginning, I understood the palace more as a building type.

I was especially inspired by the plan of Alhambra Palace in Granada, which created a space sequence connected great halls and beautiful gardens.

So I started to focus on the relationship of Halls and Gardens.

2

Afterwards, I realized the changed situation for contemporary 'palace', which was more used as a theme, and a modern palace was usually treated as a functionally flexible public infrastructure.

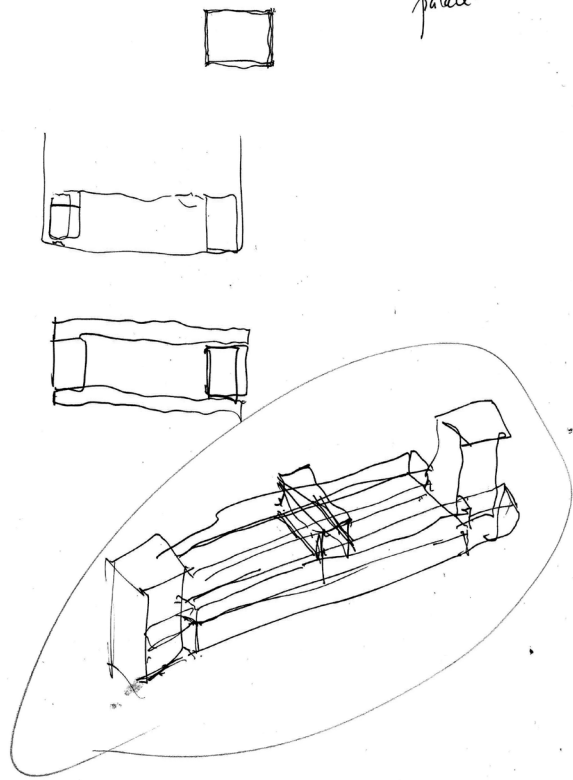
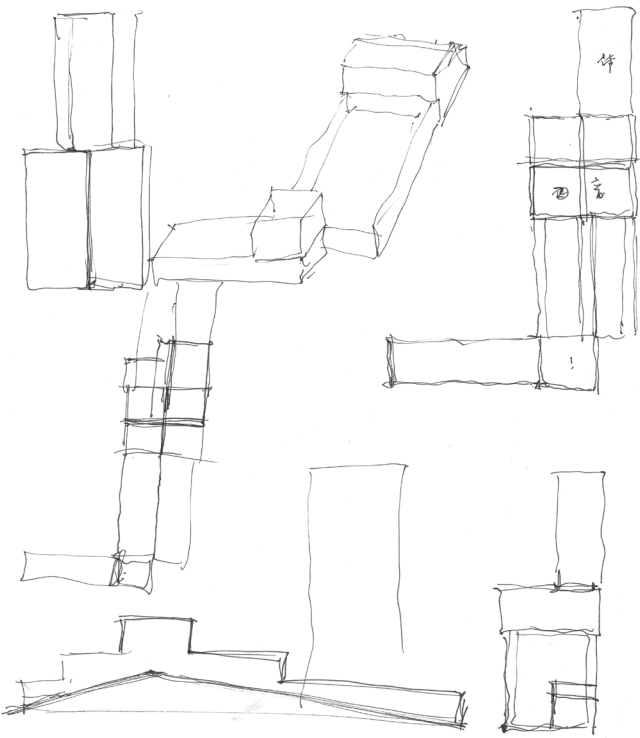
I noticed 3 dimensions or scales existed in a kind of children's palace:

- the scale of children
- the scale of adult
- the scale of imagination

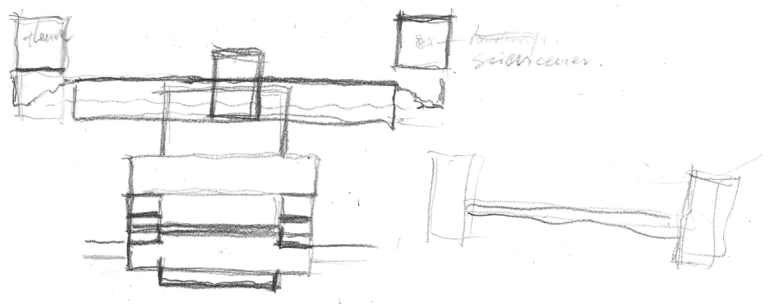
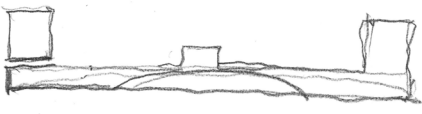
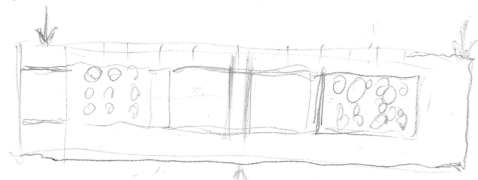
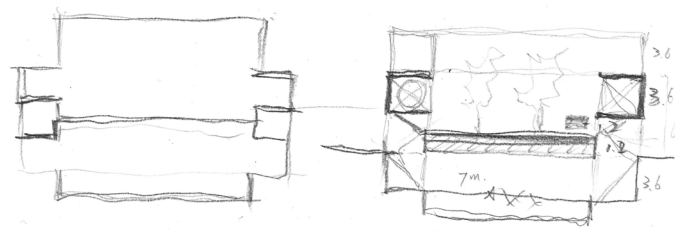
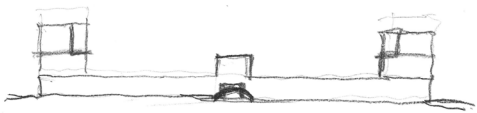
And I tried to create a space including all of these 3 scales.

APPROACH 1

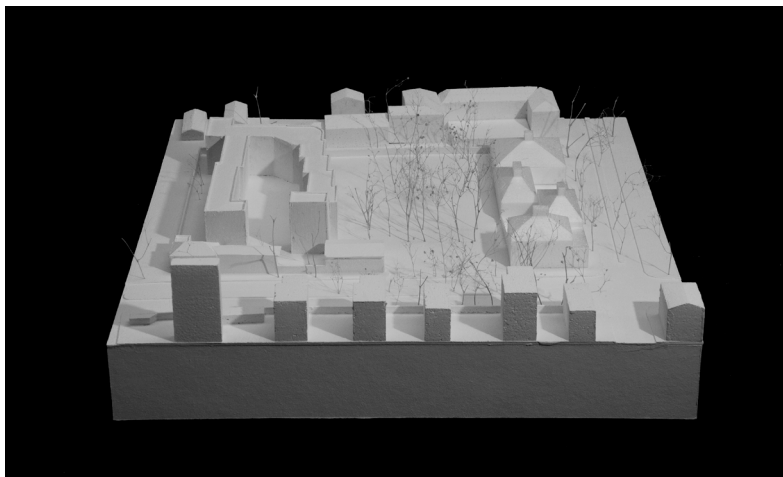
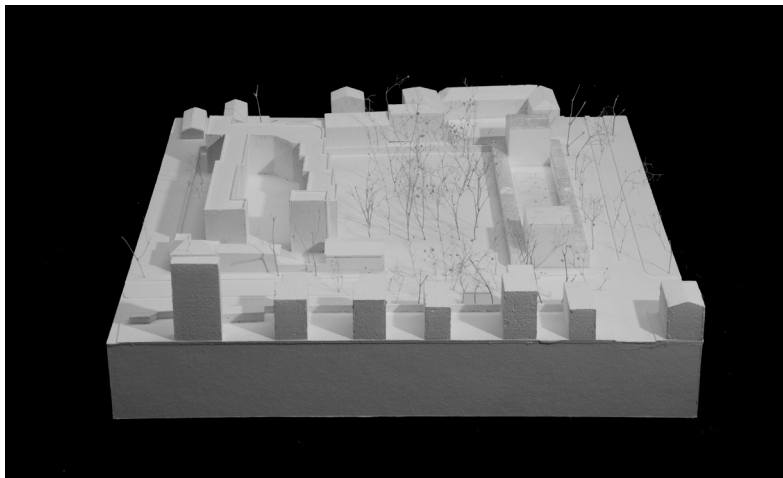
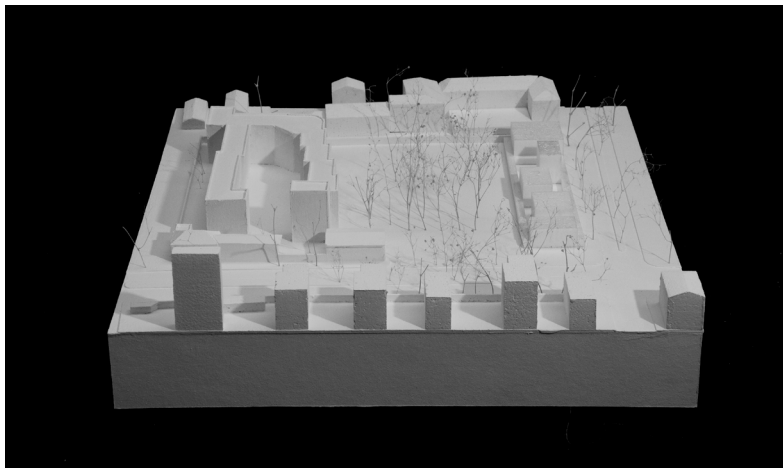
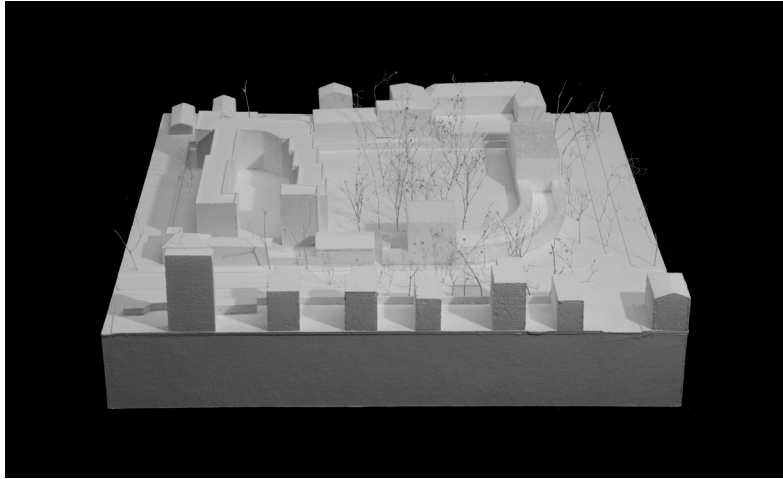
palace



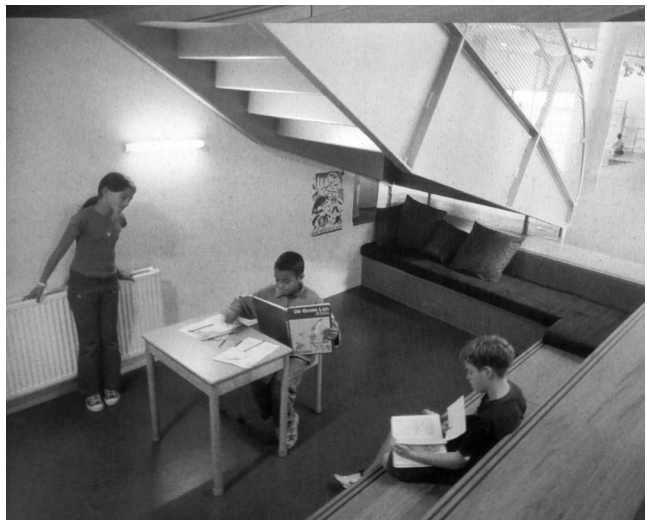
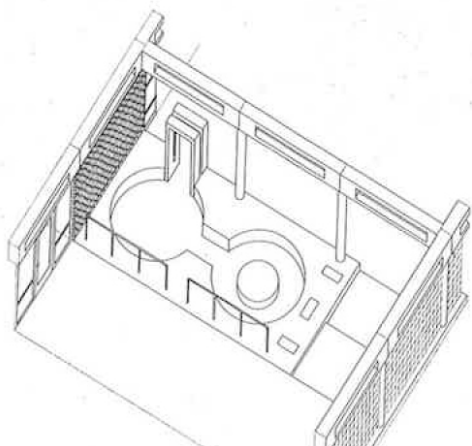
palace



Science center

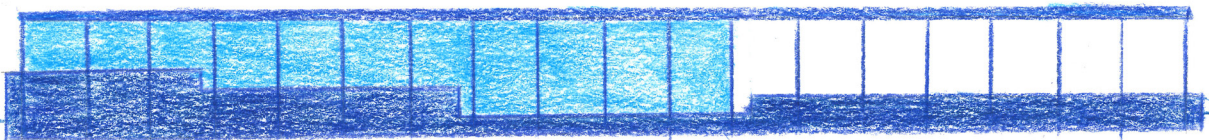
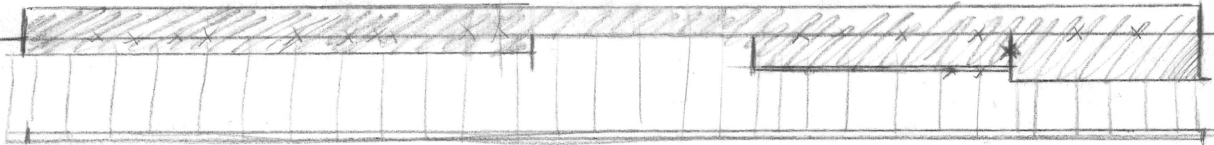


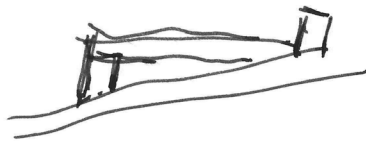
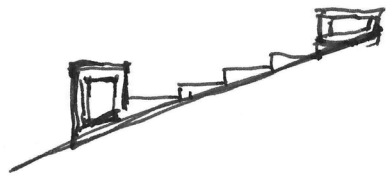
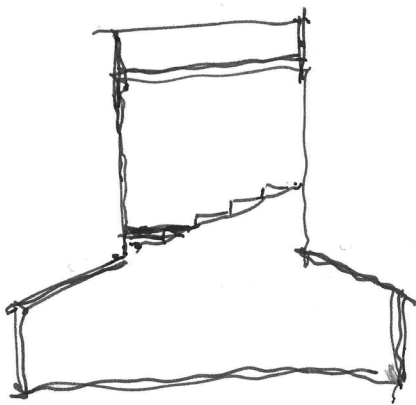
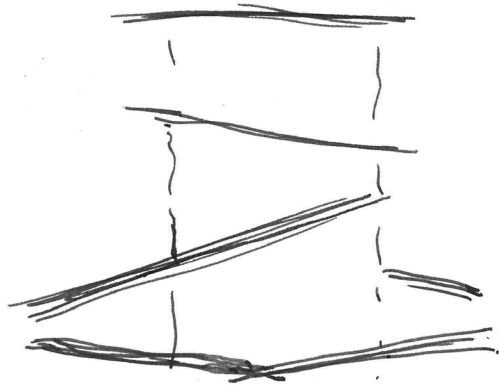
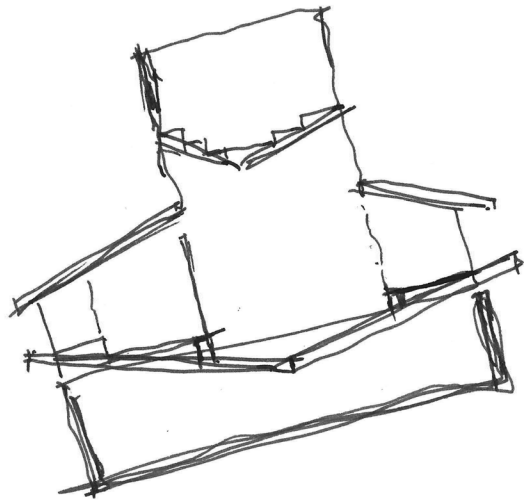
APPROACH 2

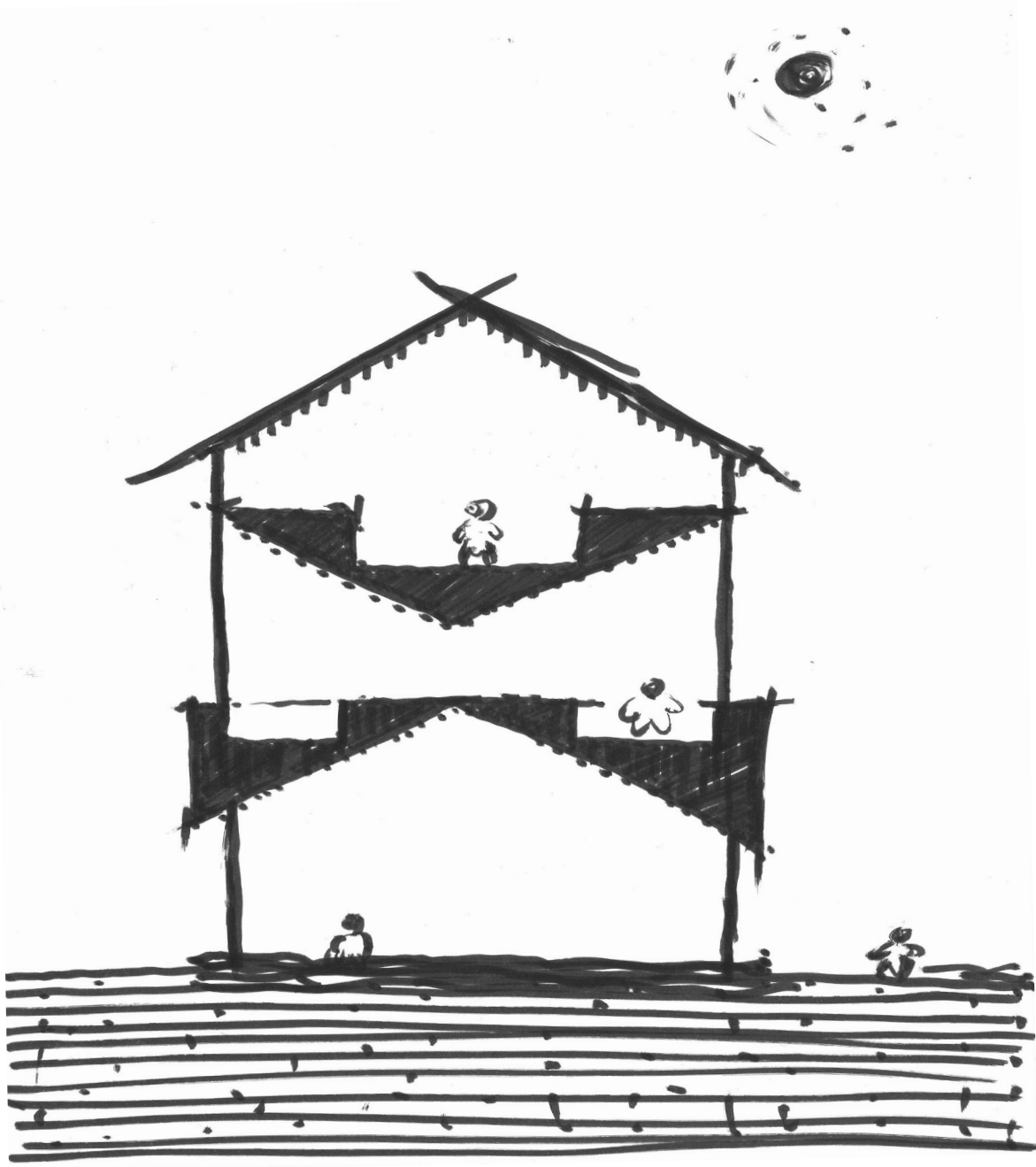


The Orphanage in Amsterdam, Netherland
Aldo van Eyck
The sunken space become a
special area in the public space

Part of a School designed by Herman Hertzberger
The stairs become a private area
in the public space







PROJECT

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

1

Eventually, I decided to design a children's palace with both halls and gardens.

The halls are vertically organized and fly into the views of surrounding trees. It rules the whole area symbolically.

The gardens spread horizontally, connected the private gardens to the school yard, which is treated as a bigger garden.

2

For the urban context, I divide the whole project into 2 parts:

One is acting as an entrance for both the school and children's palace.

One is the children's palace with gardens. The art gallery bar acts as a border between the school and the children's palace.

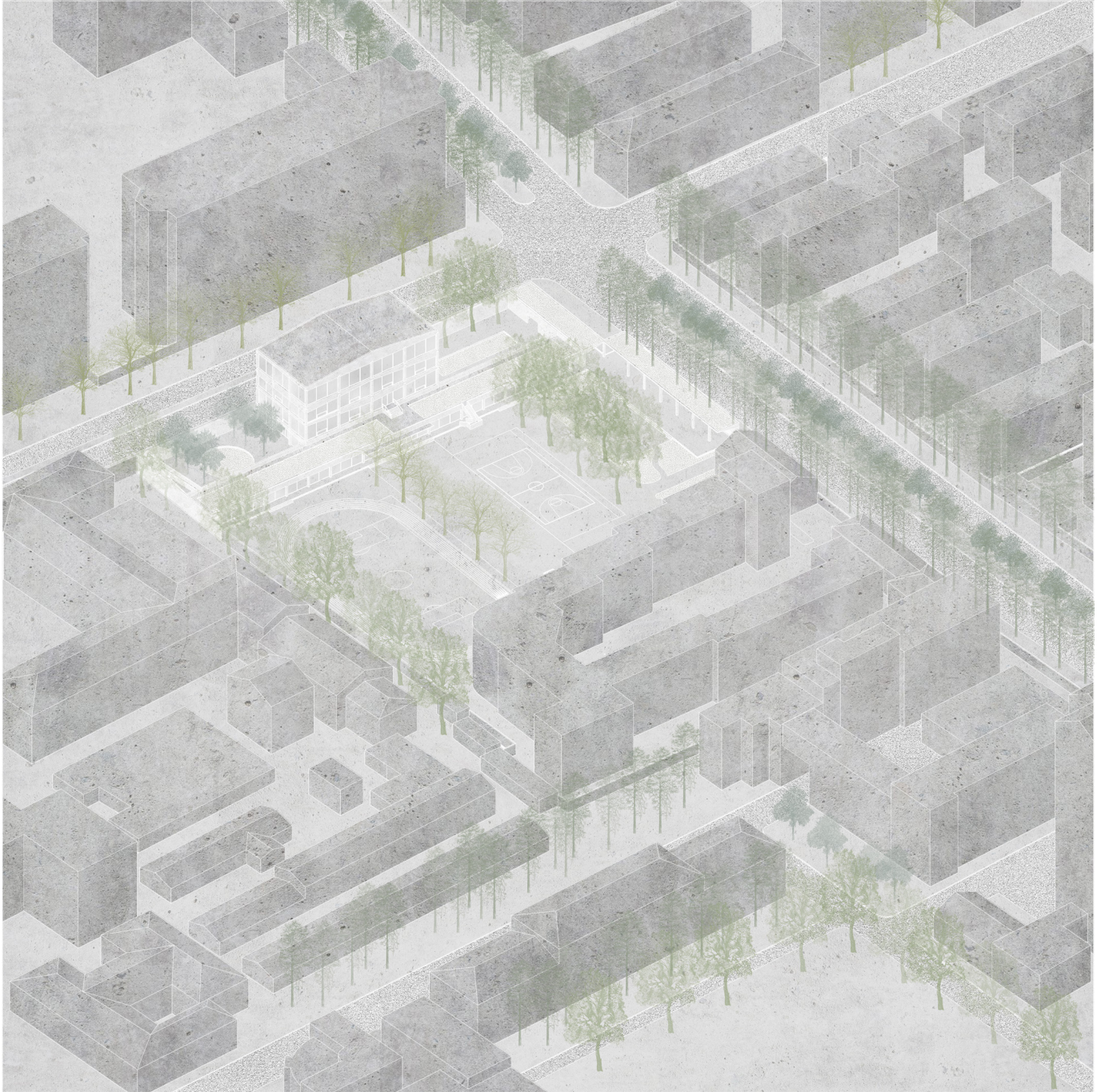
3

The functions setting of the children's palace are kind of interchangeable and flexible. the transparency of the halls created a sense of paradise for the children, and for their social relationships.

4

The multi-story pitched floor building created symbolic roofs for lower floors and meanwhile sunken spaces for the upper floors, which is much more intimate and private.

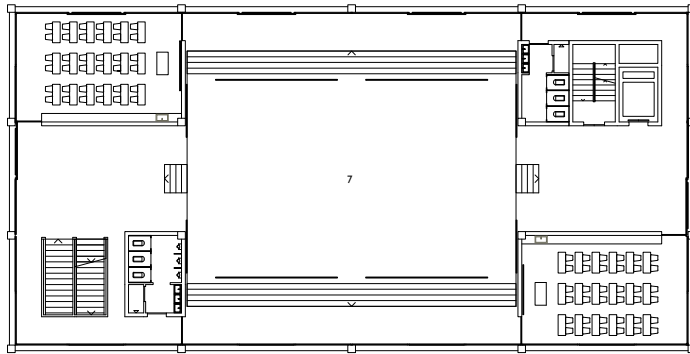
In this way, I realized the 3 scales for children, adult and imagination.





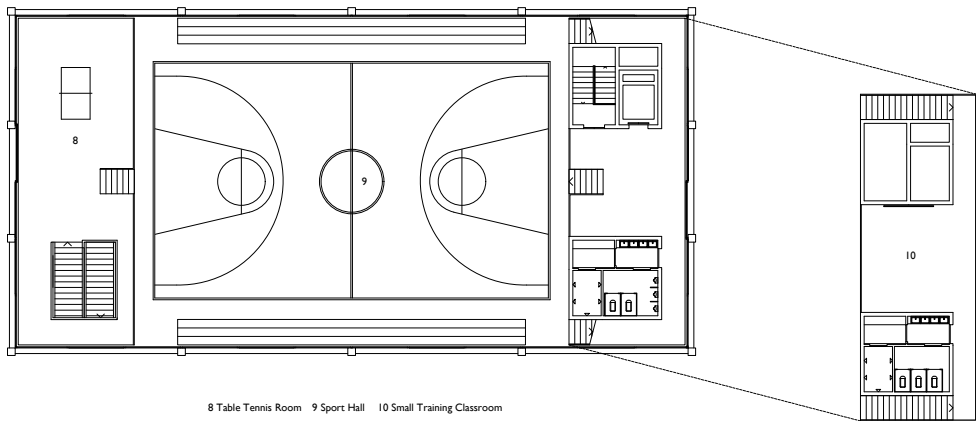






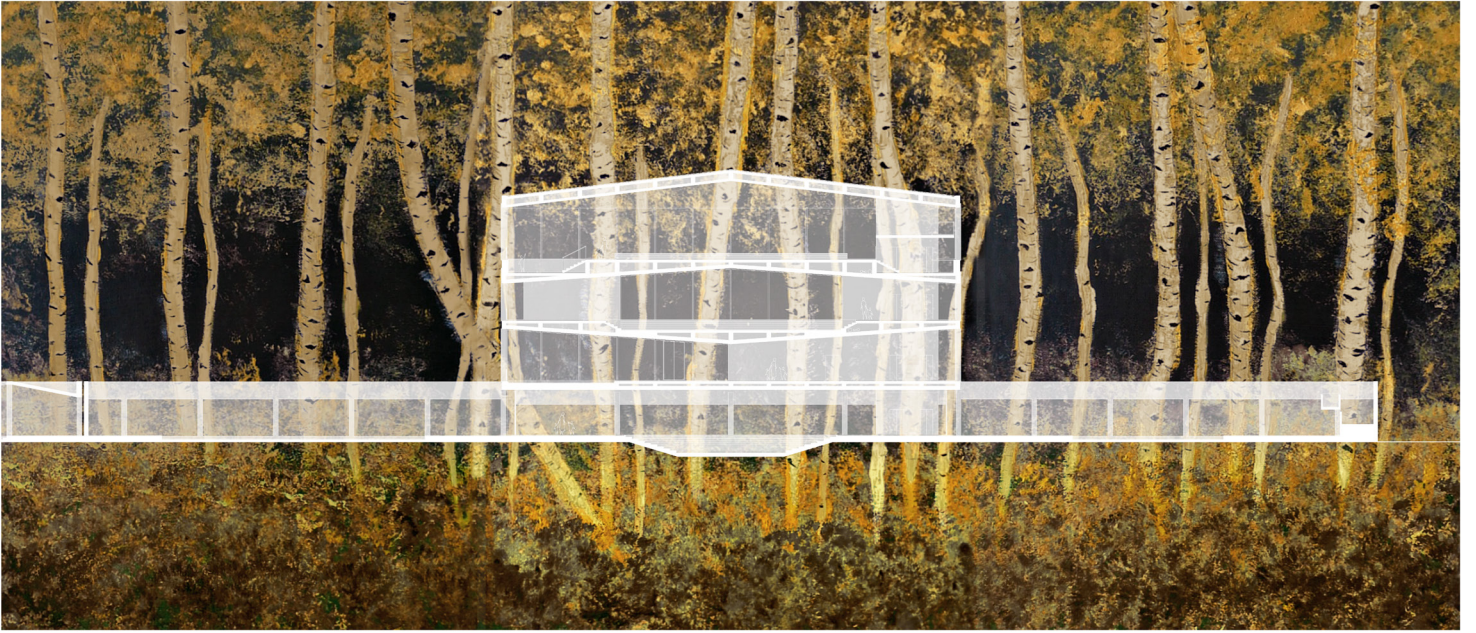
7 Multi-function Hall

Second Floor Plan - Music Center 1:200



8 Table Tennis Room 9 Sport Hall 10 Small Training Classroom

Third Floor Plan - Sport Center 1:200

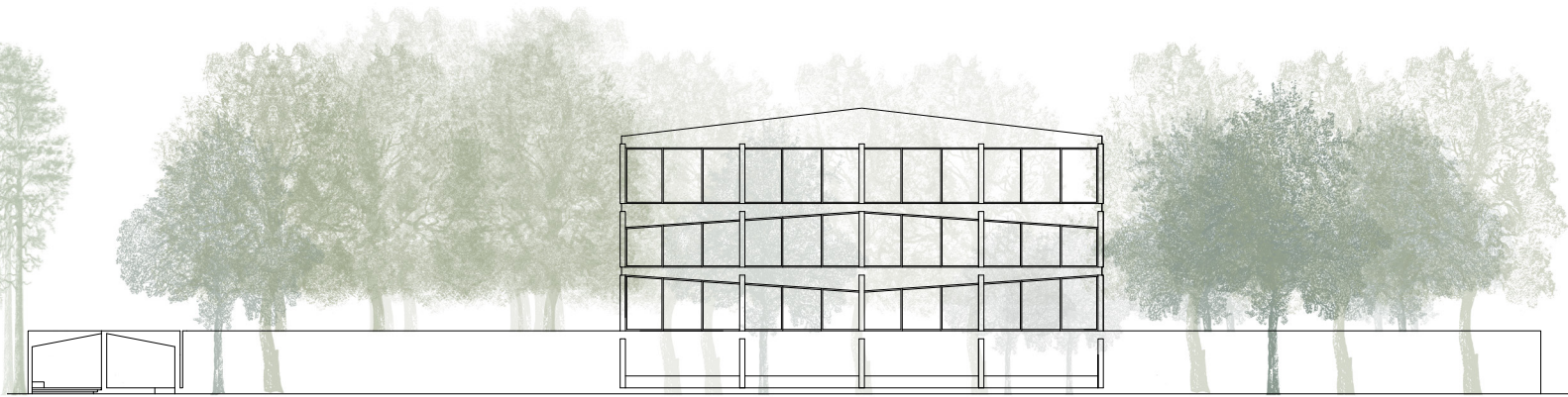




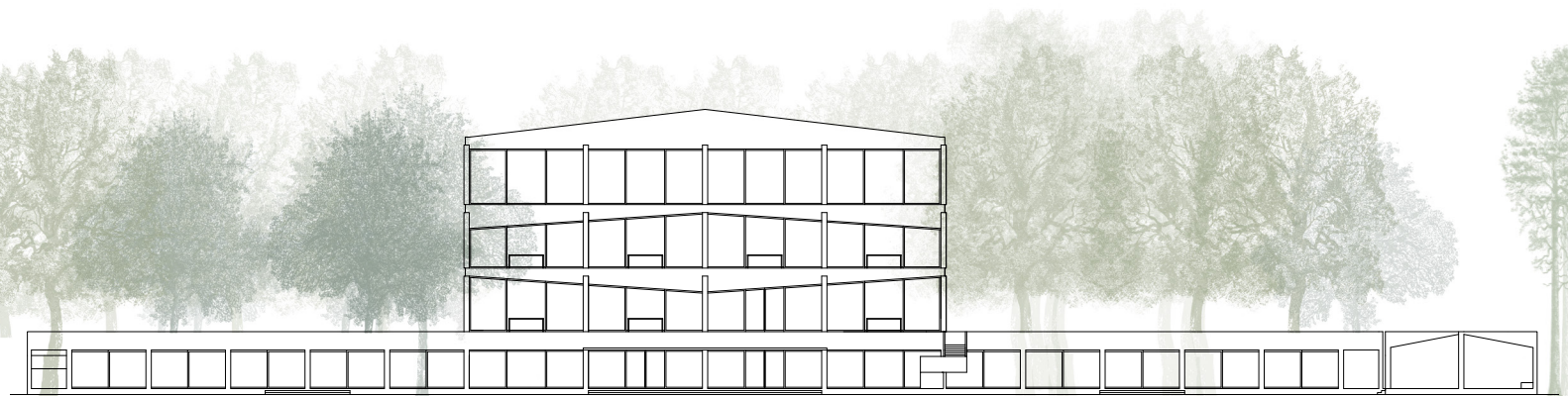
3.2 Section 1:200



West Elevation 1:200



South Elevation 1/200



North Elevation 1/200







