

Community plaza in Storhaug

Investigating a public space in a privatized context

Censor's Booklet





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REPETITION PRE DIPLOMA

THESIS

The project will investigate how introducing a new public provision in a single-use 19th century housing zone can add qualities of richness and diversity into the urban fabric, and act as a symbiosis between old and new.

As the city council currently are searching for development, sustainability and urbanity in Stavanger I find it interesting to study the possibilities for new ways of preservation in the present Wooden town. My opinion is that the urban potential in the Wooden town itself isn't discussed enough. Despite the relatively high density of people, there is today a lack of urban qualities, such as public spaces.

The task will be to design a community house. A public building in the middle of the dense, historical neighbourhood, that offers space for random meetings, occasions, diversity, urbanity. The intention is to design it as a gathering place that invites and supports a sense of community in Storhaug, and offers urban qualities into the highly privatized context.

APPROACH

Intervention in a historical context

The importance of awareness of the relationship between the project and its historical context. Consciousness to scale, materiality, building volume, and general expression of the project will be an important factor.

A building as a public space

My intent is to work on the project as a public space, a part of the public cityscape. How can this idea manifest itself in physical form? The relation to the street and the interior circulation/communication are examples of relevant issues. I will research this through the design process.

Wood build

This project is a great opportunity to work with wood as primary construction material. How can the ever lasting tradition of building in wood be interpreted in a contemporary project?

Mix of use - Planning for diversity

The composition of the program and the relationship between different activities will be interesting to work with in this project. What programs can be mixed together? What must be next to, apart from or on top of each other?

WHAT IS THE WOODEN TOWN

The wooden town is a term that describes the continuous city scape of 8000 small houses that make up large parts of the city, both the city center and the nearby neighbourhoods. Gradually, since the early 1800s the settlement has expanded out of the city center like growth rings on a tree. Today, Stavanger is considered the largest wooden town in Europe. In 1989, the Wooden Town was protected as a whole. The municipality of Stavanger is convinced that the wooden town of Stavanger ensures a unique identity and therefore a future value in a world where globalization and more international architecture lead to a more generic and characterless cities, losing their distinctive historical characteristics.

The wooden town contributes to Stavanger's identity, but it also limits development of urban culture and sustainable solutions.



The white areas is the preserved Wooden Town.

RURALITY VS URBANITY

The tradition of building small scale, private detached houses and semi-detached houses has remained virtually unchanged in Stavanger for 200 years. The way of living in Stavanger, except in and near the city center, involves disposing a lot of private space, preferably with a private garden, a car and parking space. 60% of all the housing in the city are detached houses. Only 16% of the population lives in apartments. This characterizes Stavanger's urban culture, its forms, ways and preferences, which are still more rural than urban, and more individualistic than collective.

In the most central housing areas the density is much higher, people have less personal space, as each wooden house is divided in several apartments. One would think that these dense housing areas would compensate by having more and better public spaces and activities on street level, but they are just as private as the rest of Stavanger. This contributes to Bergeland (in Storhaug) being one of the areas with the worst living conditions in Stavanger.

METHOD AND PROCESS

The full process is described in the [Process booklet](#), where I have written a weekly update [on my work](#).

I have studied reference projects, buildings that seeks to act as a public space in their respective context. Two of the Projects I have gotten most inspired by does this in two different ways.



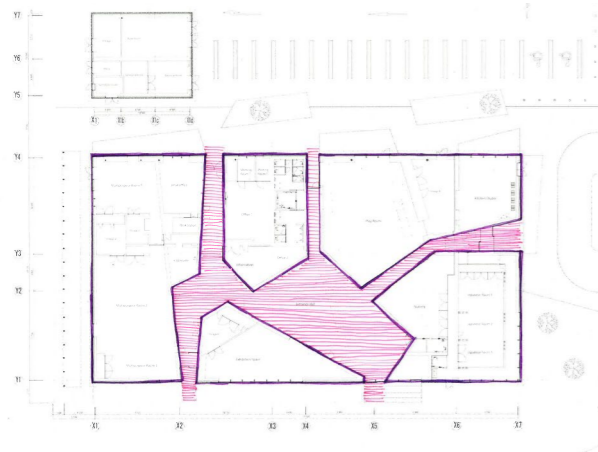
Towada community plaza

Horizontal

This project is a one story building, interesting to study in plan.

The building's volume is a simple rectangular shape with a homogenous facade, that from the outside is perceived as one building.

Inside the volume the different programme is divided into irregular rooms leaving the hallways and circulation as street like passages inbetween the rooms, that all meets in the central "plaza".

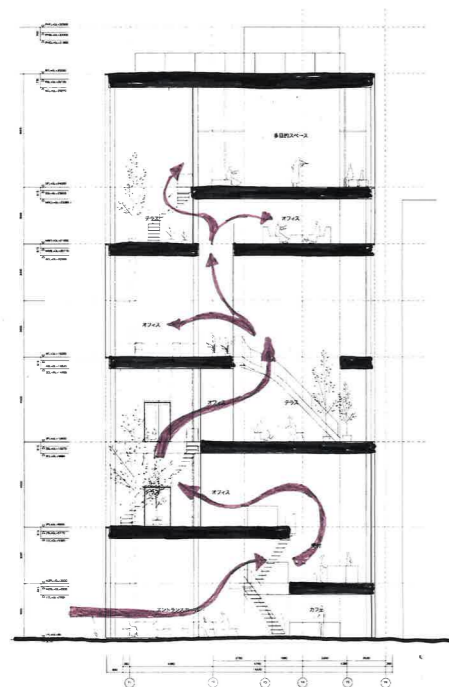


Shibaura House

Vertical

This project is a multistory building in Tokyo, That deals with the public space in section, the relation between the floors.

As the idea is to bring the pedestrians from the street, into and up in the building, all the floors has big openings to the upper and lower level, resulting in great visual and physical contact, transparency and perception of a continuous flow of space from the street to the top floor.



I have used model studies parallel to solving program, size of the project, and qualities and challenges of the site.

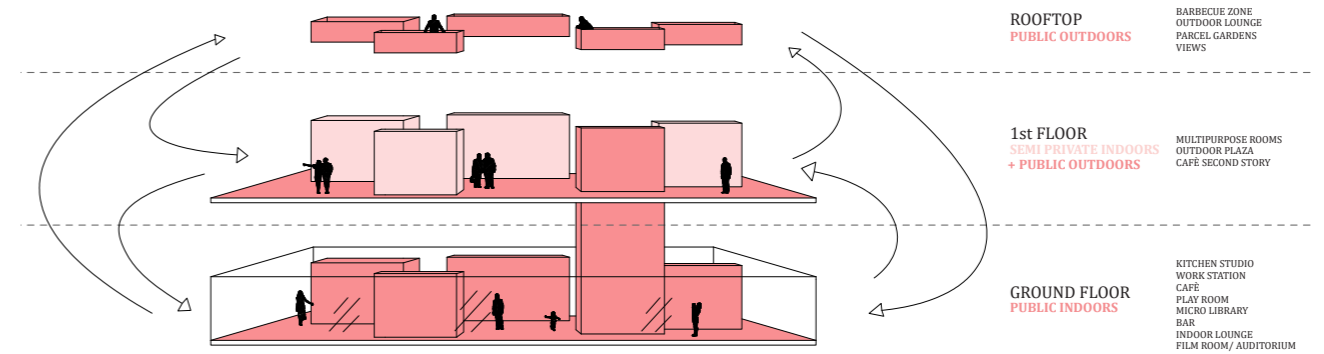
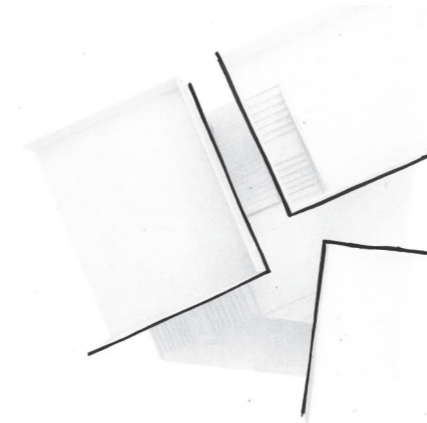
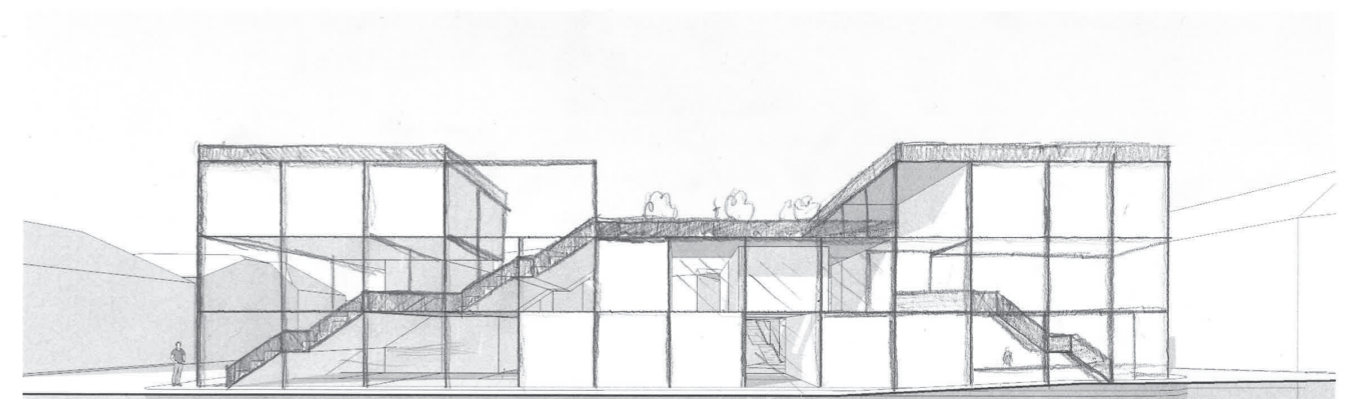
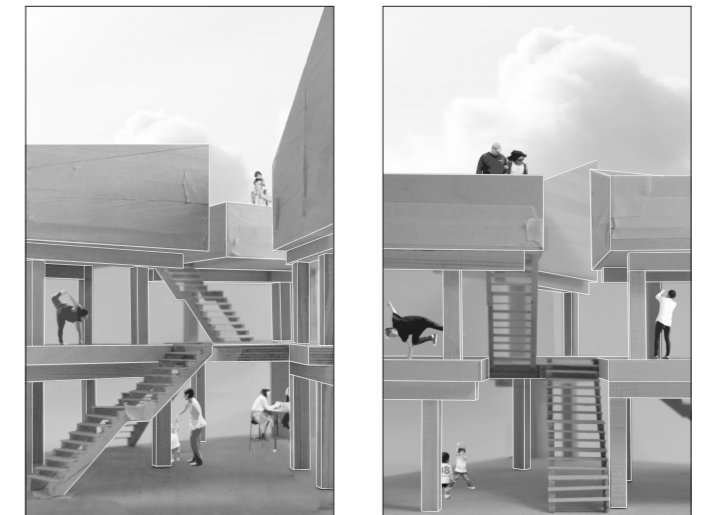


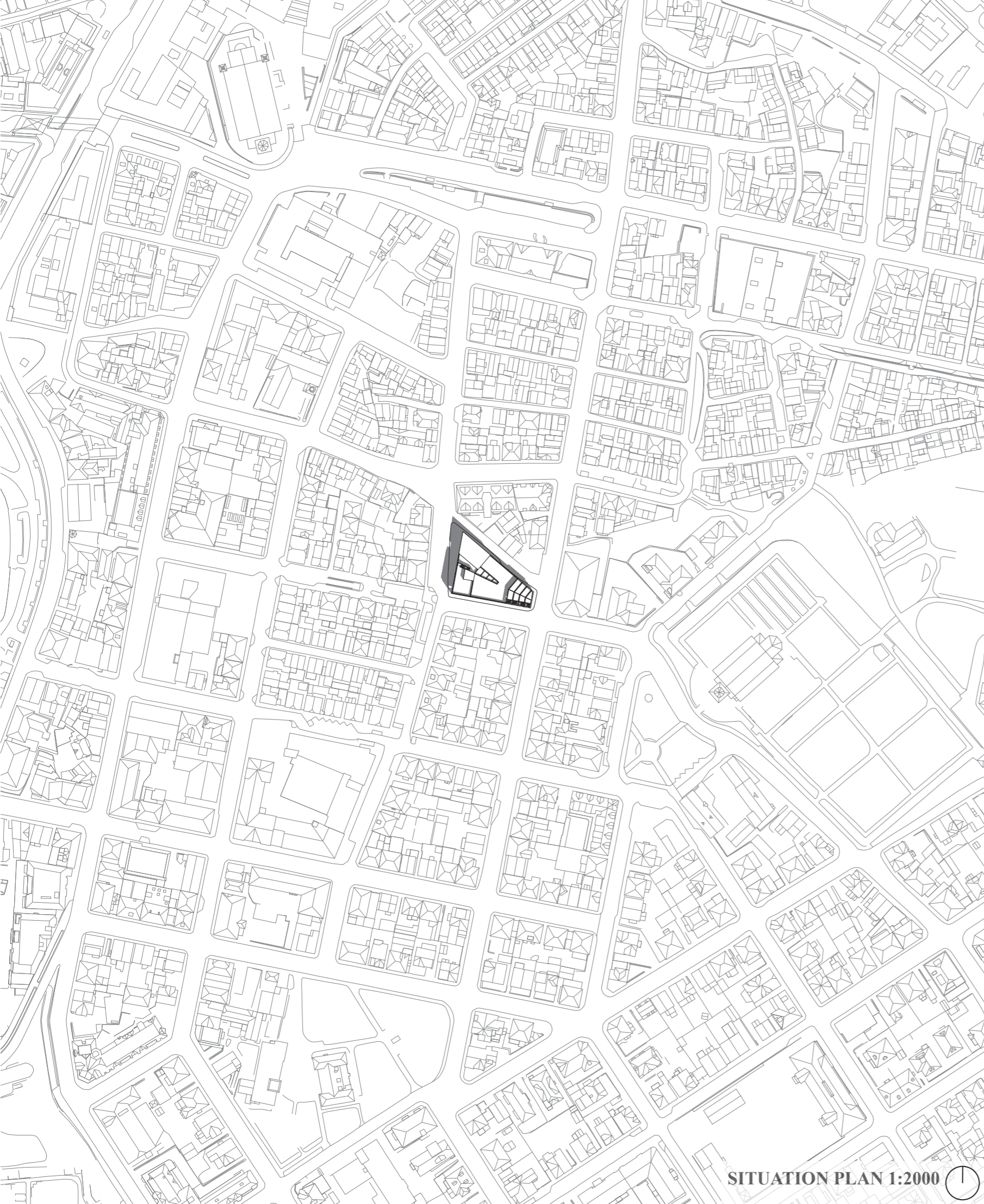
Diagram showing ideas about the organization of the building



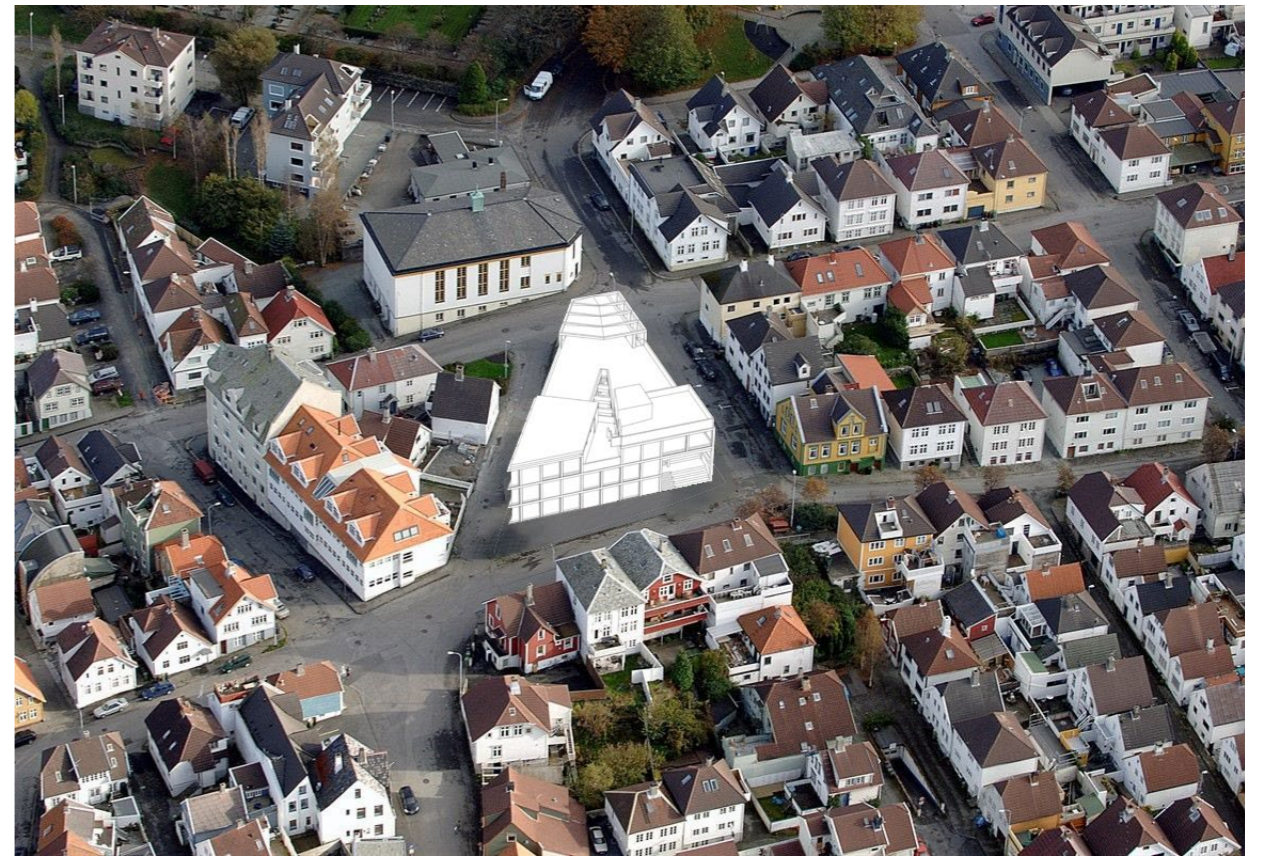
Pictures from the 1:50 study. Showing relation between rooms and circulation inbetween



Conceptual sketch



SITUATION PLAN 1:2000



The final proposal is one building volume that follows the outer line of the site. The public space unfolds both inside and outside within the structure.



SPATIAL CONCEPT

In Storhaug and in the wooden town in general, most of the houses were built relatively cheap from pre-fabricated building kits. The more central in the city, the tighter the spaces inbetween.

Throughout history, the inhabitants has built custom additions in between the houses, such as terraces, staircases, garages and annexes. This unplanned evolment has resulted in countless interesting, complex, and I think really beautiful spaces inbetween the original houses.

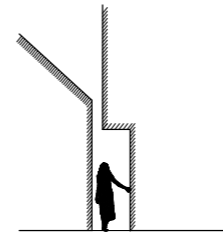
I think a contemporary public project could be inspired by these spaces, as the project should wake the curiosity of the visiors to explore and walk around, move around not only on ground level but on top of and inbetween the different activities in the building aswell.

The uniqueness and differences in these spaces also inpires the circulation of my project, in the sense that some spaces are narrow, some are wide, some are have visual contact, some are more closed in.

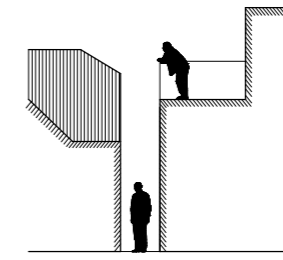
Following is a collection of 18 "spaces in between", all found in the nearby context of my own site.



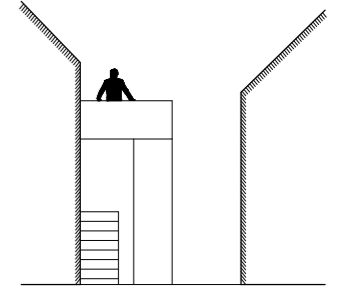
The location of the collected locations + The site



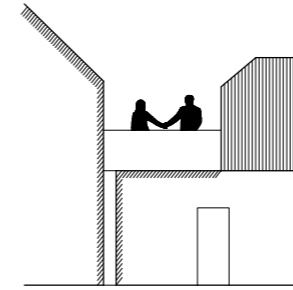
Langgata 44-46



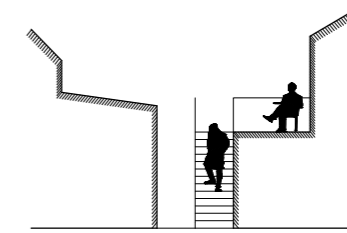
Langgata 26-28



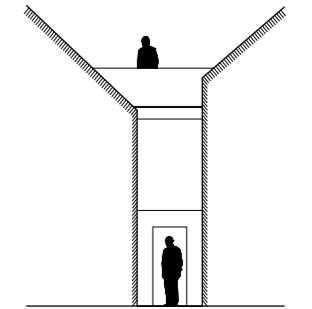
Midtre Dalgata 7-9



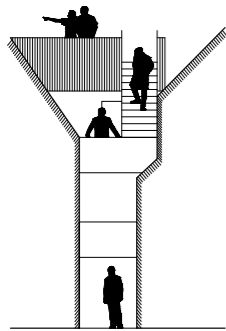
Kirkebakken 13-15



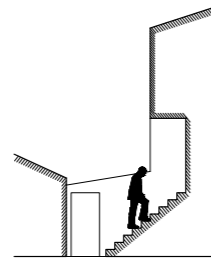
St.Hansgate 11-13



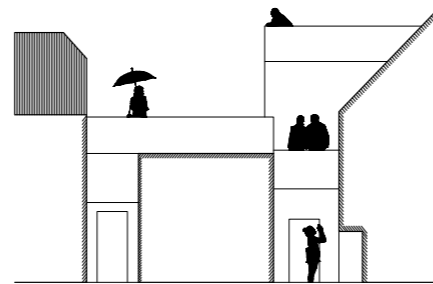
Nedre Dalgate 33-35



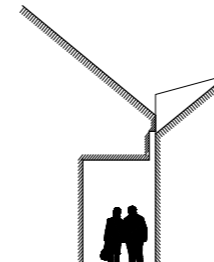
Nedre Dalgate 47-49



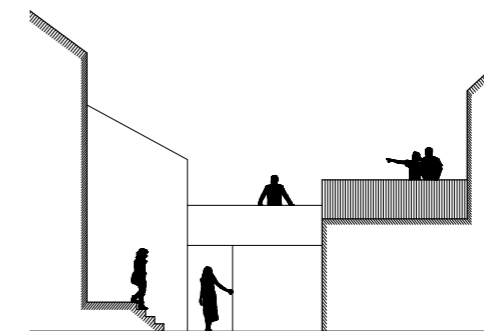
Øvre Jærgate 11-13



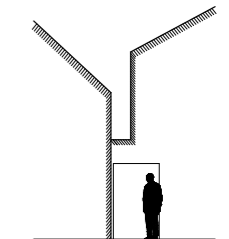
Hetlandsgata 38-40



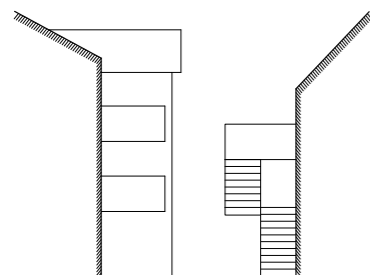
Brattegata 10-12



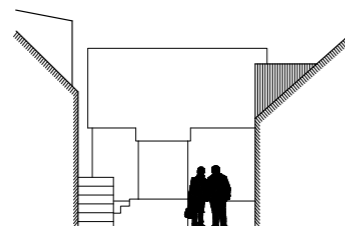
Lysefjordgata 11-13



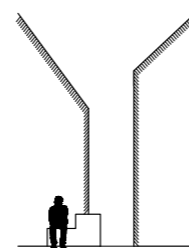
Nedre Dalgate 58-60



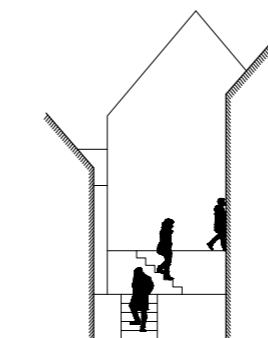
Langgata 72-74



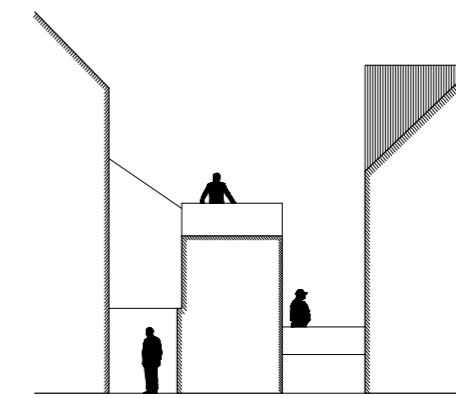
Risbakken 3-5



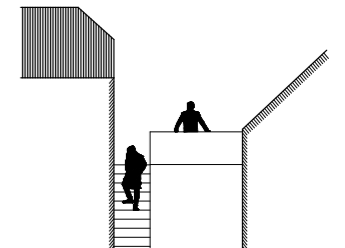
Midtre Dalgate 14-16



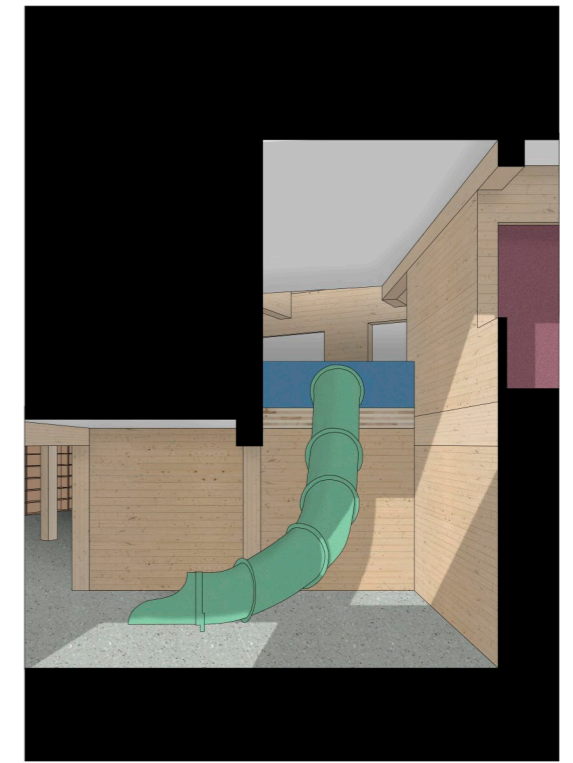
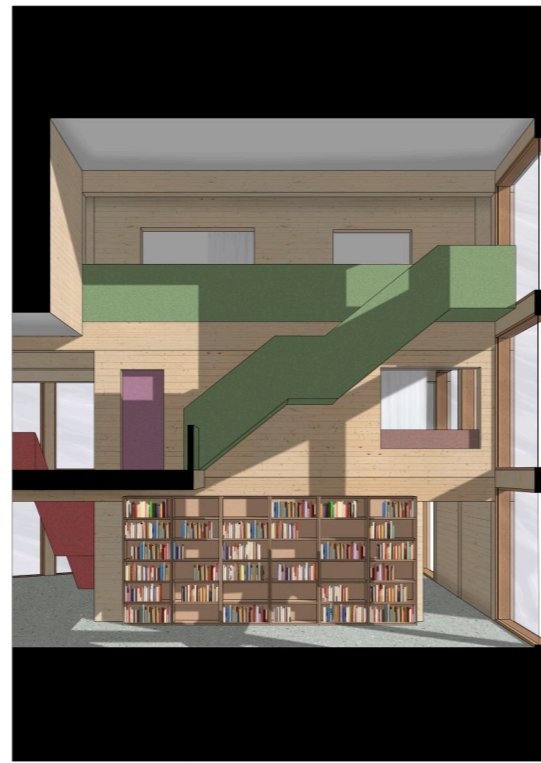
Mellomgata 3-5



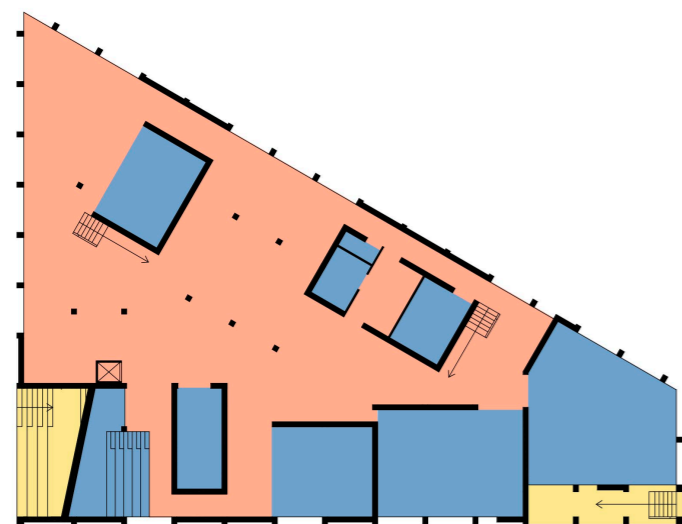
Skolegata 25-27



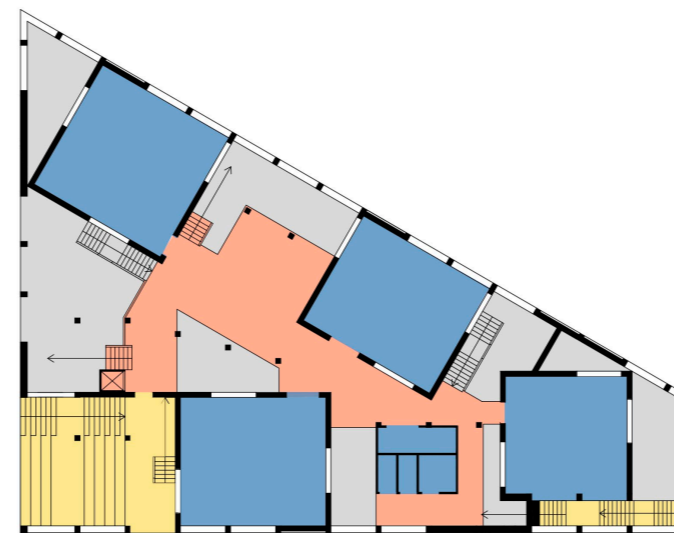
Hetlandsgata 26-28



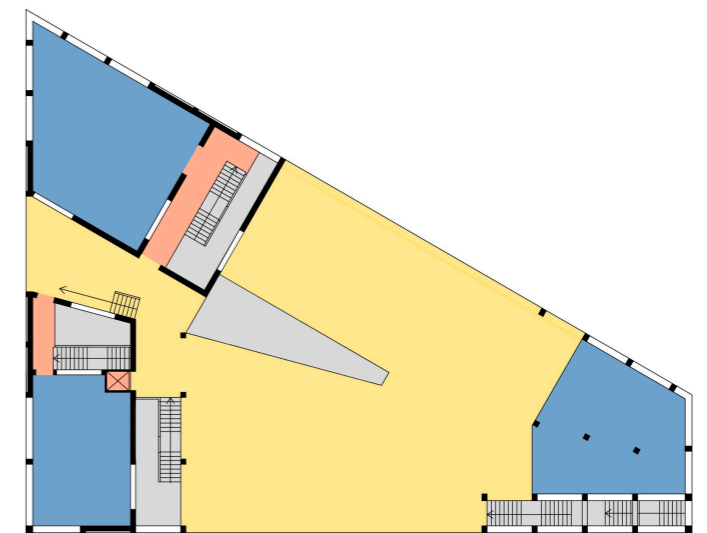
The illustrations are four examples of situations describing the flow of circulation and "spaces in between" through the building.



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR



SECOND FLOOR/ROOF

- INDOOR CIRCULATION
- OUTDOOR CIRCULATION
- CLOSED ROOM/ DEFINED SPACE
- OPENING TO UNDERLYING FLOOR

Plan diagrams showing the circulation flowing from inside to outside, and around / in between the defined spaces.



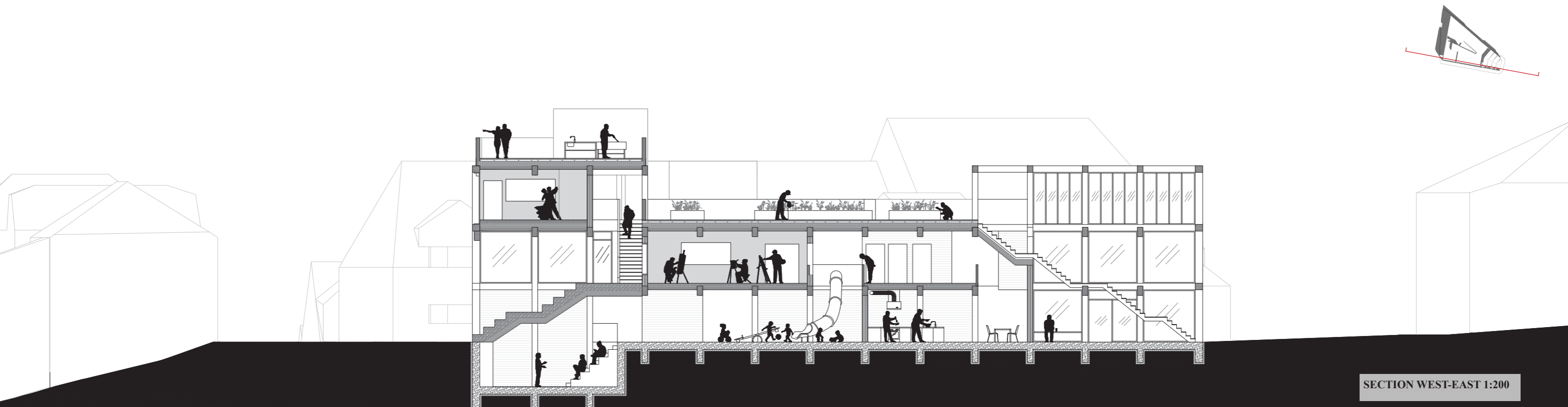
Plan Description

Ground Floor

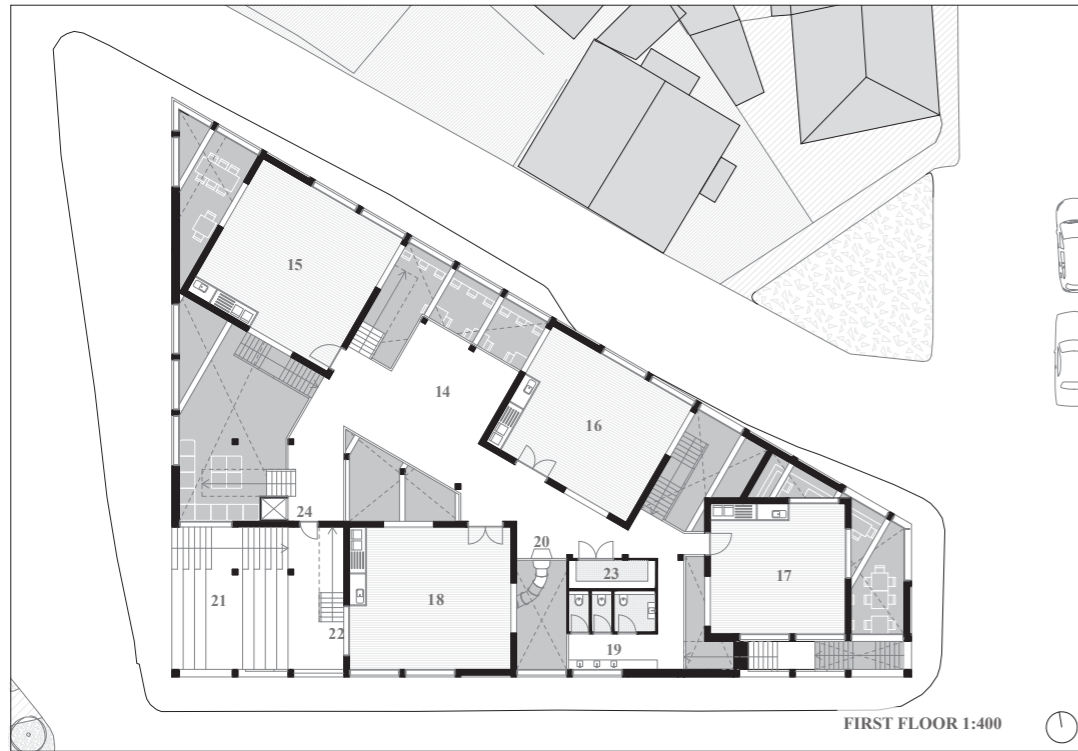
- 1: Foyer
- 2: Café
- 3: Work + Reading Space
- 4: HCWC
- 5: Nursing Room
- 6: WC
- 7: Bar
- 8: Exterior Staircase to Roof
- 9: Kitchen Zone
- 10: Play Zone
- 11: Storage + Technical
- 12: Auditorium
- 13: Elevator



The movement of the existing uphill staircase to Storhaug continues upwards via the exterior atrium to the Roof Top Terrace in the building.



SECTION WEST-EAST 1:200



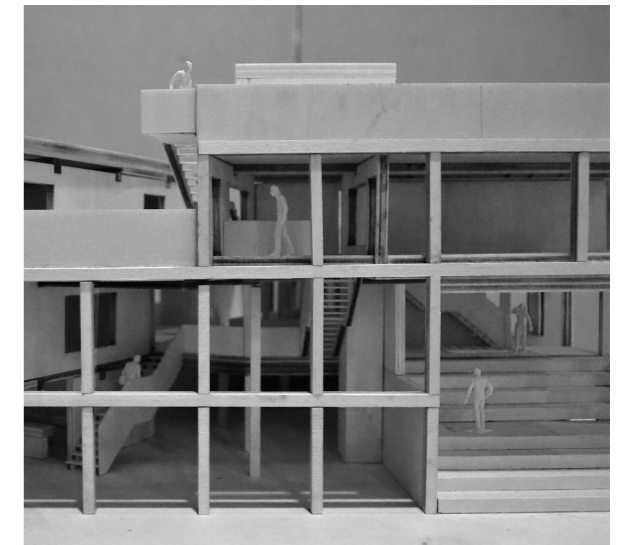
Plan Description

First Floor

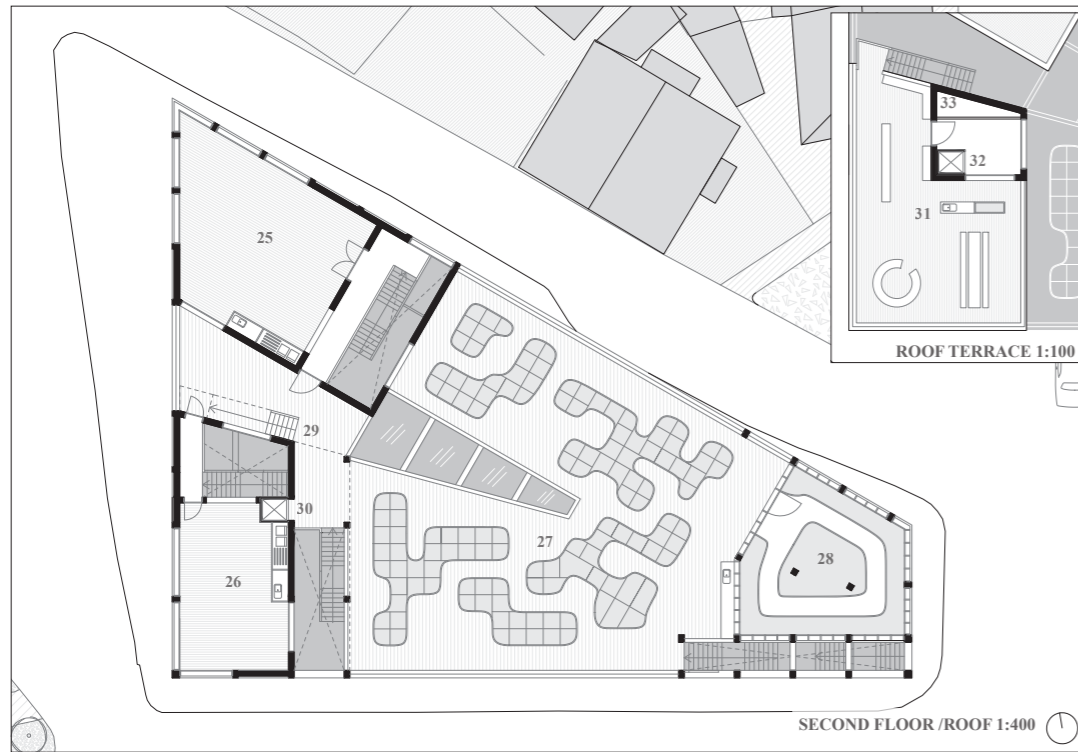
- 14: Flexible Space
- 15: Multipurpose Room 1
- 16: Multipurpose Room 2
- 17: Multipurpose Room 3
- 18: Multipurpose Room 4
- 19: WC + HCWC
- 20: Slide Leading to Play Zone
- 21: Exterior Atrium
- 22: Exterior Staircase Leading to Roof
- 23: Storage
- 24: Elevator



The foyer inside the main entrance gives the visitor an immediate overview



Some of the many routes through the building



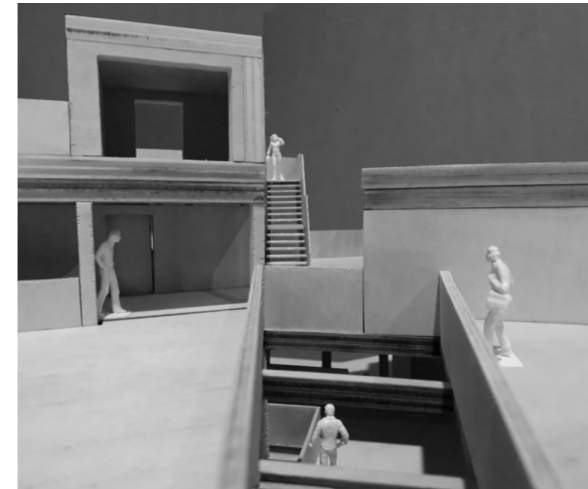
Plan Description

Second Floor / Roof

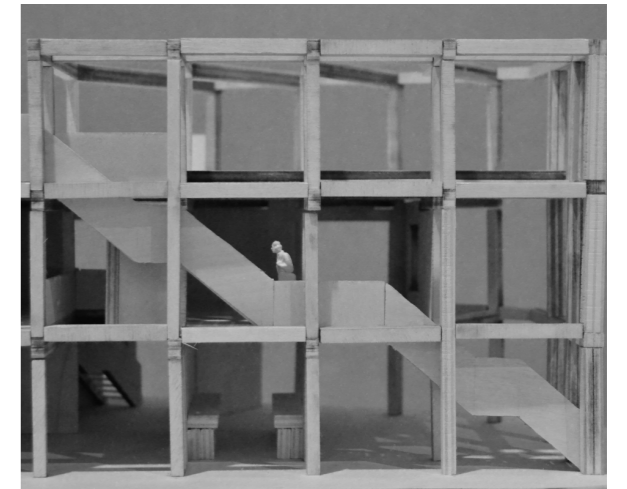
- 25: Multipurpose Room 5
- 26: Multipurpose Room 6
- 27: Parcel Garden
- 28: Green House
- 29: Exterior Stairs leading to Roof
- 30: Elevator

Roof Top Terrace

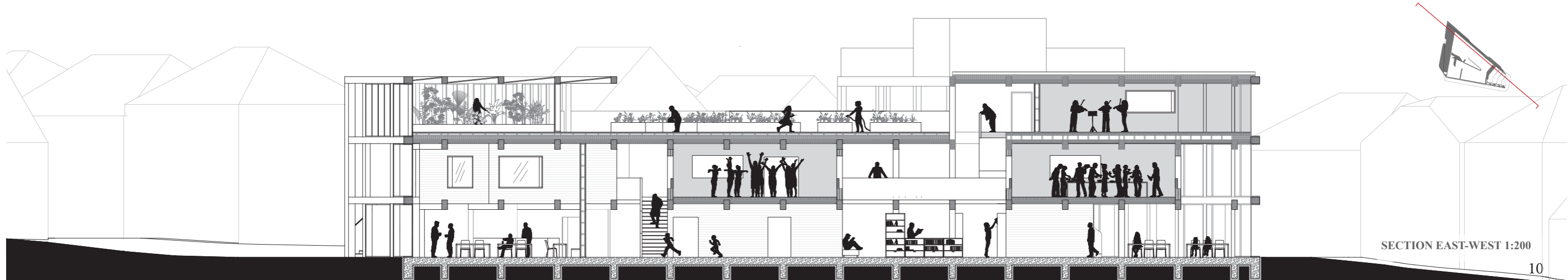
- 31: Barbecue Zone + View
- 32: Elevator
- 33: Storage / Technical



The Parcel Garden Space has visual contact with the underlying floors

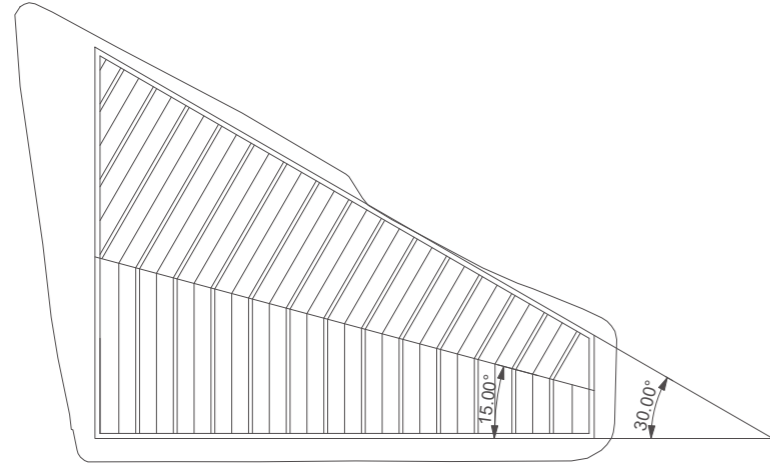


The Parcel Garden Space has visual contact with the underlying floors



SECTION EAST-WEST 1:200

CONSTRUCTION CONCEPT



Plan showing the angled lines of beams, following the directions of the site. The intention has been to develop a general contructional system, that can be used as a tool that gives both possibilitis and limitations in terms of designing the spaces.

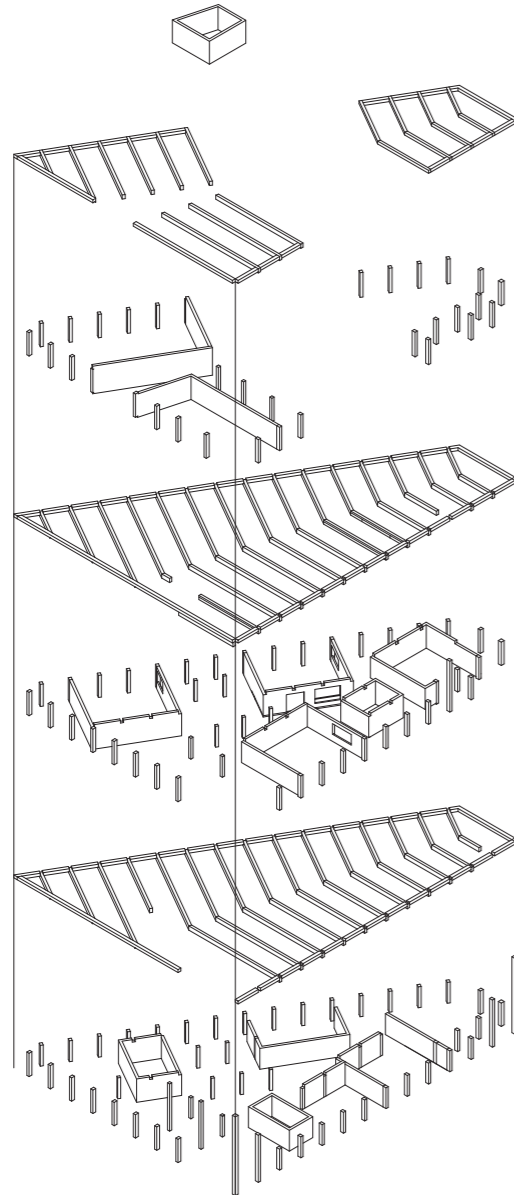
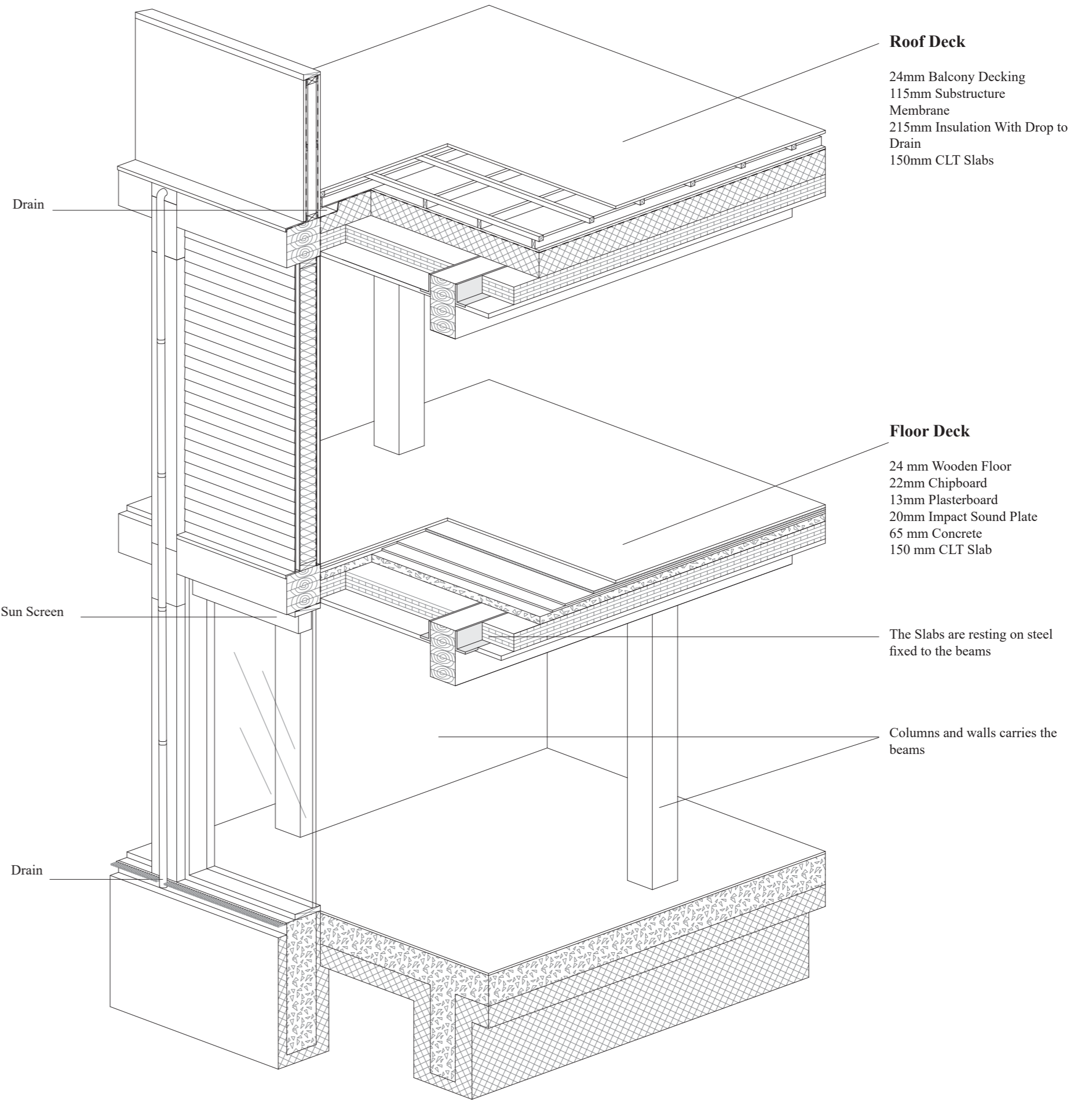
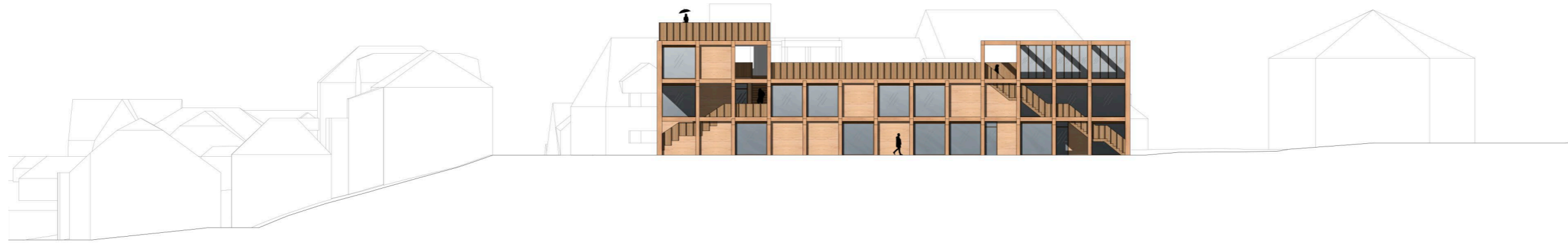


Illustration showing each column, wall and beam on each level





ELEVATION SOUTH 1:400



ELEVATION NORTH 1:400



ELEVATION EAST 1:400



ELEVATION WEST 1:200