

RESURFACING

A NEW BATH IN CENTRAL OSLO

MARTIN GRØNER KROGSTAD JO WILLUMSEN KAMFJORD

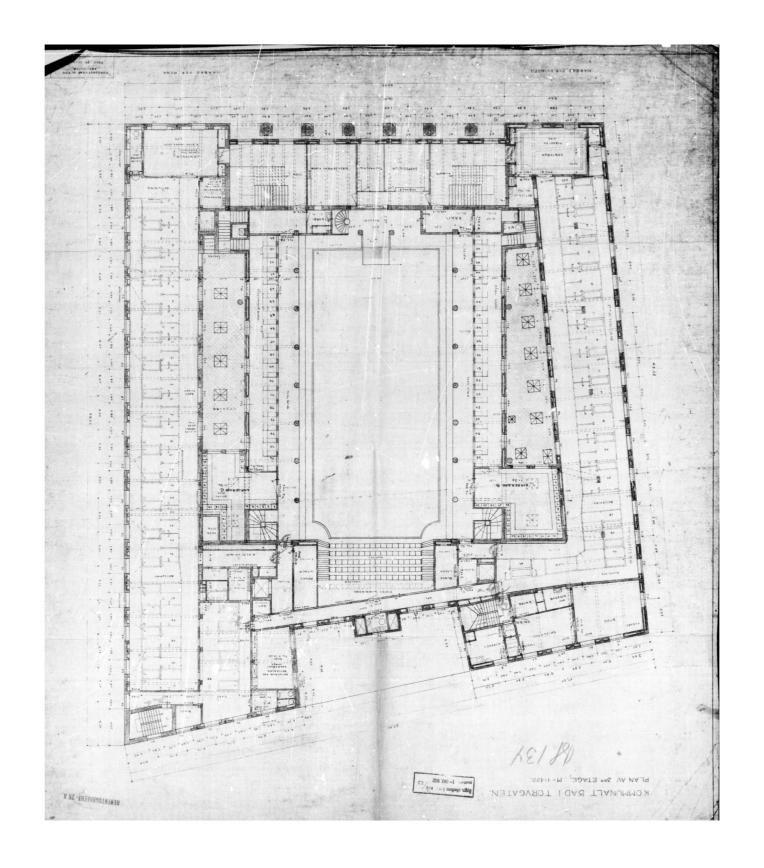




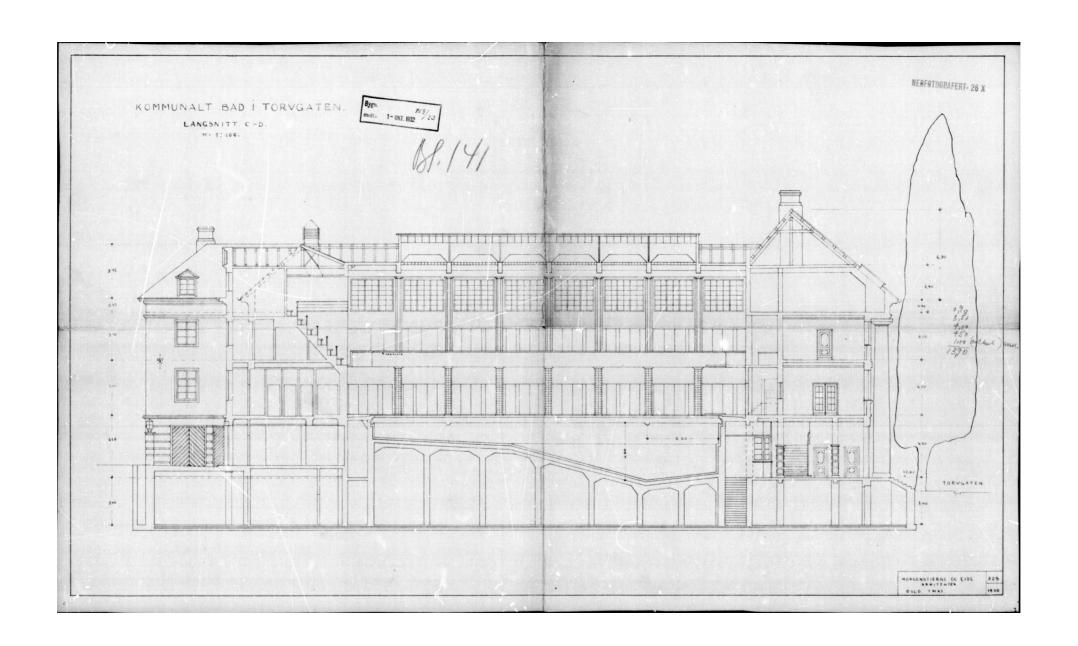




STADTBAD MITTE Heinrich Tessenow, 1930



TORGGATA BAD Morgenstierne og Eide, 1923



















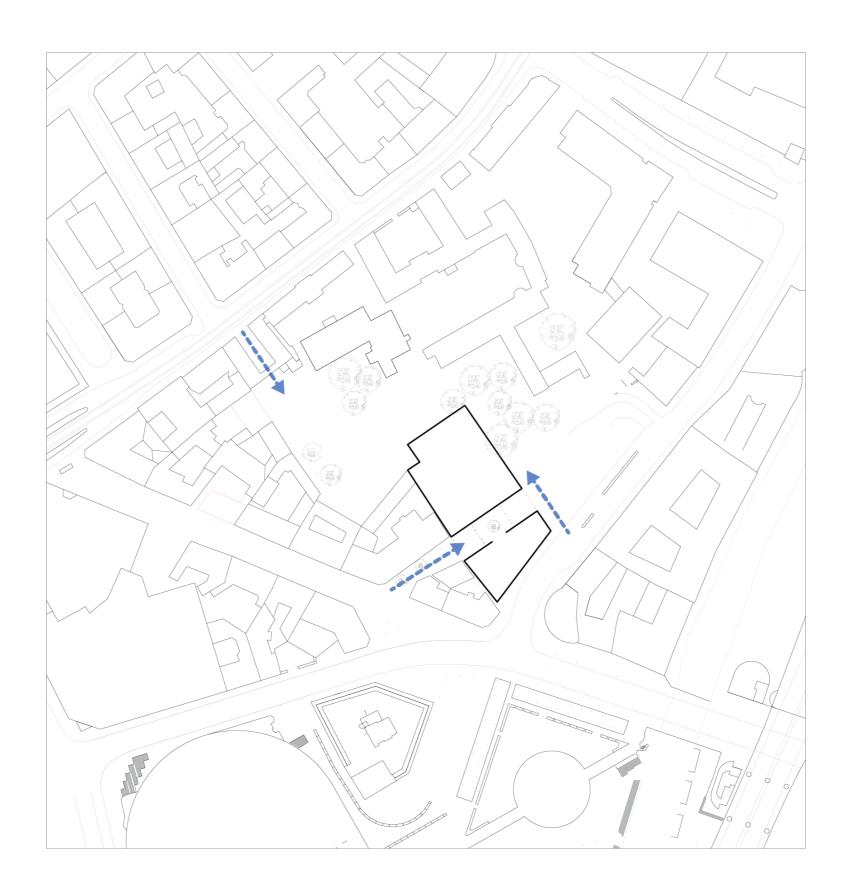


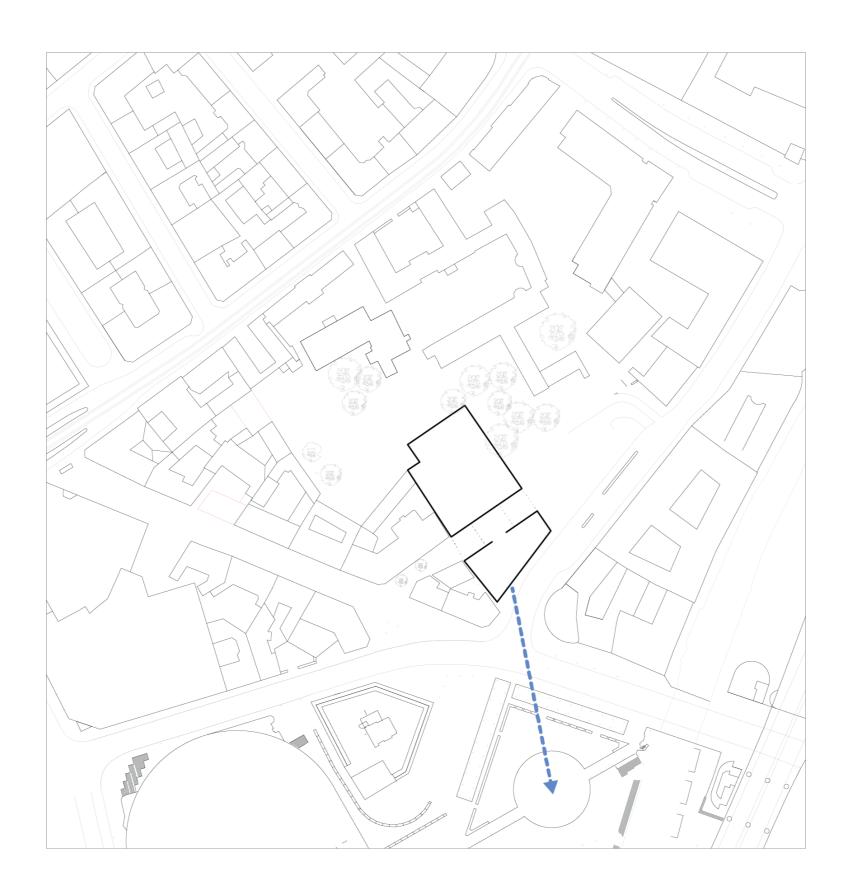








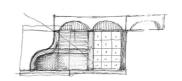


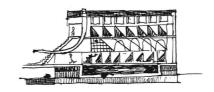














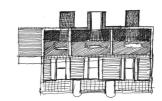




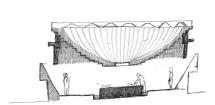




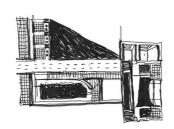




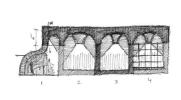


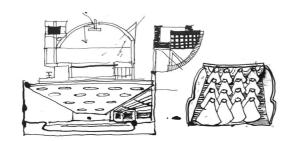










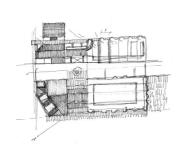


















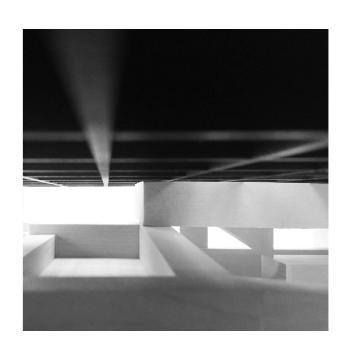


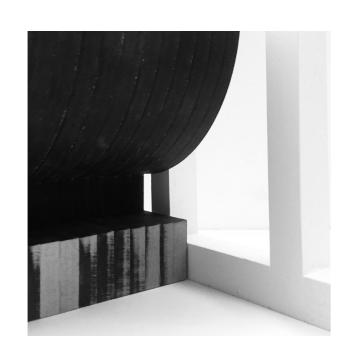






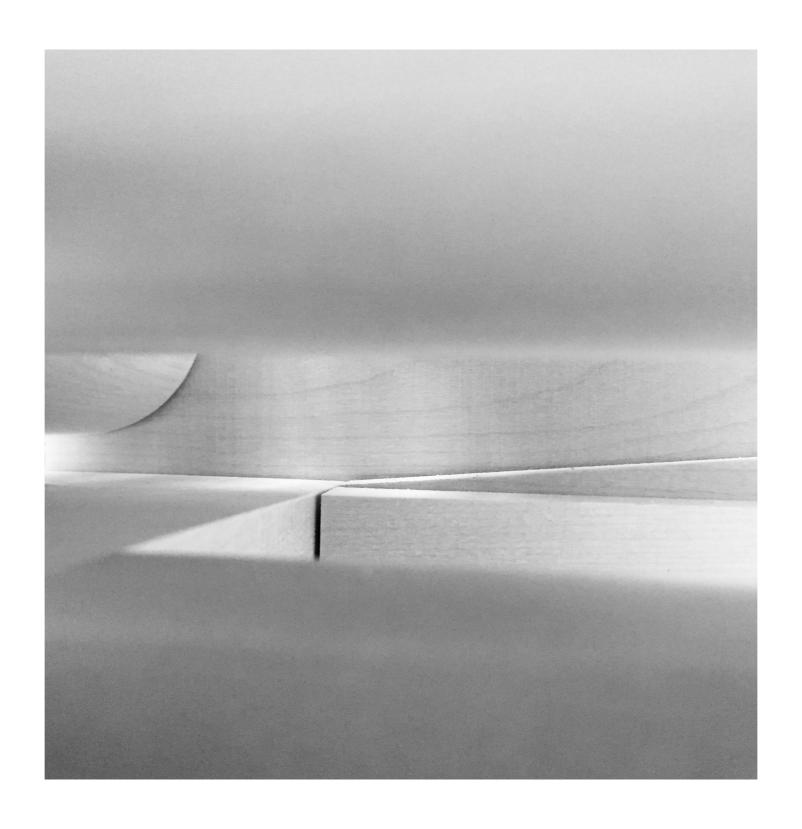


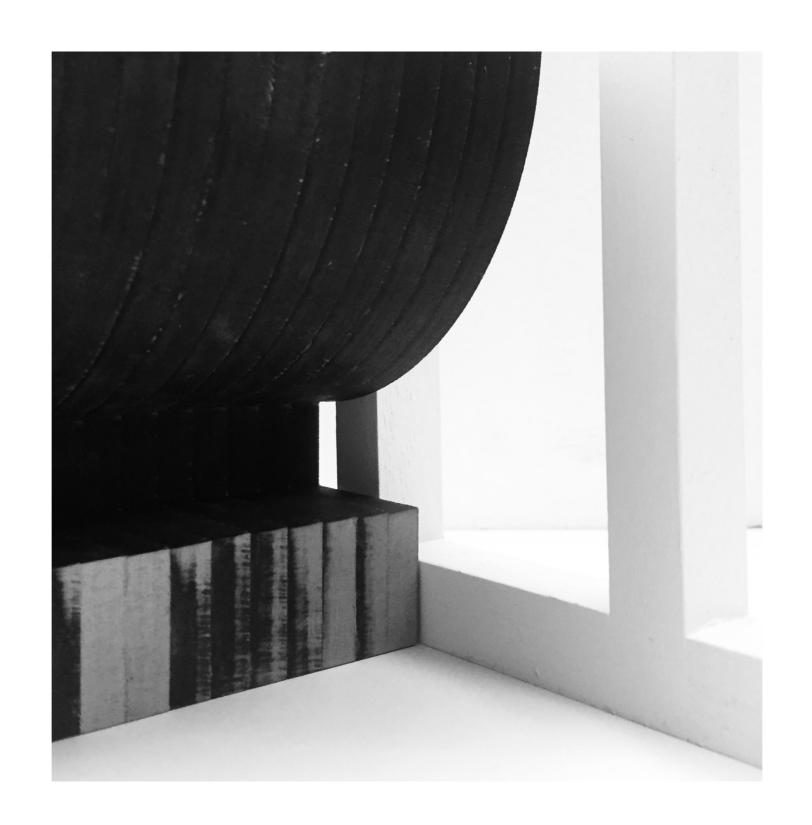


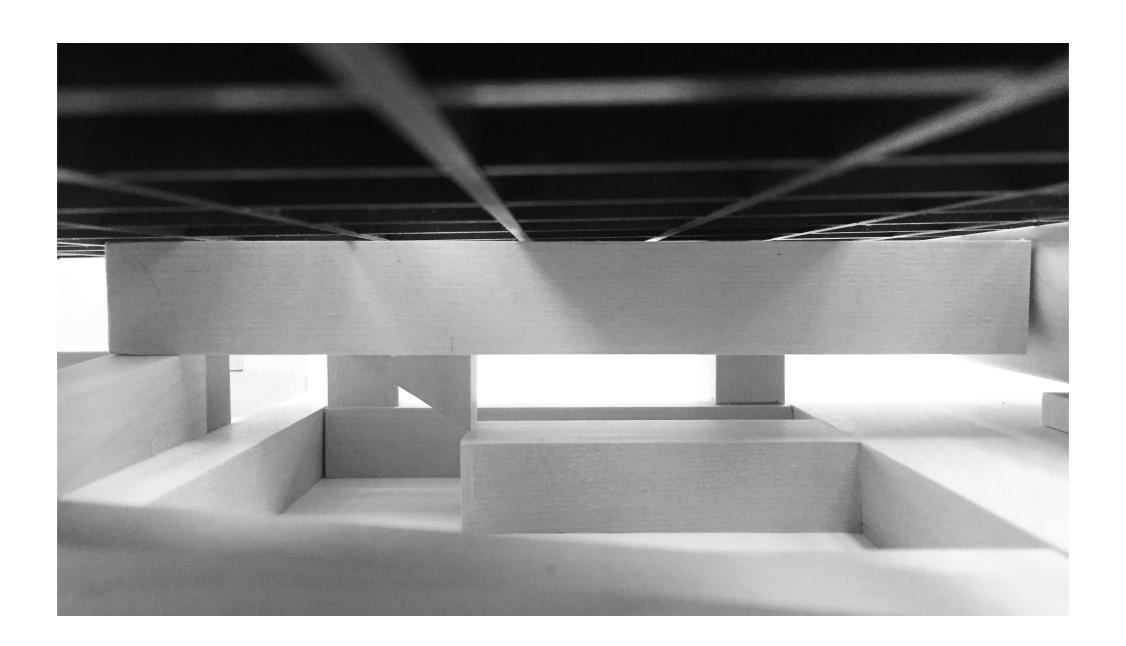


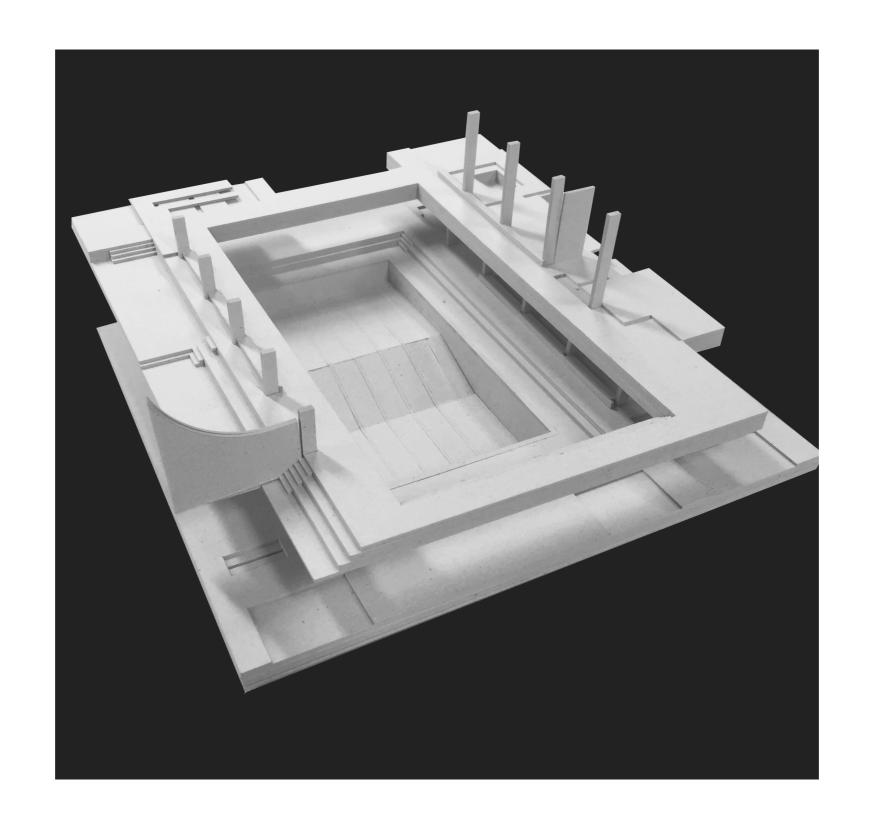


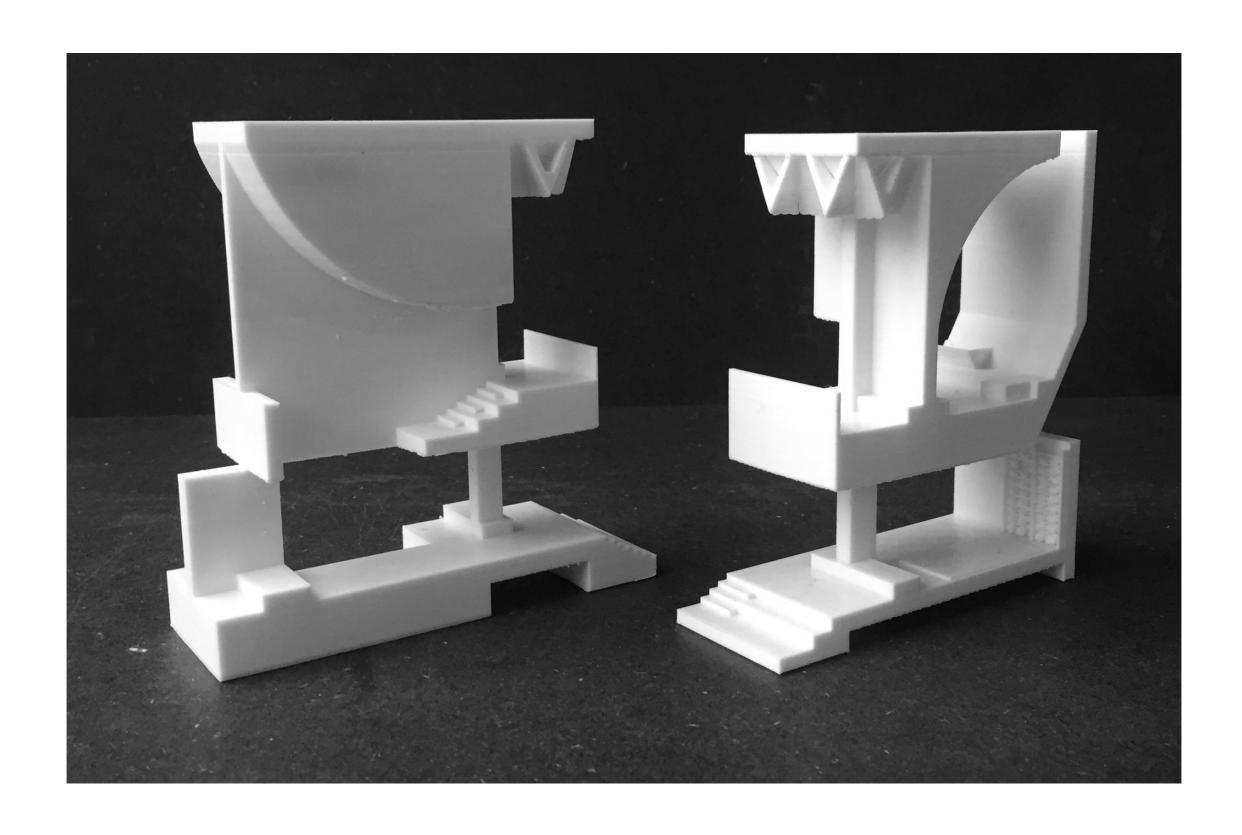


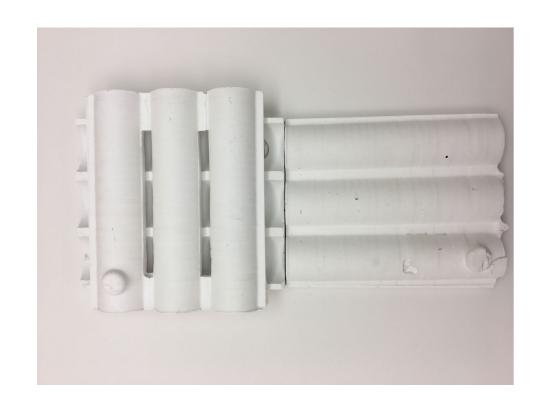






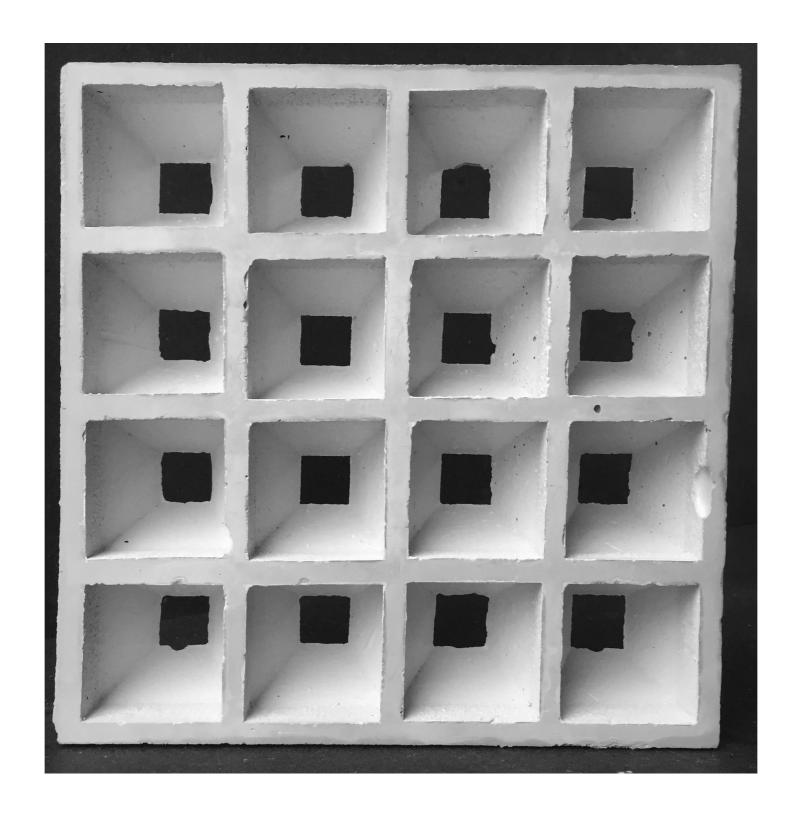


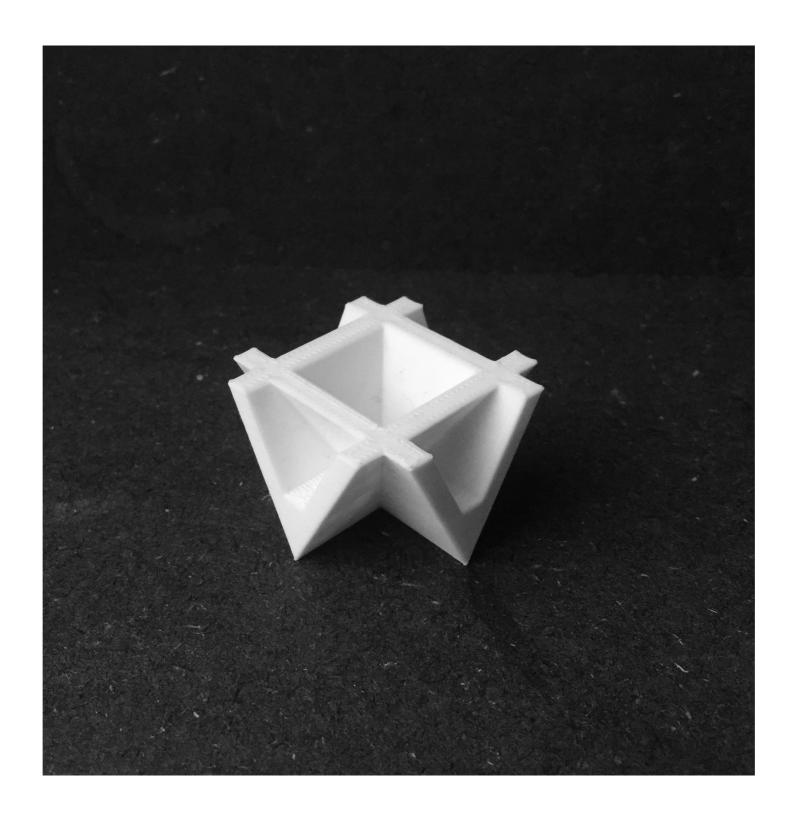






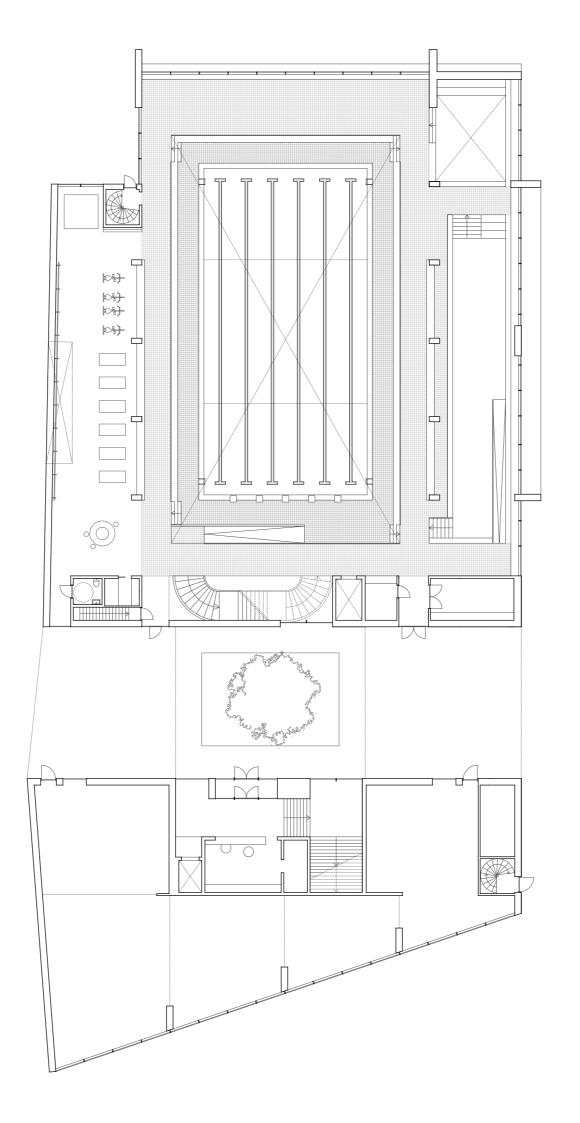


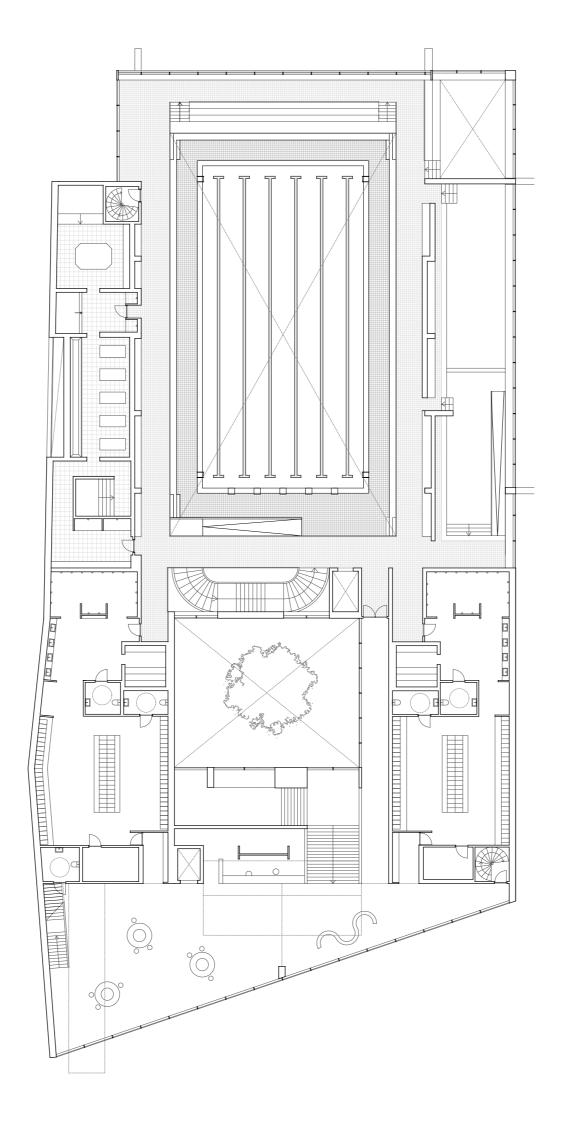


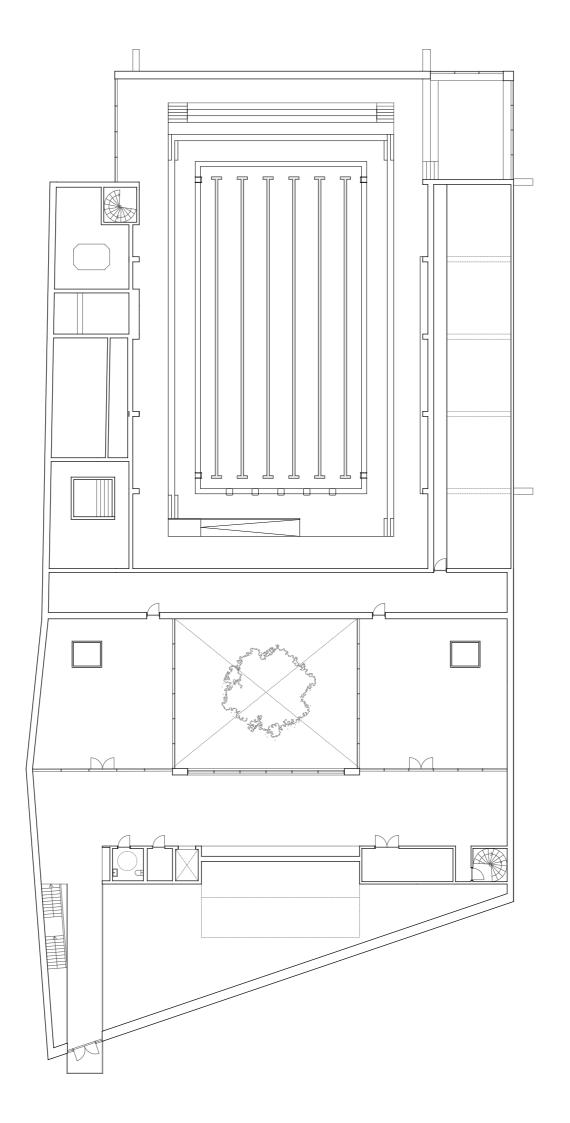


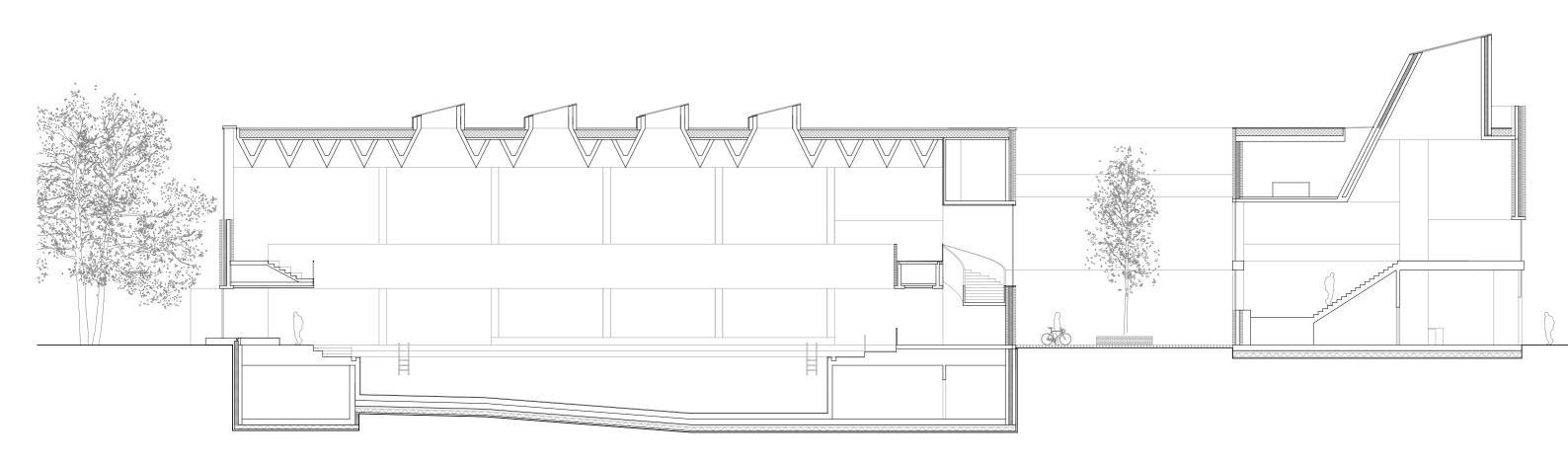


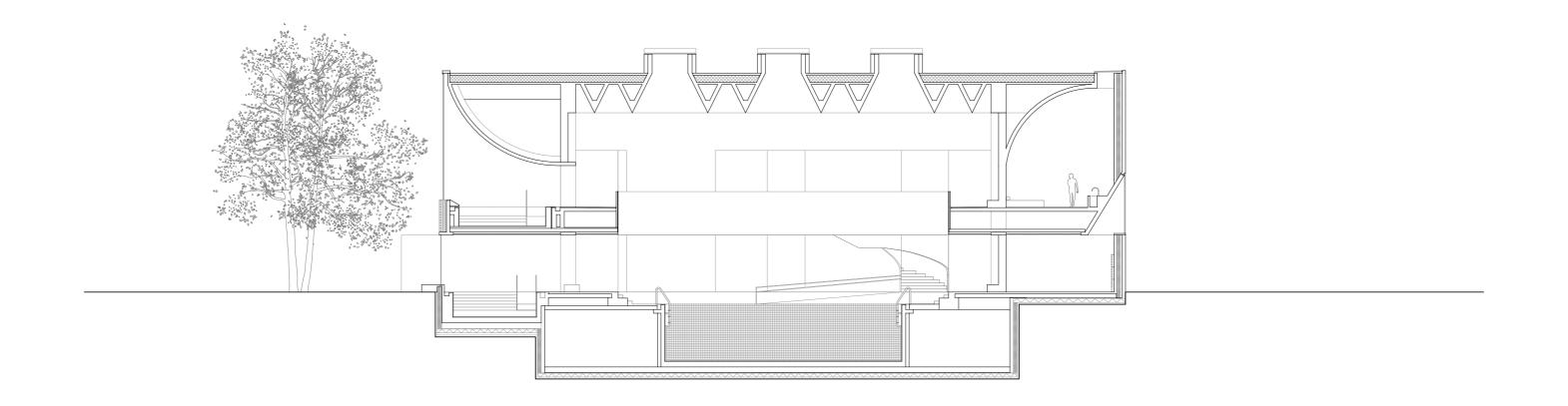


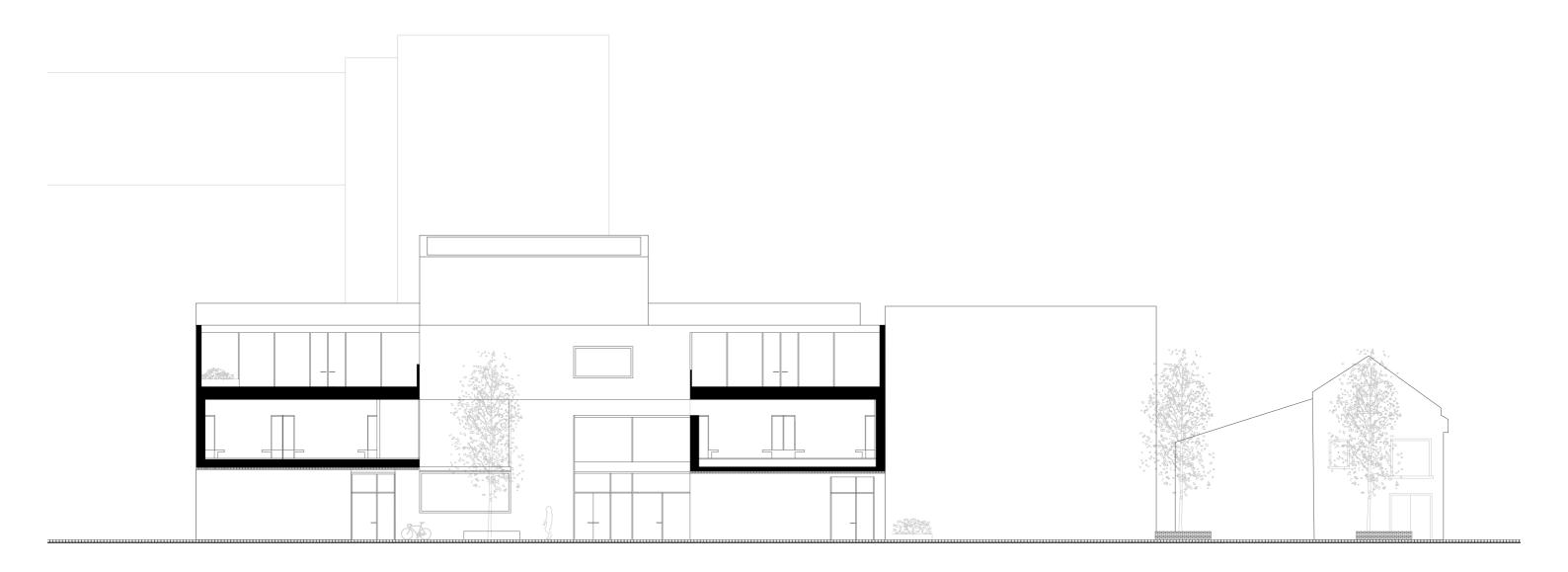


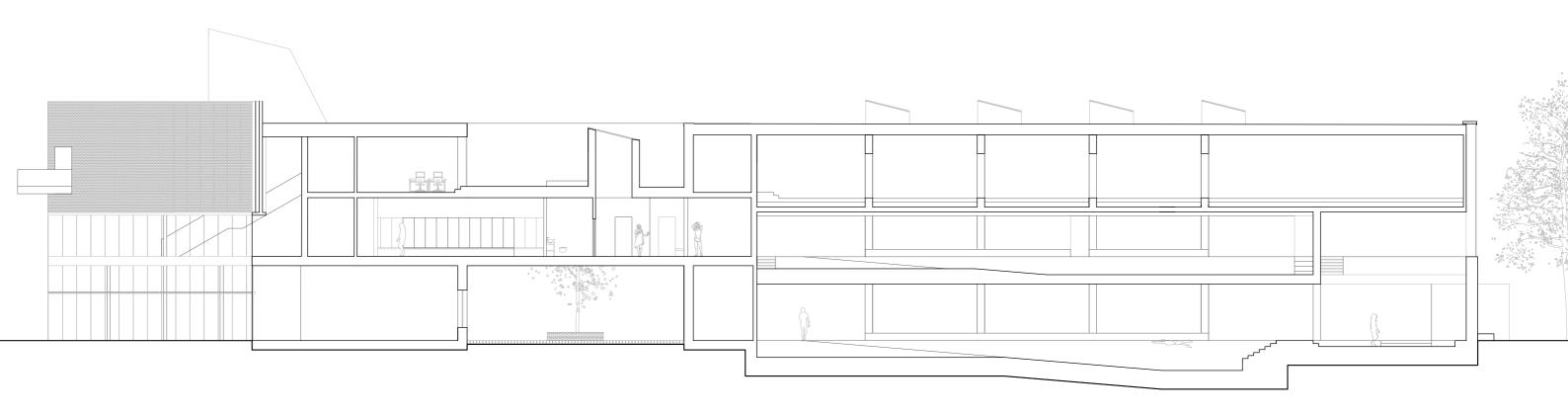


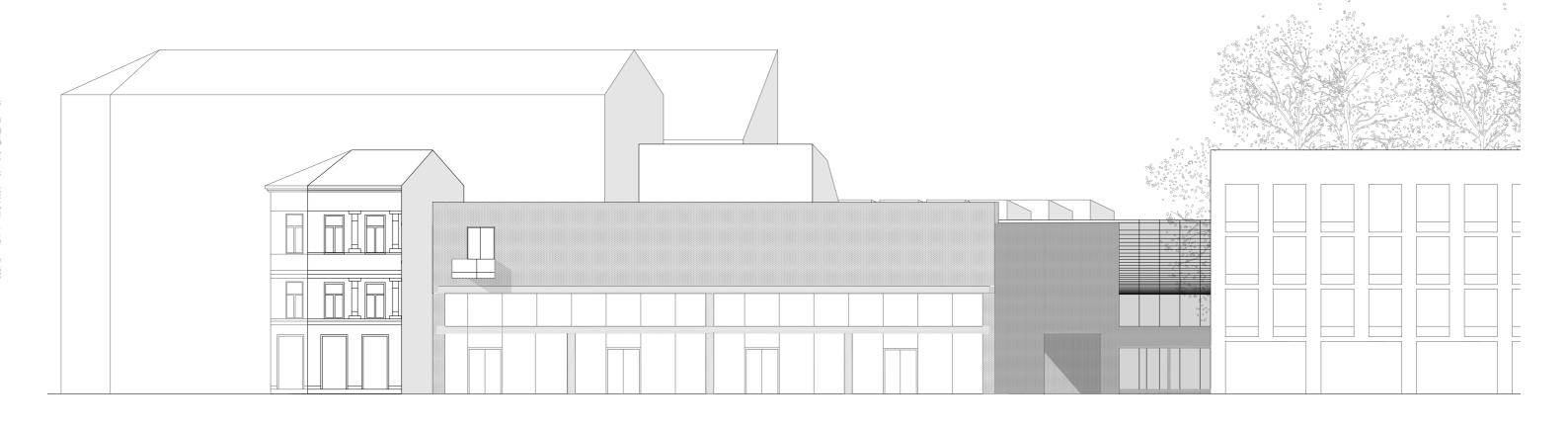


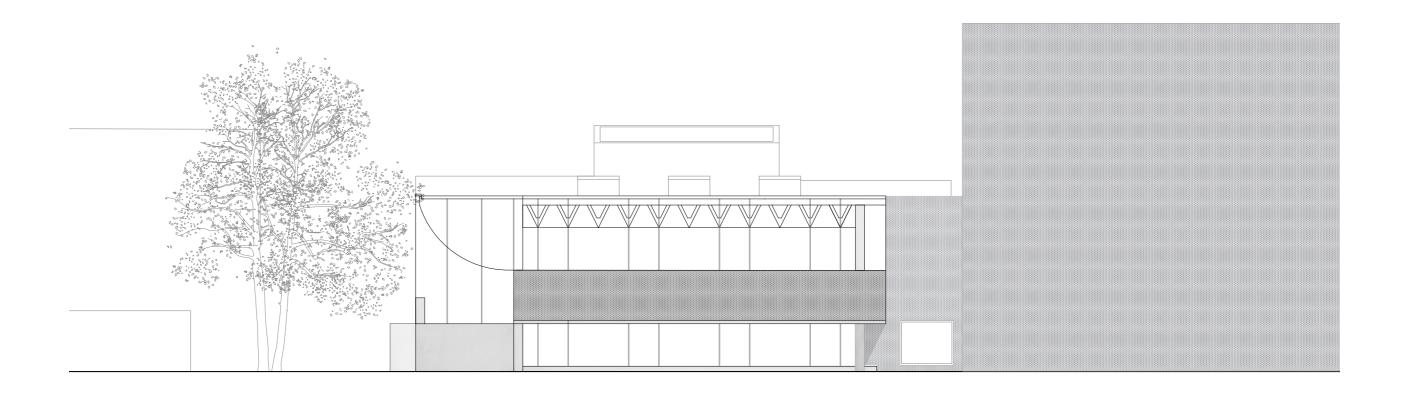


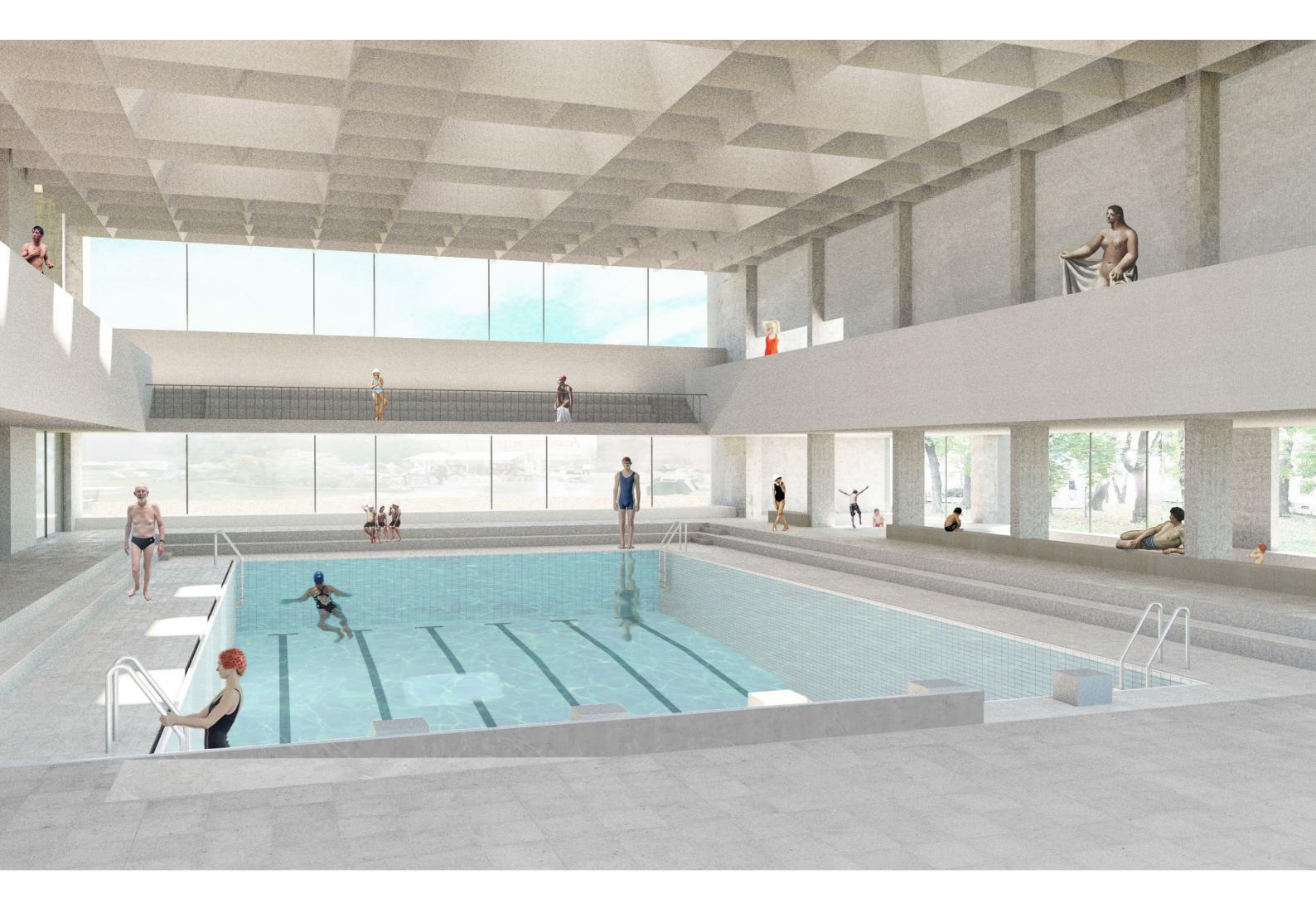


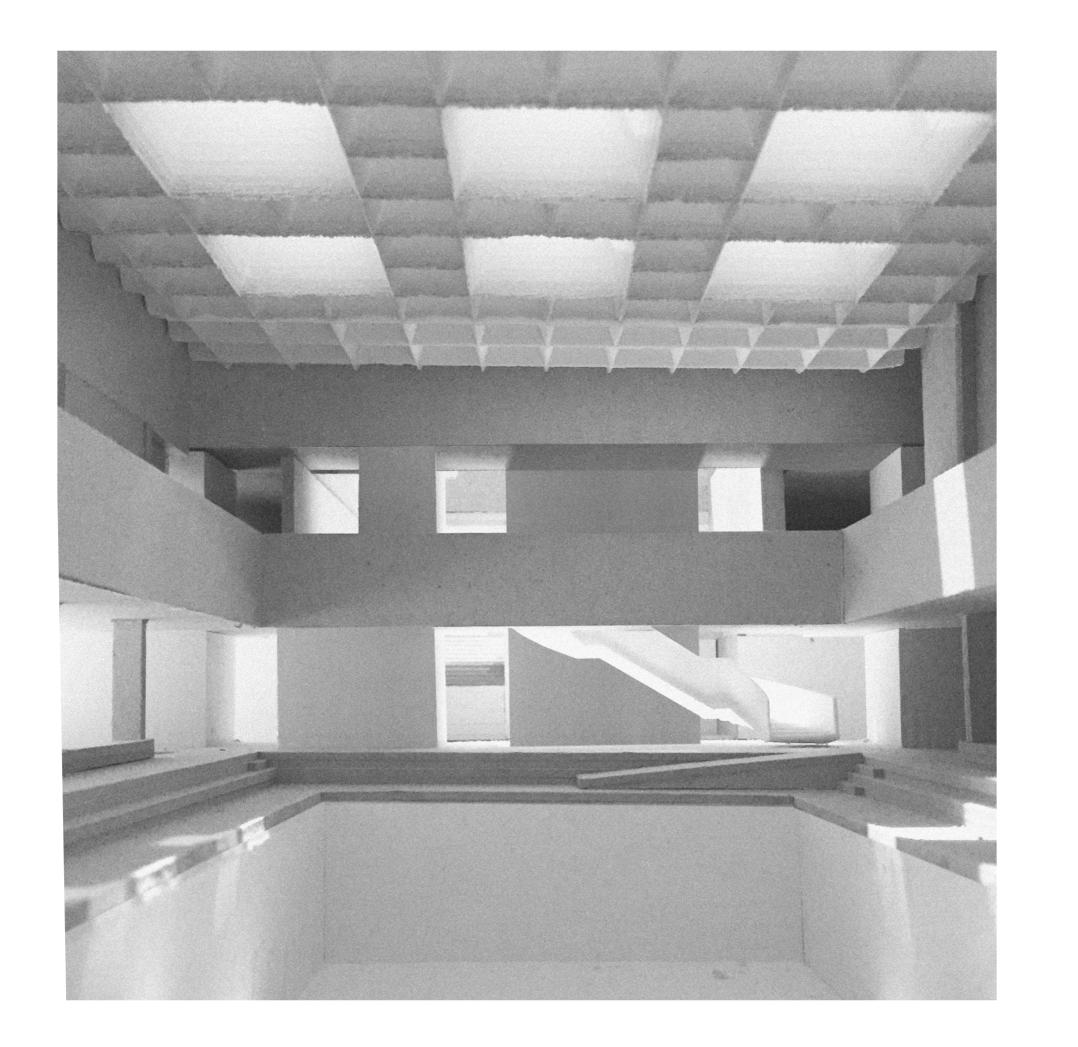


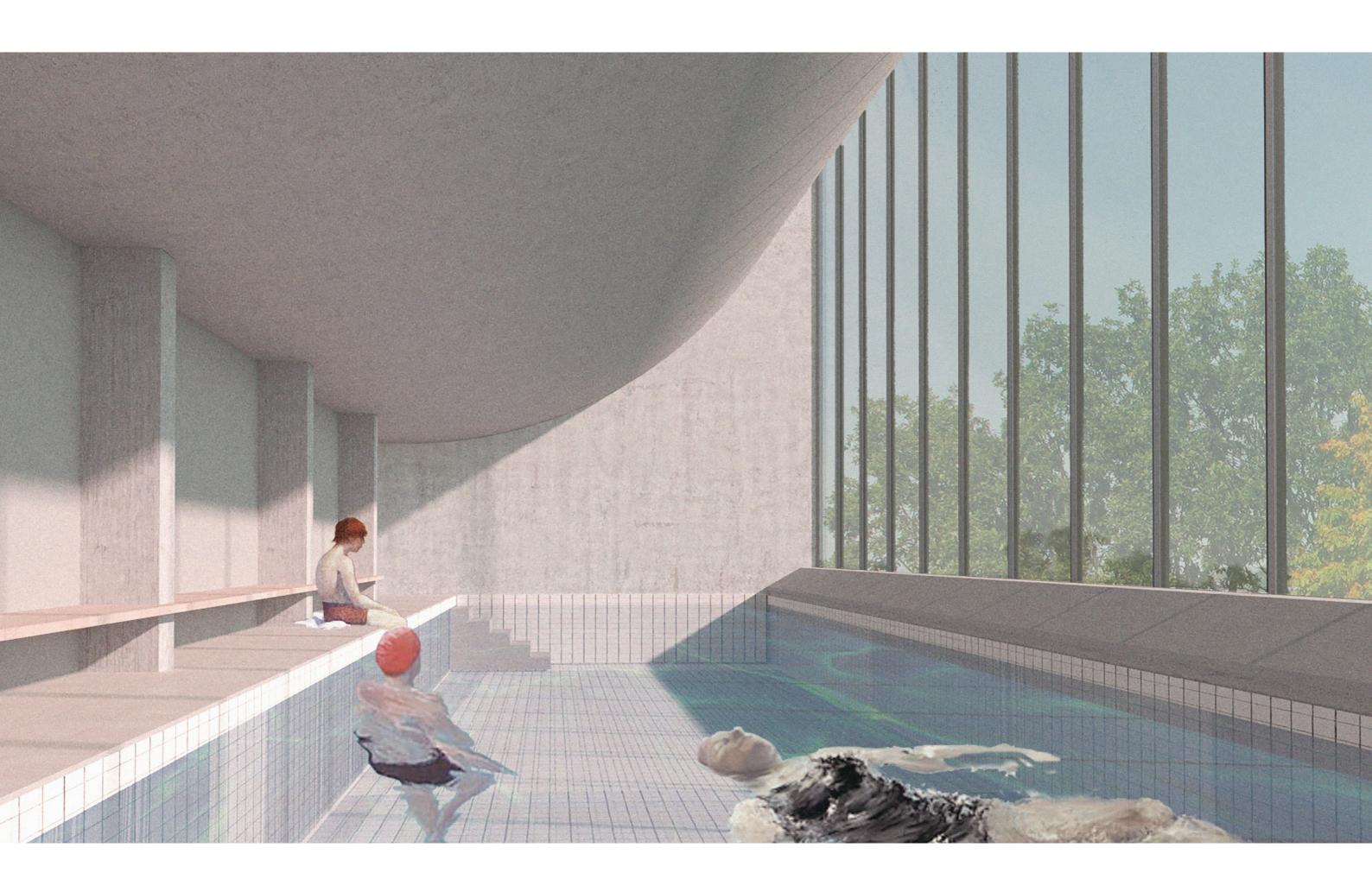












RESURFACING

A NEW BATH IN CENTRAL OSLO

A public bath is one of the few remaining places where people still part with their phones. Entering a public bath means stepping into an alternate social and thermal environment: A place where the city dweller since antiquity has gone to escape the hustle of daily life, and delight in an hour of physical and spiritual regeneration.

Located in the eastern part of Oslo's city centre and negotiating the space between two busy streets and a complex system of backyards, the block containing the site houses everything from a psychiatric ward, to hotels and artist's studios, and several large, listed trees. Since the closing of neighbouring Torggata bath in the late 1980s, the area has seen a massive growth in its commercial developments. Yet the facilities available for public recreation remain virtually the same. The project aims at reestablishing such a place for the inhabitants and, as well as thousands of people who work in, or pass through, the area daily.

Lately the block has seen an influx of new bars and small shops, and the area seems likely to be subsumed by the wave of gentrification spreading from Torgata in the north towards the lively Grønland quarter to the south. Meanwhile, it also neighbours the main hub of Oslo's open drug scene. As commercial interest beckons from one side, the municipality is largely operating towards ambitious goals by way of temporary solutions. It has a stated goal of developing new swimming facilities for inhabitants while simultaneously aiming for a car free central Oslo.

The site is currently occupied by a 7 story concrete parking garage from the early 1980s which is owned by Oslos largest private real estate developer, who is looking to redevelop the site to further expand his neighbouring shopping and hotel facilities. This seems to be a pivotal moment for this city block, and the surrounding neighbourhood.

Our project imagines the site housing a public bath. The new structure serves both as a gate into, and a living wall shielding the park within. The Bath is structured on two levels, each with a distinct theme and character. The upper level houses various rooms focusing on wellbeing and quiet contemplation, while the lower level is purposed for athletic pursuits. By retaining most of the former southern facade open to further developments, the idea is to reintroduce the diverse city block that historically defines the area, and reclaim the sidewalk as a place of diverse human interaction.