

RESURFACING

A NEW PUBLIC BATH IN CENTRAL OSLO





The site is located in the eastern part of Oslo's city centre and negotiates the space between two busy streets and a complex system of backyards. It houses everything from a psychiatric ward, to hotels and artist's studios. 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.

The site is currently occupied by a 7 story concrete parking garage from the early 1980s which is owned by Oslo's largest private real estate developer, who is looking to demolish the structure, and further expand his neighbouring shopping and hotel facilities. The 18th century brick buildings flanking the site to the north are owned by the municipality, and are protected by the state as cultural heritage. The green areas within the backyard was recently designated as a public park on an 11 year basis.

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 Torggata in the north towards the lively Gronland quarter to the south.

As you walk along Brugata, a car free pedestrian zone, what was once a side street into a busy conglomeration of market stalls, and workshops, is today effectively shut down into a dead end.

As commercial interest beckons from one side, the municipality seems to operate with temporary strategies, while simultaneously aiming for a car free central Oslo, it seems to be a pivotal moment in the future of this city block, and the neighbourhood in general. Establishing a permanent public institution like a bath could be an important device in establishing a new direction for the inevitable changes to come.

By removing the parking structure, one can reestablish this as a vibrant corner of the city, while allowing what today is physically closed off to be available to the public.

With the structure gone, our project aims to mend this situation pragmatically, largely within the space of the current building. The new structure serves both as a gate into, and a living wall shielding the park within.





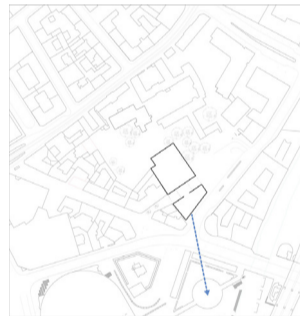
The project establishes three main points of access to the spaces within. One from Sturgata in the north, one through the sidewalk in Brugata, and one from Christian Kraljica gate. The pathway into the park goes into an alley of large older trees, most of which are listed, curving into the open area towards west.



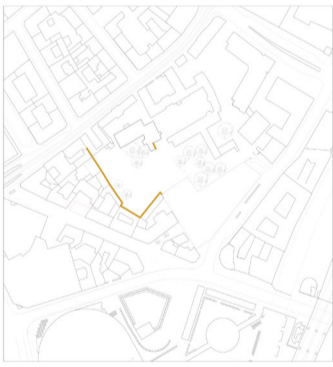
The vernacular architecture surrounding the site is dominated by brickwork of various quality and styles. The block has several large brick apses, the some shooting 30 meters into the air. Today they remain as symbols of Orlan industrial past, and a reminder of the small industries that once thrived here. By retaining most of the former southern facade open to further developments, the idea is to reintroduce the diverse city block that defines the area.

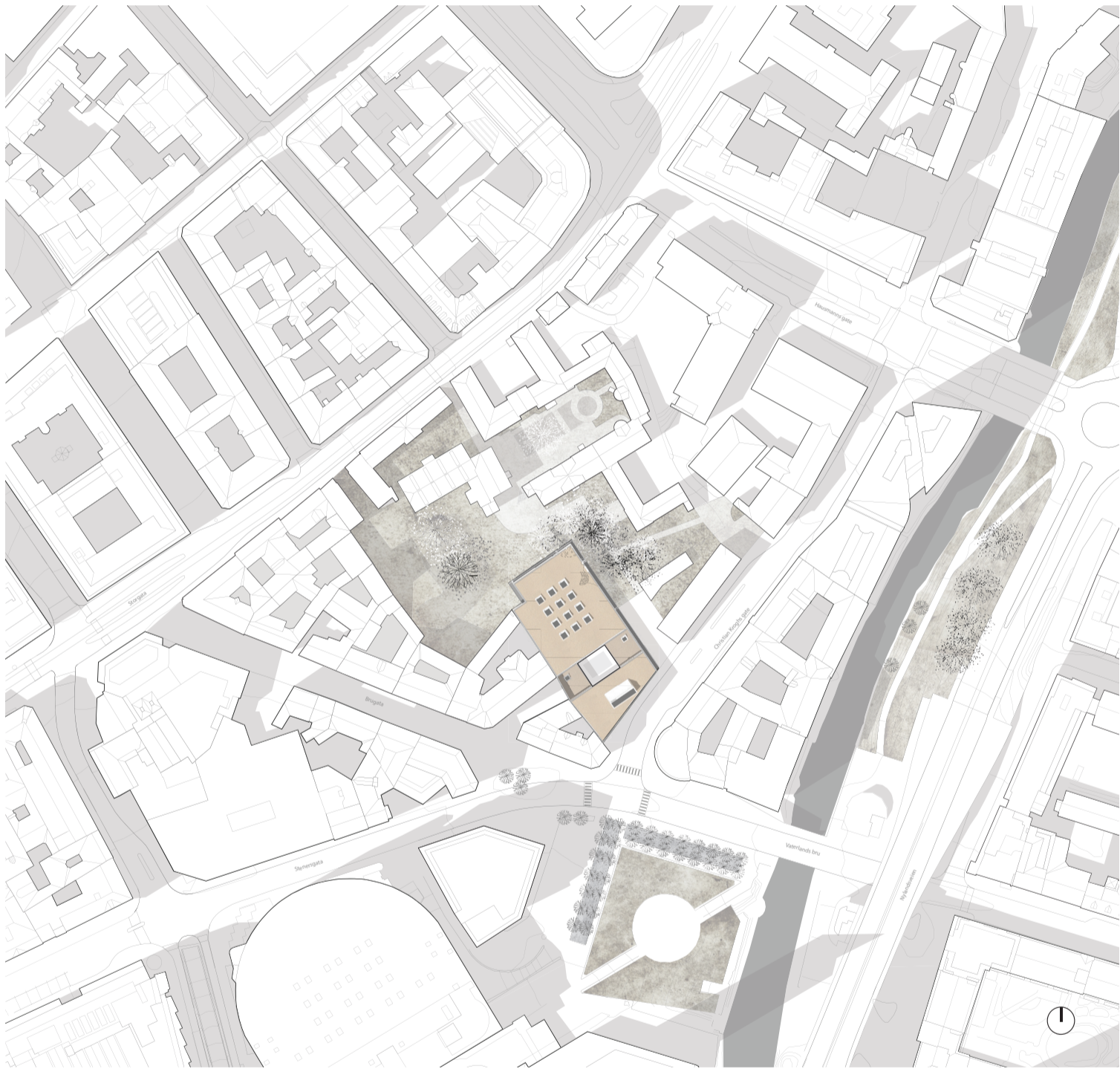


The parking structure renders much of the space within in shadow. Lowering the building height by 11 meters, means the park within will be brighter, especially in the months where the sun is low.



The entrance to bath is located within the courtyard of the new passageway, where you catch a glimpse of the pool area. The large field of windows flanking the lobby offers views across into the Vinterland park, establishing a visual connection to the riverbank and central business district beyond.



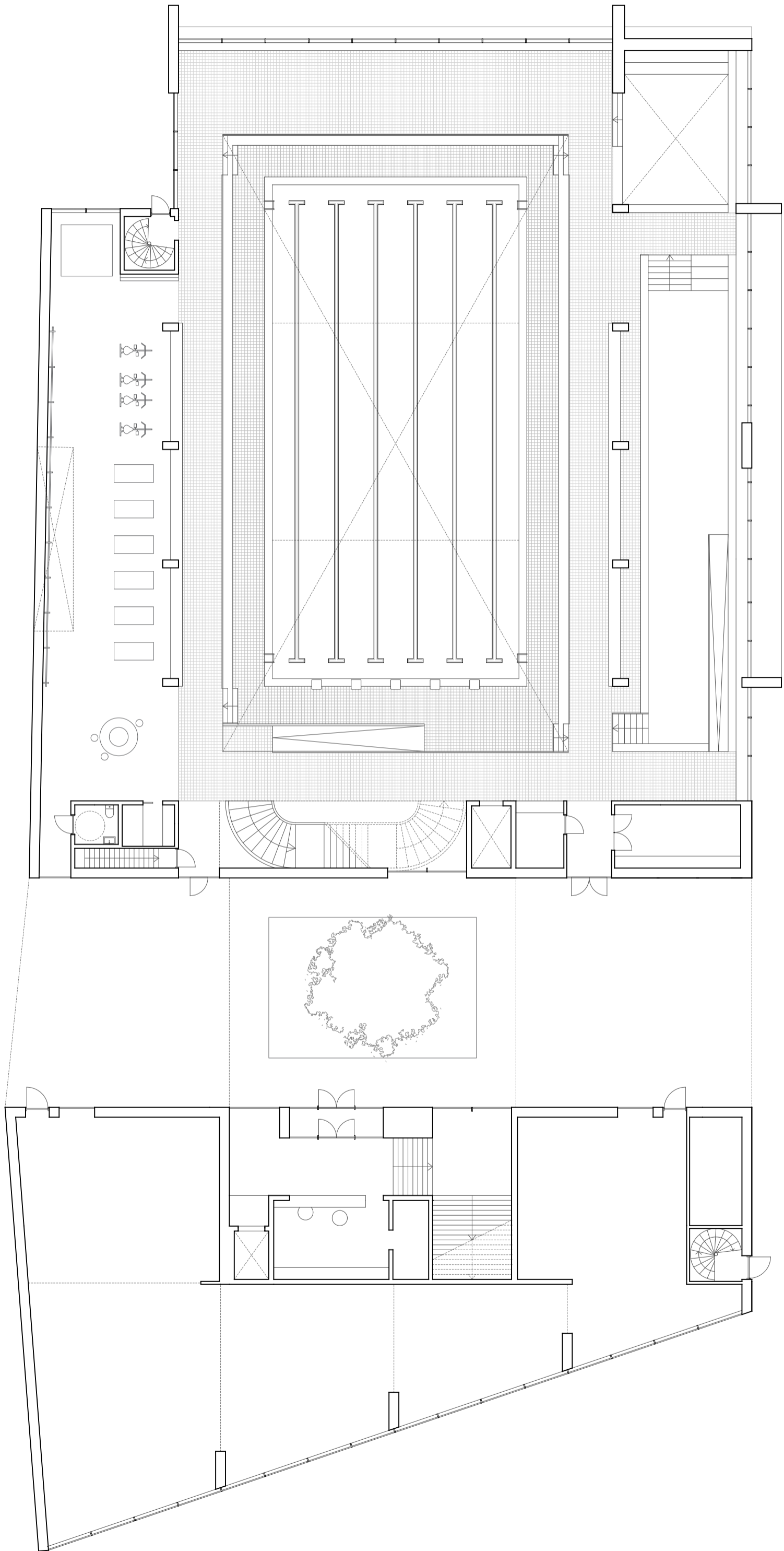




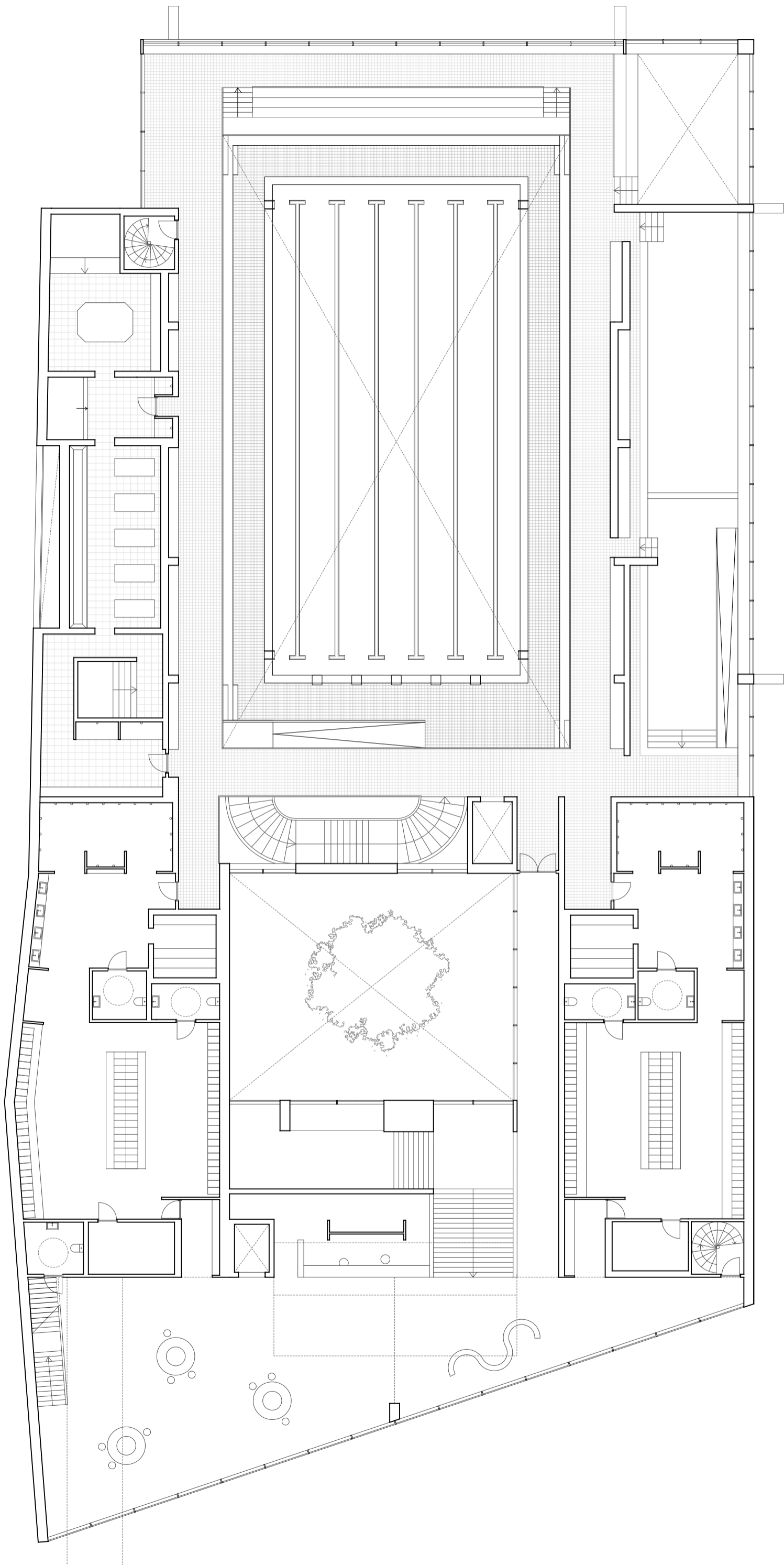
SITE PLAN 1:200



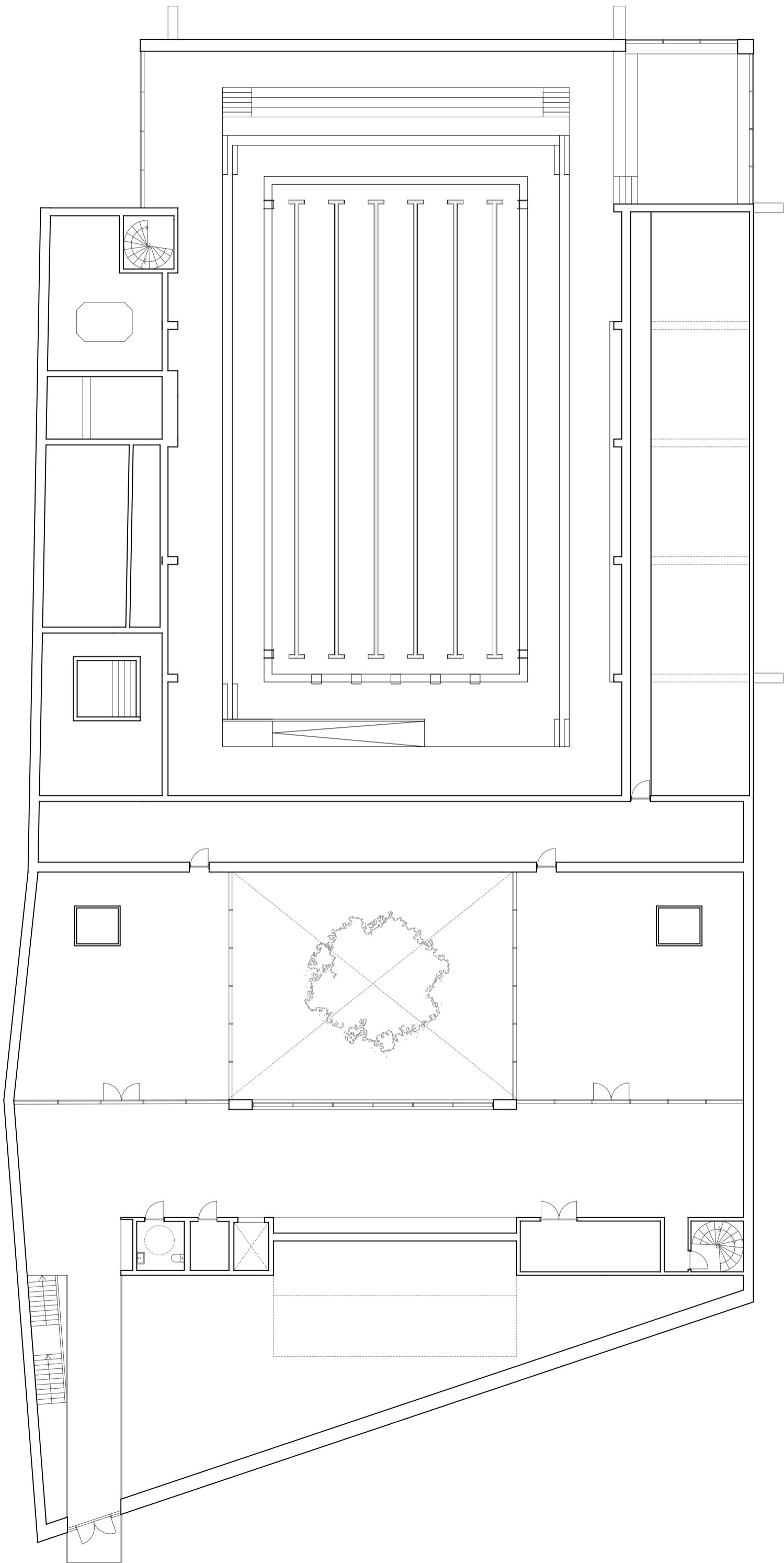
The entrance to bath is located within the courtyard of the new passageway, where you catch a glimpse of the pool area. From there the entrance guides you through a stairway into the the spacious lobby on the second floor is dominated by a large skylight, illuminating the reception area and lobby, while light is let along its sloping wall on the other side, into an office space on the mezzanine floor.



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR PLAN



THIRD FLOOR PLAN

