

Diploma program Oscar Figur Waddington

-Urban interiors-Parasitic interventions.

The diploma investigates the relationship between hosts and *parasitic interventions* in architecture, and the architectural potential of these inventions. The site is the centre of Oslo and the cases are selected from major and new cultural buildings that have been part of transformation processes in the city.

Working method:

Parasitic intervention can be used to improve aspects of an existing building where transformation of the existing structure is not wanted or possible. This was investigated and determined during my pre-diploma. Four urban situations/sites are studied to reveal the host structures potential to host a parasitic intervention. The sites are all areas where transformation and a new building has brought positive aspects, new programs and urbanity, to an area, but does not perform and lacks urbanity and positive contextuality in certain parts/situations/sites. This is discussed in the pre-diploma, referring to the teachings of Jan Gehl, Jane Jacobs and others.

The areas being investigated are:

- Nasjonalmuseet, the New National Museum in Oslo.
- Deichman Bjørvika, Deichman library.
- The Opera, Oslo Opera and Ballet.
- Munch, the Edvard Munch Museum.

Two sites are explored further: Deichman and Munch and parasitic projects are developed for these two situations. The sites represent two different urban contexts: to the fjord and in a back lane, two different programs: a gallery and intense additions to urban street-life, and two different approaches to parasitic architecture.

The planed delivered material:

Illustrations, Plans, sections, and elevations in 1:200

Urban interiors – Parasitic intervention

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Definitions:

A *parasite* is an animal or plant that lives in or on another animal or plant and gets food and protection from it. *Parasitic architecture* is a concept denoting architecture designed and existing in relation to and in dependence of a host structure. I define a *host* as the existing structure or building that, by an addition, is intervened on.

Parasitic architecture might be seen as a subgenre of *symbiotic architecture*. Symbiosis is defined as an interaction between two different organisms living in close physical association to the advantage of both. Translated into architecture, *symbiotic* denotes a situation where two projects work and perform in a symbiosis often as equal parts, where the addition is transformative of the host's existing shape and function.

Parasites in architecture – as the concept is used in this diploma – exists in addition to, is dependent on and will in some way give back to the host structure. However, the parasite is a separate intervention, does not transform the host as such, but thrives – in terms of localization, function and technology on the host structure. Adding space and programs, and developing “hidden” potentials through small interventions to the host. Parasites might also work as part of a conserving intervention by strengthening an existing structure (for example a ruin) and furthering its existence.

Background:

Parasitic intervention can be used to improve aspects of an existing building where transformation of the existing structure is not wanted or possible. This was investigated and determined during my pre-diploma. Four urban situations/sites are studied to reveal the host structures potential to host a parasitic intervention. The sites are all areas where transformation and a new building has brought positive aspects, new programs and urbanity, to an area, but does not perform and lacks urbanity and positive contextuality in certain

Oscar Figur Waddington
Diploma abstract, autumn semester 2021.

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Lessons learned:

There are some predispositions for the use of parasitic architecture: the host must be able to support the parasite in terms of space, technical support and also programmatic familiarity. The host should not be overwhelmed and the established functions disrupted.

Advantages of my parasites are their adaptive nature, their ability to generate new space and their ability for urban repair. Parasitic intervention has the potential to improve areas of low engagement, low aesthetic quality, and lack of urbanity. By adding in a parasitic way to built major structures, urban interiors might be basically improved without challenging existing urban qualities.

Urban interiors – Parasitic interventions



- 1 Deichman
- 2 Oslo Opere and Ballet
- 3 Munch
- 4 The New National Museum

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TYPES OF PARASITIC INTERVENTIONS

-Divided by main forms of intervention



Type 1

A parasite that hangs on the facade with no intrusions in to the hosts internal space and where one can not directly enter the parasite from the host. Its only used for the construction and unused space.

Type 2

A parasite that hangs on the facade while intruding on the hosts internal space and where one can directly enter the parasite from the host. It uses the host for the construction and unused space.

Type 3

A parasite as a hidden alteration or addition of space inside the host structure without altering the exterior and other functions in it.



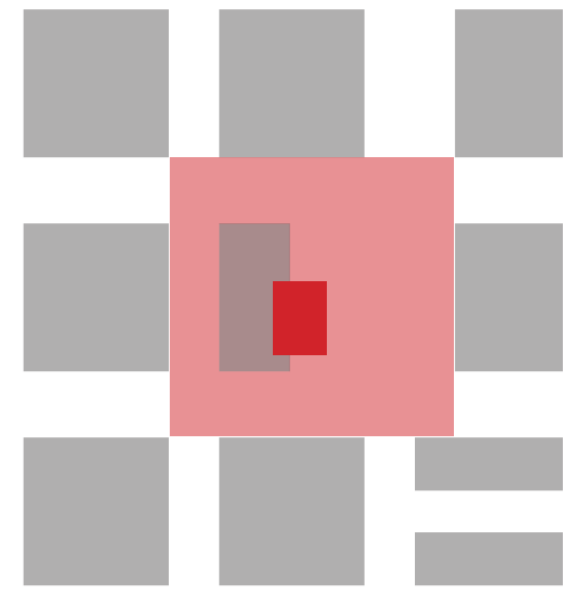
Type 4

A parasite that hangs on or is wedged in between one or more structures, filling in a gap, utilizing unused space.



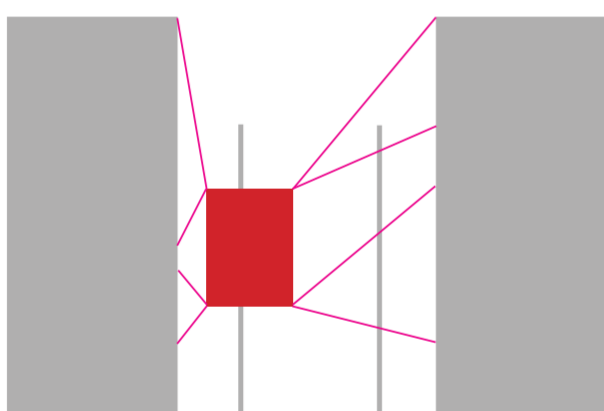
Type 5

A parasite that hangs onto the facade with no intrusions on the hosts internal space, where one can't directly enter the parasite from the host. Its only used for the construction and unused space.



Type 6

A parasite that effects the urban floor by altering the existing urban situation around itself and the host.



Type 7

A parasite that utilizes several structures for support when it or the main hosts structure is not strong or stable enough to maintain it. It can also be a parasite that spans between several structures, using them as supports and possibly connecting them.



Type 8

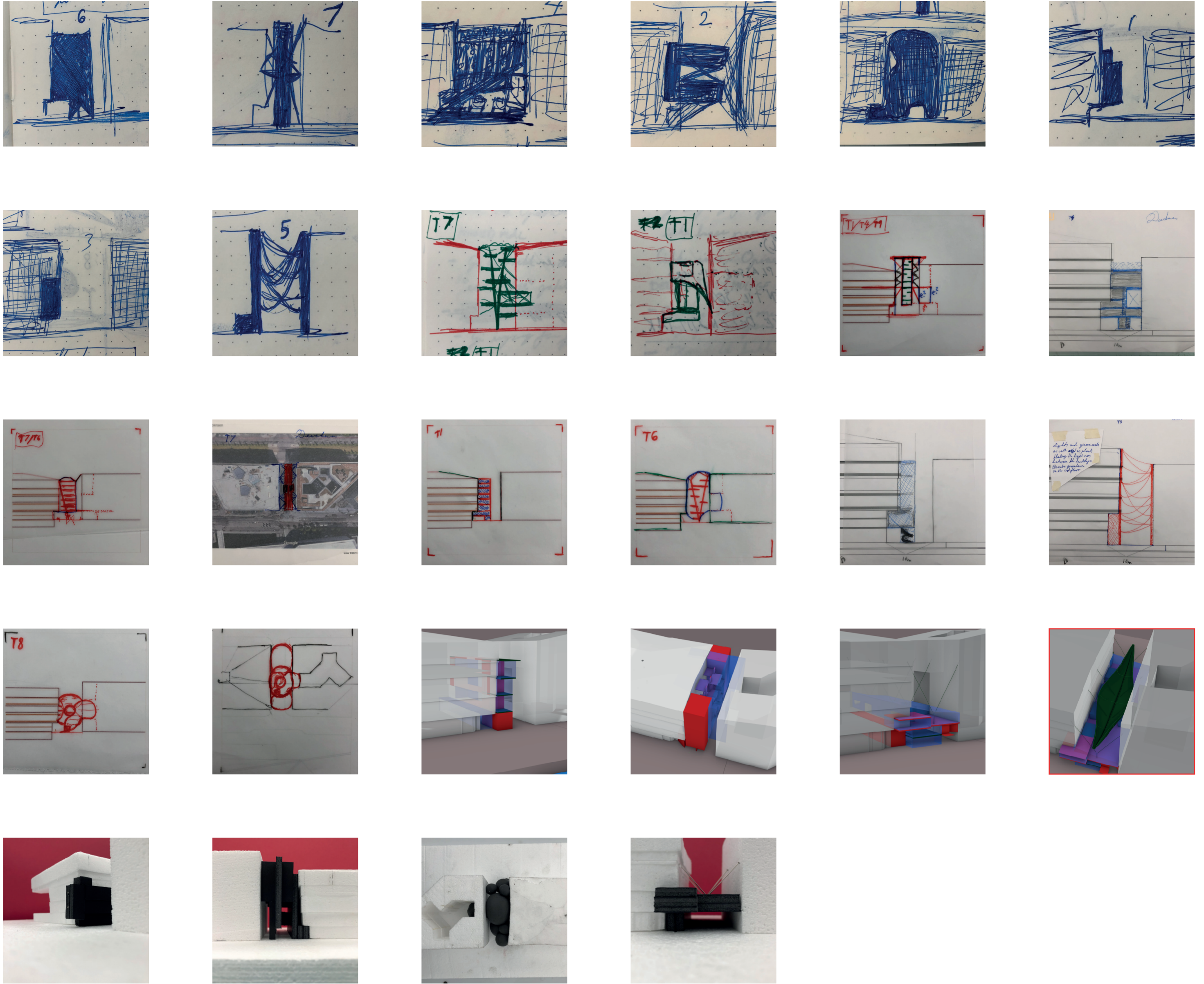
A parasite that adapts to complex situations through "biomimicry" by adapting to legislation loopholes and existing under utilized space. All parasites is in a way acting on the idea of learning from nature, but this type expands on the idea and uses it in both form and practice.



Type 9

A parasite as a way of conservation of old run down buildings, through its ability to renew and reinforce. But also its ability to transform a part of the hosts state.

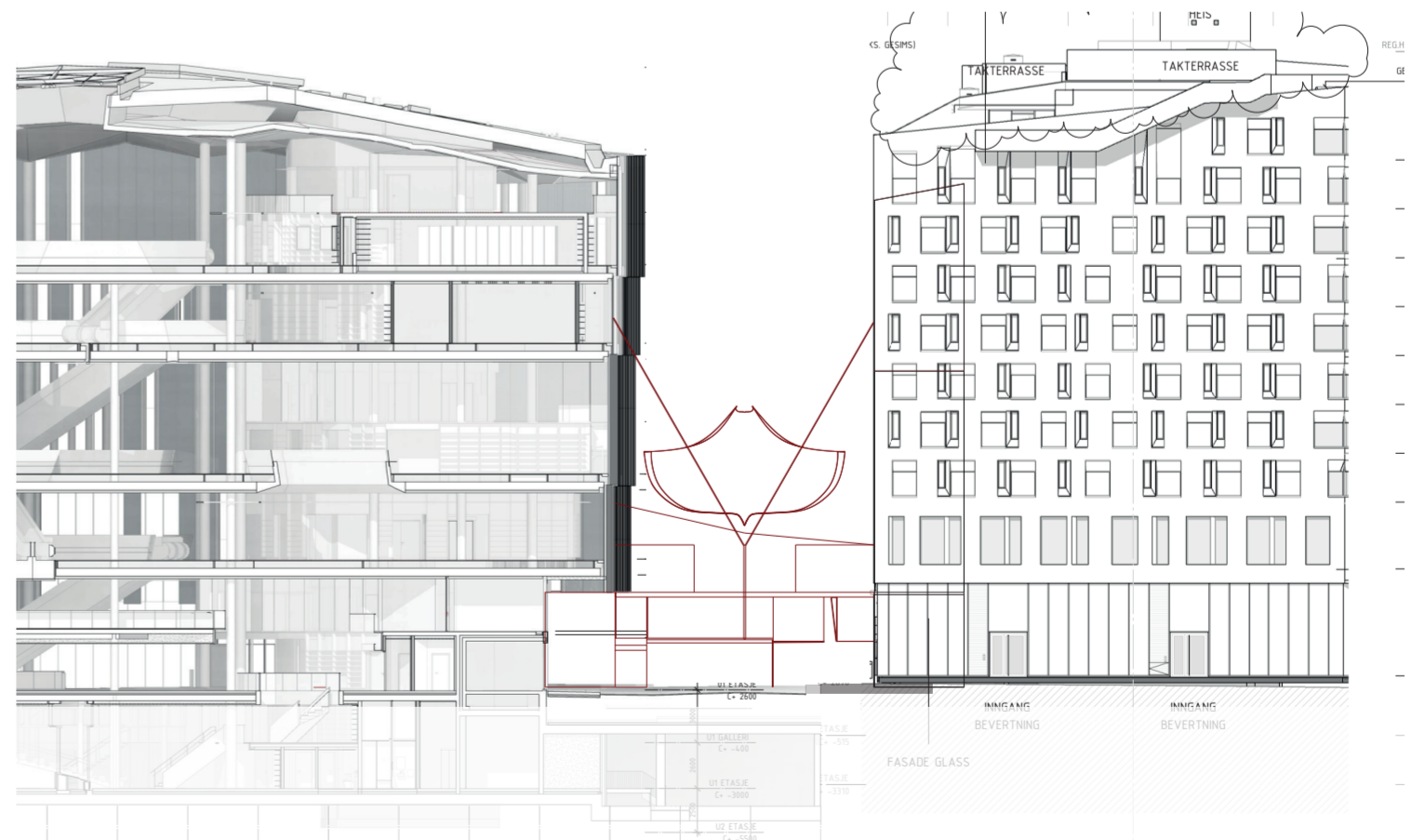
DEICHMAN



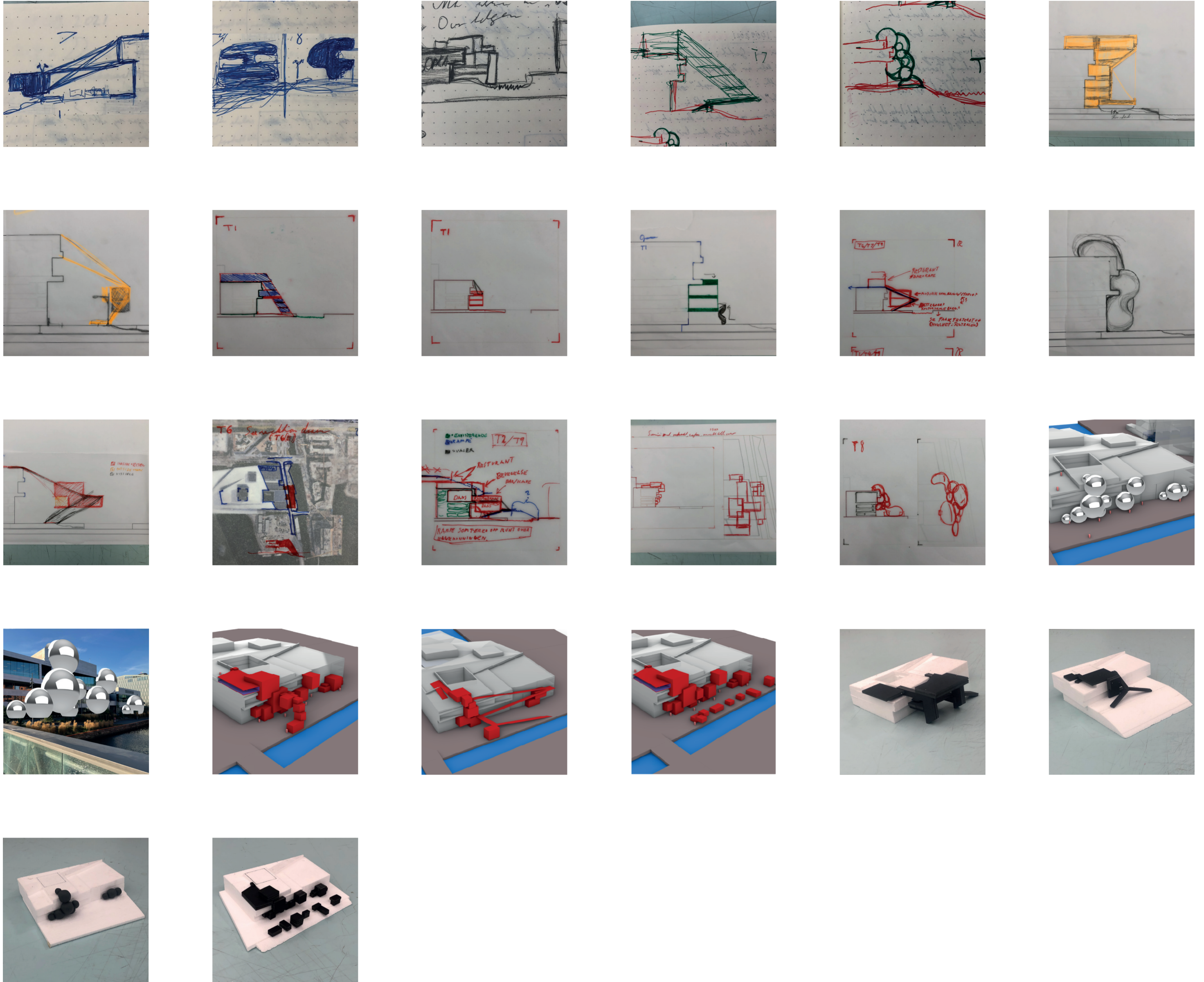
The space behind Deichman, the street (Robert Levis Gate) lacks qualities that give stay functions. There are few openings accessible for the public and those that are underused and on the ends on the street.

The facade at the back of Deichman is mostly glass, but it can be covered without disrupting the functions of the rooms within. Most of the functions on the first floor in this area is for sorting books and as entrances for employees, as well as access to technical systems. A parasitic intervention in this area would therefore not be detrimental to current or future use of Deichman and can improve upon the current quality of the area considerably.

Bringing public access points and reasons for pedestrians to choose this route into the district of Bjørvika. I believe that a variant of the Type 6 parasitic function is a good fit for the plot where it is mostly structural on its own but would utilize power and "shelter" from the host.



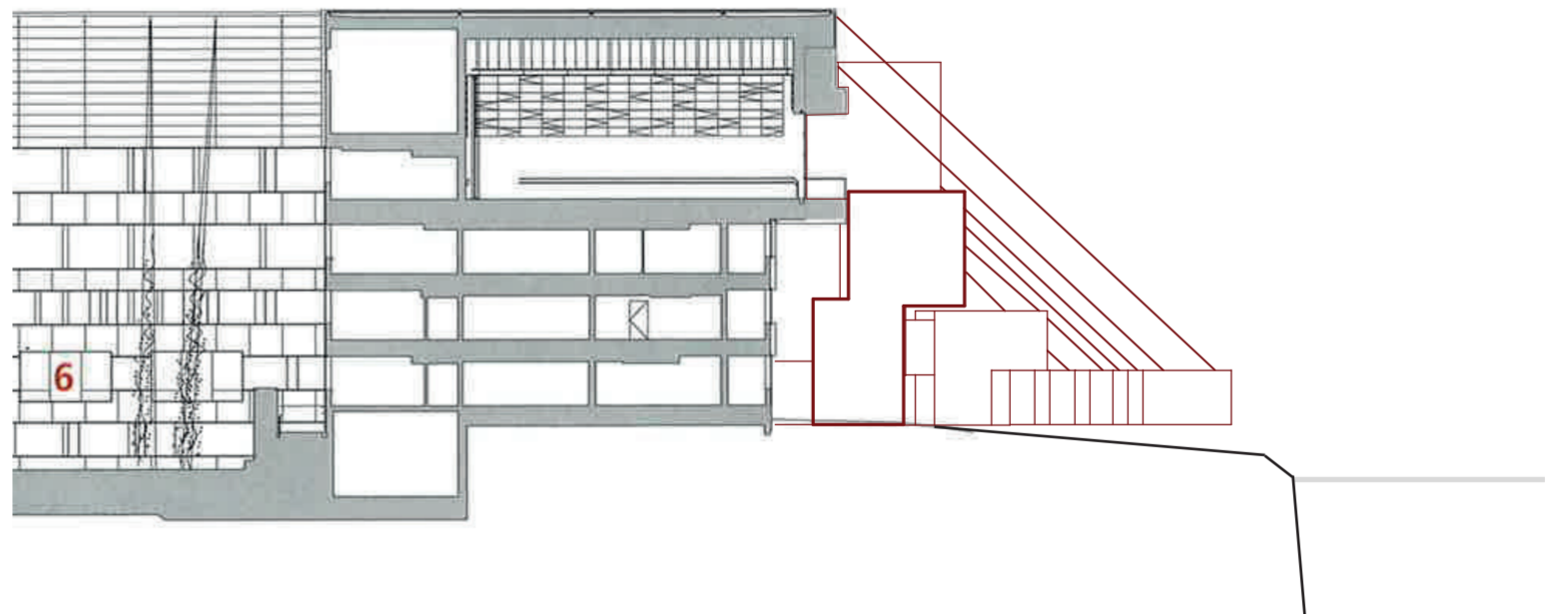
OSLO OPERA AND BALLET



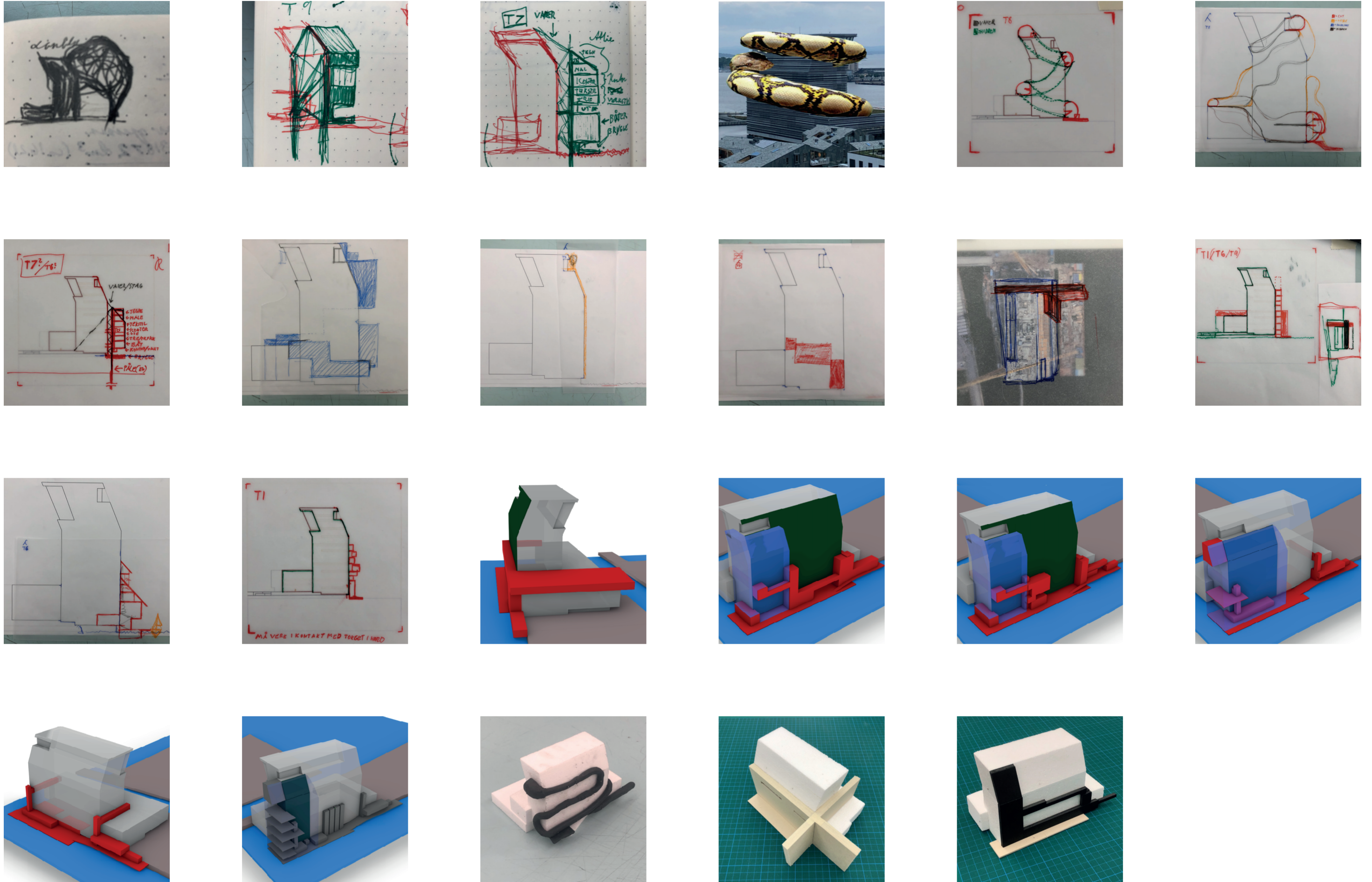
The opera has limited potential for parasitic intervention, as the addition of parasites in the proposed area would not benefit the back of the building or the area surrounding it.

The parasite can't touch the pavement along most of the facade in fear of disrupting further use, so the parasite would have to spread to the other side of the street making the parasites on the buildings facade superfluous. As a result of the plots shape and use, it seems to be best not to build a parasite as it would mostly end up as a gimmick.

It seems to be a better solution for the urban problem to build smaller buildings on the riverside to alter the perception of the street behind the Opera (Nylandsveien). This is in part because the additions would be a hinder for future use of the street and that the parasites would impose changes to current use that would alter the host and disrupt current functions.



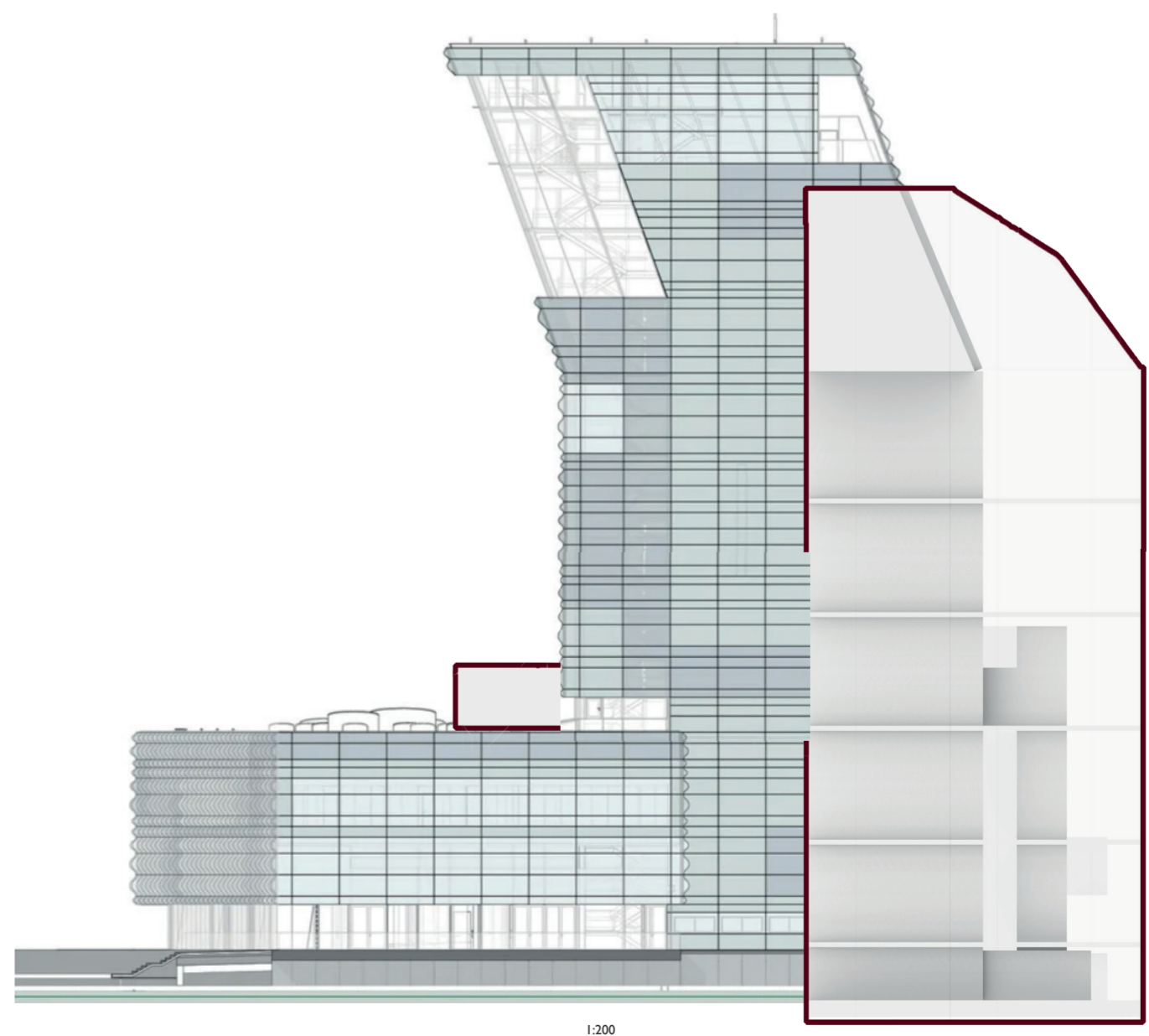
MUNCH



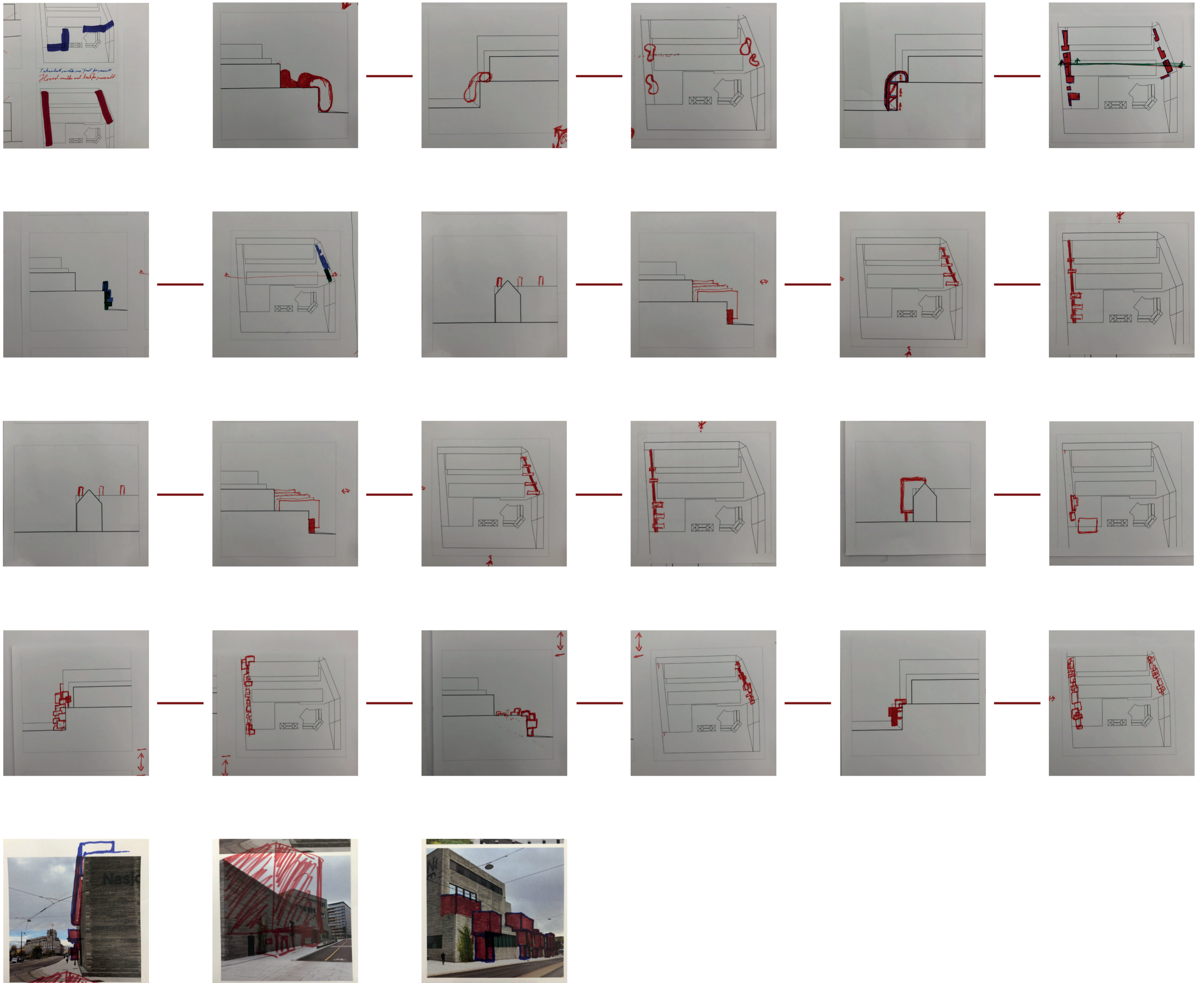
The massive museum stands at the end of the built up area on the pier. It is a cultural beacon in the city, built on the end of the historic border between east and west, Akerselva. The two longest and most imposing façades facing east and west. Facing west an open, inviting and bright facade and to the east the dark, closed facade.

The side facing east effects the urban space of Bispevika, stands like idle battleship or a fortress wall, it has few windows and large surfaces with no openings of any kind. It can therefore easily facilitate a parasitic intervention and is ripe with potential when it comes to effecting the urban qualities in and around it and Bispevika. It can have effect on areas as far away as Ekeberg.

The only way to reach the east facade today is by boat, there is potential to provide a different point of interaction and to let the public utilize the space on the back of Munch. It can easily take a large form of parasitic intervention. Either type 1 or 8 would be a perfect fit.



THE NEW NATIONAL MUSEUM

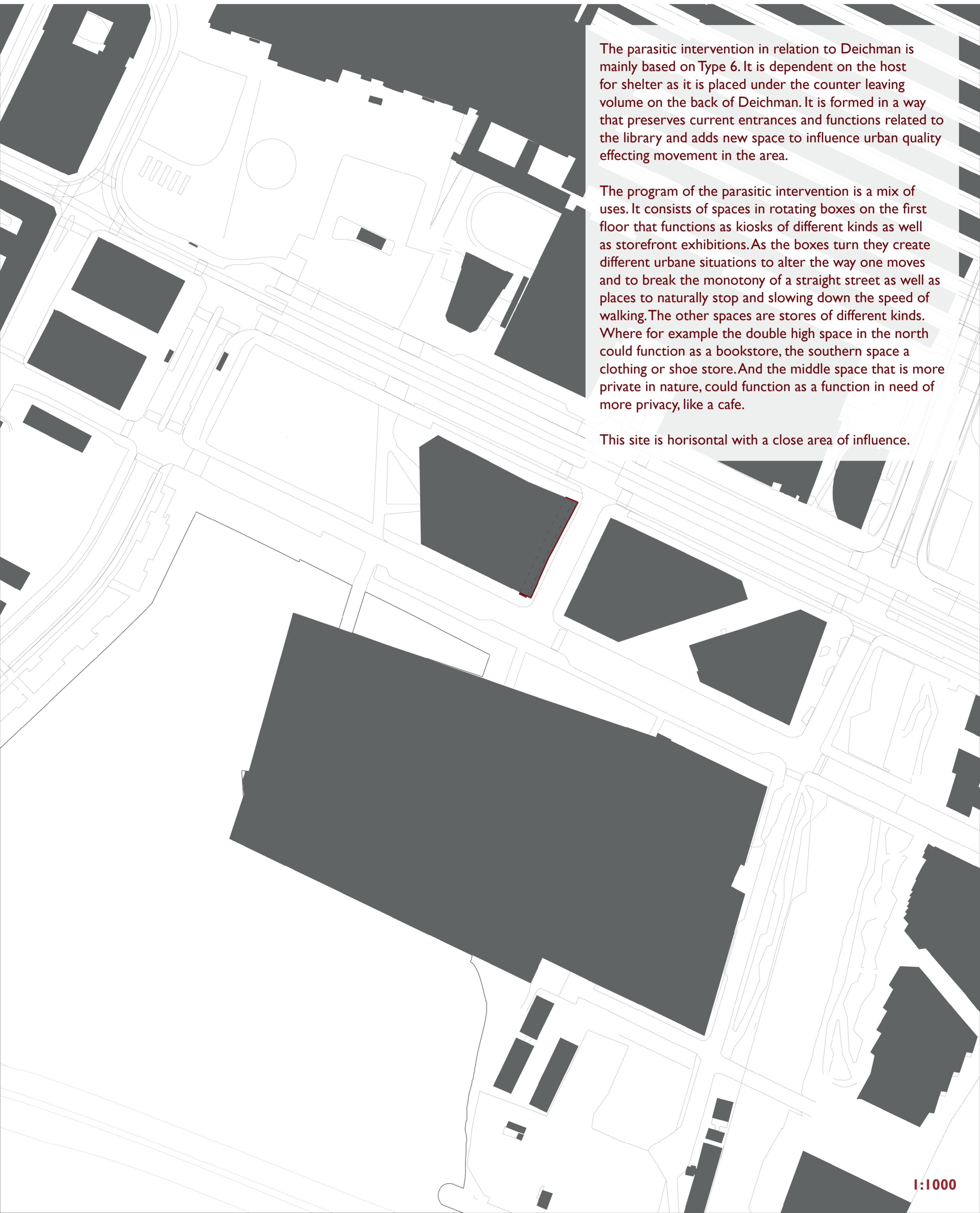


The surrounding area is not very pleasant to move around in. The facade is long tall and uneventful, few to no points of access or interaction between inside and out. Few to none points with possibilities to stop naturally along the façade and no incentive to slow down the pace of walking. For the most part there is wide pavements, this gives ample opportunity for extending the facade life by the addition of parasites.

With the use of parasites, I believe the surrounding streets can and will improve the life and the qualities of the area around the building, making it more pleasant and feel safer than today and therefore improving the comfort and activity around the new museum.

Type 1 or type 8 seems to be the ideal starting point for a parasitic intervention. But Type 2 could also be a good fit.



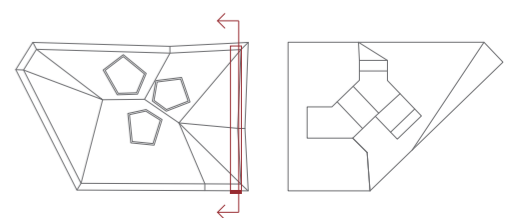
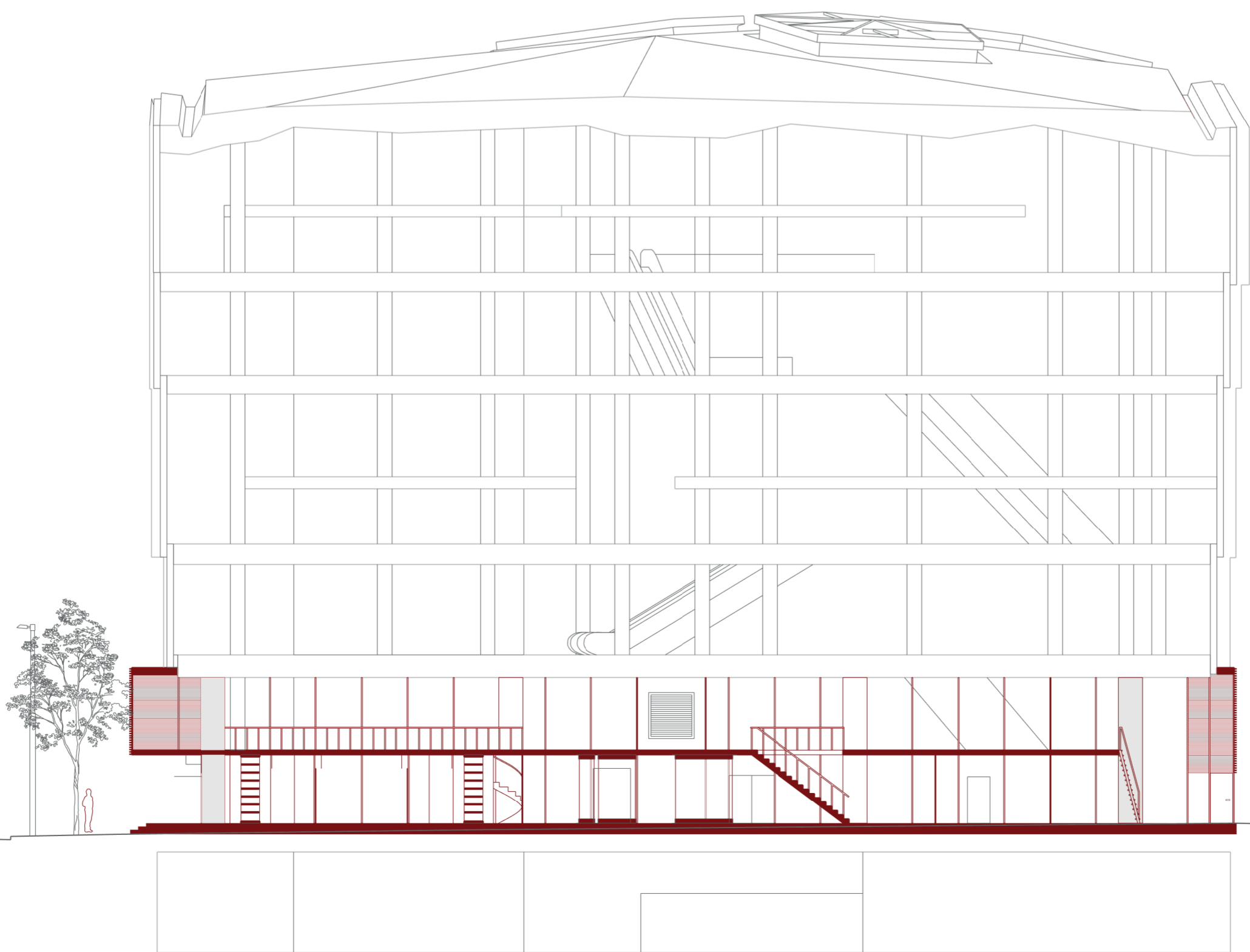
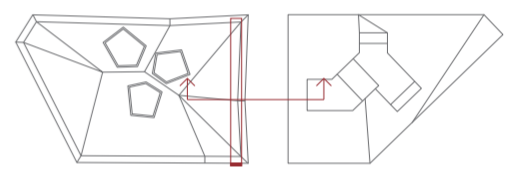
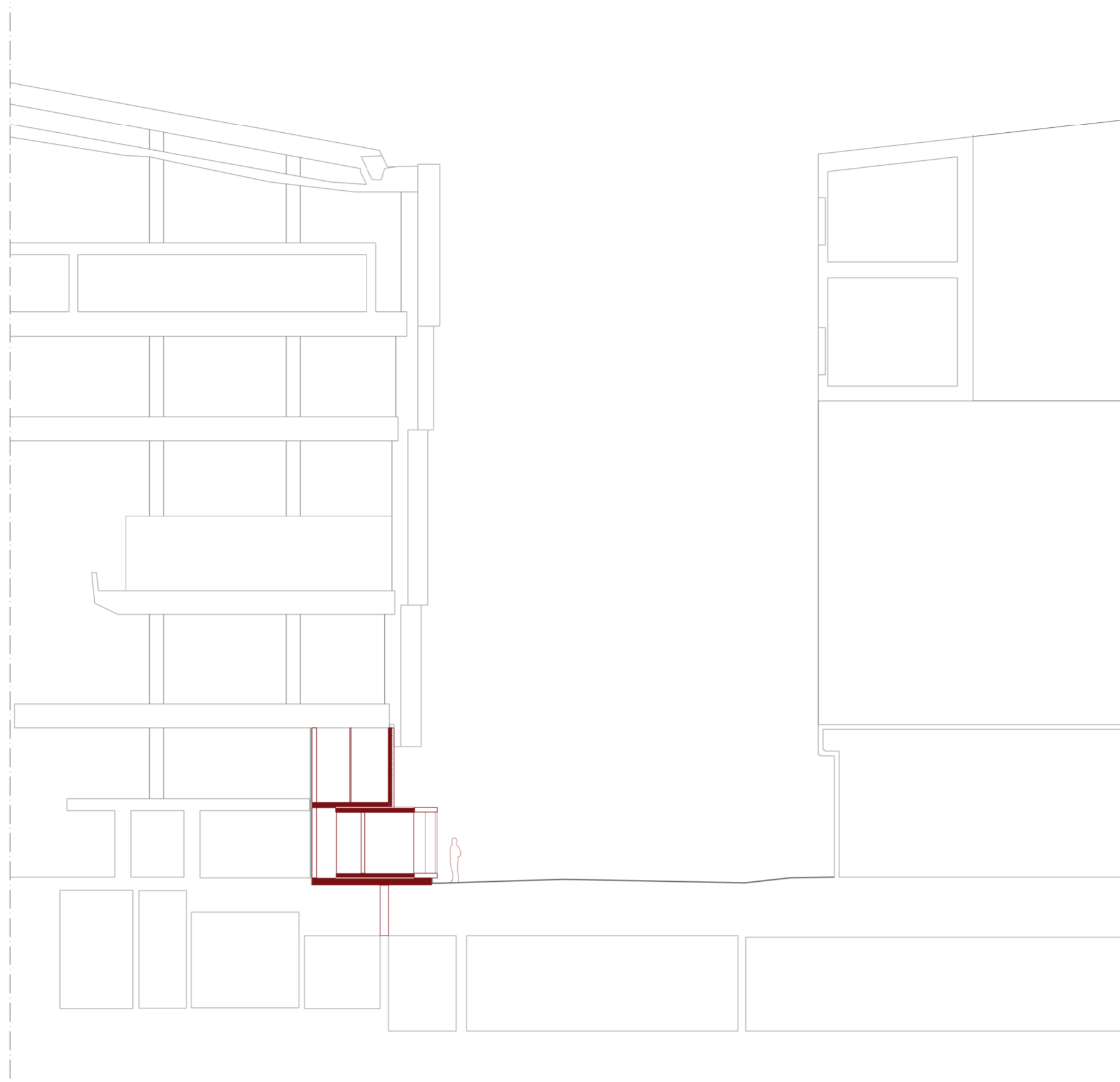


The parasitic intervention in relation to Deichman is mainly based on Type 6. It is dependent on the host for shelter as it is placed under the counter leaving volume on the back of Deichman. It is formed in a way that preserves current entrances and functions related to the library and adds new space to influence urban quality effecting movement in the area.

The program of the parasitic intervention is a mix of uses. It consists of spaces in rotating boxes on the first floor that functions as kiosks of different kinds as well as storefront exhibitions. As the boxes turn they create different urbane situations to alter the way one moves and to break the monotony of a straight street as well as places to naturally stop and slowing down the speed of walking. The other spaces are stores of different kinds. Where for example the double high space in the north could function as a bookstore, the southern space a clothing or shoe store. And the middle space that is more private in nature, could function as a function in need of more privacy, like a cafe.

This site is horizontal with a close area of influence.





5m

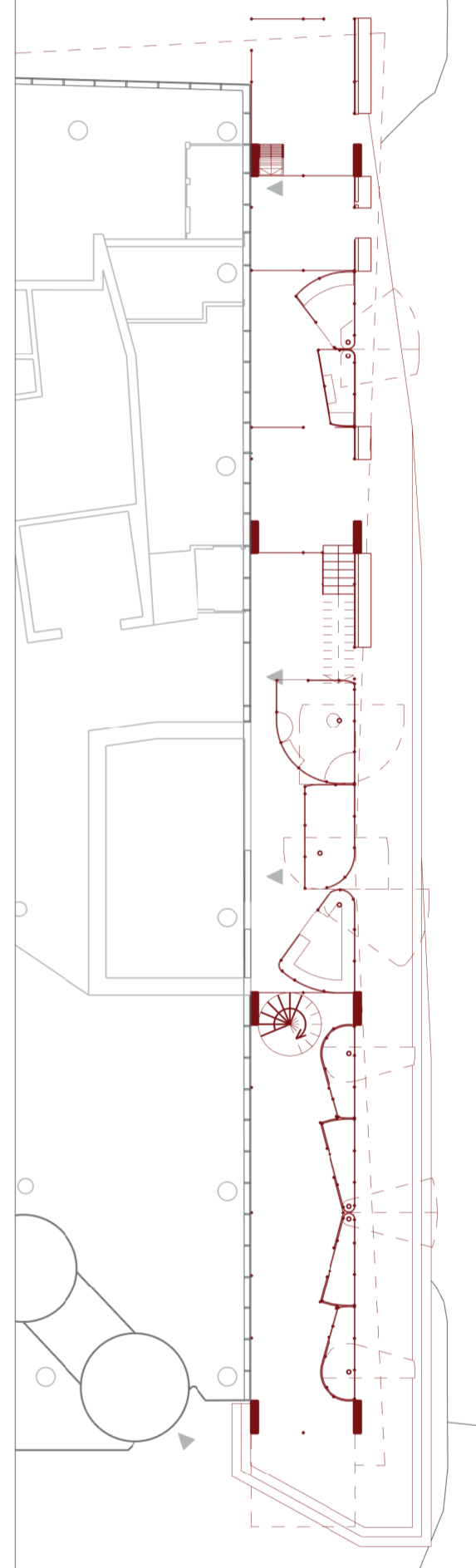
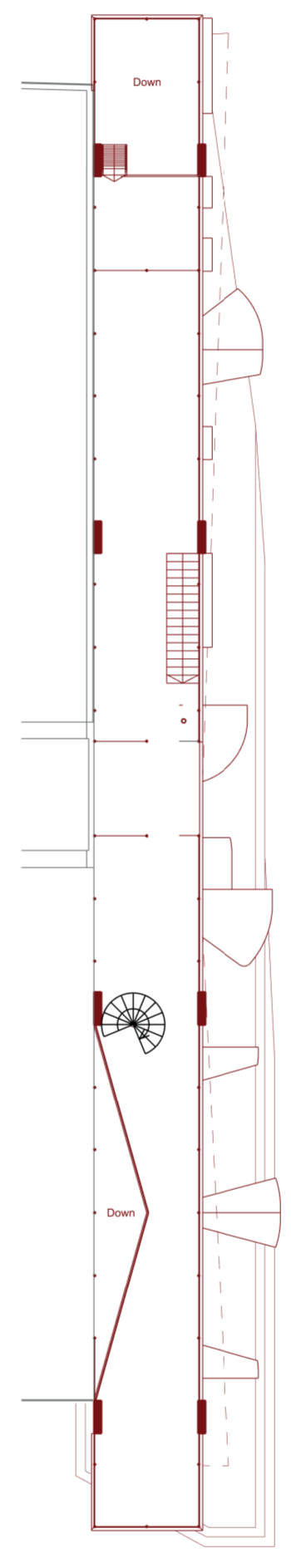
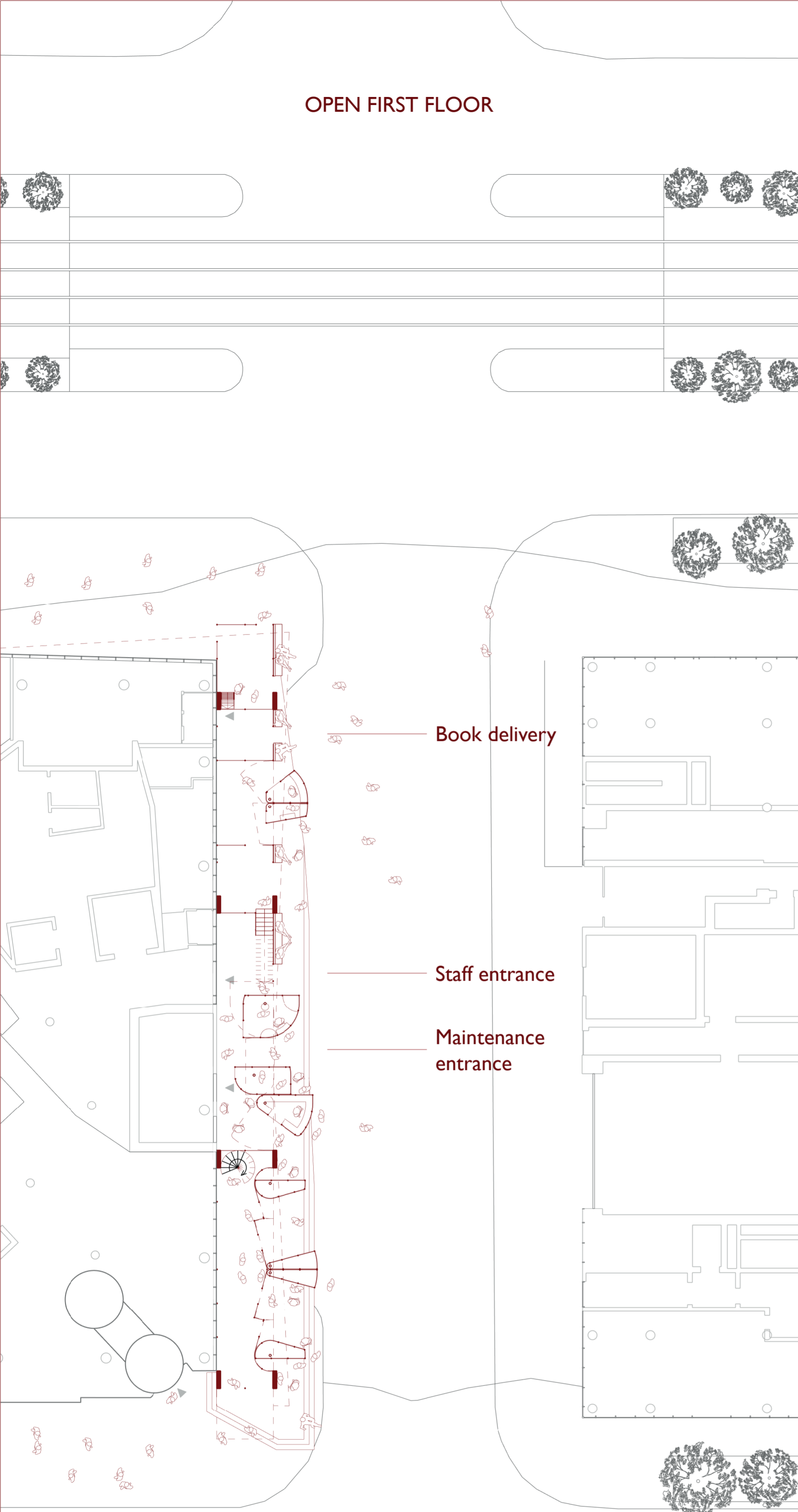
20m

1:200

OPEN FIRST FLOOR

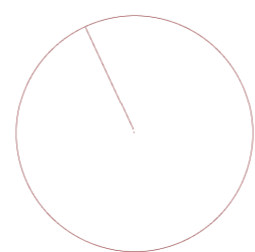
SECOND FLOOR

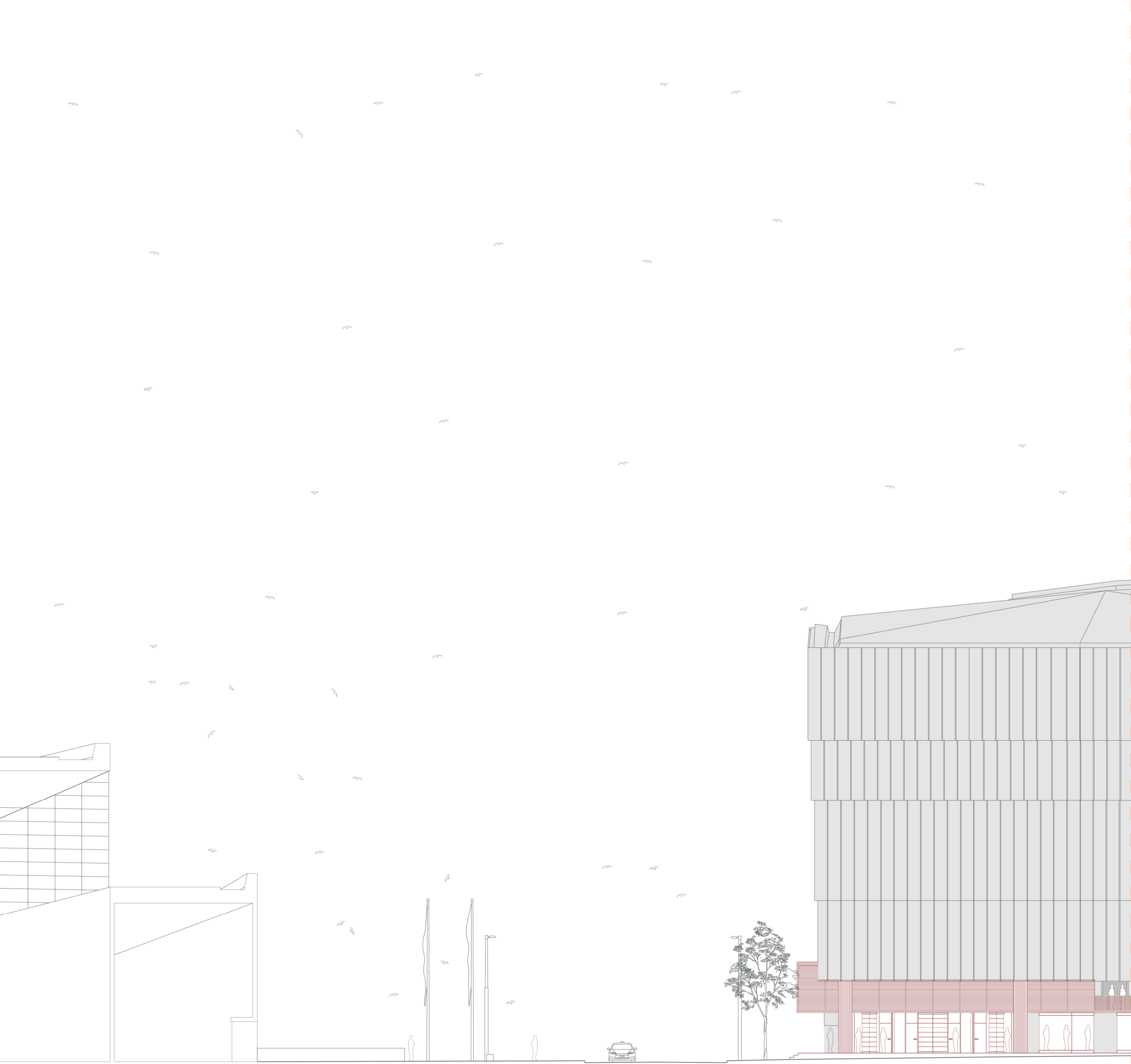
CLOSED FIRST FLOOR



5m

20m





Maintenance
entrance

5m 20m





Staff entrance

Book delivery

MUNCH

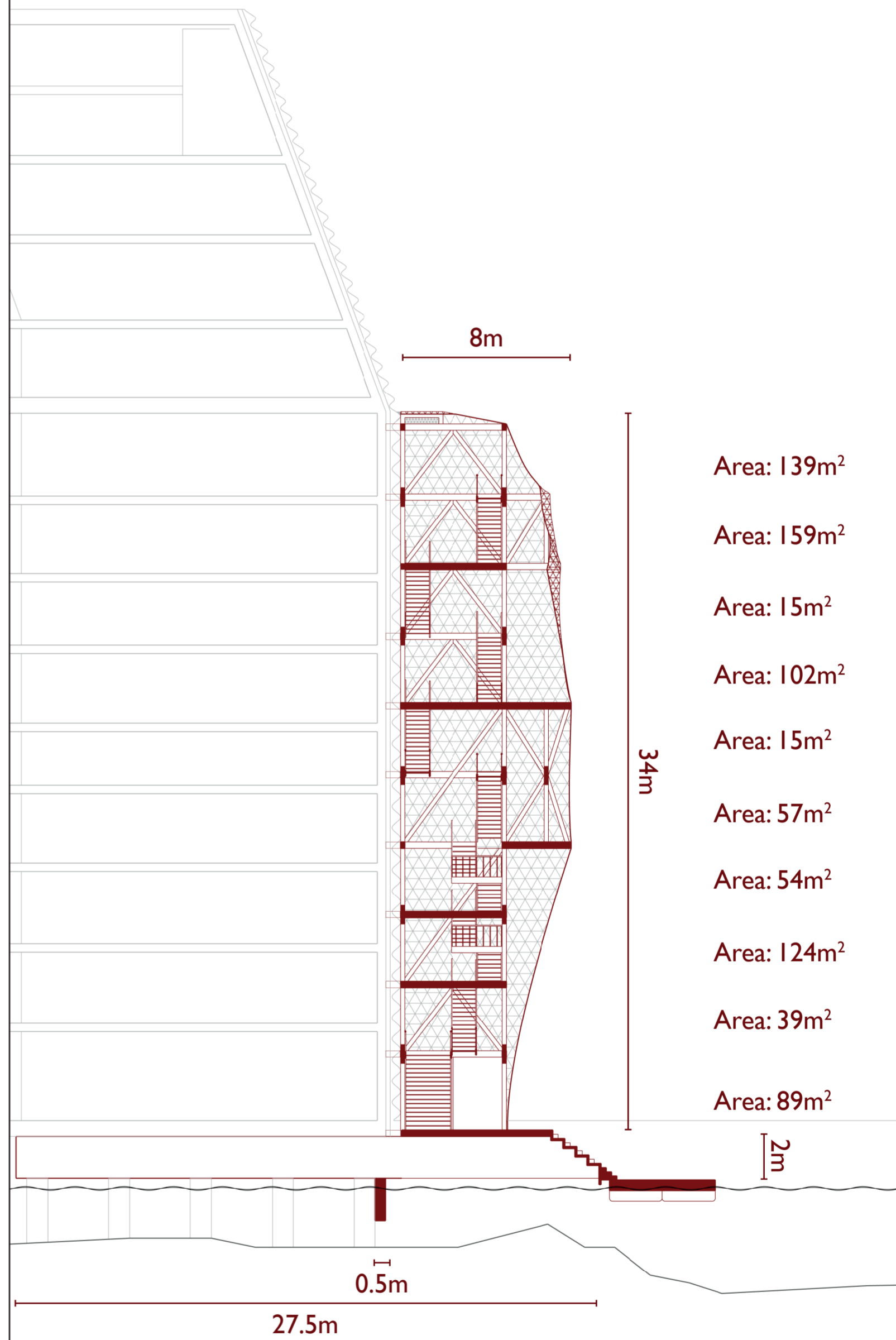
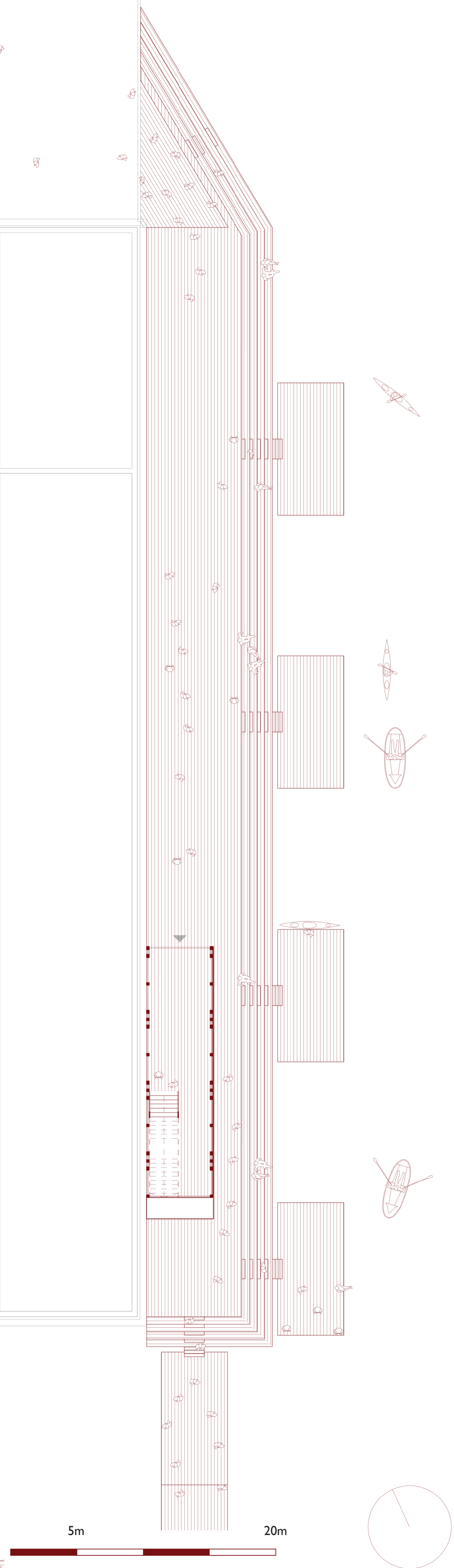


The parasitic intervention on the back of Munch is based on Type I parasitic forms of intervention. It holds on to the structure of Munch without entering it. And is totally dependent on the Host structure for its existence. It has a large area of effect, as it brings light, fulfilling Munch's function as a cultural beacon in Oslo now also giving light to the east not just the west. It also creates space for closer interaction along the back façade of Munch, furthering the sea side movement of people.

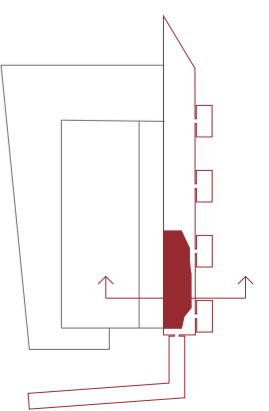
The program of the parasitic intervention is that of an alternative space for exhibition and gatherings for young artists. But it also relates to the sea front with floating jetties for people to swim, row or kayak from. It also connects the southern Munch square with the pier on the south side of Munch, giving an alternative route to and from the Museum pier.

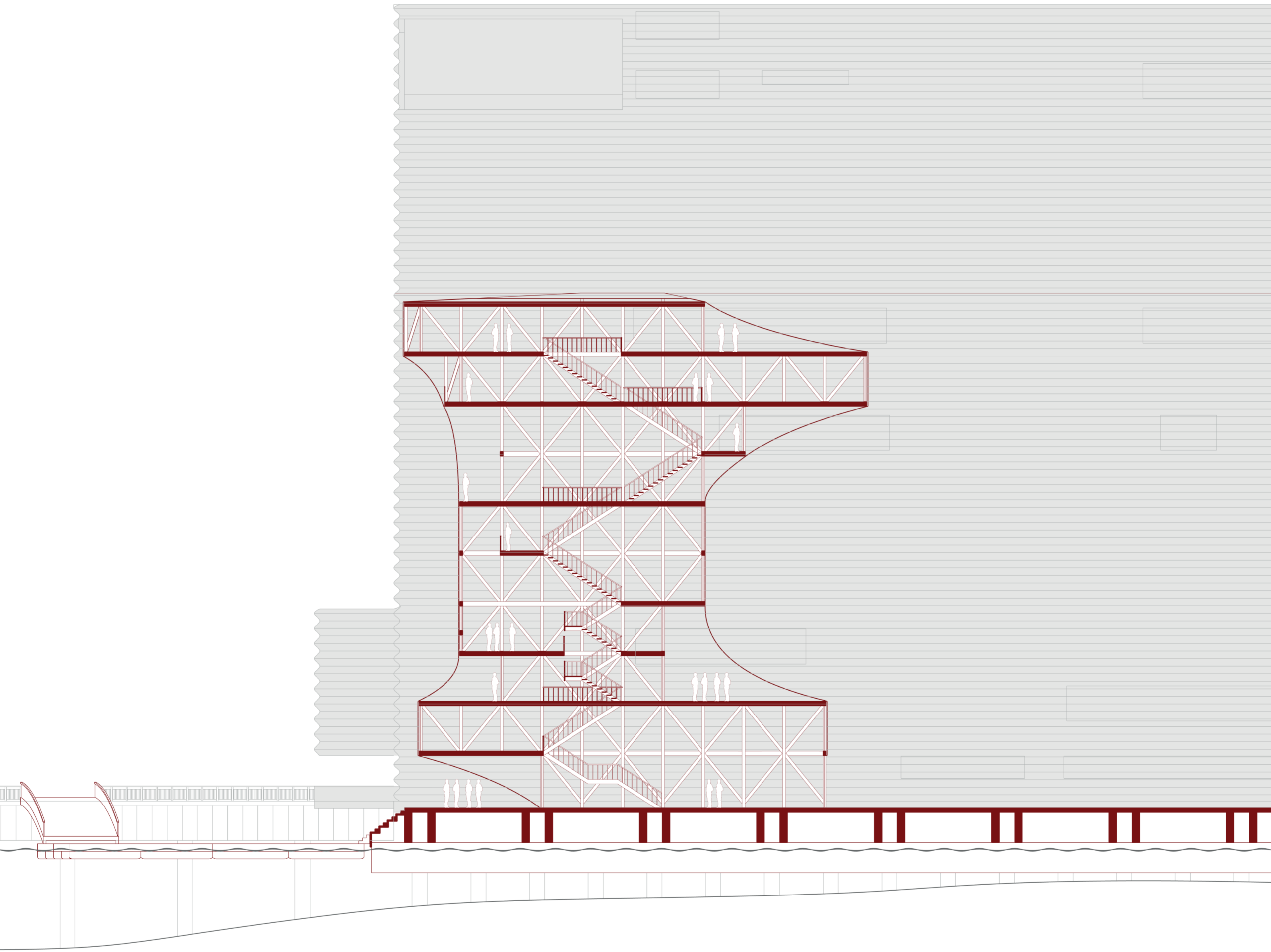
This situation is vertical with a wide area of influence.





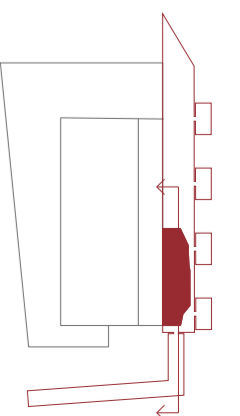
The construction of the parasitic intervention is connected to the pillars under Munch and cantilevers out from underneath using the weight of the museum to hold the parasite up. It is also connected to the concrete core of the museum connecting itself to the brackets in a similar fashion to the panelling of Munch.



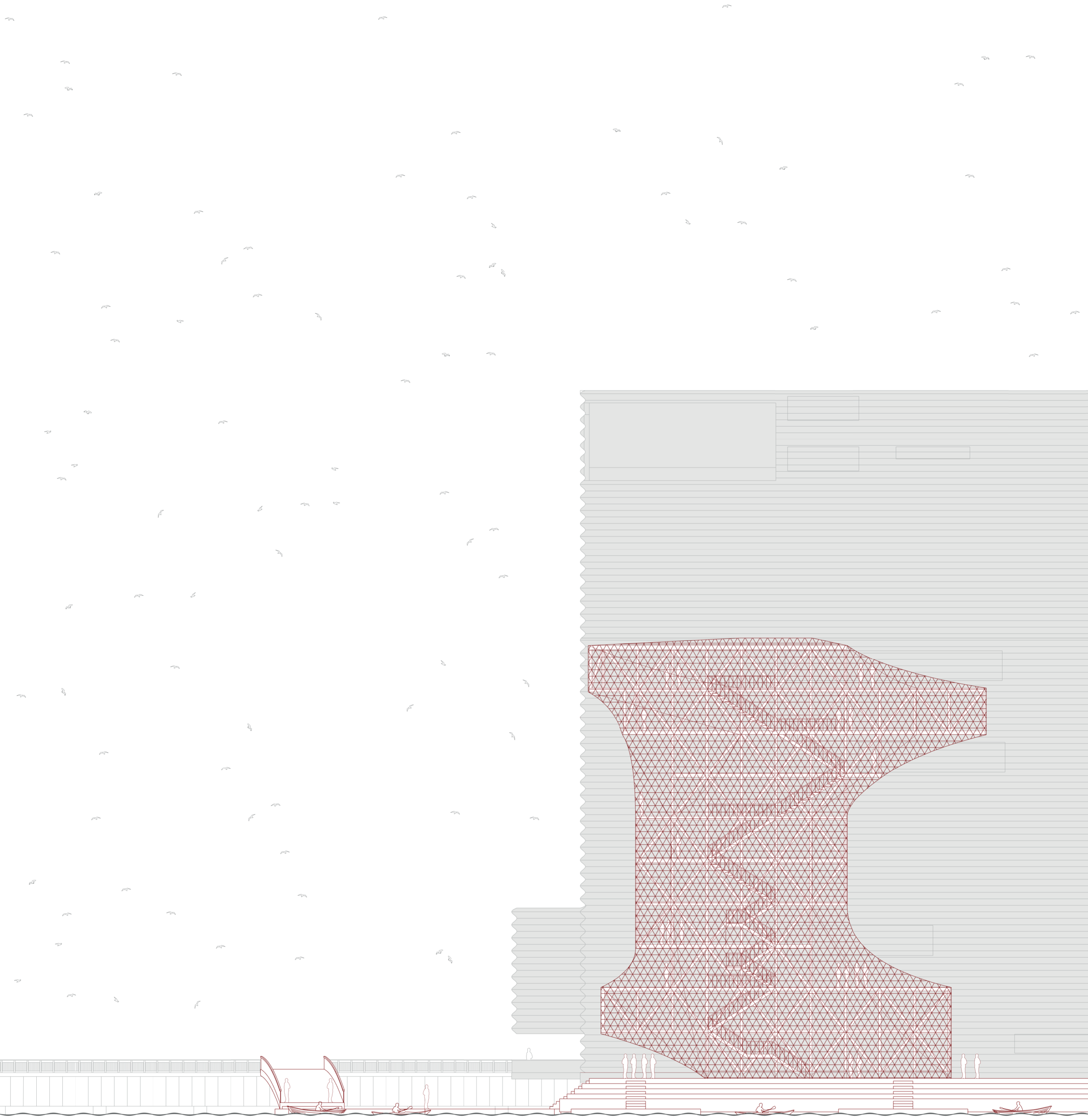


5m

20m



1:200



5m

20m



