



SIRENS OF SAUDA

DIPLOMA BY
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AHO 2022

siren (n.)

"one of a group of creatures in Greek mythology whose singing attracted sailors and caused them to sail toward their rocky shores."

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Diploma in architecture
Oslo School of Architecture and Design
December 2022

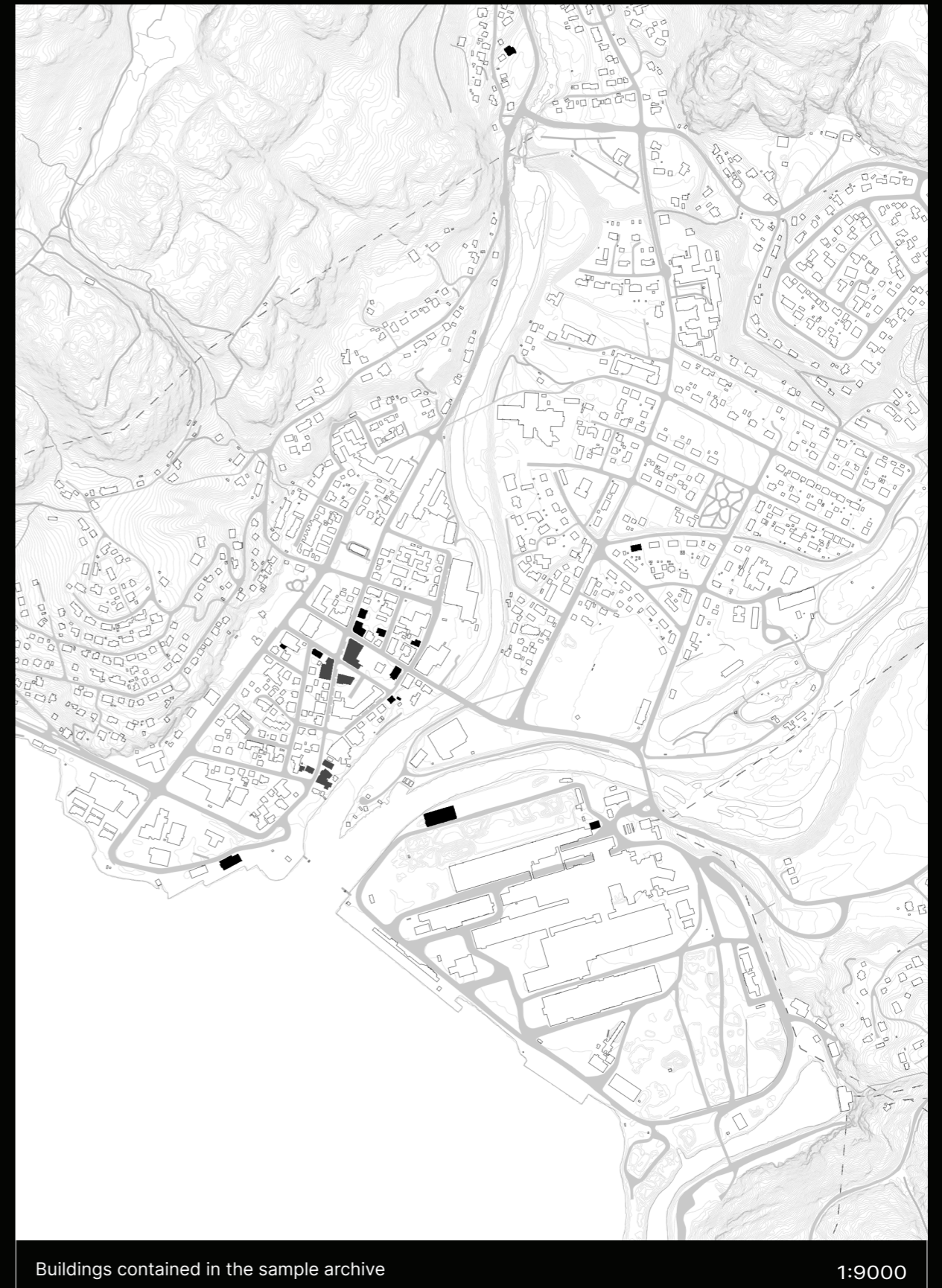
Ask Olsson Aabø
&
Carl Daniel Romm

MEMOIRS

'Memoirs' is a curated selection of buildings that stayed with us after our excursion. From examining the photo-archive as well as our own memory, the buildings were recreated in the studio as a series of 1:50 scale models, using only styrofoam and cardboard.

Through building the memoirs we were able to recreate a piece of Sauda in our studio and view the whole collection as a 'collective form' - a basis for architectural discussion and design.

First a series of white models were created. These are sampled from a wide variety of typologies in Sauda. By painting them white we take away focus on material and color, only highlighting their form and what gives them character. Then a series of painted models were built which can all be found on site, as well as digital recreations to further expand the collection.



Buildings contained in the sample archive

1:9000

ANALOGUE SAMPLES



Brugata 19 - Year of construction: 1930
Cut corner marking a clear motive towards 'Rådhusplassen',



Storage Shed #1
ERAMET Sauda - Factory building.



'Mogården' - Brugata 6. - Year of construction: 1961
Two story commercial building.



Åbøbyen
Semi-detached house.



Skulegata 11 - Year of construction: 1934
Single family residence. Remodeled commercial ground floor - 1958



Høllandstræ 13
Farmers garage.



Storage Shed #2
ERAMET Sauda - Factory building.



Høllandstræ 13
Farmers garage.



Rådhusgata 14 - Year of construction: 1898
Residential building.



Rådhusgata 14 - Year of construction: 1898
Doghouse / Shed.



"Nordstrand" - Rådhusgata 9
Commercial building.



"Elvebakken" - Rådhusgata 9. - Year of construction: 1930
Bookstore.



Rådhusgata 14 - Year of construction: 1898
Commercial building



"Vonheim" - Rådhusgata 28. Year of construction: 1927
"Øvrabu" - Rådhusgata 30. - Year of construction: 1927
Urban block. Commercial and residential units.

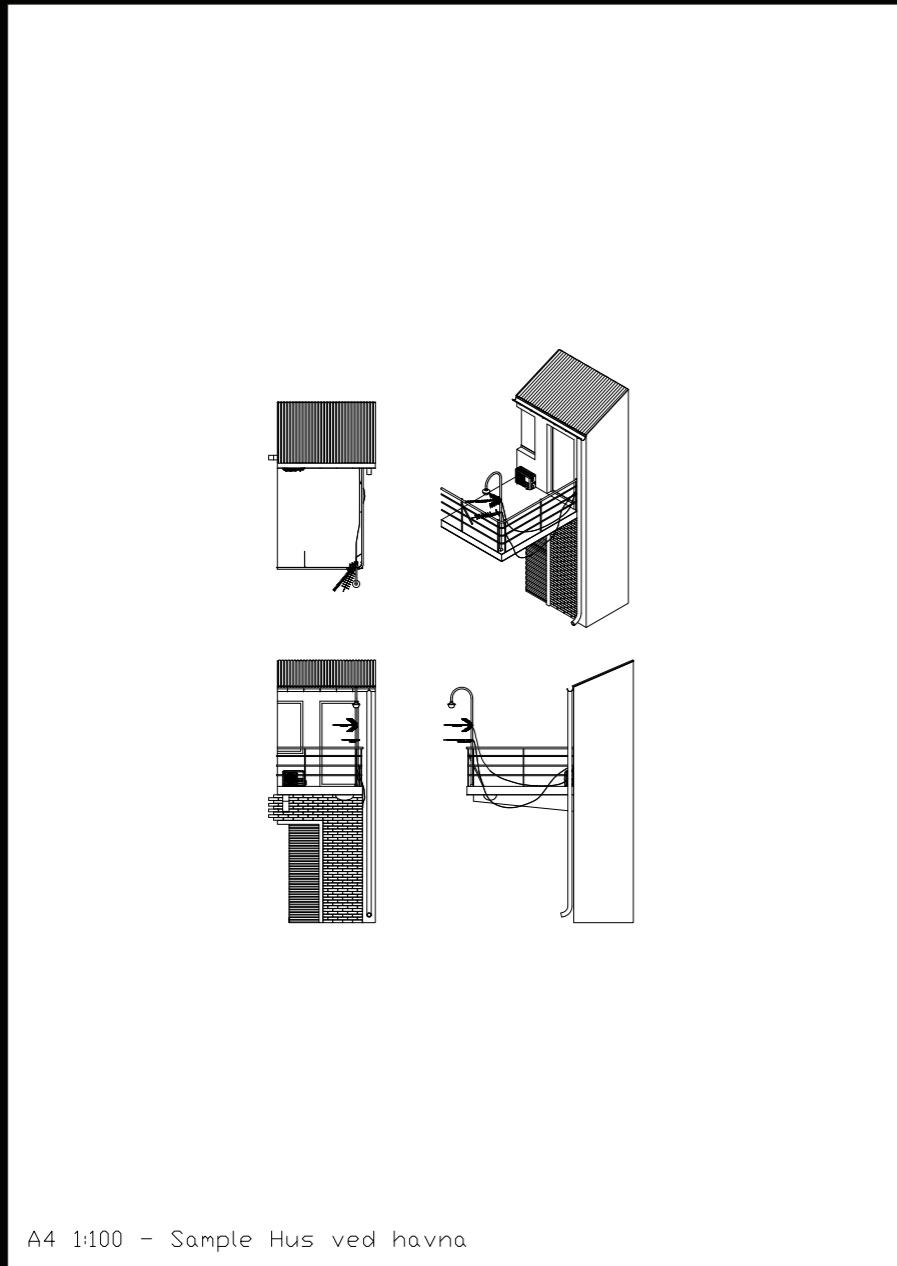


"Kolbenshaug" - Rådhusgata 31. Year of construction: 1916
Urban block. Commercial and residential units.



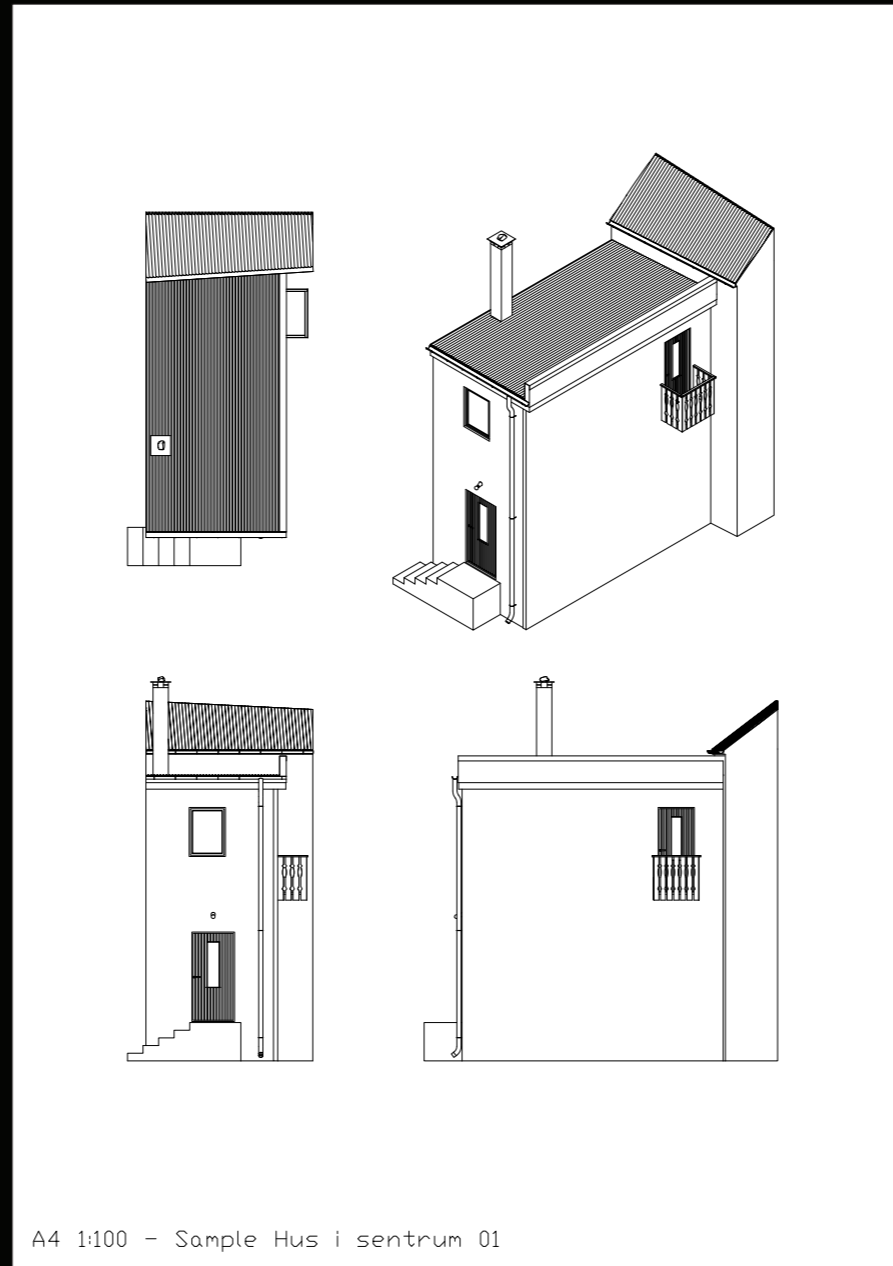
“Vegheim” - Rådhusgata 27. Year of construction: 1929
Bakery and office space.

DIGITAL SAMPLES



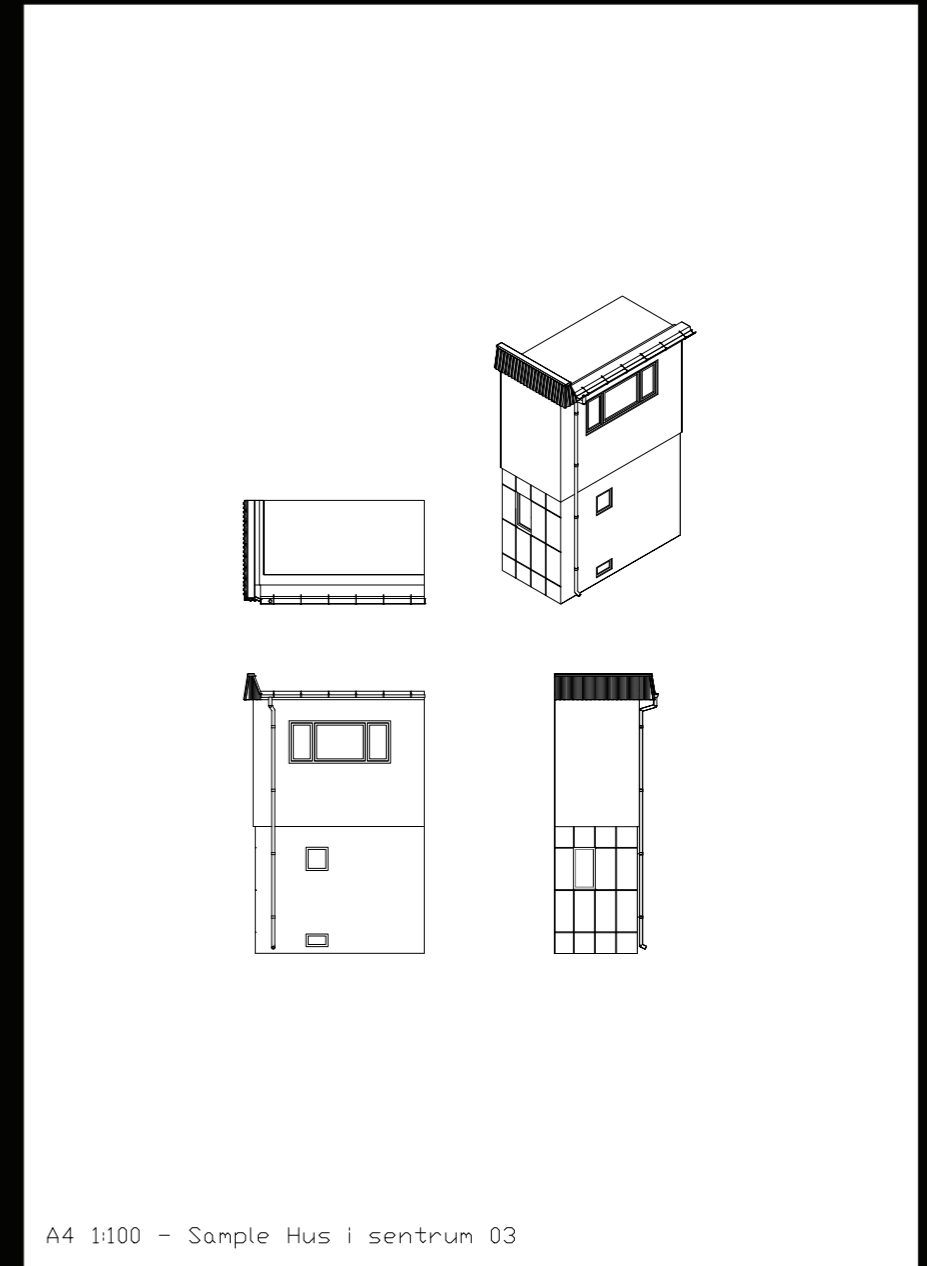
A4 1:100 - Sample Hus ved havna

Vangnes 8
Harbor facility building.



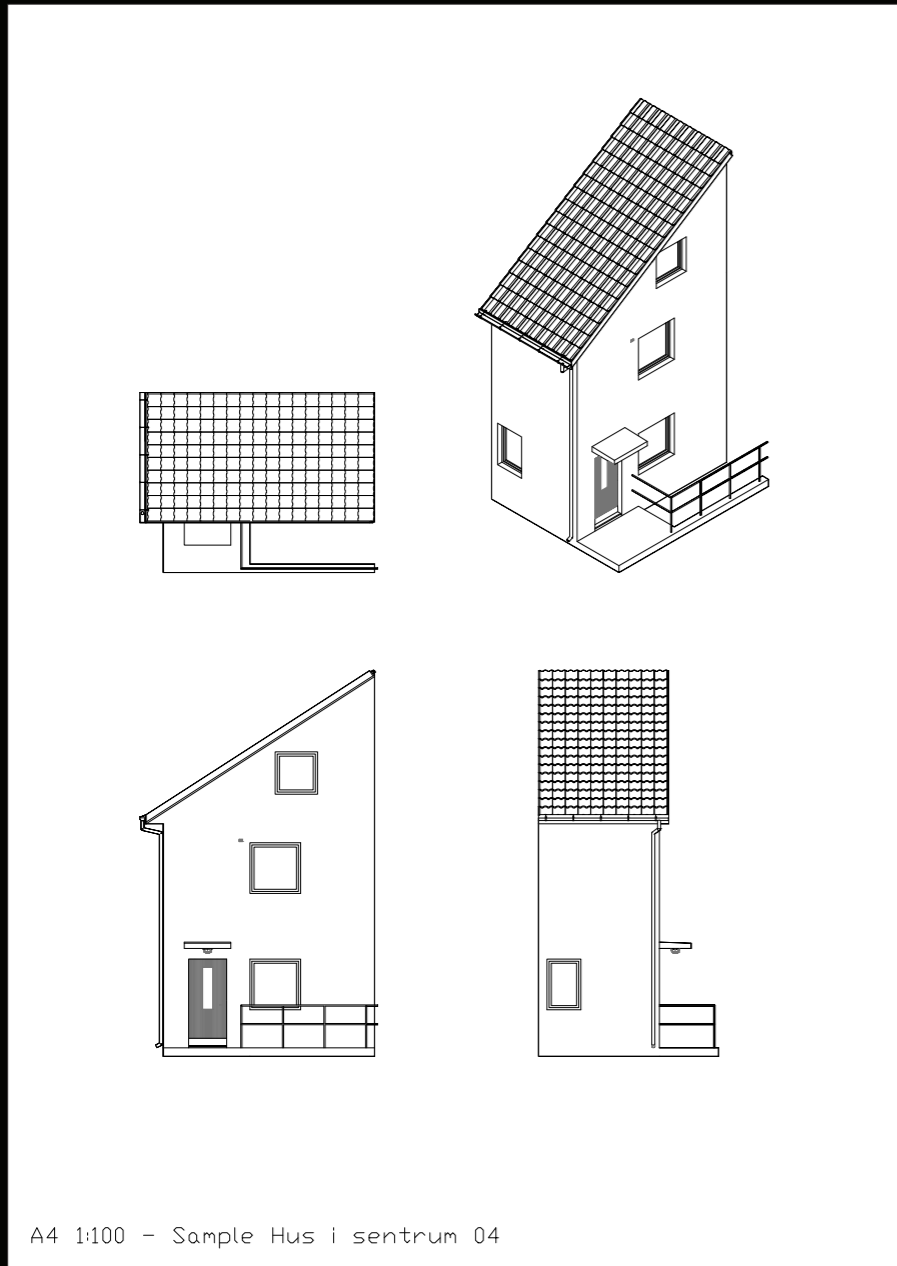
A4 1:100 - Sample Hus i sentrum 01

Kyrkjegata 17
Back-yard residential building.

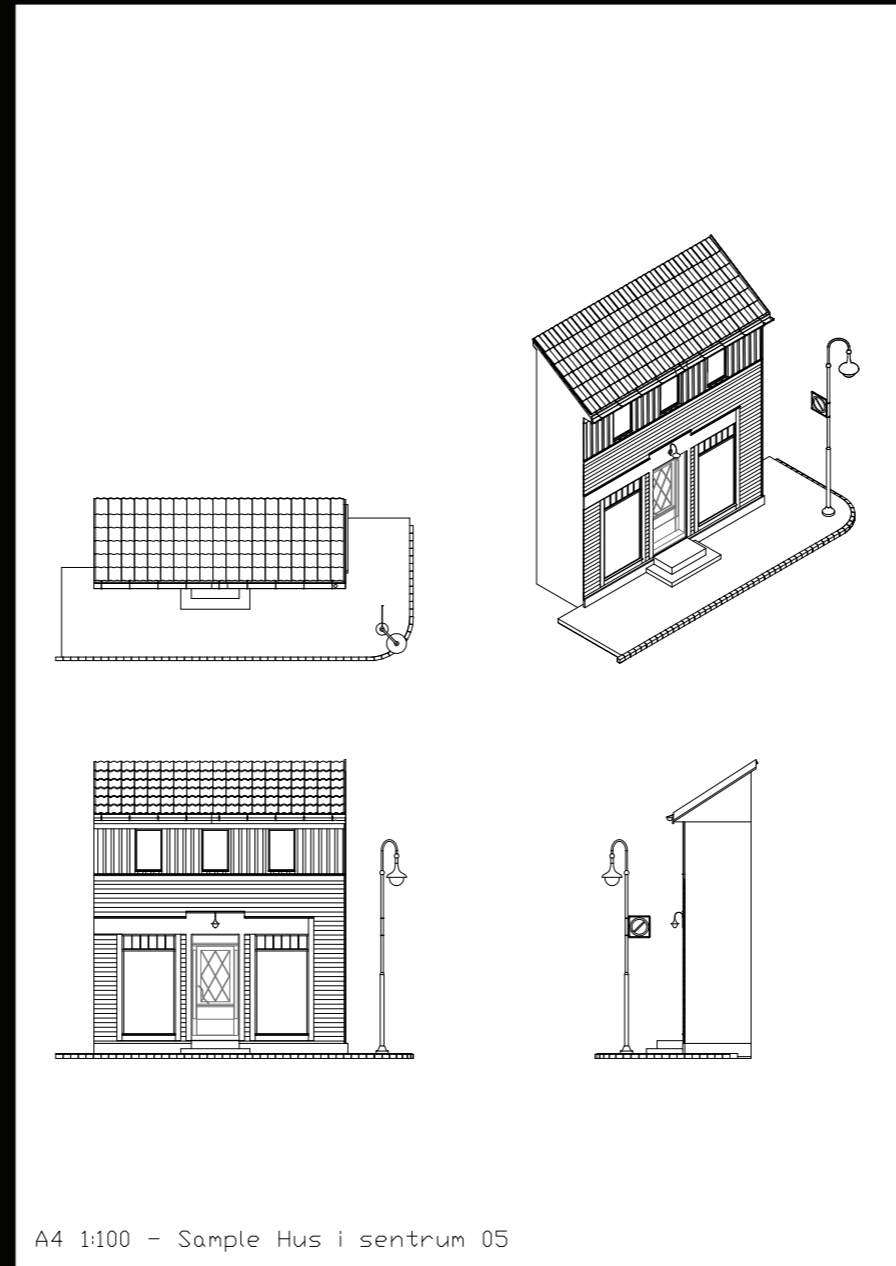


A4 1:100 - Sample Hus i sentrum 03

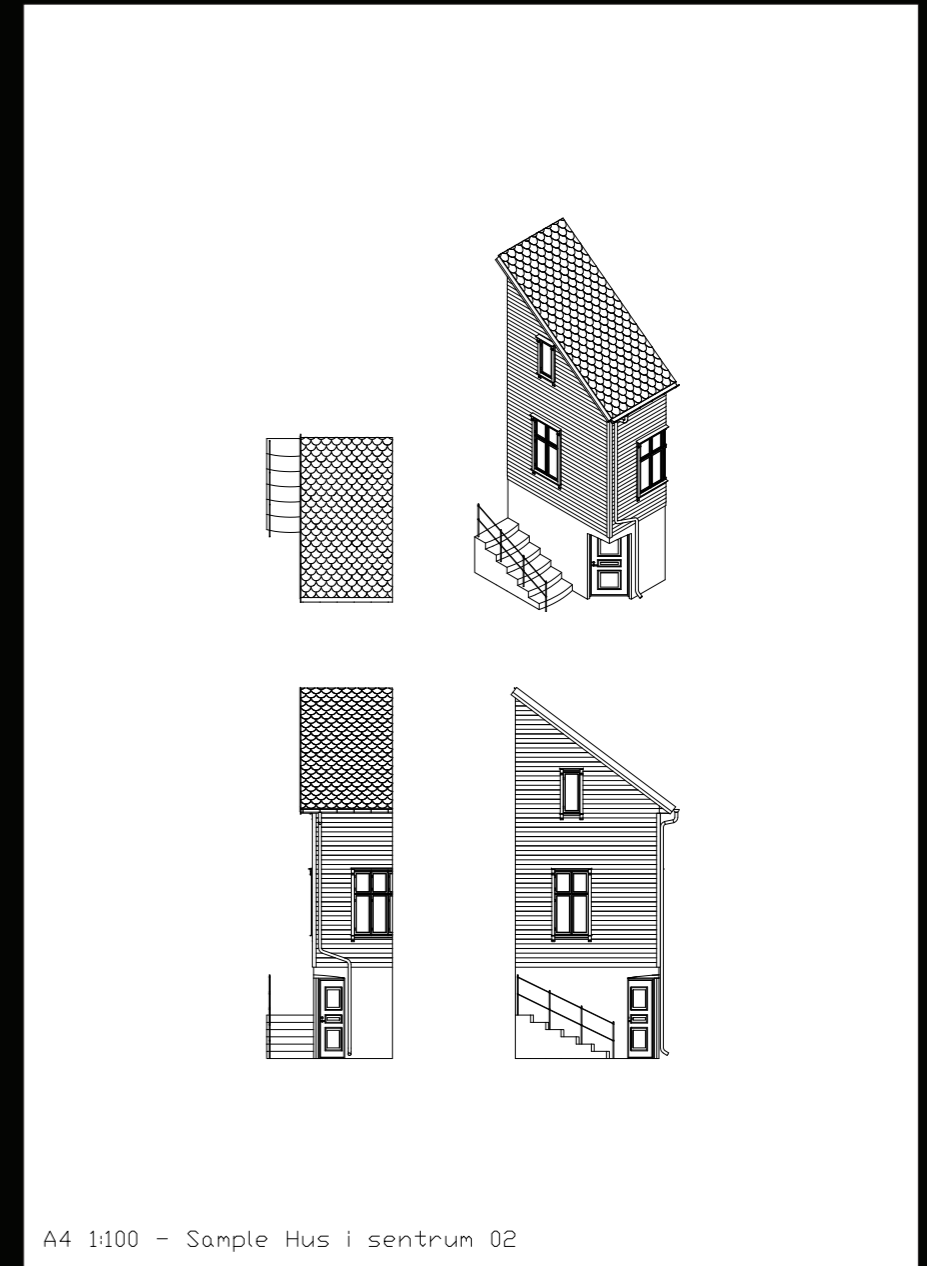
Rådhusgata 37 - 1960
Old pharmacy, now a pizza restaurant.



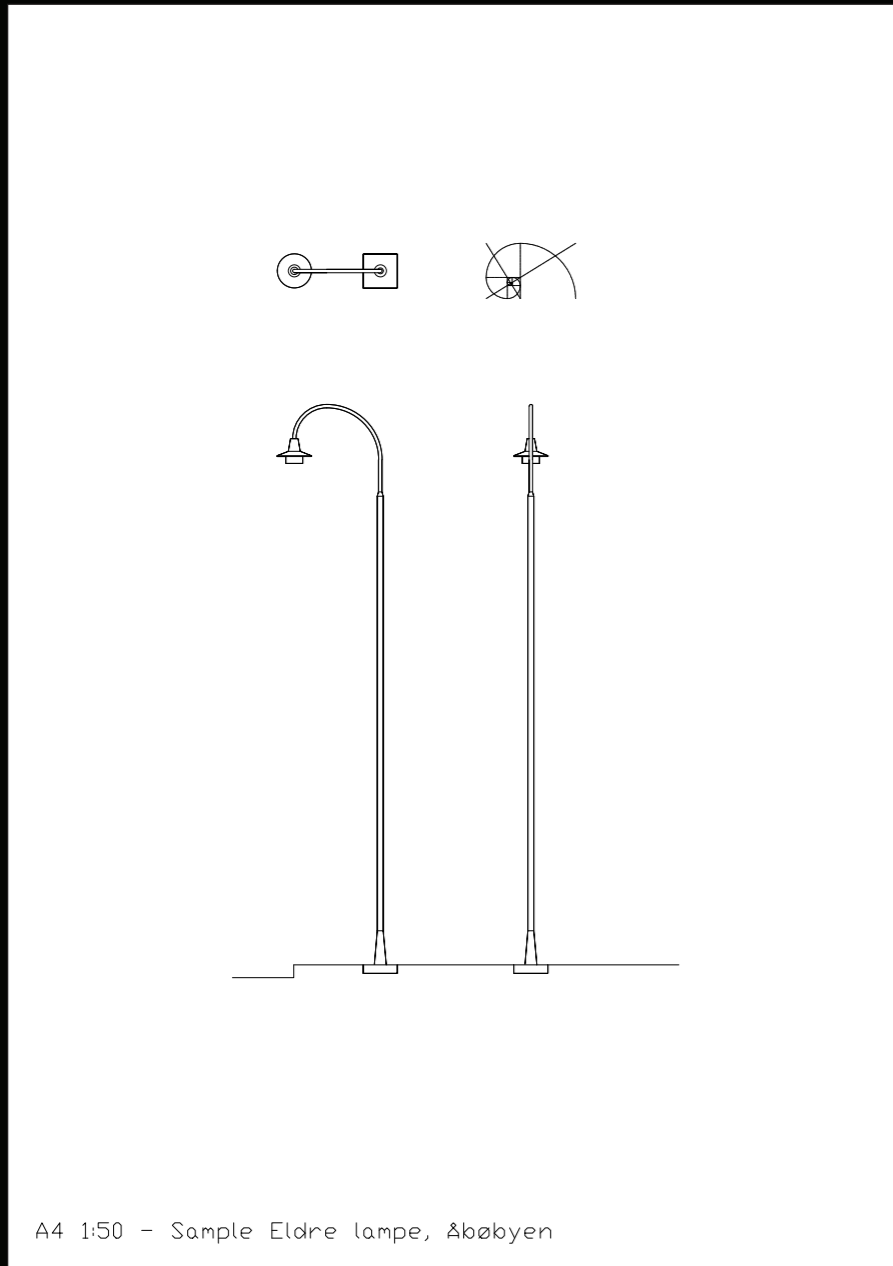
Mogata 2
Entrance composition - Residential building.



Torggata 6
Ornate entrance - Old commercial building,

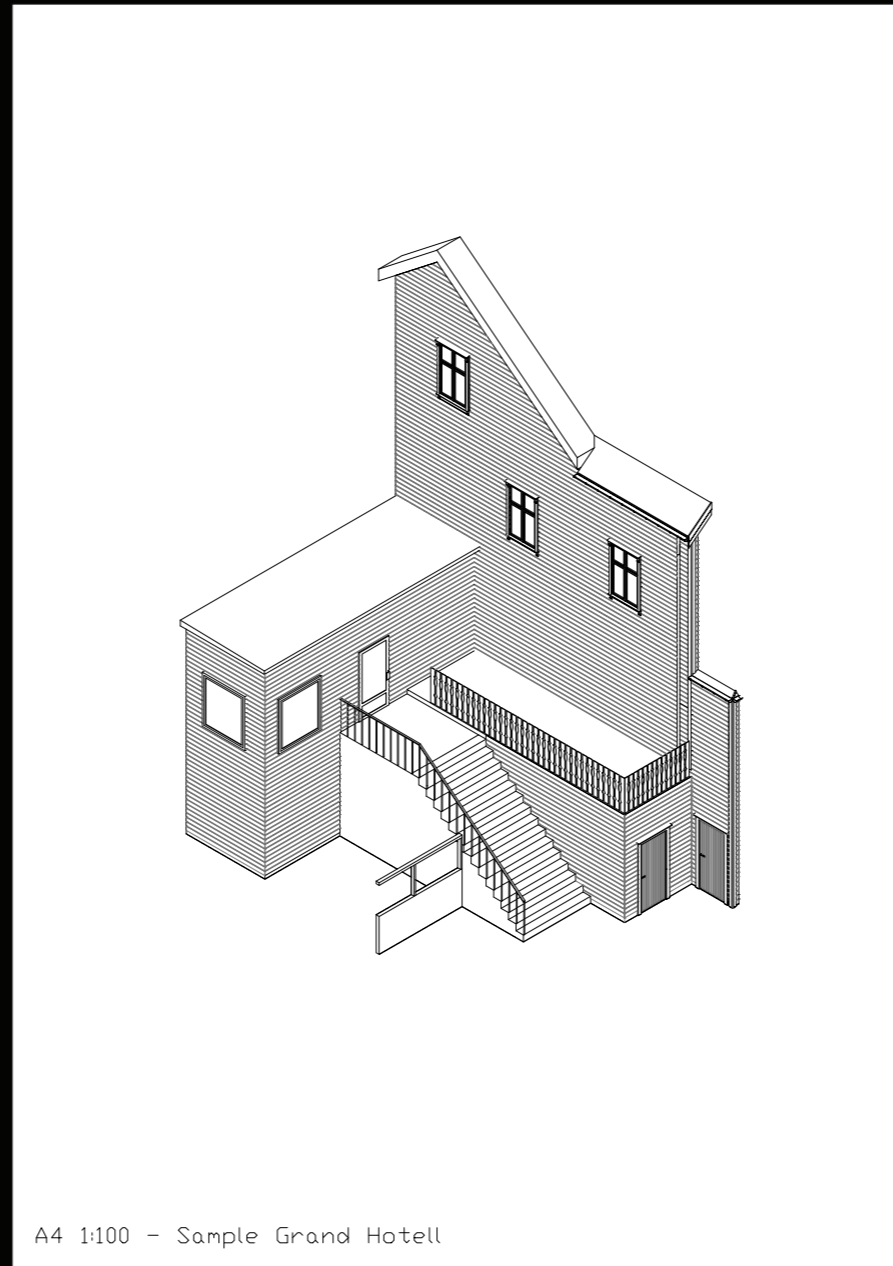


Skulegata 16
Cut corner entrance - Residential building.



A4 1:50 - Sample Eldre lampe, Åbøbyen

Åbøbyen lamp - demolished.
Sample redrawn from historic photographs.

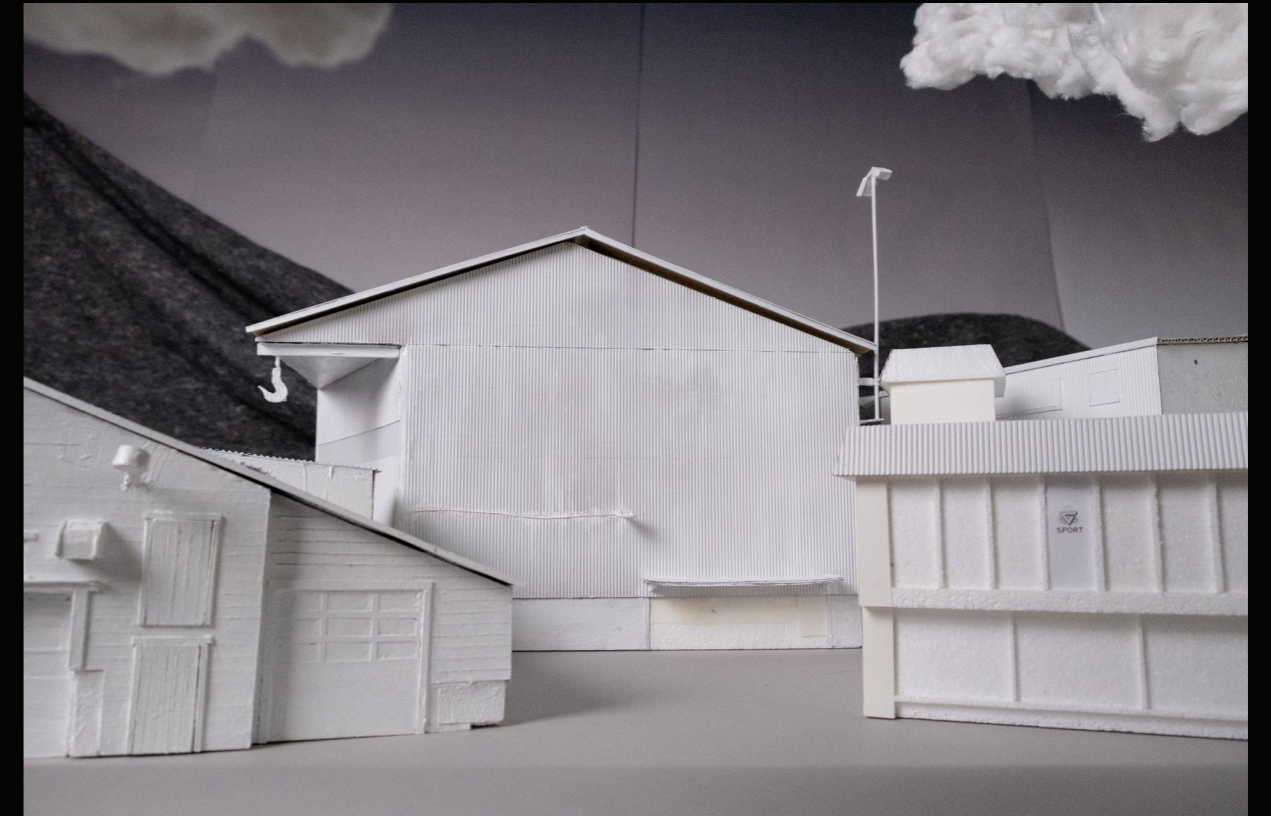


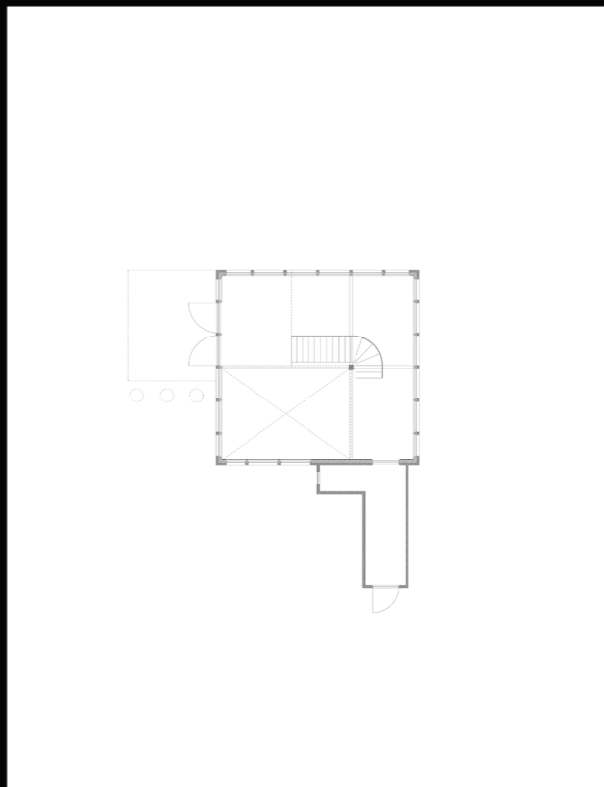
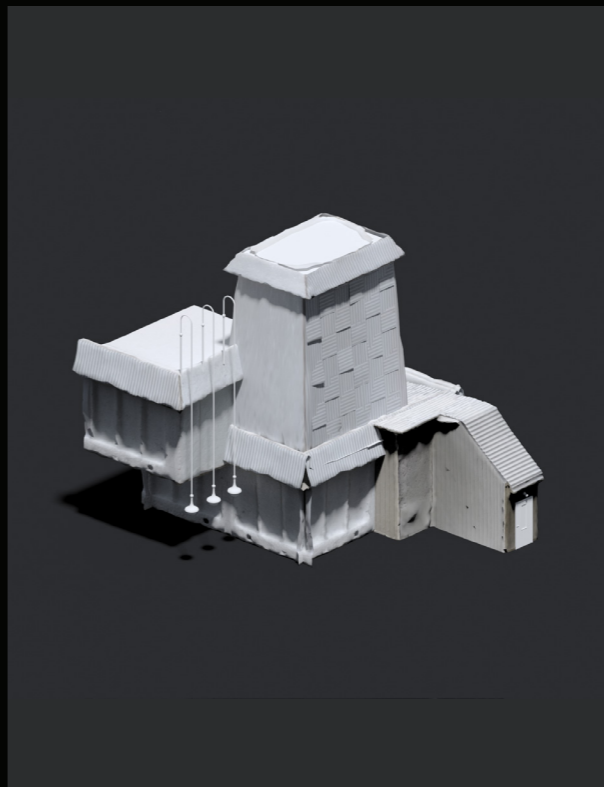
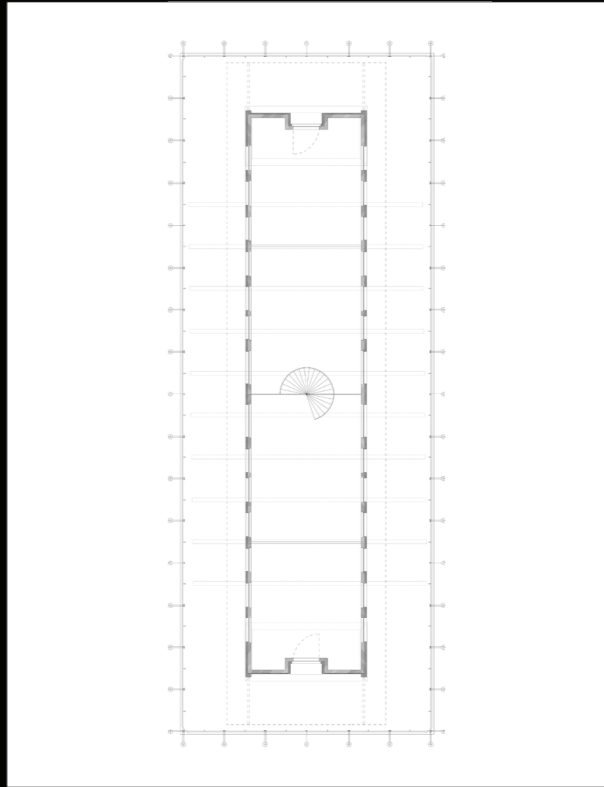
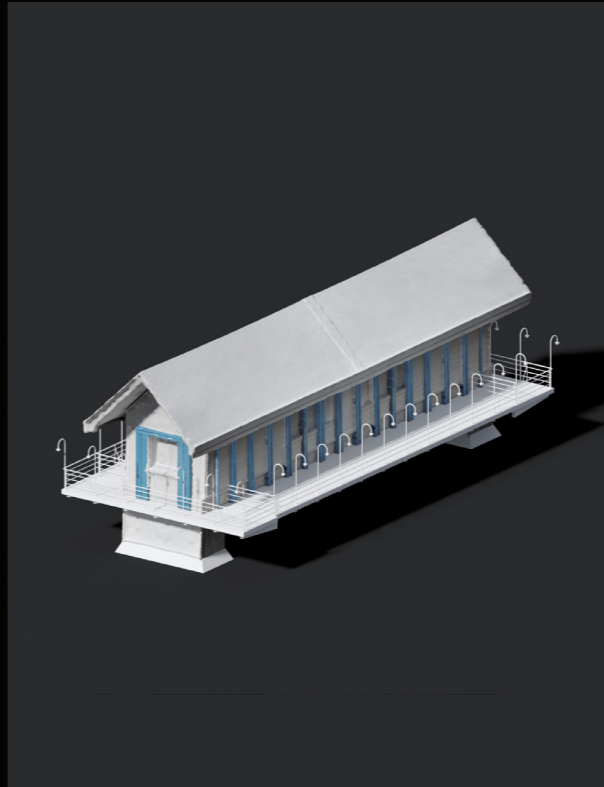
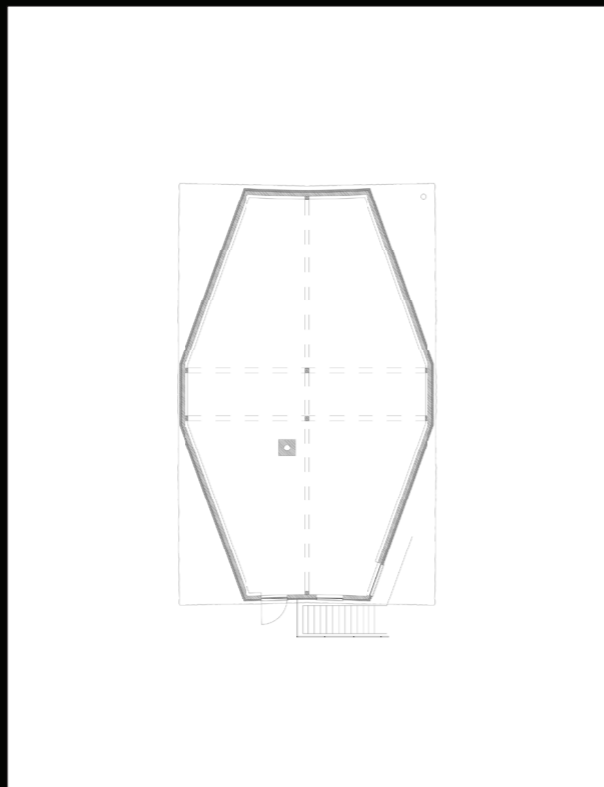
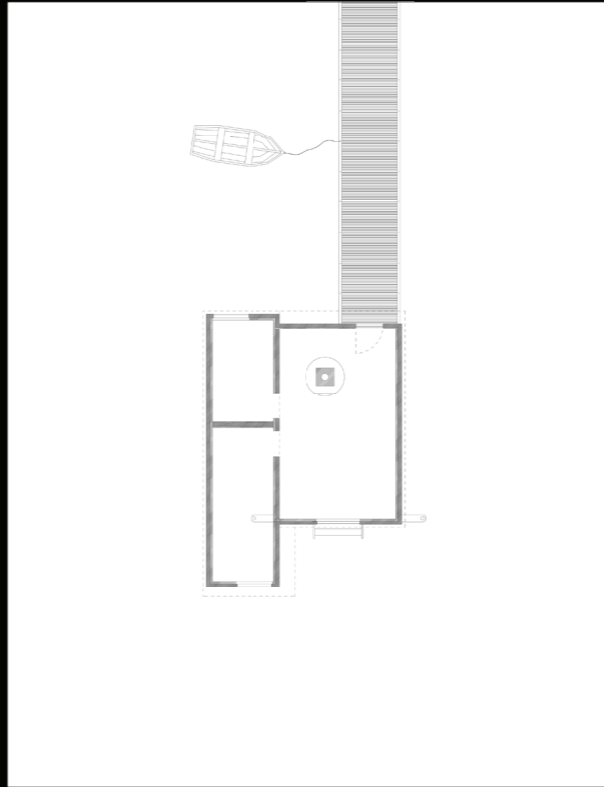
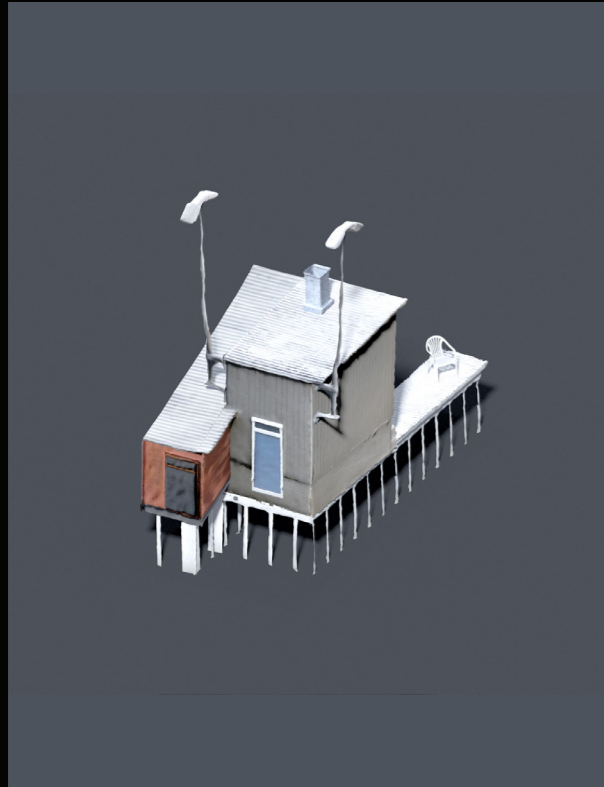
A4 1:100 - Sample Grand Hotell

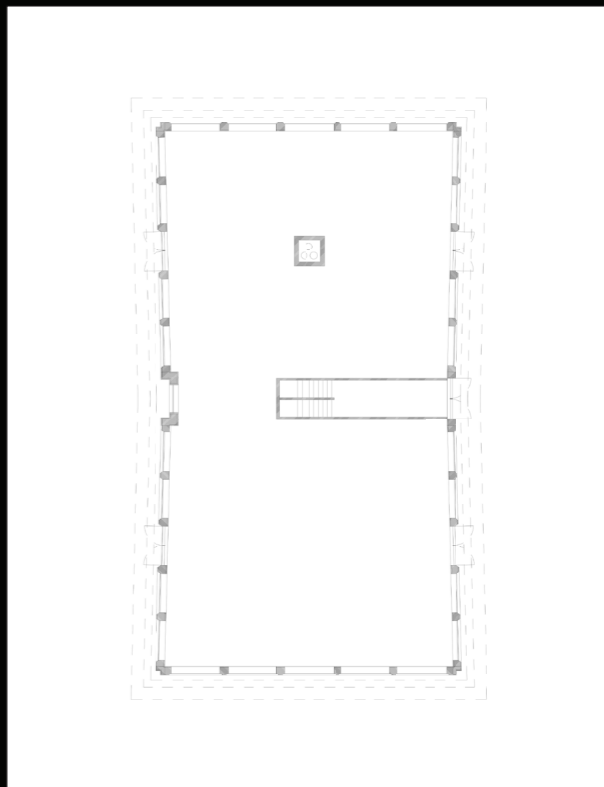
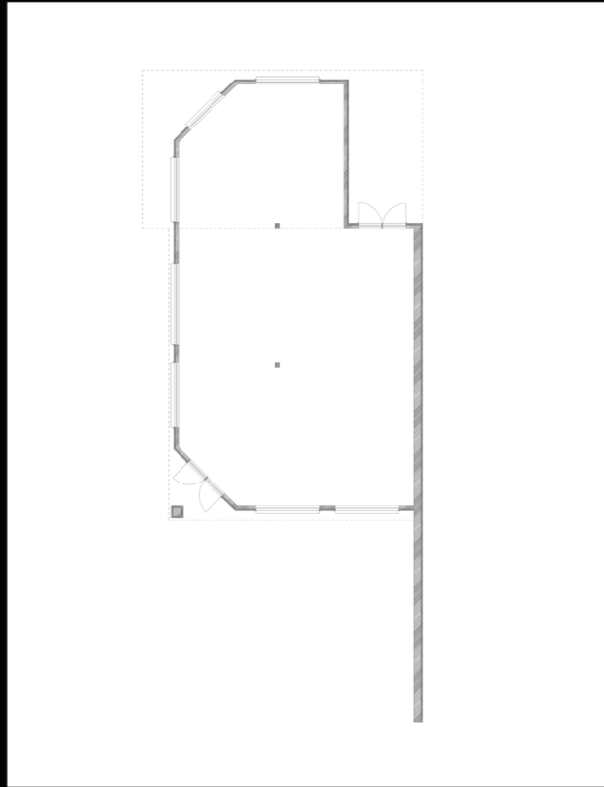
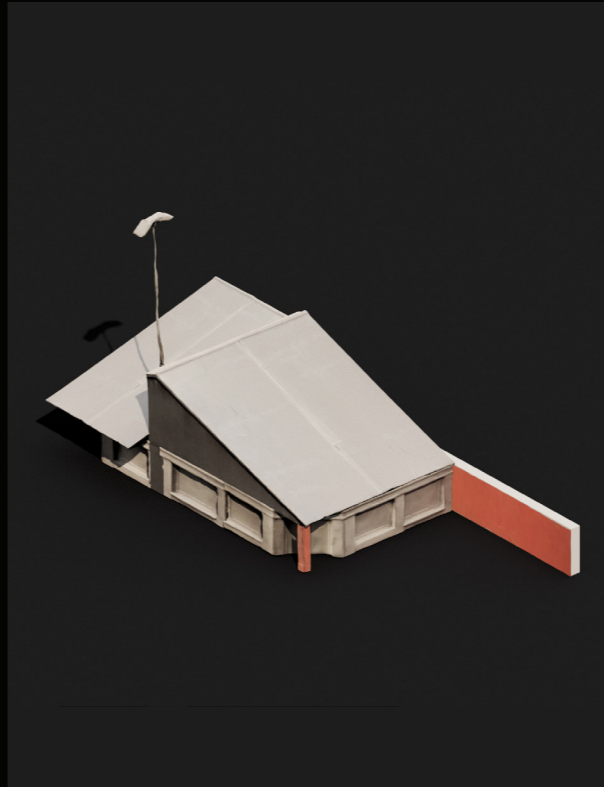
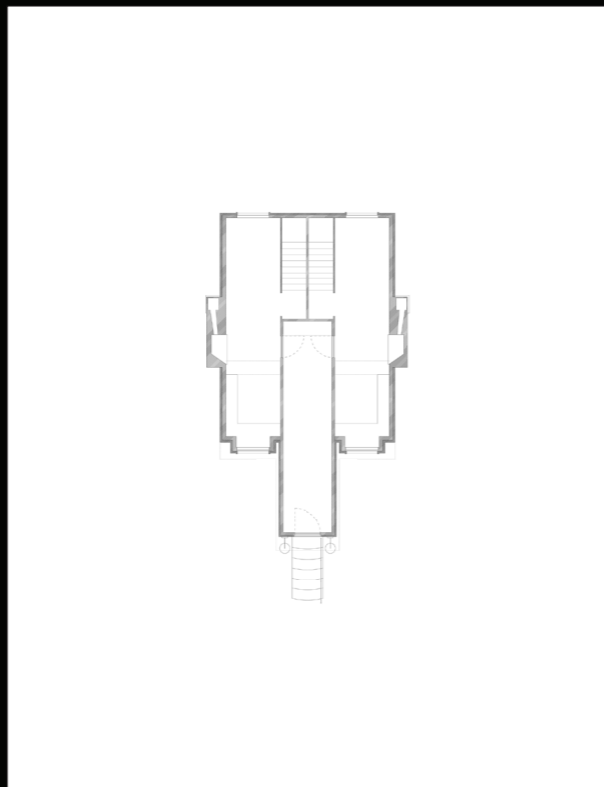
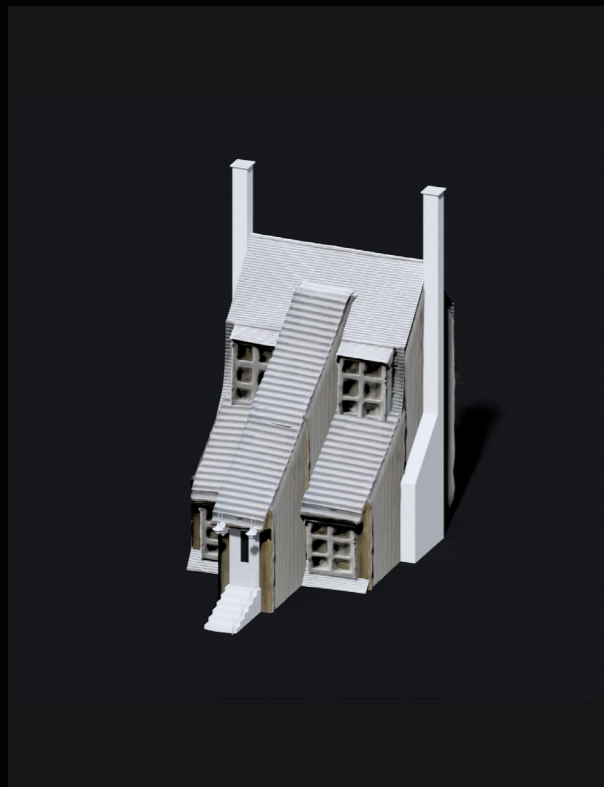
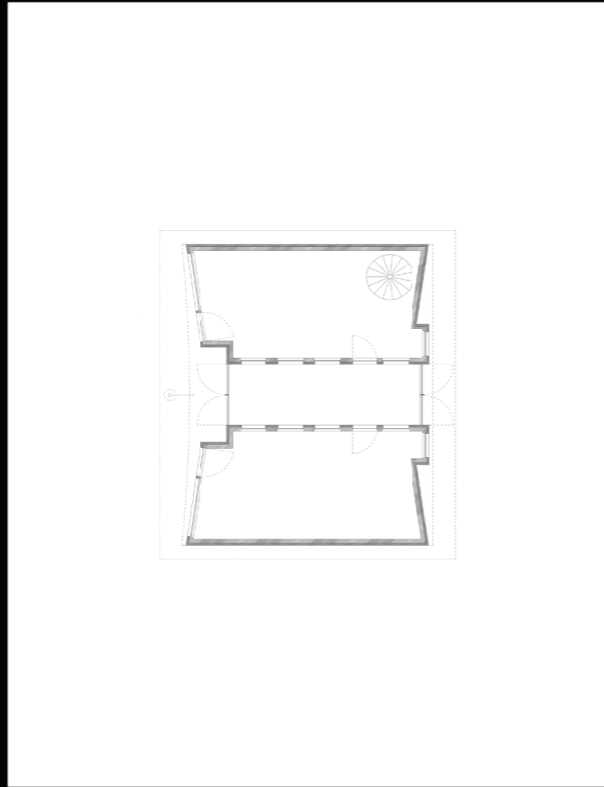
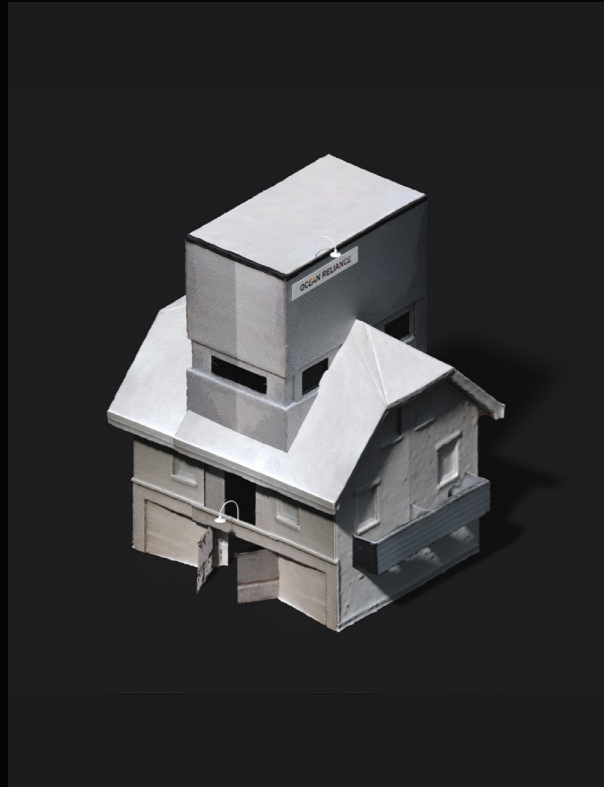
Rådhusgata 2
Entrance to Grand Hotell & 'Bar Manila'

MUTANTS / RECONFIGURATION

A tool was needed to initiate the design process. A natural step was to intuitively reconfigure the collective form to explore potential formal and material combinations. The following collection is a series of non-existing buildings or 'mutants'. Each mutant is accompanied by a plan drawing, which was drawn as an exercise to reveal the mutant's spatial potential and scale.





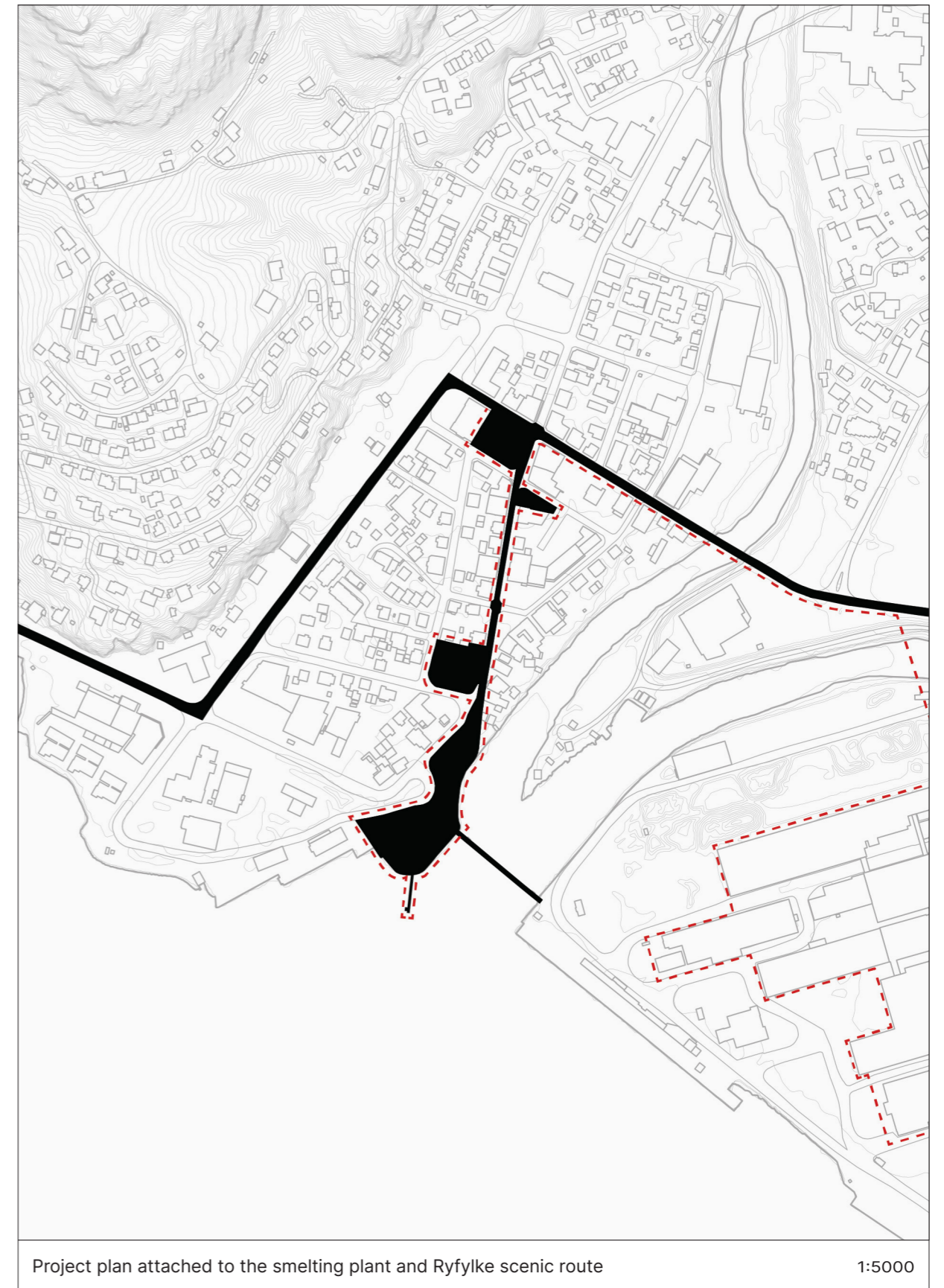


PROPOSAL

Norwegian Scenic Route projects are high-end architectural interventions. Fundamentally free to use, the projects are intended to guide tourists along Norway's designated scenic routes. They are also framing devices, deeming certain pieces of landscape to be more important than others. These projects become isolated nodes along a network on the scale of international tourism.

Sirens of Sauda is a Norwegian Scenic Route project that directly deals with the Norwegian small-town's dwindling urban center. The free-to-use premise of The Scenic Route project is bridged with a potential to regenerate public spaces and social life by providing subtle leisure for both visitors and locals. The proposal draws a path through the urban landscape of Sauda, utilizing local stakeholders, infrastructure, myths and legends as a way to expand upon and strengthen existing local history, as well as anchoring the project in the complexity of Sauda's urban life.

Instead of framing the landscape as a frozen relic, *Sirens of Sauda* aims to blend in, treating its surroundings as scenery in constant redevelopment. Visitors are invited to become a stitch in the social fabric for the duration of their stay, making their presence visible.



PROGRAM

Sirens of Sauda is a series of five leisure buildings situated along 'Rådhusgata' in Sauda where it latches on to the Ryfylke Scenic Route at the end of 'Rådhusplassen'.

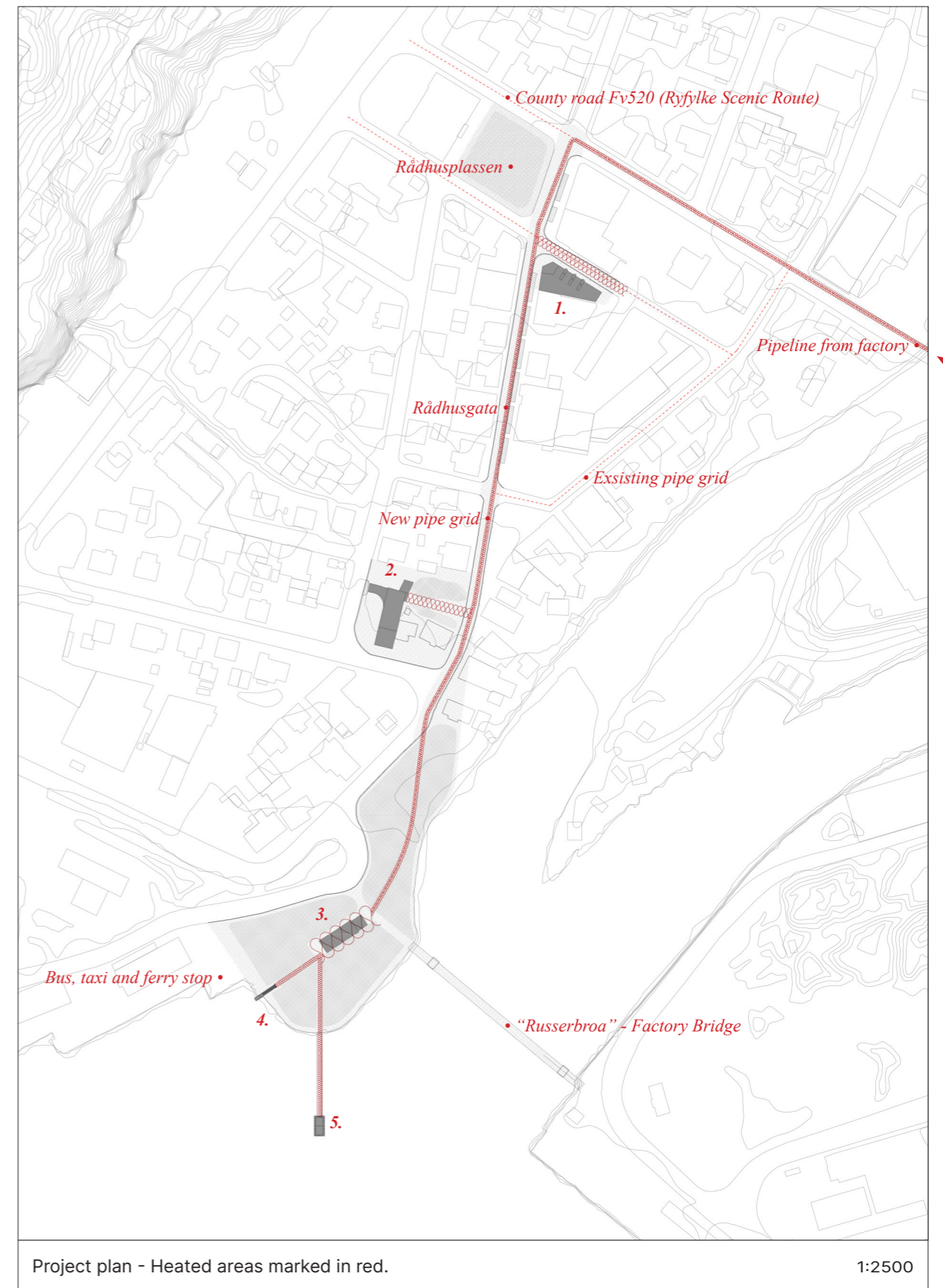
The buildings are presented as follows:

1. 'Smeltedigelen' - Bath House - New building
2. 'Sauda Sogelag HQ & Galleri Spiegel' - Office and Gallery - Reuse and renovation
3. 'Bar Calypso' - Bar and public park - New building
4. Diving tower - New building
5. Sauna - New building

All projects are connected through district heating pipes serving surplus heat as well as electricity from the factory. Small extensions are made to the already existing pipe grid to highlight entrances, heat rooms and pool-water and melt snow. The projects are therefore not only connected by their placement along Rådhusgata but also by their shared use of free heat and electricity as a tool for space and experiences. The heated pipelines reintroduce the old country road that once went from the docks to the church.

Guiding principles:

1. The Ryfylke Tourist Road is an established network of attractions; Sauda must create a new set of attractions anchored in its urban center.
2. The attractions must be directly attached to the Ryfylke Scenic route as well as the smelting plant.
3. The project must take advantage of the surplus heat and electricity to provide publicly free-to-use attractions.
4. The attractions must operate as familiar strangers, thus inviting visitors and locals to analyze it themselves.





Plan oblique

1:1000 - A3



'SMELTEDIGELEN' - BATH HOUSE

As the old public square is being re-designed and restored, the town hall square stays the same. In between these two central piazzas, a plot the shape of a pizza slice is left undeveloped.

Utilizing the already existing heated water pipe grid, a hot spring and small botanical garden is erected to mainly serve the business travelers that make up over 70% of the city's total overnight visitors. As a communications device the hot spring plays a pivotal role in highlighting the symbiosis between city and factory as it is the first attraction along Rådhusgata from the scenic route. Inviting visitors to bask in the warm water and hot humid air of the bathhouse while reflecting on the necessary evil that is the raw production of things.

Ski-tourists often enjoy hot baths after a day in the slope. The already existing Swimming-hall 'Saudahallene' provides facilities such as water slides and lap pools yet lacks the leisure aspect of a bath house. Although much smaller, 'Smeltingedigelen' provides these spaces for socialization and recreation. It is designed to be maintained by one person who doubles as a janitor and receptionist.

The facade is two faced, one relates to the factory, while the other relates to the old urban shopping street of Rådhusgata. Both facades can be seen from Rådhusplassen where one can see a clearly framed corner entrance.

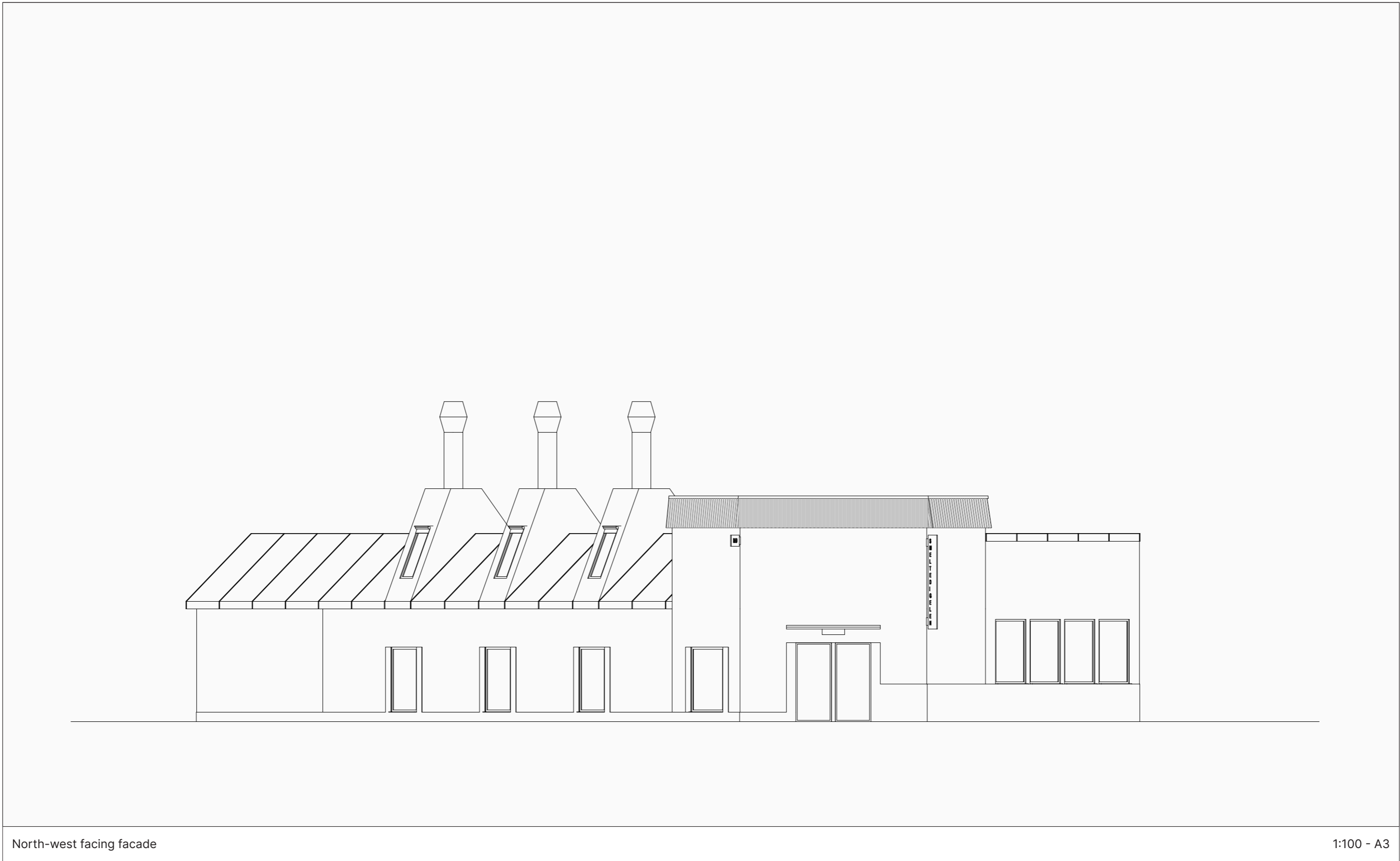
The bath relates to the urban morphology of Sauda. Borrowing and adopting details and dimensions that can already be found in the city center as well as the smelting plant.





Plan - Ground Floor

1:100 - A3



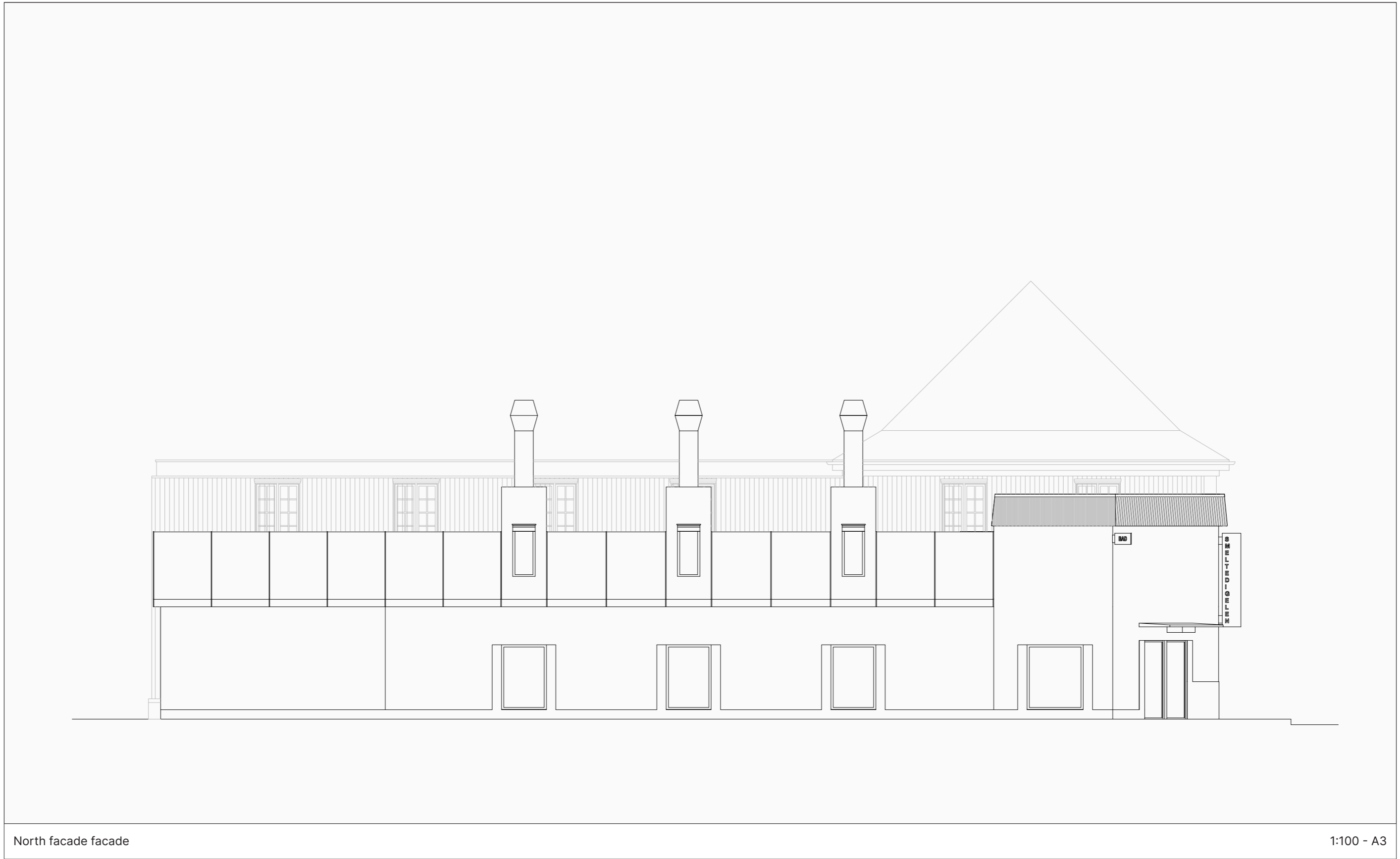
North-west facing facade

1:100 - A3



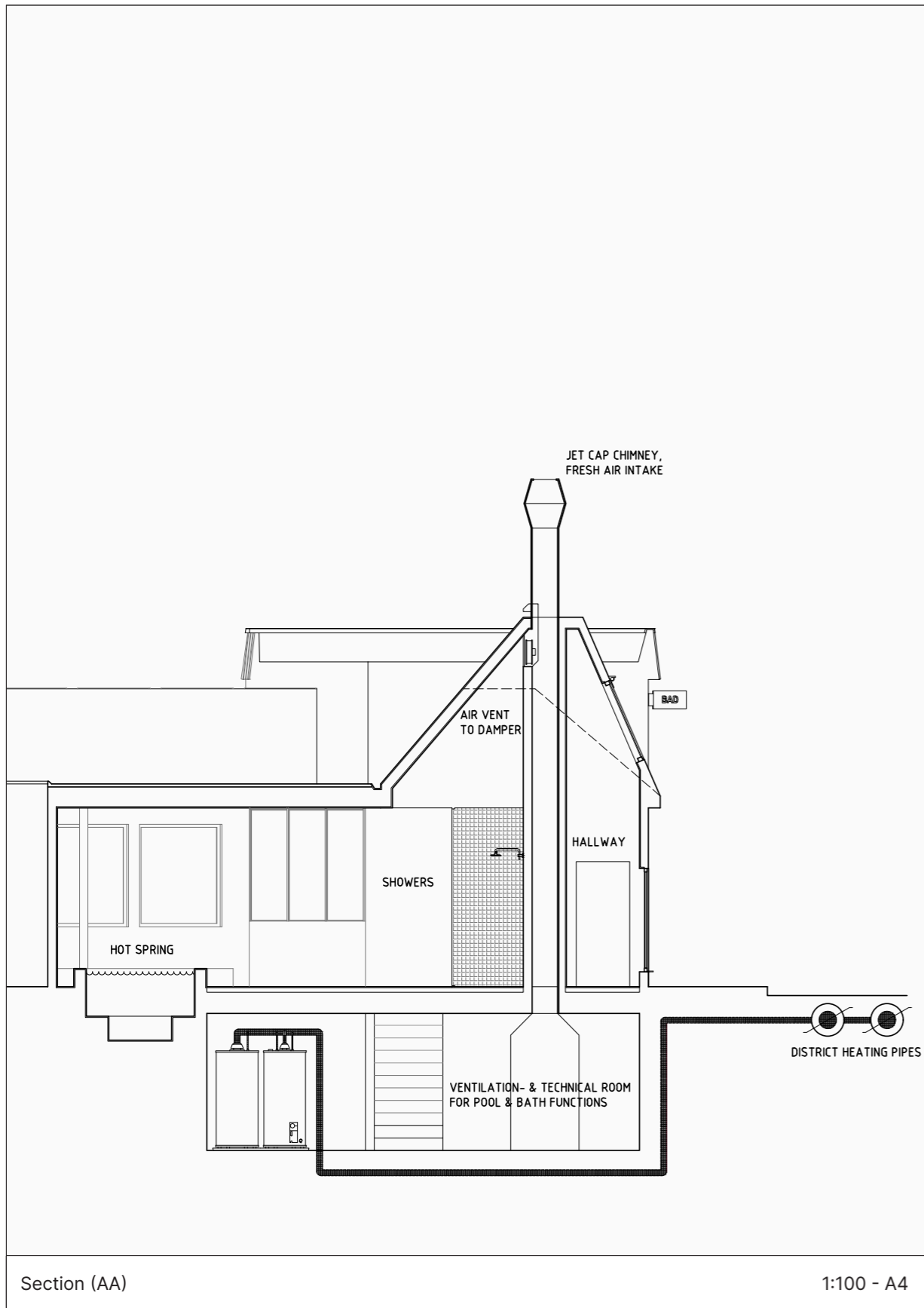
West facing facade

1:100 - A3



North facade facade

1:100 - A3

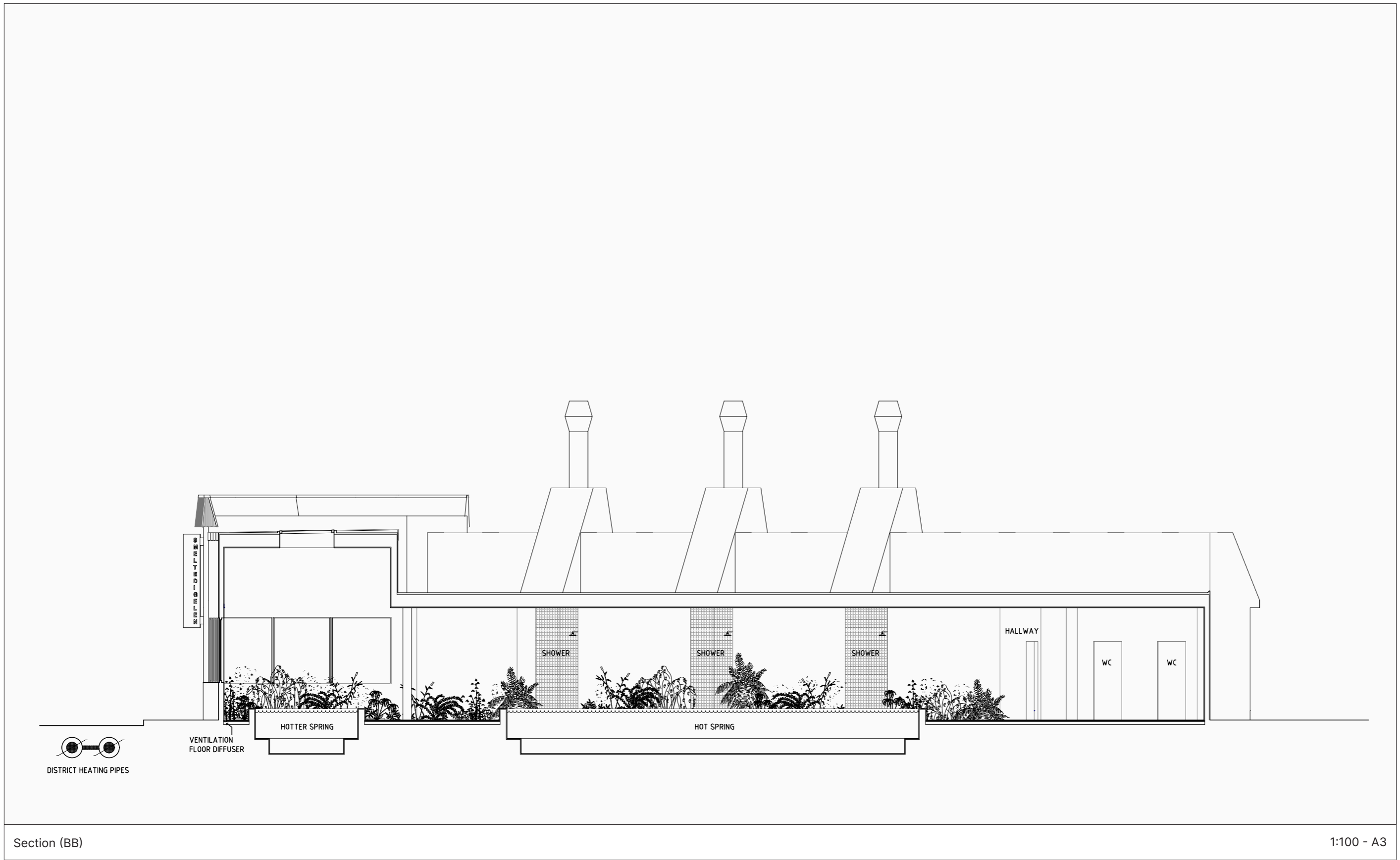


Section (AA)

1:100 - A4







Section (BB)

1:100 - A3



Interior

'Sauda Sogelag HQ & Galleri Spiegel' - Office and Gallery

In 2020 the old hydroelectric power plant Sauda III was listed as a cultural heritage. The local archive is to be moved into the power plant as part of its transformation into a museum. Originally established as a hobby initiative to preserve local history, The Sauda history association is growing larger each year as the city's older population is rising and communicating the city's history becomes ever more important for social and economic reasons.

The old telephone exchange has been abandoned for 10 years. The building is transformed into a headquarters for the Sauda history association. Keeping with its original initiative the building will accommodate workshop and office areas for the groups train-model builders, book club members and retired factory workers. Ultimately providing a forum for discussions concerning the future of Sauda through the history associations' burning passion for dissecting 'the state of things'.

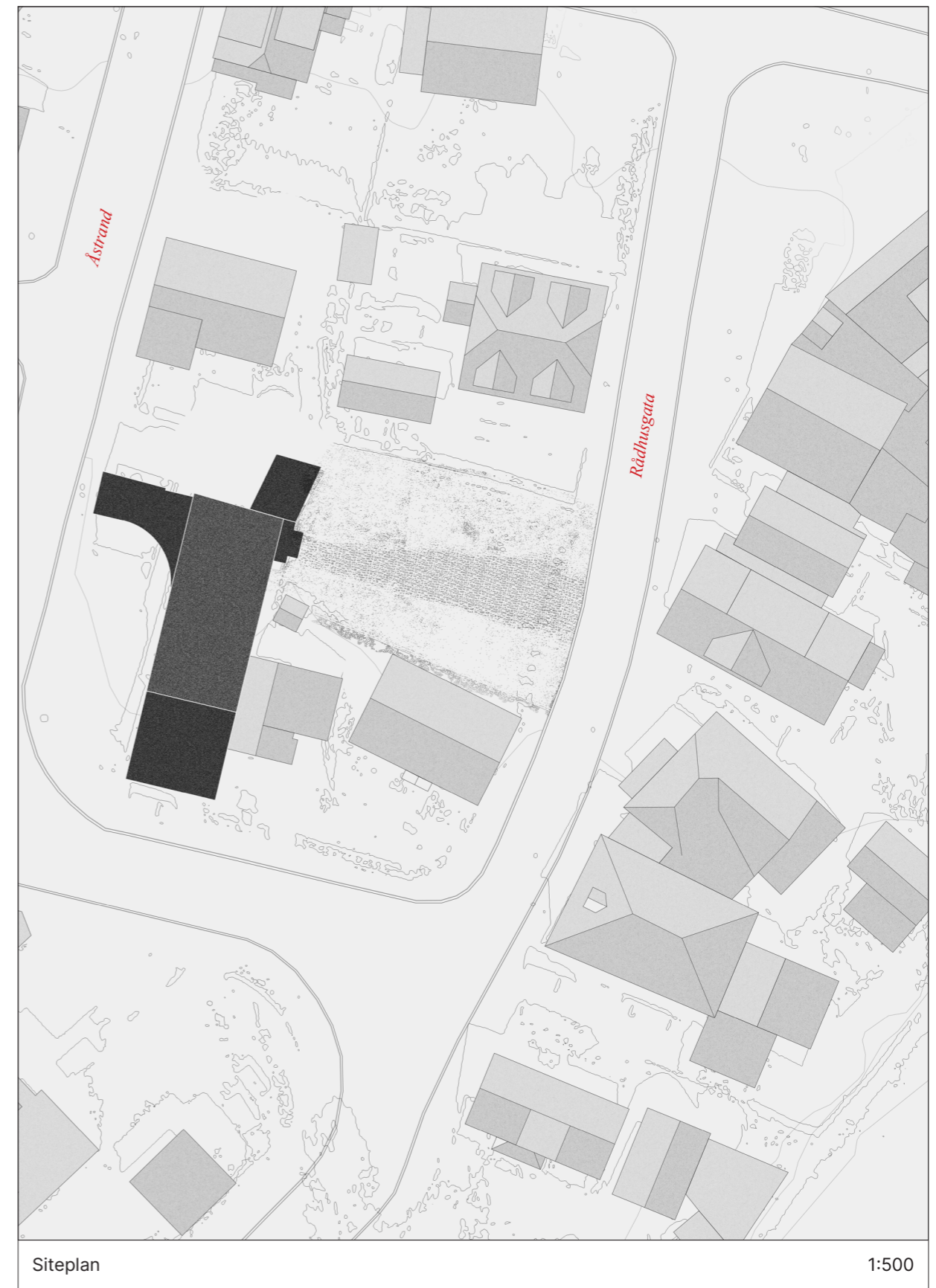
A Gallery is established on the ground floor. Named 'Galleri Spiegel' after a slang term used for the ferro-mangan -product. The exhibition spaces provide room for the associations' many pictures and texts surrounding the different streets, buildings and characters from Sauda as well as models, old equipment and conferences.

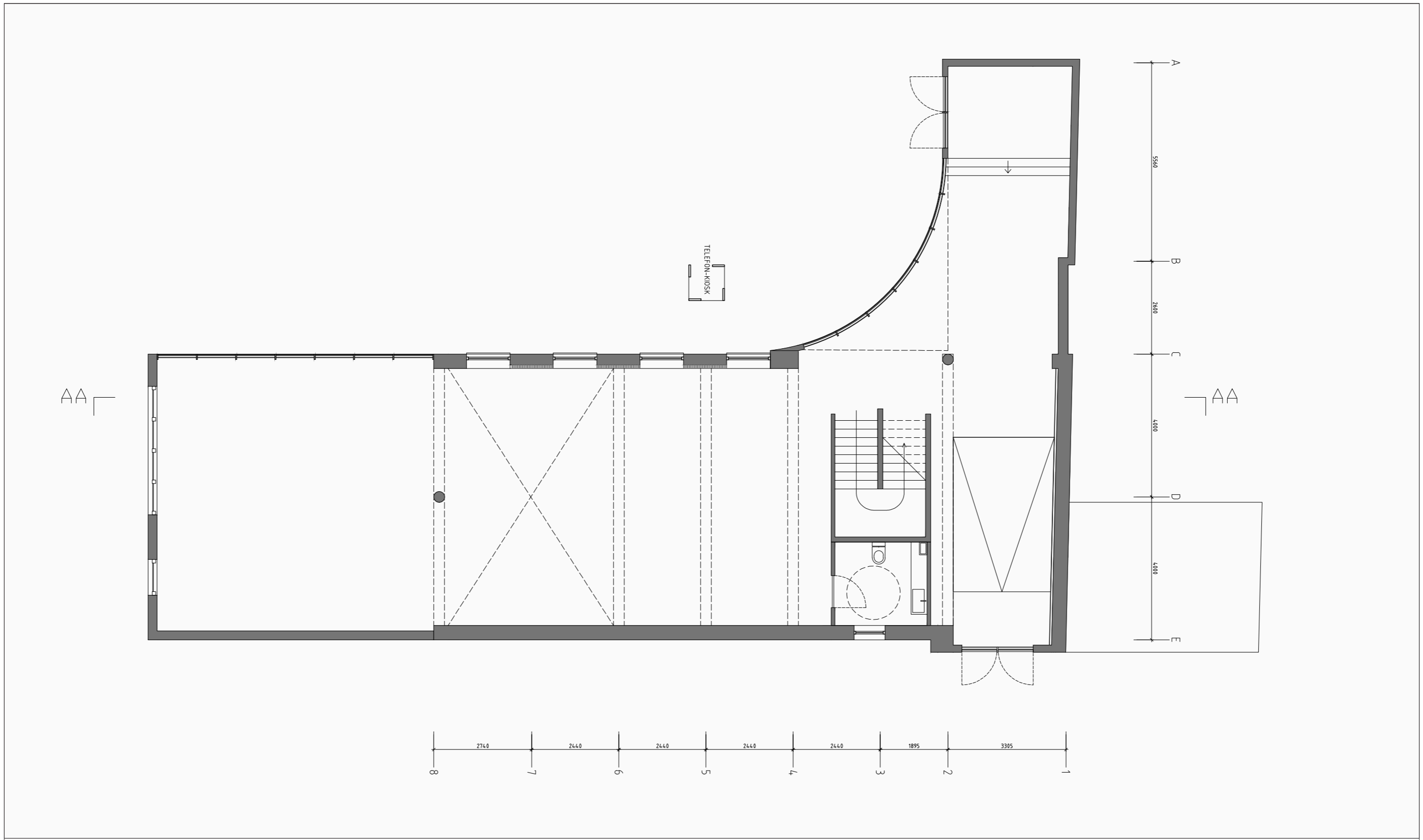
The entrance from Åstrand has been demolished and redesigned to accommodate larger amounts of people and to provide a smooth entrance to the gallery space. Tall and slender windows follow the curved entrance and contrast the horizontal windows and relief in the old facade.

A Garden is established towards Rådhusgata. A heated path, covered on each side by greenery, leads to the new back entrance. A series of lamps based on the old 'Sauda -lamp' is installed in the new garden as well as heated benches and tables.

At dusk Calypso Bar is visible at the far end of Rådhusgata from the garden entrance of the headquarters. An older man tending to the garden recommends that the tourist check it out, exclaiming:

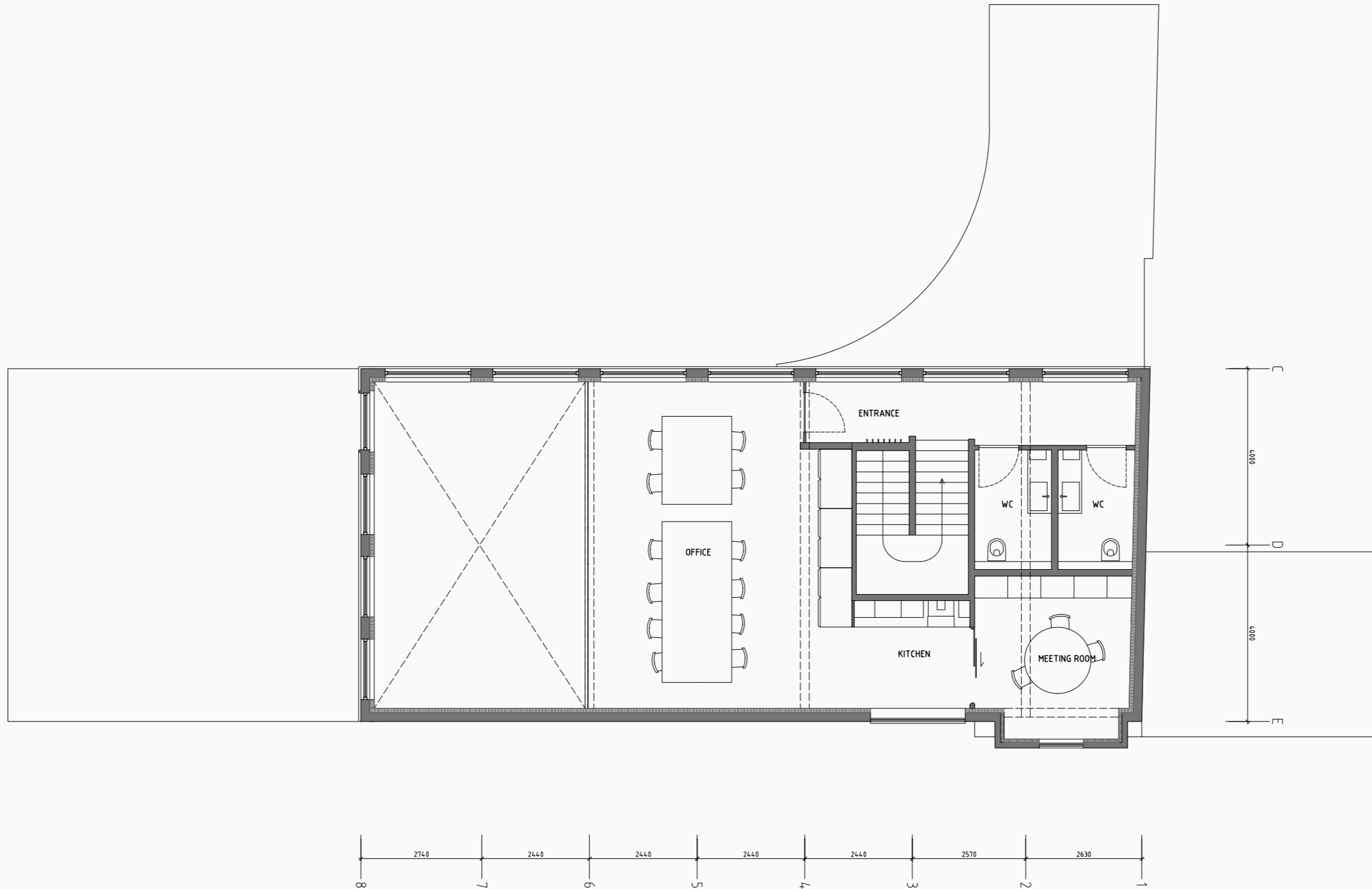
"You came just in time, the ship will leave tomorrow!"





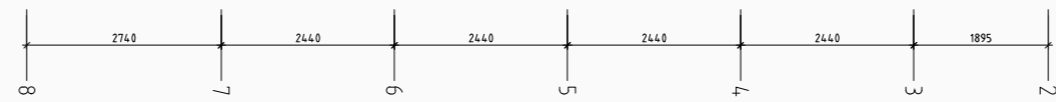
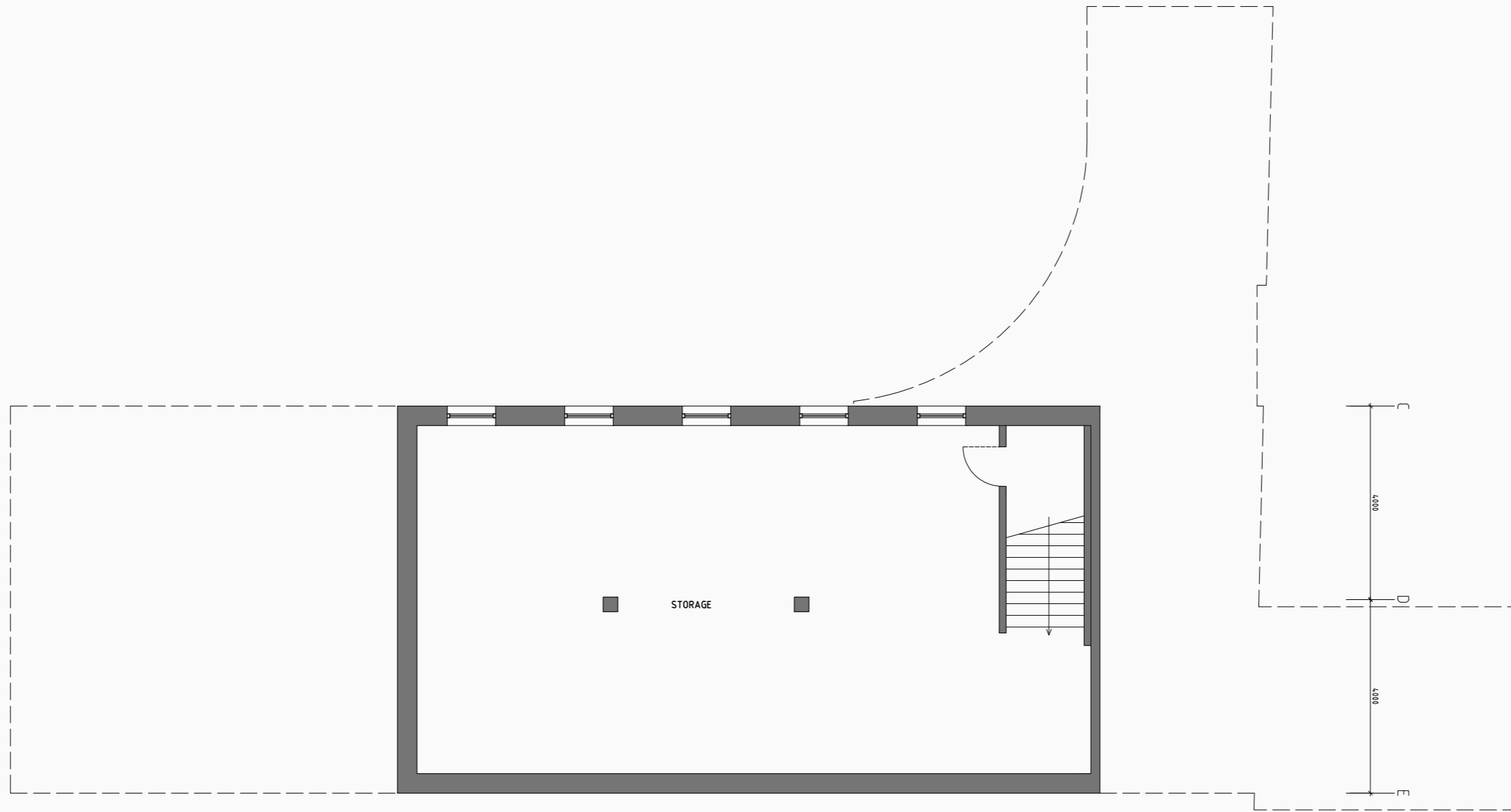
Plan - Ground Floor

1:100 - A3



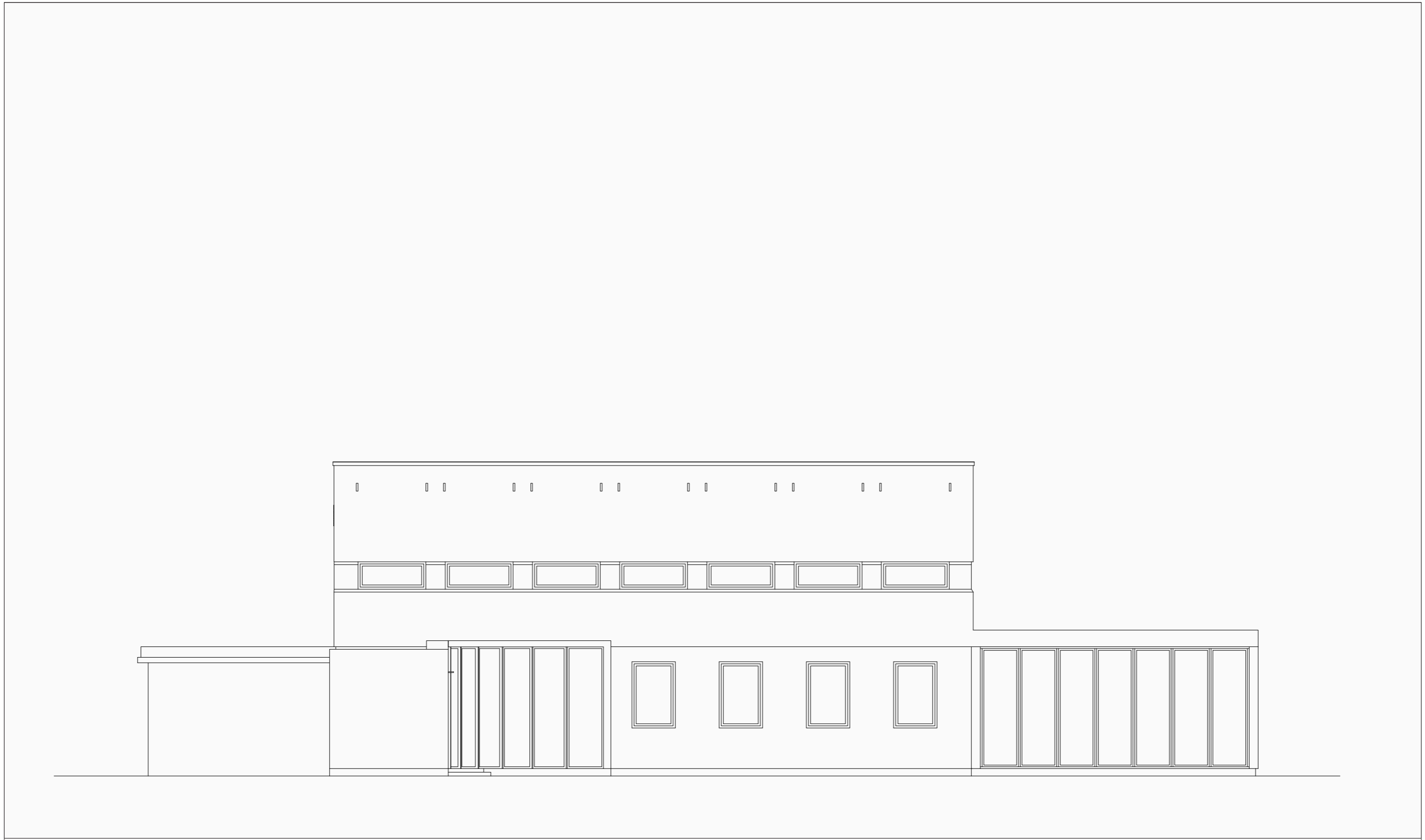
Plan - Second Floor

1:100 - A3



Plan - Basement

1:100 - A3



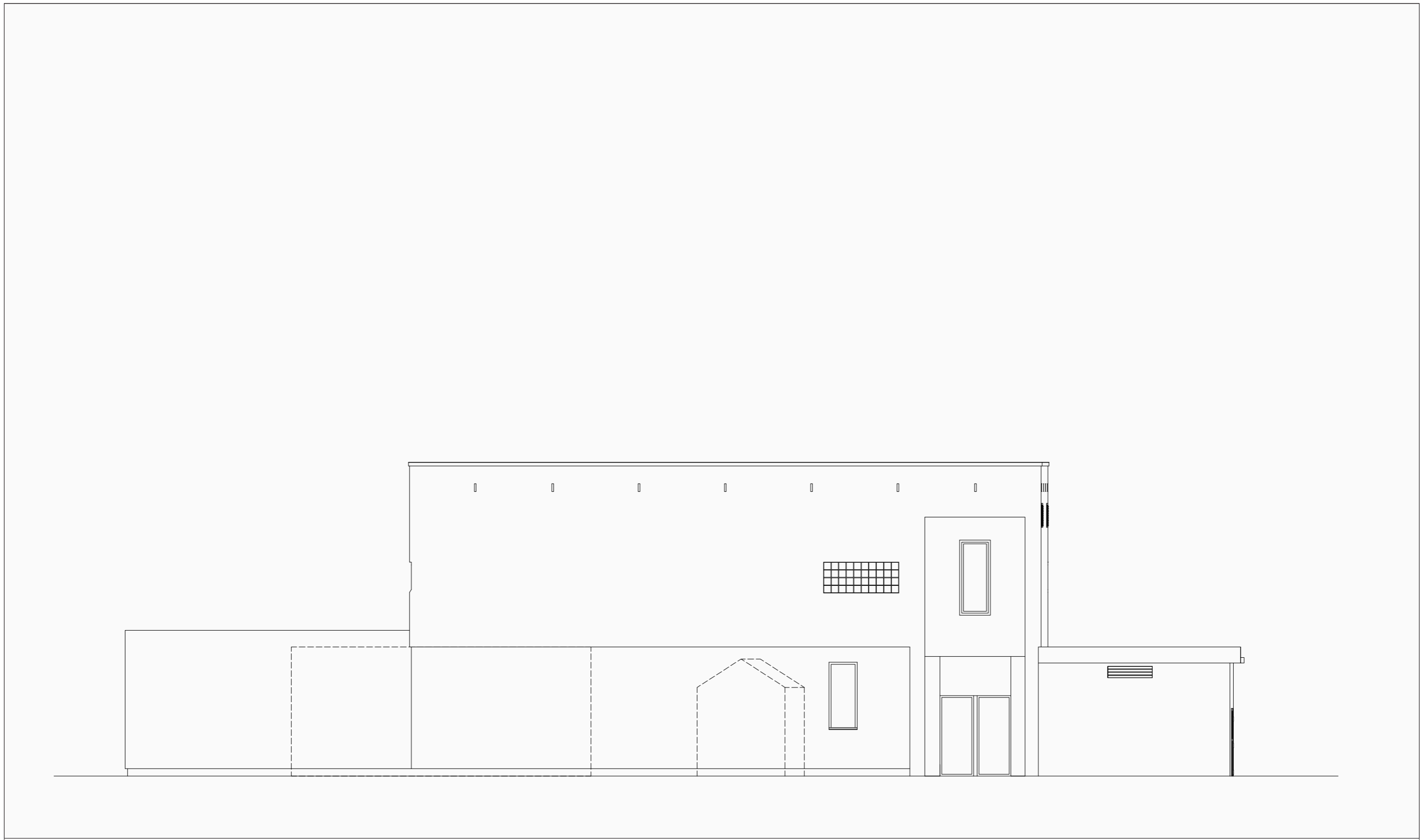
West facing facade

1:100 - A3



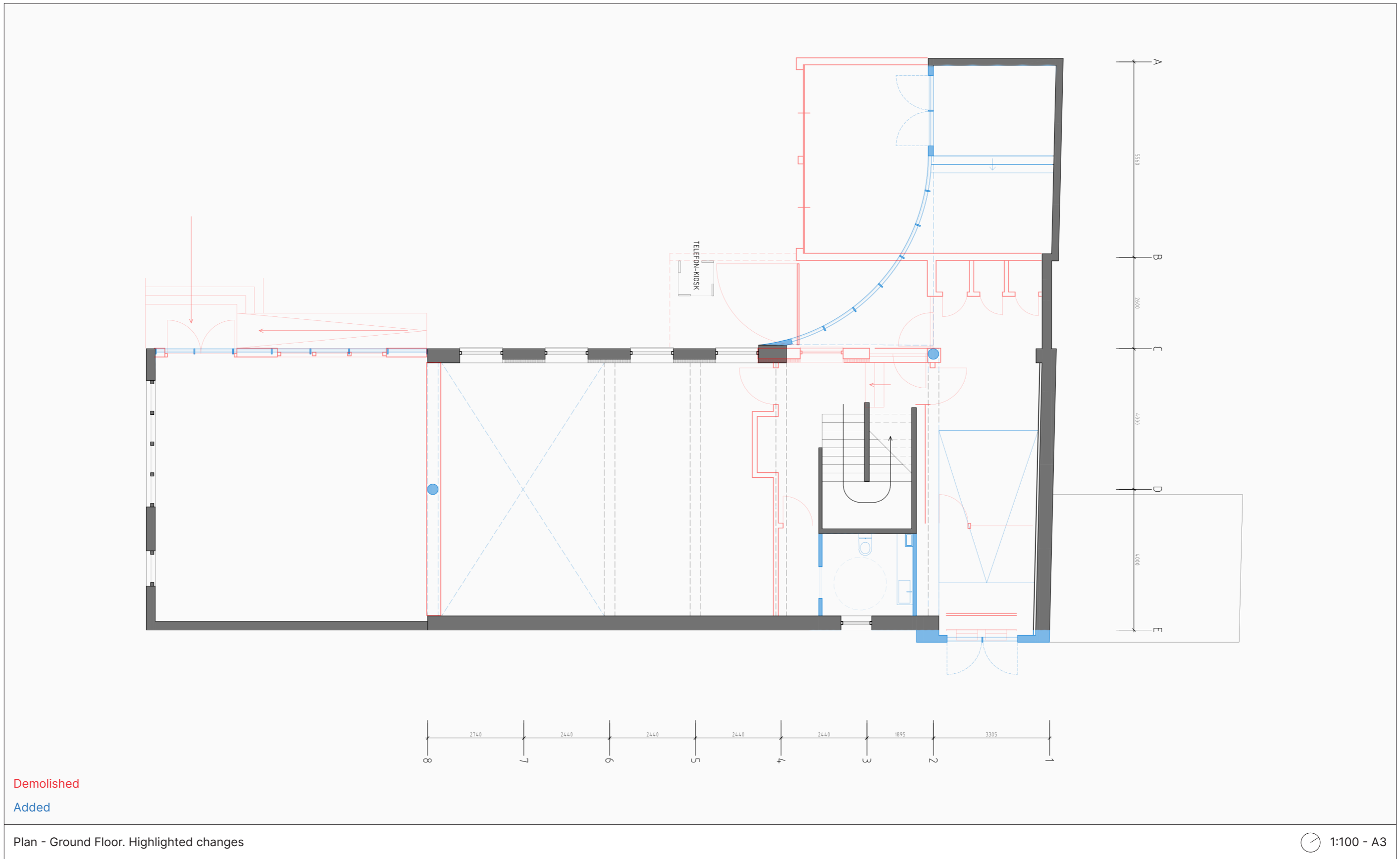
South facing facade

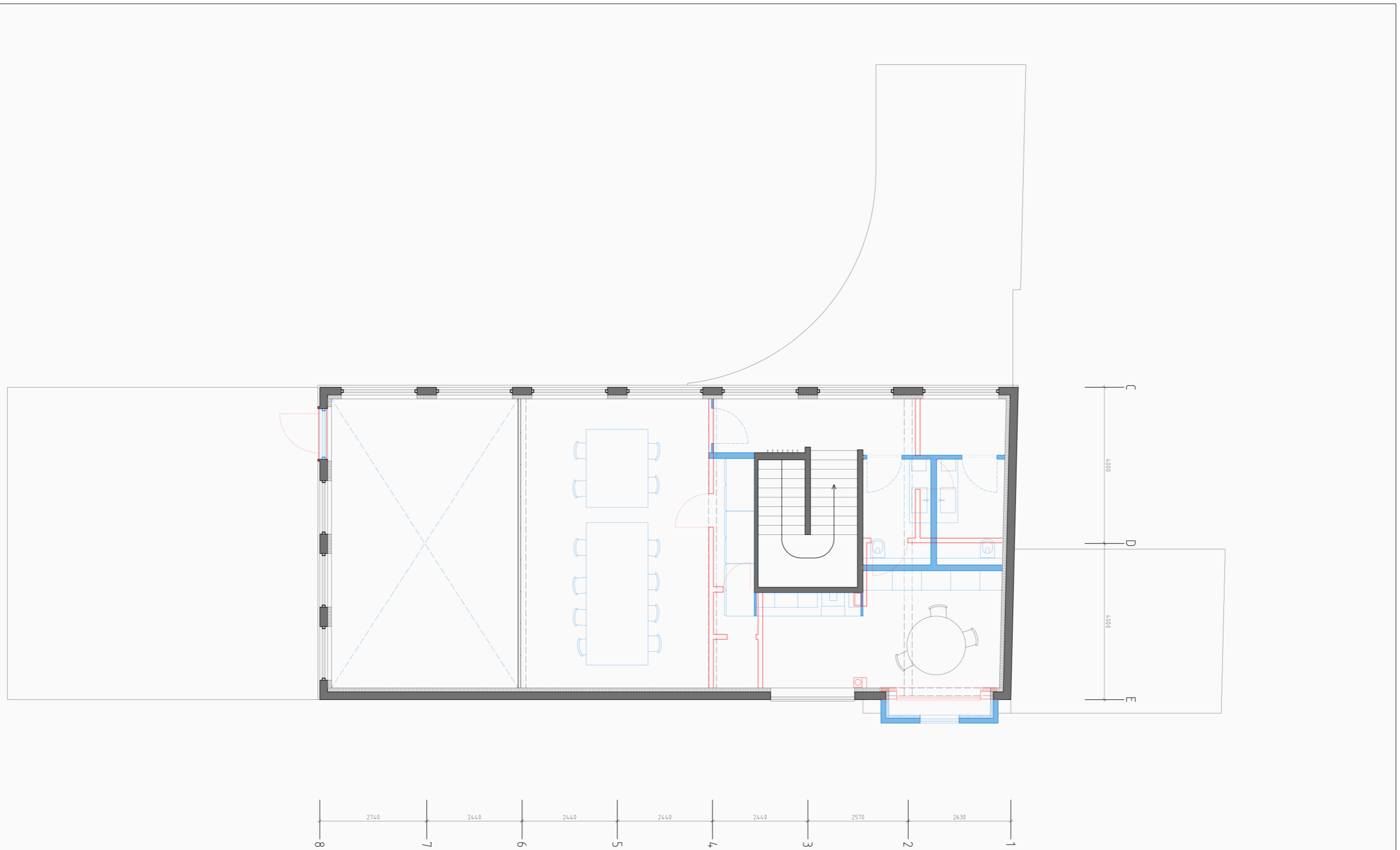
1:100 - A3



East facing facade

1:100 - A3



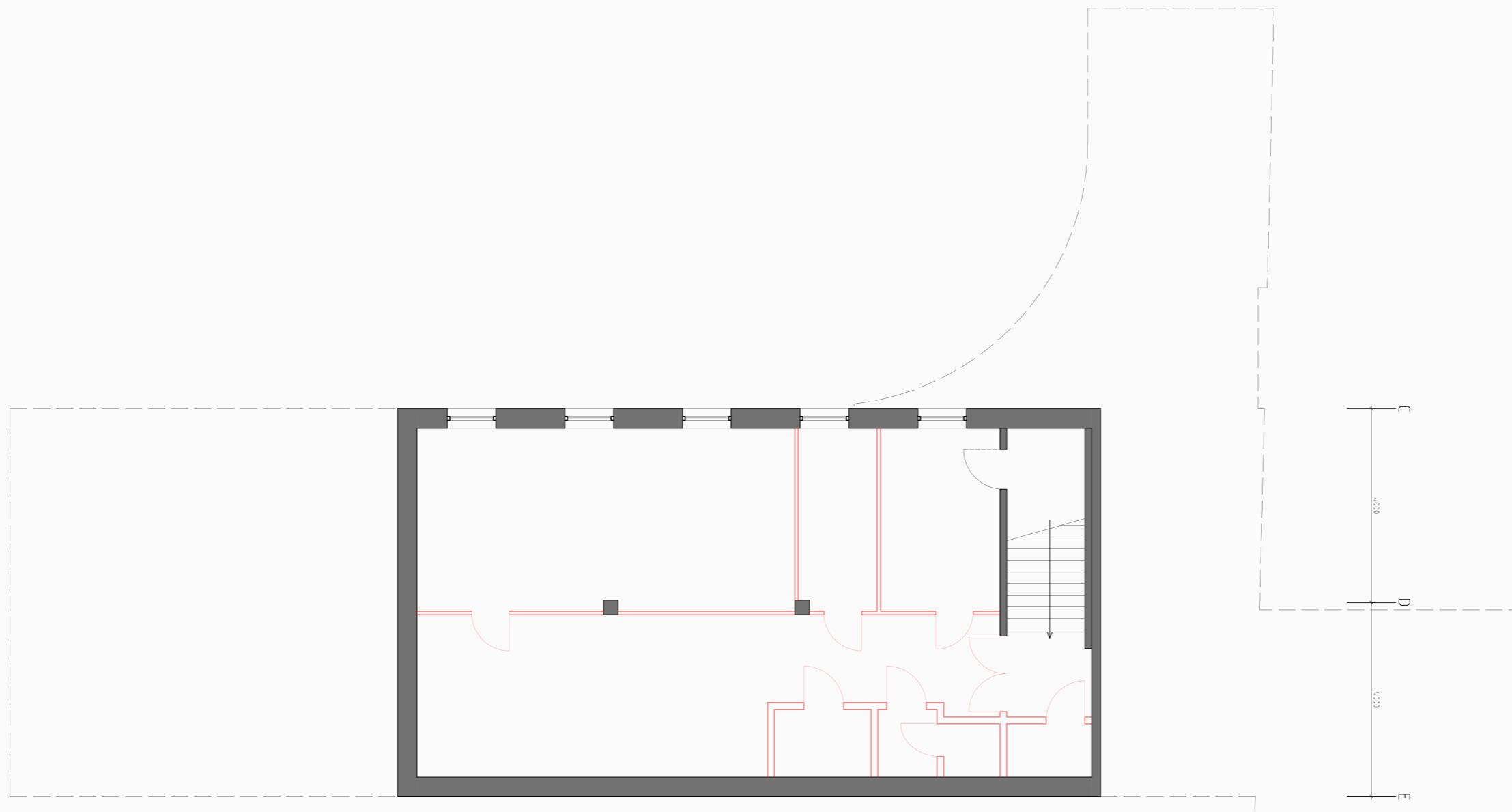


Demolished

Added

Plan - Second Floor. Highlighted changes

1:100 - A3



Demolished

Added

Plan - Basement. Highlighted changes

1:100 - A3



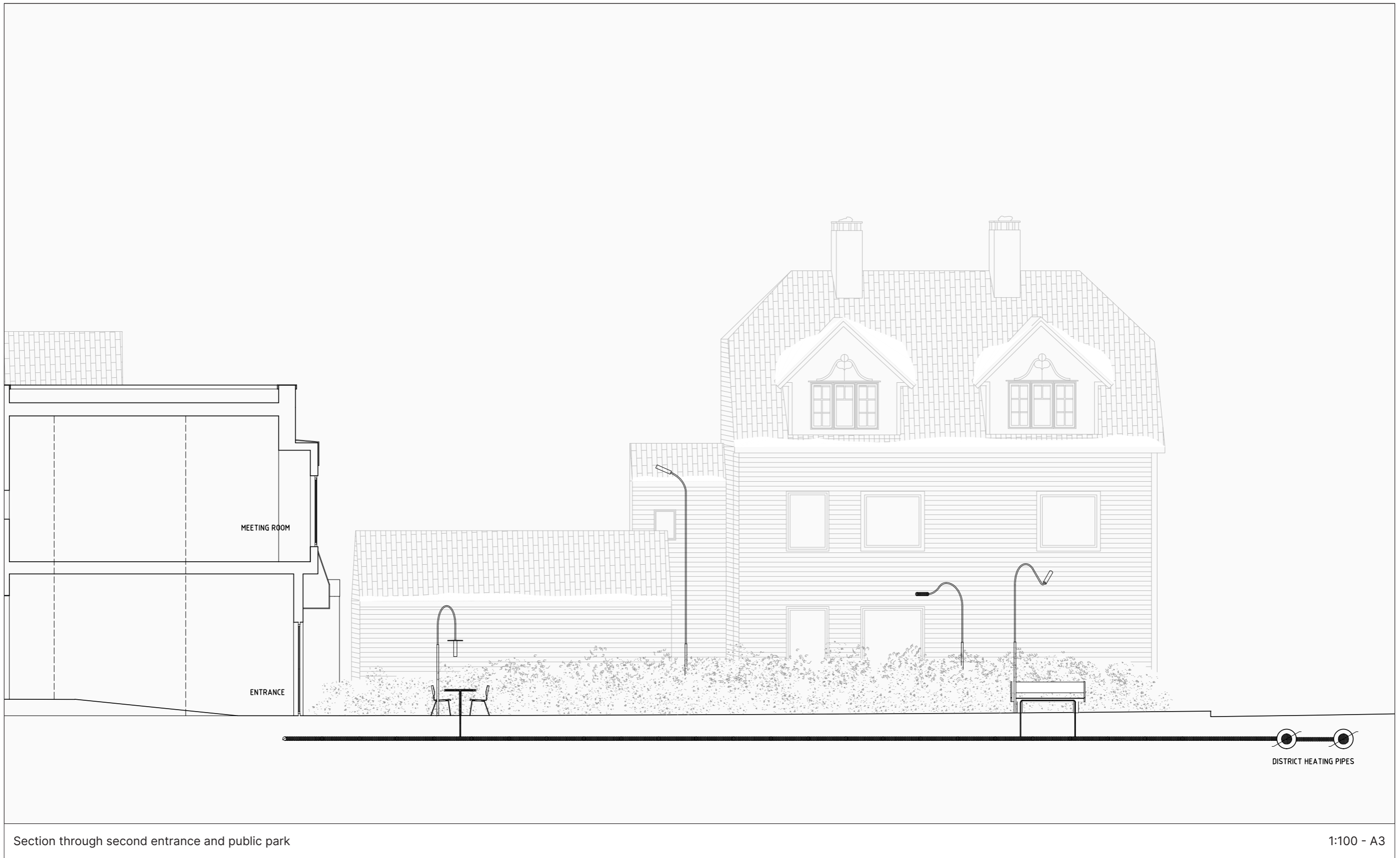


Interior - Gallery 'Spiegel'



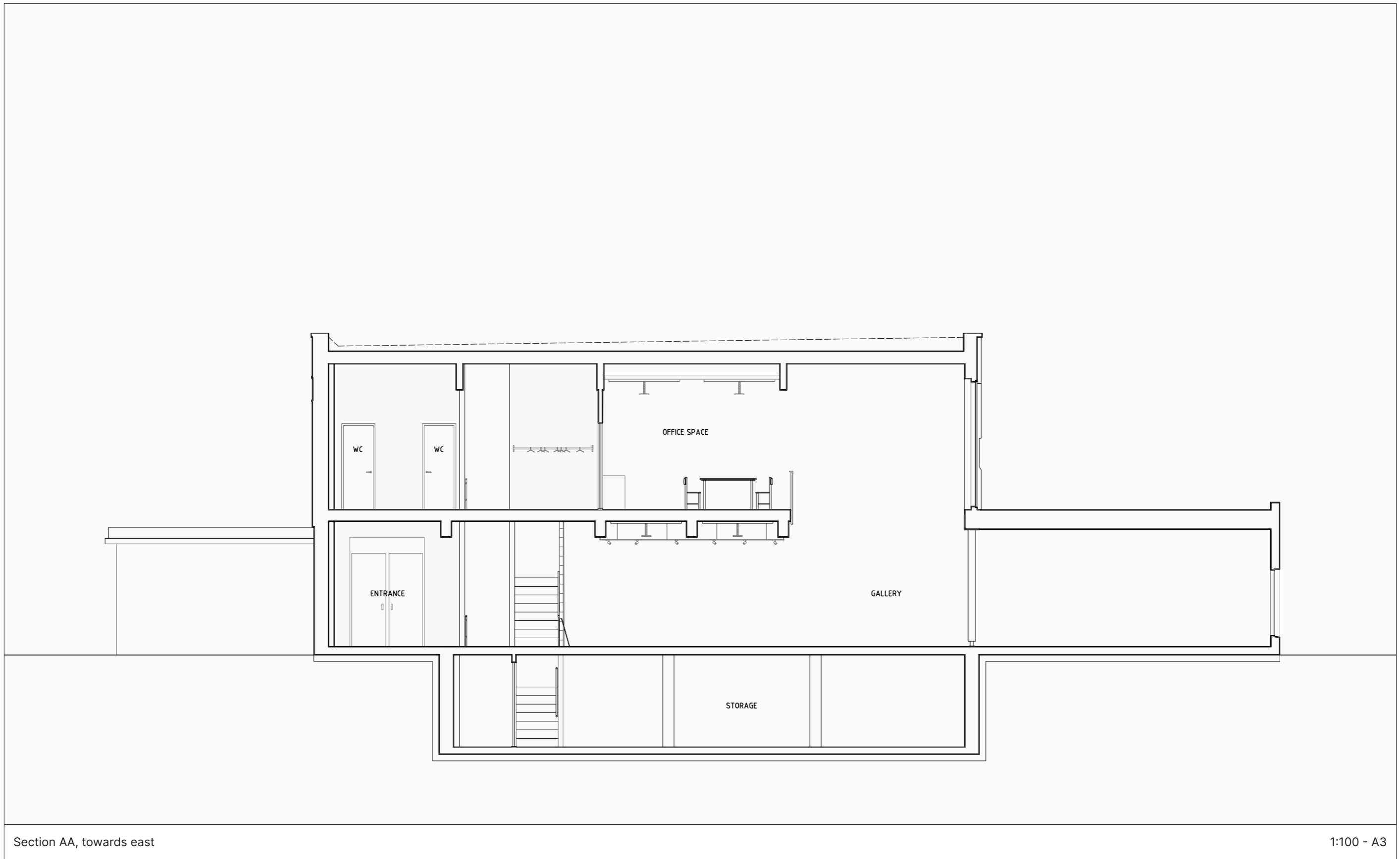
Sauda Sogelag - Objects for exhibition





Section through second entrance and public park

1:100 - A3



Section AA, towards east

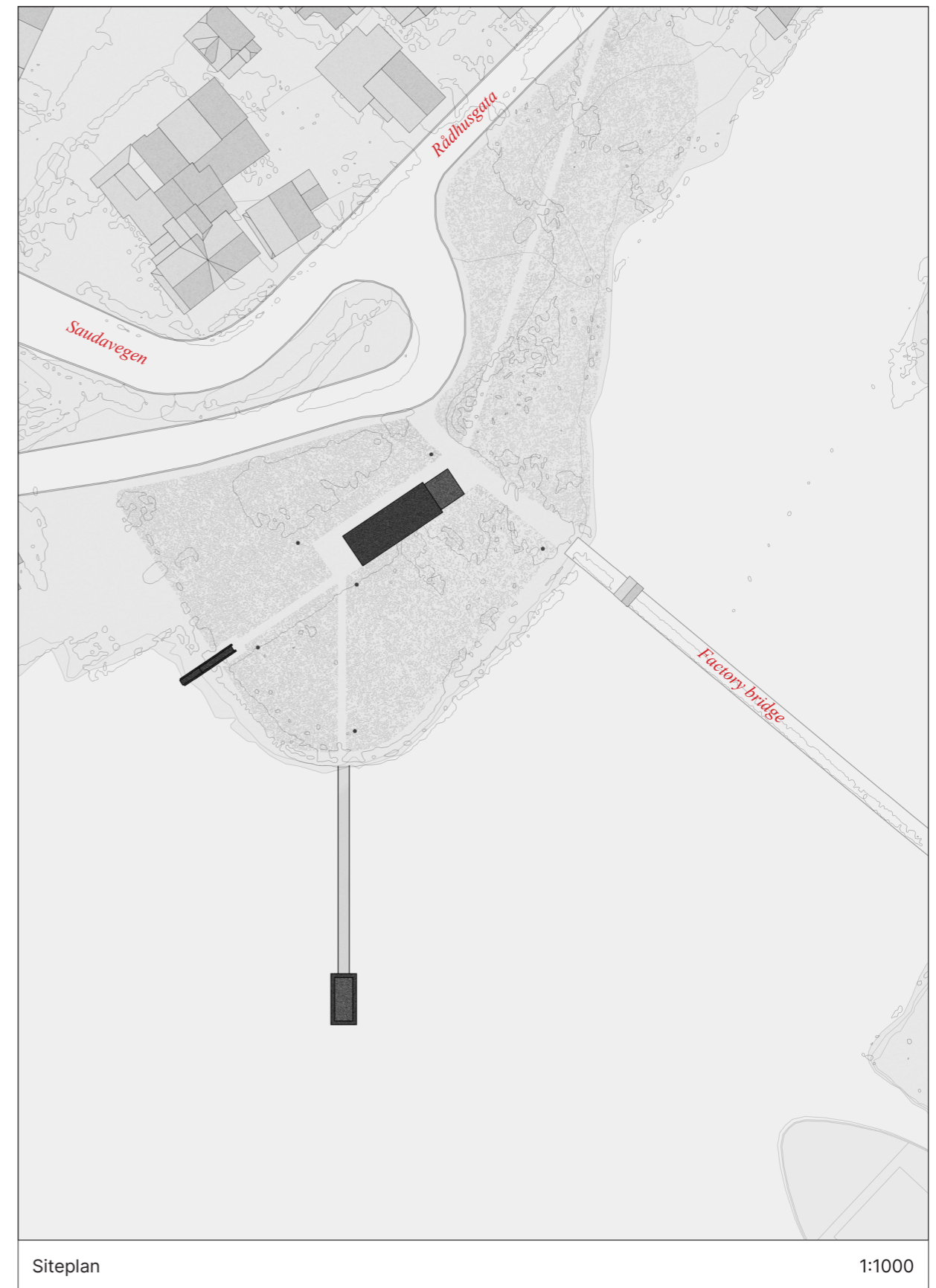
1:100 - A3

'BAR CALYPSO' - BAR AND PUBLIC PARK

The now downgraded Grand Hotell and its accompanying bar 'Bar Manila' lay at the end of Rådhusvegen. The Hotel gave name to the book 'Grand Manila' written by the Norwegian author Kjartan Fløgstad who was born and raised in Sauda. The book focuses heavily on a cast of characters, some local, some from overseas. Hotels in Sauda had the character of melting pots; where locals, factory workers and sailors from all over the world used to meet.

A bulk carrier with a crew of 26 sailors, hauling raw ferro-mangan, leaves Port Elizabeth at around 14:20 in the afternoon headed for Sauda, Norway. After a nearly one month long journey, the bulk carrier 'Cape Town Eagle' Arrives early through a foggy morning at the end of January. Its arrival sets in motion a large apparatus of crane operators, furnace operators, shovelmen, forklifts, excavators and engineers waiting at the factory docks. Its crew of 26 people are one of the few visitors Sauda gets this time of year and an important sign that the factory is still in operation. Meanwhile, the front doors are unlocked in the newly erected Sauna and Bar Calypso. Situated on the other side of a small bridge crossing the narrow river to the factory, the bar, serving locally brewed Grand Manila on tap and Stellenbosch wine, hopes to lure the crew of 26 sailors and local residents in for the evening.

The Bar, diving tower and sauna, marks both the end of Rådhusgata to the north but also the end of the Sauda fjord to the south. The buildings are designed as follies in a grass covered park. With direct access from the highway to the west and its closest neighbor, the factory to the east, the park and its services provide a place for relaxation and leisure for both workers, tourists and locals.



BAR CALYPSO

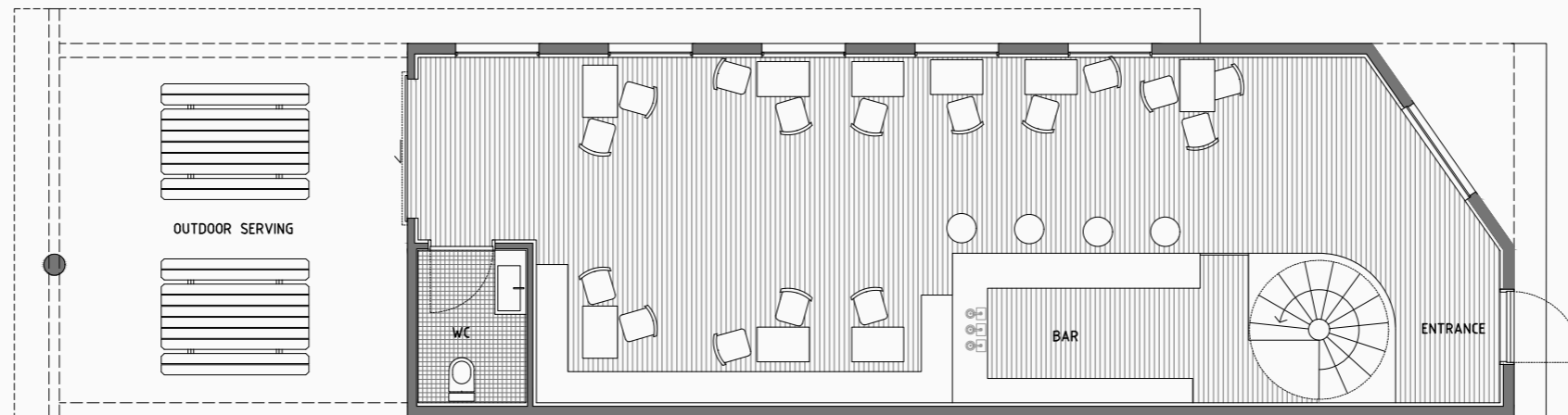
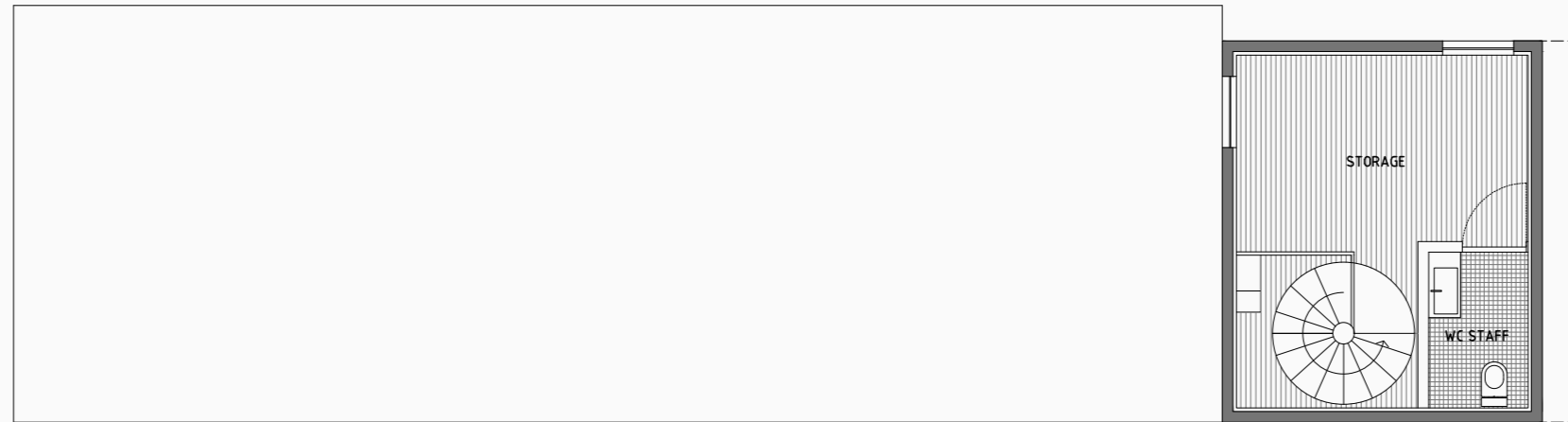
As the street of Rådhusgata ends and merges into Saudavegen going west, a dry heated desire path through a snow covered grass-field becomes visible. It continues the axis of Rådhusgata leading to the entrance of Bar Calypso.

The main entrance is placed to be visible from three important sightlines: Along the bridge from the factory crossing Storelva to the east, the end of Rådhusgata to the north and along Saudavegen to the west. Thus making it visible for dock-workers, pedestrians and car tourists.

Because of its important position in the city and the long sightlines, it requires a distinct silhouette and facade motif. A large lamp, like that of the anglerfish, illuminates the entrance door. The lamp silhouette can be seen From Both Saudavegen and the factory, indicating if the bar is open or closed. A Sign is placed along a closed facade facing the bulk carrier to the east, easily visible from round cabin windows.

During hot summer months, the bar can be opened towards the south with possibilities of outdoor seating. This emphasizes the park space between the diving tower and the sauna.





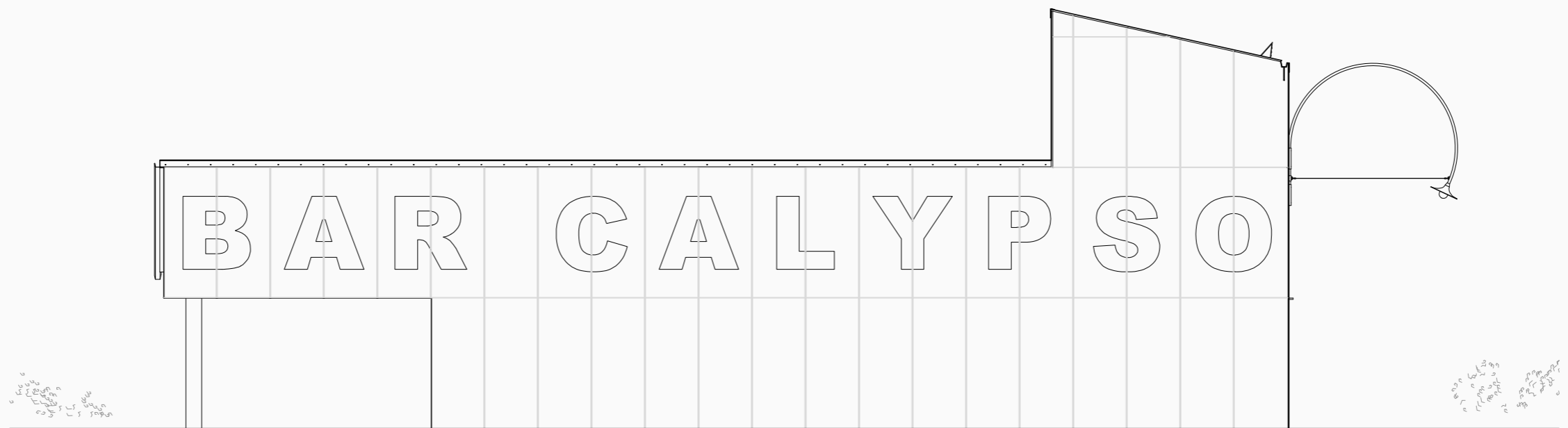
Bar Calypso - Ground floor plan and second floor plan

1:100 - A4



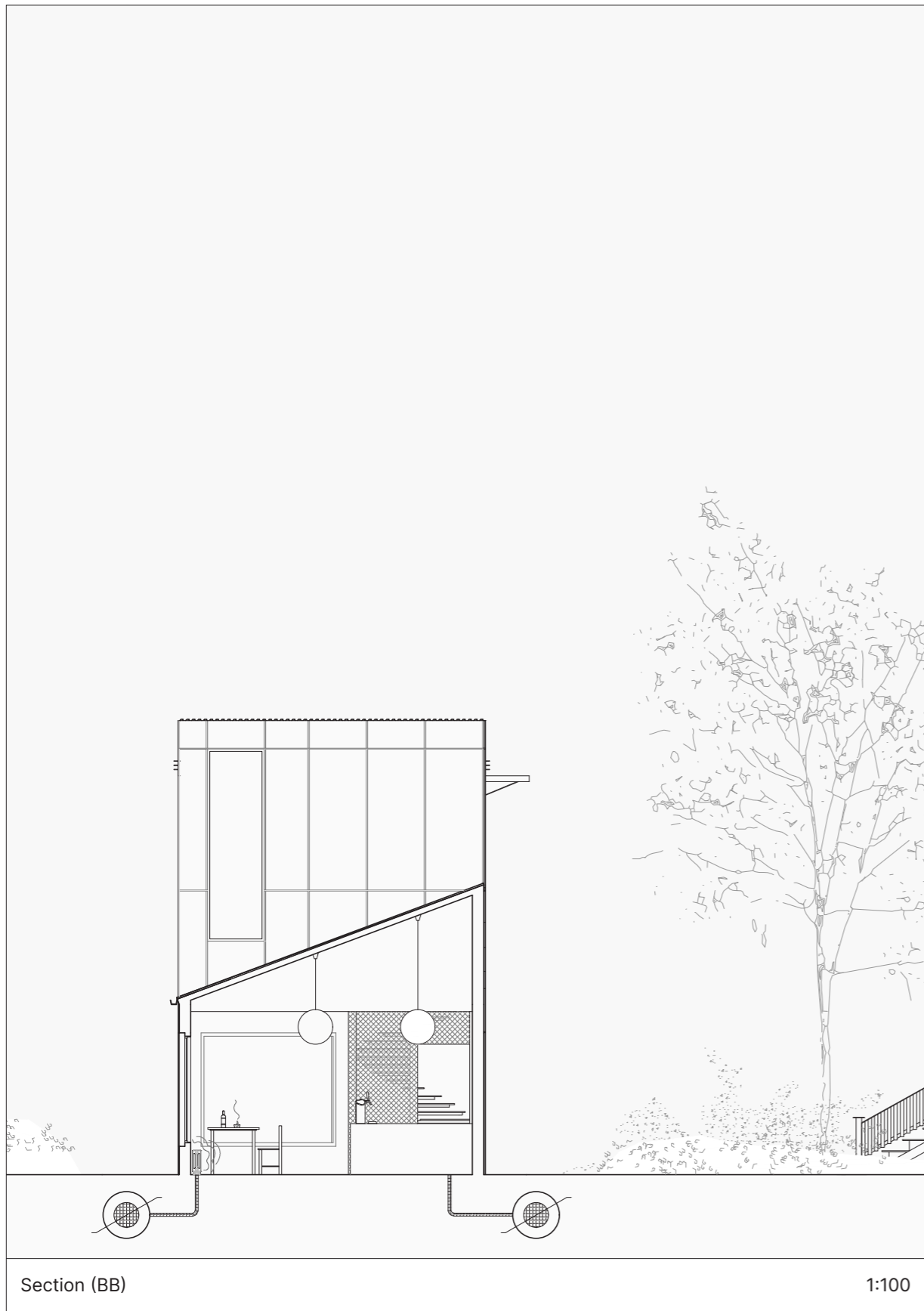
Bar Calypso - West facing facade & Section

1:100 - A4



Bar Calypso - East facing facade

1:100 - A4



Section (BB)

1:100



PARK

Diving Tower

The diving tower can be seen from a distance. Mimicking the cranes of the factory, the diving tower engages the park in a formal dialogue with the port. A lamp, visible through thick mist, is placed on top. A hole in the cladding makes room for a shower as well as enabling visitors to pass through it and walk the entire perimeter along the park edge.

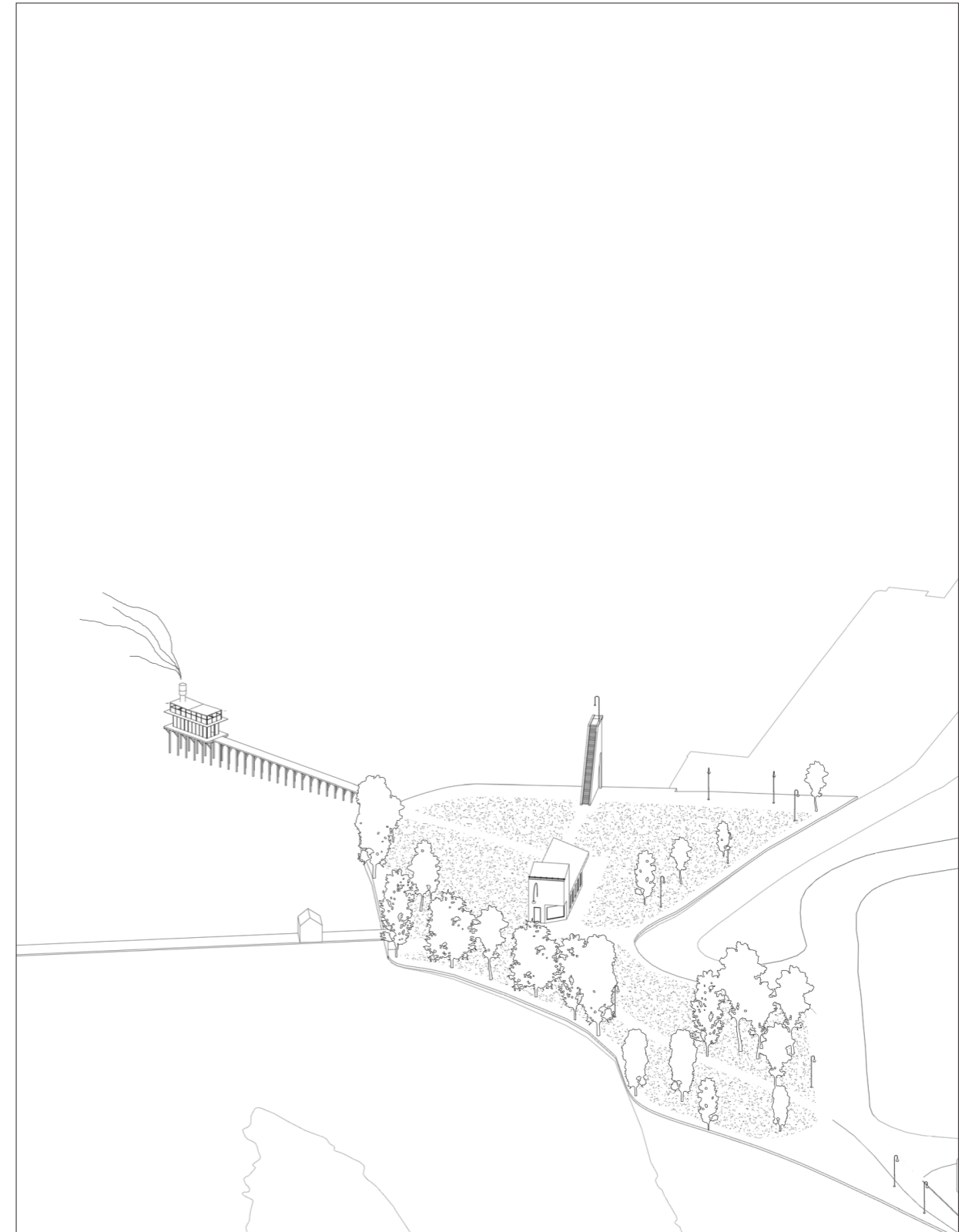
Sauna

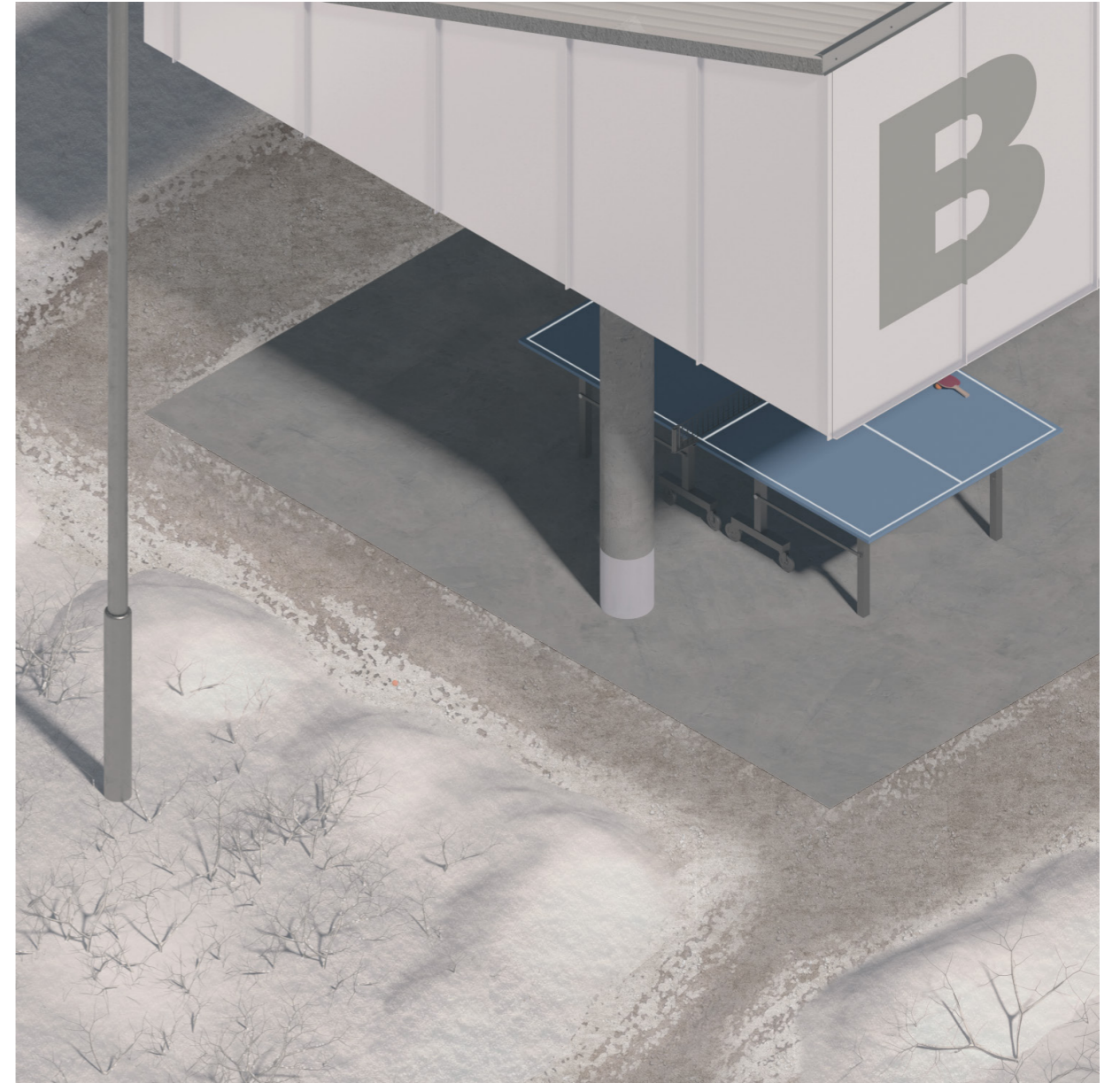
The Sauna extends outwards into the fjord. Its windows along the roof make it visible if it's vacant or occupied, much like the lamp on Bar Calypso. It is heated by district heating pipes that are made visible underneath the pier.

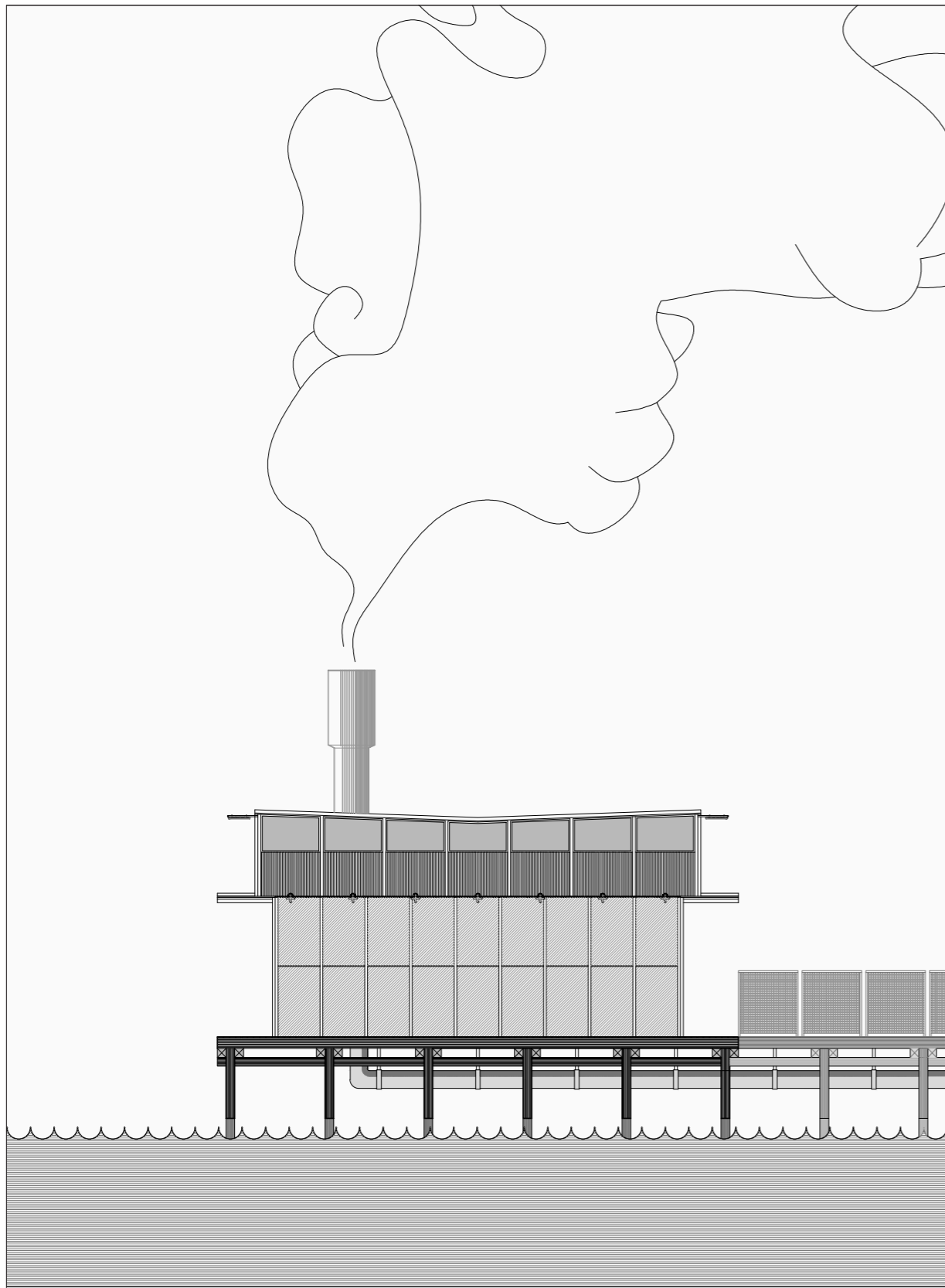
Surface

The park's surface is flat as it is situated on a manmade extension of cast concrete that extends beyond the old fjordline. Old already broken asphalt is removed and replaced with grass. This flat grass surface is ideal for improvised play during hot summers in between bathing sessions.

During winter, the park changes character. Axes reveal themselves in the snow through a careful placement of district heating pipes that lead you along. Providing a dry pier by the Sauna and a continuation of Rådhusgata leading to the bar entrance. The heated path serves as a continuation of the old church road which went from the dock and up along Rådhusgata.

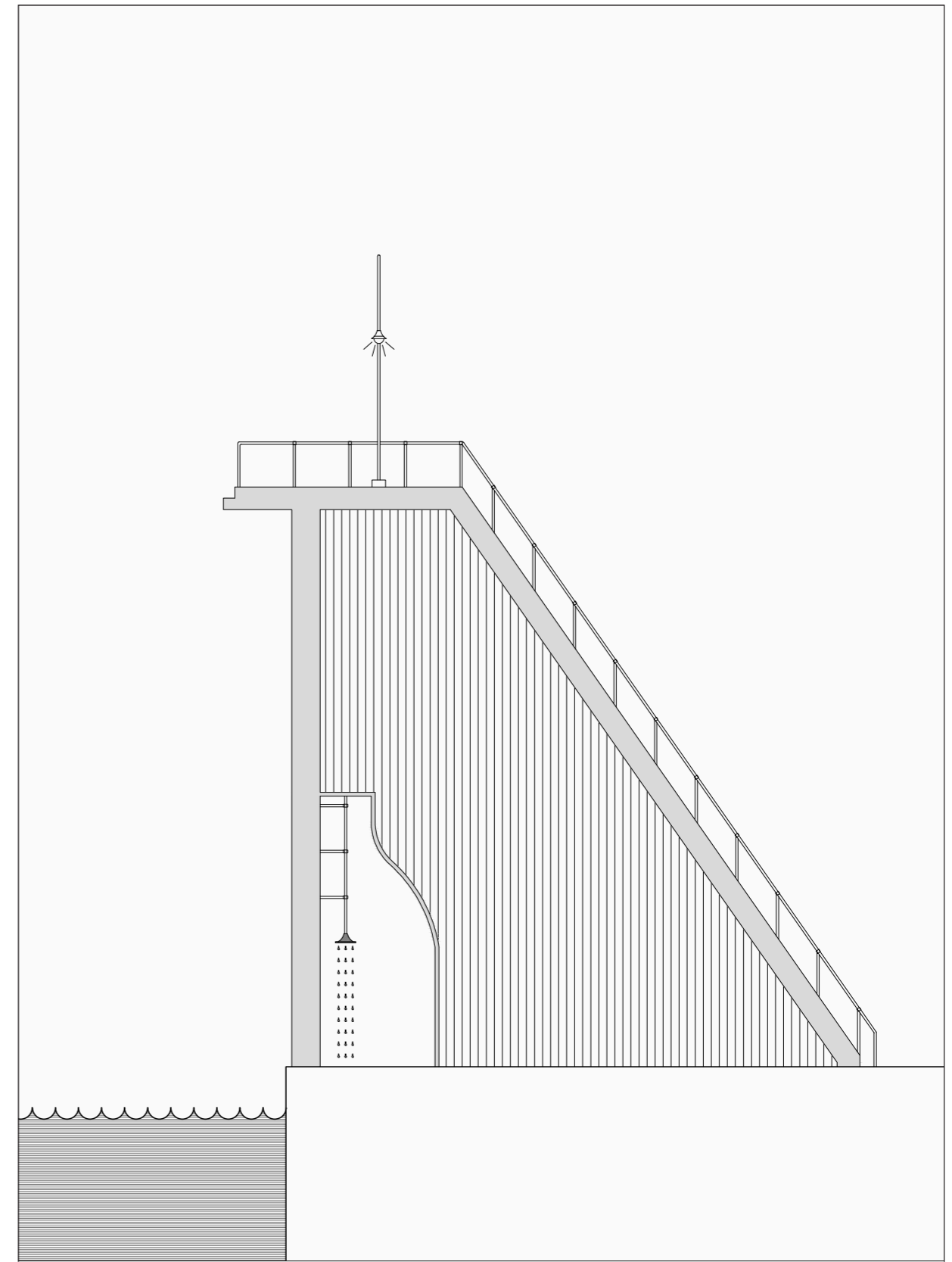






Sauna - East facing facade

1:100



Diving tower - South-East facing facade

1:100

