

PORTFOLIO

Jacob Bley Griffiths

2024

JACOB BLEY GRIFFITHS

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Rights to work: dual British and EU citizen
Languages: English (native), Italian (intermediate)

Education

Politecnico di Milano (2021-24)
Laurea Magistrale in Architecture and Urban Design
Graduation grade: 110/110
University of Bath (2015-19)
BSc (Hons) Architecture
University of Bath (2013-14)
BSc (Hons) Computer Science - first year
University College School, London (2006-13)
A-Levels: Mathematics: A*, Physics: A, Fine Art: A

Software Skills

Sketchup, Vray, Vectorworks, Photoshop, InDesign, Illustrator, Rhino, Grasshopper, AutoCAD

Employment

Yabsley Stevens Architects

Architectural Assistant
2019-21, 2023-24

- Gained wide-ranging experience with projects at various stages of design, developing a broad skillset and stepping up to take on greater responsibilities within the team.
- Played a central role in taking a new-build house through the technical design phase, and later returned to oversee it on site. Responsible for developing details; liaising with consultants; coordinating technical information; briefing other staff; and preparing graphics and documents to discuss the design progress and options with the clients.
- Involved with a further new-build house at the concept

design stage, assisting with development of the massing; concept design; presentation documents; client meetings; and preparation of the pre-application document.

- Assisted with developing the interior concept and technical design of a home extension project that was under construction.

Work Placement

April-September 2017; February-September 2018

- Deeply involved with three residential projects through briefing and concept design, including massing and concept design for a new-build house.
- Returned after a semester at university to take one of the projects, a home extension, through technical design. Oversaw it on site through to completion – responsible for coordinating with consultants, suppliers and the contractor, while continuing to develop the interior through discussions with the client.

Robert Dye Architects

Assistant *Summers 2014-16*

- Attended design meetings and assisted the team by making architectural models to explore each iteration.
- Worked on planning application drawings; created a library of in-house typical joinery details.

Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios

Internship *January 2015*: Assisted in the model making workshop and worked on designs in Sketchup.

Prizes & Achievements

2013 Phaidon Prize for Art
Sony World Photography Awards 2011, Commended
Grade 7 with Merit in Cello, Grade 6 in Piano

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Cover image:
Palmehuset, Københavns Universitets Botanisk Have
Photographed 2017



FORO

A cultural centre and student accommodation project based around a shared courtyard

Year: 2023

Type: Group Project

Location: Milan, Italy

Contribution: played a key role in the design, managed the 3D model, and created the renders, drawings and diagrams in this portfolio.

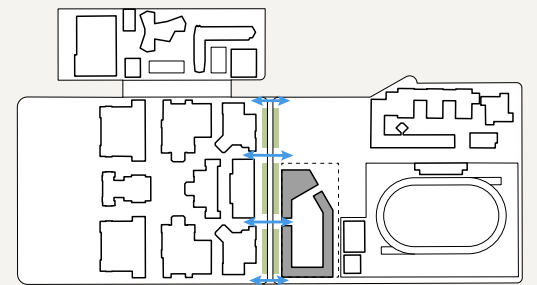
A cultural hub for Citta Studi, the design is motivated by the idea of creating a place where students can integrate with the residents of the surrounding areas.

The development involves a courtyard overlooked by two buildings: a student residence, taking advantage of the strategic position next to the Politecnico di Milano campus, and a Cultural Centre, which includes an auditorium, exhibition space, coworking spaces, and studios. The courtyard acts as a shared space, bringing the various users together.

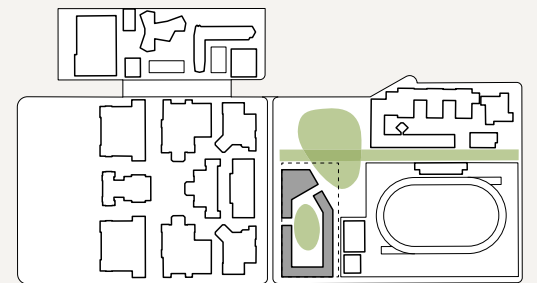
Public realm works are also included, to make the block more pedestrian-friendly and unite the two parts of the campus.

Perspective Section of the Cultural Centre

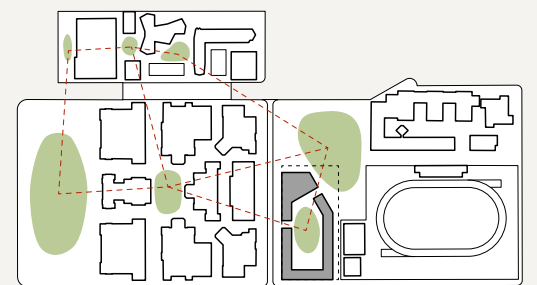
- 1 Bar with Roof Terrace
- 2 600-seat Auditorium
- 3 Quiet Workspace
- 4 Lobby Area
- 5 Climbing Centre
- 6 Changing Room
- 7 Reception Area / Flexible Workspace
- 8 Cloakroom
- 9 Food Court
- 10 Storage
- 11 WC
- 12 MEP Utilities



Pedestrianisation and public realm works along via Ponzio, to create continuity between the distinct parts of the campus.

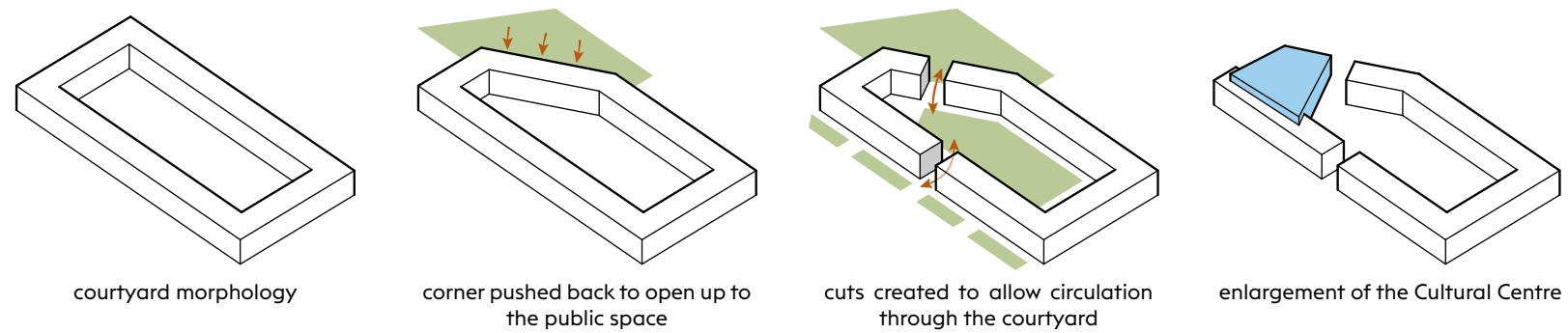


The building engages with the public space to the north, while defining another semi-public space within.

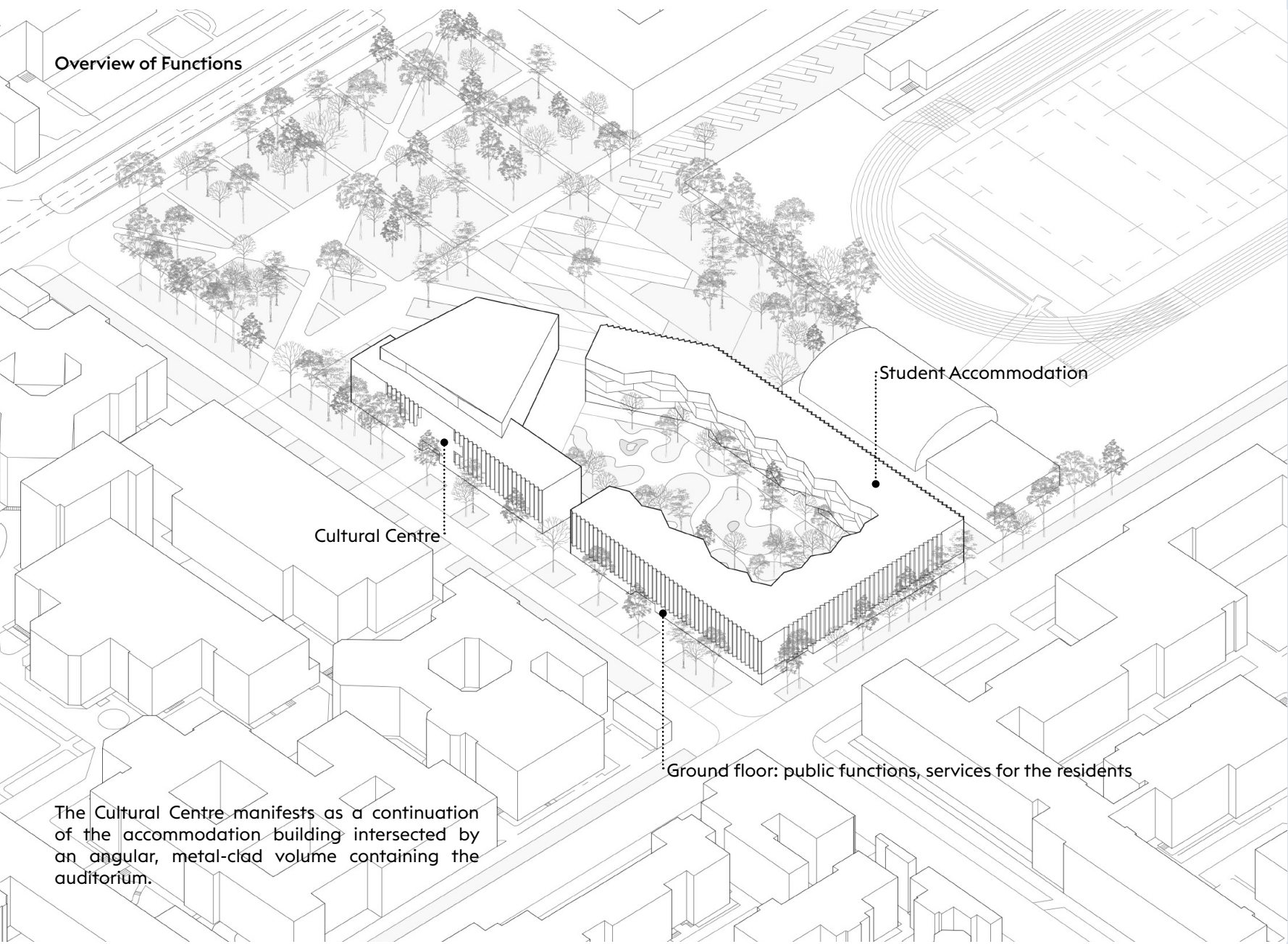


These new spaces join the existing network of public and semi-public spaces, each with a different purpose and character.

Evolution of the Building Form



Overview of Functions



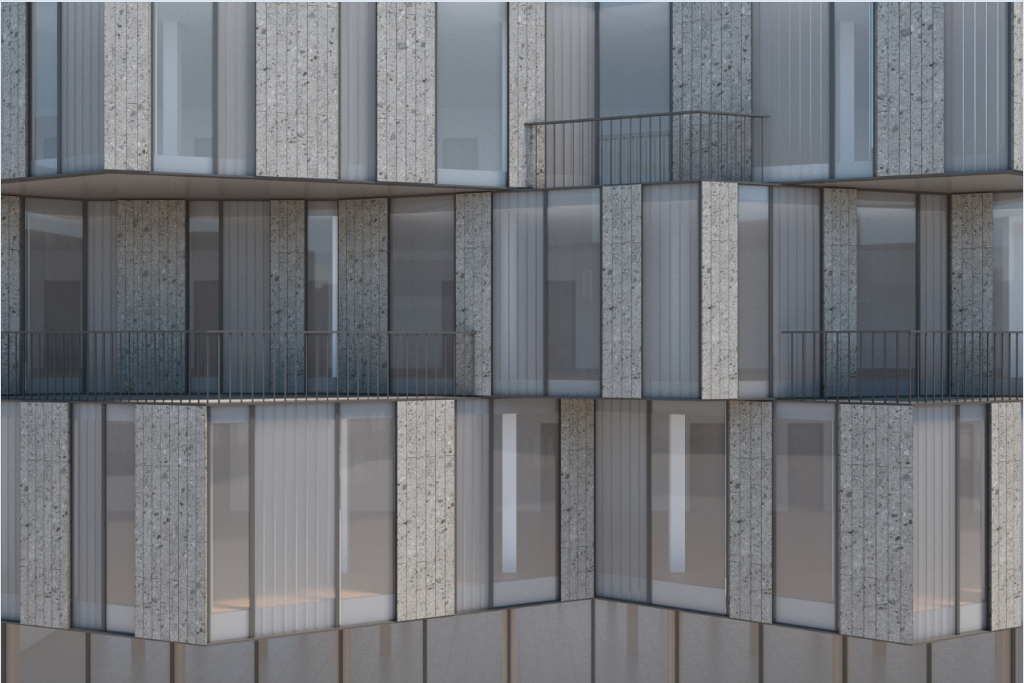
The Cultural Centre manifests as a continuation of the accommodation building intersected by an angular, metal-clad volume containing the auditorium.

Treatment of the Façades

The elevations create a distinction between the public realm on the outside and the semi-private space of the courtyard.

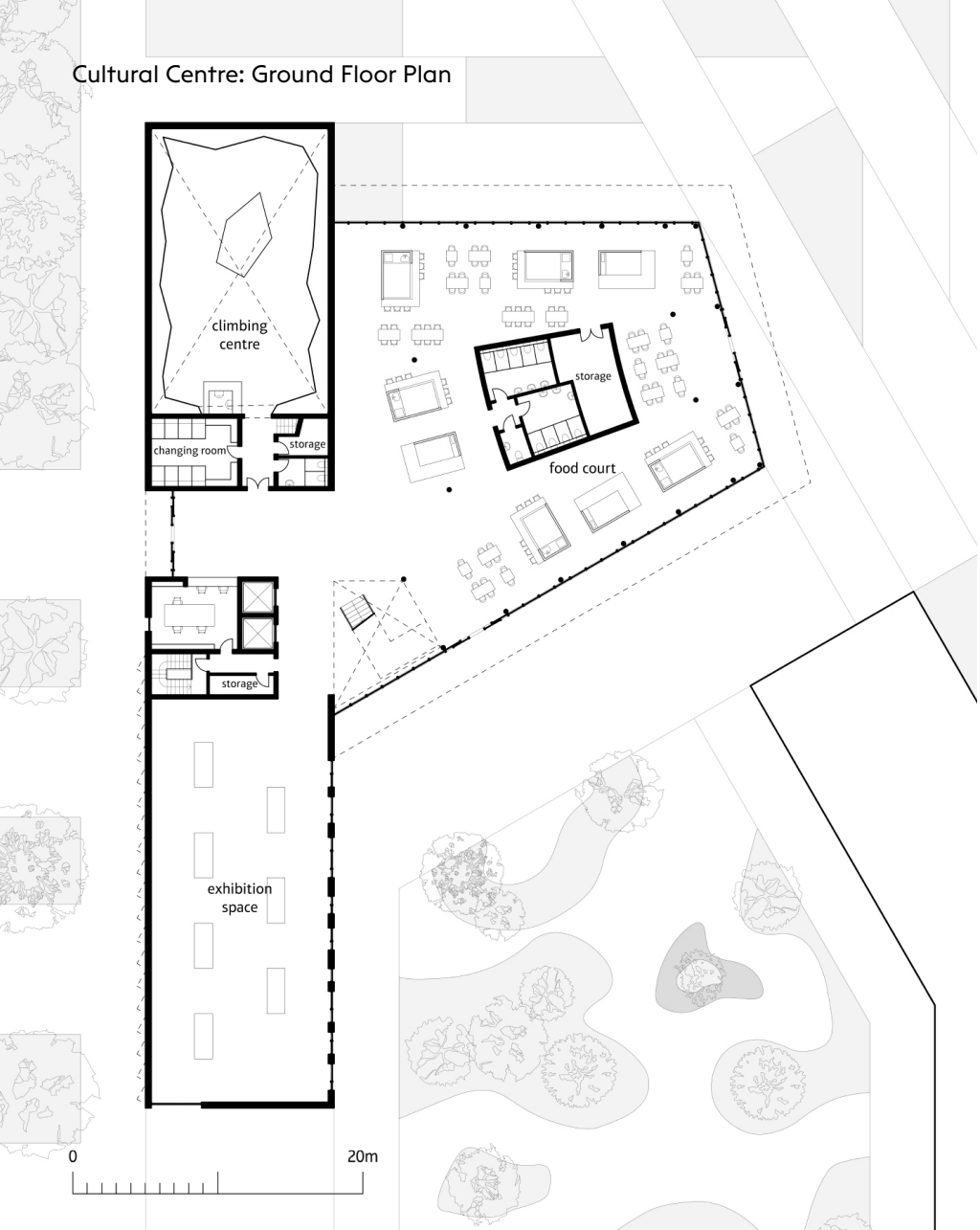


The outer façades are clean and regular, defining its presence on the corner of the block. The windows are angled toward the north, to prevent excess solar gain.

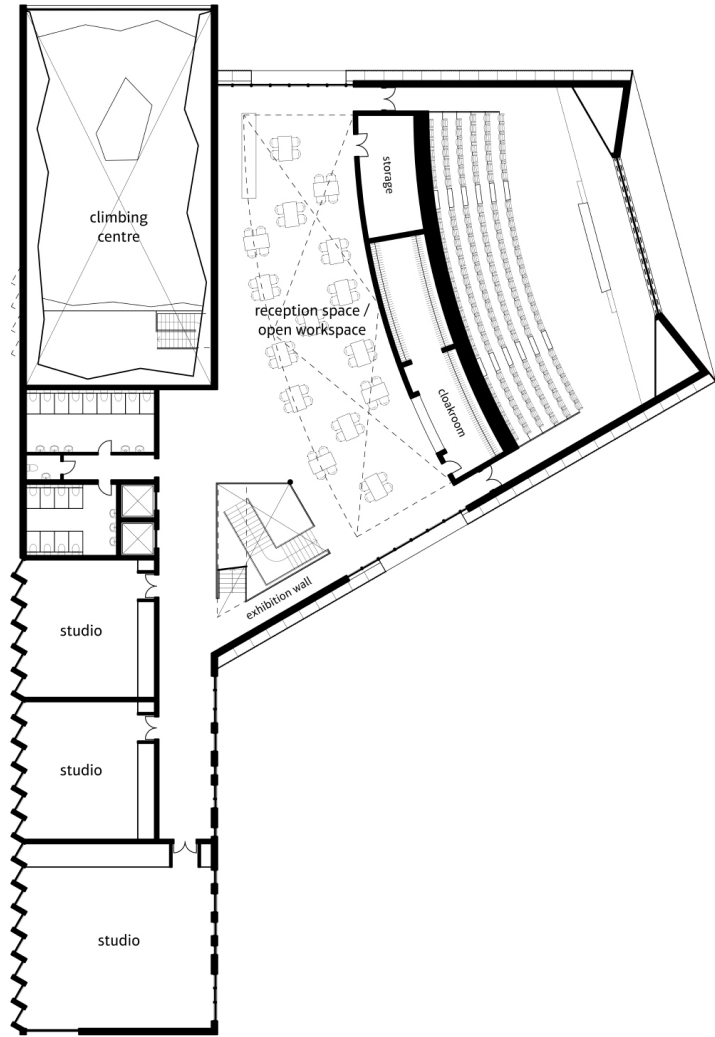


The courtyard façades feature a dynamic, angular geometry, weaving in and out to create balconies connected to the communal spaces.

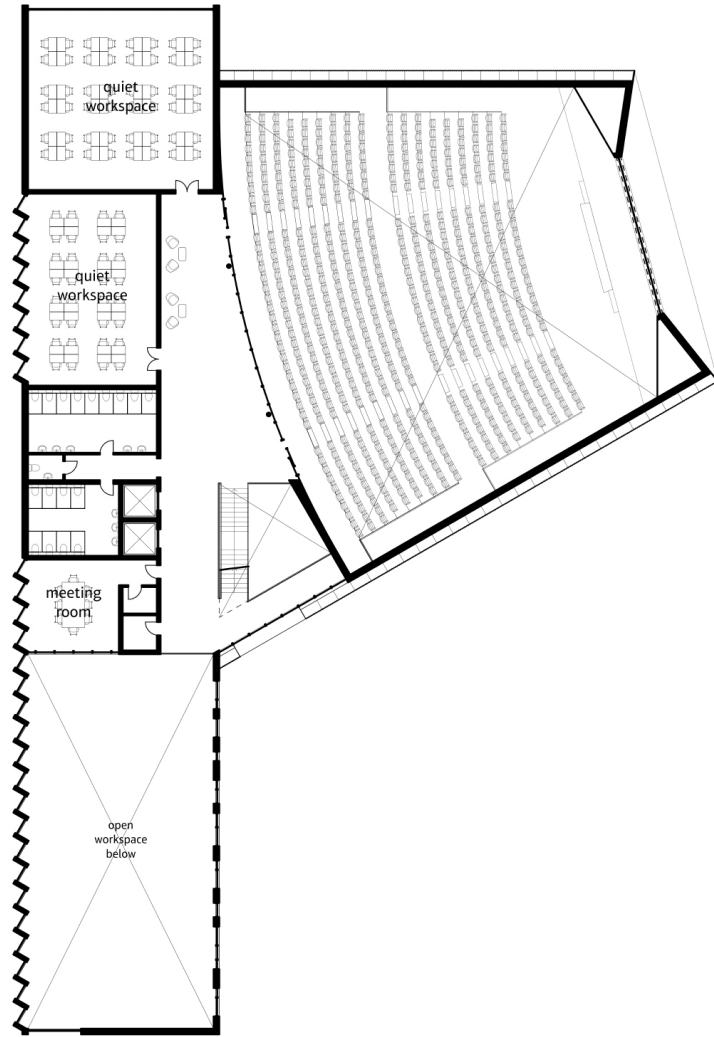
Cultural Centre: Ground Floor Plan



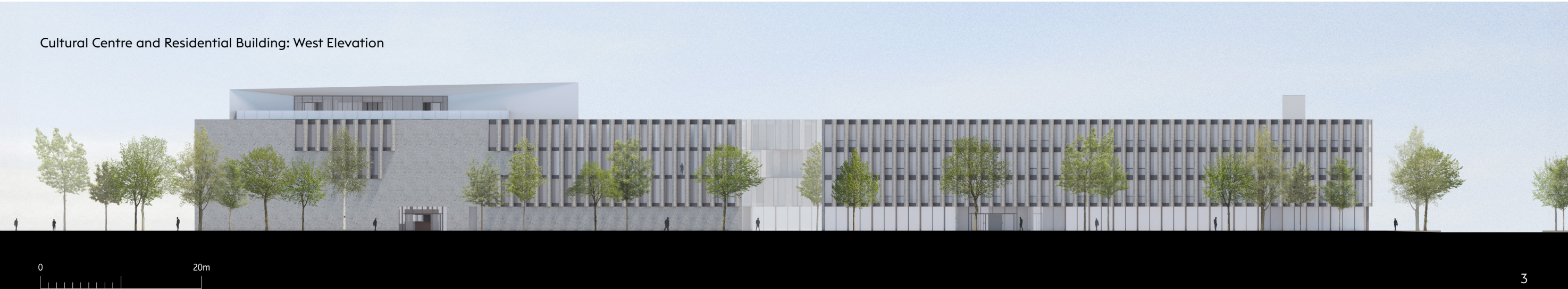
First Floor Plan



Third Floor Plan



Cultural Centre and Residential Building: West Elevation





View of the flexible workspace under the auditorium, also usable as a reception space before and after events



View of the exhibition space on the ground floor



REPOSE

A building for contemplation through activity

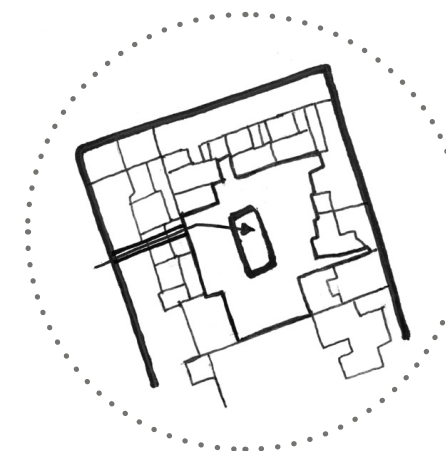
Year: 2019

Type: Individual Final Project

Location: Bath, UK

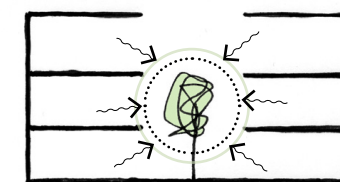
Set in the heart of the city, the building provides space for activities that are conducive to contemplation, and which induce a calm state of mind in the visitor.

Studios are provided for various activities including glass-blowing, pottery and yoga.



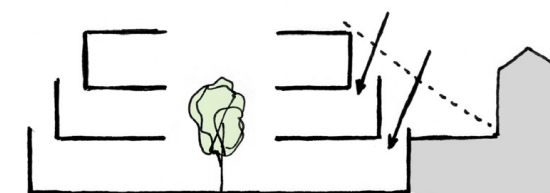
Order within chaos

The backs of the surrounding buildings are disordered in their form. The proposal creates a calm and ordered space within, centered around a three-storey atrium.



An introspective building

The principal spaces primarily address the atrium, which is also experienced by all visitors as they circulate around the building. In this way, the atrium brings unity to the activities within.



Opportunity from constraints

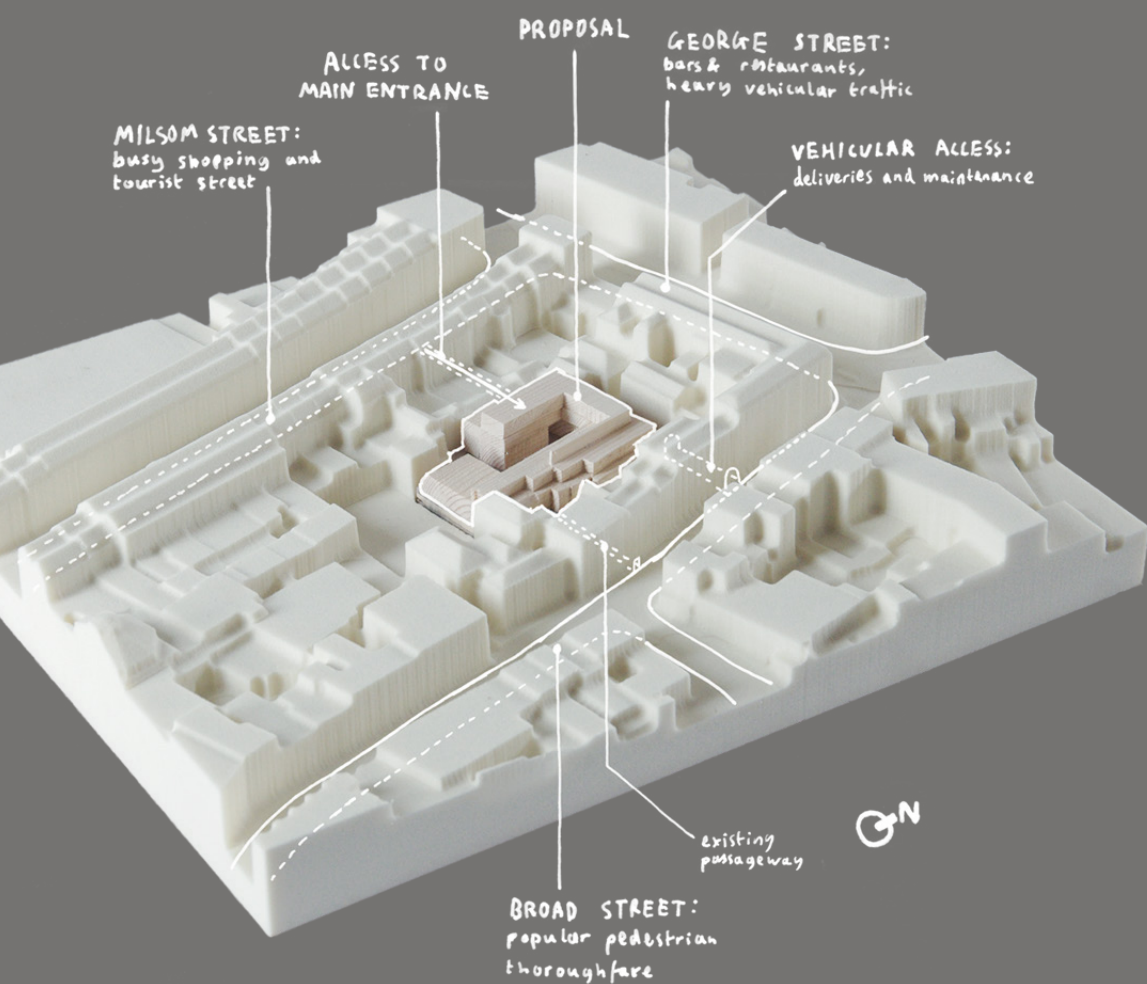
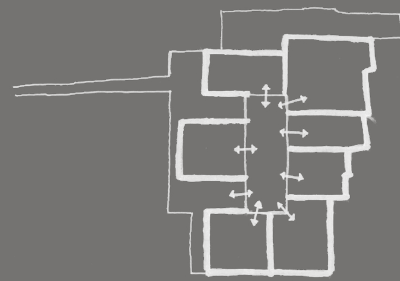
The building steps back between every level, to allow for sky-lighting, and to avoid overshadowing the neighbours.

Site and Context

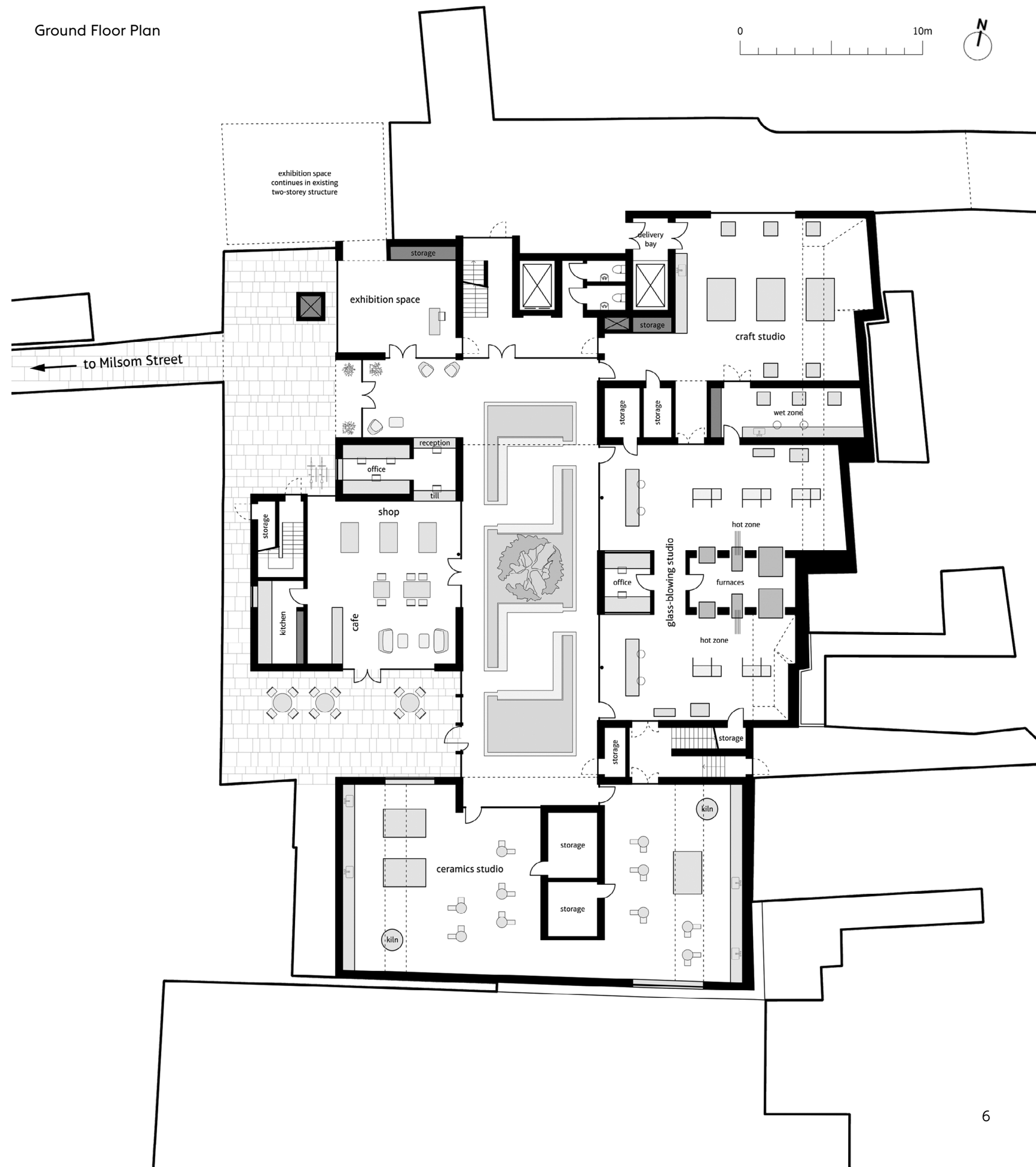
The surrounding buildings protect the site from the hustle and bustle of central Bath, granting it a sense of calm seclusion.

With no street frontage, it is addressed only by the backs of these surrounding buildings.

The main access to the proposed building is via the passageway from Milsom Street, which is lined with small businesses such as craft shops and beauty salons.



Ground Floor Plan



Short Section

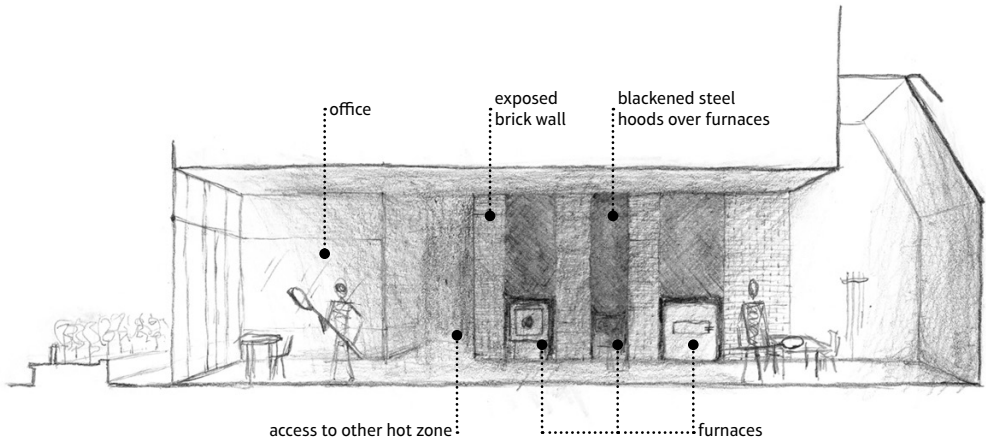
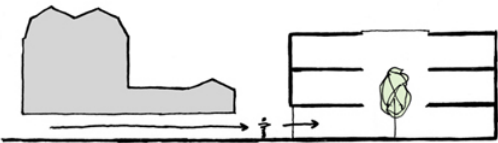
- 1 Reading Room
- 2 Atrium
- 3 Upper Roof Garden
- 4 Yoga Studio 1
- 5 Yoga Studio 2
- 6 Cafe
- 7 Glass-Blowing Studio
- 8 Fire Escape Stair



The main Yoga studio, also suitable for Tai Chi, Capoeira and similar physical activities. A major grid of concrete and a minor grid of white-stained timber fins softens the light and adds privacy.

A moment under the sky

After passing through the passageway, visitors cross a transitional courtyard.



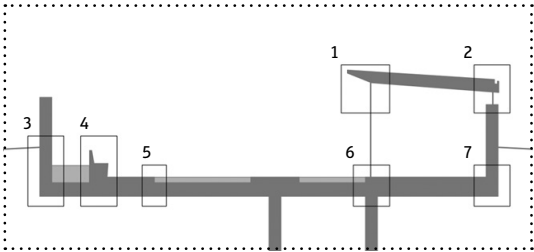
The glass-blowing studio

A slightly darker space, bringing focus to the glow of the molten glass.

Detailed Design



A roof garden at first floor level, with seating areas broken up by areas of planting.



An internal contemplation space looks over the garden - a way of connecting with it in the winter

A | Green roof buildup

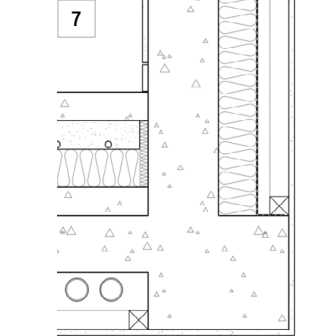
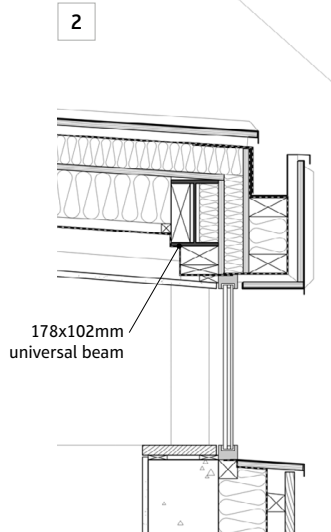
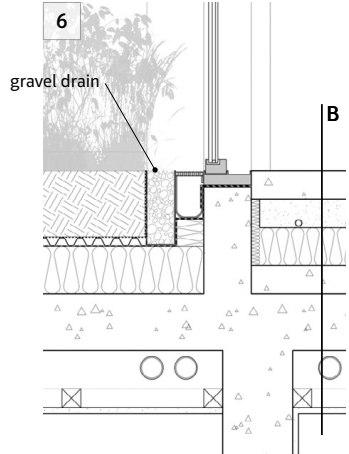
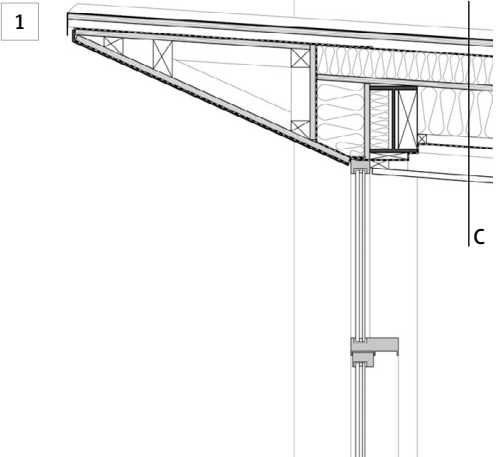
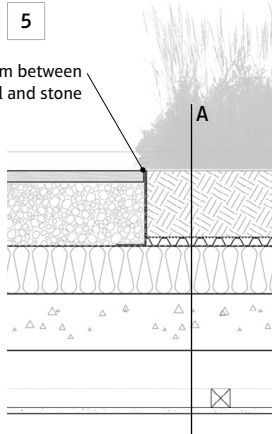
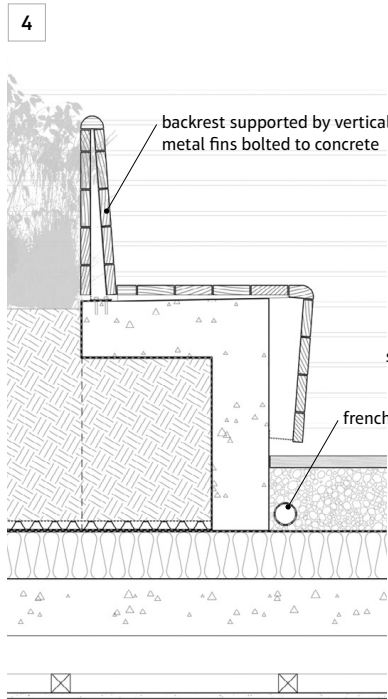
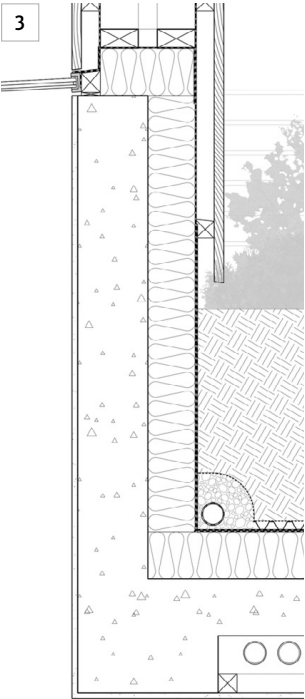
- 275mm growing medium
- filter layer
- drainage and storage membrane
- root barrier
- liquid-applied waterproofing coat
- 125mm rigid foam insulation
- 150mm reinforced concrete with 150mm structural downstands
- 15mm plasterboard ceiling

B | General floor buildup

- 75mm concrete finish
- 75mm screed with UFH pipes
- 100mm rigid foam insulation
- 75mm concrete
- 150mm reinforced concrete with 150mm structural downstands
- 15mm plasterboard ceiling

C | Zinc roof buildup

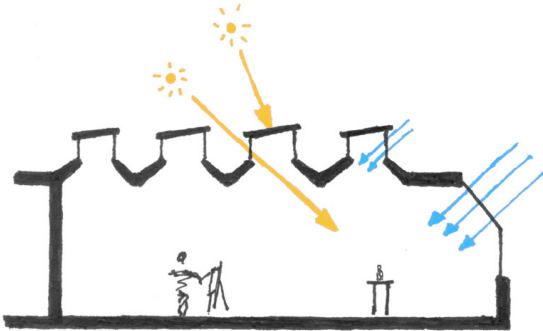
- standing-seam zinc on 18mm plywood
- 25mm ventilated gap
- breathable membrane
- 75mm rigid foam insulation
- 18mm plywood deck
- 150mm timber joists with 125mm insulation between
- vapour barrier
- 15mm plasterboard ceiling



Short Section



The Art Studio



Roof articulation

The roof form combines north light with sun beams from the south, while protecting from direct overhead sunlight.

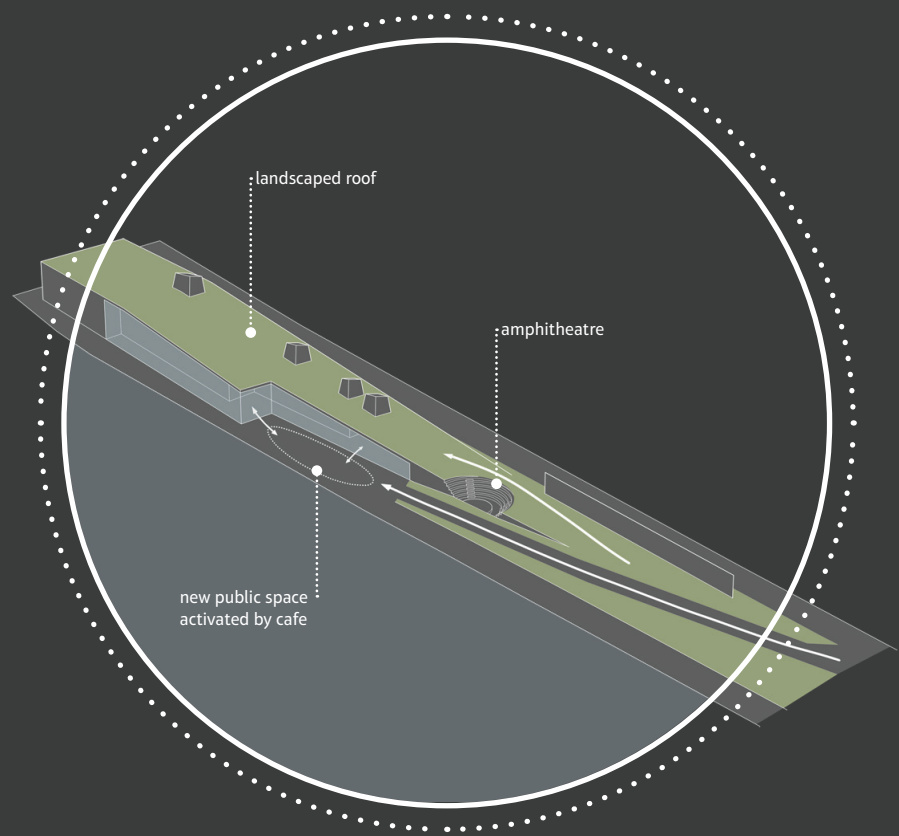
THEATER DER KUNST

Arts and performance space alongside the Spree, Berlin

Year: 2018
Type: Individual Project
Location: Berlin, Germany

This cultural space reinforces the relationship between theatre and art, by providing a centre with adaptable spaces for anything from interactive sculptures, to performance art, to more traditional plays.

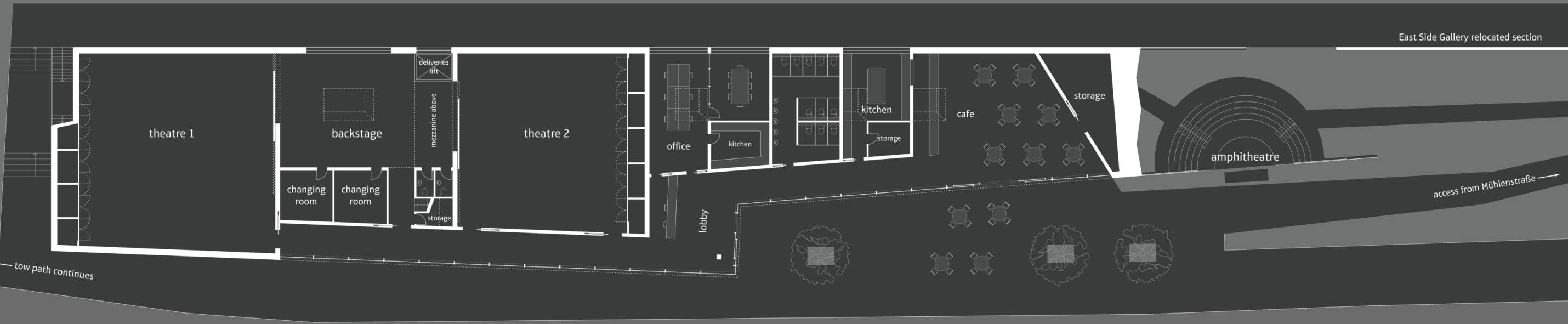
Located between the East Side Gallery and the Spree, the building is buried under an accessible green roof that slopes down to seamlessly connect with the ground and surrounding landscape.



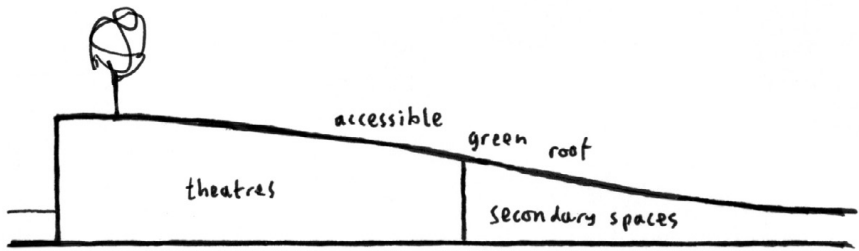
"I realise the power of art that does not hang on the walls of galleries."
Marina Abramović

Ground Floor Plan

← Berlin Wall - East Side Gallery →

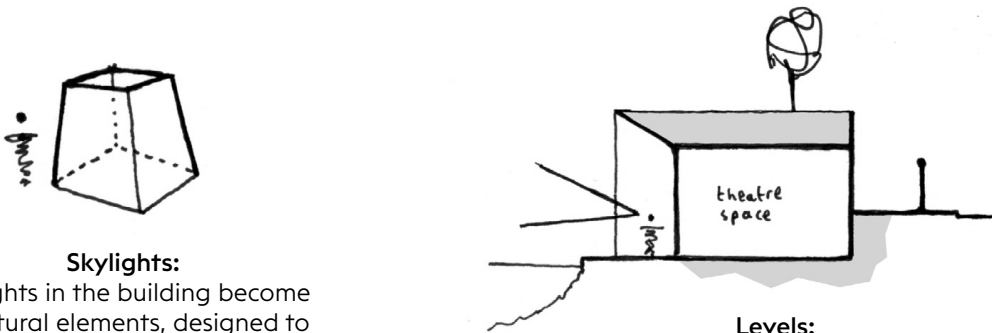


Key Strategies



Zoning:

The building programme has been strategically distributed to suit the form of the roof. Higher ceilings have been given to the theatre spaces.

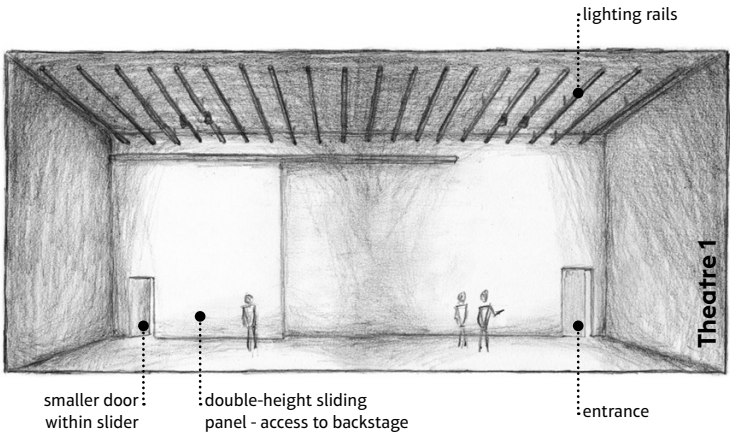


Skylights:

Skylights in the building become sculptural elements, designed to preserve privacy and increase the share of north light.

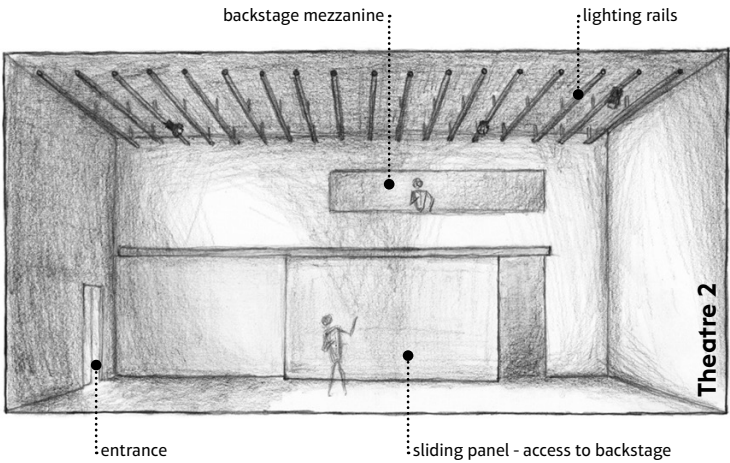
Levels:

A stronger connection with the riverside path and new public space.



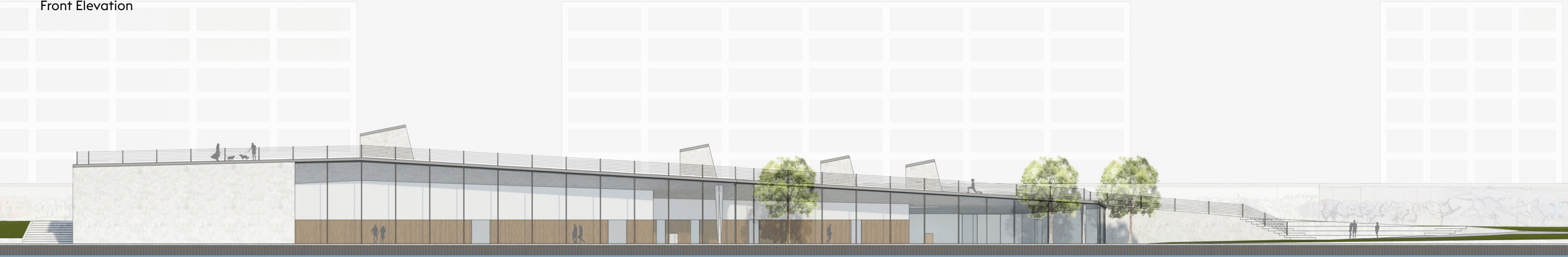
The Theatres

As they are adaptable spaces, the theatres' only permanent features are the lighting rails and the large sliding doors, which allow large pieces to be brought in from the backstage area.

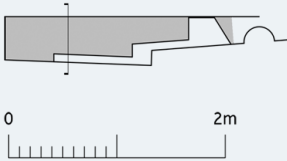


Theatre 2 also features an opening to the mezzanine in the backstage area, allowing the performers to interact from different levels.

Front Elevation



Tectonic Cut Through Backstage Area



A | General floor buildup

- 70mm concrete finish
- 75mm screed with UFH pipes
- 100mm rigid foam insulation
- damp-proof membrane
- 300mm reinforced waterproof concrete slab on pile foundations

B | Changing room floor buildup

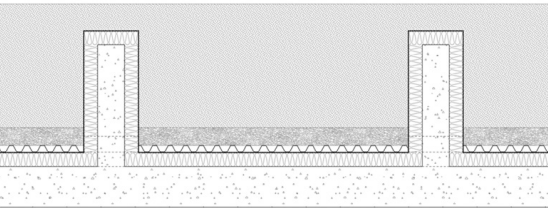
- 25mm timber floor finish
- 9mm plywood separation layer
- 36mm insulated UFH board
- 75mm screed
- 100mm rigid foam insulation
- damp-proof membrane
- 300mm reinforced waterproof concrete slab on pile foundations

C | Plant room floor buildup

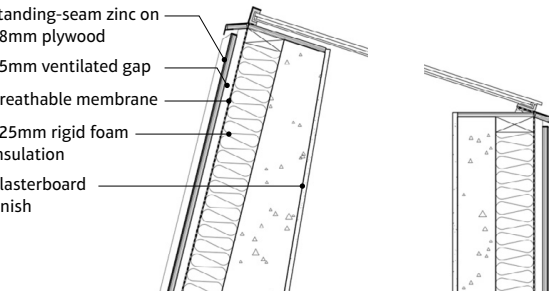
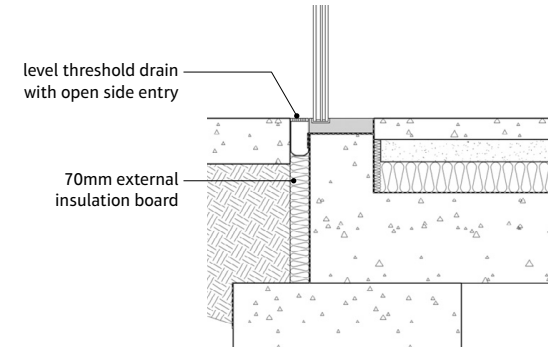
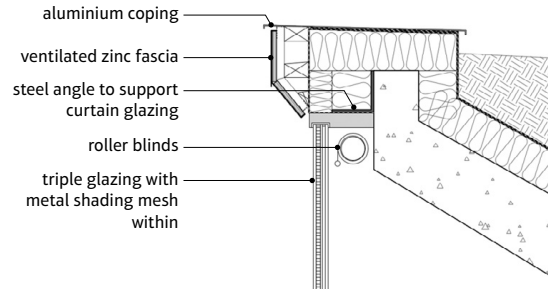
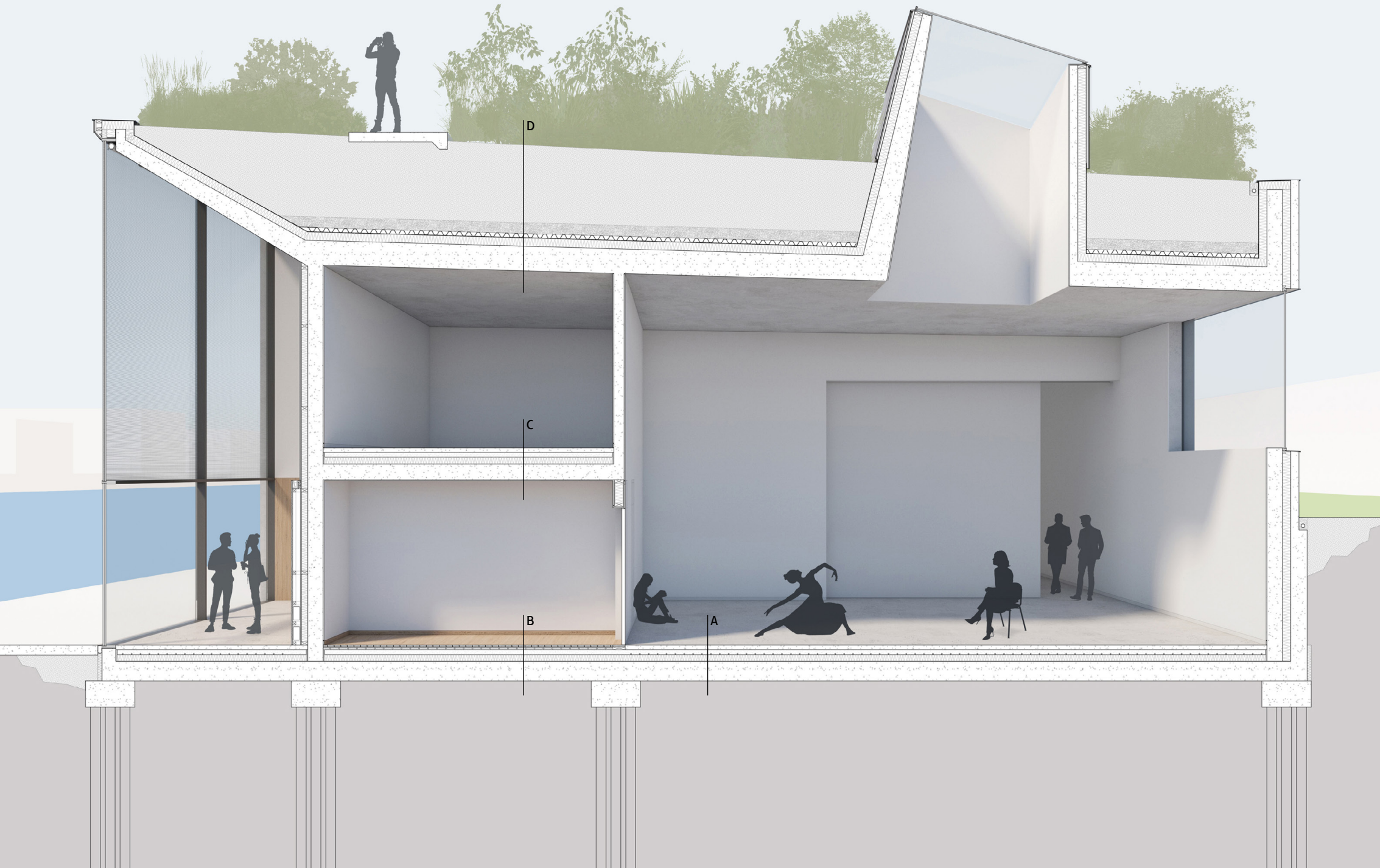
- 70mm concrete finish
- 75mm screed
- 100mm rigid foam insulation
- 240mm reinforced concrete
- 15mm plasterboard finish

D | Green roof buildup

- 250-1250mm soil (depth varies along length of building)
- 175mm lower substrate
- filter layer
- drainage and storage membrane
- root barrier
- liquid-applied waterproofing coat
- 125mm rigid foam insulation
- 375mm reinforced concrete



The structure of the roof is based on concrete upstands, at 3m centres, concealed by the soil layer. They run from front to back, and cantilever 3m over the corridor.





POPLAR A

Urban intervention integrating a community centre with a bridge

Year: 2017

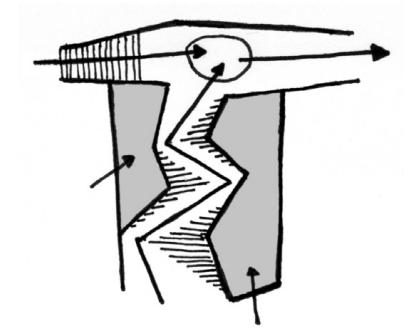
Type: Group Project

Location: Poplar, London

Contribution: led the design, managed the 3D model, and created the renders, drawings and diagrams in this portfolio.

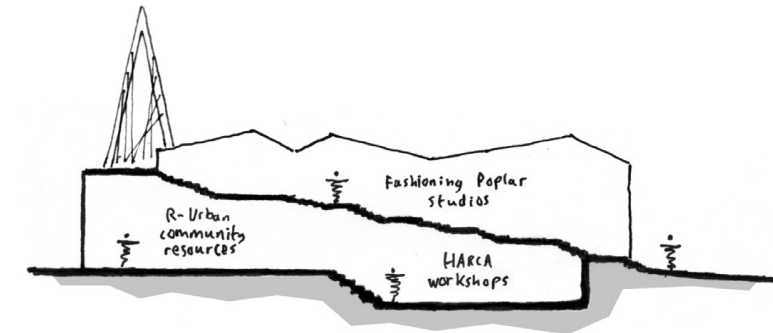
An intervention to address severance in the surrounding area, by making a connection across a main road, as well as by providing a centre for local community organisations.

The building is designed to integrate an extensive, ramped landscape that leads to a bridge.



Journey to the bridge

An inviting, ramped landscape that provides the area with a public space.



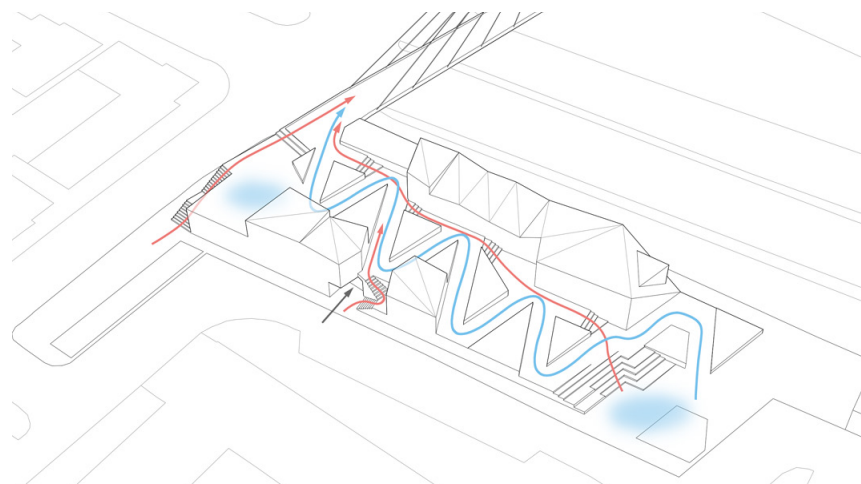
Zoning

The building provides facilities for three local organisations. Studios lining the landscape serve to activate it.



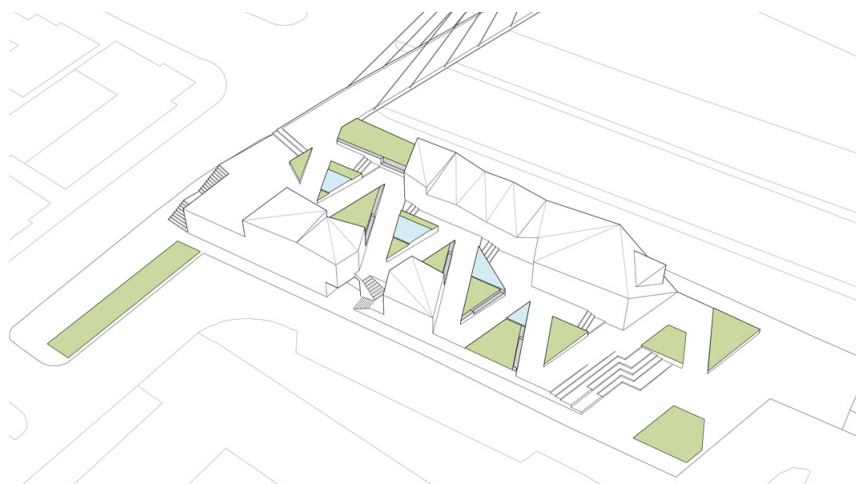
A landmark for Poplar

The striking "A" frame of the cable-stayed bridge draws people to the landscape.



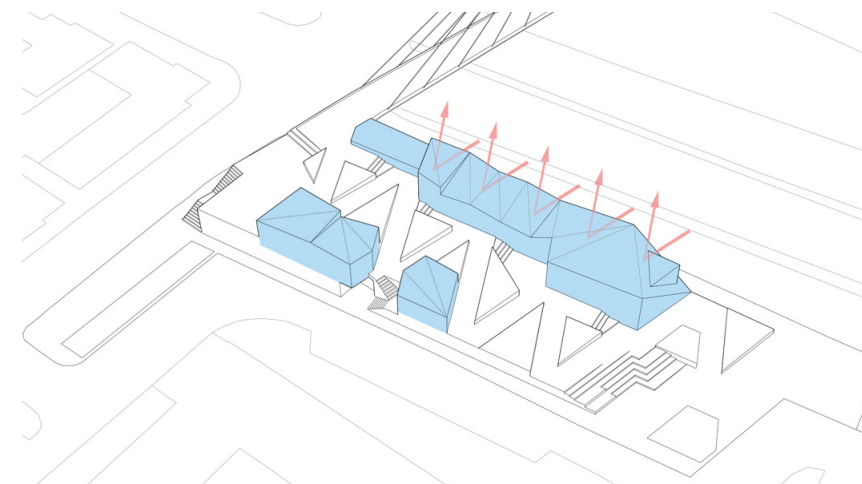
Circulation:

A meandering wheelchair-accessible route is integrated with the landscape, alongside faster stepped routes.



Landscape elements:

Comprised of planters, built-in seating, and skylights illuminating the lower level



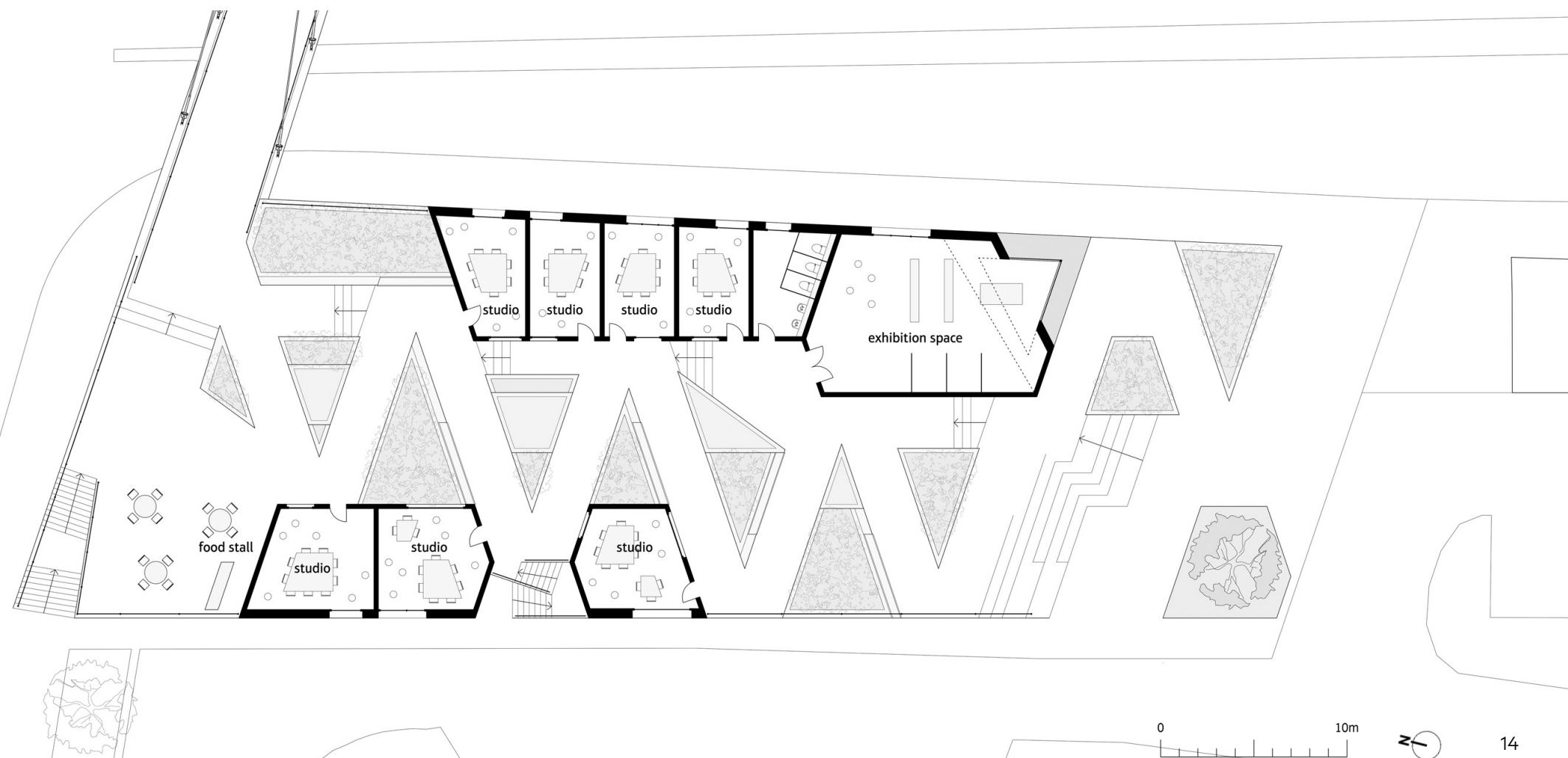
Protected landscape:

The studios act as a barrier from the noise of the main road, and partially enclose the landscape to define the space.

Upper Floor Plan

One of the main design drivers was contribution to the public realm. The area currently lacks a centre, so the scheme includes a public space, which is designed to have a distinctive identity.

People are presented with the opportunity to engage with this landscape as they approach, or descend from, the bridge.

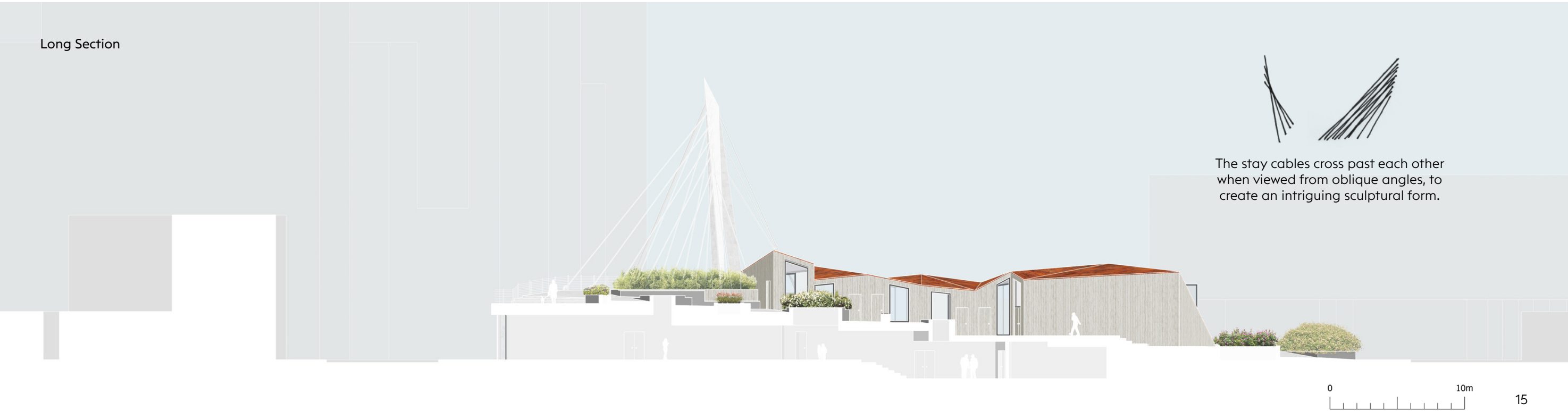


Lower Floor Plan

To take advantage of the space under the ramp, the lower floor is split into two levels. The ground-floor level contains space for R-Urban, an urban-focused sustainability initiative. On the lower level, workshops are provided for HARCA, the local community housing association.

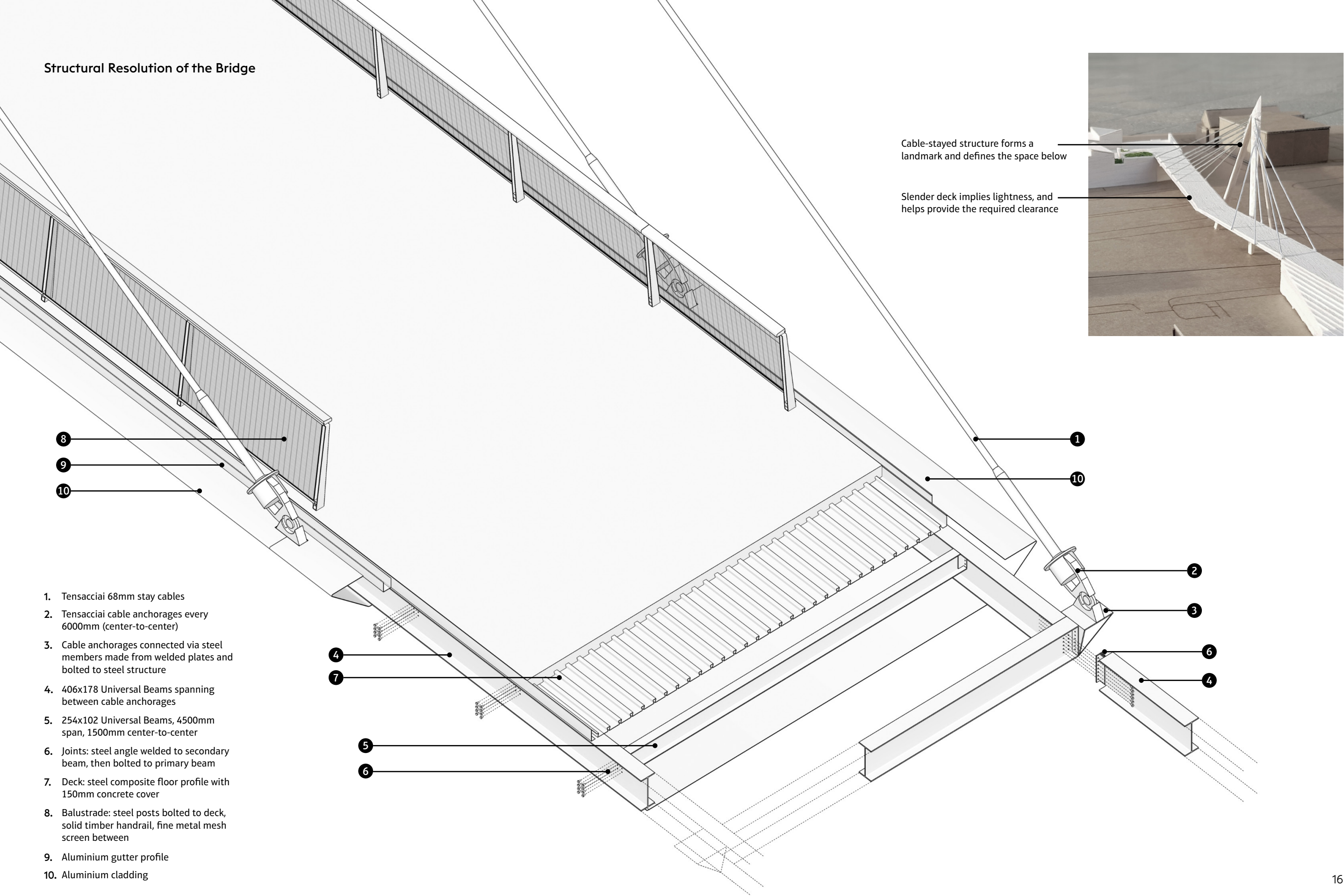


Long Section



The stay cables cross past each other when viewed from oblique angles, to create an intriguing sculptural form.

Structural Resolution of the Bridge



WEDGE HOUSE

New-build house on angular plot

Years: 2018 - 2023

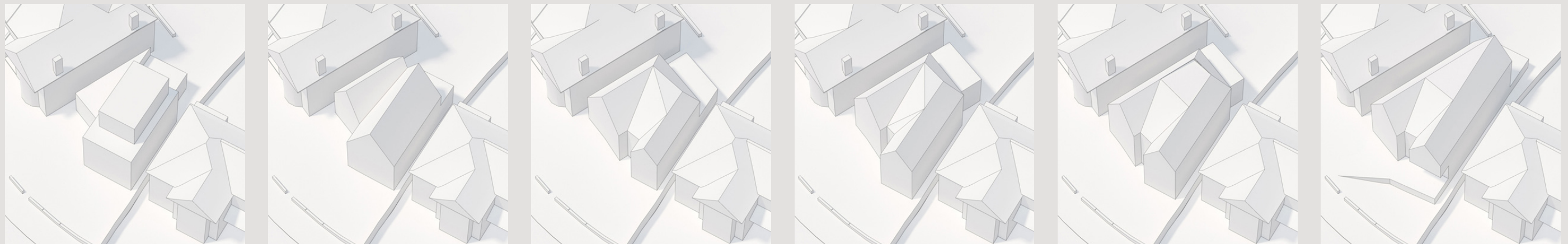
Type: Professional

Location: North London

A 170sqm, three-bedroom house in a 1930s suburban area of London. The form of the house makes reference to the gables predominant on the street, but is optimised to make better use of the space within the pitched roof.

Working closely with the Director, I was involved from the beginning of the project, working on massing, and resolving the complex roof geometry. When I returned to the company after finishing university, I was responsible for taking the project through technical design, producing a 70-page package of drawings for tender.

Finally I returned in 2023 to oversee the project on site. It was completed in early 2024 and is awaiting photography

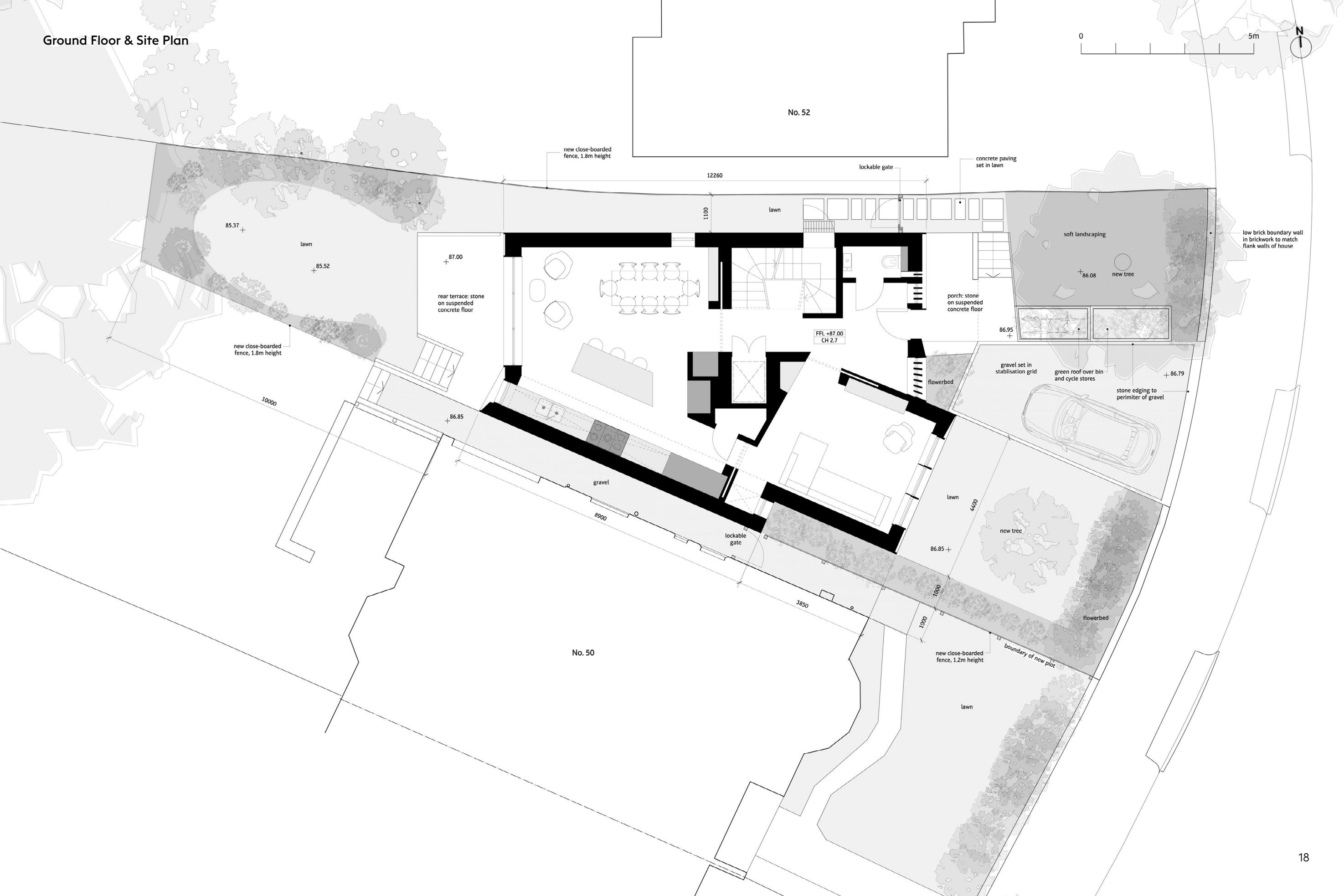


Massing progression

To fit in with the composition of the street, the house is comprised of two gabled volumes, a major and a minor, which merge at the rear to form a single gabled facade.

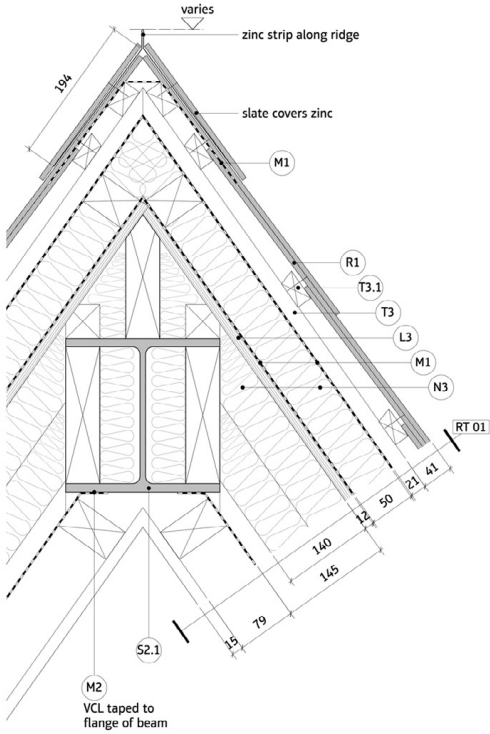
Due to the slight bend in the road, the two volumes are at angles to each other, such that the house turns to align with each neighbour.

Ground Floor & Site Plan

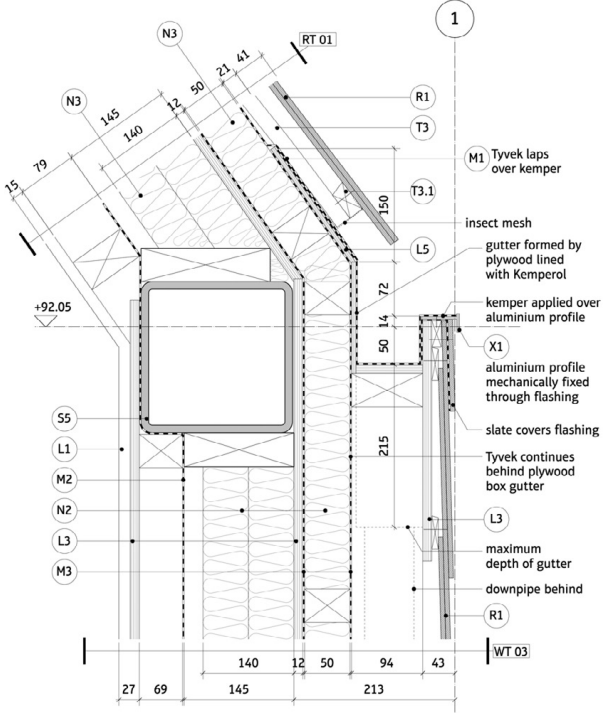


Selected Details

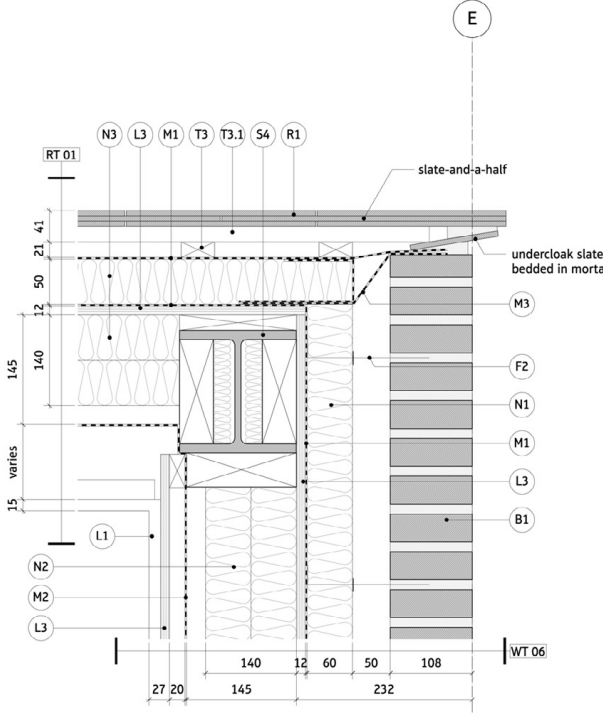
- Materials Key**
- B1 Petersen K51 brick
 - B4 100mm blockwork
 - F2 Ancon Teplo L-Tie
 - F3 Ancon Optima masonry support
 - L1 12.5mm plasterboard
 - L3 12mm WBP plywood
 - L5 6mm WBP plywood
 - L10 Equitone fibre cement panel
 - M1 Tyvek breather membrane
 - M2 DuPont Air Guard VCL
 - M3 Damp-proof membrane
 - N1 Kingspan Kooltherm K108
 - N2 Kingspan Kooltherm K12
 - N3 Kingspan Kooltherm K7
 - R1 500x250mm roofing slate
 - S2.1 203x203x46 UC
 - S4 152x152x37 UC
 - S5 200x200x10 SHS
 - T3 25x50mm treated softwood
 - T3.1 25x50mm with chamfered top
 - T6 50x100mm treated softwood
 - X1 50x250x3 aluminium angle, matte black powder coat



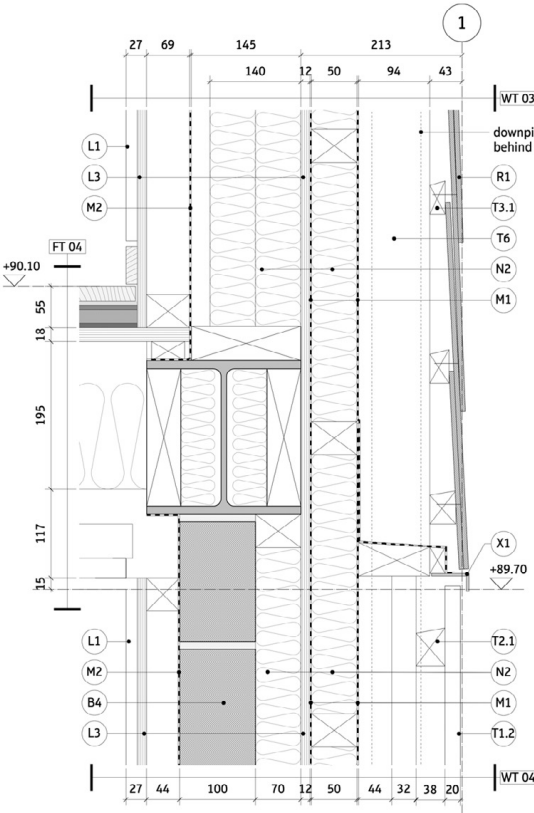
Typical Ridge



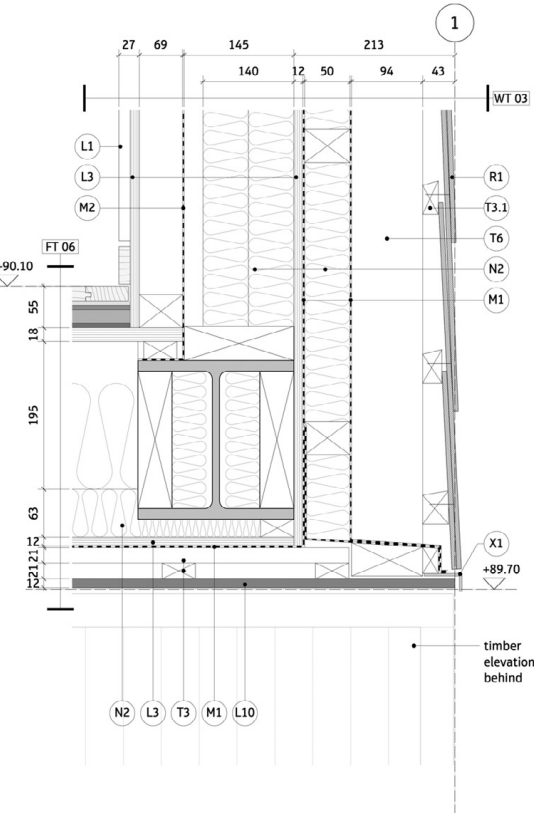
Typical Gutter



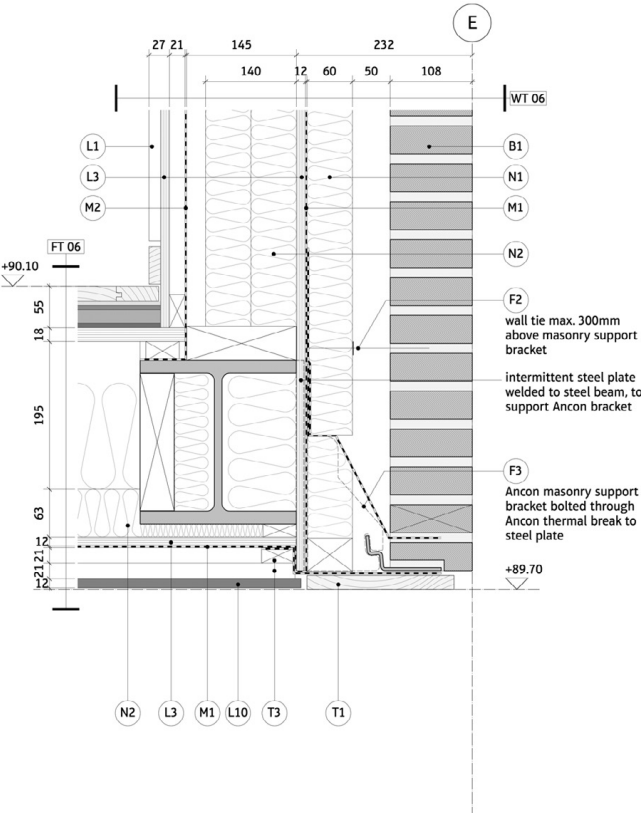
Typical Verge



Cladding Change at 1st Floor

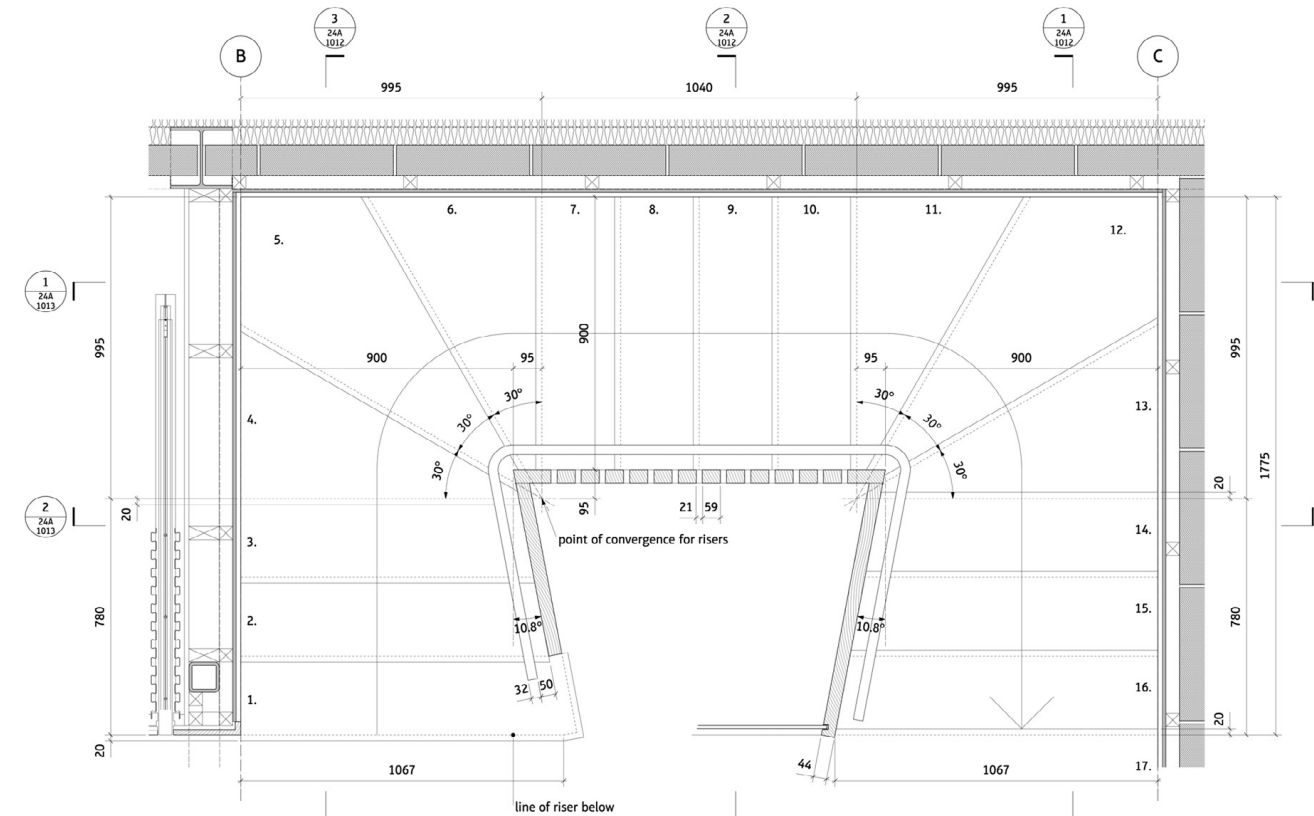


1st Floor Continuation at Overhang

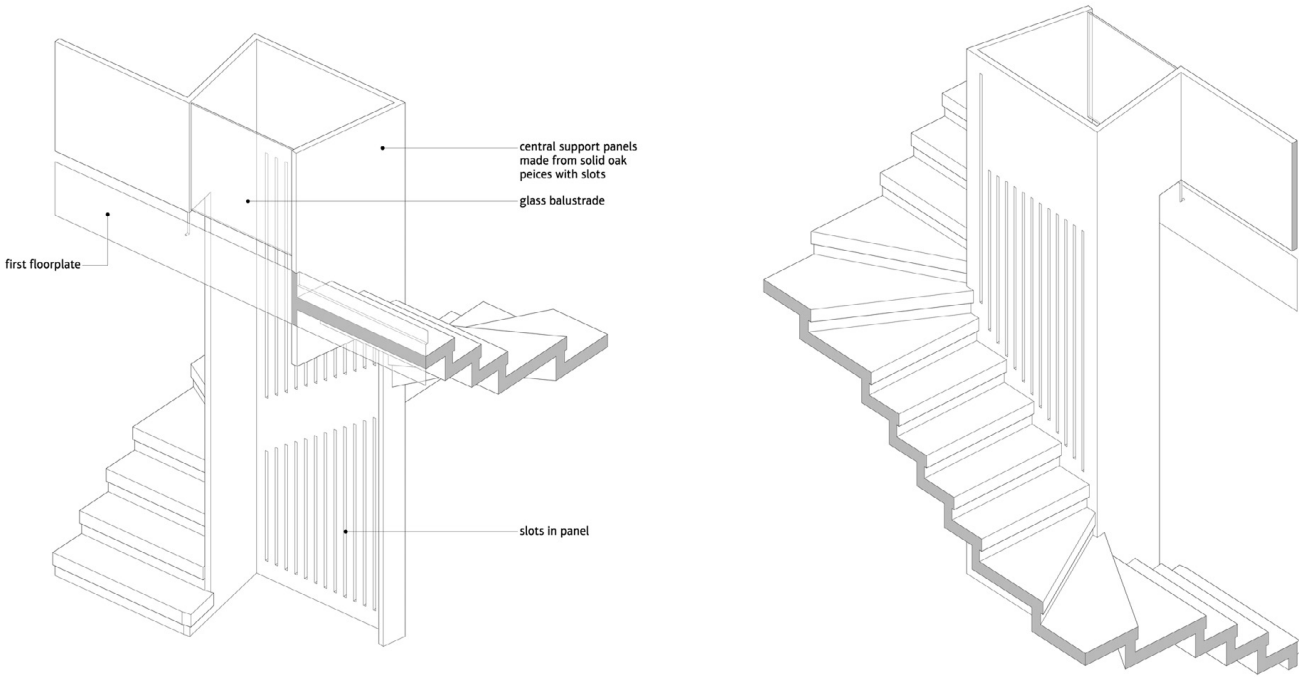


Front Edge of Overhang

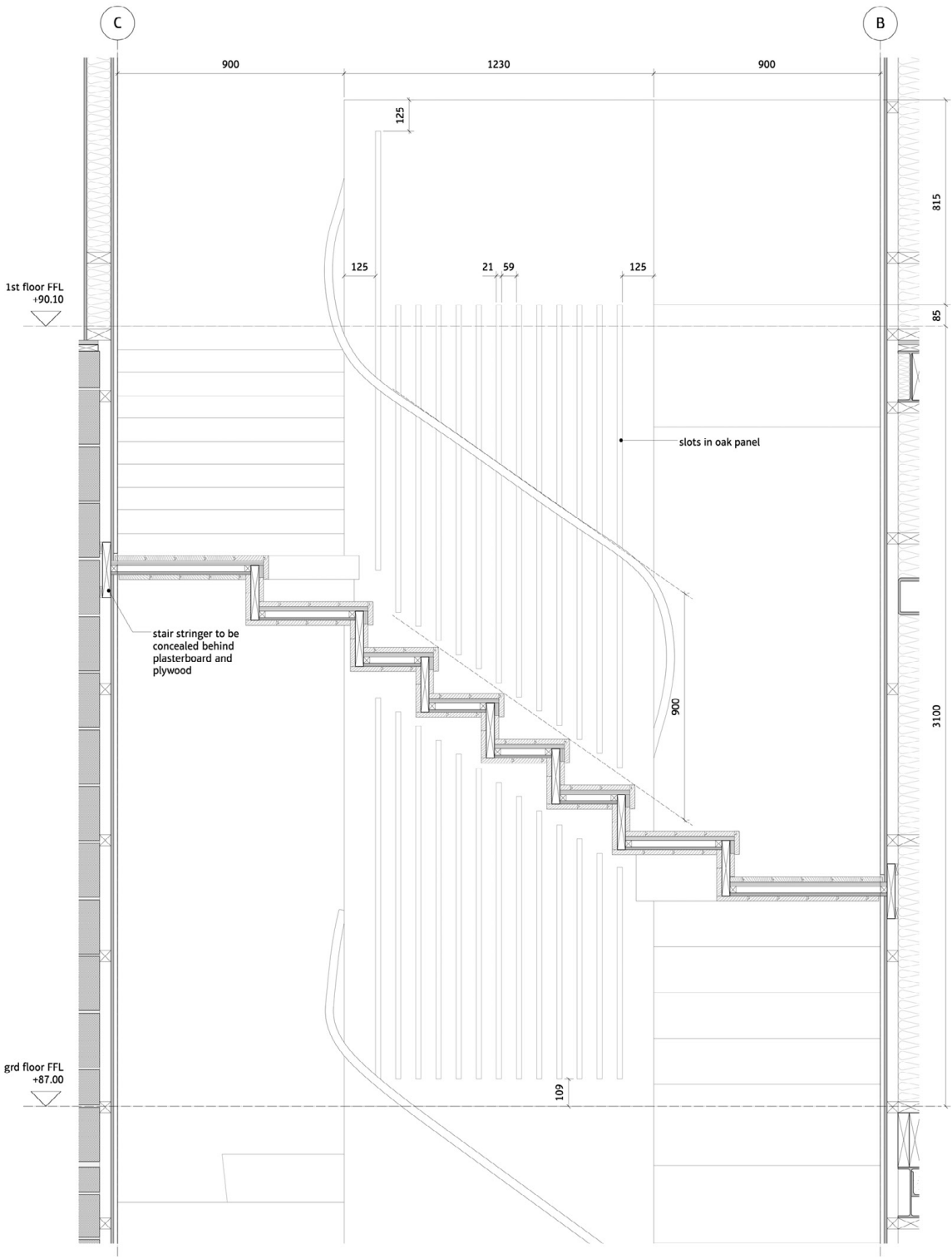




Plan Following Stair,
Ground to First Floor



Isometric Views



Section: 24A1013 | 1

TAPER

Home renovation with extension

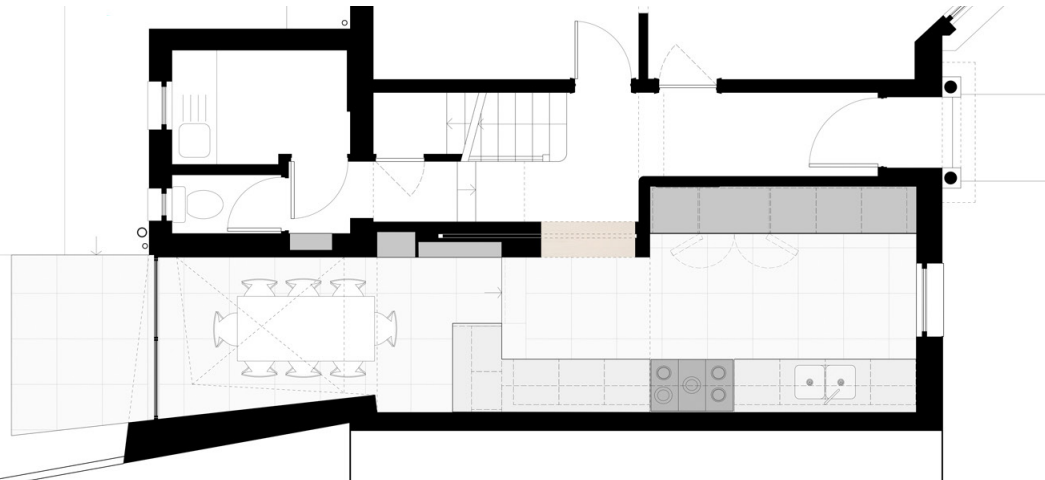
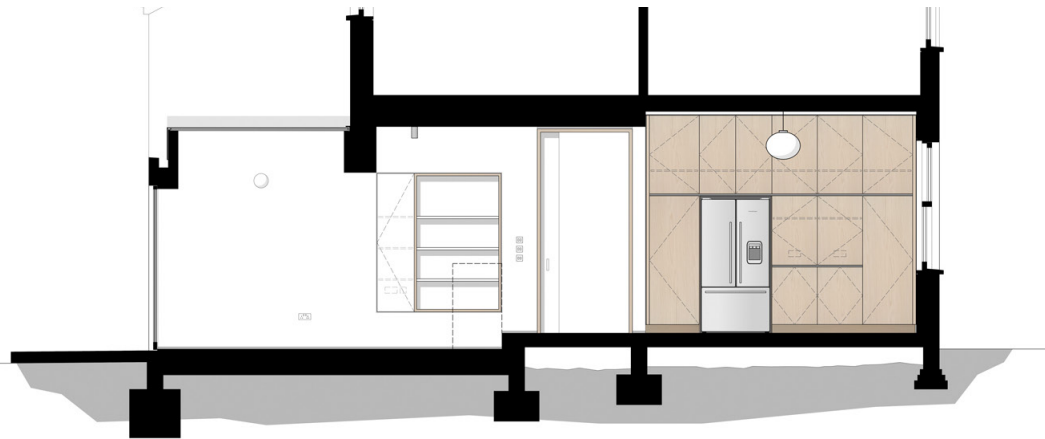
Years: 2017 - 2018

Type: Professional

Location: North London

A new 30sqm kitchen and dining room was created by combining two of the existing rooms with a new rear extension.

I started this project after my second year at University and was involved with the design from the initial definition of the brief through to the planning application. When I returned to the company, I took the project to site and oversaw the build through to completion.



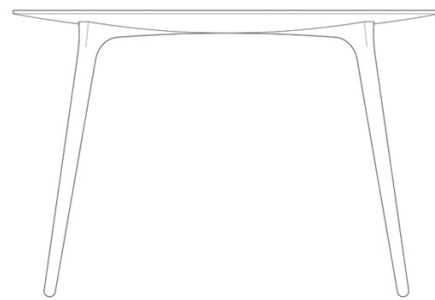
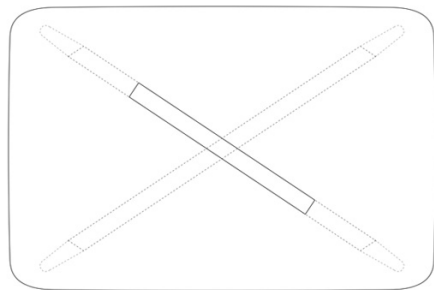
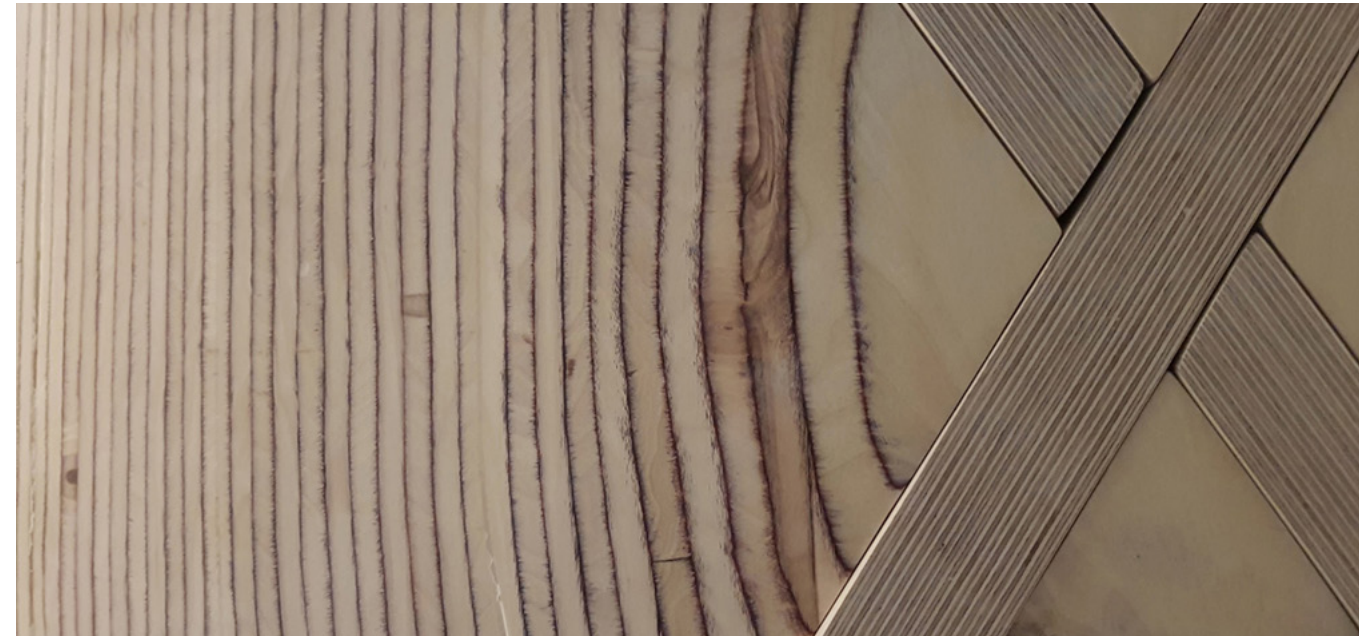
CONTOUR DESK

Extra-curricular project

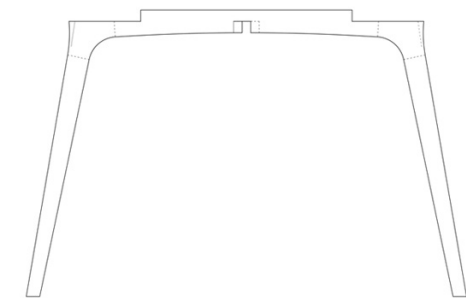
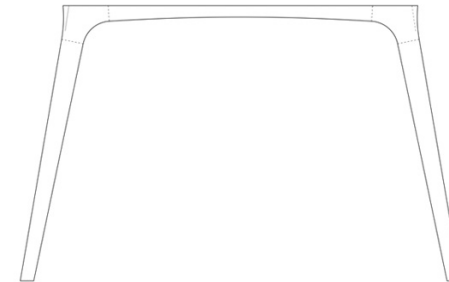
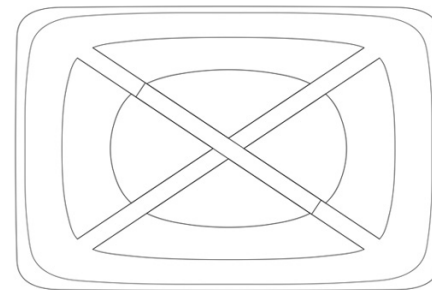
Year: 2019

An “alternative wood grain” - the design was motivated by the possibility of manipulating plywood to make a feature of its layers.

The material was sanded down to create a curved soffit and legs, and in doing so, reveal a striped pattern.



Plan and Elevation



Stencils used for cutting the sheets



1. Mortise-and-tenon joints to the legs
2. Tabletop made from layers cut into contours, then smoothed with a belt-sander
3. Designed to be flat-packed and reassembled

Contour Desk: Finished Outcome



AXIS

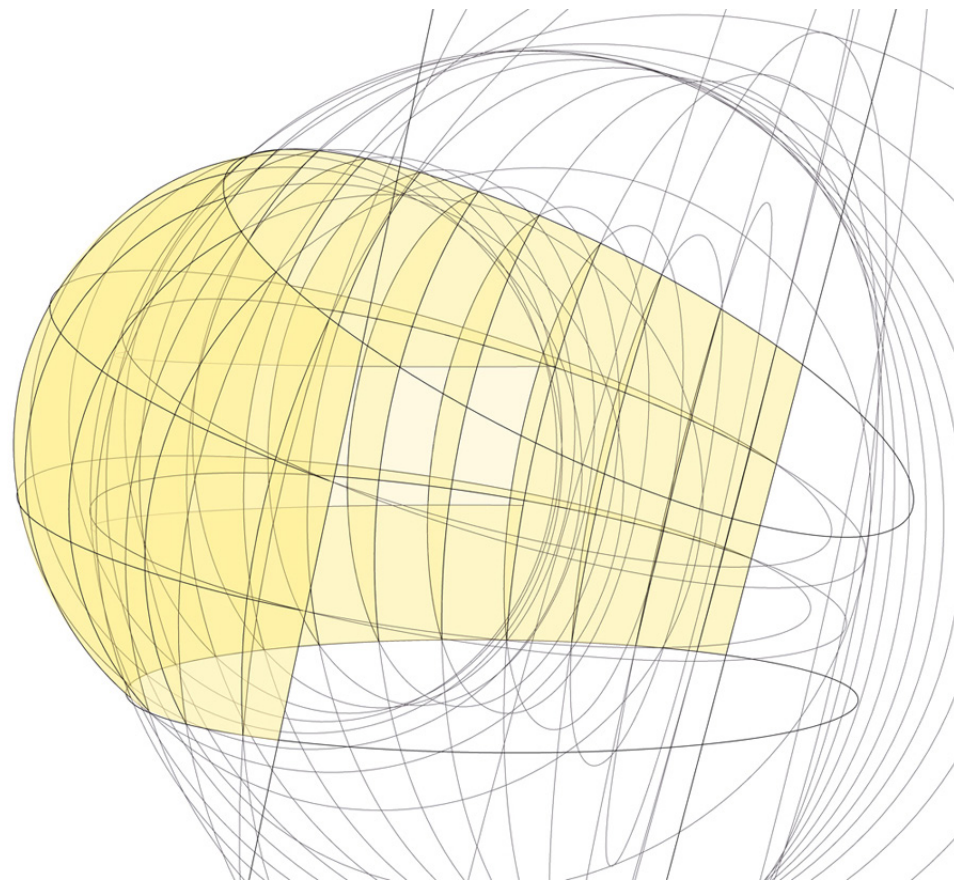
Curvilinear exhibition stand

Year: 2016

Type: Individual Project

An exhibition stand to display a collection of artisan glassware and tableware at a trade show.

The curvature complements the form of the displayed objects.



The geometry is derived from perfect circles - this is inspired by the Sydney Opera House, where the design is based on spheres.

1:20 scale model

