2022

FUTURE BANK
A COLLECTION OF WORKING SPACE

PROJECT JOURNAL

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'Flexibility' and 'transparency' are not words traditionally associated with the finance industry. As a typology, the bank is seen as a symbol of strength, power and security. But with 97 per cent of the money in today's economy represented by digital deposits – leaving only 3 per cent as tangible cash – the taxonomy of space in financial buildings is being overhauled. Less floor area is given to traditional storage methods, leaving much more room for a brand's values to shine.

OPEN VAULT. (2020). FRAME, (133), 99.

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INTRODUCTION

The next generation working culture

The site of the graduation project is located in Belgium. It is a huge triangular building with a length of 91,000 square meters and a length of 200 meters, the National Bank of Belgium. The bank is in the northeast part of the city center and the middle of two commercial districts. The distance between the band and the main station is about 500 meters. The bank is gradually losing its social value as a public service institution and becomes a giant closed building. There comes the challenge that how to maintain its social value for citizens. For the internal factors, because of the shrinking of the working population, the bank has many unused spaces currently. It provides the opportunity to redefine the spaces for the public. What kind of public space the bank can create to attain future's new value?

The answer is co-working space. This means different individuals or groups can share working space and co-working people can use this space to create their communities and attract new members or customers. In Brussels, in the 1980s, lots of land in the city were distributed to officials and the residents were living the outside city. Currently, the government is trying to use co-working spaces and new residential projects to change the working environment and to let the citizens come back and live in the city again. So different people can work in the bank, while others can also visit here to meet people, enjoy exhibitions and join activities held by co-working groups. Also, the bank staff can use this space to communicate with different public and provide bank services. In that sense, the bank can reach the aim of engaging the public and build its connection with the commercial area and the colleges.

INTRODUCTION

The working culture: mixture, sustainability and simplification

During the P1 we've done much research about the office spaces. It gives me the feeling that work is continuously changing through time. Firstly, we have the Larkin administration building in 1904, women sitting in the middle of bank clerks and working without privacy. Then we have National Social Insurance Board in 1932, where people have independent spaces with better privacy but low knowledge exchange. Later in the Osram building in 1965, all staff worked together in one open space with a free layout, making a landscape office. Then is the SAS headquarters in 1987, people were divided into several small groups and worked in independent rooms. Today, we have a new way of co-working. In my understanding, co-working cannot be classified, it does not have a prescribed form, it is always changing, and it is a work fashion that changes with people's lifestyles. The examples I mentioned above all serve more or less strict office hierarchies. Now, the workflow is flattened and the work organization becomes small and independent, then it makes the workspace does not have a fixed pattern. Through my research on co-working design cases, I found that almost all of them are renovations to spaces, instead of completely new designs from the ground up. This transformation process is like a plant that grows with the change of the space, which reflects an important feature of the co-working space -sustainability.

If we further discuss the spatial connection between co-working and other office modes, co-working is more like a combination of traditional office modes in the past, which is mixed and small-scale. What's more, I think it is a simplification, a simplification of the working style and working environment. Take a very simple example, when a person works in a fixed desk, he will have huge computer screens, personal calendars and notebooks, and other documents. Includes photos and other series of work accessories, which can cover your entire desk. When you work in a co-working space, you realize that everything is shared and you need to leave nothing before you go, so you need to simplify your things until they fit into a backpack. An individual work environment is destroyed, it is transformed into a shared value.

BEFORE THE DESIGN

THE WORKING CULTURE THROUGH HISTORY

Reading reflection

Model making

Precedent drawing

Frank Lloyd Wright, Larkin Administration Building

Skidmore Owings and Merrill, Union Carbide Building

Quickborner/ Henn, OSRAM Building

Frank Lloyd Wright, Johnson Wax Building

Foster Associates, Willis Faber Dumas Building

Francis Duffy, 'Office Buildings and Organisational Change', in Anthony D. King, ed., Buildings and Society, 1980

Daphne Spain, The Contemporary Workplace in Rendell Penner Borden, Gender-space-architecture

In the beginning of the studio, I've learned about the development and different types of office space through the study of Reading. This is the first time I have had a preliminary understanding of the morphology of office space. From reading the articles by Francis Duffy and Daphne Spain, I realized the awareness of human rights in office space, which I had never thought about before. I selected the three pictures that impressed me most, which showed the neglect of human rights in space from different angles. Through the seminar discussion, I got more information about these pictures. The first two pictures, both lakin Administration photos, show women sitting in the middle accompanied by two clerks overseeing the work; And the work furniture was deliberately designed to limit women's movement. At the same time, managers are in a higher position to monitor employee behavior. The third one is a representative plane of the office. The secretary space has no privacy, and the manager's door is only used to supervise the secretary's behavior, which also reflects the inequality of the space. I think this is the common ground between the two readings.

I think regulation, like technology, will evolve. With the change of time and the enhancement of the sense of power, the class consciousness of human beings will gradually weaken, and the manager and the managed will present a new cooperative relationship. Therefore, the space of the building will increasingly weaken its role as the consolidation of the sense of domination. At present, we can see that although some jobs still have gender discrimination, more and more women are working in different positions, including the role of managers. The arrangement of space is the embodiment of human will. The secretary space may still be a protection for managers in the future, but there will be other types of space to supplement and improve the status of the secretary space. The space for acquiring knowledge and information does not have to be the secretary's own office but can also occur in other places, such as open meeting rooms and coffee rooms.
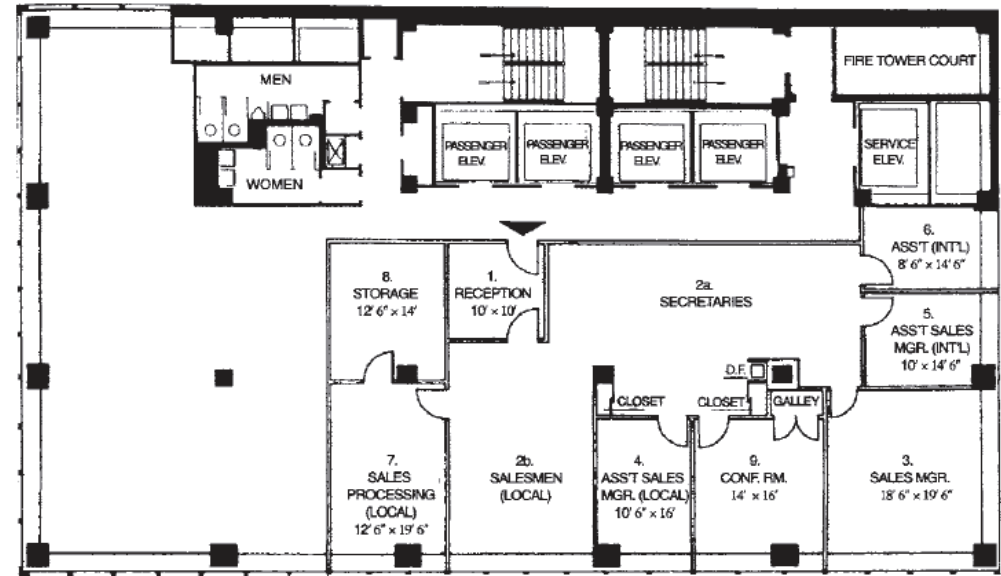
Larkin Company Administration building, Buffalo, New York, 1904.
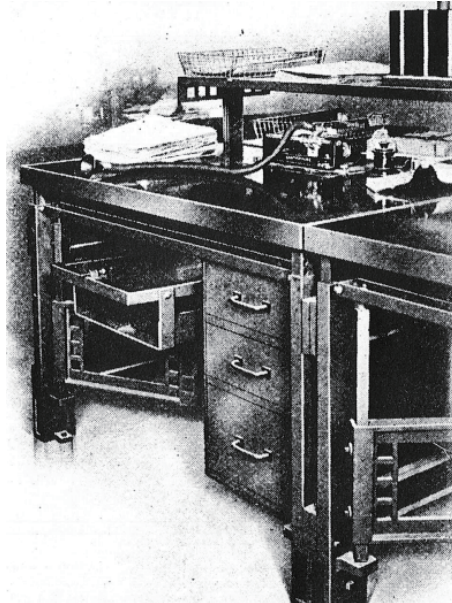
Clerical desk, Larkin Company Administration building, Buffalo, New York, 1904.

The office architect is cautioned that the initial space study must illustrate the 'relationships of the organization' clearly to the client

I think the hierarchy of space is not equal to the hierarchy of people. The combination of various Spaces will effectively compensate for the gender and class discrimination caused by the spatial hierarchy. Therefore, rather than discussing the gender discrimination caused by the class system of space, we should discuss in-depth how to design other Spaces to balance the class relations of various professions. In the past, architectural space was a machine to improve efficiency, which only fulfilled people's most basic needs for space. Of course, such Spaces have caused a series of problems, including sexism and others. Now, the demand for space is to meet the work efficiency and meet the needs of different groups for their own interests. In some large enterprises, their companies have internal dining halls, where managers, secretaries, and staff all eat; there is no problem with the space hierarchy. , of course, we can also design the other space to meet different needs, so that manifested as a result of the space of the caste system still exist, but every role needs can be met, people can communicate in different parts of the knowledge and information, so I think it is better to eliminate gender space of the negative consequences of the right way.

This article made me realize the influence of advertising on architecture and discussed the connection between rental advertising and company towers by taking Melbourne as an example. In advertising, buildings are regarded as "symbolic, aesthetic, or mythological 'aura.'" And associated with the power and status of the company. The rent advertisement emphasizes the distinction and authenticity of Tower, which may not correspond to reality. "The aesthetic aura musk the facts of the social, political, And economic process as it wraps the building in a false history." The author uses many pictures and words to describe various ways of advertising, such as emphasizing certainty, ignoring realistic elements, and describing the vision. This is reflected in many aspects of the Tower, such as Location and Context, Foyer, View, and Patriarchal space. There are some contradictions of their own, and the company tower has some problems with rental advertising. Finally, the author points out that "Much of their effectiveness can be attributed to the rational pursuit of symbolic capital. They are the popular Buildings of a powerful, patriarchal, and slash corporate culture." It was also pointed out that architects should work with The Planner to imagine the vision of the future city and formulate rules to avoid architects being called economists.

In my opinion, the phenomenon of over-publicity of leasing Tower advertisements still exists today, and besides corporate Tower, residential leasing and selling also have such problems. Architecture has become a pure commodity, just like Harvey's "creative destruction." I think this kind of problem arises because there is no good management system in the market and no other policy intervention in such behavior. If some architects and planners could act as managers to oversee advertising content and the construction of buildings, this phenomenon would be reduced. Besides, in the future, there will be more small businesses that need a space to work and don't need a Distinct Tower to advertise their swagger. In this way, there will be fewer false values in the content of advertisements, and rental buildings can return their identity as a space in the city. Then architects and planners can better fulfill their roles.

To conclude, I think advertising should be used to promote architecture, as a collection of information, not like chocolate sauce on a peanut. The government and the market should exercise their powers as regulators, while advertisers should carefully analyze and be responsible for their advertisements. Finally, architects should design with a responsible attitude towards users and the city and avoid the building becoming a tool to show power and status. A good example might be the Hong Kong market, which may have nothing to do with office space. I want to show that good advertising can not only be a part of urban space but also be a means of publicizing the values of public space. The reference of the advertisement in the paper is unfriendly to ordinary people. I want to know that in the future, as the users of office space change, the rental ad may present a kind of value, which is to show the harmony between man and space and the connection between man and nature.
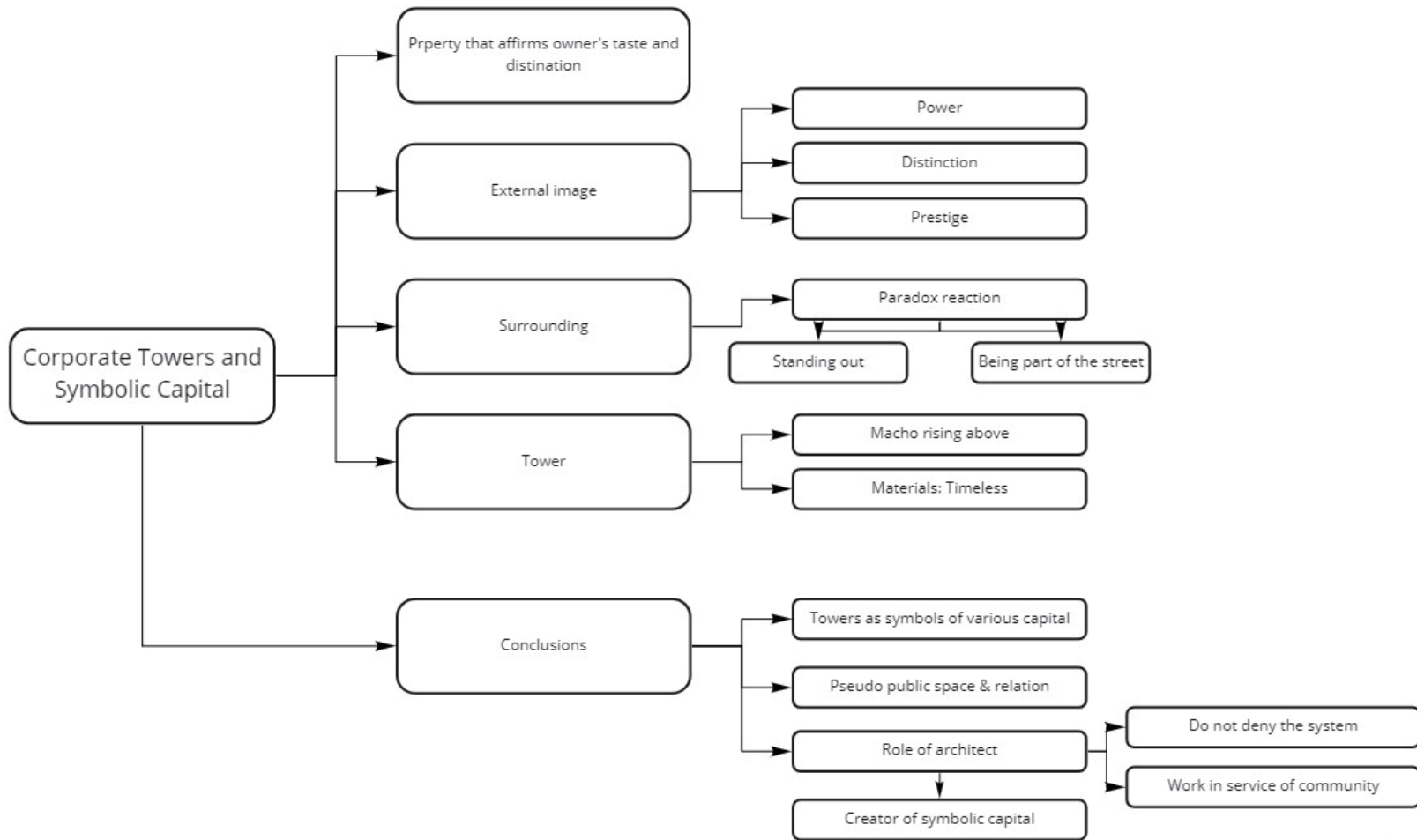
The structure of Dovey, Kim. 'Corporate Towers and Symbolic Capital' during the seminar. Self made.

This week we re-examined the precedents we found in the past and further discussed the workplace based on the past reading. We reclassified some series that appeared in the workspace and discovered the connections and gaps among them. We selected some keywords such as "city", "inclusivity VS exclusivity" and "generic office" and so on. It is worth discovering some problems. For example, the office space should promote social communication in the urban environment, but some office buildings are not friendly to the external environment, which isolates the communication between the architectural space and the street and urban space. On the other hand, some office spaces are seen as productivity-enhancing machines. On the one hand, workers do not have the freedom to work in the office space. On the other hand, the private space is very masculine, which reflects the gender inequality to the space environment. Furthermore, these office spaces do not have a good connection with the natural environment and lack green spaces. These gaps are what we need to be weakened or eliminated in future designs. At the same time, how to merge the working environment and communication space at work into a general public space also requires us to discuss. This is because a completely open space does not necessarily promote the transfer and exchange of knowledge, and at the same time for the hierarchy of the space, Transitionally open space sometimes aggravates the opposition between private space and public space, which conflicts with gender equality.

In the discussion section, there was a very interesting question, which was discussing what happens if the faculty and the family are merged together. This is certainly a joke, but what if the office space and home are together? In the past, we had the concept of "SOHO", which means small office home office. In the past few decades, this may be a premature concept, but today with the evolution of work patterns and the impact of epidemic factors, people see the possibility of a home office and small group work. In the future, there may be few large companies which can own the entire office tower, and more and more small working companies will become the main players in the use of office space. This also means that the office space has changed from the previous large-scale, high-efficiency to diversified, small group and daily life. I think this is a very important step for office space. In the future, human beings will need to play multiple roles in society, which also means that different types of spaces will be confused and overlapped. Office space is not necessarily just for office work, but may also be a part of employees' lives. Of course, on the other hand, what needs to be discussed is whether the overlap of office space and living space means an increase in employees' working hours and workload, in this regard, I hope to further understand the future through research and design methods in the following research question The relationship between workspace and home space and the method of integration.
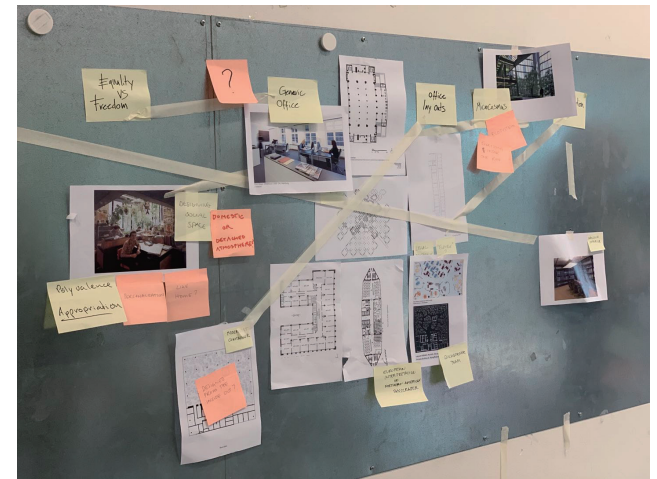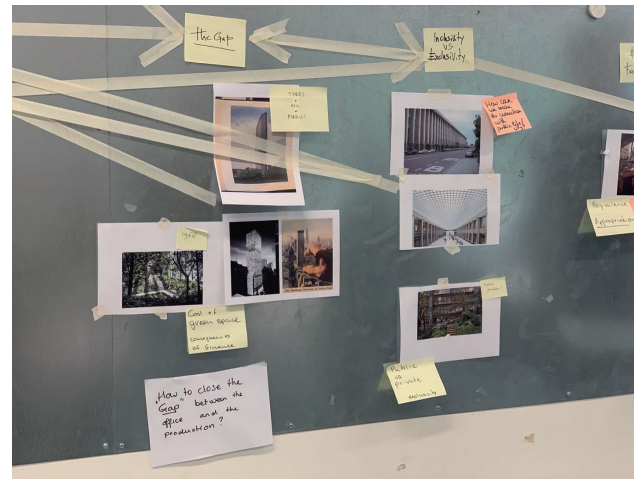
Installation of the crazy wall by Jurjen's group

In addition, the lunch lecture by Amy gave me a deeper understanding of the connection between political economy and the workplace. It discusses the relationship between office space and management and economy from economies of openness, open plan to open building, flexibility management, and architectural aesthetics. One of the interesting ones is the introduction of shearing layers, and Shearing layers is a concept coined by architect Frank Duffy, which Stewart Brand later elaborated in his book, and refers to buildings as composed of several layers of change.

Brand expanded this list to six elements: site, structure, skin, services, space plan, and stuff. The idea is that there are processes in nature, which operate in different timescales, and as a result, there is little or no exchange of energy/mass/information between them. Brand transferred this intuition to buildings and noticed that traditional buildings were able to adapt because they allowed "slippage" of layers: i.e., faster layers (services) were not obstructed by slower ones (structure). This concept is very inspiring, which made me realize that they have their unique cycle of different architecture principles. At the same time, compared to other layers, the space plan is the second shortest lifespan, which is influenced by stuffs. It points out the importance of studying employee activities to improve space because it has a faster cycle, and good research stuff can guide future space plans. At the same time, I would like to know whether this may also apply to the logic of urban renewal. Finally, Amy questioned the future office space, which is also of interest to me. At the same time, its final slice of PPT showed a completely different advertisement from what was described by Reading last week. I think this is the change in rent advertising-from a symbol of capital to a friendly reminder.
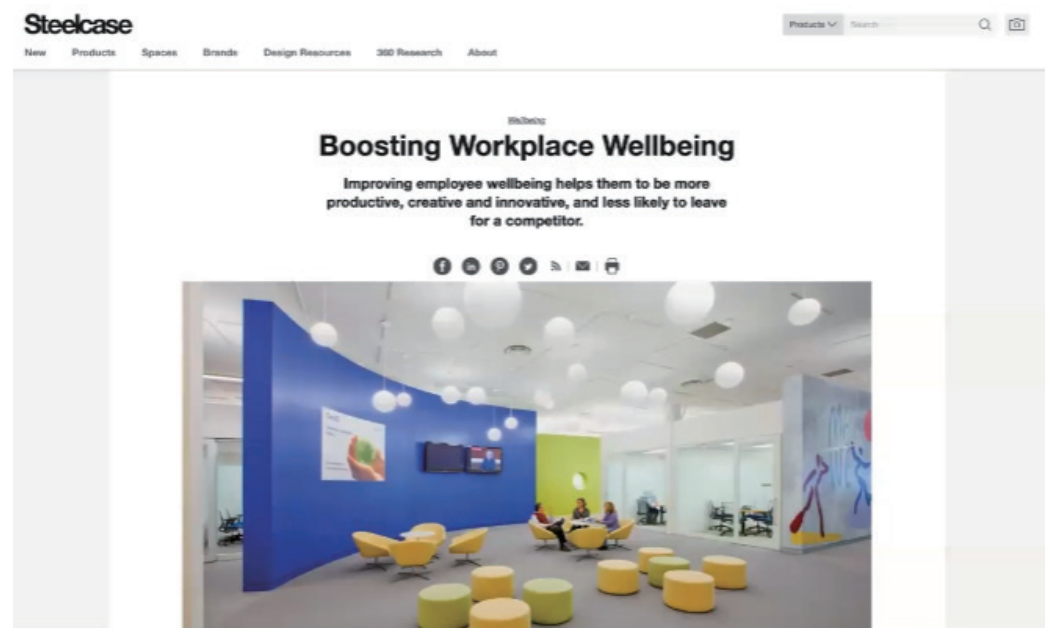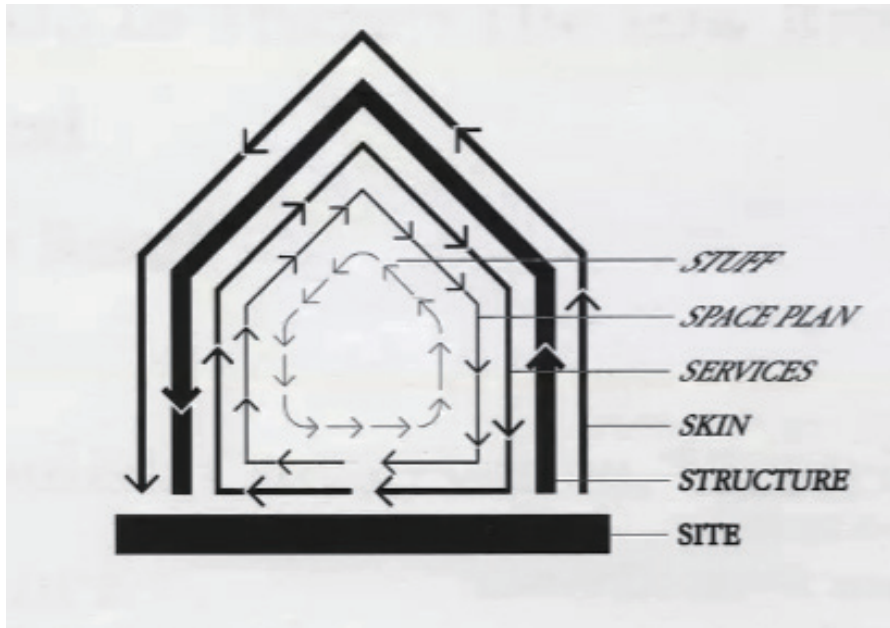
'Shearing layers': Stewart Brand's interpretation and elaboration of DEGW's layered building. Sources: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Shearing_layers

Advertisement of co-working space. Source: a screenshot of Amy's lecture

This article has a chronological sequence and strict logic and covers a lot of historical information, including the morphological development of banks and the evolution of goods transactions. This article has taught me a lot about the history of the evolution of European goods transactions, which is difficult for me to learn from other channels. In Amy's discussion, we analyzed morphology's meaning, the connection between spatial form and function, and the connection between form and meaning. Before reading this article, I did not know the relationship between the bank and the palace. Now I understand the vast connection between the bank and the religion and class rule and some wealthy families in Europe. Later, with the emergence of legal currency and various exchanges, banks gradually transformed from palaces to institutional systems to serve the masses. At the same time, with the development of industrial civilization and colonialism, the spatial form and scale of banks have also undergone different changes, which is related to our discussion of 16 precedents.

At the end of the article, there is an interesting description of the architectural form. In 1859, Ruskin gave an impressive speech to build an exchange in Gothic style. A passage linked moral concepts with aesthetics and further understood architecture as a symbol of the country's pursuit of beauty (Pevsner, 1997). I think that for architects, personal aesthetic elements can be linked with morality. What I want to discuss is, for architects, is the architectural form a manifestation of individual will or a result of comprehensive consideration? If the architect himself determines the form of the design, then the building will sometimes form obvious characteristics, which sometimes brings controversy; at the same time, if the form is negotiated by a group of people such as the employer, then the form of the building will often Appear mediocre, or the architectural form has become a manifestation of the employer's will. For the National Bank or other large institutions, its social significance must be more robust, and its form can affect the public's perception. In China, most local administrative agencies, including banks, present a consistent architectural form, which reflects the majesty of the country. The entrance of the building is usually accompanied by giant steps, which emphasize the inequality of status. In terms of architectural form, they are unfriendly and have a consistent pattern, another kind of 'palace.' I think that for architects, even though they appear to be very small under the influence of powerful employers as individuals, I hope to maximize the social value embodied in architecture from the perspective of form, and not to make architecture a propaganda of rights tool. In this regard, I think the aesthetics of architects is related to morality. This kind of morality is a kind of confrontation with rights and the responsibility for social fairness.

This seminar was a discussion of 16 banking cases from the 18th to the 20th century. We generalize from spatial form, decoration, transparency, scale, facade, and the national bank. These discussions demonstrated the difference in size between federal and local banks and the impact of transparency of interior Spaces on people's trust in banks. In addition, the bank's different facades show different connections to the surrounding environment. For example, the Bank of England has a complete internal structure and refuses to communicate outside. At the same time, some small-scale local banks use huge glass Windows to establish contact with pedestrians outside. The huge glass skylight in the interior space meets the physical requirements of lighting and reflects the bank's transparency, which means there is no dark space to enhance the bank's credibility.

Through these discussions, I realized that the different components of the building imply different interior needs and convey different values. The nature of a bank determines its size, and its decoration affects the trust of its users. I would like to know that the interior space of the bank should be paid attention to because the design of the space can enhance people's sense of security. On the other hand, the excessive decoration will make the space unfriendly to ordinary people because it is more like a symbol of prestige. So a balance needs to be struck between bank trappings and transparency.


Jinan Municipal Party Committee and Government Office Building. Source: Government Office Buildings in Shandong, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

This week's Reading is a study of banking and the monetary system. This is a very long reading, and it is completely new to me, which enables me to acquire a lot of relevant system knowledge. To be honest, I still couldn't fully understand most of the capital relations and currency mentioned in the book after reading it carefully, and I realized the differences between the various ways banks deal with personal property and various investment behaviors. What strikes me is the trust that banks have in their regulators and between their shareholders. In the seminar, we discussed different monetary systems, and it is connected with the central bank, the other is not. Its internal branches show that different investment methods are associated with multiple capital systems.

Through the description of the development of architectural space, banks and money, I want to express that part of the product of human civilization in the past is the transition from centralization to multi-centralization and then to decentralization. This includes the development of science and technology, as well as the pursuit of various civilizations. Perhaps for a certain system, its structure may not be clear as it develops because it allows for differences. It will present a kind of internal homogeneity. In terms of space, the architect hopes to maintain the equality of each individual through some means -- the equality of space use. Therefore, we broke down the wall of the independent space, removed the furniture that restricted employees' behavior, and used plants to protect employees' privacy, which at the same time means the negation of the central space. On the other hand, we may not need a physical space to work and get paid in the future. Now, all you need is a computer to keep doing the calculations, and the user can get bitcoin as a salary, which can be used as any kind of legal tender to buy goods. This kind of behavior does not serve any enterprise or organization, and people do not have their own bosses and subordinates. This kind of completely decentralized work behavior was unimaginable in the past. Today, humans already have a part of their own virtual space for work and life, so the question is, what's next for architects designing physical Spaces?
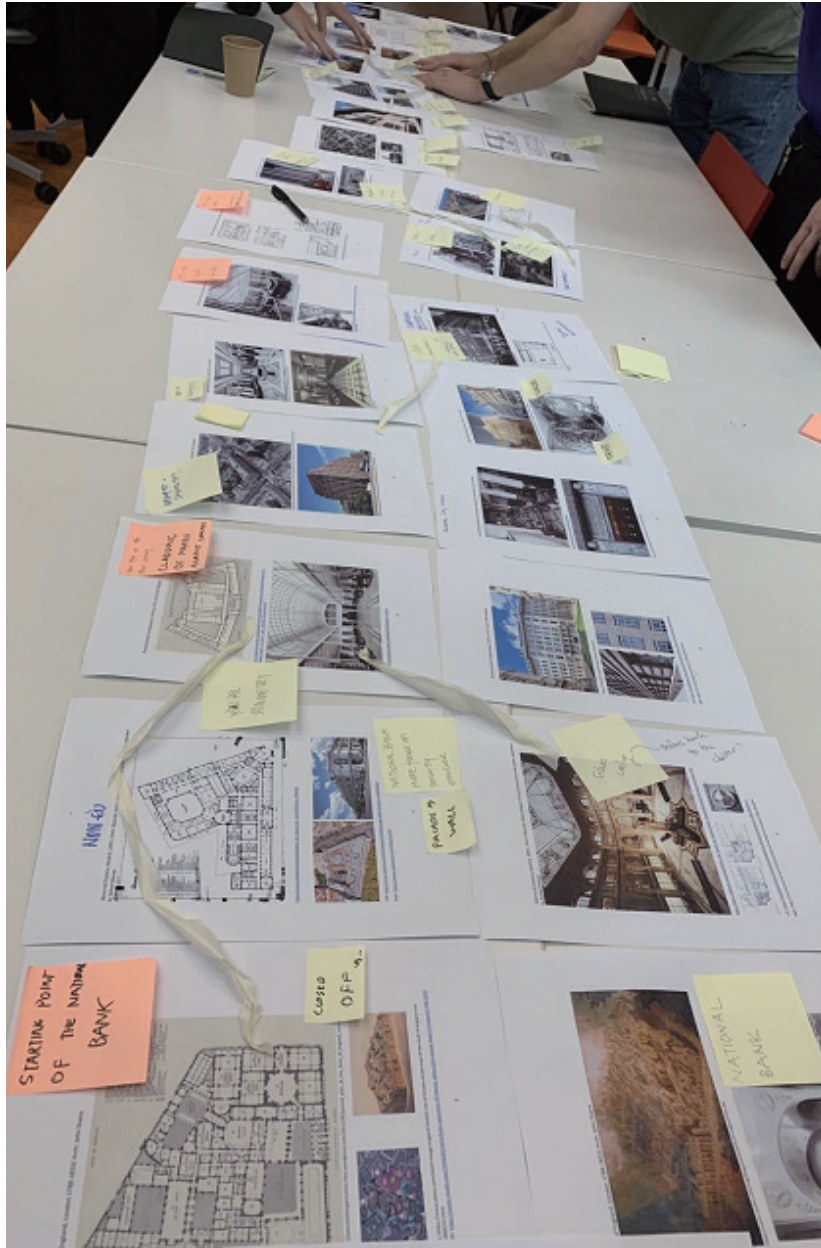
Group discussion of bank precedents
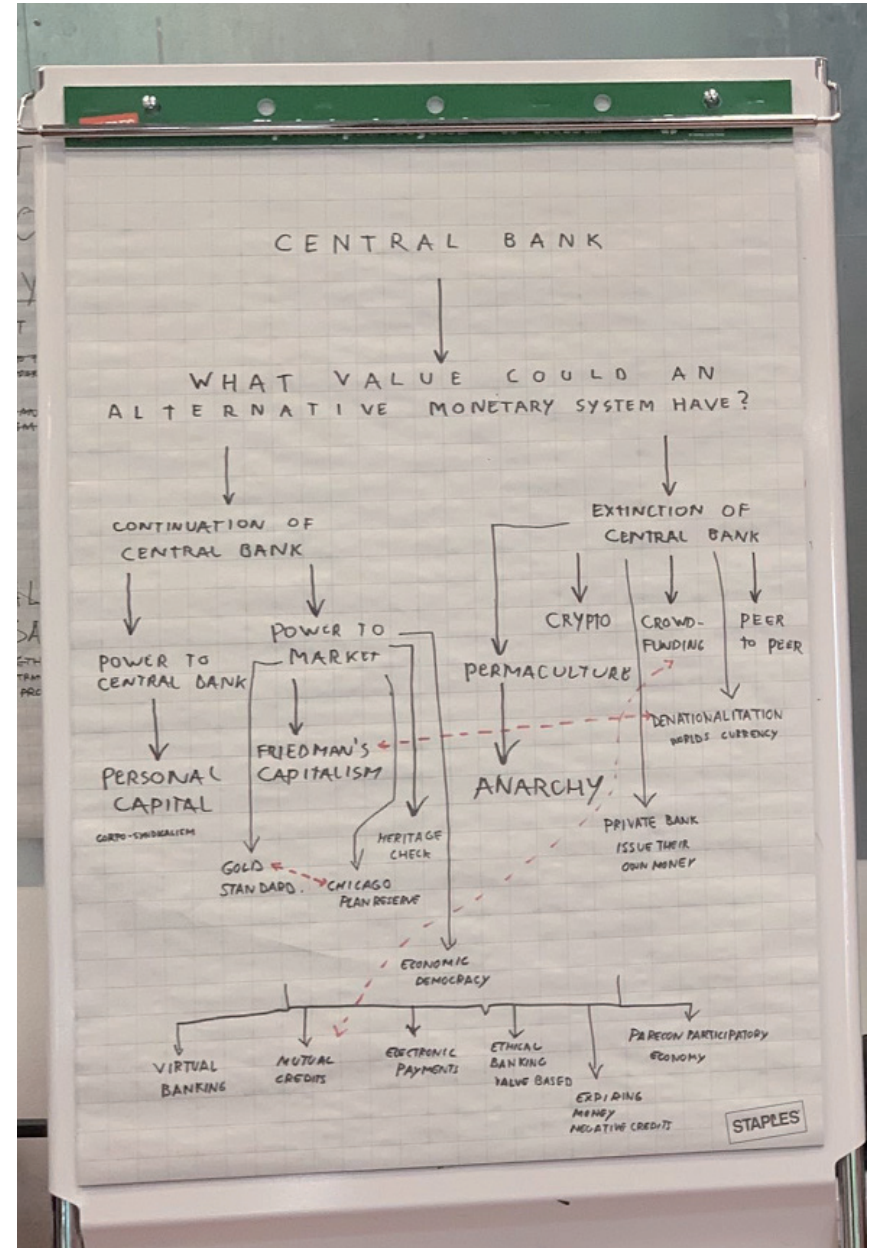
Group discussion of the banking system

The research process of the 16 case studies is also very enlightening, which made me further realize that interior materials and colors can have an impact on architectural space. My team is responsible for National Insurance Building by Sigurd Lewerentz and SAS quarter by NIELSTORP+. Through consulting the materials, I learned that, apart from the most typical design of the entrance stairs, Lewerentz decorated the interior ceiling with light blue and brightened the corridor space through the floor's reflection. These reasons are due to Stockholm's high dimensions, very cold, and lack of colors. In this regard, Lewerentz used this approach to optimize the indoor office space. When I was making models, I was even more impressed by this design technique. It made me realize the meaning of making models. As Daniel said, only by really getting into the details of the model can I feel how every detail of the building is designed. I think this aspect is related to the structure of the building components, and the other aspect is associated with the architect's way of design. Although making a model is quite long and requires a lot of energy, the final result is shocking. I enjoy the process of making the entire model, which I think is very creative because it involves collecting data, thinking about the methods of making various components, and studying how to make the final model and the photo consistent.
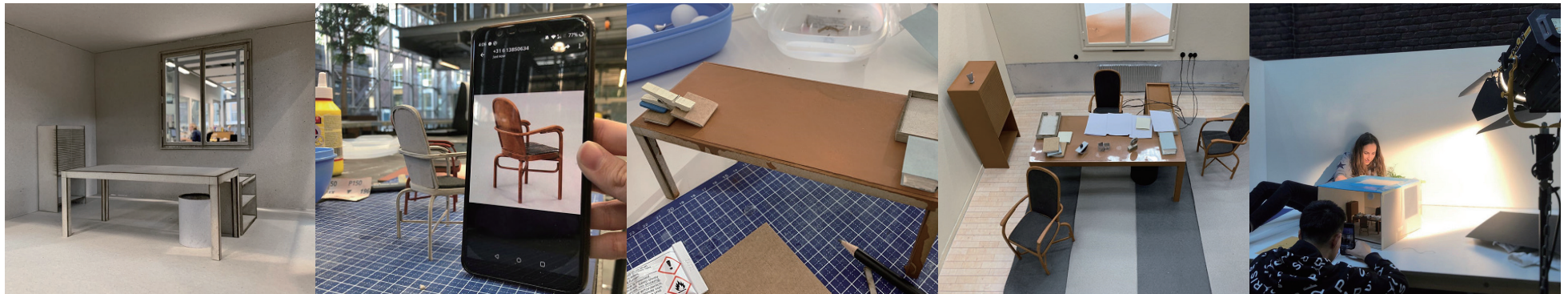
Model making of National Social Insurance Board designed by Sigurd Lewerentz
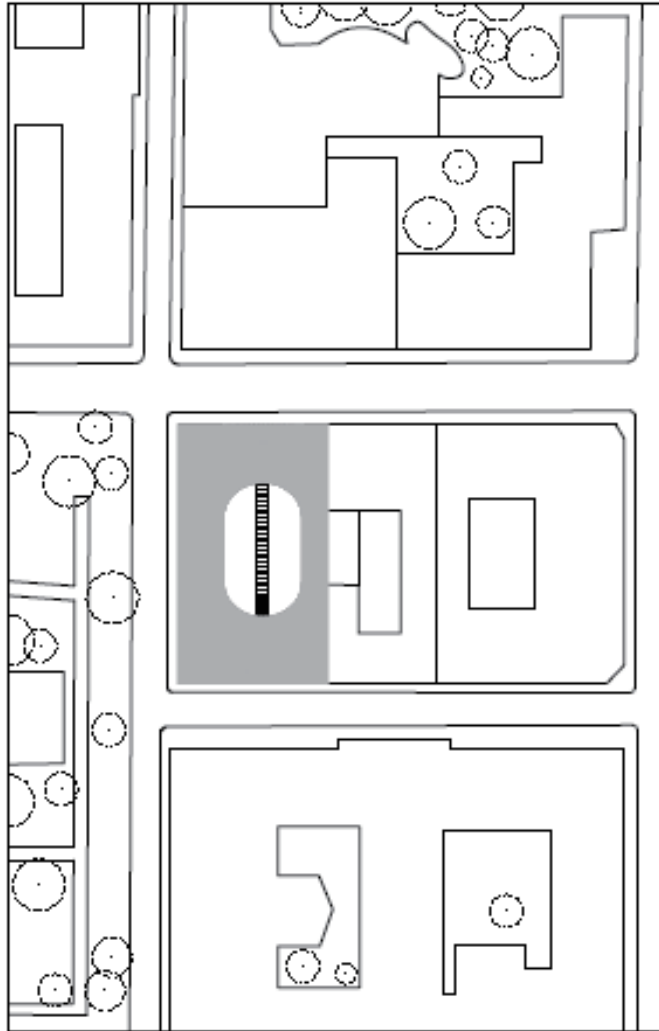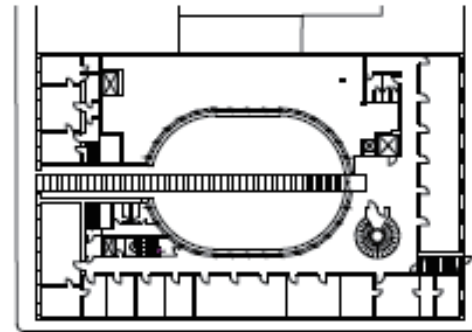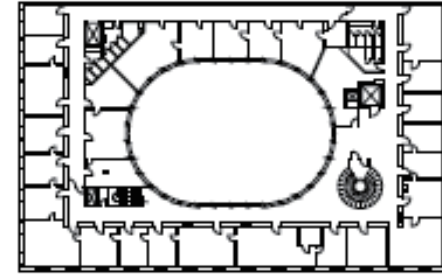
Site plan

Scale 1:1000
The National Insurance Building
Stockholm, Sweden

Ground floor plan and 1st floor plan

Scale 1:600
The National Insurance Building
Stockholm, Sweden

Original photo

Finall model making photo of National Social Insurance Board designed by Sigurd Lewerentz

The Mini Stage

Weiyuan He

As a symbol of powerful capital, the National Bank is "unfriendly" to individuals. I hope to use a design to make such a huge financial system present a sense of caring for every ordinary individual. After discussions in the past few weeks, I decided to design a tiny space, which compares the giant volume of the bank and shows the value of information exchange.

The phone booth is a common "private space" on the street in some cities, and it contains various emotions and activities of people. Also, it may be the smallest entity in public space. The Bank of China in Shanghai is a tower located on the Bund. And there is a pedestrian street with various shops across the road. I tried to use my design to connect the bank with the street as a kind of social plinth. Then I wondered, what if the bank shrinks into a one-person-sized space just like a phone booth? People go shopping through this street and enjoy the scenery of the Bund, can there be other activities for pedestrians? Finally, I came up with the idea of "The Mini Stage."

The mini stage is located directly opposite the bank, and its scales and steps are related to the bank. In addition, there are two spotlights on each side of it, and its "stage" is divided into an outdoor part facing pedestrians and another indoor part facing the road. Its size is about one-twenty-fifth the size of a bank, just like the comparison between the boy and the puppy in Diego Velázquez's paintings. The comparison between such a mini space and the huge bank represents the value of serving every ordinary individual when the bank becomes a human-sized space which means it's especially for every single one.

Individuals can use this mini stage to promote a social welfare project or performance as artists. People can choose to use the outdoor part to interact with pedestrians or use indoor space to observe or attract the attention of people across the road by the window. At night, just like spotlights illuminates the entire bank, this mini stage will also be brightened. This function is to give the pedestrians hurrying to home a sense of security, which is just like the bank protects people's wealth, the mini space will also protect every individual.
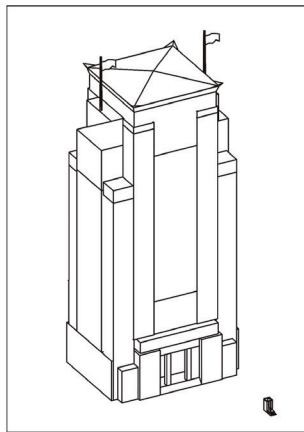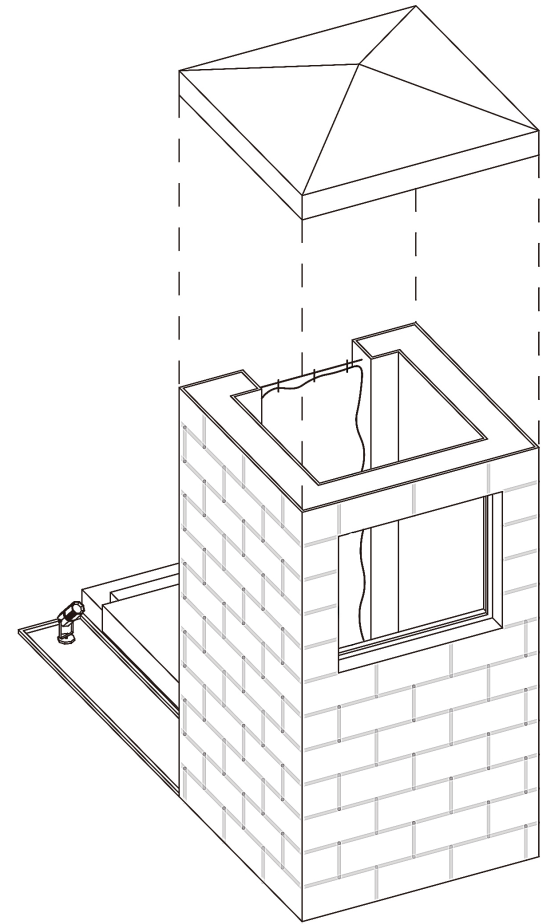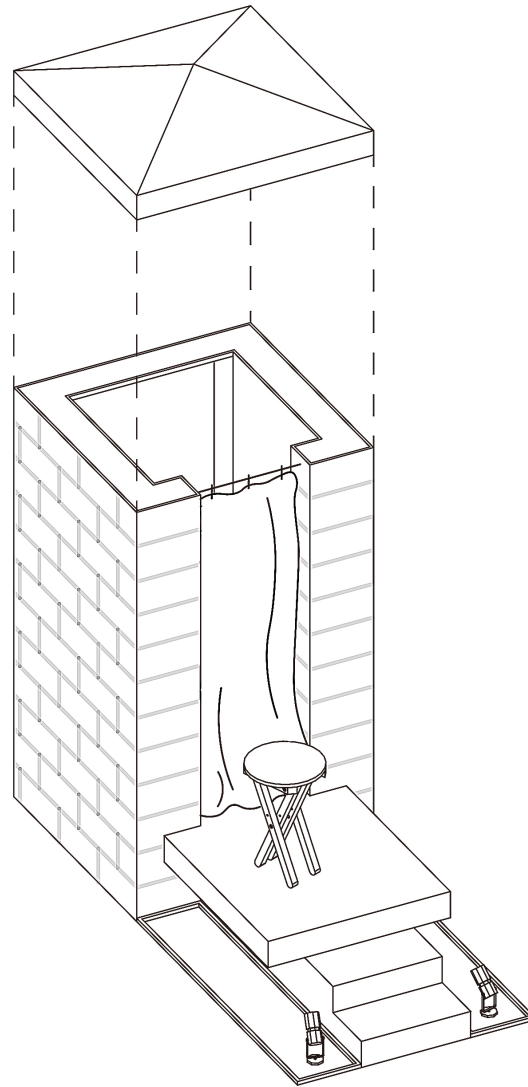
(SOCIAL PLINTH)

People's Bank of China in Shanghai.
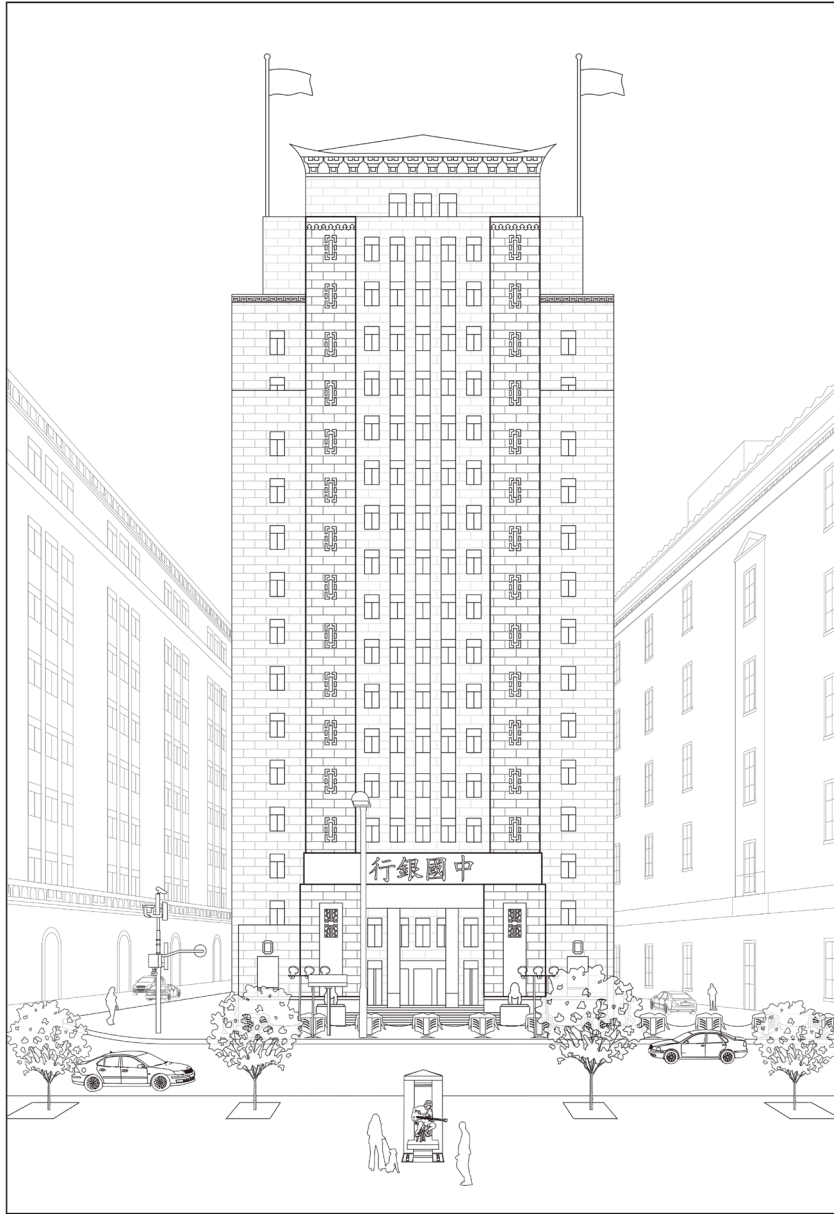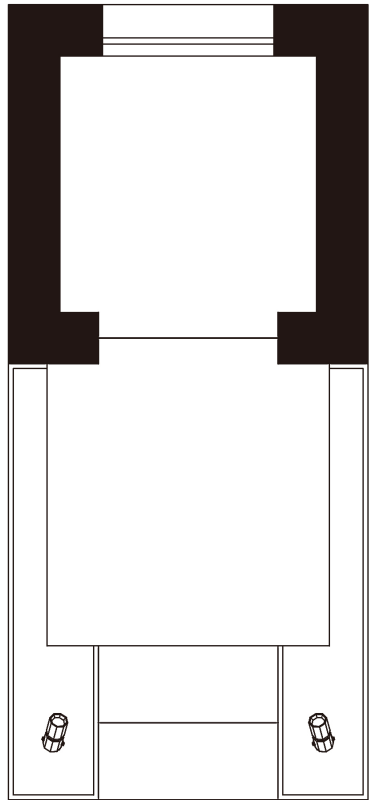
1906

Frank Lloyd Wright, Larkin Administration Building

1930

Sigurd Lewerentz Riksförsäkringsver ke

1939

Frank Lloyd Wright, Johnson Wax Building

1960

Skidmore Owings and Merrill, Union Carbide Building

1965

Quickbo Henn, OS Building

2040+

?

1967

Roche and
Dinkeloo, Ford
Foundation

1972

Herman
Hertzberger,
Centraal Beheer

1975

Foster Associates,
Willis Faber
Dumas Building

1987

Niels Torp, SAS
Headquarters

rner/
SRAM

THEN

NOW?
CO-WORKING?

RESEARCH PLAN

BANK AS A PUBLIC WORKING COMPLEX
THE NEXT WORKING CULTURE: CO-WORKING

Academic positioning

The past few weeks have been the research and discussion of various workspaces and thoughts. From these precedents, I feel the deficiencies of various office spaces and their development trends. In addition, through the study of reading, I have understood banking history and banking system, which may be difficult for me to obtain in other ways. My general insight is that the development of these systems from the past to today is a continuous, decentralized concept, whether it is for the development of office space or the financial system itself.

By learning Francis Duffy's articles, I have gained insights into the types of buildings in various periods. The study of these precedents reflects how the floor's layout is affected by the work model for the transition from centralized to decentralized. From the beginning, we can understand how the traditional, centralized workspace works. For example, Frank Lloyd Wright-designed the Larkin Administration building in 1904, where clerk sits on both sides of female employees, and managers supervise employees from a higher perspective. In addition, the workers' desks have a fixed size to limit the activities of the workers. This centralized and efficient layout makes the office space mechanical and lacks human rights, reflecting the company's management model at that time-centralized power and neglect of human rights. Next, as the work content of employees becomes more specific, individuals or employee organizations have a clear space, and the architectural organization changes accordingly, which transforms from the original open space to an independent space. For example, the National Social Insurance Board designed by Sigurd Lewerentz in 1932 shows an entirely new way of organization. But we can see that these independent office spaces have a clear hierarchy, which hinders the transmission of knowledge and reflects the inequality of this space for the connection between the secretary office and the manager office (Rendell, Penner and Borden, 2000).

Then, we changed from an independent space to an open space again, but the new one is called "landscape space office," which was an early (1950s) movement in open-plan office space planning that typically used irregular geometry and organic circulation patterns (Saval, 2014). The Osram building designed by Quickborner / Henn was the best example in 1965. Unlike the original open office in the United States, the linear arrangement of desks and chairs has been completely abandoned and replaced by a completely random arrangement. The area is divided as necessary by the curved sound insulation board and the potted plants. These objects also isolate the line of sight and noise, and to a certain extent, ensure the privacy of the personal working environment. "Office landscape" has unavoidable flaws in actual use. In the large-level open office space, due to the influence of noise, poor natural lighting, lack of natural ventilation, the landscape office space fails to take into account the work efficiency of the office space when creating an equal and harmonious collective office culture atmosphere. Despite these problems, I think such a flat model further reflects the flattening of the management model and the blurring of the boundaries between levels and is a manifestation of the decentralization of power.

Another example is the SAS Headquarters designed by NIELSTORP+ in 1987, which further reflects the changes in decentralized rights. Satisfaction is the main driver of office design. With the rejection of office landscapes in the 1970s, office design continued to evolve towards cellular workplaces. Private, independent climate control, daylight, openable windows, and outdoor views are considered essential to employees' health (Meel, 2001). On the plane layer, the main feature is a spacious internal street. At the workplace level, you can see huge differences. The entire office space is broken down into several groups with independent collective space for their management system.
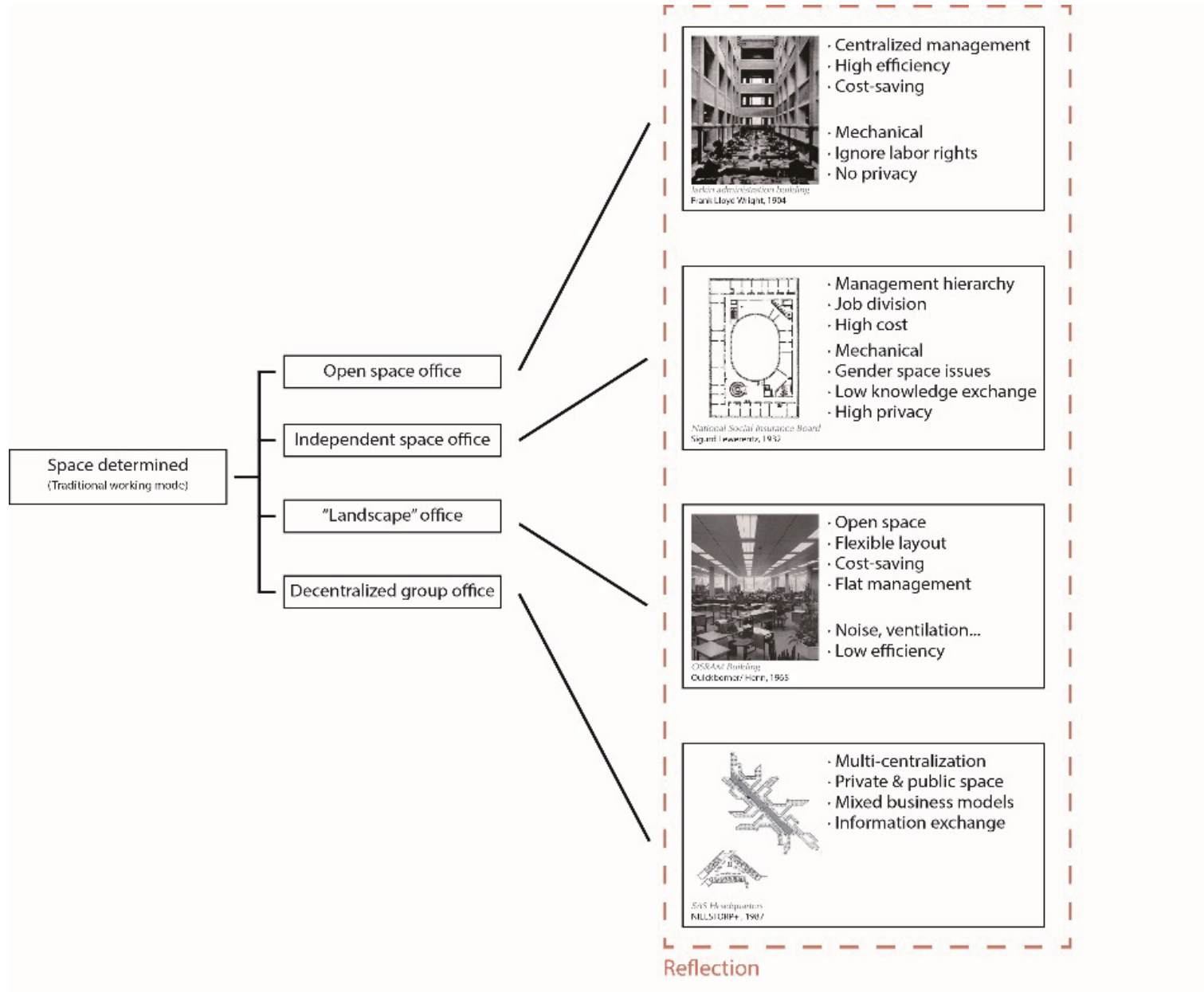
Typologies of traditional working space (Own analytical drawing)

Architects' freedom is limited under a huge management system, and architecture is a reflection of current society (Duffy, 1980). This sentence is not only reflected in the foundation of business management, but also in other aspects. Perhaps, we can now feel the significance of decentralization from various aspects. In addition to the evolution of space, the development history of banks and today's currency system also show a kind of thinking triggered by decentralization. Through the reading and seminars, I have learned a lot of knowledge about the financial system. With the disappearance of the central bank, people have multiple modes such as bitcoin, crowded funding, and peer-to-peer transactions, and s of these transaction methods are different from each other. Fiat currencies such as Euros or U.S. dollars are linked. For example, Bitcoin is a purely decentralized product. It does not belong to any centralized authority and is not associated with any legal national currency, and people can use Bitcoin to buy more and more goods. At the same time, for example, China and India's suppression of citizens' investment in Bitcoin can also be seen as a centralized authority's struggle against virtual currencies (Perumal, 2021).

Reflective problematization

Through the description of the development of architectural space, banking, and currency, I want to express that part of the product of human civilization in past history is the transition from centralization to multi-centralization and then to decentralization. This includes the development of science and technology and the pursuit of various cultures by humanity. Perhaps for a specific system, its structure may not be firm because of its development, but because it allows for differences, it will present a kind of internal homogeneity. In terms of space, the architect hopes to maintain the equality of each individual by some means the equality of the use of space. Therefore, we broke the wall of the independent space, removed the furniture that restricted the behavior of employees which at the same time meant a denial of the central space. On the other hand, we may not need a physical space to work and get paid in the future. Now, we only need a computer to calculate to get Bitcoin as a salary, which can be regarded as any kind of legal currency to buy commodities. This kind of behavior does not serve any company or organization, and people do not have their own superiors and subordinates. Today, human beings have part of their own virtual space for work, and the question is, what is the next goal for architects who design physical spaces?

As described before, the workspace will present a new model due to the development of virtual technology and the impact of the decentralized value. In this regard, the boundaryless organization and co-working office models have become a certain stage of the future work model, which appears after the multi-centralized workspace mentioned above. Co-working spaces include co-working spaces and various work mechanisms. Its workspace is divided into the physical workspace and virtual workspace. Different workers or working communities can share one office and have different types of communication or meeting spaces in order to promote information exchange. In addition, the virtual co-working space is a platform that facilitates the work management and communication of community members with common occupations or interests. Since co-working is designed to serve small-scale groups and individuals, its target users include young freelancers, artistic creative designers, IT and digital media workers, and other small businesses. There are various internal operating mechanisms for different organizations and individual co-working offices.

During the period of COVID-19, the home office has become the main way people work, and at the same time, some of its drawbacks have gradually emerged. Compared with home office, the advantages of co-working office are mainly reflected in: First, a well-designed office space can reduce the interference of various factors at home, such as family, children, pets, neighbors, etc., make work more focused and work more efficient; Secondly, the various communication places in the co-working space can bring more business and private social interactions to the workers, enabling the workers to communicate with more talents in other business fields. Finally, the co-working space can provide a formal business environment compared with complete office facilities, it is cheaper and less risky than renting or buying by yourself, and there is no need for maintenance at all.

In the next research period and the studio, I want to study in-depth the types of co-working physical spaces and different internal operation modes and hope to reflect what I've learned in my design. At present, I have a limited understanding of the types of co-working spaces, I think to a certain extent, co-working may be regarded as the epitome of various types of office space in the past, which means that it inherits some of the previous space problems. On the other hand, for the co-working space, its biggest feature is to promote communication. At the same time, due to the decentralized management concept and the influence of the digital platform, this kind of communication in the office space has changed from the previous linear and one-direction to reticulated and diverse. For individuals, the information received by workers might be many times that of the past, which means changes in work content and efficiency. I want to know whether this method of information exchange is beneficial for co-working spaces. At the same time, along with other virtual collaboration platforms, the boundary between users' public and private spaces may become blurred. Therefore, it is worth considering that the co-office model may not only facilitate the use of userspace but also be regarded as a blurring of private space.

Therefore, as a space designer, I want to know how the communication space in the office space should be designed suitable for the individual, or what kind of function the communication space should have to meet the needs of different users rather than a simple open space with several furniture. However, the communication space is only a part of the co-working space. For other spaces, how can they be designed to be compatible with the virtual co-working platform? Based on the theme of decentralization, what effect will the co-working space model have in the future? And how it is designed to maintain the uniqueness and spatial rights of each worker. For my research plan, I would like to conduct a detailed study on the physical space and working mode of the co-working office, and evaluate its advantages and disadvantages and make suggestions for future improvement.
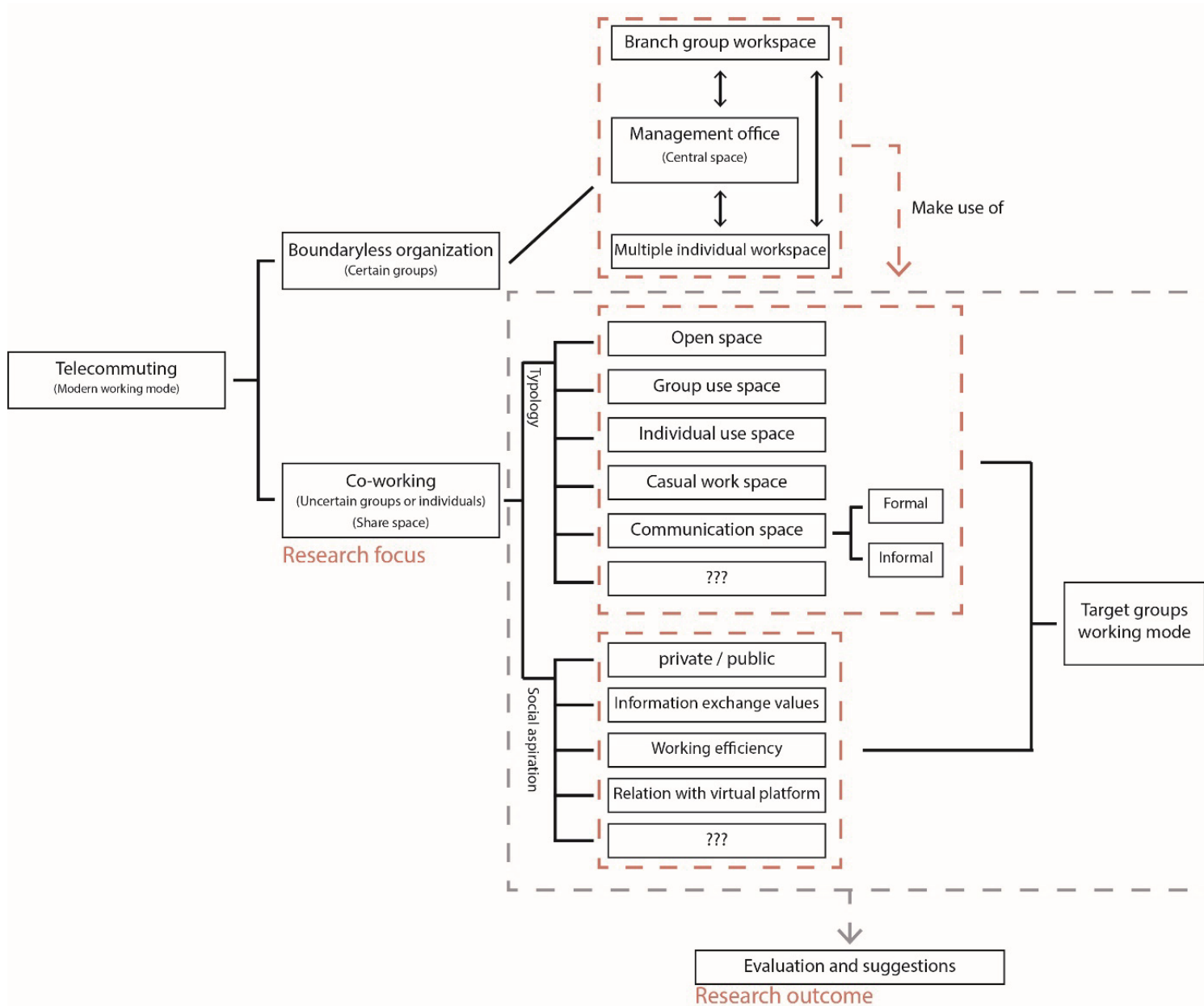
Structure of research plan (Own analytical drawing)

"CO-WORKING"

Its connection to the virtual world
Its connection to the life
Its connection to Brussels
Its organization
Its formation
Its possibility

"CO-WORKING"

Its connection to the virtual world

The biggest impact this book has on me is that it discusses what future workers will look like. In the past, large companies or organizations connected practitioners, but for self-owned businesses, the organization they formed is spontaneous and not necessarily profit-driven, which shows a big difference, that is For co-workers and ordinary employees, their organization of the space is different.

I really like the example mentioned in the book. The author found a very interesting office building in London. The 40 theaters inside can be shared. Everyone can perform on stage, be a director, or be a director. audience. Because of this theater, the office buildings here are often full. This gave me an inspiration which is that many existing office buildings can meet people's needs, so where are the advantages of the new office space? The book uses Beijing, Shanghai, and other places as examples to list some of the shortcomings of the past office model, due to the waste of time caused by the crowded city traffic; the activity time of the office staff is restricted; the boss's spying on the staff and the working time that cannot be managed by themselves, etc. . Some of these may be unavoidable, but will it become possible if some employees can choose to choose a place to work near their apartment?

Cognitive barriers

About three months ago, I learned about the Discord app which is a different community and cultural circle formed entirely based on interests. In this software, users have different tags in the community, which may be speaking managers, news publishers, digital content creators, and information screeners. In other words, in Discord, everyone has their job. This is a mature workspace with the help of a virtual community platform. For a builder, most of the content we discuss is limited to the category of physical space, but in fact, the Internet presents another decentralized, huge collection of spaces. This is not to say that physical space is no longer important, but for architects, what we need to think about is how to design physical space to help users get a better experience on the Internet and still have a connection with the real world. We can imagine a group of people doing Discord work in a co-working space. Or use the computer to design new NFT(non-fungible token) artwork for sale. These may have nothing to do with the content of the book, but what the author wants to express is: co-working is not just a space where random people come to work, it is an ecosystem. Independent individuals can come here to work, as well as a small group or a small company. We can imagine an architectural office with about ten people working in a co-working space, and at the same time, there is also an architectural rendering company. So they can cooperate here. The firm wants to let the public know more about living space through a lecture, and at the same time let more potential customers know them, so they need an open space to hold a lecture. At the same time, digital media workers can show this lecture to their user platform for publicity. After finishing their work, they can exercise in the fitness club in this co-working space. This is an example of what happens in a co-working space.
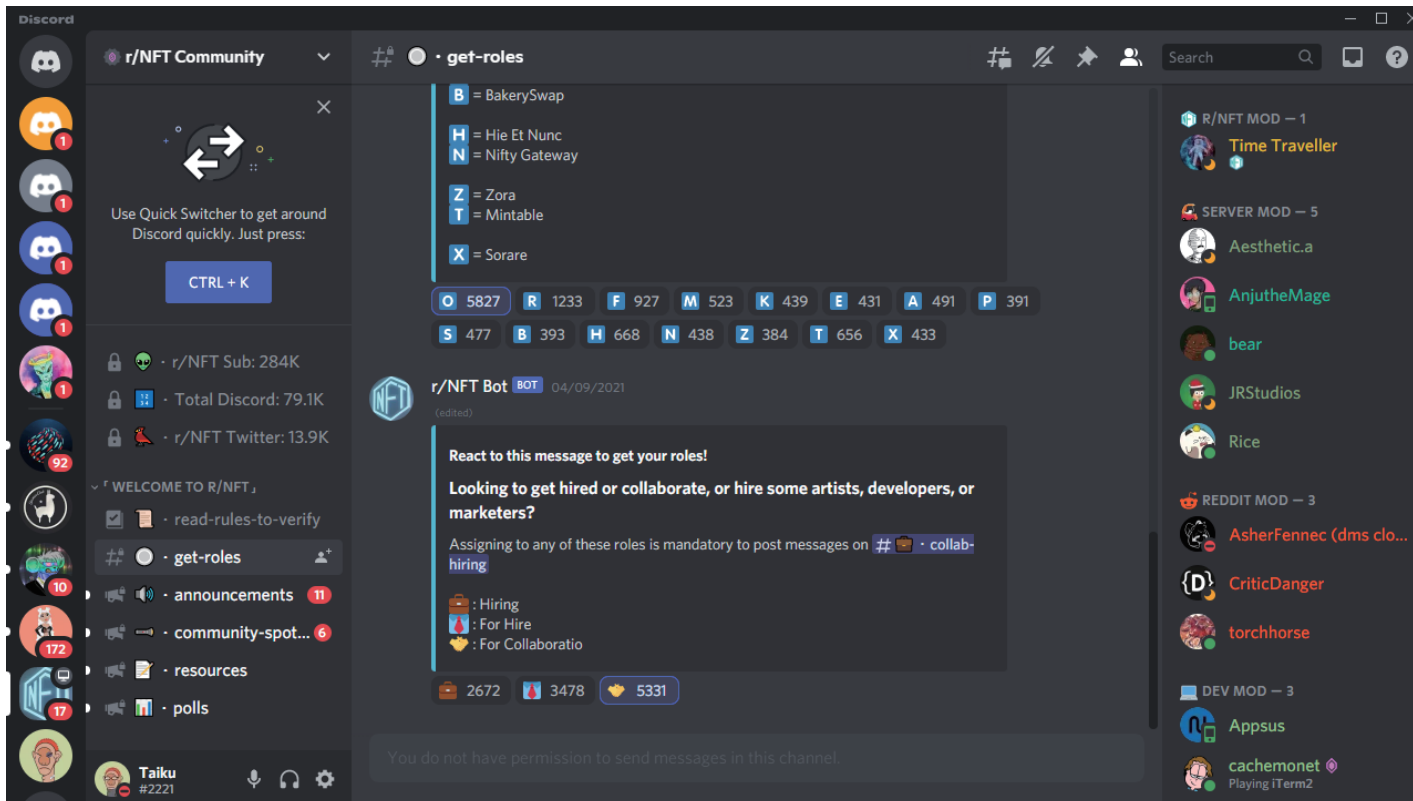
Discord user interface.

Discord is a free online real-time call software and digital distribution platform designed for the community. It is mainly aimed at gamers, educators and business people. Users can interact with the software through information, pictures, video and audio in the chat channel of the software. source：https://zh.wikipedia.org/wiki/Discord
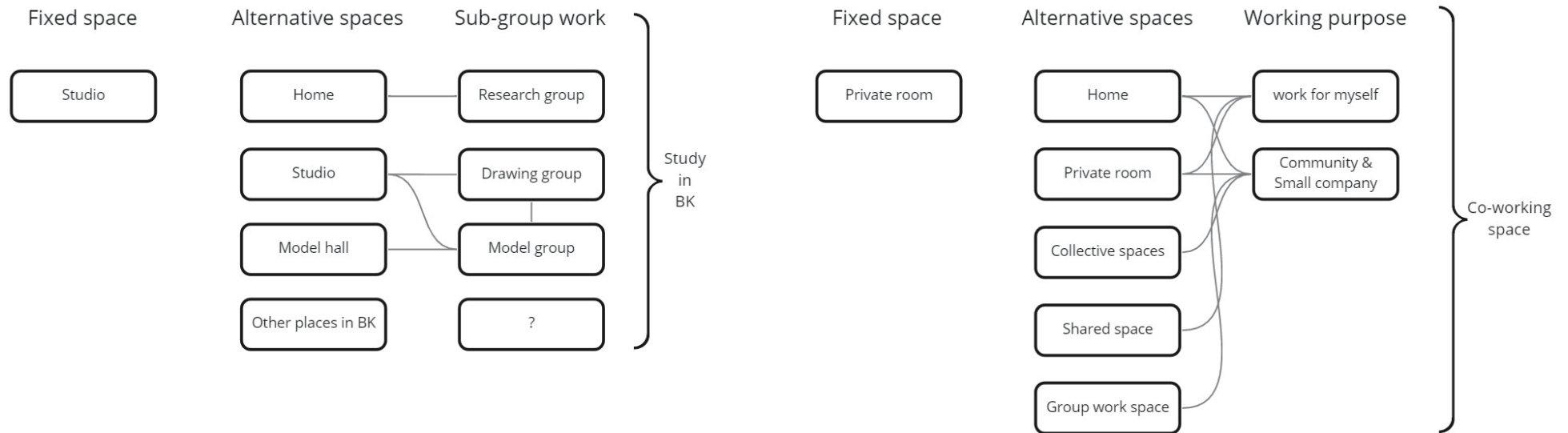
"CO-WORKING"

Its connection to the life
Its connection to Brussels

Co-working spaces and studio in BK

Perhaps our current learning method is like a preliminary form of co-working: taking BK as an example, we need to have face-to-face discussions every Thursday, and we can choose to study at home or go to our studio or in more time. Other corners of the faculty. It not only saves a fixed schedule but also has a lively and personalized choice. In the past few weeks, based on interest and expertise, the entire studio's classmates have been divided into three parts: research group, model group, and drawing group. These three groups are formed spontaneously by us, and each group has its own working method and space. For me, this is very close to the way of working in the future discussed in this book. Of course, I know that there are many differences between companies and schools, but I still want to know if this approach is possible for office spaces.

Fixed space	Alternative spaces	Sub-group work	
Studio	Home	Research group	Study in BK
	Studio	Drawing group	
	Model hall	Model group	
	Other places in BK	?	

Fixed space	Alternative spaces	Working purpose	
Private room	Home	work for myself	Co-working space
	Private room	Community & Small company	
	Collective spaces		
	Shared space		
	Group work space		

Relations between studying in BK and Co-working space

For the National Bank of Belgium

The author, as the developer and manager of the "Youke Workshop", has a different perspective from an architect. But the concept he put forward is very enlightening. For future workers, what they need to think about is not what kind of space they can adapt to, but where they can find the space they need. (Mao, 2017) The National Bank of Belgium has office space that cannot be digested by itself and has different social obligations. Therefore, I think it is feasible to provide a part of the bank's space as a service to the general public. The book mentions many different co-working space transformation cases, many of which are transforming abandoned factories into new office spaces. At the same time, some Chinese real estate companies have also transformed some of their office buildings into co-working spaces. Jeff Weinstein, editor-in-chief of HOTELS magazine in the United States, believes that the choice of "third space" will be a trend. People's demand for the "third space" is not just for responding to the epidemic. We are still in the early days of the digital age, and future digital technologies will make our lives more convenient. There are churches and two new apartment projects around the bank. In addition, it is 500 meters away from the central railway station, which makes it a huge potential as a new co-working space. For banks, the conversion of part of the office space into a space open to the general public indicates the bank's acceptance of different institutions in society, and it is also an exploration of new urban spaces.

- Shared economy
- Free layout
- Different organizations
- Open public working
- Knowledge exchange

Spaces Apotekergata

Co-working spaces in Brussels (by 2019)

68 existing co-working spaces

18 in preparation

59 coworking spaces (existing and in preparation) in the Pentagon and the first crown.

(Source: https://perspective.brussels/nl/stedelijke-uitdagingen/stedelijke-economie)

7

The future of the NBB area - activated business district

University district

Commercial core edging

Centre commercial

Economic development axis

Regional Plan for Sustainable Development in 2040 (GPDO 2018)

perspective.brussels

New role of NBB – open working environment

... This offers a perfect opportunity for shopping centres to tap into a fast-growing market by adding co-working spaces to their offer... Shopping centres have the advantage of great transport links, making it easy to commute into or using as a base to meet clients. Co-working spaces can foster new relationships and aid shopping centres in becoming a true beating heart of the community.

-beyondlondon.com

❝ There is increasing demand for studyspaces. This question far exceeds the offer during the block and exam periods. The coworking spaces would be can be a supplement. Silversquare Triomphe, strategically located between the Pleincampus and Solbosh, VUB and ULB, recently launched a special and cheap flat rate for students. ❞

The Student Life Cell

- Brussels organization that should help the students with their housing and their daily life in the Brussels region.

United Business Institutes - Brussels

Future universities district

International Association of Students in Economics and Commercial Sciences of the Faculties

500m

UCLouvain Saint-Louis Brussels

KU Leuven Campus Brussels

Future commercial center
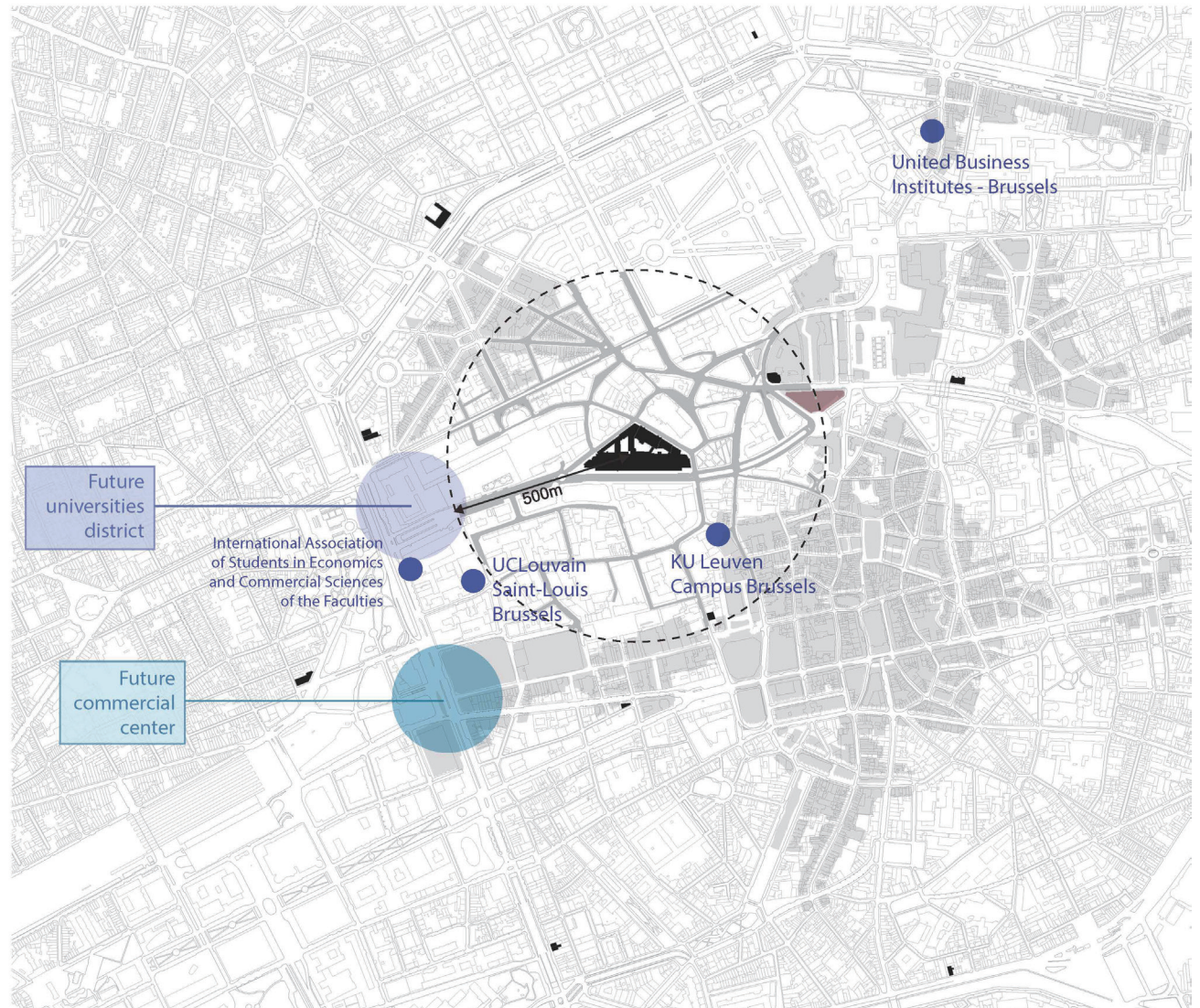
Through known survey methods, it is difficult for me to obtain information about the working methods and sources of the target group. I decided to discuss the feasibility of designing co-working space using known information derivation.

I investigated some co-working offices near the National Bank of Belgium through website, and tried to analyze the quality of these co-working spaces currently used through website information.

The conclusion is that the small co-working space does not have a good operating condition. On the other hand, for things like WeWork and Silversquare Central, they have a large system and a variety of spaces to meet their needs, and Silversquare Central will occasionally hold lectures and activities aimed at community members to enhance the value of the community, and have a more complete system. At the same time, it provides 37 different office spaces according to the needs of different people.

Therefore, there are some successful co-working office cases in the vicinity of the bank, and it can be concluded that it has such a feasibility in our site at the same time.

Espace Y - Coworking Brussels

Not open

6 types of rental space
Especially for women
Offer virtual office
30+ community members

WOMADE

WeWork - Espace de bureau et coworking

4 types of rental space
Accommodate1-100+ people
Receive feedbacks recently
In good function

Coworking List -
Coworking Bruxelles
- Bureau partagé
Bruxelles - Coworking
Ixelles

Unknown

YELOMEX
coworking space

3 types of rental space
Very small scale
In a limited function

Silversquare Central
- coworking space in
Brussels

37 types of rental space
Accommodate3-100+ people
Regular community events
In good function

"CO-WORKING"

Its organization
Its formation
Its possibility

Co-working space types	Free open space	Meeting space	Open working	Independent space	Others
Classifications / Categories	Iconic Gathering people Events & Lectures Free talking Resting area	Formal / Informal Free talking Resting area	Low price Flexible desks For individuals & groups	Better service Independent space & units For individuals & groups	VR rooms Laboratories Workshops Other specific use

Formal / Informal / Groups / Individuals

Privacy	Free open space	Meeting space	Open working	Independent space	Others
Open	●	●	●		
Half closed		○		○	
Closed & Private		○		●	●

Distribution					
Centralized	●			●	●
One space Random layout		○	●		
Scattered		●		○	

Scale & Proportion					
One big	●				
L			●		
M		●	○	●	
S				○	●
XS					

Accessibility					
Bank workers	●	○			
Non-workers	●	○			○
Co-working people	●	●	●	●	●

● All / Most ○ Few

52

Pir Ålesund Office Building / Mad arkitekter

Gathering   Resting   Flexible layout   Independent Units

Routes   Flow core

Base4Work Bratislava / Studio Perspektiv

Gathering   Resting   Flexible layout   Independent Units

Routes   Flow core

Supermetall Offices / YoYo Bureau

1 st floor plan

1 st floorplan

Gathering   Resting   Flexible layout   Independent Units

Routes   Flow core
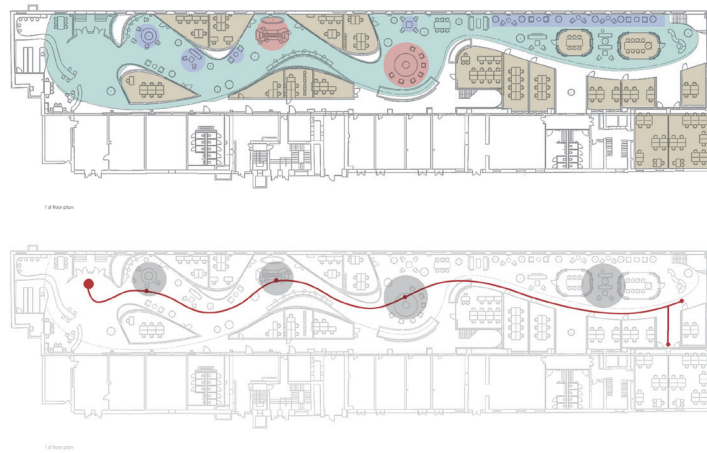
Vinted Vilnius Office / DO Architects

Gathering   Resting   Flexible layout   Independent Units

Routes   Flow core
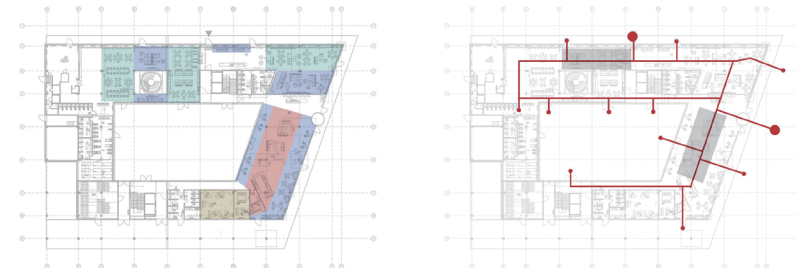
OMA / Jason Long's Adaptive Reuse of Historic Houston Post Office Opens to the Public

Music Club

Gallery

Open lecture
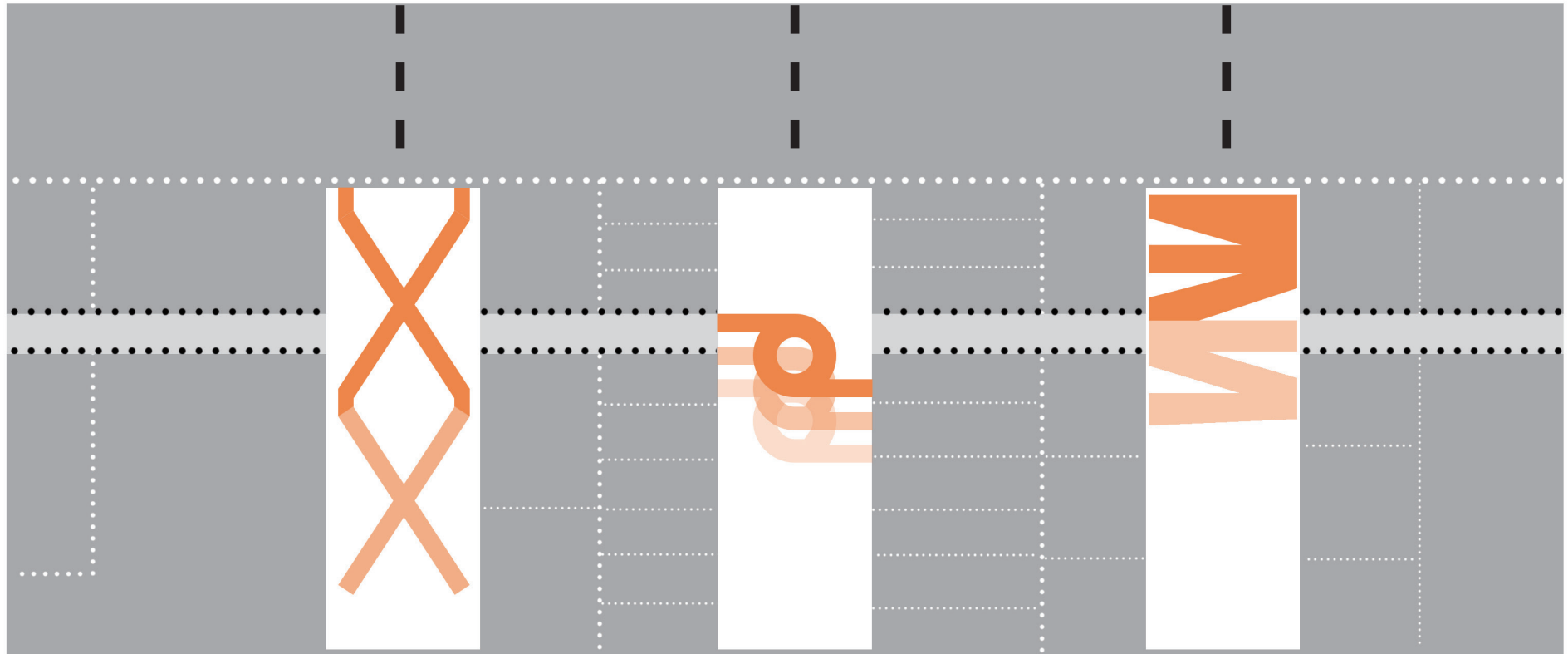
What it might be?
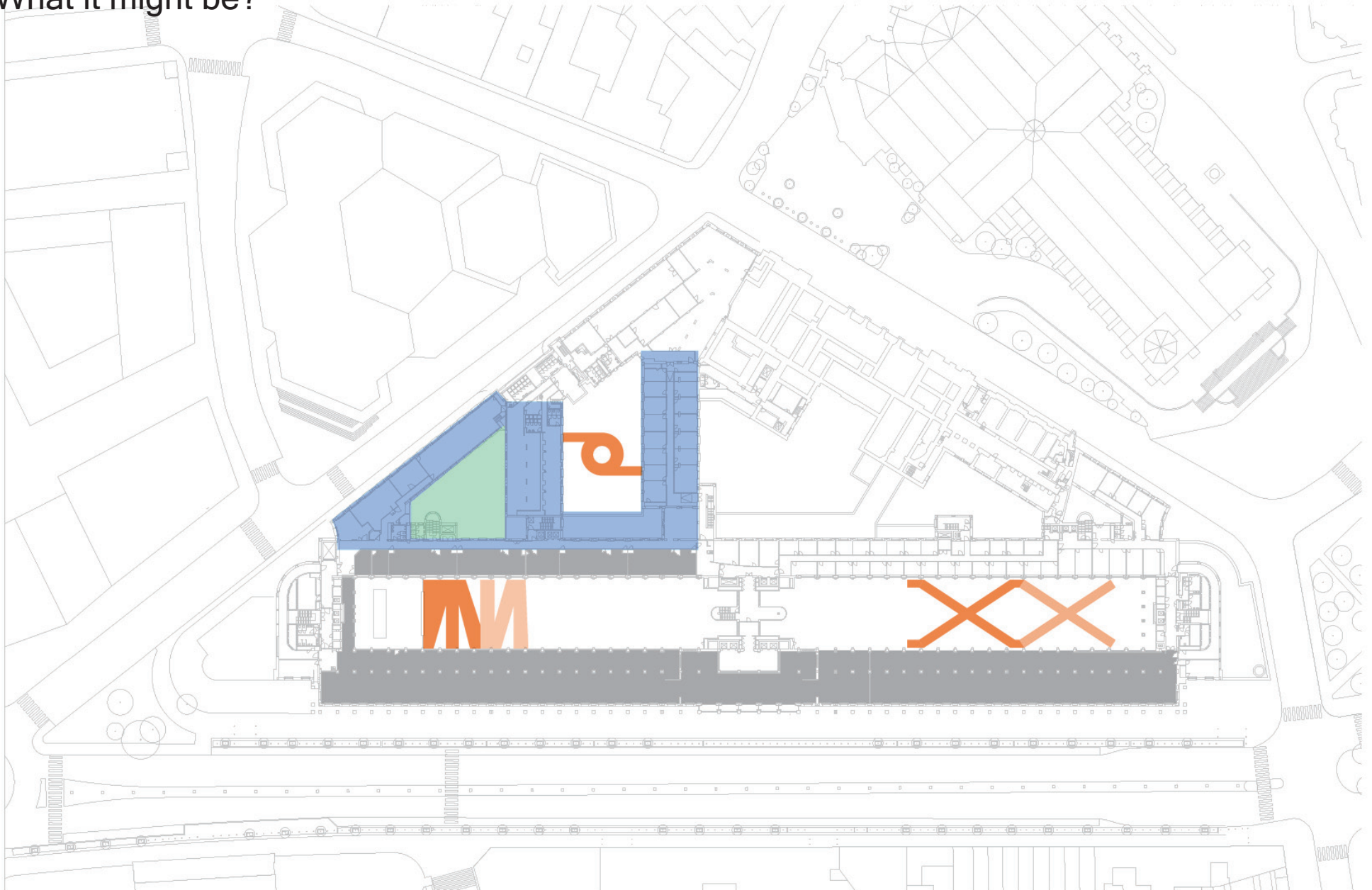
1. Do you need to open the entire building in all directions?
According to my idea, in order to allow different social characters to come in from different entrances, I set up 5 entrances at various locations of the building:

A. Bank staff entrance
B. Bank social service entrance
C. Palace entrance
D. Pedestrian entrances on both sides of the building
E. Co-working office entrance

What needs to be discussed is whether this is necessary? These entrances will decompose the building into different pieces, so how to preserve the integrity of the building? So this is not necessary.

2. Think about whether palaces and banks need private courtyards? For safety and other considerations?

3. Can the bank hall be the next Galerie Ravenstein? The circulation is necessary on both sides of the building, and can such corners be used as the entrance to the building? Because it is very narrow, it is not a major façade of the building. This way of entrance is not a good choice.

4. In terms of co-working, how should the east side of the building be treated? Study the plan of the building and think carefully about what to destroy and what to keep. How to use the existing space to perfect new functions instead of completely dismantling it.

WHAT IF?
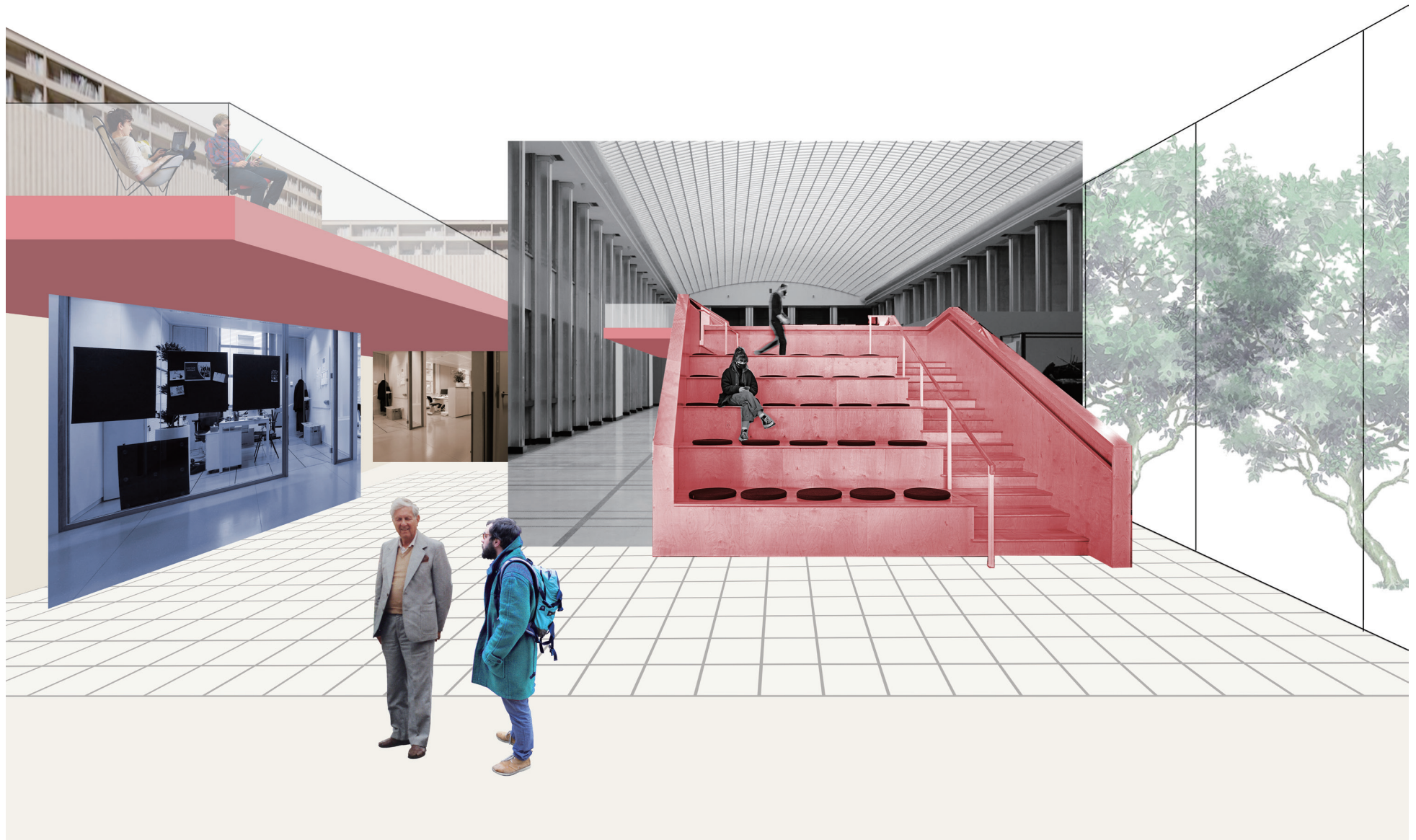
"THE NATIONAL BANK"

The site
The building

External

When I entered the National Bank of Belgium for the first time, I felt that it was a very closed collection of spaces. The continuous façade and solid sides of the building make the whole bank look like a monumental building rather than a space serving the public. Although its south side is the palace of the former bank, due to the narrowness of the street and the parking lot, it looks like a side of the building rather than the main entrance, and it is not connected to the church. From the overall profile, even though there is no logo, people can easily understand it as an administrative agency.

Internal

The internal lobby is an open space, where the citizens used to conduct transactions. Like some precedents studied before, the symmetrical entrance layout and glass roof show order and transparency. But the stone entrance makes it look like a tool for screening people of different social classes. This "unfriendly" exterior building is like what Dovey said, "This symbolic spectacle with no productive function often claims the entire street frontage and the first three floors of the building–it separates the inhabitants from the street and inhibits any contribution to street life" (Dovey, 1992)

Obviously, this empty and non-functional space needs to be transformed. The staff who introduced the bank also mentioned their needs for this space:

1. Communication space
2. Public spaces open to different institutions
3. Exhibition space
4. As a guest space of the palace

It should be noted that there are two kinds of the public in the space here, one is ordinary people on the street, and the other is ordinary bank employees. It is necessary to define what kind of functions this space can bring to systems other than banks.

Office Space

The working space above is a typical parallel structure and independent office. In different locations, the entrances, curtains, and hanging paintings of the building show the class order of different areas. The narrow corridors and public spaces without quality are a huge trouble for employees, which restricts their scope of activities. It is possible that for employees in certain offices, they rarely have the opportunity to go to different floors and talk to different employees, which effectively hinders the transfer of knowledge. It should be pointed out that there are not enough employees occupying all the office space, so these "lattices" have great potential and different adaptive strategies.
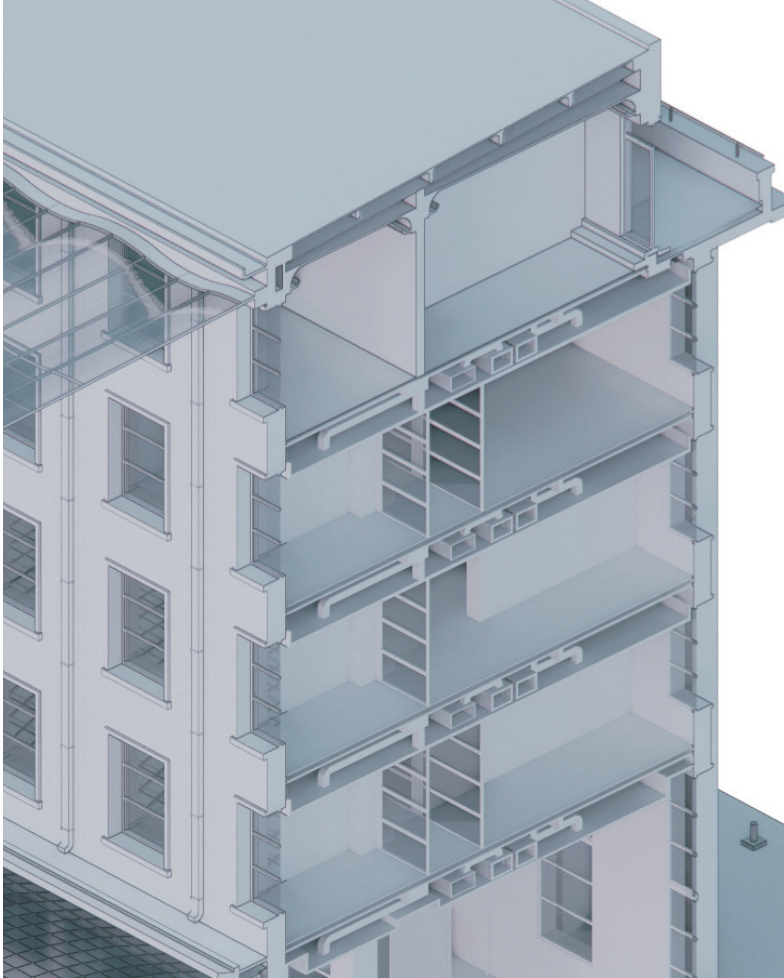
Botanique

Bozar

Ravenstein Gallery

Museum of Fine Arts

Royal Library

Cultural Value

Economic Value

Mix value

Natural value

1KM

N

Comic Center

Central Station

Brussels North Station

Museum of the National Bank

Grand-Place

Saint Hubert Galleries
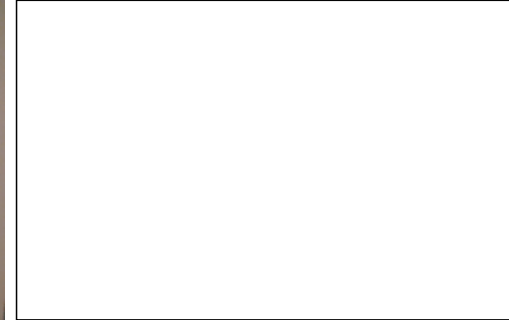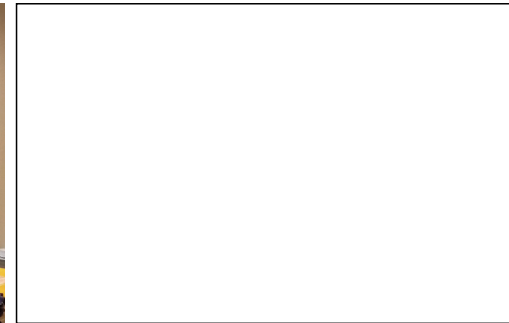
Brussels South Station

Inside
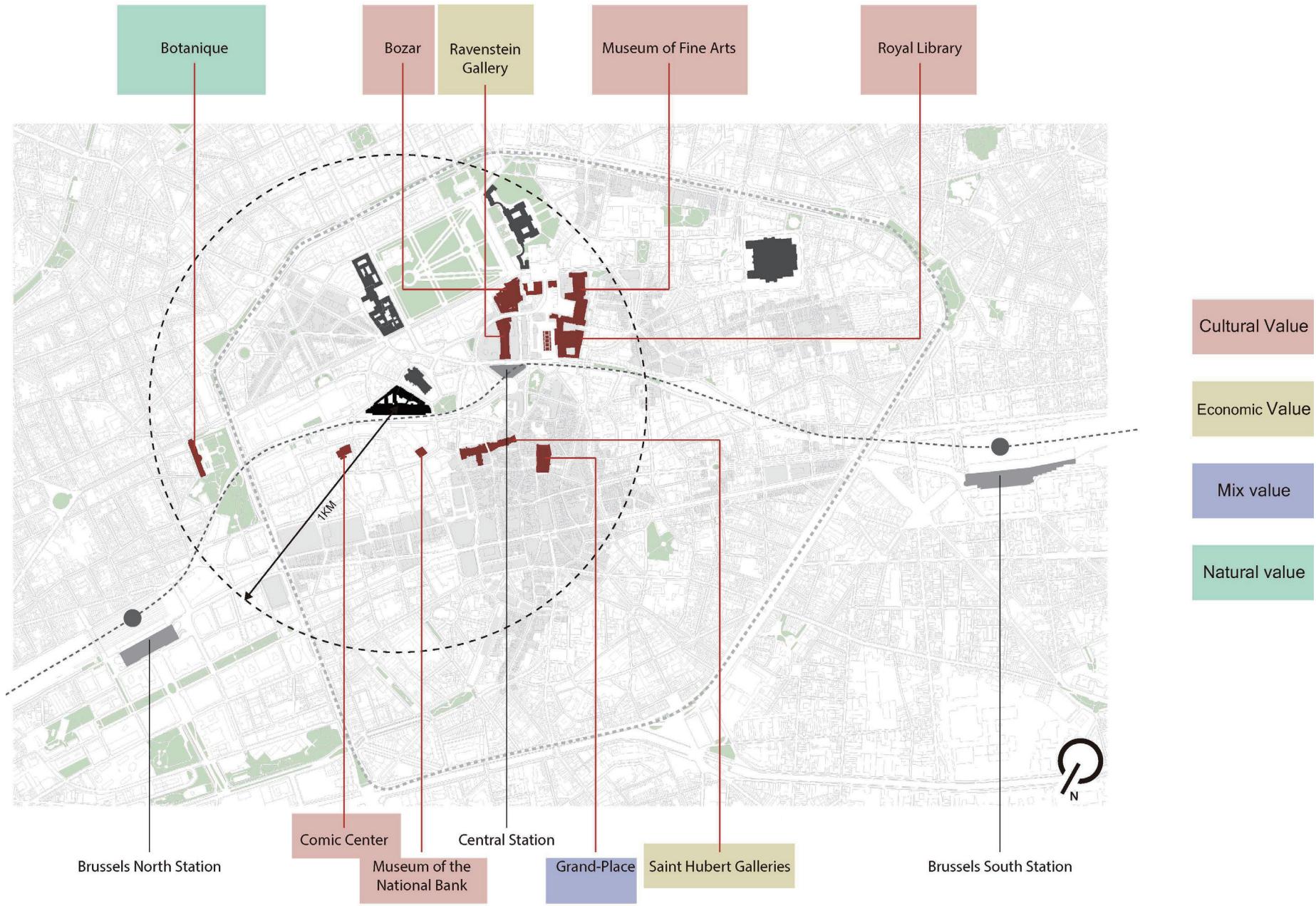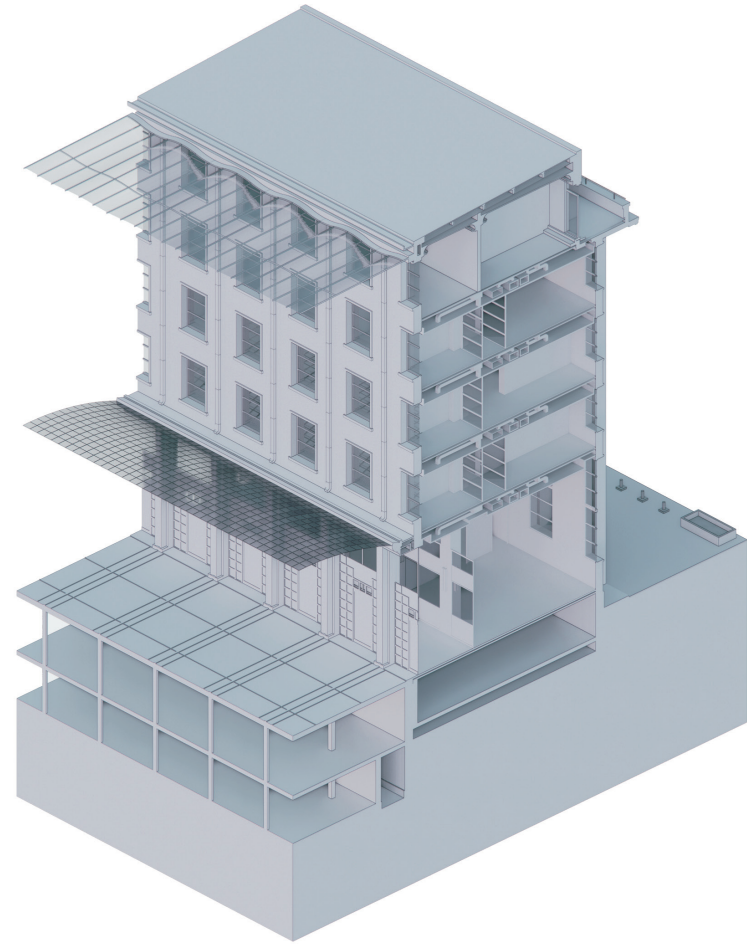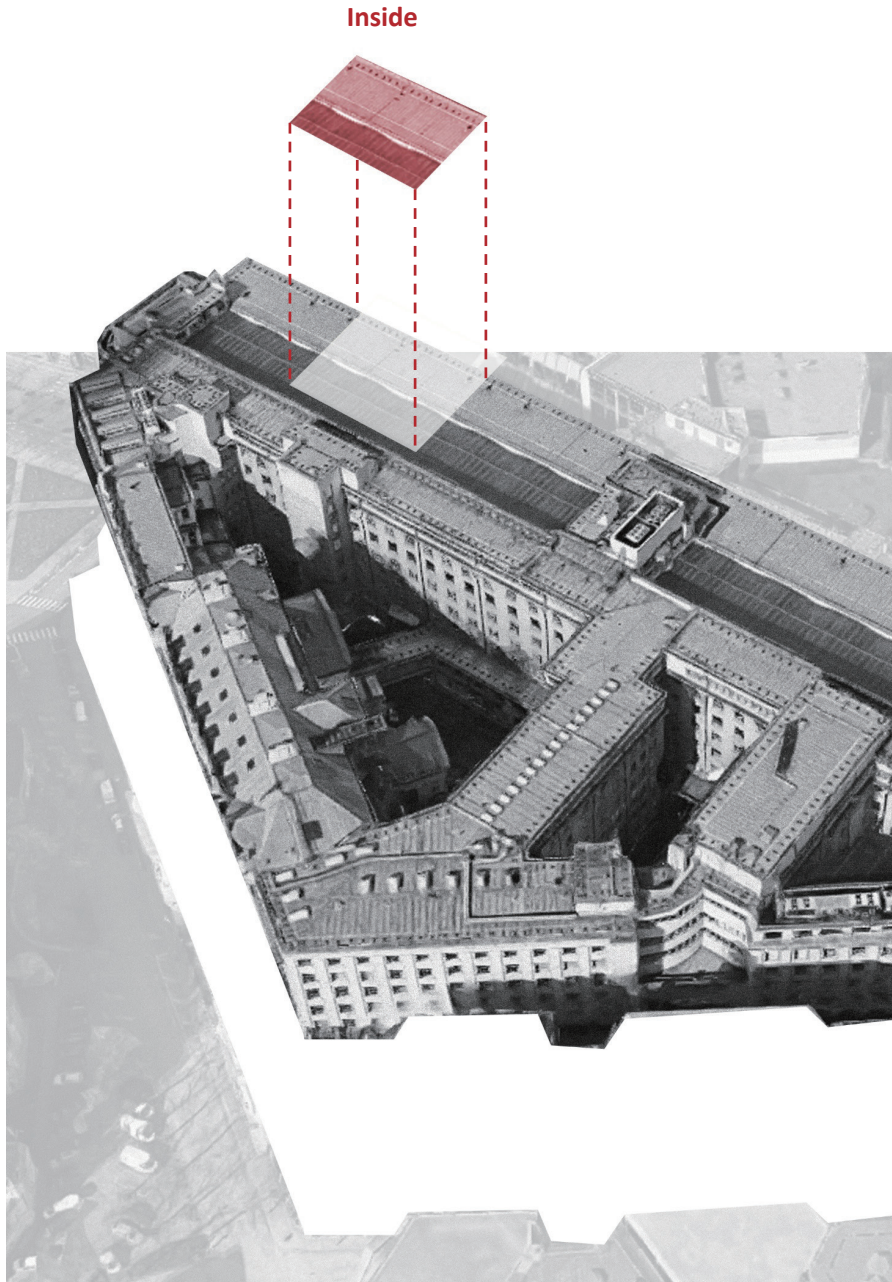
The office

The office

1989, Source: National Bank Archives, box NBB1 facades

2020, Source: National Bank Archives,
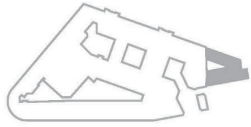

2040+, unknown

1971, Source: National Bank Archives, box NBB1 facades

2020, Source: National Bank Archives,

2040+, unknown

1984, Source: National Bank Archives, box NBB1 facades

2020, WIM KENIS, URBAN.BRUSSELS

2040+, unknown

1948-1949
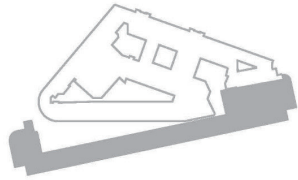
1949-1951

1952-1953

1954

1965

1954-1965

50m 45m 45m 50m

Existing staircase   Existing elevators   New circulations
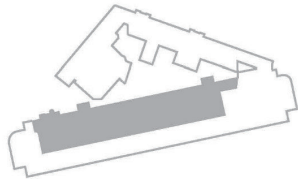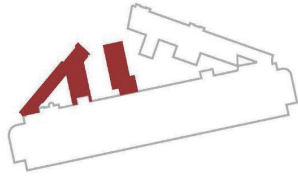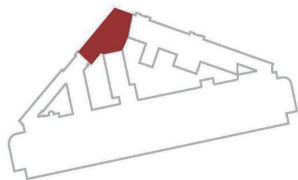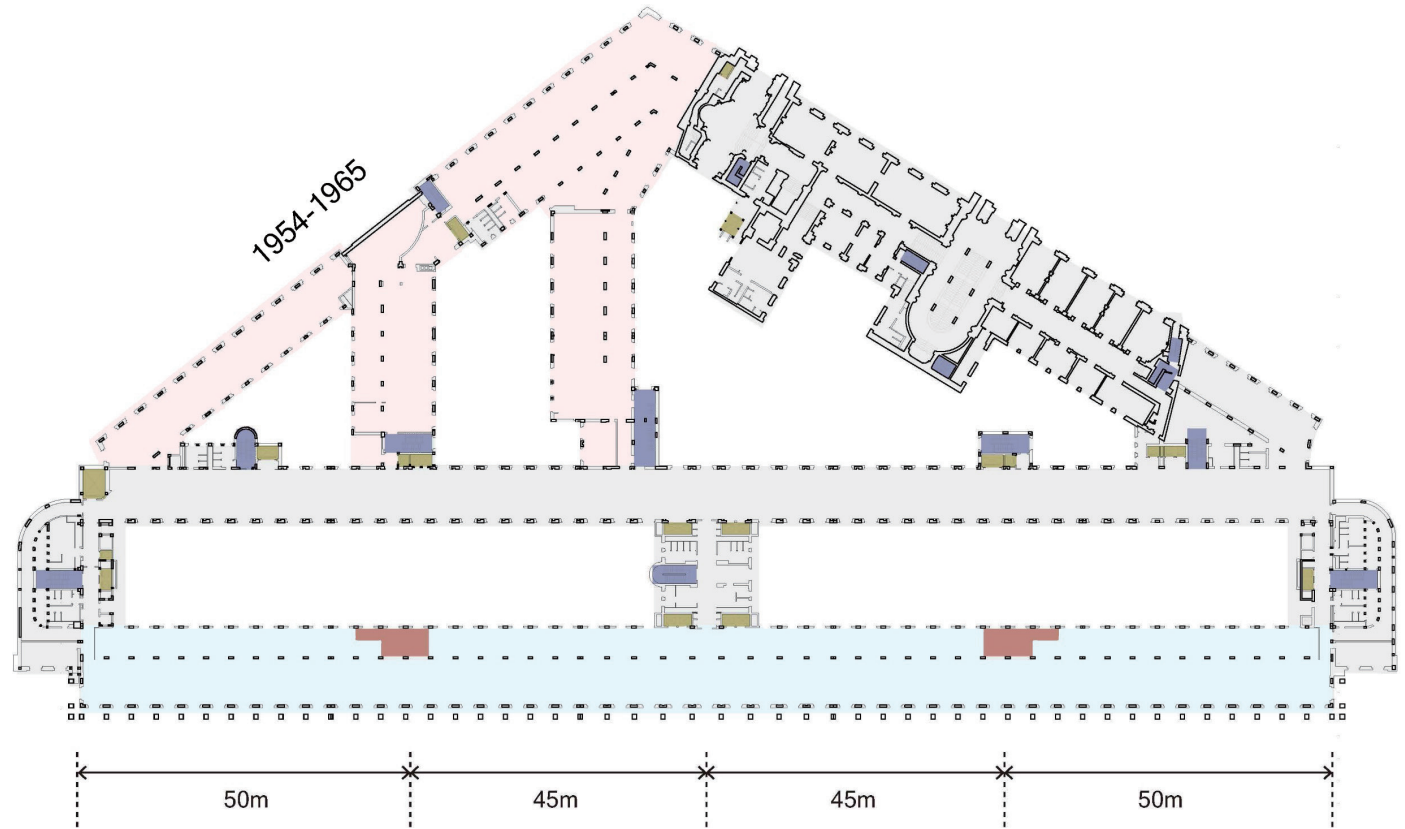
The current situation

This is analyse the bank. Now we have 3 different big empty spaces. First, the long bank hall with glass celling on the top, which separate the big hall into 2 spaces. It provides a soft natural light but prevent the eye contact between higher floors and the bank hall. Also, if you look at the first image on top, in fact air just gather here and not good for ventilation, maybe it's better to combine 2 halls together. Then, we also have the big double hight space on left side of the hall with lots of potentials. Except for the big space, the spaces facing the street in the top floor also is a valuable space. There is a good outside view and a existing terrace. Although it's a space with better views, few people have access to it and it's not frequently used because of its functions.

Then for the structure and history, the red left top parts in the floorplan is constructed between 1954 and 1965 and have independent structures. Then if you see the light blue parts, currently there is no circulation. According to the regulation, in a structure with multiple fire exits, nobody should be more than 60 metres away from a fire exit. Because of this there should be at least 2 circulations in the future.

For the exteriors, currently they are very messy. If you see the picture on the left top. The corridor links the bank and the palace cut the courtyard into two separate parts. Besides, the blue volume in the section cut the building into 2 small and narrow courtyards. And the spaces inside cannot get enough sunlight. Then if you see the section, the red part below is the car lane exposed to the outside, and some storages stack in here.
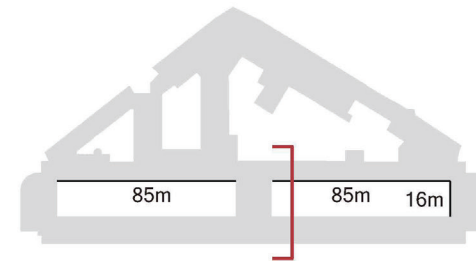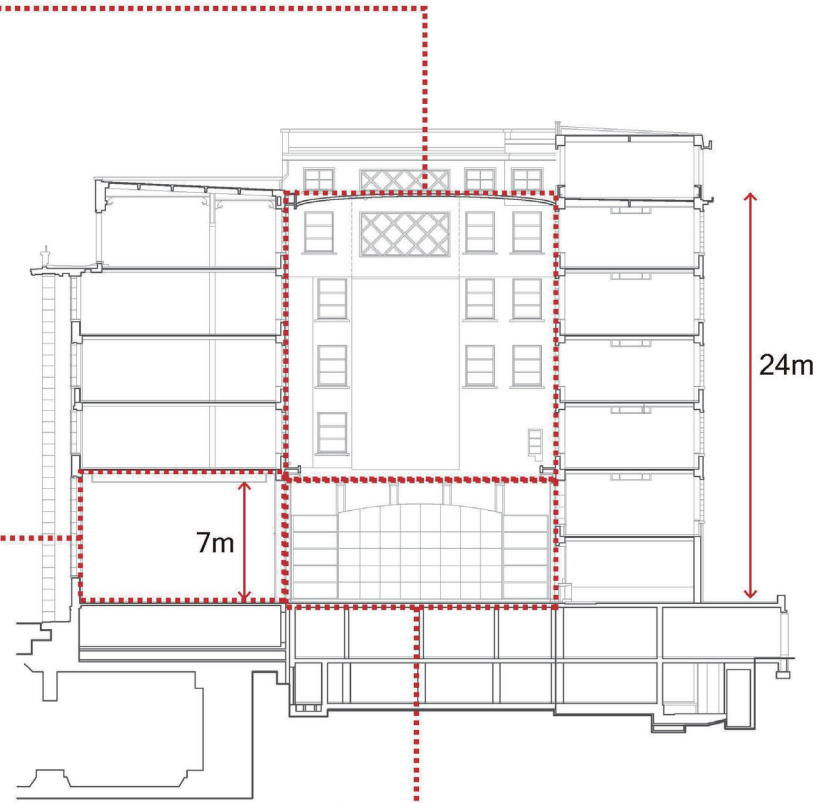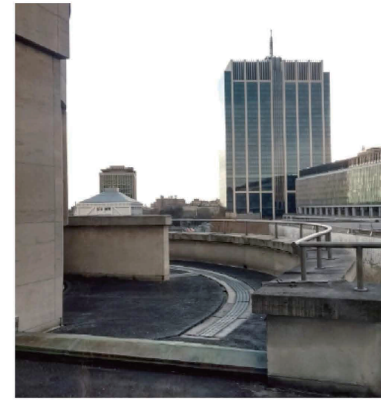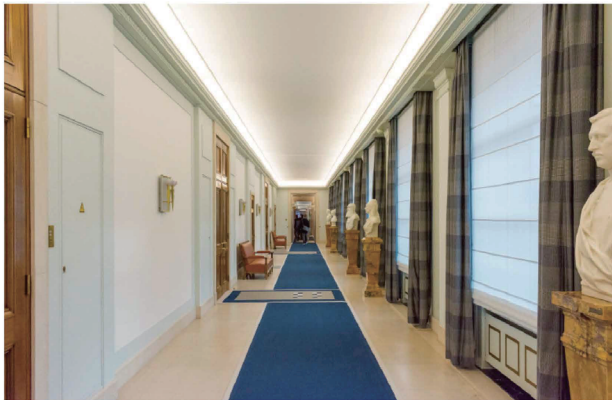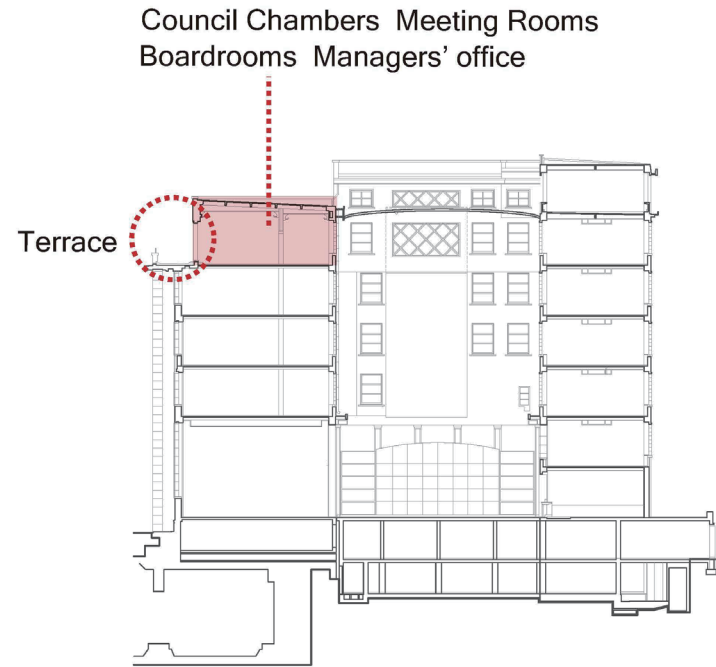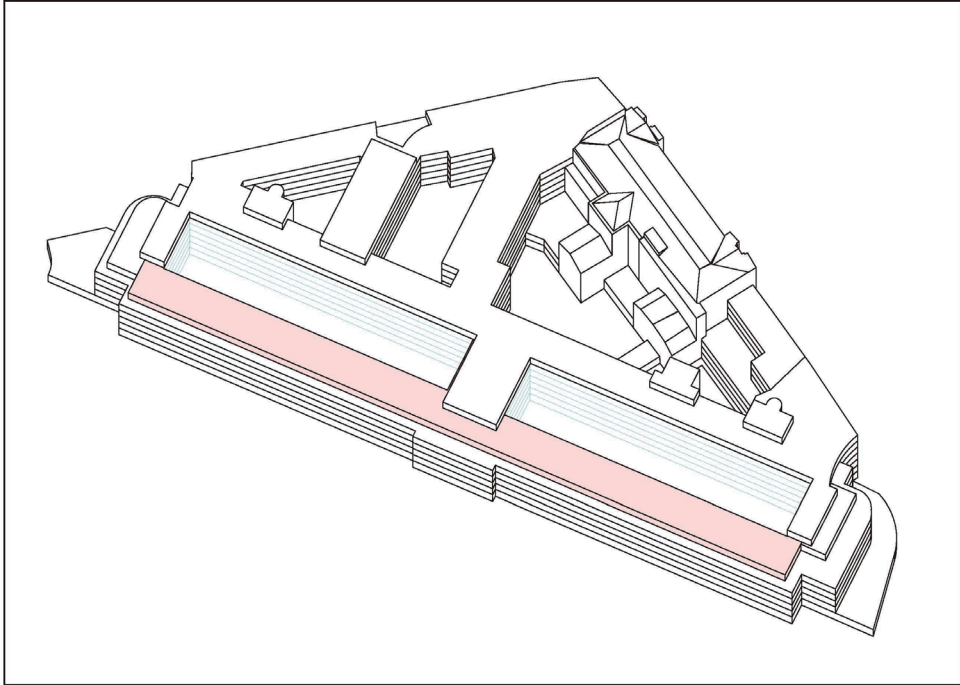
Empty hall

Double height space

1800 m²

2700 m²

7m

24m

85m 85m 16m

Council Chambers Meeting Rooms
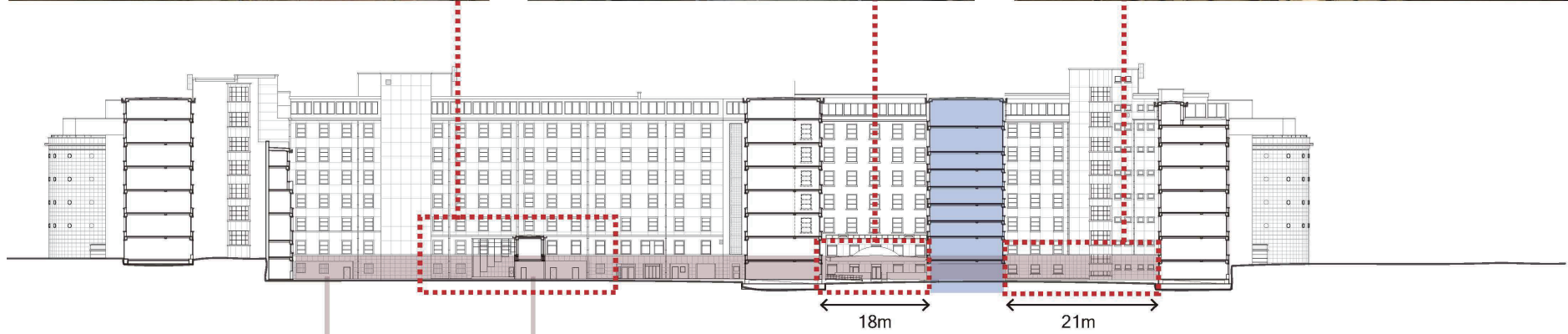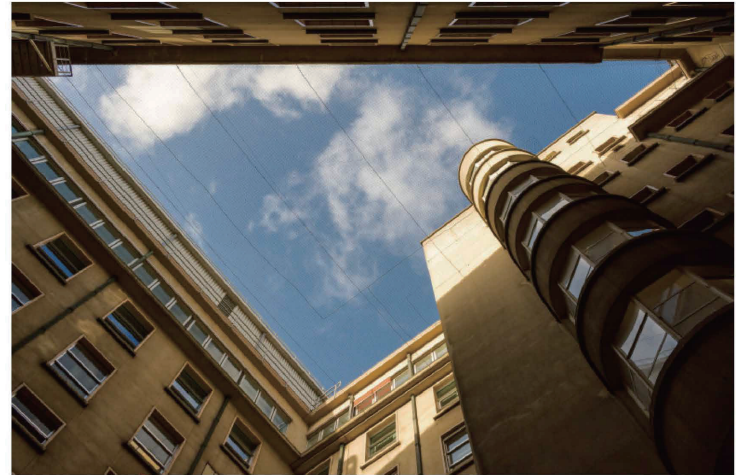Boardrooms Managers' office

Terrace

18m   21m

Car lane

For the bank, their social service functions are currently limited, if only as a bank. To enhance public engagement, new elements need to be added to the internal space to attract pedestrians. On the other hand, it is conceivable that the independent office space of the bank is not the best way of working. We can imagine a new and diverse bank gathering space to give employees more choices when they need to take a break or have a meeting. They can go to the lobby of the bank, or different floors, or other new spaces which have no specific functions.

For co-workers, subjectively I think this is possible for future development. There will be more freelancers who need to go out to work at home because of the need to communicate and interact with the city. Therefore, the shared office space has its uniqueness and value. At the same time, what needs to be considered is why people choose to work in a co-working space instead of buying a cup of coffee and staying at Starbucks? Where is the uniqueness of the co-working space itself? And, what kind of mutual influence can it have with the banking space? last but not least, what kind of people will come to work here? All these need to be studied and verified.
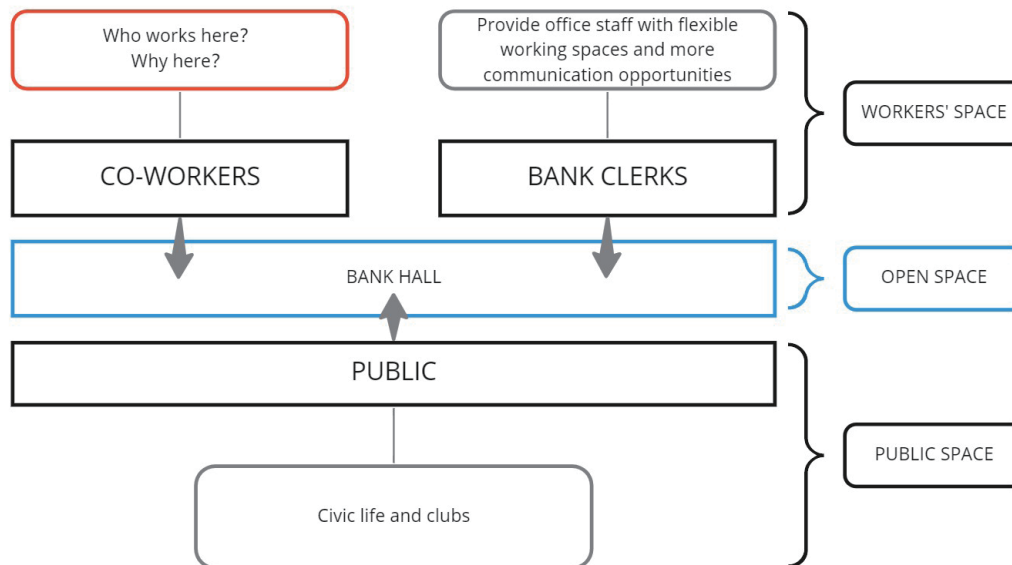
The possible function of the new national bank

CONCLUSION

NEW NATIONAL BANK OF BELGIUM

New combined function

The future bank workers will still occupy the majority of this building and work in an improved office space. I think the bank not only inherits the culture of bank working, but it also has the chance to invite the public by another space which inherits the working culture in a larger context - the co-working space. Then the new bank can become a collection of working space. Also there should be other public functions like hotels, restaurants and small retails in this 91,000 square meters building to let it become a part of the urban public sector rather than just a working space. So I think this is what the future bank might be.

Neighborhood connection and permeability

The bank is actually in a very good location. It communicates with the art mountain areas and also there are green spaces on both its sides. Also its 500 meters distance to the central station. You can see in the red zone, the bank is a part of public corridor in the city. The left bottom part is connecting other bank institutions crossing the street, the left top part is near the future residential area. On the right top, the palace is near the church, in a historical sector. In this regard, the bank can divide into different parts. But first of all, I plan to demolish the red block and the corridor to improve the natural lighting and the quality of the courtyard. Then due to its surrounding, the main volume of the building is divided into 3 functions, the banking hall, the public sector, and the co-working space. Also a new hotel can be in the left top to connect to the new apartment area across the street.

The new bank office

2040+, could be

New National Bank of Belgium
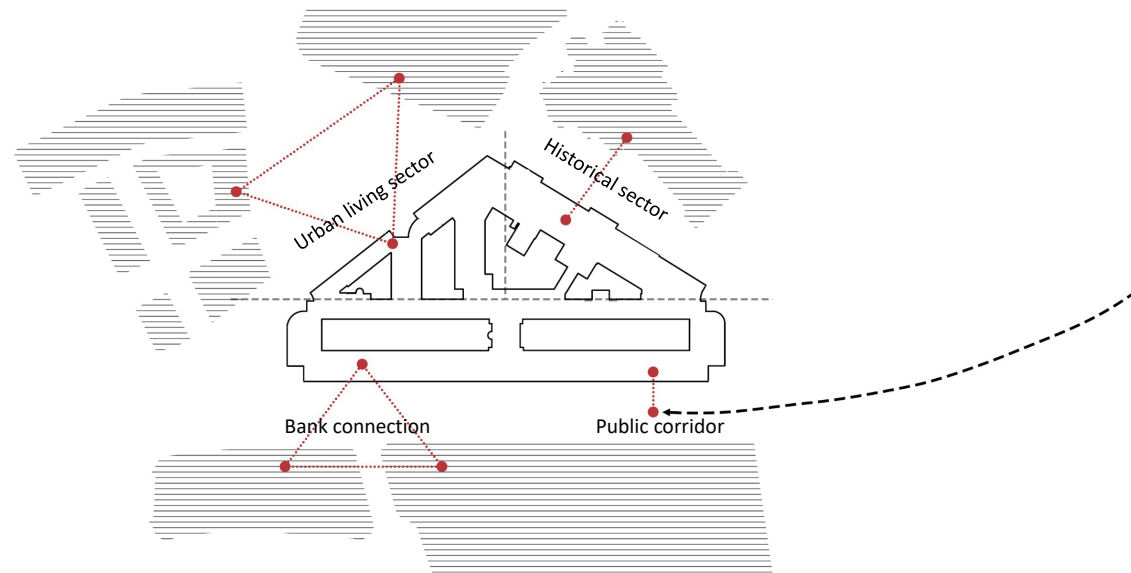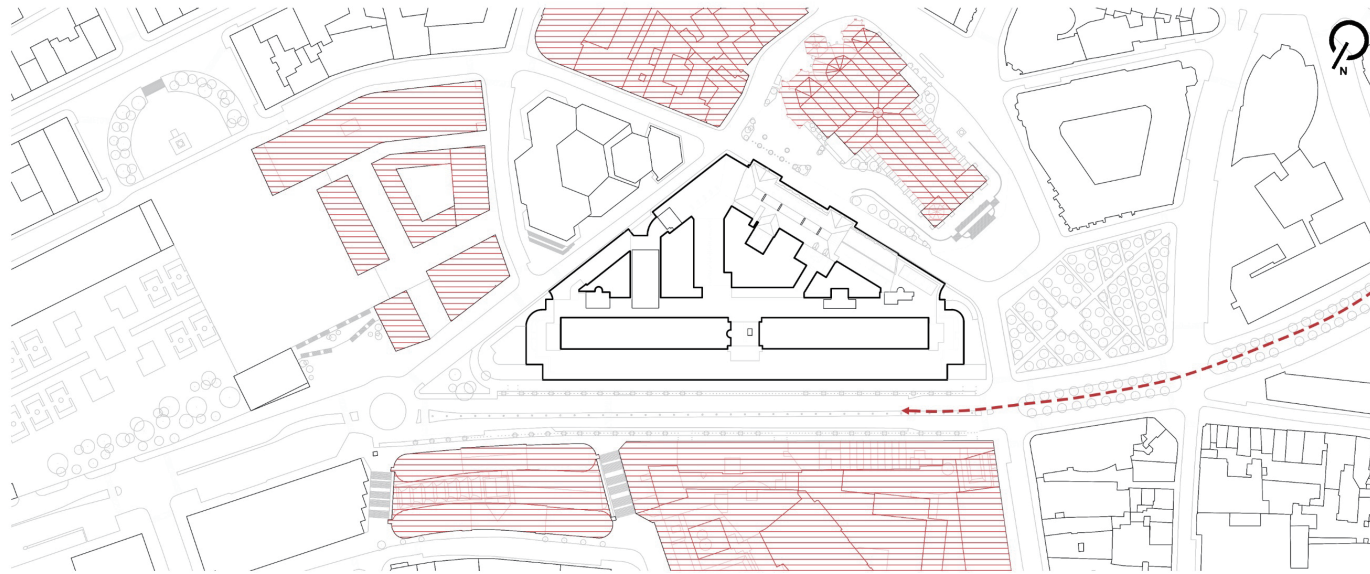A collection of working space

Co-working space

2040+, could be
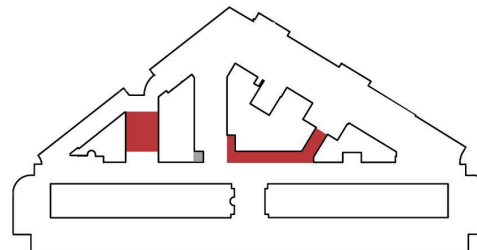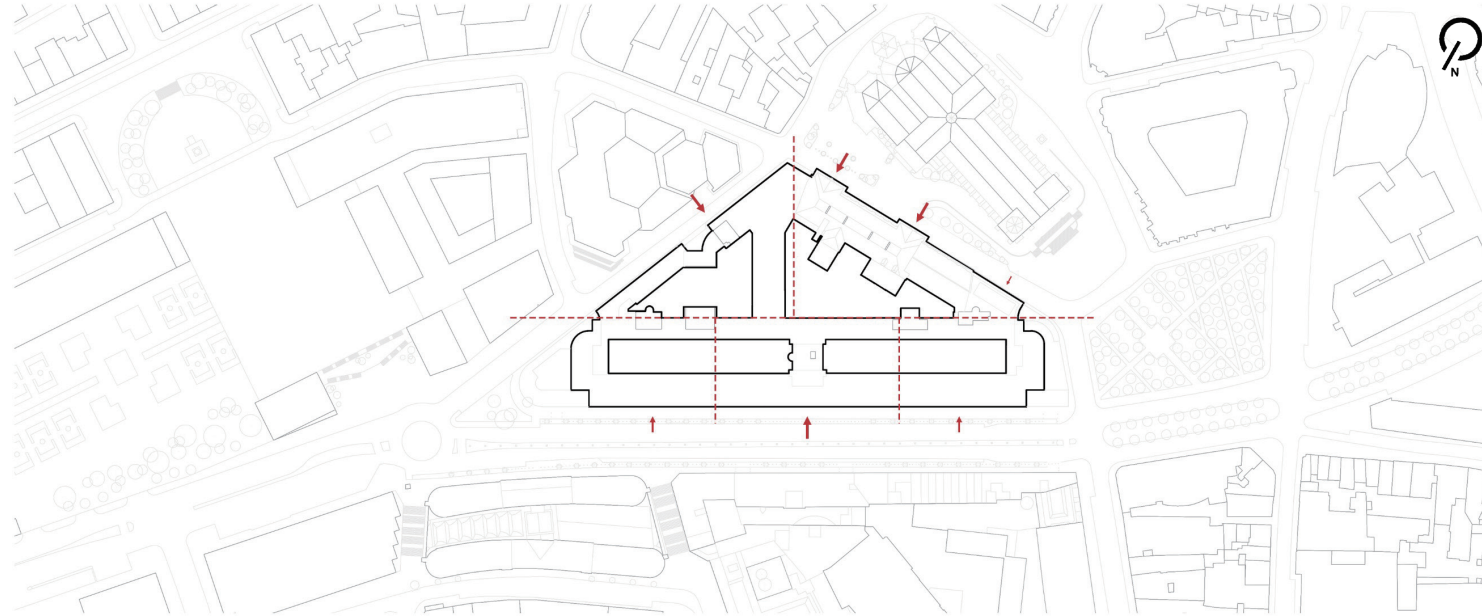
Other public functions

Small shops

Green park

Exhibition space

Restaurants

Hotel

…

Mont des Arts

Brussel-Central

Freedom Quarter

Green park

City administrative Garden

Botanical garden
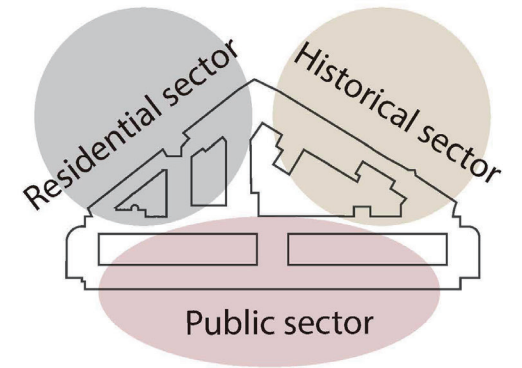
Future universities district*

N

Urban living sector

Historical sector

Bank connection

Public corridor
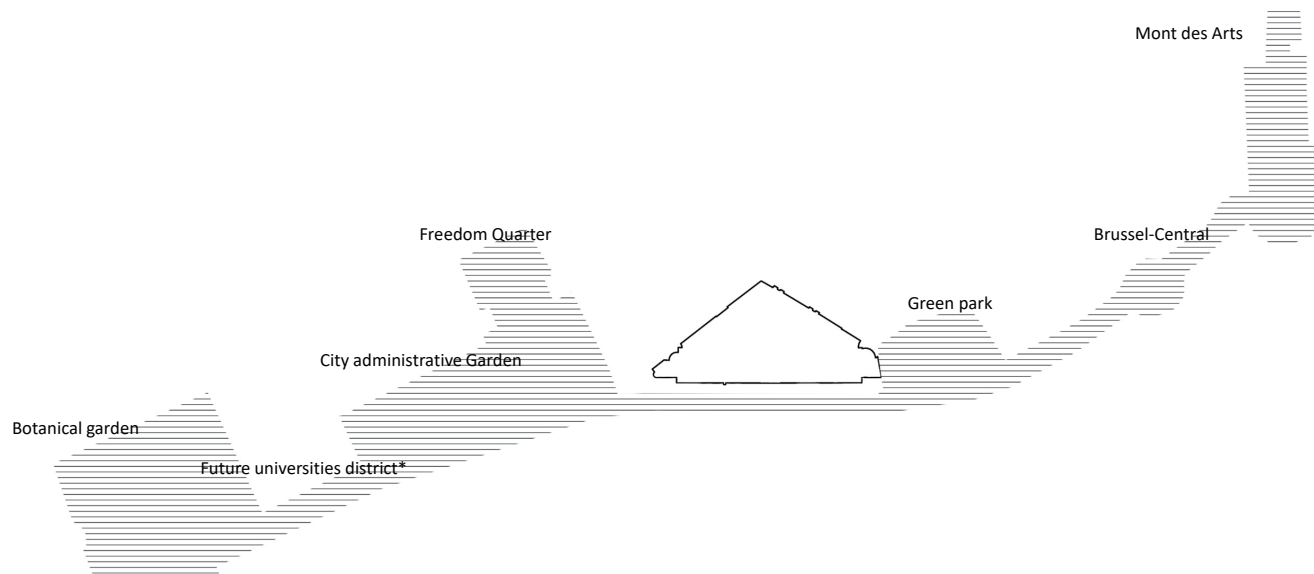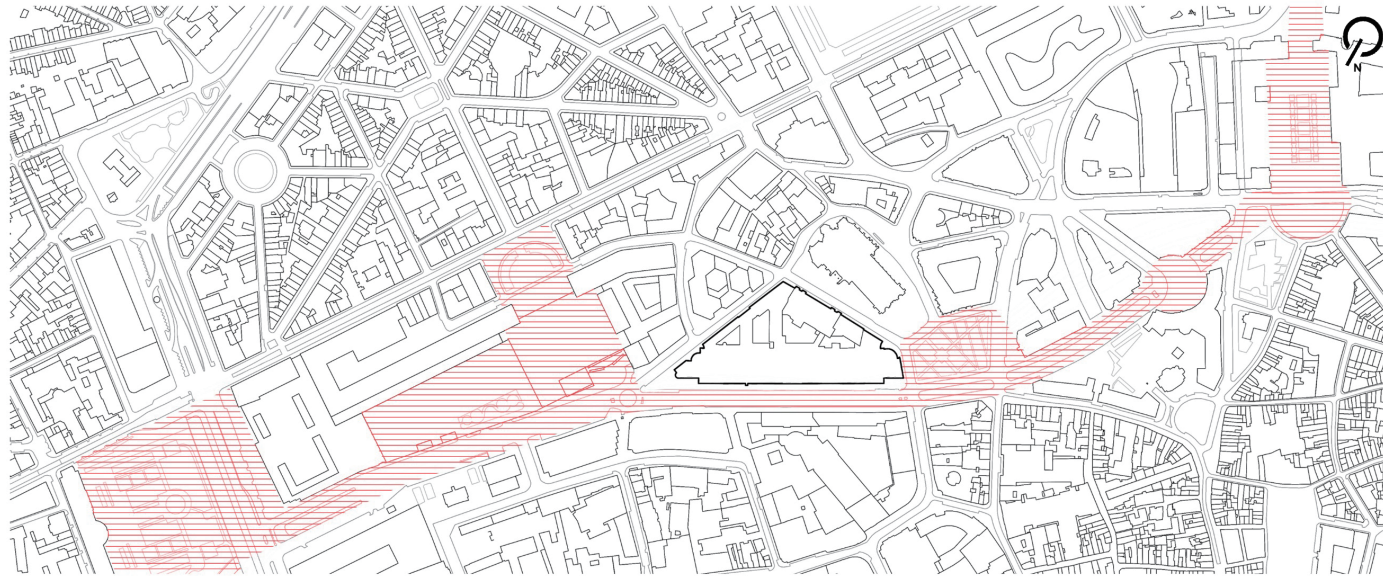
■ Demolish units

■ Added unit

Residential
Area

Arts Mountain
Area

37 luxury
living units

443 new apartments

250 cars

1300 bicycles

Police station

Central Station

Bank office (vacant)
To be sold in the future

Royal Mint of Belgium

The Printing House

Future university
district

Bank museum

Center commercial
district

Grand-Place
Center commercial
district

Residential sector

Historical sector

Public sector

Hotel

Palace

Bank hall

Public function

Co-working

Function diagram

0   8   40m
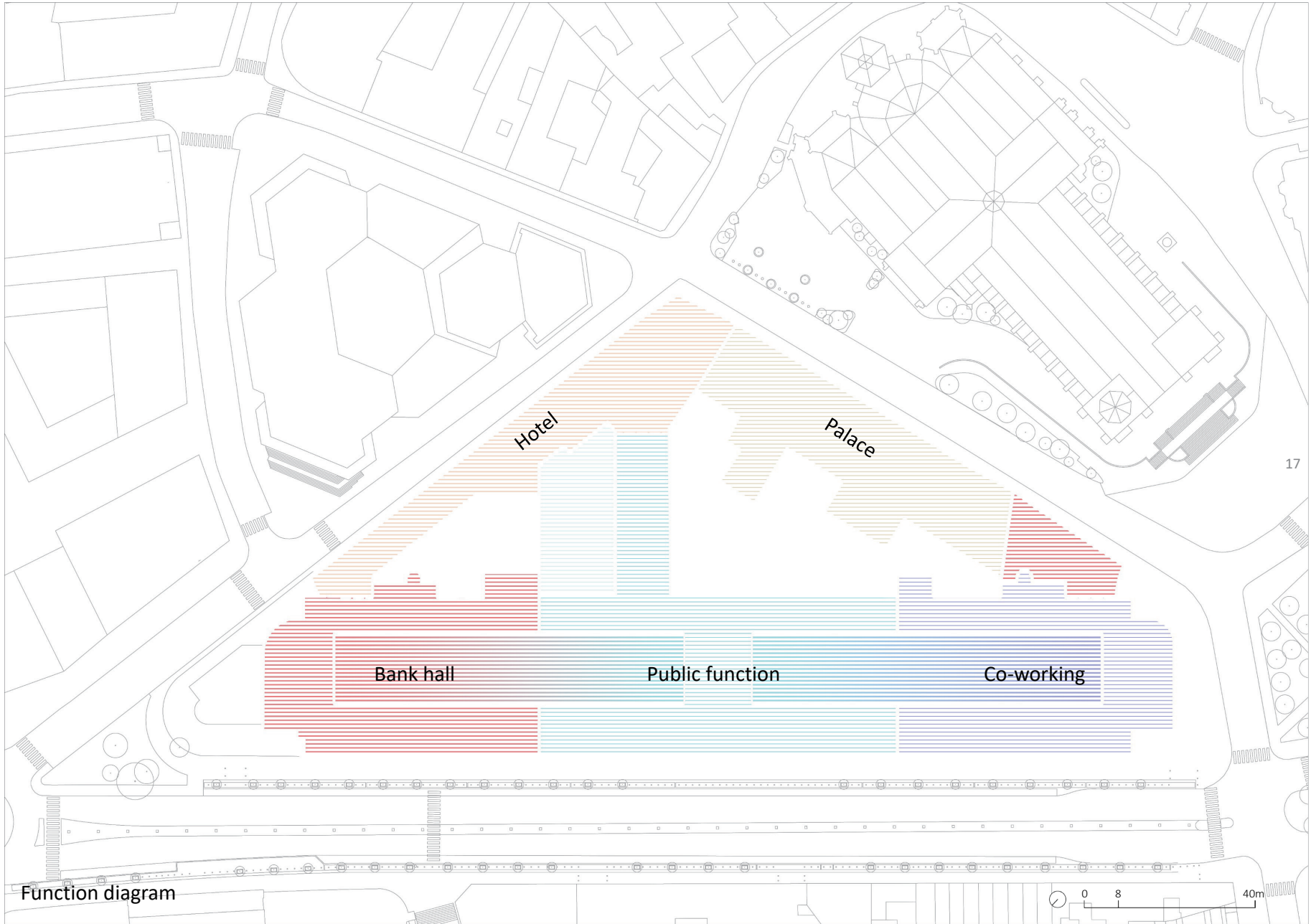
New banking hall - A new co-working environment

Here are several different spatial types. Like the left top one, people can enter this small semi-private space, if they are tired they can lie on the sofa and have a little nap. There is a 1.5meters high wall and a flip door and people who only walk close can see it's inside. also, there are a normal sofa table combinations on its both sides. And another type. Small trees and soil will fill in the huge square table. Behind the column are more spaces with better privacy and facilities, and a resting zone in the middle. Also we have the staircase, it's huge but hidden in the mezzanine. It isn't like the one in our orange hall. It will be a good place for chatting or resting, even working.For individuals, after going up to the mezzanine, they have another 2 options, if they need more privacy there are working spaces with curtains. Or they can just work on a triangular bar table like the picture down below.

From the perspective of interior, in the middle, you can see this huge shared table with trees and grass. As for the material, I don't want to use colorful or obvious material to break this elegant open space with a beautiful glass ceiling, that is also the reason why I didn't design some irregular shape floors and walls. In this regard, I plan to use the faced concrete panels to make the railing simple and solid. Also, I used aluminum panels to decorate the independent unit to remain the peaceful of the space. So it's not a fashionable but a humble co-working space in this monumental building in terms of interiors.
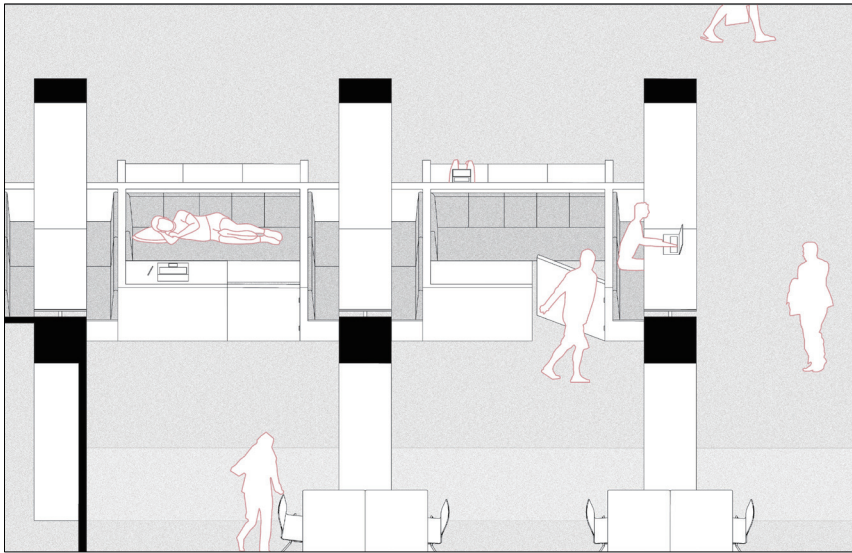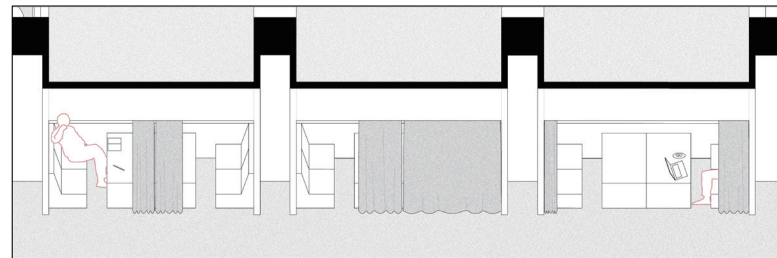
Types: Working alone in a semi-private space
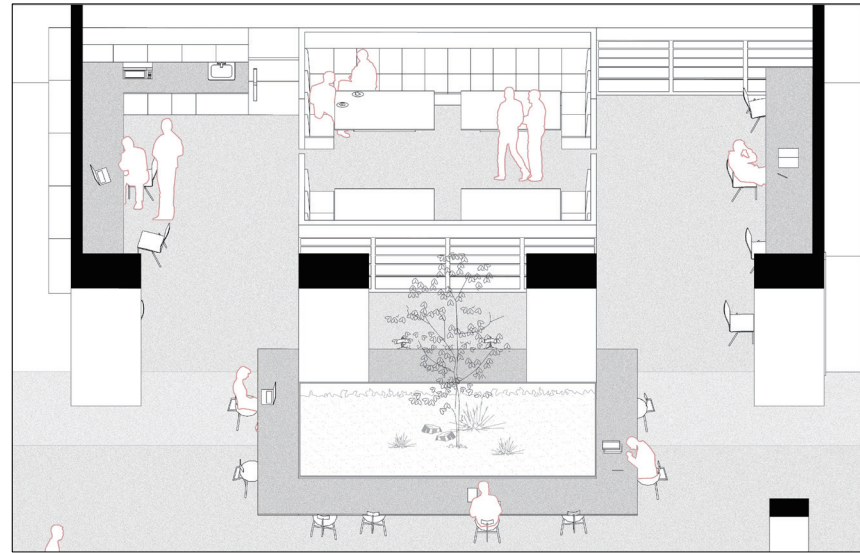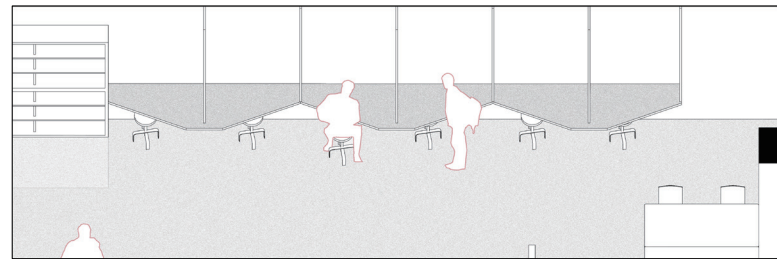

Types: Working together in a shared table
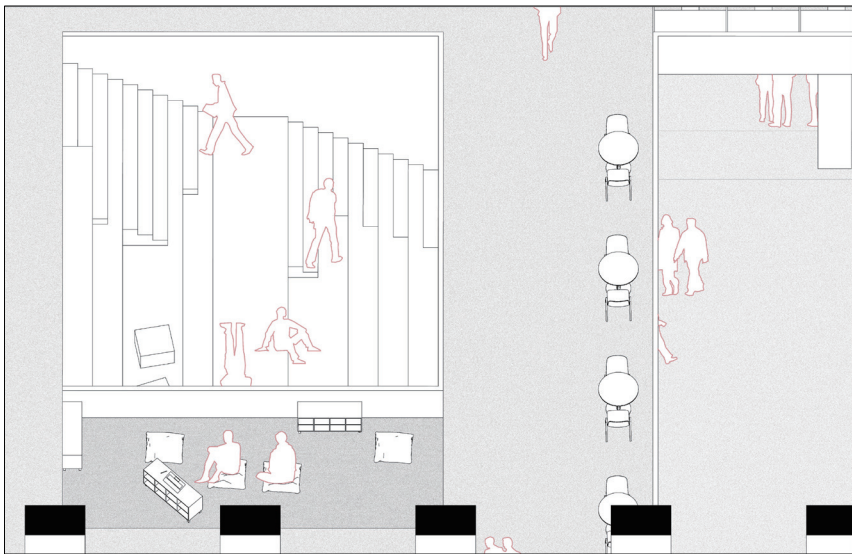
Types: A informal working space

Types: Working behind the curtain


Types: Working on a bar table

THE OLD

THE NEW

New bank office - A collection of multi-functional space

My renovation strategy is to demolish some floor slabs to create different working environments and enhance the vertical connection between different floor levels and realize the better natural air ventilation. For example a double-height space behind the corridor, a small working group will work on the upper floor. They share one huge space but without a direct vertical connection. Also, there is a new little round air ventilation window under the floor. and the beam can be for projectors for the meeting. For private working environment you can see there is another threshold in the space and the ventilation is combined with the wardrobe. the entire space can be seen like a small apartment inside the bank. Then for the open working environment, On the left side, there are independent desks connecting the walls which are between the windows. In the middle, the left of the short wall is another group working space, people can sit and read on the right seats. Then on the right of the picture is another bar zone where staff can rest and chat.

For the new office area, the corridor is mixed with the open space, and the overall space becomes a tool for natural ventilation. Also, the exposed beam can be hanging plants to give the bank more natural elements. There will also be another this kind of space repeating on opposite side of he bank office volume. By creating this totally 32 pieces of thin floor slab were removed from this building and it caused nearly 550 square meters of loss.
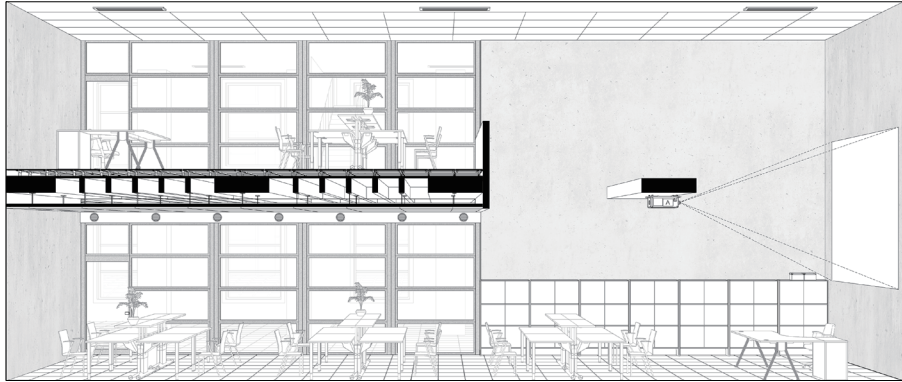
Group working, a big space behind the corridor
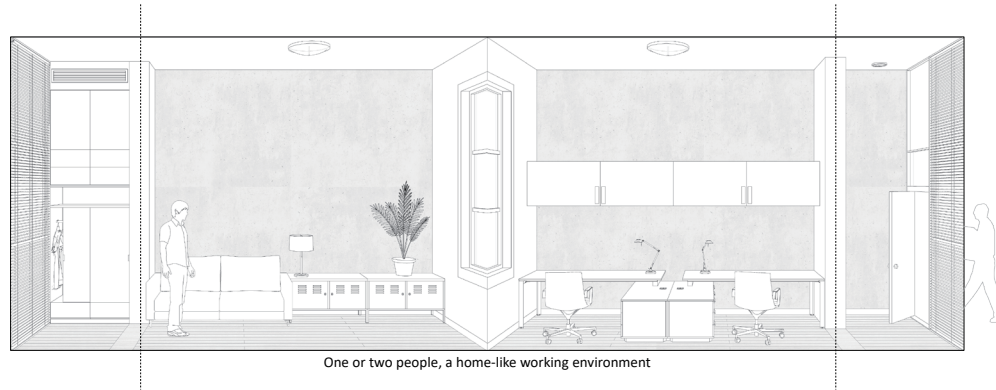
One or two people, a home-like working environment

work   Not work
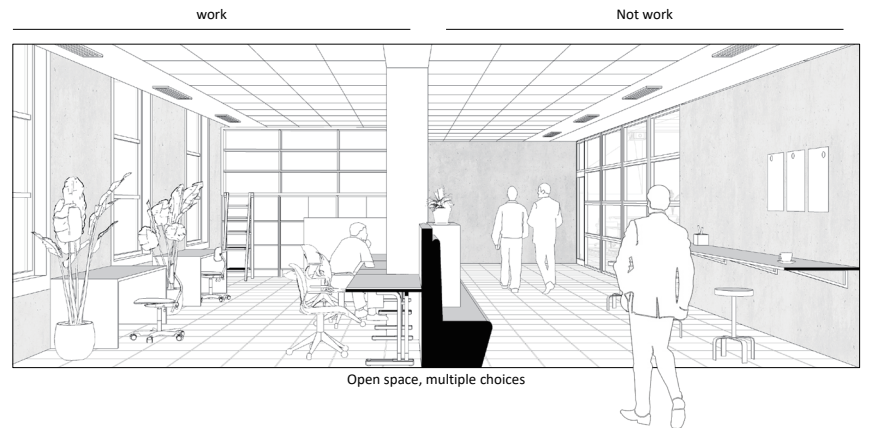
Open space, multiple choices

Diverse workspaces in the city

My design incorporates other functions to provide open office space for workers in the city, allowing the former bank hall to re-serve the city rather than a private asset hidden in this building. Now, the development of virtual economy and information technology redefines the office model and value. People in the city enjoy this fragmented life and diverse lifestyles. In the future, the National Bank of Belgium will combine the virtual economy and interconnection technology to provide a flexible living platform for urban people. And, such space is also consistent with the economic value that the bank itself represents.

Different public spaces

After analyzing the urban space in Belgium, I found that the public communication space has a single function. The space where people talk could be a restaurant, or a museum, or a historic building. But these public spaces are not convenient spaces for the public to realize their self-worth. Coworking spaces make up for the lack of public space in Belgium. People can make full use of the various types of workspaces here to serve themselves. At the same time, it is accompanied by other work spaces, such as the restaurant, bookstore and courtyard. The public can stay here all day to enjoy the privileged urban public space - a place unlike any other.

The role of co-working

In terms of form, co-working is like fashion. But it's a trend in the way we work today. I think co-working is a very flexible connection. It can connect companies of different sizes, connect different social groups, and it can connect different urban spaces. And most importantly, it has its own commercial value. Such a role makes it an important means of transforming the Belgian National Bank.

REFLECTION

Through designing the bank

Between P3 and P4, I transformed the entire bank with the understanding above. It is mainly divided into two aspects. The first aspect is the transformation of the public co-working space. My principle is to create more different types of workspaces in the bank hall so they are accessible and open. For this purpose, I designed units with independent entrances, fully open and semi-open workspaces, and separate individual work units with the new structure. Another part is for the bank itself, to create more open space to break the current single and closed connection and achieve better ventilation conditions.

During the tutorial, I got some feedback on how to define the quality of space, how to ensure the safety of the bank, and on the concept itself - a series of small instruments. Facing such a huge historical building, it was a bit hard for me to understand the quality of space. It's about materials, scale, and details. In the beginning, I thought about tearing down some of the parts, in order to create the space that I wanted to achieve in the future bank. It turned out that the parts I dismantled and attempted to create might not have the same language as the original space. Therefore, the starting point of the design should be from the street, the organization of pedestrians, and the familiarity with its existing appearance. This is also the meaning of collective work. The value of the final renovation should be to add an extra layer to the original building in the current architectural style.

Drawing with understanding

When intervening on the bank's façade, I tried to use the existing columns to exchange the space between indoors and outdoors, so as to create a new space entrance and interior environment. For me, I think this is a very practical idea because I can use similar means to transform other buildings in the future. In the process of making the drawings, I realized that this is not as simple as it
seems, I need to rethink the relationship between the inside and outside of the building, and more importantly, how to ensure that the continuous insulation and joints can be well connected. The process of producing the drawings gave me a clearer view of the current structure of the building. Drawing in-depth at the same time is a deeper understanding of the design, such as the proportions of windows, walls, and foundations, which parts can be protruded or recessed, and what effect it has on the façade and structure. I think it's not just an understanding of technology, but another expression of the understanding of the detail.

Before this project, I had no understanding of office culture. This project touches on two unfamiliar areas for me, European historic buildings and office space. At the design stage, I sometimes have a hard time imagining how people can work such a huge building while each of them only takes a little space. The bank itself has a really good view but it has the fewest people in it. This seems paradoxical and reflects architectural logic with which I am unfamiliar. I think I need more observations to understand it. As for office culture, this project has broadened my horizons and enriched my understanding of it. Like the method of changing the environment and create a new atmosphere for people in different roles. Through this design, I have also mastered many means of transforming old buildings, which can greatly help my future design practice.
At this stage, I think there are still many possibilities for the interior space of the building. Common spaces can have richer connections to individual units. I will do further research on the open space and shared space of the workspace in the next design process to provide further improvement to my design.

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