

# Architecture of care: Green, the new Gold

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## MANIFESTO

Our current financial system is busy digging its own grave. Literally. For centuries, our economy has exploited the planet's resources without considering the consequences of this process. According to professor Gail Schwab from Hofstra College, NY, this economic model will eventually lead to extreme environmental destruction<sup>1</sup>. Our system thrives on natural resources and there is something inherently contradictory in ignoring its costs. *"What we get from nature is fundamental to our economy, and without these inputs we would in fact produce nothing."* Without natural services, there would be no economy. But it almost seems like nature's laws don't apply to market centred capitalists, who focus on short-term profits and fundamentally ignore ecological costs, even when regulatory measures fly in their faces<sup>2</sup>. Nature's fate has been put under the control of the capitalist spirit, because capitalism is an 'Otherness' engine<sup>3</sup>. Capitalists separate themselves from the natural world and fail to acknowledge human beings' dependency on it. Rosi Braidotti describes 'Otherness' as the highlighted differences from the dominant vision of 'Sameness'<sup>4</sup>. *"These 'differences' provide relations of domination and exclusion: to be 'different from' came to mean to be 'less than.'"* The ones who are different have become disposable in our economy. This mindset of universalism and abstract masculinity has caused a dichotomy: the I (the universal man) versus the other (women, natives, animals, plants, genes and other earth 'others'). Climate issues are human issues to solve, to which neither sex nor any other specificity – race, class, ethnicity – is relevant. We have a collective dependency on and responsibility towards the natural world. It is inappropriate to think of nature in terms of pure economic profit while the economy is inseparable from this active materiality that reaches far beyond it. The market centred capitalist does not stand above or outside of nature. We should think of new ways of relating to nature and to the earth, for the sake of the survival of our beloved system. As The National Bank of Belgium has a pivoting role in shaping the country's finances, the NBB can be an example, a pioneer, a steward in changing to a nature-inclusive institution. Let the National Bank of Belgium be a guardian of the material forces of nature.

1. Gail Schwab, "The Ecology, Economy and Politics of the 'One' in Food Culture," in *Relational Architectural Ecologies: Architecture, Nature and Subjectivity* (London: Routledge, 2013), pp. 156-172.

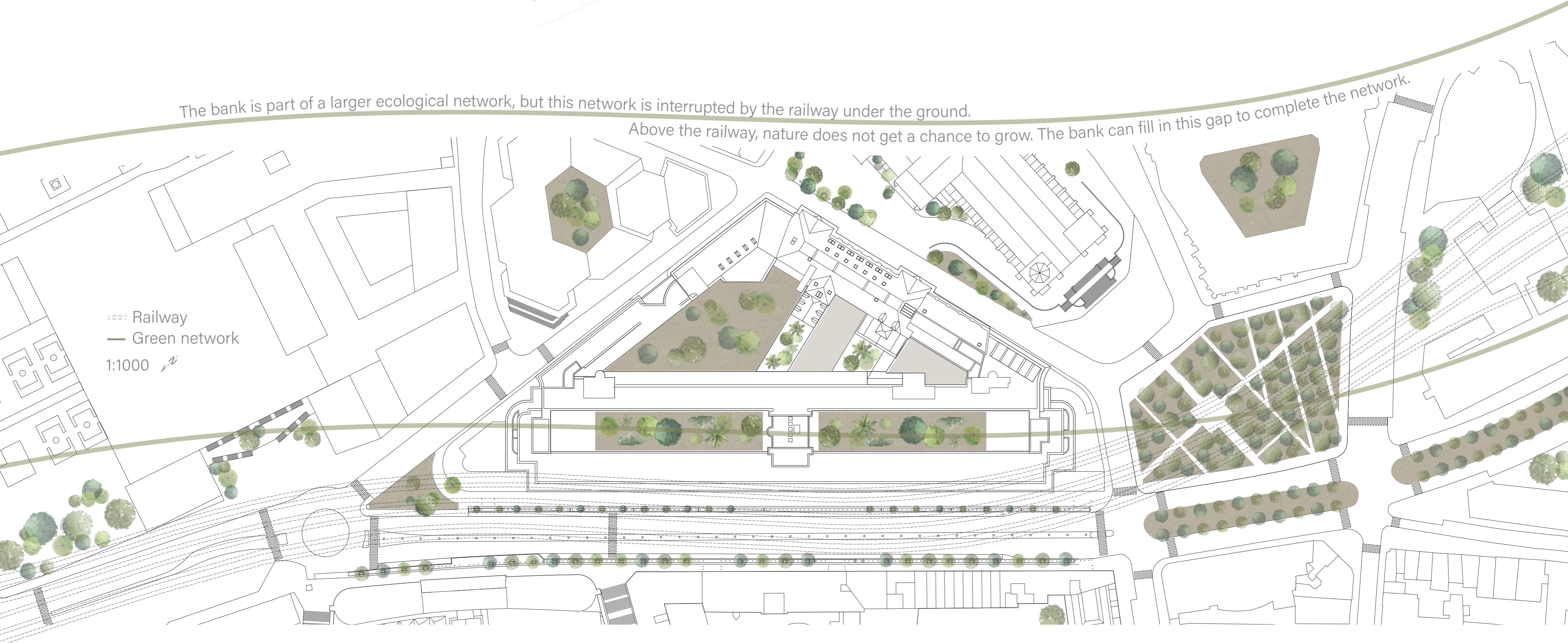
2. Lorraine Code, "'Manufactured uncertainty': Epistemologies of mastery and the ecological imaginary," in *Relational Architectural Ecologies: Architecture, Nature and Subjectivity* (London: Routledge, 2013), pp 73-91.

3. Rachel Jones, "Fear, the sublime and sheltered difference," in *Relational Architectural Ecologies: Architecture, Nature and Subjectivity* (London: Routledge, 2013), pp 91-109.

4. Rosi Braidotti, "Posthuman relational subjectivity and the politics of affirmation," in *Relational Architectural Ecologies: Architecture, Nature and Subjectivity* (London: Routledge, 2013), pp 21-40



The bank is part of a larger ecological network, but this network is interrupted by the railway under the ground. Above the railway, nature does not get a chance to grow. The bank can fill in this gap to complete the network.

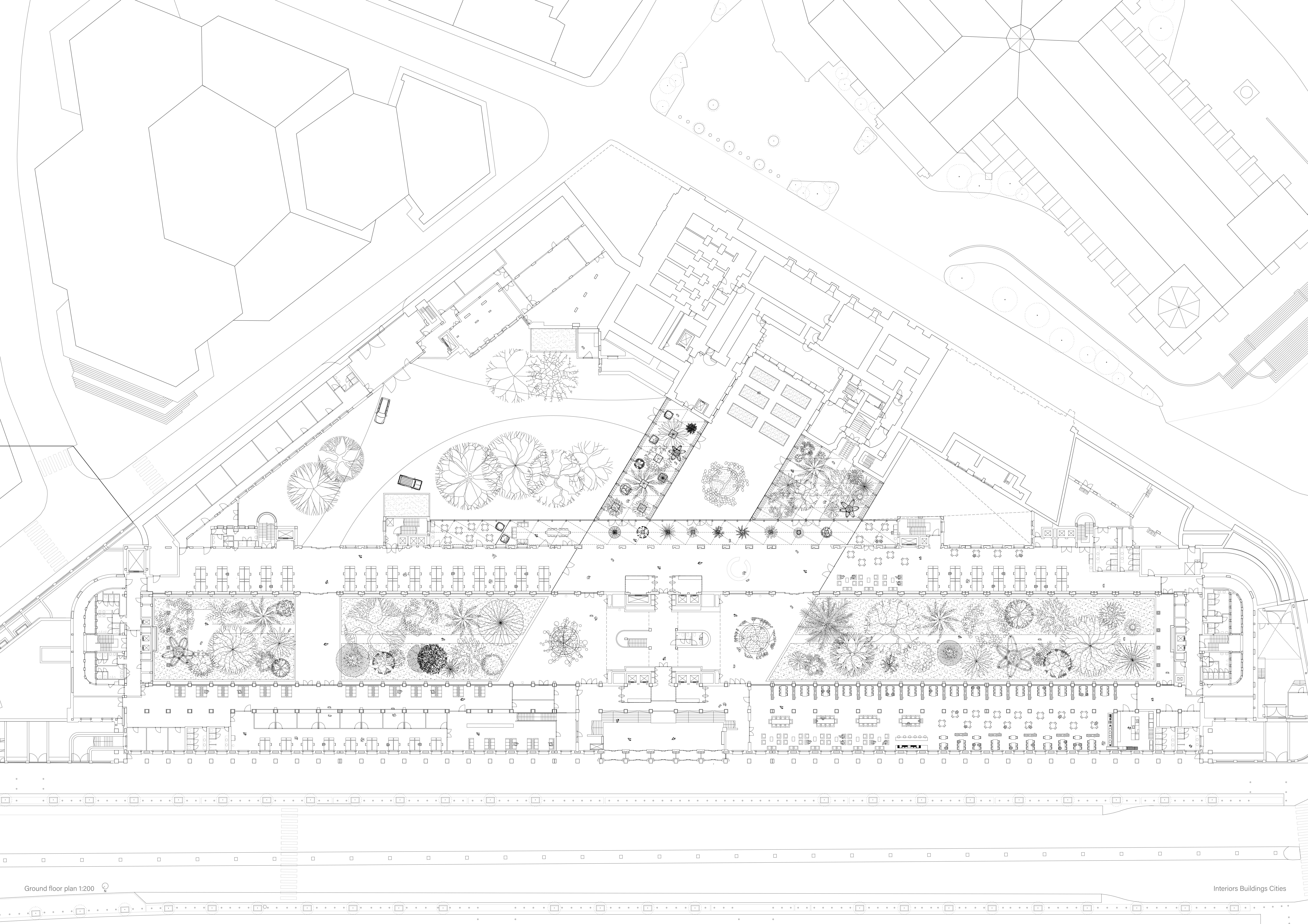


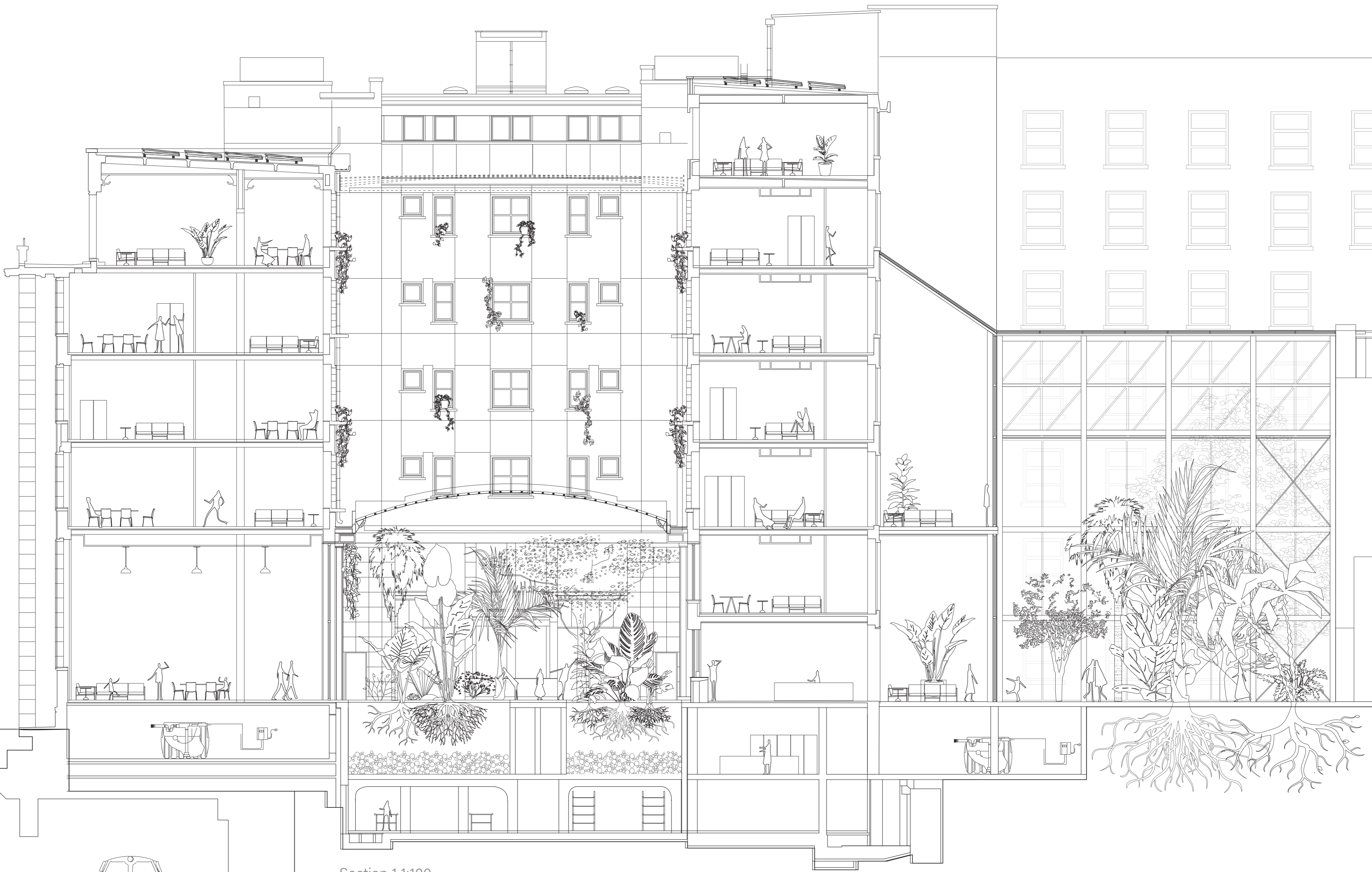
Exterior greenhouse



Interior greenhouse







Section 1 1:100



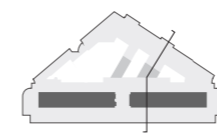
Section 2 1:100

## CATALOGUE 1/2

Cactaceae Echinocactus grussoni  
 Asparagaceae Cordyline stricta  
 Asparagaceae Dracaena draco  
 Onagraceae Fuchsia boliviana  
 Areaceae Howea forsteriana  
 Myrtaceae Calothamnus quadrifidus  
 Asparagaceae Yucca gloriosa  
 Zamiaceae Encephalartos transvenosus  
 Myrtaceae Pohutukawa  
 Malvaceae Brachychiton acerifolius  
 Dicksoniaceae Dicksonia antarctica  
 Areaceae Trachycarpus fortunei  
 Zamiaceae Macrozamia moorei  
 Encephalartos woodii  
 Zamiaceae Encephalartos senticosus  
 Zamiaceae Encephalartos altensteinii  
 Zamiaceae Dioon edule  
 Erica arborea  
 Nepenthes truncata  
 Medusagyne oppositifolia  
 Lepidium heterophyllum  
 Pinaceae Pinus mugo  
 Podocarpaceae Podocarpus neriifolius  
 Myrtaceae Melaleuca armillaris  
 Aquifoliaceae Ilex latifolia  
 Myoporaceae Myoporum tequifolium  
 Araliaceae Pseudopanax crassifolius  
 Moraceae Ficus rubiginosa  
 Lauraceae Laurus azorica  
 Lauraceae Laurus nobilis  
 Elaeocarpaceae Elaeocarpus obovatus  
 Anacardiaceae Pistacia lentiscus  
 Areaceae Chamaerops humilis  
 Stilbaceae Halleria lucida  
 Lauraceae Neolitsea sericea  
 Fabaceae Dalbergia obovata  
 Apocynaceae Nerium oleander  
 Oleaceae Ligustrum japonicum  
 Oleaceae Jasminum sambac  
 Araceae Alocasia zebrina  
 Araceae Caladium bicolor  
 Musaceae Musa spec  
 Marattiaceae Angiopteris angustifolia  
 Bromeliaceae Ananas comosus  
 Apocynaceae Adenium coetaneum



INTERIOR GREENHOUSE



1:50 fragment

## CLIMATE

High humidity  
 High temperature  
 No direct sunlight  
 Top height = 10 m.  
 Plants live in soil of  
 4 m deep.

## CATALOGUE

3.  
 Zamiaceae Ceratozamia mexicana  
 Podocarpaceae Podocarpus henkelii  
 Asparagaceae Beaucarnea recurvata  
 Agavaceae Nolina longifolia  
 Asparagaceae Agave winteriana  
 Areaceae Syagrus romanzoffiana  
 Zamiaceae Encephalartos lehmannii  
 Asphodelaceae Aloe bainesii  
 Euphorbiaceae Euphorbia coerulescens  
 Sapindaceae Alectryon excelsus  
 Oleaceae Olea europaea  
 Areaceae Sabal minor  
 Areaceae Phoenix sylvestris

4.  
 Zamiaceae Encephalartos horridus  
 Podocarpaceae Podocarpus macrophyllus  
 Areaceae Phoenix reclinata  
 Corynocarpaceae Corynocarpus laevigatus  
 Araucariaceae Wollemia nobilis  
 Podocarpaceae Nageia nagi  
 Griselinaceae ruscifolia  
 Myrtaceae Eucalyptus gunnii  
 Areaceae Phoenix dactylifera  
 Areaceae Arenga pinnata  
 Musaceae Strelitzia alba  
 Anacardiaceae Pistacia terebinthus  
 Myrtaceae Eugenia rubricaulis



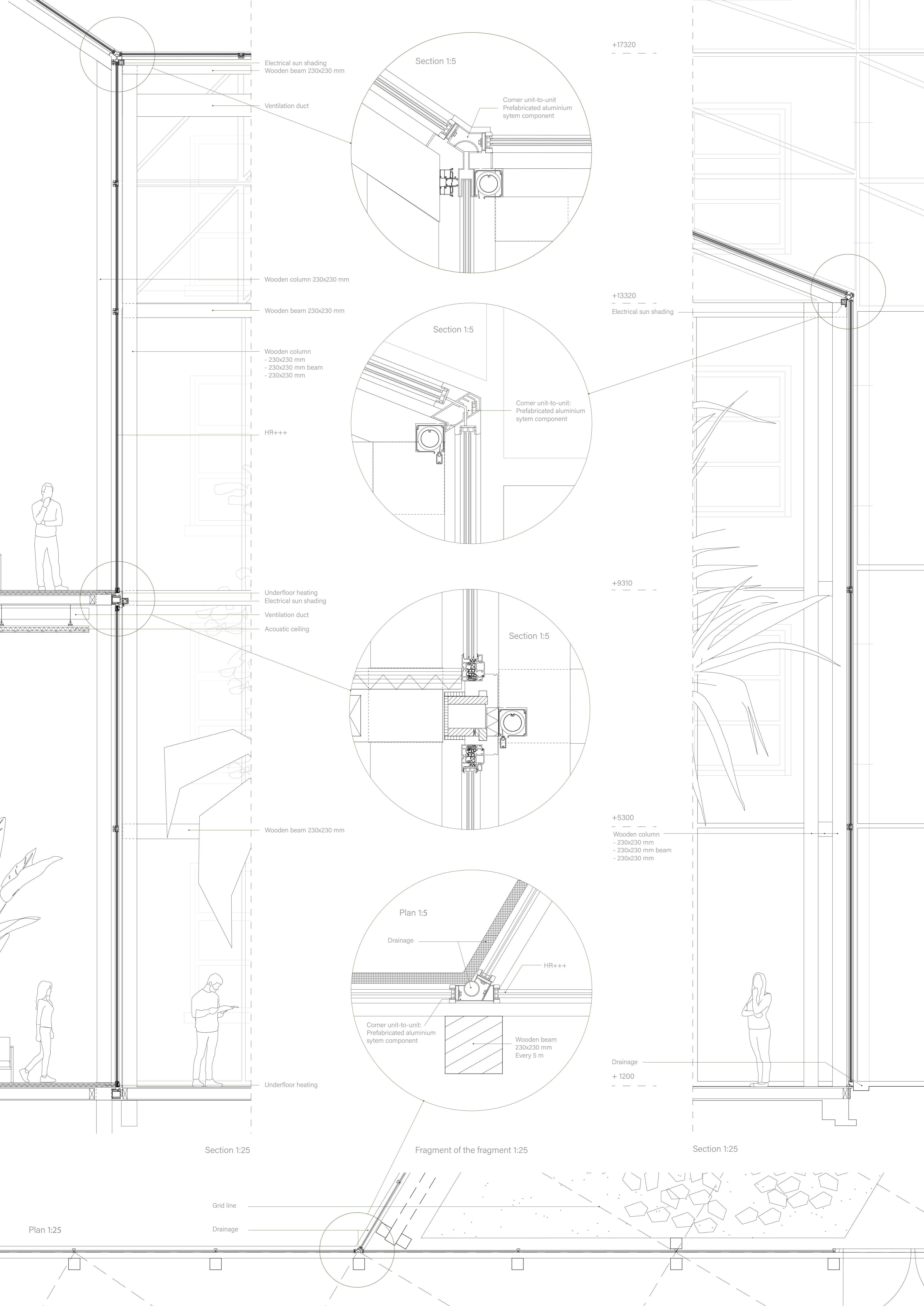
EXTERIOR GREENHOUSE



## CLIMATE

3.  
 Low humidity  
 High temperature  
 Direct sunlight/semi shade  
 Top height = 17 m  
 Plants live in deep soil

4.  
 Low humidity  
 High temperature  
 Direct sunlight  
 Top height = 17 m  
 Plants live in pots that can be  
 moved



Electrical sun shading  
Wooden beam 230x230 mm

Ventilation duct

Wooden column 230x230 mm

Wooden beam 230x230 mm

Wooden column  
- 230x230 mm  
- 230x230 mm beam  
- 230x230 mm

HR+++

Underfloor heating  
Electrical sun shading

Ventilation duct  
Acoustic ceiling

Wooden beam 230x230 mm

Underfloor heating

Section 1:25

Grid line

Drainage

Plan 1:25

Section 1:5

Corner unit-to-unit  
Prefabricated aluminium  
system component

Section 1:5

Corner unit-to-unit:  
Prefabricated aluminium  
system component

Section 1:5

Plan 1:5

Drainage

HR+++

Corner unit-to-unit:  
Prefabricated aluminium  
system component

Wooden beam  
230x230 mm  
Every 5 m

Fragment of the fragment 1:25

+17320

+13320

+9310

+5300

Wooden column  
- 230x230 mm  
- 230x230 mm beam  
- 230x230 mm

Drainage  
+ 1200

Section 1:25