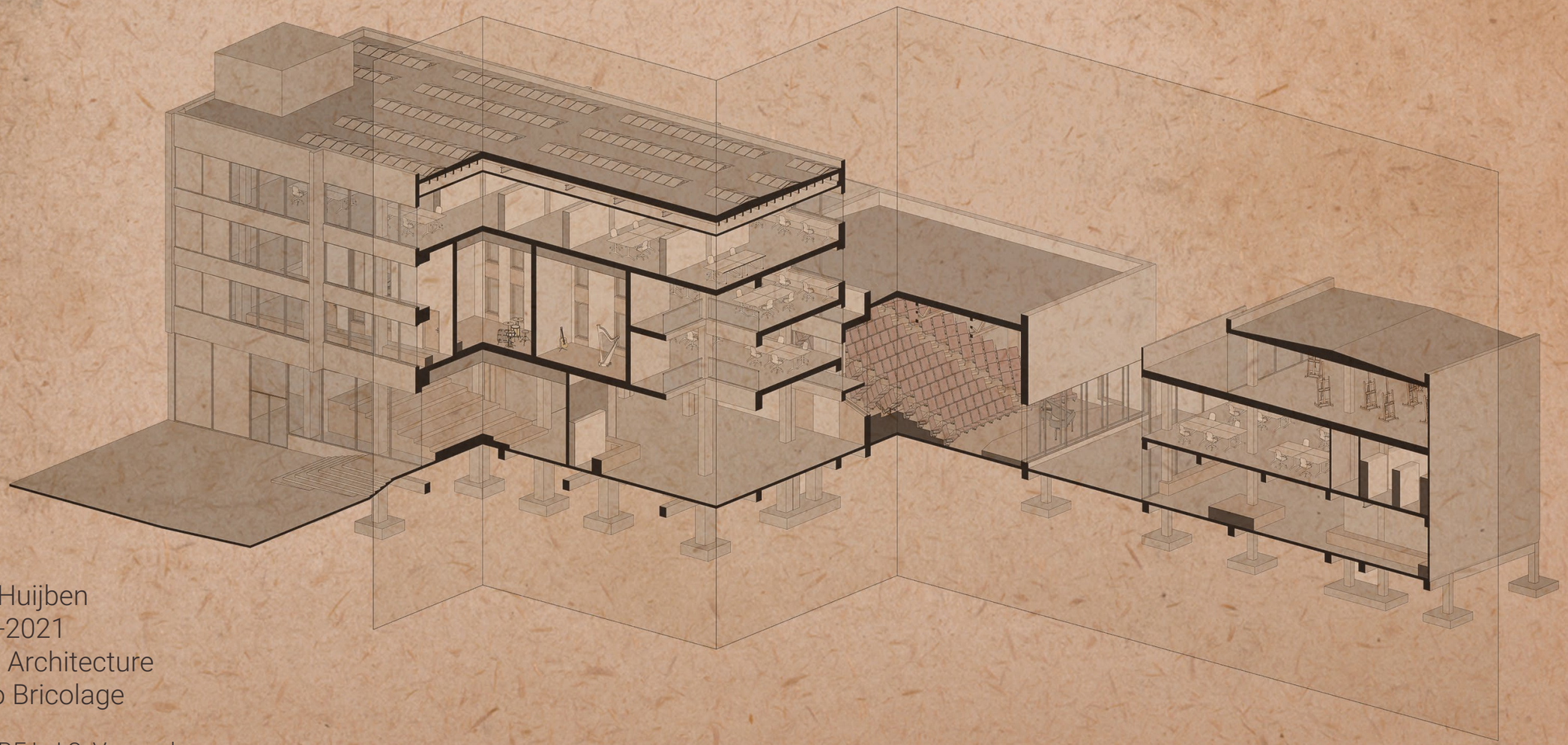
MOLENPOORT

music & arts school



Koen Huijben
07-07-2021
Urban Architecture
Studio Bricolage

Prof.ir. P.E.L.J.C. Vermeulen
Ir. J.D. Fokkinga
D.r. L.G.A.J. Reinders
Dr.ir. B. Cattoor

BRICOLAGE

bri-co-lage | brē-kō-ˈläzh

= the act of creating something new, which is constructed out of a diverse range of things that happen to be available

ENGINEER	VS	***BRICOLEUR***
conceiving all the necessary materials and tools to suit his project		putting preexisting things together in new ways, adapting his project to a finite stock of materials and tools

Dear Robinson Crusoe

Apologies for my late reply! The past year I have been extremely busy with my graduation project, but I am very happy to tell you that it seems to be going towards a successful ending.

I'm writing you this letter, because the story of your survival on the island has been a huge inspiration for my project. You have been so successful at documenting your journey through your diary, that I decided to keep one myself, of my entire process of the past year. What a shame that you ran out of ink and weren't able to finish your diary, I know how you like to obsessively keep track of your activities. I also struggled with keeping track of everything at times, but what I realized is that not every written detail matters. By flipping through the pages after finishing the diary I was able to see the fundamental outlines of my process, and because a lot of it reminded me of your story, I decided to write to you about it in this letter.

I was so sorry to hear that your father didn't understand your calling to go to the sea, and that he advised you to live a modest and secure life by studying law instead. Understandably you wanted to listen to him and accept a middle station in life, but I admire how you still followed your dreams as soon as the opportunity presented itself. Even after your first wreckage and that situation with the Moorish pirates, you still followed your calling!

It reminds me of when I was deciding on which graduation studio I was going to enrol for. There were these secure studios that offered the same program as many years before and described exactly what kind of building would have to be designed in exactly which time schedule. Despite the fact that in the past I have struggled with insecurities when doing exercises within architecture school that weren't totally defined, I felt completely attracted to the bricolage studio of Urban Architecture. How you functioned as the inspirational figure to embark on a journey of experimentation and discovery sounded very exciting to me, and however people advised me to take the 'secure route' instead, I am very happy to tell you that it was the right choice to follow my own instinct.

Reading about how you found yourself completely alone on that island, with a very clear purpose to survive and be able to leave the place again, it must have been tough! You had no idea how long it would take you to escape, another week? Month? Several years?

During my process I also had a very clear goal; to deliver a project that would be sufficient to make me graduate. Where my journey really contrasted with yours, is that I knew exactly how much time I had left. In the beginning of the year this didn't affect me, since there still was a lot of time left, but the more I got to the end, the more the time pressure got to me. For example the moment when Paul Vermeulen suggested me to change the concept of the floorplans a week before the P3 presentation was a very stressful situation.

It is so impressive to read about how you overcame all the obstacles on the island, and how you succeeded to control your environment. At first you seemed to see yourself as a passive victim of your choice to disobey your father, and how this situation had to be your punishment for being so greedy in the past. But then when you started to master the nature around you, the idea of the island as a place of captivity, seemed to turn into the idea of the island as a place of deliverances from your earlier sins. You realised you were responsible yourself for surviving, for your own success and happiness, and also for the choices that led you there. When you called yourself 'the king of the island', it became clear to me how comfortable you got with the idea that you possessed the place. I have to say that this idea of mastery went too far when you met Friday and saw him as your own slave. Why didn't you see him as your friend or equal? Sure, you succeeded in mastering the nature around you, but that doesn't give you the right to treat other people as your property too.

1 | Koen Huijben

The process

1 Understand the given/existing

What am I working with?

2 Defining the goals

What should the project accomplish?

3 Realizing the goals within the existing

What is logical and convenient?

4 Investigating the unique qualities

What makes the poetic value?

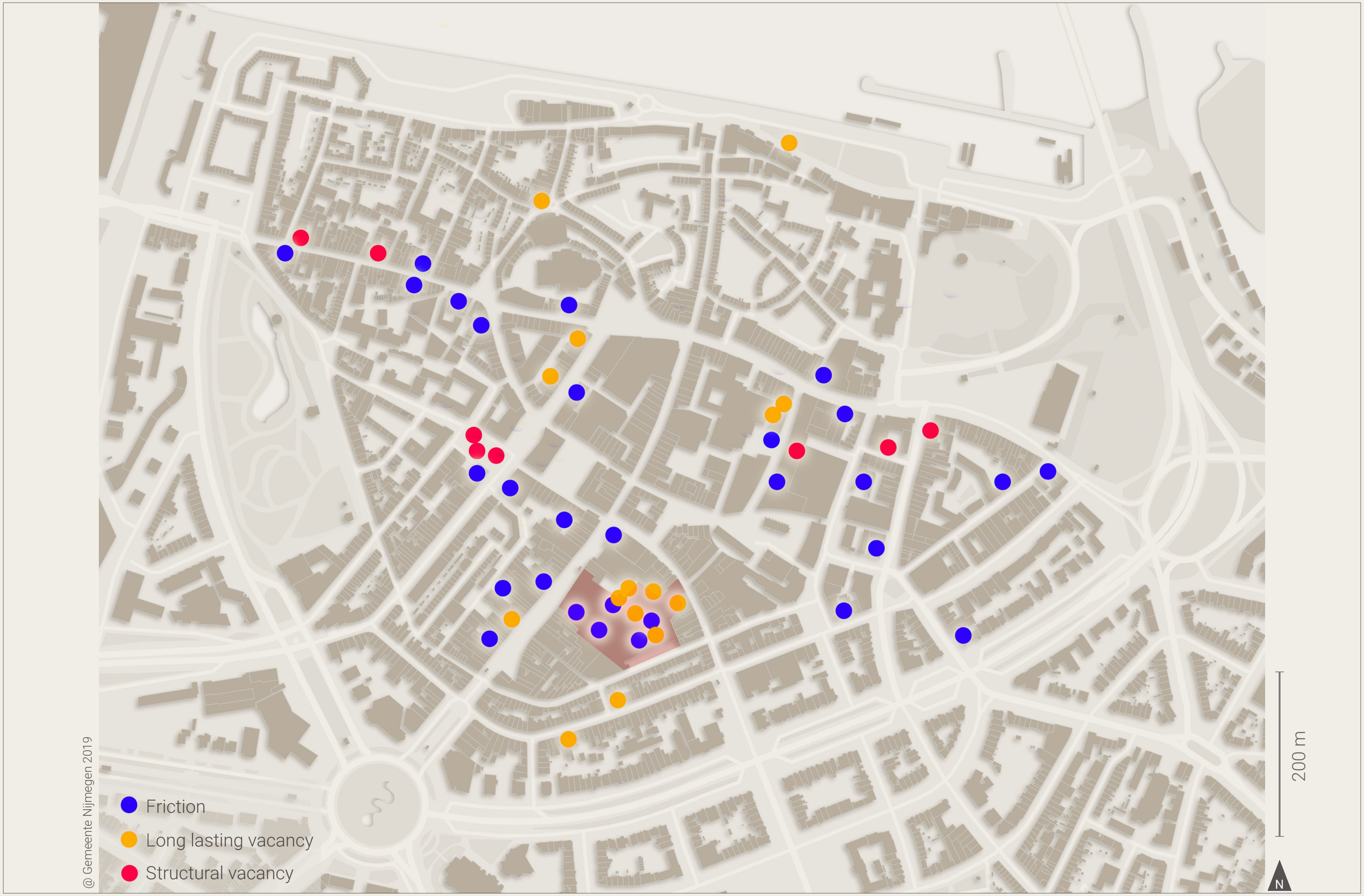
5 Finding ‘the sweet spot’

Making the particularities work.

Molenpoort
200 m
N

Waal
+ 12,40 m
+ 28,00 m
+ 33,50 m
+ 23,00 m
+ 26,00 m
+ 30,40 m
+ 32,60 m
200 m
N
@ AHN

200 m
N


Friction
Long lasting vacancy
Structural vacancy
200 m
N
@ Gemeente Nijmegen 2019

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2
3
4
5
200 m
N

1

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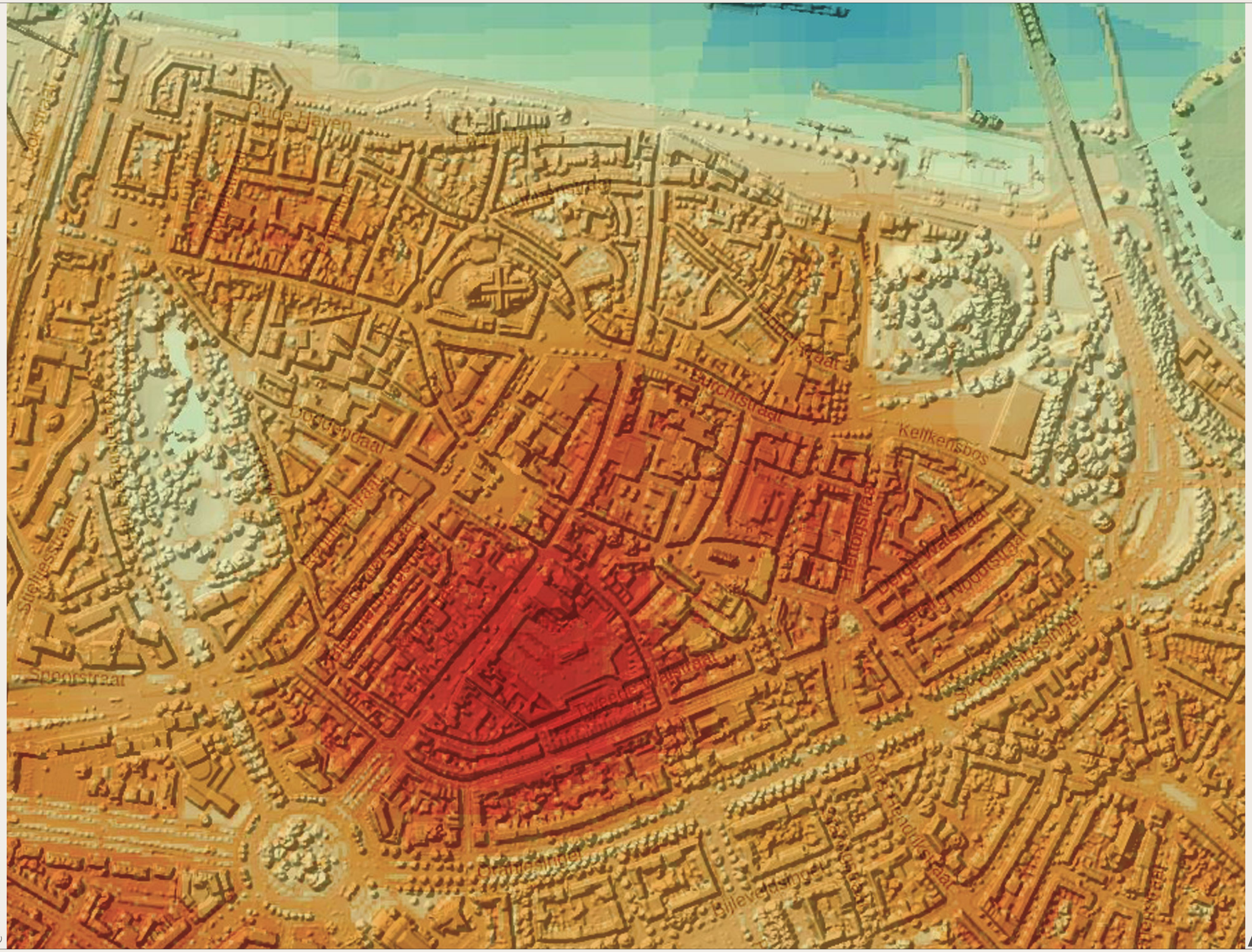
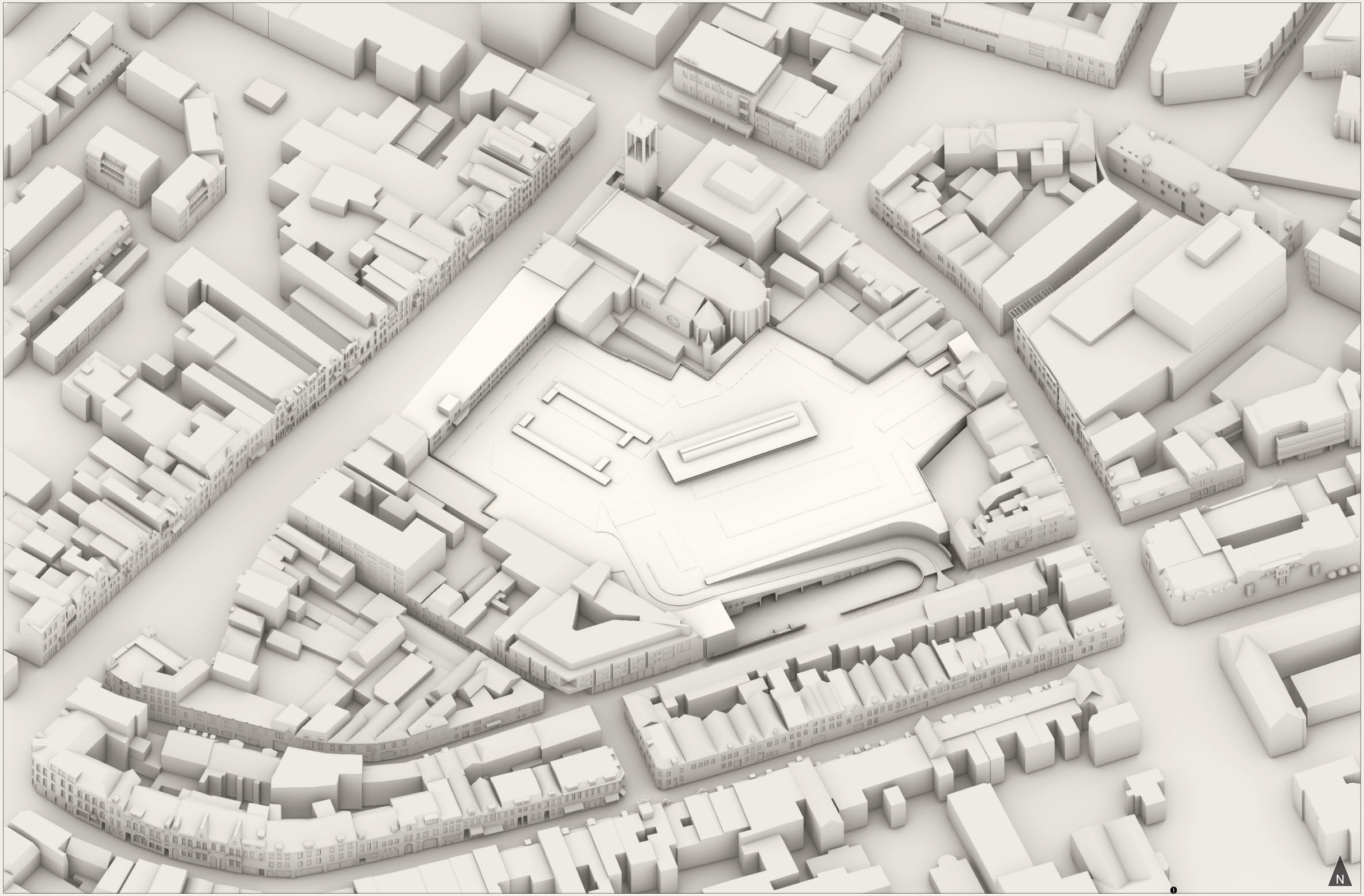
4

5



@ NationaleHittestressKaart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@ Regionaal Archief Nijmegen 1965

@ Regionaal Archief Nijmegen 1969

@ Regionaal Archief Nijmegen 1972

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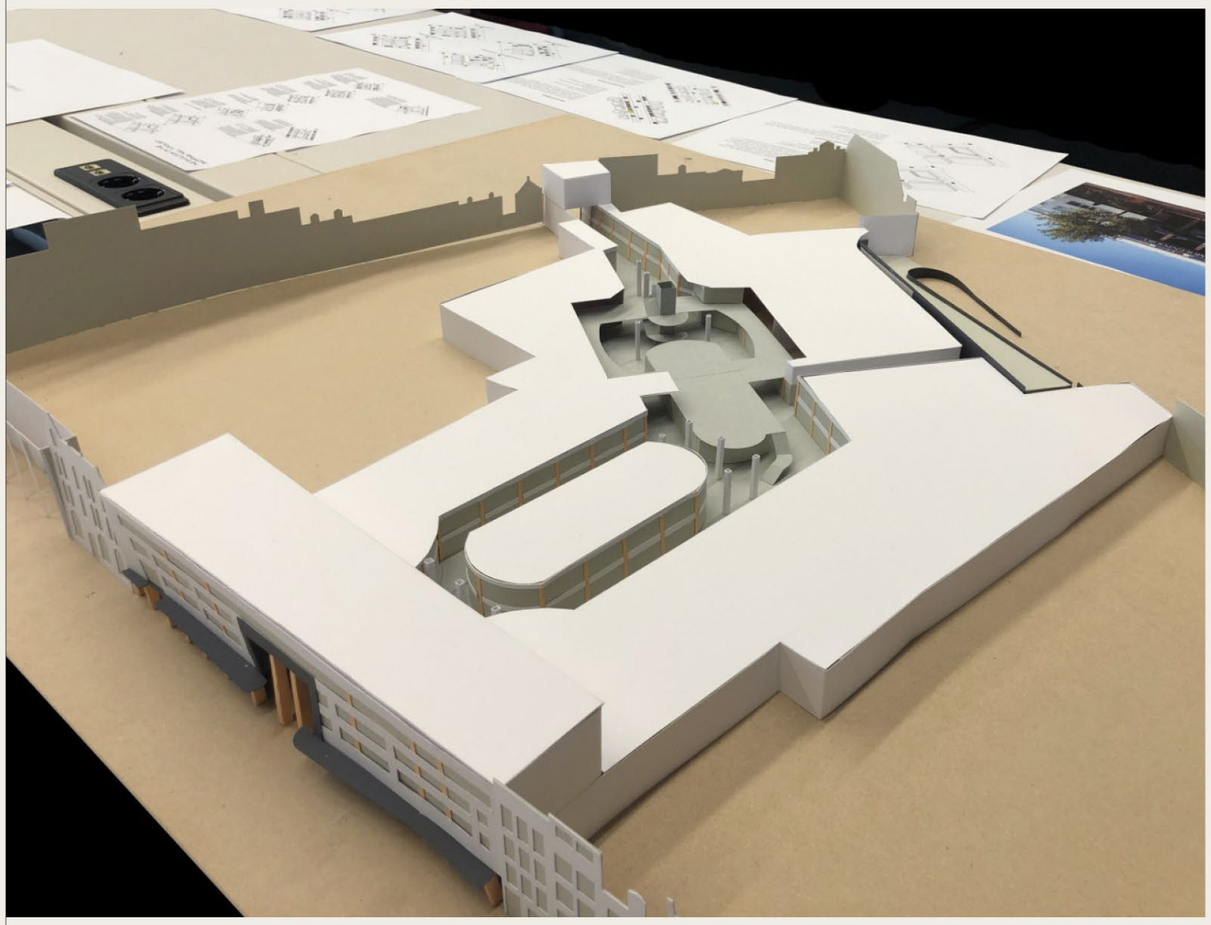
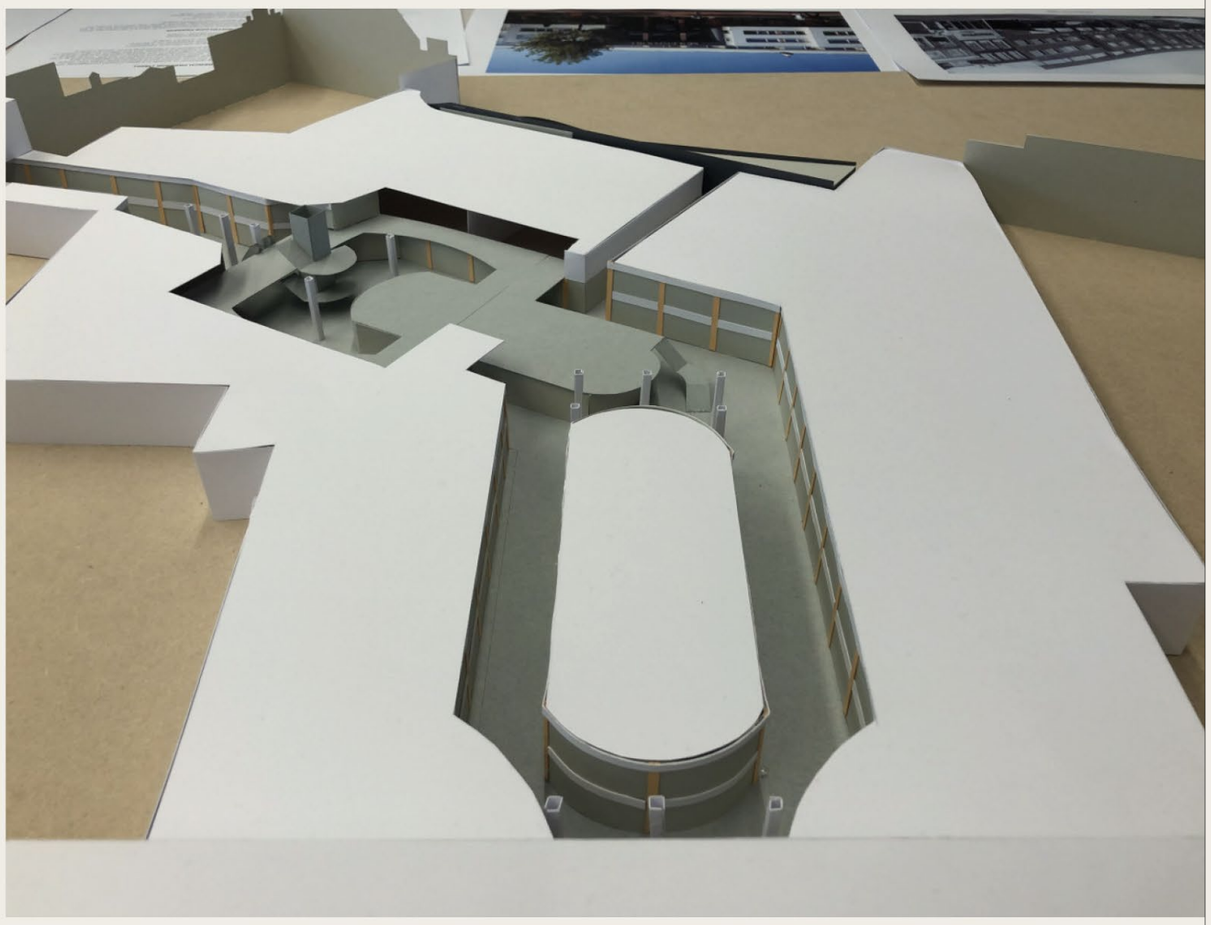
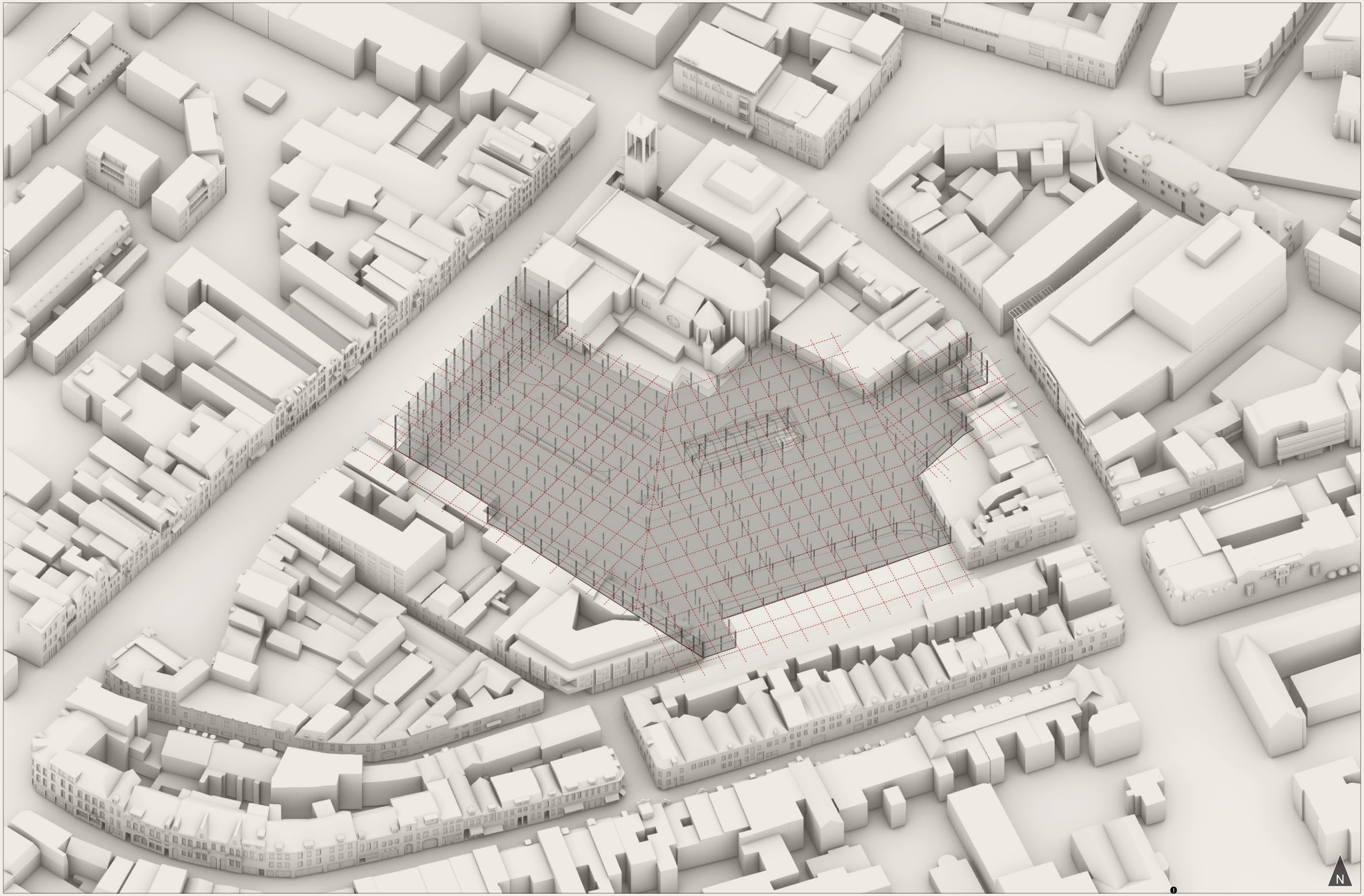
MOLENSTRAAT
ZIEKERSTRAAT
MOENENSTRAAT
TWEEDE WALSTRAAT
N



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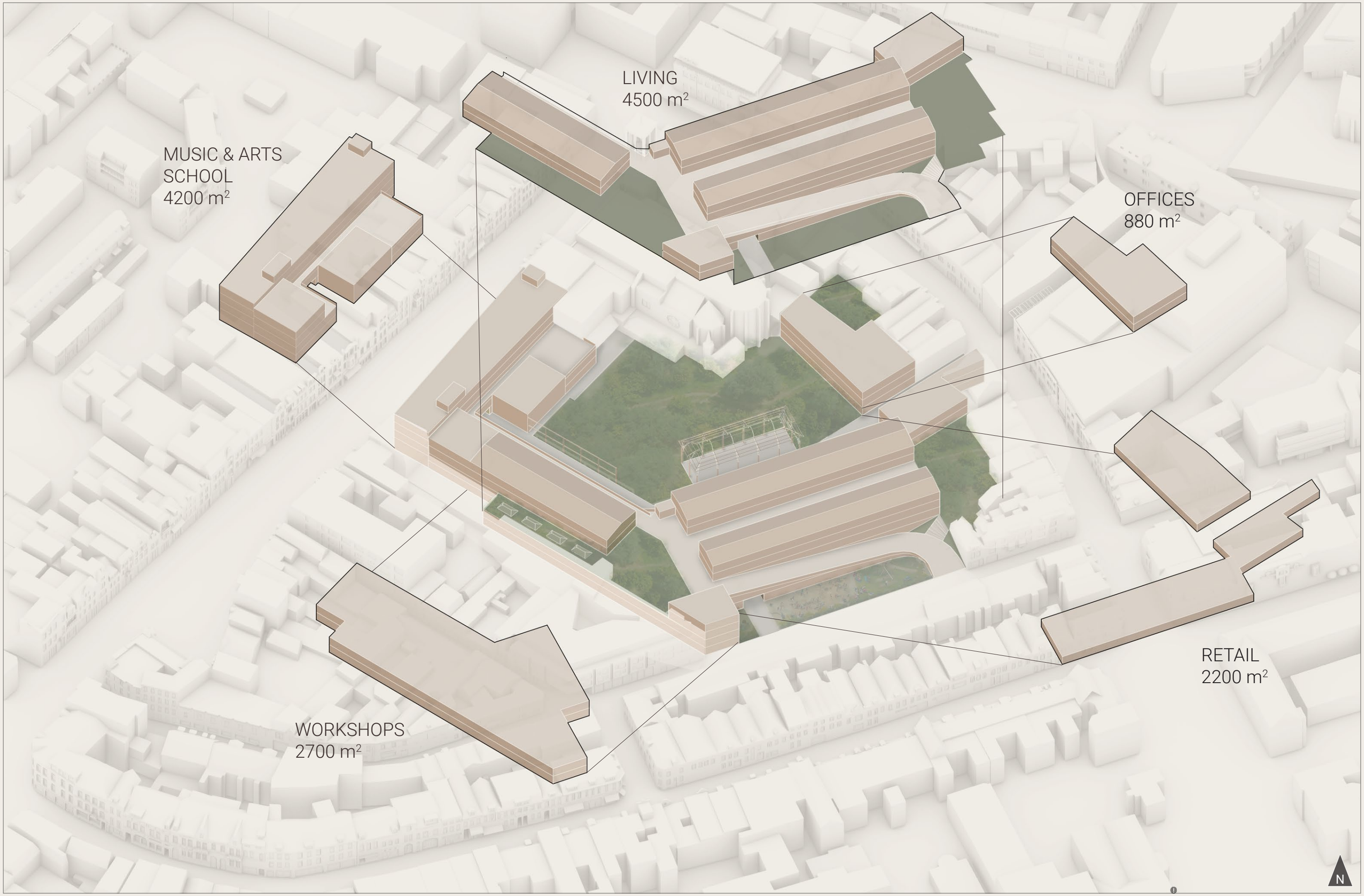
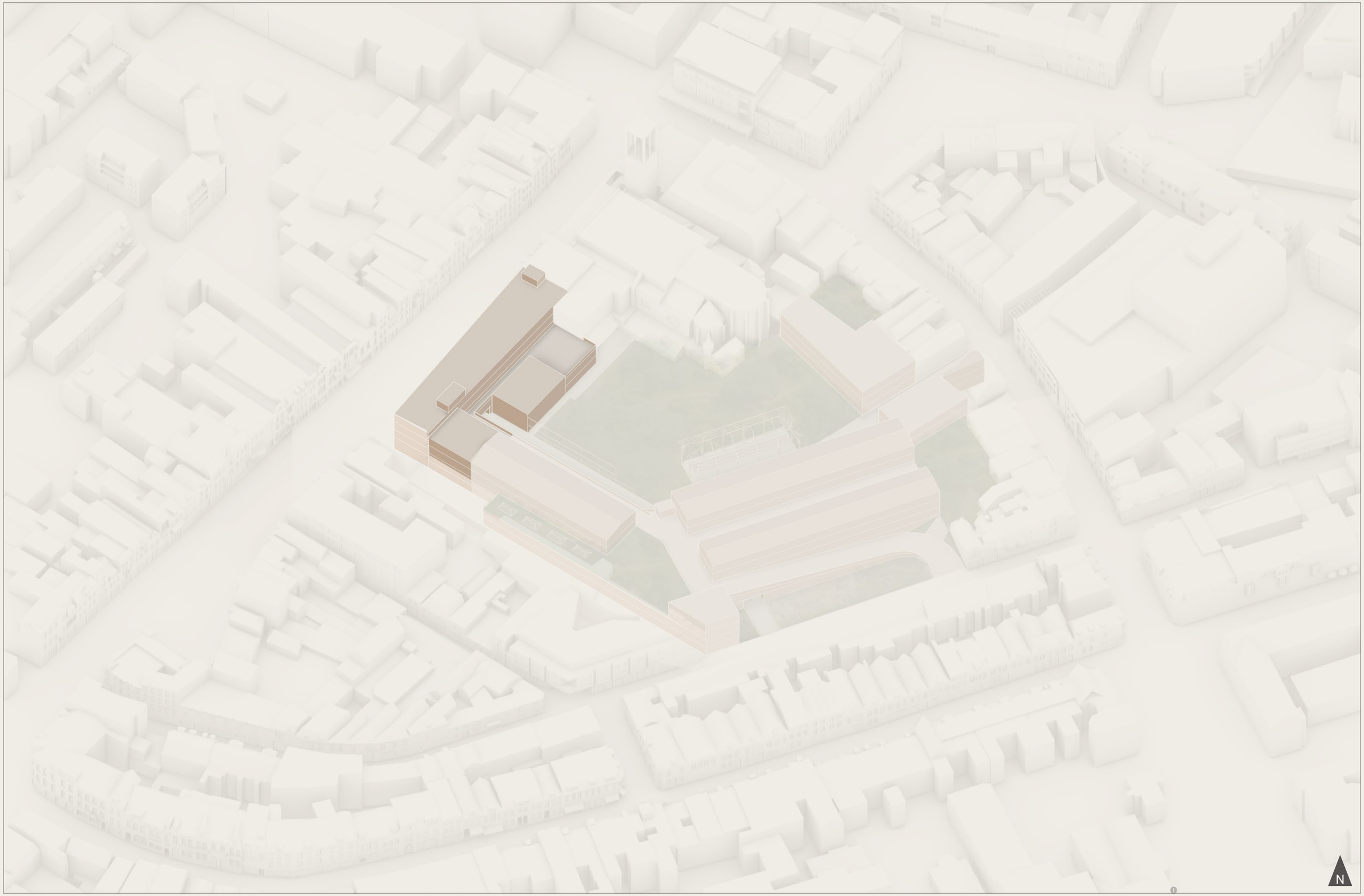

LIVING
4500 m²
MUSIC & ARTS
SCHOOL
4200 m²
OFFICES
880 m²
WORKSHOPS
2700 m²
RETAIL
2200 m²
N

MOLENPOORT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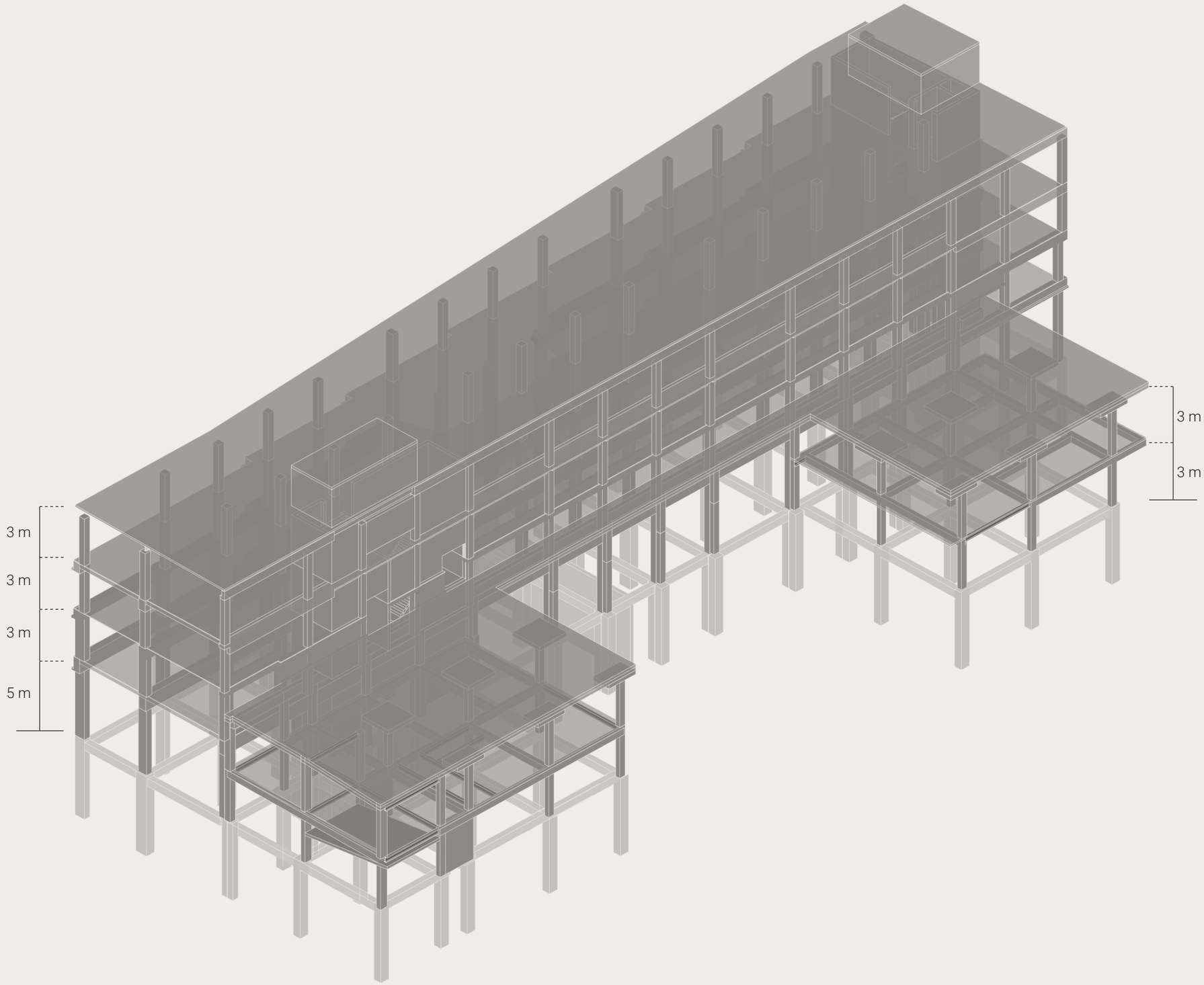
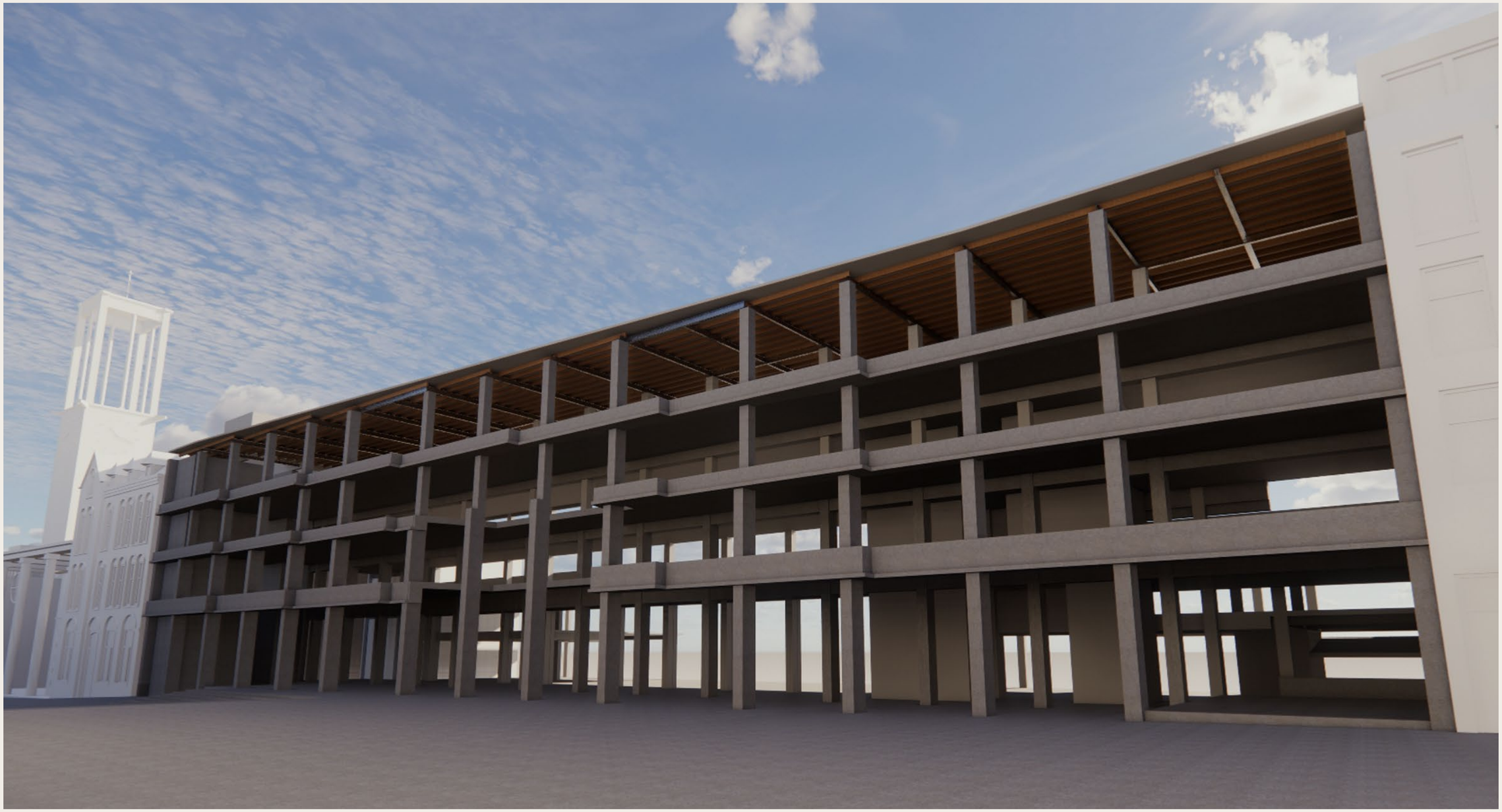
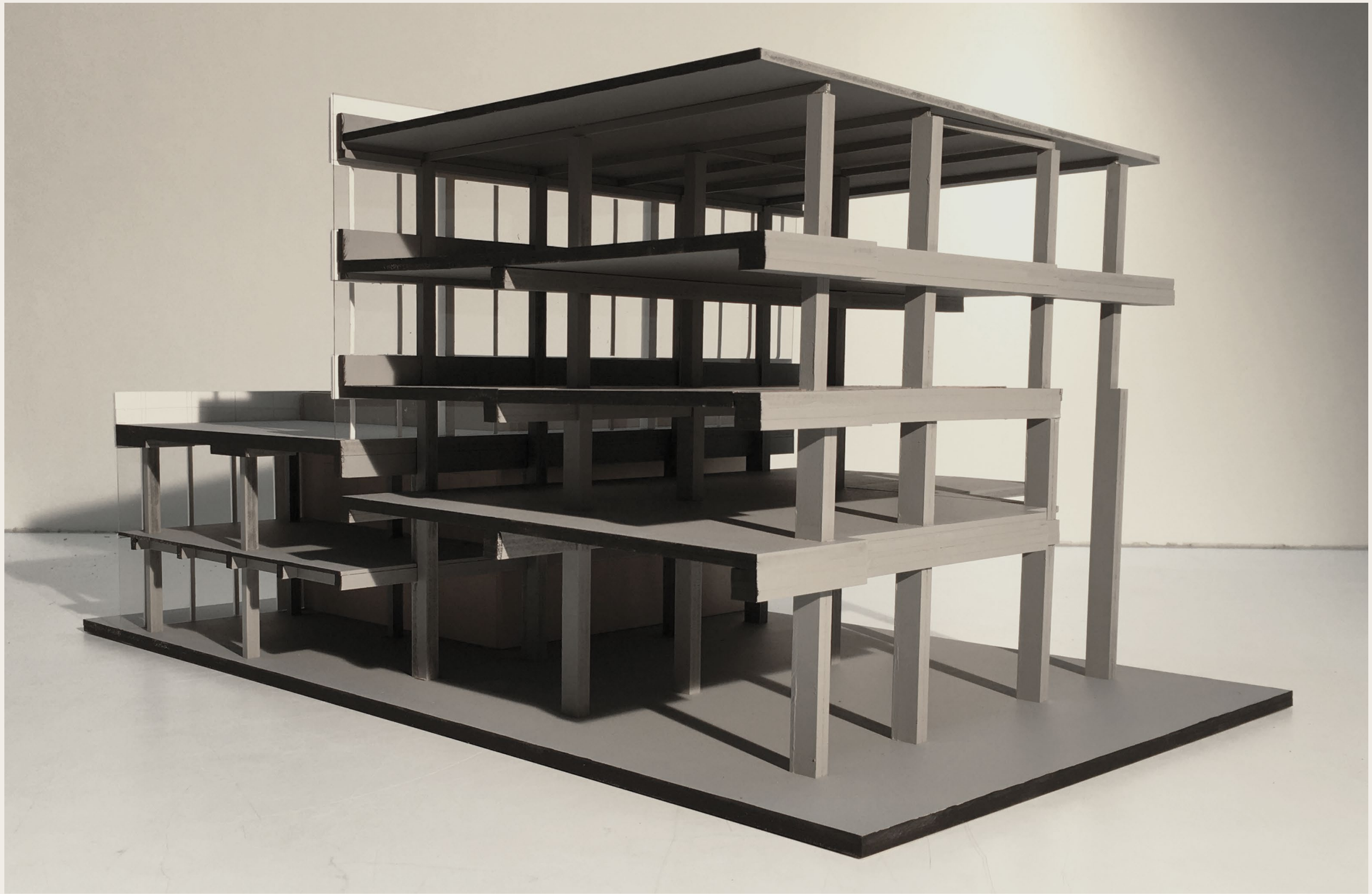
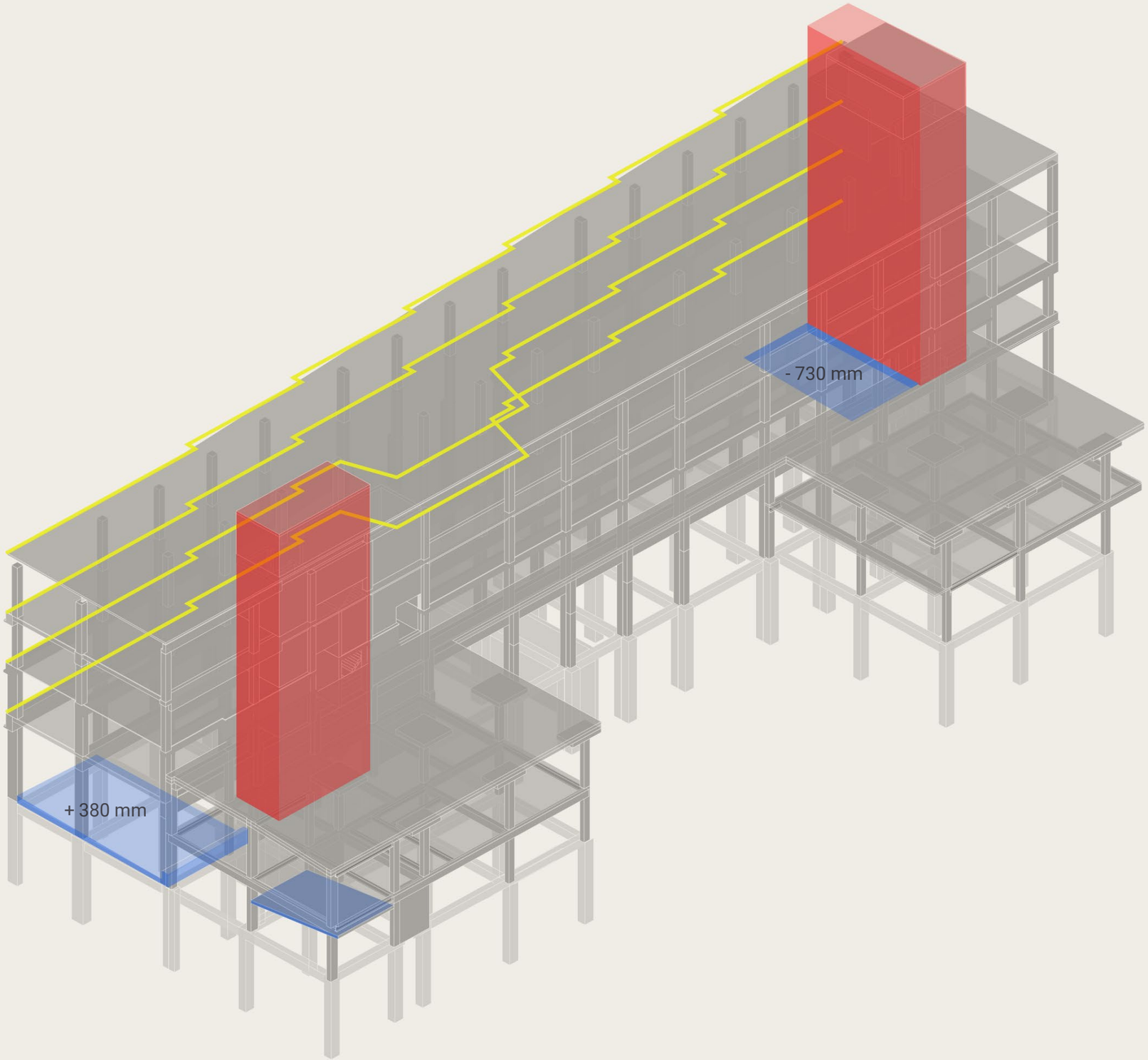
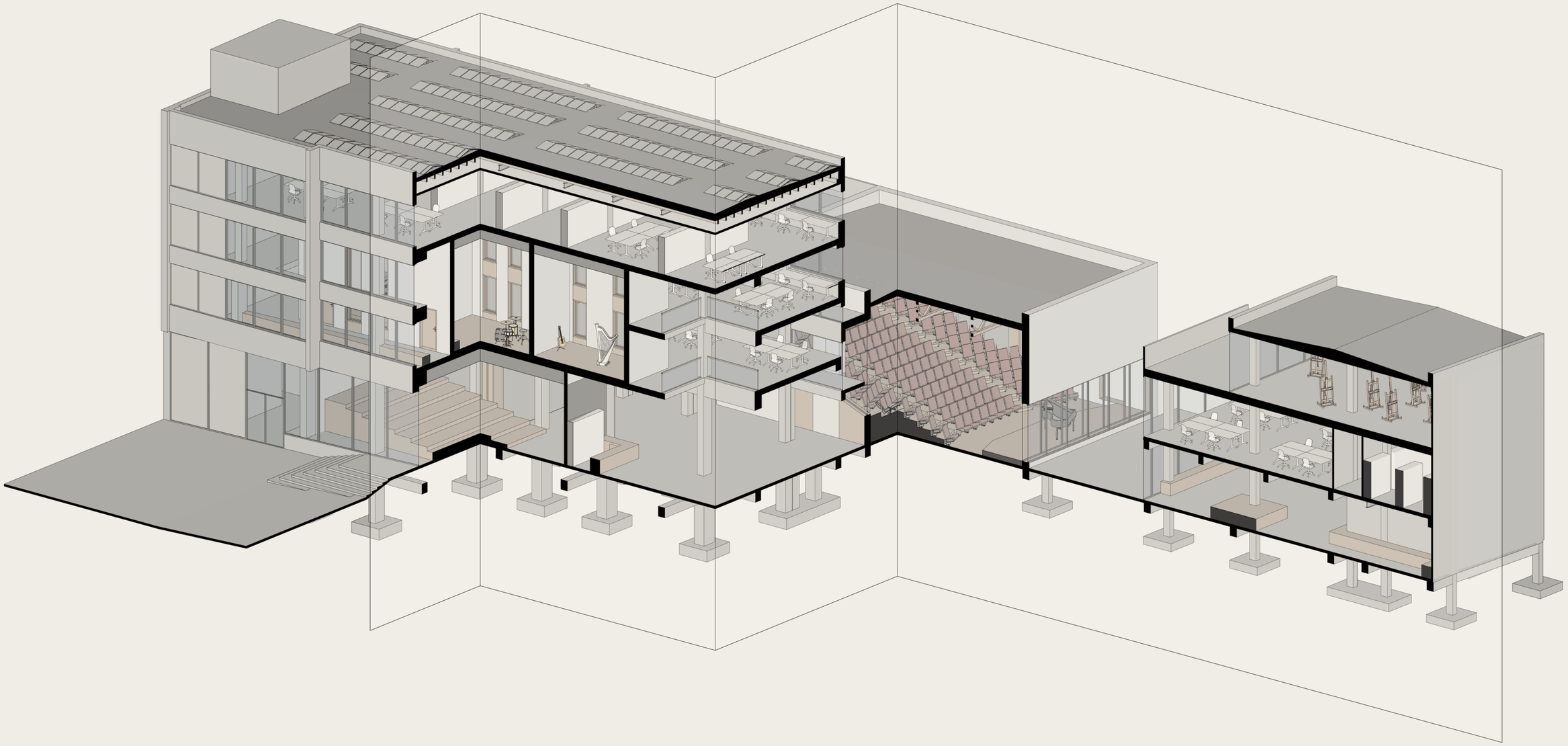
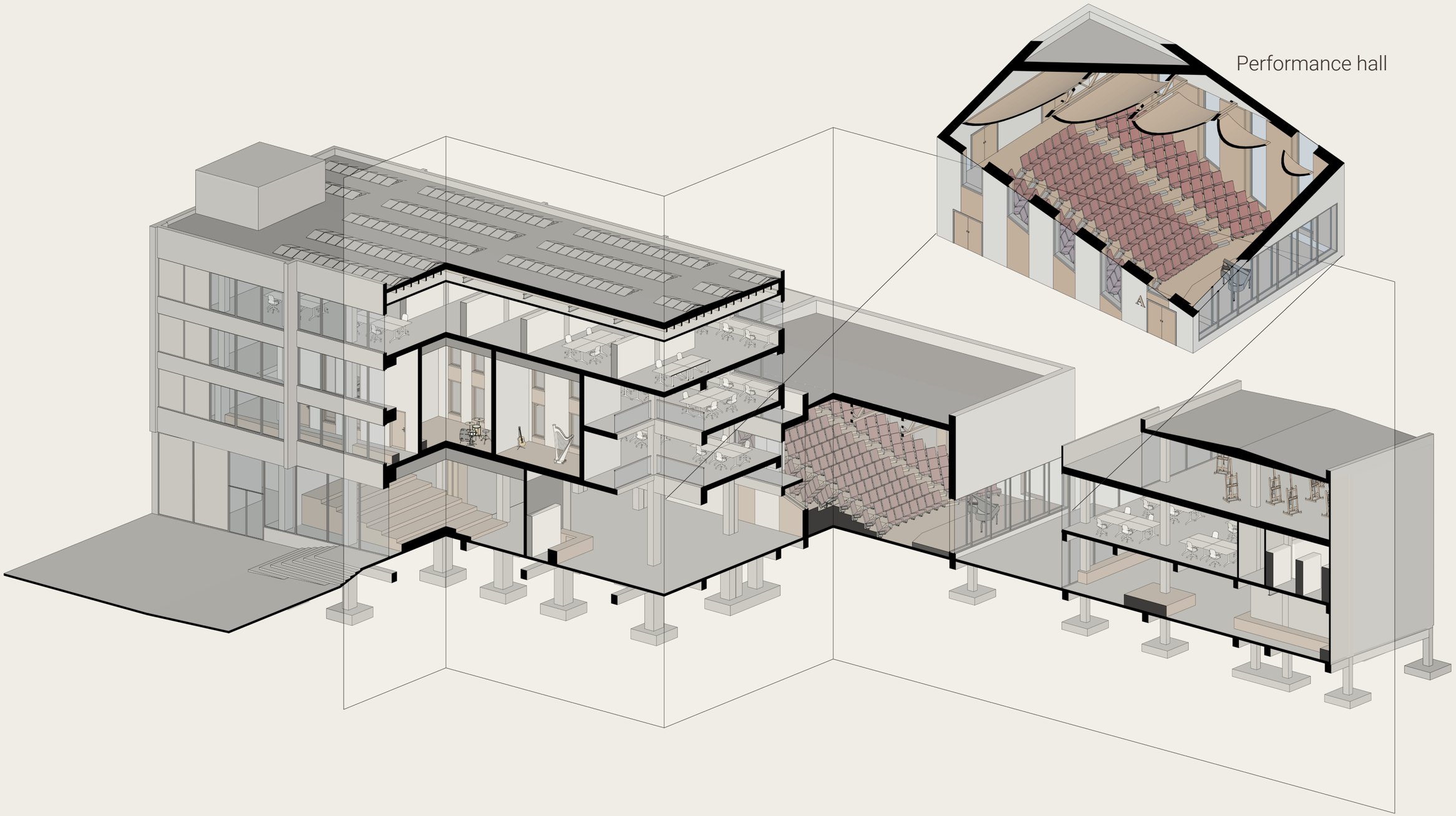

3 m
3 m
3 m
3 m
3 m
5 m

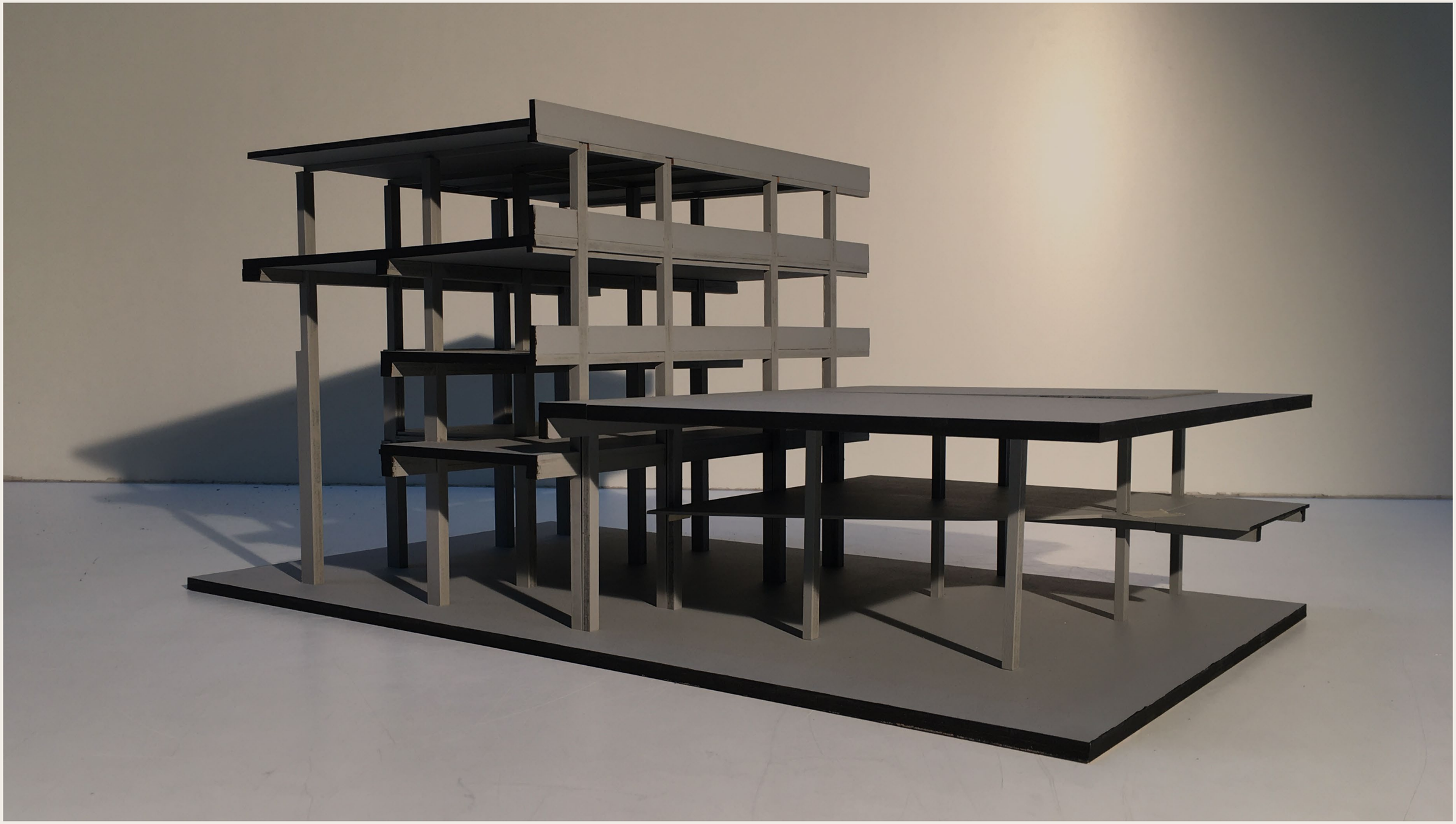


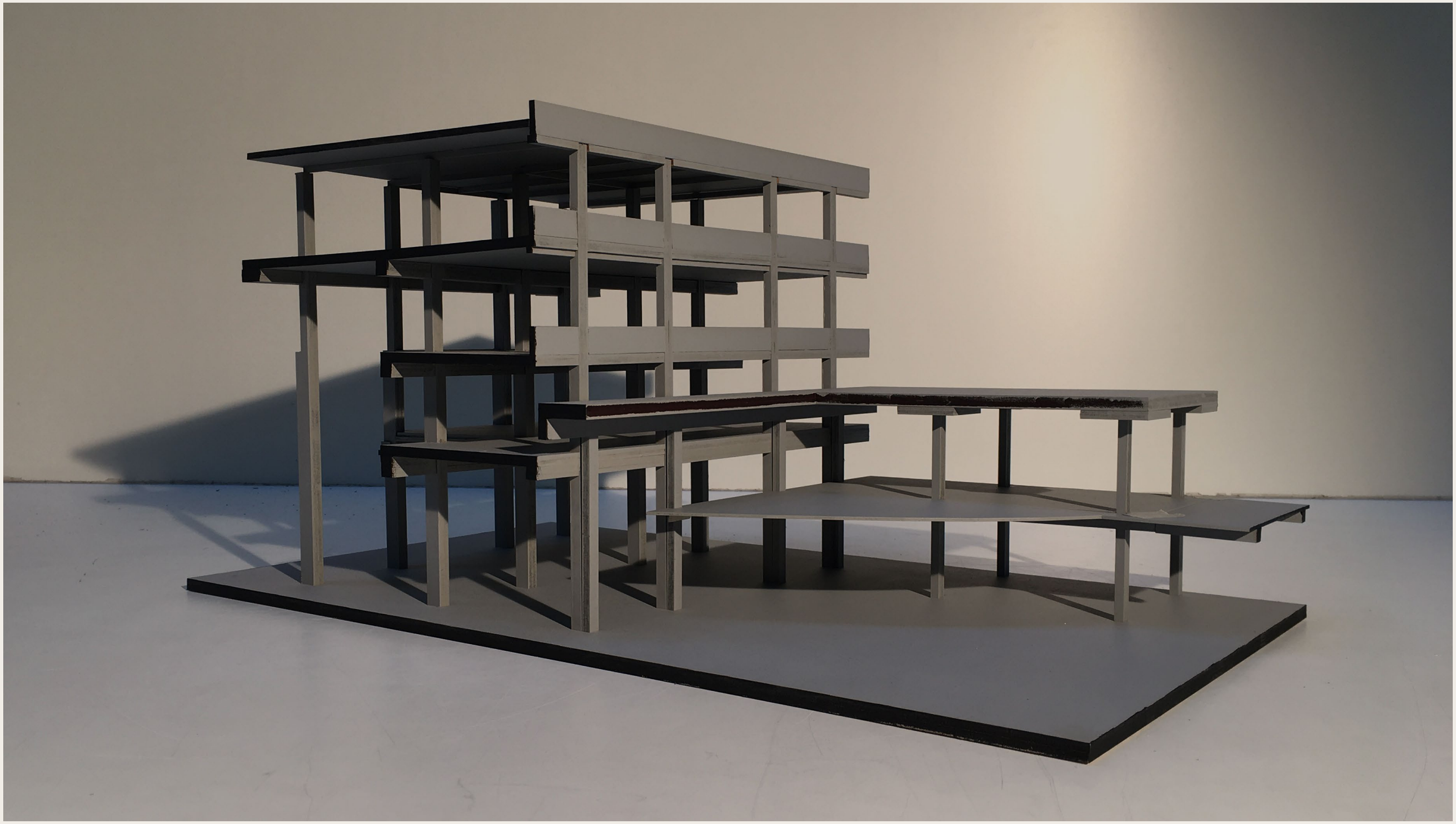


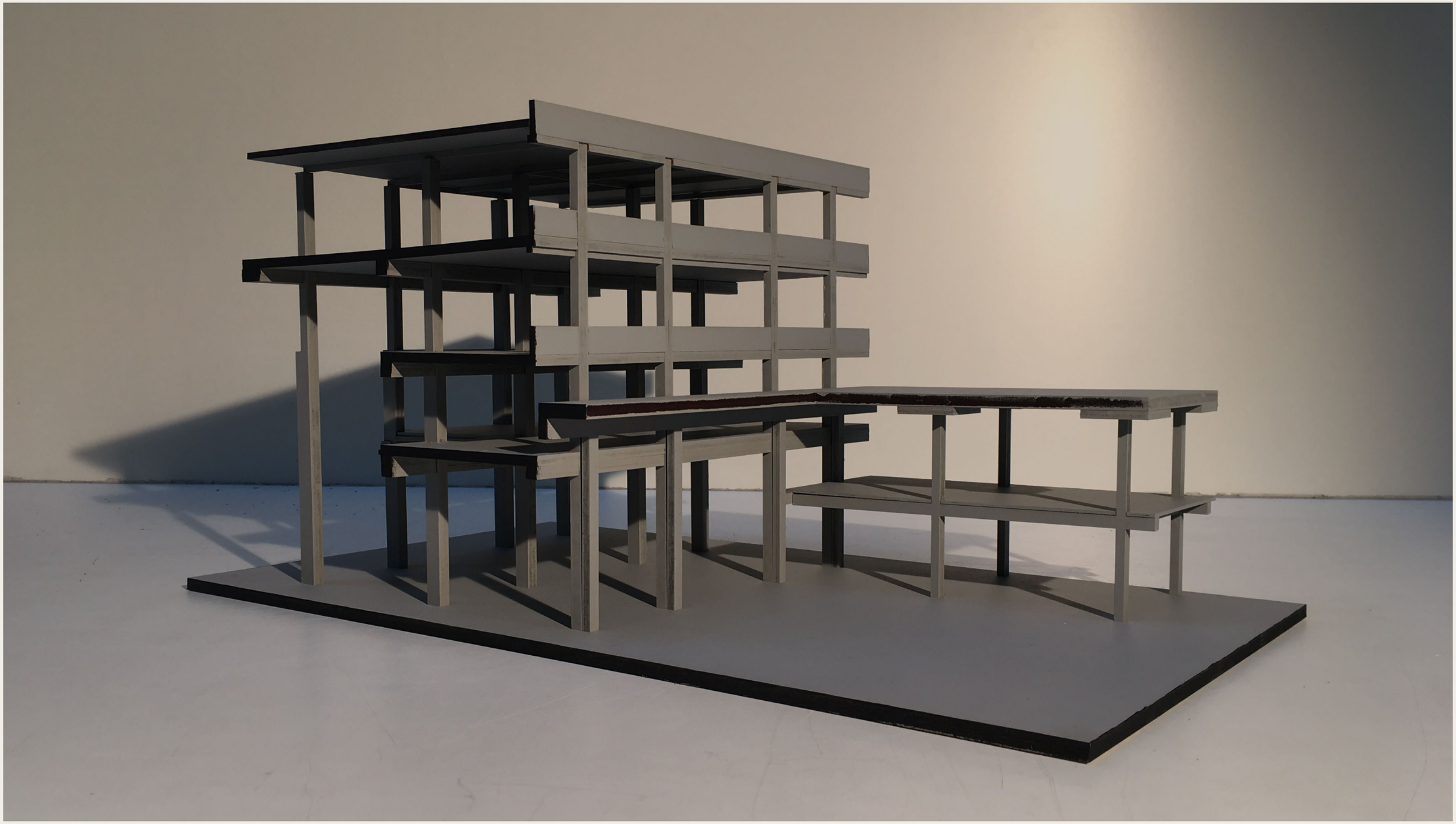

- 730 mm
+ 380 mm

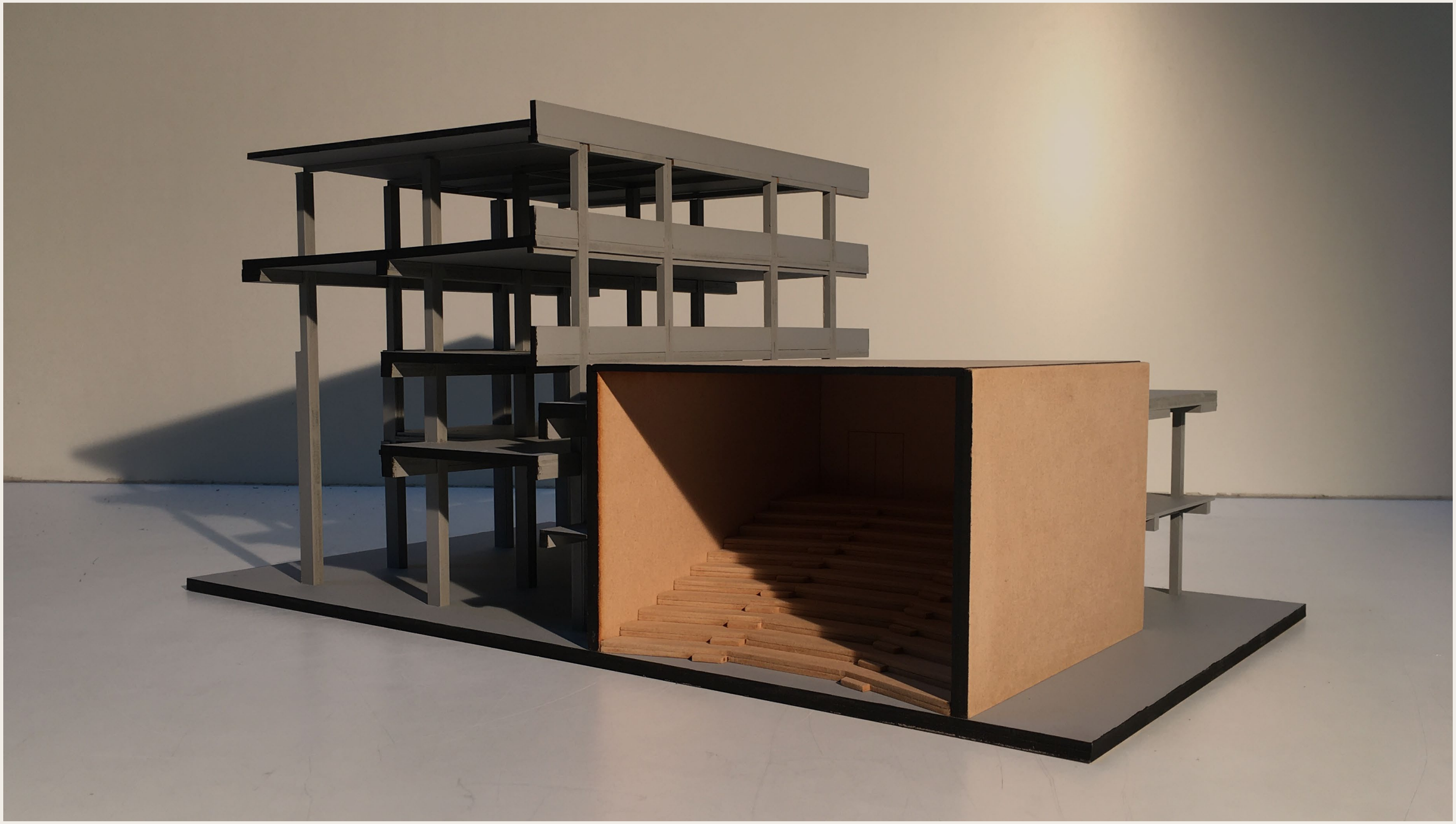


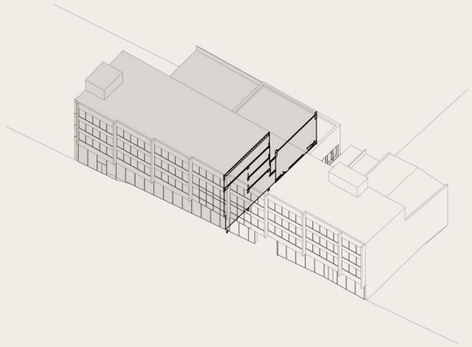

Performance hall

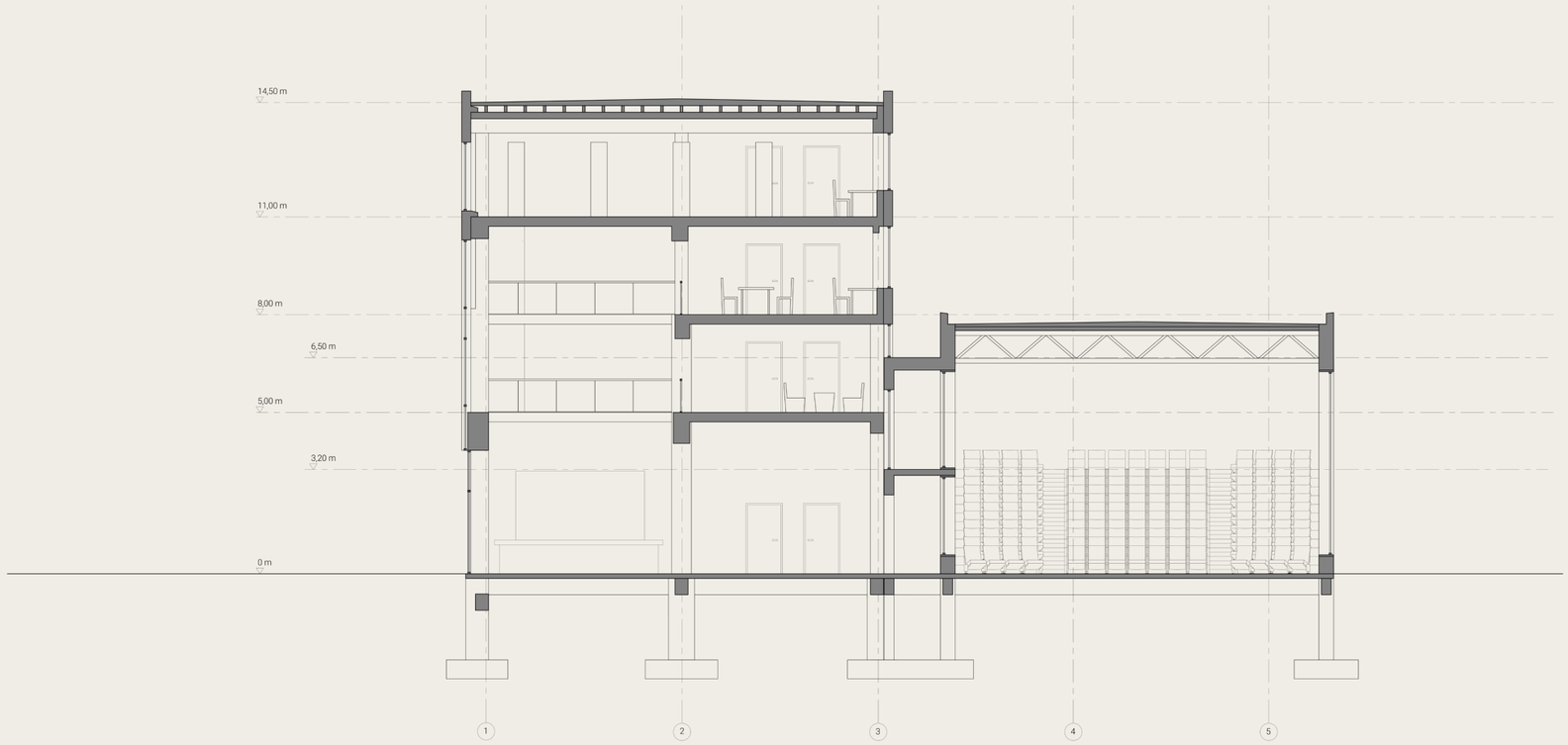












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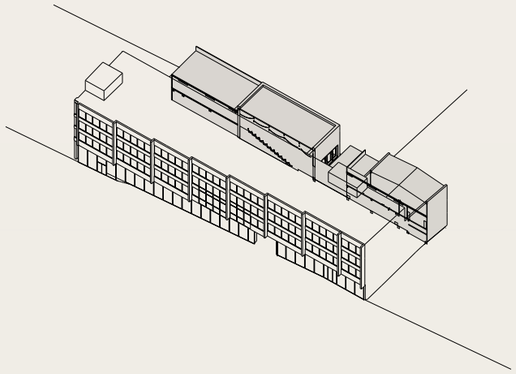

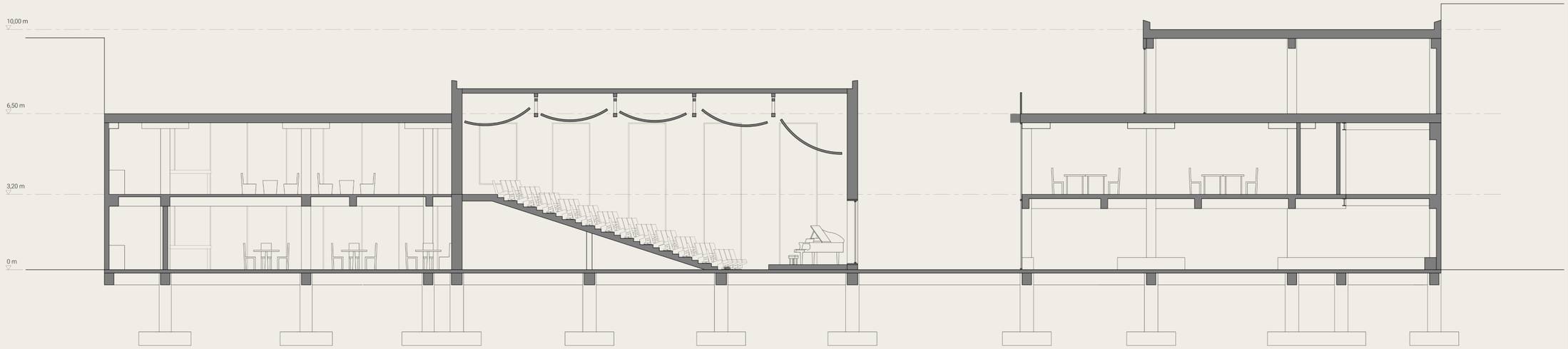

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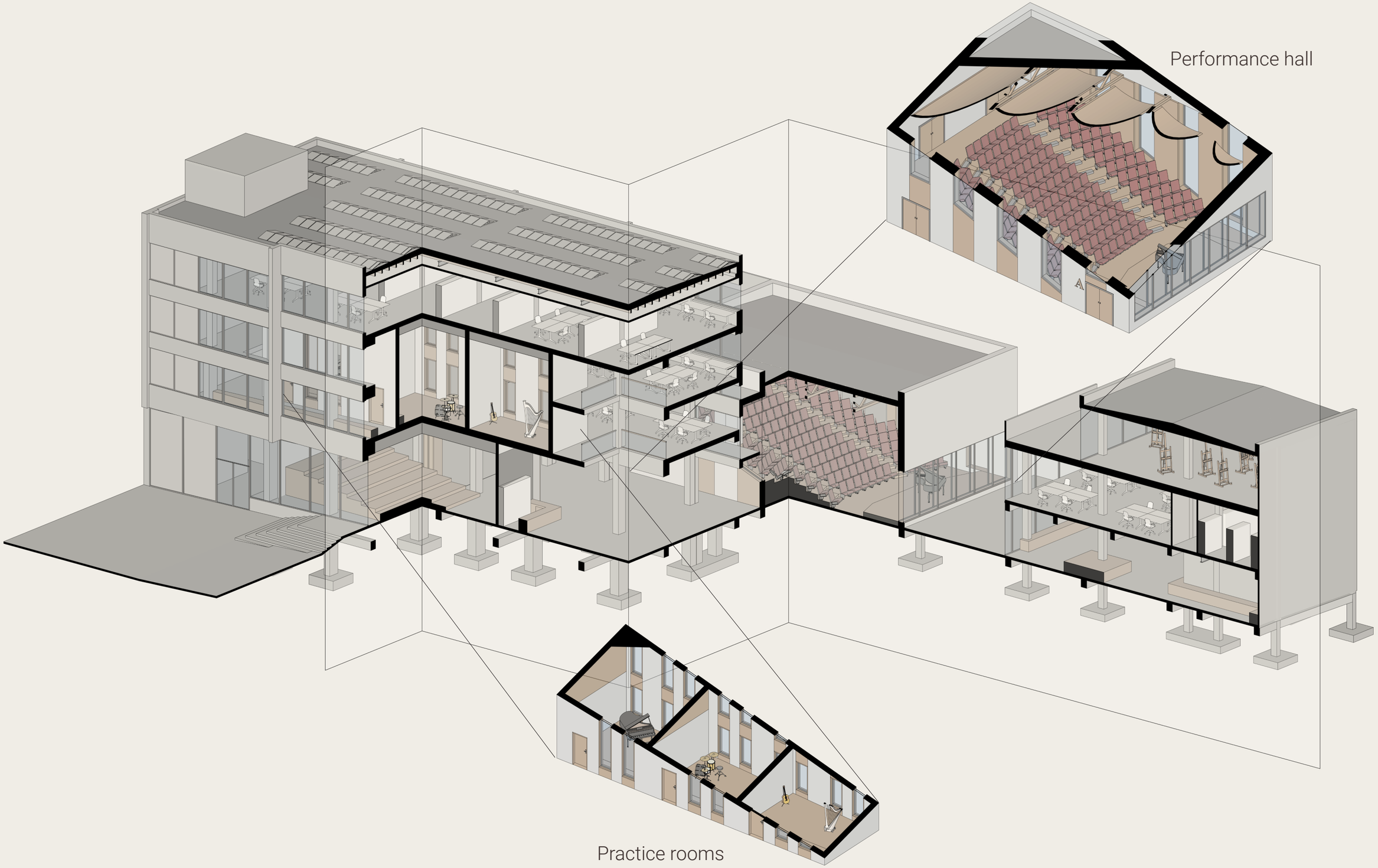
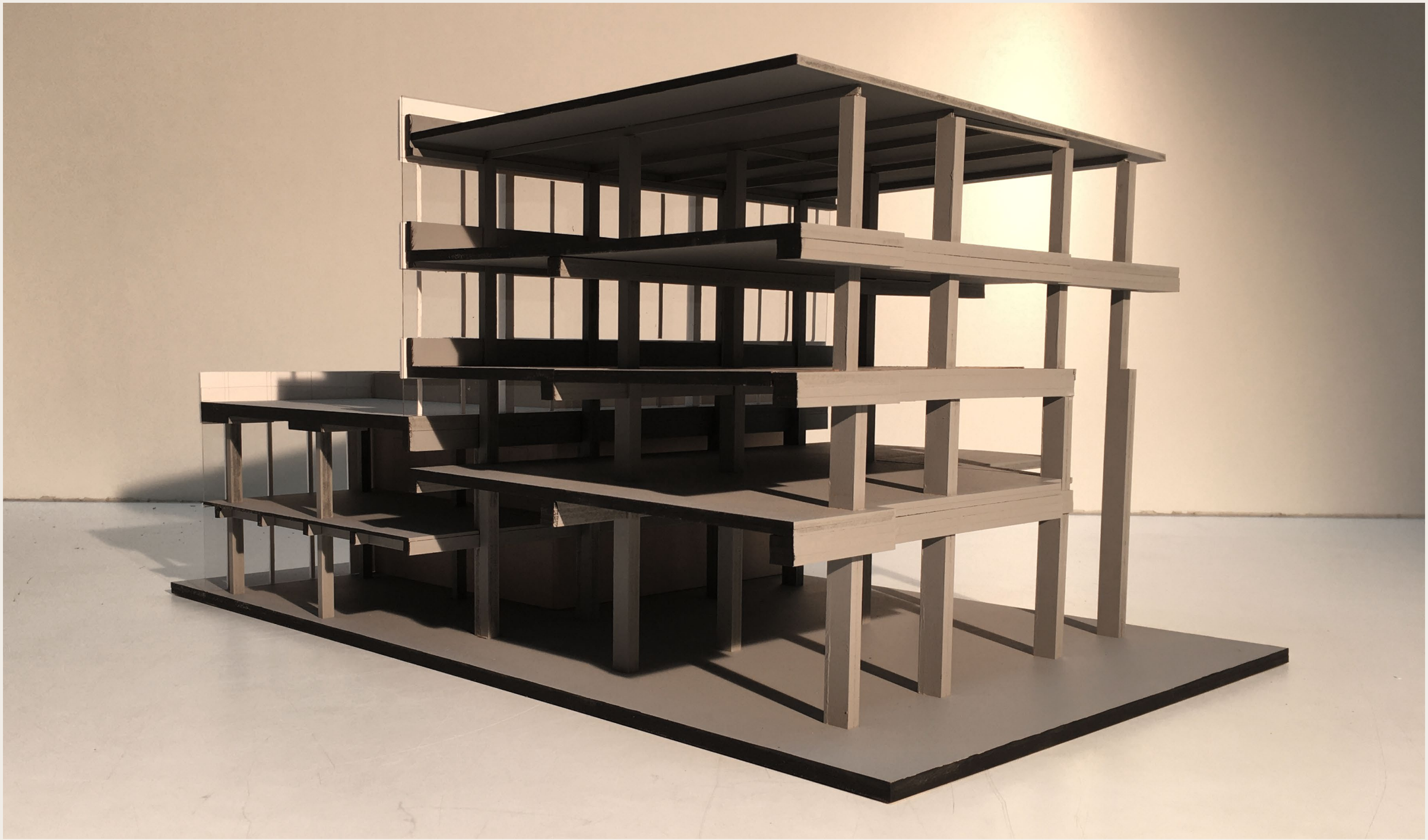
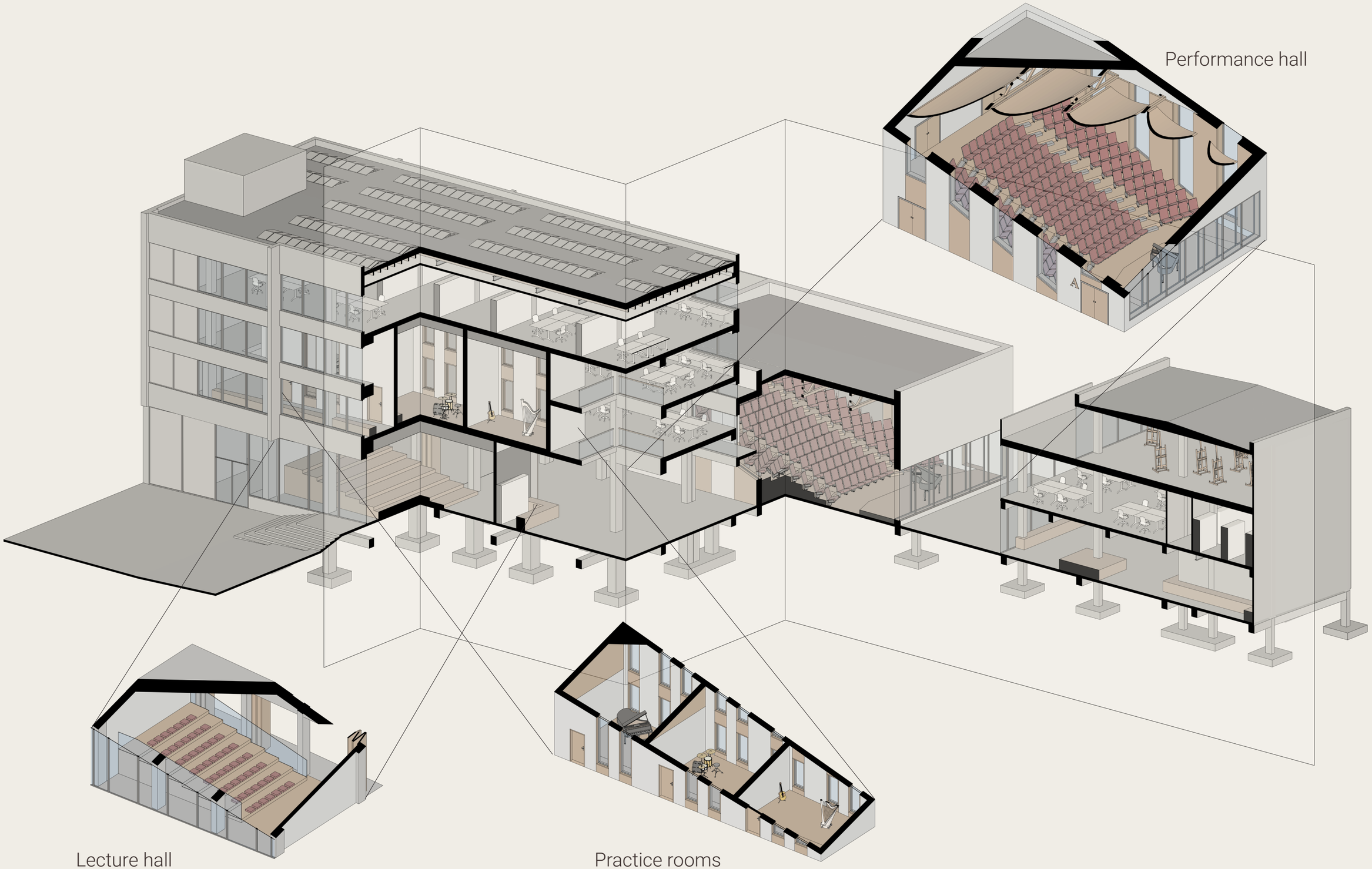
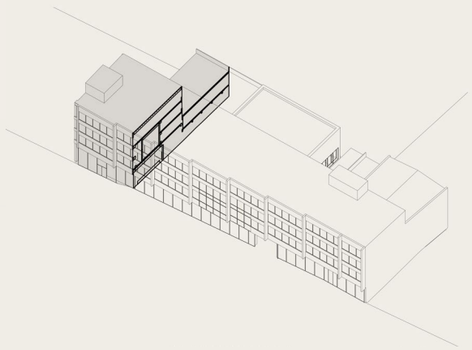
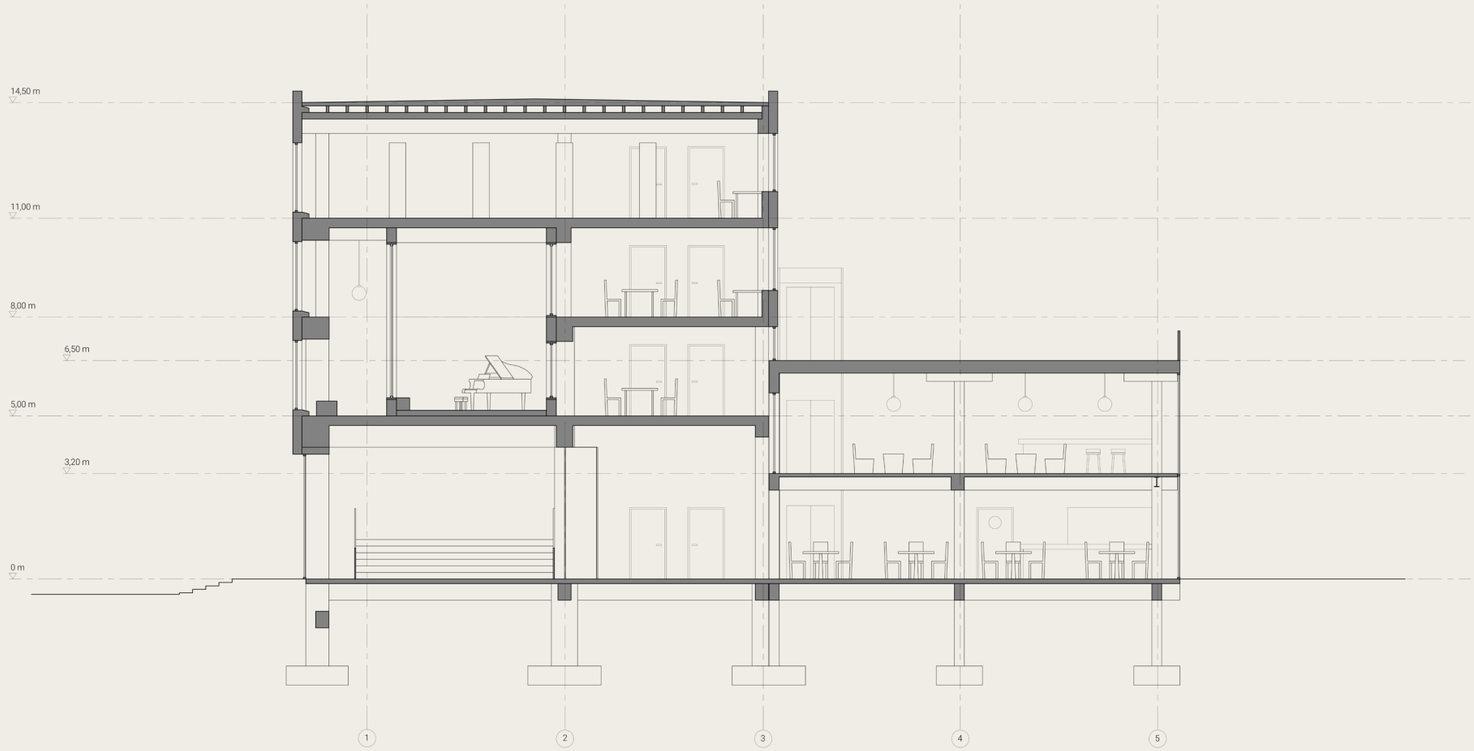

Performance hall
Practice rooms




Performance hall
Lecture hall
Practice rooms





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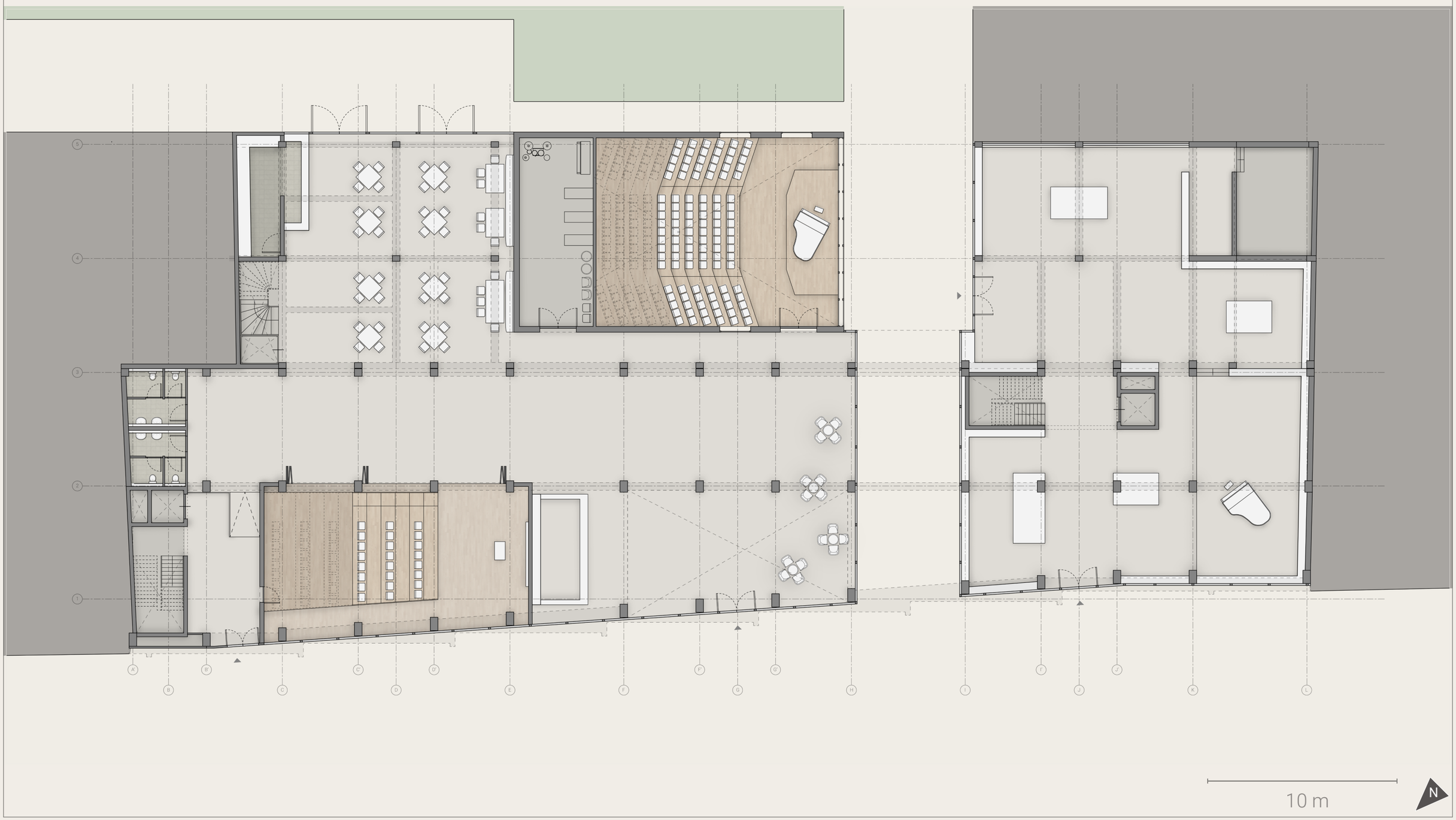
10 m
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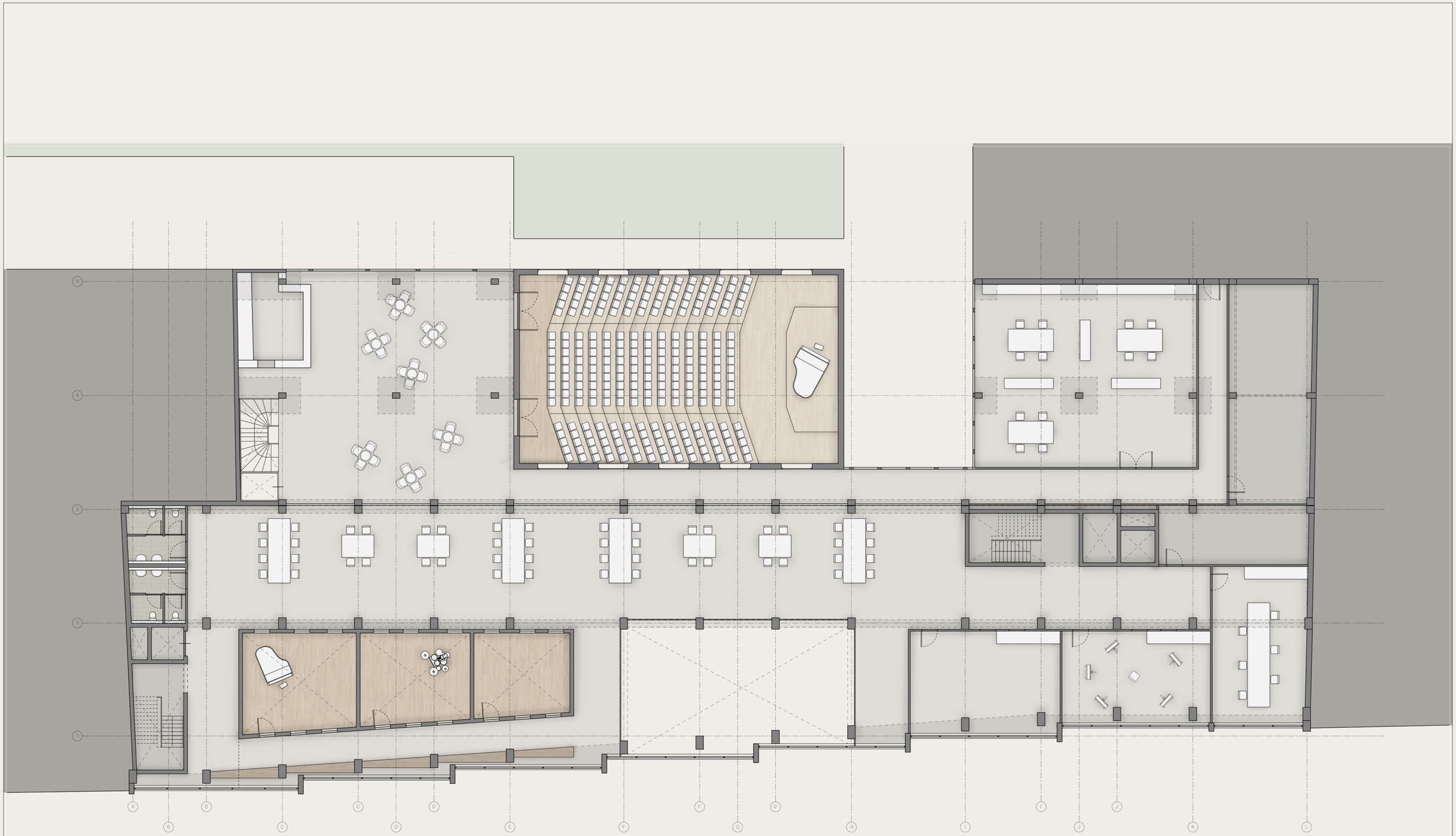
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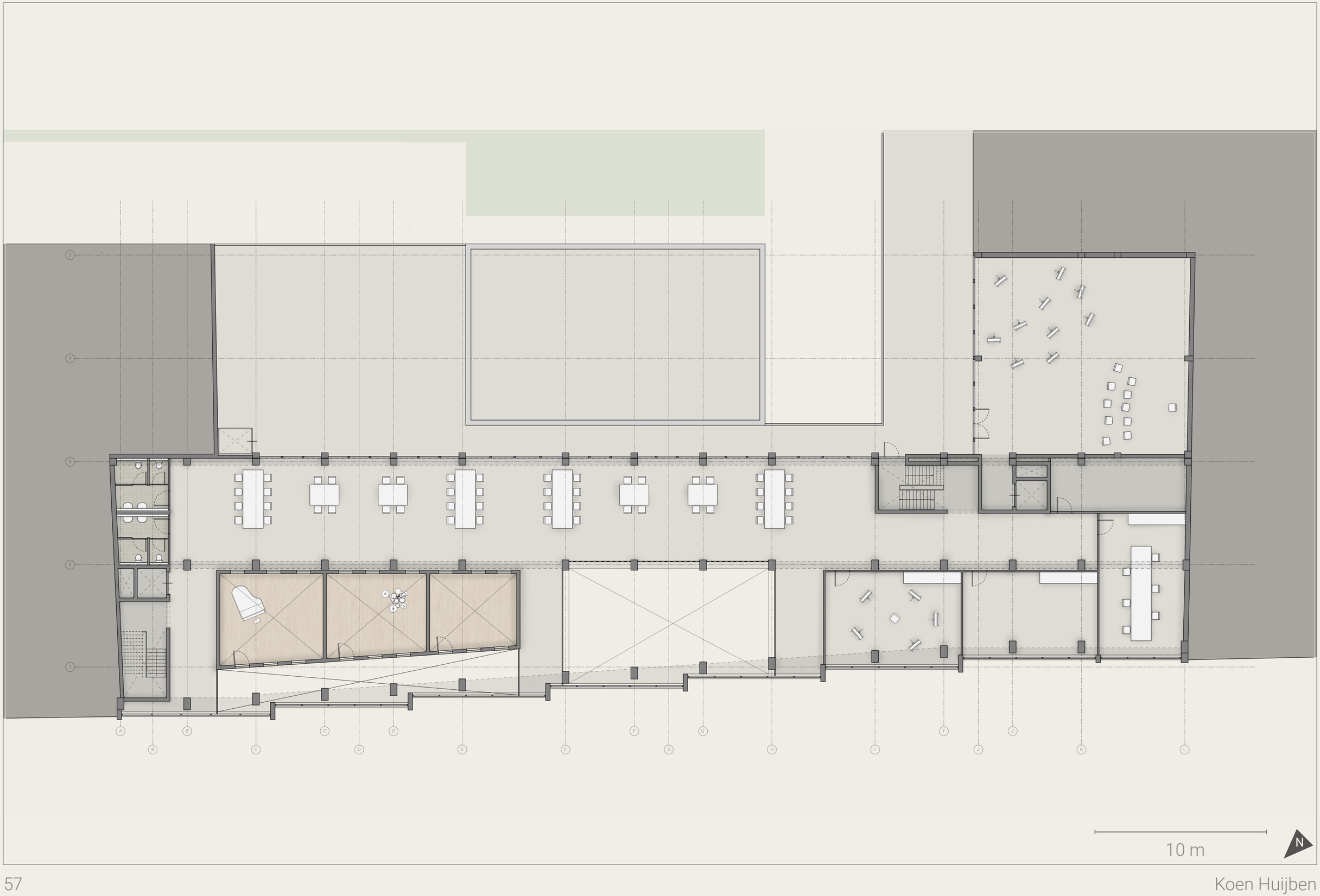
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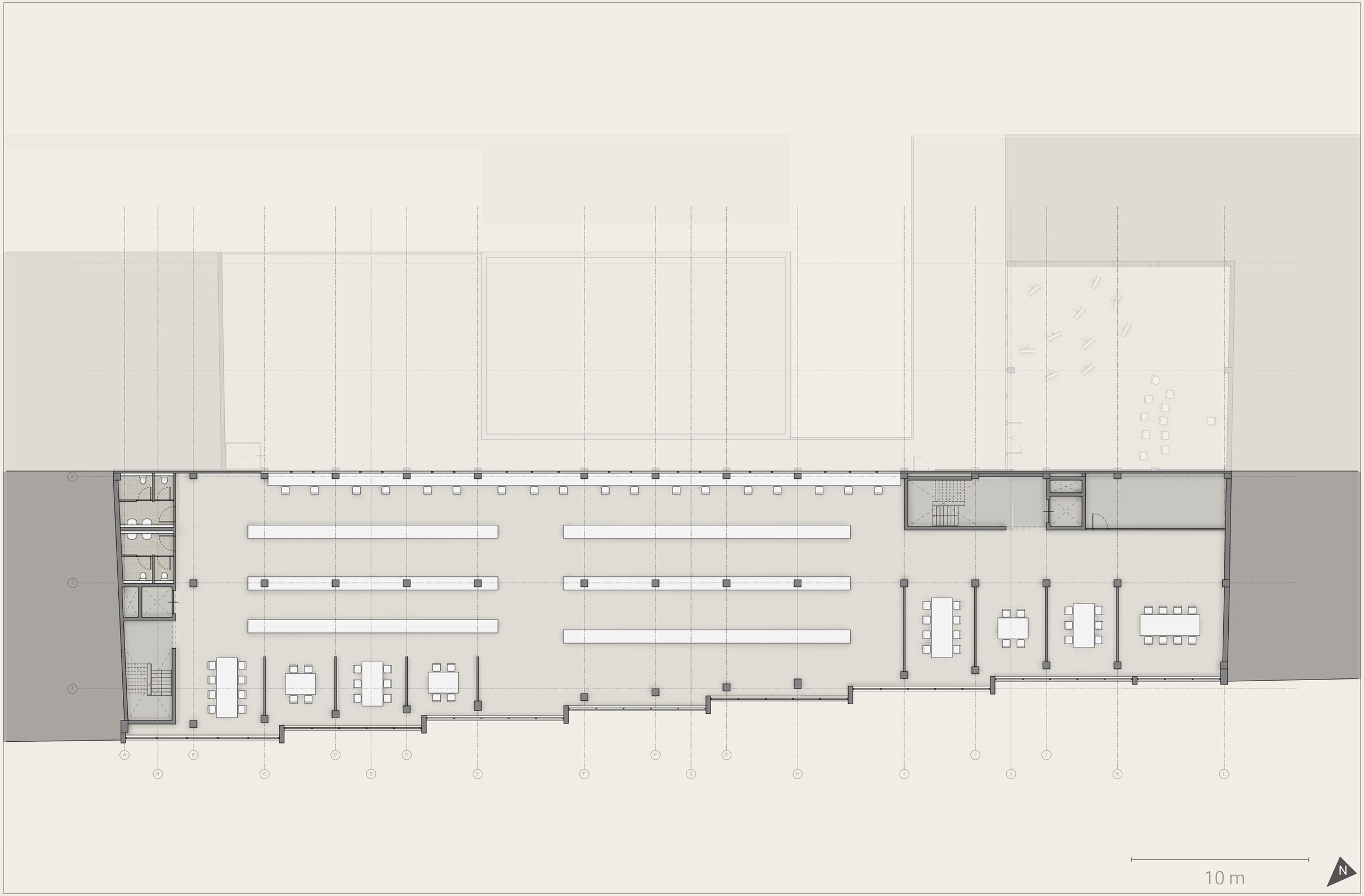
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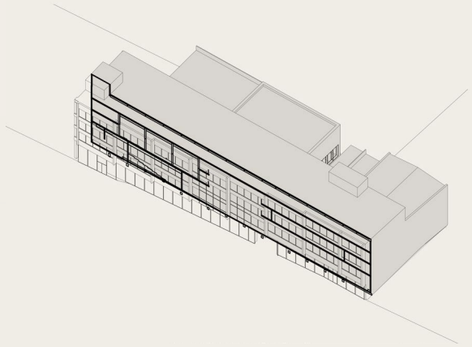

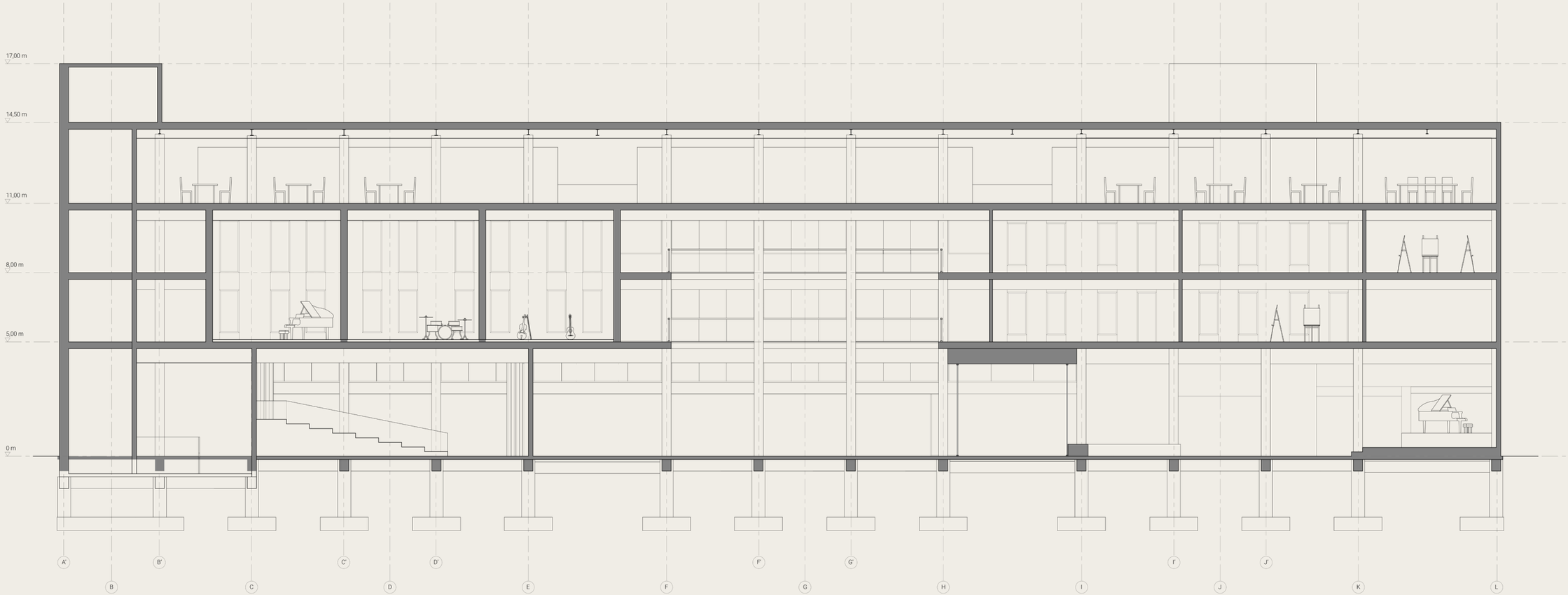

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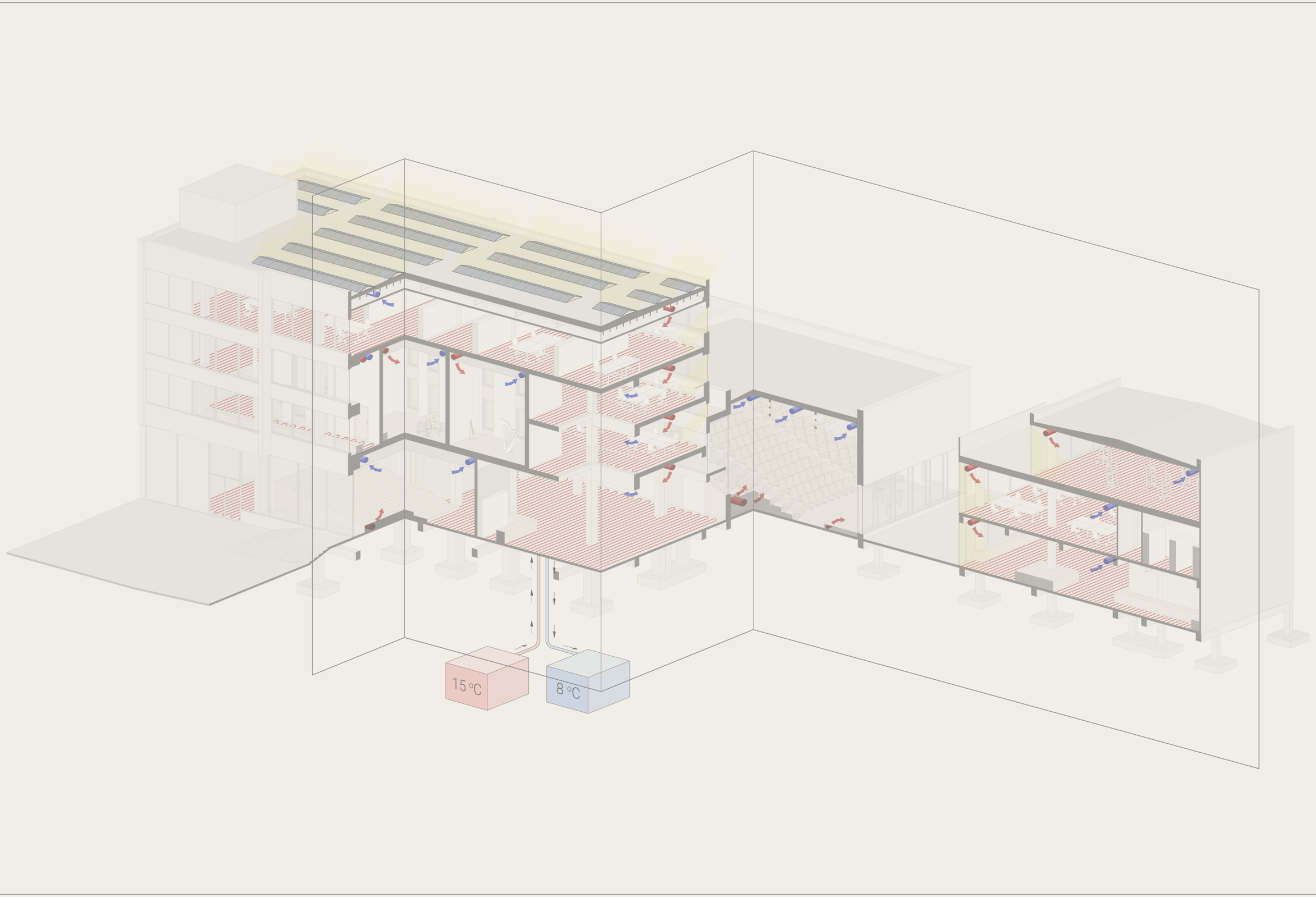
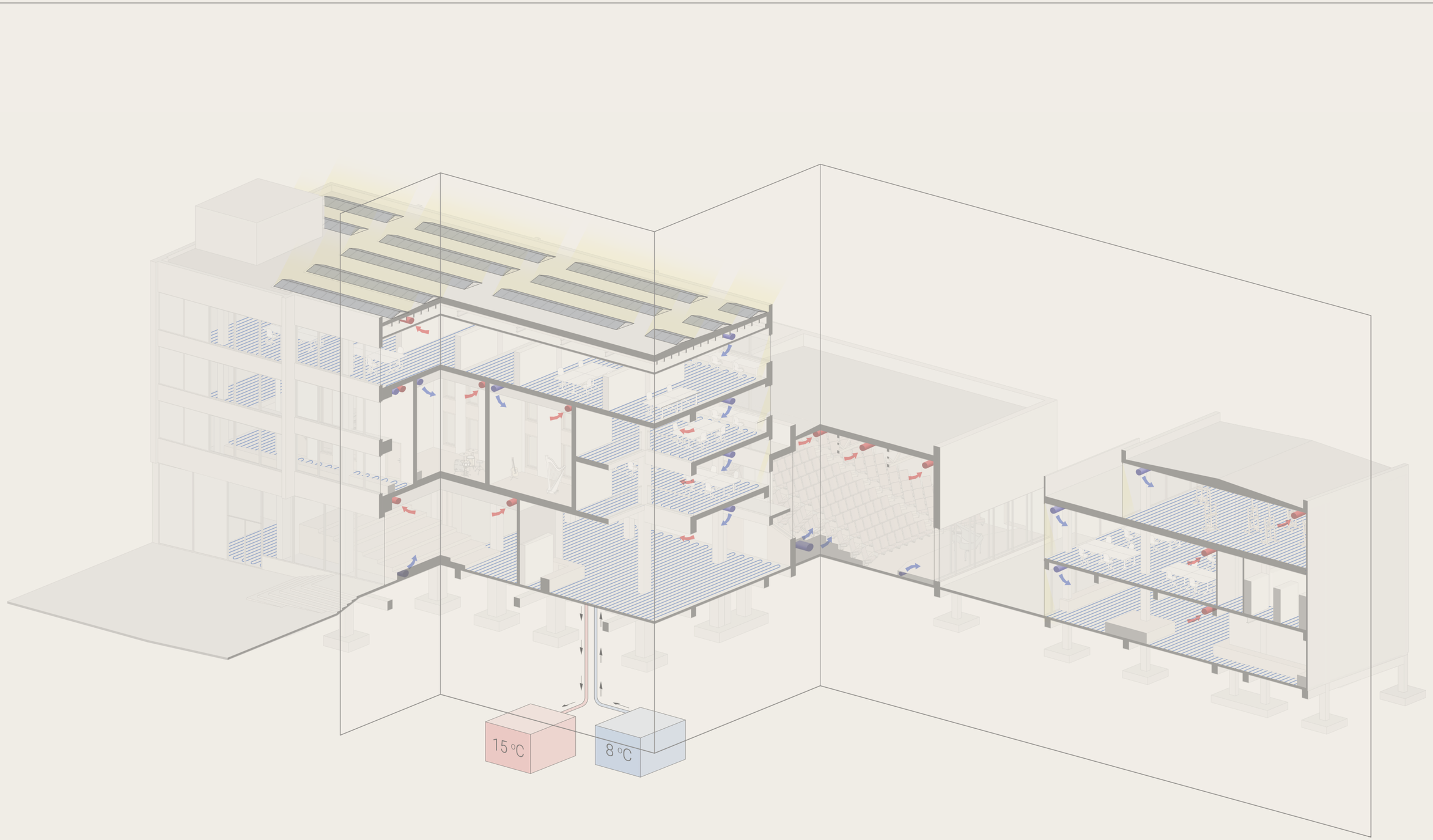

15 °C
8 °C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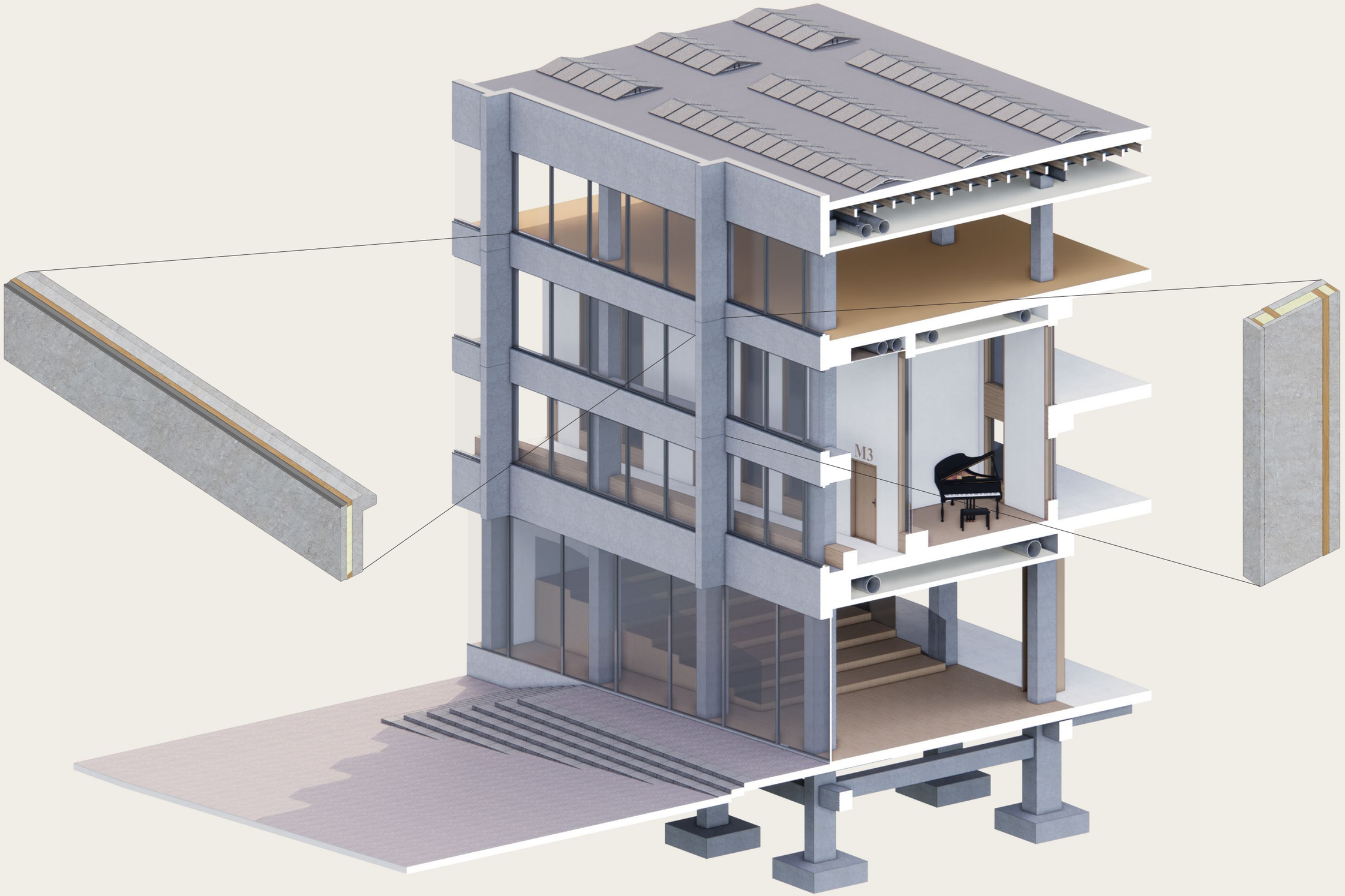
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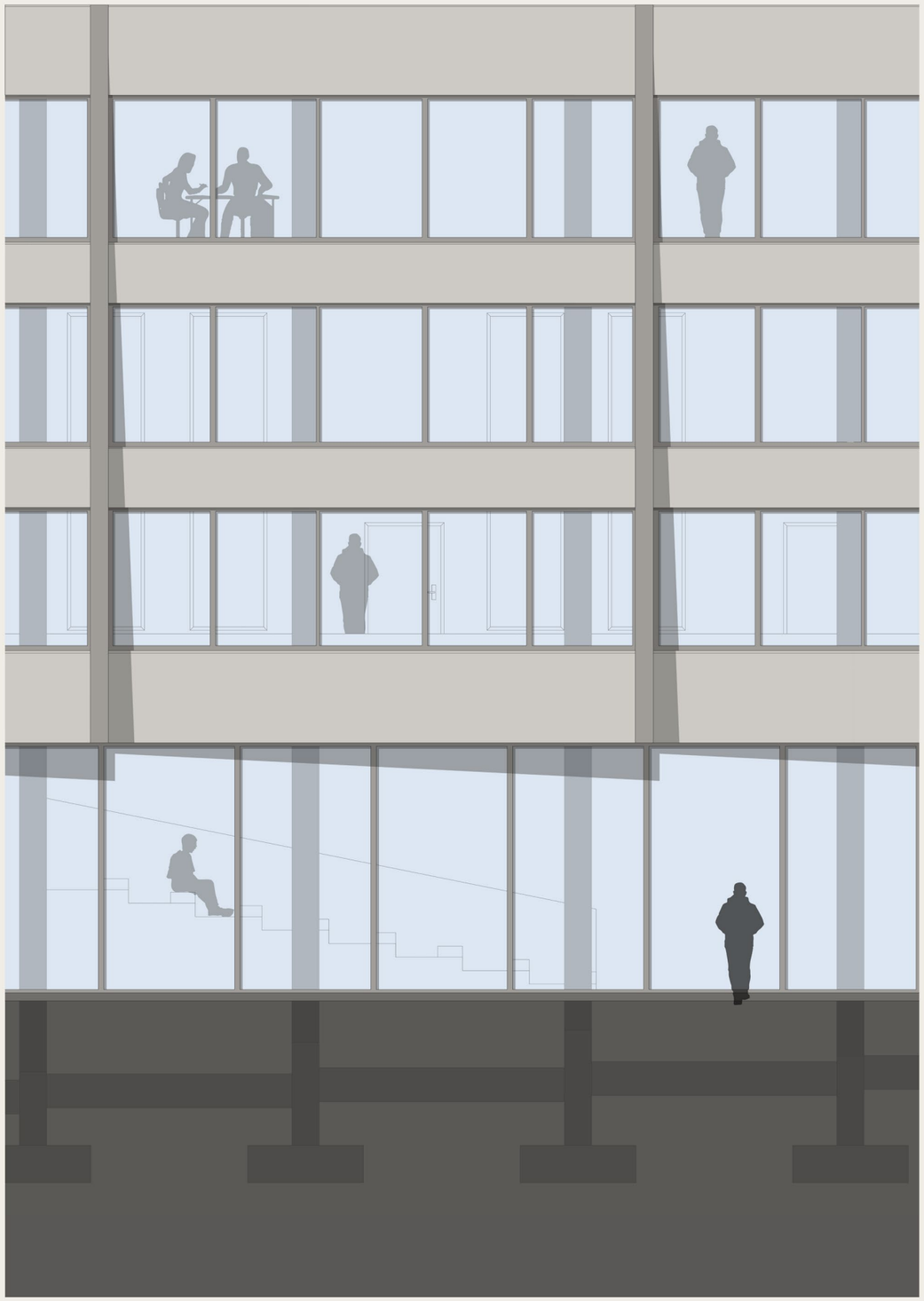

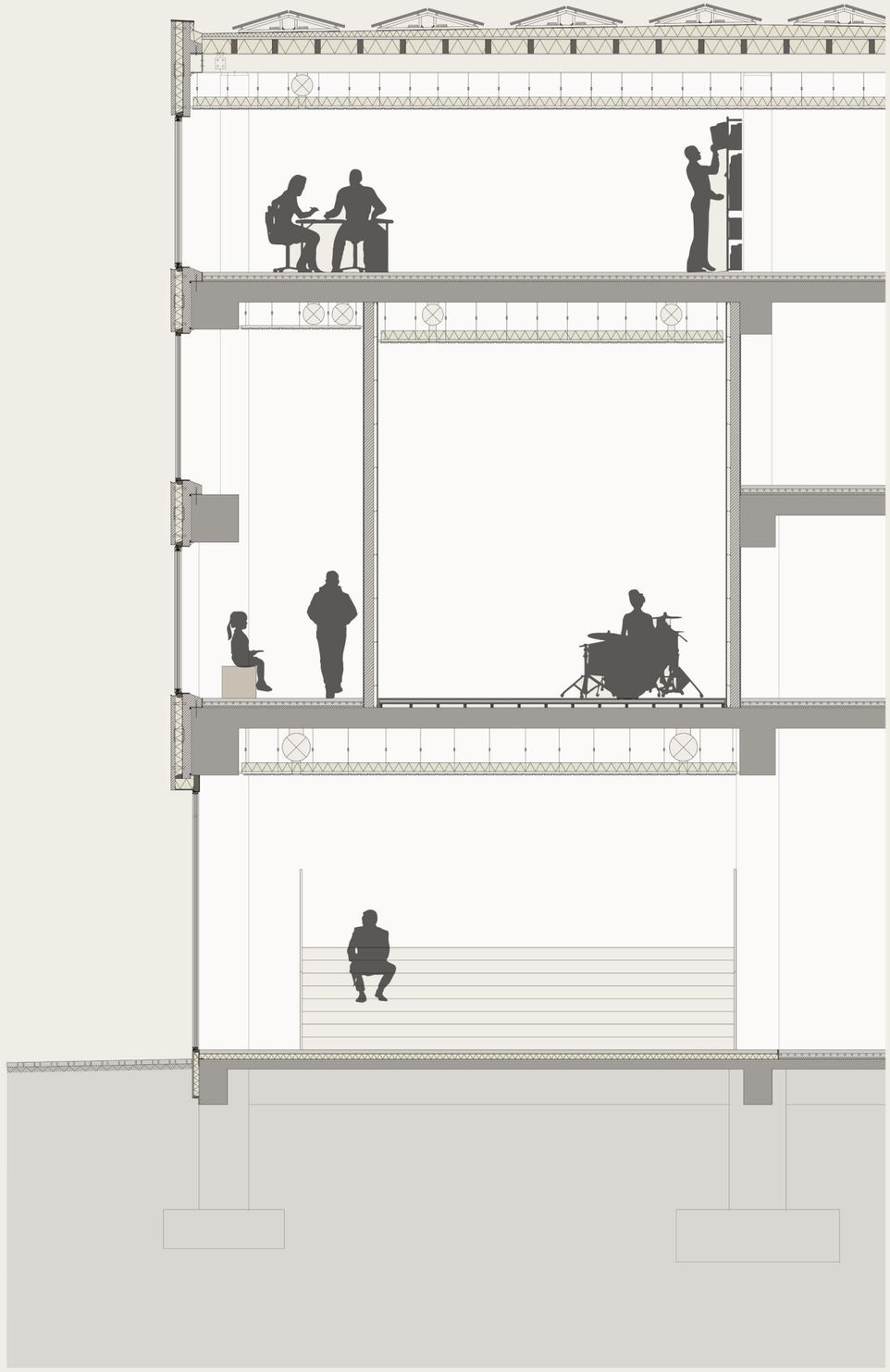

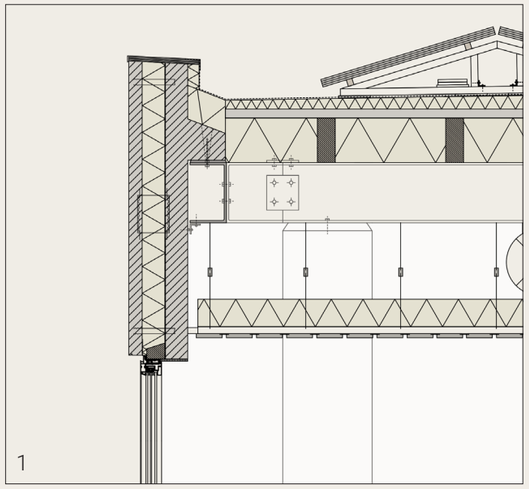
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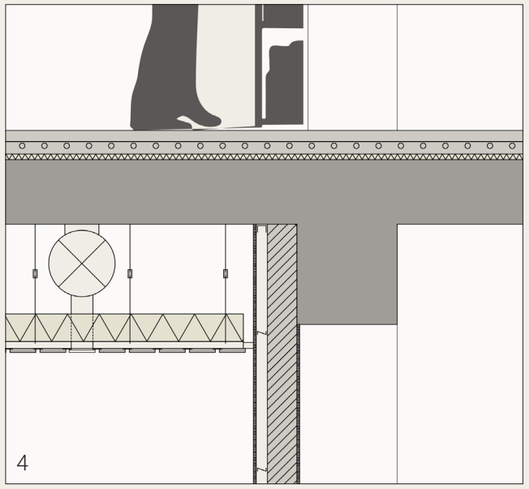
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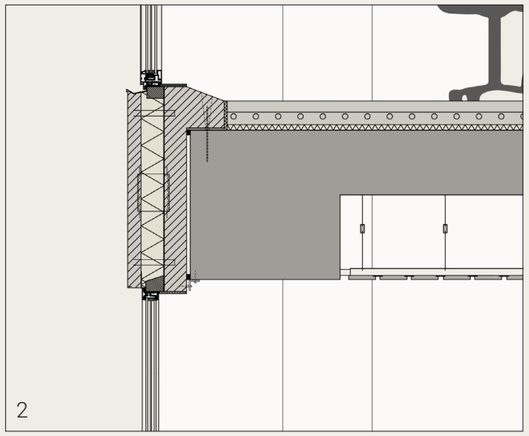
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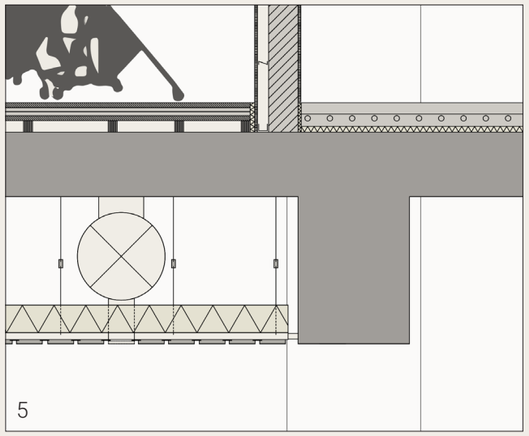
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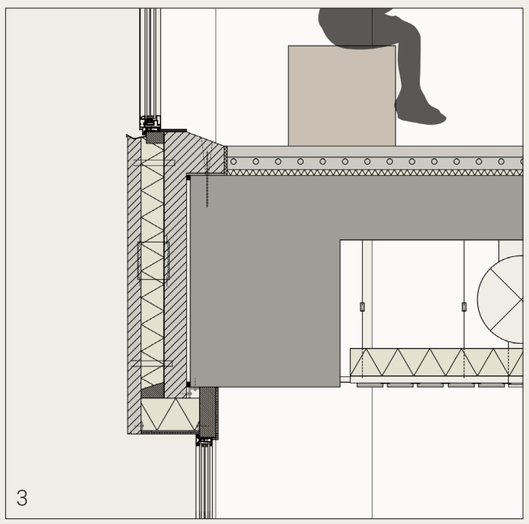
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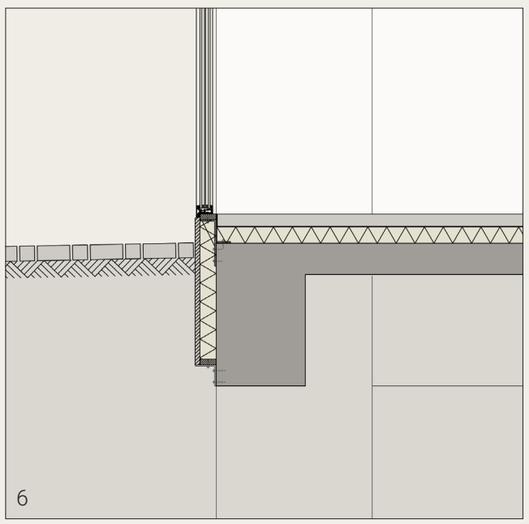
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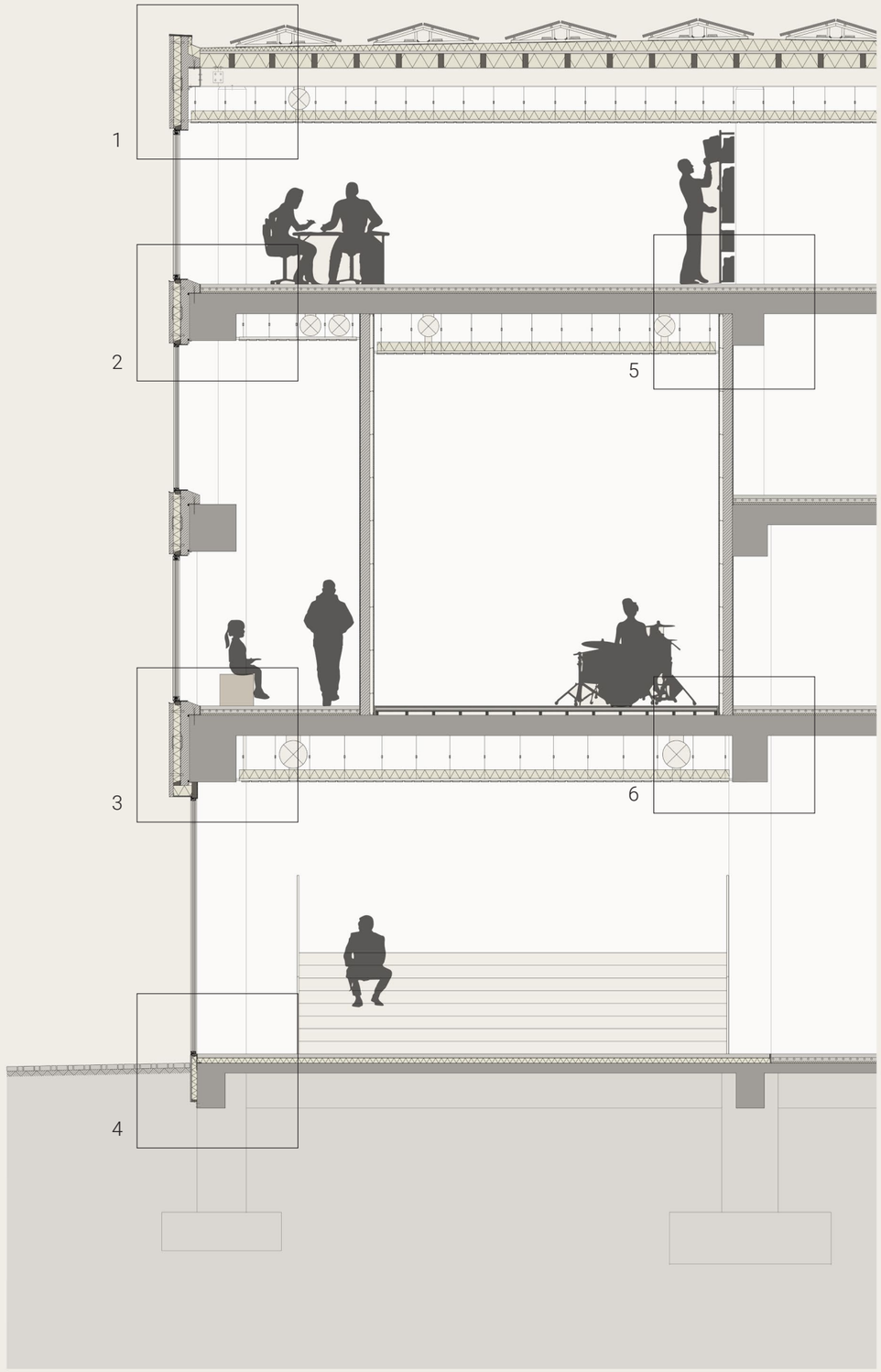
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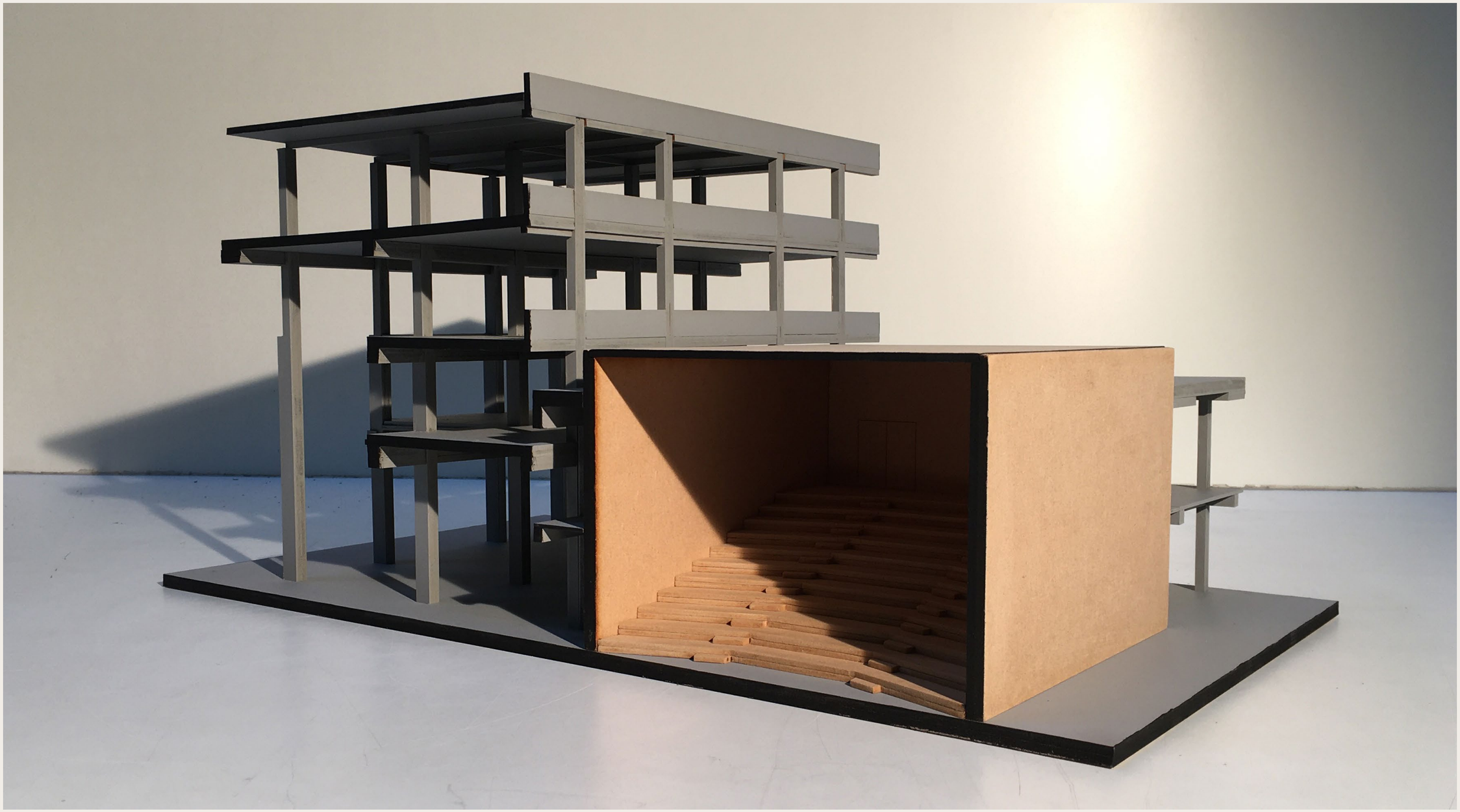
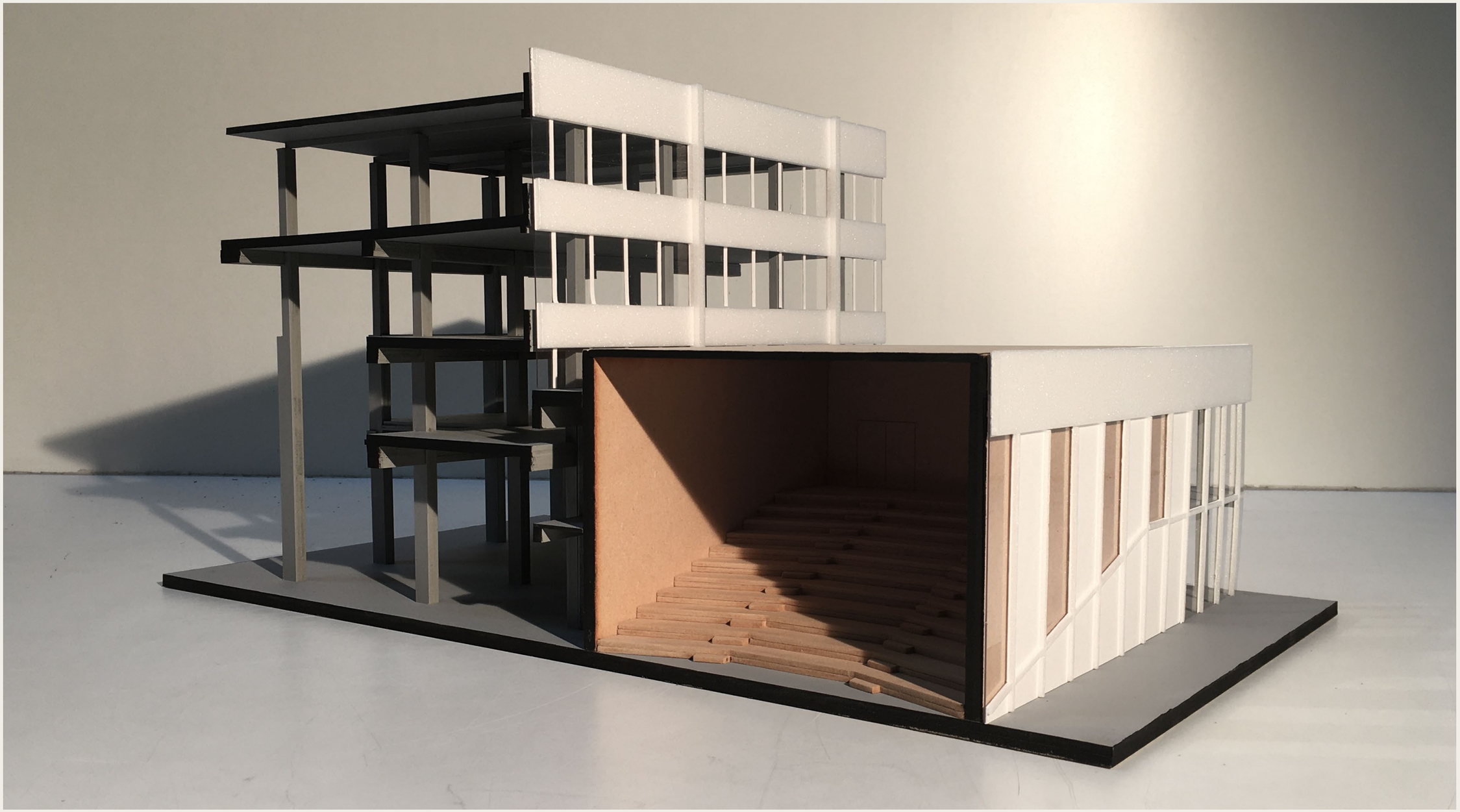
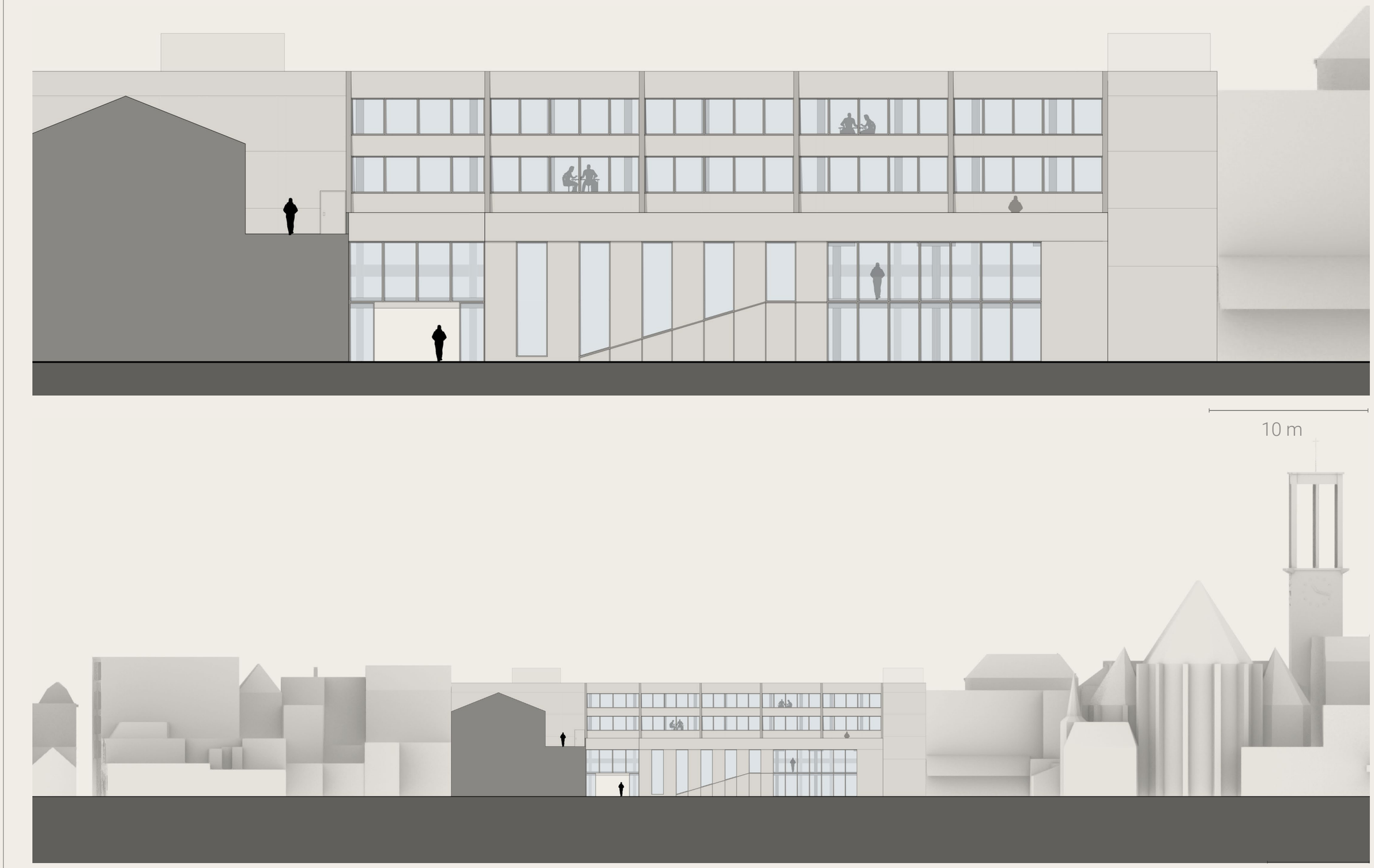


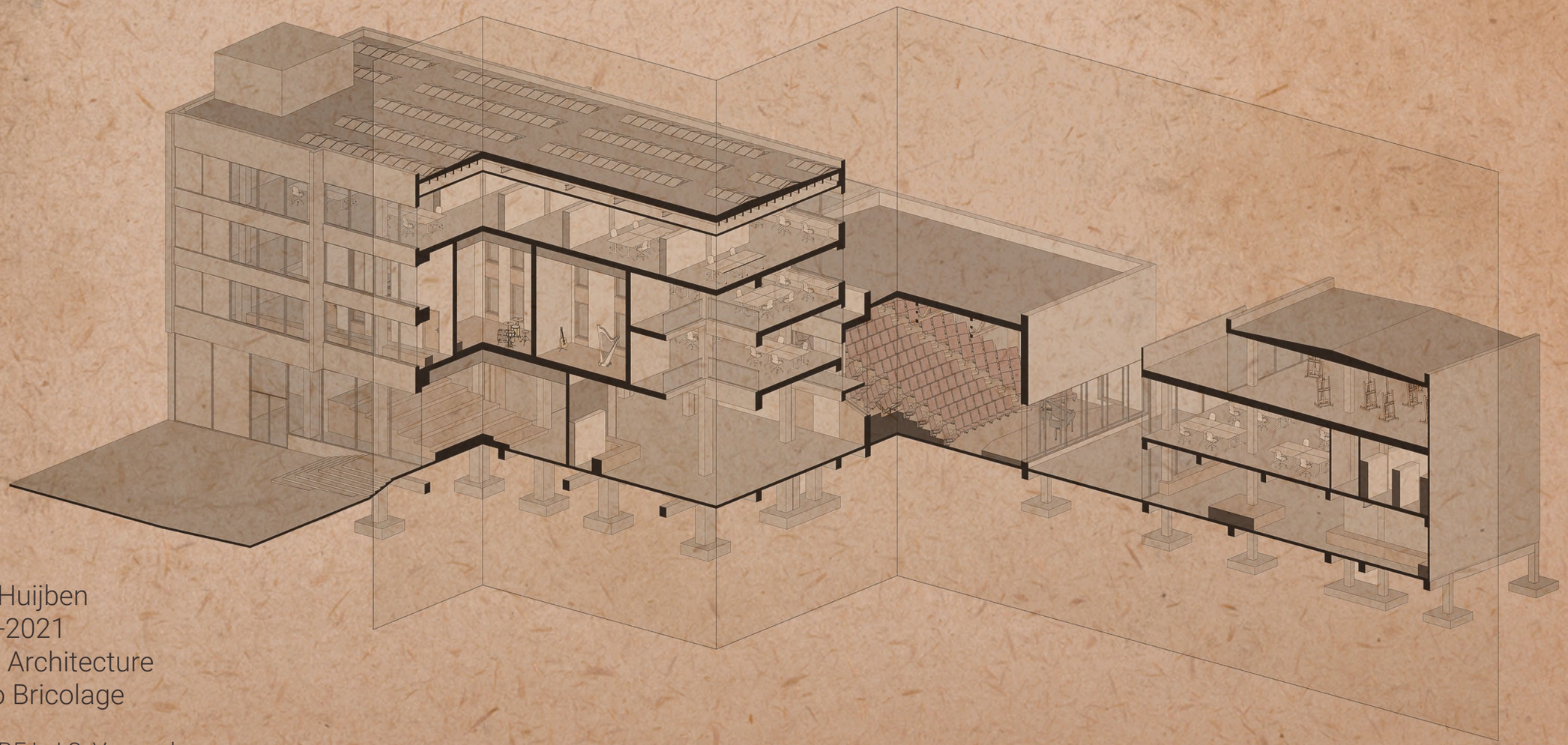



10 m
10 m

It was at this point that my tutors told me that I had a typically Dutch practical approach to designing, but that it might benefit the my building if I lost a bit of that and looked further than just '*creating the most logical and convenient program within the constraints of this existing structure*'. This was a real turning point in my process, because after this moment I realized that the particularities of the existing situation are not to be hidden away, but instead appreciated and celebrated.

MOLENPOORT

music & arts school



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