

# **VOLKSBÜHNE, A STAGE FOR THE EVERYDAY**

**DRAWING SET**

# VOLKSBÜHNE, A STAGE FOR THE EVERYDAY

**Pieter Vergeer**

Complex Project Graduation Studio 2023/2024

This graduation project is about the design of architecture for the performing arts. Today, architecture for performing arts is oftentimes limited to prestigious institutions where professional performance takes place behind closed doors. However, as suggested by Peter Brooks, it are subtle spatial conditions (which are guided by architectural elements) that facilitate performance. This approach challenges the traditional separation between performer and audience and allows new ways to design architecture for the performing arts to be explored. Architecture that can connect people of different backgrounds due to the power of the performing arts to create mutual experiences. The ambition to design a shared space where people of different backgrounds come together was by sociologist Eric Klinenberg as social infrastructure and inspired the research question: How to design a people for performing arts as social infrastructure in the 21st century?

The case study for the project is the Volksbühne theatre in Berlin, an existing monumental theatre of which the name translated from German means 'People's Stage'. Originally founded in 1890 as an organisation to make theatre going accessible to the working class and 'all the people'. Nowadays it serves a homogenous audience of the 'typical theatre goer' at the edge of the gentrified neighbourhoods Mitte and Prenzlauer Berg. The objective of this project is to explore if an architectural transformation of the monumental Volksbühne can rethink its identity and turn the building into a proper people's stage and as such take on the role of social infrastructure in society. A place for the people of Berlin to see performance and *be* a performer.

The design revolves around the fragmentation of the existing Volksbühne structure through demolition of (part of) the post-war renovation and the addition of two building volumes with new all-day and open program. This ensemble of volumes is architecturally connected by a sunken square - the Volksplatz - which functions as an open stage and through a variety of architectural membranes extends the public realm from outside to inside. Aesthetically this architectural intervention constructed in concrete, steel and glass and as a neutral connector between the patchwork of different styles of the existing and balances the bold and colorful surrounding context.

## Tutors

**Main mentor:** Henri van Bennekom

**Second mentor:** Rico Heykant

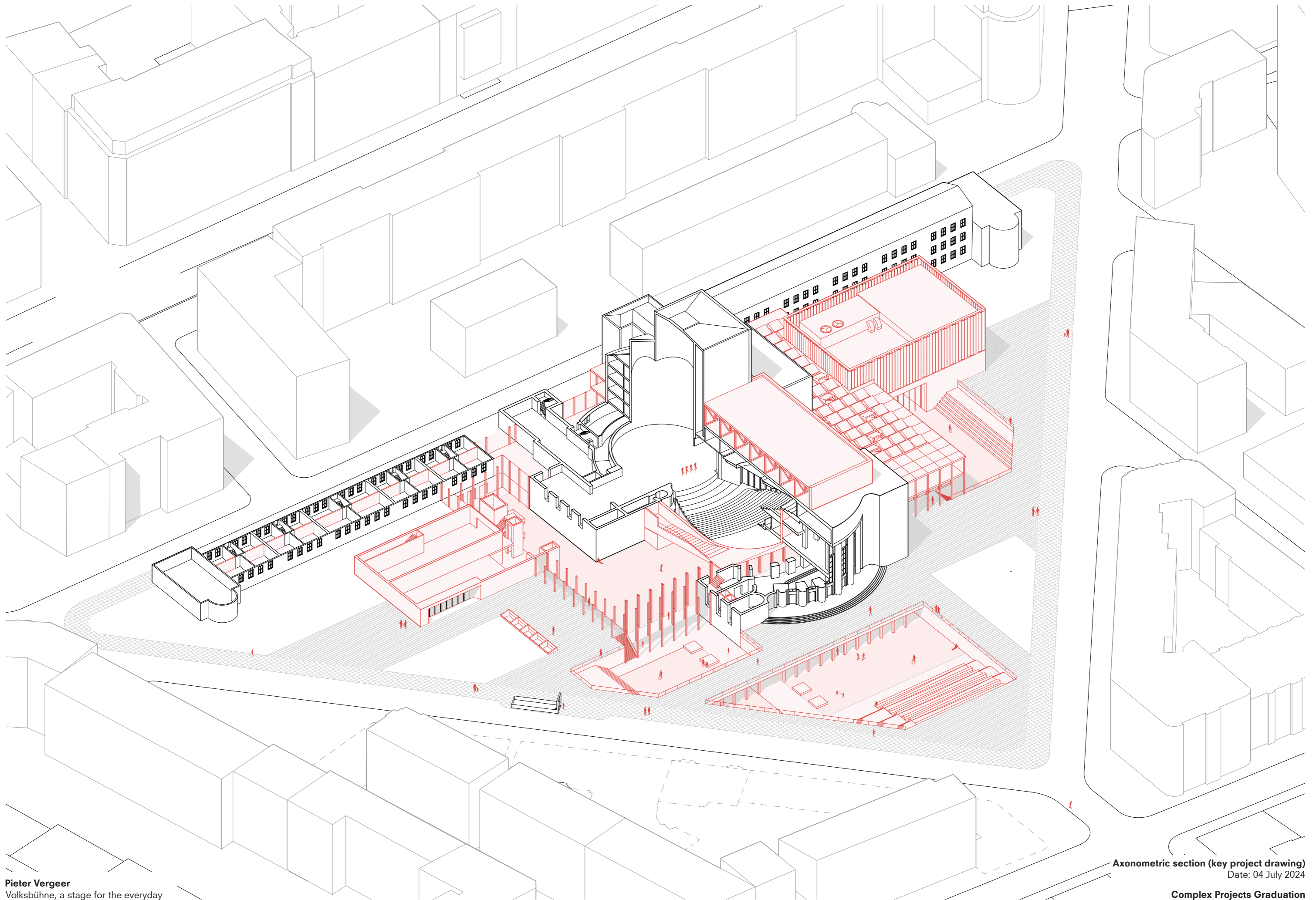
**Third mentor:** Maria Finagina

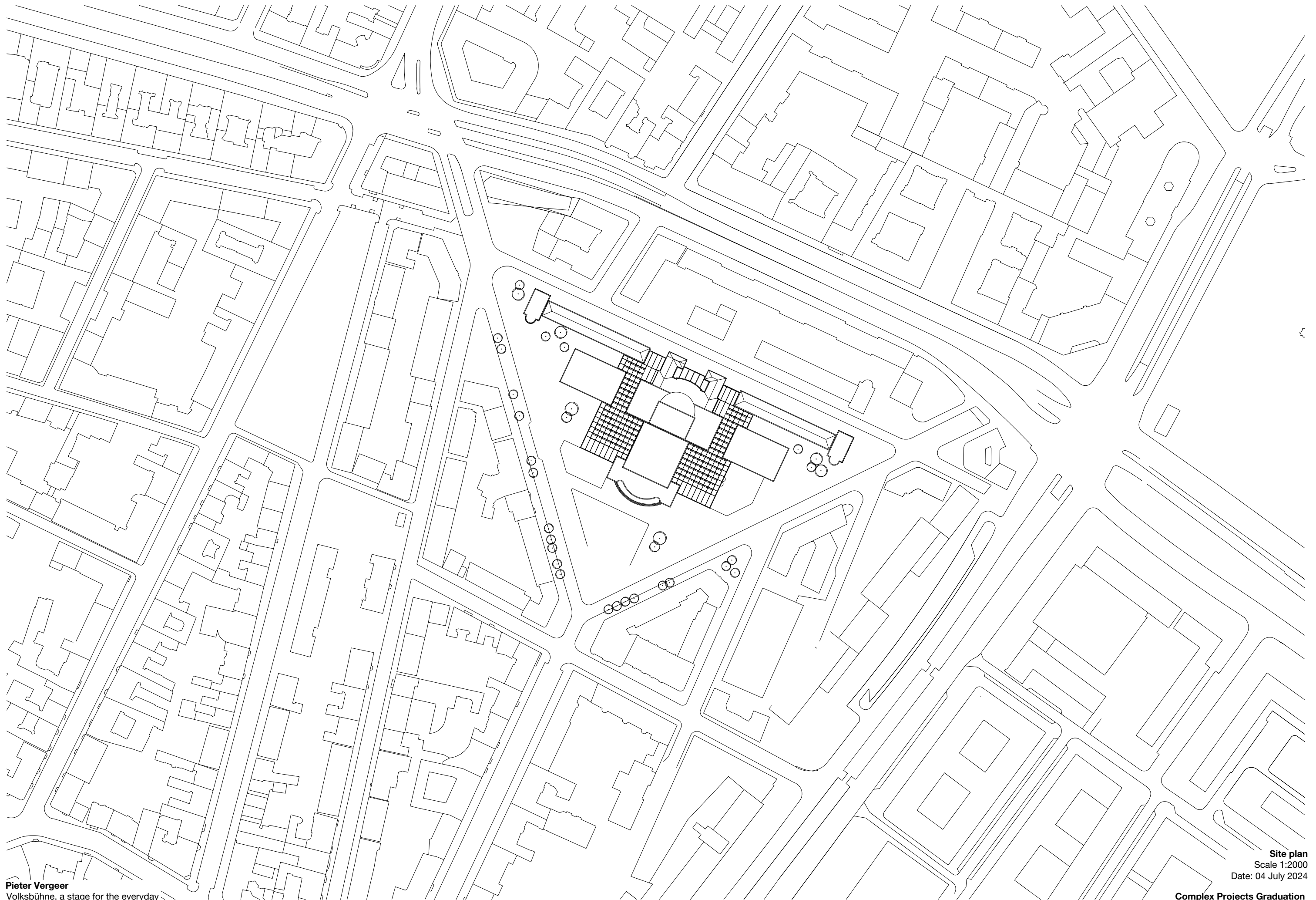
**Delegate examiner:** Paul de Ruiter

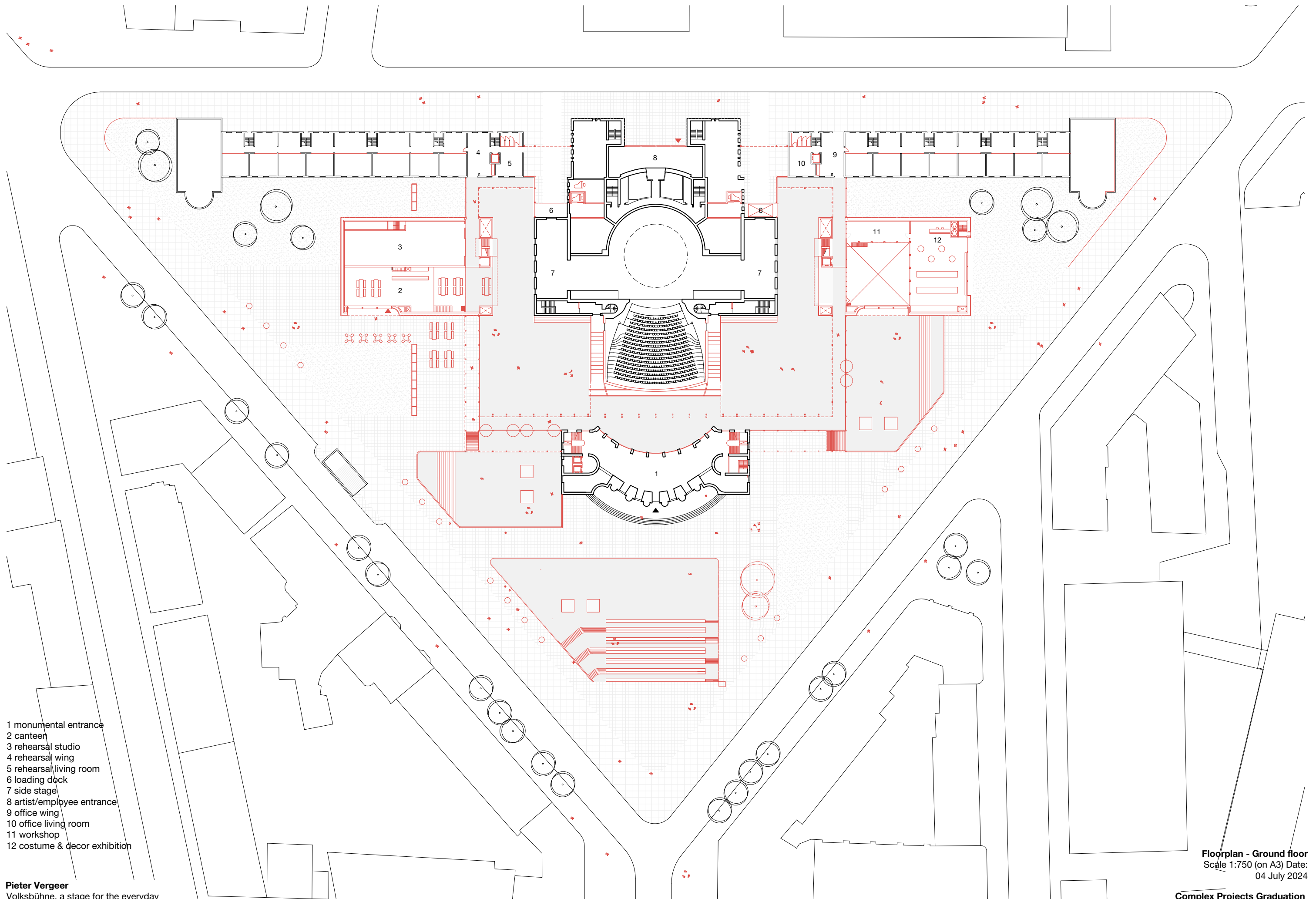
***"I can take any empty space and call it a bare stage. A man walks across this empty space whilst someone is watching him and this is all that is needed, for an act of theatre to be engaged"***

- Theatre producer Peter Brook









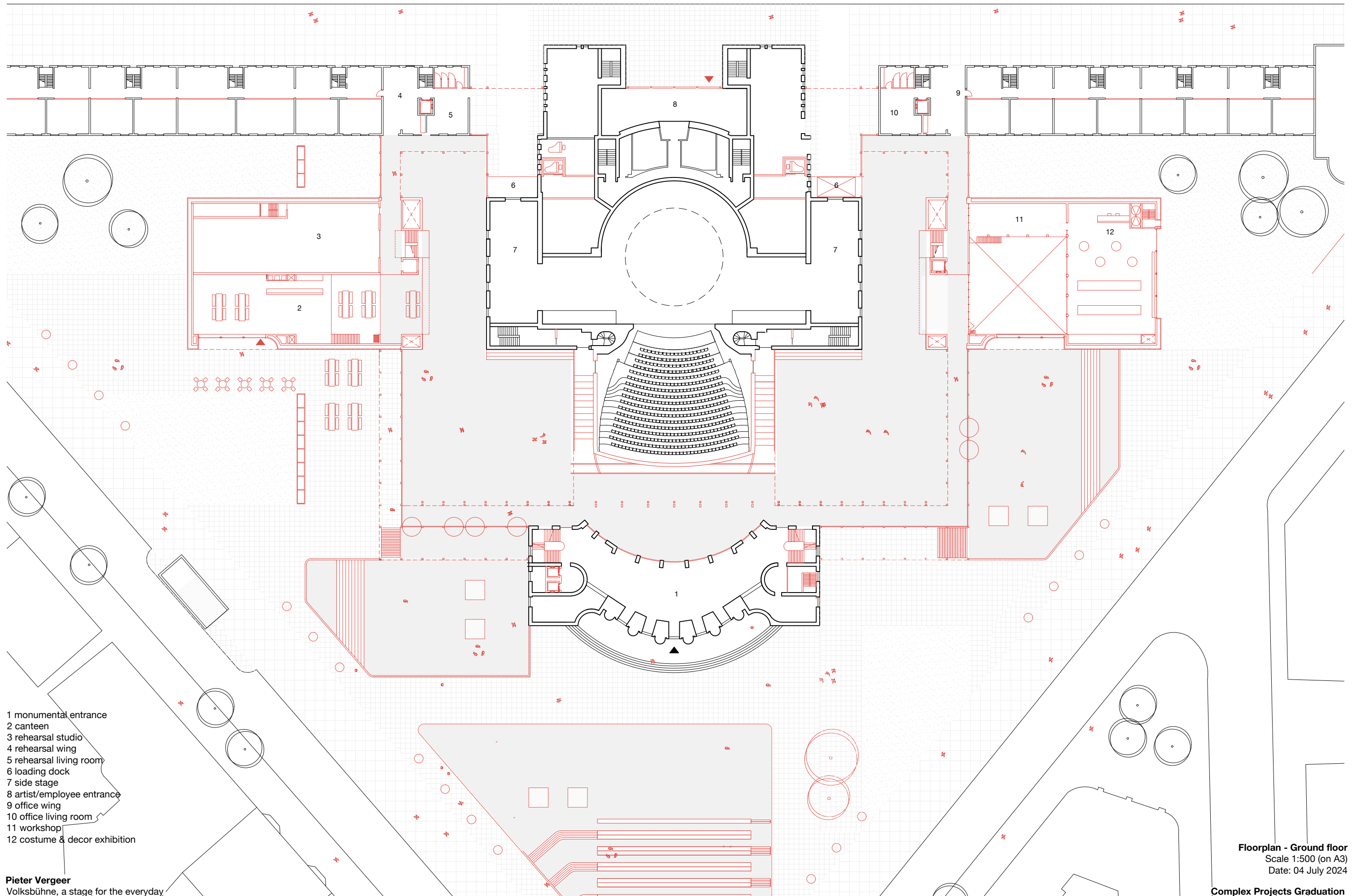
- 1 monumental entrance
- 2 canteen
- 3 rehearsal studio
- 4 rehearsal wing
- 5 rehearsal living room
- 6 loading dock
- 7 side stage
- 8 artist/employee entrance
- 9 office wing
- 10 office living room
- 11 workshop
- 12 costume & decor exhibition

**Pieter Vergeer**  
 Volksbühne, a stage for the everyday

**Floorplan - Ground floor**  
 Scale 1:750 (on A3) Date:  
 04 July 2024

**Complex Projects Graduation**



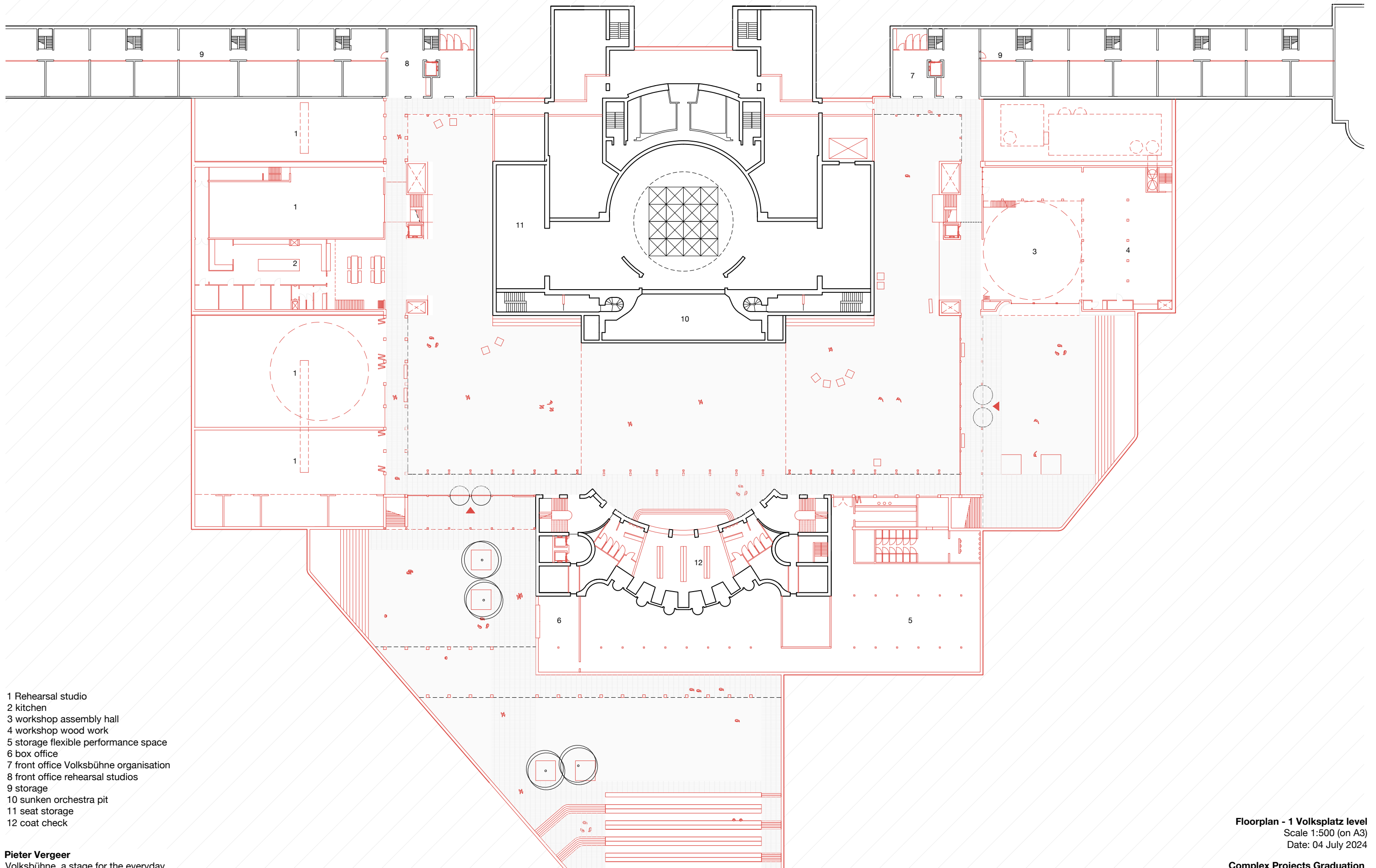


- 1 monumental entrance
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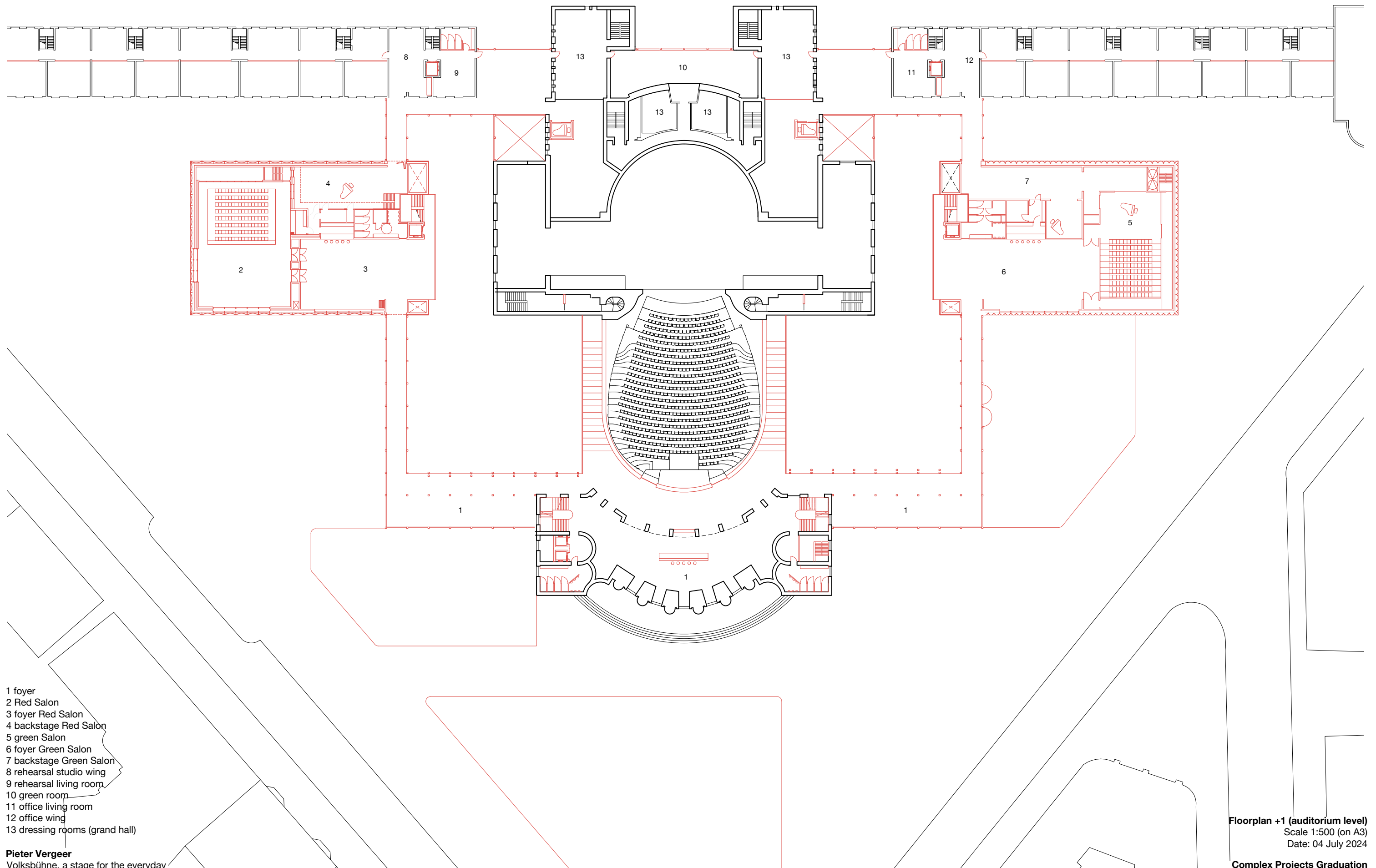
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**Floorplan - Ground floor**  
 Scale 1:500 (on A3)  
 Date: 04 July 2024

**Complex Projects Graduation**



- 1 Rehearsal studio
- 2 kitchen
- 3 workshop assembly hall
- 4 workshop wood work
- 5 storage flexible performance space
- 6 box office
- 7 front office Volksbühne organisation
- 8 front office rehearsal studios
- 9 storage
- 10 sunken orchestra pit
- 11 seat storage
- 12 coat check

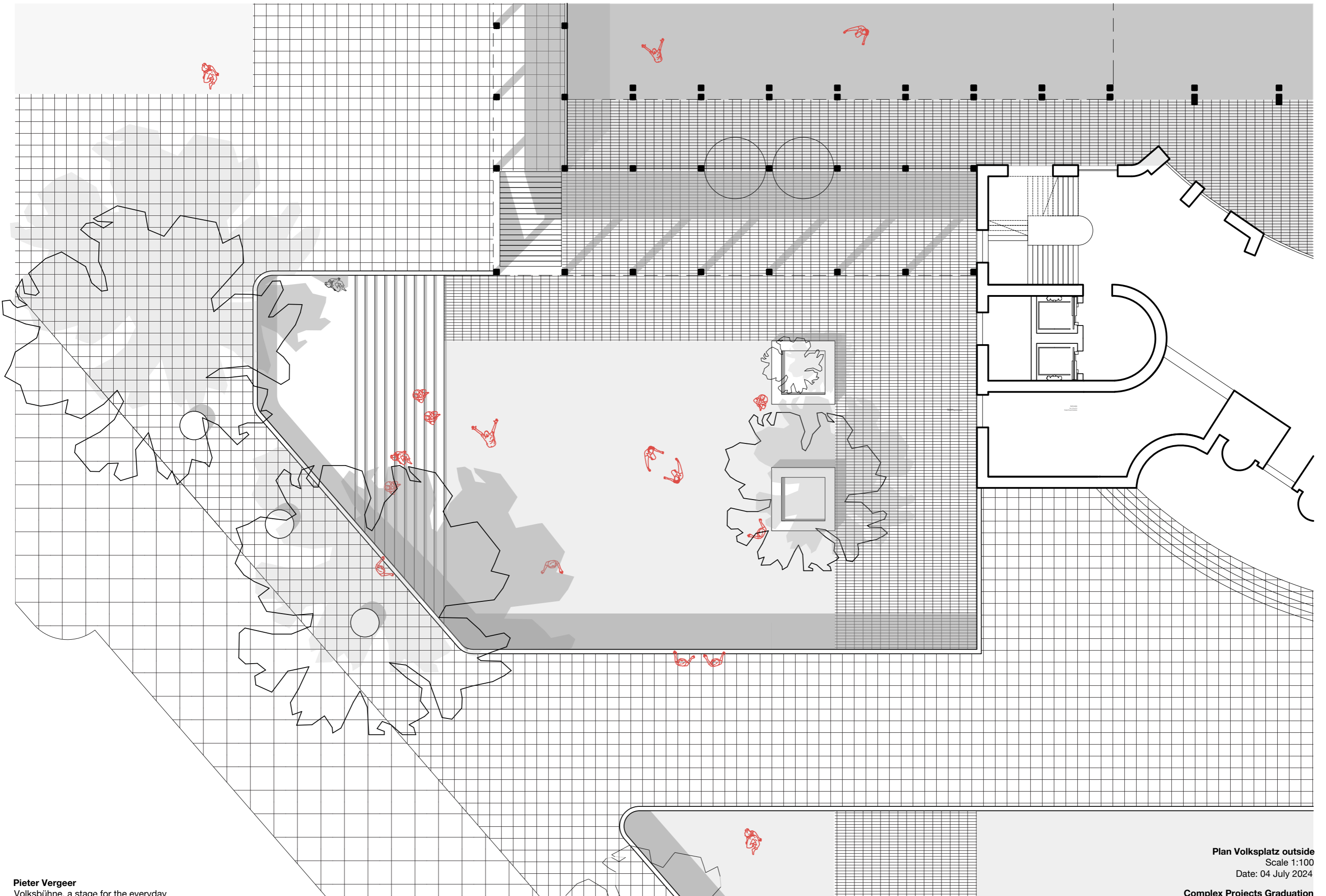


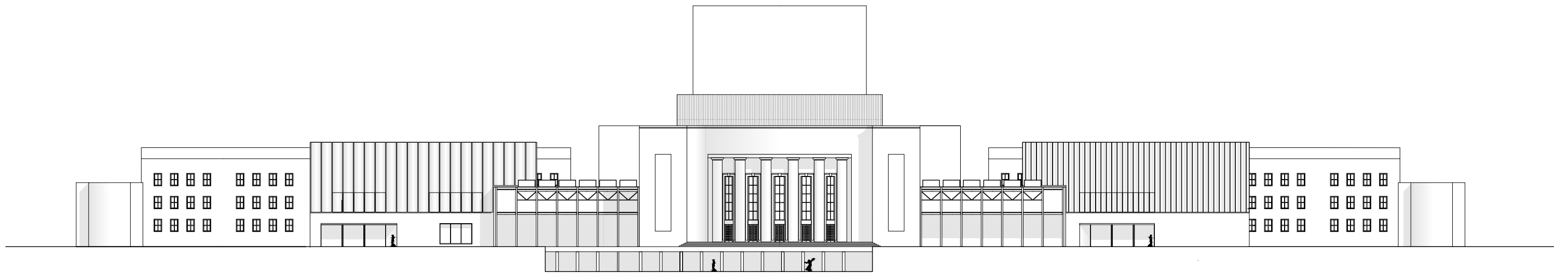
- 1 foyer
- 2 Red Salon
- 3 foyer Red Salon
- 4 backstage Red Salon
- 5 green Salon
- 6 foyer Green Salon
- 7 backstage Green Salon
- 8 rehearsal studio wing
- 9 rehearsal living room
- 10 green room
- 11 office living room
- 12 office wing
- 13 dressing rooms (grand hall)

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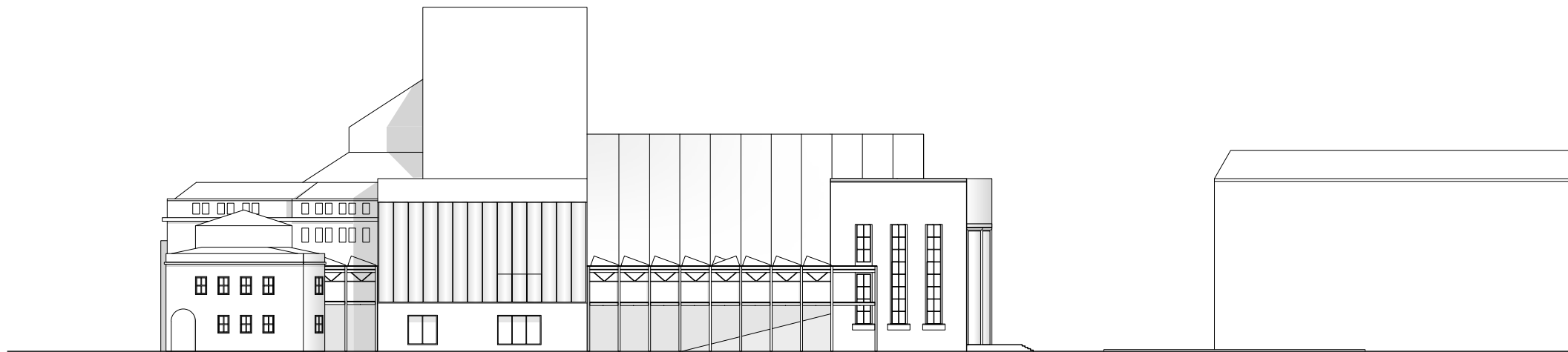
**Floorplan +1 (auditorium level)**  
 Scale 1:500 (on A3)  
 Date: 04 July 2024

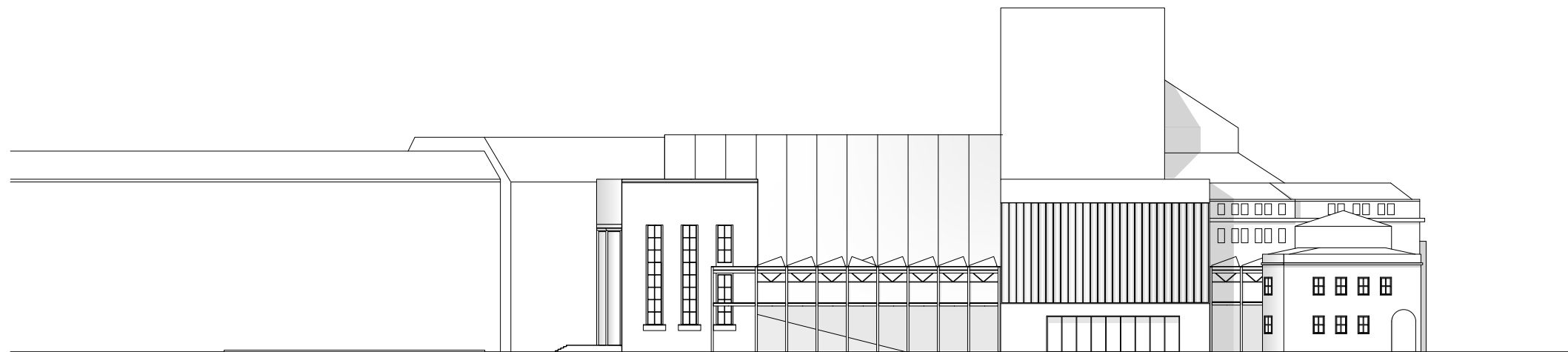
**Complex Projects Graduation**

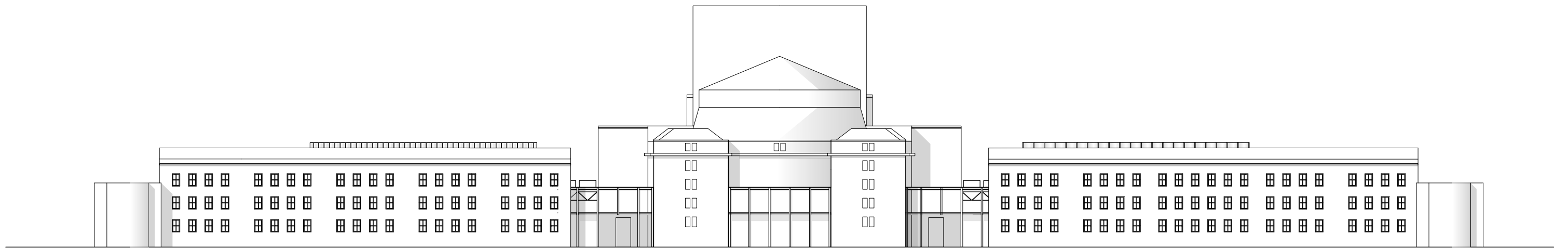


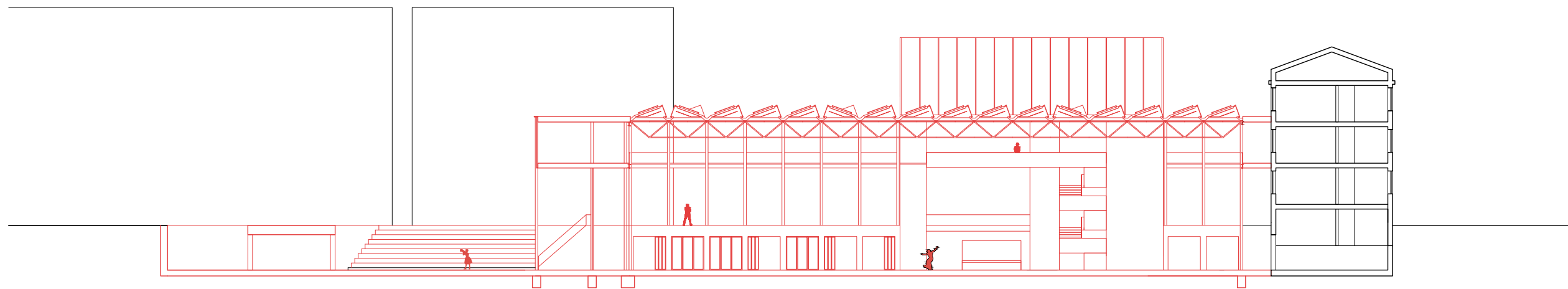


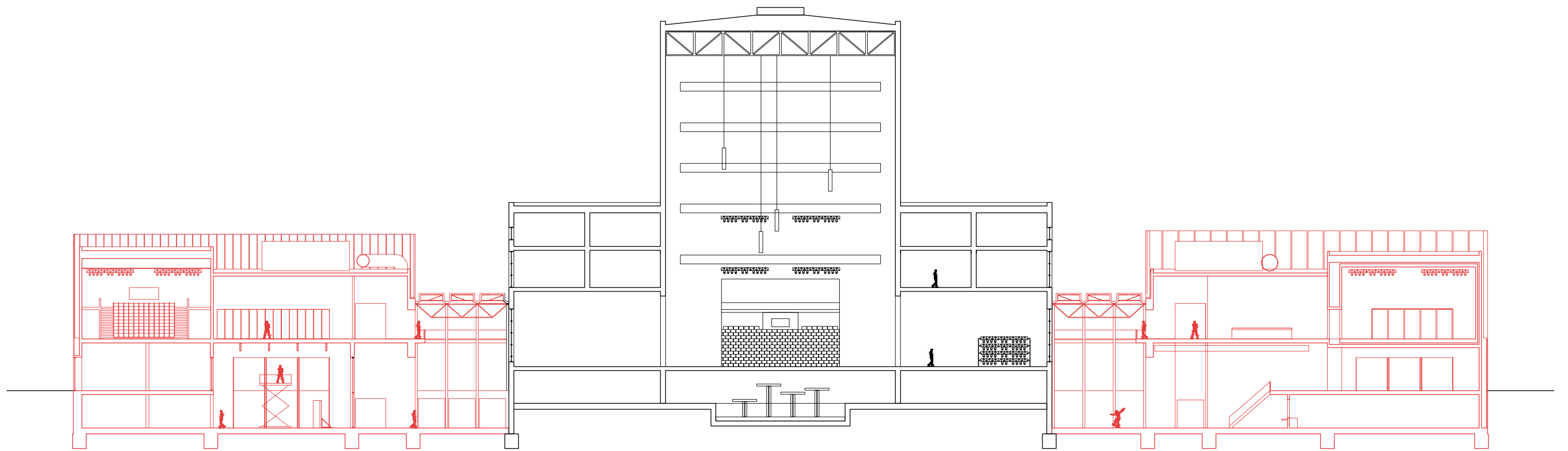


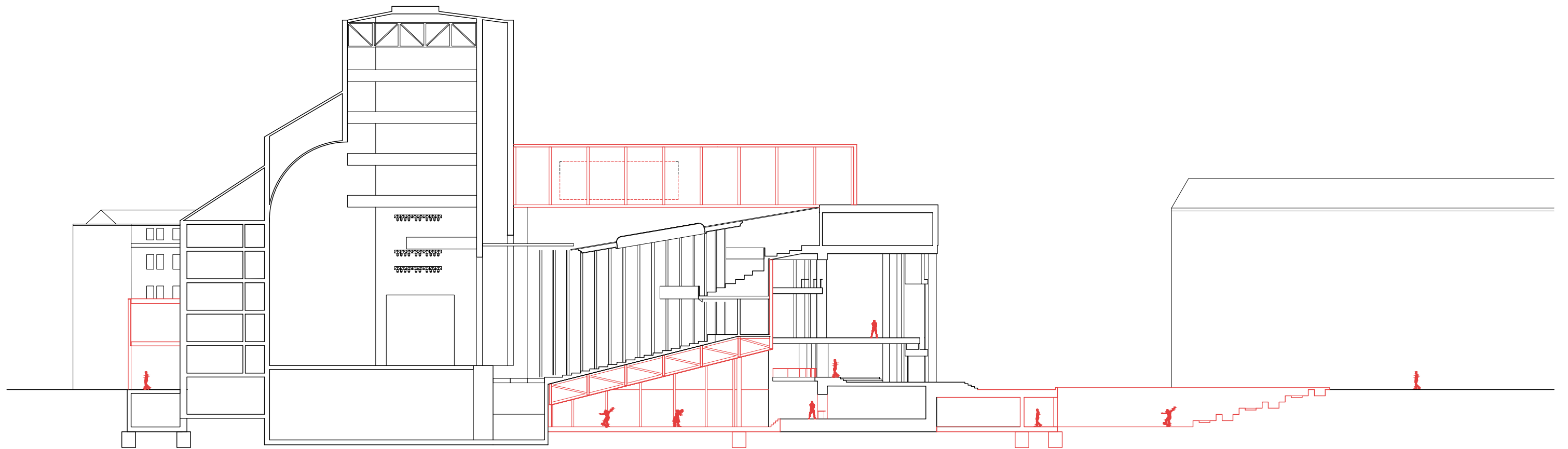


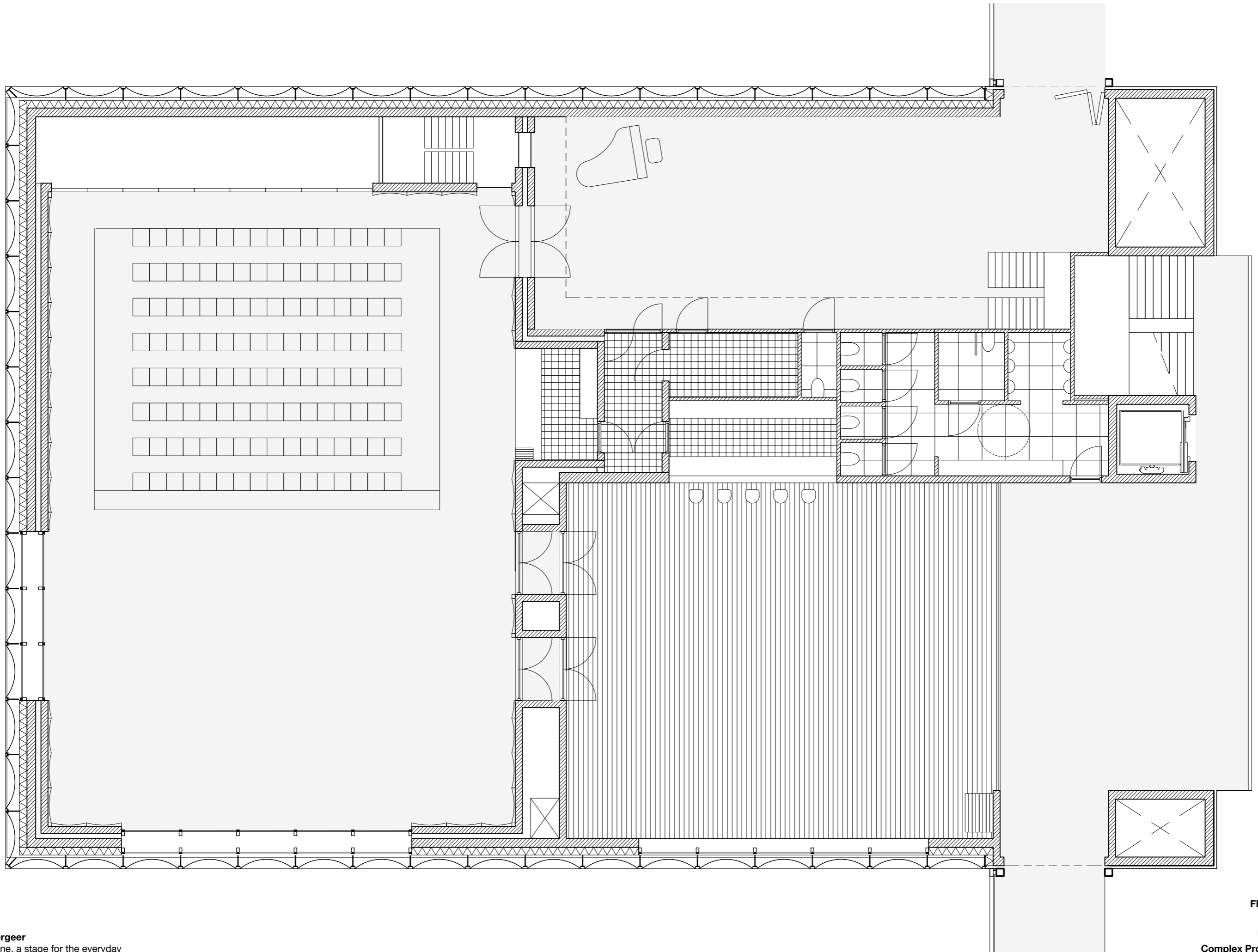


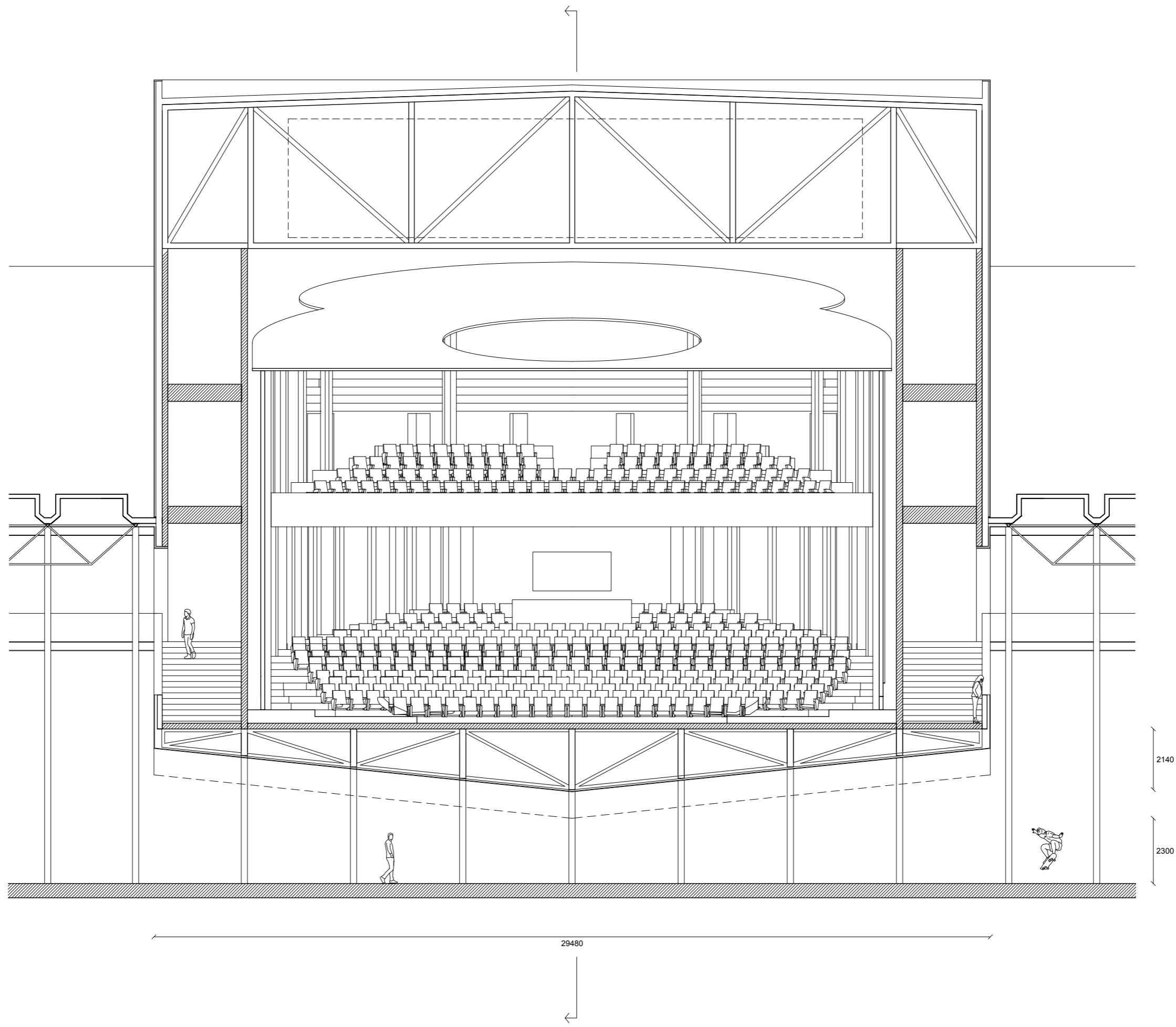




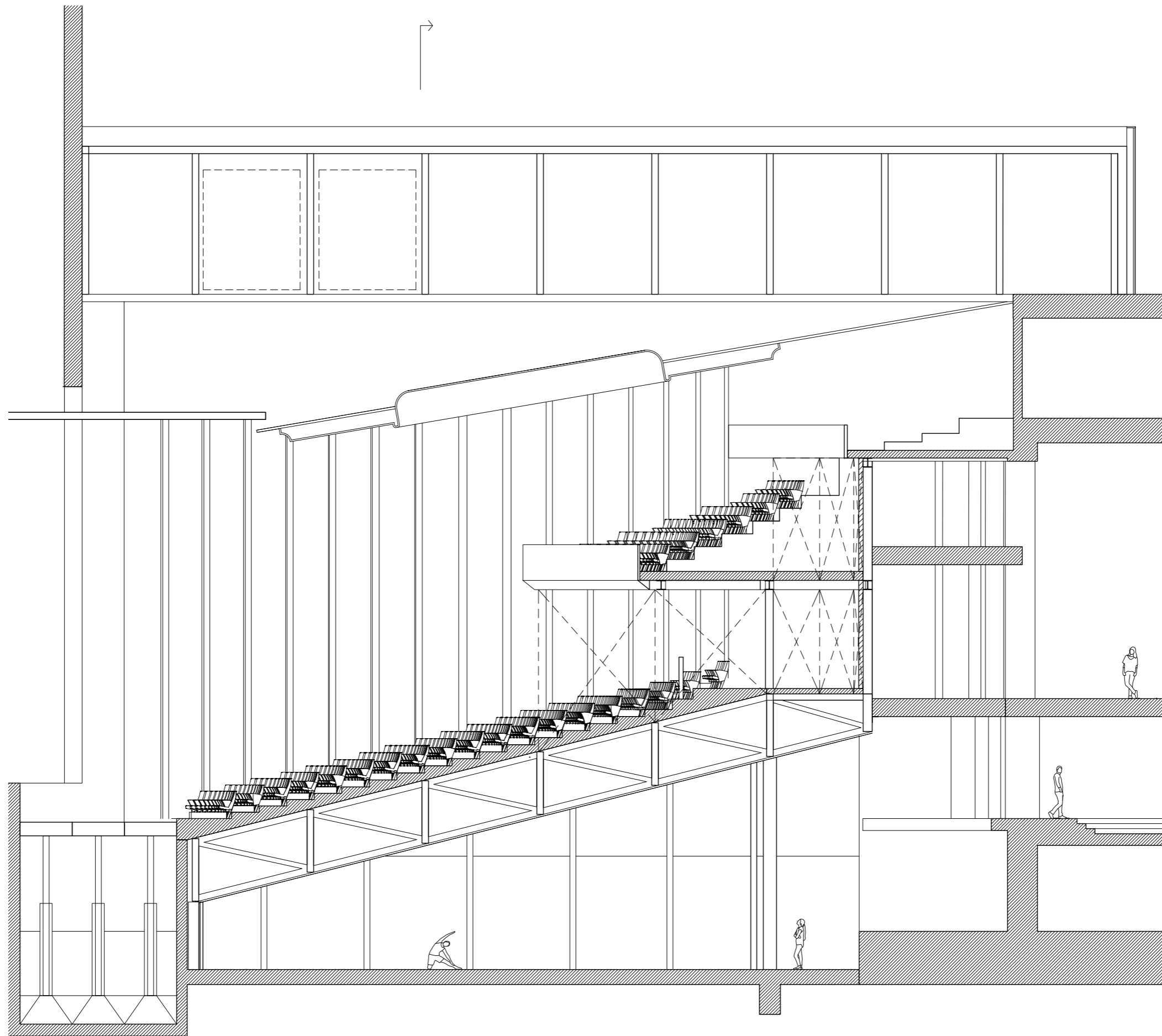




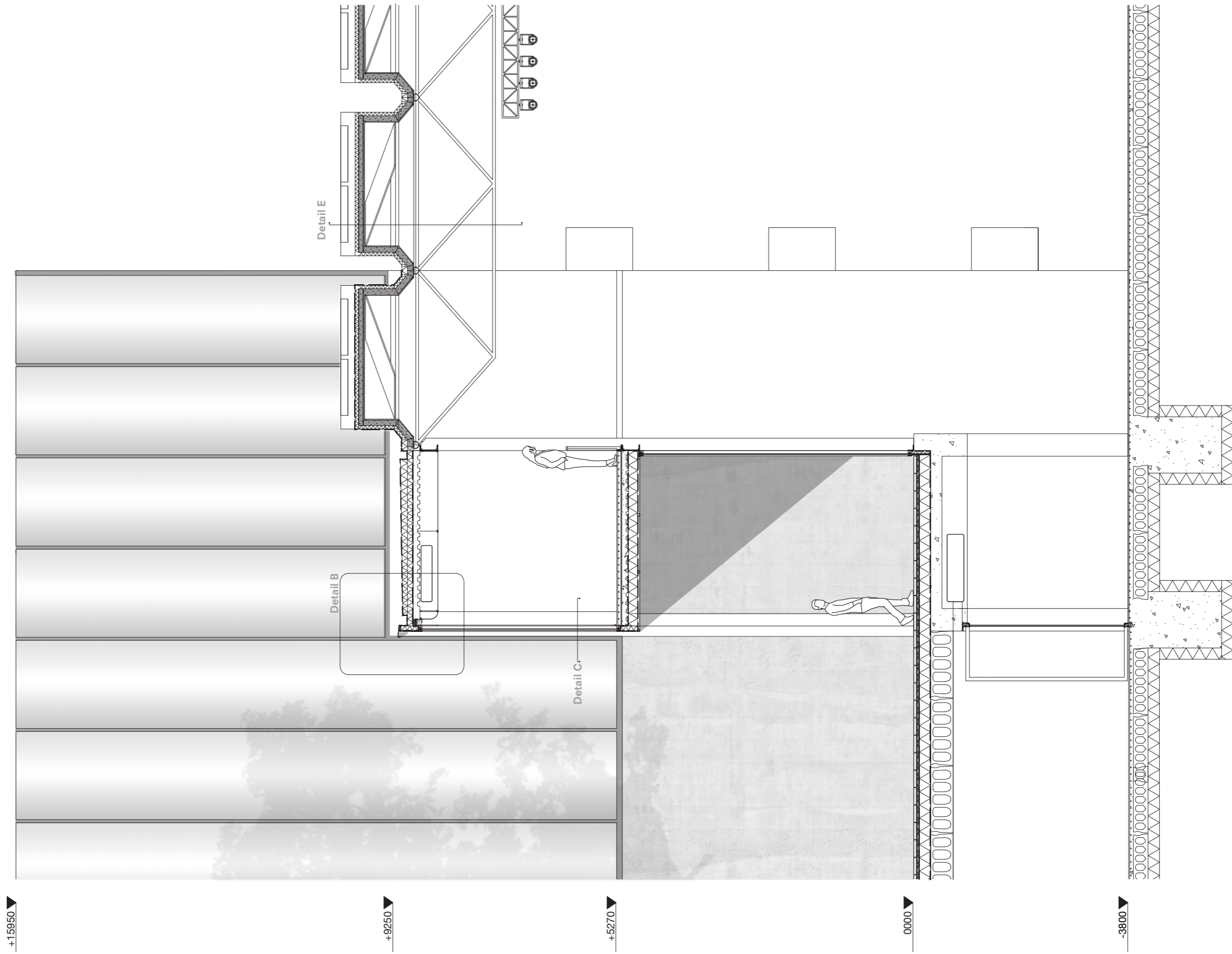


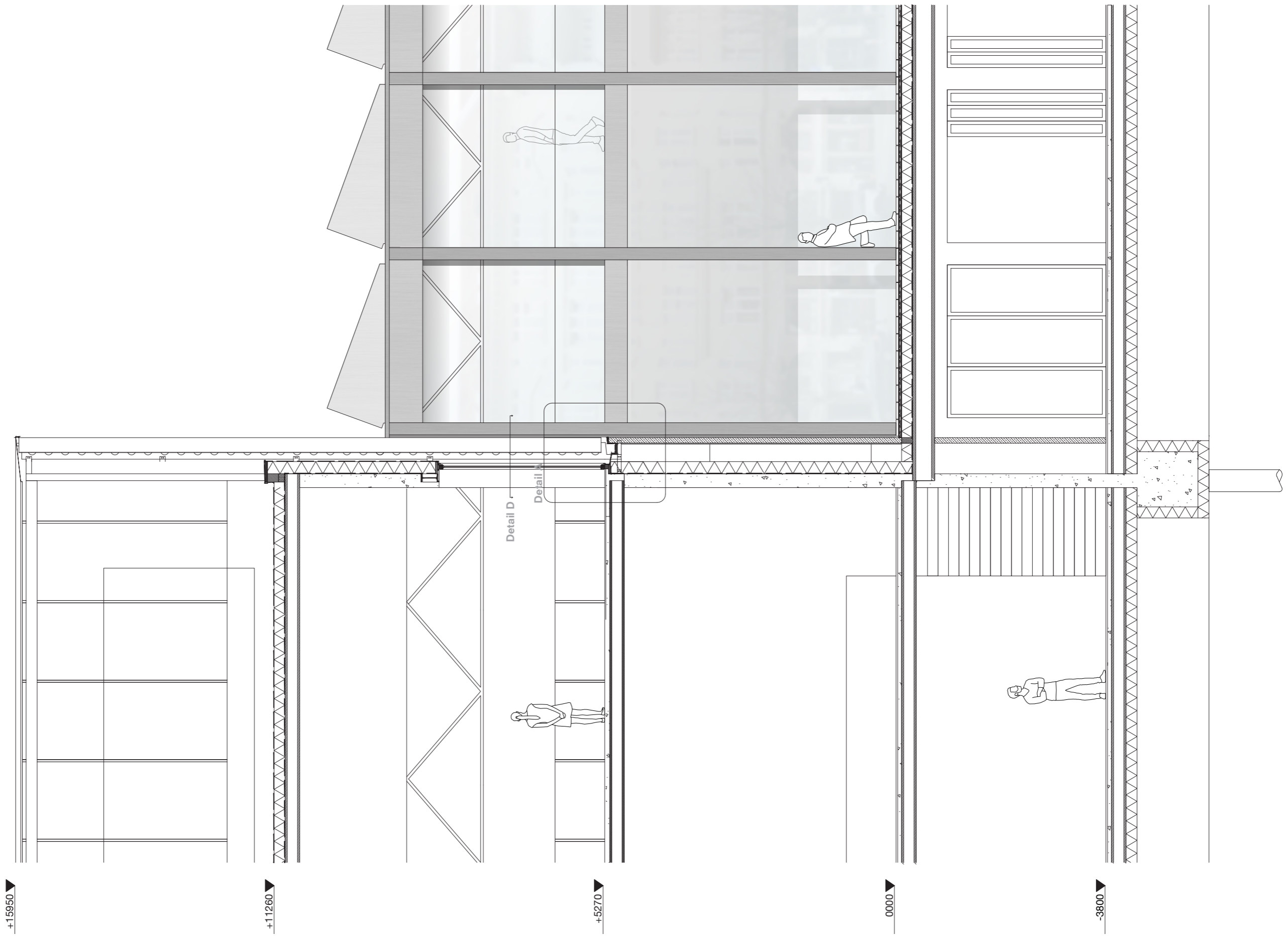




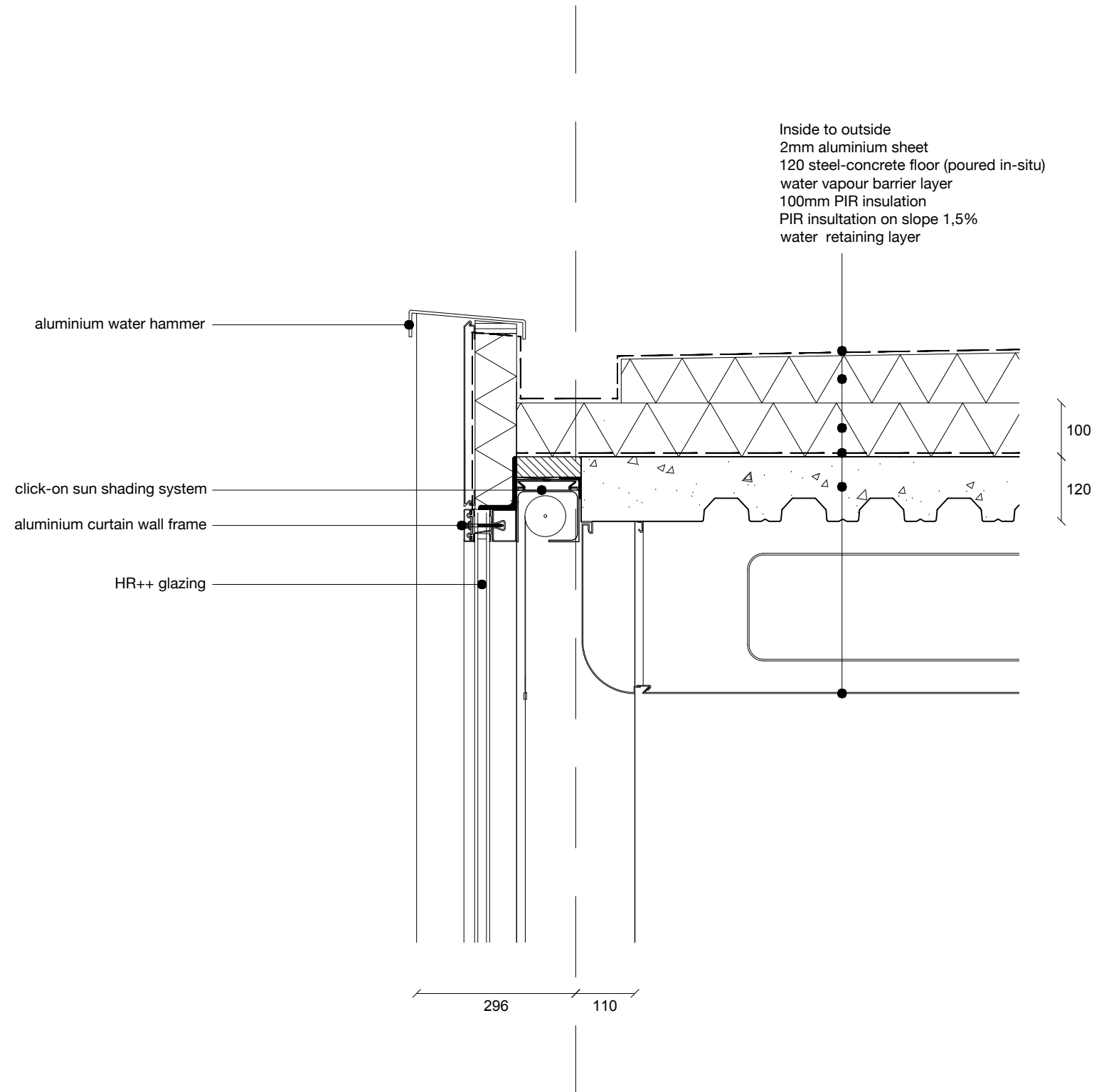


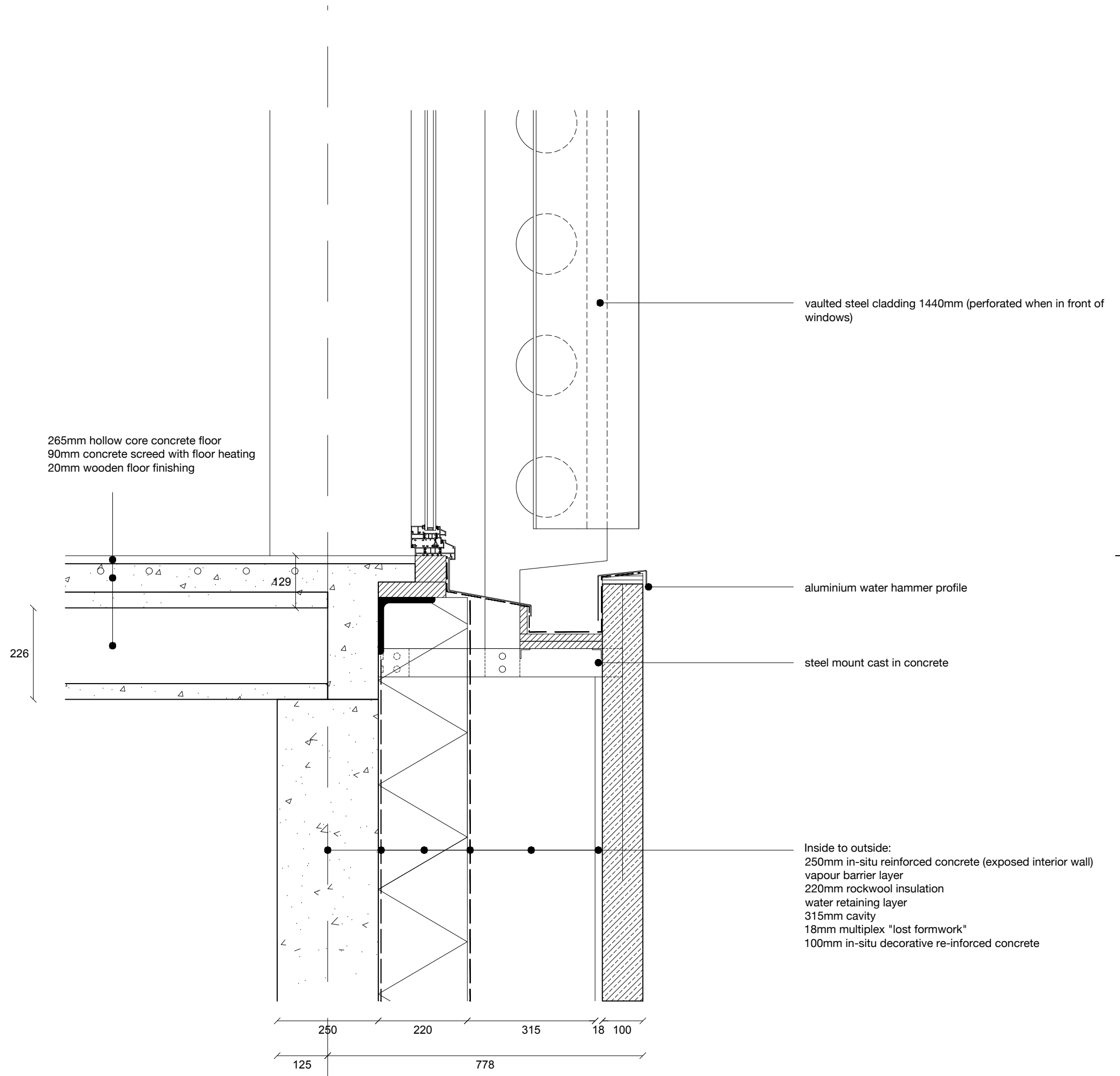
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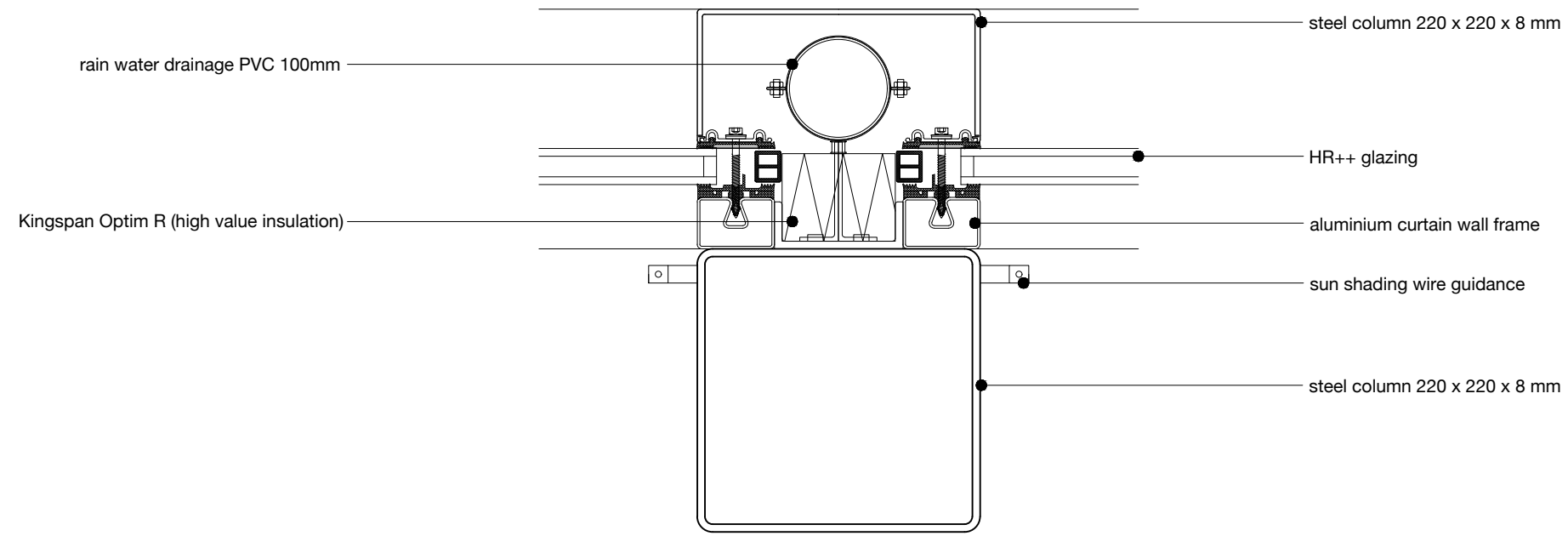


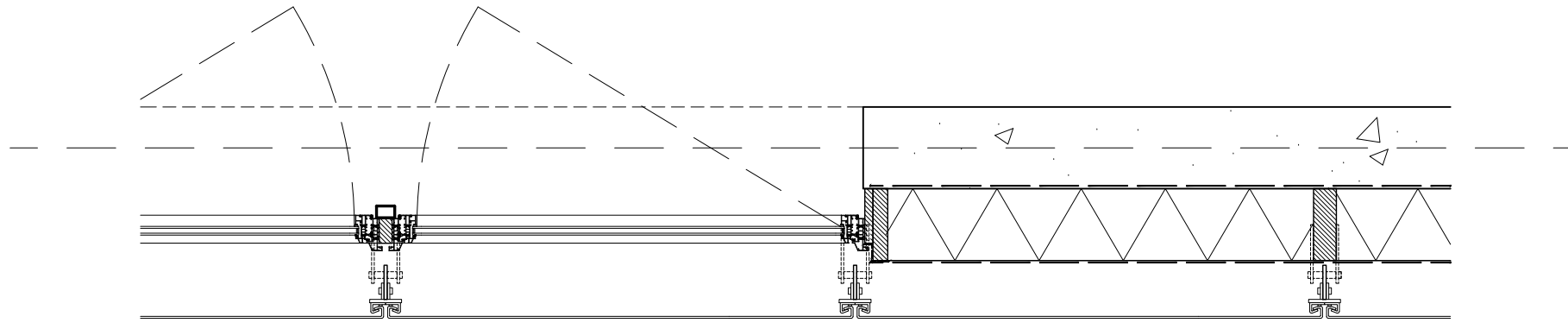
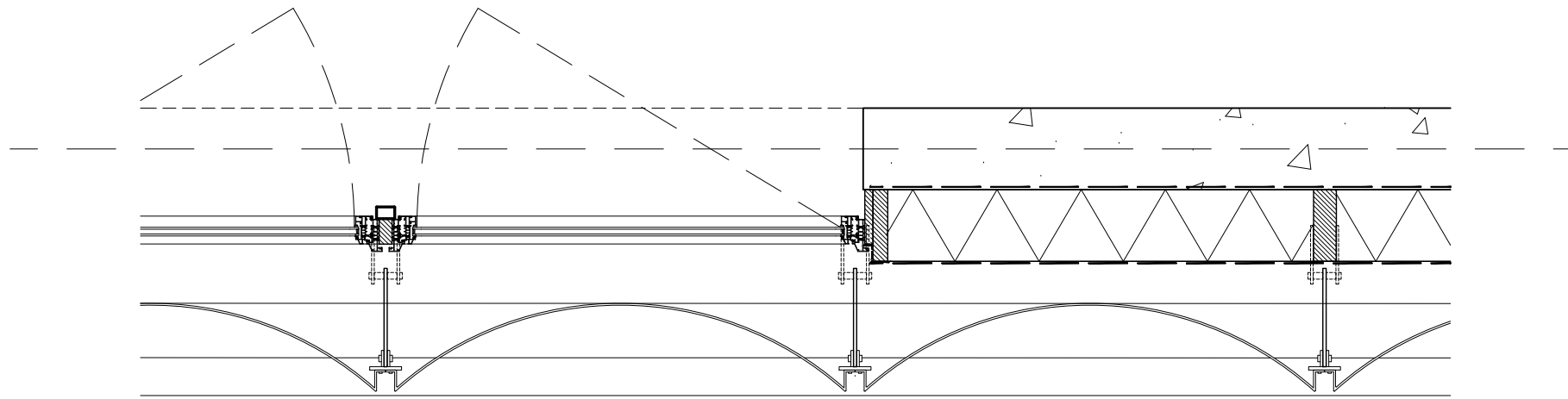


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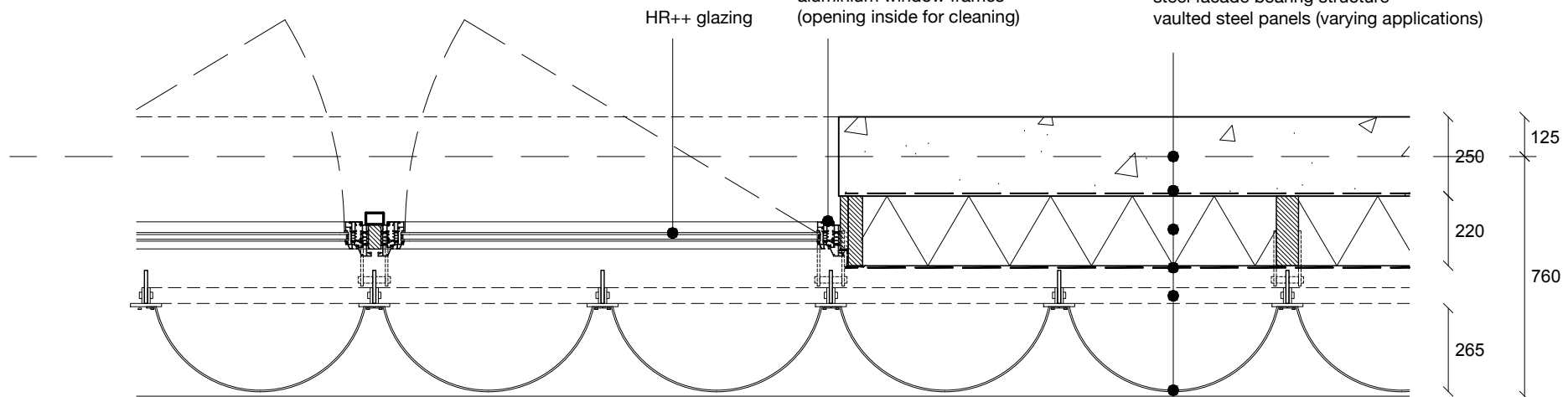


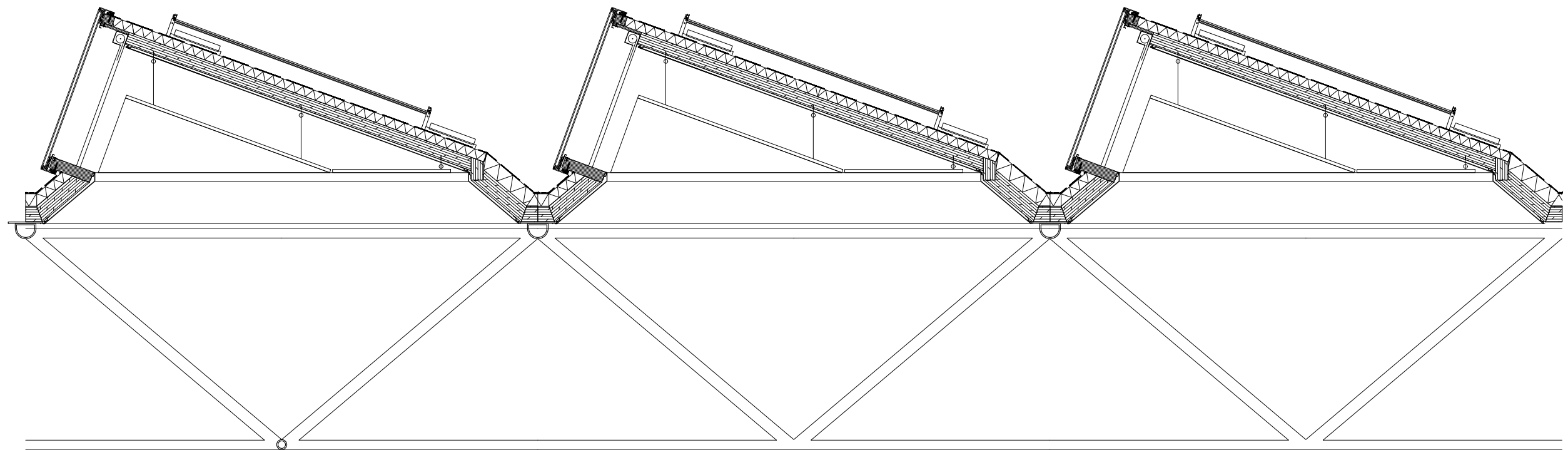




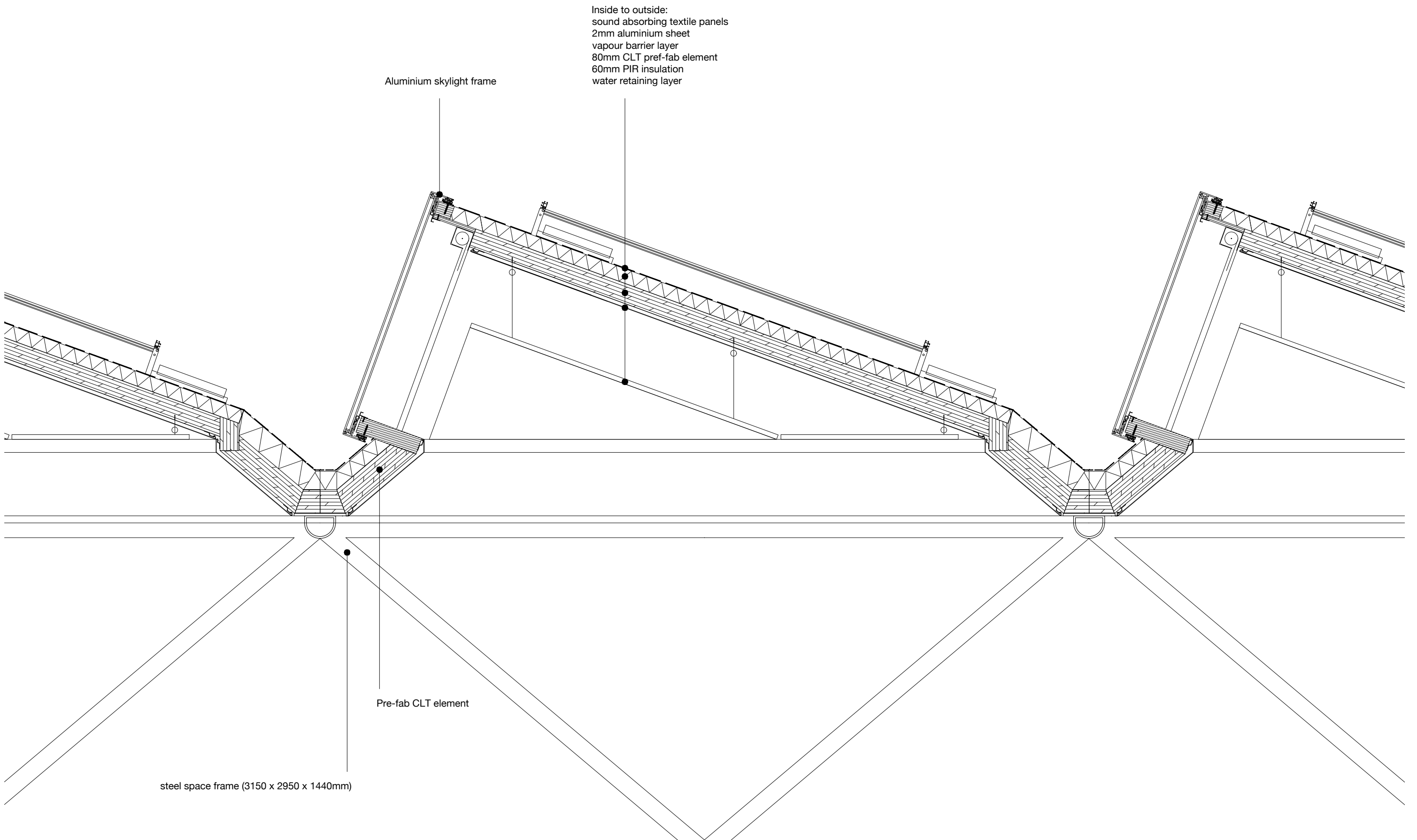


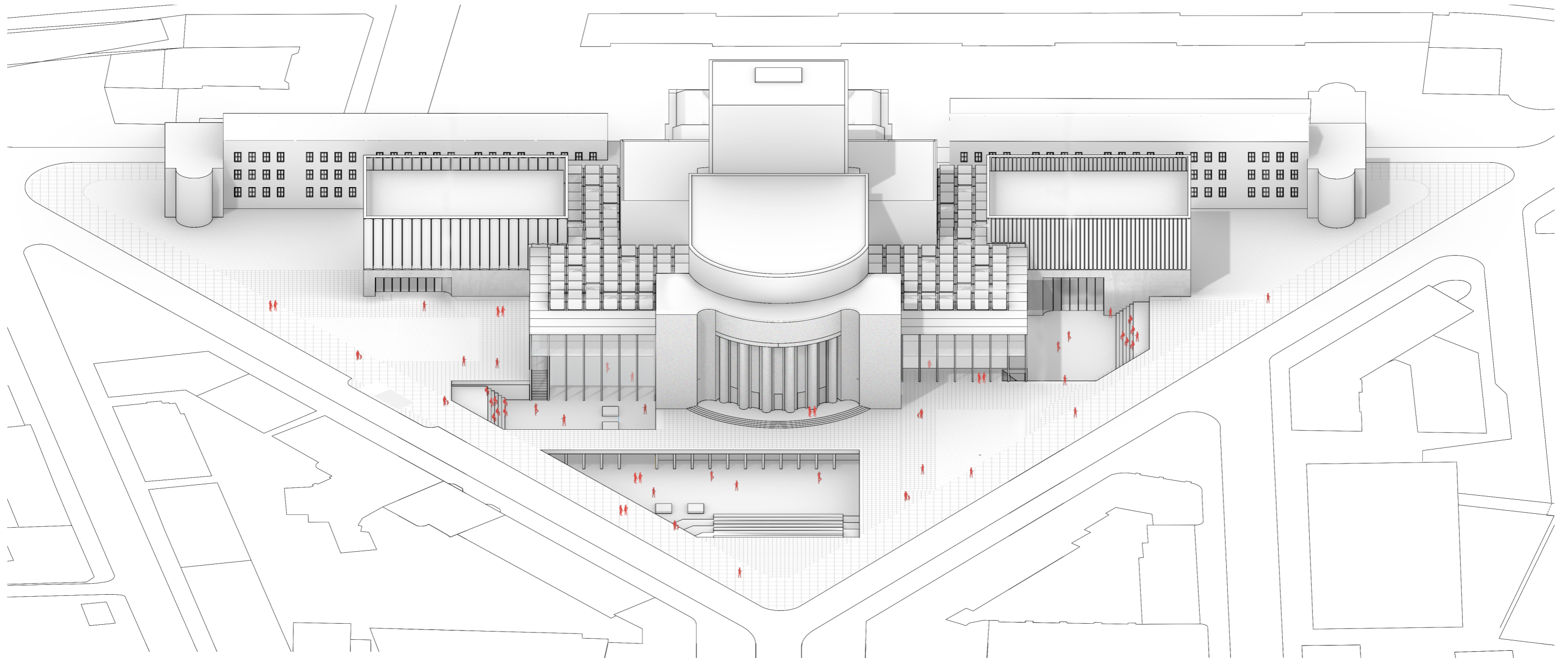
Inside to outside:  
 250mm in-situ reinforced concrete (exposed interior wall)  
 vapour barrier layer  
 220mm rockwool insulation  
 water retaining layer  
 steel facade bearing structure  
 vaulted steel panels (varying applications)







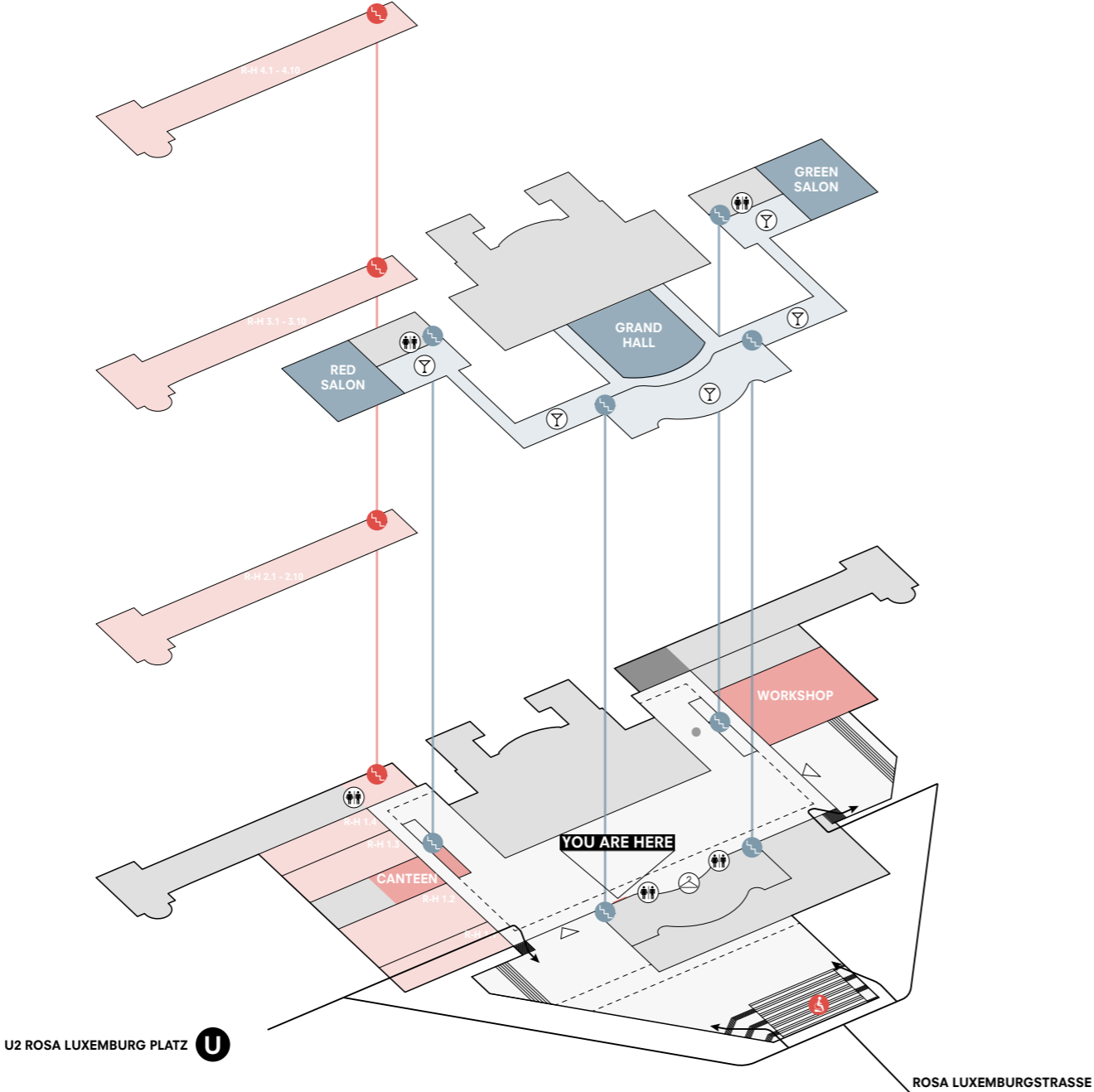




# VOLKSBÜHNE

ROSA LUXEMBURG PLATZ, BERLIN

Visitor map



2030-2031 season highlight calendar

<b>SEP</b>	02.09	19:30	Fantomas - Pollesch	Grand hall
	17.09	20:30	Ophelia's Got Talent	Red Salon
<b>OCT</b>	12.10	14:30	The Work - Kennedy Selg	Grand hall
	23.10	20:30	Kontrolliert-	Green Salon
<b>NOV</b>	02.11	22:30	Dance as one	Grand Hall
	19.11	14:30	Ophelia's Got Talent	Red Salon
<b>DEC</b>	12.12	19:30	Fantomas - Pollesch	Grand hall
	17.12	20:30	Ophelia's Got Talent	Red Salon
<b>JAN</b>	01.01	14:30	New Year, same us!	Grand hall
	23.01	20:30	Kontrolliert-	Green Salon
<b>FEB</b>	02.02	22:30	Dance as one	Grand Hall
	15.02	14:30	Ophelia's Got Talent	Red Salon
<b>MAR</b>	12.03	19:30	Fantomas - Pollesch	Grand hall
	28.03	20:30	Ophelia's Got Talent	Red Salon
<b>APR</b>	12.04	14:30	The Work - Kennedy Selg	Grand hall
	23.04	20:30	Kontrolliert-	Green Salon
<b>MAY</b>	02.05	22:30	Dance as one	Grand Hall
	19.05	14:30	Ophelia's Got Talent	Red Salon
<b>JUN</b>	04.06	19:30	Fantomas - Pollesch	Grand hall
	21.06	20:30	Ophelia's Got Talent	Red Salon
<b>JUL</b>	12.07	18:30	Summer! Let's go!	Grand hall
	23.07	20:30	Kontrolliert-	Green Salon
<b>AUG</b>	07.08	22:30	Dance as one	Grand Hall
	19.08	14:30	Ophelia's Got Talent	Red Salon

For the full calendar with all shows, check out our website:



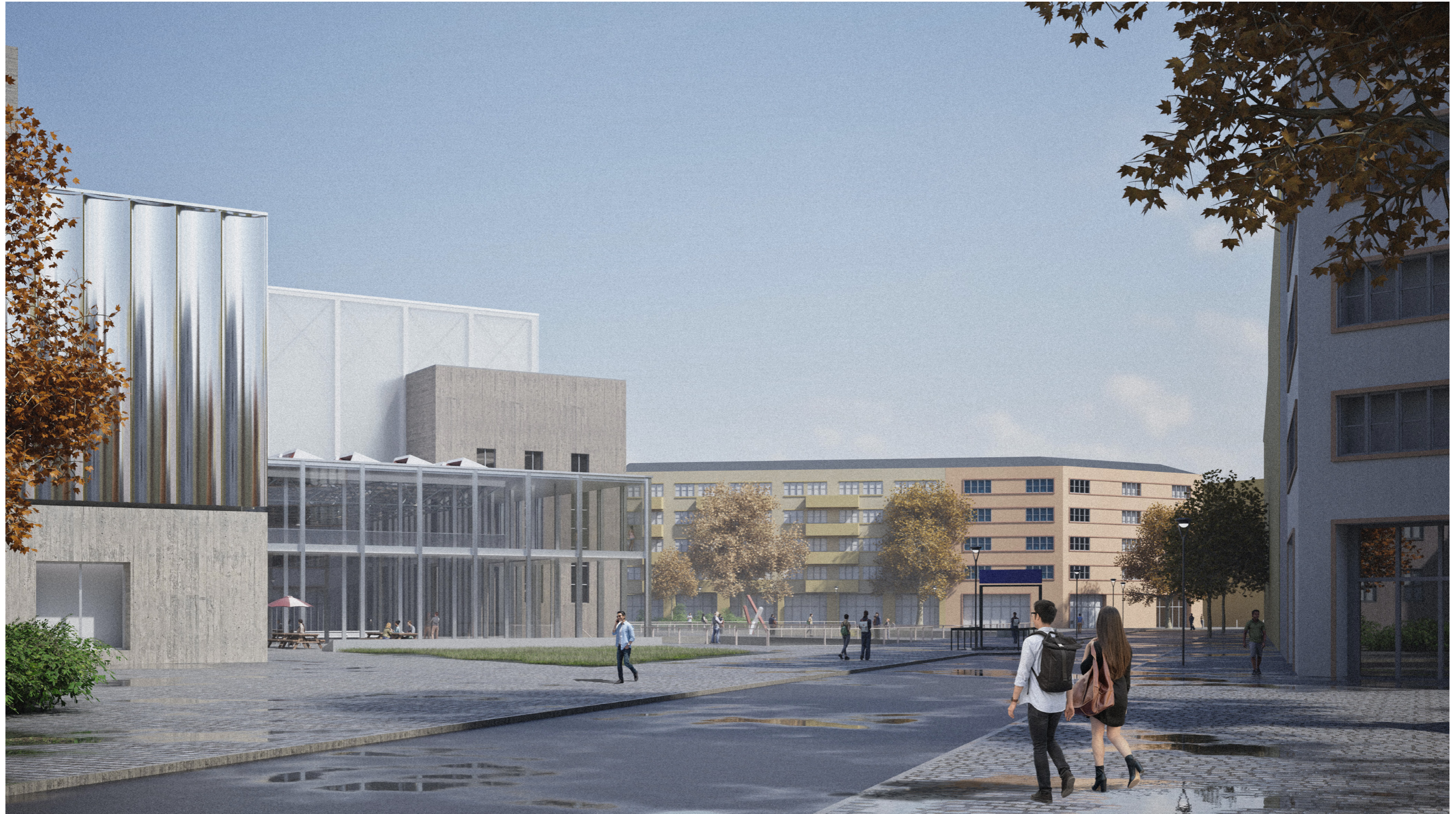








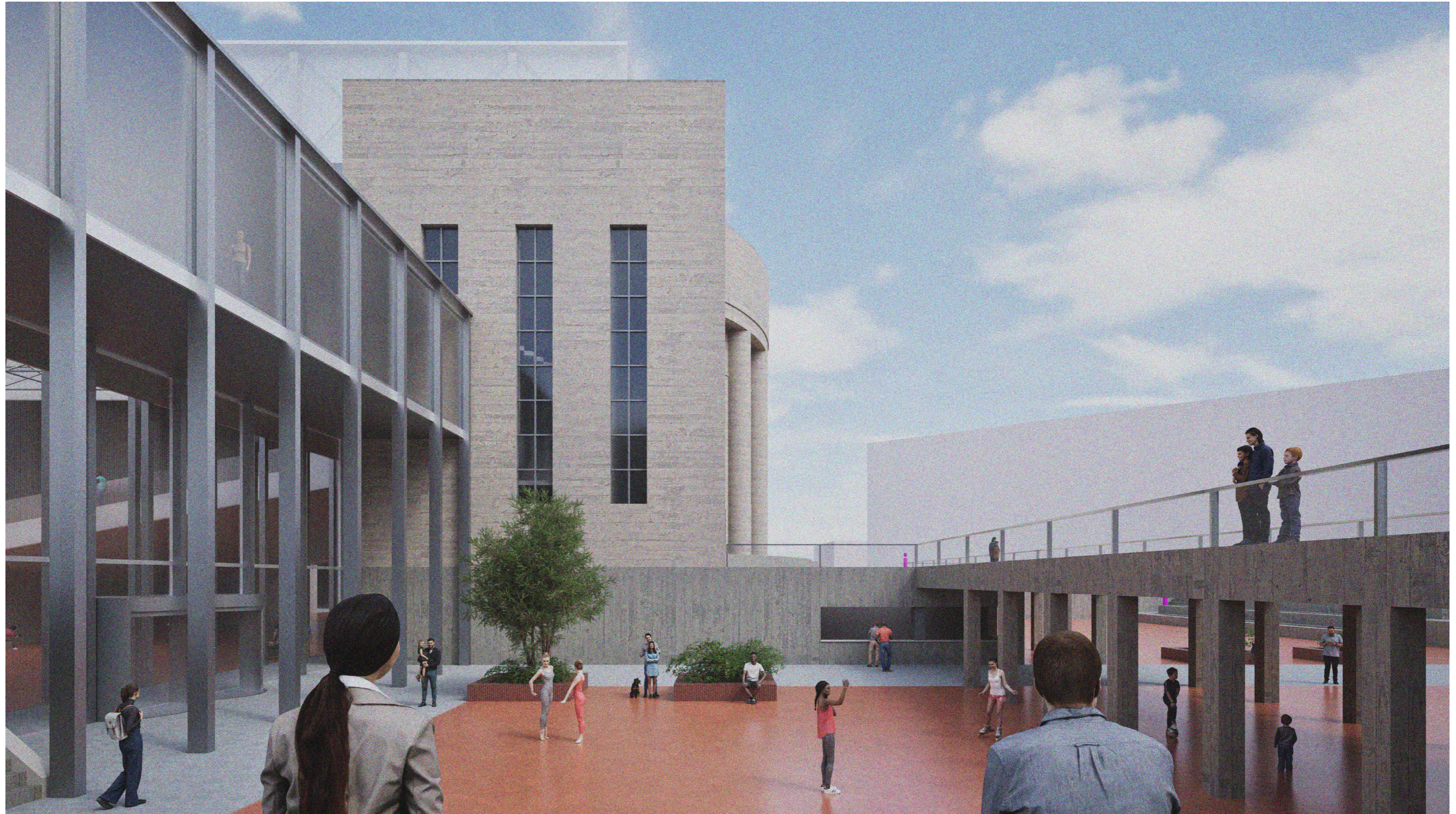
















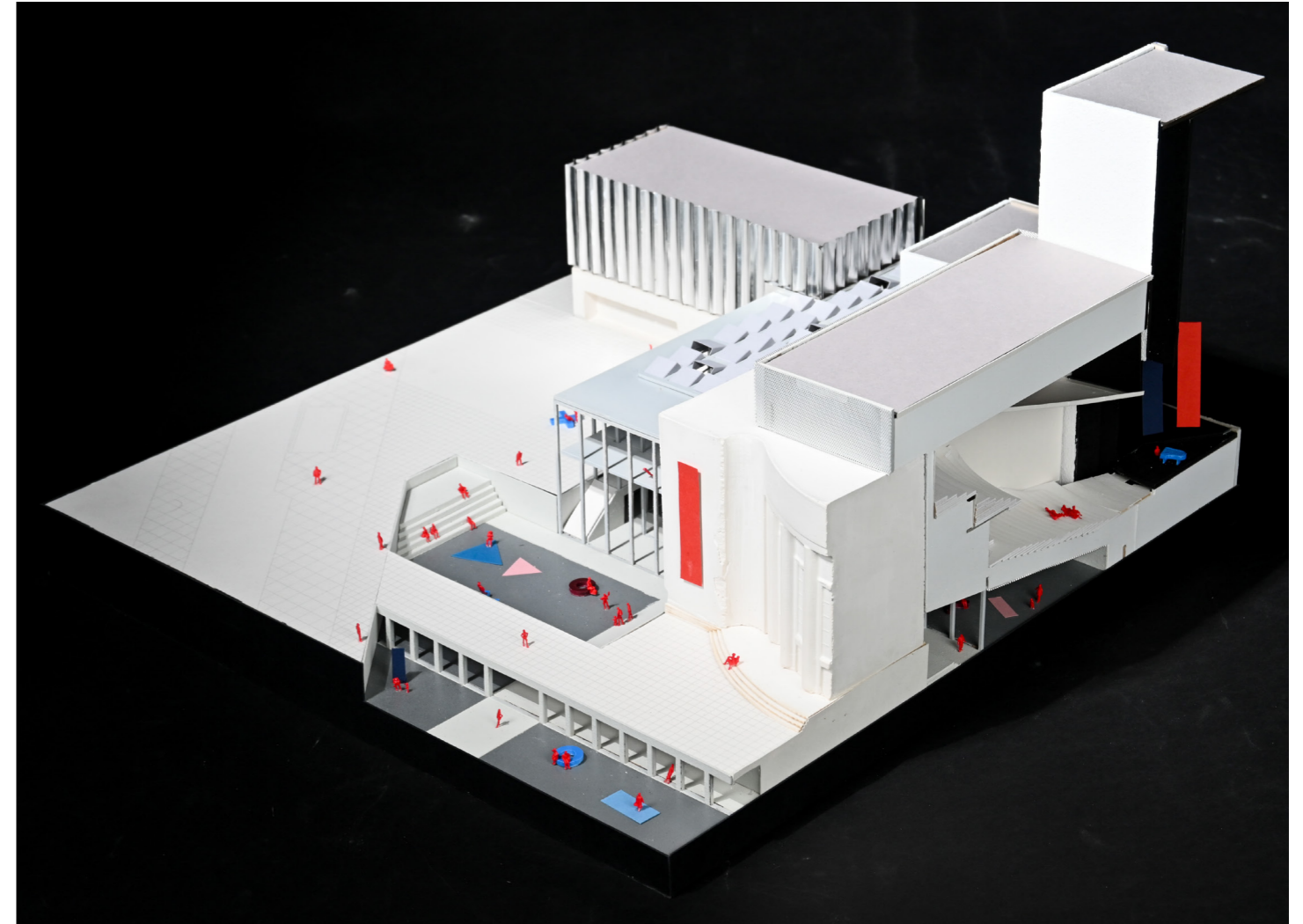
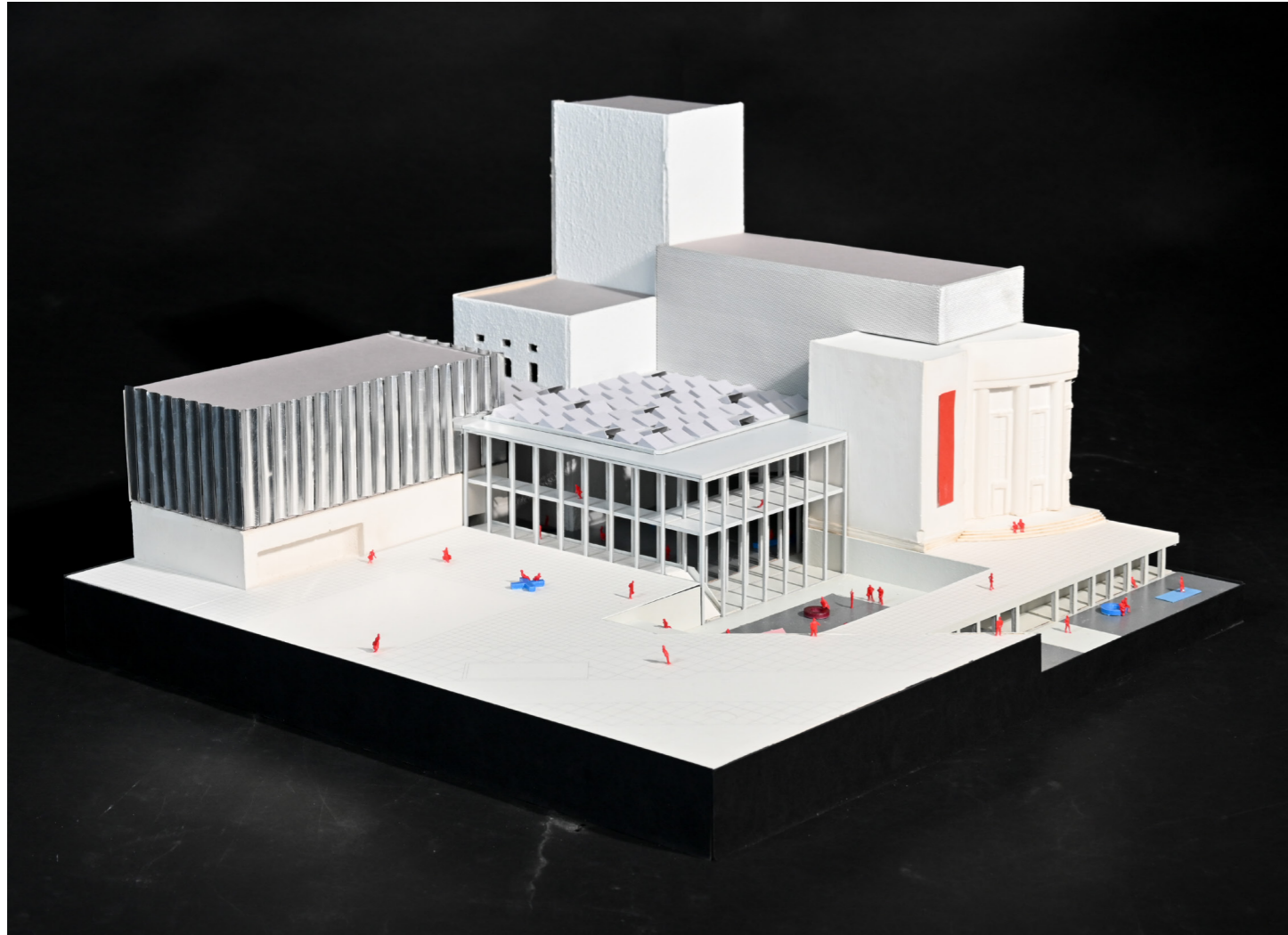






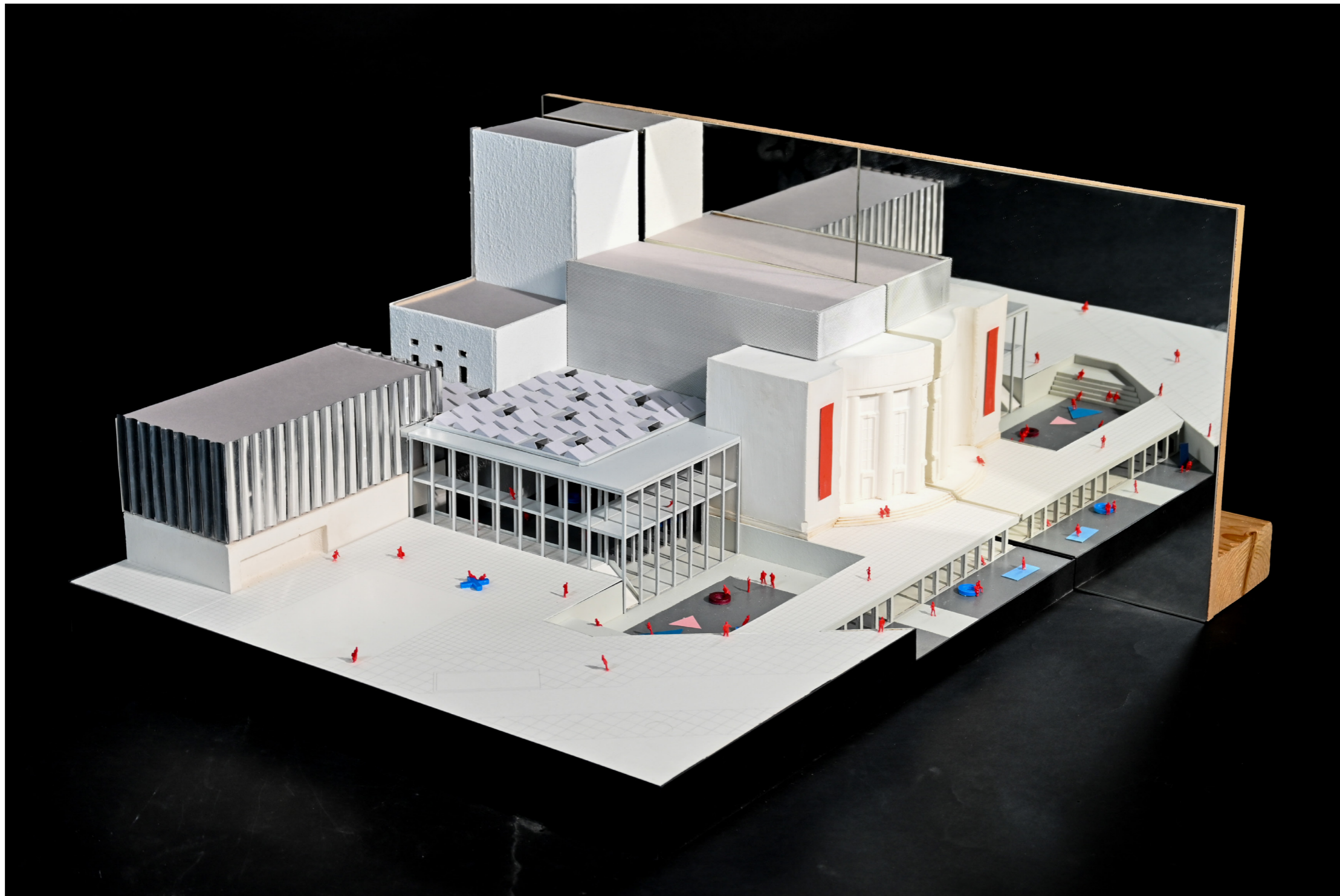






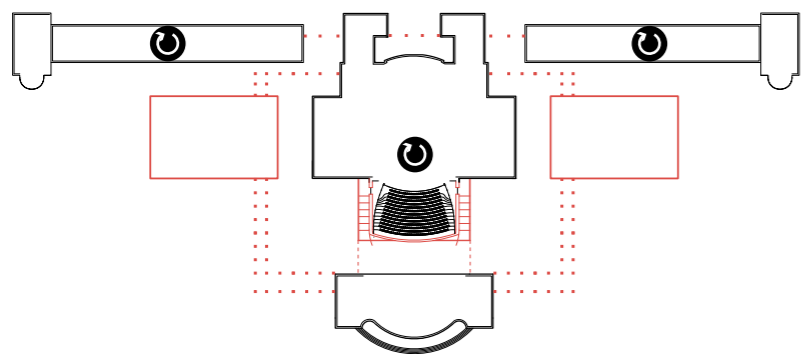
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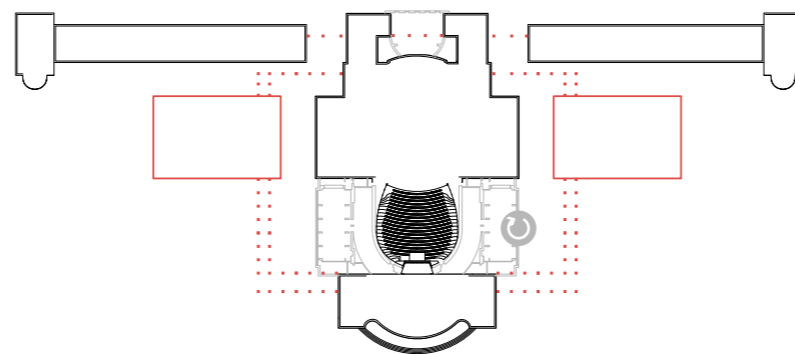


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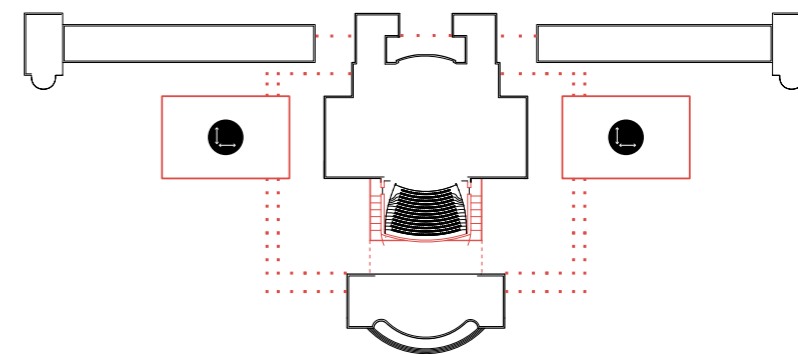
Reuse of an existing building



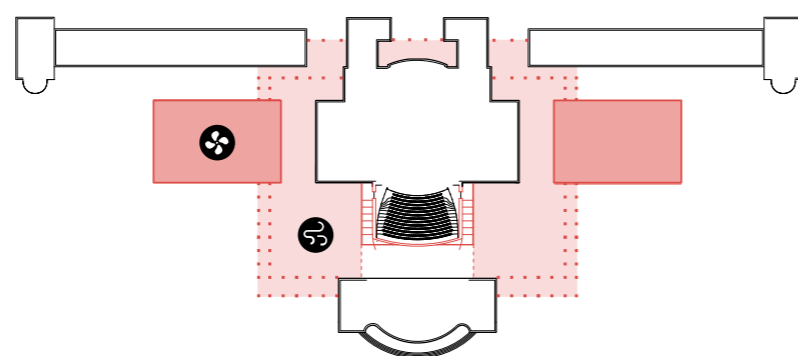
Reuse of demolished material



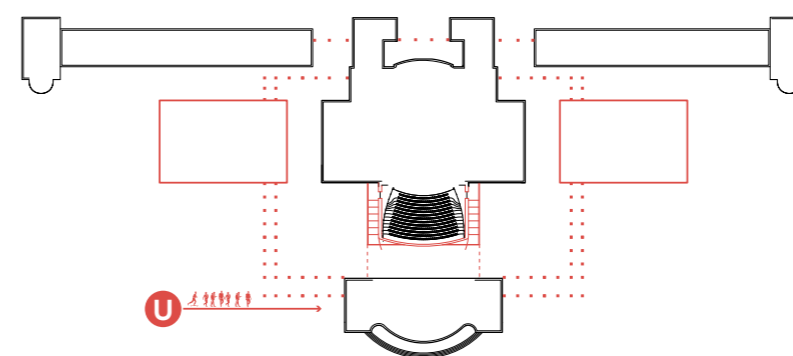
Compact building

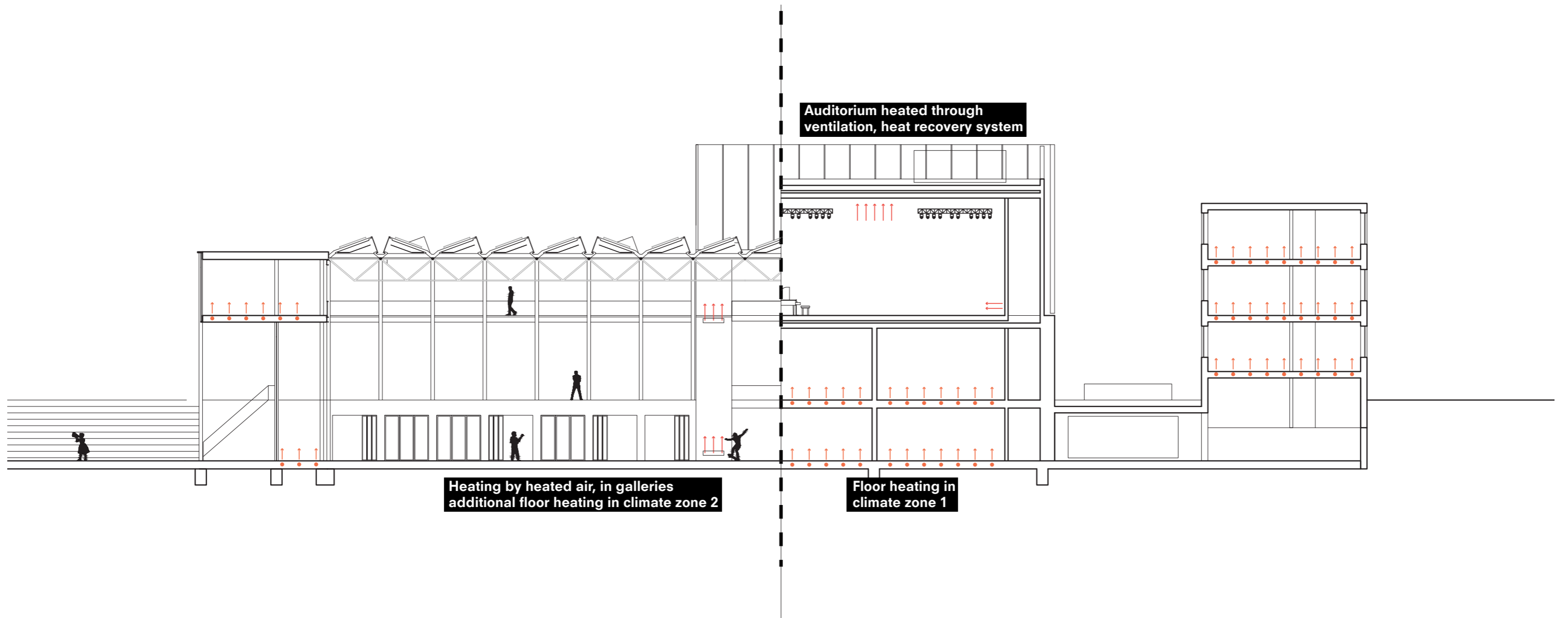


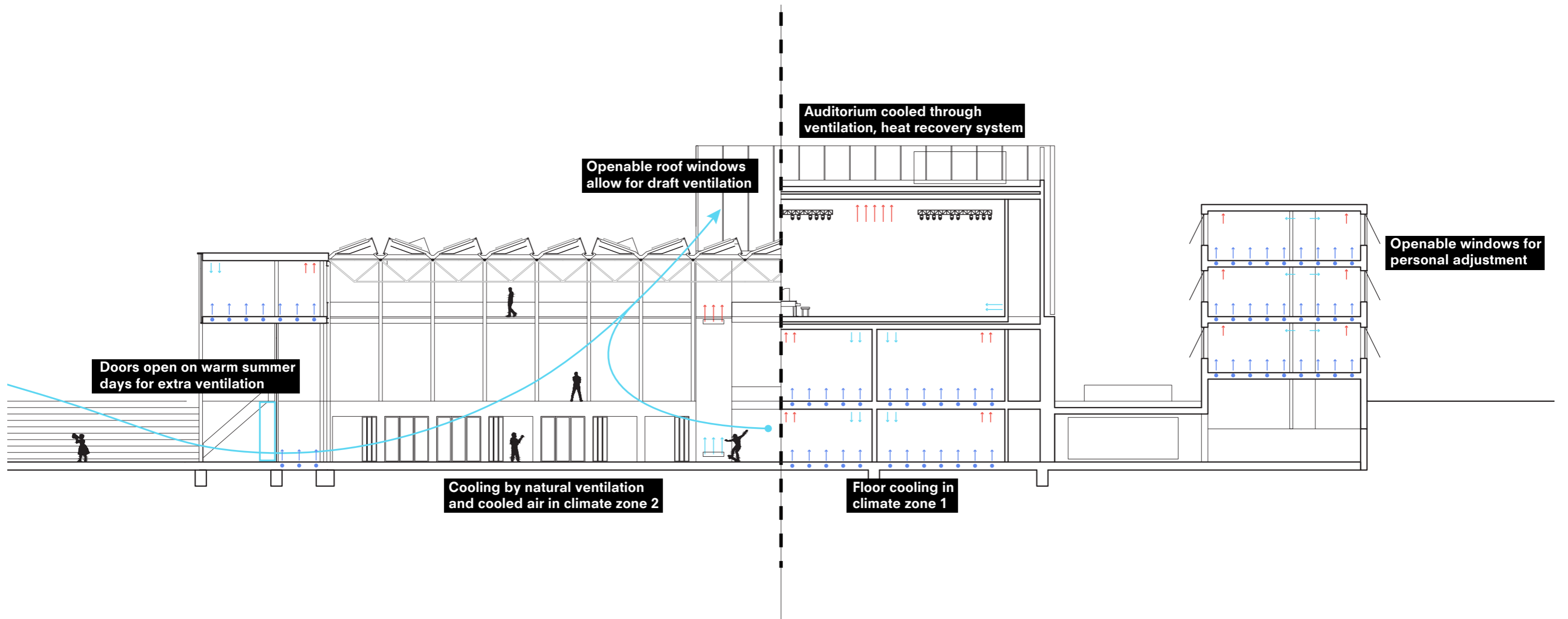
Two climate zones



Public transportation usage stimulated

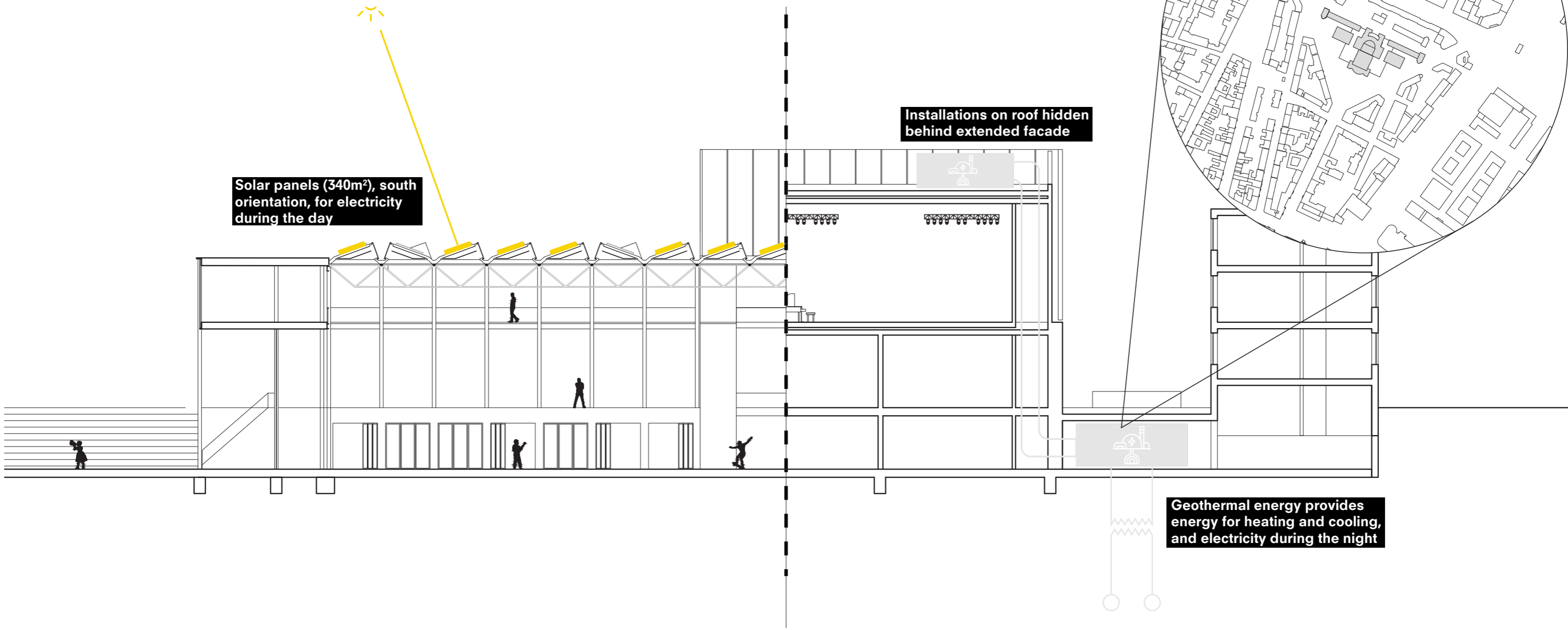








energy provided to 2400 households (33640000 kWh)



Solar panels (340m<sup>2</sup>), south orientation, for electricity during the day

Installations on roof hidden behind extended facade

Geothermal energy provides energy for heating and cooling, and electricity during the night