

SELECTED WORKS
2023 - 2026

PORTFOLIO.



ZIXUAN SARA QIU



I would like to acknowledge and extend my gratitude to the Gadigal people of the Eora Nation, the Traditional Custodians of the land on which I live, work and create. I recognise the enduring knowledge, culture, connection and custodianship of First Peoples, and their continuing relationship with Country, community and place.

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EDUCATION

University of Sydney

Bachelor of Design in Architecture
02/2023 - 12/2025

Master of Architecture
02/2026 - (Expected Completion 12/2027)

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Architectural Association School of Architecture

AA Visiting School Sydney
- For the Term of Your Natural Life
06/2025

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Digital Modelling and Fabrication (DMaF) Lab
Student Assistant
02/2026 - Present

BDES1026 Architecture Studio 1A
Mentor
02/2026 - 05/2026

School of Architecture, Design and Planning
Peer Mentor
02/2026 - Present

SKILLS

Software: Adobe Creative Suite, AutoCAD,
Enscape, Rhino 7 & 8, Revit, QGIS 3, Microsoft

Technical: Laser Cut, 3D Printing, Photography

Language: English (Fluent), Cantonese (Native),
Mandarin (Fluent), Spanish (Basic)



Sara Qiu is a master of architecture student at the University of Sydney. Experienced in preparing design documentation, technical drawings, digital modelling, and fabrication workflows, with an understanding of the National Construction Code and Australian Standards. Recognized for strong communication, collaborative working style, and a proactive approach to learning and technical problem-solving.

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The Gadigal Centre of Excellence

The Gadigal Centre of Excellence works within the structural constraints of the existing building, curated a sequence of public, communal and educational spaces to establish a gradual journey from arrival and gathering to learning and reflection.

Informed by Aboriginal understandings of **care for Country**, the design seeks to re-centre the relationship between people, place and Country within an institutional setting.

An off-grid spatial order is introduced as an act of "Reweaving Country". Here, order is redefined not as control, but as **coexistence**: reorienting architecture from dominance toward care.

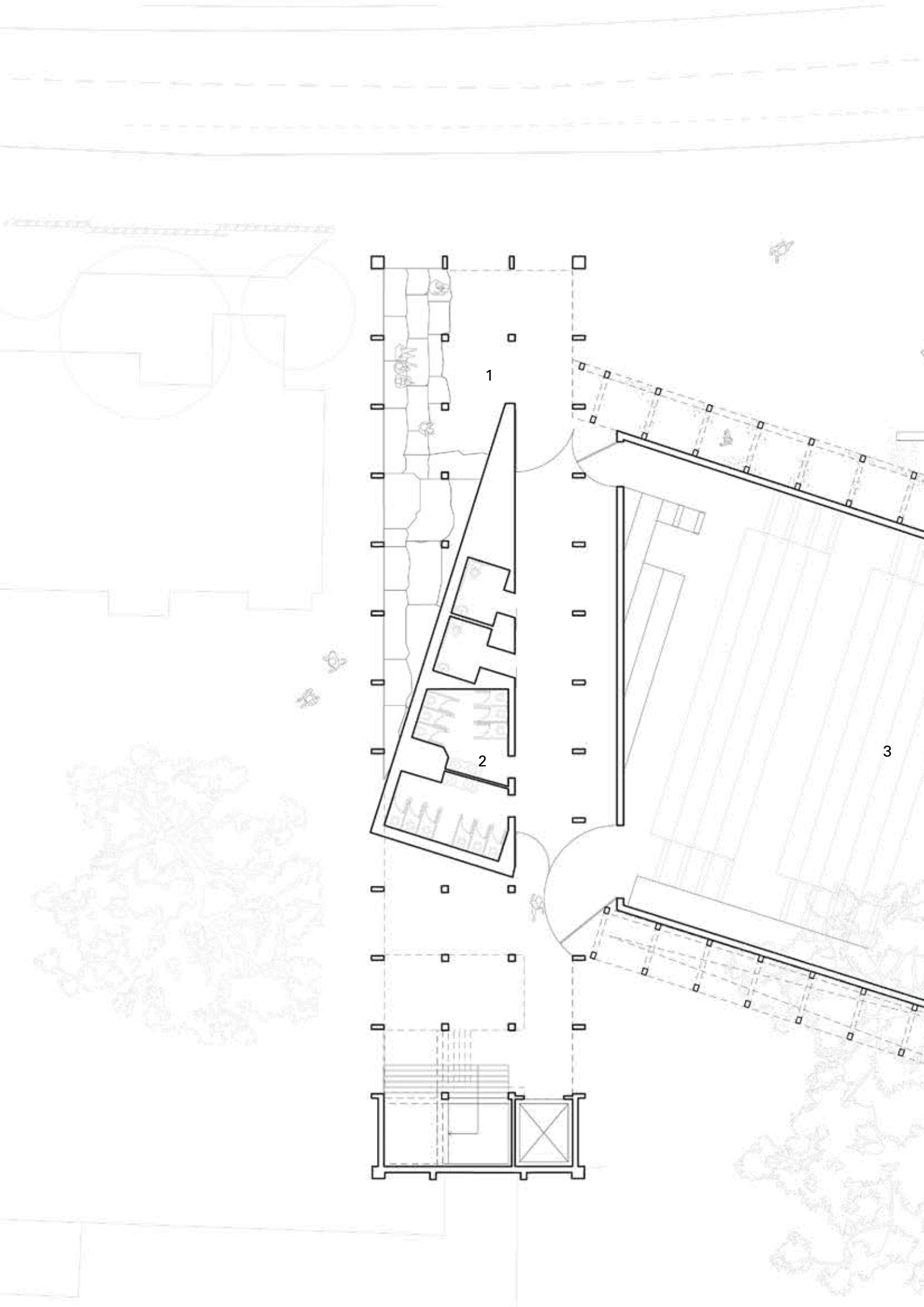
Bricks are tangible record of labour, memory and the industrial history of the suburb. The patterned new facade reinterprets this material language and establishes a dialogue between the permanence of the existing building and the adaptability required of its renewed use, while responding to the climate and engaging its occupants in a **ritual of healing and renewal**.

Ultimately, the project seeks to transform an overpowering institution into a **living place of connection**, where architecture supports **ongoing relationships** with Country, community and knowledge.

The Gadigal Centre of Excellence was developed within in a bachelor studio that promotes cultural sensitivity and exchange in architectural practice, with a focus on supporting Indigenous presence and fostering lifelong learning through inclusive design. The site sits within the University of Sydney's Darlington campus which has remained unoccupied since 2020.

Darlington, Sydney
August - November, 2025
Supervised by Thomas Papetti



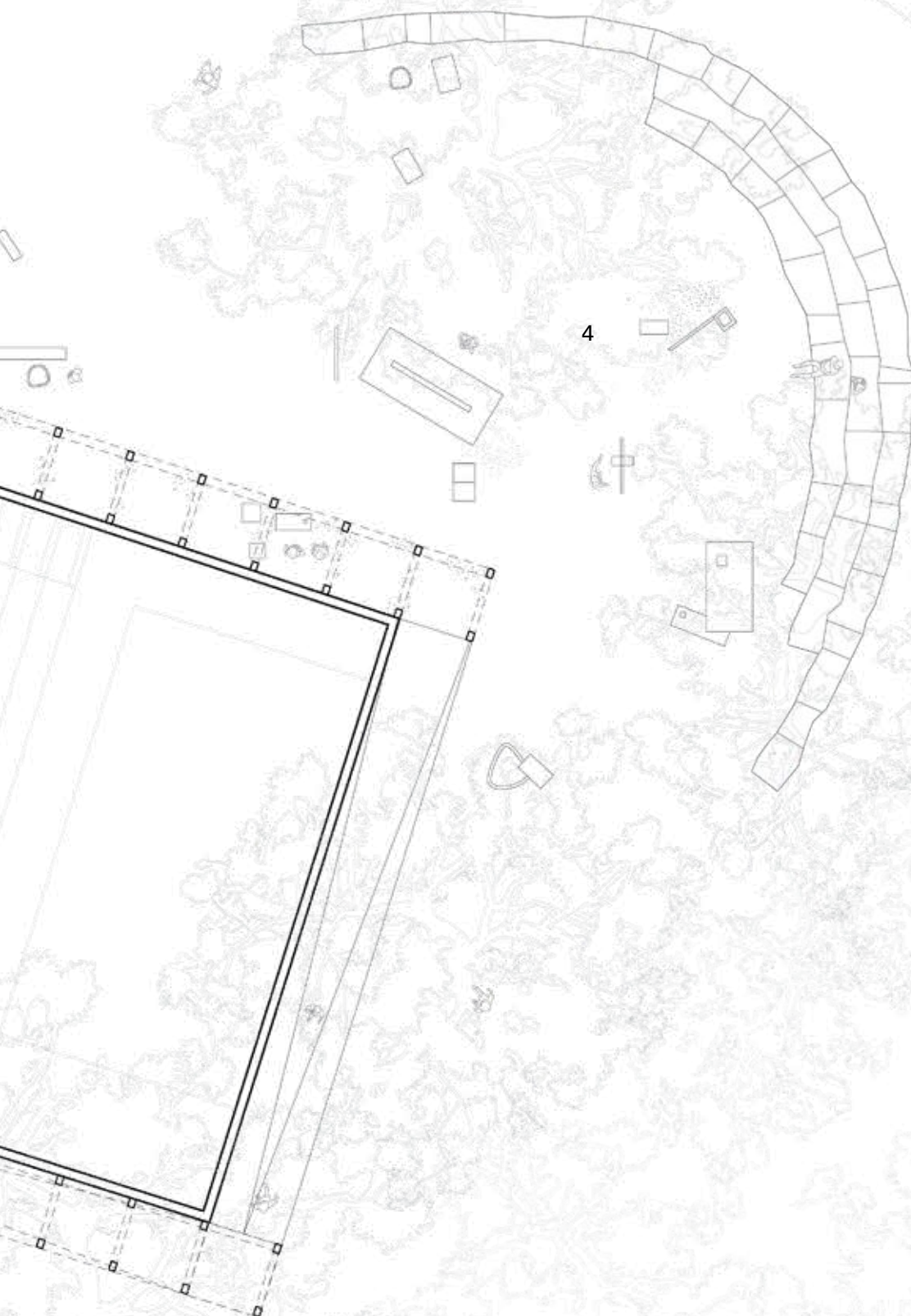
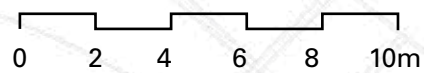


1

2

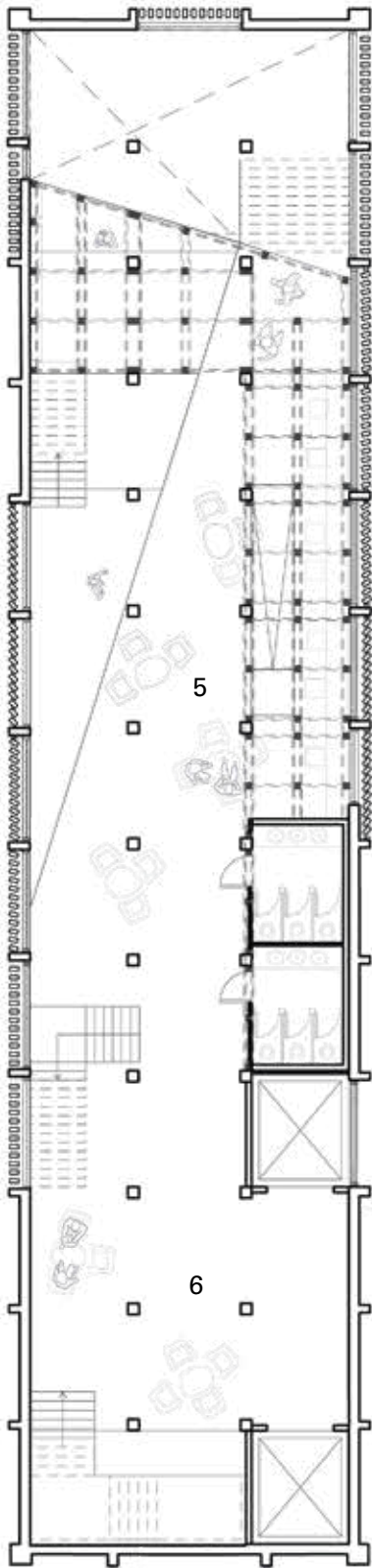
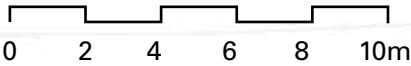
3

GROUND FLOOR PLAN



- 1 Pre-function
- 2 Amenity
- 3 Auditorium
- 4 Gallery

SECOND FLOOR PLAN

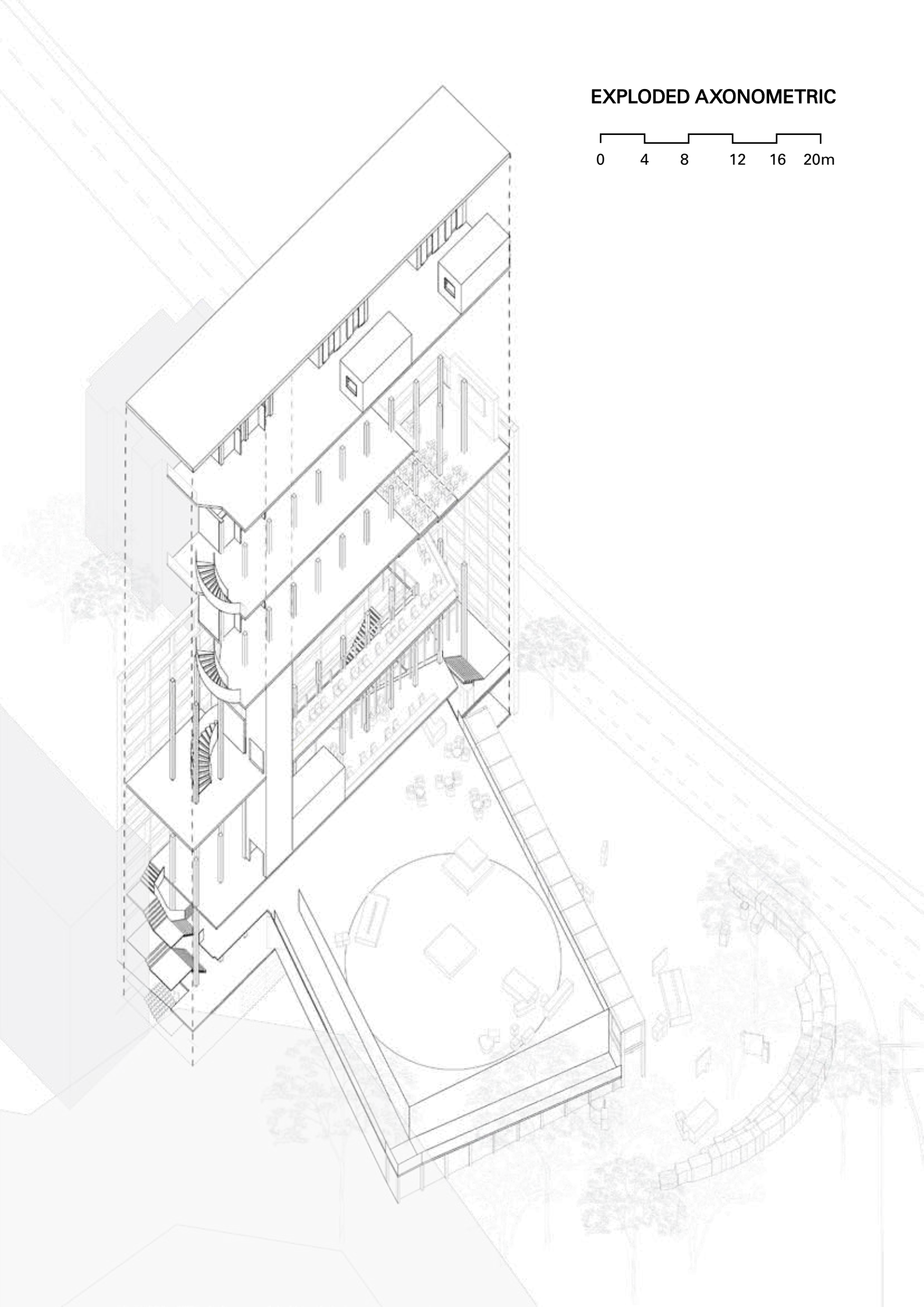


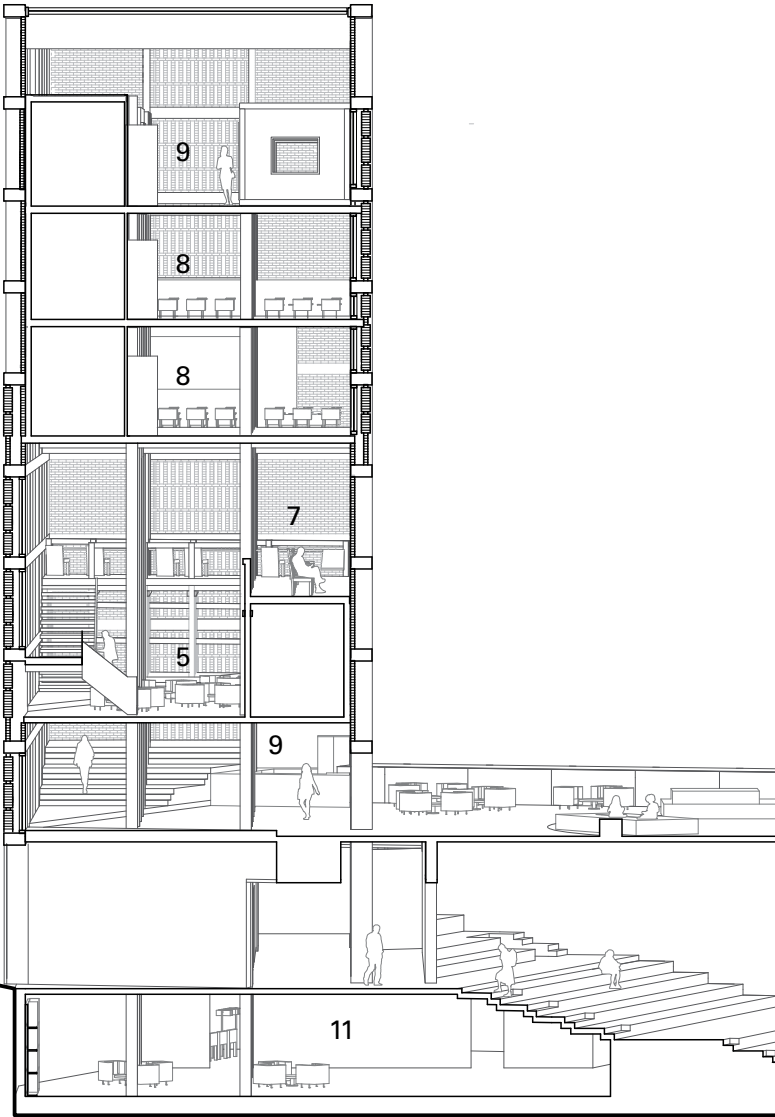
5 Storytelling Hub / Study Zone

6 Foyer

EXPLODED AXONOMETRIC

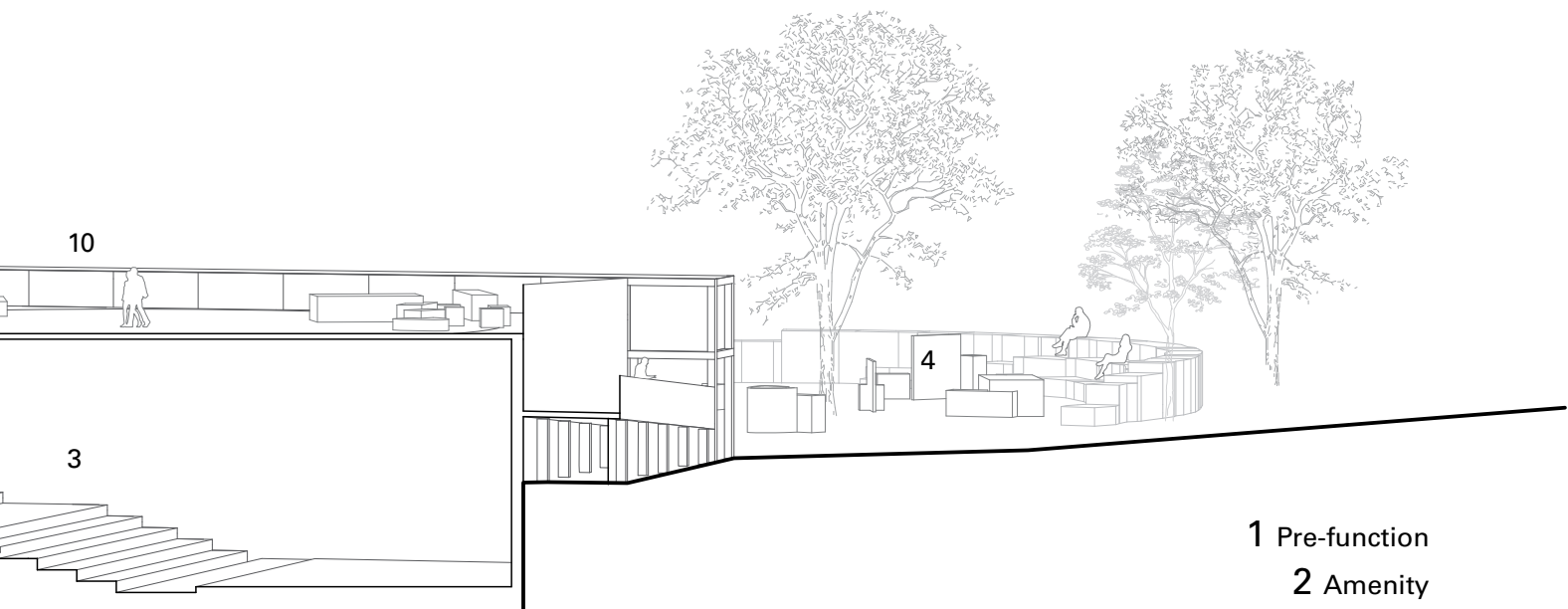
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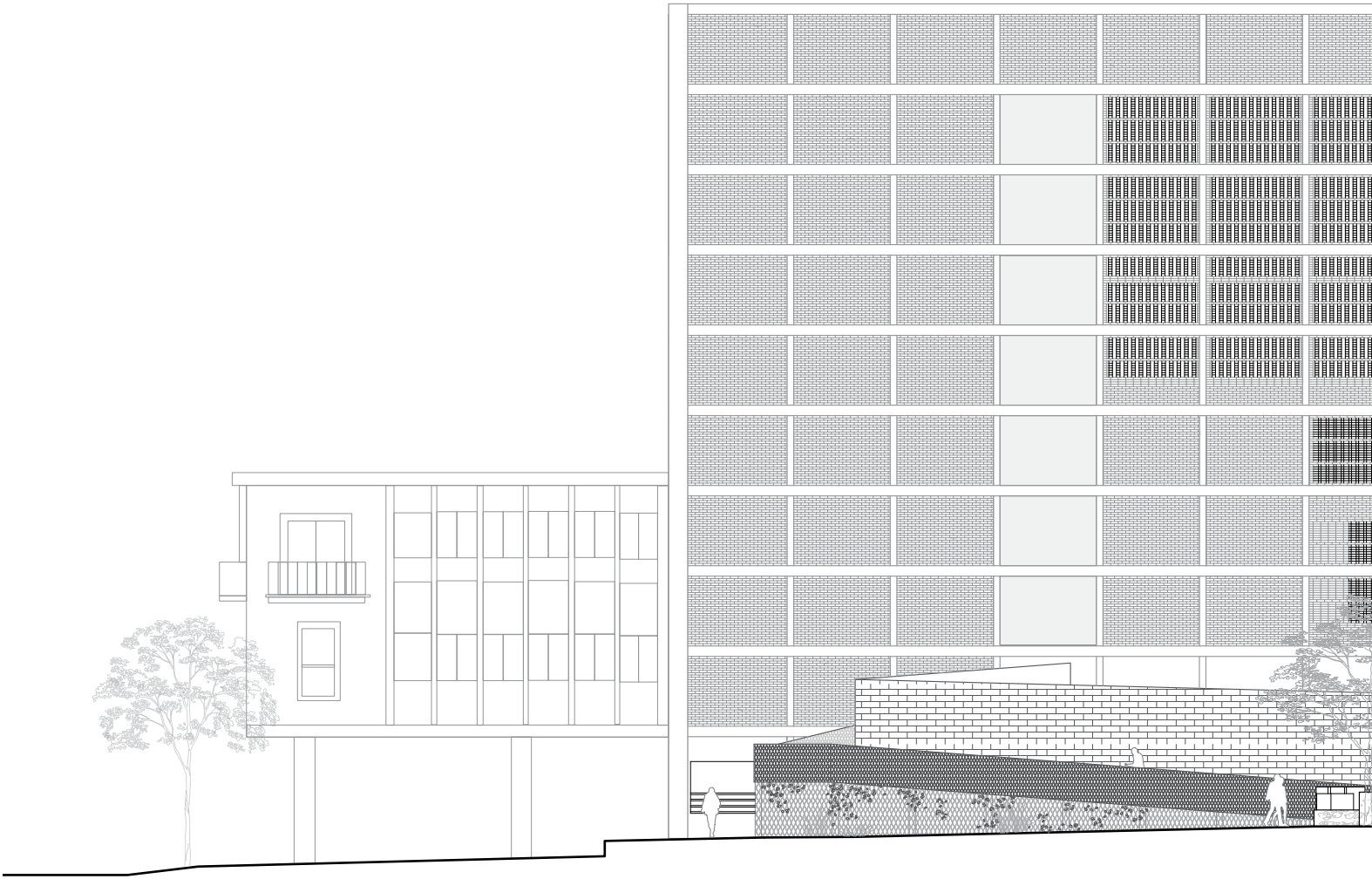


SECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE

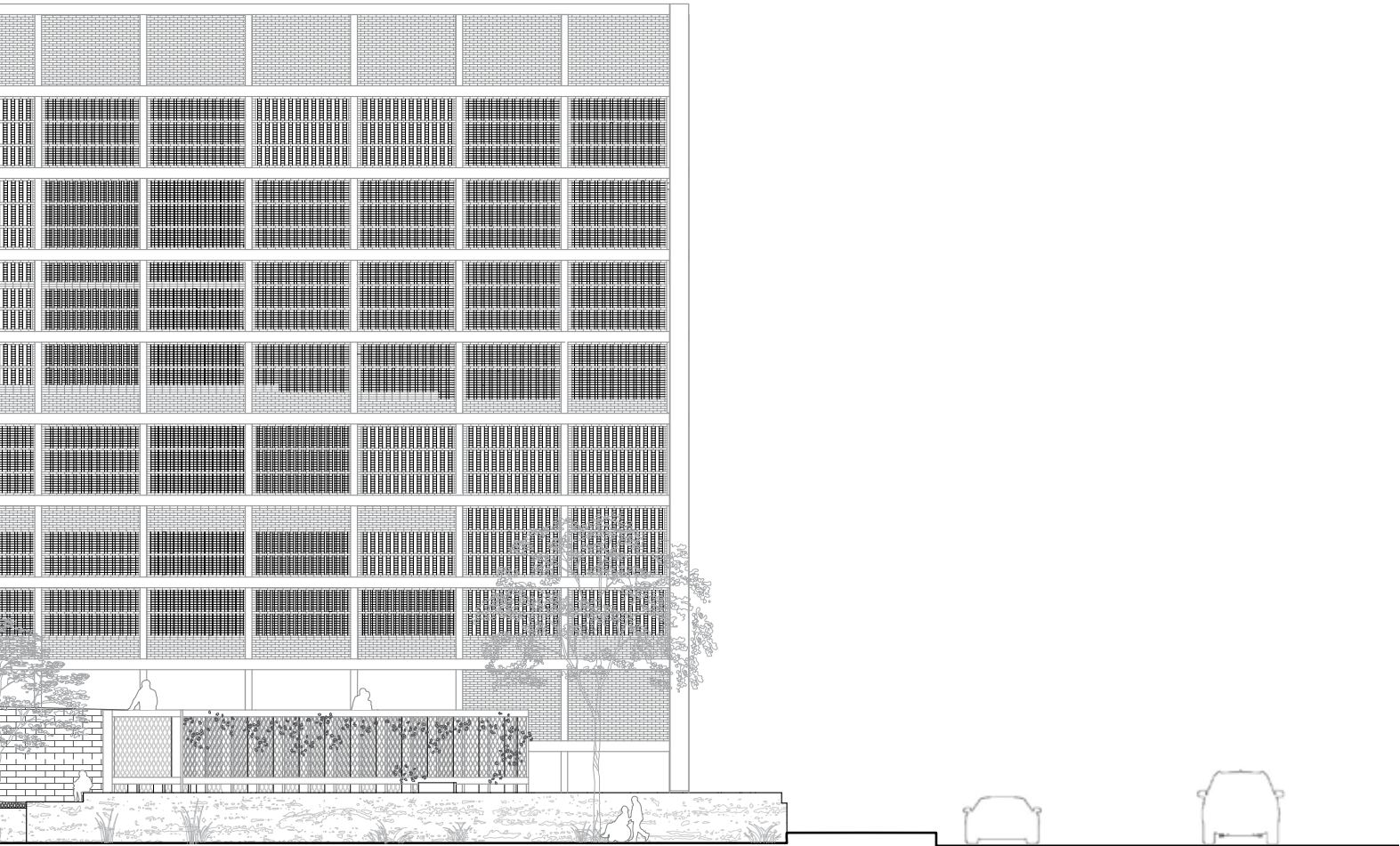
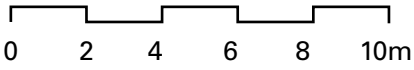
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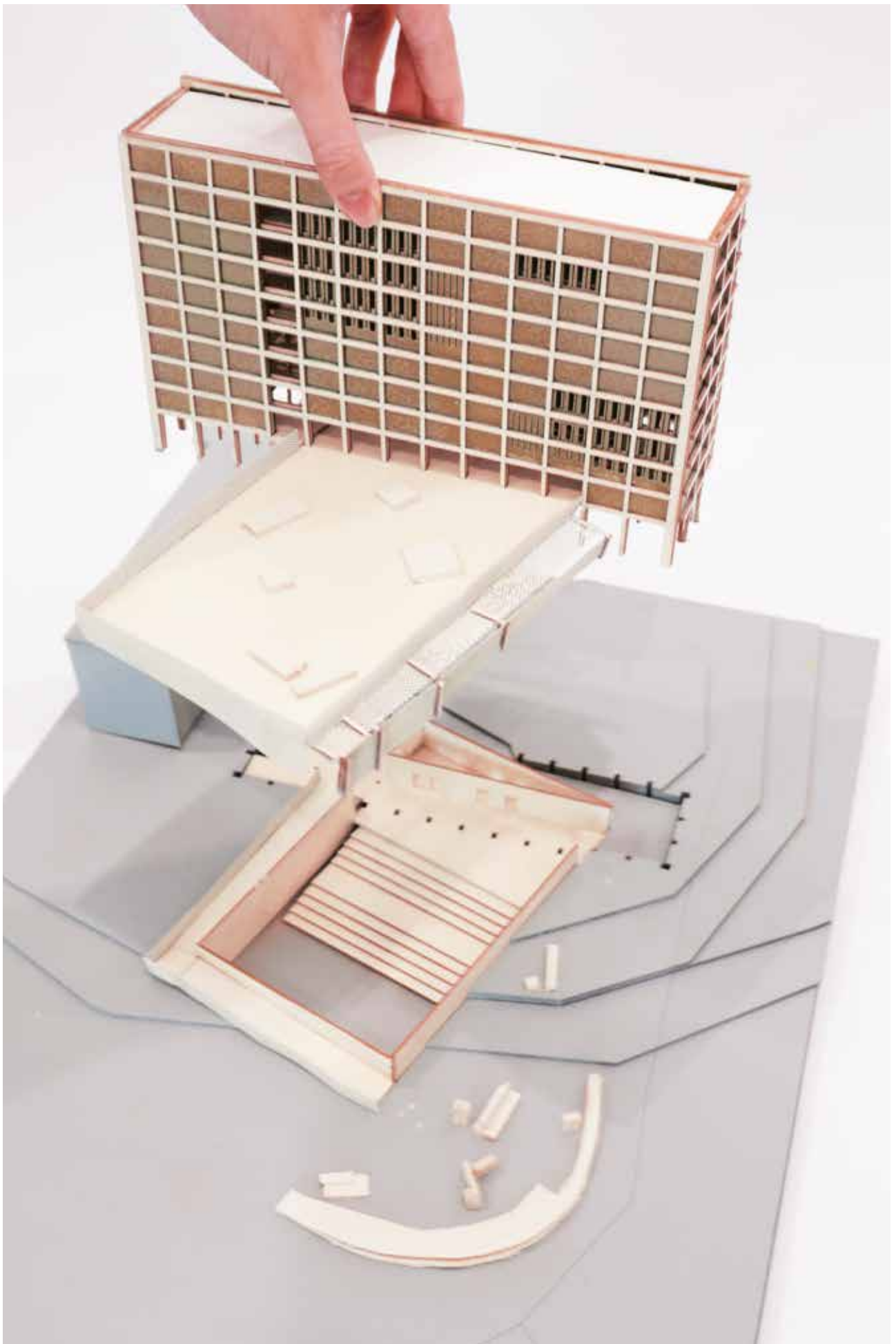
- 1 Pre-function
- 2 Amenity
- 3 Auditorium
- 4 Gallery
- 5 Storytelling Hub / Study Zone
- 7 Individual Reflection Zone
- 8 Flexible Teaching Space/Lecture Hall
- 9 Staff Office Level
- 10 Informal Outdoor Seating/Group Study
- 11 Backstage
- 12 Inner Campus Courtyard (existing)



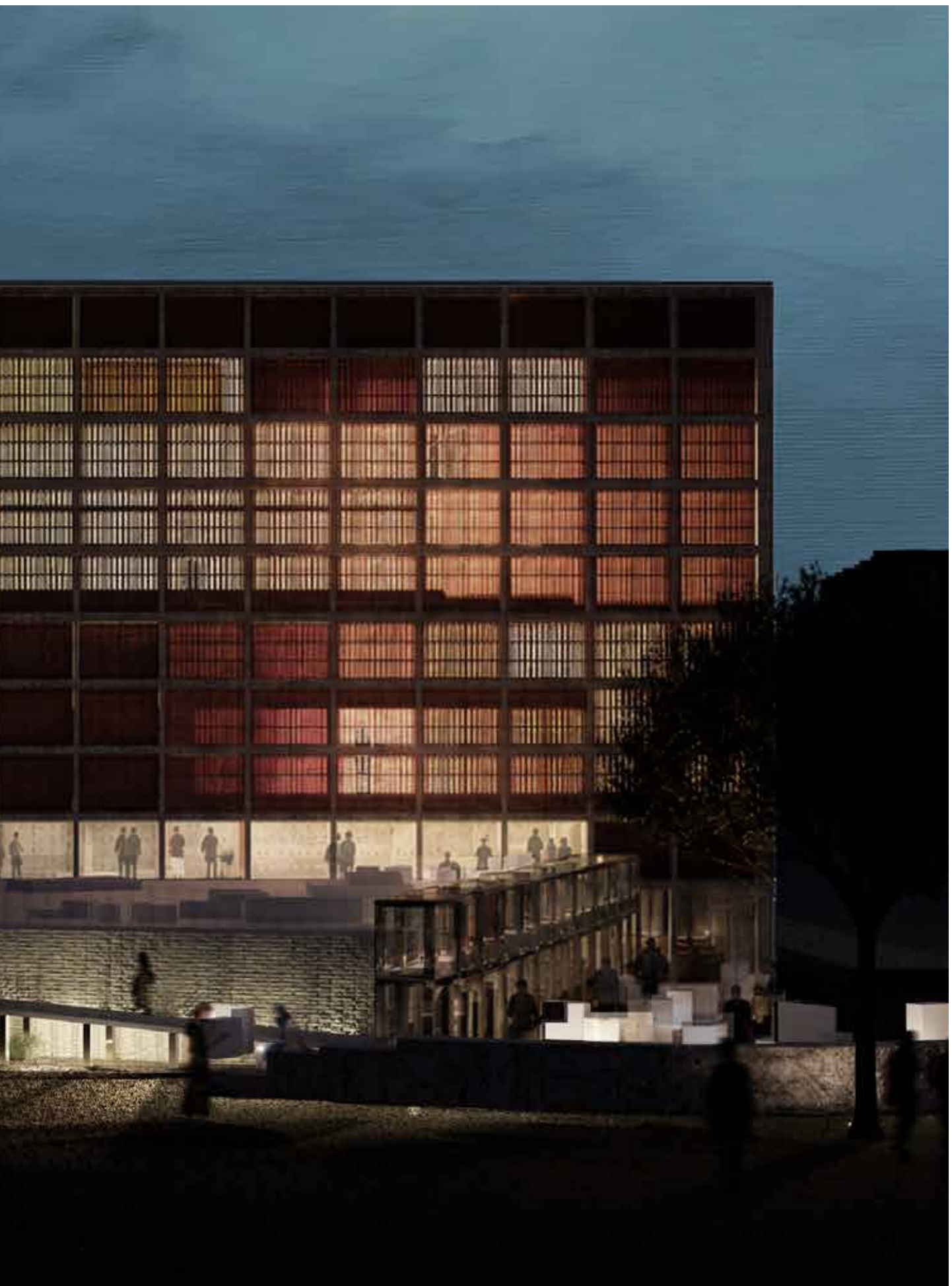
CAMPUS - PARRAMATTA RD. ELEVATION











Indoor Sports Hall +

The project seeks to reactivate North Eveleigh by **addressing the growing need** for recreational and community infrastructure within the increasingly dense inner city. Situated at a **highly accessible** location, the proposal positions basketball not as an isolated sporting facility, but as a catalyst for broader **social and cultural exchange**.

The design works within the precinct's **industrial heritage**, using the existing Clothing Store and railway context as a foundation for a contemporary community destination.

A large-span timber structure allows the basketball courts to remain open and flexible, while the Pratt truss establishes an **efficient structural language** that responds to the industrial character of North Eveleigh. Timber louvers filter daylight and support natural ventilation, mediating the environmental conditions of the courts without compromising play.

The court is designed to transform beyond basketball, accommodating artist markets, exhibitions and community events when not in use.

Ultimately, the project seeks to turn underused precinct land into an adaptable civic infrastructure, where sport, art and community life overlap to support the **ongoing cultural and social renewal** of North Eveleigh.

Located between Redfern and Macdonaldtown stations, the project aims to reactivate the North Eveleigh precinct through a hybrid community infrastructure. The brief develops a rigorous architectural proposition in which structure, sustainability, materiality and environmental performance actively inform an adaptable space for sport, cultural events and everyday community life.



SECTION 2-2

CARRIAGEWORKS

WILSON LANE

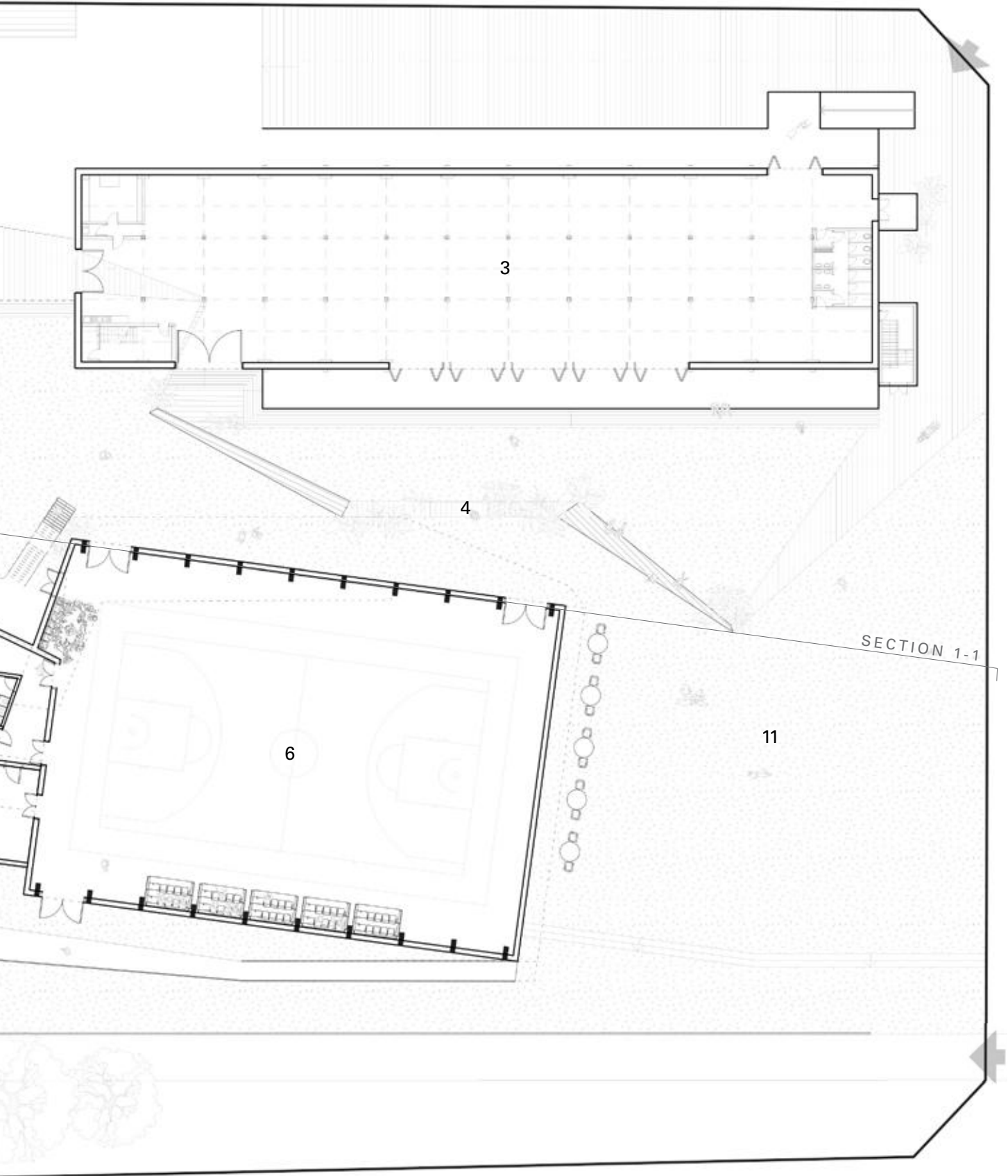
- 1 Cafe
- 2 Elevator
- 3 Clothing Store Exhibition (existing)
- 4 Courtyard with Sculpture
- 5 Multipurpose Court
- 6 Competition Court (sport only)
- 7 Foyer
- 8 Amenities
- 9 Back of House
- 10 Turning Circle
- 11 People's Square (venue for pop-up events)

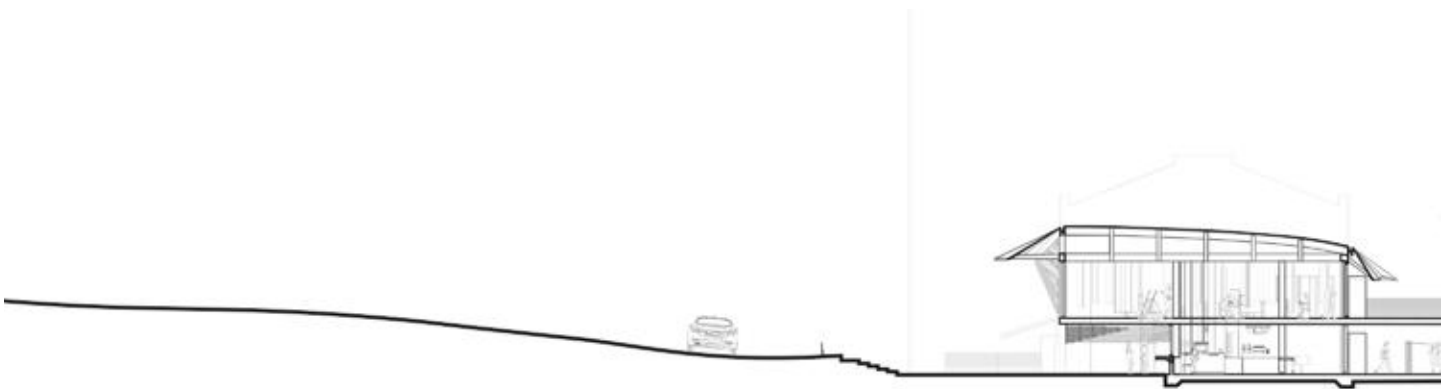
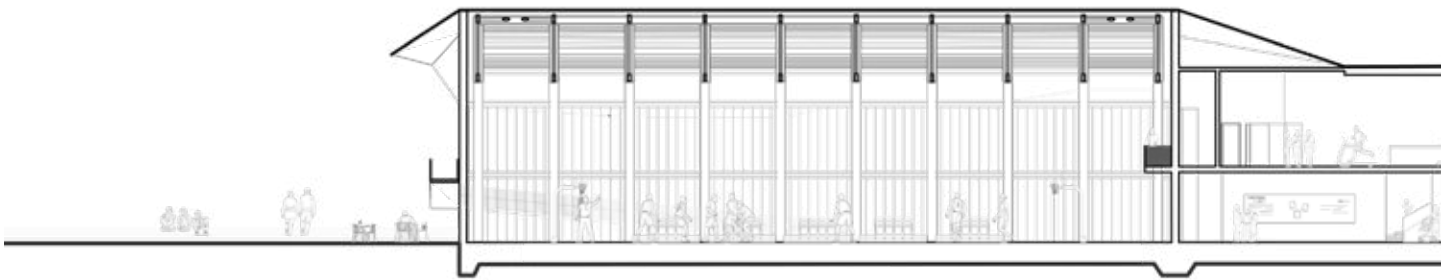


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

W A Y

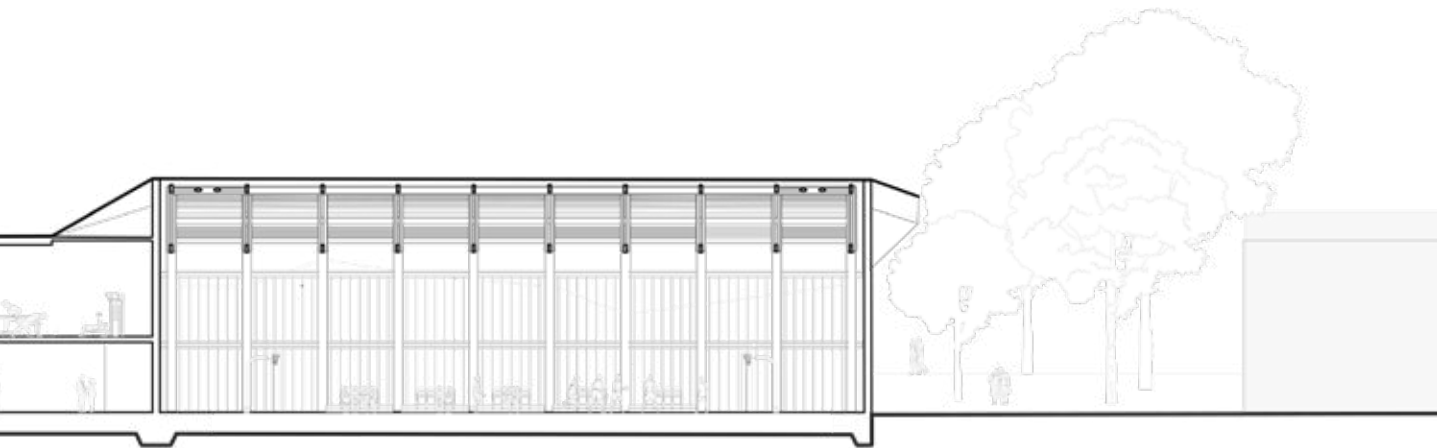
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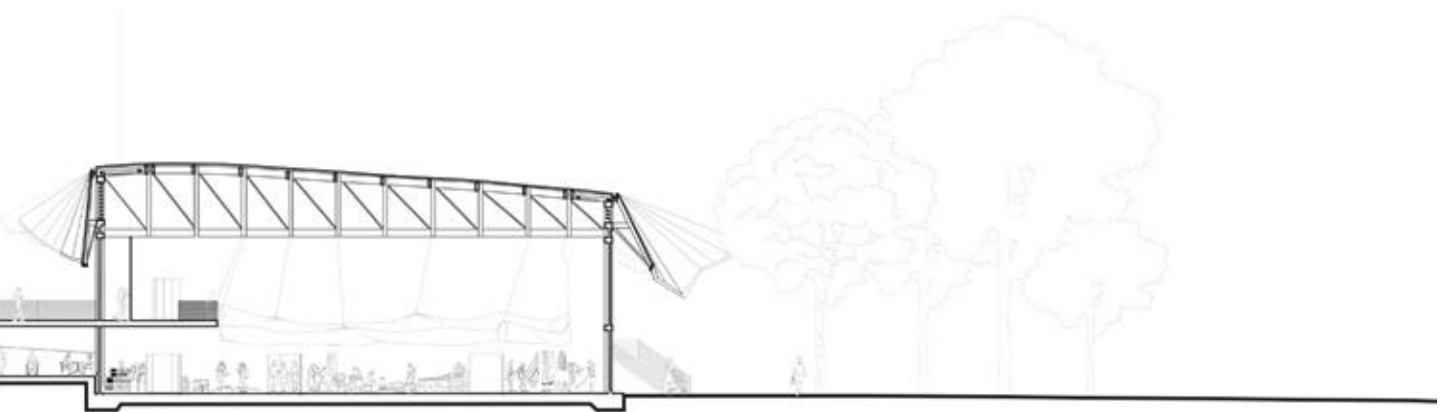
SECTION 1 - 1

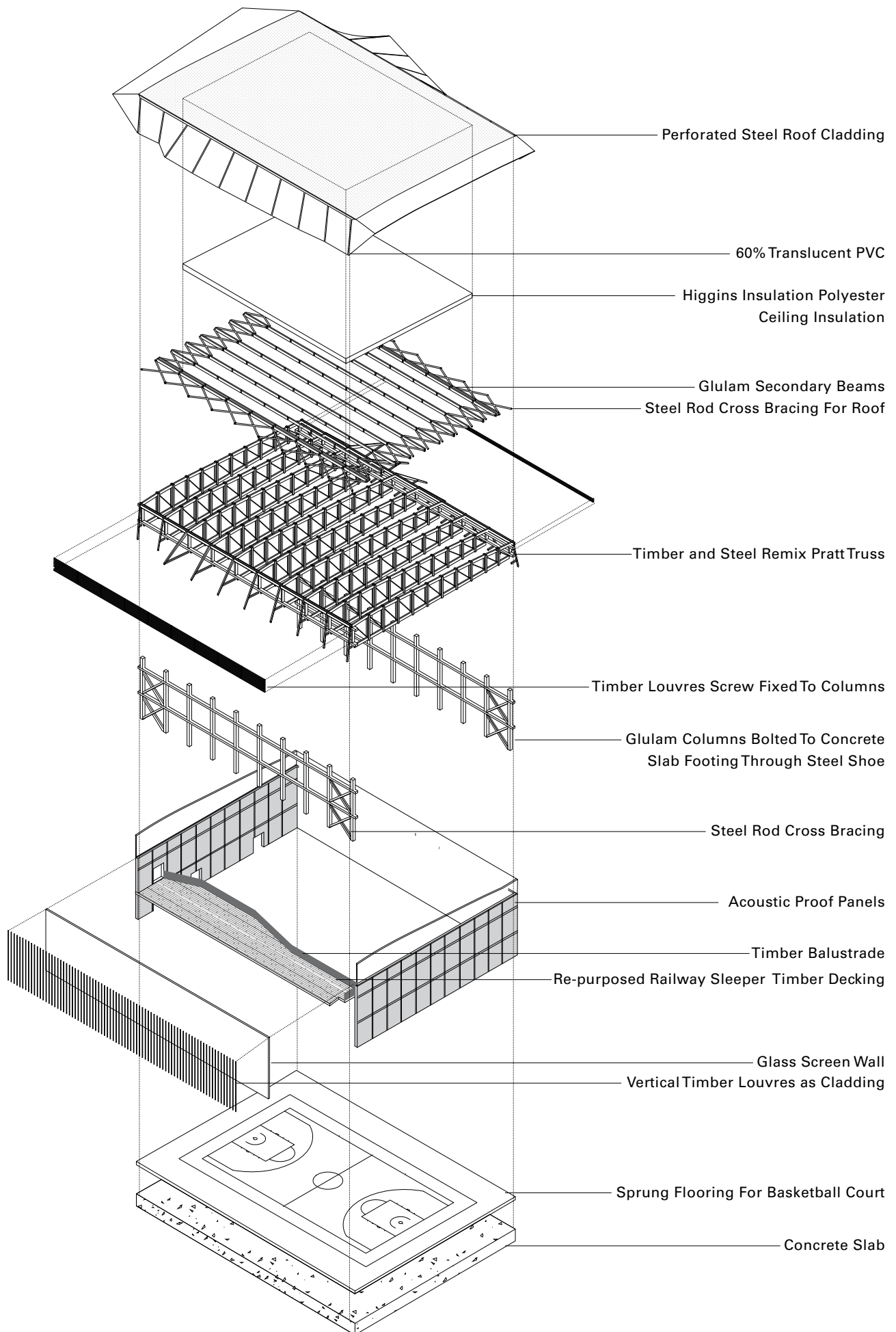
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SECTION 2 - 2

0 4 8 12 16 20m





Perforated Steel Roof Cladding

60% Translucent PVC

Higgins Insulation Polyester
Ceiling Insulation

Glulam Secondary Beams
Steel Rod Cross Bracing For Roof

Timber and Steel Remix Pratt Truss

Timber Louvres Screw Fixed To Columns

Glulam Columns Bolted To Concrete
Slab Footing Through Steel Shoe

Steel Rod Cross Bracing

Acoustic Proof Panels

Timber Balustrade

Re-purposed Railway Sleeper Timber Decking

Glass Screen Wall

Vertical Timber Louvres as Cladding

Sprung Flooring For Basketball Court

Concrete Slab

MULTIPURPOSE COURT



The multipurpose court adapts between everyday basketball and weekend markets, exhibitions and community events. This flexible use activates the precinct by bringing diverse groups together.

Missing Middle - Affordable Housing Prototypes

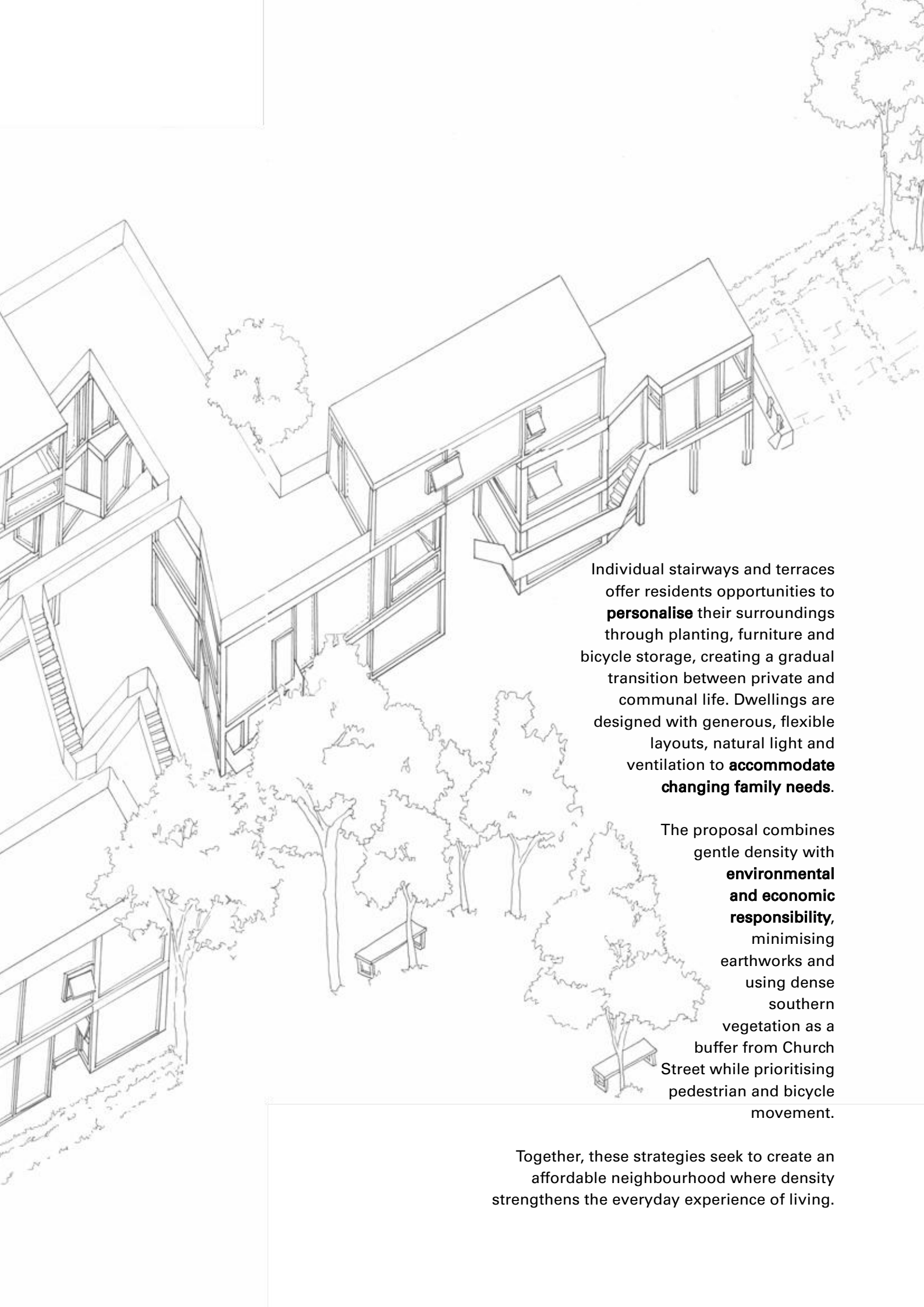
The proposal targets less affluent young families, recognising the potential for family expansion, diverse lifestyles, and multi-generational living. Rather than treating affordability as a reduction of space or amenity, the project explores how shared environments can provide **additional social and functional value** beyond the individual dwelling.

Drawing from B.V. Doshi's Aranya Low-Cost Housing, circulation is reimagined as an extension of everyday life. Centralised stairs connect private dwellings to shared decks, while terraces and activity pockets create **informal spaces for encounters**, play and community interaction.

The project explores alternative approaches to affordable housing in Sydney, challenging conventional housing models and the assumptions of the nuclear family. The site sits within the Ryde Station Transit-Oriented Development precinct, yet surrounding development has left it unable to achieve the intended density. The proposal therefore investigates the "missing middle" through a more adaptable and community-oriented housing model, responding to changing household structures while seeking to balance density, affordability, sustainability and quality of living.

Ryde, Sydney
August - November, 2024
Supervised by Jamileh Jahangiri

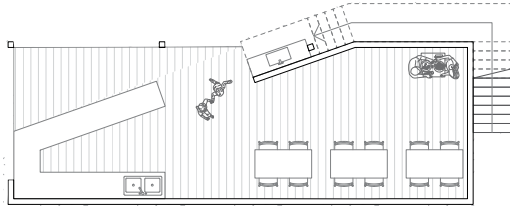




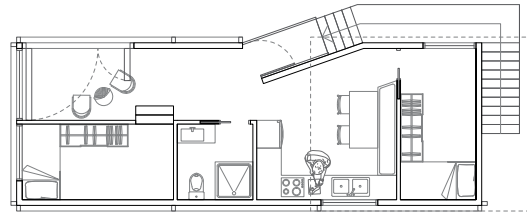
Individual stairways and terraces offer residents opportunities to **personalise** their surroundings through planting, furniture and bicycle storage, creating a gradual transition between private and communal life. Dwellings are designed with generous, flexible layouts, natural light and ventilation to **accommodate changing family needs**.

The proposal combines gentle density with **environmental and economic responsibility**, minimising earthworks and using dense southern vegetation as a buffer from Church Street while prioritising pedestrian and bicycle movement.

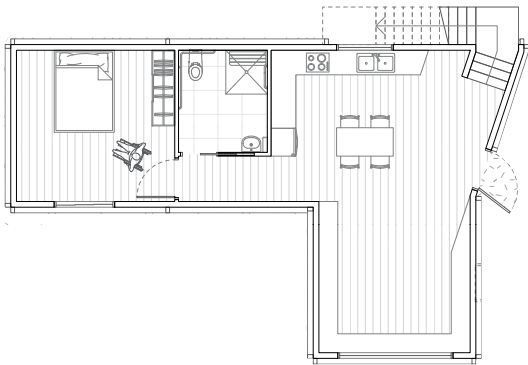
Together, these strategies seek to create an affordable neighbourhood where density strengthens the everyday experience of living.



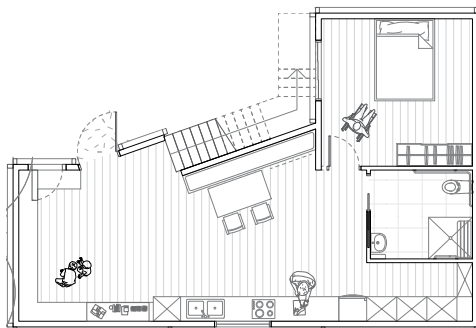
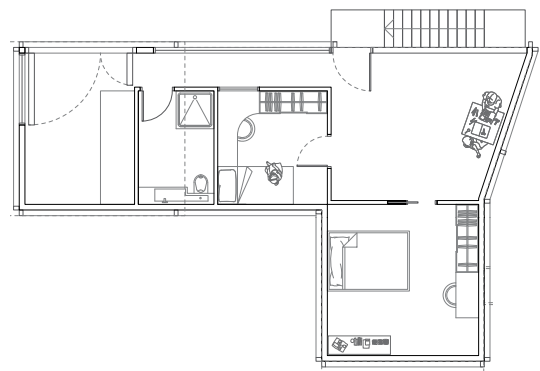
Shared Lounge (GF)



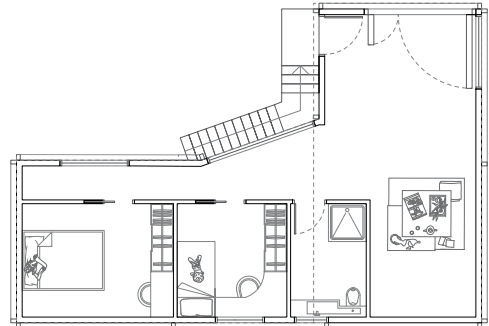
2 Bed 1 Bath (1F)



2 Bed 2 Bath (Accessible)

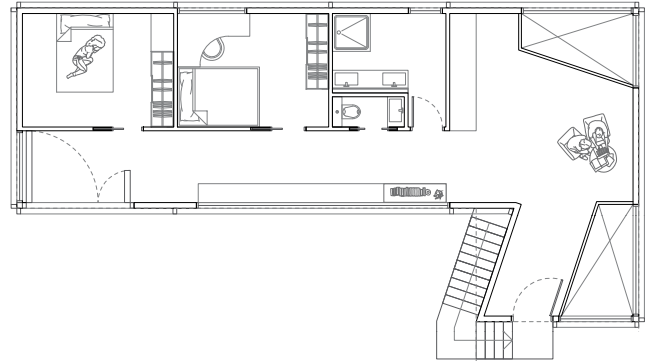
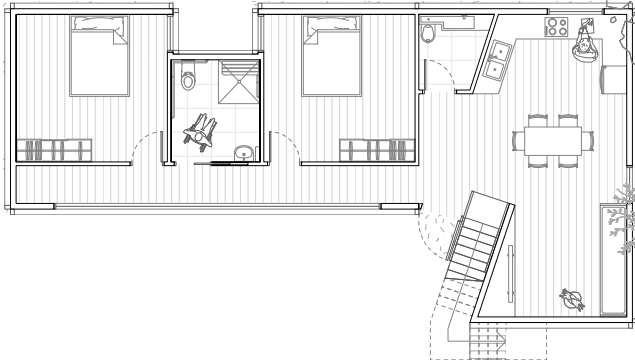


3 Bed 2 Bath (Accessible)

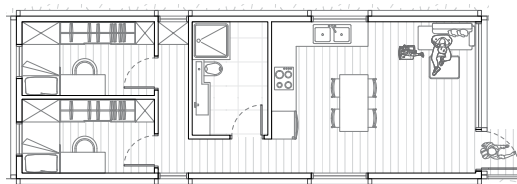


RESIDENTIAL FLOOR (UPPER) PROTOTYPES

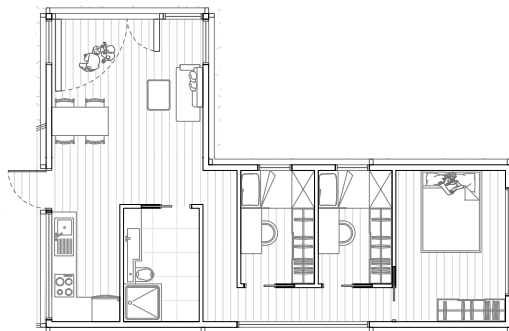
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4 Bed 3 Bath (Accessible)



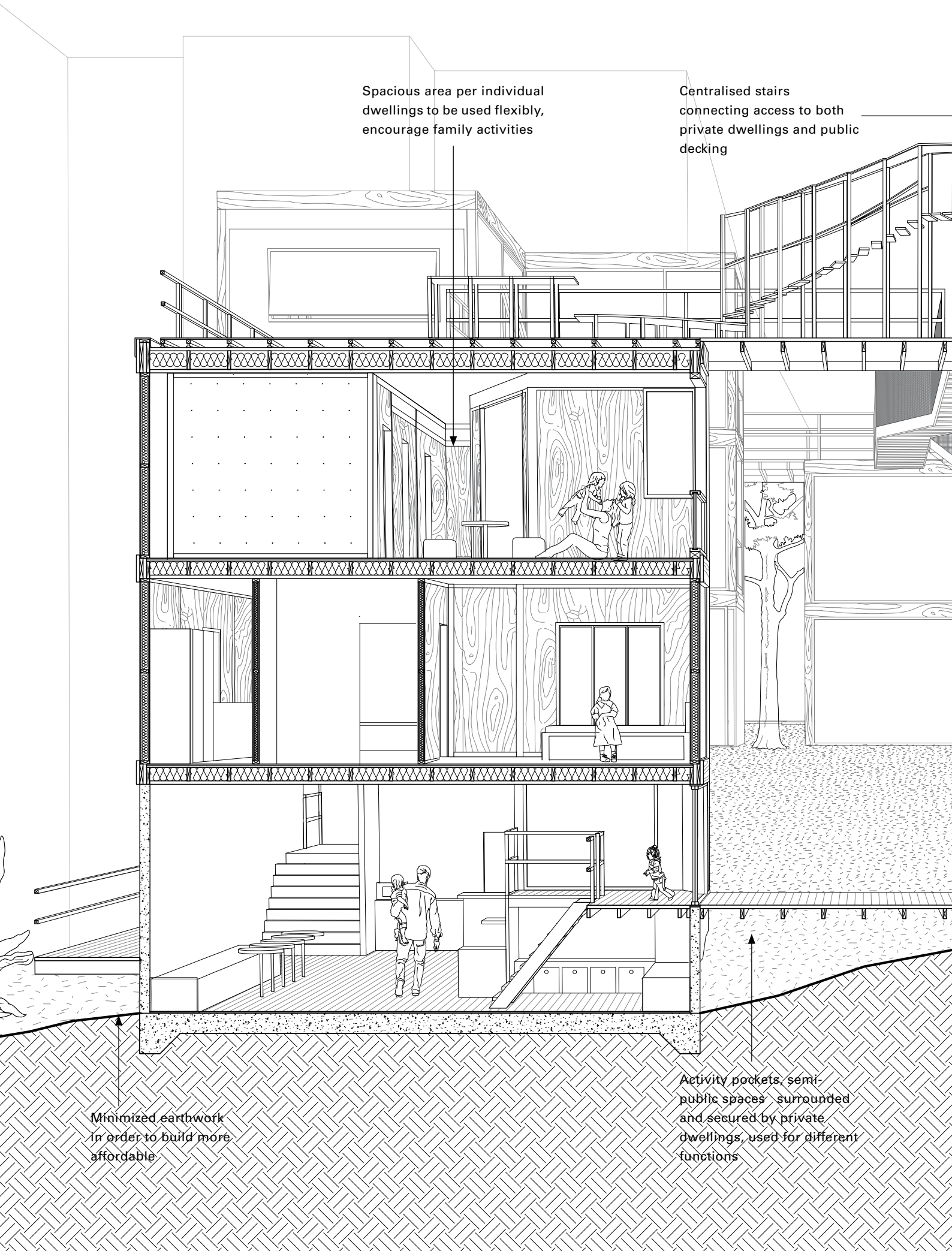
2 Bed 1 Bath (1F)



3 Bed 1 Bath (1F)

Spacious area per individual dwellings to be used flexibly, encourage family activities

Centralised stairs connecting access to both private dwellings and public decking



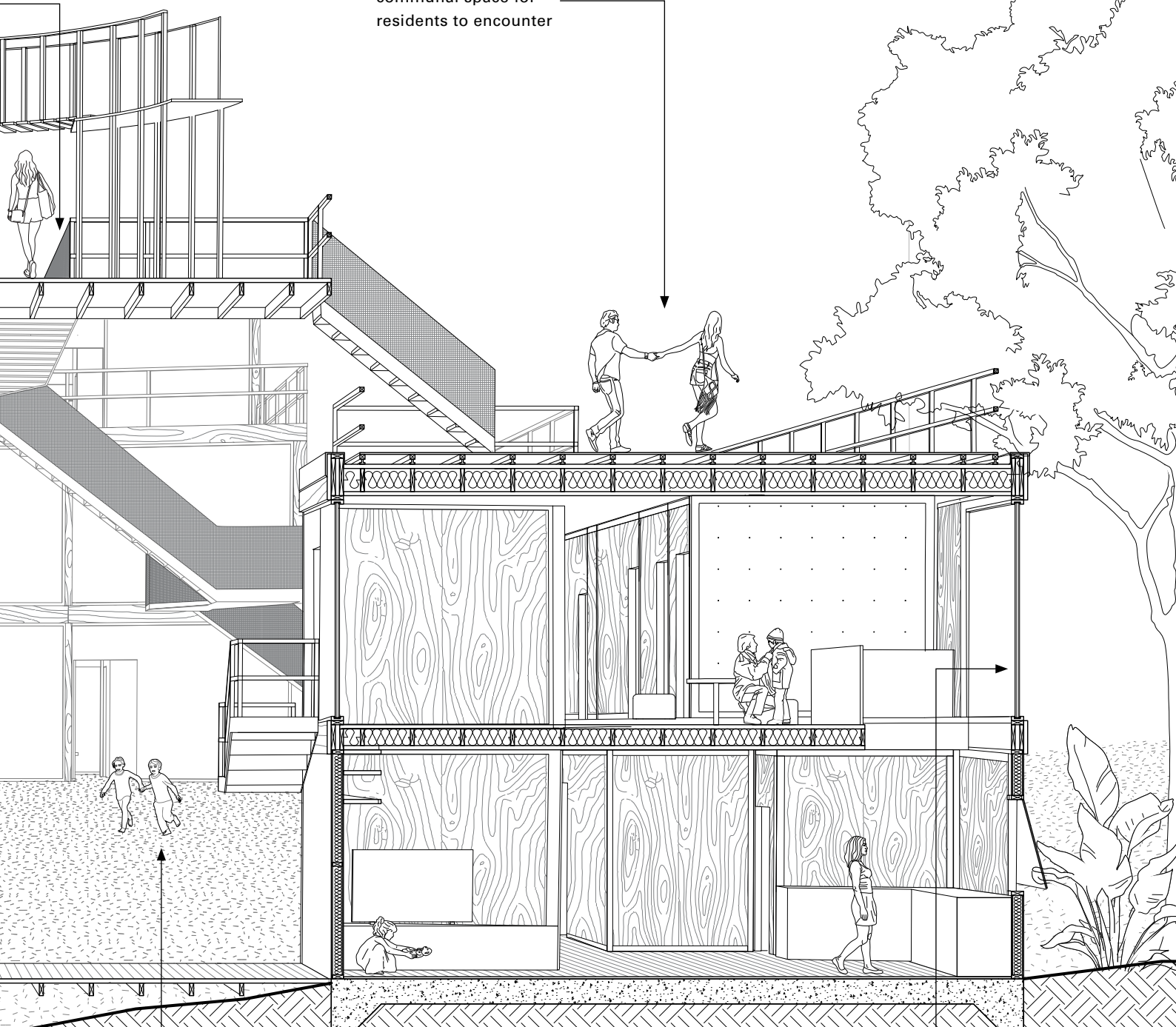
Minimized earthwork in order to build more affordable

Activity pockets, semi-public spaces surrounded and secured by private dwellings, used for different functions

SECTIONAL PERSPECTIVE

0 1 2 3 4 5m

Stairs and terrace as
communal space for
residents to encounter



Create a safe, inclusive and
natural community for both
the residents and the local
neighbourhood

Maximize natural lighting
and ventilation for
individual dwellings

COMMUNITY LIBRARY



A shared third space supporting work, study, reading and social connection, extending beyond home and bringing neighbours together.

INTERIOR



Adaptable children's bedrooms with partition allow flexible use in a growing family, opening for shared play and closing for privacy, while low maintenance pegboards to provide storage and customization.

Semi-Detached House Alternation Proposal

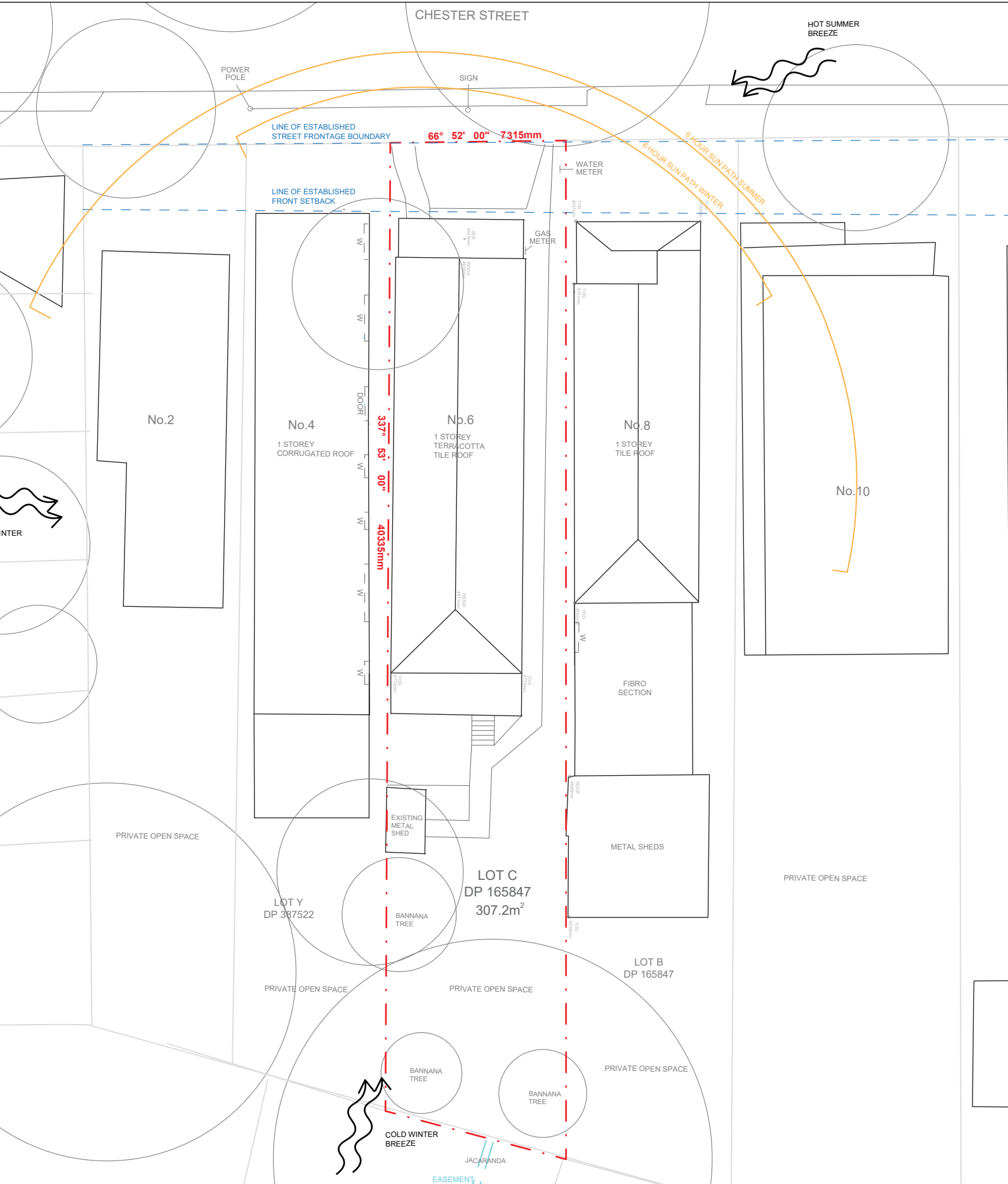
The proposed **alterations and additions** will predominantly concern the rear portion of the property. This includes the expansion of the built area on the first floor to include a second and a third bedroom/study, amenities and a balcony, and to accommodate head clearance for the stairs connecting the ground level to the first level.

The primary aim of this proposal is to reinstate the principal street frontage of the terrace house that faces Chester Street, with the consideration that the alterations and additions would respect the **4.0 Planning Controls + Assessment**. By incorporating **environmentally sustainable** enhancements and **passive design** strategies, the proposal seeks to **elevate the living qualities** of the existing dwelling.

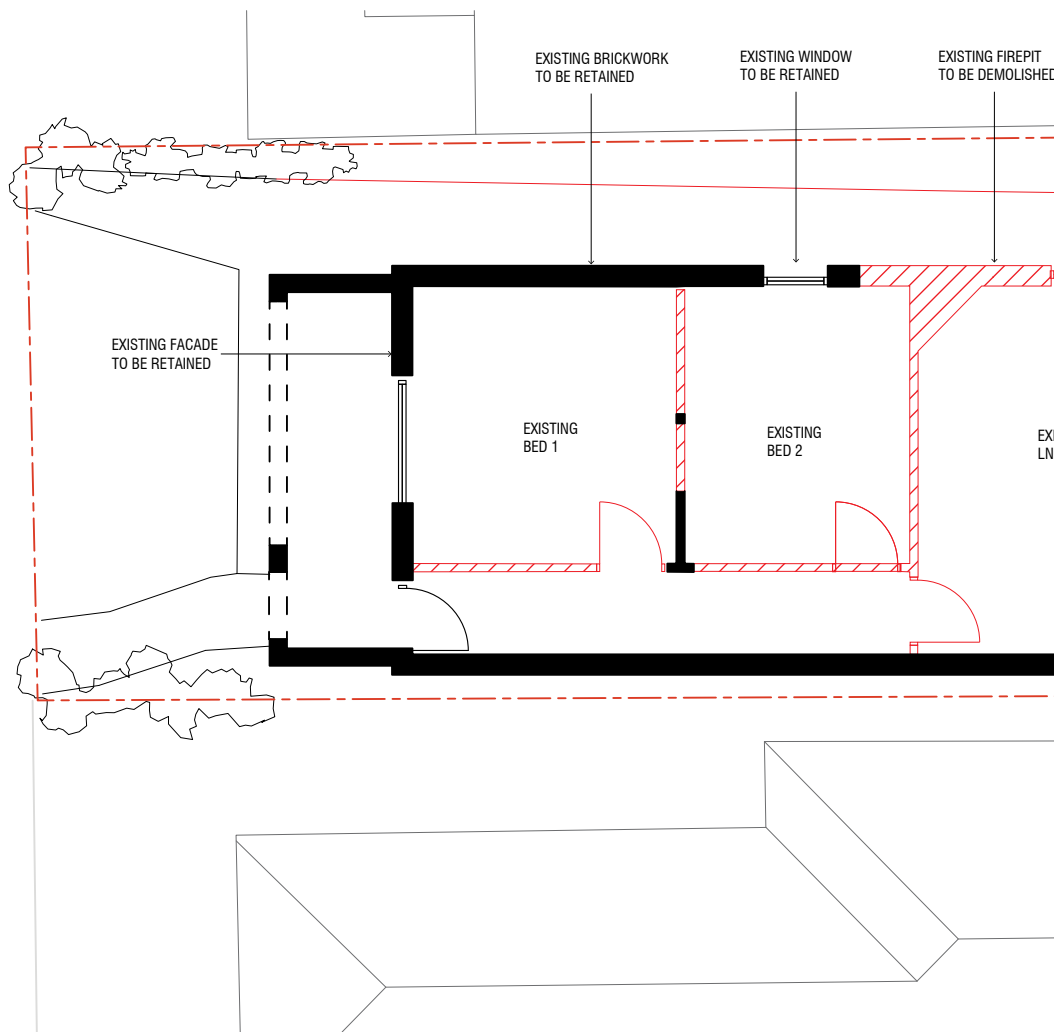
The proposed two-storey dwelling has been designed through careful consideration of the opportunities and limitations presented by the site, and the compliance to the objectives of the Inner West Council.

It is considered that the design **responds appropriately to its site**. The proposal seeks to preserve the **visual consistency** of the affiliated dwellings and harmonize with the broader context of Petersham.

The proposed project is prepared for submission of Development Application (DA) under a bachelor professional practice studio, and involves alterations and additions to an existing Victorian-style house located in a quiet street. The property currently stands as a one-storey semi-detached dwelling, with a one-storey addition at the rear that includes kitchen, laundry, amenities and bedrooms. The site is located on Chester Street, Petersham, it is based off a real renovation brief but the client is imaginary.



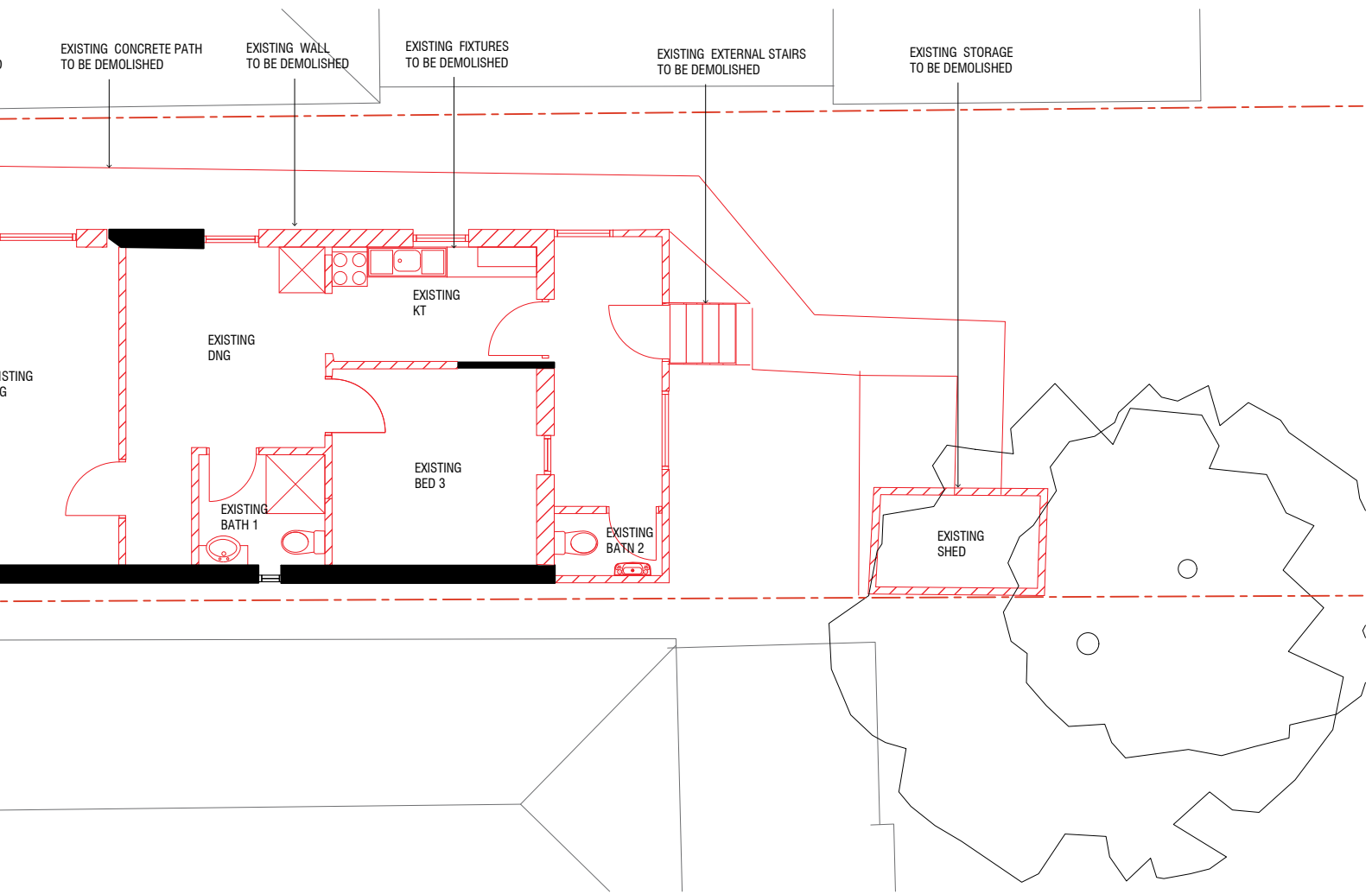
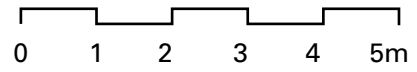
CHESTER ST



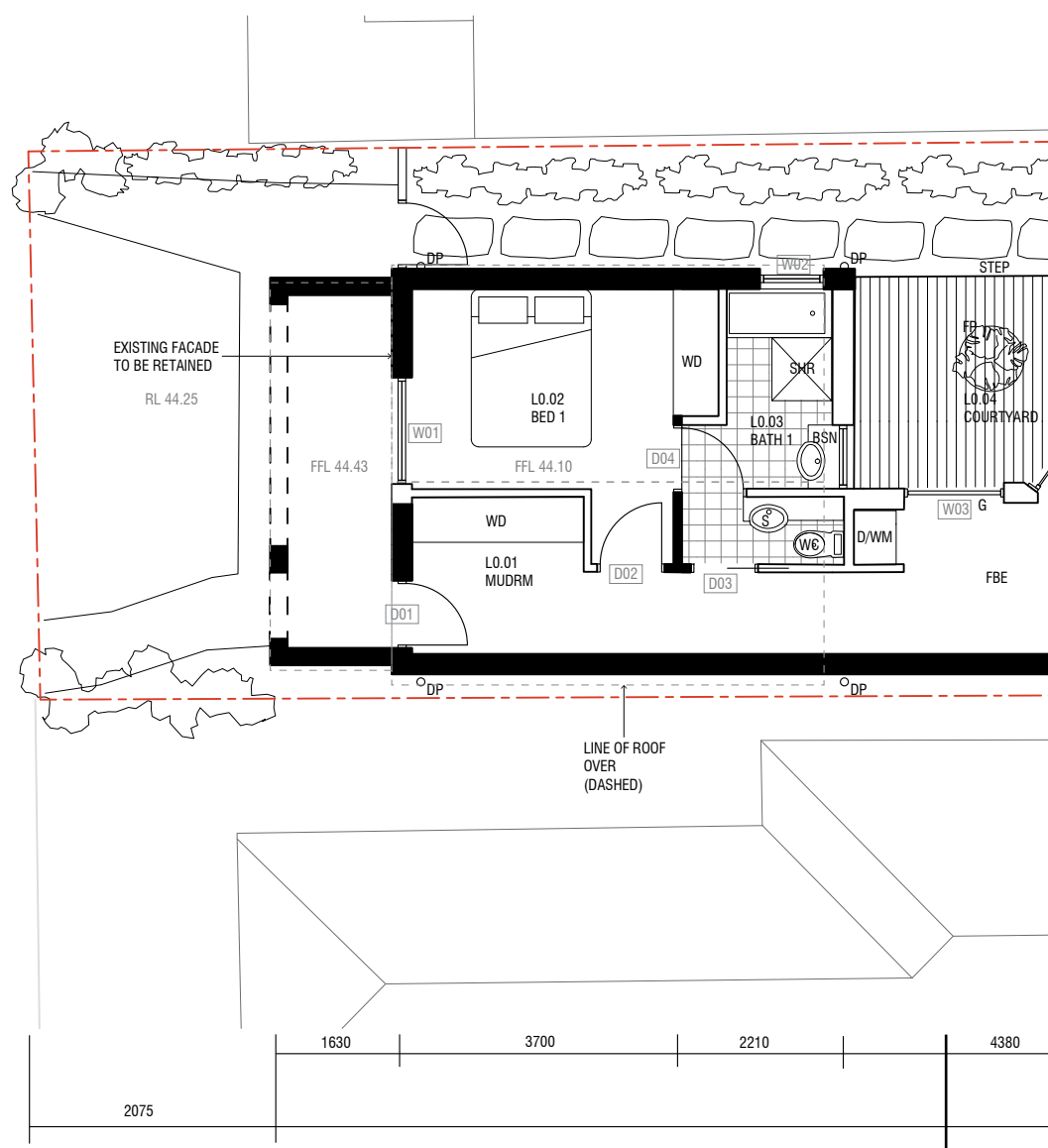
Notes:

- existing
- demolition

PROPOSED DEMOLITION PLAN



CHESTER ST



Notes:

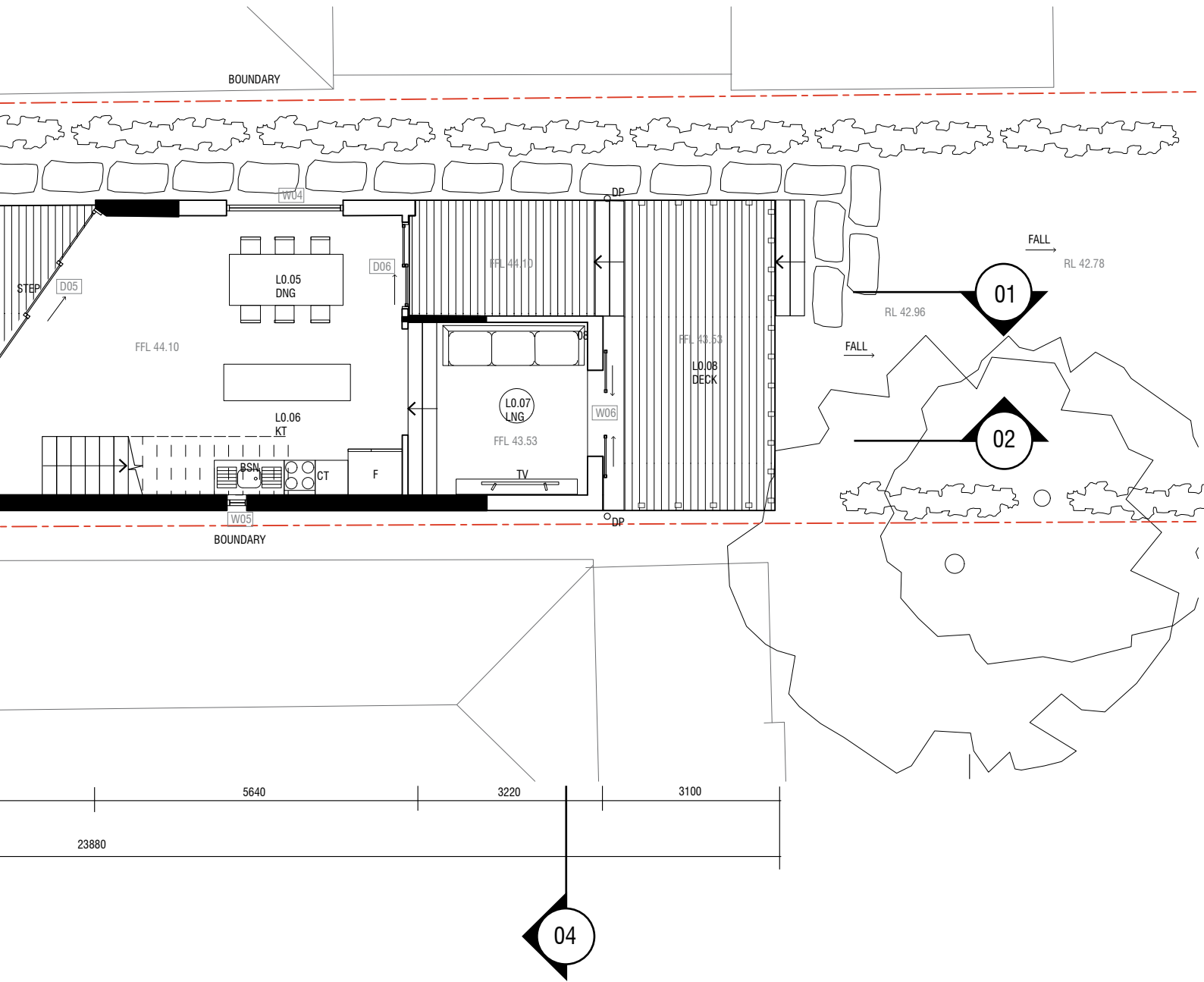
- BSN BASIN
- BK BRICK/BRICKWORK
- CT COOKTOP
- D DRYER
- DP DOWNPIPE
- F FRIDGE

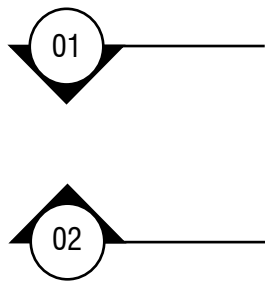
- FB FLOORBOARDS
- FBE FLOORBOARDS EXISTING
- FFL FINISHED FLOOR LEVEL
- FR FIREPIT
- G GLAZING
- M MIRROR
- RL RELATIVE LEVEL

- S SINK
- SHR SHOWER
- ST STEEL CLADDING
- TV TELEVISION
- WC TOLIET
- WD WARDROBE
- WM WASHING MACHINE

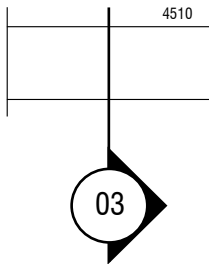
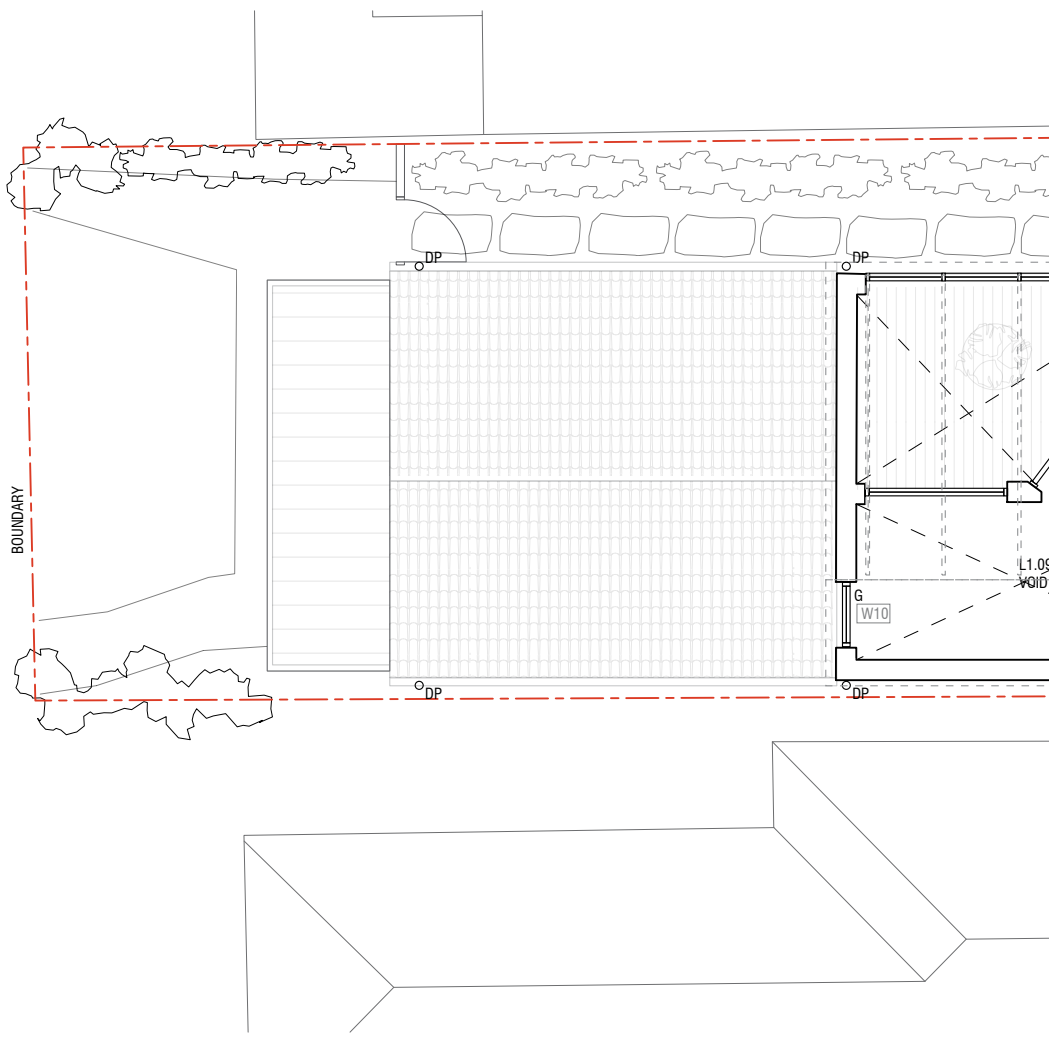
- existing
- proposed

PROPOSED GROUND FLOOR PLAN





CHESTER ST



Notes:

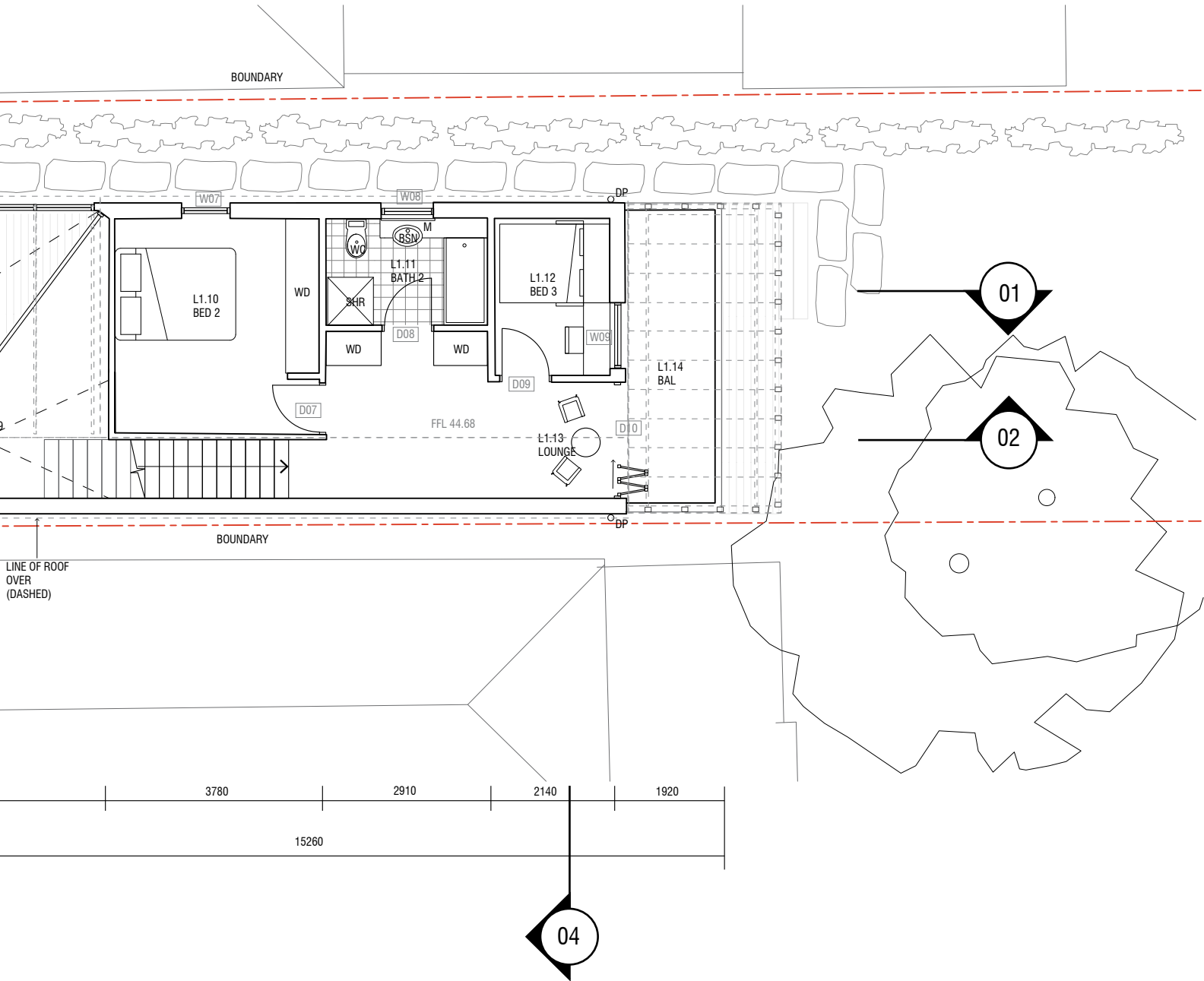
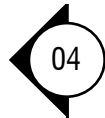
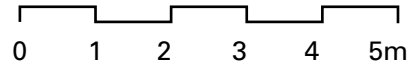
BSN BASIN
BK BRICK/BRICKWORK
CT COOKTOP
D DRYER
DP DOWNPIPE
F FRIDGE

FB FLOORBOARDS
FBE FLOORBOARDS EXISTING
FFL FINISHED FLOOR LEVEL
FR FIREPIT
G GLAZING
M MIRROR
RL RELATIVE LEVEL

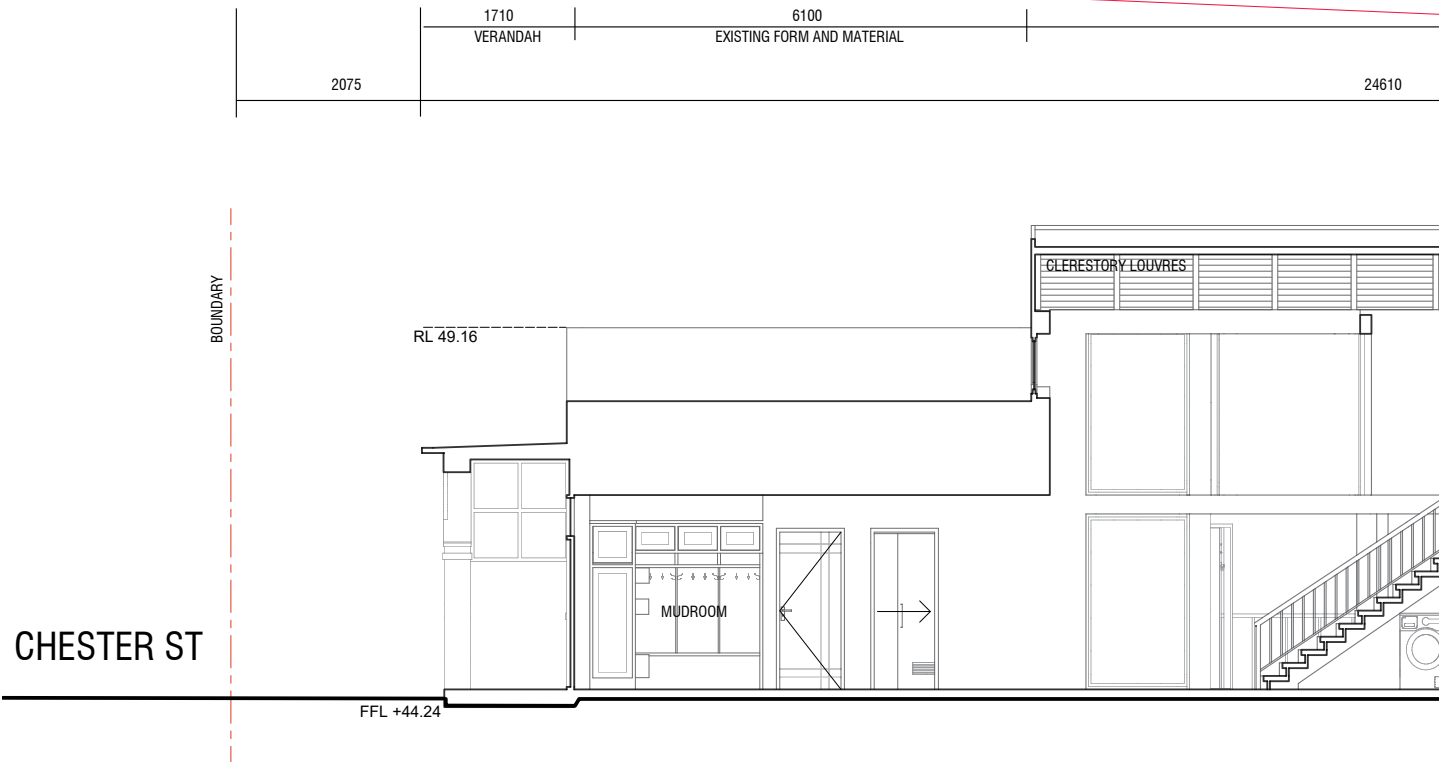
S SINK
SHR SHOWER
ST STEEL CLADDING
TV TELEVISION
WC TOLIET
WD WARDROBE
WM WASHING MACHINE

■ existing
□ proposed

PROPOSED FIRST FLOOR PLAN

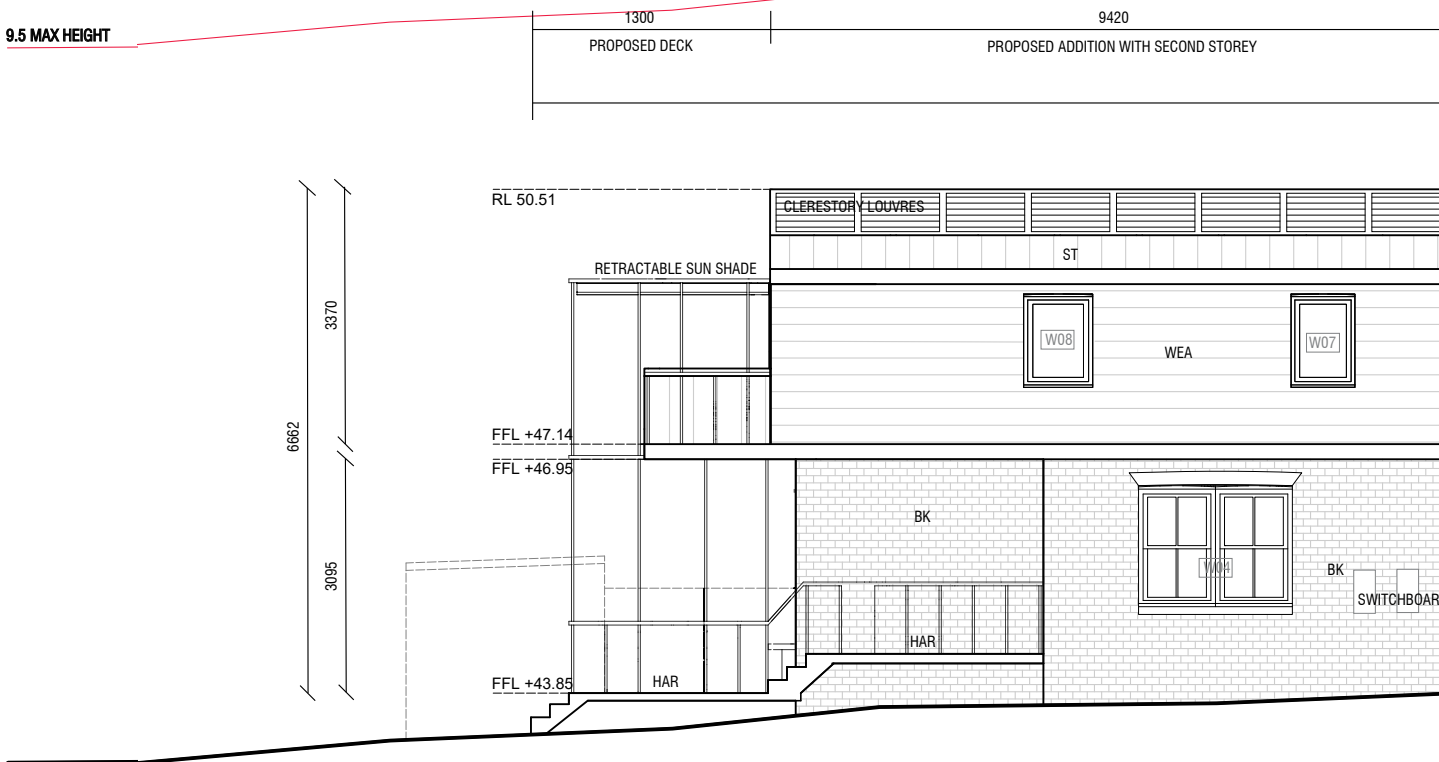


9.5 MAX HEIGHT

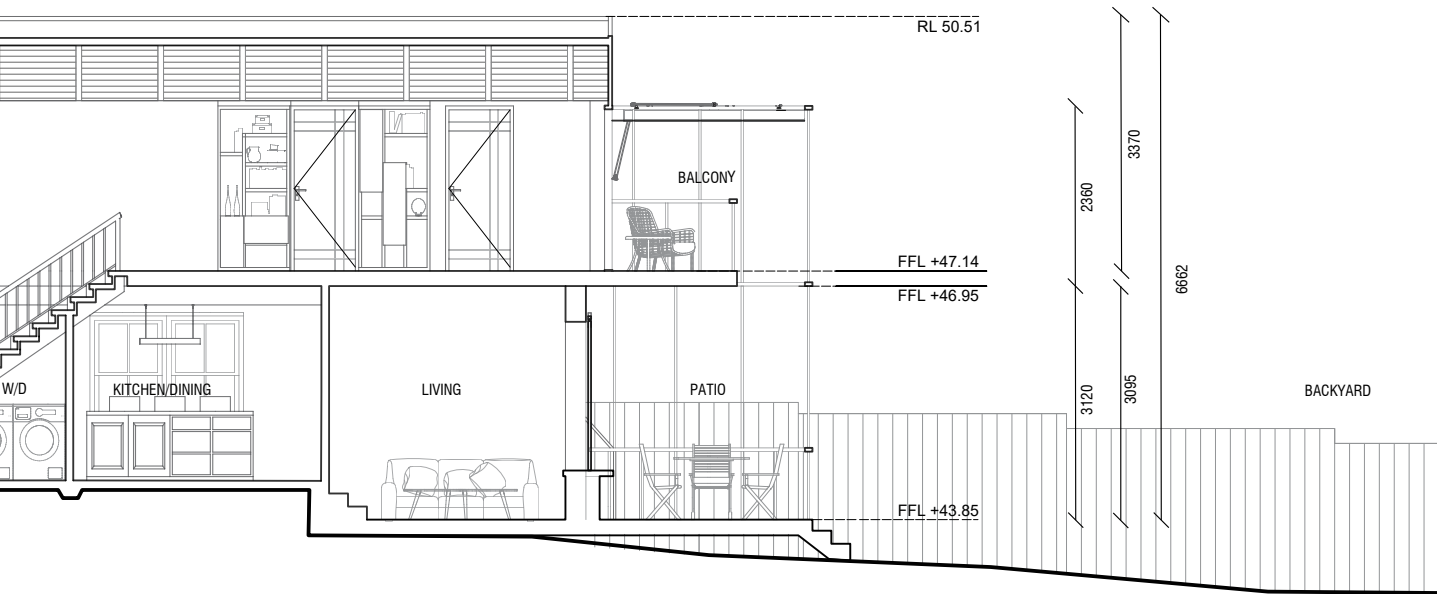
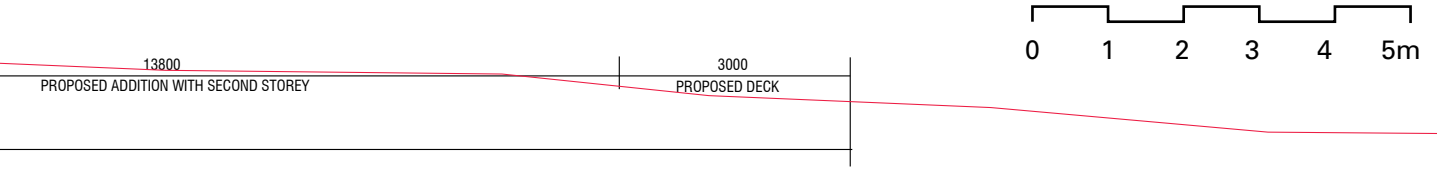


- BK Traditional Load-bearing Brickwork
- TER Traditional Terracotta Tile Roof
- ST Colorbond® Steel Roof Sheeting
- HAR Australian Hardwood
- WEA James Hardie Linea Weatherboard
- POL Suntuf Solarsmart Polycarbonate Corrugated Roofing

9.5 MAX HEIGHT



PROPOSED SECTION 2 - 2



PROPOSED EAST ELEVATION

