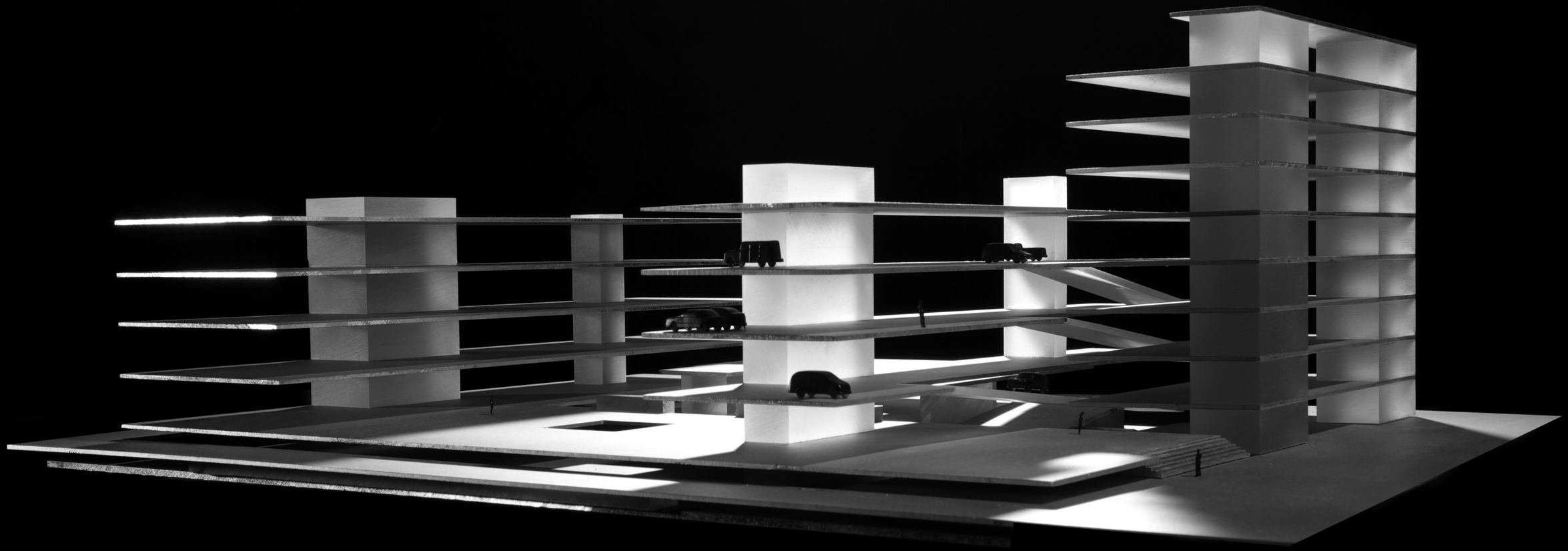
RSP

ONE BUILDING FOR THE RIETVELD ACADEMY & THE SANDBERG INSTITUTE

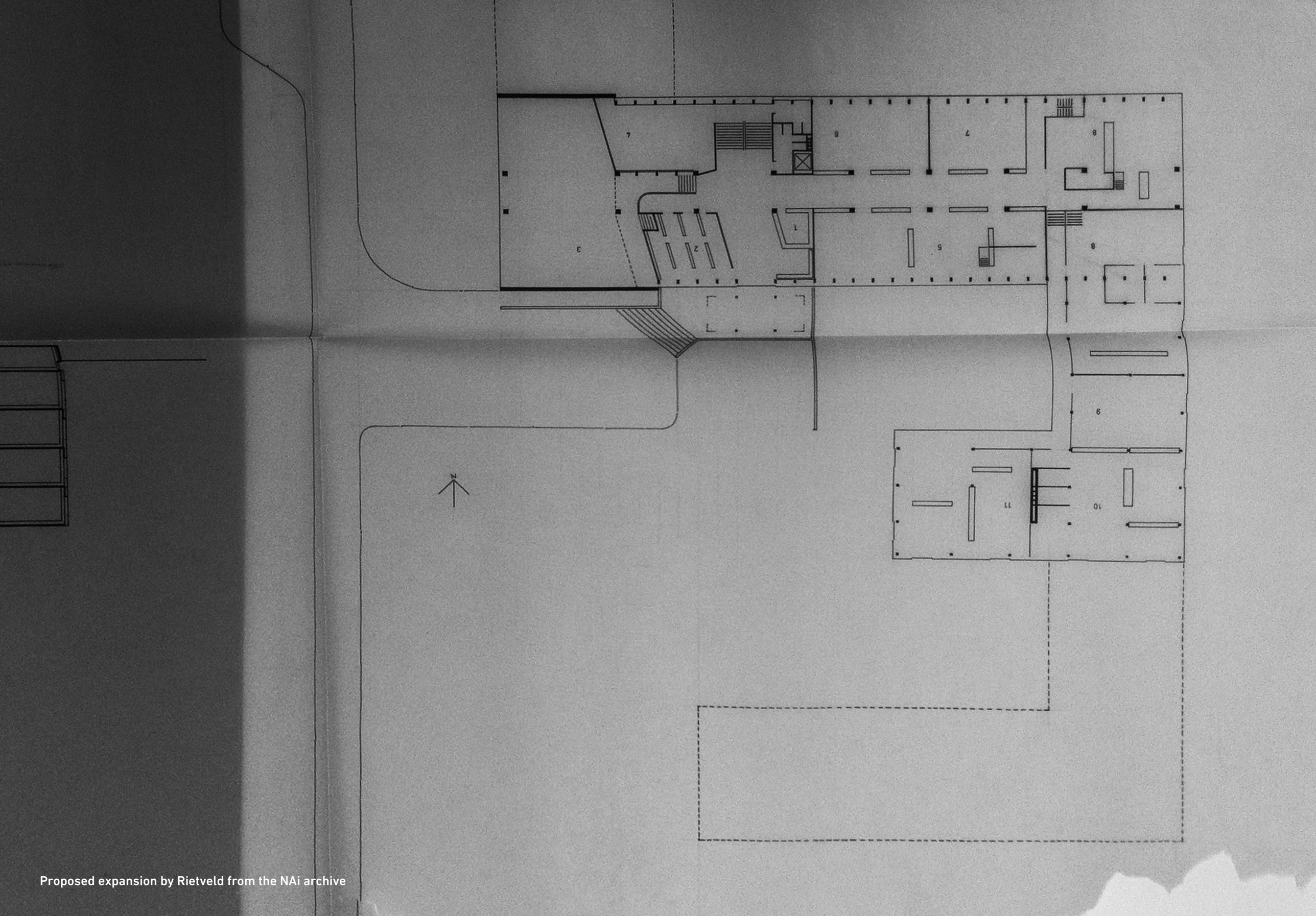
BAS VAN BEEK / JEROEN KRAMER / JASPER DE HAAN



RSP INTRODUCTION

Rietveld Sandberg Parking

An extraordinary workspace that is also a parking garage. A programmatically undetermined plan-libre that fits the present academic ambitions and facilitates future needs. Hollywood teaches us that spaces used to park cars are way more exciting, intriguing and challenging than spaces particularly designed for students and teachers. By using the length, height and grid of the old Rietveld building and the width of the Benthem & Crouwel building our proposal will merge the existing edifices into one total Rietveld/Sandberg/Parking building. Architecturally specific and programmatically free. As the X mansion: the RSP will become the school for gifted youngsters, the X-men.



Proposed expansion by Rietveld from the NAi archive

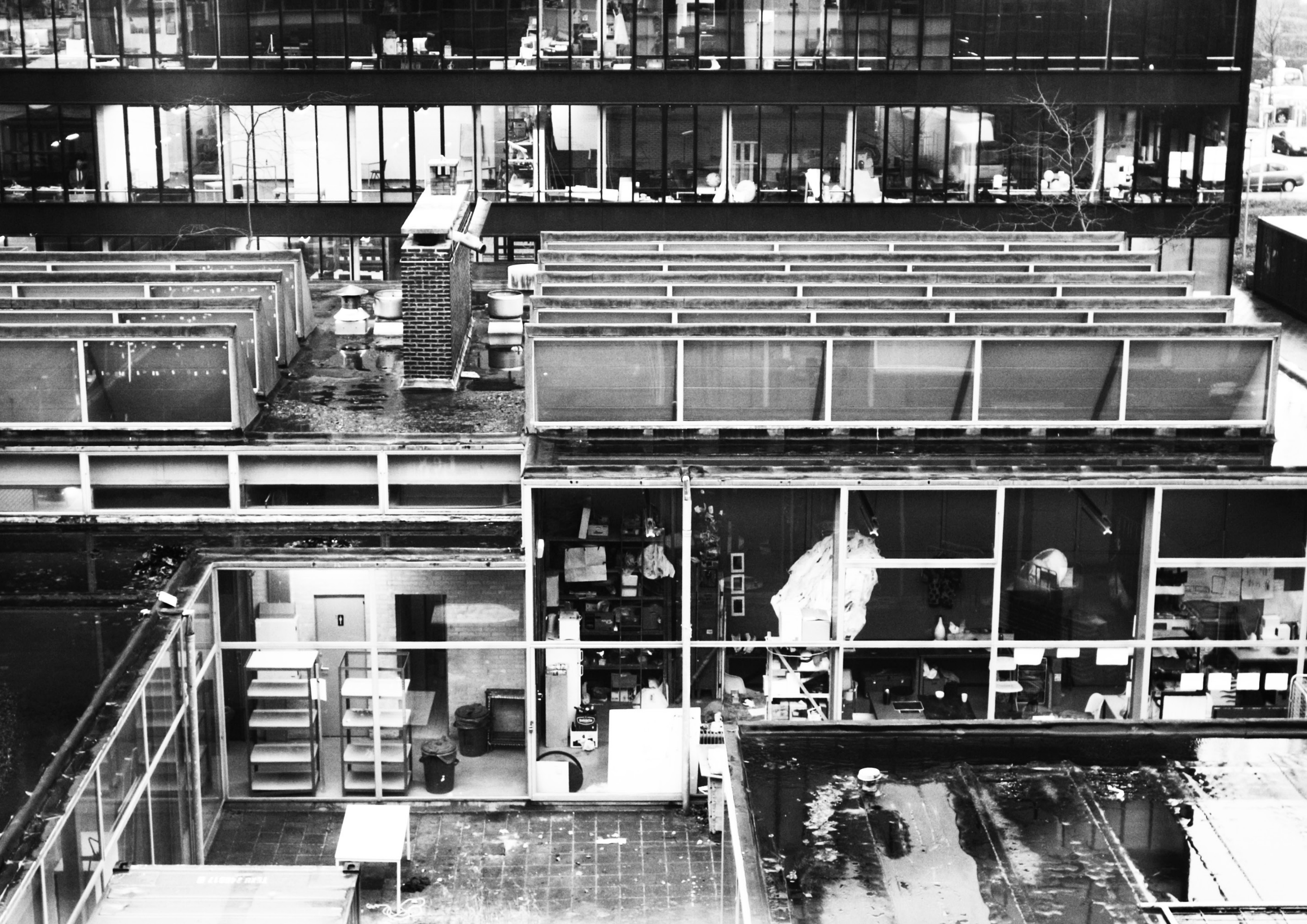
ONE BUILDING

RSP THE ARCHITECTURE

Urban plan

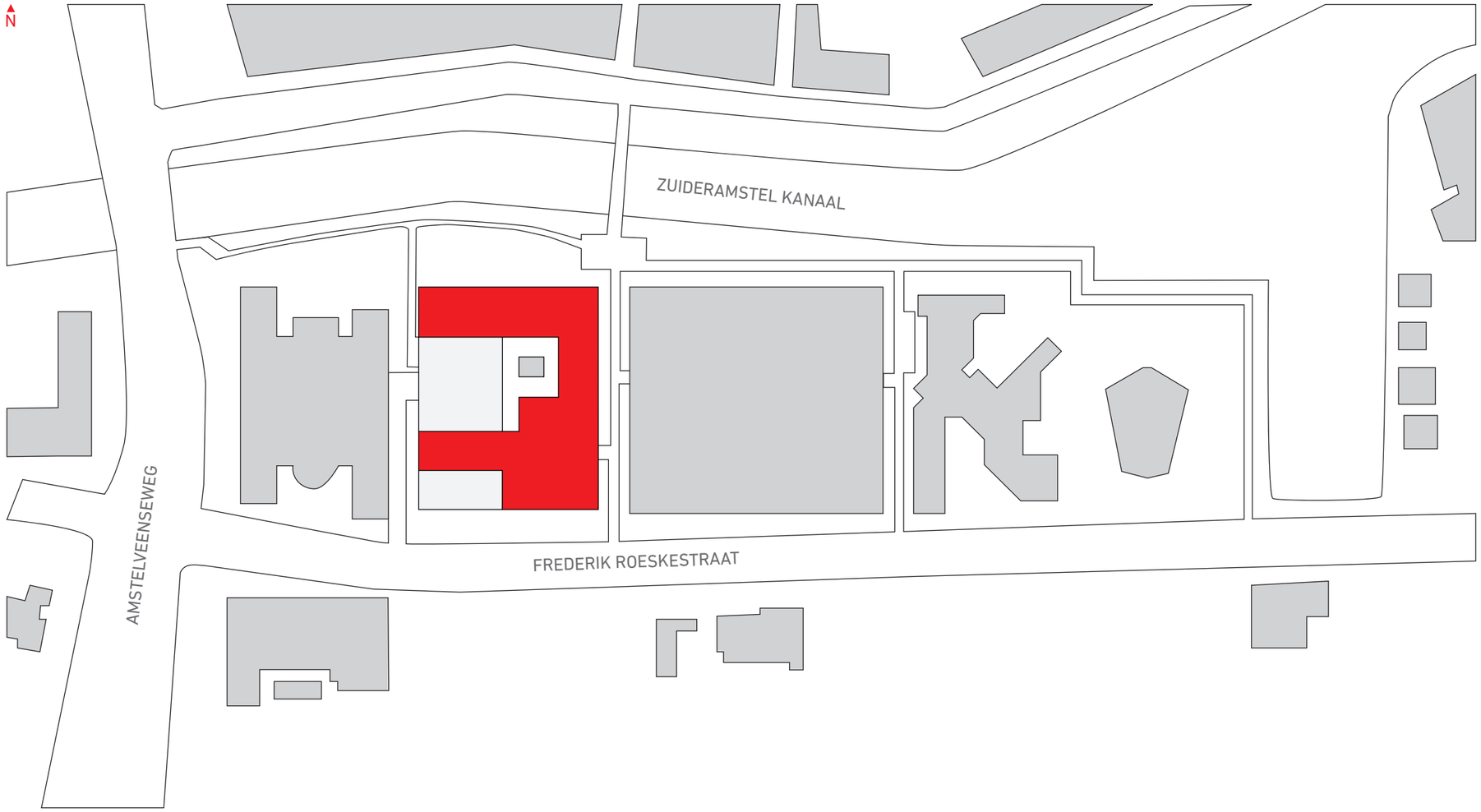
The intention to gather all the Rietveld and Sandberg locations into one address at the Frederik Roeskestraat, offers the opportunity to unify the two independent buildings in one new building. To do so, we use the new building as the missing link, positioning it between the Benthem & Crouwel (B&C) building and the current workshops. The new building is as long as the existing ‘66 building, and as deep as the existing B&C building. This results in two open plazas: a public entry plaza along the street and a more intimate internal plaza above the semi-underground car park, with the second longest bench of Amsterdam. From the internal plaza, a broad stair descends into the existing courtyard, with the ‘chop-shop’ (hakhok) as a pavilion within. The existing Loyens and Loeff entry ramp will continue to furnish access to the car park for bicycles and cars; the construction of an identical entry ramp alongside the current one is unnecessary. This is also the delivery and service area. We fully support the municipality’s intention to renew the direct connection of the Jansonstraat to the Frederik Roeskestraat by extending the axis of the existing pedestrian bridge over the Zuideramstel Canal. This will enable the creation of a second delivery area and a rear entrance to the building in the future.

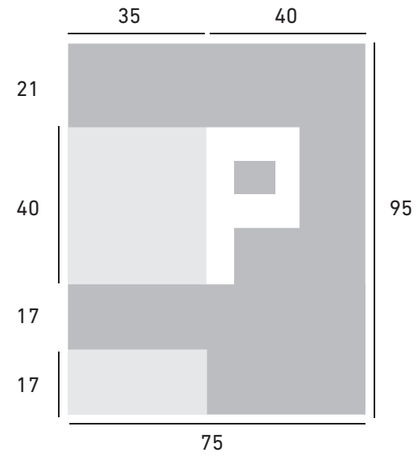
USING PROVEN EXISTING QUALITIES



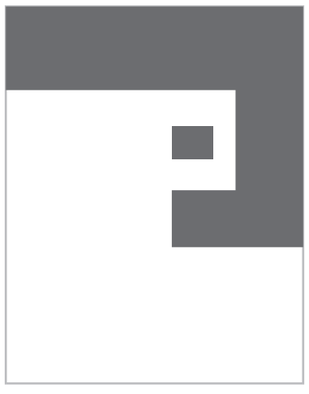
The building

The new building is essentially a copy of the existing ‘66 building. Aside from the obvious 21st-century tribute it brings to the 20th-century architect of the original, there are a number of practical and functional arguments for this gesture. It not only makes the connection with the existing building much easier, but also reiterates and confirms its proven durability and adequacy for everyday use as an art academy. By appropriating Rietveld’s 1966 dimensioning system, the ‘lachende kwadranten’ of 2,1x2,1 meters, along with the 4,2m Tatami for height, we ensure that the new building will feel and work as the old one does. The structure of the new building also recalls the old, consisting of a (prefab) concrete skeleton with floors, and a suspended exterior facade. The ground-floor facade of the new building is made of glazed walls and glass doors. The upper three floors are faced in aircraft hangar doors, which can be opened. The top half is translucent, the bottom half is transparent. An operable window is inserted in the doors, for fresh air. The doors can also be fully opened, creating a building without a facade. This allows the entire building to be used as a parking garage without additional mechanical ventilation. As an added benefit, a mere flick of the switch opens the facade panels for ventilation on a hot summer’s day, or for special exhibitions, leaving nothing but free-plan floors.

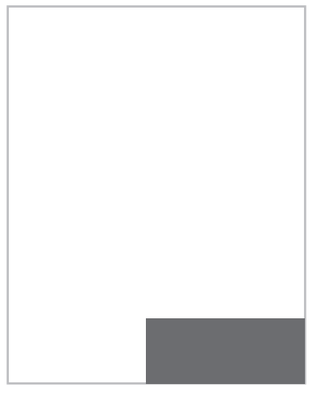




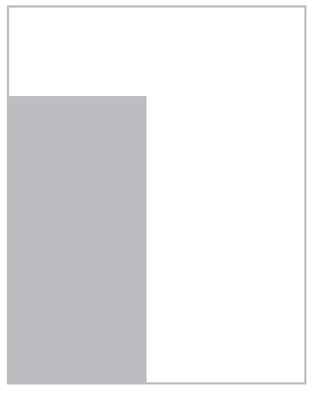
DIMENSIONS



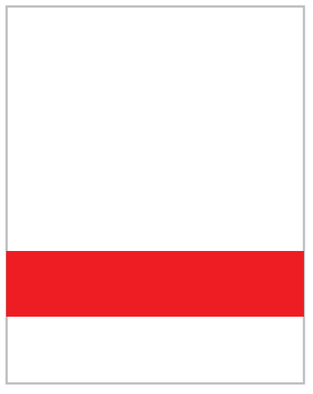
RIETVELD BUILDING



BENTHEM & CROUWEL BUILDING



RSP PARKING GARAGE & SQUARE



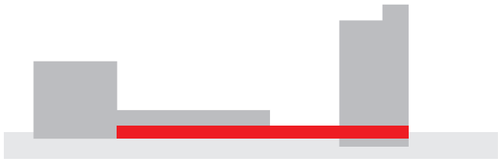
RSP NEW BUILDING

NEW BUILDING COMPLEX

LOCATION 52*20'29.33"N 4*51'34.92"

RIETVELD BUILDING

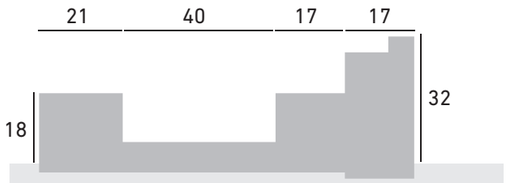
BENTHEM & CROUWEL BUILDING



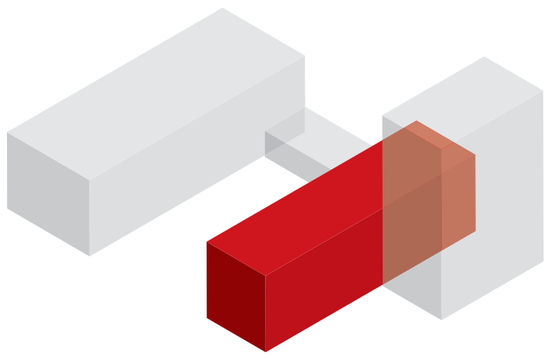
RSP PARKING GARAGE & SQUARE

RSP NEW BUILDING

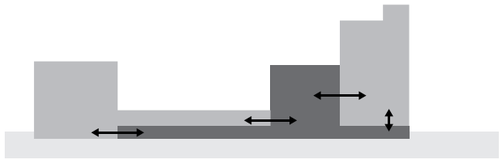
NEW BUILDING COMPLEX



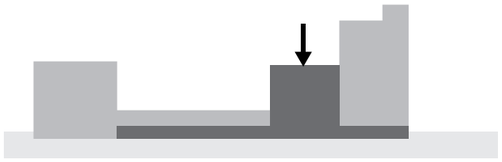
DIMENSIONS



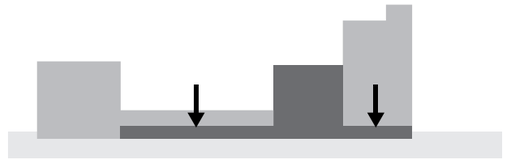
RSP BUILDING = HEIGHT & LENGHT OF THE RIETVELD BUILDING AND THE DEPTH OF THE B&C BUILDING



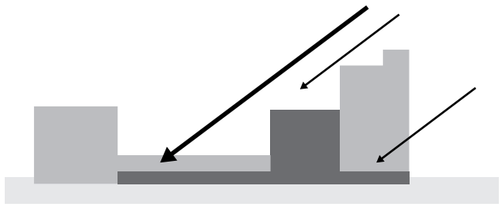
RSP BUILDING CONNECTING THE RIETVELD BUILDING AND THE B&C BUILDING INTO ONE TOTAL/COMPLEX



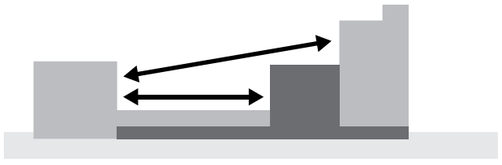
ROOFGRADEN



'PRIVATE' & PUBLIC SQUARES



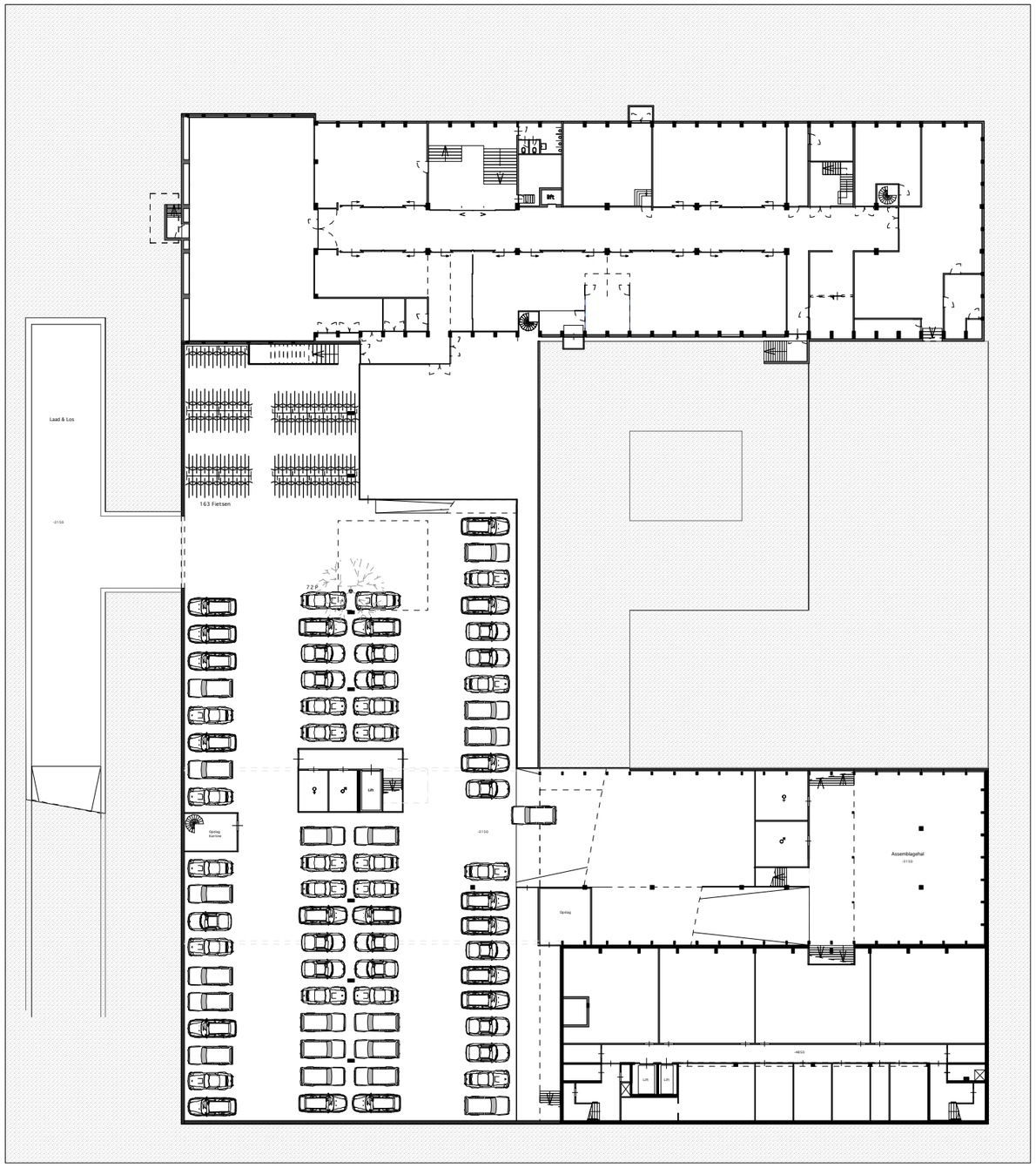
SUNLIGHT



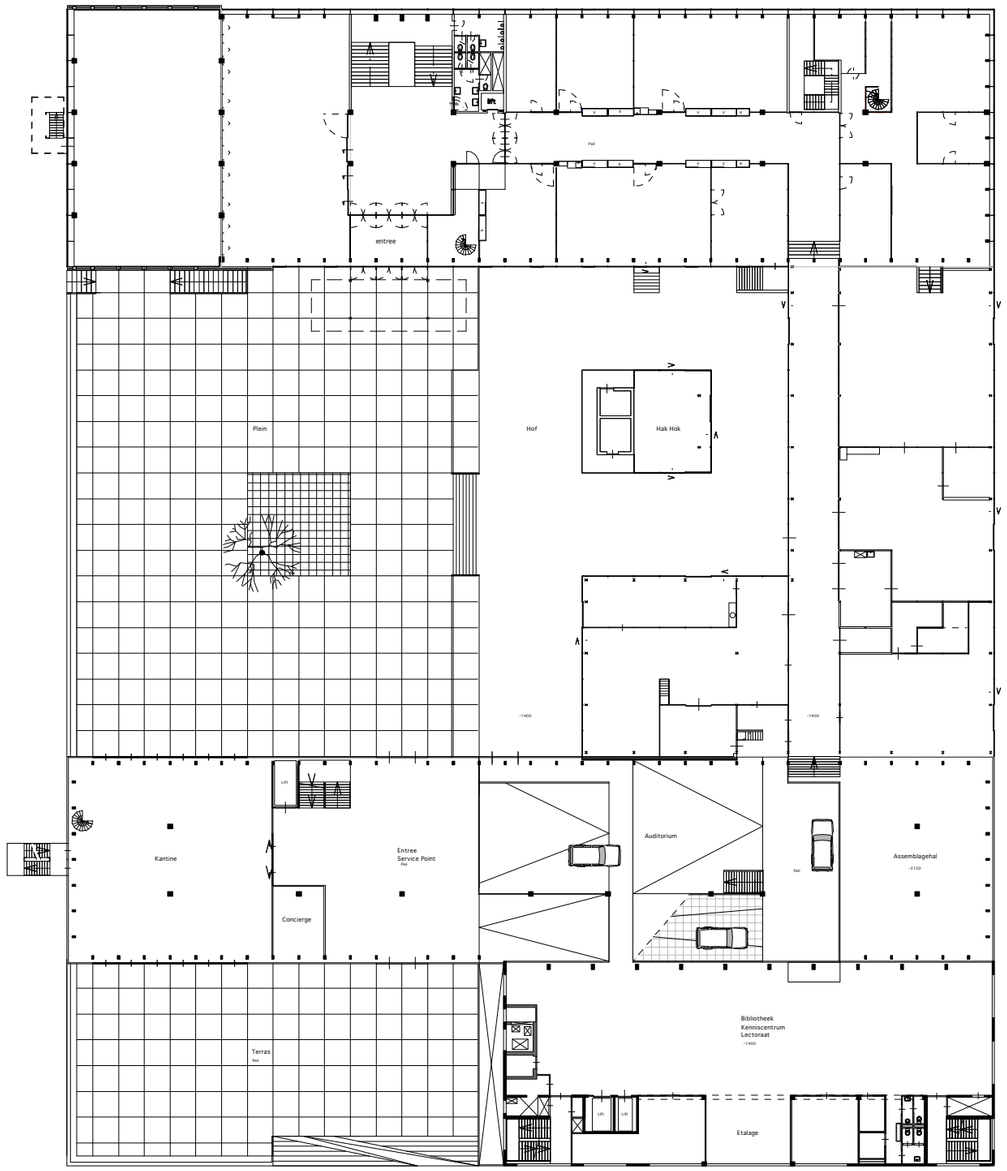
VISUAL CONNECTION BETWEEN BUILDINGS

VISUAL CONNECTION STREET AND SQUARE

DIMENSIONS / CHARACTERISTIC

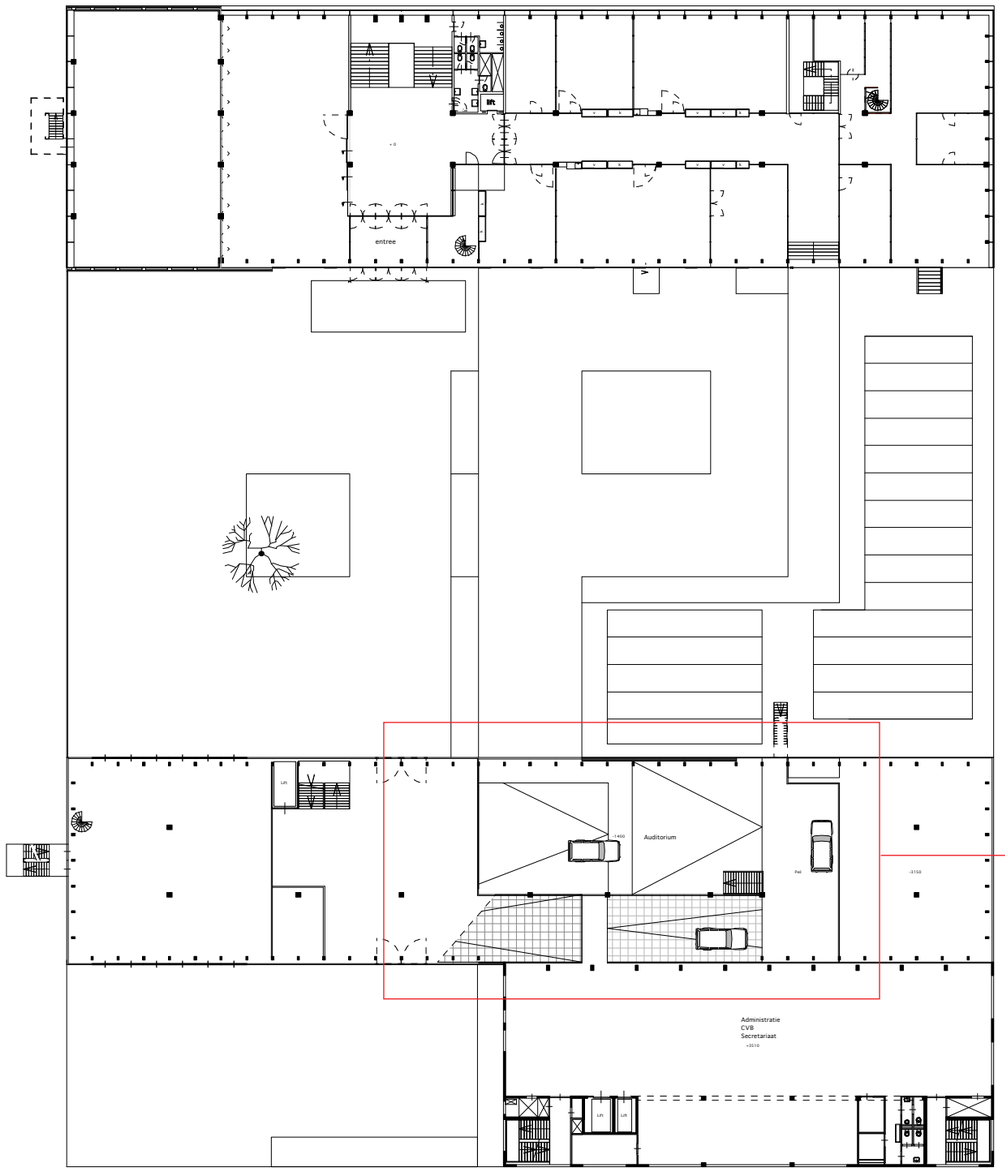


BASEMENT -3150

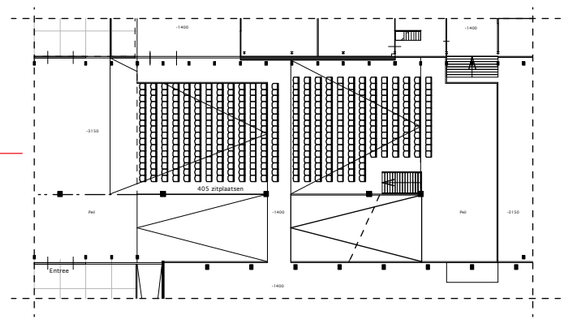


GROUND FLOOR GRA/RSP +0

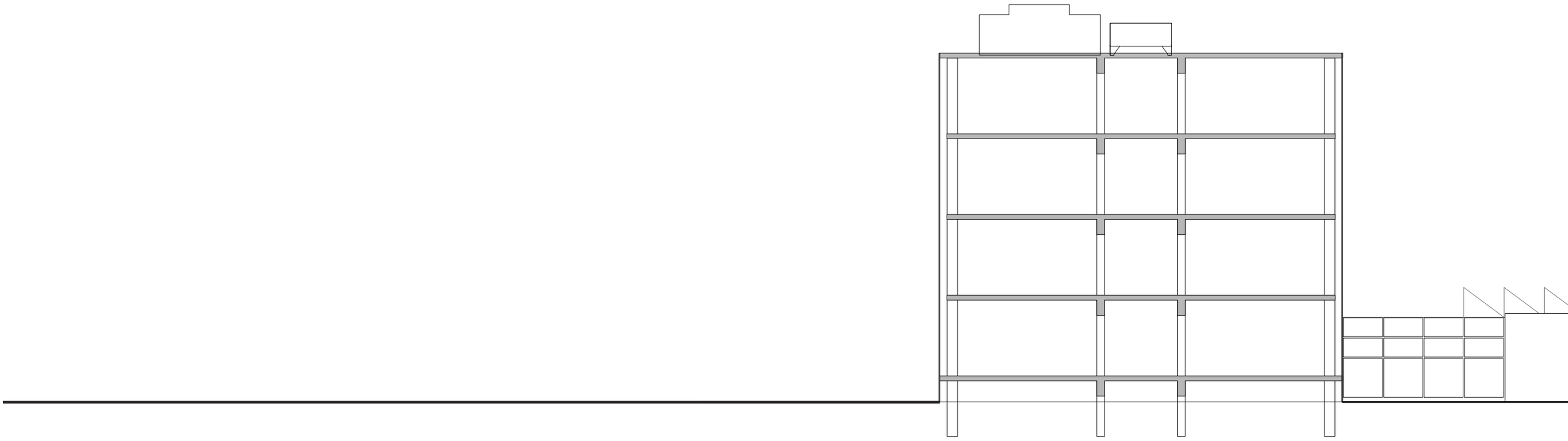
TOTAL BUILDING / 1:500



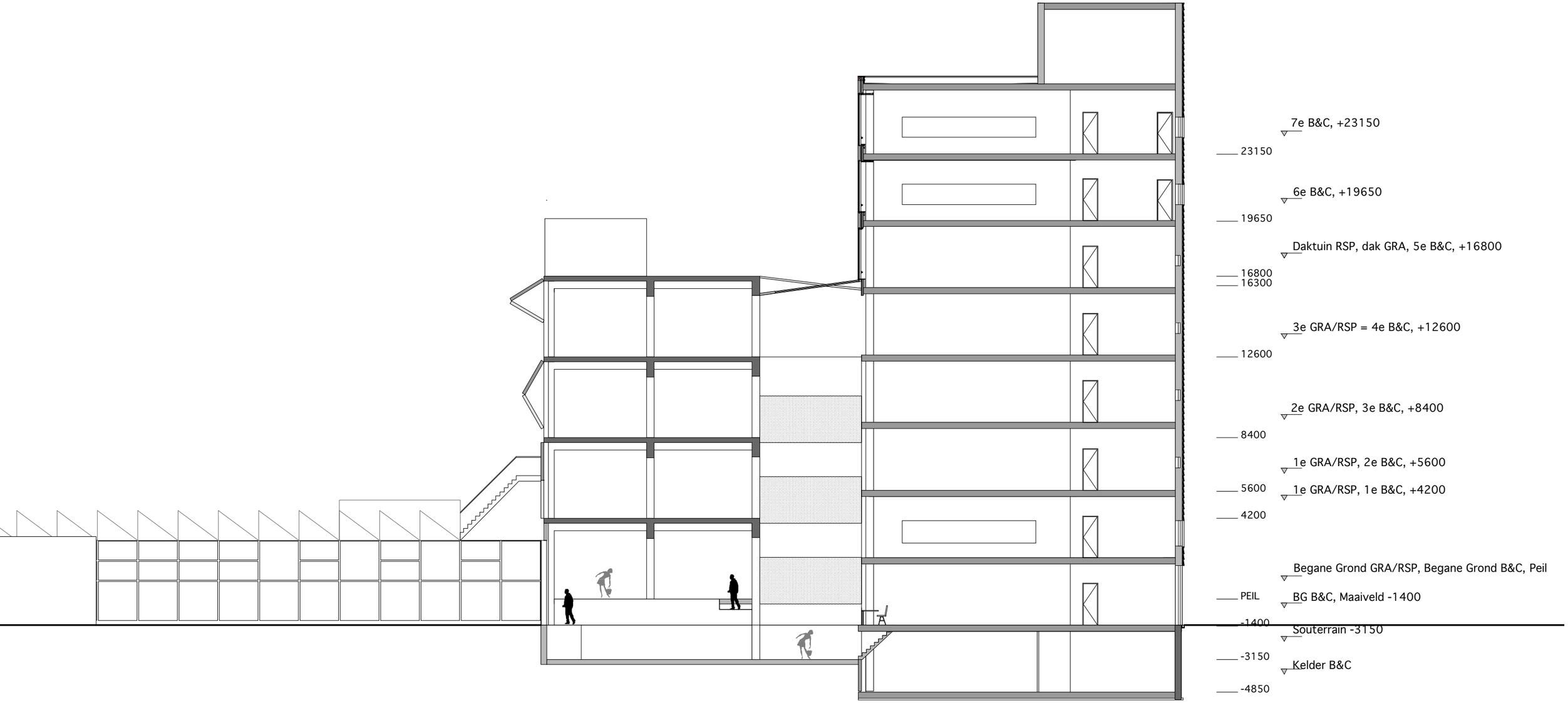
1ST FLOOR B&C GROUND FLOOR GRA/RSP, +2100



AUDITORIUM ON RAMP

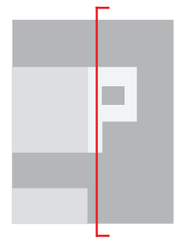


RIETVELD BUILDING

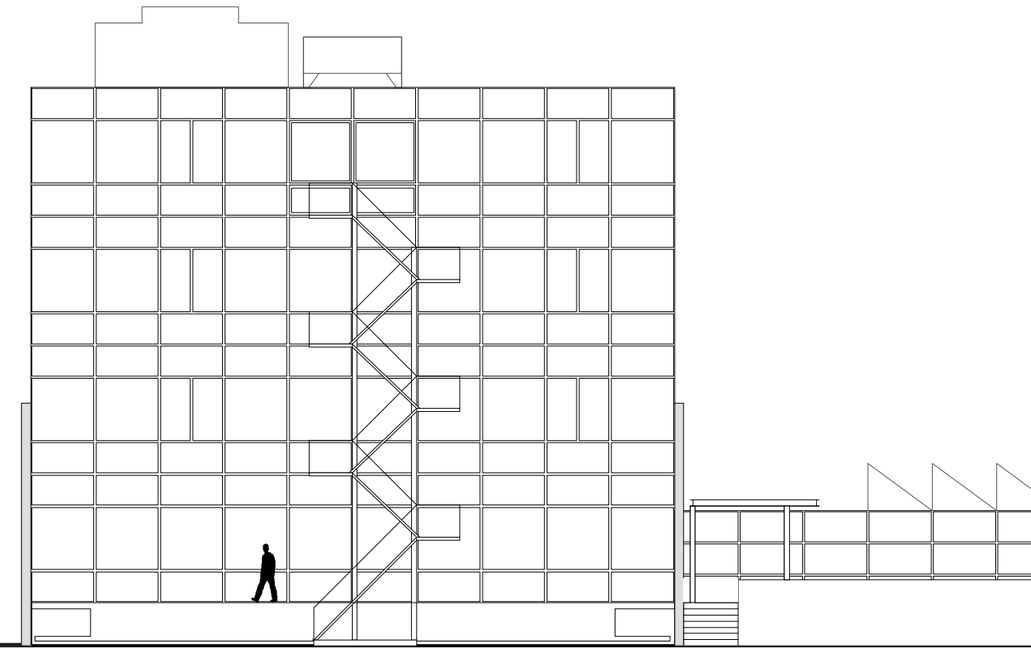


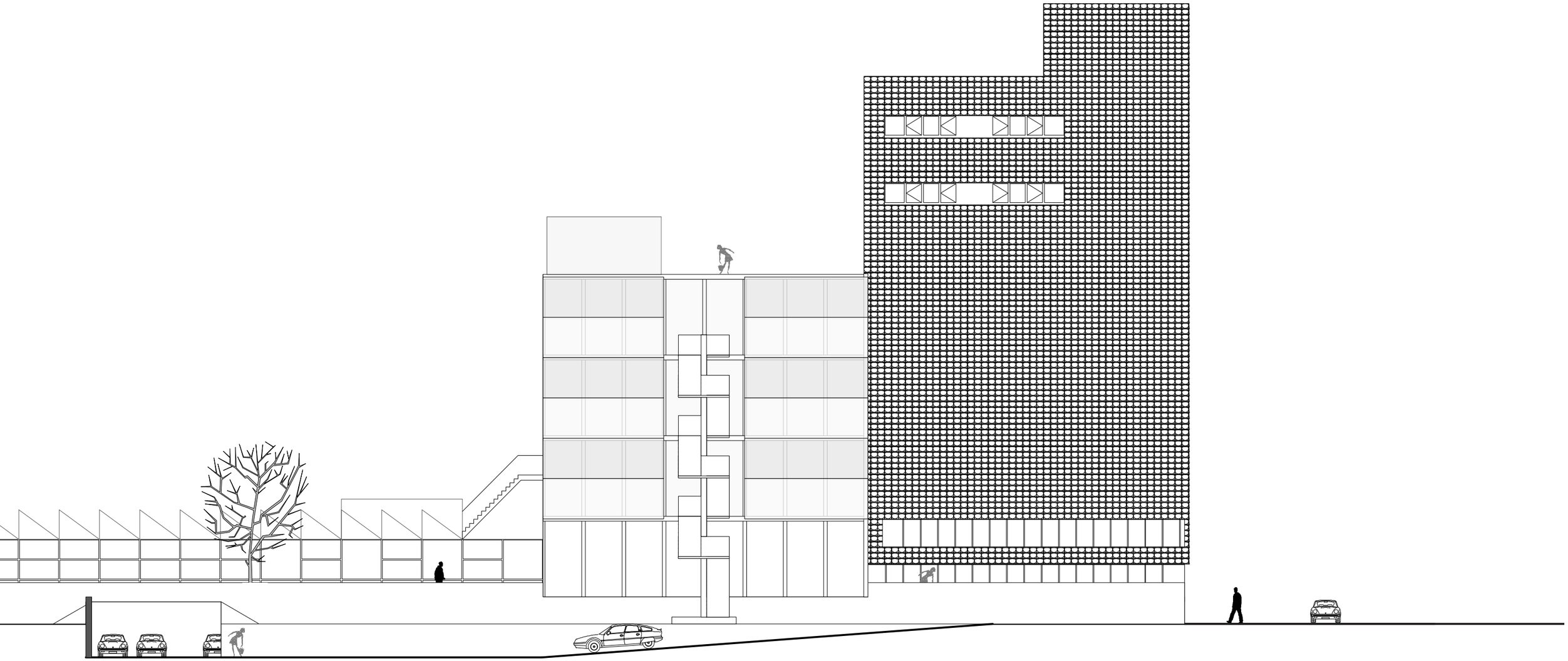
RSP NEW BUILDING

BENTHEM & CROUWEL BUILDING

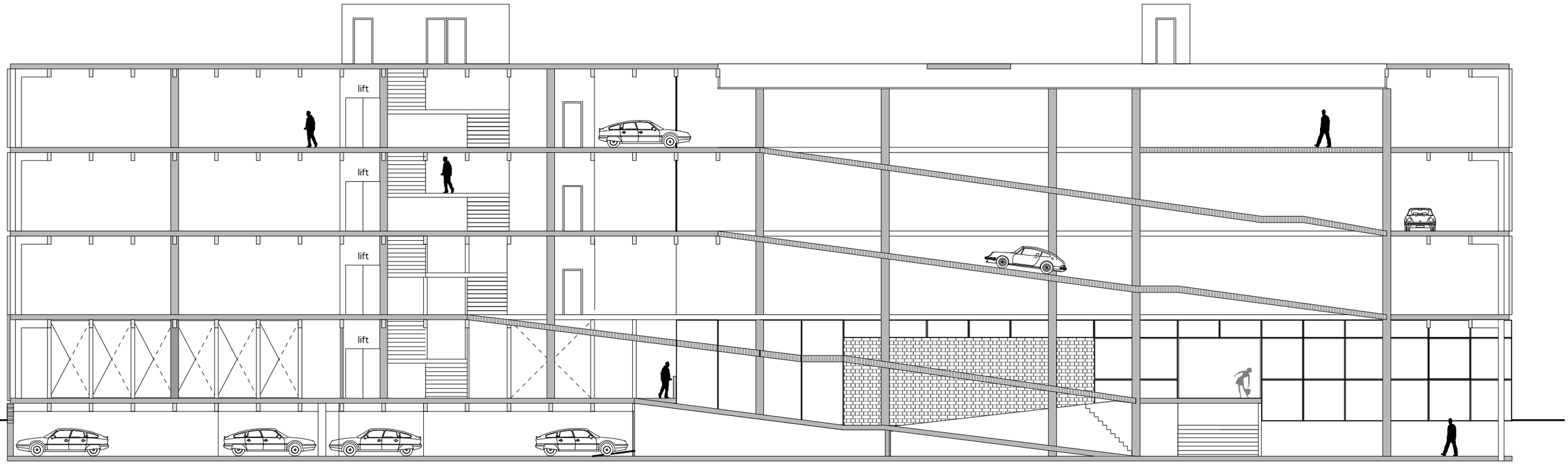


SECTION 1:200





WEST FACADE 1:200



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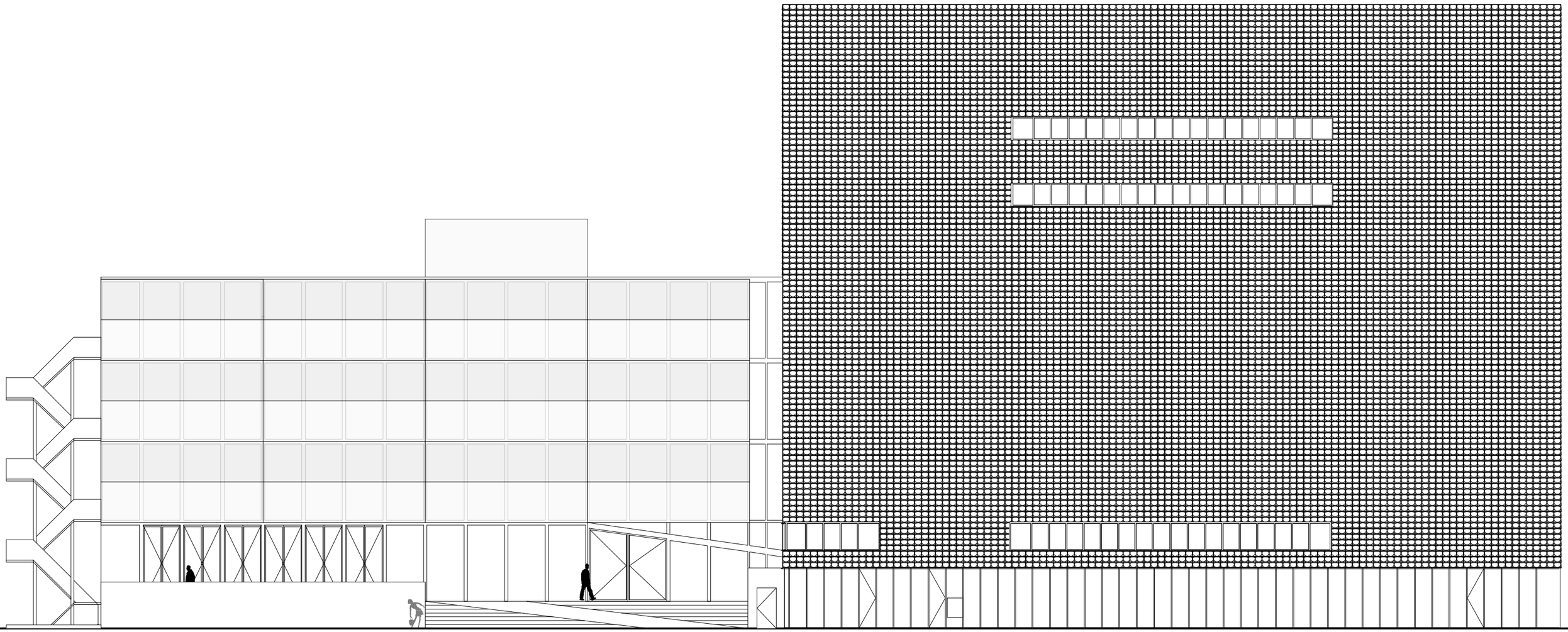
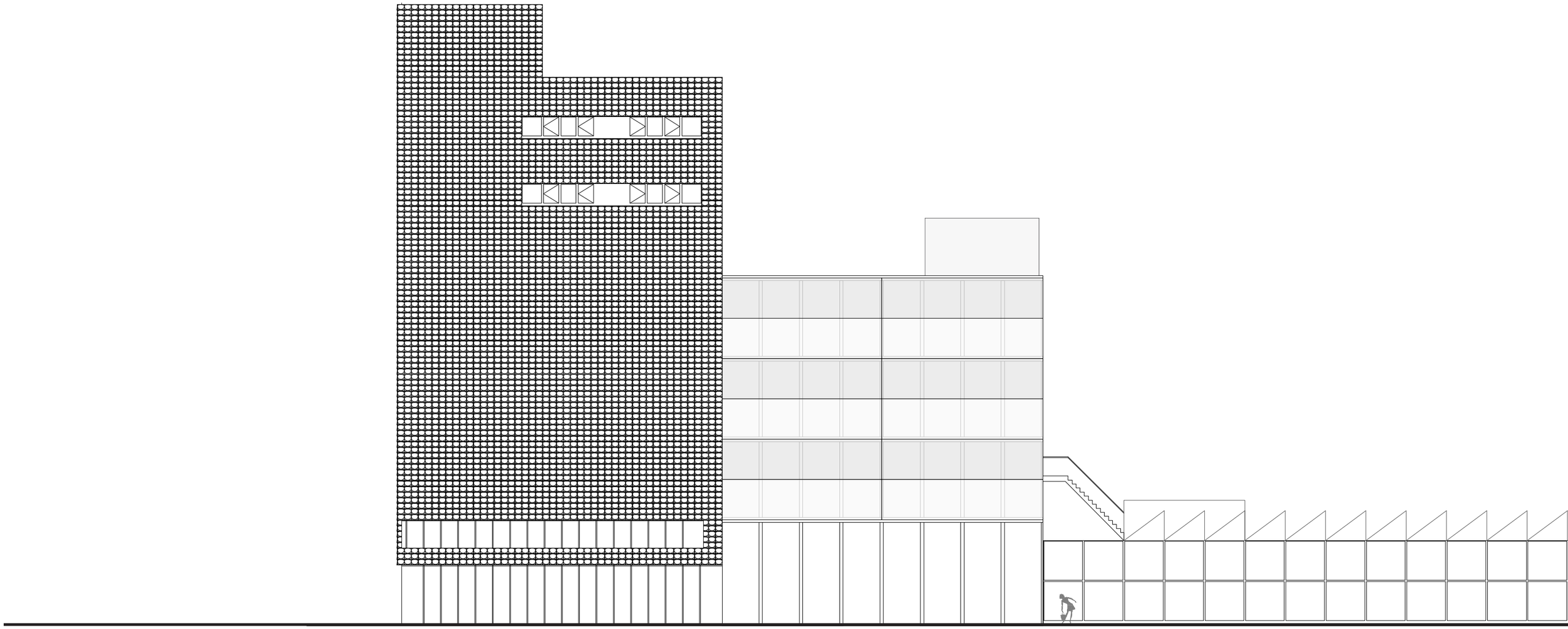
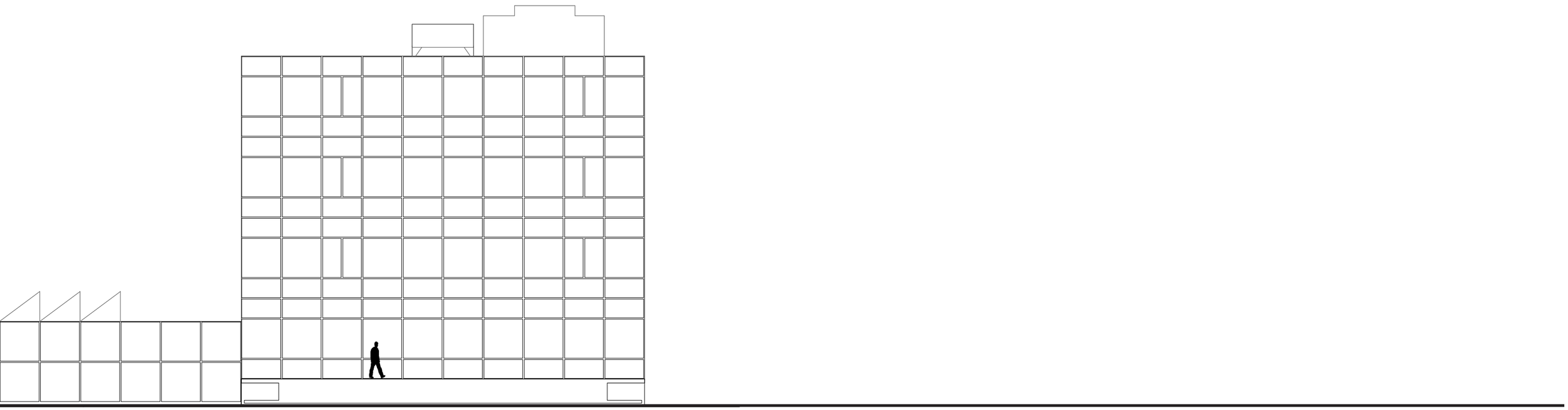
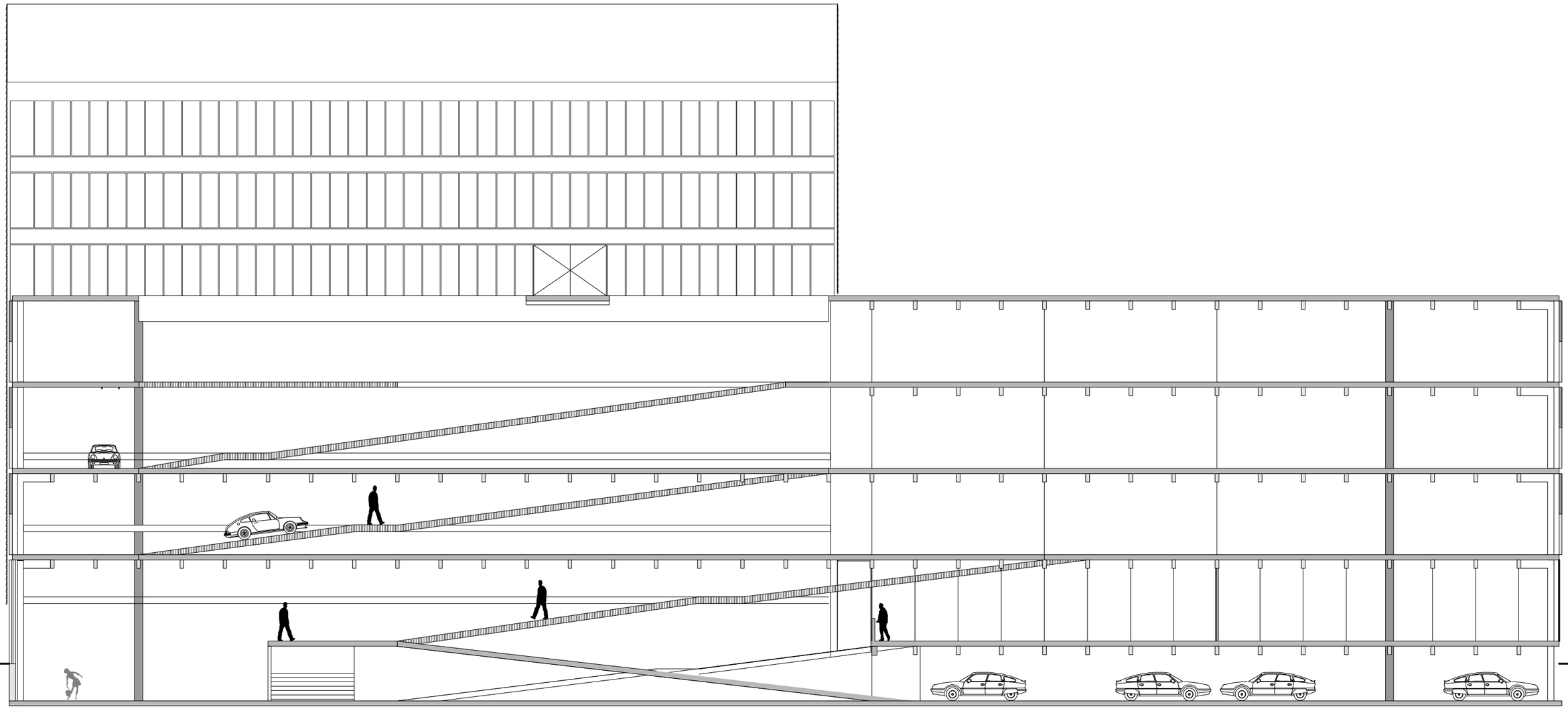


SOUTH FACADE 1:200



EAST FACADE 1:200





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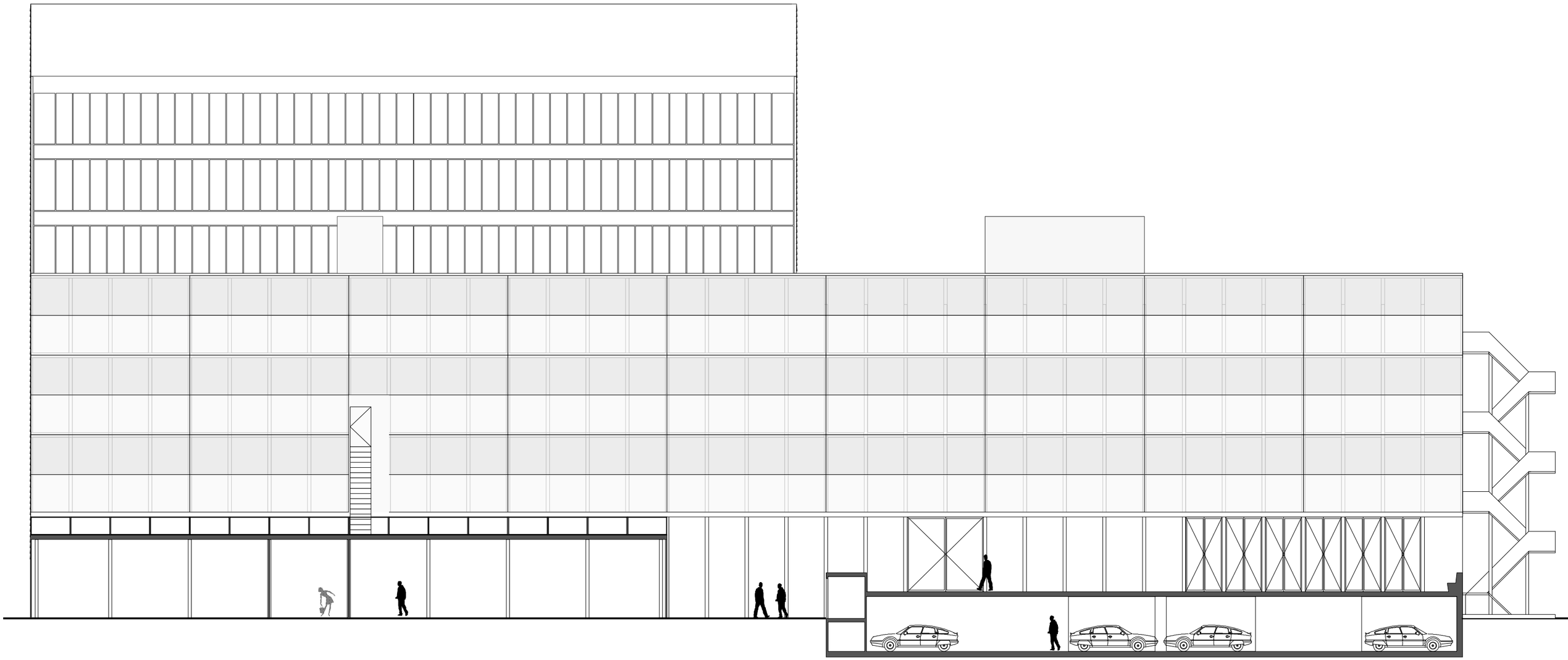
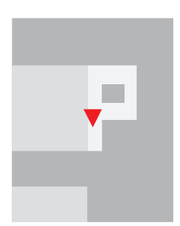
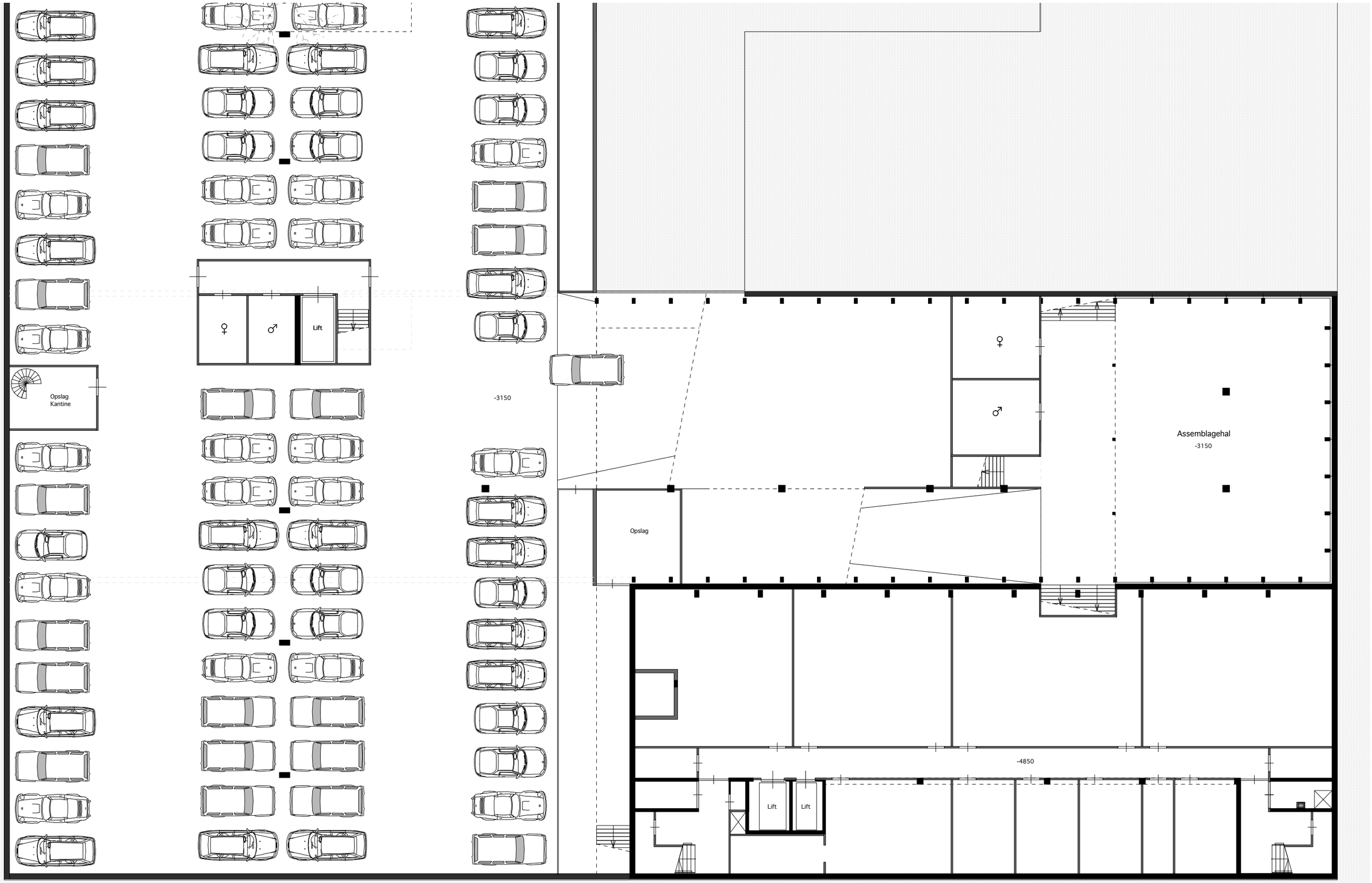




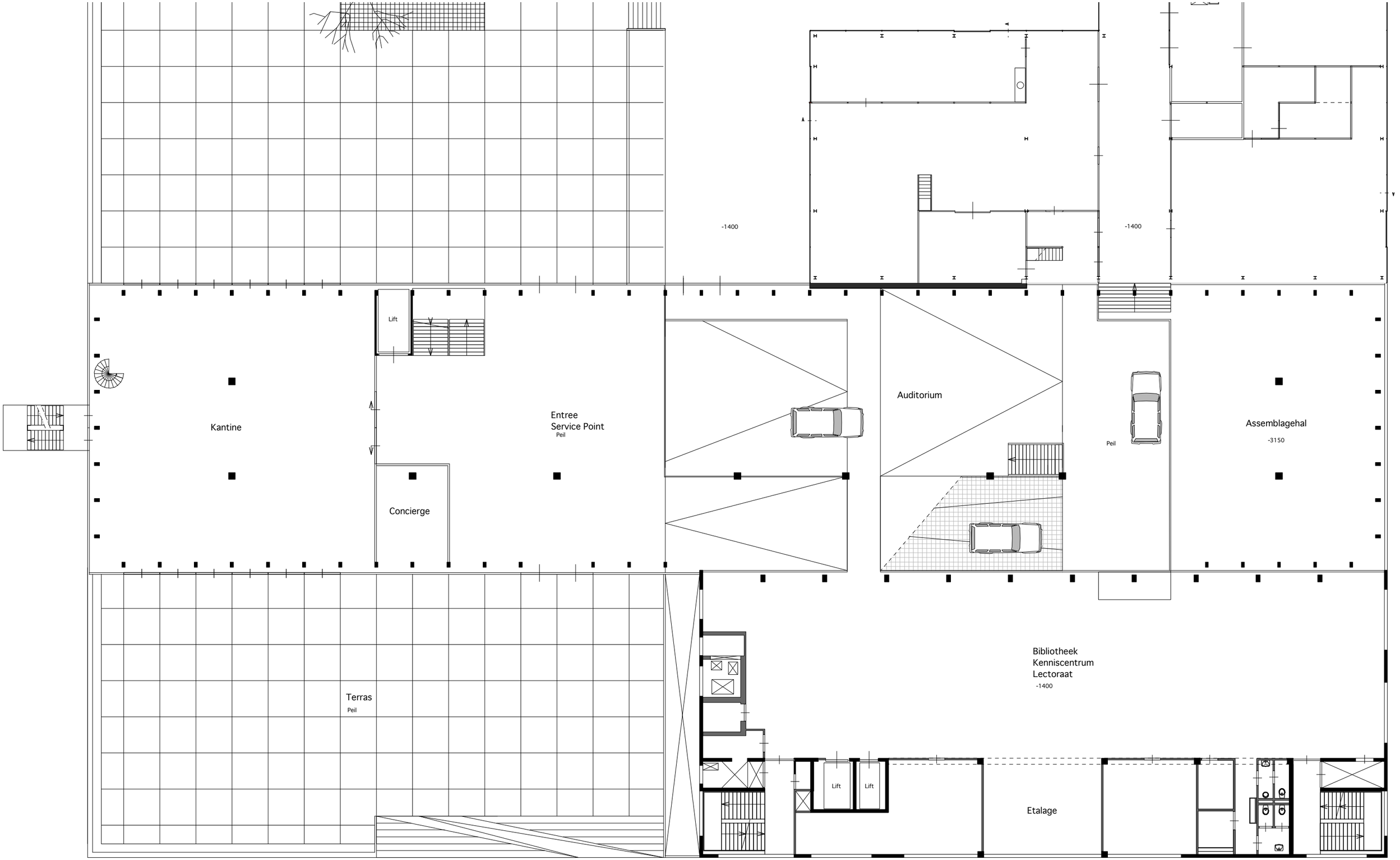
NORTH FACADE 1:200

THE AMAZING DISAPPEARING FACADE

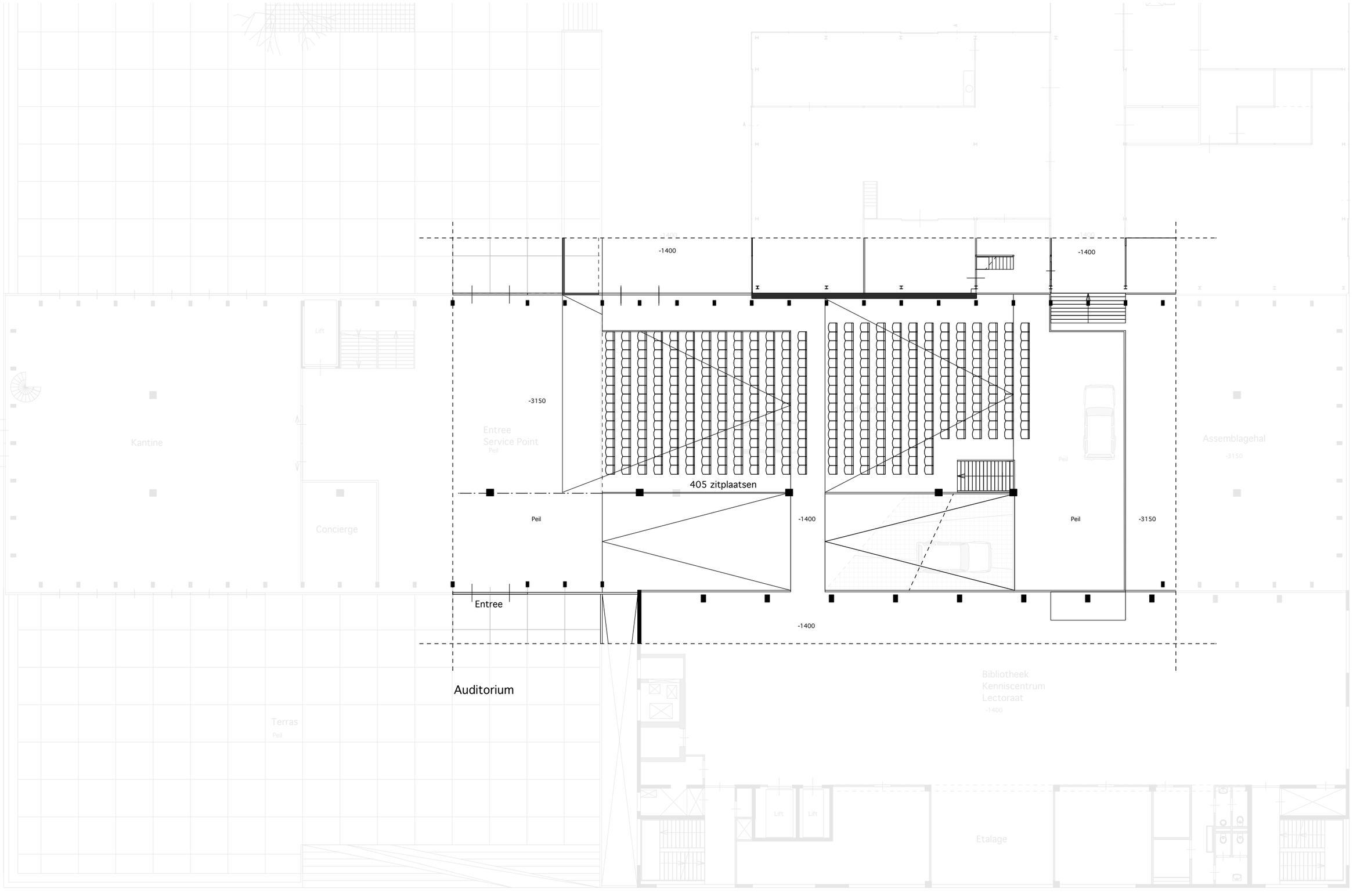


SOUTERRAIN -3150 / 1:200

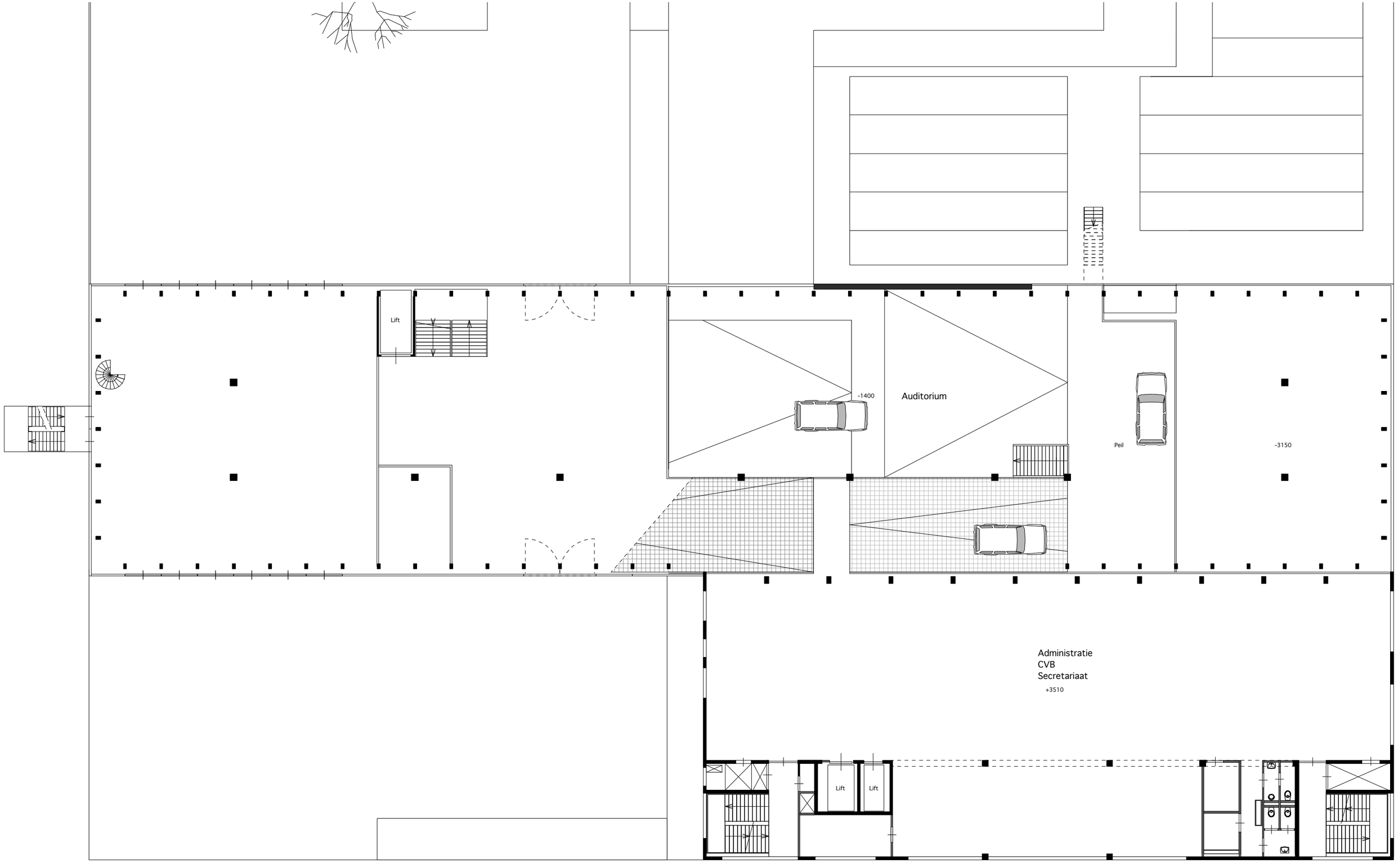
B&C GROUND LEVEL -1400 / 1:200



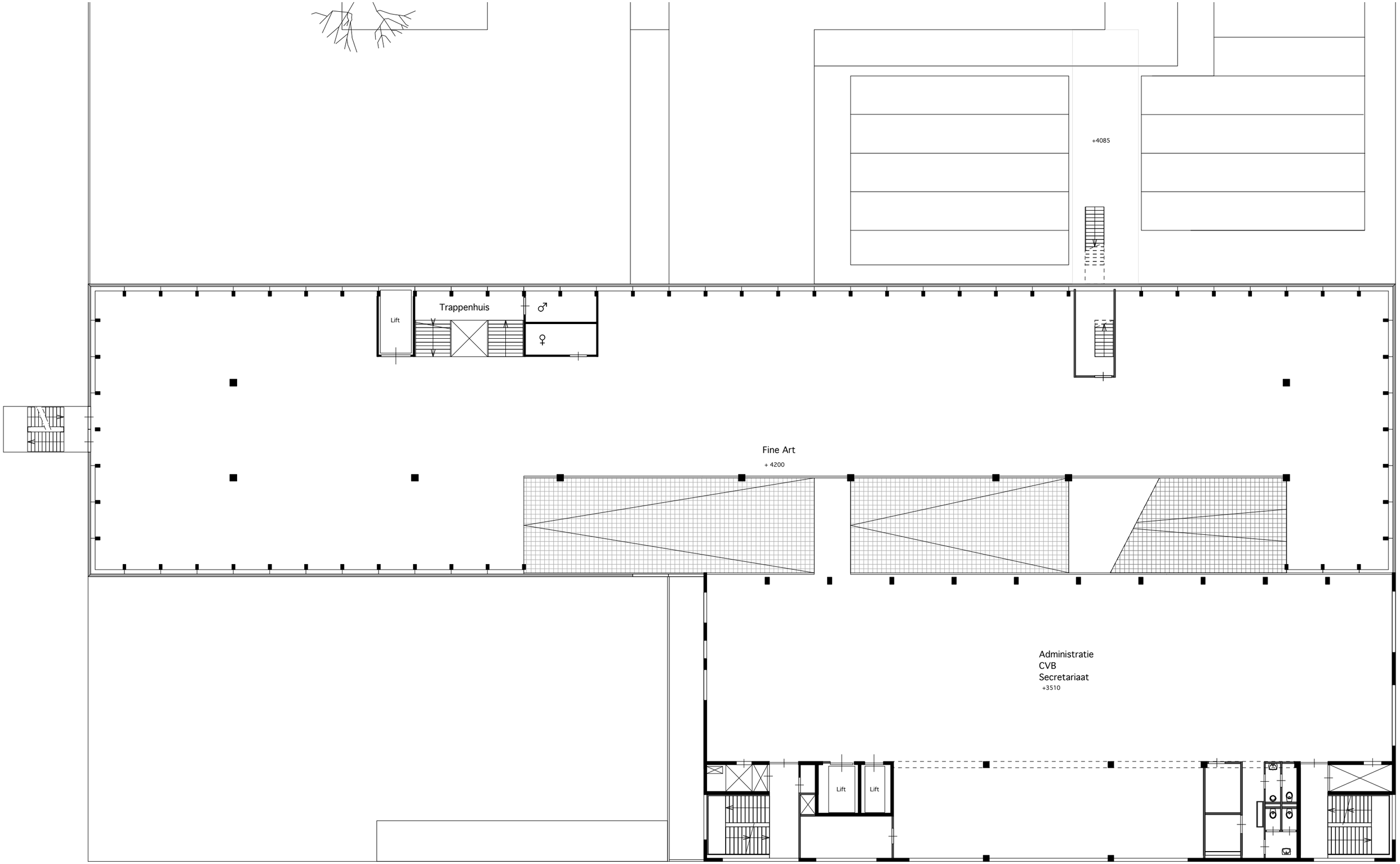
GROUND FLOOR GRA & RSP +0 / 1:200



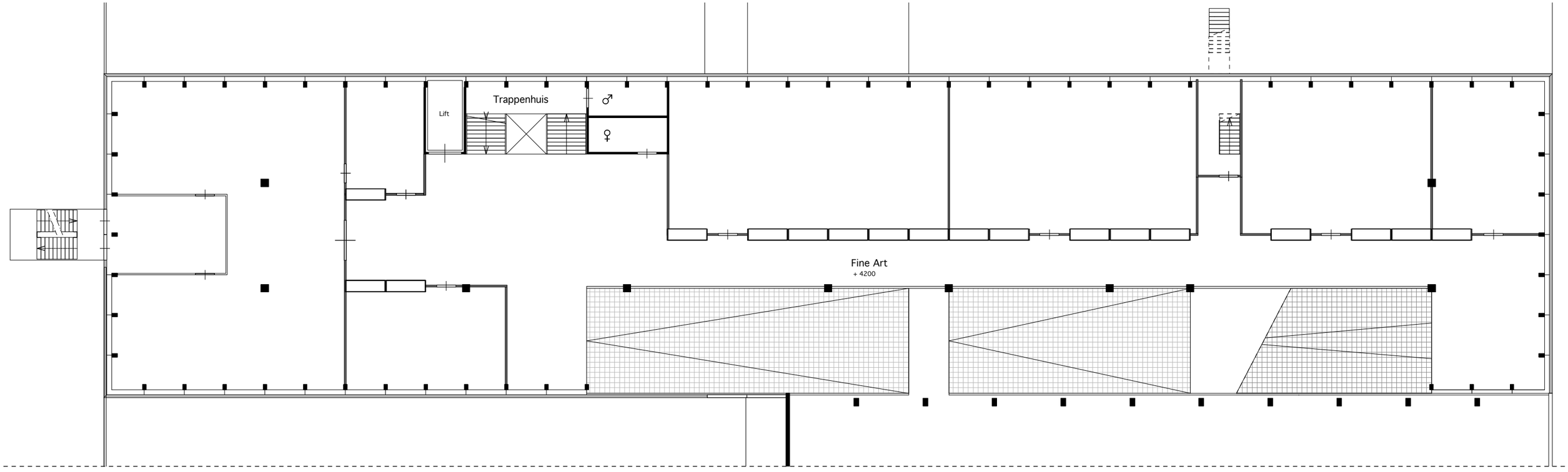
AUDITORIUM / 1:200

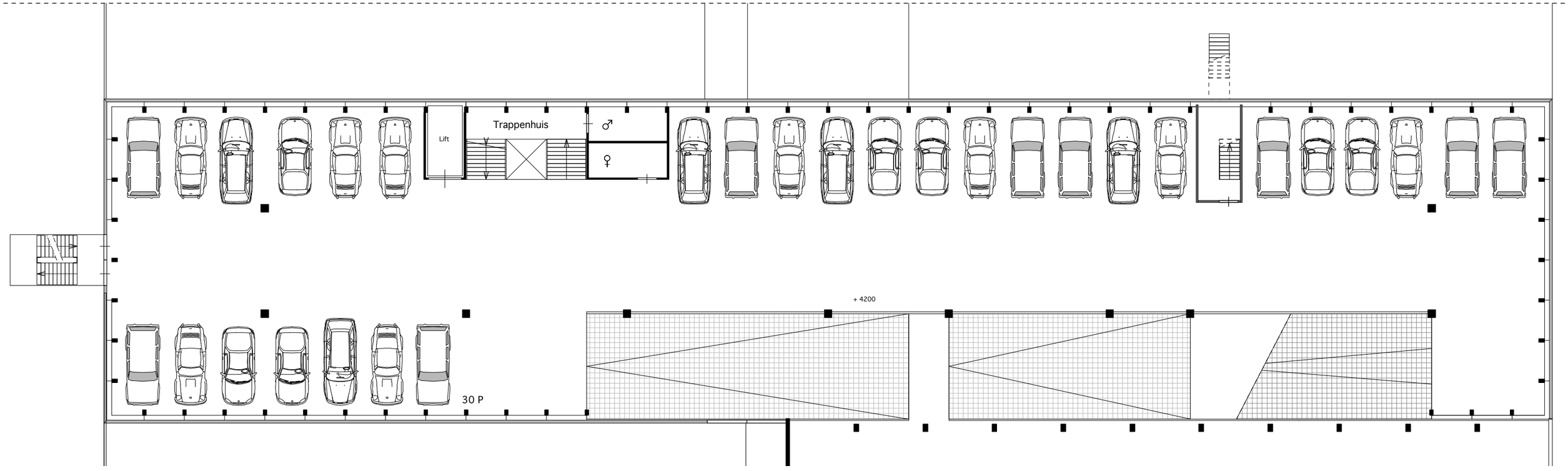


GROUND FLOOR GRA/RSP & 1st FLOOR B&C +2100 / 1:200

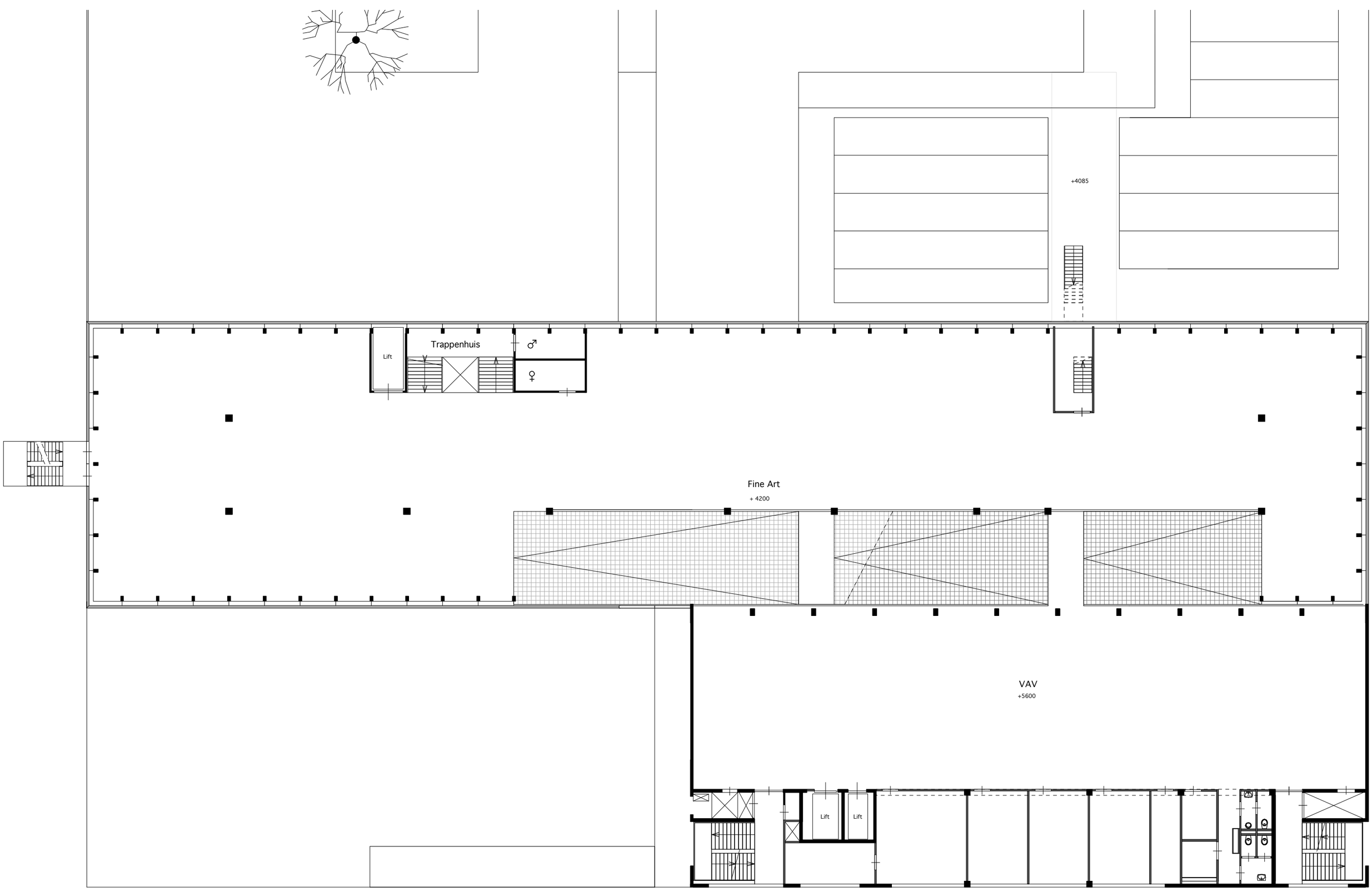


1st FLOOR GRA/RSP & 1st FLOOR B&C +4200 / 1:200

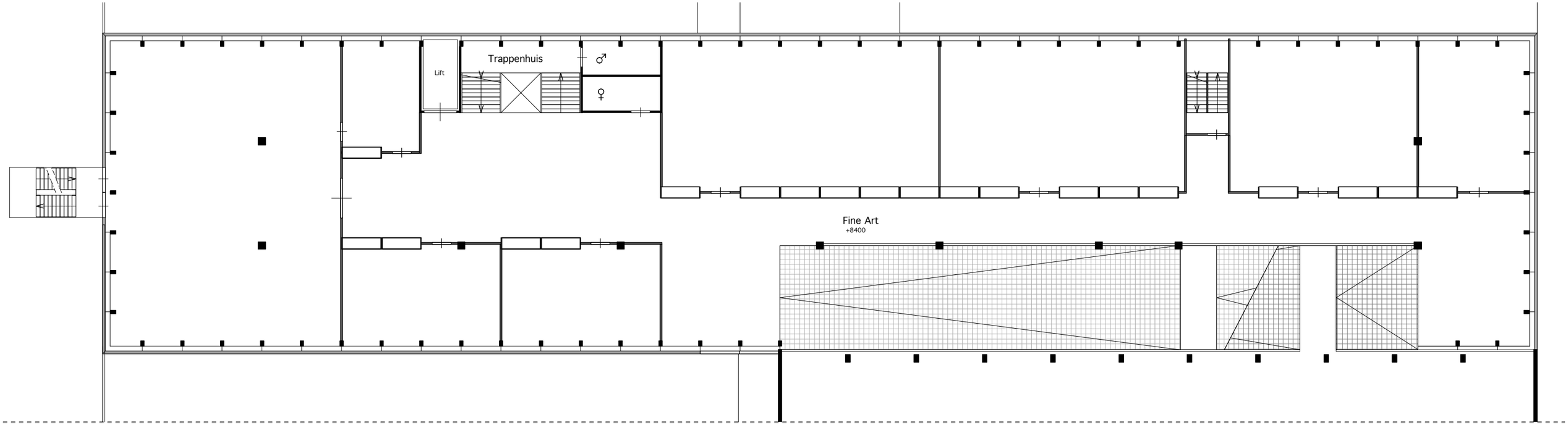


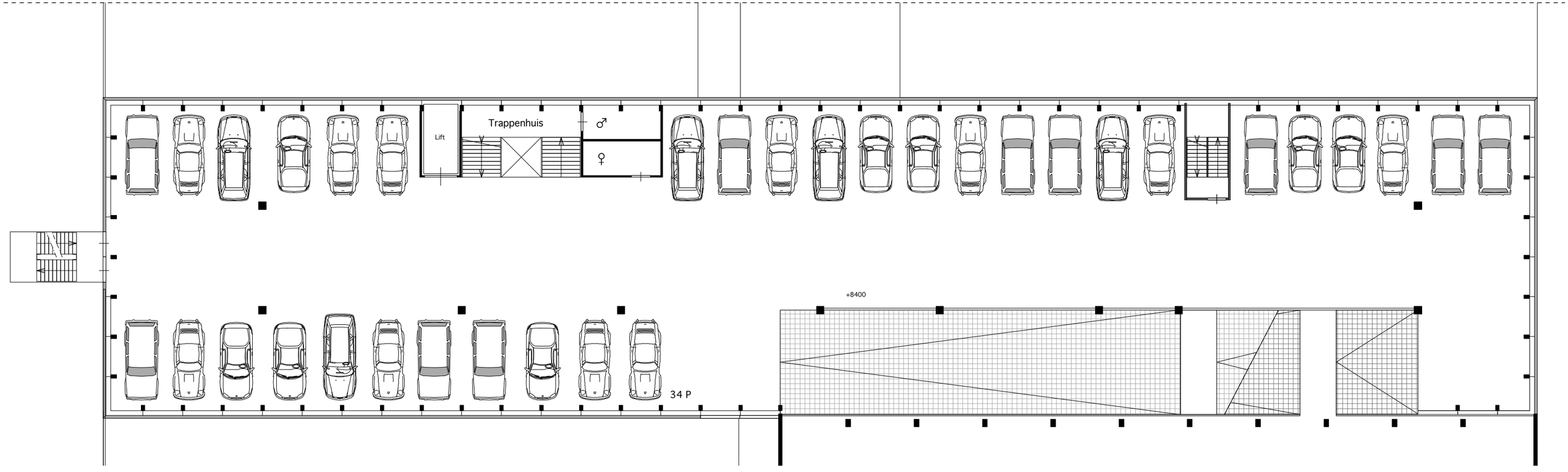


ALTERNATIVE FLOORPLANS 1st GRA/RSP & 2nd B&C +5600 / 1:200



1st GRA/RSP & 2nd B&C +5600 / 1:200





ALTERNATIVE FLOORPLANS 2nd GRA/RSP & 3rd B&C +8400 / 1:200

Lift

Trappenhuis

♂

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Project ruimte

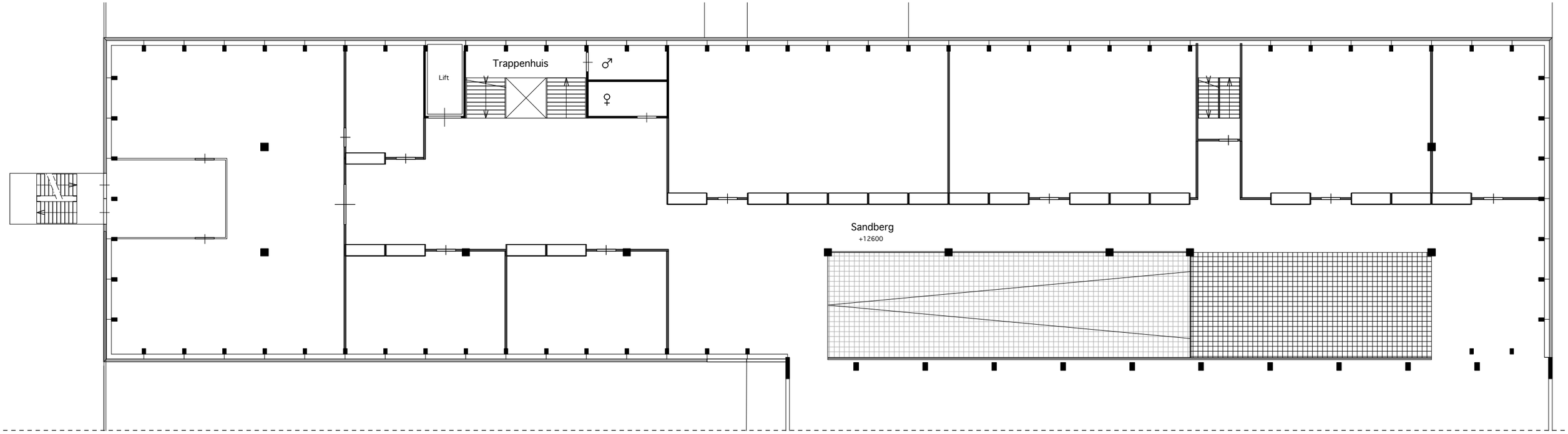
Fine Art
+8400

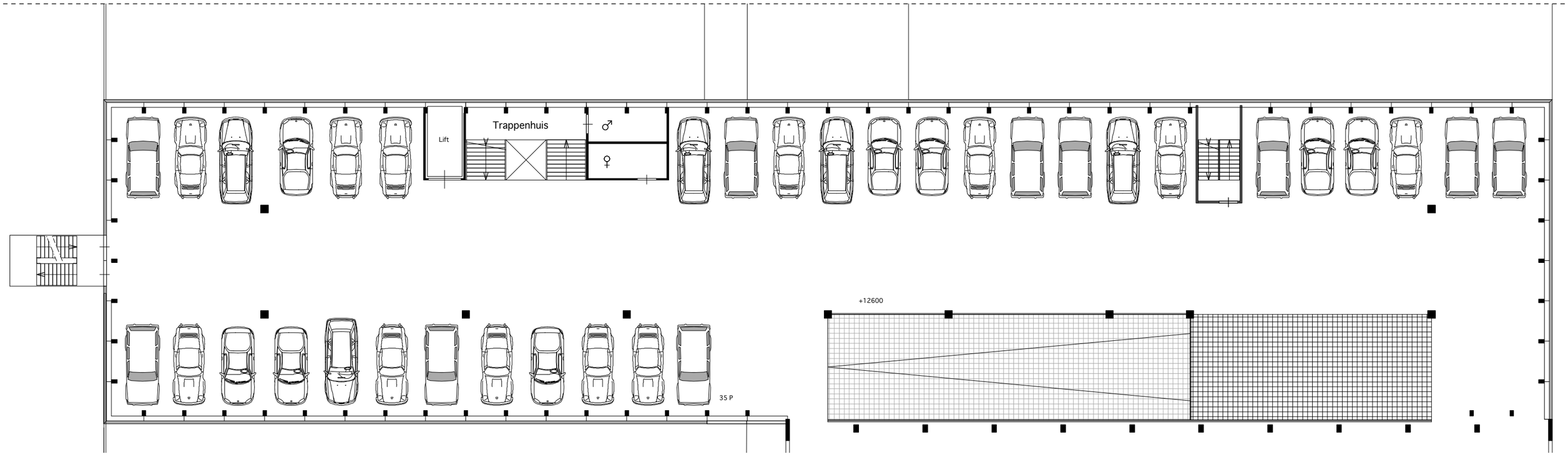
VAV
+9150

Lift

Lift

2nd GRA/RSP & 3rd B&C +8400 / 1:200





ALTERNATIVE FLOORPLANS 3rd GRA/RSP & 4th B&C +12600 / 1:200

Trappenhuis

Lift

♂

♀

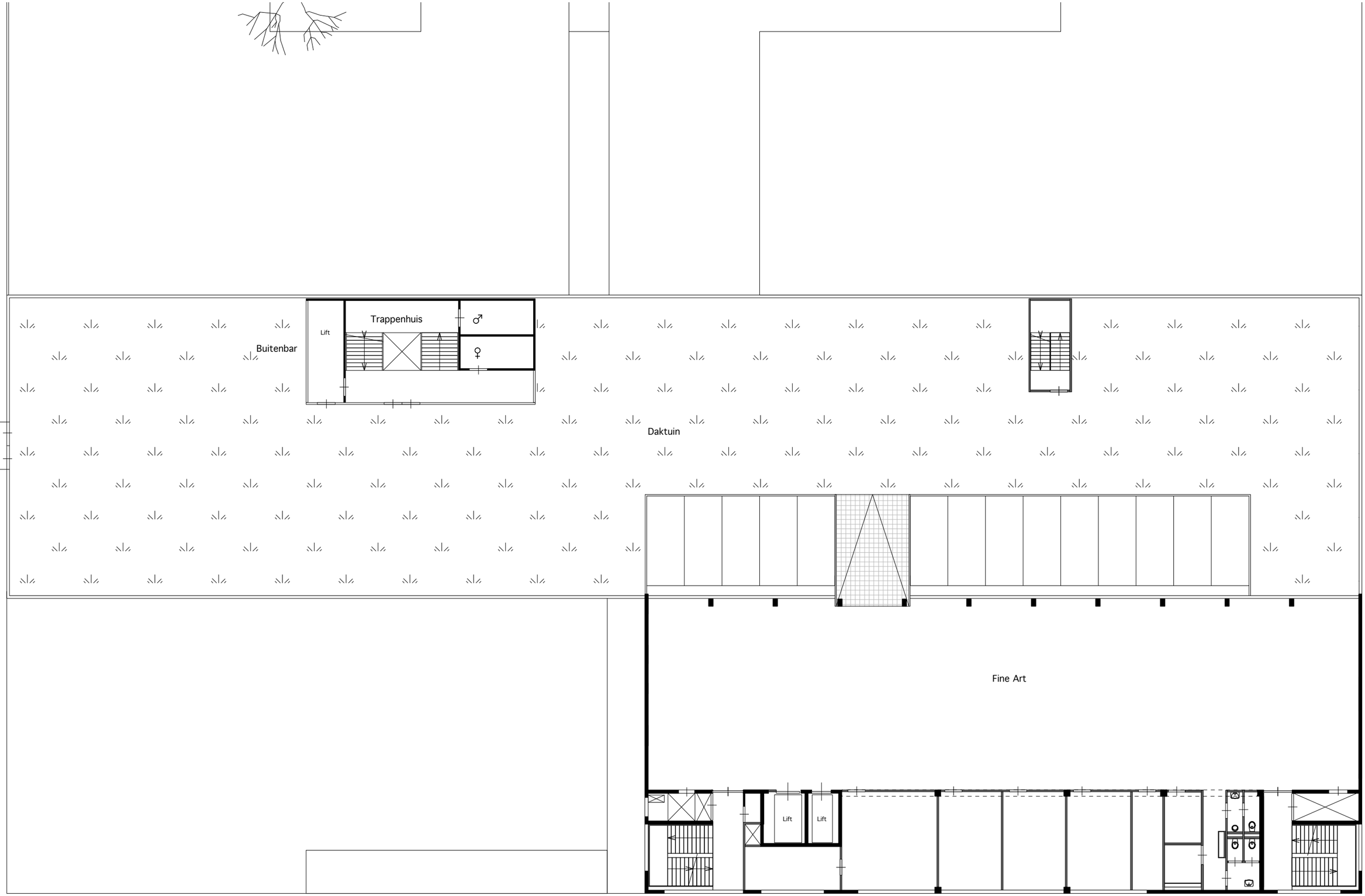
Sandberg
+12600

Sandberg
+12650

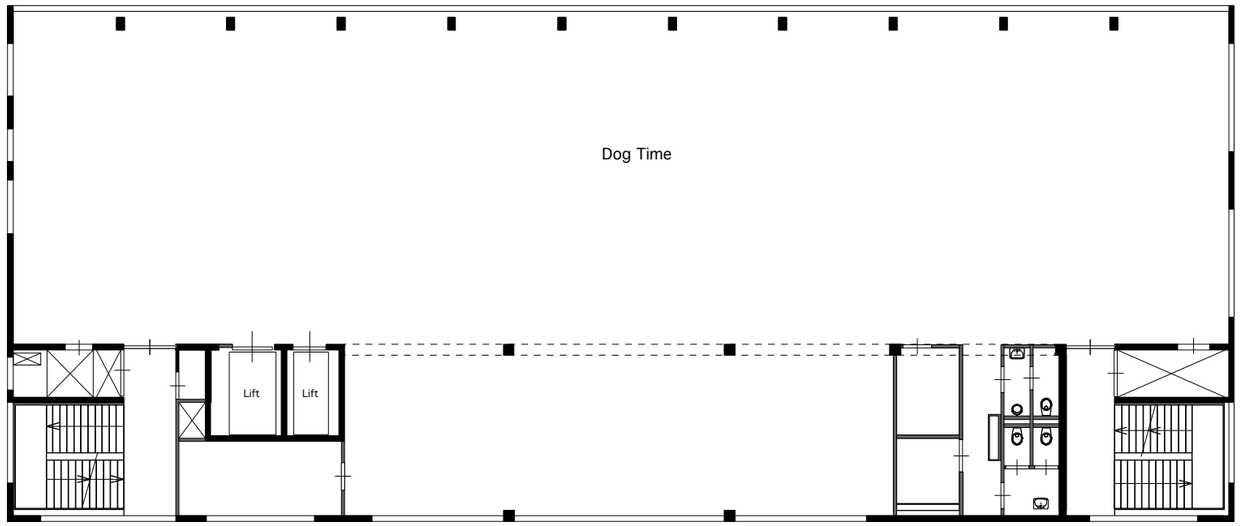
Lift

Lift

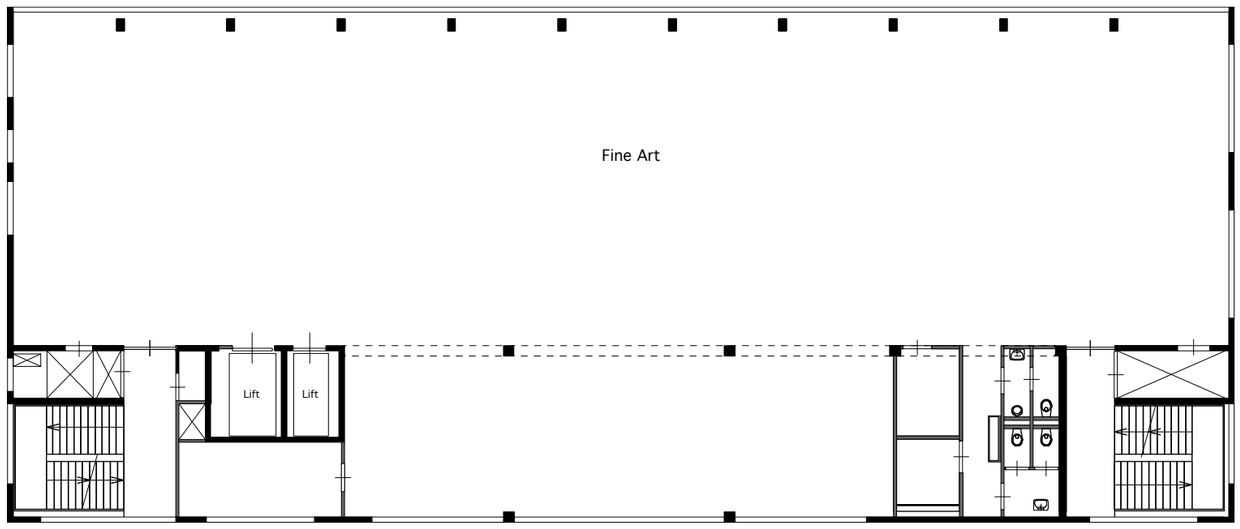
3rd GRA/RSP & 4th B&C +12600 / 1:200



ROOFGARDEN GRA/RSP & 5th B&C +16800



+23150

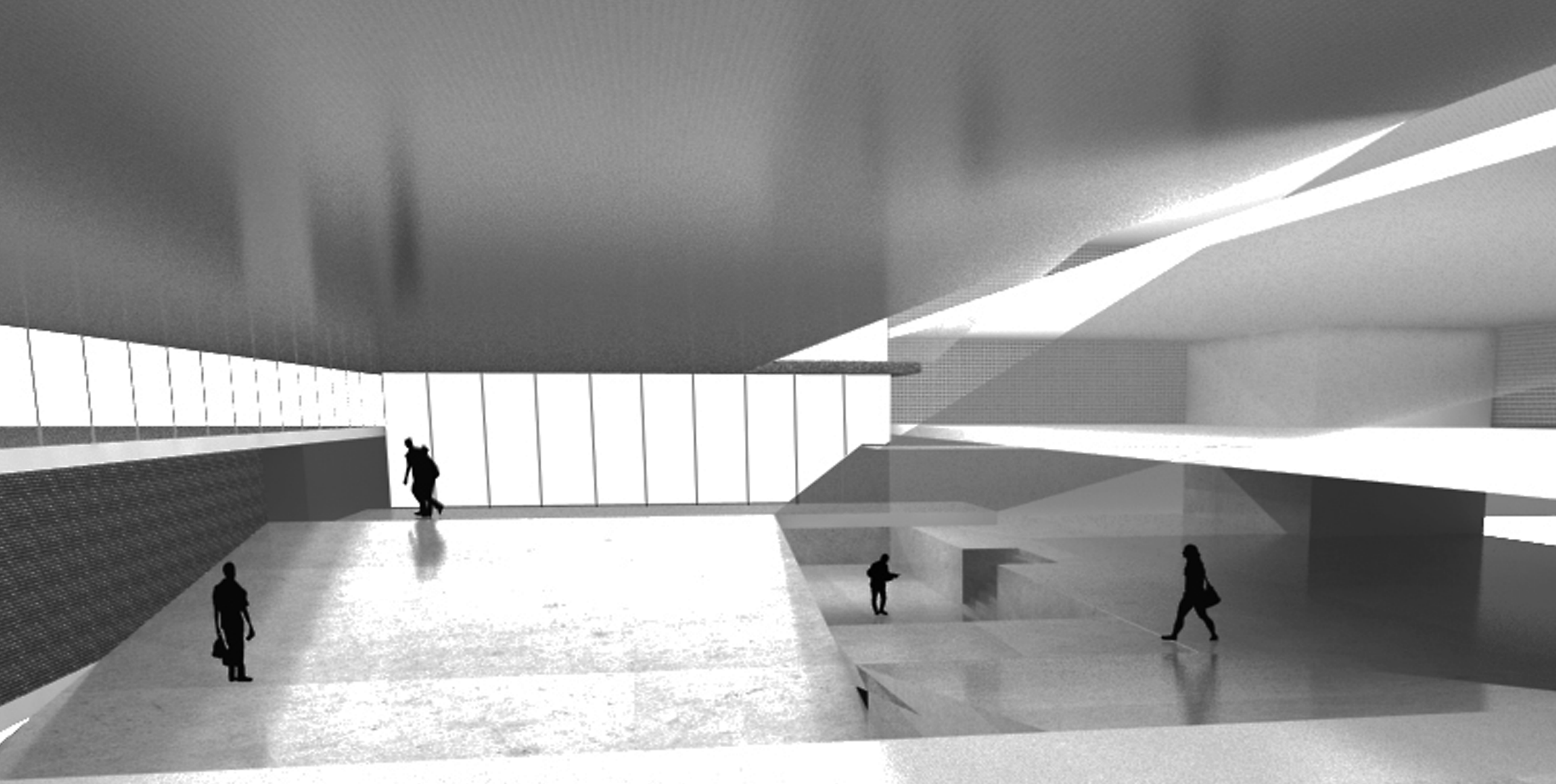


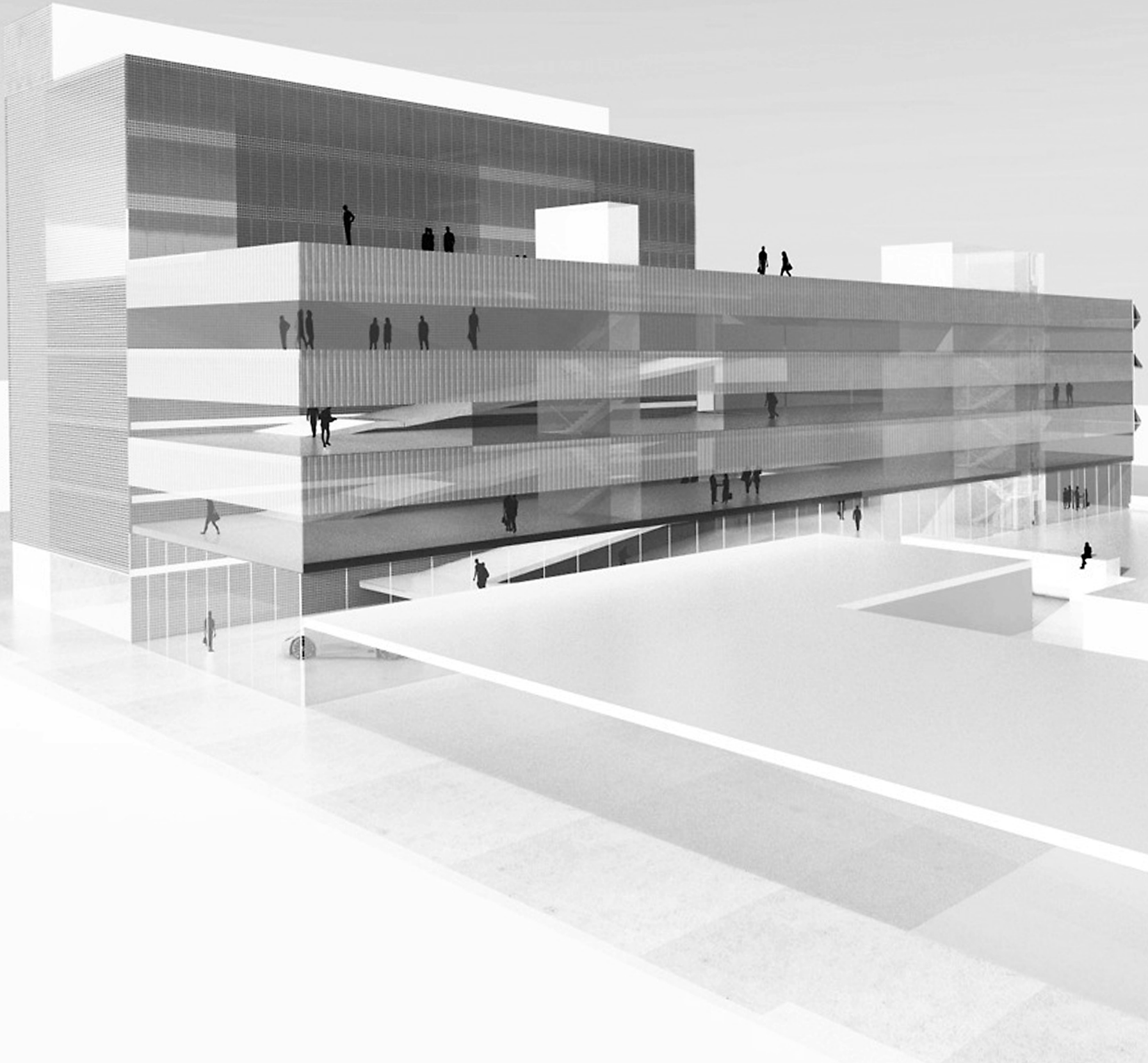
+19650

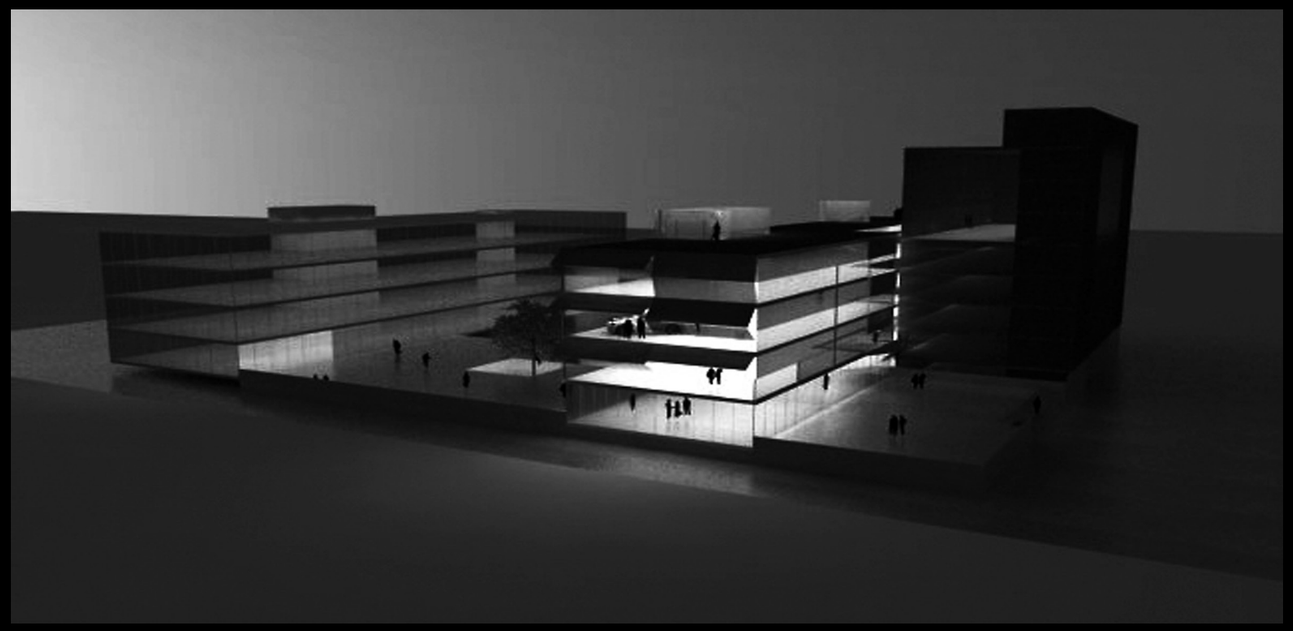
6th B&C +19650 & 7th B&C +23150 / 1:200

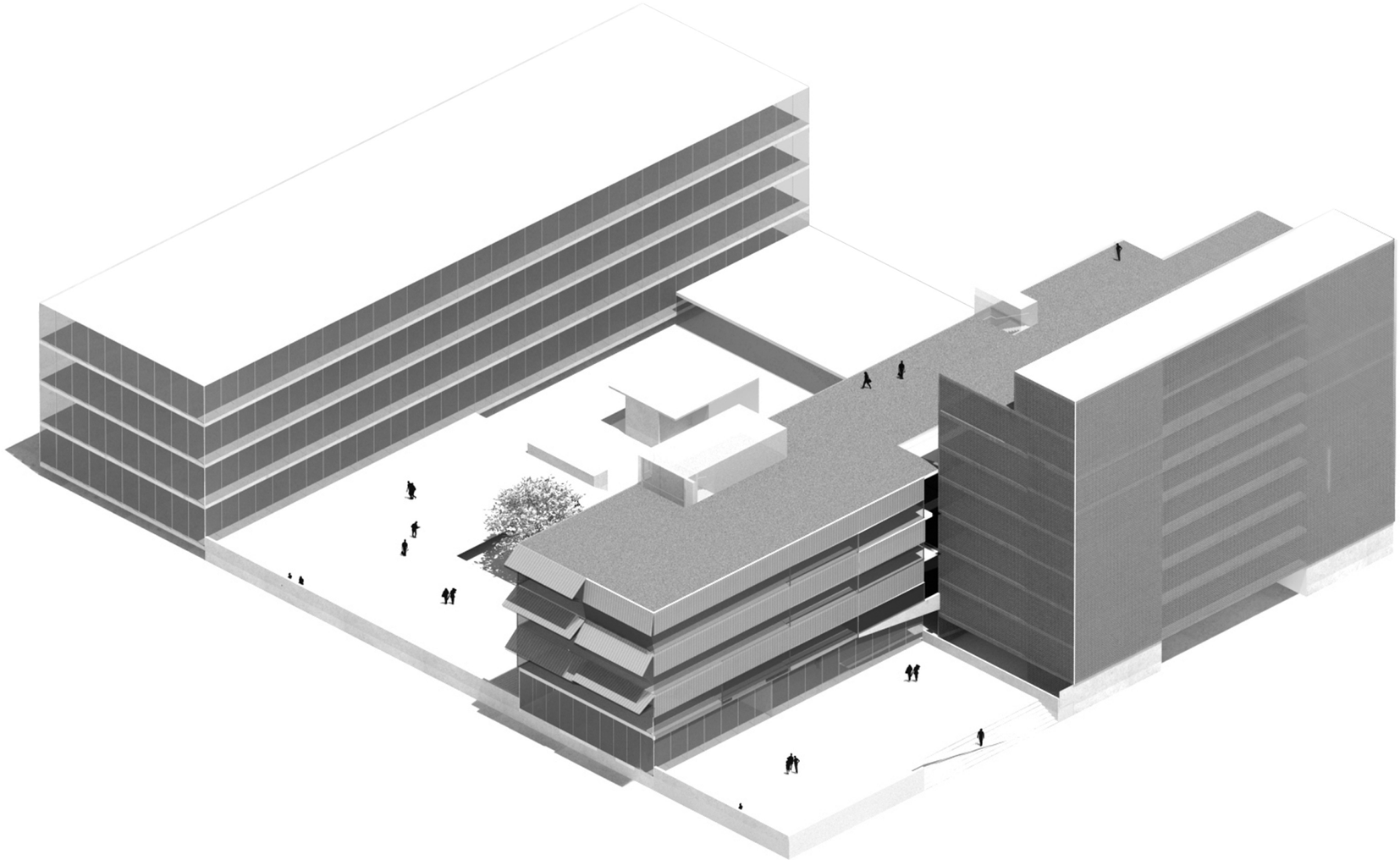
Daylight

The new building expands and connects the first four floors of the B&C building with the floors of the ‘66 building. Car-ramps are positioned at the junction of the two buildings, allowing car traffic to penetrate throughout the new building. The ramps are made of steel grating, allowing daylight to penetrate from the skylight to the souterrain. By removing the facade of the B&C building along the connection, the building becomes part of the whole. The differences in floor levels offer subtle spatial and functional distinctions. From the library on the ground floor, for example, there is a direct sightline to the high hall. The offices on the first floor offer visual access to the workshops, the entry hall and the cafe-restaurant. The ramps offer a second route architecturale through the building, with shortcuts wherever they meet the adjacent floors.









Structure and construction

The 2,1x2,1m grid is too small a span to be efficient. However, by using a filigree wide slab flooring construction, with 70mm thick slabs on the prefab concrete beams (at a distance of 2,1m), it becomes possible to pour the floors without additional support beneath. This saves a great deal of time and money on the building's structure, which is simultaneously the finish work. The relatively heavy structure of floors and beams is used for a concrete core activation system. The ducts and plumbing are poured into the relatively thick floors. The structural line will be cast in-situ, just off-center. The grating panels of the ramps are supported by a steel structure with pinned connections between the structural line and the columns of the existing B&C building.

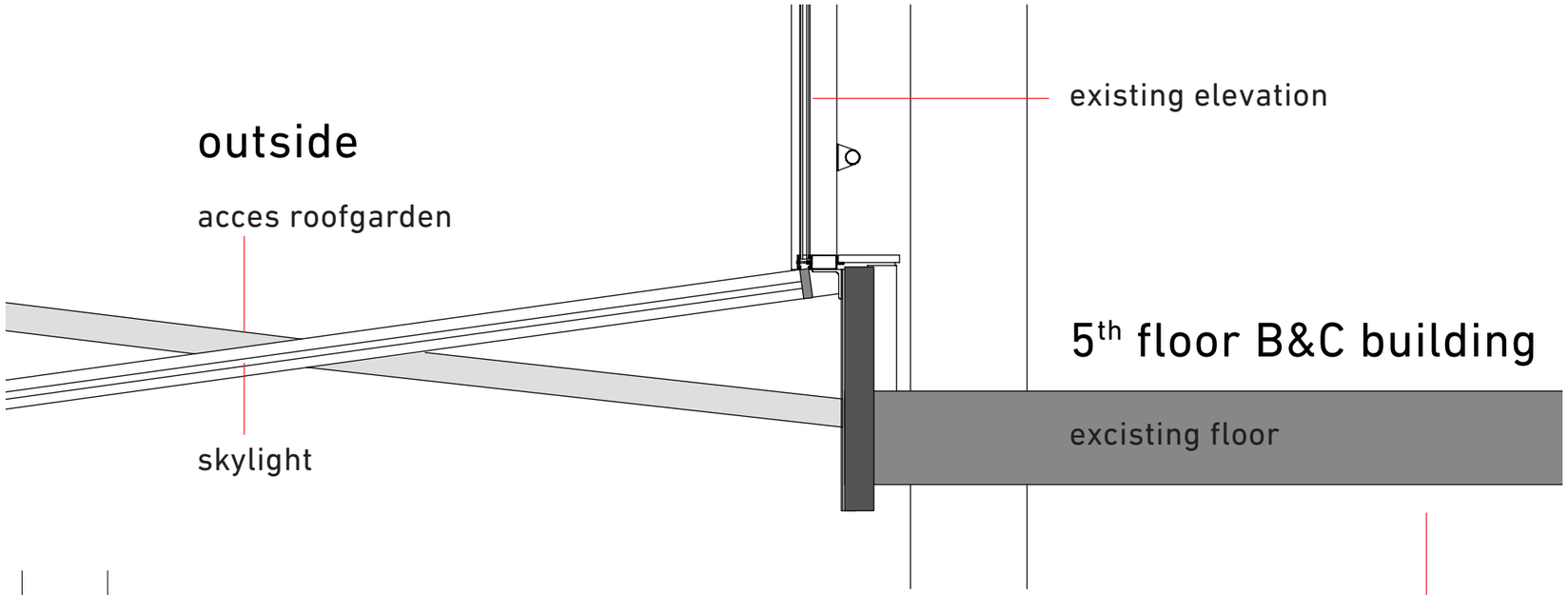
n t Hear

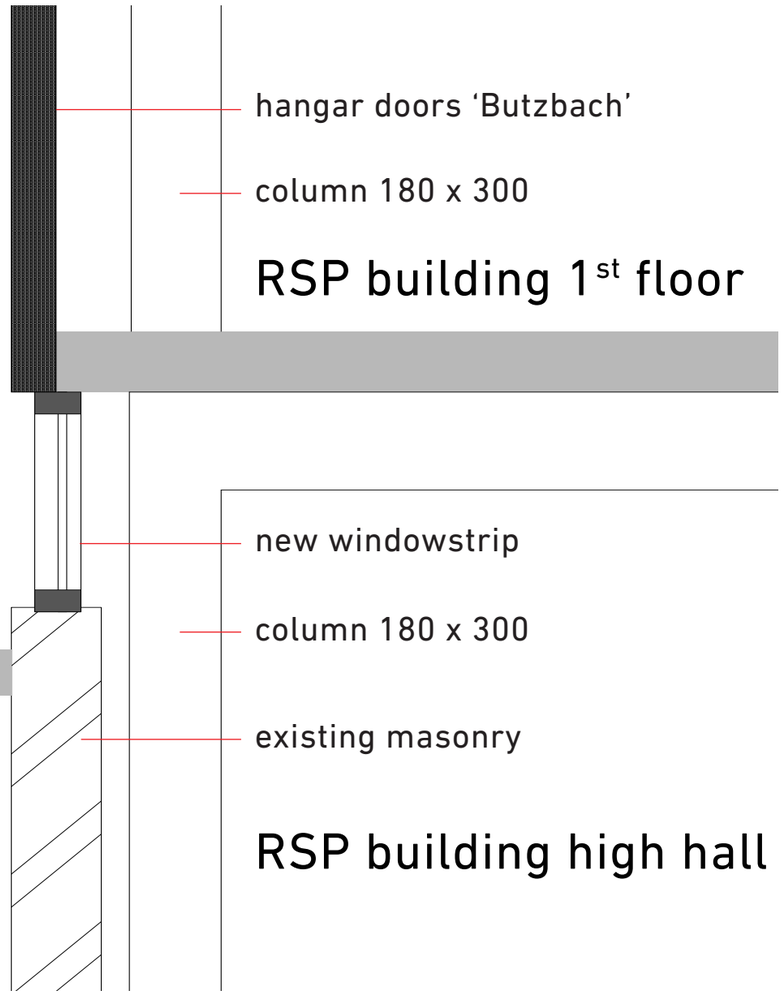
Don t

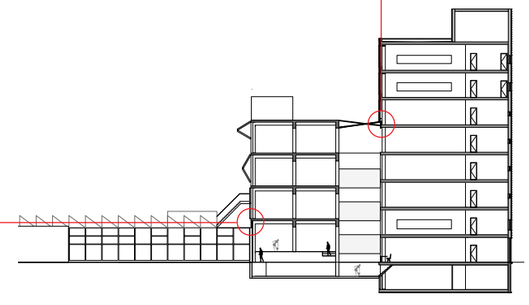
The details

As usual, “steckt der liebe God im Detail”. This is particularly relevant to the Rietveld Academy, considering that the ’66 building was designed by a man who wrote, in pen, on the working drawings for the red-yellow-blue chair: “de hoeken van de latten slechts licht ontscherpen, geen vellingkanten van enkele millimeters!!!!!!!” (just lightly soften the edges of the wood, no beveled edges of a few millimeters!!!!!)

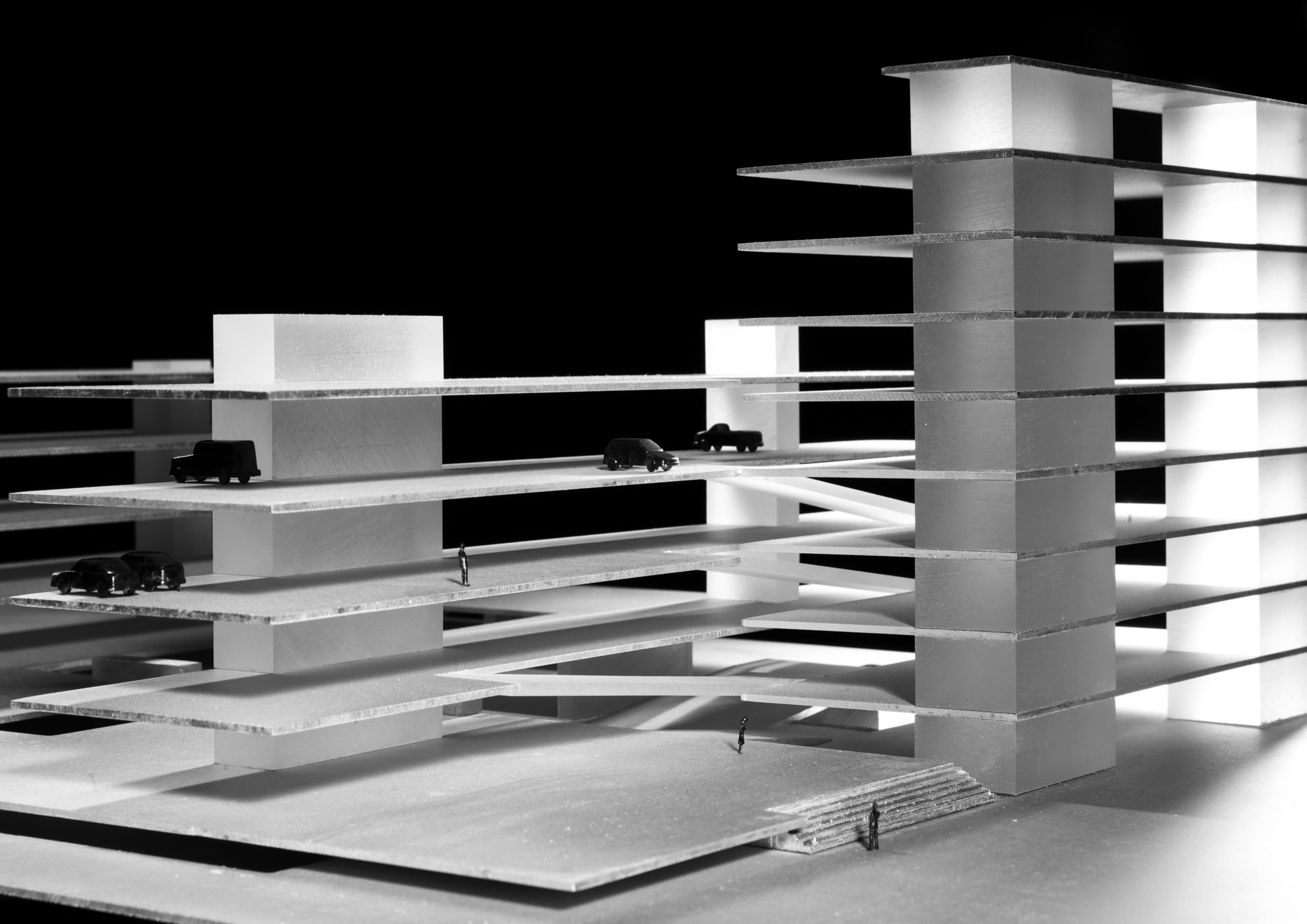
This articulation of the edge is present in the floor joists of the existing building. They have no beveled edges, but sharp corners, which now show the damage and wear of time, but still contrast the in-situ concrete joists with a beveled edge. This care and precision is naturally the touchstone for the new building and the articulation of its connections with the existing buildings.

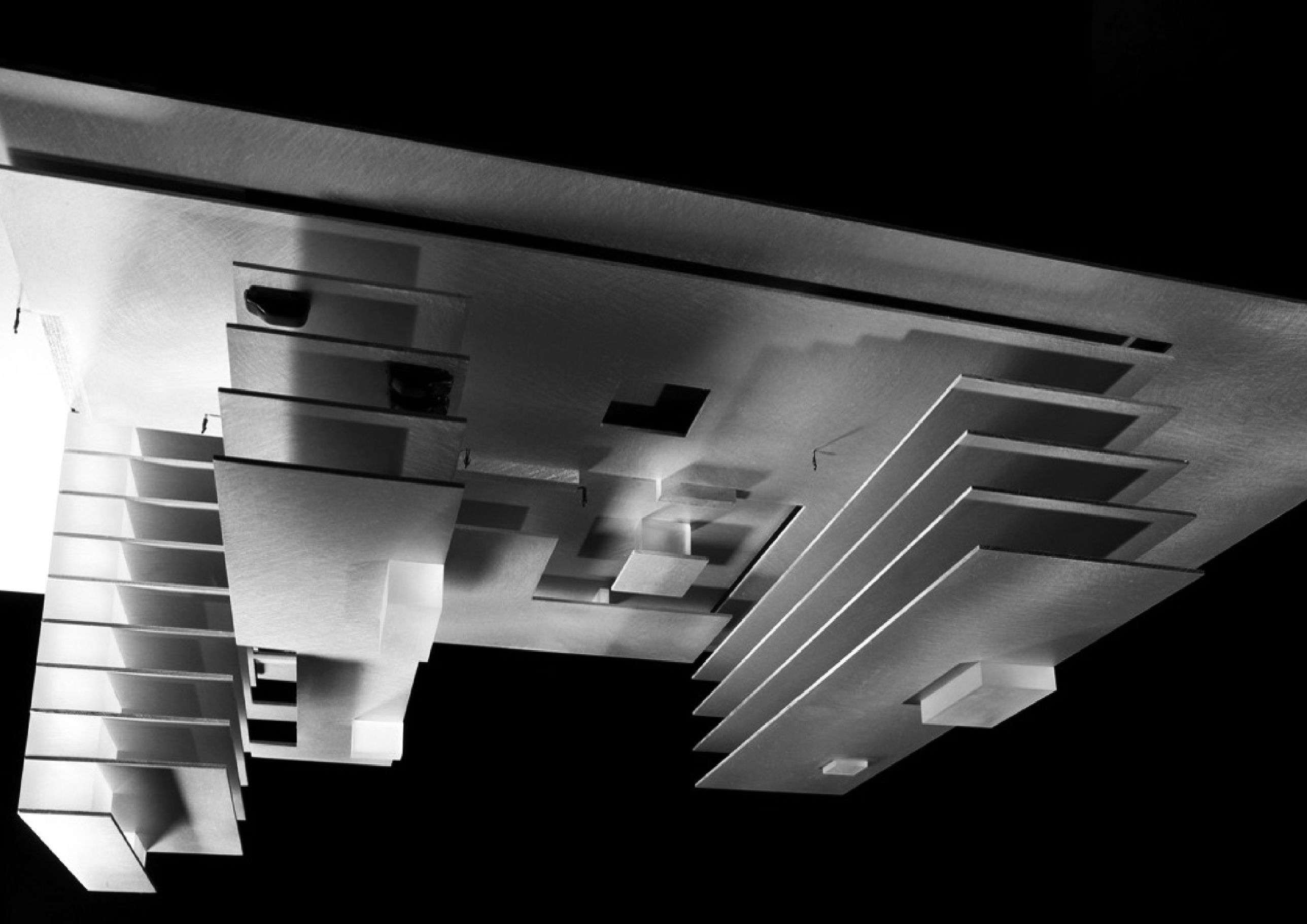

existing elevation
outside
acces roofgarden
skylight
5th floor B&C building
excisting floor

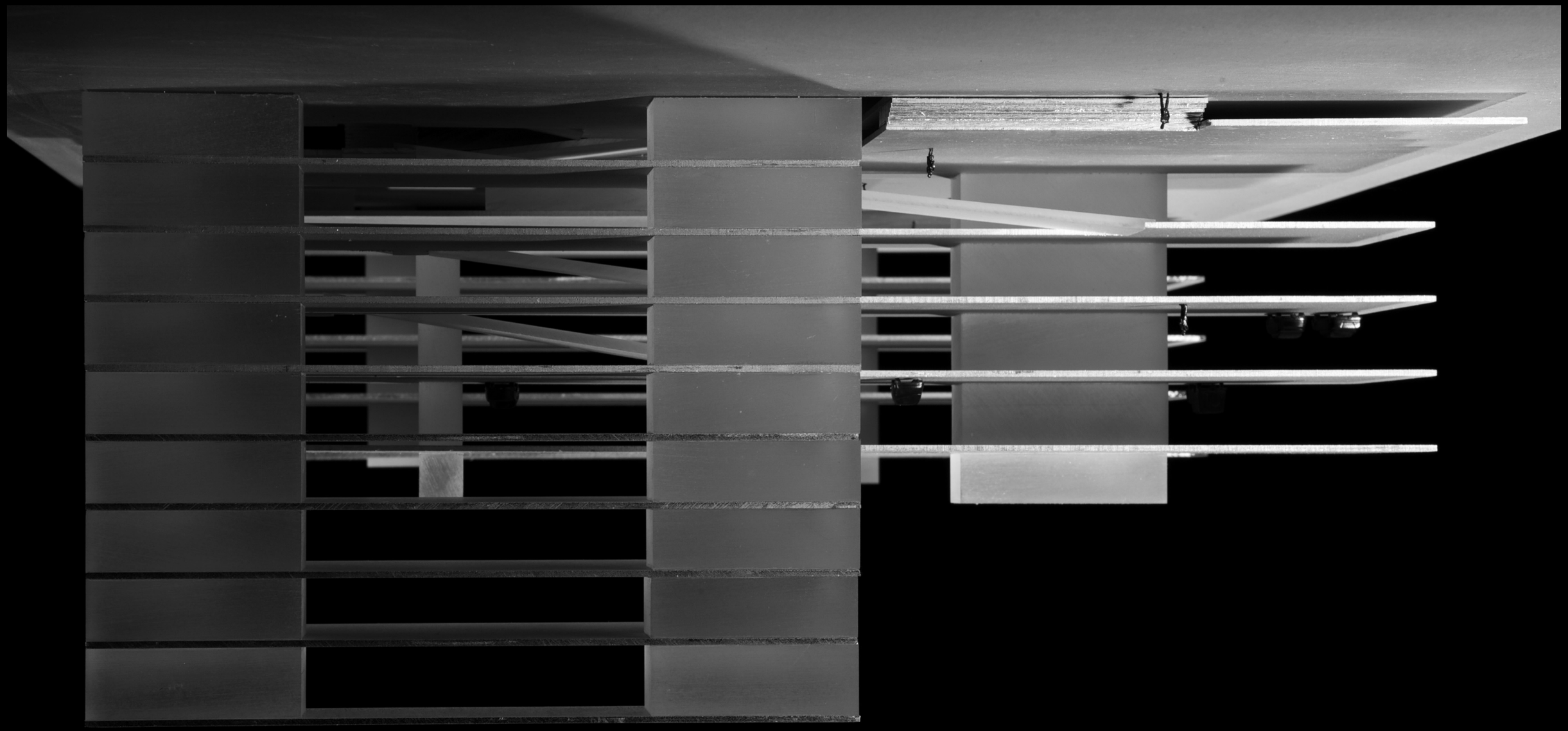

hangar doors ‘Butzbach’
column 180 x 300
RSP building 1st floor
outside
new windowstrip
column 180 x 300
existing masonry
Rietveld Building workshop
RSP building high hall

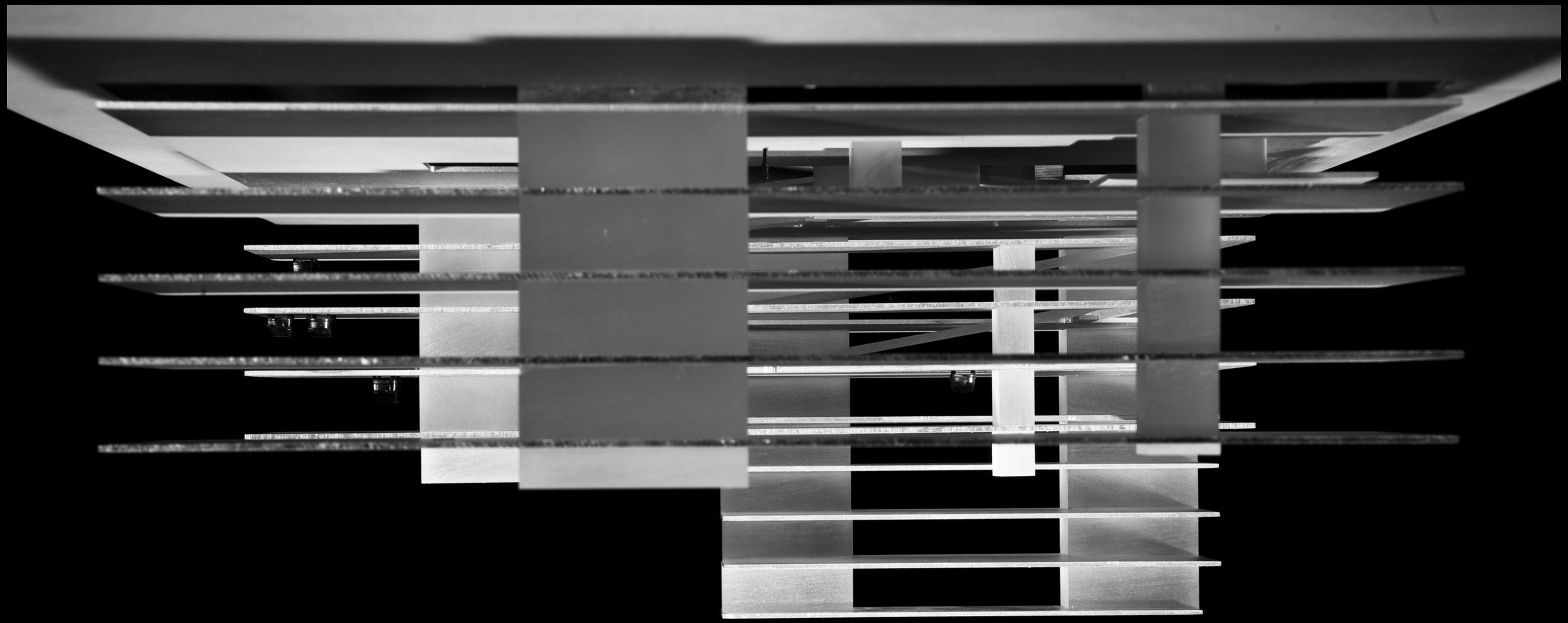


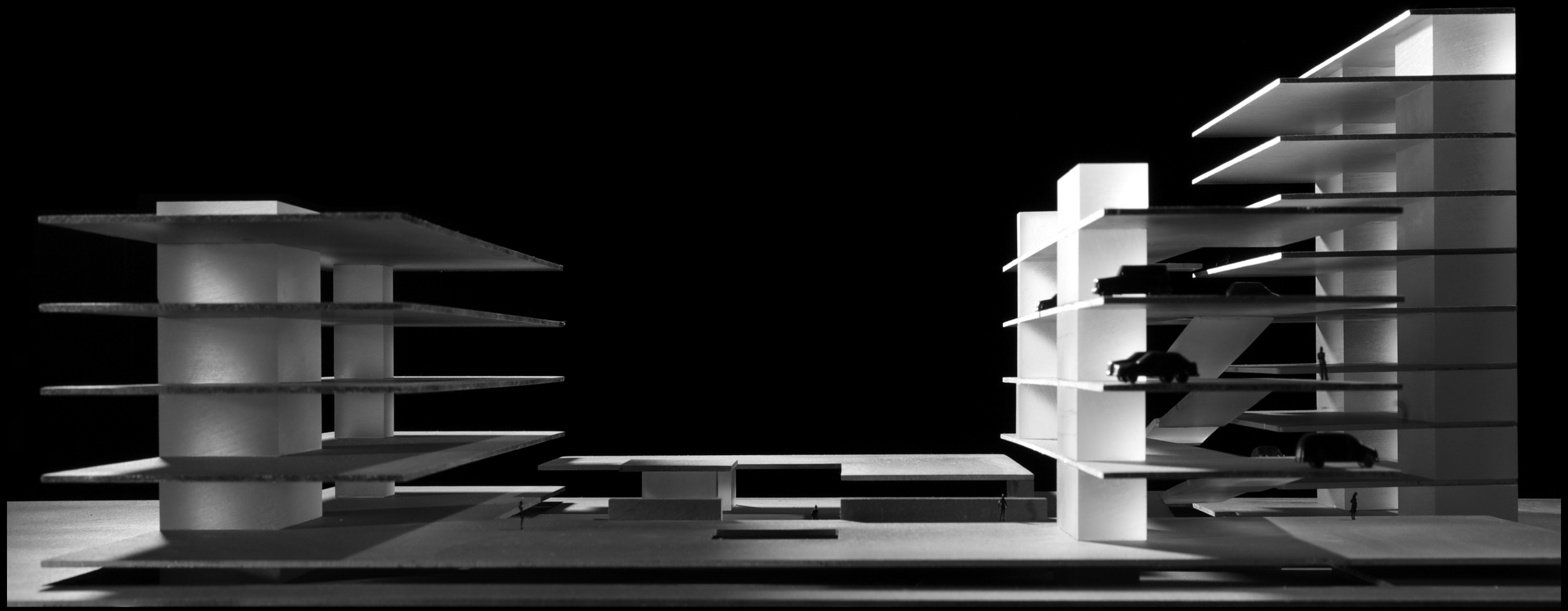
DETAILS

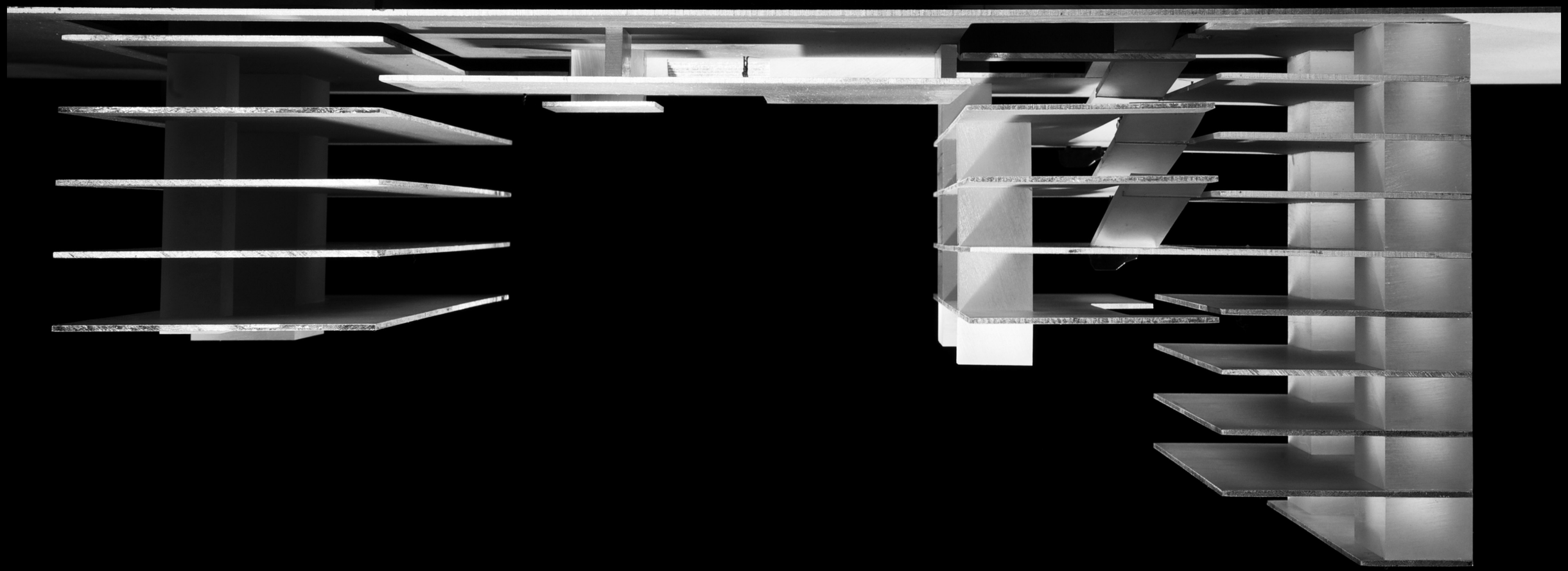








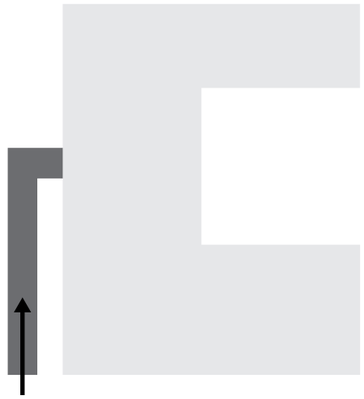




THE UNDETERMINED PROGRAM

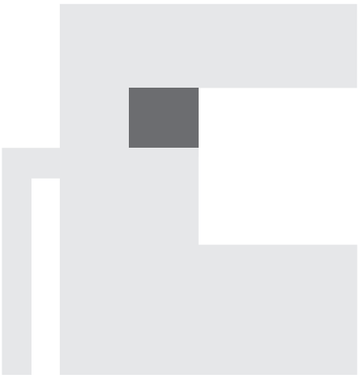
BASEMENT

WORKSHOPS & STUDIO SPACE



ACCES TO PARKING GARAGE

PARKING GARAGE & BICYCLE SHED



GENERAL STORAGE

GROUNDLEVEL B&C BUILDING & RIETVELD WORKSHOPS

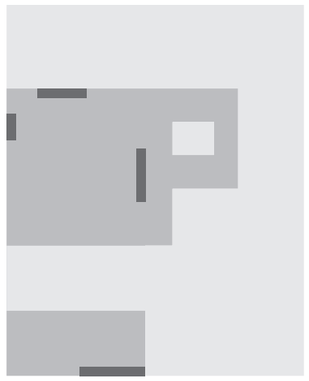
WORKSHOPS & 'HAKHOK'

OUTDOOR WORK PLACES

KNOWLEDGE CENTRE

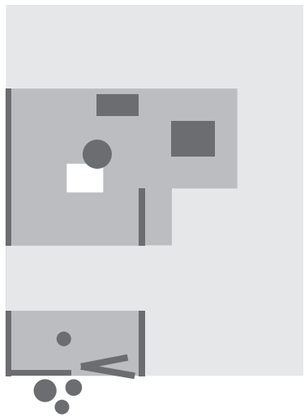
WORKSHOP & 1ST PHASE
WORKSHOP RELATED DEPARTMENTS

GROUNDLEVEL RSP BUILDING & RIETVELD BUILDING

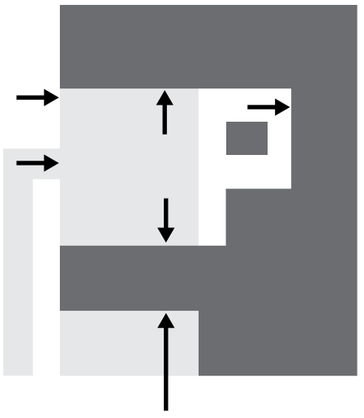


STAIRWAYS & RAMP

THREE SQUARES WITH DIFFERENT
APPEARANCE AND USE

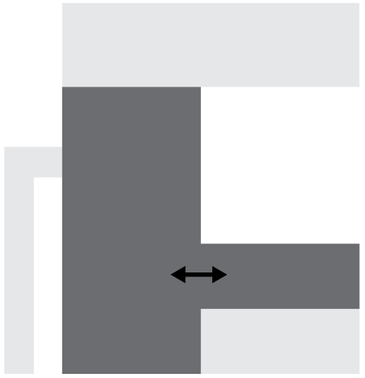


ACCENTS ON THE SQUARE
(BANKS, TREES, SHELTERS)

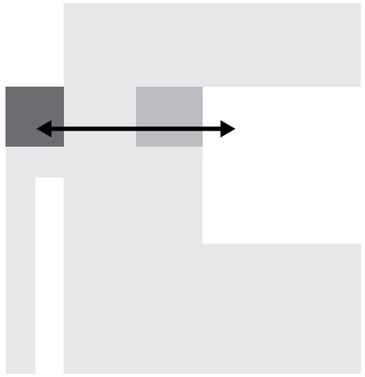


ENTRANCE

SUMMARY > FLOORPLANS & FUNCTIONS

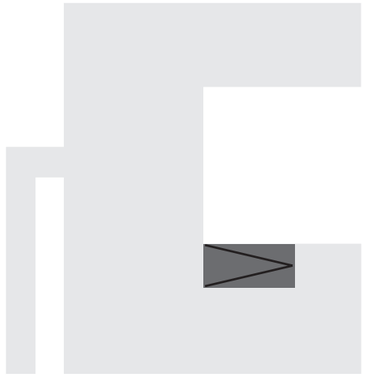


CONNECTION BETWEEN PARKING GARAGE & RSP BUILDING

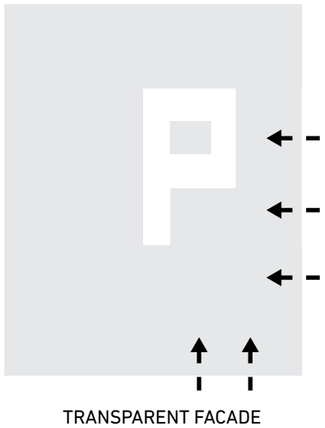


CONNECTION BETWEEN WASTE CONTAINERS, STORAGE & OUTDOOR WORK PLACES

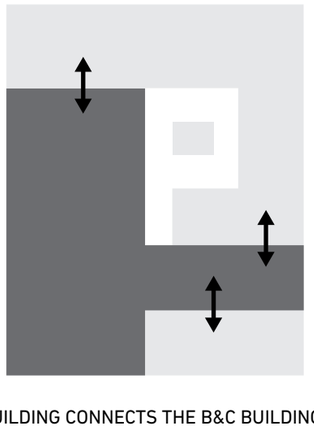
ASSEMBLY SQUARES



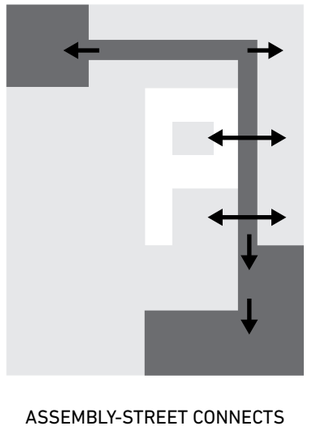
AUDITORIUM / RAMP



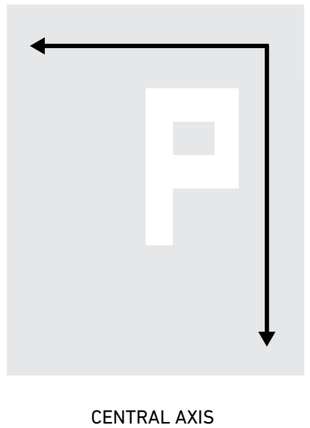
TRANSPARENT FACADE



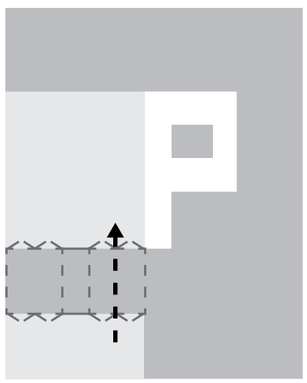
RSP BUILDING CONNECTS THE B&C BUILDING WITH THE RIETVELD BUILDING INTO ONE COMPLEX



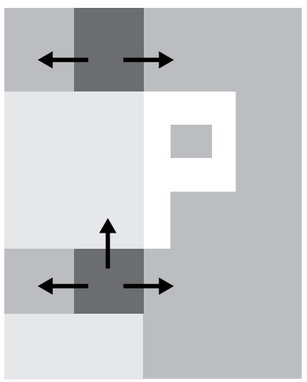
ASSEMBLY-STREET CONNECTS WORKSHOPS WITH THE ASSEMBLY SQUARES & KNOWLEDGE CENTRE



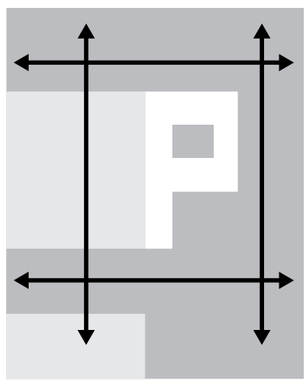
CENTRAL AXIS



OPEN & TRANSPARANT FACADE

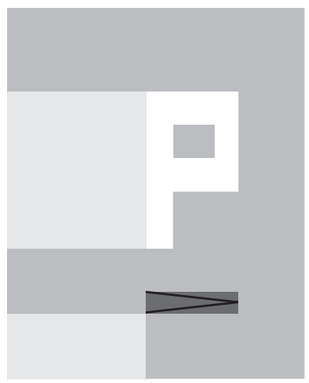


CENTRAL MEETING AND TRANSITION AREAS



MAIN ROUTE THROUGH THE BUILDING

RESTAURANT



RAMP & CONNECTION WITH KNOWLEDGE CENTRE & OFFICES

3RD FLOOR

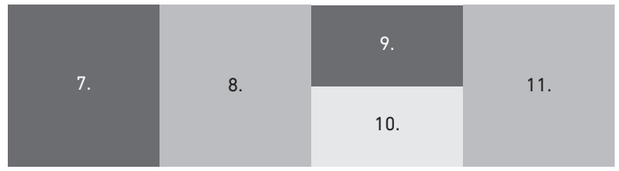
1. FOUNDATION YEAR
1. PREPARATORY YEARS
1. DOGTIME 1 + 2
1. PROJECTSPACE

2ND FLOOR

2. PHOTOGRAPHY
3. PROJECTSPACE
4. COMPUTER WORKSHOP
5. IMAGE AND LANGUAGE
6. GRAPHIC DESIGN

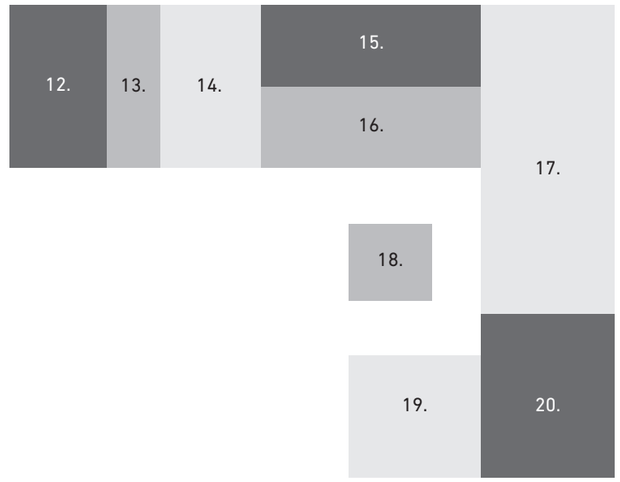
1ST FLOOR

7. ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN
8. DESIGNLAB
9. DOGTIME 3,4,5
10. PROJECTSPACE
11. FASHION



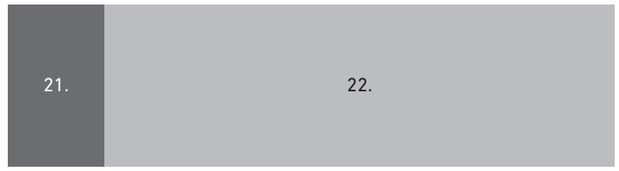
GROUNDLEVEL

12. PROJECTSPACE
13. SHOP/EXHIBITION
14. ENTRANCE
15. JEWELLERY
16. TXT (TEXTILE)
17. WORKSHOPS
18. EXHIBITION
19. GLASS
20. CERAMICS



BASEMENT

21. PROJECTSPACE
22. WORKSHOPS



RIETVELD BUILDING

REORGANISATION OF FUNCTIONS

7TH FLOOR

23. DOGTIME 3,4,5

6TH FLOOR

24. FINE ARTS

5TH FLOOR

25. FINE ARTS

4TH FLOOR

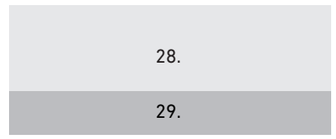
26. SANDBERG INSTITUTE

3RD FLOOR

27. VAV

2ND FLOOR

28. WORKSHOPS / STUDIO'S
29. OFFICES / ADMINISTRATION

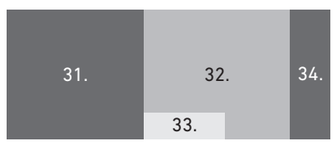


1ST FLOOR

30. OFFICES / ADMINISTRATION

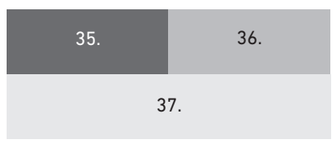
GROUNDLEVEL

31. KNOWLEDGE CENTRE
32. LIBRARY
33. EXHIBITION
34. LECTORATE



BASEMENT

35. PROJECTS SPACE
36. VAV
37. STORAGE



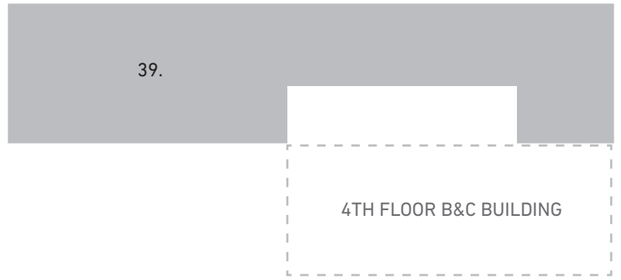
BENTHEM & CROUWEL BUILDING

4TH FLOOR

38. ROOFGARDEN

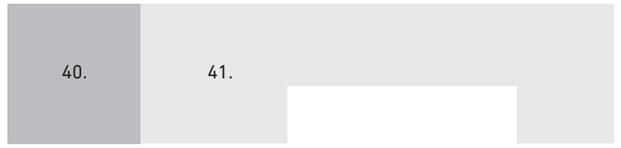
3RD FLOOR

39. SANDBERG INSTITUTE



2ND FLOOR

40. PROJECTSPACE
41. SANDBERG INSTITUTE



1ST FLOOR

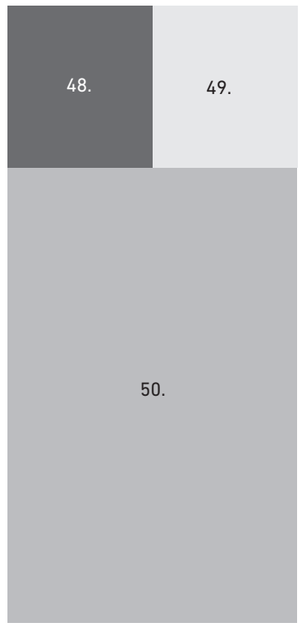
42. FINE ARTS

GROUNDLEVEL

43. RESTAURANT
44. DOORMAN
45. MAIN ENTRANCE
46. AUDITORIUM
47. EXHIBITION / PROJECT SPACE

BASEMENT

48. BICYCLE SHED
49. CENTRAL STORAGE
50. CAR-PARKING



RSP NEW BUILDING

RSP ZONES

Public space

The Zuidas intends to make a park-lane of the Fred Roeskestraat. The new terrace of the restaurant/cafe, overlooking the cars at a height of 1,4m, accommodates this idea. The ‘front garden’ with the three poplars will remain, but deserves to be redesigned in a coherent manner with that of neighbors, both across and adjacent.
This will do more justice to the ‘storefront’ of the B&C building. The broad stair accesses the large terrace on the south side and the secret internal plaza.
A building that can fully sustain itself, which nevertheless invites the city in.

Entrance

When entering one understands the building at a glance. Upon entering through the tall glass doors, the cafe-restaurant is visible to the left, the stairs and elevator straight ahead, and the large internal plaza is visible through the rear facade, with the ‘old’ Rietveld building in the distance. To the right, a ramp leads down to the high hall, halfway to the library (where the books are already visible), but also to the auditorium. The entry is suspended in the auditorium, like the balcony in Romeo and Juliet.

Cafe-Restaurant

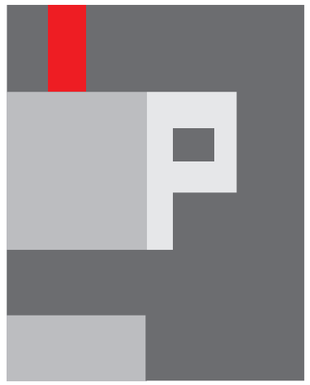
Long waiting lines and weak coffee do not encourage the world outside to come visit the Academy. We propose a new, larger canteen that far exceeds the label ‘canteen’. A proper cafe and restaurant with a solid menu of good coffee, lunch and dinner, will draw in the Zuidas people, and the rest of the city as well. It will continue to provide good and affordable food for the Academy community. In the summers, students and Zuidas professionals will form a vibrant crowd, drinking latte macchiato, with the added benefit of increasing student jobs. The cafe-restaurant will be situated in the new building, directly next to the entry: central, and virtually unavoidable. This is its rightful place, as one of the most crucial gathering spaces of the academy community. On nice days, this gathering space will be expanded by the two terraces: one along the southern plaza, facing the street, and one on the internal plaza. The cafe-restaurant may also offer the opportunity to exhibit and sell student work.

The Auditorium

The Auditorium, with more than 400 seats, is formed by the ramp from the car park to the higher levels. It can be used in any number of ways. The car park may become the crossover area for larger theater productions, and the entry area might be the perfect romantic balcony for Romeo and Juliet. The raised section along the interior courtyard (the ‘muppet balcony’) and the horizontal plateau at the center create a truly multifunctional auditorium.

The Knowledge Center & Library

The current library is not up to its task: it cannot sufficiently accommodate current standards of theoretical research and dissemination. With a serious extension – in terms of both square meters and resources – the library will transform into a knowledge center. Our proposal reserves sufficient space for an expansion of its current activities on street level, making it easily accessible. In essence, the Knowledge Center is an alternate workshop, part of the Academy 'assembly-line'. The Knowledge Center forms the connection between the Cafe-restaurant, Auditorium, offices, workshops and the Sandberg Institute. Theory classes will move to the area around the new auditorium, creating space in the '66 building for departments returning 'home'. During Studium Generale week, the other ramps can also be used for lectures and presentations.



Shop

The store offers an excellent opportunity for expanding its product range beyond paper and pencils. The store will be reconceived as a showroom, where visitors to the building can see and purchase the entire RSP collection (see 'RSP Open Source' below). The product range of work materials for students may also be expanded. This new and improved Shop will fit snugly in the former canteen of the '66 building.

The Workshops

In the original design, Gerrit Rietveld took future use into account as well. His proposal for a future expansion (as shown in drawings from the NAi archive) extends the existing zone for workshops, connecting it to the new building. This is precisely what we envision with our addition. The departments of Glass and Ceramics will expand. Jewellery Design will move to the current space of designLAB, leaving space for more wood, metal and the CAD/CAM workshops. The desired Assemblage Hall is already a central part of the new proposal. The existing corridor functions as a continual line between all the workshops, offering access to the interior courtyard, the exterior workshop, and the 'chop-shop'. The ends of this 'assembly line' are formed by the gym in the original building and the high hall of the RSP, in which large-scale projects can be executed.

The Central Plaza

The western side of the internal raised plaza is lined by the second-longest bench in Amsterdam. The floor shows the 2,1m grid. A void with steel grating and a tree connects the plaza to the world below. The existing awning has been reattached along the original entry to the ‘66 building. A broad stair leads down to an even more intimate courtyard, where the waste containers are no longer present, restoring its geometric splendor. Storage and waste containers are located under the central plaza, where they are accessible from the courtyard workshop and the souterrain car park.

The Sandberg Institute

The current Sandberg Institute is a mystery to many Bachelor’s students and their teachers by virtue of its location and inaccessibility. A door that opens only after ringing a bell, a closed elevator and a narrow stairwell are not enough to connect the Sandberg Institute and increase its visibility. Our proposal makes the Institute more easily accessible by introducing access from the entry hall on ground level. With floor levels at equal heights to the ‘66 building, the top floor of the new building even lines up with the adjacent B&C floor, a key location with the Workshops, Cafe-restaurant and Knowledge Center at arm’s reach. Embedded in all essential academic functions, the Sandberg Institute will become the heart of a stimulating continuation of a completed Bachelor’s curriculum.

The Offices

Close study of the original floor plans shows that office space has grown to five times the original square meters since the completion of the ‘66 building. The library and the Fashion department have already been forced to move. To accommodate further expansion without losing precious teaching space, we propose that all office functions move to the B&C building on the first and second floors. The offices are in direct contact with the knowledge center and the new building, and simultaneously form a natural buffer between the open exterior world and the ‘enclosed creation machine’.

Teaching Spaces

Moving theory spaces and offices creates space for teaching. The ‘66 building is restored to its original state for Bachelor and Dogtime students. The grid and dimensions of the ‘66 building are used to define the RSP building, underscoring the widely-acknowledged quality of the original. Wherever possible, small spaces are removed. Large departments with a limited number of secluded spaces are preferred for the overall image of the ‘66 building as well as the B&C and RSP buildings. This constructs an overall plan libre that can be easily adjusted to the continually changing needs and desires of each department.

Cars and Bicycles

Originally, bicycles and mopeds parked beneath the ‘66 building. The still remaining staircase with bicycle gutter will be used again as to enter the bicycle and car park under the plaza. It provides enough space for 73 cars and 170 bicycles. Its programmatically undetermined design also offers exhibition space for exam work, workshop or project space, or anything else the occasion may call for. If more parking is required, the basement of the B&C building may be used, as well as the entire RSP building.

While the space under the building is in principle reserved for bicycles and cars, it should accommodate various uses. The ceiling should be high, providing a spacious souterrain in accordance with the dimensioning system of the ‘66 building. The garage is only partially below ground, providing natural light and air, as well as a visual connection to the interior courtyard, the Fred Roeskestraat and surrounding buildings. Holes in the ceiling together with open stairwells and elevator cores ensure continual sightlines to the aboveground structures. The dimensions for parking space and traffic lanes are in accordance with standard regulations. Lighting, traffic markings and other graphic elements will be part of the RSP Collection. (see ‘Open Source’).

Storage, Waste and Recycling

There are various storage spaces in the building. The most important one is located under the raised plaza and is accessible from the courtyard as well as from the souterrain parking. The entry of the souterrain car park functions as the delivery and service area. Another storage is directly accessible from the Fred Roeskestraat through a door in the base of the building.

The waste and recycling containers will be placed belowground at the level of the car park. Students parking their bicycle (or car) can pass by the containers and grab materials for their work. The car park is directly connected to the rest of the building.


THE SQUARE METER MULTIPLIER

RSP BONUS

* We have responded to the demand for an underground parking garage with a semi-underground garage. This is cheaper to build, particularly because it does not require expensive mechanical ventilation. This is estimated to save about 1 million euros in construction costs. The anticipated savings are spent on the building finish.

* A substantial part of the budget has been reserved to modify the existing buildings and to move existing workshops. The RSP plan enhances and expands the workshops in their current locations. This approach also saves a substantial part of the reserved modification budget. Mechanical ventilation, high-voltage power lines and gas lines no longer need to be moved. More space for less money!

* Constructing a new entry ramp to the car park is expensive and takes up a lot of precious public space. We propose using the existing Loyens en Loeff parking ramp (as many of the spaces in the garage will be rented by them). The additional savings - in terms of space and budget - can be used for the plaza and its terrace.

* The project brief indicates a desire to use experimental techniques. This plan chooses proven technologies for execution, but is experimental in terms of organization, design, use and maintenance. Existing hangar doors are used in a new way, as facade panels. Most particularly, approaching much of the building project as ‘open source’ is an experimental design approach, which may create new conditions for teaching and research. Earlier experiments along these lines such as Haus am Horn in Weimar or the Meisterhäuser at the Bauhaus in Dessau, have proven to be quite successful to this day. We see a bright future for the school in this approach.

* RSP builds on the existing Rietveld building, no ‘icons’, Wille zur Form, or ‘auteurs’. It offers the simple but proven benefit of square meters and extensive height.

RSP SUSTAINABILITY

* The most significant factor in the sustainability of the building is the provision of programmatically unspecified, flexible space. This will allow the building to remain viable for decades.
* The second major contribution to the sustainability of the building is how it brings together the three components into one single building. Of course, this has a smaller facade area than three separate buildings. More than 1.000 m2 of the current exterior facade will become interior wall. This will save energy in both the new and the old buildings.
* As a result of the RSP plan, part of the B&C facade will need to be removed. We propose to remove the facade panels with care wherever possible and reuse them in the RSP building.
* The heating system consists of concrete core activation combined with a geothermal heat pump.
* Although more extensive calculations will be made on cooling, the intention is not to require any cooling systems. The facade panels can be partially or fully opened, which should suffice for cooling.
* We propose installing a hybrid ventilation system, which consists of natural air intake combined with mechanical extraction.
* Rainwater from the roofs and plazas will be harvested and used in a gray water system for toilets and workshops.
* The upper floor of the RSP building will be used as a roof terrace and urban vegetable garden for the restaurant.
* Wherever possible, construction materials will be selected for the lowest possible carbon footprint. The ingredients for an Albert Heijn pizza are flown in from all over the world before it ends up on your plate – in that light, ‘sustainable’ lumber from Brazil loses its attraction in comparison with local materials.
* The Open Source approach, including self-

designed and locally produced construction elements, reduces the ecological footprint of the furniture, light fixtures, cups and other necessities.

* The elements of the new building that are designed and produced by the school can be maintained and repaired by the the academy community.

* Currently, many of the materials and objects in the recycling and waste bins are reused by students. By prominently positioning the recycling and waste points in all the buildings and designing them to facilitate reuse, we believe the waste leaving the complex will be reduced substantially. Following cradle-to-cradle principles, the waste and recycling areas will become part of the ‘RSP circle of life’.

* The user of such a large building will desire variation in the spaces of the building, such as areas where it is warmer or colder, lighter or darker. These different areas influence the work, experience and use of the space, increasing the individual character of each specific area, such as the contrast between a refreshing hall and the warmth and comfort of a study hall.

* During construction, the academy community will regularly be informed about materials, their origin and background, and about building regulations and legislation, in order to increase awareness of sustainability in architecture. The new construction will become part of the teaching curriculum.

* Finally, the volume of parking space offered is a natural extension of the recently outspoken ambition of the municipality of Amsterdam to increase the number of electric cars. Their proposal Car2go will offer more than 300 electric Smarts as a shared transportation pool in the city. RSP will offer numerous fast-charging stations - potentially to be used for laptops, rechargeable drills or portable grinders as well.

SOURCING RIETVELD

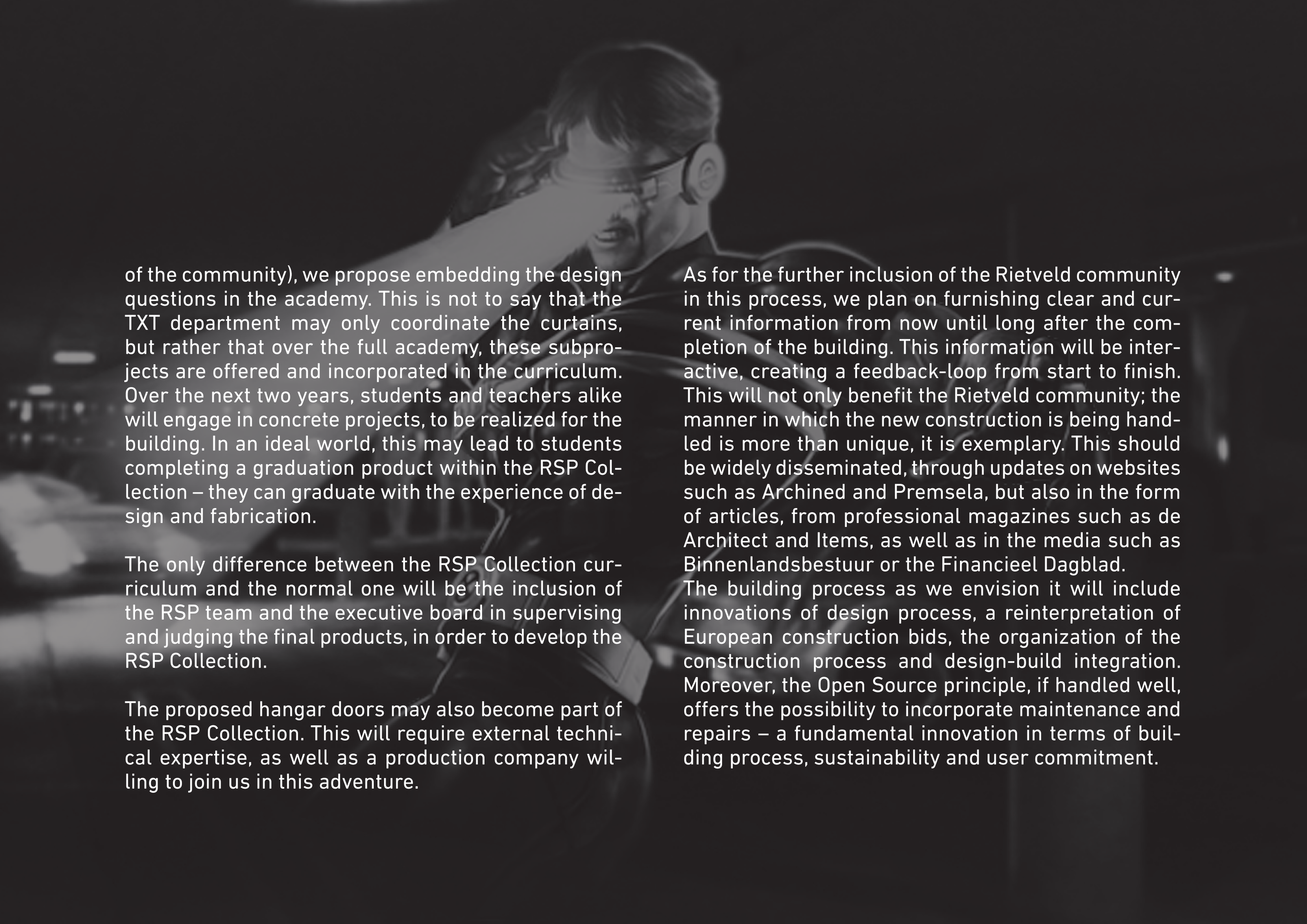
RSP OPEN SOURCE

or how to incorporate commitment in the teaching curriculum:

Besides the structure itself, the new building will also require furnishings such as chairs, tables, cups and saucers, glasses, lighting fixtures, curtains, electrical outlets, faucets, toilet bowls, sinks, doors, light switches, hinges, doorknobs, tiles, graphic signage, carpets and flooring, a reception desk, a new cafe-restaurant and many more items that can be approached as design questions rather than merely functional elements. Instead of buying these components and items from a non-descript wholesaler or a prestigious (and expensive) design label, we propose that the Academy community designs and produces them. Separate small competitions will be organized for these furnishings and building components.

The price of a chair is primarily based on marketing costs, overhead, and transport. Actual production costs are a fraction of the in-store retail price. This begs the question whether the Academy community should purchase everything from a large office furniture manufacturer, or rather has the collective intelligence and mastery to do most of the furnishings itself. We believe the Academy community has the expertise and craftsmanship to fulfill many of its immediate and material needs.
Peter Sloterdijk discusses ‘practice’ (in the sense of reiteration) and Richard Sennett published his book on craftsmanship in 2008. They both form a solid plea for not only designing, but also producing, many building components in-house. The building will not only be made for the students, teachers and alumni, but also by them.
The development of various tangible products for the building has an additional benefit: in terms of fabrication, it makes little difference whether a machine is set to weave 50 meters or 5000 meters of curtain fabric (in fact, production costs drop as the volume produced increases). In other words, the sub-competitions for partial products will create a collection of well-designed building elements and design objects. The building will become a showroom for the products used, which can be sold as RSP merchandising. The RSP Collection = sourcing quality!

Rather than initiating a separate ‘project office’ with limited office hours (thus decreasing the commitment



of the community), we propose embedding the design questions in the academy. This is not to say that the TXT department may only coordinate the curtains, but rather that over the full academy, these subprojects are offered and incorporated in the curriculum. Over the next two years, students and teachers alike will engage in concrete projects, to be realized for the building. In an ideal world, this may lead to students completing a graduation product within the RSP Collection – they can graduate with the experience of design and fabrication.

The only difference between the RSP Collection curriculum and the normal one will be the inclusion of the RSP team and the executive board in supervising and judging the final products, in order to develop the RSP Collection.

The proposed hangar doors may also become part of the RSP Collection. This will require external technical expertise, as well as a production company willing to join us in this adventure.

As for the further inclusion of the Rietveld community in this process, we plan on furnishing clear and current information from now until long after the completion of the building. This information will be interactive, creating a feedback-loop from start to finish. This will not only benefit the Rietveld community; the manner in which the new construction is being handled is more than unique, it is exemplary. This should be widely disseminated, through updates on websites such as Archined and Premsela, but also in the form of articles, from professional magazines such as de Architect and Items, as well as in the media such as Binnenlandsbestuur or the Financieel Dagblad.
The building process as we envision it will include innovations of design process, a reinterpretation of European construction bids, the organization of the construction process and design-build integration. Moreover, the Open Source principle, if handled well, offers the possibility to incorporate maintenance and repairs – a fundamental innovation in terms of building process, sustainability and user commitment.

RSP THE BUILDING PROCESS, COORDINATION AND THE DESIGN TEAM

The Design-Build process

To ensure the architectural quality of the building, which needs to at least equal the quality of the existing buildings, a clear structure and process is necessary. Simultaneously with the preliminary and definitive design (VO and DO), the Open Source program is developed and realized with extensive input from and in collaboration with the users. The results of this Open Source process, as well as the results of the various consultations with the users and the advice of the external advisors such as ABT will be combined into highly detailed and extensive construction drawings and tender documentation, which also describes how the contractor should incorporate the Open Source results. This process will remain under the supervision of an external budget expert. Once this package is complete, it can be put through a competitive tendering process. Building supervision and evaluation will be the responsibility of the architect, supported on a weekly basis by external and internal advisors (Bas van Beek and Jeroen Kramer). This will ensure the viability of the Open Source program throughout execution. The architect is responsible for building completion as well as the term of maintenance.

Roles of design team:

Bas van Beek, Designer

Responsible for initiation, supervision, and coordination of the RSP Collection through final fabrication. Responsible for integration of aesthetic qualities and design concept and management Open Source results.

Jeroen Kramer, Designer

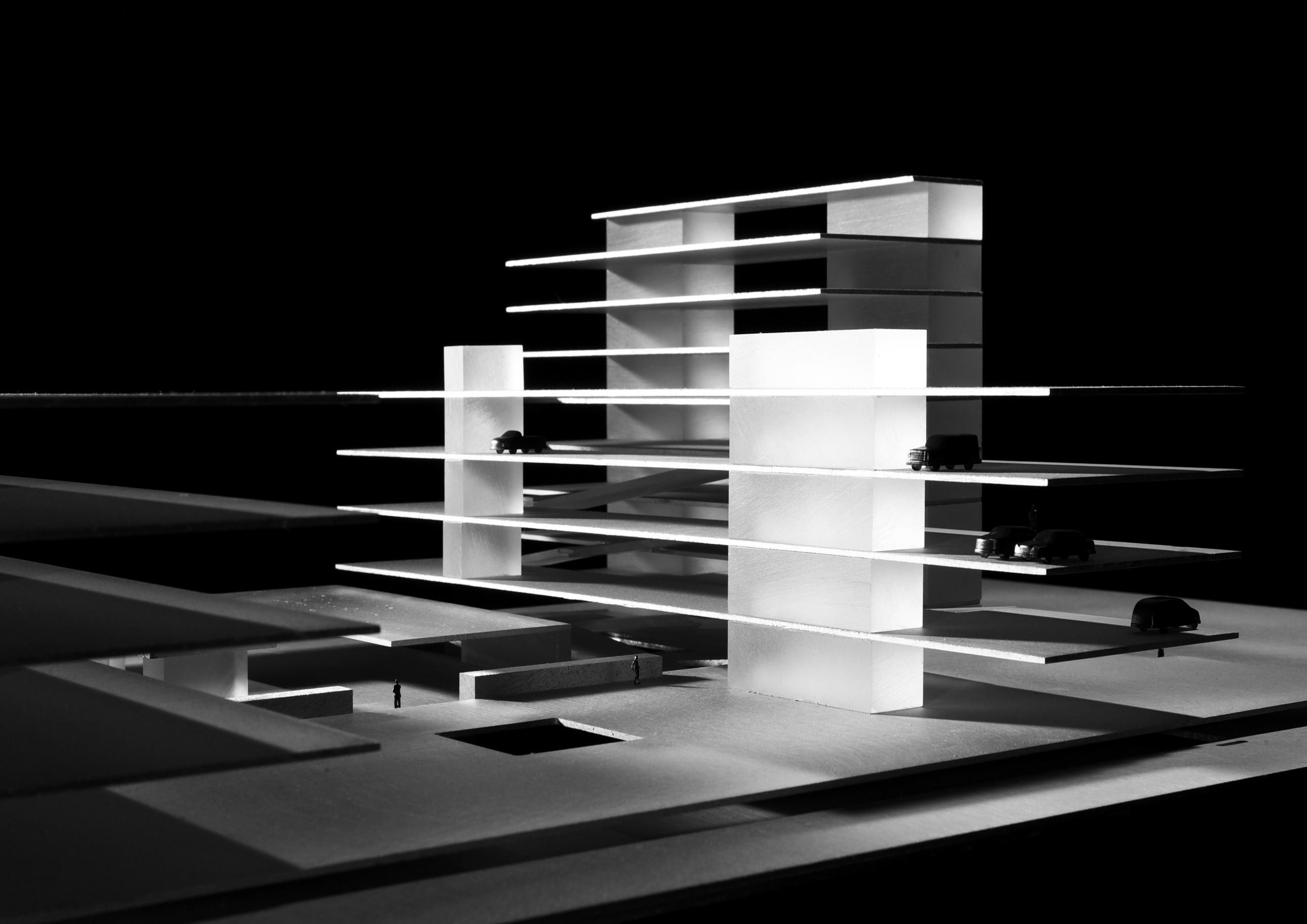
Responsible for initiation, supervision, and coordination of the RSP Collection through final fabrication. Responsible for integration of aesthetic qualities and design concept and management Open Source results.

Jasper de Haan, Architect

Responsible architect in accordance with the guidelines of the Sr '97. This comprises preliminary and final design, working drawings, all necessary building permits, tender documents and tendering process, and building supervision to completion. In addition to the usual responsibilities, the architect has the task of incorporating the Open Source results in the design.

RSP FUTURE EXPANSION

Just as Rietveld made plans for the future of the ’66 building, we have also made plans for the future. A future atrium over the interior courtyard complements the envisioned campus model. In addition, part of the car park could become permanently arranged for education, eliminating the need for an additional building.



A CONCLUSION

The X-men has become a reference point for this project. The X-men are a group of mutants who are educated in the safe haven of professor Xavier's mansion, far away from the increasing anti-mutant sentiment in society at large. While the original comic incorporated a strong social commentary on the fear and suspicion that was part of the McCarthy era, in this particular project we might draw a parallel between the Open Source program and the mutant genes of the X-men. The mutant genes lead to unexpected consequences and trans- formations, even for the mere mortals without these mutations. Each element in the Open Source program is one of these 'X' genes, with the potential to incur transformations in design, use and production in as yet unforeseen ways.

A salient feature is the combination of the traditional expertise and craftsmanship of Rietveld – the original designer – and the 21st century version of the wisdom of crowds, in terms of the open source program and the approach to a user-integrated design-and-build process. Although buildings cannot change society this building will function as a catalyst.

Colofon:

Team:
Dominique le Pair (drawings)
Vincent de Rijk (model)
Pieter Vandermeer (photography)
Marko Antic (renderings)

Rotterdam/Amsterdam, January 2012