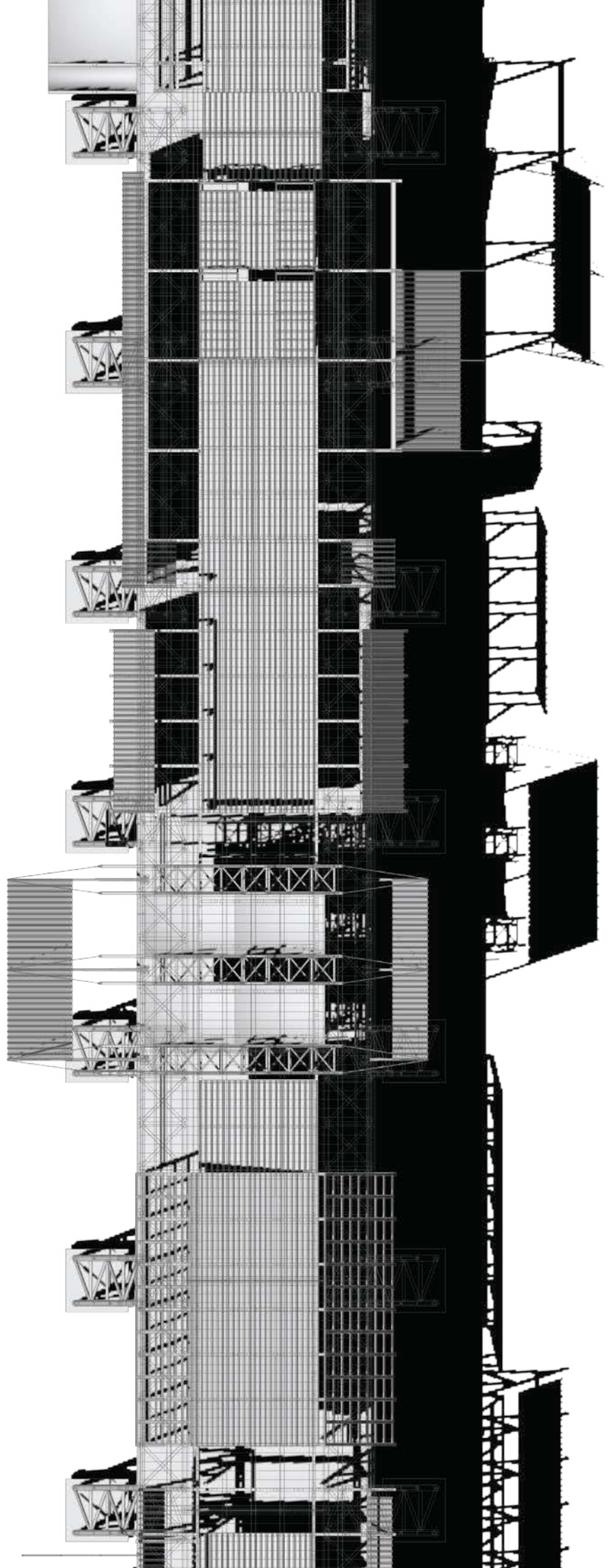
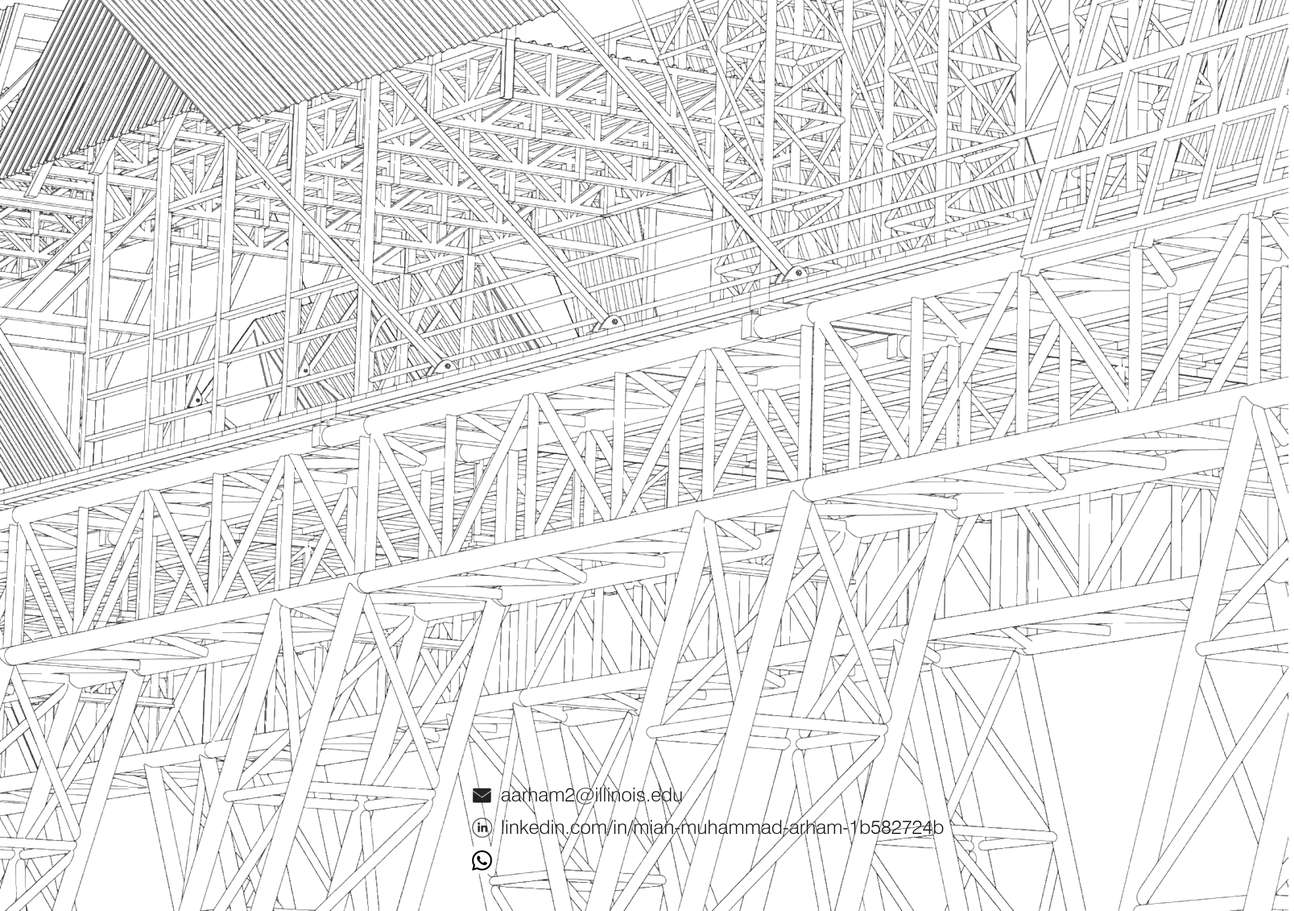
Mian Muhammad Arham

Architecture Portfolio





aarham2@illinois.edu
linkedin.com/in/mian-muhammad-arham-1b582724b

I am an architect in training and a Master of Architecture candidate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. My approach combines design exploration with technical rigor to create clear, functional, and buildable spaces that respond to client needs and support user experience, well-being, and sustainability.

Grounded in cultural, social, and environmental context, my work prioritizes inclusive, accessible, and adaptable environments. I am interested in how longevity, reuse, and energy-efficient design can give architecture lasting value for people and communities.

Through academic research and professional experience across Pakistan, the United Kingdom, and the United States, I aim to connect thoughtful design with real-world performance. I also use Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator to communicate ideas through clear composition, hierarchy, typography, and visual storytelling.

Experience

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign — Jul 2026
Teaching Assistant, Discover Architecture Summer Program | Champaign, Illinois

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign — Aug - Dec 2025
Teaching Assistant, ARCH 273 | Champaign, Illinois

Al IMAM Enterprises — Jan 2024 - Aug 2025
Architect | Lahore, Pakistan

EPR Architects — Jun - Aug 2023
Architectural Intern | London, United Kingdom

Allied Engineering Consultants (Pvt) Ltd — Jun - Aug 2022
Intern Architect | Lahore, Pakistan

Saeed Akhtar Studio — Jun - Aug 2021
Intern Architect | Lahore, Pakistan

Raees Faheem Associates — Jun - Aug 2020
Architectural Intern | Lahore, Pakistan

IAA - Imtiaz Ali Associates (Pvt. Ltd.) — Jun - Aug 2019
Architectural Intern | Lahore, Pakistan

Syed Akhtar Studios — Jun 2019 and Jun 2022
Gallery Assistant | Lahore, Pakistan

SOS Children's Villages International — Jun - Aug 2018
Volunteer | Lahore, Pakistan

Skills

BIM & Drafting

Revit	●●●●○
AutoCAD	●●●●○

3D Modeling

Rhino	●●●●○
SketchUp	●●●●○

Computational Design

Dynamo	●●●○○
Grasshopper	●●●○○
Python	●●●○○

Digital Tools

Photoshop
Illustrator
InDesign
Adobe Creative Suite
Autodesk Forma
D5
Website UI development

Design & Planning

Architectural design
Design development
Site planning and design
Project planning
Sustainable design
Freehand sketching
Creative and artistic
Construction modeling

Professional Skills

Problem-solving aptitude
Excellent communication
Time management
Teamwork and MEP collaboration
Multitasking Abilities
Teaching
Organizational skills
Management & Communication

01
Aquamarine High Rise

02
Live and Let Die

03
Huawei Data Center

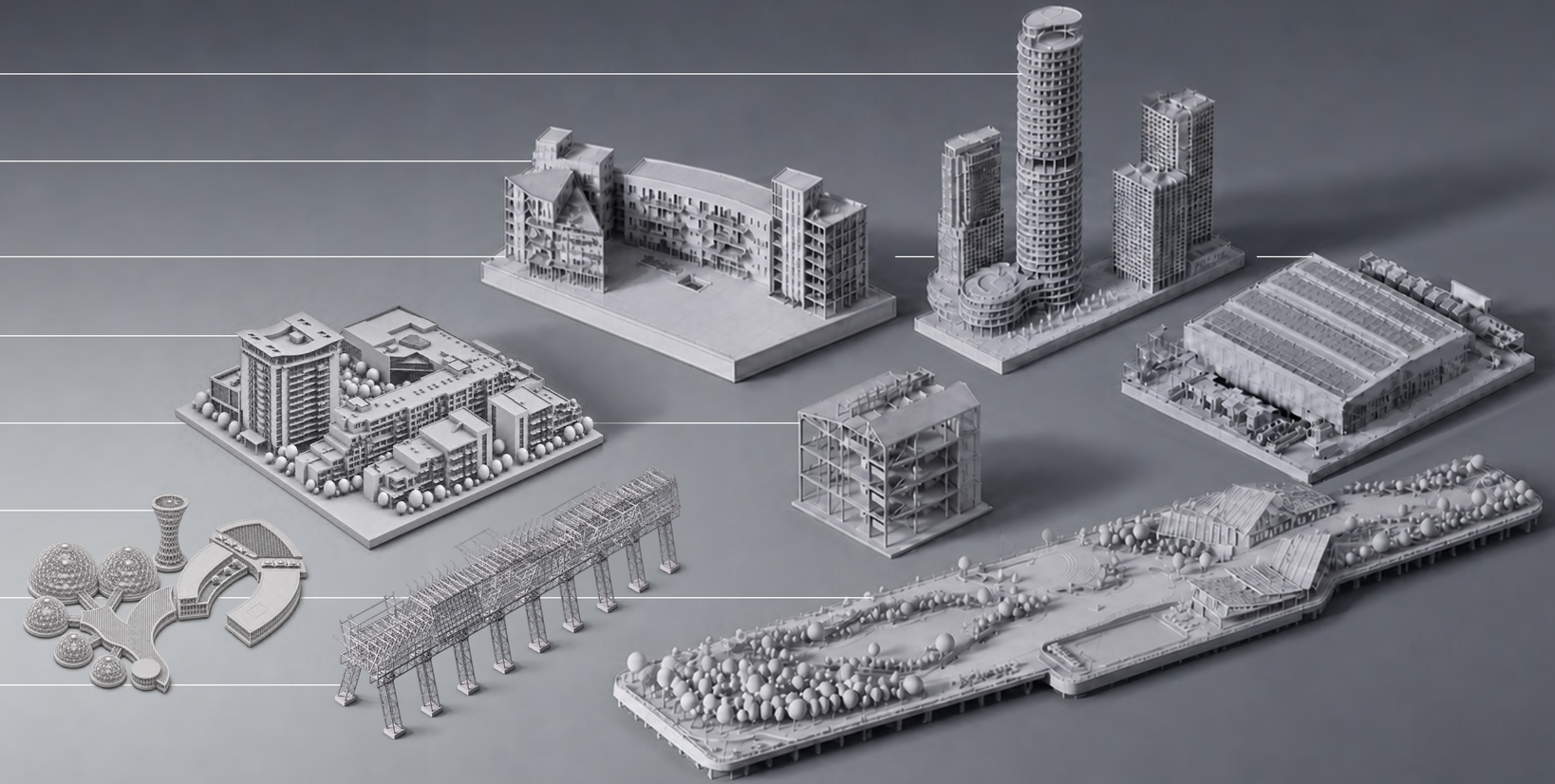
04
Penta Square

05
Re-programming the Void

06
Botanical Garden

07
Navy Yard Public Wharf

08
Blurring the Divides



01

Aquamarine High Rise

A Vertical Extension of Chicago's Riverwalk

Site : East North Water Street, Chicago
Graduate Design Studio · ARCH 575
2026
Studio collaboration with Chani Zahra Iqbal

Aquamarine transforms Chicago's river movement into a tower of rotating balconies and terraces. Its podium links street and Riverwalk levels, while shared outdoor spaces extend waterfront life upward through hotel and residential uses.





RIVER FLOW / ROTATING FORM

A vertical translation of river dynamics into architecture

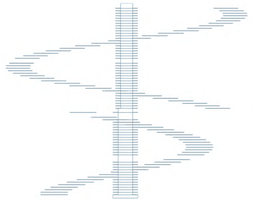


01 / FLUID DYNAMICS



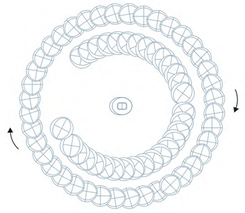
River movement generates the geometry of the rotating tower.

02 / FLUID ELEVATION



Rotating balconies create a continuous, wave-like vertical profile.

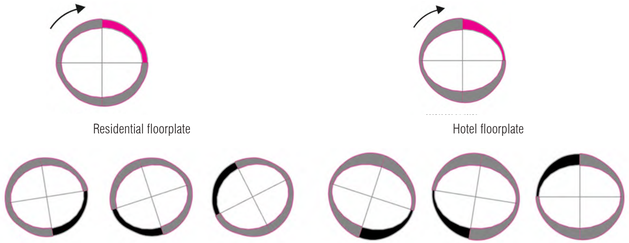
03 / PLAN ROTATION



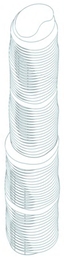
Incremental rotation changes orientation around a fixed central core.

04 / ROTATING BALCONIES

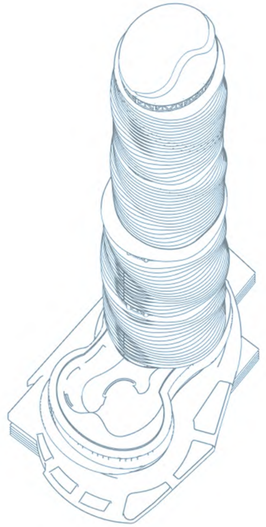
Shading fins rotate nine degrees between successive floors.



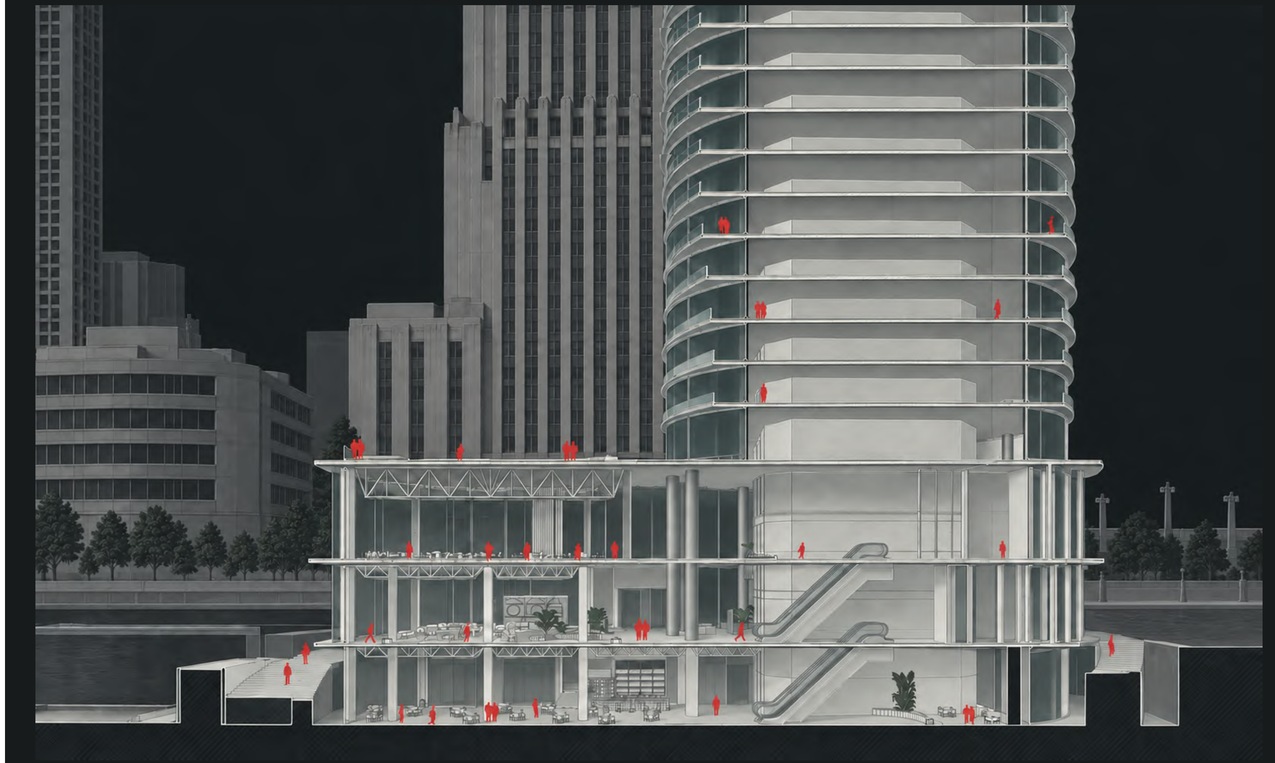
STACKED FORM



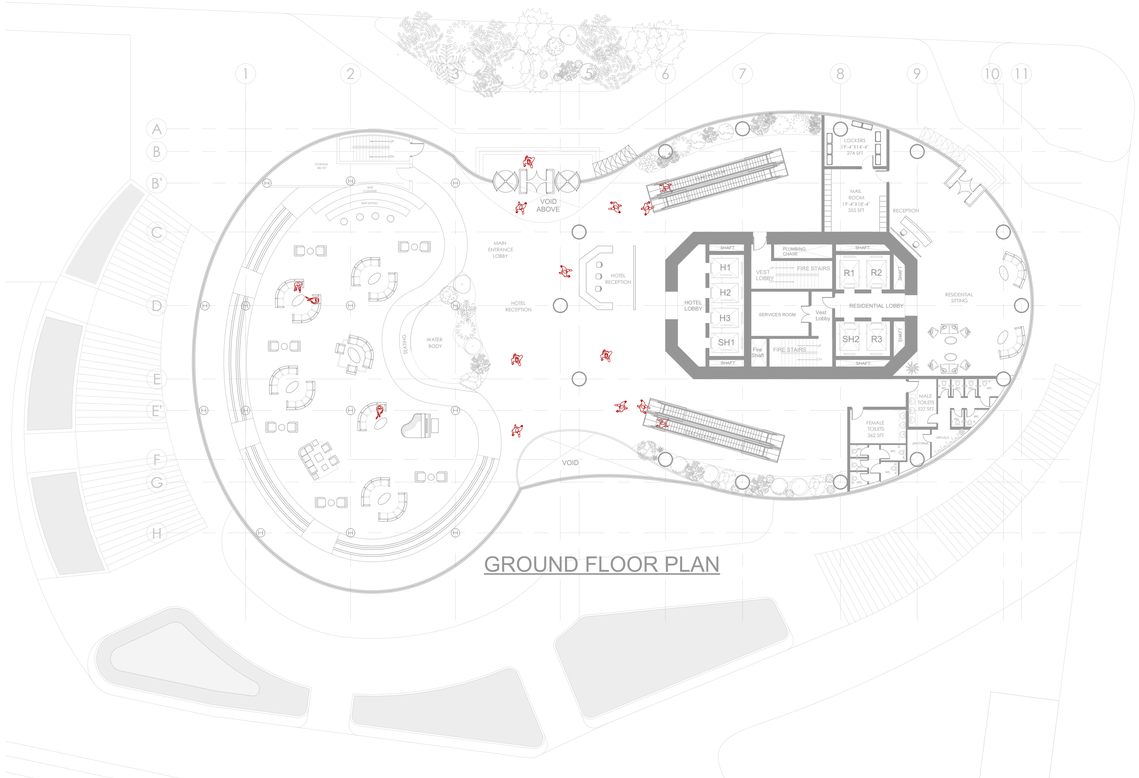
05 / FINAL FORM



Layered terraces carry the river's fluid geometry into the skyline.

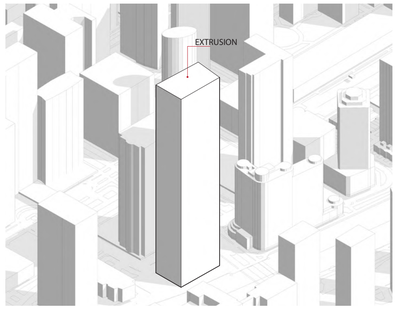


The podium connects street, riverwalk and shared spaces below the tower.



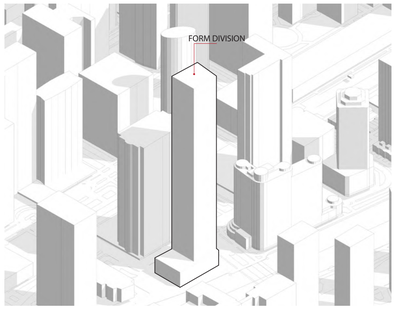
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

GROUND FLOOR / RIVERWALK CONNECTION



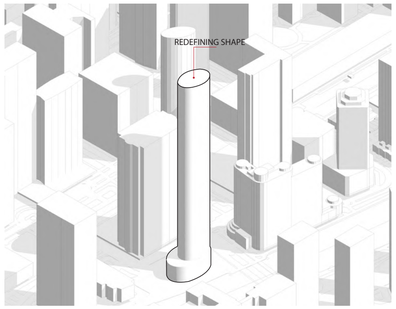
01 INITIAL MASS

The initial mass establishes the tower within its urban context.



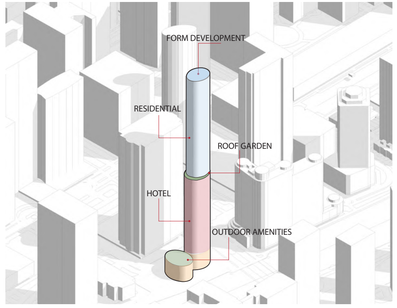
02 TOWER / PODIUM

Separating tower and podium defines distinct vertical and public volumes.



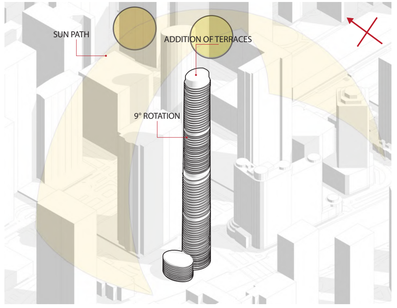
03 CIRCULAR FORM

A circular floorplate establishes the tower's rotational geometry.



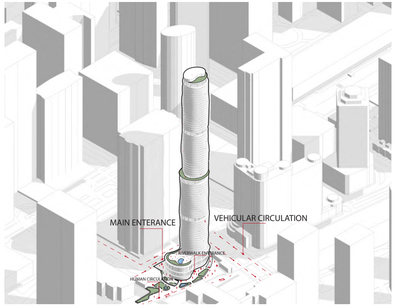
04 VERTICAL PROGRAMME

Hotel, housing and outdoor amenities occupy distinct vertical zones.



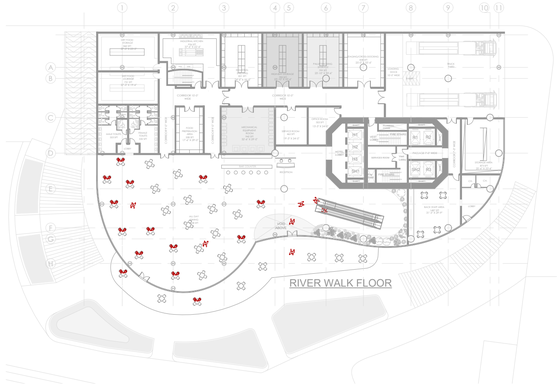
05 ROTATION / TERRACES

Rotation and planted terraces shape the tower's changing profile.



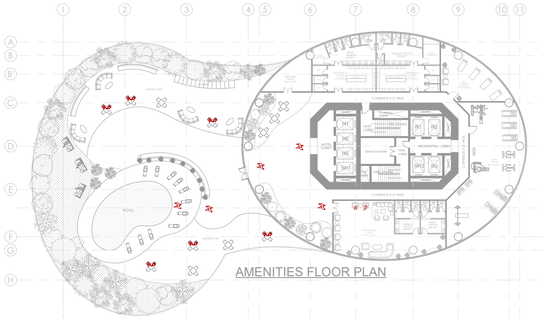
06 ACCESS / CONNECTIONS

Street and riverwalk entrances connect the tower to public circulation.



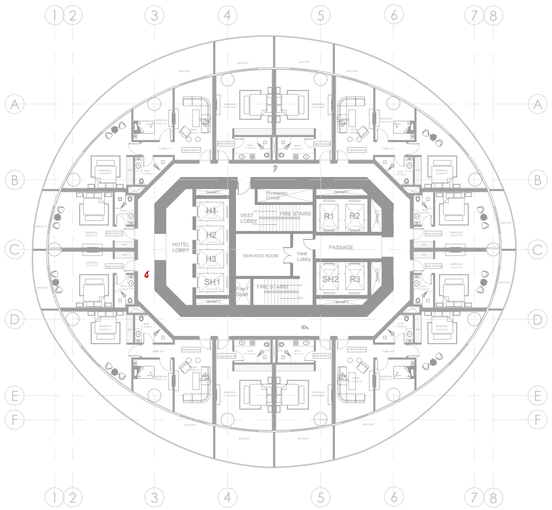
RIVERWALK LEVEL

NTS



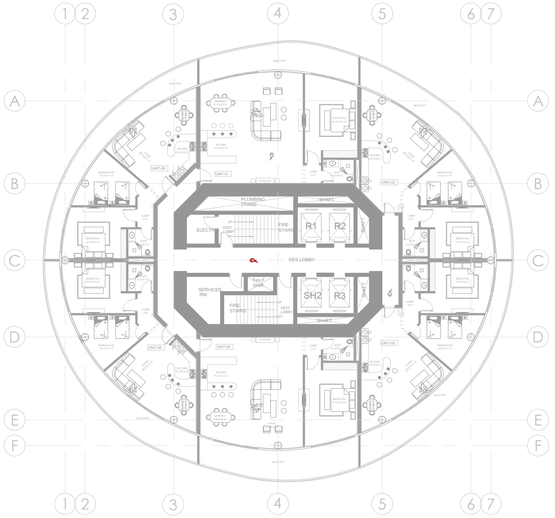
AMENITIES LEVEL

NTS



TYPICAL HOTEL LEVEL

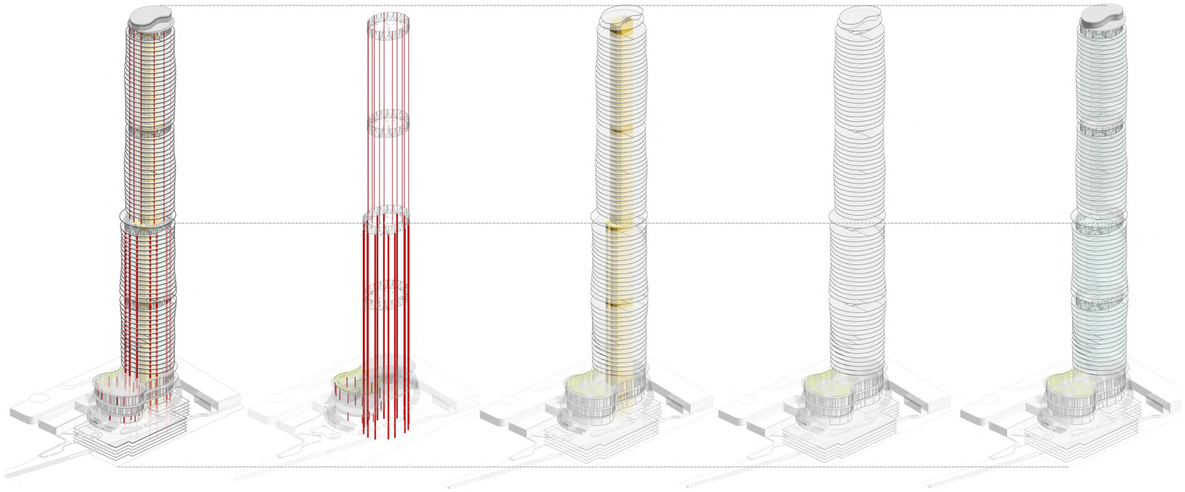
NTS



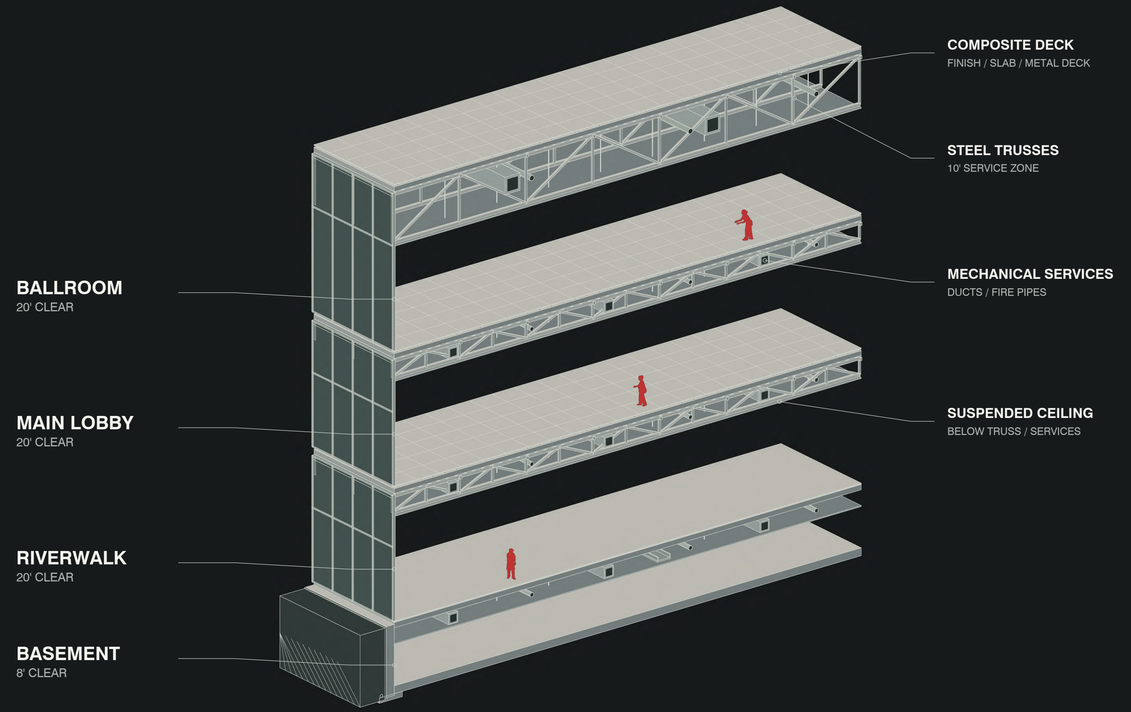
RESIDENTIAL LEVEL / TYPE 2

NTS

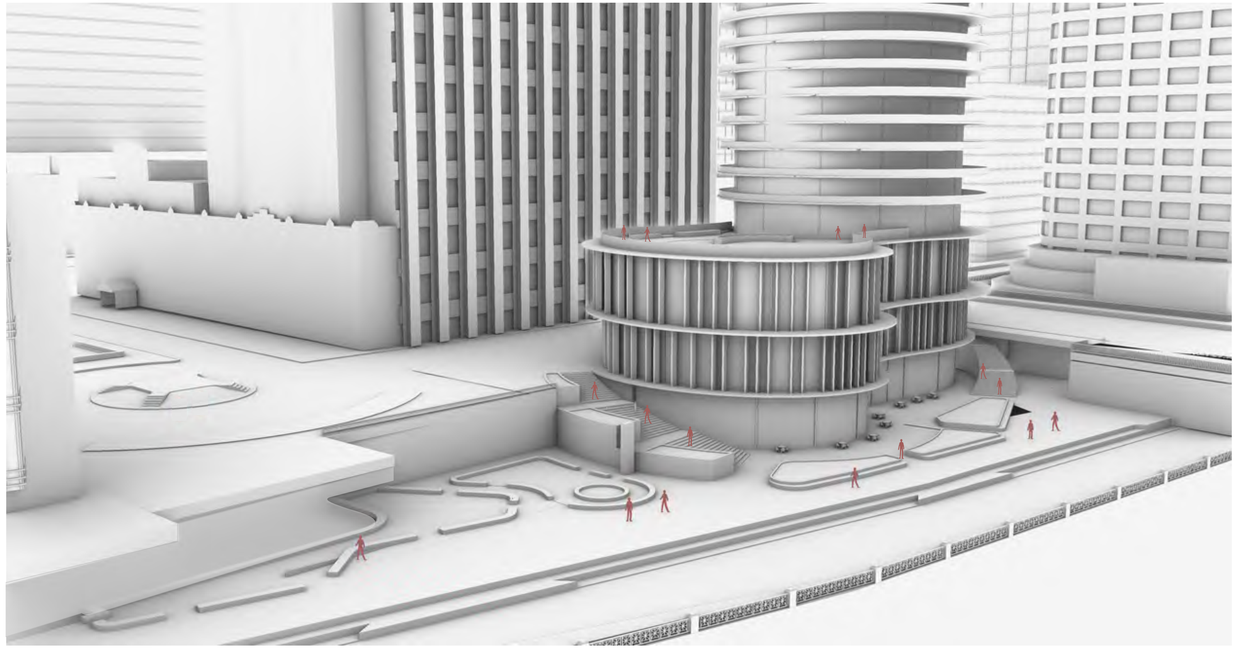
STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS



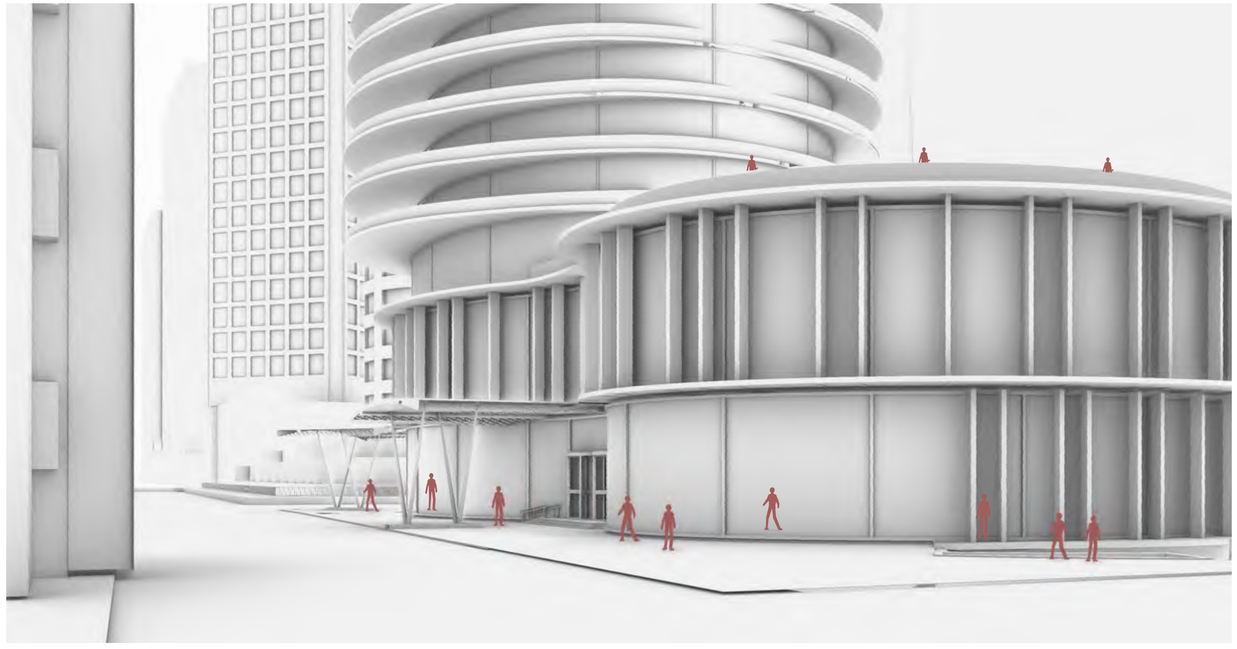
Frame, core, slabs and facade are separated to explain tower construction.



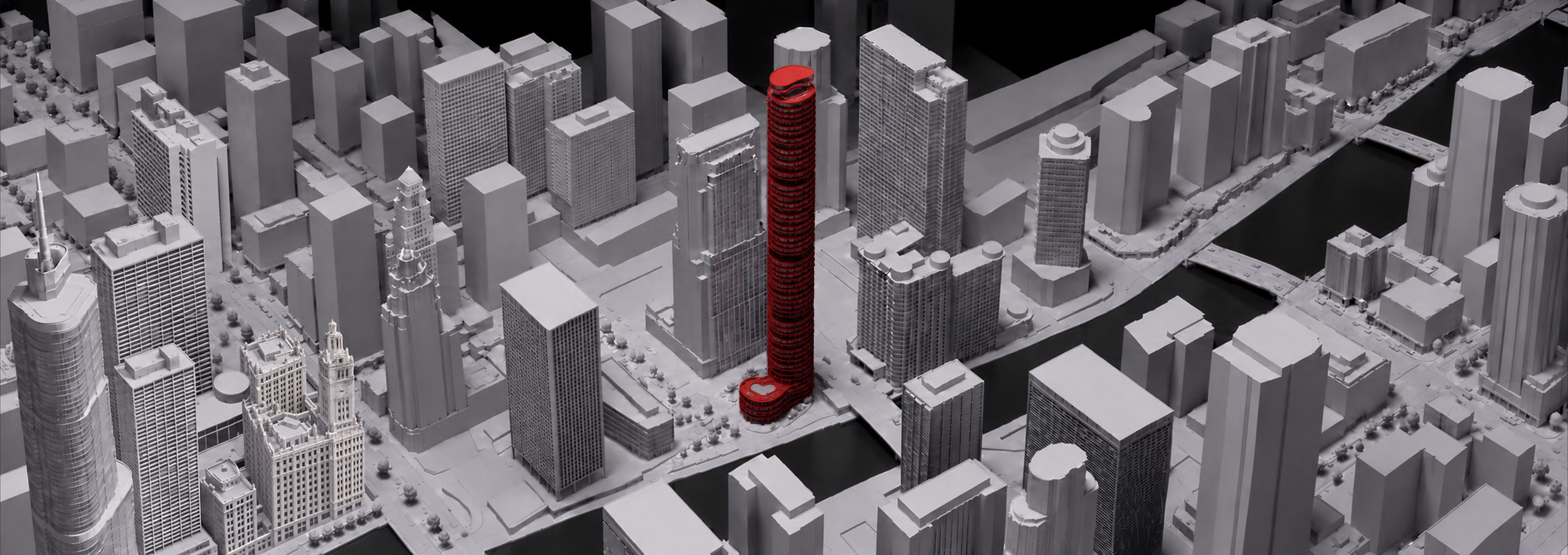
Floor, truss and service layers align across the podium's public levels.



Stepped terraces extend public space along the river's edge.



The entrance canopy marks the tower's arrival from the street.



02

Live and Let Die

Adaptive Reuse for Active Ageing

Site : The Calls, Leeds · River Aire
Senior Living · Community · Adaptive Reuse
Academic Project
Individual Work

An adapted warehouse and new residential buildings form a riverside community for active ageing in Leeds. Shared gardens, wellness and performance spaces connect daily routines with city life, supporting independence and opportunities for intergenerational encounter.





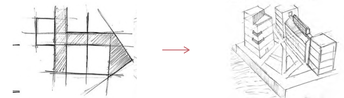
SKETCHES / FROM OBSERVATION TO DESIGN

STRUCTURE / CONTEXT / LANDSCAPE / SHARED LIFE

Each study links a spatial decision to independence, heritage and shared everyday life.

01 / STRUCTURE AND REUSE

STUDY SPATIAL RESPONSE



An adaptable grid lets spaces and connections change as needs evolve.

02 / CONTEXT, FORM AND MATERIALITY

STUDY SPATIAL RESPONSE



Local roofs, facade rhythms and materials help the new buildings belong to The Calls.

03 / LIGHT AND LEVEL

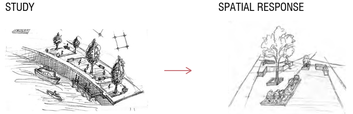
STUDY SPATIAL RESPONSE



Opening level changes to daylight makes lower spaces usable for shared activity.

04 / RIVERFRONT LANDSCAPE

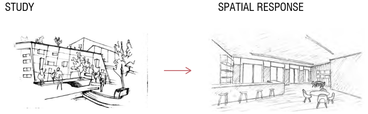
STUDY SPATIAL RESPONSE



Planting, seating and riverfront paths give people reasons to walk, pause and meet.

05 / EVERYDAY ENCOUNTERS

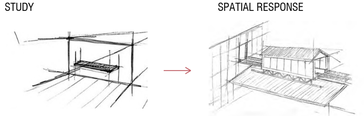
STUDY SPATIAL RESPONSE



Shared rooms beside everyday routes make informal encounters part of daily life.

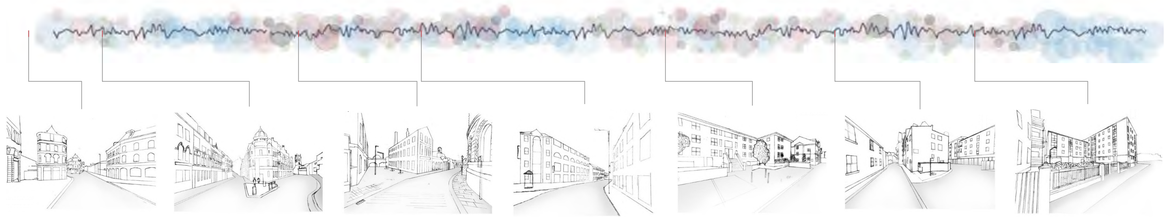
06 / CONNECTING THE BUILDINGS

STUDY SPATIAL RESPONSE



Bridges link activities above ground while leaving the shared court open.

SOUND FREQUENCIES / COLOUR TONES



01 / FISH MARKET

02 / THE MARKET POST OFFICE

03 / SAFARI ARTIQUE

04 / PENTELOW WEALTH MANAGEMENT

05 / EXISTING WAREHOUSE

06 / CIAO BELLA BAR & RESTAURANT

07 / AR&L

LEEDS / THE CALLS

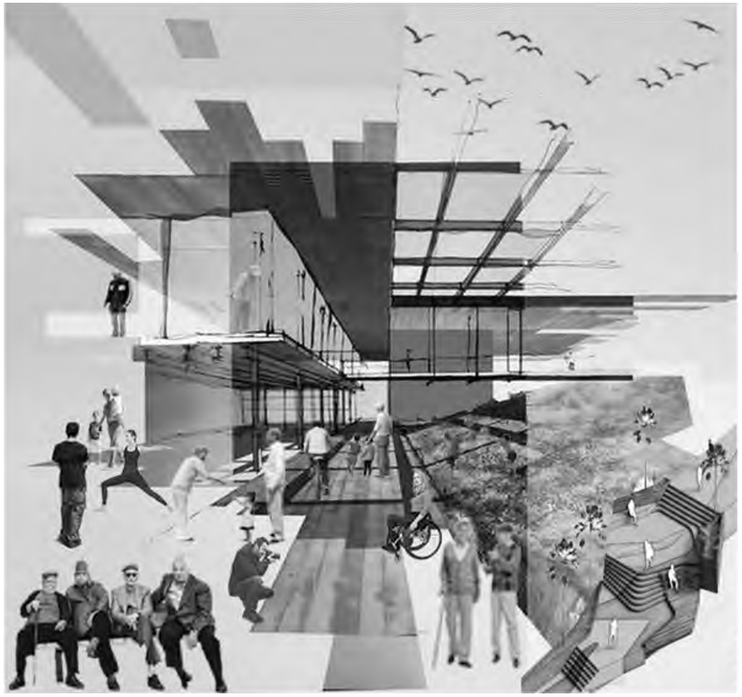
THE PROPOSAL WITHIN ITS ORIGINAL URBAN CONTEXT



After completing the design, construction, and finalisation of all buildings and the outdoor landscape, I situated my site within its context. The landscape integration was carefully executed to enhance the aesthetics of the surrounding area. By incorporating the reuse of the existing warehouse and utilising materials consistent with the context, the site seamlessly blends into the vicinity of the calls. Furthermore, the aerial view showcases a few important landmarks surrounding the site.

A PLACE FOR LATER LIFE

INDEPENDENCE / COMPANIONSHIP / CONTACT WITH NATURE

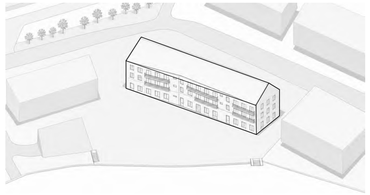


Everyday activity, shared spaces and landscape support a connected life within the city.

DESIGN PROCESS / FROM INTENT TO SPACE

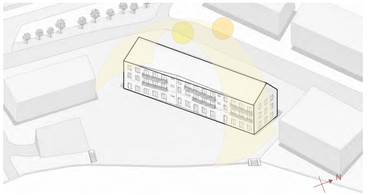
ESTABLISH / ARRANGE / CONNECT

The sequence explains why each move was made and what it offers the people using the site.



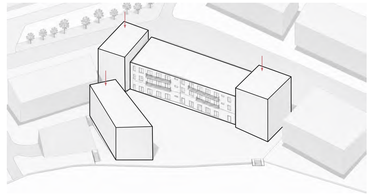
01 / EXISTING SITE + WAREHOUSE

Reuse keeps industrial memory active while placing older residents within existing city life.



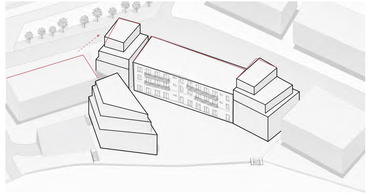
02 / SUN + ORIENTATION

Study sun exposure to place shared outdoor spaces where older residents can enjoy light and shade.



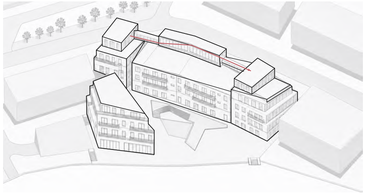
03 / PLACE THE NEW VOLUMES

Simple blocks beside and in front of the warehouse test enclosure and access while leaving an open shared court.



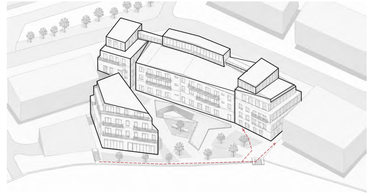
04 / CONTEXT, FORM + MATERIALITY

Surrounding roof forms, facade rhythms and materials shape the new volumes, helping them belong to The Calls.



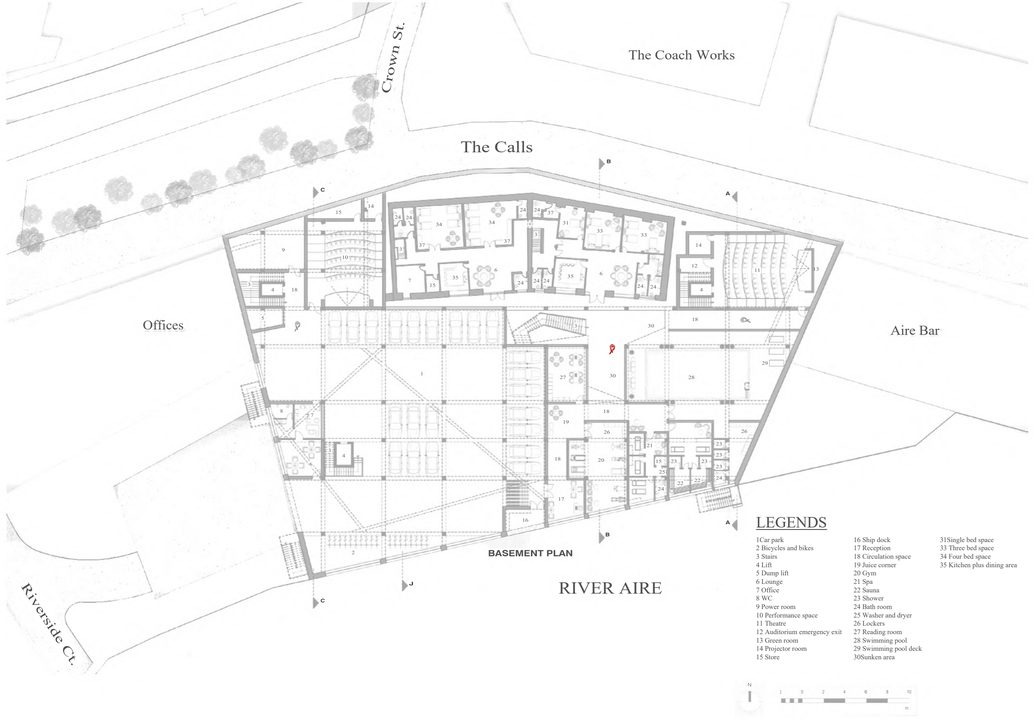
05 / CONNECT DAILY LIFE

The hanging gallery links communal and community spaces, turning everyday routes into opportunities to meet.



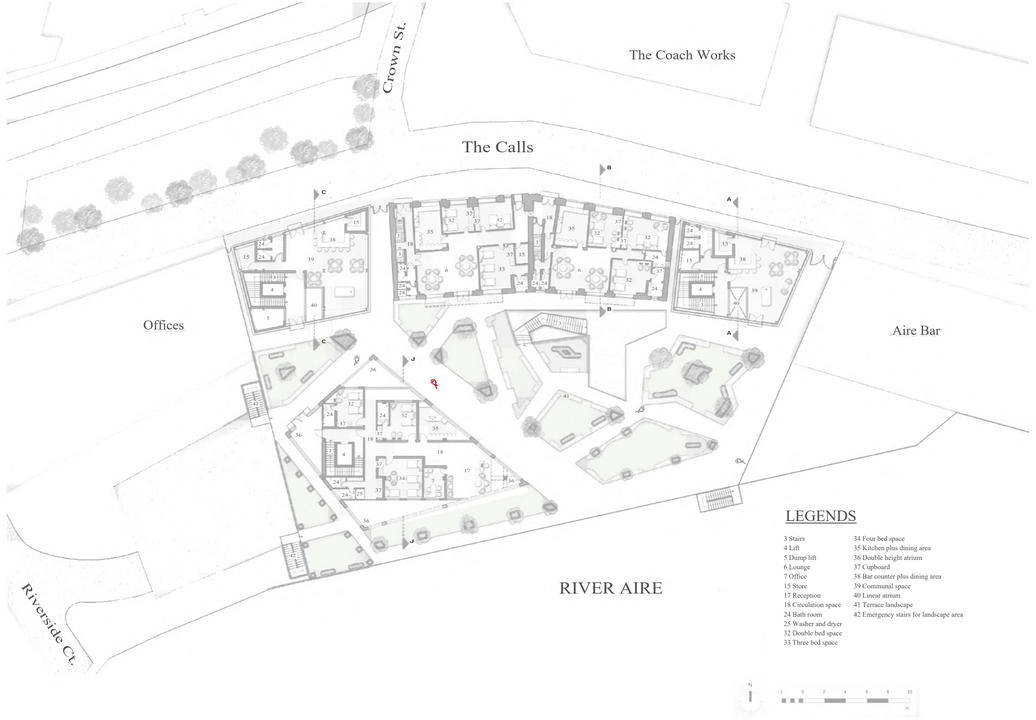
06 / LANDSCAPE + COMMUNITY

Gardens, seating and accessible paths support active ageing, everyday wellbeing and meaningful connections across generations.



BASEMENT / THEATER & WELLNESS

10 Performance space
11 Theatre
16 Ship dock
20 Gym
28 Swimming pool
30 Sunken area



GROUND / SHARED LANDSCAPE

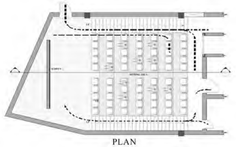
17 Reception
38 Bar counter + dining
39 Communal space
40 Linear atrium
41 Terrace landscape
42 Landscape emergency stairs

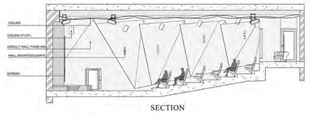
KEY SPACES FOR SHARED LIFE

THEATRE / CULTURE / EVERYDAY ENCOUNTERS

01 / THEATRE

Tiered seating gives clear views of the screen, while shared screenings bring residents and visitors together.

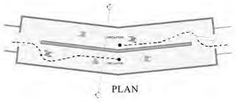


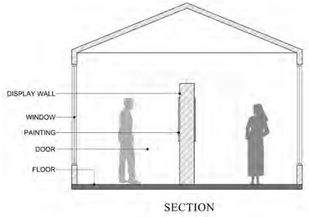




02 / ART GALLERY

The sky bridge becomes a shared gallery, pairing art displays with views of the River Aire and the city.



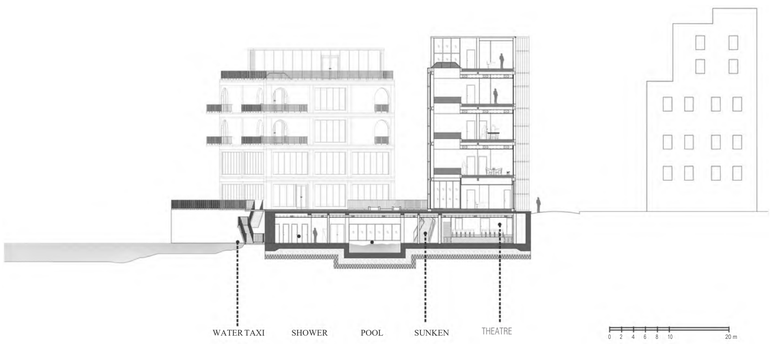




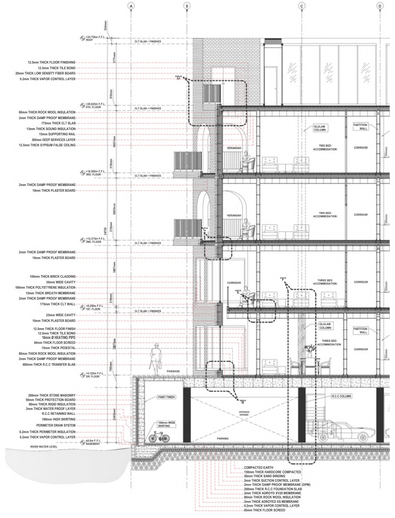




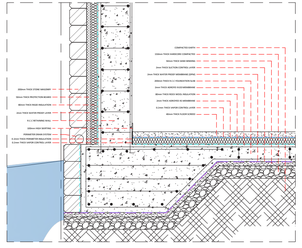
The urban profile locates the site within Leeds' industrial riverfront.



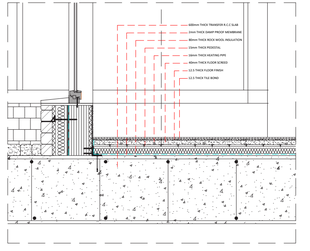
River access, wellness and performance spaces occupy the lower levels.



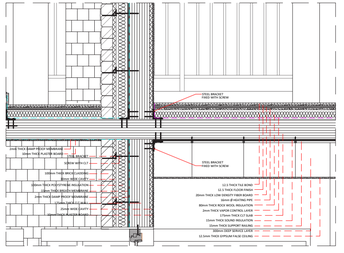
Timber floors meet a concrete base beneath the housing.



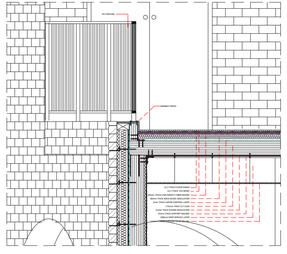
A / BASEMENT & RETAINING WALL



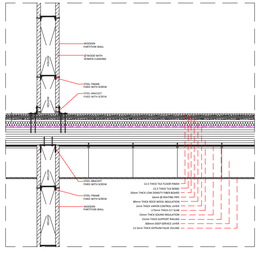
B / GROUND FLOOR & TRANSFER SLAB



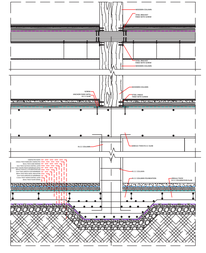
C / CLT FLOOR & BRICK CLADDING



D / BRICK FACADE & RAILING



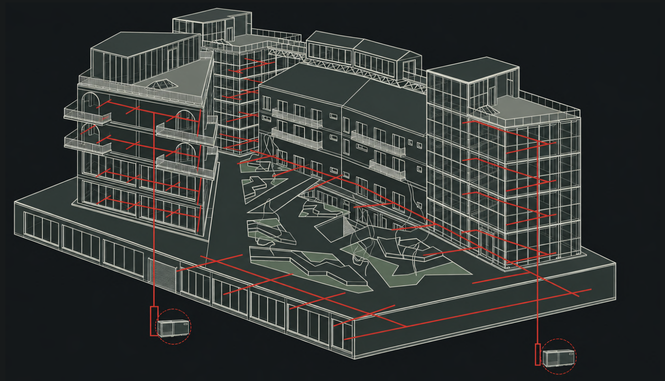
E / PARTITION & CLT FLOOR



F / COLUMN TO FOUNDATION

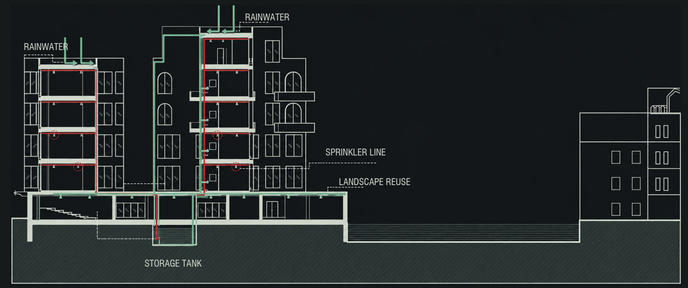
ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS / EVERYDAY COMFORT

HEATING / WATER COLLECTION AND REUSE



01 / HEAT-PUMP DISTRIBUTION

Two heat-pump units feed the network serving the occupied floors and shared podium.



02 / WATER COLLECTION AND REUSE

Collected water is stored below ground for reuse in the landscape and daily services.

HEATING

REUSE

SPRINKLERS

FRESH AIR / HEAT RECOVERY

MECHANICAL VENTILATION WITH HEAT RECOVERY

Fresh air reaches shared and private rooms while heat recovery limits energy loss.



01 / PUBLIC BLOCK

DUCTS / SECTION CUT

AIR MOVEMENT

DAYLIGHT



02 / NEW RESIDENTIAL BLOCK



03 / REUSED WAREHOUSE



03

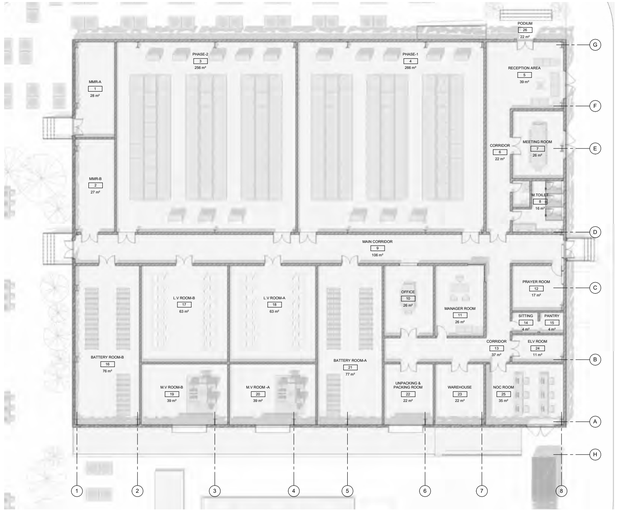
Huawei Data Center

Coordinating Space, Power, Cooling, and Uptime

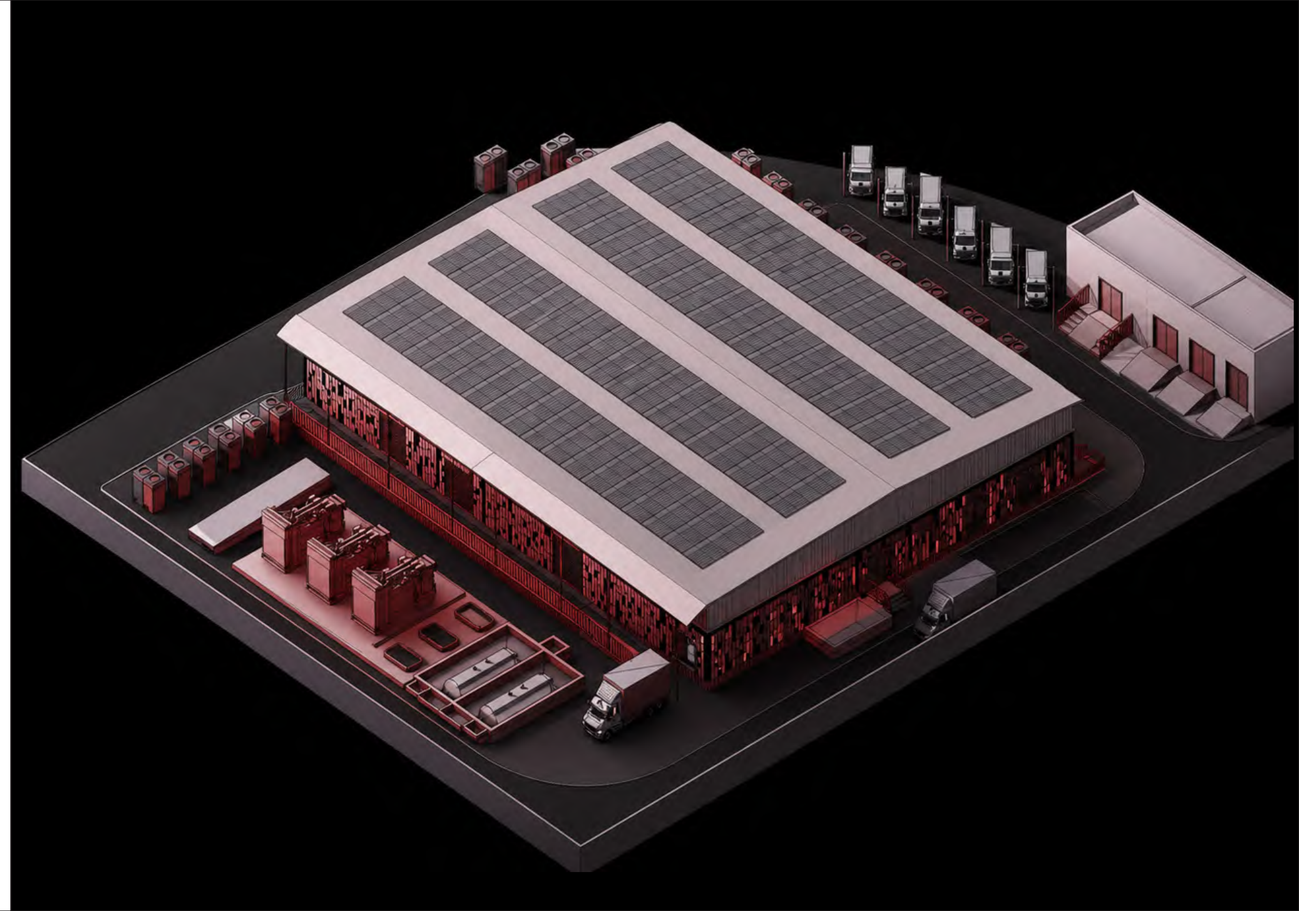
Huawei Tier III + Zong Faisalabad
Professional Work · Al-Imam Enterprises
2024–2025
Planning · Design · Coordination

At Al-Imam Enterprises, I co-developed Huawei's architectural package and led Zong's planning and coordination. The work organizes technical rooms, power systems and circulation around secure access, maintenance and future expansion, translating operational requirements into buildable architectural space.

FLOOR PLAN



01 MMR-A
02 MMR-B
03 PHASE-2
04 PHASE-1
05 RECEPTION AREA
06 CORRIDOR
07 MEETING ROOM
08 M.TOILET
09 MAIN CORRIDOR
10 OFFICE
11 MANAGER ROOM
12 PRAYER ROOM
13 CORRIDOR
14 SITTING
15 PANTRY
16 BATTERY ROOM-B
17 L.V ROOM-B
18 L.V ROOM-A
19 M.V ROOM-B
20 M.V ROOM -A
21 BATTERY ROOM-A
22 UNPACKING & PACKING ROOM
23 WAREHOUSE
24 ELV ROOM
25 NOC ROOM
26 PODIUM



04

Penta Square

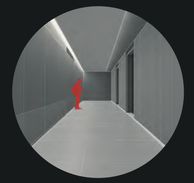
Work, Live, Play

DHA Phase V, Lahore
Mixed-use development
AL-IMAM Enterprises

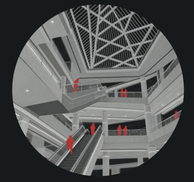
At AL-IMAM Enterprises, I contributed to planning Penta Square's residential, mall and plaza areas. Housing and retail are arranged around landscaped courts and pedestrian links, with stepped terraces and rooftop spaces extending the development's Work, Live, Play concept.









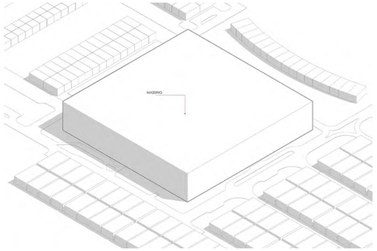






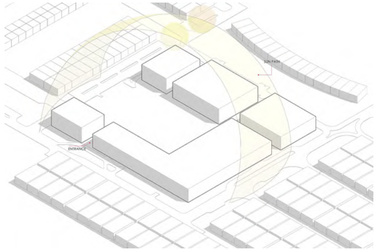
Planted balconies and rooftop terraces extend outdoor life above ground.

PROCESS



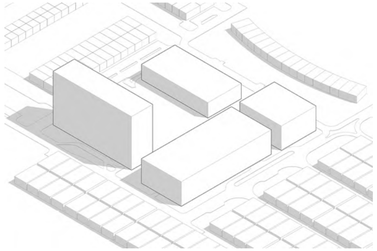
SITE

The site boundary establishes the footprint within the surrounding street network.



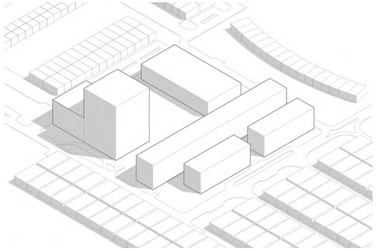
ORIENTATION

Sun studies relate building orientation to the site's open spaces.



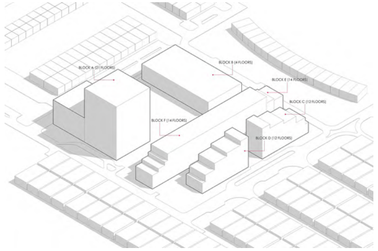
PROGRAM

Distinct volumes accommodate the residential, commercial and mall programs.



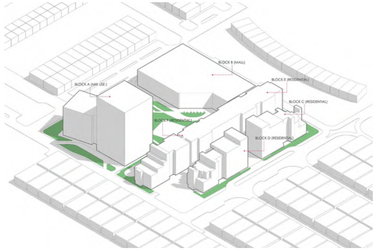
HEIGHT

Varied building heights distinguish the tower from lower surrounding blocks.



TERRACES

Stepped volumes create terraces at successive levels.



LANDSCAPE

Landscape and pedestrian routes connect the spaces between buildings.

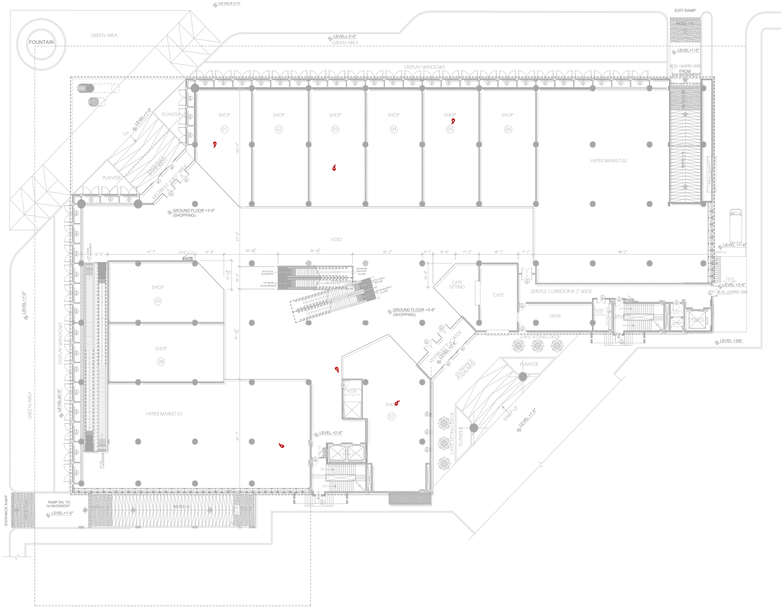


PROGRAMS

Apartments / suites
Offices / MP Room-02
Coffee shop / sitting / dining
Party / waiting areas
Entrances / lobbies / passages

Kitchens / bathrooms / toilets
Security / mail
MEP / electrical / garbage
Lifts / stairs / ramps
Green areas / fountain

MIXED-USE PLAN



PROGRAMS

Retail shops 01-09
Hypermarkets 01-02
Atrium / void
Cafe / sitting / pantry
Entrances / service corridors

Display windows
Electrical / garbage rooms
Lifts / escalators / stairs
Ramps / green areas / fountain

MALL PLAN

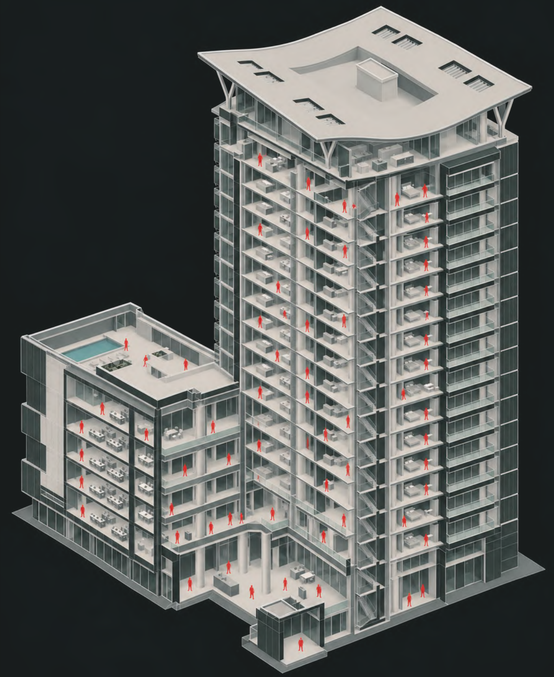


PROGRAMS

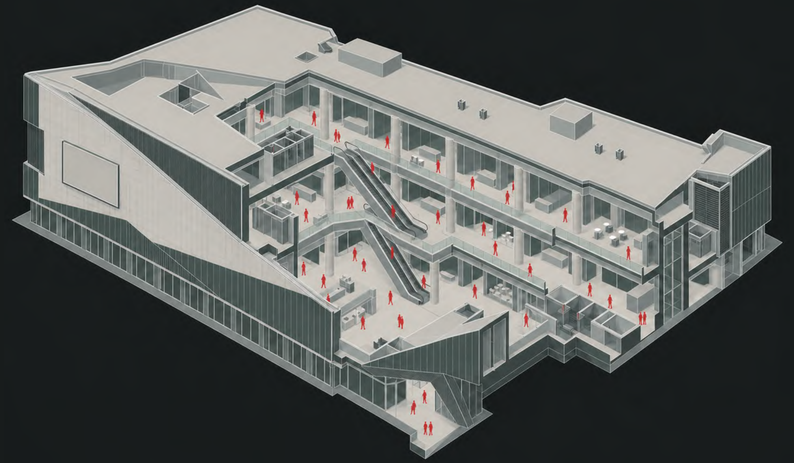
Bedrooms / master bedrooms
Lounge / dining
Kitchens
Bathrooms / toilets
Terraces

Entrance / lift lobbies
Corridors
Mail / security rooms
Electrical / garbage rooms
Lifts / staircases

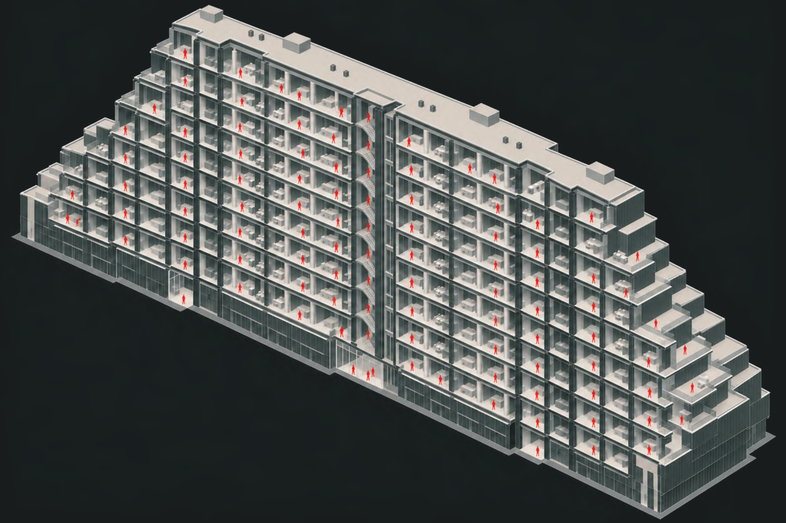
RESIDENTIAL PLAN



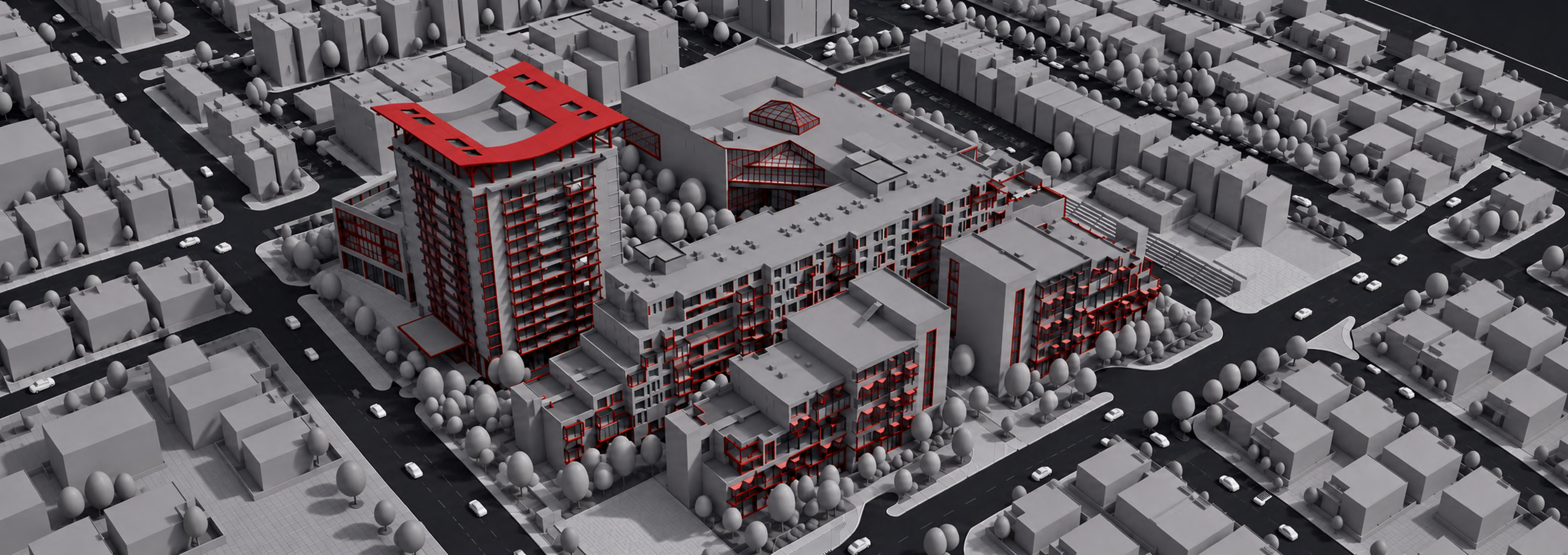
Stacked rooms and circulation connect Block A to its rooftop terrace.



Escalators and open galleries connect Block B's layered retail spaces.



Stepped residential floors pair Block C's interior rooms with terraces.



05

Re-programming the Void

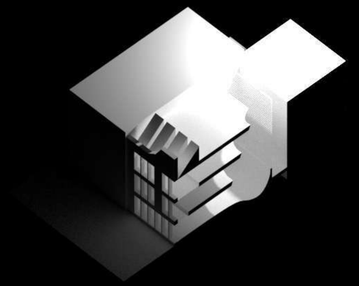
A Civic Framework for Collective Life, Living Heritage,
and Sustainable Urban Futures

Site : Saddar, Karachi
Academic Project
Bachelor's Studies, United Kingdom

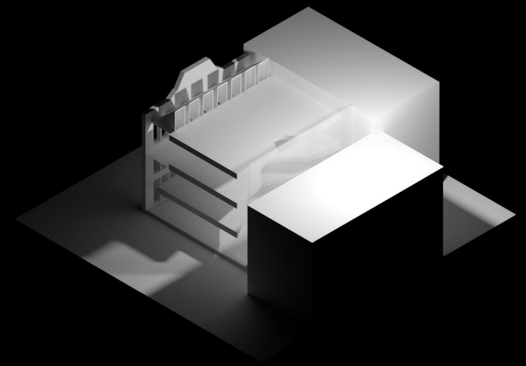
An inserted steel frame brings skating, workshops and coworking into a historic building in Saddar. Interlocking levels, an atrium and a light well connect these activities while retaining the existing facade.



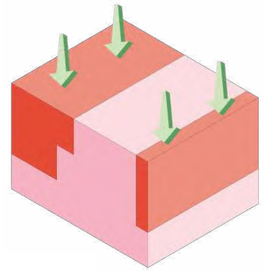






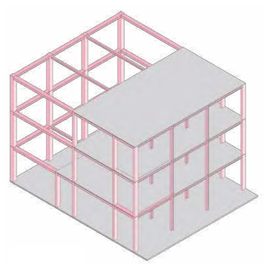


Physical models test light, voids and connections between staggered levels.



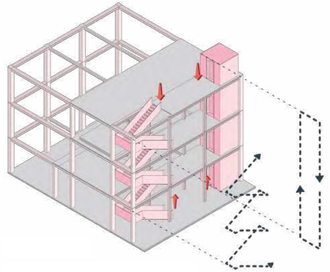
01 / SUBTRACTION

Offset levels create interlocking spaces within the building volume.



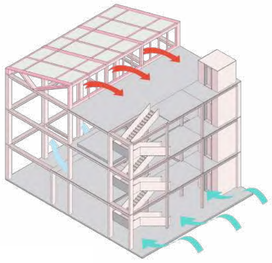
02 / STRUCTURE

Peripheral concrete columns work with an inserted internal steel frame.



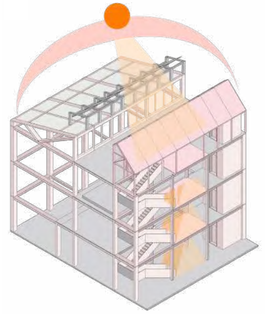
03 / CIRCULATION

Entrance-side stairs reach upper floors without crossing the skating area.



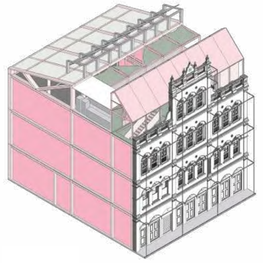
04 / GLASS ATRIUM

A glazed atrium introduces daylight and supports the proposed ventilation strategy.



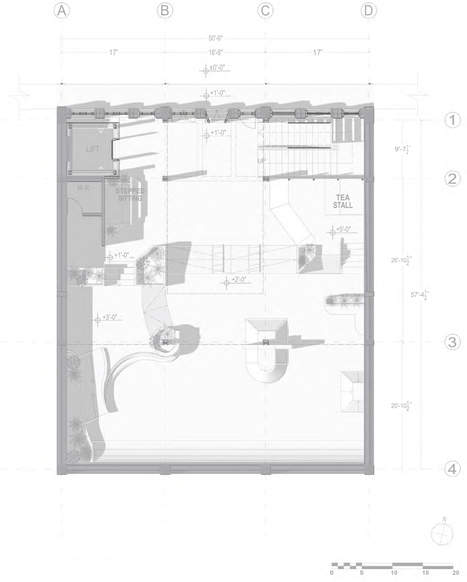
05 / LIGHT WELL

A light well brings daylight toward the retained stained-glass facade.



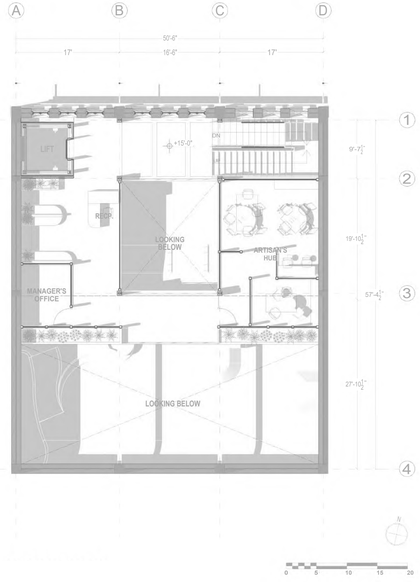
06 / DETAILING

Flexible interiors accommodate new activities behind the retained historic facade.



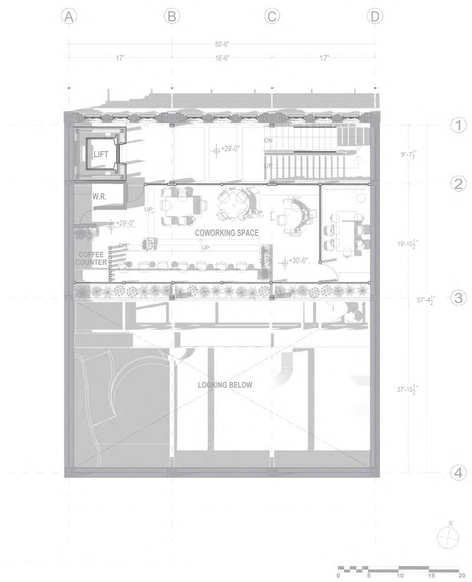
GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Tea stall
Stepped sitting
W.R.
Lift



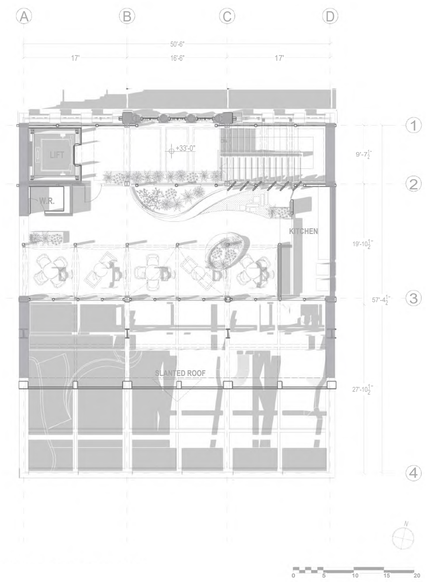
FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Artisan's hub
Manager's office
RECP.
Lift



SECOND FLOOR PLAN

Coworking space
Coffee counter
W.R.
Lift

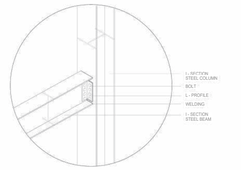


ROOFTOP FLOOR PLAN

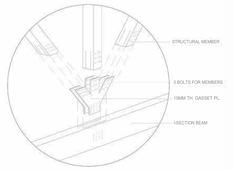
Kitchen
Slanted roof
W.R.
Lift

Open levels connect skating, making and coworking through a shared interior.

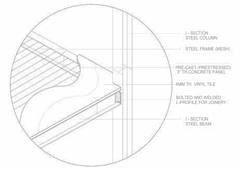




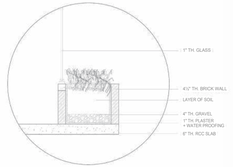
COLUMN BEAM JOINERY DETAIL



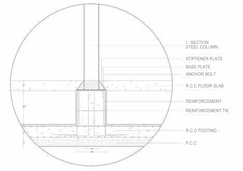
GUSSET PLATE DETAIL



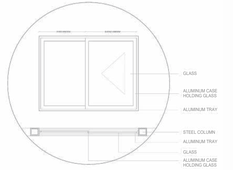
FLOORING DETAIL



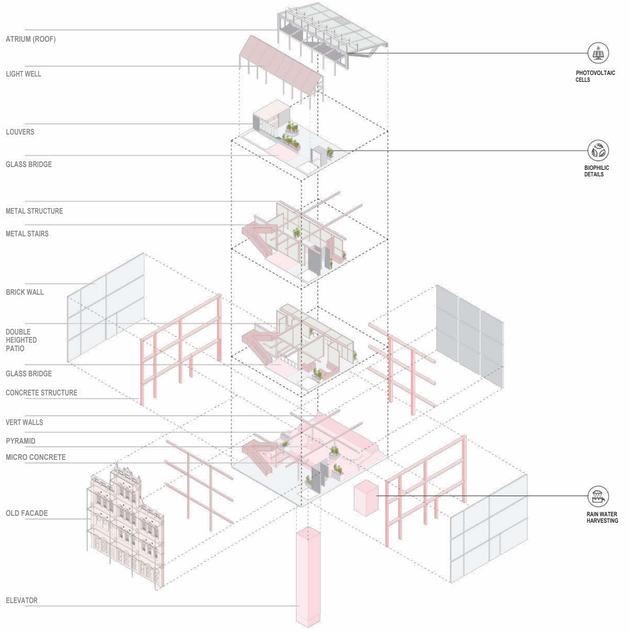
PLANTER DETAIL



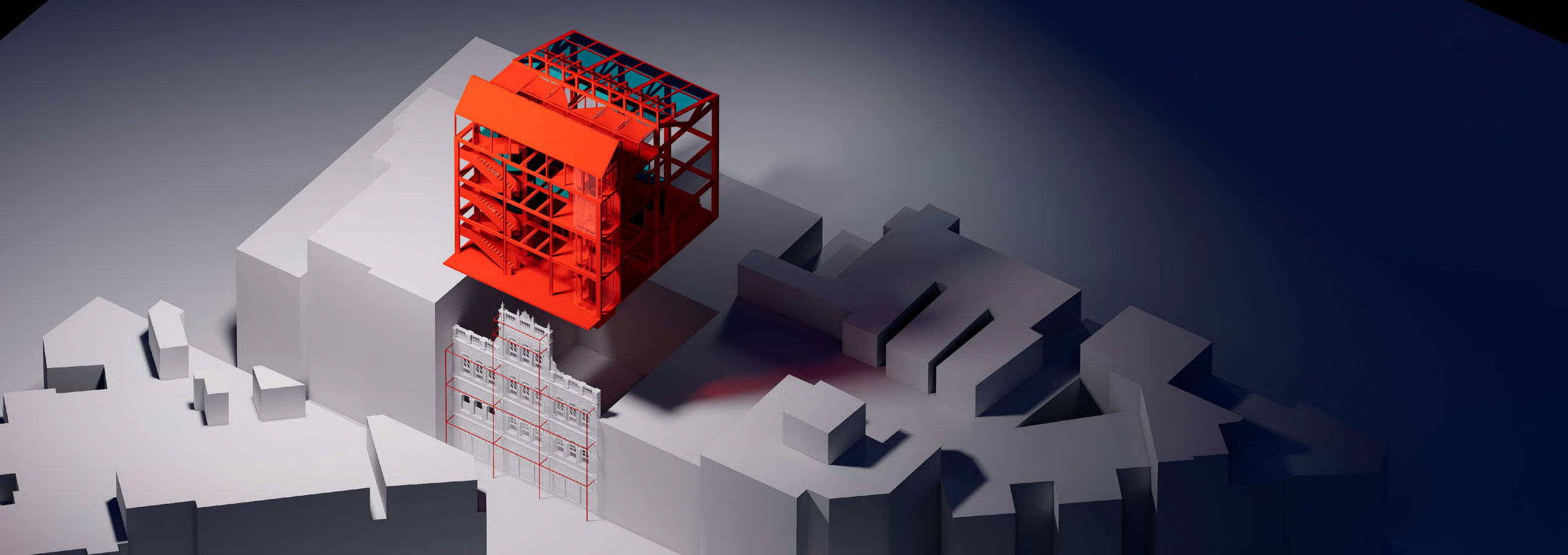
FOUNDATION DETAIL



SLIDING WINDOW DETAIL



The assembly combines steel framing, open floors and glazing behind the retained facade.



06

Botanical Garden

Five Climates, One Shared Landscape

Islamabad, Pakistan
Botanical research and public education
Freelance collaboration / Unbuilt proposal

A garden for conservation, research and public learning. Five climatic biomes connect through a shared concourse, while leaf-shaped research buildings frame planted courts. The design makes botanical knowledge accessible through everyday leisure.





DESIGN PROCESS / FROM LEAF TO LANDSCAPE

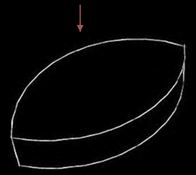
CONSERVATION / LEARNING / EVERYDAY LEISURE

A recognisable plant form becomes a framework for shared space, sheltered movement and discovery.



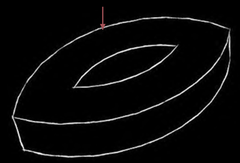
01 / BEGIN WITH THE LEAF

The leaf gives the research buildings a form directly connected to the garden's botanical purpose.



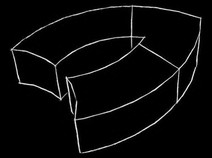
02 / GIVE THE FORM VOLUME

Extruding the outline turns the natural reference into a usable building mass.



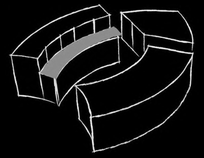
03 / OPEN A PLANTED COURT

Removing the centre creates an outdoor room around which the research spaces can gather.



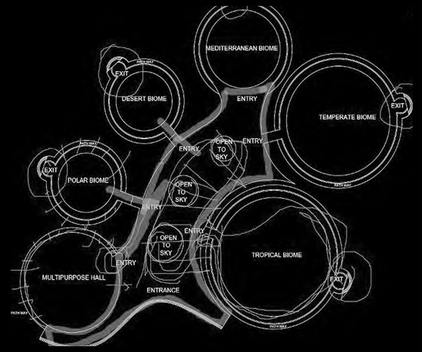
04 / MAKE THE EDGES POROUS

Splitting the mass creates entrances and links the court with the wider garden.



05 / LINK THE SPLIT VOLUMES

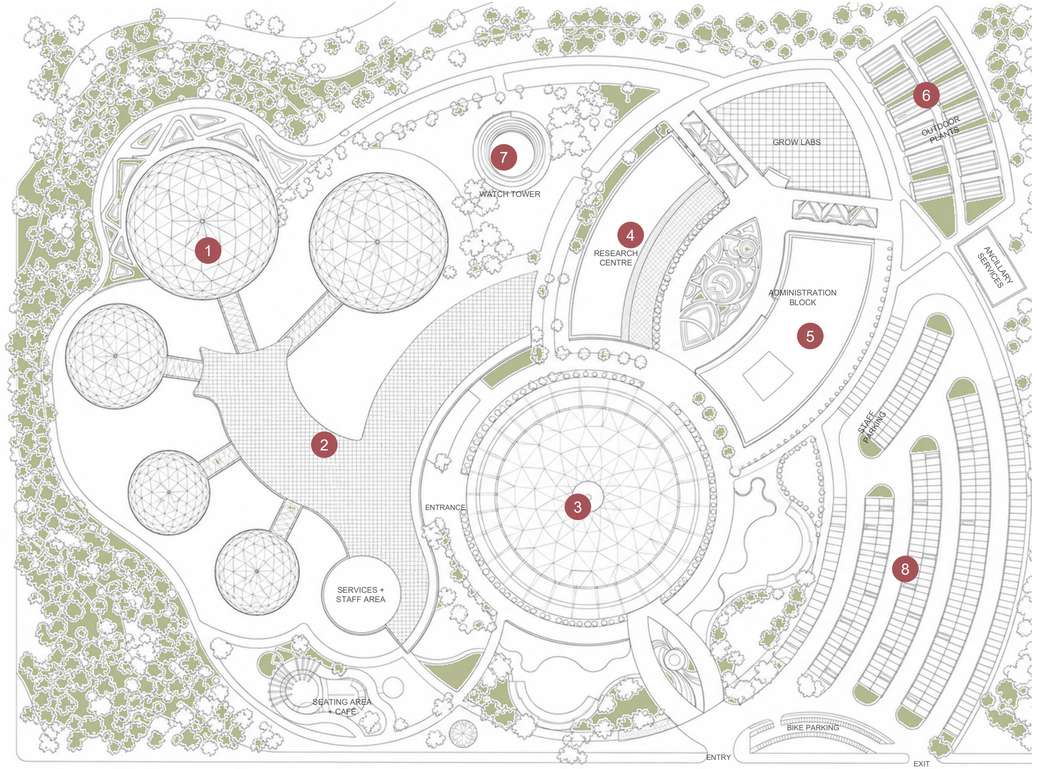
A raised link reconnects the volumes and makes the inner court part of the circulation.



06 / CONNECT THE BIOMES

A shared concourse links five climatic environments, making each part of one continuous learning journey.

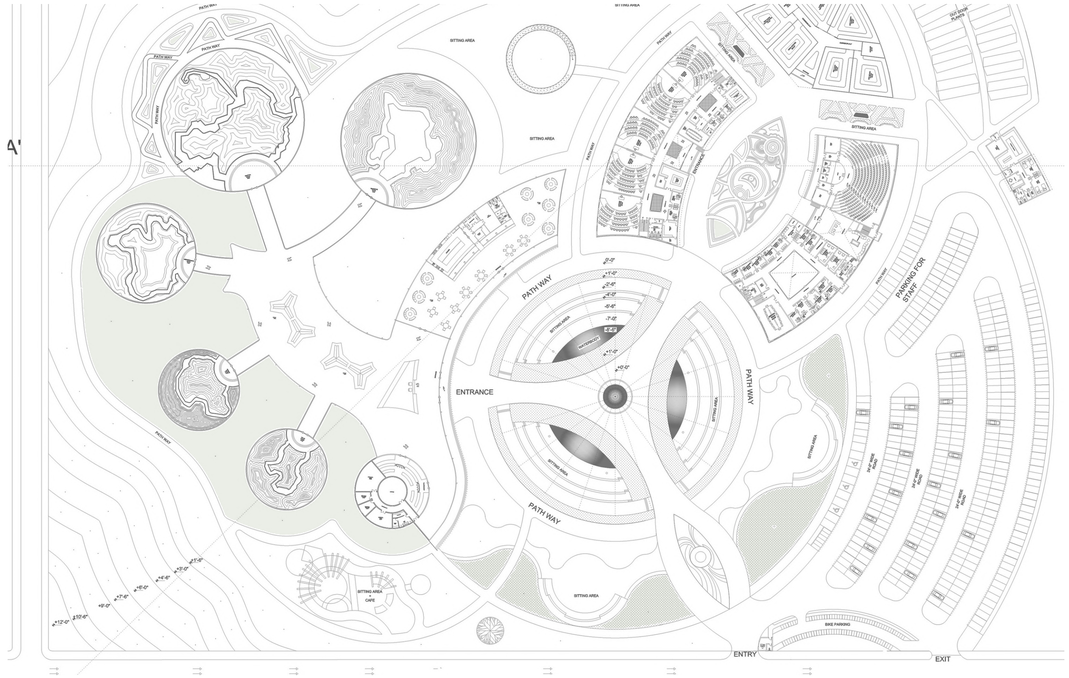
A CONNECTED GARDEN FOR RESEARCH AND PUBLIC LIFE



01 Climate-controlled biomes
02 Shared visitor concourse
03 Arrival court and water garden
04 Research centre
05 Administration block
06 Growing houses and outdoor plots
07 Landscape lookout
08 Parking and service access

GROUND FLOOR PLAN

Public routes connect the biomes, research buildings and gardens while service access remains at the edge.


PATH WAY
ENTRANCE
PATH WAY
PATH WAY
PARKING FOR STAFF
SITTING AREA
SITTING AREA
SITTING AREA



07

Navy Yard Public Wharf

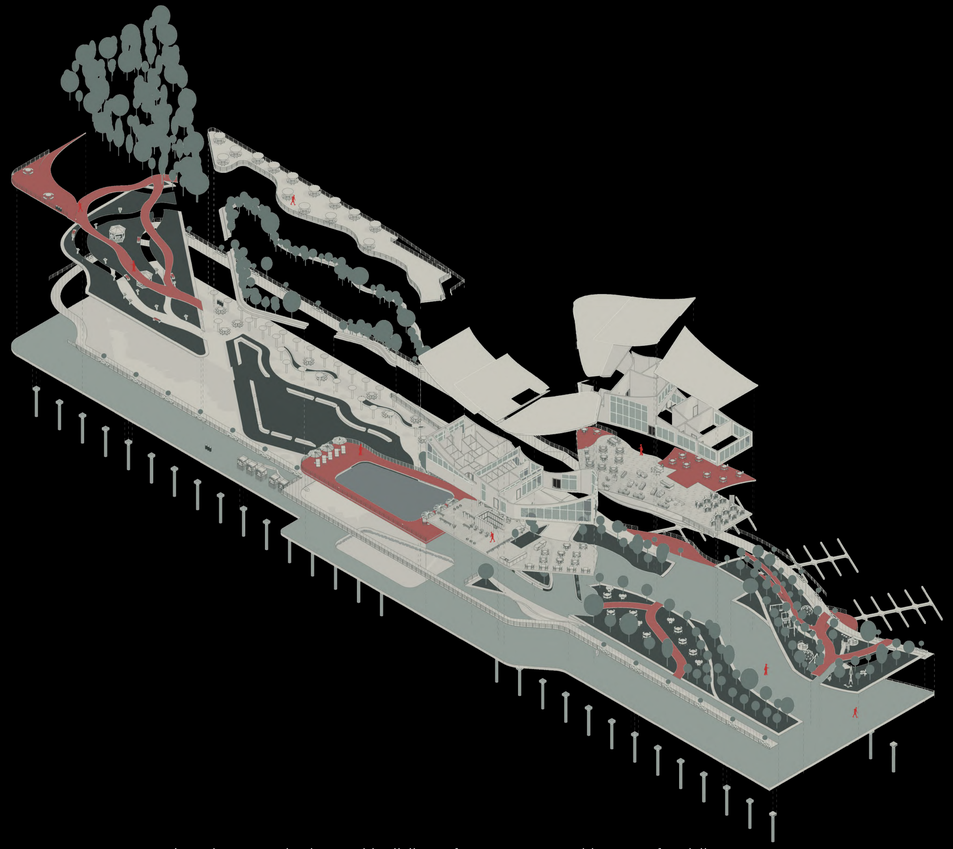
A Waterfront for Everyone

Site : Pier 5, Charlestown Navy Yard, Boston
Mixed-Use · Commercial · Recreational
Academic Project
Individual Work

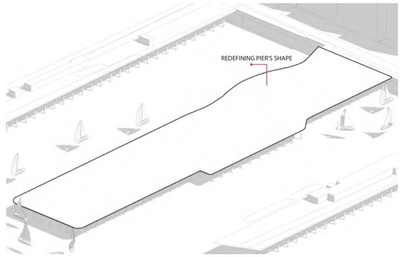
Pier 5 becomes a public landscape where learning, recreation and everyday waterfront life share a continuous promenade. Looping paths, raised decks and small buildings connect active gathering areas with lawns and woodland, opening the pier to its neighborhood and harbor.





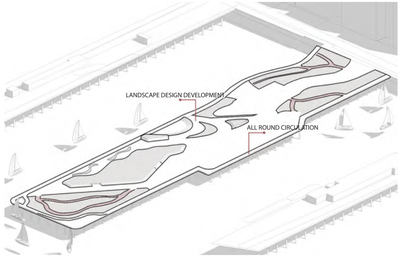


Landscape, decks and buildings form connected layers of public space.



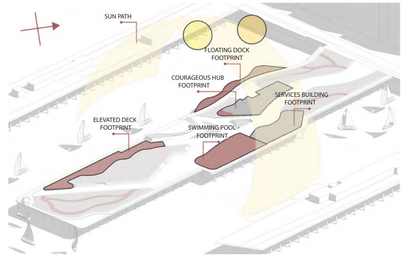
01 SOFTENED EDGE

A reshaped edge creates room for circulation and waterfront activity.



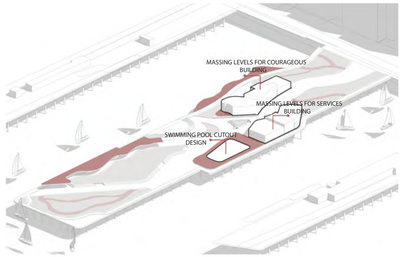
02 CIRCULATION LOOPS

Looping paths connect active programs with quieter planted areas.



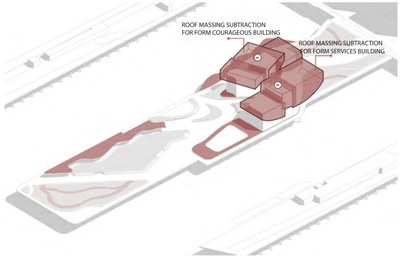
03 PROGRAMME / SUN

Program footprints are arranged alongside the site's sun path.



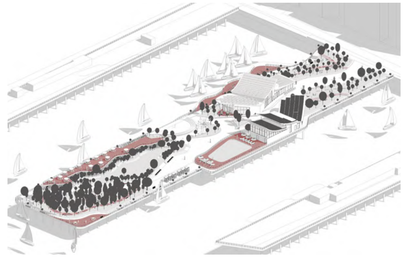
04 BUILDING MASSING

Building volumes frame the pool and public outdoor spaces.



05 ROOF FORM

Curved roofs define sheltered spaces along the waterfront.



06 INTEGRATED WATERFRONT

Buildings and landscape combine along a continuous public waterfront.

GROUND FLOOR PLAN / SHARED LIFE ALONG THE WHARF



01 Classroom Block
02 Courageous Block
03 Cafeteria
04 Pool Amenities
05 Swimming Pool
06 Outdoor Cafe Seating
07 Food Stalls
08 Open-Air Theatre
09 Main Lawn
10 Under-Deck Seating
11 Woodland
12 Raised Seating Deck
13 Floating Dock
14 Main Circulation

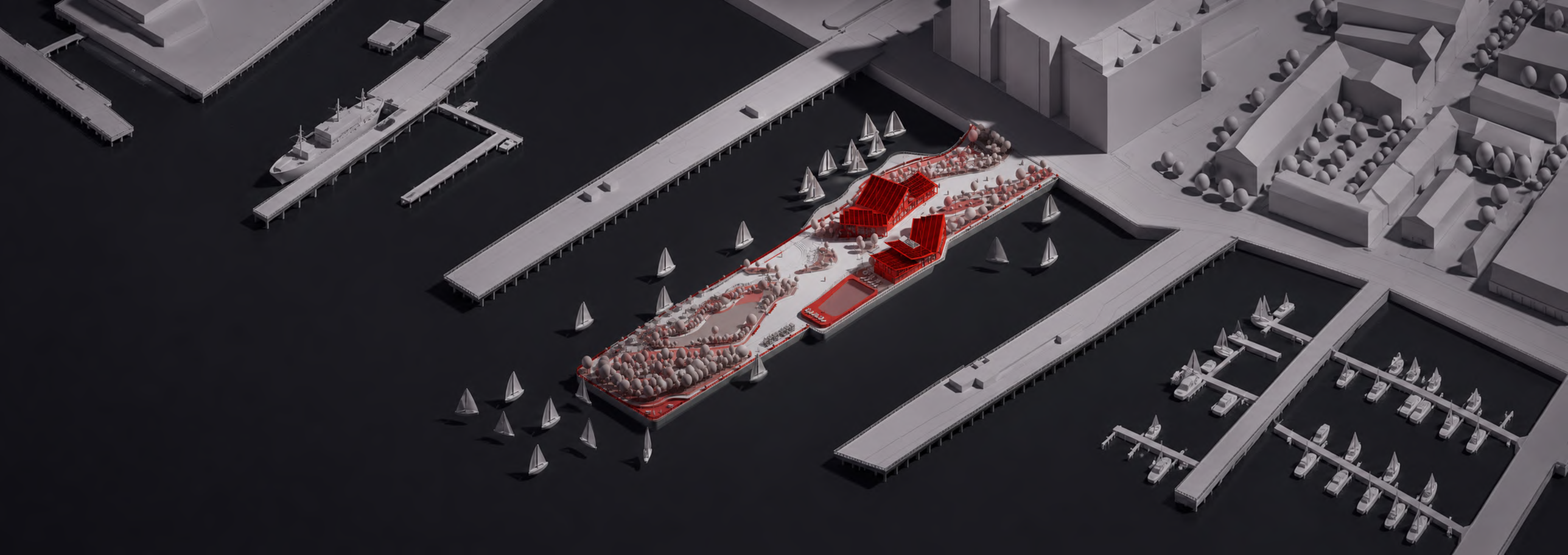
Raised decks and ramps connect recreation across the pier.



The cafe opens shared seating toward the surrounding waterfront landscape.



Woodland paths provide quieter places to pause beside active recreation.



08

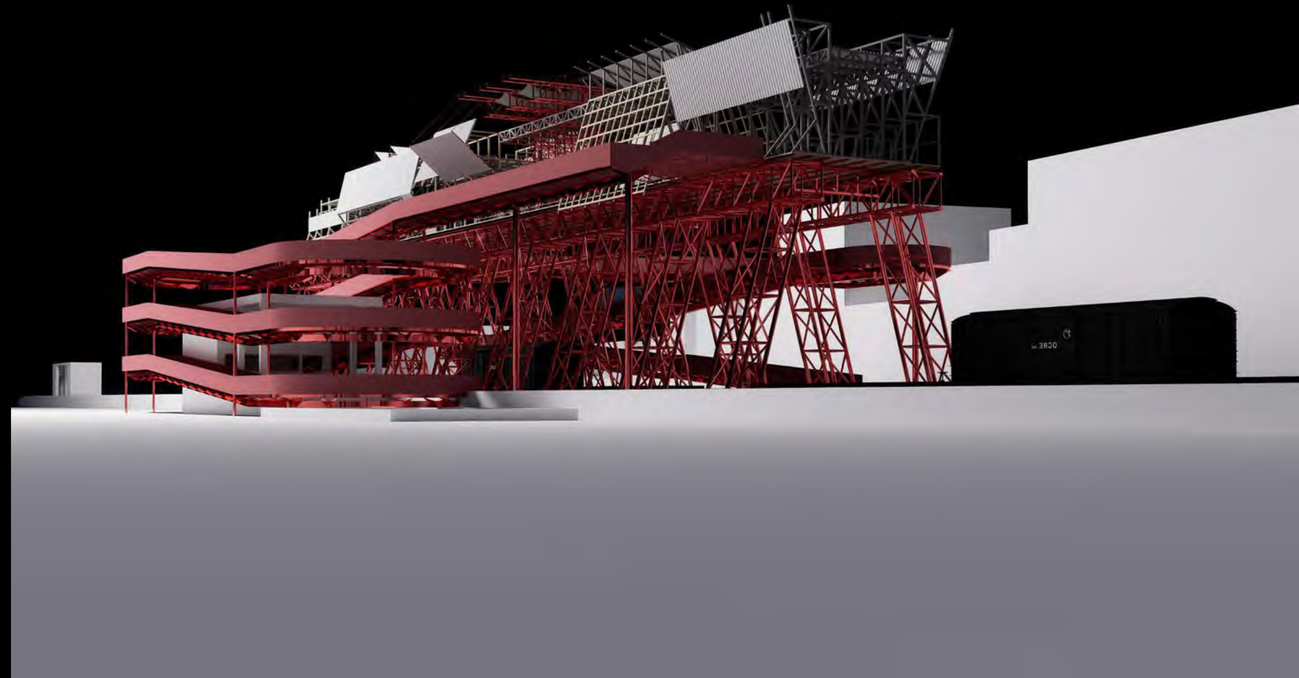
Blurring the Divides

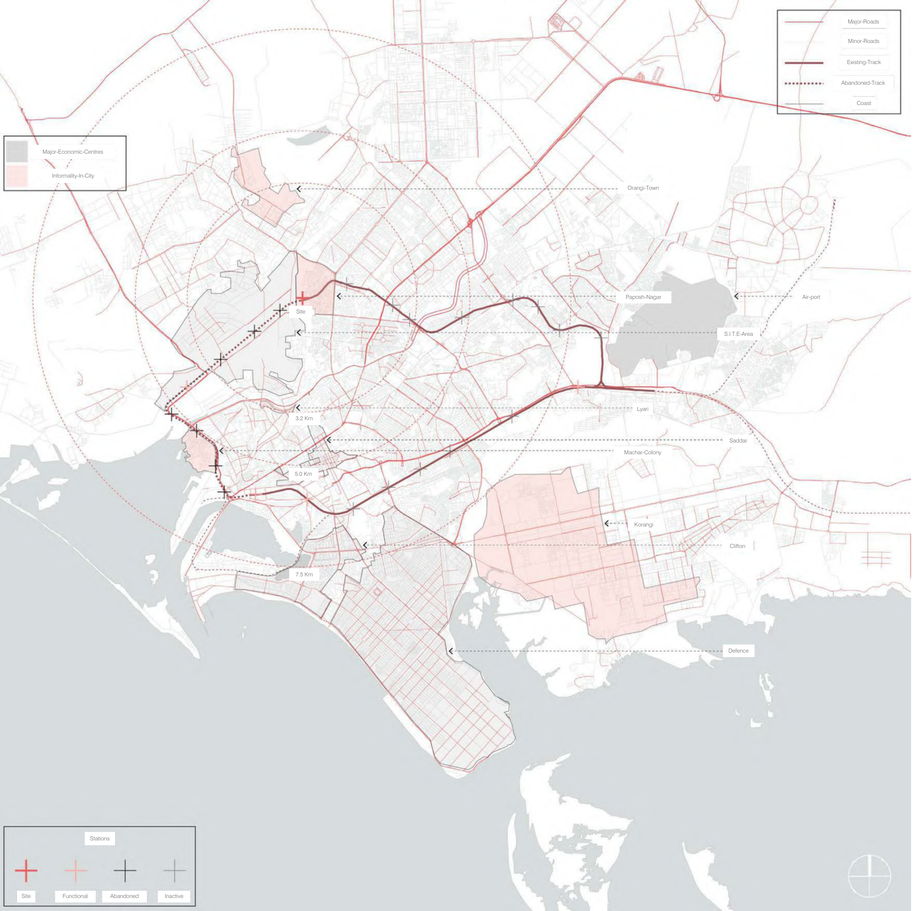
Exposing Urban Inequality through Inhabited Infrastructure

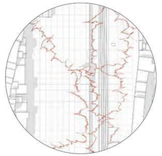
Site : Orangi Railway Station, Karachi
Bachelors of Architecture,
academic project 2022
Individual Work

An elevated framework turns a divided railway corridor into shared space at Orangi Railway Station. Ramps connect ground-level activity with platforms for movement, exchange and informal use, while the open structure can accommodate changing uses.

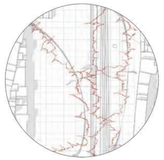




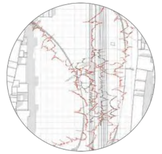




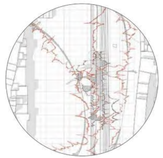
Patterns of Occupation



Temporal Use of Ground

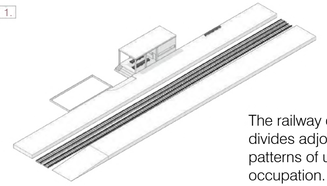


Edges and Interruptions



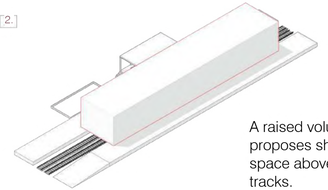
Zones of Overlap

1.



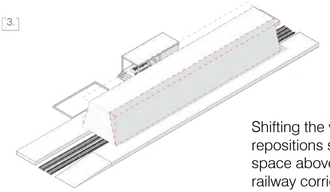
The railway corridor divides adjoining patterns of urban occupation.

2.



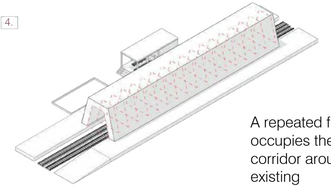
A raised volume proposes shared space above the tracks.

3.



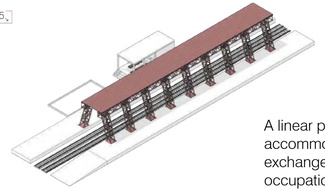
Shifting the volume repositions shared space above the railway corridor.

4.



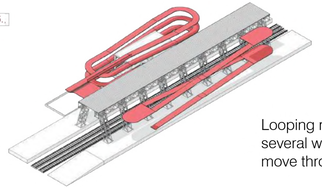
A repeated frame occupies the corridor around existing infrastructure.

5.



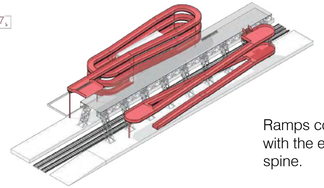
A linear platform accommodates movement, exchange and informal occupation.

6.



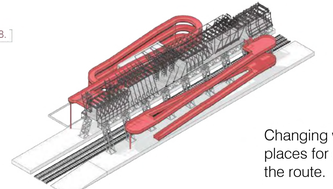
Looping routes provide several ways to enter and move through.

7.

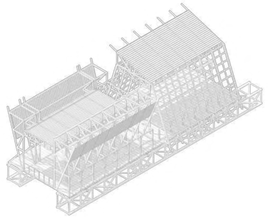


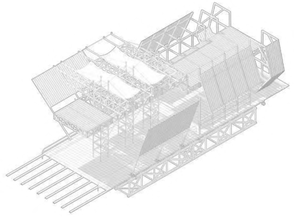
Ramps connect the ground with the elevated public spine.

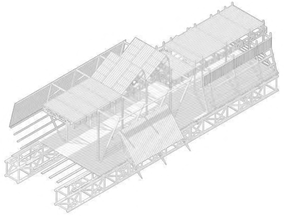
8.



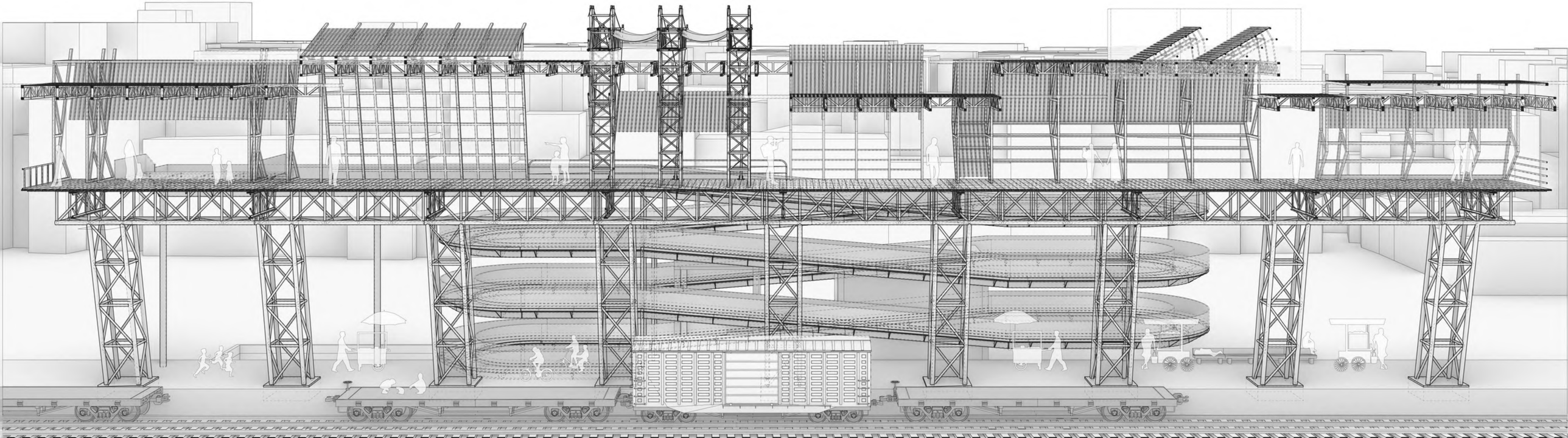
Changing widths create places for gathering along the route.

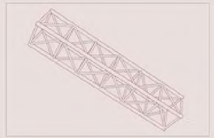




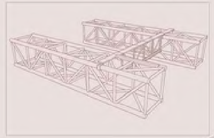


Ramps and elevated platforms connect everyday activity across the railway corridor.

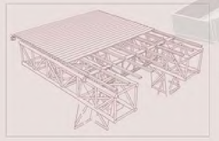




1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.

Frame, deck, ramps and roof assemblies combine into an inhabitable spine.