

# UNDER EARTH - UNDER CANOPY

## THEATRE POPULAIRE IDEA(L) CONCEPT

"If a termite mound lives, it is because it adds earth to the earth".  
Tilinga Frédéric Pacéré

The concept of the given proposal takes the motto of the CDC La Termitière quite literally. The idea is to create additional layers to the existing layers of the site's architecture. This project is conceived as a journey and will be described as such. The narrative arc is reflected in the creation of three distinct but integrated architectural zones.

- 1 the **ANTEROOM** continues up
- 2 the **EARTHEN INCLINE** of the theatre Village, and finally unravels beneath the wings of the **STAGE CANOPY**.
- 3

The concept takes the user on a journey through the multitude of layers, both existing and newly created, which once experienced, reveals that this is an architecture born of the earth - of the local values, culture, and constraints. An architecture born of the earth, but directed towards the sky as a manifestation of the journey, progression and future of the La Termitière collective.

### SITE PLAN the journey explained

**THE WORK ZONE**  
The final point of the journey is the vanishing point of the horizon, visible through a split in the linear "backdrop" to the stage area - the buildings of the work zone. This gesture allows the landscape beyond to become a part of the stage scenery, but more importantly signifies that the journey is ongoing. That the reach of the Theatre Populaire extends beyond the borders of the site.

**THE STAGE CANOPY**  
The stage canopy directly responds to the form of the amphitheatre, designed as a new symbol of the Theatre Populaire. The concept envisioned an imaginary roof enveloping the amphitheatre, before breaking away - a point of release.

**THE AMPHITHEATRE**  
The existing amphitheatre was recognized as the heart of the CDC, and has been preserved as the central core from which all the other spatial structures and programs lead up to or extend from.

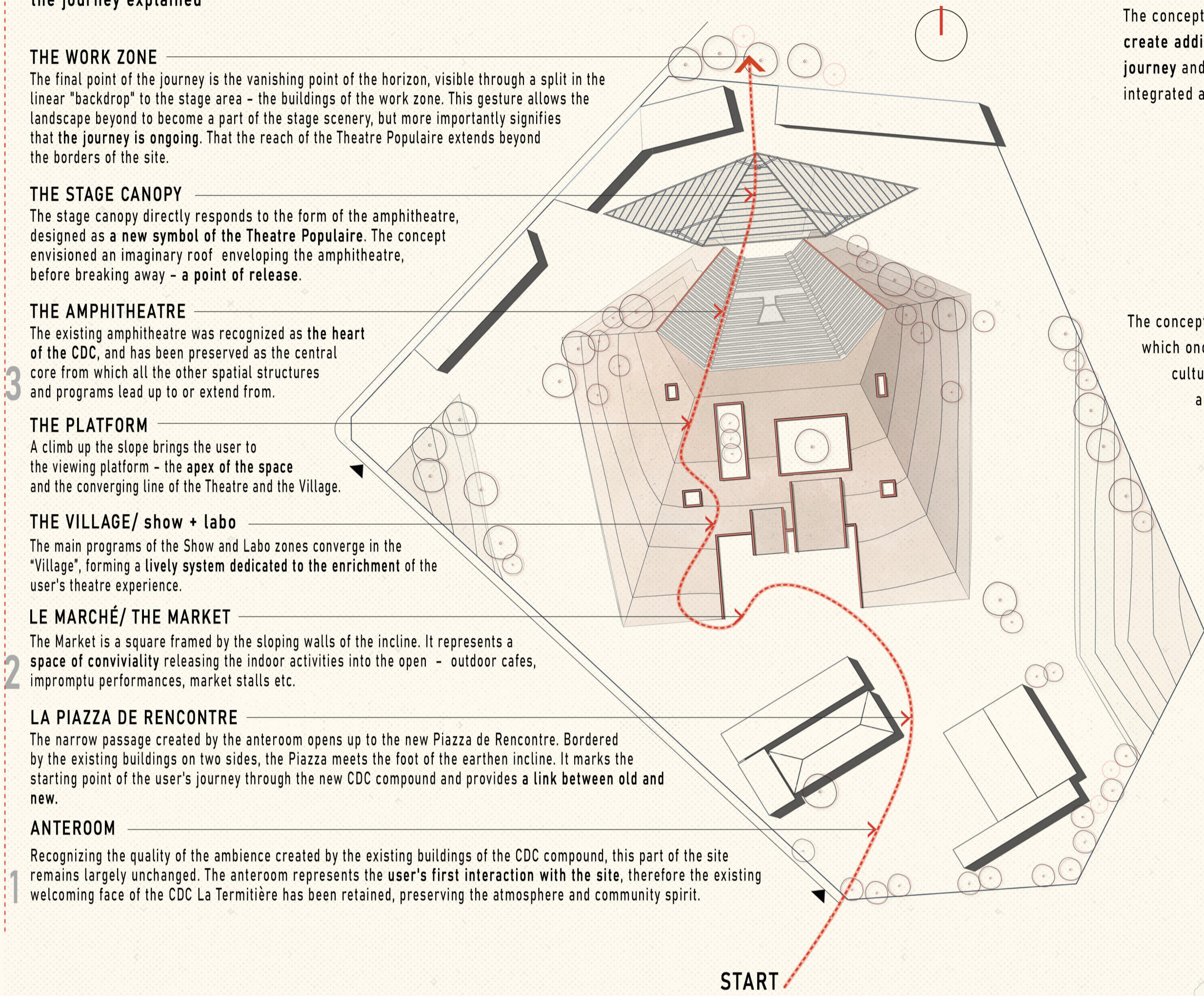
**THE PLATFORM**  
A climb up the slope brings the user to the viewing platform - the apex of the space and the converging line of the Theatre and the Village.

**THE VILLAGE/ show + Labo**  
The main programs of the Show and Labo zones converge in the "Village", forming a lively system dedicated to the enrichment of the user's theatre experience.

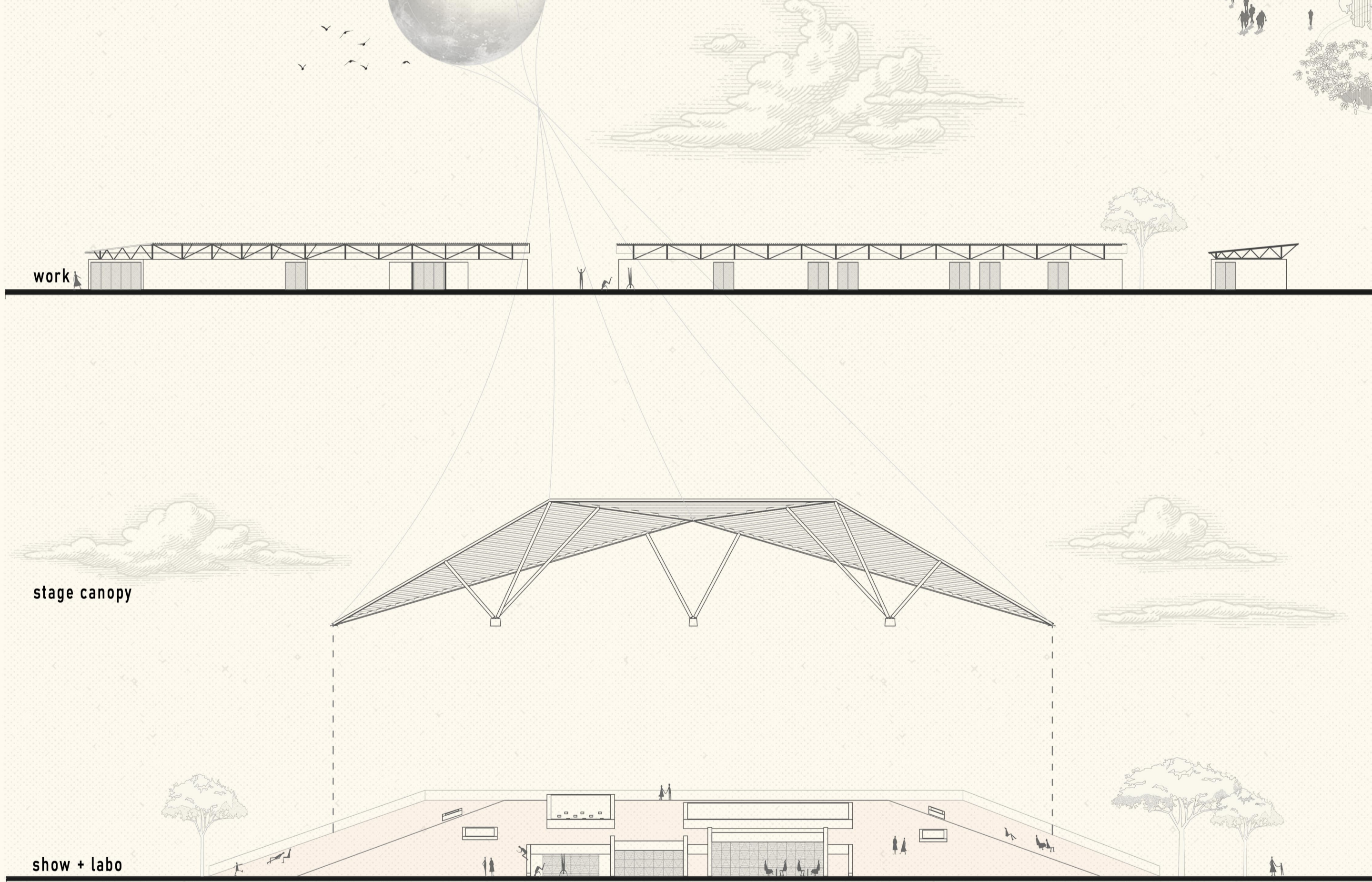
**LE MARCHÉ/ THE MARKET**  
The Market is a square framed by the sloping walls of the incline. It represents a space of conviviality releasing the indoor activities into the open - outdoor cafes, impromptu performances, market stalls etc.

**LA PIAZZA DE RENCONTRE**  
The narrow passage created by the anteroom opens up to the new Piazza de Rencontre. Bordered by the existing buildings on two sides, the Piazza meets the foot of the earthen incline. It marks the starting point of the user's journey through the new CDC compound and provides a link between old and new.

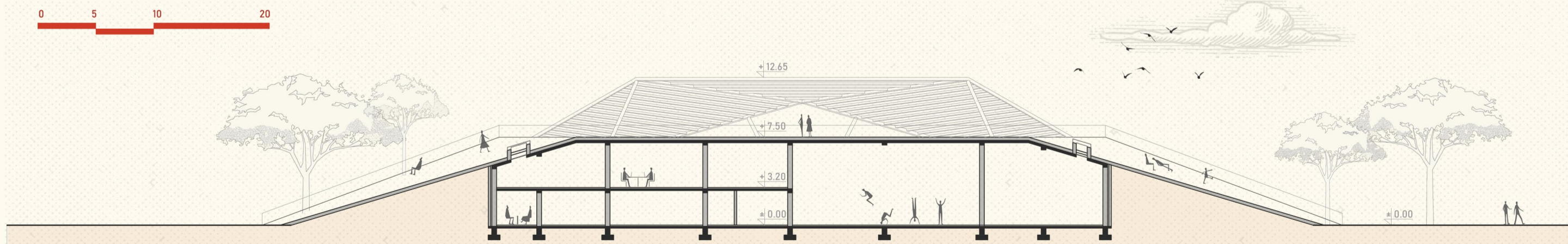
**ANTEROOM**  
Recognizing the quality of the ambience created by the existing buildings of the CDC compound, this part of the site remains largely unchanged. The anteroom represents the user's first interaction with the site, therefore the existing welcoming face of the CDC La Termitière has been retained, preserving the atmosphere and community spirit.



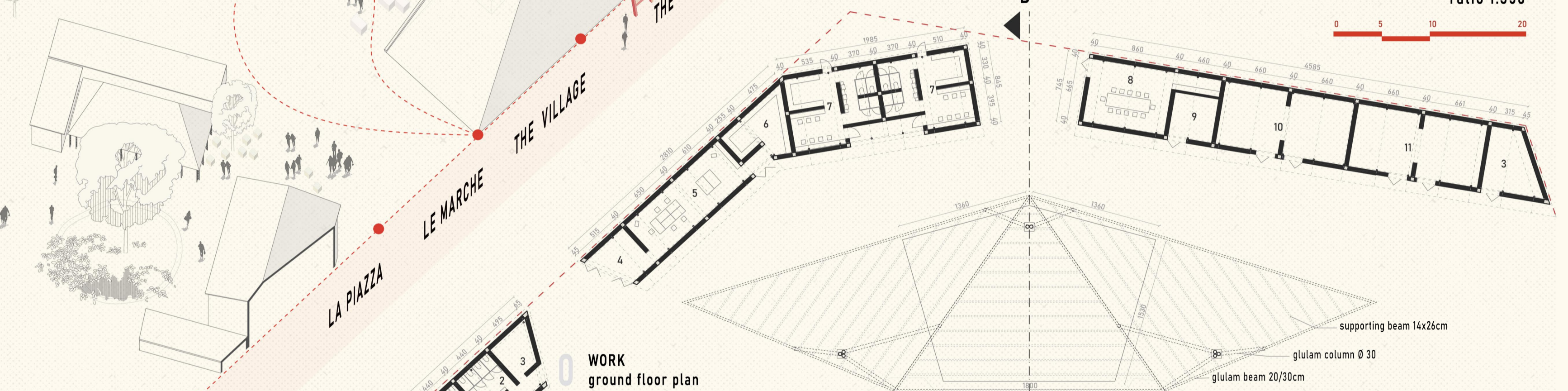
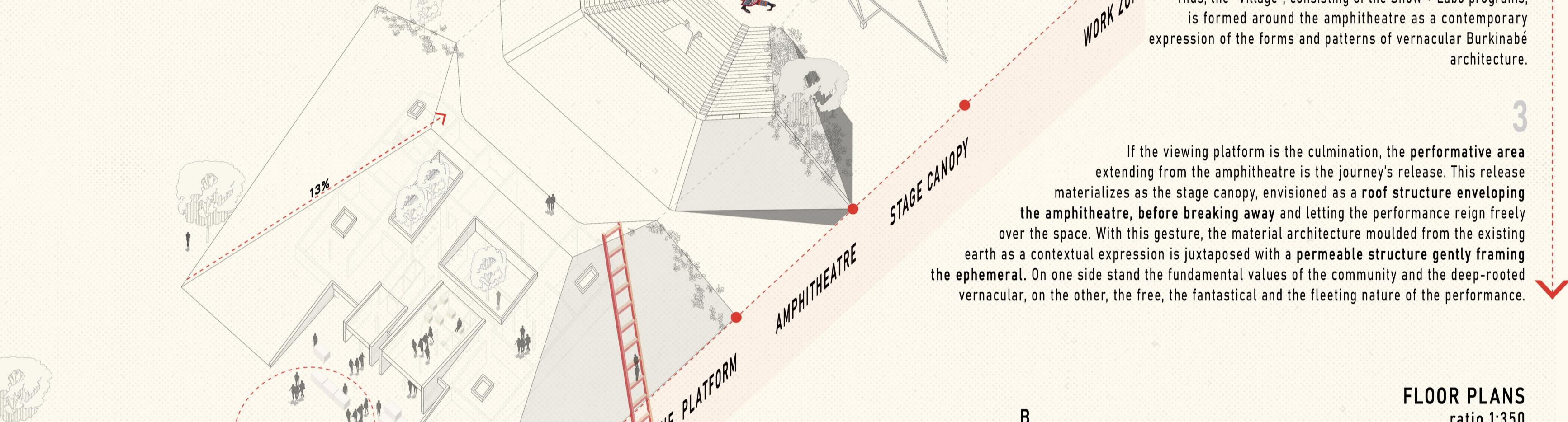
### SOUTH ELEVATIONS representative



### SECTION A-A ratio 1:350



### JOURNEY EXPLAINED



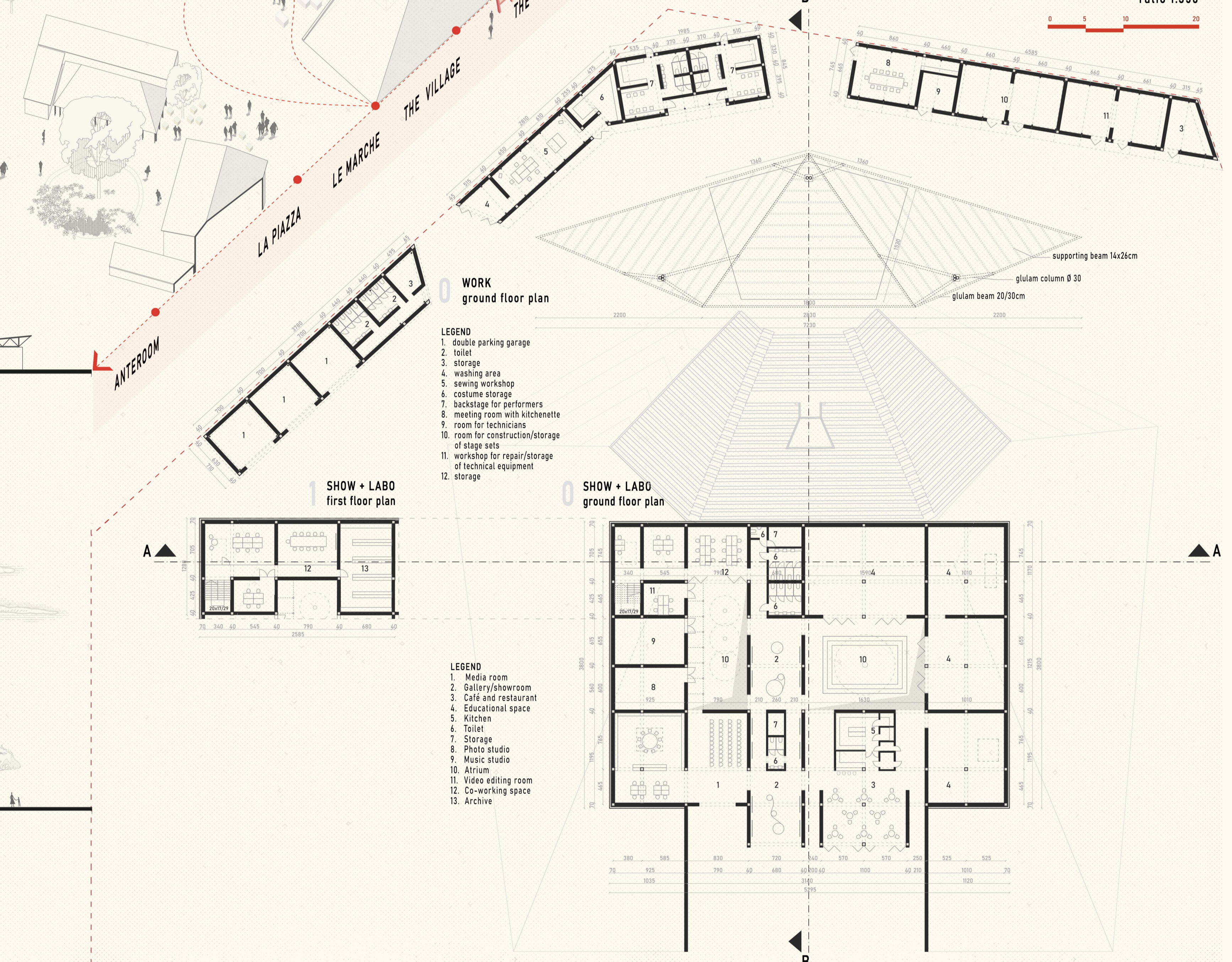
### AXONOMETRIC DIAGRAM exploded by program

The Anteroom symbolizes the given context: the existing face of the CDC and the spirit of the community. The challenge was to create a design responsive to the architecture of the site and representative of the local culture, but also to generate a new context within which the CDC can prosper. The anteroom acts as a threshold, as well as a control point into the site through narrow passage it creates. The Piazza de Rencontre too remains, framed by the rehearsal hut and the grand studio, only now a third, new entity borders it - the Incline.

The earthen incline can be considered the rising action in the plot of the Theatre Populaire's story. As a direct response to the jagged geometry of the central and most important element - the amphitheatre - the existing slope formed around it is hypertrophied, forming a sloping roof. Inspiration for the design was found in the traditional cluster formations of West African villages, earthen materials and geometric patterns. Thus, the "Village", consisting of the Show + Labo programs, is formed around the amphitheatre as a contemporary expression of the forms and patterns of vernacular Burkinabé architecture.

If the viewing platform is the culmination, the performative area extending from the amphitheatre is the journey's release. This release materializes as the stage canopy, envisioned as a roof structure enveloping the amphitheatre, before breaking away and letting the performance reign freely over the space. With this gesture, the material architecture moulded from the existing earth as a contextual expression is juxtaposed with a permeable structure gently framing the ephemeral. On one side stand the fundamental values of the community and the deep-rooted vernacular, on the other, the free, the fantastical and the fleeting nature of the performance.

### FLOOR PLANS ratio 1:350



### SECTION B-B ratio 1:350

