

# Urban Relief

The project's located on a high density urban site in the center of Xi'an, near the Anyuan Gate, one of the four main gates of the ancient city wall (constructed during the Ming Dynasty).

The building consists of 7 floors in addition of a rooftop level which is divided into a covered fitness and leisure area and an open-air rooftop garden. It has a total gross floor area of approximately 21,200 square meters, with a total of 186 guest rooms, distributed between the 4th and 7th floors.

The entrance to the hotel is located on the south side, emphasized by the cylindrical volume which is open to the sky, and let in natural daylight. An entrance to the Chinese Restaurant is located on the left volume.

The entrance to the underground parking is located on the east side of the site, while the exit is located at the northwest rear of the building. Ground level parking is provided in the southeast corner of the site plot.

Areas of the site not occupied by the building and facing urban roads on the south and east have been designed as open plazas paved with stone rubbles, without additional landscaping elements (except a green space/garden on the southeast side). They are intended to provide residents of this dense urban environment a certain kind of relief.



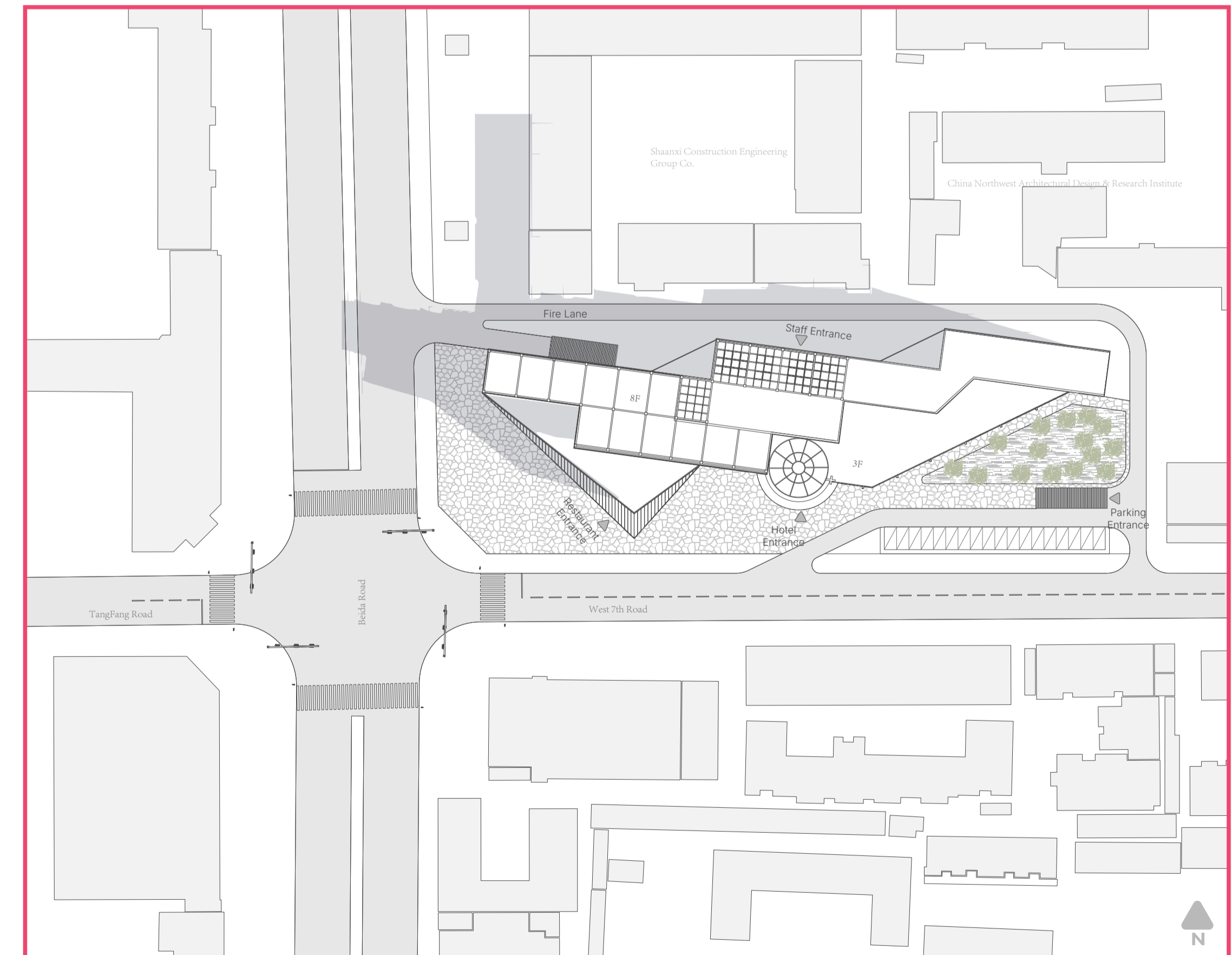
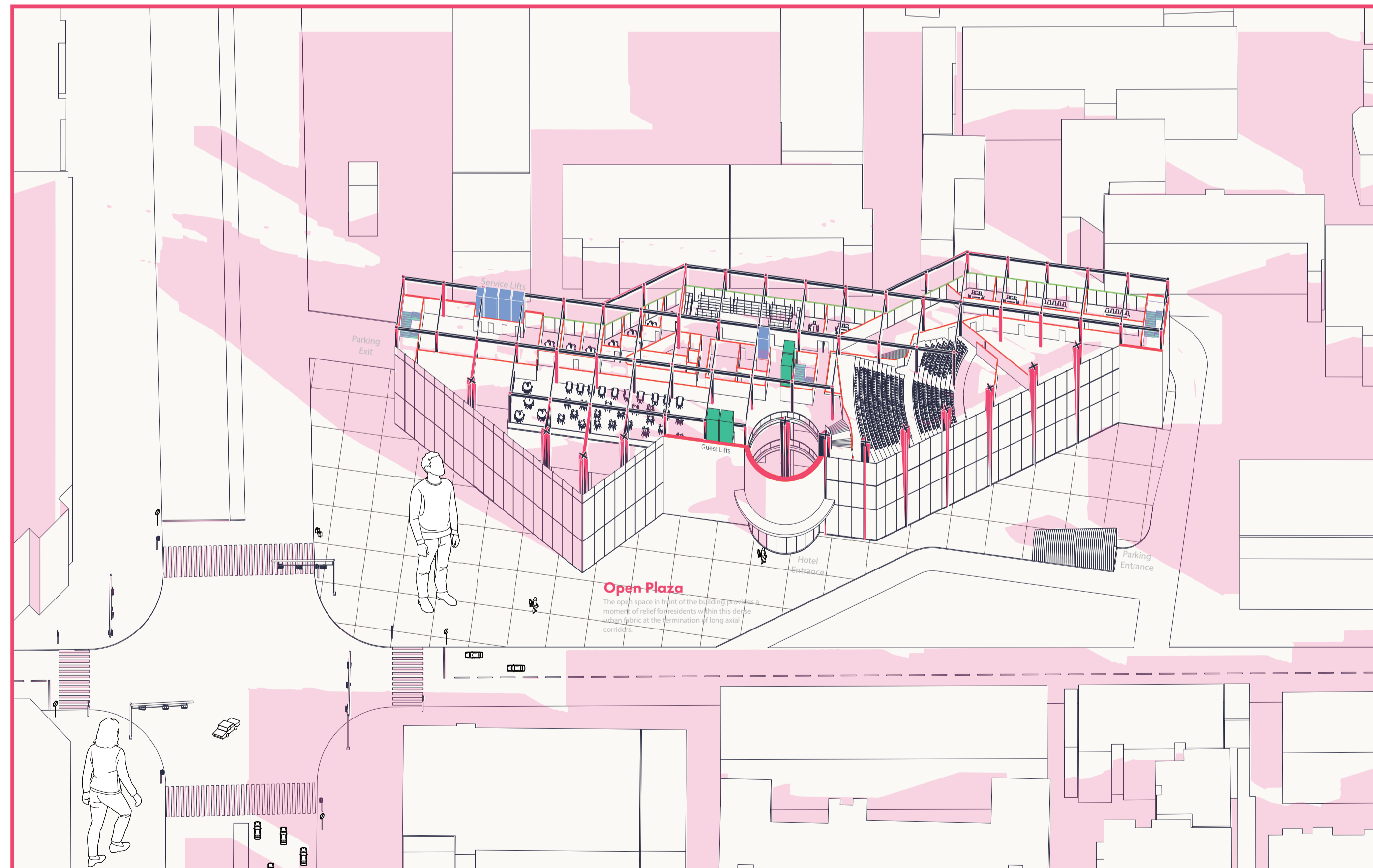
**Site's Geometry**  
The site has a certain linear quality, given by its narrow proportions in plan (173m by 60m, ~3:1). Given its proportions, the starter idea was to use the geometrical line as an organizing element for the building's different programs. A spiral block area, recurring vertically, would serve to organize recurring, and repetitive programs.

**Basic Unit**  
To serve that goal mentioned in the first part, a basic frame unit (2 beams and 2 columns), repeated along the direction of a line was used as the basic building block of the building. On guestroom floors, it would be highly useful to organize such a repetitive program efficiently, which is of a high importance in saving resources.

**Staggered Layout**  
Given again the proportions of the site, and a limit on the number of floors (7), the use of a single guiding linear element would turn out to be hard to accommodate the varying programs. So as a result, the initial linear element was offset 4 times along its perpendicular direction. Connection nodes were used to locate vertical circulation elements for both staff and guests.

**Flexible & Connected**  
A secondary idea to the main concept was a certain kind of gradient of openness and compression, which could be said to be inherent to the nature of the program. Nonetheless, to achieve that, a certain connection and openness between the public floors was needed. So a group of giant order columns was attached in a regularly disorganized manner at the building frontside, creating atriums and flexible layouts.

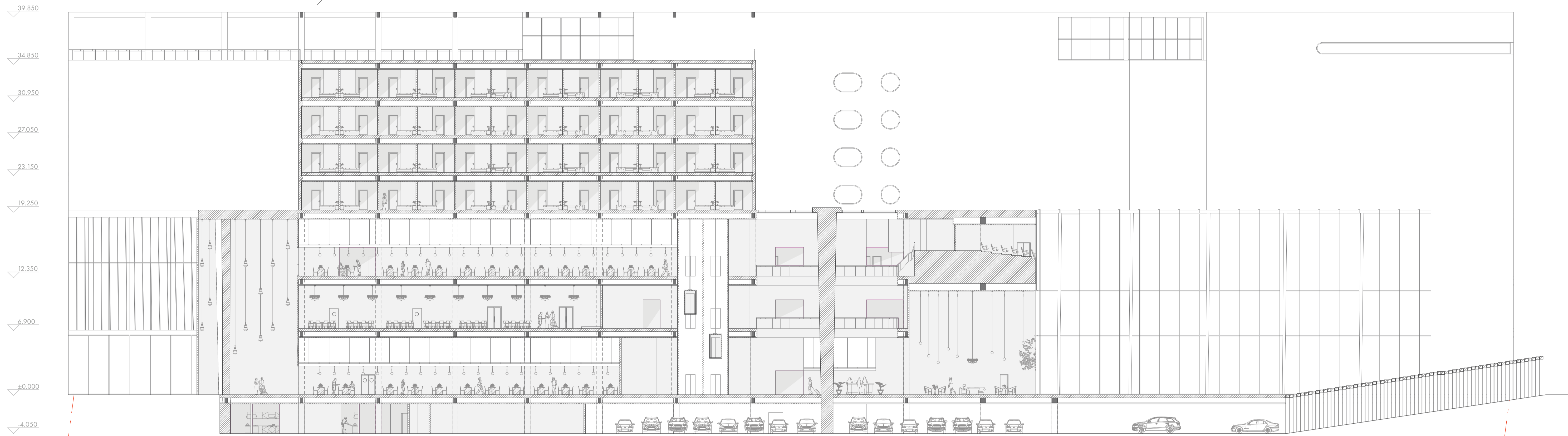
**Building Envelope**  
The surrounding context, consisting of traditional muted materials with limited glazing, was taken into account, but also the site's climatic conditions (cold winter & hot summers). Architecturally speaking, it resulted, in a lighter glass envelope (on the front side of the public floors), and a heavy stone or concrete-climate wrapper with limited openings on the upper floors.



Concept

Planometric Section

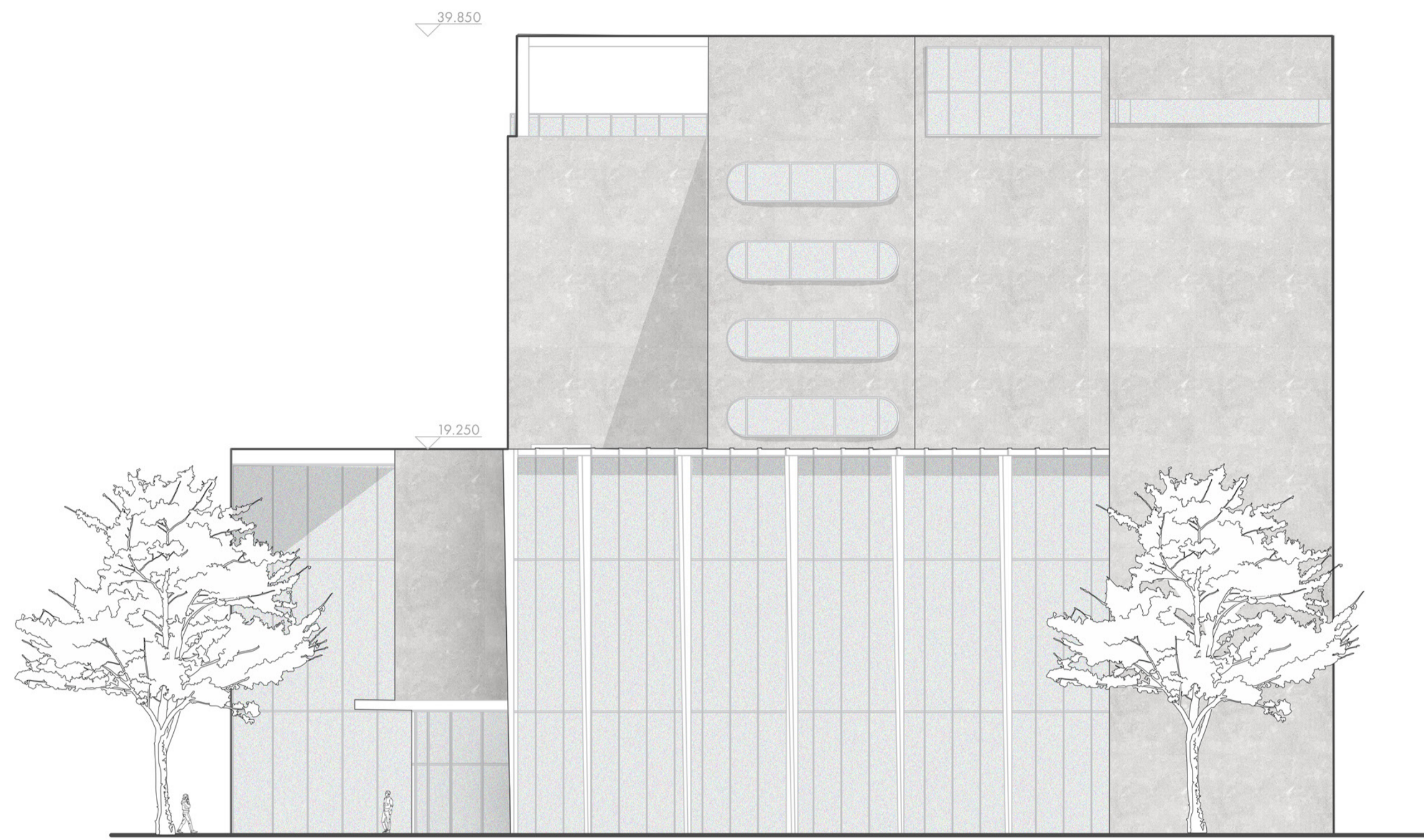
Master Plan



**A-A Section**



**Ground Floor**



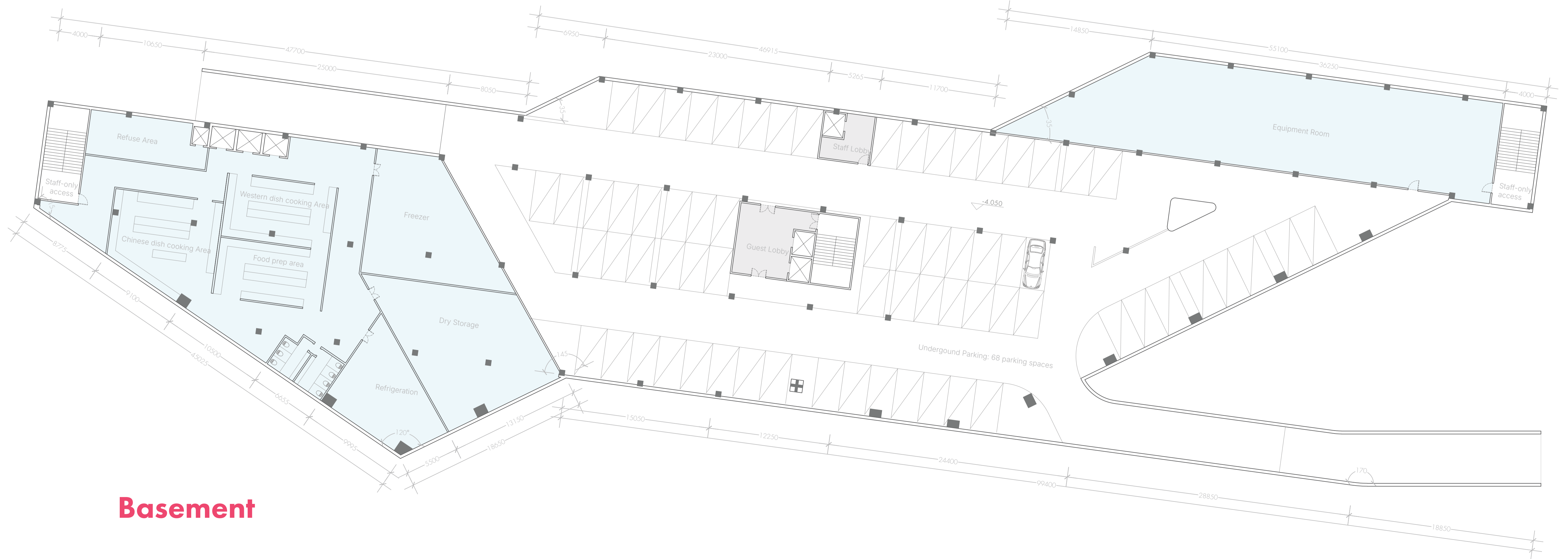
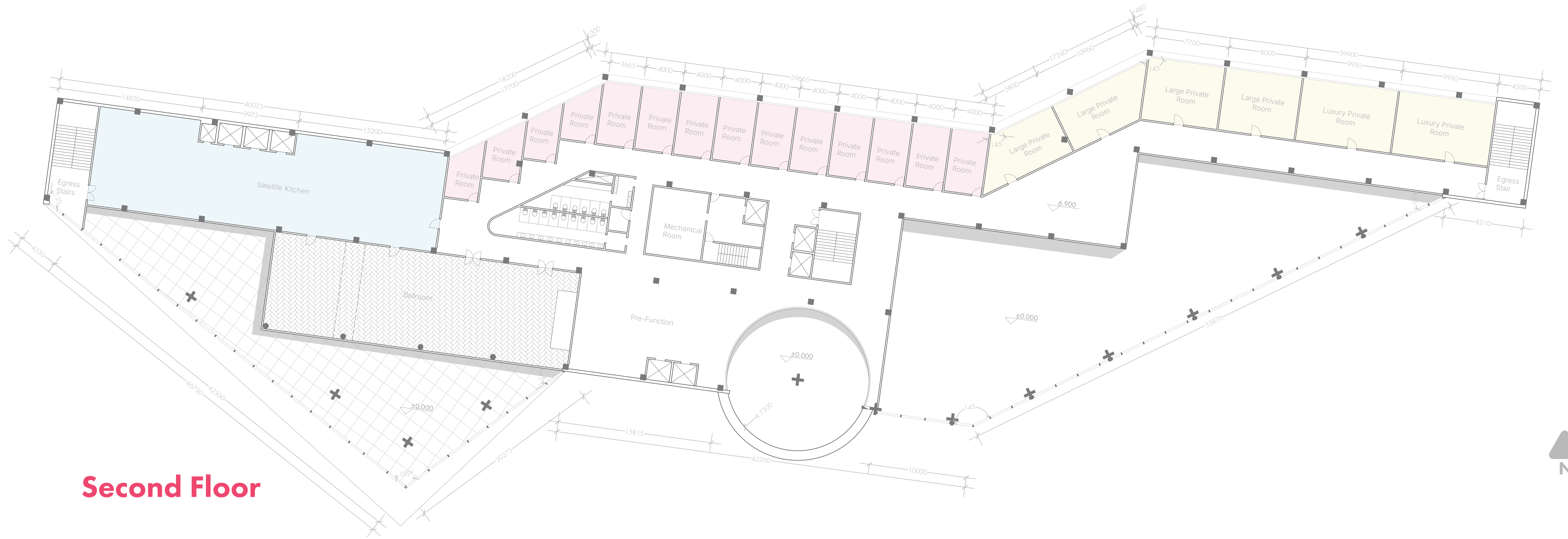
**East Elevation**



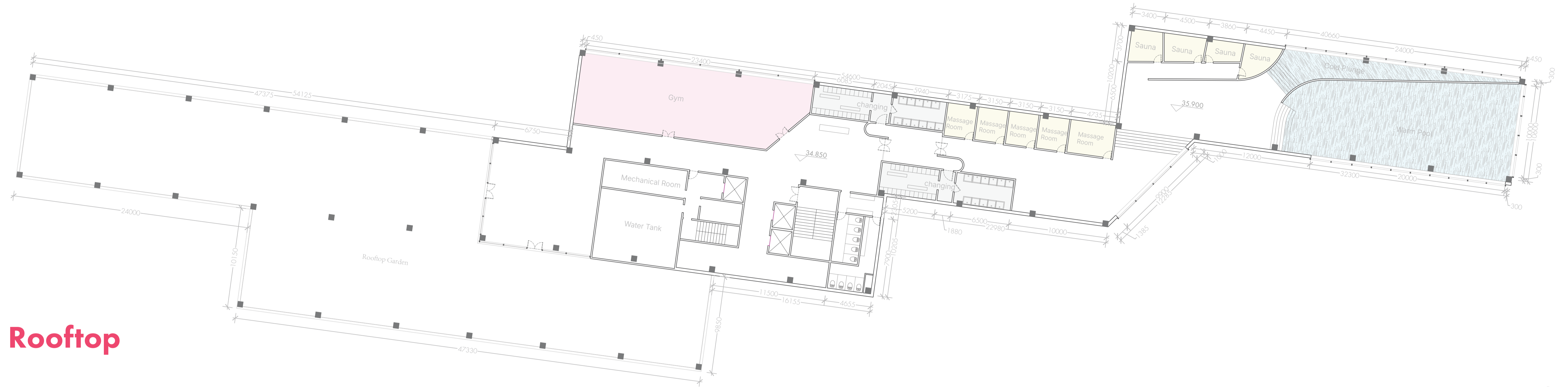
**B-B Section**



**South Elevation**



# Rooftop



# Third Floor

