

*Revitalization through Art and Culture: Integrating Creative Spaces into the Urban Fabric.*  
Adil Kamal Batcha



# “Revitalizing Art and Culture : Integrating Creative Spaces into the Urban Fabric”

1/2000 Location Plan



**Northern Cyprus**  
Northern Cyprus is located on the north-eastern coast of the island of Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. It is bordered by the Mediterranean Sea to the north and east, and by the Republic of Cyprus to the south and west.



**Famagusta**  
It's a city on the east coast of North Cyprus. Famagusta is an important commercial hub of Northern Cyprus and has historical sites, including the walled city, Salamis, the Othello Castle

**Old City**  
The Old City of Famagusta, Northern Cyprus, is a historic walled city with medieval and Ottoman architecture. Notable landmarks include Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque, Othello's Tower, and its impressive Venetian walls.

**Relationship of the Walled City with the Rest of Famagusta**  
The Walled City of Famagusta is the historical core, distinct from the modern city due to its medieval fortifications, cultural landmarks, and dense urban fabric.

1. Historical & Cultural Context
  - A heritage hub with Venetian, Ottoman, and medieval influences, contrasting with modern developments.
2. Urban Connectivity & Access
  - Enclosed by fortified walls, with main entry points like **Akkule (Land Gate)**.
  - Connected to modern Famagusta via **İsmet İnönü Boulevard** and other key roads.
  - Pedestrian-friendly inside, whereas modern districts have a structured, car-oriented layout.
3. Economic & Functional Links
  - A center for tourism and commerce
  - Proximity to **Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU)** influences cafés, shops, and rental markets.
  - Contrasts with the abandoned **Varosha** district, highlighting different urban conditions.
4. Urban Morphology & Social Impact
  - Compact, organic street network vs. modern districts' grid-like structure.
  - The fortified walls act as a visual and functional boundary between old and new.
  - Primarily a **tourist and commercial area**, with fewer permanent residents than surrounding districts.

The Walled City remains Famagusta's **historical and cultural heart**, interconnected with modern districts through **transport, economy, and tourism**, despite its distinct urban fabric and enclosed form.



Main Landmarks ▲

Informal Landmarks ▲

Nodes ●

Districts ●

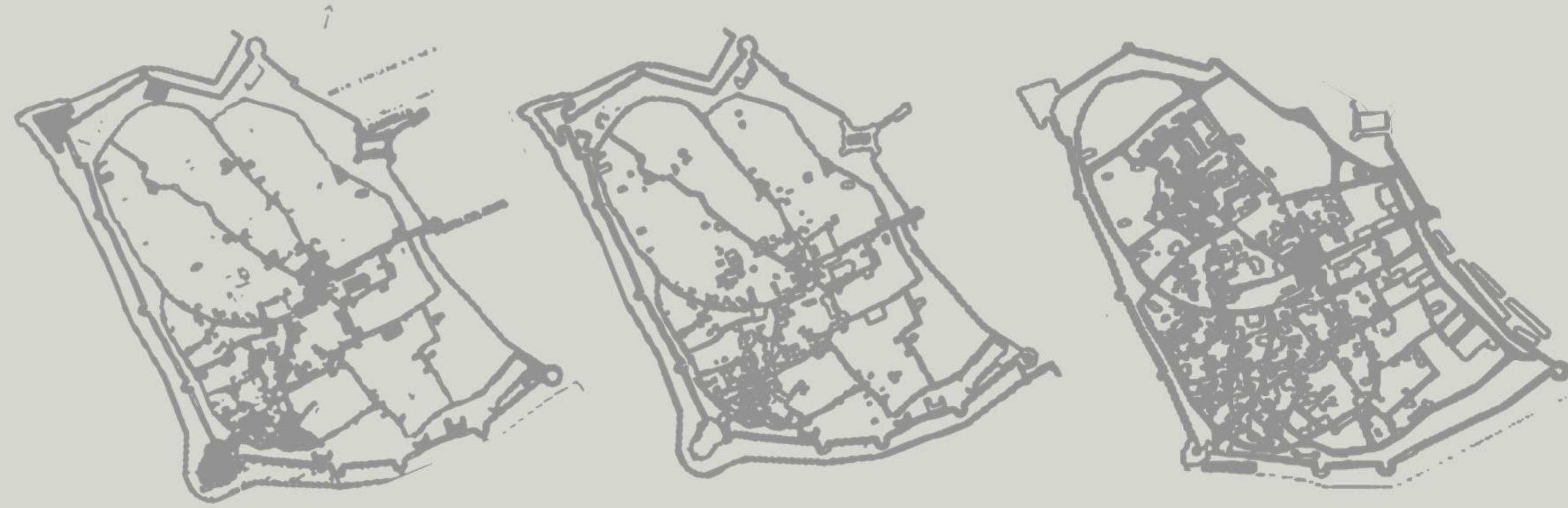
Highways

Main roads

Secondary roads

Canal Roads

# Morphological Analysis



## Venetian

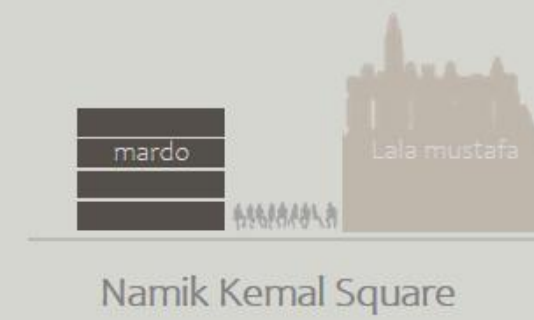
Venetian Period (1489–1571) – The city was highly compact and defensive, with dense buildings, narrow streets, and minimal open spaces. The focus was on military strength, leading to thick fortification walls and a strongly defined urban core.

## Ottoman

Ottoman Period (1571–1878) – The city became more open and organic, with larger public spaces, courtyards, and markets. Churches were converted into mosques, and the street layout became less rigid, improving social and commercial interactions.

## British

British Period (1878–1960) – The British modernized infrastructure, widened streets, and introduced public parks and administrative buildings. The figure-ground balance shifted toward open spaces, making the city more functional and accessible but altering its historic density.



## “The Changing Fabric of Famagusta Through the Ages”



## Figure-Ground Analysis of the Walled City of Famagusta

A figure-ground analysis is a graphical representation of the built environment (figure) and open spaces (ground). It helps in understanding urban morphology and spatial relationships.

### 1. Urban Density & Built Form:

1. The walled city has a compact and high-density fabric, with buildings closely packed.
2. The layout consists of narrow streets and irregular block formations, typical of medieval cities.

### 2. Street Network:

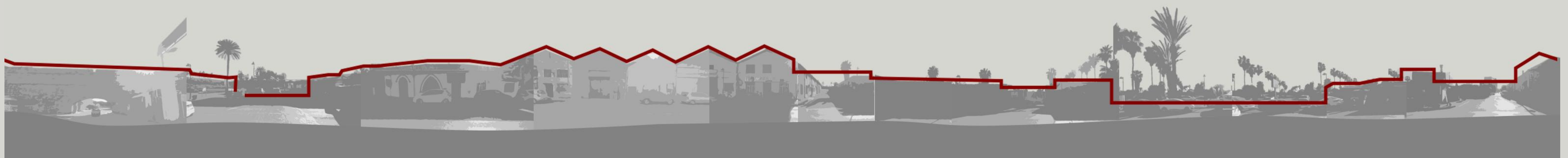
1. The city has a hierarchical street network with primary streets leading from gates to key landmarks.
2. Secondary and tertiary streets create a maze-like pattern, providing permeability but also a sense of enclosure.

### 3. Public vs. Private Spaces:

1. The figure-ground analysis reveals small, fragmented open spaces, mainly courtyards and squares.
2. The dominance of built mass over open space reflects a defensive and introverted urban form.

### 4. Contrast Between Historical Core and Modern Development:

1. Outside the walled city, modern Famagusta has a more grid-like and open urban fabric.
2. The transition from enclosed medieval urbanism to modern sprawl shows how urban forms evolve over time.



# "Social Dynamics and Urban Functionality in the Historic Core"

## User Demographics

### Resident Population

Primarily composed of local Cypriots, with influences from Turkish, Greek, and other Mediterranean cultures. A mix of older generations preserving local traditions and younger residents.

### Business and Commercial Users

Small-scale shop owners operating within the historic core, particularly around Namik Kemal Square and the market areas.

### Tourists and Visitors

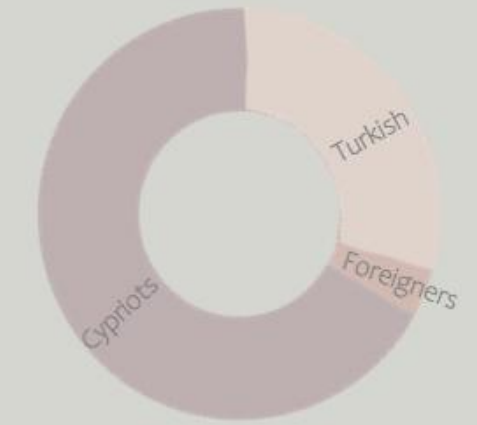
**Cultural Tourists:** Visitors interested in historical landmarks such as Lala Mustafa Pasha Mosque, the city walls, and the harbor.  
**Casual Visitors:** People enjoying the vibrant İstiklal Street for shopping, dining, and leisure.

### Academic and Student Community

Famagusta Port is a historic Mediterranean harbor, once a major trade hub, now used for shipping, tourism, and local commerce.



### Existing User groups



### Proposed User groups



## Mobility and Accessibility

The area is primarily pedestrian-oriented, with narrow streets limiting vehicular movement. Bicycles and electric scooters are gaining popularity as sustainable transport options.

## Heritage Integration and Urban Life

There's a growing need for the adaptive reuse of historic structures for contemporary functions. New infrastructure must be sensitively integrated to respect the character of the old city.

## Tourist Experience and Navigation

Clear way finding elements such as signage and landmark visibility are crucial for ease of exploration. Shaded walkways and resting areas enhance walkability and comfort for visitors.

## Commercial and Civic Space Activation

Revitalizing İstiklal Street with public seating and greenery contributes to urban vibrancy. Enhancing Namik Kemal Square as a flexible civic space encourages diverse social interactions.

Famagusta harbor

Port Lighthouse

Lala Mustafa

Gazi monument

Guides ships safely into the historic harbor, symbolizing the city's maritime heritage.

A former Gothic cathedral, now an Ottoman mosque, known for its grand arches and rich history in Famagusta.

The Gazi Monument in Famagusta honors the martyrs and veterans, symbolizing bravery and historical resilience.



Namik Kemal square

Vibrant İstiklal st.

# Revitalization through Art and Culture: Integrating Creative Spaces into the Urban Fabric

A creative city is one that fosters cultural expression, innovation, and a community-driven development by empowering its people through arts, education, and shared spaces.

Cities like **Barcelona** and **Berlin** have revitalized abandoned districts by turning them into vibrant cultural quarters, supporting artists, creative start-ups, and public engagement.

My interpretation of creative cities and industries is the integration of culture, innovation, and community within the urban fabric. This project reimagines the old city of Famagusta as a creative city by integrating education, cultural heritage, and artistic production.

Through the chosen topics of **Art & Design School, Cultural Library, and Creative Artist Residences**, my proposal supports creative industries while revitalizing historic spaces.

## Urban Context Proposal - Vision in Action

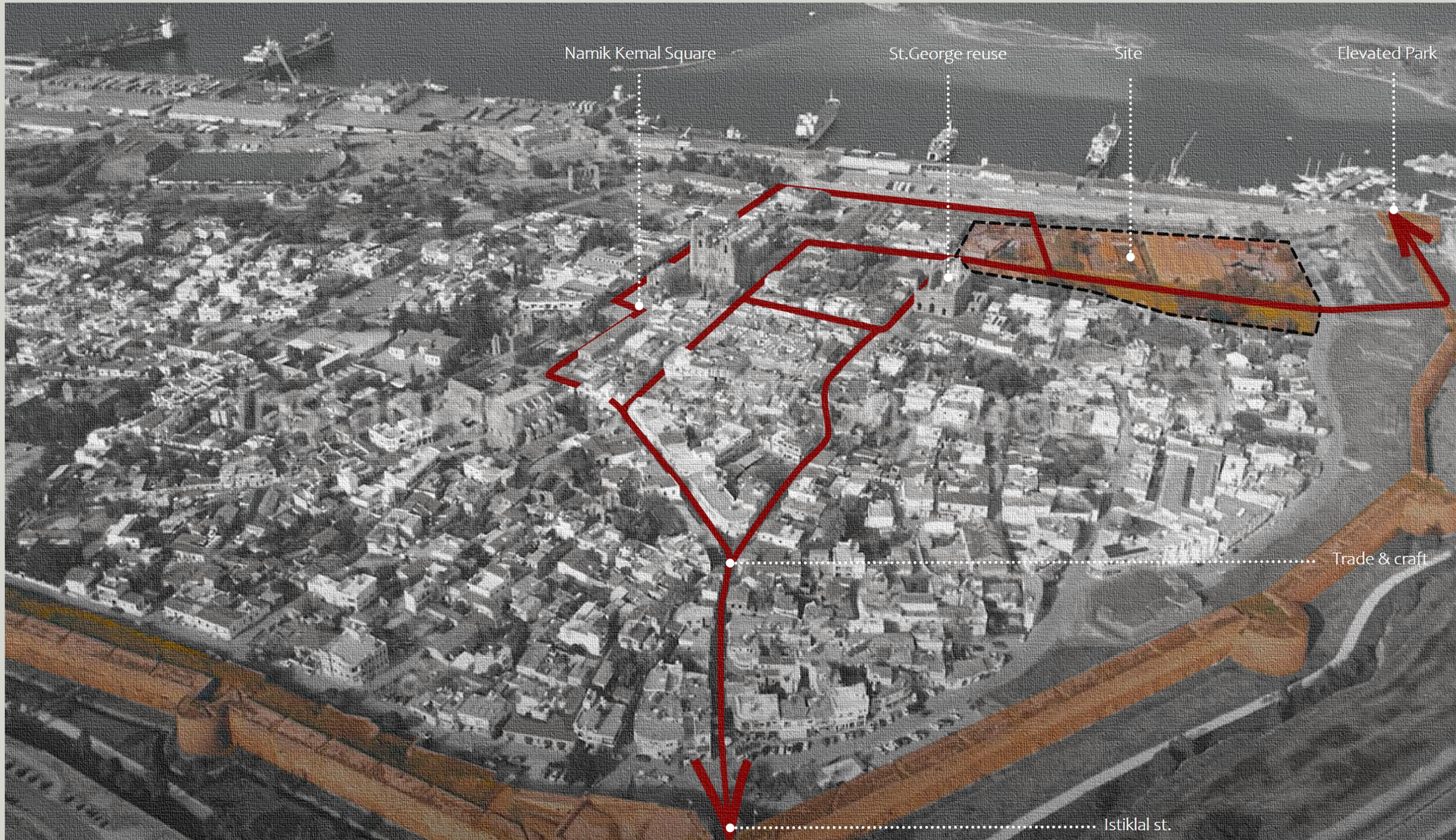
Reuse and preserve İstiklal Street, one of the most active arteries in the Walled City.

Extend the corridor toward Namık Kemal Square, enriching the urban fabric with creative pockets and interactive stops.

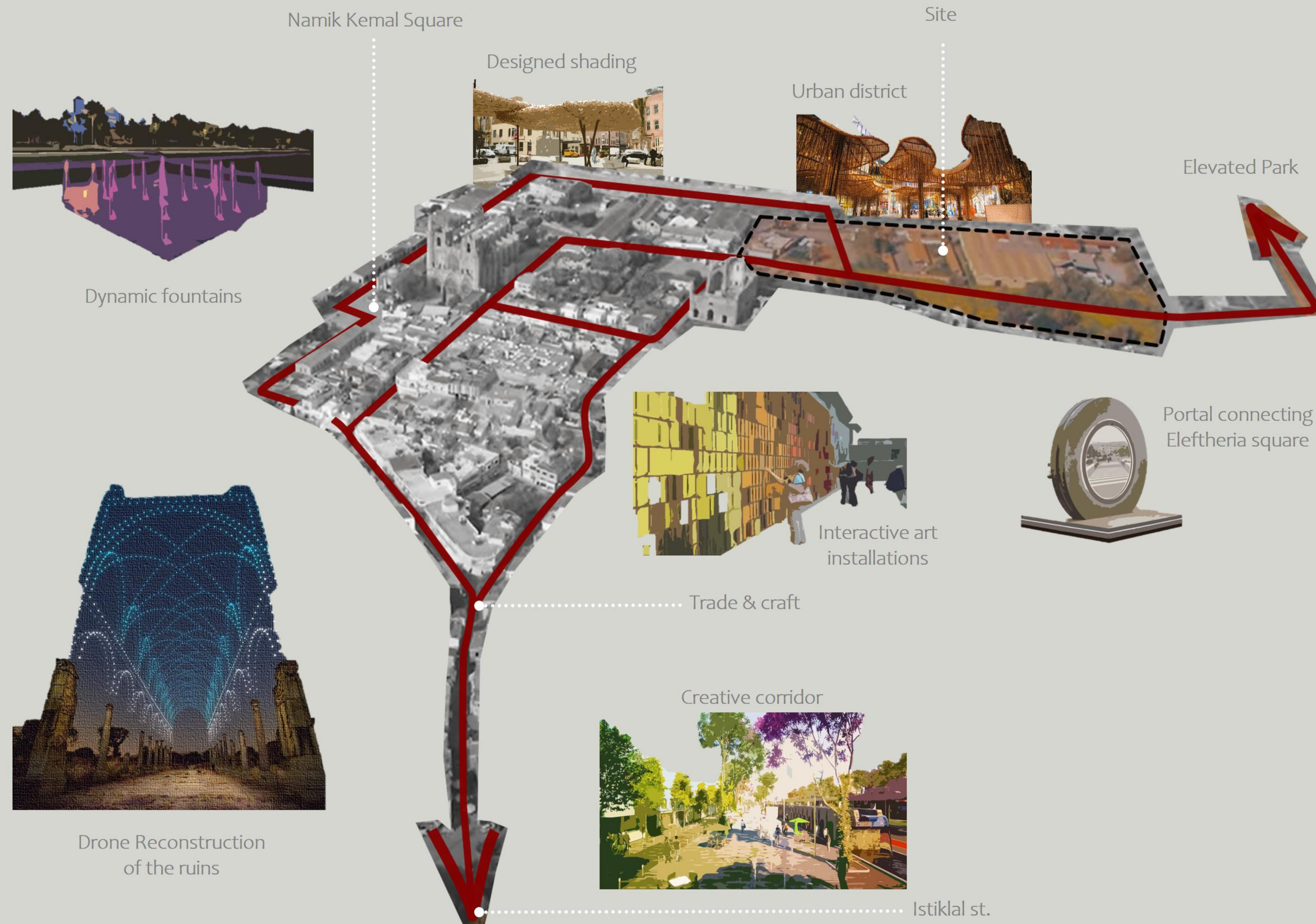
End the journey at a lookout point on the city walls, offering a symbolic and literal view of Famagusta's layered history.

### Key features

Handicraft displays and live trade workshops, Public plazas with performance space and installations, Green rest points and shaded pathways, Adaptive reuse of old structures into cafes, galleries, or co-creation spaces



# Creative Masterplan: A Spatial Vision at 1:1000



# Near Context Proposal – Ideas for the existing features around the site



i. St. George ruin

ii. Churches

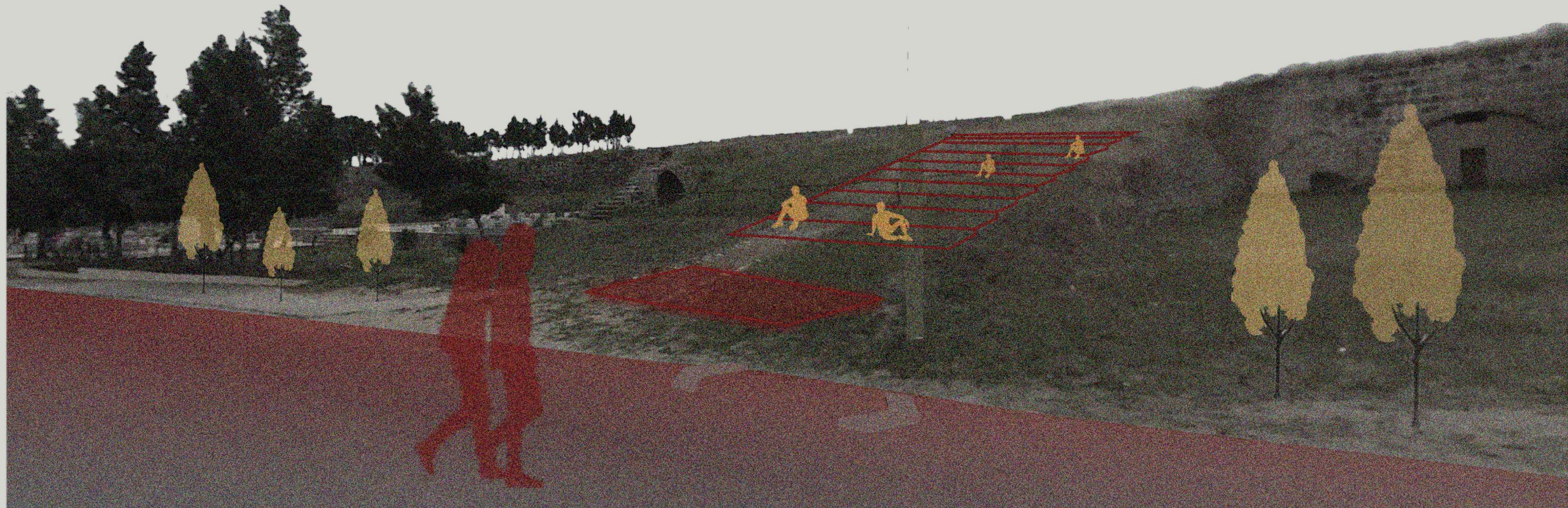
iii. Green strip of land

**iv. Slope from the wall**

v. High park

## Slope from the wall

Enhancing the existing slope by integrating amphitheater-style seating, transforming it into a vibrant social and cultural space. It also serves as the trail leading to the elevated park from the urban vision.

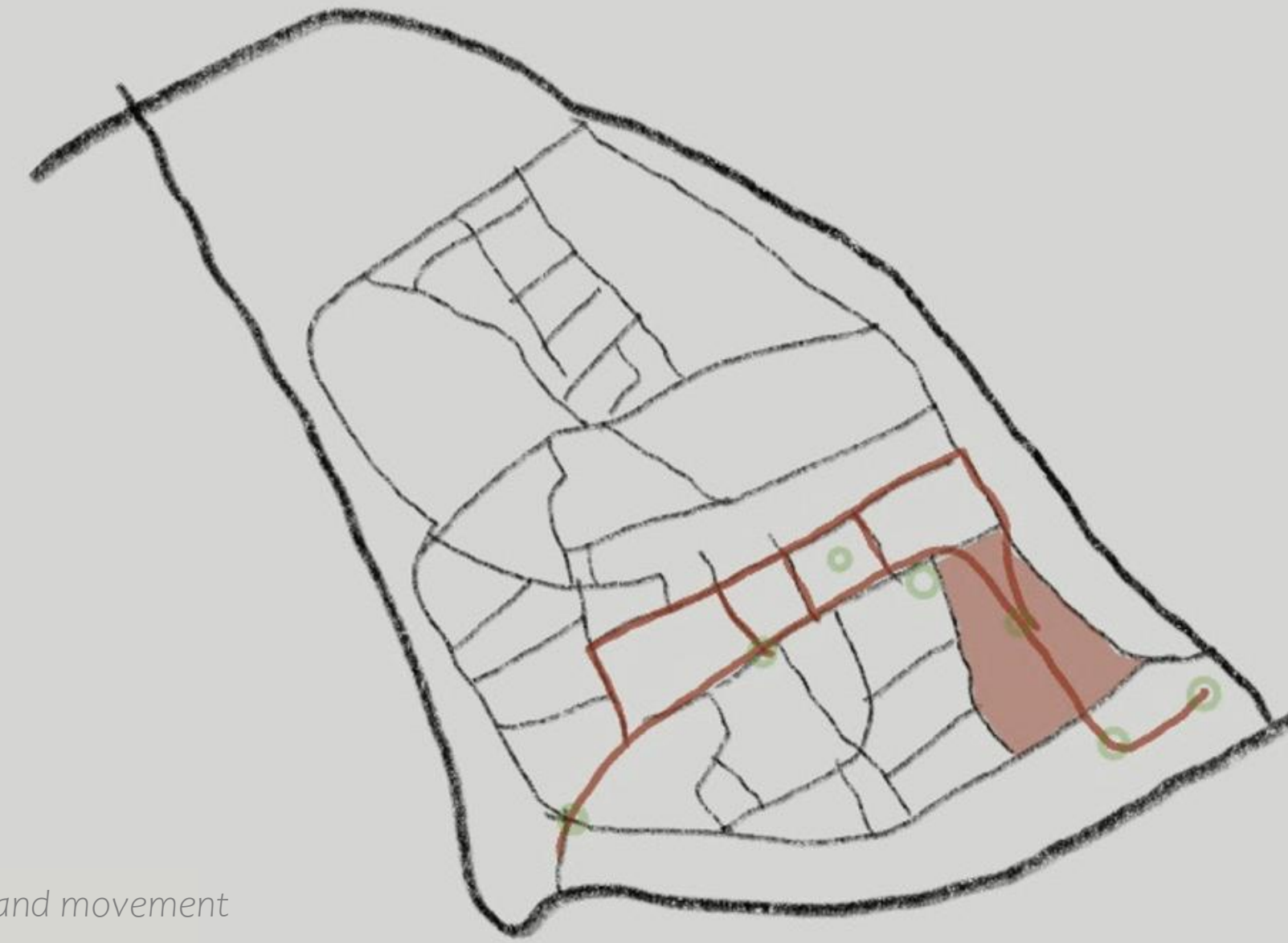


Inspiring elements In and Around the site.

Framing and respecting the “Existing Landmark”



Istiklal St. “Cultural Corridor” potential



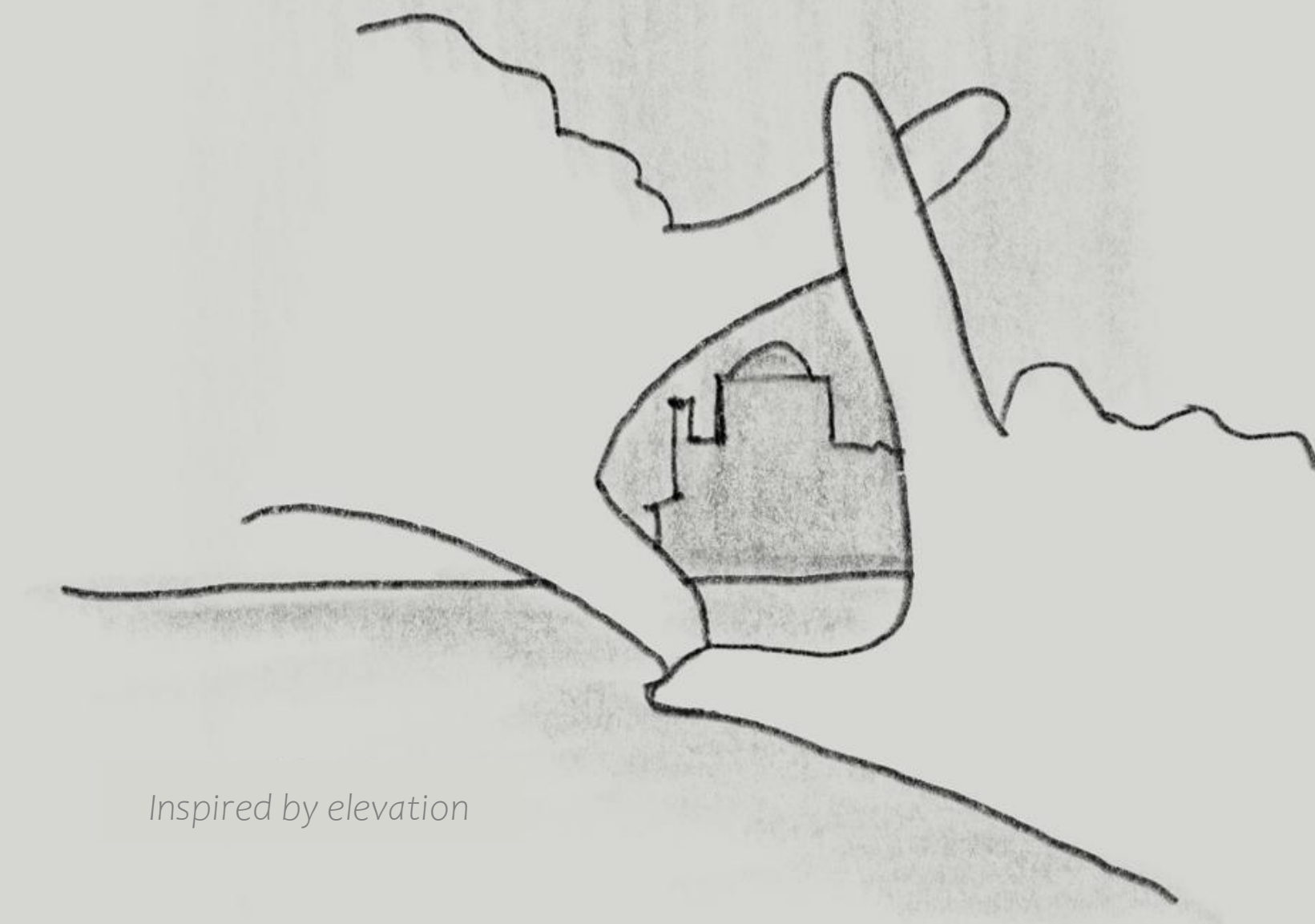
Inspired by plan and movement

“Slope from the defensive wall”



Inspired by sectional view and topography

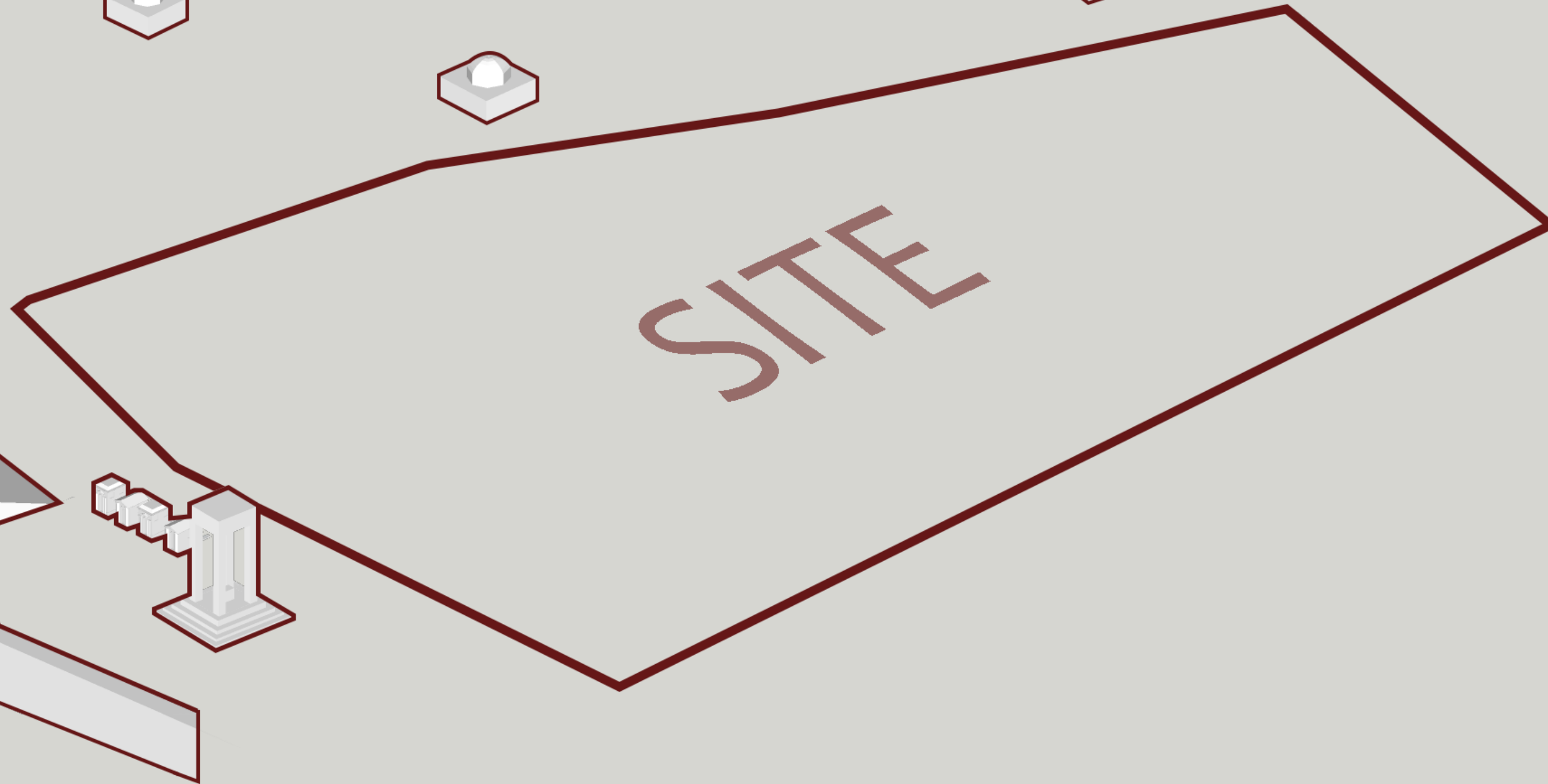
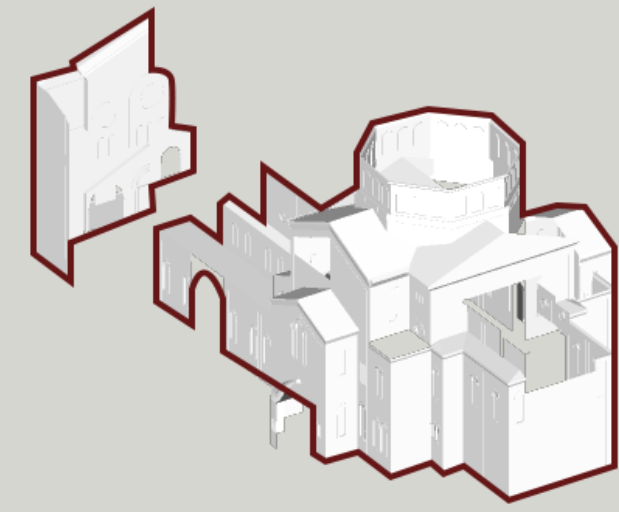
Inspired by elevation



1

### Contextual Inspiration

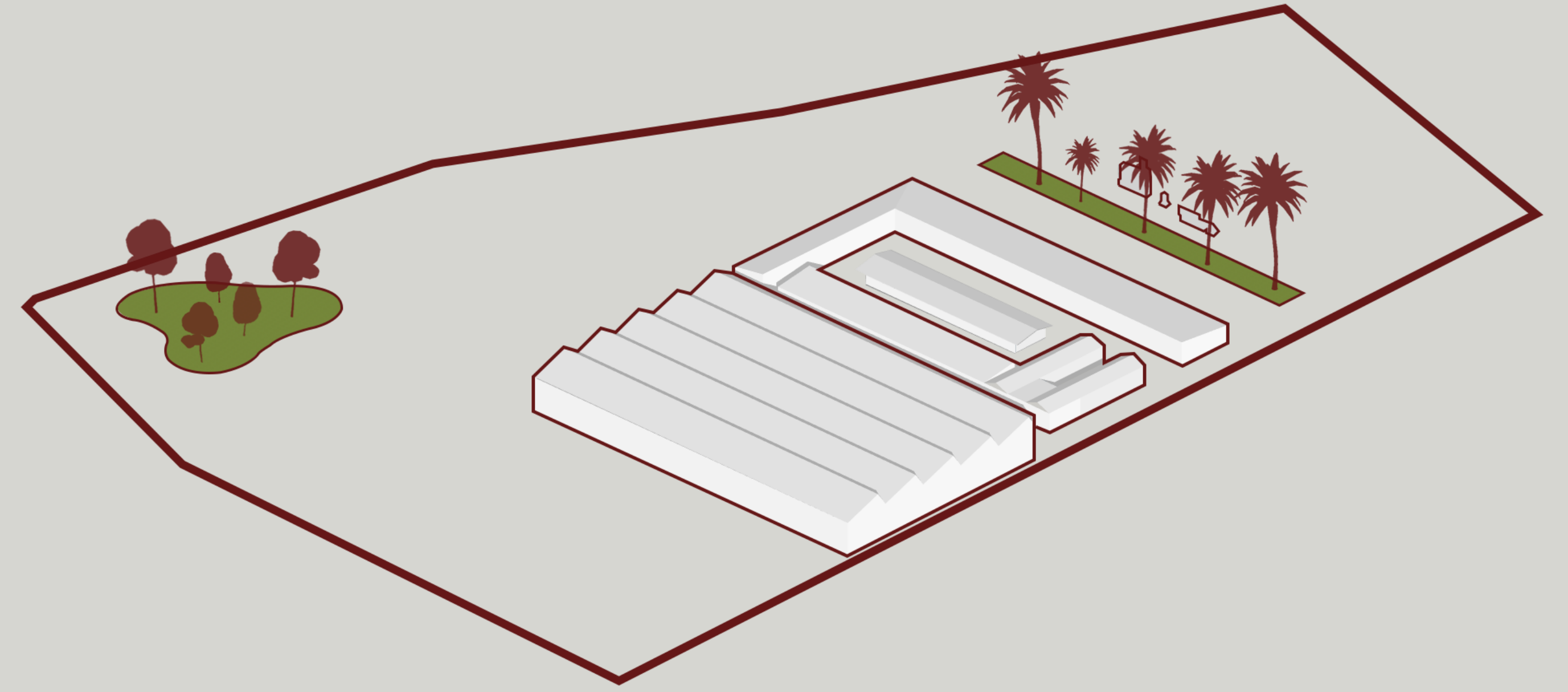
Key landmarks around the site inform and inspire the design direction.



2

### Site Parameters

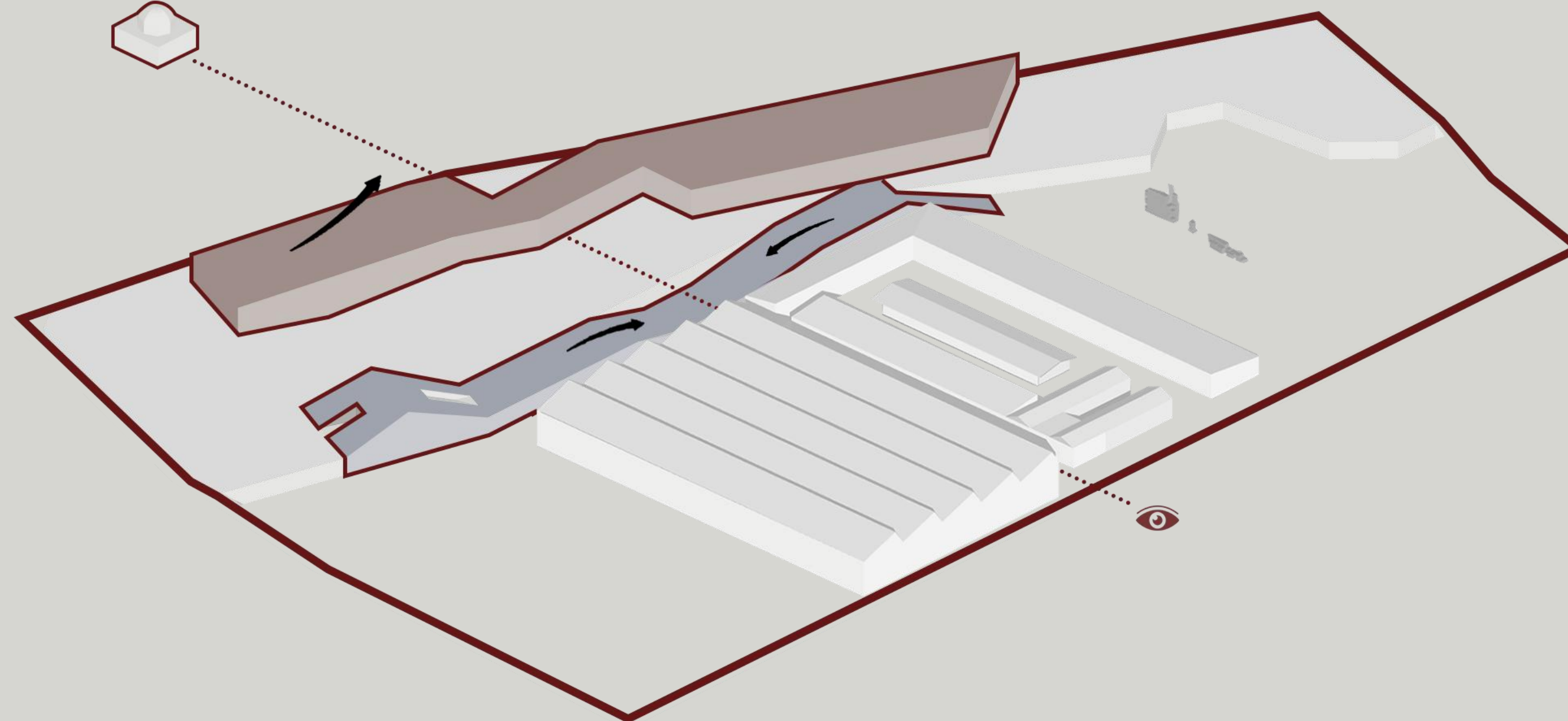
Existing ruins, buildings, and trees shape the layout and boundaries.



3

### Form Development

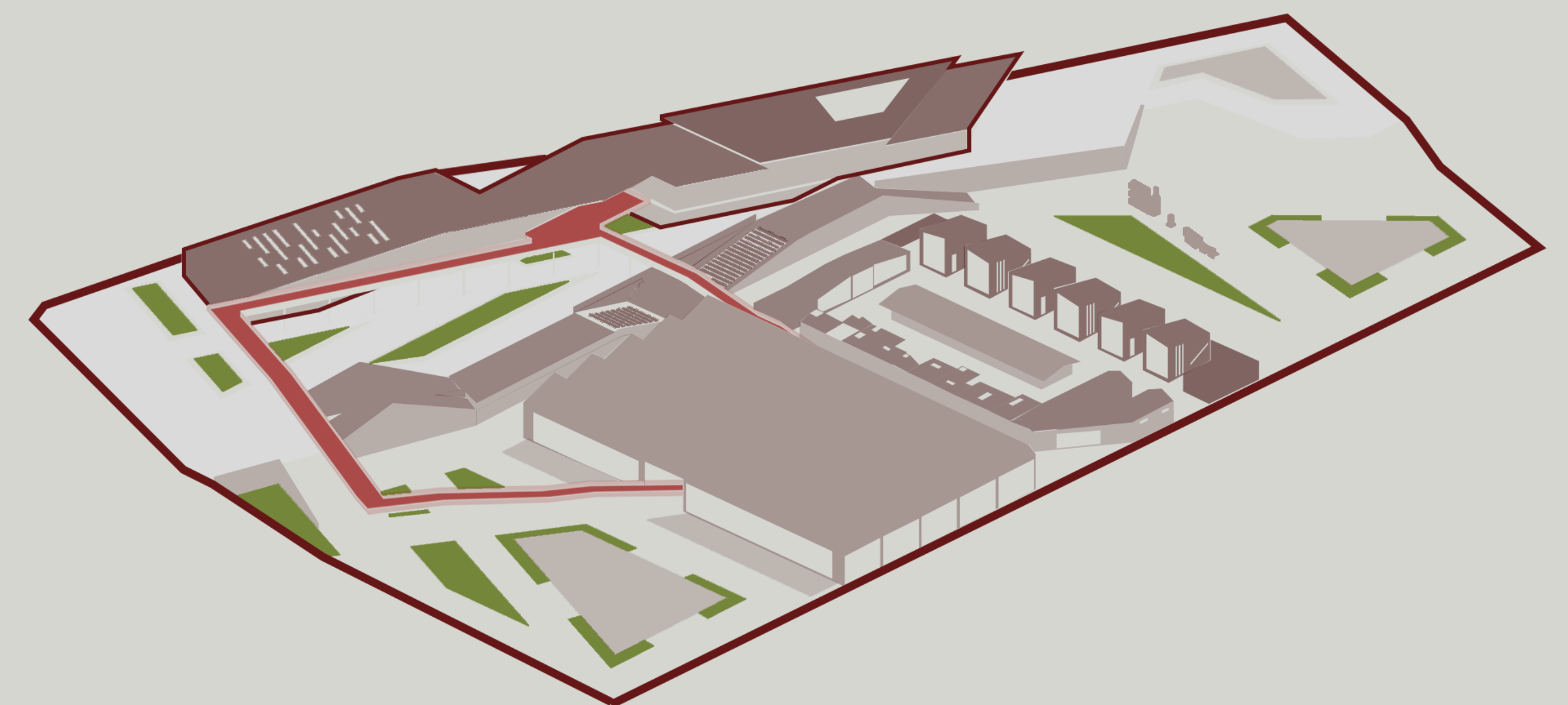
Two masses respond to the context: one elevated, one sunken, framing the church view.



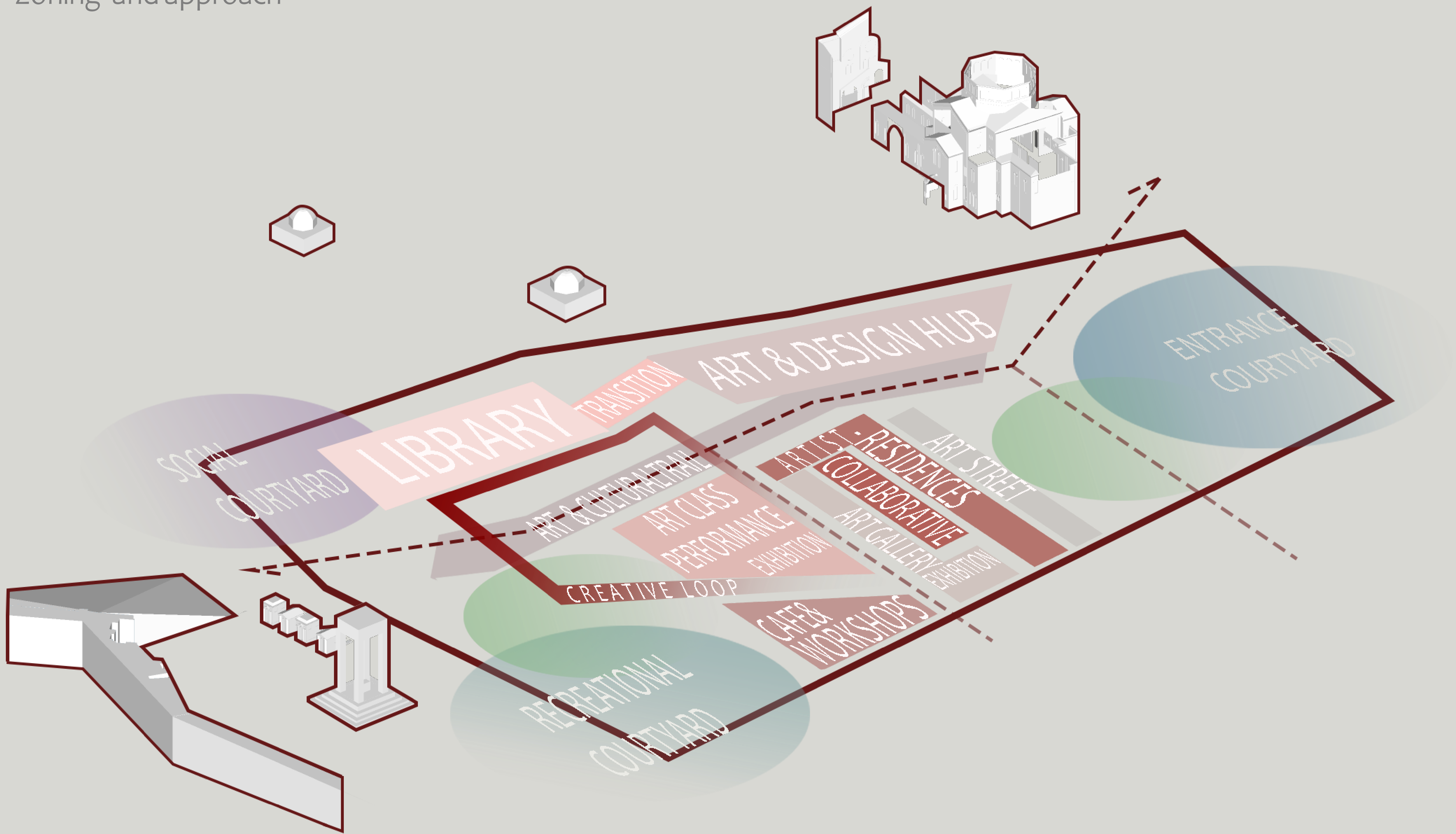
4

### Creative Circulation and Final Result

The massing forms an art trail and a loop celebrating art, culture, and architecture.

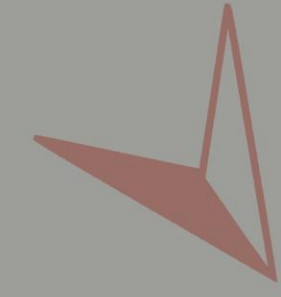


# Zoning and approach

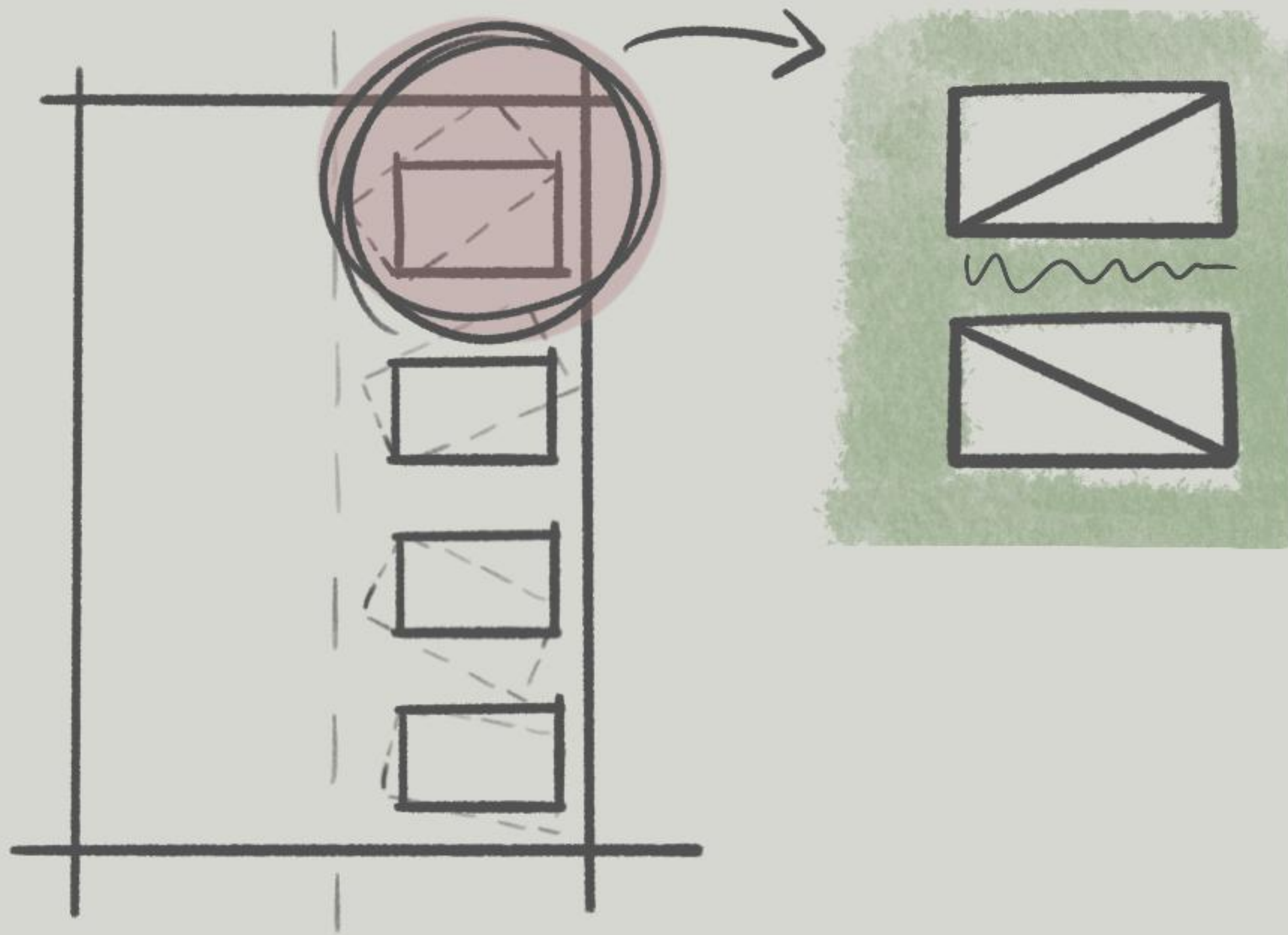




# 0.00 level Plan



- |   |                            |   |                   |    |                   |    |                      |    |                     |
|---|----------------------------|---|-------------------|----|-------------------|----|----------------------|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Historic & Cultural center | 5 | Artist residence  | 9  | Collaborative art | 13 | Cultural café        | 17 | Lobby               |
| 2 | Arts and crafts            | 6 | Shared workshops  | 10 | Sepe workshop     | 14 | Performing arts      | 18 | Art classroom       |
| 3 | Artisan Incubators         | 7 | Community gallery | 11 | Lefkara           | 15 | Creative marketplace | 19 | Build your city lab |
| 4 | Sculptures housing         | 8 | Art pavilions     | 12 | Pottery           | 16 | Black box studio     | 20 | Creative loop       |

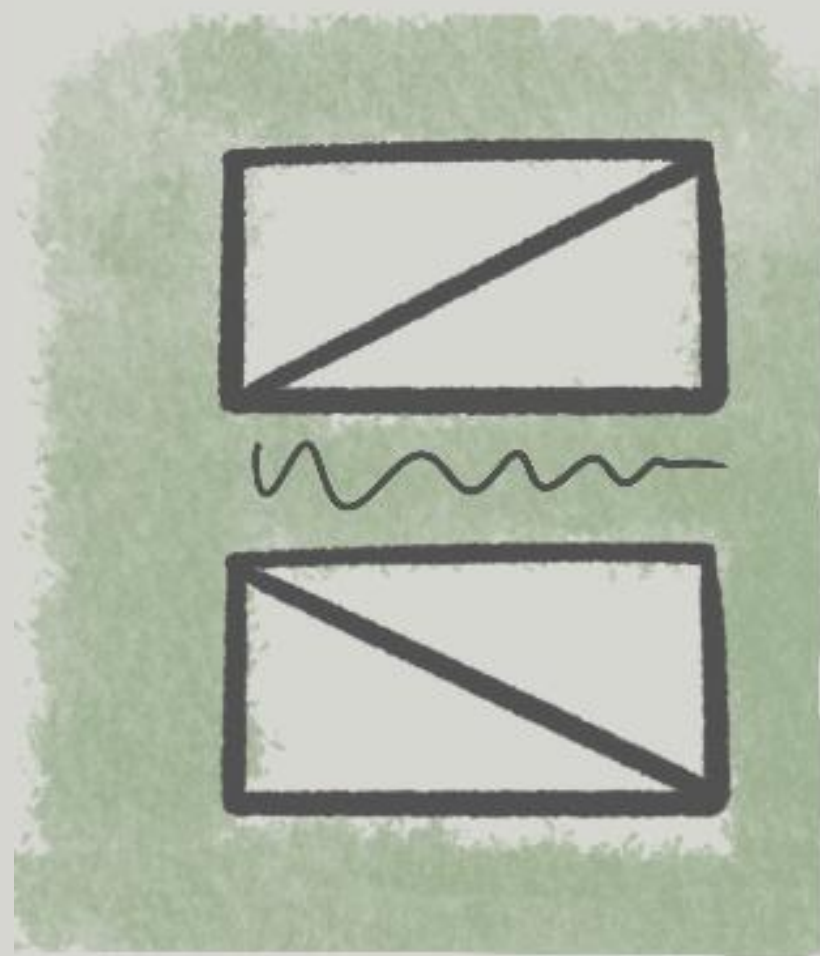


The housing units use programmed machinery that helps rotate the houses upto 180degrees based on needs and requirements.

The rotation can be based on, spatial demand, weather conditions, seasonal events etc.

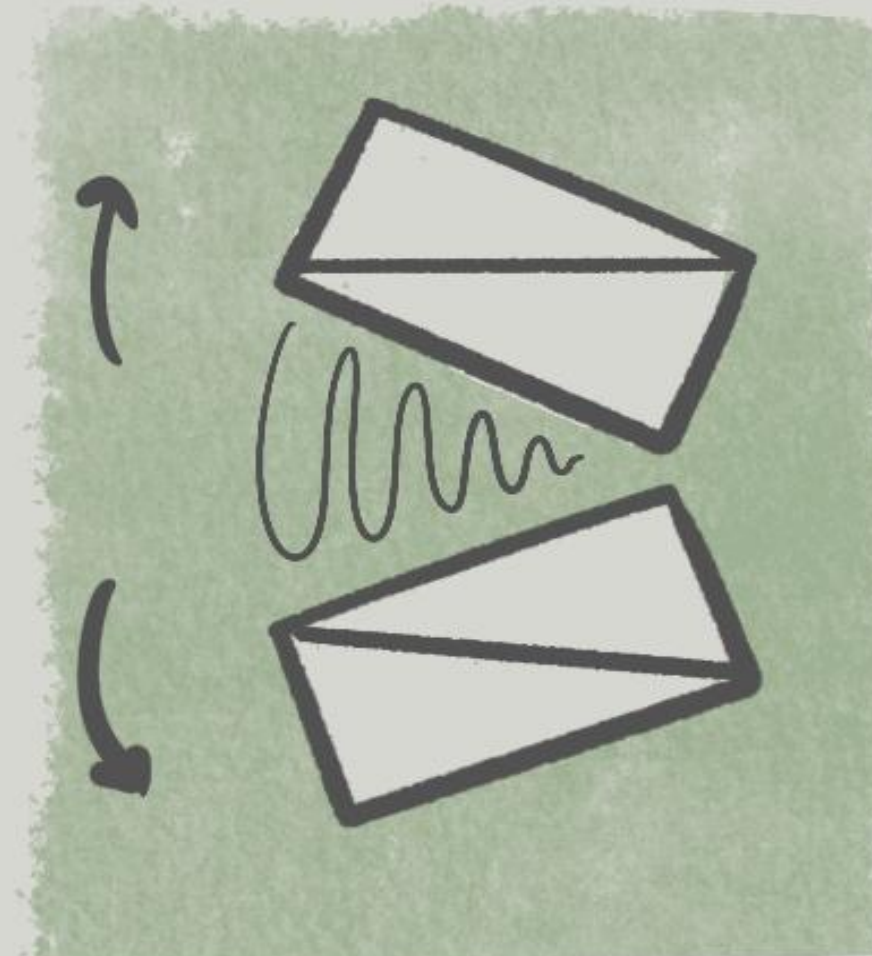
Possible options and alternatives

Option 1



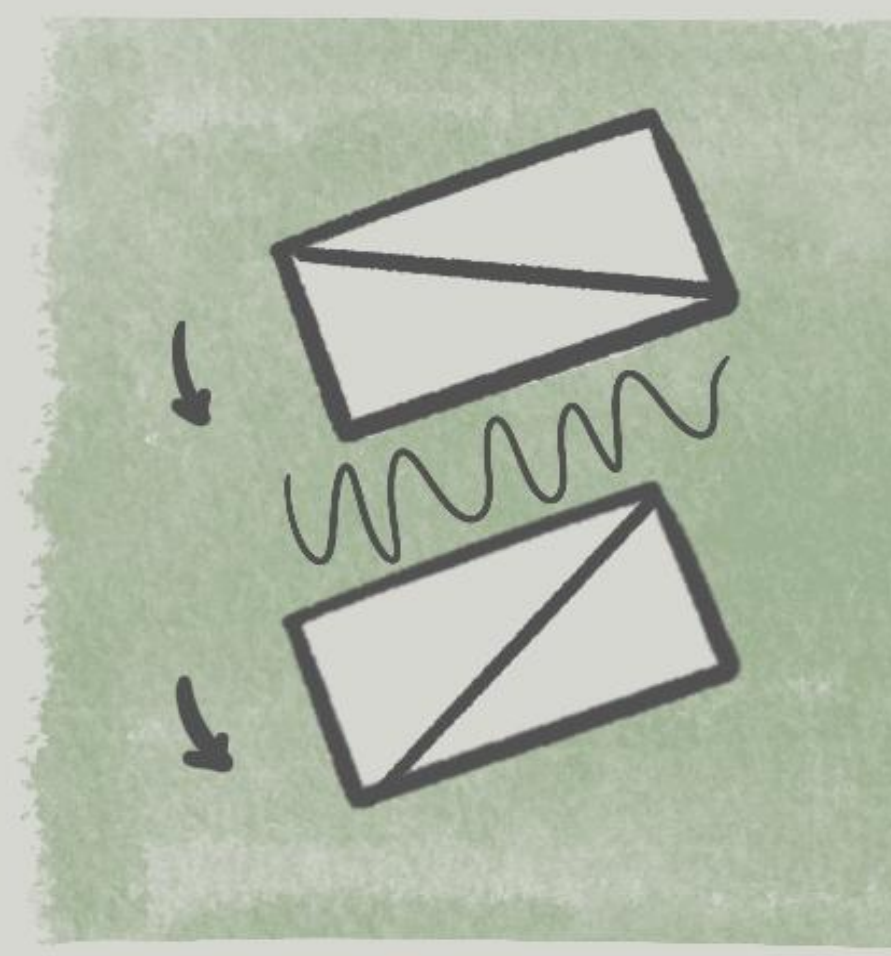
Right angle: Used in normal days, provides equal spacing for everyone

Option 2



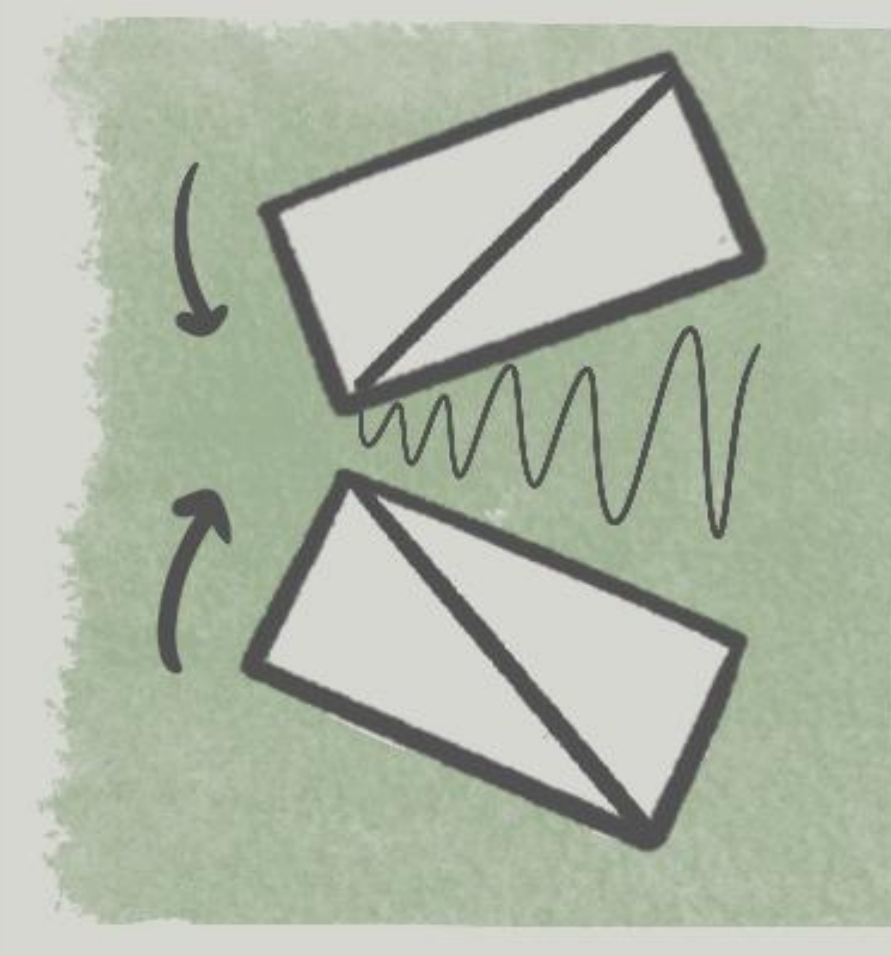
Collaboration: Creates wider spaces for two artists to come together at comfort

Option 3



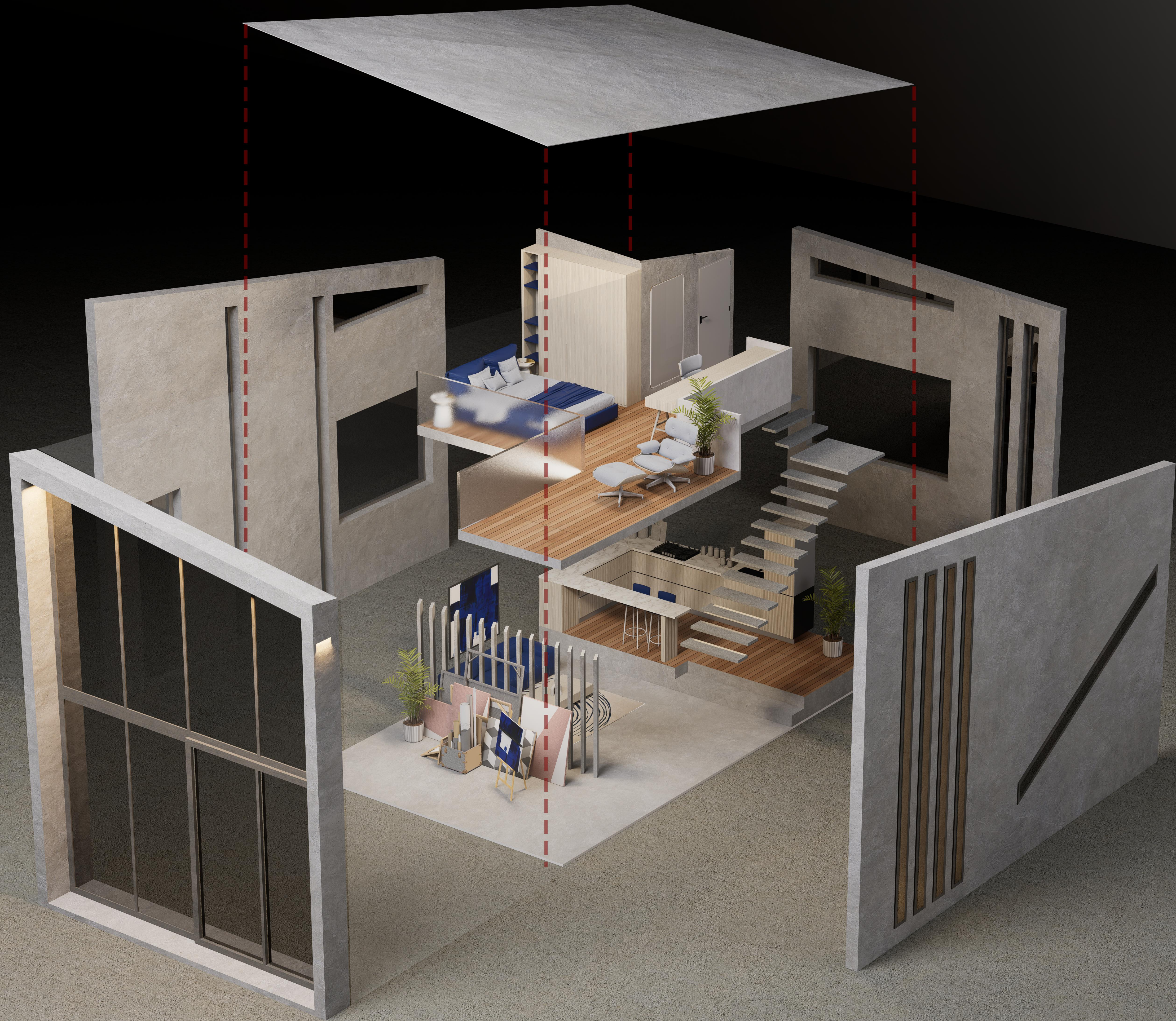
Angular: Could be an option during weather and season changes, sun and wind needs

Option 4



Event: Introverted spaces create space for artists irrespective of events and festivals.





# Plans of Creative Housing Unit



Ground Floor



First Floor



Creative Housing Cluster – 3d's

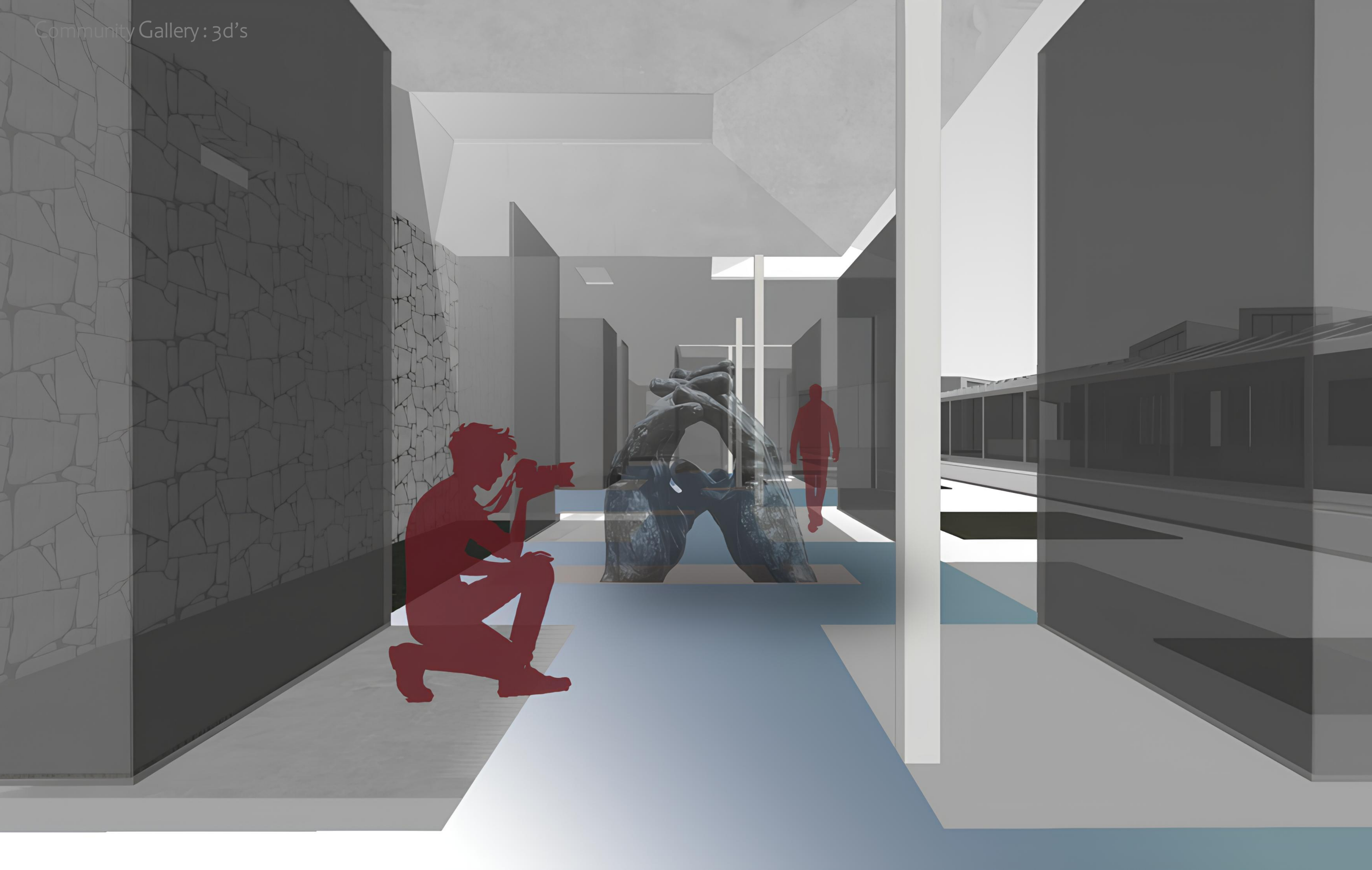


Community Gallery : 3d's

Sloped roofs combined with the idea of skylights for gallery spaces



Central spaces are designed for exhibition galleries along with skylight, and the circulation has been designed around it



**Plan of Adaptive Re-Use Building:** Cultural regeneration - Reimagining historic or abandoned buildings into creative spaces to maintain cultural heritage while adding new uses.

**Integrating Creative Cultural spaces and promoting local art forms**

- Sele – Sini - Sista baskets
- Lefkara and Ipek workshop.
- Iapithos pottery

**Cultural Café**

Traditional coffee is served, tasted, and explored through hands-on brewing workshops.

**Performing Arts Space**

**Cultural exhibition and creative market**

Creative market that permanently showcases and promotes the work of local artisans, craftspeople, and artists.

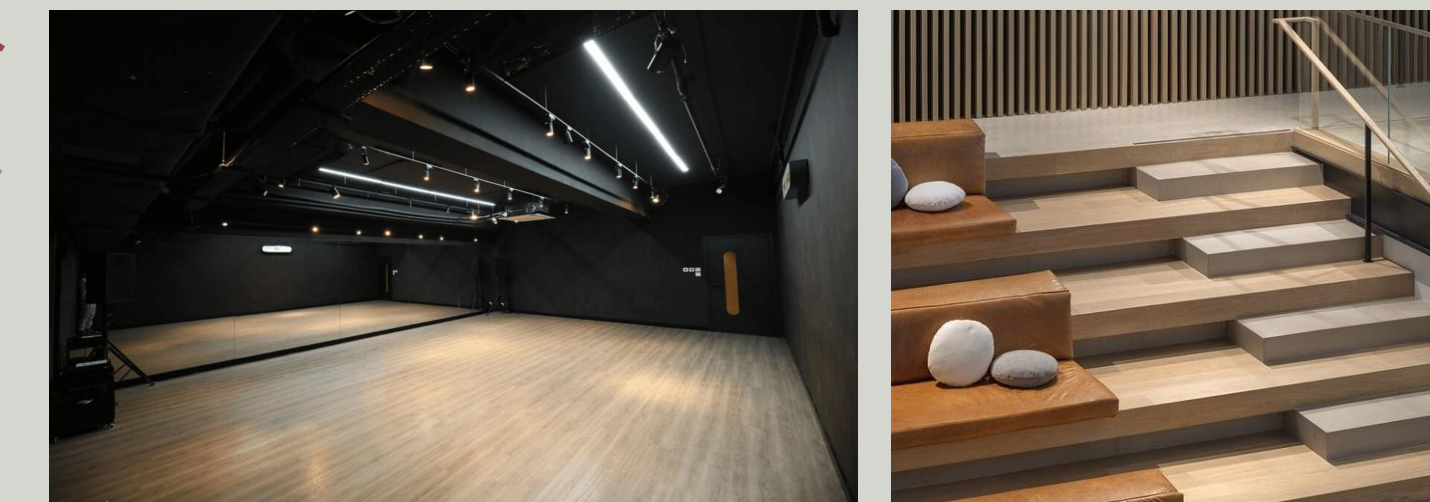
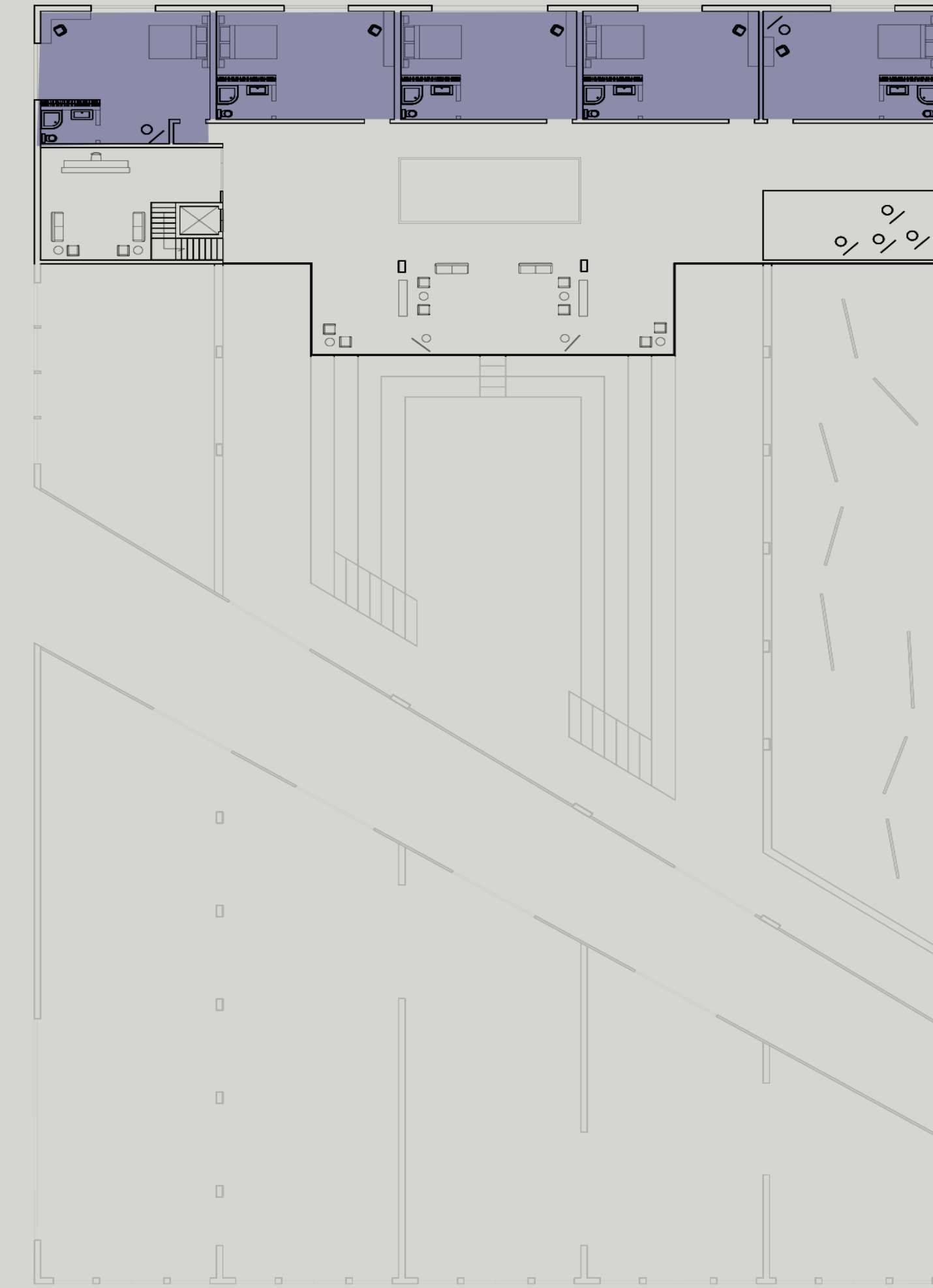
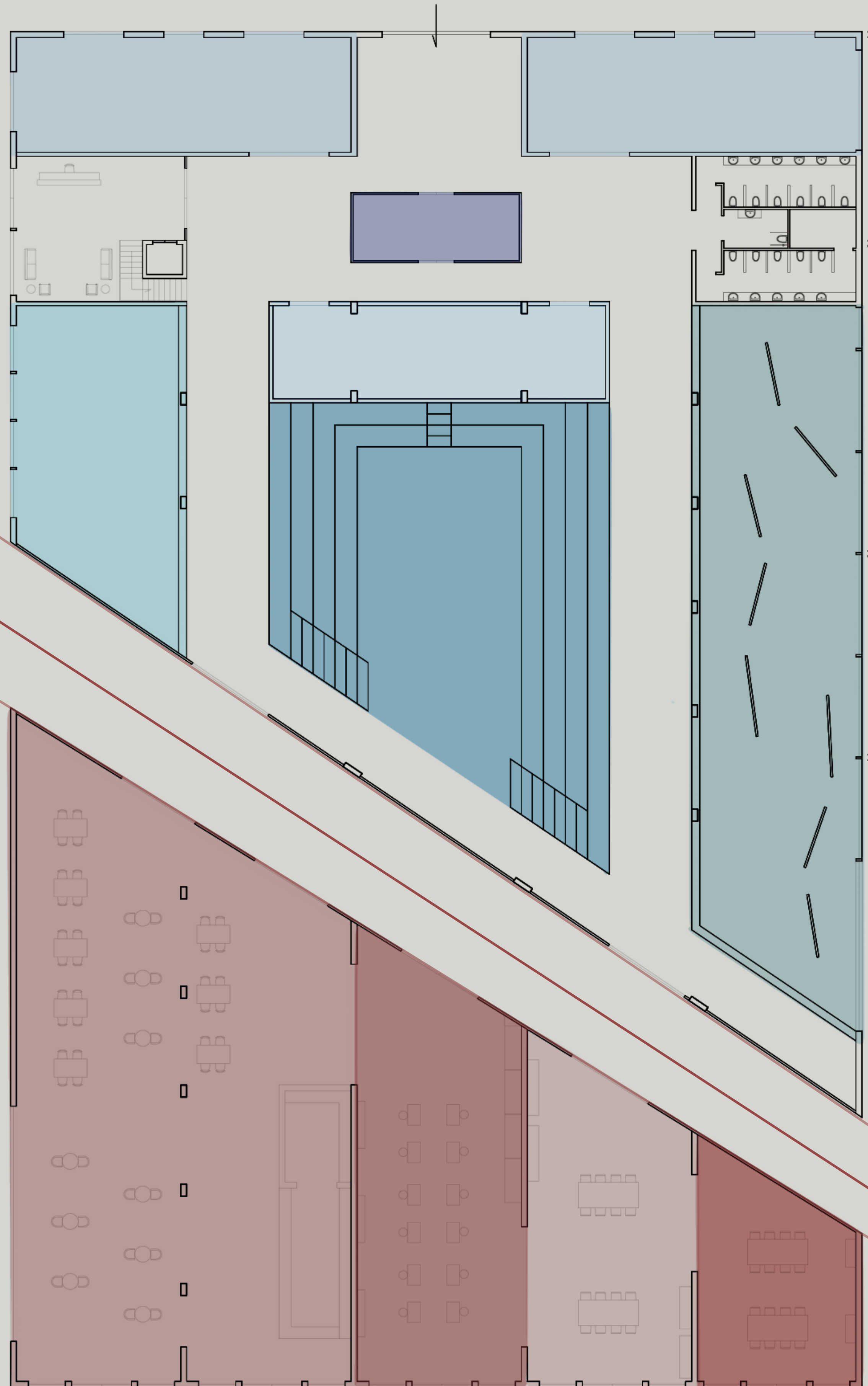
**Temporary cultural exhibition axis**

**Black-Box studio**

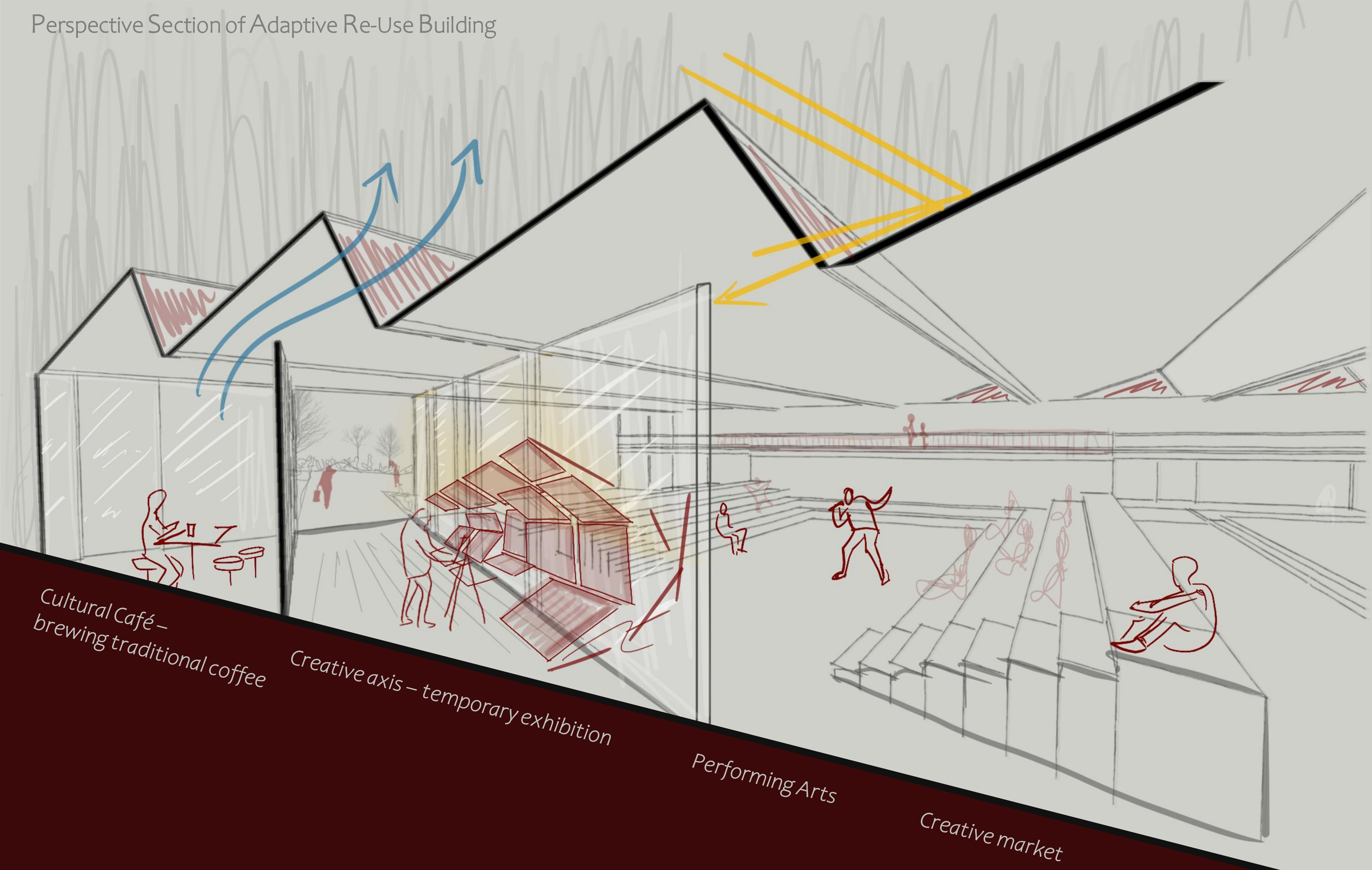
Smaller, more intimate performances or experimental and creative productions

**Art Classrooms & Seminars**

**Short-term artist residents**



Perspective Section of Adaptive Re-Use Building



Cultural Café –  
brewing traditional coffee

Creative axis – temporary exhibition

Performing Arts

Creative market

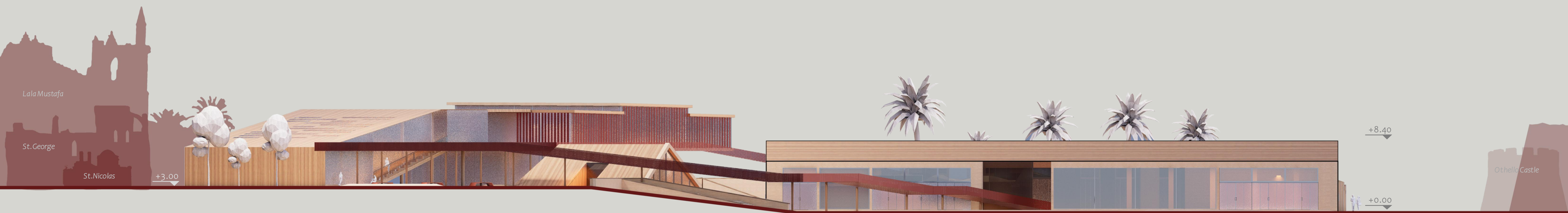
# +3.00 level Plan



- |    |                      |    |                     |    |                     |
|----|----------------------|----|---------------------|----|---------------------|
| 5  | Artists residence    | 22 | Open air amphi      | 26 | Outdoor workshop    |
| 8  | Art pavilions        | 23 | Exhibition hall     | 27 | Seminar             |
| 17 | Lobby                | 24 | Display exhibitions | 28 | Collaborative study |
| 21 | Short term residence | 25 | Public workshops    | 29 | Outdoor reading     |

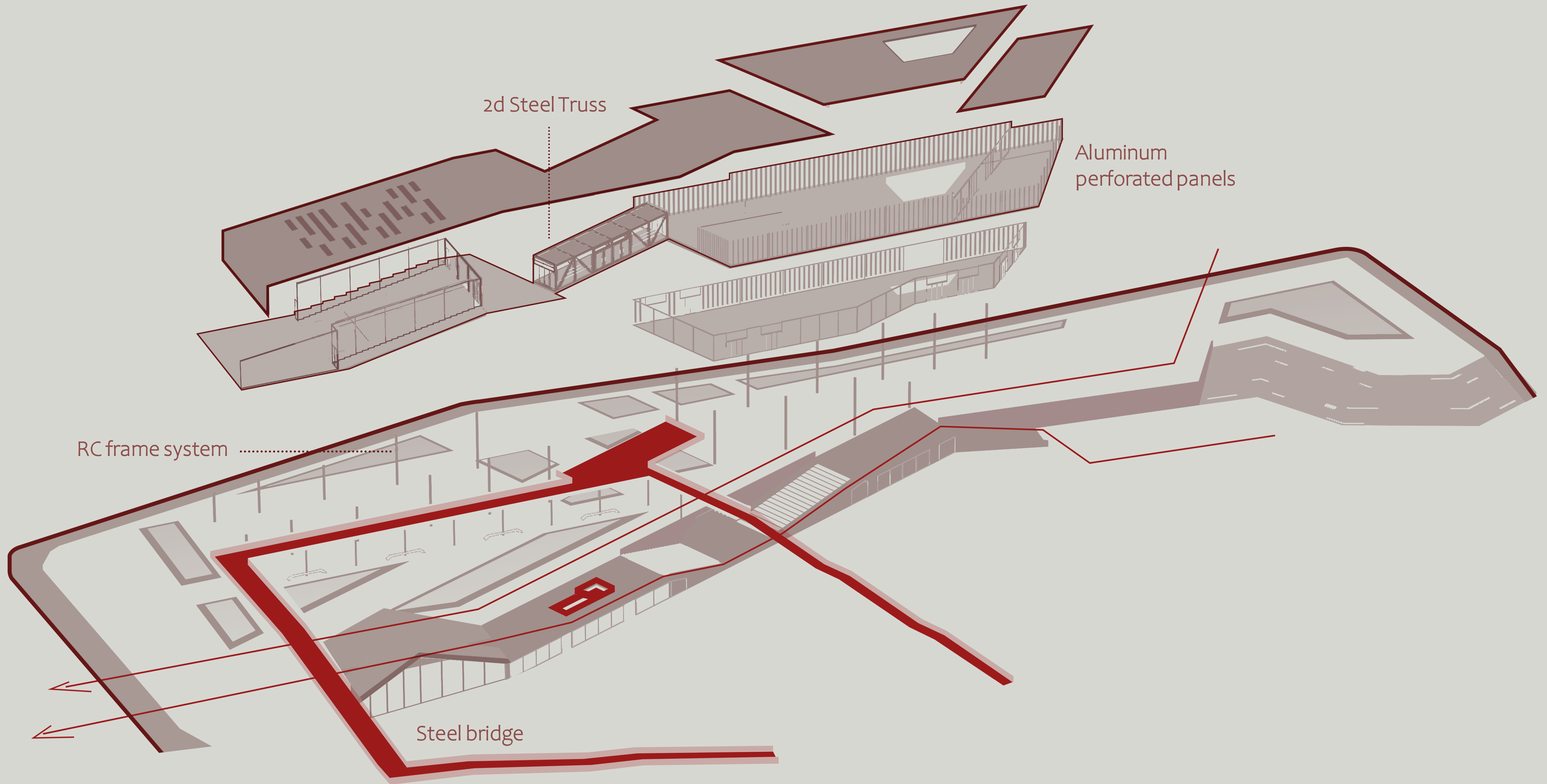


North elevation



South – Facing the slope and Gazi monument

# Exploded Diagram



# Bridge Sectional Detail

- finishing material
- Membrane
- Mortar
- Corrugated sheet
- Steel I beam
- Suspended Ceiling
- HVAC, lighting and mechanical systems



Steel 2D trusses

Aluminum frame

Aluminum railing

Steel I Beams

Expansion joint 10cm

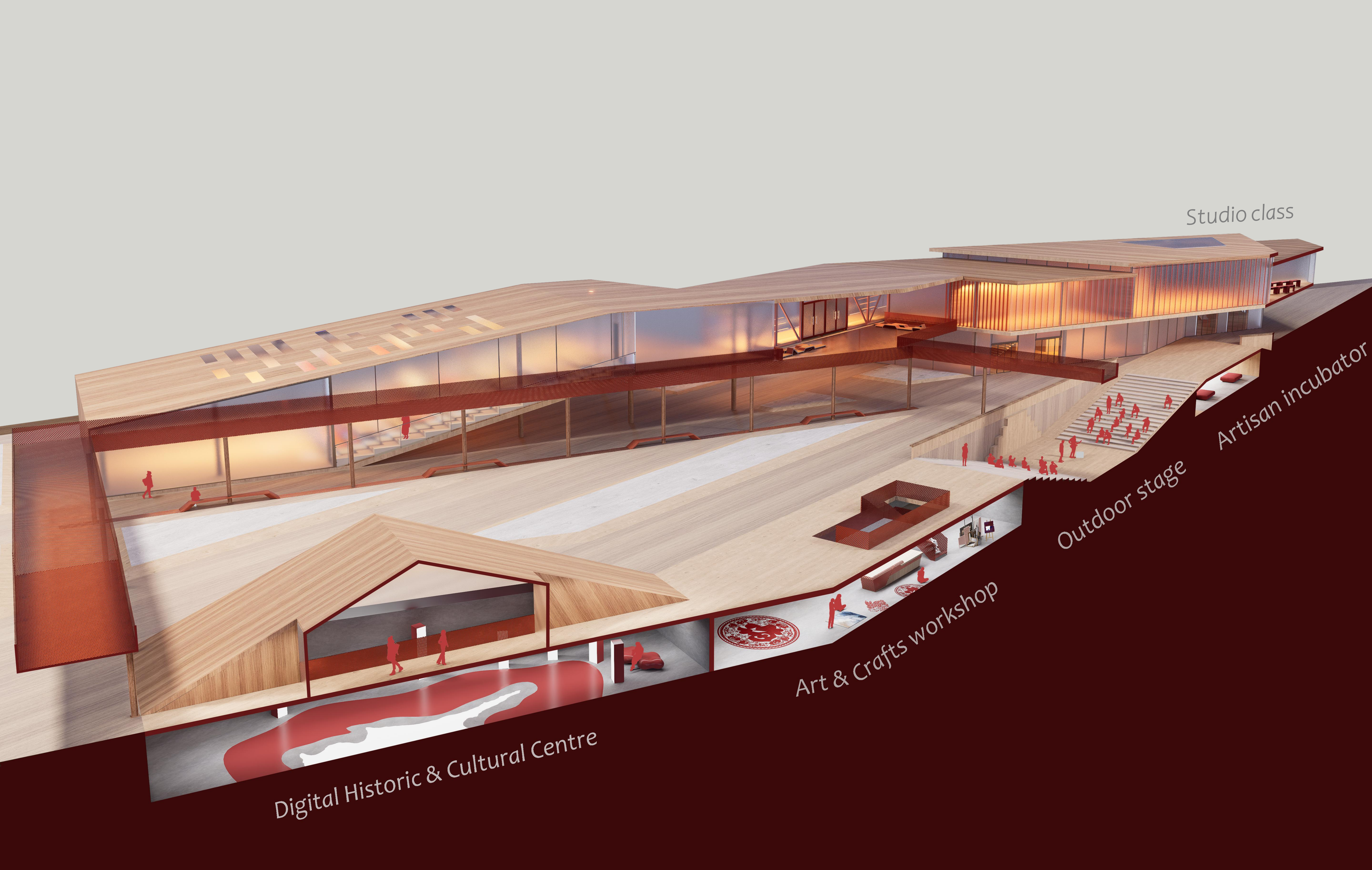
# Sections



Section A-A



Section B-B



Studio class

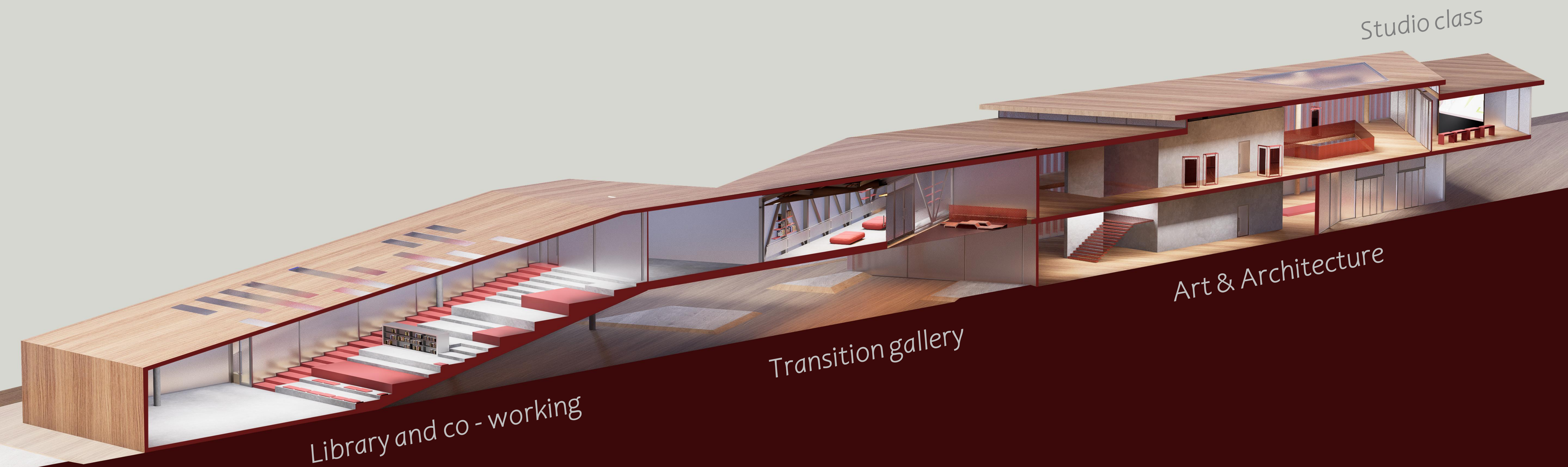
Artisan incubator

Outdoor stage

Art & Crafts workshop

Digital Historic & Cultural Centre

Section D



Studio class

Library and co - working

Transition gallery

Art & Architecture



Concrete



Conceptual

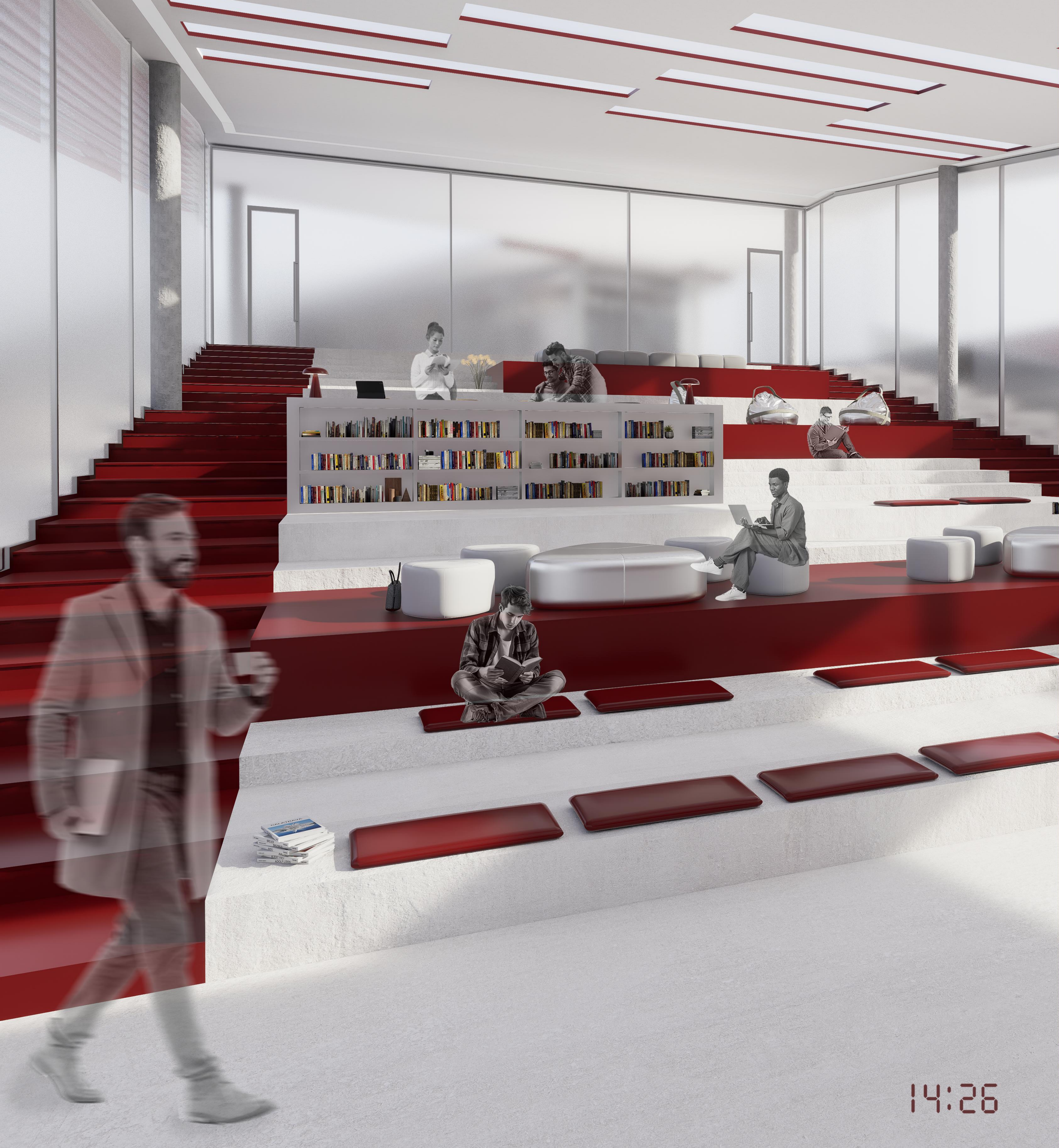




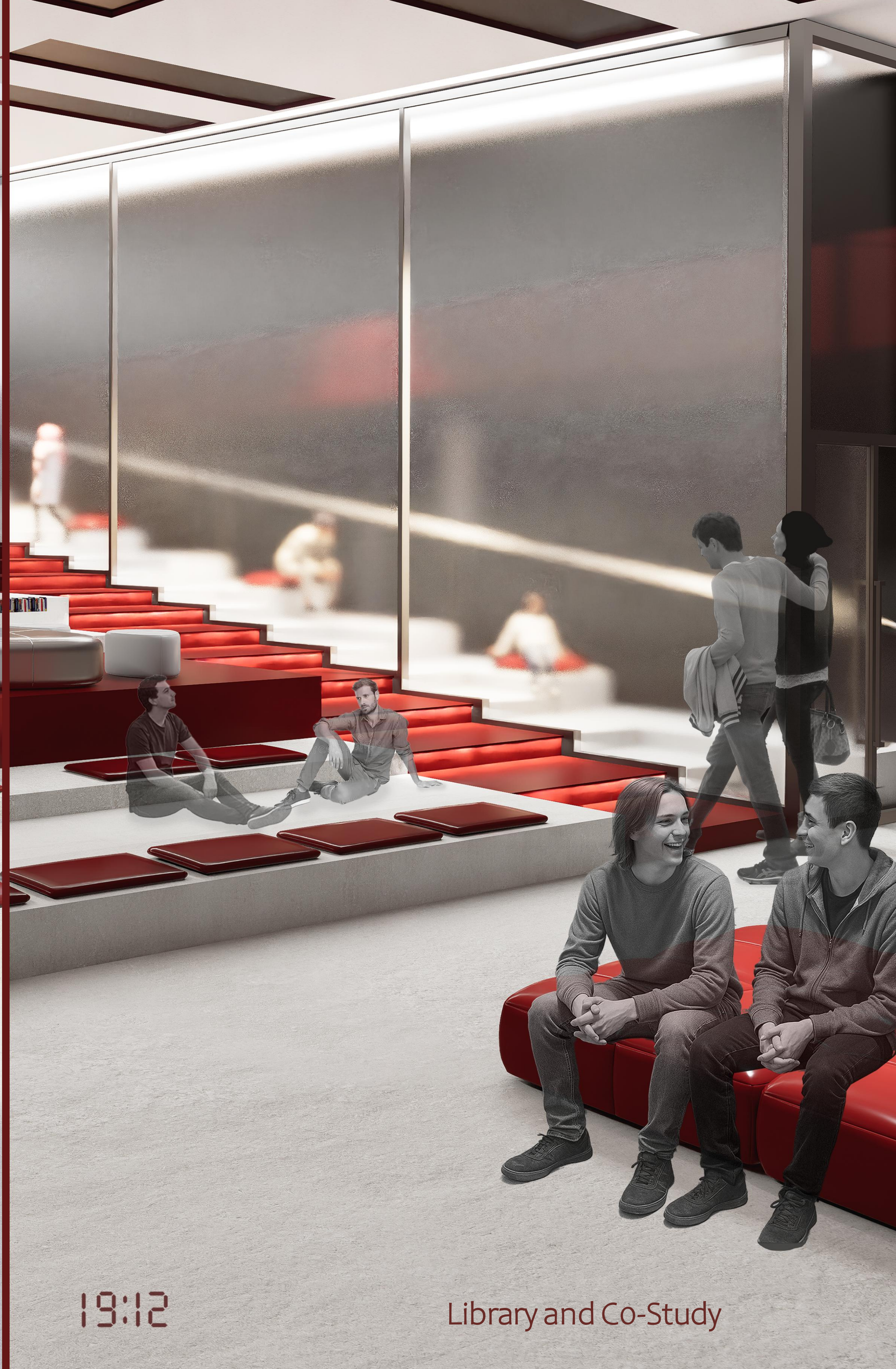
Design School gallery



Transition gallery



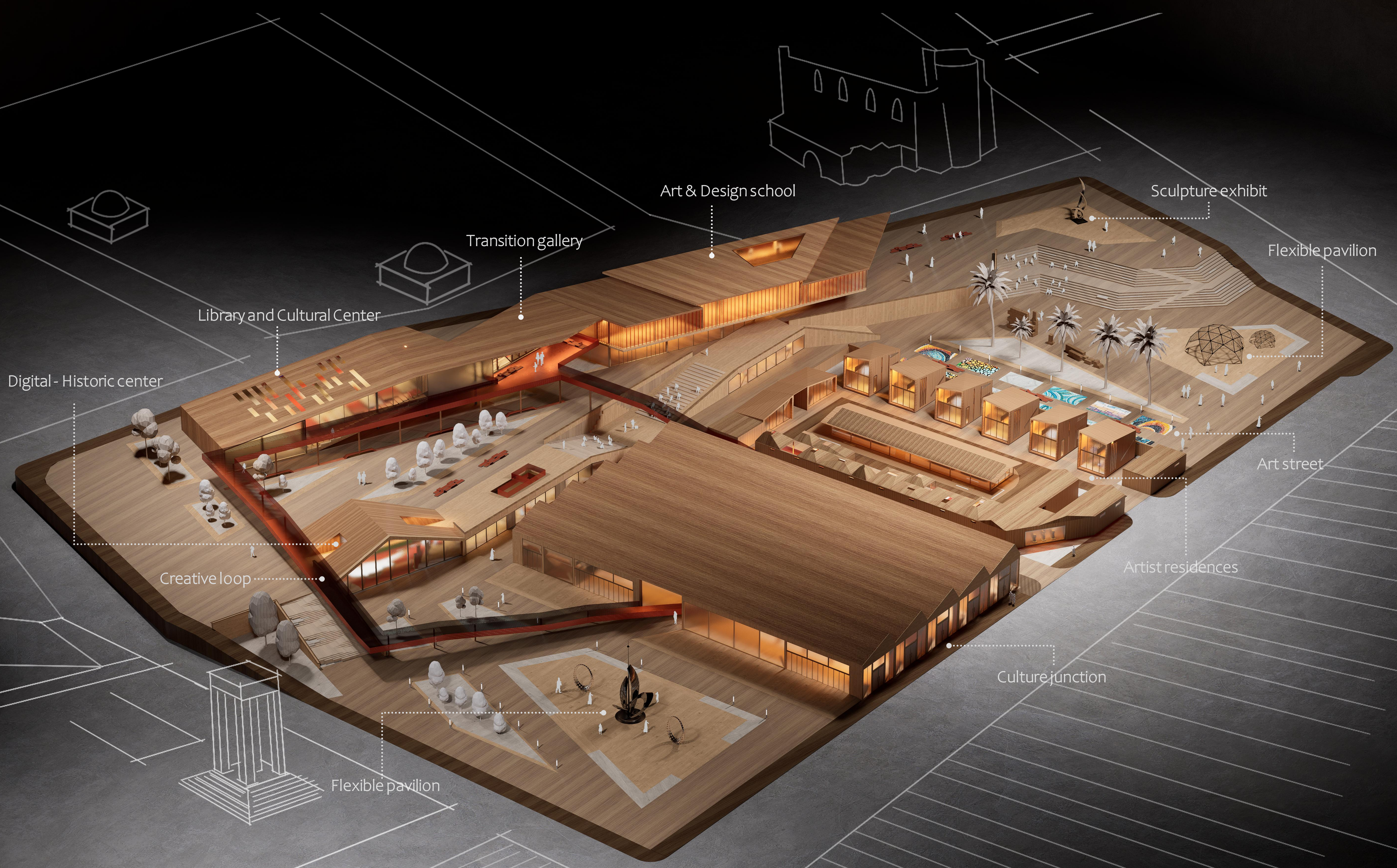
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19:12

Library and Co-Study





Art & Design school

Sculpture exhibit

Transition gallery

Flexible pavilion

Library and Cultural Center

Digital - Historic center

Art street

Creative loop

Artist residences

Culture junction

Flexible pavilion

