

# **Chapel of Little Jesus of Prague**

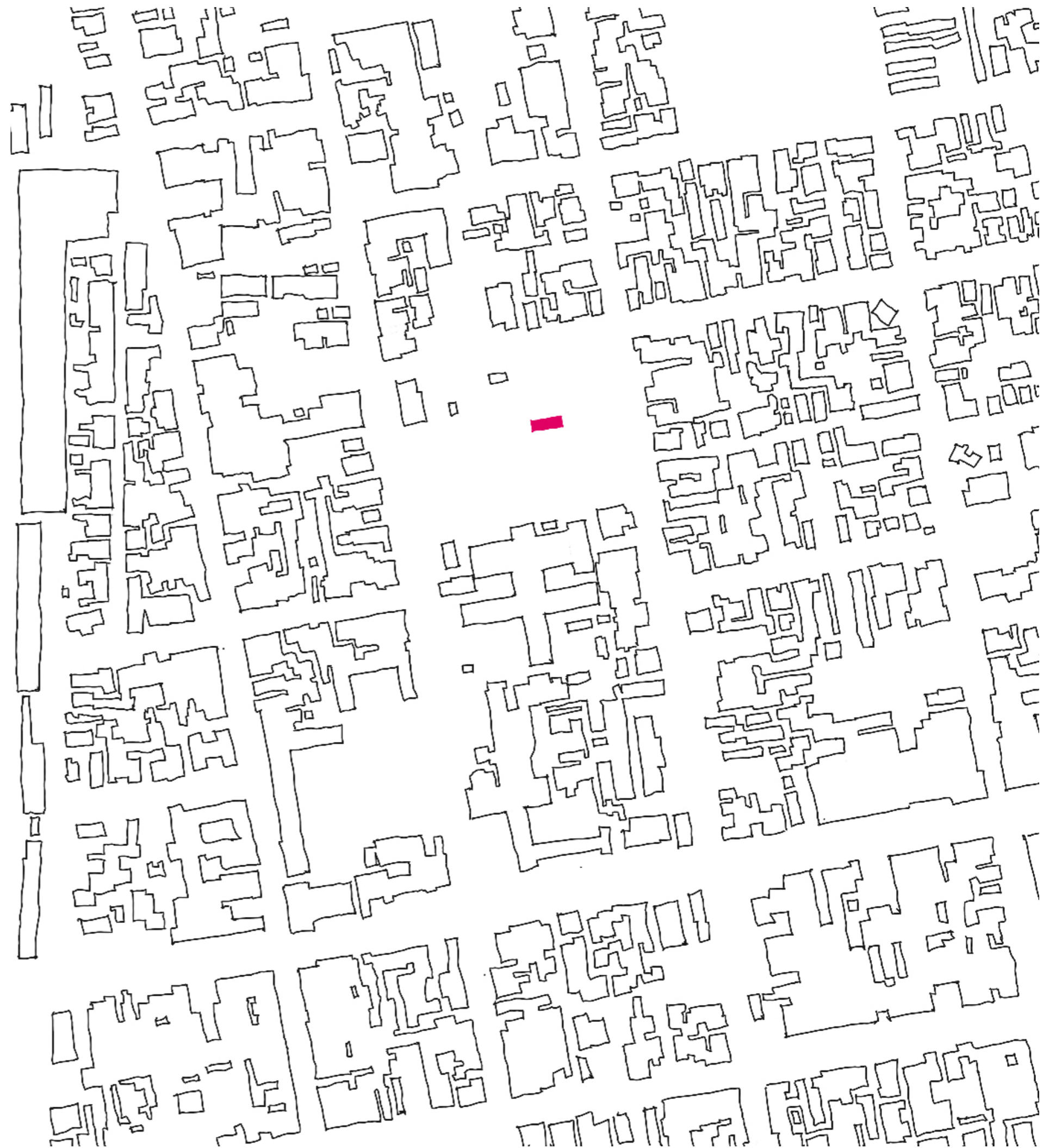
Brasil - Campo Grande

Architectural study  
MIROSLAV MARKOV

# Context

## Location and architectural intent

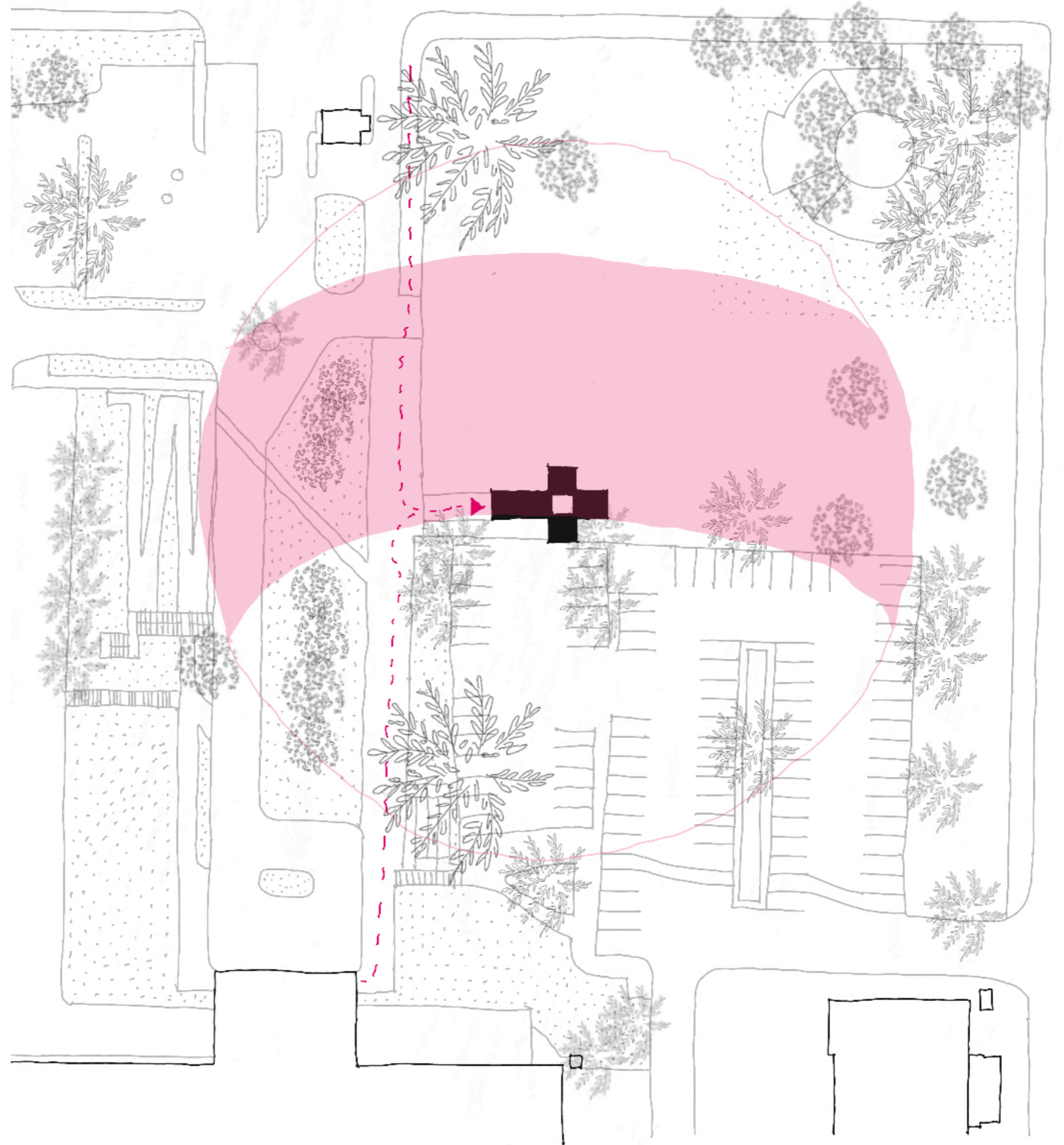
Situated in the urban fabric of Campo Grande, Brazil, the project introduces a nomadic spiritual landmark within the city's healthcare infrastructure. The primary objective was to design a sacred space for the Infant Jesus of Prague that transcends the permanence of traditional religious architecture. By utilizing a lightweight steel frame and fiber-cement cladding, the chapel is conceived as a modular, demountable structure. This approach ensures maximum flexibility, allowing the building to be easily assembled, disassembled, or relocated, responding to the evolving spatial needs of the hospital and the city.



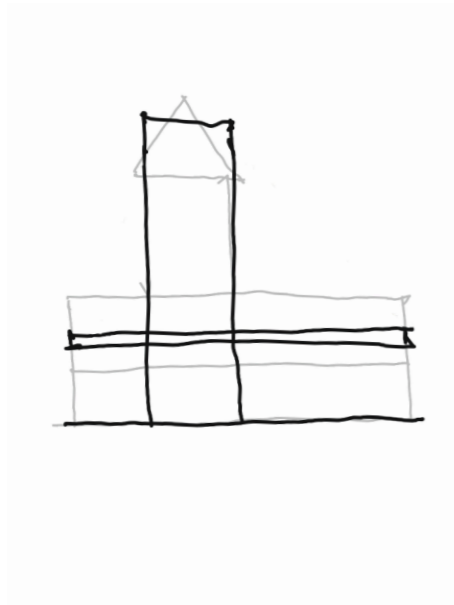
# Site strategy

## site integration and dynamic form

The chapel is strategically positioned near the hospital's main entrance, a high-traffic area designed to offer patients, staff, and visitors a place of refuge and prayer. The architecture acts as a 'breathing' organism; it features four large articulated panels that serve a dual purpose of climate control and security. During the day, these panels hinge outward to provide shade and create a poetic play of light within the interior, while their open configuration transforms the building's footprint into the symbolic shape of a cross when viewed from above. At night, the panels retract to secure the structure, maintaining a minimalist, monolithic presence within the hospital grounds.

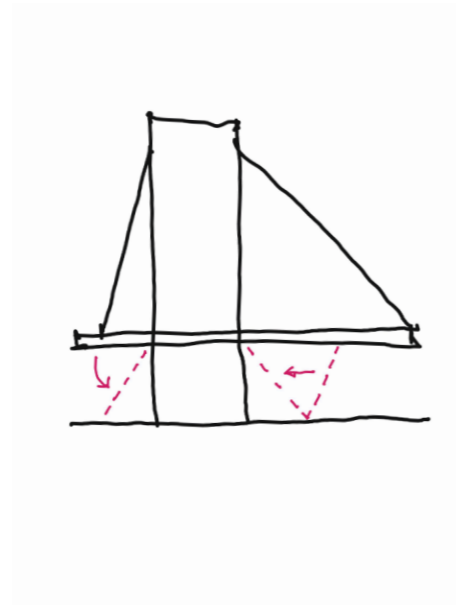


**Concept**



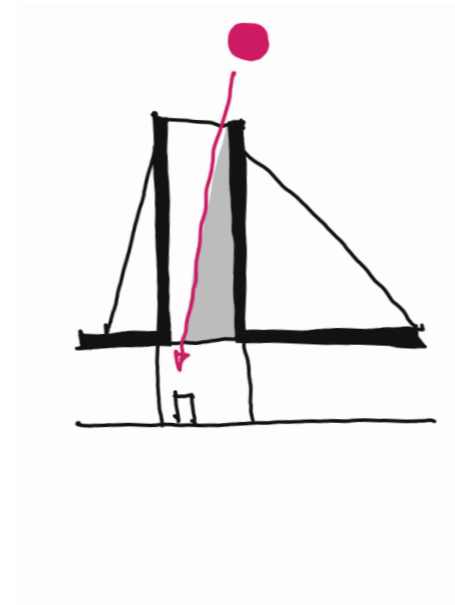
### **simplyfied**

The design employs a refined, simplified traditional form that serves as a contemporary paraphrase of the original structure. While embracing a minimalist geometry, it preserves the chapel's characteristic verticality, ensuring the new silhouette honors its historical predecessor



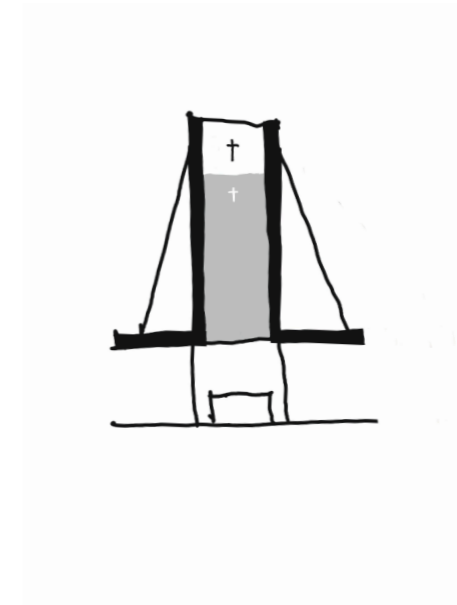
### **adaptiv form**

Beyond its static geometry, the chapel offers a transformable presence through articulated folding roof panels. These elements enable the sanctuary to be securely enclosed or completely opened, creating an adaptive architecture that balances protective solitude with a welcoming transparency.



### **sun as an actor**

The vertical element functions as a light conduit that orchestrates the sun's daily performance. The light evolves continuously; at times, it plays dynamically across the interior walls, while at others, it descends to precisely illuminate the statue below, imbuing the space with a living, energy.

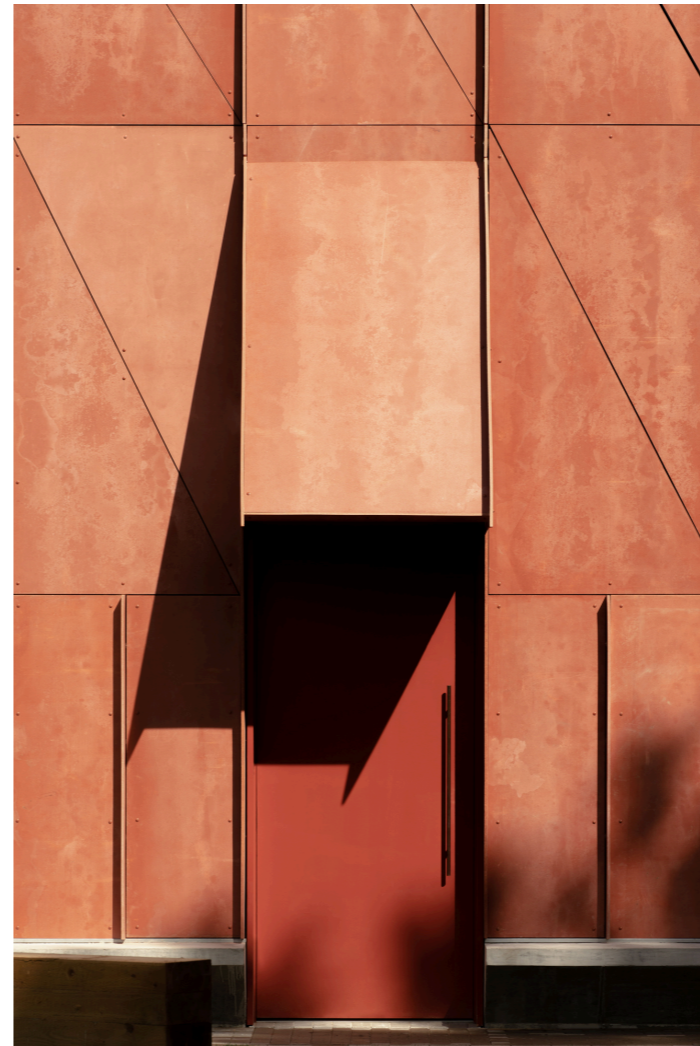


### **dawn and dusk**

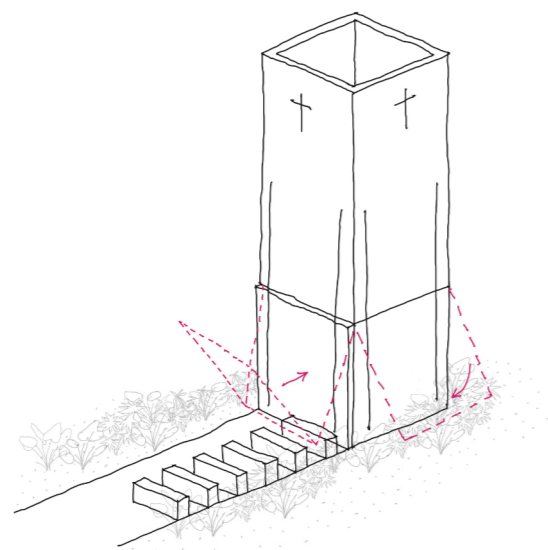
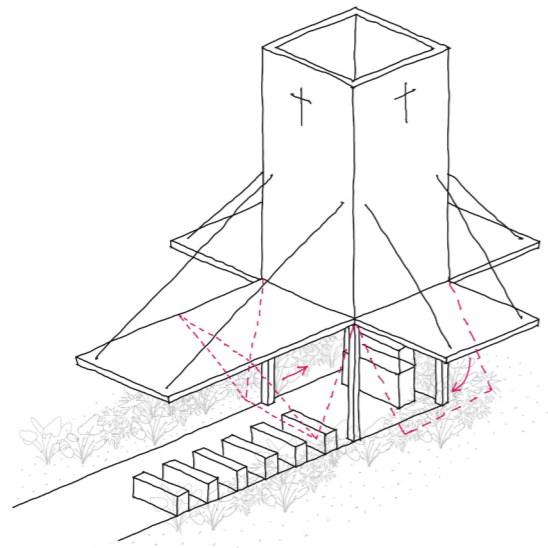
Cruciform apertures are incised into all sides of the vertical structure. As the sun moves across the sky, these openings project luminous symbols onto the interior walls. This strategic orientation creates a rhythmic display of light and shadow that evolves throughout the day.

# materials

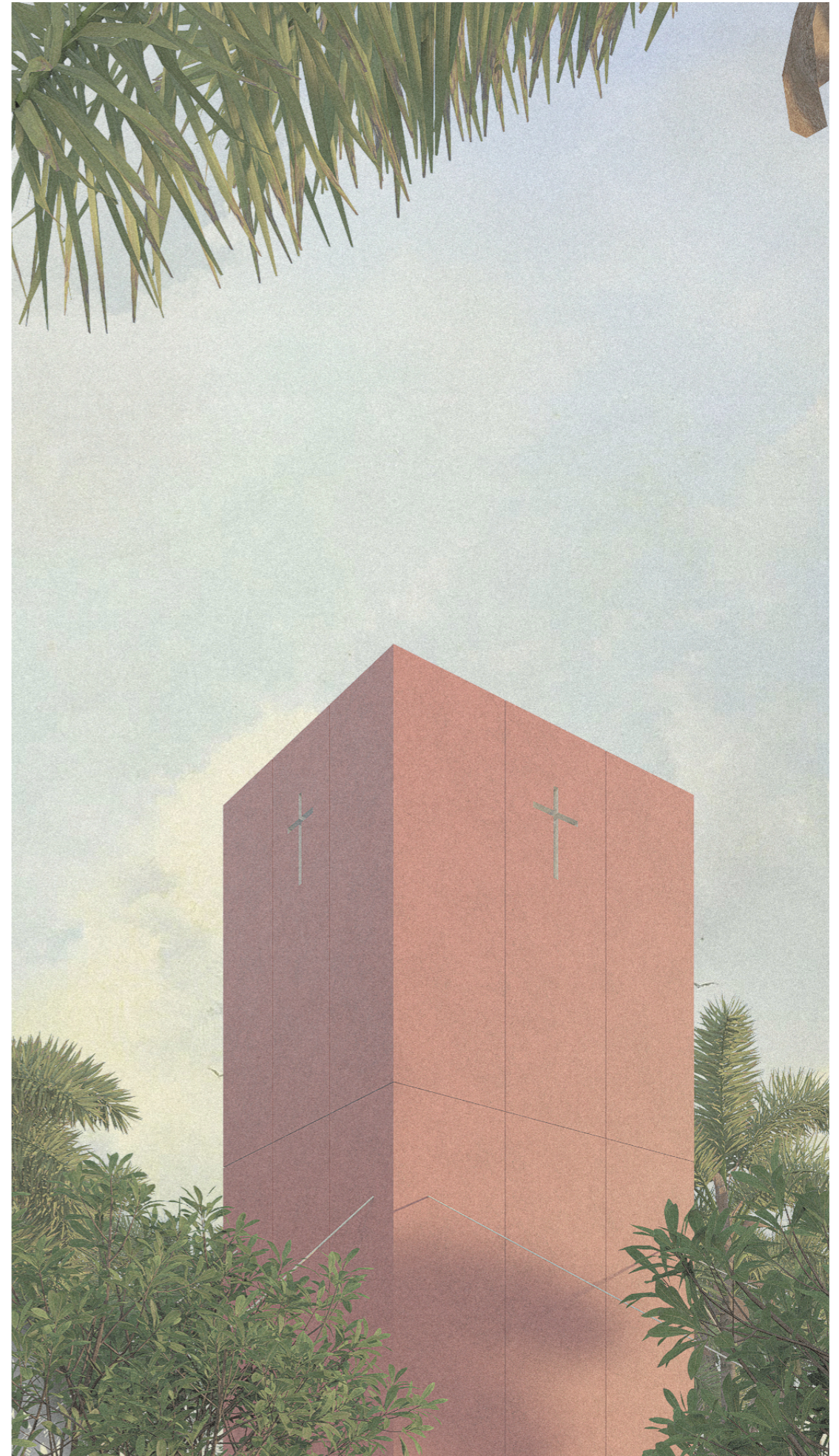
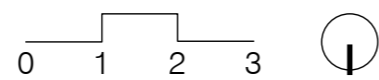
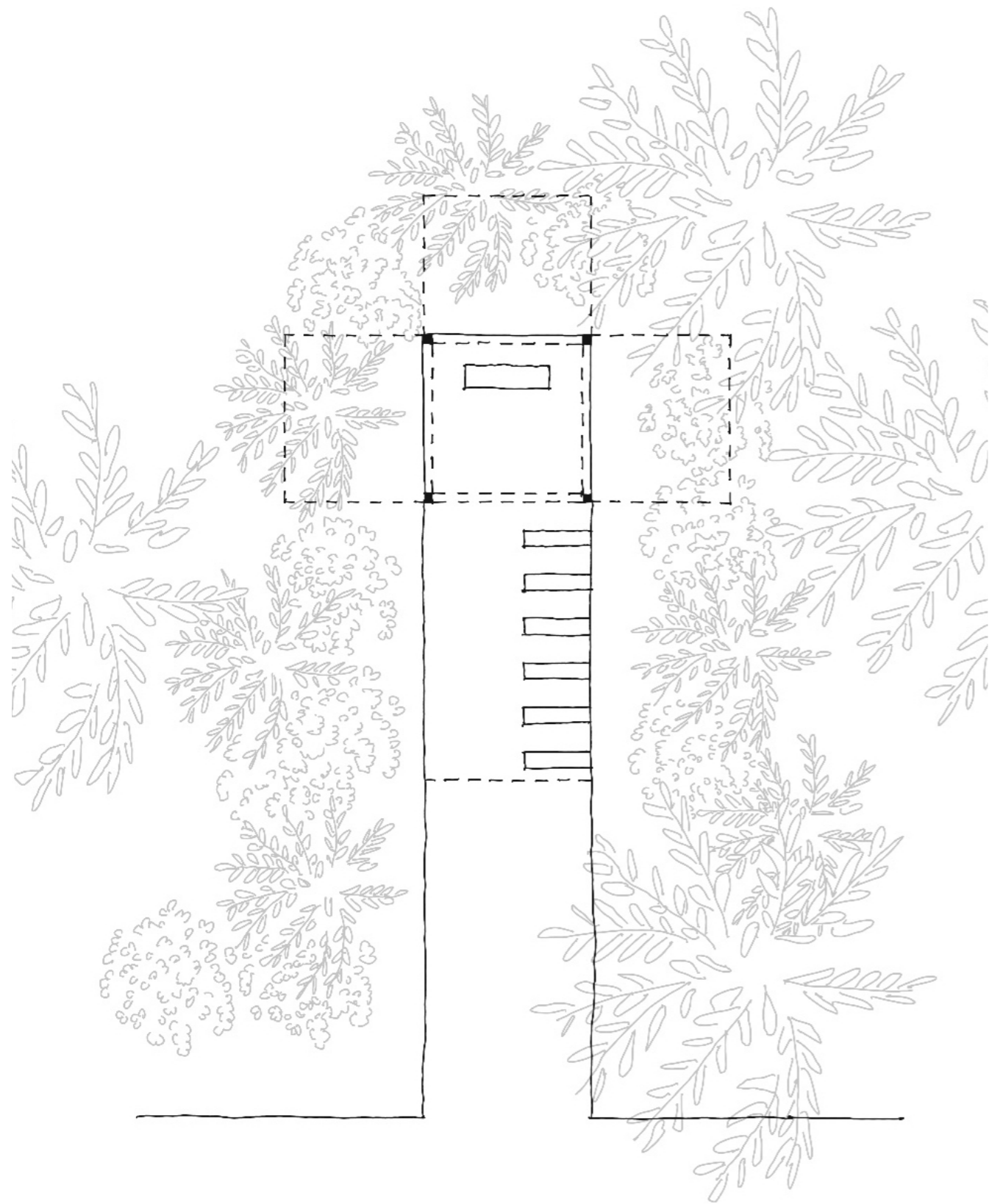
To realize the vision of a transformable and relocatable sacred space, the project utilizes a sophisticated 'dry construction' system. The primary skeleton is a precision-crafted light steel frame, providing the necessary strength for the articulated panels while maintaining a low overall weight. The skin of the chapel, made of durable fiber-cement boards, offers a clean and contemporary finish capable of withstanding the local climate. Every component is designed for systematic assembly and disassembly, ensuring that the chapel remains a flexible asset for the hospital complex, capable of being moved or adapted with minimal environmental impact.



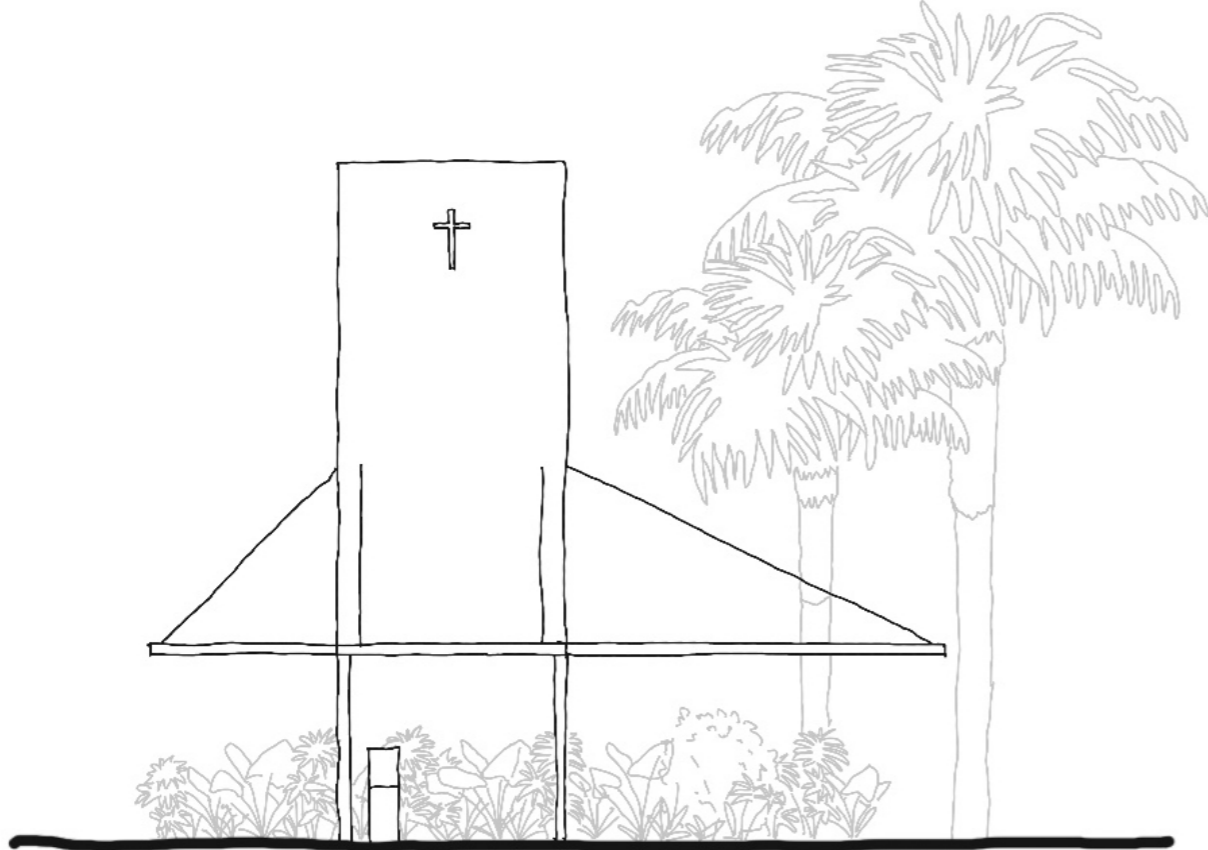
**Project**



**floorplan**



**north elevation**



**section**

