



Tashabok (تشابك) | GRADUATION PROJECT 2026

Project Data

Year: 2026

Location: Historic Cairo

Typology: Textile and Design Academy

Supervisors

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Project Brief

For decades, Mastabet Elmahmal stood as a symbol of one of Egypt's most significant religious and cultural traditions—the crafting of the Kiswaa of the Holy Kaaba before its ceremonial journey to Makkah.

As modernization brought this tradition to an end, the ceremonies disappeared, the craftsmanship declined, and following the revolution, the landmark was severely damaged, leaving behind only the ruins of a once-celebrated heritage.

Tashabok was conceived as a response to this loss. The project seeks to revive the spirit of this forgotten craft by creating a contemporary hub where traditional arts and craftsmanship can flourish again, while supporting and preserving local artisans, creating new employment opportunities, strengthening community engagement, and enhancing tourism within Historic Cairo.

Through architecture, Tashabok transforms memory into experience, ensuring that the legacy of Mastabet Elmahmal continues to inspire future generations.

Keywords

Heritage, Weaving, Interlacing, Craftsmanship, Cultural Identity, Education, Community, Sustainability, Historic Cairo

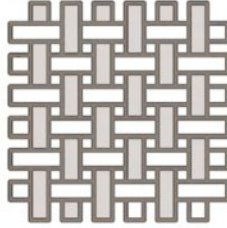
تشابك



Concept Statement

"WARP AND WEFT"

Woven fabrics produced by hand looming which have two main intersected directions namely warp and weft, where warp runs vertically along the fabric represents the different cultures and eras crossed over time. Weft runs horizontally, where the weft represents the "past-present-future" timeline. The craft passes throughout history, linking different cultures and continuing to the future.



Keywords: interlocking, connectivity, interlacing



Form Generation

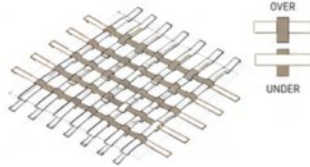
1 Warp & Weft

Introduction of perpendicular weft threads crossing the warp.



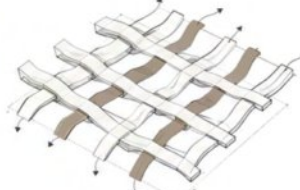
2 Interlacing

Interlacing pattern created through over-under weaving.



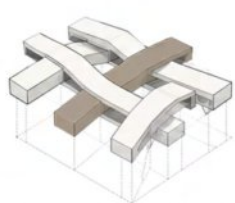
3 Spatial Weaving

Transformation of threads into architectural ribbons.



4 Building Strips

Thickening ribbons into occupiable building strips.



5 Spatial Interaction

Lifting, twisting, and shifting strips to create spatial interaction.



6 Final Form

Final architectural massing composed of interwoven volumes inspired by textile weaving.



Site Brief



Design Keywords



Connectivity



Social Interaction



Multi-Uses

Main Functions



Educational



Exhibition



Recreational

Project Users



Students



Employees



Families



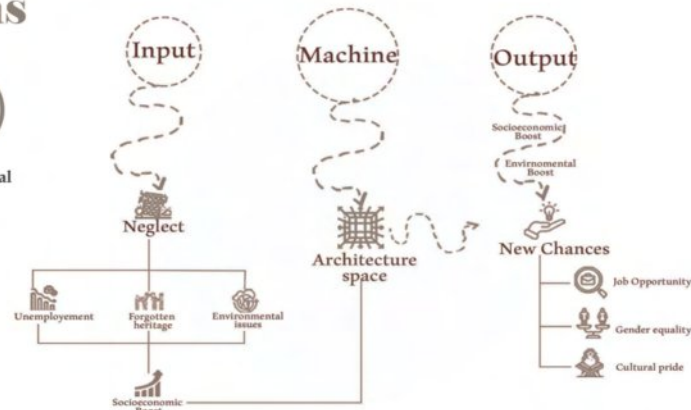
Investors



Lectures



Administration



Project Overview

Tashabok (تشابك), meaning Interlacing, is a contemporary cultural and educational hub located beside Mastabet Elmahmal alongside Cairo Citadel in Historic Cairo. The project draws inspiration from the historic craft of weaving the Kiswa of the Holy Kaaba, once produced at this remarkable site.

By reinterpreting the weaving process into an architectural language of interlacing forms, the project transforms a forgotten landmark into a vibrant destination for learning, craftsmanship, culture, and social interaction. Through workshops, exhibition spaces, craft markets, educational facilities, and public gathering areas, Tashabok bridges the past and the future while celebrating Egypt's rich cultural identity.

"Where heritage is woven into architecture, and every space tells the story of a forgotten craft."

Concept Statement

The concept of Tashabok is derived from the traditional weaving process of the Kiswa, where warp and weft threads interlace to create a unified fabric. This principle is translated into architecture through overlapping building strips that physically and visually connect different functions.

Rather than designing isolated buildings, the project creates a continuous network of interconnected spaces that encourages movement, interaction, and cultural exchange. The interlacing masses also generate shaded terraces, courtyards, and visual connections with the surrounding historical landmarks, making the architecture itself a reflection of the craft that inspired it.

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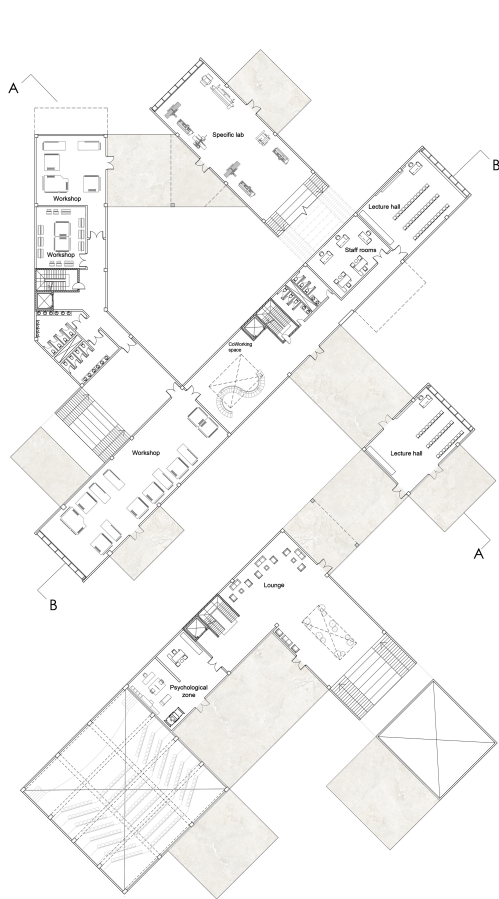
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Master Plan 1/200



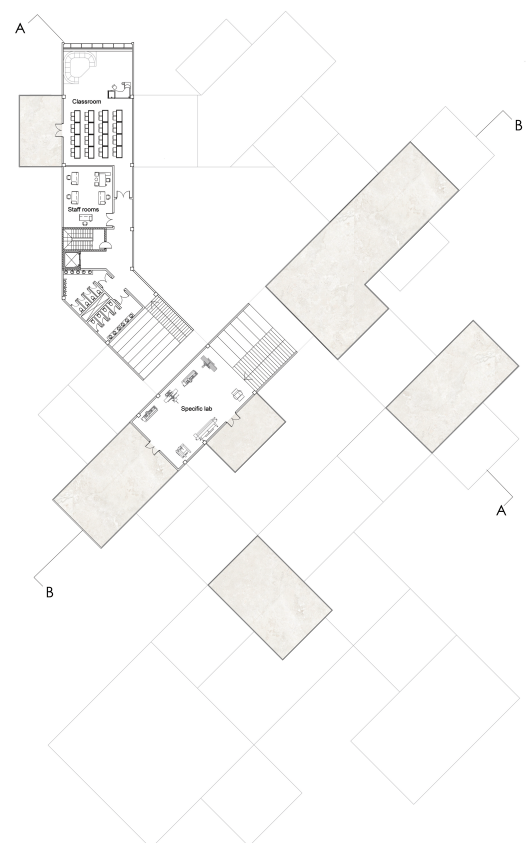
First Floor Plan 1/400



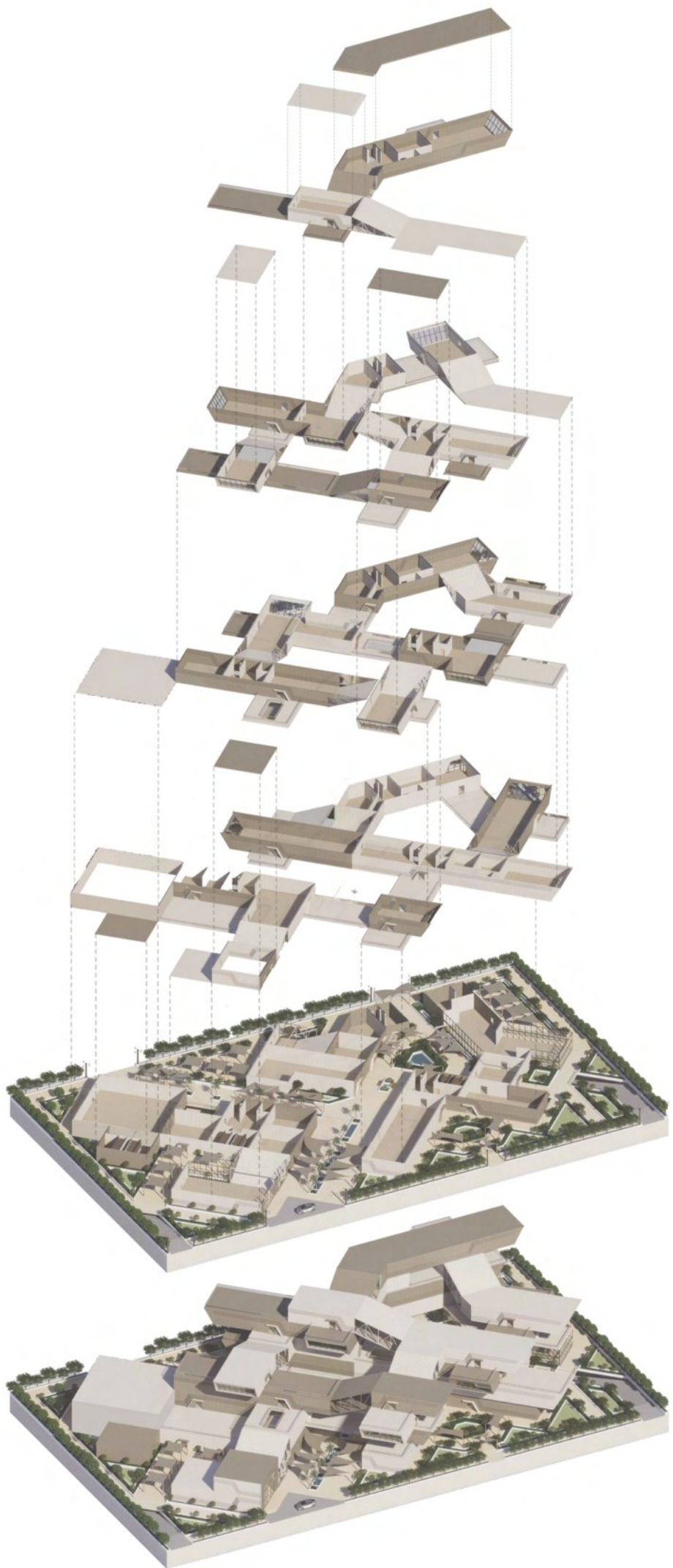
Second Floor Plan 1/400



Third Floor Plan 1/400

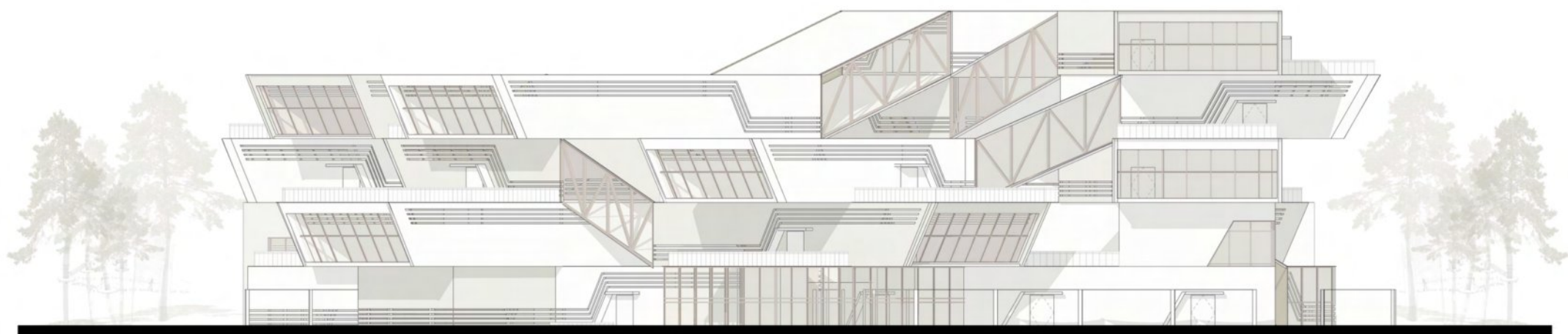


Fourth Floor Plan 1/400









North Elevation 1/200



South Elevation 1/200







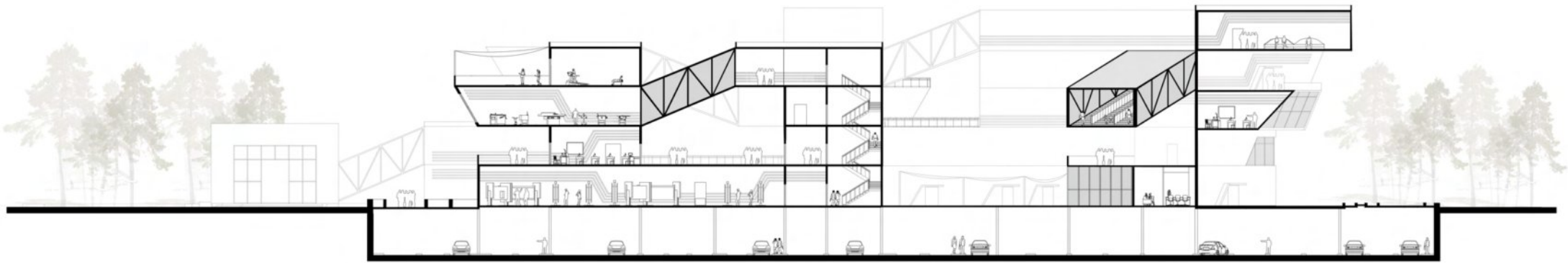
East Elevation 1/200



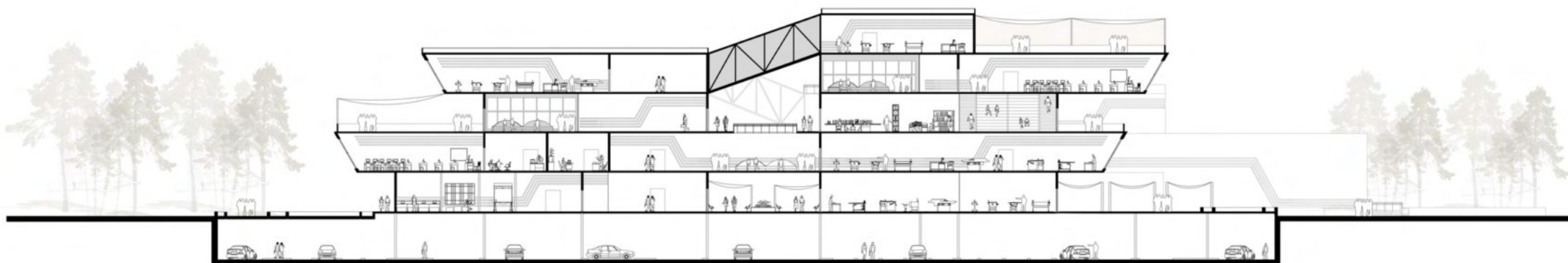
West Elevation 1/200





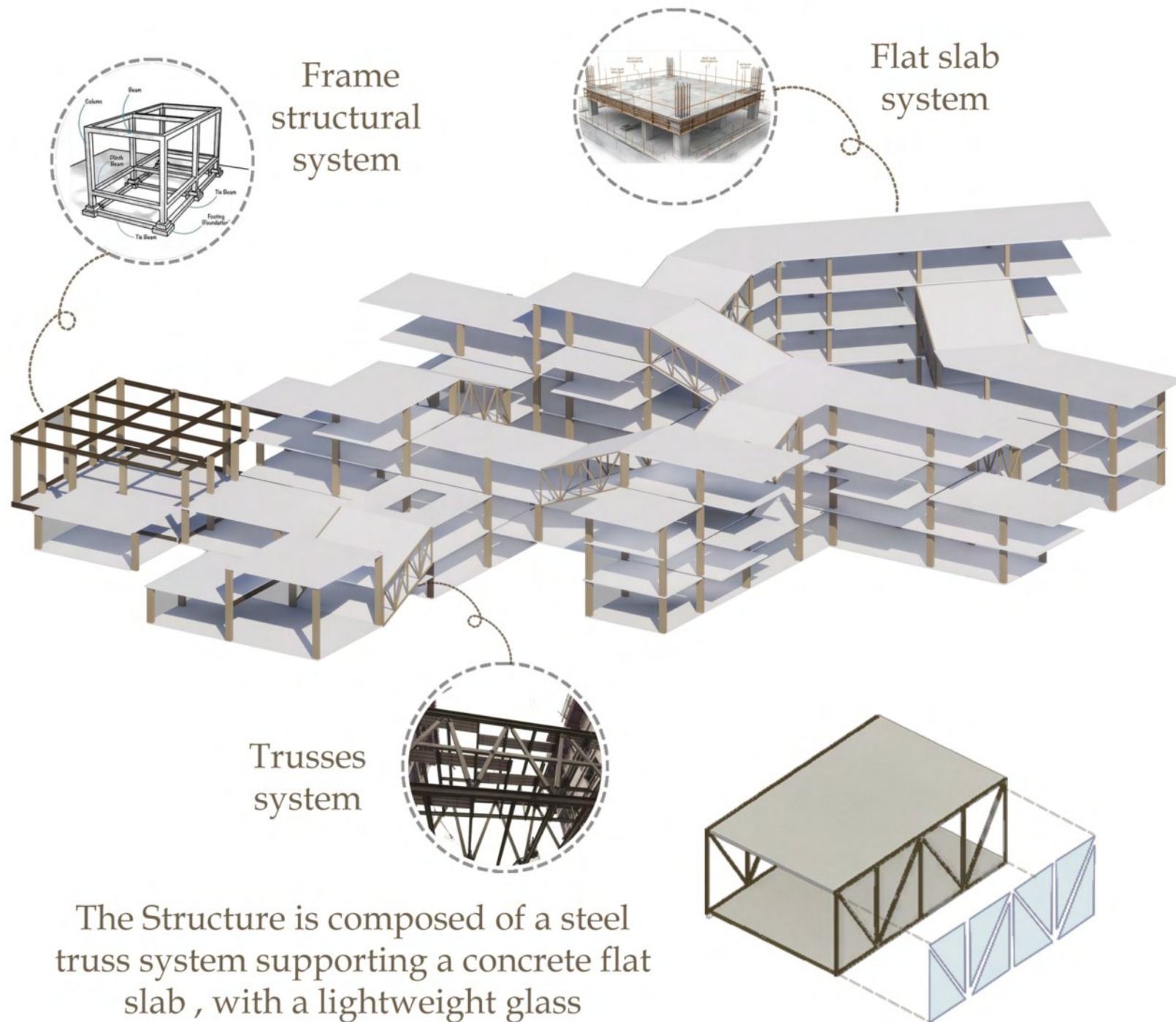


Section A-A 1/200



Section B-B 1/200





Structural Analysis



**Dual-function
circulation element
(stairs + social
seating).**

Realistic use by
students.



Visual connection
between floors.



Informal
learning.



