



Portfolio

SuperREUSE
Natalia Miklosovicova
MA Interior Design
2024/2025

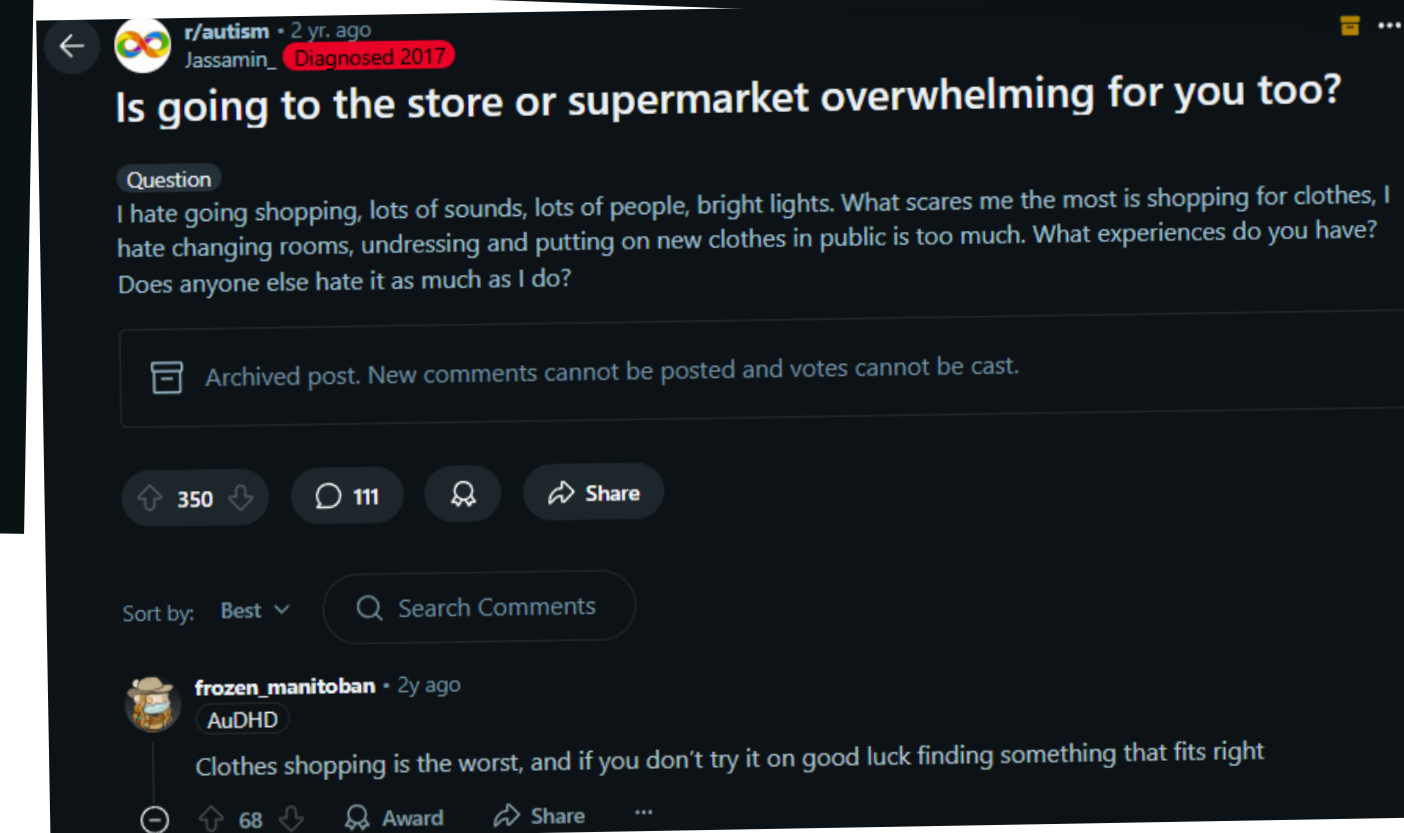
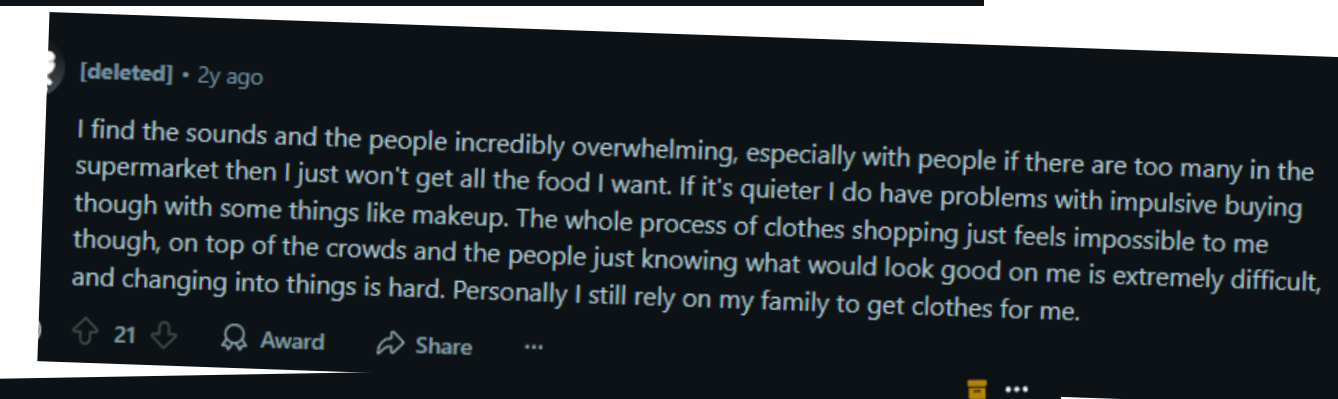
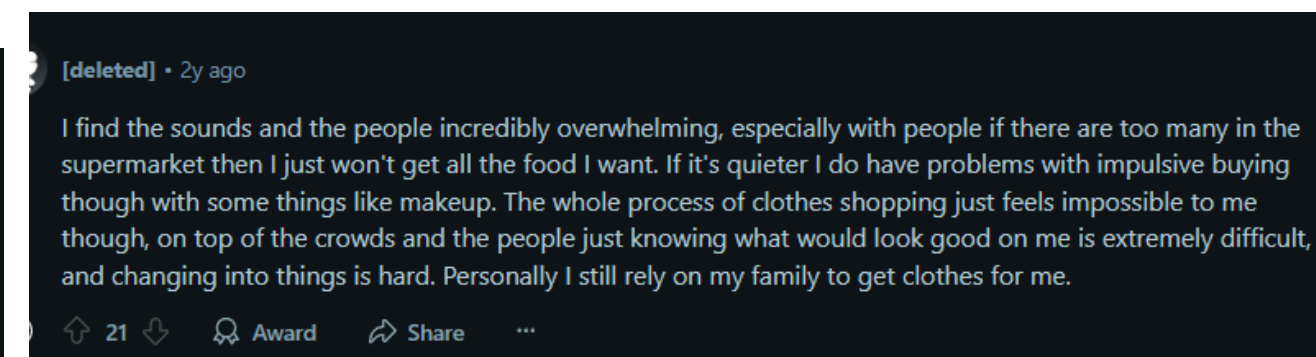
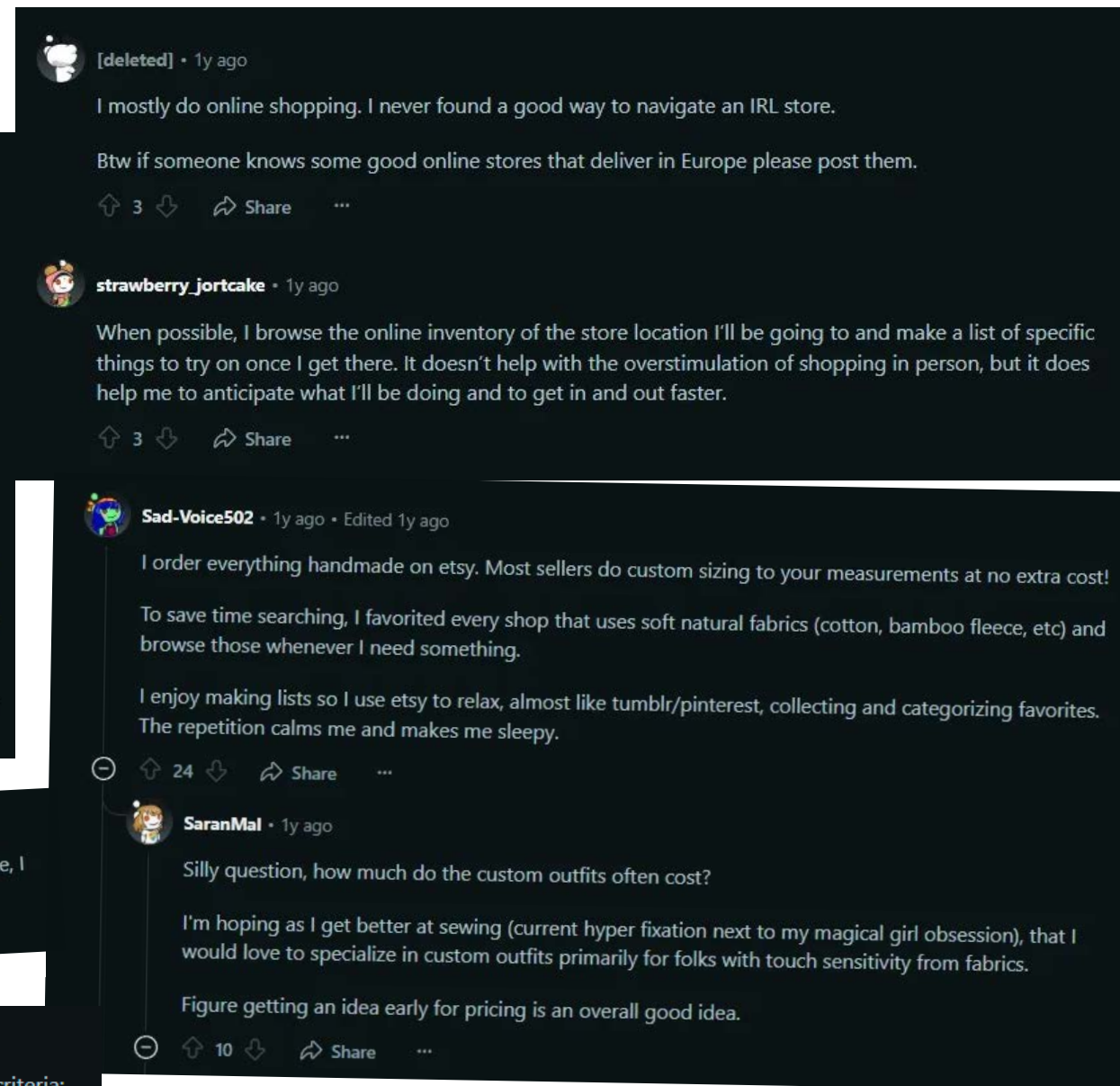
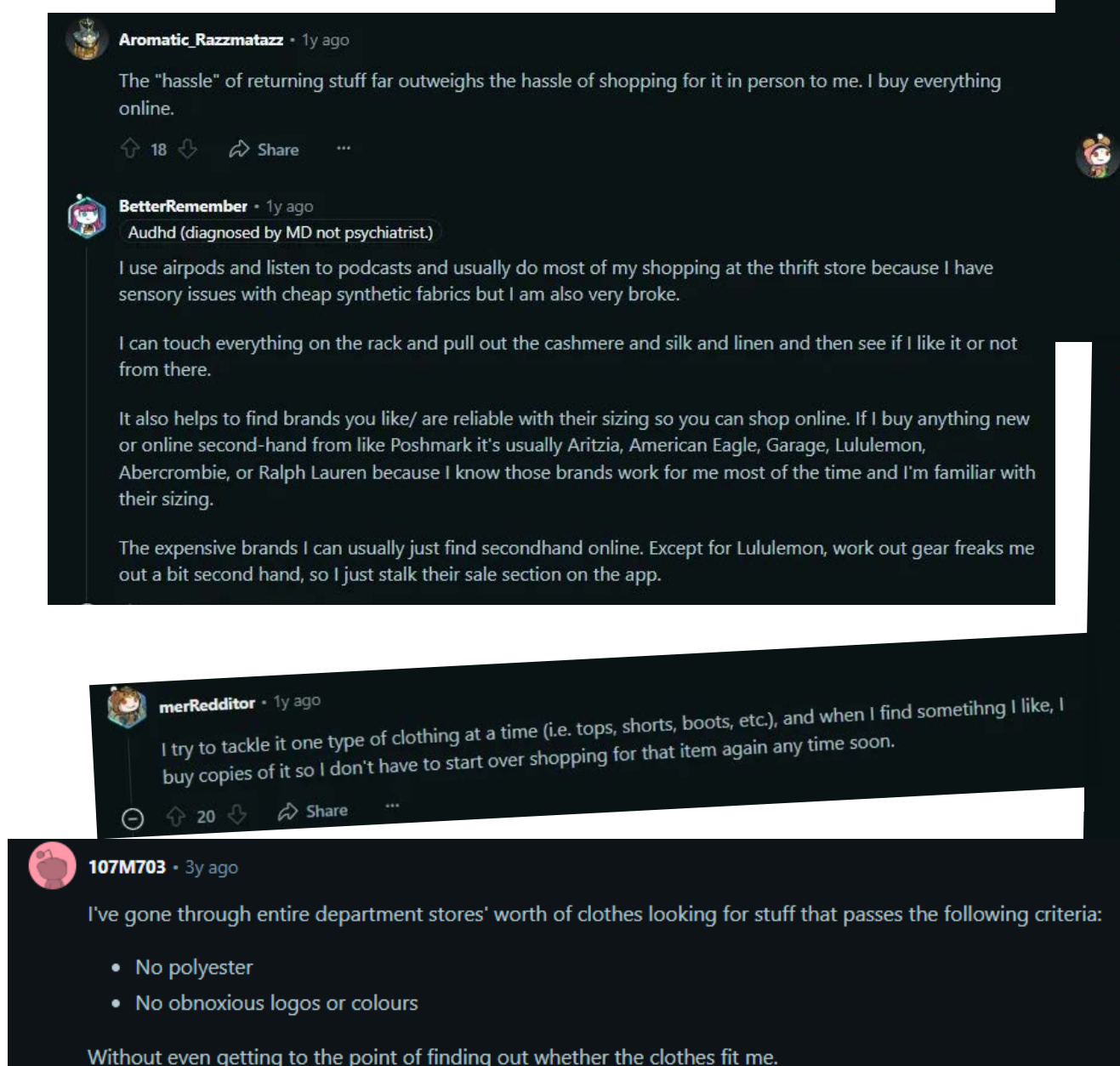
As Seen by Senses

“As Seen by Senses” is a proposal for a fashion retail space. Designed through lens of neurodiversity, it’s challenges to how we create environments for the body, the mind, and the senses.

For me, this journey started with a question—and with personal experience. I’ve struggled with anxiety and panic attacks triggered by fast movement, loud spaces, and overwhelming environments.

Can architecture regulate emotion? Can design support people not just physically, but emotionally—especially those who process the world differently? Can artificial space feel like nature? In contrast to the overstimulation of traditional retail – harsh lights, mirrored surfaces, clutter, noise – this project explores natural rhythms: layered shadows, curved walls, high volumes, and materials that mimic organic textures.

At Canary Wharf – a symbol of efficiency and commercial speed – this project proposes a different rhythm. Through spatial restraint, natural references, and sensorial intelligence, the building becomes a place not just to shop, but to feel at ease.



Images from different Reddit neurodivergent communities. I tried to source information about their shopping habits, either shopping in general, or fashion specifically. Many agree being comfortable shopping at Aldi (especially ADHD diagnosed) for its clear minimal layout.

Neurodiversity in context of retail

In the UK, around 15% of the population is neurodivergent. In Greater London, that's approximately 1.35 million people. These are individuals who often struggle with everyday spaces: chaotic layouts, harsh lights, sensory overload. Neurodiversity is a concept and a social movement that addresses and normalizes human neurocognitive heterogeneity to promote acceptance and inclusion of neuro-minorities (those with learning disabilities, attention disorders, psychiatric disorders, and more). But rather than seeing these as deficits, we can design spaces that adapt and support.

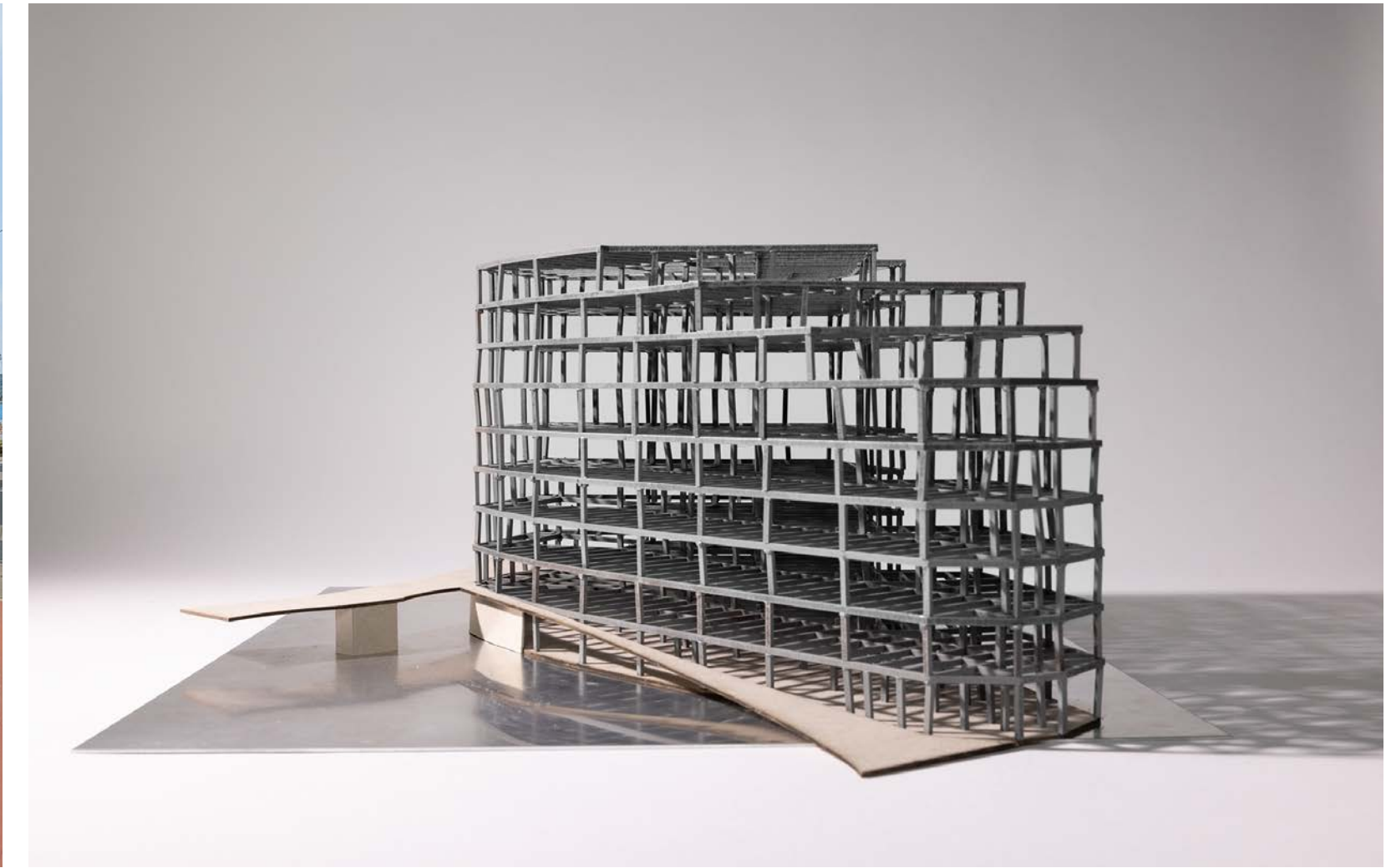
Some recent research shows that neurodivergent individuals interact differently with their environments. Autistic participants often experience sensory and perceptual overload due to greater perceptual capacity – they take in more information at once, which can become overwhelming. In contrast, individuals with ADHD reported challenges with selective attention – not because they don't notice things, but because they find it harder to filter distractions. These information guided my approach when creating spatial experience to accommodate both of this groups within one space.



Ceiling and the structural steel of the 15 Westferry Circus building



Images from KakaoMap shows the Tamburins Seongsu Flagship Store building in 2022 (left) and its current state in 2024 (right).



Model of the structural steel of the 5 Westferry Circus building

Design Strategy: Revealing the structure

One of my first discoveries was the ceiling. Suspended ceilings flattened the space. So I removed them—revealing the original structural system, which felt like rediscovering a forest canopy.

Exposed beams and columns now filter light and sound, much like tree branches. They guide the eye gently, offering rhythm without rigidity—a kind of architectural breath. This move was inspired by spaces like the Tamburins flagship store in South Korea, where void and light becomes an active design element.

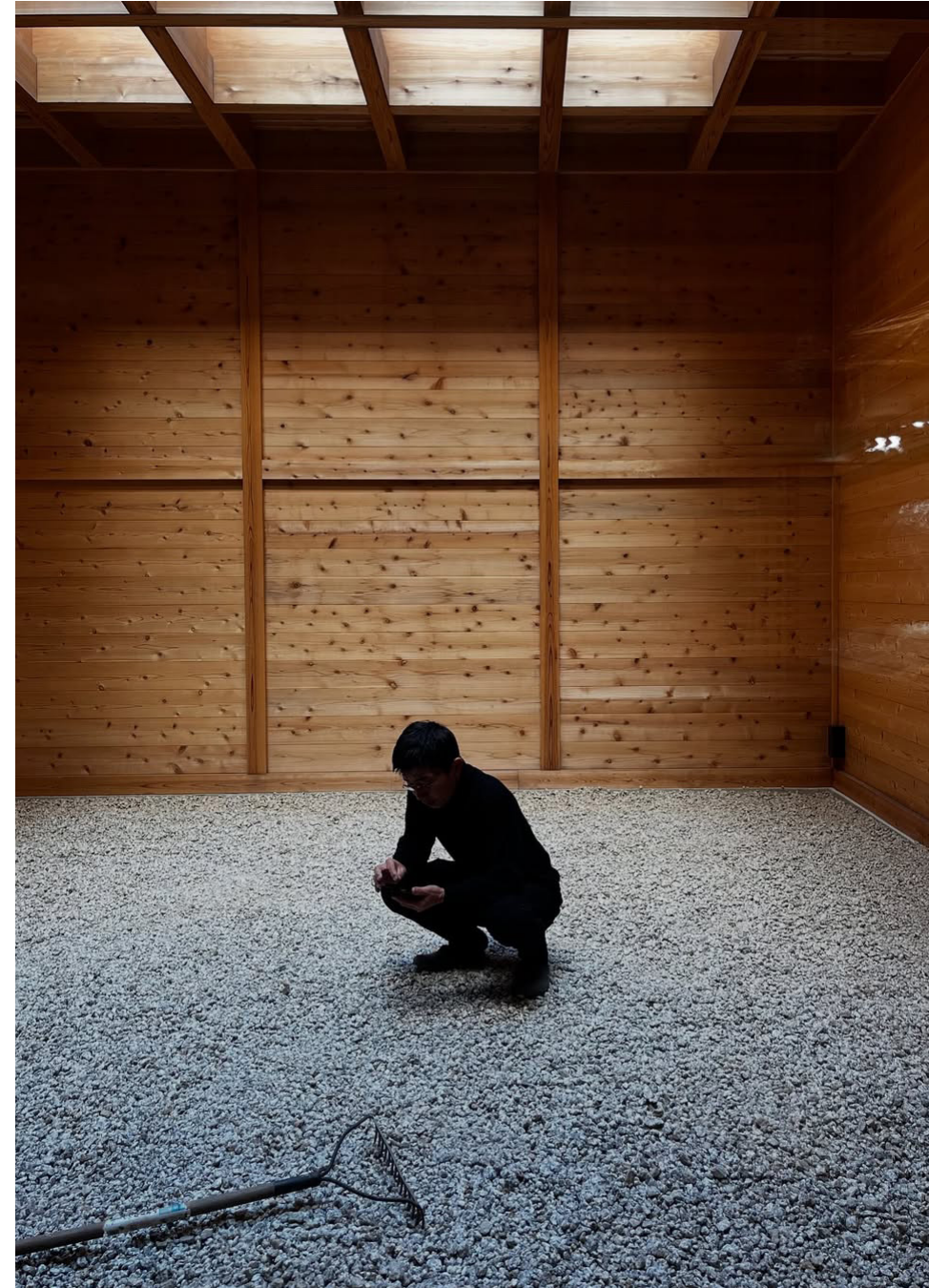


Emotional Modulation through Circulation



Traditional retail circulation is efficient and fast. But for neurodivergent users, that can cause overstimulation. So I reimagined circulation as emotional modulation.

I introduced spiral staircases which are associated more with luxury segment and transitions between compression and openness. These elements slow movement, invite choice, and allow people to regulate how they move.



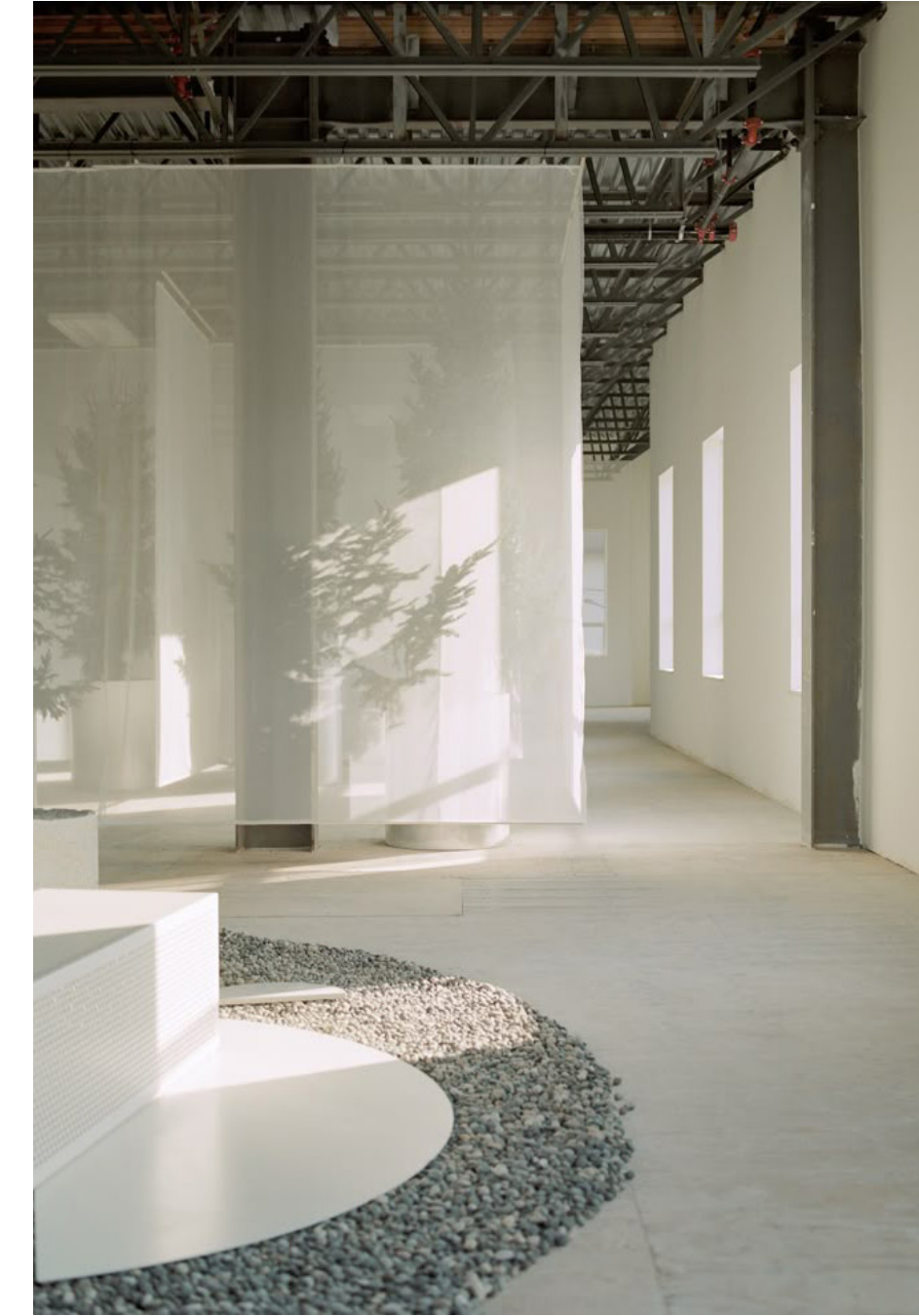
Mikage cho House by Tomoaki Uno



Studio Houses Nigbo by Yung Ho Chang



Aluminum floor joists in Dymaxion House

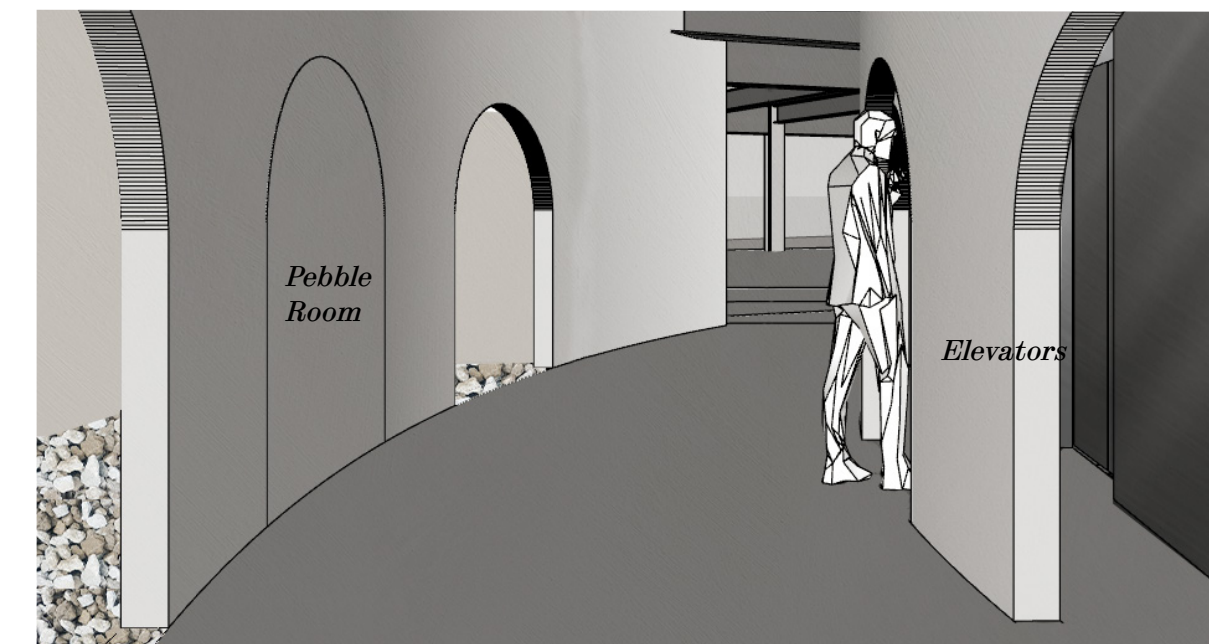
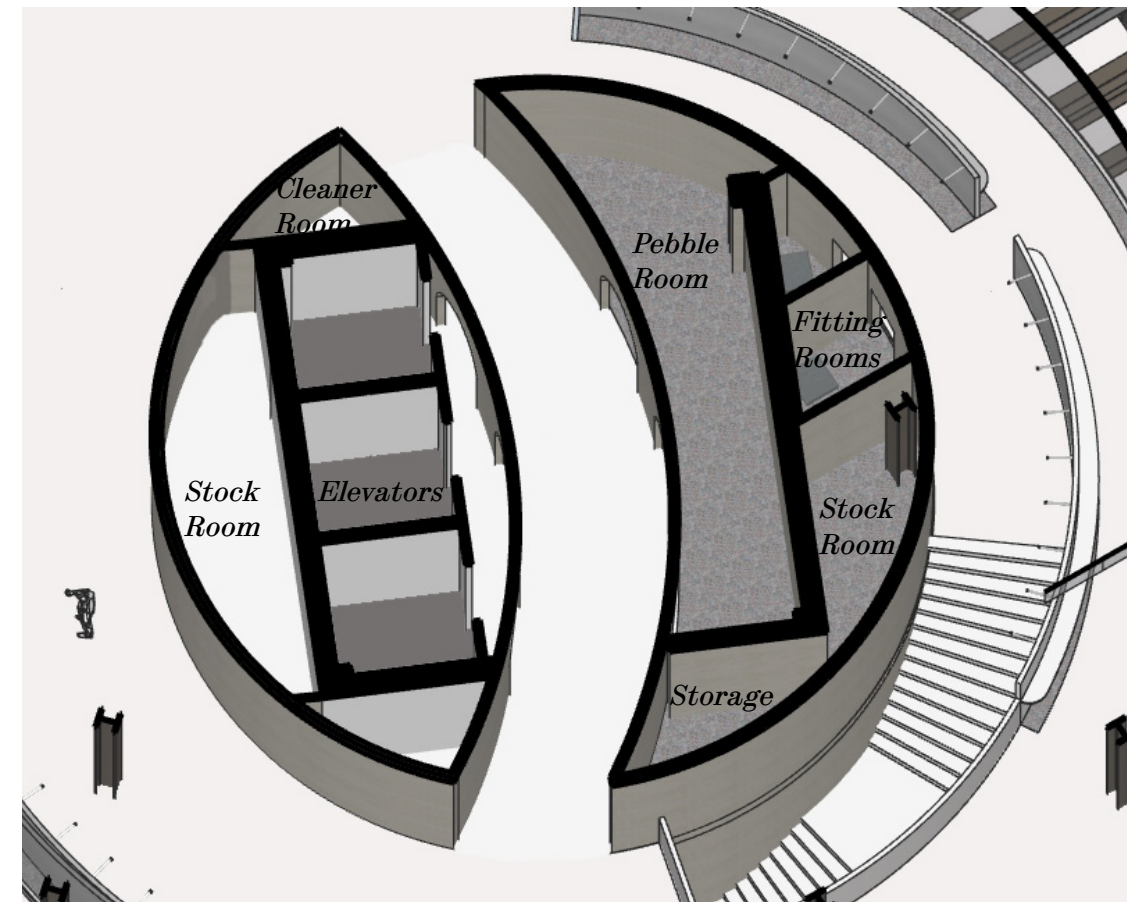
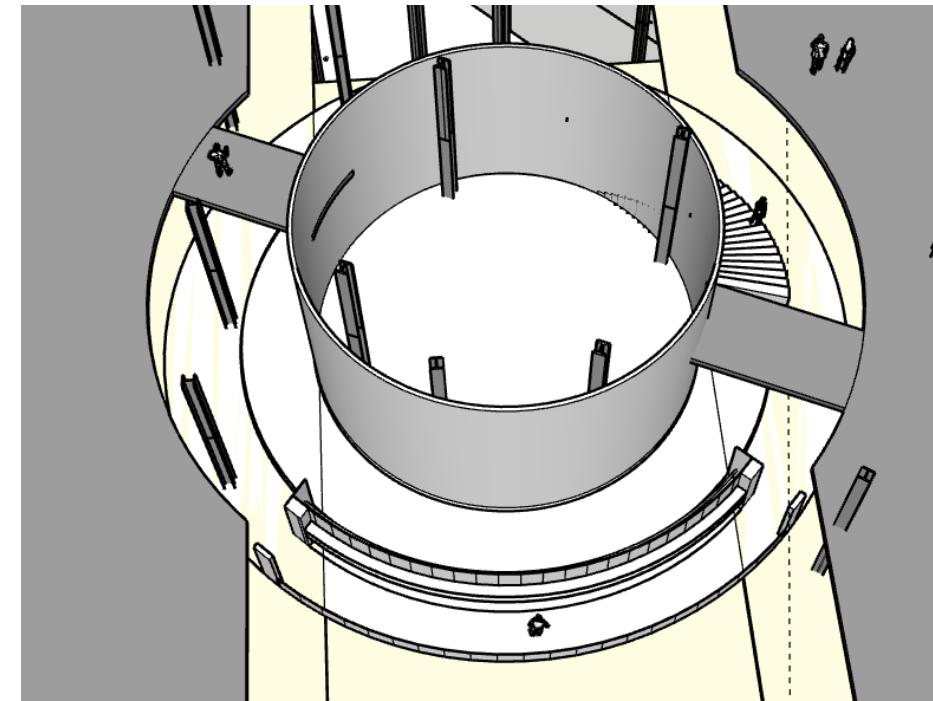
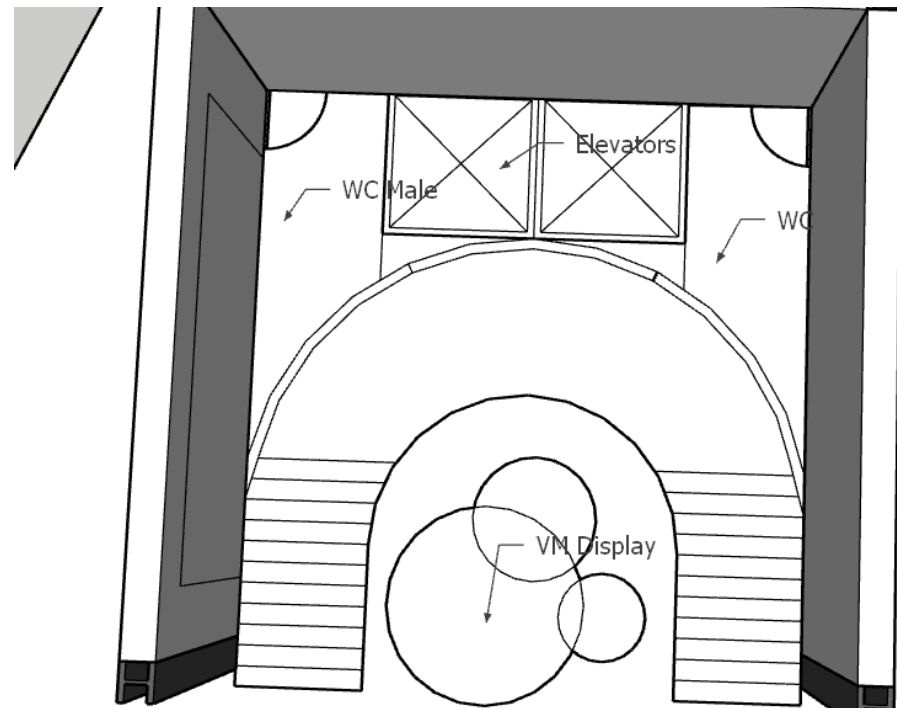
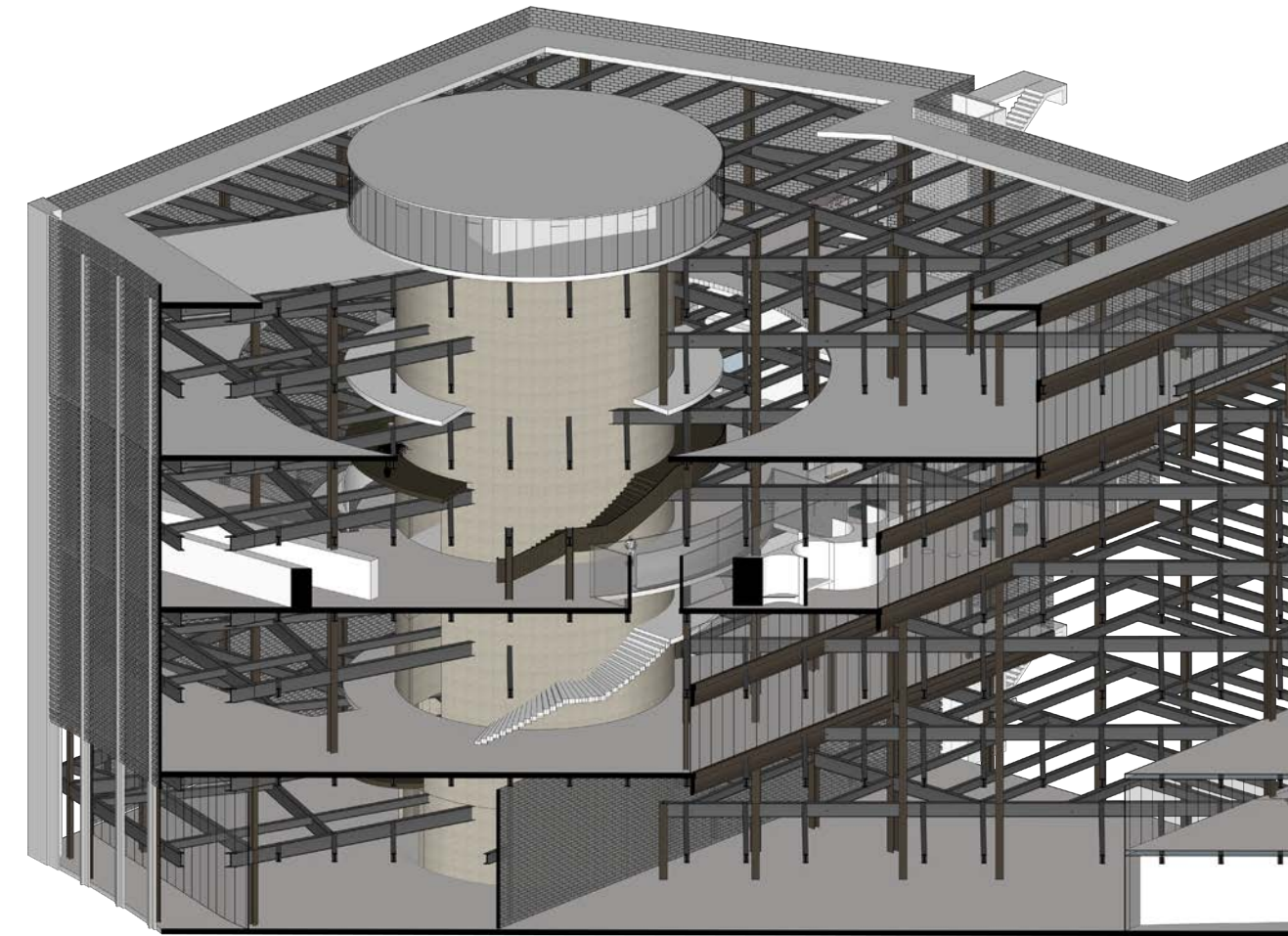
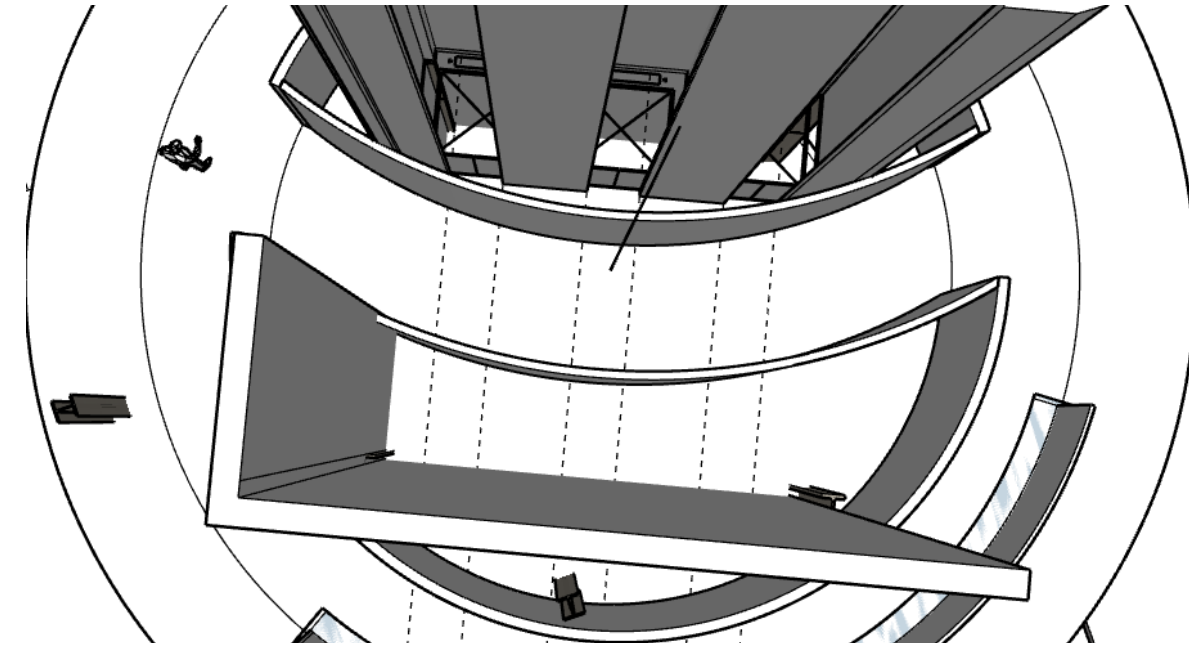
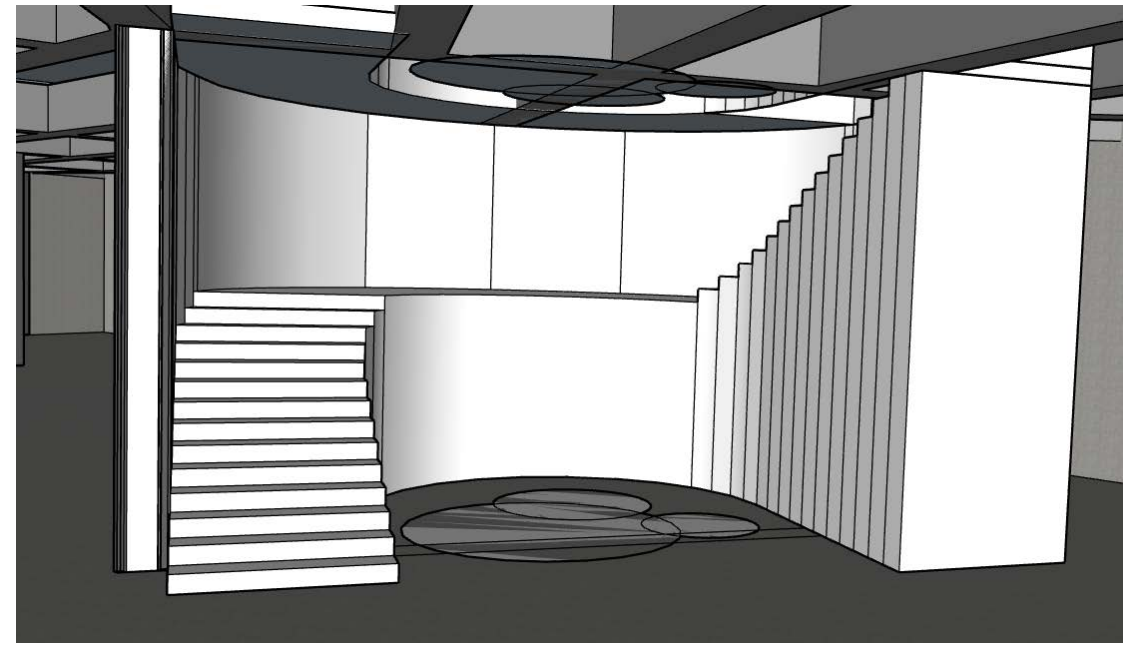


Laura Melling Studio & Studio Block

The Core as Anchor

The original circulation cores were retained but reshaped by adding circular walls, creating a more cohesive and defined central zone. Three elevators and staircases are now organized around this circular core, which acts not only as a functional hub but also as a grounding space within the building. It also accommodates storage and fitting rooms, providing a natural pause point along the customer journey.

Recognizing the needs of neurodivergent individuals, especially those diagnosed with autism who may experience difficulty with crowds and sensory overload, the core includes a dedicated “pebble room.” This space is designed for focus, grounding, and tactile engagement using natural materials like stones and pebbles. Visitors are invited to interact with the textures, offering a calming, meditative activity. Customers are also encouraged to bring their own collected pebbles or stones to contribute to the space, adding a personal layer to the environment. According to online communities of autistic and ADHD individuals, stone collecting—especially from beaches—is a favorite and soothing activity. Bringing this experience indoors helps create a familiar, emotionally supportive space.



Core Development

The pebble room is located directly opposite the elevators, making it easily accessible as a sensory retreat during the retail experience.



Czech national theatre - Nová Scéna in Prague



Hermès store by Renzo Piano in Ginza, Tokyo



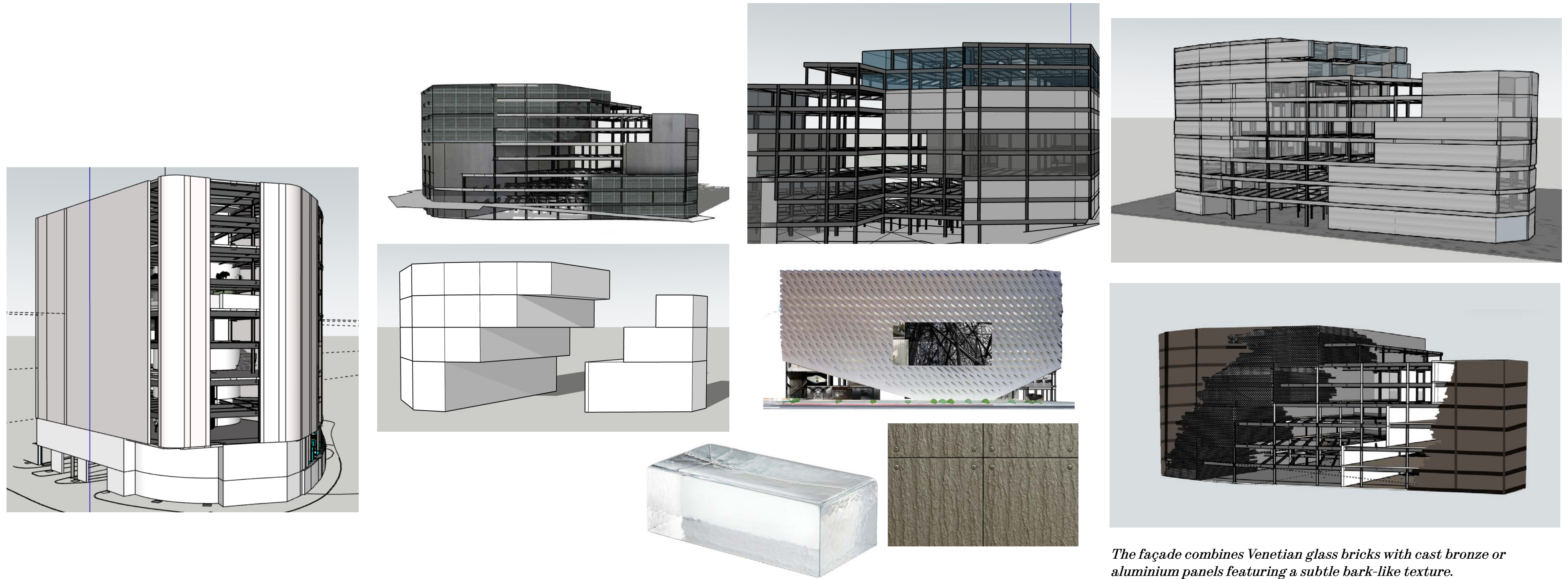
Inside of Studio Corkinho

Façade as a Sensory Filter

The façade is made of low-iron glass bricks, arranged in transparent layers. This softens and diffuses natural light, preserving privacy while still allowing visual connection. The idea was inspired by Studio Corkinho in Antwerp, where textured glass shields users from external distractions, creating a calm, meditative atmosphere. When exploring online communities of autistic and ADHD individuals, many of whom described a fascination with glass bricks—how they soften the world while keeping it visible. In this way, gently filtered natural light becomes a kind of sensory tool, helping to reduce the harshness of standard retail lighting and supporting a more emotionally comfortable space for all users.

I also took inspiration from the Czech National Theatre, where one of the original solutions was the use of hollow glass blocks by Stanislav Libenský and Jaroslava Brychtová. These blocks helped insulate the building from street noise. In my project, sound insulation and blocking unwanted noise is key to creating a comfortable interior experience.

For proportions, I looked to the Hermès store in Ginza by Renzo Piano. I studied the ratio between the building and the size of the glass bricks, and applied a similar proportion to my façade to achieve a clean and balanced look.

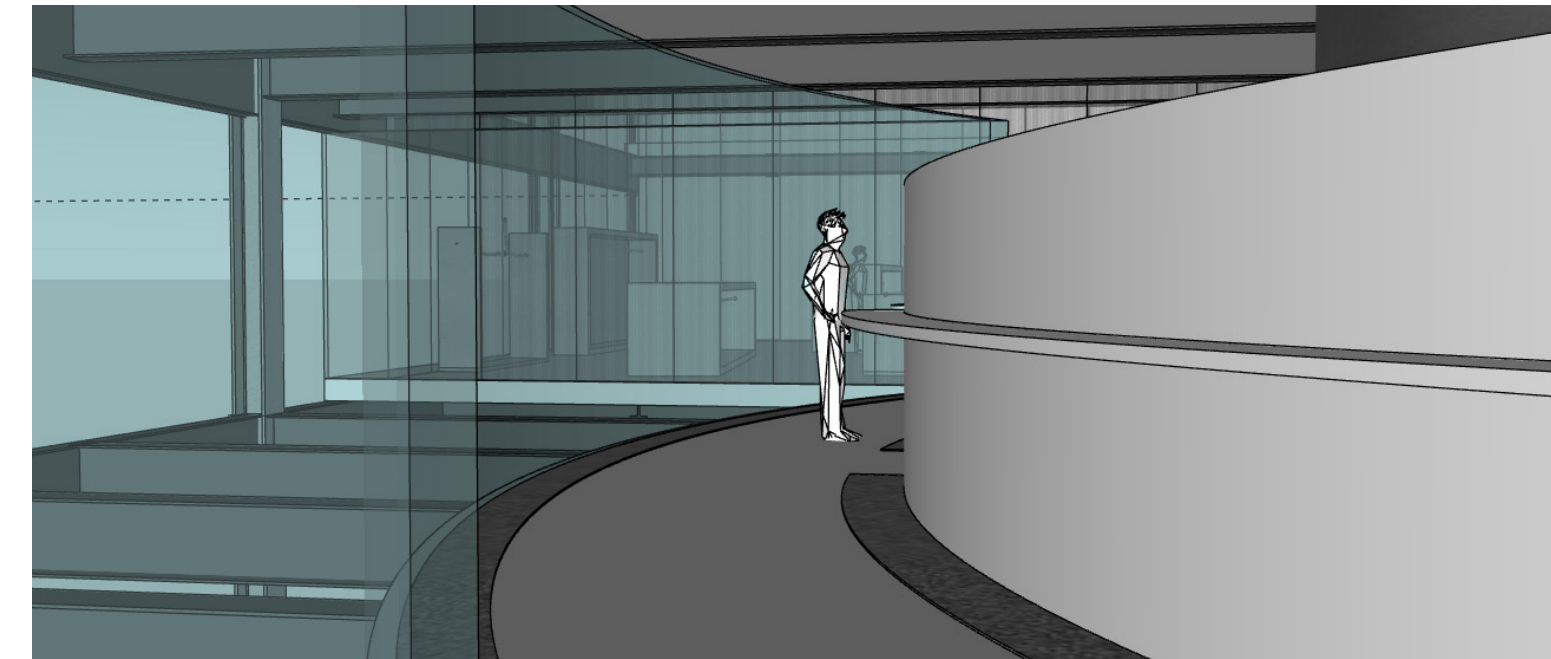
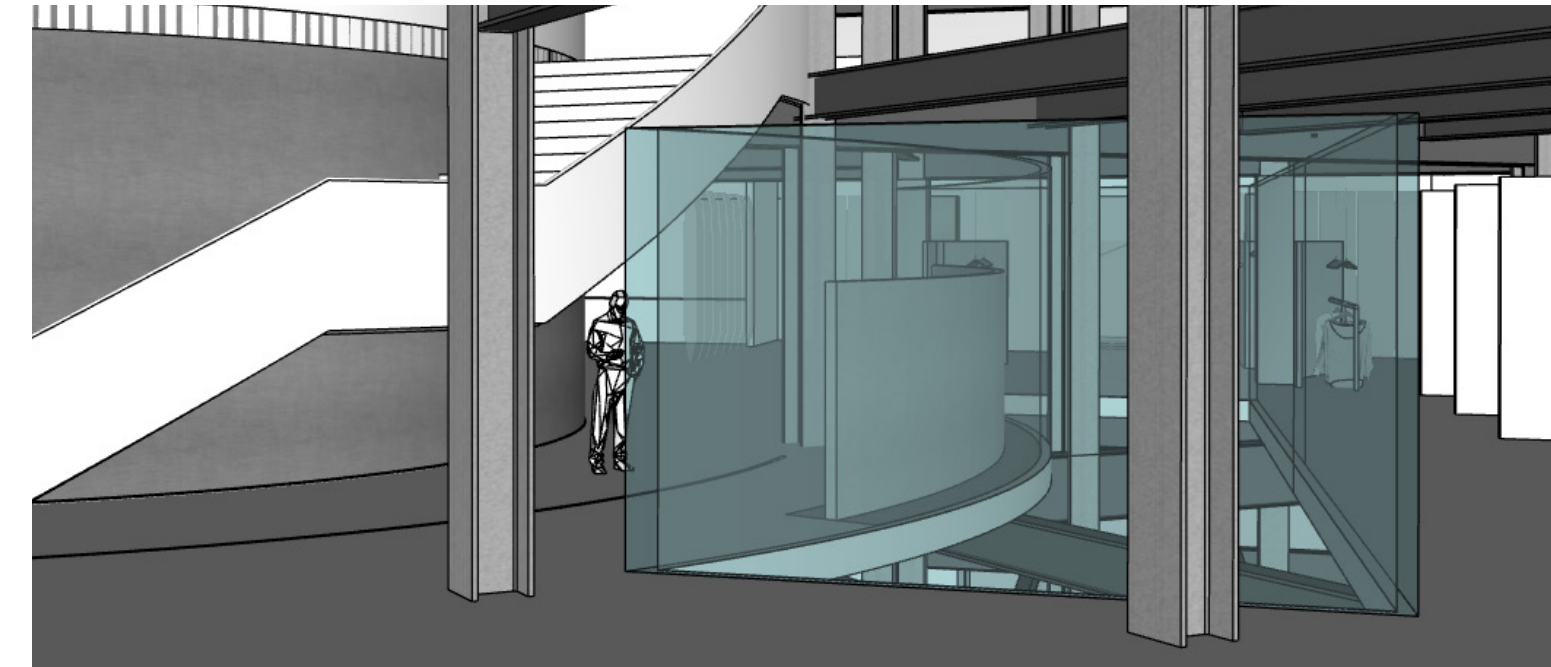


Façade Development

The façade combines Venetian glass bricks with cast bronze or aluminium panels featuring a subtle bark-like texture.



Inspired by the solution in Tamburins store in Seong-su. View from exterior structure towards store in lower ground floor.

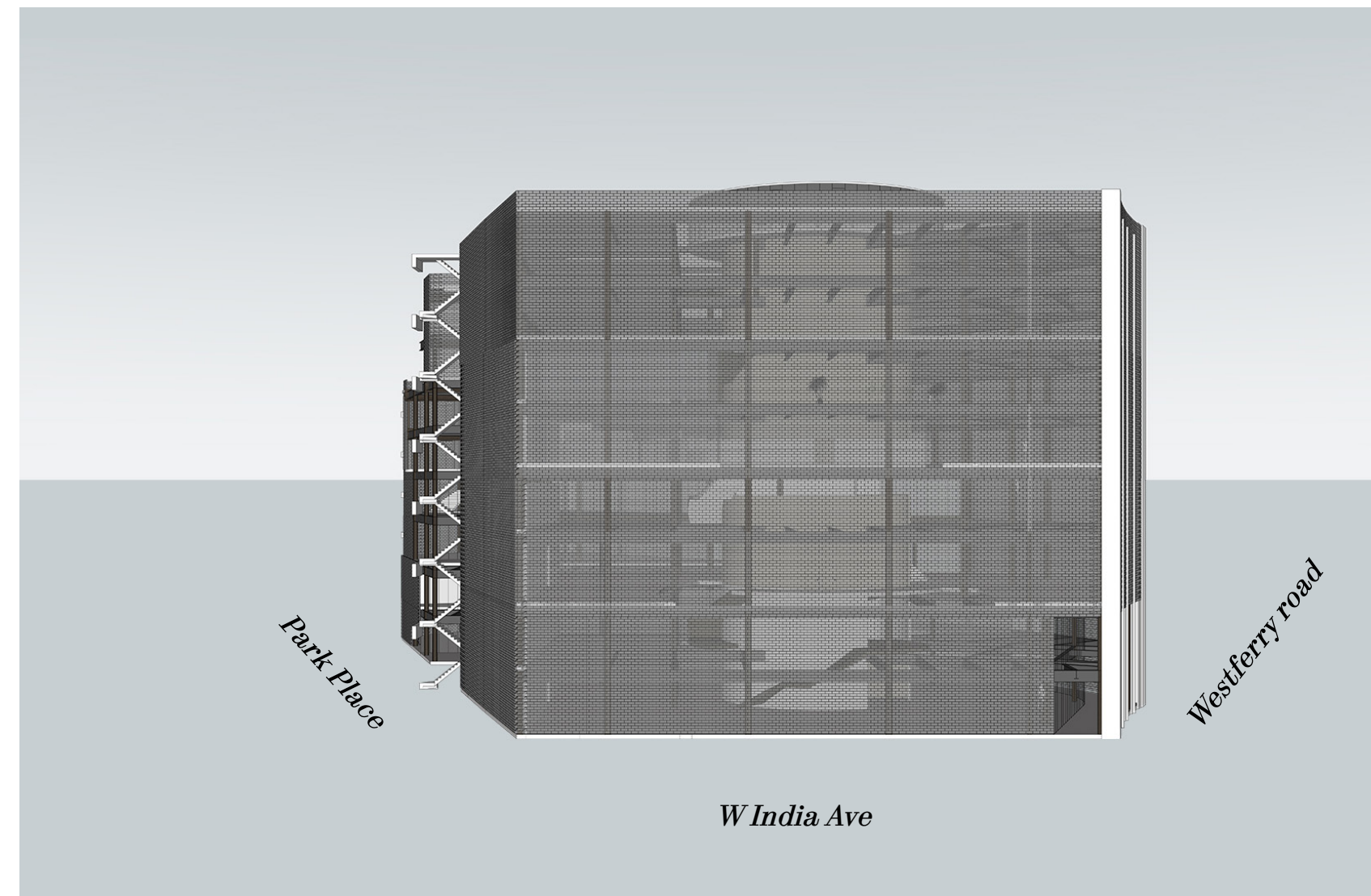
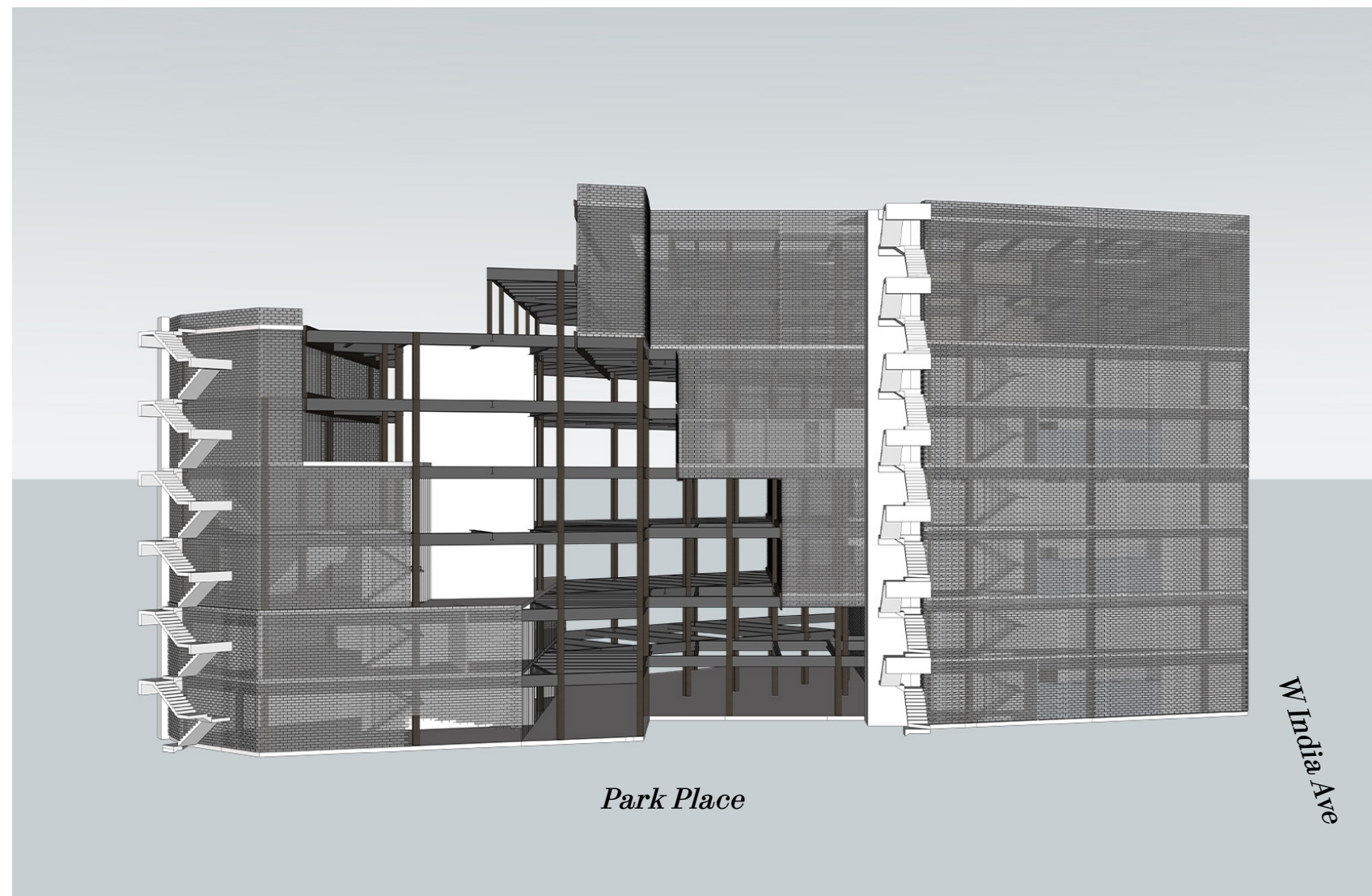
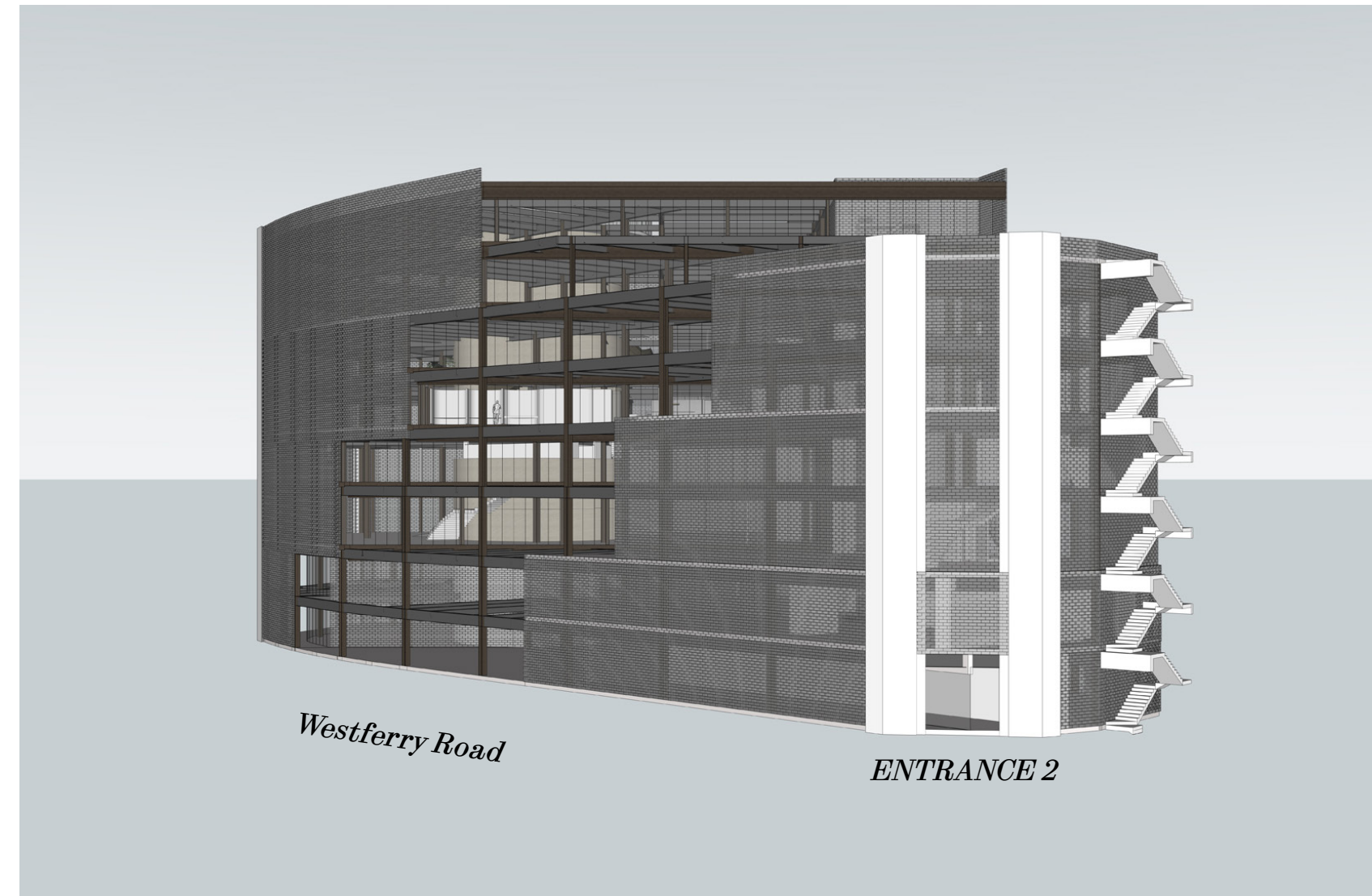
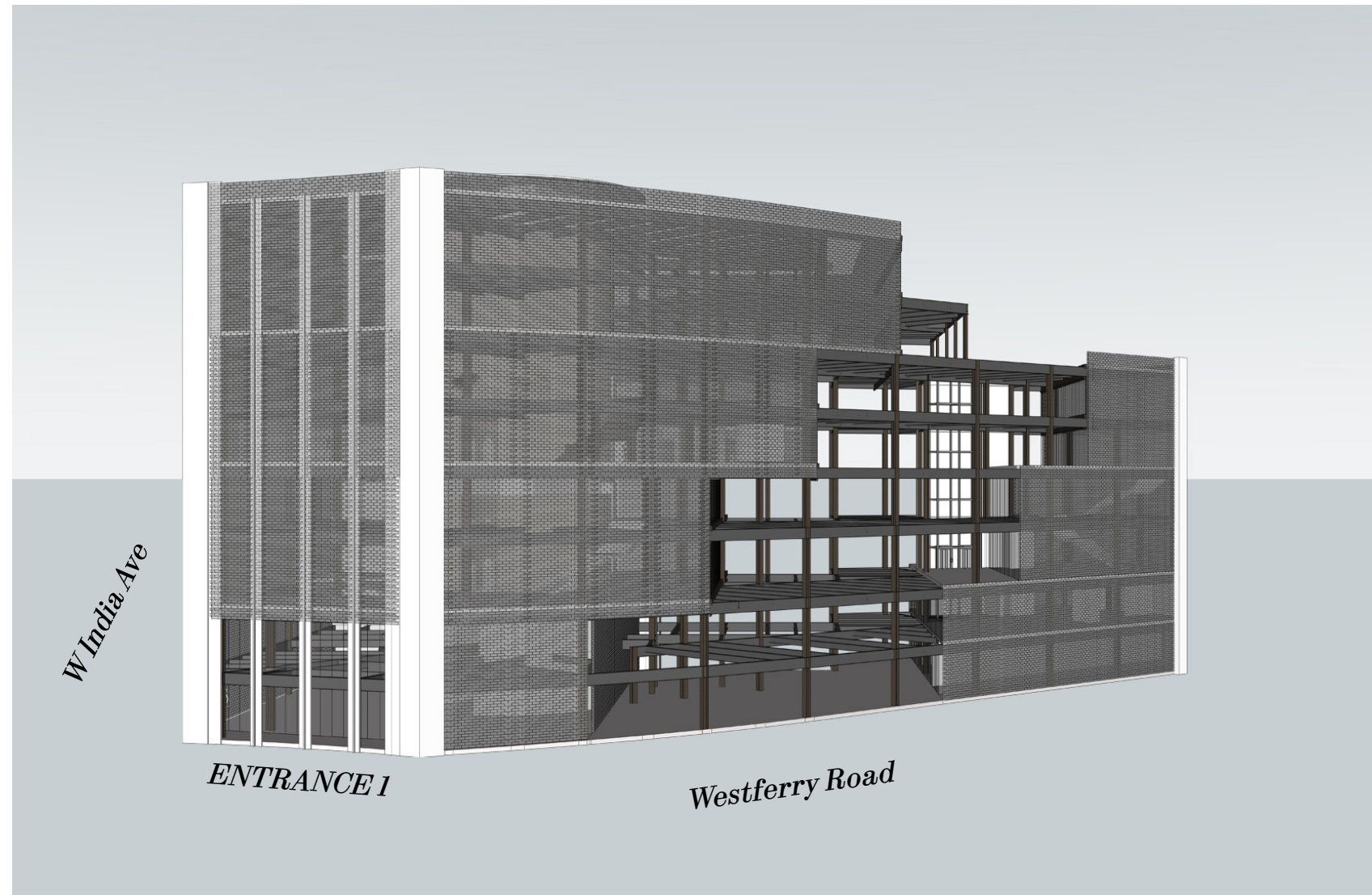


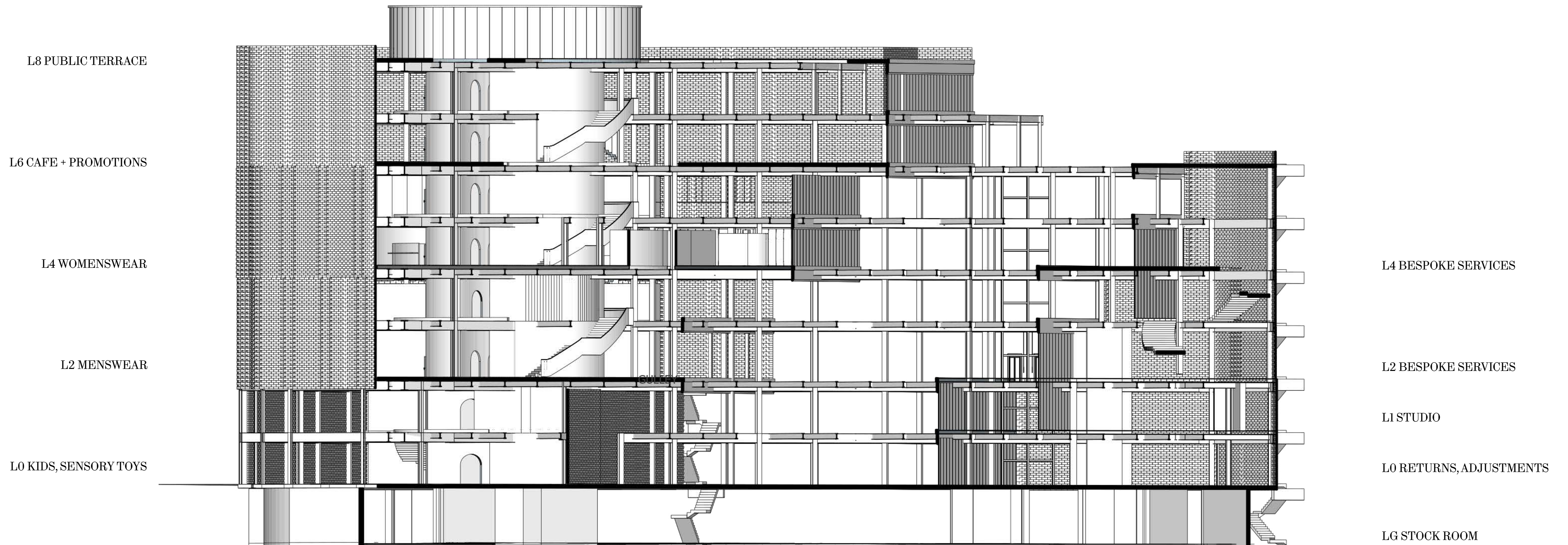
Glazing on Womanswear department Level 4, acoustically insulating the lower levels of building.

Interior noise filtering

To enhance comfort within the retail space, interior noise filtering plays a key role. Similarly to the glass bricks face this strategy is applied between each floor to prevent spreading of sound via open floors while using low iron thick glazing. Visitors can experience the depth and height of the space while making the sound disturbances at minimum.

Materials such as acoustic panels, textiles, and soft finishes help absorb sound and minimize echo, creating a calmer, more focused environment. This is especially important for neurodivergent users who may be sensitive to overstimulation.





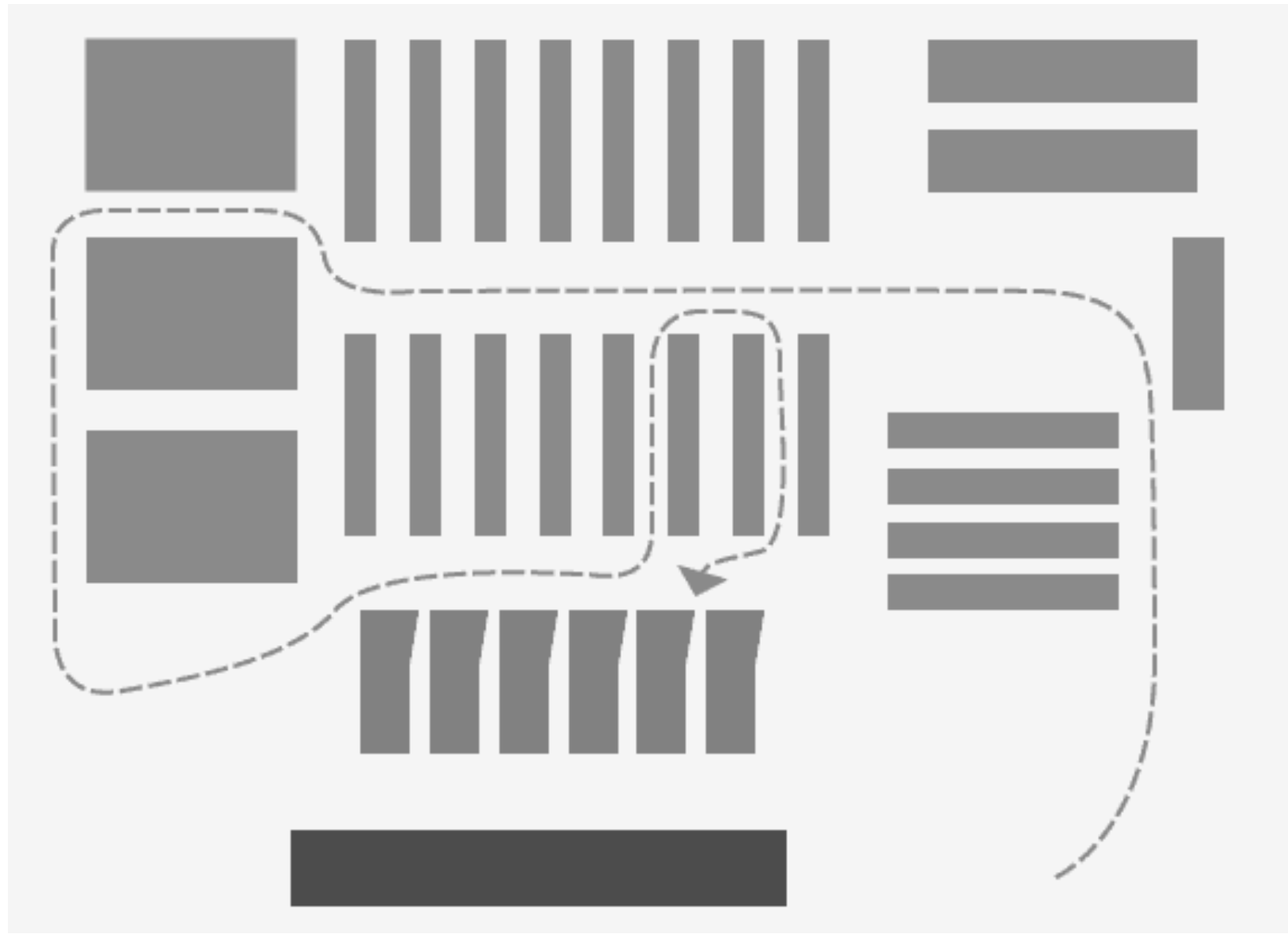
Programme

*Section Moodboard
for different departments*

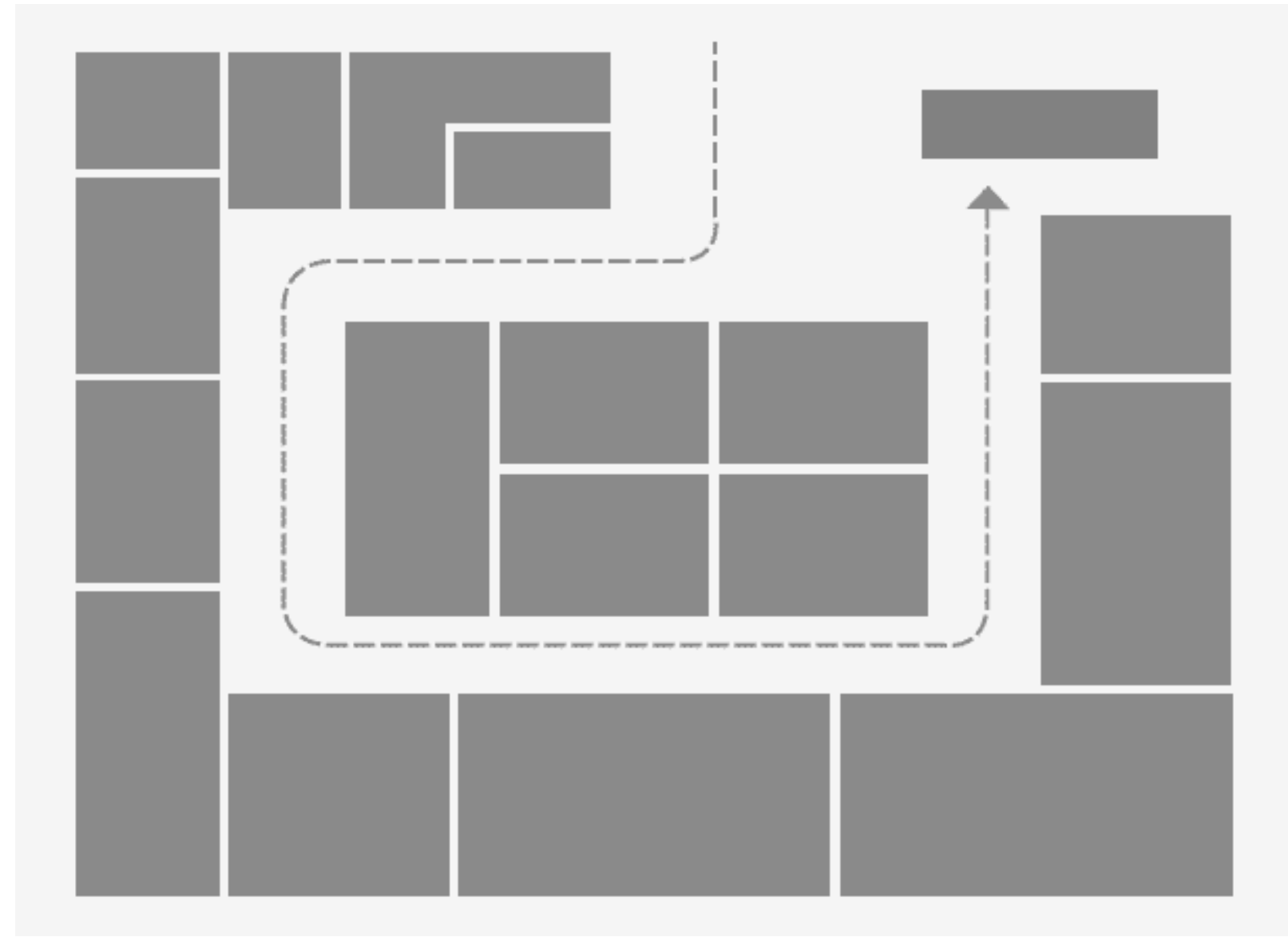


The color palette transitions from dark at the bottom to lighter tones toward the top, reflecting the experience of moving through tree canopies. Similar to a forest environment, the darker hues near the ground and lighter tones toward the crown of the trees evoke the natural light gradient found in woodland settings, thereby imitating a forest atmosphere.

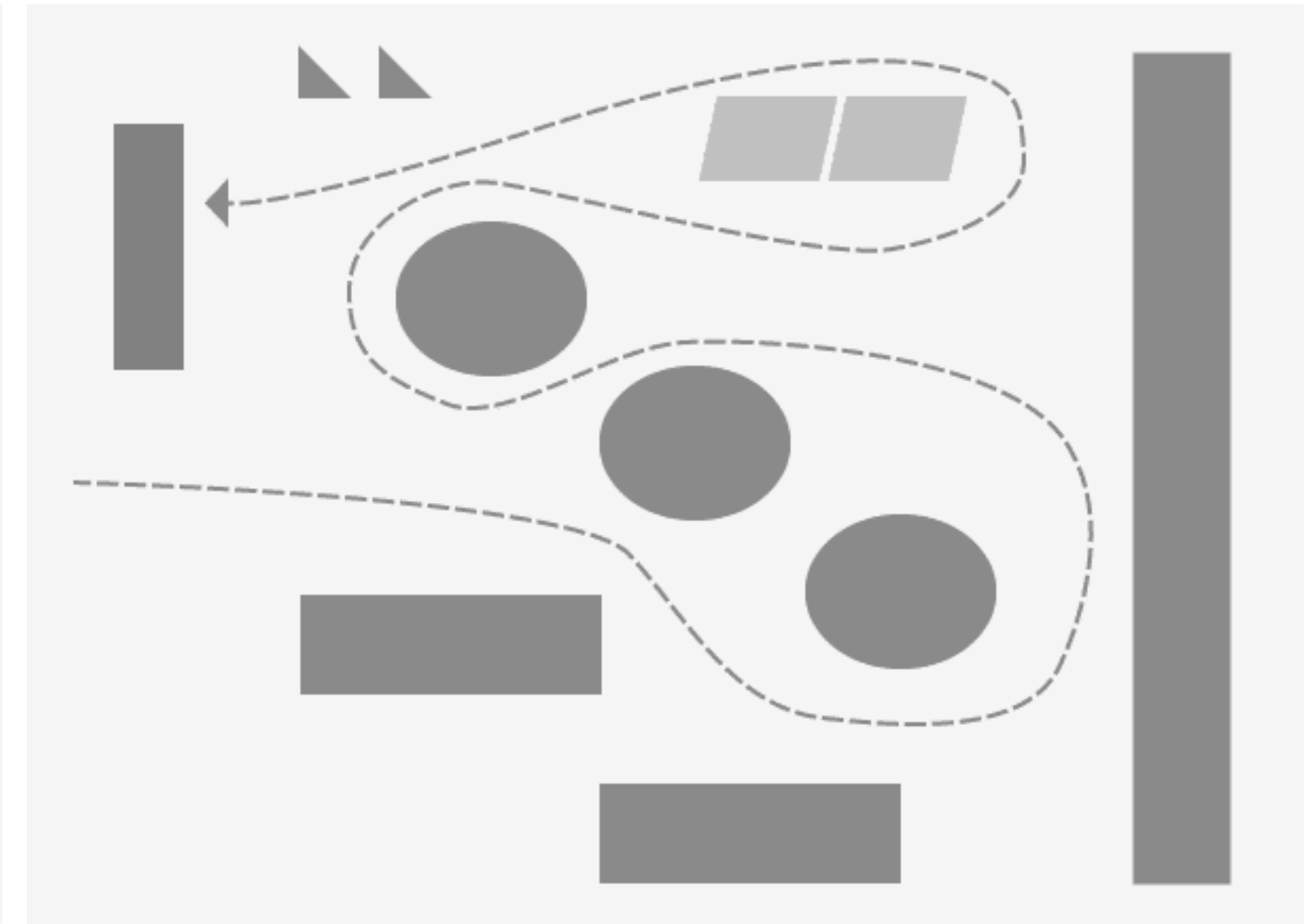




Aldi uses simple grid layout. Grid layouts are easy to navigate in, therefore preferred among neurodivergent people. It utilizes repetitive patterns through the use of parallel shelves. This layout works best in groceries, big box stores, drugstore, and convenience stores



Loop Layout is better choice for a more relaxed shopping experience. The loop is a simple but guided experience: Customers have a logical path to follow, and this clear sense of where to go next. This is opportunity for storytelling.



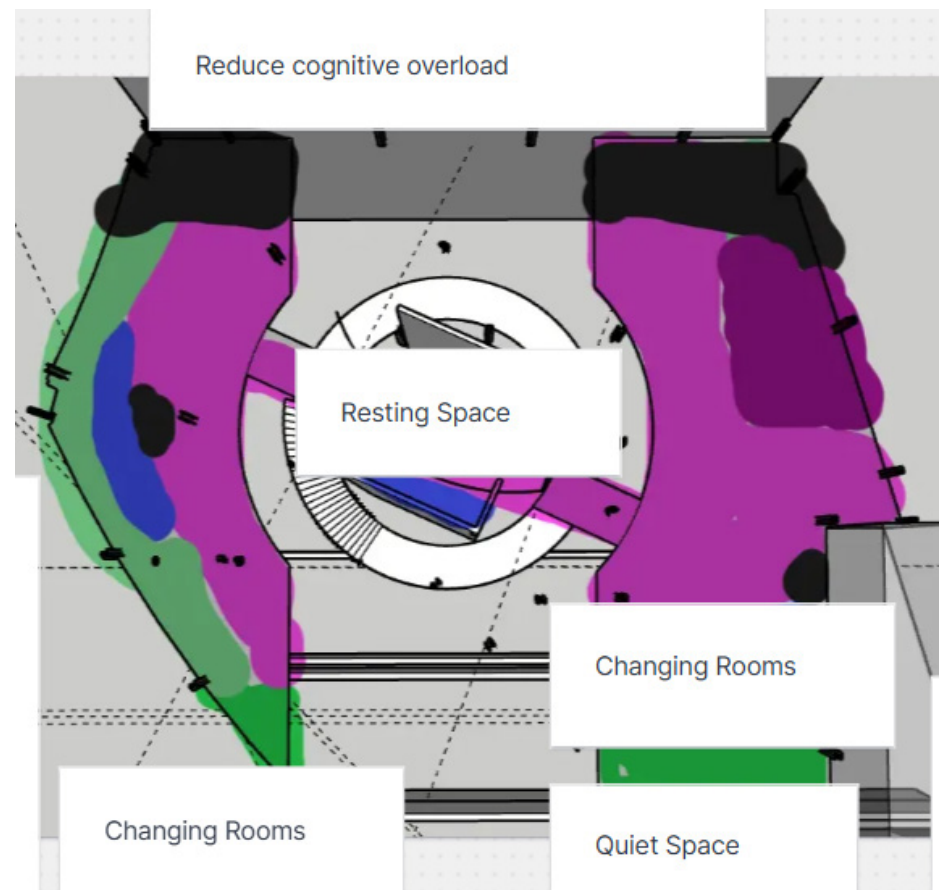
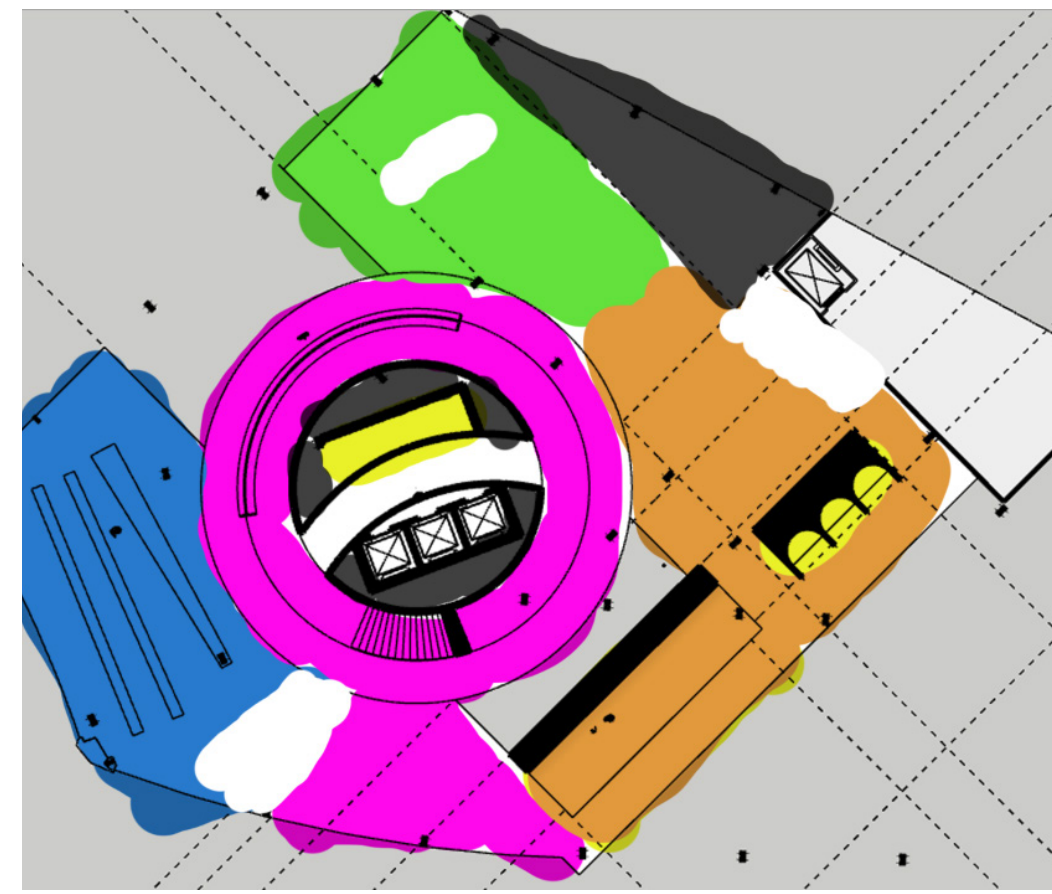
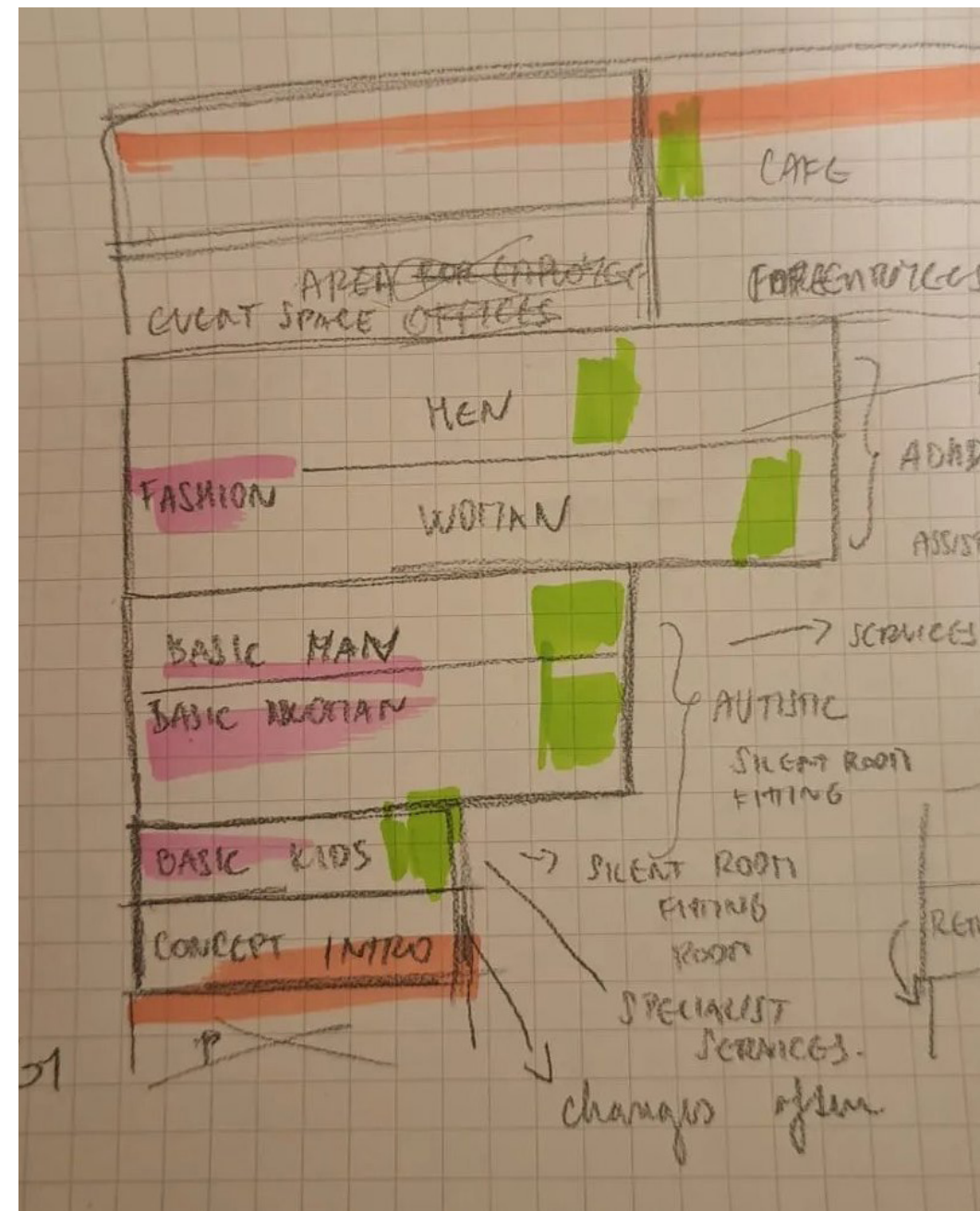
The free-flow is a favorite with upscale retailers. This floor plan is open, with lots of opportunities for creativity, switching things up, and creating special focus zones. Has no definite traffic flows, so layout works best for a store that has a smaller inventory to slow down browsing.

Retail Layout

The retail experience uses a mix of layout types to support different ways of moving through the store. The overall layout follows a loop, shaped by the circular core. This helps guide people naturally and creates a strong narrative through the space. Within each department, a grid layout is used for displays. This makes it easier to find products and supports clear, structured navigation.

In contrast, other parts of the store are designed for free-flow browsing. These areas encourage people to slow down, explore, and take their time. Pause points are placed throughout to let customers rest or reflect—giving them freedom and choice in how they experience the space.

***This approach also responds to neurodivergent users, many of whom find the forced, confusing layouts of large department stores like IKEA uncomfortable. The goal here is to create a space that feels open, flexible, and easy to navigate—without pressure or overload.*



I zoned the layout based on stimulation levels. Some areas, like entrances and cash desks, are high-stimulation. Others, like fitting rooms and quiet zones, offer low stimulation and calm.

This approach allows users to retreat or re-engage based on their emotional state—similar to how nature gives us both open fields and forest dens.

Conceptual Fashion - For self-expression, without abandoning comfort
 Bold, oversized silhouettes, layered sets, Comme des Garçons-inspired garments

Mono Capsule

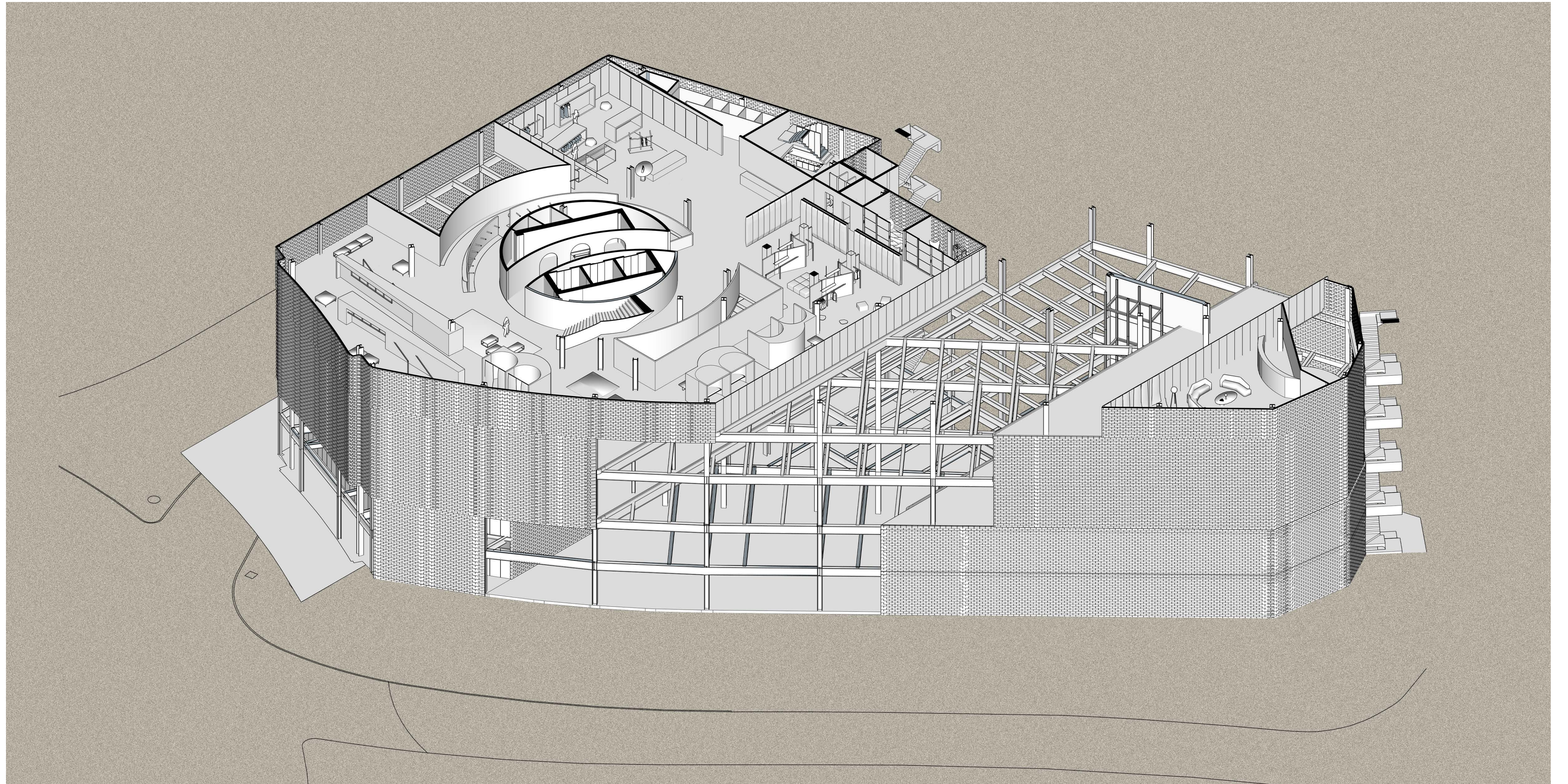
- Casual Look / Formal Look

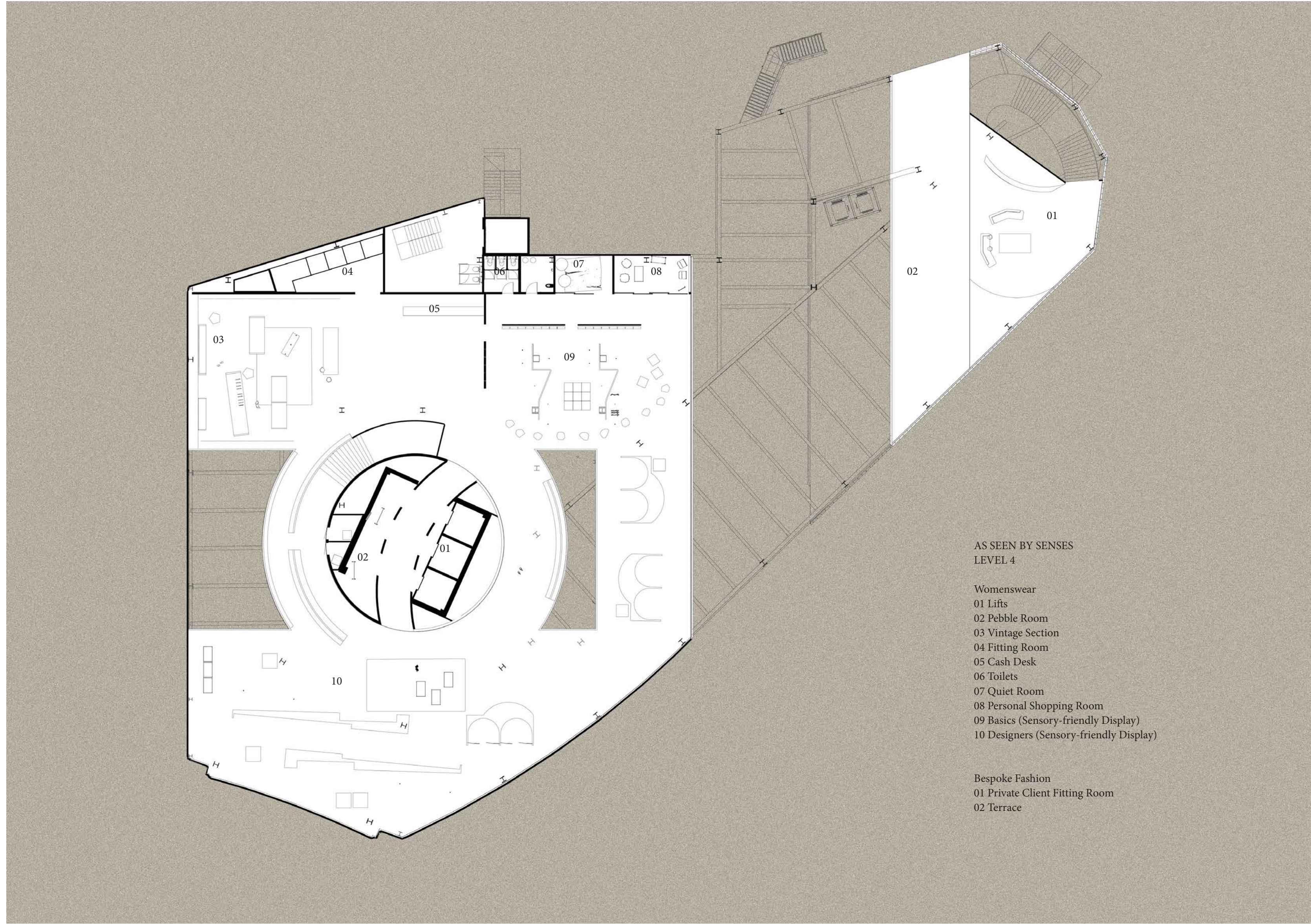
Can be Tailored or adjusted on the other side of the building

Vintage - Softened vintage (washed denim, upcycled cotton, modified seams/buttons)

Core Comfort - Go-to essentials for daily sensory-friendly wear
 Tagless tees, soft-knit tops, trousers, skirts, dresses, seamless underwear, outerwear, soft-weight jackets, oversized layers

Womenswear Department Development & Zoning





AS SEEN BY SENSES
LEVEL 4

- Womenswear
- 01 Lifts
- 02 Pebble Room
- 03 Vintage Section
- 04 Fitting Room
- 05 Cash Desk
- 06 Toilets
- 07 Quiet Room
- 08 Personal Shopping Room
- 09 Basics (Sensory-friendly Display)
- 10 Designers (Sensory-friendly Display)

- Bespoke Fashion
- 01 Private Client Fitting Room
- 02 Terrace

