

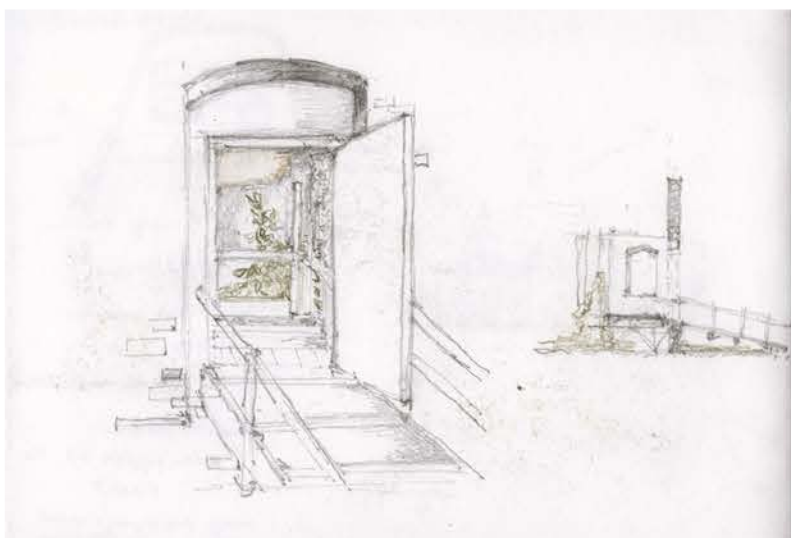
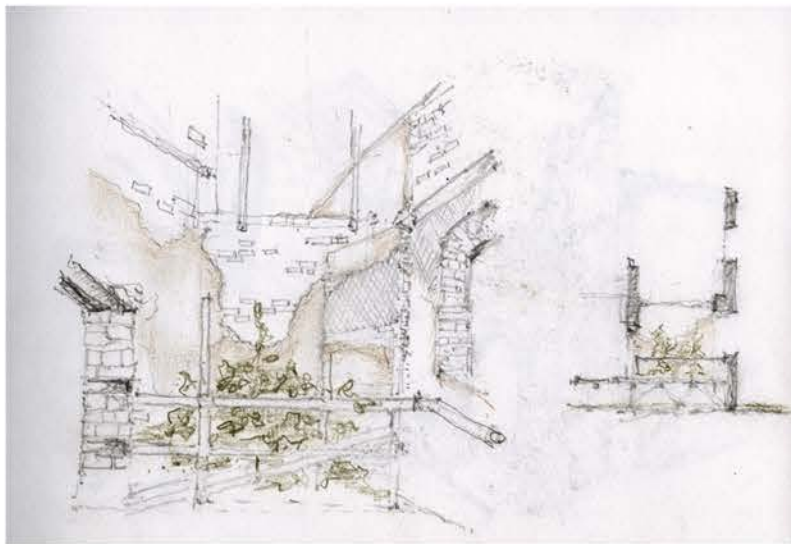
## WRITER'S RETREAT ON THE SEA

PEIZHENG ZOU





SITE PHOTO

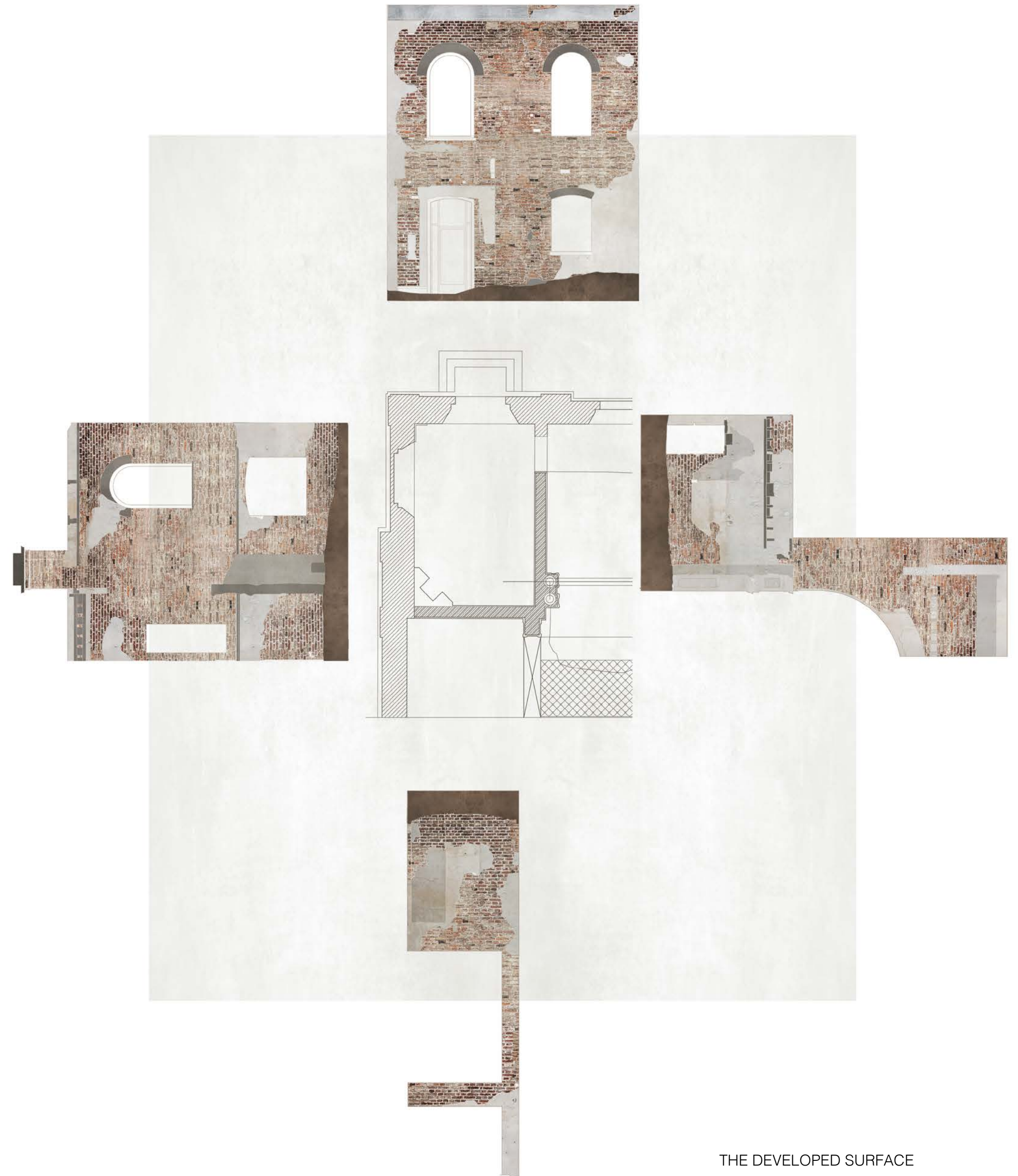


SKETCHES

## THE RESEARCH OF THE CORNER

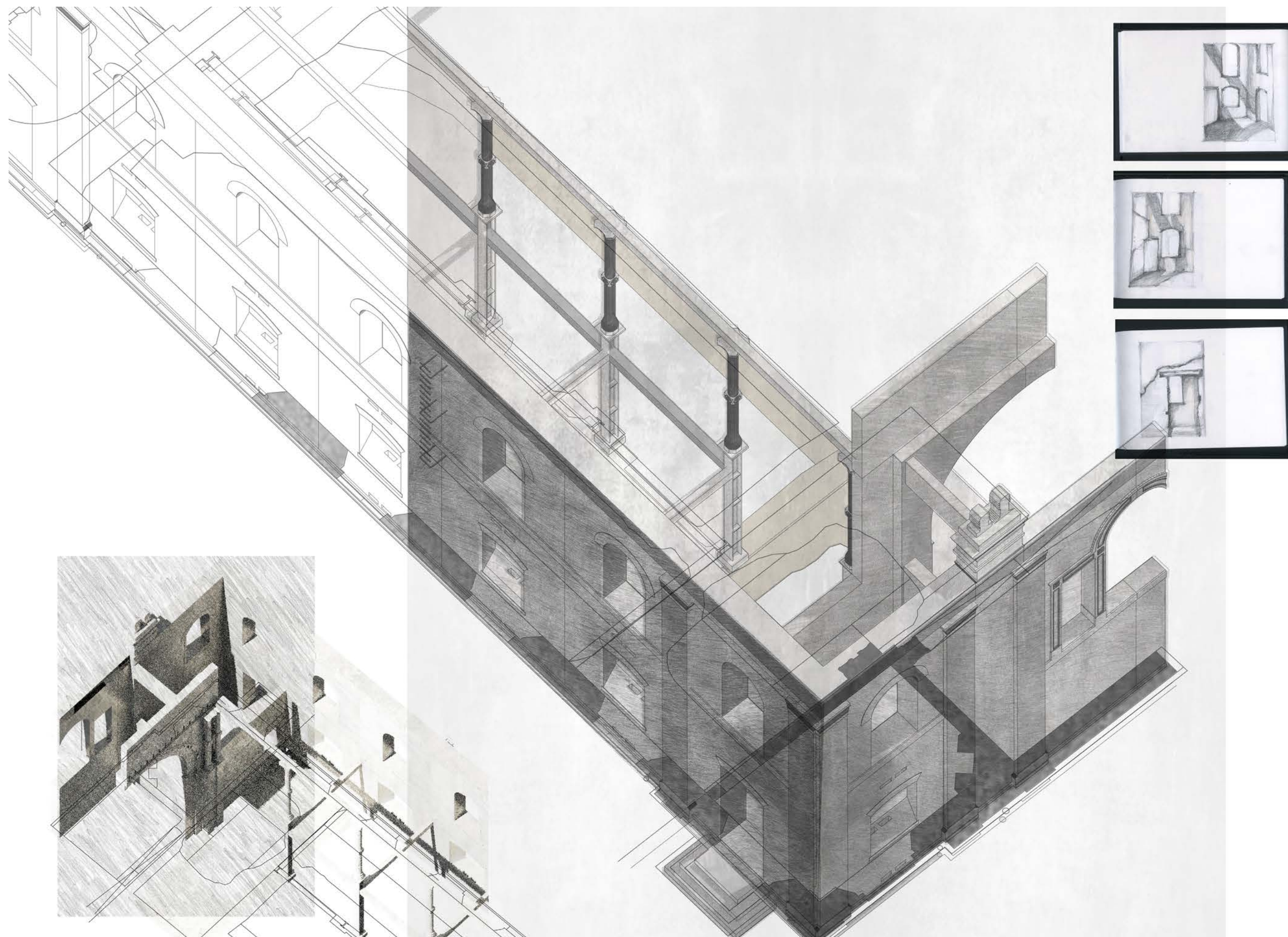
The research of semester one focused on the north-western corner of the church, which plays the function as vestry in the past.

Corner, a beautiful word which reminds people of a tiny dark but safe place. it can be a fireplace in the winter, or a desk facing to street under a caliginous lamp. It is an integration of various architectural element. It is a dynamic system extending from the horizontal and vertical.



THE DEVELOPED SURFACE





### corner (n.)

late 13c., "place where streets or walls meet;" early 14c., "intersection of any two converging lines or surfaces; an angle,"



DRAWING OF THE CORNER

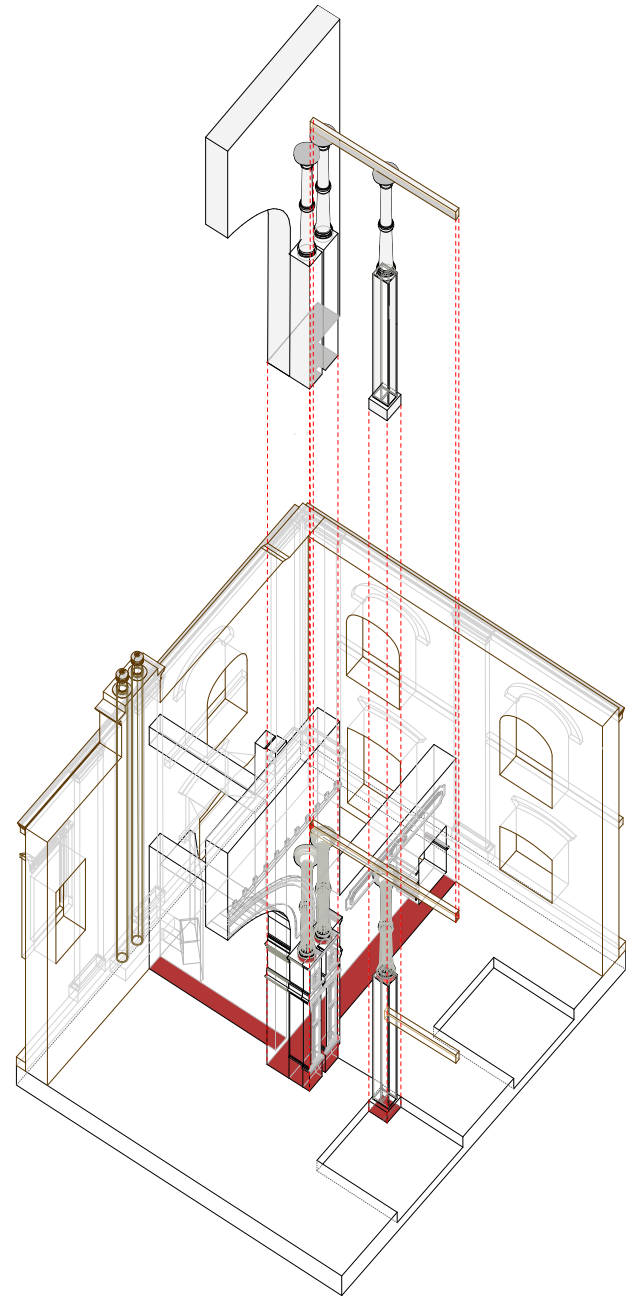
### TOWARDS TO A NEW CORNERISM

Corner is the being of the chamber. - < the poetic of space >

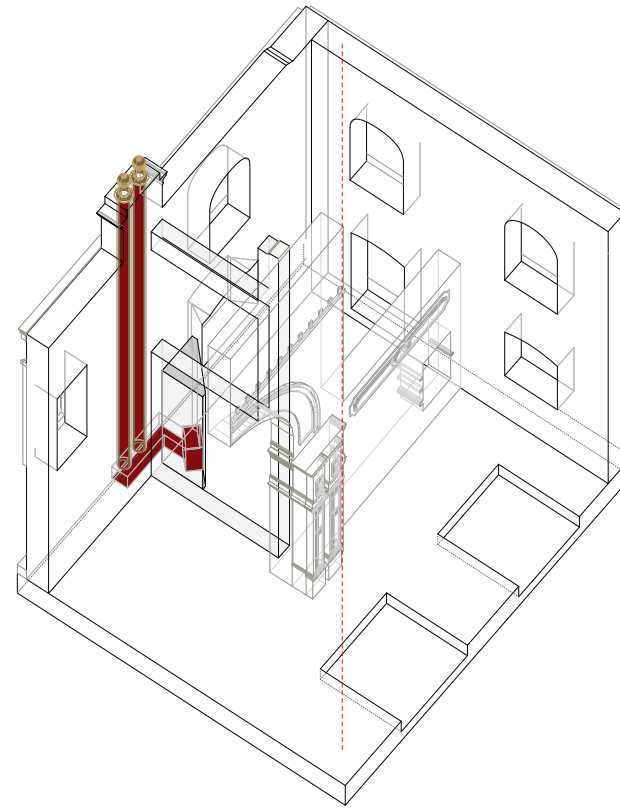
A corner defines the convergence of non-parallel forms. Within every corner there are two distinct and often opposing conditions. A corner's interior tends to unify space, while a corner's exterior can divide space along its edge.



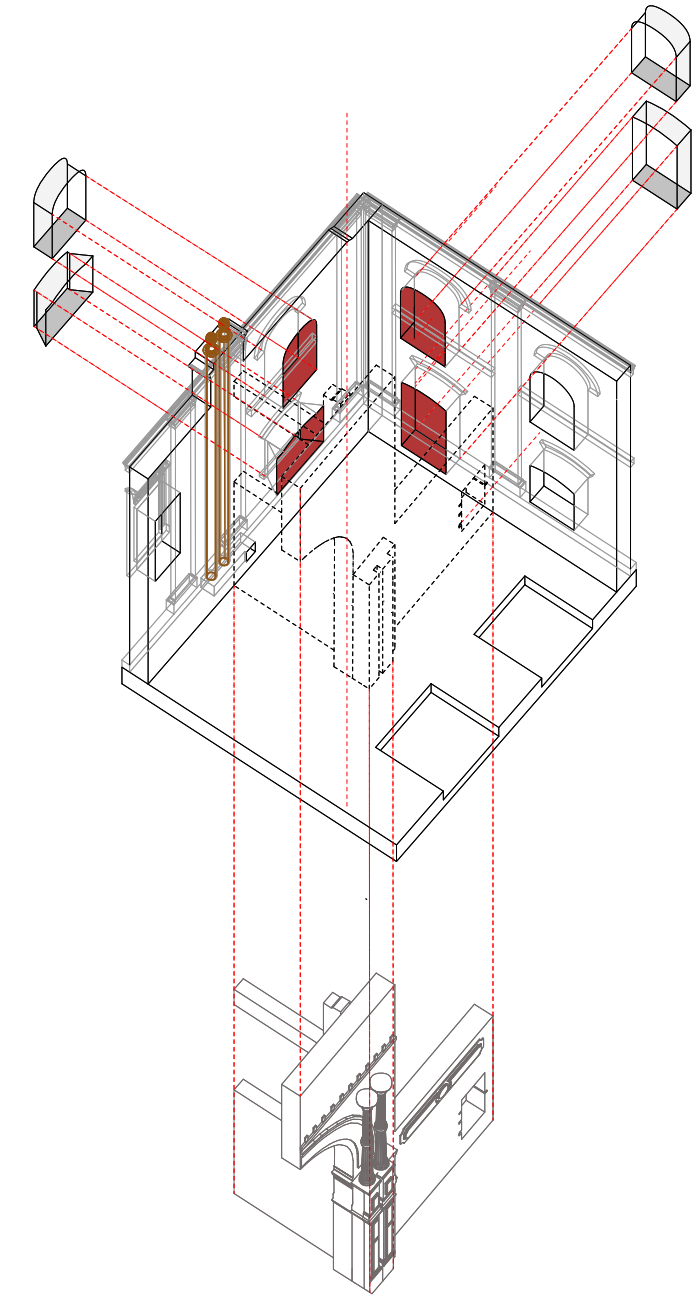




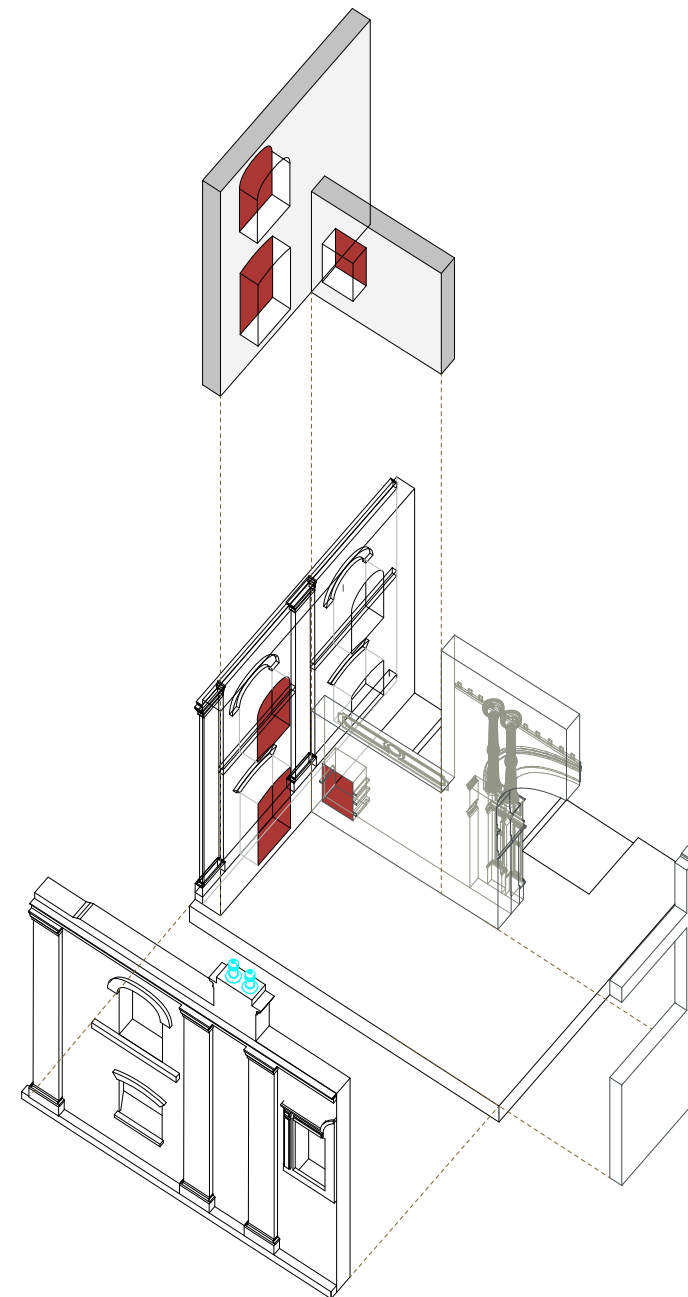
COLUMNS



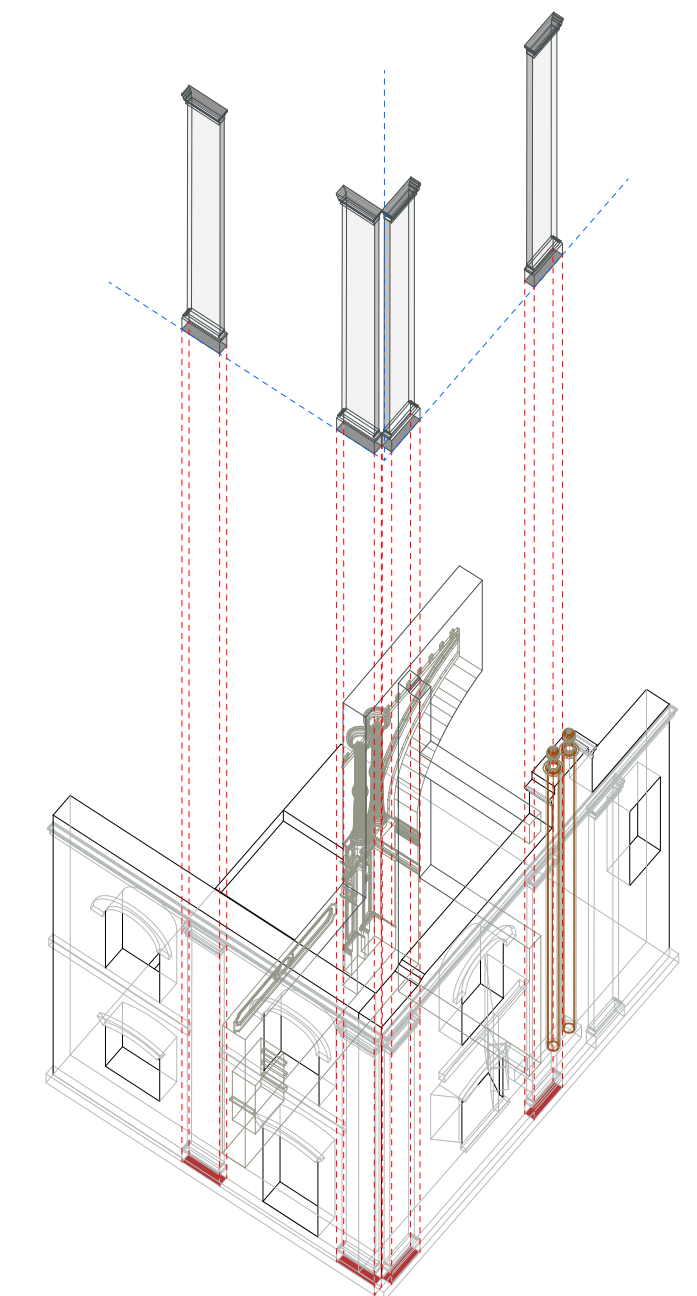
EXTRUSION



OPENINGS



REVERSE



PILASTER

## FIVE ELEMENTS OF CORNER

I summarized five elements of the corner, to draw, to analysis how these elements build up the 'corner'. I regard these five elements as some primary units, which can be deconstructed and recombined.

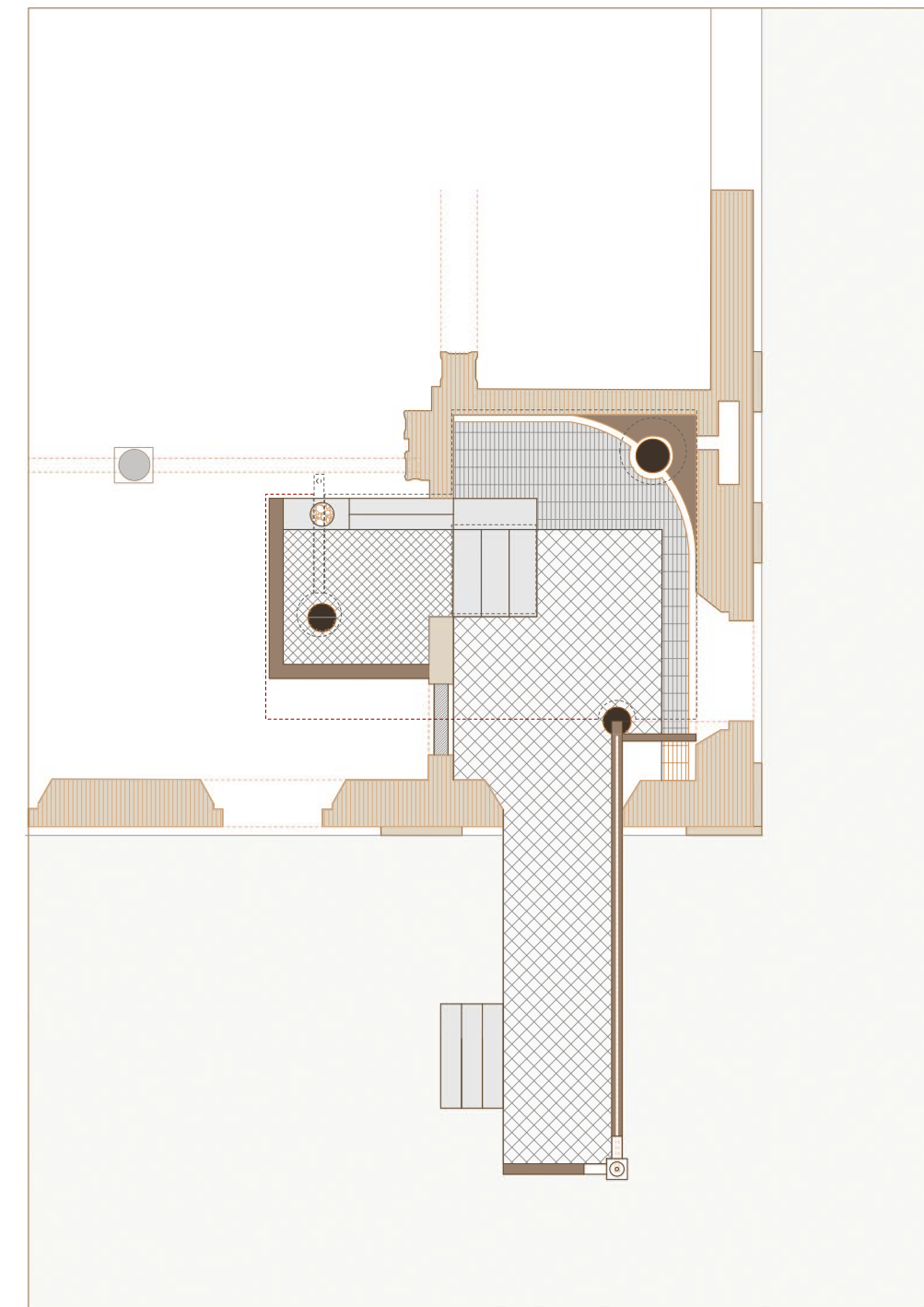




## DECONSTRUCTION

Based on the five elements of corner, I deconstructed them and recombine into twenty-five new model of a hybrid corner. These models helps to me explore a new spatial experience and also become materials to be transformed in the further design project.





PLAN

## THE ARTIFACT

The artifact is the first attempt to apply my research into the design stage. I try to design a new threshold for the church, whose component was chosen from the twenty five models. Although, there is not a specific theme, I could imagine there is infinite possibilities about stories could happen within this space. The beauty of the corner much links to people's stories behind that.



WESTERN SIDE



NORTHEN SIDE





A CORNER AT WIP SHOW

## WIP - FROM THE CORNER TO RETREAT

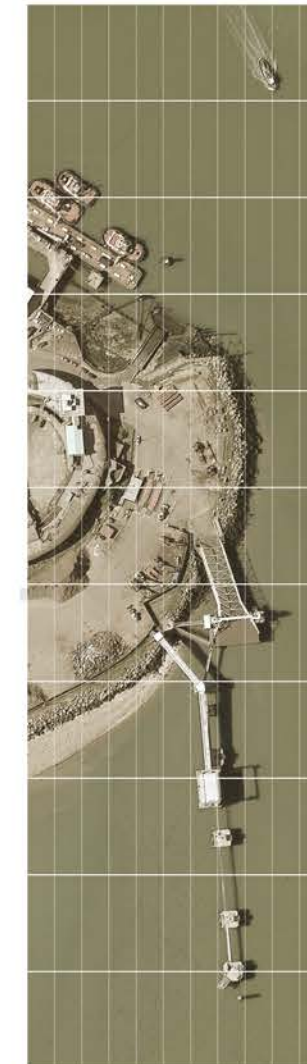
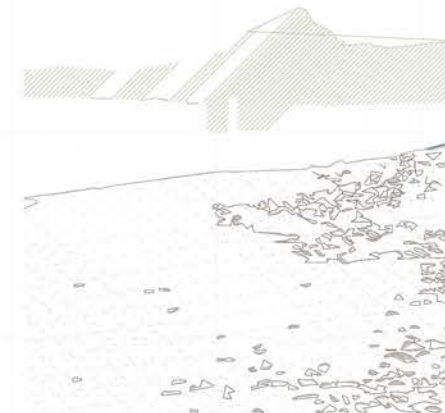
When the new semester starts, I devoted to thinking about what the corner could inspire me. The emotional resonance between architecture and people might be emphasised. Corner, refers to a quite, safe, and private space to be concentrated, or lost.



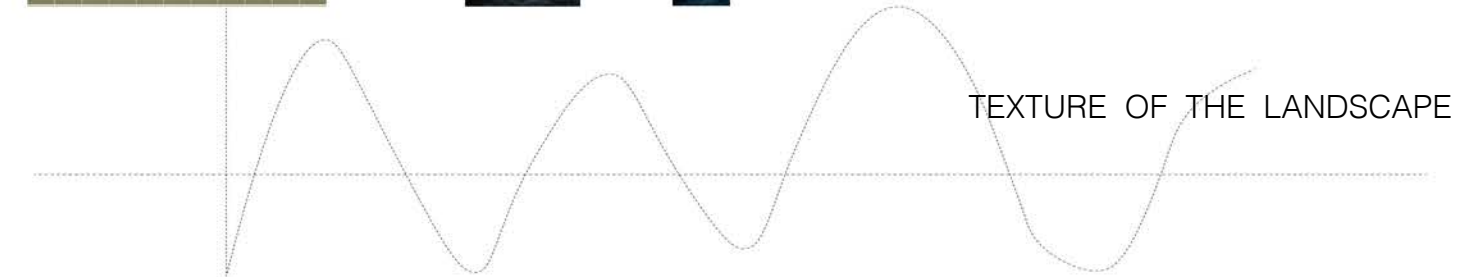




ISLE OF SHEPPEY MAP



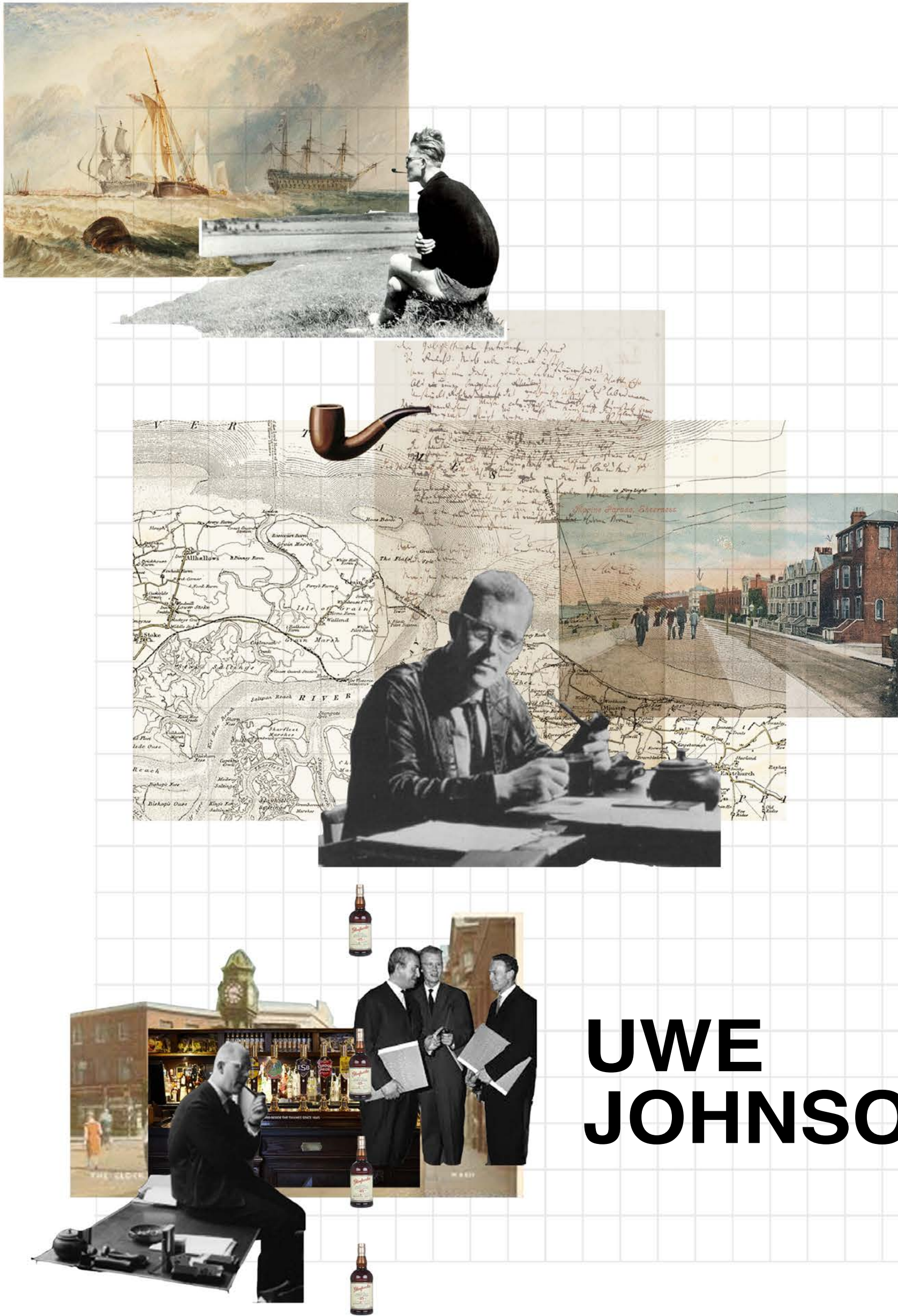
TEXTURE OF THE LANDSCAPE



## NATURE LANDSCAPING AS MATERIAL PALLET

Isle of Sheppey, is located at the mouth of the River Thames in Swale borough, administrative and historic county of Kent, England. Due to the special geographical location, the most distinguished landscape feature is the large area of wetland . Therefore, to response the nature is one of the tasks in this project.





Johnson's apartment facing to the sea

## A writer's Retreat - inspired by Uwe Johnson

Uwe Johnson is a famous East German Writer with the popular publication <Anniversaries>. When he traveled after Berlin and New York, he decided to move to Sheerness, this unknown town and he spent his rest life here. He loved sea, he mentioned that this town reminded him of his hometown. His life here is described as he tried to disappear from the public and devoted himself into british country life.

The story of Uwe Johnson plays a symnolic role to the town. That is the main reason of transferring the dock yard church into a writer's retreat.



MARITIME STORY OF THE DOCK YARD

The origins and the development of dock yard has a strong relation with the British Royal Navy in the history. The dock yard was originally built in the 1660s to protect from Dutch attack. And in the eighteenth century, after hundred-years continous construction, it became one of the significant dock yard in the England. And majority of the buildings remained until today.



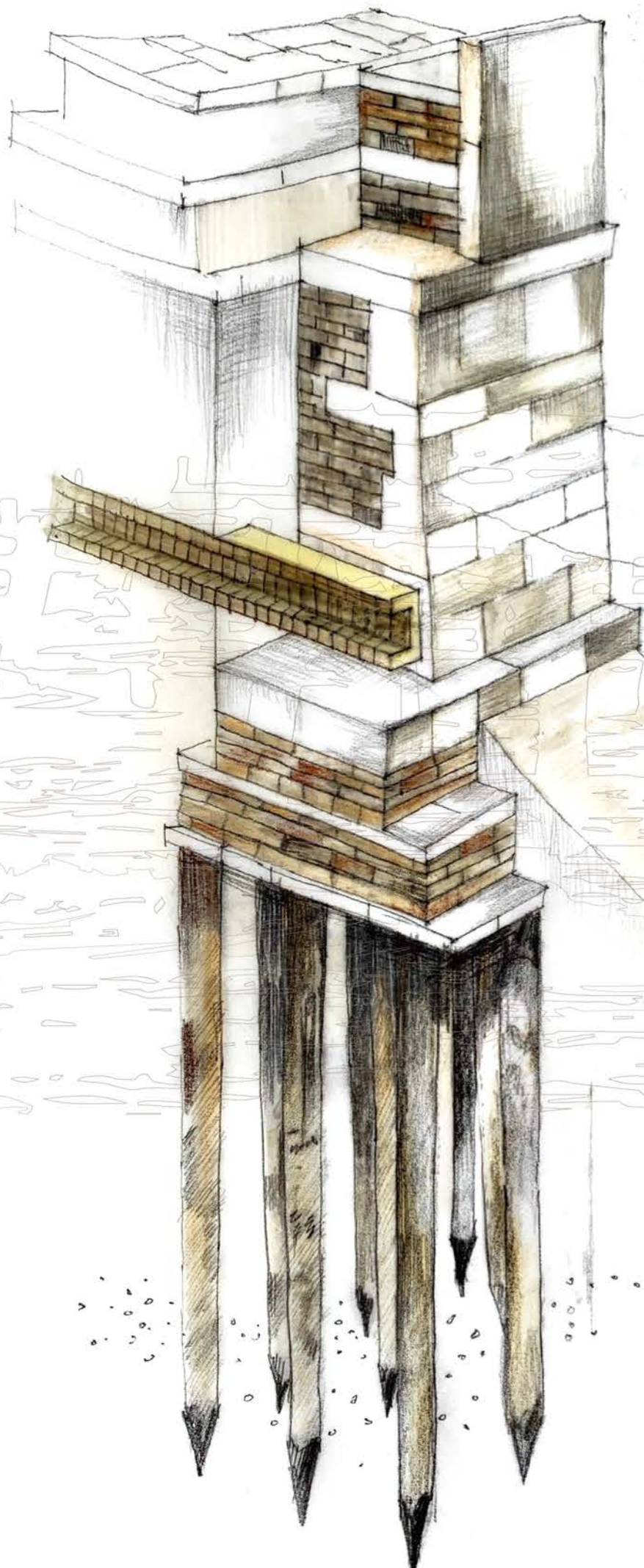
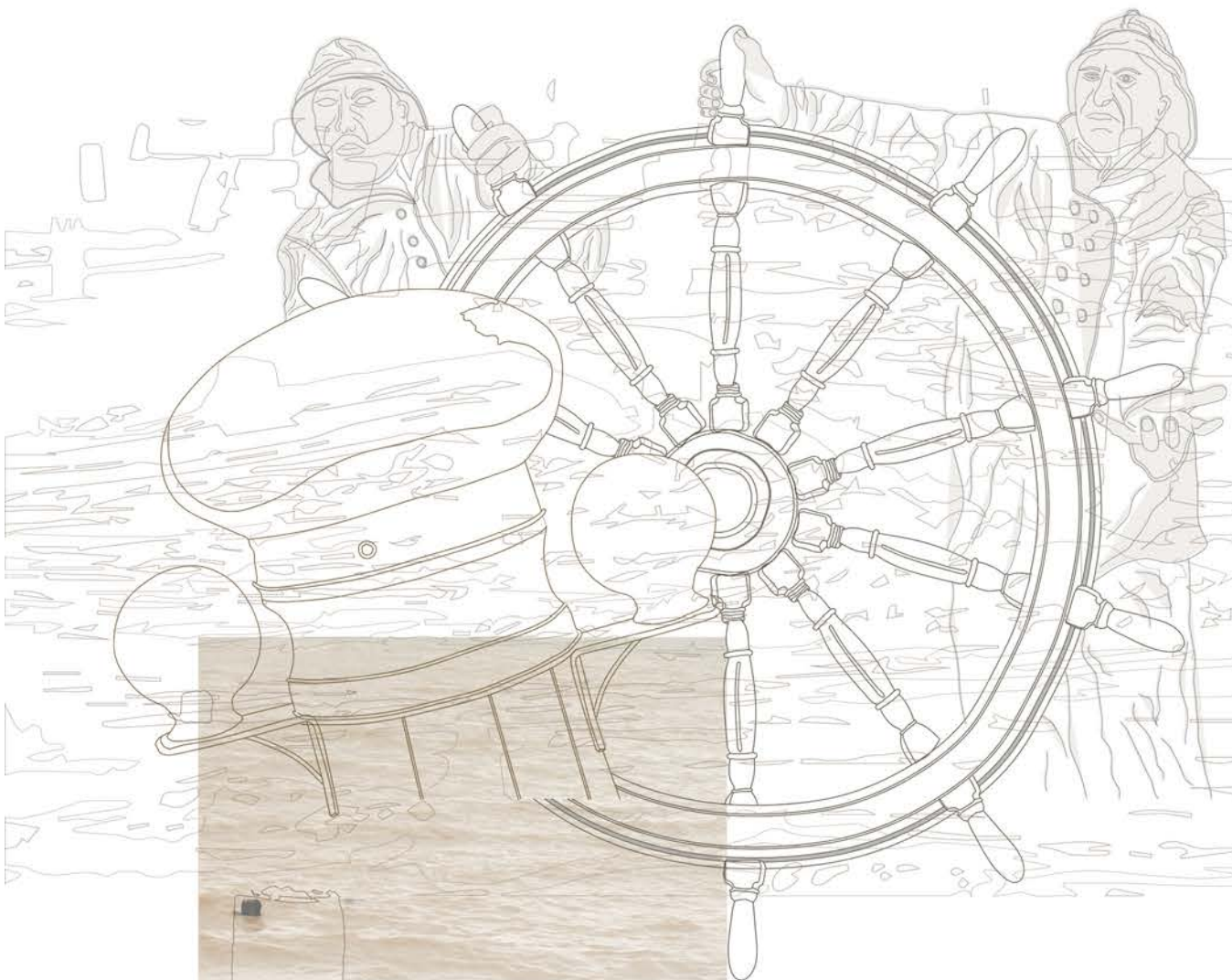
16th Century



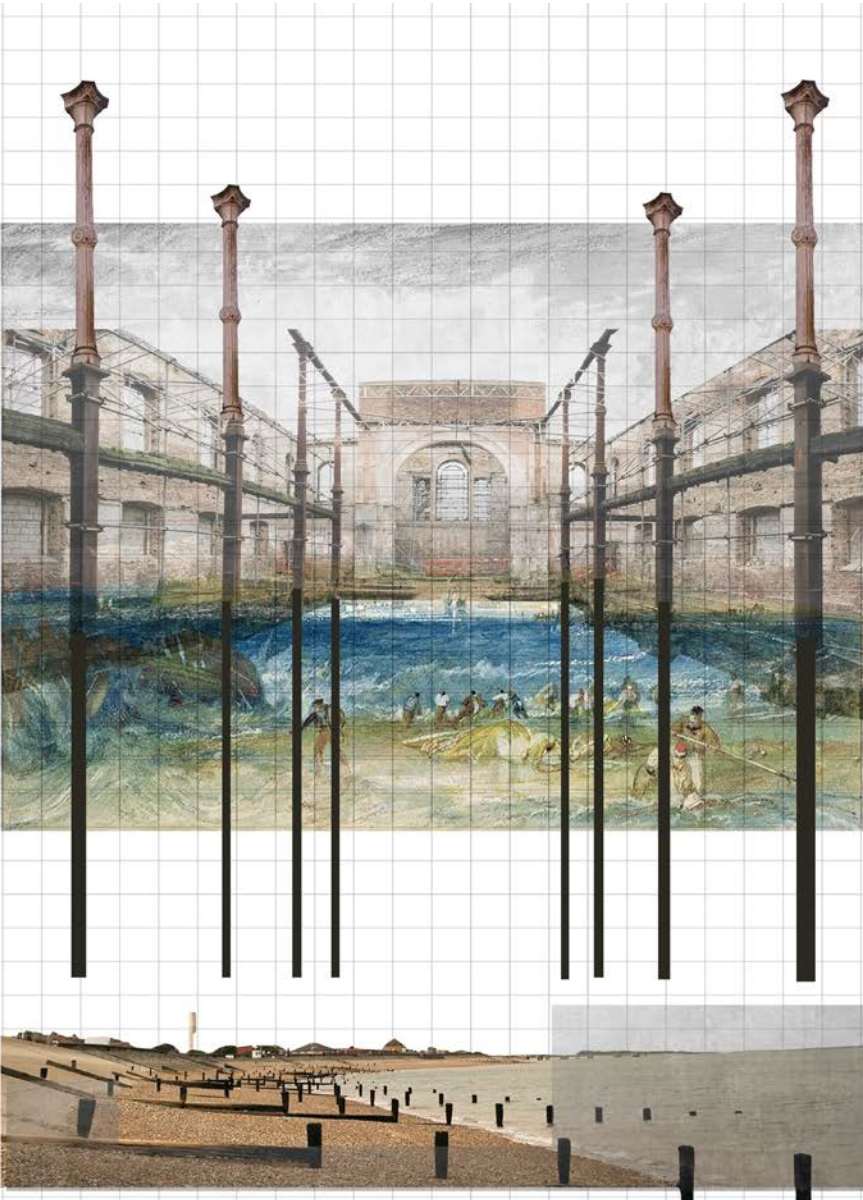
18th Century



20th Century



PILES CONSTRUCTION



concept drawing

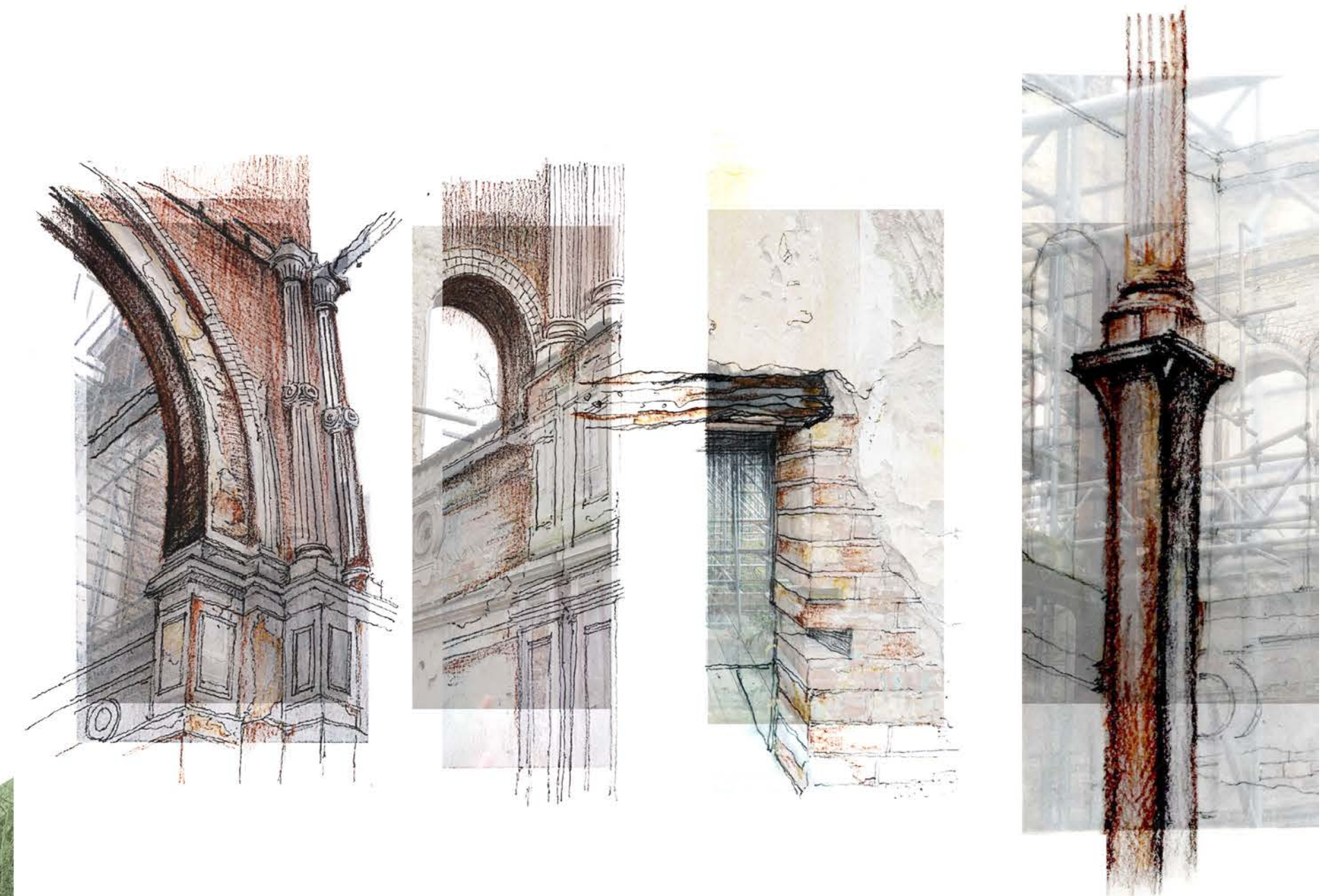


dock yard model

The town on the piles

Similar as the construction of Venice, the town is supported by millions of wood piles deeply inserted into the ground. The piles element is emphasised in the further design.





sketches and montage - old and new

## SITE ANALYSIS:

This multi-media drawing aims to show the journey of approaching to the church. The most interesting part is that I read my journey as the series of different of layers, from the vegetation to the brick, from the natural to the human kind. The layers make scenes, and the scenes become the sequence of the experience.





concept drawing

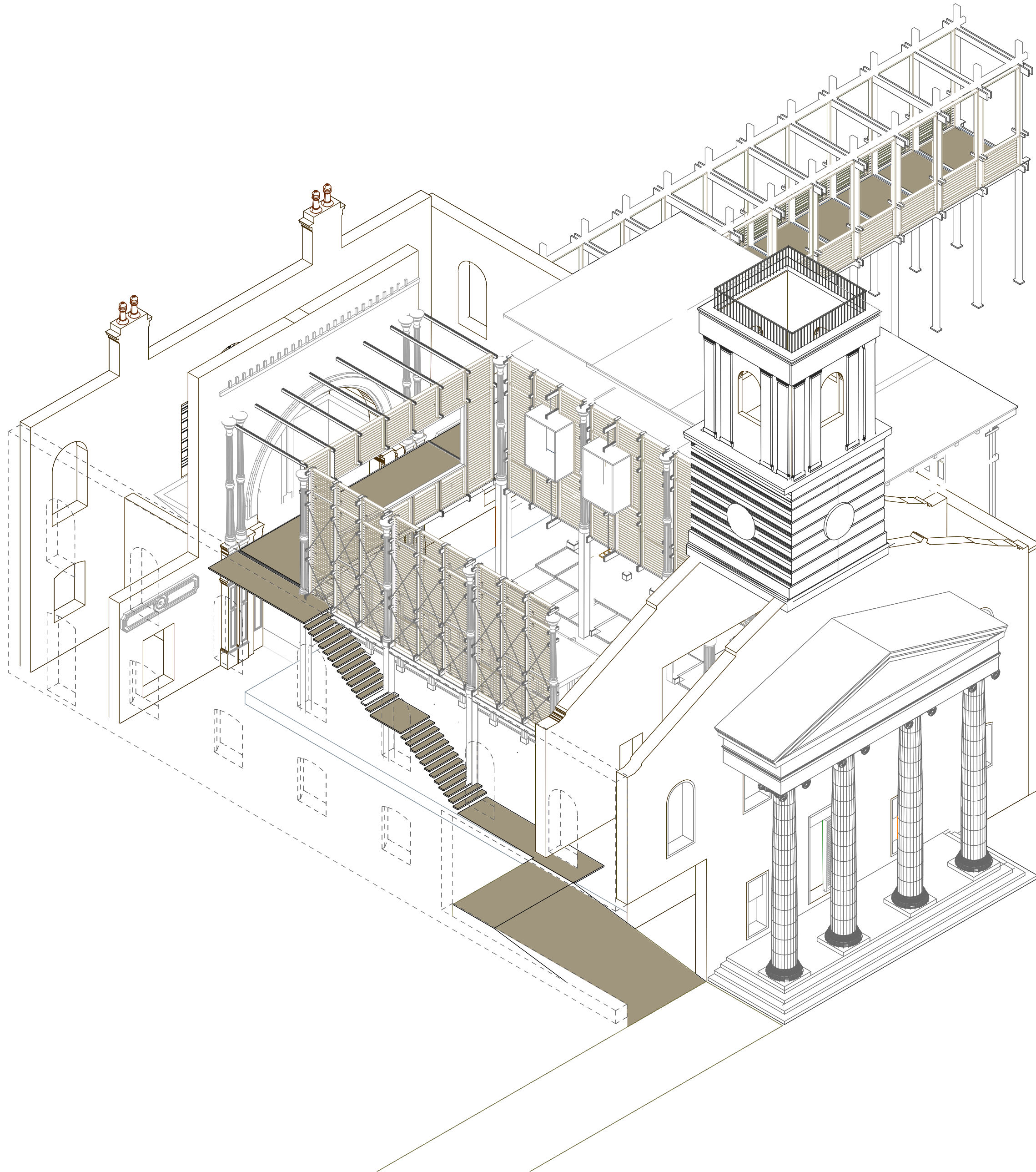


## DESIGN STRATEGY

This project uses the church to house the archive, placing it at the centre of its operations, but bringing to life the collection through connecting it with a small public library, enticing the residents of the island to the church, and a residential retreat for four writers. The retreat provides a sheltered space, where contemplation, reflection and silence will nurture future literary figures.

There would be three challenges but also the tasks to be solved- 1. the attitude about the existing building ?( to make the old building 'disappear') 2. how to deal with the relationship between public and private ? (the courtyard and the new boundary) 3. how to design a proper living and writing space for writers?





AXOMETRIC DRAWING



model

## A CONTINUOUS JOURNEY

The highlight of this project is the walkway connecting the library, archive and writers' apartments, providing the promenade for the visitors. It starts the corner of the church, which connected the terrace house, and it ended as a tristle facing to the sea.

Meanwhile, a view platform is also provided for visitors, which is above the archive space. This platform as the end stop within the church, it has emphasised two part of the building. One is when facing to courtyard, the tower with trees will suddenly appear. Another is when turning back, visitors can have a chance to get closed to the original delicate arch.

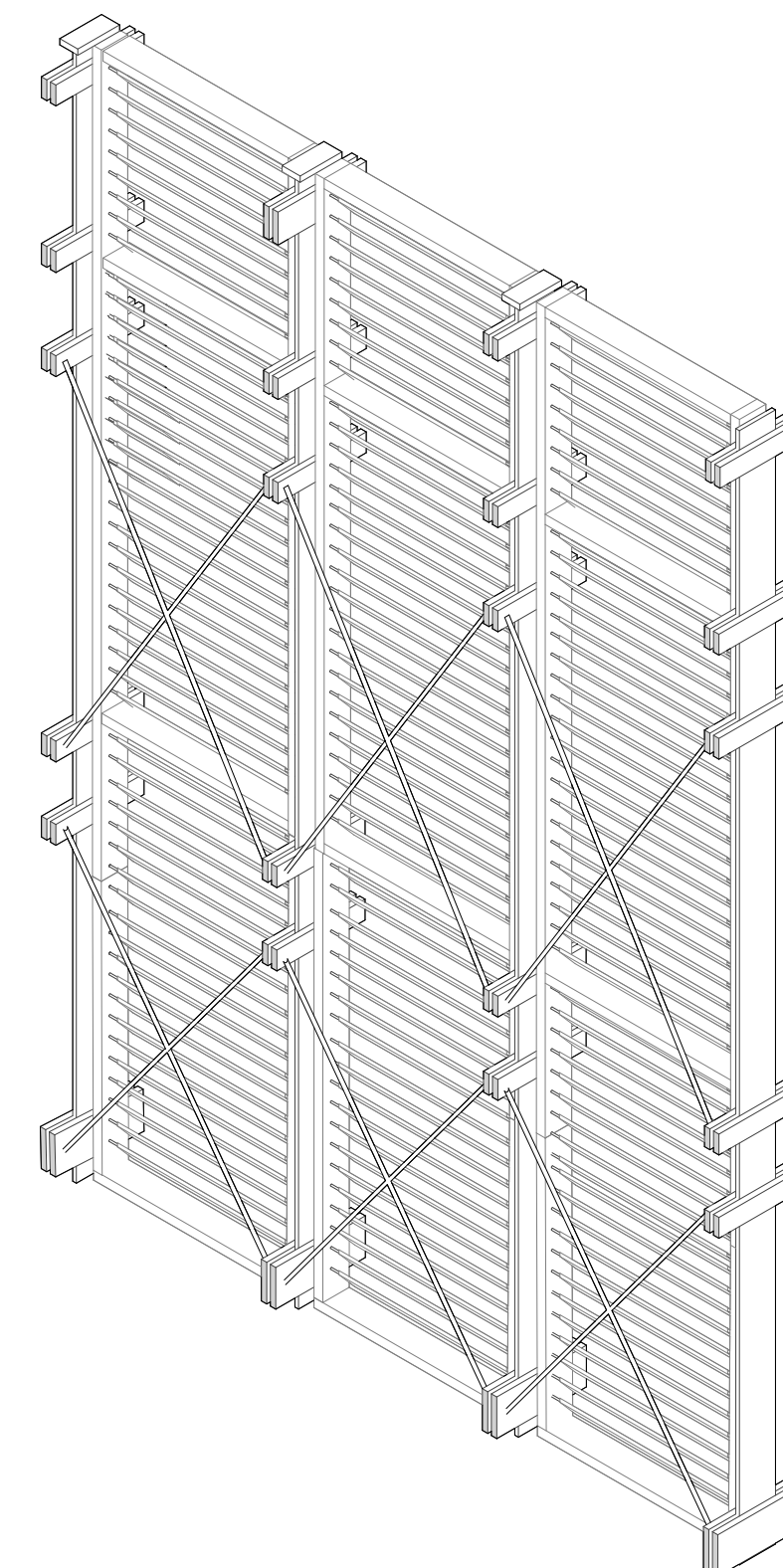




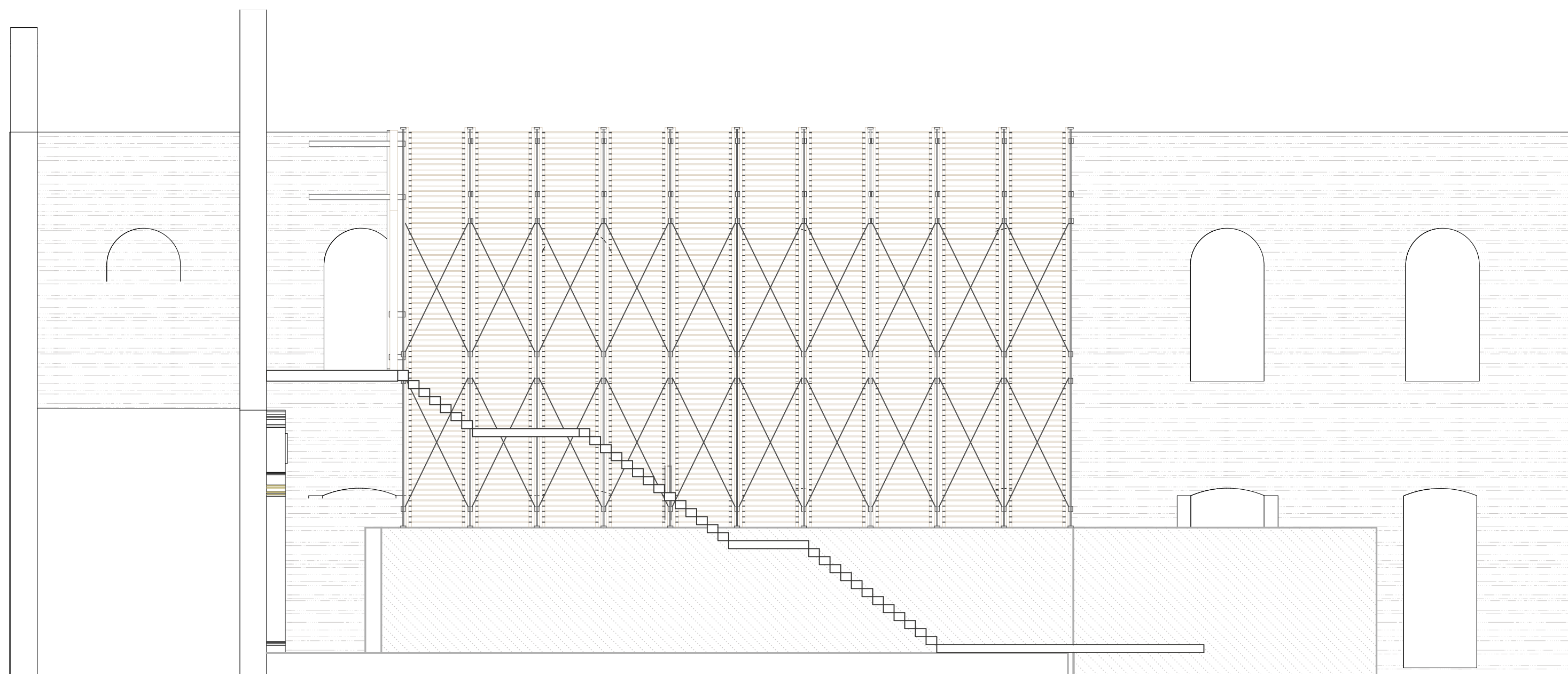
developed model



developed model



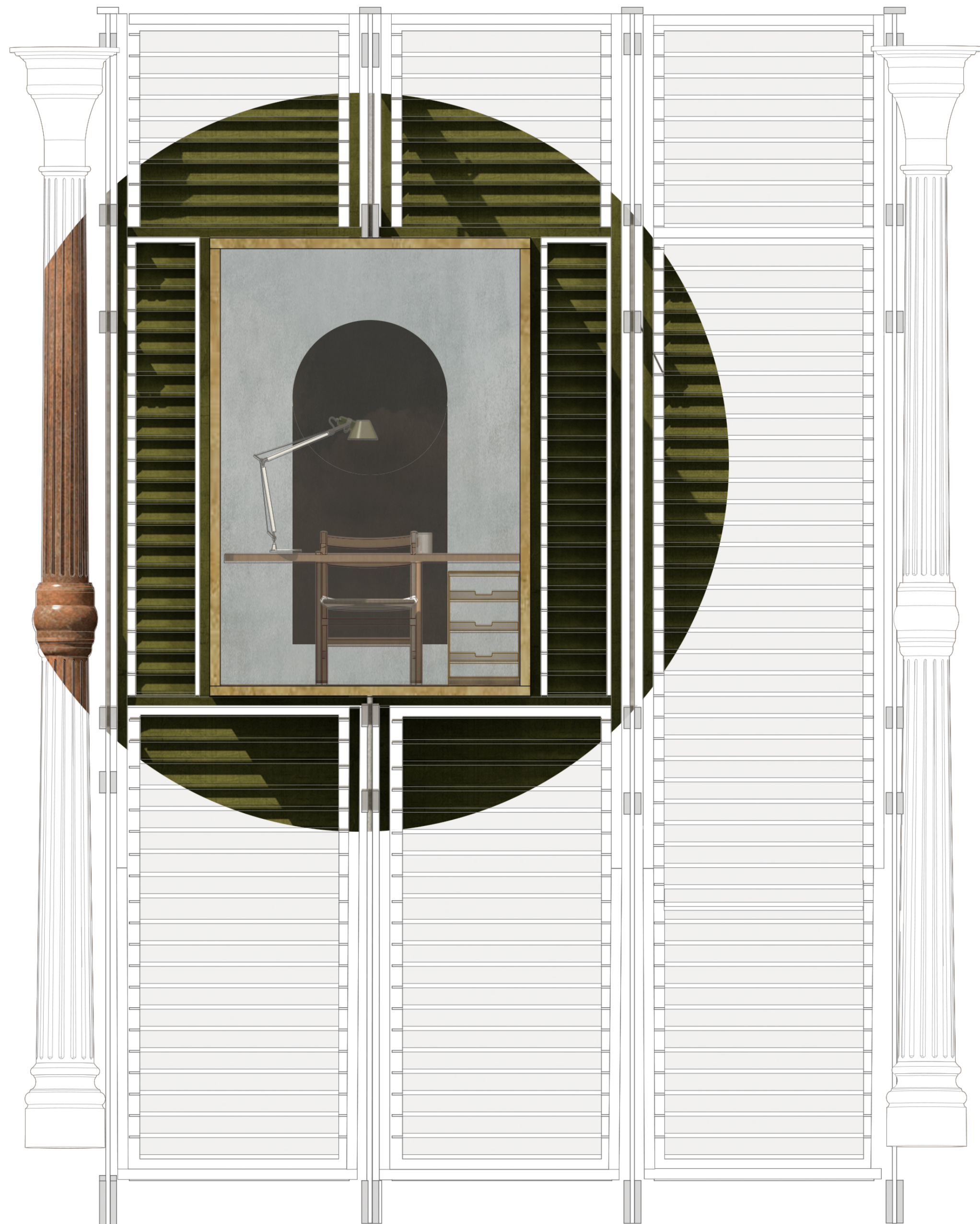
struction of the louvre system



## THE ADJUSTABLE LOUVRE SYSTEM

To response the concept of making architecture disap pering, a timber louvre system is applied as new layer between the old building, and new built. It contributes to create a special experince between modern and his-tory, nature and architecture, it is the strength of time. Moreover, this louvre winodw can be adjusted for spec-ific lighting mode.



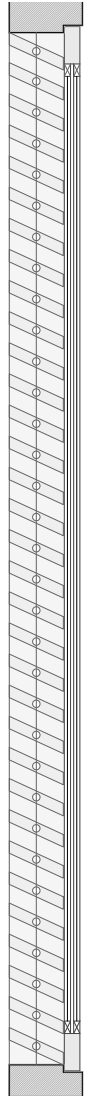


ELEVATION DRAWING



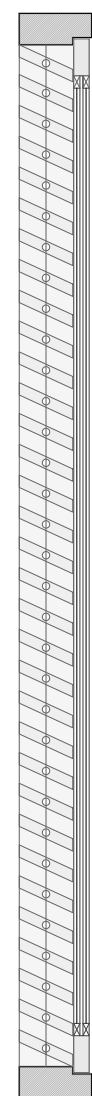
'BRIGHT MODE'

SECTION DETAIL

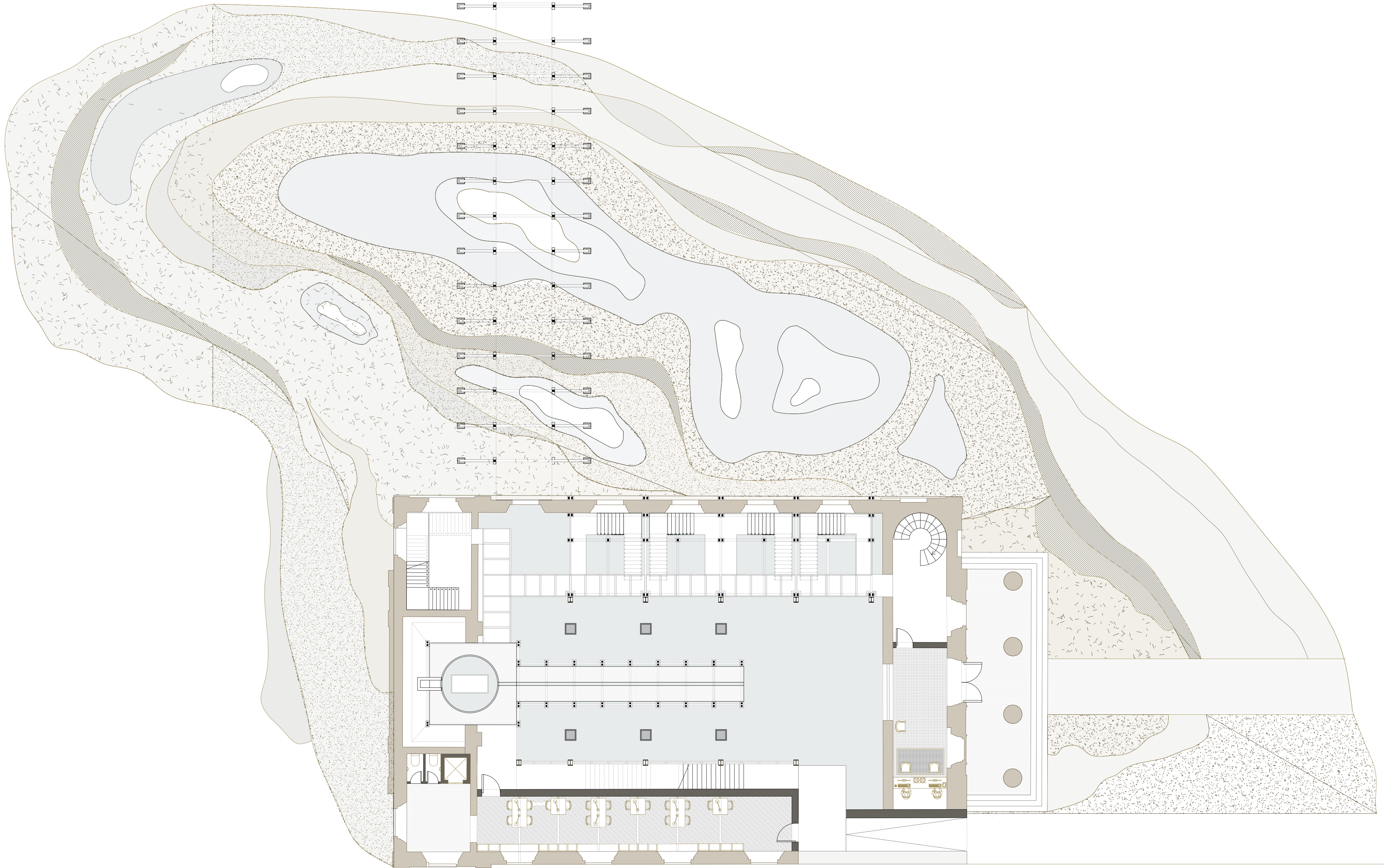


'DARK MODE'

SECTION DETAIL

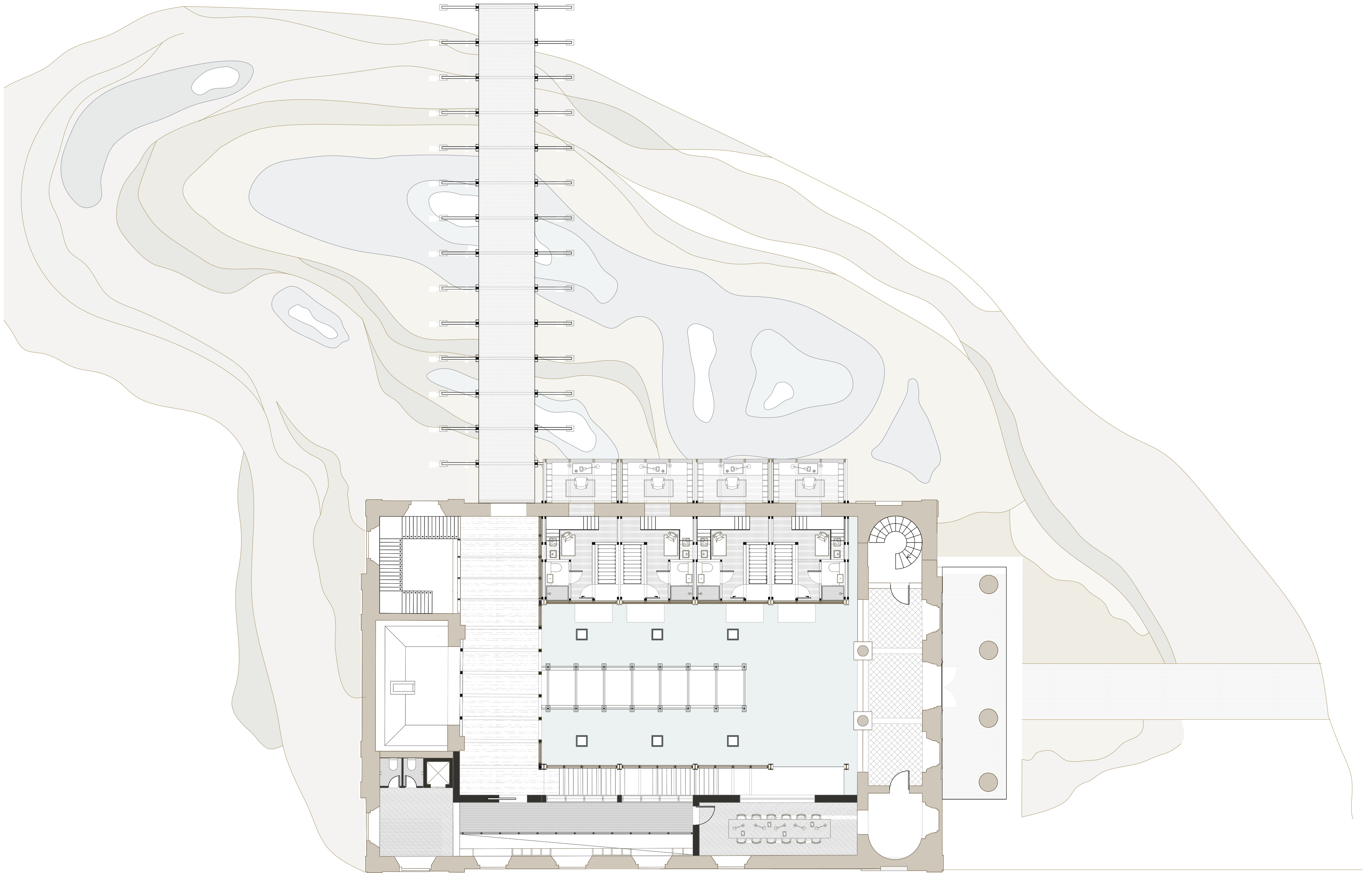






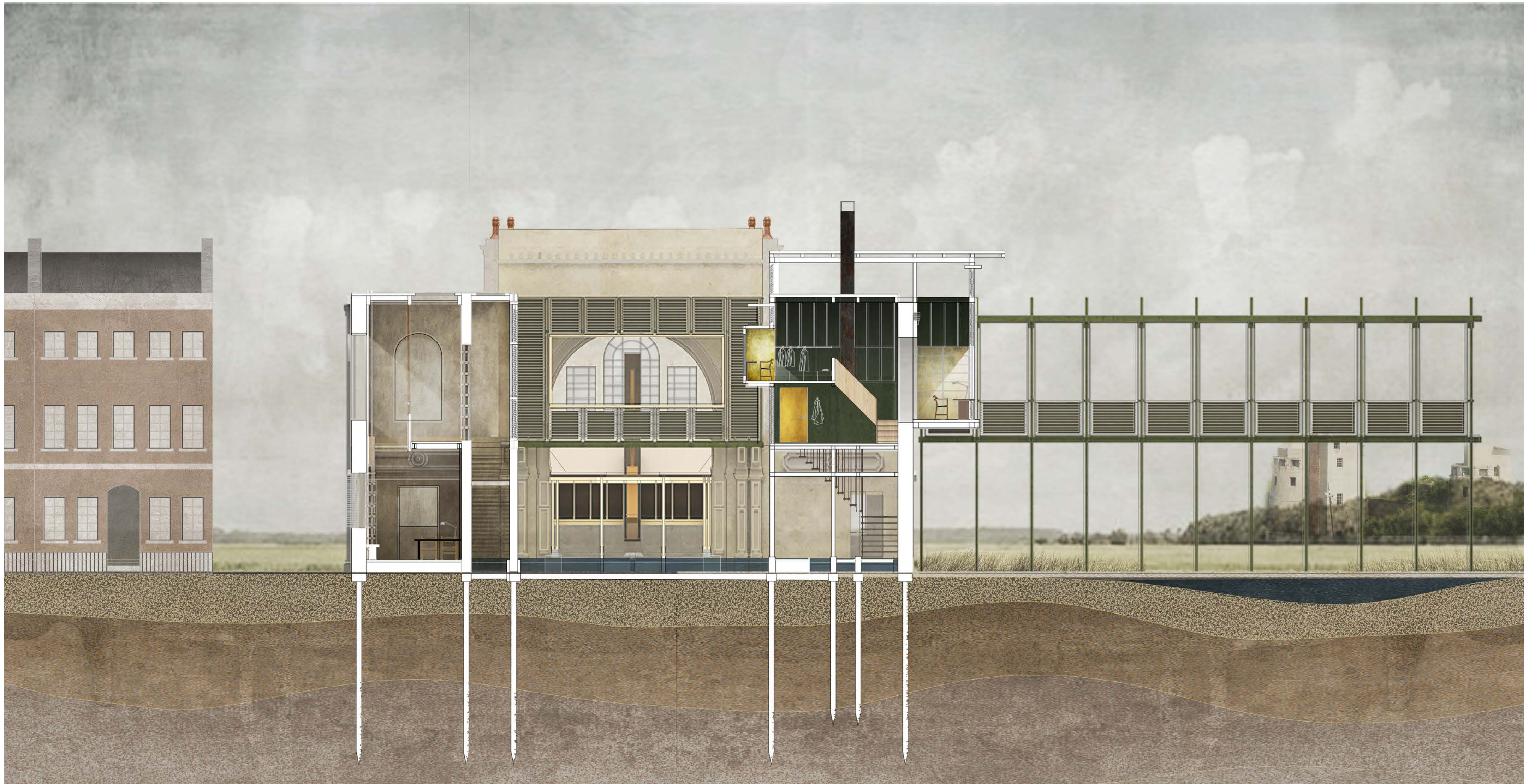
GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1:100





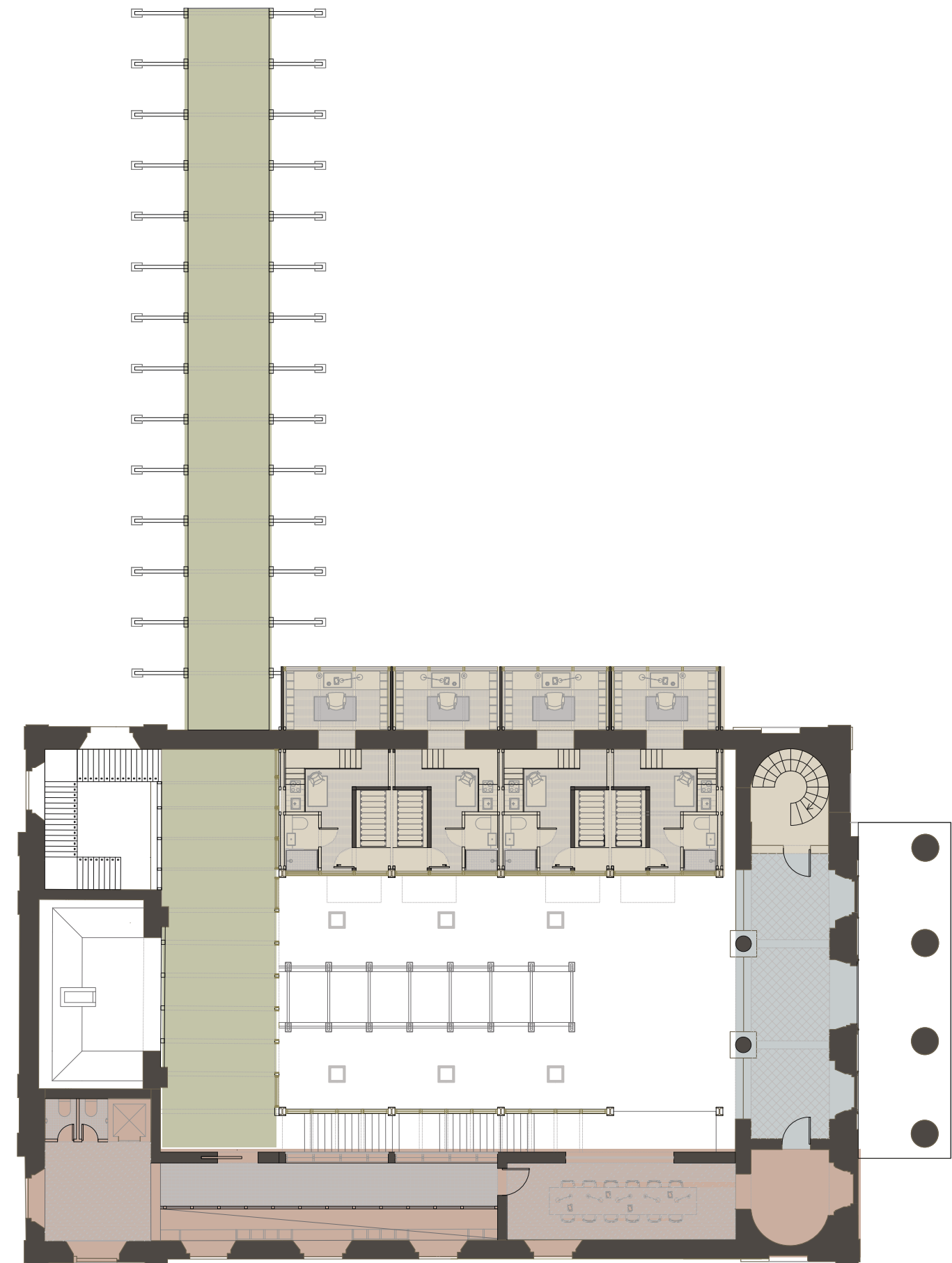
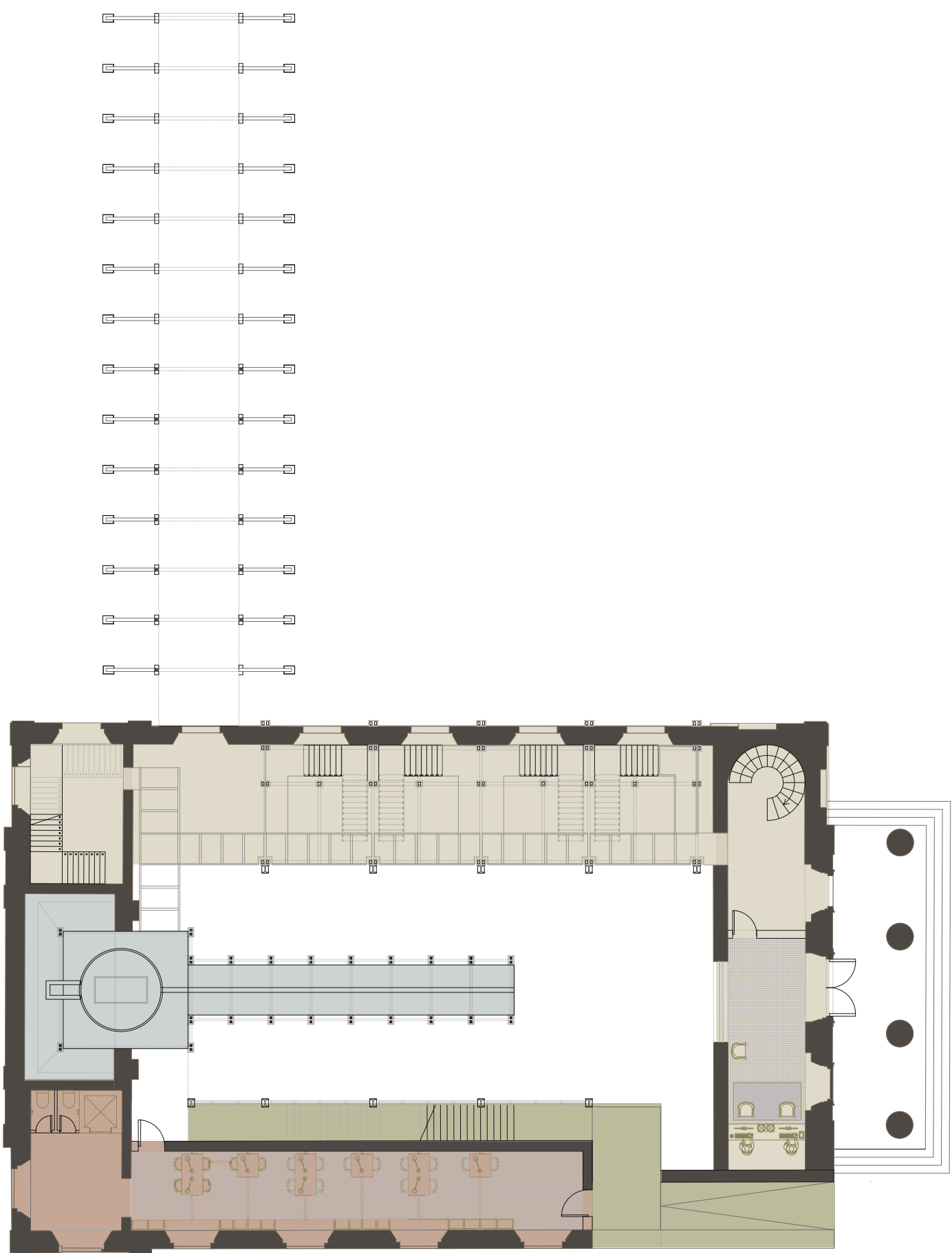
FIRST FLOOR PLAN 1:100





SECTION A-A'



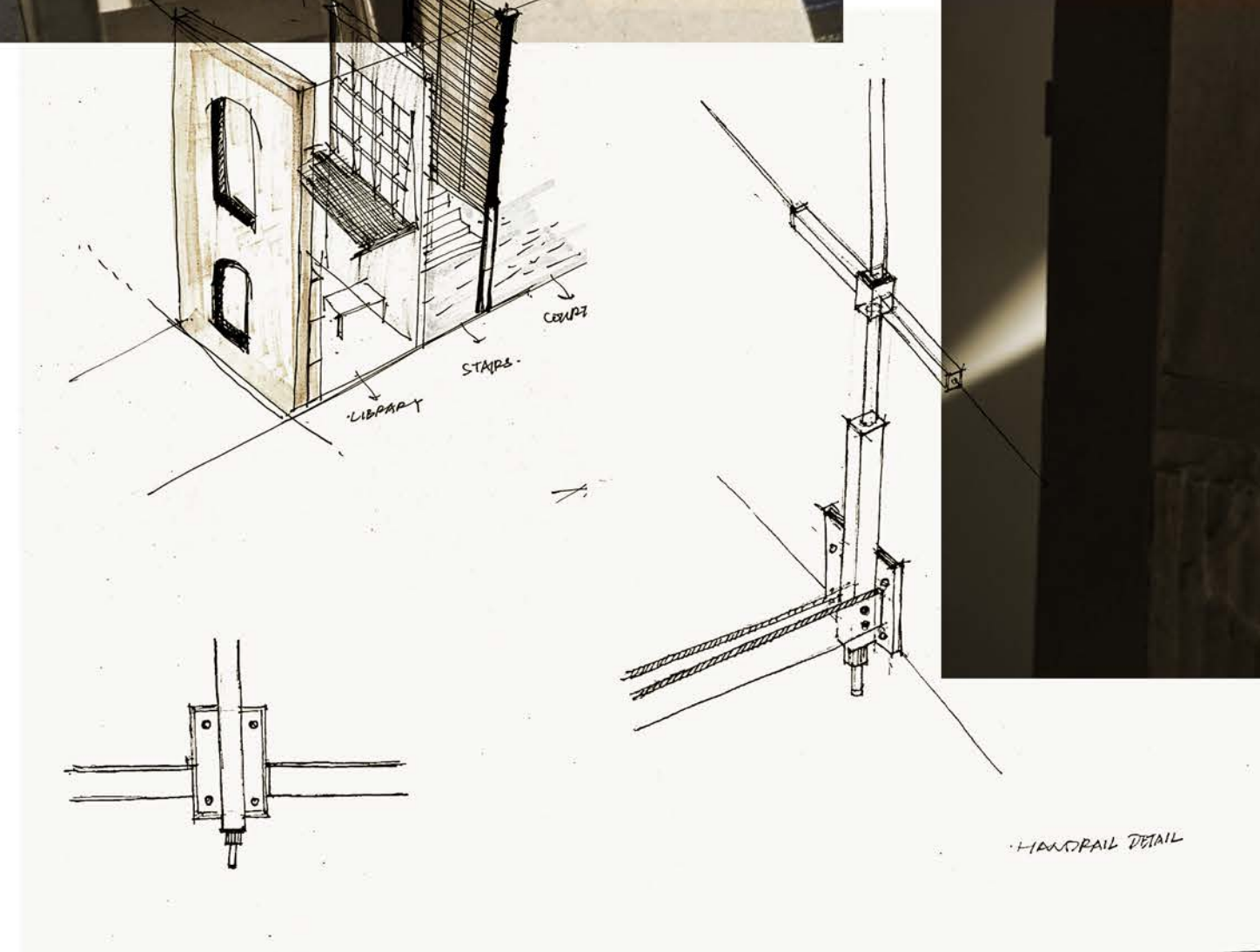


- PUBLIC
- TRANSITION
- PRIVATE
- WALKWAY

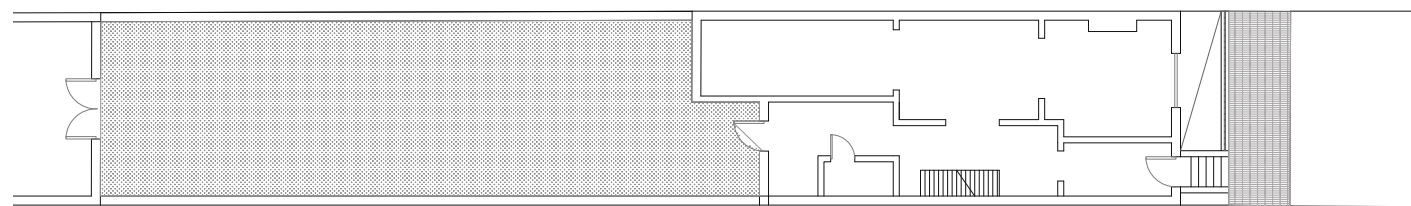




# 1. LIBRARY





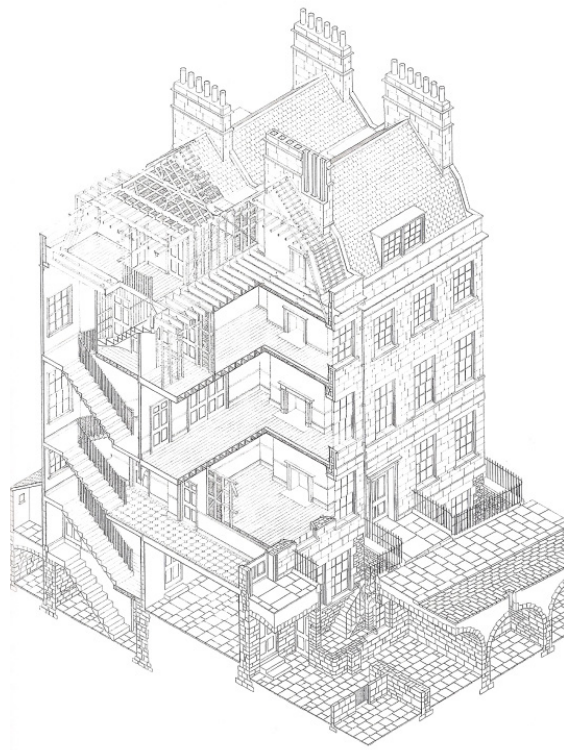


terrace house plan

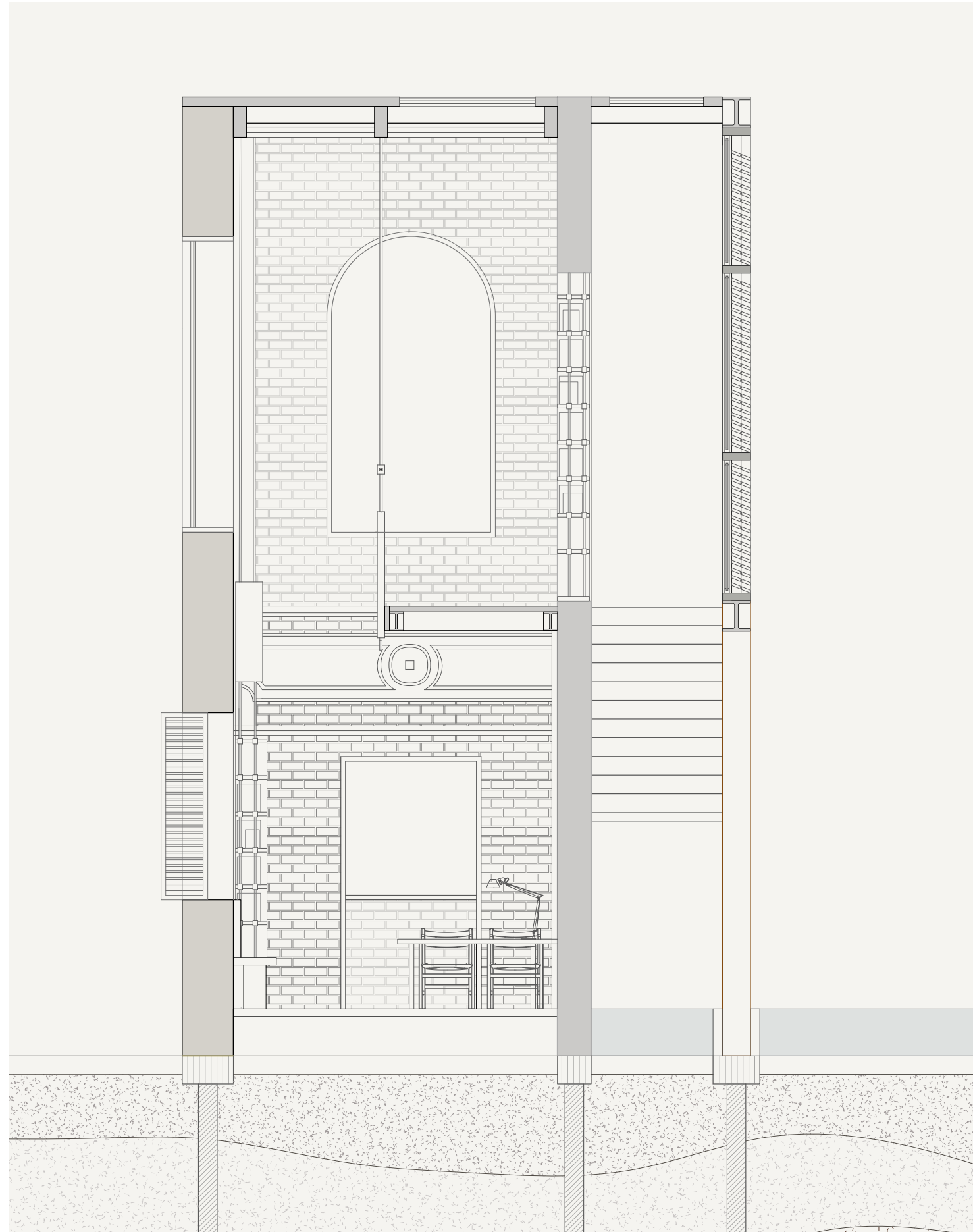
### 1.1 ENTRANCE LIKE TERRACE HOUSE

The concept of retreat contains the domestic feeling, while the church represents the power of solemn. To change the original experience for the visitors, the new circulation was proposed.

The design of entrance learns from terrace-house closed to the site, which was built together at the same time. The surface of the pathway keeps the same pattern as the flooring of terrace house.



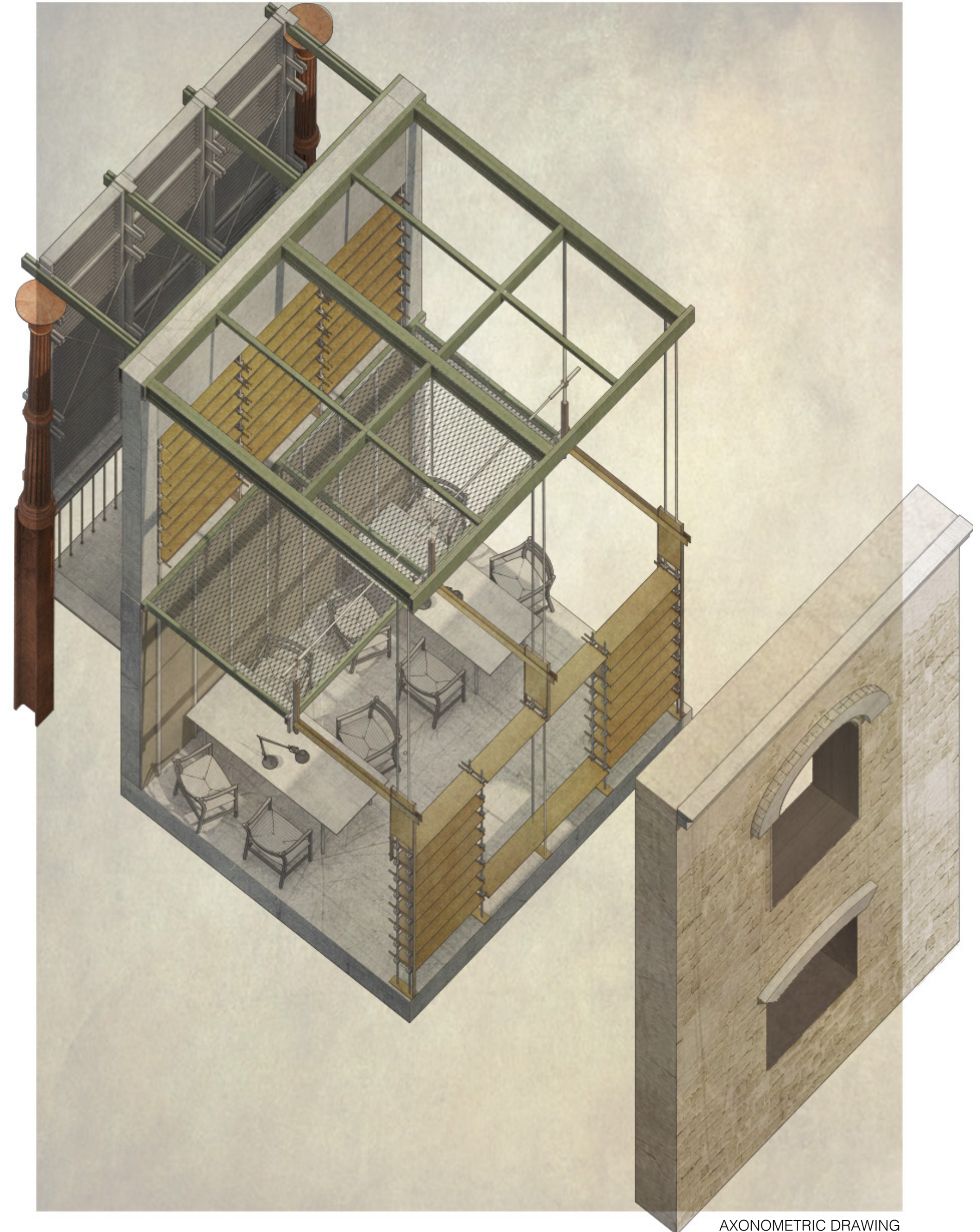




SECTION DRAWING 1:50

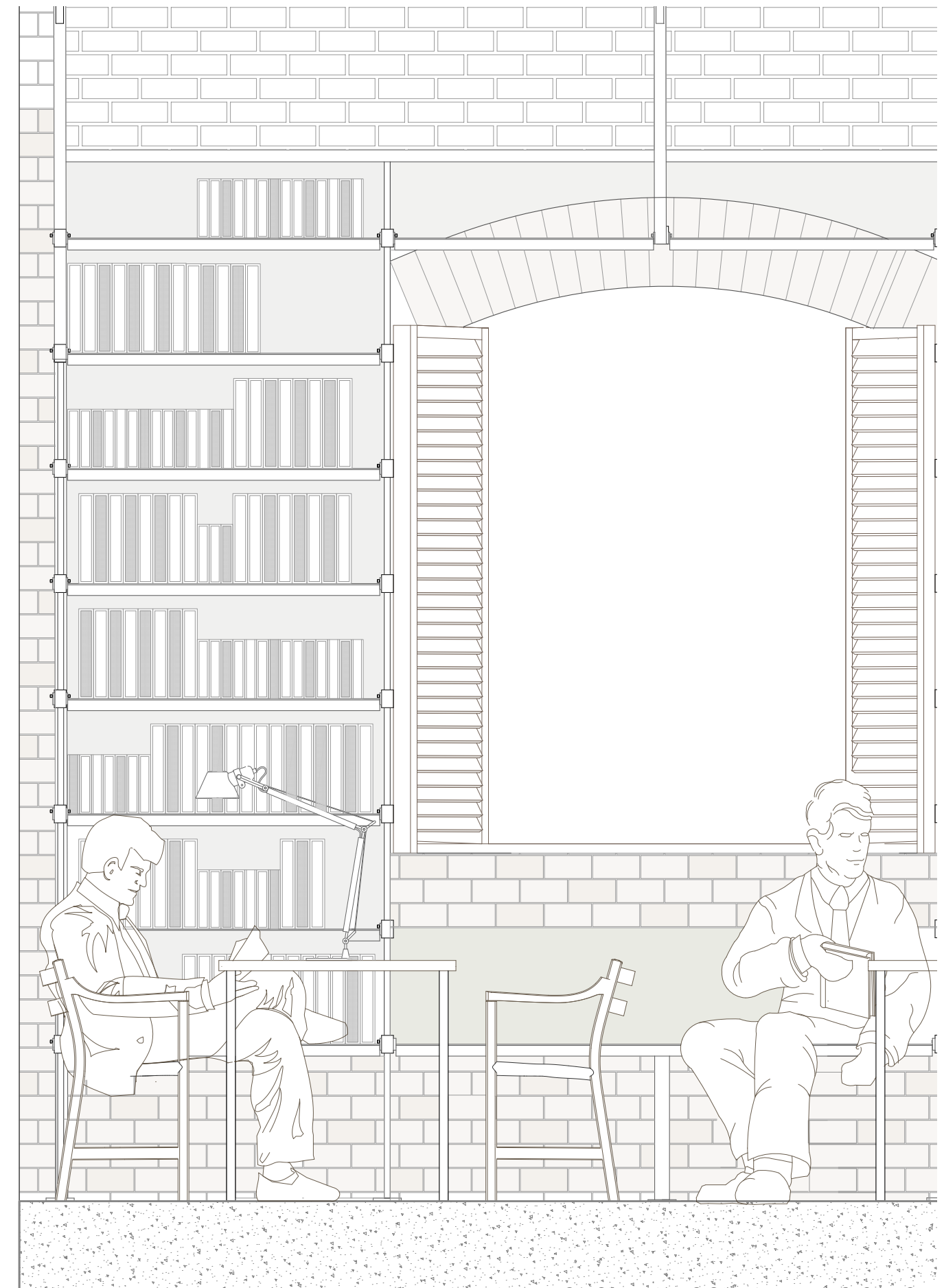
## 1.2 THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

The library is open to both the writers and local residents as well. It is located at the south side, occupying the two floors. It follows the module design as the original bay. The original windows and the skylight are contributed to creating a bright and comfortable reading space.



AXONOMETRIC DRAWING



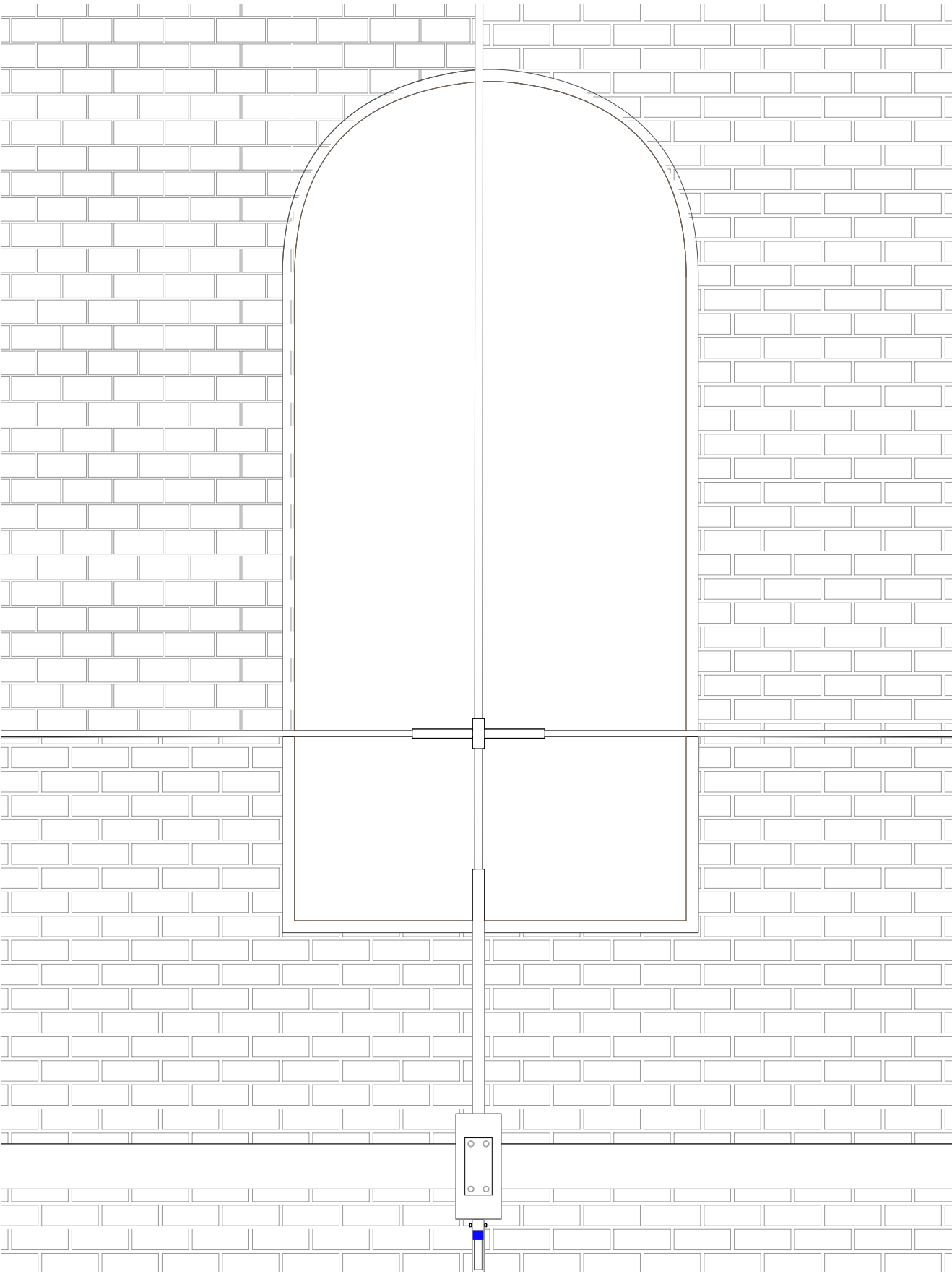


GROUND FLOOR - READING SPACE

### 1.3 GROUND FLOOR

The ground floor is mainly providing individual reading, the bookshelves are installed on the old wall, while the tables are placed on the other side, whose arrangement considering of the the accessibilities. Moreover, the part beneath the window is designed as a sitting area - a cozy but reliable corner for reading.

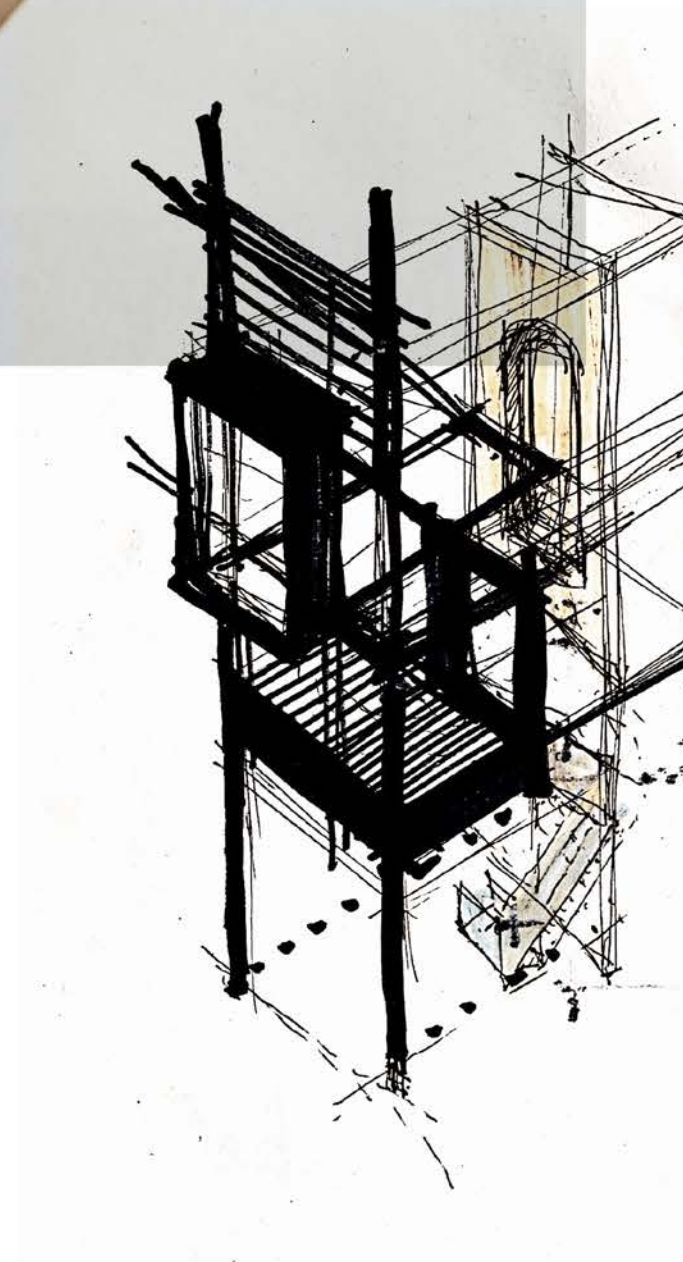




### 1.4 FIRST FLOOR

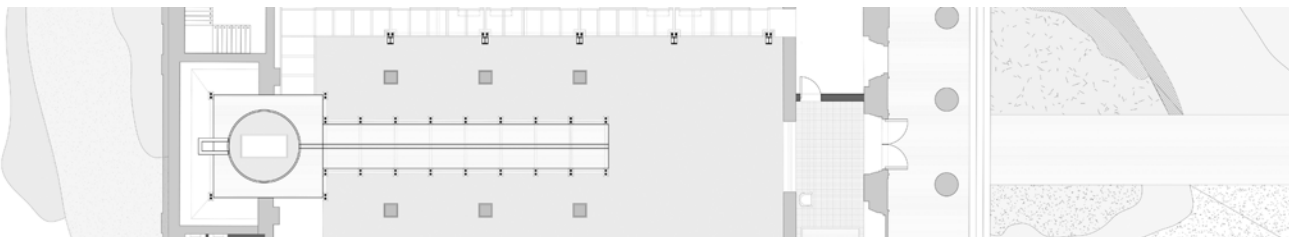
The first floor is decribed as a ‘ book corridor’, which is supported by the cable hanging from the roof. The metal mesh floor and cables would remind people of walking on the decking. The bookshelves are insterted volume between concrete columns, people need to find their books in the corridor and go to the reading room at the end of corridor to enjoy their reading time.





## 2. FOUR APARTMENTS





plan

### 2.1 INHABITATION FOR WRITERS

Different from the public, a special journey is offered for the writers. They will use the original main entrance as the start of journey, and the narthex is transformed into the lobby and reception space. There is a big oppening in the wall connecting to the courtyard.

The central courtyard is filled with water, which responded to the concept of introducing the nature in the building. And also reveals the local special feature - ocean. In this way, the whole building is like a big ' ship' floating on the sea.







development model



development model

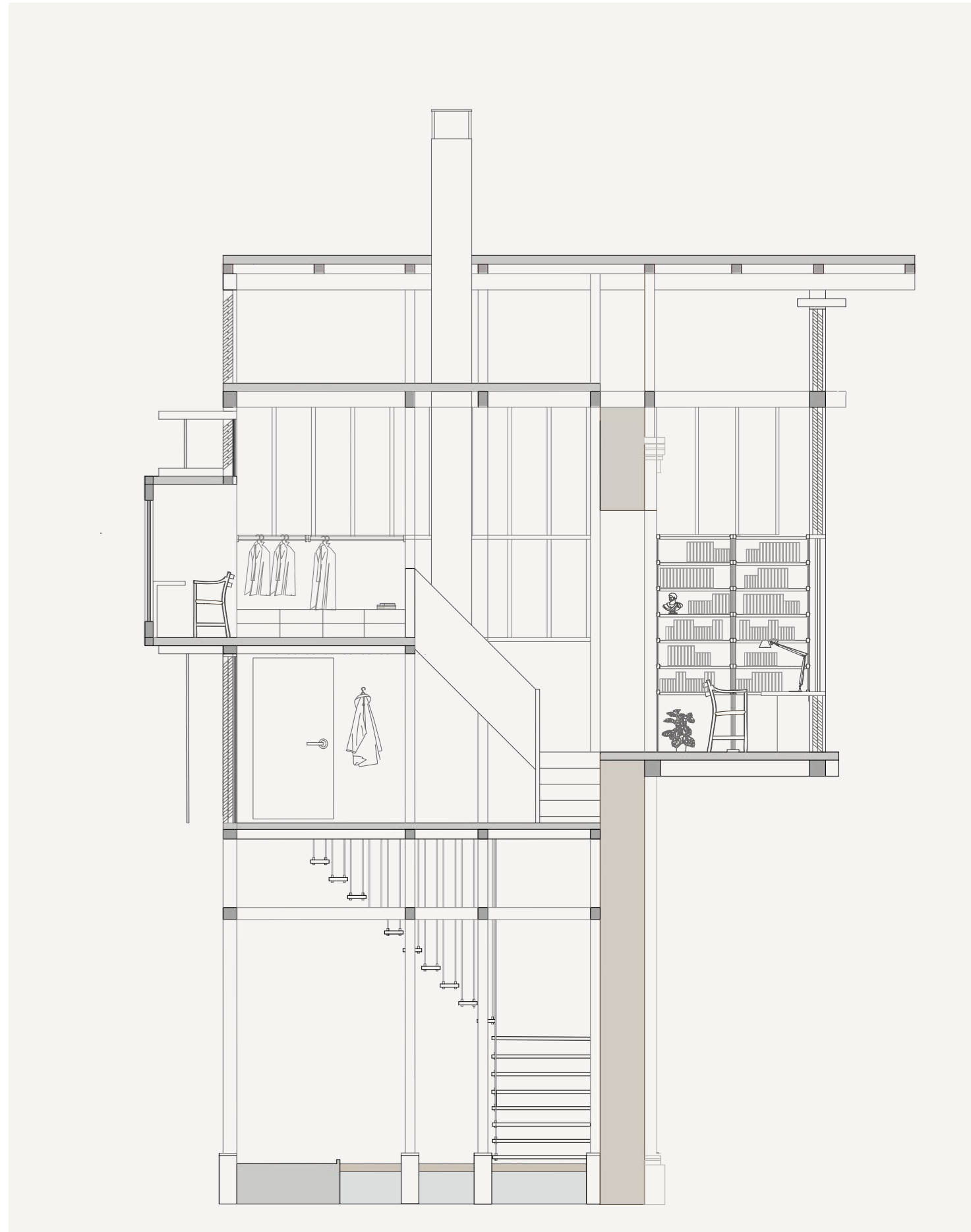


local beach hut

## 2.1 HISTORICAL HERITAGE - BEACH HUT

A beach hut (also known as a beach cabin or bathing box) is a small, usually wooden and often brightly coloured, box above the high tide mark on popular bathing beaches. They are generally used as a shelter from the sun or wind, changing into and out of swimming costumes and for the safe storing of some personal belongings.

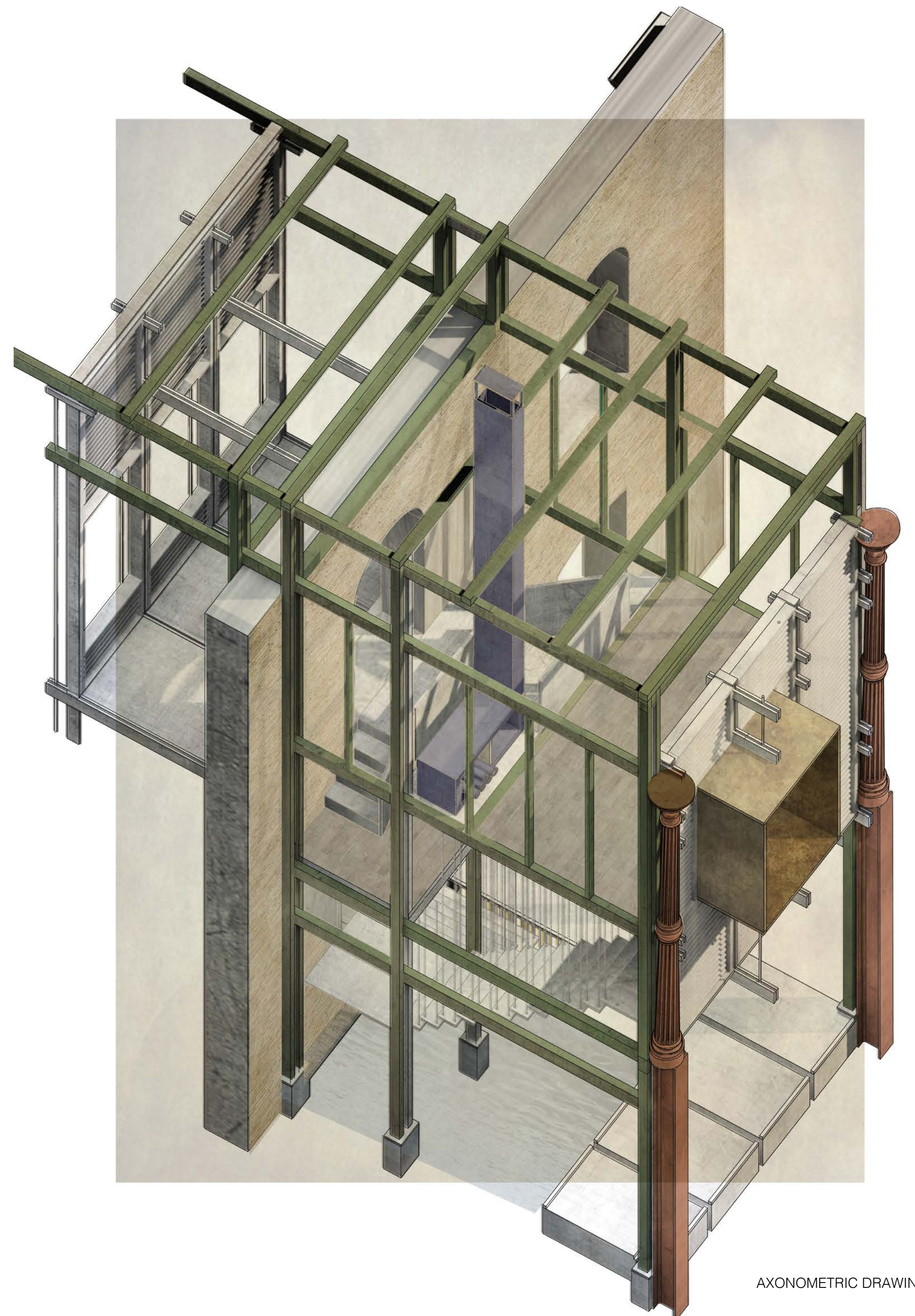




SECTION DRAWING 1:50

## 2.2 THE WRITERS' ARPAMENT

There are four separated apartments offered for the writers. Each apartment has three levels with the views of courtyard and also sea. The ground floor is a shared pathway. Apart from meeting the basic needs of living, the writing and reading space is detail designed.



AXONOMETRIC DRAWING

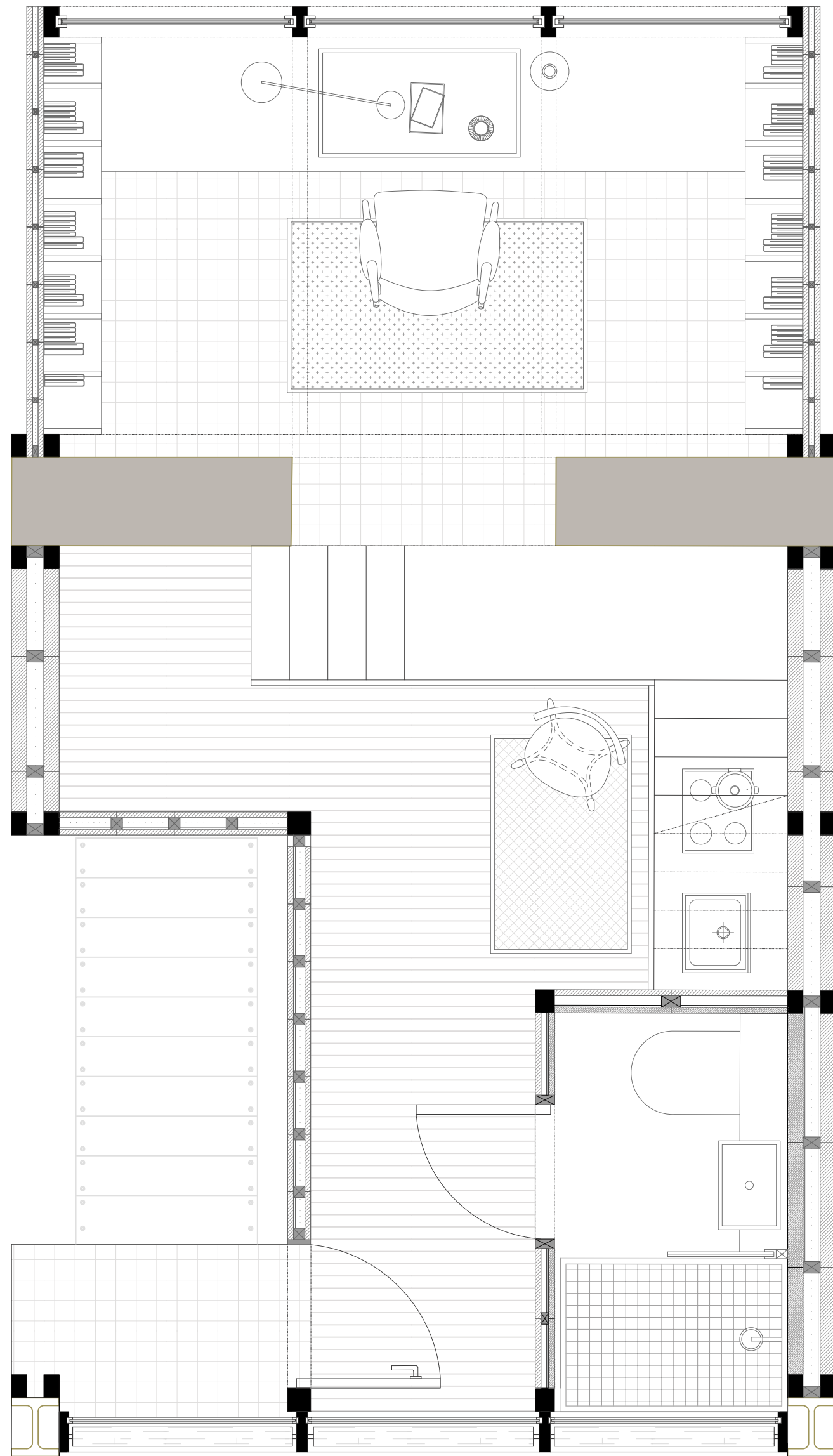




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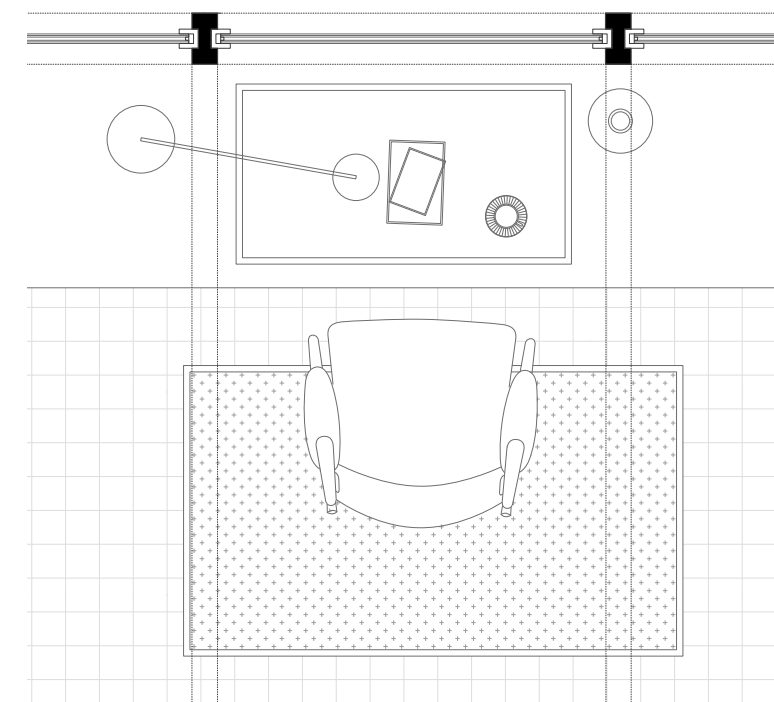
FIRST FLOOR PLAN 1:20



DEVELOPMENT MODEL



DEVELOPMENT MODEL

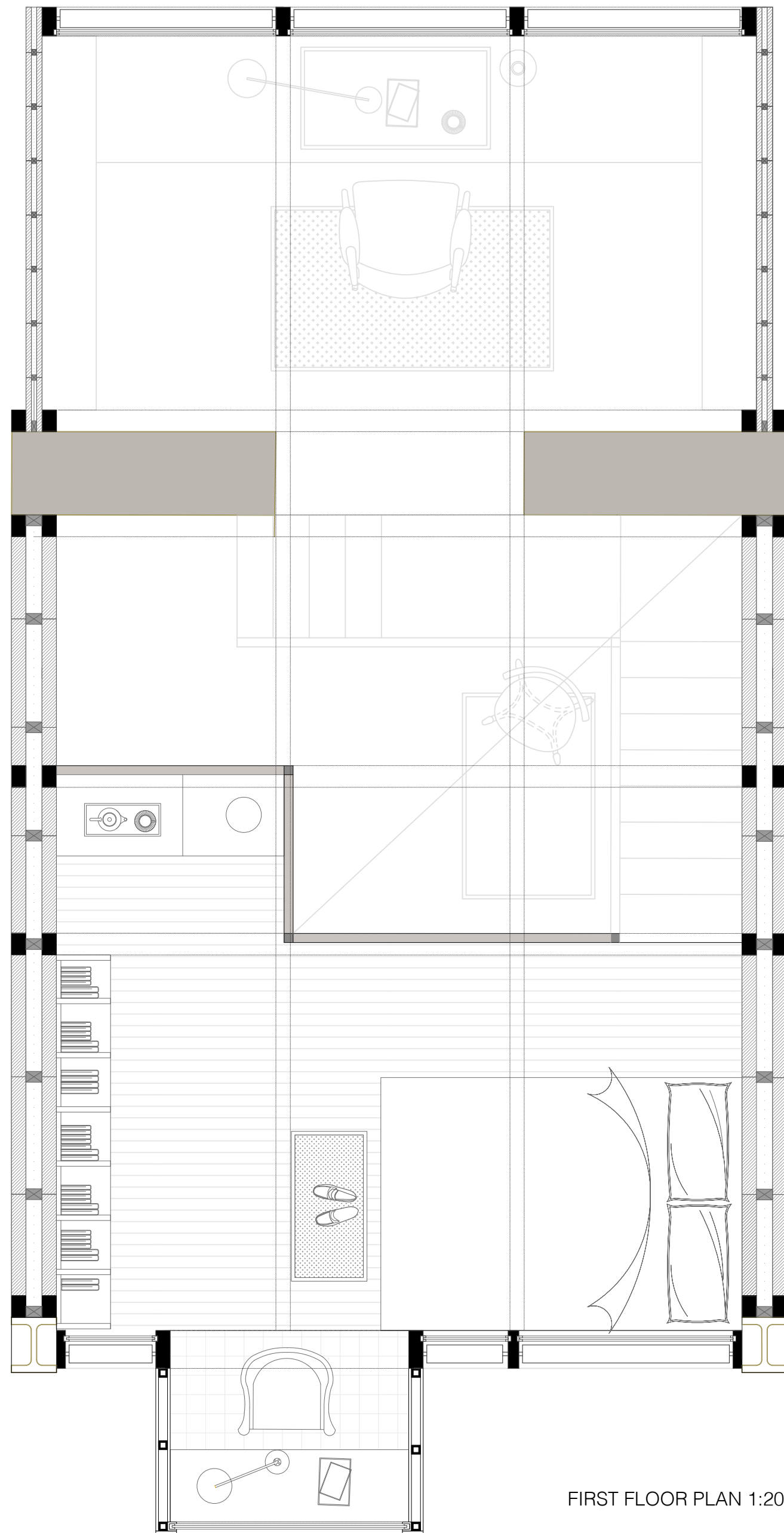


WRITING SPACE WITH SEA VIEW

## 2.3 FIRST FLOOR

The service space is mainly placed on the ground floor, including the toilet, kitchen and dining area. The reading room is half meter higher, connected by the staircase. the study room is facing to the ocean as the extension of the new construction.





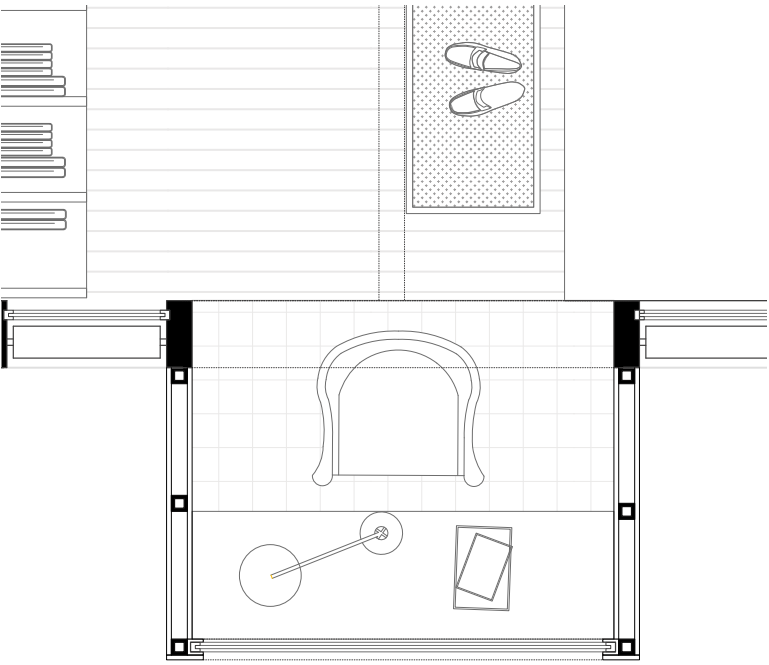
FIRST FLOOR PLAN 1:20



DEVELOPMENT MODEL



DEVELOPMENT MODEL



WRITING SPACE WITH COURTYARD VIEW

### 2.3 SECOND FLOOR

The second floor is the main space for sleeping. The big window closed to the bed is designed as another writing space with the view of courtyard. It is the ideal coner for night writing. The fireplace not only helps to maintain the warm during winter, but also add more domestic feeling .





Jane Austin - Writing Space



writing space with courtyard view





writing space with sea view



Dylan Thomas - Writing Space



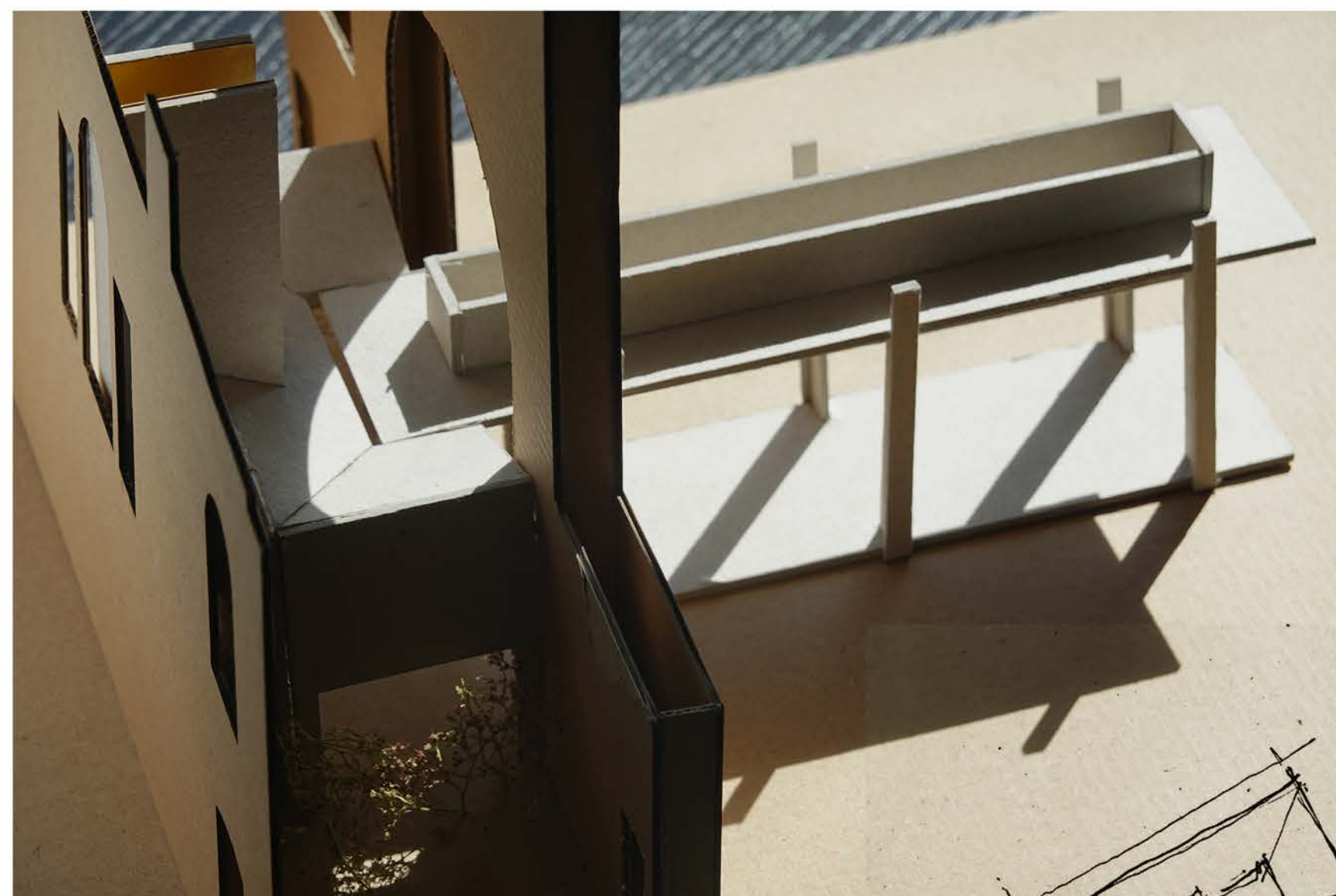


writing space with courtyard view

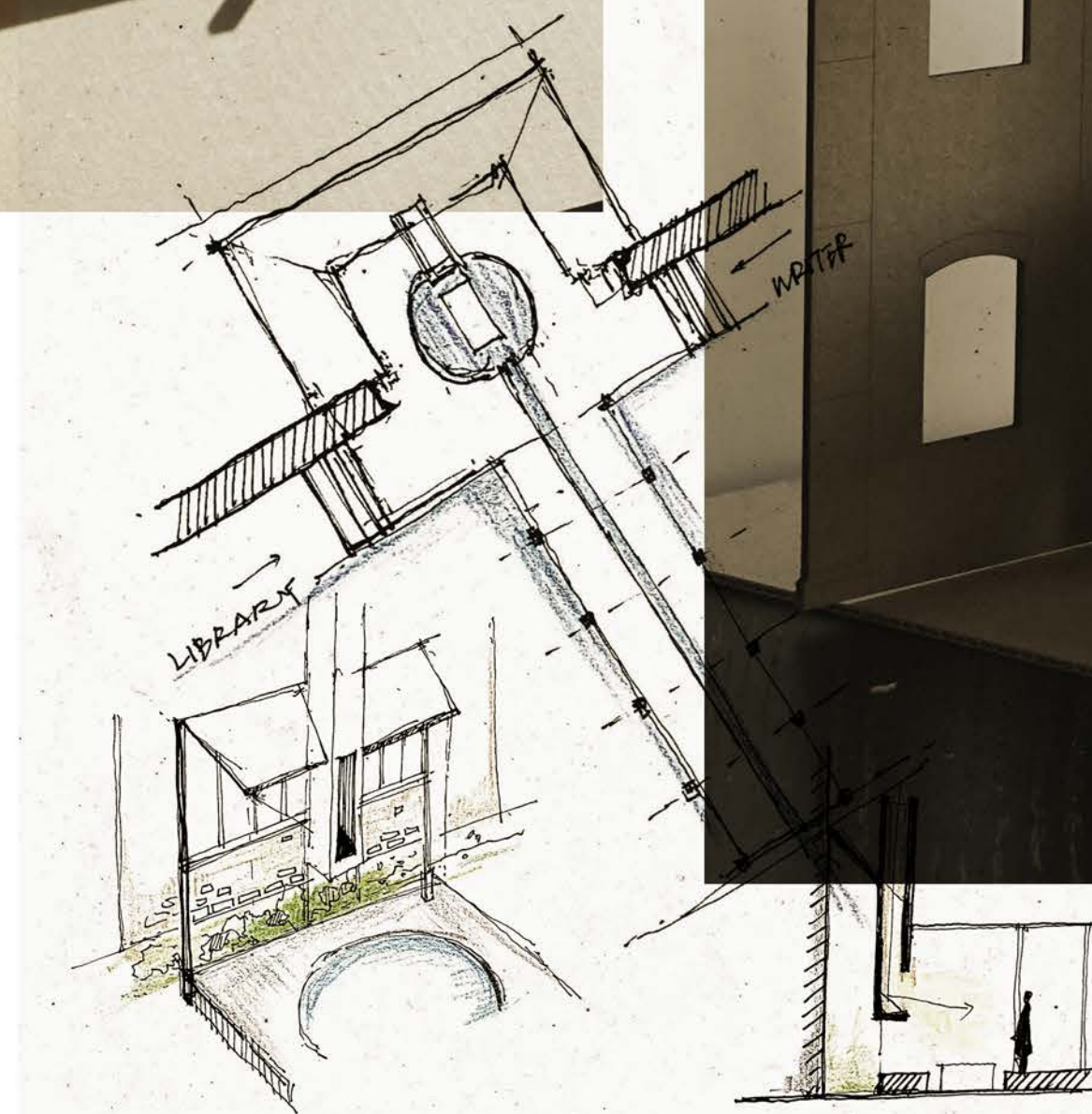


Jay Alexander - Writing Space

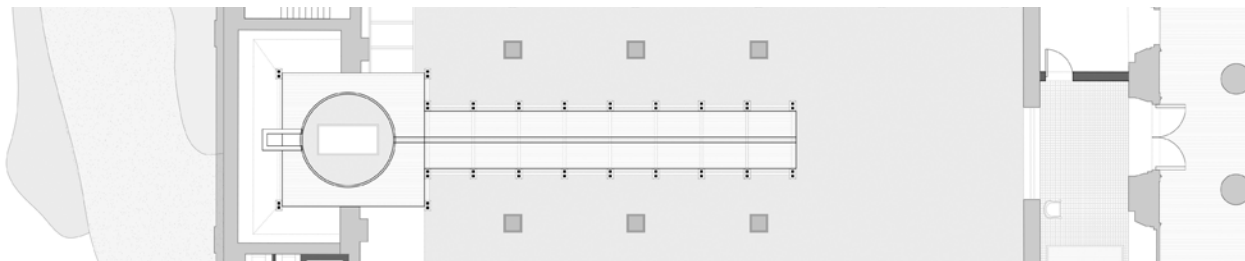




### 3. ARCHIVE







archive plan

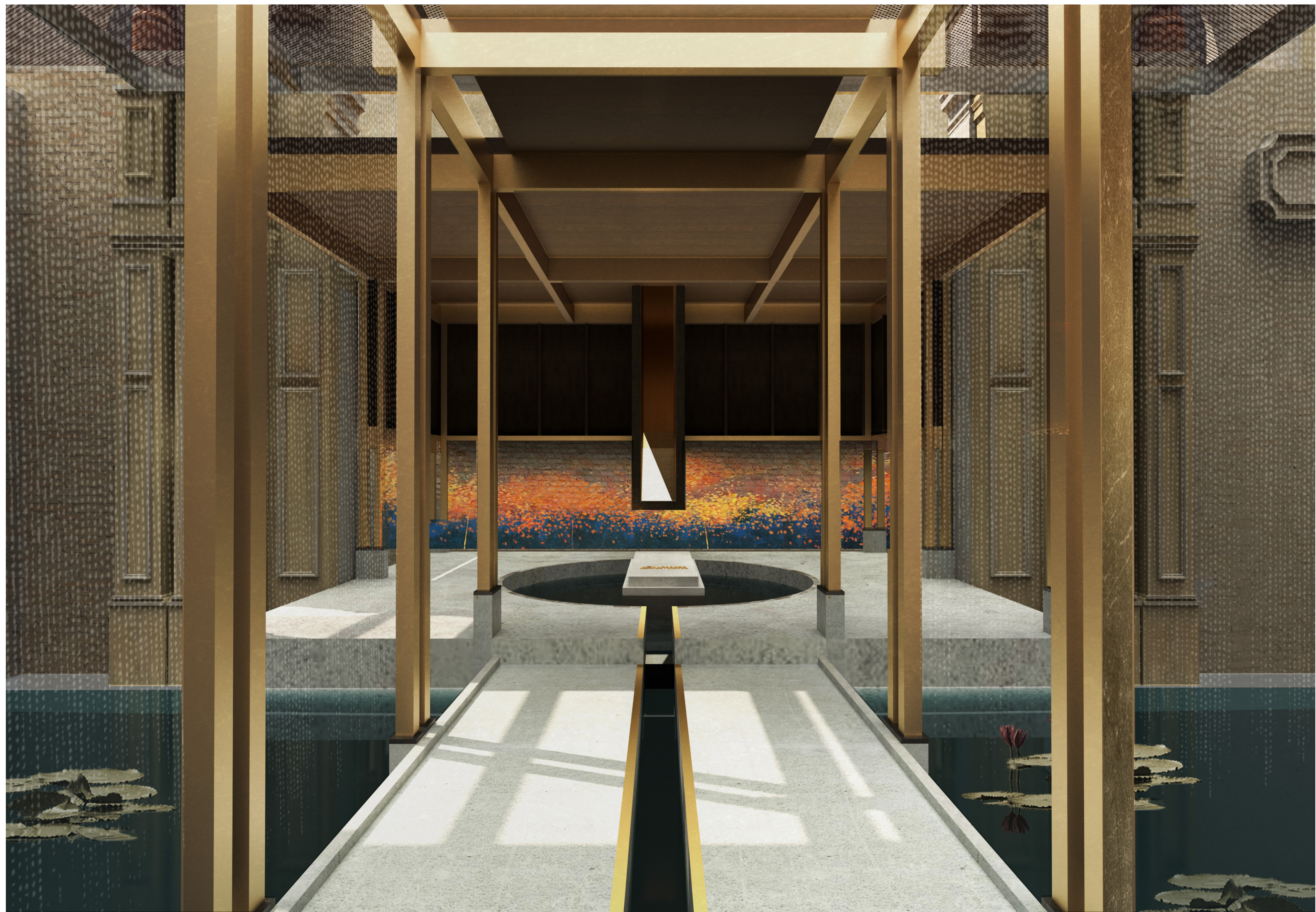
### 3.1 THE 'HINGE'

The archive is placed on axis in the church, where the altar once stood, symbolising the buildings previous use as a place of worship. It acts as a 'hinge' metaphorically, linking the wing of the library, inserted in one aisle, and the retreat in the other.

The idea of this space inspired by his personal character, he was kind of isolating from others, lying in his corner to continue his writing but also he hold a great interest to the sea, the nature. Therefore, different from the other part, the archive is seperated from the old building, a free standing structure in the center and the landcape would grow within the gap. The long corridor brings people to the courtyard.











landscape around archive



corridor in the yard



front of the UJ archive

### 3.2 CELEBRATION OF LIGHTING AND LANDSCAPING

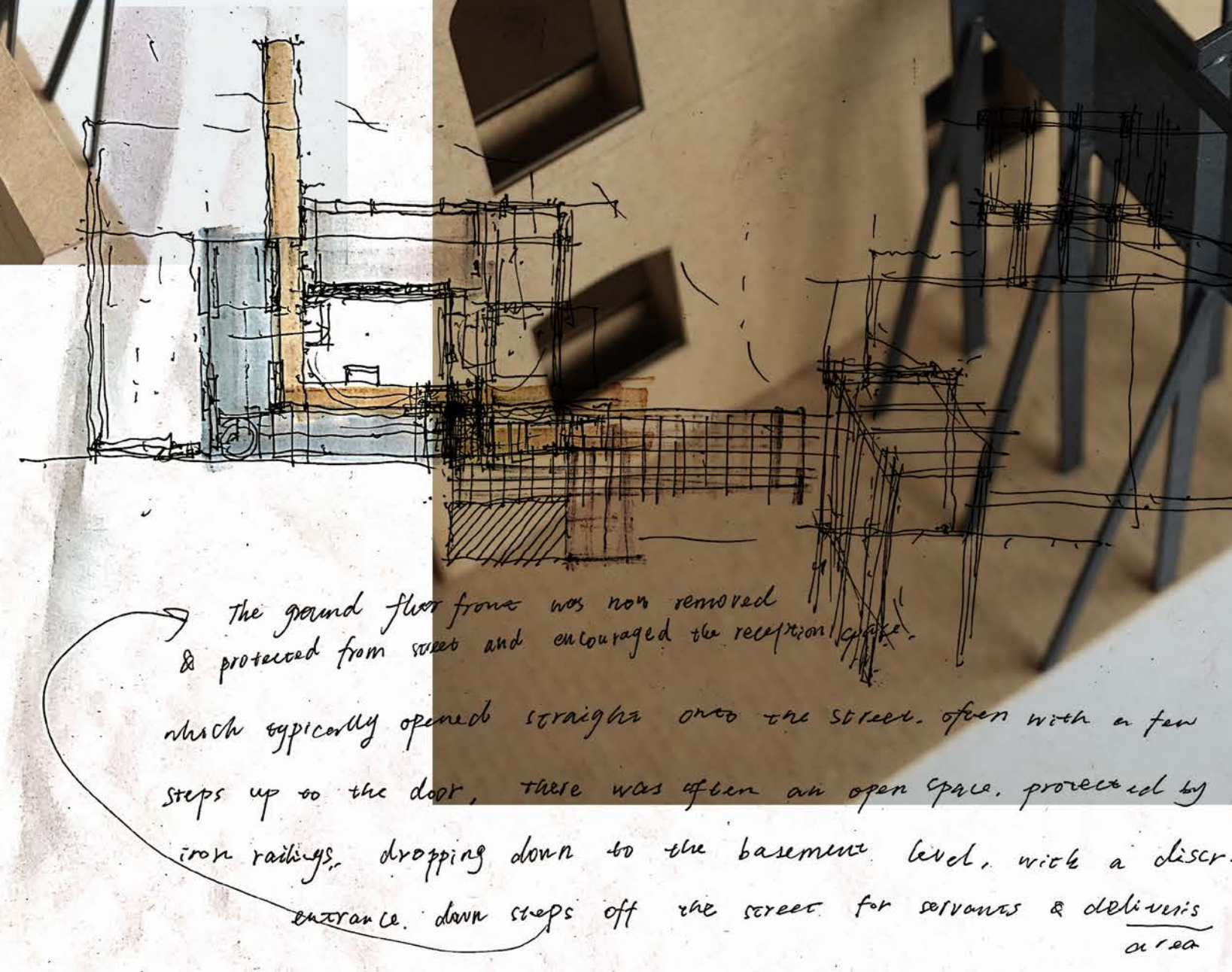
The archive is imagined as a dark, but a strong bright in the center. The chimney-like volume is inserted into the roof, bringing the sunlight in the center of archive, which also lightens the mausoleum. The corridor also uses the same strategy horizontally, a light-cross is produced in this way.

Another point need to be mentioned, is the landscaping. Two sides of the room is partly installed with glazing (the bottom part is glazing and above is timber cladding wall for displaying uwe's documents), so that people could see the landscapes from inside space.





## 4. TRESTLE











developed model

#### 4.1 EXTENSION TOWARDS TO SEA

The final part of the path is a long and narrow walkway extended from the courtyard and go towards to the sea.

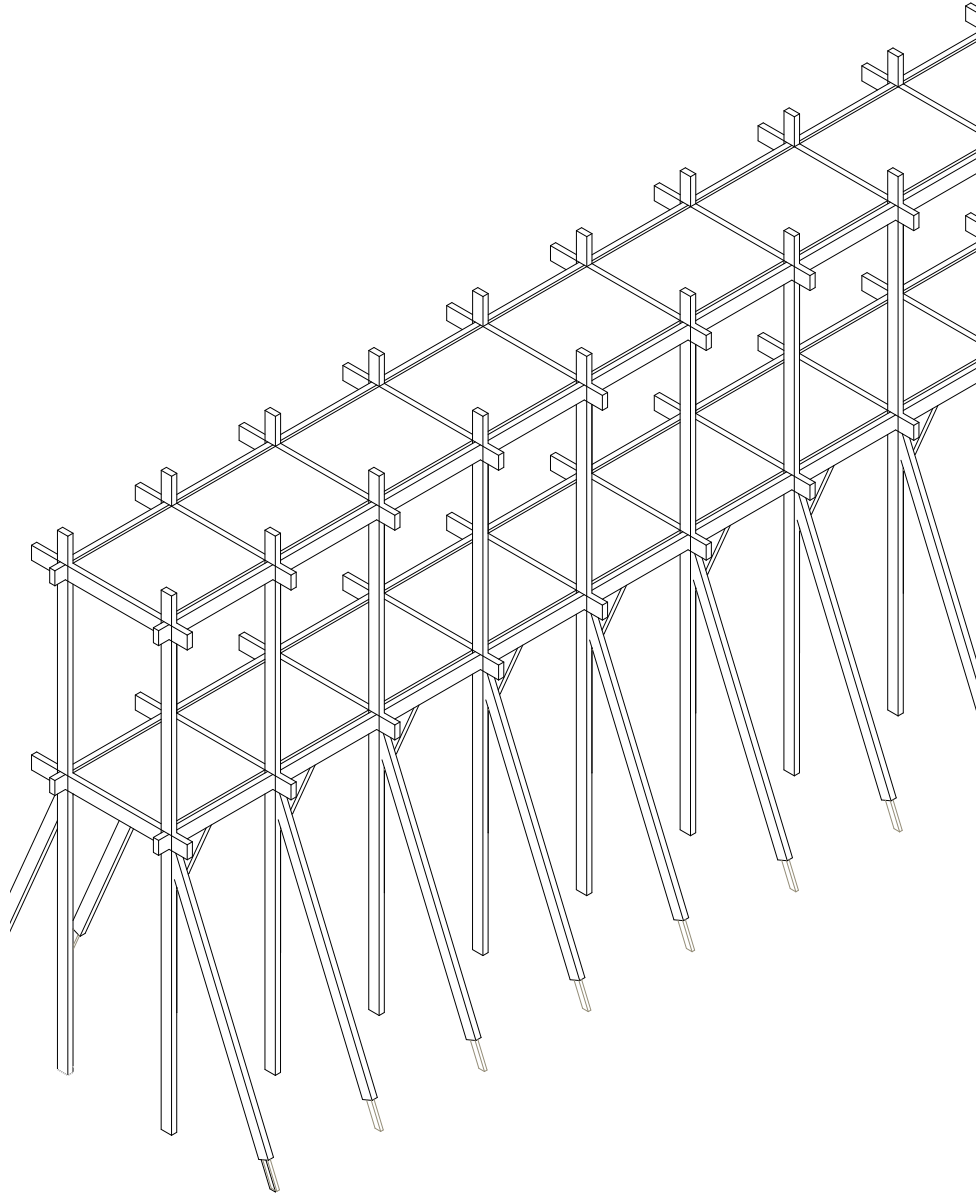
The sea is always important for the town and project as well. The walkway would go through one of the old window. It is the response of the the entrance, which brings people from the small woods in front of church and send people back to the nature again.







sea-view



struccion drawing





