



NEW LIFE OLD FIRE STATION

GÅSEBÄCK, HELSINGBORG



**AAHM 10: Degree project in Architecture
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LUNDS
UNIVERSITET

ABSTRACT

So, what does a new life for the old fire station mean?

It means that it is possible for a new generation to utilize the Gåsebäck landmark and historical building. The building should be attractive for the investors, for the city, and its inhabitants. The provided opportunities for the development of the building could be considered as a temporary solution for maintaining the history of the Gåsebäck district.

Nowadays, the building can be used by a new generation as a place for them to explore their creativity needs, as a place where the start-ups are born, leisure use, and variety of working activities. The proposed design includes spaces for new offices, meeting spaces, student accommodation, and study center, and a sports activities hall. The building has the potential to fulfill the city's needs as the additional space due as there is lack of space for such use. This means that the building will offer new possibilities within an old historical envelope.

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INTRODUCTION

The aim of this thesis project was to save the building and give new life to the Old Fire Station at Gåsebäck in the southern part of Helsingborg, making it a cultural part of the city.

The old fire station has been empty for the last few years and a demolition permit has been issued in 2012. However, in 2016 - 2017, it was saved from the demolition by refugees who urgently needed shelter for a time. Nowadays the demolition decision is forgotten and the station will get a second life as a platform for the free culture there.

I wanted to propose ideas and create a new purpose for the existing building to make it more attractive to the city, and it was important to understand who the users of the converted building would be and to identify possible transformations of the building. In this case, the rich history of the fire station and the Gåsebäck district is considered important for its renewal; its restoration

depends on an understanding of its significance for the city and its inhabitants. I wanted this transformation to be done in such a way as to respect the cultural significance of the building and its surroundings, so that it does not overly dominate the old one, but adds qualities to this place that activated it for the better.

The report covers research of the current fire station situation and ultimately proposes a new design proposal to save the historical heritage and strengthen the link to the site's history. Since the fire station area is not fully used, the main goal was to activate the site and attract new users to the site.



SETTING THE SCENE

The setting for this work is in the southern part of Sweden in Skåne in the heart of Helsingborg. The Old Fire station is placed on the border of the industrial district Gåsebäck on the corner between the high way E4 and Södergatan. The high way E4 to Malmö cuts this district from the city centre which is 10-15 minutes on foot just through the two tunnels. Right across the Södergatan lies the big parking lot where the flea market takes place on weekends, which in turn is neighbouring the Södertgtsviaduken.

Some distance away there is Sweden's largest graffiti park. In August 2017, forty of southern Sweden's sharpest graffiti artists painted forty bridge piers at Gåsebäck. The result is a 300 meter long open gallery, where each pillar is both a stand-alone work and part of a whole.

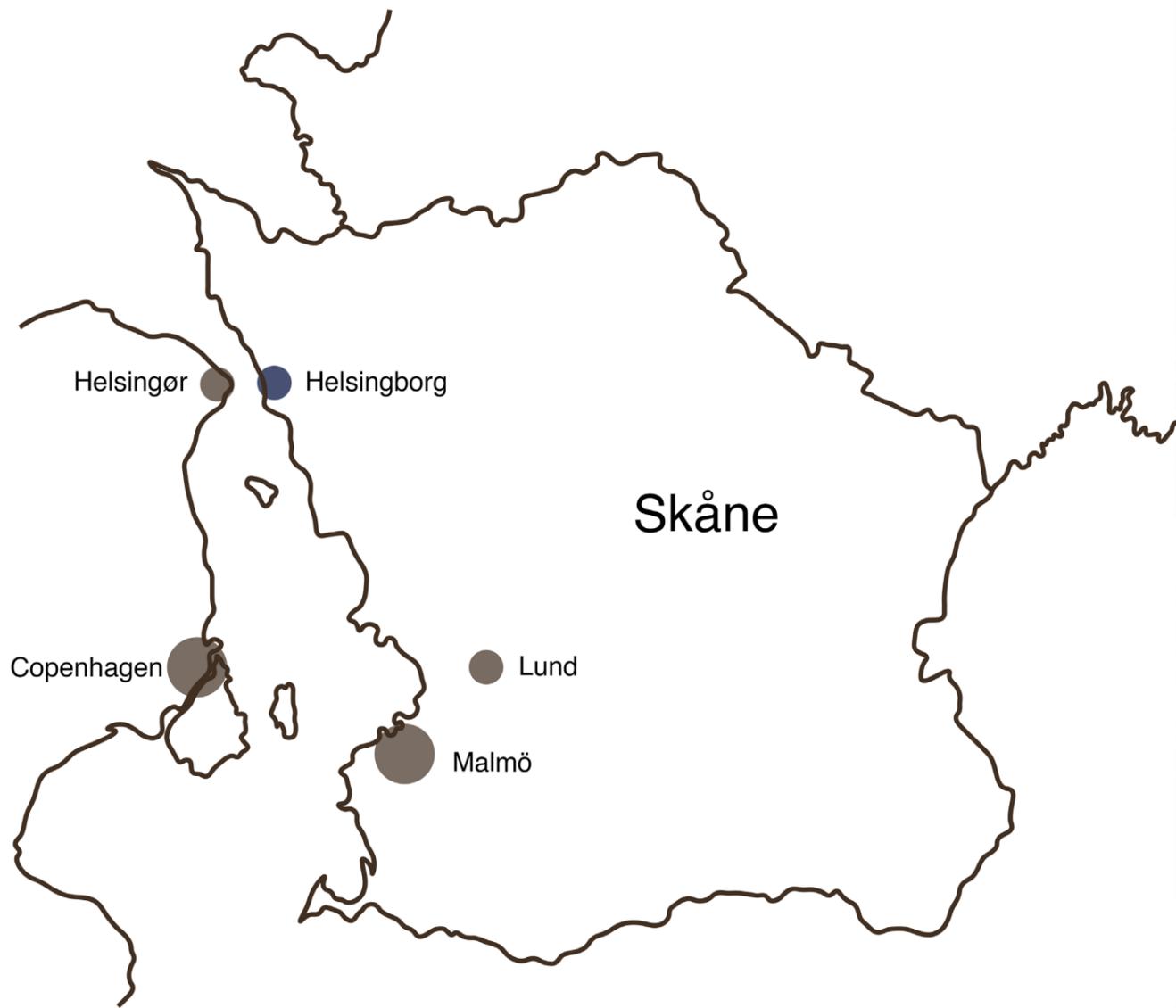
Responsible for this idea and implementation of the project are Kulturhotellet, the City of Helsingborg and Undergången Gåsebäck. Close by this area lies campus

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Responsible for this idea and implementation of the project are Kulturhotellet, the City of Helsingborg and Undergången Gåsebäck. Close by this area lies campus Helsingborg Lund university, the big IKEA IT office, bus parking and building offices from big companies. Moreover, this district is in the immediate periphery lies the Helsingborg harbour. You can argue that we are quite to the centre of Helsingborg and offices part of the city.



The project setting is here



City center view



Large marina with Dunkers kulturhus



The core



The St. Maria church is the city's oldest



Helsingborgs Lasarett



Central station

E4

Brandstation

GÅSEBÄCK

E4

Outside this area of industrial architecture, we find a residential neighbourhood consisting of five-seven store houses constructed at the end of the century and several residential houses that were built in 2020. It is a busy part of town, but quieter and calmer on the other for families with kids. However, there is a five store student accommodation that made this part of the city more density. The parks along the opposite side of high way bringing a piece of nature into the industrial surrounding of the fire station. The surrounding neighbourhood old fire station is indeed a pleasant part of Gåsebäck district.

The building has great potential to strengthen Gåsebäck's attractiveness. At Gåsebäck, there are forces that see potential in the old fire station. Gåsebäck has a bad reputation and many Helsingborgers dismiss the area as dilapidated and unsafe. However, the people who live and work here find this opinion is rather unfounded. They are often creative and proactive. They like their Gåsebäck, an old industrial area fairly close to the city, on the other side of the Malmö route.



Graffiti park



Green belt along the high way



Student's accomodation



Weekend's flea market



Malmöleden direction to the fire station

HISTORY GÅSEBÄCK

VARIED ACTIVITIES

Areas of this kind have the potential to be developed into districts where housing and green areas are combined with varied smaller activities and a rich cultural offer. Gåsebäck, next to the southern harbour in Helsingborg, is an industrial and railway yard area with roots in the later part of the 19th century and is today characterized by an extensive traffic, both traffic routes and railways. Here is evidence of an older lavish industrial architecture, but a lot is as well from the second part of the 20th century and of a kind that would not conventionally be considered worth preserving.

It is this mixture of odd buildings and activities that needs to be protected that Gåsebäck, hopefully, is facing a future urban transformation.



HISTORICAL MAPS

Surrounding area



1939

During the 17th and 18th centuries, Gåsebäck was an area with flat flying sand fields with elements of fenced fields and pastures. In the middle of the 18th century, coal mining was practiced here for a short time. In connection with the inauguration of the railway between Helsingborg and Landskrona in 1865 and when the railway between Helsingborg-Råå and Ramlösa was inaugurated in 1891, industrial areas were established in Södra hamnen and later also in Gåsebäck.

As early as 1878, part of the country had been set aside for the Scanian Hussar Regiment. One of the largest industries was the Jutevävsfabriken from 1896. The older industries were supplemented during the first decades of the 20th century with a small workshop and an office building. A number of smaller residential buildings were built, so some neighbourhoods conveyed the character of a small town.



2020

When a new city plan was adopted in 1955 for the southern parts of Gåsebäck, space was given for larger but at the same time more specialized industries. Several of the cider factories and most of the residential buildings are being demolished today. The later industrial architecture, from the 1960s onwards, largely consists of prefabricated halls with facades in sheet metal, eternit or other cardboard materials. The land in Gåsebäck is owned by about thirty property owners, but until recently, the municipality was one of the largest owners because it owned about half of the land.

DYNAMIC

Undeveloped and demolition plots contribute to the district being perceived as fragmented, but at the same time also bright and open.

The division into quarters still follows earlier grid plans and a large part of the railway tracks remain, even if later road sections cut diagonally through the grid. The green areas are few. The major traffic routes, Malmöleden and Oljehamnsleden, as well as the railway tracks form barriers both to nearby districts and within the area itself. Environmental disturbances in the form of noise, emissions and odours are characteristic.

The area is also perceived as physically difficult to access as the public communications are few and as the entrances in the area are physically limited to dark pedestrian and road tunnels or through a few heavily trafficked roads.

The main lanes in the east-west direction consist of Gåsebäcksvägen and Västra and Östra Sandgatan. Furthermore, Bredgatan / Gasmästargatan, Södergatan and Kvarnstensgatan constitute the area's main street in a north-south direction. The district's geographical centre is located at the intersection of the pylon-drawn Södergatan / Viaduct and the railway.



During these days, there is a continuous flow of car, pedestrian and bicycle traffic along which includes work commuting, visits to businesses and in the form of transit to reach the adjacent districts to the east and south. During the evening and night, the flow of traffic is limited.

The fact that there are few homes here and few natural meeting places contributes to the area not having a natural urban pulse with continuous people's life. This becomes especially clear after working hours, which is why the area then feels both desolate and unsafe. At the same time, the fragmentary cityscape has positive qualities.

The mixture of large and small-scale architecture of different character and age and the variety of both regular and irregular neighbourhoods, as well as the wasteland plots, contribute to giving Gåsebäck a distinctive dynamic. This vitality is also enhanced by the many different activities in the area and the strong representation of immigrants. The area's geographical proximity to both the city centre and the sea are other urban qualities.



The fire station shortly after completion. Post card

HISTORY THE FIRE STATION

Fire protection has been an absolute must for the people of our communities since time immemorial. Already in the medieval cities of Helsingborg, fire protection was regulated differently only since the end of the 16th century.

Before 1800

With the construction of villages and larger settlements, it became necessary to help in the event of a fire. Already in medieval cities, fire safety rules existed. In Helsingborg, fire protection has been regulated in various ways since the late 16th century. A simple procedure was established whereby all homeowners were given different tasks in the event of a fire. It was not until 1767 that Helsingborg received its first fire order, which was largely based on the skills of the residents in fighting

19th century

Helsingborg became the first Skåne town to form a voluntary organization in 1834. The city's own fire brigade was changed and strengthened in 1861 and worked with the volunteer detachment until 1895. By that time, a professional fire brigade had been formed and it was decided to disband the volunteer squad. First and foremost, industrialization at the end of the 19th century with new and more serious fire risks forced the city to create a professional fire brigade. It officially began on April 1, 1895 with the fire station at the town hall in the center of Helsingborg, colloquially called "Brännkyrka".



The fire station at the town hall in the centre, 1895



Fire brigade Helsingborg, 19th century

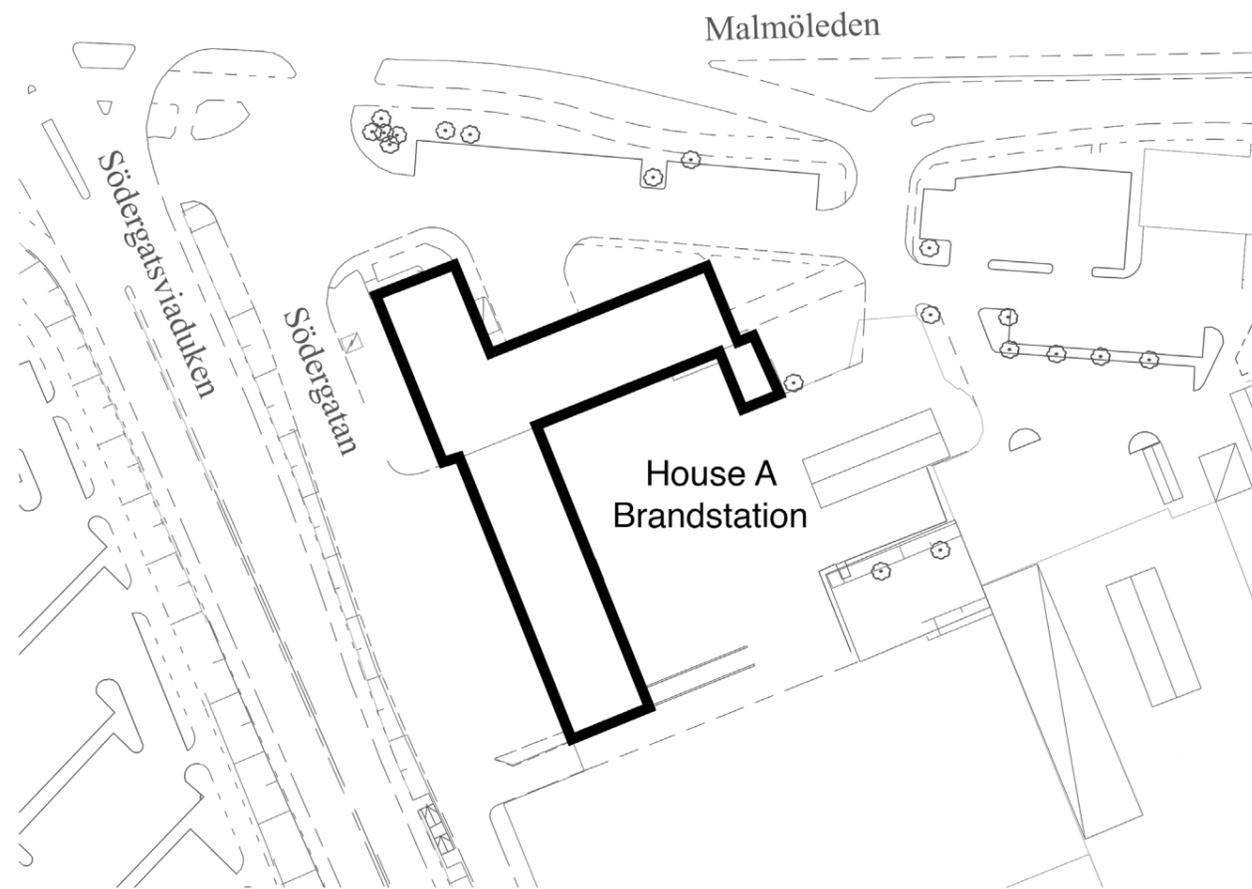
20th century

As early as 1907, there were complaints about the functions of the town hall. In the event of an emergency, the horses had to be retrieved from somewhere else, the carriages rolled down the ladders in front of the gate, conditions were poor and there was little room for fire-fighting equipment. The only plus was the central location.

However, it took over 30 years before a new fire station appeared in Helsingborg. Prior to this, a small volunteer fire brigade was organized in 1914 in connection with the outbreak of the First World War, emergency vehicles were motorized in 1915, the area of responsibility was expanded when Raa and Ramlös were included among others in the city. This required an increase in staff and new technology.

It was not until 1937 that it was decided to invite three architects to a competition for a new building in the south of Helsingborg. The architects were Arvid Fure, Arnold Salomon-Sorensen and Magens Mogensen. Magens Mogensen's proposal won and in April 1941 the construction of the station at 119 Sedergatan was completed.

At that time, it had also been decided that the new fire station would be located in the Italy quarter. Construction work began in early 1940 and the building was taken into use in April this year. However, it took until November 9th before it was formally inaugurated. The new fire station was completely different than the old one.



Italy 8, House A, "Fire Station"

Year of construction: 1940–41

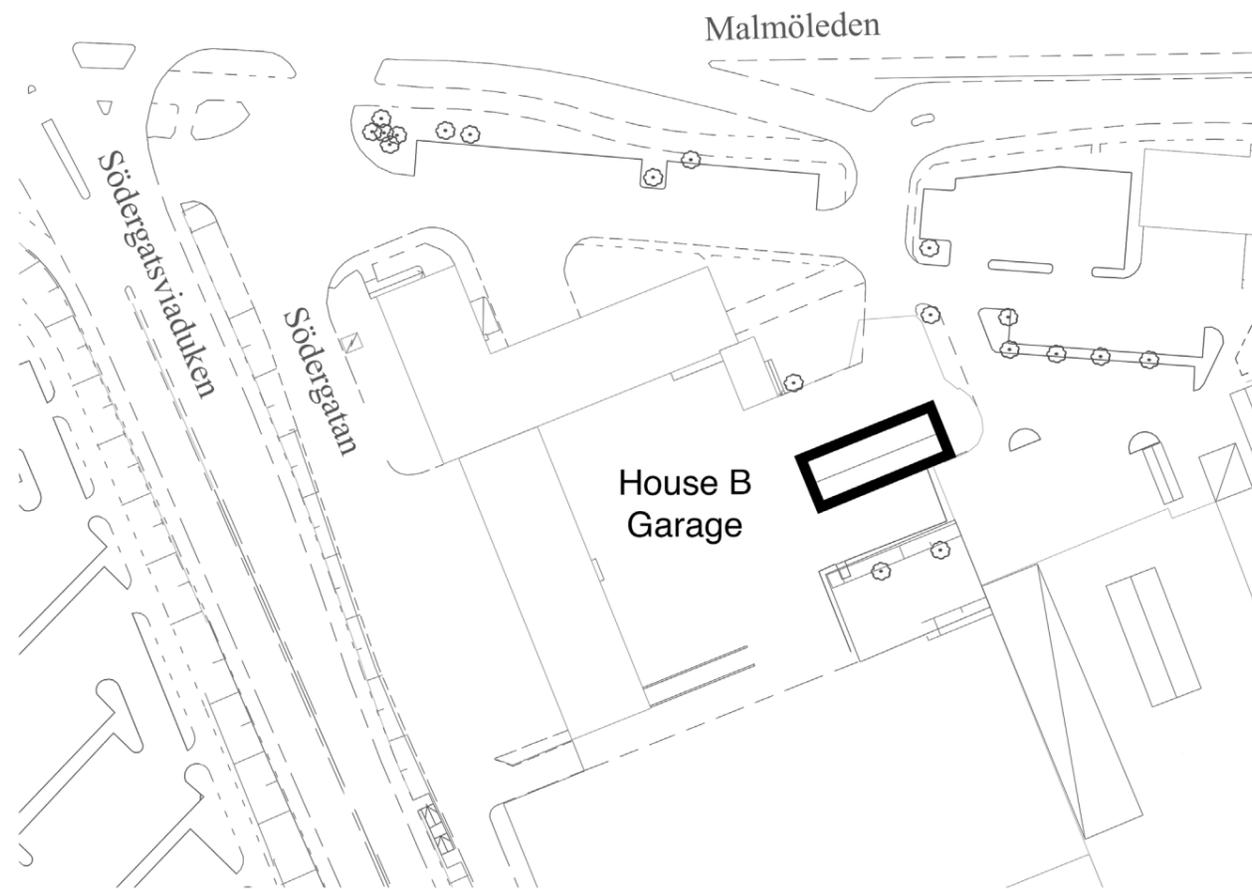
Architect: Architect SAR Mogens Mogensen

Builder: The construction company Gadd & Svensson

Client: City of Hälsingborg

The building is one of Gåsebäck's most important character buildings and is a landmark at the southern entrance, as it clearly shows the district's 1930s-40s character.

The fire station is located in the north west corner of the district Gåsebeck at the intersection of the street Södergatan and the highway E4 that connect Helsingborg city centre to Malmö. The building has four clearly distributed volumes that can be seen on the plan. The façades and outside area with parking lots are facing the south-west to the loud roads. Whereas other façades are facing to the quiet and calm courtyard being one of the back sides of the site. Since the courtyard opened to the south-east and it reaches out for several hundred meters, the daytime sun and isolation from high roads makes it an attractive feature of the site.



Italy 8, House B

Year of construction: Approx. 1966

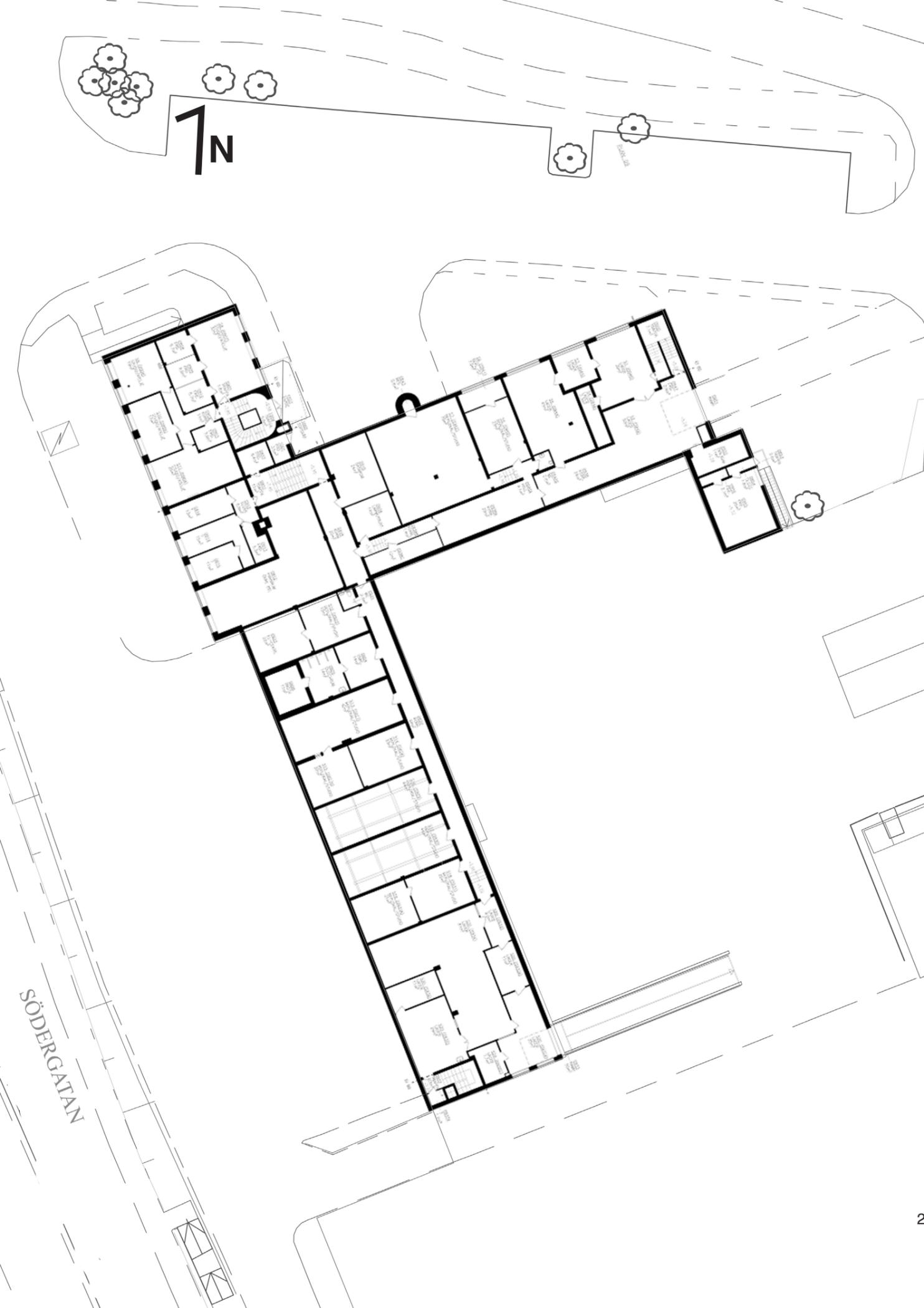
Architect: Svensk Rörförädling, Stora Mellby by Roland Andersson

Builder: Engineer Sven Schön, Limhamn

Client: City of Hälsingborg

In the courtyard behind the Fire Station, a small garage building was built in the mid-1960s. It was built with gable walls of Helsingborg brick, a back clad with corrugated sheet metal and a front completely consisting of garage doors, all under a roof of corrugated aluminium sheet. Since its construction, some of the garage doors have been replaced with new ones in different materials and designs.

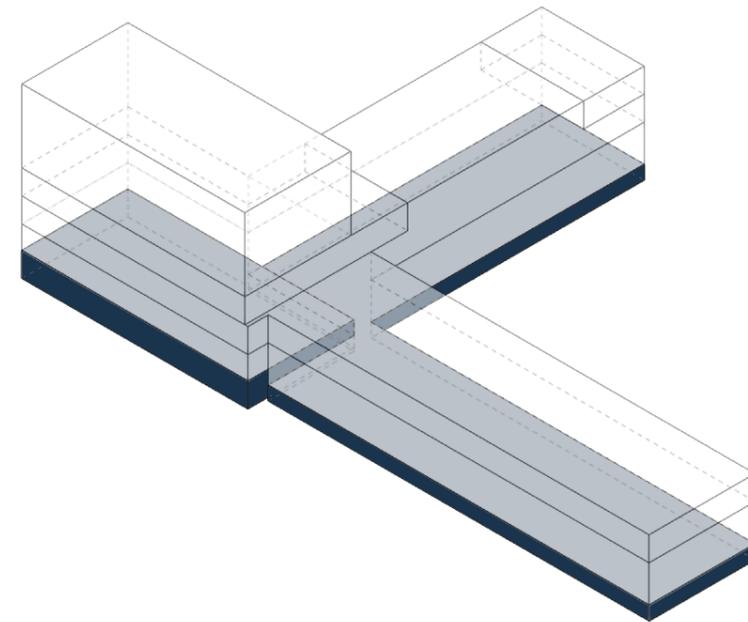
The building was demolished.

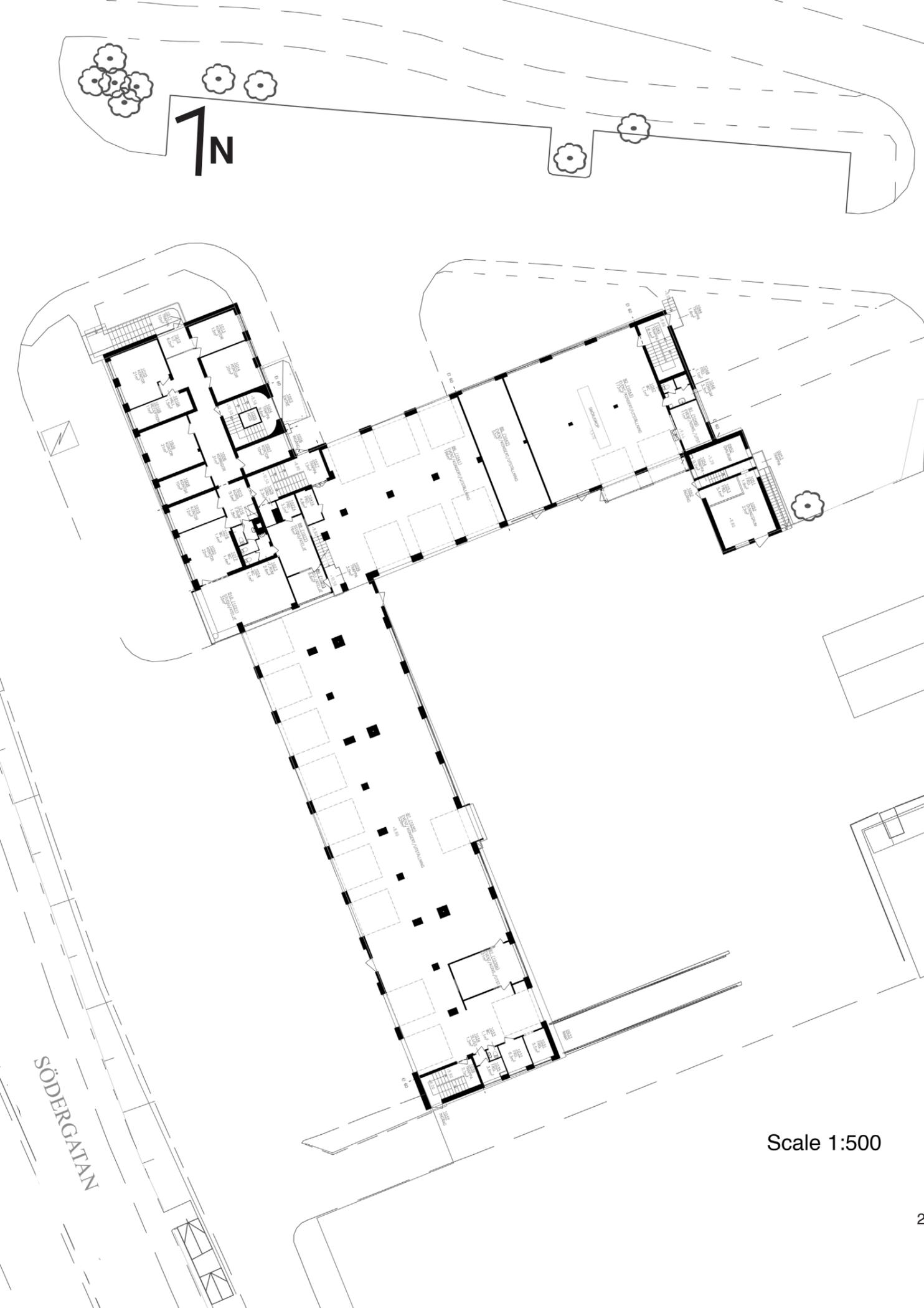


BASEMENT

The complex consisted of a central building part with five floors and two lower side wings. One along Södergatan and one at the back.

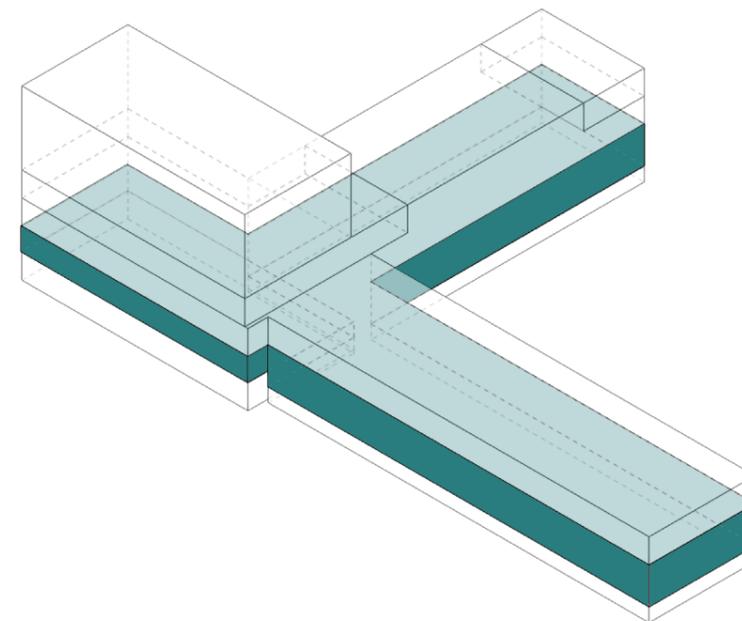
The basement was furnished for storage of various kinds, laundry room with drying and mangle room, etc.



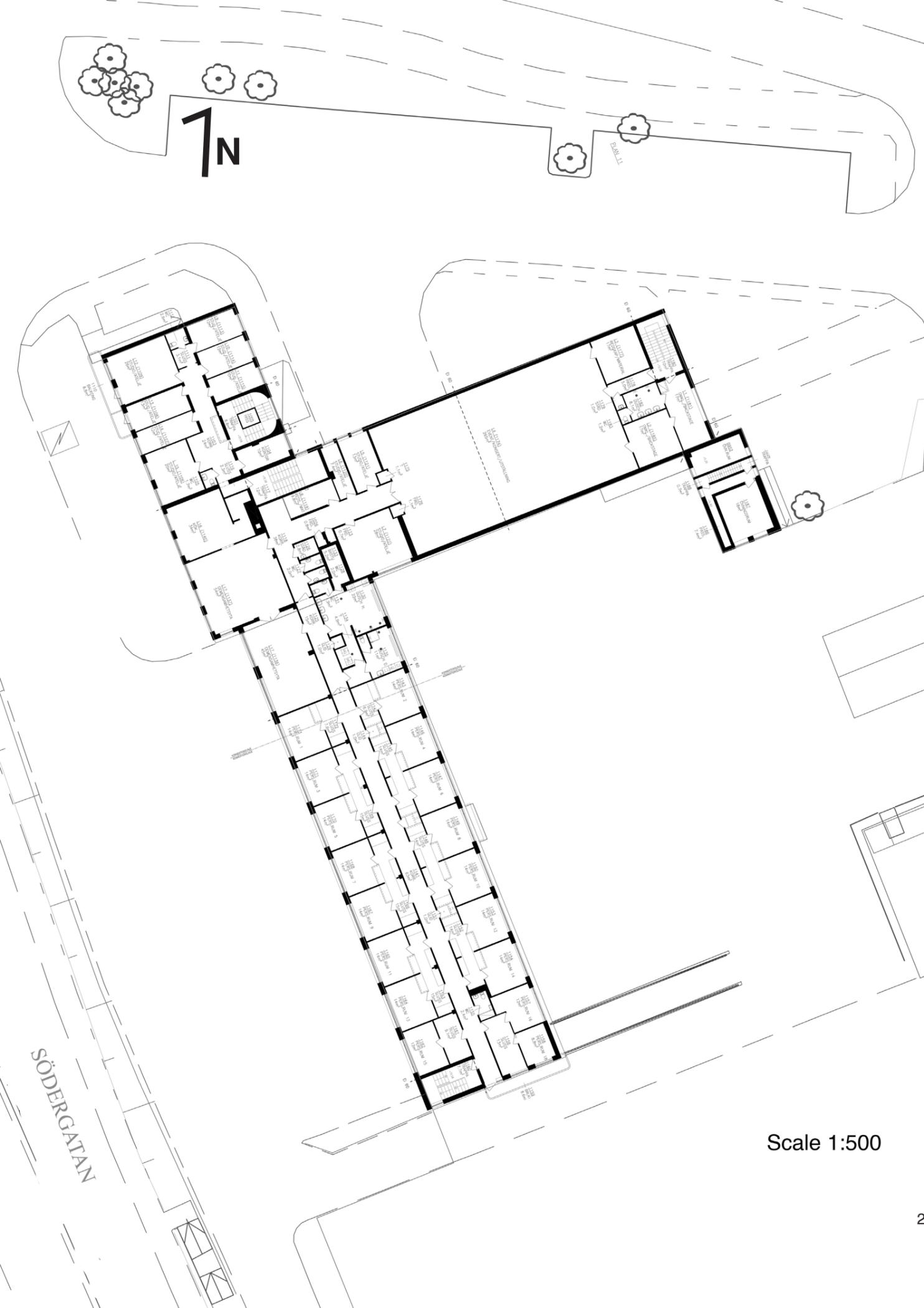


GROUND FLOOR

On the ground floor there was an office in the central part. While in the length towards Södergatan, there was a garage for the fire trucks. At the back of the lantern, there were tool sheds and workshops.

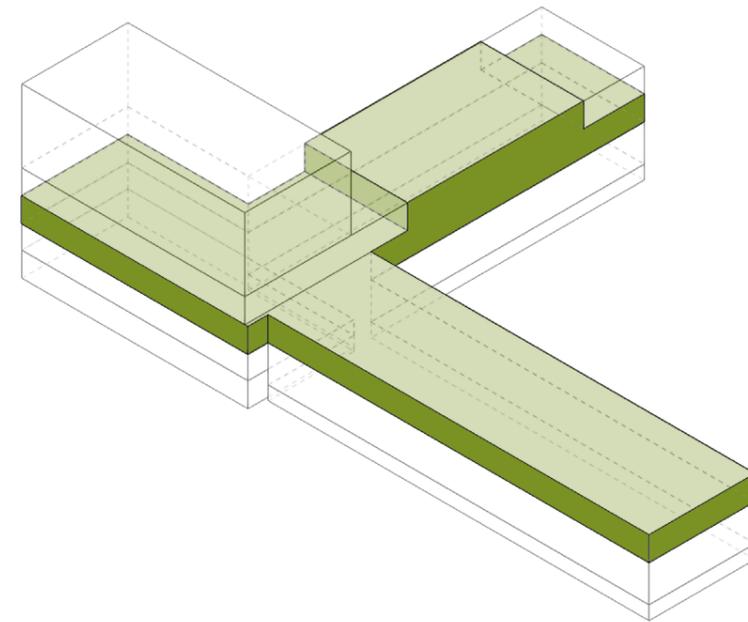


Scale 1:500

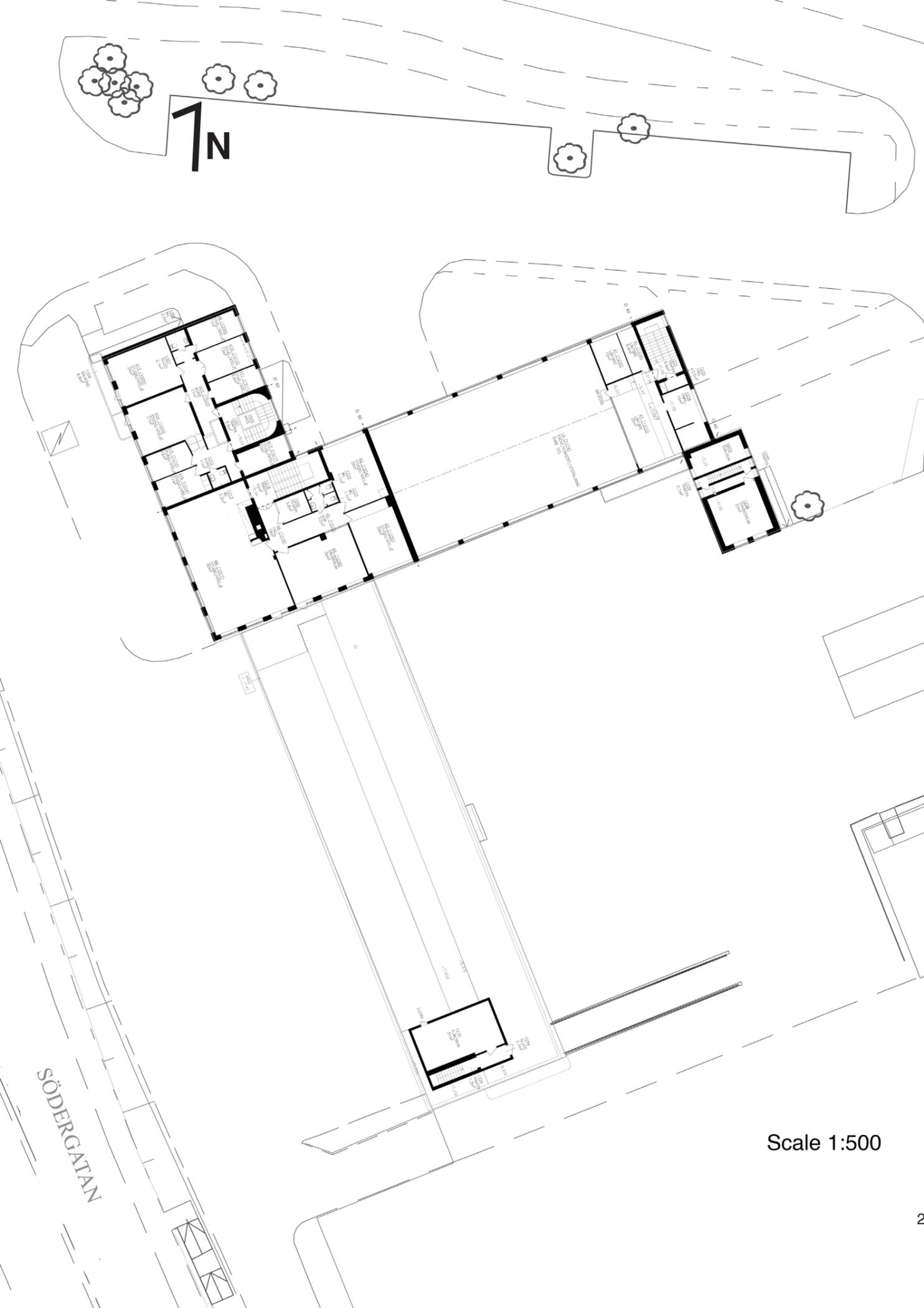


SECOND FLOOR

The second floor was furnished for two residential apartments, dining room, kitchen and accommodation (with slide bars down to the underlying garage). There were also bathrooms and washrooms, reading rooms, gymnasium and changing rooms.

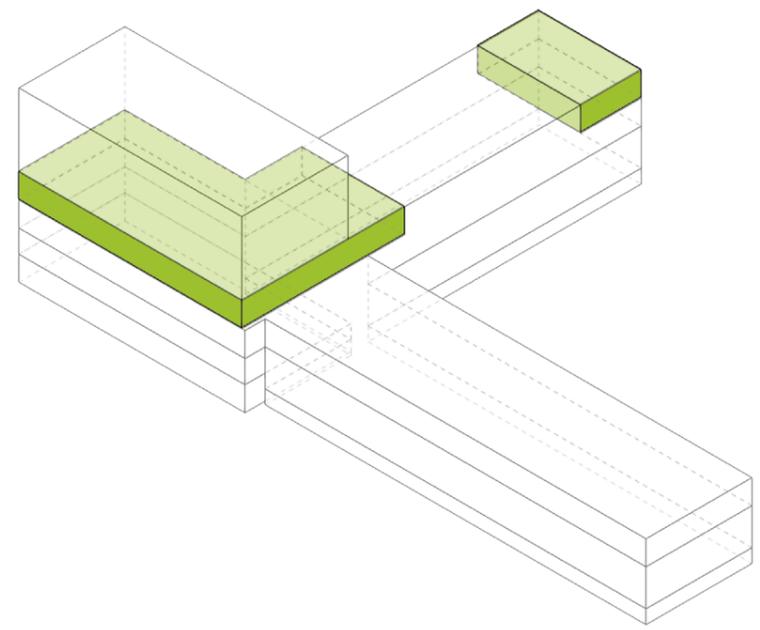


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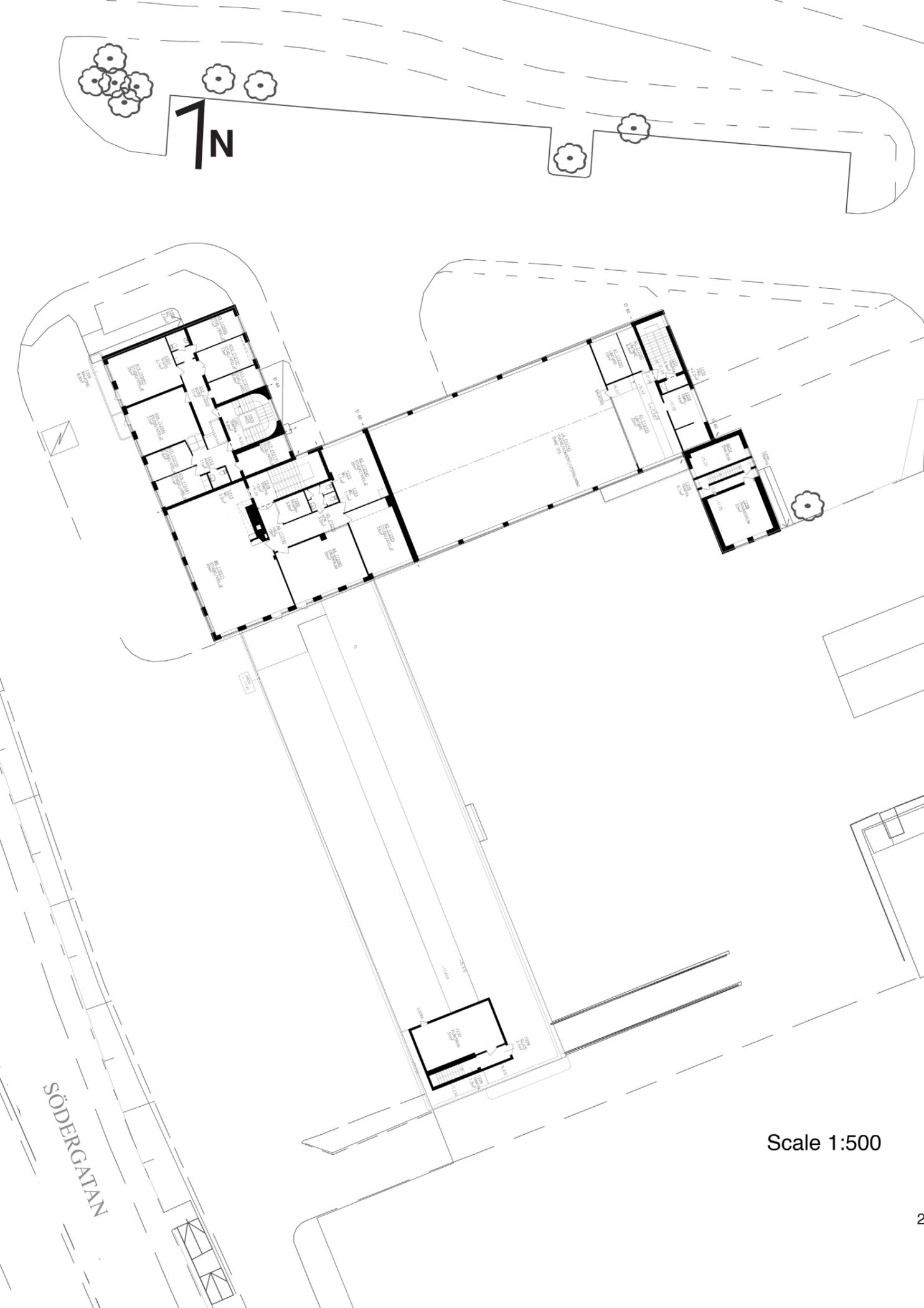


THIRD FLOOR

The third floor housed two residential apartments as well as class and day room and a large roof terrace on top of the length towards Södergatan.

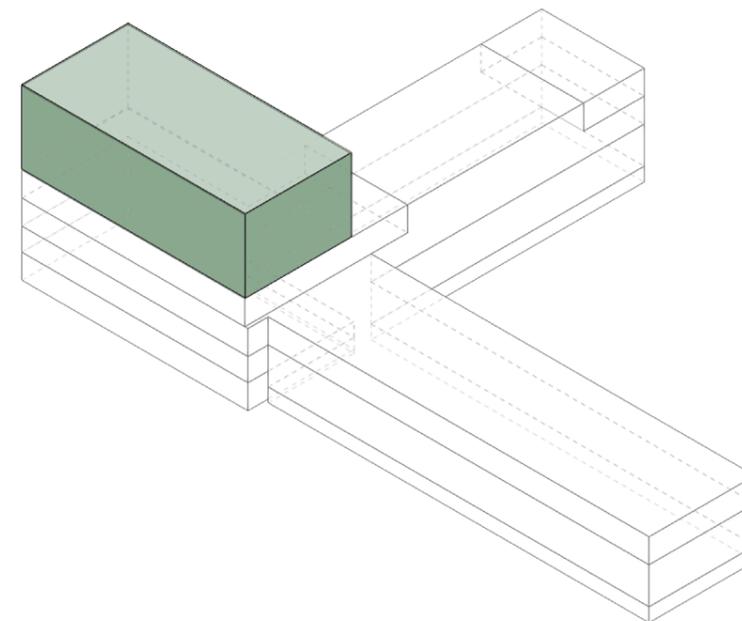


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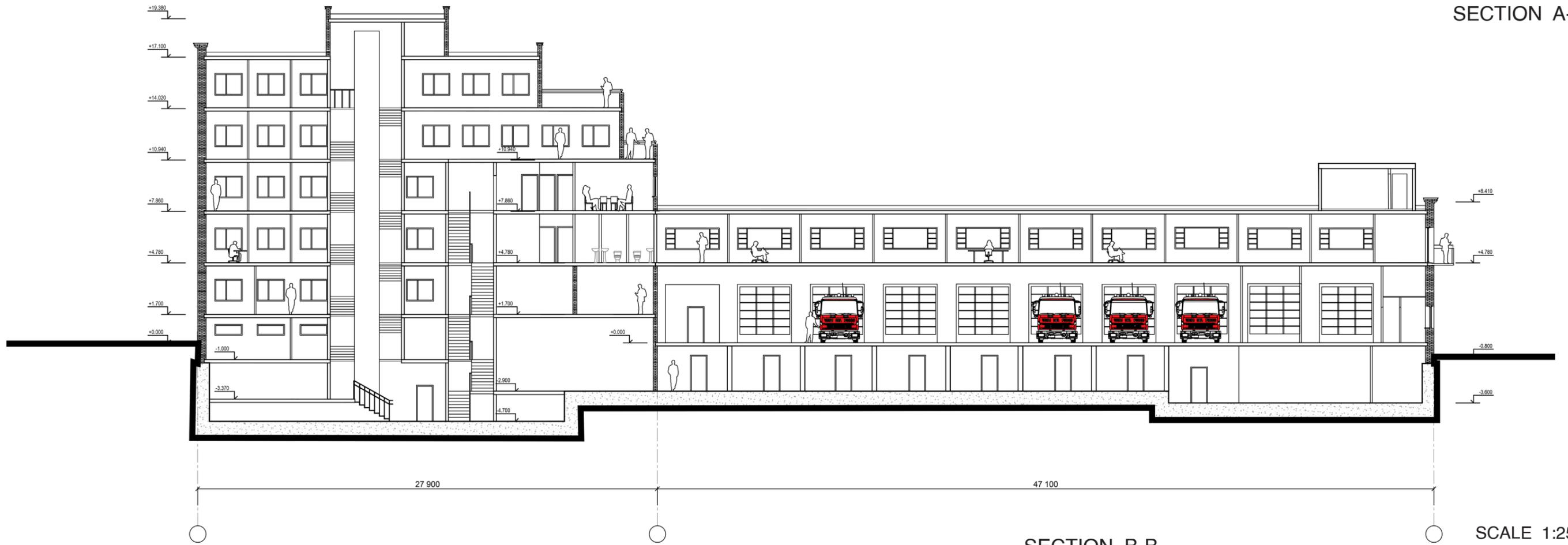


THE FOURTH AND FIFTH FLOORS

The fourth and fifth floors were furnished for three residential apartments, the largest of which was the fire chief that occupied the entire top floor and included a large roof terrace.

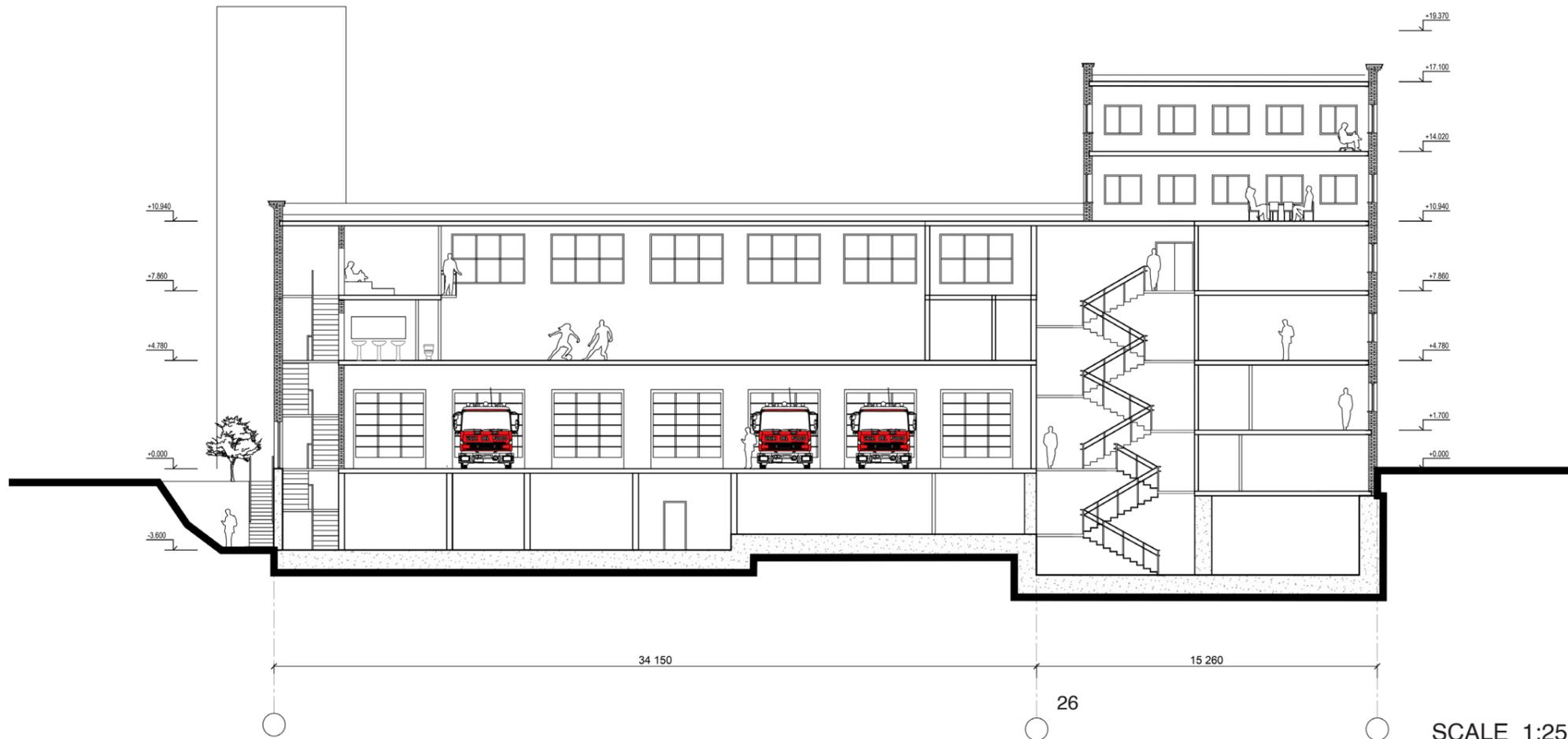


SECTION A-A

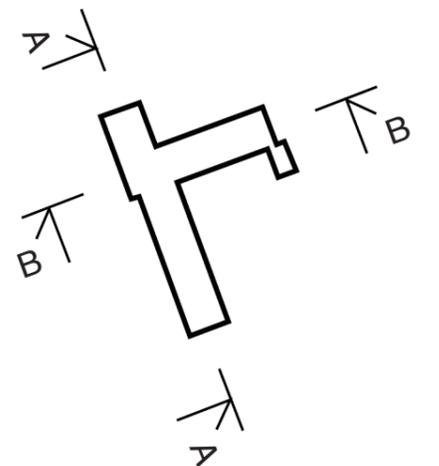


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SECTION B-B

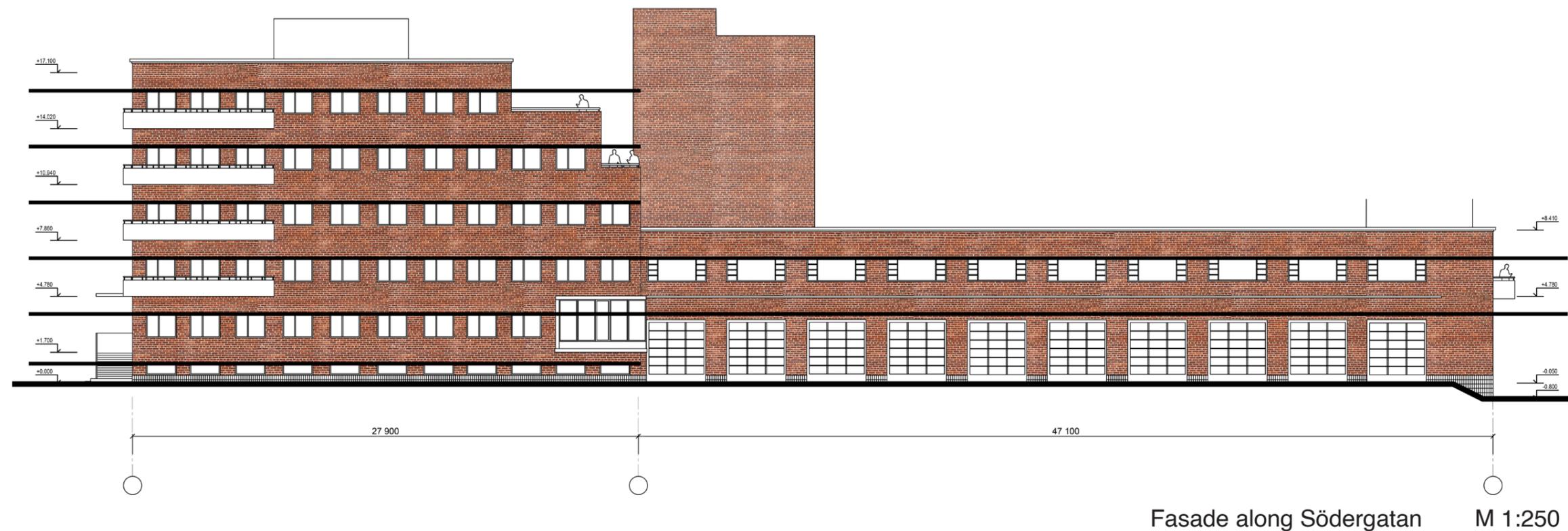


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HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL ASSESSMENT

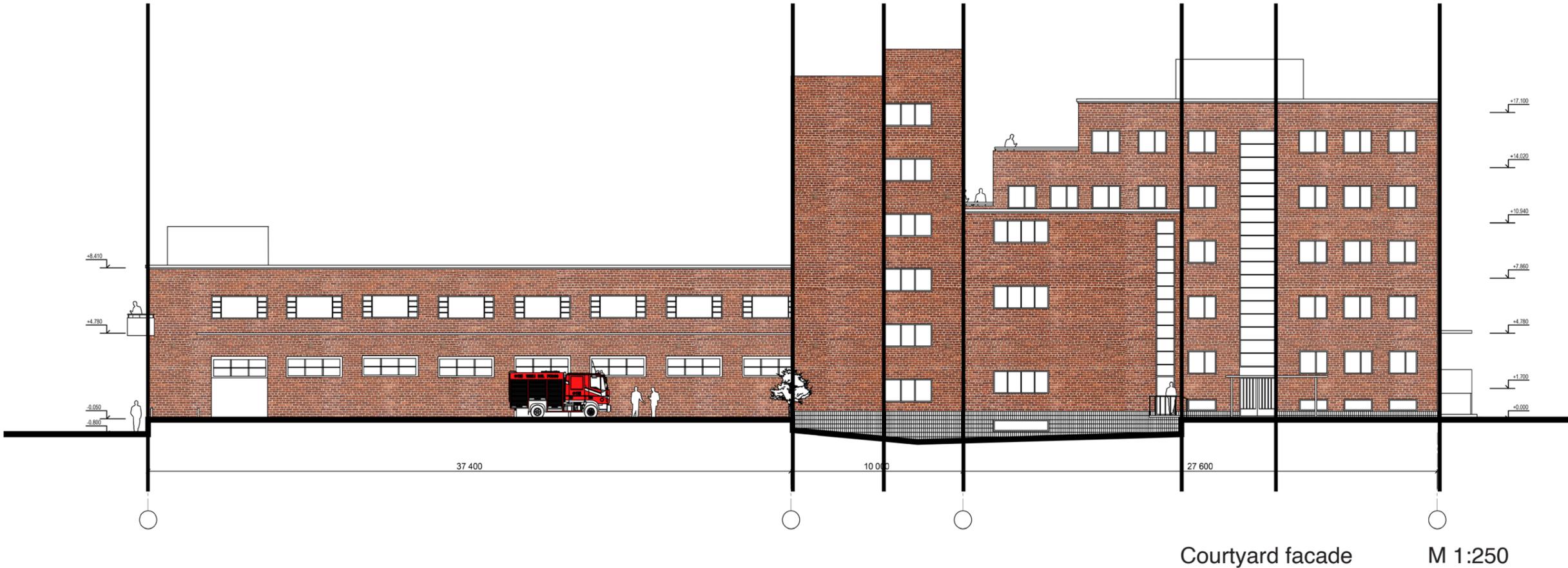
FACADE ANALYSES



The building is one of Gåsebäck's most important character buildings and is a landmark at the southern entrance. The building is made up of a number of simple volumes, with many fine and well-crafted details. The building is an important character building and landmark in Gåsebäck that clearly shows the district's 1930s-40s character.

- Strong horizontal lines
- Flat roofs accentuated by long facades of the garage and the main building with terraces on the upper floors
- Long balconies with metal handrails to emphasize the horizontal lines
- Tile plinth along the entire length of the facade

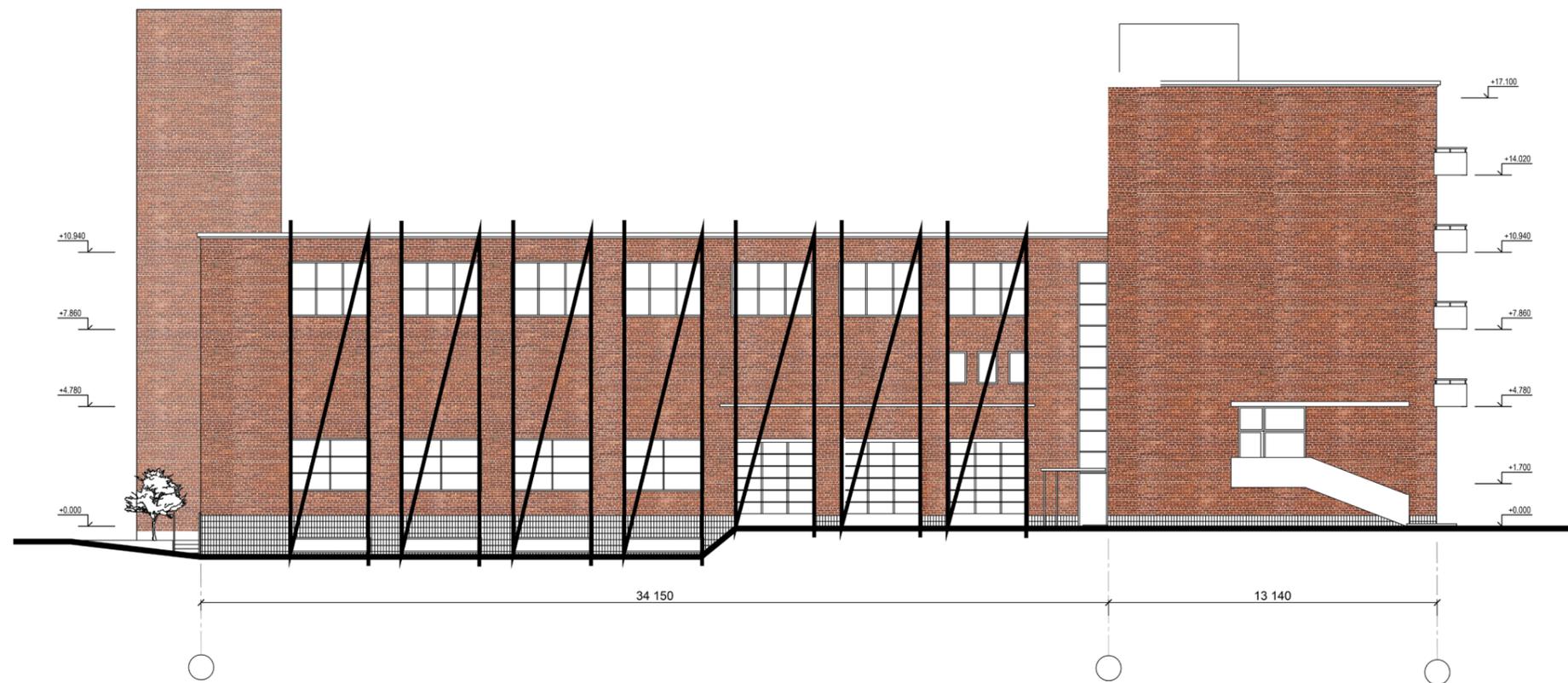
FACADE ANALYSES



The fire station is one of the functionalist buildings in Helsingborg, designed by Magens Mogensen, one of the prominent architects of the building in the south of Sweden. The building, which is clearly in the spotlight of the southern entrance to the city, consists of several distinct volumes, each of which is origin.

- Strong vertical lines
- Long vertical window strips and glazed stairwells
- Vertical volume of the hose drying tower with windows that emphasize the height

WALL FIELD DIVISION



Facade along Malmöleden

M 1:250

Residential that are on the upper floors and office areas descend from the south towards the lower garage and residential part. At the back, there is a lower building that houses a workshop and gym, and to the east is a hose drying tower that is the highest volume in the building.

- Horizontal wing of the building with windows on two floors (somewhere a rhythm is created that includes the windows of the basement) that form vertical visual elements
- Repetitive windows as a vertical elements
- Proportional openings

VALUE



THE WINDOWS

The most important aesthetic part of the windows, according to me, is the several types of windows that corresponds to different functions of the room and have various divisions. The large window openings which are on the wings on the second floor, are regarded as aesthetically pleasing. The windows also follow an important rhythm that is in balance with the rest of the facades. The windows glass and frames are less valuable. Most of the windows in the old fire station have been replaced, with the exception of the front door and rear porch windows, since they are less value and relatively low quality.

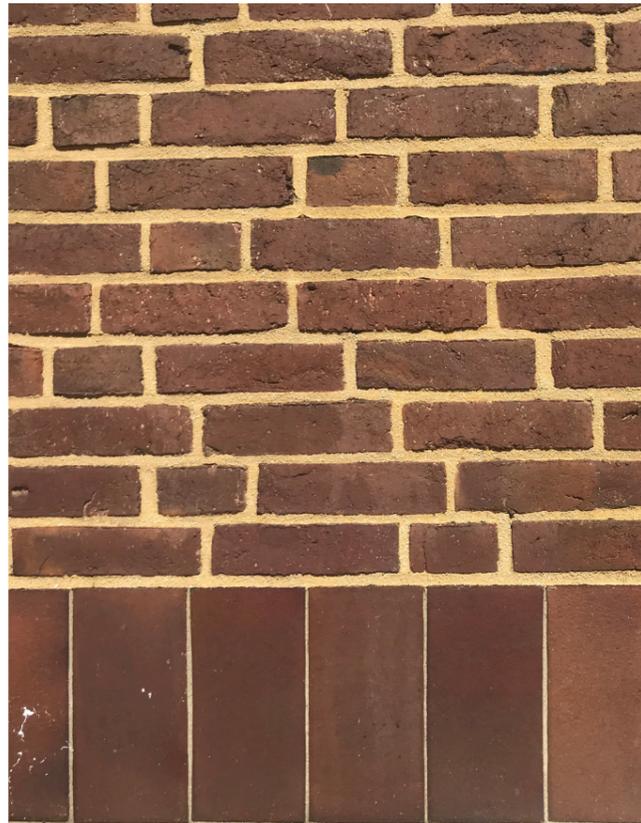


THE BALCONIES

The most important structural and aesthetic part of the building, according to my point of view, are the long horizontal balconies with rounded corners and metal handrail that follow the balconies shape. The balconies placed at the corners of the main building and at the end of the facade along Södergatan. Their concrete plastered surfaces stand out against the brick wall and emphasize the horizontal lines of the facade.

Each balcony has exits from several rooms and for this reason the balconies are separated by a vertical partition that is clearly visible on the facade.





MATERIALS

Local materials were used during the fire station construction. Brick facade walls were made from Helsingborg brick that gave additional work for the labor market at the start of World War II. For decorating the basement floor Höganäs tiles were used.



THE GARAGE DOORS

The original garage doors were hinged glass in the center with glass panes, four-section vertically and two horizontally. According to the surviving photographs, I can guess that they were made from wood.

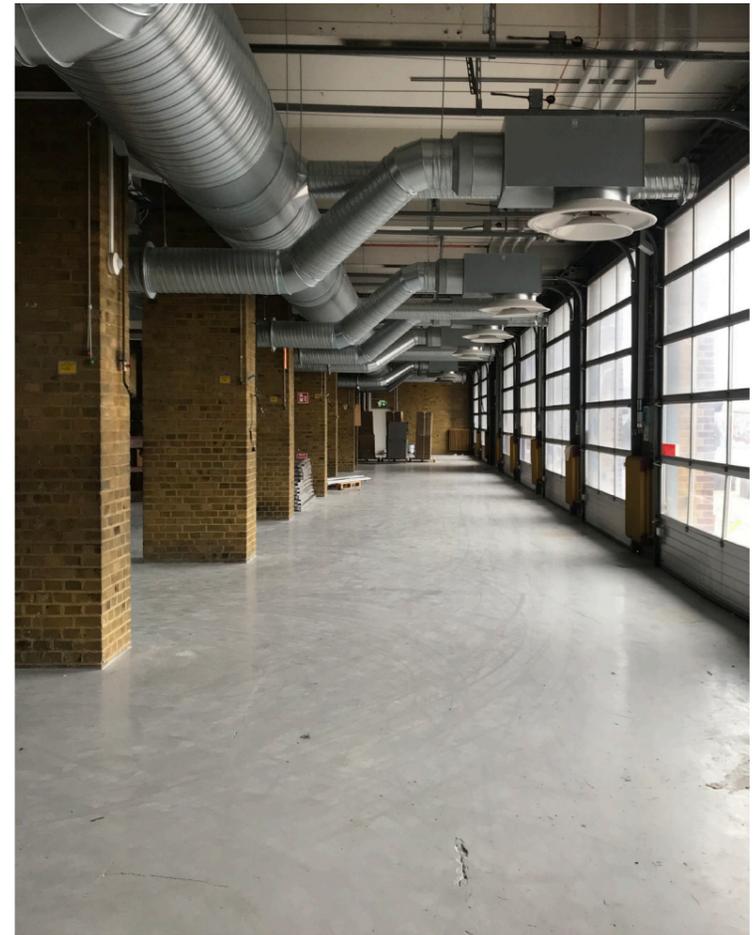
Nowadays garage doors are completely replaced with the new section doors with electric drive and have no historical value. The new all-piece metal doors have deviations, with only five sections of glass vertically and three horizontally. The main daylight penetrates the garage space through these doors.



THE ENTRANCE DOORS

The front door has a historical value as one of the few elements that have been kept unchanged except the main door to the office part of the building from the corner of Södergatan and Malmöleden street. This door was replaced with a new plastic door.

The preserved wooden doors have pronounced modernist vertical narrow deviations and are painted to the original black color. Also, they are sheathed with metal sheets at the bottom, which may have been done to preserve the doors from mechanical damage. Above the entrance doors, there are a concrete rain awning with rounded corners and in the plan, they are of an interesting irregular shape



GARAGE SPACE INTERIOR



INTERIOR

The garage space on the ground floor covers an area of 740.0 m² with high ceilings H 4.5 m. Space is divided by supporting columns in the middle of the same brick as the fire station. The daylight penetrates to the garage space through the garage glass doors from both sides but this is not enough to light this deep space and as a result, there is indoor partial shade. Some of these garage doors are laid and do not function as openings.

The new ventilation equipment was installed several years ago but it does not satisfy the fire station needs because it is huge and loud.

SPORTS HALL INTERIOR

VALUE DISCUSSION

CRITERIA OF THE HIGHEST VALUE

The main criterion for the value of our building is its structural value, as it is built of bricks and a concrete basement. The building consists of a few simple volumes with many beautiful and well-detailed details. Some of the functional elements in a building can serve the purposes that are in demand today, such as large windows that let in daylight, high ceilings, and flat roofs that can be used as additional space.

CRITERIA OF LEAST VALUE

The weakest evaluation criteria for this building are the interior. The interior was changed during the 80 years using the fire station and during changing its purpose from the station to the refugee camp and space for creativity.

DISCUSSION

When the building was built in 1940 during World War II, I guess that society was mainly discussing its functional values and the benefits that it can give to the city. The fire station is one of the functionalist Helsingborg-labeled buildings designed by Mogens Mogensen, who was one of the building's leading architects style in southern Sweden, and also, the building has excellent functionalist features.

CHANGES IN COST

There are no major changes affecting the value of the buildings except the nowadays location of the building. The building, located at the southern entrance to the city in the industrial district Gåsebäck that is not popular and people do not feel safe being there.

INTERVIEW WITH LISELOTT HERSBY

Liselotte Hersby was born in 1955. At that time, her father Olof Arvidson was deputy fire chief and Liselott, along with her older brother and parents, lived on the fourth floor. In 1962, her father was promoted to fire chief and they had to move upstairs, to the largest 7-room apartment at the top of the house with their private terrace. The firefighter society at the station had a clear heretical and, according to this, each family should follow the rules. The first fire captain lived on the third floor, the second fire captain on the second floor and so on. All wore uniforms and most of the women were housewives. The families who lived permanently at the fire station had kitchens in the apartments and lived just like all other families.

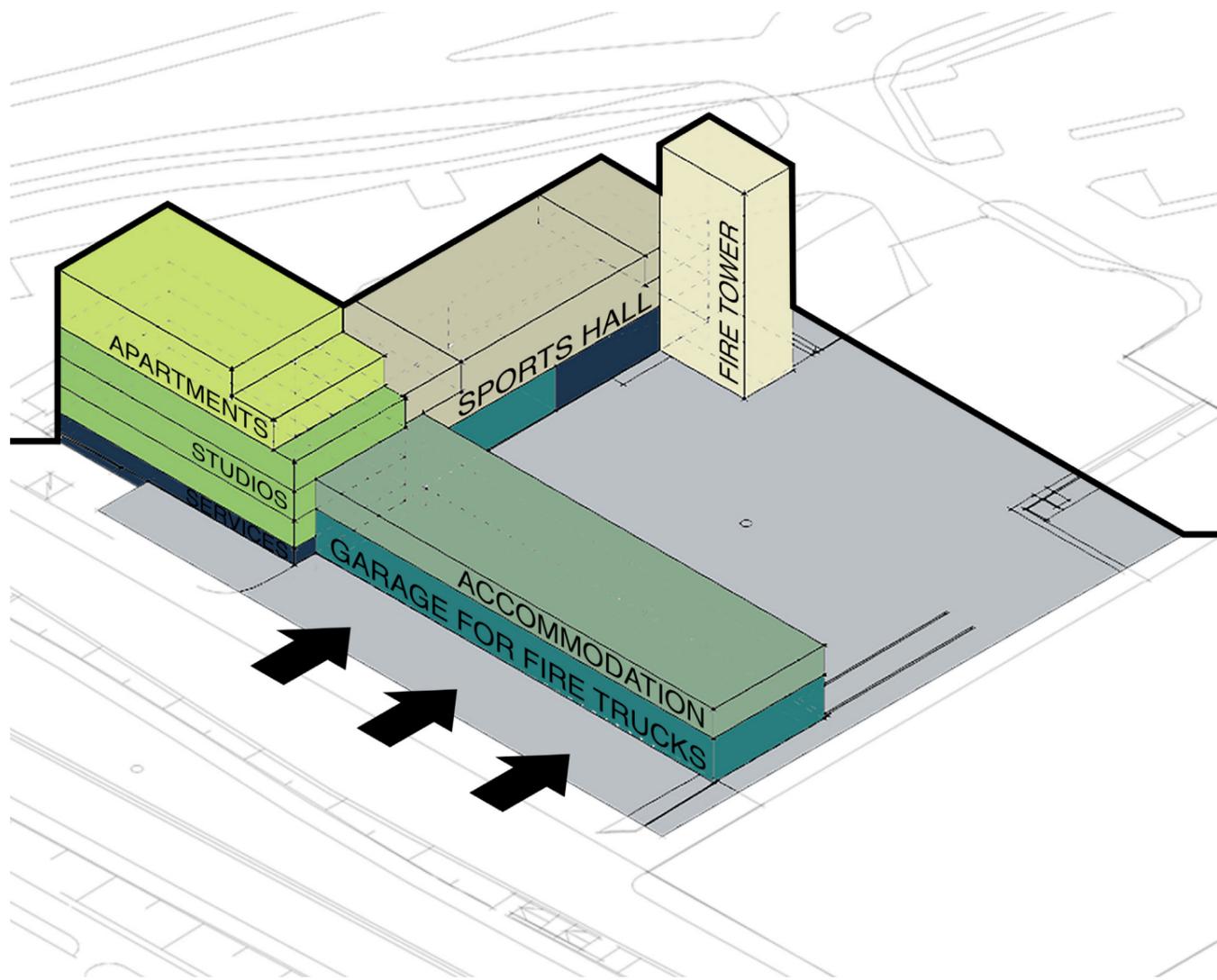
At this time, the fire station, built in 1940, functioned almost like a small town. There was a laundry room, painting workshop, carpentry workshop, tailor and a cook for the firefighters who lived there temporarily. The firefighters were on duty for about two days at a time and then they lived at the fire station, otherwise they lived at home.

Liselott spent all her free time at the fire station because the building was giving the kids a lot of space and possibilities to play. Her favourite places were the gym and the tower. Another exciting place was the basement, where the smoke diving suits that looked like space-suits were hung. Moreover, at the basement, there was the bar where the firefighters spent their evenings just talking and waiting the alarms. However, the kids preferred spending time in the guardhouse, the part that protrudes on the front of the house, where there was a telephone exchange and that was where all the alarms came from. This made them the first to know of anything that has happened at the time.

Additionally, according to Liselott, she was not an obedient child and went for a walk much further than her parents allowed. She was spending her exciting days in the poorer area of the city, which was not far from the fire station towards the sea. She felt completely free playing games with children who lived in this area. Nowadays, this area is completely full of big industrial buildings and parking lots.

In 1972, she turned 18 and moved to Gothenburg to study. Olof Arvidson was fire chief until the early 80s when he went on to the position of chief director of the Swedish Fire Board. Liselotte Hersby is retired now but has worked as an architect all her life.

THE FIRE STATION 1940 - 2012



As mentioned previously, the fire station functioned as a small town where firefighters live, work, do sports, and relaxed. For more than 70 years this fire station was used for her main construction purpose and was a landmark for city inhabitants.

THE FIRE STATION 2012

The building has a very high cultural and historical value, but in June 2012 the demolition permit was granted. The old fire station has been empty for a few months and demolition permits have been issued. The garage at the back was demolished to keep the demolition permit active.

THE FIRE STATION 2015

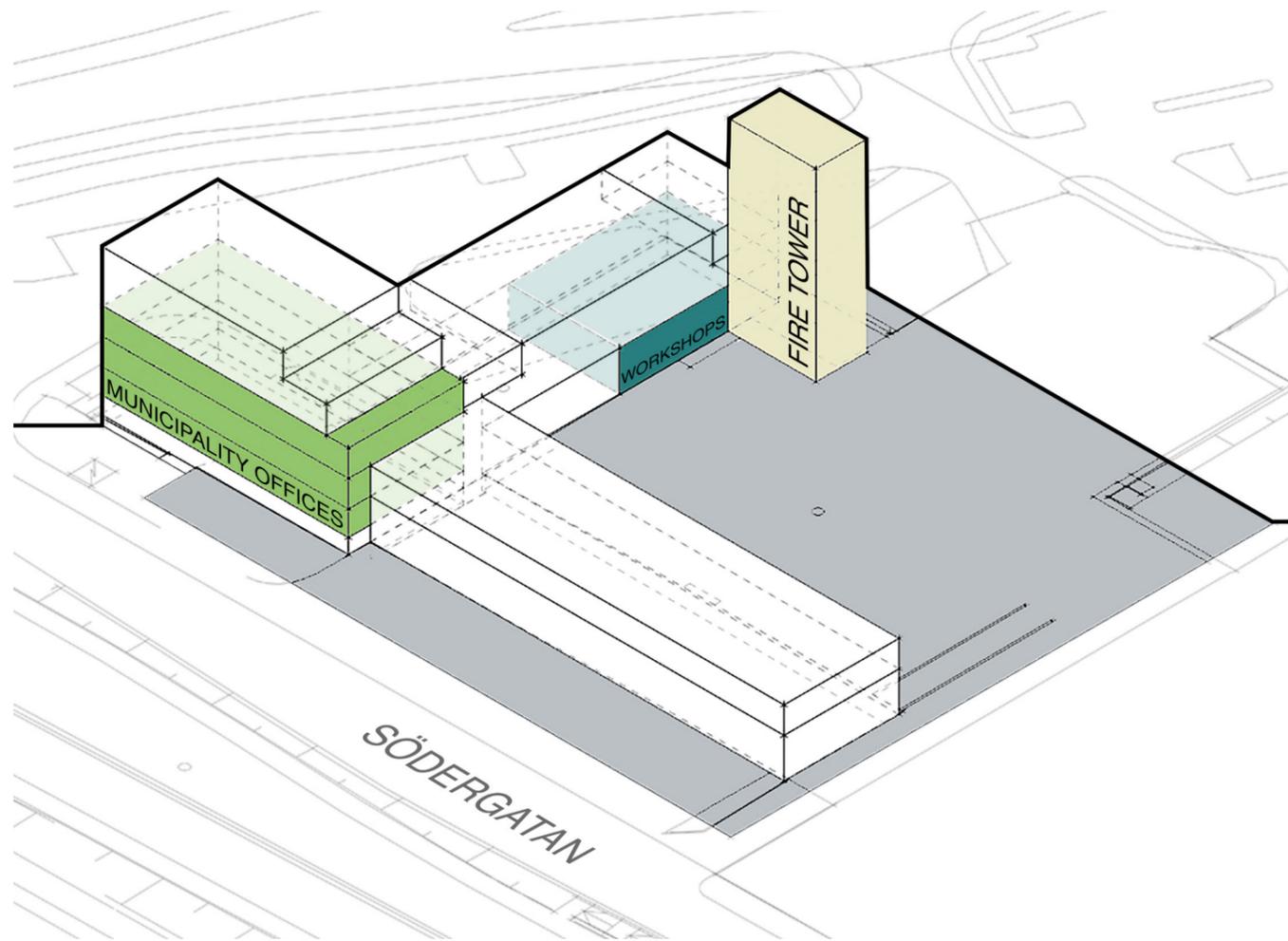
In the autumn of 2015, the humanitarian disaster happened in Syria and Afghanistan and this is driving the biggest refugee crisis in Europe since World War II. In the waves of this situation, an old condemned fire station in Gåsebäck was instead serve as temporary accommodation. This tragic situation for people who left their countries helped Helsingborg city to save this building from demolition and gave time to think about the further its use.

THE FIRE STATION NOW

Nowadays, Gåsebäck and the fire station attract a lot of creative people that are fascinated with the buildings and the feeling of being a little free here no matter what they create. In addition, a lot of them work and live there.

From the outside, it can seem deserted and quiet here. No one knows really what is in Gåsebäck. All what people know is that there are tire companies, car washes, and some industrial shops. However, on Saturday, when the sign 11älskling11 lights up in red, the flea market on the parking lot opens and the area around the fire station comes alive. However, inside the fire station walls, a lot of brain-storming and mind mapping are going on and so much is happening that is hidden from ordinary people.

Unfortunately, not many spaces currently are rented there. Helsingborg municipality has offices there for people who want to make the fire station a cultural part of the city. This includes people who communicate with Gåsebäck inhabitants to determine their need and desire, who want to dust off the surroundings and get a layer of new colour. Also, in the basement, young people rent premises for workshops and musicians rent as rehearsal rooms. The firefighters still come to the climbing wall in the fire tower to practice because the new fire station is not equipped with such facilities. In the evenings, workers gettogether in the cozy courtyard where the tables are, along with hanging large outdoor decorative lamps and a barbeque fire on the weekends. This is where everyone is welcome to join them.



As mentioned before, there is the biggest graffiti park in Sweden there, where young people can express themselves creatively. There are more than 300 meters of graffiti wall where young artists from Sweden and Denmark present their work.

Nearby residential areas are developing and more new inhabitants with families and kids move there. People spend their sunny evenings and weekends doing some sports activities and having barbeques outdoors. Therefore, the old fire station can attract them and be a part of these activities.

CENTRAL STATION



SIMHALLSBADET

ST. MARY'S CHURCH

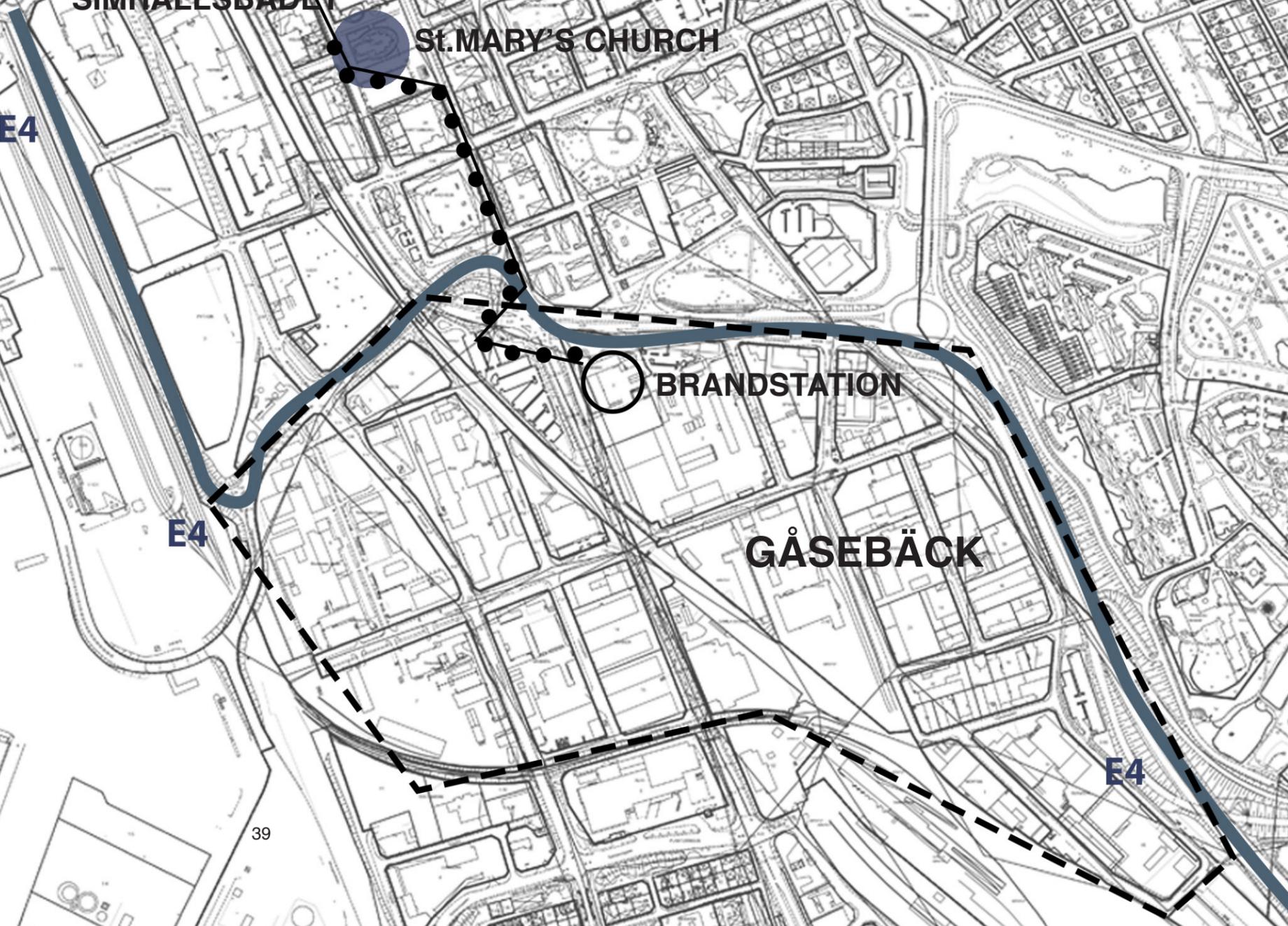
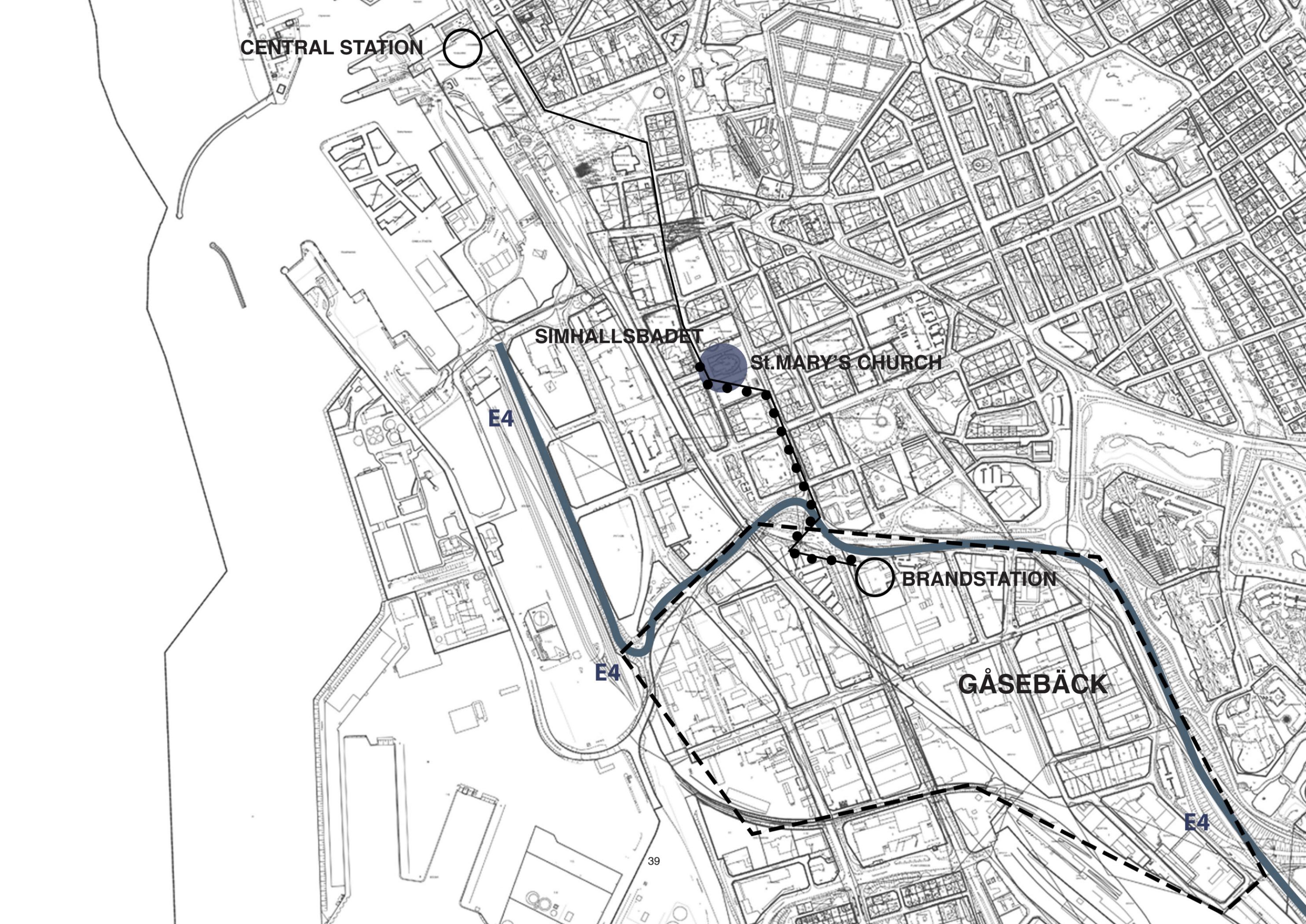
BRANDSTATION

GÅSEBÄCK

E4

E4

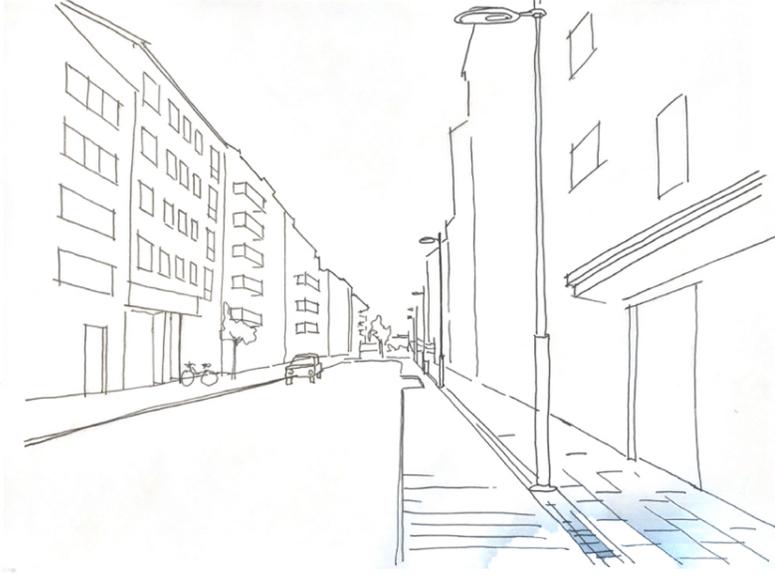
E4



CULLEN STUDY



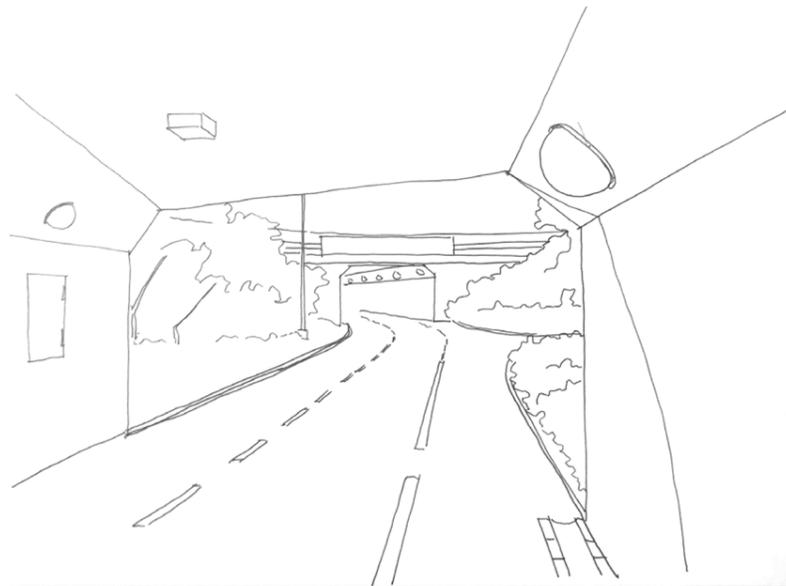
The story begins in one of the busiest central square in the city. In this square, the city market can be found which is the oldest city St. Mary's Church and Simhallsbadet, another iconic building by the same architect.



A few meters further down the street, there is a deserted street where people do not tend to go.



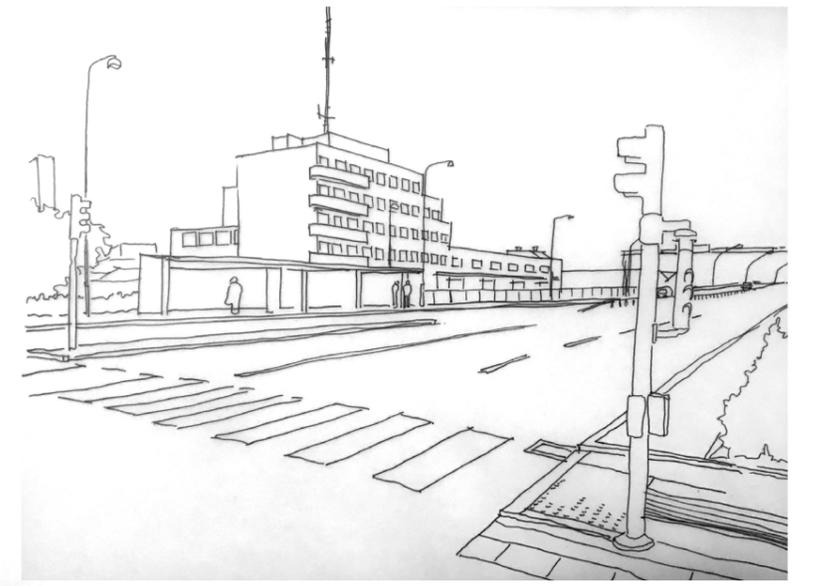
Even though, this is the only way to get to the station through one tunnel.



These tunnels go under the road E4 to Malmö.



The first thing one sees after coming out of the tunnel is the parking lot where the flea market takes place on weekends.

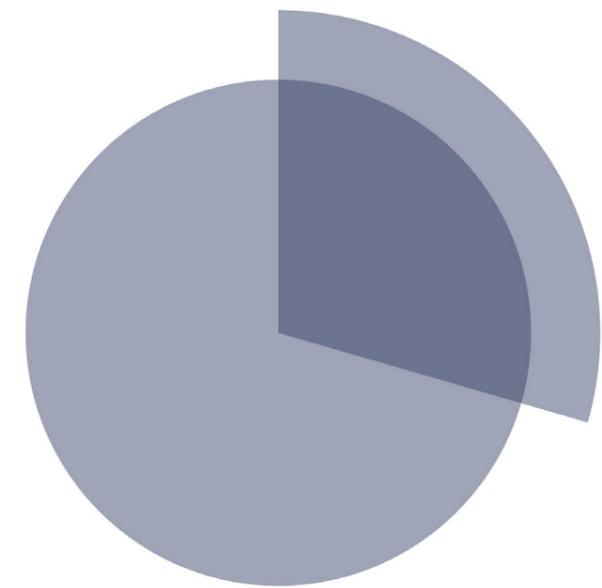


After that, one can find the fire station, after crossing the 8 lines road.

HELSINGBORG now and future

According to the latest prognoses and the City Plan 2017 of Helsingborg the city is facing a considerable growth. The city will grow to 154 000 inhabitants by 2030, that is around 23 %.

TODAY
112 496
inhabitants



154 000
inhabitants

2030

CAMPUS HELSINGBORG

Lund University



CAMPUS HELSINGBORG now and future

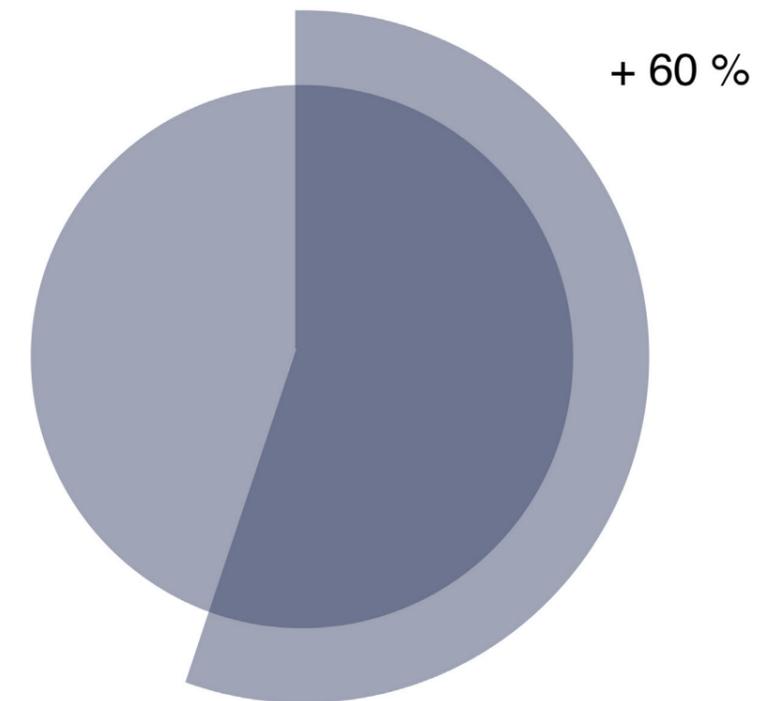
Helsingborg is a young and modern student city on the southwest coast of Sweden. Many people want to live, work and study here, and Helsingborg is one of the fastest growing cities in Sweden. There are always student activities in Helsingborg. In addition, Lund's student life is only half an hour away by train.

The Campus is located in the cosmopolitan city of Helsingborg, a short walk from the train station.

Campus of Lund University in Helsingborg now has closed to 4000 students. An expansion to 5000 students has been sketched and provision for 10 000 students should be possible in Helsingborg.

TODAY

**~ 3 000
students**



**+ 5 000
+ 10 000
students**

2030

CONCLUSION

about the old fire station today

The fire station is one of Helsingborg's functionalist brand buildings, designed by Mogens Mogensen, who was one of the leading architects of the building style in southern Sweden.

The building, which is located in the spotlight at the city's southern entrance in the Gåsebäck district, consists of several clearly distinguishable volumes, all of which are original. All these building components are important for understanding the function of the building. In terms of materials, the building is high-class with facades of Helsingborg brick, the plinth of Höganäs clinker. The building exterior has distinct functionalist features. The building is fairly well preserved and constitutes as such together with its architectural features a building with high cultural-historical values.

However, during the last ten years, the function of the building has changed several times, from the fire station to the refugees camp, and to the place where creative people can meet each other and work.

Nowadays, the old fire station faced several problems such as isolation from the city center and most of the infrastructure, lack of a clear function goal to attract city residents to this area, and lack of funding.

At Gåsebäck, there are forces that see potential in the old fire station and it is slowly but surely starting to become a hub for a more open, creative, pulsating Gåsebäck. Enthusiasts that work and create there try to build a meeting place that Helsingborg lacks today. They wanted to create a welcoming place, one that could connect north and south. This can be a really good location due to location not far from the city center and also, a bit away there is Sweden's largest graffiti park where are 250 meter long free planks where the artist from Sweden or Denmark come.

At Gåsebäck, there is a distrust of the city of Helsingborg, where they are afraid that the city will come and go with ideas that not fully satisfy the people and building needs, that it will be arranged and boring with a lot of vision talks, far from the creative place that some daydream about. Nevertheless, the city gave the go-ahead for the transformation of this area and the fire station in particular. The city is not yet ready to allocate funds for this transformation.

A limited group of enthusiasts decides to join forces with the first project, to renovate the rickety tunnel that can take pedestrians to the Gåsebäck district and its walls were painted by the graffiti artist. To some extent, it was about security and accessibility for the people who come to the district. Moreover, from the beginning, the red neon sign "älskling" was placed in the tunnel, and just only to protect it from the vandalism they move it to the old fire station facade along the Malmöleden.

All this gives us an understanding that this area, together with the old fire station, is beginning to revive thanks to not indifferent people and calls itself an incubator for entrepreneurship. The small incubator for entrepreneurship has just arranged its second Gåsebäcksfestival, this time with music and graffiti, and food. This is like new support and hope to stand on for the somewhat aging industrial districts.

There needs to be space for creative people in a city like Helsingborg so as not to look for bigger opportunities in other cities such as Malmö, Copenhagen.

INSPIRATIONS



"Architecture doesn't want to be functional; it wants to be timely"

Paulo Mendes da Rocha

Chapel of São Pedro

Saint Peter's Chapel is a concrete chapel surrounded by glass and stone located near the Boa Vista Palace, which was once the winter residence of the Governor of São Paulo. Two-story glass facade and views of the highest city in Brazil. Inside the chapel, the space is organized around a huge cylindrical column, which symbolizes the role of St. Peter as a stone at the founding of Christianity. Taking this large column as a starting point, the three lightweight slabs were cantilevered at different heights. From the entrance, the central tray tilts to form a small tribune reserved for the congregation, overlooking the region's valley. The sleek, upright body contrasts with the massive core and establishes a continuous connection between interior and exterior, bringing nature and landscape to the space of worship. At ground level, a layer of water casts light reflections on the underside of the concrete slabs, giving the complex a light look.



O-Office

Thriving Cultural Center

This Honghua Dyeing factory was abandoned several years before the O-Office architects refurbish it into a thriving cultural center. This 8-hectare factory located in Shenzhen, Guangdong, China on a hilltop and surrounded by the coast and the mountains. This is a topographically unique place. The original ground floor has been converted into a large open concrete pavilion. There are the individual artists' studios, exhibition and meeting rooms, cafes. Revolving wall doors and sliding glass doors make the gallery look different at different events or at different times of the year. The old residential building has been converted into modern living units by making minor changes to the existing structure and providing modern living spaces. Taking into account the spatial history of the building and combining it with modern operational requirements, O-OFFICE architects have created a dynamic center where people can spend quality time.



Andrea Oliva Architetto

New Forms of Industry: Shed #19

The old factory, which employed more than eleven thousand people, was abandoned in early 2000, unable to survive the economic crisis. The factory was later transformed by the architectural firm Andrea Oliva Arcitetto into a technopolis for industrial research. Initially, the architect undertook research to determine the various possible transformations of the building. The rich industrial history of the plant and the area is considered important for understanding how it can be refurbished and used in the future. The renovation project reflects and restores the basic beauty of the dilapidated building, dividing the space with distinctive modules that are structurally, thermally, and materially independent. In this way, the industrial heritage and historical significance of the building are restored, adapting to modern requirements, transforming the destroyed area into a public space for society and a place for the relentless exploration of new ways of production.

PROCESS

the old fire station



EDUCATION



LEASURE



SPORT



COMMUNICATION



WORK

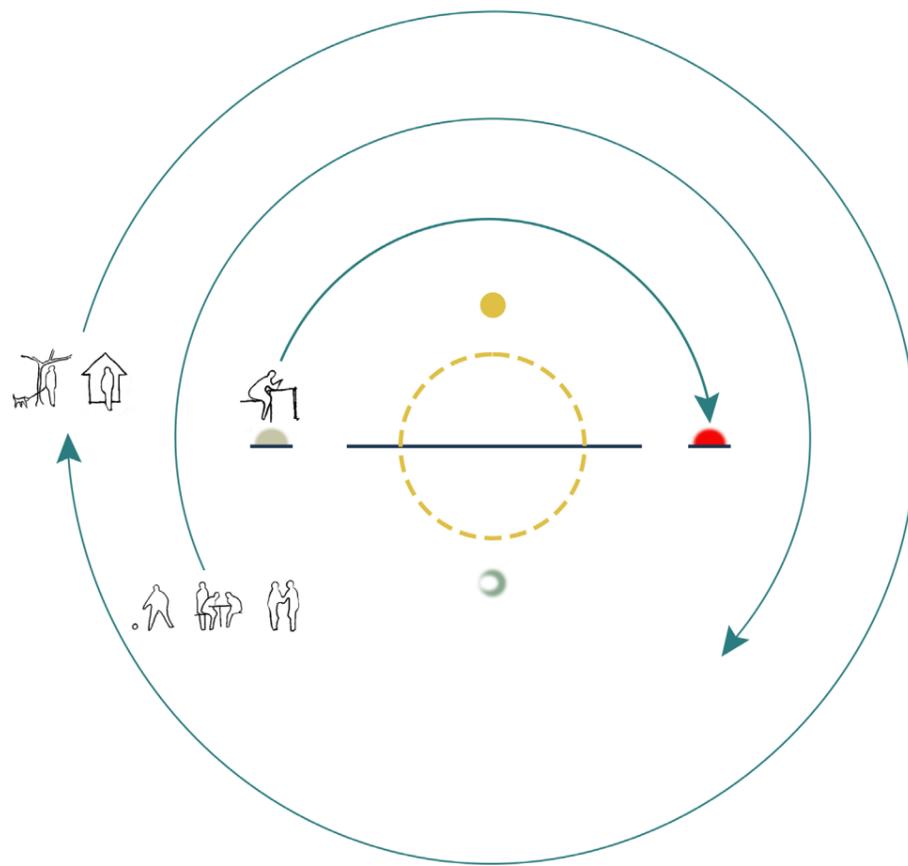


ACCOMMODATION

The new idea for using the old fire station are meant to be a natural extension of the current building and the Gåsebäck area. The goal is for visitors and creative youngsters to want to use this space as a place to work, study and play, and to explore the possibility of a future workplace. The main idea is to make this area and the building attractive for the city inhabitants, to attract people to this area and brieth a new live to this building.

The new purpose of the old fire station should satisfy the main needs such as education, accommodation, work, communication, doing sport and leisure time and increase the interest to the area.

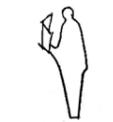
The newly designed space on the fire station is organized in a way that the new space can operate all year round:



1. Students can use the workshops for free by booking it or small private companies for a fee.



2. In addition, everyone can present their work in the exhibition area where also goods can be sold.



3. Different groups of people such as group of students or office workers can take meeting rooms for conferences at different times of the day by booking it.



4. The study center is open for students during the cafe working hours. Students can sit and study there alone or with small companies using two-level space of the centre.



5. Students can attend sport hall and climbing wall for free by booking it during the day or after school. Others can use sport facilities for a fee by making an appointment during the daytime.



6. The student's accommodation is usually occupied during the study year. During the summer time this accommodation can be occupied by new arrived inhabitants or young tourists as a hostel.



7. Cafe expands opening hours because students can have breakfast in the morning and office workers, or others can have a meeting after work hours in the evening.

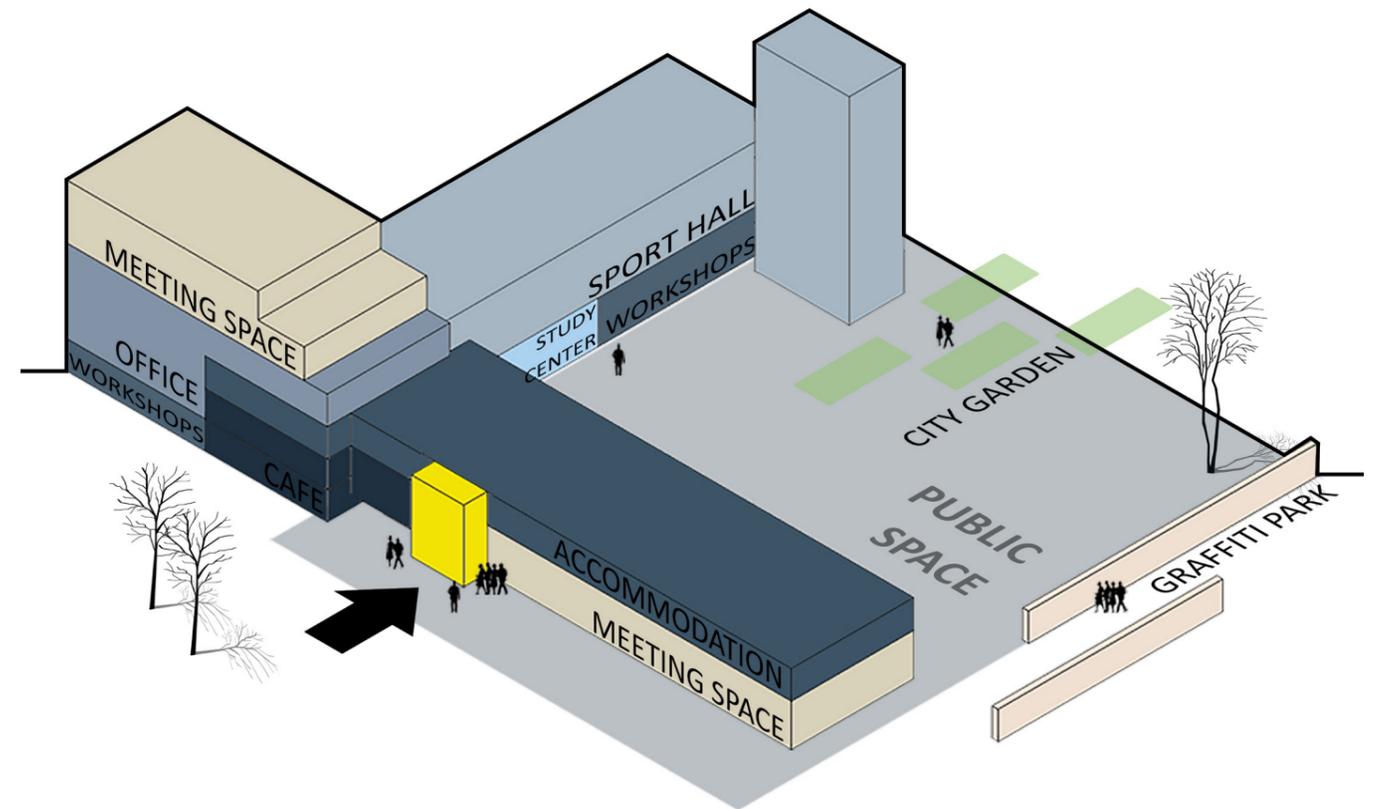


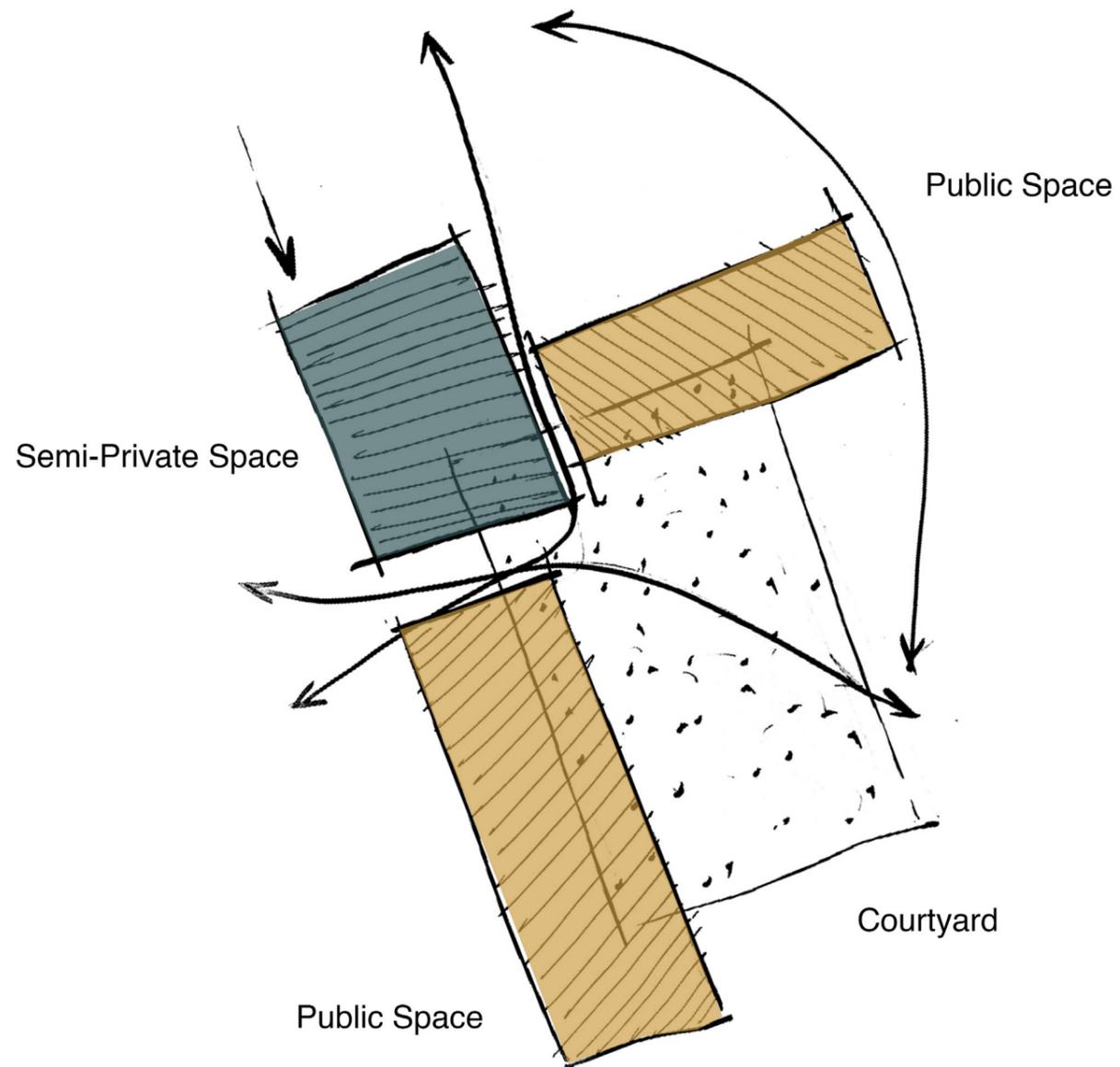
8. Office space is occupied during working hours of the week by public or private companies.

9. The city garden and outdoor public space can be used at any time.

PROGRAM

Main entrance	180,0 m ²
Cafe with kitchen	355,0 m ²
Offices	510,0 m ²
Meeting space	940,0 m ²
Accommodation	750,0 m ²
Study center	160,0 m ²
Workshops with exhibition	380,0 m ²
Sport hall	525,0 m ²





MAIN ENTRANCE

I got a big issue to find the main entrance to the old fire station when I came there the first time. This is the reason why I decided to move the main entrance to the Södergatan where it can be mentioned from the beginning when you came to the Gäsebäck through the tunnel or came by bus.

The second issue in my opinion is that the courtyard of the fire station is not very well activated. The building turns its back towards the courtyard and if visitors or workers wish to explore it, they need to walk out through the one entrance or enter the courtyard from outside of the building wings. The nearest entrance to the courtyard is located about 35 meters from the main entrance. In my opinion, it will be better to give visitors the opportunity of easy access to the courtyard through the building.

PROPOSAL

Based on the gathering information I would like to offer ideas about how to activate and attract a new life to the old fire station building.

- The old fire station as of today cuts from the city center and there is no easy access to the surrounding area by foot. The building lacks a proper connection to the main pedestrian paths that would allow visitors to come and enjoy it. Also, accessing the backyard of the station today happens only around the station wings without the possibility of easy passage through.
- The courtyard is not active and the building has lacked connection with the surrounding without the possibility of easy passage through it. A strong connection between surroundings and the courtyard gives the possibility for better activating the backspace of the old fire station for visitors and for events that are either spontaneous or organized.

- To enhance the building experience, activate the new building feature by adding various programs to attract new visitors and investors. In addition, these changes will allow the old fire department to hold exhibitions or meetings in more organized spaces and with fewer limiting elements. Divide the huge garage space of the fire station into zones that are more suitable for creating a more comfortable working environment and give more possibilities to communicate individually or in a company.
- Suggest a new café complex that can serve both people coming to work or act as a stand-alone place, such as a student or youth cafeteria when the other space is closed.

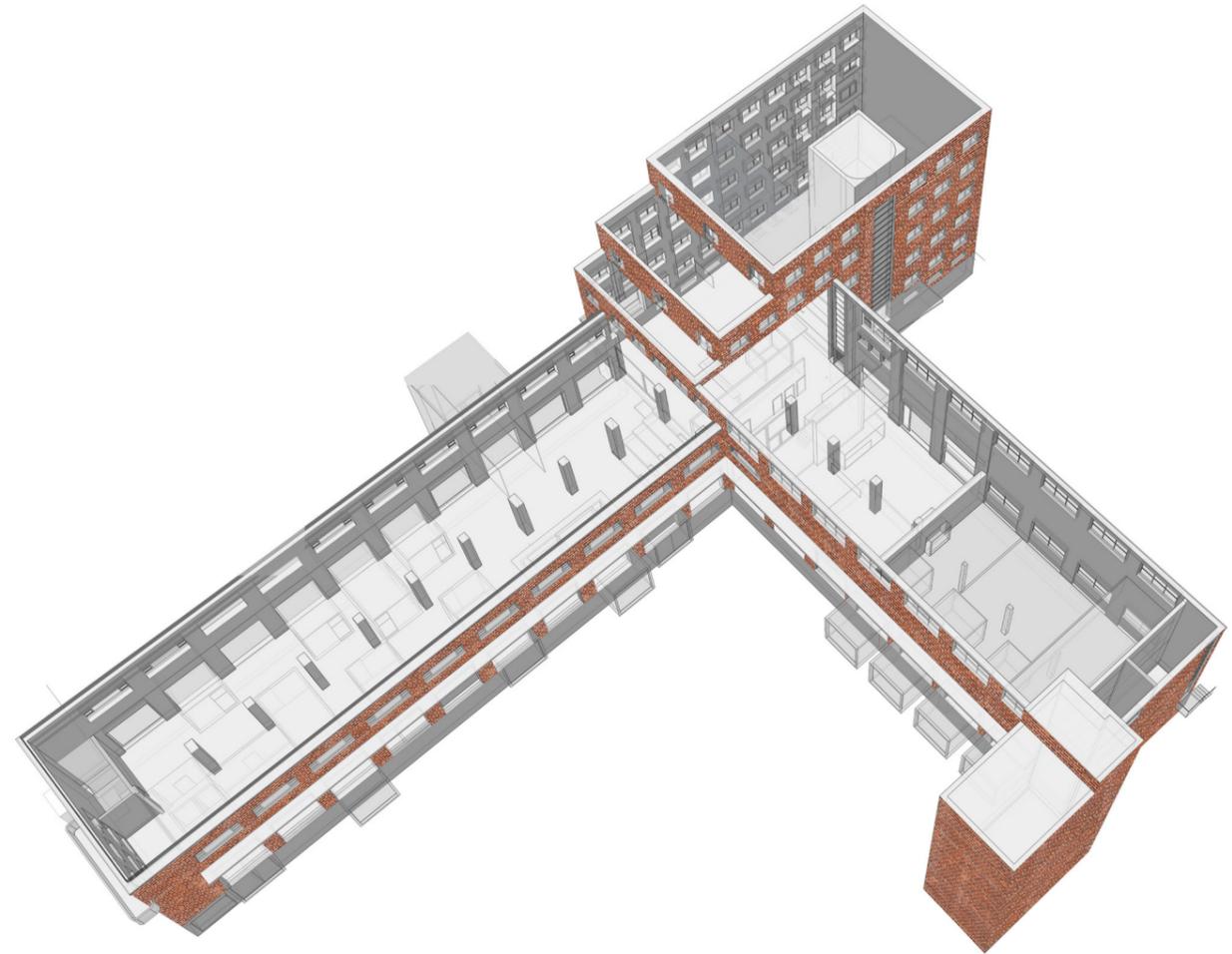
CONCEPT

Continuous Sequence of Historical Fabric

Safeguarding of historical fabric and streetscape by preserving the heritage fire house facade, while upholding district scape image and harmony.

The refurbishment project recognizes and recovers the core beauty of the dilapidated building.

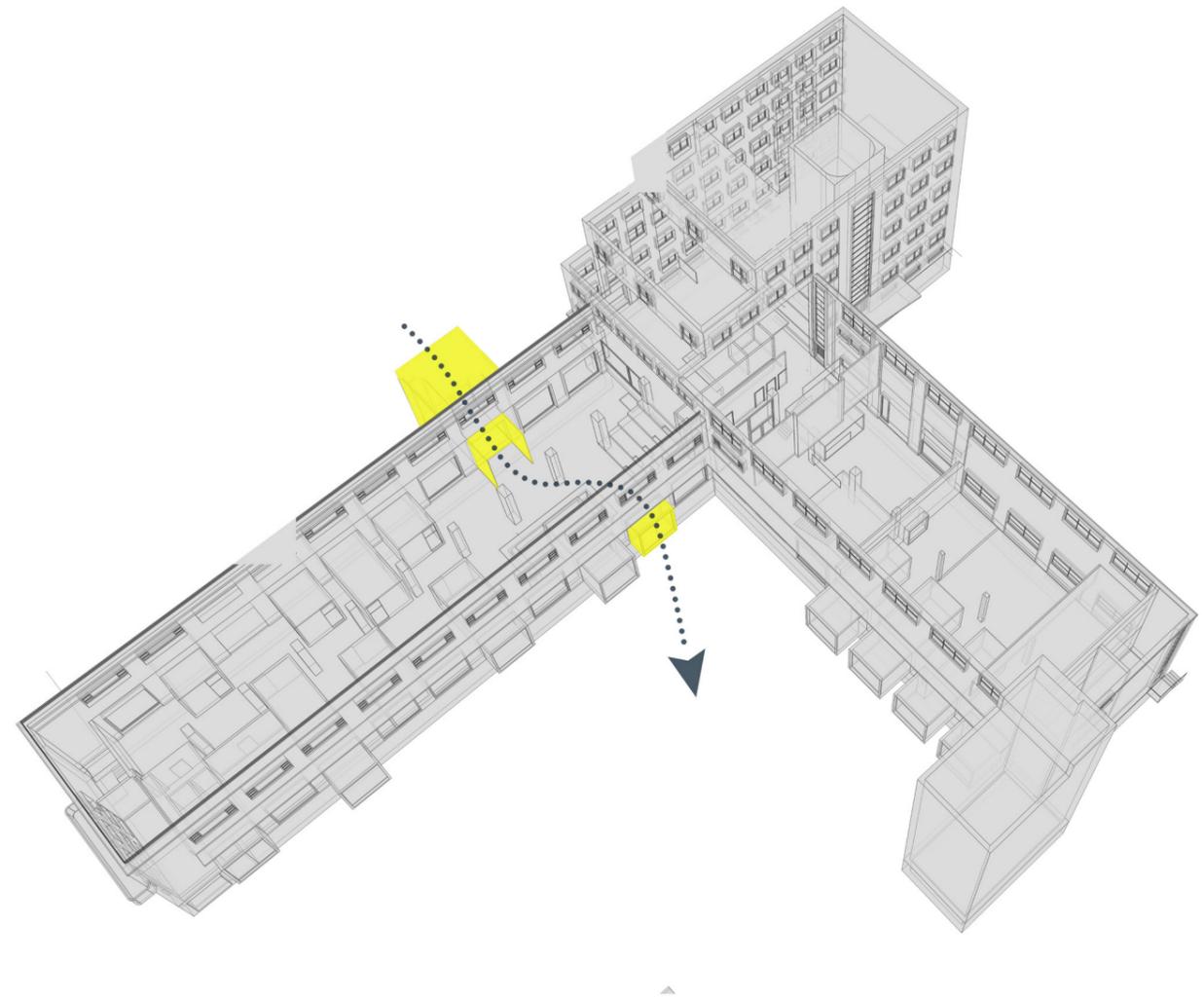
Thus, the building's industrial heritage and historical significance is reclaimed while adjusting to contemporary requirements, turning a deteriorated area into a public space for the community and a site for relentless exploration.



CONCEPT

Path as Social Core

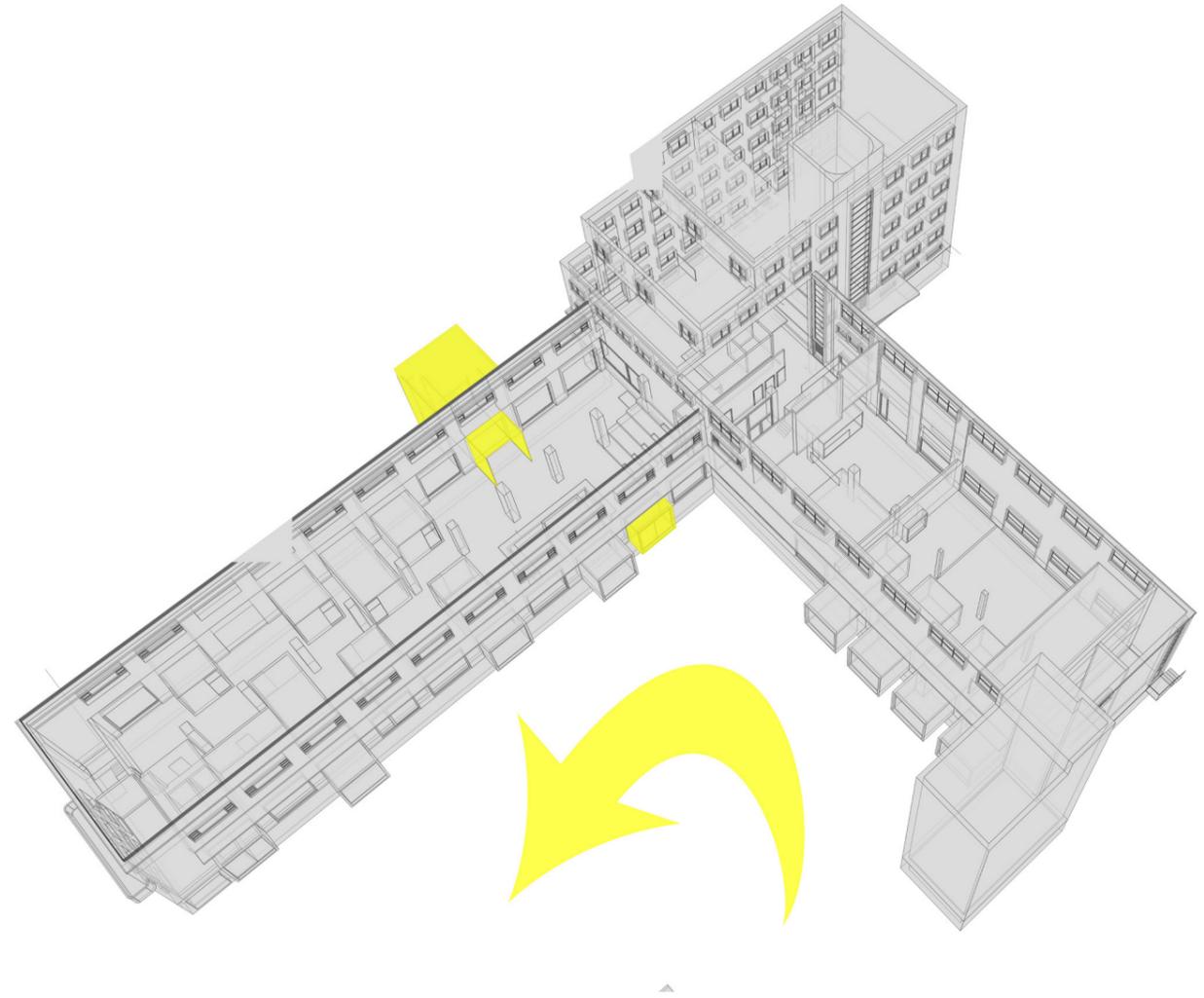
Breaking up a gap from the bulky massing as alley for pedestrian movements and interval entrance too.



CONCEPT

Backyard revitalization

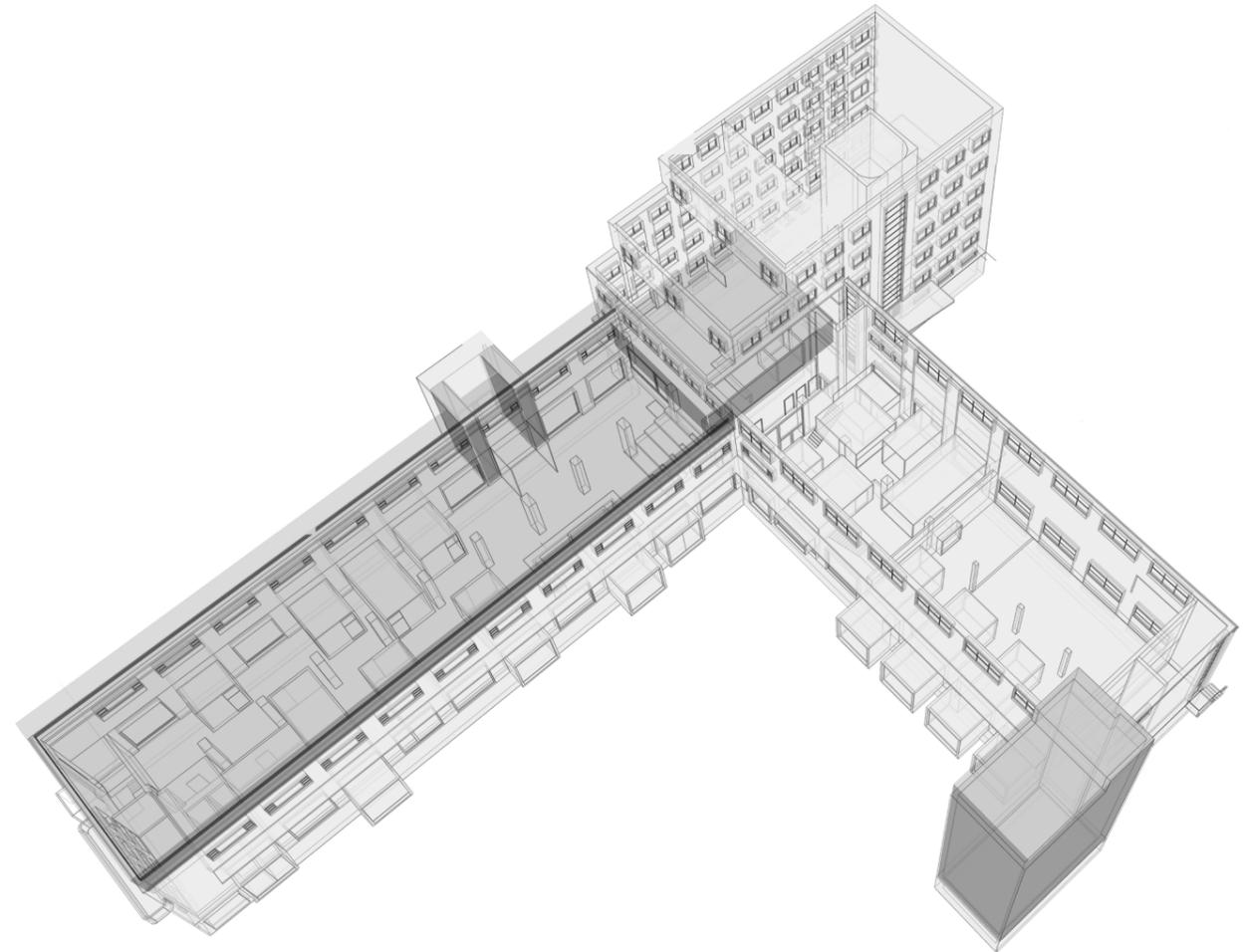
The usually neglected backyard is transformed into a lively vehicular-free space which allows various events happening as a public realm.



CONCEPT

Supplementary function

Additional programmes like cafe, museum, roof using, climbing wall and etc. are introduced to support the overall design, embracing people through mixed use

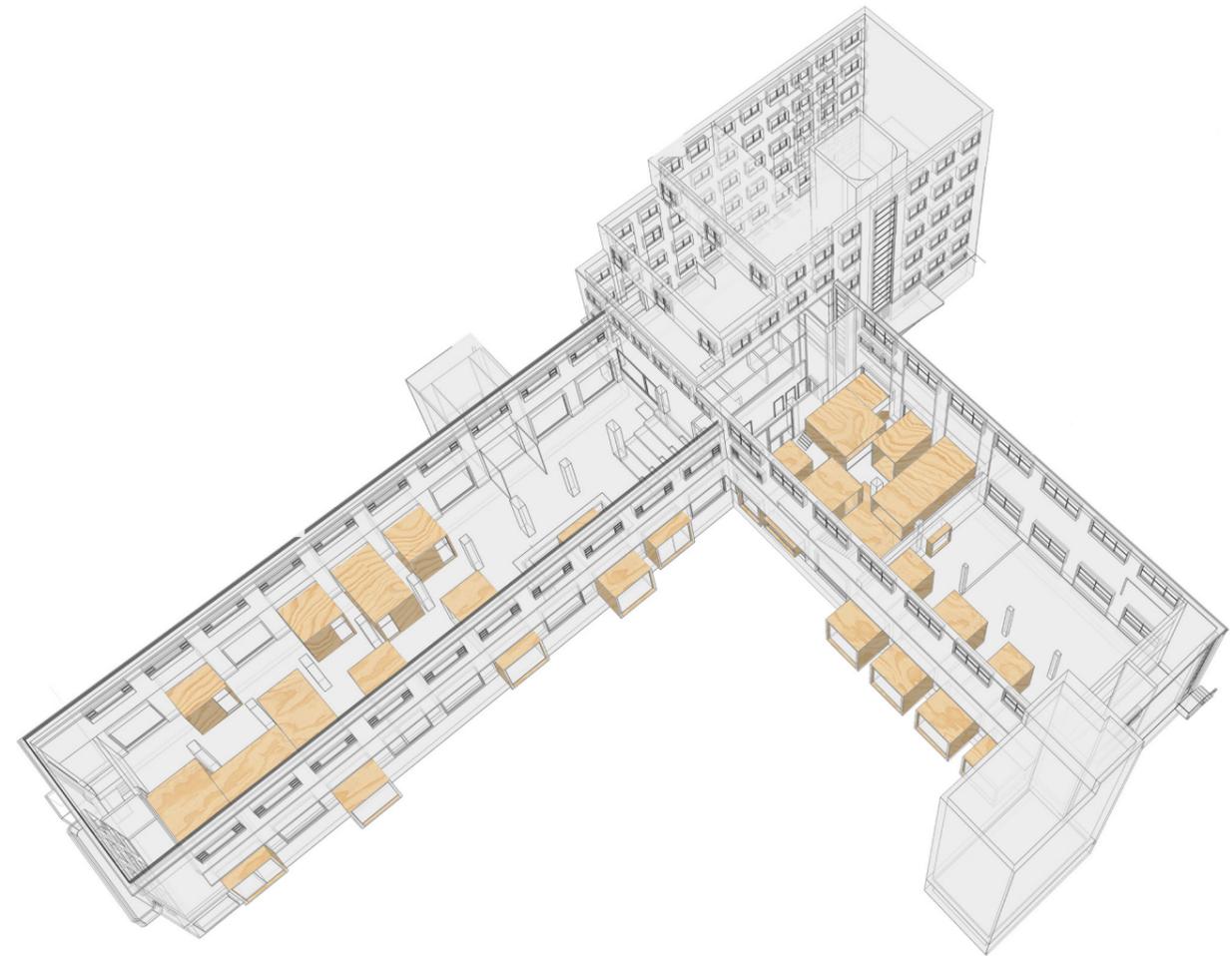


CONCEPT

Boxes series

Juxtaposing boxes into the existing volume to form series of rooms that will be used as meeting rooms, enhancing the space through light, ventilation and volumetric ambience.

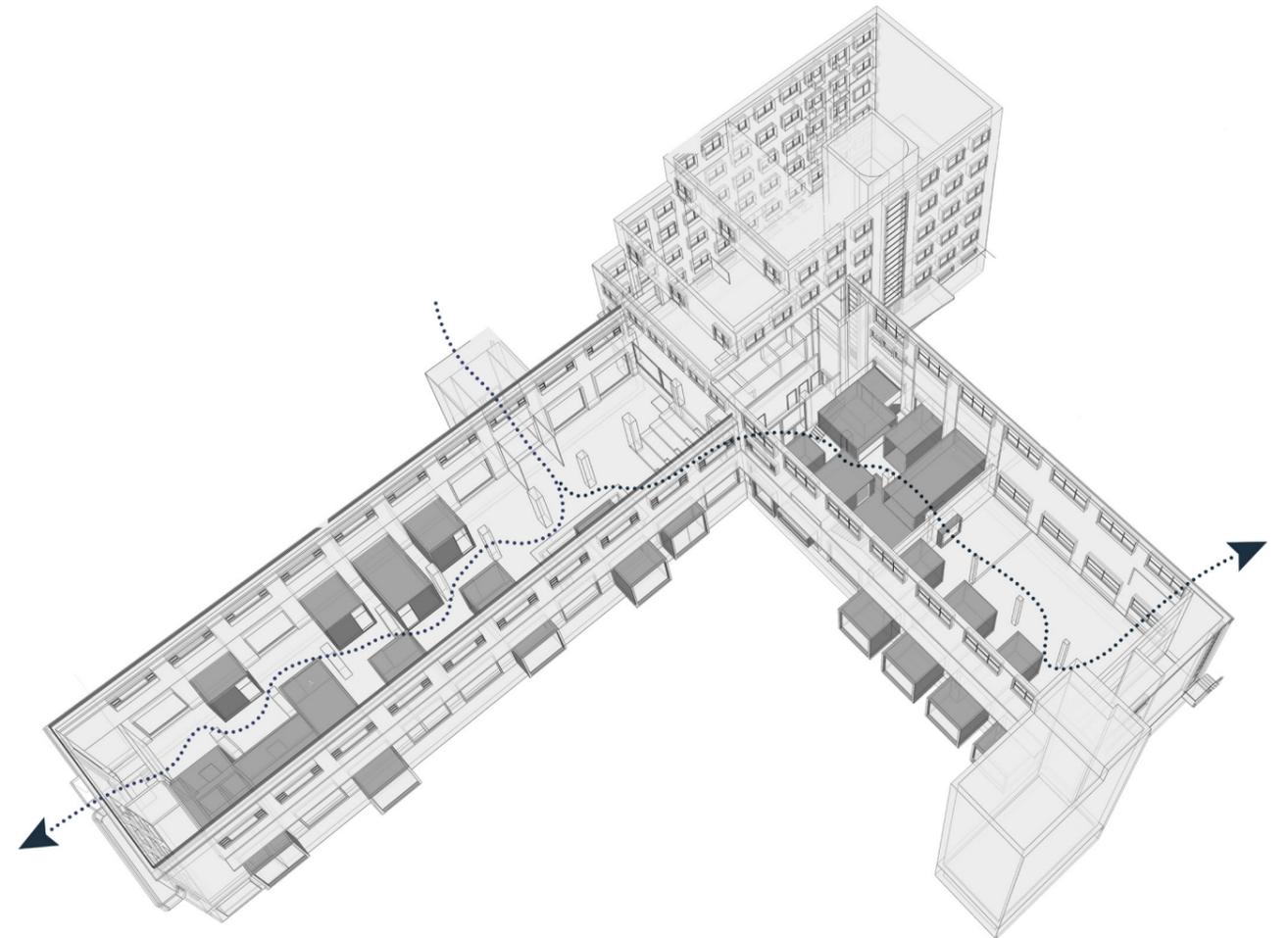
Subdividing the spaces through distinctive modules that are independent in structural, thermal and material terms.



CONCEPT

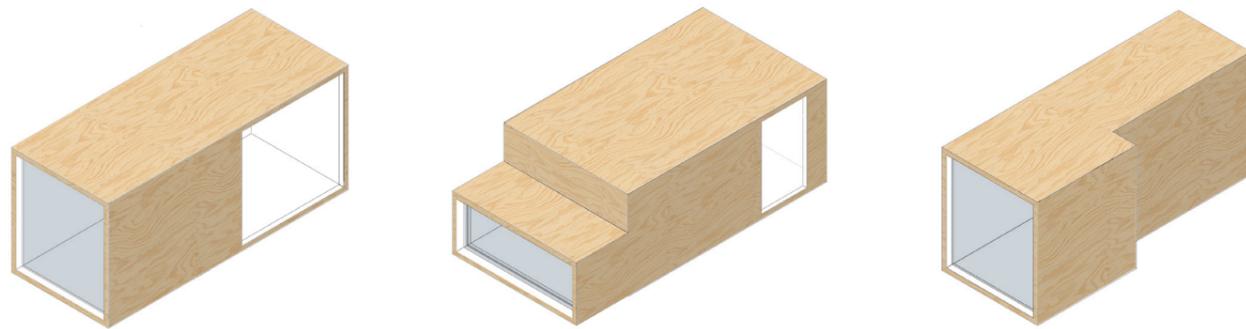
Unfolding journey

Creating entrances and openings between boxes to create a journey to experience the spaces within.



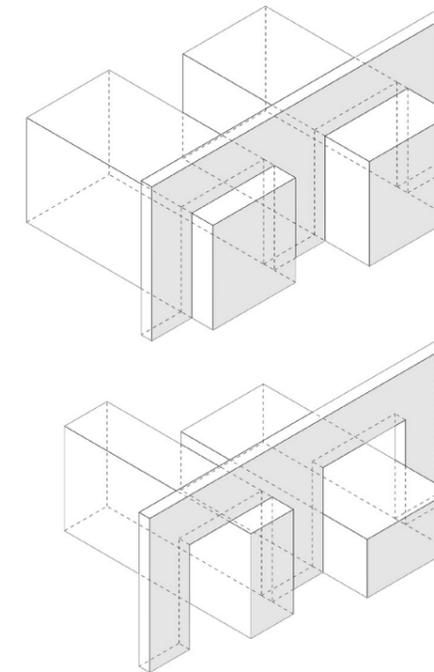
WHY BOXES?

SIMPLE FORM

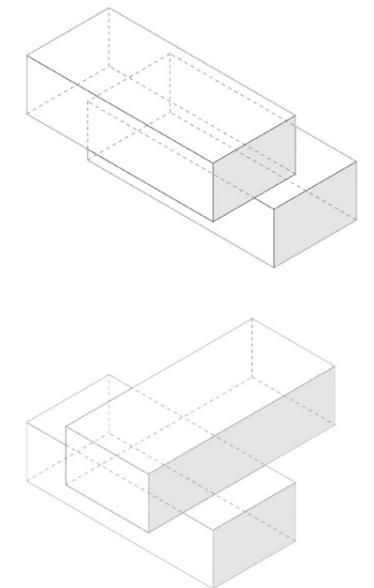


Considering the function and size of the garage space and its walls, the renovation project recognizes and restores the basic beauty of the building by dividing the spaces using simple wooden boxes that are structurally, thermally and materially independent. Thus, the historical significance of the building is restored, adapting to modern requirements, transforming the vast space into a public space. Given the size of the fire engine and the simple box-like shape, they were thought to resemble fire engines going in and out of a garage.

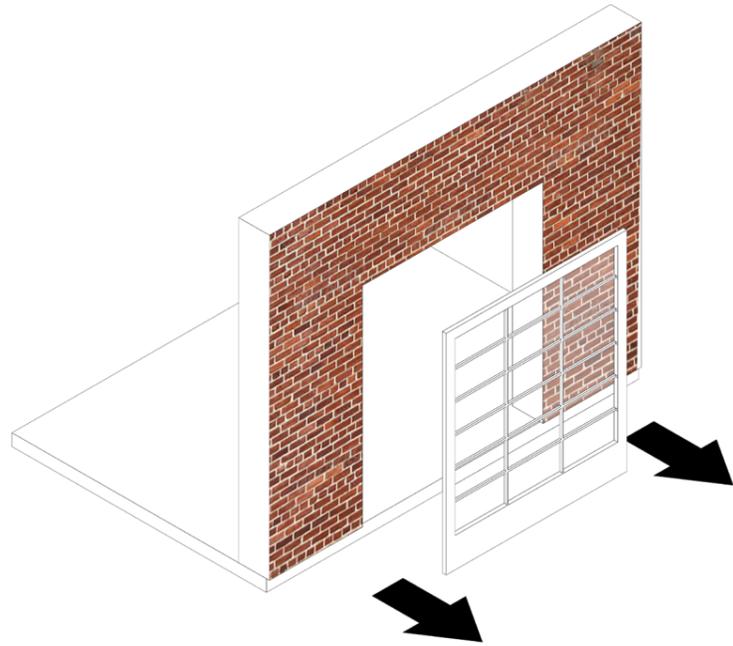
with the envelope



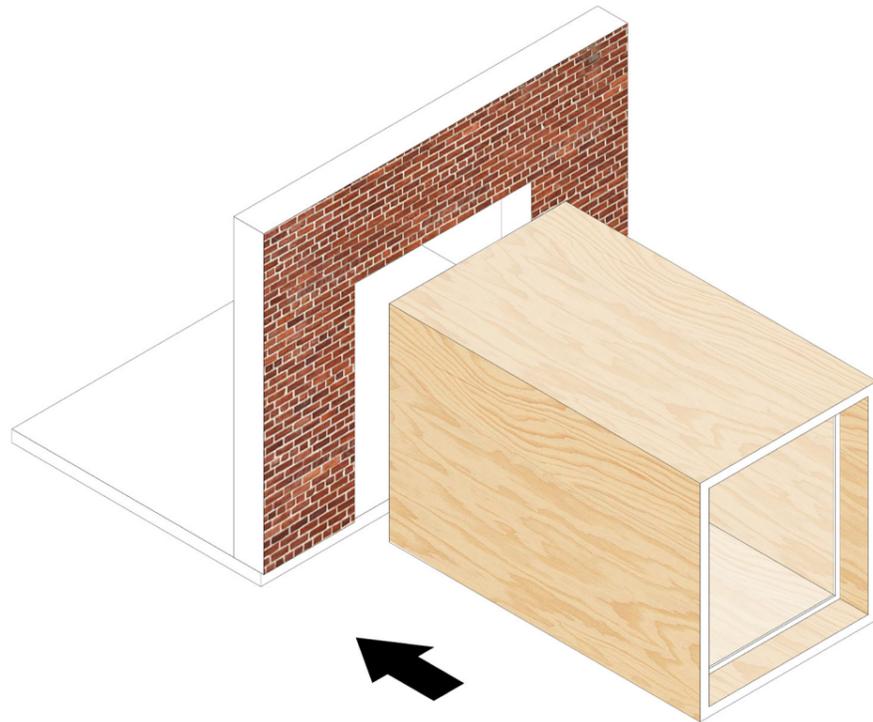
with each other



These simple shapes can be made from environmentally-friendly materials such as cross-laminated timber (CLT). It can also be an easy structural connection to the building, as well as the external and internal structure of the box. The box as a structure is easy to combine with the building envelope without disturbing it, in addition to making different interesting forms.



- remove the existing fire gate



- install the box construction without disturbing the existing historic brick envelope

Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT)

- "environmentally friendly and sustainable construction method"
- good insulating properties
- excellent fire safety characteristics
- short installation time, ease of assembly, and high level prefabricated production
- excellent structural properties and dry construction method"

PowerPoint Presentation "Solid Wood"

EASY TO TRANSFORM



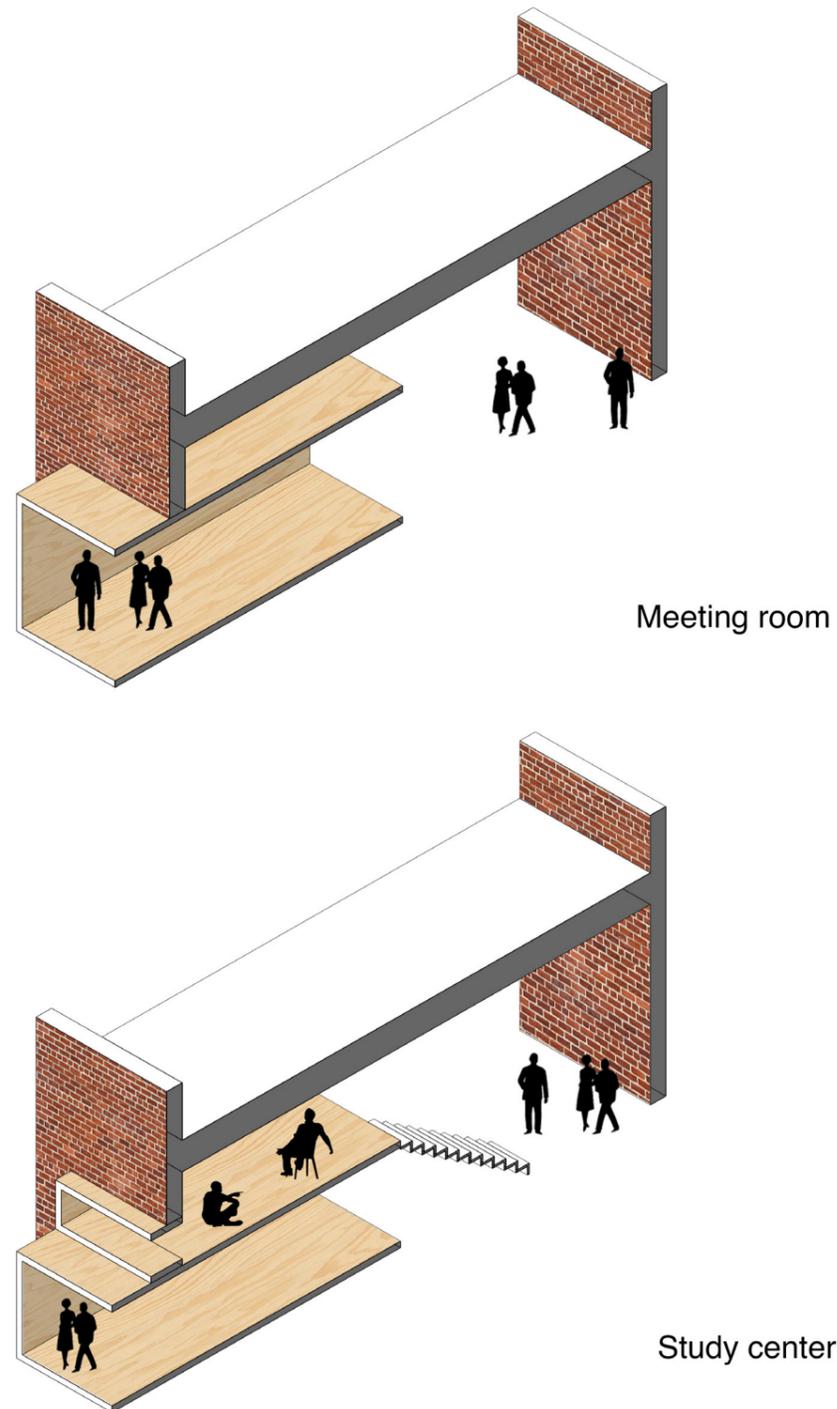
-  the old fire station
-  the possible HH connection
-  the City Plan 2017
-  the Gåsebäck district

The boxes can be considered as a temporary construction that will be demolished if the Helsingborg municipality will find a more appropriate purpose for the building. The city does not know how the building and the Gåsebäck district will develop in the future. Even in the Helsingborg City Plan 2017, the district is excluded. There are several ideas about the development of the district and this part of the city.

The first idea is that Helsingborg is part of Greater Copenhagen and a collaboration can be made between municipalities and regions in Scania and eastern Denmark. The purpose of the collaboration is to create growth. A fixed connection between Helsingborg and Helsingör is a natural step towards a more integrated Öresund region. The result of this collaboration can be considered an additional fixed HH connection that needs the Swedish transport system to connect it with the continent. The supposed connection will be comprised of two separate tunnel lines; one for passenger trains between central Helsingborg and central Helsingör and one for the southern line for road traffic. In the long term, a freight train connection may also be relevant.

The second idea is to transform Malmöleden into a city street from Trafikplats Ramlösa into the city center. Nowadays, Malmöleden is the road with the national interest, as part of road E4 with a connection to the port and it acts as an access road. However, the city needs to find a combined route for goods to the port and the ferries' approach area and/or an HH tunnel for motor vehicle traffic to Denmark that bypasses the city center. All these city development ideas will influence the Gåsebäck district unpredictably for today. As a result, this will give a huge push for the potential development for the city and the city will need the additional spaces for other purposes.

HUMAN SCALE

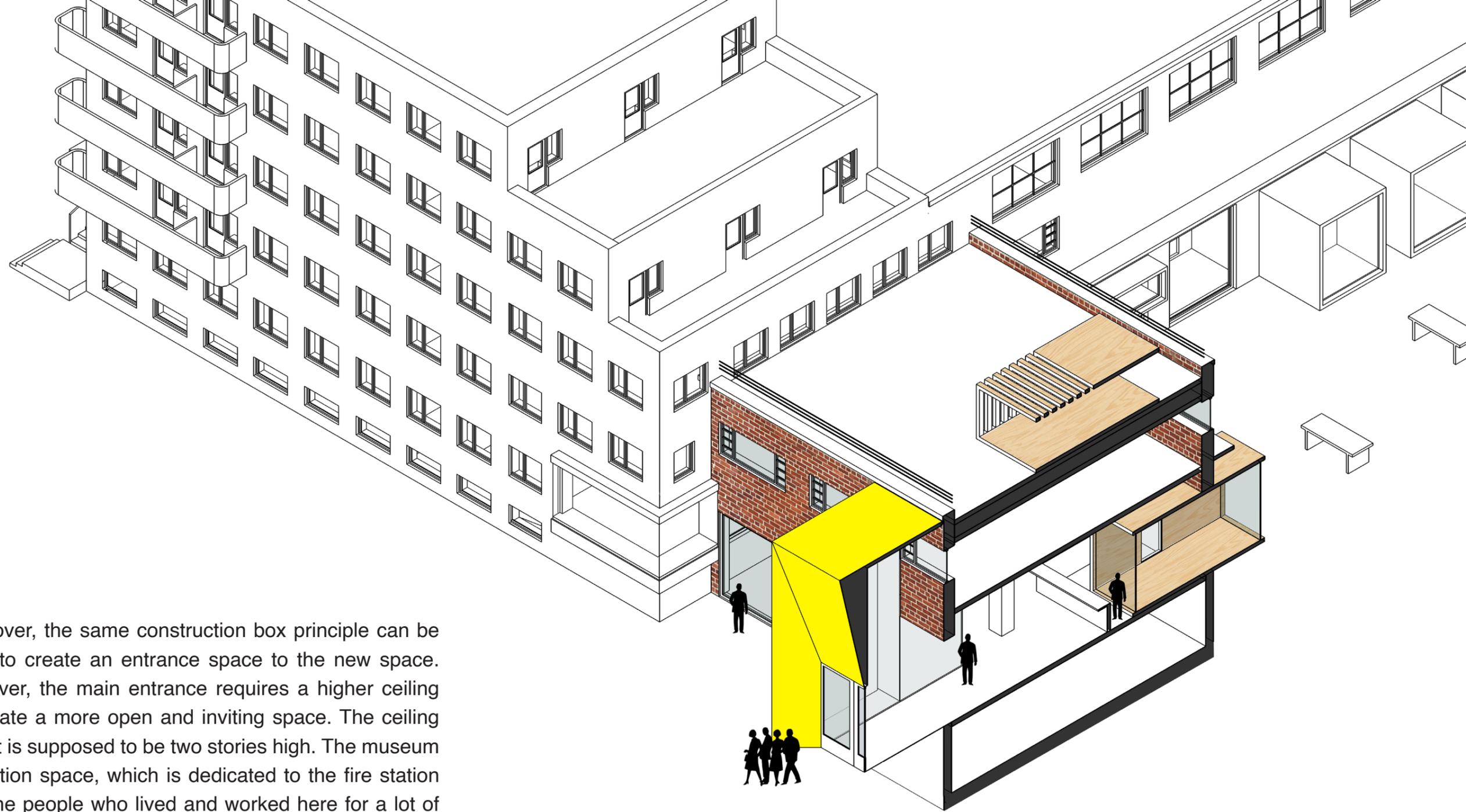


Designers have to create a comfortable working environment that impacts feelings of well-being, collaboration, efficiency, and health. People, when they work, need to feel safe, comfortable, and concentrate for long periods without disturbances.

However, for a variety of people, the working environment means completely a different thing. One person might have no problem studying or working in a noisy cafe where there are people generating noise in the background, while another person's train of thought is easily broken when music in the office is a little bit louder than usual.

This means that the designed space for studying and working in the fire station should offer a variety of working environments. Therefore, creating a quiet, small rooms, like cars on a train, will help to organise the space where people can work separately or in a small group. The ceilings could be intentionally kept low at a comfortable height, around 3 m. This is slightly higher than the recommended 2,7 m for spaces that are larger than 14 m². The size of the designed meeting room at the fire station are now around 20 m². At the same time, when people are in the group might want to keep the conversation lively and accessible to draw in passing co-workers. This means that these rooms can act as big windows or even glass walls to create an open and friendly space. Outside of these boxes, the fire station space would offer an open plan where people can meet each other, study together or eating their lunch.

Moreover, the same construction box principle can be used to create an entrance space to the new space. However, the main entrance requires a higher ceiling to create a more open and inviting space. The ceiling height is supposed to be two stories high. The museum exhibition space, which is dedicated to the fire station and the people who lived and worked here for a lot of years. could be placed here. The visitors of this new space will hopefully never forget the history of this building and will always remember where they are. A higher ceiling is also required for the open hall space with reception and the space intended for the movement between boxes. Here, the existing historical envelop without any decoration or renovation will work perfectly.



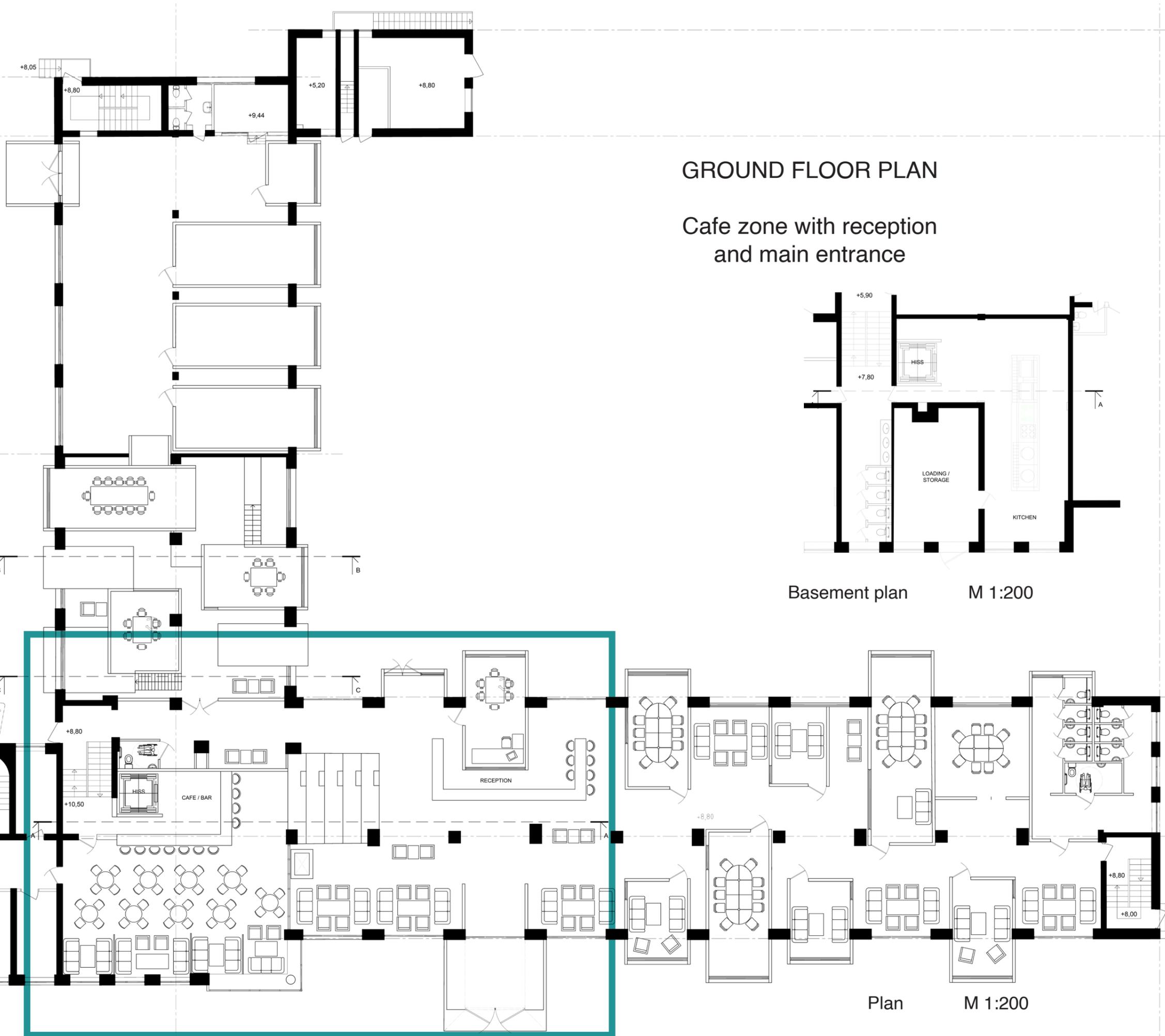
Main entrance with reception box

THE OLD FIRE STATION proposal

The proposal presented below forms the basis of the previous research in accordance with the needs of people and my personal view of how this complex will develop. I decided to focus on only two areas of the ground floor café with a reception and study center.

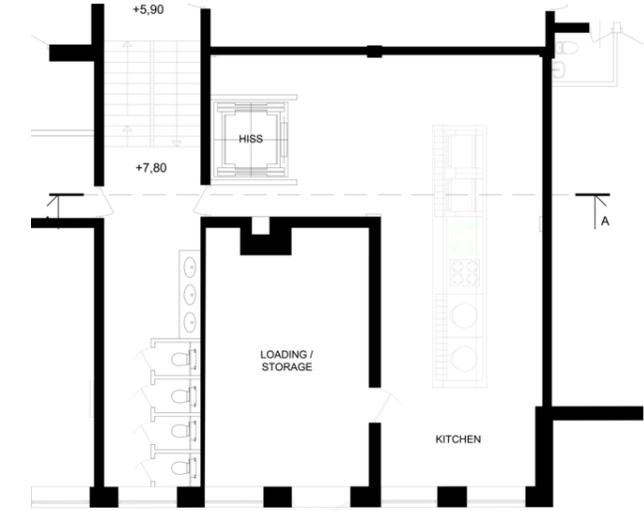
Plans that present ideas on how to solve the problems inside the current building of the old fire station, followed by sections and some axonometric views with ideas that cover those regarding the redevelopment space.

7N



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

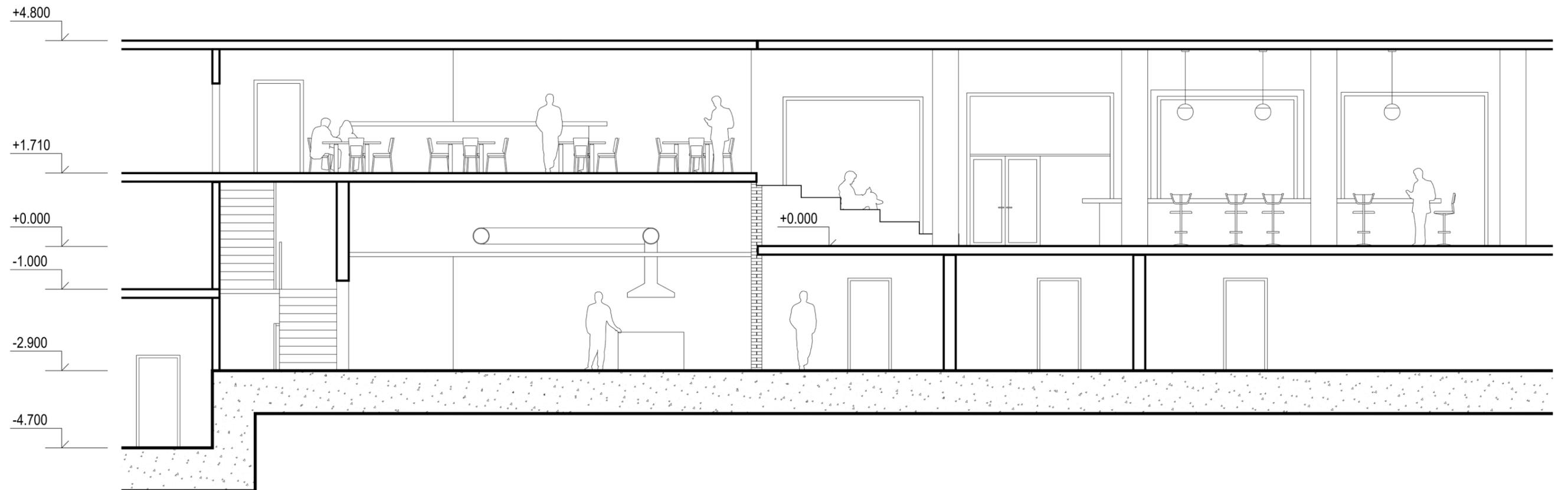
Cafe zone with reception and main entrance



Basement plan M 1:200

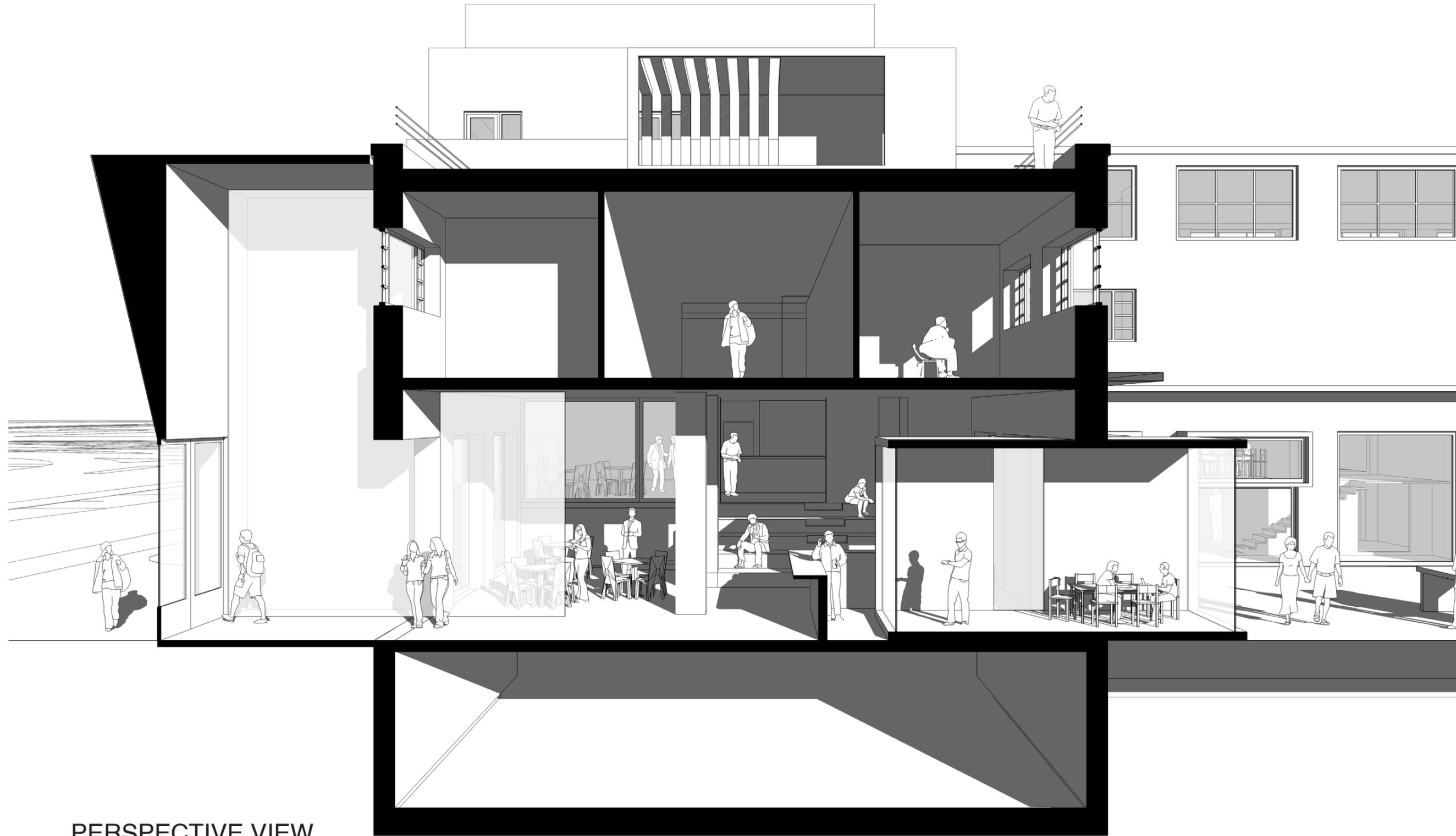
Plan M 1:200

SECTION THROUGH CAFE / RECEPTION



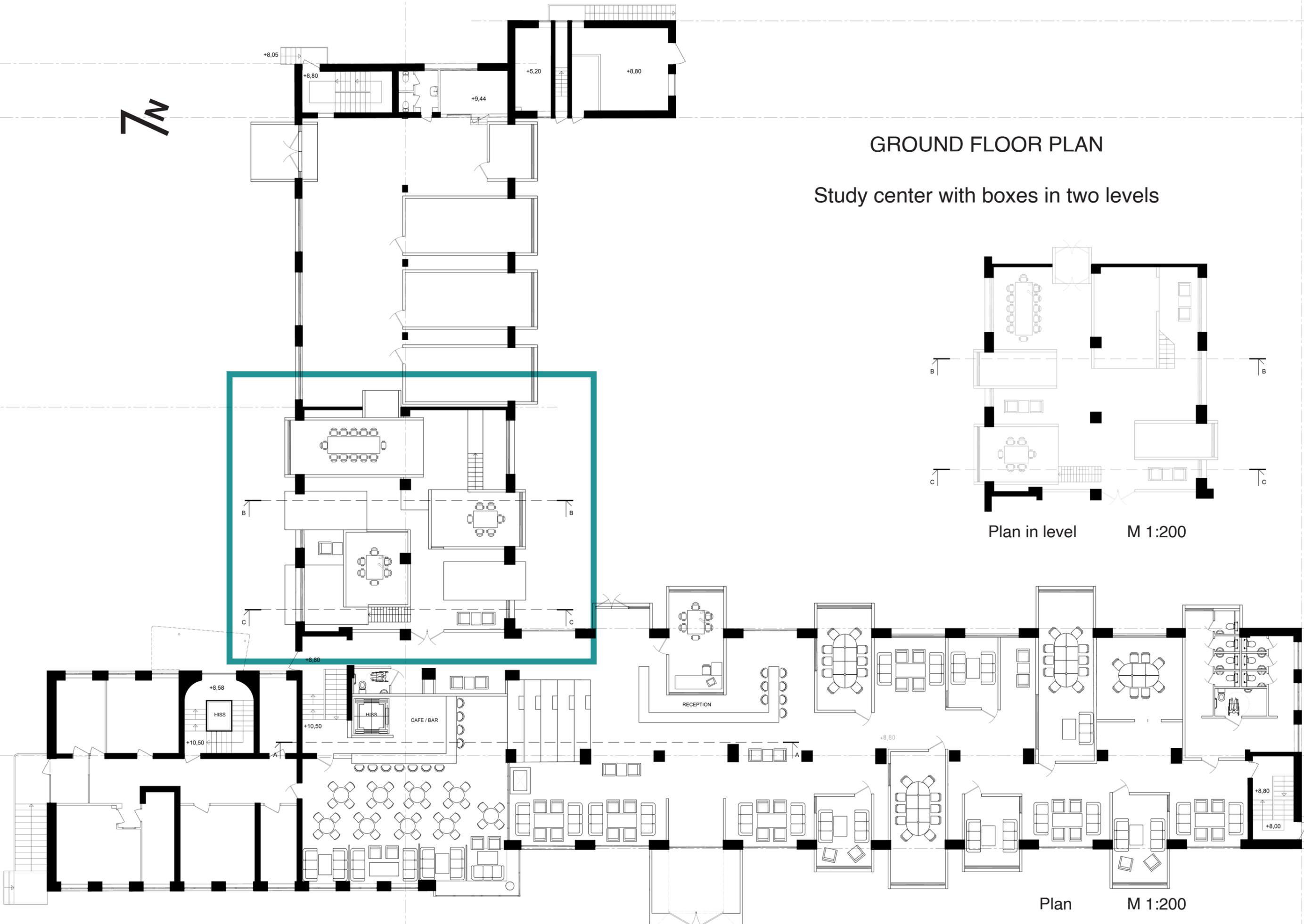
Section A-A

M 1:100



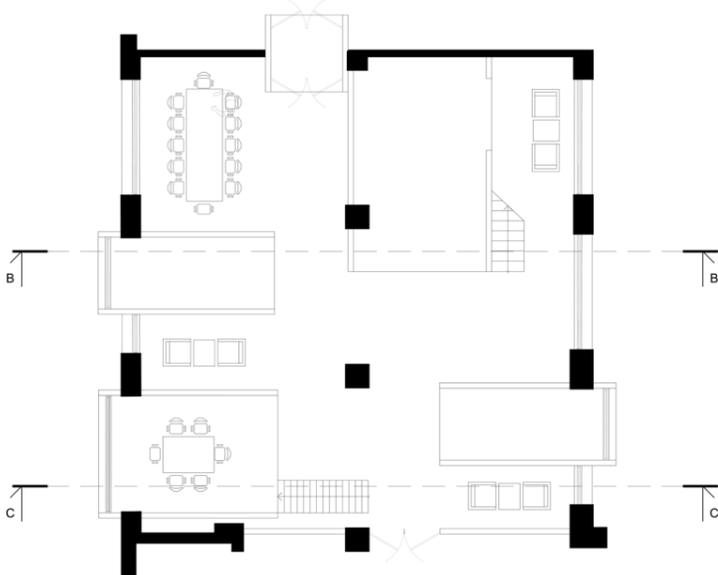
PERSPECTIVE VIEW
MAIN ENTRANCE WITH
RECEPTION ZONE AND CAFE

7N



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

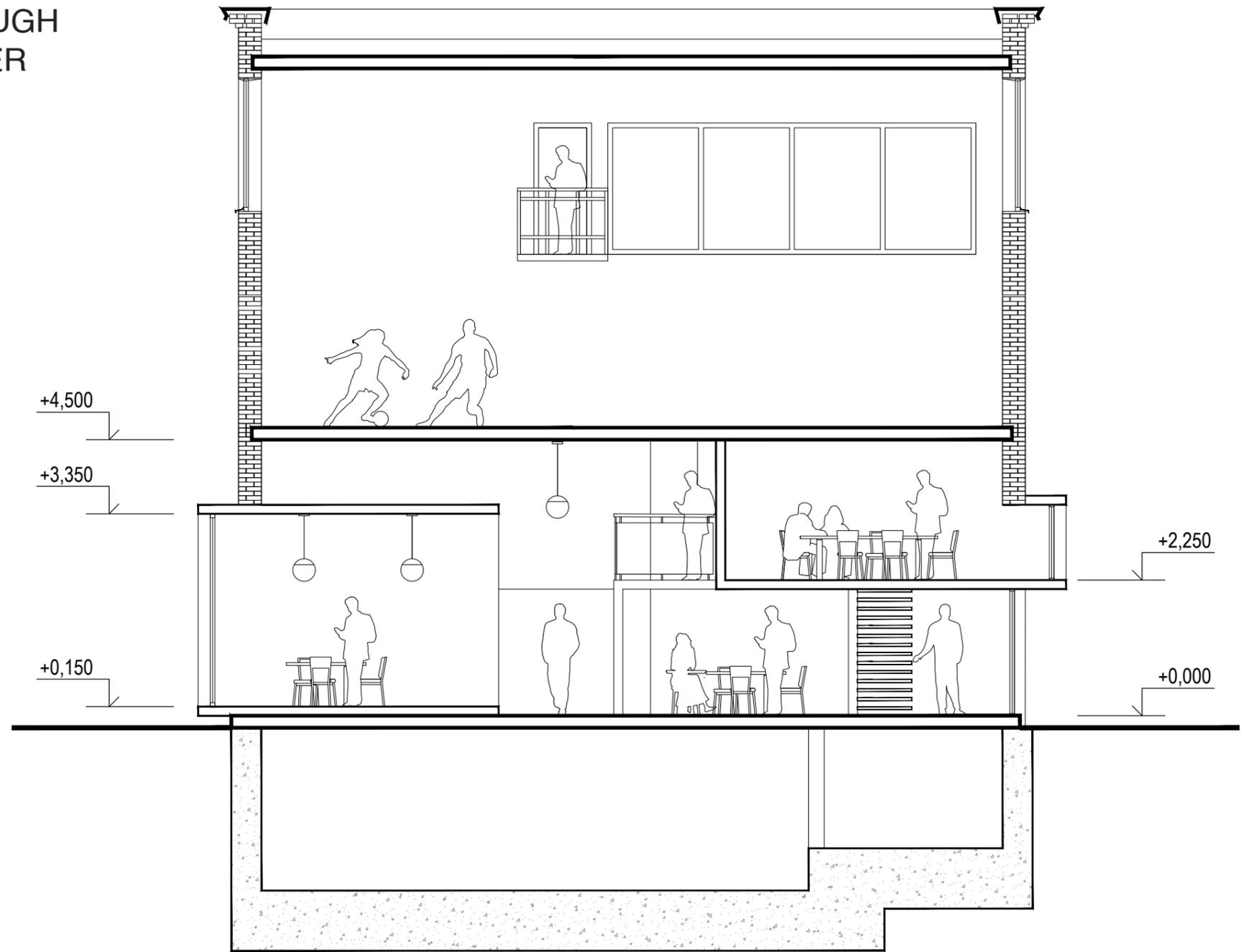
Study center with boxes in two levels



Plan in level M 1:200

Plan M 1:200

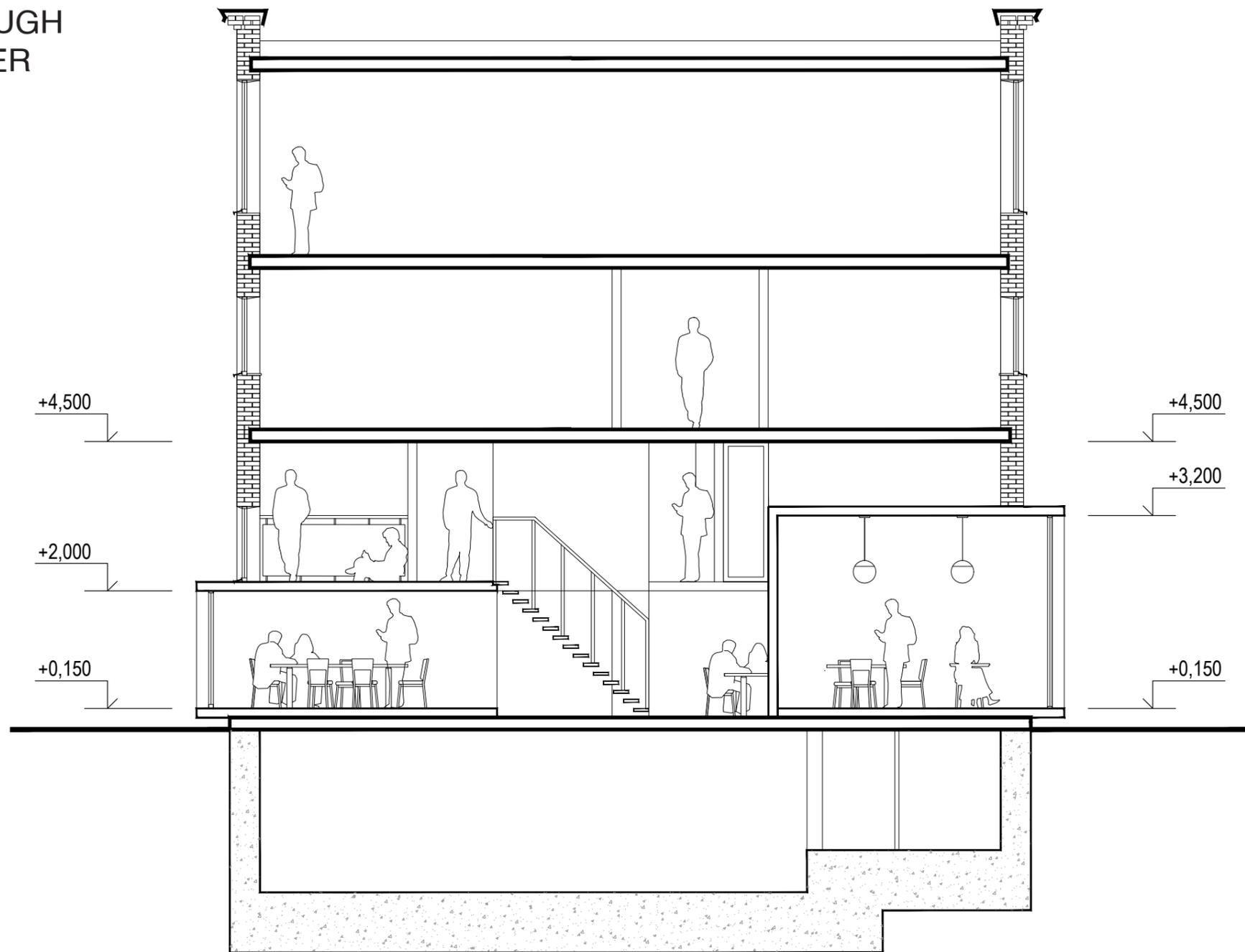
SECTION THROUGH
STUDY CENTER



Section B-B

M 1:100

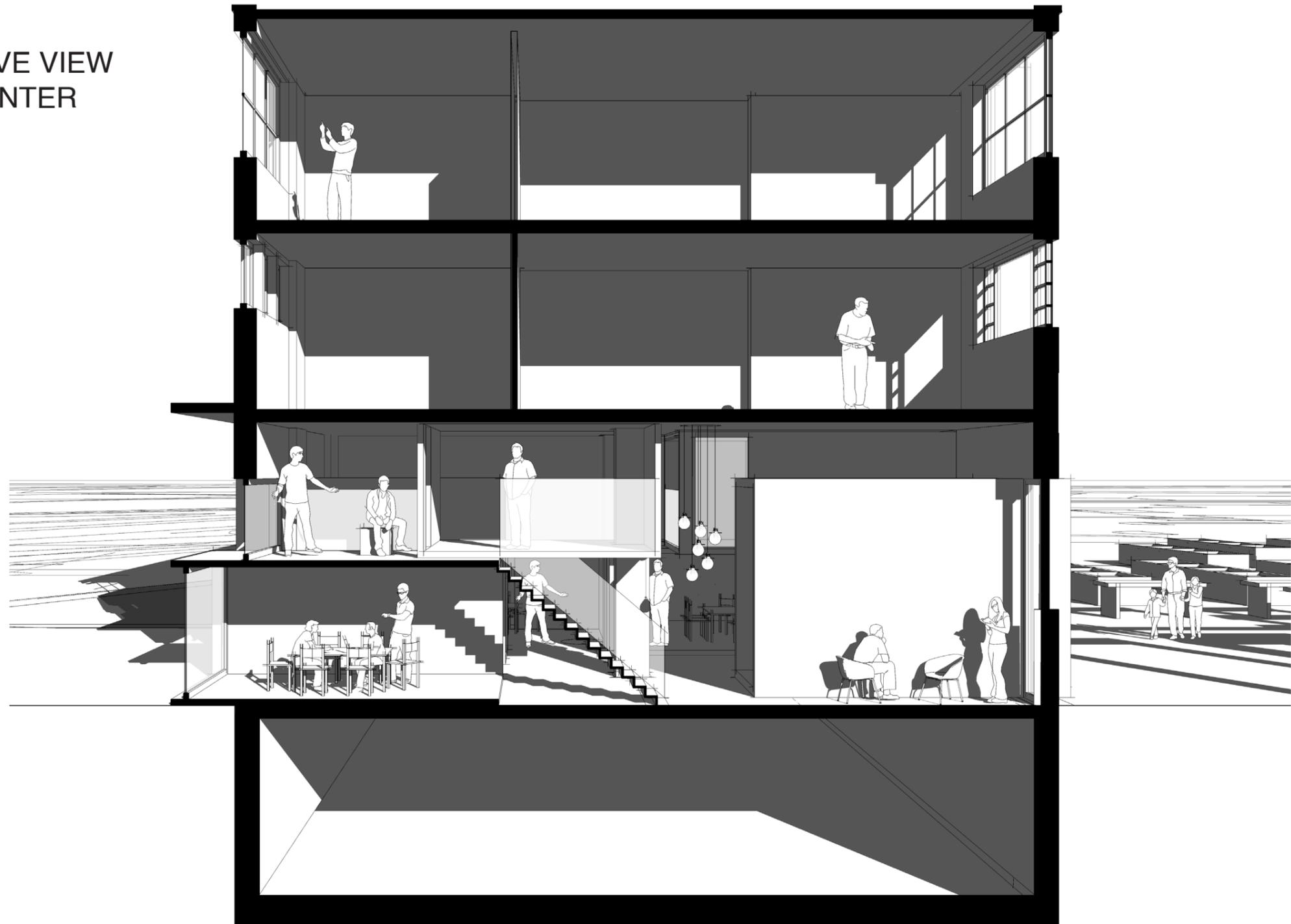
SECTION THROUGH
STUDY CENTER



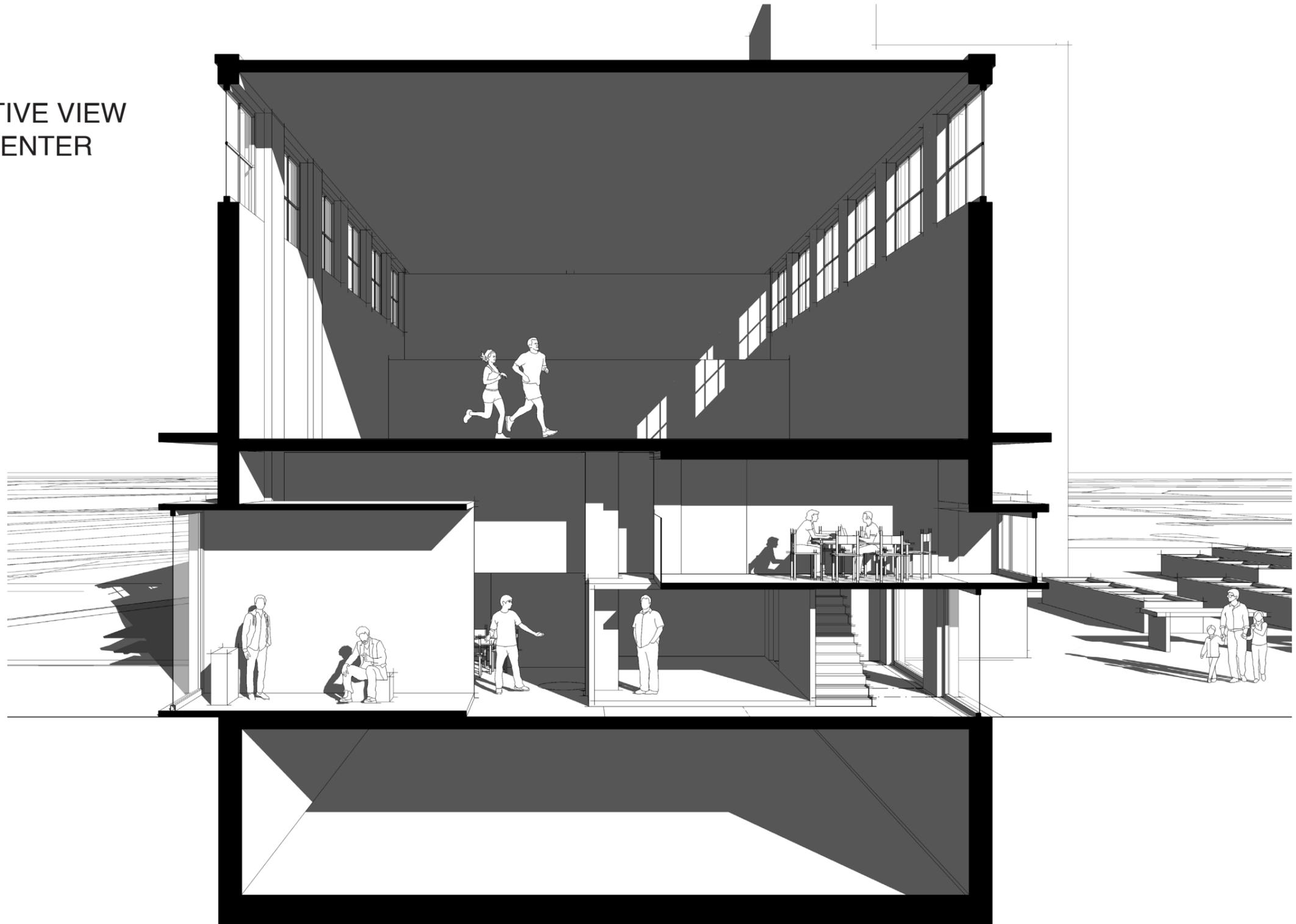
Section C-C

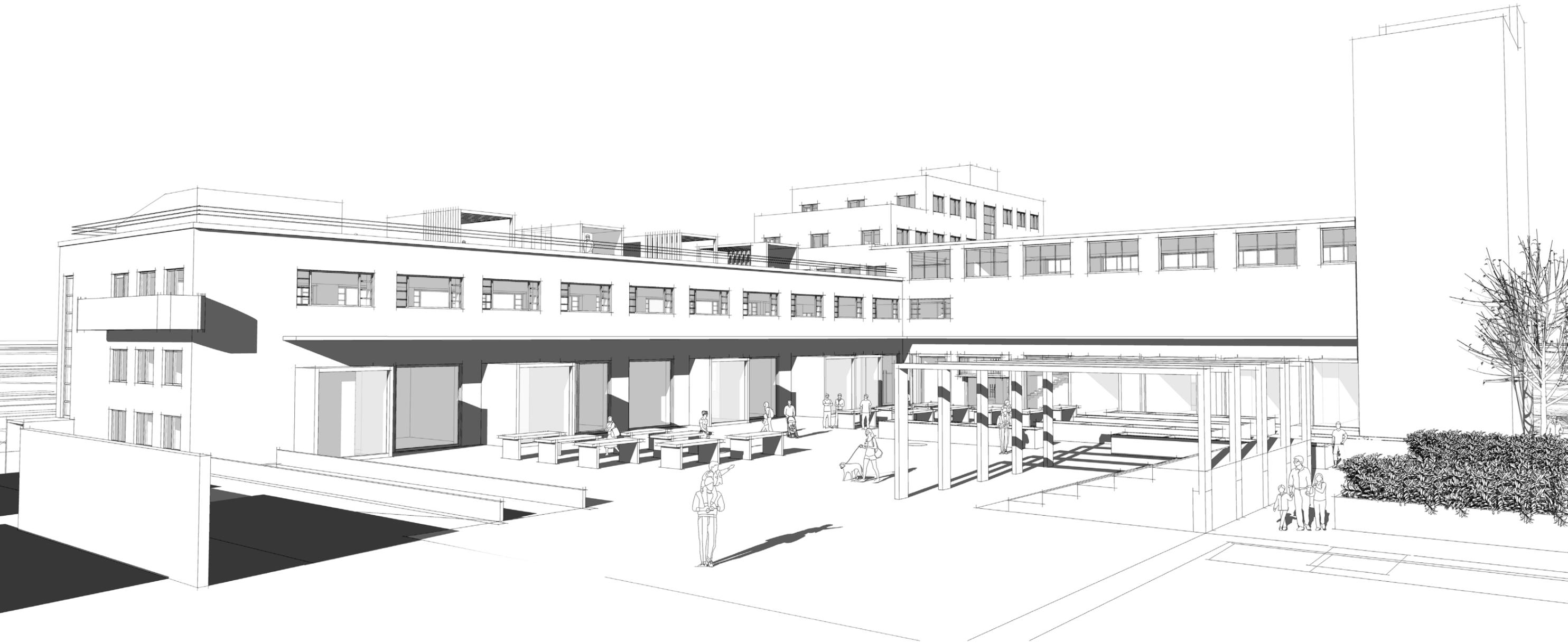
M 1:100

PERSPECTIVE VIEW
STUDY CENTER



PERSPECTIVE VIEW
STUDY CENTER





CONCLUSION

The aim of this thesis project was to save the building and give new life to the Old Fire Station at Gåsebäck in the southern part of Helsingborg, making it a cultural part of the city. I wanted to propose ideas and create a new purpose for the existing building to make it more attractive to the city, and it was important to understand who the users of the converted building would be and to identify possible transformations of the building. In this case, the rich history of the fire station and the Gåsebäck district is considered important for its renewal; its restoration depends on an understanding of its significance for the city and its inhabitants. I wanted this transformation to be done in such a way as to respect the cultural significance of the building and its surroundings, so that it does not overly dominate the old one, but adds qualities to this place that activated it for the better.

Today's the old fire station is a building that significant for people who work there and who see its potential for the Helsingborg city. The old fire station is Mogens Mogensen's functionalist creation from 1940 the Swedish architect who dominated Helsingborg's architectural scene. He left a strong mark on the city's architectural history of his functionalist buildings, such as Simhallsbadet , the Fire Station, the Sports House and the City Hall. His style was characterized by strict and stylish brick functionalism. His buildings also bear some traces of constructivism as Mogensen considered that the building bodies should clearly present their content through their exterior design. The design of the fire station building is completely follow his functionalist ideas with combination distinctive functional features such as long window strips, flat roofs, glazed stairwells and long balconies with rounded corners. Material-wise, a high-end building with Helsingborg brick facades, Höganäs tile plinth and copper-clad sections. Moreover, the building is quite well preserved and as such, together with its architectural features, is a building of high cultural and historical value. There is no doubt that the aesthetic value of the 70-year-old fire station is on the outside, it is a rarely beautiful functional building.

The old fire station has been empty for the last few years and demolition permits have been issued, they have even started demolishing a garage at the back to keep the demolition permit active. However, in 2016 - 2017, it was saved from the demolition by refugees who urgently needed shelter for a time. Nowadays the demolition decision is forgotten and the station will get a second life as a platform for the free culture there. Nowadays, the Helsingborg municipality does not have a clear idea how the fire station will develop in future but it has a desire to save this historical building.

The starting point of the proposal was to analyse the needs of the city of Helsingborg and understand who will be the main users of the building. According to the latest forecasts, the city of Helsingborg is expected to have a significant increase in new residents - about 23%, and as a result, the campus of Lund University there in the near future will significantly expand by more than half. After interviewing residents, students and based on personal experience of studying on campus, I came to a conclusion that Helsingborg as a city should have more student rooms where they can study and meet each other, for some start-up businesses for newly qualified students and new coming inhabitants. Currently, the city lacks space for work meetings, off-campus studies, leisure and outdoor activities, insufficient exhibition space, and the 5500 m² old firehouse building can meet all these needs.

With my project, the renovation, I tried at first to take into account the city experience of using the building and at the same time to offer a personal vision of this object without the boundaries disturbing of the district and with little interference to the historical envelope. Also, I found that the building has access issues and with determining the main entrance. I directed people by emphasizing the main entrance and merging it with the courtyard so that visitors now could access and connect with the city garden and graffiti park.

The objective was to create an interesting space that offers a unique experience where students and residents can come, study, meeting, doing sports, and live there. As one of the solutions for this project was offered using the simple CLT box construction that is easy to transform and that corresponds to human scale. The designed box can be successfully served for office workers as a meeting room, students that come to the two-level study centre for study and relaxation, and as an exhibition space for young people who work in rented workshops and created their unique fitches or crafts. Also, the use of these boxes can be extended outside the building to the courtyard and flat roof where visitors can spend time when the weather allows.

I wanted my idea with boxes to be linked to the new purpose of the building and for all spaces to work together in order to create a natural flow around the core with the

cafe to allow people to pass unhindered and create a life flow in the middle. The connection to the courtyard was further accentuated by big windows through which daylight enters the building and visitors seem to be already there. The separate and independent from each other meeting boxes give an opportunity to extend open cafe hours which can be used by students who accommodate on the second floor in the morning or by office workers after work in the evening. The study center can be work independently because it has its own entrance and maybe its space can be booked at a convenient time for students. Through the same entrance, visitors can reach a sports hall on the second floor with changing rooms and go down to the cafe or students proceed directly to the accommodation. The emergency entrance to the student's accommodation and to the office center located at a distance to each other and to the main entrance at the end of the building to separate flows between visitors, workers, and residents.

In this project, I wanted to respect the old historical building and offer solutions with fewer interventions, to save the historical envelope but to offer the new purpose of the building that makes it more attractive and pleasant to the city residents and users.

THE END

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