

Ådalen

Craft in Continuation

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LUND
UNIVERSITY

AAHM10 | Degree Project in Architecture
Lunds Tekniska Högskola | 2022

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Abstract

The site of the project is located in Ådalen, a stretch along Ångermanälven in northern Sweden. A region that during the 19th century grew and flourished through the wood industry only to stagnate and be phased out in the middle of the 20th century. After that the region has been fraught with closures and population decline.

In relation to the industries that have existed in the region, I have chosen the program of the building to be a school of crafts with specialization in wood, glass and metal. The school would bring the local population and students from around the country together and consequently revitalize the area.

The project sprung out of an interest in how architecture can establish a connection to a place. Seeing the building as a reflection of the various layers both physical, historical and cultural that together form the landscape it sits in.

Ådalen carries a history which physical traces largely have been erased. In the project I explore both the visible remains in the physical environment and those that are gone but remain in the collective memory.

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Introduction

In my thesis, I have worked with what it means to establish a connection to a place in a rural, non-growth context.

The urbanization has led to an urban norm in society where values that are positively charged have been linked to the urban environment. The urban norm has an effect on how society invests and priorities as well as values and describes. The rural is seen as the opposite of the urban, which affects how we see and value these places and in the long run the lives lived there. Urban inhabitants are allowed to represent and define the development of society.

The urban norm is present when rural environments are designed. In contrast to the urban, the rural is exotic, something that is enhanced when development in these areas are based on the urban dweller's demand for recreation, tourism and culture. There is a risk that the local population living and working in rural areas become under represented in their own environment when developments takes place through the gaze of the urban. Rural development should therefore be more site-specific with solutions based on local characteristics and qualities seen from a local perspective (Folkesson 2017).

In my thesis I return to my home region Ångermanland, more specifically to Ådalen a few kilometers north of my hometown Härnösand. A region that during the 19th century grew and flourished through the wood industry only to stagnate and be phased out in the middle of the 20th century. After that, the region has been fraught with closures and population decline.

In relation to the industries that have existed in the region, I have chosen the program of the building to be a school

of crafts with specialization in wood, glass and metal. The program of the project can be seen as a continuation and reflection on the history of the region. The resources and products from the industry were collected and shipped elsewhere where they were given a value. The wealth that the industry generated was not invested in the place nor the people working and living in the area. The school becomes a way of tying a value to the place by allowing something to remain, be refined and given a meaning at the site. The school would bring the local population and students from around the country together and consequently revitalize the area.

The thesis aim is to design a building that belongs to its place and context. In my approach I wanted to work honest with the place, see it for what it is and what it has been. Ådalen carries an industrial history which physical traces largely have been erased. In the project I explore both the visible remains in the physical environment and those that are gone but remain in the collective memory. Seeing the building as a reflection of the various layers both physical, historic and cultural that together form the landscape it sits in.

Finding a suitable site has been part of my process, and after visiting a few of the old industrial sites around the area my project ended up at the place of an old pulp mill on Svanön in the middle of Ångermanälven.

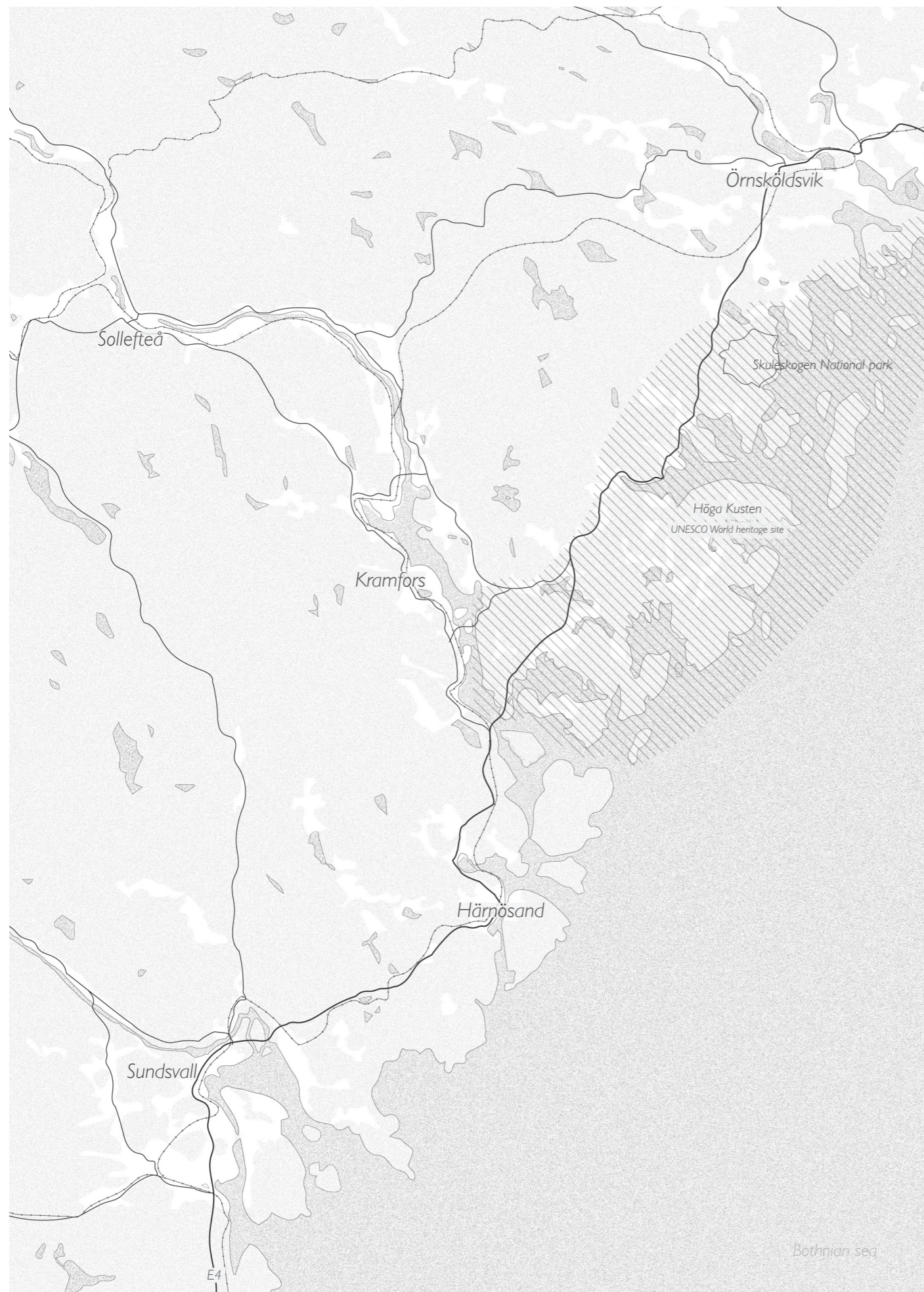
Research questions:

What aspects of a context should we as architects take into consideration when working in a rural context?

How can a building that belongs to the context of Ådalen be designed?



|
Ådalen



Map of Västernorrland

The landscape

Ådalen is an area in Ångermanland in northern Sweden. Ådalen is the name of the entire valley of Ångermanälven which is the river that runs through the landscape, but the term has become synonymous with the area around the elongated outlet to the sea. That is also how the term will be used in this report.

The inland ice was at times during the last ice age centered around Ångermanland. The three kilometer thick ice mass pressed the earth's crust down about one kilometer. When the ice began melting, it released pressure, and the land started rising towards its original position. This phenomena is called postglacial land uplift and is still an

ongoing process. Today the land in the area rise about 8-9 millimeter pers year (Länsstyrelsen Västernorrland et al. 2022).

The effects of the postglacial land uplift in Ångermanland is most prominent by the dramatic coastland where high mountains and deep valleys meet the botanic sea. The coastland is called Höga Kusten and was inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list of natural objects in 2000. The U-shaped valley that characterizes the mouth of Ångermanälven, created by the inland ice, provided the conditions for the agricultural and industrial landscapes that later came to shape the area (ibid).



E4 at Skuleberget (Mickelsson 1976)



Farm in Ångermanland (Hälsinglands Museum 1974)

Before the Industry

The area along Ångermanälven has been populated by a resident and probably cultivating population since the Late Iron Age. The hilly landscape offered good arable land in valleys and large forested lands that were difficult to cultivate. The forest instead provided opportunities for hunting, timber for houses and pasture for the cattle during the summers. There were also opportunities for fishing in the river and the sea (Kramfors Kommun 2019, 35).

Agriculture was for a long time the main occupation for the population in Ådalen, in the middle of the 19th century it employed 87% of the population. As a way to increase income, people could take a seasonal work in the wood industry as for example log driver. With the forest work as a secondary occupation, one could make a living on a small farm where land and forest complemented each other. Combining agriculture with another source of income has historically been a clear living pattern in forest districts of northern Sweden (Kramfors Kommun 2019, 71).

In older building traditions in Ångermanland farms often followed the farm structure common for northern Sweden with several buildings placed around an enclosed yard. The traditional farm could consist of as many as 30 buildings, some part of the farm structure and some placed on land further away used for farming during summer. When agriculture was modernized and the partitioning reforms were implemented in the 19th century the farm structure started to dissolve (Kramfors Kommun 2019, 88).

The buildings were traditionally log houses with wood roofs in the areas around Ådalen. The wood roofs consisted of birch bark, which was weighed down by split logs and stones. In the 19th century, the chip roof took over and on every other farm there was a saw. The chipboard roof was popular in the area well into the 20th century (ibid).



Sorting of timber (Eriksén 1899)

Ådalen Industrial Era

The topographical conditions in Ådalen, made it optimal for a wood industry to develop. The river served as a perfect transport route for timber from the inland forests and the deep and protected bays became harbors from which raw materials and products could be shipped.

In the 16th century small water-powered sawmills were built by rapids and streams around Ådalen mainly to cover the needs of farming households. At the turn between the 18th and 19th centuries there were about 30 sawmills in the area (Konsthögskolans arkitekturskola 1976).

Ironworks were established in the area in the 18th century and became the first lasting industry in Ådalen. The production of iron required large amounts of charcoal and the forest supply in the mining districts in central Sweden had begun to run its course. The state saw potential in the large forests in the north, which led to the establishment of ironworks in the area (Kramfors Kommun 2019). During the second part of the 19th century, new production methods were developed that became profitable only at a larger scale, which led to fewer and larger works. At the same time, the expansion of the railway made it possible to transport raw materials across the country, which meant that the forest lost its significance for the location of the ironworks (ibid).

The breakthrough of the sawmill industry came in the middle of the 19th century partly due to an increased demand for timber in Europe as a result of industrialization and urbanization. When the steam-powered sawmills were introduced, production were no longer dependent on water and could therefor be placed by the coast instead of by the rapids. Sawmills were moved down to

the riverside, where logs were driven and products could be shipped without transshipment. Ådalen's topographical conditions now appeared in their full significance - the meeting between extensive log driving routes and good ship communications (Konsthögskolans arkitekturskola 1976).

When the steam saws were established, the season was extended and the number of permanent employees increased, which resulted in a more permanent housing development. Over time, small industrial communities began to emerge around the industry, often with a mansion, offices and workers' barracks, as well as a grocery store and school. These small communities were owned and controlled by the companies (Kramfors Kommun 2019, 166).

Around the turn of the century, exports from the sawmills stagnated. The long-feared shortage of raw materials proved to be a reality, not least since the sawmills in the emerging pulp industry had a competitor for the forest. The primeval forest stand that existed at the time of the breakthrough was now largely felled, especially the coarser dimensions (Konsthögskolans arkitekturskola 1976).

As the demand for paper increased at the end of the 19th century, the pulp industry came to grow. Ådalen had optimal conditions for the now growing industry with good access to raw material and manpower. Pulp mills were established near sawmills and initially used the waste from them as raw material. The pulp industry expanded until the second half of 20th century when it almost disappeared due to centralization (Kramfors Kommun 2019, 166).



The old pulp mill at Hallstanäs 2022

Post-industrial Ådalen

In the 1930s, a change took place within industrial Ådalen. Increased efficiency and mechanization of production as well as increased competition meant that several industries were closed down, moved or joined together. This reduced the amount of jobs in the area which led to a significant decrease in population during the second half of the 20th century (Kramfors Kommun 2019, 170). Today there are only two industries still active in Ådalen, the pulp mill in Väja and the sawmill in Bollstabruk.

The sawmills and most of the pulp mills from the industrial era have been demolished. In many of the industrial sites only concrete foundations, pillars from docks and slag products remain. However, residential areas and premises that were part of the industrial communities remain, although not fully utilized. Through the existing building stand it is possible to gain an understanding of the former communities although the industrial sites along the riverbank are empty.

The population decline that started during the closure of the industries is still ongoing in the area. Kramfors municipality which Ådalen is part of has decreased its population by more than half since 1930. Today the municipality has about 18000 inhabitants, Kramfors is the seat of the municipality and the largest town with just under 7000 inhabitants (Wikipedia 2022). The municipality has undergone some centralization with most of the service centered in Kramfors. Despite this, a larger portion of the municipality population still live in former industrial communities or on the farmland.

The remaining and former industrial environments in Ådalen holds an important historic and cultural value according to the Kulturmiljöprogram developed by Kramfors municipality. It is part of the region's cultural heritage. The municipality is positive towards a development where places that previously belonged to the industry are given a new purpose (Kramfors Kommun 2019, 172).



(Tekniska Museet 1898)

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Finding a Place



Map of Ådalen



Finding a Place - In Ådalen

Early in the thesis process I went up to Ådalen to find a place for the project. Since the project ties to the history of the region I limited my search to locations that used to belong to the industry.

There were many potential sites since the industry had claimed most of the useful land along the riverbank. The dots and squares on the map represents sawmills and pulp mills that existed in Ådalen between 1858-1950 (Kramfors kommun 2022).

Before going to Ådalen I researched the current state of the sites and mapped out the ones which still had some traces left of the industry in terms of buildings or building remains. From this I found seven potential sites which are represented on the map.

With Härnösand as a starting point, we drove up along the river bank, through the former industrial settlements

Utansjö, Ramvik, Nensjö, Svanö, Hallstanäs, Marieberg, Sandslån and Bollstabruk. Places where there once were sawmills, sorting plants, ironworks and pulp mills, but today only foundations or ruins remained, except for Bollstabruk, the only one still in production.

Two of the places really stood out to me, Svanö and Hallstanäs. Common to both were the south facing slopes formerly the place of a pulp mill. On Hallstanäs most buildings still remained, albeit in the form of ruins, while at Svanö only a few concrete foundations and storage tanks were left.

I ended up choosing Svanö as the place for my project, an island in the middle of Ångermanälven and close to the centre of important historic and political events in the area. Today the island is known for cultural events organized by Folketshus on the island.

- Sawmills and pulp mills in Ådalen between 1858-1950
(Kramfors kommun 2022)
- Sawmills
 - Pulp mills
 - ■ Places visited



Aerial photo of Svanö from around 1960 (Lantmäteriet)

Svanö - Industrial History

Svanö is an example of a society that emerged as a result of the industry. The island was more or less uninhabited before the establishment of the first industry from which the settlement then grew. Through the well-preserved residential buildings it is possible to see the development of the settlement in different phases, from the 1860's to the 1960's. The island is listed as a national interest for cultural environmental protection (Kramfors Kommun 2019, 175). The cultural environment not only include the physical content of a landscape but also intangible phenomena. The cultural environment is part of the cultural heritage. (Riksantikvarieämbetet 2021)

Svanö's chapter in the industrial history began in 1867 when a sawmill was erected on the island. The settlement was concentrated to the western part of the island with the sawmill placed at the centre. Placed north of the sawmill was the timber yard and south of it, along the shoreline there was a steamboat quay and a planing mill, and between them the worker's barracks (Konsthögskolans arkitekturskola 1976).

In 1906, the company expanded its operations on Svanö with a pulp mill located on the east side of the island. Residential buildings and offices were built north of the mill. The two facilities were geographically separated from each other and the remained so socially as well (ibid).

The sawmill burnt down for the second time in July 1930, this time it was not rebuilt. The pulp mill was in operation

until the mid- 1960's when it became obsolete. The local newspaper was on site and documented the workers' last day at work Tuesday, November 1, 1966, when the factory closed down.

"Vemodet hade tagit glädjens plats hos öborna. Resignerade och allvarsamma gjorde arbetarna en sista tur runt i fabrikslokalerna, torkade fundersamt av händerna på blåstället, såg med sorgsna ögon på varandra och gick den tunga vägen hem till arbetslösheten och ovissheten."

(Västernorrlands Allehanda 1966)

With heavy steps the workers walked out of the factory one last time with unemployment and uncertainty waiting at home. The picture the article depict is emotional and far from rational and un-human, otherwise associated with the industrial. The article conveys both the material and immaterial value the industry held and the closure ultimately changed the conditions for a continued life on the island. The grief of a lost industry not only concerned Svanö but can be seen as representative of an entire region.

The factory's premises were left empty for ten years before they were demolished in 1976. Today, there are few remains that testify to the industry that once existed on the site.



Svanö with surroundings

Svanö - Surrounding Context

The population on Svanö was at most 1500 people and during that time it was a fully functioning industrial community with both grocery store and school. Today the population is less than 100 people and the islanders have to go to the mainland to buy groceries and go to school.

Since the saw and pulp mill occupied most of the vacant land along the river bank, there are several other industrial communities in the surroundings of Svanö without mills but with preserved residential buildings.

Sandö is the nearest neighbor and the island you cross to go to Svanö. Today the island is more or less dedicated to educational activities with a focus on rescue work. There is a high school (4) with about 70 students many of whom live at the boarding school which is located on the island and in Klockstrand. In the middle of the 18th century, a large glassworks was built on Sandö. A century later, a sawmill was also built on the island. The island was ravaged by fire several times but the industries were rebuilt. The sawmill burned down again in 1918 and

was not rebuilt after that. The glassworks closed down for good in 1928 when it could no longer compete with factory-made glass.

Klockstrand, located on the east river bank and has just under 300 inhabitants, a grocery store and a pizzeria (5). In 1936, an electric saw and planing company was established in Klockstrand. The sawing was stopped in 1964 and then only planing continued.

Lunde, located at the west river bank has just above 300 inhabitants. In Lunde there is a patisserie (2), a car museum and a bus stop (1) with connections on a more regional level, with departures to Härnösand and Sollefteå. Lunde became something of a central town in Ådalen during the 1850s when a customs station was built for arriving ships that would continue up the river to unload and load new cargo. Lunde was also the site of the so-called Ådalshändelserna in May 1931, a labor dispute in which five people were shot dead by the military (Wikipedia 2020). Today, a memorial has been erected on the site (3).



Map of Svanö

Svanö

Svanön is a scenic place in the middle of Ångermanälven. As there are no thoroughfares, the island is calm and humanly welcoming. The island has good recreational qualities with a bathing place by the northern riverbank and an electric light trail which is prepared for cross-country skiing in the winters.

Although it has been over fifty years since the pulp mill closed down, and forty years since the buildings were demolished, the memory of the industry is still vivid on the island. Information signs (12) have been placed all around the island and tell about the history of the place. Displaying photographs of now demolished buildings and what existing buildings looked like in their original condition.

The sawmill was built 1867 and closed down 1930 when it burnt down for a second time. The pulp mill (7) was built in 1906 and demolished 1976. The only part of the factory that remains in its entirety are two rusty storage tanks (8) built 1953. One of the storage tanks has a special reverberation, which has led to several music events being arranged there including an annual music and art festival.

The remaining buildings on the island, which for the most part consist of multi-family houses built under the auspices of the company, can be divided into five neighborhoods that represent different stages of development on the island. The oldest are two barracks (2) built in 1867 for workers at the sawmill. The buildings are located south

of the site of the sawmill. Villas for factory officials at the pulp mill were built between 1914-1927 and located just north of the factory site (9). At a safe distance from the officials were the living quarters for the workers, apartment buildings (10) built between 1915-1920. Today the buildings house a rehabilitation center for people with substance abuse problems. In 1949 and 1953, during the expansive period of the pulp mill, six apartment buildings (4) for workers were built. The last addition in the line of housing for workers were single-family brick houses (3) built in the 1960s. The villas are an example of a new type of housing for the workers at the factory and the construction was no longer carried out under the auspices of the company but by the employees themselves (Länsstyrelsen Västernorrland 2014).

Folkets Hus (5), located in the middle of the island, served as a gathering place for workers at both the sawmill and the pulp mill. It was bought by Svanö Workers' Association 1907 and has retained its purpose as a gathering place for the inhabitants on the island (Länsstyrelsen Västernorrland 2014). Today, cultural events are arranged there that are well attended by people from the surrounding areas.

The bridge to Svanö was built in 1982 it replaced the ferry traffic that since 1890 had connected the island with main land from the station located by the sawmill site (Länsstyrelsen Västernorrland 2014). There is a bus stop at Svanö (6), centrally located at the opposite side of the street from Folketshus. The bus stop has about six departures on weekdays but none on weekends.



(Nilsson 1906)

III

On the Banks of Svanö





First Encounter with the Site

The first day I visited the site was a perfect example of the season we in the north of Sweden call spring-winter. The temperature was below zero but the sun felt warm on the skin. The sky was clear blue and the reflection from the snow was blinding.

There was a serenity to the place and the whole island. A family on sports holiday went cross-country skiing over the meadow and a couple of people walked along the old factory site.

We followed the trace from a snowmobile down to the riverbank. The snow-covered ground was uneven so it was easier to move around on the frozen river than on land. The white landscape made it easy to distinguish between natural and man-made objects left from the industrial time.

Wooden pillars from the old dock pierced through the thick and snow covered ice along the river bank. Other industrial remains by the river were three massive concrete foundations, one in the river and two on land. An information sign said that it used to be the foundation of a huge crane.

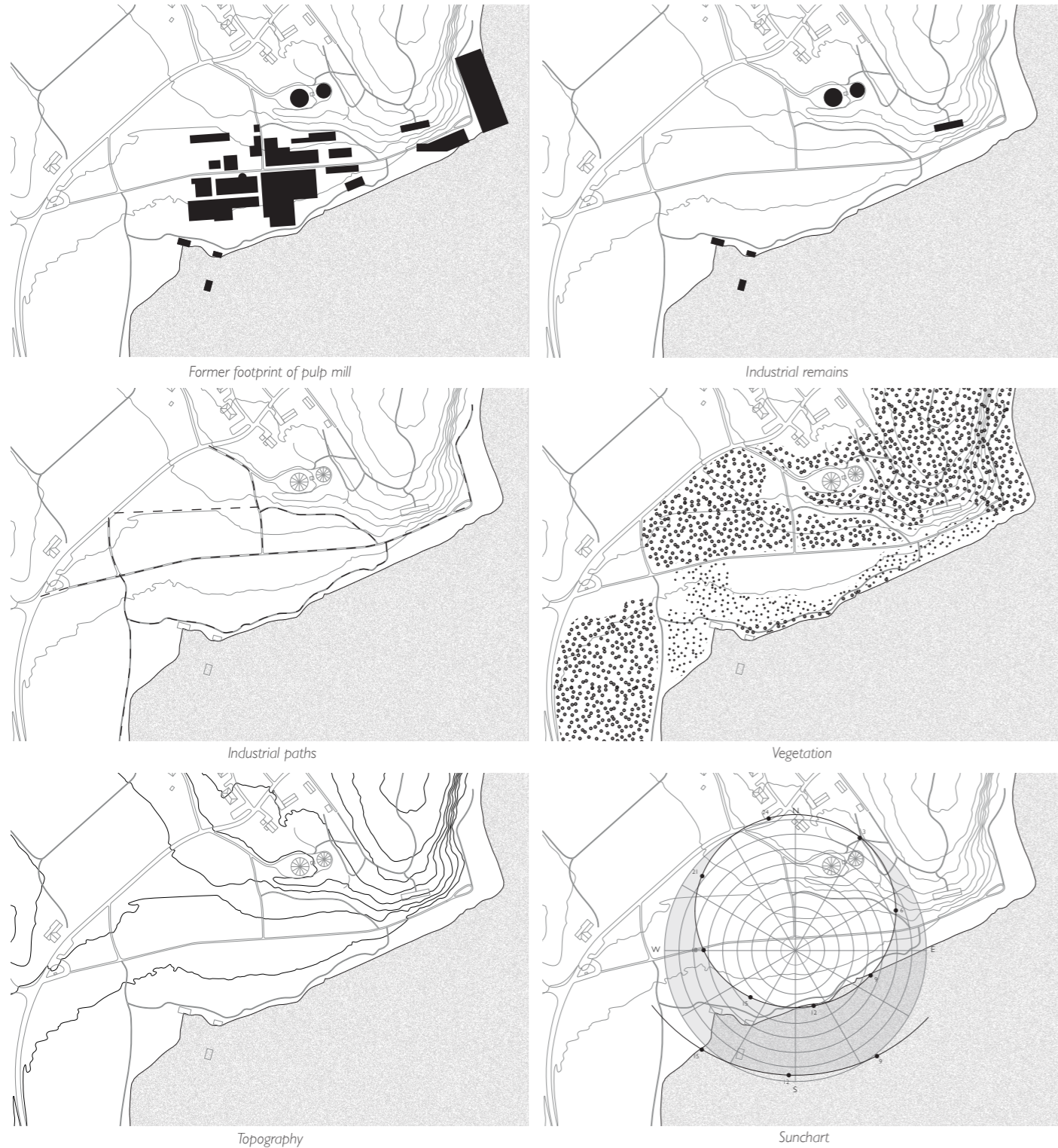
We followed a path up towards the hill, behind the birch trees the vibrant rusty red color of the two storage tanks could be glimpsed. The scale of them was massive and difficult to grasp.

The path leading from the storage tanks down towards the river made a strong impact on me that day. Birch and pine trees framed the path and the view of the landscape slowly opened up as we descended the slope. Along the path, the past and the new could be tied together.



The site at Svanö





Site Conditions

From the former footprint of the pulp mill it is possible to grasp its massive scale in comparison to the surroundings.

The most dominating industrial remains at the site are the two rusty storage tanks, also the only part of the factory that remain in its entirety. Other physical remnants are the concrete foundation from a storage building and from a crane and wooden pillars from the dock.

In addition to the building remains there are paths and roads that indicate the previous movement and life on site. Most of them are today used as recreational paths by the locals.

The vegetation on site is poorly managed so most of the trees are small and thin with exceptions on the hill

and along the shoreline. The trees are mainly spruce, pine, birch and alder. The area where most of the factory buildings were placed is still sparsely vegetated.

The site is sloping slightly down towards the water. The height difference between the top of open field and the water line is about seven meters.

There is a great contrast in the light conditions in these latitudes during the course of a year. In winter solstice, the angle of the sun is about five degrees mid-day and the sun beams can barely reach above the hills. In summer the sun rises in north east and sets in north west, during Summer solstice the angle is fifty degrees.









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Design Proposal



Program

Carpentry workshop
 Machine shop
 Surface treatment room
 Tool sharpening room
 Exterior storage
 Bench workshop / workspace
 Fika / meeting room

Metal workshop
 Machine shop
 Grinding room
 Paint booth
 Bench workshop / work space
 Fika / meeting room
 Glassworks

Hotshop
 Coldshop
 Bench workshop / work space
 Fika / meeting room

Educational spaces
 Print room (3D, laser etc.)
 Library
 Classroom
 Auditorium
 Exhibition hall

Staff & administration
 Offices
 Maintenance Office
 Lunch and break room
 Meeting room

Restaurant / café
 Dining area
 Kitchen

Supporting spaces
 Garbage room
 Loading
 WC



Craft as Continuation

The program of the building is a folkhögskola with a focus on craft. Folkhögskola is a Nordic school form for young adults that dates back to the 1860's. In Sweden the schools aimed to promote education within the lower classes. Folkhögskolan became an important educational path for people from the peasant population and during the 20th century for the working class. (Nationalencyklopedin, folkhögskola)

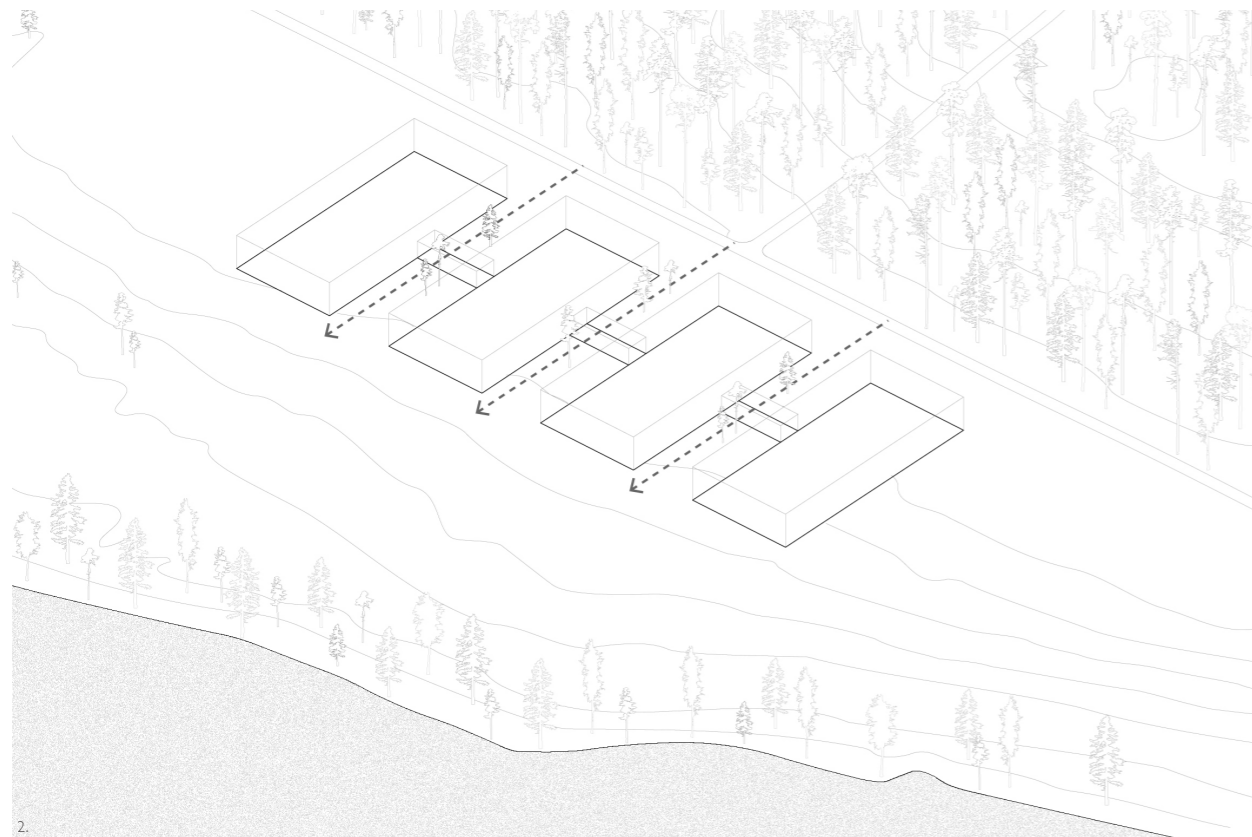
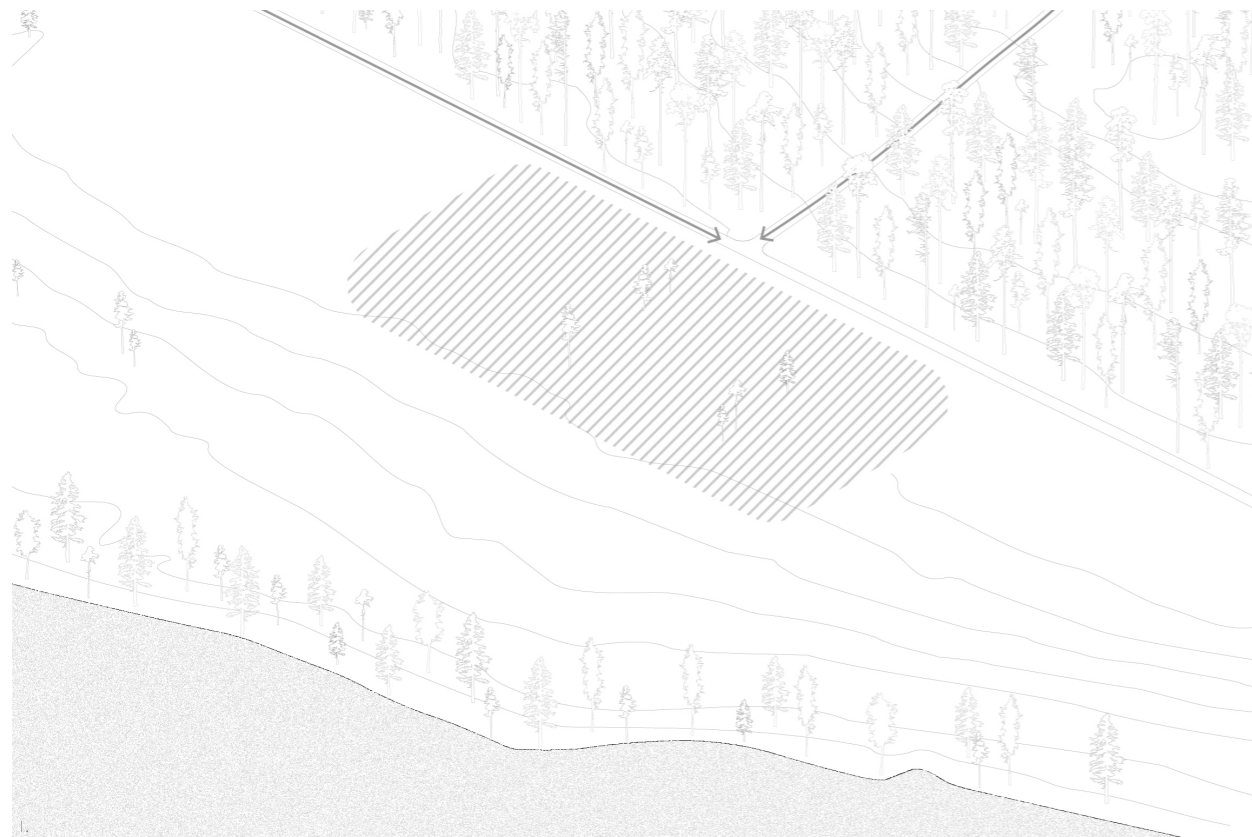
In relation to the industries that have existed in the region, I have chosen the program of the building to be a school of crafts with specialization in wood, glass and metal. The program of the project can be seen as a continuation and reflection on the history of the region. In addition to learning, the building is intended as a meeting place for people in the area with parts of the building program directed towards the public, such as the exhibition space, café and library.

The resources and products produced by the industries in Ådalen were collected and shipped elsewhere where they were given a value. The wealth that the industry generated was not invested in the place nor the people

working and living in the area, something which became evident when the industries moved or closed down and the region suffered from unemployment and population decline. The place had served its purpose and lost its significance.

The school becomes a way of tying a value to the place by allowing something to remain, be refined and given a meaning at the site. The place becomes almost as important for the school as the education itself. With the surrounding landscape the craft is put in a context. The raw material is shown in relation to its origin and its industrial history which provides an opportunity to reflect on current and past resource consumption. The building program follows a process from raw material to art or utility objects, which deepens the understanding of the material.

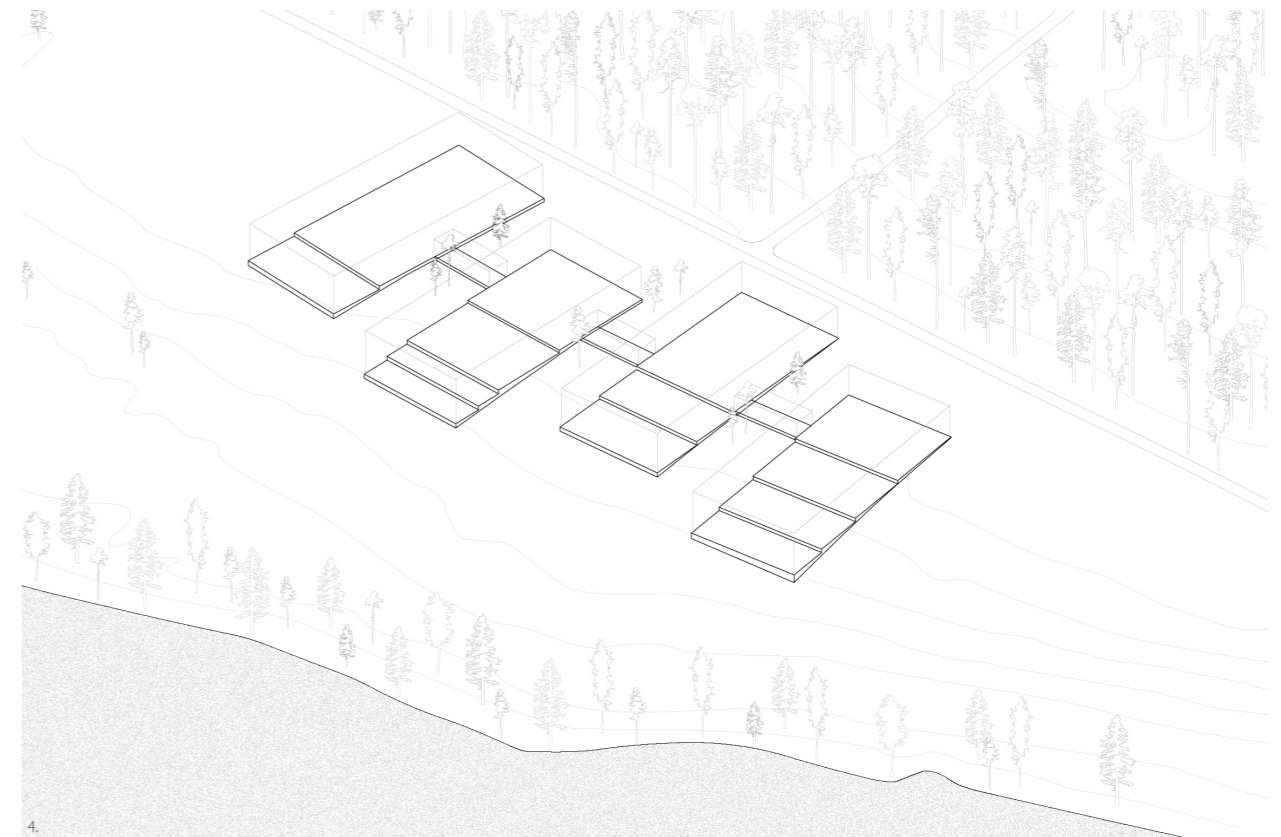
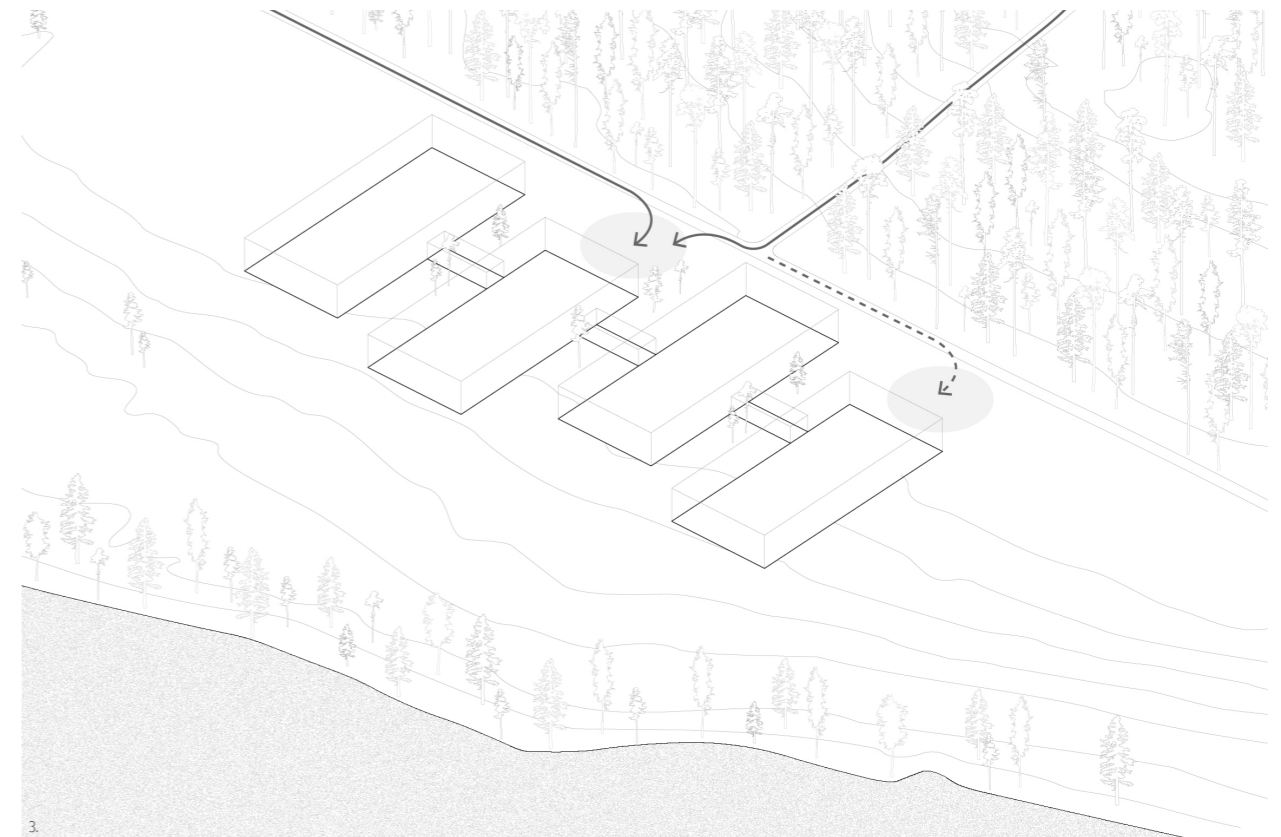
After my bachelor in architecture I studied carpentry for two years at a folkhögskola in Dalsland. My practical knowledge and lived experience of the school and the craft has been the basis for the outlay of the program and the design of the building.



1. The building is placed where most of the buildings from the pulp industry were concentrated, it is today a sparsely vegetated open field.

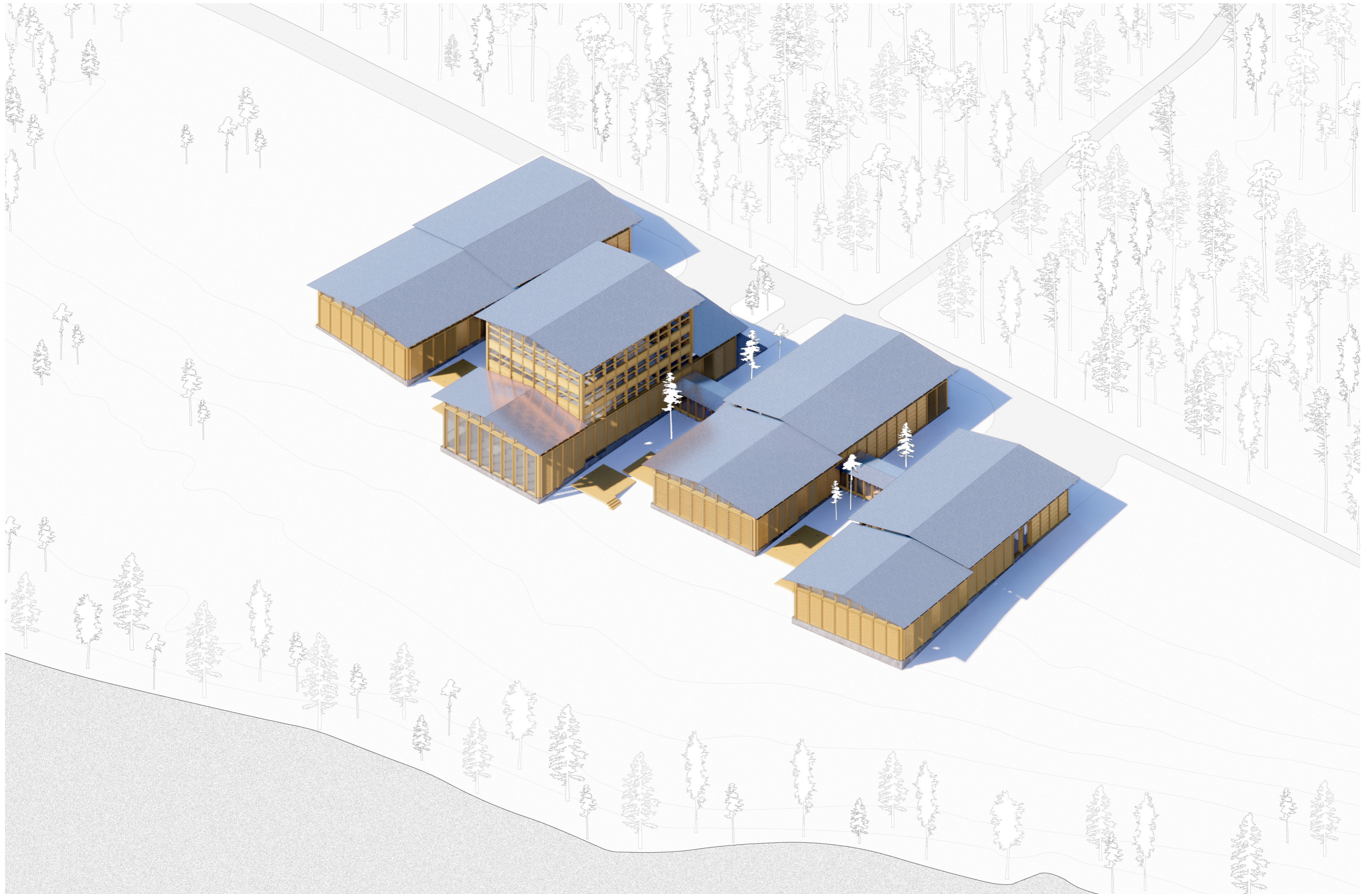
The entrance of the building is placed where two of the paths remaining from the industry intersect. The paths connects to the two cultural buildings on the island, Folketshus and the storage tanks.

2. The building is divided into four volumes which are bound together by a path. Between the buildings there is room for nature to grow. The path allows people who move around the area to still have a view of the landscape and the river while being able to see the life going on in the building.

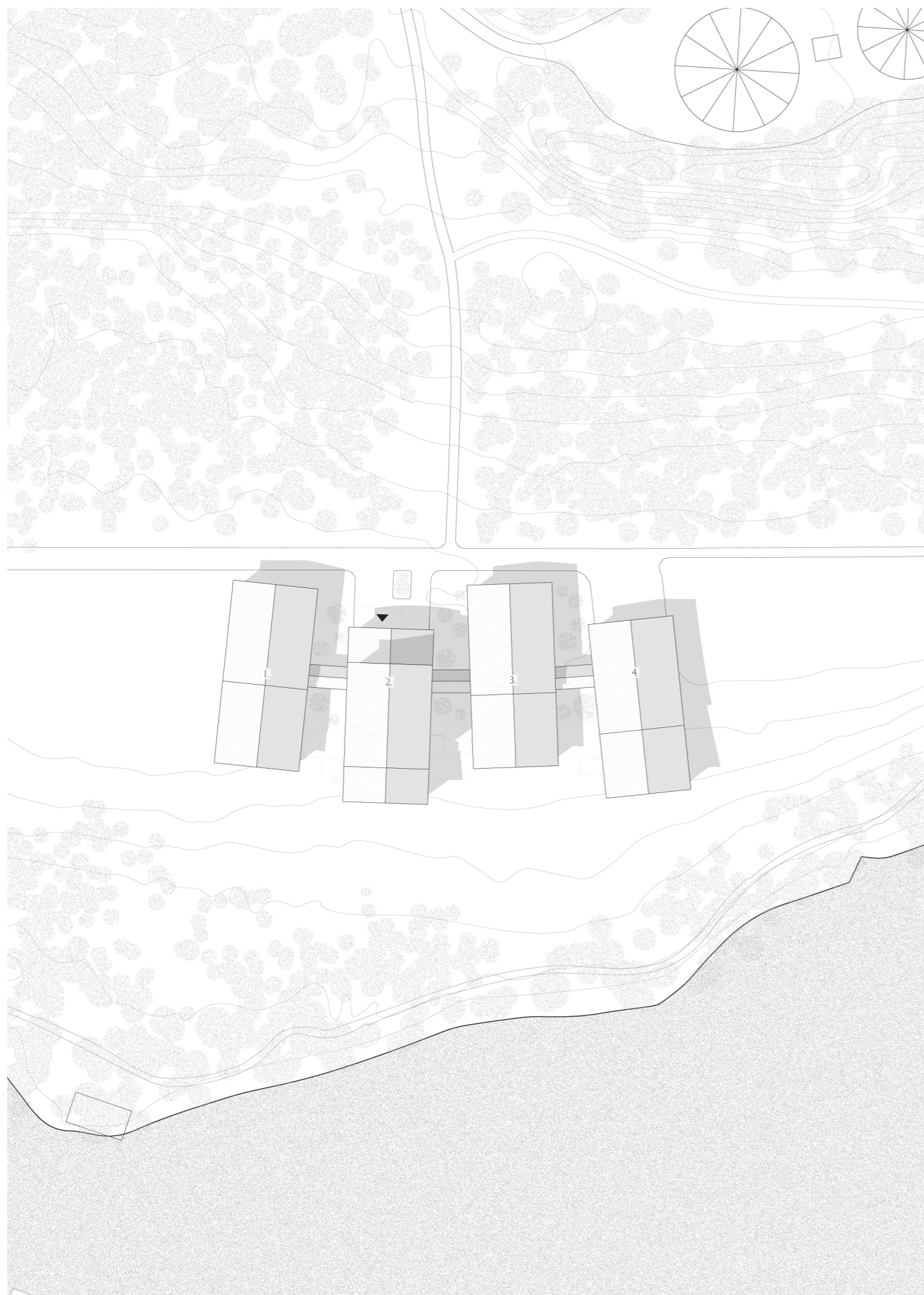


3. The building volumes are slightly offset from each other in order to create a couple of more clearly framed spaces. In the north, these are used as a small plaza outside the main entrance and a car parking for handling goods.

4. The building volumes are given an angle which follow the slight curve in the topography and generates more dynamic spaces between the building volumes. The slight slope of the field led to an internal adaptation of levels following the topography.



Isometric view of building



Site map



The Proposal

The main entrance of the building is situated by the small plaza in front of the main building volume (2). You enter the building into a foyer space that also functions as an exhibition area for student work. A bit further into the building there is a café and restaurant which works as a gathering place for students, staff and the locals with seating places on platforms that descend towards the water. This area can also be used for larger gatherings and lectures.

The other building volumes are reached by the path which is wide enough to function as an additional temporary exhibition space. The path is in contrast to the heavier foundation of the building volumes placed on pillars slightly elevated from the ground which accentuate its lighter relation to ground and nature. The path has a lower ceiling height which contrasts to the other volumes.

The other three building volumes are dedicated to the crafts metal (1), wood (3) and glass (4). The workshop buildings are more closed towards north with machine shops and supportive functions and opens up towards south. The bench workshops, where the students spend most of their time, sketching, contemplating and building their work are placed in south with a view of the river. At the back of the wood building there is an external storage which allows for the school to buy, store and dry wood from local small scale sawmills.

The first floor of the building is a small library with study places for students. The second floor is office and meeting

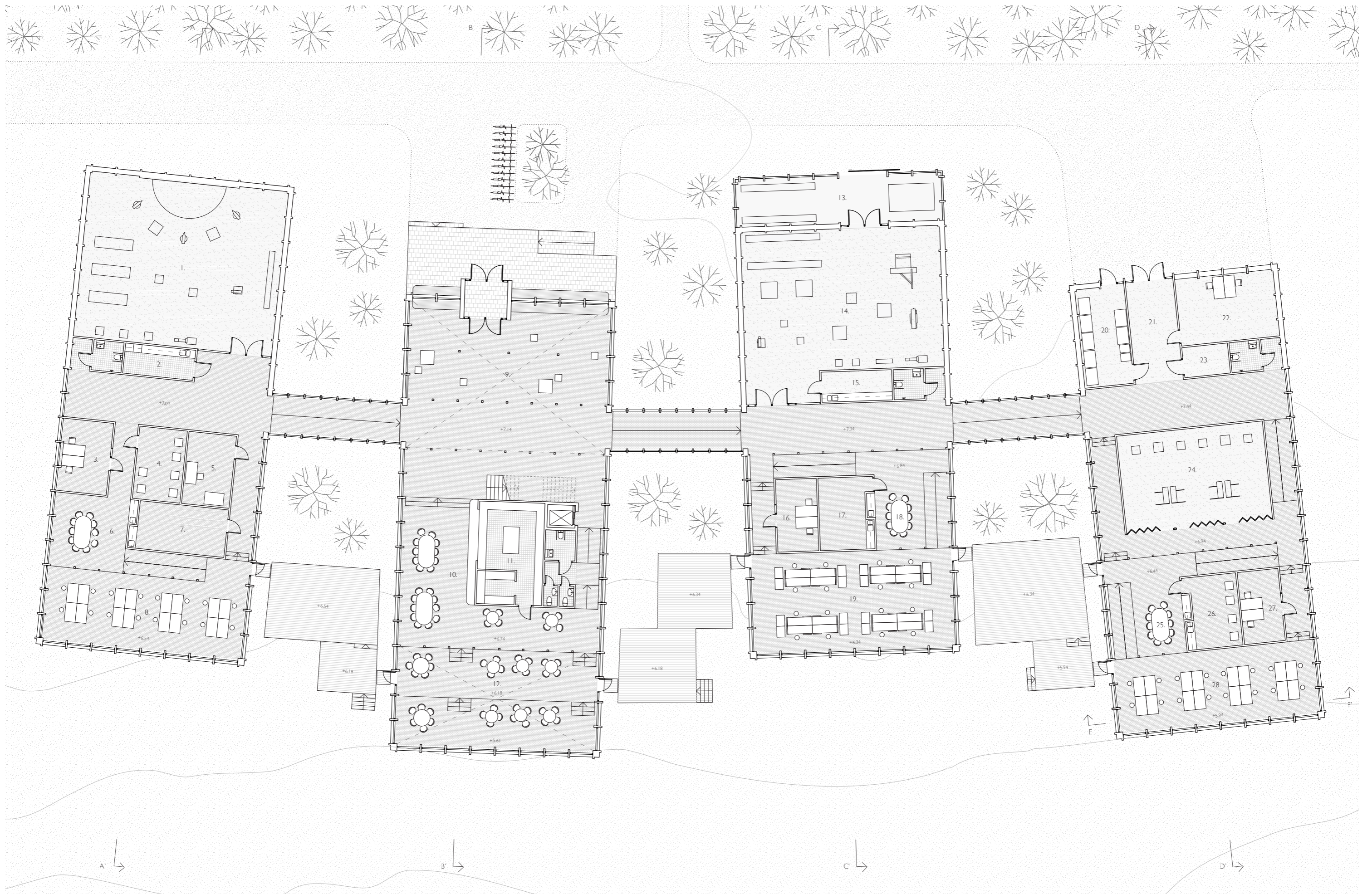
rooms for staff and administration. The third floor is a classroom for exploring classic art techniques such as croquis and color theory.

The building volumes do not have the same façade along the entire length, but change between bench workshop and machine shop. Where roof and wall meet there is an opening that runs along the entire facade and connects the different parts.

The facade of the buildings speaks both of the tradition and the industry. In the architecture of the agricultural landscape of Ådalen logs were joined in timber cabins. In the industrial landscape the river banks were filled with stacked timber and planks. Characteristic for the tradition and the industry is the horizontal wooden elements, something that I have worked with in the facades.

The low angle of the sun in these latitudes creates long shadows, which makes it difficult when working with a craft. The bench workshops are therefore equipped with louvres that can be adjusted according to the angle of the sun and thereby create a more indirect light. It also allows for a play of light and shadow that can favor the creative process. The louvres can also work to dim the bright reflections of the snow during spring.

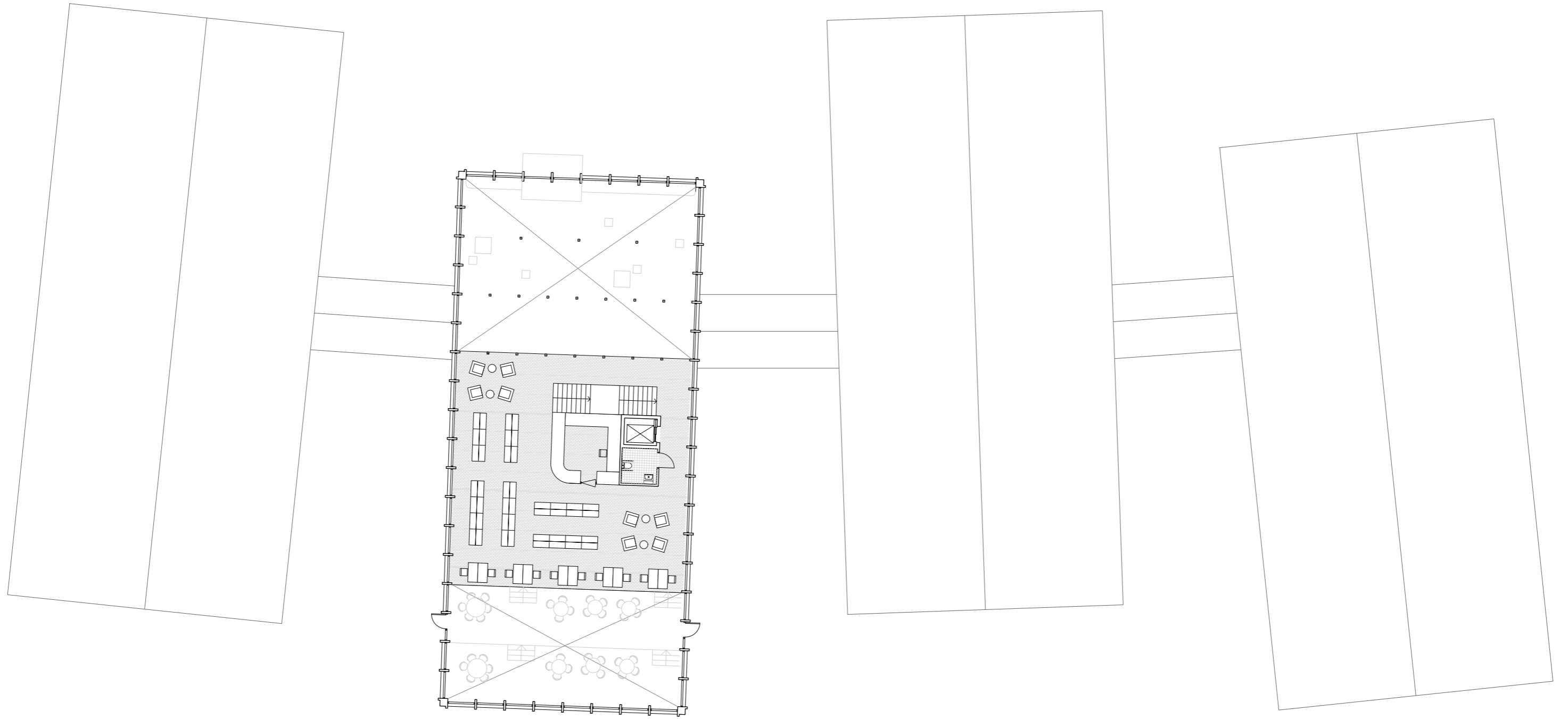
Wood is the load bearing structure of the building, block wood is the main floor material and pine plywood cover the interior walls and ceiling.

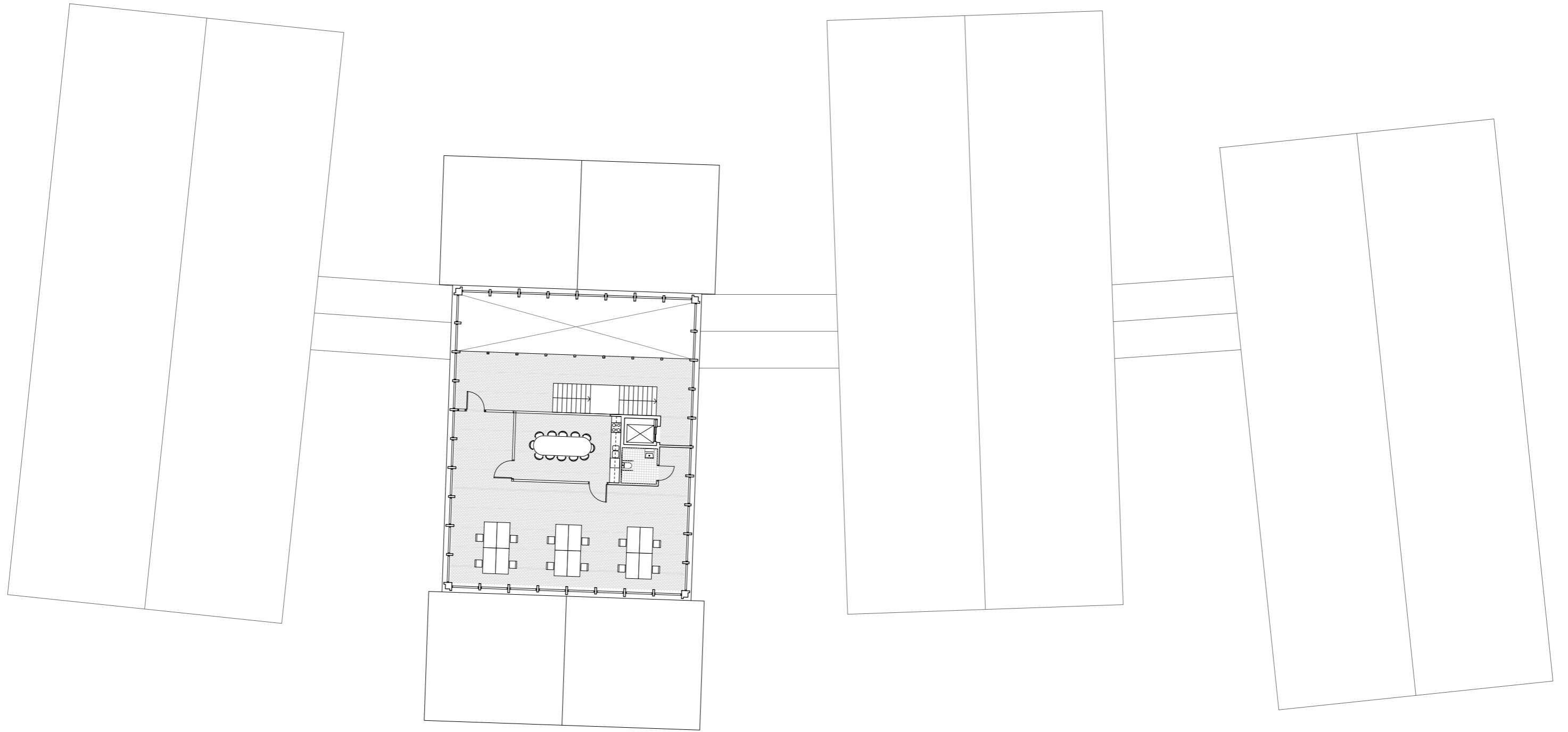


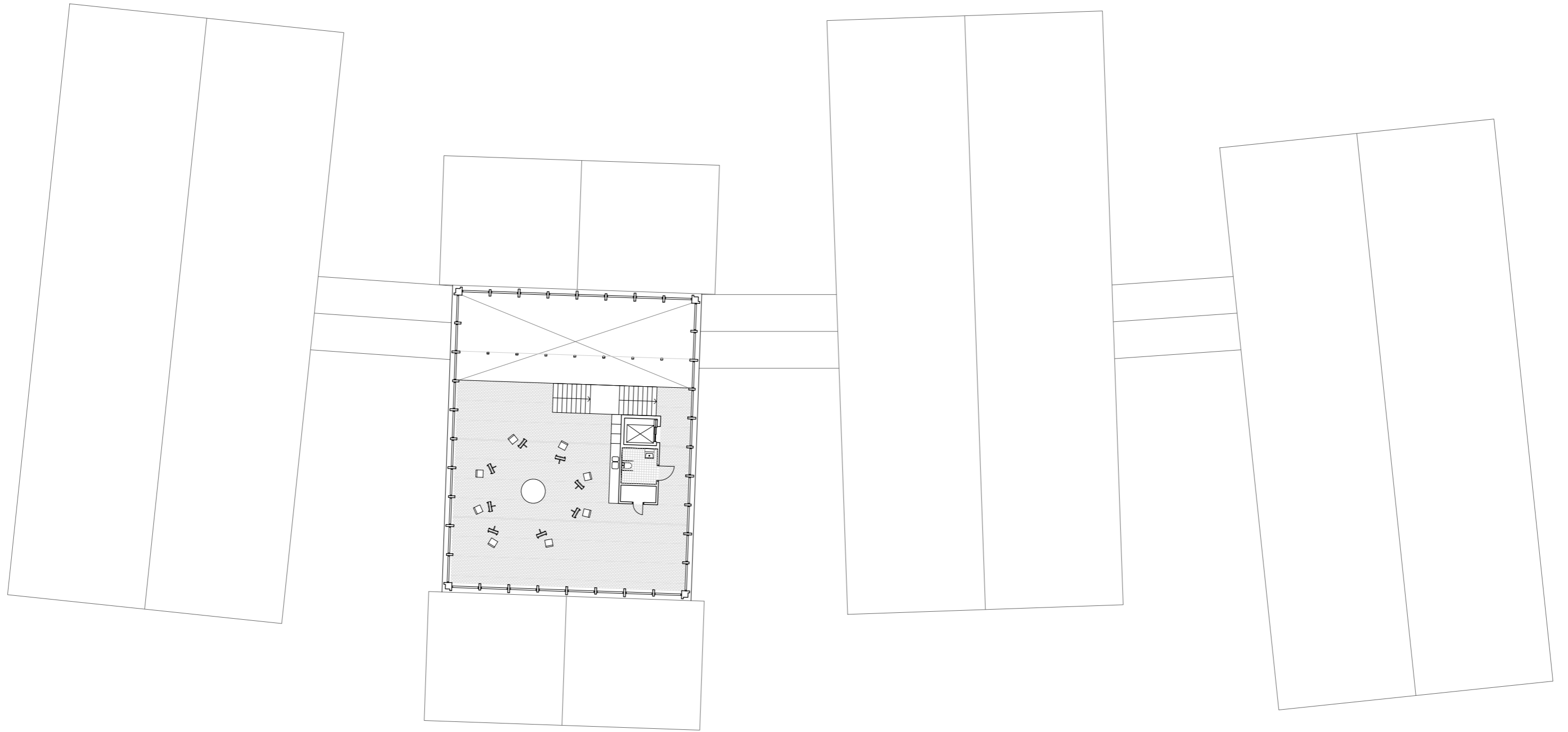
Ground floor plan

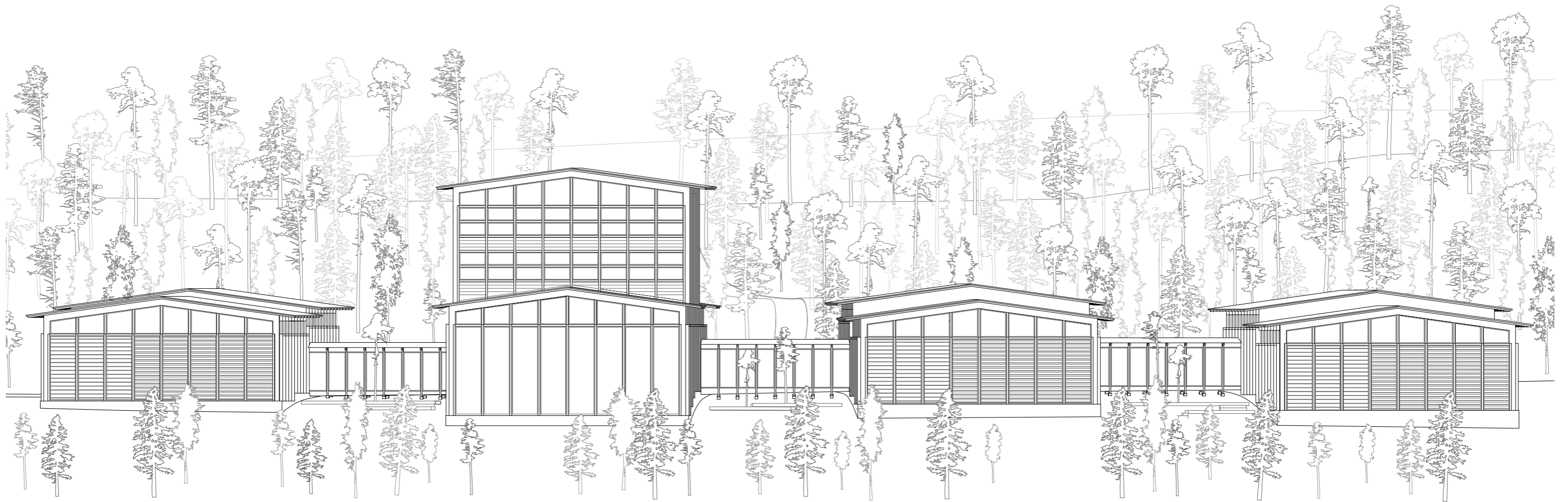
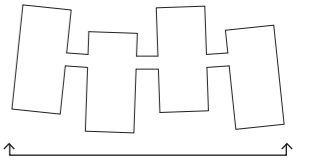
- | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Metal machine shop | 5. Print room | 9. Foyer / exhibition | 13. Exterior storage | 17. Surface treatment room | 21. Loading zone | 25. Fika room |
| 2. Cleaning | 6. Fika room | 10. Café / restaurant | 14. Wood machine shop | 18. Fika room | 22. Maintenance office | 26. Glass cold shop |
| 3. Office | 7. Paint room | 11. Kitchen | 15. Tool sharpening | 19. Bench workshop | 23. Storage | 27. Office |
| 4. Grinding room | 8. Bench workshop | 12. Seating / lecture hall | 16. Office | 20. Garbage room | 24. Glass hot shop | 28. Bench workshop |





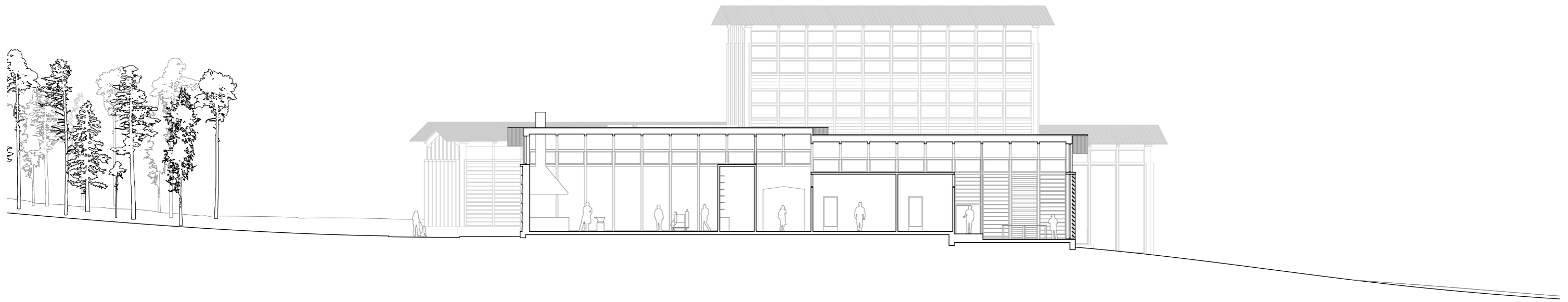
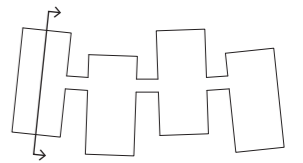




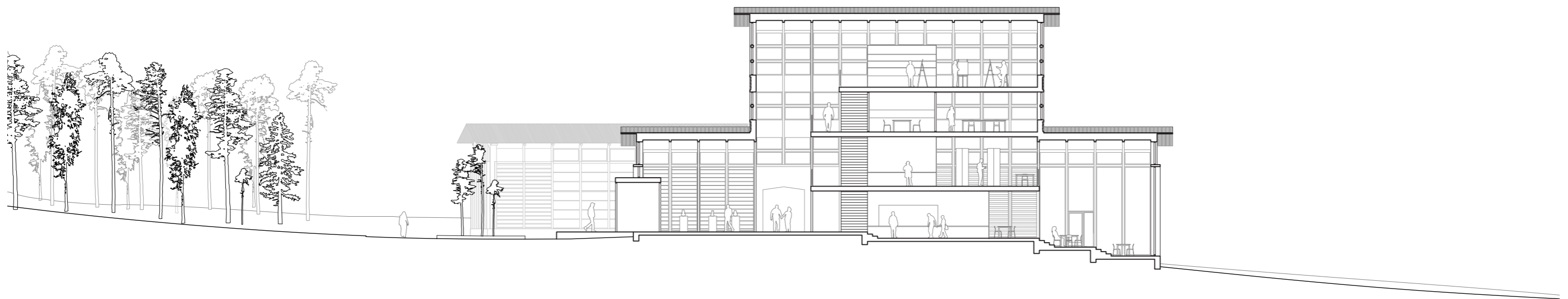
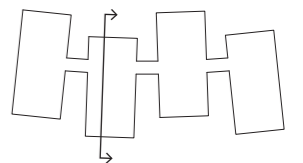


Elevation south



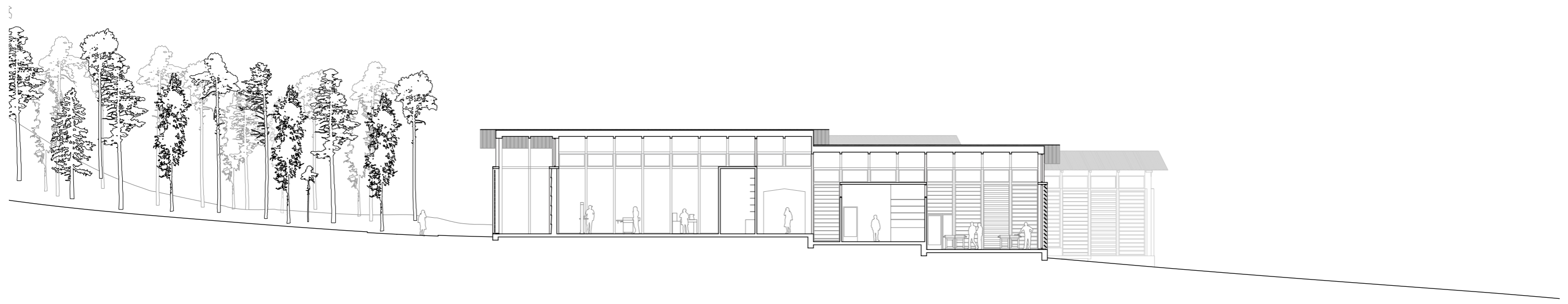
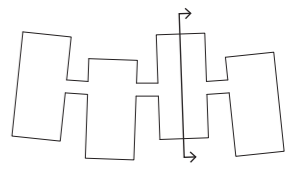


Section A-A'
Metal workshop

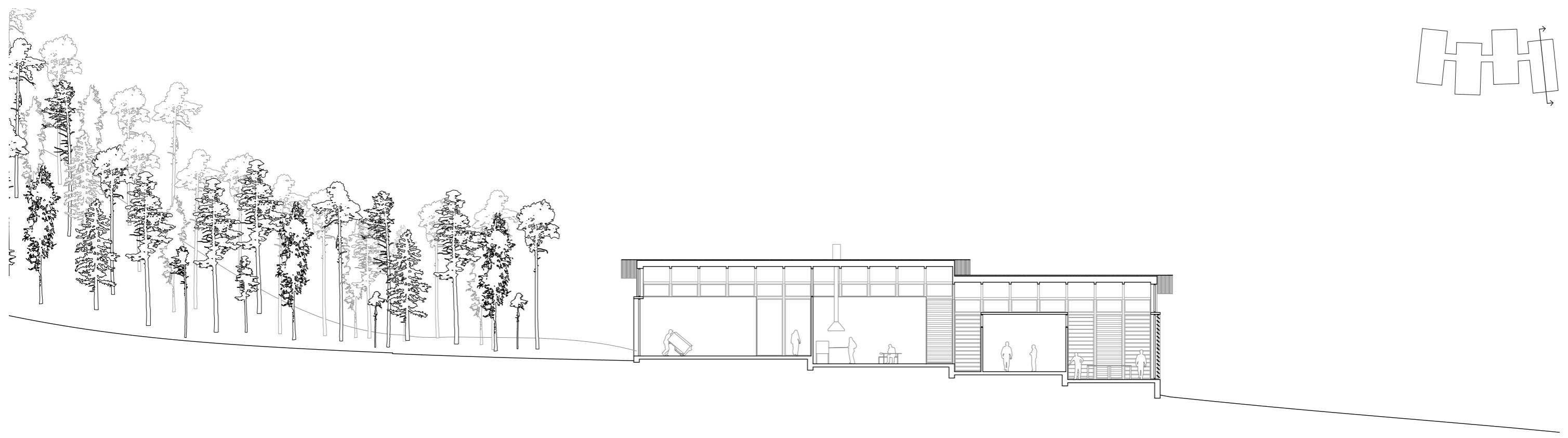
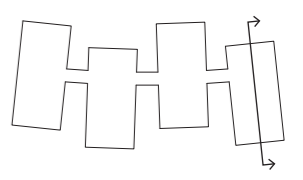


Section B-B'
Main building



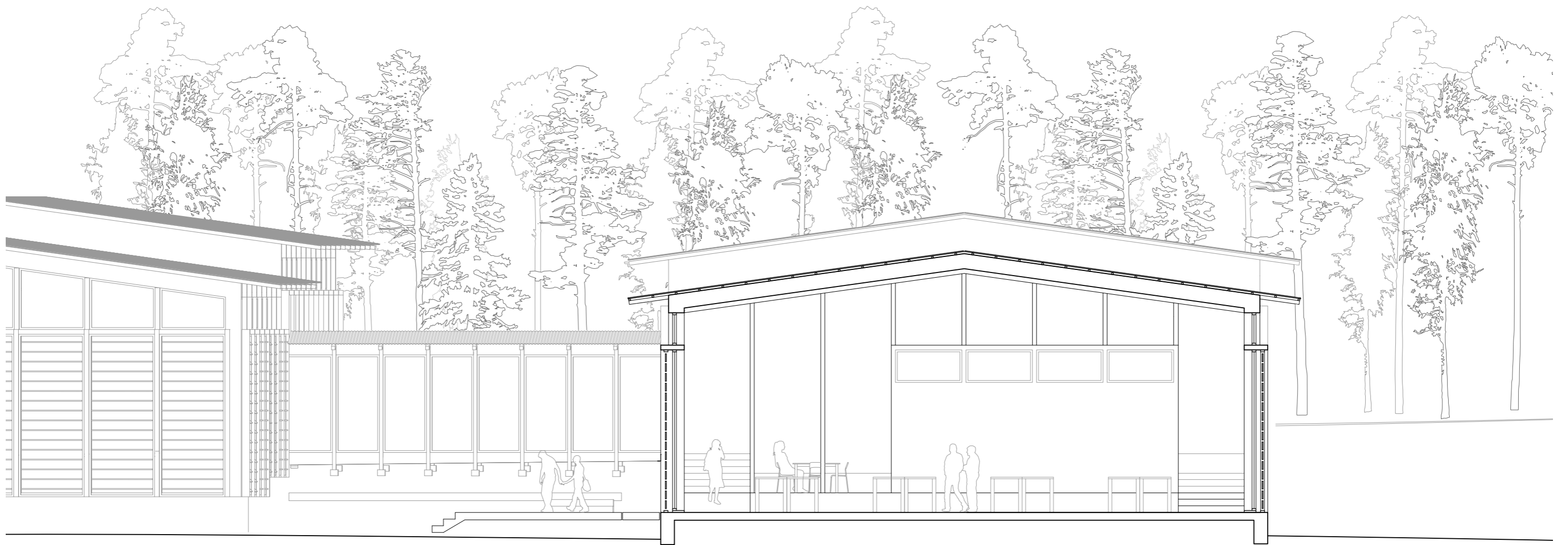
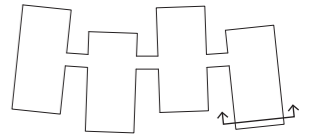


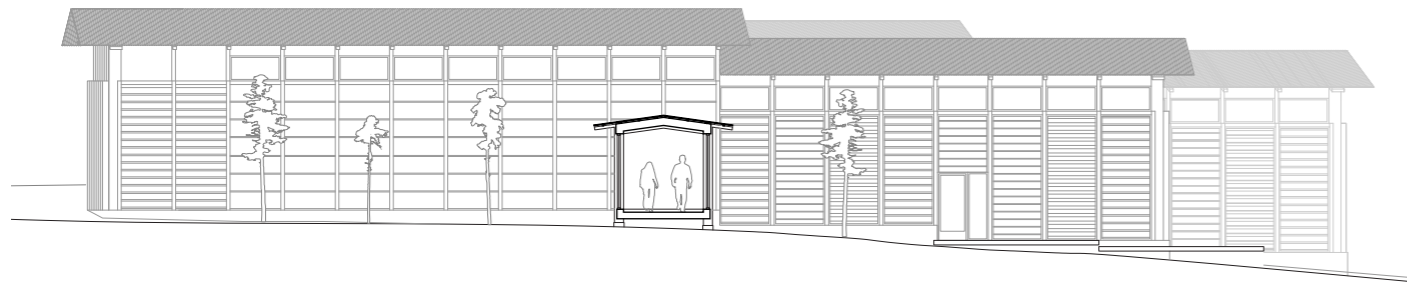
Section C-C'
Wood workshop



Section D-D'
Glass works

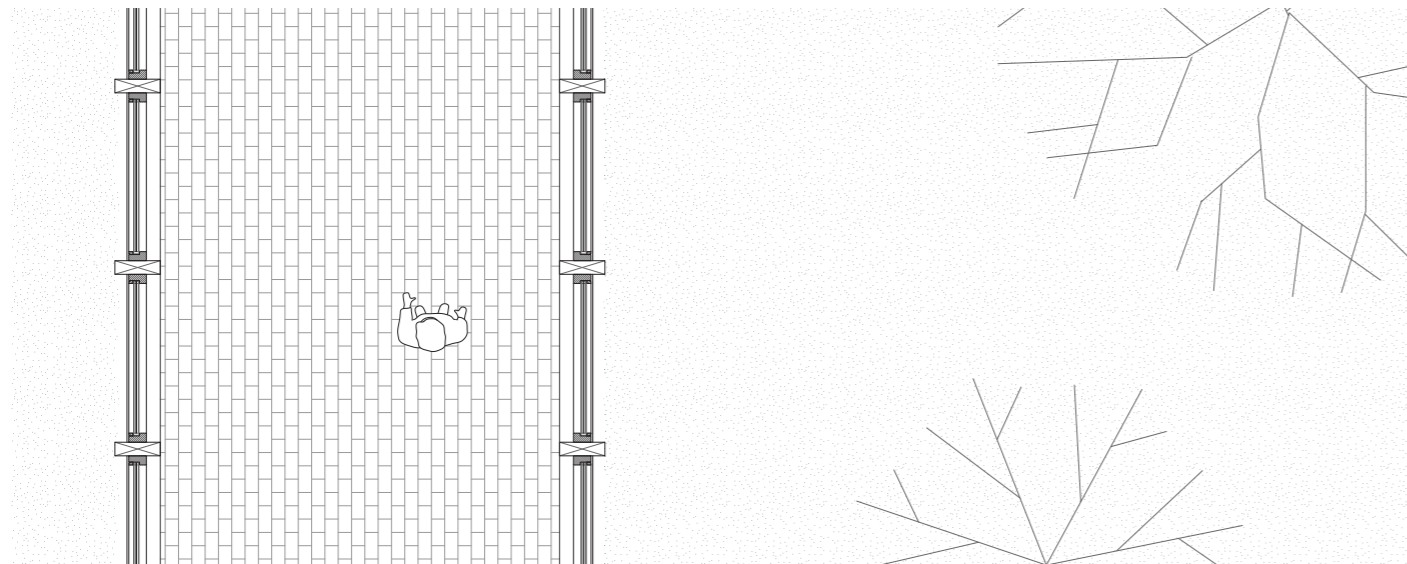
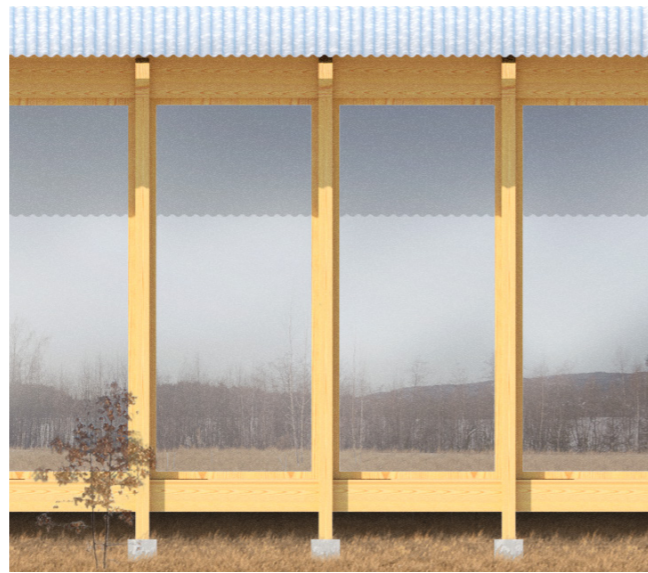
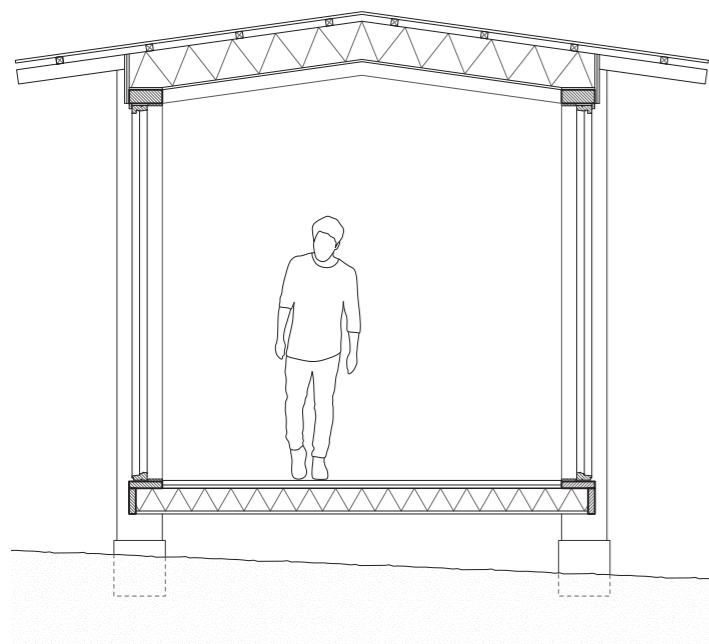






Section through path

0 2 5 10 m

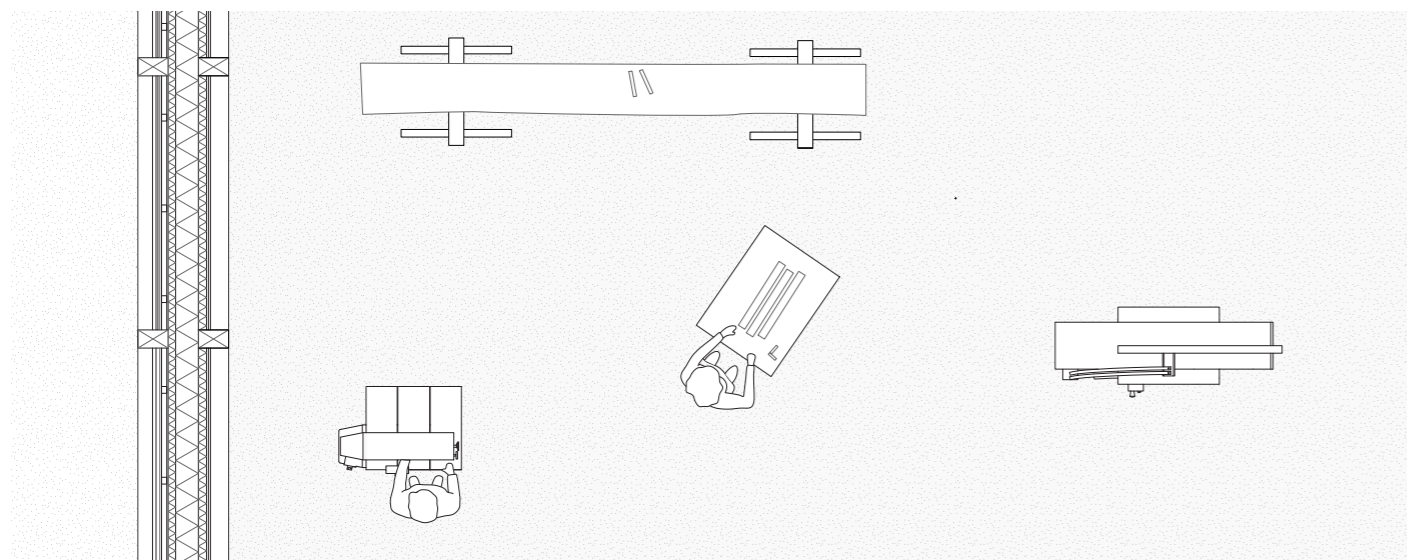
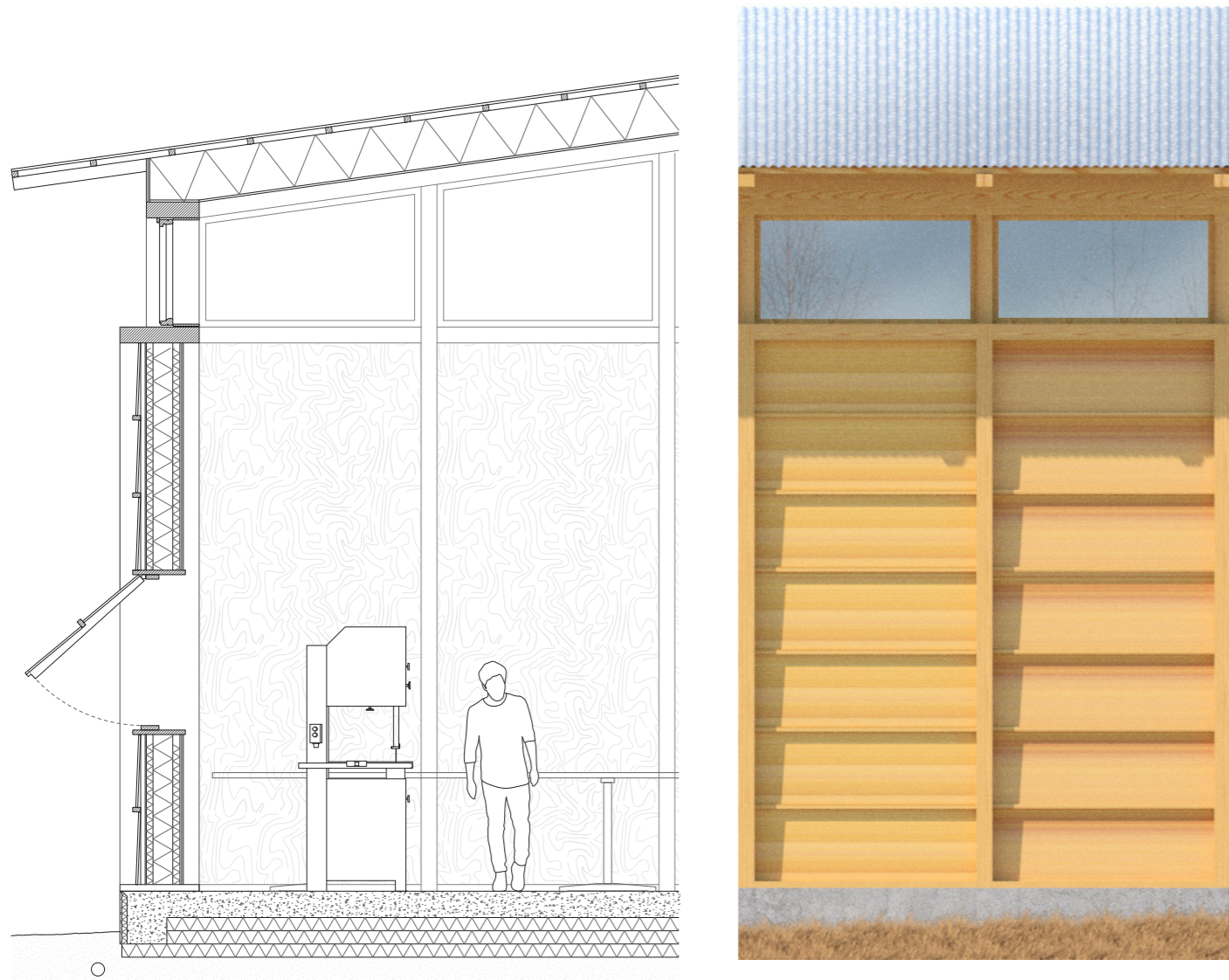


Details of path

0 0.5 1 2 m



Perspective view of path

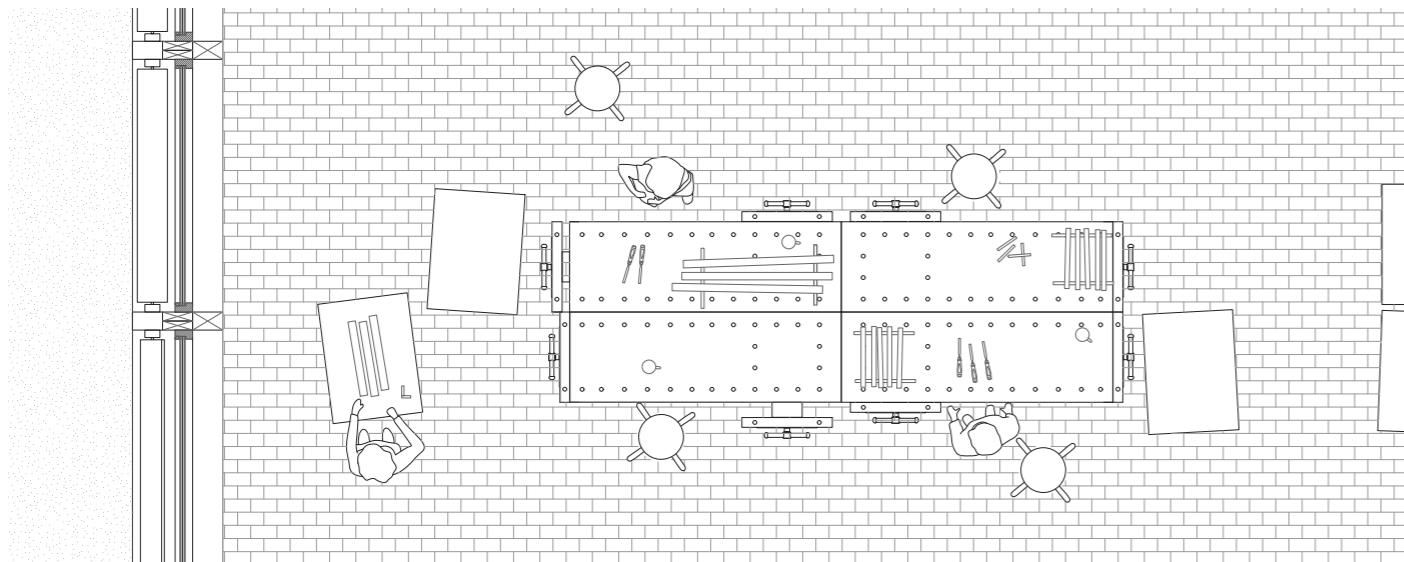
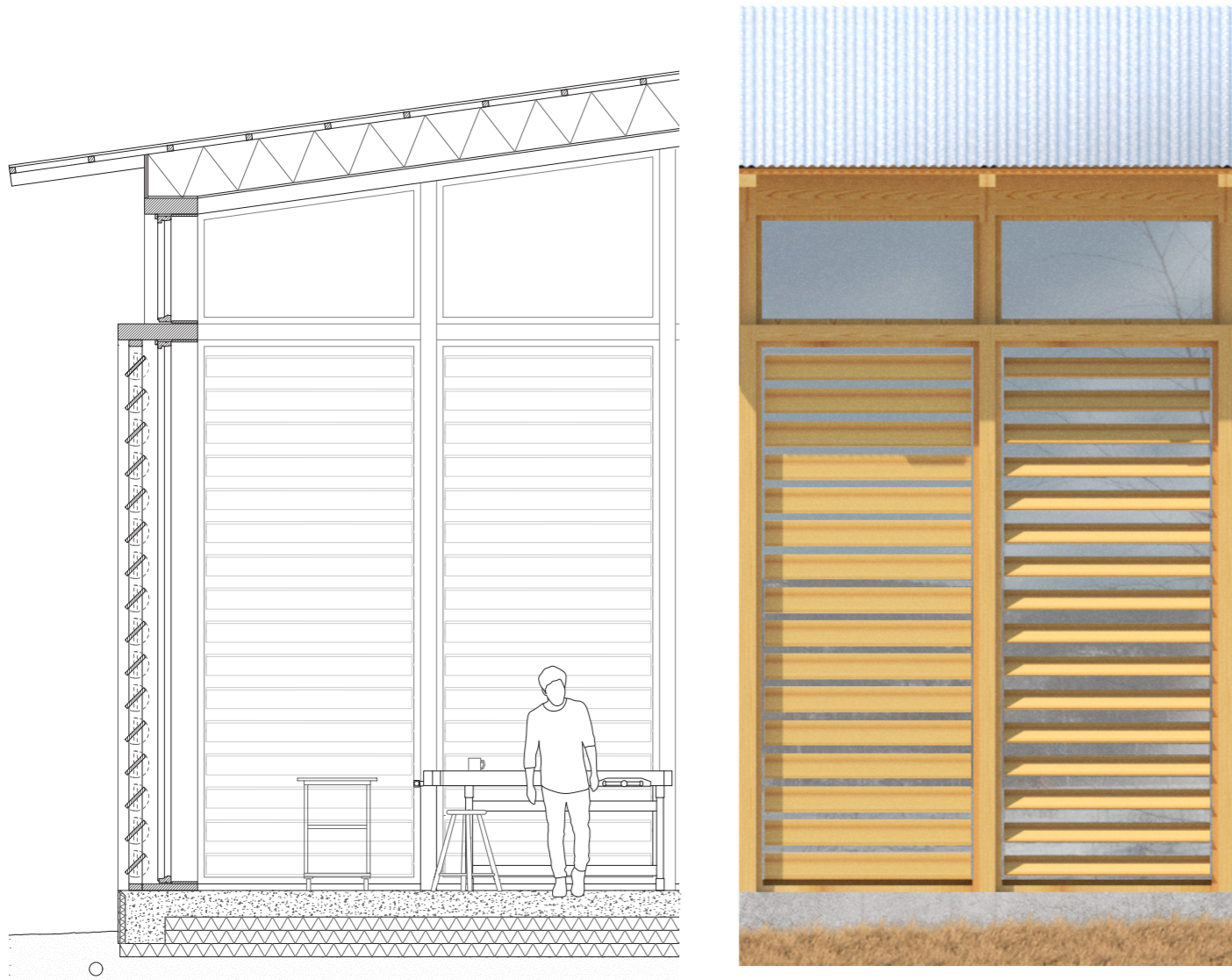


Details of machine shop

0 0.5 1 2 m



Perspective view of machine shop



Details of bench workshop

0 0.5 1 2 m

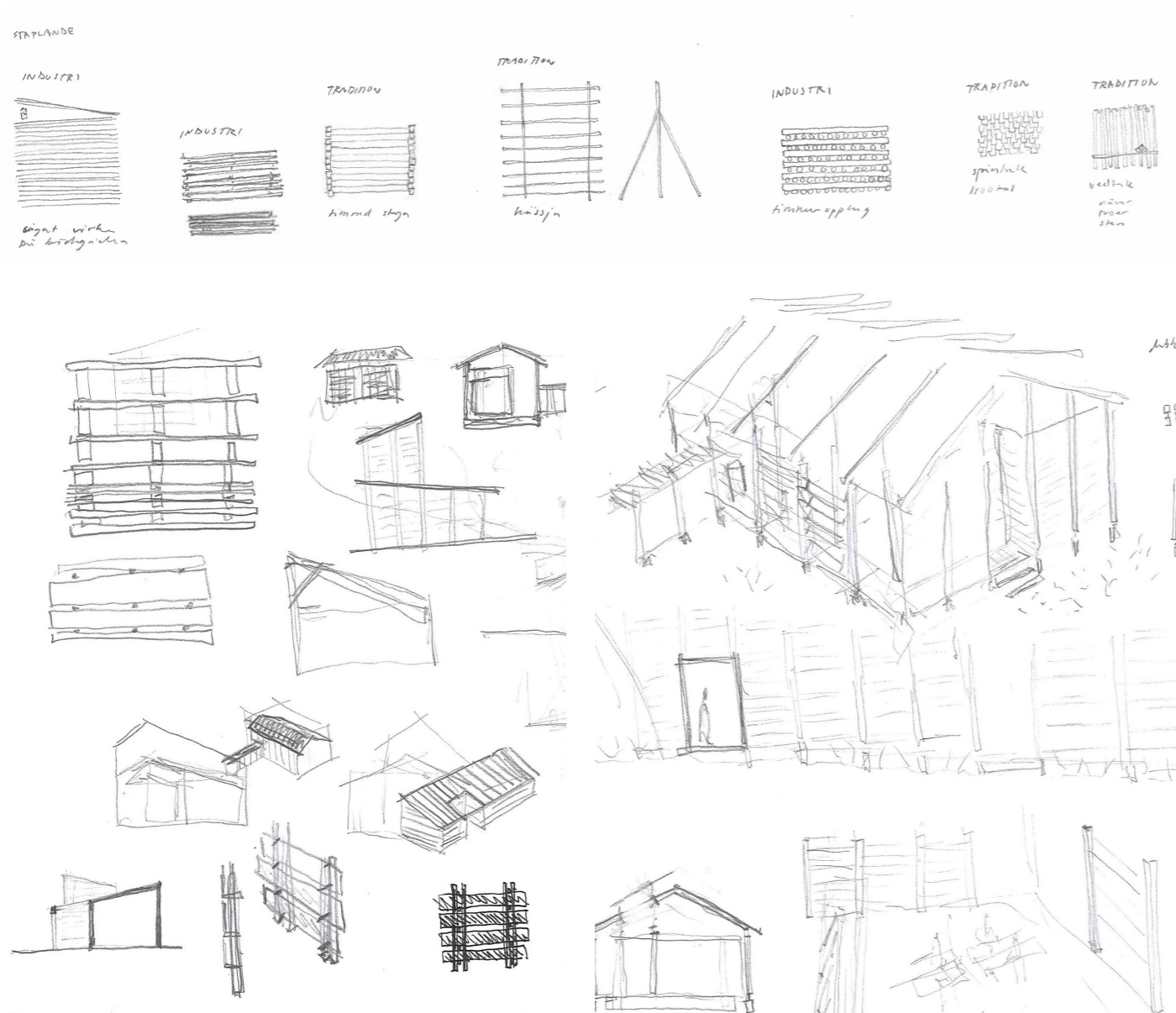


Perspective view of bench workshop



(Eriksén 1899)

|||||
Conclusion



Reflection

In my thesis, I have worked with what it means to establish a connection to a place. It has provided an opportunity to reflect on how we see and value places.

For me, it was a matter of course to work with a place that is not defined as urban. Since the urban norm prevails, it becomes even more important when working in a rural context to be aware of what properties of a place that are being valued and emphasized.

In the project I return to my home region in Ångermanland. The extent of Ådalen's industrial history was unknown to me at the beginning of the project even though I grew up in the region. While driving through the landscape during my upbringing I have often times questioned the odd settlement pattern along the river bank with residential buildings gathered in clusters seemingly for no reason, far from town. The project has been a way for me to explore the history behind the void that the places have been left with.

The urban is constantly our point of departure and it is through that gaze we look at the rest, the rural. For us architects this could mean that qualities that are important to the local population ends up being overlooked when developments takes place in rural areas.

Through what gaze am I looking at these places. I was born and raised in the local area and for most of my life this was the normal and neutral. Working with a region that I myself grew up in, I thought that my gaze would be more honest and in line with that of the locals. But I have long since moved from there, lived in urban areas and studied architecture. This has of course affected my gaze, to what extent I am unsure of.

There's an ambiguity and a tension in Ådalen that I was intrigued to explore in the project. The scenic landscape with rivers and valleys was the perfect scenery for the

industrial development. The industry divorced the regional tradition and introduced new materials and a new scale to the former agricultural landscape. Something that built up and developed the place simultaneously polluted and destroyed it. Although the industry reaped the lives of many workers it was mourned when it was put down.

It raises questions about how to relate to the past without romanticizing or repressing it. My attempt was to be honest and sincere towards the past but my work is of course influenced by my own relation to the place. Since I have only seen the region's ongoing decline, I have romanticized the industrial era through my upbringing. A time when this place was part of the future. As a result a slight melancholy permeates the work which may not have been as obvious if I did not have an emotional connection to the place.

In the thesis, I wanted to explore different aspects of what a place is or represents politically, historically, culturally and geographically and how the design proposal could act as a response on different scales from regional to local to the site and building. The various parts of the project can be seen as a reflection of the context.

There is room for improvement when it comes to the design of the building. If there had been more time, I would have liked to strengthen the relation between building program and design through the detailing of the building by linking the principles of the wood craft with the tectonics of the building.

The way land and resources were used in Ådalen during the industrialization is part of a pattern that was repeated throughout northern Sweden. In the ongoing development in northern Sweden, recourses and land are once again claimed. There is a risk that history will repeat itself.

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