

A university for the city

An exploration of how a contemporary city university building can be formed as a continuation of the urban fabric of Gothenburg

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Building design and transformation

Examiner Mikael Ekegren

Supervisor Filip Rem

2025

Chalmers University of Technology
Department of Architecture and Civil Engineering

Special thanks to

our supervisor for your support, guidance, and for all the nice conversations. Our deepest gratitude also goes to our friends and families for their encouragement and support.



CHALMERS
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Abstract

In 2020, a development study was published for the University of Gothenburg, highlighting the need for additional educational spaces in the city centre. Rosenlundsplatsen was identified as a site with significant development potential. Situated within the historical city center along the canal, the area is of national interest for cultural heritage preservation. Contemporary architecture within historic urban environments faces the challenge of responding to the demands of societal change and growth while respecting and preserving this heritage.

One way to deal with this topic is to create architecture that engages in a dialogue with the existing city, and through that contributes to an architectural continuity. At the same time, the architecture we build must respond to our needs of today and be able to stand for a long time to come. This is particularly important for university buildings, since they need to balance the rapidly evolving activity at the forefront of scientific research. By creating robust architecture, we create environments that remain relevant even when conditions change.

The thesis aims to explore how a building can be materialized at Rosenlund, reflecting upon the meaning of architectural robustness, with particular attention to the construction and architectural expression of a contemporary city university. The purpose is to explore how a university building can be formed as a continuation of the urban fabric of Gothenburg, with a focus to form a contemporary aesthetic that is in dialogue with the context. The thesis is developed through a research-by-design method, combining theoretical inquiry and practical exploration. The theoretical part consists of literature regarding architectural continuity, robustness and the contemporary university in the city. The practical part was formed from a study of contemporary architecture in historic contexts and site analysis. The proposal was developed through an iterative process involving sketches, physical models, detailed drawings and digital modelling.

The proposal strives for architectural robustness, with a building that is in a dialogue with its context, contributing to enrich the urban environment. A university building that is formed as a continuation of the urban fabric of Gothenburg.

Keywords: architectural continuity, urban fabric, robustness, university building

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Part I - Introduction

Theoretical framework

Purpose and aim

Drawing on the expressed need for the expansion of the University of Gothenburg's premises, the aim of the thesis is to explore how a contemporary university building constructed in wood, can be materialized by the Rosenlund canal in relation with the site's physical and historical context. The purpose of the master thesis is to explore how a contemporary building can be formed as a continuation of the urban fabric of Gothenburg.

Research questions

How can a contemporary university building be designed to encourage interaction between the university and the public sphere and create a continuity with Gothenburg's architectural and historical identity?

What architectural and structural strategies can ensure the robustness of a university building primarily constructed in wood?

Methodology

The thesis is developed through a research-by-design method, combining theoretical inquiry and practical exploration. A theoretical framework is established through the formulation of a problem statement, literature studies of theories providing the foundation for the research. Additionally, built references are analyzed to draw insights in relation to the research questions. A study of the context, together with a site analysis, forms the basis of the design proposal. The design proposal is developed through an iterative process involving sketches, physical models, detailed drawings and digital modeling.

Delimitations

The thesis is not about how to make the best space for education, but how to integrate a contemporary university building into the urban fabric. The primary focus is on exploring the building's overall design, with particular attention to the volume, construction, facade expression and plan layout in relation to the urban context and public sphere.

The objective of the thesis project is to form an aesthetic that is in a dialogue with the character of the city, combined with a spatial exploration of a contemporary university building constructed of wood.

Reading instructions

The thesis is divided in five parts. The first part introduces the background and theories. The second part discusses built references in relation to the research questions. The third part presents the site where study and project are set. The fourth part synthesizes the result of the study from the previous sections. The fifth part focuses on the design proposal. At the end, there is a discussion regarding the outcome of the research.

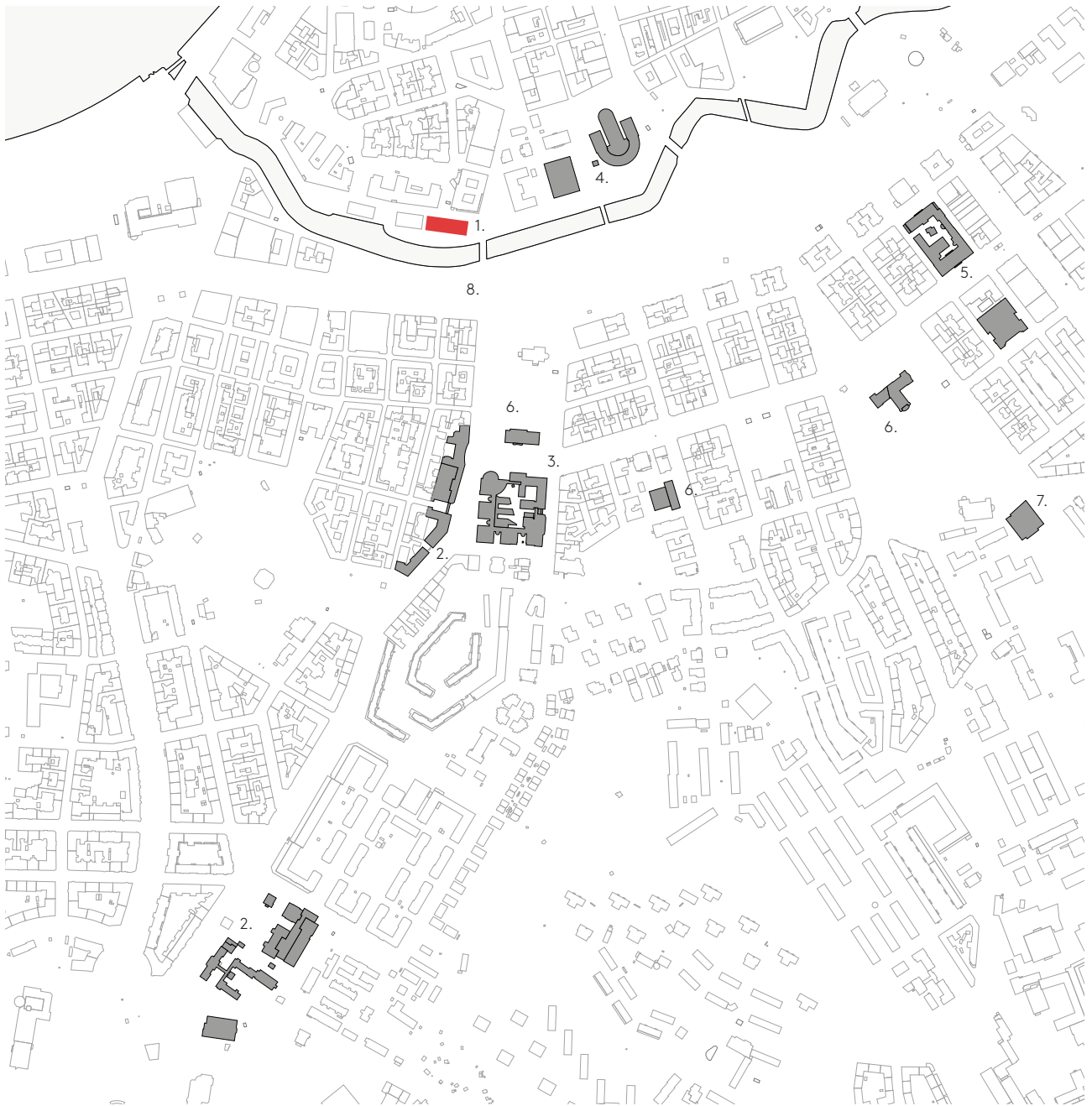
Background

Since its founding in 1891, the University of Gothenburg has been integrated with the city and its urban life and is therefore referred to as a city university. It consists of faculties regarding economics, artistic, societal and educational studies. In 2020, the study *Utvecklingsplan Cityuniversitetet 2020–2040* (Inobi & Probability, 2020) highlighted the need for additional educational spaces in the city center. The ambition is to strengthen the university's urban presence by gathering the faculties to enable collaboration, accessibility, and cohesion. The development should offer open, inspiring spaces for education and research, with inviting entrances with functions that support interaction between the university and the public sphere. The architecture should reflect academic activity and integrate with the urban context.

Today, most of the faculties are organized into clusters. However, the Faculty of Social Sciences is divided between Haga and Linné, a separation that reduce interaction between staff and students which limits collaboration and shared spaces. In the study (Inobi & Probability, 2020), a proposed scenario is that the faculty moves from Linné to Rosenlund to enable collaboration both within and across the faculties.

Rosenlundsplatsen, located within the historic city center by the canal, is mentioned as a site of interest. Its central location and proximity to the new Västlänken station make the area a place with significant development potential. However, it is stated in the study that cultural heritage aspects must be taken into consideration, since the area along with the whole city centre inside the moat is listed as a valuable environment of national interest. (Inobi & Probability, 2020) (Lönnroth, 1999)

Contemporary architecture within the historic urban landscape faces the challenge of responding to the demands of societal change and growth while respecting the inherited urban landscape. The thesis aims to adress this challenge through the materialization of a contemporary university building at Rosenlundsplatsen, and through the investigation contribute to the discourse of contemporary architecture in relation to historic urban landscape in a city like Gothenburg.



- 1. Rosenlundsplatsen
- 2. The Faculty of Social Sciences
- 3. School of business, economics and law

- 4. The faculty of educational sciences
- 5. The artistic Faculty
- 6. Common University Premises

- 7. Student Union
- 8. New Västlänken stations

Theory

Contemporary architecture in historic urban landscape

The development study and preservation program for Gothenburg and the city's cultural-historically valuable built environments emphasize the importance of a sensitive approach when constructing new buildings in historic environments (Inobi & Probability, 2020), (Lönnroth, 1999). To form a basis for the investigation, literature has been studied by Johan Celsing and Aldo Rossi. Celsing is known for his architecture that has a sensitivity to place and Rossi, is an Italian architect and theorist with a focus on the city and architectural continuity.

In the book *The architecture of the city* (1982) Aldo Rossi means that the architecture of the city not only refers to the city's visual image but to its development over time, linking past and present. The city is built up by buildings, streets and monuments and like the city itself, these are shaped by their history and shows a reflection of its time. They are a product of the collective memory of its people and can be seen as the consciousness of the city. Rossi emphasizes the role of monuments in preserving continuity of the city, since these buildings or spaces remain relevant long after their original use has faded, acting as fixed points in the city's evolving narrative. Rossi believed that architects should respect and build upon this continuity, and that new architecture should engage into a dialogue with the existing city (Rossi, 1982).

Building on similar themes, Johan Celsing advocates for an approach that respects and builds upon the existing urban fabric. He goes deeper into the meaning of robustness as a basis for sustainable urban development. He argues that robustness is about architecture's durable and multifaceted nature, integrating both tangible and intangible elements, such as the site, social context, history, and current role into a design that endures and resonates with its environment. When one or more of these elements change, the building will continue to be relevant, but now superimposed with its own historical overlay (Celsing, 2021).

We see how the ideas presented from Rossi and Celsing is relevant when building new architecture in historic environments. To implement the aspects highlighted by the authors, it is important to understand the site and its conditions, its character along with historical and current role to achieve a continuity of the urban fabric and architectural robustness. Therefore, an exploration of the history and character of the site has been performed to form a basis for the thesis project.

Robustness is also concerning the durability of a building, where construction and choice of materials are crucial for a building to last over time. This, together with contemporary buildings in historical environments are further investigated in our chosen references.

The contemporary University

The exploration of how a contemporary university building can be materialized in the city has mainly been based on the University of Gothenburg's vision in the development study, as well as a literature review by the architectural theorist Claes Caldenby and selected references.

In *Universitetet och staden: inför fältstudier!* (1994), Caldenby describes that the university is, after to the church, the oldest still living institution in western society. The architecture, he argues, plays a central role in representing its identity and express the societal status of academics, as well as shaping the environment for everyday life. The built environment for education also involves balancing a rapidly evolving activity that are at the forefront of scientific research (Caldenby & White Arkitekter, 1994).

The expression of the university has changed over time. The university building in Vasa from 1907 (fig.1) shows a monumental expression, representing the view of the university of its time, perhaps not in line with what is being built today. Based on what we have read in the development plan, the building should express contemporary values of openness, public engagement and forward-thinking. The challenge for the thesis lies in shaping a building that, on the one hand, represent values of a contemporary university, on the other hand, is still anchored in its physical and historical context.



The university of Gothenburg main building

Figure 1

Part II - References

David Chipperfield Architects, Department store, Vienna, Austria 2006

The design of the new building refers the typology of nineteenth-century department stores, serving as a mediator between this building tradition, the historic urban fabric and a contemporary architectural language. The large windows introduces a new scale to the context but creates a relation with the building's historic neighbors through the placement of the openings and the ratio opening-to-wall. The composition of the façade creates a dialogue with the historic buildings, featuring a defined base, body, and cornice.

For the thesis project, lessons can be learned from the architects ability to showcase a sensitive approach to the context, while integrating a typology that has other requirements with a need for more daylight. The smooth stone-claded facade becomes an interpretation of the rendered facades that is common in the historic fabric of Vienna.

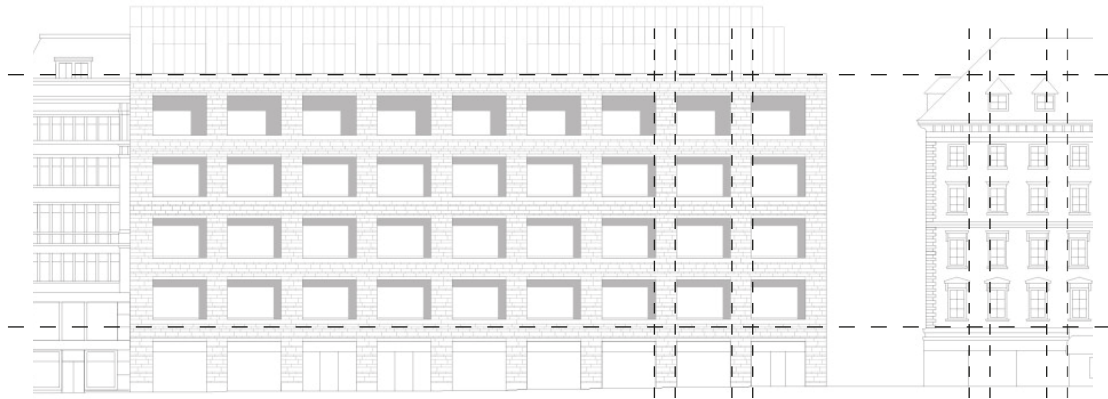


Figure 1: The department store, located within the historic city center of Vienna

Figure 2: Building respects the heights and façade composition of the neighboring buildings.

On site Studio, Pirelli Learning Centre, Milan, Italy, 2020

The new building for Pirelli HangarBicocca, a foundation dedicated to the promotion of contemporary art, is located in a historic industrial district north of Milan. Towards the street, the volume appears closed while opening up to the historic garden with a more transparent facade and a single-storey terrace. The aim of the project was to define a contemporary building that reflects the urban character of the campus, while the design responds to its historical context by establishing dimensional and proportional relationships with the surrounding historic buildings through facade composition, windows and details. The modular approach of pre-casted facade elements, with a depth, rhythm and relief is a contemporary interpretation of the sites historical and industrial heritage.

Inspiration can be drawn from the design approach for an urban campus in relation to its historical context. The floorplan is structured in a way where the cores are placed to the back, with a central communication. Similar to the reference project, the site for the thesis project has an attractive side that is suitable to turn spaces towards, the canal with the quay. According to the architects, the floor plan is made to be as rational as possible, with a structure and grid that allows the building to be transformed into an office in the future. This shows a robust strategy for a building to be adapted over time.

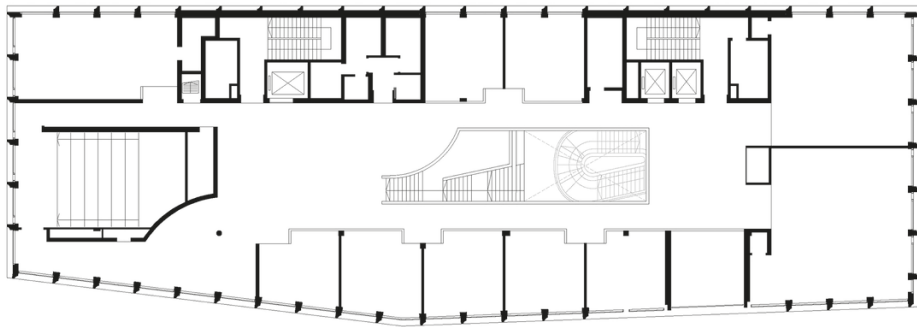


Figure 1: Facade towards the street

Figure 2: Upper floor. Cores placed towards the back

Atelier Kempe Thill, Sint Lucas School of Arts, Antwerpen, Belgium, 2020

The project consists of one addition and renovation of an existing structure. To achieve a more public character of the existing parts, almost all loadbearing walls was demolished to realise more prominent and flexible spaces, with large windows to create a visual interaction between the exterior spaces and the school. Public functions such as library and exhibition space has been strategically placed in connection to the street façade to maximise the interaction with the public and the city. To integrate the relatively large addition into the urban fabric of early 20th century building blocks, the volume has been partly sunken into the ground, together with a setback top floor to reduce the visual impact. The glass façade creates a sense of openness and lightness, where the brass-anodized metal façade creates a dialogue with surrounding buildings and monumental church.

For the thesis project, inspiration can be sought from the architect's strategies for integrating the new volume into the urban fabric, creating a building that is not perceived larger than its surrounding neighbours. The column structure and offset cores provides open spaces and a floor plan that is flexible and appears more public. Additionally, the placement of accessible functions towards the public and active movements is also relevant for the thesis investigation for interaction with the public sphere.

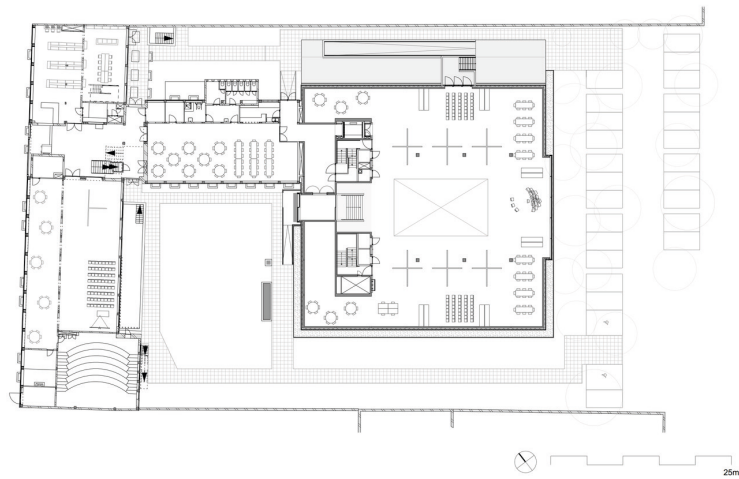


Figure 1: Facade creates a dialogue with the church

Figure 2: Entrance floor with open and public functions

Part III - The site

Gothenburg

1621-2025

Situated on the west coast of Sweden, Gothenburg was founded in 1621 as an enclosed fortified trading city. Specific for Gothenburg, compared to other fortified cities from the 17th century, is the canals. The canals were influenced by Dutch urban design and formed the central structure of the city and served as the main thoroughfares. (Lönnroth, 1999)

During the 18th century, the first industries were established, leading to that Gothenburg transitioned from a fortified wooden city to an open, fast growing industry and trading city in stone. The removal of the city walls allowed expansion, and the urban structure began to evolve, where the land for former fortification inside Vallgraven gave space for public squares and civic buildings, such as the Fish Market Hall. The area outside Vallgraven gave space for the large park Kungsparken and the green corridor between the historic city centre and the areas outside marked the boundary between the new and old part of the city. (Lönnroth, 1999)

The city has faced some large-scale expansions and reconstruction during the 20th century, which contributed to the highly mixed urban fabric that reflect the different historical processes and ideals that have formed the character that we see today. (Lönnroth, 1999)

The canal that surrounds the historic city center of Gothenburg still remains visible as a motif and part of the city's visual image that links the city's history with today.



- 1. Kungsparken
- 2. Fiskekyrkan
- 3. Rosenlundscanal

1:10 000



Rosenlundsplatsen

The former industrial harbour

Rosenlund is an urban district in Gothenburg that is fronted to the south by the canal that surrounds the historic city centre. The area bears witness to Gothenburg's industrial and maritime history. The physical elements that hold this collective memory are the canal with its connection to the river inlet and the characteristic yellow brick facades of historic civic and industrial buildings. The site has long been an important point in the city's infrastructural and social life. Historically, it was the city's second harbour room, a working-class entrance where the fish trade flourished, markets placed on the quay and ferry traffic connected both sides of the city. The Fish market hall is an important building in the area and serves as a historical link to the Rosenlund Canal's great importance for fish trade. The site carries strong symbolic and cultural memories, intangible elements, like the former fish market square, the everyday movement of trade and the transformation from a fortified city to an industrial district. (Archidea AB, 2012)

The rough stone quay holds the memory of the industrial character of the site, and a feature that we want build upon in the design proposal to form a connection to the history of the site and the city.



View from pusterviksplatsen toward Fiskekyrkan

Figure 8

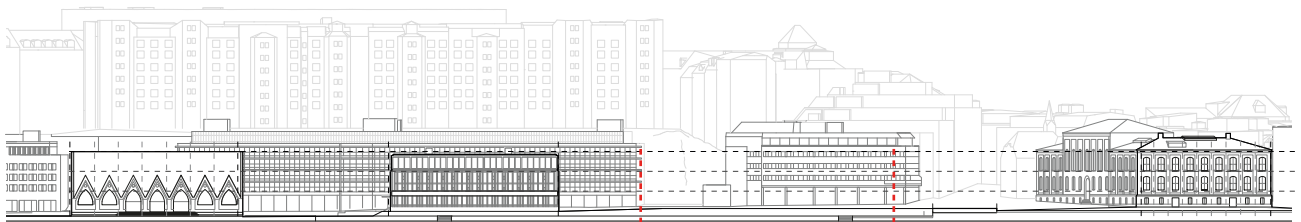
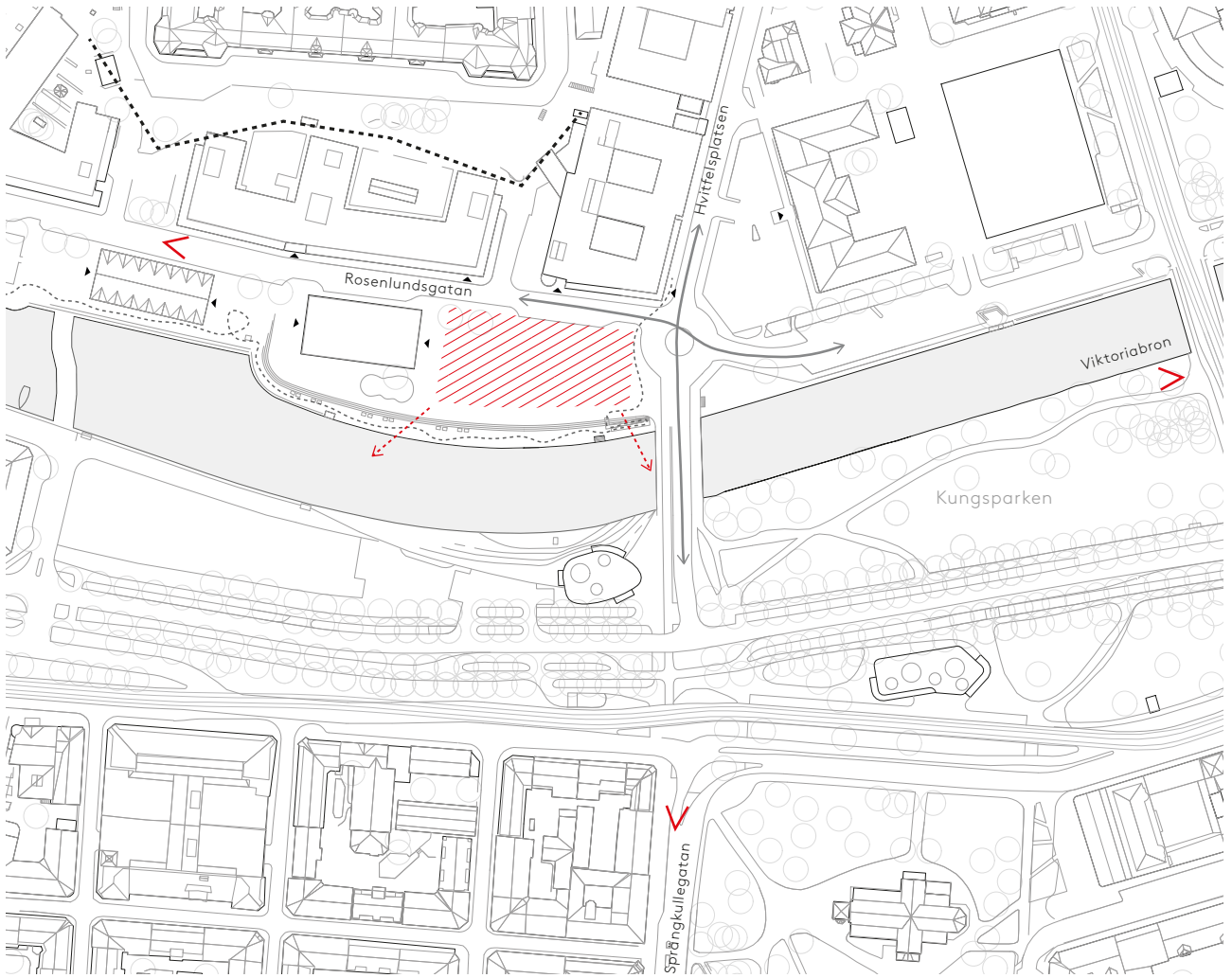
Site analysis

The site's main characteristics is that it is oriented with one long side facing north and the other facing south, toward the canal.

The site is enclosed by the street Hvitfeldsplatsen to the east and Rosenlundsgatan to the north, the quay to the south and an office building to the west. There is a lower topography in the west than the east and a general slope toward the water. The main movement occurs in the eastern part of the site, where the active streets are crossing. The southern quay is calmer, offering places to sit where the curved canal and the placement of the bridge create a natural pause in the pedestrian flow alongside the water. The site's placement makes it visible from long distances and clear sightlines connects to landmarks such as Skansen Kronan and Hagakyrkan.

Currently, the site functions as a parking lot and construction area. The surroundings are characterized by a mix of low-density, yellow-brick buildings, and large-scale modern office blocks. The block structures and former fortification stone wall create an enclosed space to the north that open up toward the quay where the solitary buildings allow views of the canal.

There is no current detailed plan with height regulations for the site so the canal-facing elevation has been studied to guide building height together with façade proportions. A shared height between the solitaires along the water forms a clear guide that supports visual continuity. There is a varied rhythm regarding the facades, although the general theme for the buildings closest to the canal are symmetrical facades with a plinth of stone. A design that connects these varied expressions has been investigated.



Fish market hall

Office building

Site

School building

- ▲ Entrances
- View point towards site
- ⋯ Sightlines
- Barrier





1.

1. View from Sprängkullegatan towards the bridge (not visible)
A view that captures the different layers of urban development



2.



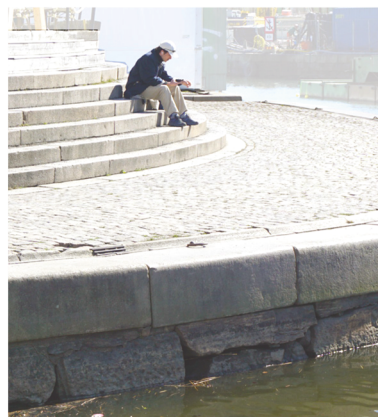
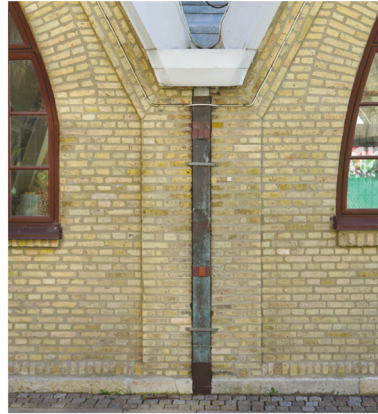
3.

2. View from Viktoria bridge. Kungsparken to the left and “Gamla latin” school building to the right. The quay edge introduces an additional layer of materiality in relation to the facades

3. View from Rosenlundsgatan. A lower scale toward the canal and large office complexes to the left with commercial premises on the ground floors



The low-scale yellow brick building is a remnant of the industries along the canal. Behind it, the energy plant ensures that the industrial character of the area and the city centre is preserved.

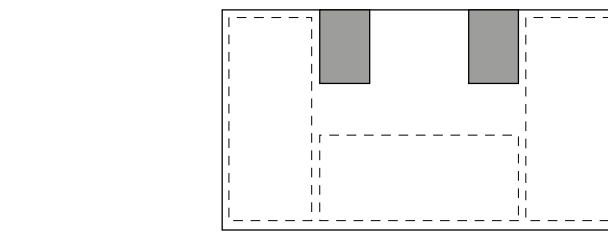
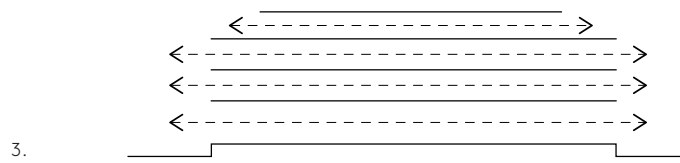
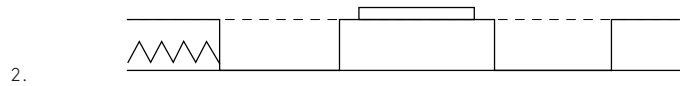
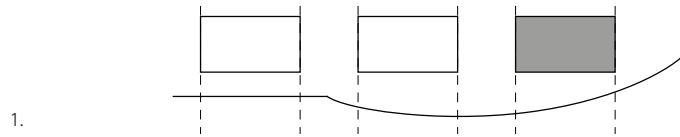


Part IV - Design strategies

Adapting to context

The volume directly responds to the existing structures and continues the tradition of solitary buildings along the waterfront. The building relates to its neighbours lower scale and follows the rhythm of building lengths and spaces in between the buildings, creating inviting spaces along the quay.

The addition seeks for an open expression with a firm connection to the ground, similar to the building standing on stone plinths. The entrance connects directly to the active flow of movement and internal service functions are oriented toward the north to allow for open spaces towards the canal. The ground floor is designed to be open and inviting, where both students and the public are invited.



1. Continuing the urban fabric with solitary building along the water
 2. Adapting to local scale with recessed top floor

3. Openness with heavy meeting with the ground
 4. Cores placed to the back to allow for views and bright spaces

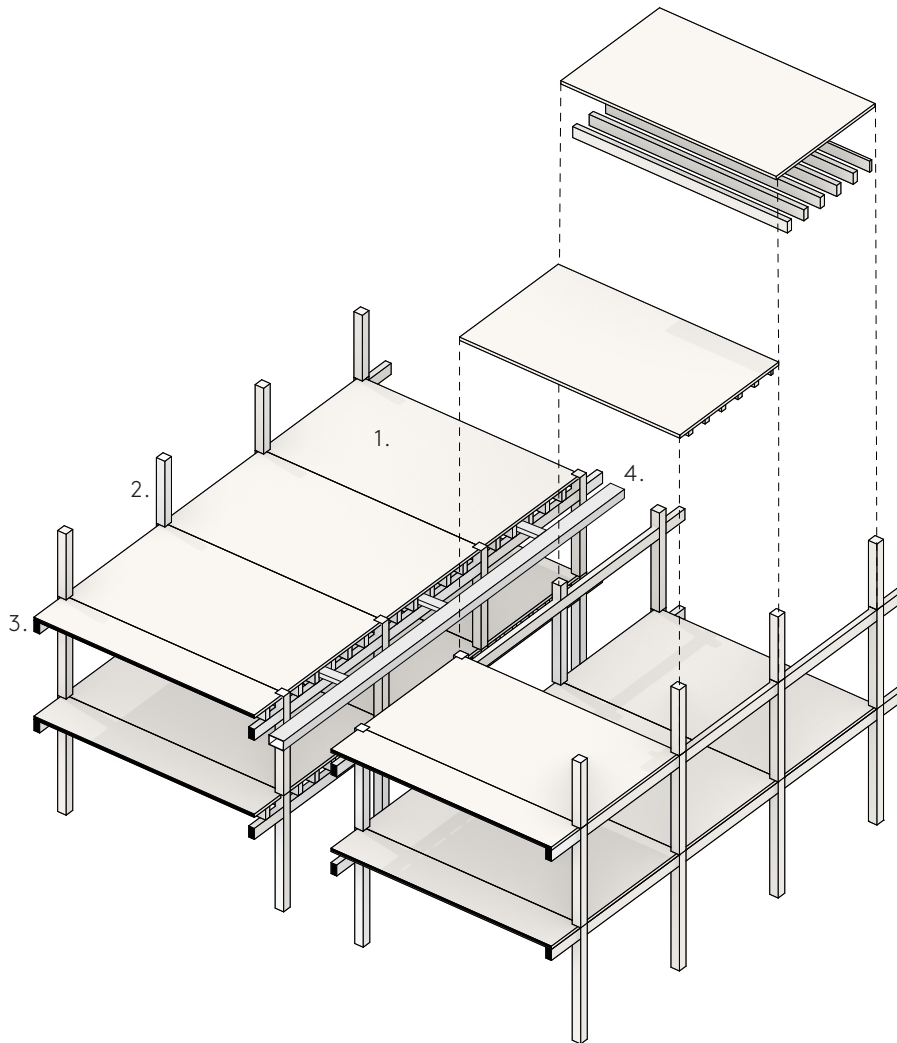
A contemporary university building constructed in wood

Wood is not a contemporary building material and has historically been a very common building material as wood is something we have a lot of in Sweden. In Gothenburg, wood was banned as a building material in the early 19th century when the city had problems with several major fires. This led to a large part of the buildings in the city being constructed in stone. (Lönroth, 1999)

Wood has once again become interesting within construction as it is a renewable material that meets many sustainability aspects, such as material efficiency and low carbon footprint. New industrialized methods where wood is assembled to achieve both structural and functional requirements, like cross laminated wood and glulam wood is becoming increasingly common for contemporary buildings such as schools where larger spans are required.

For the thesis project, a construction of wood has been chosen for its sustainable aspect, supporting the design of a university building that expresses contemporary values of innovation and forward-thinking. To handle the large spans required for classrooms CLT ribbed floors has been selected. The element is manufactured by joining a CLT board and glulam strips with a high-strength adhesive, resulting in open and flexible floor plans with less loadbearing columns (Stora Enso, n.d.).

A hybrid frame construction that combines the mass wood together with concrete has been selected for its quality of combining the inherent advantages of the materials. Besides from the columns in glulam, the vertical loadbearing structure is constituted of concrete cores for stairwells and elevator shaft and serves as horizontal frame stabilization. The slab is constructed out of CLT rib panels, supported by glulam beams that enable long spans and efficient installation routing between the rib-deck elements. This leads to the opportunity to leave the underside of the rib panels visible to the room and gain advantage of its warm and tactile properties.



Elements

- 1. CLT rib panel
- 2. Glulam column
- 3. Glulam beam

4. HVAC channel

Construction principle diagrams showcasing the construction and hvac principle

Stone cladding

The design of the new building is based on the ambition to create a building that interacts with its surroundings with materials that are rooted in the site and that age with dignity. Rosenlund-splatsen is characterized by buildings in red and yellow brick that meet the ground with a base of natural stone, as well as the rough granite quay with its smooth capping stone and dark brown cast iron railings.

The chosen exterior materials flamed granite and bronze anodized aluminium frames creates a robust material palette and integrates well with the historic quay setting as well as Gothenburg's industrial heritage and tradition of buildings in stone.

The facade is mounted on a ventilated rail system where the joints between the stone cladding are left open, giving the facade a sense of assembled elements, a tectonic order, yet revealing the lightness of the cladding, referring to the light construction out of wood. The flamed treatment of the granite makes small crystals appear more clear, resulting in a slightly rough surface that will shift its character, reflecting the light during the course of the day.



- 1. Bronze anodized steel
- 2. Flamed granite

Part V - The design proposal



Facade towards south

The design proposal

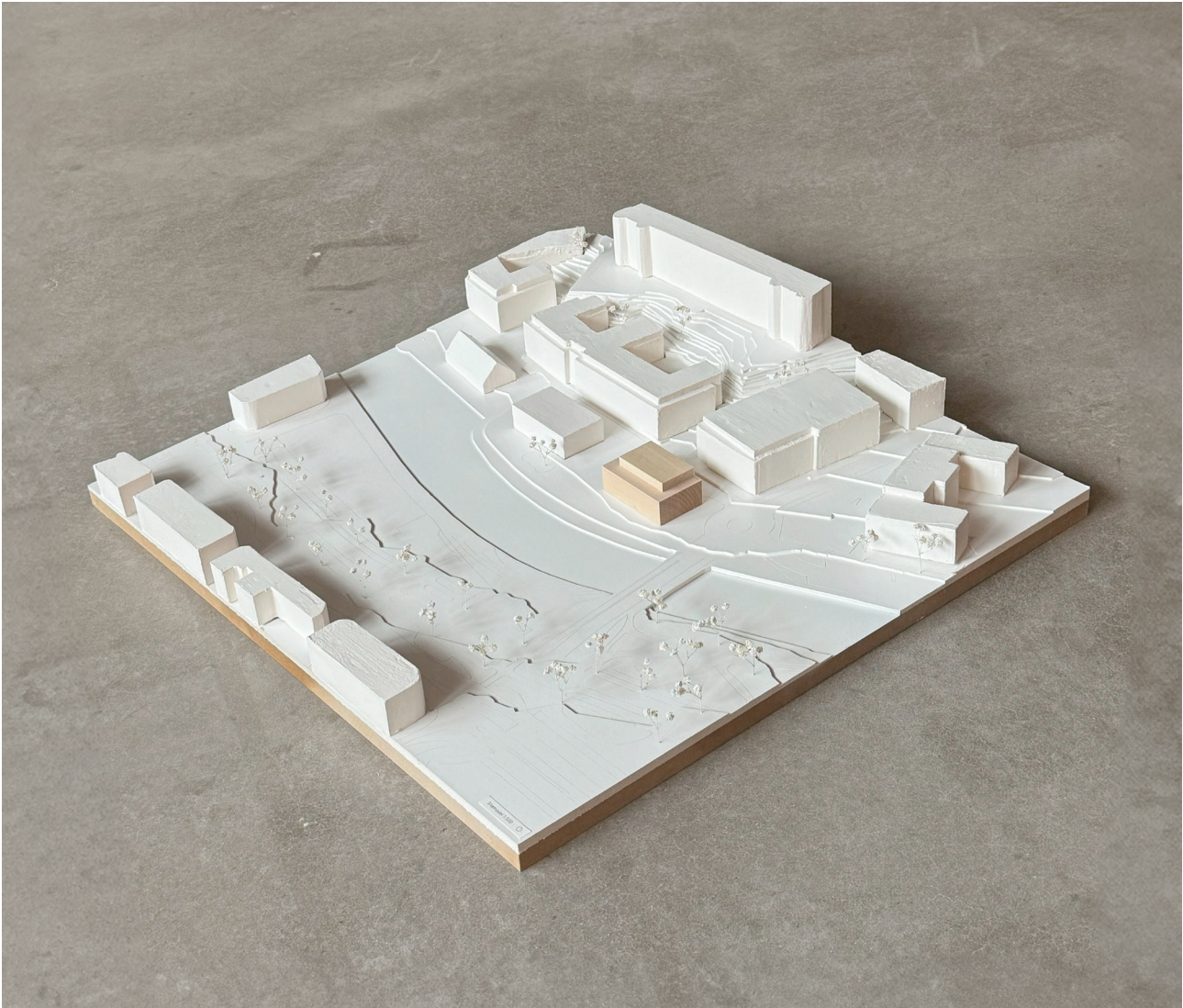


Project description

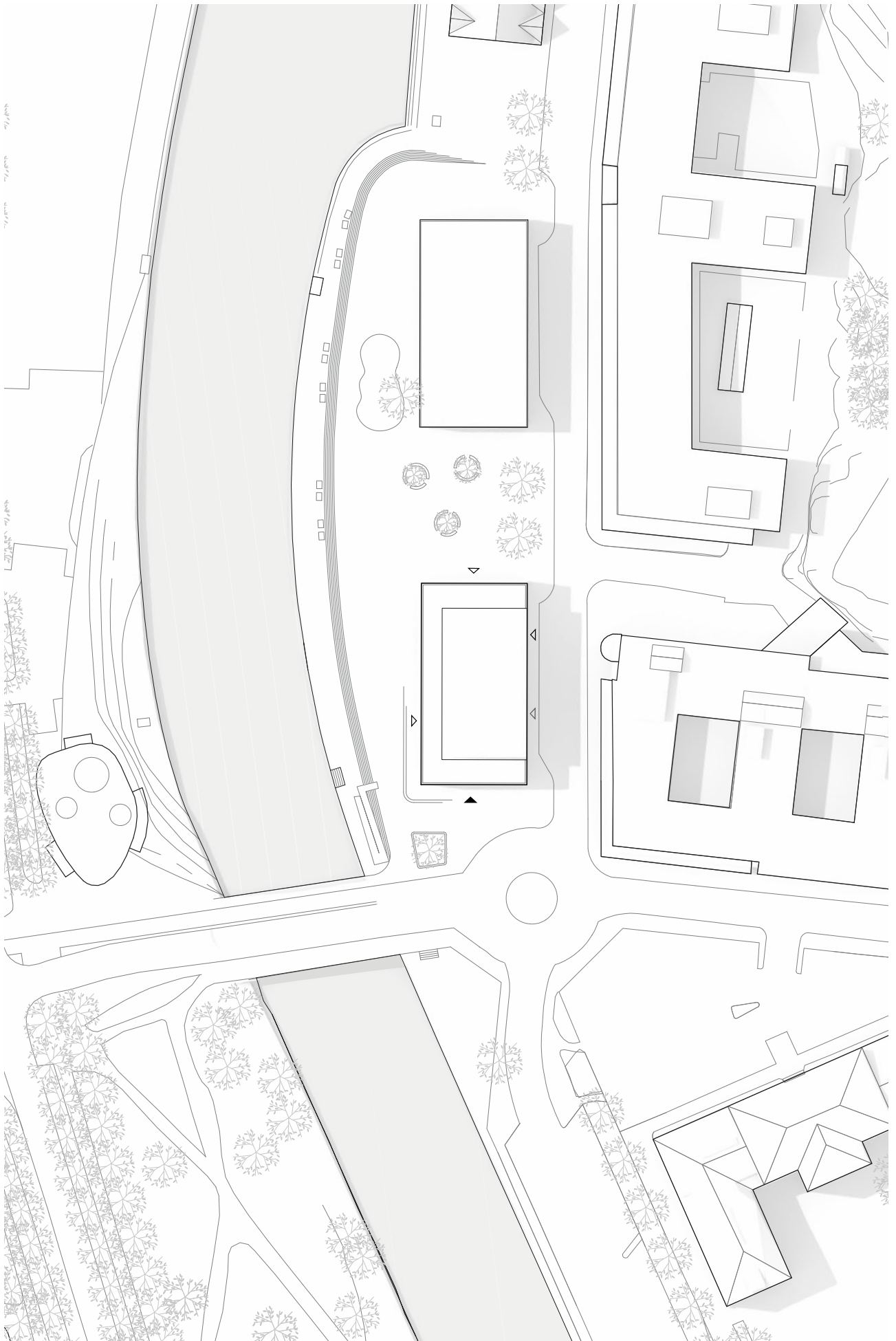
The proposal for a new university building at Rosenlund canal, strives to position itself as a building that, on the one hand, expresses the identity as a contemporary university, representing values of openness, public engagement and forward striving, on the other hand, is anchored in its physical and historical context.

We propose a building that adapts to the local scale but also has a firm presence in the silhouette along the moat. A public entrance floor signals the openness of the institution and the character of the building is robust and stable in order to announce its importance to the city. In addition, the building relates to the industrial history that are present at the site by building upon distinctive characteristics like the rough material palette present on the site.

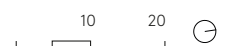
It is a three-storey building, with a basement and roof terrace on top. The spatial program as university building, include multifunctional spaces, café, spaces for offices and research and rooms for educational. The entrance floor houses the most public functions, where the connected square by the main entrance seems to float into the building enabling a seamless interaction with the public sphere, contributing to the building's public character as an answer to the requirements of the program.



Site model 1: 500



Site plan 1:1000





Main entrance facade

Space program

Space	Sqm (m2)	Space	Sqm (m2)
Entrence	450	Other functions	830
Entrence hall/open seating	100	Roof terrace	285
Open study places	150	Restrooms	55
WC	30	Storage for teachers/education	45
Multi space	100	Vertical comunication	245
Multispace/Foyer	70	Technical space	90
		Cleaning room	50
Cafe	105	Waste disposal	20
Cafe area	75	Storage	40
Kitchen	20		
Staff	10		
Education	795		
Open study places	330	Total	2535
Lecture rooms	260		
Lounge	35		
Pentry	20		
Grouprooms	150		
Teachers and researchers	355		
Central office space	240		
Group rooms	40		
Quiet rooms	10		
Copy	10		
Lounge	35		
Pentry	20		

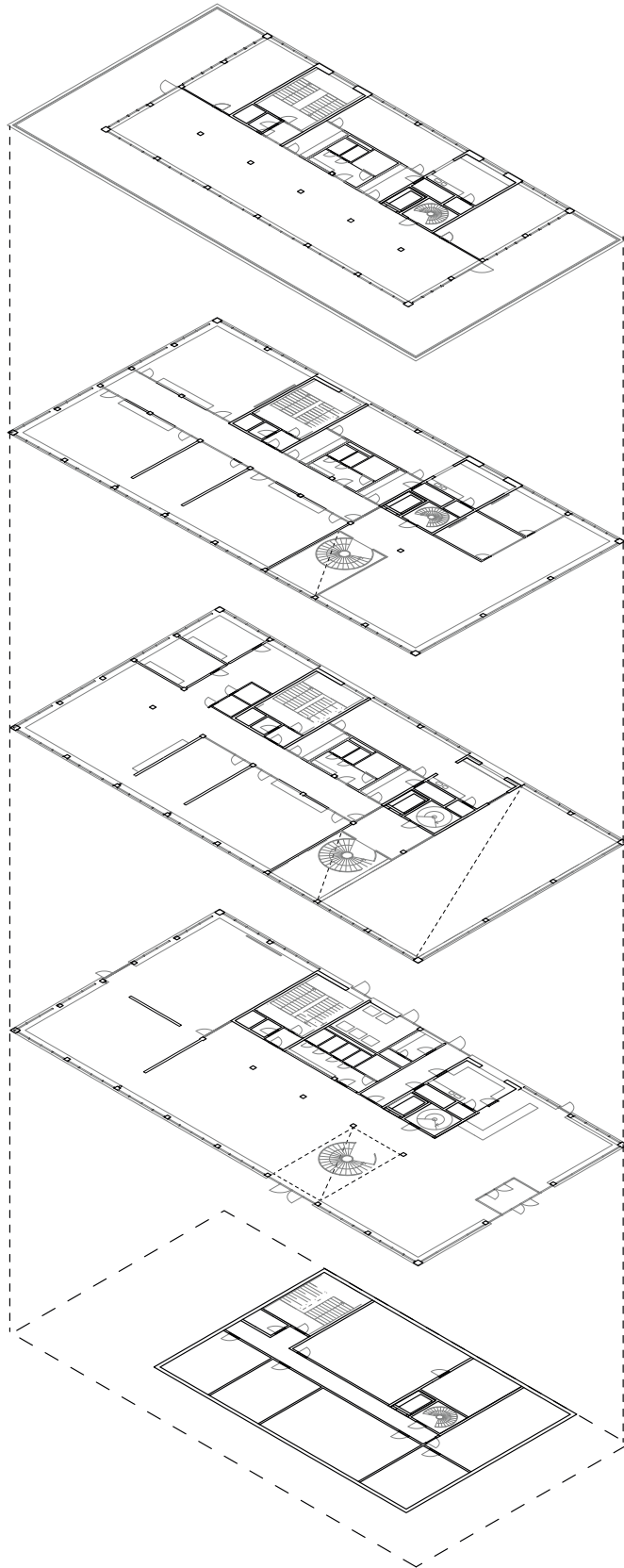
L 3
Terrace
Common spaces

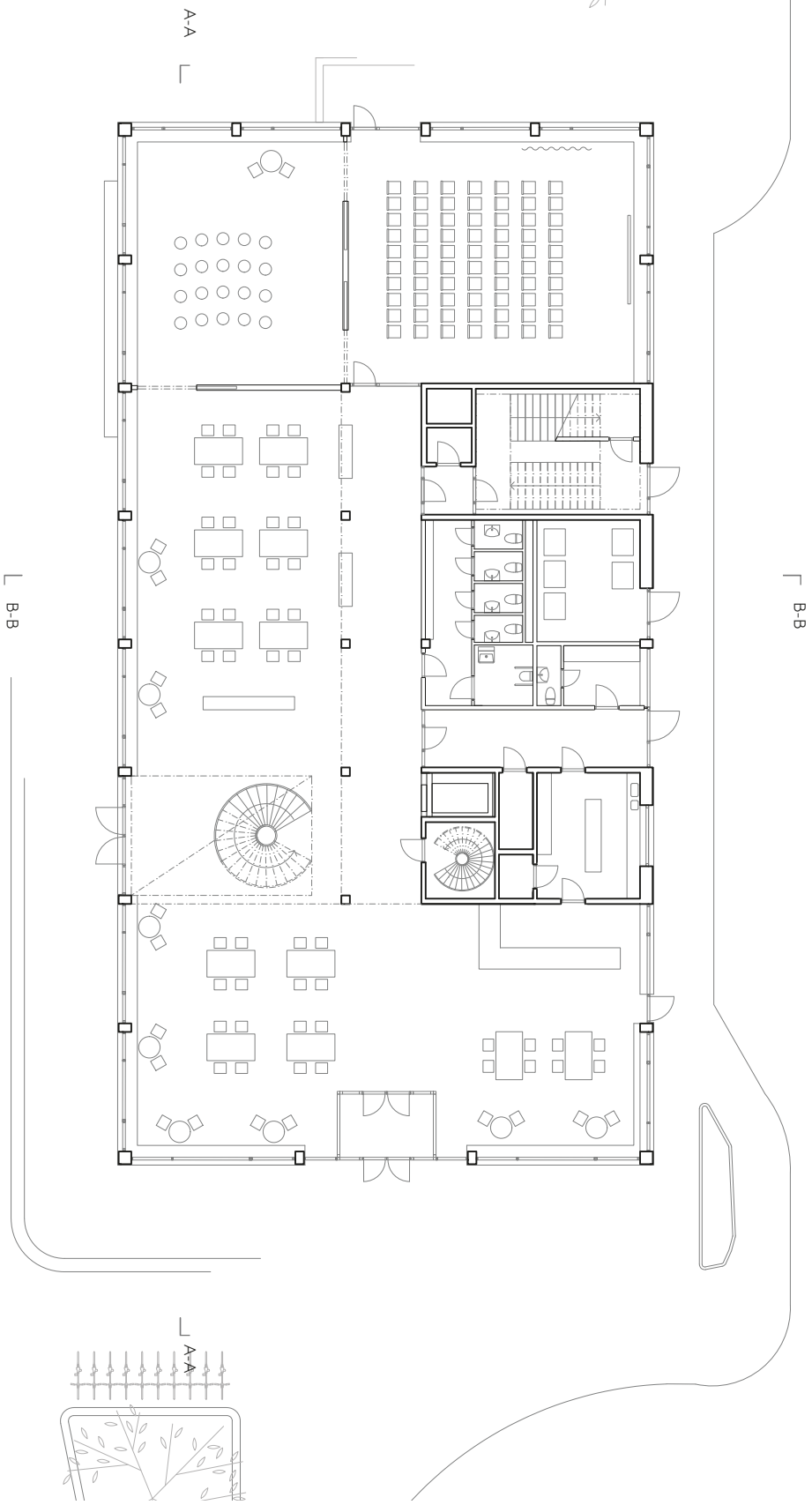
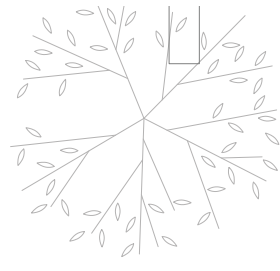
L 2
Education
Space for students

L 1
Teachers and researchers
Offices

L 0
Entrance
Public functions

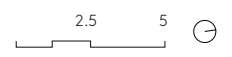
L -1
Service
Technical space





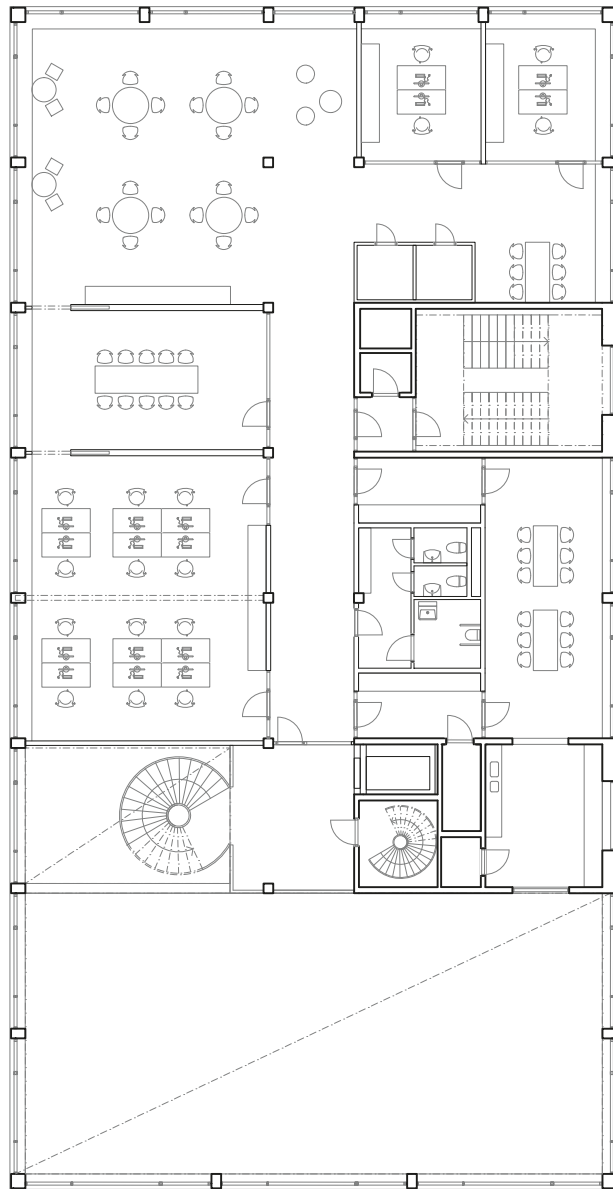
Entrance floor 1: 250

The design proposal

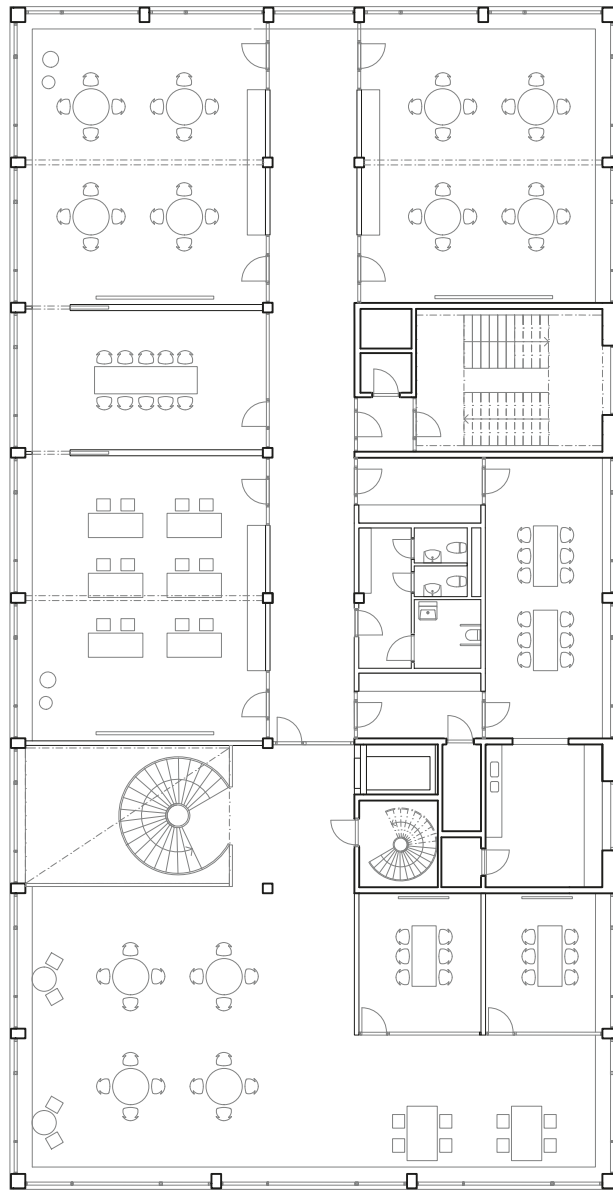




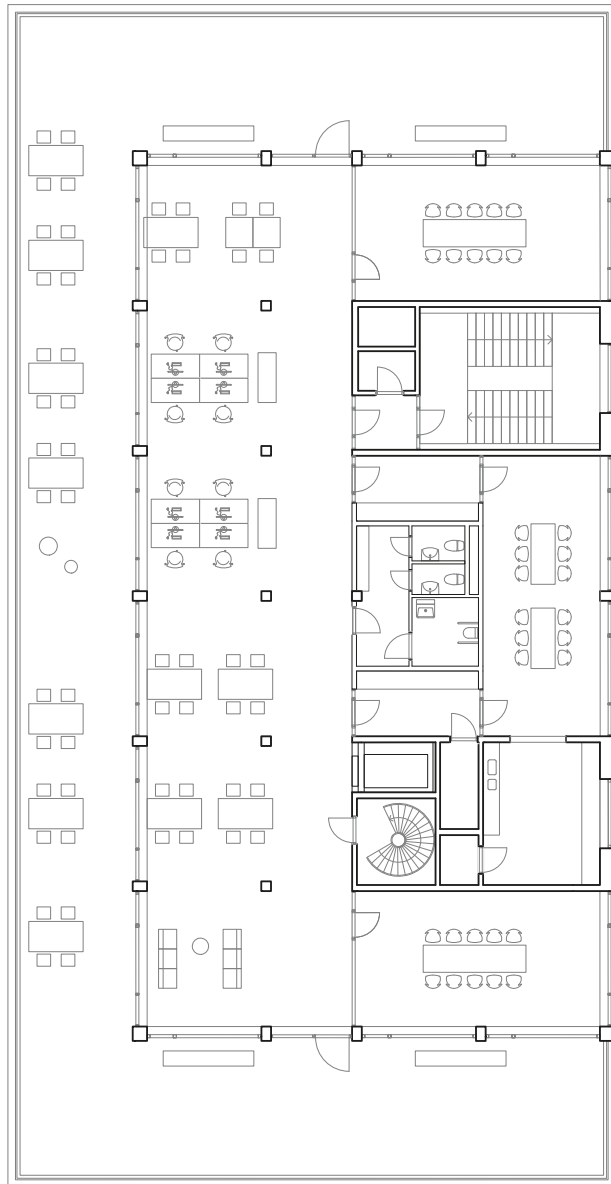
Entrance and café

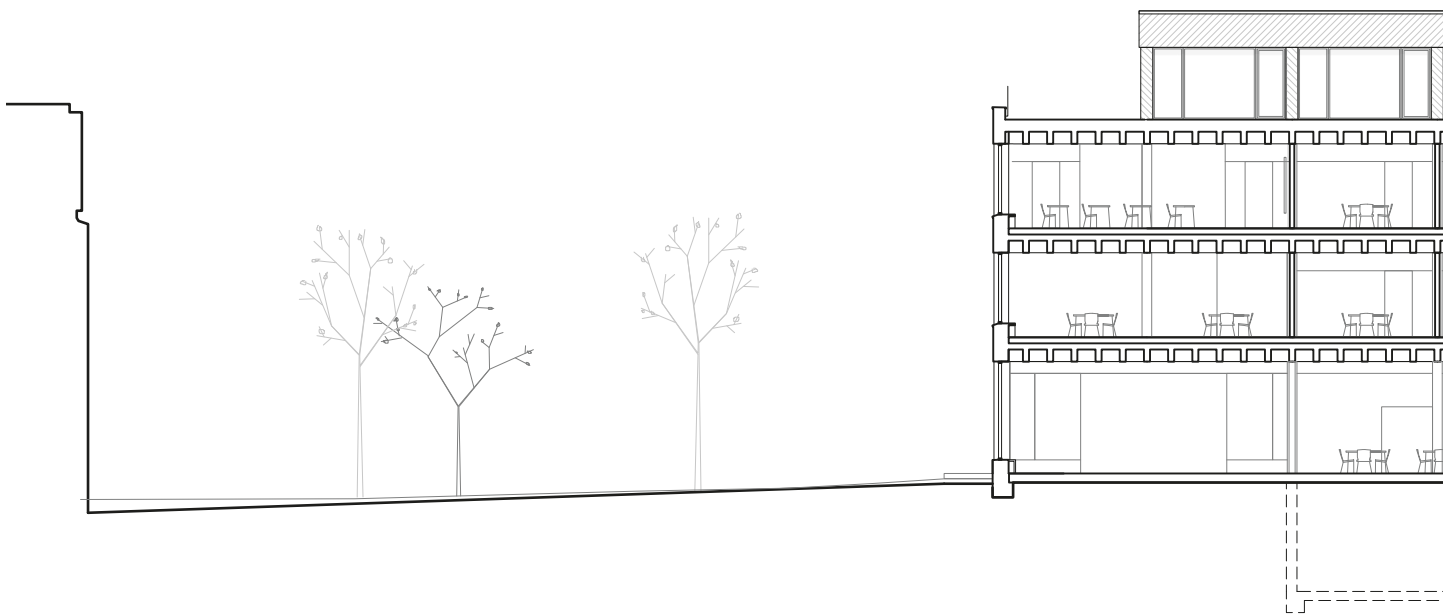


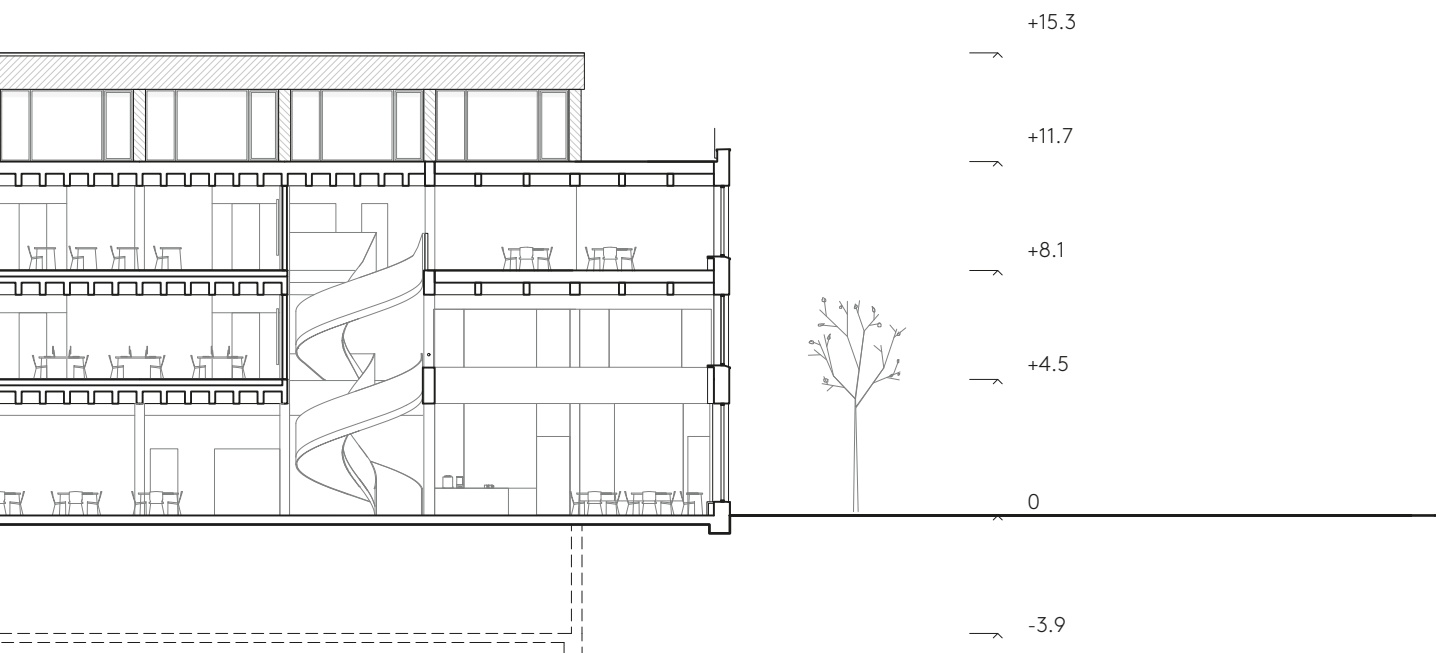


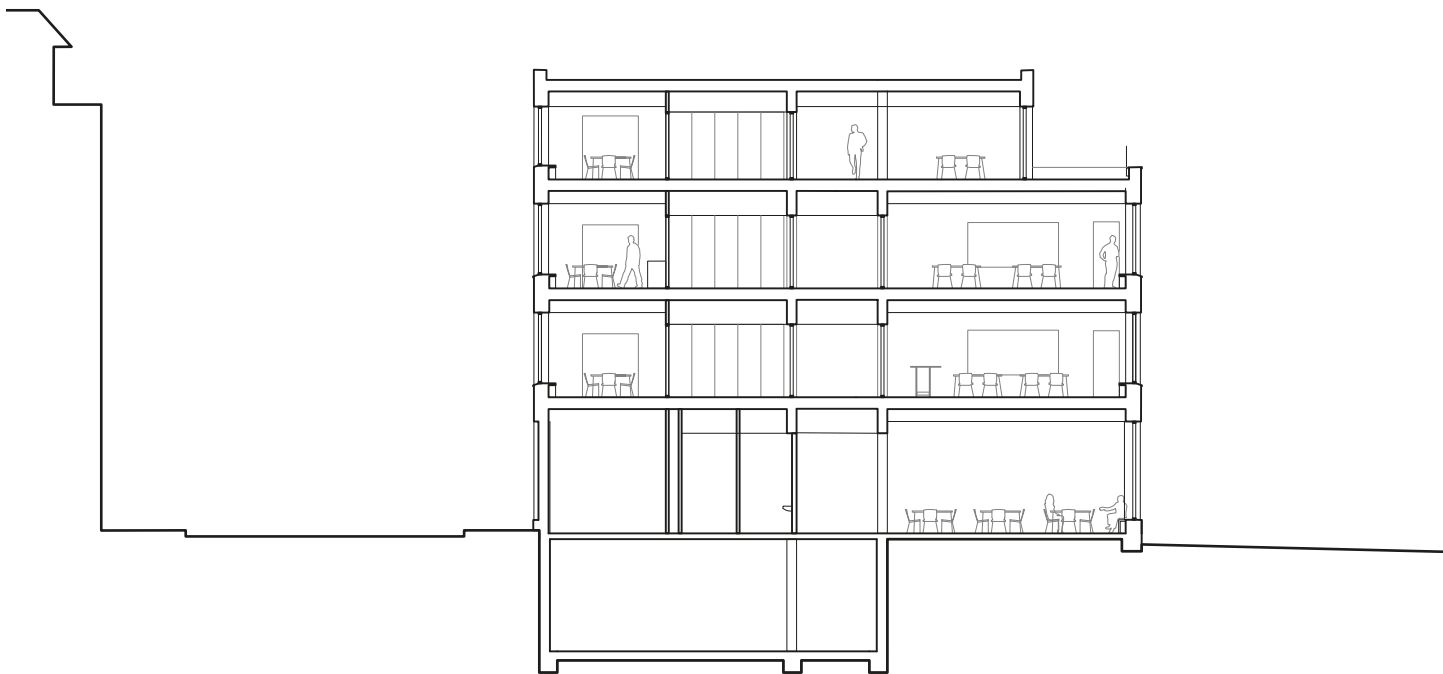






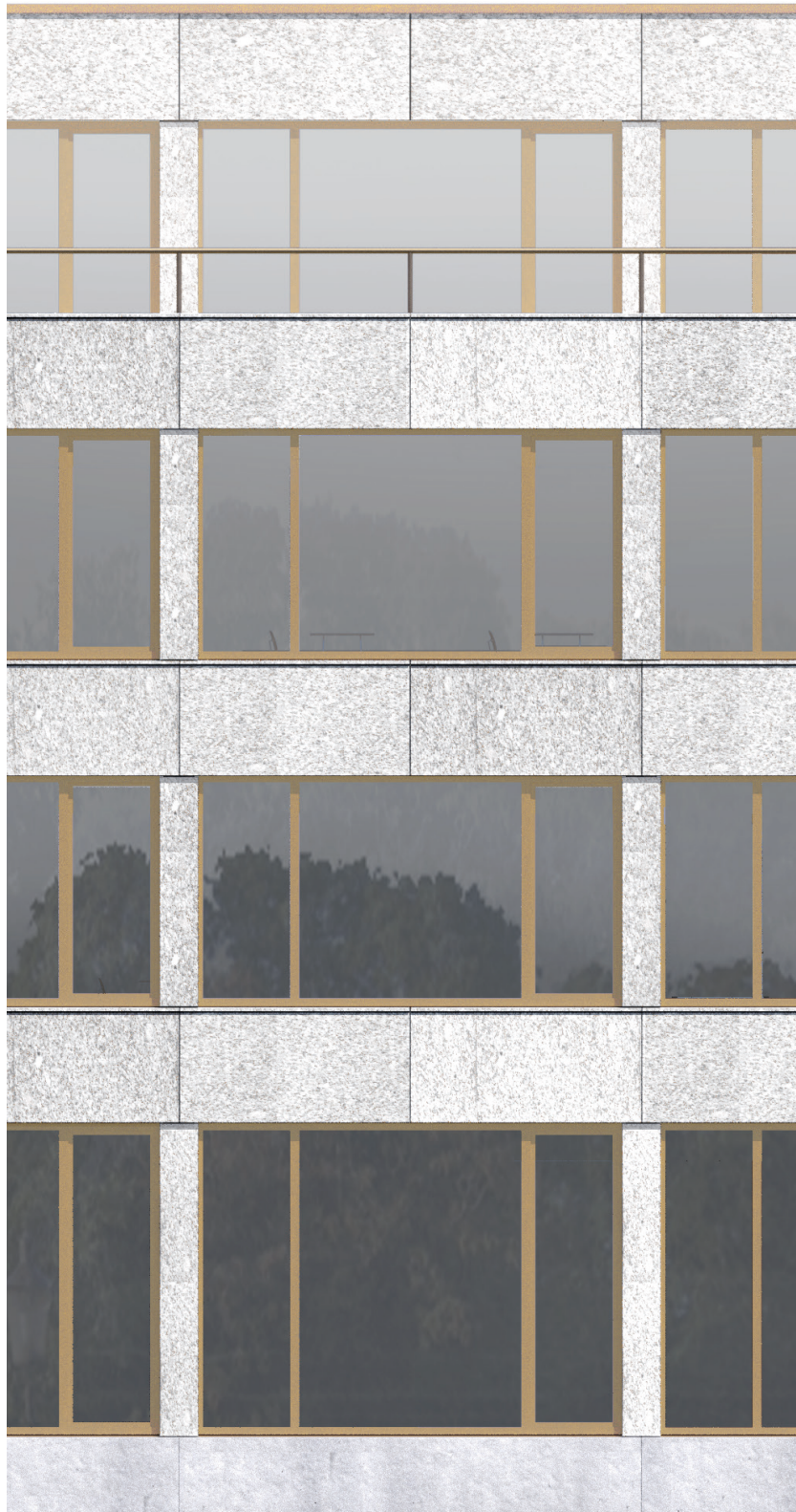


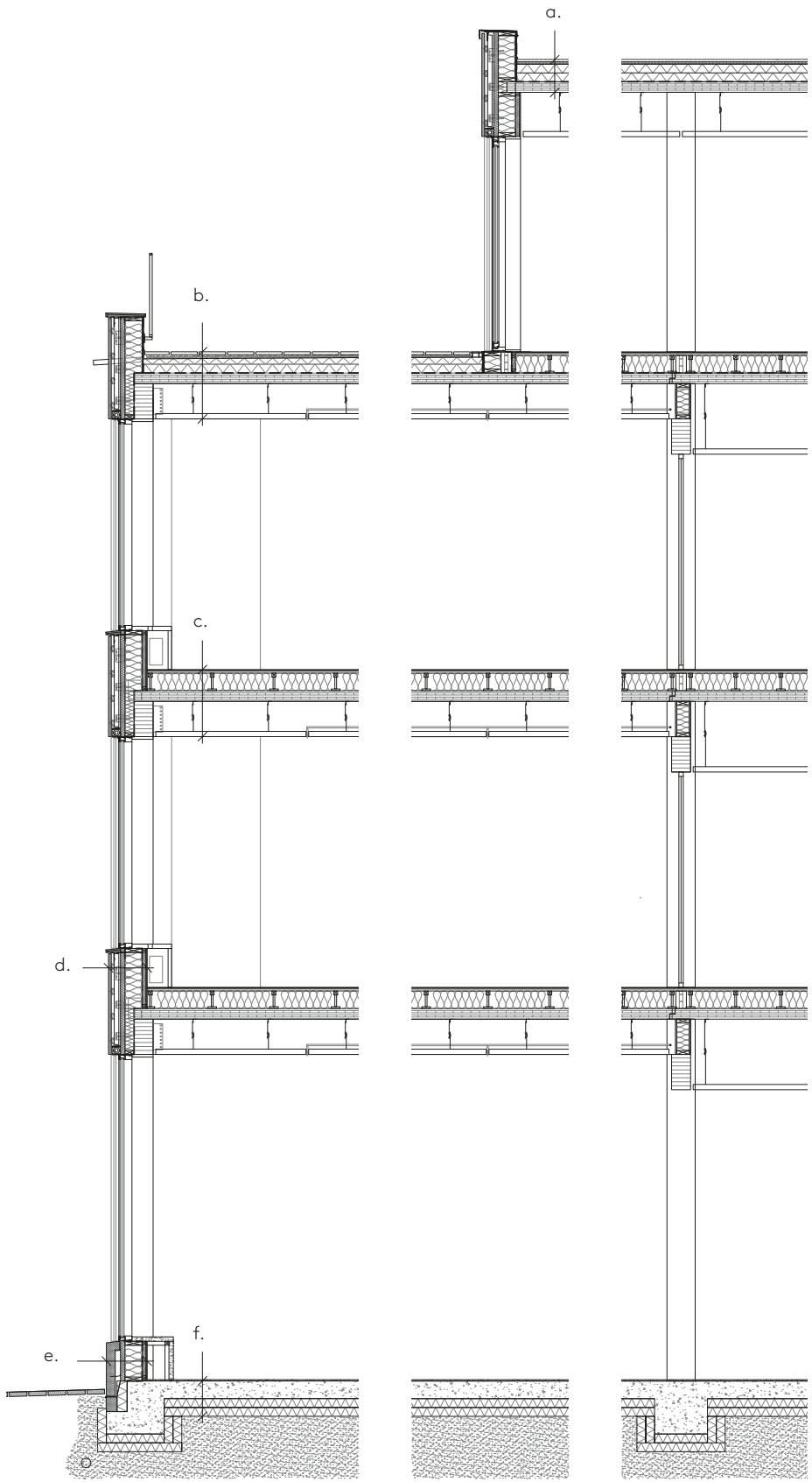






2.5 5





a. Roof
 green roof
 Water-retaining drainage system
 200 insulation
 vapor barrier
 120 clt

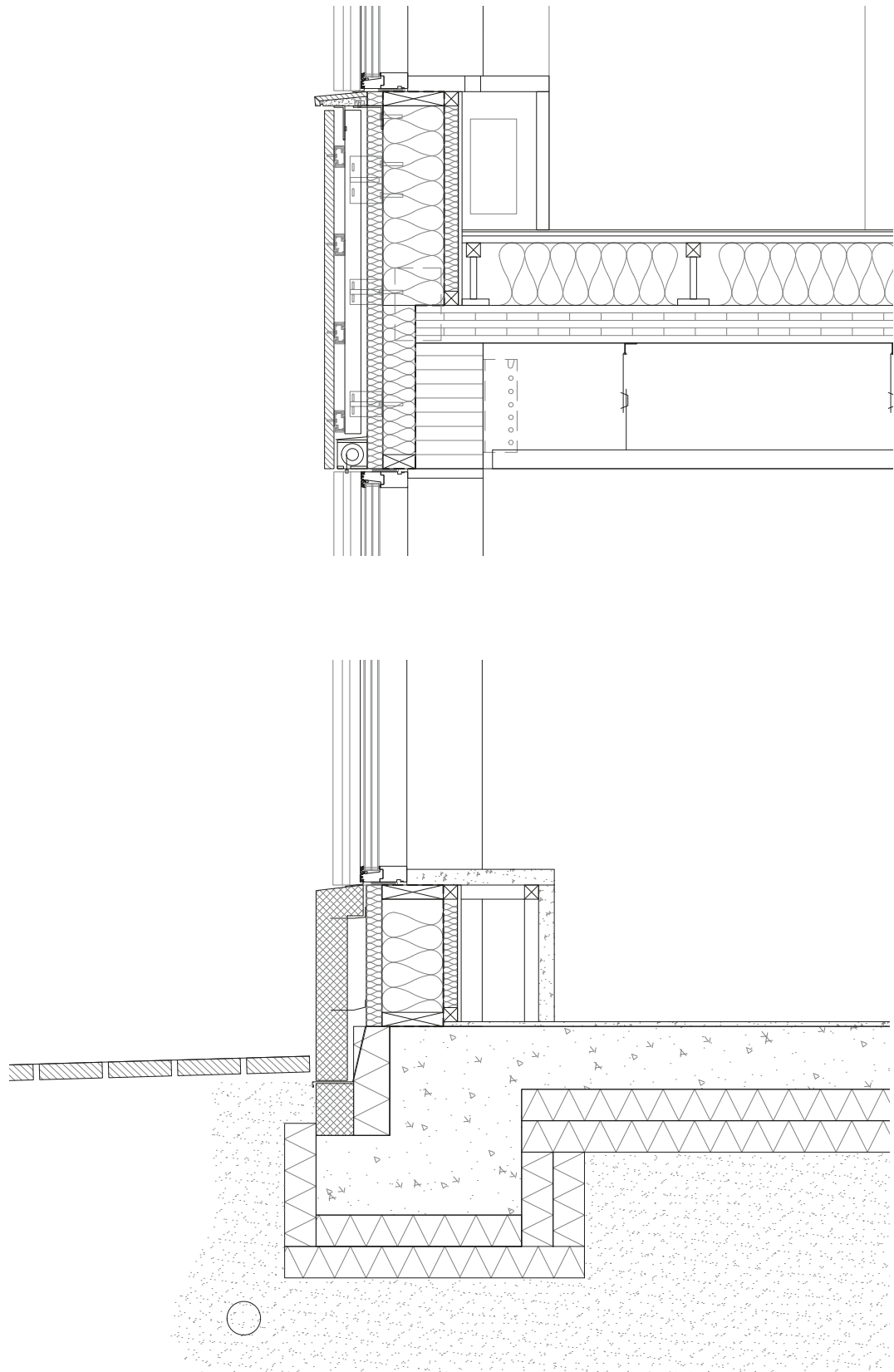
b. Terrace
 20 tiles
 gravel
 waterproofing membrane
 180-160 insulation
 vapor barrier
 120 clt
 400 glulam beam
 dispensed under ceiling

c. Floor
 14 parquet
 13 gypsum
 22 flooring chipboard
 200 insulation
 120 clt
 400 glulam beam
 dispensed under ceiling

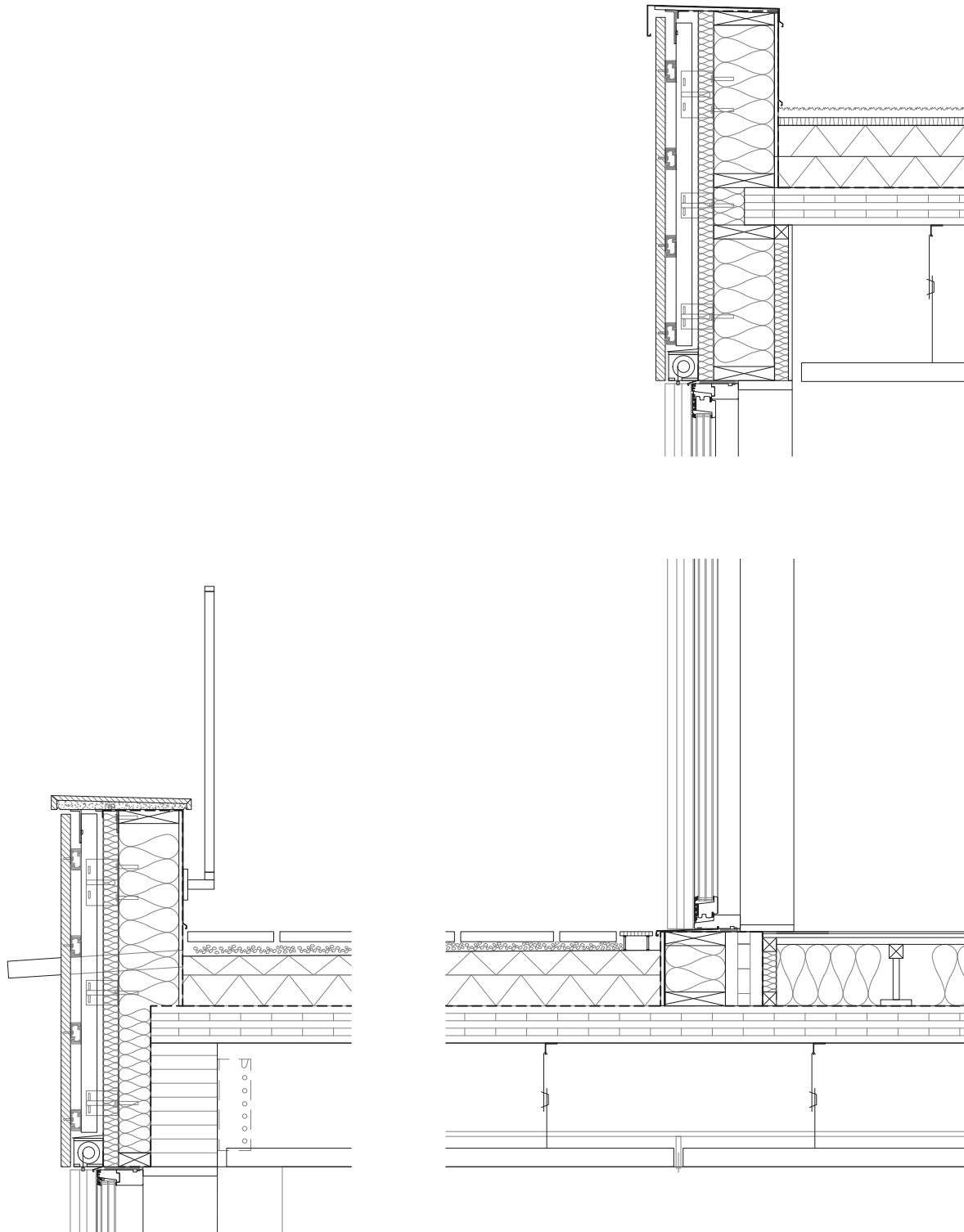
d. Wall
 30 flamed granite
 stone
 100 aluminum substructure
 /air gap
 50 mineral wool
 195 insulation
 320 glulam column
 vapor barrier
 45 insulation
 13 gypsum

e. Plinth
 100 concrete plinth
 60 air gap
 50 mineral wool
 195 insulation
 320 glulam column
 vapor barrier
 45 insulation
 13 gypsum

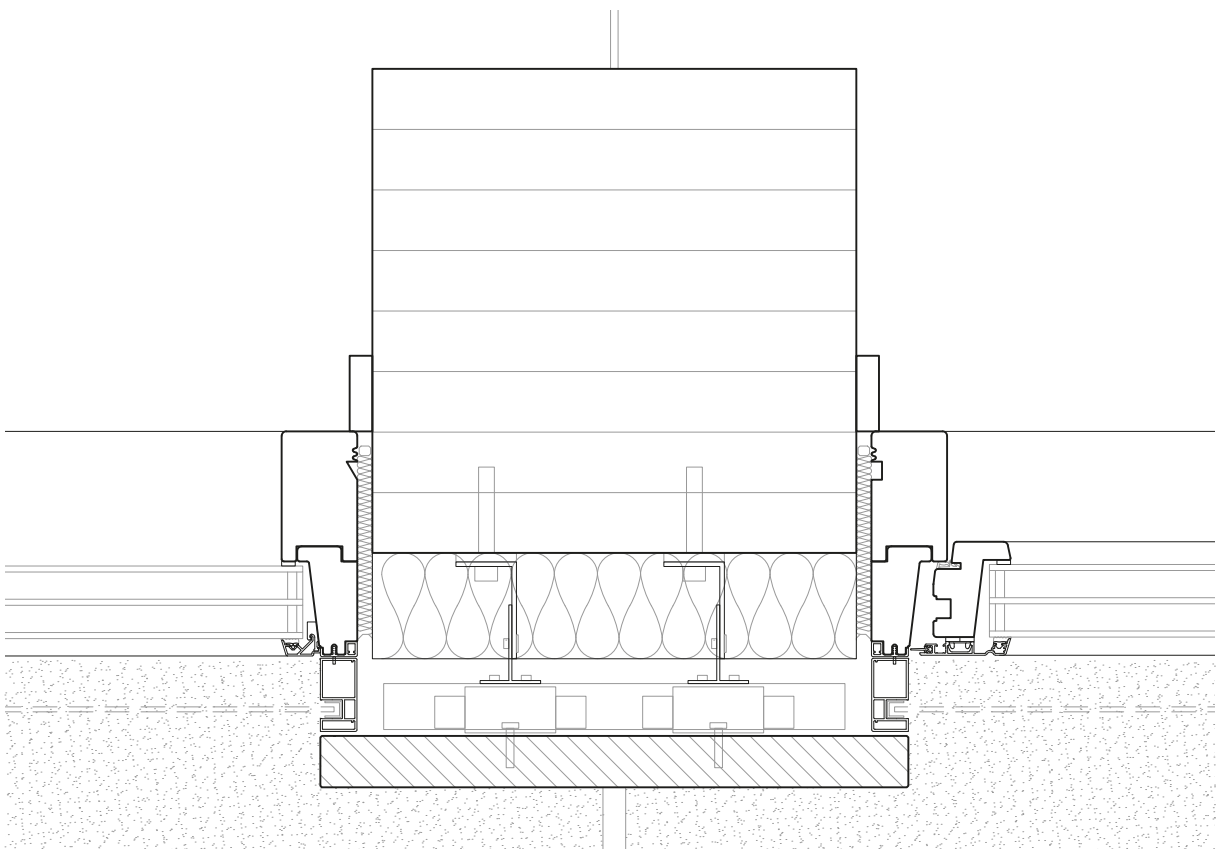
f. Floor
 15 Terrazzo
 200 concrete
 200 insulation
 300 macadam
 Geotextile



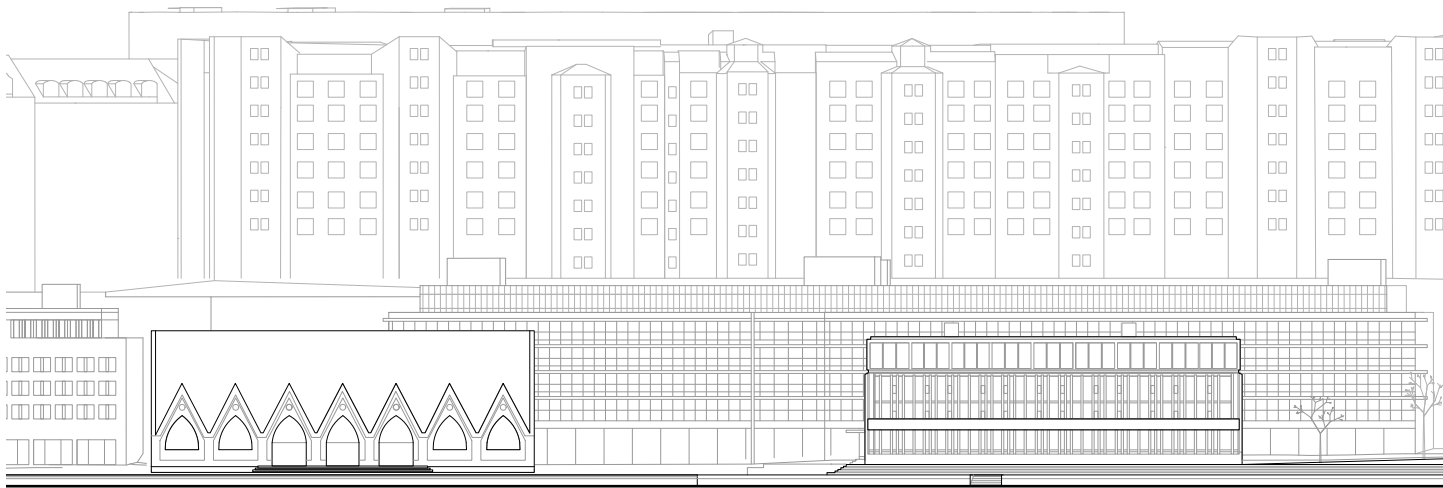
Vertical section floor connection and ground 1: 20



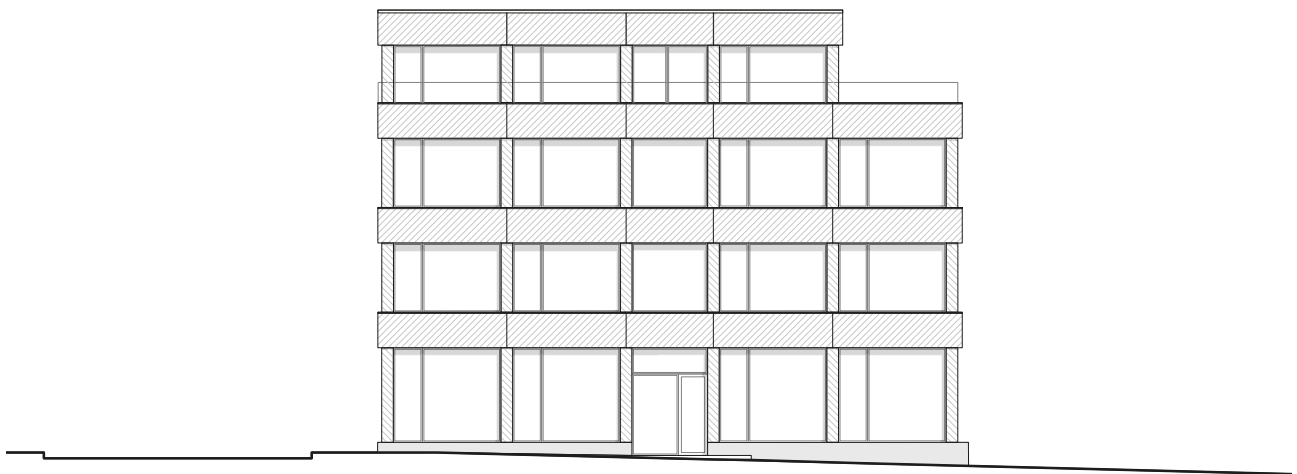
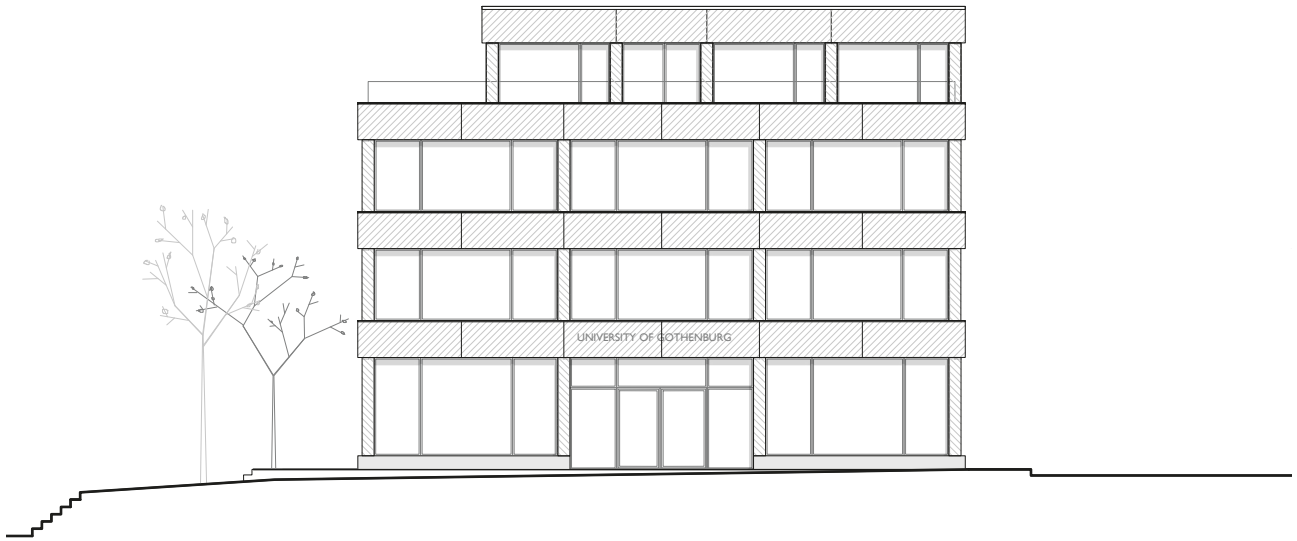
Vertical section roof terrace and roof 1: 20

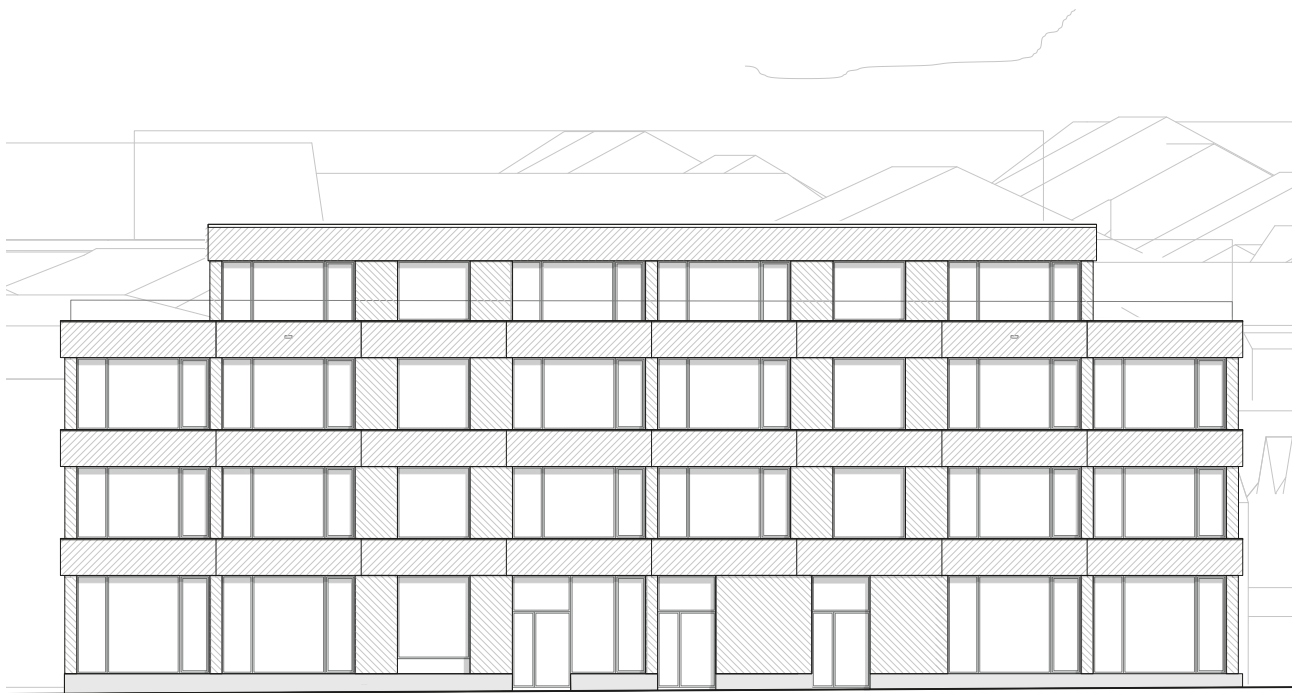
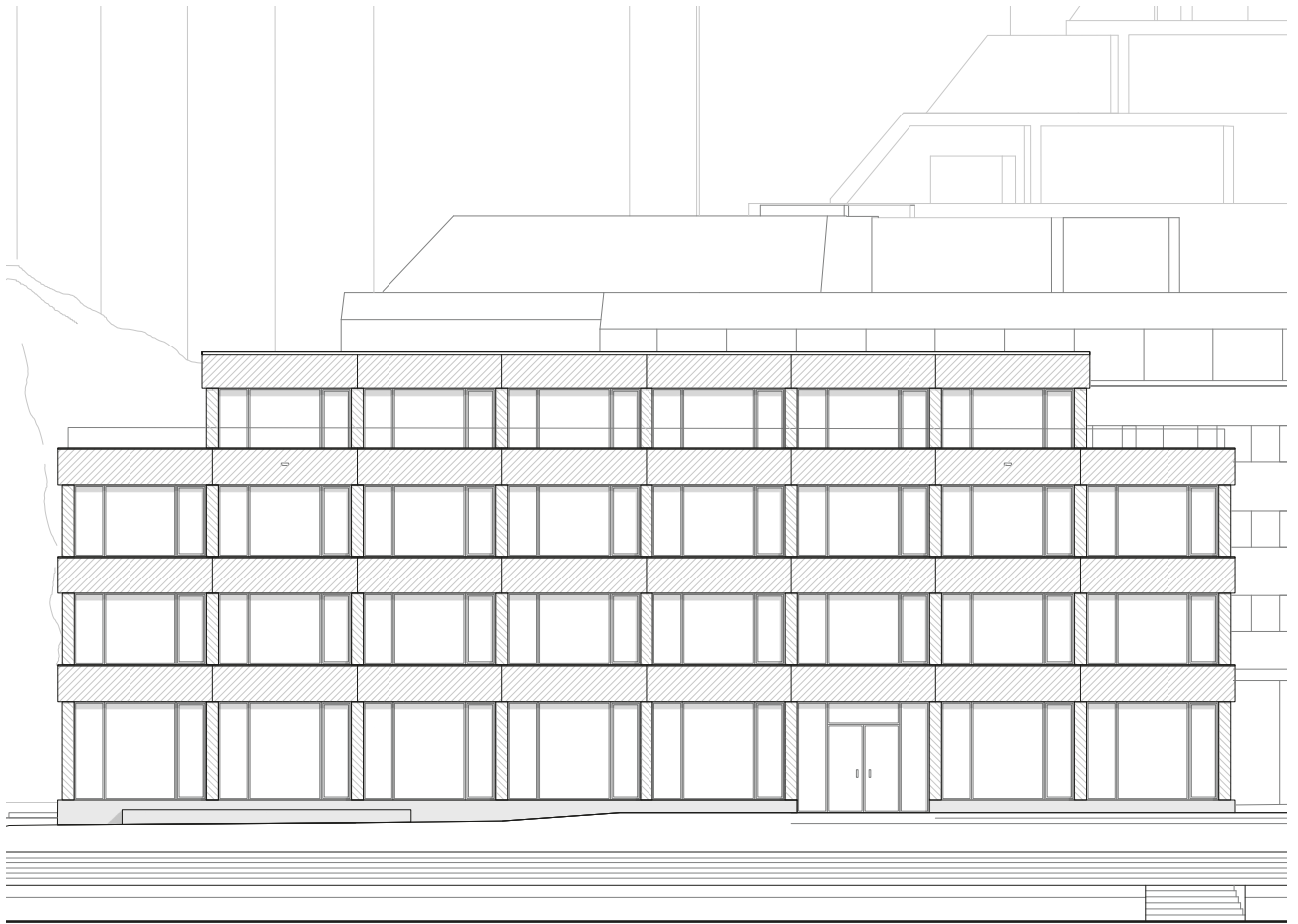












Discussion

The purpose of the master thesis has been to investigate how a contemporary university building can be integrated into the urban fabric of Gothenburg, with a development study of the university of Gothenburg as a starting point. The site Rosenlundsplatsen was selected based on the study resulting in an investigation related to the discourse of contemporary architecture in historical environments.

This led to our first thesis question: How can a contemporary university building be designed to encourage interaction between the university and the public sphere and create a continuity with Gothenburg's architectural and historical identity?

The placement and form of the building was one way to answer this question. By creating a building that builds upon the existing structure of solitaires along the canal, a continuation of the silhouette and rhythm towards the water are created as well as a defined street space to the north. The building's main entrance is centrally placed and is in a direct connection with the active flows to create a building with a public character. Furthermore, to encourage interaction between the university and the city, functions that are aimed for the public has been placed in relation to the entrances. The cafeteria, in the generous entrance hall offers a view of the canal and becomes a central meeting point where the public and the university meets.

The aim was to develop a design that creates continuity with Gothenburg's architectural and historical identity. Given the fragmented context, it was initially difficult to establish clear guidelines for how the building should relate to both its immediate surroundings and the broader cityscape. As a result, we chose to work with the site's history and character, as well as Gothenburg's tradition of stone buildings as a starting point. This approach allowed us to create an expression that bridges the diverse styles present on the site and creates a building that relates to its context while having its own expression.

The project touches upon the complexity of designing a robust building that will last over time, which we decided was a suitable strategy for a building set on the central location in the city centre. The second thesis question was regarding architectural and structural strategies to ensure the robustness of a university building primarily constructed in wood. The chosen mass timber system provided a structural robustness, allowing for changing functions over time. However, working with a strict grid and solving the technical installations with a visible structure proved to be more complex than we expected and became more significant in the research than we had initially anticipated.

Finally, we see this project as a possible proposal for a contemporary university building in the urban fabric of Gothenburg. The thesis project highlights both possibilities and challenges in combining robustness with building in relation to historical environments. It is a complex subject that calls for ongoing dialogue. We hope this project can be a contribution to that discussion.

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Figures

All images and figures are our own if not stated otherwise

Figure 2

Zscharnt, U. (2011). *Peek and Cloppenburg department store* [Photograph]. Davidchipperfield. <https://davidchipperfield.com/projects/peek-and-cloppenburg-flagship-store#modal:project-details>

Figure 3

David Chipperfield Architects Berlin. (2011). *Elevation drawing* [Drawing]. Davidchipperfield. <https://davidchipperfield.com/projects/peek-and-cloppenburg-flagship-store#modal:project-details>

Figure 4

DSL Studio, Quecchia, P., Romano, F., & Dehlin, J. (2020). *Pirelli Learning Centre* [Photograph]. Onsitestudio. <https://onsitestudio.it/projects/pirelli-learning-center>

Figure 5

Onsitestudio. (2020). *Pirelli Learning Centre, floor plan* [Drawing]. Onsitestudio. <https://onsitestudio.it/projects/pirelli-learning-center>

Figure 6

Schwarz, U. (2020). *Sint Lucas School of Arts* [Photograph]. Atelier Kempe Thill. <https://atelierkempethill.com/projects/0203-sint-lucas-school-of-arts>

Figure 7

Atelier Kempe Thill. (2020). *Sint Lucas School of Arts* [Drawing]. Atelierkempethill. <https://atelierkempethill.com/projects/0203-sint-lucas-school-of-arts>

Figure 8

Rinman, O. (1910-1915). *Feskekörka* [Photograph]. Kringla. <https://www.kringla.nu/kringla/objekt?text=Feskek%C3%B6rka&sida=2&referens=GSM/objekt/355170>

Students background

Hilma Hultquist

2024 - 2025	Felippi Wyssen Architect trainee
2022-2023	Chalmers University of Technology Master's studies, year 2 Housing invention
2023	Jorge Vidal Studio Architect trainee
2021-2023	Andreas Martin Löf Arkitekter Architect trainee
2020-2021	Chalmers University of Technology Master's studies, year 1 Material and detail Architectural competitions Matter space structure 2 History, Theory and Method 4
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