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ZUNFT ZUM PROVISORIUM

MASTER THESIS
HS22

NOSTALGIA
ECOLOGY



SARA GRAF

ZUNFT ZUM PROVISORIUM

Bürgerhäuser with assembly functions, such as the Zunfthäuser or the Rathaus, have endured for centuries, surviving major changes in these institutions and in society in general. This typology provides an ideal example of durability through time and a reference point from which to develop a project that can be relevant for the future.

From the Middle Ages and until the Napoleonic wars, Zünfte were a vital element of the political and social life in Zurich. They organized trade and labor and had considerable decision-making power in the city council, as the seats in the Rathaus were distributed equally among the Zünfte. A cardinal point of the Zunft's identity was the Zunfthaus. In the earliest days of their history, the Zünfte used to hold their meetings at the house of the Zunftmeister at the time, but eventually began building their own assembly houses, initially in the form of simple Trinkstuben, which gradually evolved into more and more richly adorned palaces.

The different Zunfthäuser vary considerably in size and are built even several centuries apart from one another. These differences, however, make their common aspects even clearer. The most important room of the Zunfthäuser is always the main assembly space, the Zunftsaal, which distinguishes itself from the other rooms through its larger size and richer ornamentation. Its walls are almost always covered in wooden panels, the floors are made of hardwood and the richly ornamented ceilings are either clad in wood or, in newer buildings, have elaborate stucco reliefs. There are usually two or more additional assembly rooms in the building, which allow for different meetings to take place at the same time and accommodate various forms of assembly (f.e. seminars, celebrations, discussions, etc.). The house also always has the ancillary rooms necessary to its assembly function, such as kitchens and cloak rooms. The Zunft's offices and administration are located in the building as well. The main connective element of the house is the foyer, where a representative staircase is also found. These rooms are always housed in the upper floors of the Zunfthaus, while the ground floor is reserved for commercial uses, such as a restaurant or a store, which have varying degree of connection to the Zunft itself.

Nowadays the Zünfte have mostly lost their connection to the craft they were usually associated with. The rising power of businessmen and merchants from the 17. century onward and their increased presence in the Zünfte gradually overshadowed the importance of craftsmen. However, the role of the Zunft as a labor union has the potential to be rediscovered in the present. A category of workers that could benefit from such an institution would be the workers of the gig economy. This sector, as with other phenomena that were brought about by digitalization, is still not clearly regulated. The status of the workers oscillates between that of "employees" and "freelance contractors" and is continuously being debated and renegotiated. Working in the gig economy has numerous attractive qualities, such as flexible schedules and simple, streamlined interfaces (usually via apps) that easily connect contractors and clients. There are however serious downsides to this mode of work. As freelance contractors, workers are not entitled to benefits traditionally enjoyed by employees, such as sick pay or parental leave. A way to ensure that the workers of the gig economy have a say in how their sector will be regulated, is to organize in a workers' union that specifically focuses on the issues that are relevant to them. Through a union the workers will be able to exercise a greater leverage on the large tech enterprises that control the market.

The local tradition of the Zunft could then present an insightful model on which to base this new institution. For the development of the union and of its headquarters it will be especially important to discern which components of the traditions of the Zunft have become obsolete and which ones can instead still be socially and architecturally relevant.

ZUNFT ZUM PROVISORIUM

In order to be able to negotiate better working conditions, the workers of the gig economy have formed a union, the *Zunft zum Provisorium*. The new *Zünfter* are in need of a space to discuss and share opinions, a building which should also be representative of the institution.

They have looked for a site where they could build their own *Zunft*haus, following the criteria by which the traditional *Zünfte* chose the location for their houses, namely the proximity to the Limmat and to the Rathaus. The choice has fallen on the Papierwerd Areal, next to the Bahnhofbrücke, where the Globus Provisorium has stood since 1961. The *Zünfter* are not the only political group in Zurich which has sought to establish their headquarters here, ever since the 1967 Globus Krawallen there have been calls to repurpose the building into an autonomous youth center or, more recently, atelier spaces for young artists.

The *Zunft*haus zum Provisorium will offer spaces where scheduled as well as random encounters between the workers of the gig economy can occur. The building will function as a “break room” for the workers, where they can meet between shifts. It will host activities such as a cafeteria, a daycare, a gym, a capsule hotel, repair shops for cars and bicycles, and financial consultation. Like in traditional *Zunft*häuser, the new building will also host the administration of the *Zunft*, as well as the two-storey *Zunft*tsaal, where large gatherings can take place. This room it will be covered with wooden panels, which offer optimal acoustic properties and convey a sense of warmth.

The Globus Provisorium will largely be kept intact, its steel structure will be doubled and raised by three additional floors. A central space will connect the building vertically, a bicycle ramp will be added to the western facade of the building and the existing cascading staircase on the eastern side will be expanded, connecting the above ground floors and providing direct access to the public roof terrace overlooking the Limmat. Composite steel floors will bridge the distance between the steel beams, allowing to freely place the wooden walls that encase the interiors of the *Zunft*haus.



Animation ZKI



Animation ZKII



ZUR ZIMMERLEUTEN

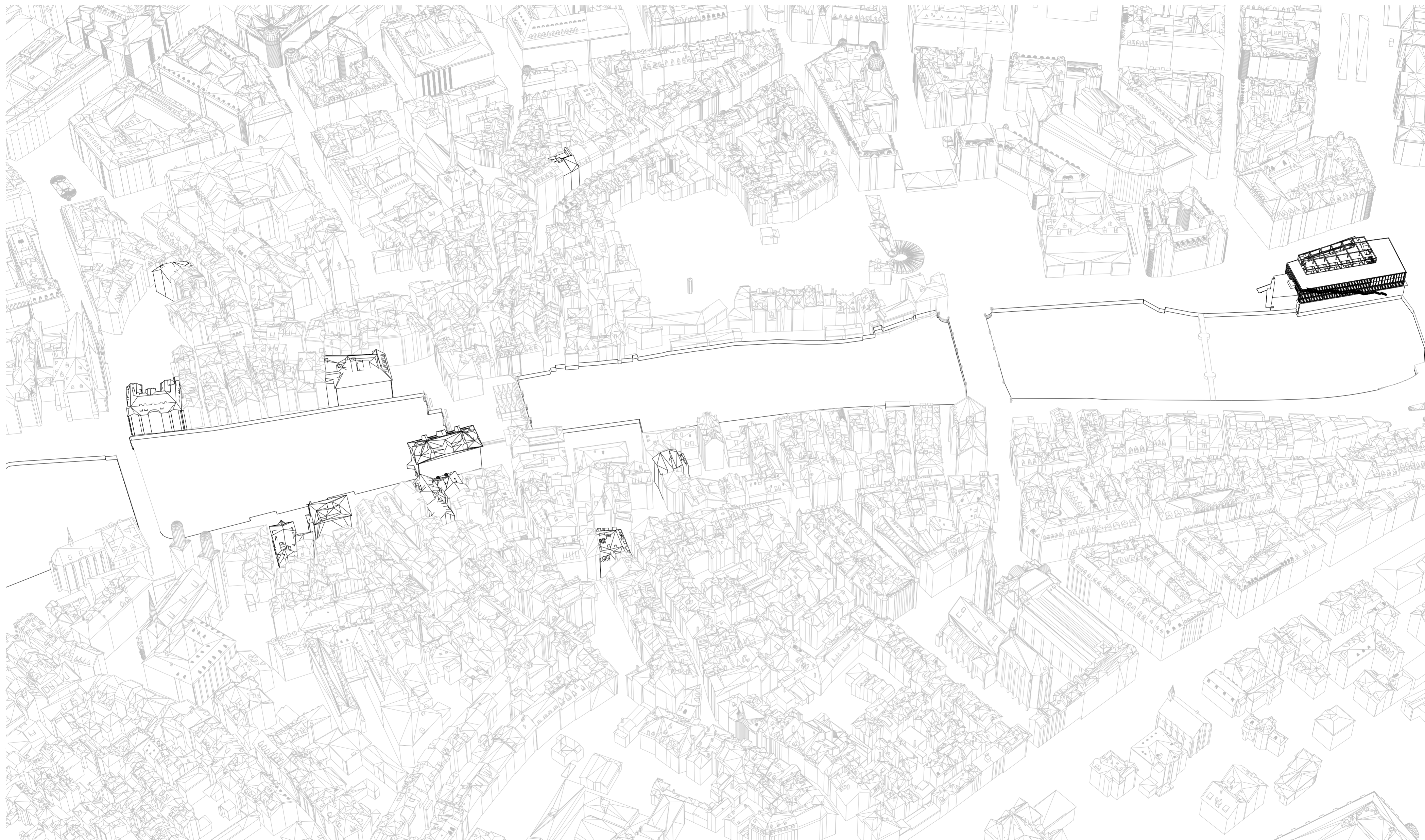




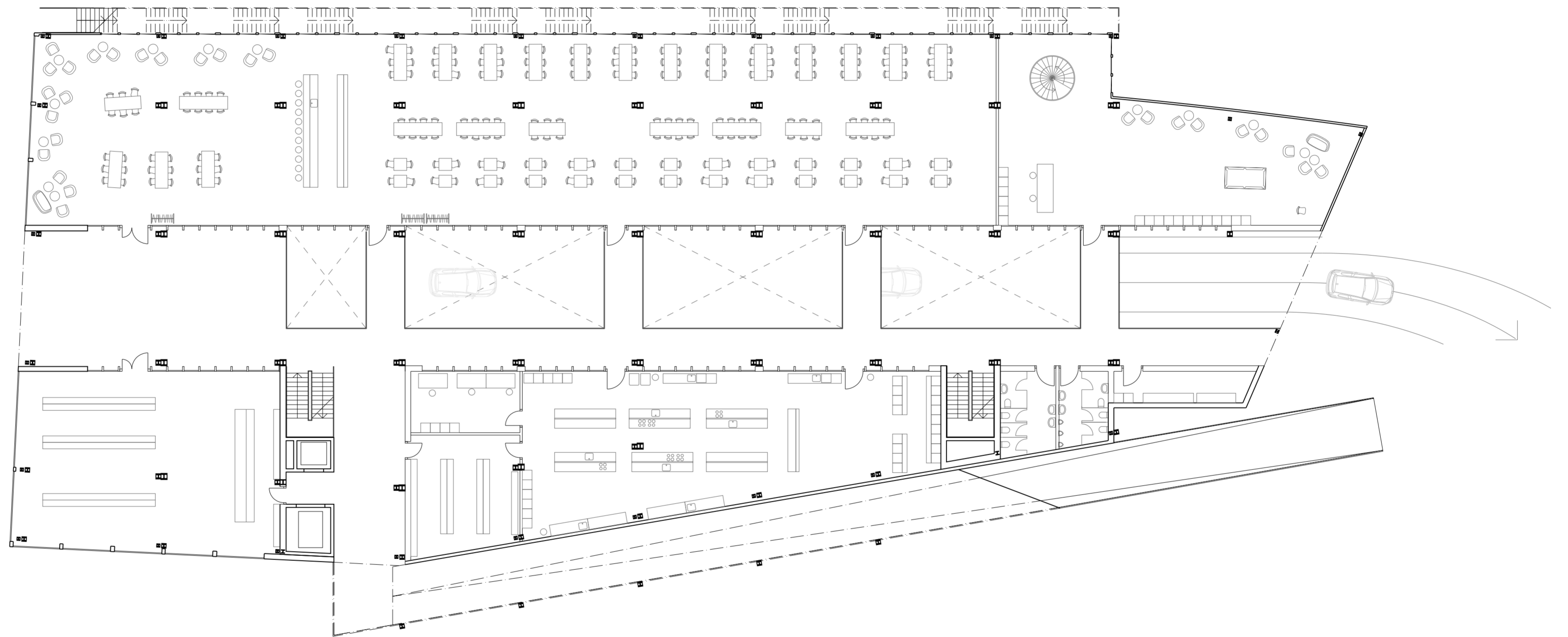


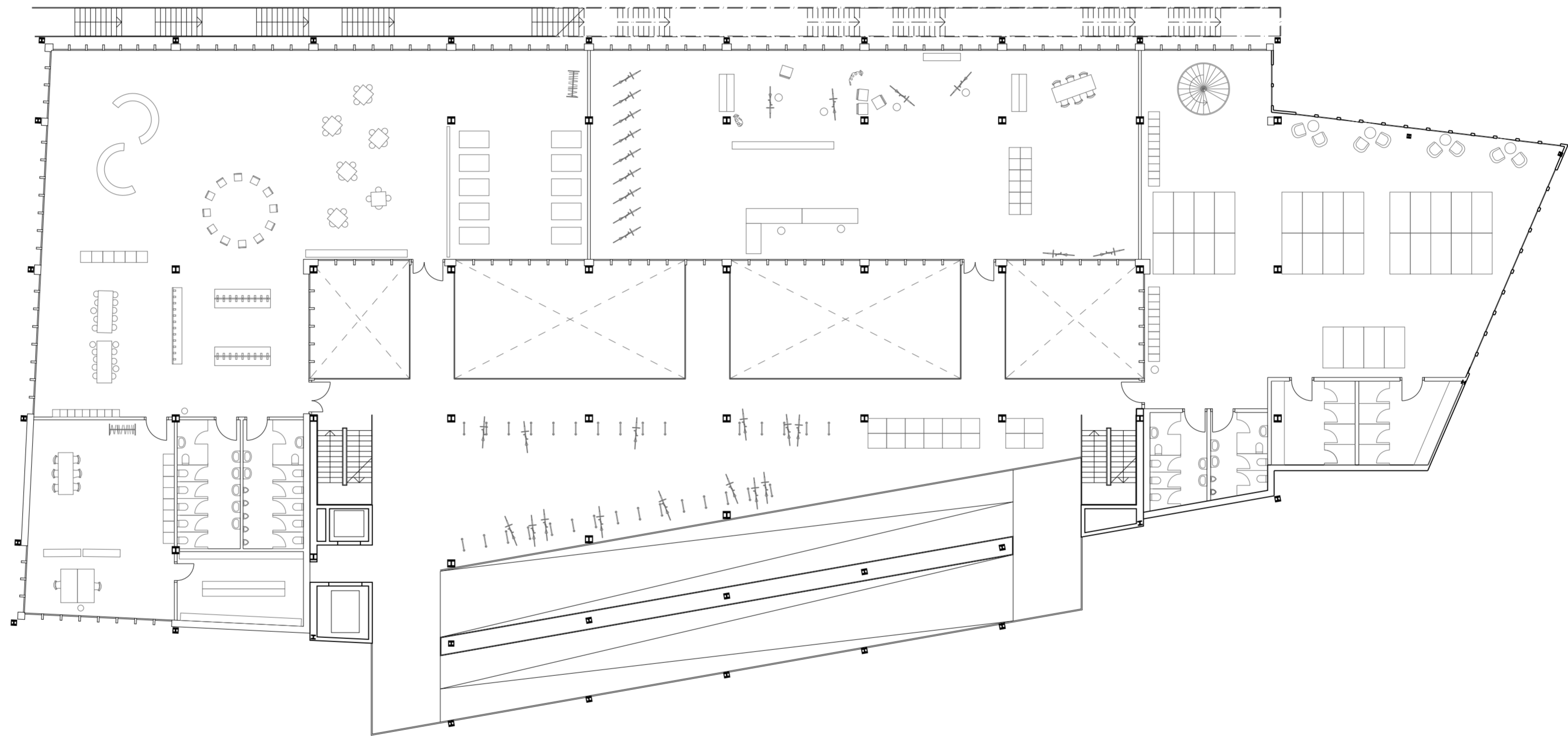


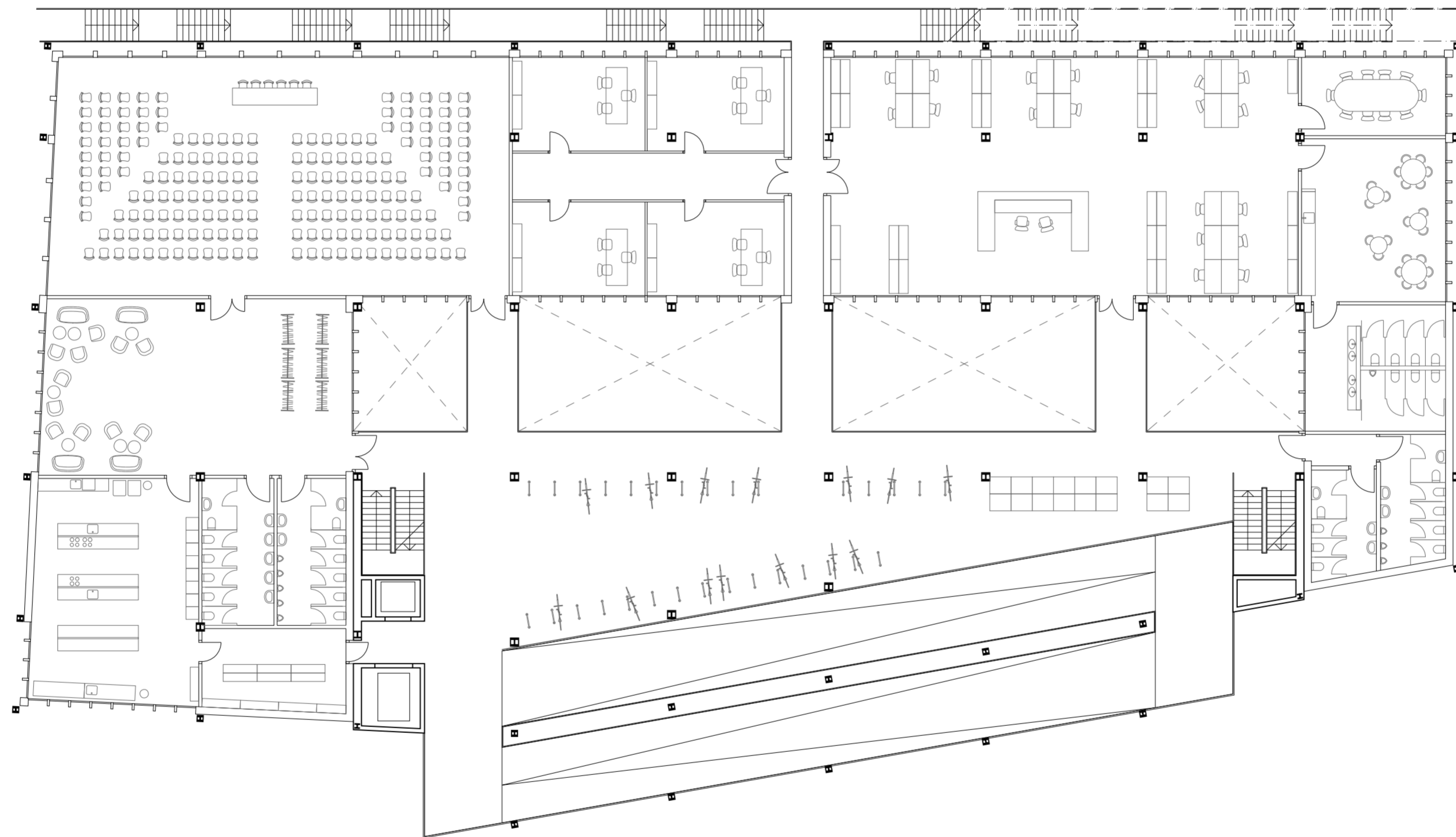
ZUNFTHAUS ZUR SCHMIDEN



SITUATION

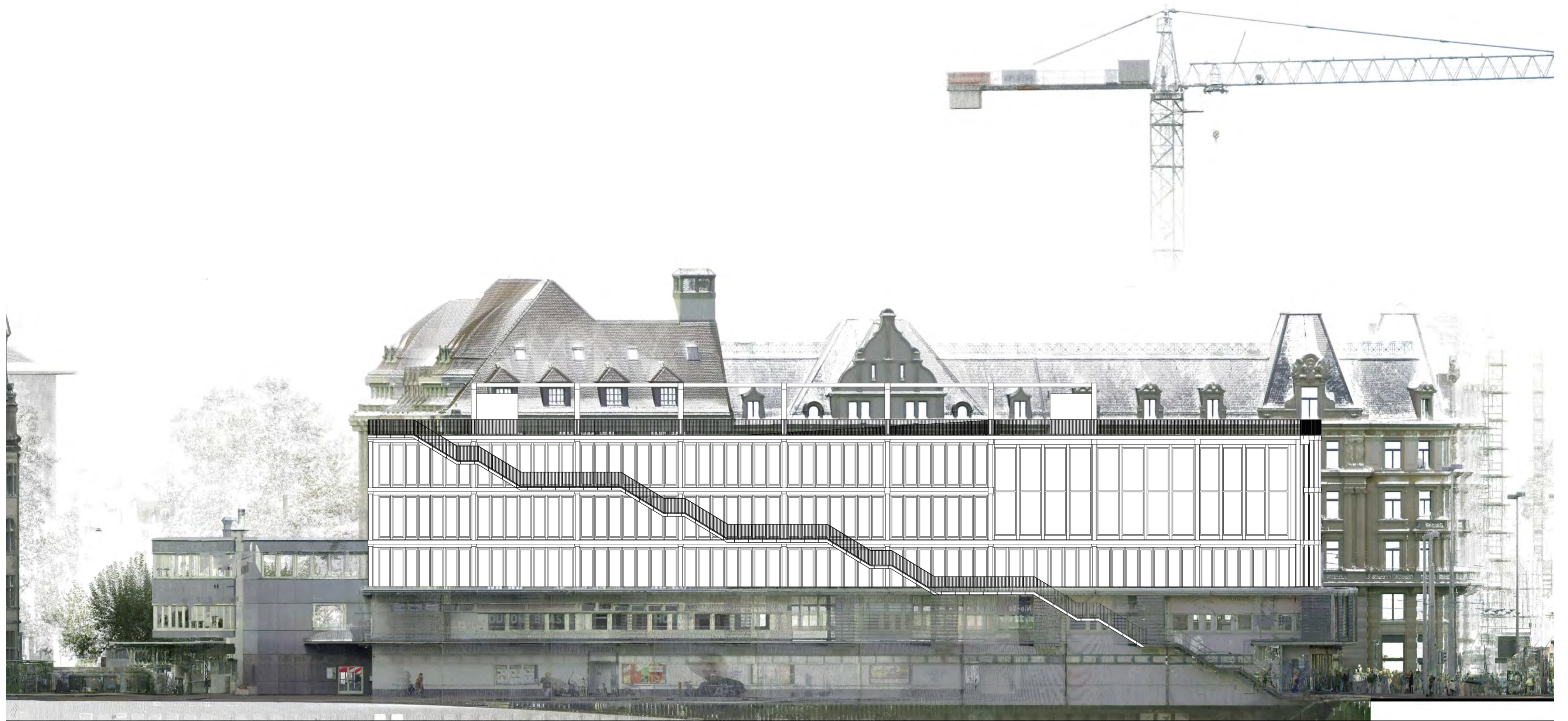






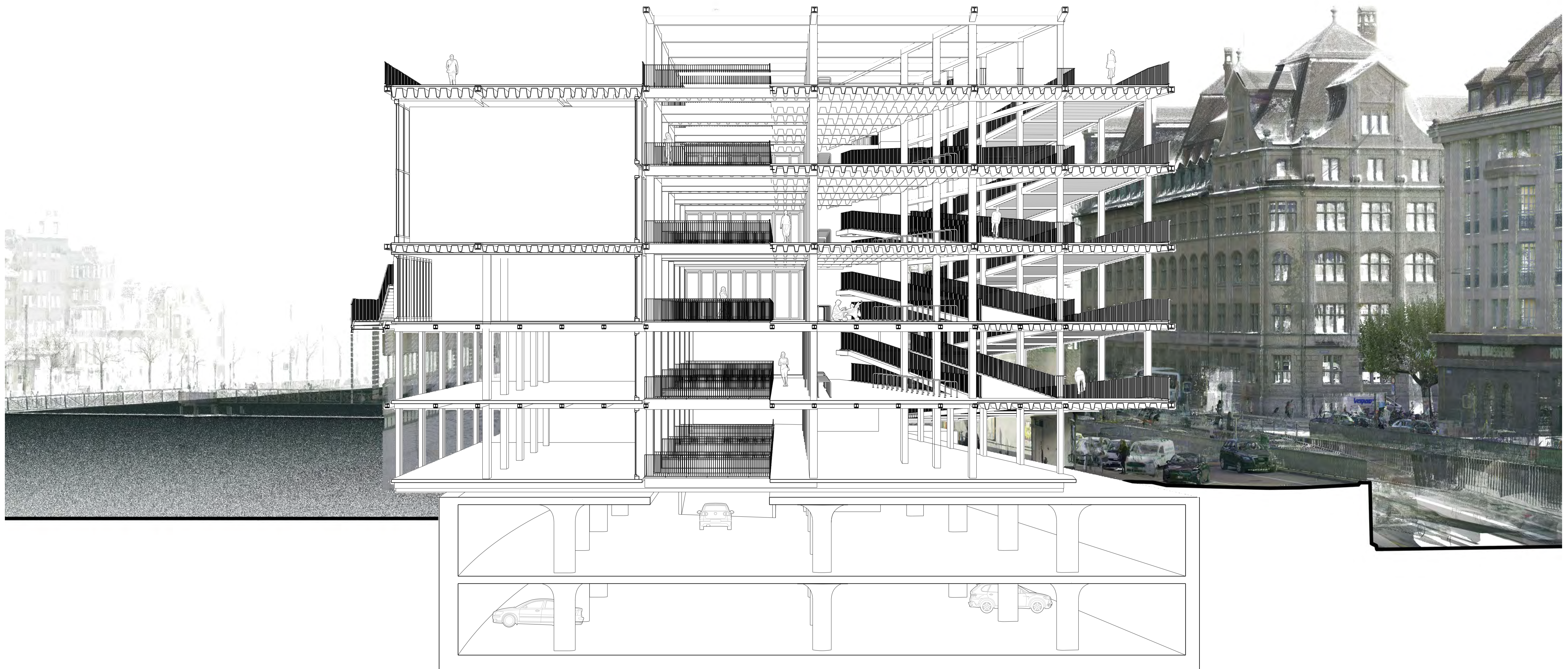


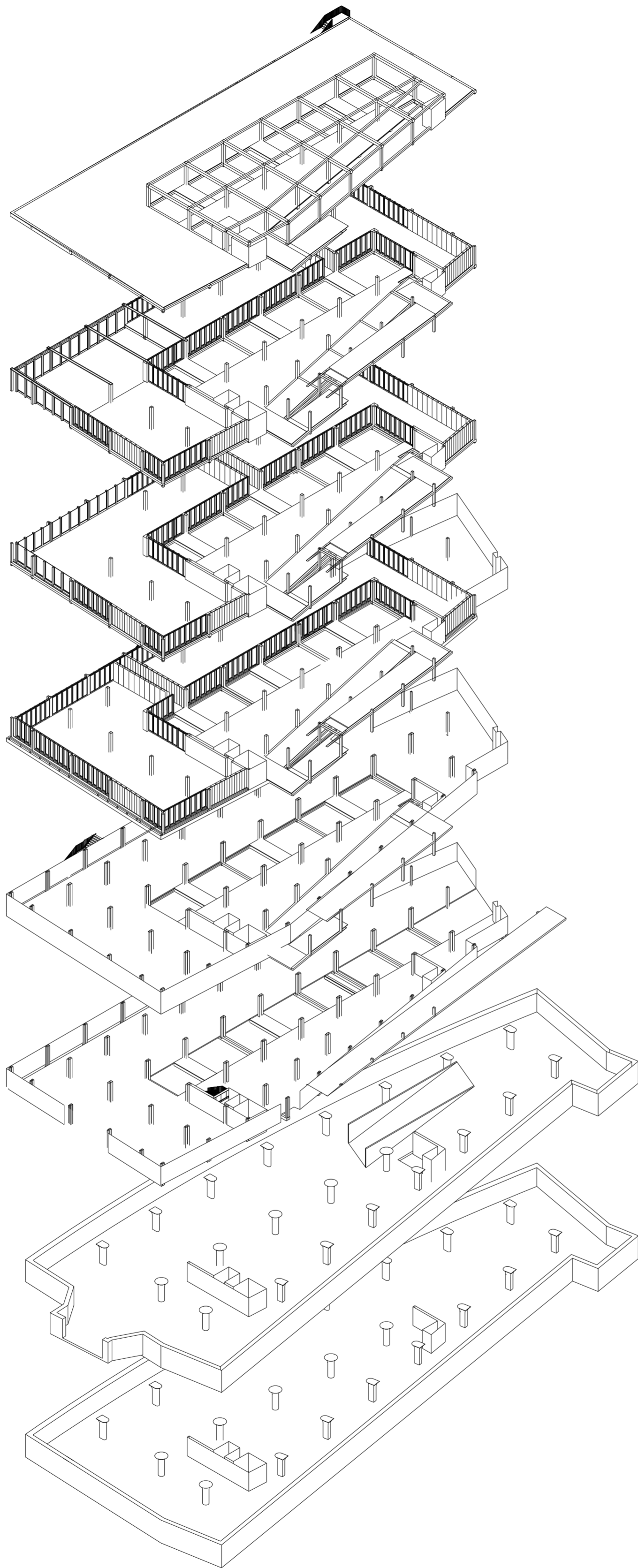




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EAST





ROOFTOP TERRACE

4 SEMINAR ROOMS
CO-WORKING SPACES
SERVER ROOM

3 ZUNFTSAAL
ADMINISTRATION
CONSULTATION

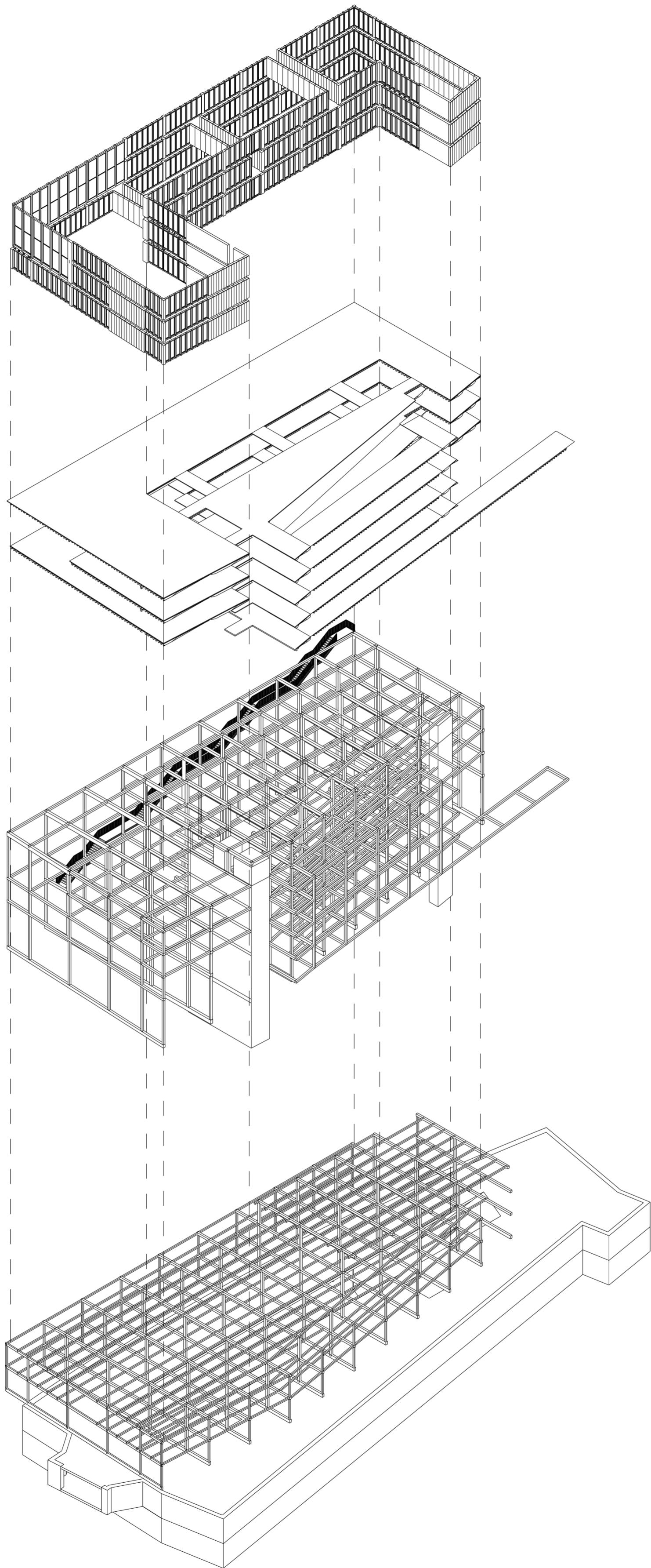
2 DAYCARE
BICYCLE REPAIR SHOP
CAPSULE HOTEL

1 GYM
CAPSULE HOTEL

0 CAFETERIA/RESTAURANT
CAFÉ
BAKERY
CAPSULE HOTEL LOBBY

-1 CAR REPAIR SHOP

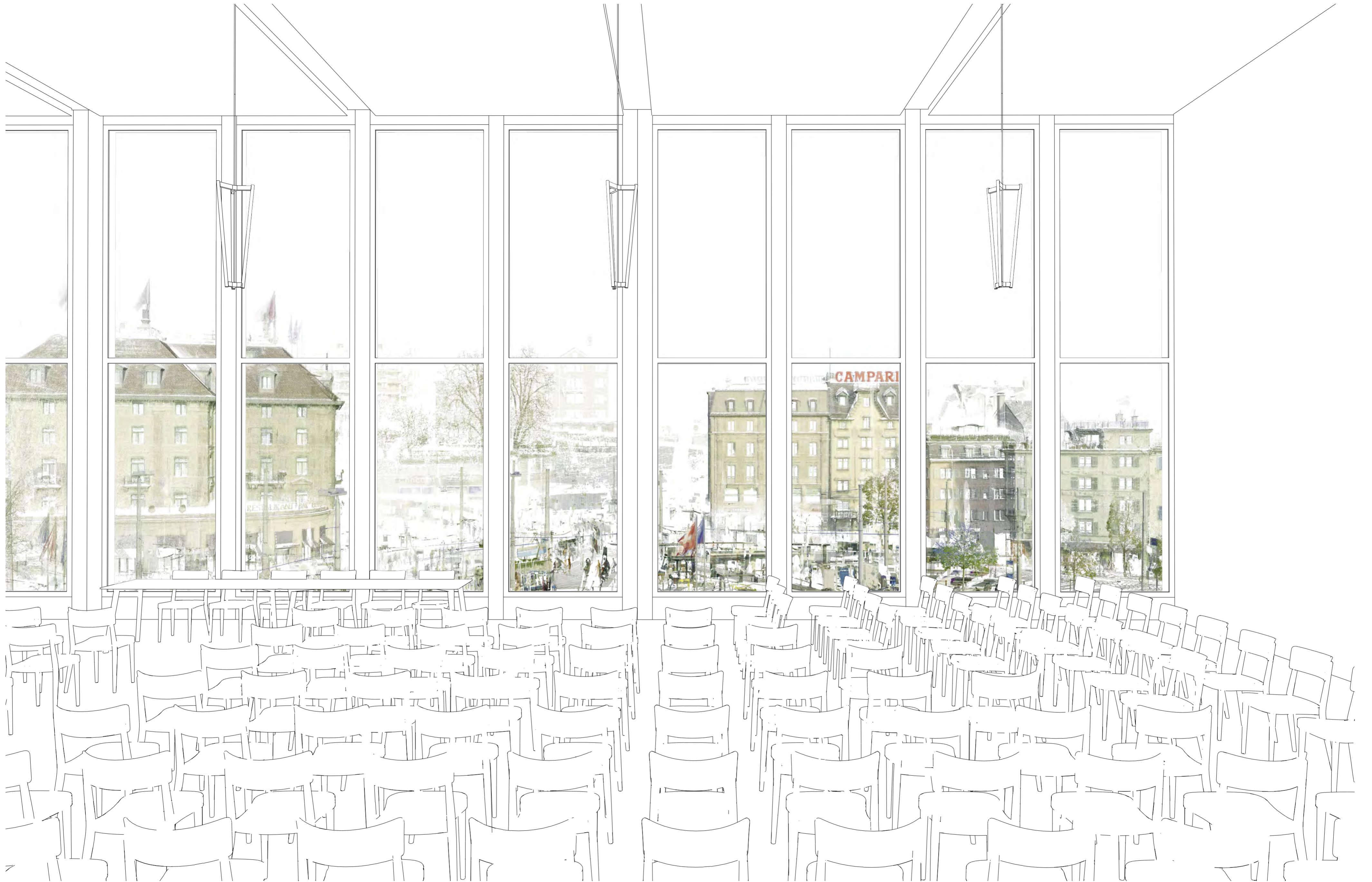
-2 PARKING



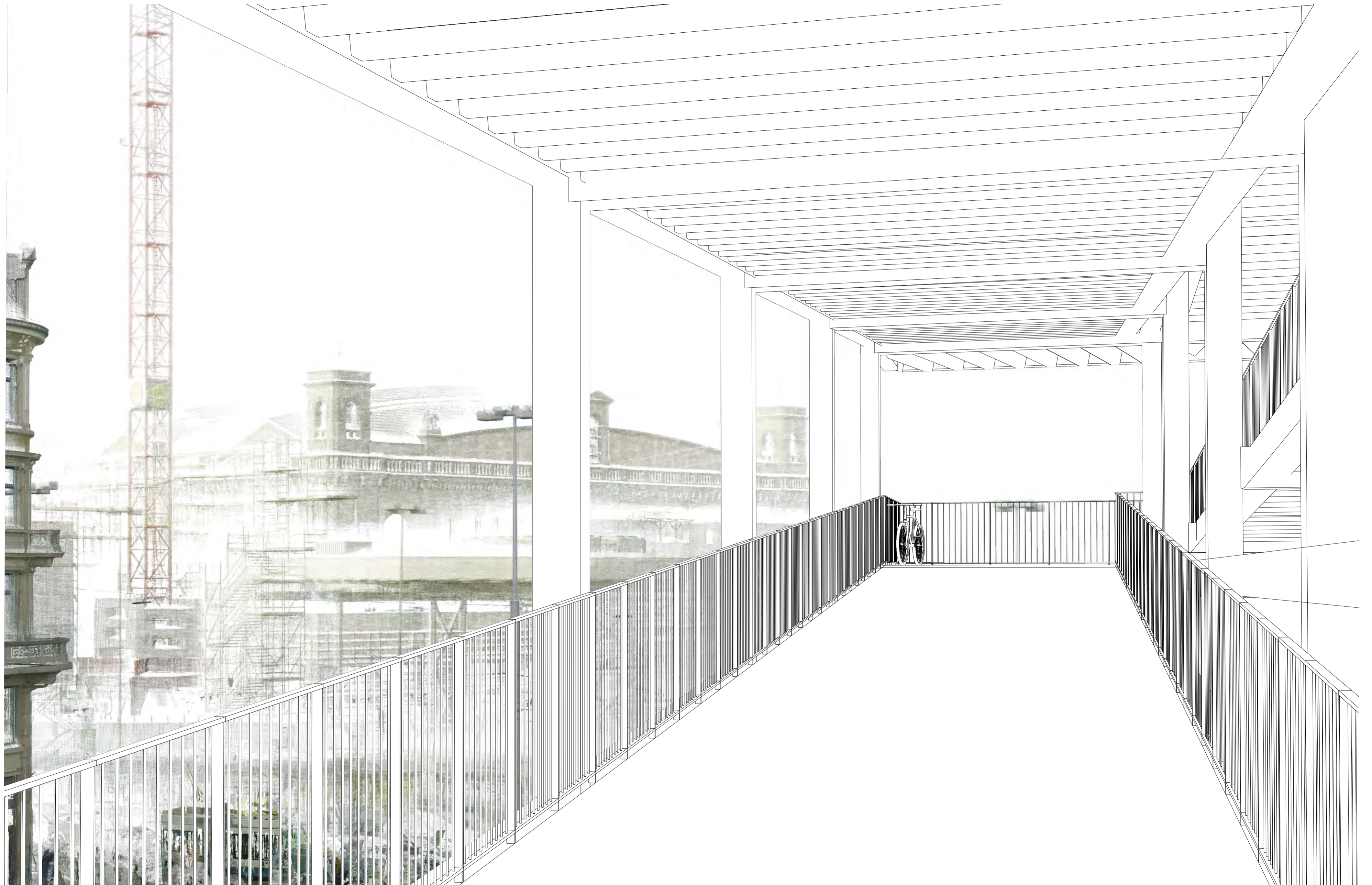
STRUCTURE HIERARCHY



AERIAL PERSPECTIVE



PERSPECTIVE ZUNFTSAAL



PERSPECTIVE RAMP