



KANTOOR

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Established in 2017 and based in Beijing, P.R.C., Kantoor is an Architecture office led by Isabel Driessen and Andrés López.

Its work scope includes different scale projects; it varies from furniture, interior, architecture and urban planning. In every project research is used as a main strategy to find approaches in spatial planning, functions, forms, construction details and material selections binding them in a simultaneous interaction.

As a main communication tool drawings are always used to test design approaches and to express them objectively. Facing language challenges in China has further developed this tool to become the main form of communication.

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EDUCATION

- [2013] Master of Science in Architecture, Cum Laude
TUDelft, The Netherlands
- [2010] Cultural exchange
SCIArc, Los Angeles. USA
- [2010] Bachelor of Science in Architecture
TUDelft, The Netherlands

EXHIBITIONS

- [2016] Baitasi Remade, Beijing Design week
- [2016] Trans-Design, Westbund Art Center Shanghai
- [2015] Dashilar Design HOP, Beijing Design Week
- [2010] Thesis Exhibition, Arcam Amsterdam

SELECTED PROJECTS

- [2018] Silver Stone Tianjin office - 1.000 sqm.
- [2018] OJO vintage shop - Beijing - 15 sqm.
- [2017] Courtyard renovation - Beijing - 180 sqm.
- [2017] Paras model agency - Beijing - 110 sqm.
- [2017] Wanda group - Wuxi show theatre - 20.000 sqm.
- [2016] Meditation center Qinghai - 1200 sqm.
- [2016] Beijing Design Week - Baitasi Remade.
- [2016] 3D science studio, Foshan - 200 sqm.
- [2016] Z-Park office tower Beijing - 3000 sqm.
- [2015] Beijing Design Week - Dashilar Exhibition
- [2015] Creative office - Nanning - 6000 sqm.
- [2015] Vstartup creative office - Beijing - 1500 sqm.
- [2014] Jinsemanxianglin mall, Beijing - 71.000 sqm.



ISABEL DRIESSEN

Architect - BNA registered

Born in Utrecht, The Netherlands, Isabel studied Architecture at TU Delft, where she graduated in a Master of Science in Architecture with Honours. During her studies she participated in an exchange program in SCI Arc, Los Angeles, USA.

Isabel has worked at Royal Haskoning (Amsterdam), Eric Owen Moss Architects (Los Angeles) and Spark Architects (Beijing) before establishing Kantoor in Beijing.



ANDRÉS LÓPEZ

Architect - CPNAA registered

Born in Bogotá, Colombia. Andrés studied Architecture at Universidad Piloto de Colombia, where he graduated with honours. He received a Master in Architecture and Urban design at The Berlage institute in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

Andrés has worked at Arquitectura e Interiores (Bogotá), InterNationalDesign (Rotterdam), MVRDV (Rotterdam) and Mi2 (Beijing) before establishing Kantoor in Beijing.

EDUCATION

- [2013] Master of Excellence in Architecture
The Berlage Institute. Rotterdam
- [2009] Bachelor in Architecture
Universidad Piloto de Colombia, Bogotá

PUBLICATIONS

- [2013] Megacity report - The Megacity Studio,
- [2012] Venice Biennale -Anarcity Studio.
- [2012] Abitare Magazine N. 256. Anarcity Studio.
- [2010] Axxis Magazine N. 199. Interdespro Offices.
- [2009] Escala Magazine N. 215. San Bernardo.

SELECTED PROJECTS

- [2018] Lululemon Hong Kong office - 1.000 sqm.
- [2018] Wigwam bar -Beijing - 106 sqm.
- [2017] Courtyard renovation - Beijing - 180 sqm.
- [2017] Villa hotel - Beijing - 650 sqm.
- [2017] Paras model agency - Beijing - 110 sqm.
- [2017] Wanda group - Wuxi show theatre - 20.000 sqm.
- [2016] Lululemon Retail - Singapore
- [2015] Unimall - Foshan
- [2014] CAEN - La Grande Mosaique.
- [2013] The Expo Masterplan Book - IND Office.
- [2012] Anarcity Studio - Venice Biennale Exhibition
- [2011] Stryker Colombia - 1000 sqm.
- [2011] UBS AG. office - 110 sqm.
- [2010] Amarilo show room - 600 sqm..
- [2008] Nokia Siemens Networks - 1800 sqm.
- [2007] Casa Editorial El Tiempo - 3200 Sq M.

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- [CURRENT] KANTOOR
Beijing, China
- [2016] Helix Architects
Beijing, China
- [2015] DAMU Design
Beijing, China
- [2014-2015] Spark Architects
Beijing, China
- [2012-2013] Jose Herrasti Architects
Los Angeles, USA
- [2011] Eric Owen Moss Architects
Los Angeles, USA
- [2006-2007] Royal Haskoning
Amsterdam, The Netherlands

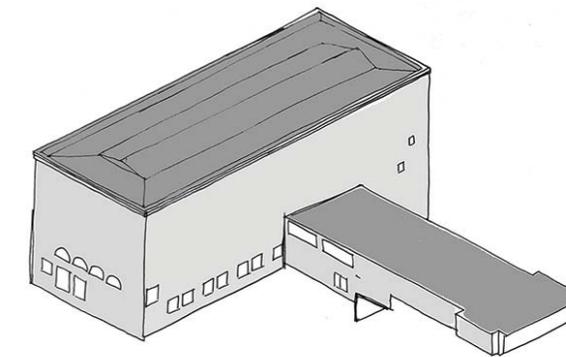
EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- [CURRENT] KANTOOR
Beijing, China
- [2015-2017] MI2
Beijing, China
- [2014-2015] Spark Architects
Beijing, China
- [2013 - 2014] MVRDV
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- [2013] IND office
Rotterdam, The Netherlands
- [2007 - 2011] Arquitectura e Interiores
Bogotá, Colombia
- [2006 - 2007] Frontis 3D
Bogotá, Colombia

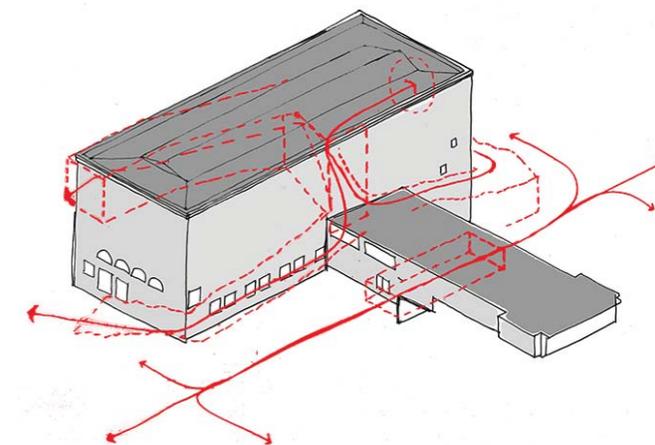
UNFOLDING NPAK



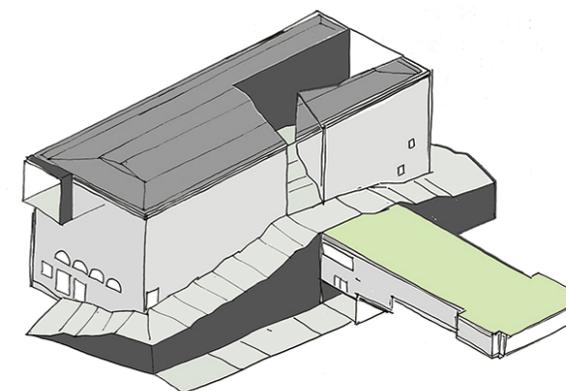
Year: 2019
Client: UbanLAB
Program: Contemporary Art Centre
Size: 5100 m²
Status: Competition - Jury Mention
Team: Isabel Driessen, Andrés López



1: Existing Building



2: New circulation opening up the building



3: Design proposal: Unfolding NPAK

REVIVING NPAK

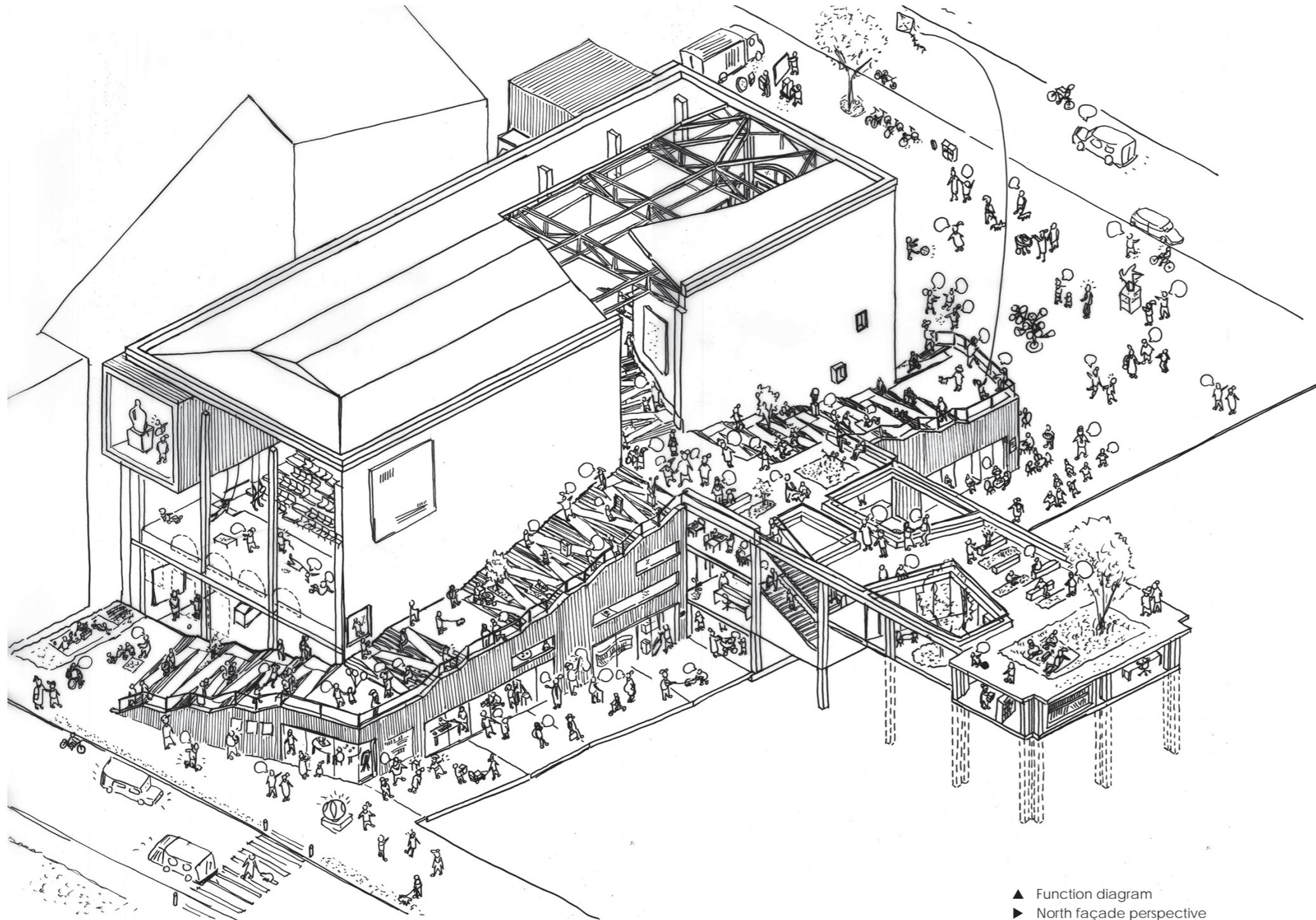
" The purpose of the present architectural competition is to find the best design solutions for the existing building of NPAK located at 1/3 Buzand Street of Yerevan (...) Serving as a meeting point between the art community, the youth, general public, the creative and business sector, the revived Centre should become a facilitator between innovative artistic thinking, mass culture and industry."

UrbanLAB, 2019

KANTOOR received a Jury Mention for their design proposal for the renovation of the NPAK Contemporary Art Centre on July 3rd, 2019.

Competition entry:
<https://npakout.urbanlab.am/id40104430/>

- ◀ The NPAK building across from the Vernissage flea market
- ▶ Design diagram



UNFOLDING NPAK

Yerevan has a long history of multiple nationalities, religions and ethnicities residing in the current land of Armenia, all leaving behind a piece of their culture. Simultaneously a large number of diaspora live outside of Armenia bringing the Armenian culture abroad while keeping a strong connection to the motherland. The complex and layered history of Armenia is the key point to this design proposal. In a city in which urban and political landscape is changing while the traces of history are always present an intervention has been made to the NPAK building while embracing the existing architecture and history of the contemporary art centre. Located in between the Vernissage flea market on the North and the 33rd District Development Area on the South, the NPAK building is a transition point between the conserved and redeveloping city. 'Unfolding NPAK' adds a new layer to the Contemporary Art Centre in the shape of an additional building volume along the existing façade. An ascending landscape on top of this volume continues into the existing building cutting the façade and roof and exposing the structure of the building. The roof landscape creates a route around the building, into the new public spaces and up to the top levels where a large window both on the South and North façade exposes the city to the visitor.



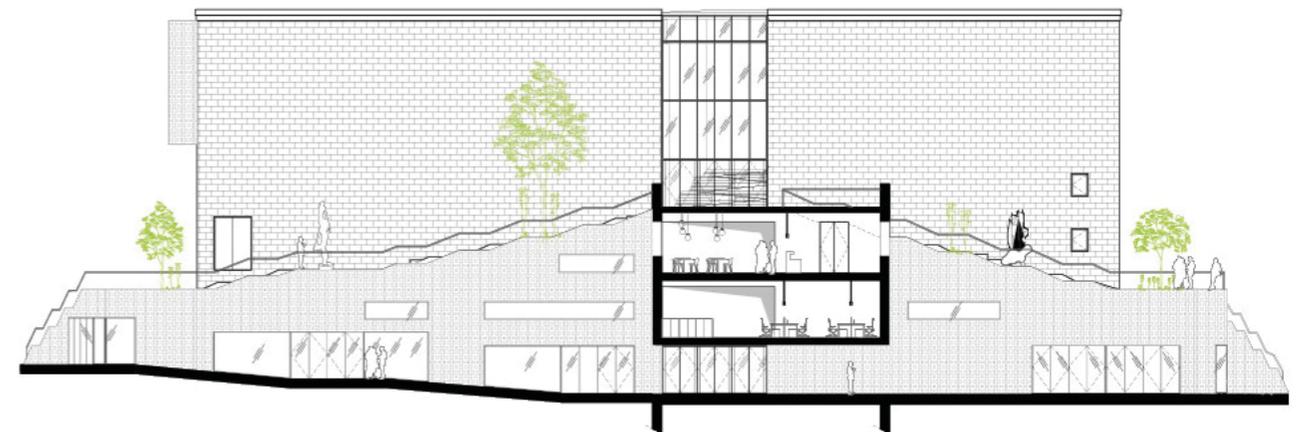


ROOF LANDSCAPE

The new building volume provides for additional area and new program elements. The artist residences are located on the ground floor of the additional volume to create a direct interaction with the public. The new alleyway along the building can be used as an outdoor extension of the artist workshops, to expose the art to the public and form a natural continuation from the flea market across the street. The paths created through the site connect different parts of the city and draw people onto the site and into the building. Slopes and staircases are combined with greenery and art to create a sculpture garden connecting

the main public functions. The garden extends onto the roof of the West wing of the building where it becomes a semi-enclosed roof garden embedded in the neighbouring building volume. The roof garden is directly connected to the café and reading room on the floor below. A staircase leads you down or up while roof openings create small courtyards to bring light and vegetation into the café and reading room. The roof landscape continues into the building where it becomes an interior landscape creating an atrium which doubles as exhibition and lecture hall. A glass roof brings in the light while exposing the structure of the building.

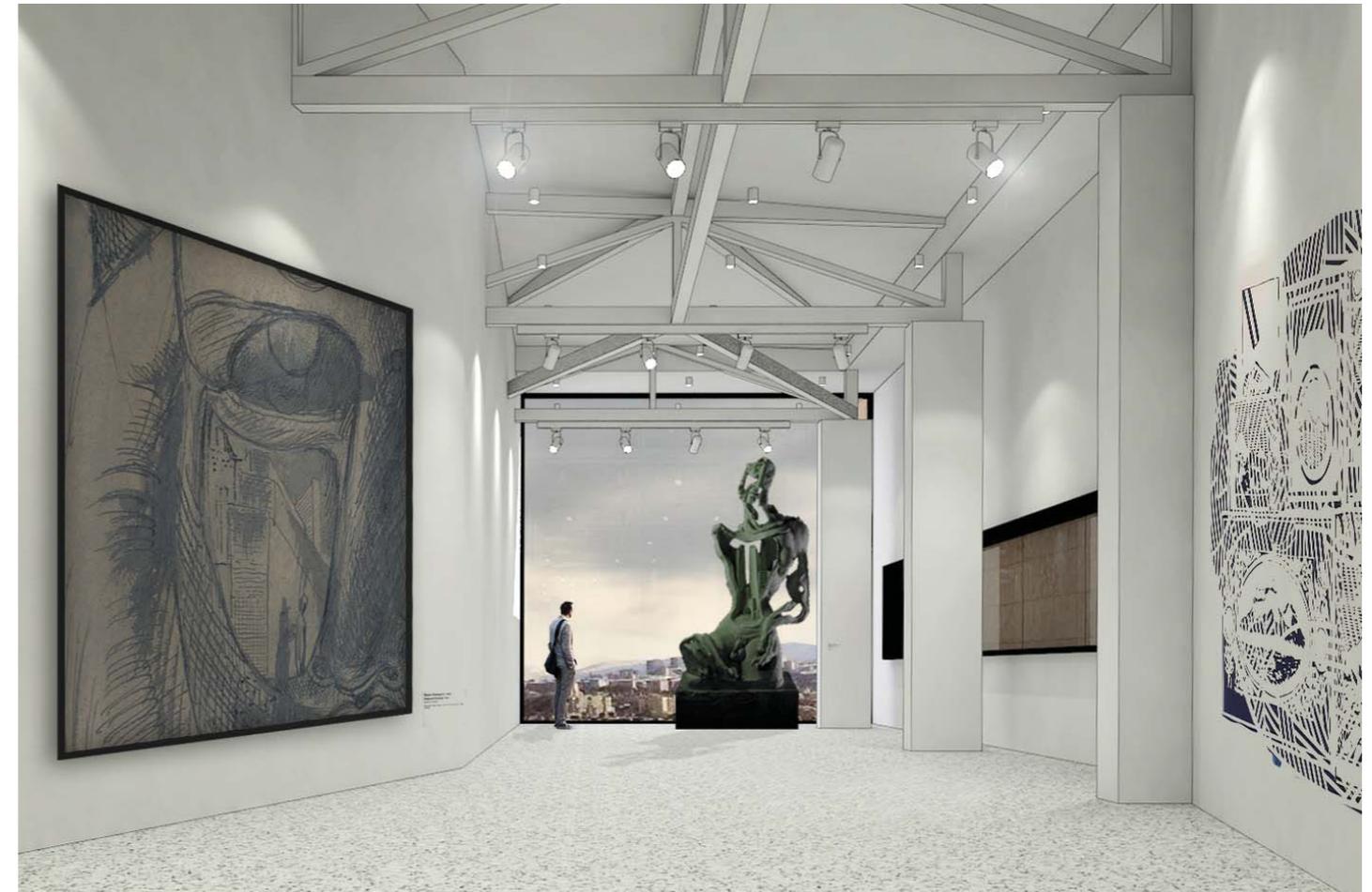
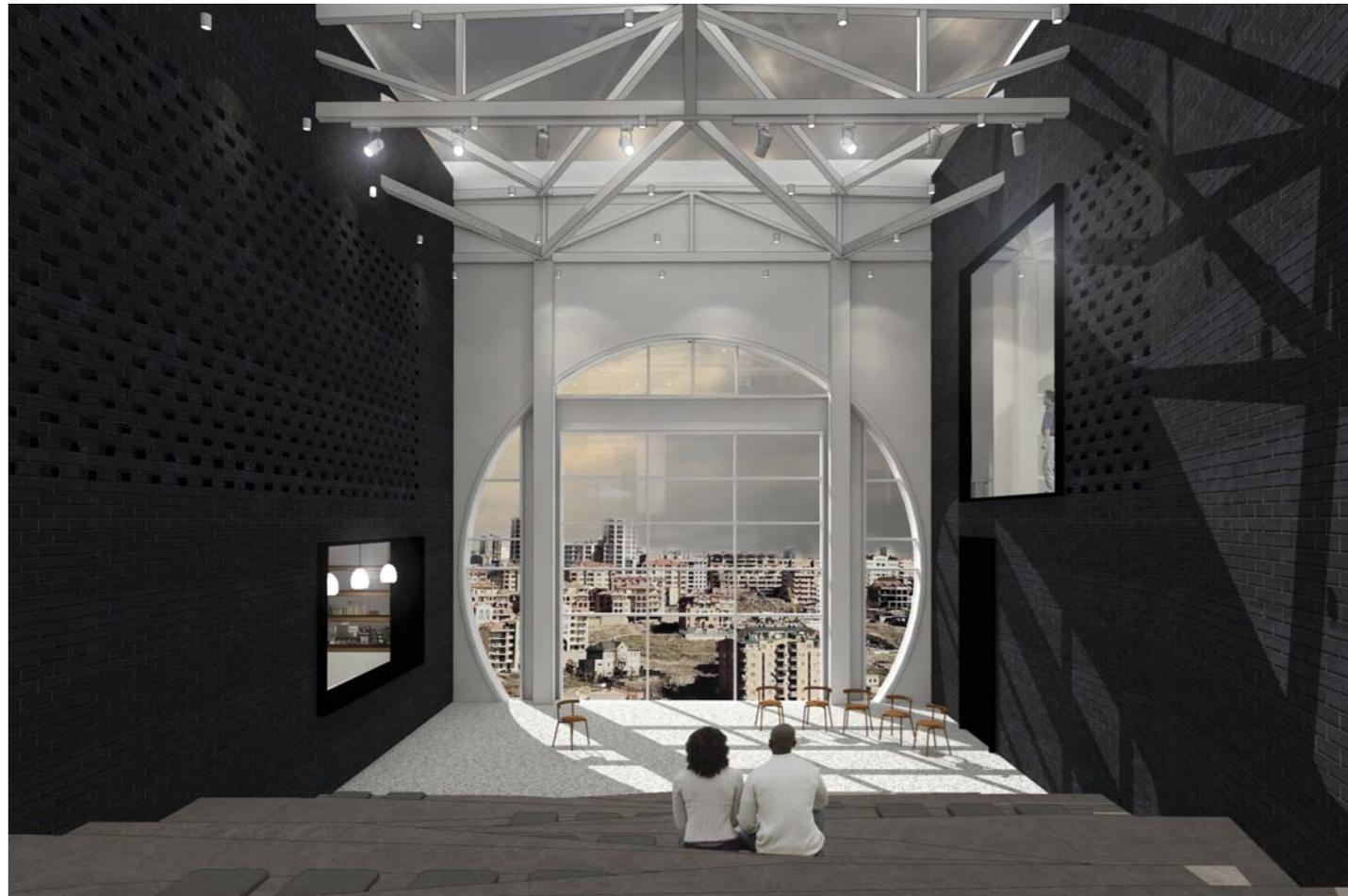
- ◀ South façade perspective
- ▼ West façade

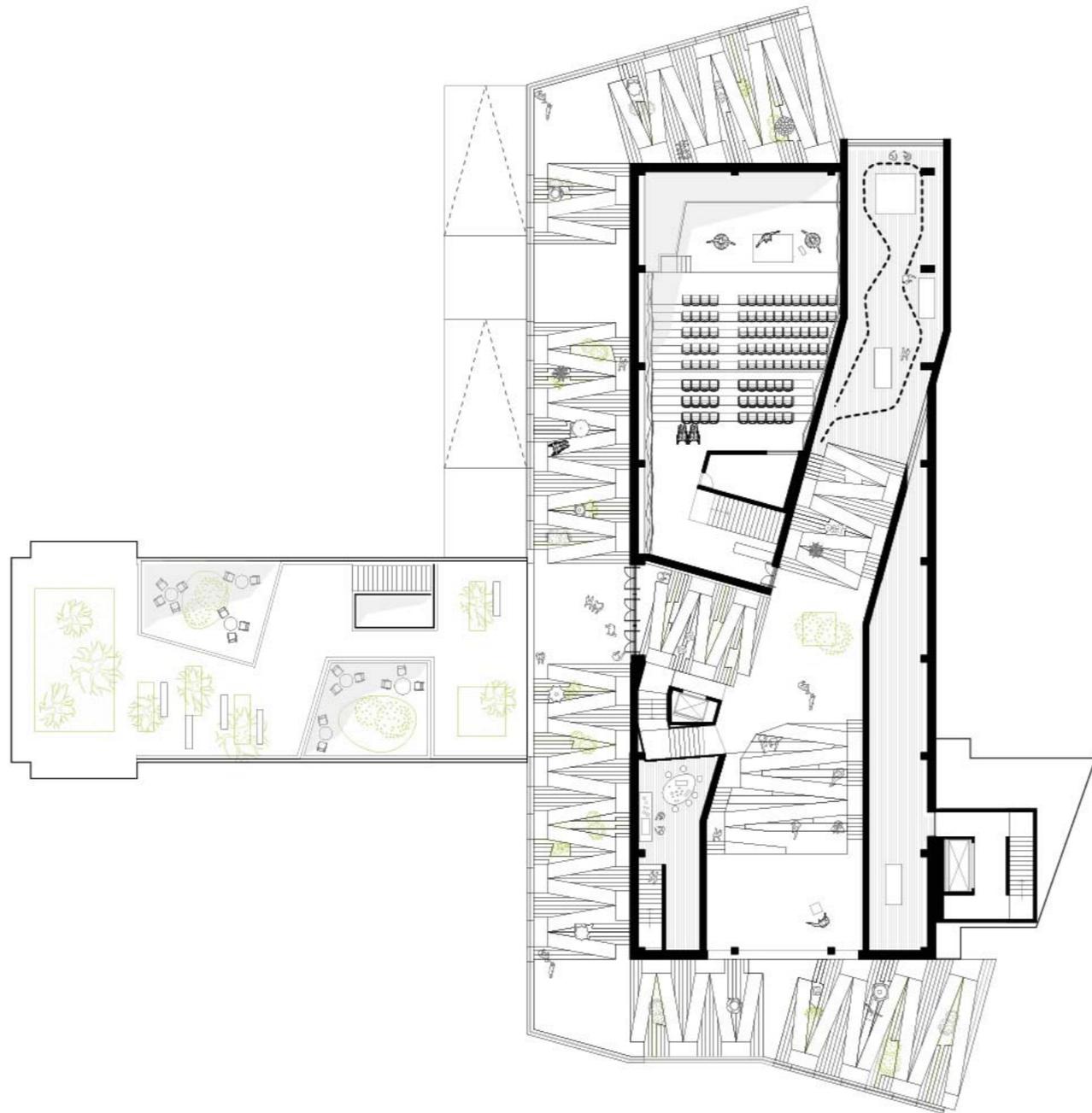


EXPOSURE

The large round window in the South façade becomes an eye towards the rapidly developing city behind. A projection screen in front of the window can be used to expose projections to both the interior and the exterior. A public exhibition hall accessible from the atrium is located in the highest level where the statue Melancholy of Yervand Kochar is exposed to the city while the city is exposed to the visitor from a large square window.

- ◀ Atrium and Lecture Hall
- ▼ North Exhibition Hall





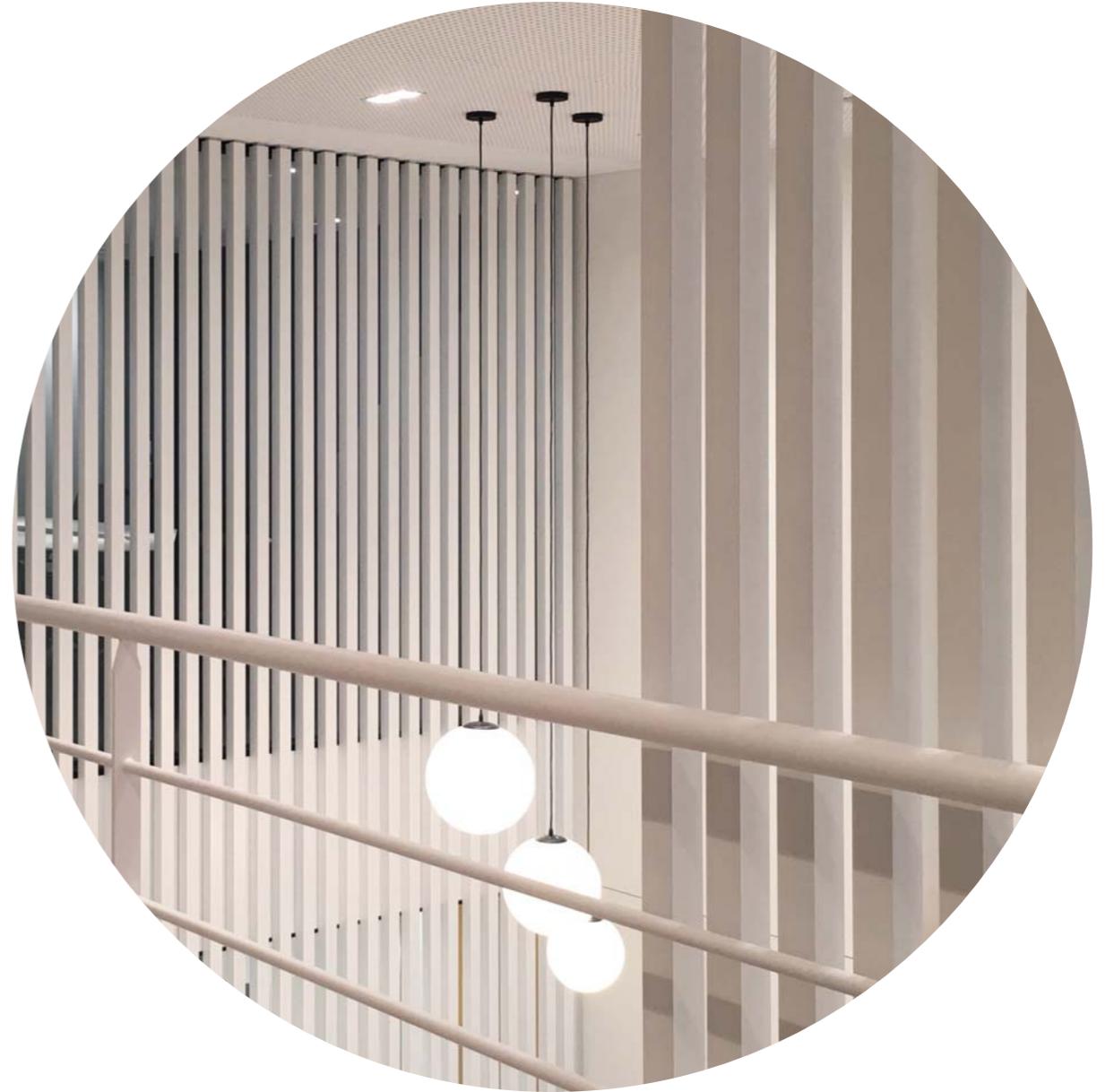
THEATRE

A two levelled theatre is accessed from the atrium. The top floor consists of a ticket check, technical room and balcony with seating while the main seating area, stage, back corridor and dressing room are located on the lower level. The half circle shaped windows on the North façade can be covered or exposed with a full height curtain on the back wall of the stage. This way the space can be adapted for different events in day and night time.

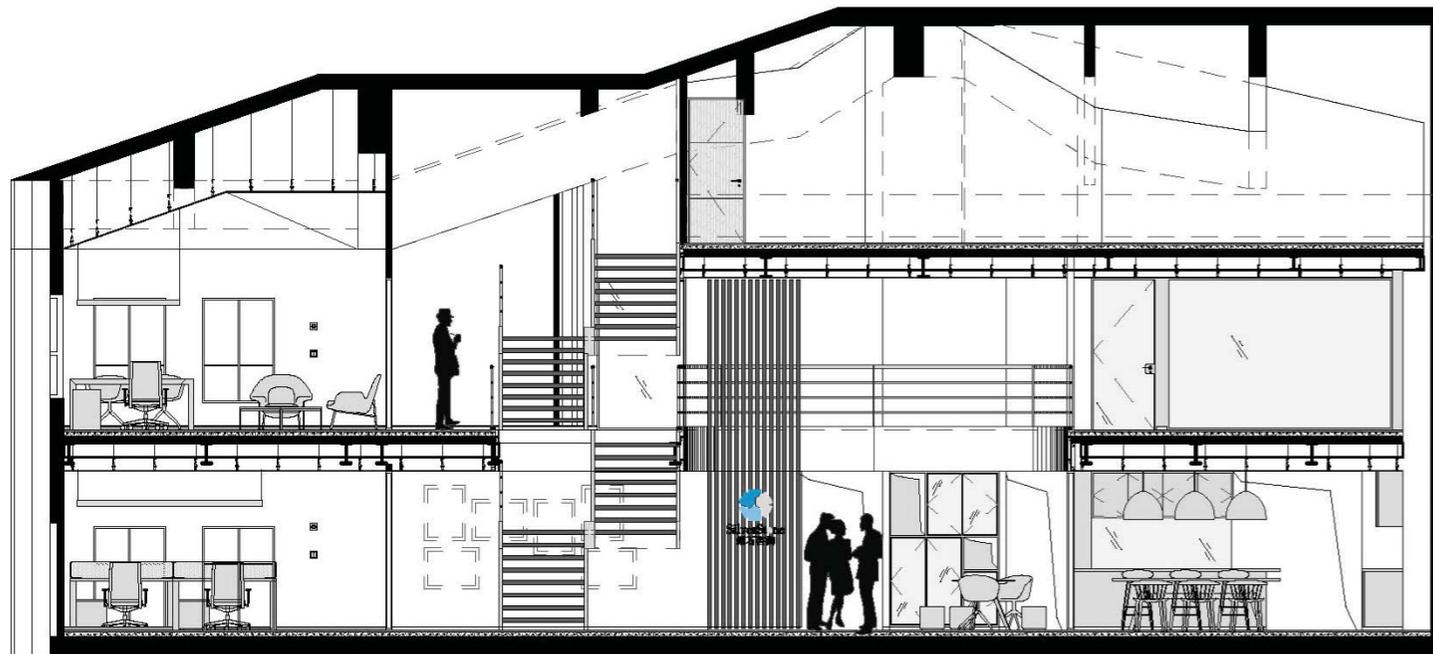
- ◀ Fifth floor plan
- ▼ Theatre perspective



SILVER STONE OFFICE



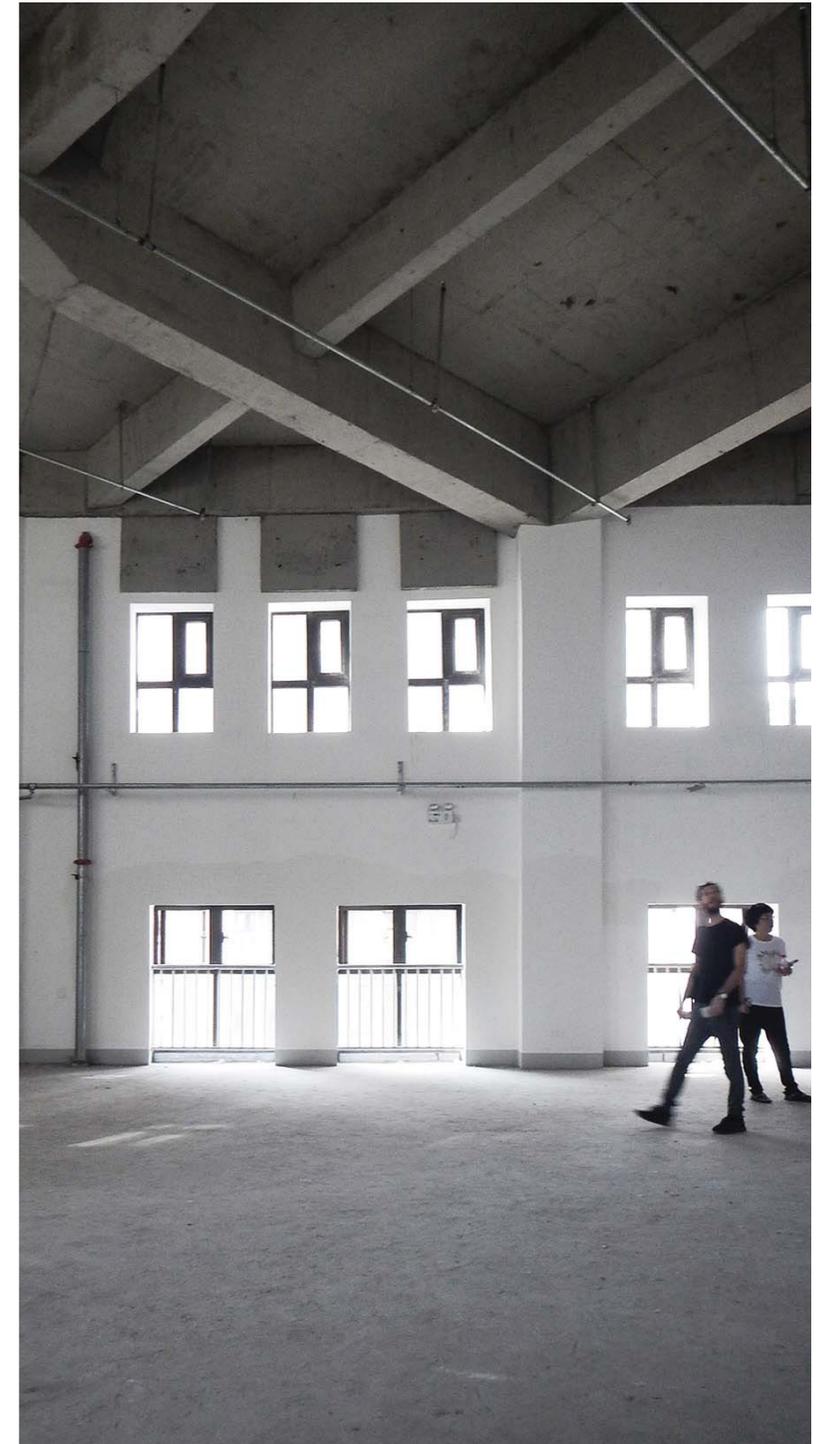
Year: 2019
Client: Silver Stone Consultancy
Program: Office
Size: 1000 m²
Status: Completed
Team: Isabel Driessen, Andrés López, Jacopo Saleri



SILVER STONE OFFICE

A newly built space of 400 square meters with a height variable from 5,6 to 9,0 meters is converted to a 1000 square meter office with 3 different floor levels. Additional floors are created while keeping an open relationship between each of these floors.

- ◀ Section showing the new floor levels
- ▶ Original site condition



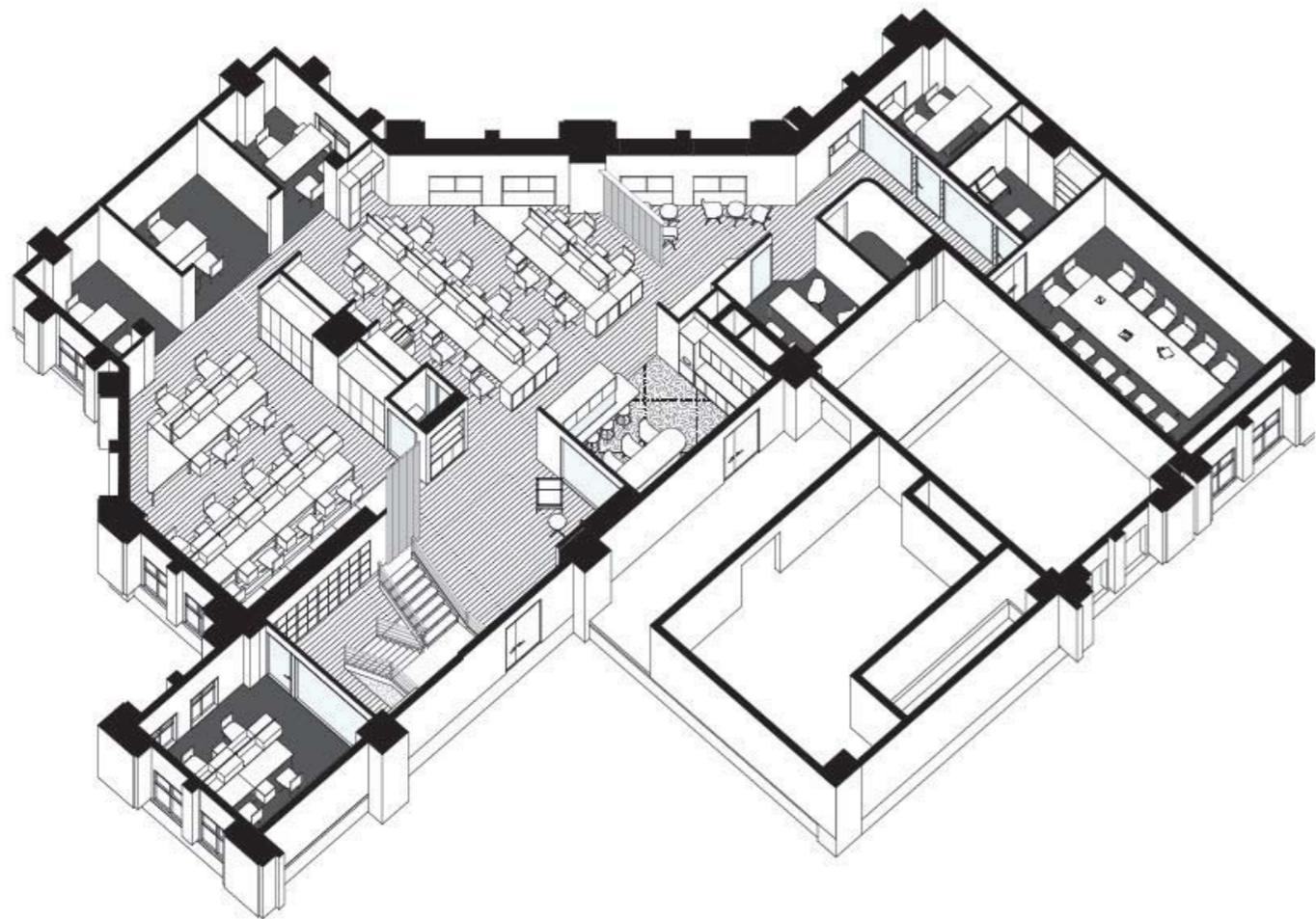


STEEL STRUCTURE

The new floors are constructed out of steel beams and columns. Several options have been studied to optimize the height and floor area while keeping a comfortable ceiling height. A total of 5 different floor levels across the space resulted in a total increase from 400 to 1100 square meters.

Steel beams to support the second floor ◀
Construction of the 3rd floor level ▶

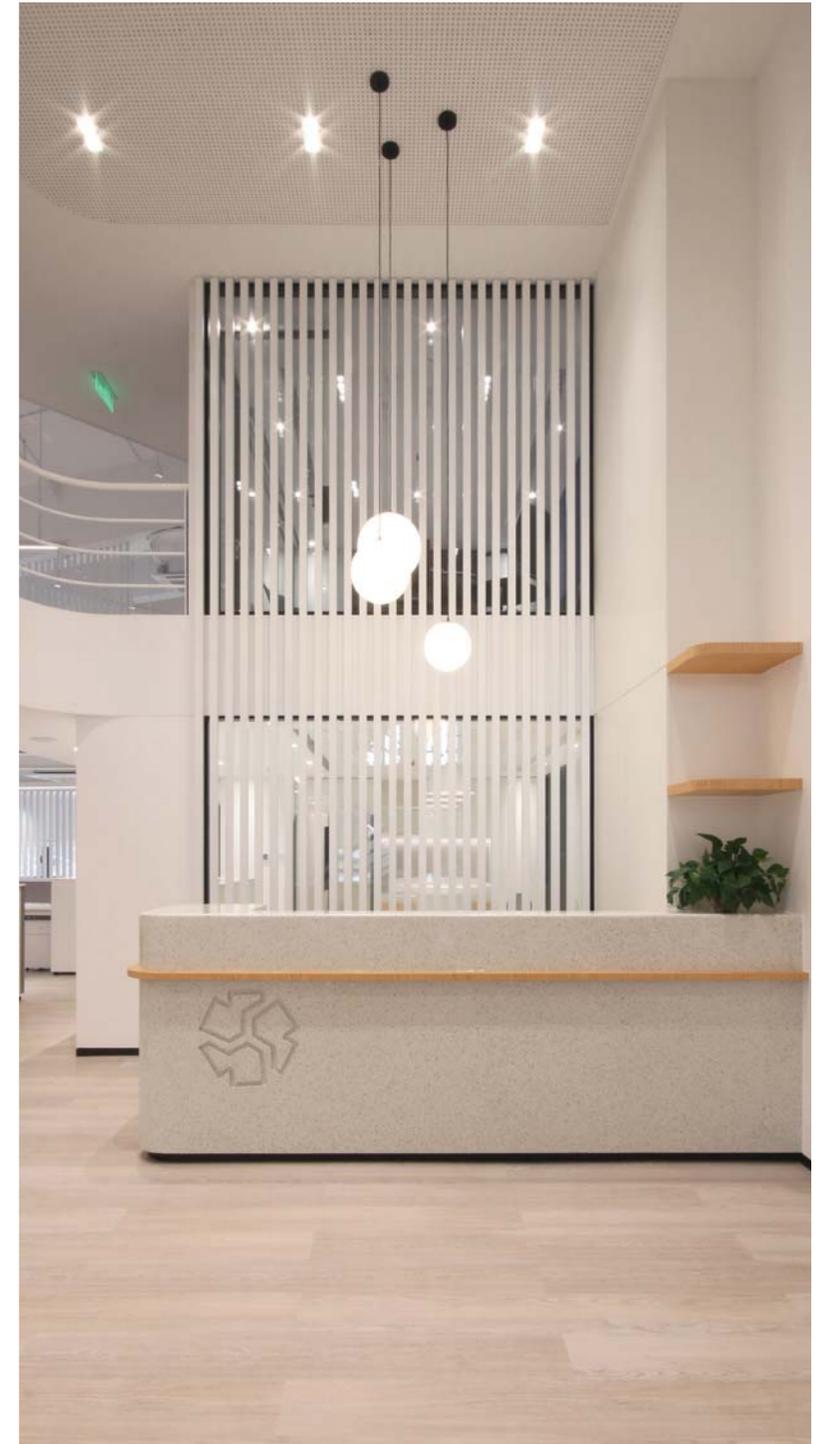




GENERAL ARRANGEMENT

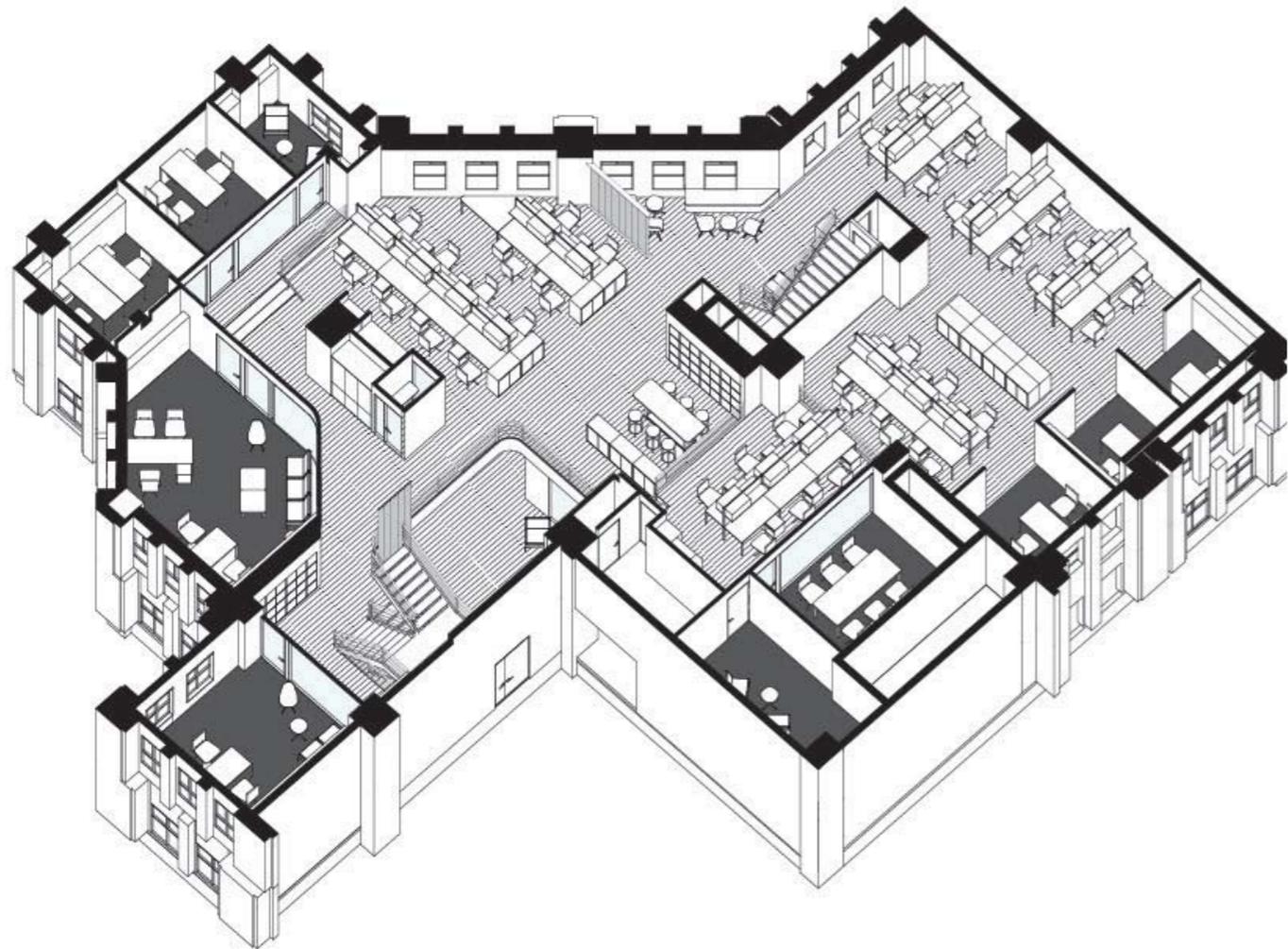
The entrance of the office is on the ground floor level of the space. The main working areas are in an open office arrangement to enhance the natural lighting. Private offices, meeting rooms and supporting functions are located along the perimeter of the space.

- ◀ Ground floor diagram
- ▶ Reception counter





- ◀ Lobby staircase
- ▲ Conference room

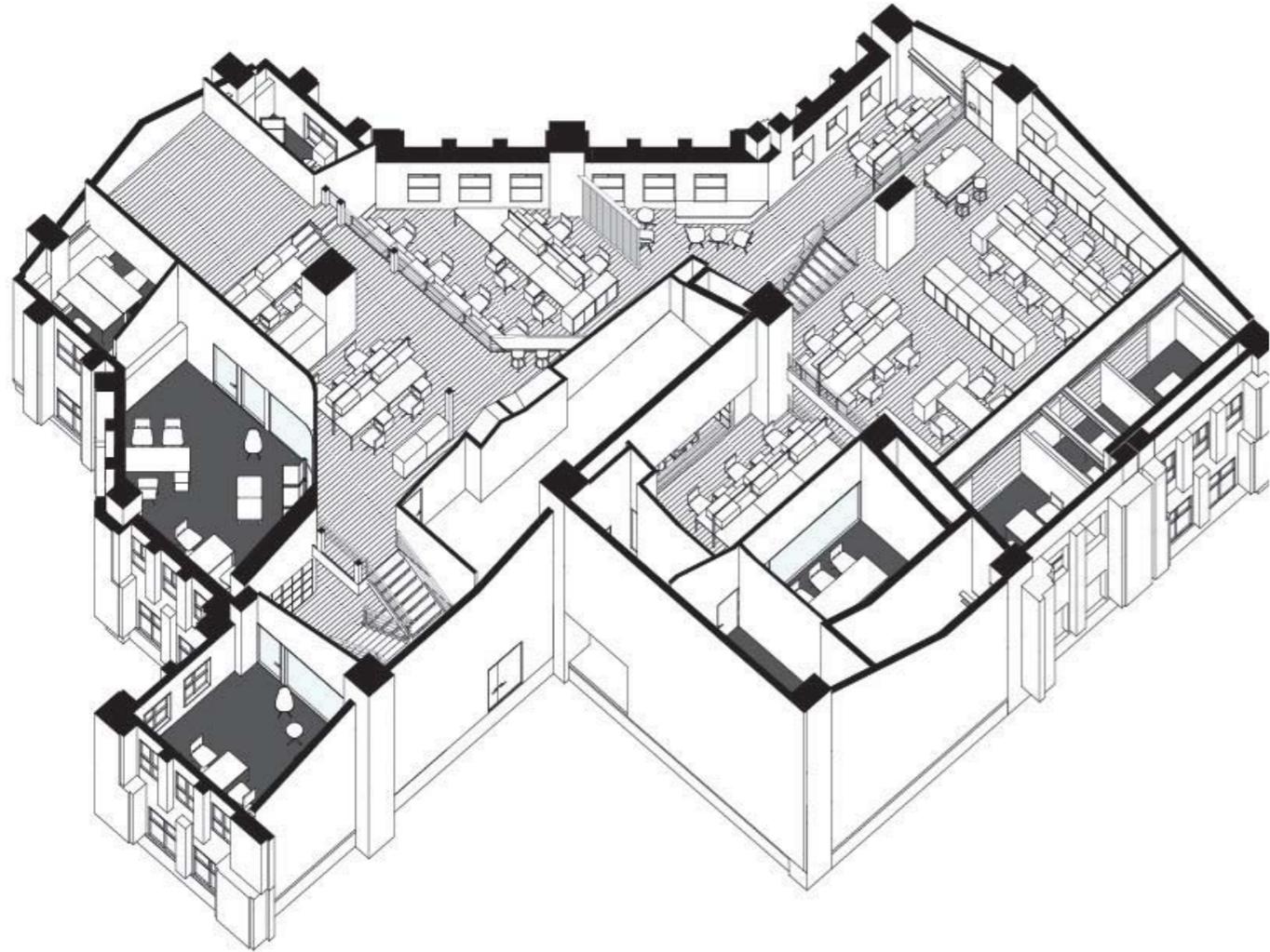


LOBBY

A double height space is created for the lobby to keep an open view to the different floor levels while entering the office space. Public functions like the pantry and a meeting room are visible from the lobby through glass partition walls. A staircase is located right next to the lobby to access to the upper floor levels, while a second staircase creates additional circulation and ensures the fire safety of the new floors.

◀ Second floor diagram

▲ Phone booth and lobby atrium on the second floor

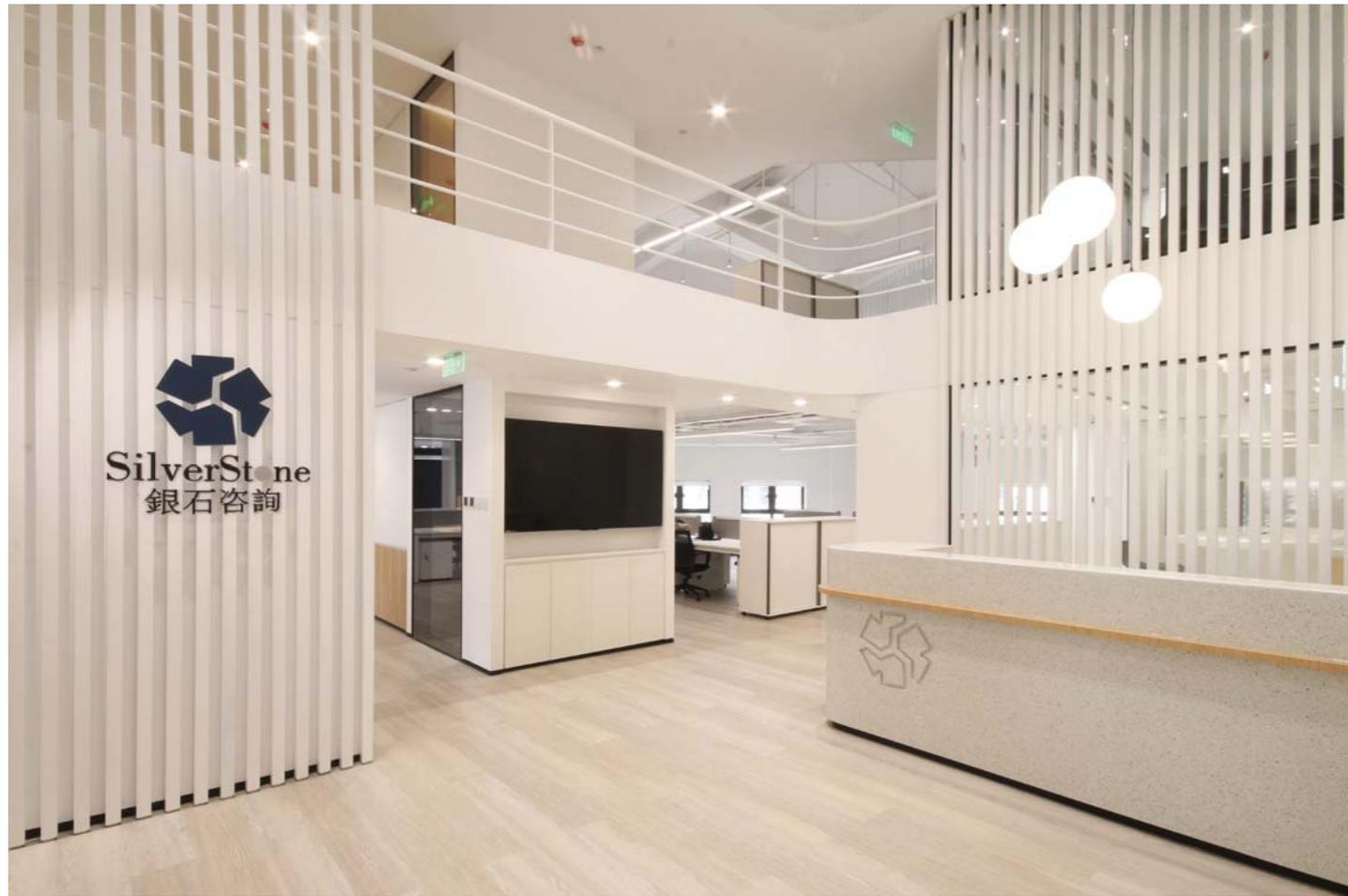


OPEN OFFICE

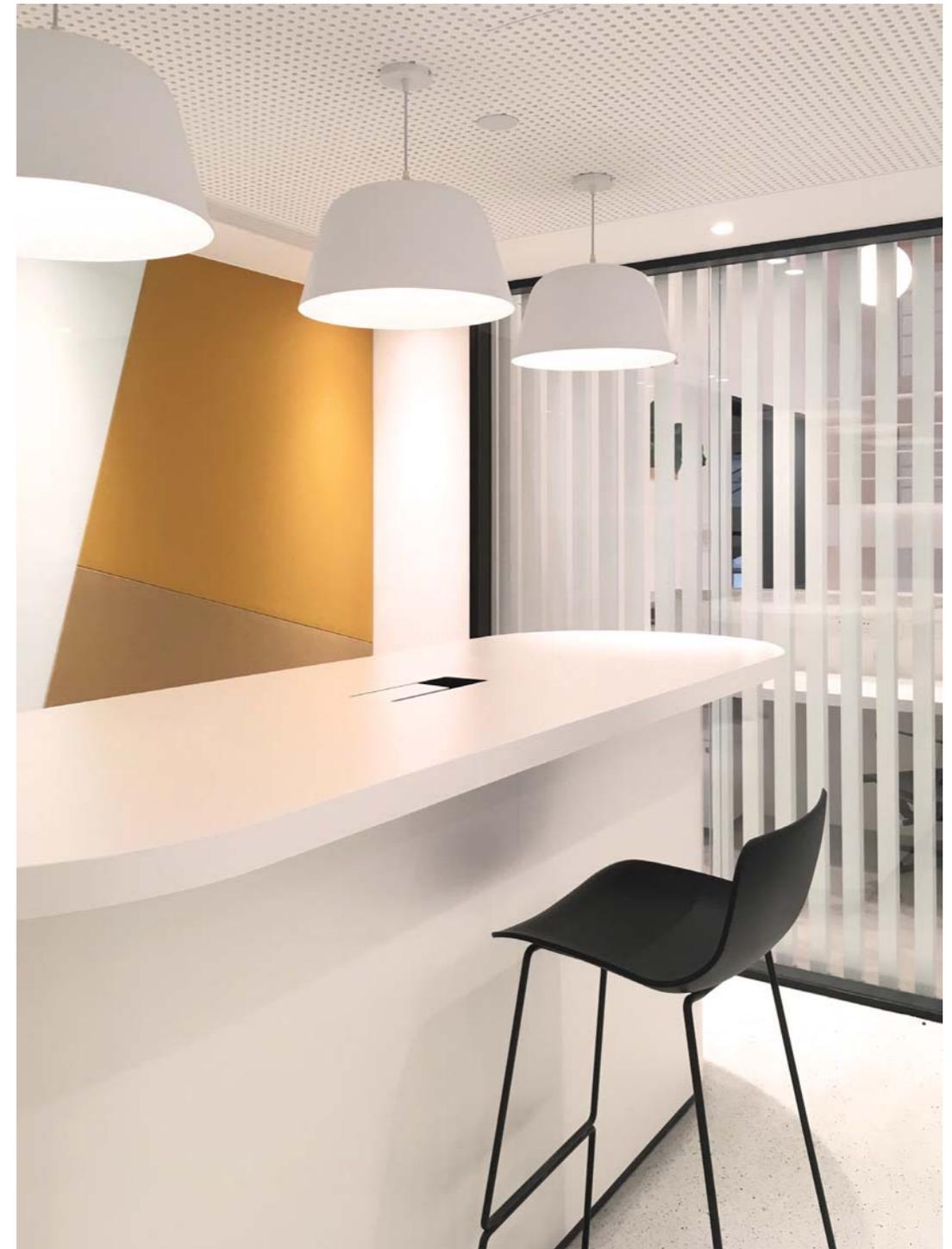
To enhance the natural lighting and ceiling height in the open office areas all of the original roof structure is exposed and painted in white. Light materials are selected in the open areas while coloured fabrics and a dark floor create an enclosed and private atmosphere in the meeting rooms and phone booths.

◀ Third floor diagram

▲ Second floor open office area with view to the third floor



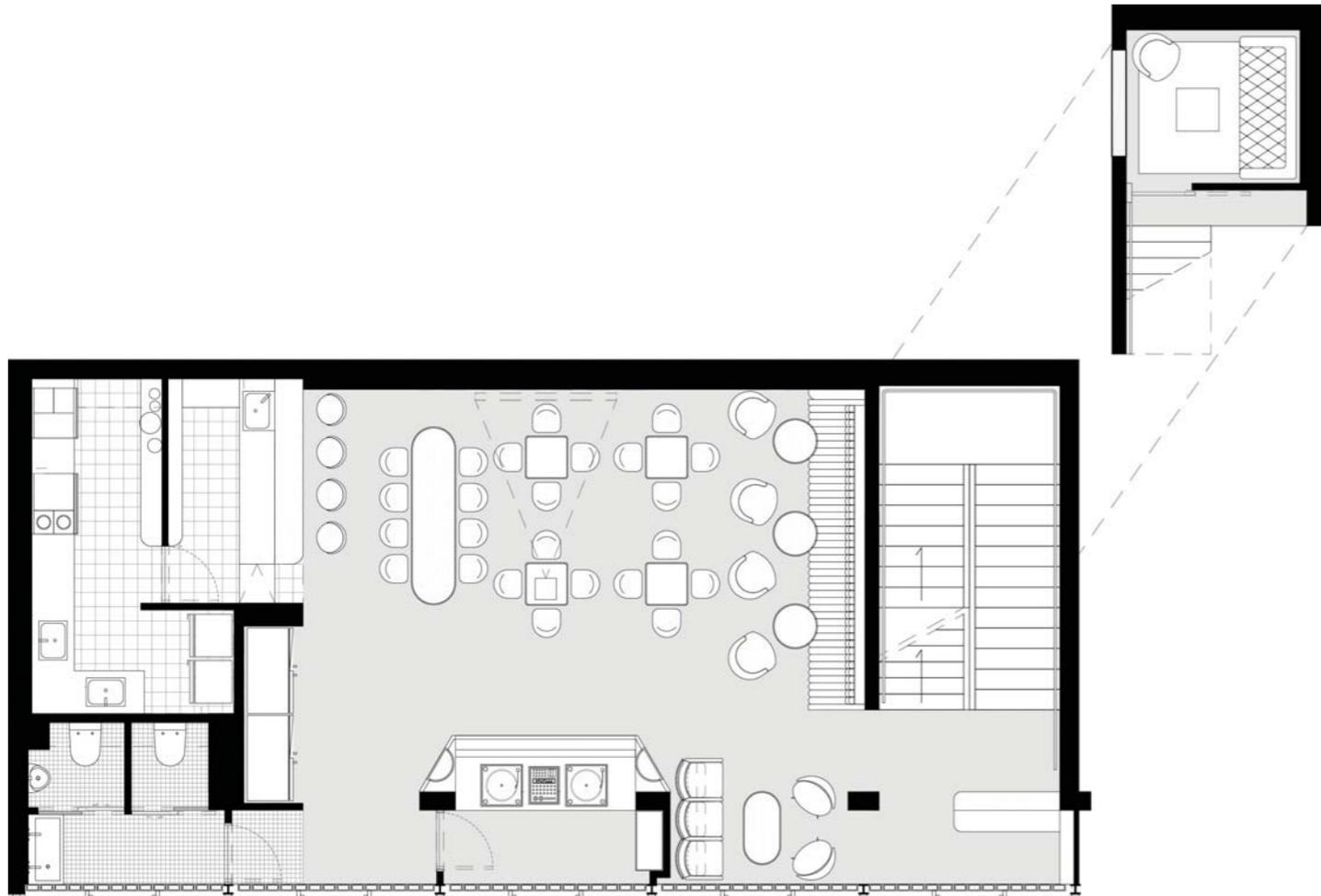
Lobby ▲
Pantry ►



WIGWAM



Year: 2018
Client: Private
Program: Bar
Size: 106 m²
Status: Completed
Team: Andrés López, Isabel Driessen



BAR

Located in Lido, an area of the city with several cultural activities, wigwam aims to be the new music HUB for international DJ'S. The initial approach of the space is to have a venue with functions for screening, dining, drinking, listening to music and dancing; which needed to be fit in a flexible layout.

- ◀ Layout
- ▶ Glass brick facade

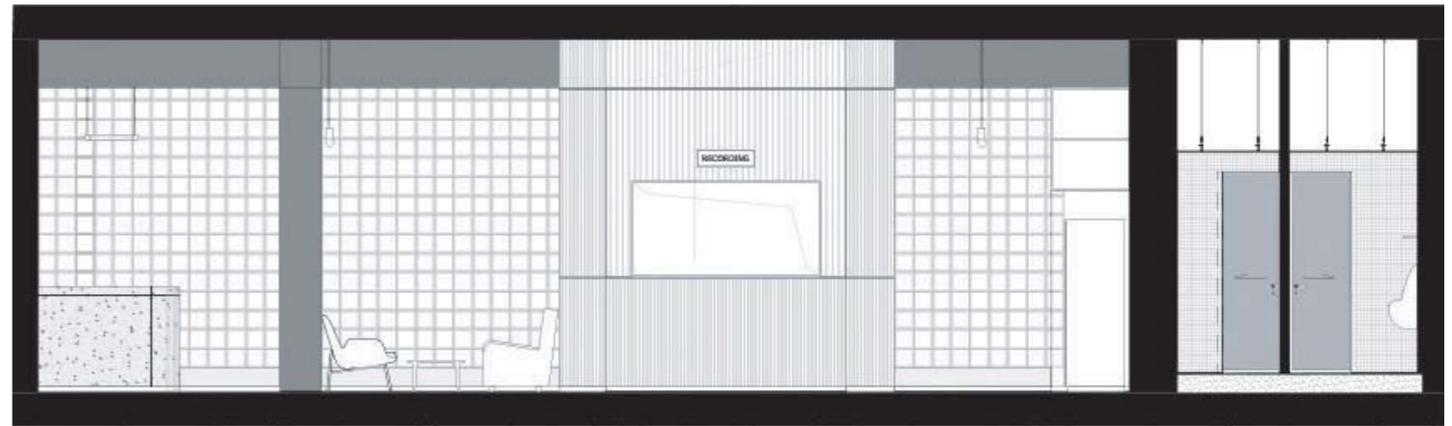


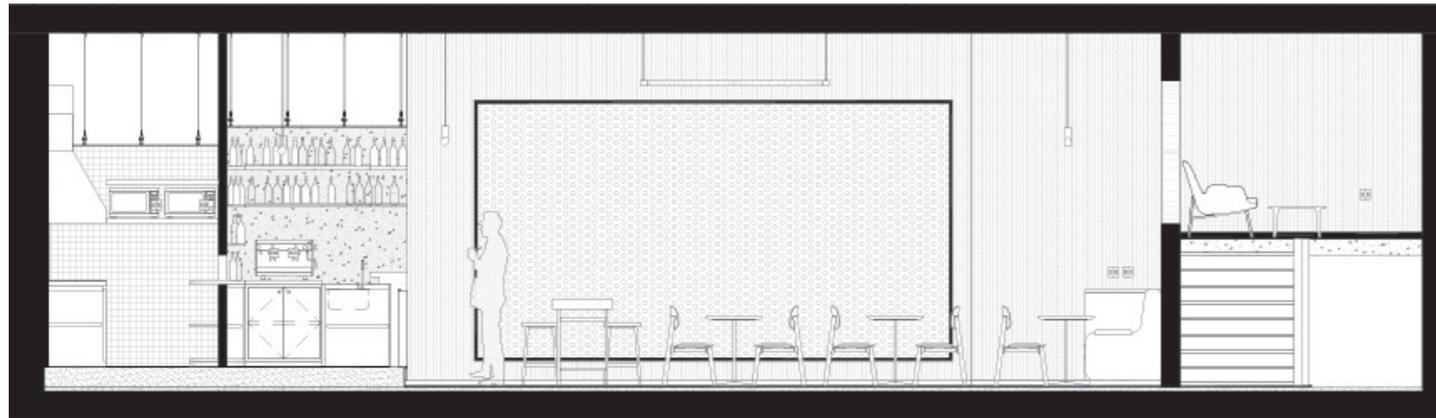
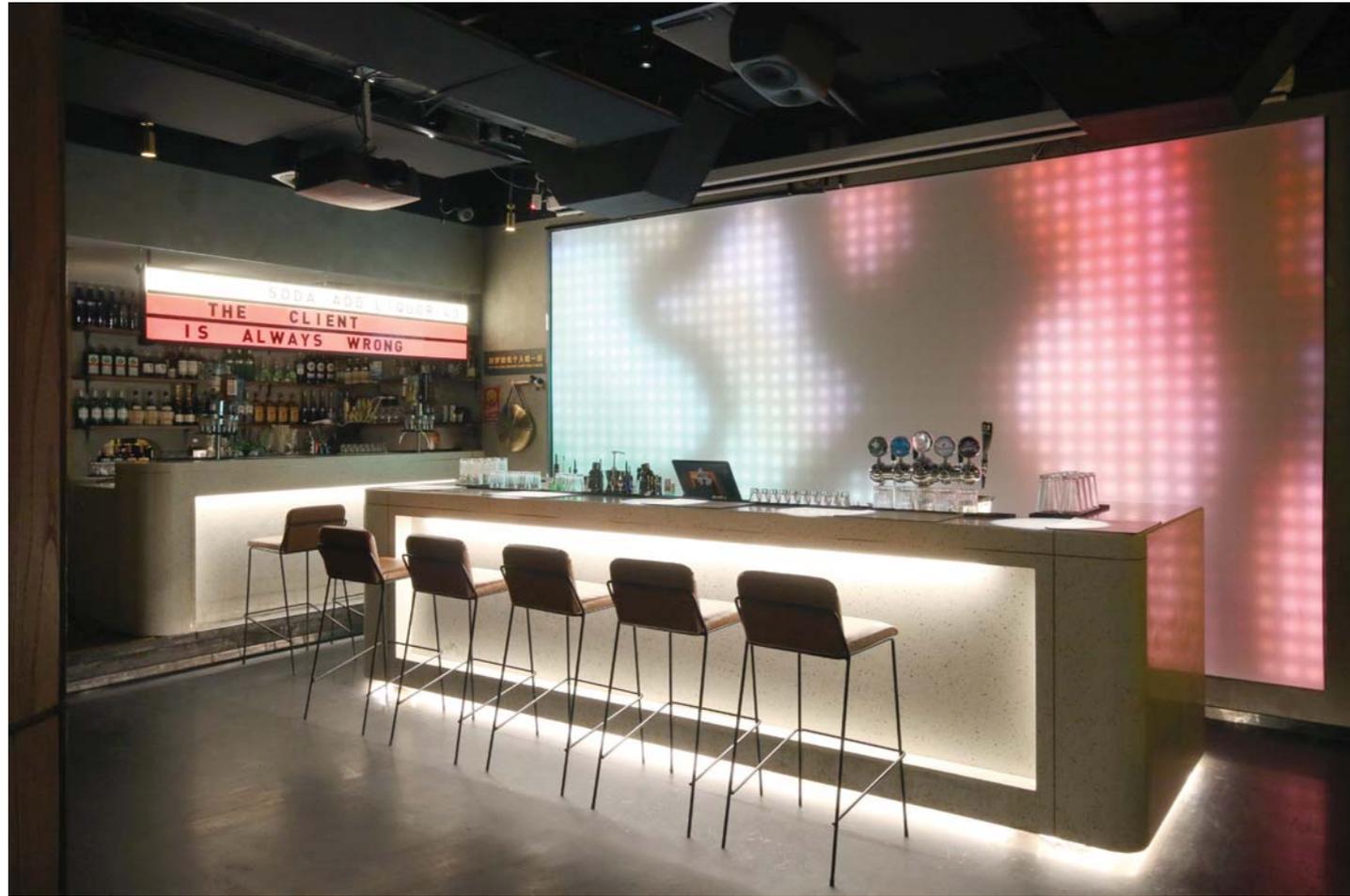


LIGHT AND MUSIC

Light as a design element aims to bring different scenarios in the daytime and the nighttime, therefore a façade with glass bricks will be placed to express the building from the exterior and the interior. The music will come out from a simulated jukebox with the integrated speakers keeping the DJ inside it.

- DJ booth ▲
- Counter detail ◀
- Section South - North ▶





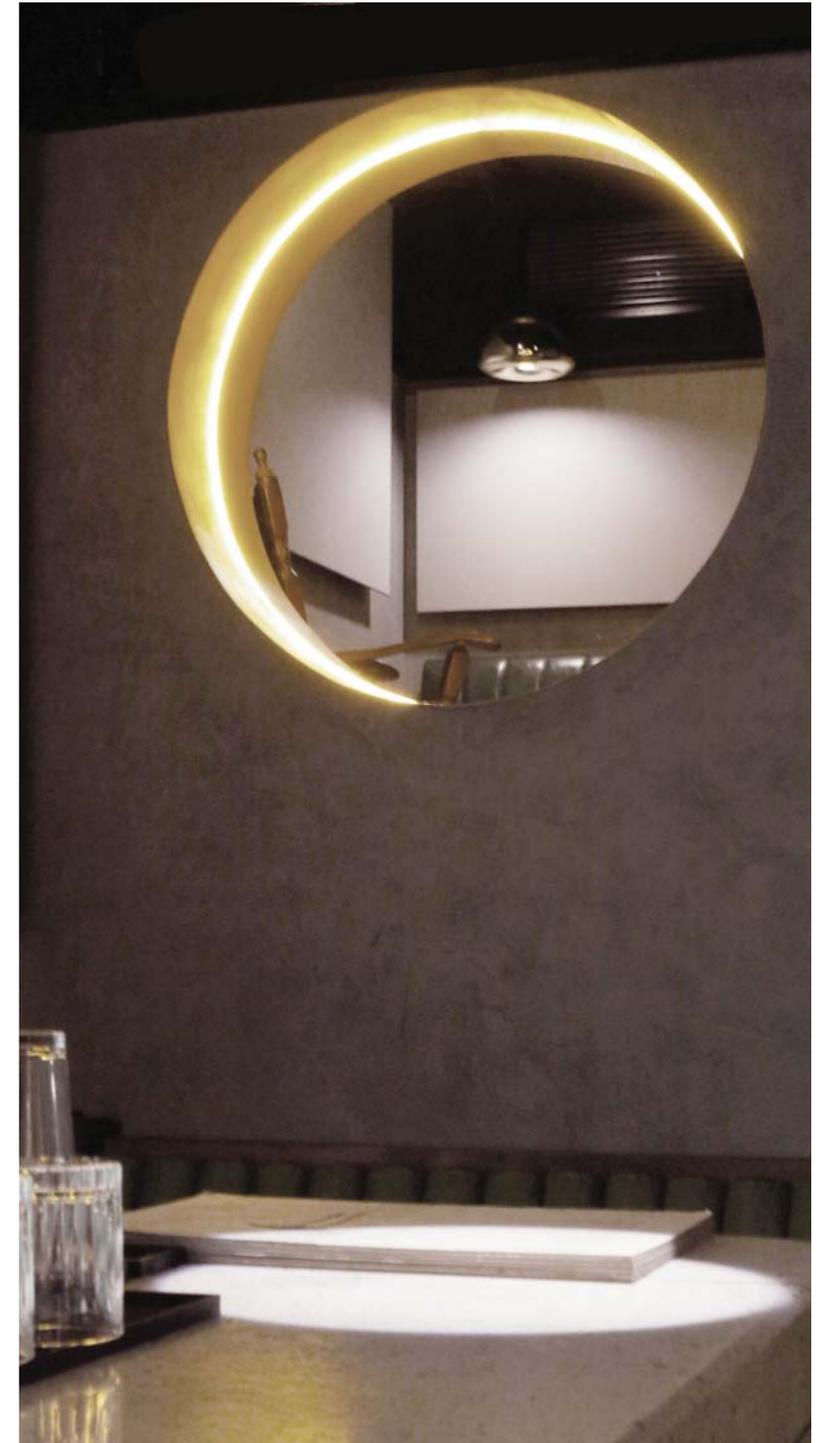
LED SCREEN

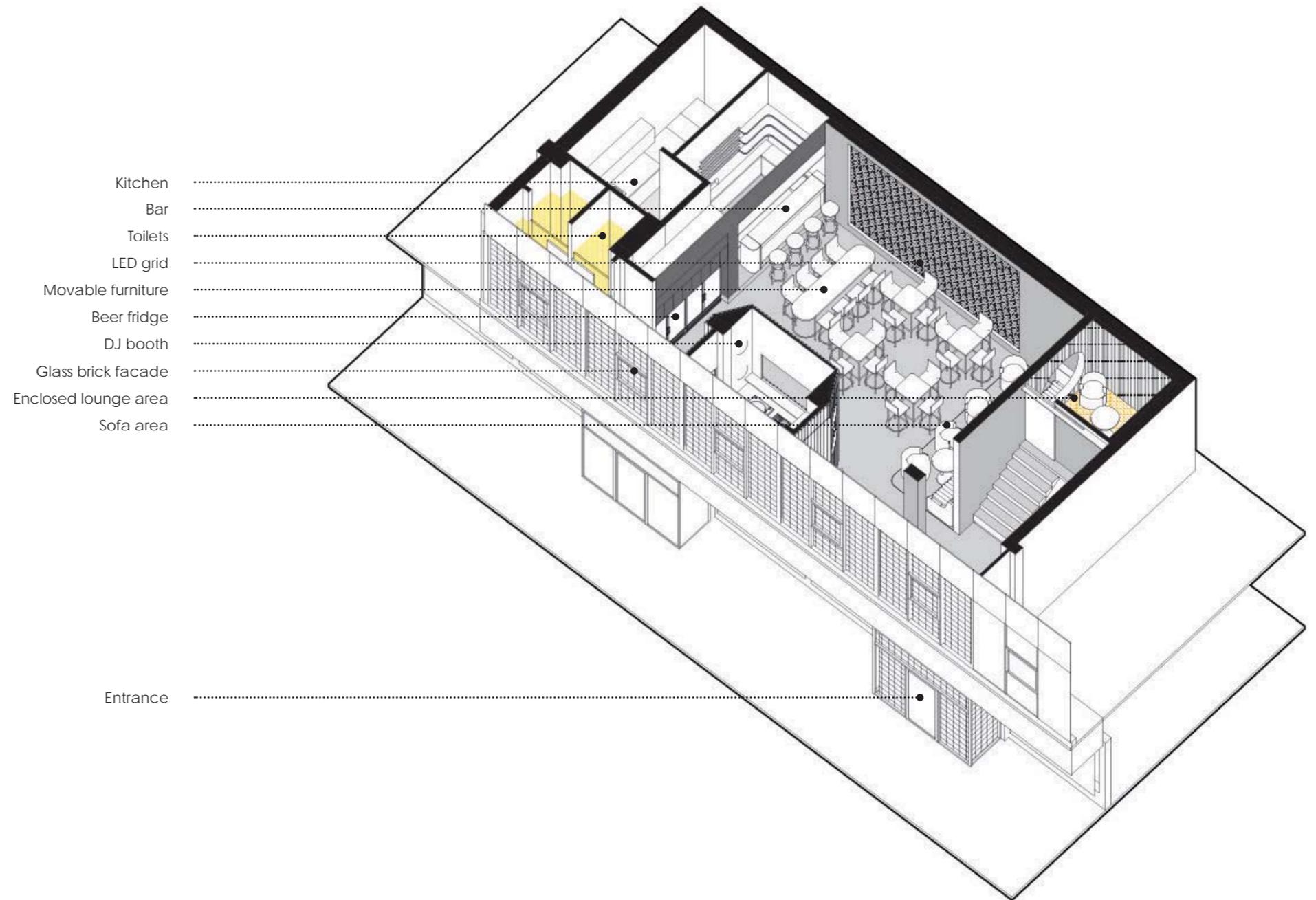
A large LED screen runs along the wall across from the DJ booth and it will create a visual interaction with the music played to increase the experience of the songs.

While not originally planned, a second bar was placed in front of the LED screen to provide more drinks to the public and a fixed seating area along the new bar.

A small storage room above the staircase has been converted to a private lounge from where the music can be enjoyed through a rounded opening connecting the lounge with the main bar area.

- ◀ LED wall and bar counters
- ◀ Section North - South
- ▶ Window to the lounge



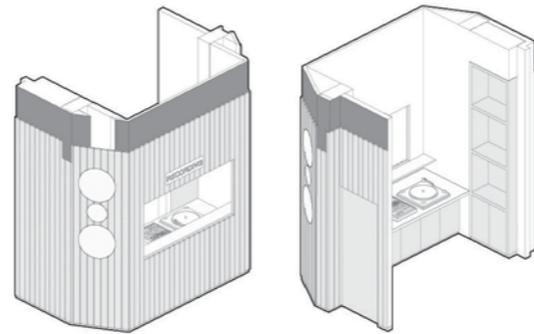




GLOWING BOX

A set of LED strips along the bar counters, window and facades will complement the LED wall to create a full lighting atmosphere inside the bar expressing the interior to the exterior as a glowing box. All the sound control, music and video controls will be managed from the DJ booth. A projector and large screen are integrated in the design to allow video screening and visual effects during special events en parties.

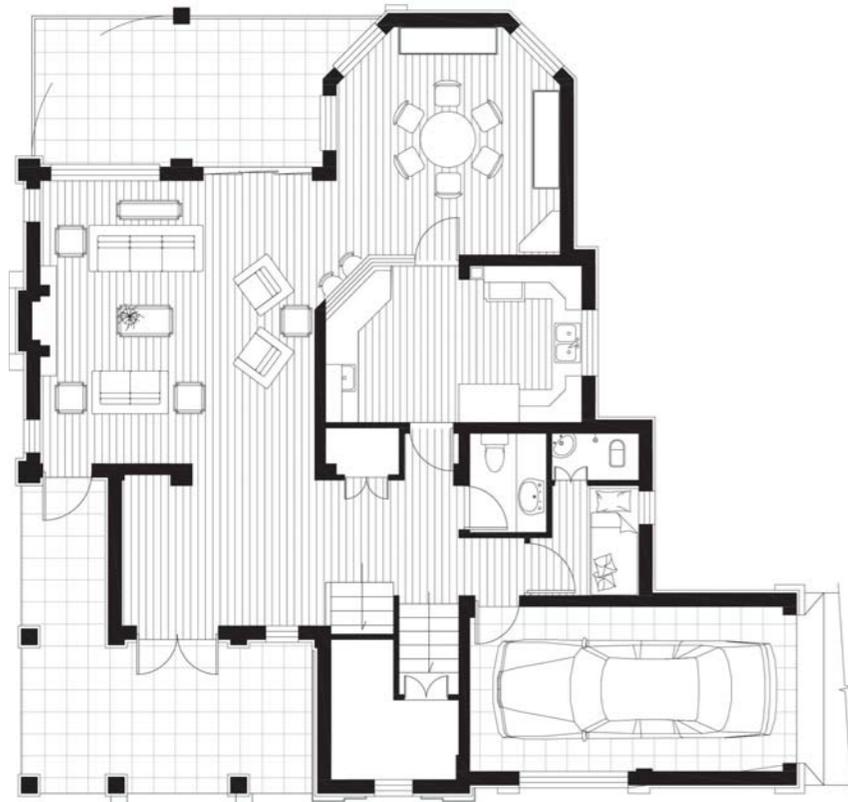
- The bar under construction ◀
- Bar counter and lounge window ▶
- DJ booth diagram ▼



VILLA HOTEL



Year: 2019
Client: Private
Program: Guesthouse
Size: 650 m²
Status: Under construction
With: Jing Bei Ji
Team: Andrés López, Isabel Driessen



VILLA HOTEL

2 hours North-West of Beijing a newly constructed villa has been acquired by a family who wishes to double it in size and convert the villa into a guesthouse. The original villa has space for 5 bedrooms and will be extended to fit 9 guestrooms and several public spaces. The villa is close to the mountains and therefore a welcome place to escape from the busy and polluted city of Beijing.

- ◀ Original groundfloor plan
- ▶ Building extension under construction





EXTENSIONS

It is not allowed to build an additional building on the site, and therefore all additional area has to be attached to the original house. To make sure each space has sufficient daylight operable glass partitions have been placed in the central public area to keep a strong connection with the outdoors.

Public area with extended glass house ◀
 New groundfloor plan with extensions ▶



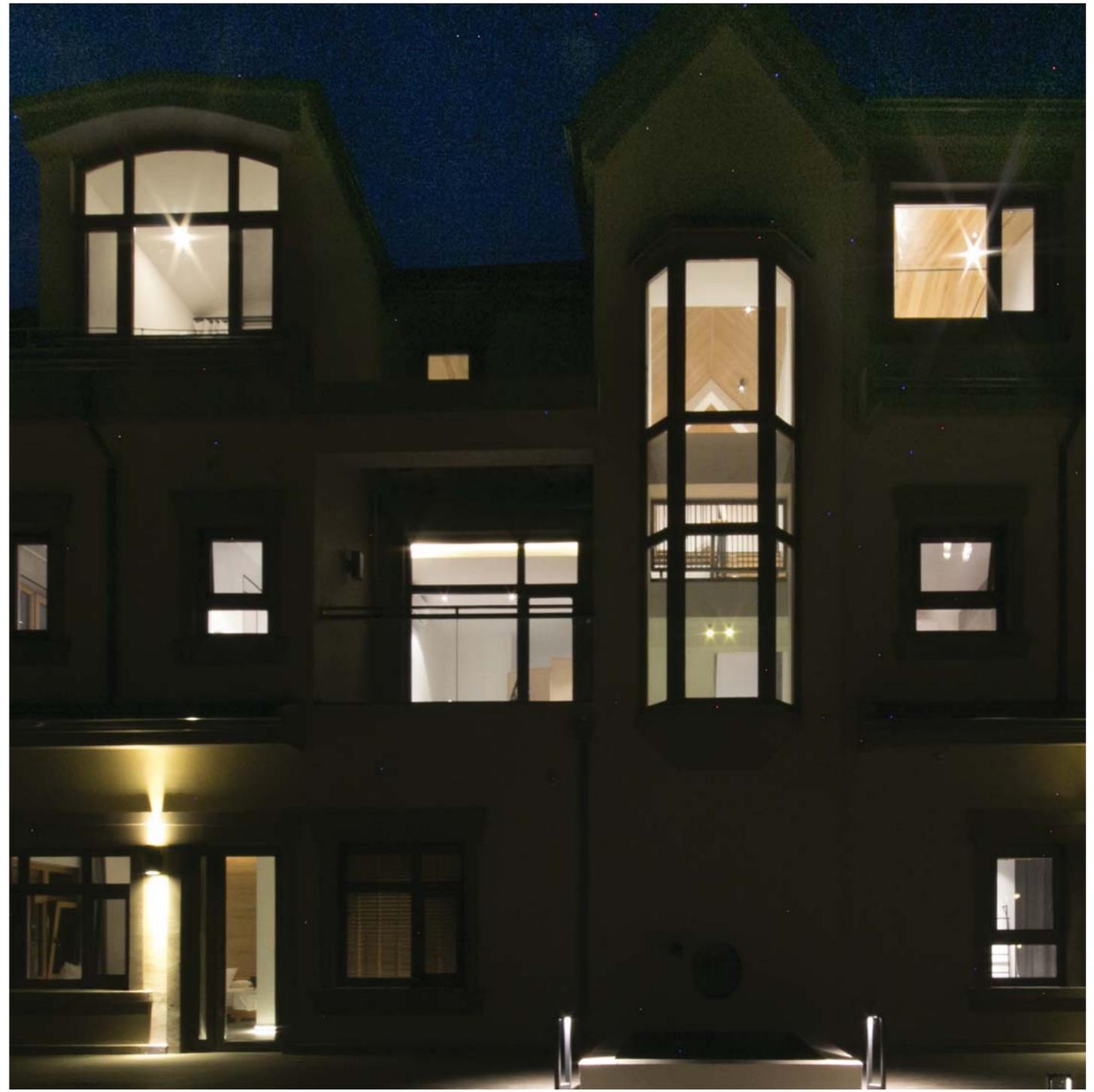


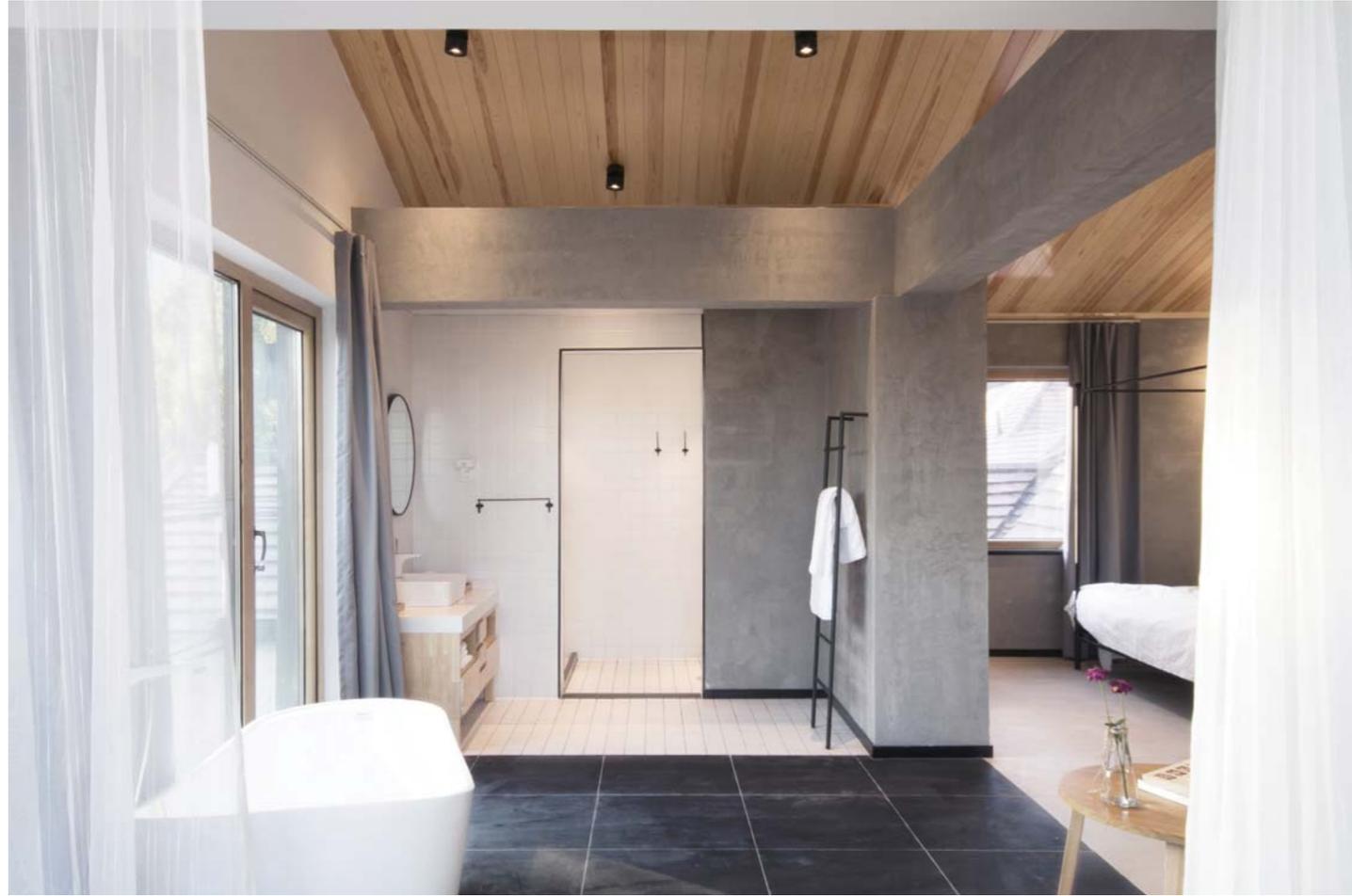
Public area with extended glass house ▲
Kitchen and reception counter with operable windows ►





South Elevation ▲
South Facade ►



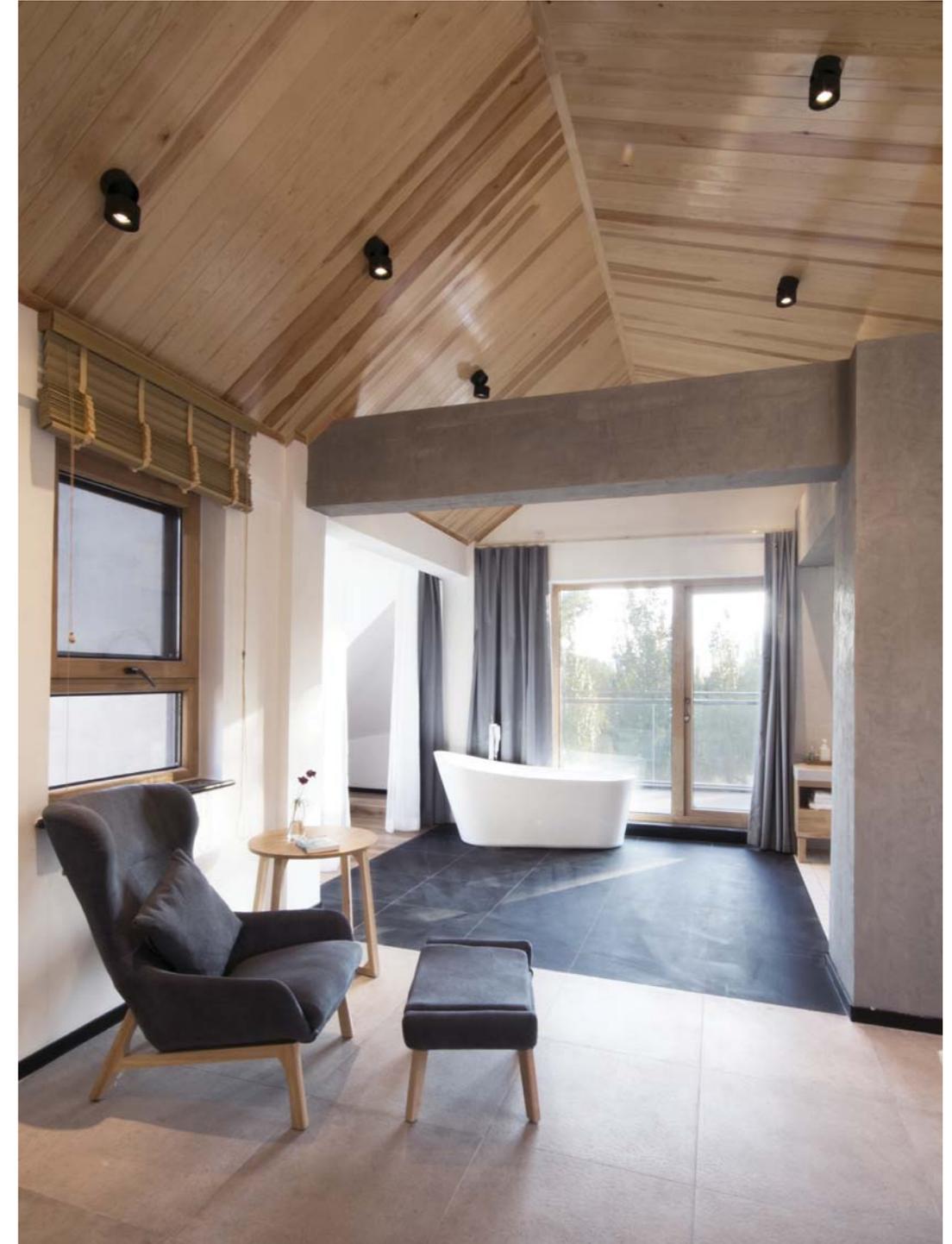


GUESTHOUSE

The 9 rooms are divided over 3 floors and every the rooms has a private terrace to enjoy the mountain view and fresh air. Each room has an extended bathroom and is designed to escape the hectic of the everyday city life in Beijing. The private rooms are located along the facade to optimize the view and accessible from the public areas are in the center of each floor.

Room 301 bathing area ▲

Room 301 with private terrace and mountain view ►





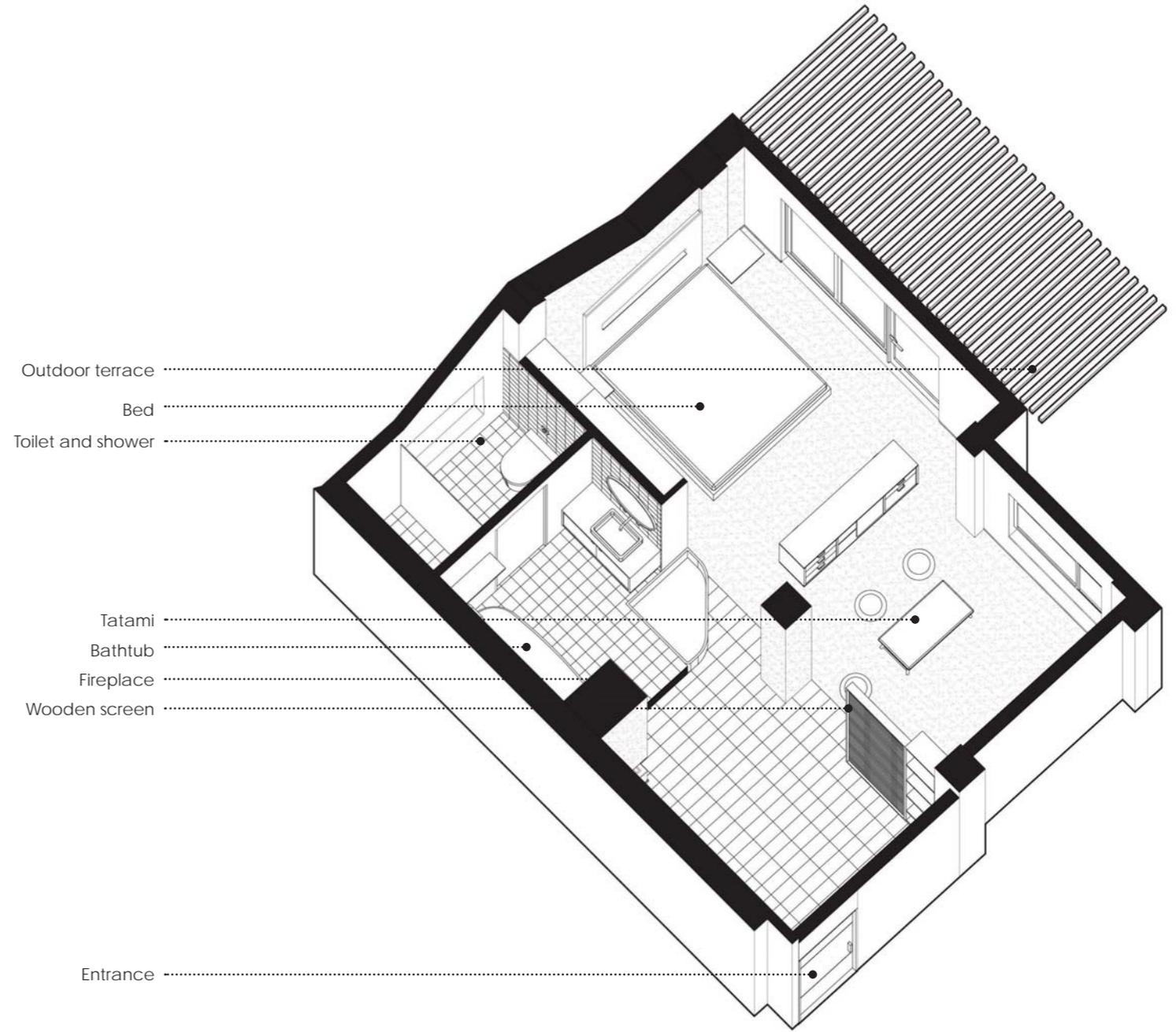
PUBLIC AREAS

Beside the spacious rooms every floor has a public area where the guests can meet each other, read and relax. All the rooms are directly accessible from the public spaces to create a home-like feeling and avoid long corridors as found in common hotels.

- ◀ Public library on the second floor
- ▲ Room 201 on the second floor

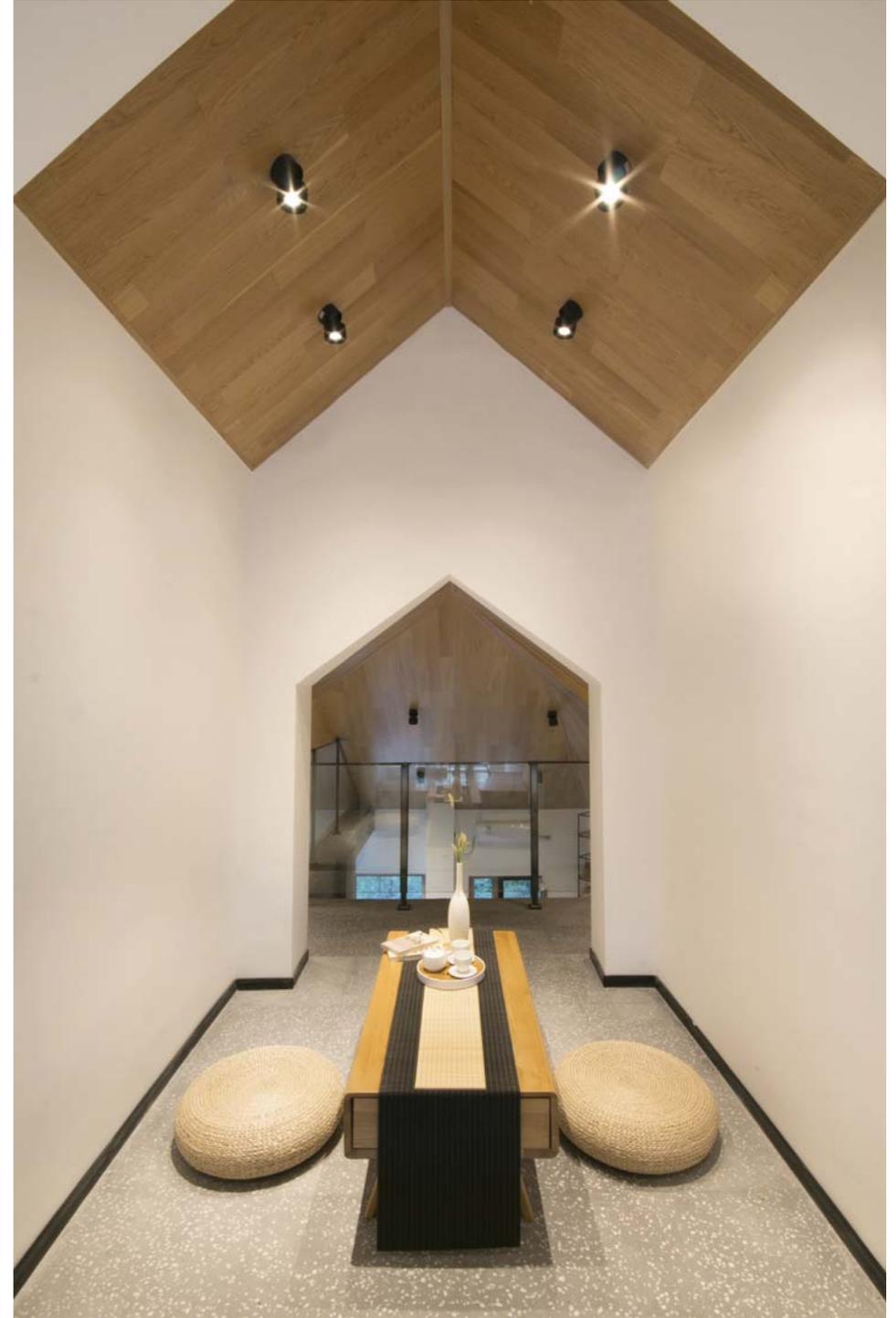


Bathroom detail ◀
Room 202 diagram ▶





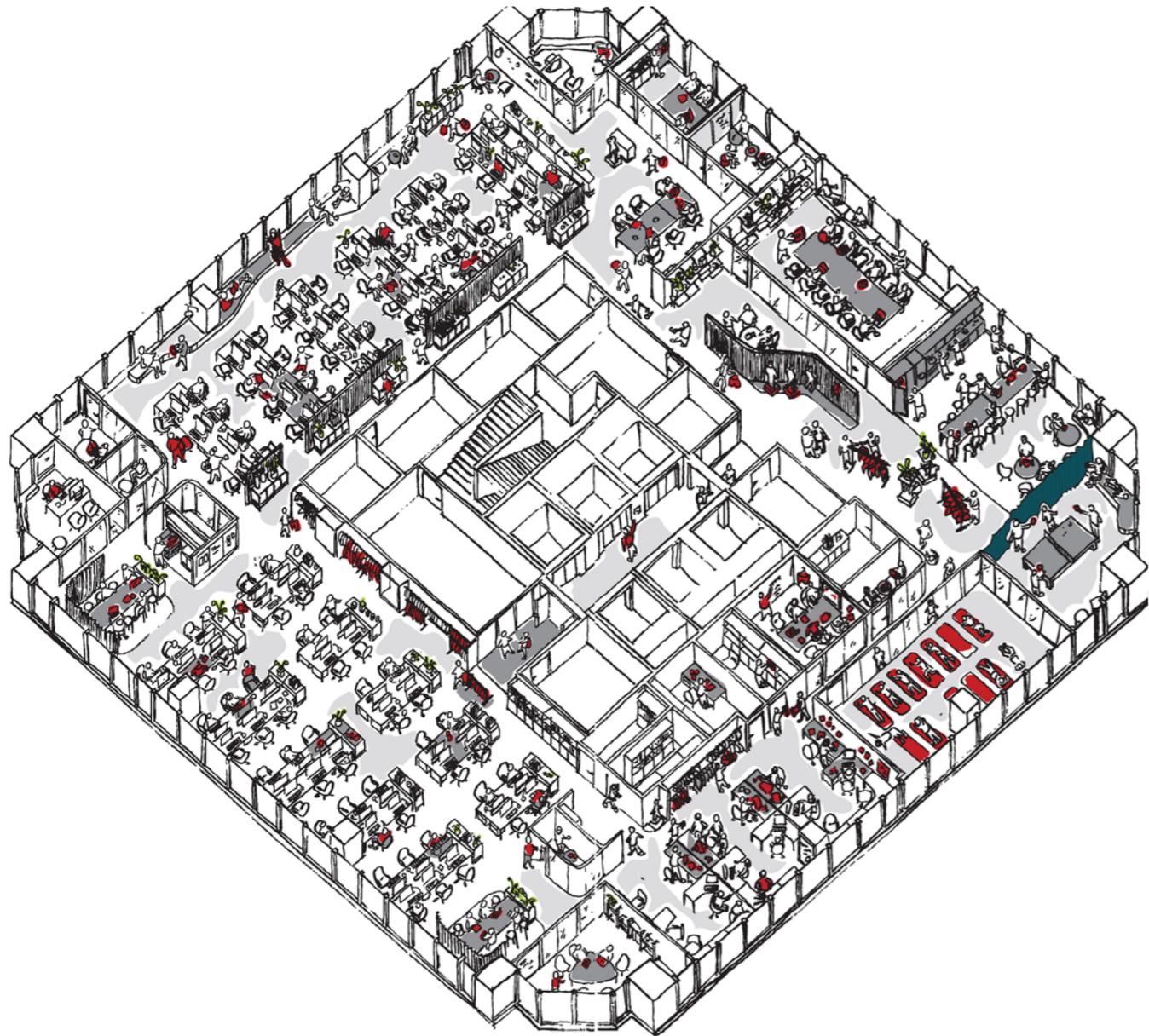
Room 204 ▲
Public tea area on the third floor ►



LULULEMON OFFICE



Year: 2018
Client: Lululemon
Program: Office
Size: 1000 m²
Status: Completed
With: Mi2
Team: Andrés López, Isabel Driessen



LULULEMON

A 1000m² office floor is created for the Asia Pacific headquarters of Lululemon, a yoga clothing brand from Canada.

At the office, various departments will work on different scopes of work related to clothing design and retail. Each of the departments has its own requirements regarding the spacial arrangement and functionality.

The workflow will also contain a variety of additional functions for the employees, like a yoga room, shower room, massage and meditation rom, gym, café and a mockup store.

- ◀ Arrangement sketch
- ▶ Existing site condition





MATERIALS

Inspiration for the material selection is found in the fabrics used for the clothes. The selected colour palette represents the brand and the atmosphere of Lululemon. White, gray and black materials are balanced with wood to create a warm and comfortable working environment.

Logo wall ◀
Material board ▶



Slate white



Red



Dark grey



Speckled black



Concrete floor



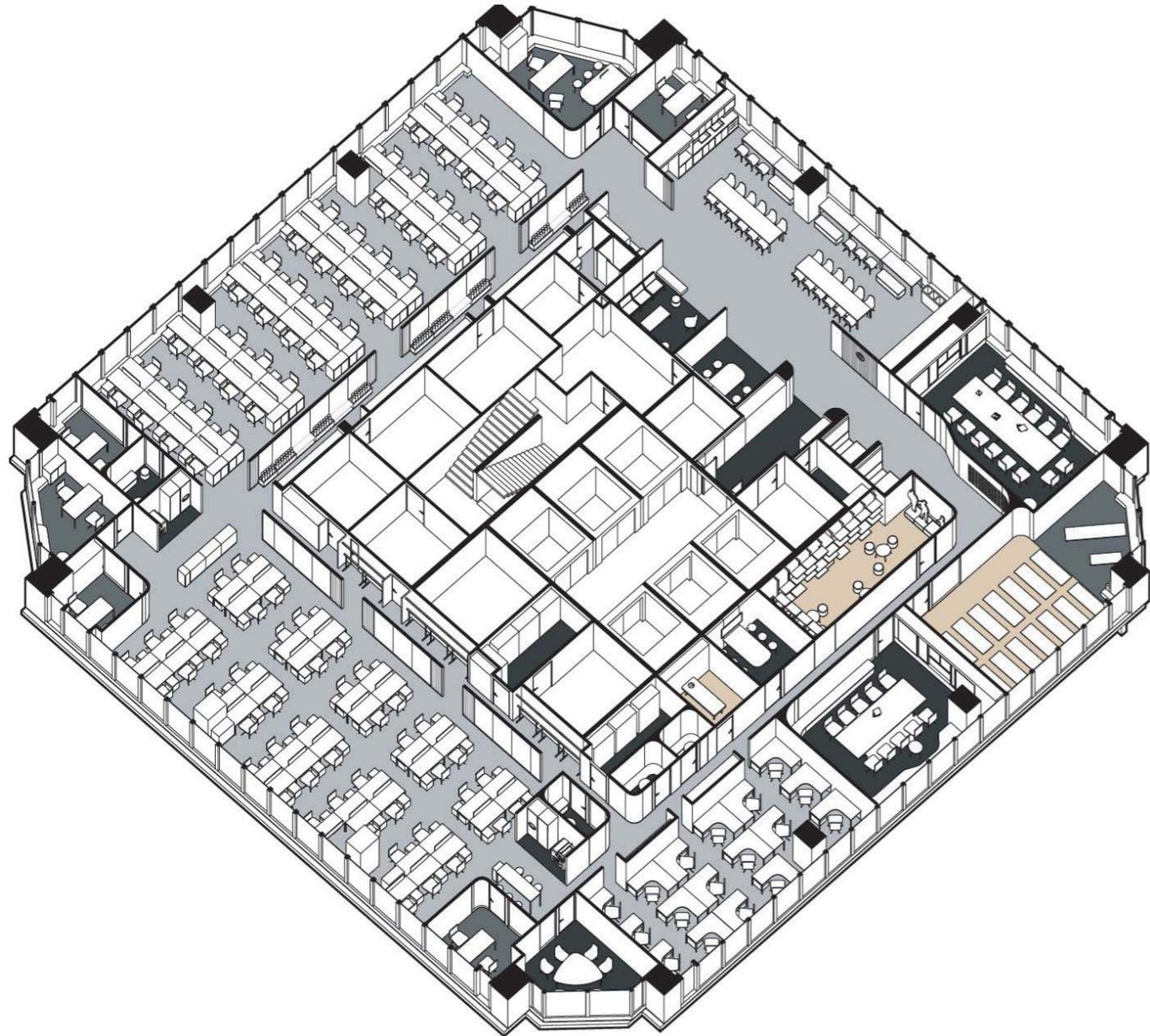
Wooden accents



Black metal



Grey echo panel



LAYOUT

In the final layout the most public functions are located close to the entrance. A large working café is used as both a resting place as well as an informal working area. 2 big conference rooms and several small meeting rooms are located in the public area next to the yoga room and gym. A mockup store is placed on the corner to maximize the display towards the corridor. The working area is divided into 3 departments with on each corner supporting meeting areas, a printer and water points.

- ◀ Layout diagram
- ▲ Enclosed offices



FLEXIBLE WORKSPACES

The main public space is the working café. This space is designed to enhance the interaction between different departments in a relaxed environment. Large tables are placed in the middle together with a long table along the window to enjoy the view over Hong Kong. Across from the working café two open meeting areas are situated next to the printing area. One room has an informal arrangement while the other has a more focused arrangement with dark colours. The spaces provide for different types of meetings and usage next to the enclosed meeting rooms located around the corner. These flexible spaces are created to break out of the formal work/meet schedule and provide a space for spontaneous meetings or brainstorm sessions.

- ◀ Informal meeting areas
- ▼ Section South - North

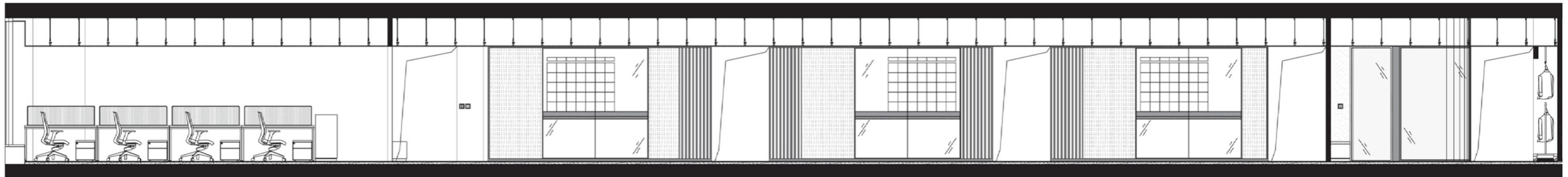


DOUBLE CORRIDORS

For the main traffic in the office a central corridor is created around the core. Full height partitions separate this busy corridor from the working areas where another corridor is created between the workstations and the partition walls.

Along the core several functions like lockers, toilets, shower room and storage are found. Each of the partition walls has a function specific to the department next to it. The walls are used to hang the new developed clothes, arrange the monthly calendar, pin up notes and inspiration boards or write a todo list on the whiteboard, while next to the locker room customized yoga mat holders are placed to contain a yoga mat for each employee.

Division walls and locker wall ►
Section North - South ▼





FOCUS AREAS

Several focus rooms are created to escape from the busy workflow for a private phonecall or meeting. Dark colour are used to create an enclosed and private feeling while double layered acoustic glass provides extra privacy.

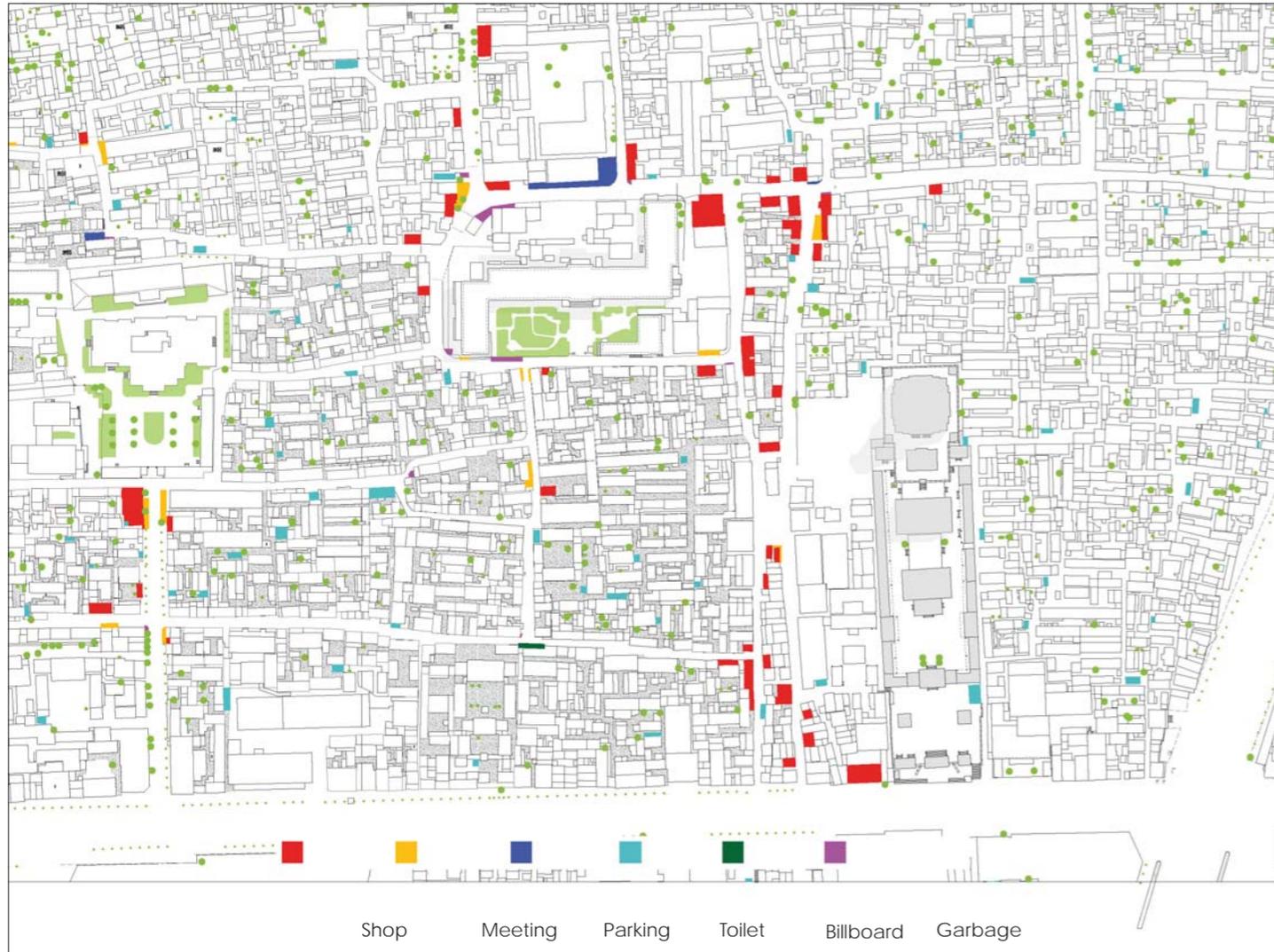
Focus room ◀
Open meeting area ▶



HUTONG SUMMIT



Year: 2016
Client: Beijing Design Week – Baitasi Remade
Program: Flexible
Size: 1 m²
Status: Completed
Team: Isabel Driessen, Andrés López



BAITASI

Baitasi is a neighbourhood 2 kilometers west of the Forbidden City in the old city centre of Beijing.

It owes its name to the large white Tibetan pagoda which is located in the middle of the hutongs. While many hutongs in the old city centre had to make place for new developments, Baitasi still remains largely untouched.

The intersections along the hutongs of the Baitasi neighbourhood have been studied in terms of functionality. Both formal and informal activities take place next to each other creating an interaction which is very typical for the hutong lifestyle.

- ◀ Baitasi activity map
- ▶ KLINKERS in Baitasi

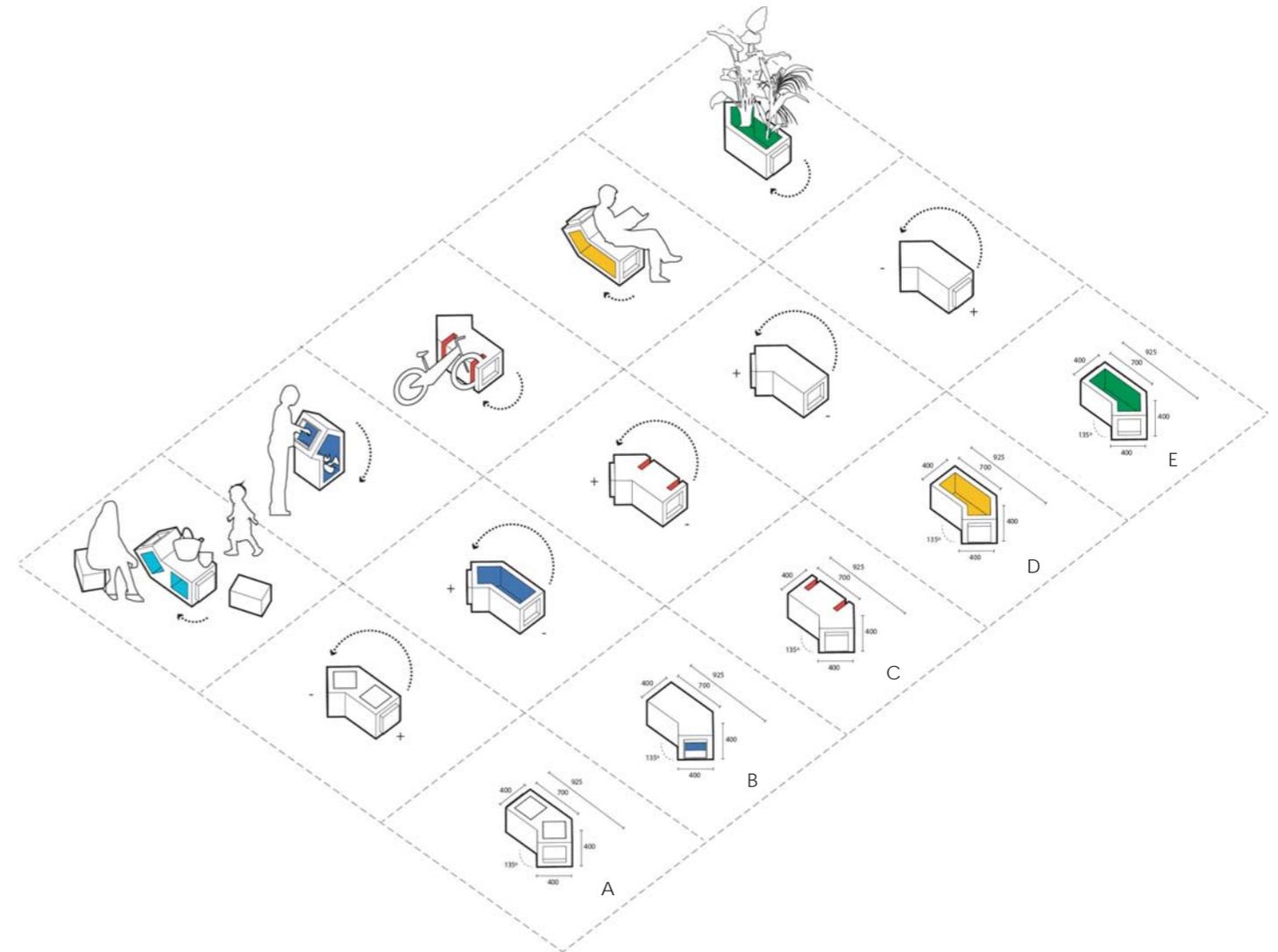


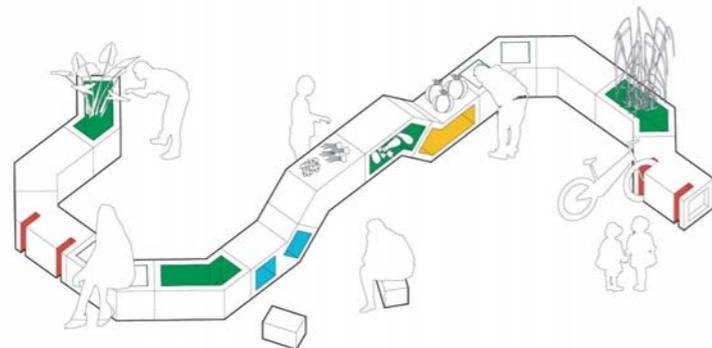
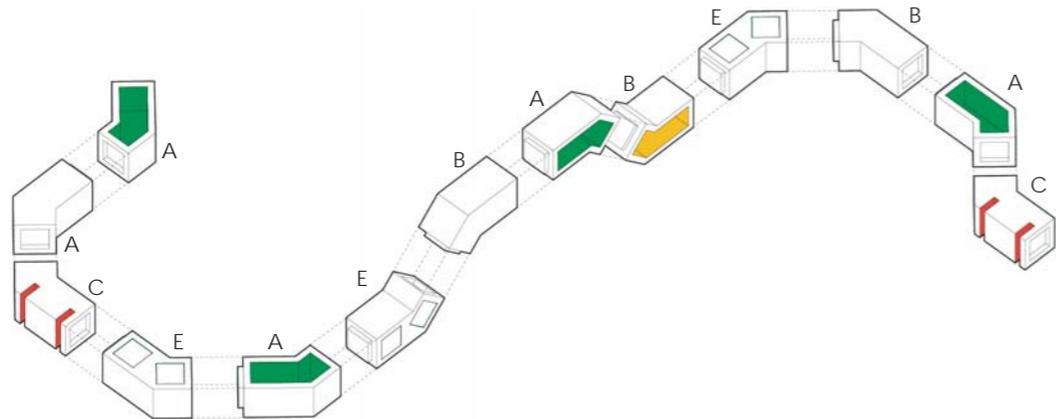


ACTIVITIES

HUTONG SUMMIT aims to provide a flexible space for the informal activities in the street by creating a modular furniture. The 5 different KLINKERS can be interpreted and used in different ways by the local residents and visitors of the Baitasi area.

KLINKERS used as informal restaurant ◀
 The 5 different types of KLINKERS ▶





- ◀ Arrangement of KLINKERS creating public activities
- ▶ Scale model at the Beijing Design Week





PUBLIC PROPERTY

It is up to the local residents to decide how to arrange the KLINKERS and which function to give them. The furniture is publicly owned and can become a meeting place for the neighbourhood.

- ◀ KLINKERS used to take a rest
- ▶ Cleaning vegetables on a KLINKER

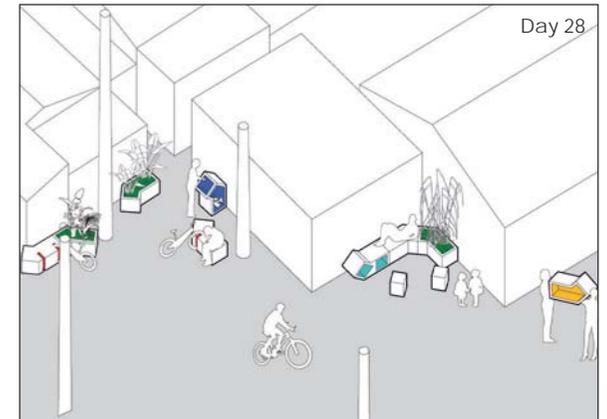
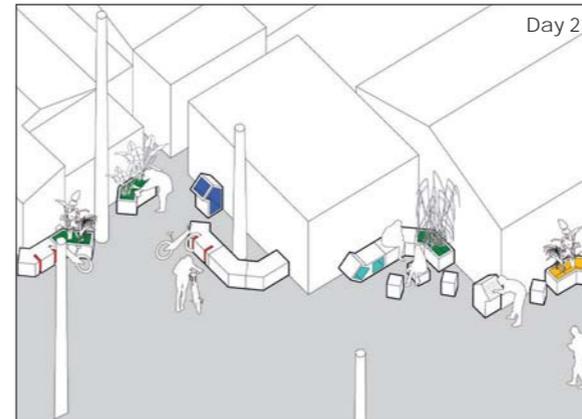
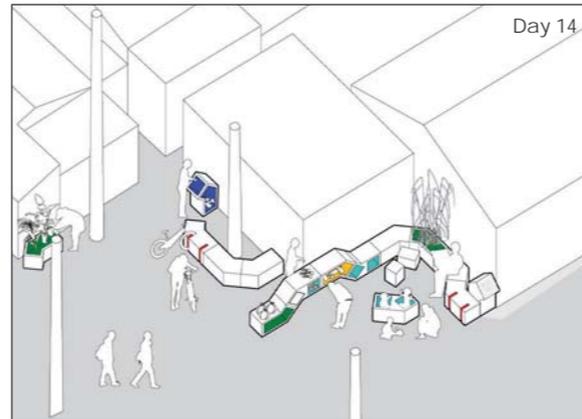
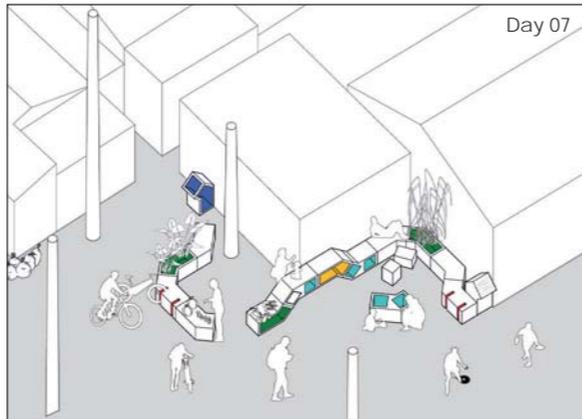
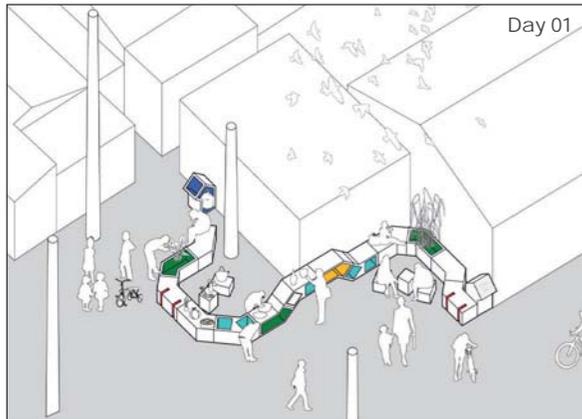




BEIJING DESIGN WEEK

As part of the Beijing Design Week 4 sets of KLINKERS have been distributed in different intersections in Baitasi. During the following weeks the usage has been studied and documented until all KLINKERS disappeared.

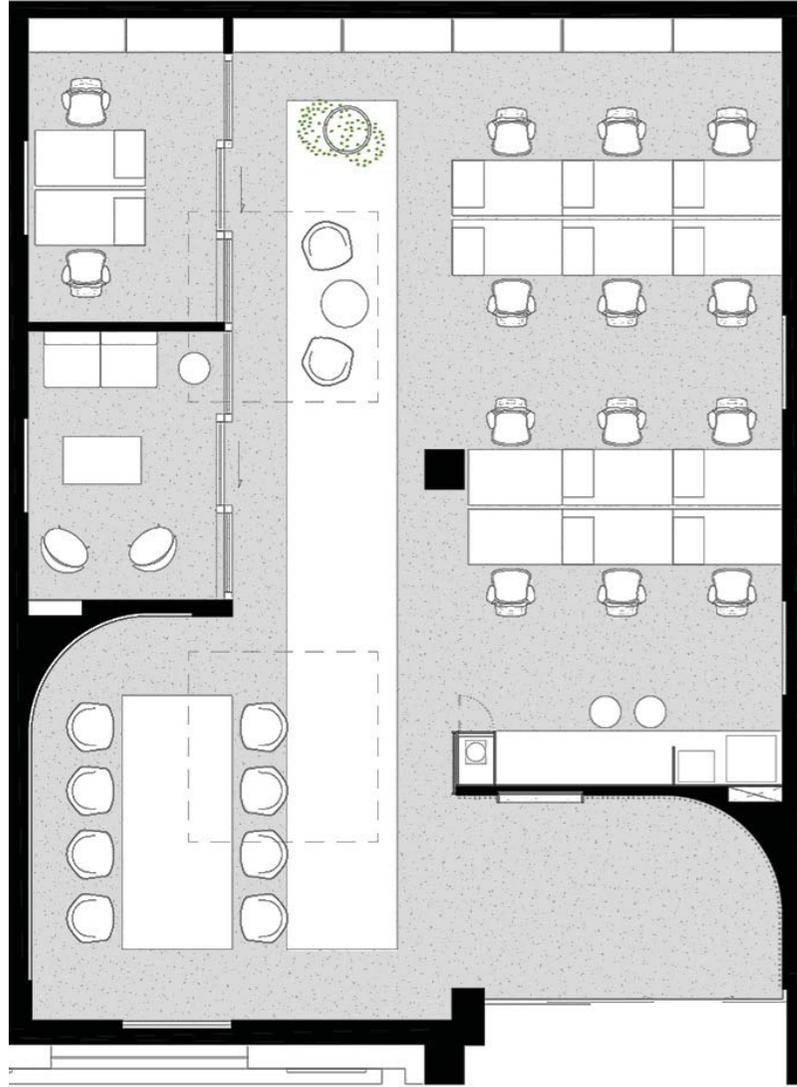
- ◀ KLINKERS used to play chess
- ▼ Different arrangements through time



WANGJING OFFICE I



Year: 2019
Client: Paras
Program: Office
Size: 110 m²
Status: Completed
With: Jing Bei Ji
Team: Isabel Driessen, Andrés López



1m 5m

↖ N

PARAS

In the basement of an office complex an office has been designed for a model agency. The space has two skylights to provide natural light. The space will be used for daily work and occasional model castings.

- ◀ Proposed layout
- ▶ Pre-existing condition





MATERIALS

The client requested an all white interior. Materials with different textures are being used to create a variety within the same colour tones. Wood accents in the custom furniture and a small tree are placed to create a warmer feeling. Two tones of terrazzo are used to highlight the difference between the casting catwalk and the working areas.

Logo wall ◀
Material board ▶



White terrazzo



Movable greenery



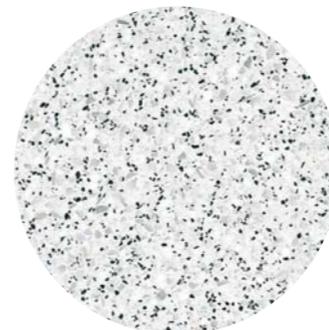
Area rug



Grey echo panel



White wood louvers



Grey accent terrazzo



Oak wood



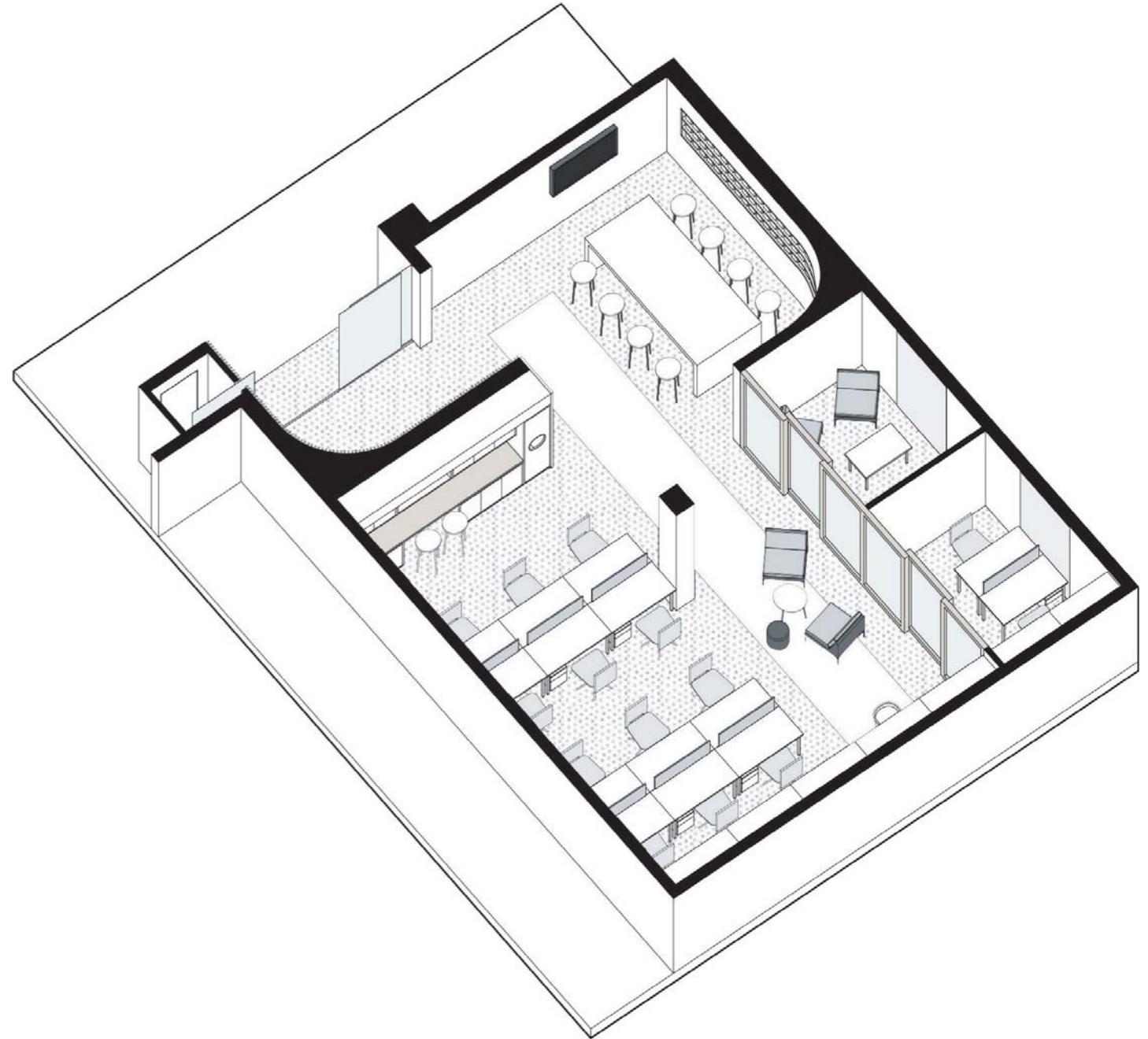
White paint

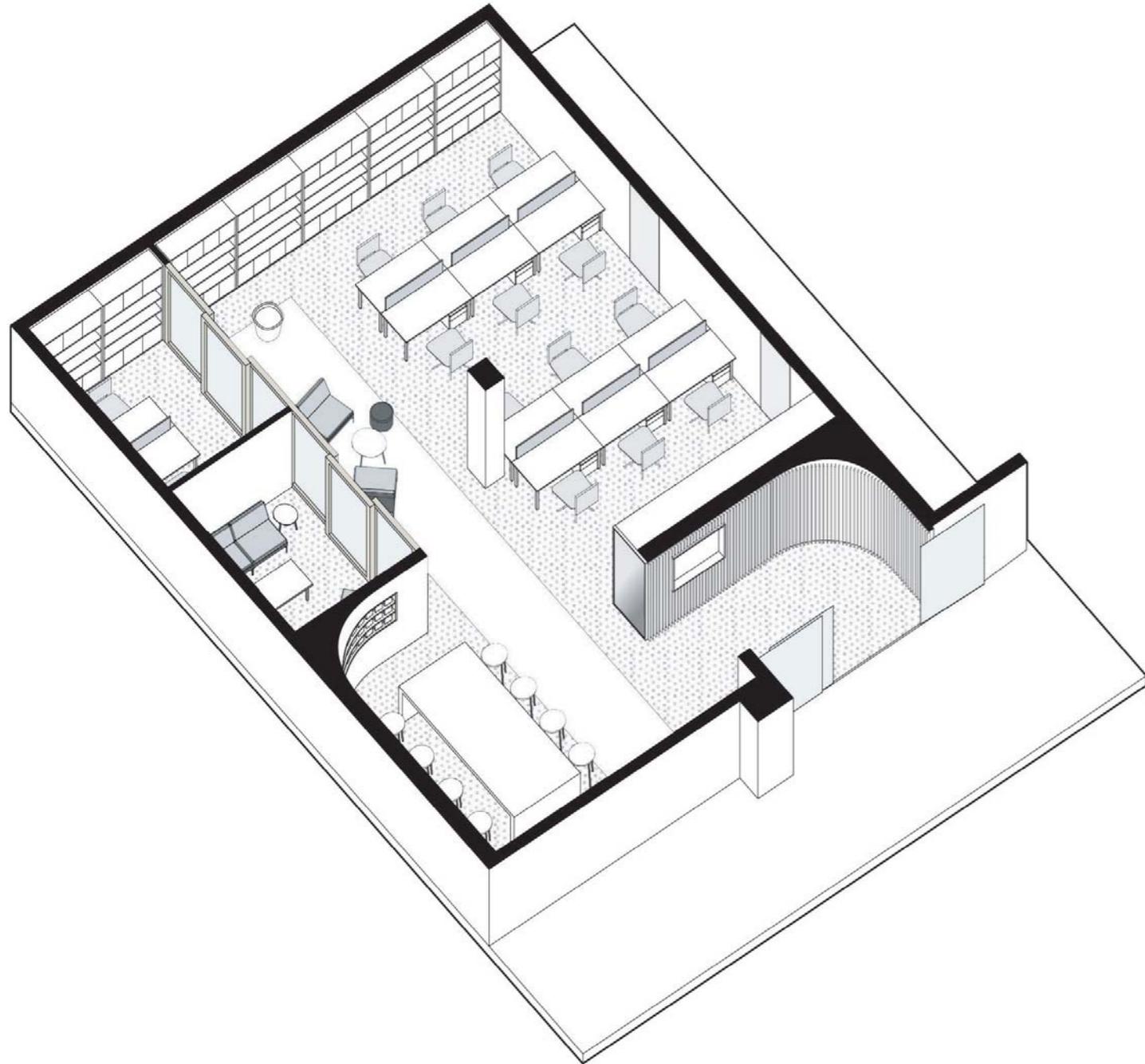


PROGRAM

A central corridor in the middle of the space can function as a catwalk for castings. At the end of the catwalk a white wall will be used to take photographs of the models. Along the meeting table the pictures of the models are showcased. A pantry and printer area is located close to the workstations and hidden from the public meeting area.

Logo wall and meeting area ▲
Interior diagram ►





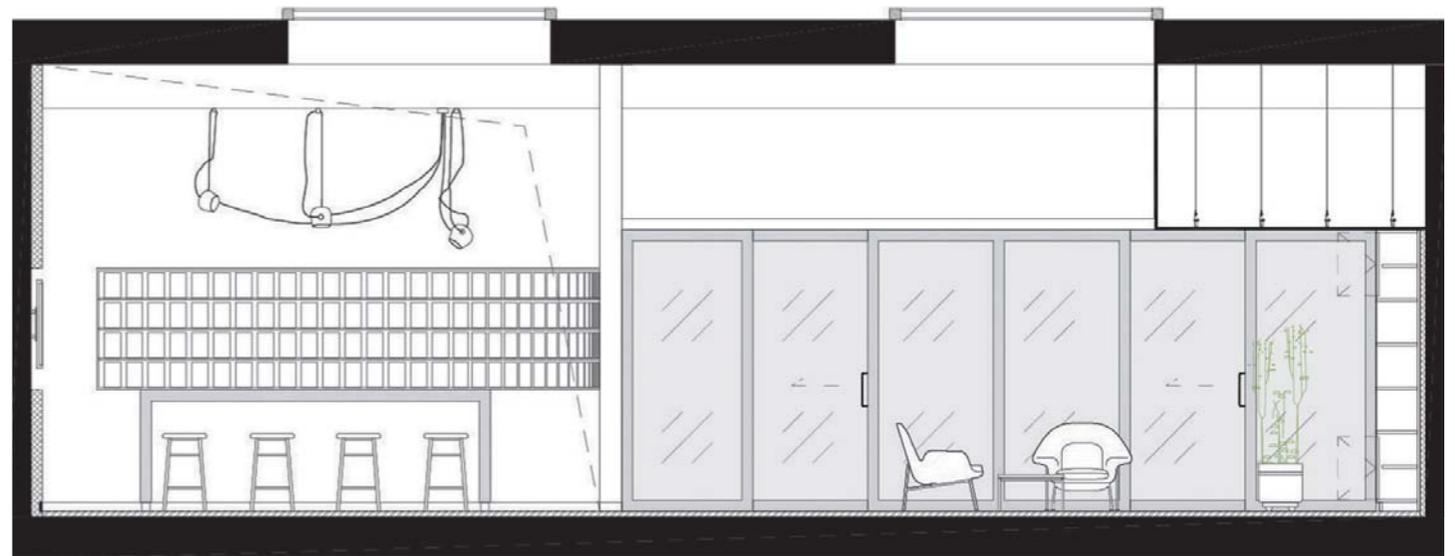
A logowall is placed at the entrance for exposure towards the exterior corridor and to create privacy for the workstations behind. The 2 private offices are separated from the open space with a sliding glass door to create acoustic privacy while keeping a visual connection to the open office area. The whole backwall is used for portfolio storage on the open shelves while the enclosed cabinets can be used for general storage.

- ◀ Interior diagram
- ▲ Office interior



LIGHT

The office space has two skylights to provide daylight. To optimize the light the ceiling is kept open and painted in white. The public areas are located below the skylights to make sure everyone can enjoy the natural light during the daytime. Glass partitions allow the light to enter into the enclosed offices.

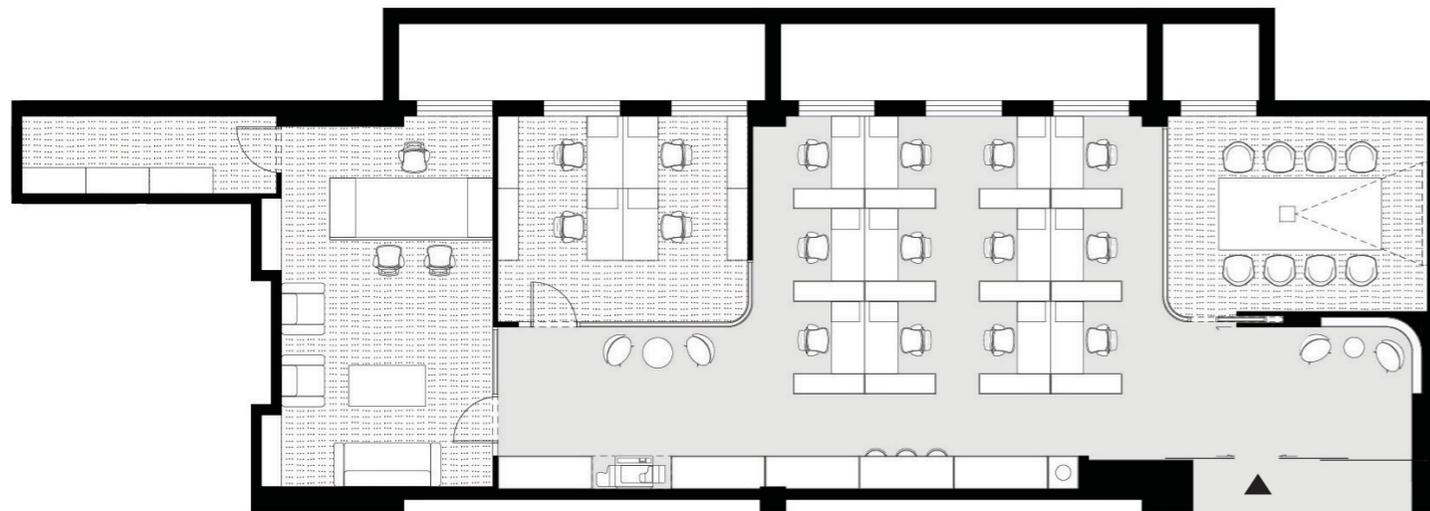


- Catwalk and main corridor ◀
- Picture wall and private offices ▲
- Section South - North ▶

WANGJING OFFICE III



Year: 2019
Client: Real estate company
Program: Office
Size: 170 m²
Status: Completed
Team: Isabel Driessen, Andrés López



Private ← Public

OFFICE

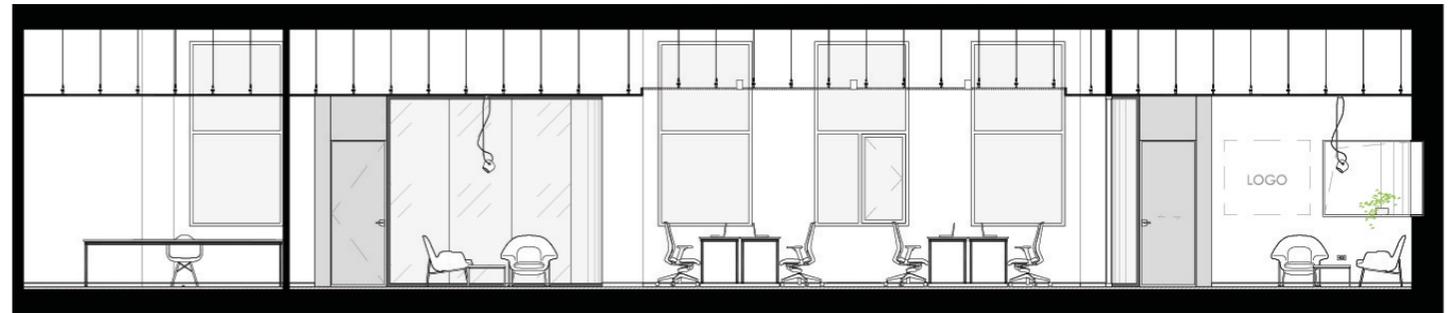
For a real estate company an office has been designed. The client requested a meeting room, 12 workstations, a financial department and an executive office. The space has been arranged from most public function at the entrance to most private office at the end of the long space. All the workstations are placed as close to the windows as possible to optimize the daylight coming from a skywell. Glass partitions divide the private spaces from the open area while letting the light through.

- ◀ Layout
- ▶ Under construction





Main corridor ◀
Entrance to executive office ▲
Section South - North ▶

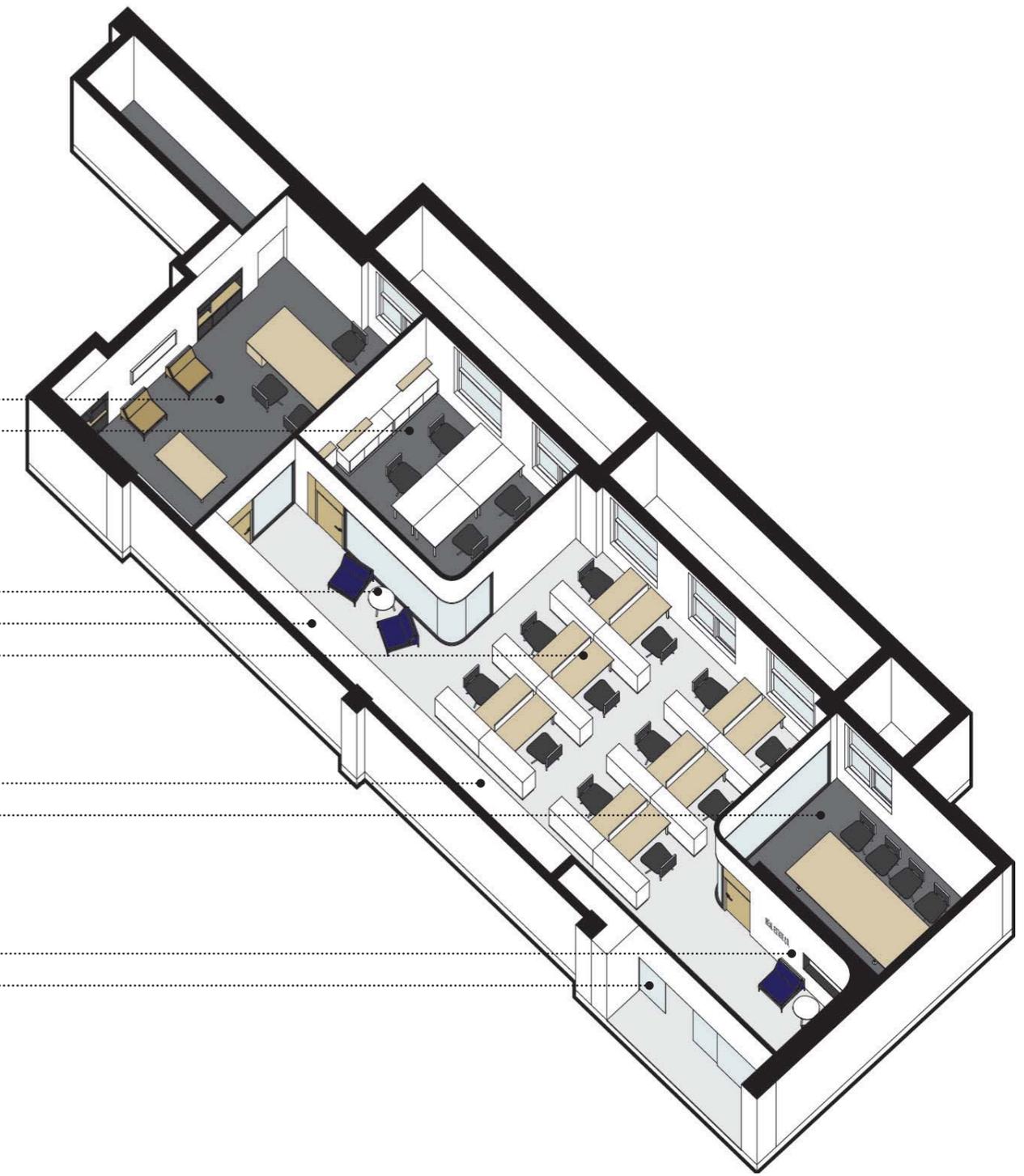


Executive office
Financial department

Discussion area
Printer cabinet
Open office

Pantry
Meeting room

Logowall
Entrance





SUPPORTING FUNCTIONS

All the supporting functions to the office space are placed along the main corridor in a custom designed cabinet. Close to the entrance and meeting room a pantry and wardrobe is placed. While on the other side you can find the printers, office supplies and library. Additionally a row of upper cabinets is placed for general storage

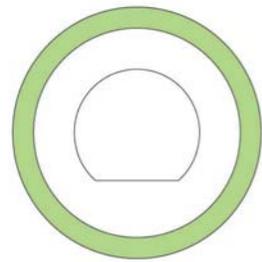
- ◀ Cabinet elevation
- ▶ Corridor picture



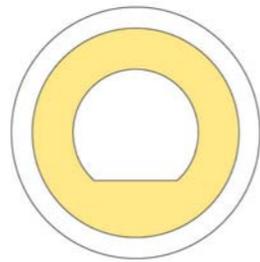
WUXI SHOW THEATRE

Year: 2017
Client: Wanda Group
Program: Theatre
Size: 20.000 m²
Status: Competition
With: Jing Bei Ji, Golden Mantis
Team: Isabel Driessen, Andrés López

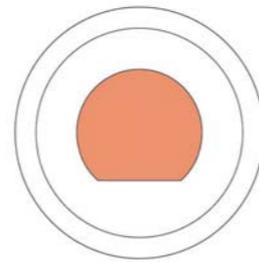




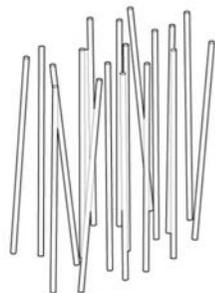
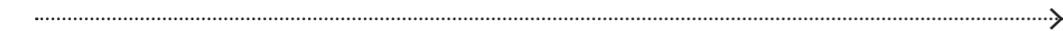
Facade



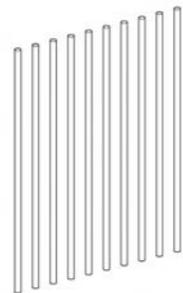
Supporting functions



Auditorium



Bamboo forest



Vertical pipes



Wall louvers



Wall and ceiling louvers

WUXI SHOW THEATRE

Located in Jiangsu Province, the Wuxi show theatre is designed to house a 2000 seat water show.

The bamboo forest inspired architecture is continued into the interior to create a consistency from the outside to the inside of the building.

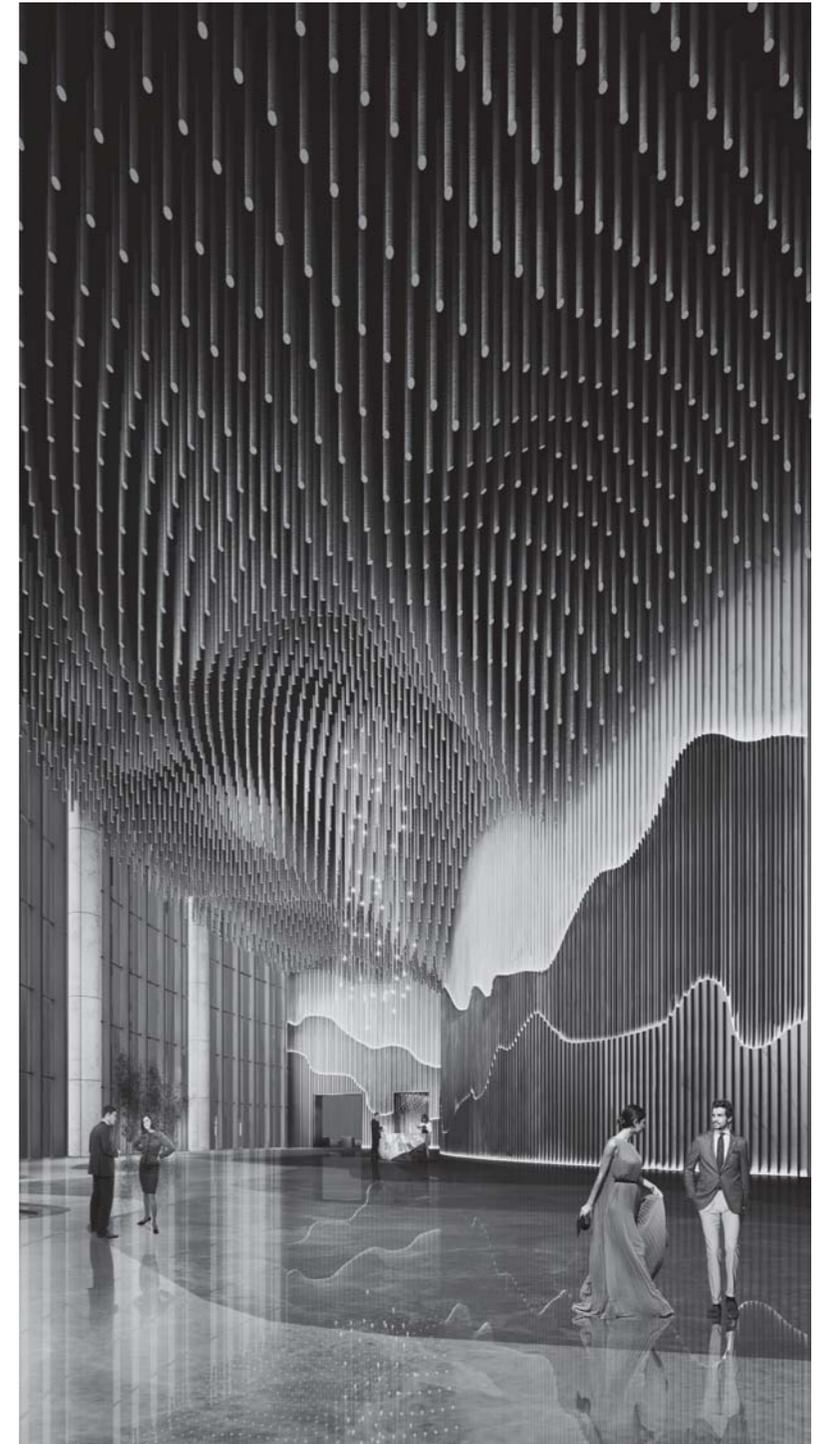
The design scope consists of the interior lobby, theatre, toilets, dressing rooms, offices and other supporting functions with a total area of 20.000 m².

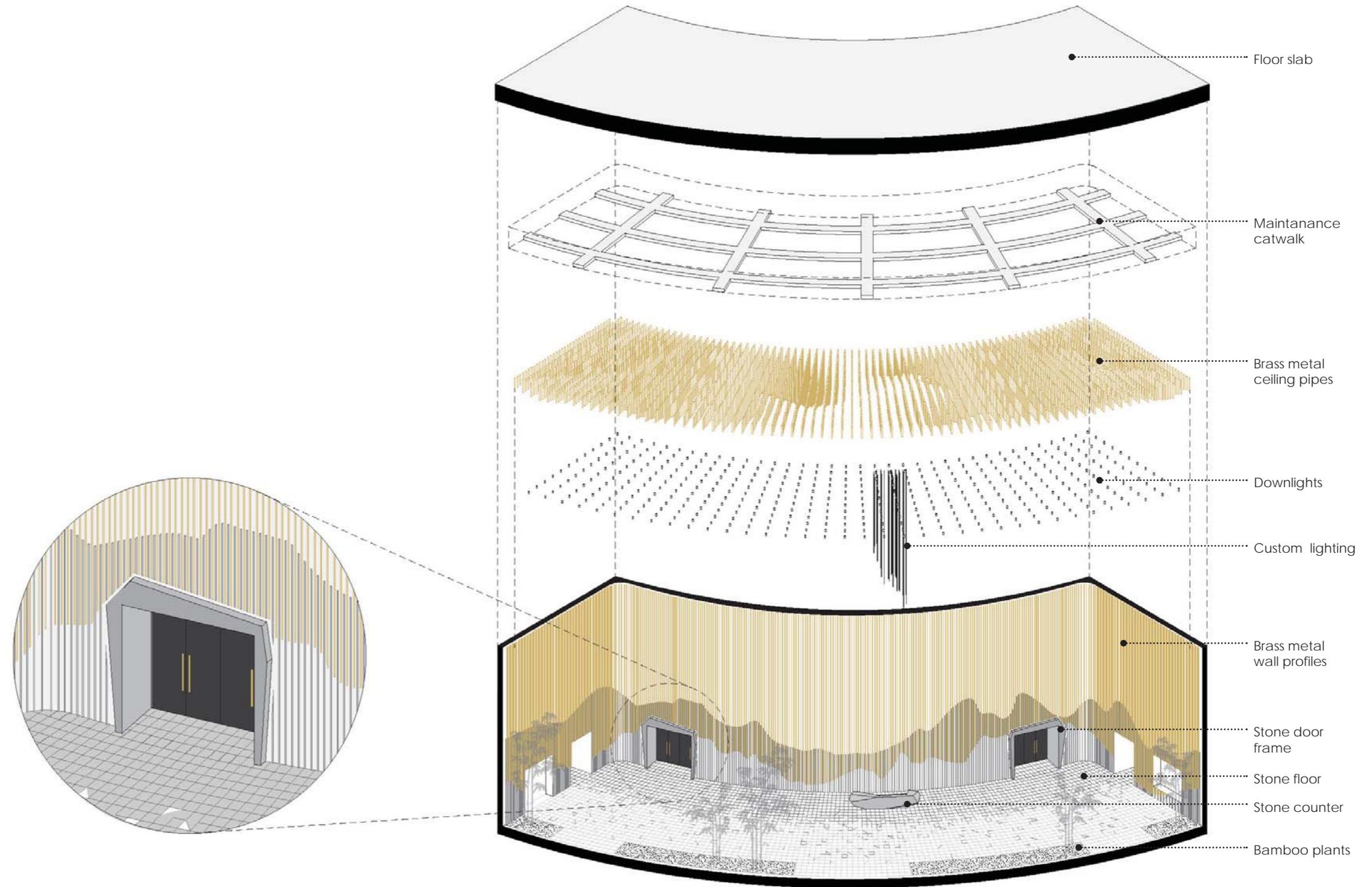
The building can be divided into 3 zones; the bamboo forest facade, the supporting functions around the theatre and in the centre the auditorium where the show will take place. As a visitor you will move through all these zones while visiting the show. As a design strategy the language of the bamboo forest is continued from the outside towards the inside in different patterns while becoming more abstract towards the auditorium.

A similar transition takes place in colour and material. The light colour of the facade will transform into a warm material palette in the lobby with a final material selection of dark colours with red accents in the auditorium.

◀ Concept diagram

▶ Lobby perspective

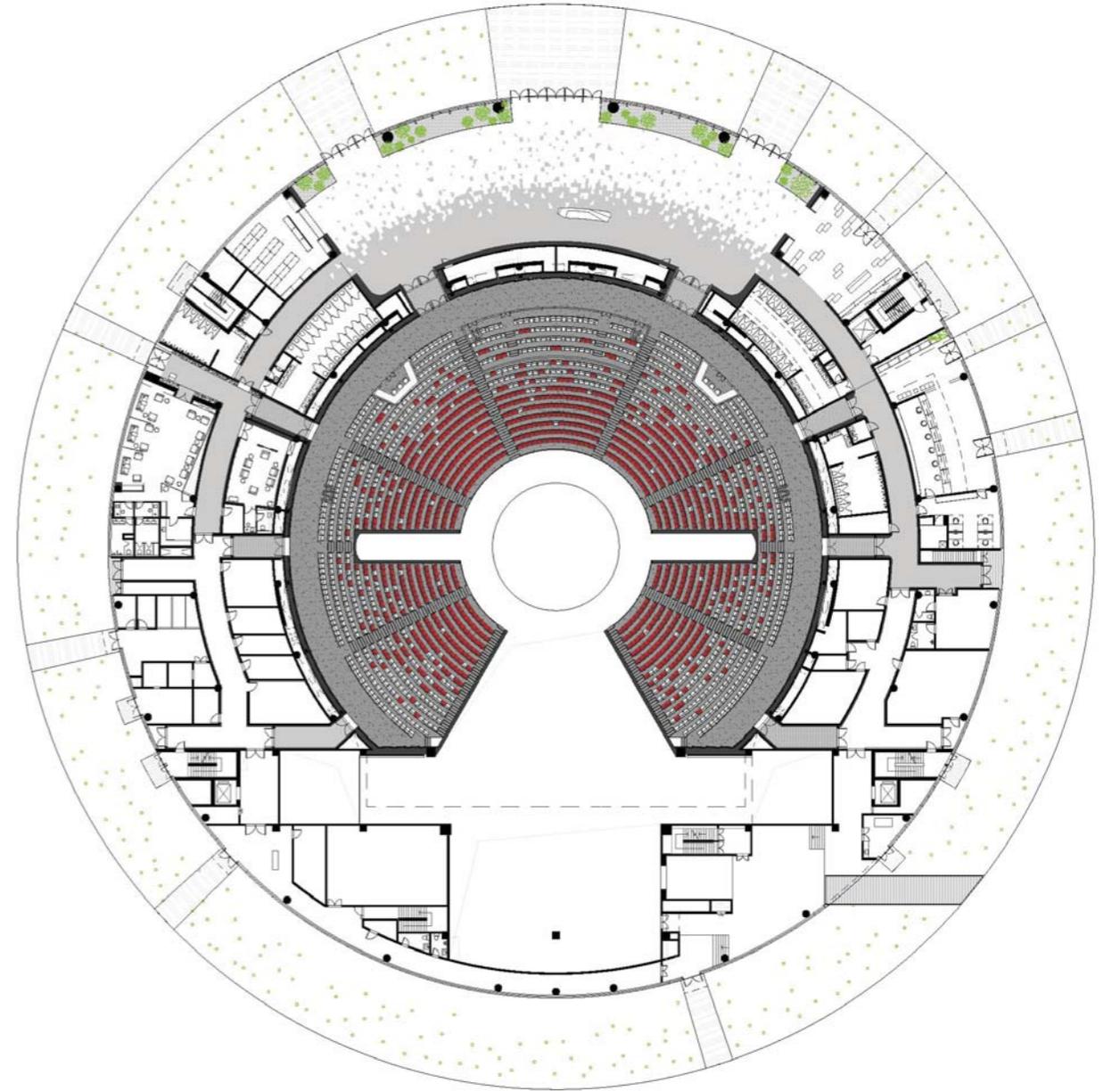


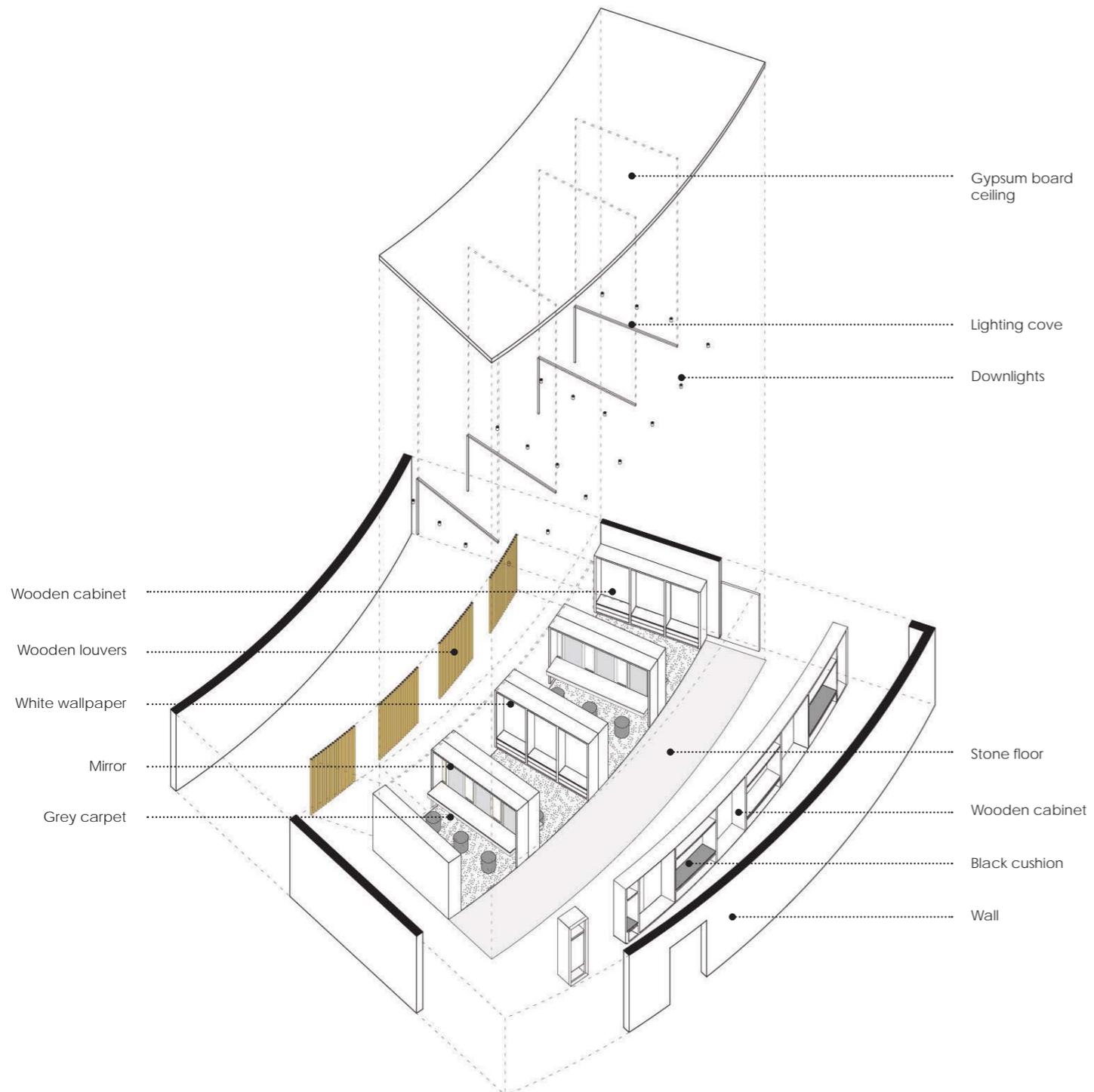


Lobby diagram ▶



Lobby perspective ▲
Ground floor layout ►





DRESSING ROOMS

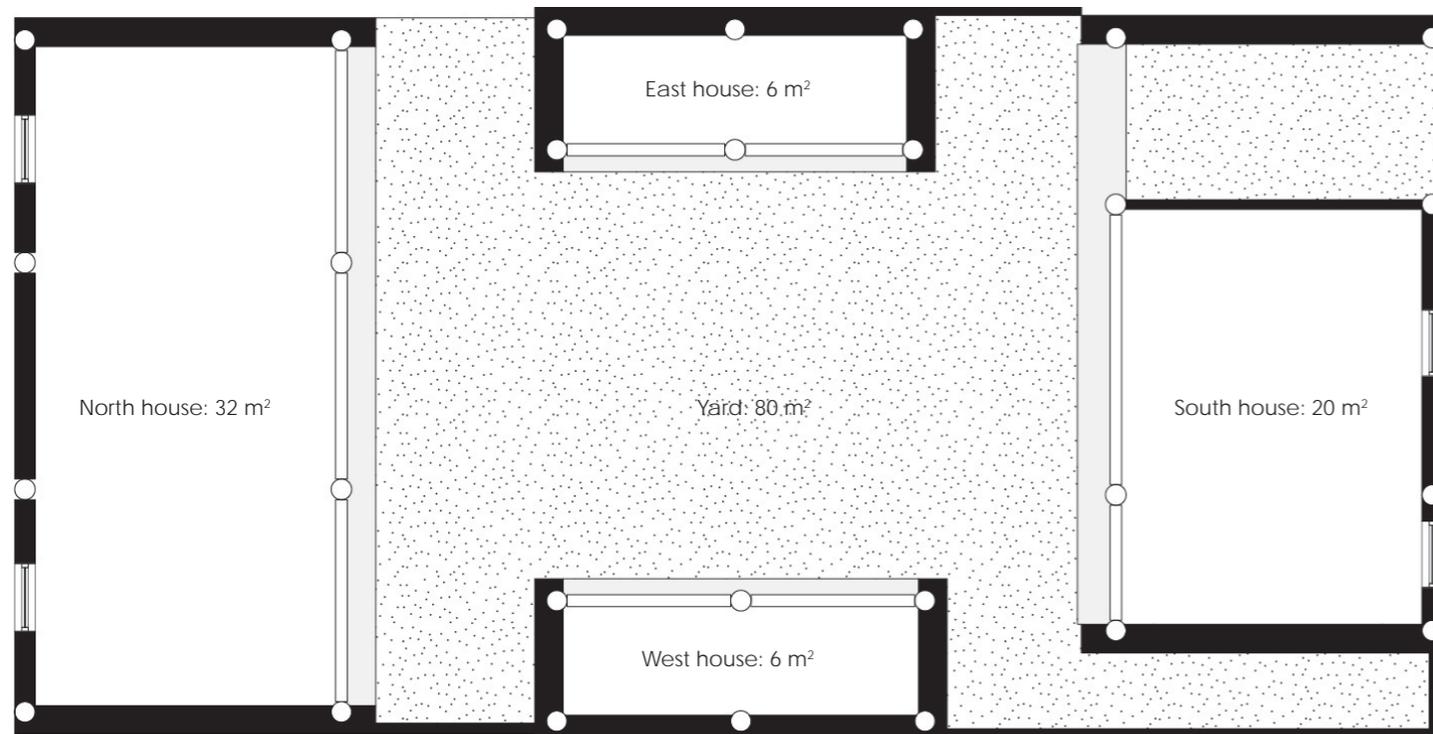
While simplified in materials and design, the supporting functions follow the same design approach as the public spaces. In the dressing rooms a neutral palette of grey stone, carpet and wood is selected to create a comfortable and practical space. A stone floor is placed in the corridor towards the shower rooms for easy maintenance while a soft carpet gives comfort to the actors in the dressing and make up areas.

- ◀ Dressing room diagram
- ▲ Dressing room perspective

SIHEYUAN



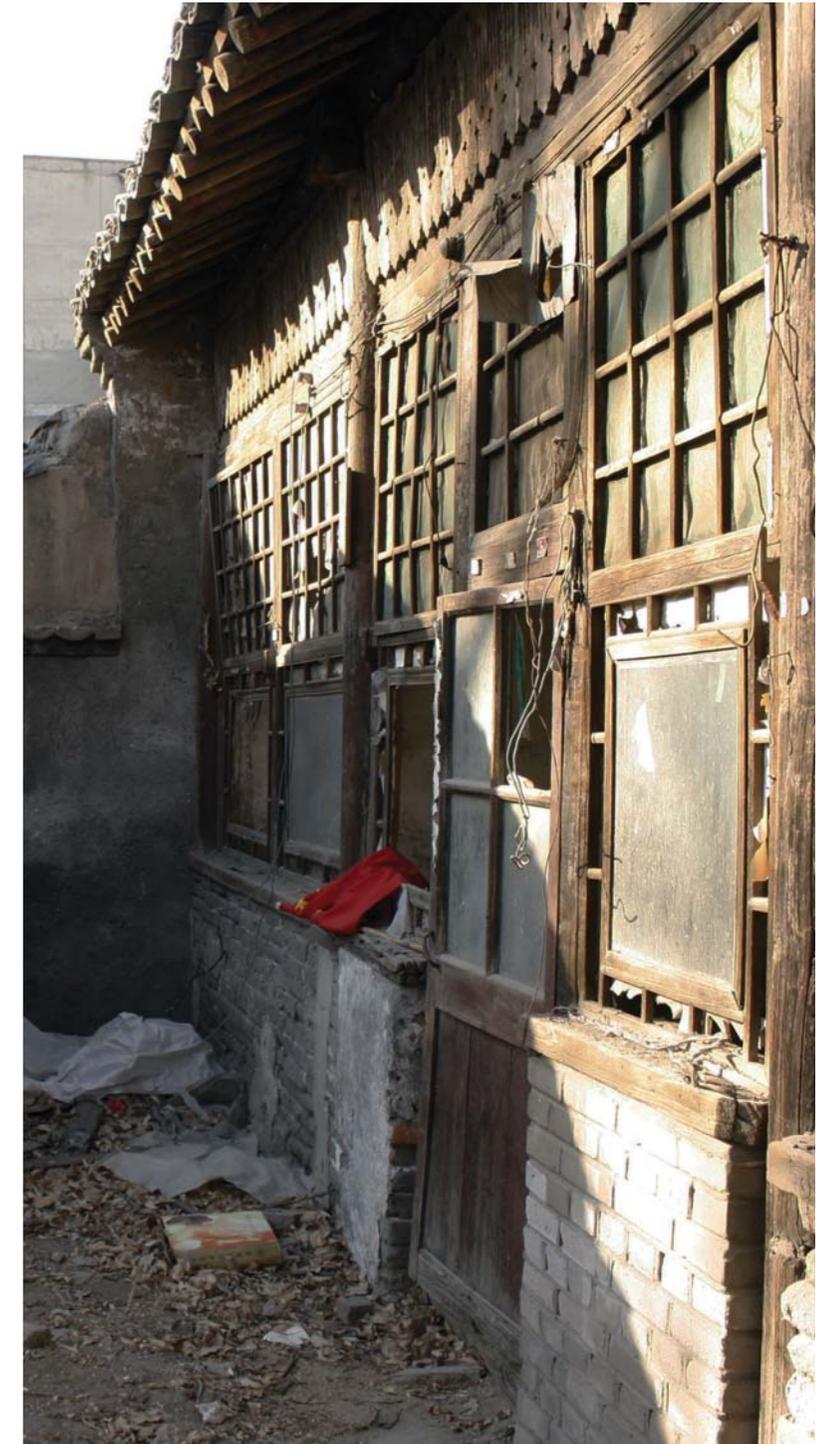
Year: 2018
Client: Private
Program: Residential
Size: 162m²
Status: Completed
With: Jing Bei Ji
Team: Isabel Driessen, Andrés López



PRIVATE COURTYARD

In the historic centre of Beijing a private courtyard residence is being renovated. The courtyard consists of 4 houses. Traditionally the north house is inhabited by the head of the family, the east and west house are for the children and the south house is reserved for the kitchen and staff. Public toilets and bathhouses are shared with the neighbours. The houses are not directly connected which means you have to go outside to move from one room to another. The layout of the courtyard is protected and cannot be changed. It is allowed to rebuild the houses as long as the original arrangement is left intact.

- ◀ Original layout of the courtyard
- ▶ Original condition of the courtyard



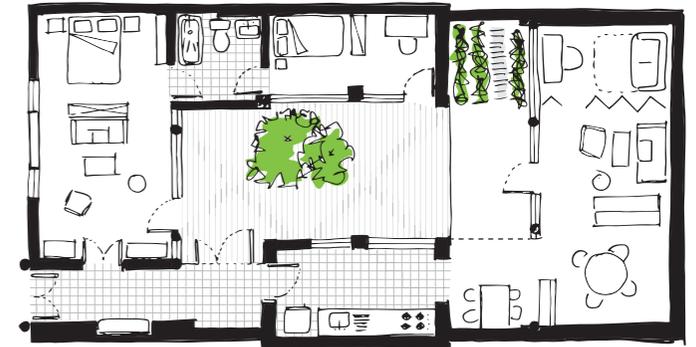
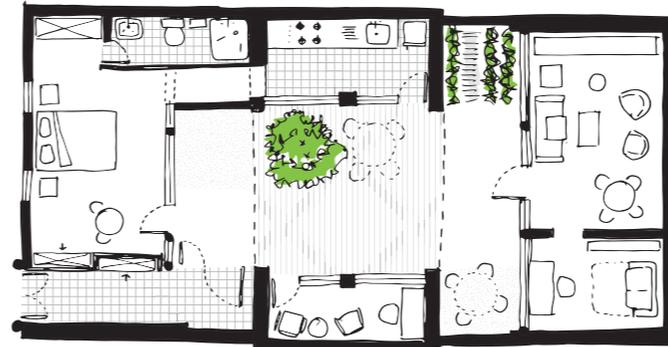
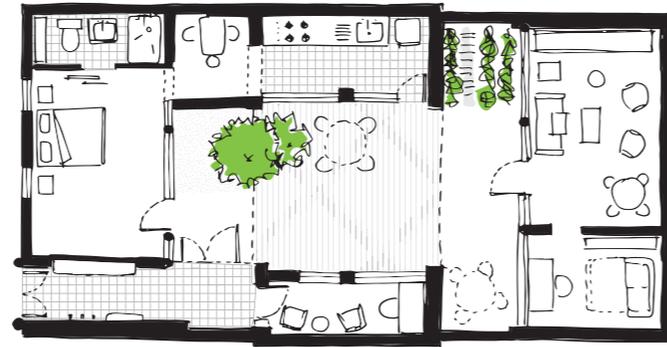


DESIGN STRATEGY

The condition of the structure and roof was not good enough to maintain the old houses and therefore the whole courtyard has been demolished.

Several options have been studied to update the house to modern standards without changing the original arrangement of the four houses. After several revisions the program has been determined based on the specific needs of the client. A retired couple will live separately in the house. Therefore there is a need of two bedrooms and two bathrooms within the limited space of the houses. Additionally a living room, guestroom, kitchen, tearoom and roof terrace will be placed in the courtyard.

- ◀ Demolition of the original houses
- ▼ Layout sketches

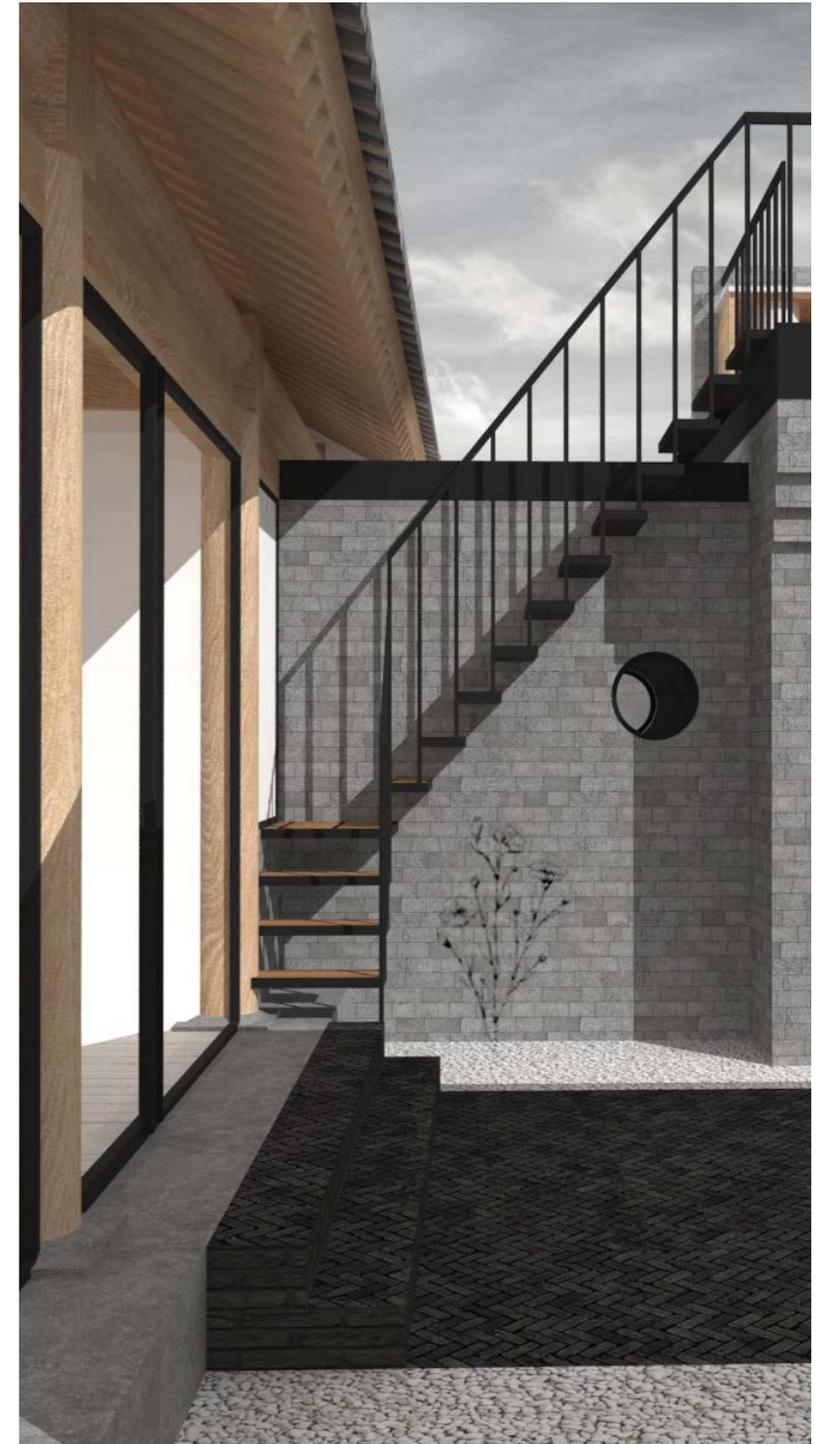




LAYOUT

While keeping the original layout of the courtyard intact as much as possible, two small extensions are made for the bathrooms attached to the main houses. The facades of the extensions are recessed to maintain the look of 4 individual houses. The north house contains the living room and a bedroom with a bathroom attached to it. The south is partially excavated to create a sunken area for the bedroom and a mezzanine for the tearoom above. The bathroom next to the south house is accessible from both outside and inside and will be accessible for guests. The kitchen is located in the east house with a roof terrace on top. The west house is converted into a guest and study room.

- ◀ New layout
- ▶ Perspective of the bathroom extension

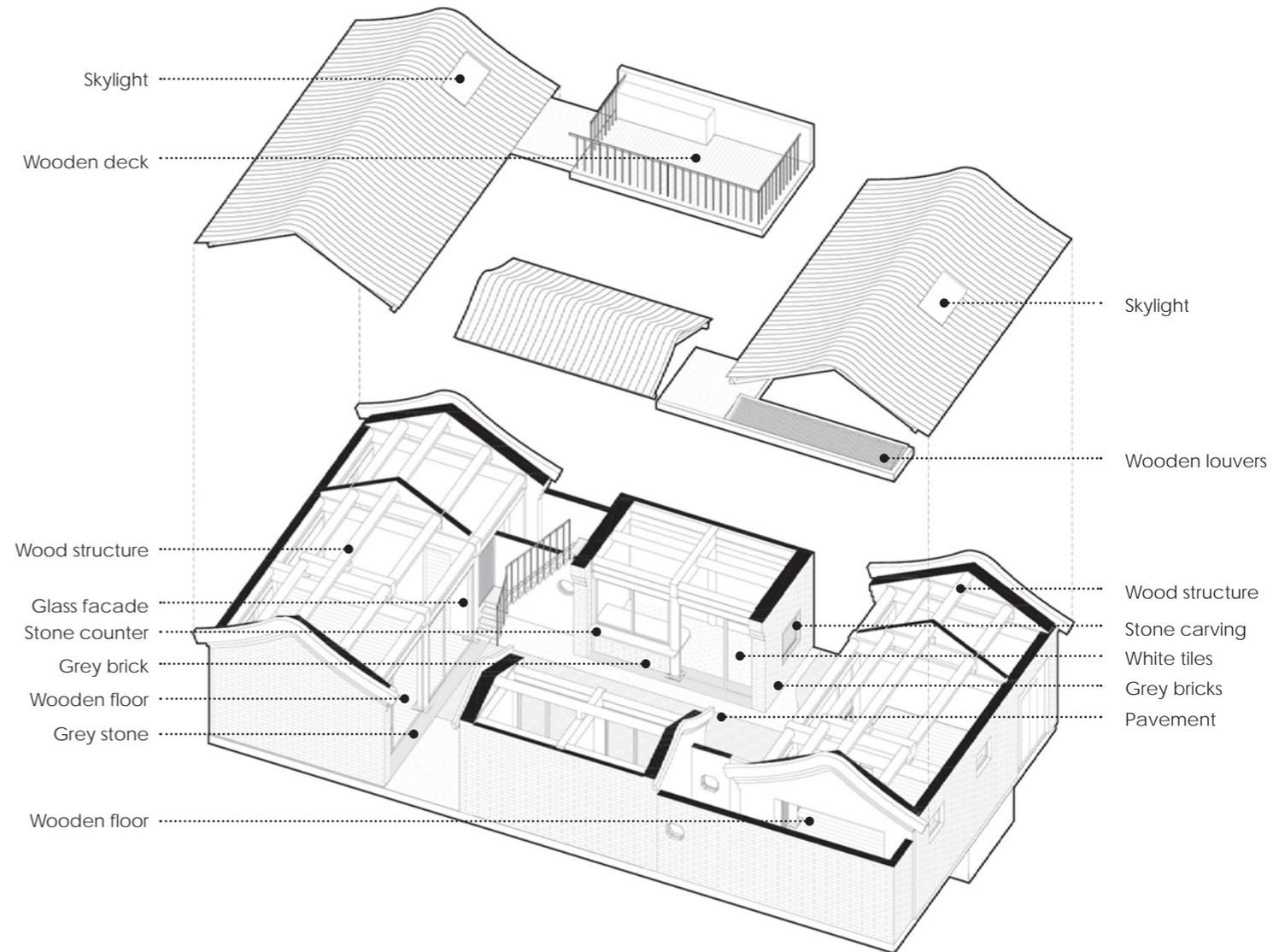




ADDITIONAL PROGRAM

Since the outside yard is the main space of the house several activities are placed along the facade. The kitchen has a large foldable window and a counter top extending from inside the kitchen out to the yard. A bench is placed along the guesthouse facade where you can sit down underneath the tree and enjoy the yard.

Additionally a roof terrace is created on top of the kitchen to increase the outdoor space and enjoy the view of the hutong roofscapes.



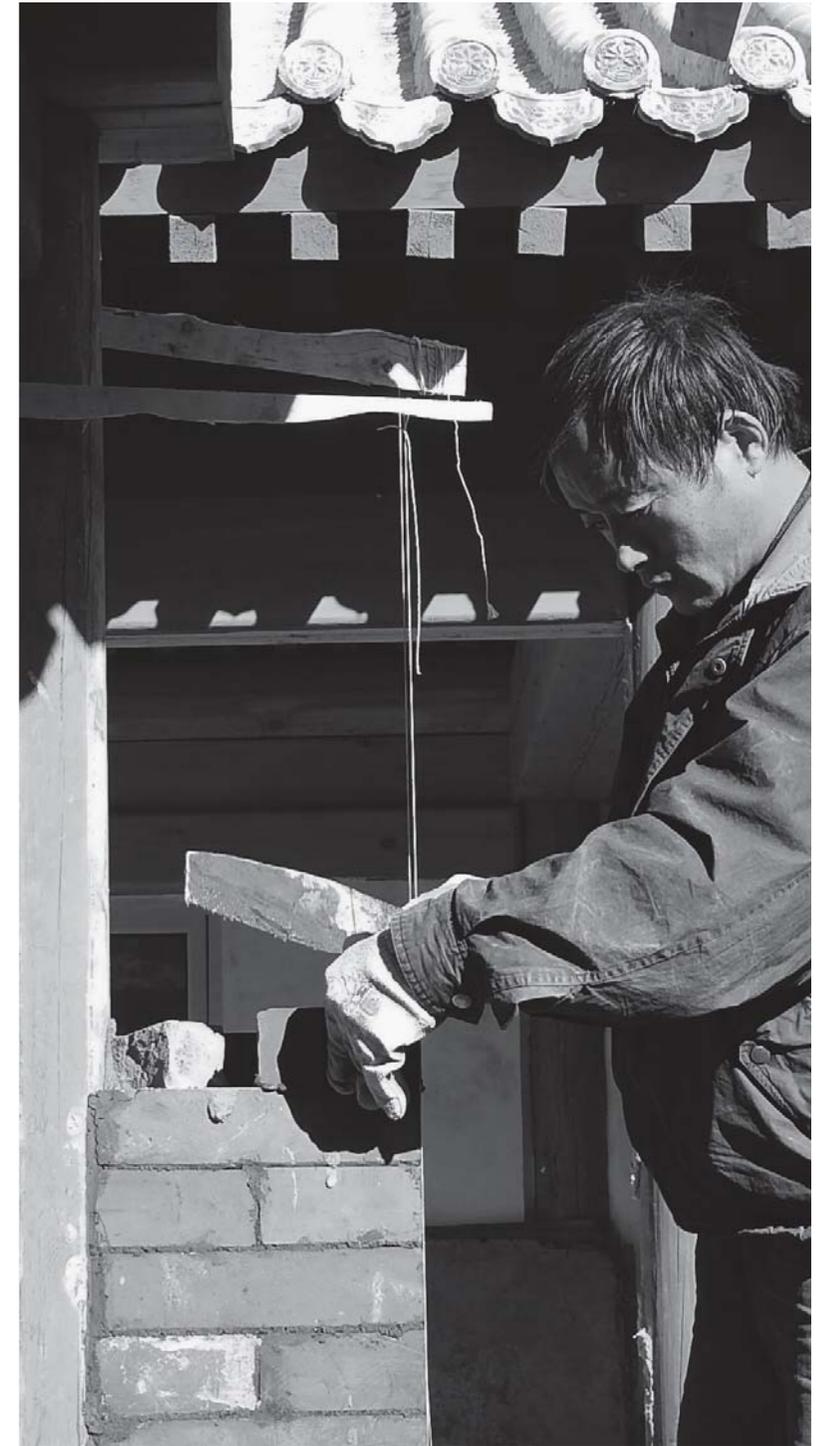
Kitchen perspective ◀
 Design diagram ▶

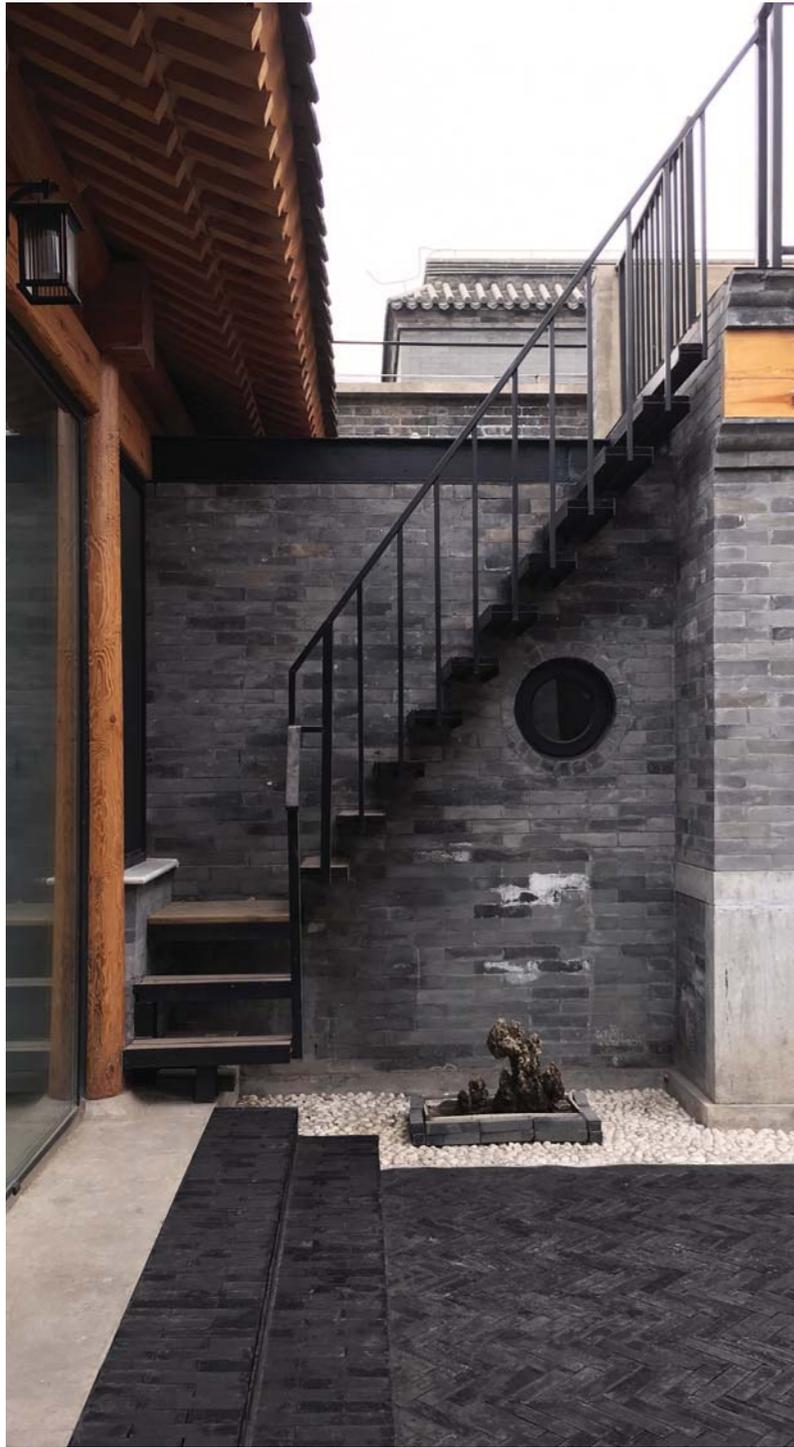


TRADITIONAL CRAFTMENSHP

The houses are built by local craftsmen using the same materials and techniques as when the courtyards were first constructed during the Ming and Qing dynasty. The architectural drawings produced for construction were obsolete since these craftsmen do not work with drawings. All dimensions had to be marked directly on site during the construction period.

- ◀ Traditional Chinese wood structure
- ▶ Brick laying on site

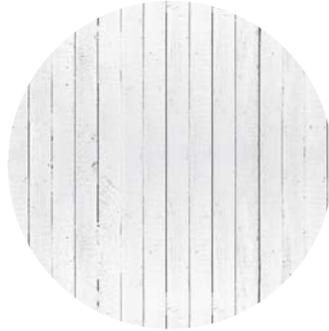




Staircase to the roof terrace ◀
North - South section ▲



Black metal window



White wood floor



Stone carving



White pebbles



White paint



Solid wood deck



White tiles



Black brick pavement



Grey brick



Black metal balustrade



Wood structure

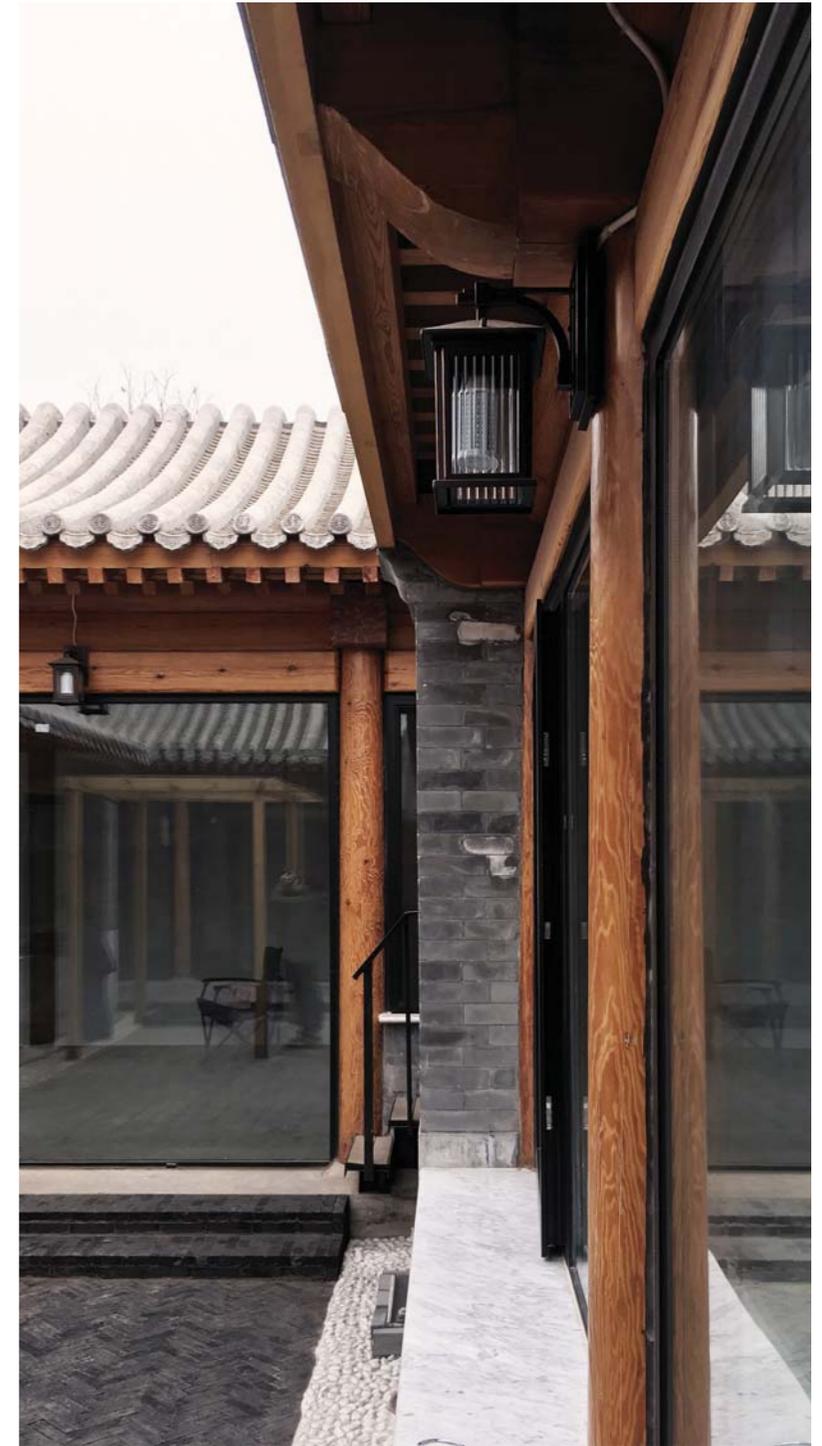


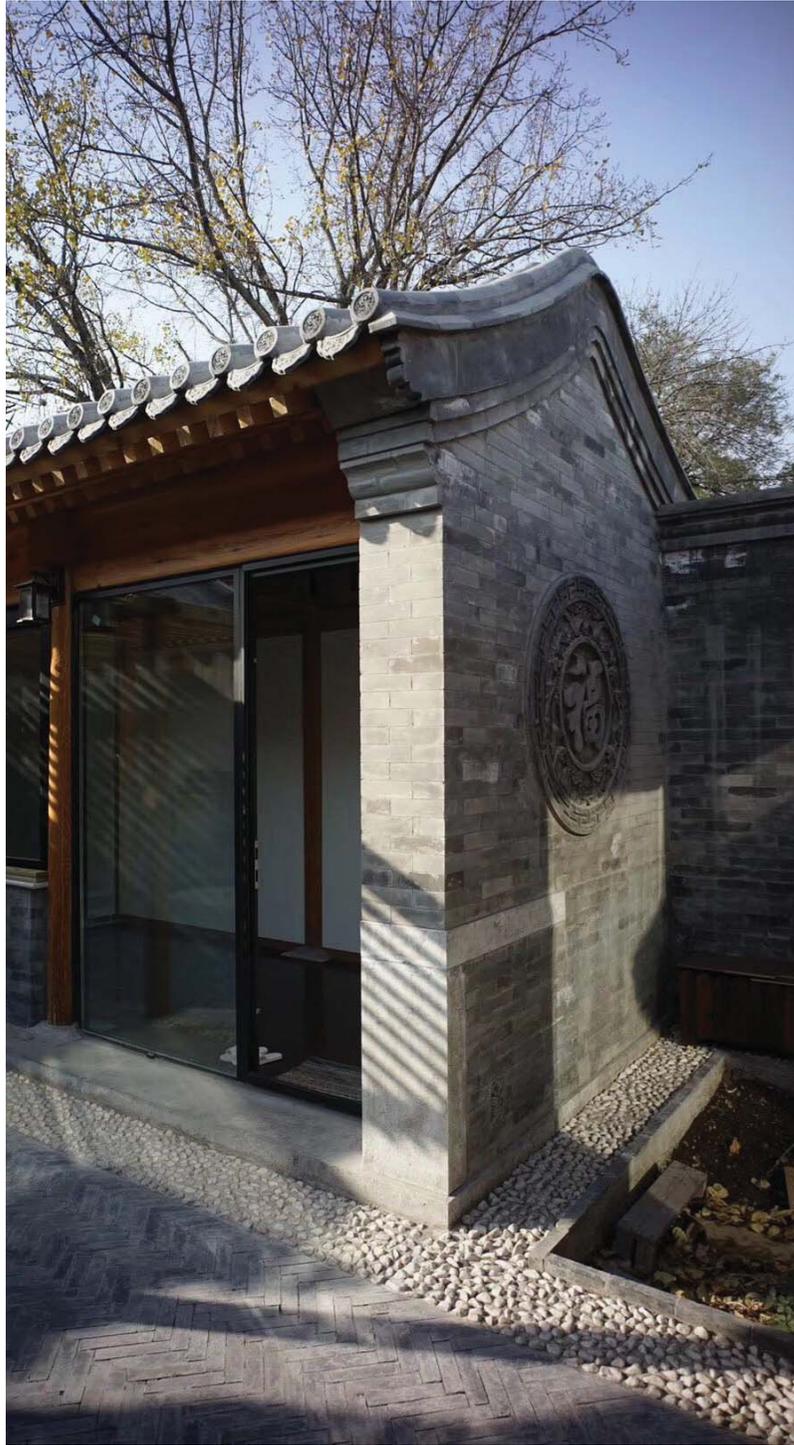
White wood louvers

MATERIAL SELECTION

The wooden structure of the house is contrasted with black window frames. Black, grey and white materials are used in combination with the natural warm colours of the wood.

- ◀ Material board
- ▶ Kitchen counter along the facade

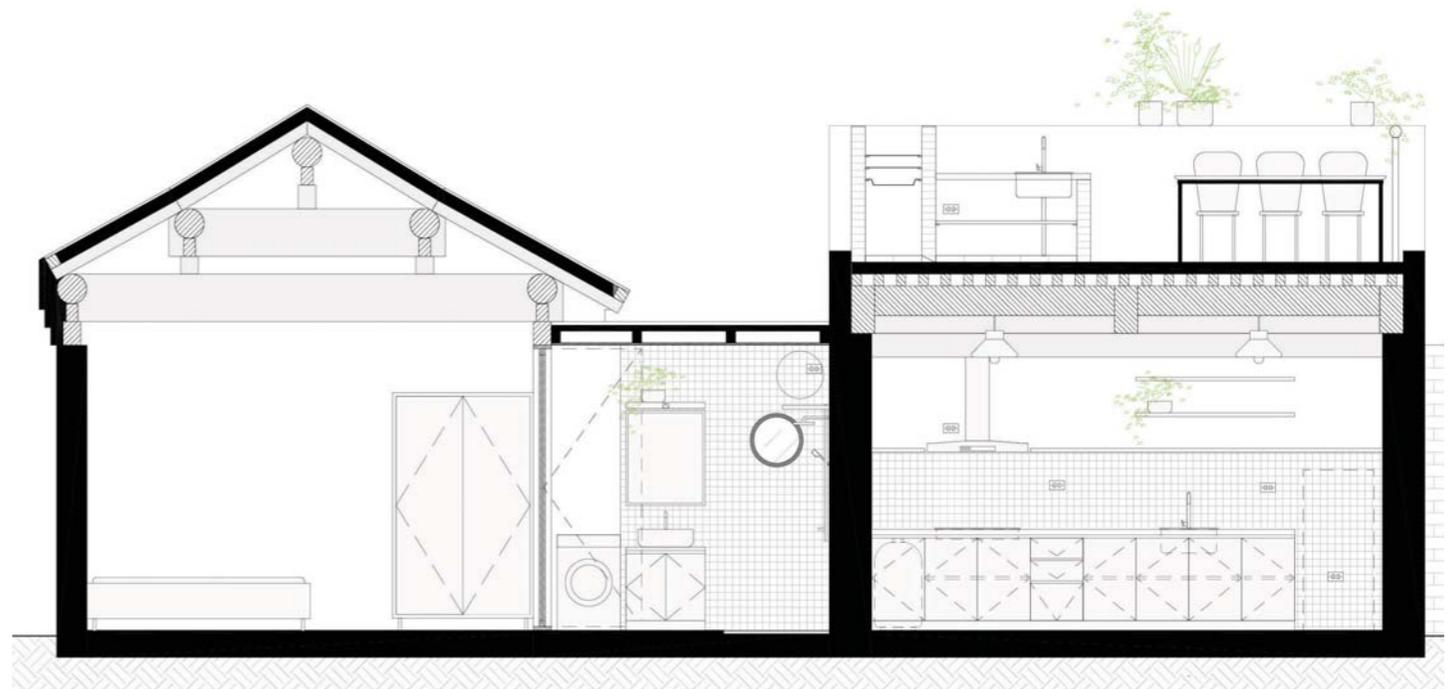




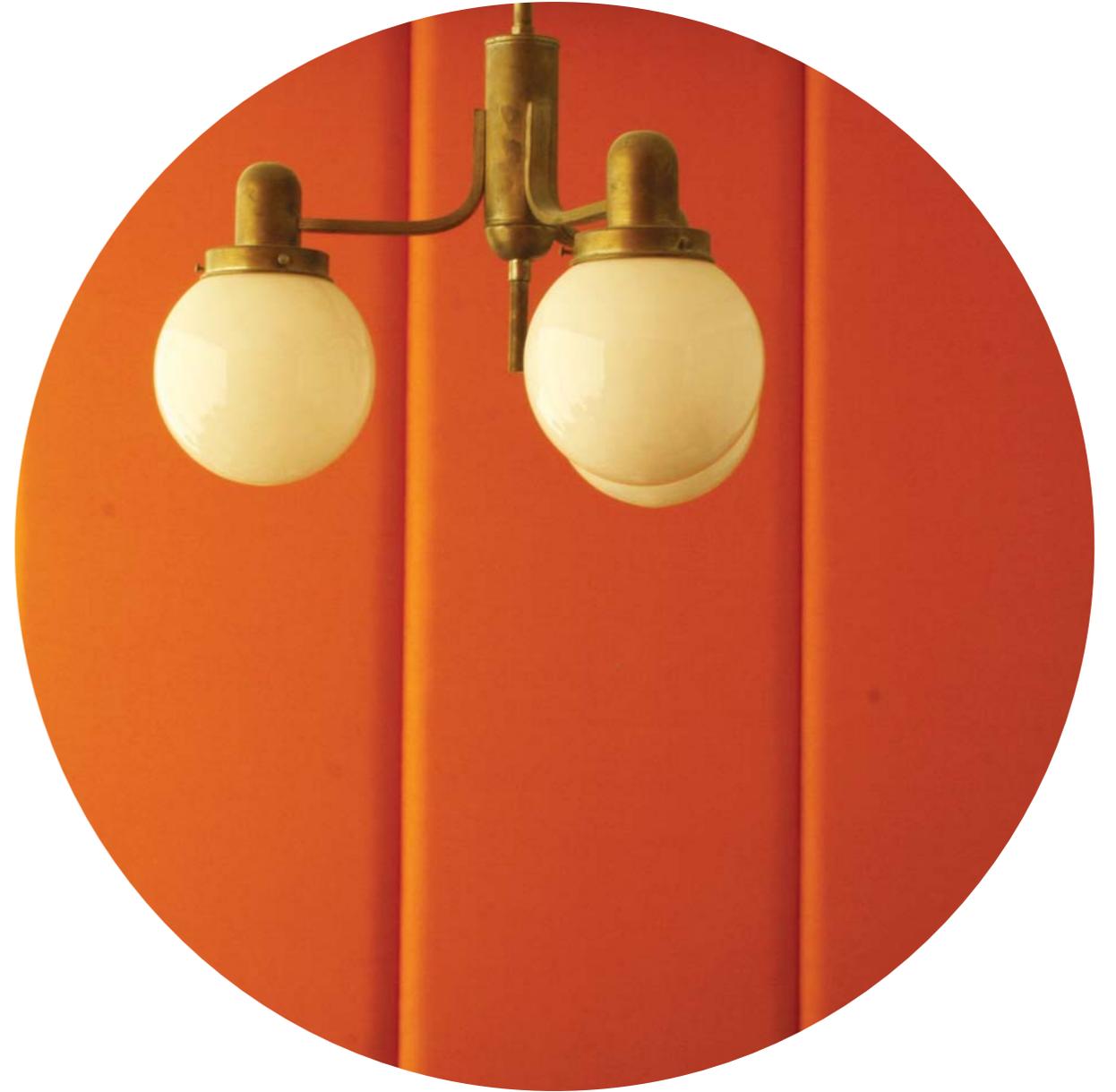
COMPLETED

The construction of the courtyard has been completed in the fall of 2018.
In Spring 2019 the couple has moved in to the courtyard house.

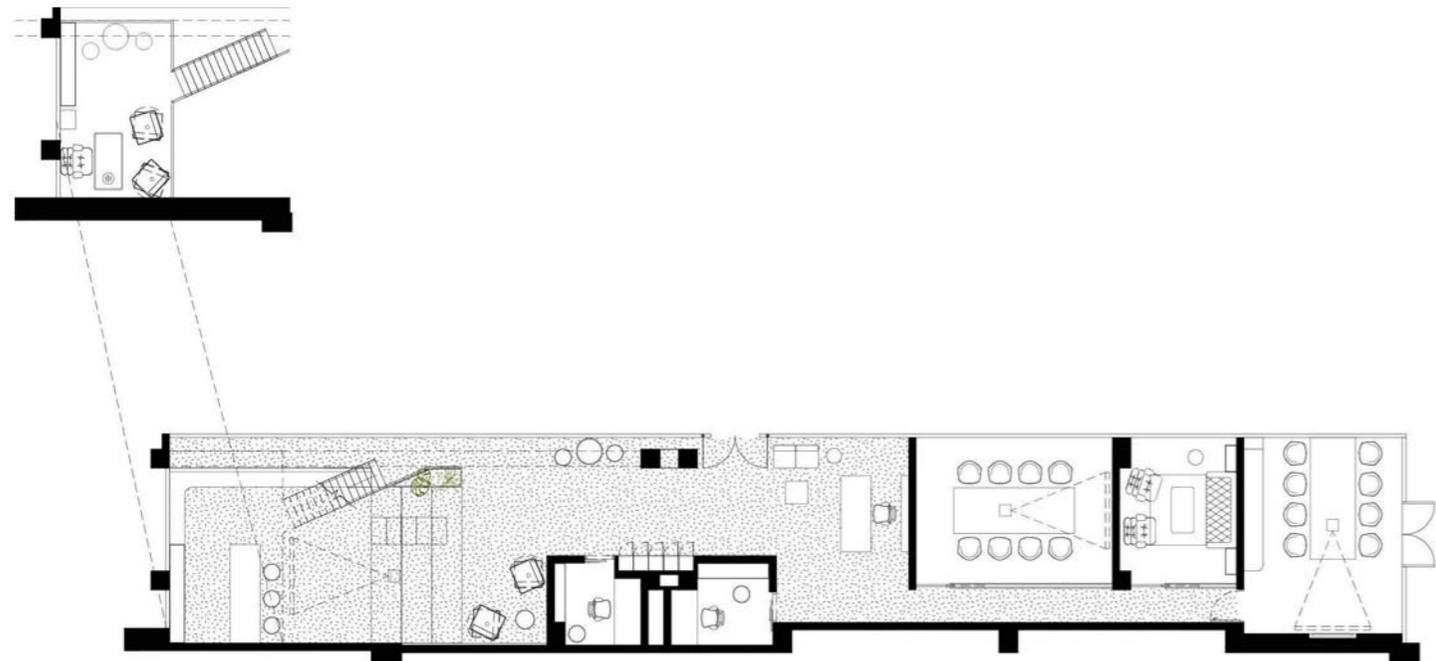
Guest room ◀
Interior section North - South ▶



FEEL GOOD INC.



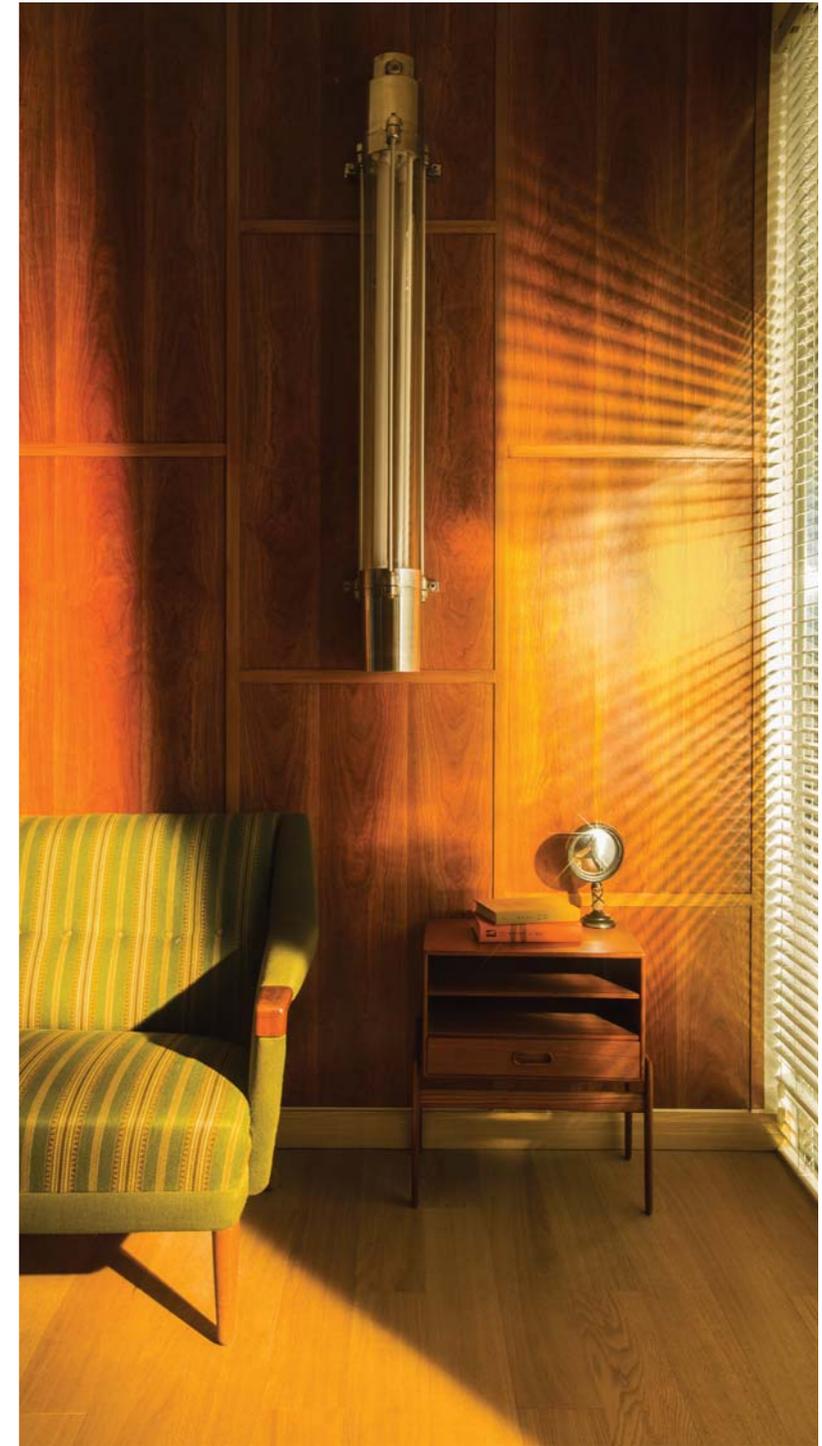
Year: 2017
Client: Feel Good Inc.
Program: Office
Size: 320 m²
Status: Completed
Team: Andrés López, Isabel Driessen



FEEL GOOD INC.

This project is located close to the 798 art district, for a client in the movie and advertising industry. The existing site seemed to be a difficult space to arrange a layout with the given functions due to its narrow and long proportion combined with its irregular heights. The space has been divided into a formal meeting area with 3 meeting rooms, and an informal work/meeting area equipped with a bar, movie screening area and a private area on an added mezzanine above the bar.

- ◀ Layout
- ▶ Private meeting room (photograph by FGI)



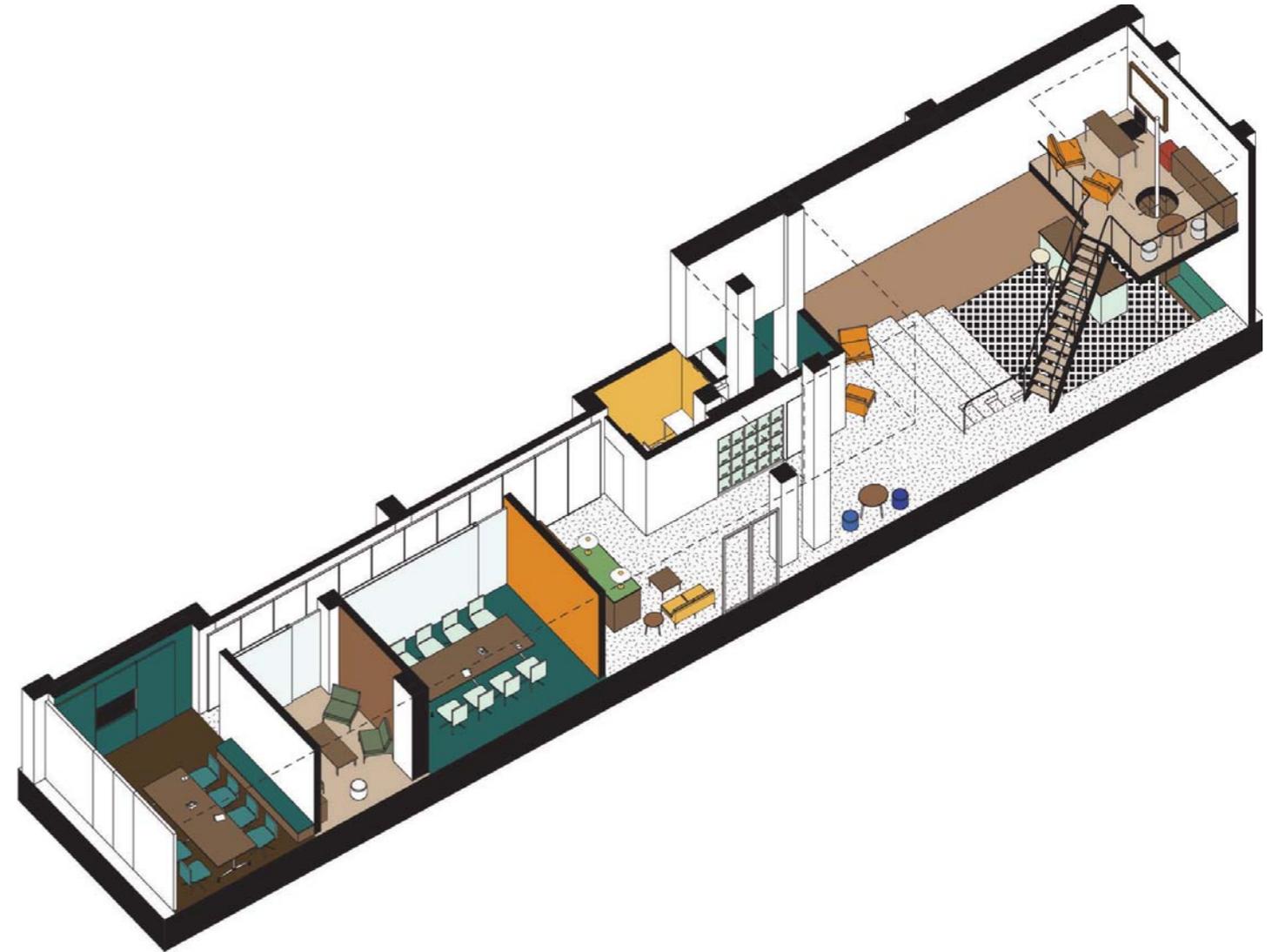


MOVIE REFERENCES

Scenes from movies directed by Wes Anderson were the starting point for the design. A bright colour palette combined with vintage furniture from Europe has been used to create an atmosphere similar to the movies.

Meeting room (photograph by FGI) ◀
Scènes from Wes Anderson movies ▶





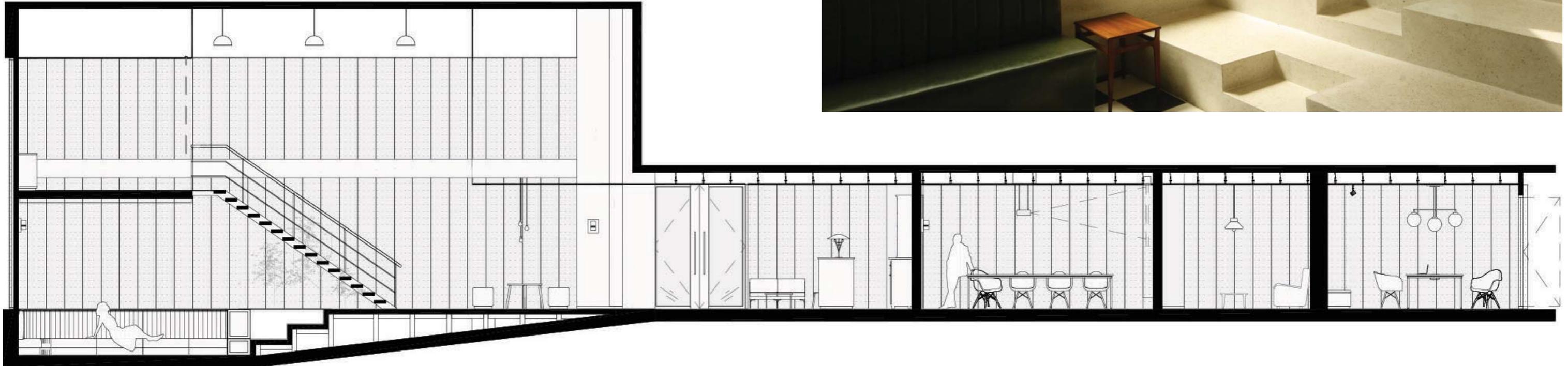
Meeting room (photograph by FGI) ▲
Design diagram ►



3 DIFFERENT FLOOR LEVELS

The Feel Good Inc office is located in a former factory. the South end of the space has a sloped floor which is converted into a tribune for movie screening leading to the sunken bar area. A mezzanine is placed above the bar to create a special area to receive important guests. The 3 different floor levels create a soft separation between the different program elements.

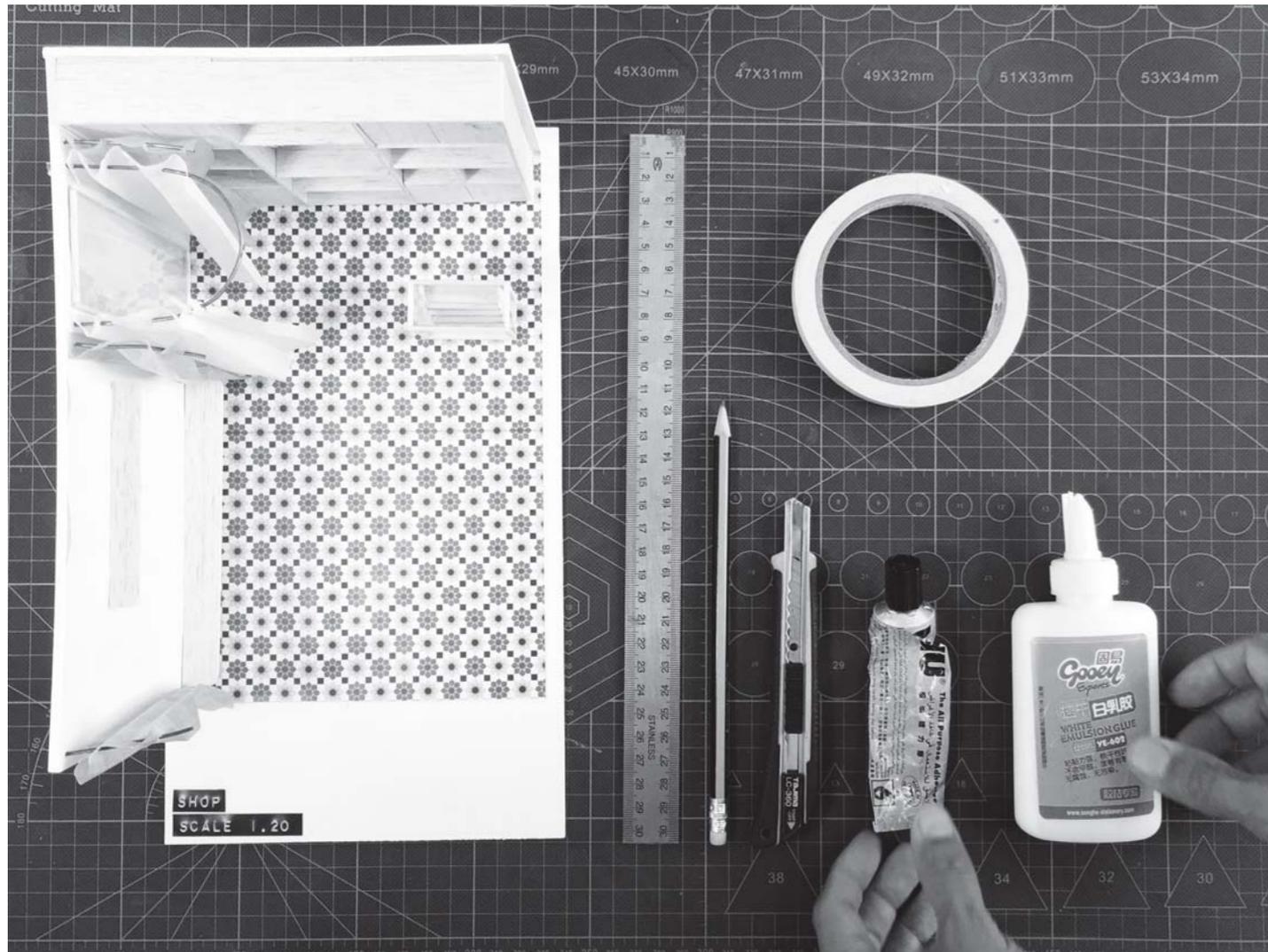
- Under construction ◀
- Movie screening tribune and staircase ▶
- Section South-North ▼



OJO



Year: 2018
Client: Private
Program: Retail
Size: 15 m²
Status: Completed
Team: Isabel Driessen, Andrés López



VINTAGE SHOP

In a commercial area in Beijing a small 15m² space is converted into a vintage clothing shop. The shop will sell most of the items online, therefore the space will function mainly as a display while there is no need for additional stock.

The shop is inspired on the Moroccan bazar to enhance the vintage feeling. The shop will have clothing and accessory displays on either side, a changing room and counter in the back and a large display cabinet on the backwall.

- ◀ Study model
- ▶ OJO entrance





MATERIALS

The materials selected are a combination of colours, patterns and lighting effects inspired by the Moroccan bazar.

A colour pattern tile is placed on the floor, while a white pattern wallpaper is placed on the wall and ceiling to create a neutral background for the clothes.

Orange fabric is draped along the walls and ceiling where it comes together with a silver lantern. The display cabinet will be made in dark wood and lit up by a neon logo. The shop entrance is a glass door with wooden frame in a blue painted door opening.



Colour pattern tile



Orange fabric



White wallpaper



Silver lantern



Neon logo



White fabric



Dark wood



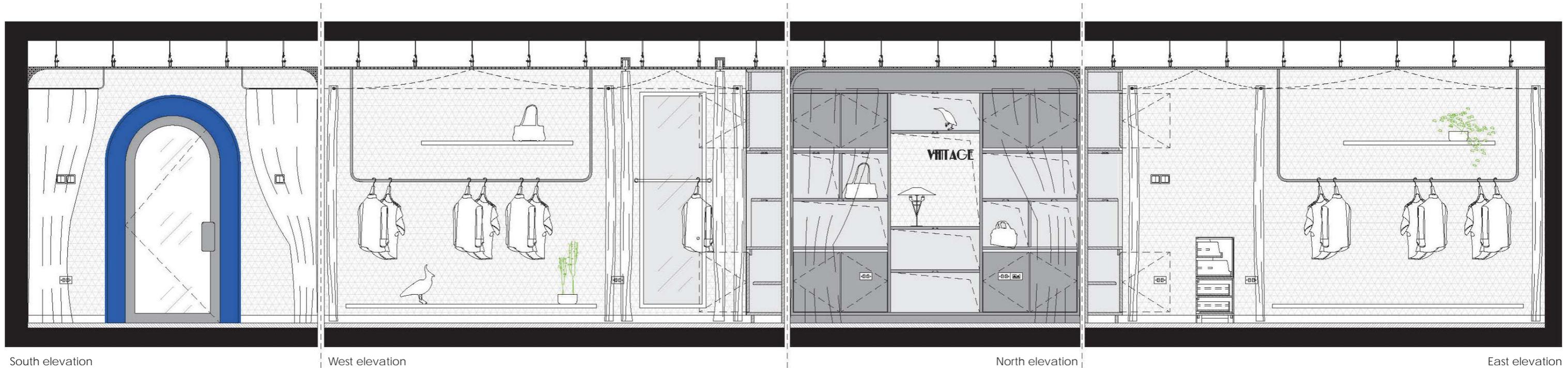
Blue painted wood

The shop under construction ◀
 Material board ▶
 Material diagram (next page) ▼

CUSTOM FURNITURE

The clothes will be hanging from a black metal bar mounted on the ceiling with a shelf for display both above and beneath the clothes. The counter will be custom made with two bottom drawers for the storage of bags and promotional items and two open top drawers for display of small accessories like watches and jewelry.

Unfolded elevation of the shop interior ▼



South elevation

West elevation

North elevation

East elevation

ZHONGGUANCUN PLAZA



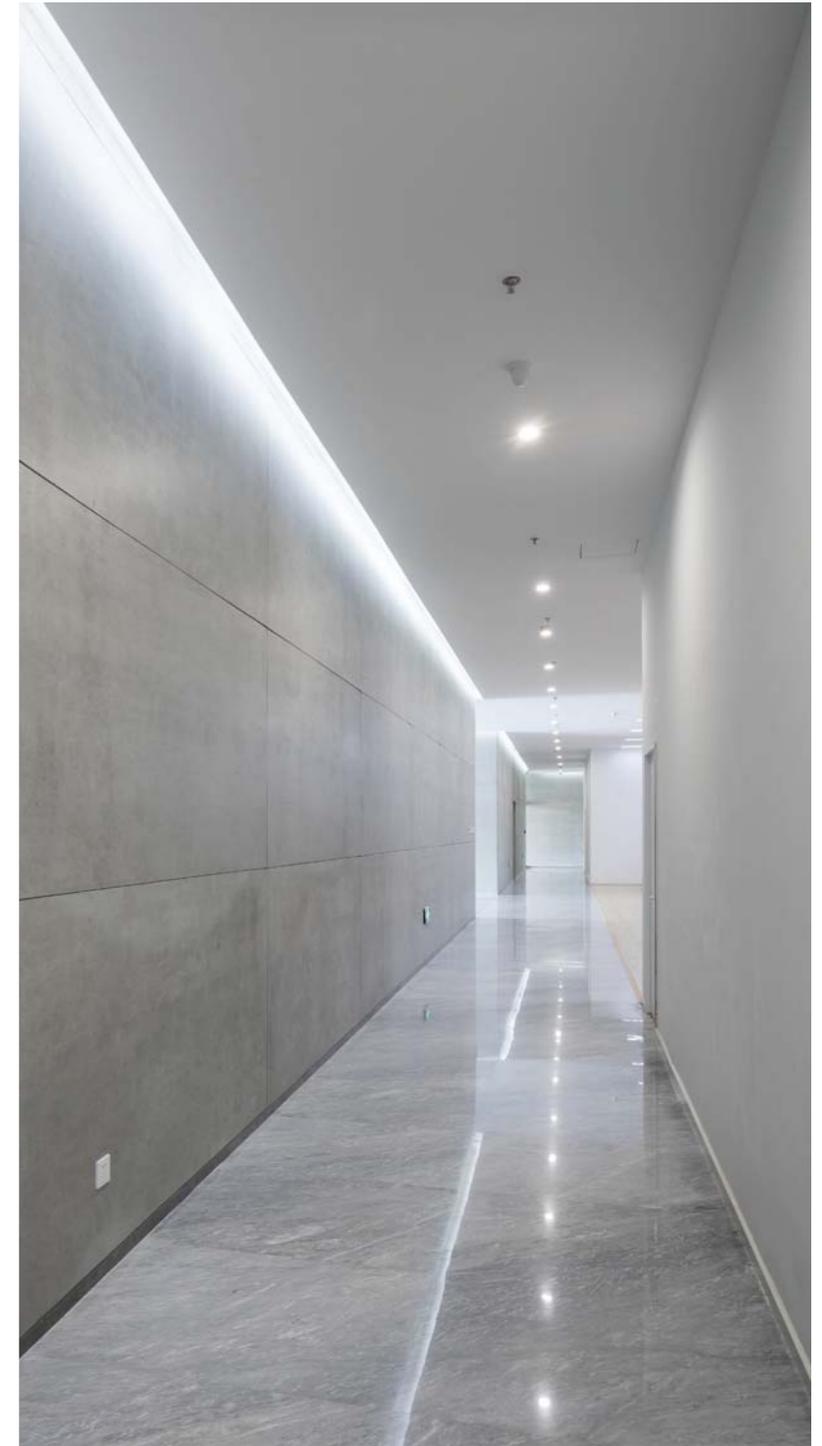
Year: 2016
Client: Beijing Bluechina Exchange and Investment
Program: Office
Size: 3000 m²
Status: Completed
With: Jing Bei Ji
Team: Isabel Driessen, Zhang Yingchun, Lu Jing, Chandra K. Njoto, Lin Junxin, Lin Jingbin
Photography: Gao Wen Zhong



ZHONGGUANCUN TONGHANG PLAZA

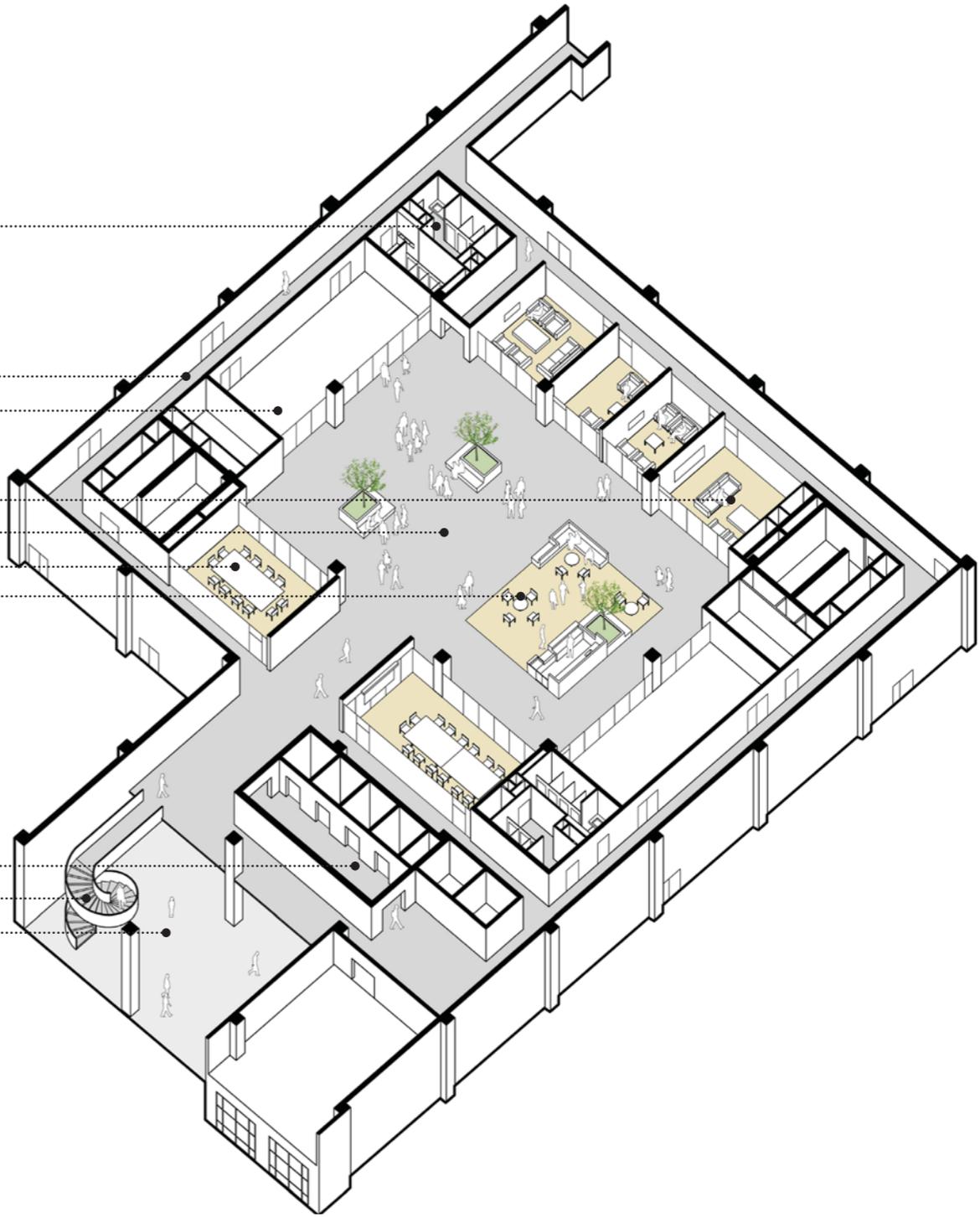
Zhongguancun Tonghang Plaza is an office tower with 59 individual office spaces and a shared public area of 3000 m². The scope of this project is the shared public space, which includes the reception area, lift lobby, 250 seat auditorium, a large atrium, several meeting rooms, the corridors and washrooms. The offices function independently and are able to use the public facilities upon their needs. To improve the circulation between the main public areas wider entrances are created for the auditorium and the atrium. Additionally a spiral staircase is added to create a direct entrance from the reception on the ground floor to the atrium on the second floor.

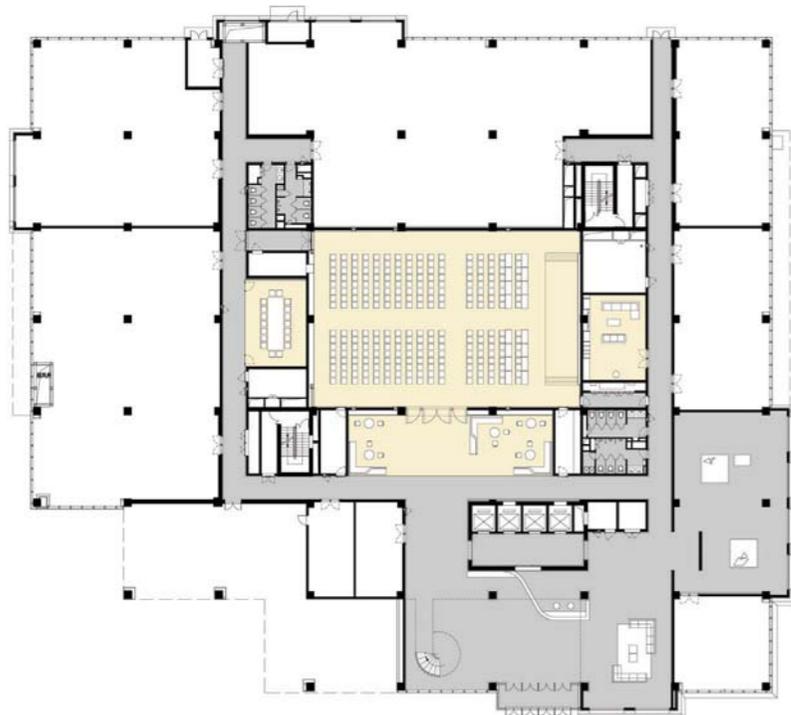
- ◀ Section West - East
- ▶ Public corridor
- ▼ Function diagram (next page)



Toilet
Public corridor
Rentable office
Informal meeting room
Public atrium
Meeting room
Café

Lift lobby
Staircase
Lobby

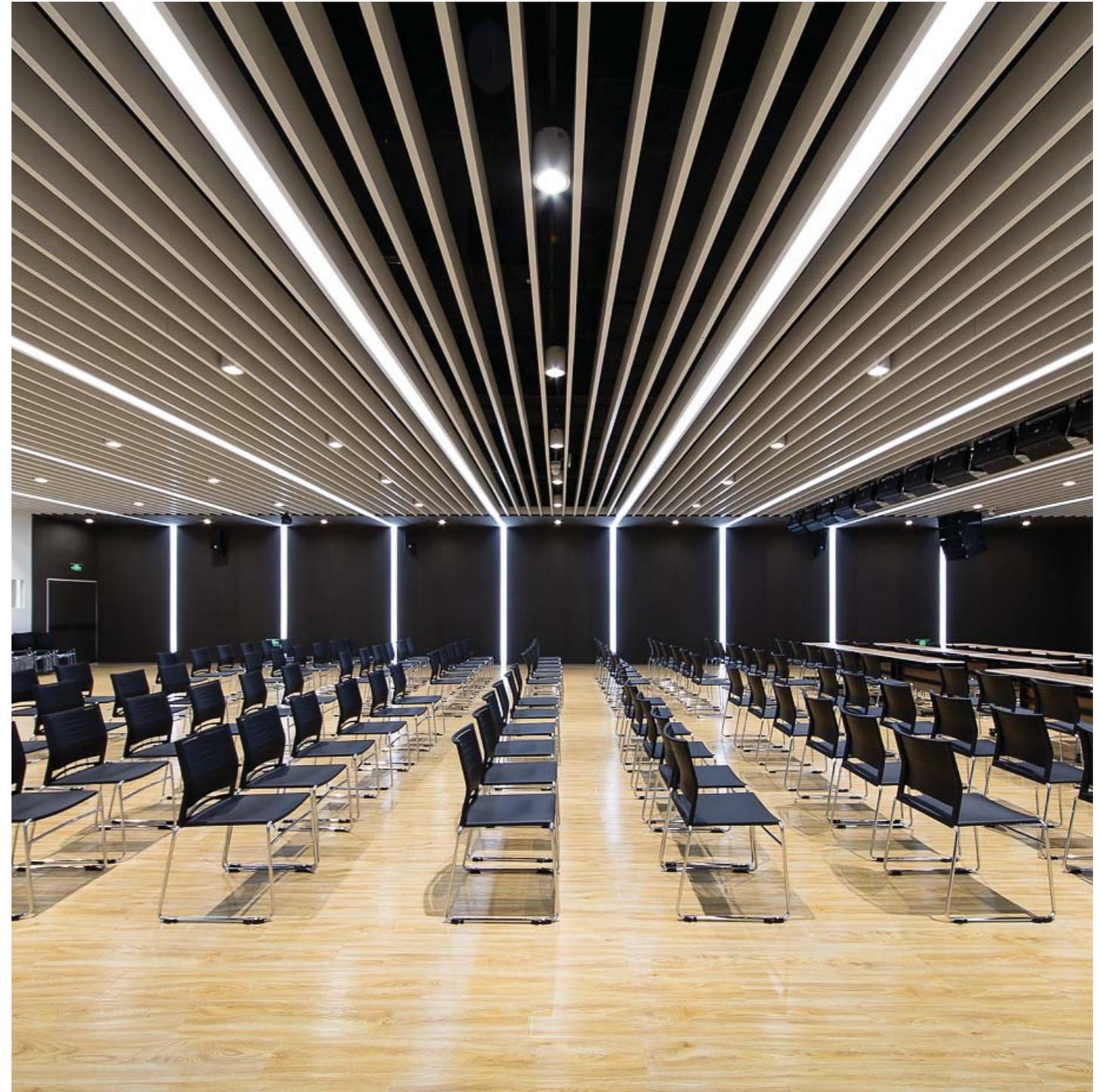




AUDITORIUM

The project seeks to create a neutral environment suitable for a variety of different companies. Therefore a palette of wood, concrete panels, white marble and white painted walls have been selected as the leading materials. The auditorium is the only exception where dark grey fabric panels are used to create a more focused and enclosed feeling.

Ground floor plan ◀
Auditorium ▶



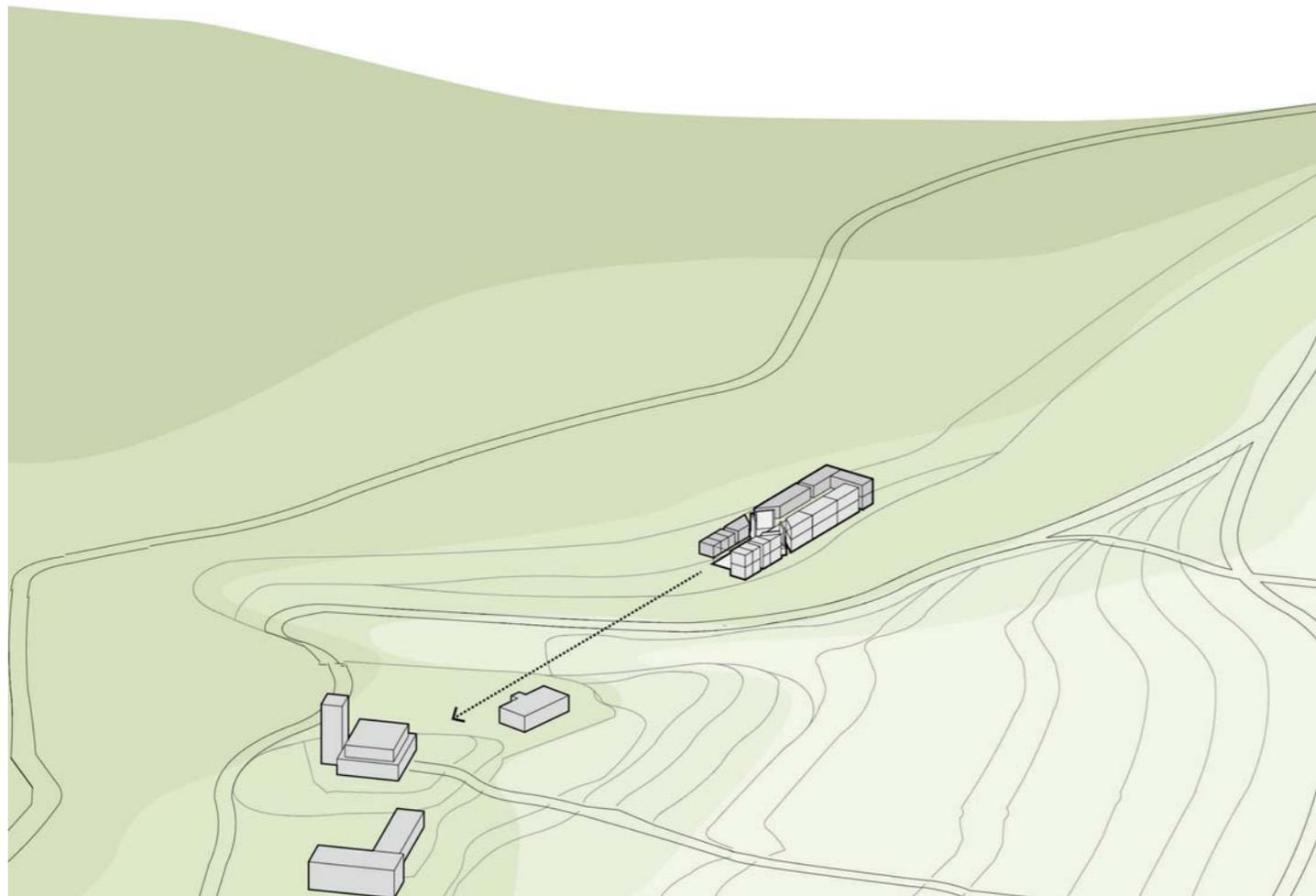


◀ Lobby staircase

MEDITATION HOTEL



Year: 2017
Client: Chakme Rinpoche
Program: Hotel and meditation centre
Size: 1200 m²
Status: Under development
With: Jing Bei Ji
Team: Isabel Driessen, Lu Jing, Chandra K.Njoto



NANGQÊN

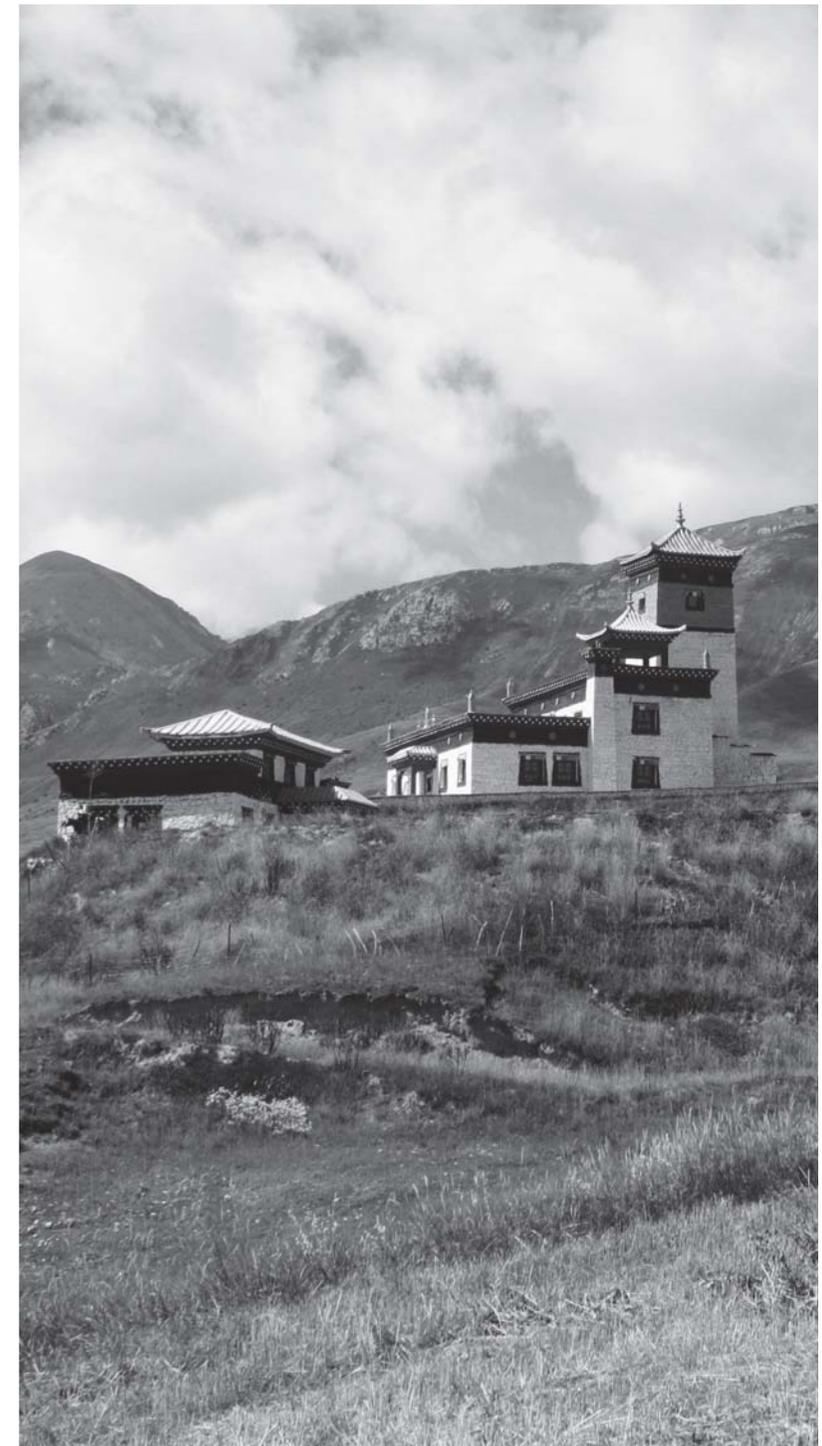
The meditation hotel will be located in Nangqên county in the south of the Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture. The land is under administration of Chakme Rinpoche and currently consists of a temple, museum and monastery. The hotel will function as a cultural centre for visitors from all over the world interested in the studies of Tibetan Buddhism and meditation.

A total of 12 rooms and a restaurant are combined with meditation rooms, a shared kitchen, exhibition and study hall and a winter garden.

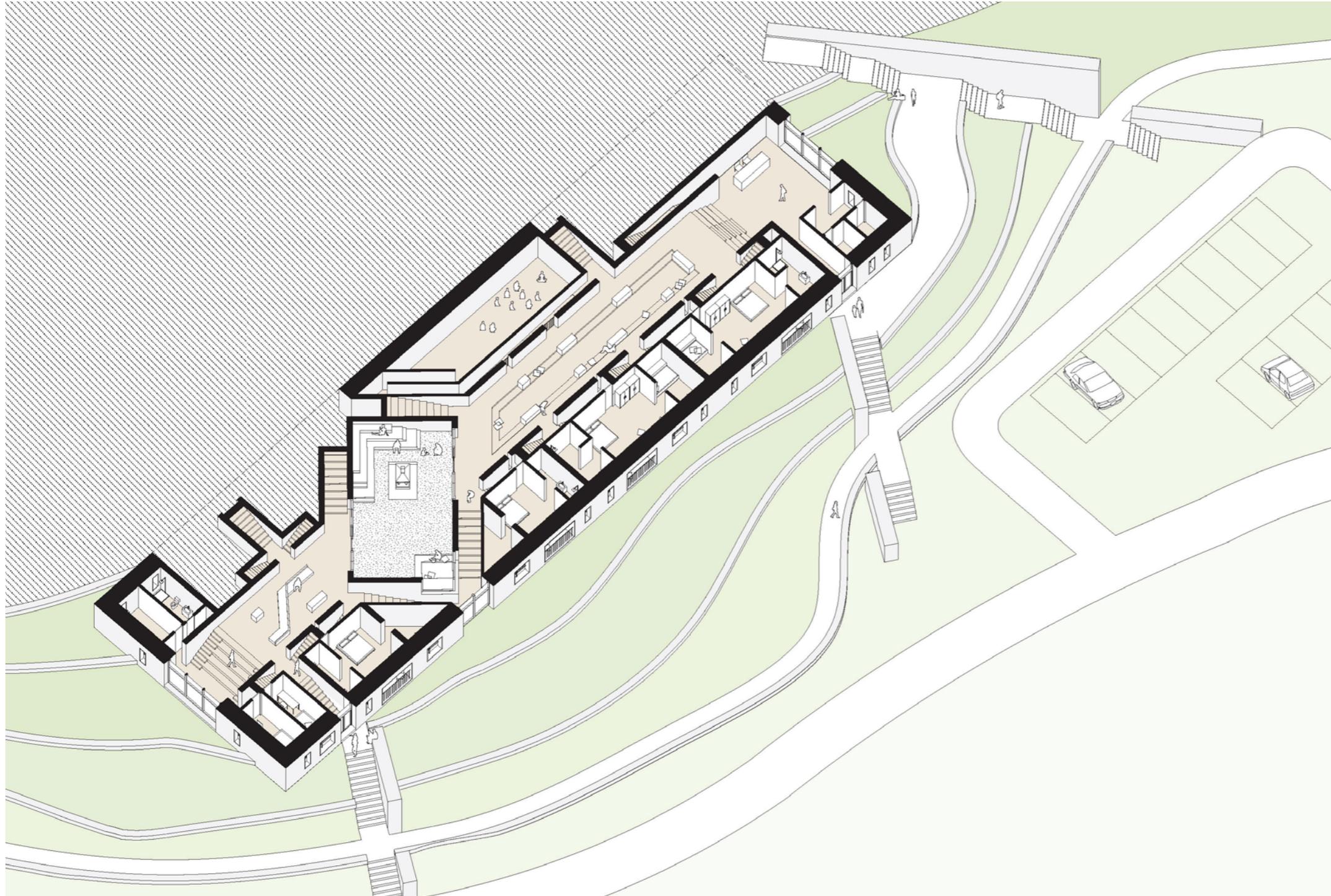
The climate in Nangqên is harsh at a height of 3700 meters above sea level. Long and cold winters alternating short summers. The hotel will be built with local resourced materials and construction methods. Thick tapered stone walls will protect the interior from the cold weather and possible earthquakes.

A long public atrium is separating the south facing hotel rooms from the meditation rooms on the north while creating a constant view towards the temple.

- ◀ Site diagram
- ▶ Nangqên museum
- ▼ Hotel site (next page)





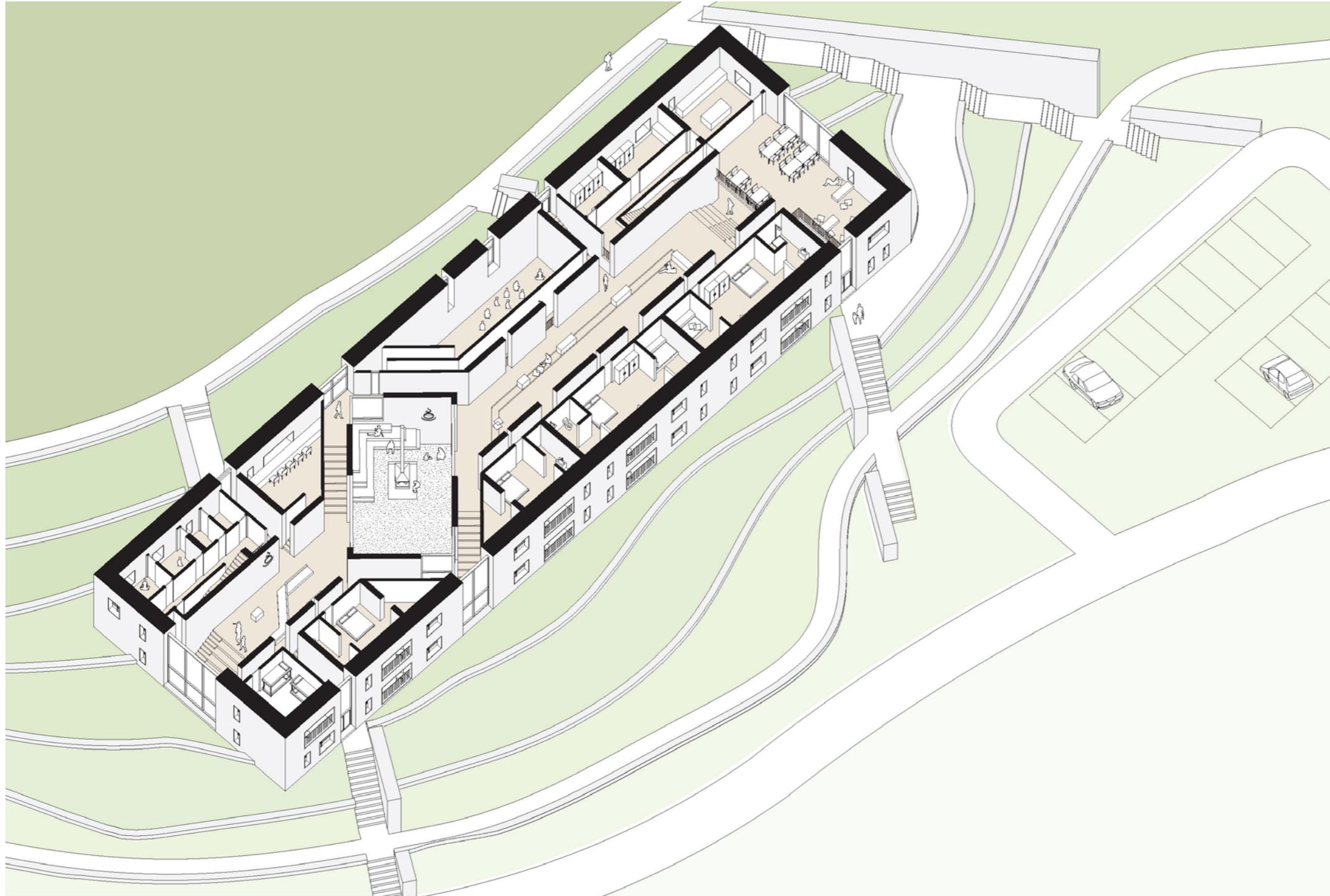


SLOPE

The natural slope of the site is continued into the building by using 3 different levels through out the building.

The entrance is on the lowest level as you ascend the hill from the parking lot. The central atrium is a split level in between the 2 floors from which you can access all the other spaces by either going up or down by staircase. The height differences create a clear separation between the public atrium and the private rooms and meditation spaces.

◀ Ground floor diagram



WINTER GARDEN

In tradition with the Tibetan architecture a south facing courtyard is located in the centre of the building to let sunlight enter the interior space. The courtyard is covered by a glass roof to create a winter garden for the cold season.

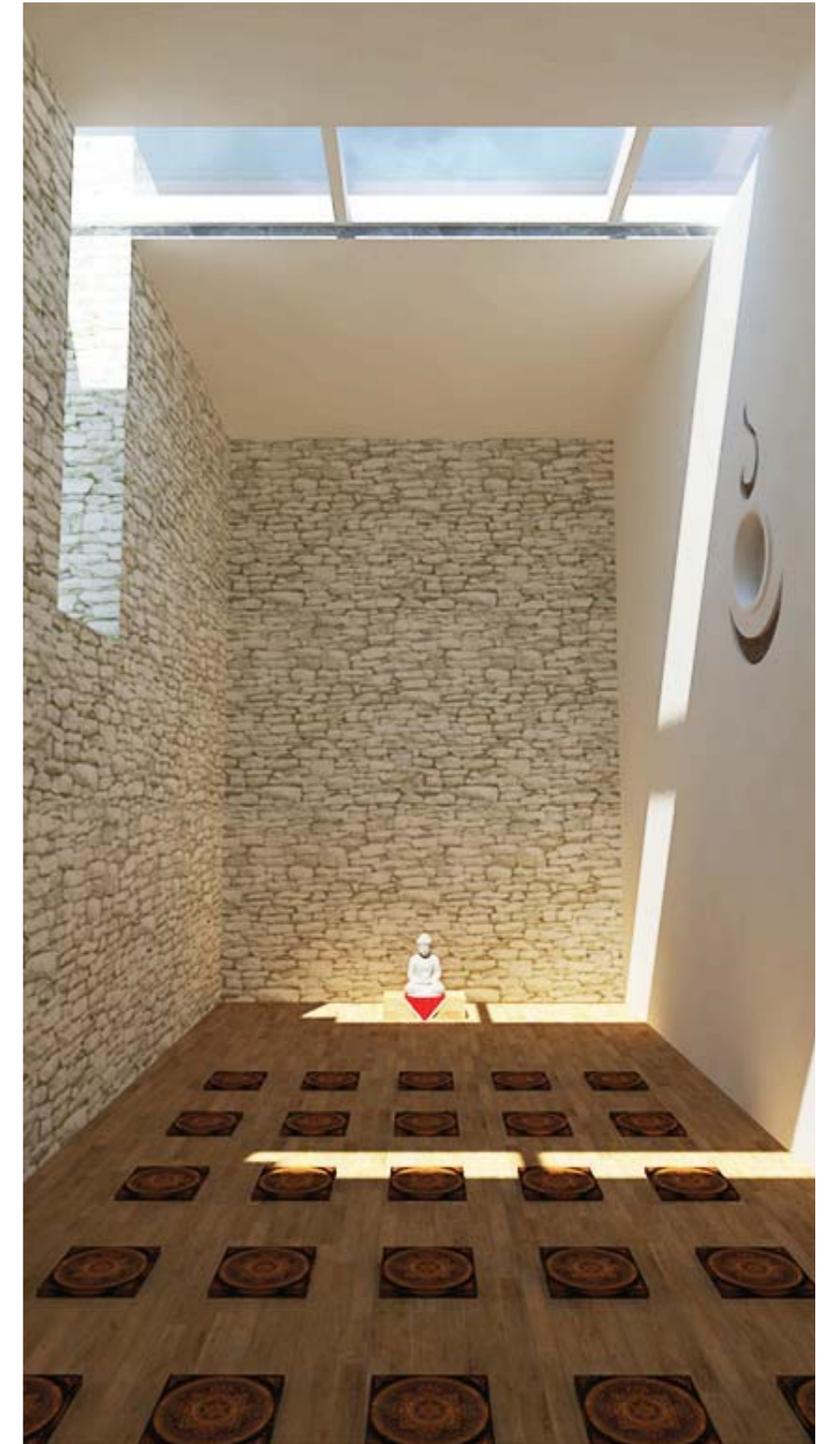
◀ Second floor diagram



VIEW POINTS

The relationship with the surrounding environment is the key point of the architecture. The main atrium is directed towards the temple where a large window frames the view. The temple can be seen through out the whole building. A sacred mountain near the hotel is visible from the public hall through large glass panels cuts on the south facade and from the punched windows in the hotel rooms which are all South facing. The meditation room is sunken in the landscape to create an enclosed and quiet space while a skylight brings in the light and gives a view towards the endless blue skies of the Tibetan plateau.

- ◀ Hotel room
- ▶ Meditation room





UNDER DEVELOPMENT

While the design is still under development the site is being prepared for construction. Construction materials have been collected from a nearby quarry.

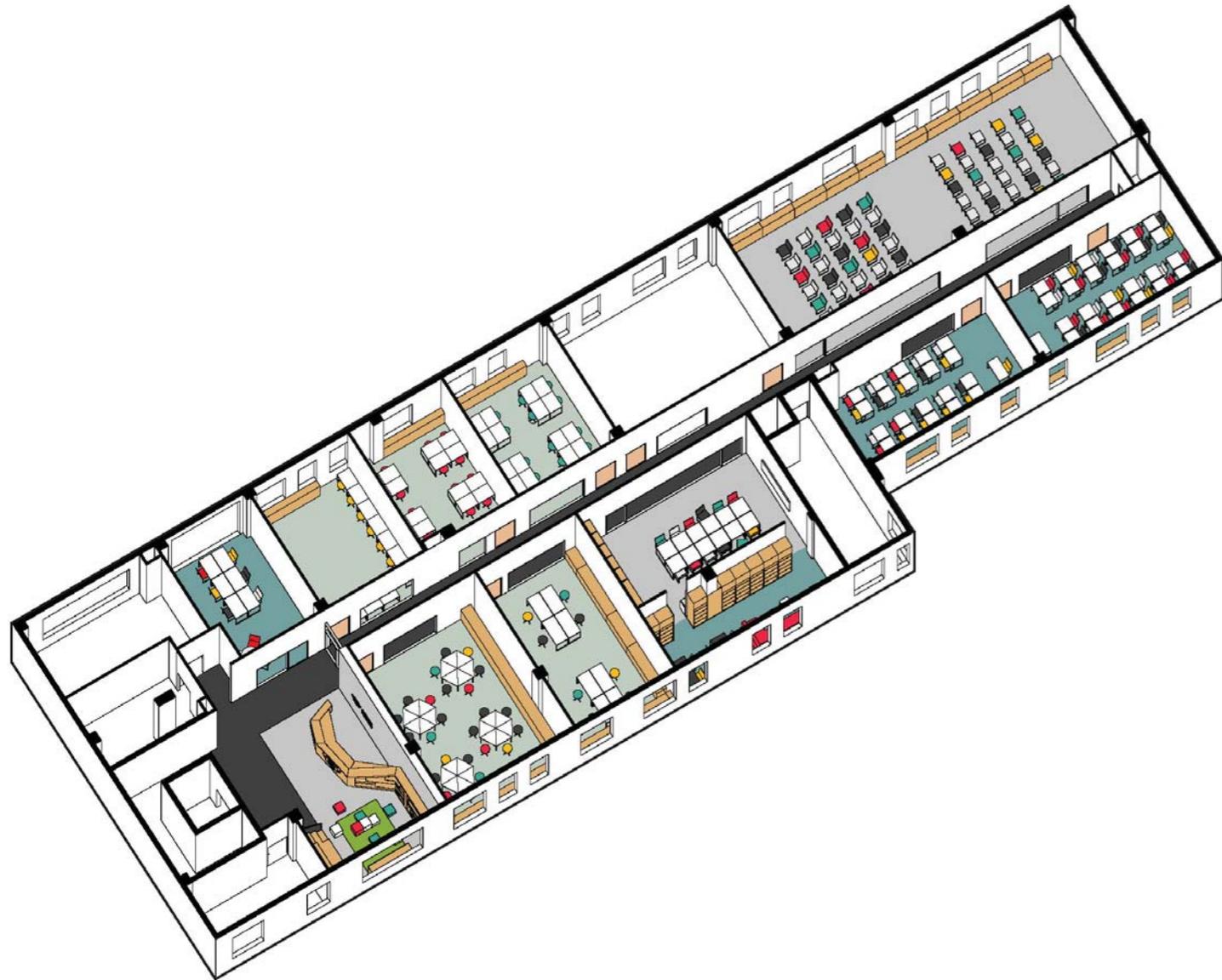
Design review with the client ◀
Taking site measurements ▶



MAKER SPACE I



Year: 2015
Client: Young Maker Workshop
Program: Educational
Size: 850 m²
Status: Completed
Team: Andrés López, Isabel Driessen



YOUNG MAKER WORKSHOP

Nowadays in China, complementary activities in children's education seem to be a must for the future of the country. The maker space aimed to be a space with a double function to exhibit its products combined with the teaching experience.

The function and configuration of each of the spaces was a continuous development after understanding the activities performed, such as 3D printing, programming and robot designing. These activities also helped to hierarchically determine the spaces with important design features.

- ◀ Design diagram
- ▶ Workshop area



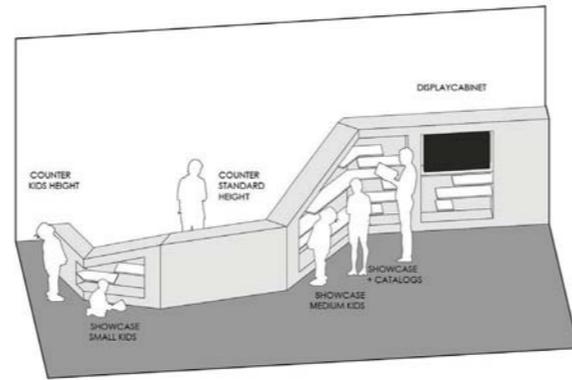


DESIGN STRATEGY

Transformation, as one of the main activities, was used to approach the spatial configuration and fixture's design.

The reception area is framed to serve from a showcase to a small audience lecture room. The main feature is a fixture that integrates the reception counter with a display cabinet in which height varies allowing children from different ages to approach to the samples produced during the classes.

- Counter detail ◀
- Counter diagram ▼
- Reception area ▶



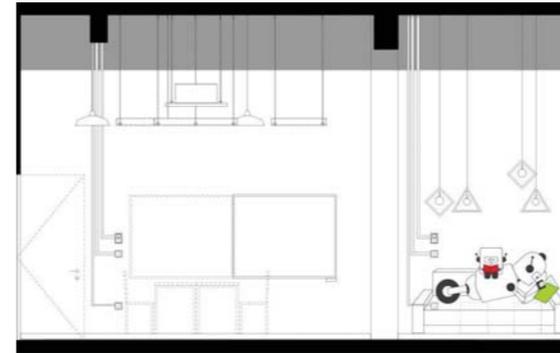


MAKER SPACE

Children's care and the relationship with the project's function were the criteria to select the materials. Therefore, simple and soft textures combined with plain colours enhanced high contrasts, which would help to focus in the learning activity.

The maker space combines the library and the workshop, highlighting it from the rest of the classrooms. A fixture that fits the main function of the rooms divides both spaces, it also serves as a display with the tools used and the models made during the sessions.

- ▶ Maker space entrance
- ◀ Maker space
- ▼ Graphic design for library





VISUAL IDENTITY

The overall idea of the graphic design was to deliver a clear idea about the function of the maker space; thus, the logo and additional characters are drawn in an iconic way for easier understanding. The logo is the outline of a generic robot, combined with two colours to contrast its simplicity.

In addition three more characters are included in the storyline performing the activities of the classrooms where they are placed; in the graphics they always work together as a team. The entire visual identity package contained the logo, environmental design, graphic guidelines for publications and products related when representing the workshop in competitions and trips.

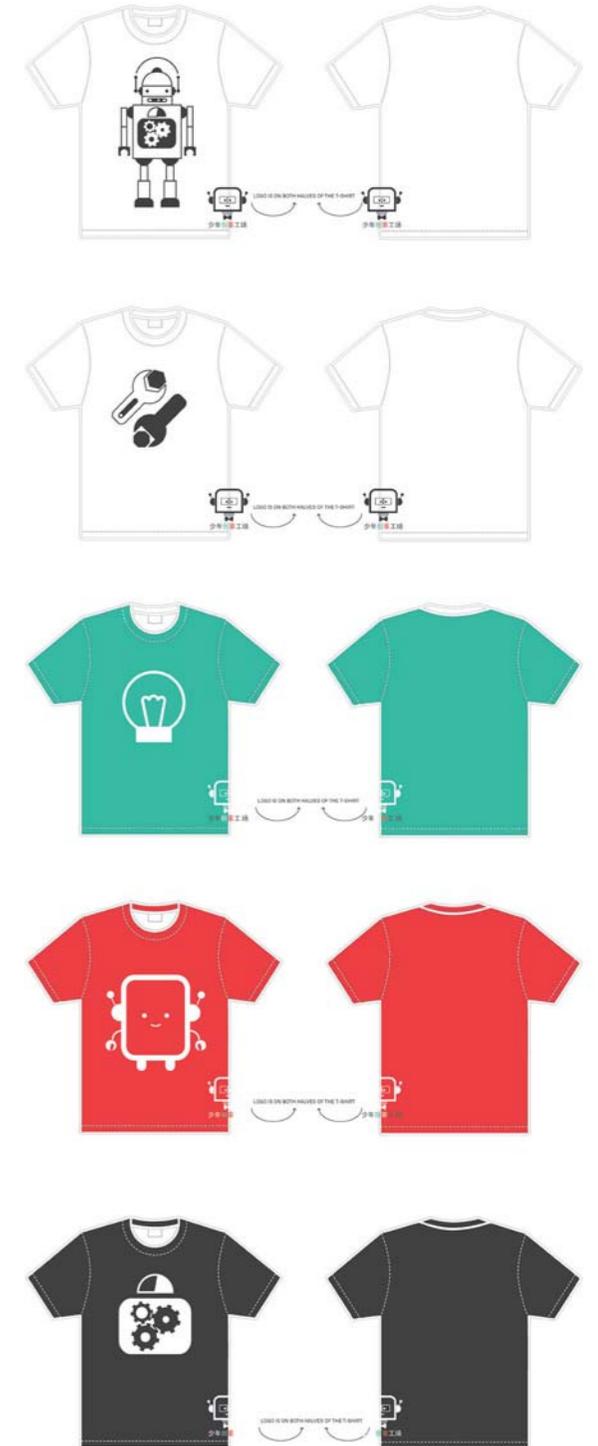
- Robot assembly room ◀
- Company logo ▶
- Company T-shirt ▶



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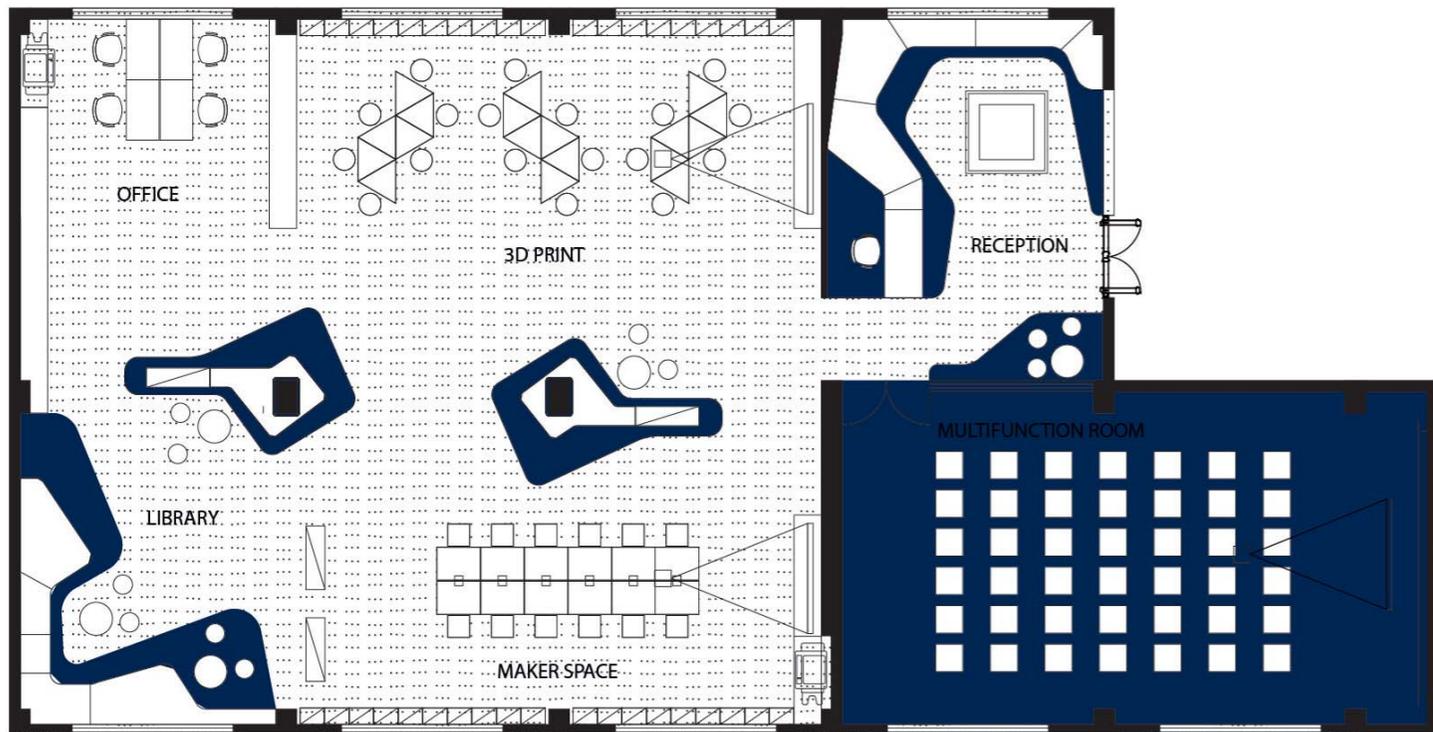
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MAKER SPACE II



Year: 2016
Client: 3D Science Studio
Program: Educational
Size: 285 m²
Status: Completed
Team: Andrés López, Isabel Driessen



3D SCIENCE STUDIO

The workshop is located inside a school in Foshan and it is an annexed part of the library. After the incorporation of the Maker Space class in the curriculums of the schools in Guangdong, Kantoor was appointed to design the workshop space after the visit of the school's principal to the MAKER SPACE I.

Although it is smaller in size all the functions from the previous project remained in an open plan for easier control of the students by the teachers.

- ◀ Layout
- ▶ 3D science studio





FLEXIBLE LAYOUT

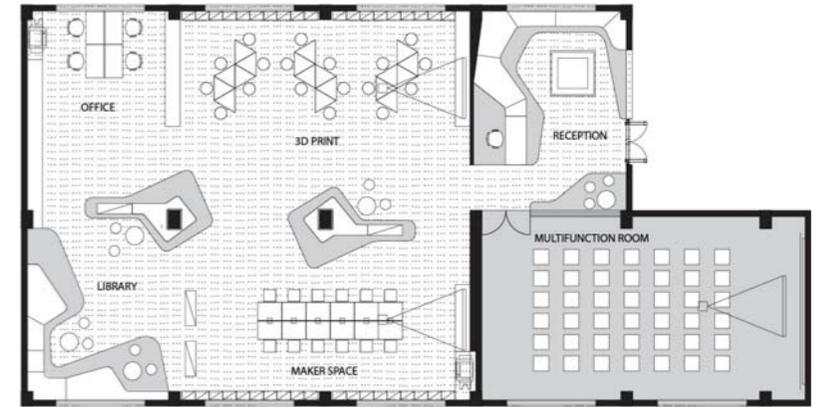
The overall workshop is conceived as a flexible space to fit the configurations the classes require. This request works as a general guideline in all the design aspects. The furniture selection is determined by its modularity and the lighting by its arrangement and distribution.

A series of movable fixtures work as space dividers, display cabinets and benches for smaller groups discussions; these elements are complemented by the floor pattern, which marks the seating areas.

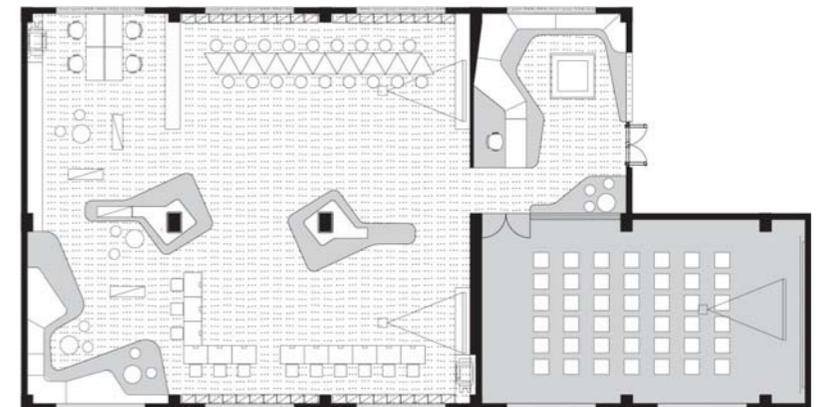
As a starting point the space was divided between a public (reception and multifunction room) and a private area (maker space). Besides, the program arrangement in the maker space follows the relationship between the functions and the existing architectural elements integrating them into the design.

Considering the space location and the amount of natural light it receives, the material and colour selection was considered to contrast the interior with the exterior.

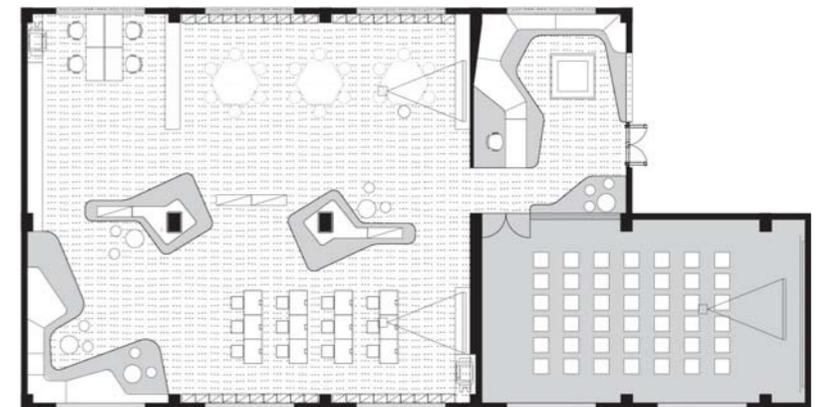
- ▶ 3D Science studio layout
- ◀ Reception and logowall



Standard arrangement



Robot testing arrangement



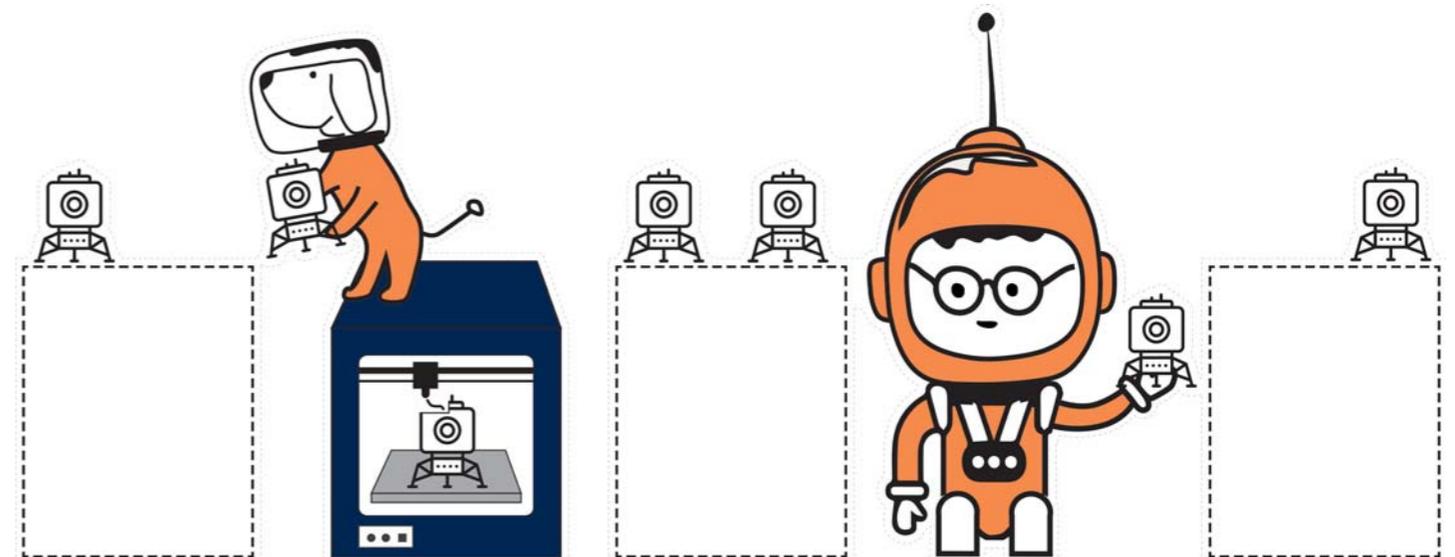
Workshop arrangement



VISUAL IDENTITY

The logo aimed to encourage children into science with the personification of a kid in an astronaut's helmet, travelling through different scenarios in the space with the "space dog". They also perform the activities of the spaces where they are placed using space exploration as the main context. Additionally, to complement the topic of space exploration robots developed by NASA to explore new planets were drawn and placed in the columns.

Column graphic ◀
Graphic for 3D printer cabinet ▶





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