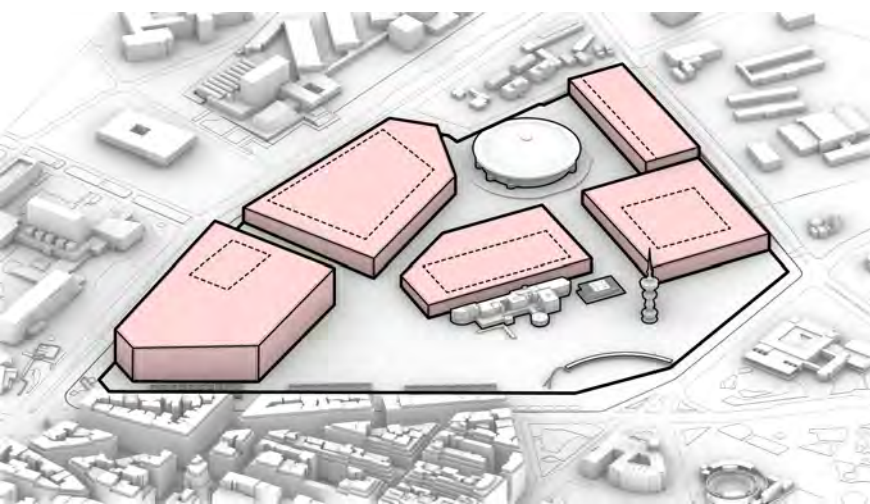
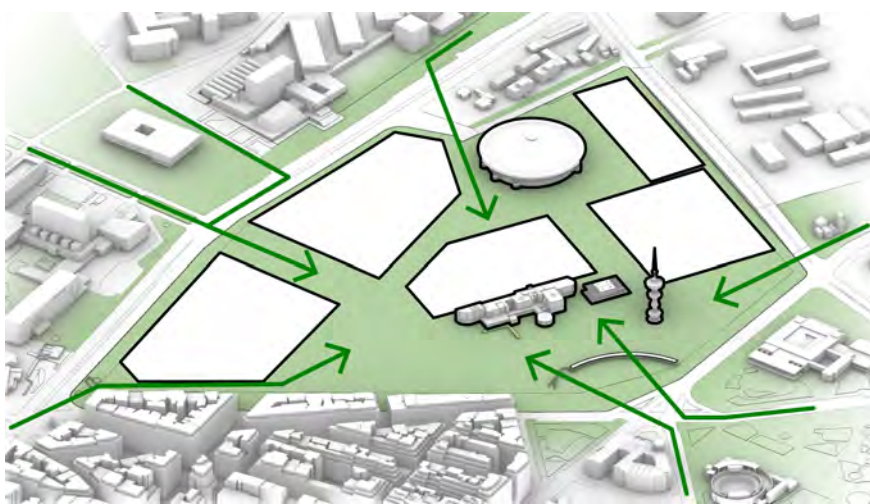


# The Theatre of Trees

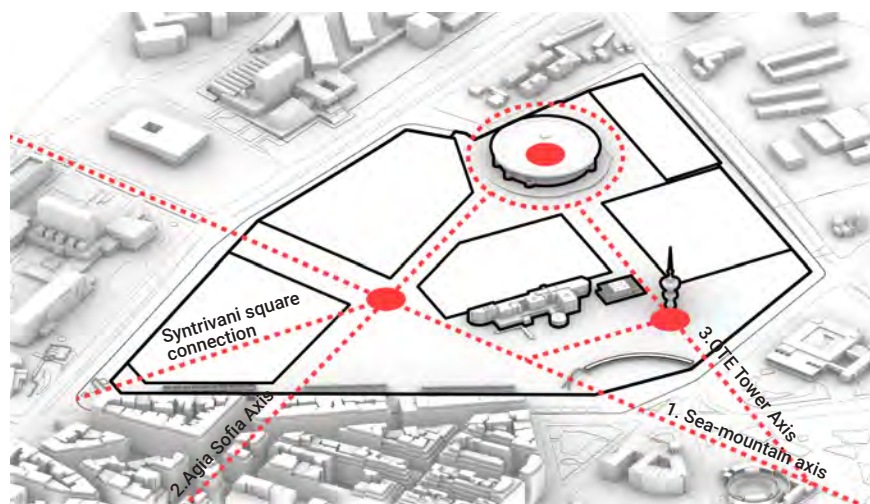
The new Expo Centre offers Thessaloniki a new green heart that celebrates Greek nature and embraces the culture and history of the city. A new radial array of trees and park landscape carves its way through the exhibition halls and surrounding functions binding them to the heritage structures with landscape. This grand gesture populates the scheme with a variety of intimate moments to explore. Theatres of trees and provide centres for activity creating a unique landmark and more human scale experience to the expo park.



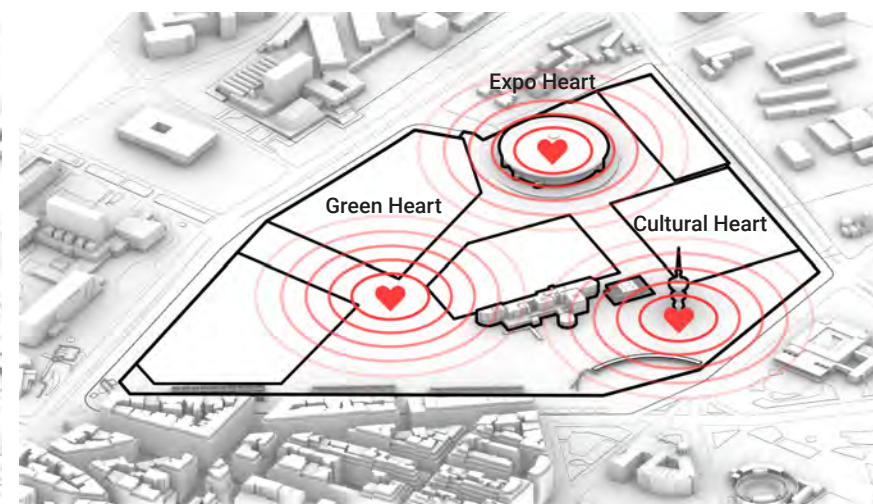
**Extrude the maximum buildable area**  
The scheme looks to maximise the buildable area, creating the largest and most flexible free-spanning exhibition halls possible in a logical manner. These simple volumes allow us to take an economical approach to the design, by focusing our energy on feature moments where they are most memorable, allowing the rest of scheme to be calm and functional where required.



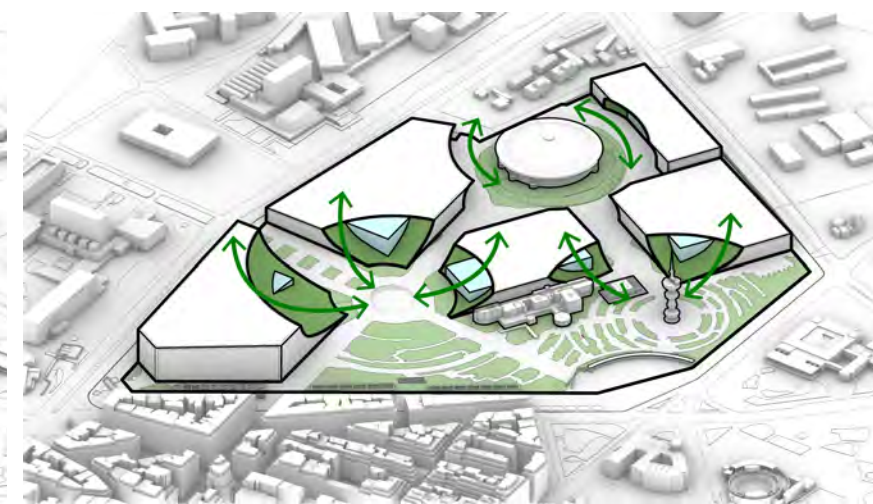
**Create the maximum impression of park**  
At the same time the scheme attempts to create the largest amount of public park space possible. This not only connects a green corridor from the waterfront and beyond, but expands out from the allotted landscape zones into the wider scheme.



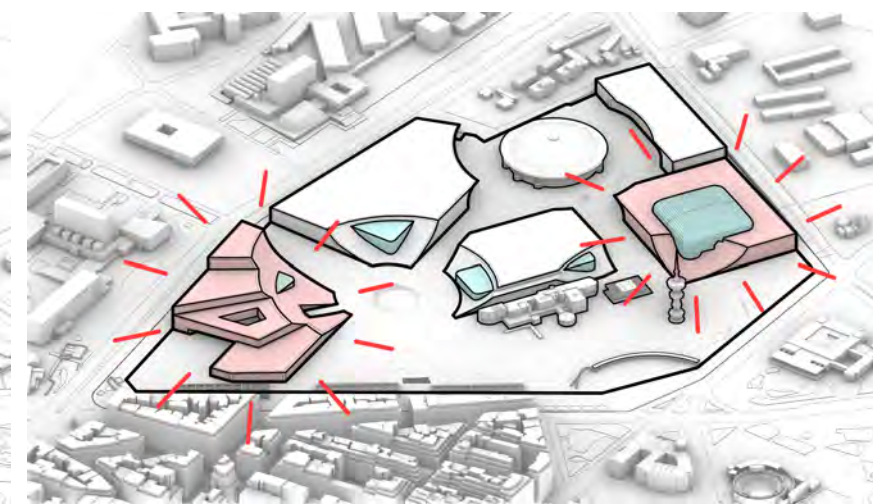
**A clear network through old and new**  
Using the existing buildings as anchors the scheme introduces three main intersection points. These form the base circulation network that echoes an original masterplan for the city as well as creating clarity between the seemingly scattered placement of the heritage structures and a clear flow through the new plots.



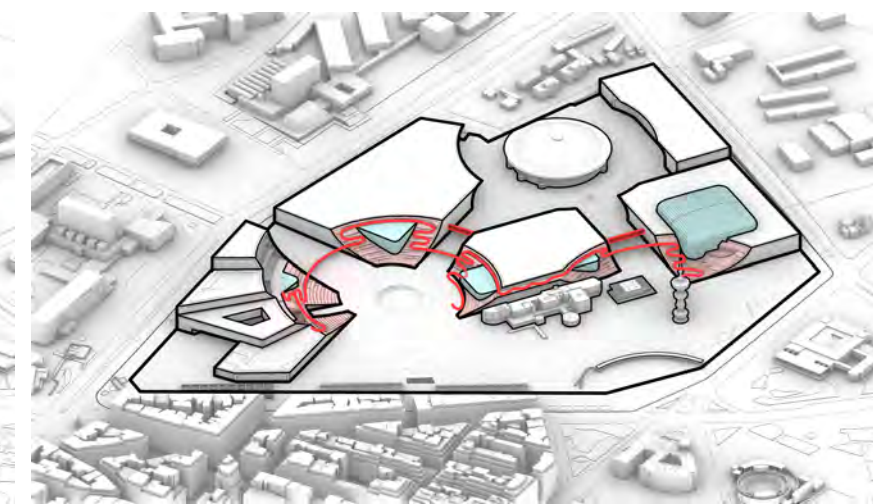
**A public hub of activity**  
These intersections create three distinct hearts to the scheme, from the main green heart that acts as a central gathering space and entrance into the expo park, to the cultural heart that connects some of the heritage buildings with artistic installations and pop up activity to the expo heart that circles the AAMTH, creating not only an outdoor exhibition space, but a radial promenade connecting the main entrances to each of the halls.



**Carve out volumes to create slopes and cliffs**  
The three hearts create an exciting moment where the expo meets the park landscape. This carves a radial imprint across the scheme that creates a landmark park and a strong visual coherence within the scheme and with the heritage structures. These spaces reveal a series of feature cliff moments that allow the exhibition halls within to express themselves in the landscape, as well as create distinct entrances around the AAMTH.



**Celebrate the hero buildings**  
The business hub and congress hall emerge from the holistic vision to create a stronger landmark imprint on the scheme. The former creates a contextual and sensitive relationship to Syntirvani square, whilst creating a strong impression and great views over the landscape. The latter exposes the main congress hall as a jewel in the landscape, creating a panoramic experience from within.



**Introduce connective paths that link the carve-outs**  
A meandering walkway winds its way through the landscaped terraces to create a winding linear park through the carved facades leading to raised plazas, viewing decks that is a nod to the walks through the city's historic Roman walls.



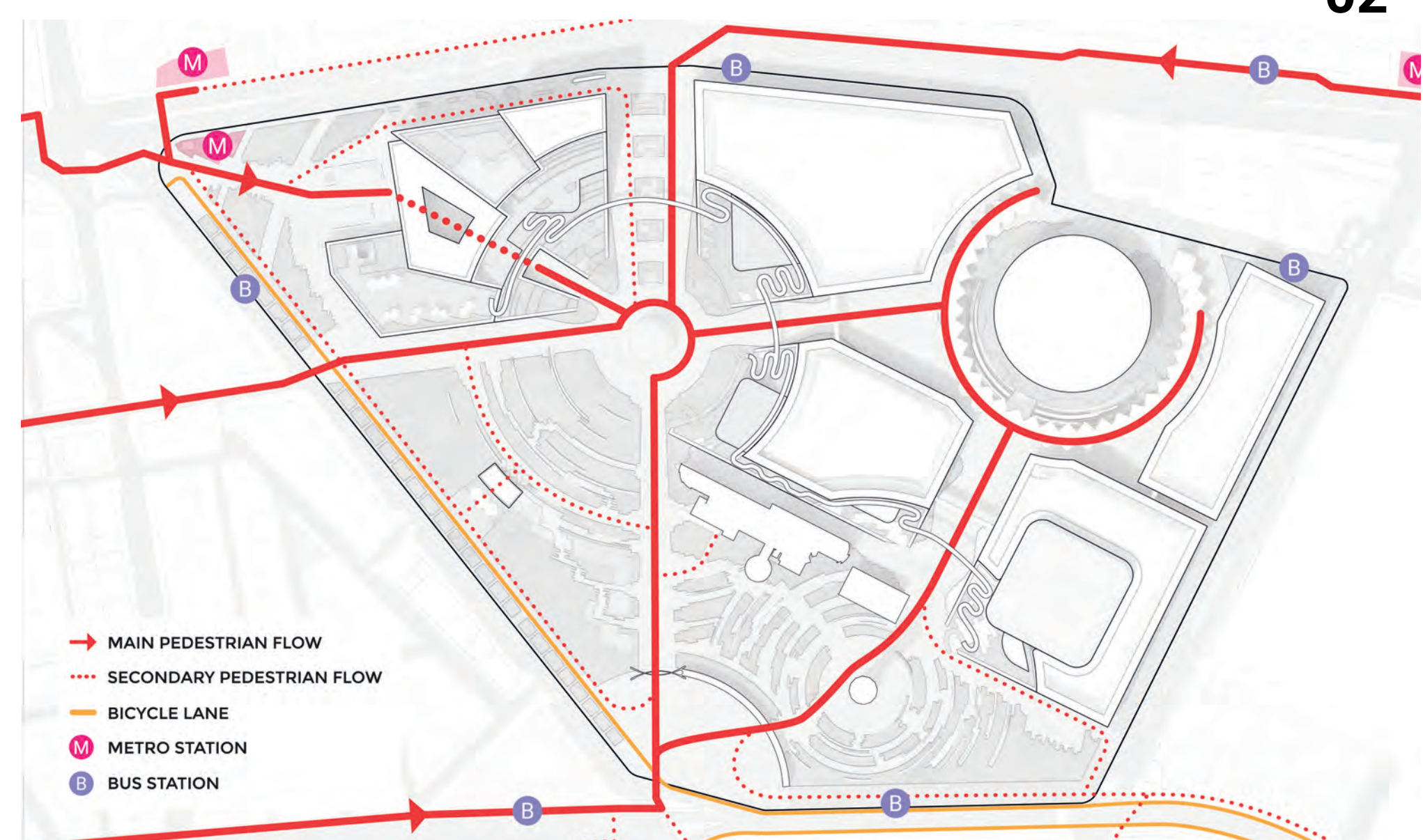


# Three Axes Three Hearts

The proposed design connects the surrounding green spaces and carves back the buildings to create three distinct hearts of activity at the intersections of historical axes between the seafront, the mountain and the city centre. These spaces introduce a generosity of green space, a variety of inspiring public and outdoor expo spaces that provide program flexibility and seamless integration to the city fabric. A clear logistics and security strategy are integrated into the public realm design in a seamless manner to create the impression of promoting a public space first, whilst acknowledging the functional requirements of the expo centre.



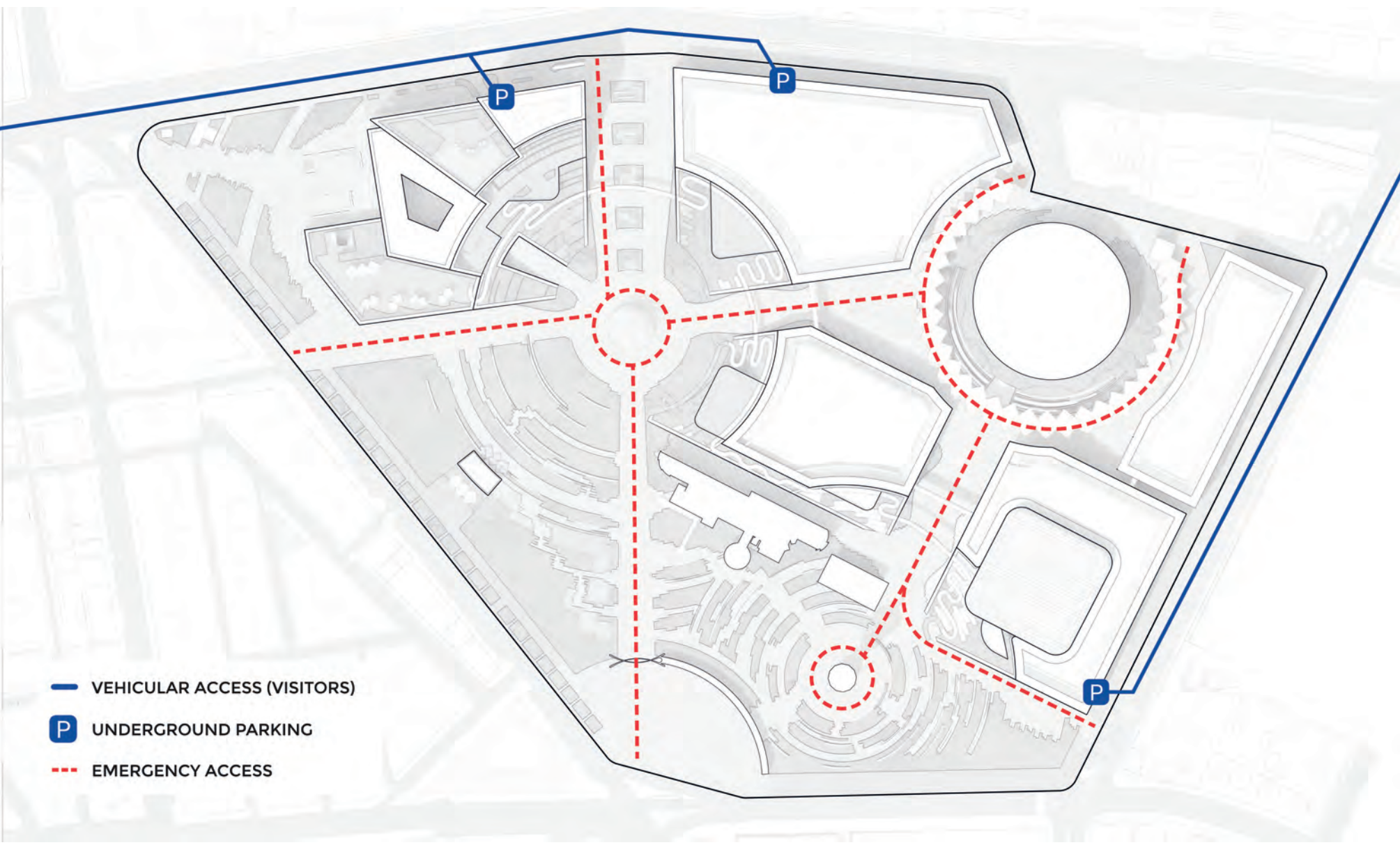
Programme



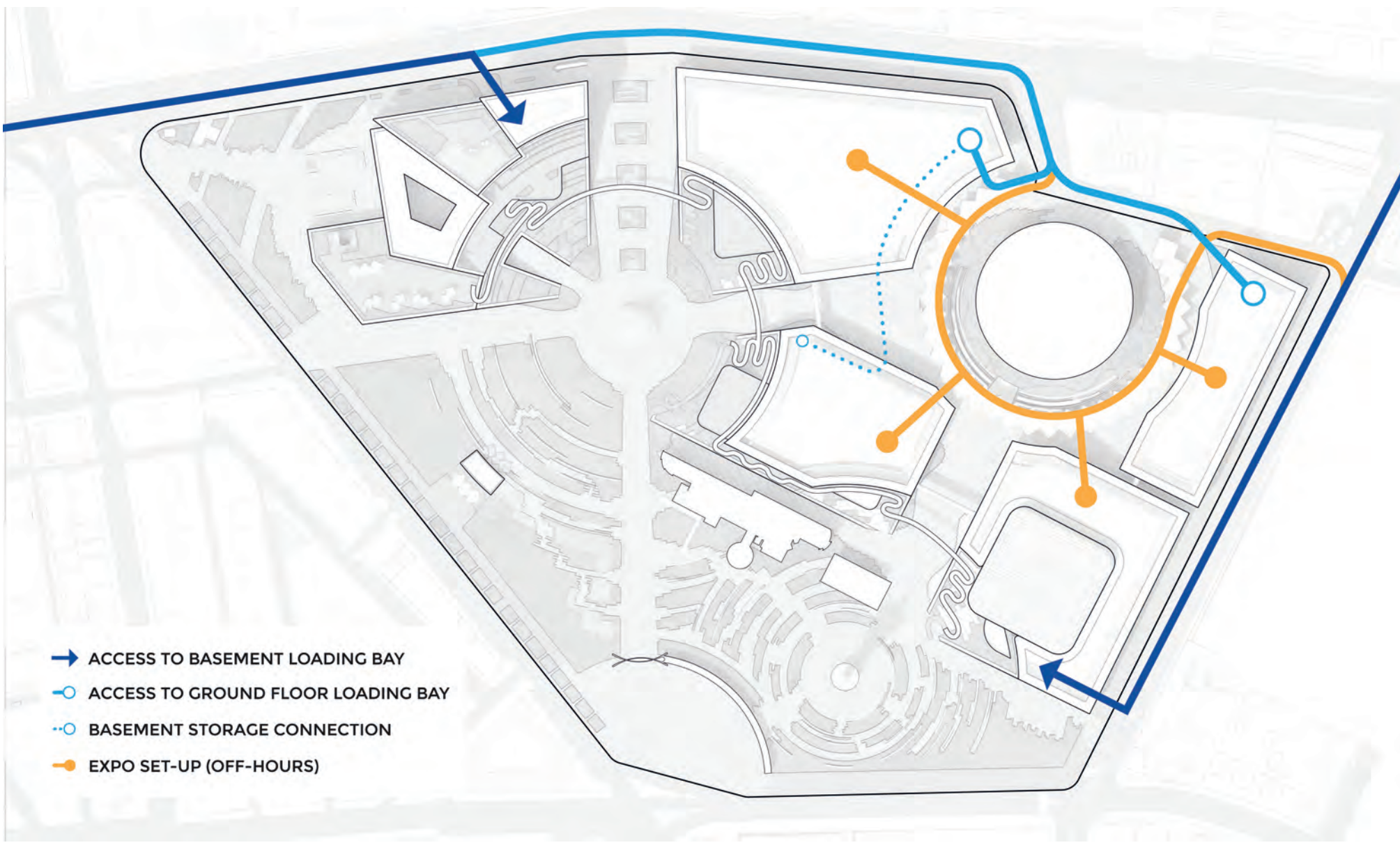
Pedestrian and Bicycle Routes



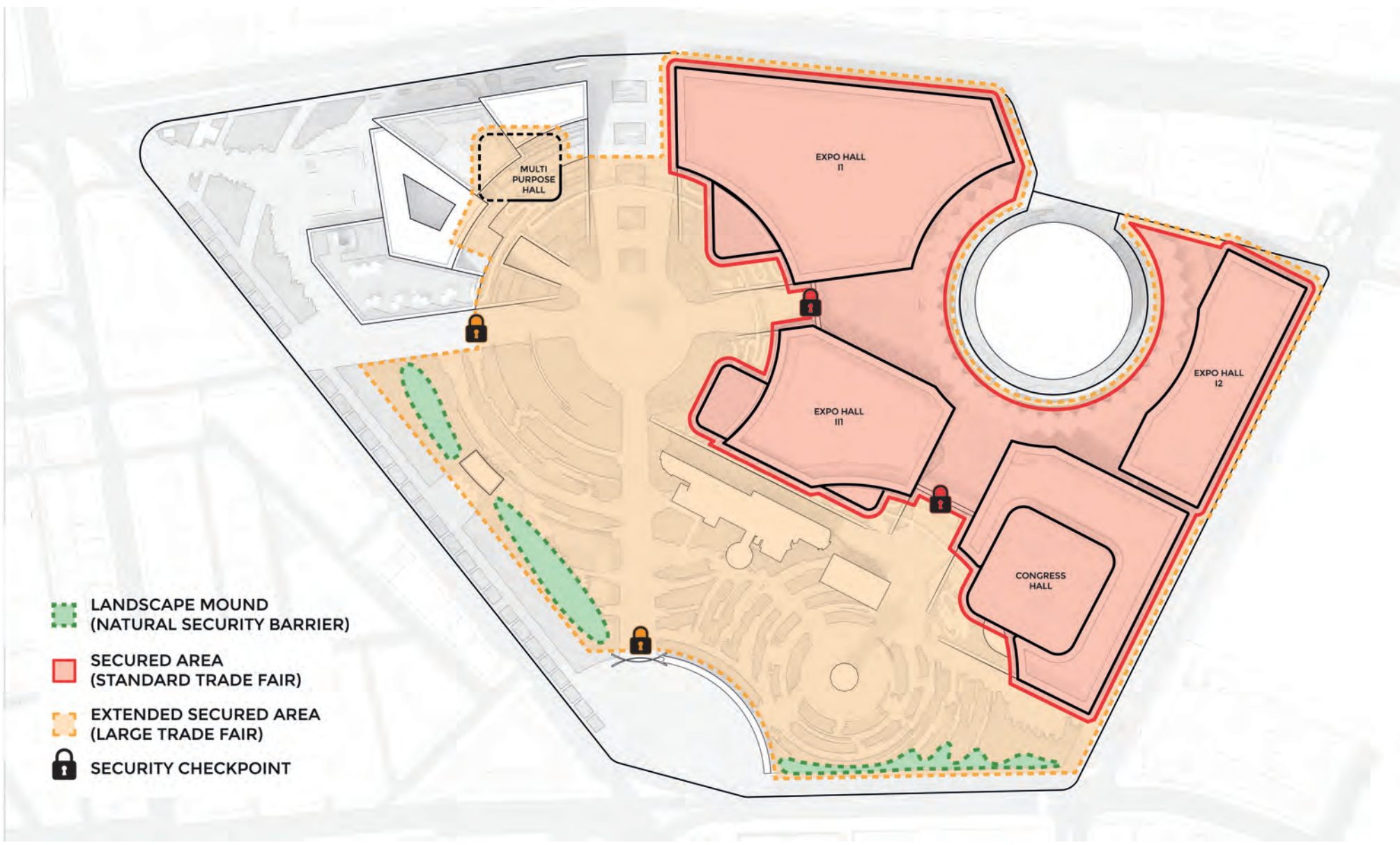




Vehicular Access



Logistics



Security



Overall Ground Level Plan\_1:500



# A Green Transformation

The scheme balances the needs of the expo with the city's desire for a grand new public space. The three hearts are flanked by a wealth of park space, creating a variety of experiences, connected through a winding an elevated accessible walkway. This allows visitors take a shaded journey through the beauty of Greek nature, affording views into the park and beyond, as well as bringing the public closer to the exhibition and cultural spaces within.



### The Green Heart

The focal point of the scheme sits at the intersection axes from Alexander the Great Statue and Agia Sofia. Its space is an informal amphitheatre with low planting and trees on the slopes that allows people to gather or take a meandering walk through layers of greenery. Cliff moments invite visitors to stop and enjoy the views. A dry water feature emphasises the centre of the space, providing a cooling off spot with event programming flexibility. The generosity of space has the capacity to transform into a large amphitheatre like environment, using the focal point as its centre stage



### The Cultural Heart

This space unfolds around the modernist landmark of OTE Tower next to the ESSO Pavilion and the Museum of Contemporary Art. It features a radial array of pathways and stopping points for pavilions, sculptures and pop up installations, providing an area of cultural exploration under the shade of trees. It also functions as backdrop of the congress centre and the expo building curve-out stepped landscape that offers generous views to its centre.



### The Expo Heart

The Expo Heart functions as a wayfinding space that hosts outdoor exhibitions. The space benefits from the shade of a lightweight canopy and the overhangs of the expo buildings that frame together a circular promenade. The circular curve that shapes the overhang responds to the AAMTH round geometry. Under the overhangs, the Expo façades feature protruding glass boxes that visually connect interior with exterior and break down the scale.



### Landscape Considerations



**Maximizing green space**  
Valuable green space has become more important than ever. By pushing the planting areas beyond the designated zones and onto the building curve-out slopes, the scheme maximizes its potential for better and more comfortable outdoor spaces, increased biodiversity and heat absorption. The stepping volume of the business centre offers additional planted terraces that reflect the principle of maximising green space.

**Sustainable Planting Design**  
The planting concept aims at, on one hand reducing maintenance and increasing biodiversity, and on the other, at creating stunning moments and amazing views. High maintenance lawn areas are strategically limited and kept mainly around the green heart to allow for activities and events. These are balanced by large low maintenance areas of beautiful, diverse and native shrubs, grasses and woodland plants.

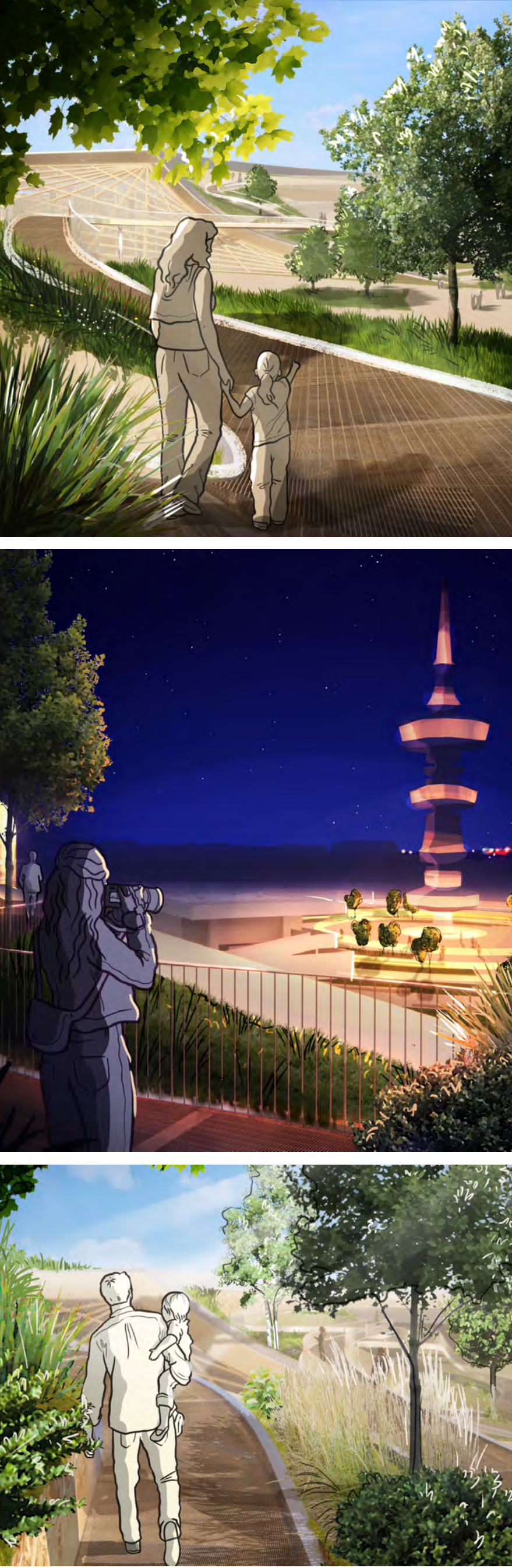
**Rings of Trees**  
Every Tree is its own small ecosystem and brings advantages like habitat for birds, natural shading or air filtering, but also social, recreational and cognitive benefits to name just a few. Every Tree species brings its own unique set of benefits to the space. Our concentric tree layout creates distinct and unique spaces to remember and revisit, an informal and natural wayfinding system and a journey through the beauty of Greek nature.

**Water run-off Management**  
To mitigate flooding at the south tip of the park we propose rainwater storage ponds seamlessly integrated into the landscape design and the shaded woodland Areas. On rainy days, the surface run off becomes partly visible through open paving channels and rain garden cascades following the natural flow directions. The storage ponds can be used to lower the cost for irrigation and with water treatment it can also be used to run the interactive water features.

**Outdoor Comfort**  
Our goal is not just to improve the outdoor comfort in the site but being able to have long lasting positive effect on the neighbouring districts and to contribute to a better city environment. In our strategy the large tree zone in the west and south absorbs heat from the neighbouring districts by cooling it through natural shading and shaded water surfaces. Canopies provide shading in areas with less trees and the water features at the green heart and hotel radiate additional cool air.



SW-NE Section through the main axis\_1:750





# A Vibrant & Flexible Hub

The simplicity and practicality of large exhibition hall “boxes” are exposed through large radial “carved” landscapes that reveal the activity within. These gestures not only respond to the contextual relationship but create clear wayfinding around the park as well as feature moments in the landscape.



### Prioritising flexibility

The expo halls contain the exhibition “boxes”, the structural system of which allows for maximum height clearance and programme flexibility. The lobbies wrap around the main boxes and interface with the curves creating special moments and connecting interior with exterior.

### Memorable Avenues

The carved gateway facades create the entry impression along the main expo avenues. The raised bridges form natural queue management locations, with the enclosed bridge between the buildings marking the location for an integrated secure gateway into the expo heart. When closed, they form a minimal impression under the bridges, and create a natural security and checking point for each of the main avenues. Framed by planting and tree shading the routes are flanked by the lattice facade of the main halls create glimpses into the lobbies and exhibition spaces within. Glazed facades behind that are operable in favourable weather conditions create an indoor outdoor feeling to the halls.

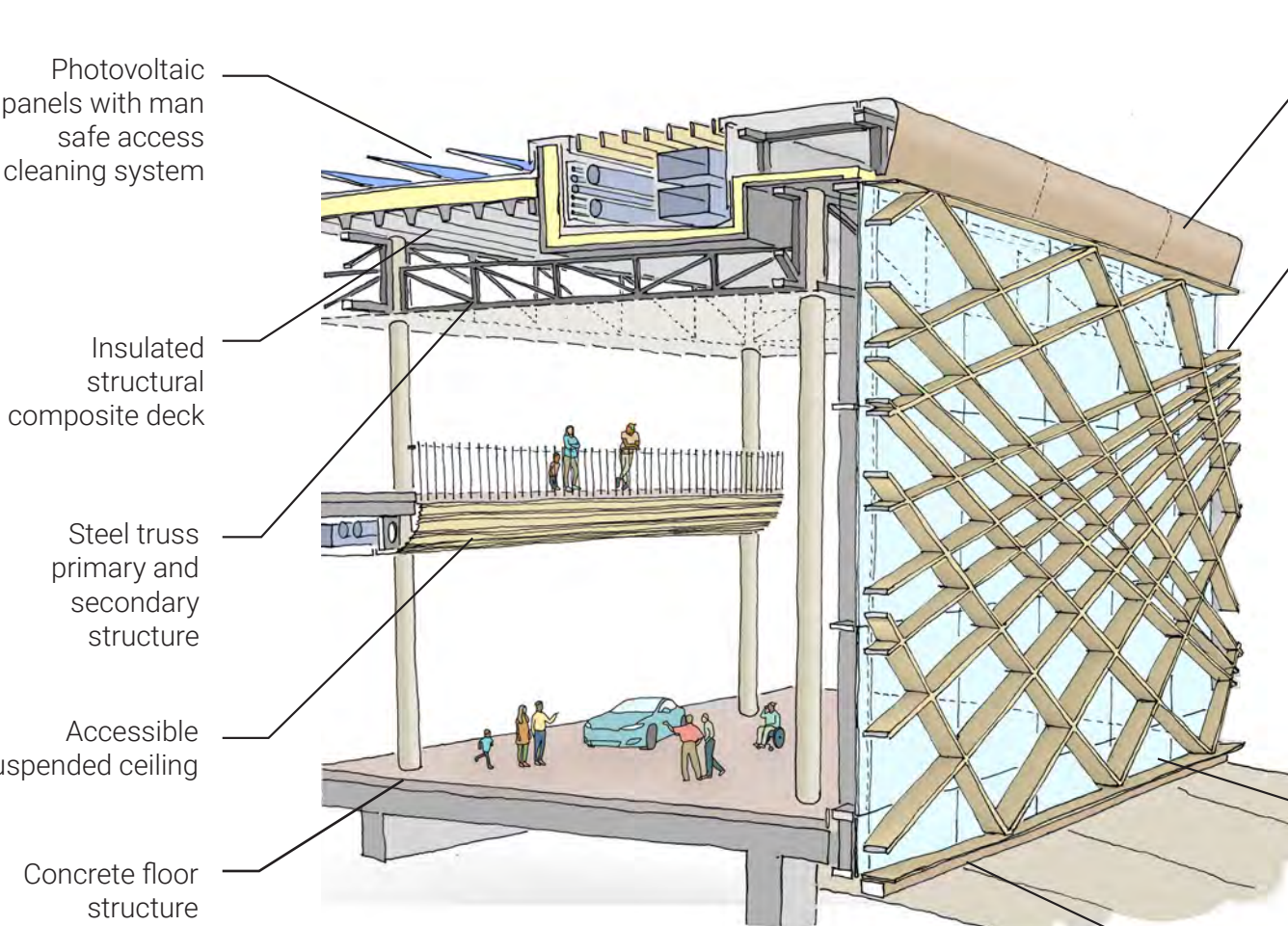
### The Canopy Ring

The overlapping lightweight canopies around the AAMTH create a circular space that connects the arena geometry to an intuitive wayfinding system that allows for outdoor exhibition space and a layering of shade for the thousands of visitors who meander around.

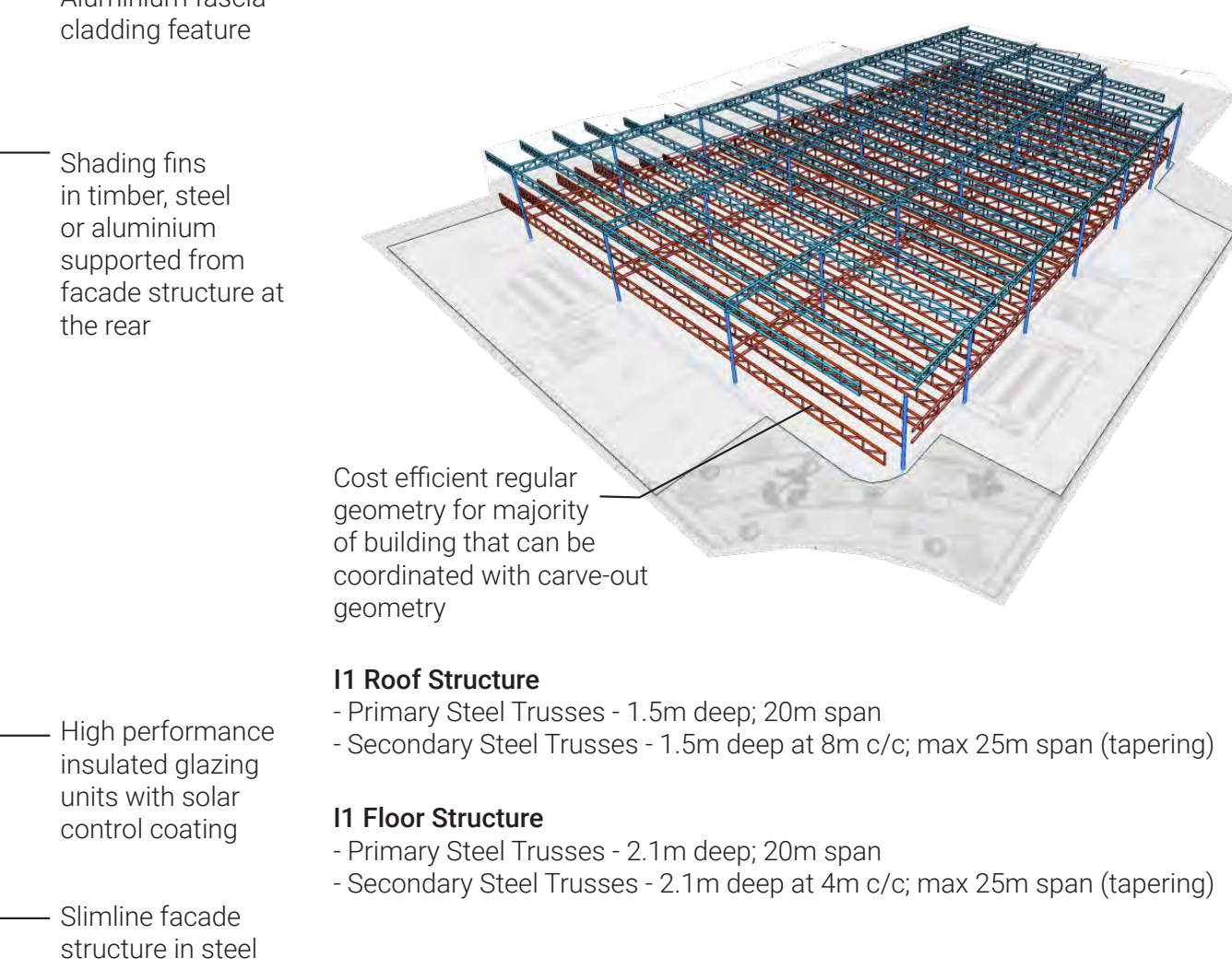
### Internal Character

The internal halls are simple and flexible as required, with a touch of distinction to make them memorable. The facade system allows dappled light to enter, as well as roof openings provide indirect light that floods the space when needed. The feature cliff moments create the opportunity for internal gathering places, creating a landscaped backdrop to talks, events and announcements.

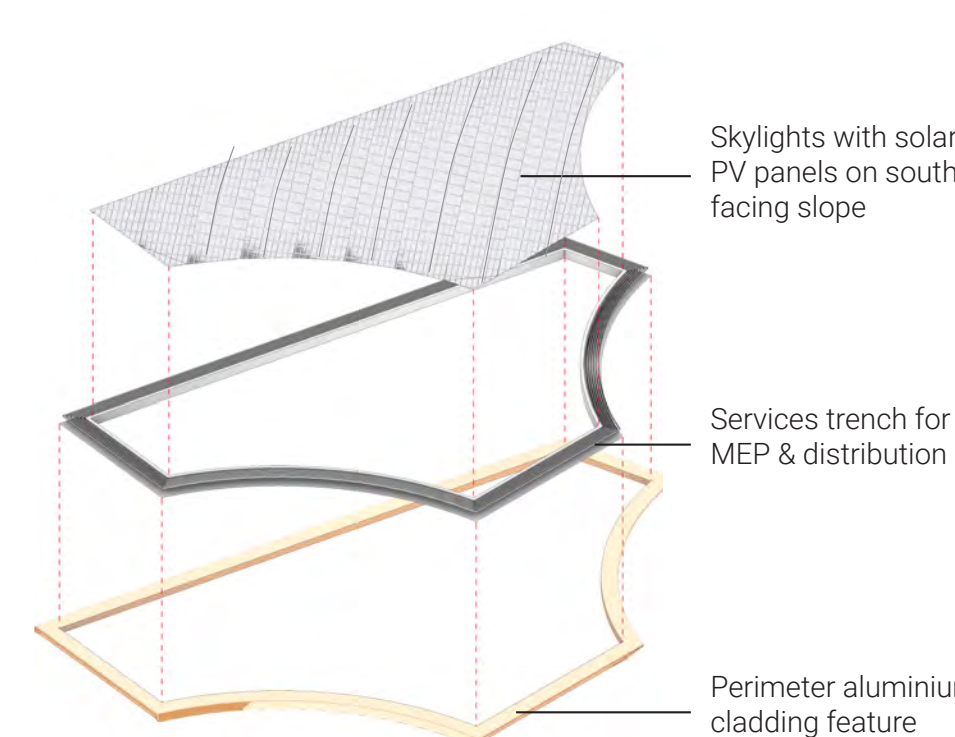
### Key Facade Perspective Section



### Structural Design



### Roof Design



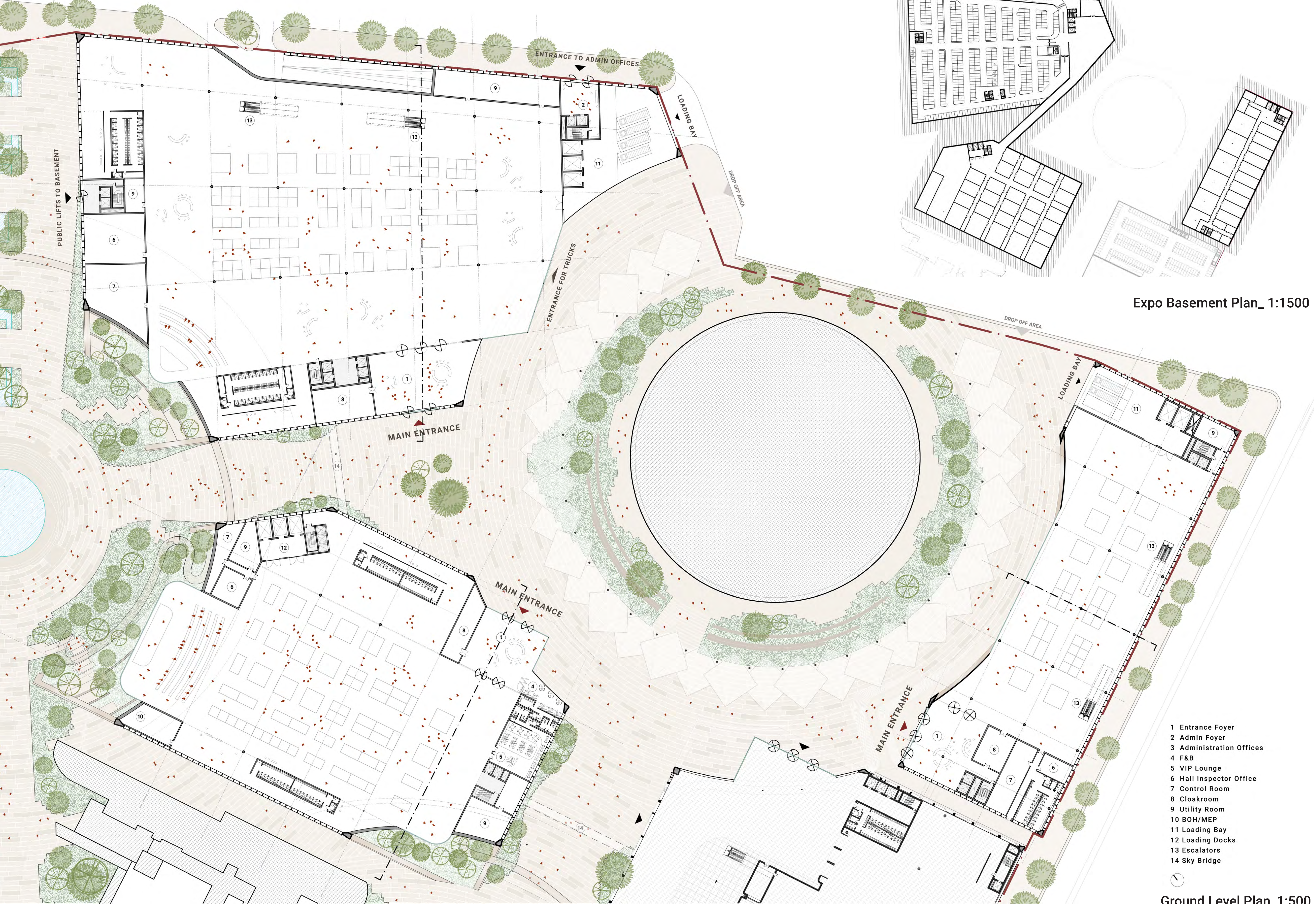
Cost efficient regular geometry for majority of building that can be coordinated with carve-out geometry

**I1 Roof Structure**  
- Primary Steel Trusses - 1.5m deep, 20m span  
- Secondary Steel Trusses - 1.5m deep at 8m c/c; max 25m span (tapering)

**I1 Floor Structure**  
- Primary Steel Trusses - 2.1m deep, 20m span  
- Secondary Steel Trusses - 2.1m deep at 4m c/c; max 25m span (tapering)

**I2 Roof Structure**  
- Primary Steel Trusses - 1.5m deep, 20m span  
- Secondary Steel Trusses - 1.5m deep at 8m c/c; max 25m span (tapering)

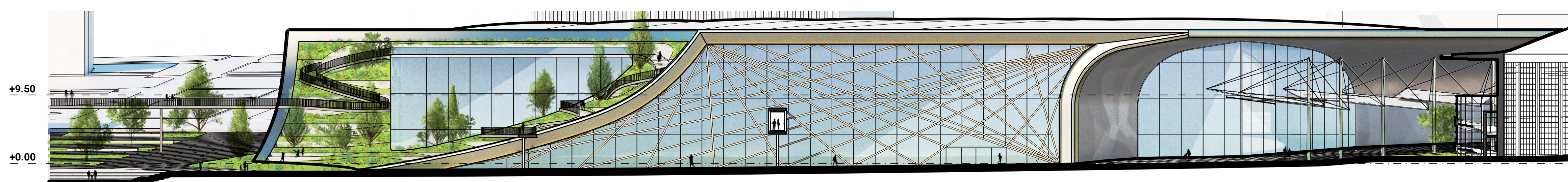
**I2 Floor Structure**  
- Primary Steel Trusses - 2.1m deep, 20m span  
- Secondary Steel Trusses - 2.1m dp at 4m c/c; max 25m span (tapering)



Expo Basement Plan\_ 1:1500

Ground Level Plan\_1:500

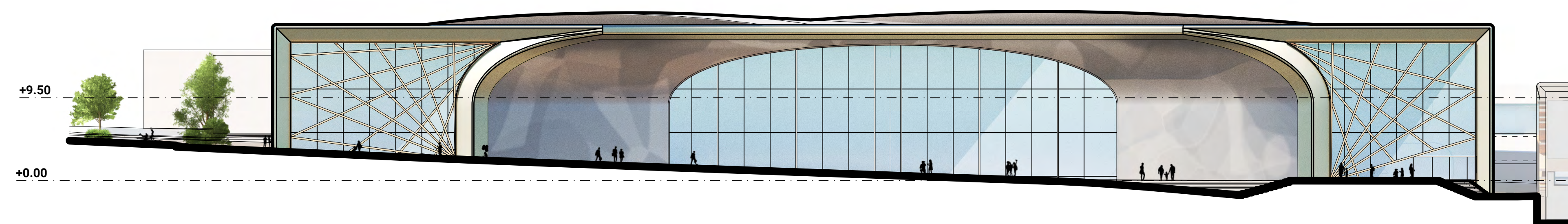




I2 SW Elevation\_1:500



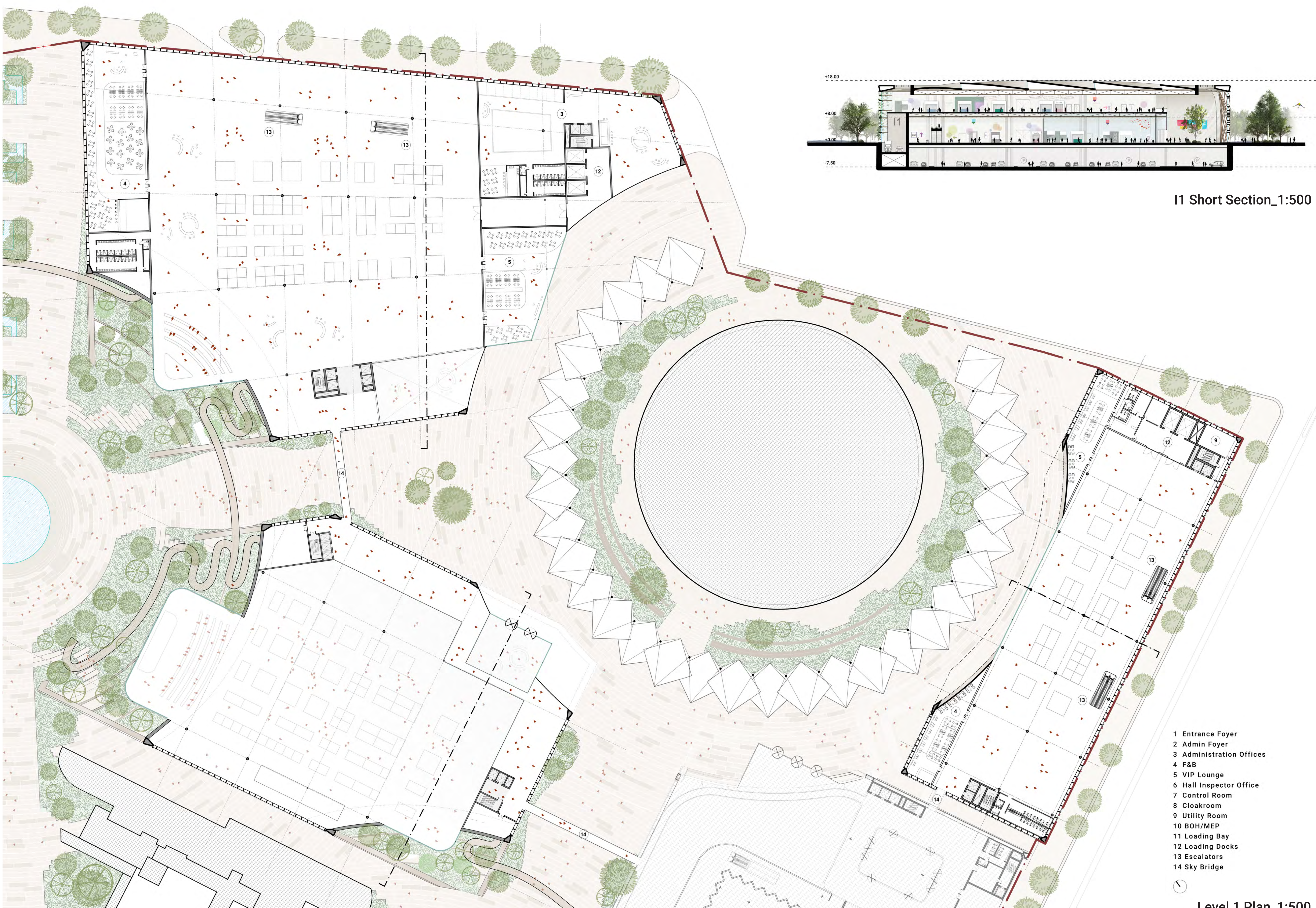
I2 Short Section\_1:500



I2 NW Elevation\_1:500



I1I Short Section\_1:500



- 1 Entrance Foyer
- 2 Admin Foyer
- 3 Administration Offices
- 4 F&B
- 5 VIP Lounge
- 6 Hall Inspector Office
- 7 Control Room
- 8 Cloakroom
- 9 Utility Room
- 10 BOH/MEP
- 11 Loading Bay
- 12 Loading Docks
- 13 Escalators
- 14 Sky Bridge

Level 1 Plan\_1:500



# A Jewel for the City

The Congress Centre extends from the holistic approach of the expo buildings but establishes itself as a landmark by exposing the inner convention hall as a hovering volume internally and breaks through the landscape to reveal itself to the exterior as a beacon for visitors.

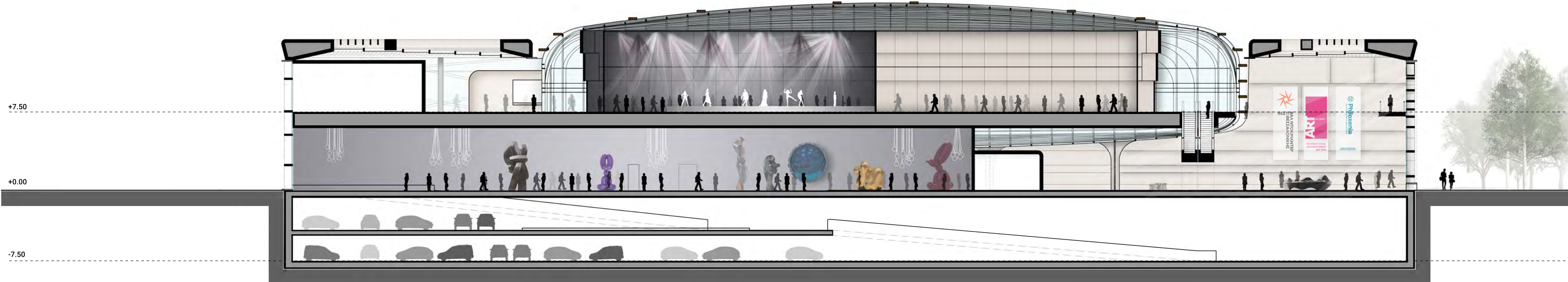


**Holistic Independence**  
In response to the brief, the congress hall creates a seamless connection to the approach of the other expo buildings. By maximising the envelope, we carve away the south facade facing the cultural heart to create a public podium from which the main hall jewel emerges like a beacon in the landscape. It becomes the centrepiece of not only this plot, but the main node of the halls, connected externally and internally via elevated walkways.

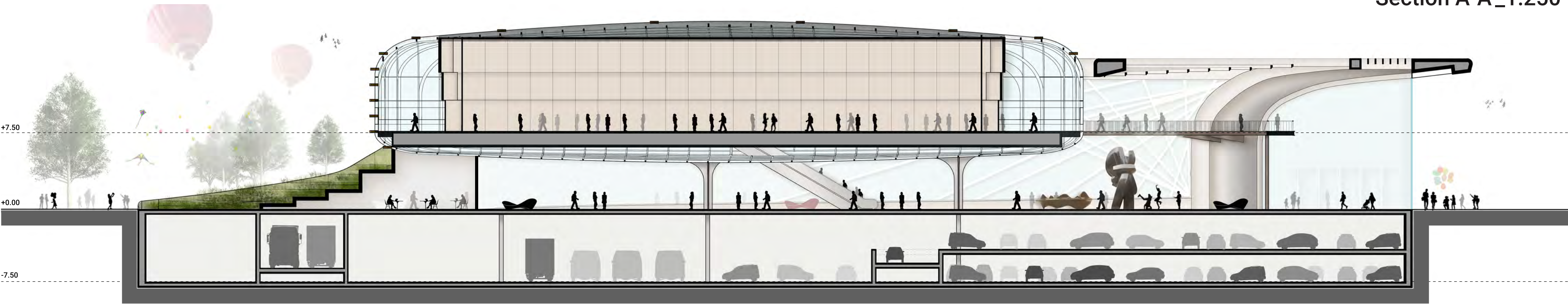
**Framed around the Jewel**  
The convention hall sits atop of the luxury expo space. This overlapping relationship creates a clear entrance into the expo space below, as well as a cantilevering "canopy" formed underneath the convention hall jewel for the main lobby space. The smaller conference halls, office and VIP mezzanine are wrapped around the convention hall, echoing the terraced landscape beyond. The restaurant benefits from access to outdoor space across multiple levels, activating the south facade and spilling out into the park and even extending onto the main carved landscape as a feature terrace.

**The Jewel Facade**  
The glazed convention hall creates a panoramic impression out to the park and waterfront beyond. When all interior divisions are opened up, it can create a palatial interior space and feature ceiling. The louvred facade wraps around the jewel providing daylight control and creating a distinct expression within the holistic design approach.

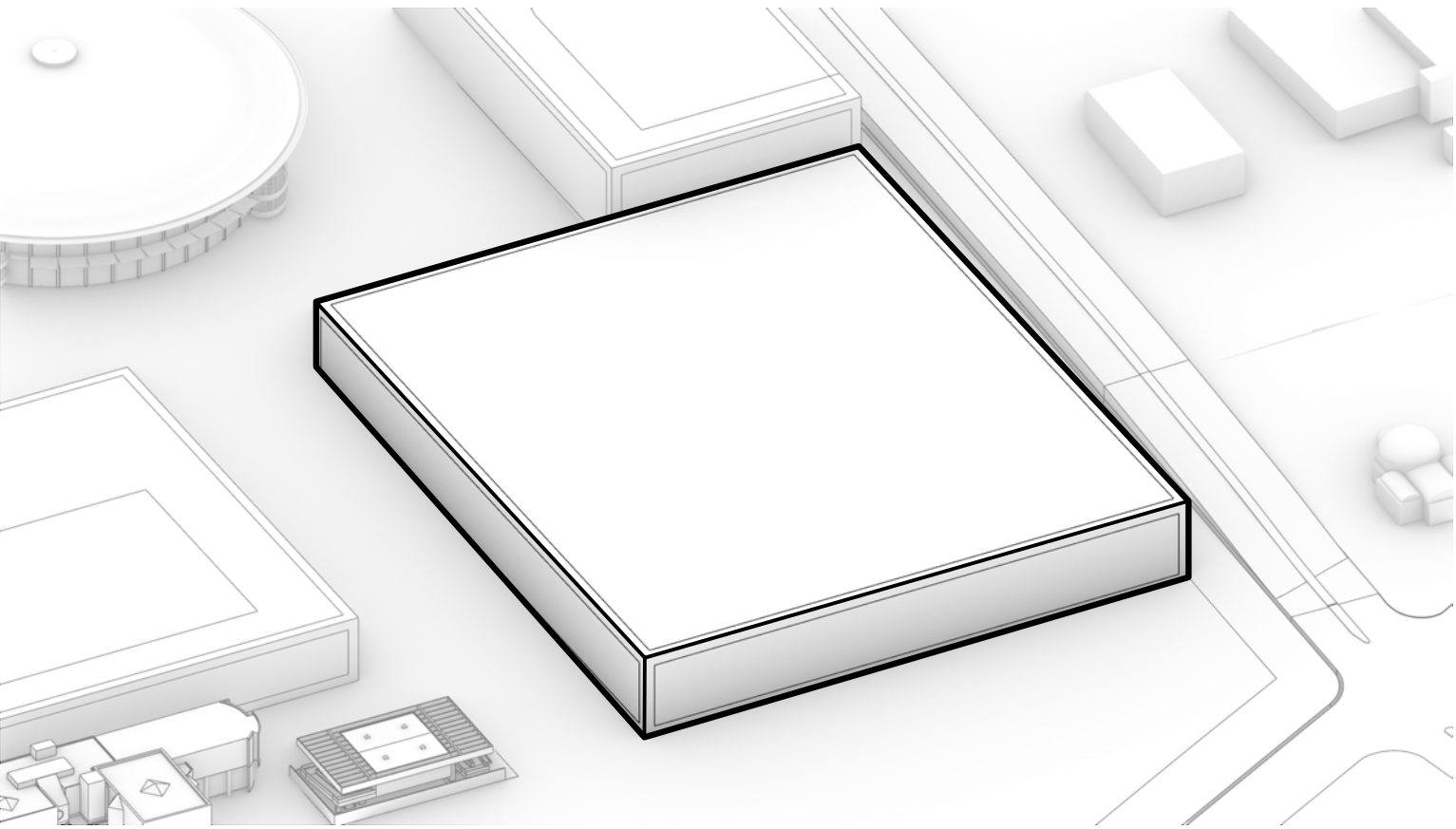
**A Journey through the Expo**  
The generous double height lobby features an elevated path that connects the bridges from I11 to I2, creating a clear internal link between all of the expo halls and the main convention jewel.



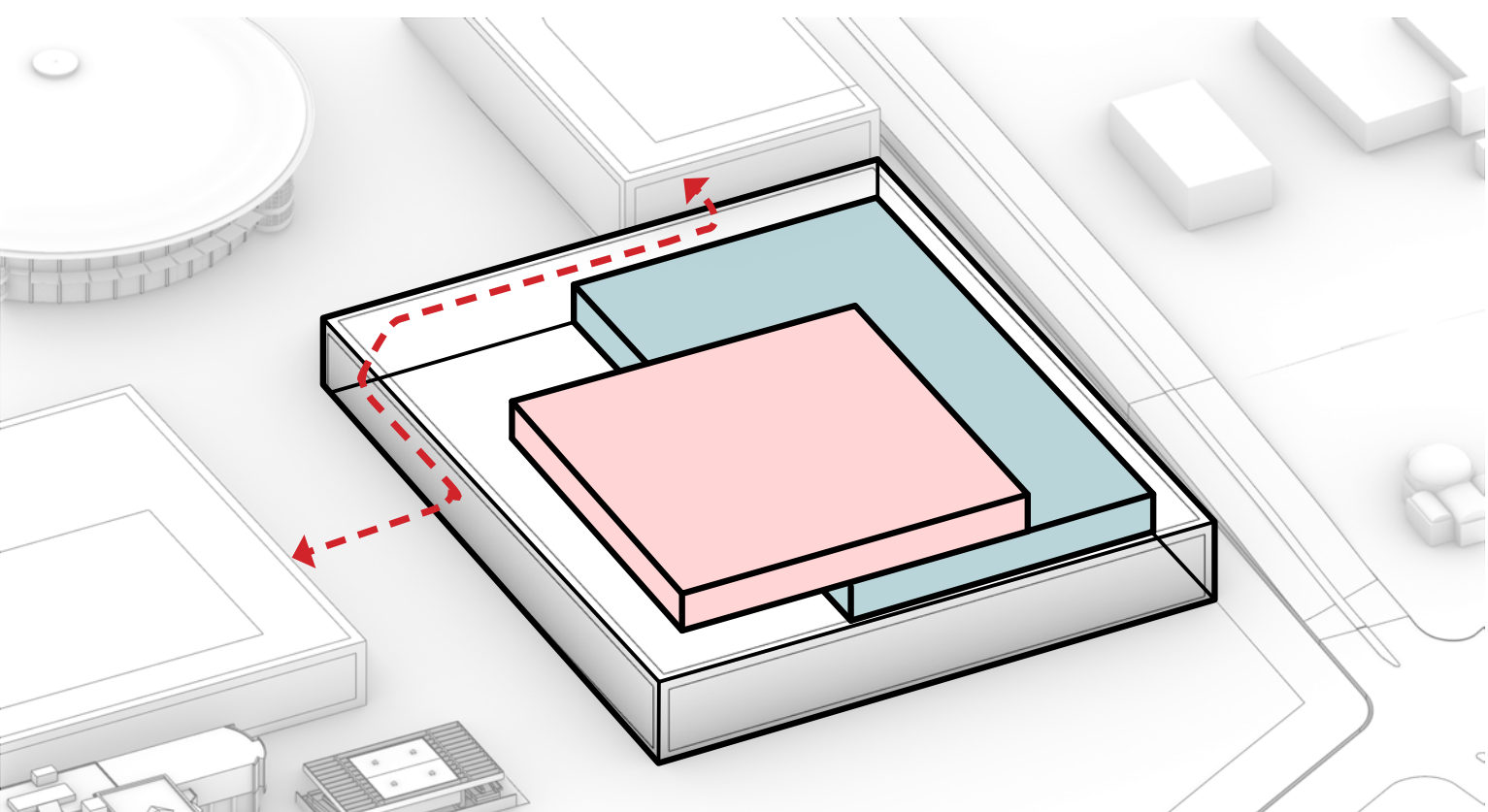
Section A-A'\_1:250



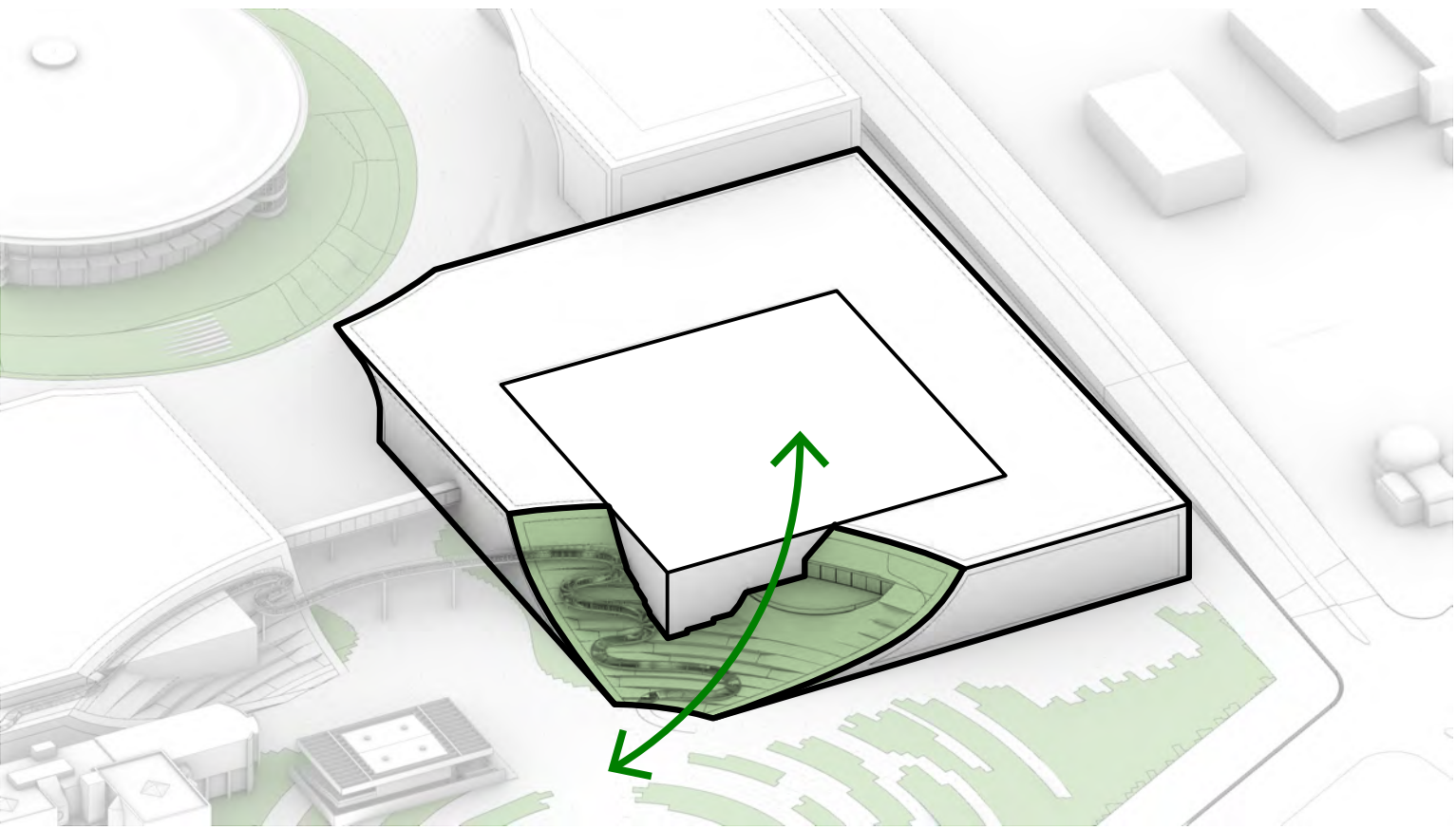
Section B-B'\_1:250



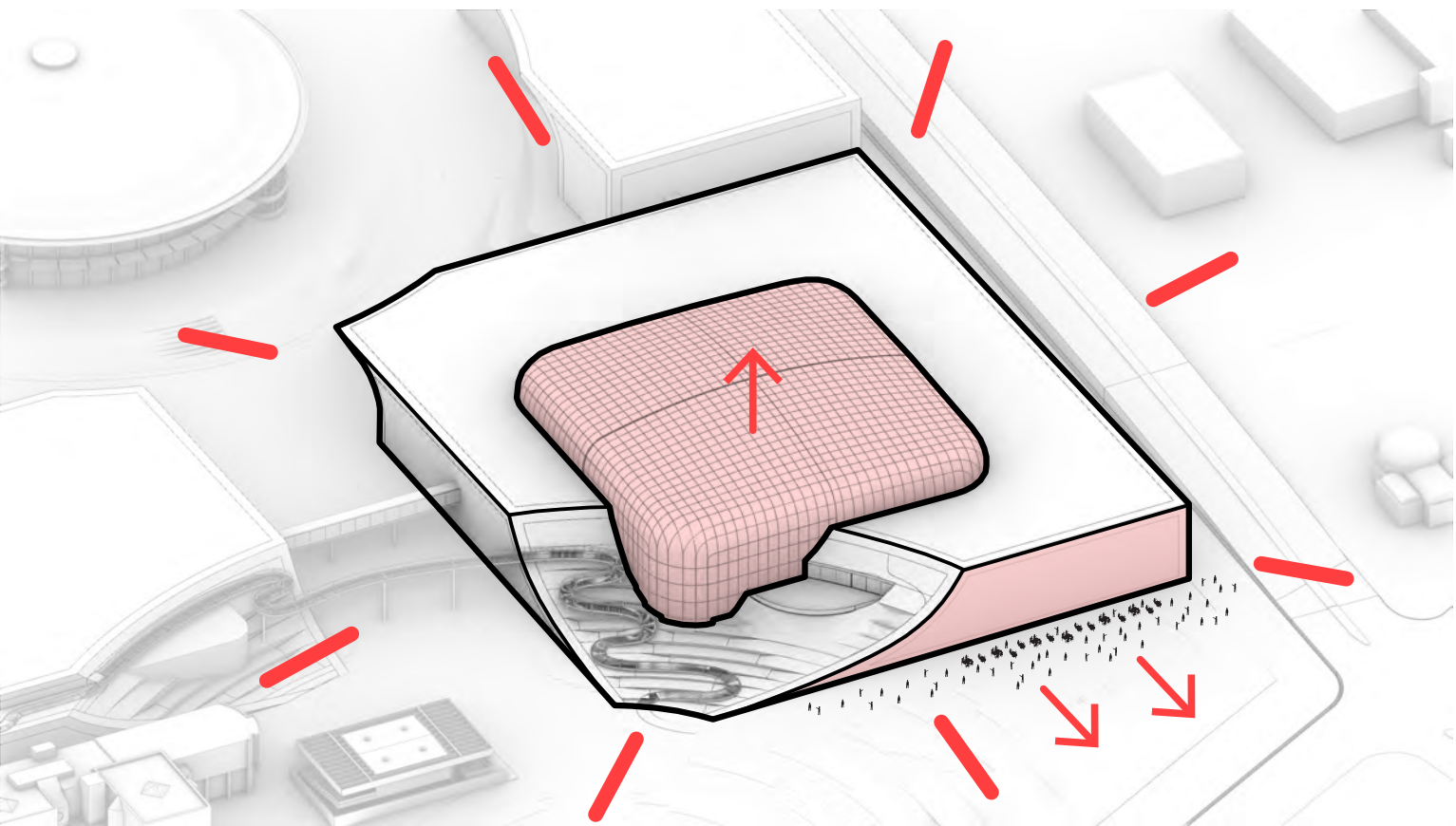
Extrude maximum buildable area



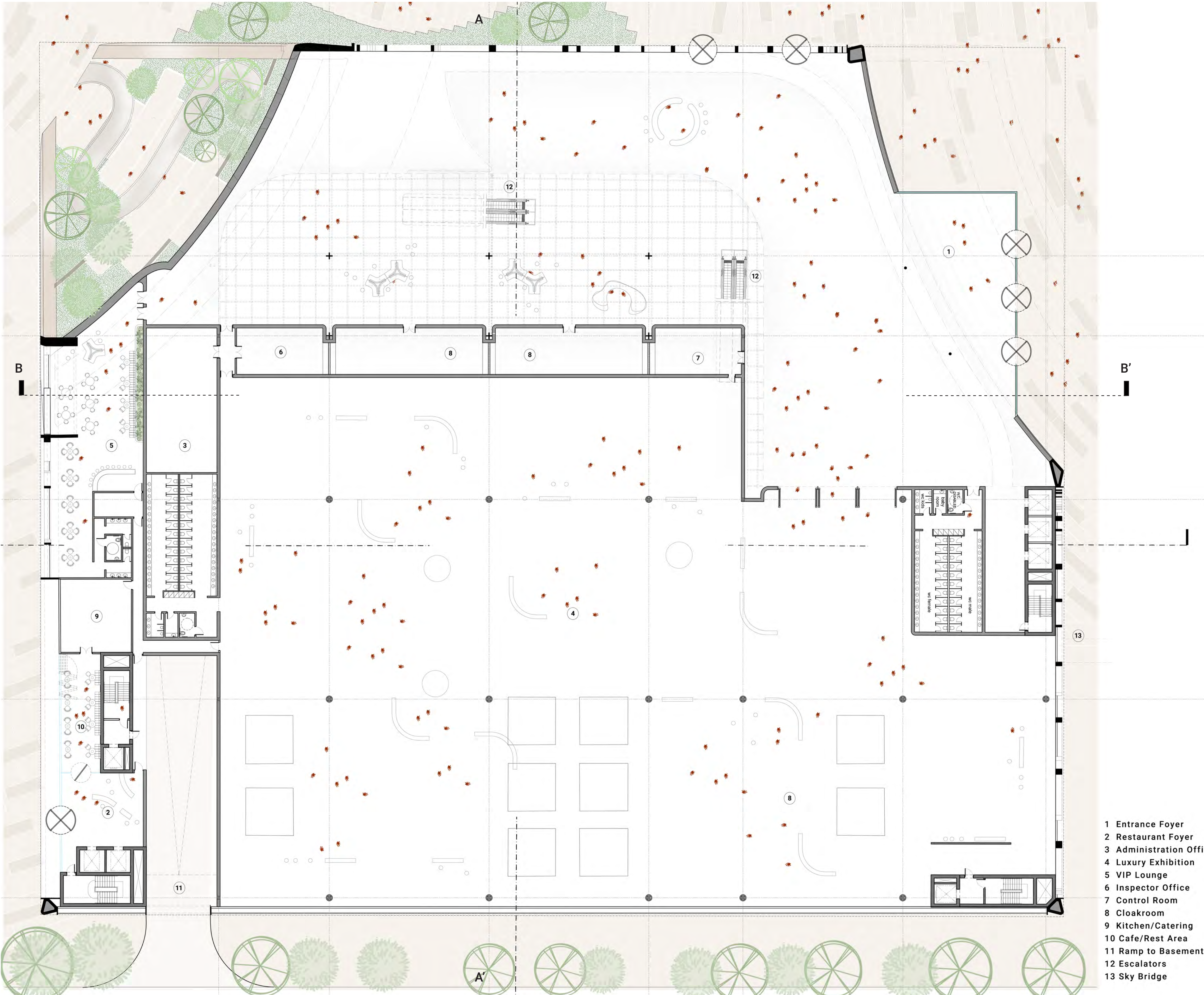
Stack the convention hall on top of the luxury exhibition hall



Carve out green spaces and reveal the corner



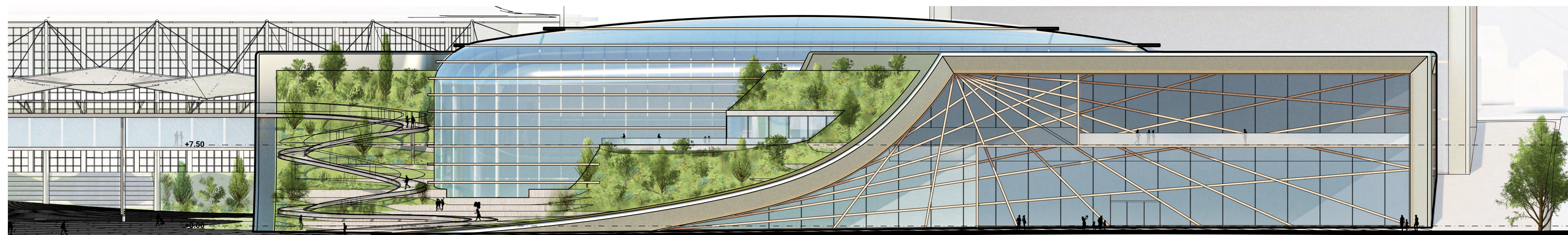
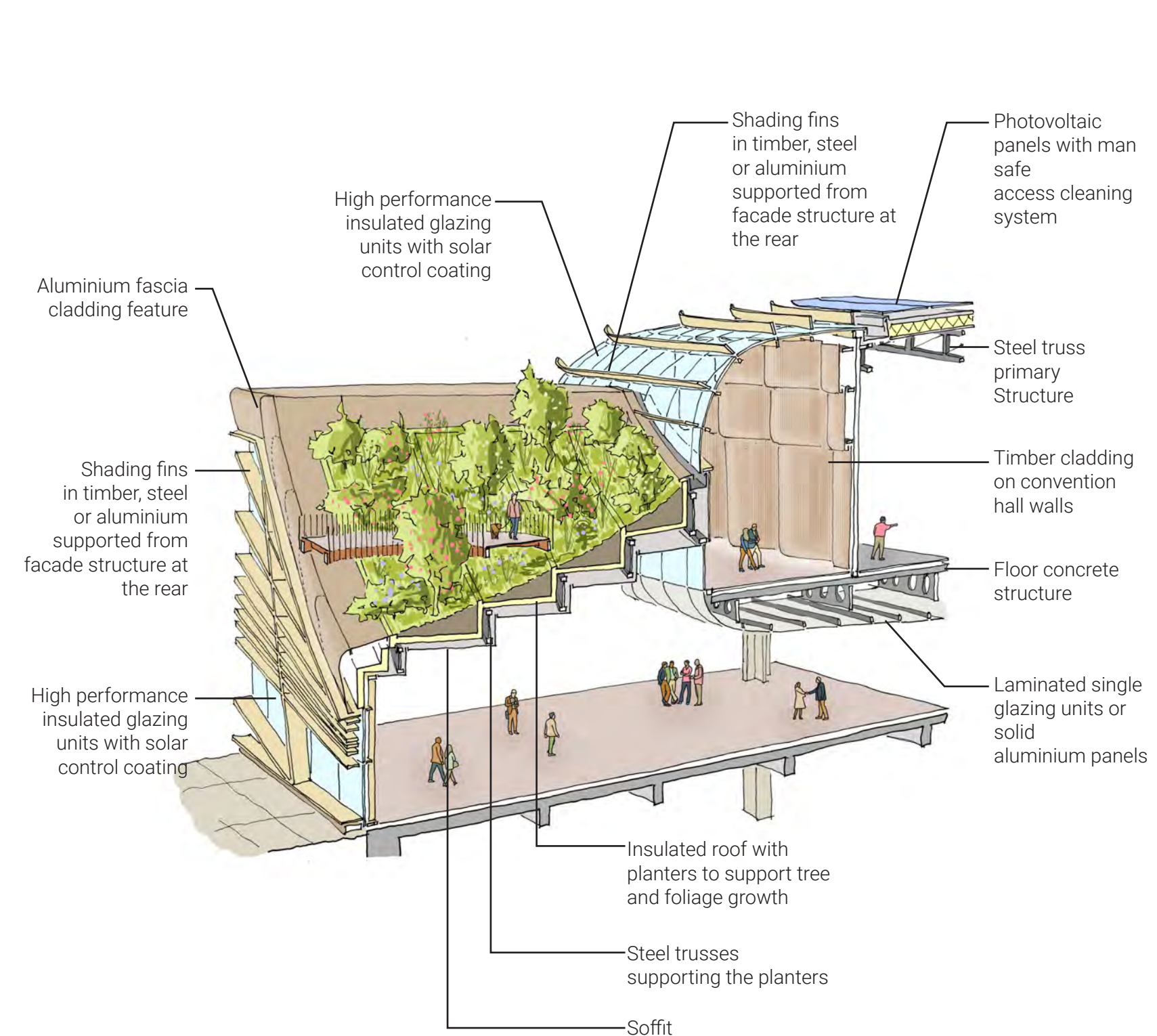
Celebrate the convention hall and allow for restaurant frontage



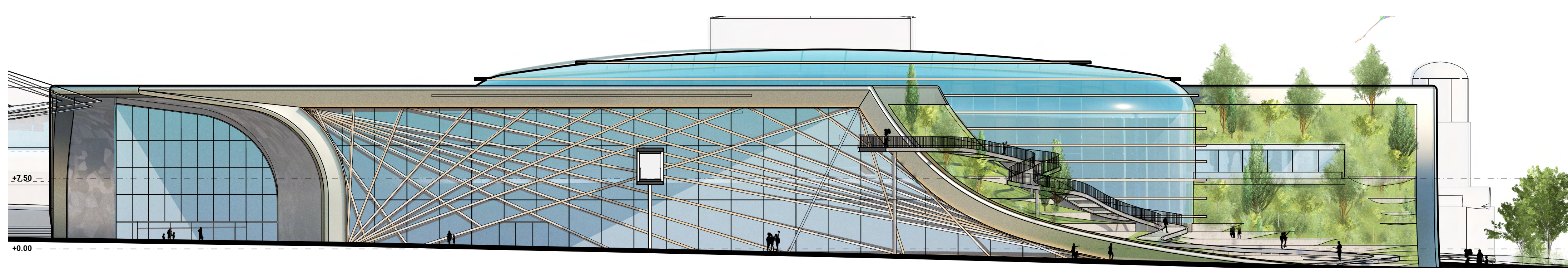
- 1 Entrance Foyer
- 2 Restaurant Foyer
- 3 Administration Office
- 4 Luxury Exhibition
- 5 VIP Lounge
- 6 Inspector Office
- 7 Control Room
- 8 Cloakroom
- 9 Kitchen/Catering
- 10 Cafe/Rest Area
- 11 Ramp to Basement
- 12 Escalators
- 13 Sky Bridge

Ground Level Plan\_1:250



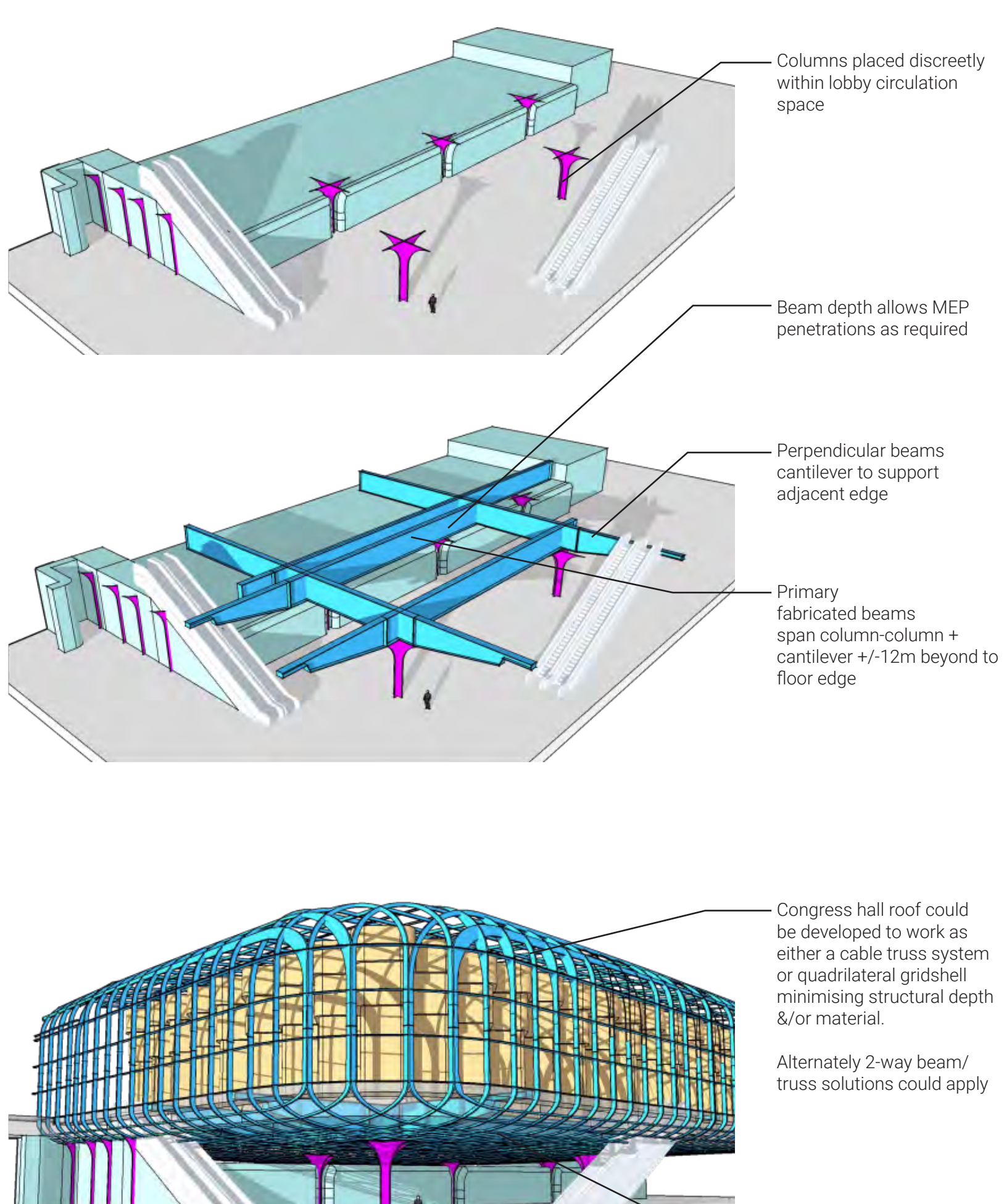


SE Elevation\_1:250



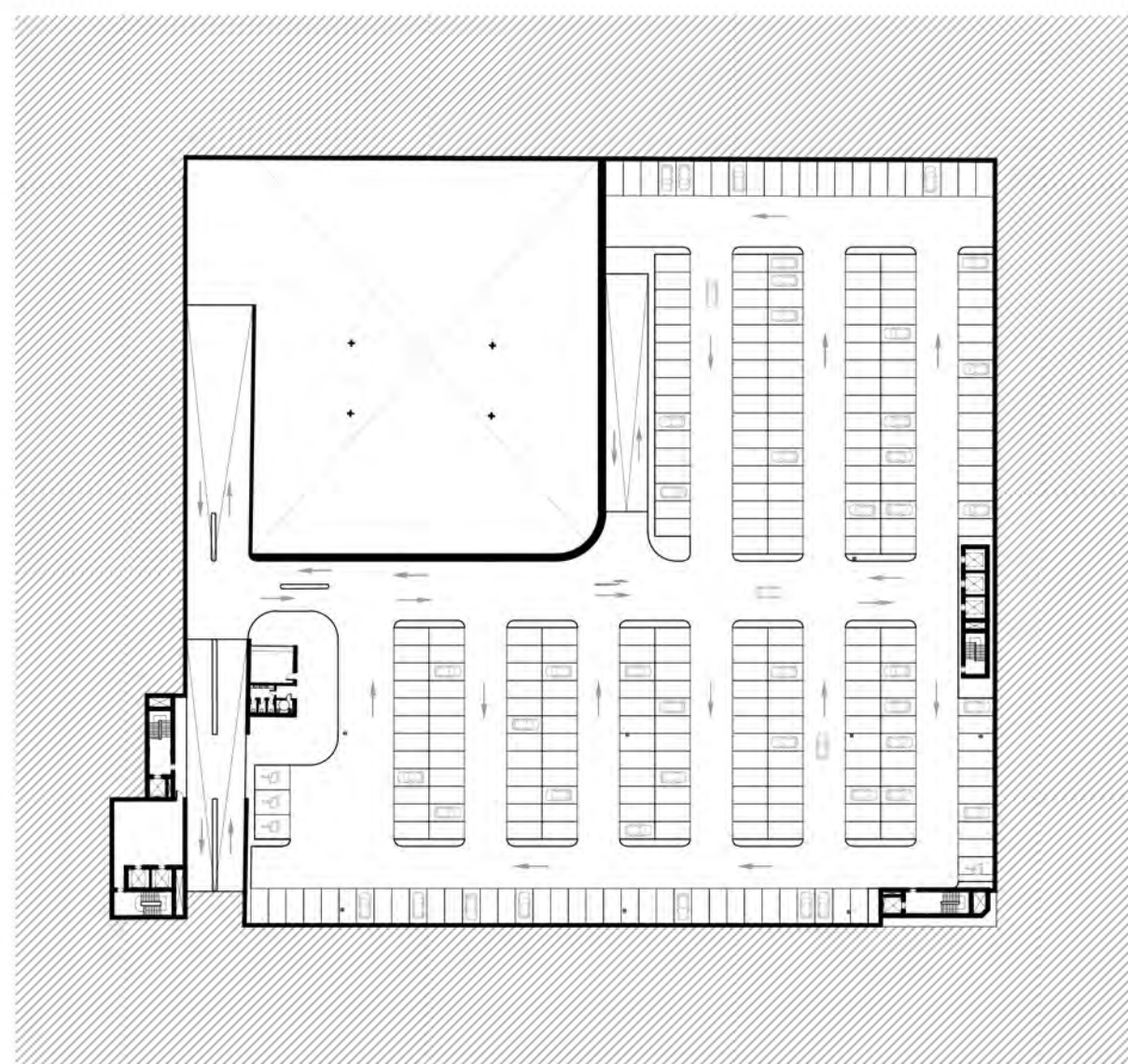
NW Elevation\_1:250

Key Facade Perspective Section

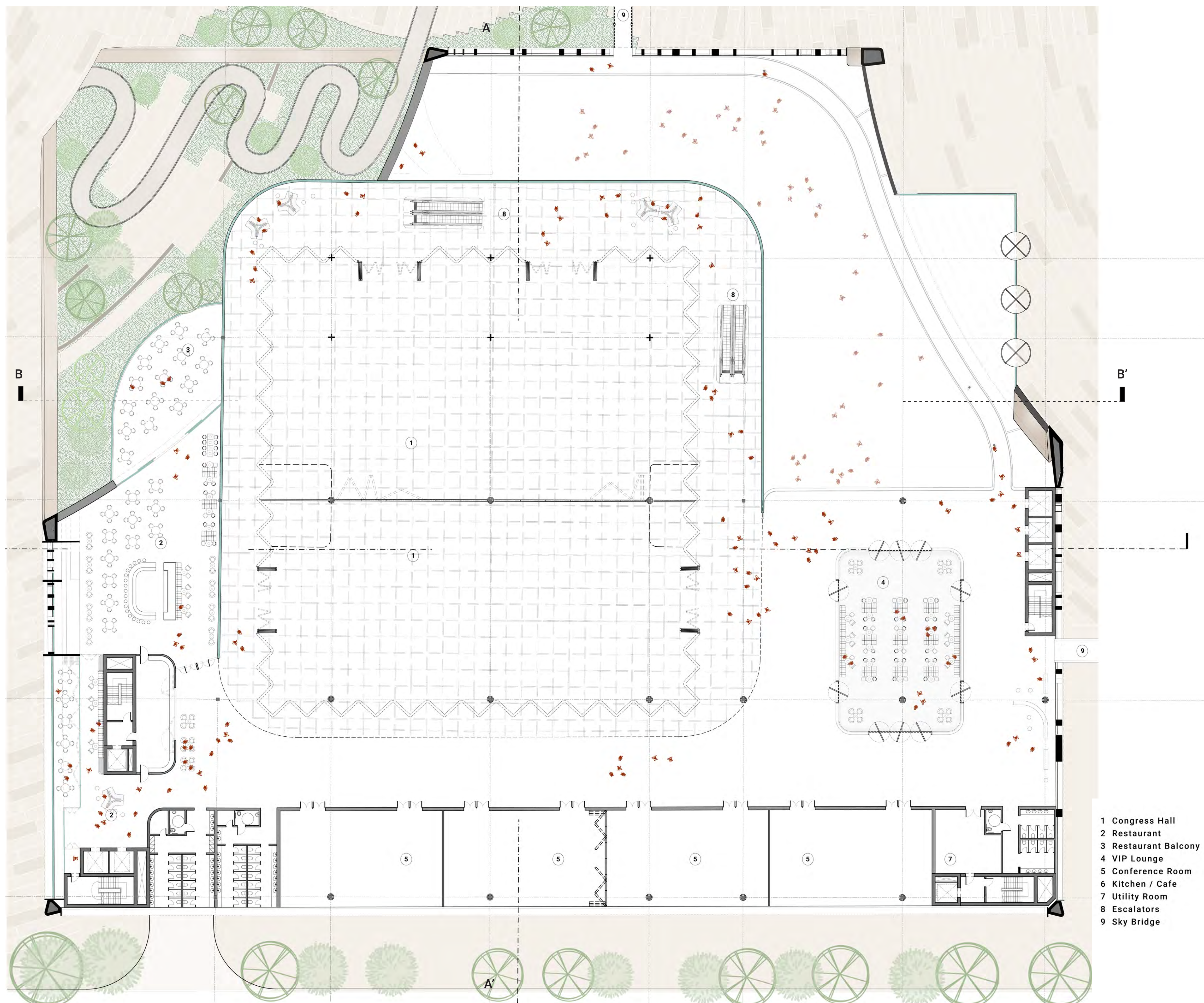


Roof Overview &amp; Corner Cantilever

Structural Design



Level -1\_1:1000



- 1 Congress Hall
- 2 Restaurant
- 3 Restaurant Balcony
- 4 VIP Lounge
- 5 Conference Room
- 6 Kitchen / Cafe
- 7 Utility Room
- 8 Escalators
- 9 Sky Bridge

Level 1 Plan\_1:250



# Parkside

The Business Centre has the most dramatic expression in the park, creating a dual identity between the carved landscapes of the Park and a cascading form along Synttrivani Square linked by a new grand arcade to the centre of the scheme. These features allow the programme to benefit from the best views, great daylighting and dynamic street frontage.



**A Cascade of Activity**

The overall form has been derived from stacking the functions in a logical manner, and cascading the volume sympathetically with its context, creating a dramatic impression from the park and a mix of activities from Synttrivani square. The 'carved' radial facade not only connects the scheme visually, but provides landscaped balconies at all levels. The form gently cascades to allow each of the functions benefit from a wedged terrace space including a generous raised public viewing terrace.

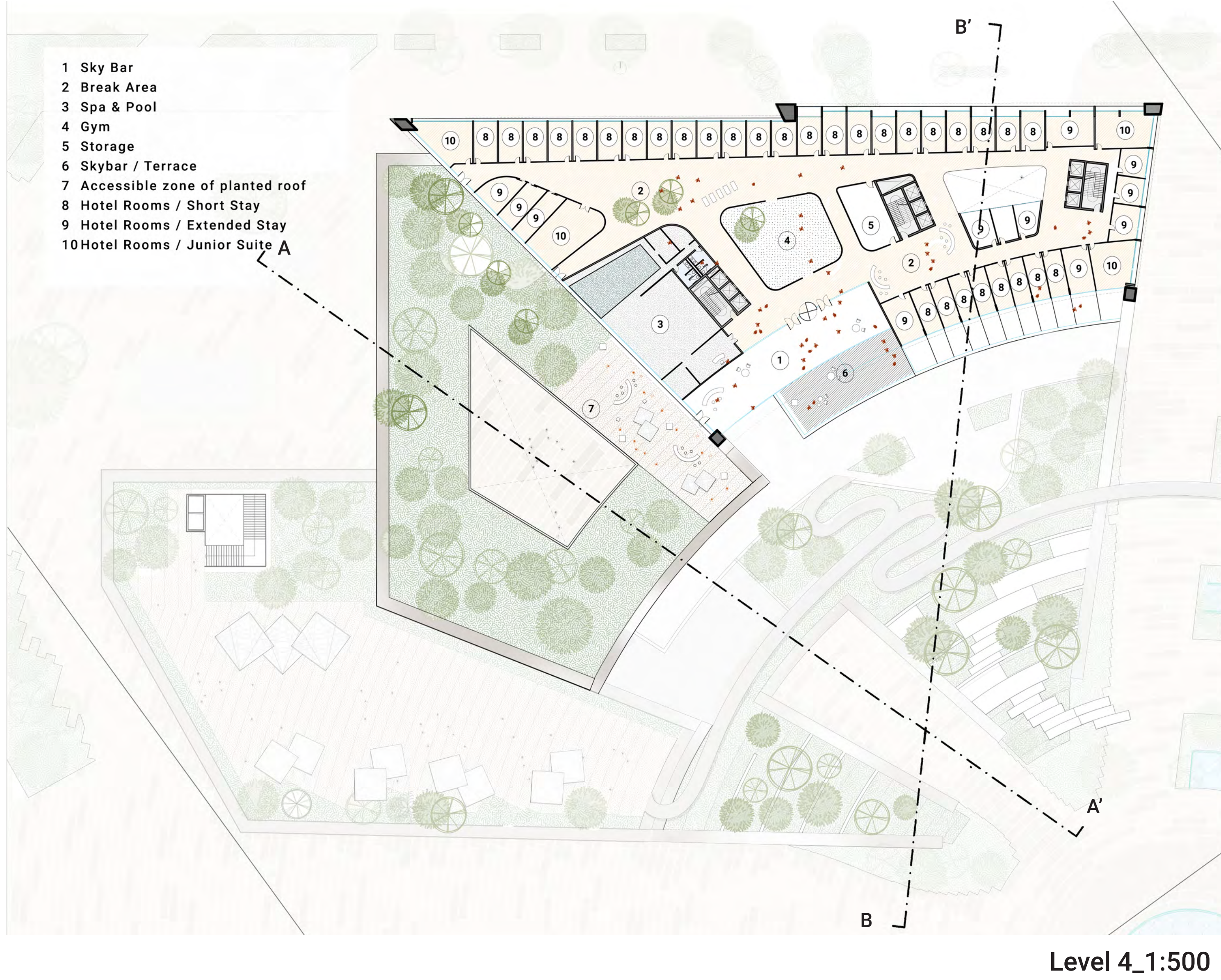
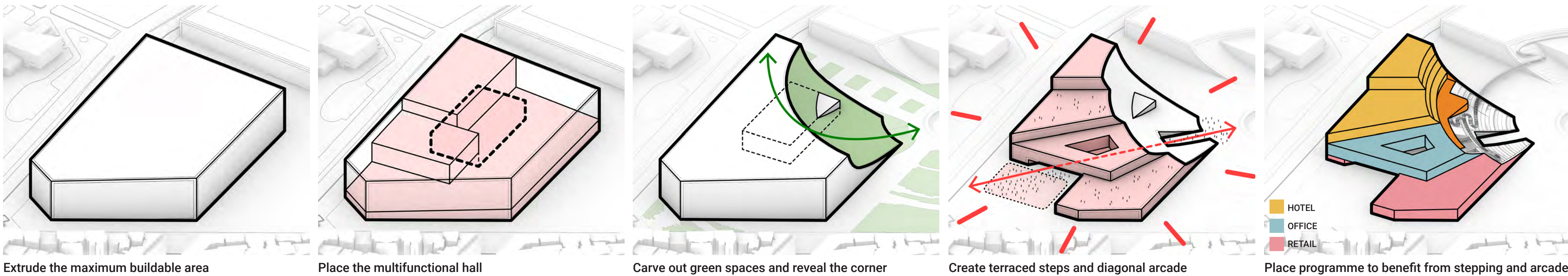
**Prioritising Programme**

The building takes the complex array of functions and looks to place them in a logical manner that benefits from the cascading approach. In this way each function is given its own dedicated entrance and expression within the building.

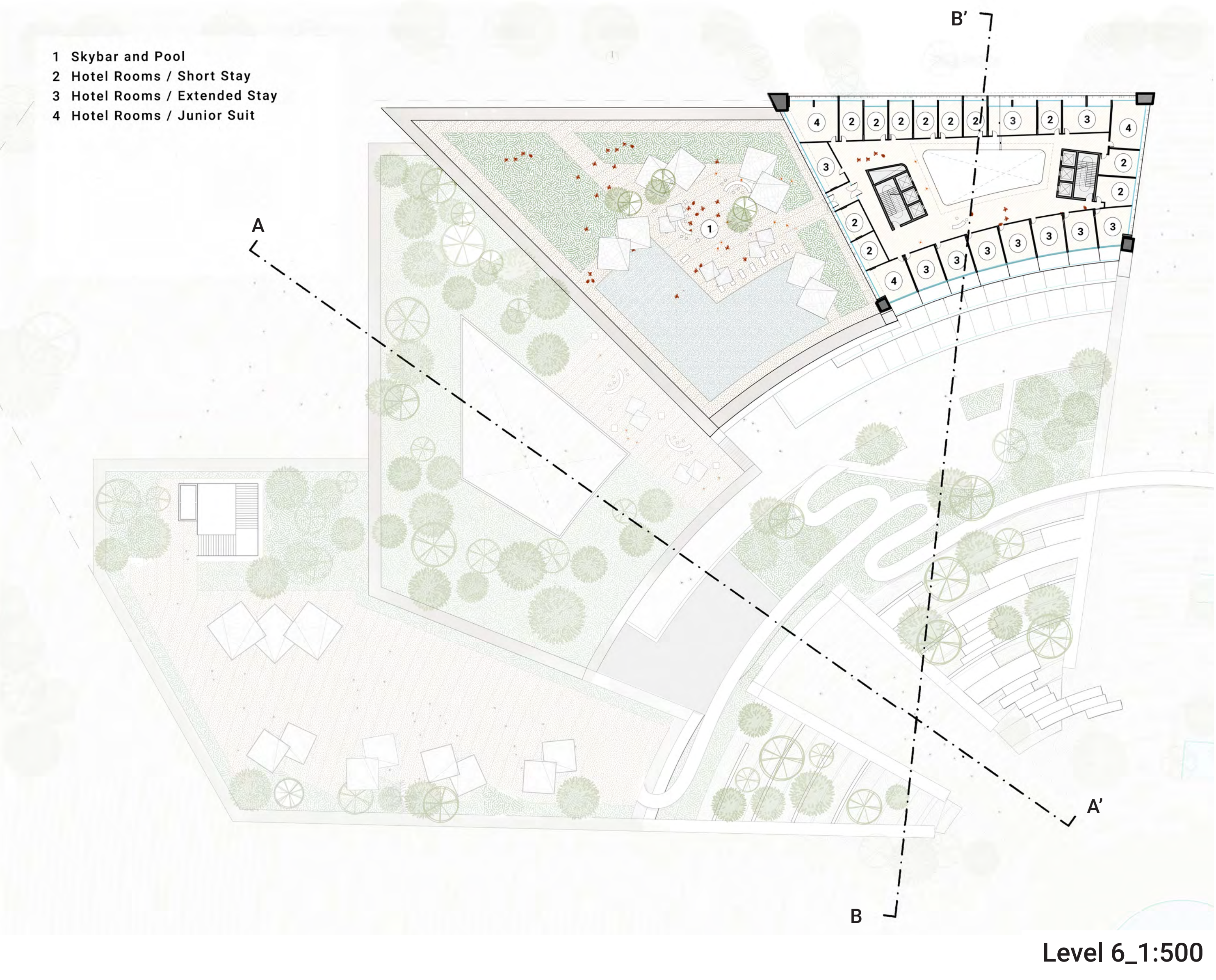
- The hotel is placed near the axis to create a long south facade to provide the best views from the rooms to the north and south. A drop-off creates a more private entrance. Screened facades create further privacy to the north facing rooms, with the south rooms benefiting from generous planted balconies that view into the theatre of trees below.

- The workspace is placed with the centre of the building, creating an efficient floorplan around a central courtyard that for daylight as well as framing the arcade below.
- The multifunction hall is nestled within the building, to functionally connect its logistics and lobby space to accessible ground floor areas. A corner of the hall extending into the landscape to create a feature restaurant terrace for the hotel.
- The retail surrounds the main arcade, drawing visitors through its spill out activity to the main expo plaza. It also wraps the west and south facade, connecting to the local streets and creating an anchor corner facing Synttrivani Square, with the southern units spilling out activity into the park.

**Public Connection**  
A new plaza faces Synttrivani Square, creating a welcoming entrance to a grand public arcade, framing spill out activity from local retailers, drawing interest as visitors pour towards the expo centre and park beyond.



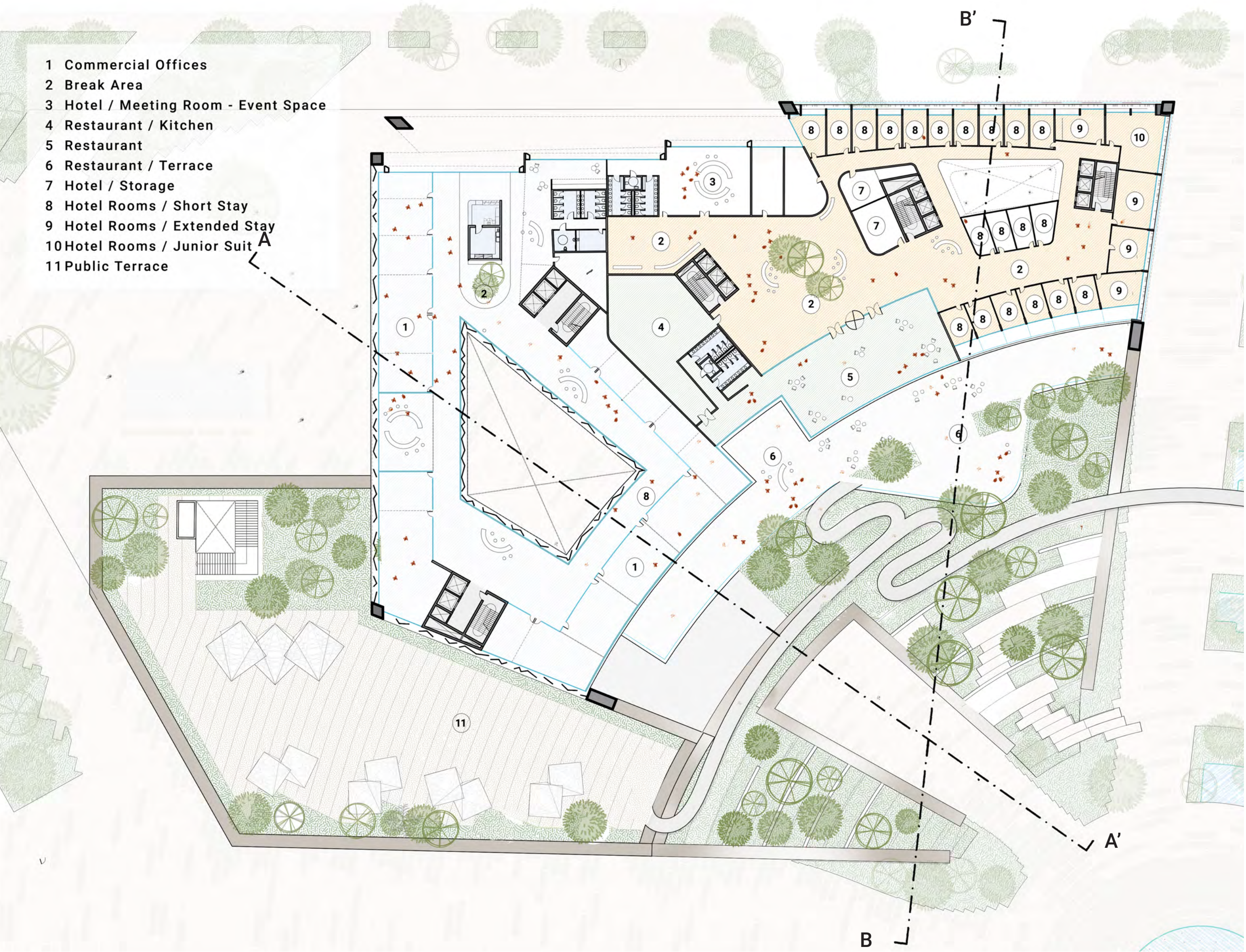
Level 4\_1:500



Level 6\_1:500

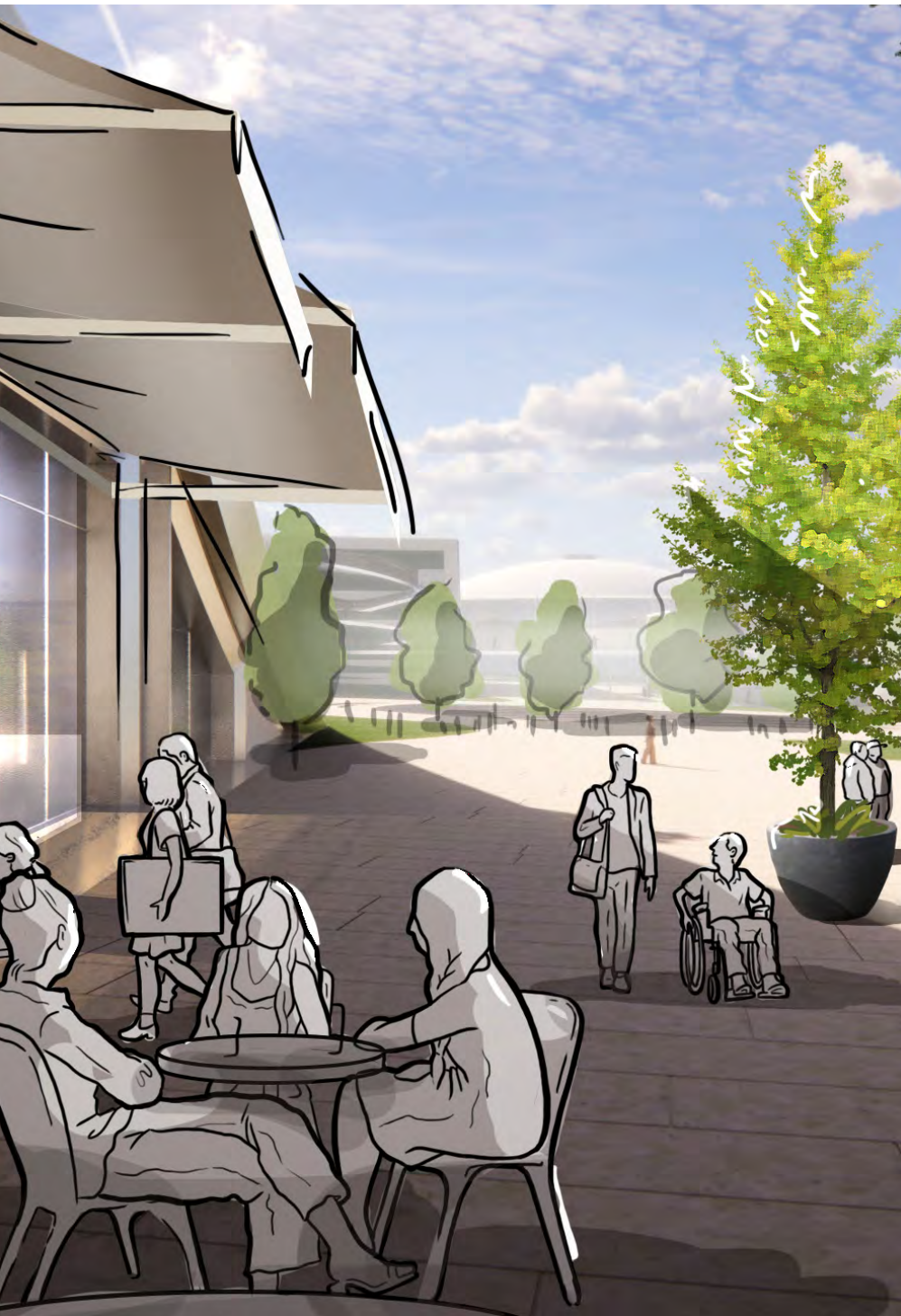


Ground Level Plan\_1:500



Level 3\_1:500





Level -1\_1:1000

**Facade Design**

The frame design that is utilised throughout the scheme is also adopted for the business centre. This outlines a variety of different facade types, depending on the function of each programme, which creates a mosaic of different types of activity. They appear as a series of jostling boxes, creating a varied composition within the holistic shell.

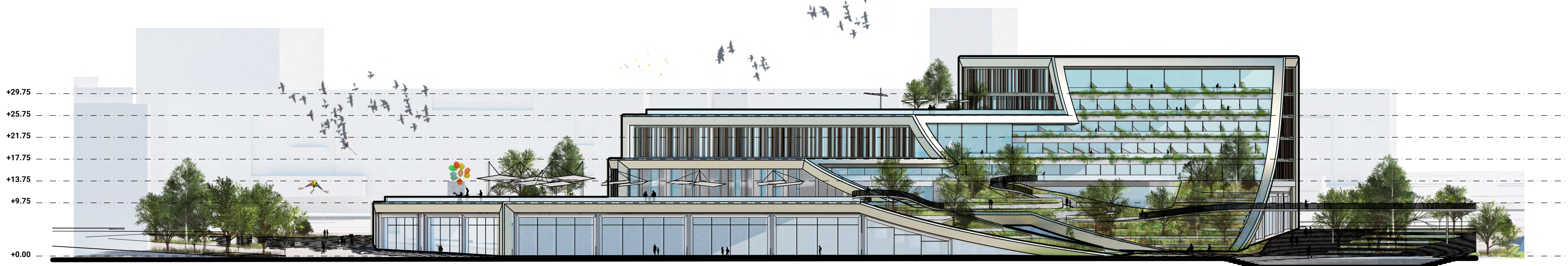
The Hotel facades adopt a planted timber screen for privacy, whereas the office levels benefit from generous glazing. The retail facades are designed to allow for flexibility within each of their boxes. The southern curved facade reveals a number of planted balcony spaces, from generous terraces of the office and hotel restaurant levels, to the individual bays for each of the hotel rooms.

**Future Flexibility**

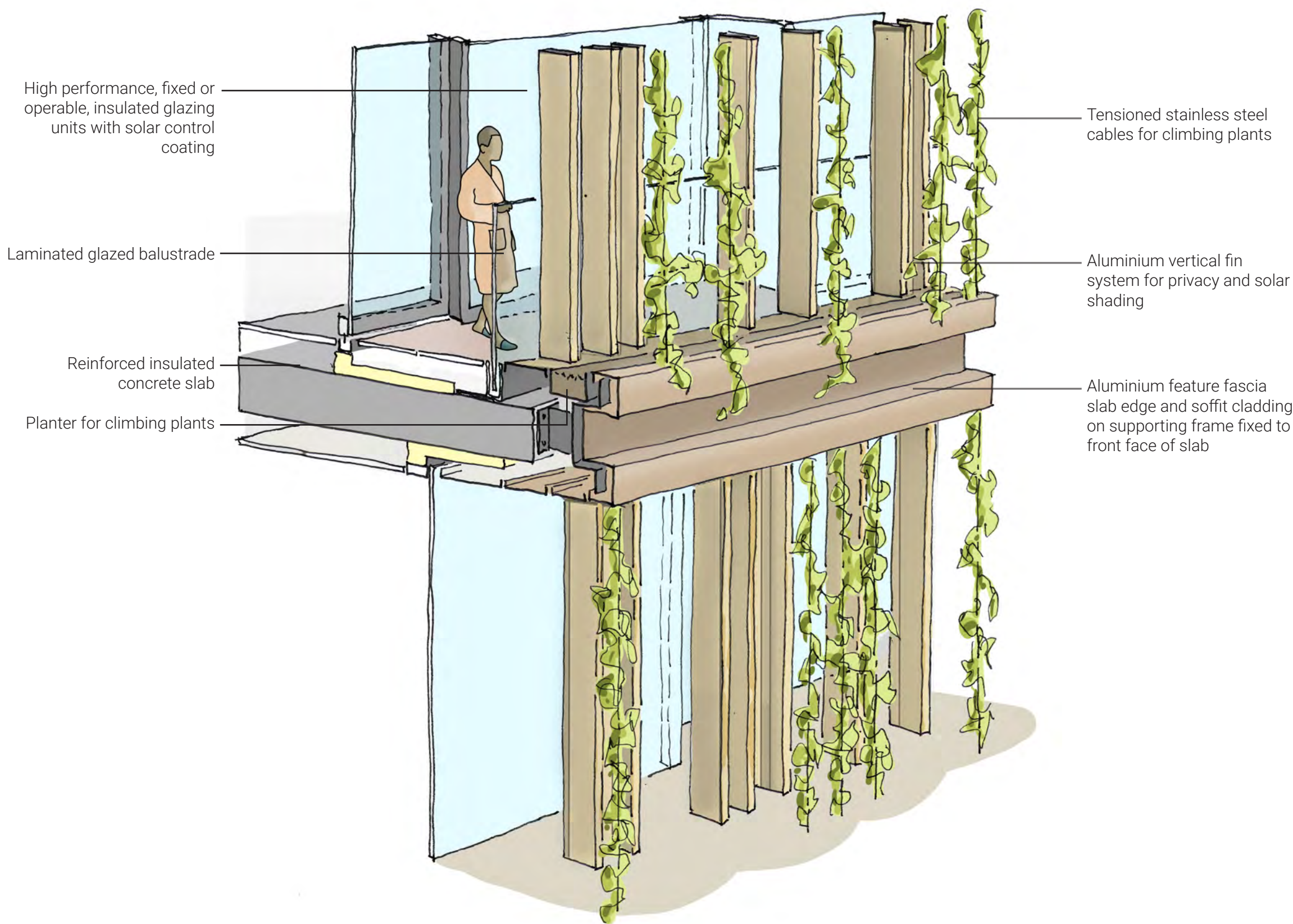
The Retail spaces are designed with tenant flexibility in mind, allowing for a variety of sizes, or combinations of units. The hotel rooms as well as are developed across a standard module that can be combined as necessary to make larger units depending on market changes.



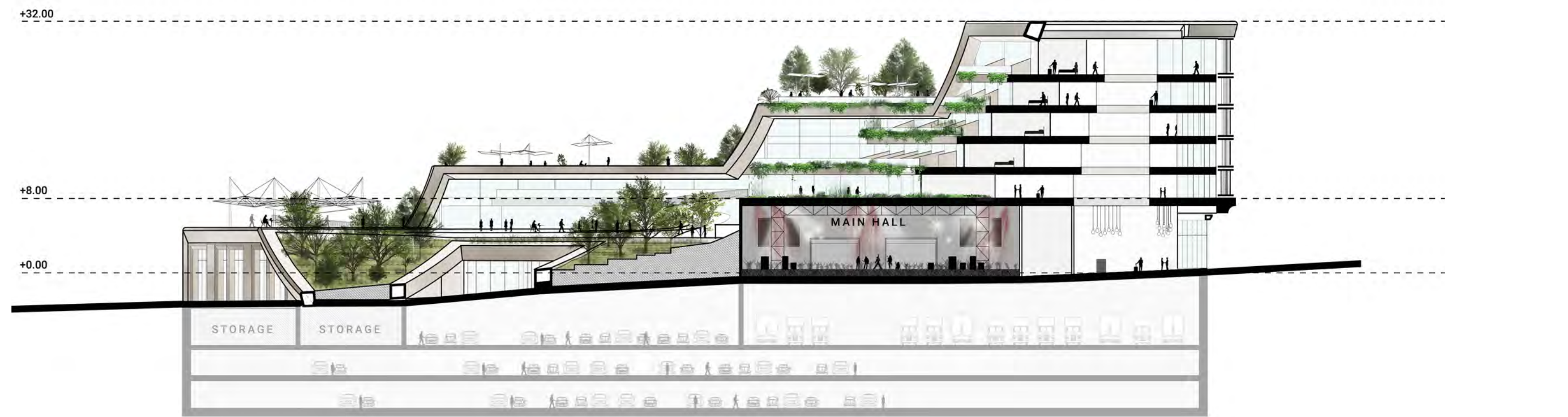
NE Elevation\_1:500



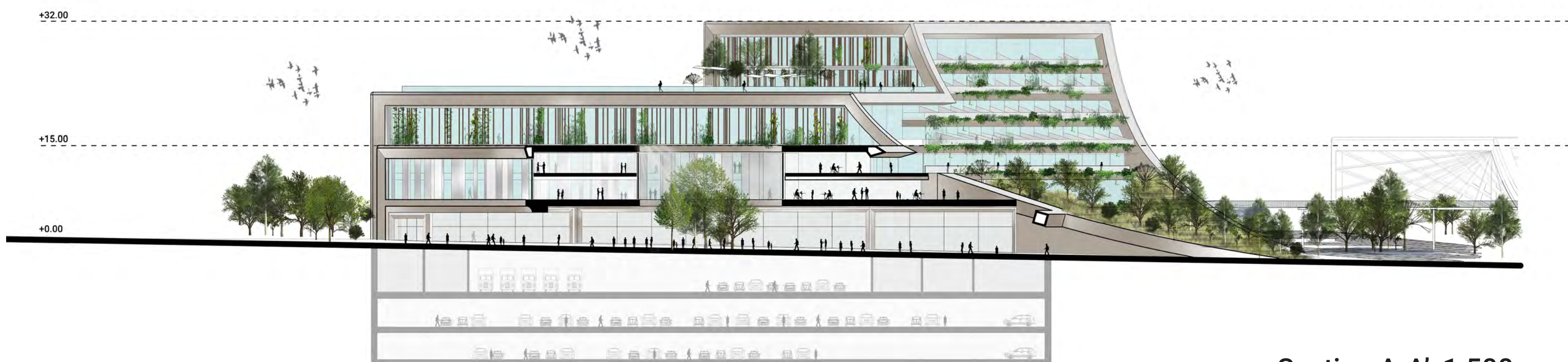
SW Elevation\_1:500



Hotel North Facade Perspective Section



Section B-B'\_1:500



Section A-A'\_1:500