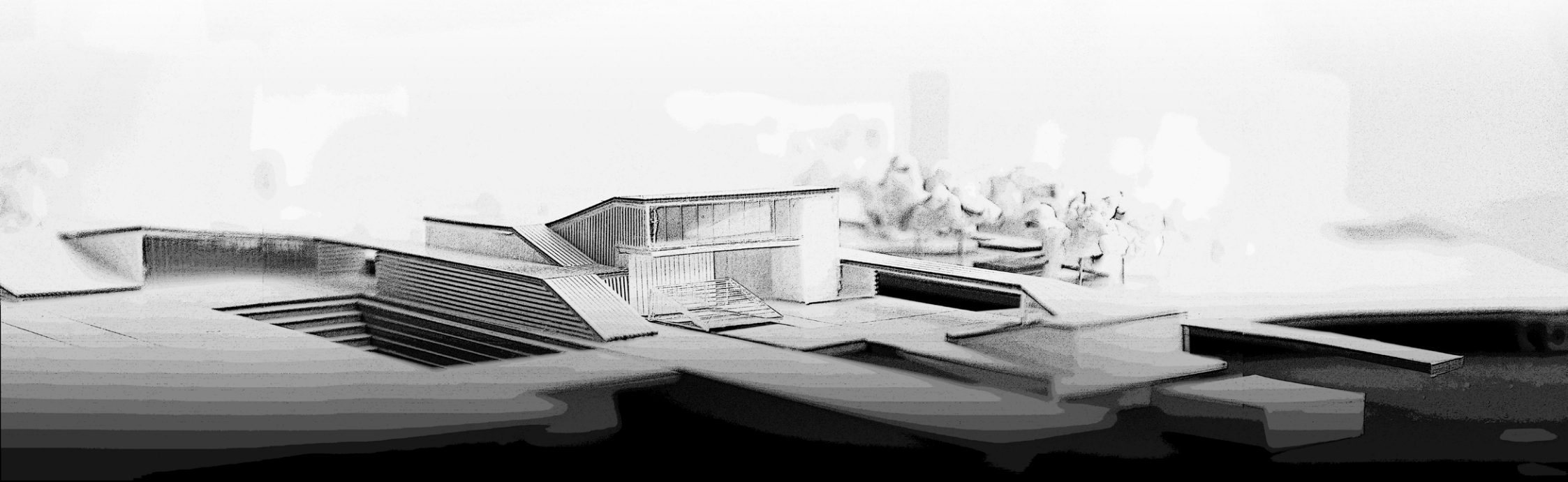


A cinematic community — Reactivate the waterfront space of Järntorget

Zhiyi Qi



Urban + Architecture Master studio
Examiner: Ana Betancour
Supervisors: Carl-Johan Vesterlund, Joaquim Tarraso
2014, Chalmers University of Technology

Introduction

Informal cinemas have now the opportunity to reach and create other publics than those produced by mainstream cinema. More important, it can organize public and creating cultures of participation, interaction and self-presentation.

In the thesis I am trying to figure out how to transforme the abandoned waterscape near Järntorget into a dynamic cinematic community through the combination of different types of informal screening space connected to a major walking spine.

departure point
research
strategy
proposal
design process
reference

1

departure point

the changing role of waterfront space

Founded in 1621, Gothenburg was and is largest port in Scandinavia which has a long tradition of national and international commerce, trade, shipping and industry; the river is a very important source to the city.

Historically, the waterfront of Gota river were used as former shipyard area (1850s-1970s). Shipbuilding, ship repair, associated businesses, harbour facilities there were crucial and the traditional industry was a major income for town. But during the shipyard crisis in 1970s, all shipyards went bankrupt, 20,000 workers were unemployed, the transition was major losses to town.

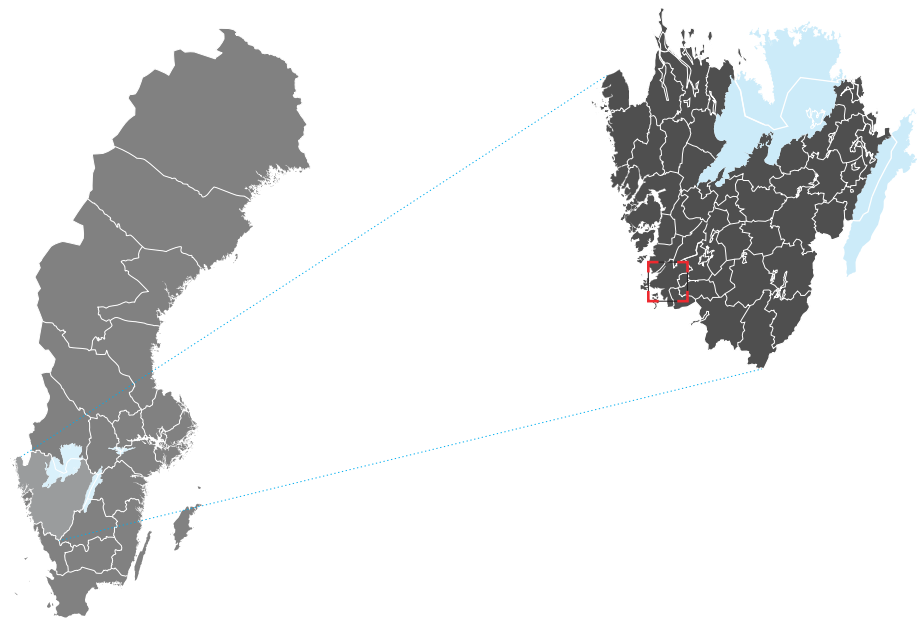
To date, the traditional manufacturing industry which significantly contributes to the city's wealth are being gradually replaced by high tech industries and the city is now searching for a way to express itself, the former industrial sites in central parts of town will be developed for housing as well as host for new business in the future.



1938 Today

opportunity of the void: a city growing inside

Benefit from the void in the city center, Gothenburg now has a chance to grow inside instead of simply expanding outwards.





Eriksberg

Eriksberg was a shipyard and nowadays it can be distinguished by its 84 meters high red crane. It seems attract sun in abundance and has several open-air restaurant.



Sannegardshamnen

It is an old port, opened in 1914. After being in use for several years, with several warehouses and storerooms, nowadays it is being transferred to a housing district - Sannegården. The port is used by the inhabitants.



Lindholmen

Originally Lindholmen was a shipyard and now it offers industry, academia and society an environment in which to develop as well as access to a valuable network.



Lundbystrand

It consists mostly of office buildings which date back to the times. Today there are several different owners, who are further developing the site. Newly design area is attracting companies to move their offices there.



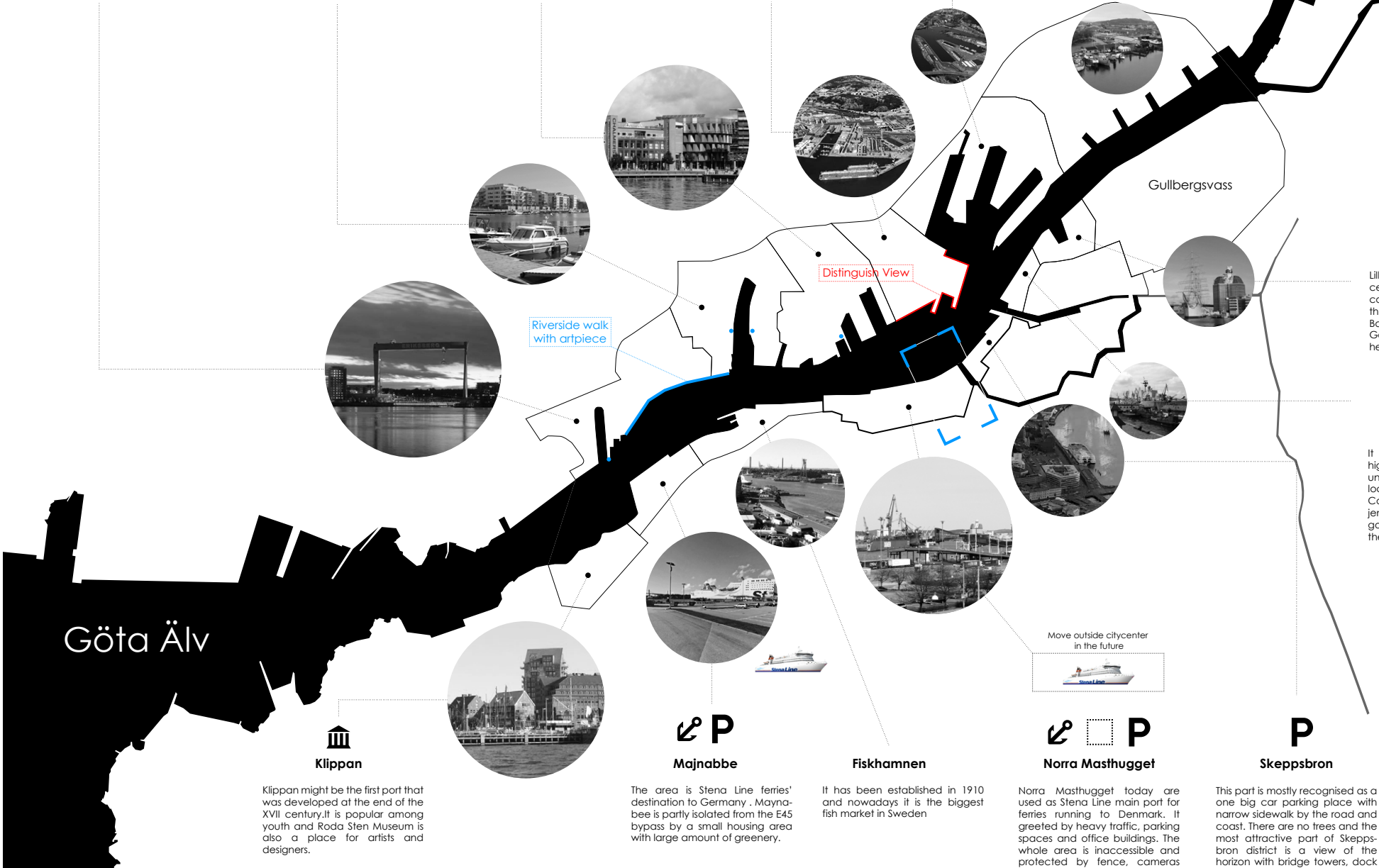
Frihamnen

Nowadays, there are only two working docks here and it will be developed into a dense inner city in central Gothenburg.



Ringön

Ringön is a large industrial area on the north bank of Göta Älv, between Göta Älvbron on the west. The vision is not to tear down and rebuild, but to continue working with large variation of activities and accommodation.



Lilla Bommen

Lilla Bommen is Gothenburg's central guest marina and connected to the main street of the city. Three landmarks: the Barque Viking, Lipstick and the Gothenburg Opera are located here.



Packhuskajen

It is a place surrounded by the high scarp and a road running under. Maritime Museum locates on water and Casino Cosmopol on bank of Packhuskajen. The whole harbour area is in good shape but nevertheless there are not many passers-by.



Klippan

Klippan might be the first port that was developed at the end of the XVII century. It is popular among youth and Roda Sten Museum is also a place for artists and designers.

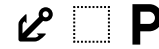


Majnabee

The area is Stena Line ferries' destination to Germany. Majnabee is partly isolated from the E45 bypass by a small housing area with large amount of greenery.

Fiskhamnen

It has been established in 1910 and nowadays it is the biggest fish market in Sweden



Norra Masthugget

Norra Masthugget today are used as Stena Line main port for ferries running to Denmark. It greeted by heavy traffic, parking spaces and office buildings. The whole area is inaccessible and protected by fence, cameras and barbed wire.



Skeppsbron

This part is mostly recognised as a one big car parking place with narrow sidewalk by the road and coast. There are no trees and the most attractive part of Skeppsbron district is a view of the horizon with bridge towers, dock cranes and other dominants across the river.

new identity of the city: an event city

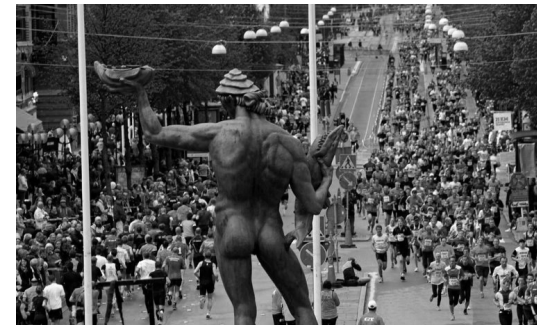
The present city is a place "where always something going on", it is well-known for hosting a wide range of multinational meetings as well as conferences and is also referred to as "The Event City". These big events through the year make Gothenburg a dynamic city with great charm.

Other than the activities, all these events provide great opportunities for people to re-experience the city when moving from a venue to another, because they share a similar characteristic of taking the urban space as a stage.



With the reduction of traditional industries, the city now has a new way to express itself

An Event City !



issue: a cinematic *city* learning from the GIFF

The Goteborg International film festival implements a different experience of viewing and understanding the film, a follower of the festival has the opportunity to become involved with different modes of experiencing such an event. This kind of unique experience could be applied to specific site as a method to fascinate people and transformed the desolate place into an all year round populated social place.

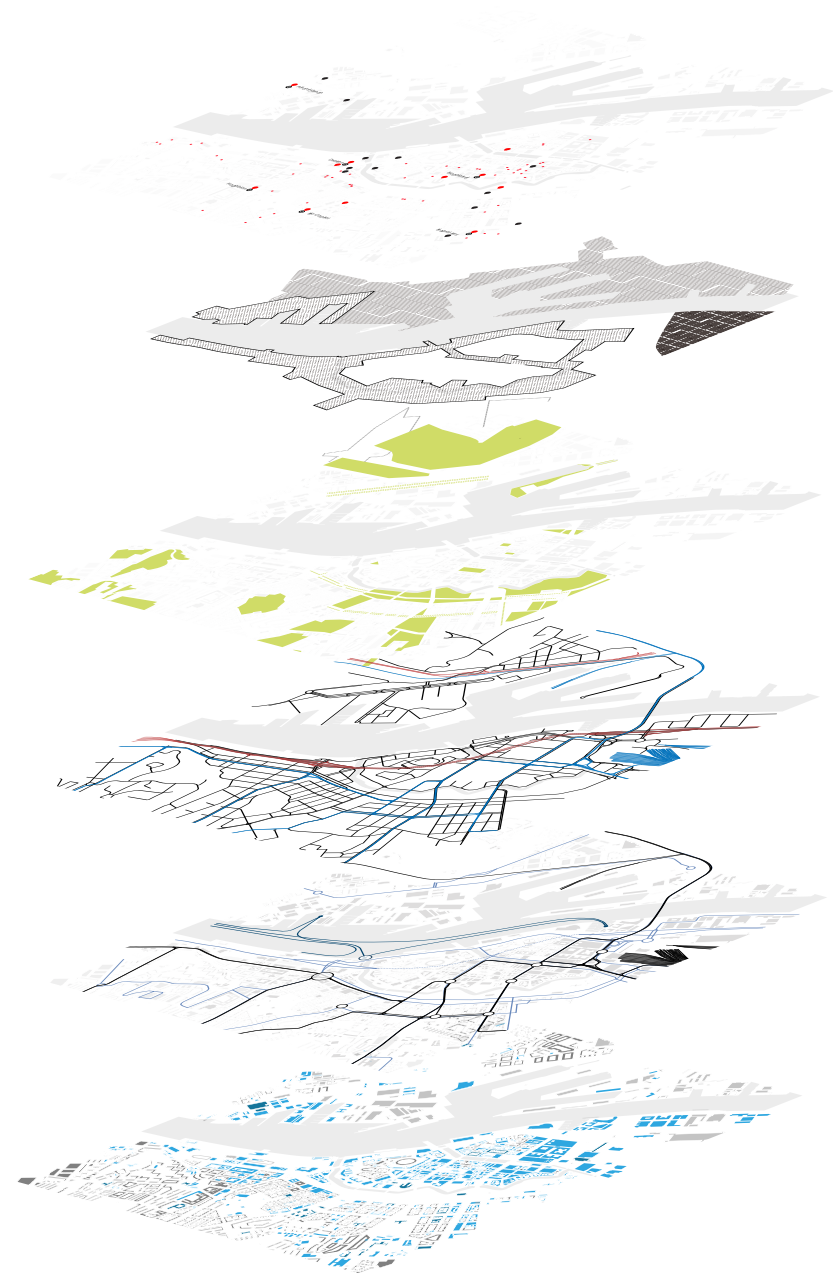
It appears that the organizers have been particularly interested in sustaining a climate of collaboration between people from the film industry and academics by holding discussions that are open to the general public. In this way, they encourage an atmosphere of dialogue and create a space for an [exchange of experiences](#) between the areas of "theory" and "practice". Also, this type of activities strengthen the interaction between general viewer and the professionals.





2

research

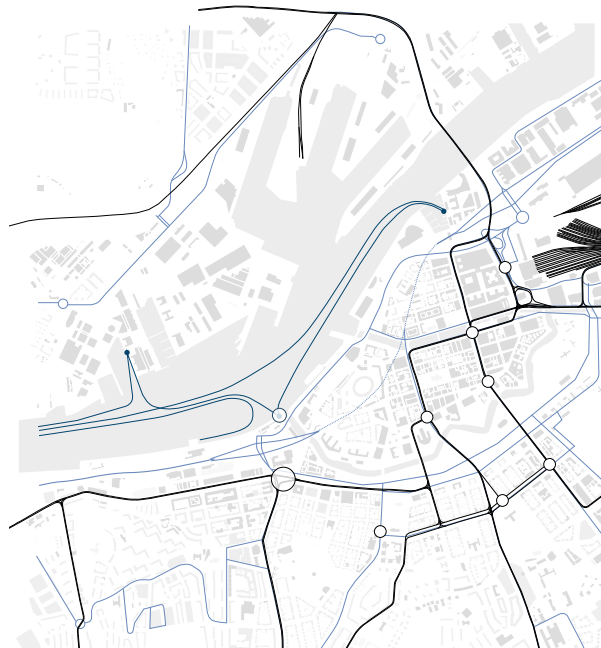


research: fact of the city

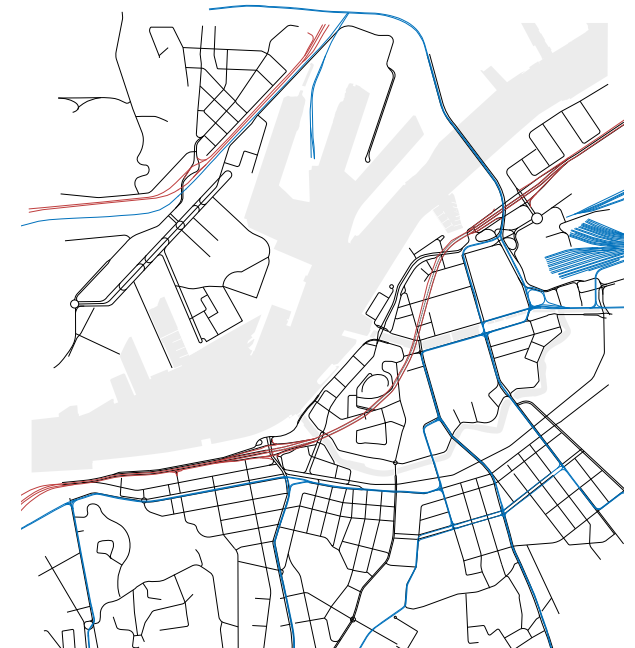
- Commercial/Office
- Public building
- Religion building
- Housing
- Industrial building



- Bus Line
- Tram & Rail
- Ferry
- Transportation Hub



- Tram
- Road & Structure
- Fast Link



Green System



Potential open space
Industrial site



GIFF Screening Venue
GIFF Meeting Venue
Historical Cinema
Present Cinema

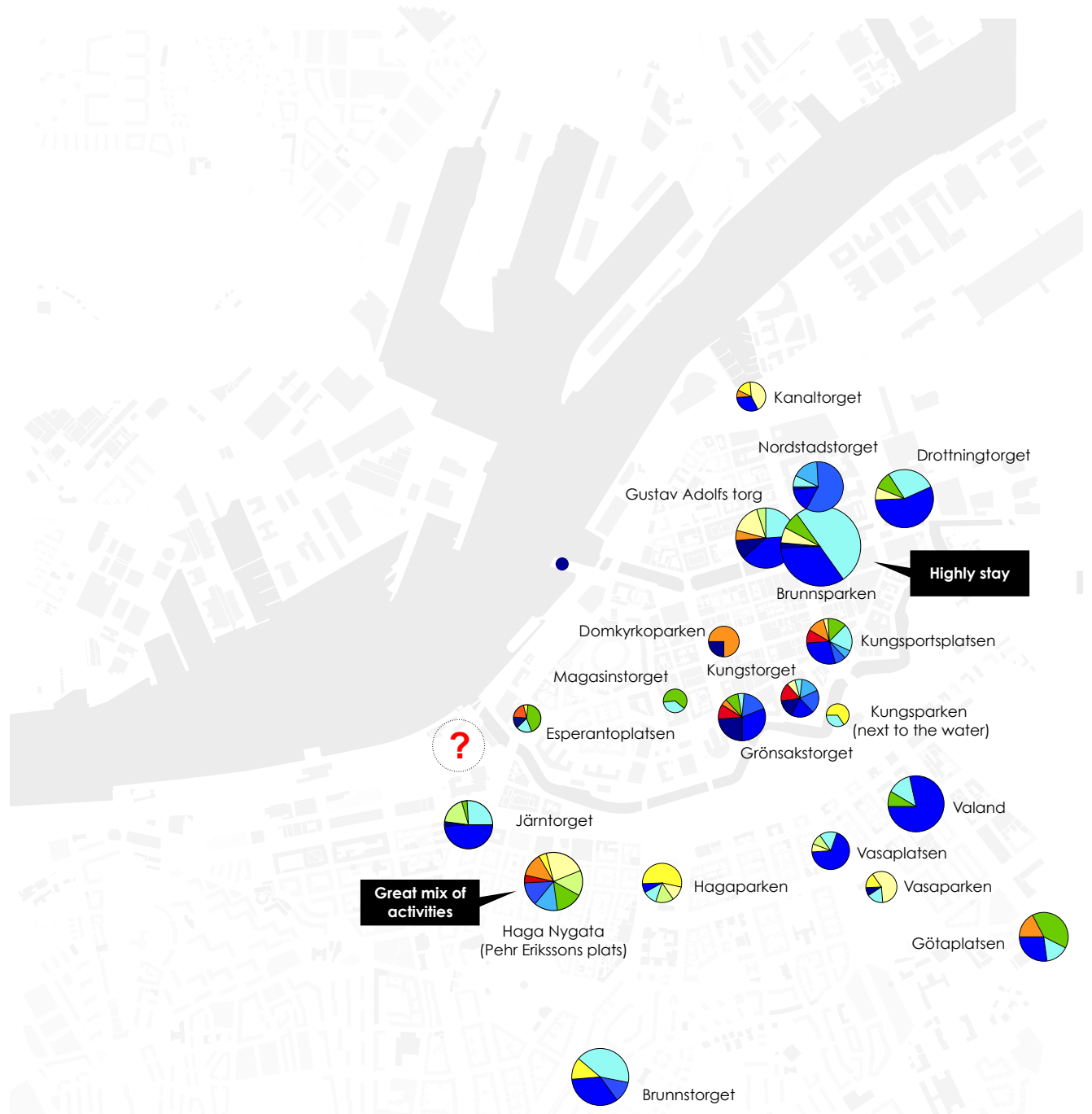


research: public activities in the city

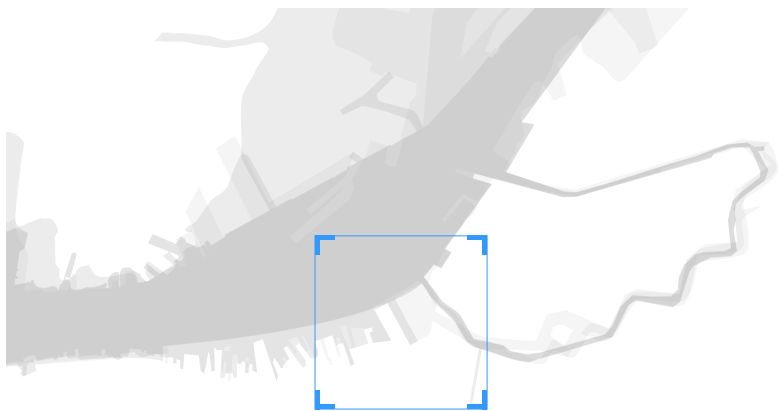
Stay Quantity

-  highly stay
-  moderate stay
-  low stay
-  Very little stay

-  Sell
-  Propagate
-  Culture
-  Sports and Recreation
-  Play
-  Observer
-  Seating
-  Talk
-  Eat
-  Shopping
-  Wait
-  Other



research: history of the site



The wateredge changes through ages.



1700

Early form of city settlement



1850



1860



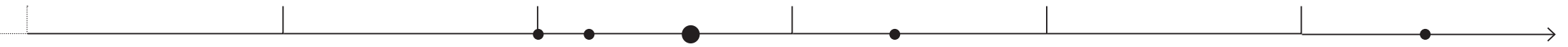
1880



1921



Today



1750

1800

1850

1860

1880

1900

1921

2000

TODAY

Fortification
Harbour development

Haga and Masthugget
developing

Spreading out of banks
Waterfront redefinition
for naval logic
Perpendicular streets by
waterfront

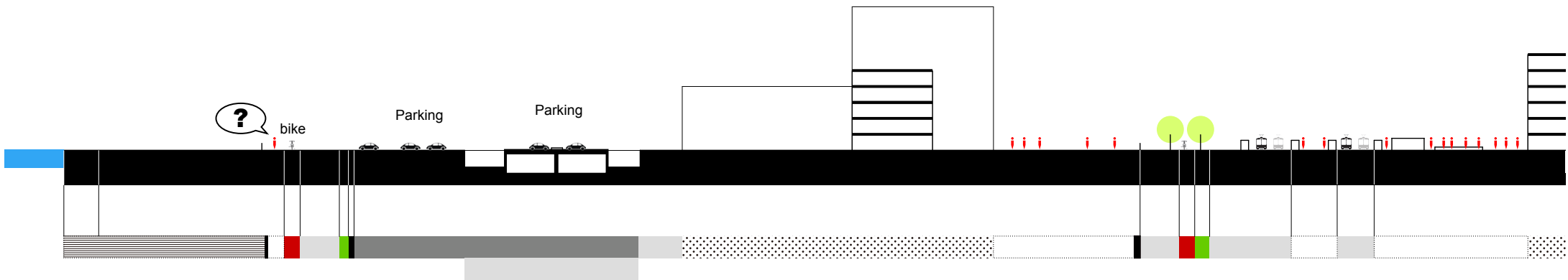
Harbour and industry on
both sides of river

SOUTH used for ferry
NORTH Industrialization
Residential district in

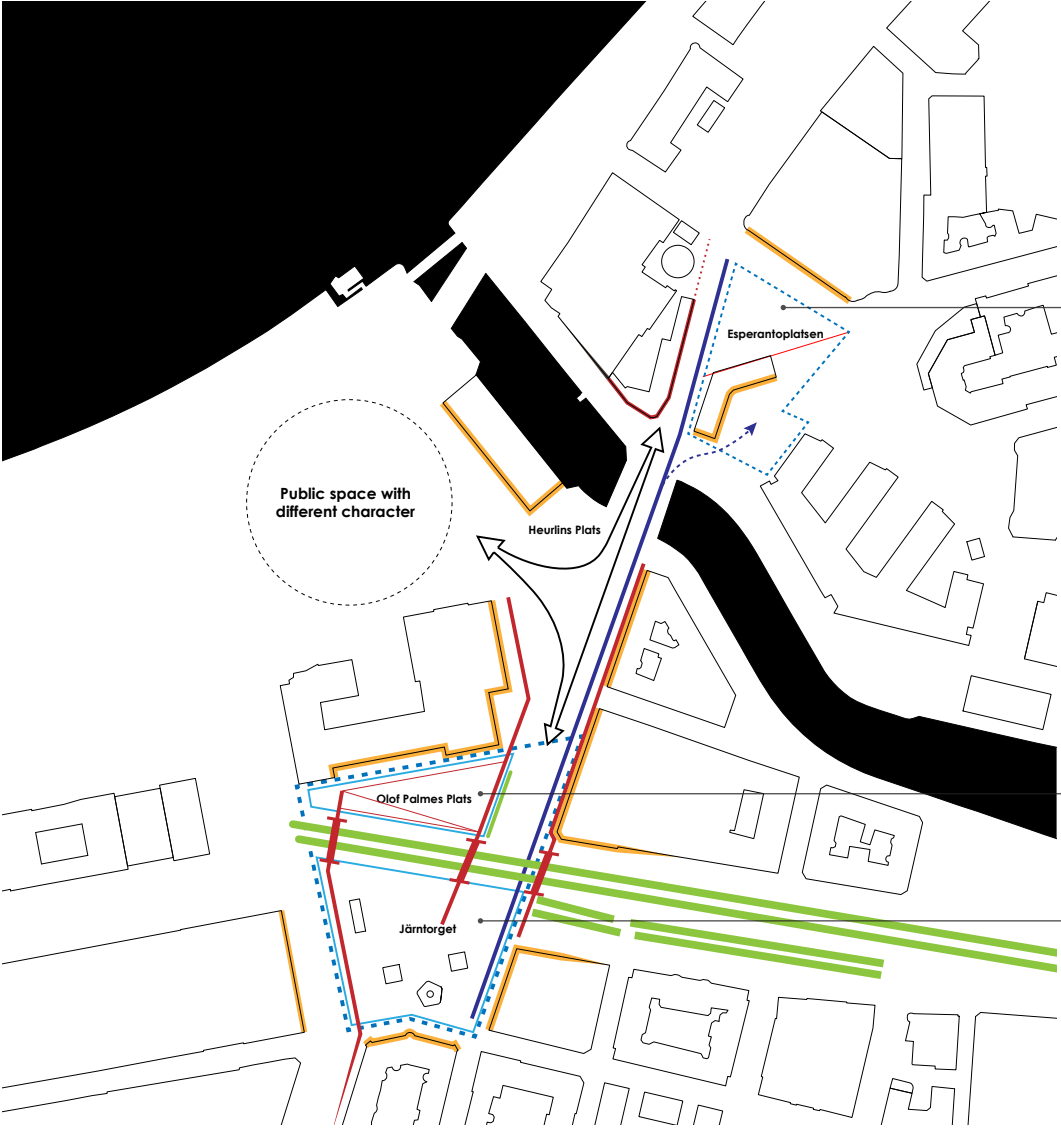
research: site

The section of the site shows that the water front area and sources are seriously cut out from the inland part of the city by infrastructure, green belt and artificial barrier.





0m 10m 20m

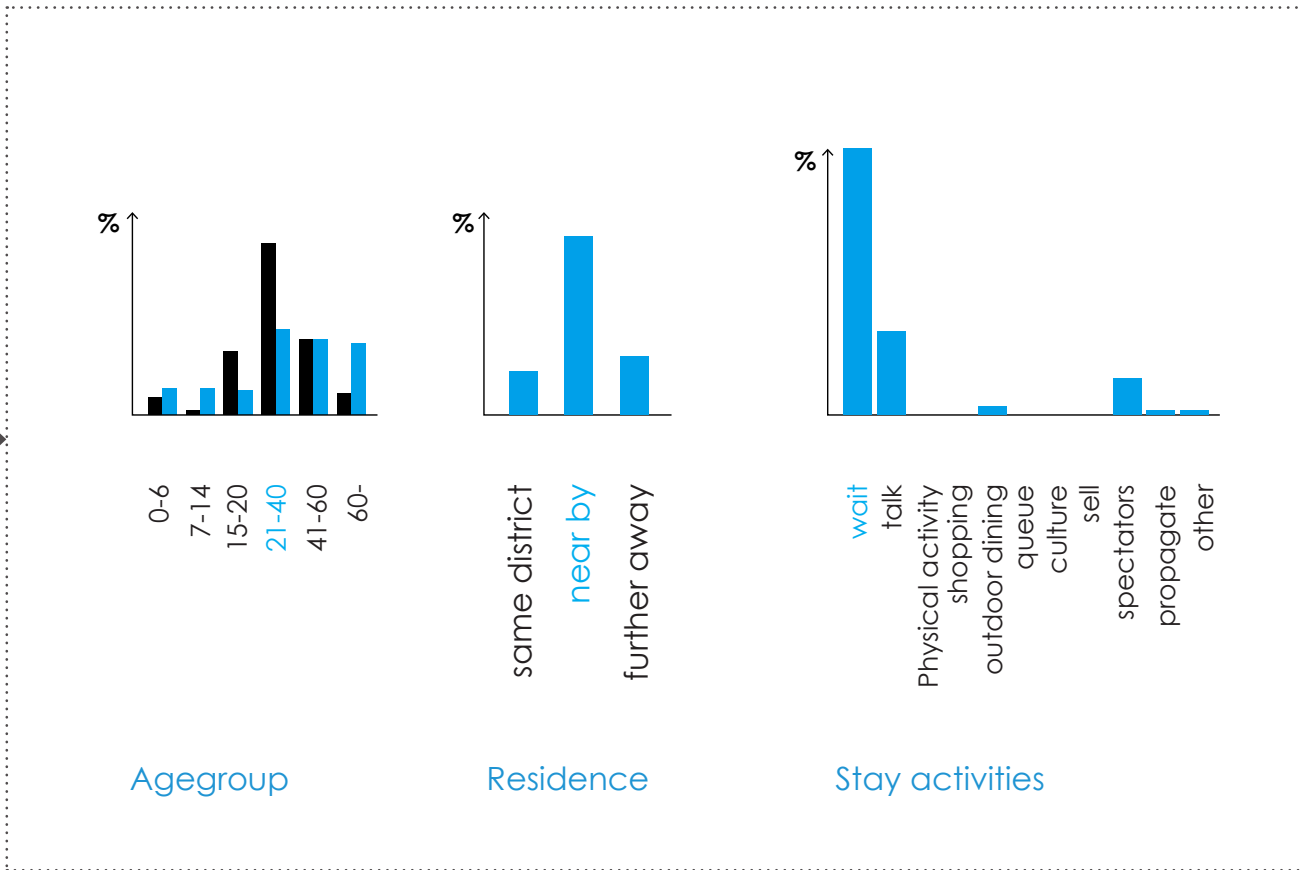


Esperantoplatsen

Olof Palmes Plats

Järntorget

- green barrier
- pedestrian link
- plaza
- open public place
- major link
- function support

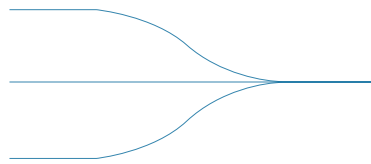


Reference: Stadslivet i centrala Göteborg Upplevelsen, användningen och förutsättningarna

3

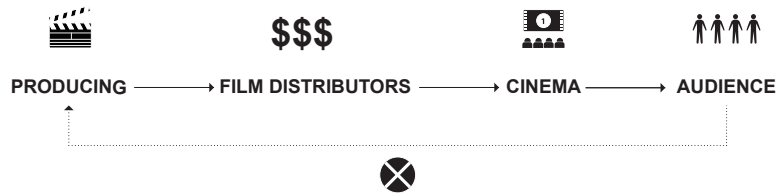
urban strategy

programmatic strategy
spacial strategy
wateredge strategy



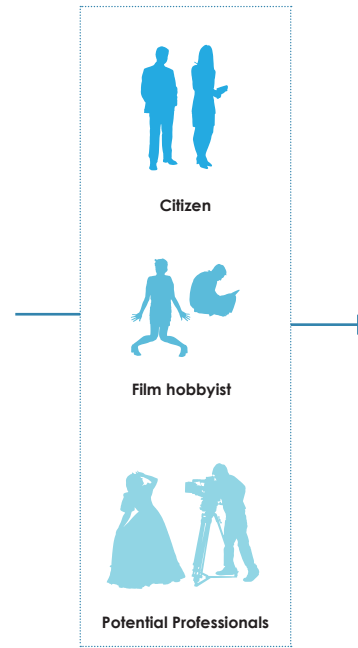
transform urban scape into screen scape

programmatic strategy: a sustainable system

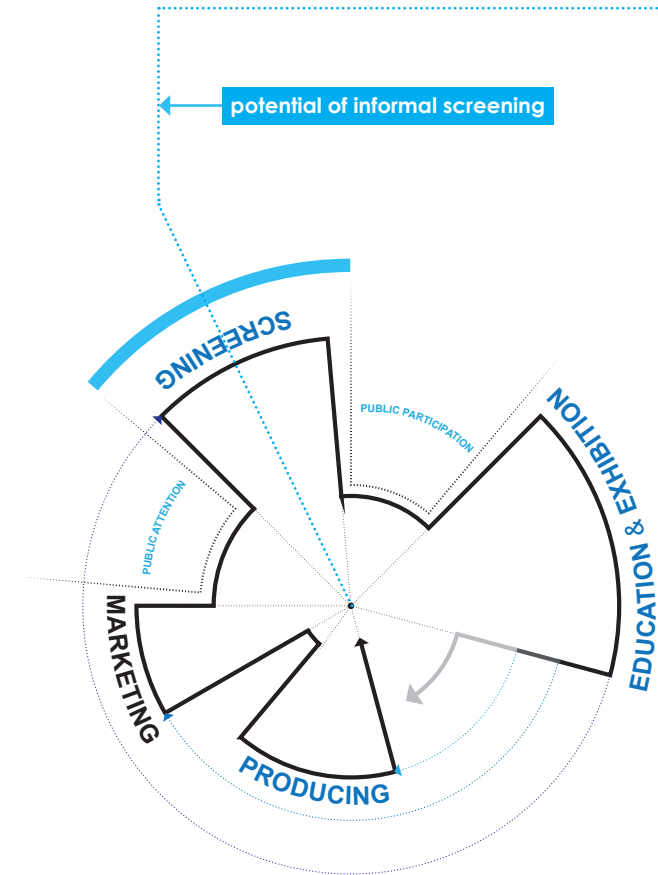


Present system

The present system of the film industry is basically single direction. The viewers are at the end of the chain and there is no interaction between each step. This kind of system is solidified by the interest of profit, and the cinema remains a place of consumption.



adding actors



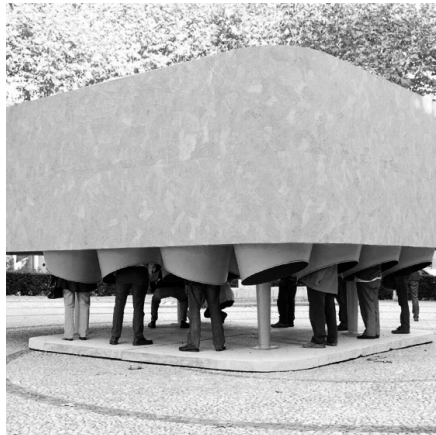
Expected system

The emergence of new types of film form and screening platform make it possible for normal people to participate in the process. The aim of the project is to provide a place where people have a better chance to communicate, to try producing and exhibit their work to the public without high budget.

Cinema plays a role more than just an entertain place in the town.
The projection place should also be demonstrated in various forms other than just in the enclosed darkened room.

Street cinema

This kind of urban furniture can occupied the small empty space shortly in town and then built up an acupuncture net work system.



Temporary Open air cinema

The open air cinema make it possible for people to have a free "come and go" viewing experience in urban scape during good weather.



Waterfront cinema & Stage

The bank of Gota river have a possibility of providing a hydrophilic experience of film-viewing, which at the same time enhanced the characteristics of Gothenburg as the port city.

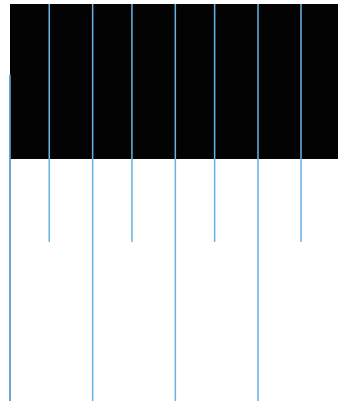


wateredge strategy: DE-Boder

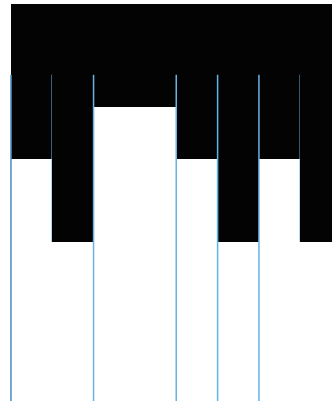




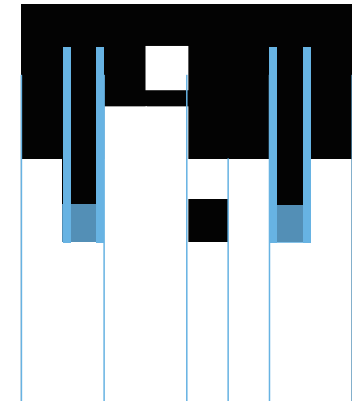
existing situation



**cutting down the border
to fit human scale**
gradual change
from land to water

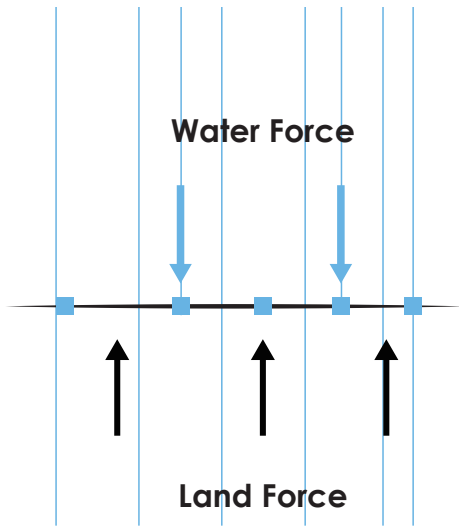


**introduce water to
inner land**
following the
flow of existing river

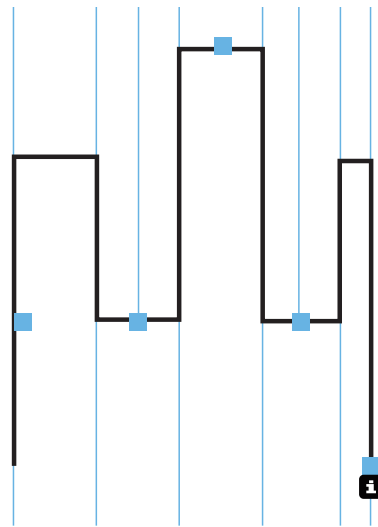


adding pedestrian road
creating protected waterspace

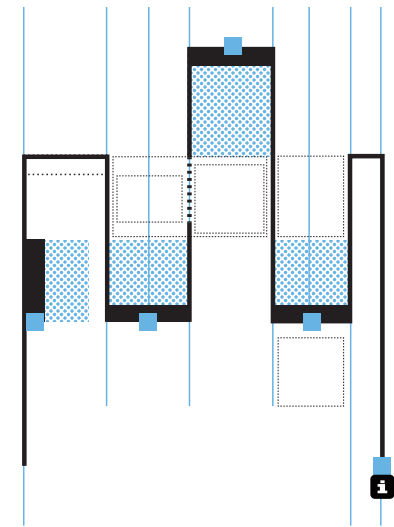
spacial strategy: a walking spine with functional stop



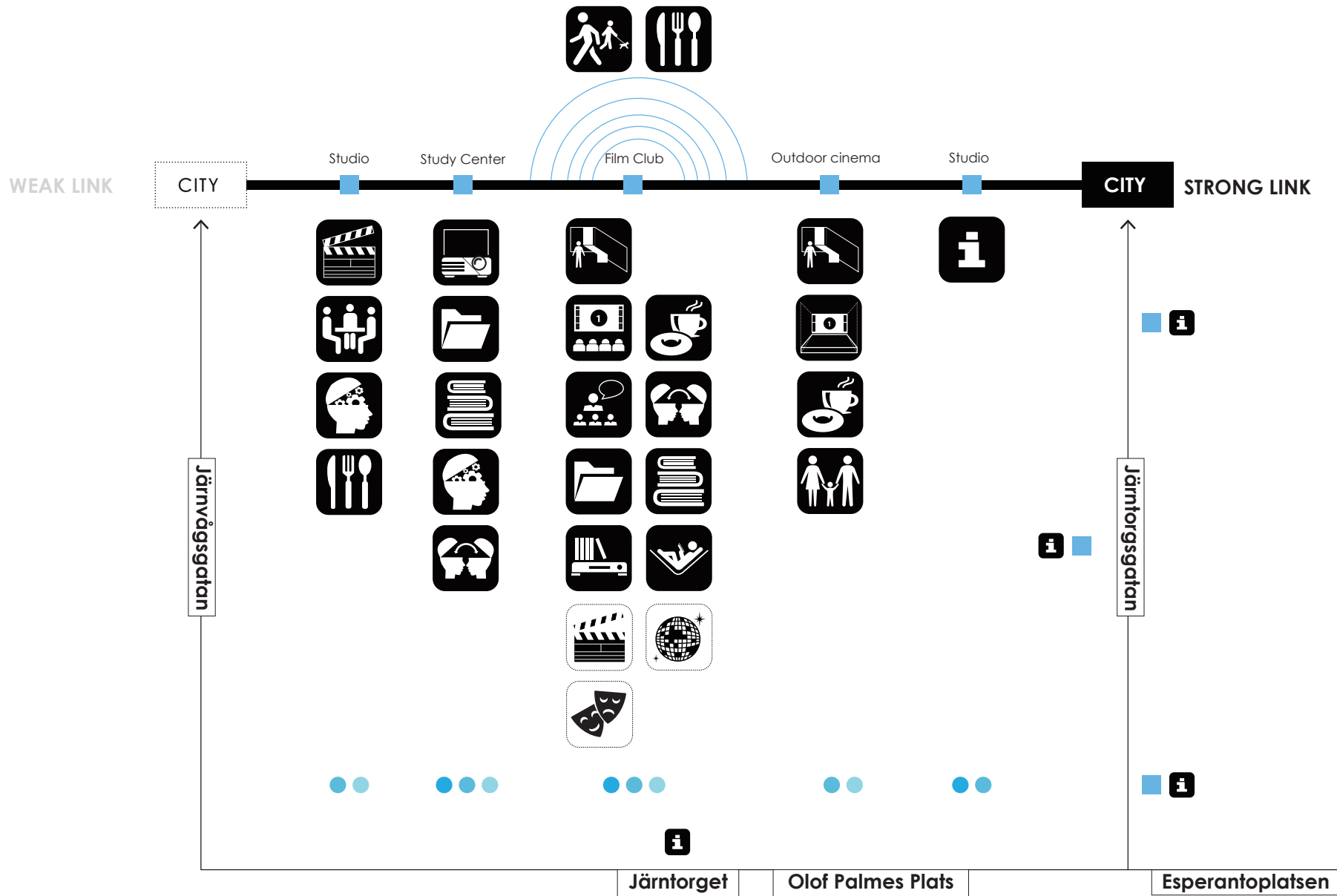
Interact with water



Shape the Spine



Space sequence



4

proposal

the site

the building

Conflict/ potential/ Tool box:

Potential of Järntorget

Järntorget is not only an important traffic hub of the area, but also a gathering place especially for young, it can be regarded as the most important point where people come from

Potential of GIFF

As a major venue place of GIFF, Folkhus has a great influence of the site even when not during the festival.

Public space link

The site can build up a great connection with Järntorget and Esperantoplatsen which have different quality as public square.

Weak walking link

The whole area is now surrounded by car way and in bad walking conditions there are little attraction for pedestrian to walk to the waterfront from Järntorget.

Isolated water front

The water space is not accessible and cut away from the city.

TOOLBOX

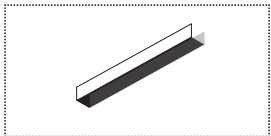
SPACIAL STRUCTURING ELEMENTS

SCREENING NEED

LEARNING NEED

EVENT NEED

event platform

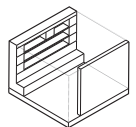


path
A designed path connecting the whole area which also define different district

Screening Room



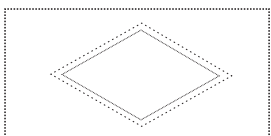
Privat learing unit



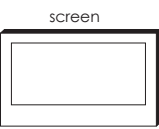
Temporary Programm



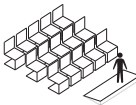
district connection / boundary



out door event square
Undefined space which can hold multiple activities. A place for public performance.



lecture room



Open-air cinema



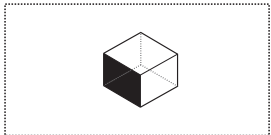
private study

group study

workspace

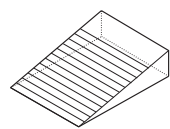
Sliding track

Communal space

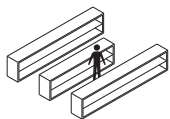


Functional Unit
The core to define the charecter of undefined space .

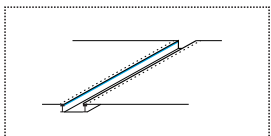
auditorium



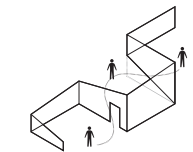
Data storage unit



(Out-door) Theater



Sliding track
Provide variable space use to make full use of the vast space.



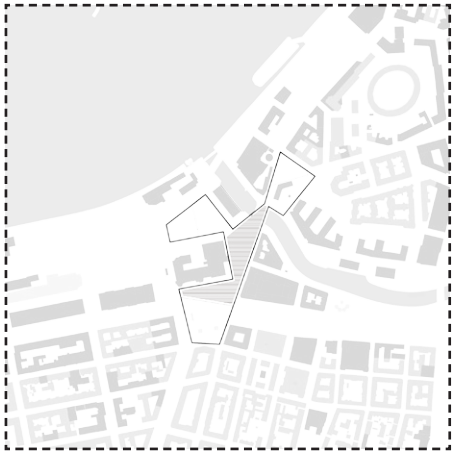
Graphic Exhibition/Gallery

IDEA MARKET

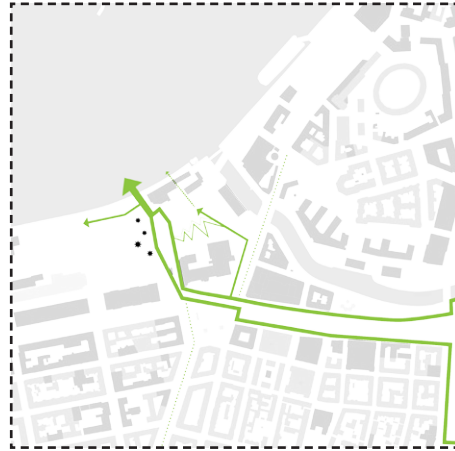


Green shelter

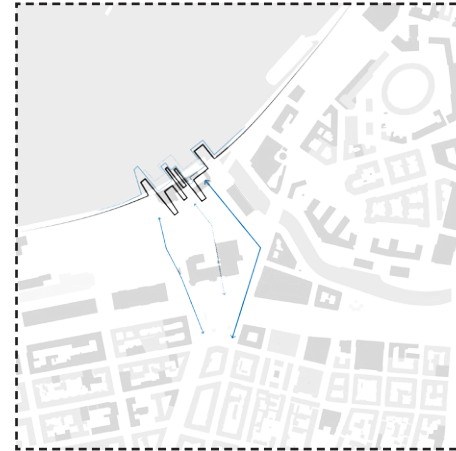
occupy the site: a test for the strategies



The inland part of the site will be used as a event square to bring more vitality to this area. Together with Esperantoplatsen and Järntorget, the open space at this special node can work as a mutual benefit system.



The green belt along the river will continue to the wateredge which also create a green shelter to provide the site from heavy traffic noise.



To create dynamic spacial atmosphere at the riveredge, the boundry of the present round will be modified. This allows water go inside the land which brings longer wateredge and more reachable waterspace.

Andra Långgatan is stretching from the square Järntorget in the east to Masthuggstorget in the west. The street is busy by **night**, with people walking between the different bars and pubs

Hagabion is a movie theater runs by the **nonprofit** association of Folkets Bio Gothenburg. It has three salons and provides quality films from around the world, with an emphasis on films that do not come from Hollywood. With bar and restaurant.

Haga used to be Gothenburg's oldest suburb, now is a lovely neighbourhood in the centre of town with pedestrian paved streets and well-preserved brick and wood houses. plenty of cafés, boutiques, fashion, antiques and second-hand shops

Andra Långgatan



Hagabion



Haga



Transportation point



Open public space



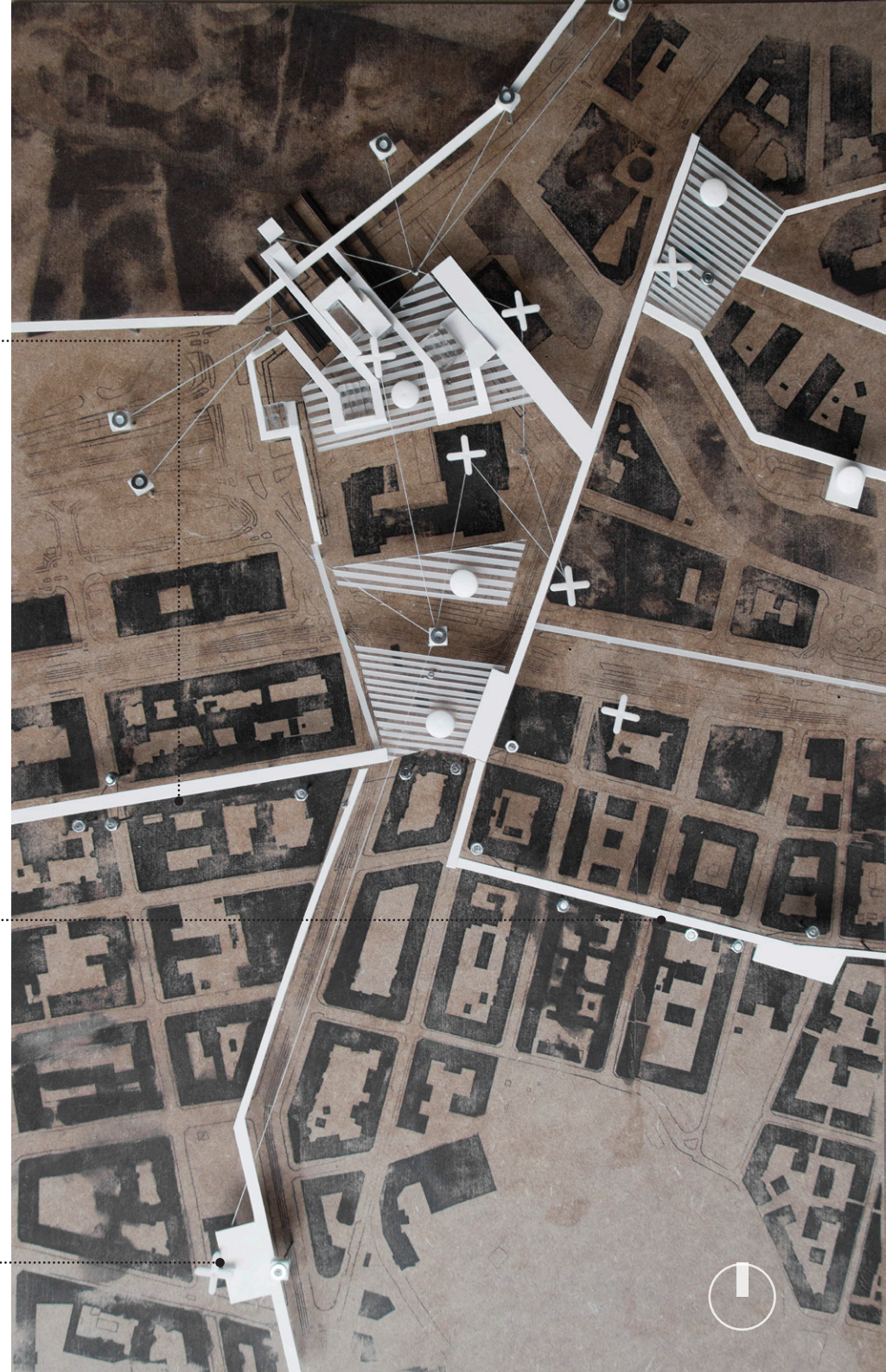
Cinematic place



Public square



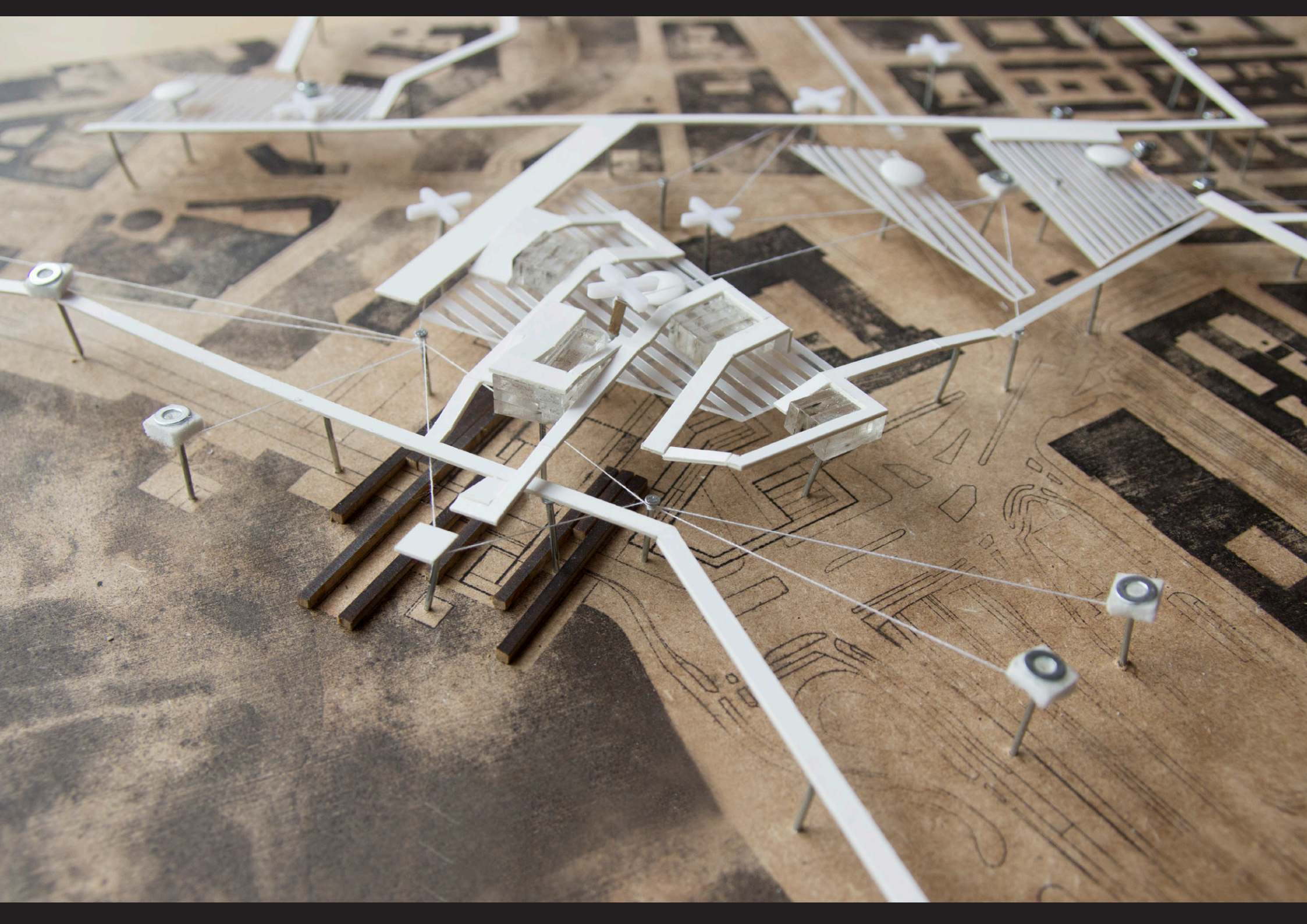
Place to hang out



occupy the site: a test for the strategies

The walking path fits into the urban context as an extension of the existing walking system. People can easily get into the site and waterfront space following the existing flow of pedestrian.

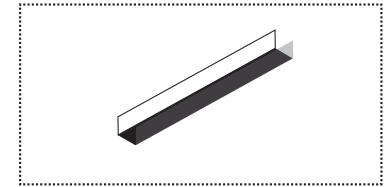
Also the entrance area of the site locate around the existing public traffic node which makes it easier for pedestrian to get to the community.



spacial strategy: a meandering walking spine
which connected to the existing walking system

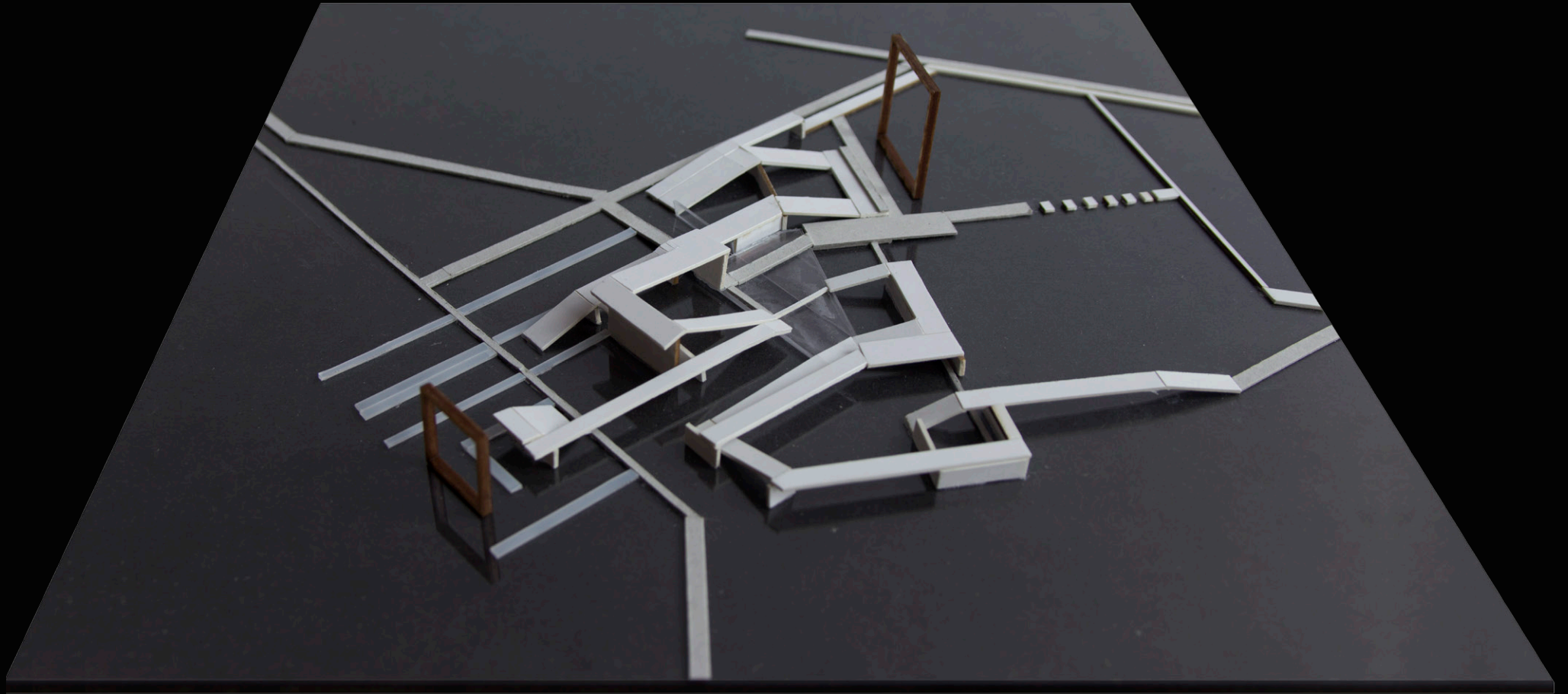
"The joy of walking, the pleasure and fringe benefits which can be associated with walking in the city. the human activities which can start and develop only when people moving about on their feet."





Jan Gehl <making room for people>



path

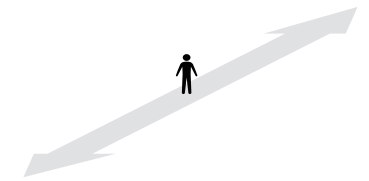
A designed path connecting the whole area which also define different district



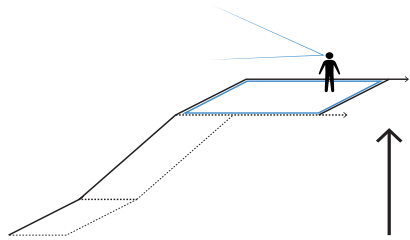
-  Main walking spine
-  Shortcut to venue place
-  Wateredge path
-  Open air screen

SKELETON OF THE SITE: THE WALKING SPINE

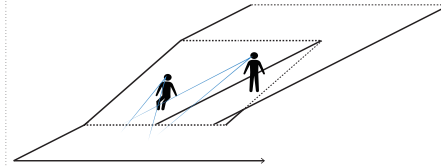
transforme of the spine : how people interact with it



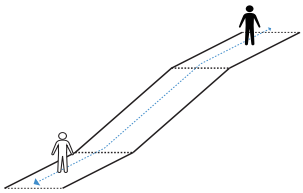
Linear route



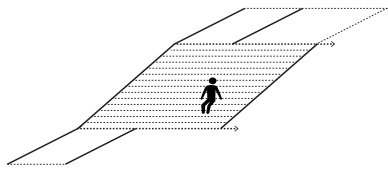
upper level
enlarge as viewing platform



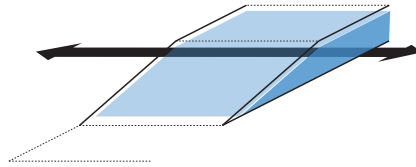
Extended path
as upper auditorium



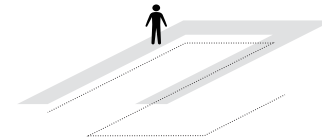
link between different levels



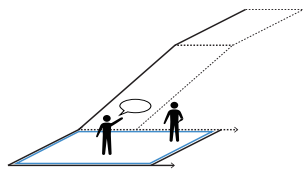
middle level
enlarge as auditorium



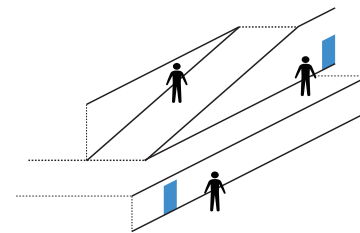
function unit underneath



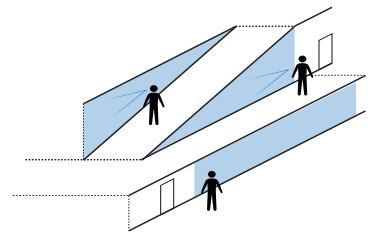
Zigzagging Path



under level
enlarge as stage



multi-layer entrance



"peak hole" along path

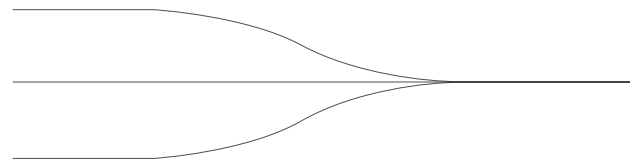
strategies applied: set up new order of the site

transform urban scape into screen scape

programmatic strategy

spacial strategy

wateredge strategy



Know library
Communicate
View screen
Test



Exhibition Center & Open-air Cinema
Freely come-and-leave viewing experience



to enjoy
to learn
to try

- Information
- Exhibition
- Open-air cinema
- Screening
- Floating stage
- Library
- Film Archive
- Projection-room
- Digital library
- Lecture room
- Discussion room
- Idea market
- Film produce
- Create
- Entrance



Leisure space
Path Flyover
Central Event square: Open public place Events need
Education center Folk Film school
Film Studio: Easy producing Idea market
Information board
Path Flyover

architectural proposal: a Film Hub

In order to provide a different type of cinema viewing experience where allow different related activities encounters, the design of the projection center create an open and changeable space at the same time connected to the major walking spine.

The form and spatial logic follows the overall tactics of the site. Or to say, the under-cover inner space is just an enlarged part of the continued walking spine.



Site Plan

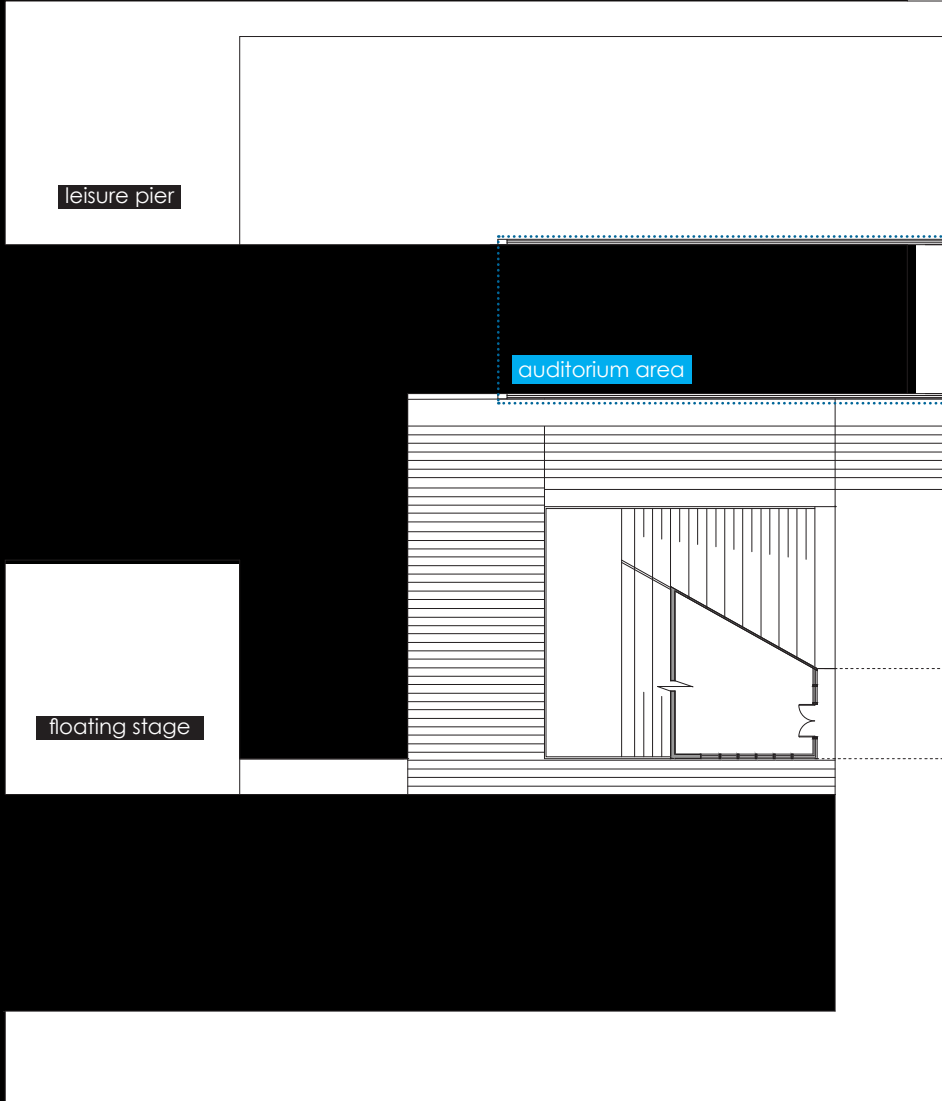
Night View

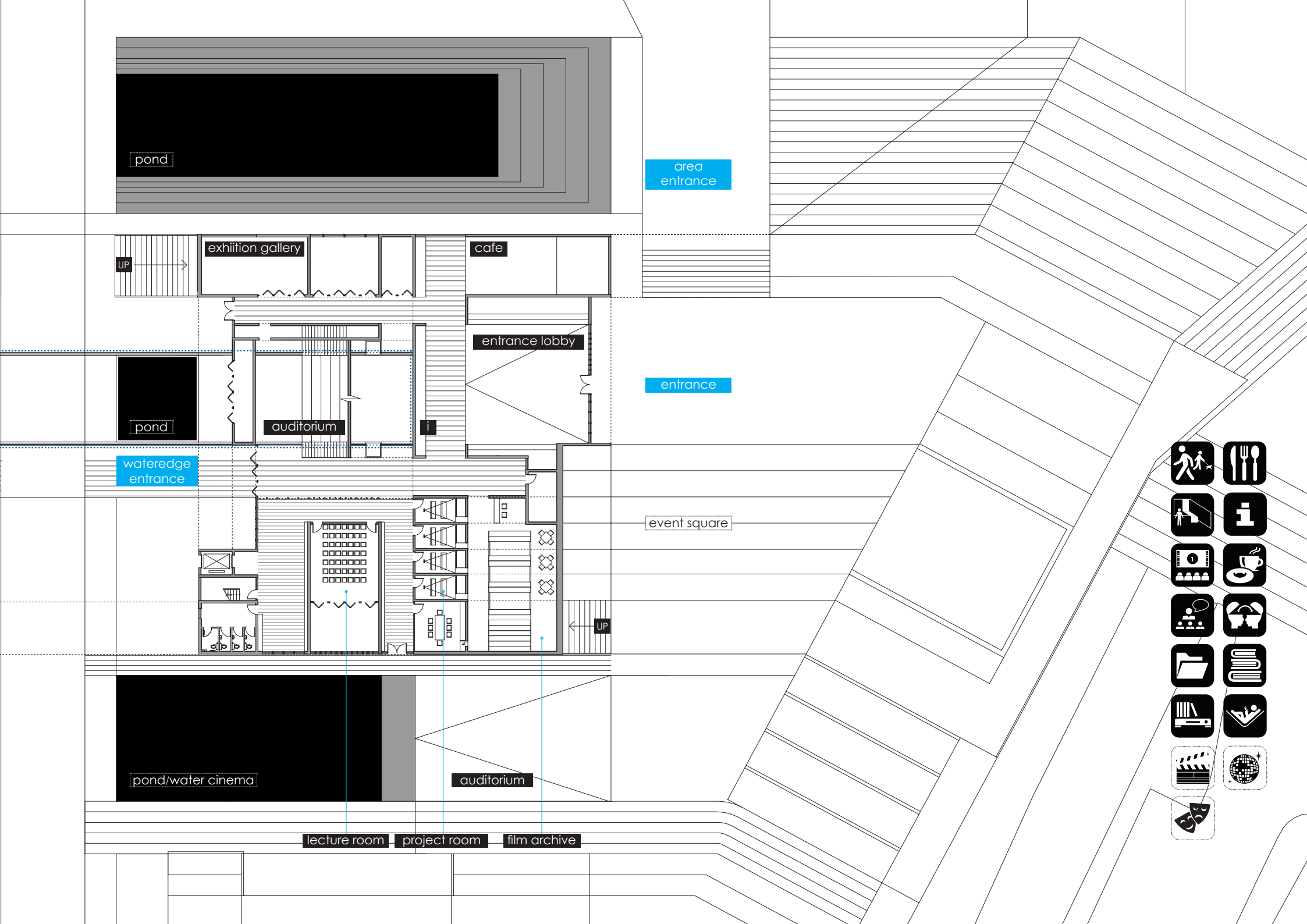


Day View

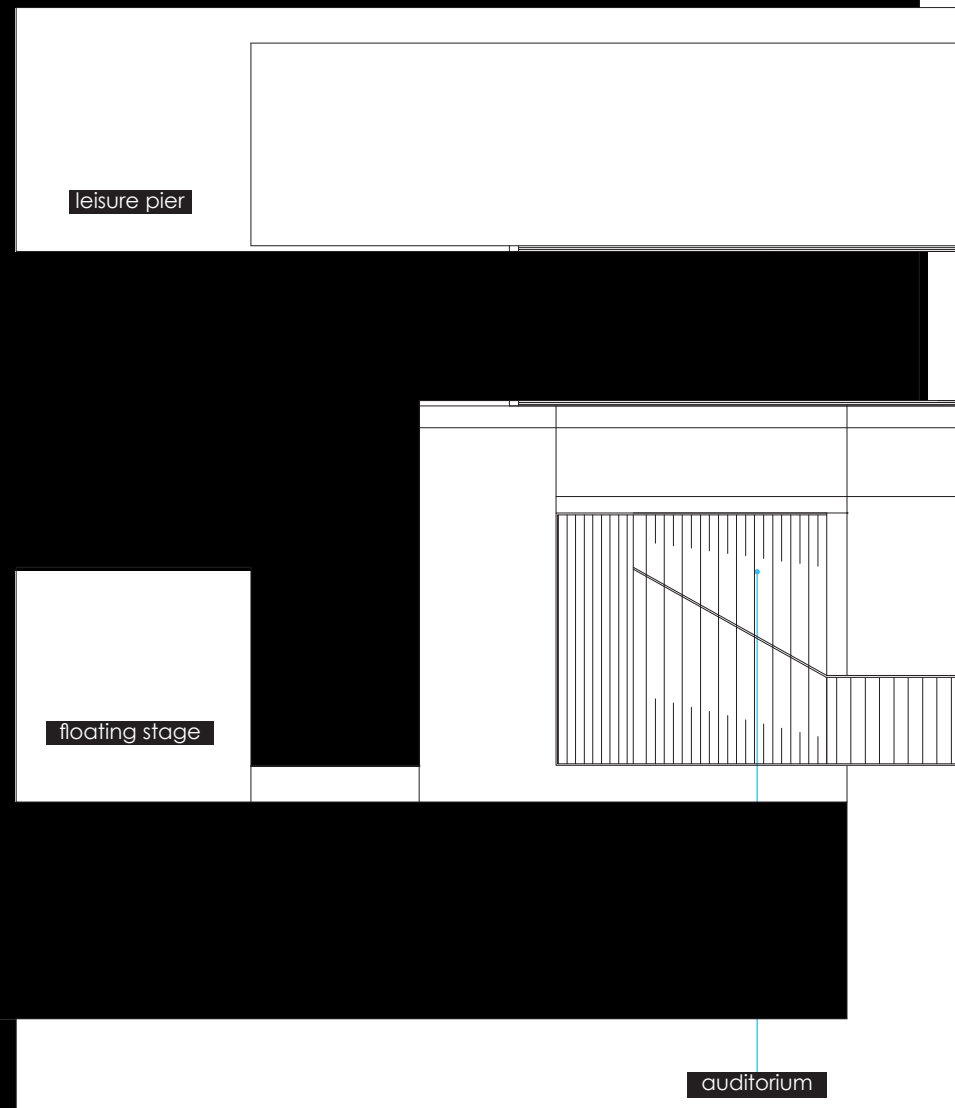


1st Floor Plan





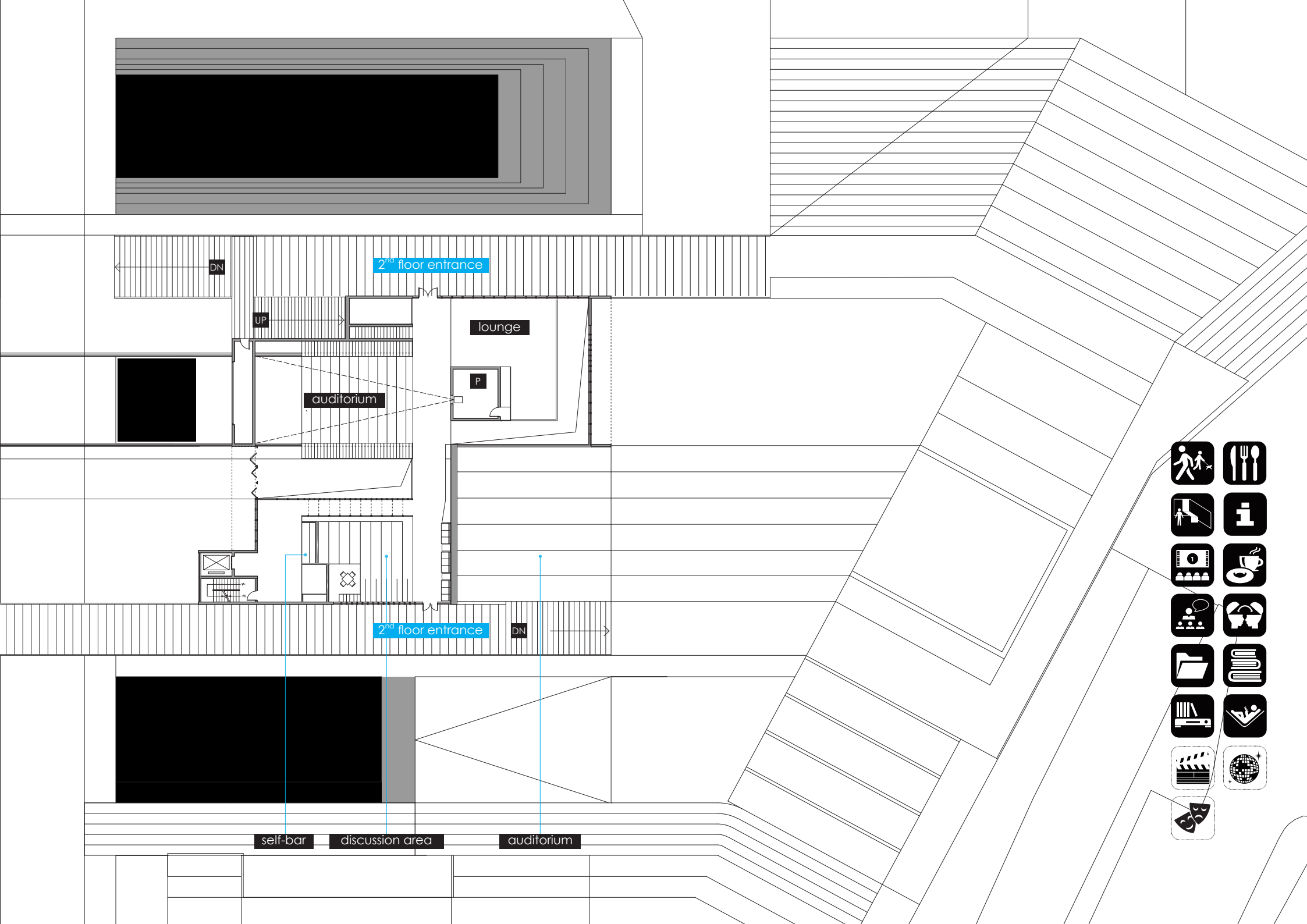
2nd Floor Plan



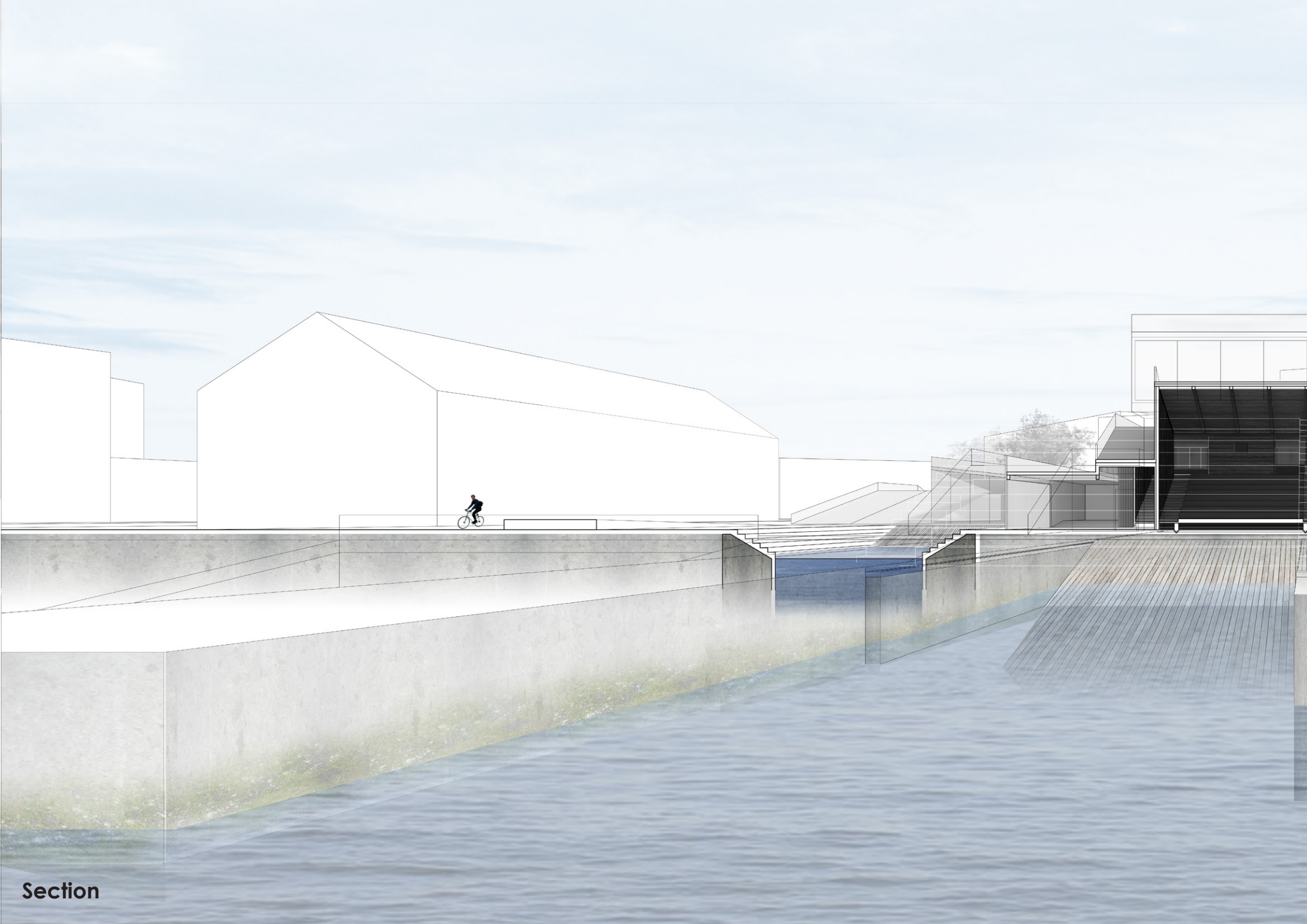
leisure pier

floating stage

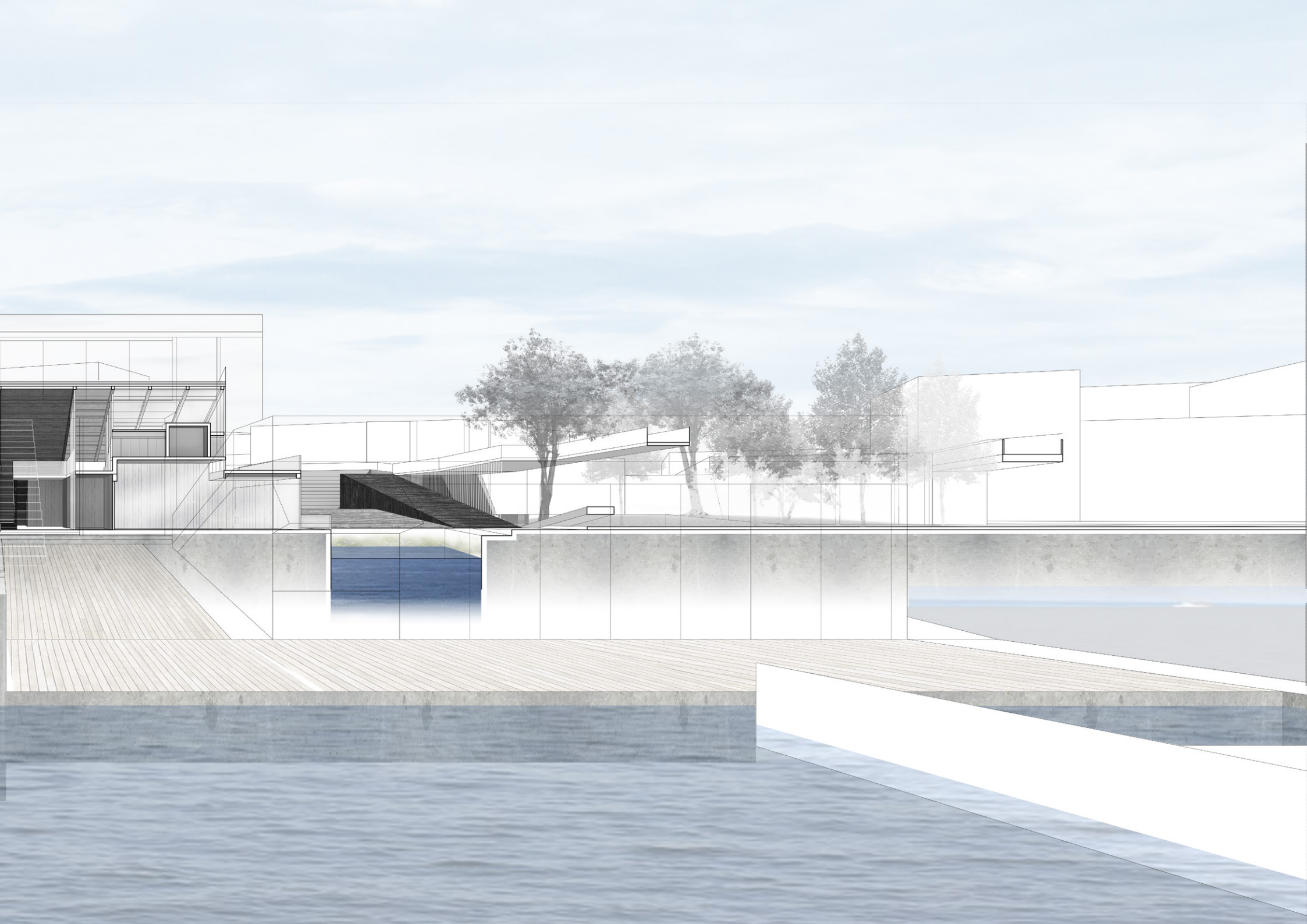
auditorium



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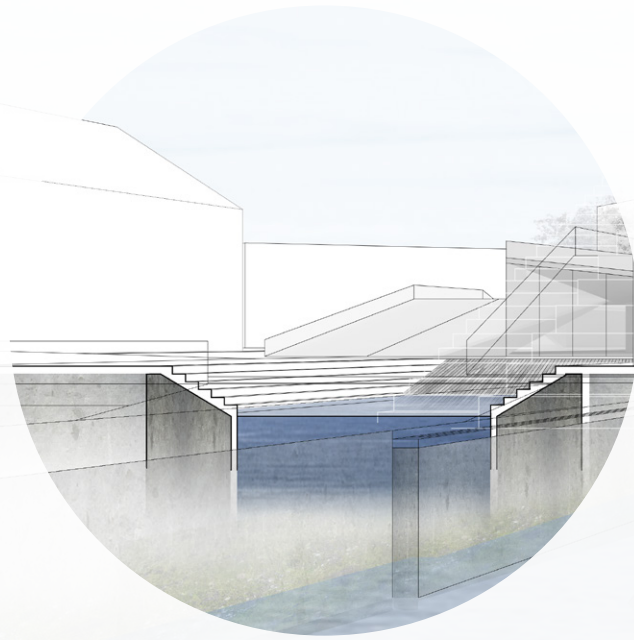
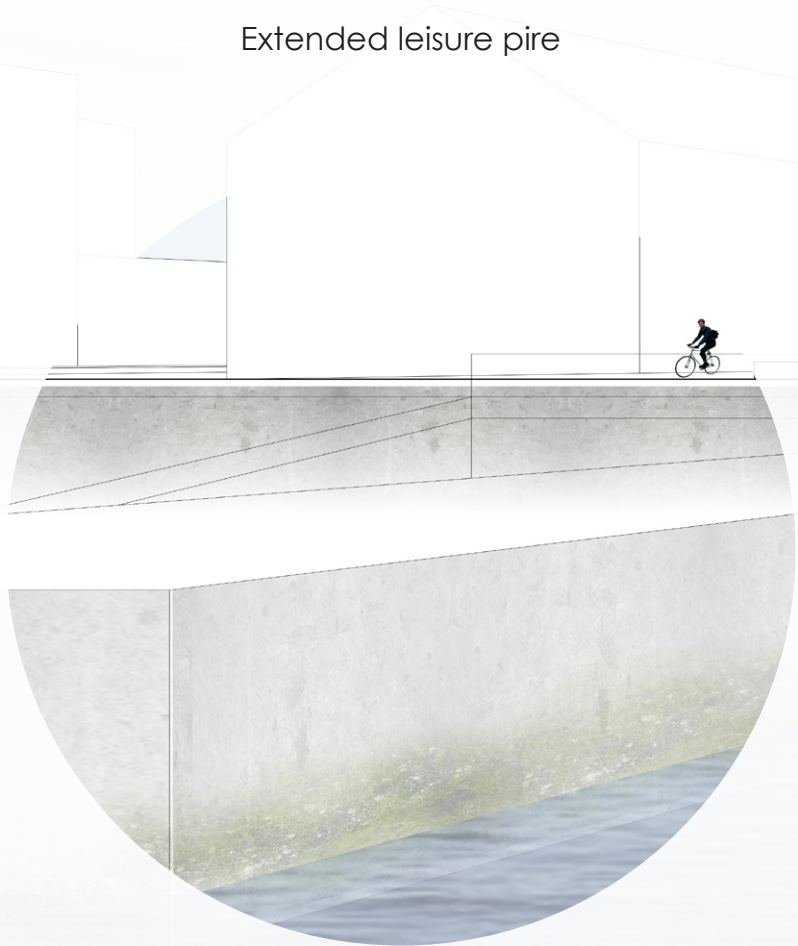


Section



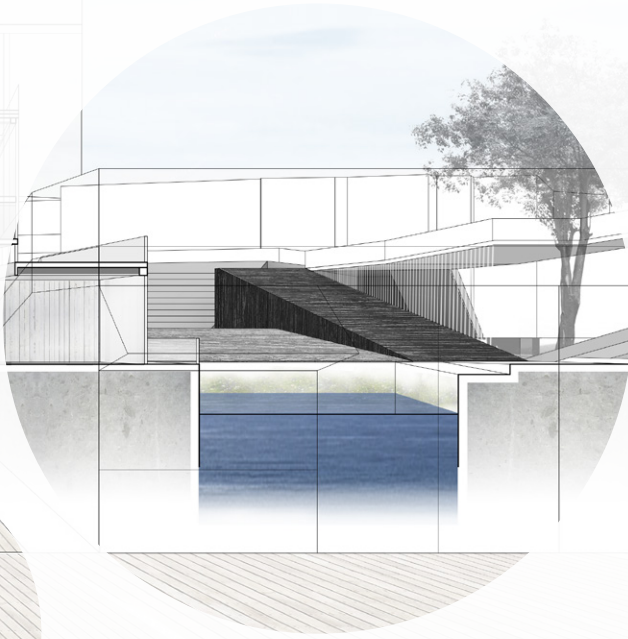
spatial sequence: outdoor public place

Extended leisure pier

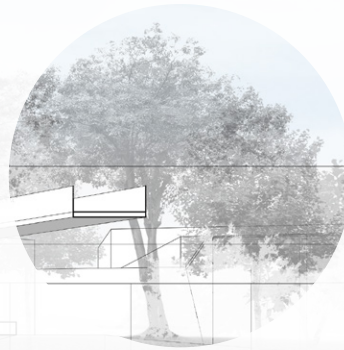


step-in waterspace

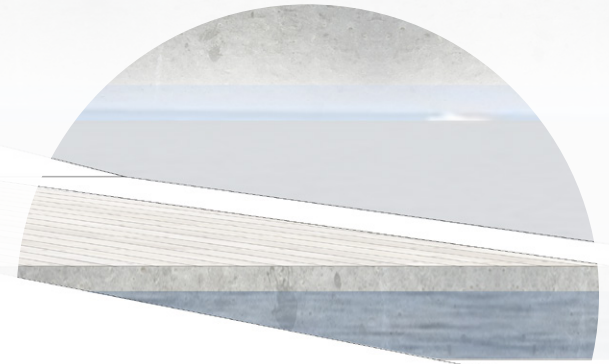
water cinema



lifted pedestrian way



floating stage

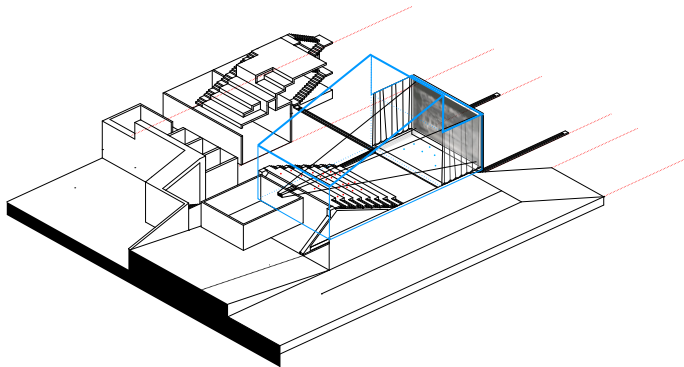


flooded platform

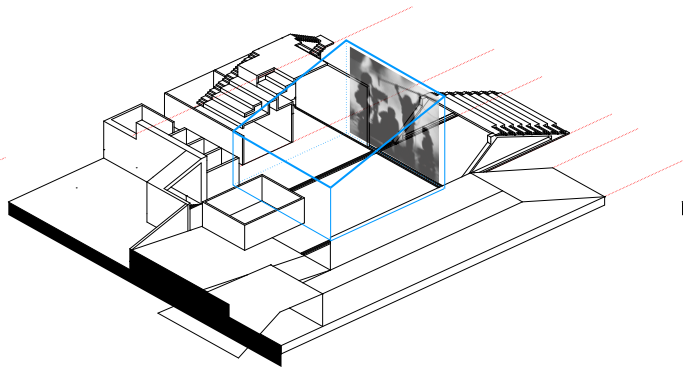


Variability: a multi-use indoor screening place

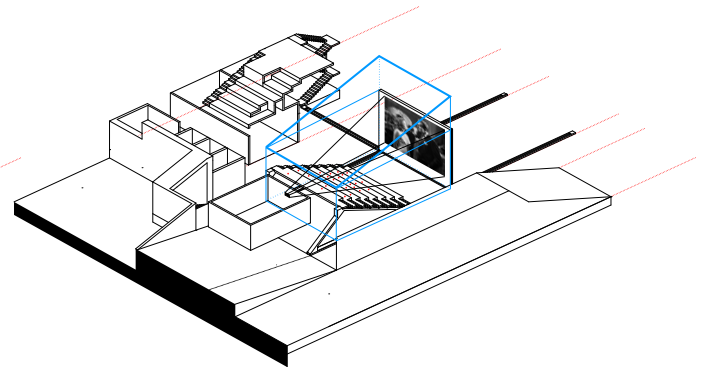
Life is an ongoing process, different activities inspire each other and interact. If human activity are confined to specific-mono-functional areas, the dynamic and self-reinforcing character of life in public space get lost.



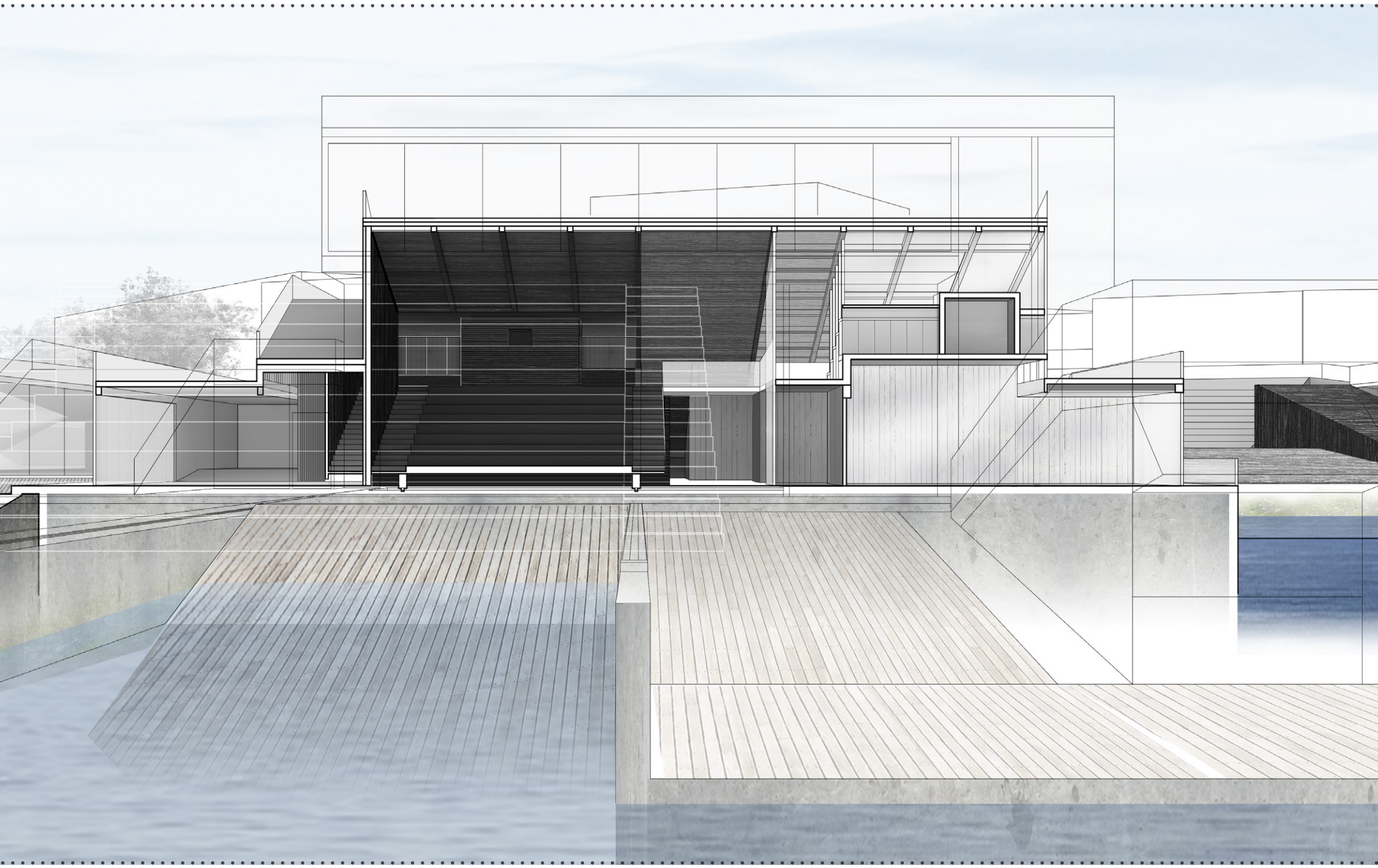
Auditorium in/ Pushed out screen
flowable space with multi-func
- Stage performance



Auditorium out
- Mono space with no limited boundry
- Film Shooting/ Exhibition

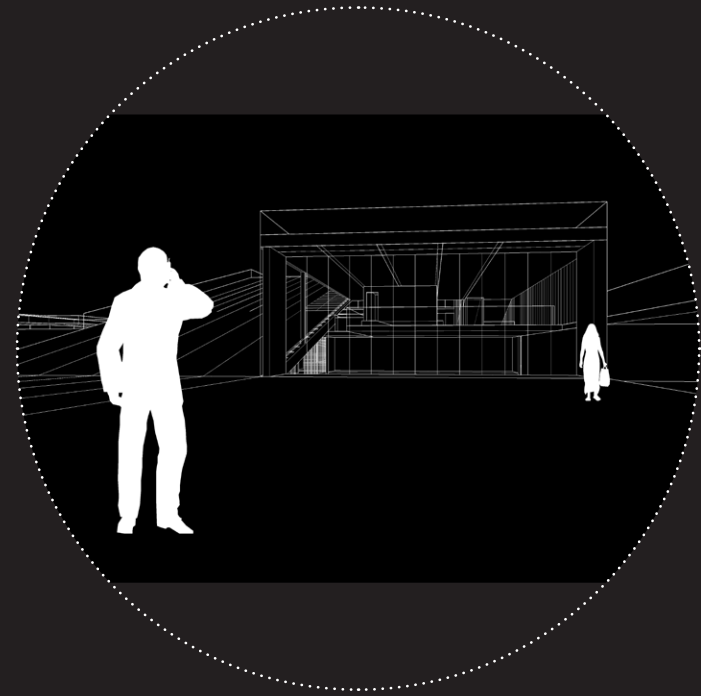


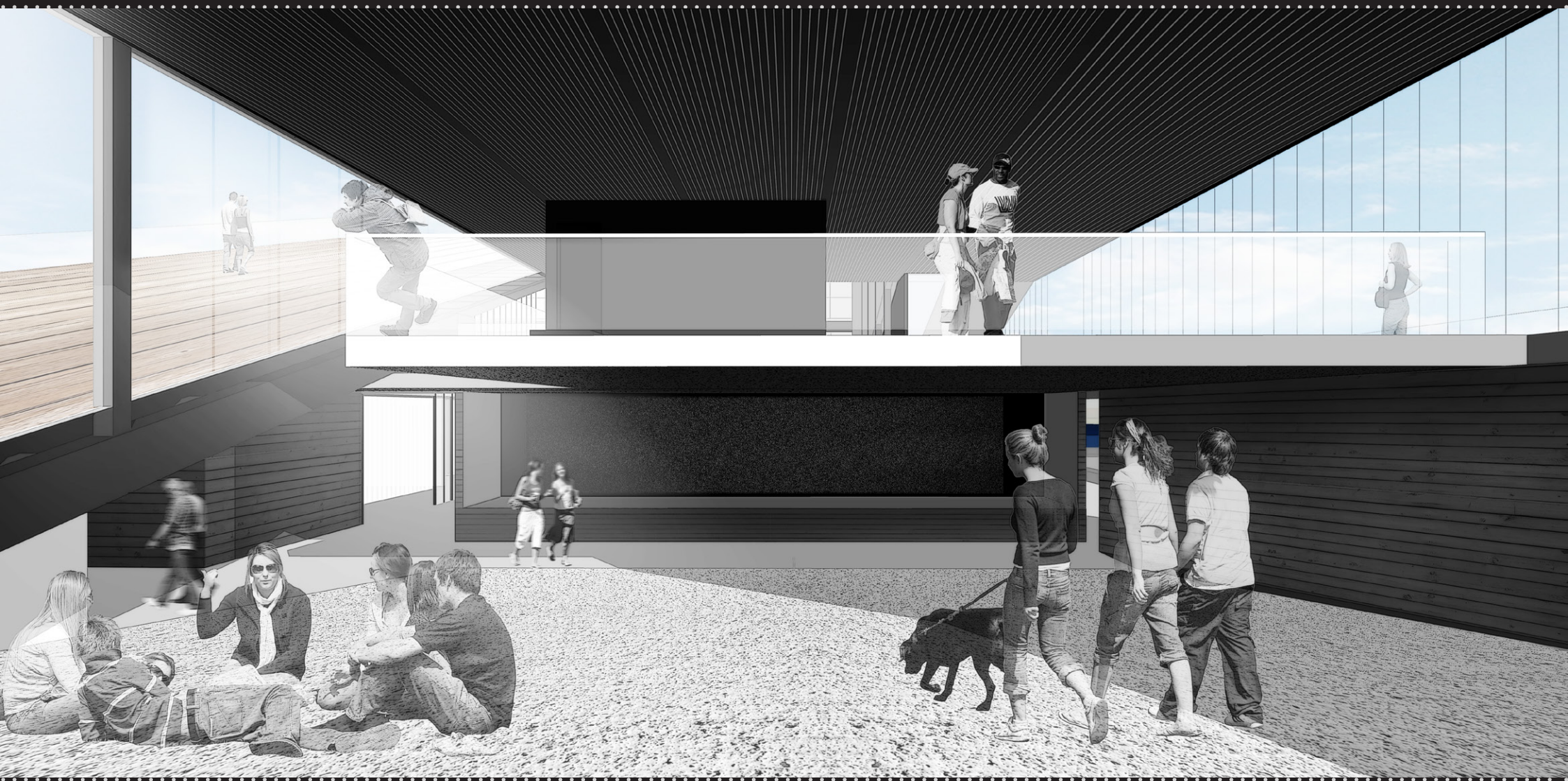
Auditorium in/ closed screen
flowable space with multi-func
- Film Viewing/ Seminar



Perspective_Entrance

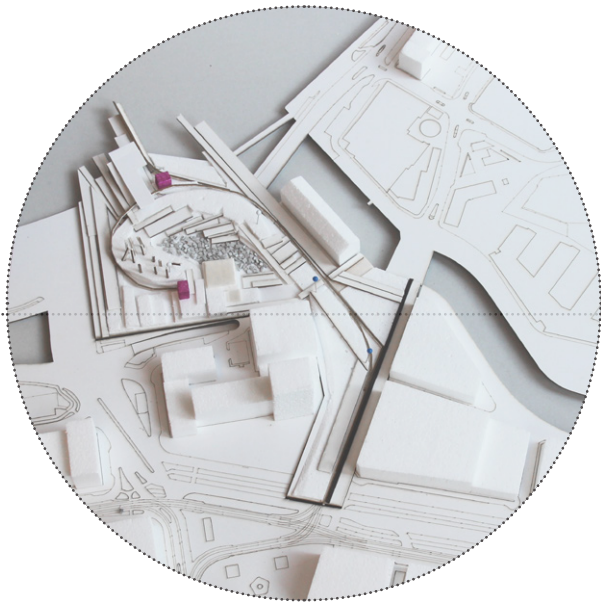
Blurred boundaries from outside to inside





5

design process





reference

FILM WORKSHOPS AS POLYVOCAL PUBLIC SPHERES: MINOR CINEMAS IN SWEDEN

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David B. Clarke, 1997, The cinematic city, Routledge, New York

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reference cases



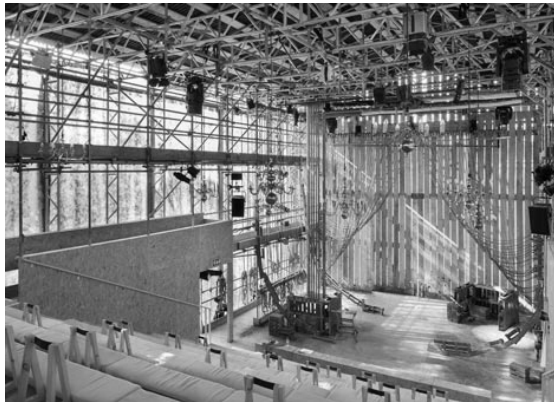
Kineforum Misbar open air cinema/
Csutoras and Liando



NLA skywalk/ Carmody Groarke



Archipelago Cinema/ Ole Scheeren



Theatre on the Fly/ Assemble



Folly for a Flyover/ Assemble



Maritime Youth House/ PLOT

With special thanks to Ana , Carl-Johan , Joaquim and all dear friends in U+A/DL,
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