

EUROPEAN PEACE FORUM

AND CENTRE FOR

CONFLICT RESOLUTION



By Nathan Beer

Supervised by **Henry W. A. Hanson IV**



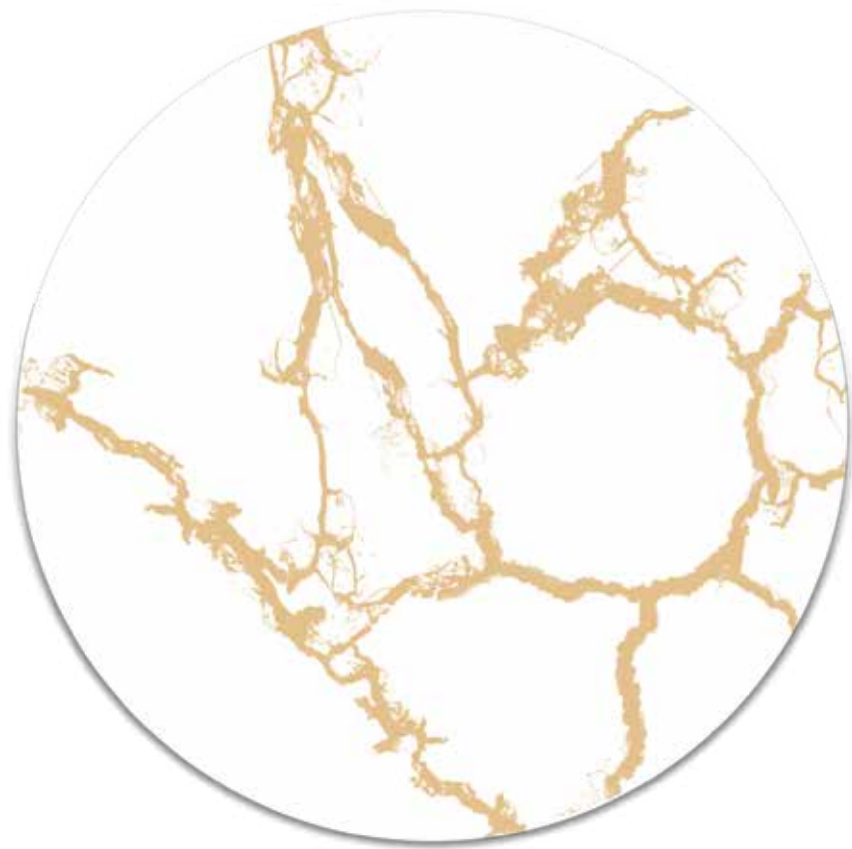
CZECH TECHNICAL
UNIVERSITY
IN PRAGUE

DIPLOMA PROJECT

Submitted In Fulfillment of the
Requirements For The Degree Of
Masters In Architecture And Urbanism

Authored by **Nathan R. Beer, B.Arch**
Supervised by **Henry W. A. Hanson IV**
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“Kintsugi is a pottery technique. When something breaks, like a vase, they glue it back together with melted gold. Instead of making the cracks invisible, they make them beautiful. To celebrate the history of the object. What it’s been through.”

— Leah Raeder

Czech Technical University in Prague, Faculty of Architecture

2/ ASSIGNMENT of the diploma project

Mgr. program navazující

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Academic Year / Semester: 2018 Spring Semester

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Diploma Project Theme:

European Peace Forum and Centre for Conflict Resolution/Reconciliation.

Assignment of the Diploma Project:

1/description of the project assignment and the expected solution objective

The project explores and investigates the role of Architecture in the resolution, mediation and reconciliation process. Acknowledging the historic use of Hotels, exhibition centres, town halls and temporary buildings as places where important decisions and resolutions have been made, this project aims at exploring new typologies to house these events. Bridging what we know about space, colour, light and architecture with the human psyche this project will present a more appropriate and beneficial space for these sorts of interactions. Ideally aiding and complimenting the resolution/reconciliation process of those parties who use the centre.

The centre will be located in the Cikánka Hills, North West of Radotin on the place of an existing Cement Quarry and Processing Site. The site will be a metaphoric representation of the reconciliation and the resolution process it advocates for. The highly polluting cement factory will be removed and replaced with an environmentally sensitive and respectful building. The surrounding brown fields/quarries will be restored to a natural state using indigenous flora and bio-diverse landscape design. These restored areas will also house reflection gardens and walking paths for guests to use.

The proposed centre will be a new typological model for espousal by conflicting parties who seek resolution or reconciliation. The regenerative nature of the site, landscape and European, ethno/geo/political environment is also a major theme of the project and will be reflected on heavily.

2/description of the final result, outputs and elaboration scales

The final output will be:

- A portfolio exhibiting an in-depth analysis of the proposed relationship between "Architecture" and the "social, diplomatic and political interactions" of parties with conflicting or confronting positions.
- 2 x 594mm x 4680mm Posters
- 2 Models:
 - Site Model
 - Model of Proposed Building Complex
 -

3/list of further agreed-upon parts of the project (model)

The Below items will be featured in the poster/portfolio:

- Axonometric Drawings Showing:
 - Spatial Qualities
 - Materials
 - Site Conditions
- 2 Building Sections:
 - Application of building technology shown
- 2 Elevations:
 - Showing Connection to Site
- 2 Visuals:
 - Ground level with exterior materials shown
- 1 Interior Visualisation
- 1 Birds Eye Visualisation:
 - Showing surrounding context and proposed building complex

Date and Signature of the Student

2/3/2018

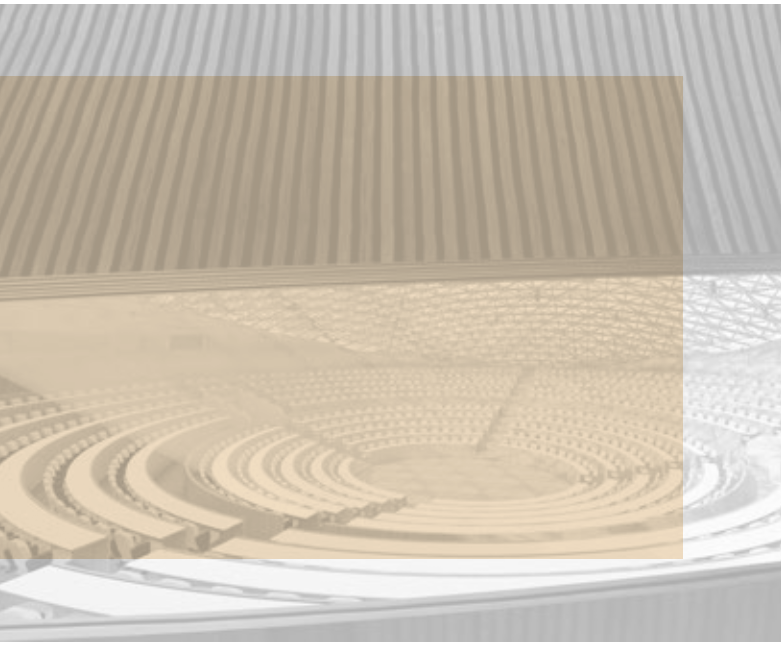
Date and Signature of the Diploma Project Tutor

3.3.2018

Date and Signature of the Dean of FA CTU

3.3.2018

The image shows three handwritten signatures in black ink. The top signature is 'Beer', the middle one is 'Hanson IV', and the bottom one is 'Hanson IV'. The signatures are written over horizontal lines that correspond to the dates and labels on the left.



View to the Assembly Building

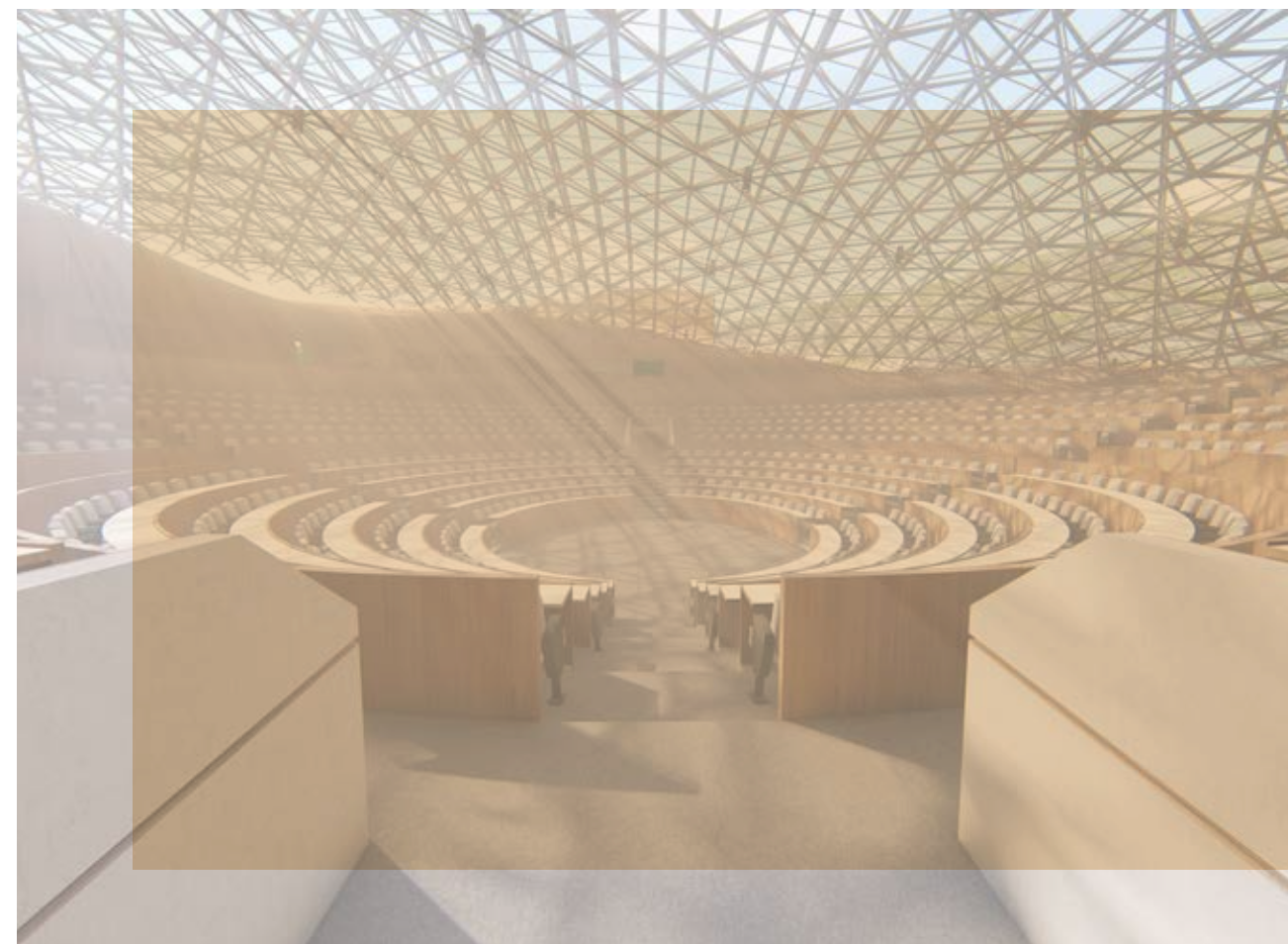
Slowly reclaimed by vegetation the assembly hall only just separates its self from the landscape.

CONTENT

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- 11 Resolution in Architecture**
Exploring the typographic precedent set in Architecture.
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- 25 The Site of Reconciliation**
Analyzing and marking the proposed site for the project.
- 29 The Proposal**
Looking at the proposed design and drawings.

Interior Shot of the Assembly Hall

*View looking over the Assembly Hall as you enter via the ramps.
Timber and glass enclose the space like a nest enclosing an egg.*





THE HISTORY OF CONFLICT

EXAMINING HISTORIC AND CURRENT EVENTS THAT MAY BE DIRECT OR INDIRECT SOURCES OF CONFLICTION OR TENSION IN THE REGION.

CZECH CONFLICT

With so many cultures, ethnicities and nations so close together, Europe has been a place of conflict and war for centuries.

With such close proximity to neighbouring countries and a diverse collection of cultures, Europe is at times a melting pot of conflicting religions, ideologies and identities. The Czech Republic (formerly part of Czechoslovakia) sits geographically centred in Europe. It is therefore no surprise that the Czech Republic has been involved in over 70 recorded wars through its history.

The lasting effects of these wars can be greater than the tangible and fiscal. Long lasting and deep rooted confliction and tension is often left behind.

After the Second World War, and the near complete desimation of Europe, Europeans had the foresight to plan against future conflicts. They saw communication, co-operation and community as necessary tools for the successful and peaceful progression of Europe. This idealology gave way to the creation of the European Union which would act as a forum and entity for the peaceful co-operation and existance of its memebers. The European Union has without a doubt performed an enormous role in the successful formation of many strong european countries and enabled Europe to trade openly and freely with the world.

The collaborative economic success of the Union has attempted to prevent any one nation falling into economic dispair (as germany did prior the war) but in some ways failed to address growing conflict in particular regions through out Europe.

There is varying degrees of conflict throughout Europe, ranging from social prejudice in sports, to ethnic cleansing or genocide. The historic examples of war and conflict show us that Europe is a place of intense confliction and it is therefore important to maintain peace and resolve any tension and conflict before it escalates.

As a researcher, having a non-biased perspective is crucial in any investigation. Being a foreigner from outside Europe has allowed me to study and identify these conflicts without the inhabition of biased or prejudice. The analysis presented is therefore objective and supported purely by research and evidence. It is understandable that when read by Europeans there could be a level of prejudice or possibly anger in regards to my findings. I urge readers to read this analysis with an open mind and employ reason and thought to their conclusions.



German Occupation of Czech Republic.
<http://www.ww2inprague.com>

THE WIDER ISSUE OF CONFLICT

Its important to point out that this analysis is attempting to analyze the concept of European Conflict from a purely Czech Perspective. This will result in the results focusing on the direct examples to the Czech Republic and Czech People. The conflict and issues identified in this analysis are echoed throughout the world, and should not be interpreted as an outlier or example of excessive conflict.

My background and travels have taught me that conflict exists everywhere in the world. The ability to recognise and treat conflict is something particularly difficult to do. Especially when there are cultural, social or ethnic identities involved.

THE SUDETEN CONFLICTS

The Sudetenland was first inhabited by ethnic Germans in the thirteenth century AD, who were invited by the Přemyslid Bohemian Kings. These lands were generally mountainous areas which were neglected by the Bohemians (now Czechs). The Germans who lived in these areas created large forestry, glass and agricultural industries. This was began a long and multi-generational tension between Czechs and Sudeten Germans. In the centuries since the first occupation, many more Germans migrated to the Sudeten hills. Towns and villages sprung up all around the bordering mountains of Bohemia (now Czech Republic). Conflict between Sudetens and Czechs increased when Bohemia gradually become part of the Habsburg monarchy. Language and culture were competing with one another for hundreds of years, with the dominant suppressing the subordinate and a hierarchy or prejudice always existing between the two. Lack of trust from Bohemians, and lack of loyalty by the Sudetens during war time ignited Bohemians to see an even greater divide between the two.

After World War I, Austro-Hungarian Empire dissolved and an independent (but divided) Czechoslovakia appeared. Sudetens were upset about losing their Austrian ties they so dearly thought for. World War II, Hitler had occupied Czechoslovakia, and considered the Sudeten Germans as superior to the Czechs. He advocated for their security, prosperity and freedom, whilst simultaneously denying it to the Czechs. Sudeten Nazis were formed and followed strict Nazi controls.

The Czechs were brutally repressed and murdered during this oppressive occupation. Although not all Sudetens or Germans supported the war or the Nazis, to the Czechs, Sudetens became ideologically assimilated to Nazis.

When the War ended and Hitler lost, the Czechs took no time in expelling the Sudetens from the Czech Republic. Over 500,000 Sudetens were forcibly expelled from their homes and business. Some had been living there for 600 years. There was very little separation in the Czechs eyes between Sudetens and Nazi Supporters. Systemic policies encouraged the torture and murder of Sudetens as retaliation for the hardships faced by Czechs under Nazi Occupation.

The retribution grew more violent as rage swept the nation. Vigilantes and military groups have been reported to have murdered, hung and set light to hundreds of Sudetens in Prague, whilst other accounts indicate genocide level events throughout Czechoslovakia.

For those who have escaped to Germany, there remains no closure or healing. For some, there are not even physical graves for their family that were slaughtered during the expulsion.

Czechs today are beginning to understand there is a wound that exists due to the events during and after WWII but without admitting there is conflict to resolve very little is being done in the way of reconciliation.



IMAGE SOURCE

<http://www.oestlichenachbarn.bayern/wett02/Bildmaterial.htm>

SUDETEN GERMANS USED AS SLAVES

Taken in Prague 1945, the picture shows Sudeten and German prisoners used to reconstruct roads in Prague.

THE RETRIBUTION

It was no secret that the Nazi's oppressed, murdered and tortured the Czechs during the Nazi Occupation of Czechoslovakia. The brutality endured was so severe that many records of murders and genocide were erased from Nazi records at the end of the war.

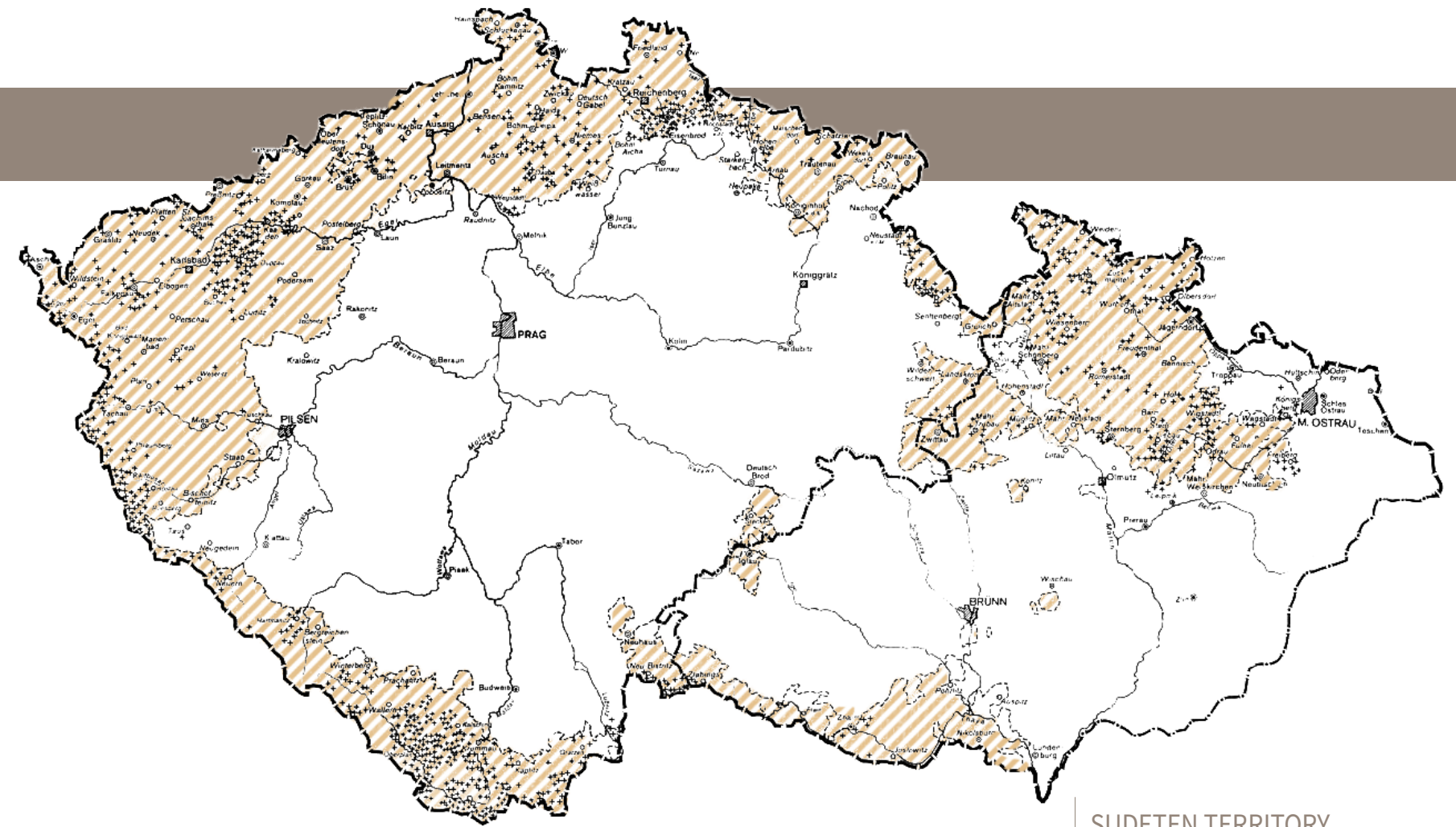
The rage and violence that was unleashed when Czechoslovakia was liberated from the Nazis, was so great that very few sudetens escaped unscathed. Even those who were long term friends turned on each other and there are many accounts of friends comming and raiding sudetens homes of their valuables. In this point in time, Sudetens were seen as a vile and eveil ethnic group who deserved nothing and recieed nothing.

Entire villages were round up and murdered, women and men all faced the same outcome. For the lucky ones, the best outcome was deportation to Germany. If you were a Nazi supporter, or appeared as a Nazi Supporter you were often murdered with out trial. Sometimes in the most public way.

The territories held by sudetens were sometimes lost and forgotten after the war. The mountainous regions of sudetenland proving too difficult to farm or cultivate.

Therefore there are hundreads of villages and towns throughout Czechoslovakia (now czech Republic and Slovakia) which are completely abandoned or forgotten. Some demolished and others left standing vacant for 70 years.

The lasting effects of this displacment can be felt by several generations later. WWII ignited conflict all over Europe. For Czechs and Germans his is an extremely long lasting conflict that stretches back centuries. The sudeten cleansing and exhile is a large piece that has left a wound in the hearts of both Czechs and Germans ever since. There are families and decendents who feel displaced, unwelcomed and isolated as a result of their forced removal. Sudetenland was a homeland to many generations of ethnic germans and by displacing so many people so instantly the Czechs have created a multi-generational conflict that will not reconcile itself.



SUDETEN TERRITORY

Map showing Sudeten Territory and once occupied village by Sudeten Germans.

RETRIBUTION

The initial rage that swept the liberated country resulted in tens of thousands of murders. Systemically coordinated, vigilantes were encouraged to kill Nazi supporters... Man or women, Old or young...

MASS GRAVES

Mass murder and execution without trial were common for Sudeten's who supported the Nazi party. There are still thousands of bodies and graves unaccounted for.

AWAITING EXILE

Sudeten Germans round up and await deportation. Nazi supporters are marked with white Swastika.



CATTLE CAR DEPORTATION

Sudetens are round up and placed in cattle cars for deportation to Germany.

PUBLIC LYNCH

Sudeten Germans and Nazi Supporters are Publicly Lynched in Prague. Reports indicate they were also set alight.

IMAGE SOURCES
www.oestlichenachbarn.bayern

THE ROMANI GYPSY

The Romanian Gypsy have lived nomadic lives in Europe for centuries. The nomadic lifestyle and internally defined rules have meant many people through out Europe have had conflict with Gypsies. The Romani people have been mistreated repeatedly in the Czech Republic. From being exterminated by the Nazis during WWII (reduction of population by 90%), to having forced sterilization under Czech the Czech Government.

Romani have repeatedly received prejudice and hatred in this country. Despite a large portion emigrating when the Czech Republic was formed (in fear of right wing groups) many still reside in the country. They are faced with unique challenges and prejudices that are rarely acknowledged.

The Romani incarceration statistics directly point to systemic failures with integration and assimilation (20 times over represented in prisons). A recent poll showed over 44% of Czechs are afraid of Romani, 90% do not want them as neighbors, 85% consider them Asocial and unbelievably, 45% would like to expel Romani from the Czech Republic all together.

These figures reveal a deep and troubling conflict between Czechs and Romani. The conflicting lifestyles, ideologies and beliefs have resulted in an extremely hostile and damaging relationship.

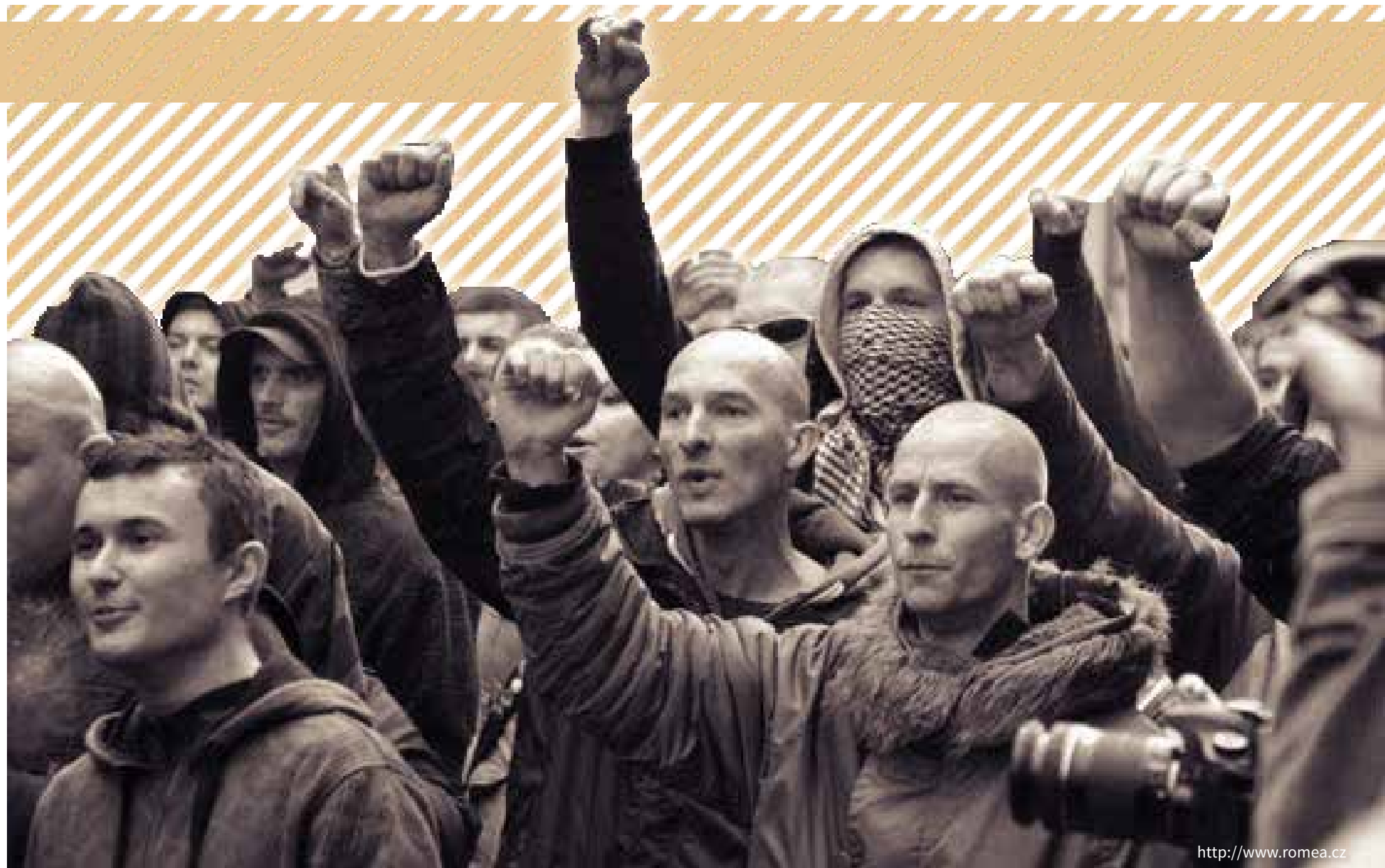
From my researched perspective, it would appear the Czech people do not see Romani as equals or their peers and would instead see them as lesser humans who do not deserve the right to live in the Czech Republic. This rhetoric is of course extremely dangerous and reinforces the need for drastic change and immediate reconciliation between Czechs and Romanis'.



IMAGE SOURCE
en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Romani_people_in_the_Czech_Republic

NO GYPSY ALLOWED!

A historic sign from the 1920s and 30s that stipulates that Gypsies and Rovers are banned from entering/passing.



<http://www.romea.cz>

CZECHS PROTEST GYPSY

500 Czechs formed a protest in the main square of Duchcov, Czech Republic to protest Romani after a non-romani couple were attacked.

IMAGE SOURCE



IMAGE SOURCE
www.pinterest.com/pin/295136950551795704/

GYPSY SOCIAL HOUSING

Chanov social housing in the Czech Republic. These slum like conditions are a result of neglect and lack of maintenance and care.

THE REFUGEE CONFLICT

With such incredibly horrendous wars taking place in Syria and the middle east, humanitarian aid in the form of asylum and refuge has been offered to millions of displaced people. The aid is predominately offered by wealthier EU countries but there is also a systemic and top down approach to facilitating smaller countries to take refugees.

With countries like the Czech Republic, Hungary and Slovakia revolting from the idea of accepting foreign refugees simply because their wealthier neighbors in the EU told them to. This idea that Czech's must support refugees is really a conflicted and confrontational matter in the Czech Republic. Some people are extremely against accepting foreigners because they fear outside culture and influence. There is a real belief that foreigners pose a serious threat to Czech way of life and culture.

Others are simply dis-engaged with the democratic system of the EU that has "forced" its members to take refugees despite its being strictly against their desire. The Czech people have voted against immigration several times and it appears that conservative Right Wing politics are becoming more popular in the country.

There are many accounts of prejudice and racism against foreigners of darker completion and although many refugees are fleeing unimaginable violence they are often faced with aggression and violence when arriving in central/eastern Europe. It is therefore no surprise that the Czech republic has only accepted 12 refugees since the humanitarian crisis began several years ago, despite its neighbor Germany accepting now over a million.



PROTESTING REFUGEES

Protests were held in Brno objecting to the idea of taking in refugees from abroad.



THE STRUGGLE TO FIND PEACE

Hundreds of thousands of refugees have crossed Europe by foot in hope that Western European countries will accept them.

LIFELESS BODIES WASH ASHORE

Risking their lives, people attempt to come to Europe via the Mediterranean in search of acceptance and a better life. Away from the war and killing of Syria.



THE ARCHITECTURE OF RESOLUTION

*Examining the existing Architectural
typography and precedent for reconciling and
mediating conflict.*

RESOLUTION IN ARCHITECTURE

With so many important events, summits, meetings and conferences taking place throughout the world, It is important to look at how Architecture is employed to aid and facilitate in the resolution process.

Architecture plays a huge role in our everyday life. What many people may not realize, is that many buildings are constructed for a set function or purpose, whilst others may be multi-functioned or even temporary.

Architecture in relation to resolution making comes in the form, of conference halls, assembly chambers, parliament buildings, embassies, parliamentary/state retreats, churches, hospitals and many other examples.

The way these buildings are designed SHOULD encourage or aid in the buildings purpose. For example, a parliamentary hall should allow all members to see and communicate with each other. The architecture enforces and aids in the act of debate.

What a lot of architecture fails to do is to design beyond the physical constraints. So much of our psyche and being is influenced by the world around us. From the way we feel to the way we communicate can be influenced by our environment. The ability for architects to record, measure and quantify these psychological traits is much harder and consequently a lot of architecture fails to incorporate it into their design.

PARIS COP21 CLIMATE SUMMIT

Never before in my generations history has a more important and pivotal meeting been held. This coming together of Nations and the ratification of a climate agreement will have long lasting and perceivable results for my generation and those after. It is therefore neglectful that such an important event would be held in a temporary structure designed in such a way that the Architecture does not aid in the communication or resolution process.



SECURITY

Ensuring security equipment, infrastructure and design is adequate for a temporary building is difficult. Compromise is often made in the areas of aesthetics or safety. Designing security controls into a permanent building should be done in a more sophisticated manner.



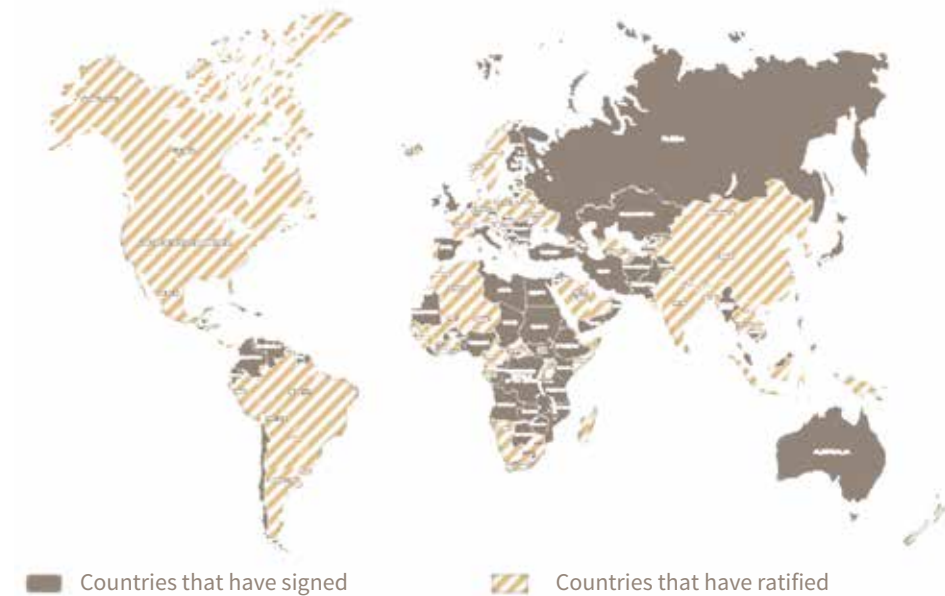
ENERGY

The Paris Climate Summit ironically consumed huge amounts of energy to set up and operate. Its estimated that the conferences produced 21,000 tons of CO2 gases. For a temporary event that amount is enormous. Equivalent to almost half an hour of the entire Countries CO2 emissions. Temporary structures are not an energy efficient means of hosting these events.



FUNCTION

High profile events and specialty conferences bring unique functional requirements to a building. The Paris climate challenge used temporary buildings and due to the modular production of buildings there was little design intent for the specific function.



CONCLUSION

The Paris Climate Change conference was a success, nations came together and cooperatively voted for the betterment of the world. The architecture that supported this event was not designed specifically for the social, cultural, communicative and interpersonal issues that were expressed at this conference.

Ensuring these incredibly important events are housed in specifically designed and appropriate architecture is important as there are many added benefits.

The psychological and metaphysical effects of Architecture on humans has been a topic of study since the 1960s'. Employing architecture and design that aids in the reconciliation and mediation processes is vital to ensuring these events get the best possible chance of success.

When talking fiscally, even increasing the chance of success marginally could have enormous benefits and returns.

CAMP DAVID PRESIDENTIAL RETREAT

Politicians have a hard job resolving diverse and long standing issues. Sometimes the best environment for resolution and action isn't in the oval office or parliamentary halls. Its in nature... Surrounded by the forest and the birds, this is where one can really listen to their thoughts and come to well thought out and conclusive decisions. The United States of America knows the effects these retreats can have and its no surprise that CAMP DAVID houses state delegates, presidents, prime ministers and royalty regularly. Here they come together on a intimate level and discuss problems, solutions and even socialize.



NATURE

Nature has a huge effect on the human Psyche, it above all else can bring about drastic change in emotion, behavior and cognitive understanding. Camp David leverages this natural phonomia and uses it to help its guests have clearer heads and facilitates greater decision making and clarity.



IMAGE SOURCE
washingtontimes.com



IMAGE SOURCE
aboutcampdavid.blogspot.com

INTIMACY

Intimacy is vital to the resolution process as it is a launching pad for trust and respect. With which one can make a mutually understanding and agreement upon. The scale, ceiling height, material, lighting, heating, transparency and small all influence the feeling of intimacy in a space.

The American (as in Europe) ideal of intimacy and peace is a cabin in the woods. Detaching oneself from society and living in the moment. Camp David is the embodiment of this ideal. It is a rustic, isolated group of cabins where the president and high ranking officials go to escape. Its no wonder it has also been the breeding ground for countless international discussions and agreements by domestic and foreign diplomats as well.

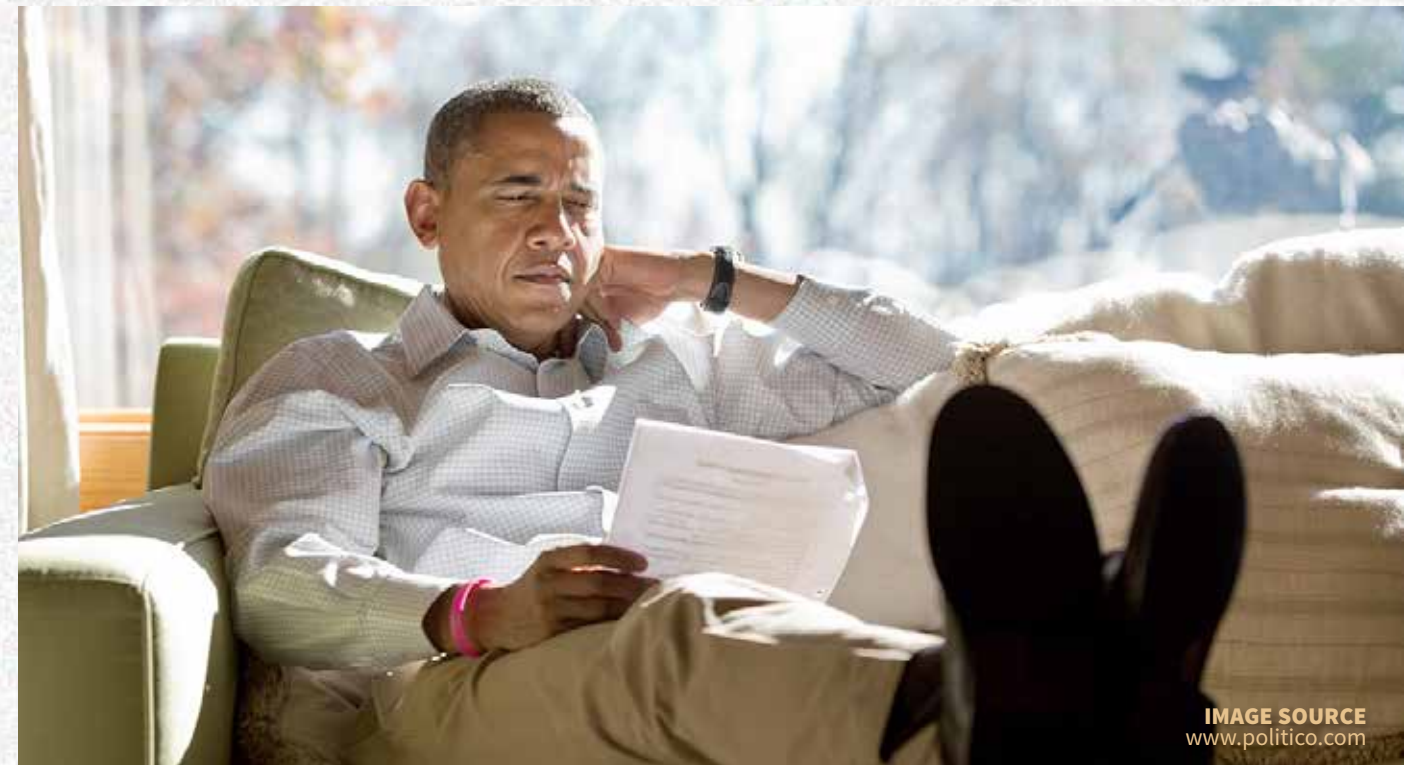


IMAGE SOURCE
www.politico.com

SIMPLICITY

Simplicity is an important ally when trying to clear ones head. Utilizing a minimalistic environment helps conserve and focus decision making on the tasks at hand. Back to basics is a concept of thought when one detaches themselves from modern society in the hope that the more simple life will help awaken and enlighten the mind. In Architecture simplicity has a direct causality on attention, stress and concentration as well as higher emotions and love. Camp David's Architectural design echoes a simpler time and place. Removing added complexities from the equation that would otherwise complicate.



IMAGE SOURCE
aboutcampdavid.blogspot.com

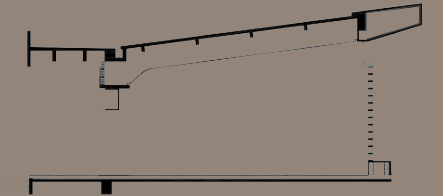
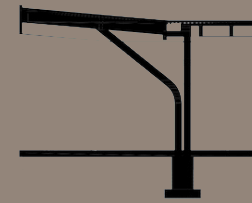
CONCLUSION

Camp David is a long running, successful Presidential retreat. The success of the retreat is due to the incorporation of nature, wilderness, design and character. The wooded forest around the retreat allows for intense reflection and meditation (direct and indirect) whilst walking around the many circular pathways. The simplicity of navigation and ease of walking also makes these walks leisurely and mindful.

The quaint familiar and cosy character of the retreat adds to the intimate atmosphere that is embodied in the architecture. The non-intimidating design and familiar furnishings help create a sense of homeliness and calm. The simplicity of the Architecture, layout, design and function also allows for detachment from society and total immersion in the tasks at hand. Having a place to lounge, relax or rest is also vital to the importance of the resolution process and camp David's relaxed vibes cater to that ideology perfectly. The retreat although used for diplomatic discussion, meetings and events is at its very core a shared place to retreat and relax in.

EDUCATIONAL PARK FOR RECONCILIATION

Designed by Jaime Cabal Mejía + Jorge Buitrago Gutiérrez Architects, this Educational park for Reconciliation is built from a communities need for education, acceptance and understanding following a dark and tragic history with crime, drugs and conflict. The name was chosen by the community to help create a place that is used for "encounters" and "discussion". The site lies within the city of San Pedro de Urabá, Antioquia, Colombia. A region that has witnessed the growth of the organized drug cartels of Columbia. The buildings relationships to the street, public and nature are interesting as they are purposely transparent, open and permeable to help with the connections/relationships.



NATURE

The relationship between building and nature is something western Architects do not always appreciate. Unlike Oriental and Eastern Architecture western Architecture prefers to separate and delimitate the boundaries between indoor/outdoor. This quaint educational centre does the complete opposite, permeating and opening up to the courtyard and street in an inviting and continuous motion. The relationship between nature and architecture is therefore very symbiotic and intertwined as both systems rely on the other for support.



PERMEABLE

The Educational centre is leveraged upon the relationship with the community. It seeks to create inviting and legible connections to the street or community. The public nature of the building is heightened by the permeable facade and courtyard. The separation of public and private is not evident until you enter a classroom. The Seamless transition from the footpath to the internal courtyard allows for complete espousal of the space by the public.



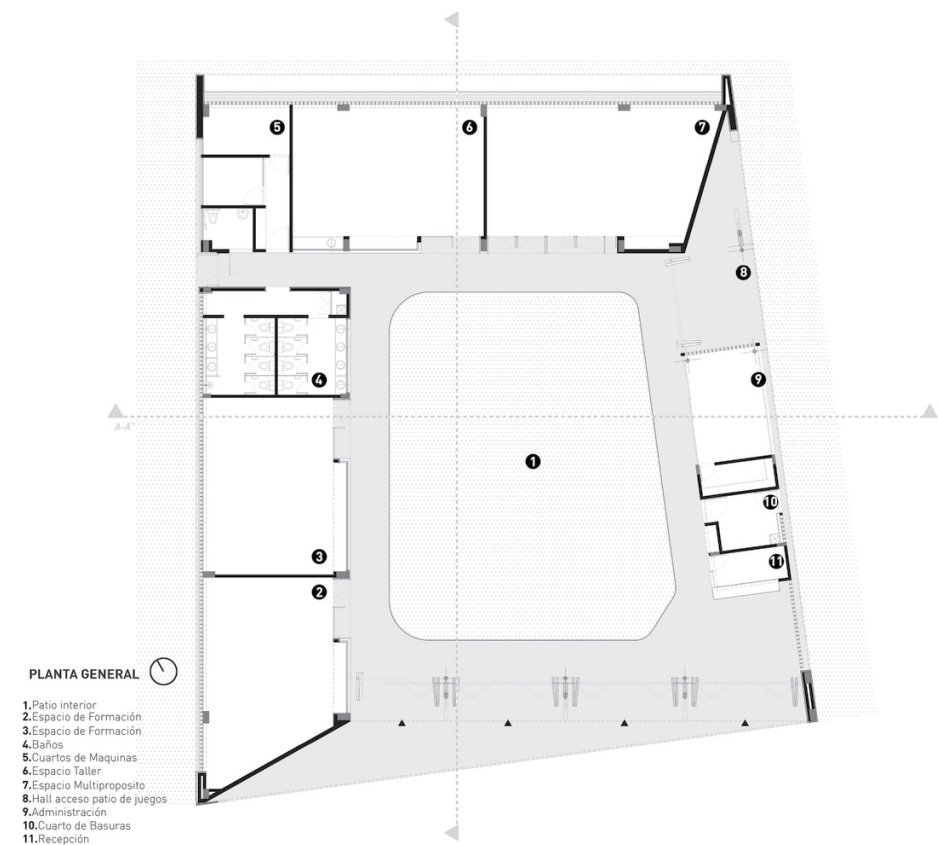
RECREATION

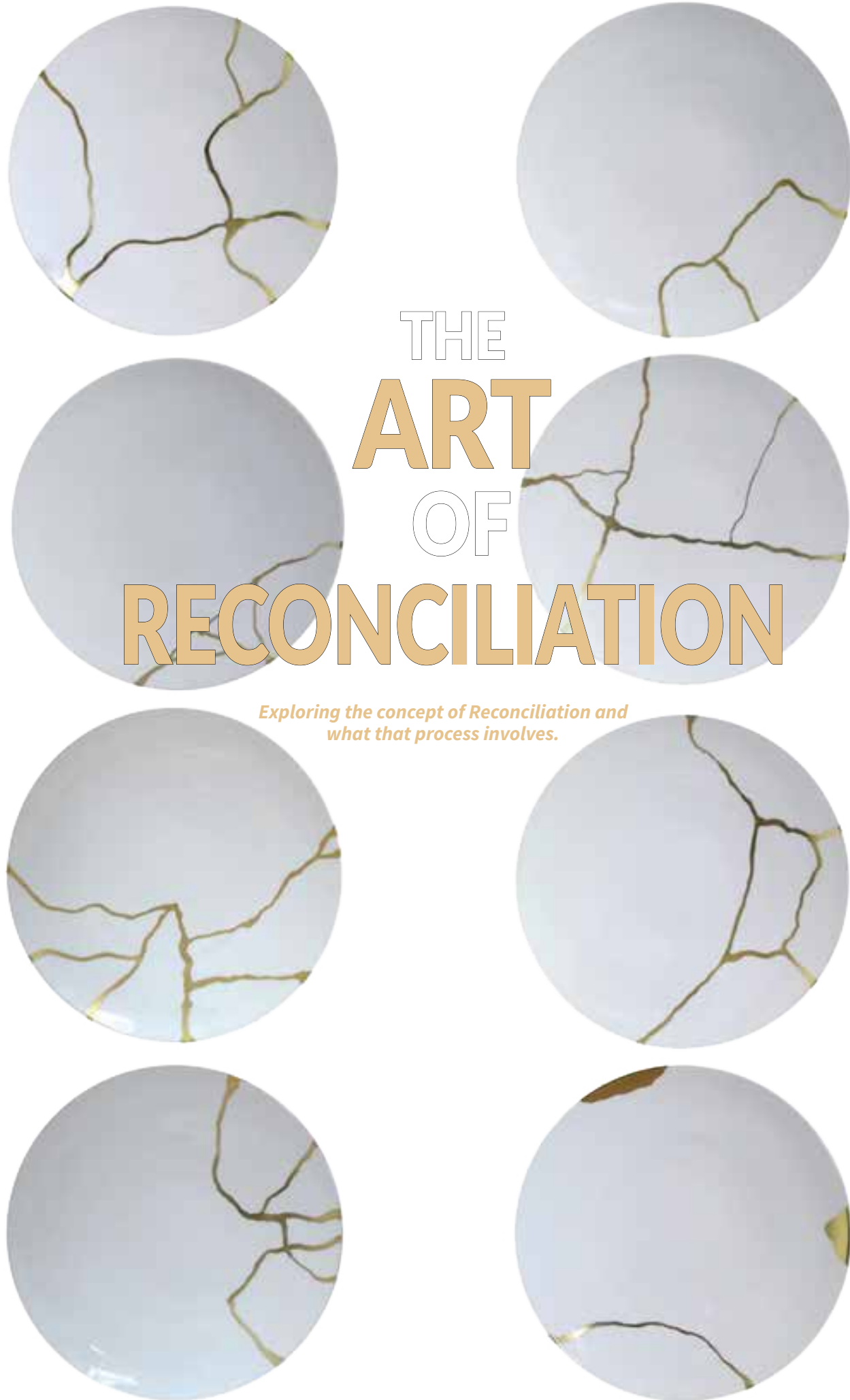
The educational centre has a very open progression of public and private space. The incorporation of recreational seating improves the legibility of the progression to the public. The inclusion of these beak out recreation spaces also adds to the ethos of reflection, peace and reconciliation. Facilitating spaces for the public to come and meditate, reflect and remember is very important to any resolution process.



CONCLUSION

The Educational qualities of the centre combined with the relationship to Nature and outdoor space have increased this modest buildings active space considerably. The open progression from public, private to indoor allows for a larger utilisation of outdoor space. The permeability of the building creates a legibility and understanding for the community to engage with. The seductive invitation of plants, nature and gardens beyond the perimeter create a dynamic and beneficial space within. The symbiotic relationship between nature and architecture is tested in this central courtyard. The spaces, places and atmospheres created when nature and architecture come together are only improved by the addition or recreational seating and infrastructure. The Centre has a clearly legible typography and invitation to the community to enter. The actual act of resolution, peace and reconciliation is not explained in the architecture and with the separation of spaces into square rooms i doubt the architect explored the concept of Resolution in Architecture as thoroughly indoors as he did outdoors.





THE ART OF RECONCILIATION

Exploring the concept of Reconciliation and what that process involves.

DEFINING RECONCILIATION

In this chapter we will examine what Reconciliation means, and how it can be interpreted or translated into architecture.

Historically reconciliation has been the act of forgiveness, trues or apology. Today the definition we will employ is more broad and stretches the way we use the word and what it can mean for us.

“To make Whole or to make Good”

Reconciliation in reference to this project means “to make whole, or to make good”. This definition stretches the meaning over many different fields or genres. In Architecture it can be employed and translated into something tangible, whilst in the reference of emotion or traumatic conflict it can be interpreted into something metaphysical or metaphorical.

RECONCILIATION IN PEOPLE

In People reconciliation can take many different forms and for many different reasons. The idea that the act of reconciliation makes someone whole again doesn't mean that they are without trauma or change. They do not always recover from their conflict and for those who do, there will always be remnants and scars left behind. To truly facilitate reconciliation people must come together willingly with the intention to listen and have an open heart.

Conflicting parties are not always so easily convinced to meet and talk, and that is why the role of Architecture is so important in the reconciliation process.

With Architecture's ability to change the way we feel and perceive its only right that we use Architecture to encourage peaceful and cooperative resolutions.

PEACEFUL PROTEST

1967 March on Pentagon, to protest the Vietnam War. Pacifist gently places flower on soldiers bayonet.



IMAGE SOURCE

allthatsinteresting.com



KINTSUGI POTTERY

A Kintsugi Pottery bowl that has been reconstructed in the typical Kintsugi way. The process expresses the bowl's cracks with gold.

RECONCILIATION IN ARCHITECTURE

In Architecture and design reconciliation has a more literal and symbolic interpretation. The act of making something whole again can be translated into an architectural language for use in design. The idea that when something is conflicting, damaged or hurt it would then be made good or whole means there is opportunity for change and evolution.

As with human reconciliation, there is always a degree of evolution involved with change. When something is made whole, the broken pieces may be put back together differently, or require some bonding agent between. The greatest example of this is **Kintsugi Pottery** from Japan.

This style of pottery takes broken pieces of porcelain, and instead of repairing them to look new, the artist painstakingly molds gold into the cracks to piece together the pottery again. The end result is stronger and more beautiful than originally.

The scars or cracks are displayed as ornamentation and represent the beauty in healing.

In Architecture, piecing together a building to make a whole might also employ the technique of Kintsugi to forge a stronger and more beautiful whole than previously.



IMAGE SOURCE
/railism.com

VINE/ROOT BRIDGE

A bridge constructed by weaving together living roots and vines. The bridge is hundreds of years old. Located in India

HOLDING IT ALL TOGETHER

In Nature there is always a fabric or cohesion that keeps everything relative and grounded. Without this fabric the individual organisms and micro-ecosystems would become isolated and die out. The symbiosis that is nature helps hold everything together.

In the concept of Architectural Reconciliation, having some cohesion or fabric to help re glue the pieces together would be relatable to the way Kintsugi potters use gold to hold together cracked pottery. Nature itself is a brilliant and resilient cohesive force. It is flexible, forgiving and provides comfort to humans.

The way nature helps heal the human soul, is relatable to how one might use nature to reconcile an architectural program. Creating a cohesive framework or net for which the architectural pieces would be connected and grounded to.

Metaphorically taking something fractured or broken and repairing and reconciling it using nature so that it is once again "whole and good" is directly relatable to the human relationship with nature.

THE VEGETATION RECLAMATION

Mother Nature will always find a way to come out on top. Human intervention is always required to prevent the organic systems from taking over. Why then do we not embrace this vegetative reclamation. The effects of nature on humans are mostly positive, if we design to accommodate the vegetative espousal of architecture then we can reduce on going maintenance and we will know that the building and surrounding landscape are forming a some what sustained symbiosis.

The built environment has a history of scaring the landscape. Architecture sometimes competes with nature for beauty and attention. Knowing that nature can help ground and calm the human psyche whilst Architecture can have similar effects on the conscious and mind. Wouldn't it be best to design them both to work together.

Framing the landscape so that the Architecture becomes part of the nature, whilst the occupant is still enjoying the benefits of the built environment internally mean there is a significantly greater benefit to the design.

In a way, its the best of both worlds, and at the same time reducing maintenance and landscaping costs.

There is of course some design considerations to take into account with the reclamation process. Some plants and growth patterns are extremely powerful and destructive and must be accommodated for in the design.

RECLAMATION BY VEGETATION

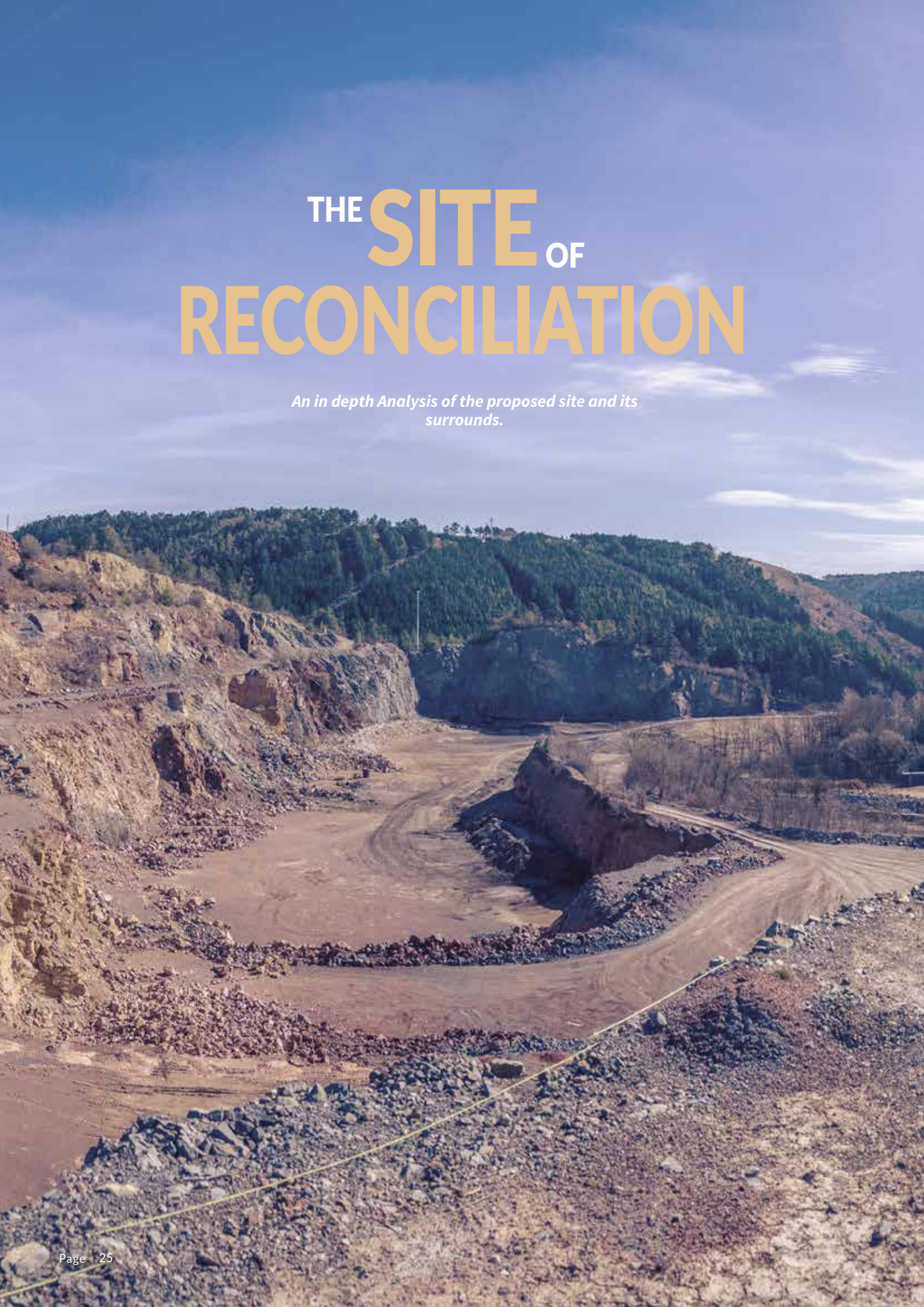
View of Houses on Mount Wuyi in Southeast China. The Houses are encapsulated in vegetation and vines.



IMAGE SOURCE
sandeede.blogspot.com

THE **SITE** OF RECONCILIATION

An in depth Analysis of the proposed site and its surrounds.



CIKÁNKA QUARRY

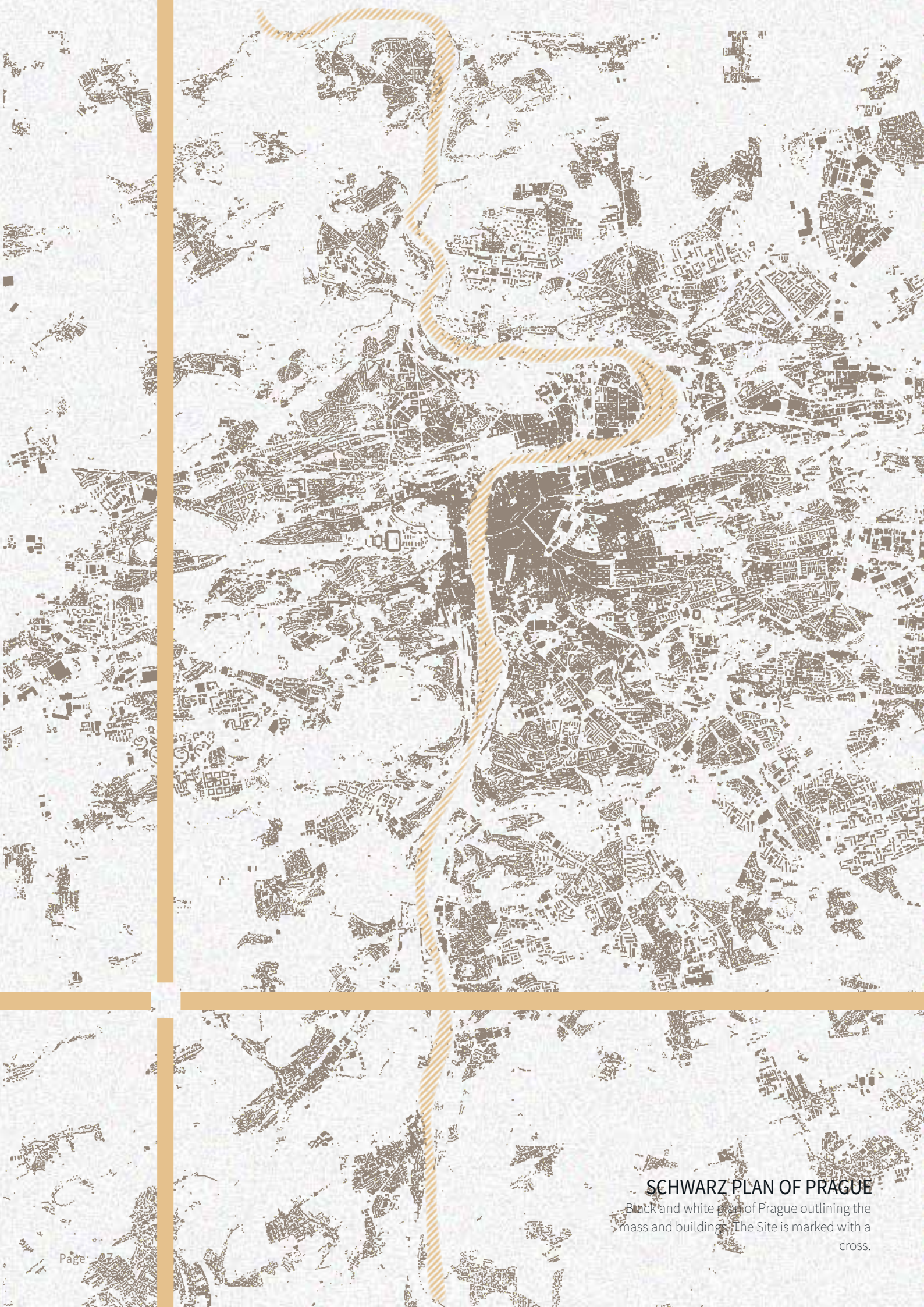
The Cikánka quarry is a brown field site that had been mined and severely excavated for the removal of limestone for use in a nearby cement refinery.

Located 12km South West of Prague behind the small satellite town of Radotin sits the Cikánka quarry. A once rocky hillside the Quarry was constructed at the start of the 20th century. With almost 100 years of excavation the Quarry was split into two with the smaller excavation becoming depleted of limestone and left abandoned. The larger excavation continues to operate and provides lime to the nearby Radotin concrete refinery.

The site has an access road to the east and several smaller gravel trails surrounding the quarry.

The quarry is for the most part a symbol of conflict. There has been a huge wound in the landscape for 100 years and with no resolution the site remains conflicted. Due to the removal of top soil and excavation to bedrock, there is very little flora that has begun to grow in the abandoned quarry.

With some sincere design the quarry could be regenerated to a wooded hillside once again. The site is extremely large with the largest quarry measuring 1000m in length and the smaller quarry measuring 500m in length. There are a mix of pines and deciduous trees around the site and agricultural land and grazing meadows to the west and east.



SCHWARZ PLAN OF PRAGUE

Black and white plan of Prague outlining the mass and buildings. The Site is marked with a cross.



1826-43 STABLE CADASTRE MAP
SCALE 1:2000



HYBRID MAP
SCALE 1:2000



RADOTIN STREAM

View of the Radotin Stream as it flows through the valley adjacent the site



AGRICULTURAL LAND

View to the farm land neighboring the site to the north



GRAZING MEADOWS

View atop the hill looking over the Grazing Meadows to the North



FOREST

View over the neighboring forest to the West



WILD FLOWERS

Wild Flowers growing on the verge of the site where the quarry meets the forest.



QUARRY WALLS

Stratospheric layers of rock form the quarry wall



DUCK POND

Duck pond next to site



CEMENT FACTORY

View to the Cement Refinery



VIEW FROM THE ROAD
View looking up from the base level at the gate to the site



STABILIZING PINES
View towards the East where Pines had been planted to stabilise the hill side.



VIEW OVER QUARRY
View looking out from the top of the Quarry



DESIGN PROPOSAL

RECONCILE QUARRY

Creating a complex for diplomatic, public, private and educational groups to come and discuss, debate, retreat and reconcile conflict.

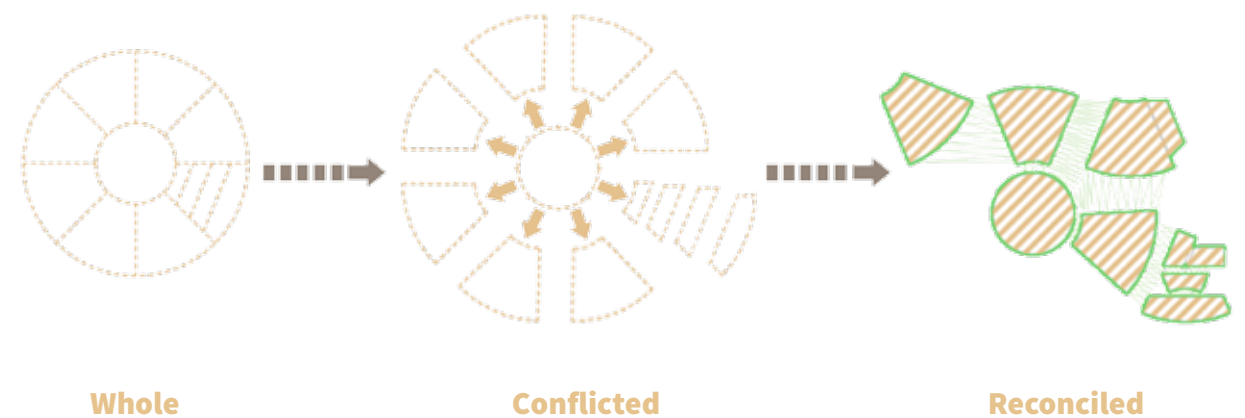
Creating a building complex that can house 1200 people who wish to come to discuss conflict and issues. Somewhere permanent and specifically designed to house international and national conferences and summits. A place where the design aids in the reconciliation and resolution process instead of impairing it.

The building complex will house many different functions and be spread over the quarry in separate buildings. The overall whole (or program) is divided and fractured into smaller pieces that will then be reconfigured and connected via nature strips. The buildings will be designed in a way that they grow with nature and nature with them.

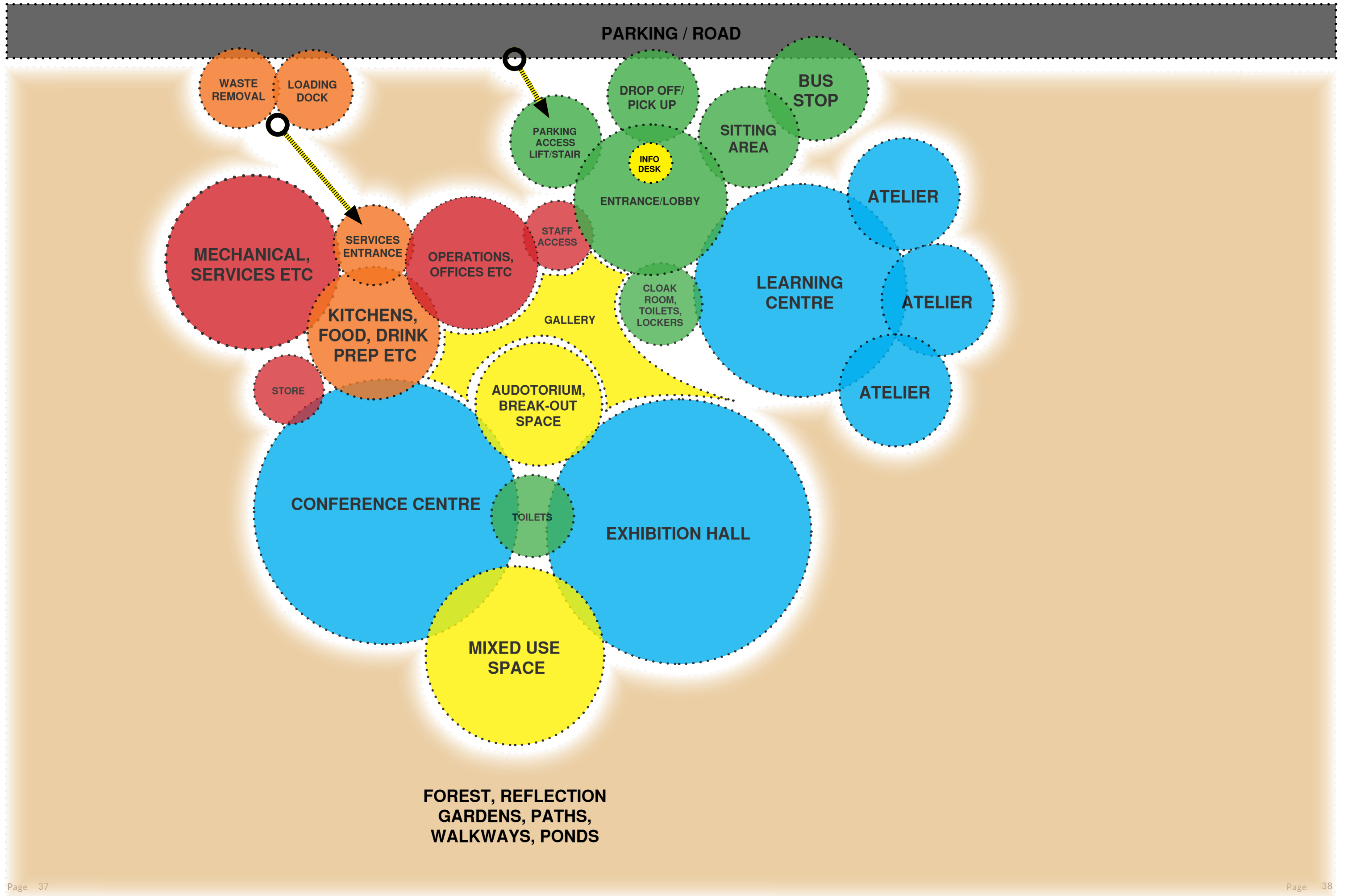
Walking paths and outdoor activities will be a priority. There will be several walking paths and recreational spots on the site and the entire quarry will gradually be reclaimed by nature with the help of additional top soils and aided seeding.

The Assembly building will be placed on the top peninsula and look out over the entire valley. Over time though the Assembly building will disappear into the landscape. The structure of the building will carry the vegetation over it.

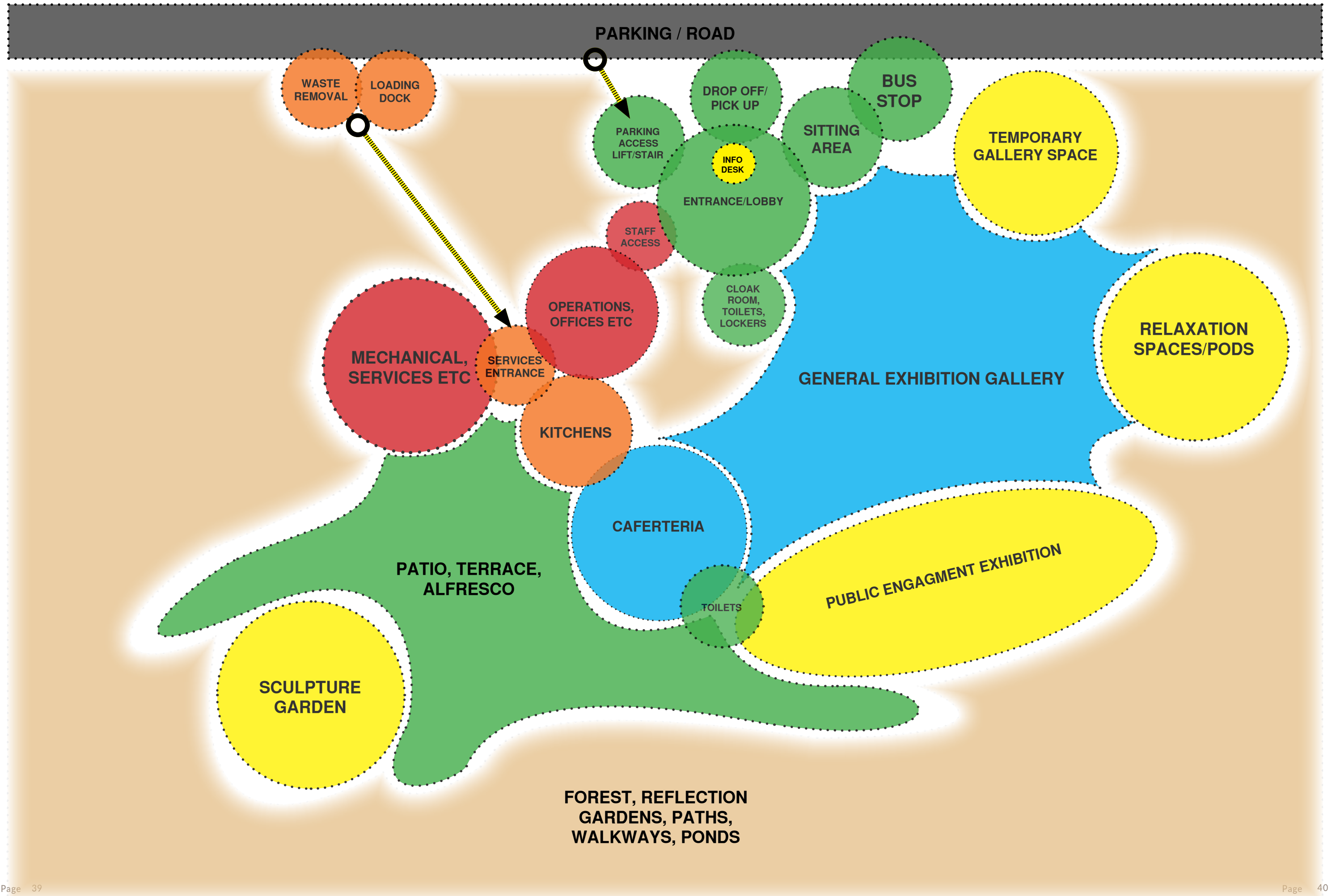
The assembly building will be designed using organic growth patterns and biomimicry philosophies.



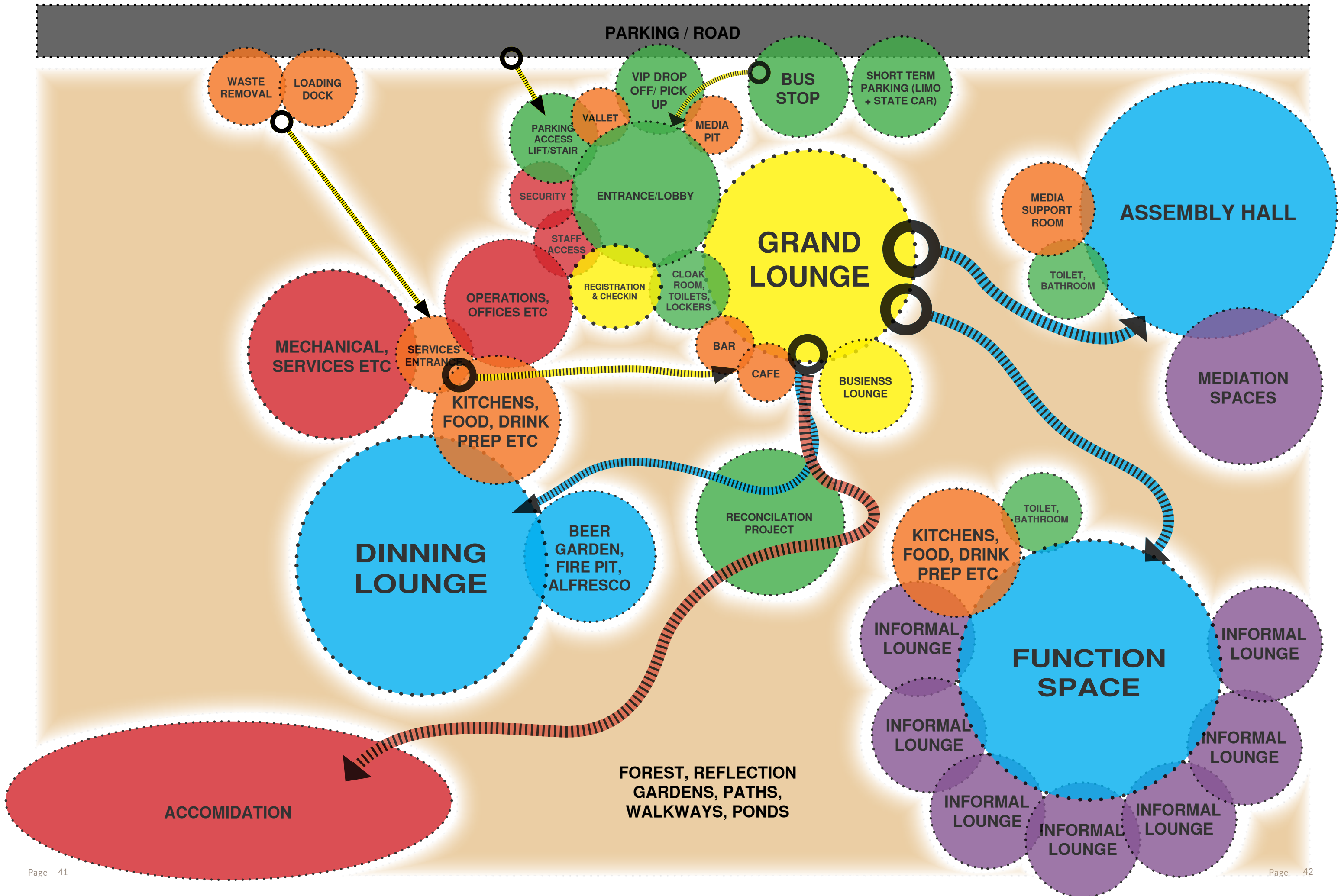
EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM



PUBLIC PROGRAM

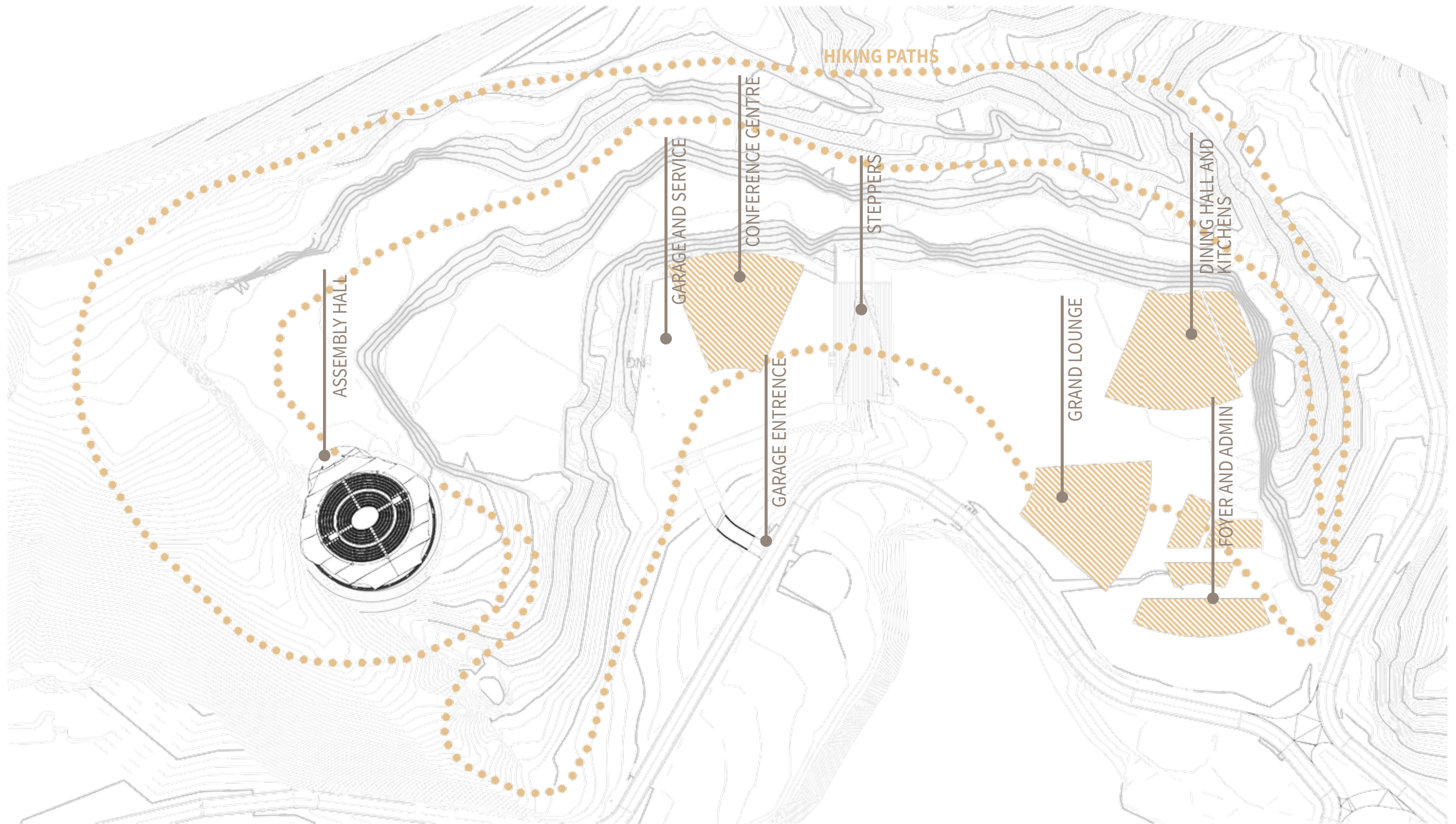


DIPLOMATIC PROGRAM



Building Program		Diplomatic Precinct						
Complex	Name	Function	Pax	Area	Height	Relationship	Served/Servant	v of area
Central Hub	Waste Area	To collect and remove waste	1 truck at a time	40	7m	External connects to Road, loading dock and Services entrance	Servant	6.32
	Loading Dock	To drop off and pick up equipment/food	two trucks simutanously unloading, 2 vans parked	60	7m	External connects to Road, Waste Removal and Services entrance	Servant	7.75
	VIP Drop Off/ Pick Up	To house Vallet, Pick and Drop off point	1200	800	5	Must be adjacent road and Entrance. Houses Vallet and media pit	Servant	28.28
	Vellet Booth	To house keys and Vellet staff, bell boy	4	4	2.1	Must be within the Vip Drop off/Pick Up	Servant	2.00
	Media Pit	To section off and house Media outlets during VIP events	200	110	2.5	Should be housed within the VIP Drop off/pick up.	Servant	10.49
	Car Park	To house vehicles	1200	37,500	2.1 + Services	Must be connected to Road and have access to lift/stairs/ramp to Entrance/Lobby	Servant	193.65
	bus stop	to facilitate the dropping off of busses	2 busses simutanously	110 + let down of 20	5	Must connect to Entrance/Lobby and road	Servant	11.40
	Short Tem Parking	to house Vip cars and Busses for quick retrieval	10 Buses + 10 Cars	800	5	Must connect to road and VIP drop off and Bus drop off	Servant	28.28
	Entrance/Lobby	Main Entrance into building, with lounges and waiting area for guests.	500	250	3	must be connected to bus, dropoff, car park, registration, cloak roo, staff access, security and grand lounge	Served	15.81
	Security Office	To house security personal and equipment	4	12	2.1	Must be connected to lobby and or main lounge	servant	3.46
	Registration and Checkin	Reception desk for guest checkin/registration	4	25	2.1	must be connected to lobby and adjacent staff access and cloak room	servant	5.00
	Cloak room, toilets, lockers	50	500	40	2.1	must be connected to lobby	servant	6.32
	Staff Access	Security access point for staff	4	4	2.1	must be connected to lobby and operations/offices	servant	2.00
	Operations, Offices etc	House the administration, management, operations of the facility	20	100	2.1	must be connectged to staff access and connect to the services entrance, kitchens etc	servant	10.00
	Services Entrance	To allow access to the Back of house/services	5	16	5	must connect to operations, kitchens, mech services and Waste pickup/drop off	servant	4.00
	Mechanical Services	to house mechanical and service equipment. A/C, Heating etc		200	3	must connect to service entrance	servant	14.14
Kitchens, Food, Drink prep etc	To house all main food and drink prep and storage.	50	250	2.4	must be connected to dining hall, service entrance, operations centre also connect to café/bar	servant	15.81	

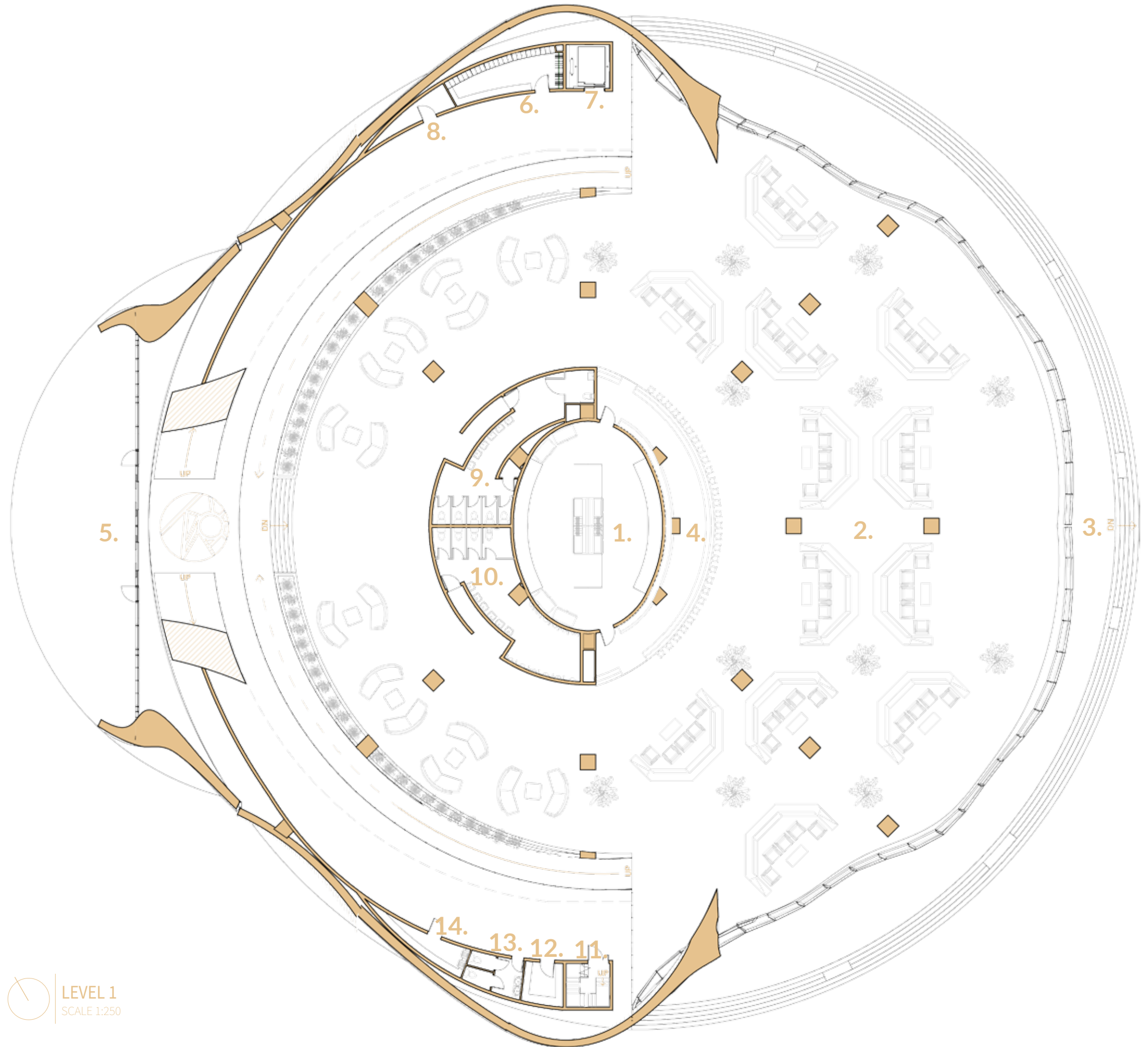
Building Program		Diplomatic Precinct							
	Grand Lounge	A place for guests and members to break out and casually relax in a lounge setting with beverages and light snack. Also works as a transitional space to the other areas.	1200	360	3	must be connected to the lobby, bar, café and business lounge. Must indirectly connect to Assembly hall, Function space, accomidation and dining hall.	Served	18.97	
	Bar	Perpare beverages for guests in the lounge	10	50	2.1	must be connected to the lounge	servant	7.07	
	Café	Prefer food and hot beverages for guests in the lounge	10	50	2.1	must be connected to lounge	servant	7.07	
	Business Lounge	To allow guests to work in a business setting	1200	100	2.4	must be connected to the grand lounge	served	10.00	
	Assembly Wing	Assembly Hall	A place of formal gathering in a defined space with a central point of interest	1200	1560	10	must be connected to media support and toilet/bathrooms	served	39.50
	Media Support Room	A place for media support equipment, controls etc	50	100	2.1	Must be connected to assembly room	servant	10.00	
	Toilet/ Bathroom	lavitry and bathroom facilities for guests	1200	360	2.1	must be connected to assembly hall	servant	18.97	
	Meditation Spaces	Place for breaking out of assembly hall and reflection, conversation or meditation	200	100	2.4	must be connected to assembly halld	served	10.00	
	Function / Conference Space	Function Space	Central area for conference/workshop/catering functions for all guests	1200	2000	5	must be indirectly connected to grand lounge and directly connected to informal lounges, kitchens, toilets, bathrooms.	Served	44.72
	Toilet Bathroom	lavitry and bathroom facilities for guests	1200	360	2.1	must be connected to function space	servant	18.97	
	Kitchens, Food, Drink prep etc	preparation space and cooking space for function catering events	100	500	2.1	must be connected to the function space	servant	22.36	
	Informal Lounge	place for breaking out and conversing in a casual setting	25	50	2.4	must be connected to function space	served	7.07	
	Dinning Lounge	Dinning Lounge	Place to eat meals	1200	720	3	must be indirectly connected to grand lounge and accomidation, function, and assembly hall	Served	26.83
	Beer Garden, Fire pit, Alfresco	Place to eat and relax	1200	720	open	Must be connected to the dinning lounge	Served	26.83	
	Accomidation	Presidentail Cabins	Accomidation cabin for the highest delegates	50 people + support	100 per cabin (5000 in total)	3	Must be isolated byt indirectly connected to one another and the main building. Surrounded by nature compeltely	Served	70.71
	Business Cabins	Accomidation for the second highest level of delegates	100	65 (6,500 in total)	2.7	Must be connected to one another and the main building. Surrounded by nature partly	served	80.62	
	Guest Accomidation	Acccomidation for the remainder of guests and support members	200	40 (8,000 in total)	2.4	Must be combined into one complex with indirect connections to main buildings.	served	89.44	




SITE PLAN
 SCALE 1:1000

LEGEND

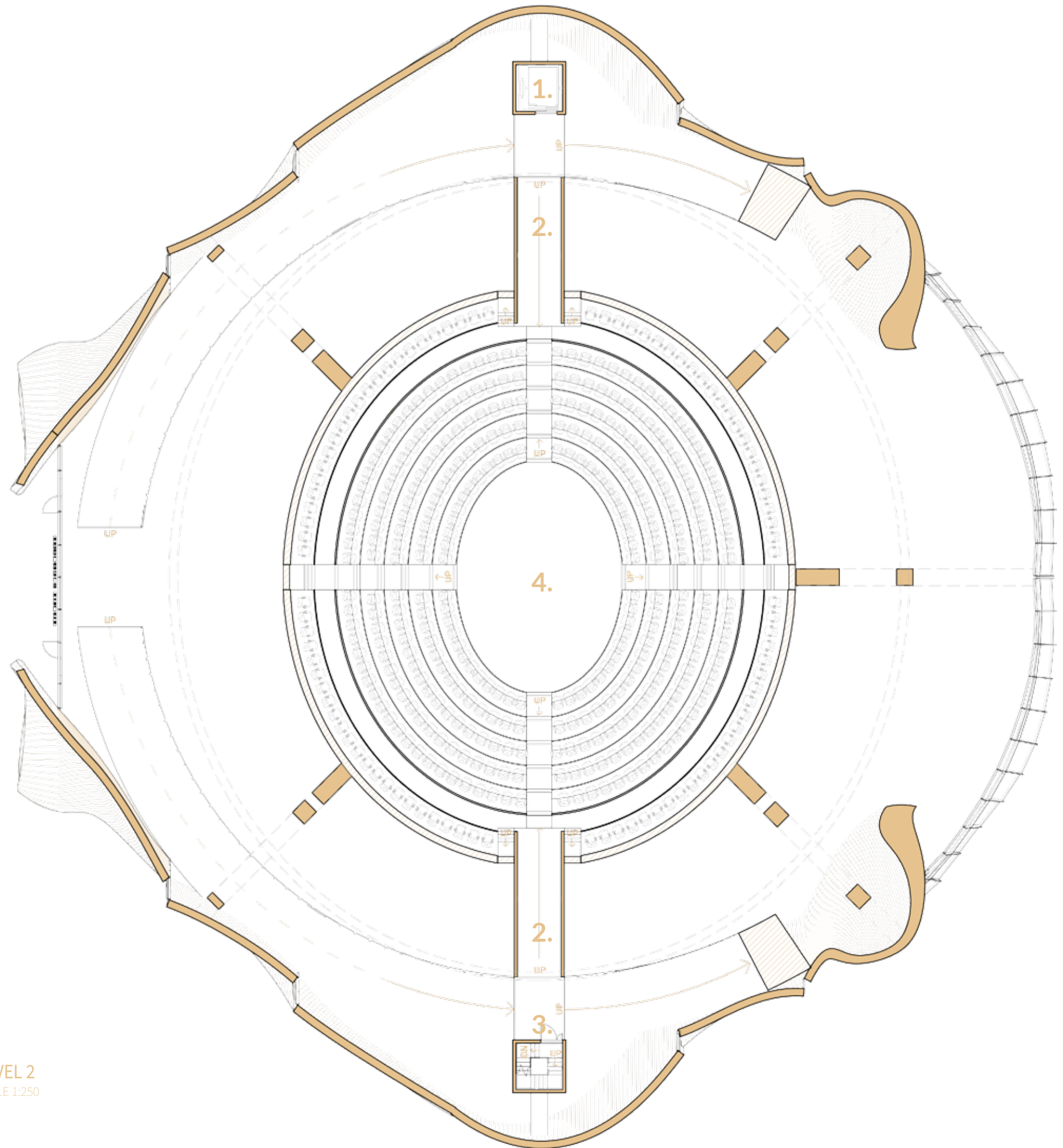
- 1 Kitchen
- 2 Lounge
- 3 Patio
- 4 Bar/Cafe
- 5 Entrance
- 6 Cloak Room
- 7 Elevator
- 8 Fire Control Room
- 9 Female Bathroom
- 10 Male Bathroom
- 11 Stair
- 12 Staff Room
- 13 Staff Toilet
- 14 Cleaners Closet



LEVEL 1
SCALE 1:250

LEGEND

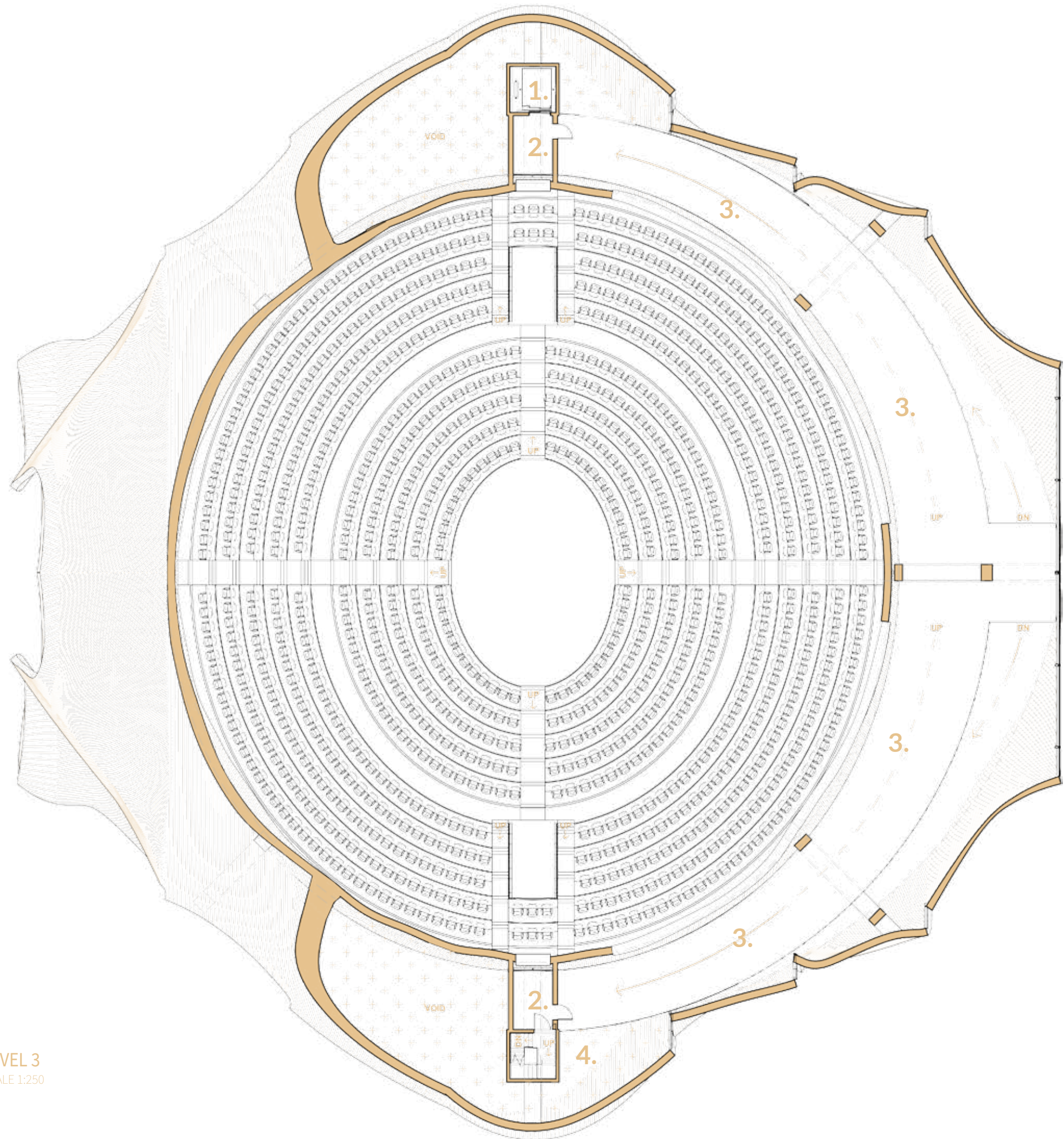
- 1 Elevator
- 2 Entrance Ramp
- 3 Stair
- 4 Assembly Hall



LEVEL 2
SCALE 1:250

LEGEND

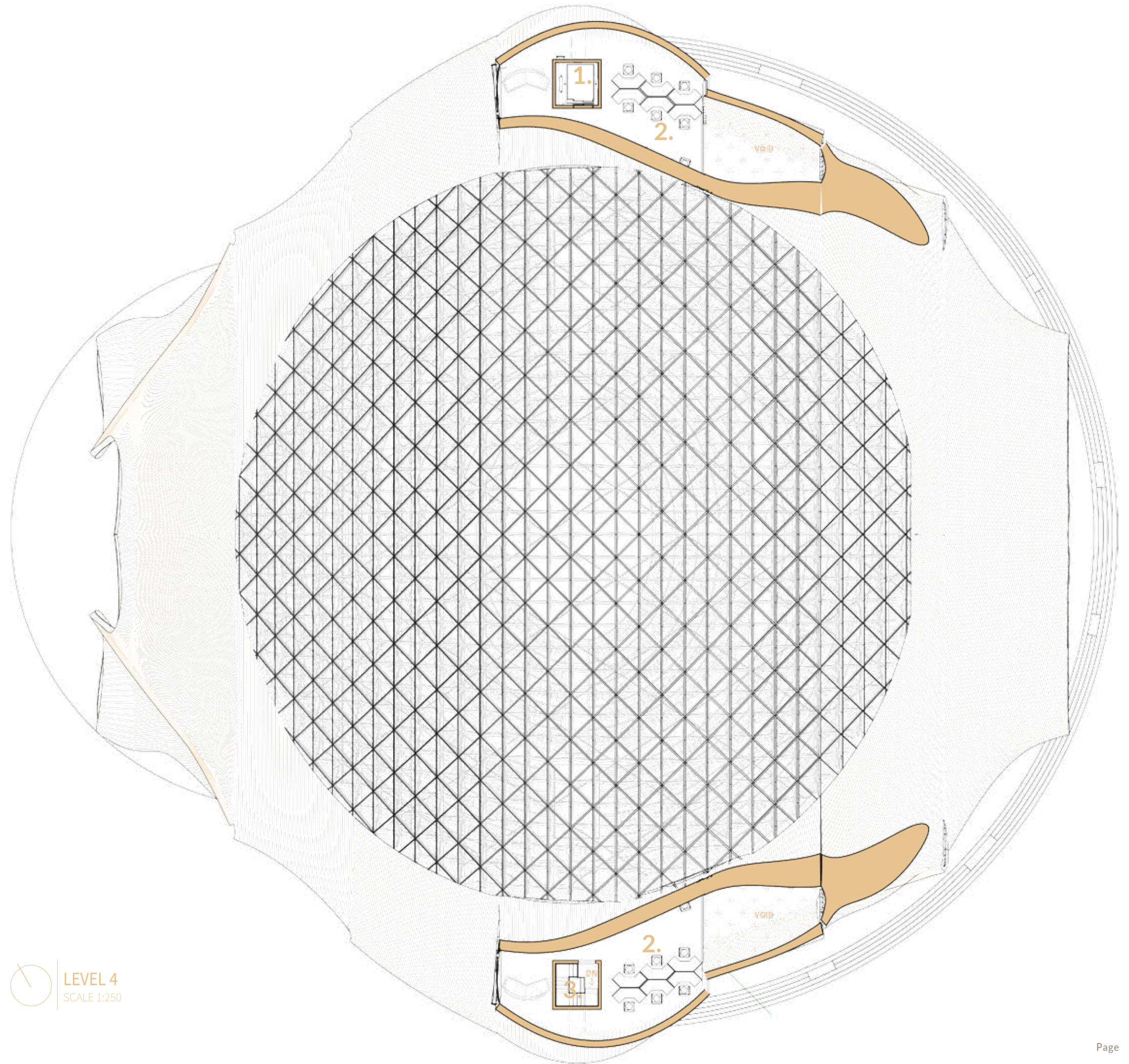
- 1 Elevator
- 2 Control Room
- 3 Media/Spectator Deck
- 4 Stair



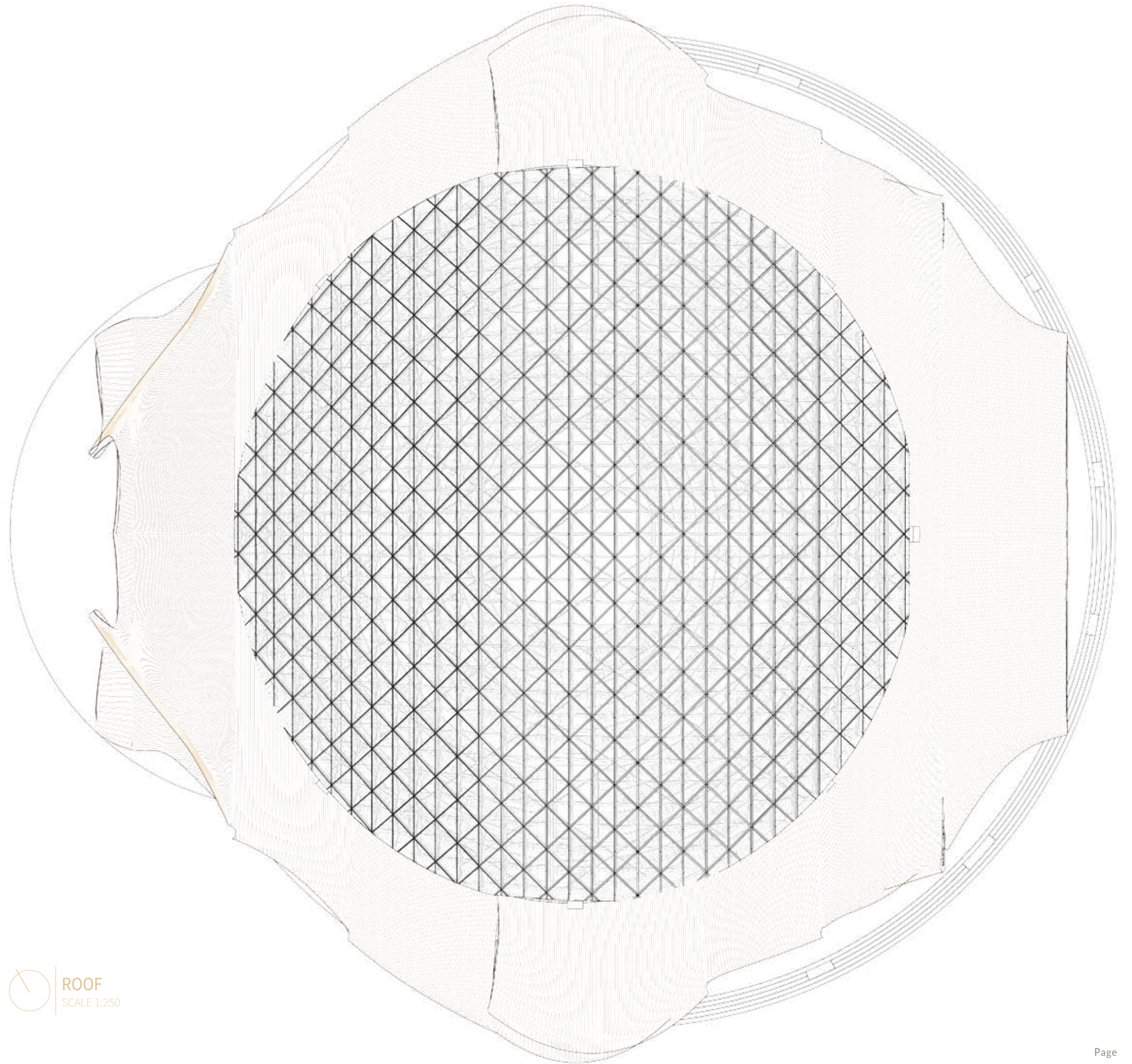
LEVEL 3
SCALE 1:250

LEGEND

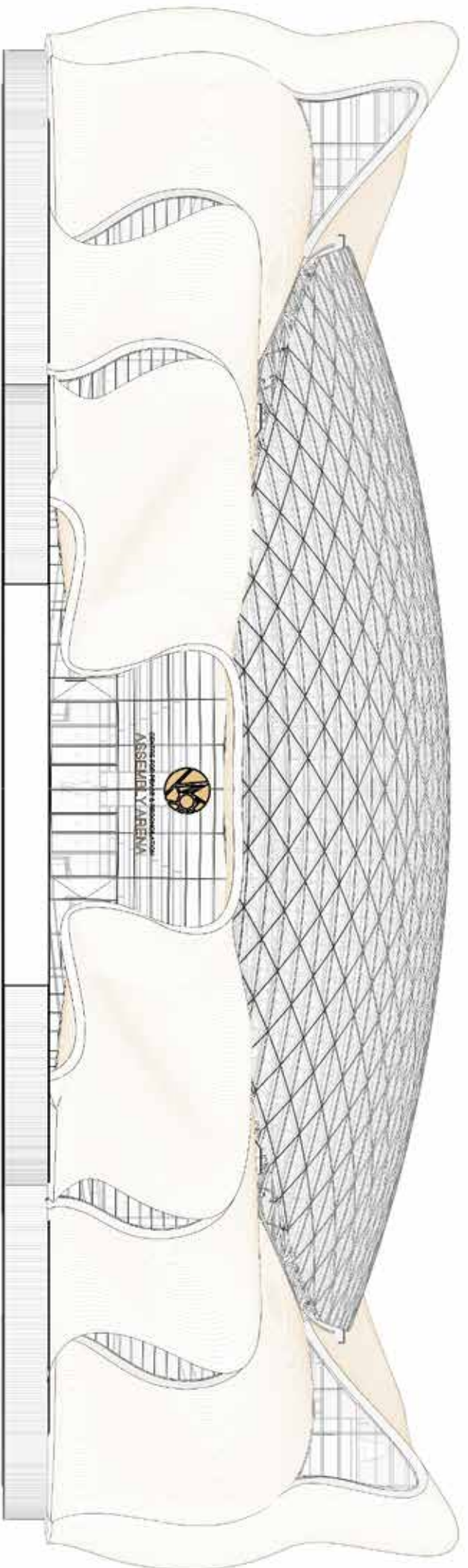
- 1 Elevator
- 2 Business Lounge
- 3 Stair



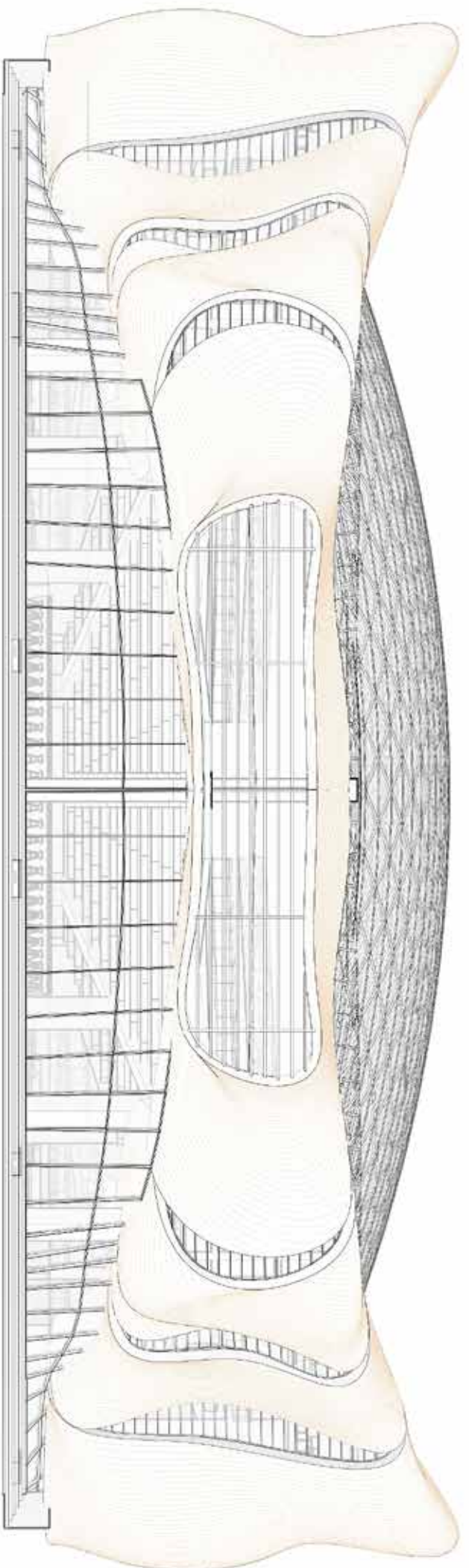
LEVEL 4
SCALE 1:250



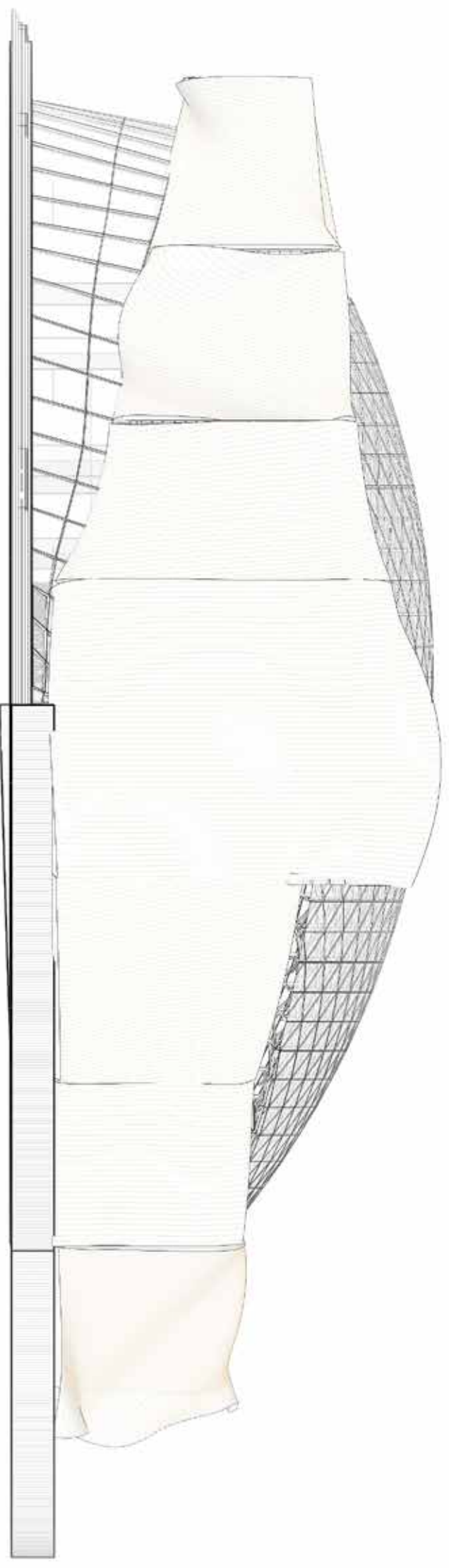
ROOF
SCALE 1:250



NORTH ELEVATION
SCALE 1:250

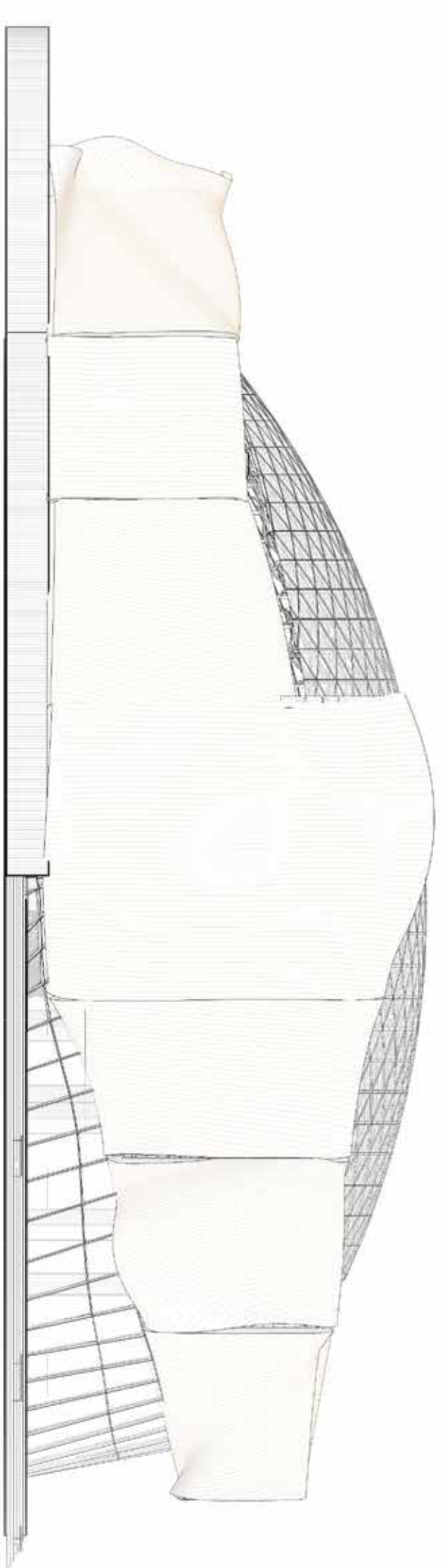


SOUTH ELEVATION
SCALE 1:250



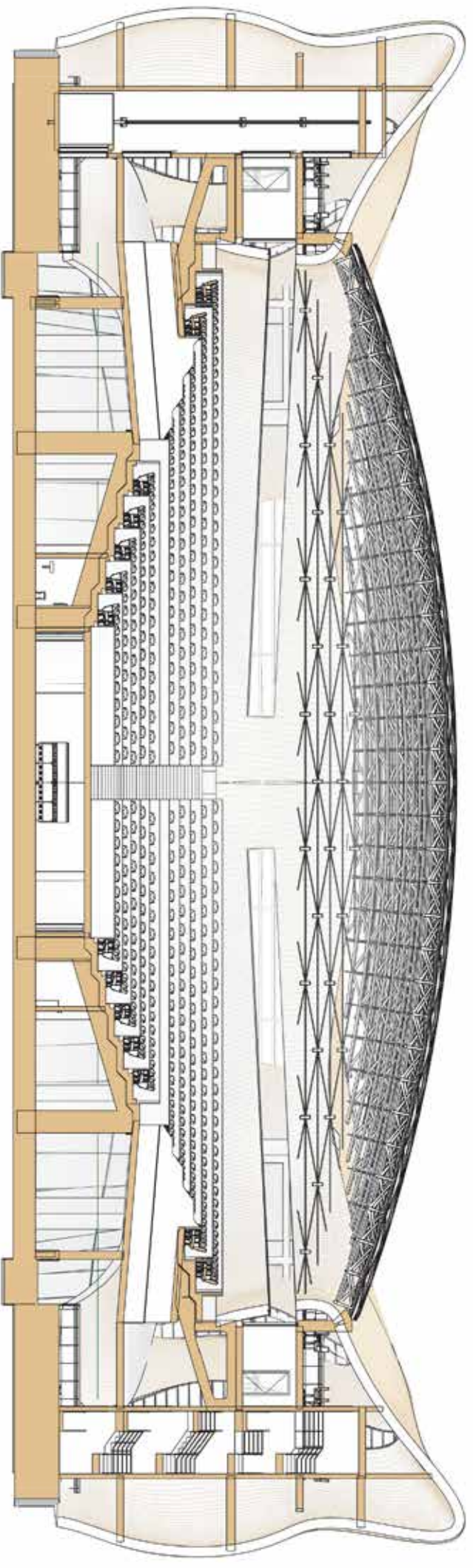
EAST ELEVATION

SCALE 1:250



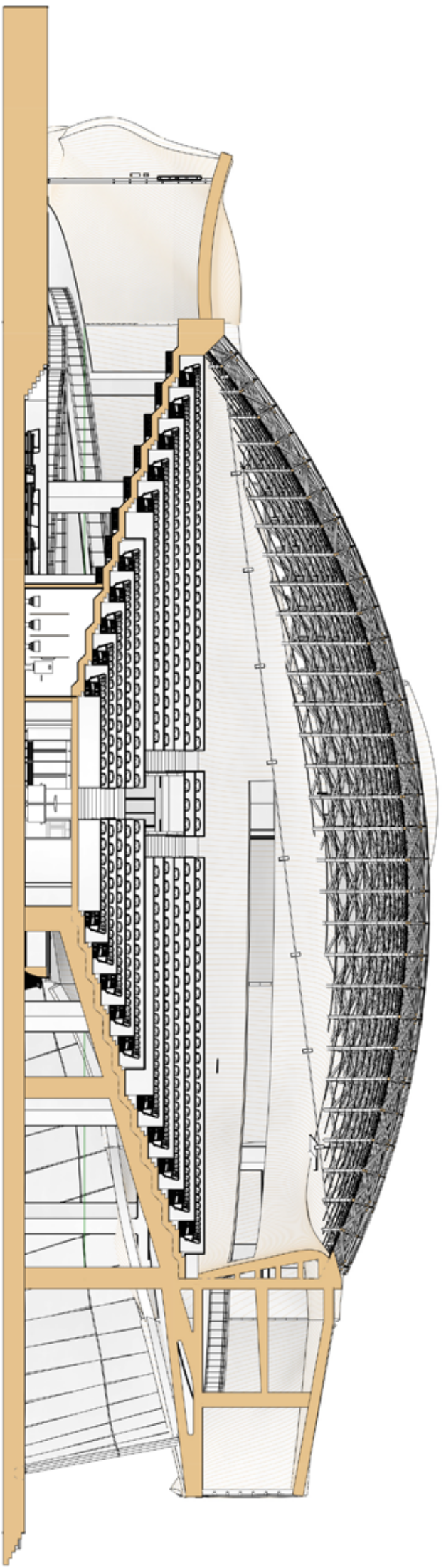
WEST ELEVATION

SCALE 1:250



SECTION A - A

SCALE 1:250



SECTION B - B

SCALE 1:250





BAR & CAFE

View Looking towards bar and Cafe



ASSEMBLY HALL RAMP

View Looking up to the Assembly hall



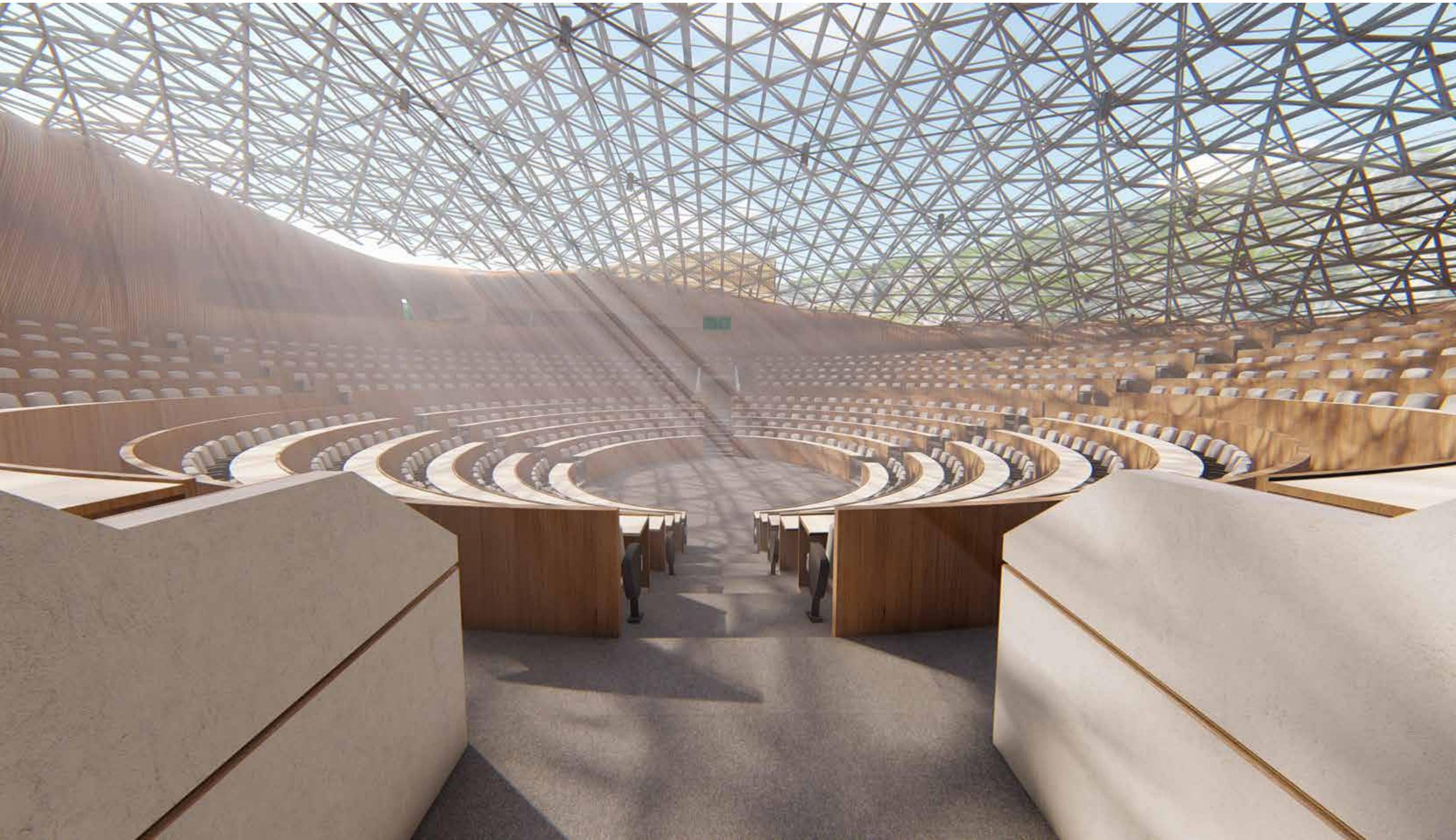
DUCK POND

Duck pond next to site



ASSEMBLY HALL

View out over the Assembly Hall





ASSEMBLY HALL LIGHTS
view over the suspended light system and sky
light room



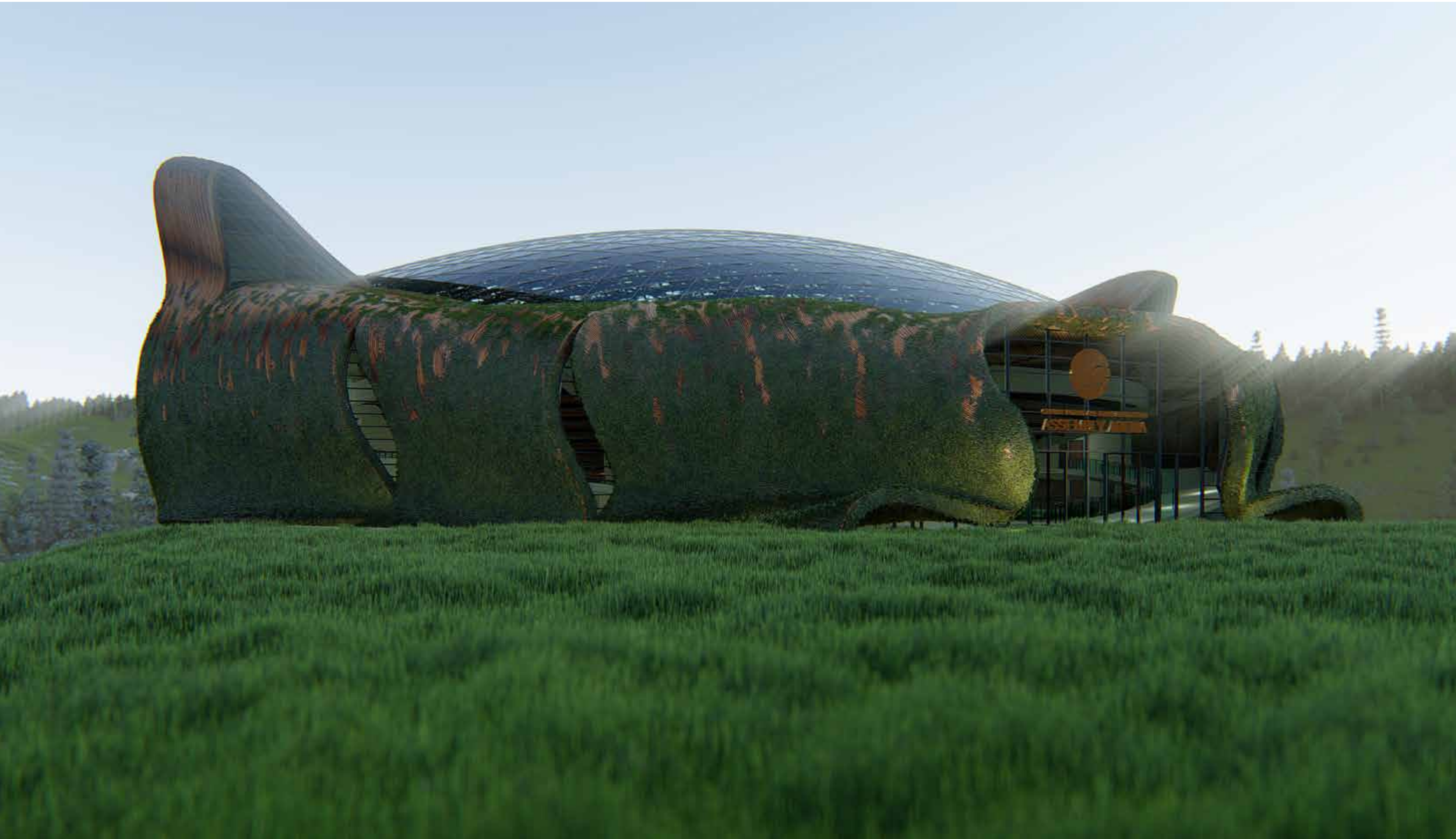
ASSEMBLY HALL RAMP
View Looking up to the Assembly hall



EXTERNAL
view looking at the weathered and foliage
covered facade



PERSONAL LOUNGES
View looking at the lounge and sofa nooks.





ASSEMBLY HALL PATIO
View towards the Assembly Hall from Patio



BIRDS EYE VIEW
Birds Eye View from the South



EXTERNAL WALLS
view looking at the weathered and foliage covered facade



BIRDS EYE VIE
View looking towards the assembly hall from the North.

