

# portfolio.

*Mateo Cardona Díaz*

This portfolio reflects an ongoing search: to imagine new ways of inhabiting, to propose thoughtful responses to contemporary challenges, and to explore—through design and technology—new ways of living, building, and caring for the world.



# Mateo Cardona Díaz

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**Education** **Architecture (GPA 4.6)** Universidad de los Andes  
Bogotá, Colombia | Jan 2020 – Jun 2024

**Minor in Project Design (GPA 4.6)** Universidad de los Andes

Bogotá, Colombia | Jan 2022 – Dec 2024

**Exchange Program in Architecture** ETSAM

Madrid, Spain | Jun 2023 – Jan 2024

**Scholarship** Instituto Superior Técnico | Lisbon, Portugal | Nov 2023

**Professional Summary** Architect specialized in BIM coordination, project management, and computational design. Experienced in leading multidisciplinary teams and delivering projects from concept to completion with precision and efficiency. Proficient in advanced BIM, CAD, and visualization tools. Graduated from Universidad de los Andes with a minor in Project Design and an exchange at ETSAM. Noted for leadership, problem-solving, and a strong foundation in data-driven, sustainable design solutions.

**Professional Experience** **Architect and BIM Coordinator**  
De la Carrera Cavanzo | Bogotá, Colombia | July 2024 - Present

Architect with experience in BIM, technical design, and construction. Led BIM for two MinTIC AI centers and coordinated large-scale projects like Vive Claro Bogotá. Skilled in residential design, budgeting, and on-site supervision.

**Undergraduate Teaching and Architecture Assistant**  
Universidad de los Andes | Bogotá, Colombia | Jan 2022 - July 2024

Taught computational design to 200+ students across six editions of the Computational Thinking course. Focused on visual programming, data analysis, and modeling with Rhino, Grasshopper, and Python. Developed coursework and guided students from basic concepts to advanced workflows, emphasizing problem-solving and design automation.

**Achievements** Finalist and award-winning participant in national and international competitions, with recognized projects in housing, sustainability, and social impact. Highlights include finalist mentions in Archstorming, Buildner Microhome, and hospice design contests, second place in a university building competition, and selection for the XIII BIAU.

**Certifications** Certified in BIM tools (Revit, Navisworks, BIM 360) and the full Autodesk Construction Cloud (ACC) suite, covering coordination, document management, cost control, and project workflows. Additional certifications include Microsoft programs in project management, AI, and sustainable tech; Smartsheet; Make (Integromat); web development; and business programs by McKinsey and BCG.

**Technical Skills** Proficient in Revit, AutoCAD, Rhino, Grasshopper, and visualization tools like V-Ray and Enscape. Experienced in Adobe Suite, ArcGIS, digital fabrication, and collaborative platforms such as Notion and ACC. Strong background in AI and computational design. Fluent in Spanish (native) and English (C1 Advanced).

\*For more details on certifications, technical skills, achievements, and professional experience, please refer to the **full CV**.



# About this Portfolio

This portfolio brings together a curated selection of projects developed in both: academic and professional contexts. The academic and personal work reflects explorations driven by curiosity, critical thinking, and design research. The professional section highlights my experience contributing to design development, technical coordination, and project execution within collaborative teams at offices such as De la Carrera Cavanzo.

Together, these projects reflect an architectural approach shaped by five recurring themes that guide my work:



## Question

To dismantle the given, challenge the established, and imagine alternatives.

*A critical ability to rethink typologies, systems, and structures.*

*Architecture as an active question.*



## Propose

To give form to what is possible, to translate ideas into inhabitable solutions.

*A capacity for synthesis and strategic design that turns problems into projective opportunities.*



## Coordinate

To connect knowledge, people, and processes to make a vision viable. *A technical and collaborative skillset for managing complex projects — from BIM to collective construction.*



## Care

To design with empathy, dignity, and humanity.

*Architecture as an act of care, responding to essential needs, especially in vulnerable contexts.*



## Explore

To test, experiment, and imagine what does not yet exist.

*An open, curious, and experimental mindset. The use of technologies, narratives, and tools to expand the field of architecture.*

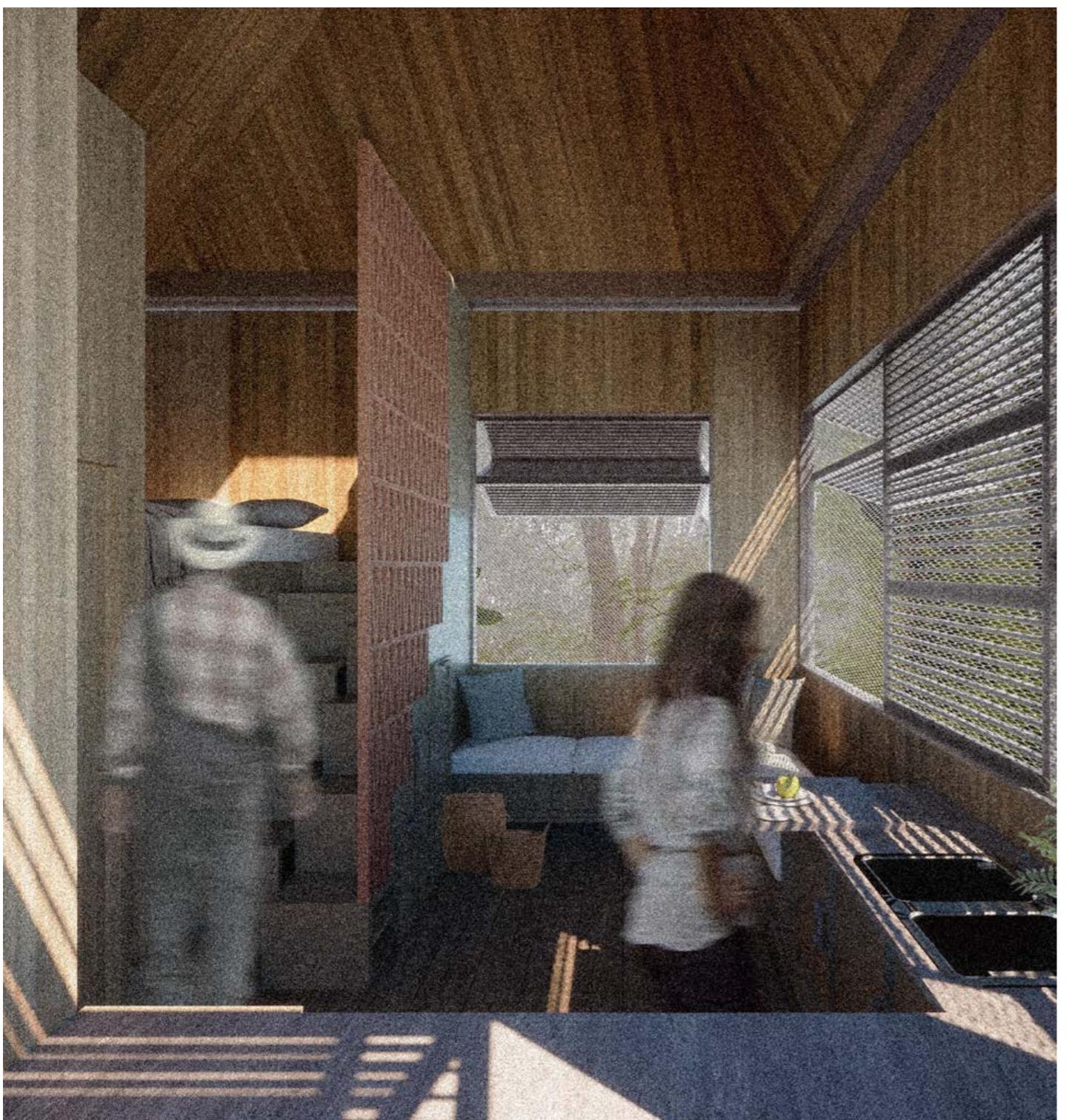
# Summary

## Academic/Personal

- |   |   |                          |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| 1 | <b>Home Of Hope</b> <small>***</small><br>Microhome Competition Buildnr - Honorable Mention             | <small>pg. 06-09</small> |
| 2 | <b>WERK 12 - BIM</b> <small>*</small><br>Autodesk Revit Certification                                   | <small>pg. 10-17</small> |
| 3 | <b>Limitless Deprivation</b> <small>***</small><br>Microhome Competition Buildnr - Honorable Mention    | <small>pg. 18-24</small> |
| 4 | <b>Insaka - Mayukwayukwa Refugee Camp</b> <small>***</small><br>Archstorming Competition - Short listed | <small>pg. 22-25</small> |

## Professional

- |   |  |                          |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| 1 | <b>Universidad del Rosario - Laboratories</b> <small>**</small><br>De La Carrera Cavanzo + Moneo Brock | <small>pg. 26-29</small> |
| 2 | <b>Artificial Intelligence Centers</b> <small>**</small><br>De La Carrera Cavanzo + MinTIC             | <small>pg. 30-31</small> |
| 3 | <b>Vive Claro - Multipurpose Venue</b> <small>*</small><br>De La Carrera Cavanzo + OCESA               | <small>pg. 32-33</small> |
| 4 | <b>House SIE</b> <small>***</small><br>De La Carrera Cavanzo   | <small>pg. 34-35</small> |



## Home of Hope

Microhome Competition  
Buildnr\_Honorable Mention  
**Finalist:** Published in  
Microhome digital Magazine  
(Issue 02, March 2024)

Santiago Caballero  
Valentina Castillo  
Paula Ayala  
Mateo Cardona Díaz

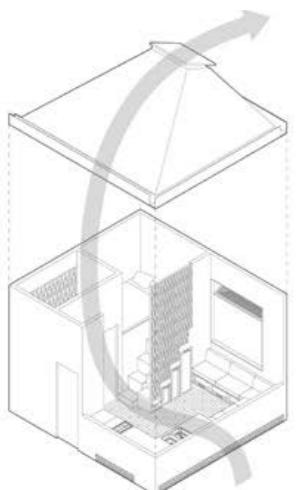
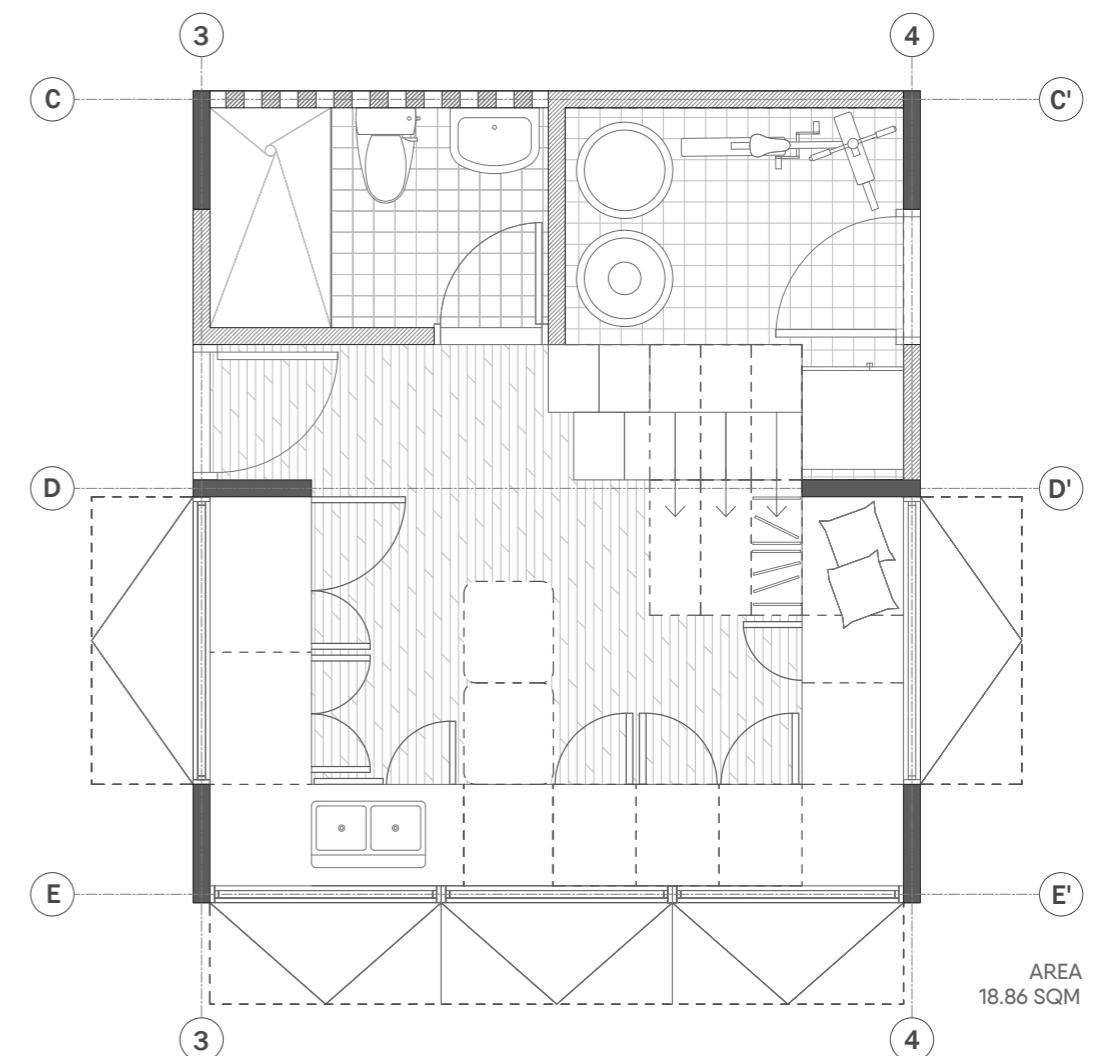
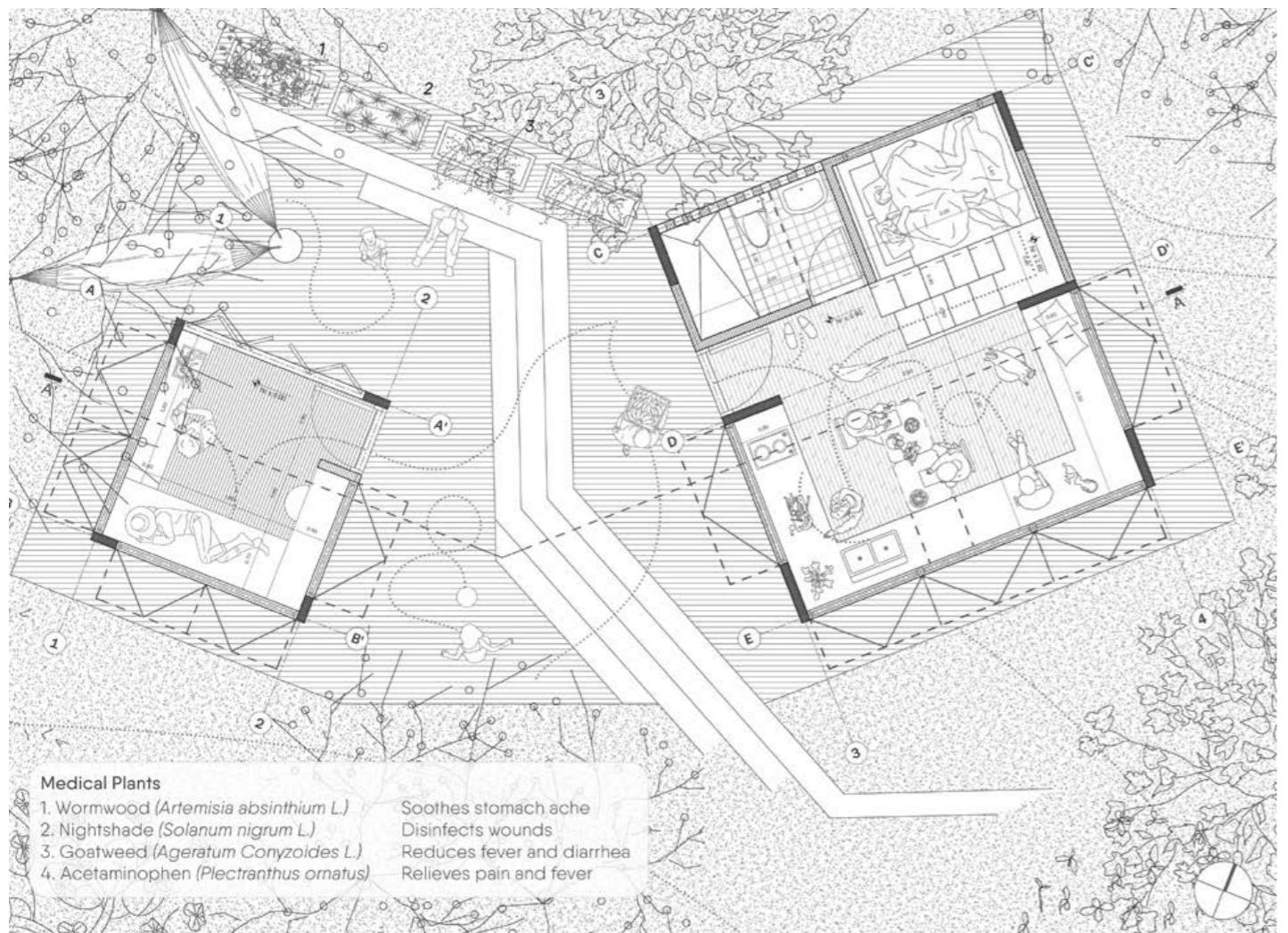
In a narrow swath of land dividing the Pacific Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, on the border between Colombia and Panama, The Darién has become the irregular route taken by the thousands of migrants who embrace a better future in North America. But, above all things: The Darién is a tragedy.

An inhuman path through which many walkers feel they must pass despite its turbulent rivers, rugged mountains, and criminal groups. Hungry and without money, the exhausting trek in such hostile terrain carries numerous physical and psychological risks for migrants hoping to cross.

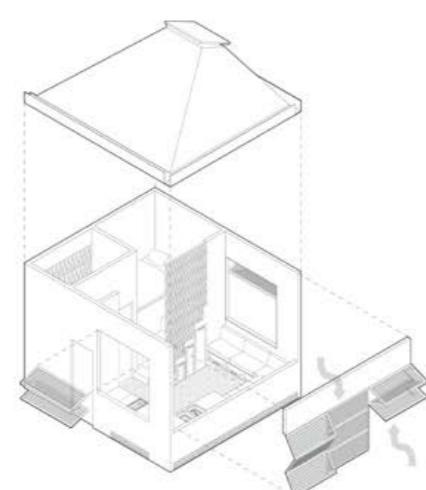
This presents not only a looming humanitarian disaster among those making the trek but also a potential immigration challenge.

"Home of Hope" proposes the design of a house and a dispensary for a couple of volunteers -a doctor and a botanist-, who seek through their profession to offer basic medical services with the means available to the migrants in transit that pursue to reach Panama through the Darién jungle.

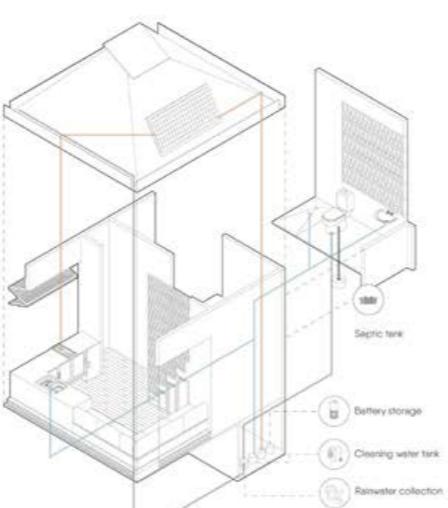




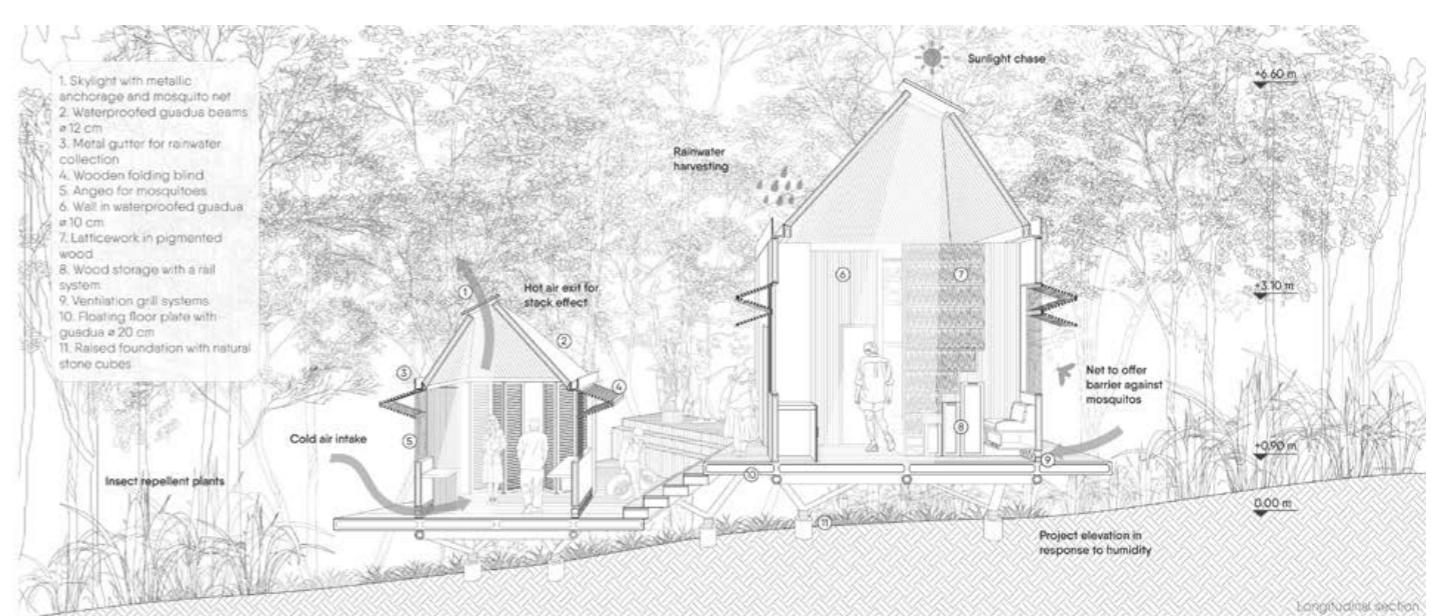
**01 | AIR FLOW**  
Stack effect guarantees natural ventilation and lighting in the interior.

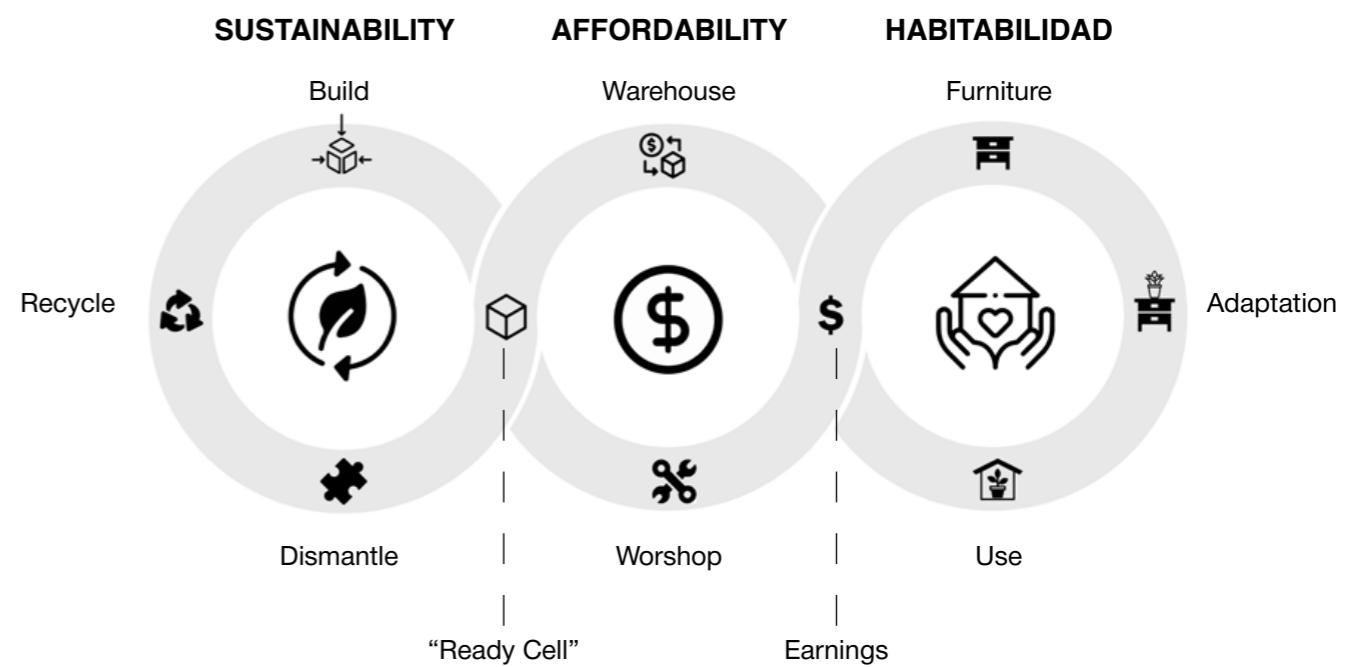


**02 | WINDOWS**  
The flexible windows not only allow natural ventilation but are also useful for shadow.



**03 | OFF THE GRID**  
Rainwater harvesting for services and solar panels for energy collection.





## Limitless Deprivation

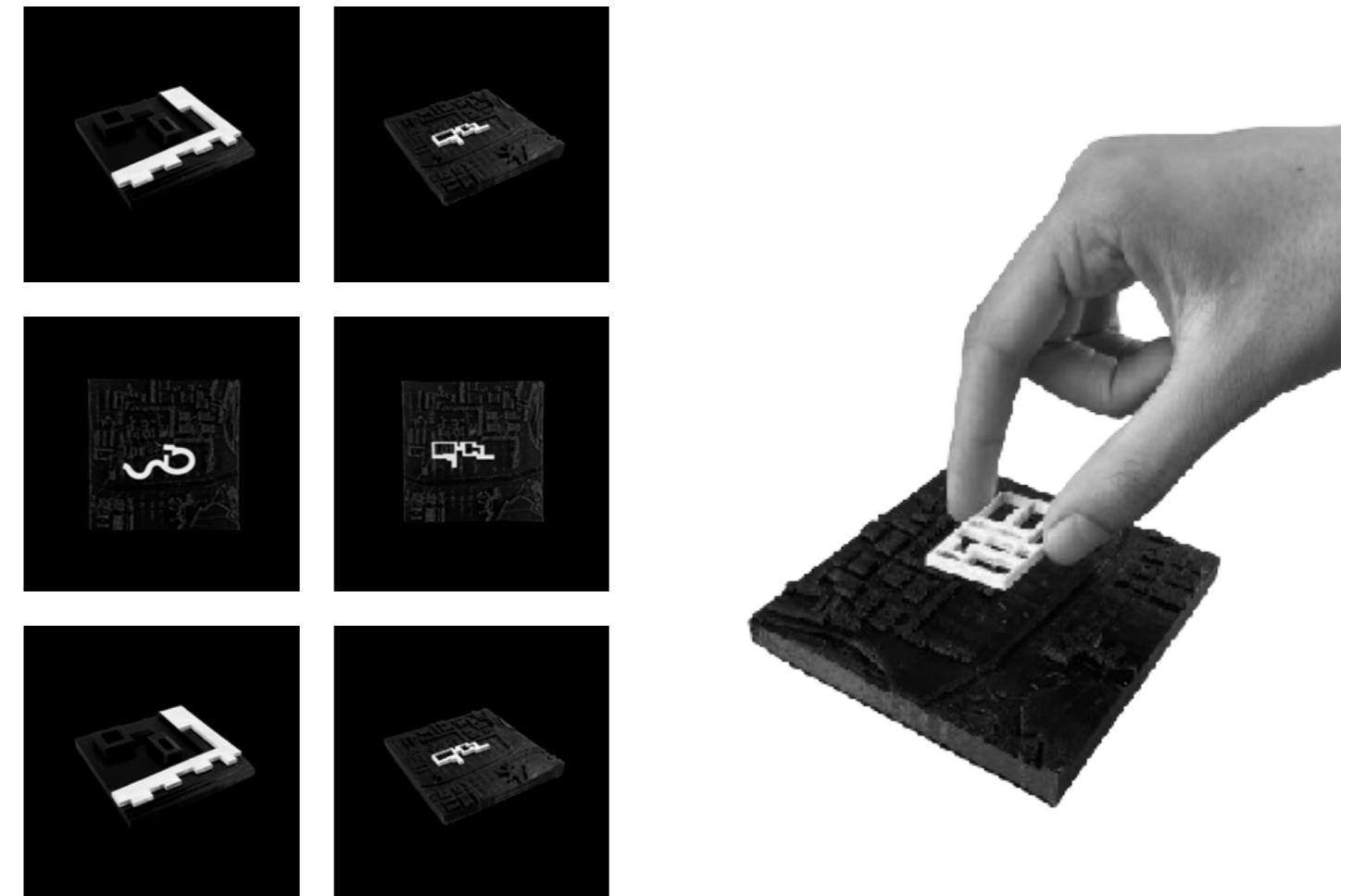
Towards Sustainable Penitentiary Architecture.

Final Project\_2024

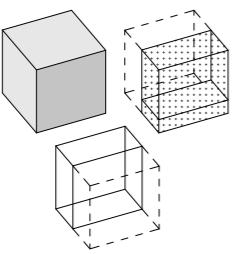
Study Instructors: Daniela Atencio, Claudio Rossi, Daniel Bonilla

The prison situation in the country is instead of monolithic and oppressive one of the most lamentable and urgent structures, sustainable, open, and flexible issues to address in our society. The living conditions imposed on the incarcerated population are highly undignified, and the lack of effective measures for the rehabilitation and social reintegration of inmates further exacerbates this problem.

This project explores a radical change that challenges the hermetic, isolated, and systematically destructive nature of penitentiary institutions. It examines the particular case of El Buen Pastor women's prison as a rare example of a functioning prison facility integrated into the dense urban fabric of Bogotá. With the aim of blurring the boundaries between prison and community, the integration of the prison with its urban environment was sought, generating new public space and job opportunities for the inmates. In this way, the project aims to break the segregation and isolation that characterize many prisons, promoting inclusion and social support as an integral part of the rehabilitation process.

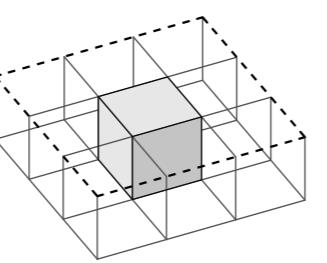






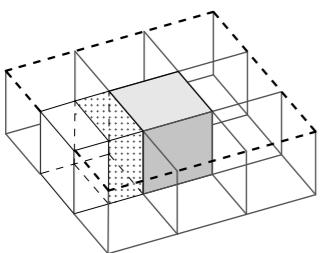
The structure of the prison is divided into modules (3X3X3).

Each person has the right to: (a) a 3X3m room, (b) a green space of 3X1.5m, and (c) a usable space of 3X1.5m.



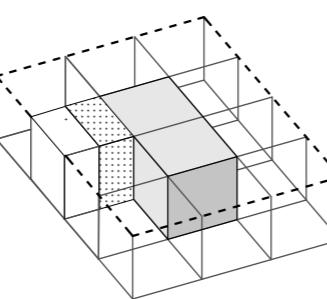
Rule 01

Each constructed module is surrounded by 8 empty modules that form its “neighborhood.”



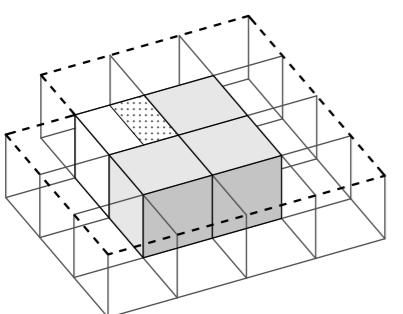
Rule 02

The empty modules surrounding a constructed module may be replaced by green spaces or usable spaces.



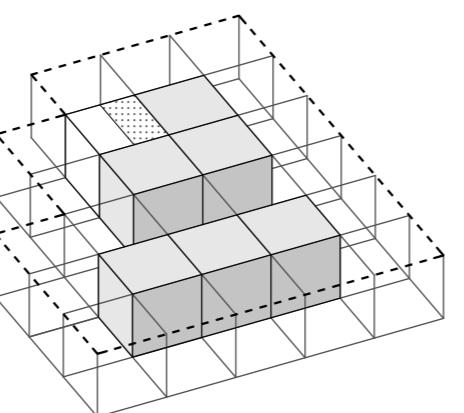
Rule 03

The empty modules surrounding a constructed module can be replaced by another constructed module.



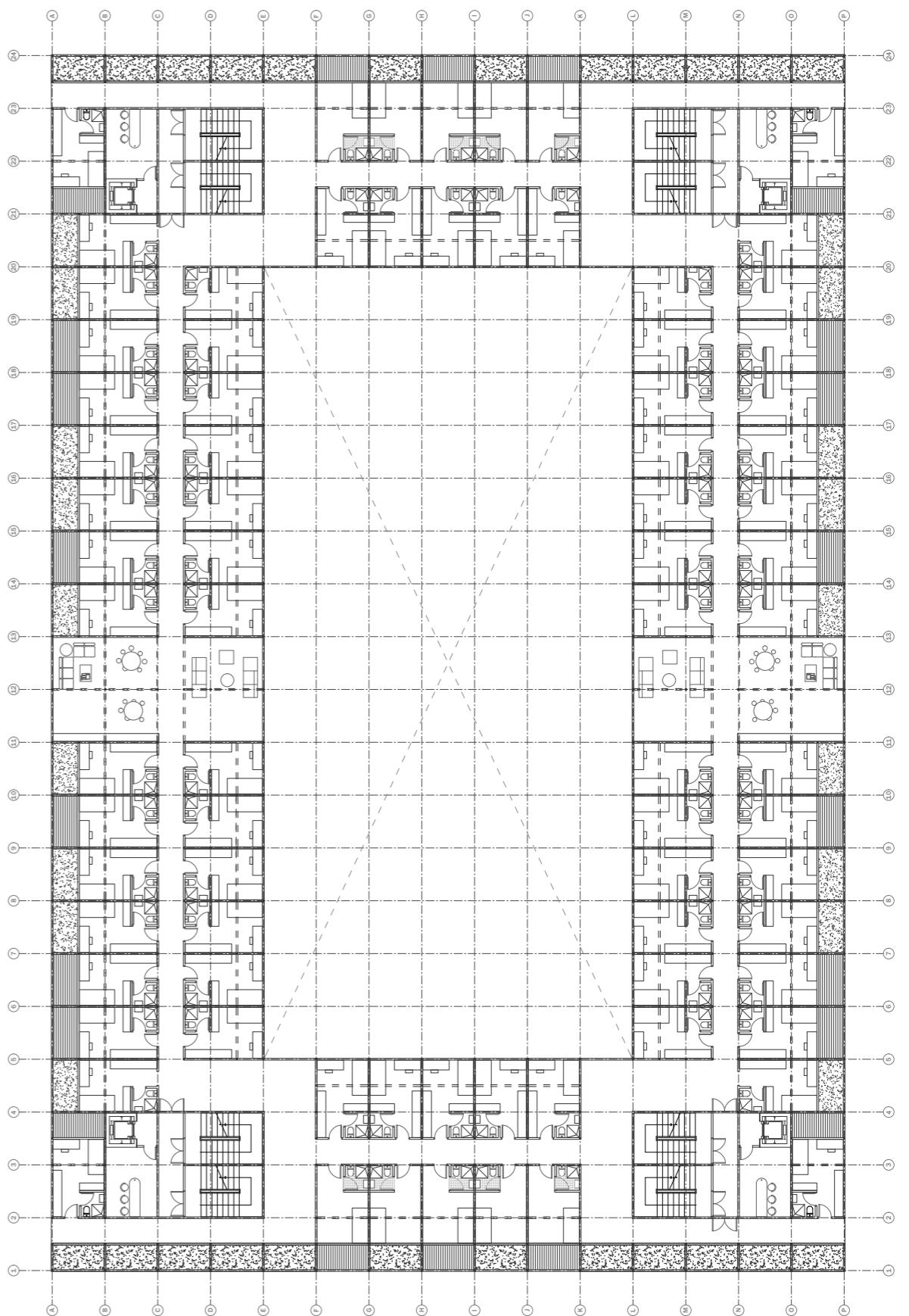
Rule 04

The constructed modules and the modules of green and usable spaces must form cuboids that represent a unit.



Rule 05

There must be at least one empty module between two different units. This is the circulation.



Second Floor Plan



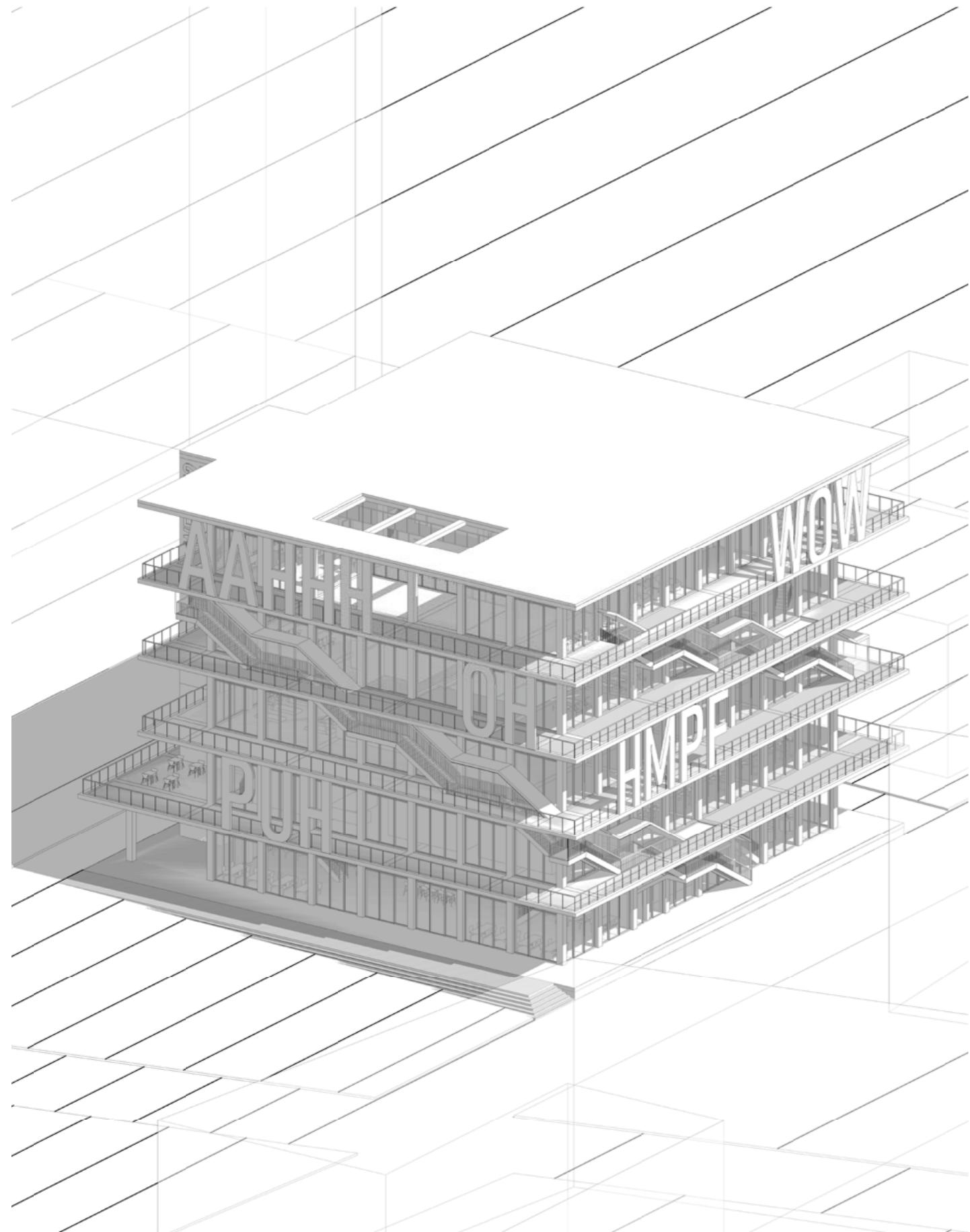
Aerial View / Approach by River Entrance

# WERK 12

Autodesk Revit, BIM 360,  
Navisworks Certification.

This work, completed as part of my Autodesk Revit Certification, showcases my proficiency in BIM management through the comprehensive modeling of MVRDV's iconic WERK 12 building.

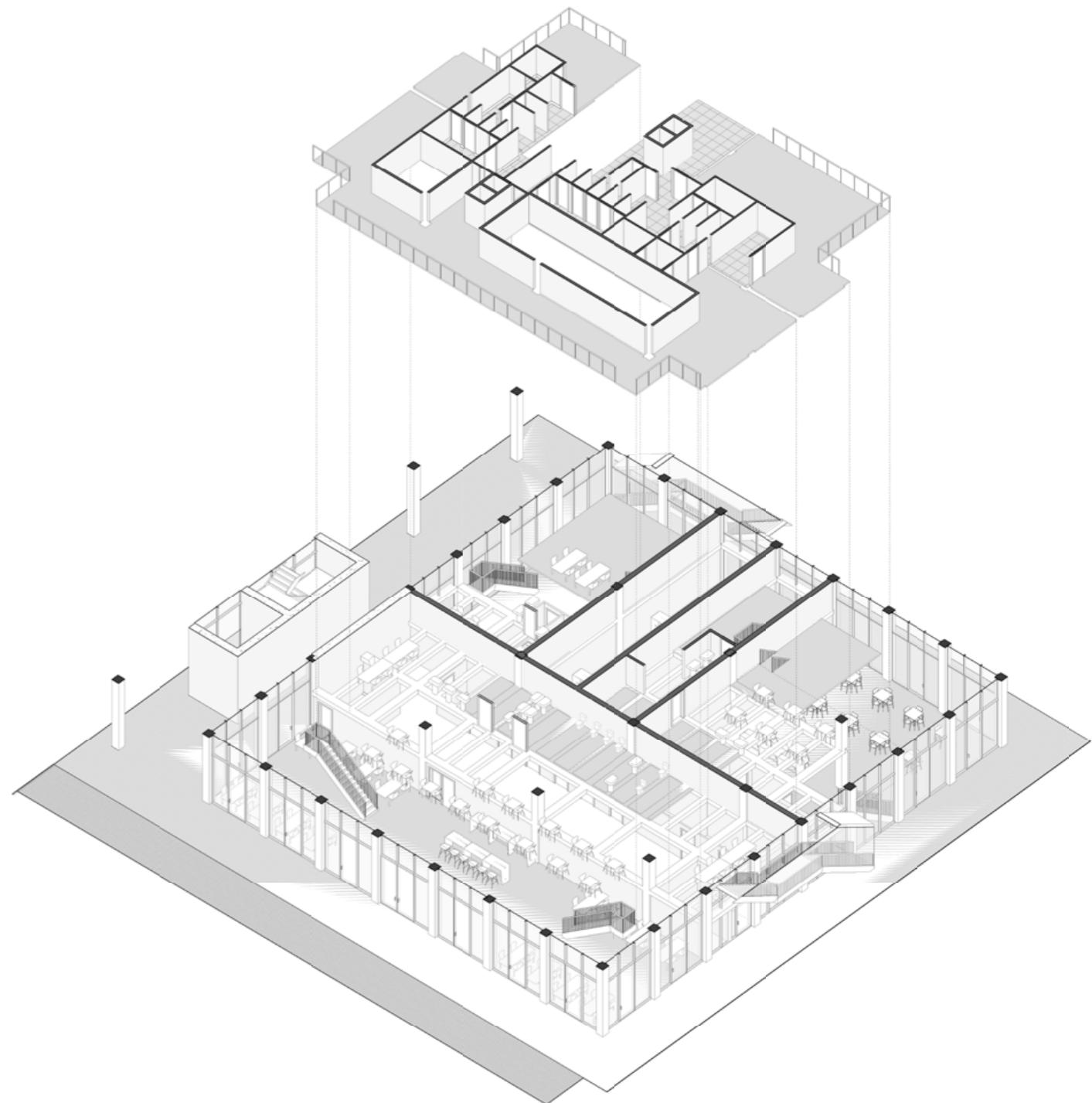
By developing a detailed BIM model, I demonstrated my ability to handle complex architectural projects, coordinate between disciplines, and produce high-quality construction documentation.



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Key responsibilities included parametric modeling, Revit family creation, visualization, and coordination exercises using Navisworks. The focus was on developing technical and collaborative skills through simulated project scenarios.

This case allowed me to explore how BIM can be applied to solve coordination challenges and improve communication across disciplines. It reinforced BIM's value as a tool for design precision, project efficiency, and interdisciplinary collaboration.



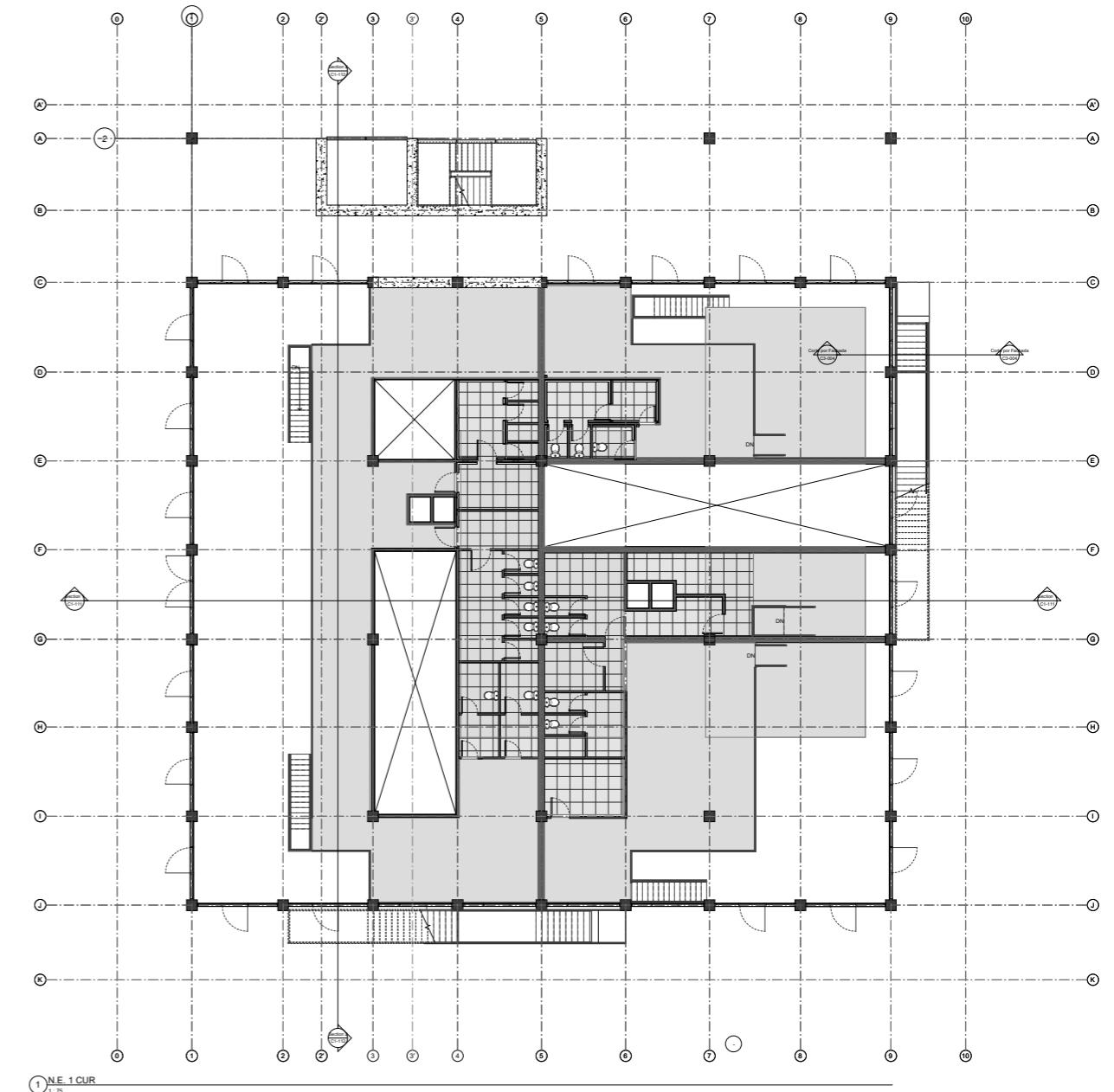
Exploded Axonometric View

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The image displays two architectural models of a modern, multi-story building. The left model shows a front-on view of the building's facade, which features a grid of vertical columns supporting horizontal floor slabs. The right model provides a side-on view, revealing a more complex internal structure with multiple levels of cantilevered floors and a central vertical circulation core. Both models are made of light-colored materials and show the building resting on a foundation of numerous vertical supports.

## Axonometric structural scheme



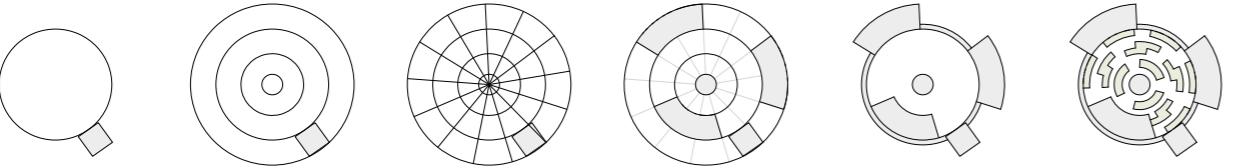
Second Floor Plan

# INSAKA

Archstorming+UNHCR  
Competition  
Shortlisted Project

In Zambia, basket weaving is a daily tradition rooted in ancestral knowledge, using natural materials like grass and twigs. These baskets remain essential in rural life, with skills passed down through generations.

The project will be built by local builders and volunteers using traditional materials, offering training and a sense of ownership. The Center aims to teach replicable construction techniques, empowering the community through hands-on learning.



1. DELIMIT

Outline a circle based on the existing construction and the position of the trees.

2. SEGMENT

Segment the circle into 4 rings. The larger the ring, the more private it is.

3. DIVIDE

Split the rings with equidistant axes to define where the buildings will be built.

4. BUILD

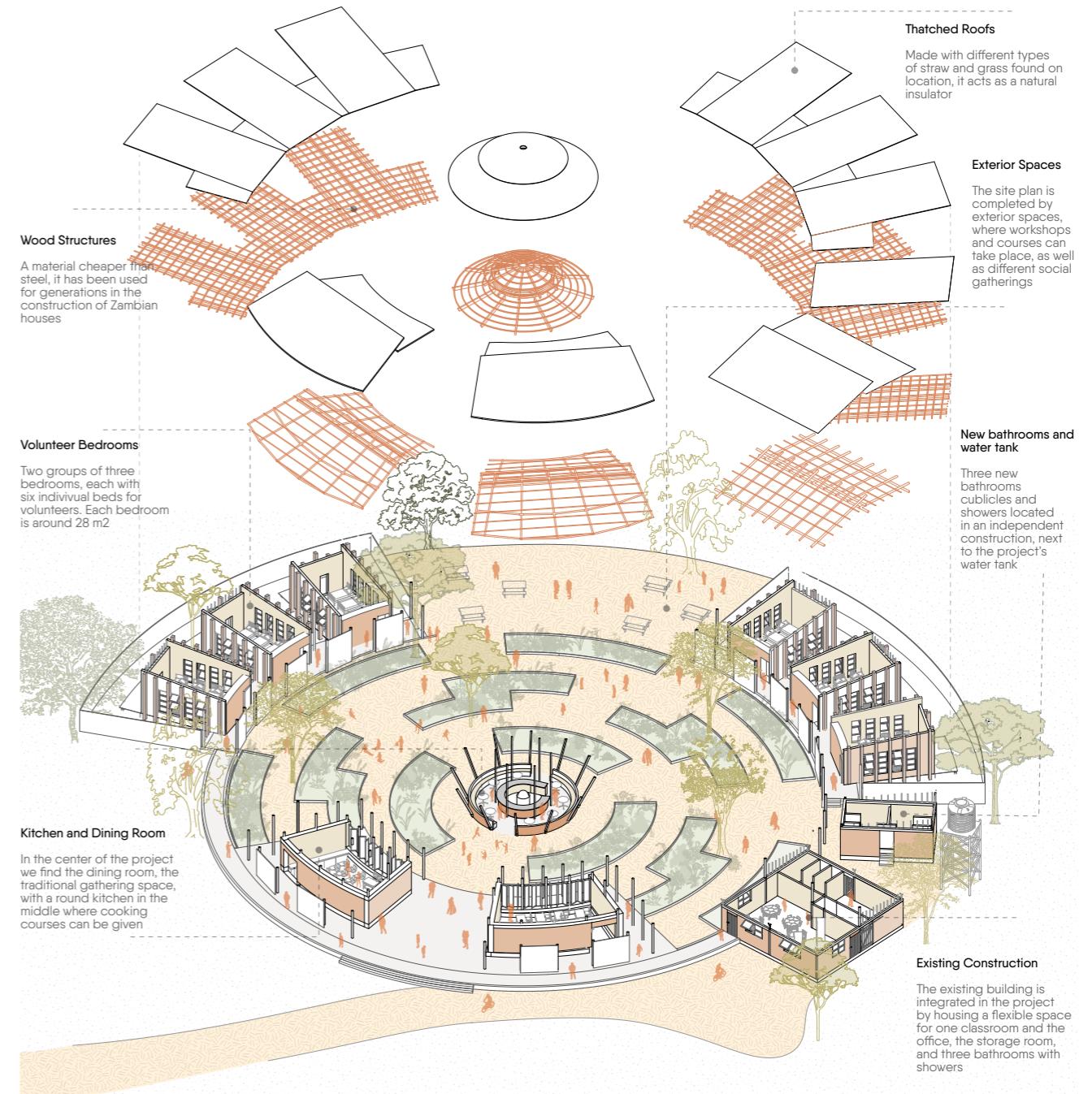
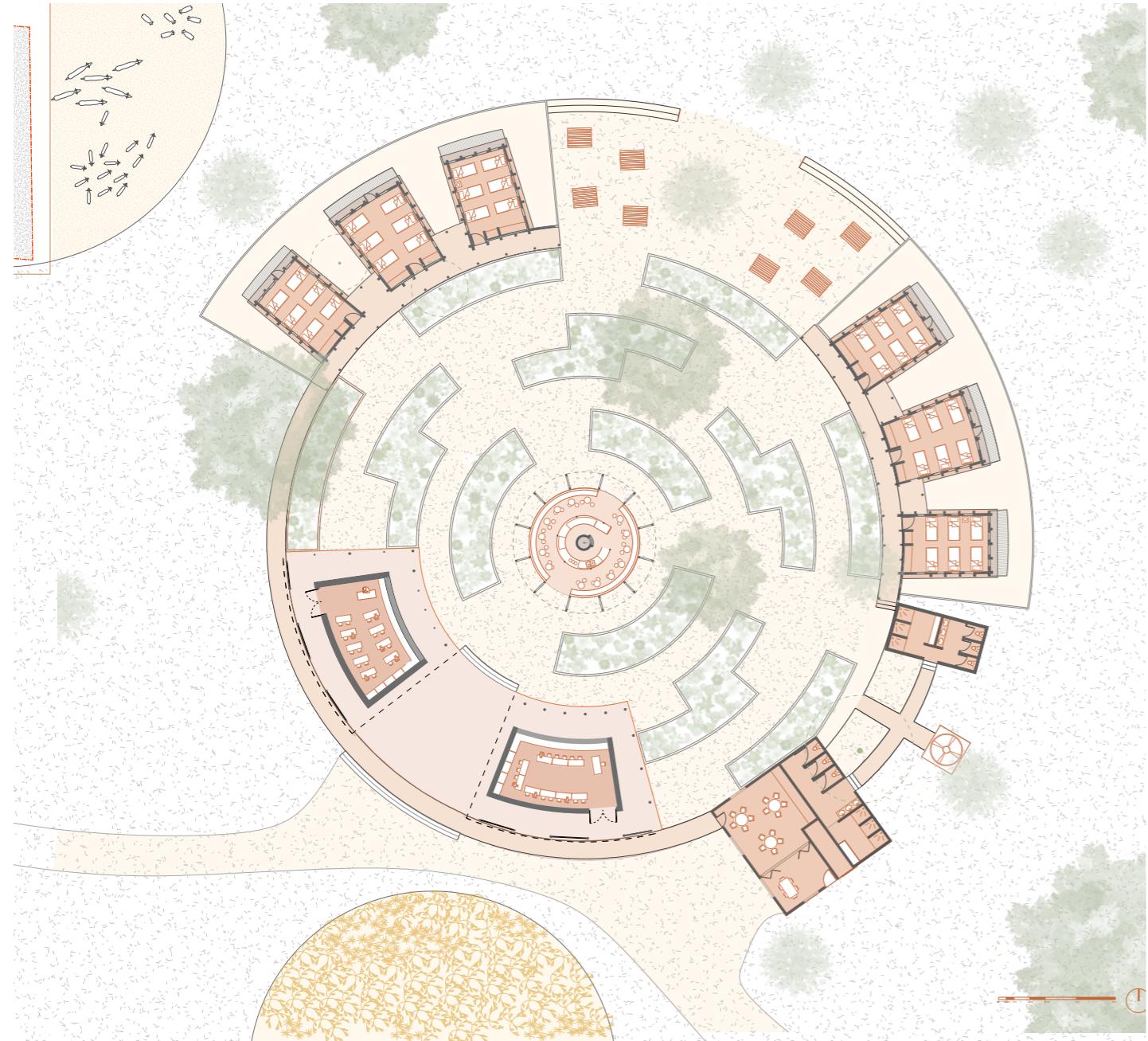
The main buildings are built: dining, kitchen, classrooms and bedrooms.

5. CONNECT

Connect all buildings with paths.

6. GREEN UP

Using rings and axes again create a pattern for communal orchards.







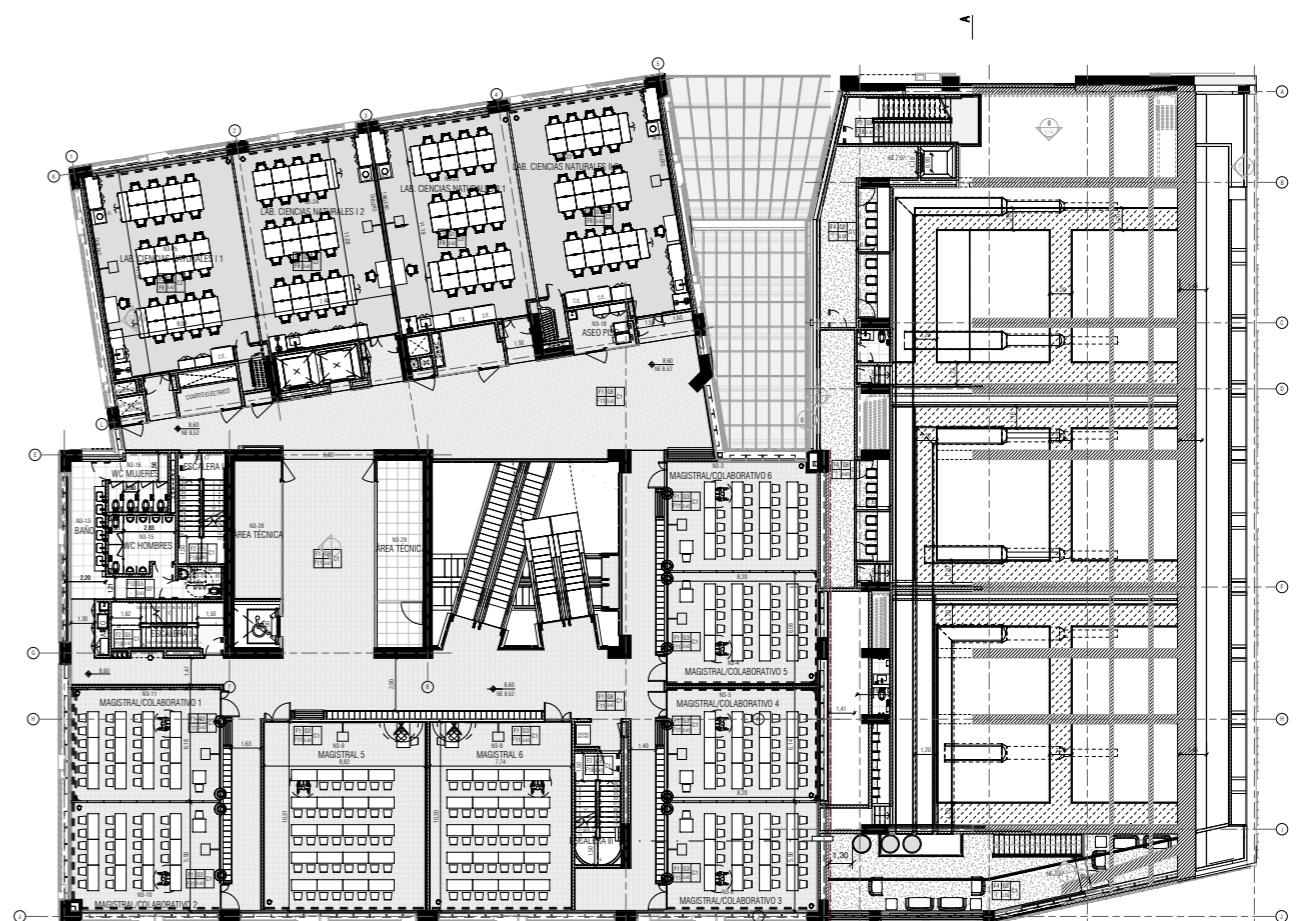
## Laboratories Universidad del Rosario

De la Carrera Cavanzo  
+ Moneo Brock

BIM Coordination + Details

The Quinta Mutis Campus expansion is a major urban renewal project in the Siete de Agosto neighborhood of Bogotá, developed under the Regularization and Management Plan led by Universidad del Rosario. The proposal introduces a terraced building that respects and enhances the heritage value of the National Cultural Interest Asset (B.I.C.), opening it to the city and establishing it as a central element in the transformation of the block.

The project replaces a series of temporary structures in the southwest corner with a new building that integrates sustainable public space and improves the urban environment. It aims to reflect the university's values while adapting to contemporary needs, creating a campus that is open, inclusive, and serves both students and the surrounding community.



Level 13 floor plan

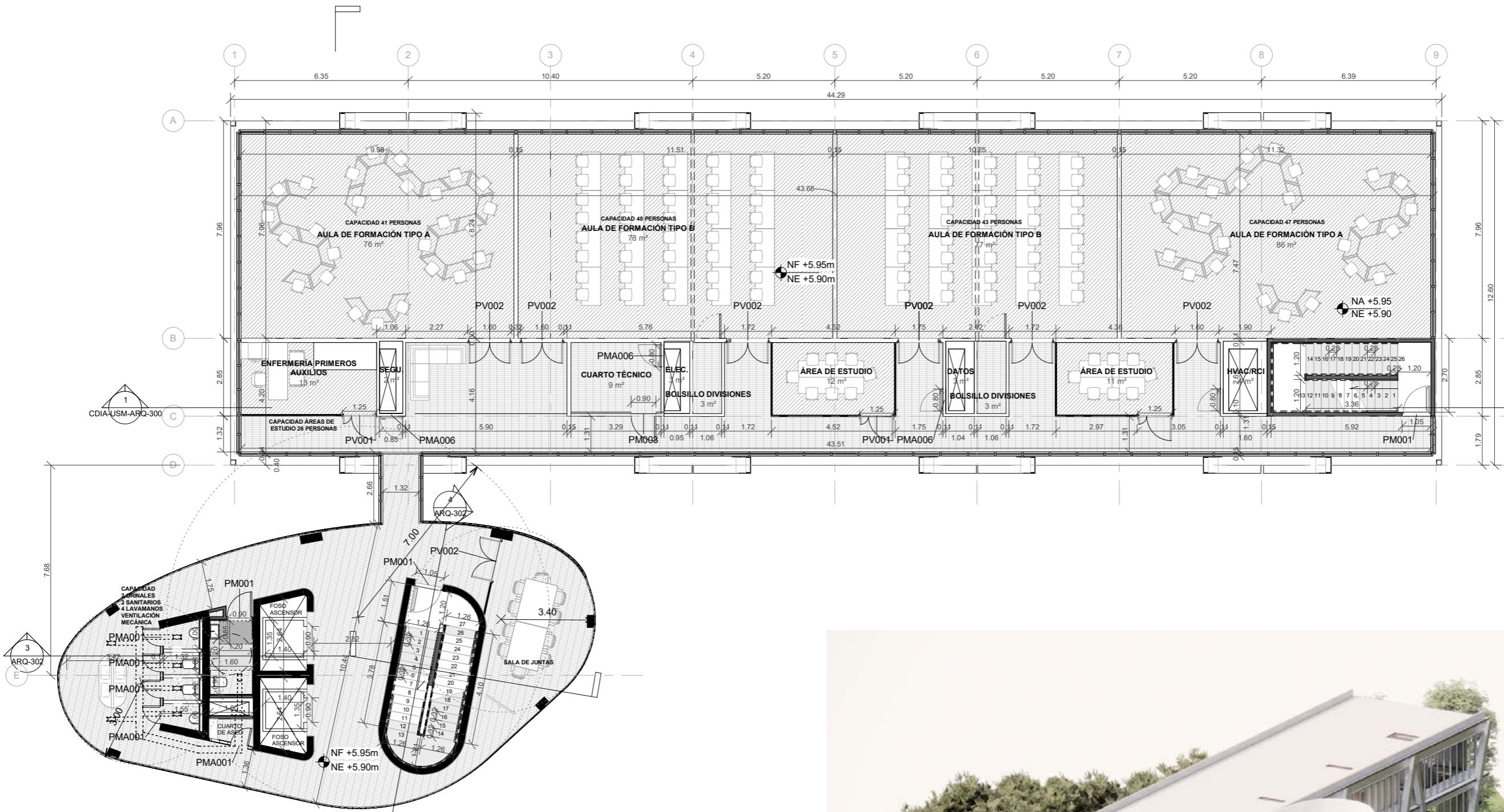


Architectural Model



Architectural Section





# Artificial Intelligence Centers

De la Carrera Cavanzo

I participated in the full development of two Artificial Intelligence Centers in collaboration with the Ministry of Information and Communication Technologies (MinTIC) in Colombia.

These projects aim to provide children and young people with access to technology, connectivity, and educational opportunities in underserved areas.

The entire design process—from initial concept to licensing—was carried out in Revit and completed within a demanding five-month timeline. This included architectural design, technical coordination, and documentation. Both centers are expected to be completed by 2026, and they represent a significant step in using architecture to support social transformation and equitable access to technology.



# VIVE CLARO

De la Carrera Cavanzo+  
OCESA

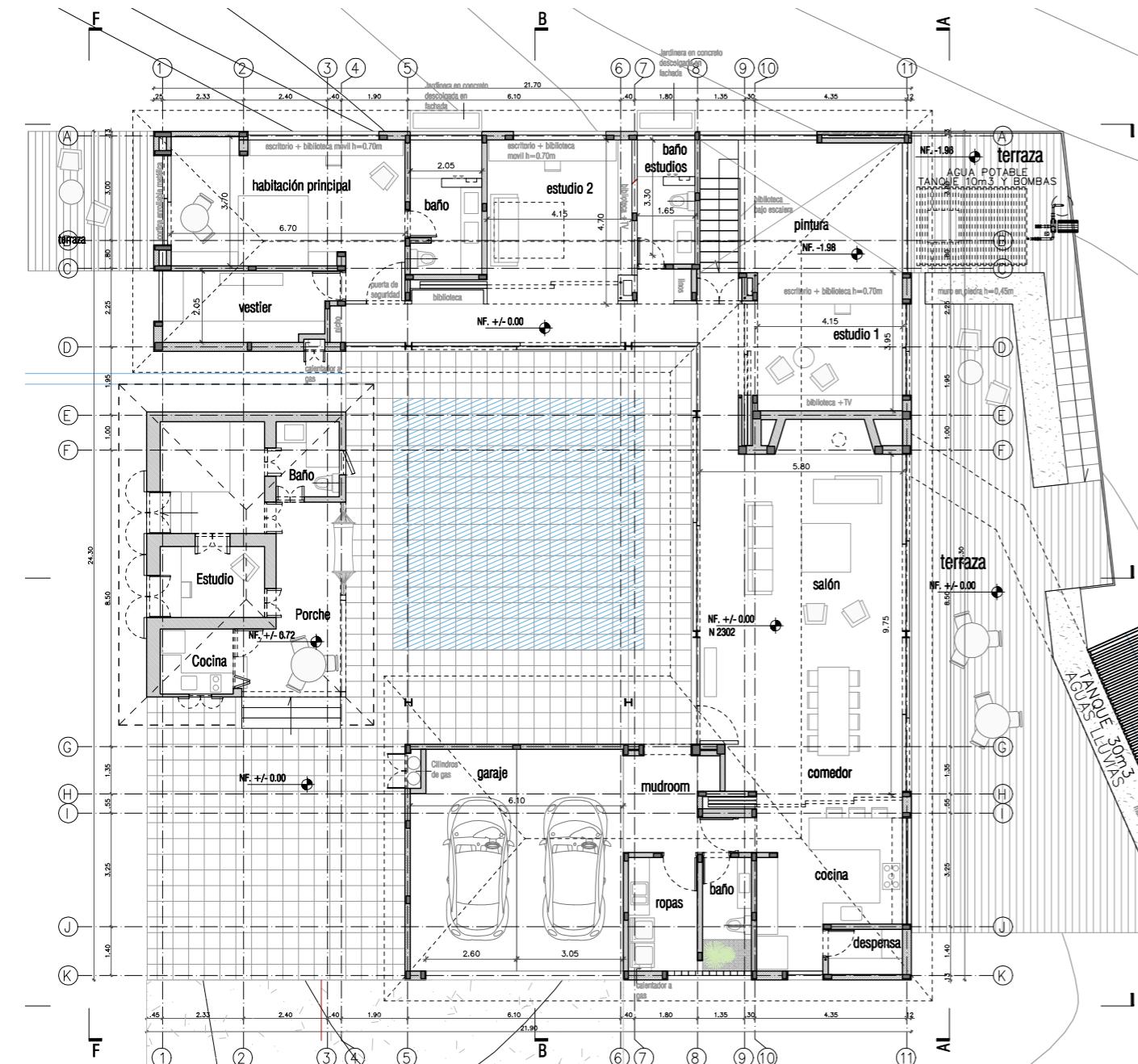
Vive Claro is a major cultural and entertainment venue under construction in Bogotá, located on a 260,000 m<sup>2</sup> site (around 2.8 million ft<sup>2</sup>). It's set to become one of the most important event spaces in the city, boosting Bogotá's position as a destination for large-scale concerts and public gatherings.

Artists like Green Day, Guns N' Roses, and Shakira are already confirmed to perform. The venue will host international shows while offering public green spaces and infrastructure that benefits the surrounding community.

I was in charge of all architectural renders and technical drawings for the project, with a strong focus on developing the master plan. I worked on the complete plannimetry and visual material, helping define the overall layout of the venue and supporting design coordination and updates throughout the process.

I also spent three months on-site, helping develop the master plan and supervising key stages of construction. We worked with NUSSLI, Ditapsa, and other partners to coordinate operations, event production, and landscape design.





## CASA SIE

De la Carrera Cavanzo

This project is a house for an artist located in Barichara, Colombia, designed in two phases. The first phase restores a small existing structure and adds a subtle extension. Using local materials like stone, clay tiles, and rammed earth, the design respects the town's traditional architecture.

I was responsible for the full set of technical drawings and planimetry, coordinating the documentation required for construction. The house is conceived as a quiet, inspiring retreat that connects with the landscape and local craft. Construction is expected to begin in 2026.

