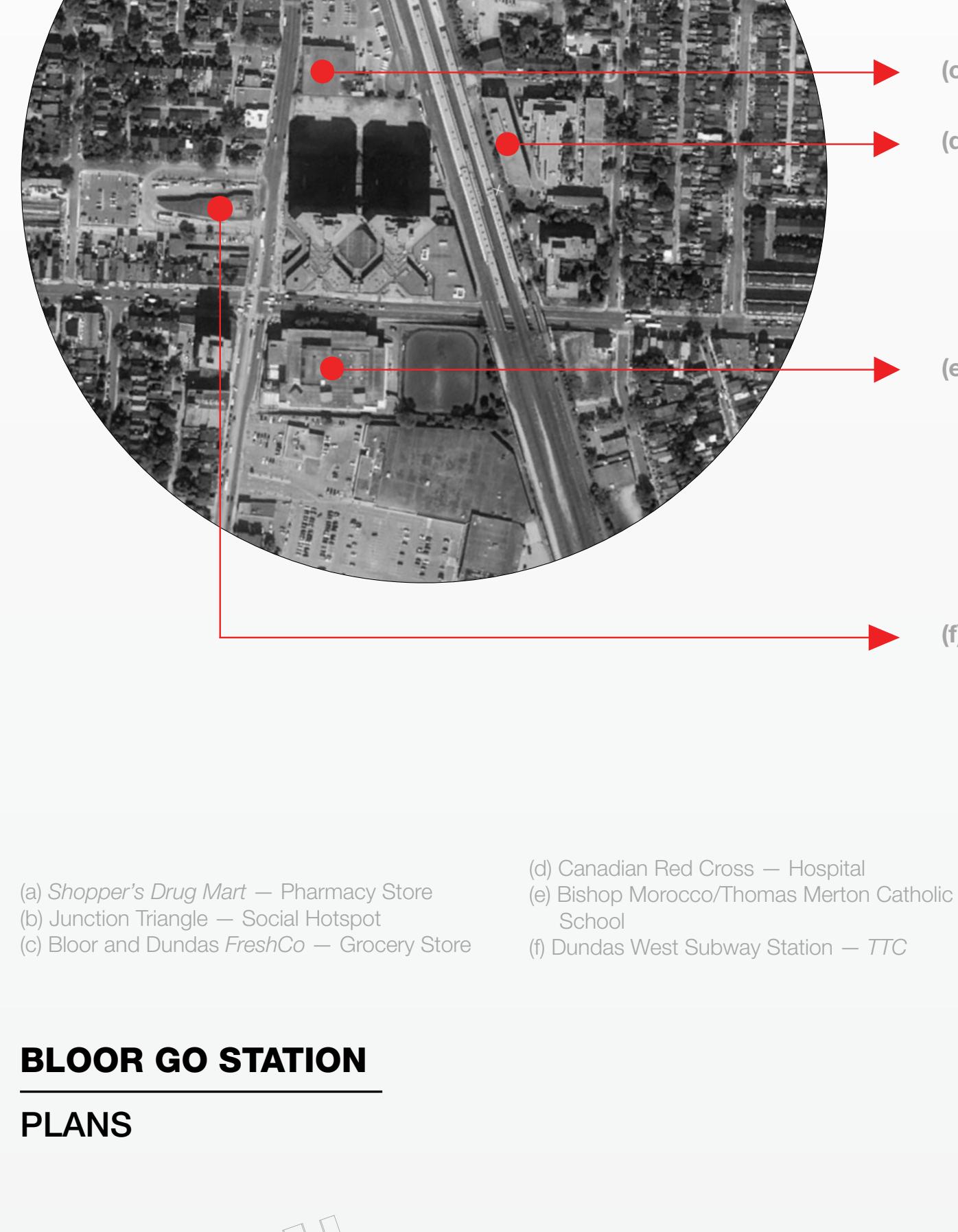


# CONNECTING LOOP

## PEDESTRIAN MARKET & ASYLUM CENTER



(a) Shopper's Drug Mart — Pharmacy Store  
(b) Junction Triangle — Social Hotspot  
(c) Bloor and Dundas FreshCo — Grocery Store  
(d) Canadian Red Cross — Hospital  
(e) Bishop Morocco/Thomas Merton Catholic Secondary School  
(f) Dundas West Subway Station — TTC

The disintegration of public infrastructure and isolation caused by the long and uninterrupted train tracks has turned the junction into a physically and psychologically disconnected area in the city of Toronto.

Located on top of the train tracks, the proposed Market serves as a loop that creates direct as well as indirect connections between the three neighborhoods intersecting at the junction. Additionally, the proposed design would enhance the integration between public spaces, such as healthcare services, transportation services, school, etc., while improving the bike and pedestrian circulation. Moreover, the Market itself, with its open plan and a focus on cultural art related programs promotes the integration of the diverse communities of the neighborhood, with the refugees living in the Asylum Centre located right above the market. With modules for the Asylum Centre scattered over the Market, the design of the Asylum Center encourages the interaction between the refugees and the existing community.

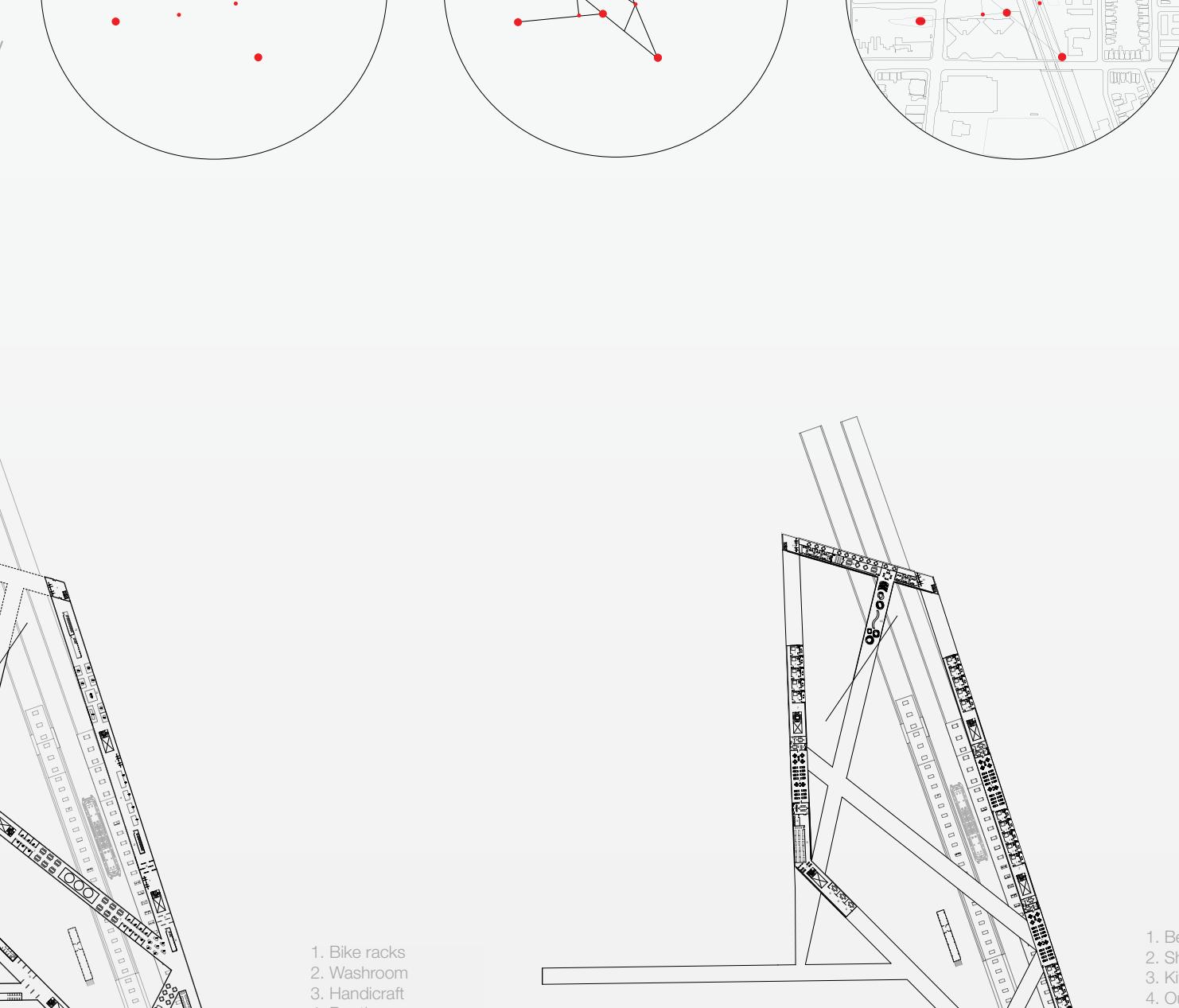
The overall design of *Connecting Loop* shows a glimpse of what happens when infrastructure provides connection and for its users.

### BLOOR GO STATION

#### CONCEPT PLANS

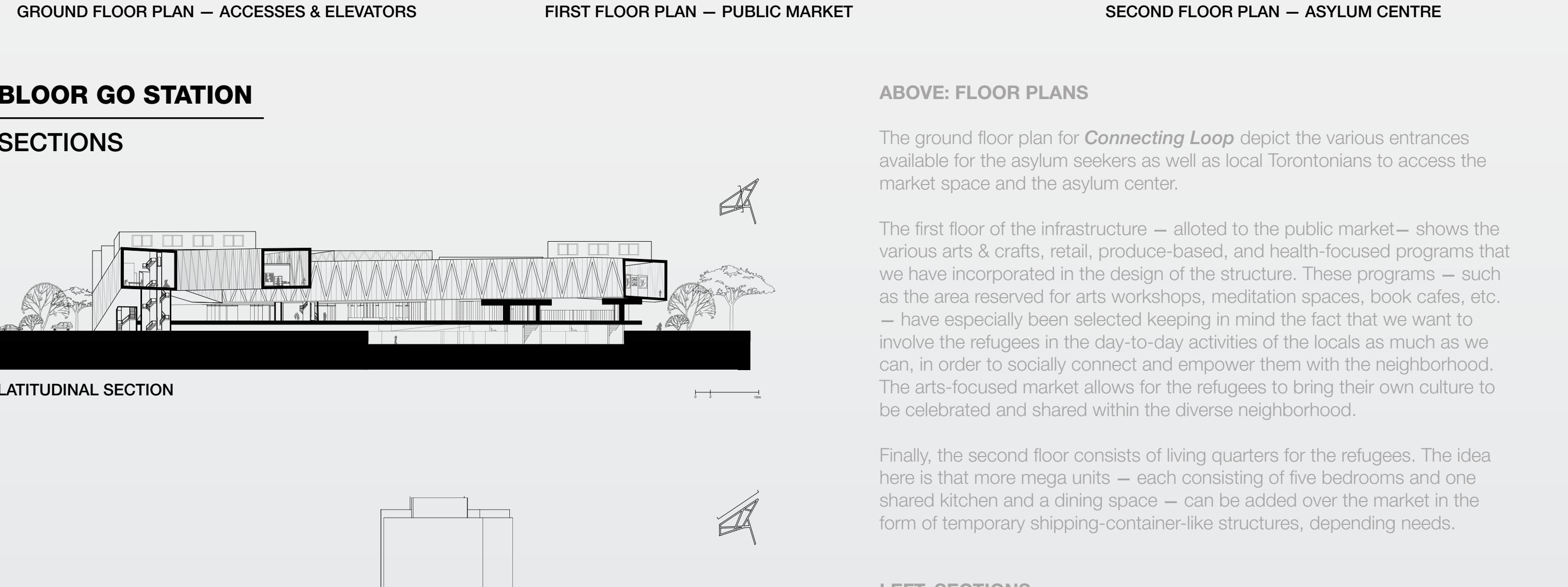
*Connecting Loop* is a project that has been derived from the very concept of connecting the form of the bridge-like market, with places pertaining to basic necessities around it—like food, education, healthcare and public transportation — through the formation of a loop. This has been done for a multiple reasons, with our priority lying in ultimately connecting the refugees with the lively fabric of the city, so they can simultaneously provide basic necessities to themselves and their families, as well as to socially integrate refugees with the locals.

In order to come up with the structure, we located places like a school, hospital, TTC bus and subway stops, and food market closest to our site and physically connected them to come up with a web-like structure. The form was later simplified by reconfiguring the entry and exit points for the aforementioned services in order to come with the form of the market-cum-asylum-centre.



### BLOOR GO STATION

#### PLANS



GROUND FLOOR PLAN — ACCESSES & ELEVATORS

FIRST FLOOR PLAN — PUBLIC MARKET

SECOND FLOOR PLAN — ASYLUM CENTRE

#### ABOVE: FLOOR PLANS

The ground floor plan for *Connecting Loop* depicts the various entrances available for the asylum seekers as well as local Torontonians to access the market space and the asylum center.

The first floor of the infrastructure — allotted to the public market — shows the various arts & crafts, retail, produce-based, and health-focused programs that we have incorporated in the design of the structure. These programs — such as the area reserved for arts workshops, meditation spaces, book cafes, etc. — have specially been selected keeping in mind the fact that we want to involve the refugees in the day-to-day activities of the locals as much as we can, in order to socially connect and empower them with the neighborhood. The arts-focused market allows for the refugees to bring their own culture to be celebrated and shared within the diverse neighborhood.

Finally, the second floor consists of living quarters for the refugees. The idea here is that more mega units — each consisting of five bedrooms and one shared kitchen and a dining space — can be added over the market in the form of temporary shipping-container-like structures, depending needs.

#### LEFT: SECTIONS

The latitudinal and longitudinal sections give a glimpse of the lively market and asylum centre when in use, along with how different programs would work together on the second floor. The sections also give an idea of the industrial looking facades of the structure, made up of steel trusses and beams, further adding on to the idea of “connection” by mimicking the aesthetic of a bridge.

