



A - LAB
The new Aarhus School of Architecture will provide the tools and opportunity for students to remove the boundary between theory and practice. Just as Institute for (X) and Godsbanen already inspire activity in this industrial context, A-LAB will anchor the spirit of exploration for Godsbanearealerne and Aarhus K. The new school will not just be a center for education; it will be a laboratory for students and the community to engage through architecture.



A - LAB
As in any laboratory, the studio workspace will be optimized with the proper tools and materiality to support prototyping, building mock-ups, and large-scale models. Beyond what is necessary, the architecture would be reserved and simple to not obstruct creativity and to successfully meet the project's budget. Simple steel frame and concrete light decking construction as in any industrial workspace. The emphasis is not in form of the space itself, but rather the creativity and production that the space enables.

A LABORATORY

When given the right tools and opportunity, we engage our surroundings. Godsbanearealerne already prove this by inviting the local community to turn a former industrial railway into a cultural campus. It has become home to cultural gatherings, informal experiments, and artistic sculptures, all anchored by Godsbanen and the Institute for (X). While these anchors provide the tools the public needs, the chemistry of the creative community actively participating in the area gives it true life. This creative chemistry is the perfect inspiration of how an institute can engage through architecture. Rather than be defined by a singular architectural doctrine, the school should be an open framework for experimentation as Godsbanearealerne already is. It should not just be an architecture school – It should be an open laboratory for the evolution of architecture. It should share its program with the public and allow for informal interactions. It should simply empower students with tools and an open laboratory so that they can learn by creating.

LAB-SPACE

The design of a laboratory starts with a simple, functional workspace. The studio workspaces of the school will be formed like an industrial building – open in plan and democratic by design with large spans, high ceilings, and plenty of natural light. This industrial structure provides only the essential framework for space, melting into the background to allow for student creativity and experimentation. It also fits within the industrial context of Godsbanearealaen. Its compact form is energy efficient, economic to build, and preserves most of the competition area for added uses.

LAB-GROUPS

An open laboratory provides endless possibilities, but the best ideas come from collaboration on a more personal scale. The open laboratory floor shifts into several connected design groups to create more intimate settings while maintaining an open plan. This breaks the large scale of the school down to collaborative workspaces, perhaps into specific departments or one or more studios that may work together on common projects. Meanwhile, students can still wander freely throughout the lab-space along a central spine to find inspiration from their colleagues throughout the school.

TOOL TOWERS

A laboratory is not complete without its tools. Rather than prescribe a specific procedure for architecture, the school will simply give the tools for students to author their own process. The school's enclosed programs and special resources are grouped by their common needs and purposes into tool towers within the voids of the laboratory space. These tool towers act as the connective spatial and functional elements between floors, allowing the laboratory workspace to remain open for innovation while efficiently providing the necessary resources.

CREATIVE CHEMISTRY

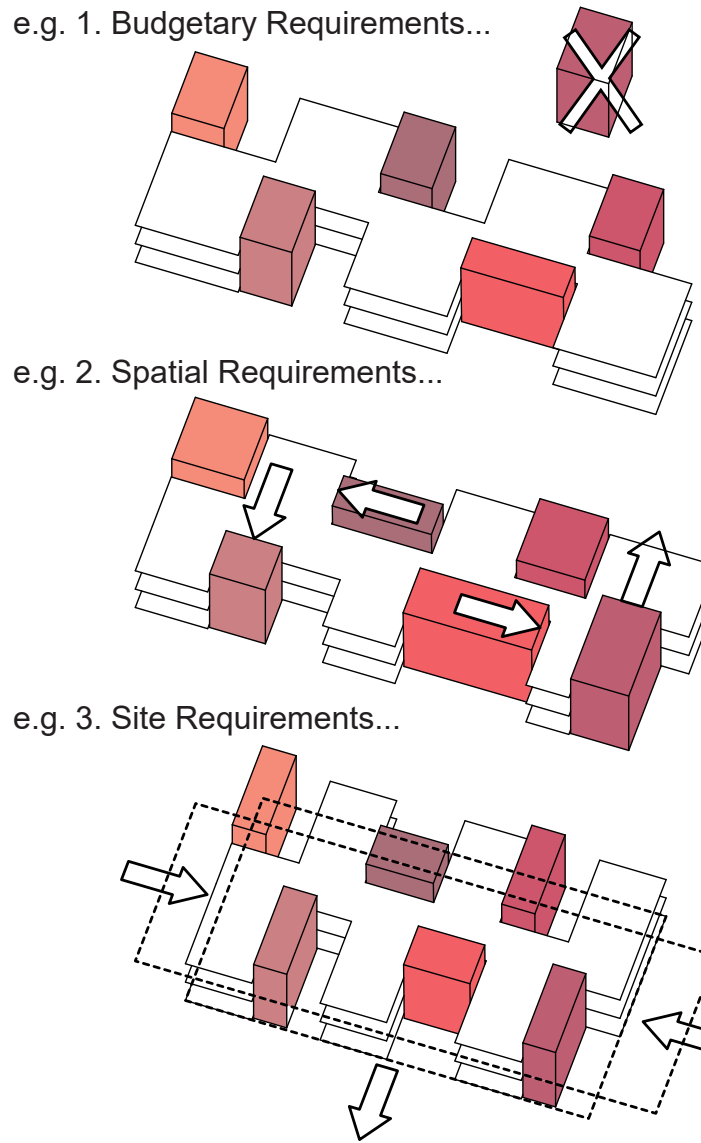
These programmatic tool towers are incubators for an open field for creativity in the same way that Godsbanen and Institute for (X) currently anchor the experimentation around them. They will help further transform Godsbanearealerne into Aarhus K – a center for creativity, art and culture. The New School will give back by sharing its functions around its perimeter such they can be accessed by the public when desired. This open campus allows interactions between students and the local community to occur naturally and informally.

A FLEXIBLE CONCEPT

This concept is an open system that can adapt to meet the school's needs as they change from day to day or over time. Each function tower is surrounded by open lab-space; They can easily borrow from the lab-space to provide temporary exhibition areas, critique venues, or added auditorium / event space. They can easily close portions of their functions without affecting the operation of the entire school. The spatial concept is robust, and the design can also easily evolve to meet needs in the phase two of the competition. For example: (1) The number of tool towers can easily be changed to respond to changes in the budget. (2) The diagrammatic floorplan can evolve to something less regular to accommodate different program requirements that arise in further design. (3) The entire plot and/or building envelop can shift to fit changing needs of the masterplan or budgetary constraints.

GROUND FLOOR: AN OPEN LAB

A-LAB will break down traditional boundaries between architectural theory and practice by providing an open ecosystem for ideas and collaboration. It will be an open laboratory that encourages informal experimentation both inside and outside the building. The ground floor alternates in fixed public programs and open lab-space that can accommodate various events and interactive programming. The tool towers of the interior continue outwards as small pavilions in the open park, programmed by other complimentary functions outside of the school.



SITEPLAN

The massing of the school will continue the axiality and direction of Godsbanen. This placement lets the Green Wedge continue to the heart of the site and to connect with the pedestrian axis from the city center. At this intersection is a large open public space which the surrounding cultural programs feed into. It is the outdoor laboratory for architecture students and the local community to experiment and engage with each other.



A POROUS BORDER

The towers and voids activate life all around the perimeter through a soft edge that lets life flow in an out. The school is the shared center-piece of an integrated urban vision.

A FUNCTIONAL SPINE

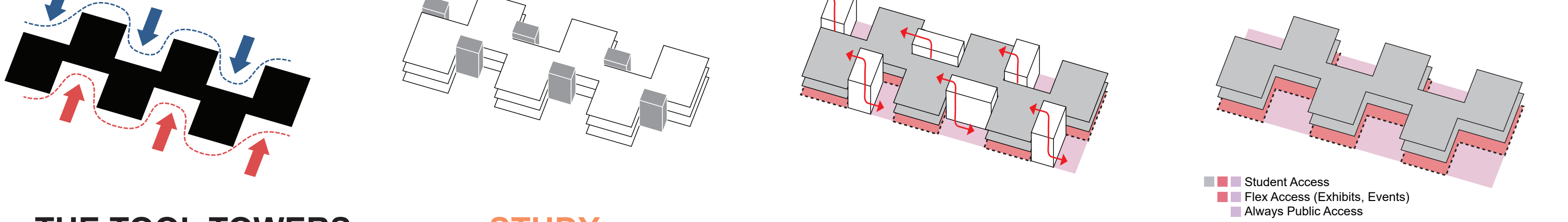
The towers also provide necessary mechanical, storage, and programmatic services evenly throughout the building in a very efficient manner.

A CLOSE CONNECTION

The towers and open atriums also connect theory and practice – allowing the necessary distinction between public and private realms, but connecting the two worlds so they inspire one another.

SHARED SPACE / SECURE SPACE

The building is the centerpiece of a campus with access from all sides. The ground floors of towers always have public access. The space in between is a 'flex zone' + either workshop/studio space or periodically open to the public. Access to studio space above is regulated through the towers.



THE TOOL TOWERS

STUDY
0. Library: 350 m² (gross)
1. Library: 175 m²
2. Discussion Group Rooms: 175 m²
3. Discussion Group Rooms: 175 m²

CRAFT
0. Archi-Tech Book/Paper Store: 350 m² (gross)
1. Pottery Lab: 125 m²
2. Material Labs: 1250 m²
3. Acoustics and Daylight Lab: 125 m²

MEET
0. 81. Auditorium: 350 m² (gross)
1. Student Center: 125 m²
2. Large Classroom: 125 m²

LAB SPACE

0. Open Workshops: 2500 m² (gross)
1. Studio Space: 250 m²
2. Studio Space: 250 m²

CONNECT

0. Entrepreneurship Centre: 75 m² (gross)
1. Overnight Accommodation: 75 m²

BUILD

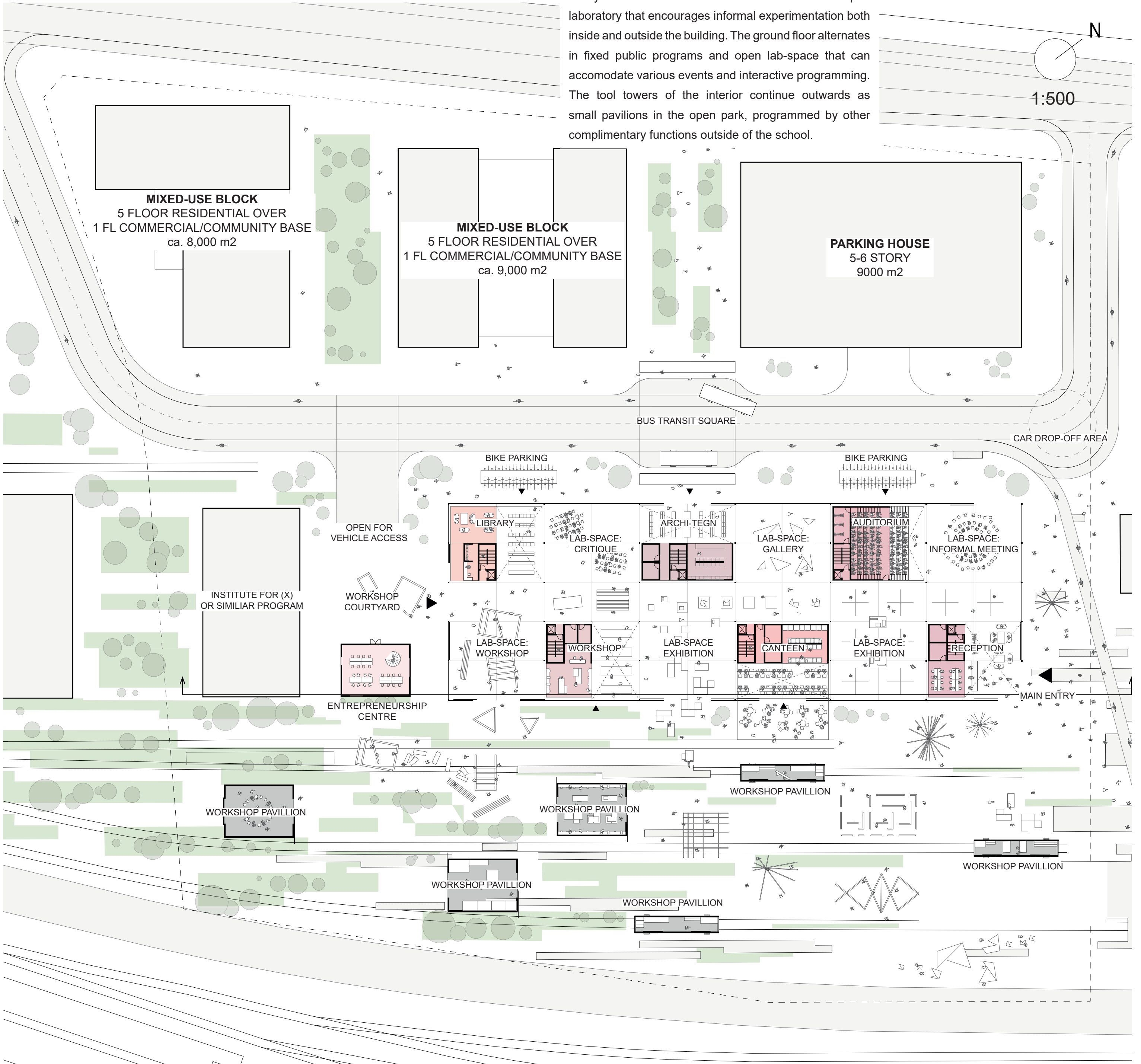
0. Open Workshop: 350 m² (gross)
1. Wood Workshop: 125 m²
2. Metal Workshop: 125 m²
3. Ceramics Lab: 125 m²

SOCIALIZE

0. Canteen: 300 m² (gross)
1. Student Center: 125 m²
2. Student Kitchen: 125 m²
3. Student Kitchen: 125 m²

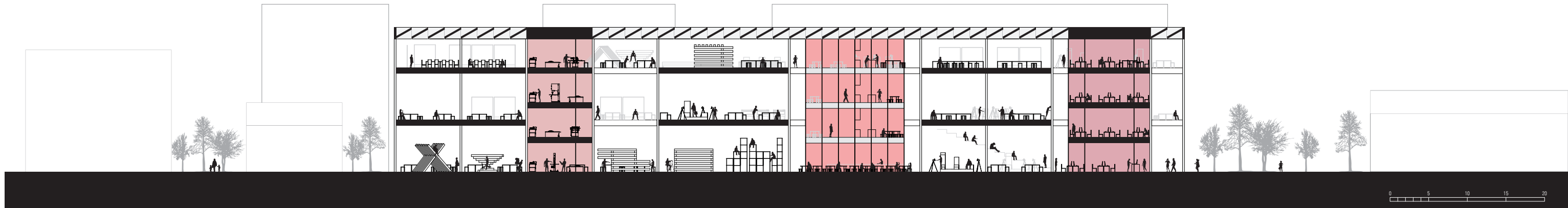
ORGANIZE

0. Reception: 350 m² (gross)
1. External Relations / Intern Center: 250 m²
2. Administrative/Technical Staff: 250 m²
3. Administrative/Technical Staff: 250 m²
4. Academic Staff: 250 m²



An Efficient Form

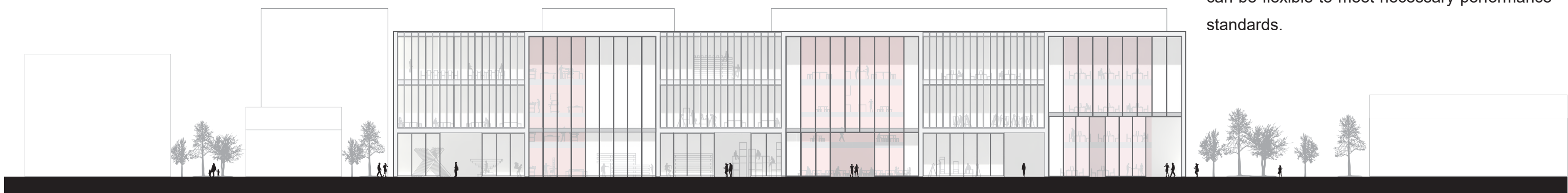
The orientation and form of the building is ideal for providing daylight at all times of the day. The compact volume also concentrates the activity of the building into one simple envelop - for both environmental and social sustainability.



SECTION 1:500

A Flexible System

The facade incorporates passive shading to manage interior light quality and energy consumption. The proposal is simplified to reflect the building's overall transparency and can be flexible to meet necessary performance standards.



ELEVATION 1:500