

DISTRICT COURT KAVREPALANCHOWK

kavrepalanchowk, Nepal

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of requirements for the degree

of

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ABSTRACT

The proposed design for the District Court Kavrepalanchowk, aims to create a functional, efficient, and accessible judicial facility that meets modern legal and infrastructural demands. The project will focus on improving circulation flow, enhancing security measures, and incorporating sustainable and user-friendly design elements.

The design seeks to address existing challenges, such as limited parking space, congested corridors and staircases, insufficient waiting areas, and inadequate courtroom capacity. By introducing separate circulation routes for judges, the public, and detainees, the new layout will improve security and operational efficiency. Flexible courtroom spaces, improved office arrangements, and digital integration will streamline case processing and reduce delays.

Inspired by international best practices in courthouse design, the project emphasizes transparency, accessibility, and sustainability. The use of natural lighting, energy-efficient systems, and durable materials will enhance functionality while minimizing environmental impact. The proposal also includes modernized judicial benches, expanded waiting areas, upgraded sanitation facilities, and a properly planned canteen space to improve user experience.

Through thoughtful spatial planning and contemporary architectural principles, the new District Court Kavre design will create a just, inclusive, and efficient legal environment, ensuring better service delivery for the growing population.

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1. INRRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

A court is an essential institution in any legal system, responsible for ensuring justice, resolving disputes, and upholding the rule of law. It serves as the official body where legal cases are heard and decided by judges, juries, or magistrates. Courts play a crucial role in maintaining social order by enforcing laws and protecting the rights of individuals. The need for courts in society is significant, as they provide a structured system for resolving conflicts, interpreting laws, and ensuring accountability. Without courts, disputes between individuals, businesses, and governments would remain unresolved, leading to chaos and injustice. Courts also act as protectors of human rights, ensuring equal access to justice regardless of social or economic status. Beyond their legal role, courts strengthen democracy, promote social stability, and contribute to economic growth by enforcing contracts and protecting property rights. They also help prevent crime, reduce discrimination, and build public trust in governance. By ensuring fair and impartial judgments, courts serve as the foundation of a just and orderly society.

1.2 INTRODUCTION:

Nepal's judicial system is an independent branch of government tasked with upholding justice, interpreting laws, and safeguarding constitutional rights. It operates under the principle of separation of powers, ensuring a balance between the executive, legislative, and judicial branches. Nepal follows a unitary legal system influenced by both common law and civil law traditions.

The Supreme Court is the highest judicial authority in Nepal, originally established in 1940 A.D. as Pradhan Nyaya Laya, meaning "Apex Court." It was later renamed the Supreme Court following the Supreme Court Act of 1956. The Constitution of Nepal (2015) affirms the judiciary's autonomy, ensuring fair trials, human rights protection, and adherence to the rule of law. Below the Supreme Court, High Courts operate at the provincial level, and District Courts handle cases at the local level. Additionally, specialized courts address specific legal matters such as commercial disputes and corruption cases.

The judiciary plays a vital role in preserving democracy, resolving disputes, and protecting citizens' rights. Efforts have been made to improve transparency, efficiency, and accessibility, yet challenges such as case backlogs, judicial independence concerns, and limited access to justice in rural areas remain significant issues.

1.3 IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT

Kavrepalanchok has witnessed significant population growth over the past few decades, increasing from 288,805 in 1981 to 364,039 in 2021, with a decadal growth rate of 6.39% and an annual increase of 0.63%. This rise in population has led to a higher caseload in the district court, where approximately 20 cases are filed daily, totaling around 4,800 cases annually on working days. However, the existing courtroom infrastructure is inadequate to manage this increasing volume, causing nearly 30% of cases to face delays each month, which negatively impacts the justice system.

The primary goal of this project is to design a modern, efficient, and functional courthouse that addresses these challenges by providing adequate space, contemporary facilities, and an optimized layout to enhance judicial efficiency while reducing delays. The design will focus on improving accessibility, security, and circulation, ensuring a seamless movement for judges, legal staff, litigants, and the public. By integrating these elements, the project aims to create a well-structured, future-ready judicial facility that can efficiently accommodate the growing population and increasing caseload in the district.

1.4 OBJECTIVES:

The primary objectives of this thesis project are to:

- Ensure sufficient space, modern facilities, and a well-organized layout for efficient judicial operations.
- Enhance workflow and minimize delays through improved spatial planning.
- Prioritize ease of movement and safety for judges, staff, litigants, and the public.
- Design seamless movement pathways within the court premises.
- Implement digital case management and virtual hearings to streamline processes.
- Incorporate eco-friendly design elements for long-term environmental benefits.
- Ensure adaptability to accommodate growing caseloads and judicial demands.

- Maintain privacy while enhancing user experience and accessibility.
- Build a court infrastructure that supports the justice system's sustainability and efficiency learn how library can revive itself in terms of design and space in the age of the globalization of everything.

1.5 SCOPE AND LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

Improving Nepal's court infrastructure is essential, as many courthouses have become outdated and struggle to meet modern demands. Upgrading them with better facilities, security, and technology can enhance efficiency and accessibility. However, several challenges exist. Many courts operate in old buildings with limited space, and some lack proper record-keeping systems. Additionally, delays in case processing have become a growing concern. This study will focus on the conditions of district courts in Nepal, particularly in the Kathmandu Valley. Finding accurate data on modern court facilities may be difficult, but improving the judicial system remains crucial to ensuring fair and efficient justice for all.

1.6 METHODOLOGY:

To achieve these objectives, the research will use a combination of qualitative and quantitative methods. This may involve literature reviews, case studies of national and international courthouses, site visits, user surveys, and architectural modeling and visualization techniques. Additionally, collaboration with legal professionals, court administrators, urban planners, and community stakeholders will play a crucial role in shaping the design process. These approaches will help develop a modern, efficient, and accessible court infrastructure that meets the evolving judicial needs.

1.7 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

Based on the research findings, the thesis project will develop architectural proposals for the future design of courthouses. This may involve:

- Designing flexible and adaptable spaces that can accommodate various judicial functions, including courtrooms, mediation rooms, and public waiting areas, ensuring efficiency and ease of use.
 - Incorporating sustainable design principles, such as passive heating and cooling, green roofs, and energy-efficient systems, to reduce environmental impact and promote long-term resilience.
 - Integrating digital technologies for case management, virtual hearings, and automated record-keeping to enhance judicial efficiency and accessibility.
 - Emphasizing inclusivity and accessibility by incorporating universal design principles, ensuring that court facilities are welcoming and accessible to people of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.
- .

1.8 EXPECTED OUTCOMES:

The thesis project is expected to:

- Examine how courthouse architecture can shape justice, strengthen societal trust, and foster community engagement.
- Offer innovative design solutions and strategies that address the diverse needs of both the public and the judicial system.
- Contribute to the progression of architectural discussions on sustainability, public safety, and the design of civic spaces.
- Encourage future architects and designers to reimagine courthouses as inclusive, transformative spaces that promote fair and accessible justice for all.

1.9 CONCLUSION:

As an architecture student, I believe district courts are crucial as they represent the cornerstone of hope for those seeking justice. These spaces must be designed to uphold the principles of fairness, accessibility, and trust. By rethinking their design, we have the chance to create environments that not only support legal functions but also stand as symbols of equity and public trust in the justice system. I am eager to explore how courthouse design can evolve for the 21st century, integrating creativity, sustainability, and inclusivity to craft courthouses that embody justice and equity, while fostering trust, connection, and community engagement in a rapidly changing world.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Courts are vital institutions in any legal system, ensuring justice, resolving disputes, and upholding the rule of law. They maintain social order by enforcing laws and protecting individual rights, offering a structured process for resolving conflicts and interpreting laws. Without courts, disputes would remain unresolved, leading to chaos and injustice. They also protect human rights, ensuring equal access to justice for all.

Beyond their legal function, courts strengthen democracy, promote social stability, and support economic growth by enforcing contracts and protecting property rights. They help prevent crime, reduce discrimination, and build public trust in governance, making them the foundation of a just society.

In Nepal, the judicial system is an independent branch of government, ensuring justice, protecting constitutional rights, and interpreting laws. The Supreme Court, established in 1940, is the highest authority, followed by High Courts and District Courts. The judiciary operates under the principle of separation of powers, with efforts to improve transparency, efficiency, and accessibility. However, challenges like case backlogs and access to justice in rural areas remain key areas for reform.

2.2 BACKGROUND

In context of the world, the evolution of legal systems has been shaped by significant milestones throughout history. In 3000 BCE, the Code of Ur-Nammu in Mesopotamia introduced written laws. In 1754 BCE, Hammurabi's Code in Babylon established the "eye for an eye" principle. By 500 BCE, Athens developed a democratic judicial system, involving citizens as jurors in trials.

In 27 BCE, the Roman Empire introduced a structured legal system with the "Twelve Tables," influencing Western legal traditions. The Common Law system emerged in Medieval England during the 1100s, followed by the Magna Carta in 1215, which established due process and limited the power of the monarchy. By the 1600s, European and colonial courts began gaining judicial independence.

In 1787, the U.S. established the Supreme Court, influencing legal systems worldwide. In the 1800s, courts expanded globally, adopting practices like trial by jury and judicial review. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) was founded in 1945, followed by the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR) in 1950.

In 2002, the International Criminal Court (ICC) was established to prosecute severe crimes such as war crimes and genocide. Today, courts continue to evolve, embracing digital technology and promoting international cooperation in the pursuit of justice.

The history of courts in Nepal spans from ancient times to the present, evolving through various dynasties and political changes. Starting from the Gopal, Ahir, Kirat, Soma, and Lichchhavi dynasties, early legal systems were shaped by religious texts like Mundhum and Smriti(s). Over time, Nepal's court system adapted to political shifts, culminating in key milestones such as the establishment of the Supreme Court and the introduction of the Muluki Ain (National Code). The judicial framework has since undergone reforms and developments, evolving into the modern system in place today

2.2.1 Ancient Period

It was the time before Nepal Sambat or before the promulgation of Manav Nyaya shastra dating between 1400 B.C. to 700 B.C. Gopal Dynasty was the 1st ruling dynasty, followed by Ahir Dynasty, Kirat Dynasty (from Circa 10th Century B.C. to 3rd Century B.C.), Soma Dynasty (beginning of 4th Century AD). Lichchhavi Dynasty concurrently with Thakuri Clan of Amshu Verma (4th & 5th Century AD). Mundhum, Smriti(s) including other Hindu religious scriptures shaped the legal norms and behavior.

During this period courts were divided as:

- Kuthar: Related to the collection of revenue, land tax and settlement of land related disputes.
- Suli: Criminal court where heinous crimes were looked into.
- Lingual: Looked into welfare and development affairs.
- Mapchok: Family court

2.2.2 Medieval Period

It started from the Malla dynasty who were ruling concurrently in Kathmandu, Lalitpur and Bhaktapur from 1320 AD until the unification of Nepal. Also, Kathmandu Valley and its surroundings including other autonomous states known as Baise and Chaubise Rajyas had their own system. This period also marked the beginning of Nepal Sambat. Promulgation of Manav Nyayashastra/Nyayabikashini by Jaya Sthiti Malla in 6th Century (after 1350 AD) consolidated the judicial system. Central judicial system had the following courts:

- Kotiling: Civil court that tried cases related to property, public interest, rights and duties.
- Itachapali: Criminal court.
- Provincial level court system.
- Local level court system.

2.2.3 Modern Period

It started in 1853 AD (1910 BS). ^aThe sources of laws in the initial phase were the dicta of the rulers documented as Ram Shah's 26 Royal Edicts, Prithvi Narayan Shah's Divine Counsel, etc. With the beginning of the Rana regime, Muluki Ain (National Code), 1864 was promulgated and modern-day legislations and court system were formed. The courts were as follows:

- The Kausal (Council)- It was the supreme executive and legislative body having original and appellate jurisdiction in both civil and criminal cases. At this time, the function of judicial work under the Kausal was separate but under the executive control followed by judicial processes.
- The Sadar Courts- It comprised of four courts namely Kotiling, Itachapali, Taksar, Dhansar, looking over five heinous crimes.
- The Gaunda Court- It issued death sentences which were carried out only after Lal mohar from the central government.
- The Jilla Adalat - District court
- The Amal Adalat - Civil court.

2.2.4 Key Developments:

- **1853 AD (1910 BS):** 1st Codified Law.
- **1940 AD:** The Judicial Administration Act-High Court, District Court and State Court under Supreme Court.
- **1963 AD:** Enactment of Muliki Ain (National Code)
- **1964 AD:** District Court, Zonal Court, and Supreme Court
- **1973/74 AD:** The Judicial Administration Reform Act- District Courts, Zonal Courts and Regional Courts and Supreme Court
- **1992 AD:** Enactment of the State Cases Act

2.3 EXISTING COURT STRUCTURES

Supreme Court, seven high courts (with additional eleven Benches) for geographical convenience and seventy-seven District Courts. Cases at all levels of Courts are allotted to judges based on Gola process otherwise known as lottery process conducted through procedural guidelines.

The court system in Nepal is structured hierarchically, with different levels of courts handling cases based on their severity and geographical jurisdiction. Here's an explanation of the current court structure:

2.3.1 Supreme Court

The Supreme Court is the highest judicial body in Nepal. It serves as the ultimate authority for interpreting laws, ensuring justice, and resolving constitutional matters. The Chief Justice and other justices are appointed here, and the Supreme Court also has the power to review and appeal decisions made by lower courts.

2.3.2 High Courts

Nepal has seven High Courts located in different regions of the country, with an additional eleven benches for administrative convenience. These High Courts hear appeals from District Courts and other legal matters that require higher judicial authority. They serve as an appellate court, handling cases that are escalated from the district level. The High Courts have a significant role in ensuring fairness and justice at a higher judicial level.

2.3.3 District Courts:

There are seventy-seven District Courts in Nepal, one in each district. These are the courts at the local level, responsible for handling the majority of legal cases, both civil and criminal. District Courts are where most individuals go for initial hearings, and they deal with a wide range of legal issues, from family disputes to property matters and criminal cases.

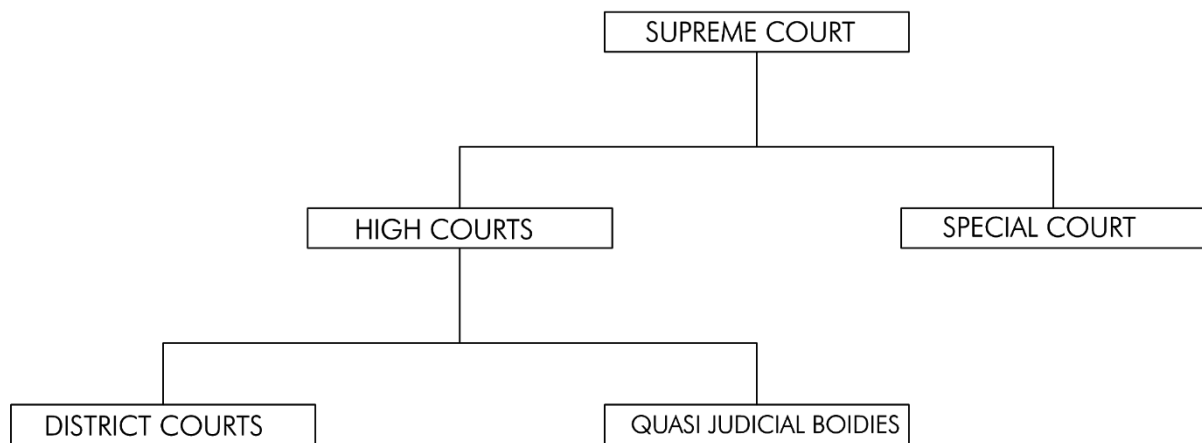


Figure 1 Hierarchy of Courts in Nepal

2.4 TYPES OF COURTROOMS

2.4.1 Based on the Nature of Case

In Nepal, courts are classified based on the nature of the cases they handle. These categories help determine the type of legal issues each court addresses. Here are the main types of courts based on the nature of the cases:

2.4.1.1 Civil Courts

A Civil Court resolves disputes between individuals or entities over non-criminal matters such as property, contracts, or family law. Key features of a civil courtroom include:

- Usual Size (7m x 10m): Courtrooms are typically around 7m x 10m, but they may be larger depending on the case and the number of participants.
- May Require Jury Box: Some civil cases, especially complex ones, may involve a jury to decide the outcome.
- Lesser Security than Criminal Court: Civil courts generally have lower security requirements compared to criminal courts, as they deal with non-violent matters.
- These courts are designed to ensure fair resolution of civil disputes in a more controlled, but less security-focused environment.

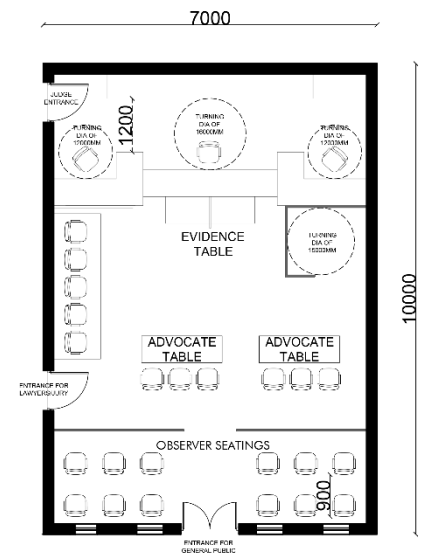


Figure 2 Civil Courtroom Layout

District Courts: Handle civil cases at the local level.

High Courts: Hear appeals from District Courts on civil matters.

Supreme Court: Acts as the final appellate authority for civil cases.

2.4.1.2 Criminal Courts

These courts handle cases involving offenses against the state or individuals, such as theft, murder, fraud, and other crimes.

- Usual Size (9m x 12m): Courtrooms are typically around 9m x 12m to accommodate all participants.
- Compulsory Jury Box: A jury is often required to determine the verdict in serious criminal cases.
- Presence of Law Enforcers: Officers maintain order, ensure security, and escort defendants and witnesses.
- More Secured Environment: Higher security measures, including metal detectors, restricted access, and special rooms for high-risk cases, are in place to ensure safety during proceedings.

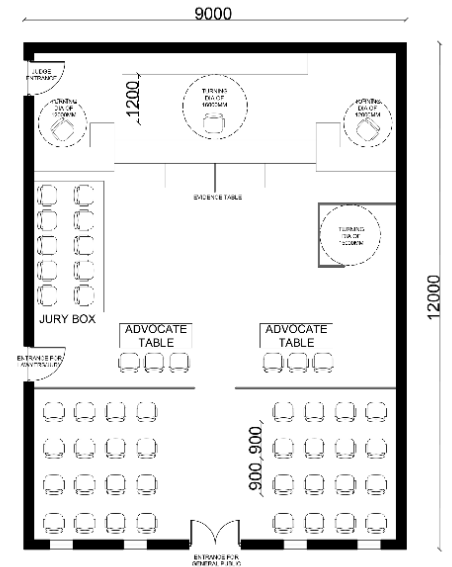


Figure 3 Criminal Court Layout

District Courts: Handle criminal cases at the local level.

High Courts: Deal with appeals related to criminal cases from District Courts.

Supreme Court: The highest appellate body for criminal cases.

2.4.1.3 Family Courts

Specialized courts focused on resolving family-related issues, such as divorce, child custody, and inheritance disputes. These cases are generally handled by District Courts with a family division or specialized family courts in some areas.

- Usual Size (7m x 10m): Courtrooms are typically around 7m x 10m with fewer seating arrangements for participants.
- No Jury Box Required: Family courts usually do not involve a jury, as the judge makes the final decision.
- Private Due to Sensitive Matters: Family court proceedings are typically held in private to protect the confidentiality and privacy of the involved parties.

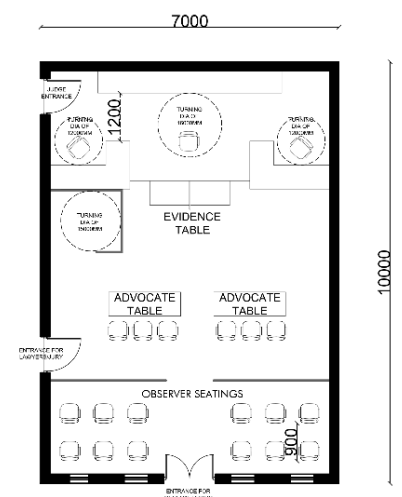


Figure 4 Family Court Layout

2.4.1.4 Domestic violence court

A Domestic Violence Court specializes in cases involving abuse within families or households, such as physical, emotional, or psychological abuse. Key features include:

- Usual Size (7m x 12m): Courtrooms are typically around 7m x 12m, with fewer seating arrangements, focusing on confidentiality and privacy.
- No Jury Box Required: These cases are typically heard by a judge without a jury, as they require sensitive judgment based on the circumstances.
- Private and Secure: Domestic violence cases are usually handled in private to ensure the safety and privacy of victims. Additional security measures are often in place to protect those involved.
- Focused on Victim Protection: The court may include specific measures like restraining orders and child protection orders to safeguard victims.

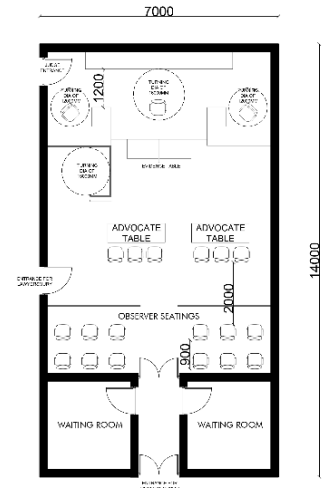


Figure 5 Domestic Violence Court Layout

2.4.1.5 Administrative Courts

These courts deal with disputes between individuals and government bodies, such as issues related to public administration, government policies, and the exercise of government powers. Administrative Courts Deals specifically with public law and administrative disputes.

2.4.1.6 Specialized Courts

Some cases, like corruption, tax-related issues, and specific laws related to social justice, may be handled by specialized courts. For example, the Special Court deals with corruption cases, while the Labor Court handles disputes related to employment and workers' rights.

2.4.1.7 Constitutional Courts

The Supreme Court serves as the ultimate authority on matters related to the constitution,

interpreting the constitutionality of laws and government actions. It also has the power to review laws and policies in terms of their compliance with the Constitution of Nepal.

2.4.2 Based on the Layout of the Court

Courts can be classified based on the layout and arrangement of the courtroom seating and furniture. Here are some common types of courtroom layouts:

2.4.2.1 Centre Bench Layout

- Description: The judge's bench is at the center of the room, facing everyone.
- Size: Typically, 9m x 12m or larger.
- Purpose: Used for most civil, criminal, and family cases, providing clear visibility for all parties.

2.4.2.2 Corner Bench Layout

- Description: The judge's bench is placed in one corner, facing the room.
- Size: Typically, 7m x 10m to 9m x 12m.
- Purpose: Offers a more informal setting and encourages interaction between participants.

2.4.2.3 Jeffersonian Layout

- Description: The judge sits at the head of a large central table, with participants seated around it.
- Size: Usually, 12m x 15m or larger.
- Purpose: Promotes collaboration and communication, often used in specialized courts like family or drug courts.

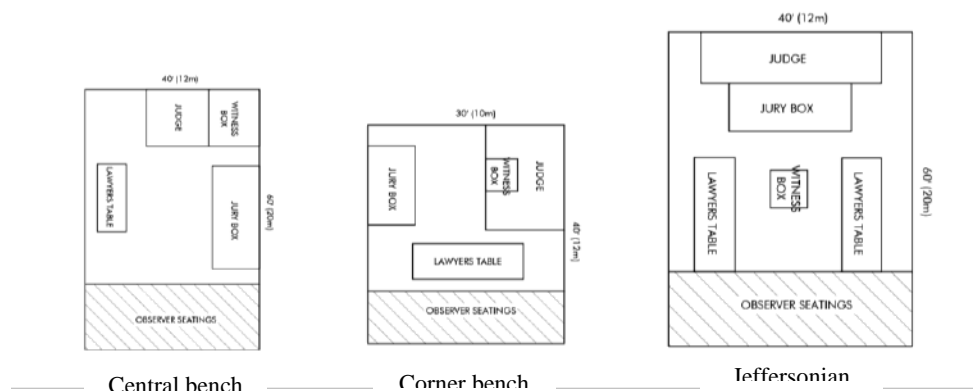


Figure 6 Types of Courtrooms According to Layout

2.5 TYPES OF SPACE IN COURTS

In a courtroom, different types of spaces are designed to facilitate the smooth operation of legal proceedings and ensure safety and transparency. The spaces can be categorized as follows:

2.5.1 Public Spaces

These areas are open to the public, allowing citizens to observe legal proceedings. Examples include the public gallery and waiting areas. These spaces ensure transparency in the judicial system and promote trust by making trials accessible to the public.

2.5.2 Restricted Spaces

These areas are accessible only to authorized personnel, such as judges, attorneys, and court staff. Examples include judge's chambers and attorney offices. Restricted spaces maintain confidentiality and allow for private legal consultations and discussions.

2.5.3 Secure Spaces

Designed to ensure the safety of individuals involved in the trial, such as defendants, witnesses, and court personnel. Examples include the defendant's dock, holding cells, and witness protection areas. These spaces are equipped with security features to prevent disruptions and ensure the safety of everyone in the courtroom.

2.5.4 Interface Spaces

Transitional zones between public, restricted, and secure areas, managing the movement of people. Examples include court lobbies, entrance areas, and corridors. These spaces regulate the flow of individuals and direct them to the appropriate sections of the court.

2.5.5 Service Spaces

These spaces support the operational aspects of the court. Examples include the court clerk's desk, court reporter's station, and legal libraries. Service spaces are essential for document filing, record-keeping, and providing resources for legal professionals.

2.6 PROGRAMS OF COURT

- **Guard House/Security Check:** The entry point for ensuring security within the courthouse, where visitors, staff, and others are screened for weapons or contraband. It helps maintain a safe environment within the courthouse.
- **Help Desk:** A customer service area where visitors, defendants, and attorneys can receive guidance on navigating the courthouse, obtaining case information, and locating specific rooms or offices.
- **Registration/Dispatch Room:** This room handles the registration of legal documents and the dispatching of case files to the relevant departments or courtrooms. It ensures proper tracking and filing of legal records.
- **Case Deadline Extension Room:** A designated space where requests for case deadline extensions are submitted, reviewed, and processed, allowing for flexibility in meeting legal time constraints.
- **Petition/Report Room:** A space where petitions and legal reports are filed and processed. This room plays an essential role in managing legal documentation and requests submitted by parties involved in cases.
- **Public Attorney Room:** A room for public defenders or attorneys representing clients who cannot afford private legal counsel. It provides a place for attorneys to meet with clients, prepare case materials, and strategize.
- **Courtrooms:** These are the central spaces for legal proceedings, where judges, attorneys, witnesses, and defendants gather to present cases. Courtrooms are equipped with seating for the judge, jury (if applicable), legal teams, and the public.
- **Account Room:** A room dedicated to handling financial transactions related to court proceedings, including fines, fees, and other financial matters arising from legal cases.
- **Bench Assistant Room:** This space is for the assistant to the judge, who helps organize case files, prepares documents, and assists with logistical tasks to ensure the smooth operation of the courtroom.
- **General Route Section:** This space refers to a space in the courthouse where daily case logs, evidence, and related documents are organized and processed before hearings. It ensures that all necessary materials are prepared and available for the court proceedings, facilitating an efficient workflow for case management.
-

- **Judge Chamber:** A private office for the judge, where they can review case materials, make decisions, and hold private consultations without the presence of the public or legal teams.
- **Office Heads Room:** Offices for senior staff members who manage the court's operations, such as the court administrator or department heads, overseeing the administrative tasks within the courthouse.
- **Court of Records:** A room where official court records, including case documentation, verdicts, and legal decisions, are kept for reference. These records ensure that court proceedings are accurately documented and accessible when needed.
- **Conference Hall:** A large room used for meetings, training sessions, or conferences involving court staff, legal professionals, or stakeholders. It serves as a space for collaboration and discussions.
- **Meeting Rooms:** Smaller rooms used for private meetings between attorneys, clients, or court personnel. These spaces allow for confidential discussions and case strategy planning.
- **Bar Room:** A space designated for lawyers to meet, relax, or wait between court sessions. It serves as a networking area for legal professionals.
- **Canteen:** A cafeteria or food service area where court staff, legal professionals, and visitors can purchase meals and snacks during breaks in proceedings.
- **Breastfeeding Room :** A private room designed for breastfeeding mothers to nurse their infants comfortably and securely. This space ensures privacy and convenience for nursing mothers within the courthouse.
- **Case Finishing Room:** A designated space where case documentation is finalized, signed, and completed. It ensures that all necessary paperwork is processed before the case is closed
- **Negotiation Chamber:** A private room used for alternative dispute resolution (ADR), such as mediation or settlement negotiations. This space allows parties to discuss and resolve legal disputes outside of the formal courtroom, promoting a less adversarial approach to conflict resolution.

2.7 CONSIDERATION WHEN DESIGNING COURTHOUSES

When designing courthouses, several key considerations are essential to ensure that the facility meets operational, security, and accessibility standards while also maintaining a welcoming and efficient environment.

2.7.1 Security & Safety

A paramount concern in courthouse design is ensuring the safety of all personnel and visitors. This includes designing secure areas for inmates, ensuring controlled access points, and minimizing the risk of security breaches. It's essential to have secure routes for transporting inmates from jail cells to courtrooms, preventing any outside interactions. Courthouses may also feature security checkpoints, surveillance systems, and restricted access zones to protect judges, staff, and the public.

2.7.2 Flexible Floorplans

Courtrooms should be designed with flexibility in mind to accommodate varying case sizes and proceedings. For example, larger jury trials might require more seating for jurors, while family courts may need fewer seats and more privacy. The ability to move furniture or adjust seating arrangements allows courthouses to handle different types of cases efficiently. Some courthouses may also incorporate multiple courtrooms of different sizes to handle diverse caseloads, ensuring that the facility can adapt to future needs.

2.7.3 Aesthetic Upgrades

The design of courthouses should balance functionality with aesthetic considerations. The architecture should reflect the community's values and judicial reverence, while avoiding overly intimidating designs. Combining traditional elements such as wood paneling with modern finishes can create a space that feels both respectful and approachable. The goal is to create an environment that fosters trust in the justice system and minimizes the stress and intimidation typically associated with courtrooms.

2.7.4 Accessibility Compliance

It is crucial that courthouses are designed to be accessible to everyone, including those with disabilities. This includes ensuring compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which mandates barrier-free access to all areas of the courthouse, including

courtrooms, jury boxes, witness stands, and public areas. Courthouses should feature ramps, wide doorways, accessible restrooms, and auditory assistance for the hearing impaired to ensure all visitors and participants can navigate the building without difficulty.

2.7.5 `Technology Integration

The integration of technology is becoming increasingly important in courtrooms. Modern courthouses need to incorporate systems for virtual hearings, video conferencing, and digital case management. This includes installing high-quality sound systems, video screens for presentations, cameras for recording proceedings, and monitors for judges, jurors, and witnesses. Additionally, seamless integration of cabling and power sources ensures that all technological elements function smoothly. This setup allows courts to run efficiently, whether in-person or remotely, and improves overall access to justice.

2.8 GENERAL DESIGN CONSIDERATION

2.8.1 For entry points

A very important aspect in planning of movement of various user groups of the court complex is their segregation at entry points and within the complex. Segregated and secured movement for judges, lawyers and litigants has to be fully assured and is described as under:

- All entry points have to be fully secured by adequate security personals with all state of art surveillance and access control equipment.
- Proper security arrangement and space/provision for keeping personal belongings of all security staff need to be provided at all entry points.

▪ For Judges

- Separate and dedicated alighting points for the judges' vehicles has to be provided.
- From this entry point the judges should be able to reach their chambers on various floors through lifts and stairs.
- This entry should not be used by any unauthorized person at any time.

2.8.2 For Advocates

- A dedicated entry in the Court Block separated from the general public entry will ensure lawyers' timely presence in courts.
- There should be a separate core of stairs and lifts connecting all court floors.

2.8.3 For Litigants/ general public

- Litigants and the visiting public should enter the court complex through an access control and surveillance system dedicated for the purpose.
- For the visitors coming in their own vehicles the car parking lots have to be separated from the main court block and visitors are expected to walk down to the dedicated visitor's entry.
- A multi-gated entry system would need more security deployment and unnecessary repetition of many essential services/provisions.

2.9 AMENITIES

Common amenities in the court block, including the following, are to be provided in the court block for judges, staff and advocates:

2.9.1 For judge

- A meeting room attached to District Judge's Chamber
- A Conference Hall for about 100 persons. Such a hall will need to have good acoustics, seating arrangement and all necessary audio-visual provisions.
- A library for the judges with reading room
- A fully equipped Meeting Room for about 25 to 30 persons.
- Common lunch room for the judges.
- Small meeting rooms as per requirement for 10 to 15 persons
- Judges lounge with attached toilet and a service pantry.
- A VIP lounge for visiting dignitaries.

2.9.2 For the court staff in the administrative areas

- Common room for male staff
- Separate common room for female staff
- Staff canteen
- Supporting centralized kitchen
- De-stress rooms for male and female staff (optional)
- Attached toilets

2.9.3 For the advocates

- Bar Rooms for male and female advocates within the court block.
- supporting library/reading room as part of the bar room.

3. CASE STUDY

3.1 INTERNATIONAL CASE STUDY

3.1.1 Kununurra Courthouse

- Location: Lot 2445, Coolibah Drive,
- Kununurra, Australia (-15.774948"S, 128.738297"E)
- Site area: 4180 sqm (1800 sqm)
- Climate: Temperate Climate
- Topography: Flat Land
- Date:2014
- Architect: Iredale Pedersen hook tags architects
- Landmarks: kununura club resort
- Population: 4,515(Australian census 2021)
- No. of courtrooms: 2



Figure 7 Site Plan of Kununurra Courthouse

3.1.1.1 Project brief

The new Kununurra Courthouse, built on the site of the former facility, incorporates local physical characteristics to reflect the region's distinct identity. It balances a welcoming atmosphere with a dignified and authoritative presence. The new courthouse was designed and built to replace the existing single court facility, constructed in the late 1970s. To withstand the area's heat and humidity, the building is well-insulated, sealed, and pressurized, with sunshades that minimize heat exposure while ensuring privacy.

3.1.1.2 Design concept

The roof design takes inspiration from the surrounding hills and landscapes, including Kelly's Knob and Hidden Valley, creating a visual and experiential connection that respects the local environment and community. The building is designed for an economic design life of 50 years and incorporates the following facilities:

Two courtrooms including a jury courtroom and a magistrate's courtroom, Mediation and pre-trial conference facilities; Jury deliberation area with support facilities; Trials and hearing support rooms; Judicial chambers and support facilities Custody provisions; Courts administration – registries and public service counters and; Public foyer and waiting areas, including secure outdoor courtyards.



Figure 8 Facade of Kununurra Courthouse



Figure 9 Corridor space



Figure 10 Entry Lobby

3.1.1.3 Plan Analysis

The ground floor of the Kununurra Courthouse is thoughtfully designed to balance functionality with cultural sensitivity and user comfort. Upon entering, visitors are greeted by a less formal atmosphere, enhanced by a frieze of Indigenous artwork that adorns the walls, leading past various meeting rooms. The waiting area features seating arrangements made from jarrah, Tasmanian ash, and blackwood, designed in a zigzag pattern that mirrors the undulating peripheral walls, reminiscent of jagged rock formations.

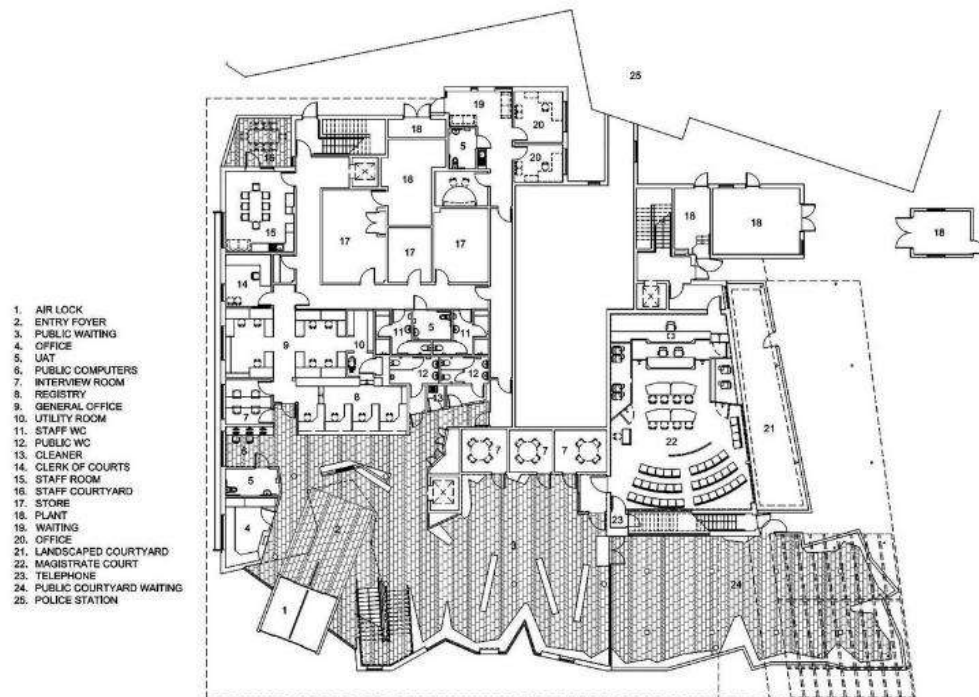


Figure 11 Ground Floor Plan

For those who prefer outdoor settings, a partially covered courtyard at the southern corner of the ground floor offers an external waiting area. This space is larger than the indoor air-conditioned waiting area and caters to individuals, particularly Aboriginal visitors, who may find air conditioning uncomfortable. Additionally, a broad strip of shaded grass outside the entrance provides further waiting space, equipped with both grass and seating options, serving as a significant and well-located amenity.

The first floor of the Kununurra Courthouse is designed to support essential judicial functions, featuring judicial chambers for judges, mediation suites for alternative dispute resolution, and support facilities for administrative staff. The layout prioritizes security and privacy, with controlled access ensuring confidentiality and safety for court personnel and users. Additionally, the architectural design integrates elements reflective of the local landscape, creating a dignified yet welcoming atmosphere. The space is planned to facilitate smooth judicial operations while maintaining a balance between accessibility and functionality.

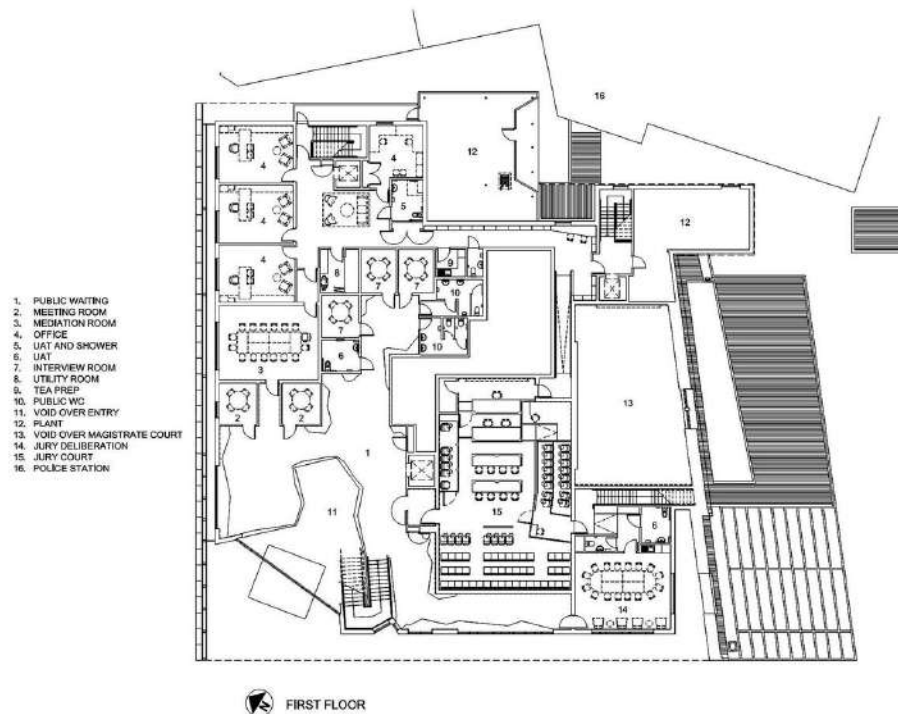


Figure 12 First Floor Plan

3.1.1.4 Integration of Natural Light

The Kununurra Courthouse incorporates natural lighting as a key design element, enhancing both energy efficiency and user comfort. Large windows and skylights allow ample daylight to enter, reducing the reliance on artificial lighting. The design strategically uses shading devices and overhangs to control glare and heat, ensuring a comfortable indoor environment while maintaining privacy and security. The integration of natural light creates a welcoming and open atmosphere, reinforcing the courthouse's role as a space of justice.

and transparency.



Figure 13 Magistrate Court



Figure 14 Jury Court

3.1.1.5 Conclusion

- Spacious entrance providing accessibility, controlled entry, and security screening.
- Well-lit, naturally ventilated, and shaded waiting area for a comfortable experience.
- Use of natural materials and earthy tones to blend with the surroundings.
- Strategic placement of windows and openings for ample natural light and ventilation.
- Open design enhances visibility and security while maintaining a welcoming environment.
- Functional zoning ensures smooth circulation between public, semi-private, and restricted areas.
- Sustainable design elements like shading devices and passive cooling reduce energy consumption.
- Clear division ensuring public access to courtrooms while keeping office areas restricted for security and privacy

3.1.2 Maricopa County Justice Court and Adult Probation Center

- Location: Mesa, Arizona (33°22'52.8"N 111°49'37.1"W)
- Site Area : 22 acres
- Topography: Flat Land
- Date: 2022
- Architect: Gould Evans
- Population: 5,11,648 (2023)
- No. of Courtrooms: 4



Figure 15 3d of Maricopa County Justice Center

3.1.2.1 Project brief

The Maricopa County Justice Center in Mesa, Arizona, will be the consolidated home of four existing regional justice courts and Adult Probation adjacent to an existing Superior Court. Emerging from operations in strip centers scattered across the county, the regional courts historically embraced the strip mall's transactional convenience. A new consolidated facility was envisioned to balance the transactional with the sanctity of justice and to recognize the need for improved customer service, resource efficiency and secure operations. The design approach dismantles the historically intimidating and foreign institutional character of civic facilities.

An important site utilization consideration was the ease of navigation between the superior and justice courts. A single entry to the two distinct courts eliminates confusion, thereby reducing stress. The transparency and openness of the entry lobby are differentiated from the surrounding masses and clarifies wayfinding, concentrates building security, reduces the secure perimeter, and encourages centralized circulation.

3.1.2.2 Plan Analysis

The Maricopa County Justice Court and Adult Probation Center is designed to separate office spaces and courtrooms for better efficiency and security. The ground floor houses administrative functions such as case management, clerks, and probation officers. This area is designed for public accessibility, with spaces for filing paperwork, meeting probation officers, and interacting with staff.

The first floor is dedicated to the courtrooms and judicial spaces, where sensitive legal proceedings take place. By separating the courtrooms from the administrative offices, privacy and security are maintained, and the movement of people is better controlled. This design reduces congestion, enhances security, and ensures that both administrative and judicial functions operate smoothly.



Figure 17 Ground Floor Plan



Figure 16 First Floor Plan

3.1.2.3 Design concept

Unbinding natural light and views in a calibrated manner impacts physiological and psychological well-being. Although the building is planimetrically orthogonal, efficient, and tightly organized, the section reveals dynamic voluminous spaces. The roof lifts at strategically placed monitors, oriented to illuminate spaces of significance and duration, as demonstrated in the courtroom, as well as delivering light into the deepest parts of the building. At the exterior walls, the porous brick facade filters the severe desert sun, screens for visual privacy, and frames a connection to nature. In these ways, the interior is programmed by diffuse durational light and the theatrics of transitional light, providing cues for navigation, establishing a connection to nature, and marking the passage

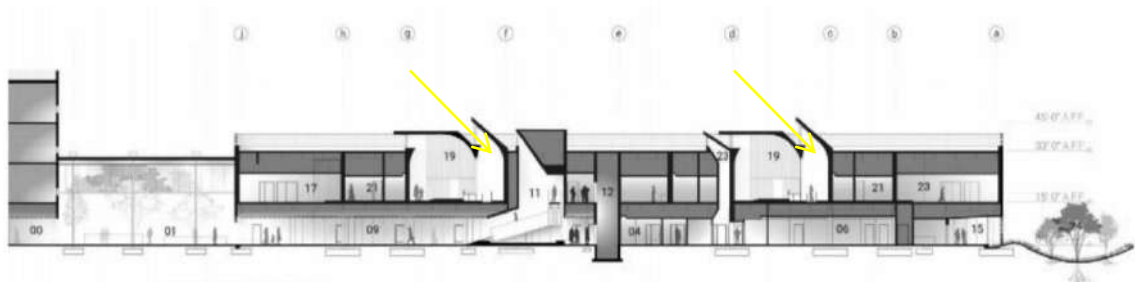


Figure 18 Longitudinal section

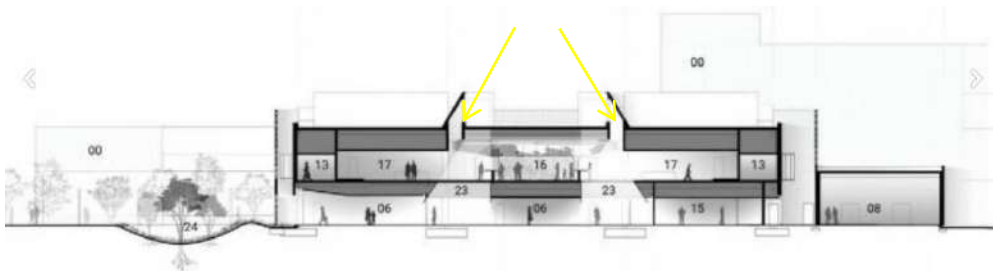


Figure 19 Traverse section

3.1.2.4 Conclusion

- Well-lit, naturally ventilated, and shaded waiting area for a comfortable experience.
- Use of natural materials and earthy tones to blend with the surroundings.
- Strategic placement of windows and openings for ample natural light and ventilation.
- Functional zoning ensures smooth circulation between public, semi-private, and restricted areas.
- The design separates the ground floor for administrative and service functions, such as case management, clerks, and probation officers, ensuring public access without interfering with court operations.
- The first floor houses the courtrooms, providing a secure and focused environment for legal proceedings while maintaining privacy and reducing disruptions.
- Security is prioritized with controlled access points, distinguishing between public, law enforcement, and detainee areas, ensuring safe circulation throughout the building.
- The layout minimizes risks by creating clear separation between public, administrative, and judicial zones, improving overall operational efficiency.

3.2 NATIONAL CASE STUDY

3.2.1 District Court Bhaktapur

3.2.1.1 General Information

- Location: Bramhayani, Bhaktapur
- Site area: 4051 sqm
- Climate: Temperate Climate
- Topography: Contour Land
- Date: 2023
- Landmarks: khwopa hospital, land revenue office
- Population: 4,32,132
- No. of courtrooms: 12



Figure 20 Bhaktapur District Court Building

3.2.1.2 Design Analysis

The Bhaktapur District Court embodies a unique blend of grandness, symmetry, and traditional brick façade, reflecting both the importance of the judicial function and the cultural heritage of Bhaktapur. These architectural elements contribute to the court's overall identity and functionality, aligning with the local architectural style while providing a dignified environment for legal proceedings.

- Grandness: The overall scale and presence of the court building express the importance and authority of the judicial system. This grandeur is achieved through the building's height, monumental entrances, and expansive courtyards, which convey a sense of formality and respect for the legal process. The design likely emphasizes a strong, commanding presence that aligns with the significance of the institution within the community.
- Symmetry: The court's layout and façade are carefully organized to reflect a sense of order and balance, crucial to its purpose as a place of justice. Symmetry in architecture often symbolizes fairness, justice, and stability—qualities essential to the functioning of a court. The symmetrical design may extend across the building's central axis, with equally placed windows, columns, and doors, enhancing the sense of unity and discipline in the space.

- **Traditional Brick Facade:** The façade of the Bhaktapur District Court likely incorporates traditional brickwork, a hallmark of the Newar architectural style prevalent in the Bhaktapur region. The use of locally sourced brick not only grounds the building in its historical context but also provides it with a timeless aesthetic that connects the court to the cultural heritage of the district.

3.2.1.3 Access

The building is accessed via a 6-meter-wide road surrounding the site, with the main public entrance located on the south side. The judges have a separate entry on the west wing, while an entry point for the accused is provided on the east side.

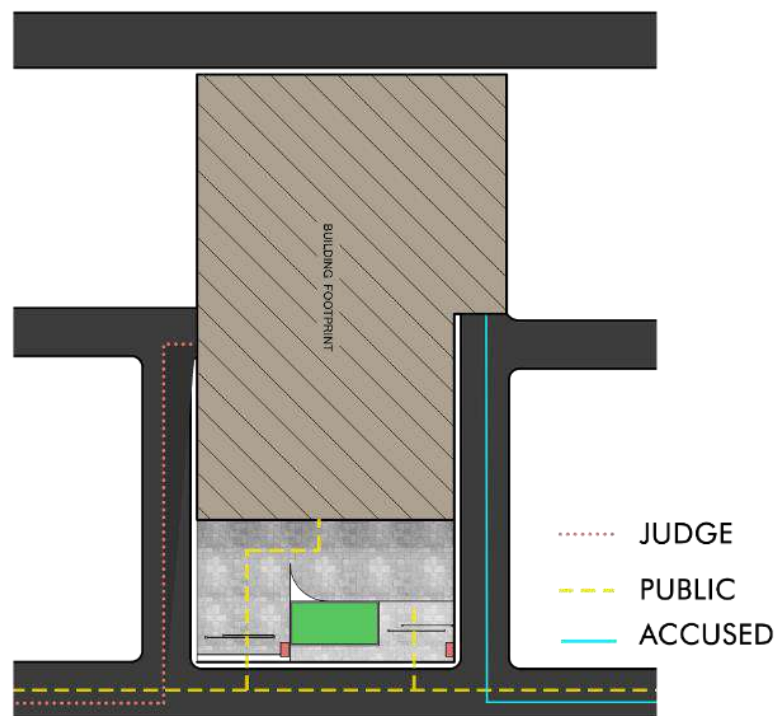


Figure 21 Accessibility Chart of the court

3.2.1.4 Zoning

The zoning of the Bhaktapur District Court incorporates various open spaces to enhance functionality and provide a clear division of public and private areas. At the front of the building, there is an open space that serves as a public gathering area, creating an accessible and welcoming environment. A central courtyard lies at the heart of the building, acting as a communal space primarily used by the public, offering ventilation, natural light, and a

sense of openness. The more private section of the building, reserved for the judges, is located at the north part of the site, ensuring that judicial functions remain secure and separate from the public areas. This thoughtful zoning balances public accessibility with the privacy and security needed for judicial processes.

The vertical zoning of the Bhaktapur District Court is organized to efficiently separate different functions across multiple levels. Basement -2 is designated for public parking, providing convenient access for visitors. Basement -1 is allocated for the judges, ensuring a private and secure area for judicial staff. The ground floor serves as the administration zone, housing offices for clerks, case management, and other administrative functions. The upper floors are dedicated to the courtrooms, where legal proceedings take place. The top floor is reserved for conference halls, offering spaces for meetings, seminars, or judicial conferences. This vertical zoning optimizes the use of space, maintaining clear separation between public, administrative, judicial, and conference functions.

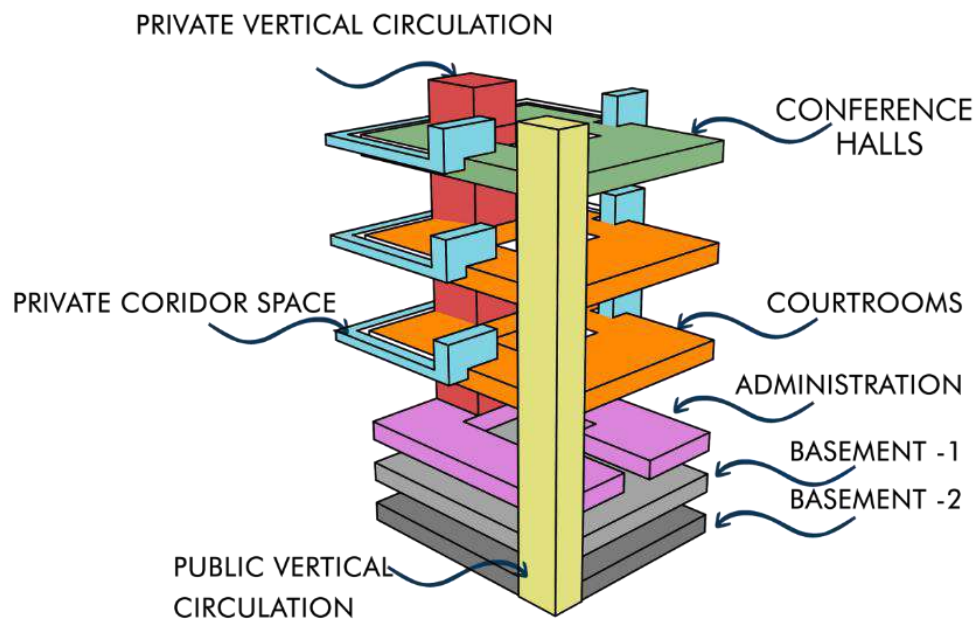


Figure 22 Vertical Zoning

3.2.1.5 Planning

Areas with maximum use are located at the level of the entrance at ground floor and other areas are located above this level reducing the vertical distance to minimum. Quiet study space is far from entrance. Service space almost 30% of the building.

The Basement -2 of the Bhaktapur District Court includes essential facilities to support court operations. It features a parking area with space for 25 cars and 70 bikes, a canteen with 240 sqm seating for 100 people and a 90 sqm kitchen, and utility spaces such as a 35 sqm electrical room and a 25 sqm generator area for backup power. Additionally, there is a restricted area for the judges' passage, ensuring secure access to judicial zones.



Figure 23 Basement -2 Plan

The basement -1 of the Bhaktapur District Court is dedicated to judicial and security functions. It includes the Court of Records, which occupies 600 sqm, providing space for storing and managing legal documents and records. A parking area with a capacity for 10 cars is reserved exclusively for judges and VIPs, ensuring secure and convenient parking for important personnel. Additionally, the floor has a 35 sqm driver's room for the staff accompanying judges and VIPs, and a 96 sqm security section to manage the building's security operations. This layout ensures efficient management of judicial tasks and reinforces the security of the building.



Figure 24 Basement -1 Plan

The ground floor of the Bhaktapur District Court is organized around a central courtyard, with various key programs strategically placed around the open space. Administrative areas such as the Help Desk, Admin, and Admin Head's Office provide essential services and management functions. The Mudda Tamela Room and Mudda Punaravedana Darta handle case processing and re-registration. Public services are easily accessible, including the Bank, Photocopy Room, and Darta Chalani Room for document handling. Legal and financial operations are supported by the Legal Aid Section, Public Prosecutor's Office, and Account Section. Security and support services, like the Security Guard Room and Breastfeeding Room, are conveniently located nearby. The layout ensures efficient movement and accessibility to services while maintaining security, all centered around the courtyard



Figure 25 Ground Floor Plan

The first to third floors of the Bhaktapur District Court primarily house judicial functions, including four courtrooms and a child courtroom, each averaging 7m x 12m. These floors are designed for smooth legal proceedings, with a general route section ensuring organized circulation. Supporting spaces include the Bench Assistant's Office, Victim Room, and Judge Chambers, providing essential facilities for court staff and individuals involved in cases. Additionally, toilets are strategically placed for accessibility. The layout prioritizes efficiency, privacy, and accessibility, ensuring a functional and well-structured judicial environment.

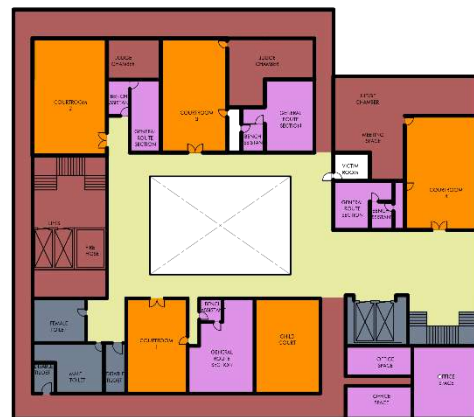


Figure 26 Typical Floor plan

The top floor of the Bhaktapur District Court is dedicated to conference facilities, providing space for meetings, legal discussions, and judicial seminars. The conference hall serves as a venue for administrative gatherings, legal training, and important judicial events. This floor is designed to support collaboration and knowledge-sharing among legal professionals while maintaining a formal and professional setting.

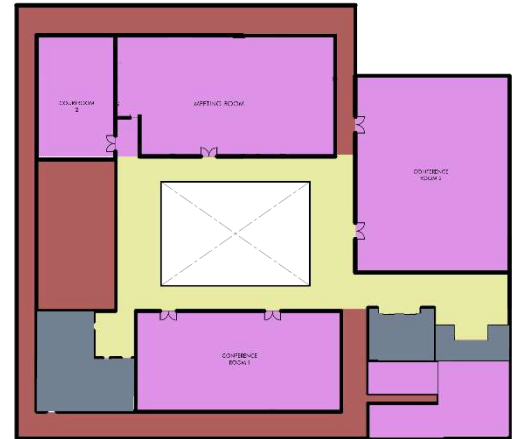


Figure 27 Top Floor Plan

3.2.1.6 Conclusion

- Lack of lighting in basements
- Lack of signage for guidance
- Lack of security in judges parking
- All documentation office around the courtyard causes crowd in peak hours
- The chairs around courtyard minimizes the utilization of the courtyard
- The massive scale of the building doesn't match with the surrounding
- The building is not sustainable
- Lack of space allocation for differently abled people
- Lack of natural lighting

3.2.2 District court kavrepalanchowk

3.2.2.1 General Information

- Location: Dhulikhel, Kavrepalanchowk
- Site area: 4470 sqm
- Climate: Temperate Climate
- Topography: countour Land
- Date: 2021
- Landmarks: land revenue office,kavre
- Population: 3,64,039 (census 2021)
- No. Of courtrooms: 3



Figure 28 Location map

3.2.2.2 Access

The Kavre District Court is accessed from the north side, serving as the single-entry point for all users, including judges, the public, and the accused. The main building is centrally positioned within the site, with the main building serving as the core judicial facility. Surrounding it are additional structures that likely support administrative, security, and utility functions.

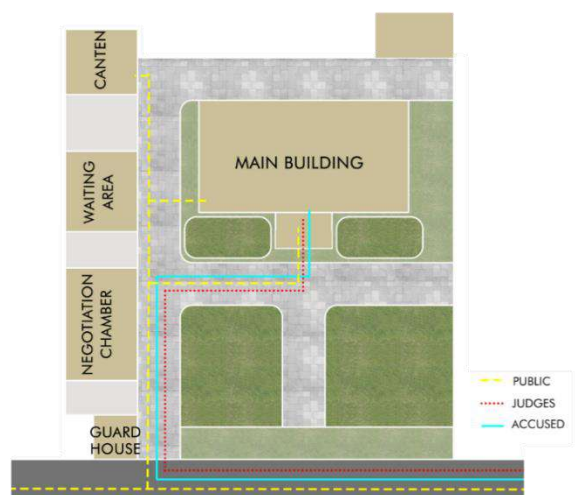


Figure 29 Master plan

3.2.2.3 Planning

The ground floor of the Kavre District Court accommodates key administrative and public services but suffers from poor spatial organization. It includes the General Route Section, Account Section, Admin Head's Office, Registration Section, and Bank, but the lack of clear zoning results in overlapping functions and inefficient circulation. Many offices are clustered together, sharing cramped spaces that limit workspace and accessibility. This congestion leads to crowded pathways, making navigation difficult for both visitors and staff. The current layout affects workflow efficiency, highlighting the need for better functional separation and improved movement flow.

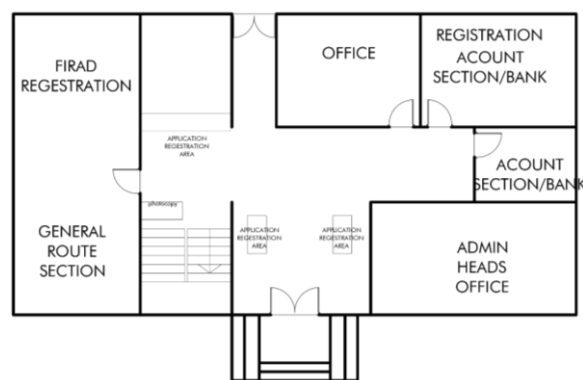


Figure 30 Ground Floor Plan

The first floor of the Kavre District Court primarily accommodates judicial functions, featuring three courtrooms along with the Myad Tamela Room for case processing. However, the spatial arrangement may still reflect congestion. The courtrooms serve ongoing legal proceedings, while the Myad Tamela Room handles case duration management and related documentation.

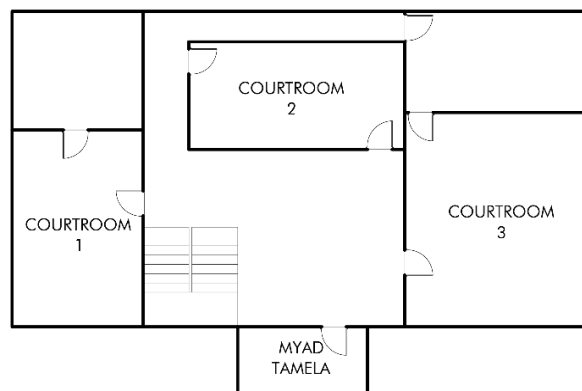


Figure 31 First Floor Plan

3.2.2.4 Conclusion

- There is no separate circulation flow for the public, judges, or criminals.
- The parking area is very limited.
- Office spaces are cramped and disorganized, making document processing difficult and reducing efficiency.
- Toilets are in poor condition and located far from the main building.
- The canteen space is insufficient and inconvenient.
- Except for the main building, all other structures are temporary.
- Only three benches are available, unable to handle the current caseload, causing a 30% case delay.
- The provided benches are small and uncomfortable for users.
- There is no designated waiting area inside the building.
- The corridors and staircases are overcrowded and congested

4. SITE ANALYSIS

Kavrepalanchok District, commonly known as Kavre, is an emerging district in central Nepal, located just east of the Kathmandu Valley. With its administrative center in Dhulikhel, Kavre is becoming increasingly significant due to its proximity to the capital and its blend of natural beauty, cultural heritage, and developmental potential.

Kavre is strategically positioned along the Arniko Highway and other key road networks, allowing for easy access to Kathmandu—making it an attractive location for urban spillover, investment, and commuting. The district is experiencing steady growth in infrastructure, education, health services, and tourism. Its towns such as Dhulikhel, Banepa, and Panauti are evolving into important hubs for education and commerce while retaining their historical and cultural richness.



Figure 32 Map showing kavrepalanchowk district

The district's scenic landscape, ranging from mid-hill settlements to panoramic views of the Himalayas, complements its role as a semi-urban escape from the bustle of the capital. Institutions such as Kathmandu University and several major hospitals in Dhulikhel are contributing to its reputation as a center for academic and healthcare excellence.

Kavre's close integration with Kathmandu's economy and infrastructure, combined with its expanding local development, positions it as a key district in Nepal's regional growth. Its potential for eco-tourism, agriculture, and planned urbanization makes it a model of sustainable peripheral development near the capital.

4.1 WHY DHULIKHEL?

Dhulikhel is a highly appropriate and strategic location for the District Court of Kavrepalanchok due to its administrative, geographical, infrastructural, and symbolic significance.



Figure 33 Map showing dhulikhel municipality

- **Administrative Center of Kavre**

Dhulikhel is the official headquarters of Kavrepalanchok District. Hosting the district court here ensures proximity to other key government offices and administrative institutions, promoting efficiency and coordination in public services.

- **Accessibility and Connectivity**

Dhulikhel lies along the Arniko Highway, providing direct and convenient access from Kathmandu and other towns in the district such as Banepa, Panauti, and Namobuddha. This makes it easily reachable for judges, lawyers, litigants, and the general public, ensuring equitable access to justice.

- **Existing Infrastructure and Urban Amenities**

The town is well-equipped with essential urban infrastructure including hospitals, banks, educational institutions, and hotels. These amenities support not only daily court operations but also visiting stakeholders and court personnel.

- **Institutional Presence and Growth Potential**

Dhulikhel is already home to institutions like Kathmandu University and Dhulikhel Hospital, indicating a mature and progressive urban environment. The presence of such institutions reflects a growing civic culture and a stable socio-economic base—both important for sustaining a major judicial facility.

- **Topographical and Environmental Suitability**

Dhulikhel offers varied but buildable terrain, with a blend of gentle slopes and plateaus suitable for a formal and secure court complex. The surrounding natural landscape also provides a dignified and peaceful environment appropriate for a judicial setting.

- **Symbolic and Cultural Centrality**

As a historic Newar town with a tradition of local governance and civic pride, Dhulikhel symbolically embodies justice, tradition, and progress. Locating the district court here reinforces the town's role as a civic and legal heart of the district.

4.2 SITE LOCATION

The proposed site for the Kavre District Court is strategically located in the heart of Dhulikhel, ensuring excellent accessibility, administrative integration, and civic connectivity. It is positioned within a well-developed urban fabric, surrounded by key public institutions and infrastructure.

Located just 10 minutes walking distance from the Dhulikhel Bus Stop, the site benefits from strong public transportation access, making it easily reachable for residents from across the district, including rural areas and commuters from Kathmandu.

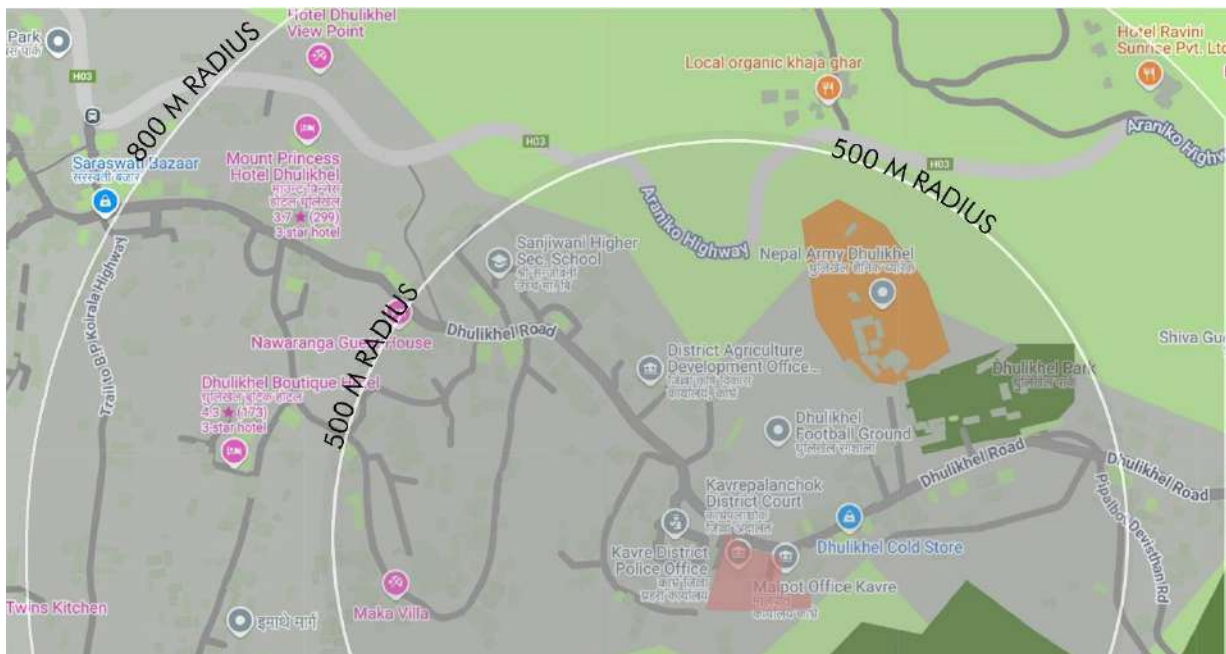


Figure 34 Location map

4.3 PROXIMITIES AND SURROUNDING CONTEXT

- Land Revenue Office – 50 meters

Immediate proximity enables efficient processing and coordination for land and property-related cases.

- Police Station – 50 meters

Ensures strong security support and convenient detainee transfer and coordination for criminal proceedings.

- Dhulikhel Stadium – 100 meters
Reflects the site's location within a vibrant civic zone without compromising the formality required by a court.
- Sanjeevani School – 400 meters
Indicates an active educational zone in the area while maintaining enough distance to preserve judicial decorum.
- Dhulikhel Bus Stop – 800 meters (10-minute walk)
Enhances regional accessibility for litigants, advocates, and court officials through regular bus connections.
- Kathmandu – 29.9 kilometers
Close proximity to the capital supports administrative coordination, legal expertise access, and institutional networking.

4.4 ACCESSIBILITY

The proposed site for the Kavre District Court in Dhulikhel offers excellent accessibility, being just a 10-minute walking distance from the Arniko Highway, one of Nepal's major national roadways that connects Kathmandu with key towns in Kavrepalanchok and beyond. This proximity ensures convenient regional access for litigants, legal professionals, and visitors traveling from the capital or nearby areas.

Additionally, the site is directly served by a 6-meter-wide secondary road, which allows smooth vehicular movement, including two-way traffic, service vehicles, and emergency access. This road not only supports effective traffic management and entry segregation for different users but also integrates the court seamlessly into Dhulikhel's urban and institutional fabric, enhancing both functional efficiency and public convenience.

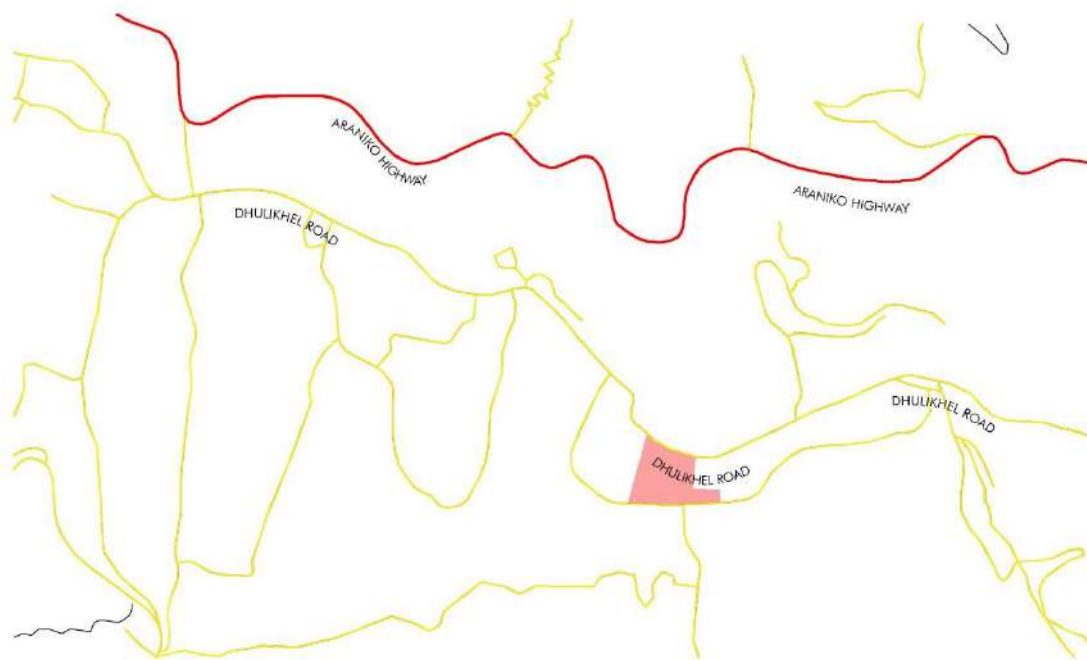


Figure 35 Road networks

4.5 TOPOGRAPHY

The topography of the proposed Kavre District Court site in Dhulikhel is characterized by gentle to moderate slopes, typical of the mid-hill terrain of central Nepal. The site is situated on a gradually rising landform, offering a natural platform for architectural development while allowing for effective drainage, terracing, and layered spatial planning.

This sloped topography provides several design advantages. It enables the court complex to be organized in levels or stepped terraces, supporting functional zoning—such as separating public, semi-public, and restricted areas—while also maximizing natural lighting, ventilation, and views. The slope descends toward the southern side, facilitating passive water runoff and reducing the risk of waterlogging during monsoon seasons. Additionally, the elevated setting offers a dignified presence for the court, reinforcing its institutional importance within the urban landscape.

4.6 CLIMATE

Dhulikhel experiences a temperate mid-hill climate characterized by mild summers, cool winters, and a distinct monsoon season. Situated at about 1,550 meters above sea level, temperatures in summer range from 20°C to 30°C with warm days and cooler nights, while winters are cooler, averaging between 5°C and 15°C, with occasional frost but rare snowfall. The monsoon season, from June to September, brings heavy rainfall and high humidity, necessitating effective drainage and moisture management in building design. Overall, Dhulikhel's climate supports comfortable living conditions year-round and encourages architectural strategies that promote natural ventilation, passive cooling in summer, and thermal comfort during the colder months.

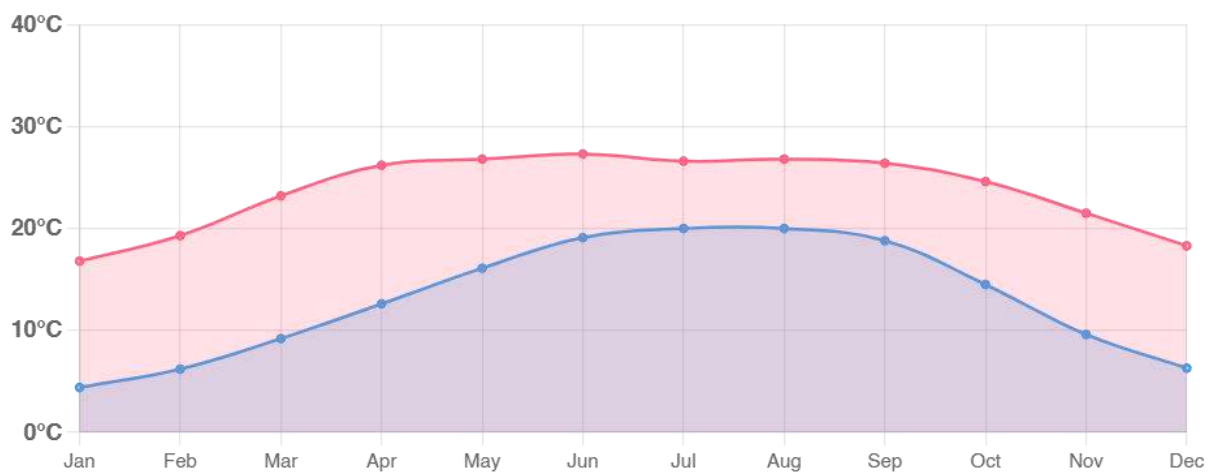


Figure 36 Temperature chart

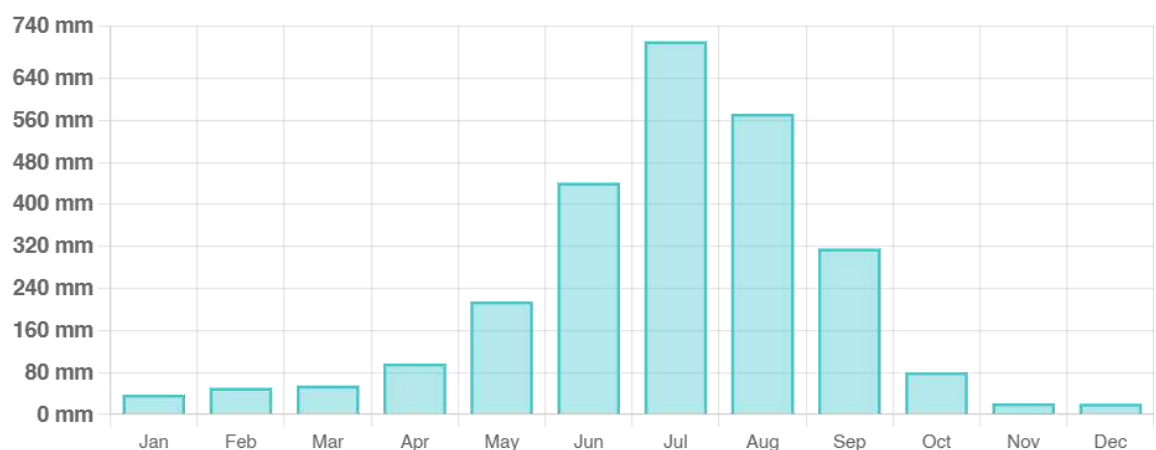


Figure 37 Precipitation chart

Dhulikhel

27.62°N, 85.54°E (1484 m asl).
Model: ERA5.

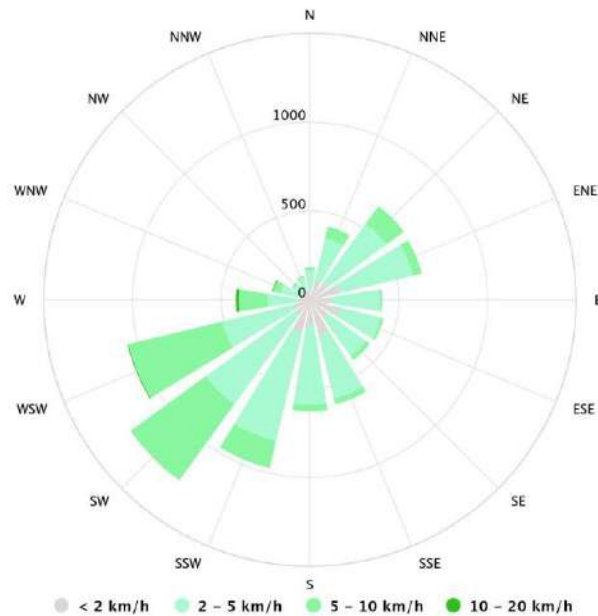


Figure 38 wind rose diagram

4.7 POPULATION

Over the past few decades, Kavrepalanchok District has experienced substantial population growth, increasing from 288,805 in 1981 to 364,039 in 2021. This growth reflects a decadal growth rate of approximately 6.39% and an average annual increase of 0.63%. The steady rise in population highlights the district's expanding urbanization, economic development, and its growing connection to the Kathmandu Valley, making Kavre an important hub in the region.

4.8 SITE

4.8.1 Existing site

- Area: 4770 sqm

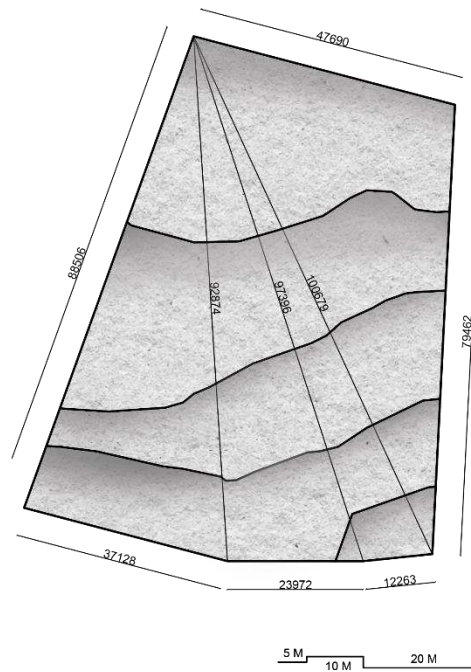


Figure 39 Existing site

4.8.2 New proposed site

- Area: 7475 sqm
- Additional area: 3121 sqm

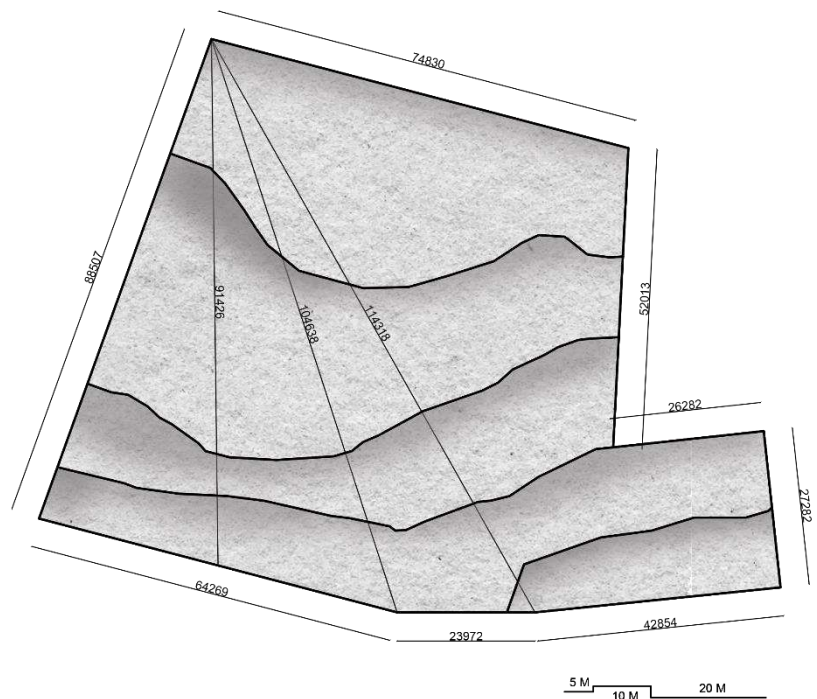
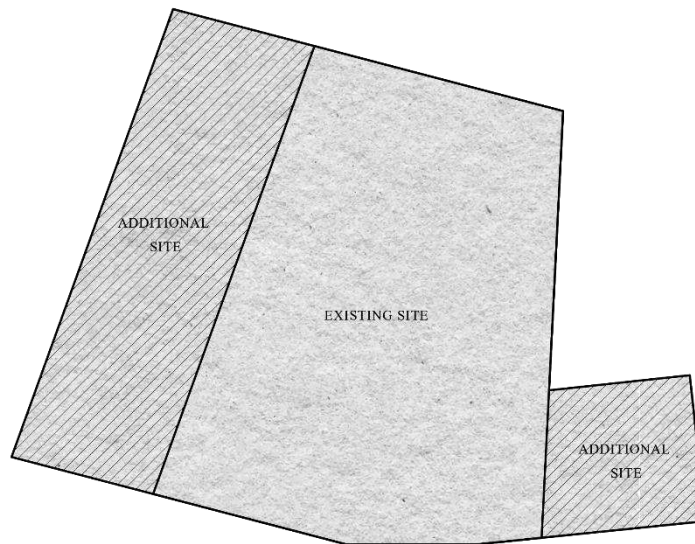


Figure 40 New proposed site



4.9 SWOT ANALYSIS

4.9.1 Strength

- Easy access to related government bodies

Figure 41 Additional site

- Secured area
- Less pollution and peaceful area
- The north to south contour provides ample sunlight throughout the day

4.9.2 Weakness

- No public transport facility
- Narrow roads for institutional zone
- Topological challenge
- Lack of open space/parking

4.9.3 Opportunity

- Ample space for law firms
- Sustainable design
- Topography may create unique design

4.9.4 Threats

- Risk of landslides
- No space for road expansion so there is chances of conjection in future

5. PROGRAM FORMULATION

5.1 JUDICIAL BLOCK

Table 1 Programs in judicial block

SN	PROGRAMS	SUB-PROGRAMS	NOS	AREA(SQM)	TOTAL AREA(SQM)
1.	Courtrooms	Criminal courtrooms	2	9X12	216
		FAMILY COURTROOMS	2	7X12	168
		CIVIL COURTROOMS	2	8X12	192
					576
2.	General route section		6	5X8	280
3.	Bench assistant		6	3X4	72
4.	Judge chamber	Office	6	5x10	300
		Toilet	6	2x3	36
		Pa/clerk	6	3x5	90
					366
5.	Jury room		4	5x6	120
6.	Waiting lobby		6	3*5	190
			2	5*10	
7.	General toilet	Male	4	10	40
		Female	4	10	40
		Differently abled	3	5	15
					95
8.	Accused holding room		2	3*5	30
	TOTAL				1729 sqm

5.2 ADMIN BLOCK

Table 2 Programs in admin block

SN	PROGRAMS	SUB-PROGRAMS	NOS	AREA(SQM)	TOTAL AREA(SQM)
1.	Registration room		1	3X4	12
2.	Darta chalani room		1	5x6	30
3.	Security check/guard room		1	3x5	15
4.	Mudda Tamela		1	5x7	35
5.	Firad patra room		1	5x7	35
6.	Mudda punaradvedana		1	5x7	35
7.	Tahasil sakha		1	5x7	35
8.	Print/photocopy			3X5	15
9.	Bank		1	3X5	15
10.	Lekha sakha		1	3X5	15
11.	Legal aid section		1	4X5	20
11.	Government prosceutor		1	4X5	20
12.	Nibedan/pratibedan		1	5x7	35
13.	Help desk			3x3	10
14.	General toilet	Male	2	10	20
		Female	2	10	20
		Differently abled	2	5	10
					50
15.	Admin head office		3	4X6	72
16.	Security section		1	10x5	50
17.	Drivers room			5x5	25
28.	Guard houses			3x3	10
19.	Cleaning staffs			3X3	30
20.	Waiting lobby		2	5x7	35

21.	Meeting room		1	8X10	80
	TOTAL				679 sqm

5.3 ADVOCATE BLOCK

Table 3 Programs in advocate block

SN	PROGRAMS	SUB-PROGRAMS	NOS	AREA(SQM)	TOTAL AREA(SQM)
1.	Conference hall	small	1	10X15	150
2.	Nepal bar association		1		200
3.	canteen	Kitchen	1	5x5	25
		store	1	5X5	25
		seating	1	10x15	150
					200
4	Court of records		1		150
5	library		1		150
	TOTAL				850 sqm

6. REFERENCE

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INTRODUCTION

A court is an essential institution in any legal system, responsible for ensuring justice, resolving disputes, and upholding the rule of law. It serves as the official body where legal cases are heard and decided by judges, juries, or magistrates. Courts play a crucial role in maintaining social order by enforcing laws and protecting the rights of individuals.

The need for courts in society is significant, as they provide a structured system for resolving conflicts, interpreting laws, and ensuring accountability. Without courts, disputes between individuals, businesses, and governments would remain unresolved, leading to chaos and injustice. Courts also act as protectors of human rights, ensuring equal access to justice regardless of social or economic status.

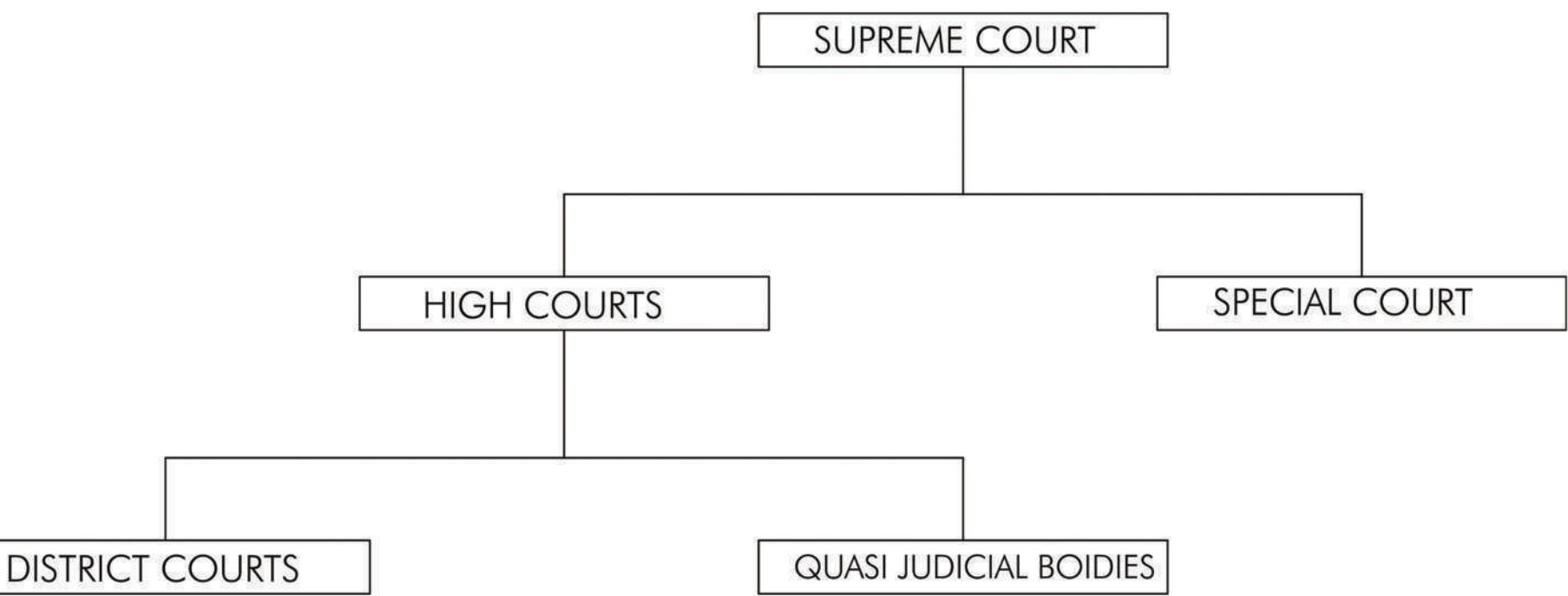
Beyond their legal role, courts strengthen democracy, promote social stability, and contribute to economic growth by enforcing contracts and protecting property rights. They also help prevent crime, reduce discrimination, and build public trust in governance. By ensuring fair and impartial judgments, courts serve as the foundation of a just and orderly society.

HISTORY OF COURT IN NEPAL

The judicial system in Nepal dates back to the Malla dynasty, which ruled Kathmandu, Lalitpur, and Bhaktapur from 1320 AD until the unification of Nepal.

In the 6th century (after 1350 AD):King Jaya Sthiti Malla introduced the Manav Nyayashastra or Nyayabikashini, Modern Period (Post-1853 AD):Introduction of Muluki Ain (National Code)

Key Developments:
1853 AD (1910 BS): The first codified law.
1940 AD: Establishment of the Pradhan Nyaya Laya (now Supreme Court).
1959 AD: The Judicial Administration Act created the High Court, District Court, and State Court under the Supreme Court.
1963 AD: Muliki Ain (National Code) was enacted.
1964 AD: District Court, Zonal Court, and Supreme Court system were formalized.
1973/74 AD: The Judicial Administration Reform Act restructured the courts.
1992 AD: The State Cases Act was enacted.
Current Legal Structure:
The Supreme Court, seven High Courts (with 11 additional Benches), and 77 District Courts form the current judicial structure.



TYPES OF SPACE IN COURT

- PUBLIC
- RESTRICTED
- SECURE
- INTERFACE
- SERVICE

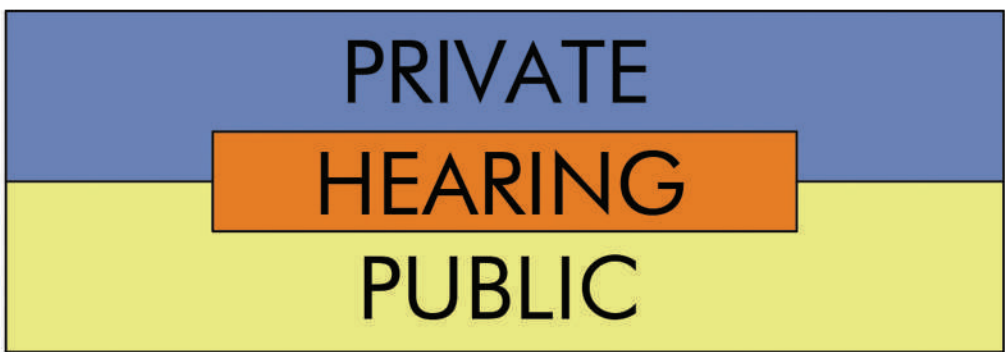


FIG:BASIC ZONING ARRANGEMENT

REQUIREMENTS OF A COURT ROOM

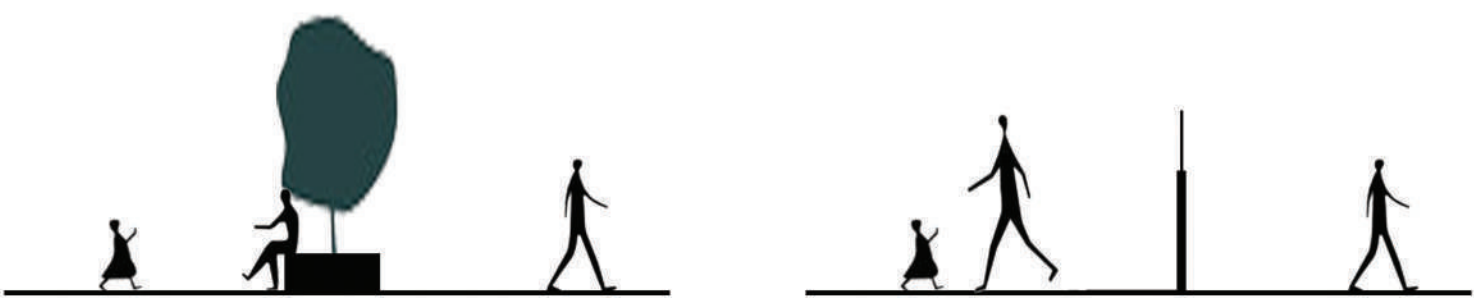
- DAIS
- WITNESS BOX
- SPACE FO JURY
- LAWYERS DESK
- SPACE FOR LAWYERS TO STAND AD ARGUE
- SEATINGS FOR LITIGANTS
- PUBLIC PROSECUTOR TABLE
- OBSERVERS SEATING

DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

a)SECURITY AND SAFETY



NATURAL SURVELIANICE



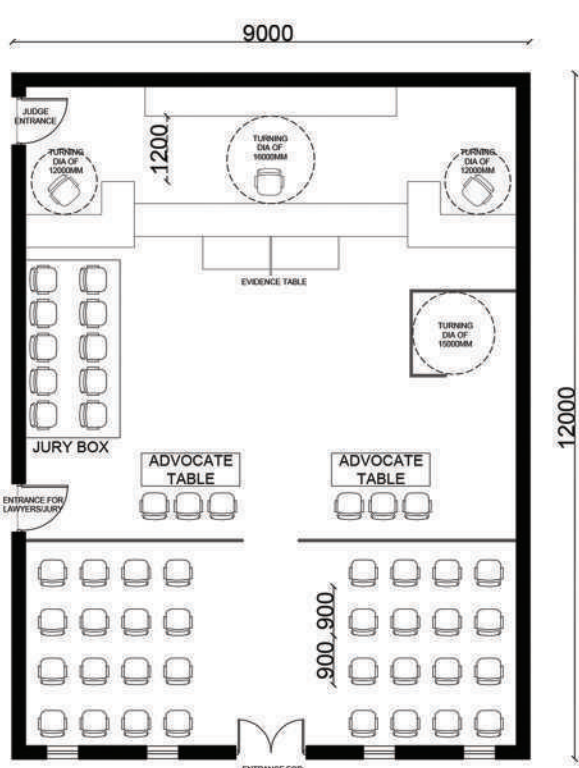
CREATE BUFFER SPACES

d)TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATIONS

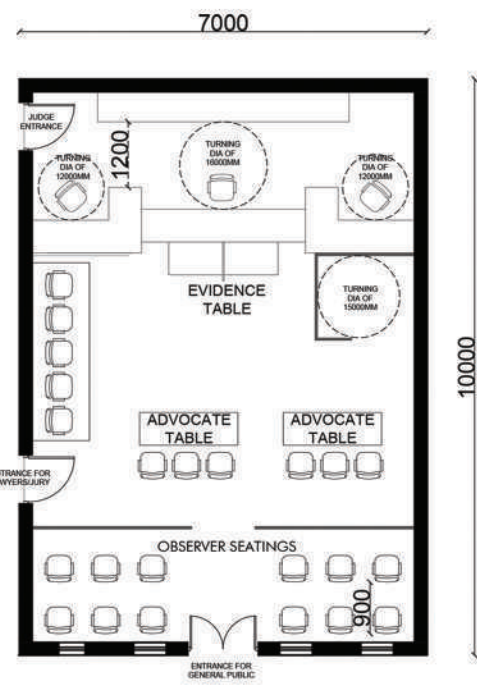
Technology integration in courts enhances efficiency, accessibility, and security. Digital case management, virtual hearings, AI-assisted research, and electronic evidence presentation streamline legal processes.

TYPES OF COURTROOMS

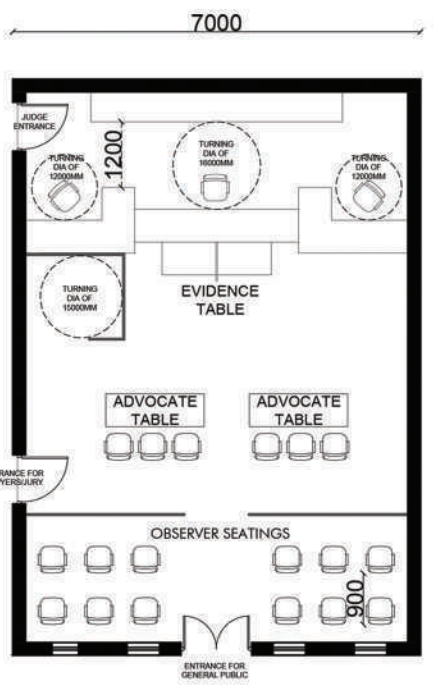
I)ACCORDING TO THE NATURE OF CASE



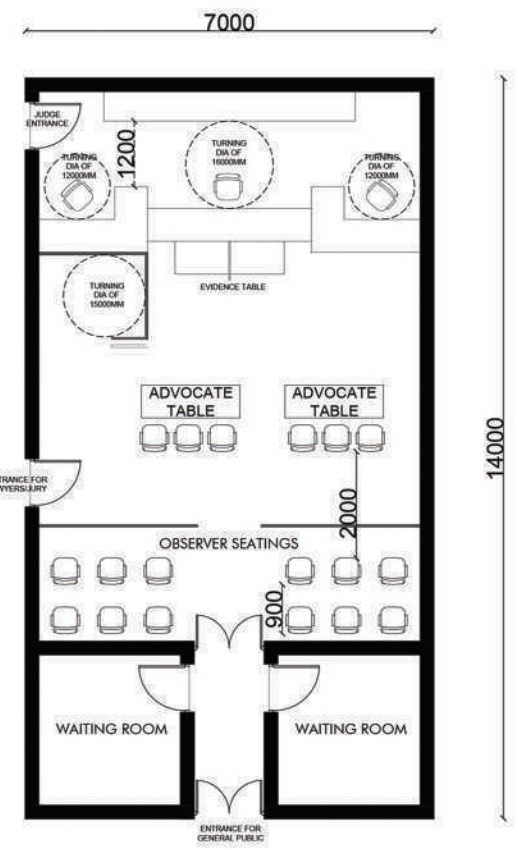
CRIMINAL COURTROOM



CIVIL COURTROOM



FAMILY COURT



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COURT

II)ACCORDING TO THE LAYOUT

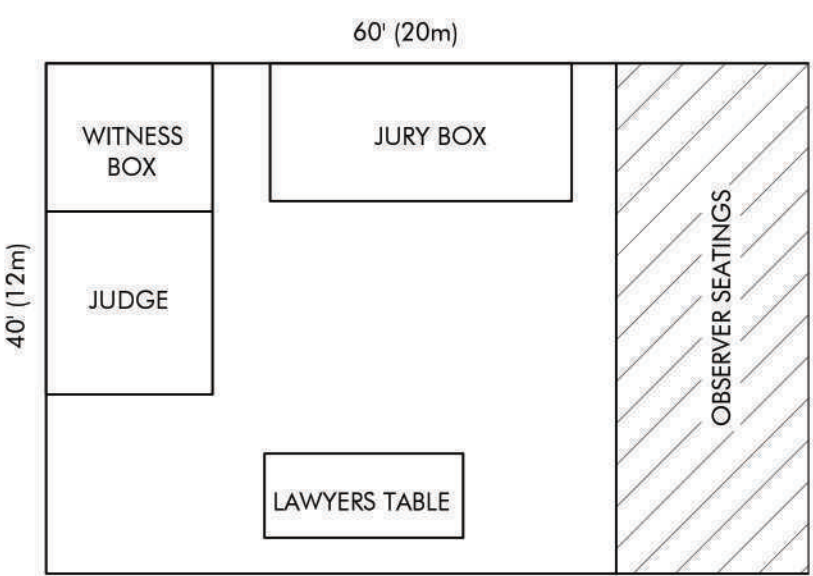


FIG:CENTRE BENCH

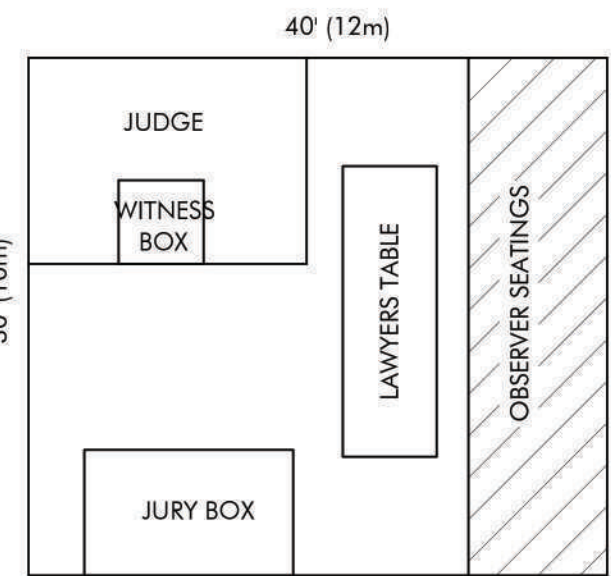


FIG:CORNER BENCH

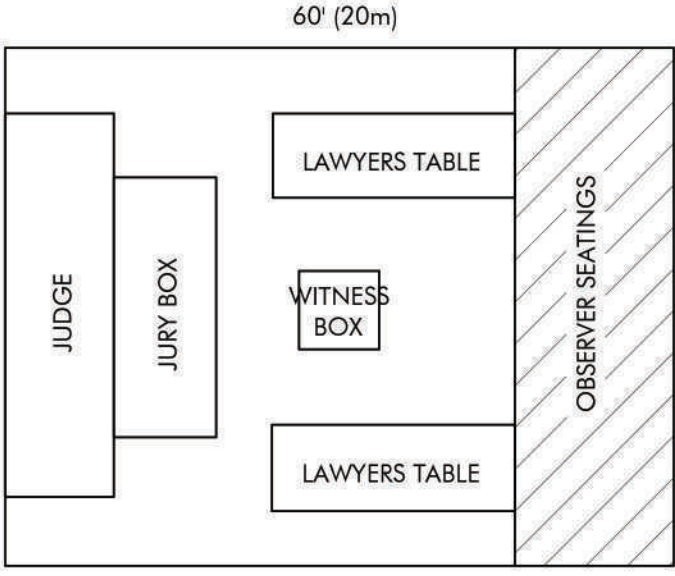
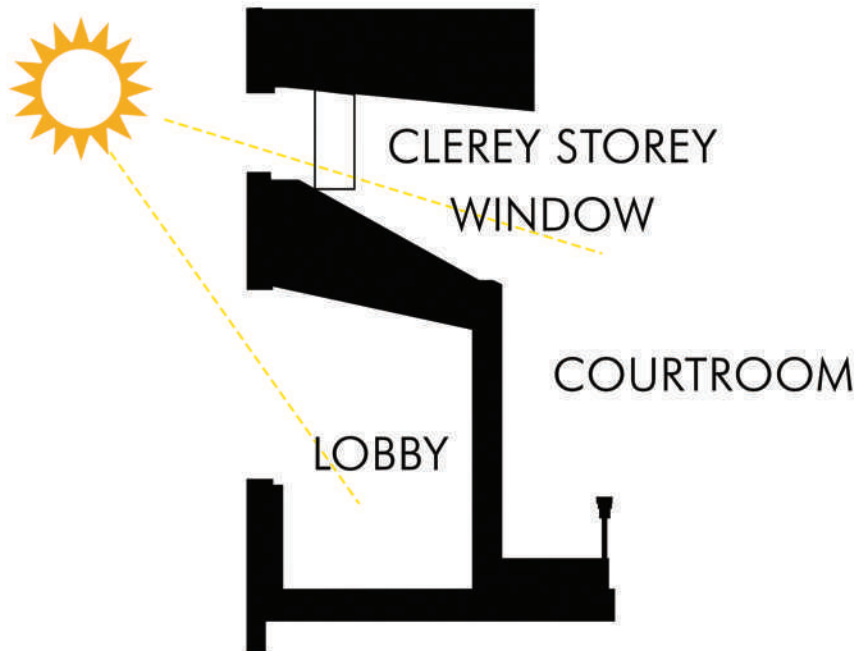


FIG:JEFFERSONIAN REVIVAL

b) NATURAL LIGHTINGS

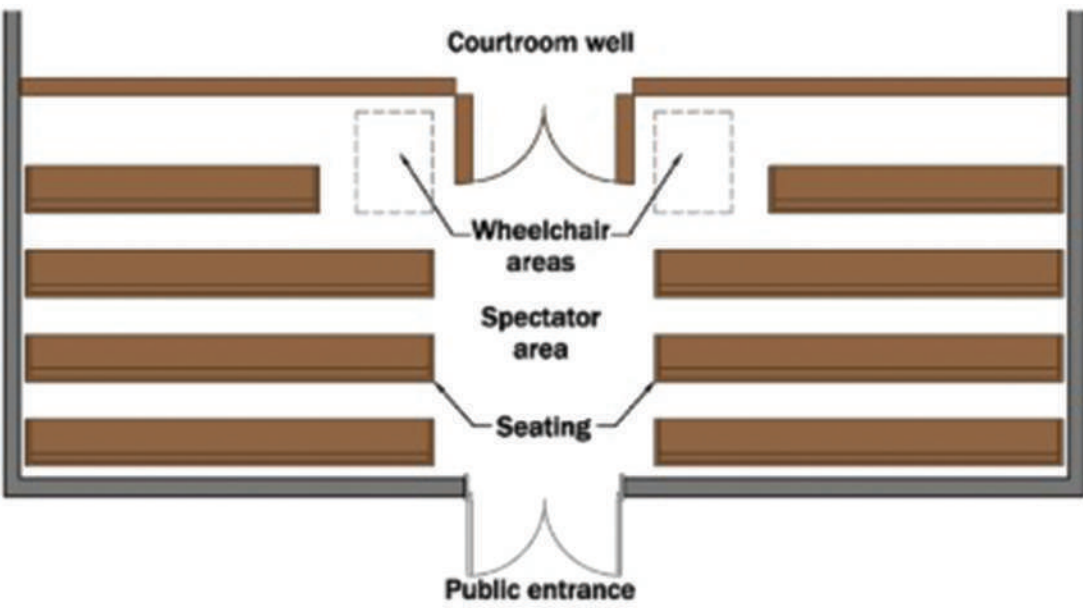


c) ACCESSIBILITY COMPLIANCE

b	slope	max rise	max horizontal projection
	1:12	760	9000
	1:16	760	12000
	1:20	760	15000

c	slope	max rise ¹	max run
	Steeper than 1:10 but no steeper than 1:8	75	600
	Steeper than 1:12 but no steeper than 1:10	150	1500

¹steeper than 1:8 not allowed



e)FLEXIBLE FLLOR PLANS

.A flexible design approach includes multiple juried courtrooms to manage heavy caseloads. Smaller courtrooms can handle family hearings or visiting judges, while larger ones host major cases.

DISTRICT COURT BHAKTAPUR

LOCATION : Bramhayani ,Bhaktapur
SITE AREA : 4051 SQM
CLIMATE : Temperate Climate
TOPOGRAPHY : Contour Land
DATE : 2023
LANDMARKS : KHWOPA HOSPITAL,
LAND REVENUE OFFICE
POPULATION : 4,32,132
NO. OF COURTROOMS : 12(ONLY 9
ARE IN FUCTION)

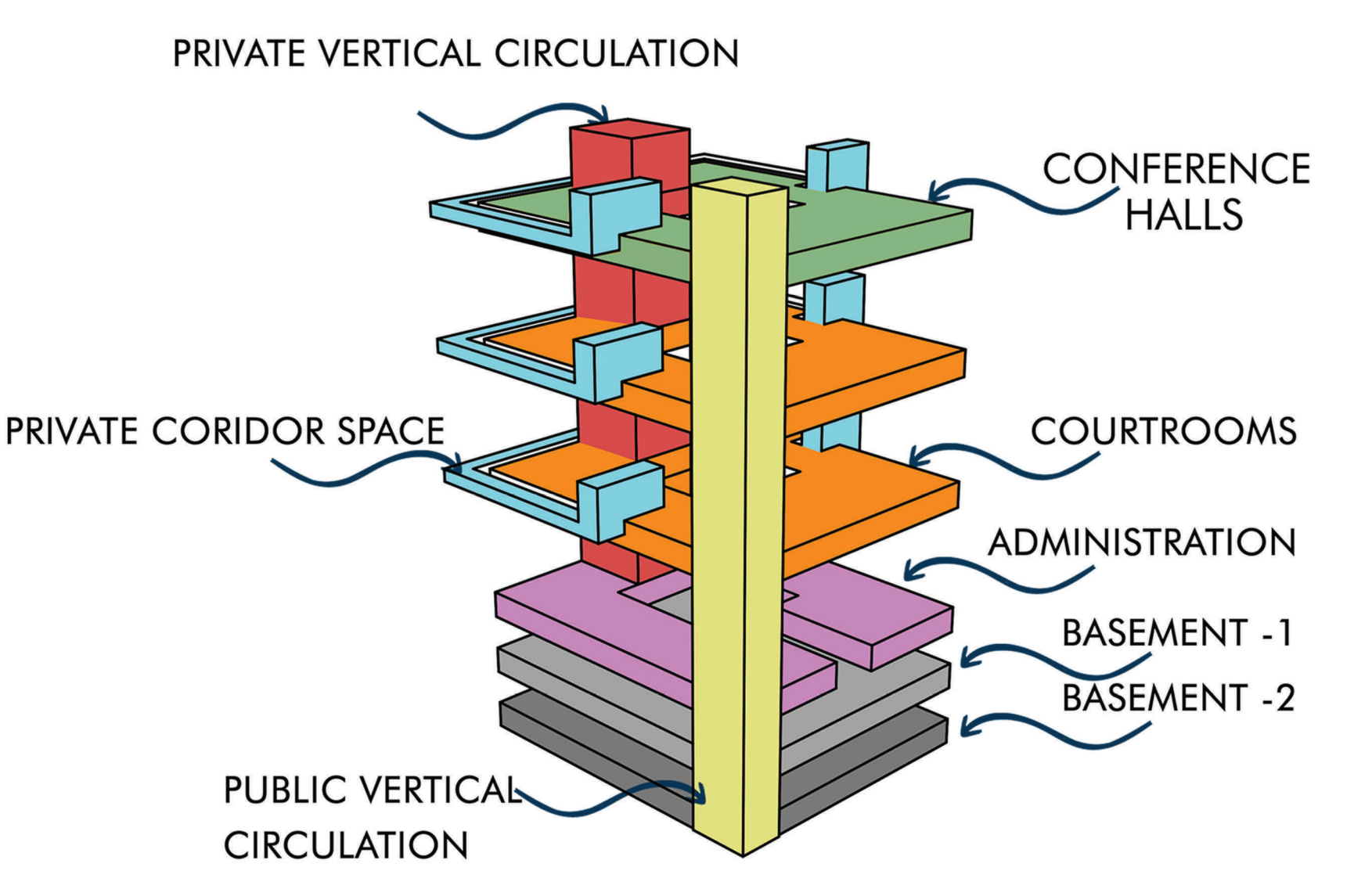
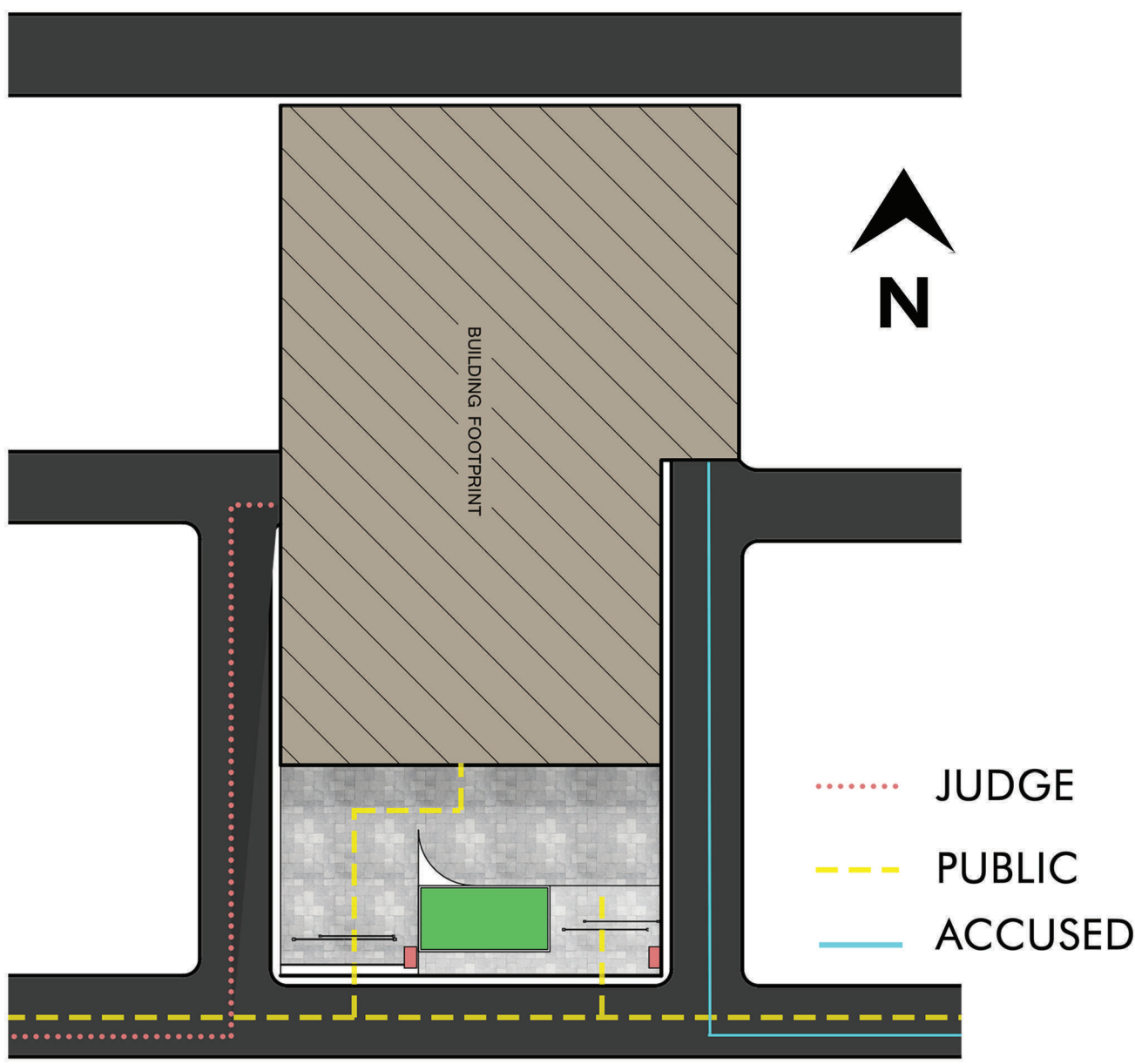


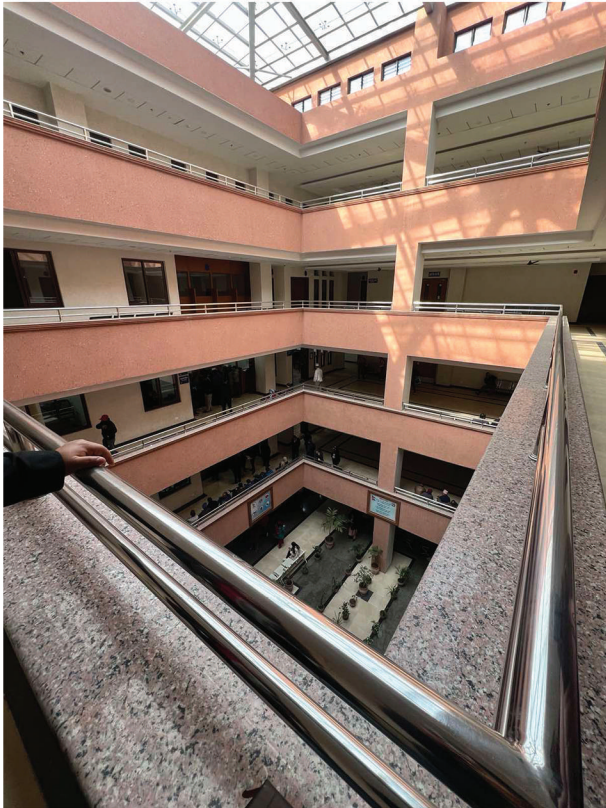
FIG: GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIG: TYPICAL FLOOR PLAN

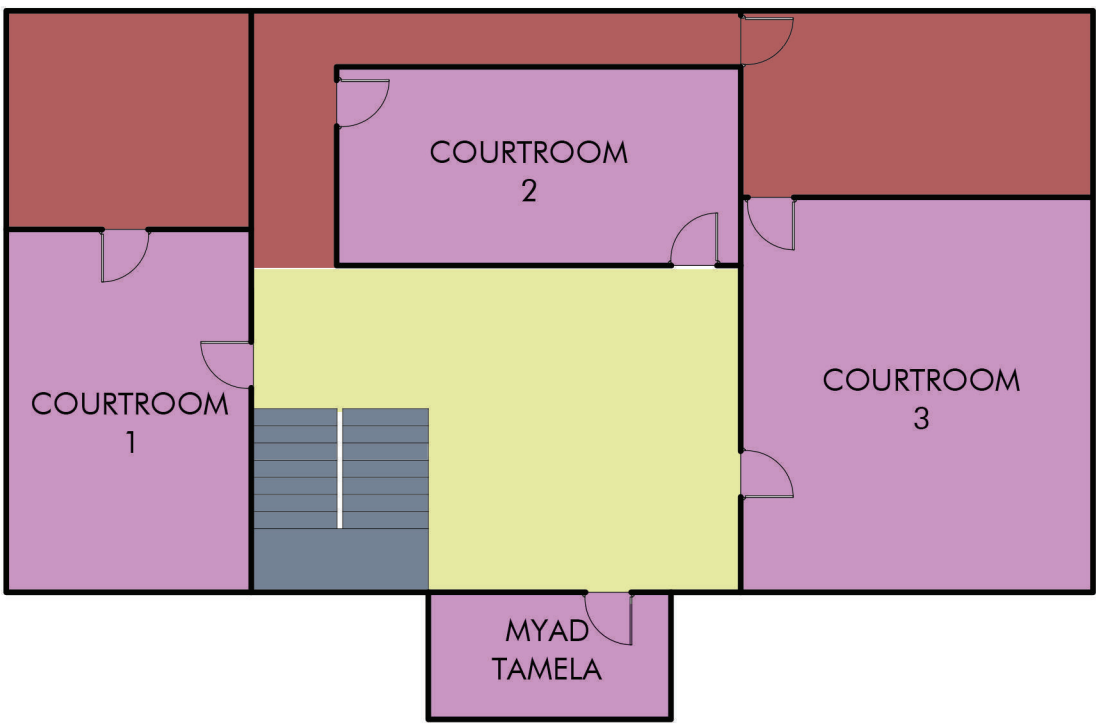
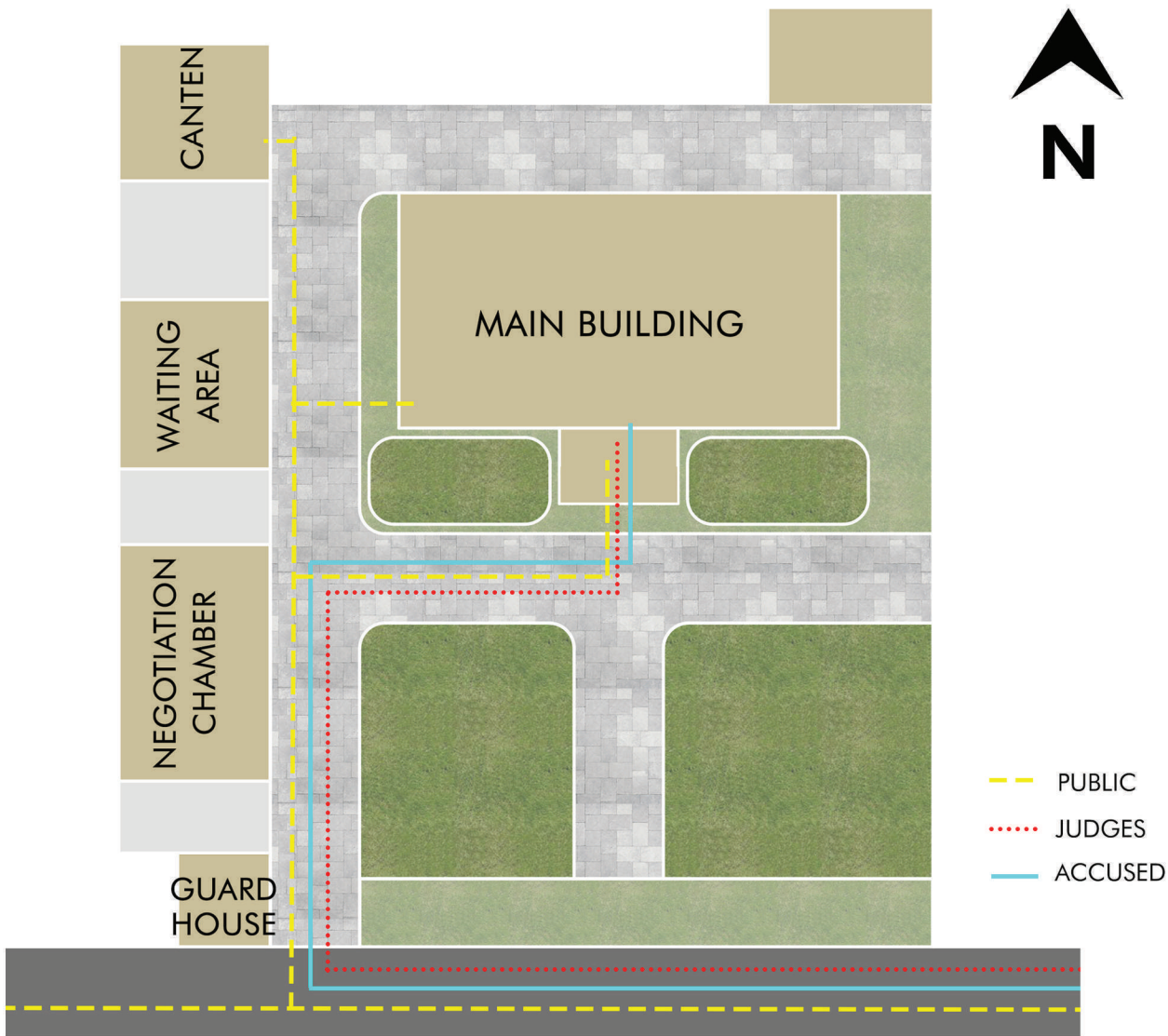


FIG: TOP FLOOR PLAN

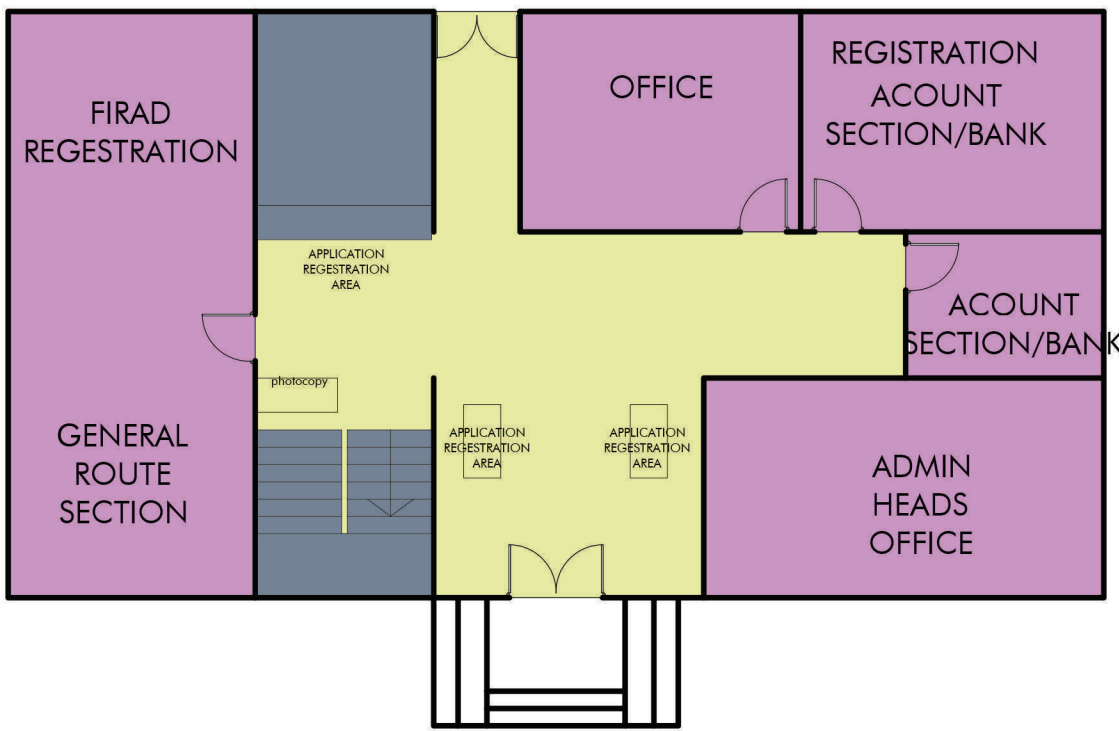


DISTRICT COURT KAVREPALANCHOWK

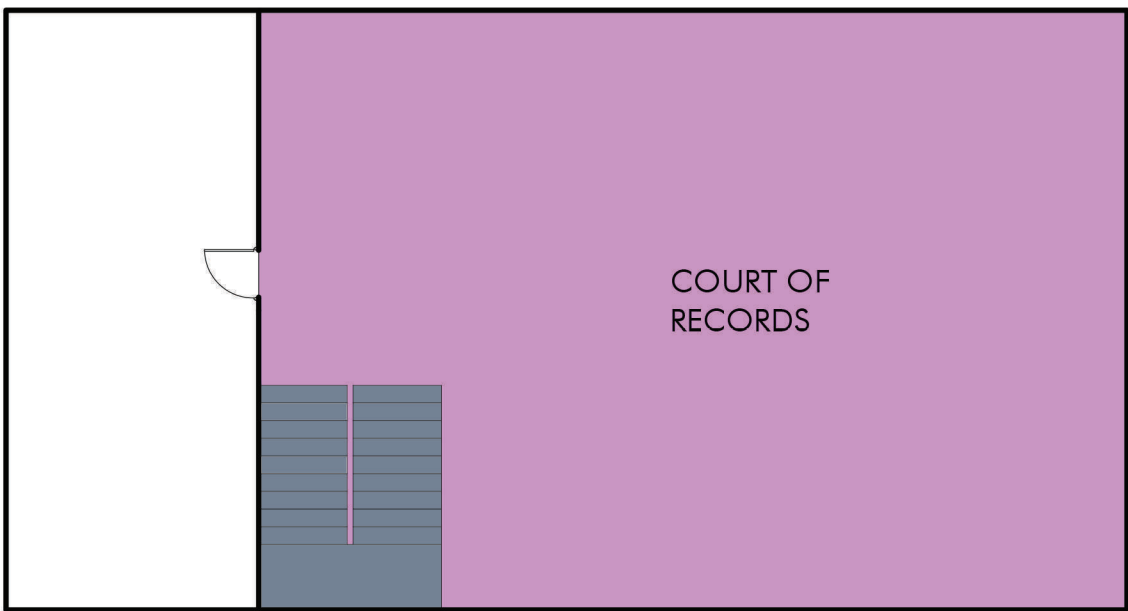
LOCATION : Dhulikhel , Kavrepalanchowk
SITE AREA : 2480 SQM(890 SQM)
CLIMATE : Temperate Climate
TOPOGRAPHY : Flat Land
DATE : 2021
LANDMARKS : LAND REVENUE OFFICE,KAVRE
POPULATION : 3,64,039 (CENSUS 2021)
NO. OF COURTROOMS : 3



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



GROUND FLOOR PLAN



TOP FOOR PLAN

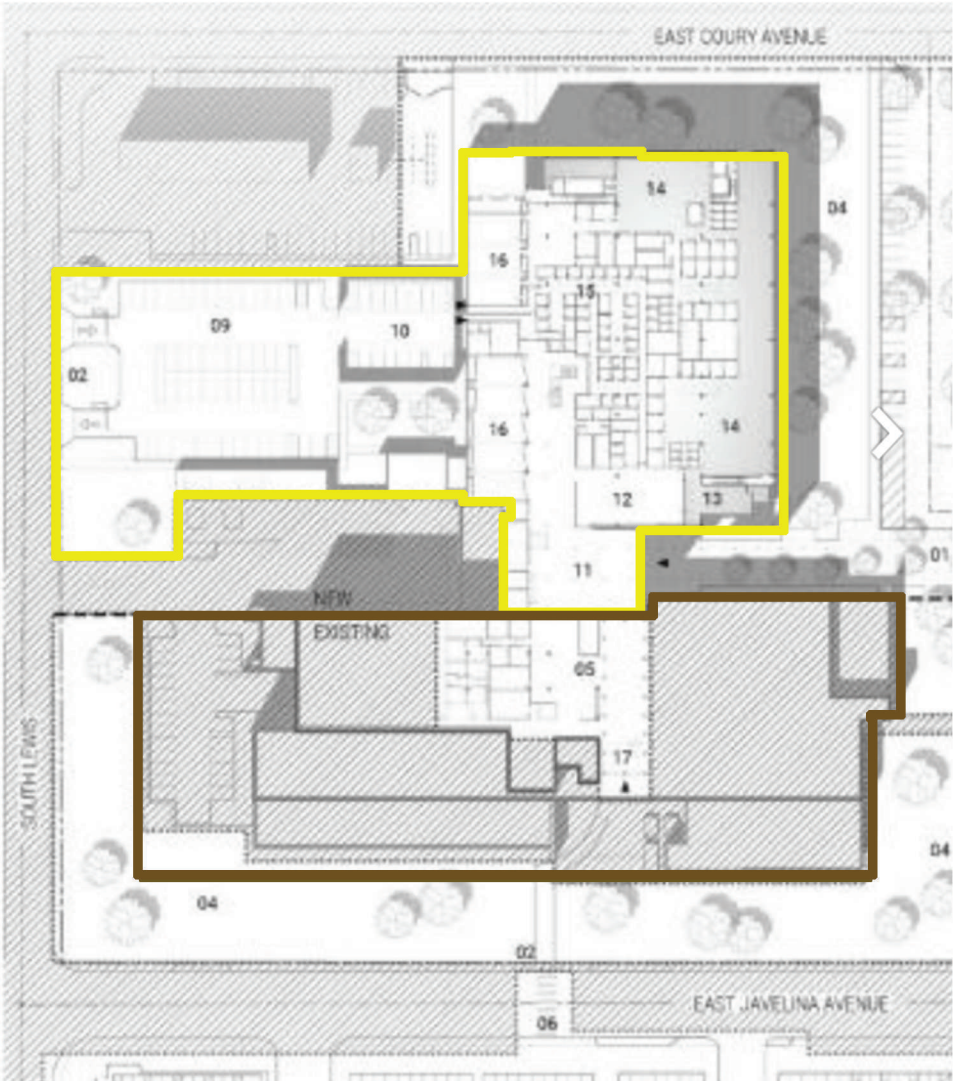
CASE STUDY

MARICOPA COUNTY JUSTICE CENTRE AND ADULT PROBATION

LOCATION : Mesa ,Arizona (33°22'52.8"N 111°49'37.1"W)
SITE AREA : 22 ACRES
TOPOGRAPHY : Flat Land
DATE : 2022
ARCHITECT : GOULD EVANS
POPULATION : 5,11,648 (2023)
NO. OF COURTROOMS : 4



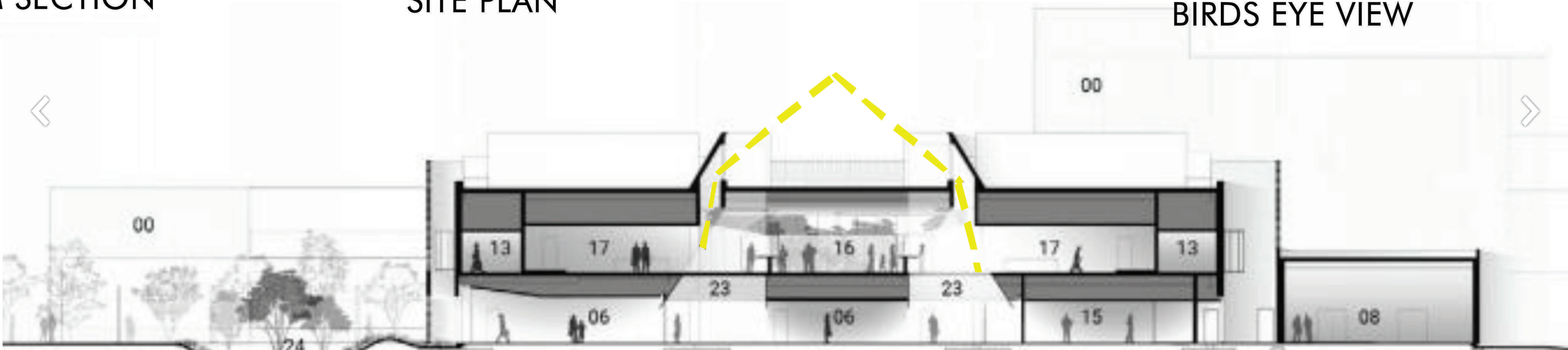
COURTROOM SECTION



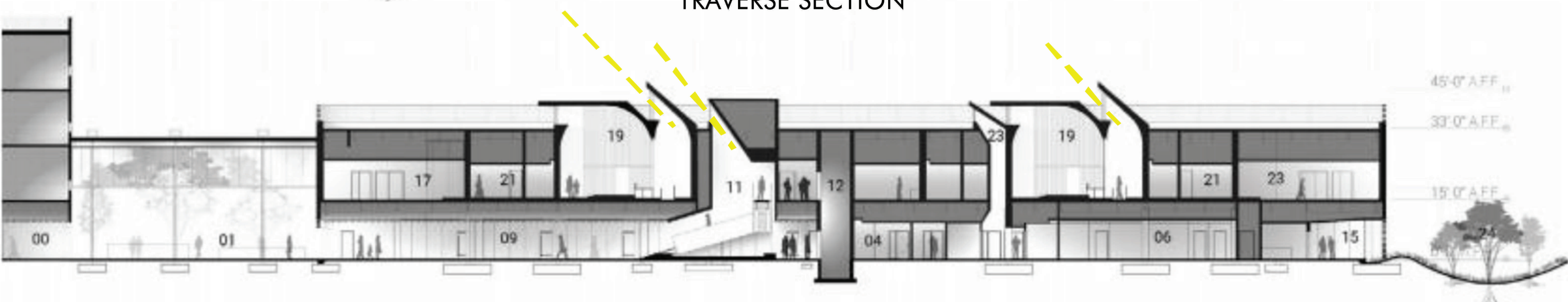
SITE PLAN



BIRDS EYE VIEW



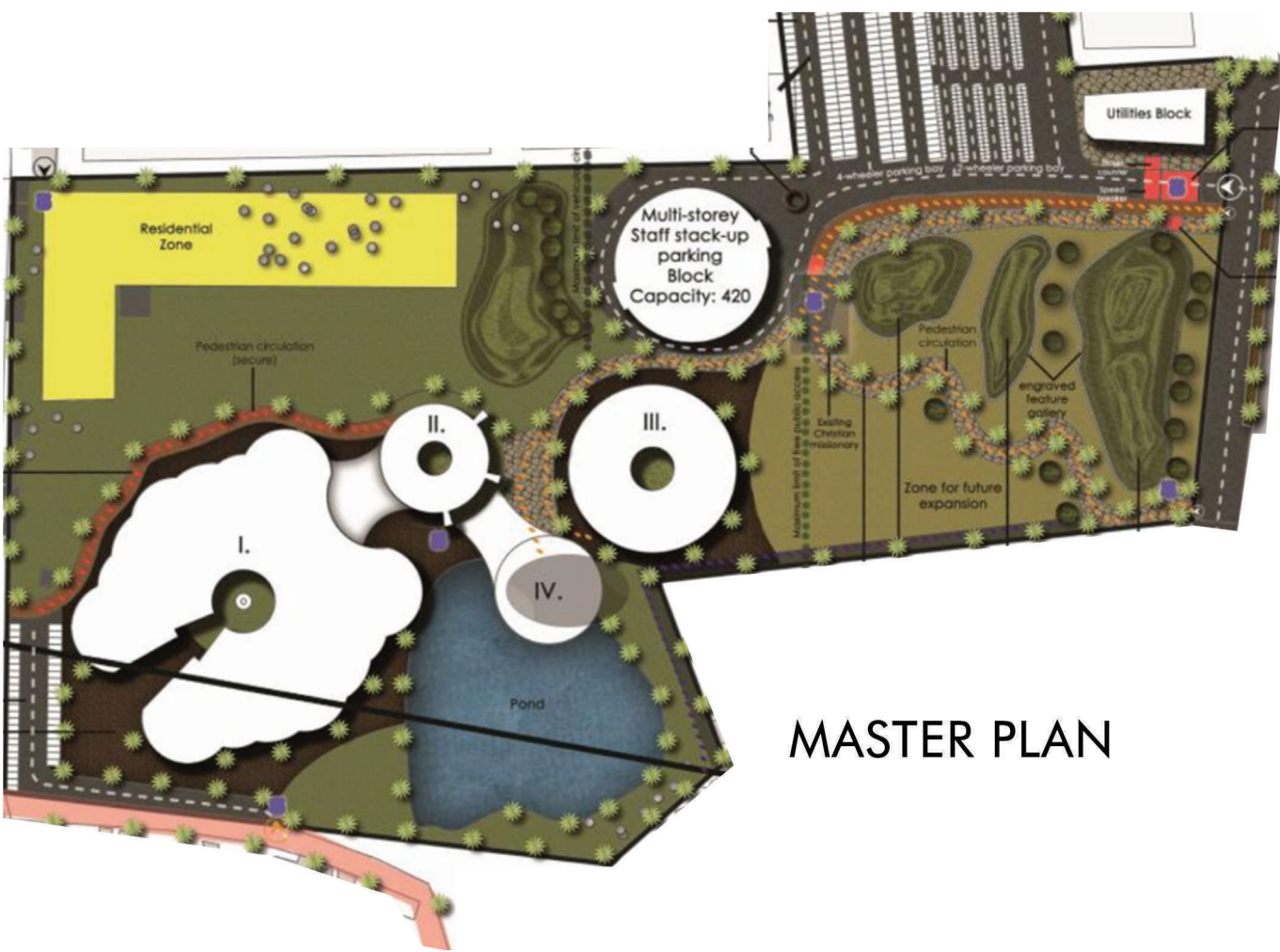
TRAVERSE SECTION



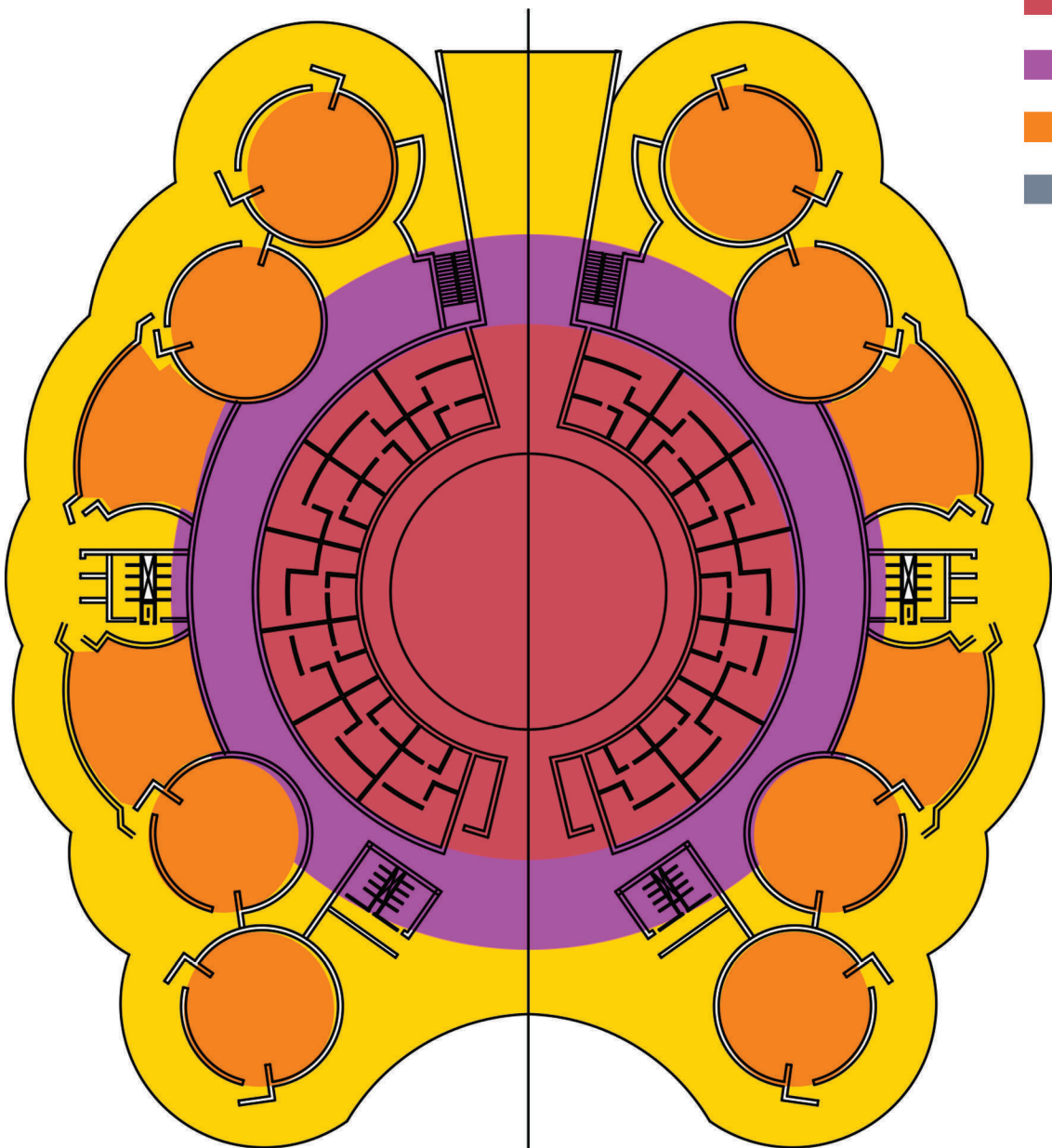
LONGITUDINAL SECTION

HIGH COURT ANDRA PRADESH

LOCATION : Andra Pradesh, india (33°22'52.8"N 111°49'37.1"W)
SITE AREA : 92000 SQM
TOPOGRAPHY : Flat Land
ARCHITECT : PROPOSAL BY ROHIT MONDAL
NO. OF COURTROOMS : 48

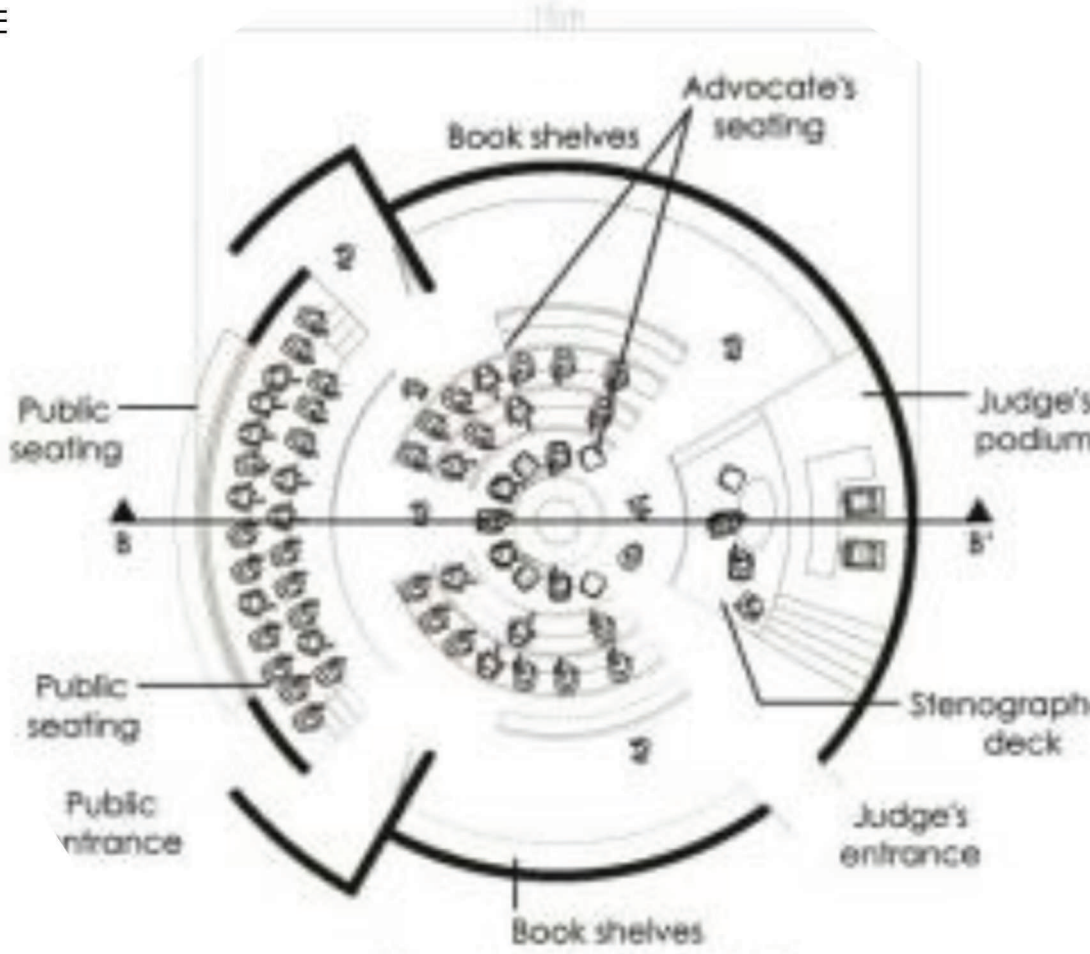


MASTER PLAN

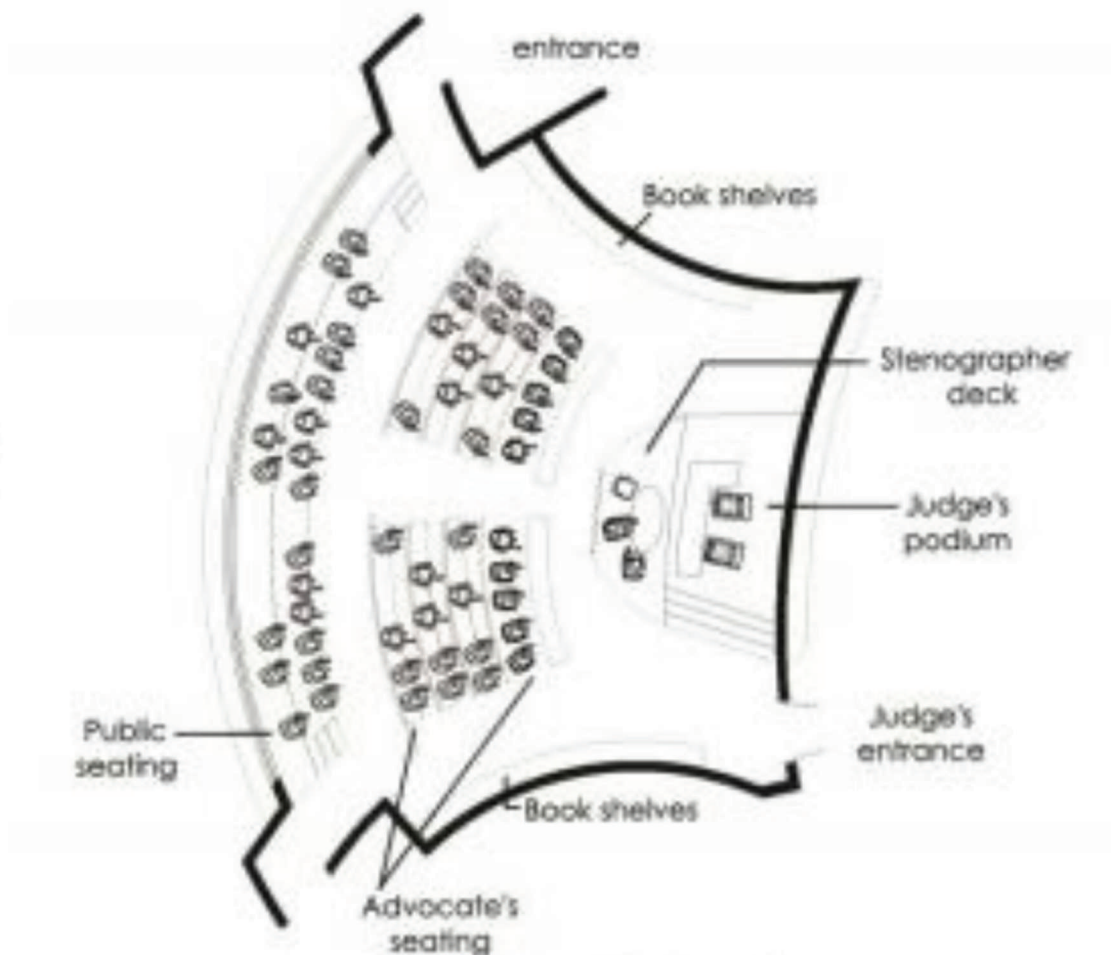


PLAN OF THE COURTHOUSE

- PUBLIC
- RESTRICTED
- SECURE
- INTERFACE
- SERVICE



COURTROOM TYPE 1



COURTROOM TYPE 2



MASTER PLAN

CASE STUDY

DISTRICT COURT KAVREPALANCHOWK

LOCATION : Lot 2445, Coolibah Drive,
Kununurra, Australia (-15.774948"S, 128.738297"E)

SITE AREA : 4180 SQM(1800 SQM)

CLIMATE : Temperate Climate

TOPOGRAPHY : Flat Land

DATE : 2014

ARCHITECT : IREDALE PEDERSEN HOOK
TAGS ARCHITECTS

LANDMARKS : KUNUNURA CULLB RESORT

POPULATION : 4,515(AUSTRALIAN CENSUS 2021)

NO. OF COURTROOMS : 3

THE NEW KUNUNURRA COURTHOUSE, BUILT ON THE SITE OF THE FORMER FACILITY, INCORPORATES LOCAL PHYSICAL CHARACTERISTICS TO REFLECT THE REGION’S DISTINCT IDENTITY. IT BALANCES A WELCOMING ATMOSPHERE WITH A DIGNIFIED AND AUTHORITATIVE PRESENCE.

TO WITHSTAND THE AREA'S HEAT AND HUMIDITY, THE BUILDING IS WELL-INSULATED, SEALED, AND PRESSURIZED, WITH SUNSHADES THAT MINIMIZE HEAT EXPOSURE WHILE ENSURING PRIVACY.

CONCEPT:

THE ROOF DESIGN TAKES INSPIRATION FROM THE SURROUNDING HILLS AND LANDSCAPES, INCLUDING KELLY’S KNOB AND HIDDEN VALLEY, CREATING A VISUAL AND EXPERIENTIAL CONNECTION THAT RESPECTS THE LOCAL ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNITY.

THE BUILDING IS DESIGNED FOR AN ECONOMIC DESIGN LIFE OF 50 YEARS AND INCORPORATES THE FOLLOWING FACILITIES:

TWO COURTROOMS INCLUDING A JURY COURTROOM AND A MAGISTRATES COURTROOM;

MEDIATION AND PRE-TRIAL CONFERENCE FACILITIES;

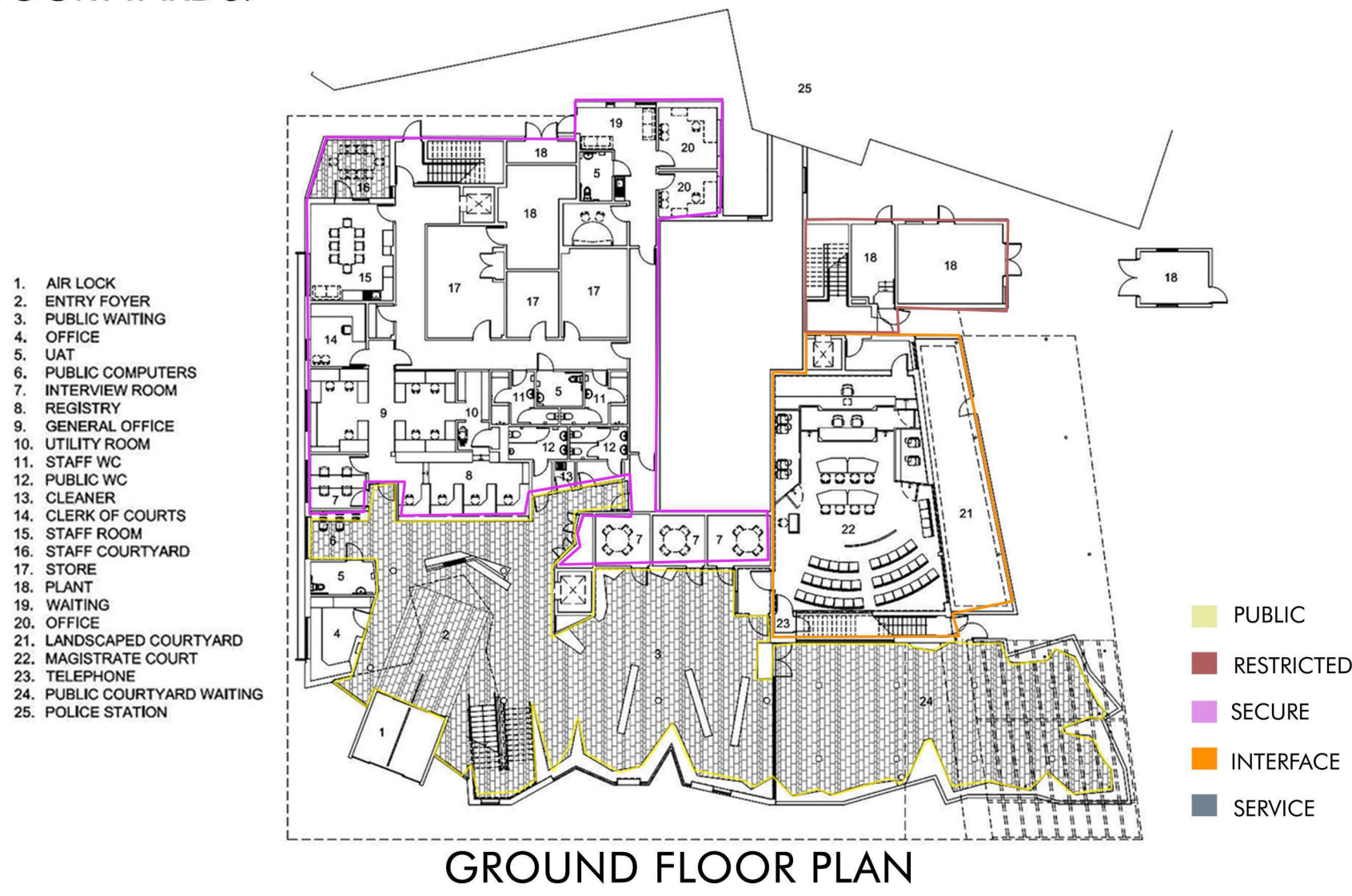
JURY DELIBERATION AREA WITH SUPPORT FACILITIES;

TRIALS AND HEARING SUPPORT ROOMS;

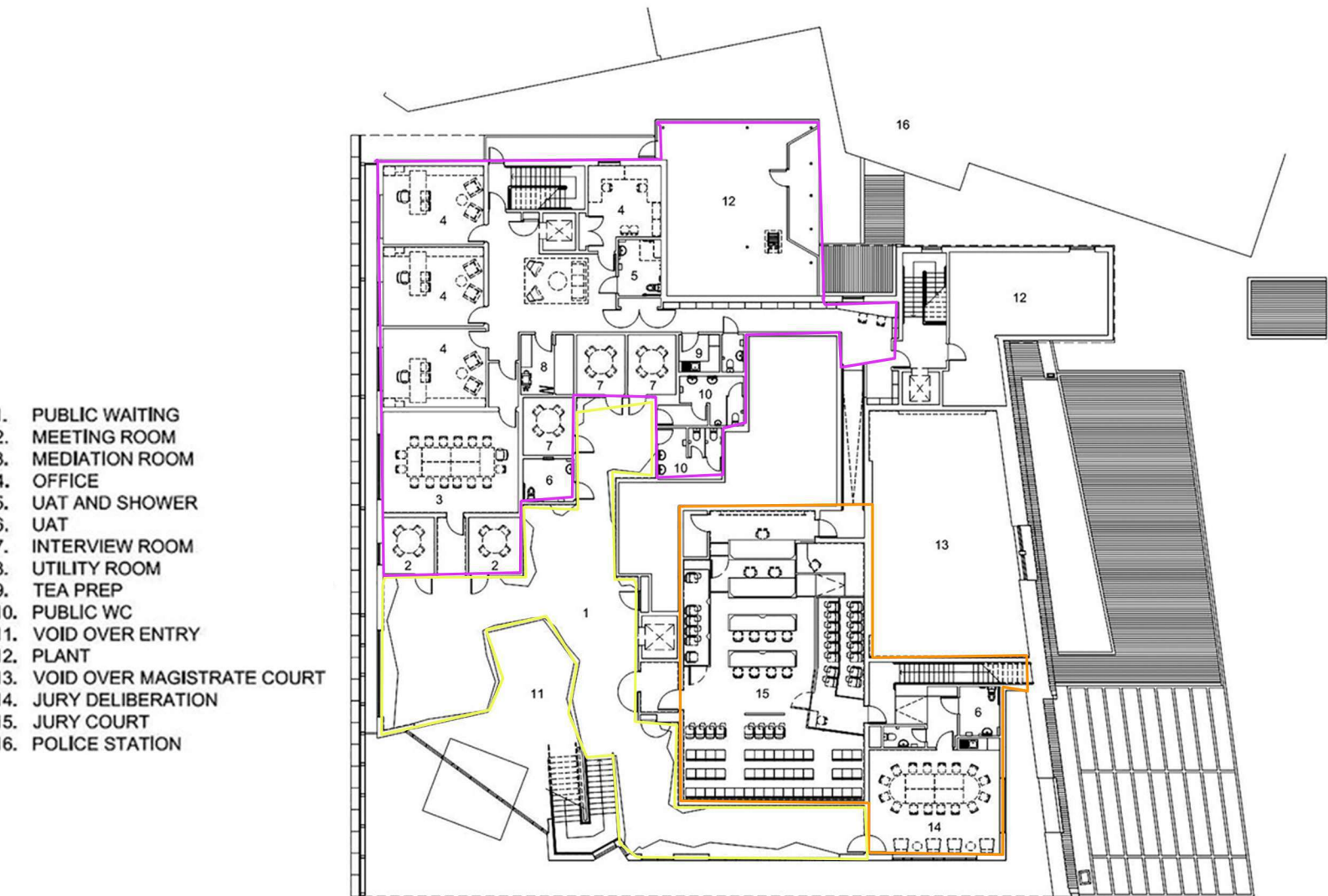
JUDICIAL CHAMBERS AND SUPPORT FACILITIES CUSTODY PROVISIONS;

COURTS ADMINISTRATION – REGISTRIES AND PUBLIC SERVICE COUNTERS AND;

PUBLIC FOYER AND WAITING AREAS, INCLUDING SECURE OUTDOOR COURTYARDS.



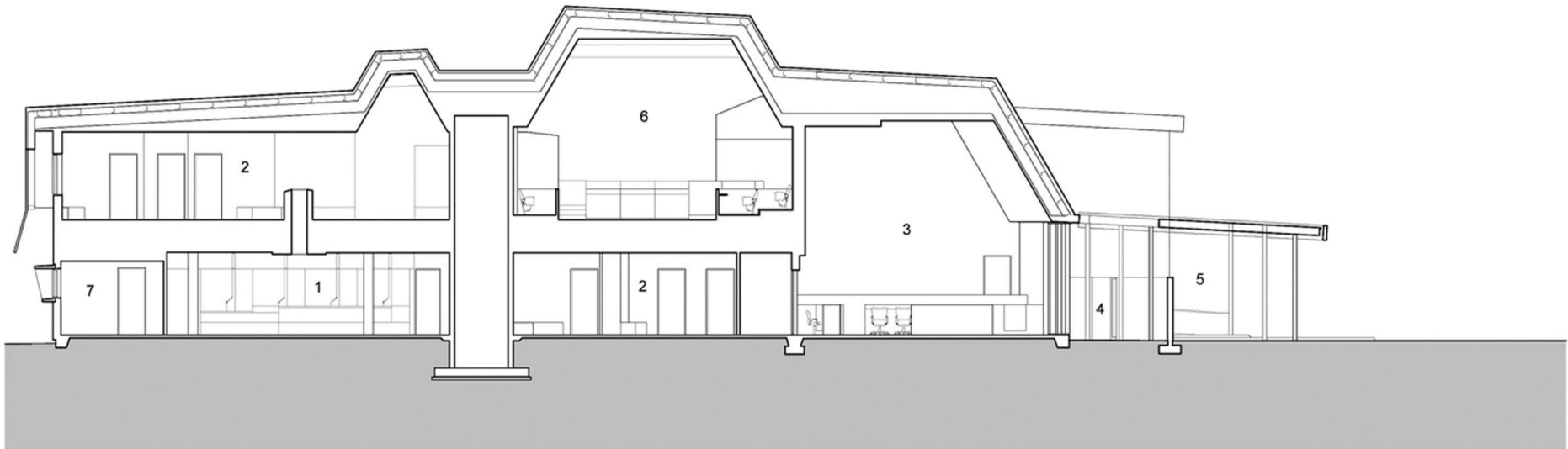
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



FIRST FLOOR PLAN



SITE PLAN

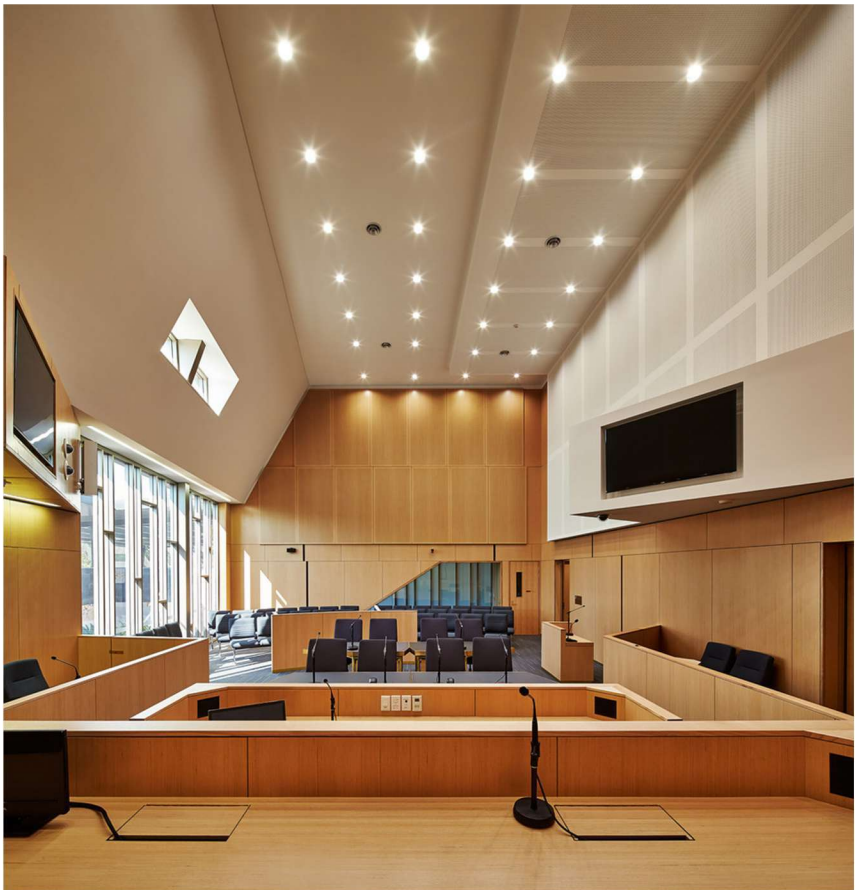


SITE PLAN

- 1. PUBLIC REGISTRY
- 2. FOYER
- 3. MAGISTRATE COURTROOM
- 4. COURTYARD
- 5. PARKING
- 6. JURY COURTROOM
- 7. INTERVIEW ROOM



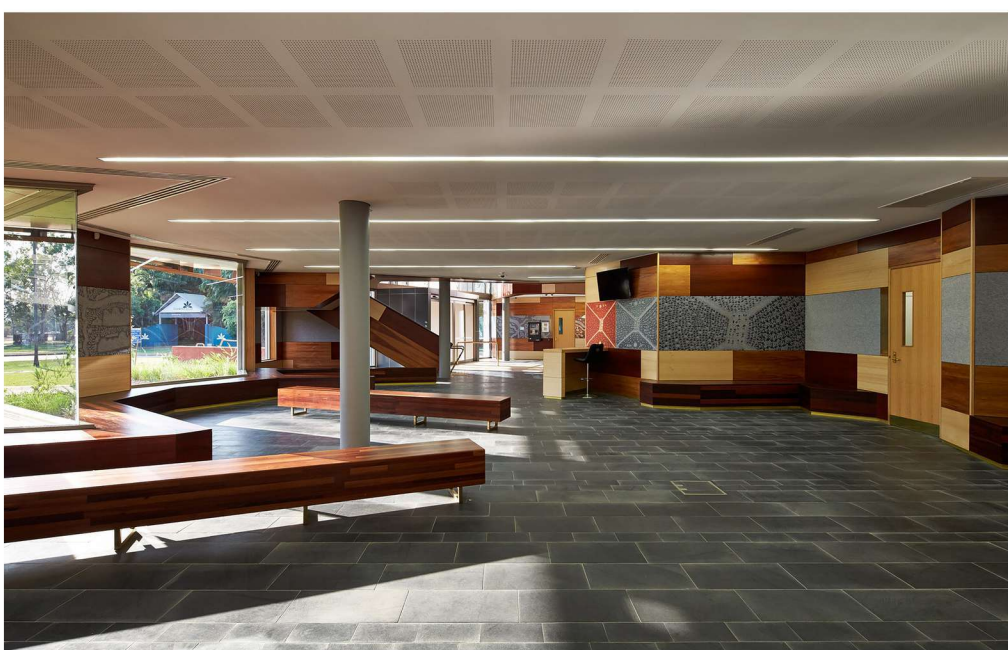
FACADE WITH FRONTAL OPEN SPACE



COURTROOMS



ENTRANCE



WAITING LOBBY



CORIDOR

SITE ANALYSIS

LOCATION : Dhulikhel,Kavrepalanchowk

SITE AREA : 7475.90 Sqm

CLIMATE : Temperate Climate

TOPOGRAPHY : Contour Land

LANDMARKS : KAVRE POLICE STATION,
LAND REVENUE OFFICE,KAVRE JAIL

POPULATION : 3,64,039 (CENSUS 2021)

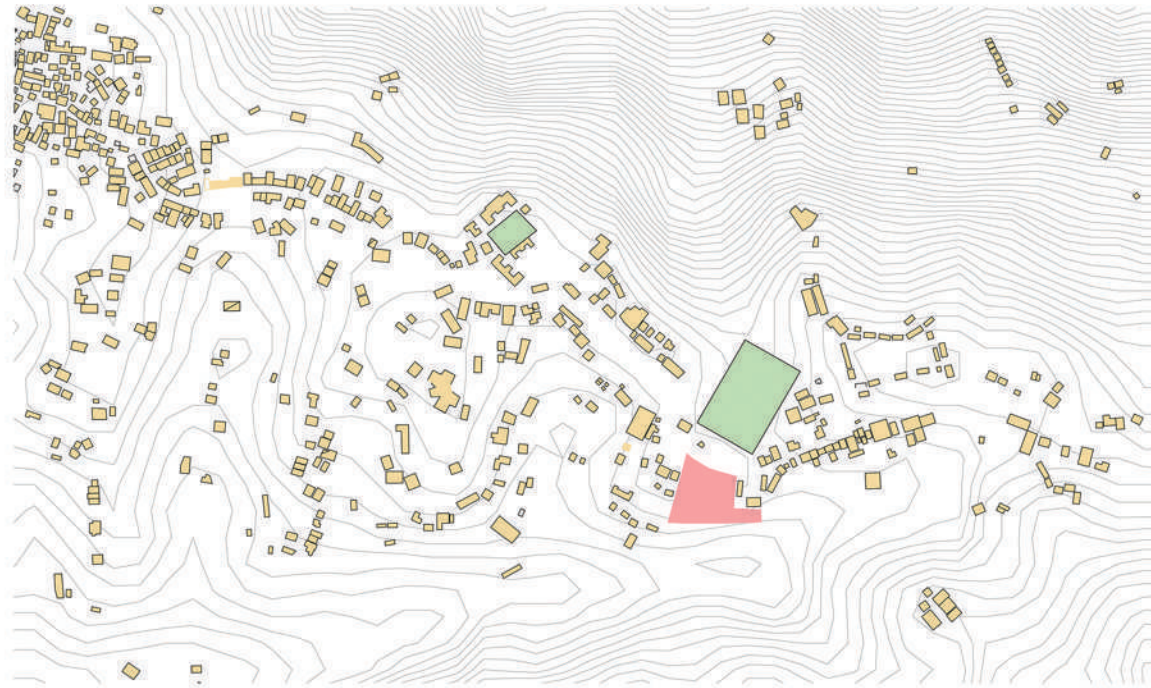
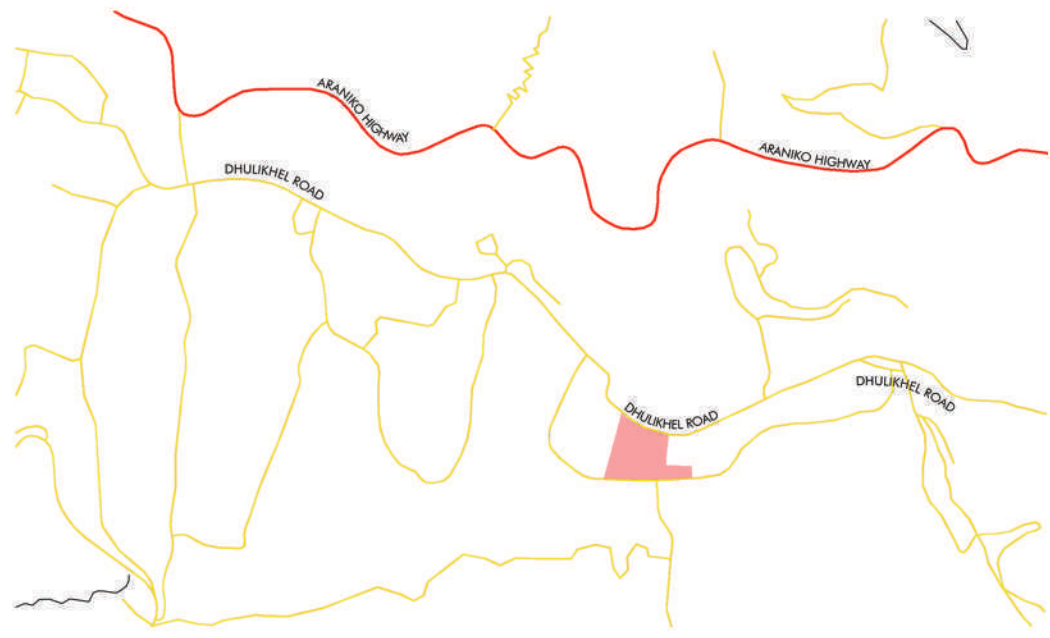
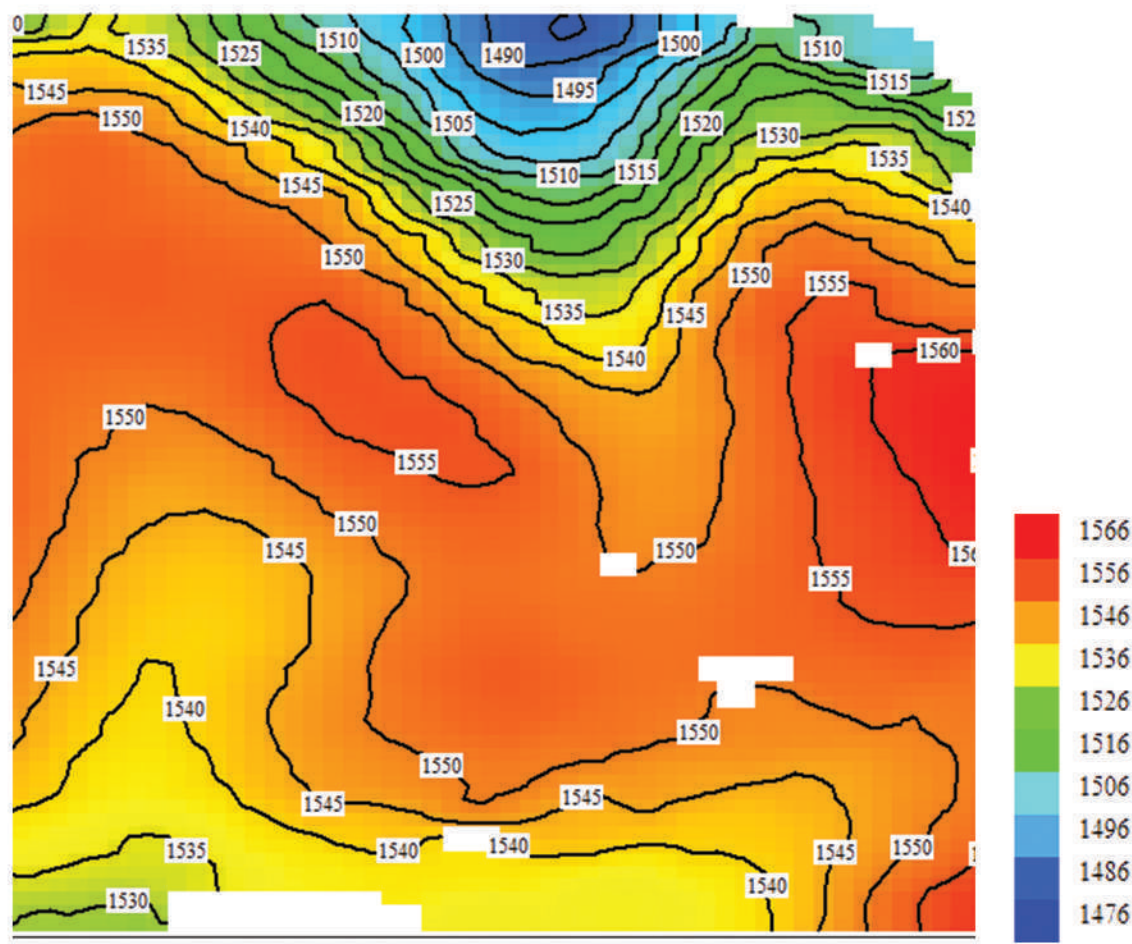


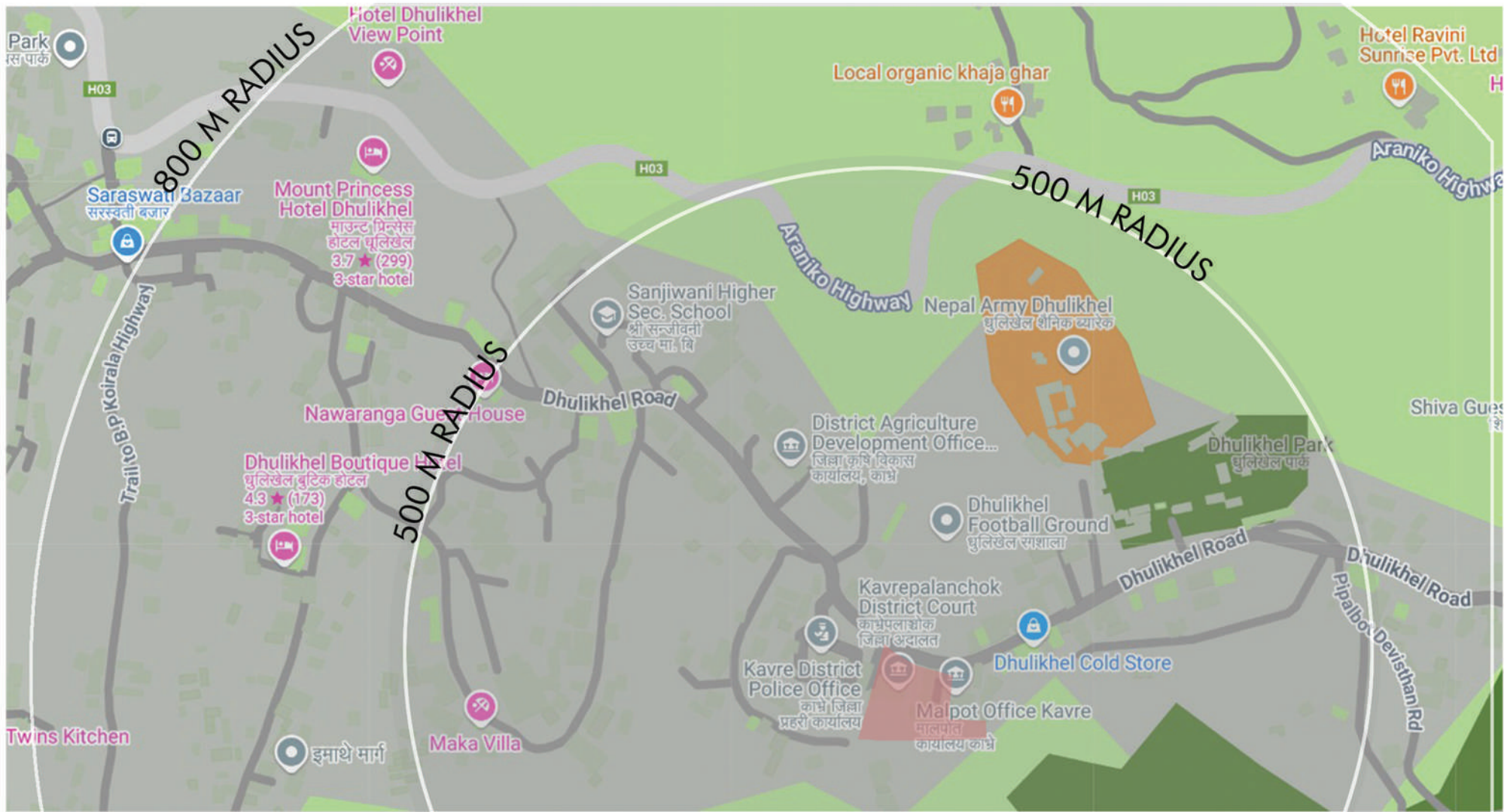
FIGURE GROUND



ROAD NETWORK



TOPOGRAPHY



PROXIMITY MAP

PROXIMITIES

LAND REVENUE OFFICE : 50M

POLICE STATION : 50M

DHULIKHEL STADIUM :100M

SANJIWANI SCHOOL : 400M

DHILIKHEL BUS STOP : 800M

KATHMANDU : 29.9KM

SUROUNDINGS

EAST : LAND REVENUE OFFICE

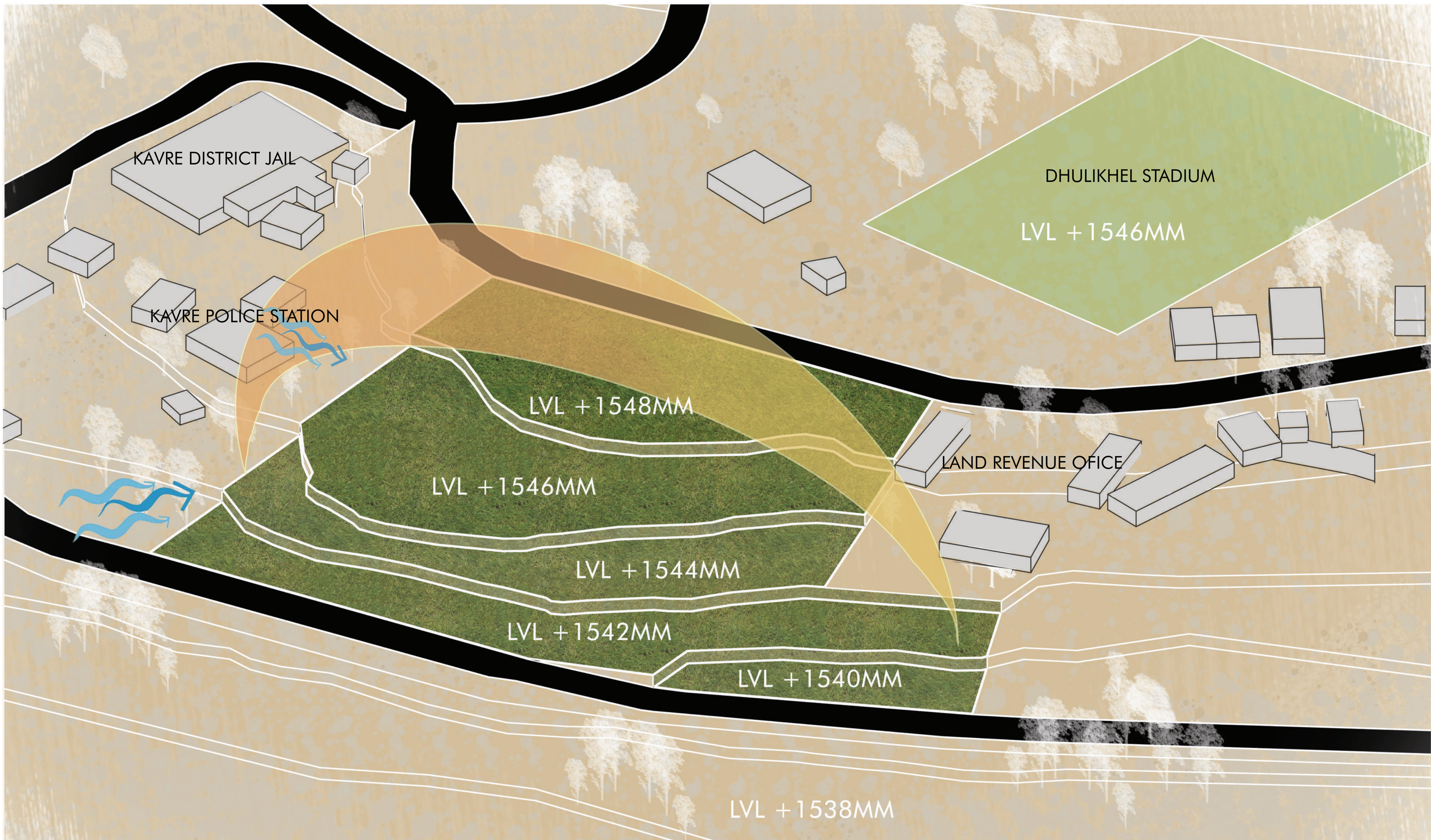
WEST : POLICE STATION

NORTH : DHULIKHEL STADIUM

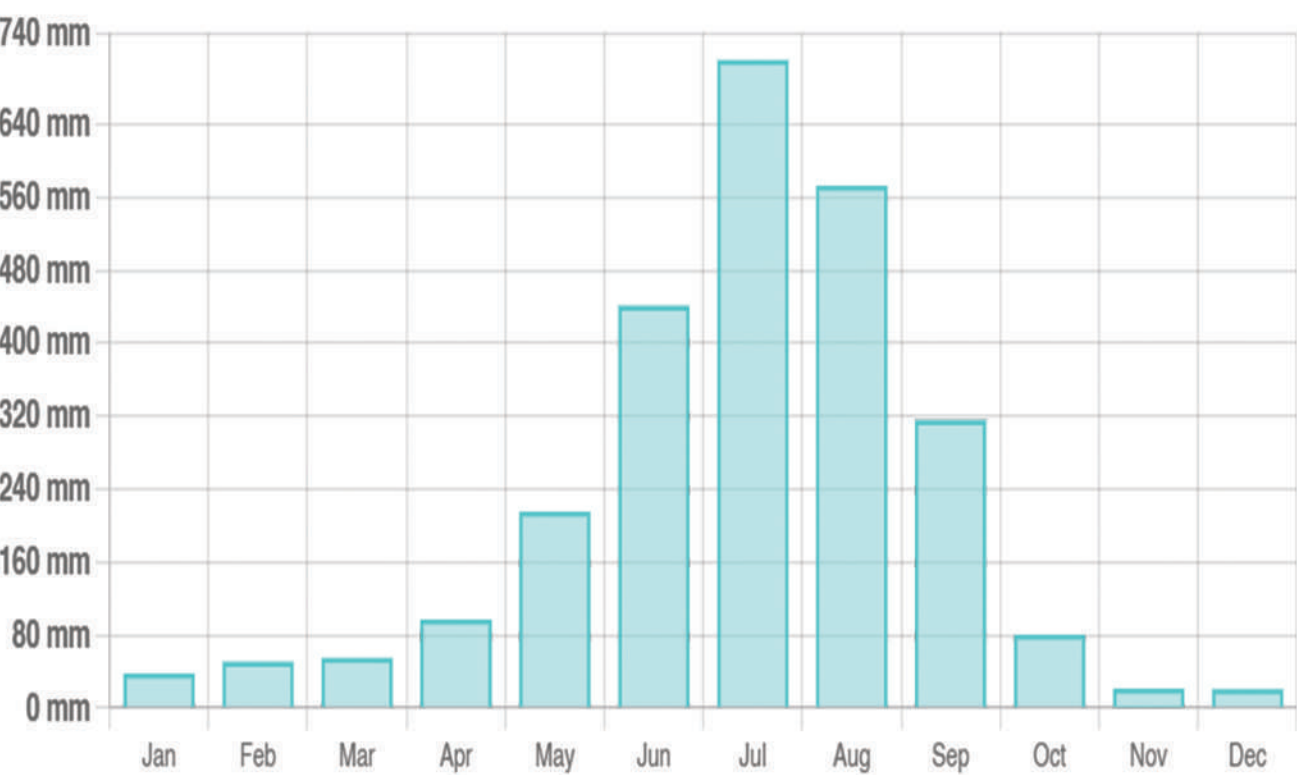
SOUTH : DHULIKHEL HEIGHTS

JUSTIFICATION

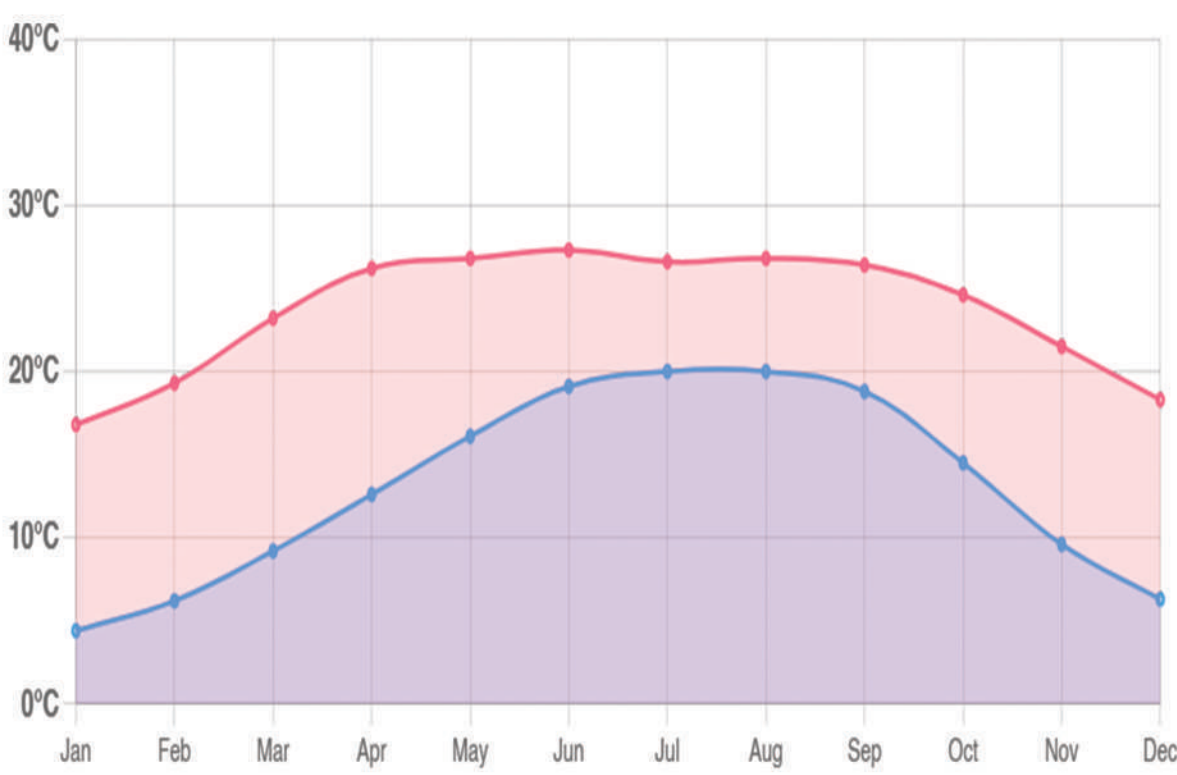
Dhulikhel stands out as the fastest-growing city in Kavre, experiencing rapid development. The site lies within an institutional zone, ensuring convenient access to key government offices. Moreover, its peaceful and scenic setting, removed from the hustle and bustle of the town center, enhances its appeal.



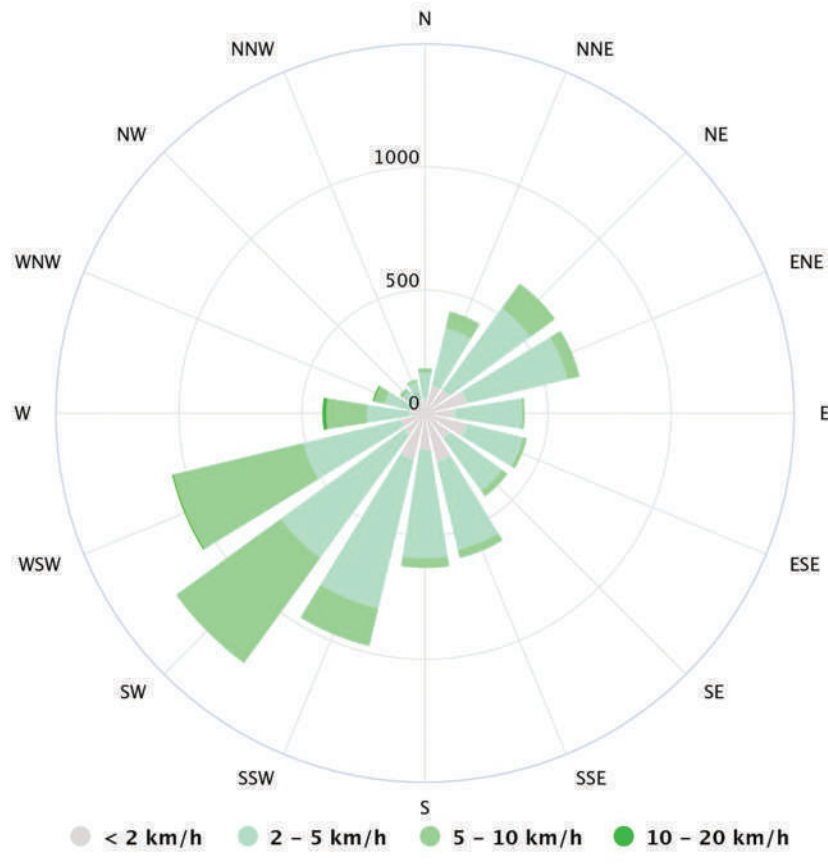
SITE ANALYSIS



PRECIPITATION CHART



TEMPERATURE CHART



WINDROSE DIAGRAM



NORTH OF THE SITE



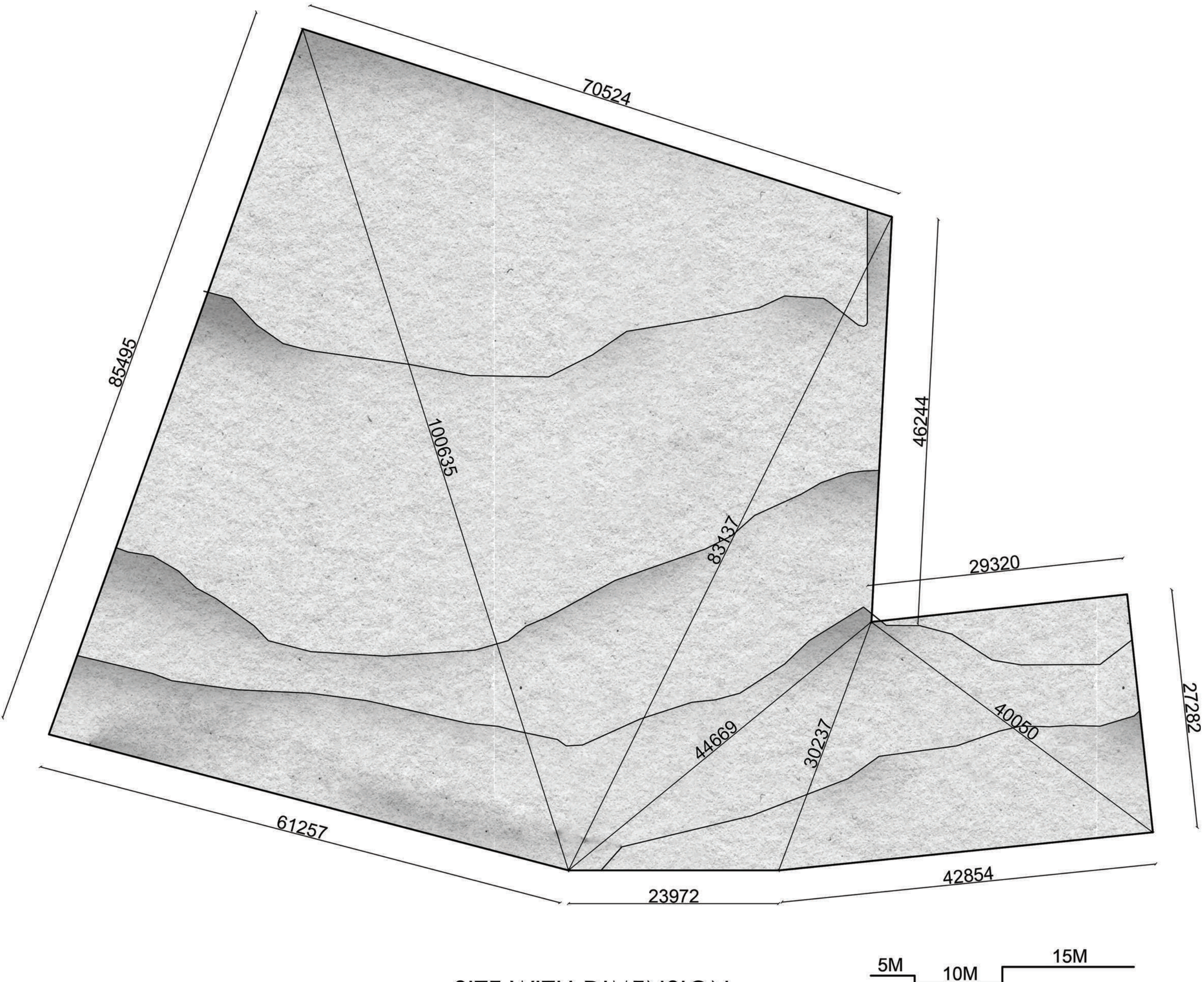
PARKING IN THE STADIUM



SOUTH OF THE SITE



PARKING IN THE SIDE OF ROAD



SITE WITH DIMENSION
AREA:7475.90 SQM
(14-11-0-2.66)

BY LAWS :
GROUND COVERAGE : 50% FOR ANY
TYPE OF GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS
SET BACK : 3M
RIGHT OF WAY : 3M
FLOOR AREA RATIO : 2.5
PARKING : MINIMUM15%
MINIMUM FRONTAGE : 6M
BOUNDARY WALL :4FT MAX/3FT
NET(AFTER SET BACK
THE LAND SHOULD NOT TILT MORE THAN
30 DEGRES FOR BUILDINGS

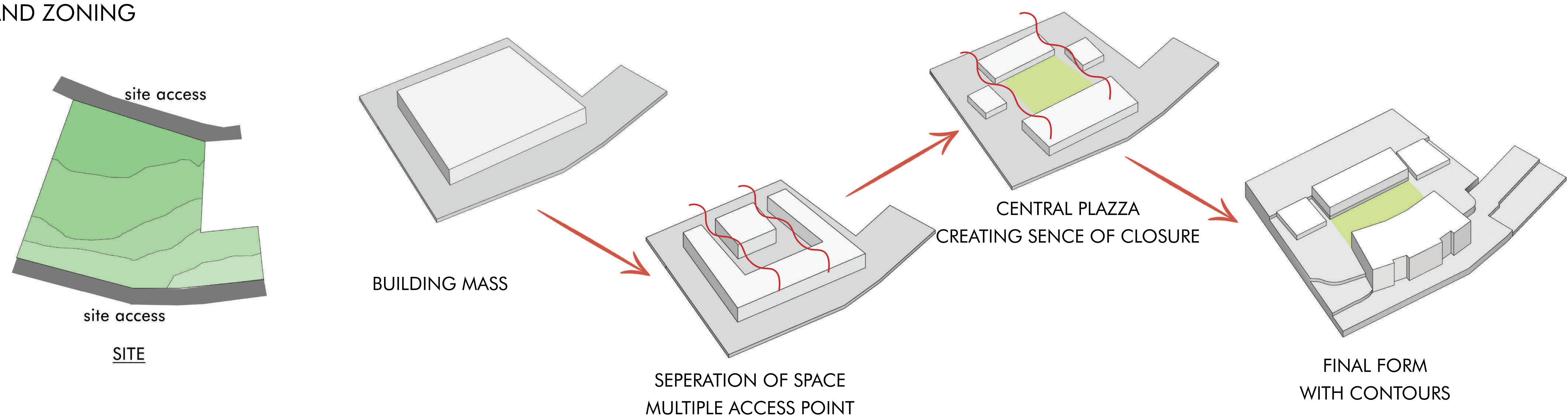
S
-EASY ACCESS TO RELATED GOVERNMENT
BODIES
-SECURED AREA
-LESS POLUTION AND PEACEFUL AREA
-THE NORTH TO SOUTH CONTOUR PROVIDES
AMPLE SUNLIGHT THROUGHOUT THE DAY

O
-AMPLE PACE FOR LAW FIRMS
-SUSTAINABLE DESIGN
-TOPOGRAPHY MAY CREATE UNIQUE DESIGN

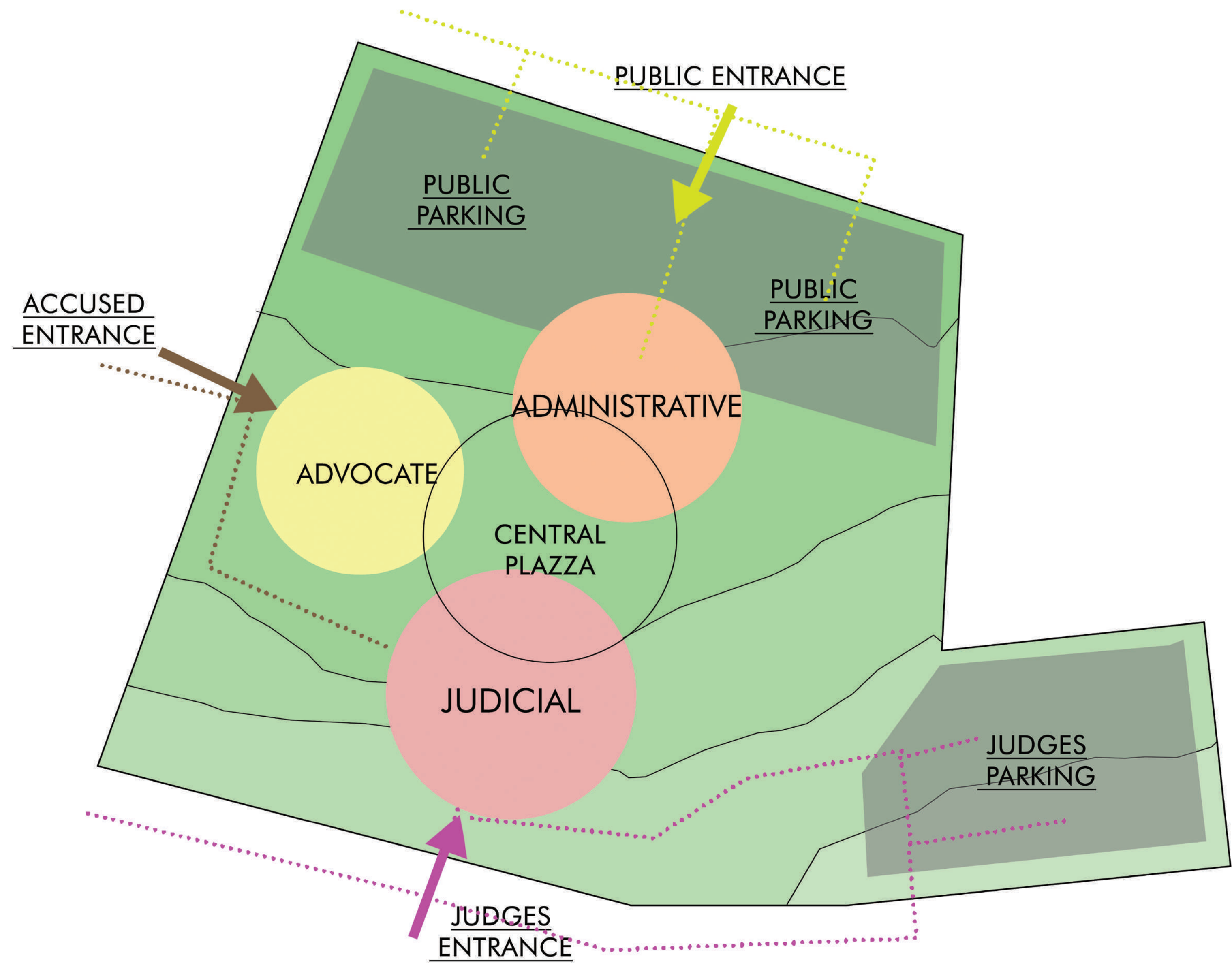
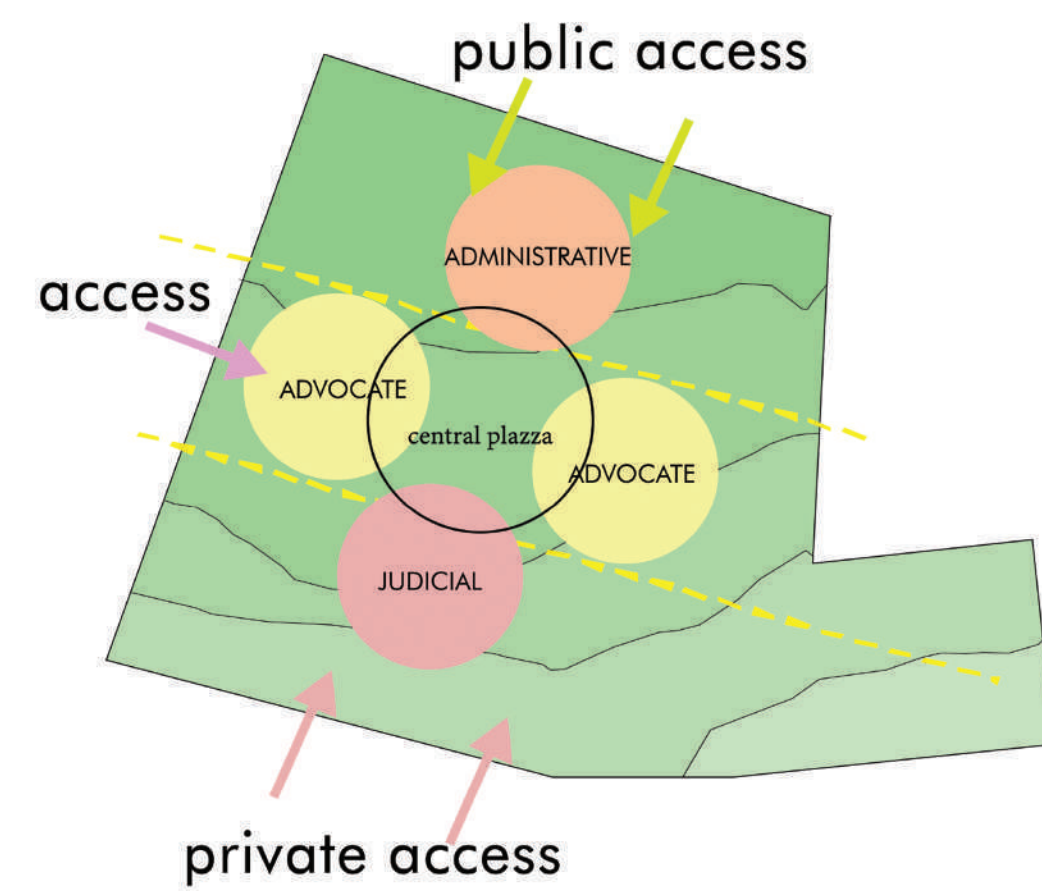
W
-NO PUBLIC TRANSPORT FACILITY
-NARROW ROADS FOR INSTITUTIONAL ZONE
-TOPOLOGICAL CHALLENGE
-LACK OF OPEN SPACE/PARKING

T
-RISK OF LANDSLIDES
-NO SPACE FOR ROAD EXPANSION SO THERE IS
CHANCES OF CONJESTION IN FUTURE

CONCEPT AND ZONING



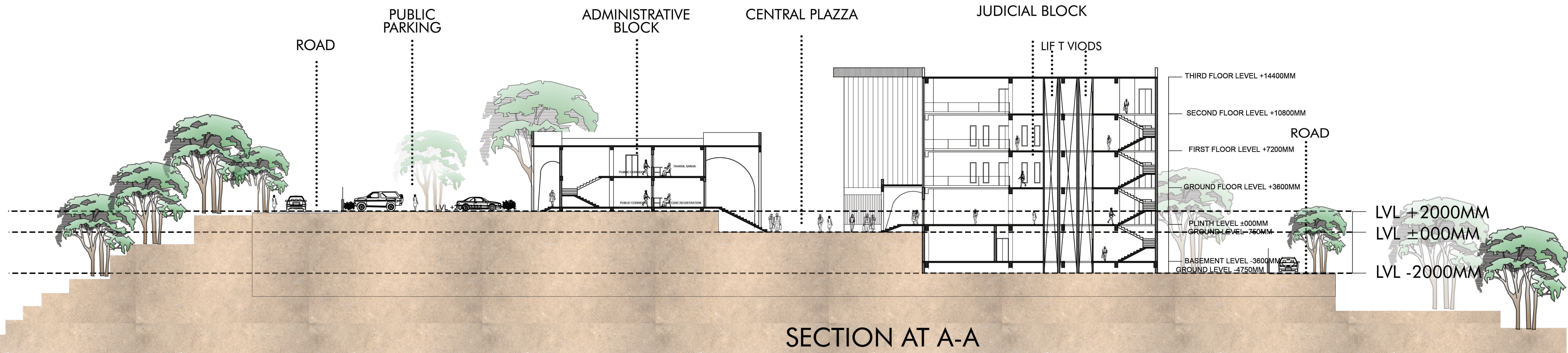
SEPERATE FUNCTIONS AS
PER PROGRAM

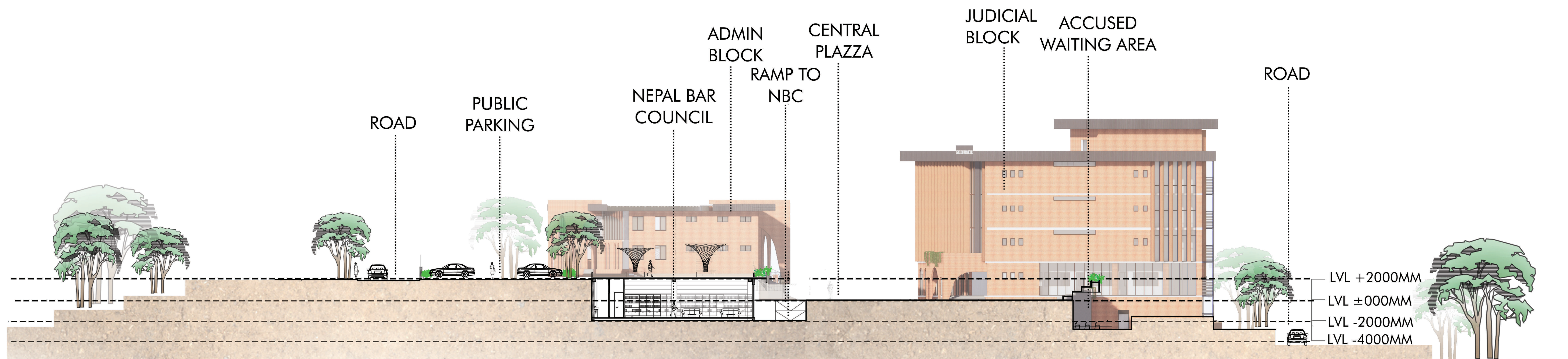


MASTERPLAN

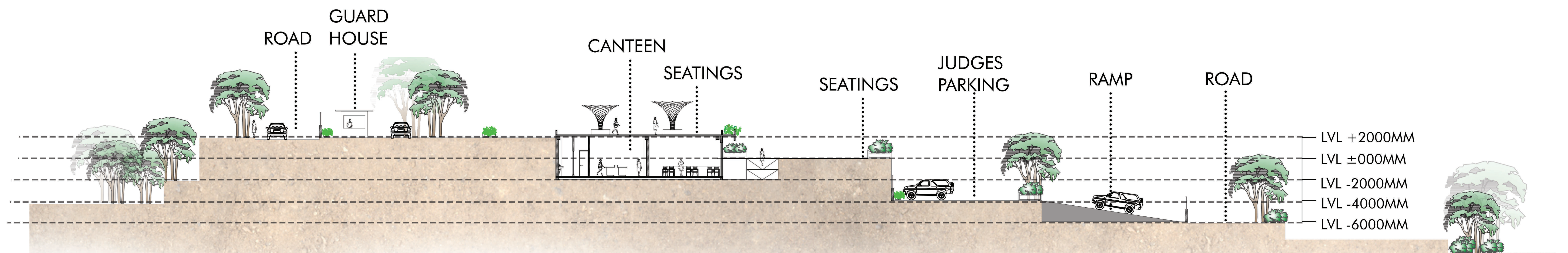


- LEGENDS
- 1.PUBLIC ENTRANCE
 - 2.PUBLIC PARKING
 - 3.ADMINISTRATIVE BLOCK
 - 4.NEPAL BAR COUNCIL
 - 5.CANTEEN
 - 6.ACCUSED ENTRY
 - 7.CENTRAL PLAZZA
 - 8.SEATING SPACE
 - 9.JUDICIAL BLOCK
 - 10.JUDGES ENTRANCE
 - 11.JUDGES PARKING
 - 12.GUARD HOUSE
 - 13.EMERGENCY STAIRCASE

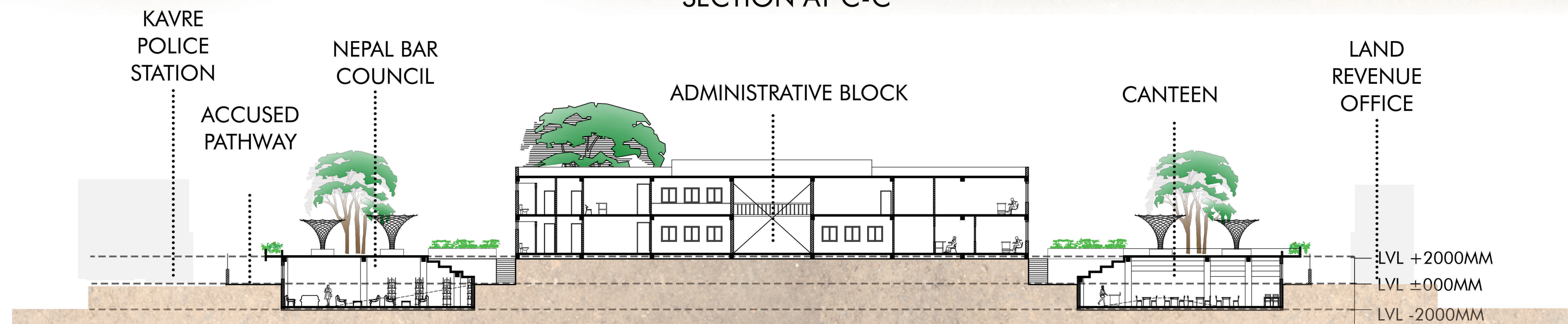




SECTION AT B-B



SECTION AT C-C



SECTION AT D-D



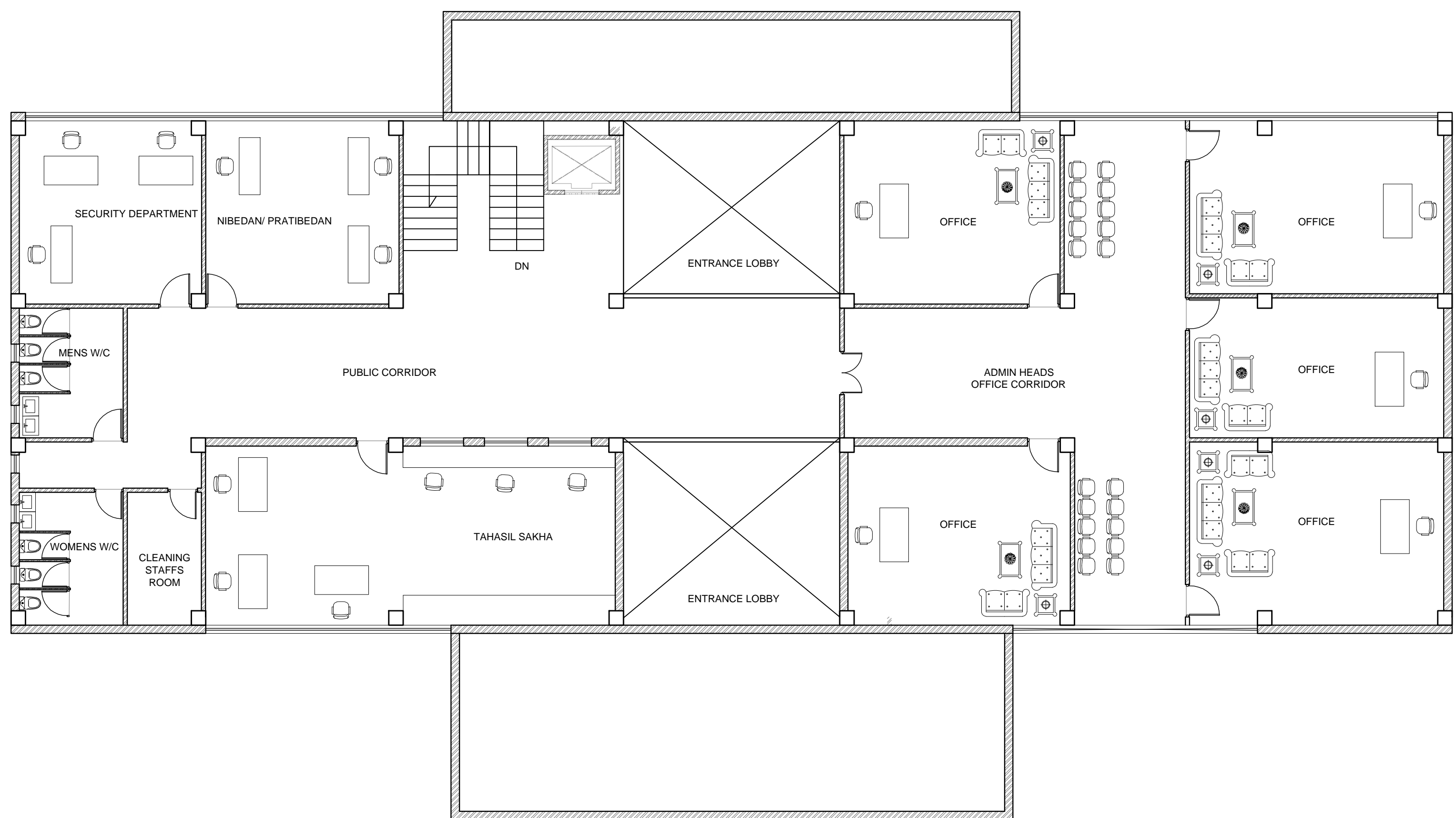
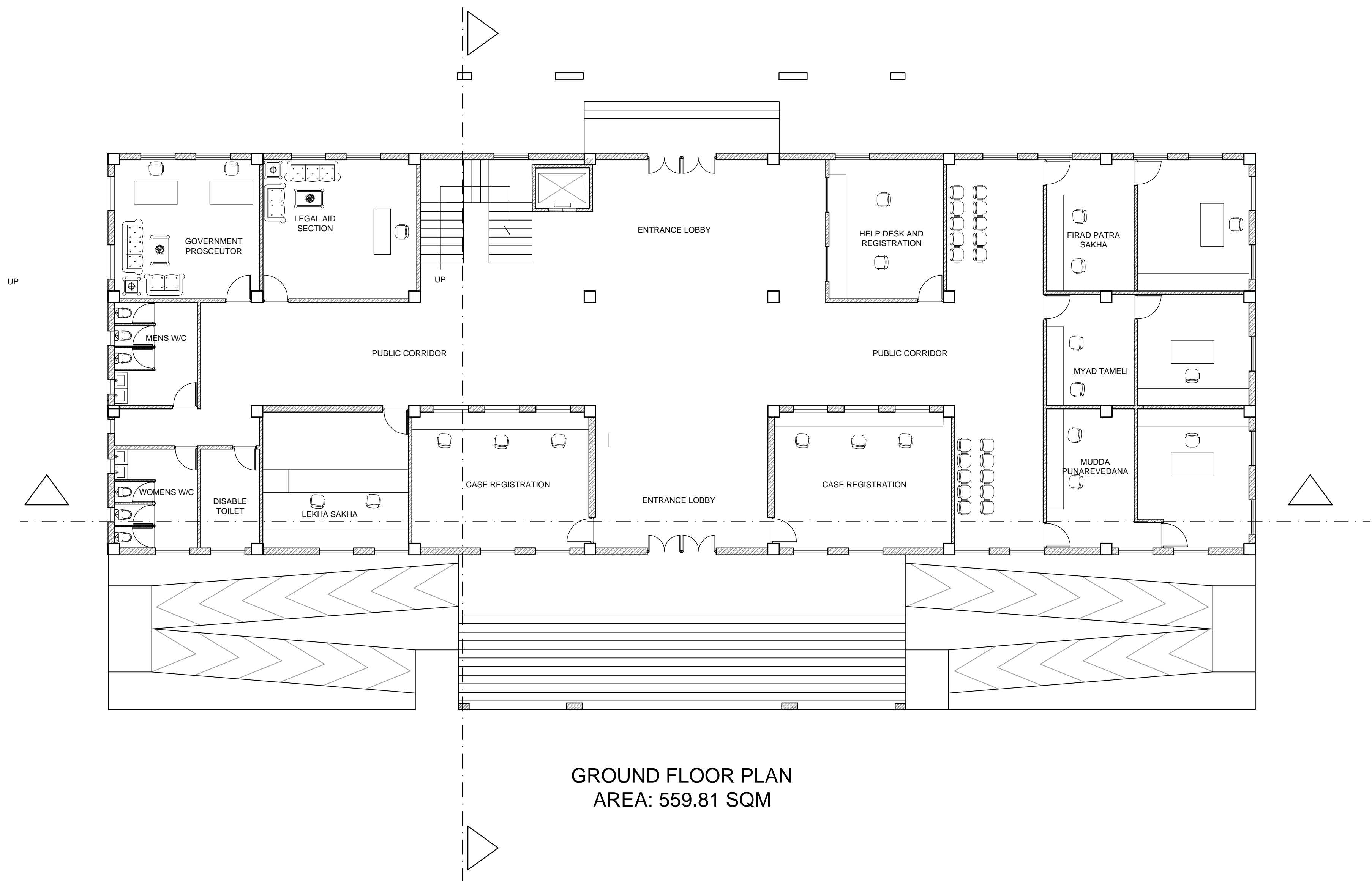
NORTH ELEVATION

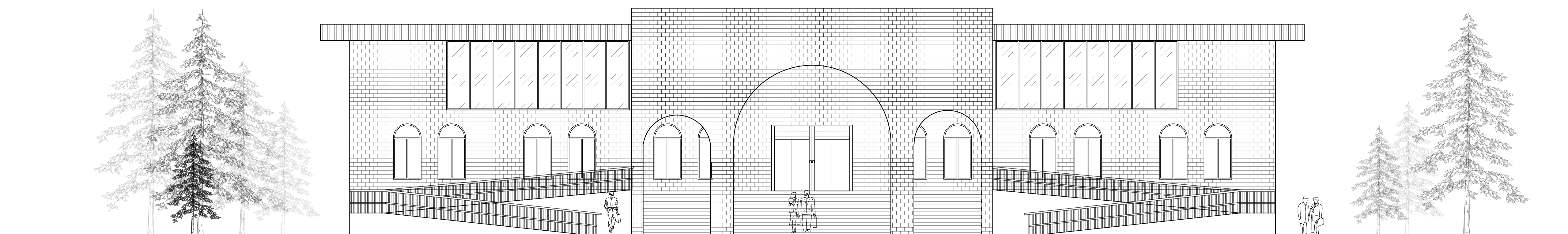
SOUTH ELEVATION



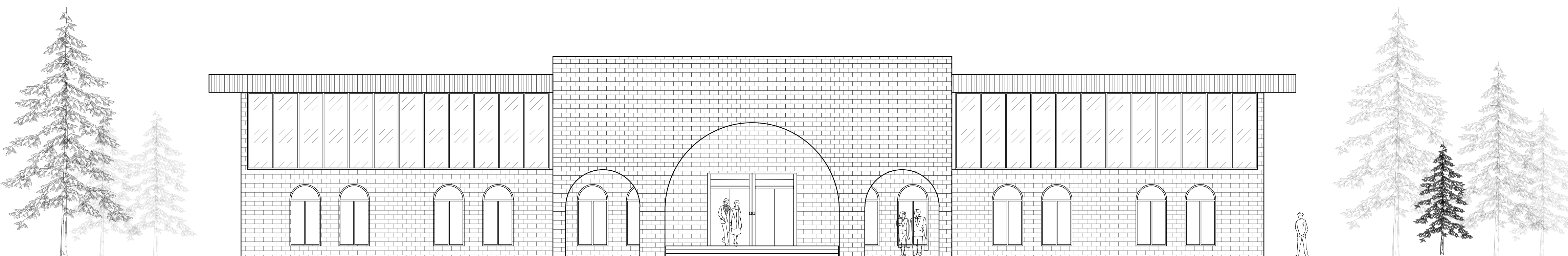
WEST ELEVATION

EAST ELEVATION

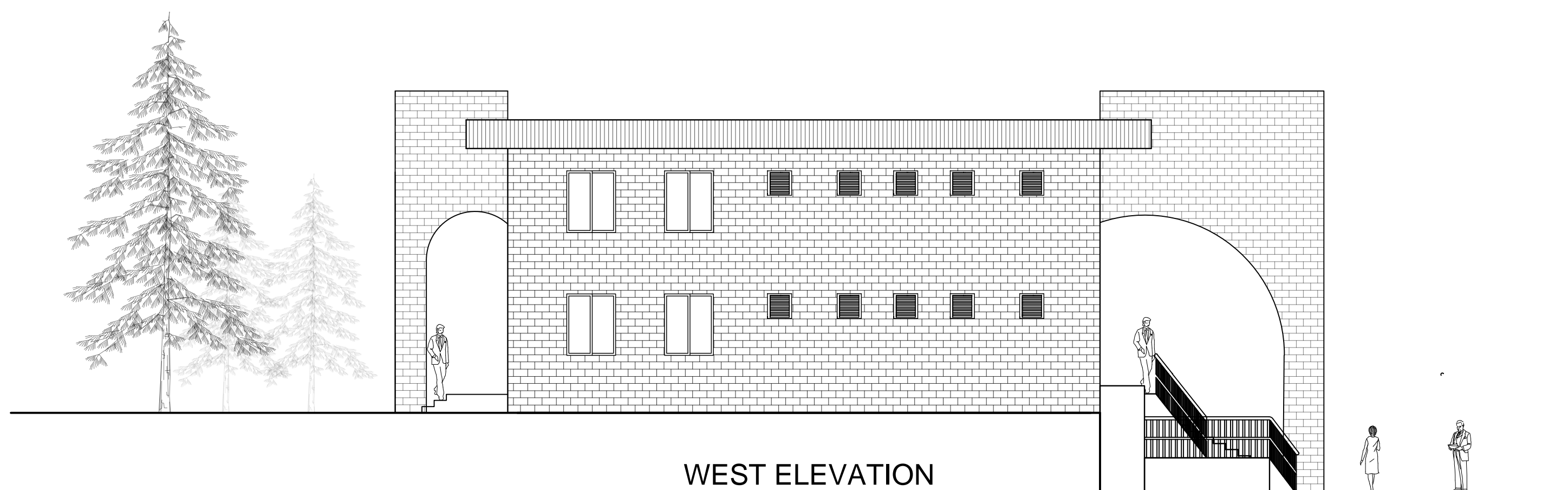




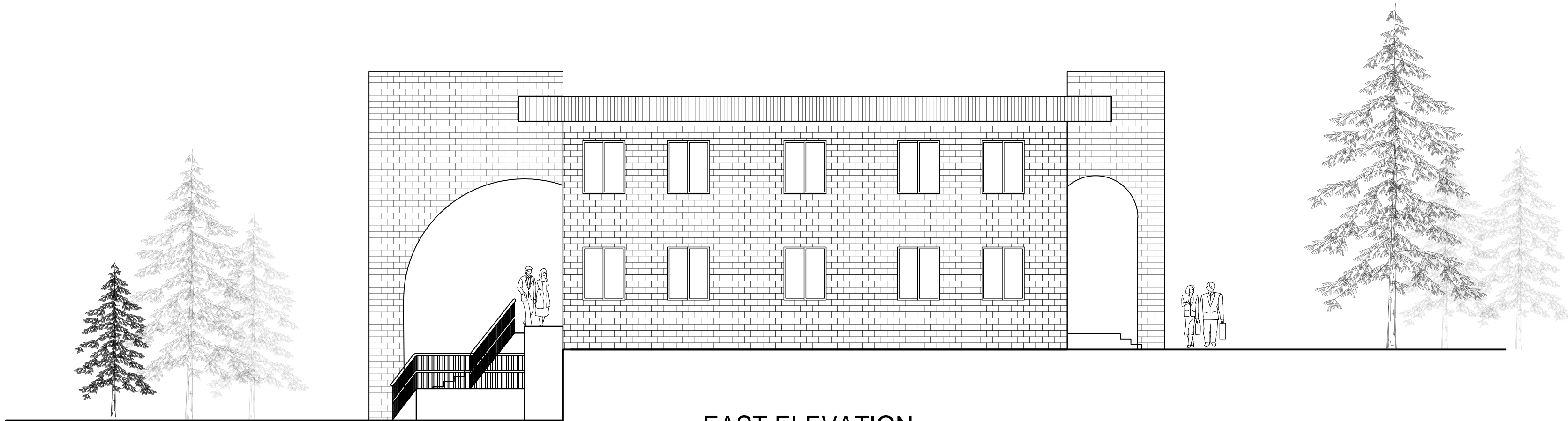
SOUTH ELEVATION



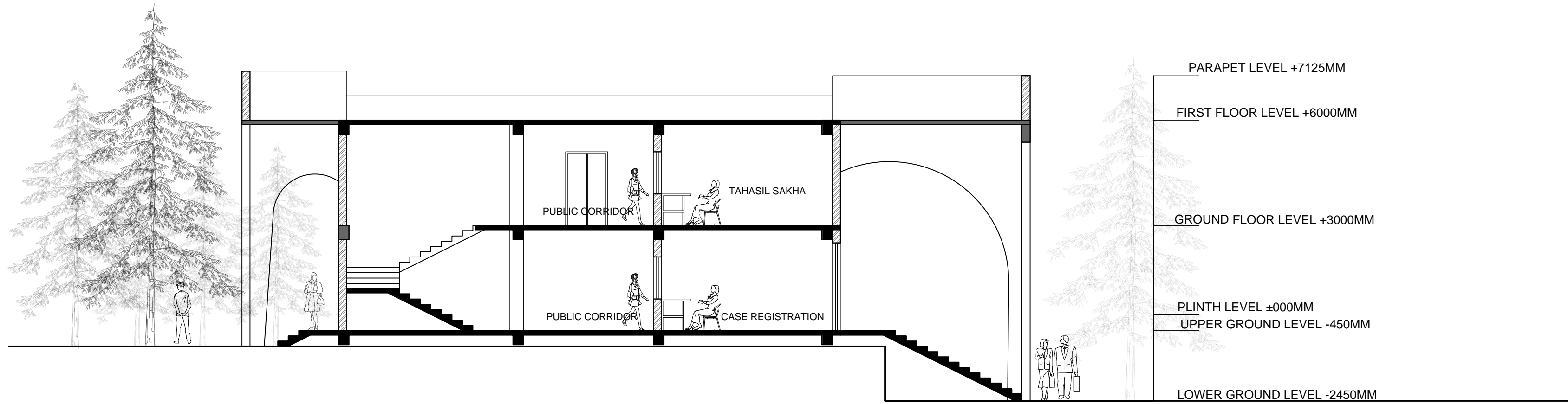
NORTH ELEVATION



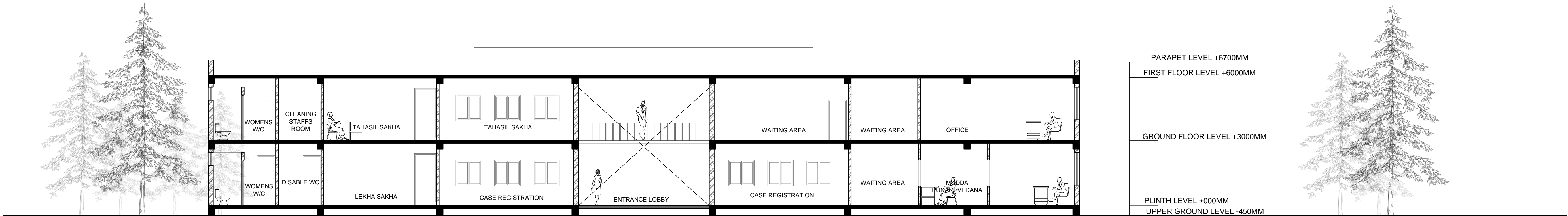
WEST ELEVATION



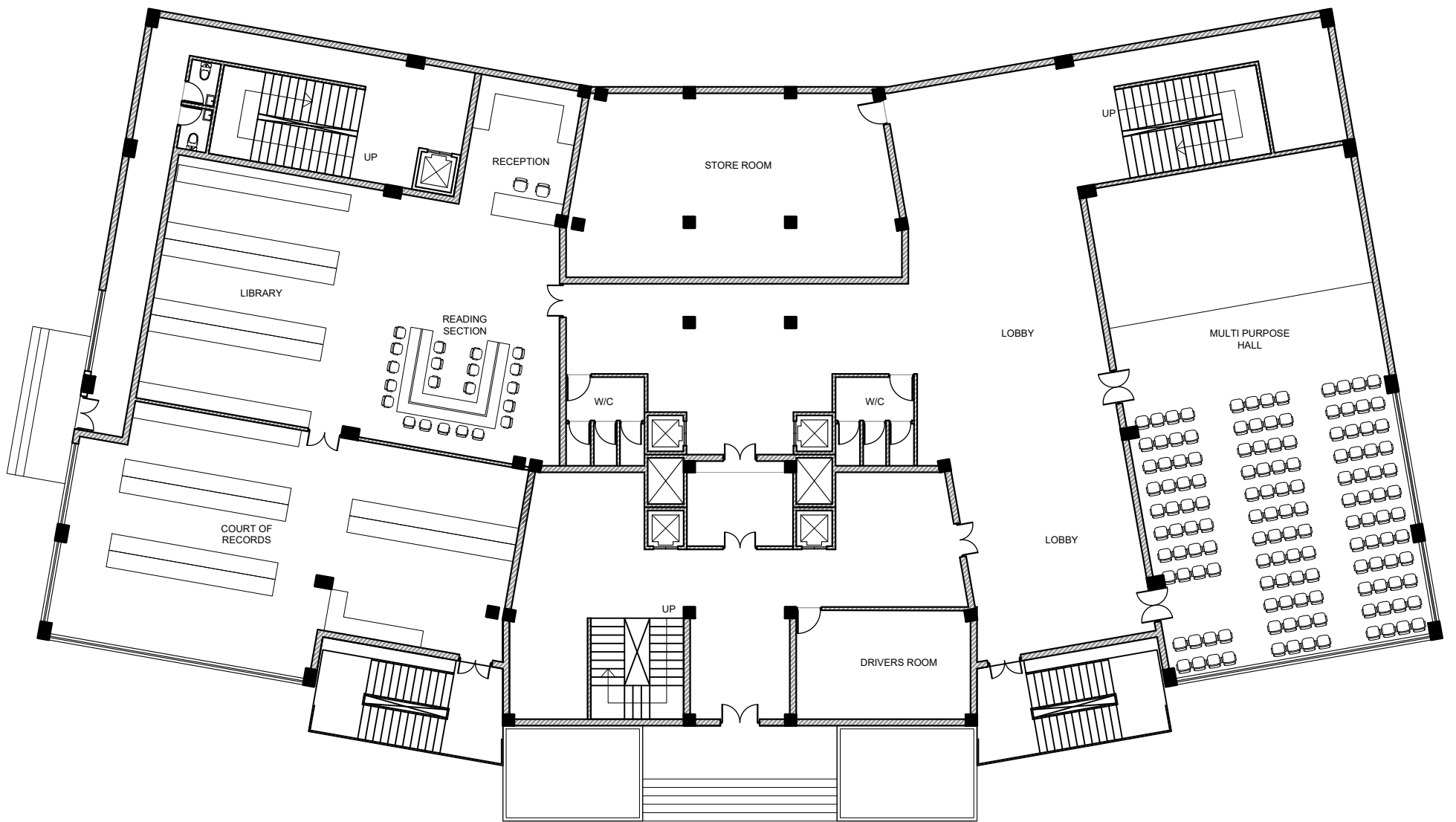
EAST ELEVATION



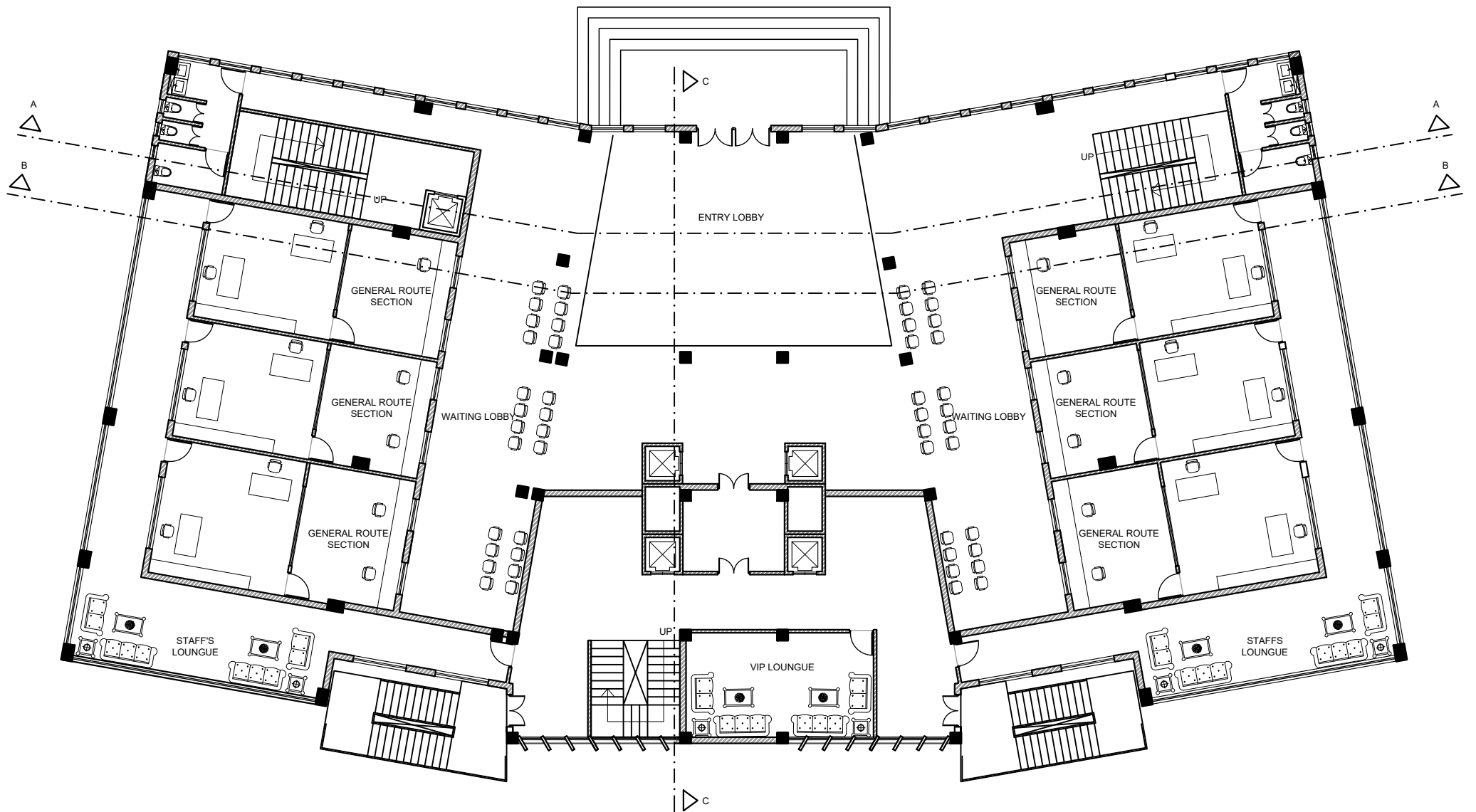
SECTION AT Y-Y



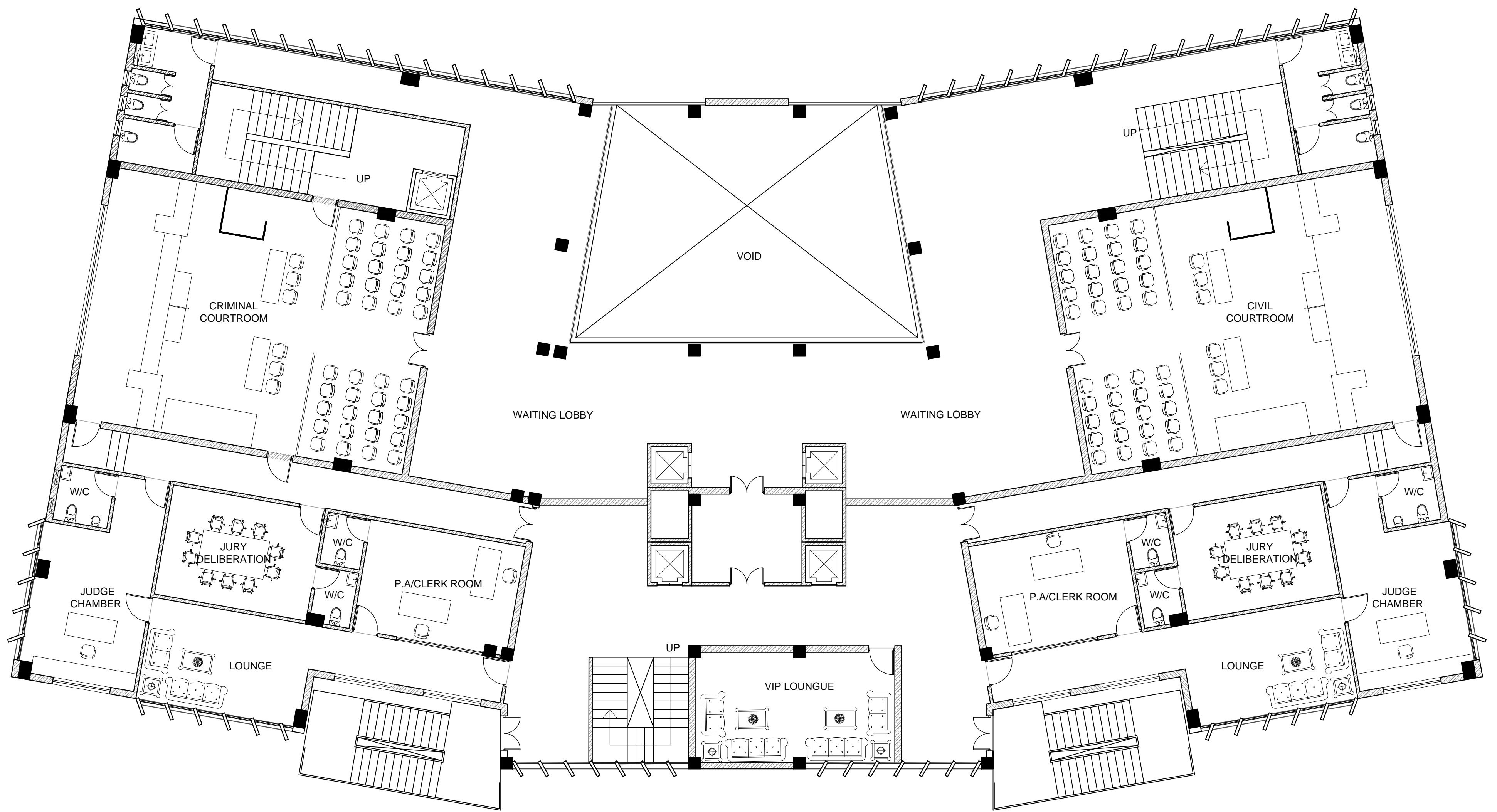
SECTION AT X-X



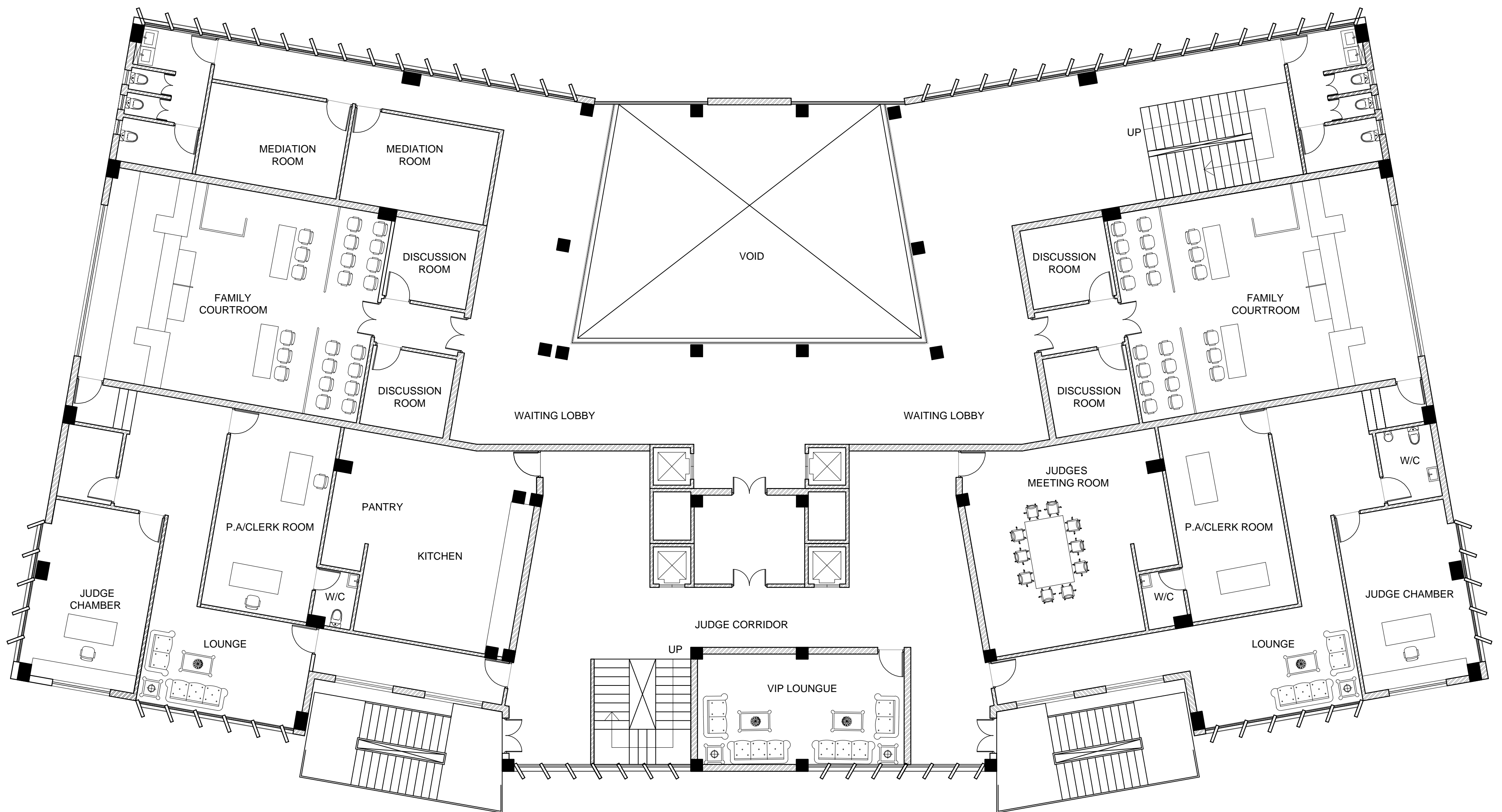
SEMI-BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN
AREA: 1039.78 SQM



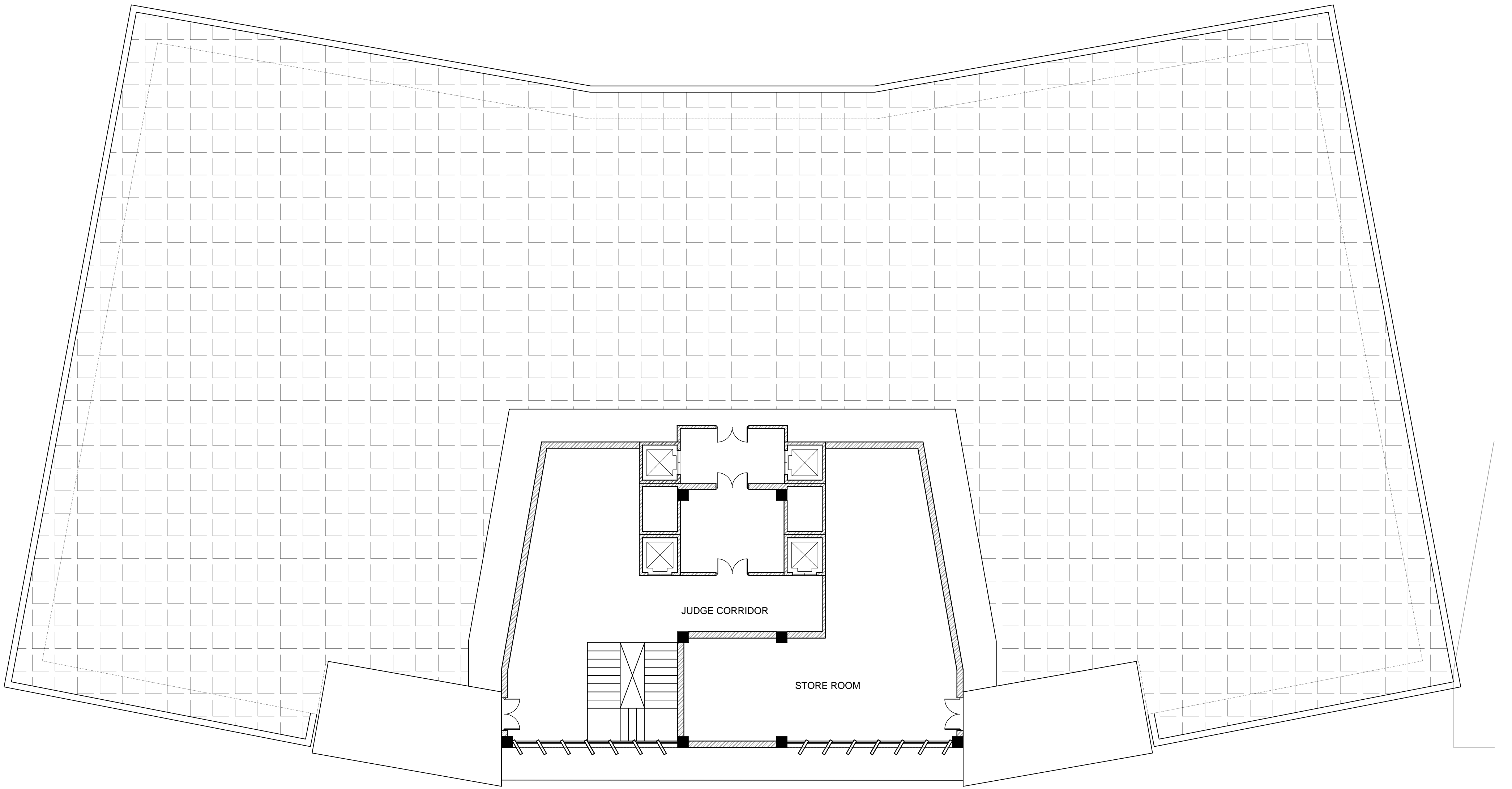
GROUND FLOOR PLAN
AREA: 941.11 SQM



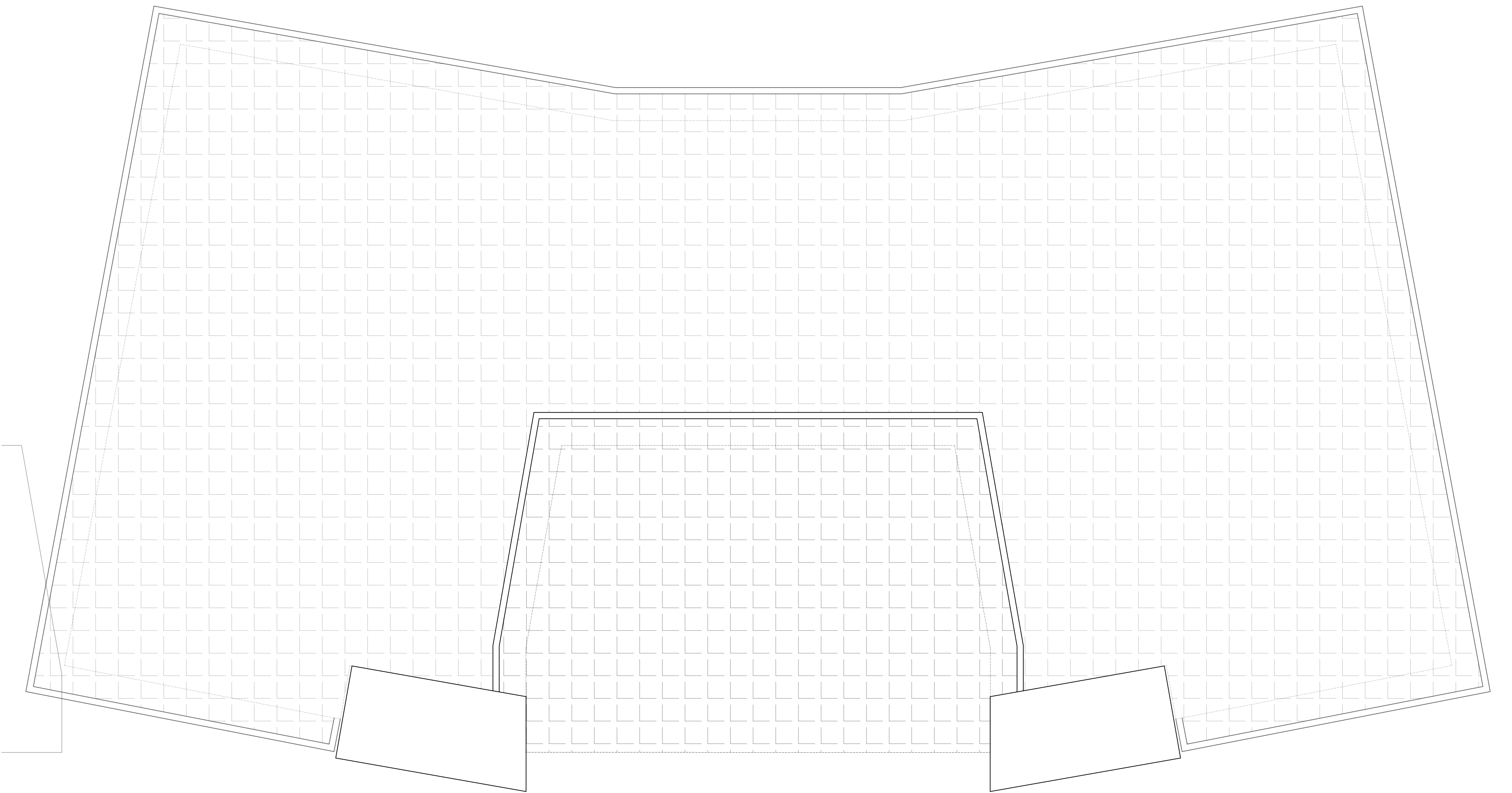
FIRST AND SECOND FLOOR PLAN
AREA: 941.11 SQM



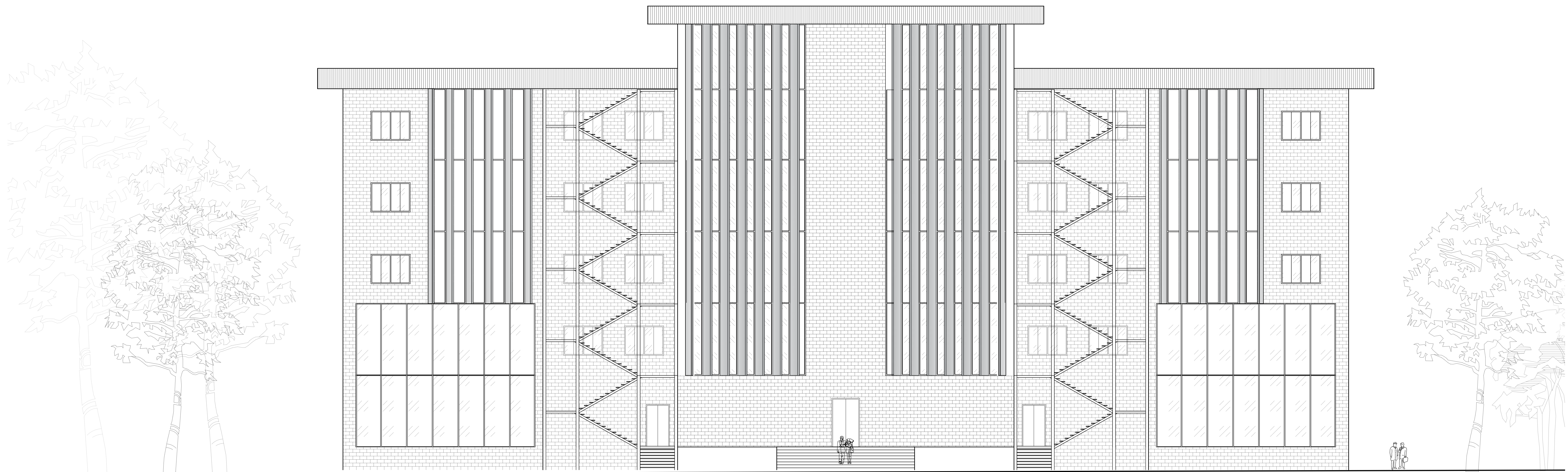
THIRD FLOOR PLAN
AREA: 941.11 SQM



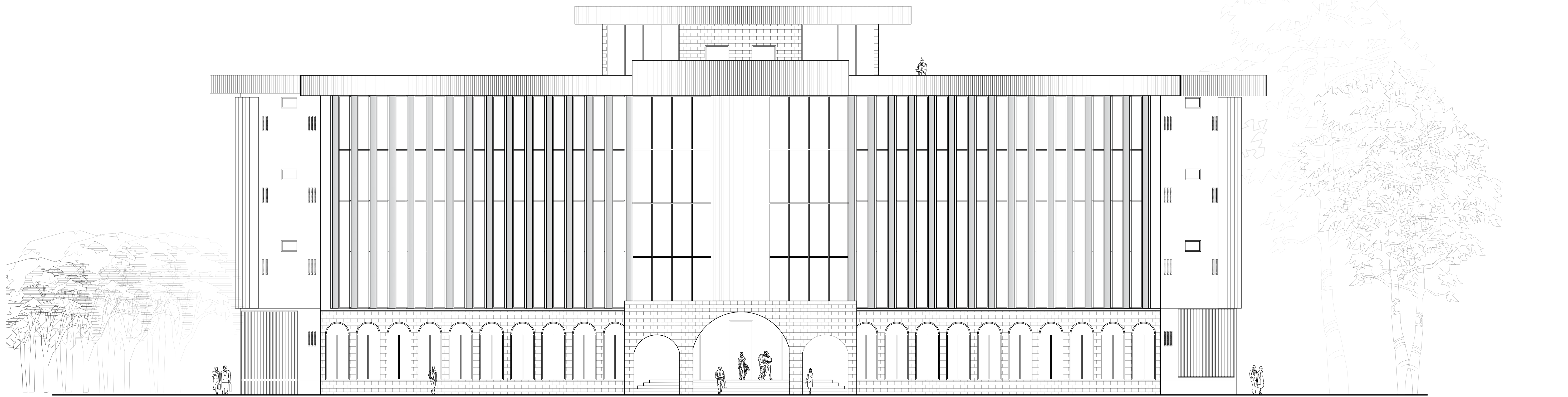
FOURTH FLOOR PLAN
AREA: 176.48 SQM



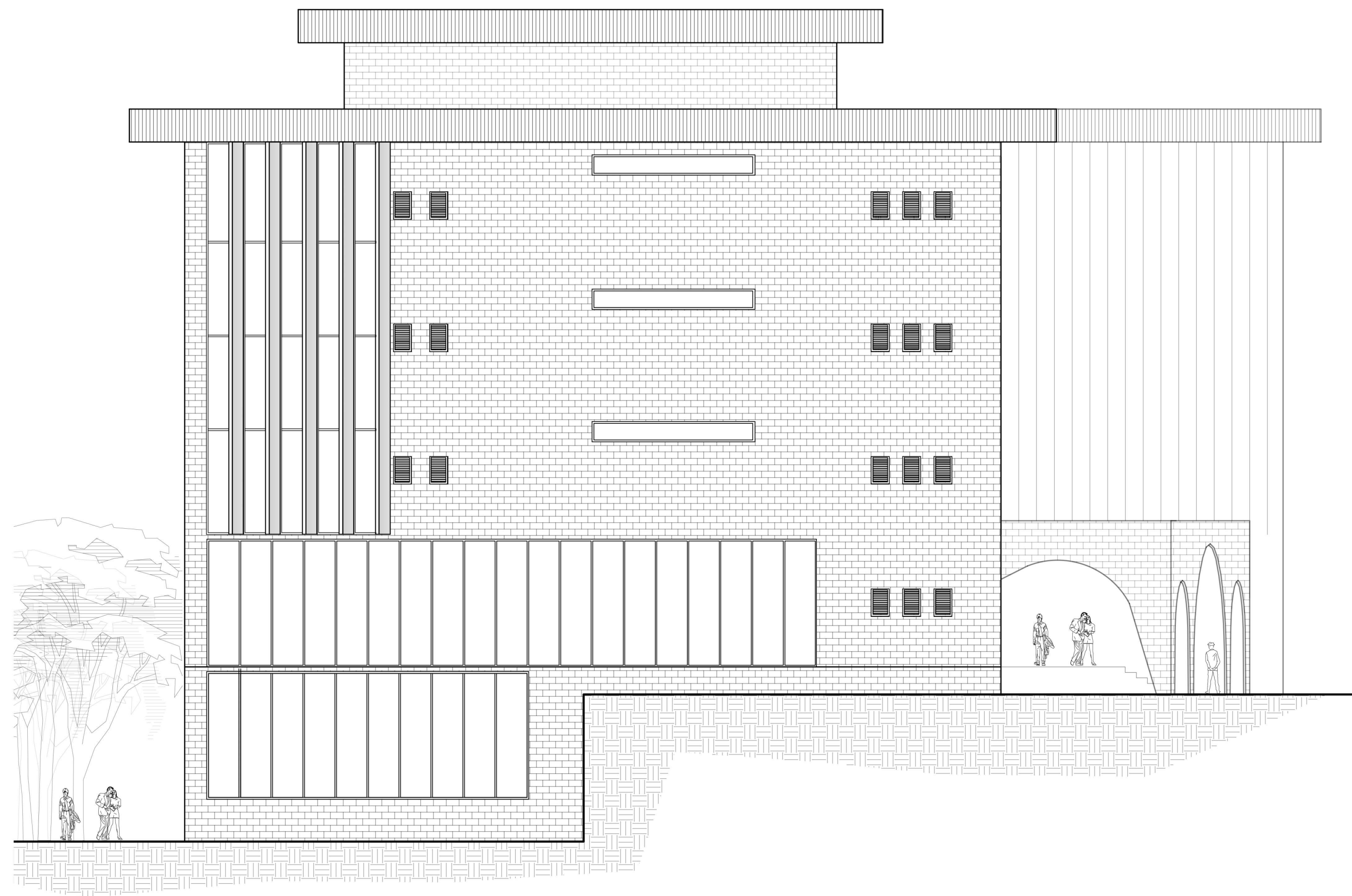
ROOF FLOOR PLAN



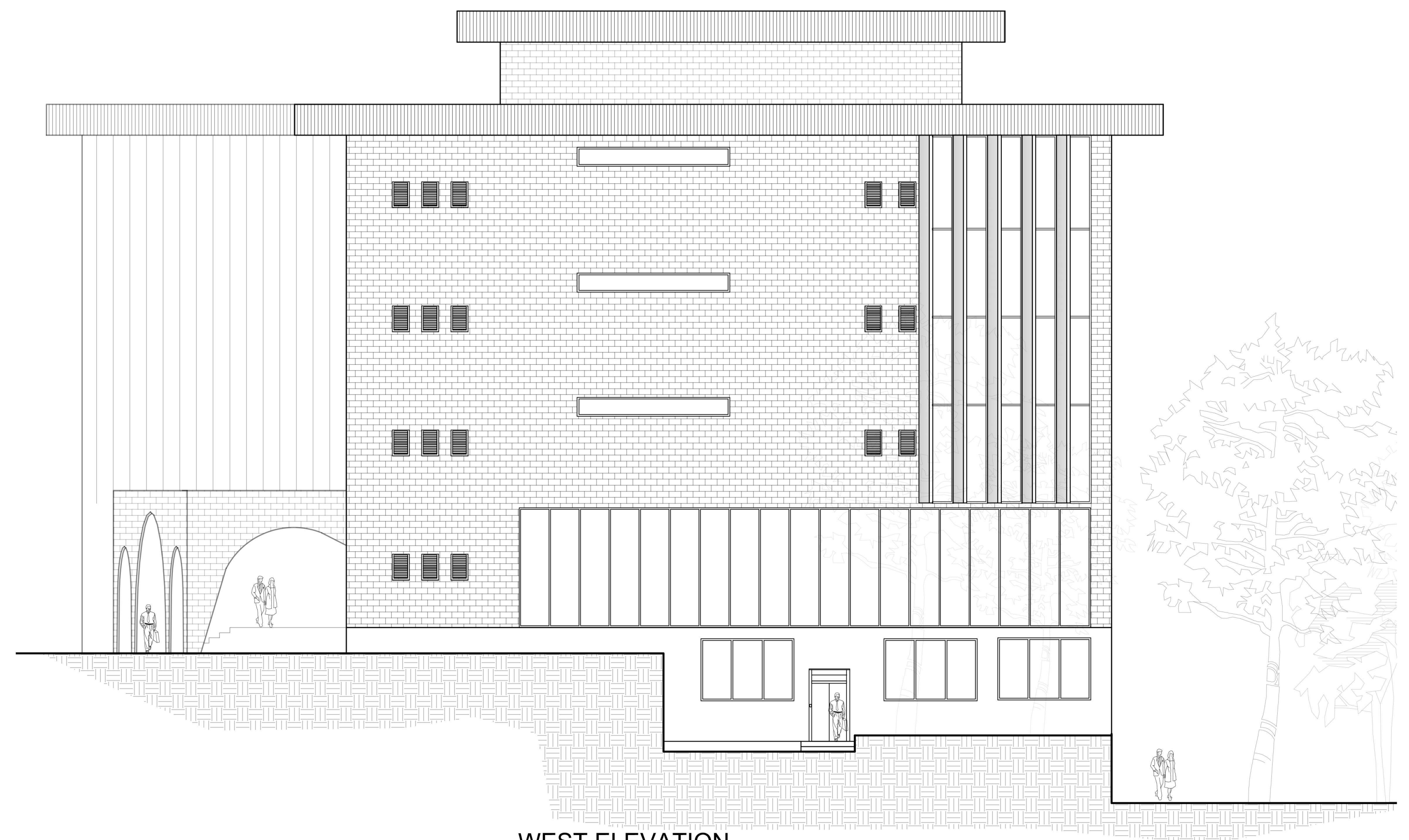
SOUTH ELEVATION



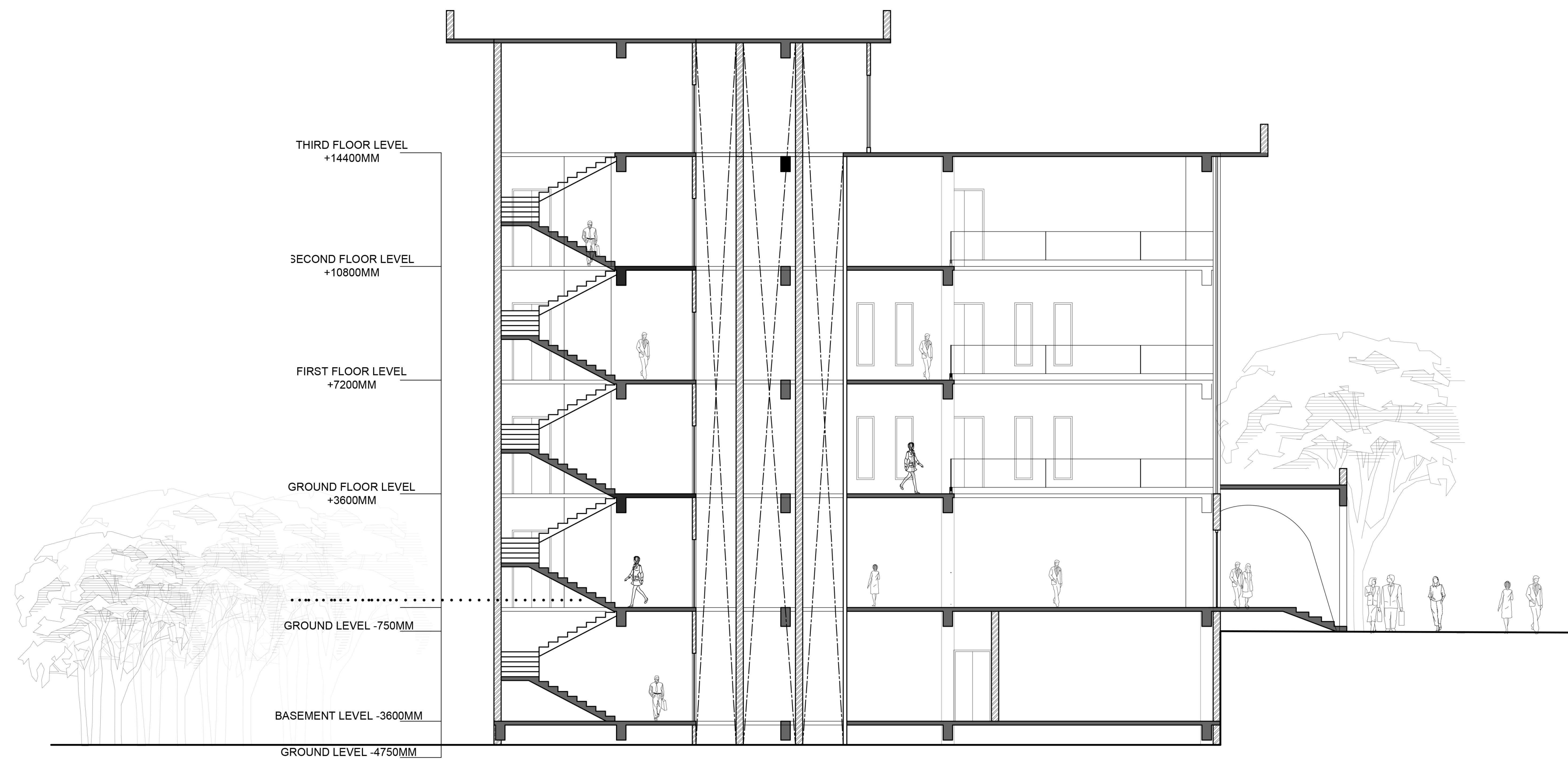
NORTH ELEVATION



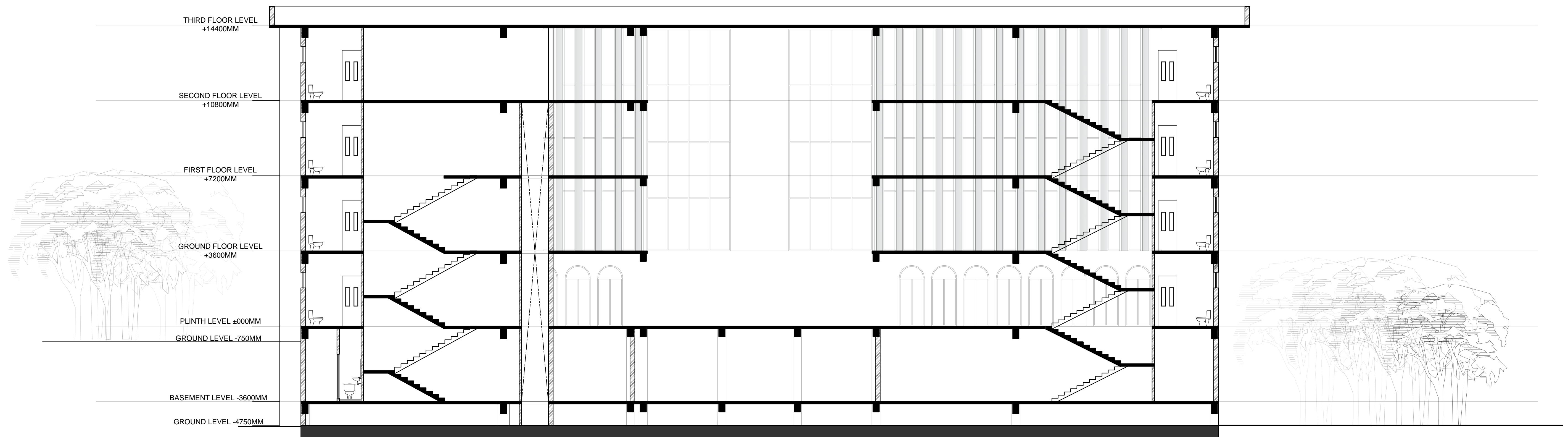
EAST ELEVATION



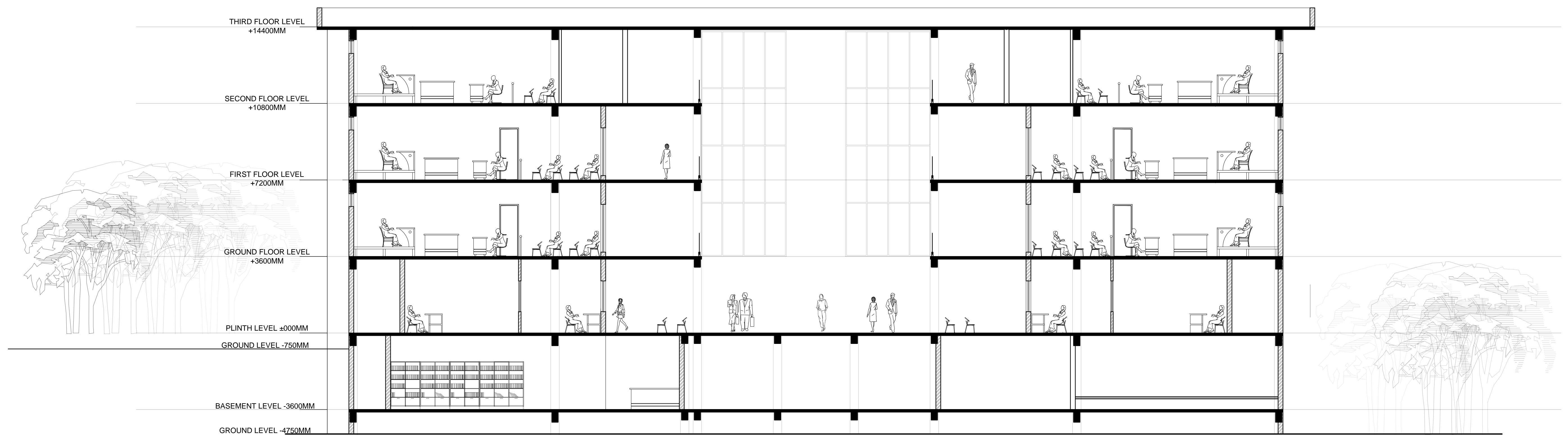
WEST ELEVATION

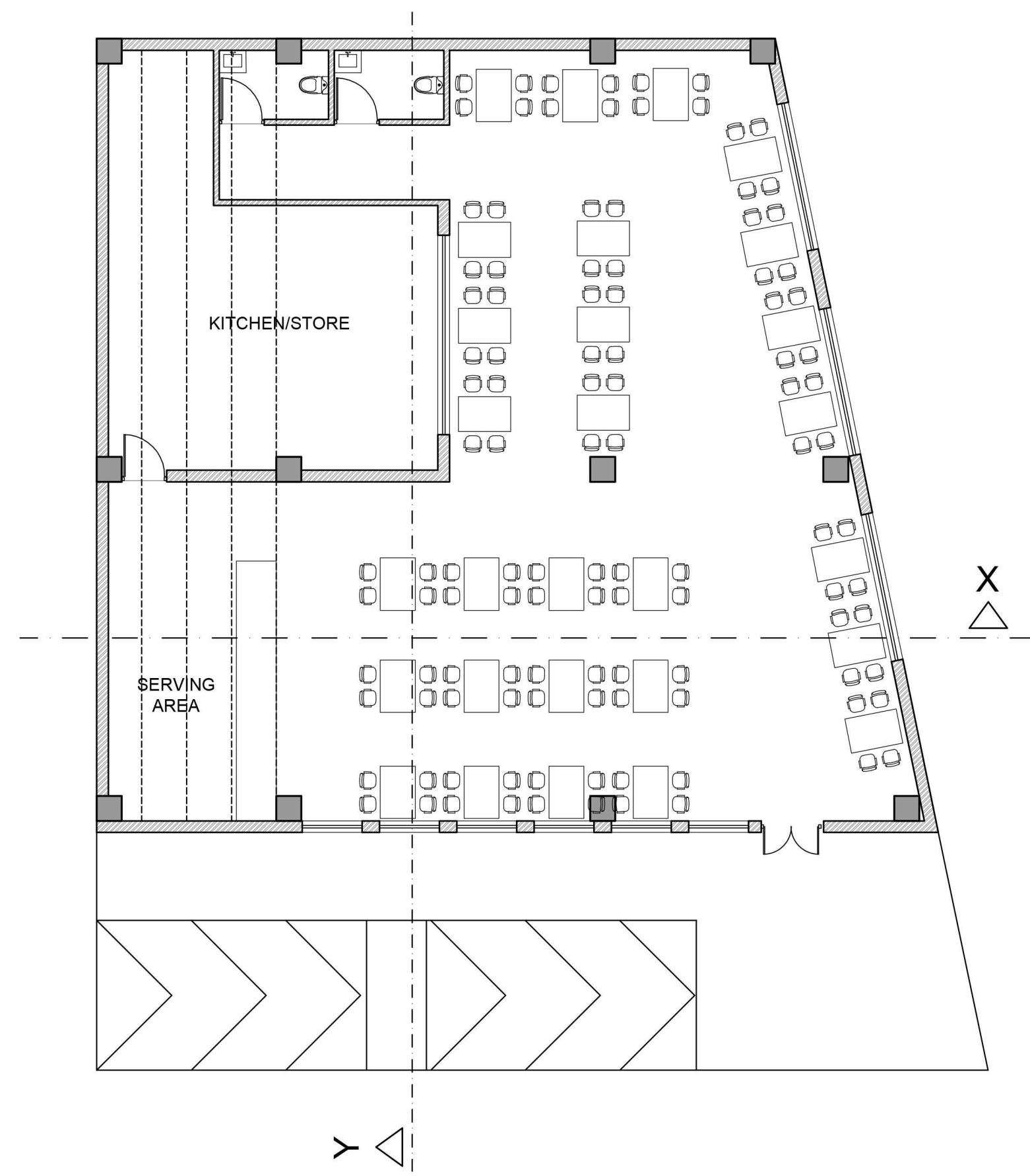


SECTION AT C-C

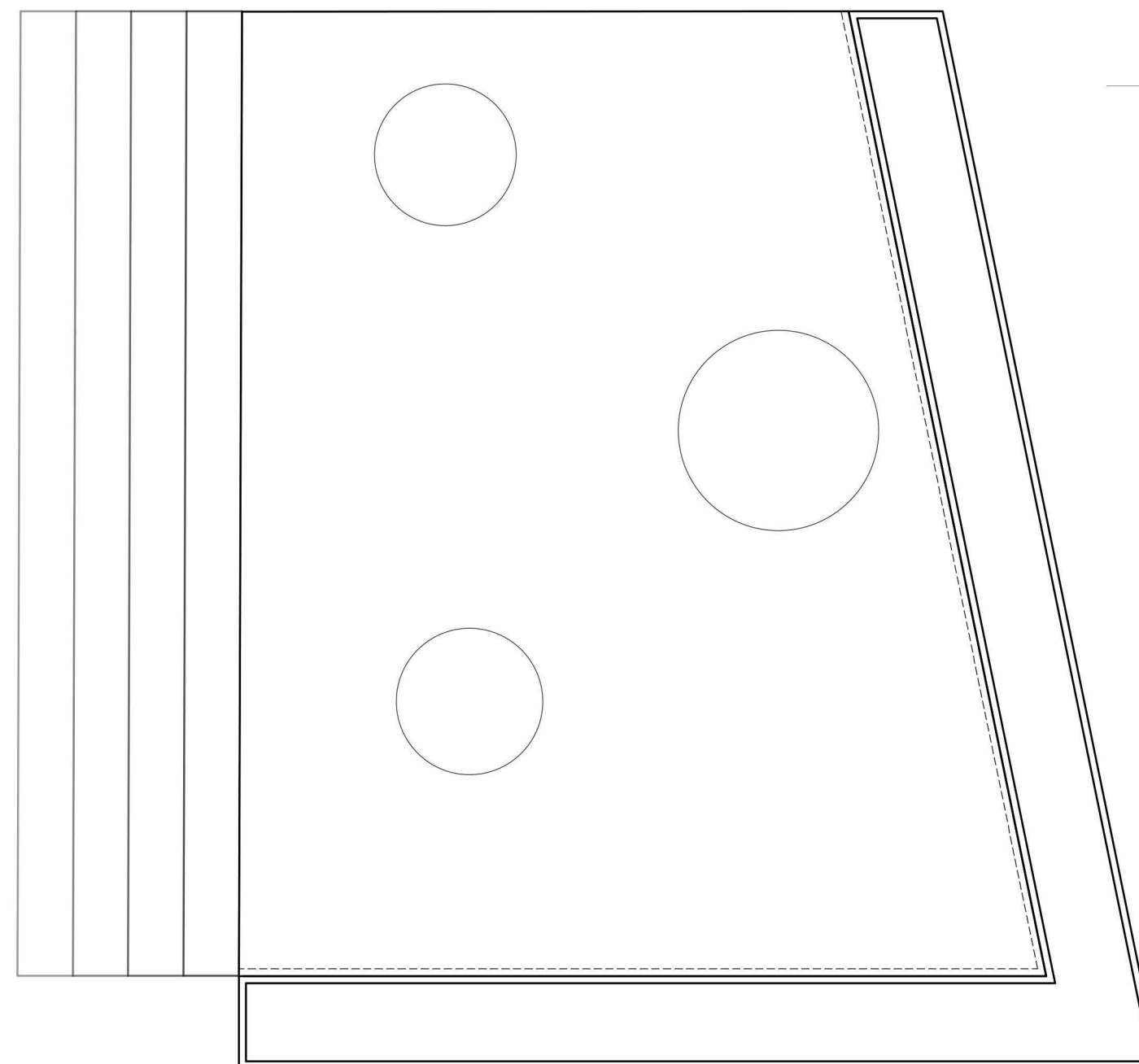


SECTION AT A-A

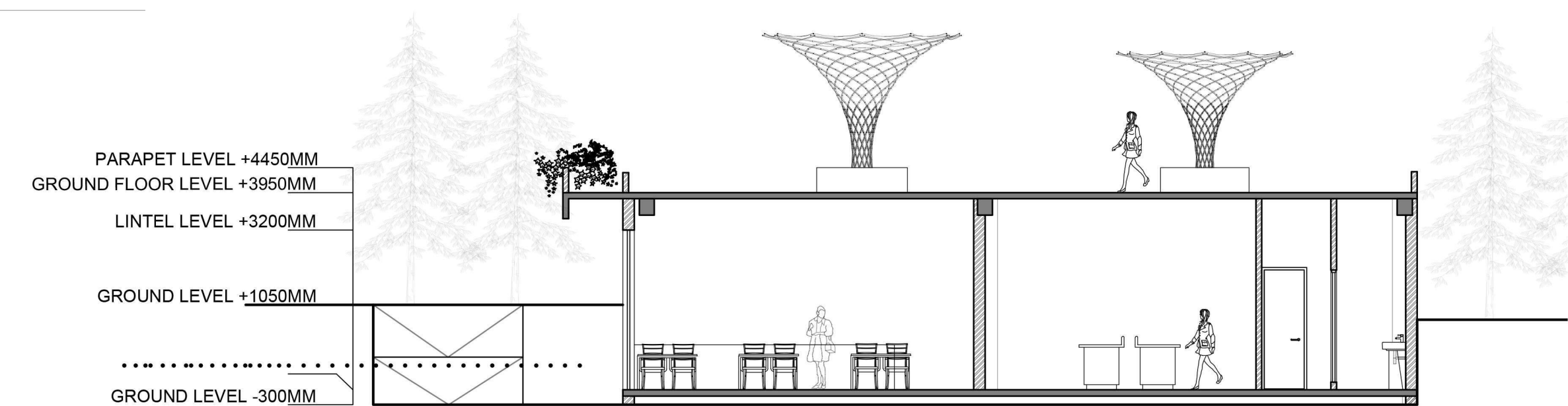




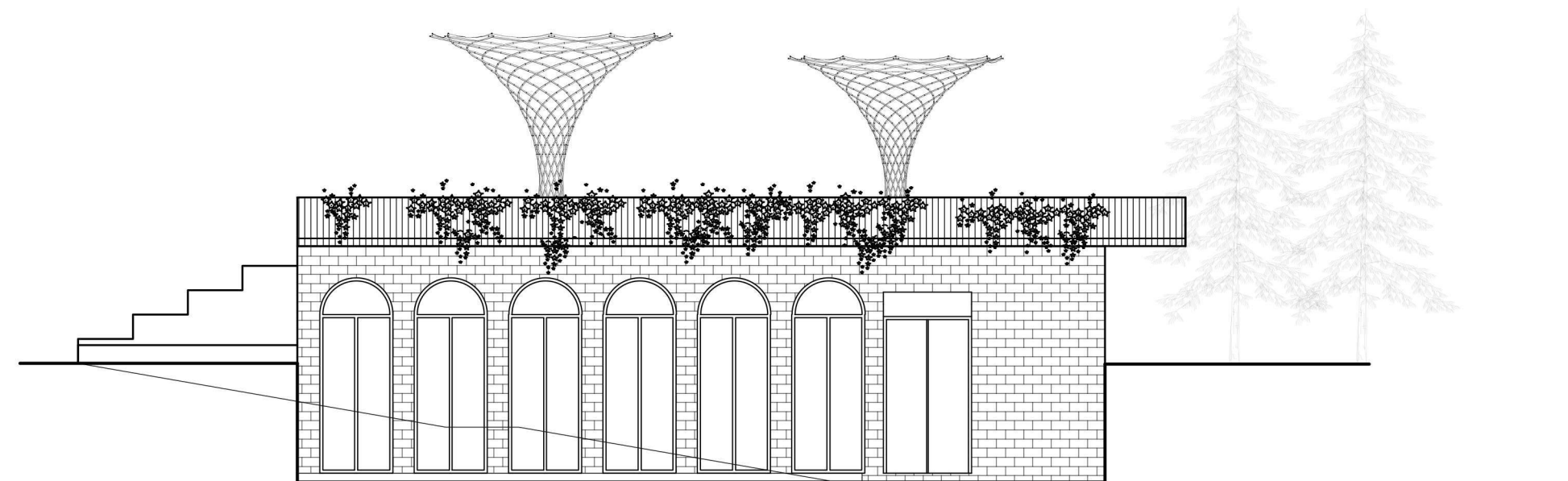
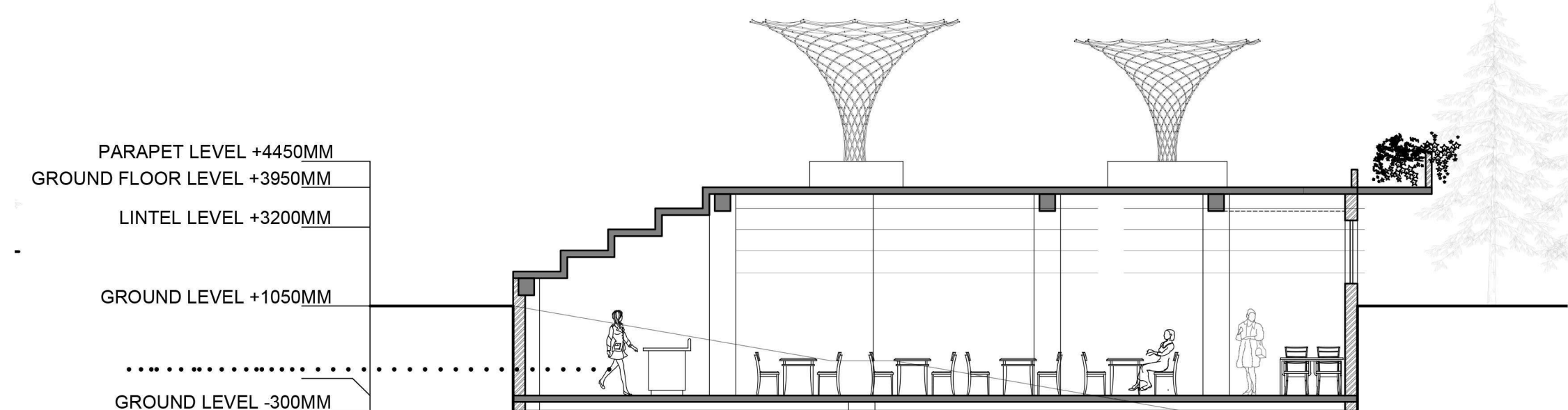
GROUND FLOOR PLAN
AREA: 242.41 SQM



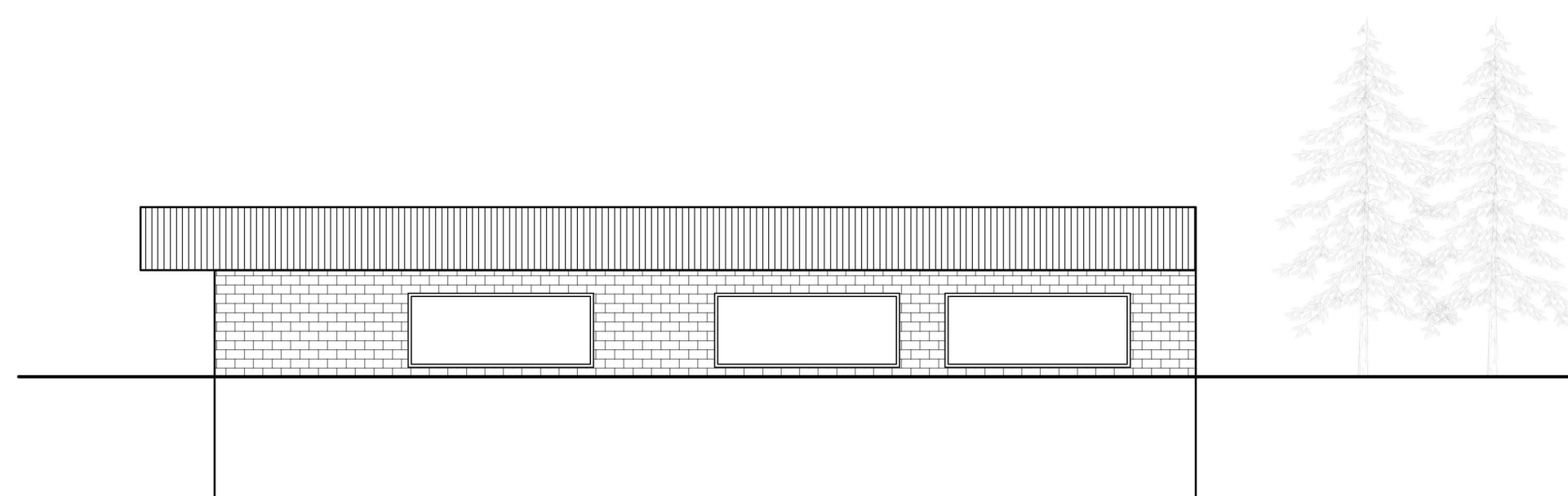
ROOF PLAN



SECTION AT Y-Y

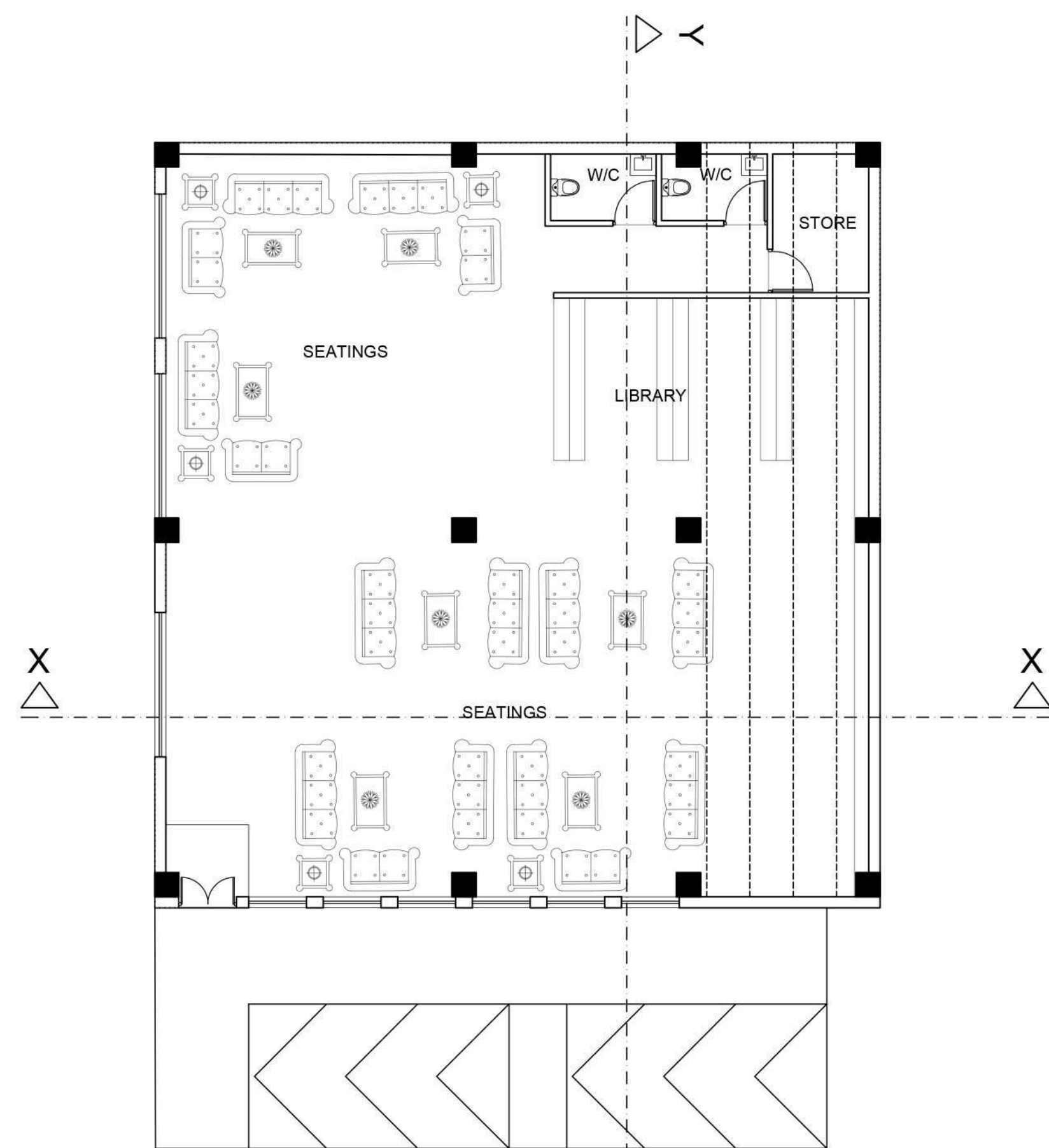


FRONT ELEVATION

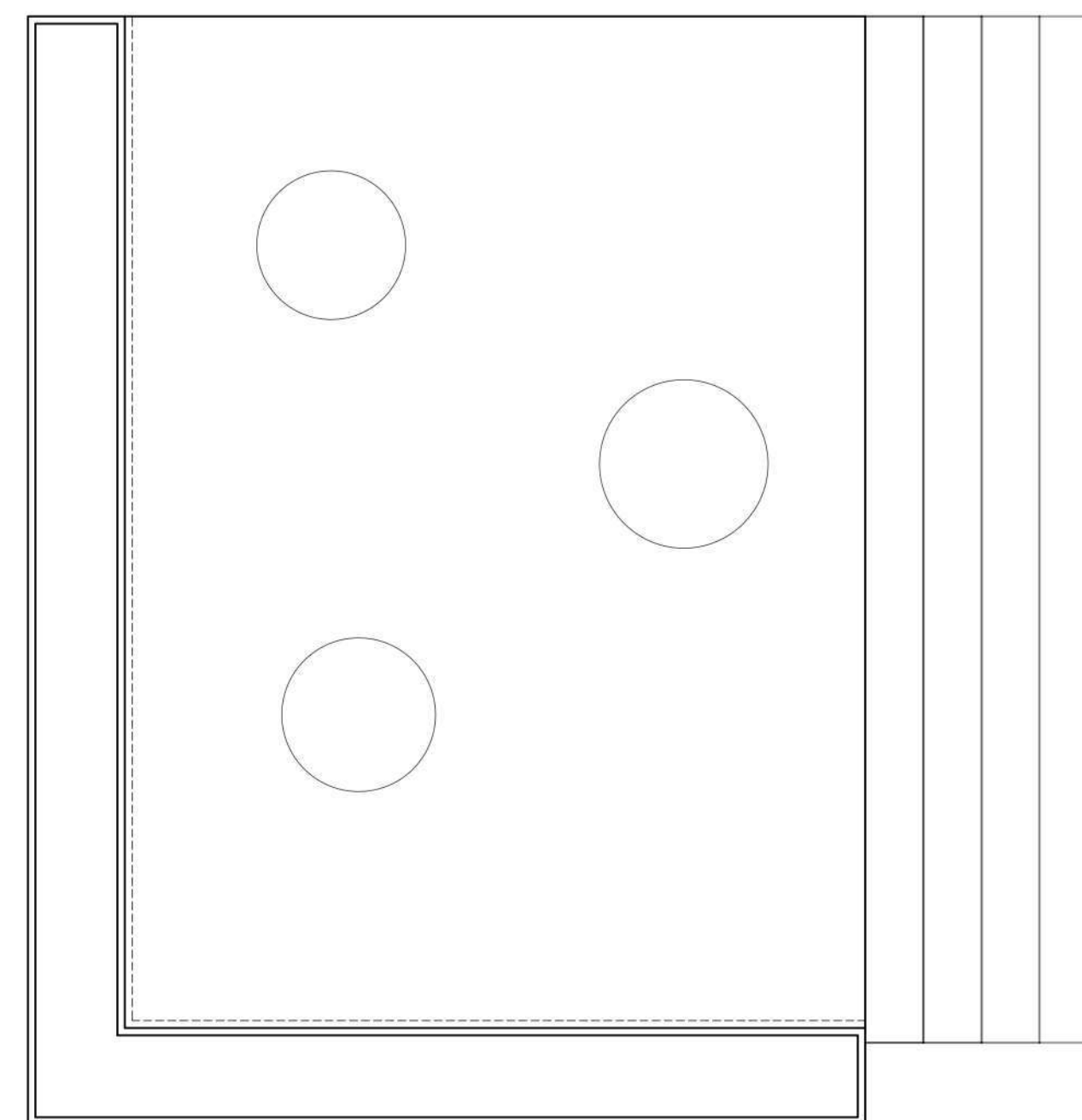


EAST ELEVATION

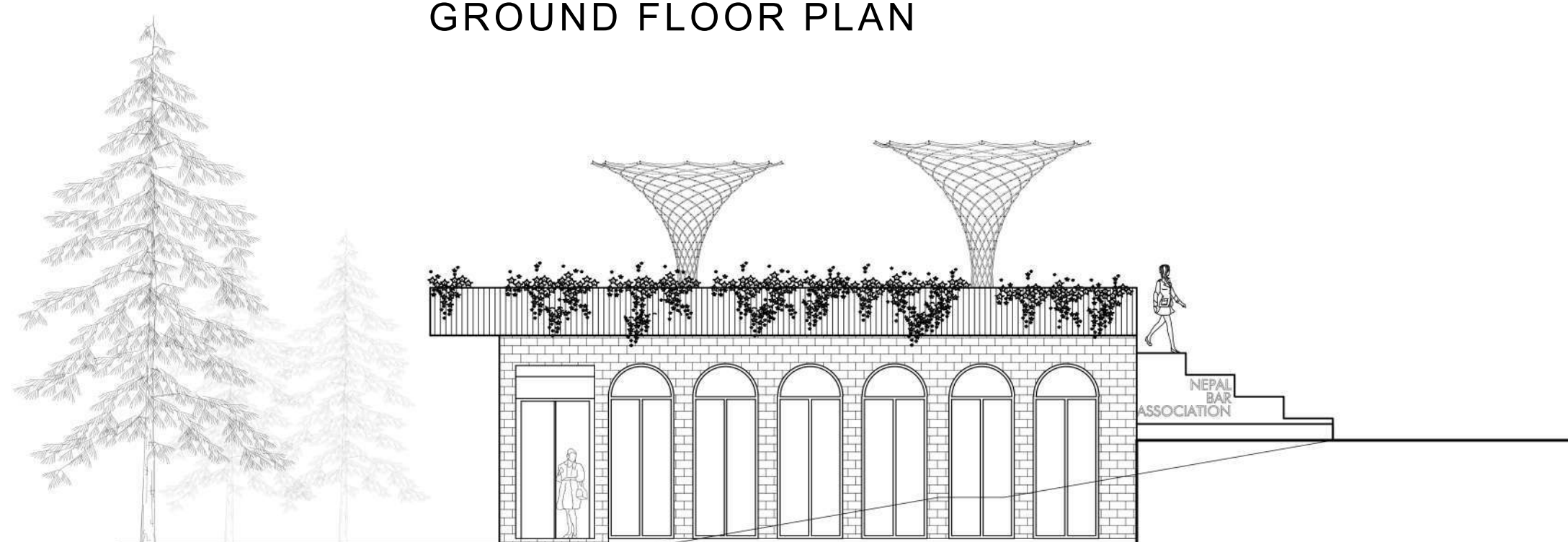




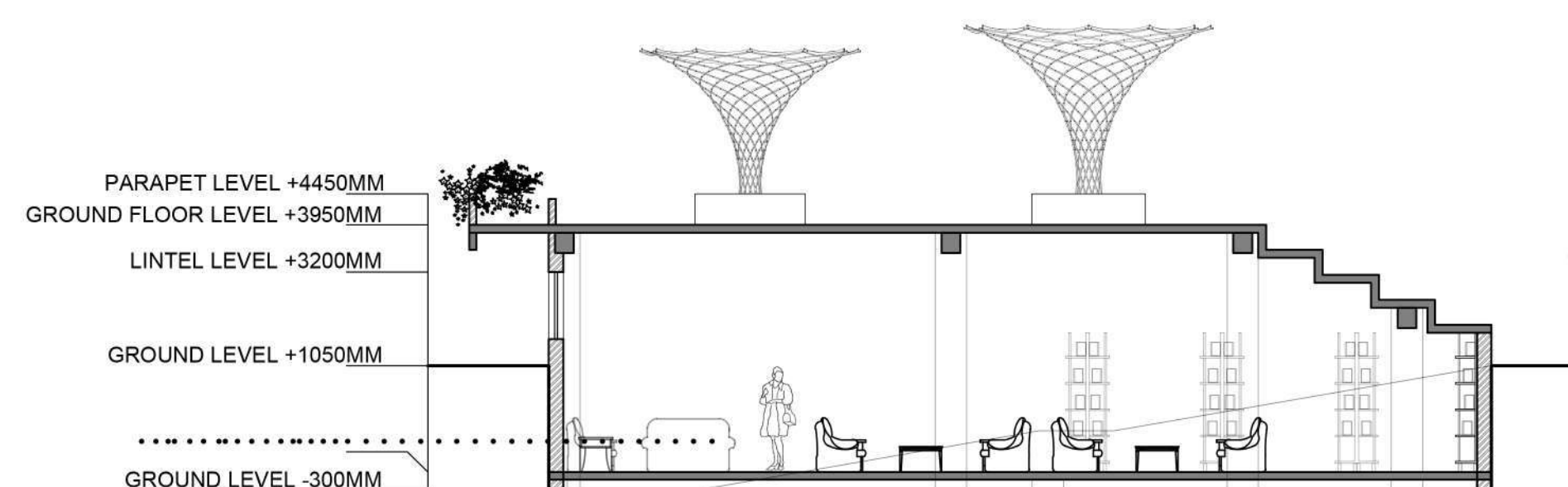
GROUND FLOOR PLAN



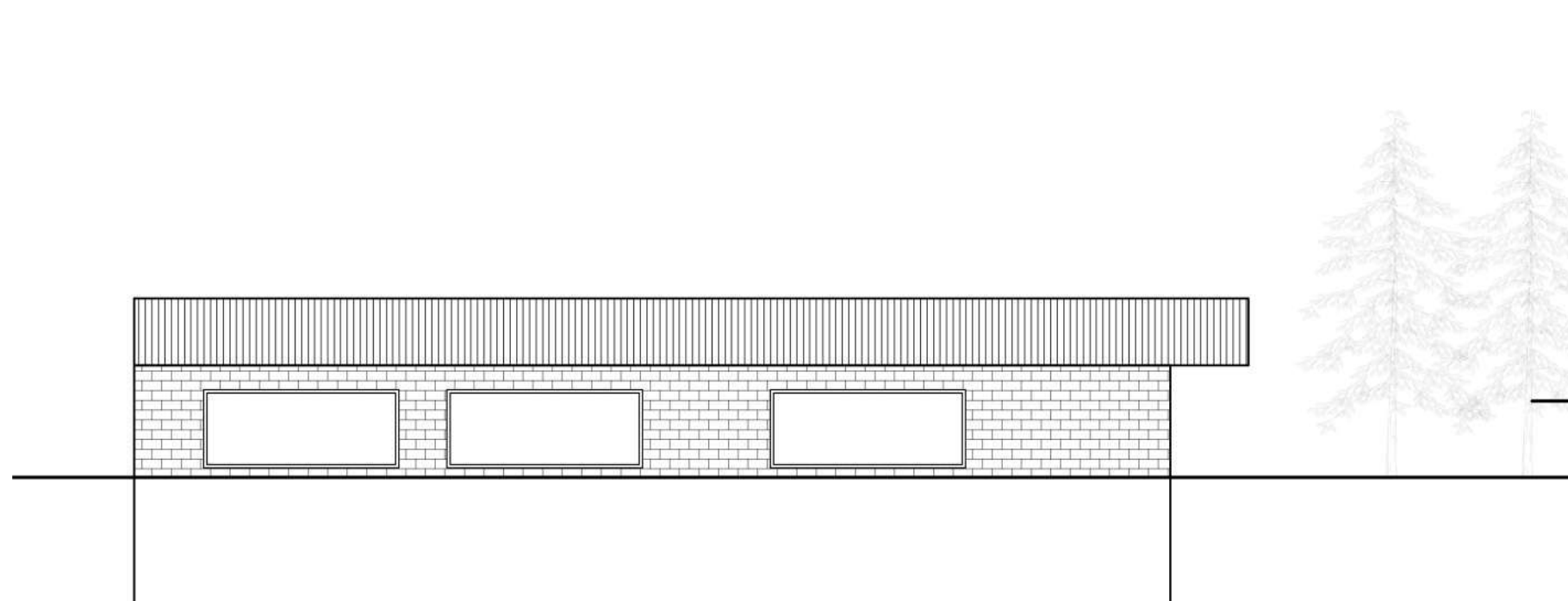
ROOF PLAN



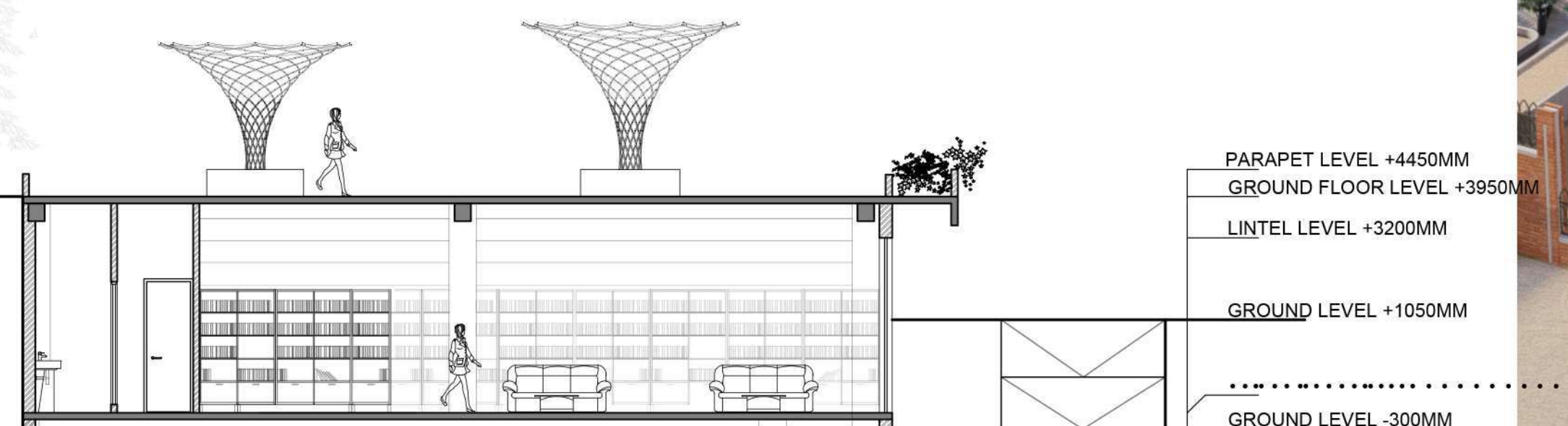
SOUTH ELEVATION



SECTION AT X-X



WEST ELEVATION



SECTION AT Y-Y





