

GRÖSSLING

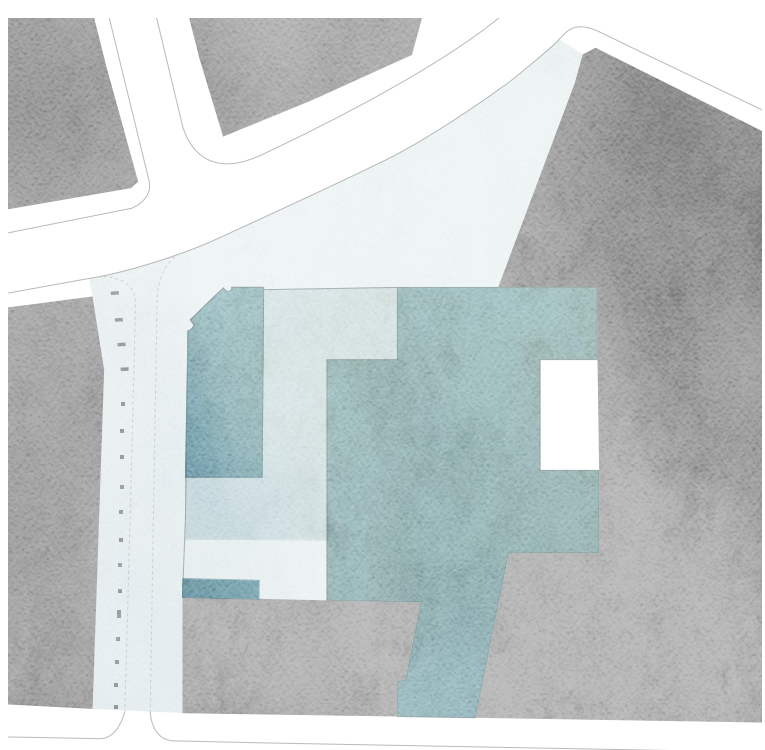
CITY BATH, LIBRARY & PUBLIC SPACE

One of the foundations of the Grössling Spa revitalization program is the flourishing of community functions. As a defining part of the program, the traditional bath function is complemented and reinforced with a different cultural meaning by the appearance of the library.

It is unique that within one building, both are present, so not only we aimed creating a good spa and a good library, we were looking for the two functions to be able to strengthen each other, the building and the neighborhood. We believe that for the city, different institutions can work best if they can also have an intensive relationship with the outside spaces. In our proposal the presence of each function in a building is imagined as an intertwined, living and intense relationship.

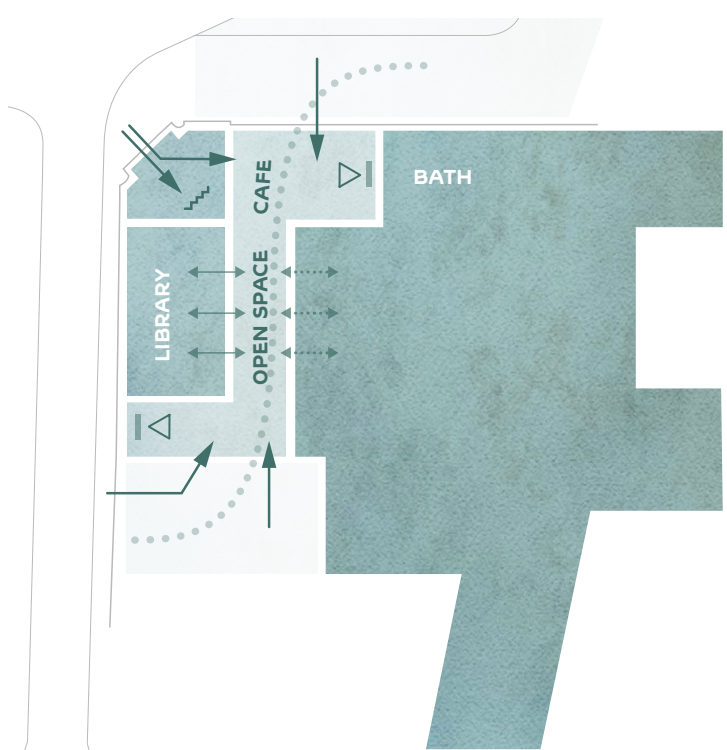
Through a passage created as a continuation of the outer public space, the boundaries of the spa and library are blurred. The millennial traditions and values of the functions combine to create a colorful and exciting community space. Its design is a restoration of the most valuable 1914 state, and a contemporary reinterpretation, creating a both functionally and historically complex pulsating space.

It is an area built into the urban fabric, open to city dwellers, where the past and the present, the spa and the library merge in the Heart of Grössling.



URBAN FABRIC

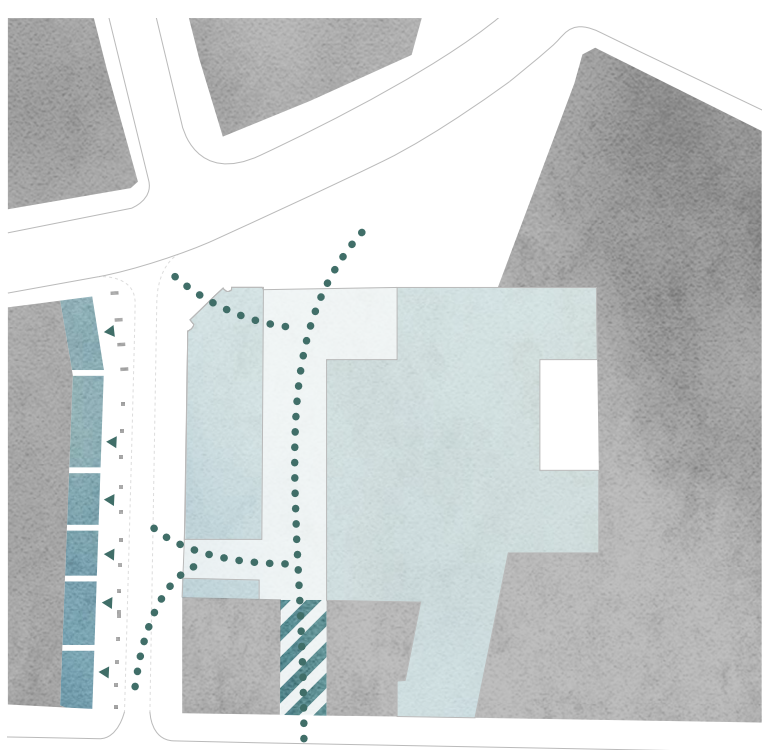
The heart of our plan is the new, continuous public place of the complex connecting the existing green park at Medená street, and the new public culture space opened from Kúpel'ná street. This Passage combines the outside and the inside, the recreational and the cultural characters of the building complex with a covered public space available every day of the year.



CONNECTIONS

The Passage is a transparent public space inside the building. This central hub is connecting the different parts of the Grössling Complex.

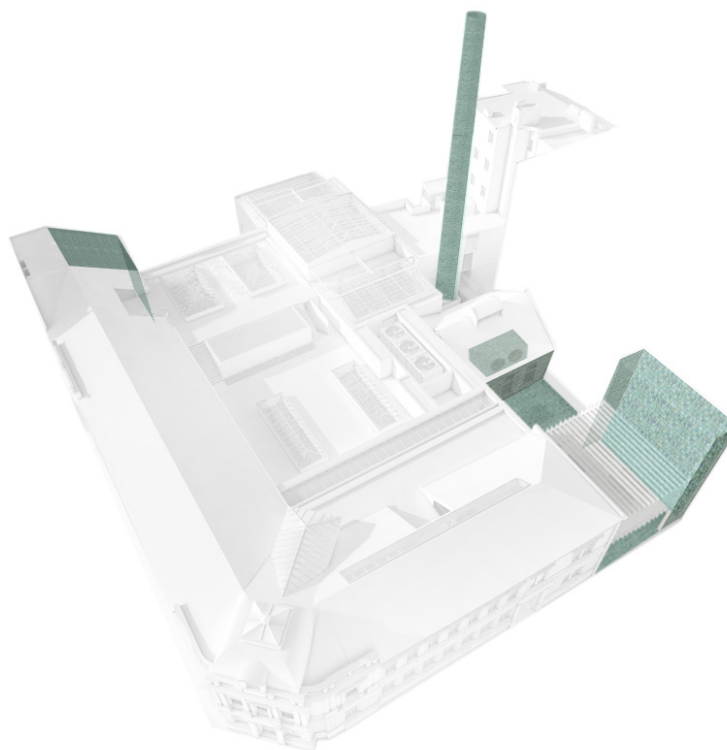
The main functions – the urban parks, the cafe, the library, the bath – are clearly visible and comprehensible from this central space. Both horizontally and vertically. Every entrance of the functions is accessible from here.



POSSIBILITIES IN THE URBAN FABRIC

Our proposed layout holds great potential for further development. We suggest to reduce the traffic in Kúpel'ná street, to create a pedestrian zone – with possible future thematised shops – around the Grössling object.

A new urban connection towards the Danube is possible through the existing gate of the corner building at Vajanského námestie 63/9.



CONTINUITY

The Grössling complex has a long history of additions. Each new era is represented with a new volume and architecture that was relevant in that time. In our proposal, we continue the history of Grössling with new items, additions that are deeply connected to its heritage. These expansions are inspired by the shapes and material use of the most iconic elements of Grössling, the chimney and boiler room.

MULTI-USE PUBLIC SPACE

The passage is a truly multi-purpose space. It is part of the café, near the children's corner of the library. It is an extension of the library, the new books section, the magazine shelves on movable furniture can be found there. It is fully separable during large events such as book presentations or even weddings. As the receptions of the bath and the library are located at the ends of the Passage, they remain accessible during large events. Due to the various possibility of use the Passage is never empty.



CONTINUITY - FORM

The bath's chimney is a symbol in the city's skyline. The new addition to the complex, the multi story bookshelf – resembling a tower – clearly marks the arrival of the new function, and the entrance of the library and the cultural public space. Its geometry and contemporary form is recognisable from the surrounding streets.



CONTINUITY - BRICK

One of the most iconic part – recognisable from around Bratislava – is the historic chimney. The brick texture of the chimney and the boiler room creates a special atmosphere. In our proposal, we create a spiritual connection between the first structures and the latest additions. The brick material extracted in the renovation phase of the historic wings will be used in the brick facades and surfaces of the new contemporary additions of the bath and library.



KÚPEL'NÁ STREET ENTRANCE



MULTI-USE PASSAGE



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MEDENÁ PARK

ENTRANCE SQUARE ON MEDENÁ STREET - GREEN PUBLIC SPACE

The open space along Medená Street embraces the main entrance of the Bath as well as a public green space. Currently, the square doesn't serve as a functional park but only as an unused green area. Therefore, we wanted to create a social meeting place which enables guests of the Bath complex (Library and Café) to enjoy a coffee outdoors and also offers opportunity for local residents to spend recreational time at the square. The square becomes a representative meeting point with an unbound recreational and social function.

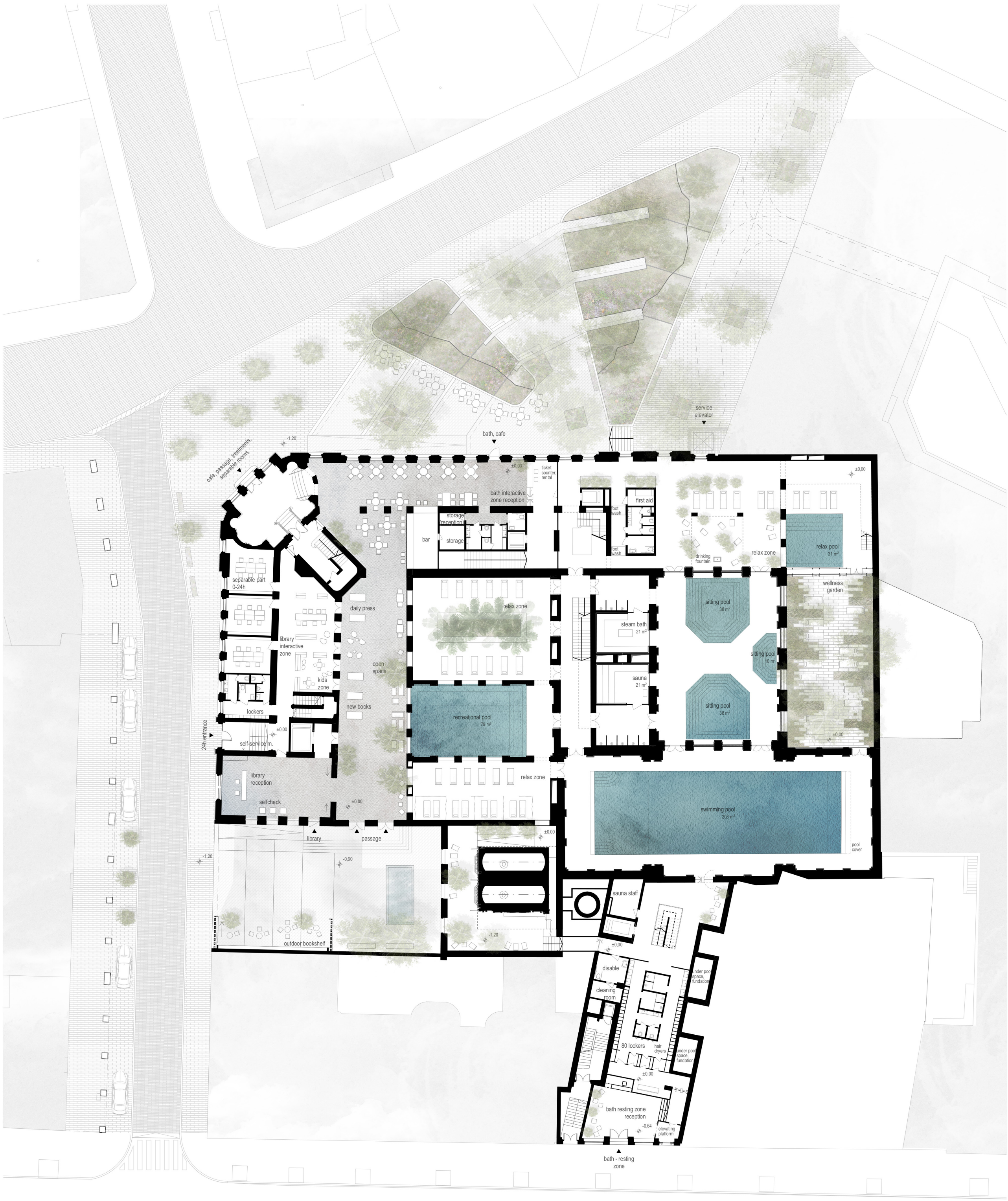
The existing trees are kept and new multi-stem trees are to be planted at the newly established green areas. Due to the shady location of the square, instead of mown lawn, blooming perennials and shade tolerant ground cover shrubs are to be planted.



FLORA MOOD

COURTYARD ON KÚPEL'NA STREET - PUBLIC CULTURE SPACE

The courtyard proposes a 'city living room'. As the entrance of the Library, this courtyard is a small, intimate semi-public space, with a clear spatial structure. The courtyard invites locals and visitors to stop by for reading from the multi-story open access bookshelf (Book Tower) on unfixed chairs and tables, but also welcomes non-readers to spend some quiet minutes among trees and water. The water feature placed at the yard composes a still water surface which intends to mirror the unique and valuable façade of the boiler room.



FIRST FLOOR AND SITE PLAN 1:300



GARDEN MOOD

INNER COURTYARD - WELLNESS GARDEN

The courtyard facing the inner façade is a quiet area physically connected to the indoor pool. This inner yard is surrounded by facades, thereby it makes a pressure of enclosure and intimacy. Laying in deckchairs among the lush vegetation of bamboos, ferns, moss and ornamental grasses, enhanced with water vapor and mist are the exclusive characteristics of the courtyard.



BOILER ROOM MOOD

ADDITIONAL GREEN SPACES

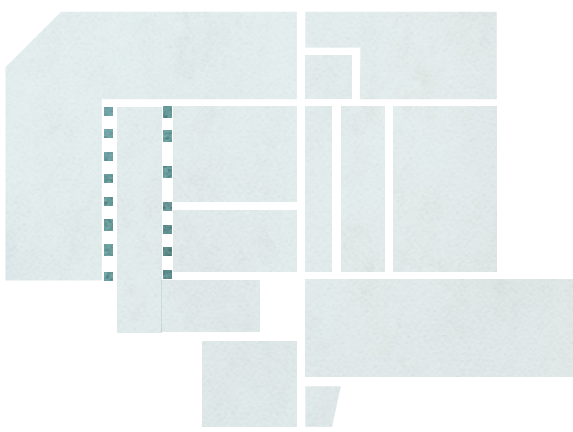
Besides the described three open spaces, further green surfaces and features appear indoors at the reception halls, through the Passage, in the Boiler Room, in the 'Relax Zone' and also at the rooftop terrace. These green elements consist of climbing and hanging plants; tropical ornamental indoor plants and small trees in planters.

In general, we faced the conflict of floor difference between indoors and adjacent outdoor altitudes. Apart from the steps leading to the entrances, we also provided accessible entrance on ramps for disabled visitors.



THE ESSENCE OF THE 1895-1914 BUILDING

Our design follows the original spatial structure of the bath and restores its original values while fulfilling the technical and organisational requirements of a contemporary public bath. The essence of the Grössling Bath lies in the experienced space and the heritage of the past century.



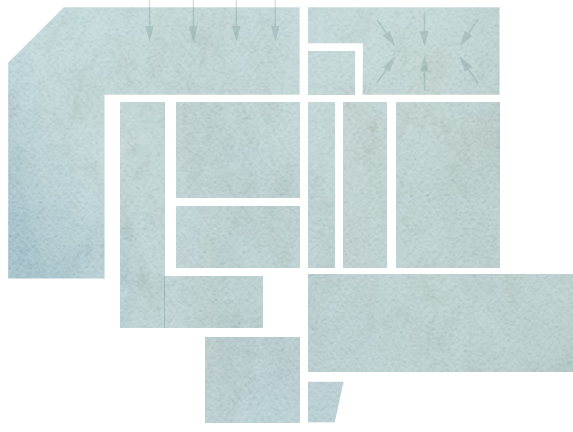
THE INNER FACADES

The original women's bath premises are not existing anymore. The original internal facades of the women's changing rooms are restored creating the contemporary walls of the new "Heart of Grössling" passage, allowing visual connection between the library, the open space and the bath.



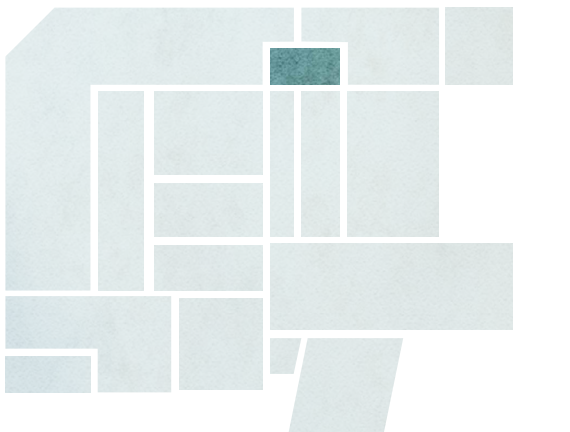
REPURPOSED ORIGINAL ATMOSPHERES

Medena Street wing of the bath is a determinative part of the original building. The changing rooms had an intimate inward-oriented atmosphere, while the salon is an extrovert space communicating with the adjacent park. We kept the original atmospheres, and spatial conditions by placing the cafe in the salon, and repurposing the changing rooms creating new intimate resting places.



RELOCATING THE PARK ENTRANCE

In the original design, the bath had one main entrance from the corner. The entrance from the park is a not barrier-free later addition. In its current form, it is not sufficient, it needs modifications to access via wheelchairs. Respecting the original atmosphere we suggest the relocation of this entrance towards the cafe, strengthening the connection towards the park.

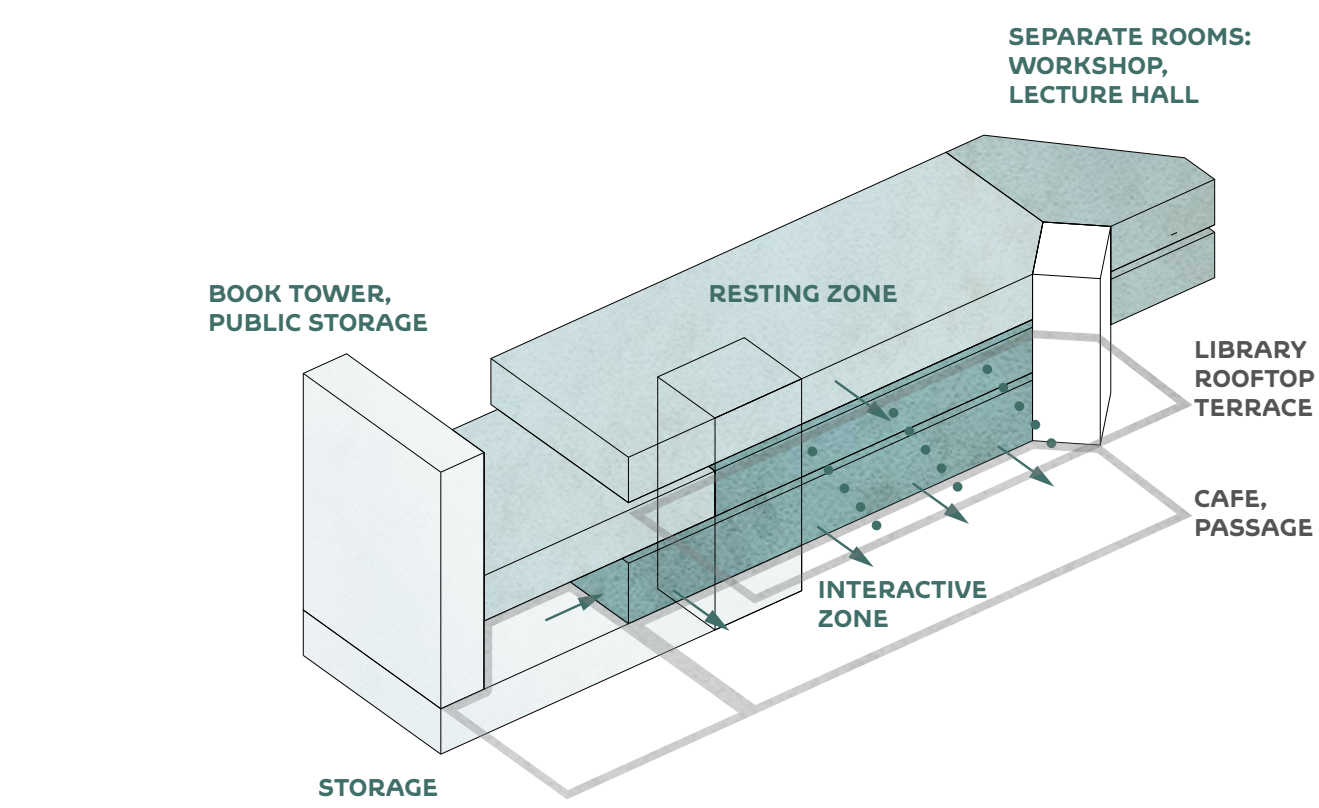


LAYOUT ALTERNATIVE

If the historic preservation aspects are more significant and it is required to keep the existing entrance, our design allows this solution too. However, in this case, the entrance needs modifications to allow accessible entry. The functional clarity and the restoration of the original atmosphere of this area is better articulated with our approach. We think the diverse history of the building complex allows such slight amendments.

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INTERACTIVE ZONE

The most vibrant spaces are located on the ground and first floors in connection with the Passage.

The children corner with cosy nooks, playing items is located on the ground floor in the café's vicinity allowing the parents drinking coffee in the passage to supervise their children. Studying and working, alone or in groups is possible near the cafe in the rooms at the street facade. The open spaces of the first floor have a visual connection with the passage, while in the street front separable areas can host smaller events, readings.

RESTING ZONE

The first floor's closed and calmer space has a direct connection with the public book storage – the Book Tower – and a visual link to the new library park below.

The quiet space on the top floor has a direct link with the rooftop library terrace, from where the whole Grössling Complex with the bath's rooftop premises is comprehensible.

The furnishing of the resting zone is like a comfortable living room: armchairs, couches, bean bag chairs, tables and desks offer spots to relaxed reading, learning.

READING AND COLLABORATION

The library's big open spaces and smaller rooms create opportunities to read alone, or work together and share ideas with others. From private to public, open to enclosed, the available space varies on a wide scale.

THE ROOF

The roof has three distinct areas. A reading plateau for the library, a sunbathing area, and a terrace for the bath's gastro premises.

BOOK STORAGE

Two types of book storage are available: Typical climatized storage facilities are placed in the basement easily accessible through the cargo elevator of the library.

The book wall is a public book storage, accessible to the visitors. This loveable display of the collection manifested in various examples – e.g.: Stockholm Public Library, Delft University Library – of the library architecture.

CORNER SEPARABLE ROOMS

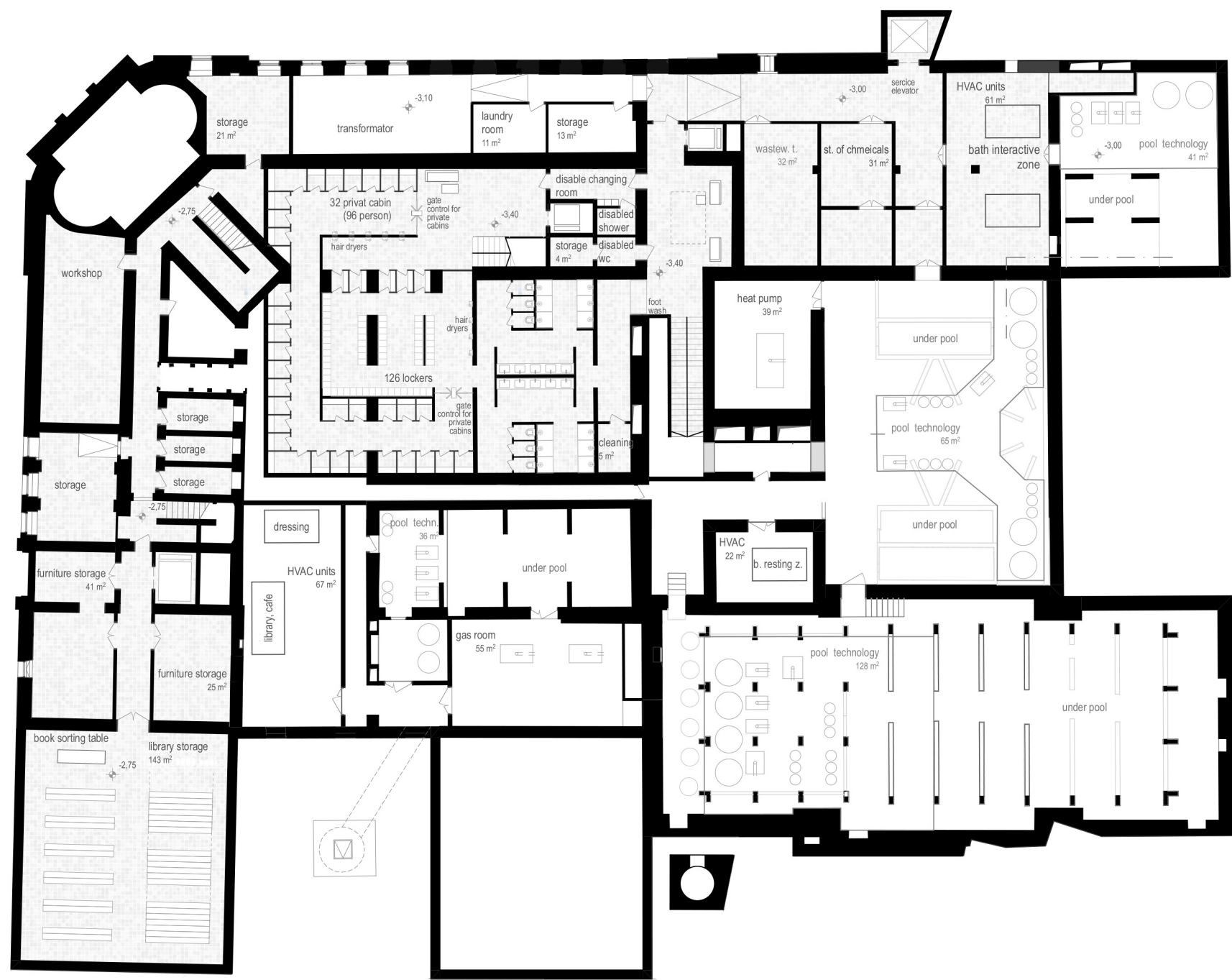
Two bigger rooms are accessible from the corner staircase and from the library. Their furnishing allows flexible usage and hosting workshops lectures, seminars.



SECOND FLOOR 1:300



THIRD FLOOR, ROOFTOP TERRACE AND FOURTH FLOOR APARTMENTS 1:300



BASEMENT 1:300



ROOFS 1:300

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BATH'S INTERACTIVE ZONE



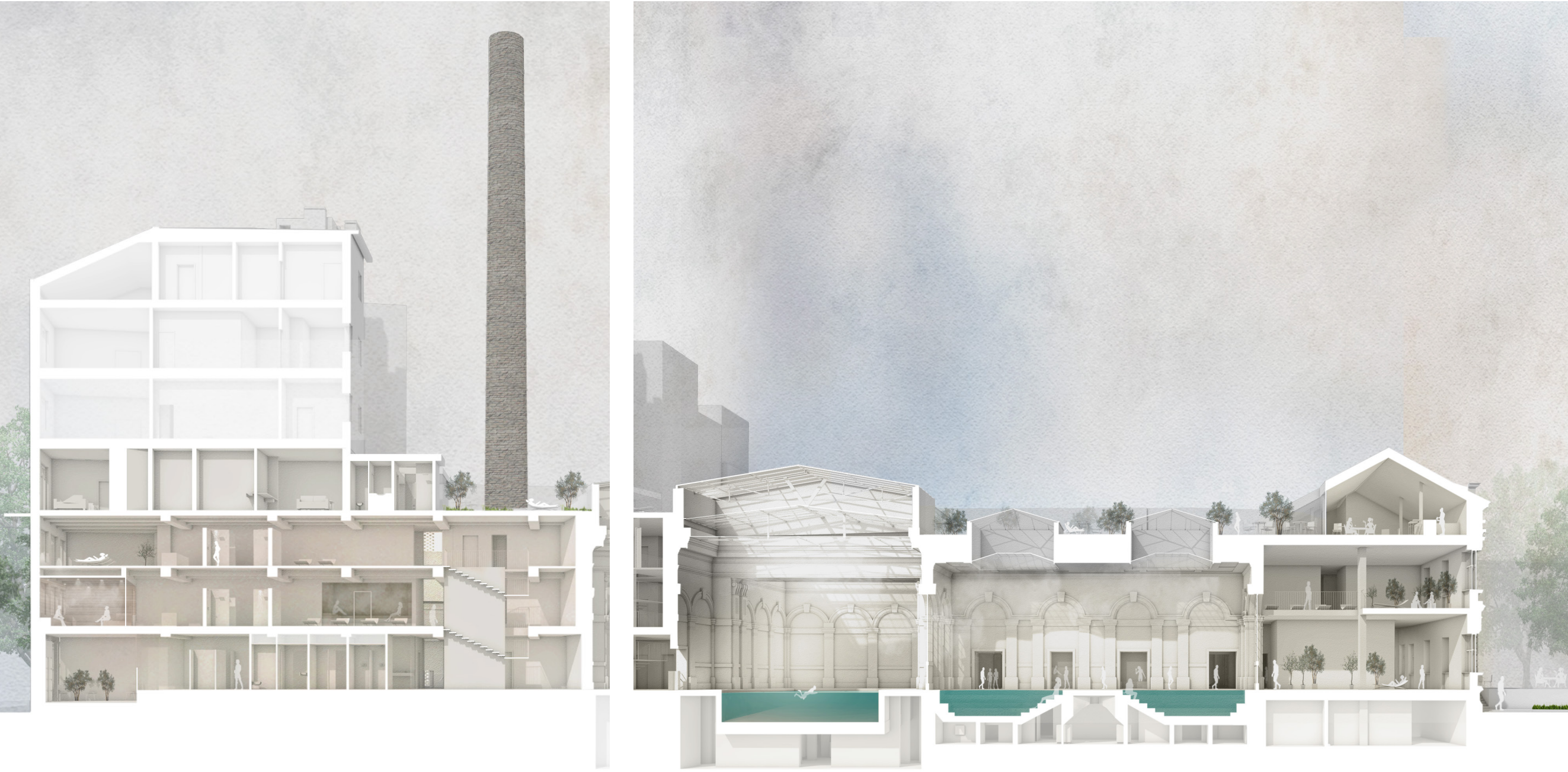
BOILER ROOM

The historic boiler room is restored to its fullest. On the ground floor, it serves as a common relaxing area to the interactive and the resting zones. A lightweight structure above the boilers expands the area of the resting zone into a plant house situated in a historic setting, creating a truly unique atmosphere.



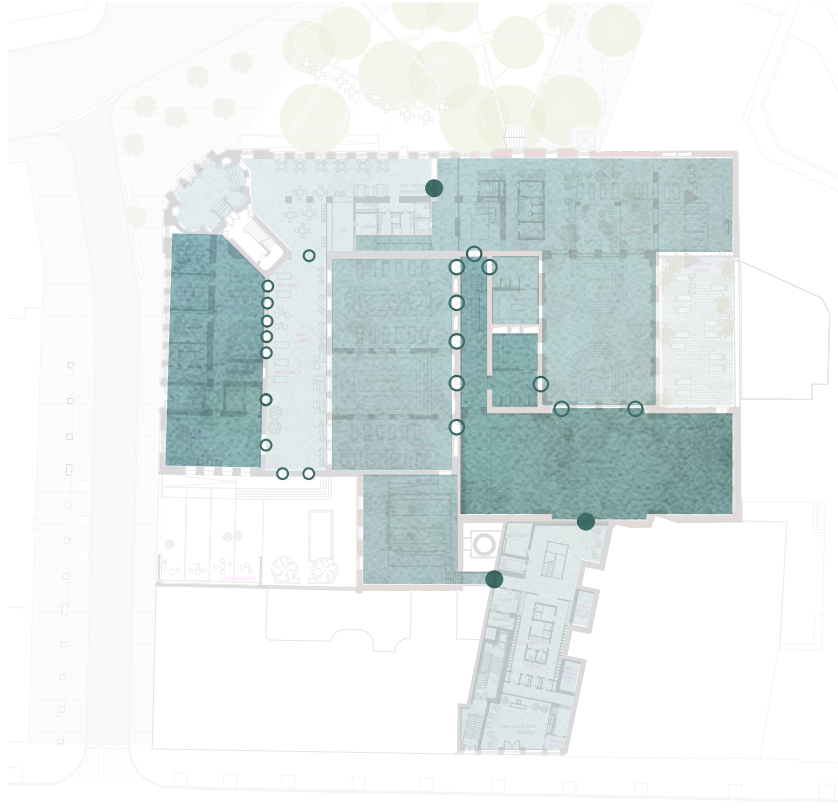
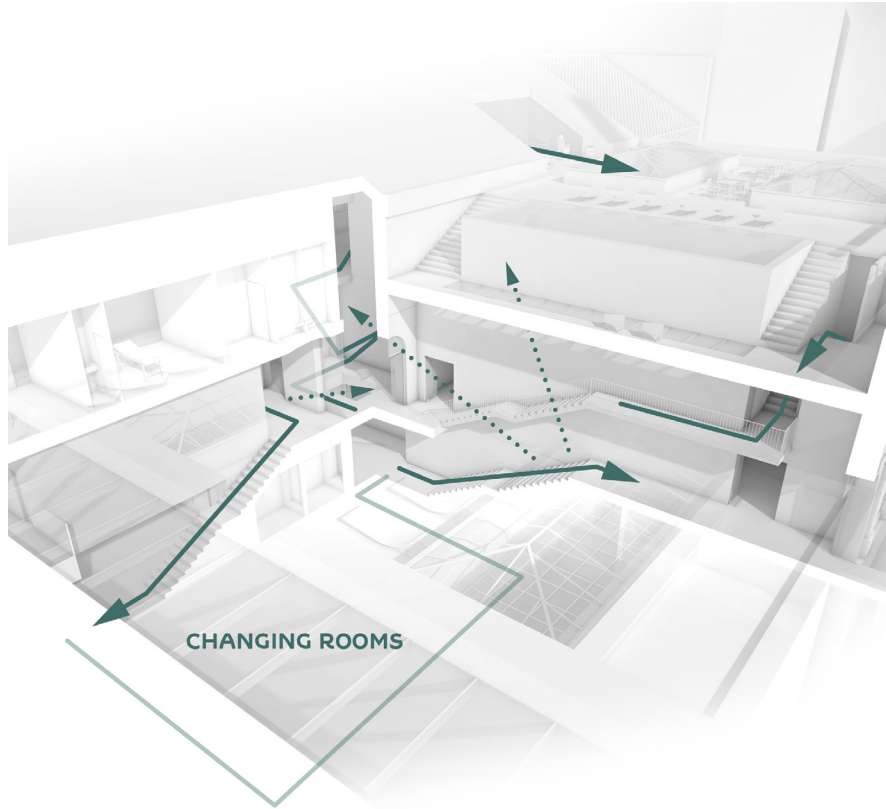
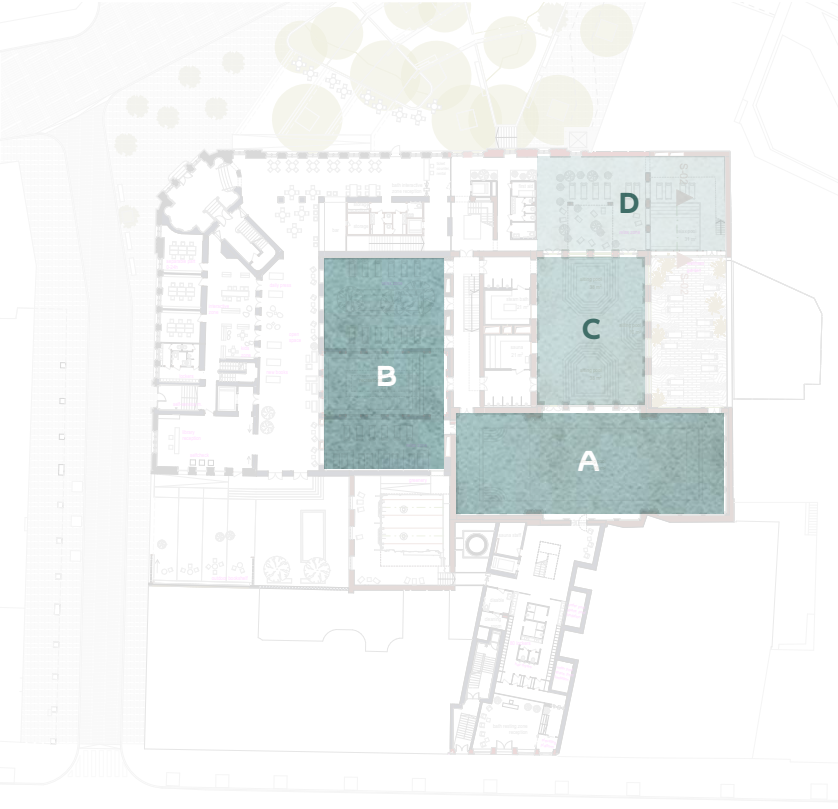
RESTING ZONE

With a separate entrance from Vajanského nábrežie, the functionalist building is the home to the resting zone. On the first floor, visitors find larger saunas, two of them, facing the Danube panorama, can be interconnected to organise sauna seances. On the second floor near to the panoramic relax area, there are smaller, specialised – aroma, herbal, infra – saunas. On the roof looking at the Grössling Complex we create a sunbathing terrace with a finnish sauna.



INTERACTIVE ZONE – RELAX AREAS

Increasing the size of the relaxing areas during the transformation of the old bath complex is a crucial requirement. These areas follow the atmospheres of the adjacent pool areas. We designed new open relaxing areas next to the interactive pool close to the Passage. Intimate calm areas are on two floors with a gallery in the Medene Park wing adjacent to the sitting pools and the new relaxing pool. Above, in connection with the rooftop operates the bath's refreshments area with gastronomy services, and the redefined sunbathing roof and green urban oasis.



DIFFERENT USES, DIFFERENT ATMOSPHERES

Different unique atmospheres combine the special milieu of the bath. The swimming pool (A) offers sports opportunities for swimmers, and the sitting pools (C) are places for conversation. We created three new recreational pools. In the previous women's bath area there is a central, open, teeming area (B) with massage nozzles, and visual connection with the Passage. An outdoor sunbathing pool on the roof with the overflowing water creating a microclimate, defining an urban oasis. A relaxing pool (D) looking at the new green inner courtyard. These five different experiences offer an ideal environment for everyone. We created new openings and connections between the chambers, rooms, and halls. Windows and doors horizontally, overhead windows, holes, stairs vertically are connecting the diverse spaces.

COMPLEX BUILDING, CLEAR CIRCULATION

In our proposal we create a main circulation area right in the middle of the bath premises. After changing, the visitors ascend into the central circulation space with clear visual connections towards the adjacent bath premises, the rooftop pool, the chimney. From this area the stairs leading to the roof and to the resting places of the upper floors are visible, subtly creating a clear understanding of the spatial construction of the bath.

CLEAR FUNCTIONAL SEPARATION

The operational separation of the different functions is necessary to control the complex. The swimming pool area with the Finnish sauna and the resting zone is separable from the interactive zone.

Different areas can be separated with glass doors (empty circle), while between the various operational premises turnstile gates (filled circle) control the access.

During special events the middle of the Passage is completely separable while the adjacent functions are still accessible from their other entrances.

POSSIBLE SCHEDULING

1A - renovation of the original bath complex with the new sunbathing roof and the changing rooms. Reshaping the Medená Park, and establishment of the urban park with entrance to the library

1B - If needed the Resting Zone in the modernist building can be scheduled later

2A - Establishment of the library extension. During implementation, the library reception remains accessible from the Passage and the 24H entrance.

2B - The lightweight structure of the new bath wing with the relaxing pool.

POSSIBLE FURTHER EXPANSION

The new addition to the bath complex is defined with simple architectural gestures and simple structural devices. To accompany more visitors upon the success of the new Grössling Complex, the light structure of the new bath wing can be dismantled and extended towards the adjacent green, calm courtyard. This expansion can increase the size of the new resting pool. Its enclosed characteristic with its perforated brick facade maintains the necessary separation from the neighbouring residential buildings.

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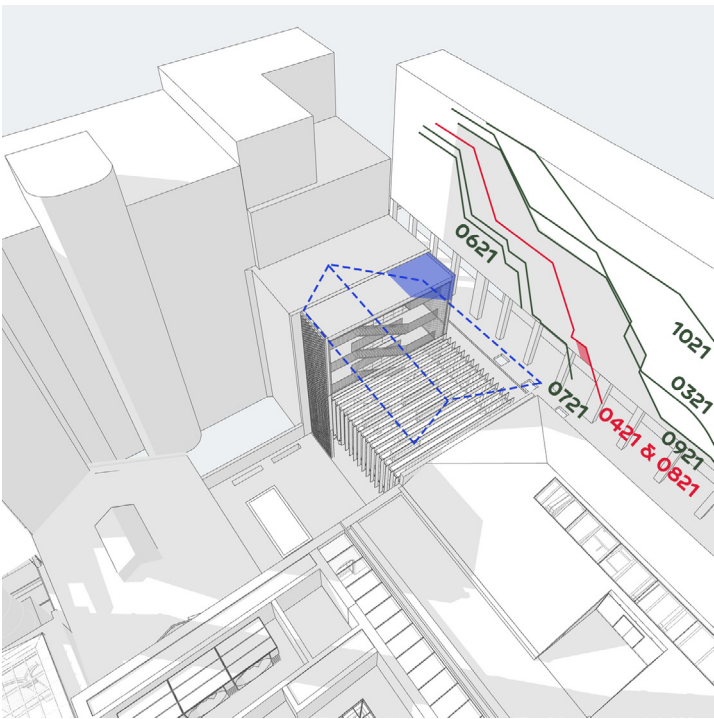
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LIGHT ENGINEERING

We designed two new addition to the Grössling complex

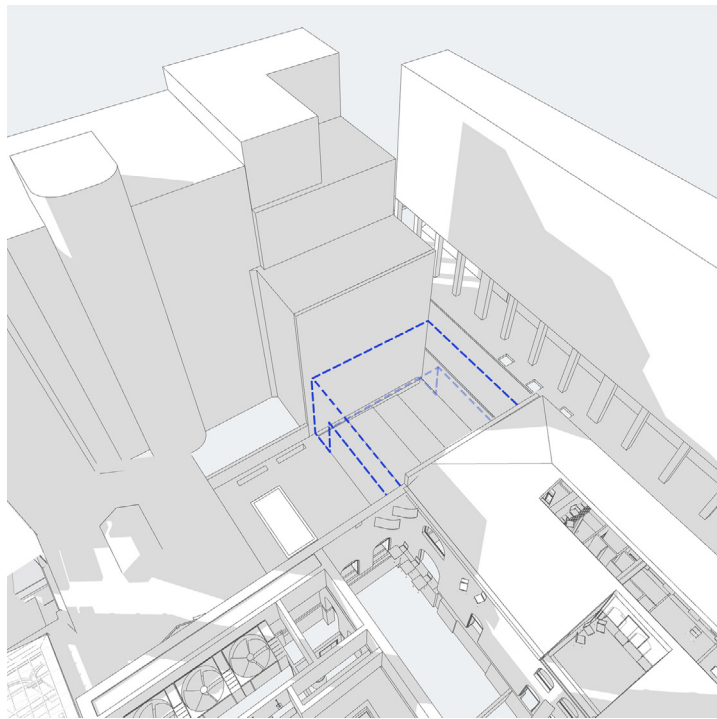
Bath wing in courtyard 1: The volume of the new bath wing is within the volume described in the regulation.

Library wing in courtyard 2: Compared to the proposal submitted in the first round we reduced the effect of the of the new library wing in different ways. The thickness of the tower is reduced, while the structure and facade composition of reading room's connecting bridge is clearly more transparent.



LIGHT ANALYSIS OF THE BOOK TOWER

Covering the empty, north-facing wall of the adjacent building the book tower aesthetically solves the closure of that firewall. In the morning hours, the east facade of the residential buildings receive direct sunlight, however adjacent building on the corner of Vajanského nábrežie casts a shadow on the residential buildings across the street. The light analysis shows how the building's shadow covers the residential building. The lines show the 8 am shadow line. As the book tower is in shadow during most of the year only around April and August and until 8:00-8:30 am is it contributing to the overall shadow.



ALTERNATIVE LIBRARY EXTENSION

The height of the library extension exceeds the maximum parameters of the light engineering, however this effects only 26% of the width of the facade. Compared to a full width extension with the maximum parámetros we create a more favorable situation with the form of the book tower. As the tower is in the shadow for most of the time during a year it does not impair the light distribution of the surrounding residential buildings. Furthermore the proposed tower design solves the poor situation of the blank firewall, while standing as a symbol to the new Grössling Complex. The library extension however is possible without the tower volume too.

TECHNICAL SOLUTIONS

The heat demand of the facility can be met by the coordinated operation of several systems. Such is the water / water heat pump, which utilizes the well water (also ensuring that the water is fed back to the appropriate soil / water layer in Medena Park) and a combination of gas-fired condensing boilers.

A water / water heat pump can also be installed on the run-off pool water (pools must be continuously circulated and 5-10% replaced with fresh water: replacement, evaporated water and replacement of water lost on the filters), which can be used to preheat the DHW or pool water.

The cold energy demand of the facility is provided by the chiller or air source heat pumps, which can be placed on the roof in the machine yards. They provide cooling for non-swimming pool functions (Lobby, library, offices, etc.), which are also heat pump and low noise equipment, and have a heat recovery module. This module (heat exchanger block) uses the waste heat to preheat the DHW or pool water. The machines must be surrounded by an acoustic wall.

All air handlers are installed with heat recovery (according to Erp2018 regulation) and swimming pool air handlers include a heat pump in addition to heat recovery, which further increases energy efficiency (and the share of renewables).

The facility can use water-saving taps and water management to reduce water consumption and perform thermal disinfection as a protection against legionella bacteria.

To reduce energy loss due to evaporation we suggest to use hidden roll-out pool covers (rolling out from one side) which can be implemented during the renovation of the existing pools.

VENTILLATION

Using the existing routes in the basement, and the under pool areas the air intake is solved through air vent holes placed in the floor near the facade windows to reduce vapour formation on the windows. Air outtake from the premises is from above through the original ventilation holes and newly created ones under the ceilings.

ALTERNATIVE CHIMNEY LOCATION

We suggest restoring the existing chimney with its function too, to implement the exhaust pipes for the gas-fired condensing boilers. However, if the cost demands would be too high alternatively the gas room can be placed in the technical facilities near the service elevator. The exhaust pipes can be hidden at the firewalls of the neighbouring buildings.

PLANAR AND SPATIAL BALANCES

	rough floor area (inc. structures) m²	built-up volume without foundation structures m³
City Bath	3 638	14 929
basement - reconstruction	345	1 038
basement - new building	0	0
above ground part - reconstruction	3 180	12 570
above ground part - new building	113	1 321
Library	1 691	6 560
basement - reconstruction	67	161
basement - new building	161	394
above ground part - reconstruction	1 252	5 146
above ground part - new building	211	859
Apartments	131	419
apartments - reconstruction	131	419
apartments - new building	0	0
Technological background	987	2 591
basement - reconstruction	710	1882
basement - new building	113	290
above ground part - reconstruction	118	318
above ground part - new building	46	101
Park	911	
paved surfaces	515	
entrance ramps, stairs, terraces	36	
greenery etc.	360	
Courtyards and roofs		
paved areas	852	
on the ground - greenery etc.	116	
outdoor pool (water surface area)	43	
green roof	92	
Overall summary - Object		
reconstruction	5 803	21 534
new building (extension)	483	2 571

	rough floor area (inc. structures) m²	built-up volume without foundation structures m³
City Bath	3 638	14 929
City Bath Interactive Zone	2 738	11 424
pool area (water area)	432	
changing r. and sanitary facilities	327	
part with pools	1 355	
refreshment area	80	
massages and other therapeutic p.	120	
adm. premises and facilities	215	
circulation	209	
City Bath Interactive Zone	900	3 505
changing rooms and sanitary facilities	73	
Library	1 691	6 530
Library	1 374	5 310
entrance	66	
open access shelves	720	
study facilities - workshop room	205	
administrative premises and facilities	337	
circulation	46	
Café	317	1 520
premises of the café	145	
open space	172	

BATH RELAX ZONE CALCULATIONS

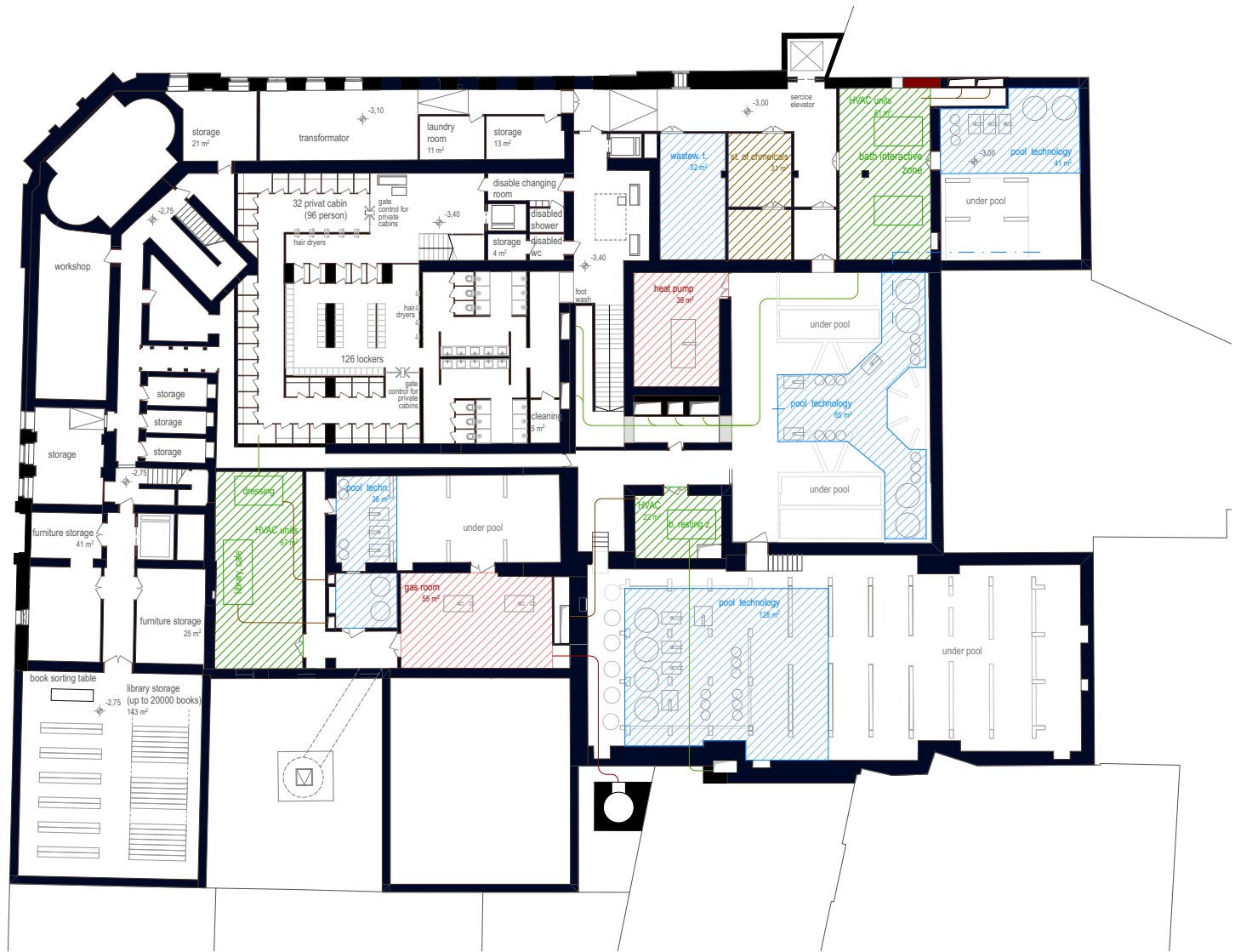
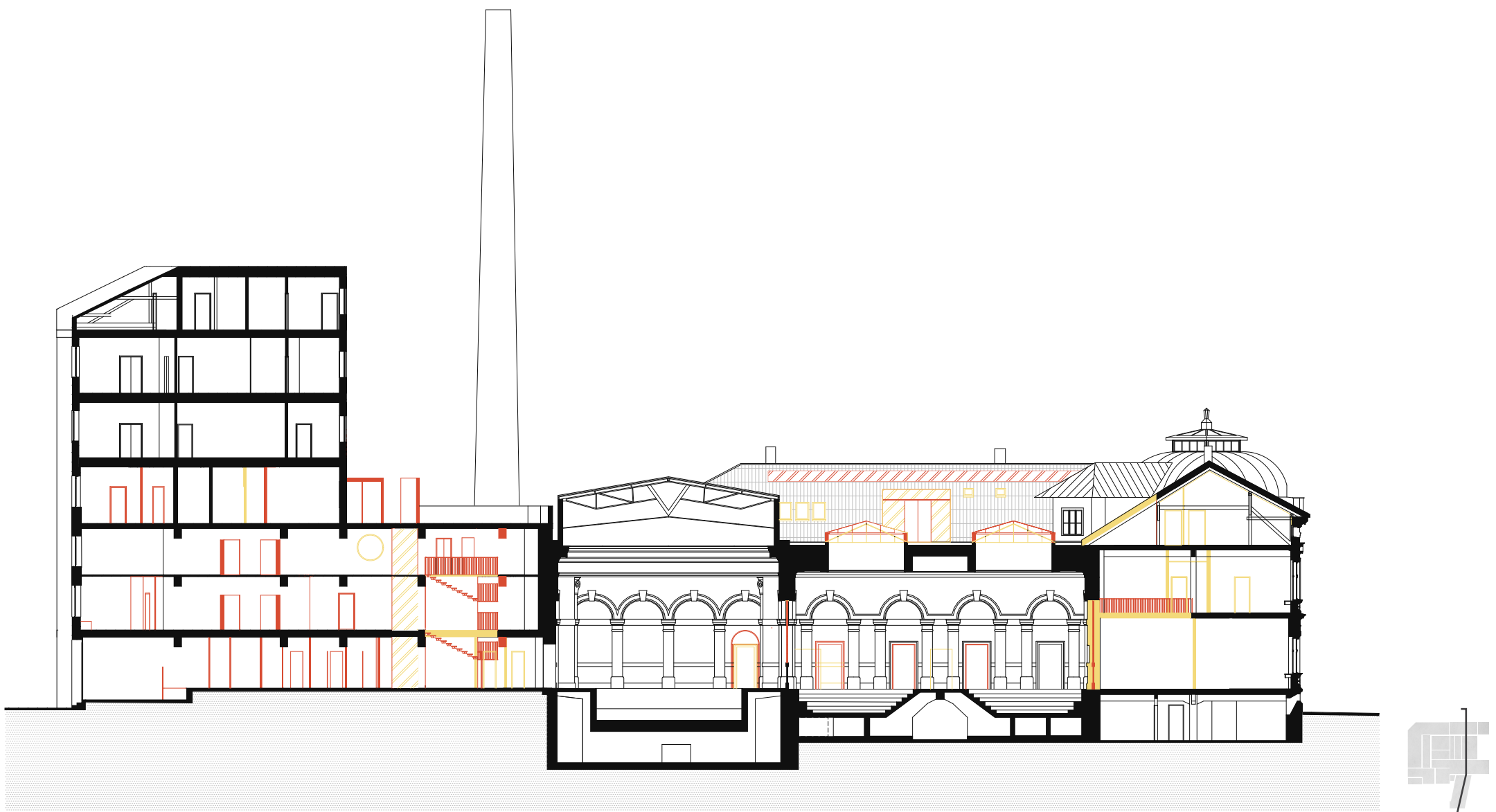
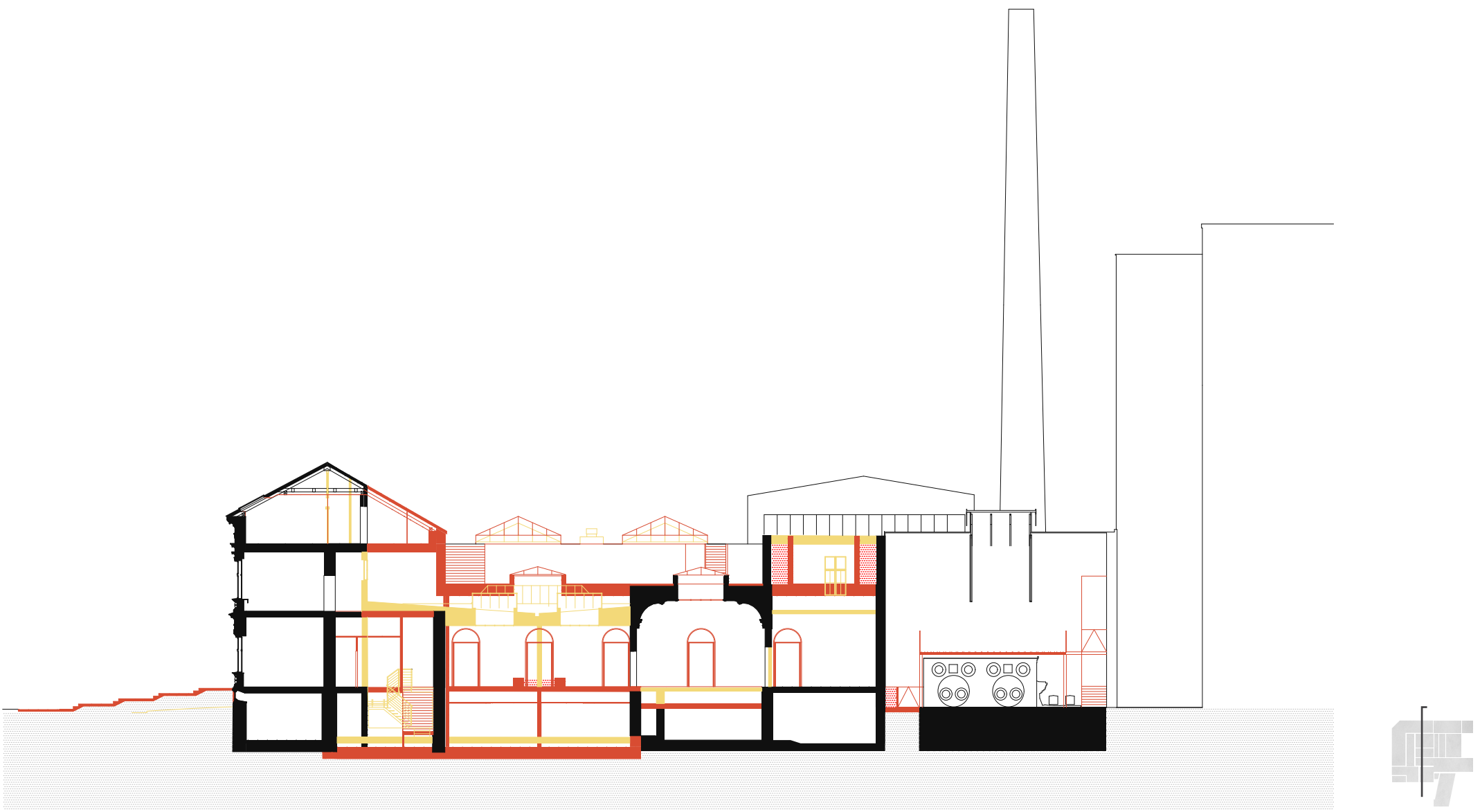
Interactive Zone – Based on the water surface and the sauna area 172 resting places needed
In our plan 177 resting places are provided.

Resting Zone – Based on the sauna area 53 resting places needed
In our plan 54 resting places are provided.

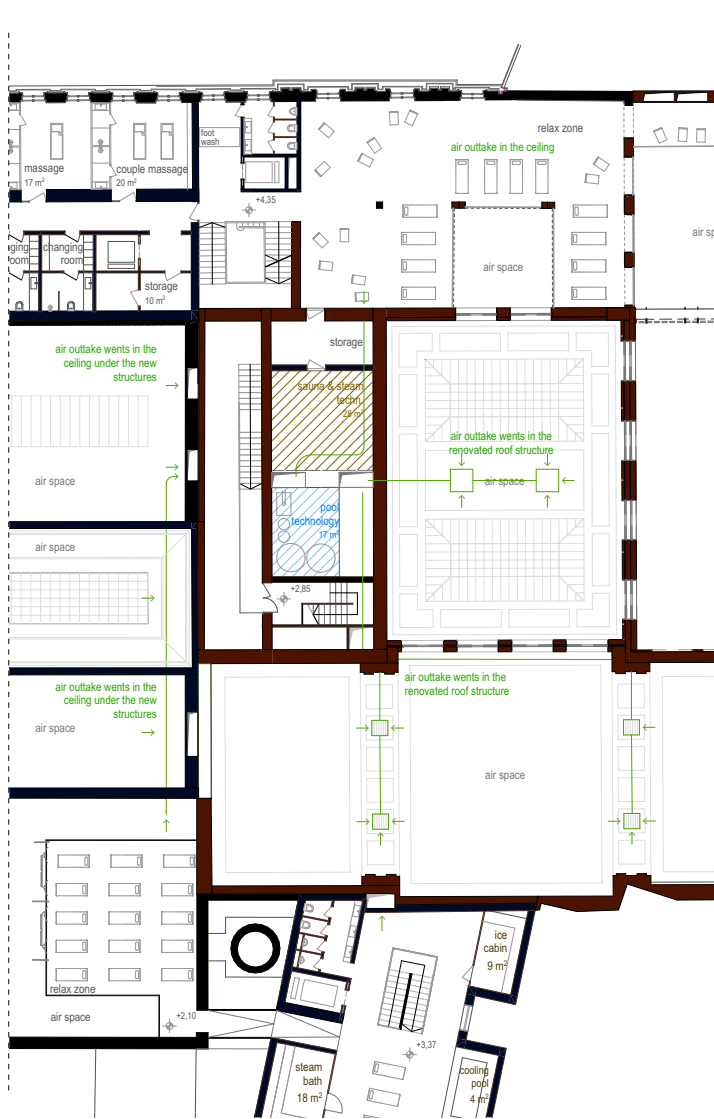
LIBRARY CALCULATIONS

48 345 books - so about the entire book stock - can be exhibited in the library. Further storage in the basement allows for an increase in capacity, and if the Book Tower is built at a later stage, part of the books can be stored here.

	number of books
Interactive Zone	12 165
Resting Zone	25 620
Public book storage (Book tower)	10 560
Number of books accessible for the visitors:	48 345
Basement storage	25 000



BASEMENT TECHNOLOGICAL FLOOR PLAN



SECOND FLOOR TECHNOLOGICAL FLOOR PLAN



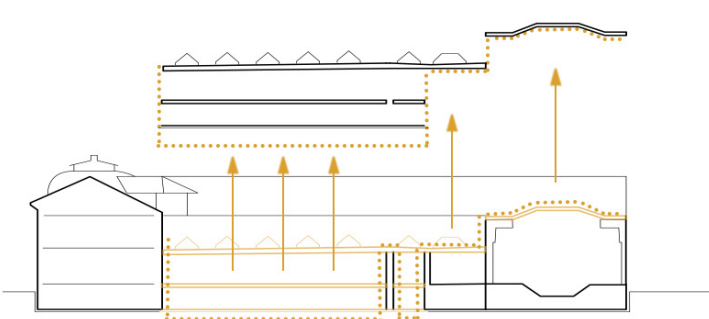
BATH EXTENSION



BATH CIRCULATION

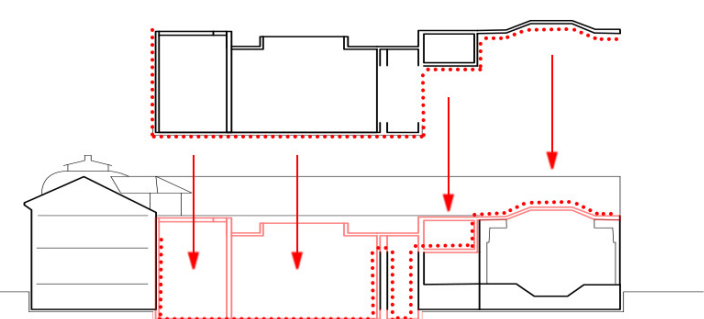
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RENOVATION AND TRANSFORMING THE STREET WINGS

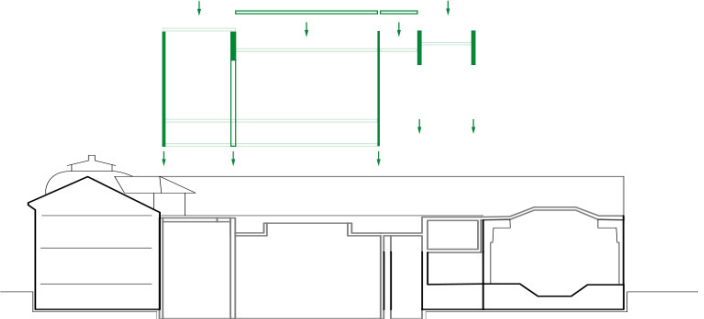
Our proposal follows simple rules regarding the renovation of the complex. In the original wings of the bath from 1895 and 1914 we remove the walls added later for the offices, and protect its original spatial experience. This means that the main structural walls remain intact, and just necessary strengthening and replacement are planned.



THE INNER AREAS, THE ROOFS

Almost nothing of the old women's wing has survived, it has been replaced by a now very dilapidated structure of unpretentious quality over the years. It would be more expensive to renovate these existing structures.

Below the demolished structures we place the basement floor height lower by half a meter, which allows appropriate internal heights to create mechanical fittings in the changing room area.



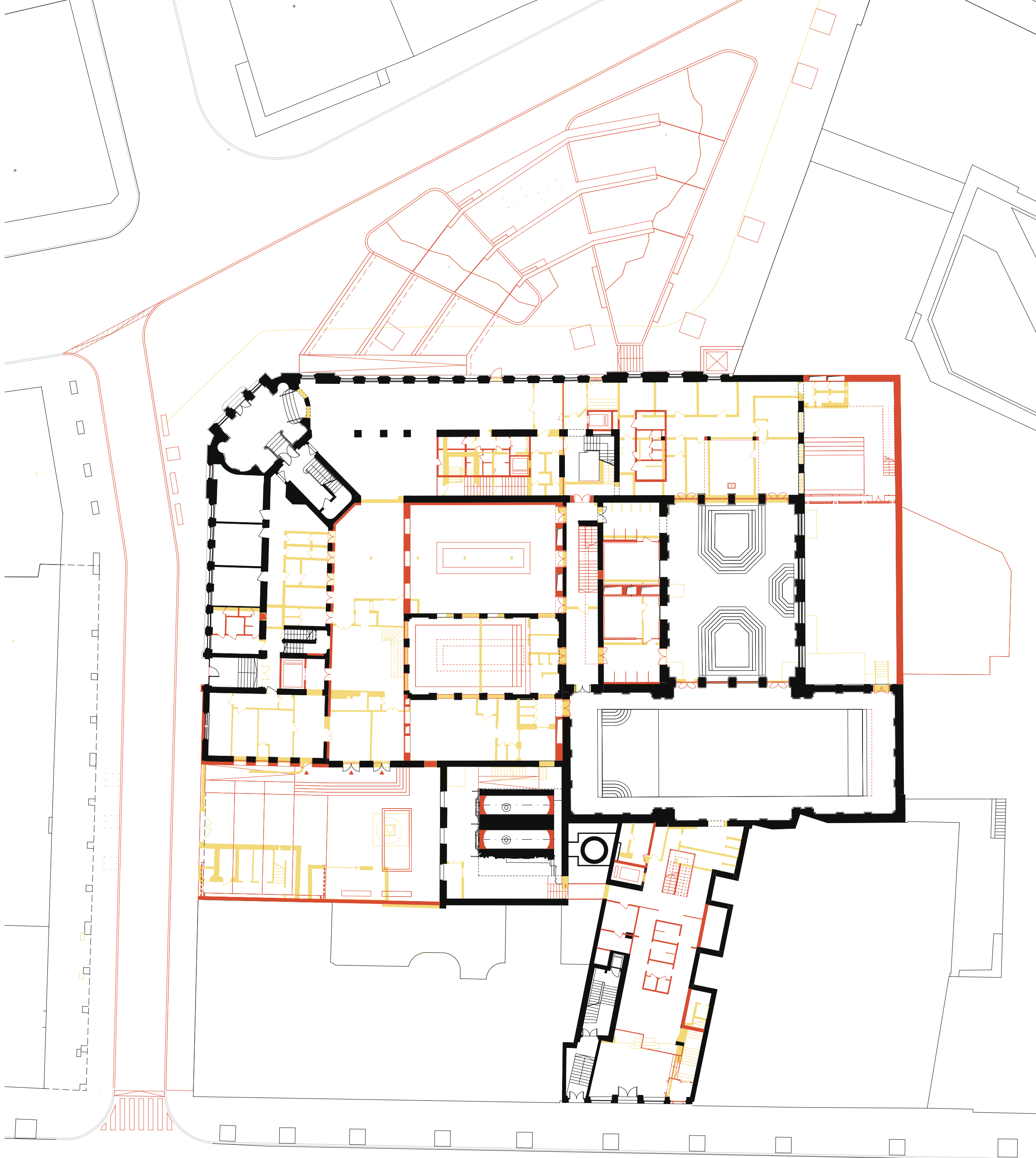
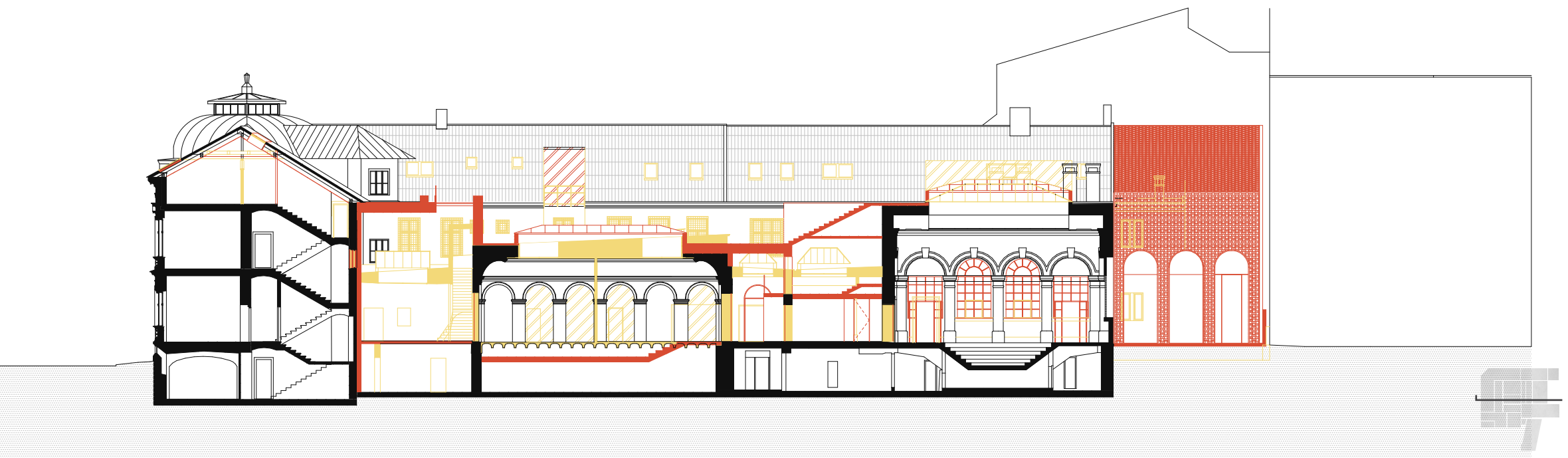
STRUCTURAL SYSTEM

The new structures of the internal part of the complex are established with a house-in-the-house method, with new, dilated structural walls and pillars adjacent to the existing – 1914 era – structures. The prefabricated reinforced hollow core slabs are ideal for this span, reduce structural thickness compared to on-situ slabs, and are simple to implement.

DEMOLISHED CONSTRUCTION

NEW CONSTRUCTION

PRESERVED STRUCTURES



SITE AND FIRST FLOOR MODIFICATION PLAN 1:300



SECOND FLOOR MODIFICATION PLAN 1:300



THIRD FLOOR, ROOFTOP TERRACE AND FOURTH FLOOR APARTMENTS MODIFICATION PLAN 1:300



BASEMENT MODIFICATION PLAN 1:300



ROOFS MODIFICATION PLAN 1:300