

Hilbert's Hotel

Hilberts Paradox: A fully occupied hotel with infinitely many rooms may still accommodate additional guests, even infinitely many of them, and that this process may be repeated infinitely often.

David Hilbert, 1924



View East from Promenade

A New Beacon

The New Beacon of Helsinki should be recognisable for not just the environment created for hotel guests and employees but also for the qualities afforded the public at large.

To achieve this, the architectural concept should be both generic and contextual at the same time, point to a future and yet reference a rich history and value set that has evolved over time.

Our proposal seeks to achieve a scale that is contextual and not overpowering to form a harmonious relationship with that of the surrounding urbanity and landscape, indeed that of the community as a whole.

A New Public Space

Our proposal clearly articulates a public and private domain. The public domain forms the foundation of the hotel.

The hotel rooms are lofted above the stepped Plaza landscape revealing public functions related to the hotel and legible thoroughfares across the site.

Maintaining a high degree of permeability of the Plaza is an essential element for our proposal, ensuring access to the water and connectivity across the site and with the wider neighbourhood.

The Ground Floor space is enclosed by a wave formed glass screen offering diffused views in and out with overlaid fragmented reflections.

A New Hotel

The private domain of the project, the hotel rooms, are enveloped in a smooth contiguous white glass skin that is in direct contrast to the surrounding heavily punched masonry facades. The panelisation of the facades reminiscent of broken sea ice is expressed by small joints.

This distribution of panels is in fact a modular repeatable pattern that is related to the hotel rooms that it encloses. Each room has 3 windows, one of which is operable with a parallel opening system.

Window glass consists of switchable glass that, by default is a white colour similar to the panels. It is activated by the room keycard which turns the glass clear. The hotel appearance is controlled by the guests.

A New Urban Landmark

As an urban landmark the new Hotel is notable for two things.

Firstly the readily accessible ground plane condition and secondly, the changing facade.

The building should not be just a beacon set apart from its surroundings but also a powerful urban catalyst pointing to a future contextual development.

Our intention is that the ensemble of the Hotel and landscape be perceived as a landmark through its experience in the daily life of the area. Pedestrian permeability at ground level with restaurants, bars, outdoor seating and rooftop terraces will ensure a vibrancy as a destination.

A New Sustainable Hotel

The overriding factors will be ensuring:

Economic Sustainability - we must be able to deliver a project that is fundamentally economically viable.

Social Sustainability - we must deliver a project that contributes to the area and complements the existing urban context.

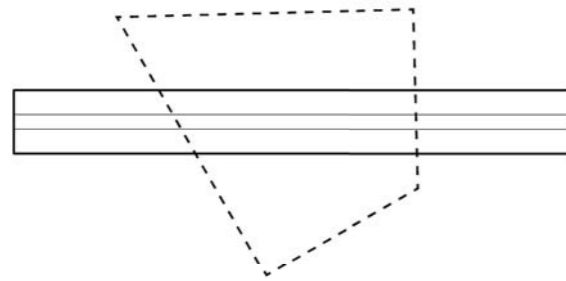
Environmental Sustainability - we must deliver a project that responds to the environment both in regard to energy consumed but also with regard the embodied energy of the structure.

An occupied building is a sustainable building. The new Helsinki Beacon contributes to its urban setting by being a lively and social place.

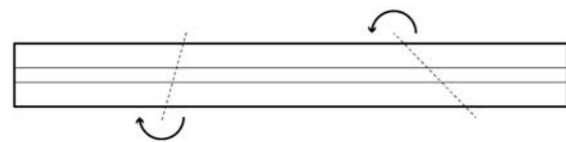


Connection to the Urban Fabric 1:8000

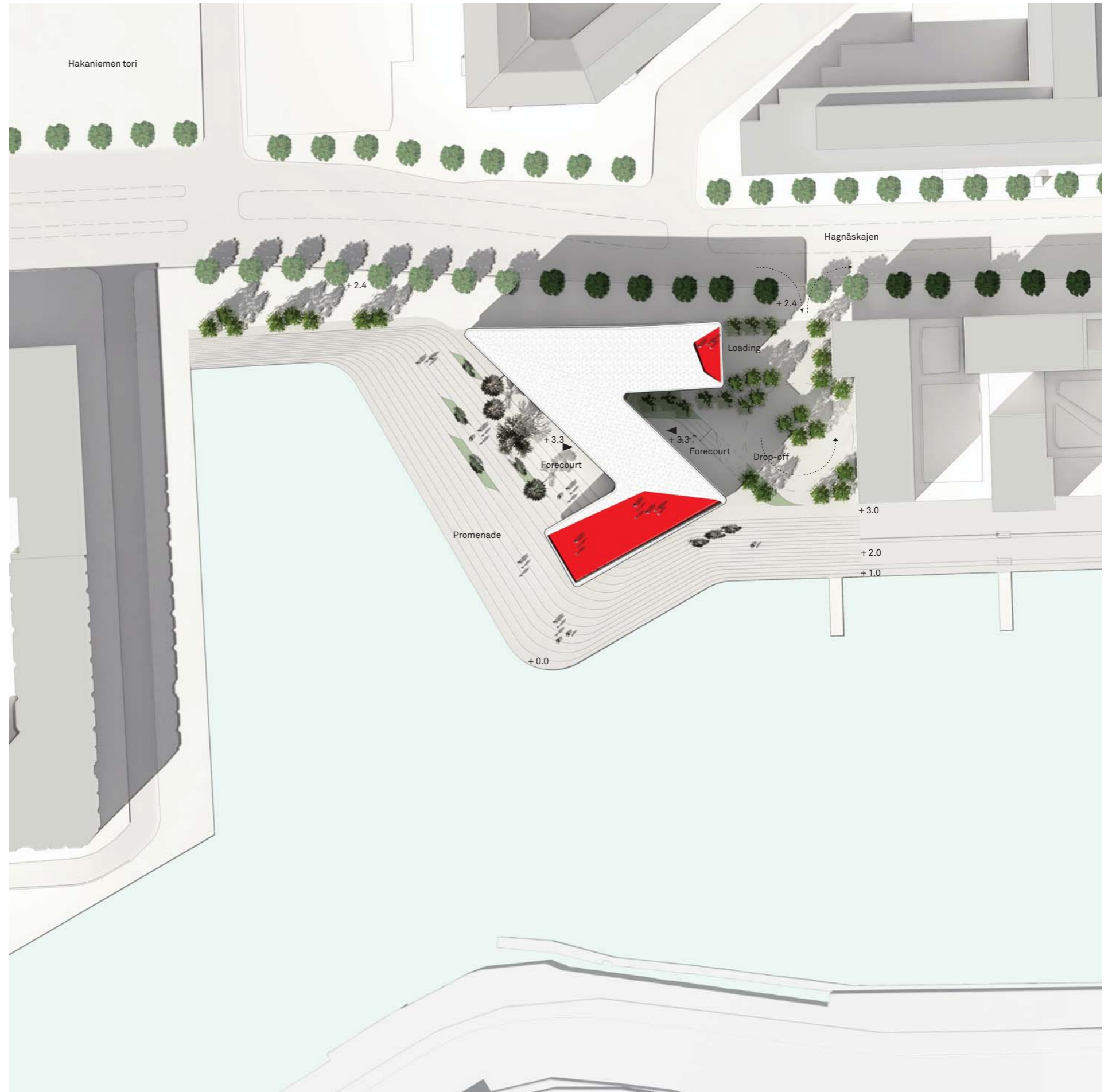
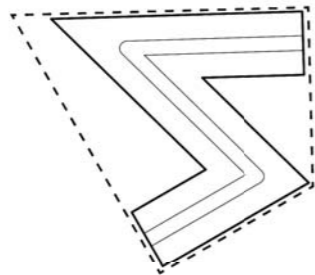
Efficient double loaded corridor arrangement vs. Compact Site



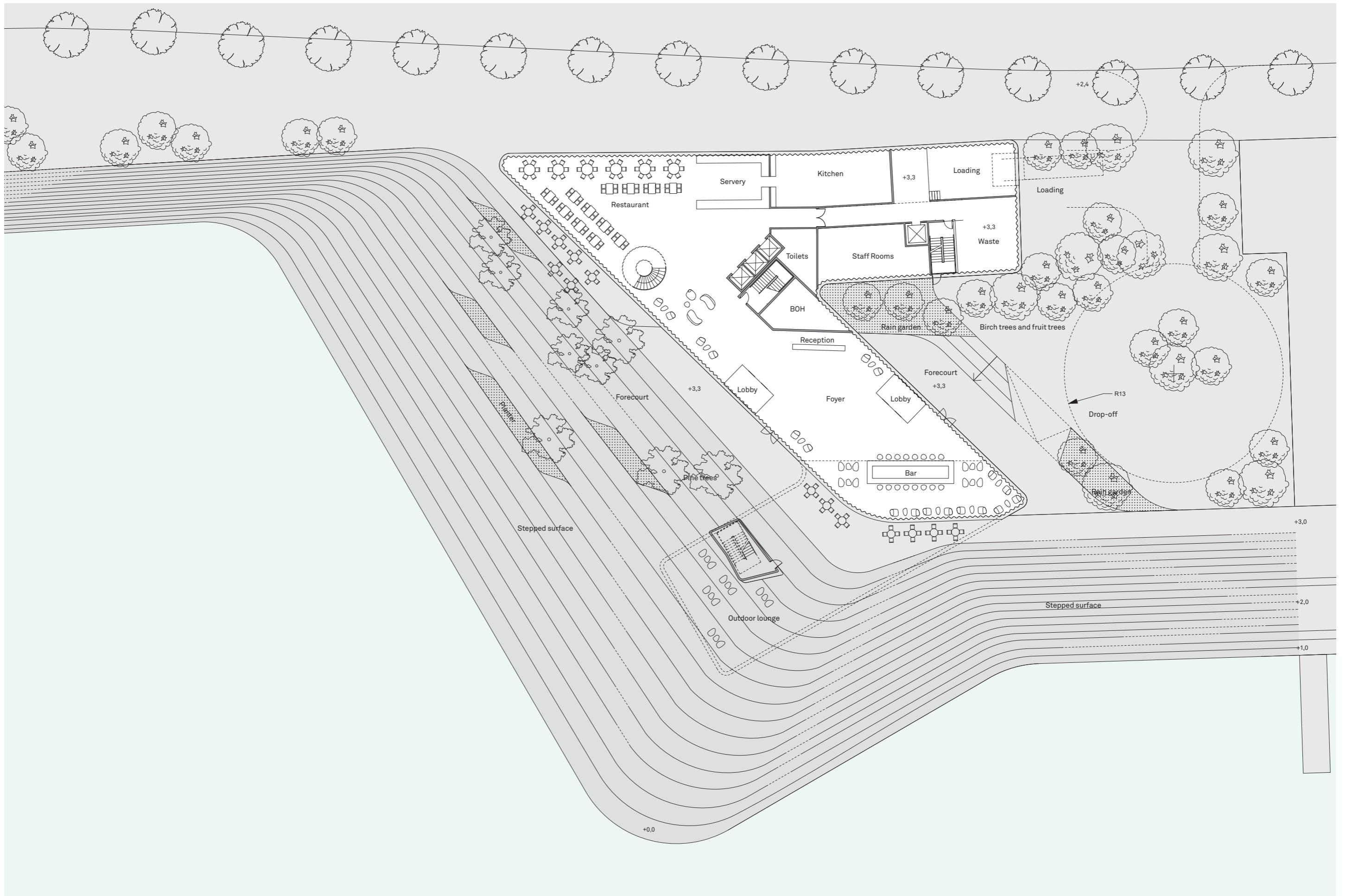
Bend it



Project on Site



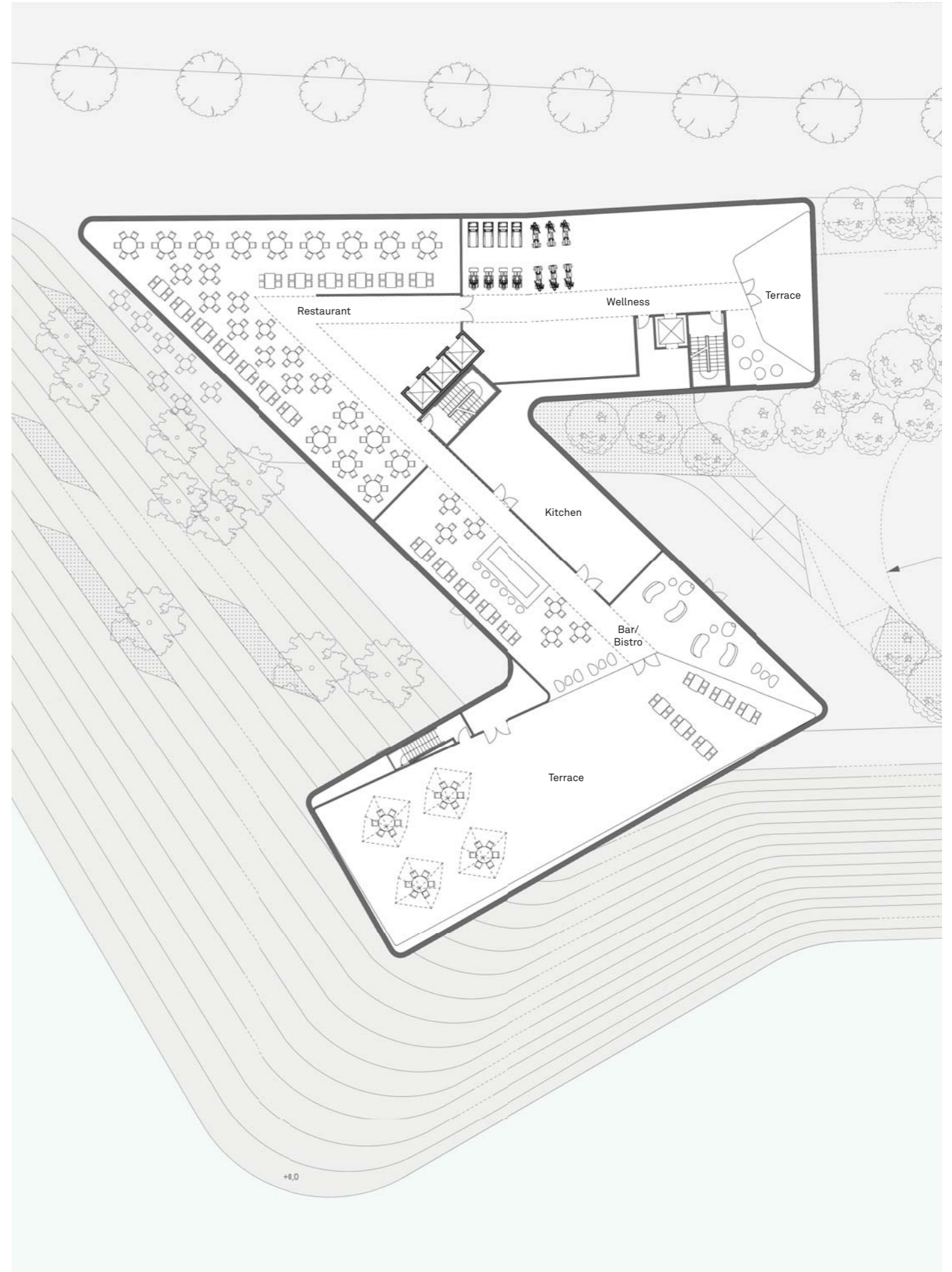
Site Plan 1:500



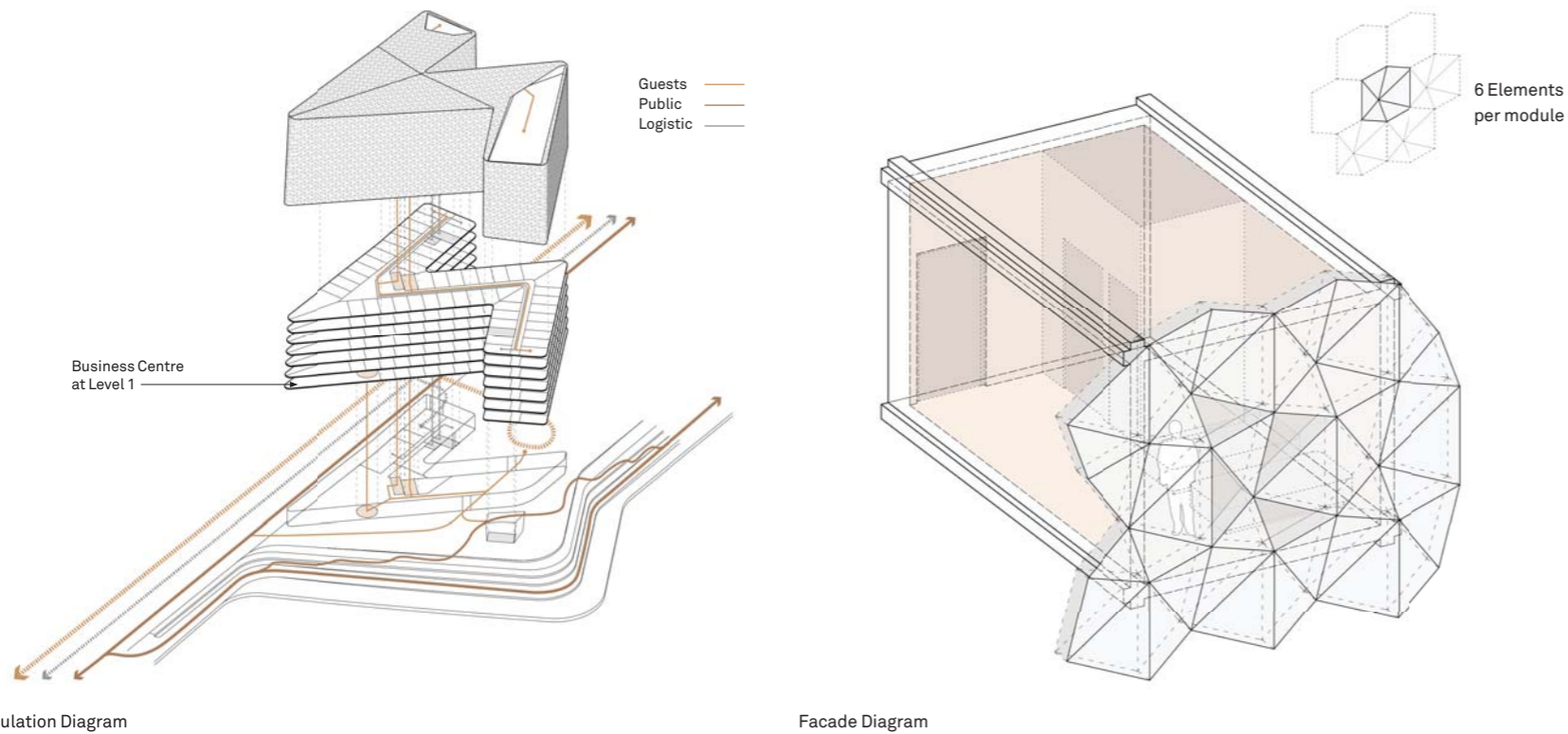
Ground Floor 1:200



Typical Floor Plan 1:200



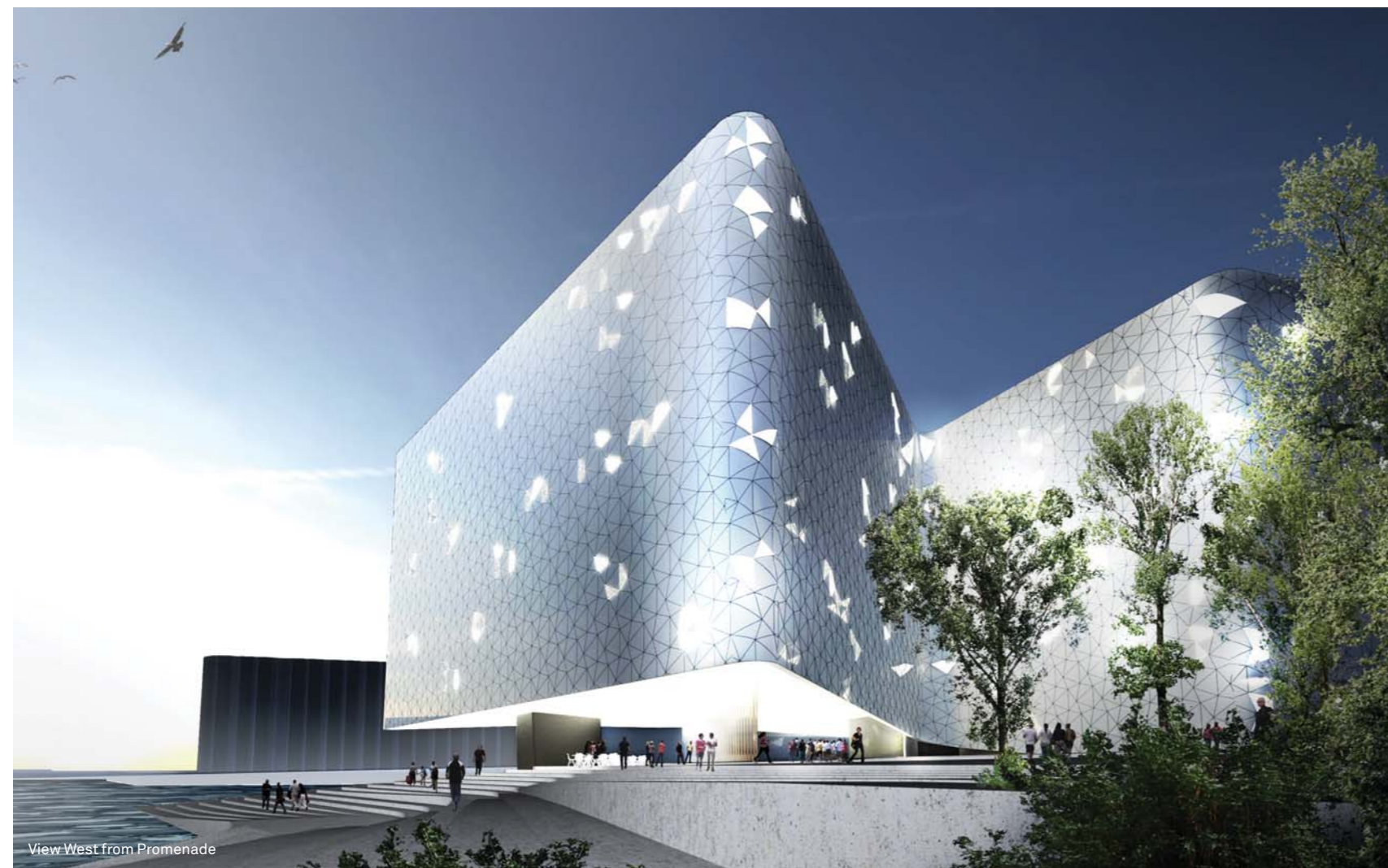
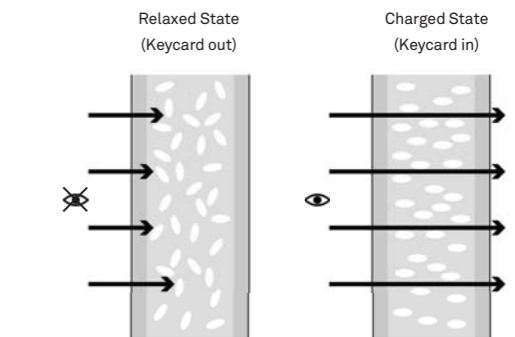
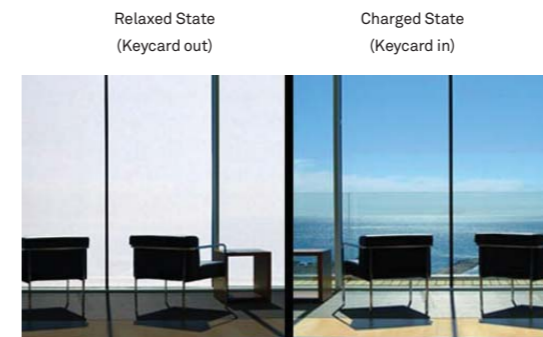
8th Floor Plan 1:200



Hotel Room



Helsinki Harbour Ice



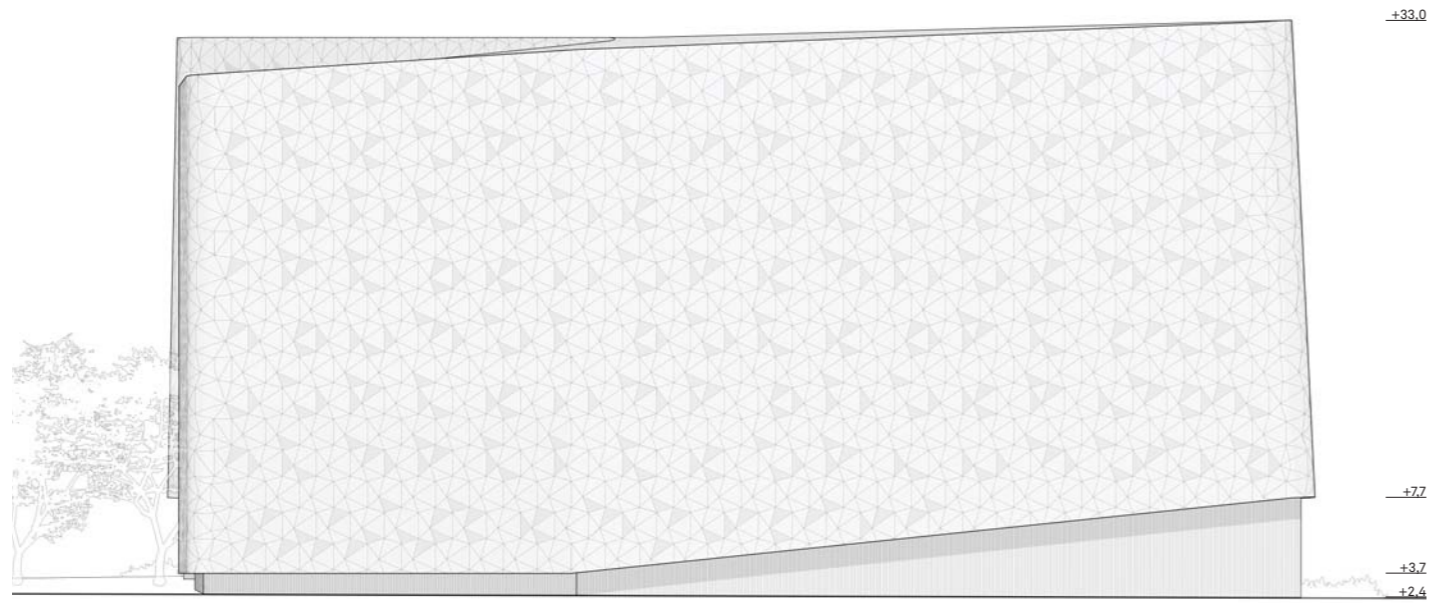
The panelisation of the facades reminiscent of broken sea ice often found on Helsinki's harbour. The distribution of panels is in fact a modular repeatable pattern that are related to the hotel rooms that it encloses. Each room has at least 3 windows, one of which is operable with a parallel opening window system for natural ventilation.

Window glass consists of switchable glass that, by default is a white colour similar to the panels. It is activate by the room keycard which turns the glass clear. The hotel occupants dictate the hotel appearance. The switchable glass has an additional benefits of reducing solar loading to the hotel and offering privacy if required.

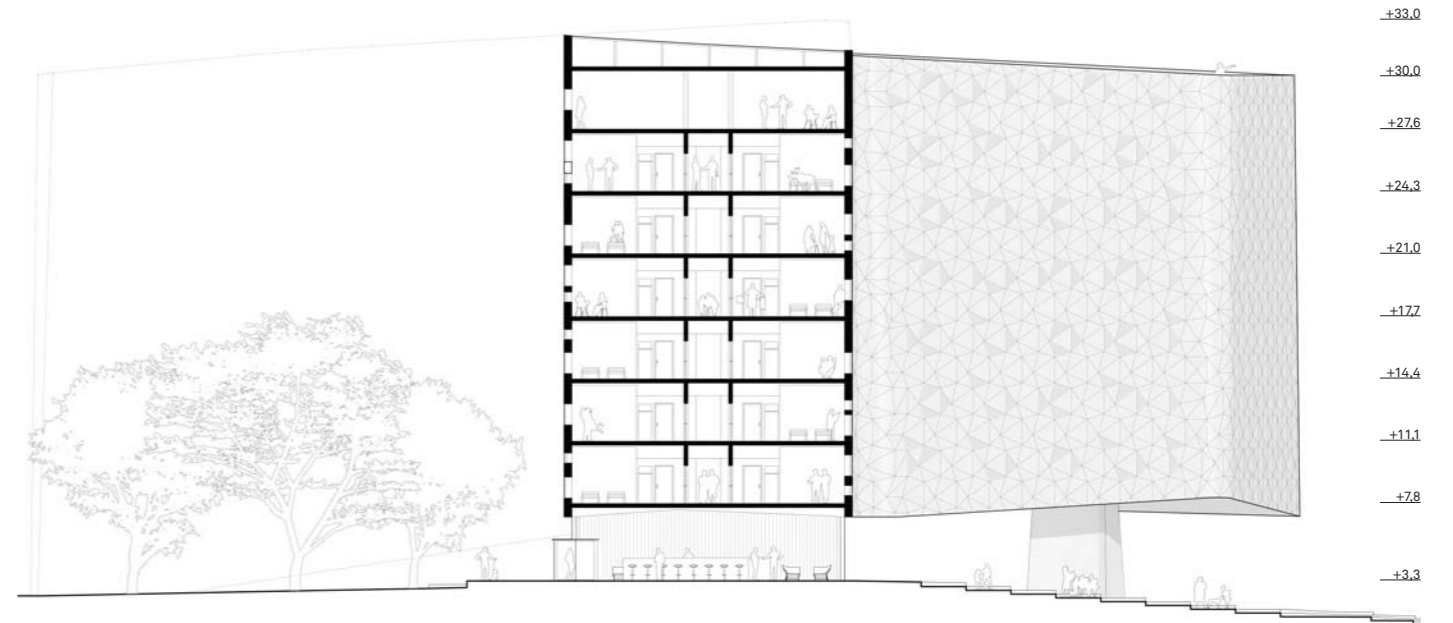
Schedule of Approximate Gross Areas (sq. m)

Plant Areas Excluded

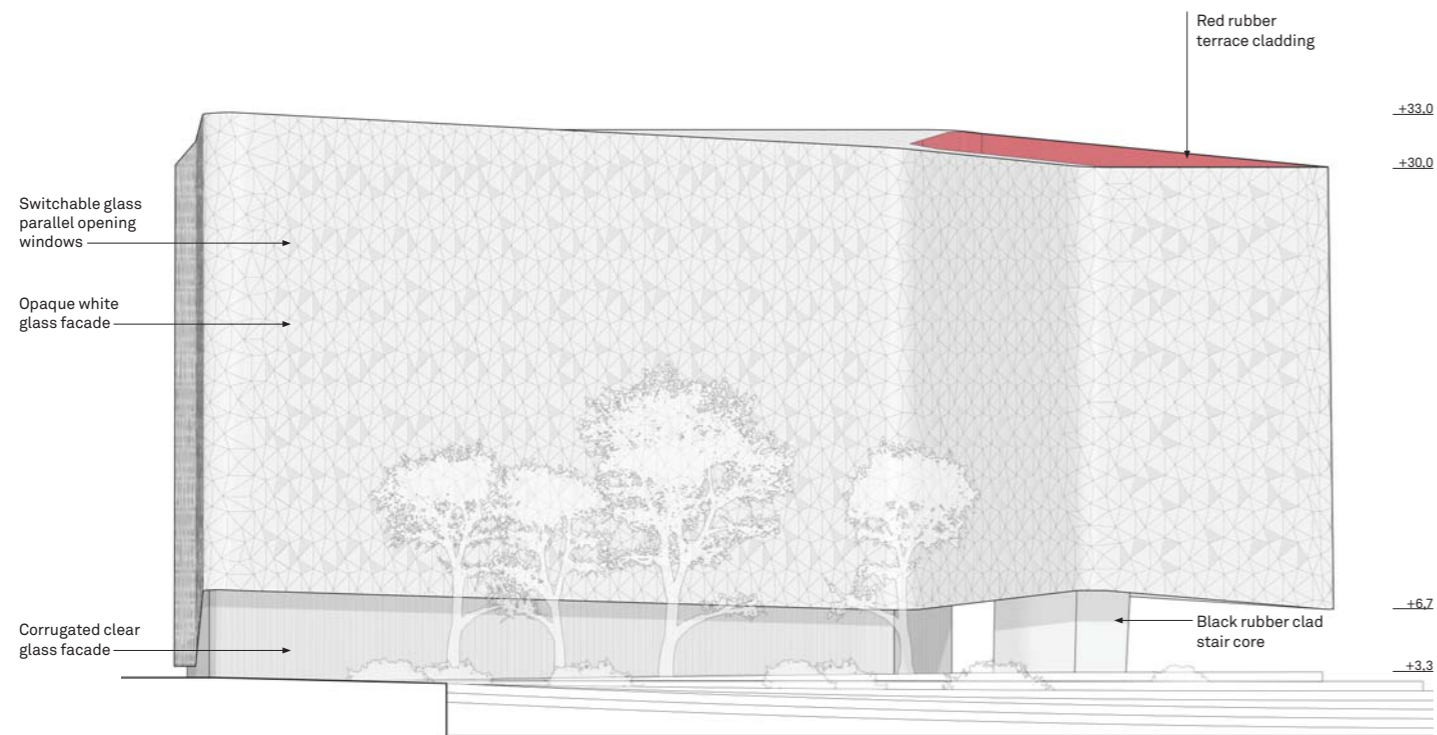
Level	Function	Area	Total Area	No. Rooms	R.L.	Fl/ Fl Height
1	Foyer	470		-	3.30	4.5m
	Reception	60		-		4.5m
	Reception BOH	150		-		4.5m
	Bar	130		-		4.5m
	Restaurant	280		-		4.5m
	Kitchen	100		-		4.5m
	Loading	180		-		4.5m
	Terrace	230	1600	-		4.5m
2	Business Centre	300			7.80	3.3m
	Hotel Rooms	1543	1843	44		3.3m
3	Hotel Rooms	1843	1843	49	11.10	3.3m
4	Hotel Rooms	1843	1843	49	14.40	3.3m
5	Hotel Rooms	1843	1843	49	17.70	3.3m
6	Hotel Rooms	1843	1843	49	21.00	3.3m
7	Hotel Rooms	1843	1843	49	24.30	3.3m
8	Wellness Centre	320			27.60	3.3m
	Wellness Terrace	50				3.3m
	Restaurant	450				3.3m
	Bar	280				3.3m
	Kitchen/ BOH	170				3.3m
	Bar Terrace	420	1843			3.3m
			14500	289		



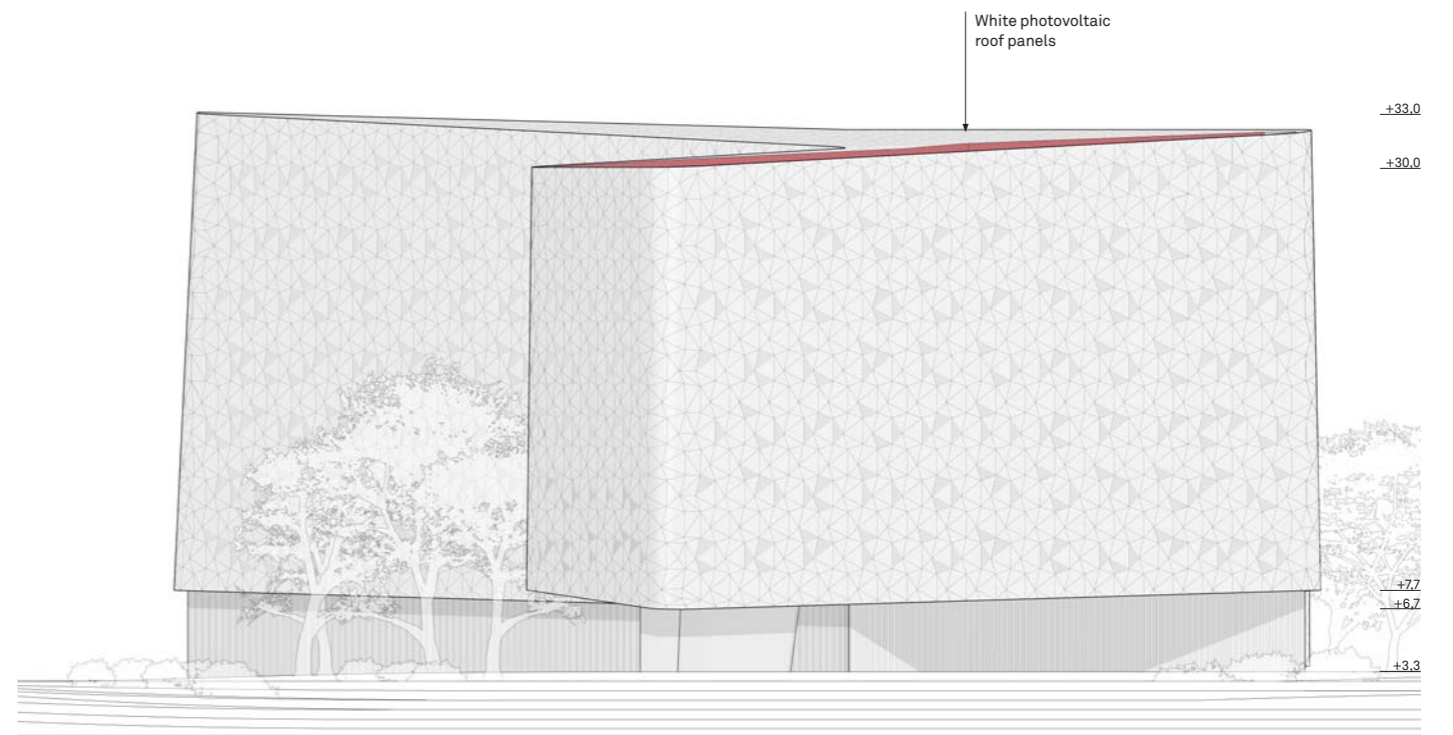
Elevation North 1:200



Section West-East 1:200



Elevation West 1:200



Elevation South 1:200



View from Bridge



View from Market Square



View from Opposite Shore



Aerial View