

FAUNA AT THE BARGEHOUSE

BY KARINA JADE KABBAN

With the **pandemic** shaping the way we conduct so much of our lives, I wanted my proposal to target two key aspects: **well-being** and **productivity**. Such a sudden change has no doubtably impacted our **mental health**, and continues to impact our well-being as we learn to live a **new 'normal'**.

One area where this change is still very present is in people's **work lives**. Several industries have kept a **flexible, hybrid-style working schedule** wherein workers can work **remotely** or at a **designated space**. Many individuals choose to work remotely, however grow tired of spending so much time in the house as it becomes **mentally draining** and can induce **restlessness**. This issue can extend farther than the house - London's **concrete jungle** of a city can also cause **mental fatigue** to individuals who crave a connection with all things **natural**.

The Bargehouse is set in such an environment where one is transported directly to the **industrial revolution**, and loses touch with **'what once was'**. To combat both of these issues, I will design a **sustainable hybrid space** where people can be **productive** and/or **relax** in a **biophilic environment**. The advantage of **purifying natural elements** will contrast the industrial style of London and provide them a **sense of peace** wherein they can become **focused** and **productive**, or simply **unwind** and **feel at ease**.

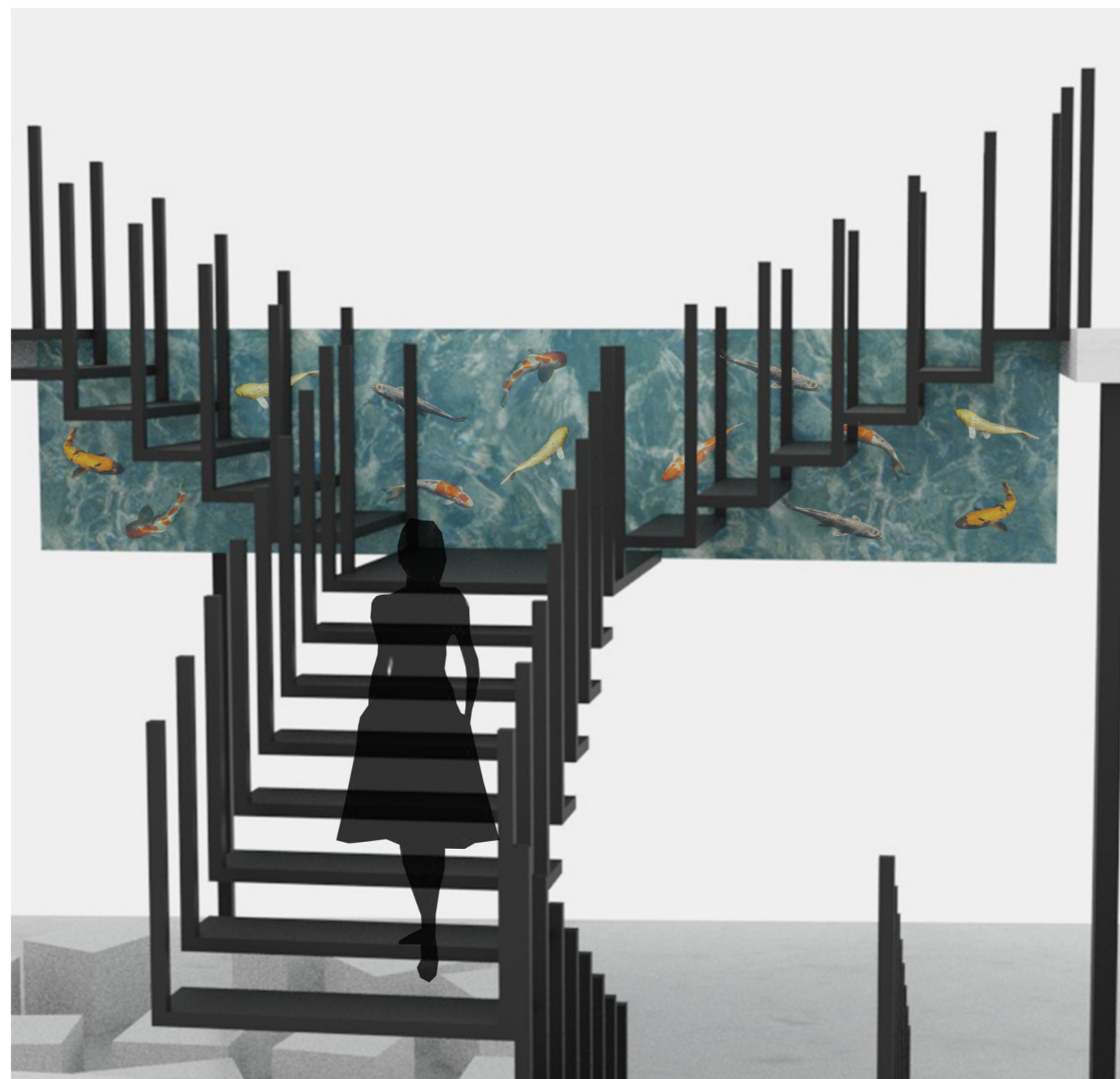
I aim to give users a **break from the hustle and bustle of city life**, while still providing a space for them to **maintain their responsibilities** as an adult in the 21st century. Completing their work outside of the home, catching up with a friend over a coffee, or simply relaxing and enjoying natural elements within a built environment are all examples of the new programme I wish to set at The Bargehouse.



Visualisation: Productivity Area, Mezzanine Level



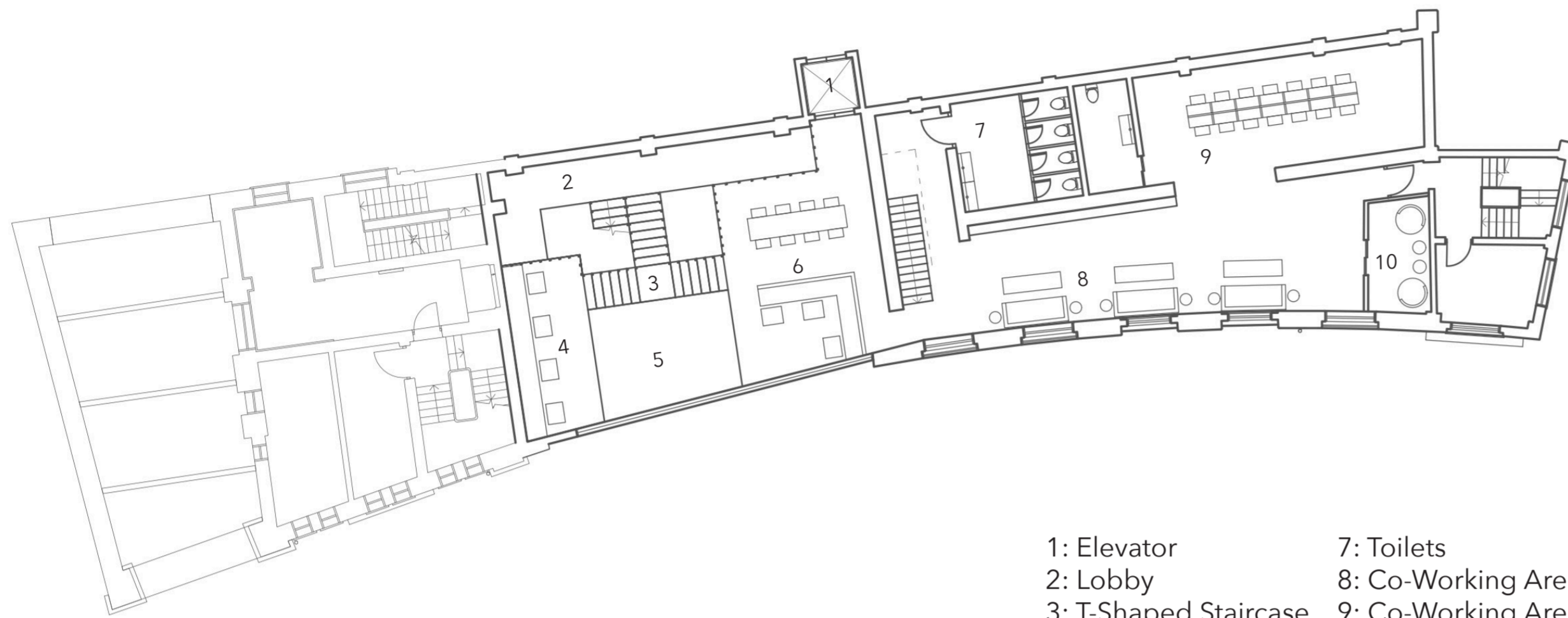
Visualisation: Productivity Area, Mezzanine Level Connecting to 1st Floor



Visualisation: T-Shaped Stairs Highlighting Koi Pond



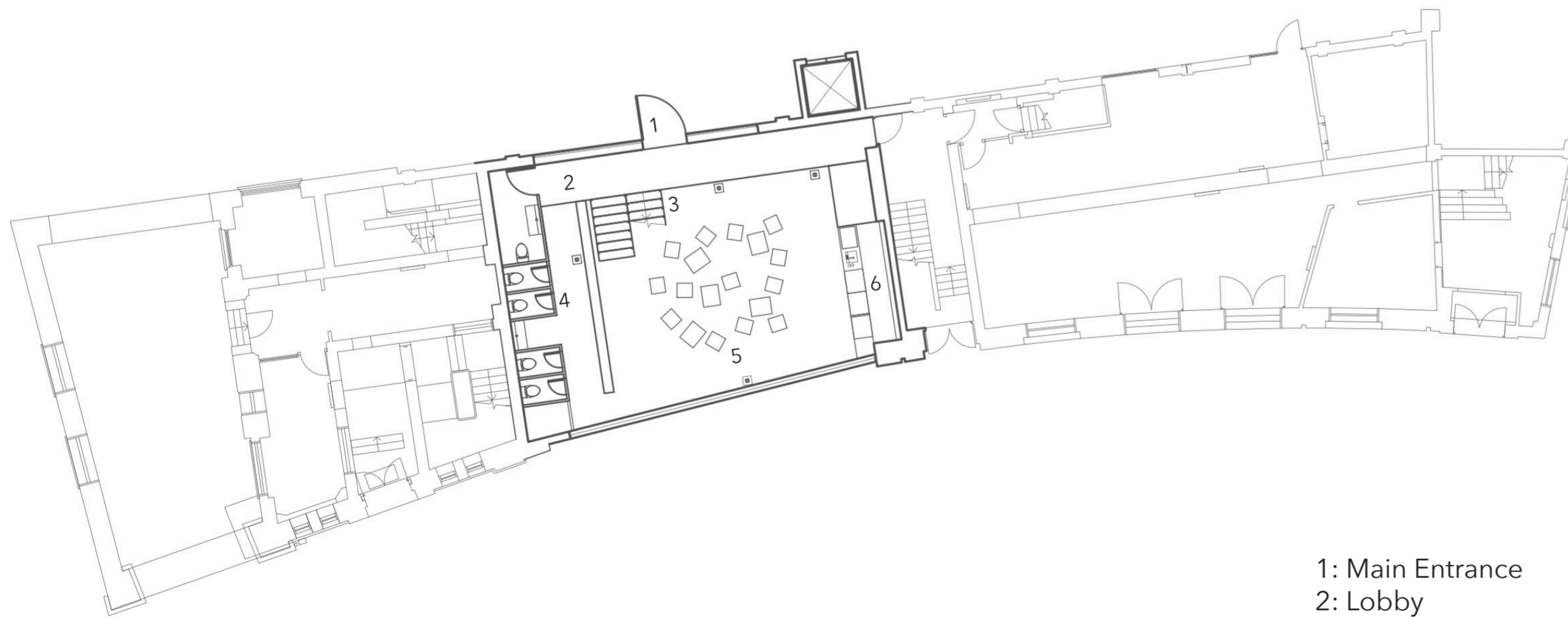
Visualisation: Relaxation Area, Cafe



- 1: Elevator
- 2: Lobby
- 3: T-Shaped Staircase
- 4: Co-Working Area
- 5: Koi Pond
- 6: Co-Working Area
- 7: Toilets
- 8: Co-Working Area
- 9: Co-Working Area
- 10: Private Room

First Floor Plan, 1:150

The **first floor** features **t-shaped staircase** that highlights a **koi pond** and opens up to **two mezzanine levels**. Nestled between the two mezzanine levels, a koi pond made of acrylic sheets. An **elevator** has been installed on the courtyard side of the building to allow **access** for those less able to walk. The mezzanine levels allow for **productivity** and serves as a **co-working space**. On the eastern mezzanine level, a hole has been cut through an existing wall to **join** the **mezzanine** level with the **existing first floor** level. This level includes more **co-working space** with **comfortable** seating, as well as a long table that can be using **individually** with dividers, or **communally**. Standard and disabled toilets are also featured on this level. A small **private room** is placed at the far right for those who wish to take calls without disturbing other members of the space.



- 1: Main Entrance
- 2: Lobby
- 3: T-Shaped Staircase
- 4: Toilets
- 5: Casual Seating Area
- 6: Cafe

Ground Floor Plan, 1:150

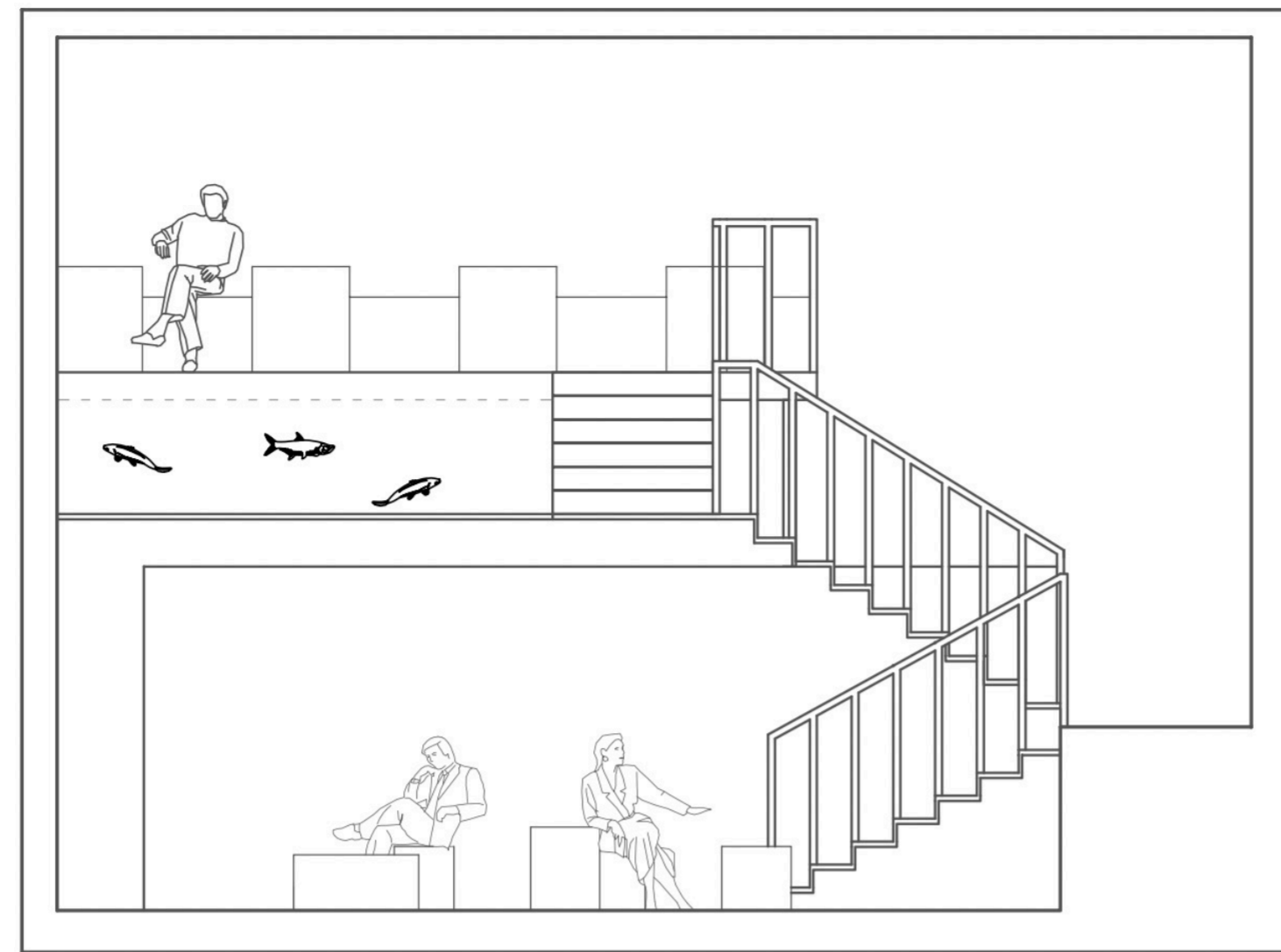
The **ground floor** features **recessed flooring** from a **raised platform**. To the left, a **living wall** conceals toilets and a sink area. A storage cupboard is nestled between a toilet stall and the perimeter wall. **Moveable cubic seating** is placed nonchalantly in the centre of the ground floor so as to invite users to create their own seating arrangements. This allows for **social distancing** if desired, as well as the **inclusion** of individuals in a wheelchair. To the right, a **lifting platform** for those with disabilities, and a **cafe** with drinks and small nibbles. This setting is intended for those who wish to **relax** and take time for themselves, or perhaps discuss between friends what was viewed in the existing exhibition spaces.



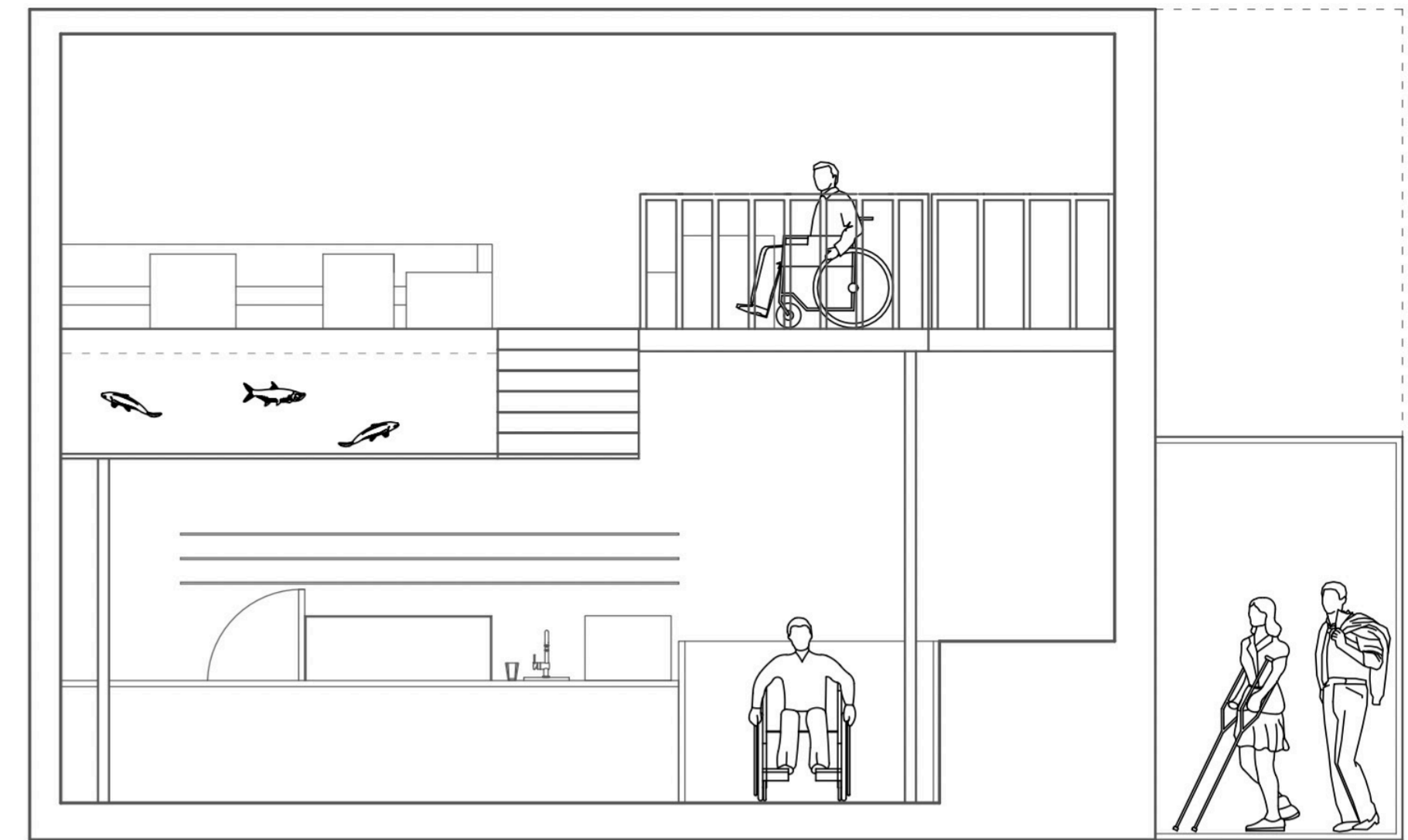
Clay Plaster: Alternative to Traditional Plaster



Recycled Terrazzo: Waste Reduction

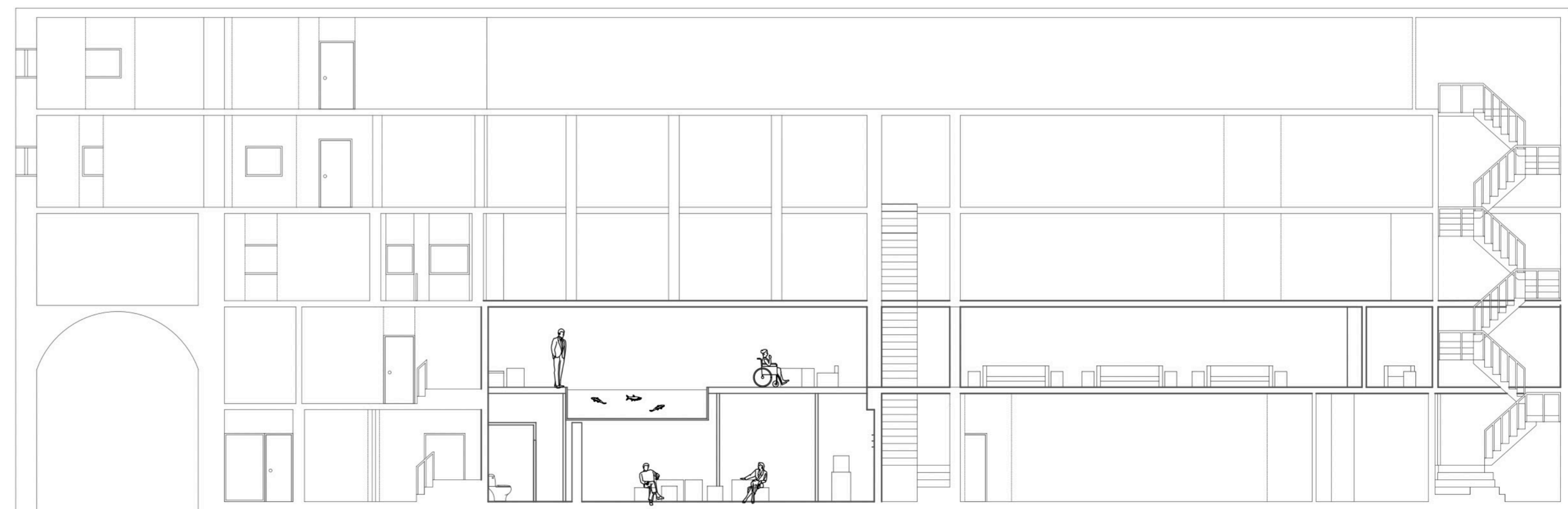


Cross-Section A, 1:50

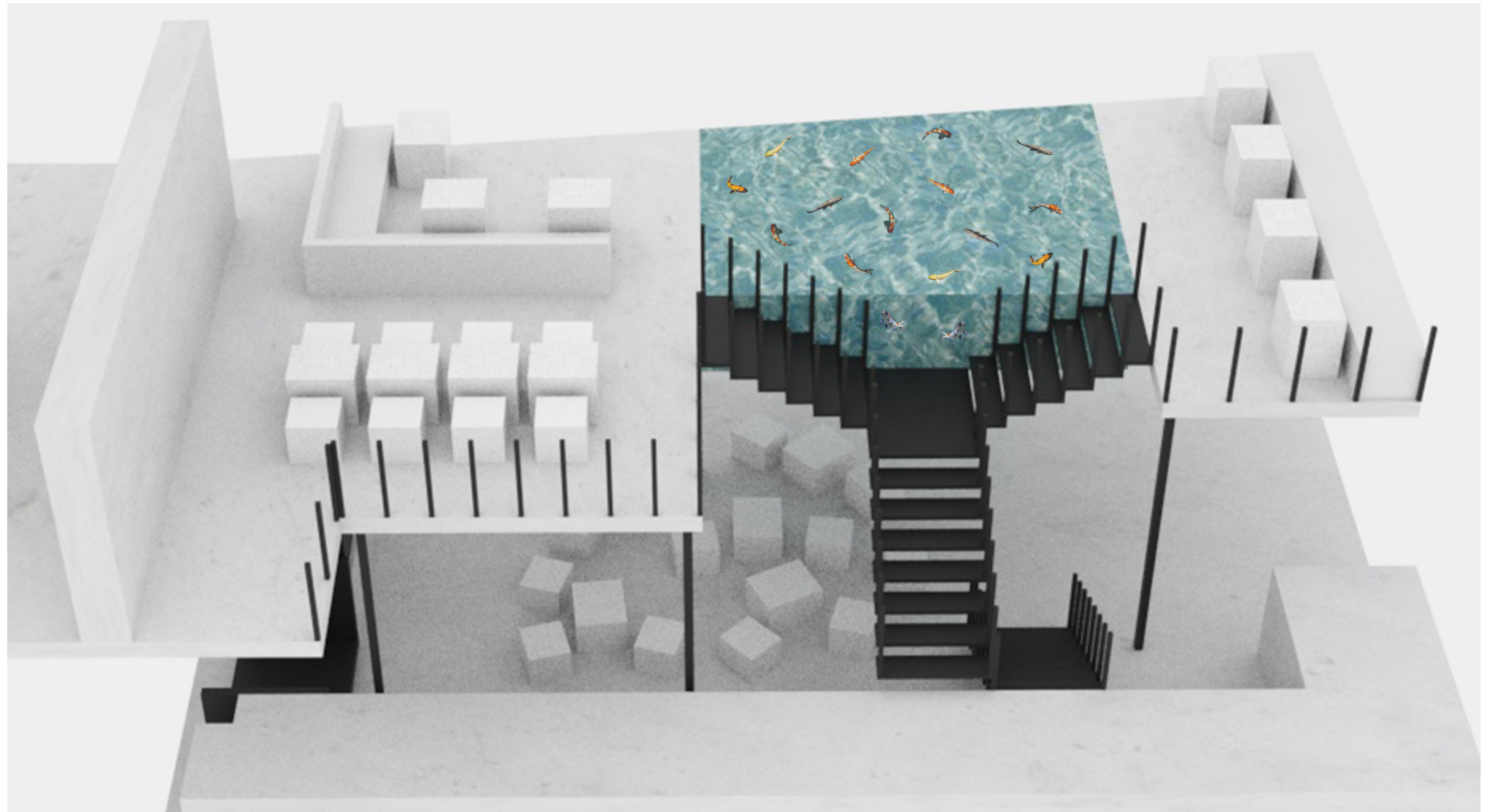


Cross-Section B, 1:50

Cross-Section A highlights the **koi pond** as an interior element that **separates** but also **unites** the **two levels**. The **relaxation** space on the recessed floor enjoys the **light** and **shadows** created by the **swimming koi** and the **water ripples**. The **productivity** space on the mezzanine level enjoys the **sounds** of the **koi splashing** in the water. A **living wall** sits behind the users on the recessed floor that acts as a **purifying element** to **heal** peoples lungs of the toxic London city air. Cross-Section B highlights the **cafe** as well as the **accessibility** for those with disabilities to navigate the space. An **elevator** installed on the courtyard side of the building can allow those in a wheelchair or those unable to go up stairs access to the mezzanine level and first floor. A **lifting platform** is installed nested to the raised platform for those with disabilities to comfortably get to the recessed flooring. **Sustainable design** is highlighted through materiality - **clay** plaster instead of traditional plaster, and **recycled** terrazzo reduces waste.



Section C, 1:100



Looking to the **future**, I believe architecture and interior design should **shift focus to user well-being**. My proposal highlights an understanding that we cannot simply disregard our responsibilities in the 21st century, but provides a space where these **responsibilities** can be carried out in such a way that **mental health** and **well-being** are **equally looked after**. To help achieve this, I wanted to bring **animals** into my space in a **safe** and **humane** way where a **positive relationship** would be built between the **animal** and the **human**. **Koi carp** have been known to **instil peace** in humans and **calm anxiety**, positively impacting their mental health. **Phenomenological elements** are incorporated to **elevate the user experience** and **promote well-being**. Sounds of splashing water, water light patterns reflecting onto surfaces below, and the movement of the koi are all ways that can **encourage healthy productivity and relaxation simultaneously**.