



Walking on the Strings

NARRATION

As globalization accelerated due to the technology innovation, the world has turned itself into a melting pot with people from different backgrounds and race. Transients, who have lived in several different countries experiencing multiple cultures, are increasing dramatically and becoming the dominant group of people. It is glamorous to be recognized as transients cause you are expanding the view of the world, however, the recognition of belonging and home is one of the difficulties that transients face during their journey. The project aims to design a residence specifically for the increasing population of transients and provide them with a sense of belonging and solve their insecurity of rootlessness.

CONCEPT

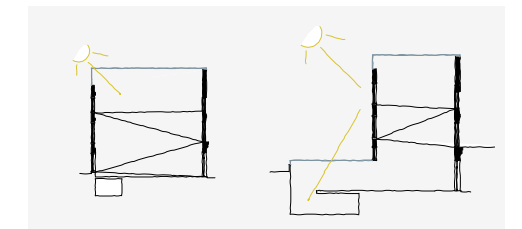
The targeted inhabitants of the residence are transients in creative fields. As an artists residence, the site-building provides artists with a space to live, to work, to showcase, and to form bonding with both community and inhabitants.

The project has blurred the line between private and public spaces which giving transient artists chances to communicate with people in the city and the building. Instead of closing themselves into a small room, opening and letting people know their stories rather help transients in their search for a home. The meaning of home for transients could be unconventional at the time, however as the "future citizens", designing homes for those who lack cultural identity might be one of the problems for us to solve.

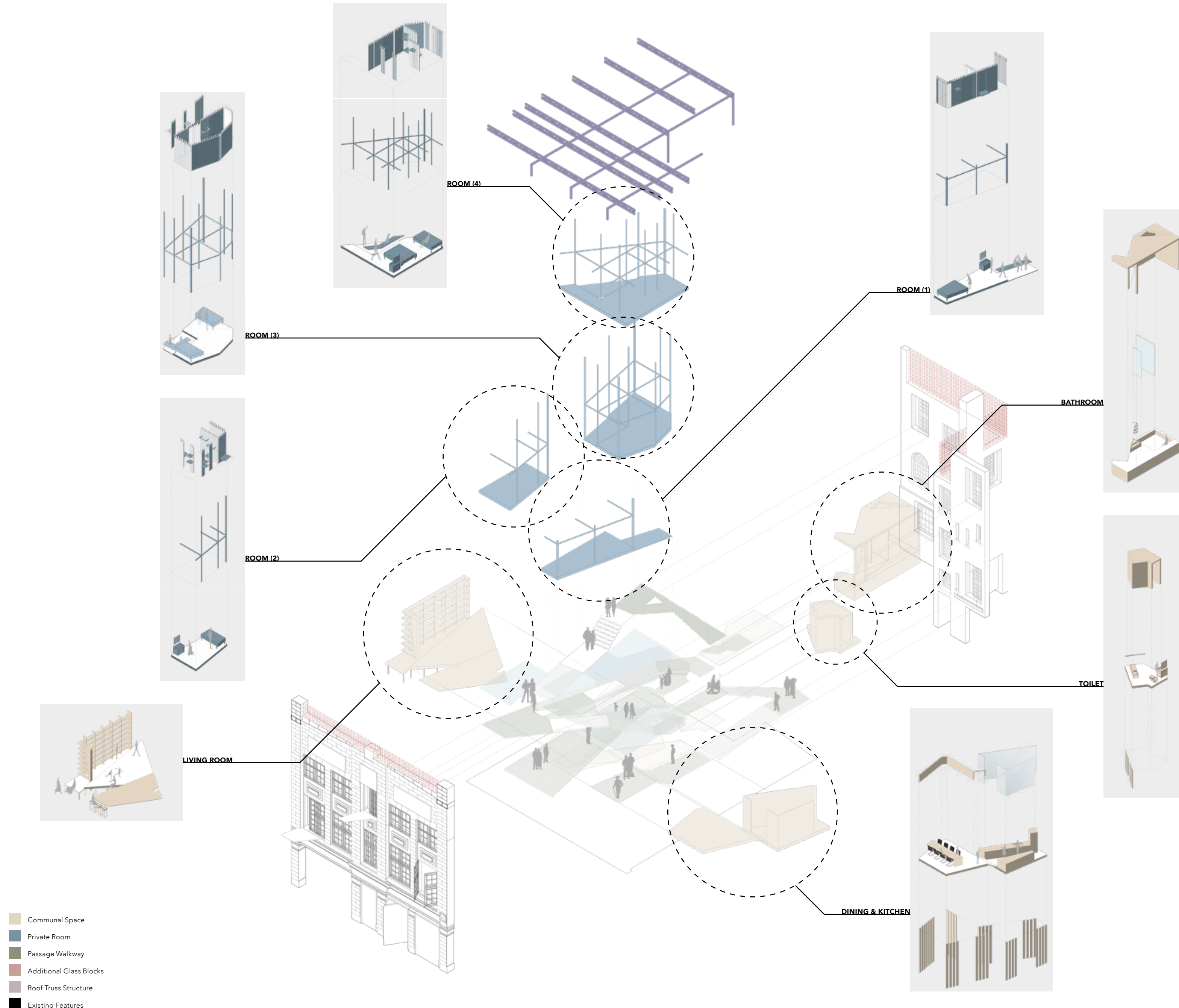
JOURNEY + SCATTER SPACES

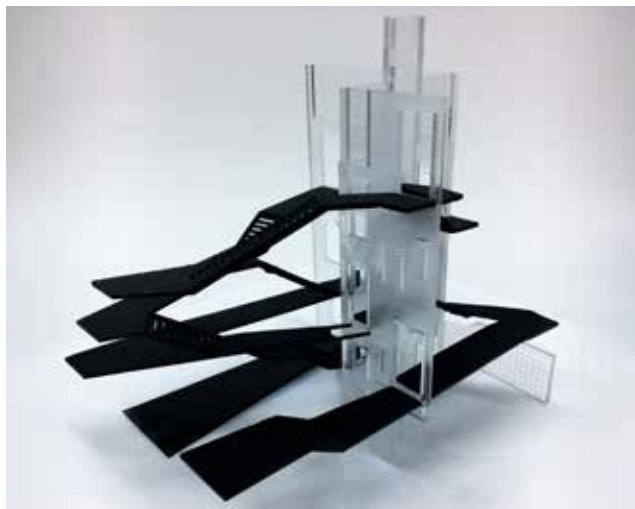
The site-building is designed to serve the purpose of both residence and gallery for transient artists. Instead of drawing a boundary in between the two purposes, the design blends the residential spaces into gallery space which remove the sense of publicity and privacy. The meaning of home as an interior aspect is challenged in this project by opening the personal life to the public and create communication spaces for inhabitants and community to bond their connections stronger in which give the sense of belonging to transients.

The design can be breaking up into several components. The main component is the passage walkway that portraits the journey that inhabitants have experienced as transients. The design of the passage walkway utilized the heights of the existing windows created by the skip floor scheme in which has connected the site-building in a one-way route that they exist leads toward the Smithfield Market. The visitors of the gallery will take their tour to the art gallery by walking on the passage walkway while the art created by the inhabitants are hung around the site building.



While the passage walkway served as the main component of the design, the residential spaces are scattered around the site building that is linked to the passage walkway. The scattered spaces can be detailed into two minor types: communal spaces and private rooms. Communal spaces are semi-public in which no fixed wall nor partitions are made. It opens the view for the visitors as well as accessibility so that it is welcomed for visitors to join inhabitants in a conversation in their residential spaces. The private rooms, on the other hand, has movable partitions that inhabitants have the right to switch the on/off scene. Once the partitions are taken away, the private rooms are exposed to the public that inhabitants use their personal spaces to exhibit their works while their private rooms as part of their representatives.





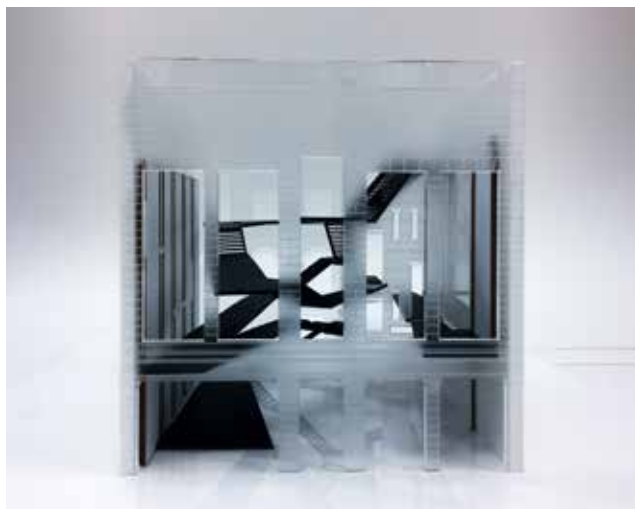
Right isometric view of the passage walkway



Sneak peek from the windows on the north facade



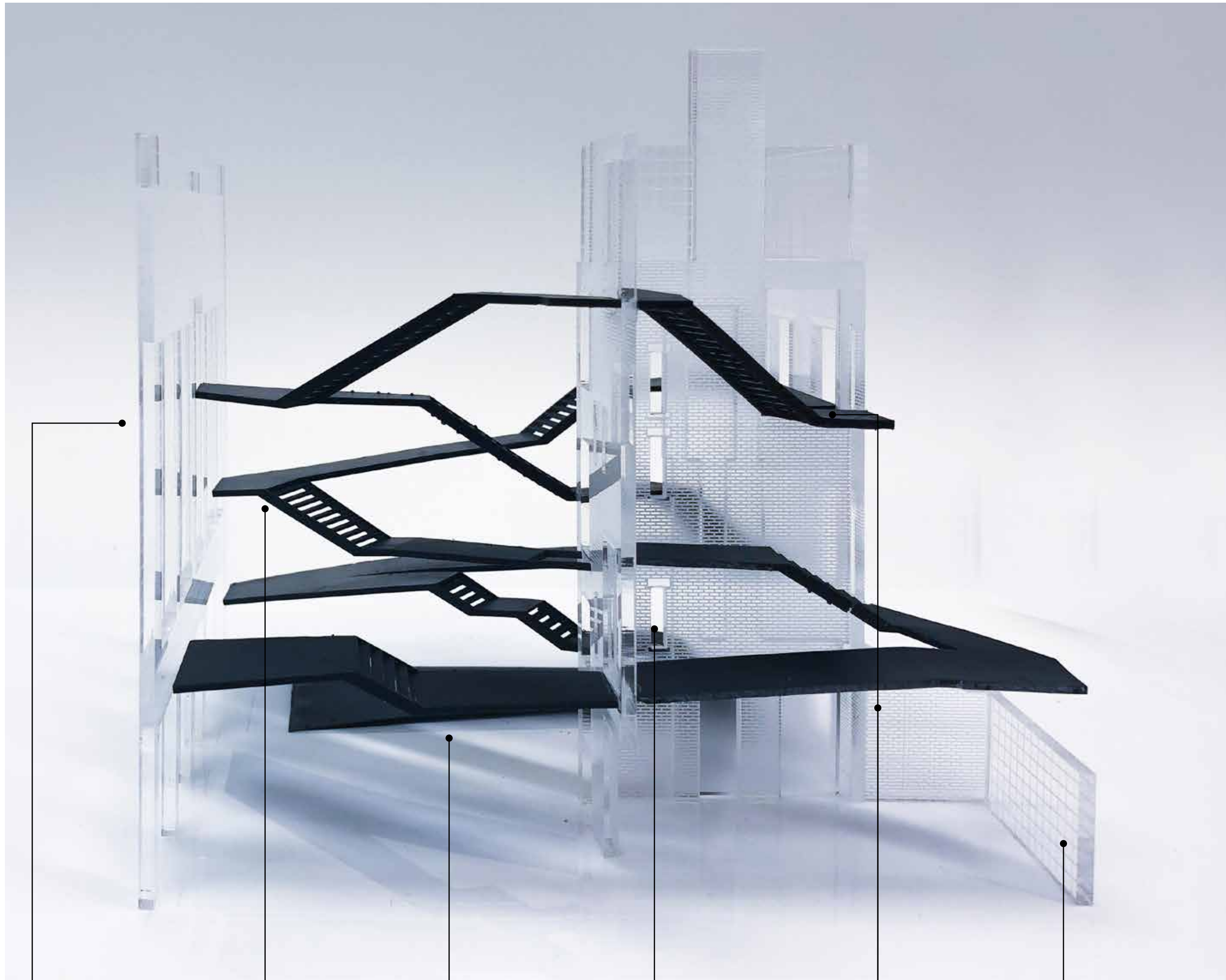
Passage walkway crossing each other inside the building (1)



View of the south facade and how passage walkway is positioned



Passage walkway crossing each other inside the building (2)



Section view from the east

SOUTH FACADE

The existing windows serve as a "rule" for the passage walkway therefore it is essential to use translucent materials in both south and north facades and make cut-outs for windows to help viewers understand how the passage walkway is connected and how they are link from different levels and intersecting each other visually.

PASSAGE STAIRCASE

The staircase is one of the three forms of the walkway. During the trials in 3D printing, the staircases are easily broken due to their thinness on a scale of 1/100. Therefore, the staircase is twice the actual design size is 0.7mm to make it stable in the model.

POSITIONING

The passage walkway is broken up into 4 pieces when sending the files for 3D printing due to the restriction in sizes. It is one of the difficulties in terms of communicating how each piece should be positioned in the site-building for the complexity in design.

BRICKS PATTERN

Despite the exterior walls are elements for viewer to understand the size of the site-building, the texture and pattern of the walls are also demonstrated through laser cutting. It gives the viewer a clearer view of the atmosphere of the appearance which makes the model realistic.

EXTERIOR STAIRCASE

The design of the passage walkway does not only extend itself inside the site-building but also outside. The interior and exterior exhibition spaces are included in the design in case inhabitants want to showcase their work under natural light condition.

GLASS BLOCKS

Glass blocks are used as an extension to the facades. It increases the natural light in the site-building during the day without making the artworks exposed under the sun dramatically. Unlike the facades, glass blocks are made with clear material to make the distinction from translucent materials.



Components building up the exterior walls

TRANSNATIONAL FABRICATION

Digital Model

Due to Covid-19 ravages the world, students have difficulty not only go back to university campus but also go to the country they study abroad. The 3D fabrication of the design project is challenged under the circumstance. This model is crafted by the technician who is in the workshop in London while the designer is on another half of the Earth in Tokyo to bring the transnational collaboration through online communication.

The model is made on a scale of 1/100 in which portrays the main design component - the passage walkway. Due to the complexity in the design, no drawings nor isometric modelling could convey the exact design in terms of space. Therefore, the best communication tool is by building models in which the digital fabrication only focuses on the passage walkway. Both 3D printer and laser cutter are used in this model that the 3D printer printed out the passage walkway as the main component and the laser cutter is responsible for the exterior walls.

The model aims to help the viewer to understand how the passage walkway is positioned in the site building. Therefore, the use of translucent material and making cut-outs in windows are essential elements in designing the model.



View of the living room from the entrance



View of the dining area



View of Room (3) and its communication space



View from Room (2) looking at the passage walkway



Sneak peek from the south balcony looking at the passage walkway



Section view from the west

ATMOSPHERIC SCENE

Artisinal Maquette

To give viewers a further vision of the design, the maquette is made on the scale of 1/50 with all the materiality and furniture detail that portrays the space. The main design of the passage walkway is showing greater detail in its structural frame and how it relates to residential spaces.

The frameworks of the passage walkway are all slightly different in terms of the openings to the residential space and the width. Each frame is carefully crafted by hand and combine with the walkway floor components. Once the frameworks are shown in the maquette, the atmosphere of the site-building is changed from simplicity to dynamics.

The interiors are demonstrated with materiality and colours in which brings the overall atmosphere to the design. Timber is mainly used in the finishing of residential spaces with the difference in colours to distinguish the communal and private. The supportive structures for the residential spaces are divided into two types: hanging rails from roof-top truss (private rooms) and supportive pillars from the ground floor (communal spaces). Both are made into a lighter colour than the framework of the passage walkway therefore the journey of connection is more emphasized.

BALCONY

The balcony serves as a stopping point for visitors to take a break from a continuous journey. It provides an exterior view for the visitors which take relief from the dynamics view of the passage walkway. Also, it appeals to the passengers on the sidewalk to draw attention to visit the gallery space.

PASSAGE WALKWAY

Between the passage walkway, the artworks are exhibited by hanging threads in different dimensionality that visitors can observe the works from a different point of view depending on the place they are standing. It has connected all the spaces in the site-building in a one-way route as the metaphor for an irrefutable journey.

BOOK GALLERY

The shared space of the book gallery is designed for inhabitants to bring books from different countries they have been to and share their stories with the community. Besides the book gallery is the living room where inhabitants can interact with the visitors directly and provide platforms for visitors to take their seats.

COMMUNICATION SPACE

There is a communication space with a bench in front of each private room for conversation. It might happen to visitors that they bump into the art creators of the works they are viewing on the passage walkway and space provides a chance to form connections between inhabitants and visitors for inhabitants to feel belonged.

PRIVATE ROOM

The private rooms are designed into a transformable space to open themselves to the public or close for privacy. The movable partitions are utilized for opening partial private room as part of the exhibition space in which representing the characteristics of the inhabitants while showing his/her arts.

ENTRANCE

The entrance of the site building is designed into an open space that the passengers are easily accessible. The doors are 360 degrees rotatable to vague the boundary between exterior and interior. Unlike the conventional entrance for a residential project, it focuses more on how to connect the site-building and the community.



Furniture components during the making process





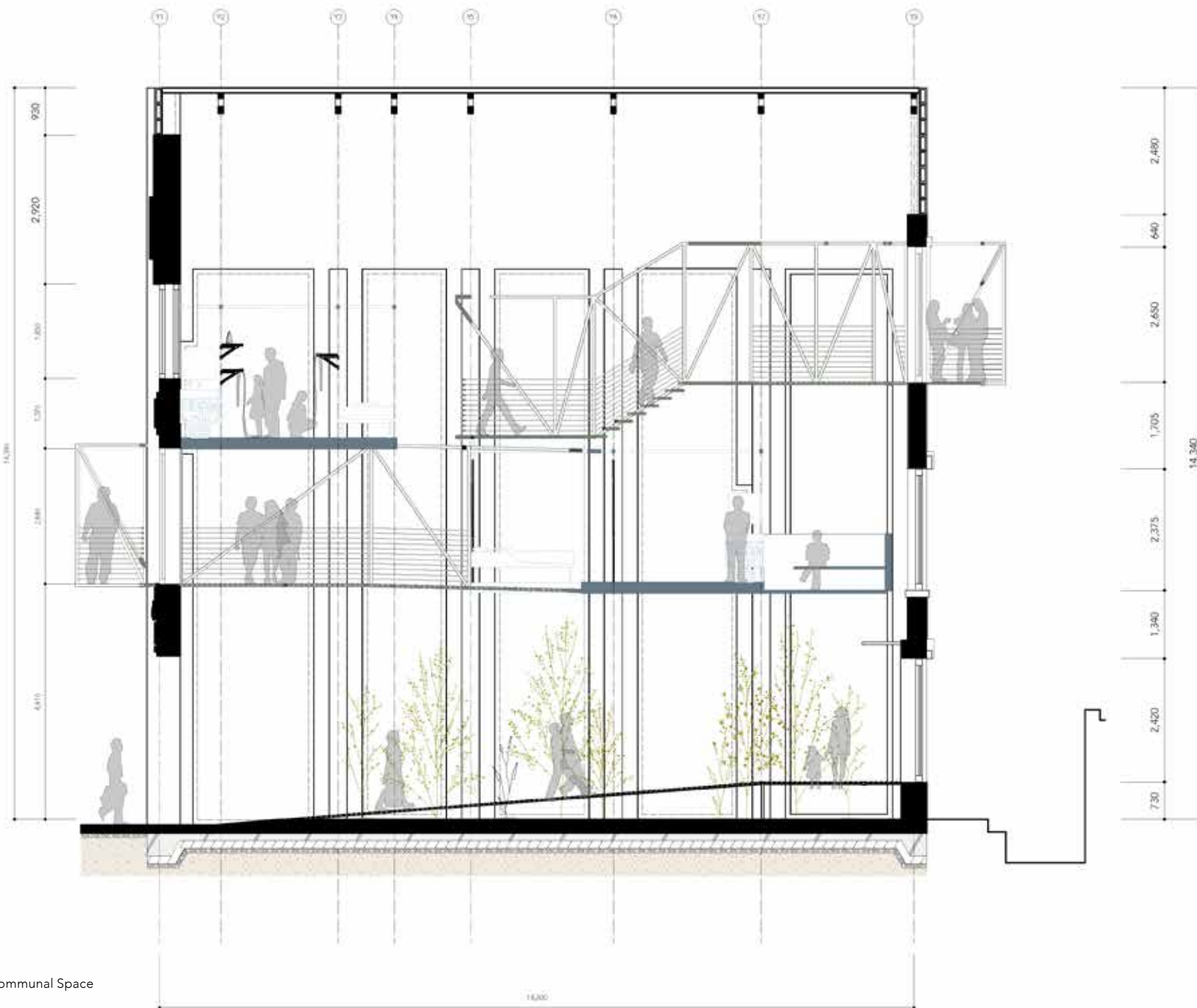
SOUTH ELEVATION



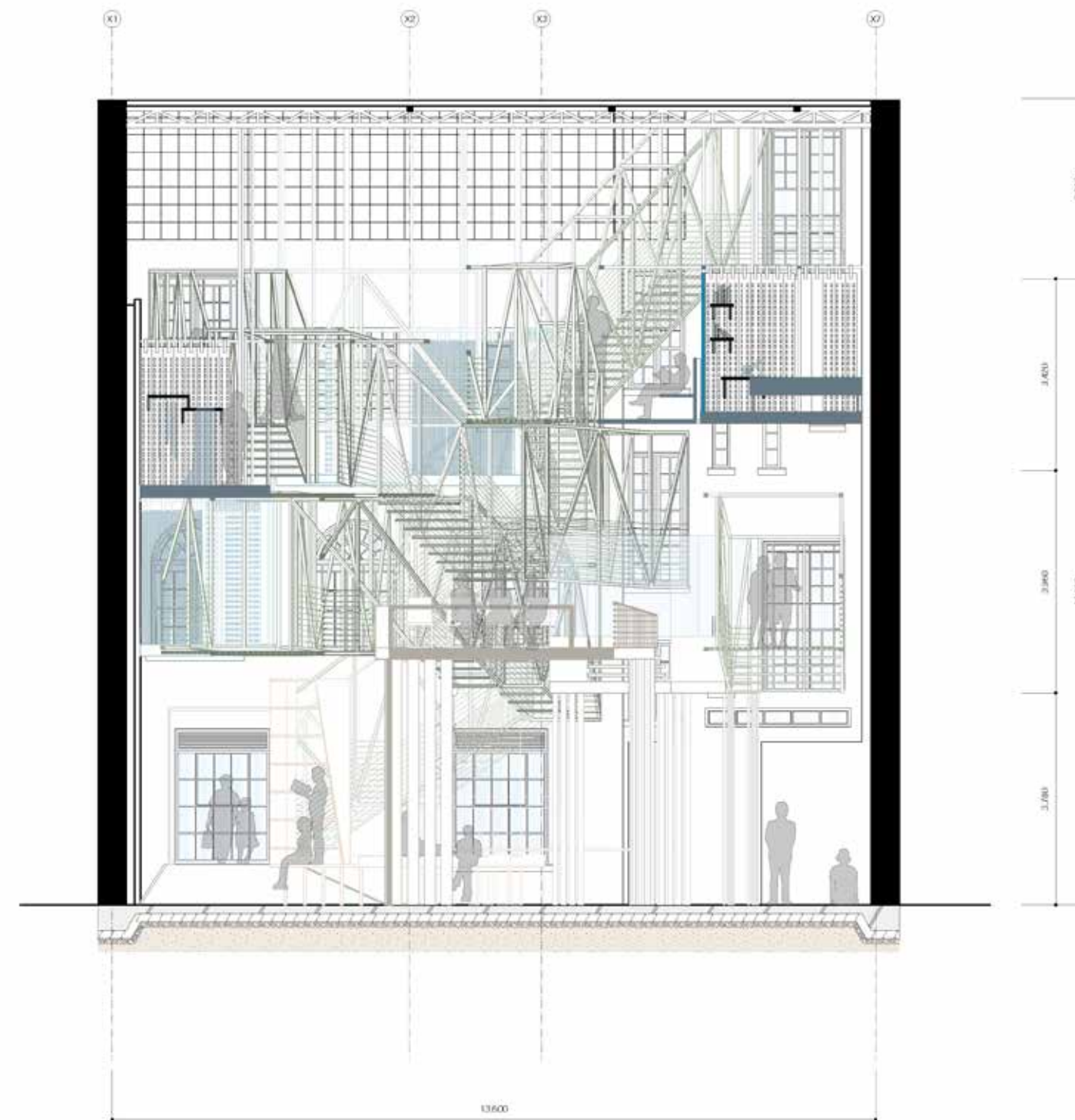
SMITHFIELD MARKET CHATERHOUSE ST. ELEVATION



NORTH ELEVATION

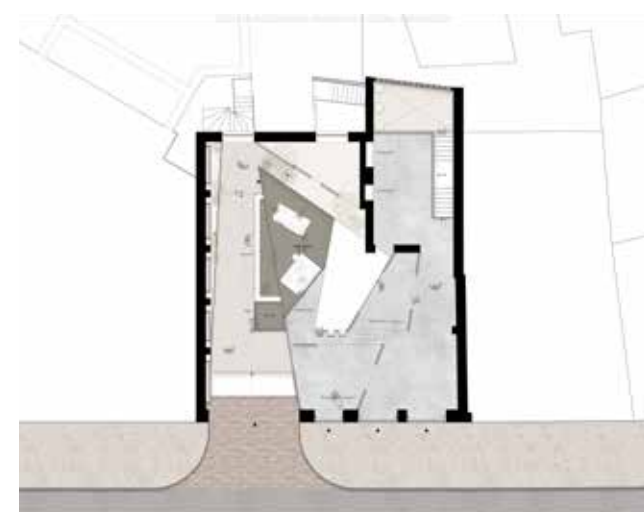


SECTION A-A'



SECTION B-B' in scale 1/100

- Communal Space
- Personal Space
- Passage



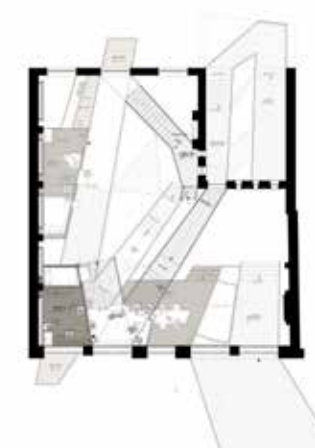
GL ±0 PLAN



GL +3340 PLAN



GL +4610 PLAN



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DRAWING FROM DIMENSIONS

The design of the project is hardly understood by looking at only one dimension. To understand the space completely, we need to look at the design from different angles and tools including the models, isometric, plans, elevations, and sections.

The plans explain the spaces clearly including the rule in differentiating the residential space and passage walkway by taking one step higher and putting on different finishing and the rule in connecting the passage walkways using the positioning of existing windows.

On the other hand, sections illustrated the height relationship between the residential spaces and passage walkway. The section cut in north and south direction shows the side view of the framework of the passage walkway which is designed to support the passage walkway independently without any other pillars and beams. The section cut in east and west direction shows the dynamics and complexity in how the designs are overlapping each other in the interior at the same time opening the spaces by using lightweight structure. Despite its elaborateness, you can still tell the activities inside the site-building.