

CREATING CONVERSATION

'The Coterie' Project Brief An International Homestay For Design Students

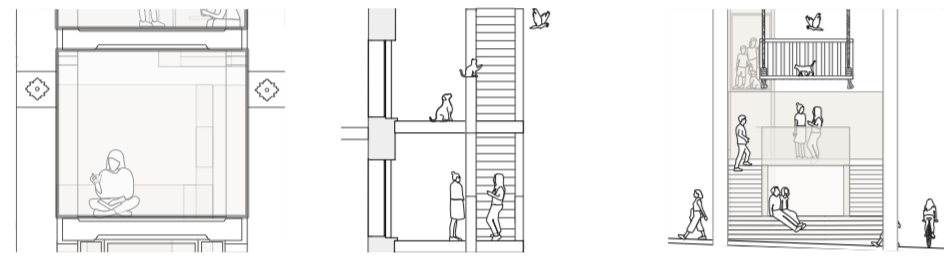
A co-living home inhabited by host families who house foreign students that are going to be spending academic time abroad interning for a design firm in the local neighbourhood of Clerkenwell. This home will allow issues based upon lack of community, millennial loneliness and sense of belonging to be tackled.

Creating a space which accommodates the host families as well as the international students by providing them with private spaces but empathising the communal quarters. As well as this in order to create a sense of belonging, cultural design features and techniques from vernacular housing to increase diversity architecturally.

Furthermore, a space which provides an option to stand against millennial loneliness and breaking the boundaries of normal co living accommodation further by creating as many moments as possible throughout the space which encourage social interaction intentionally and unintentionally - Optimising the use of communal amenities to create conversations with the building and its inhabitants.

Overall Approach

The overall approach I will be taking with this project as well as the chosen building is 'Creating Conversation.' Creating a wider context to the project where the building isn't seen in isolation but conversation is made between other elements. This can include a conversation between the building and the street through designing extensions, the existing and the insertion through materiality, further more, people and space by designing as many spaces to allow social interaction to occur.



'The Building and The Street' 'The Existing and The Insertion' 'The People and The Space' Facade 1:100



Denmark House - The Site

A former warehouse built in 1878. For many years it was occupied by The Danish Bacon company. It was saved from demolition after it had been listed in 1994. The building was converted by Ransome's Dock Ltd into large apartments on the upper floors with a shop below by architect Francis Machin. As the large, flat arched windows to the first, second and third floors are separated horizontally only by narrow bands of stone, the elevation to Cowcross Street reads as a grid of windows arranged in five tall bays with pointed arches; and there are decorative metal bosses to all floors and all bays, perhaps related to metal framing in the building. The ground floor has pilasters of blue and red brick; works entrance to either end, flat-arched to the left and segmental-arched to the right, with gauged brick heads; the elaborate decorative tiled frieze to the middle bays remains only in one bay. The upper floors are divided vertically by piers of yellow brick with pilasters of red brick superimposed and running up to foliage capitals at third floor level; moulded stone lintels to each floor; pointed arch to 'fourth' floor with voussoirs of alternating red and yellow brick and woodmould; terracotta roundels in spandrels; parapet.

Denmark house's (A) previous use and relation to Clerkenwell (B) was one of the main reasons for choosing the site. As well as this the several large windows expand the light qualities linking to similar amounts of light flowing into homes in North American, Indian and Japanese homes.

Furthermore, the existing basement and perimeter of the building (reflecting a closer accuracy to homes of the chosen cultures) will allow me to explore my concept of merging cultures alongside the transition between private and communal spaces within the home.

The various entrances allows an opportunity for the residents and public to have separate entrances or even the host family and resident students. The gate provides a sense of security and privacy to the home ensuring it isn't a public space and is protected /gated in a sense.



Initial Concepts the projects highlights



Co-Living



Millennial Loneliness



Sense of Belonging

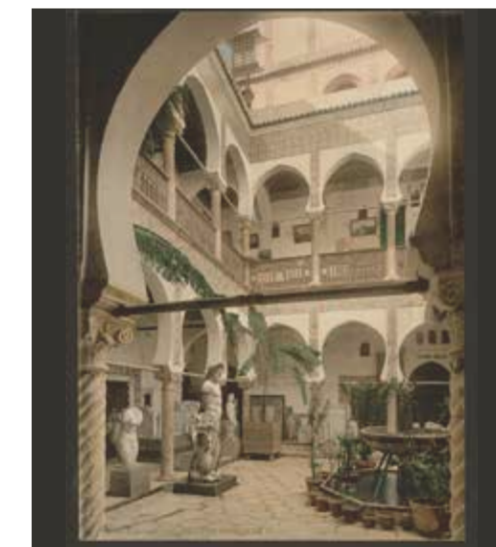
The role that co-living plays particularly among those in younger age groups living in urban areas is important. This concept offers connections to fostering communities and relationships whilst tackling loneliness specifically in the younger generation of millennials. Millennials are reshaping the way we live, a specific lifestyle of wanting experiences and not possessions, needs which spaces are adapting to as they are increasingly moving away from home for study and work purposes.

Furthermore, an increasing housing crisis has become reliant on co-living as a solution. From issues such as a growth in population and wealth inequality between generations, preventing them from affording homes and accommodation, which can then further lead to impact on the well-being of people. One of the key distinguishing aspects of co-living is its heavy emphasis on facilitating social interaction and supporting the development of active communities in which individuals engage with their co-habitants on a regular basis.

Initial Concept II - Traditional Homes



Japanese Minka



North African Casbah



Indian Haveli

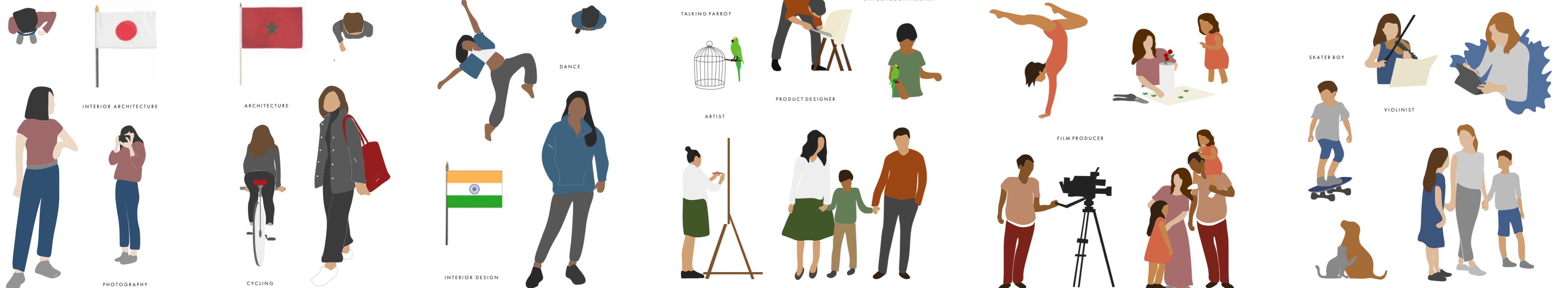
Communal living is part of our human history. Before individual land ownership, people lived together in co-housing arrangements with extended families living together. This living notion is still portrayed in traditional homes in Asian and North African countries. The addition of culture creates a sense of belonging whilst maintaining necessary privacy.

Common design features of the homes include:

- The courtyard, which served as the nucleus of these homes as well as a transition space between the public and private spaces. The courtyard also acts as a light well which further creates a distinct separation between public and private realms.
- The privacy for the homes was managed by the use of screens. Old Japanese houses relied on movable screens (shoji) and sliding doors (fusuma) to divide and re-divide rooms as needed. The screens tend to be light and papered, allowing some natural light (and shadows) into the rooms.
- The commonly used building materials included wood and concrete.

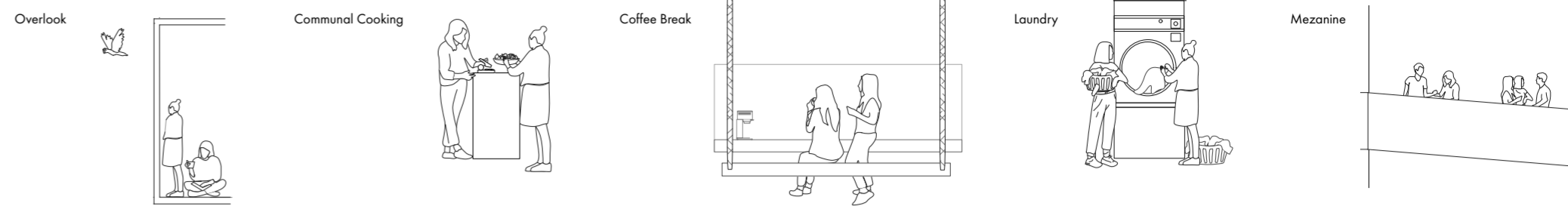
Inhabitants

Temporary residents of The Coterie - International Students
Permanent residents of The Coterie - Culturally diverse Host Families



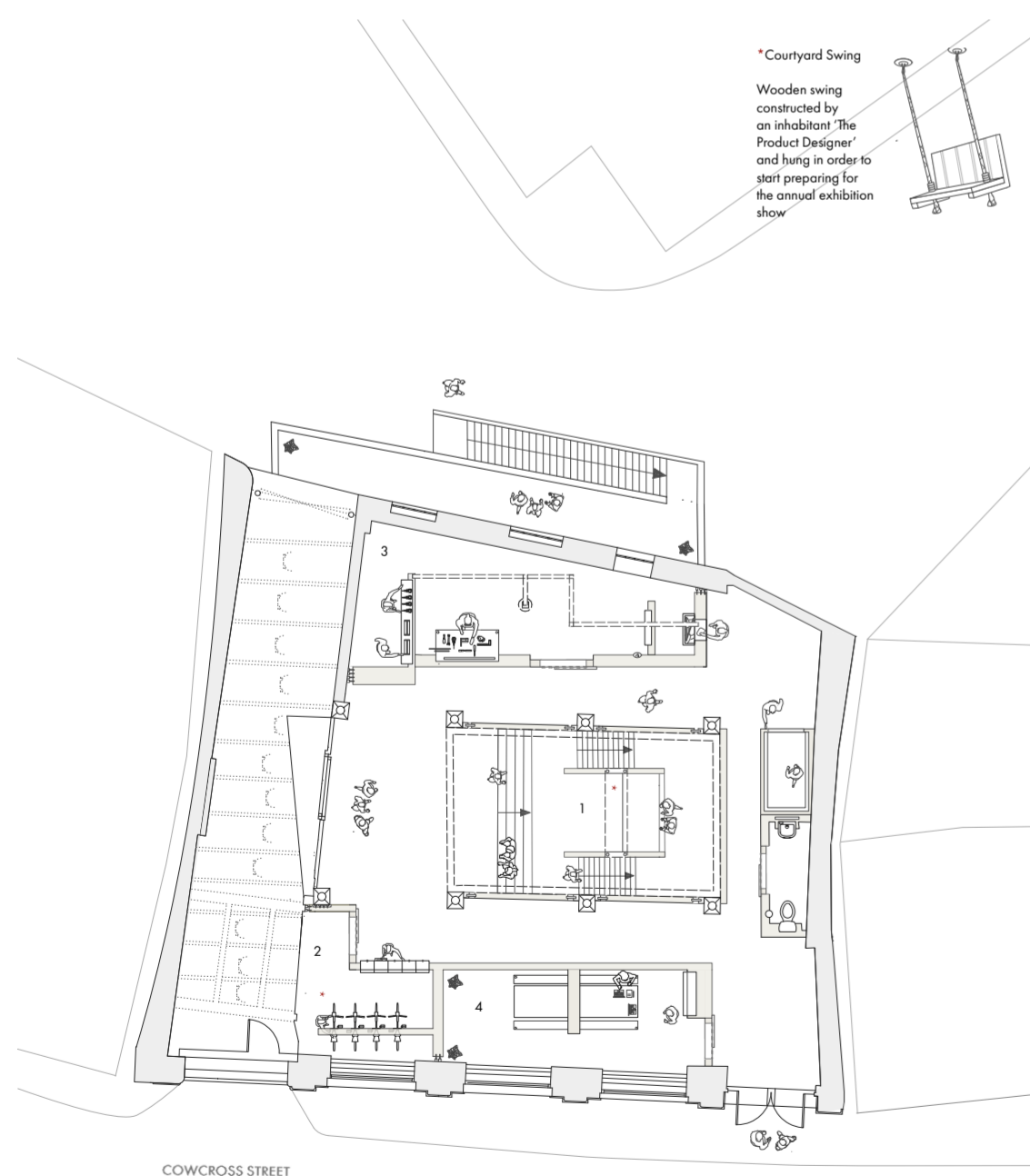


Courtyard

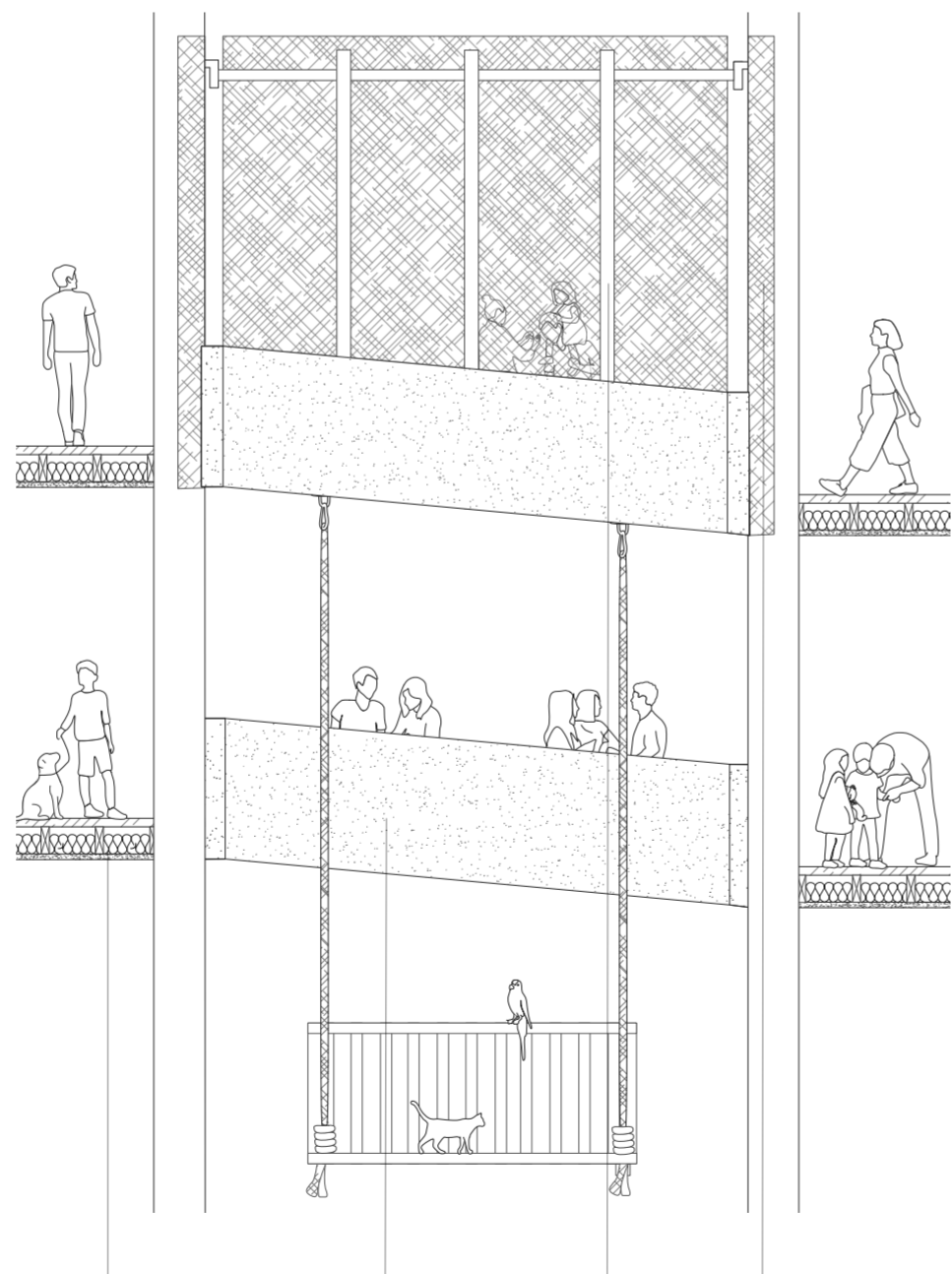


Communal Kitchen

Utility Quarter



*Courtyard Swing
Wooden swing constructed by an inhabitant 'The Product Designer' and hung in order to start preparing for the annual exhibition show



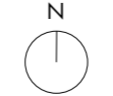
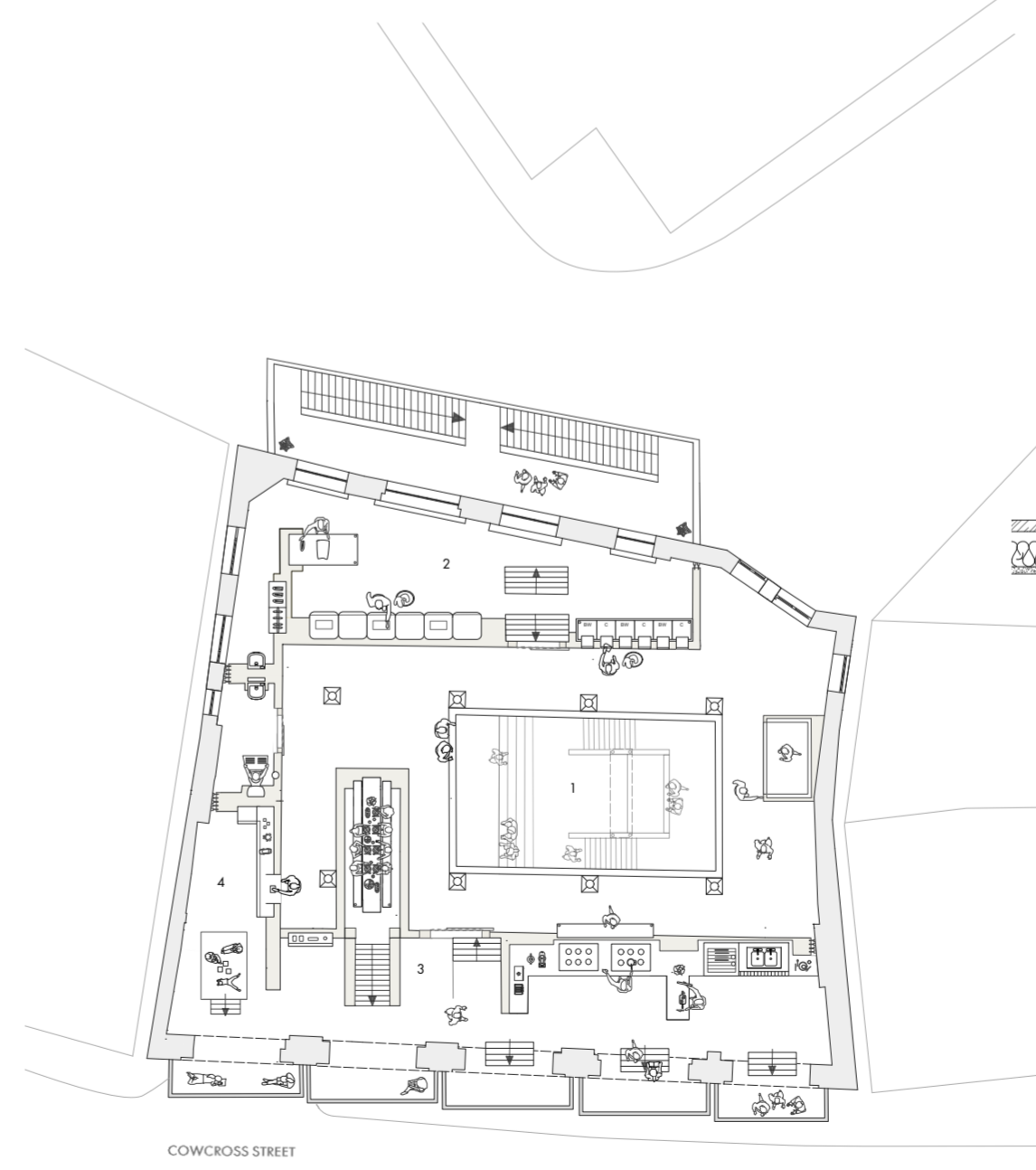
Courtyard Detail 1:50

Flooring
250mm Wooden floor board
225 x 76 mm Timber support joists
150mm concrete base

Balustrade
100mm concrete

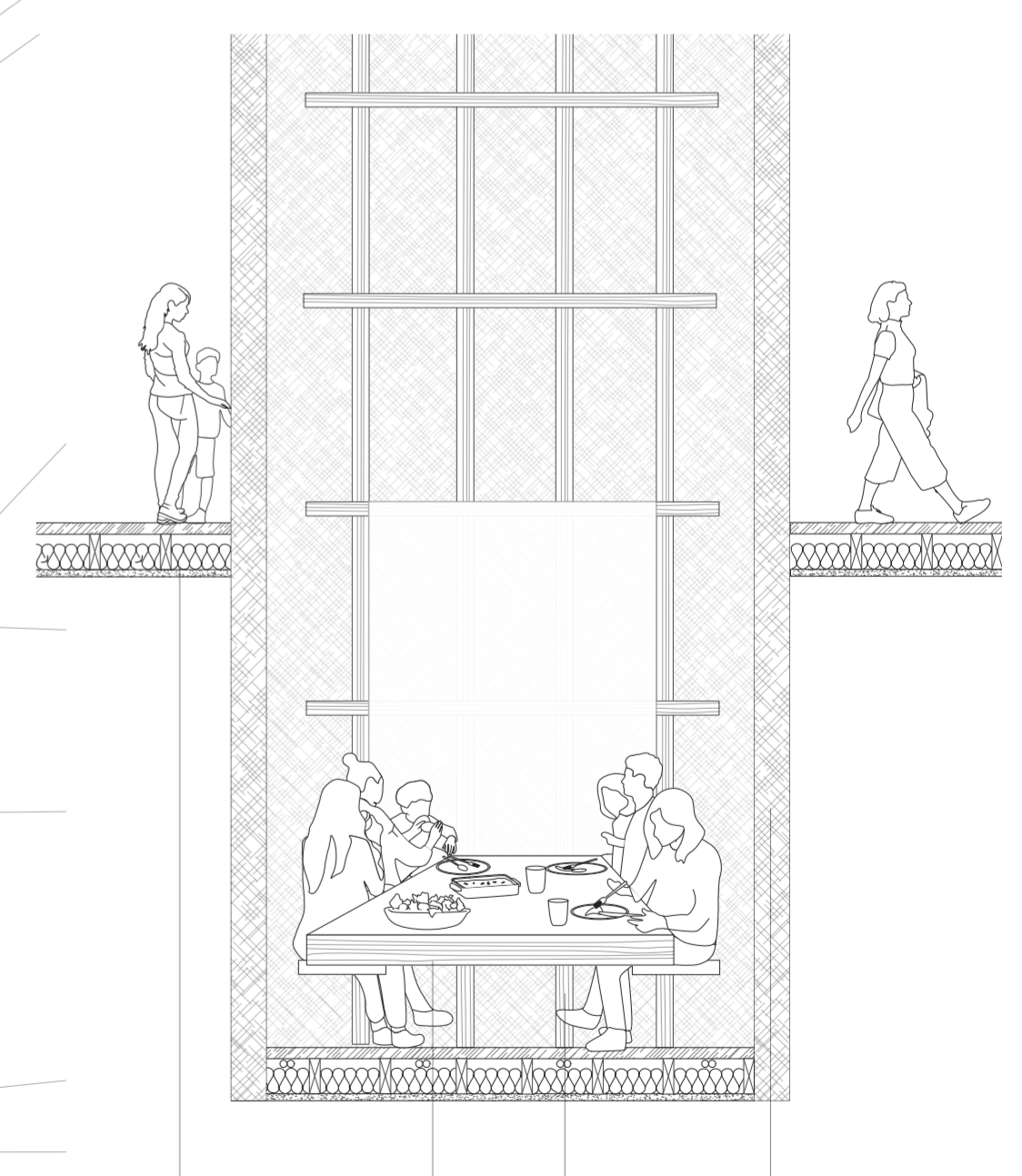
Support for Screens
25x50mm beams and columns

Ginwashi Paper Screen
120gsm sheets layered to achieve thickness creating more privacy where necessary



First Floor 1:200

1 - Courtyard
2 - Utility Quarter
3 - Communal dining and kitchen
4 - Playroom



Dining Area Detail 1:50

Flooring
250mm Wooden floor board
225 x 76 mm Timber support joists
150mm concrete base

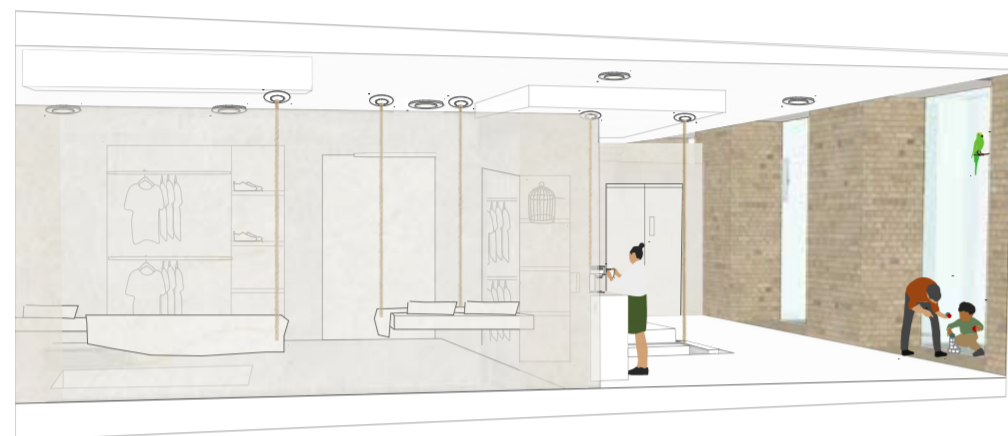
Dining table
120mm Oak

Support for Screens
25x50mm beams and columns

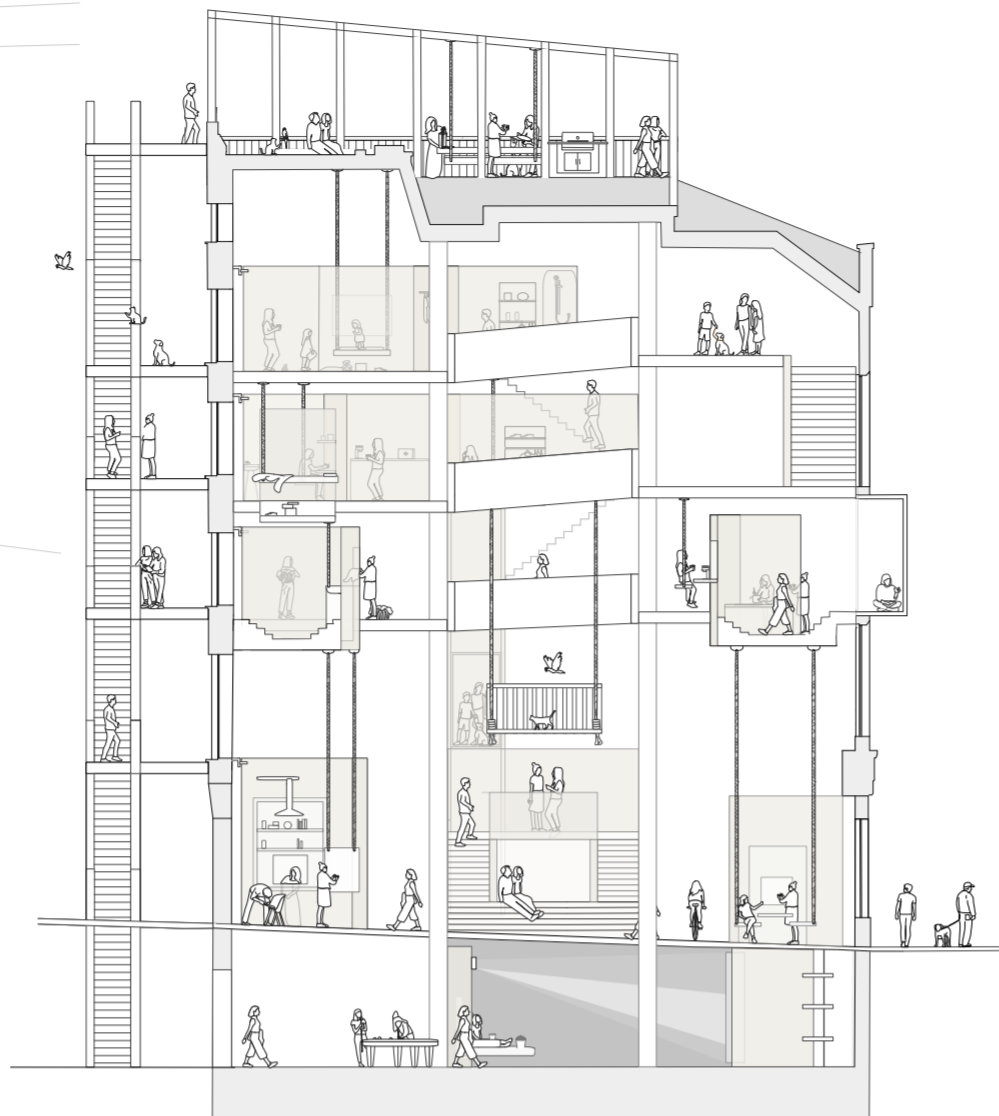
Ginwashi Paper Screen
120gsm sheets layered to achieve thickness creating more privacy where necessary



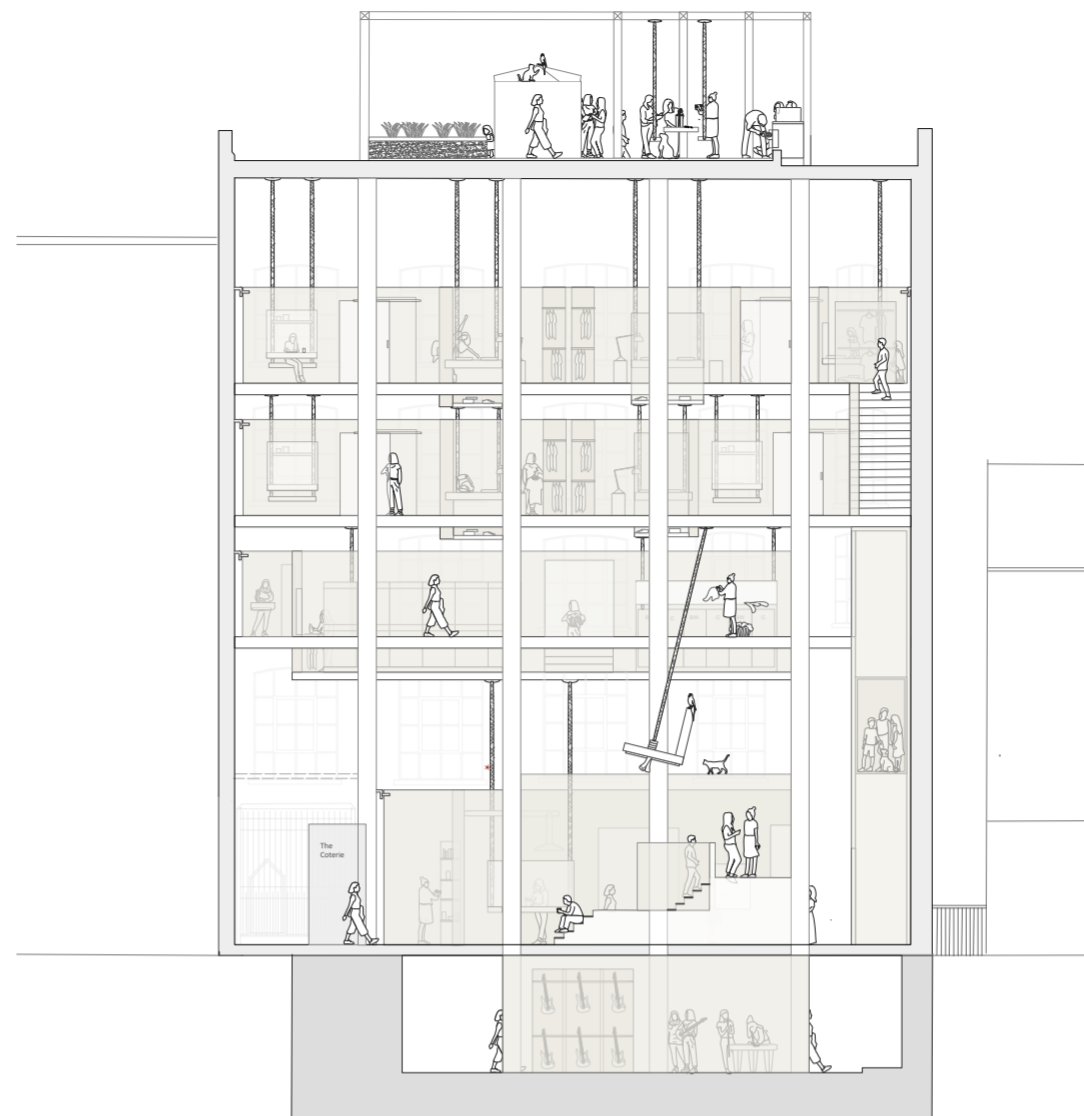
Student Suite



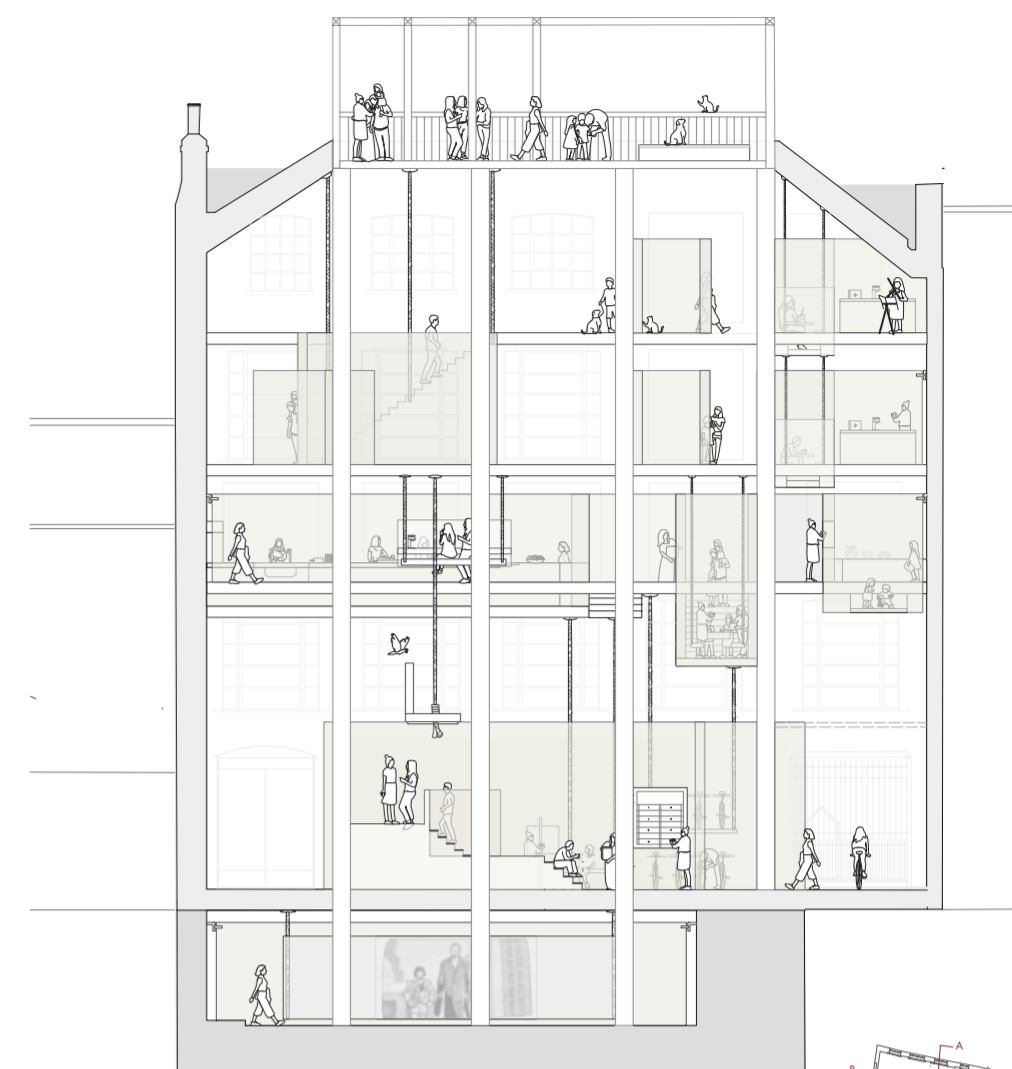
Family Chambers



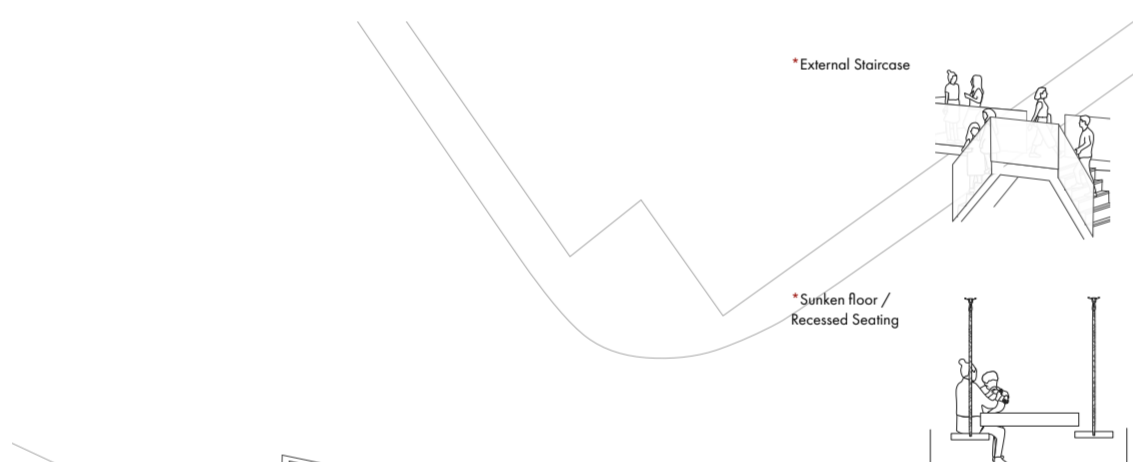
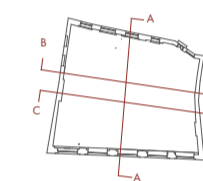
Section AA 1:200



Section BB 1:200

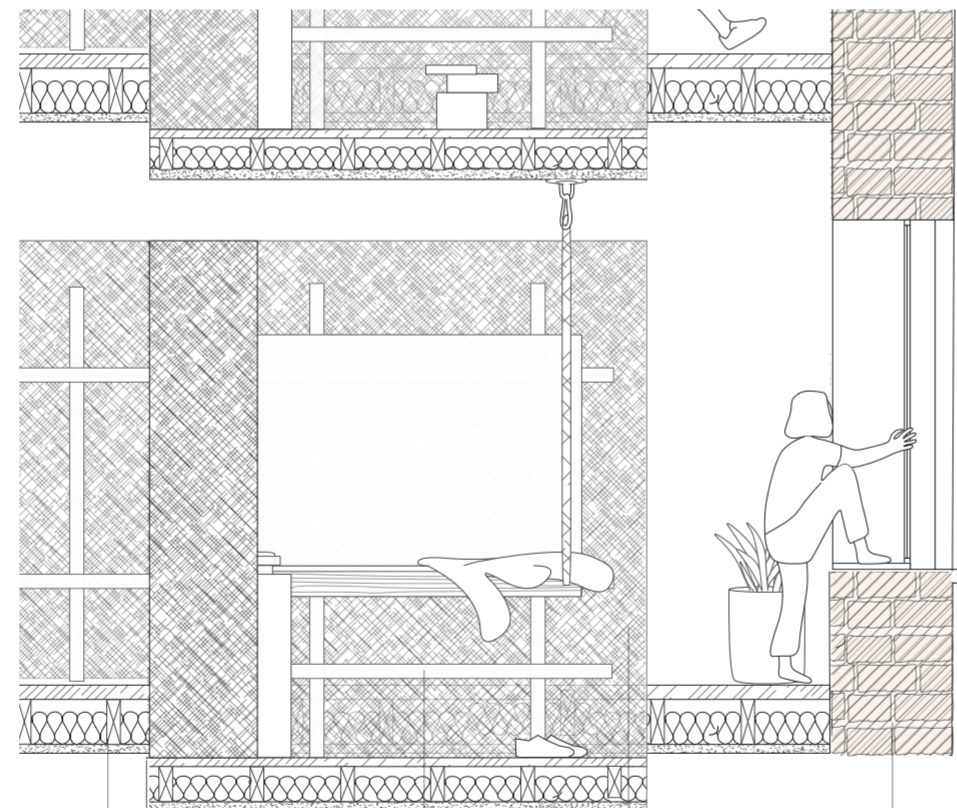


Section CC 1:200

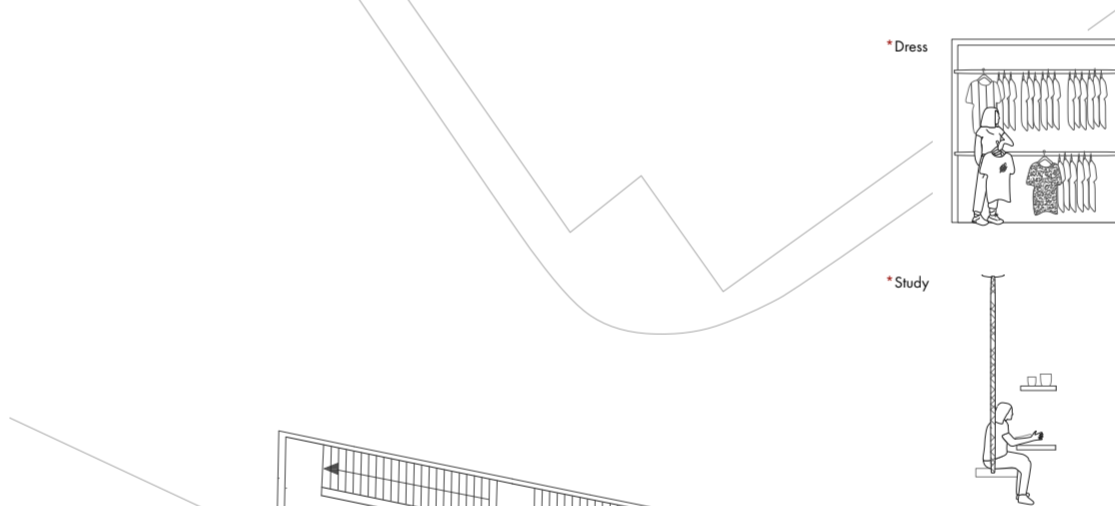


*External Staircase

*Sunken floor / Recessed Seating

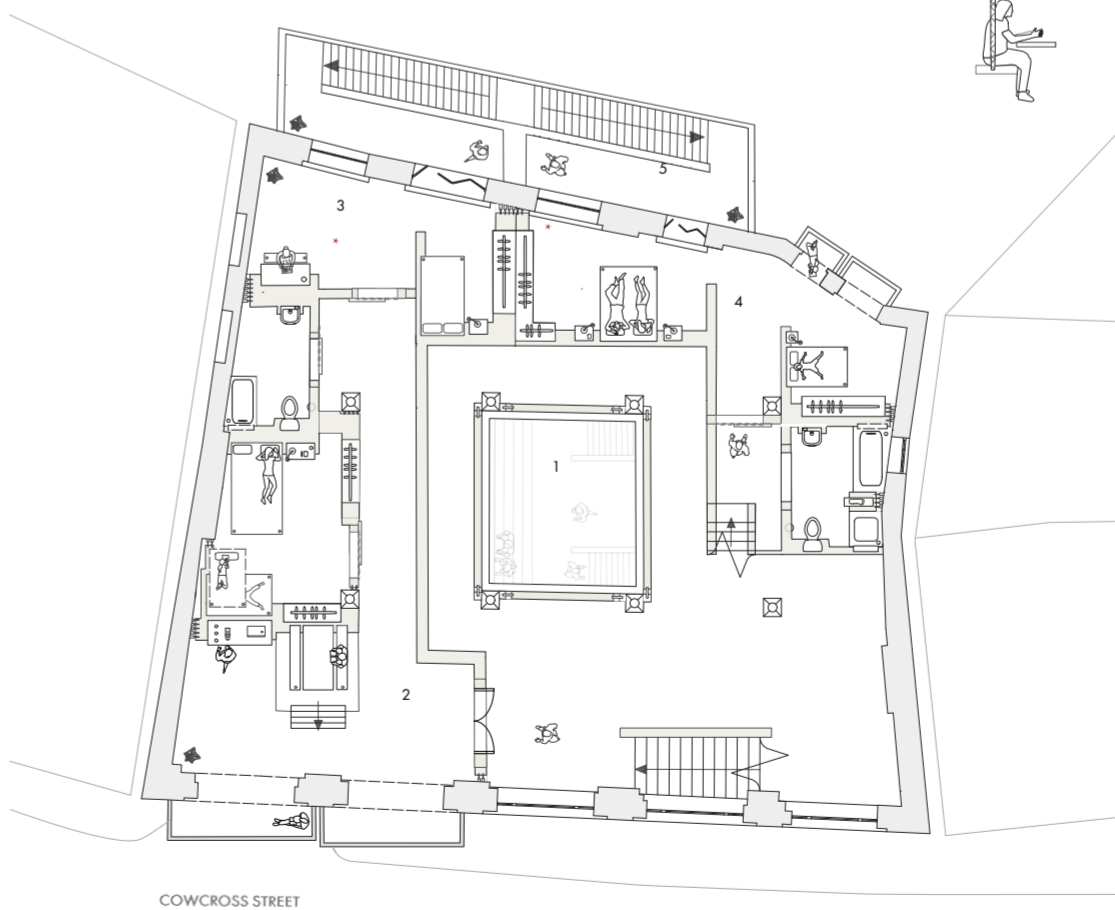


Recessed Floor Detail 1:50

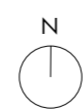


*Dress

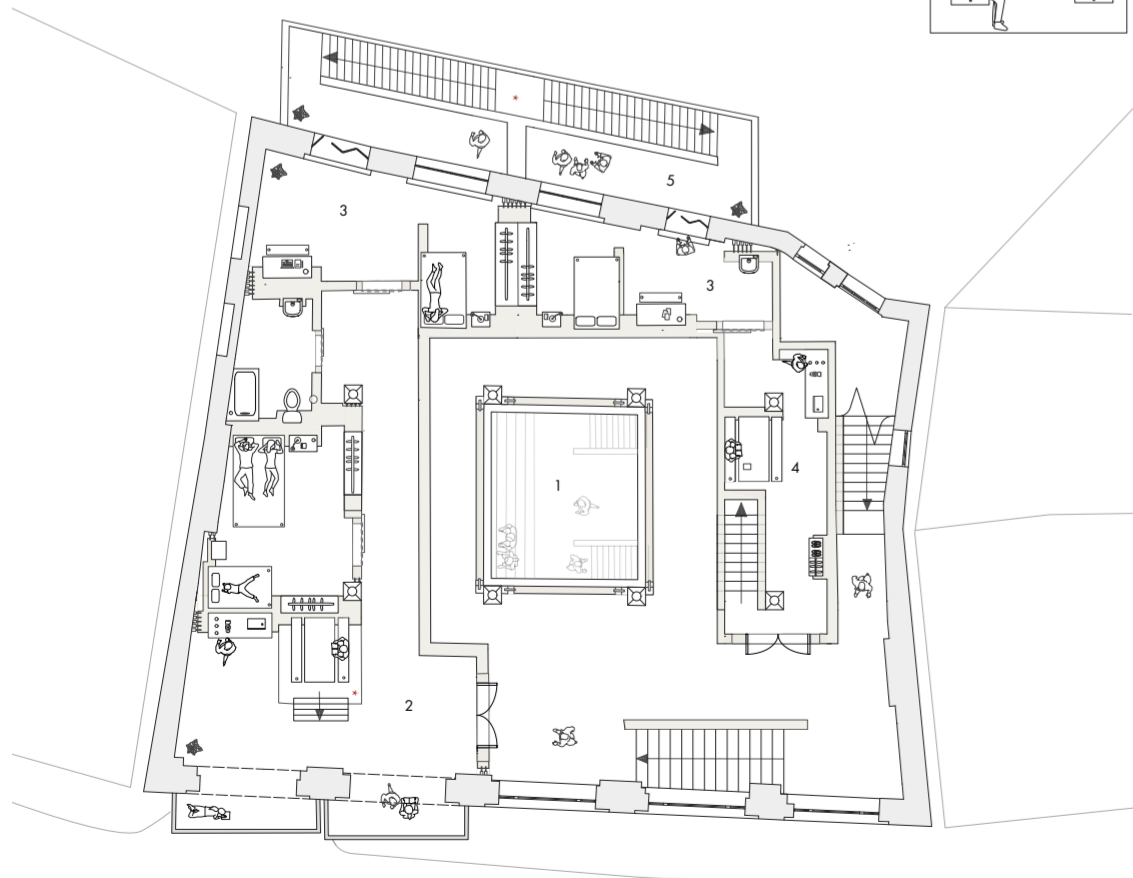
*Study



Third Floor 1:200



- 1 - Courtyard
- 2 - Family Chamber III
- 3 - Student Suite II
- 4 - Family Chamber II
- Top Level
- 5 - Balcony Extension



Second Floor 1:200



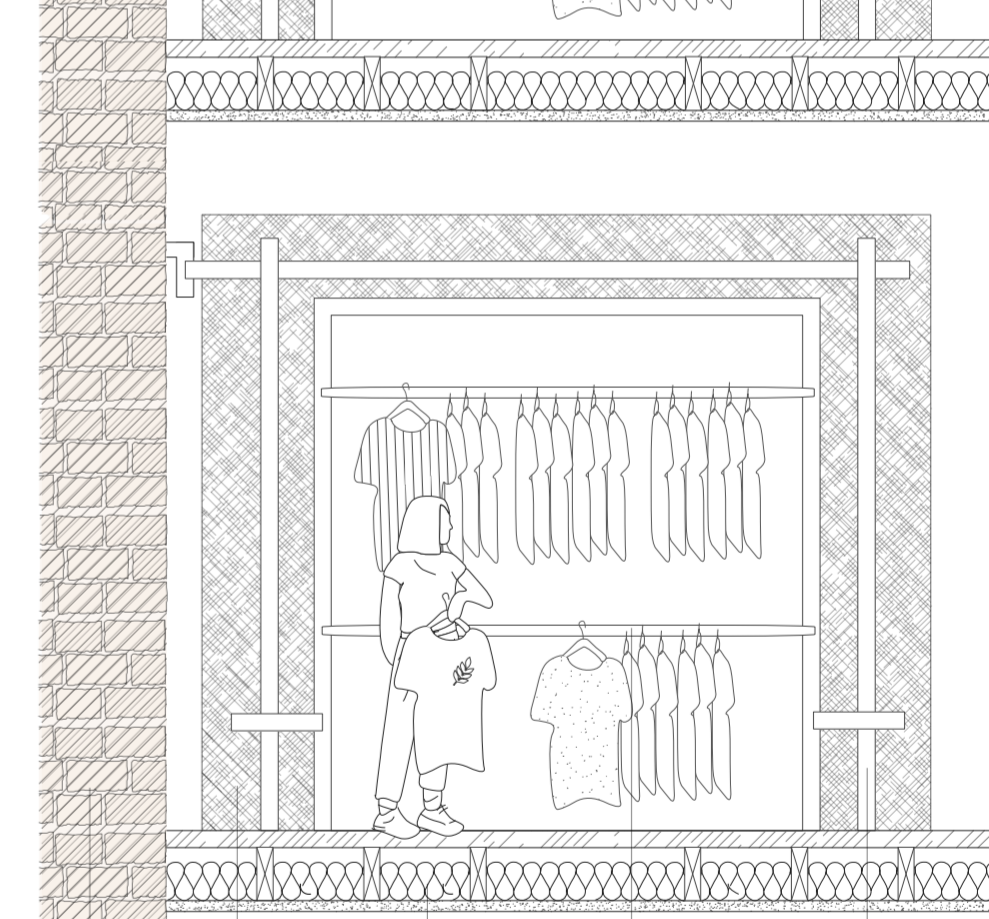
- 1 - Courtyard
- 2 - Family Chamber I
- 3 - Student Suite I & II
- 4 - Family Chamber II
- Lower Level
- 5 - Balcony Extension

Flooring
250mm Wooden floor board
225 x 76 mm Timber support joists
150mm concrete base

Support for Screens
25x50mm beams and columns

Ginwashi Paper Screen
120gsm sheets layered to achieve thickness creating more privacy where necessary

Masonry Exterior



Wardrobe Detail 1:50

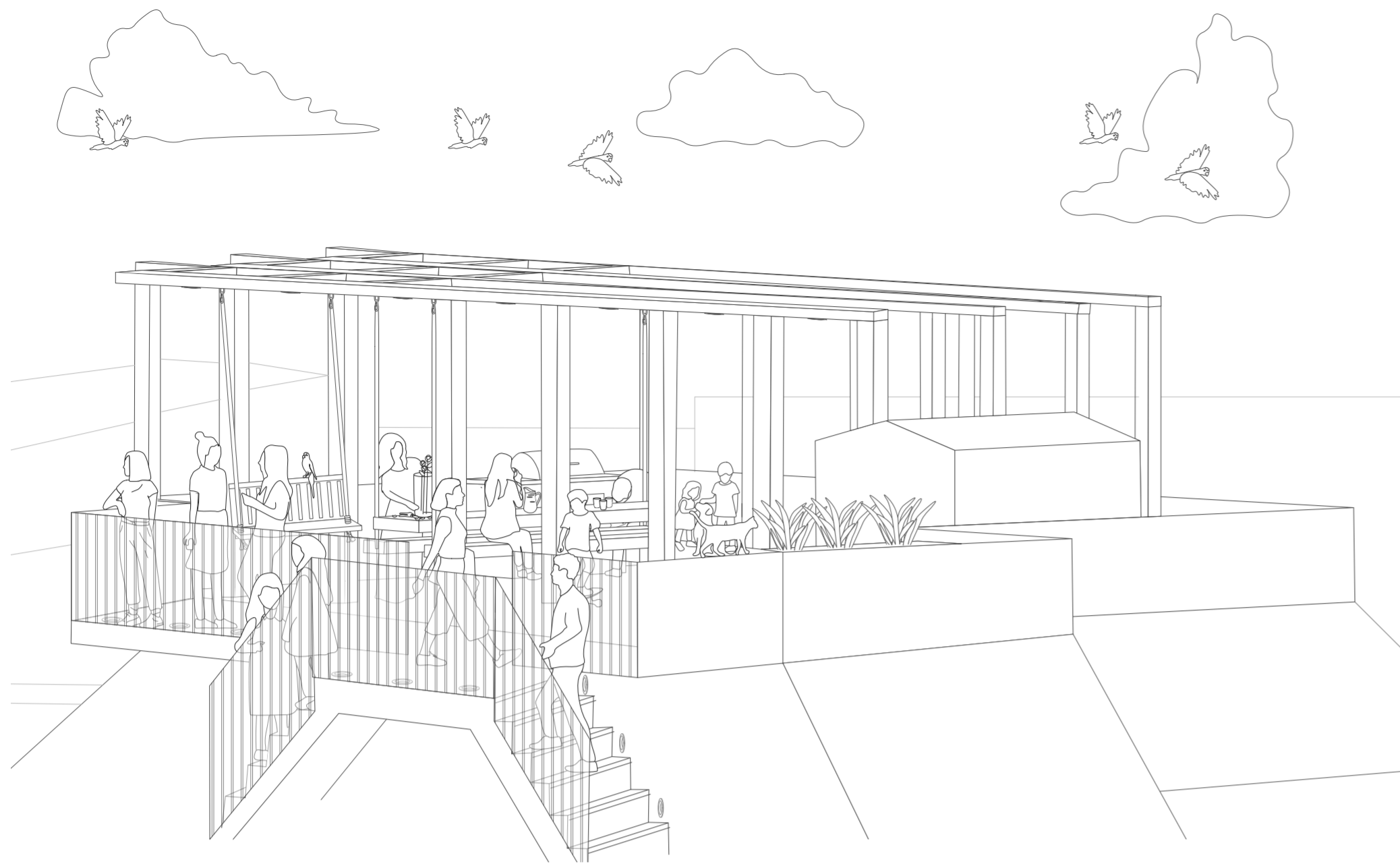
Masonry Exterior

Ginwashi Paper Screen
120gsm sheets layered to achieve thickness creating more privacy where necessary

Flooring
250mm Wooden floor board
225 x 76 mm Timber support joists
150mm concrete base

Clothes Rail
2.6mm steel tube

Support for Screens
25x50mm beams and columns



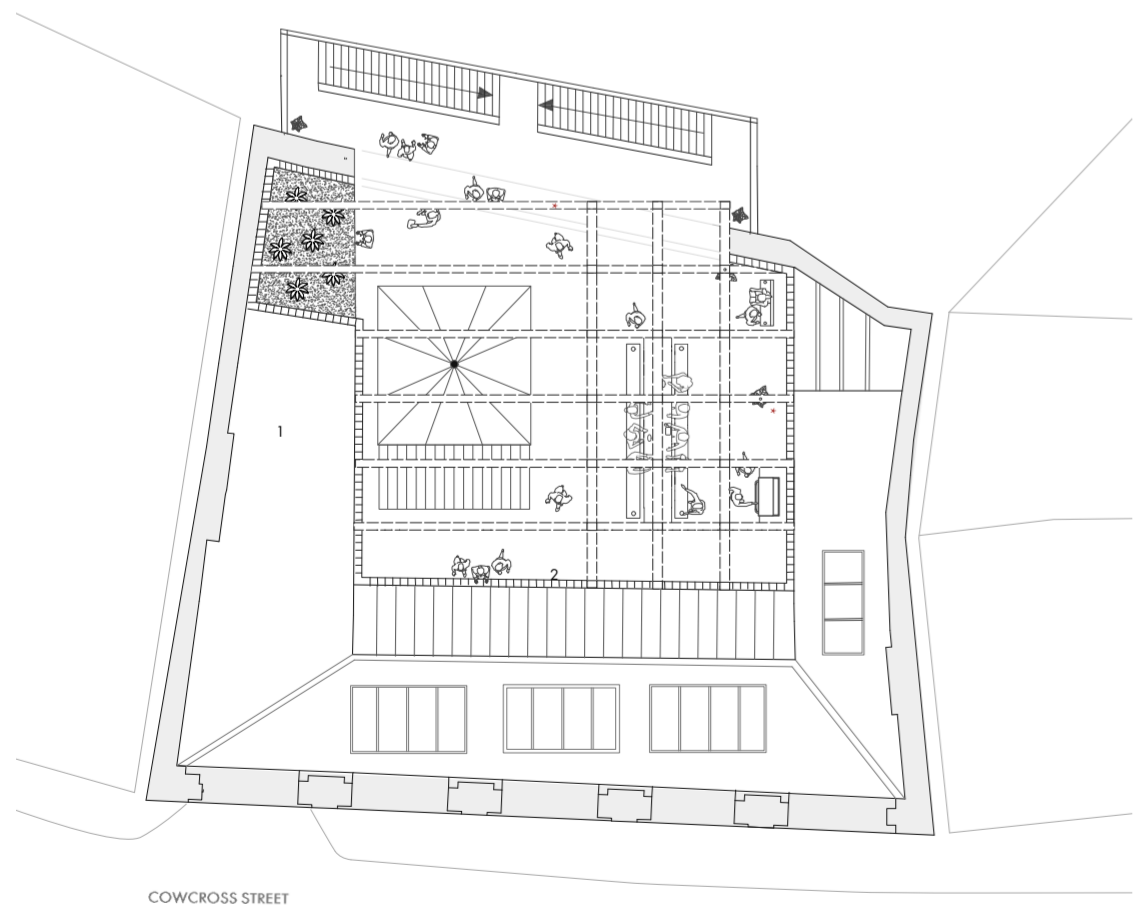
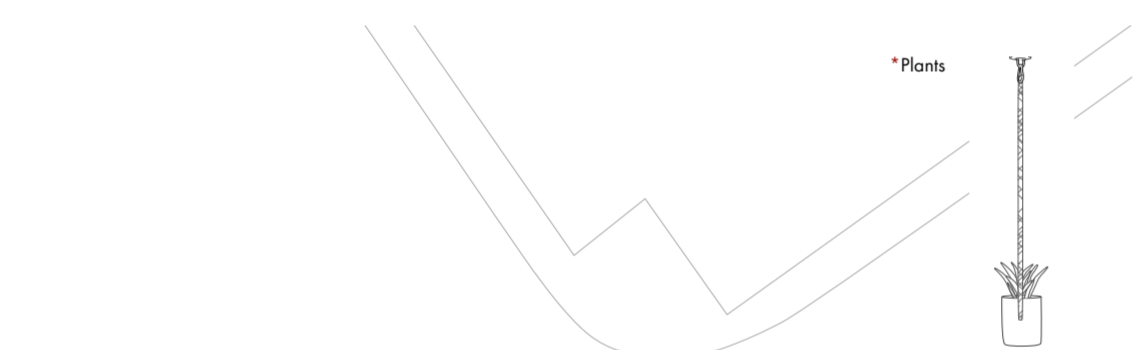
Roof Terrace



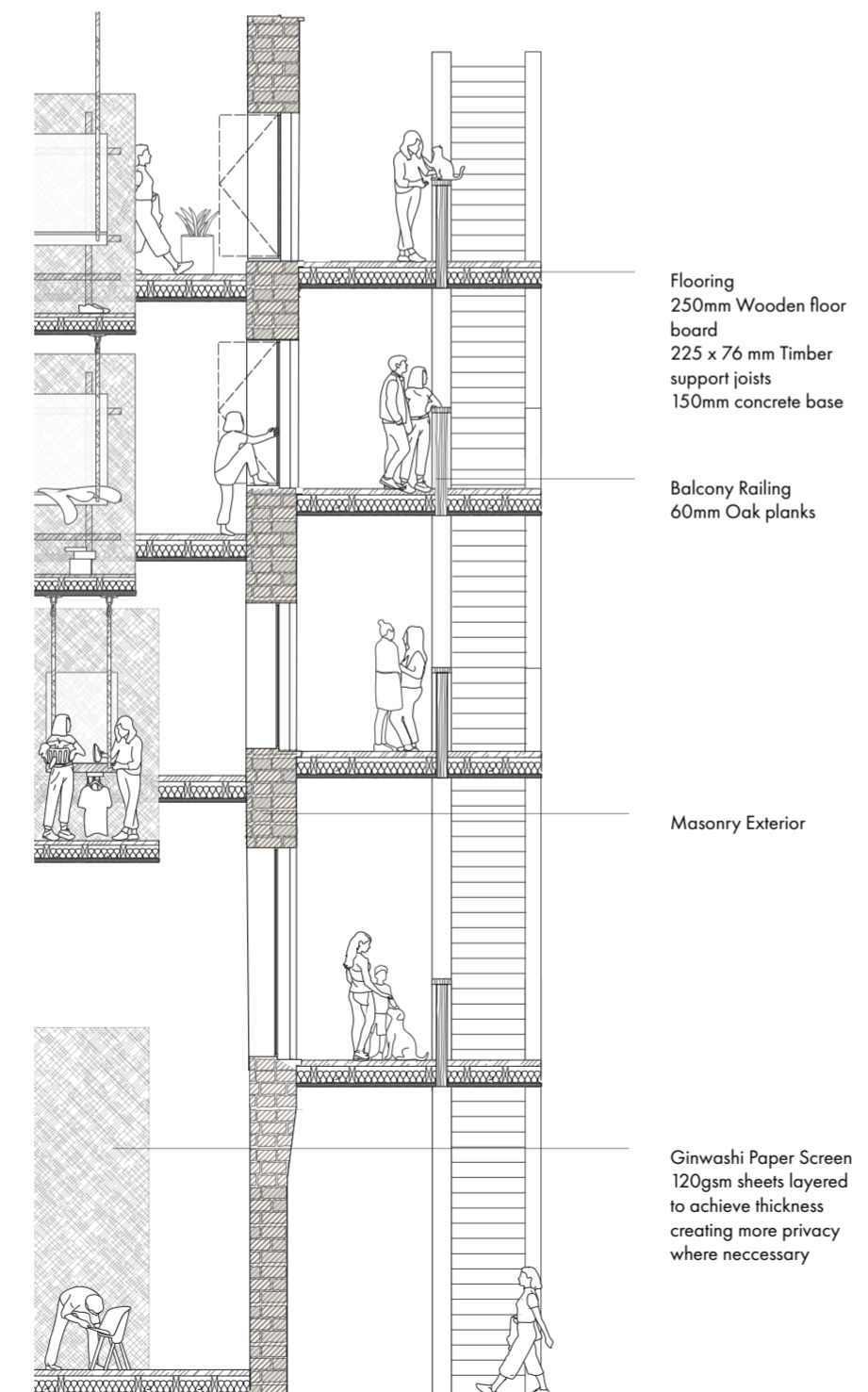
Materiality



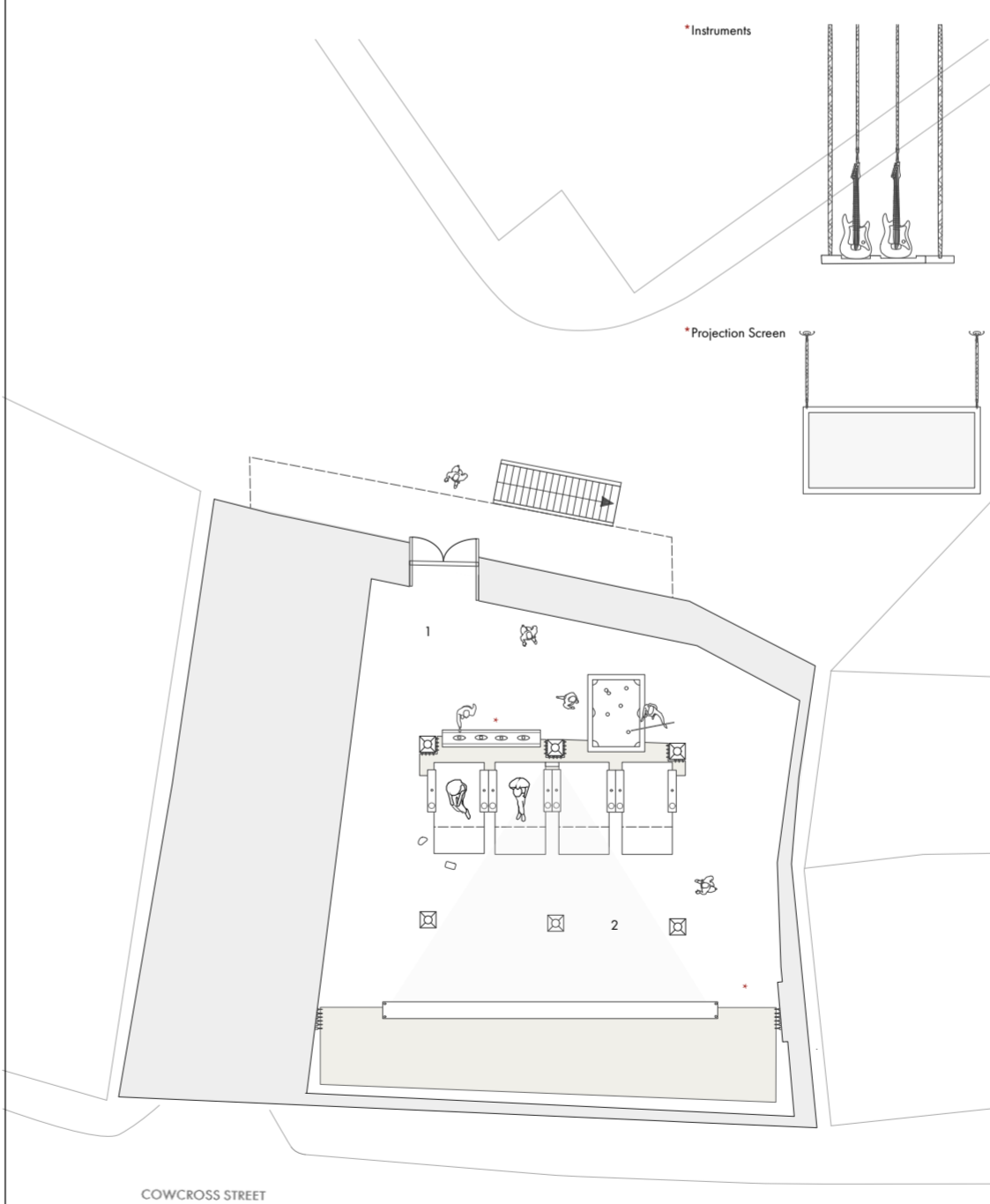
Section BB 1:100



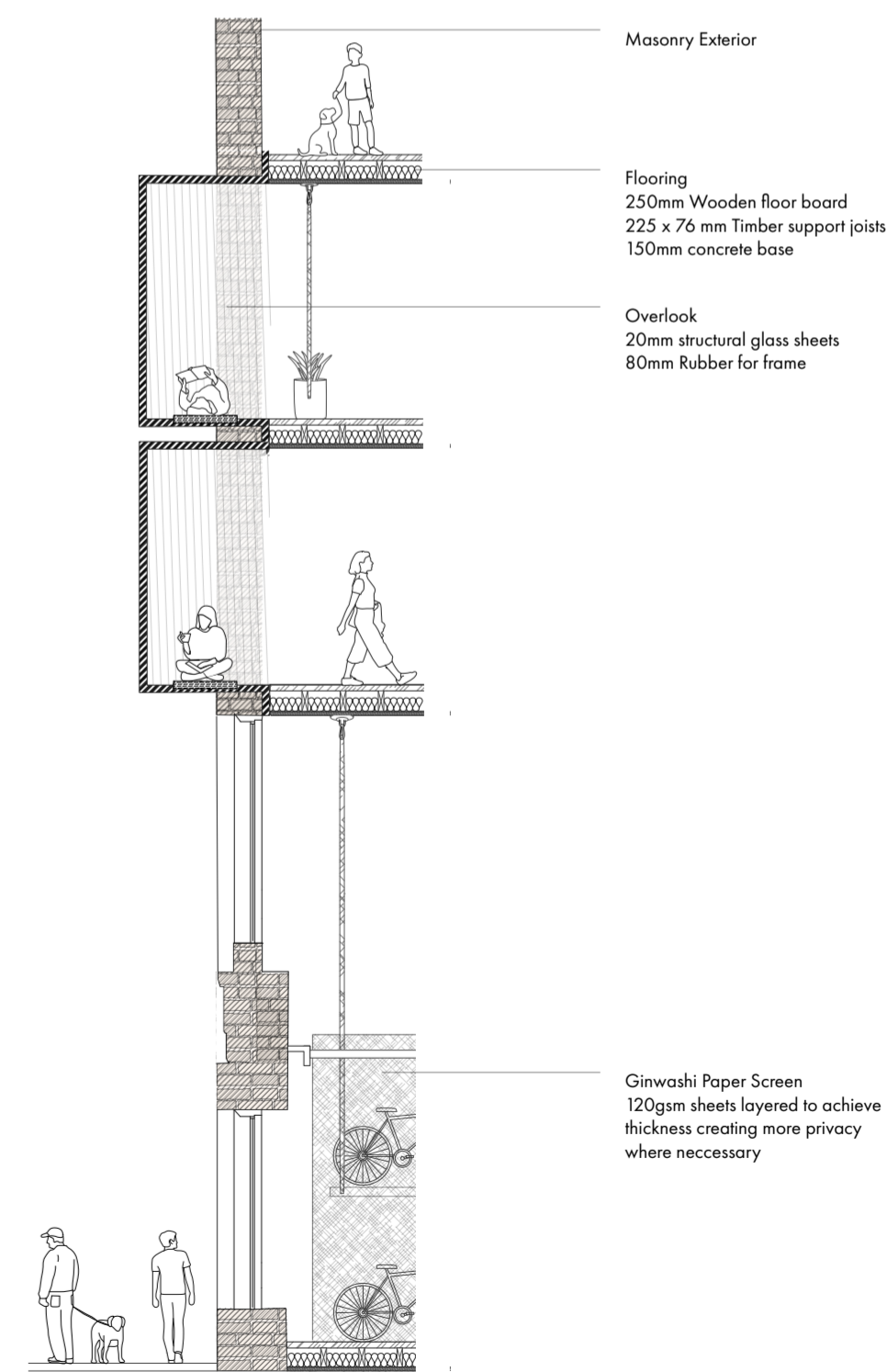
Roof Terrace 1:200
1 - Flower Patch
2 - Patio



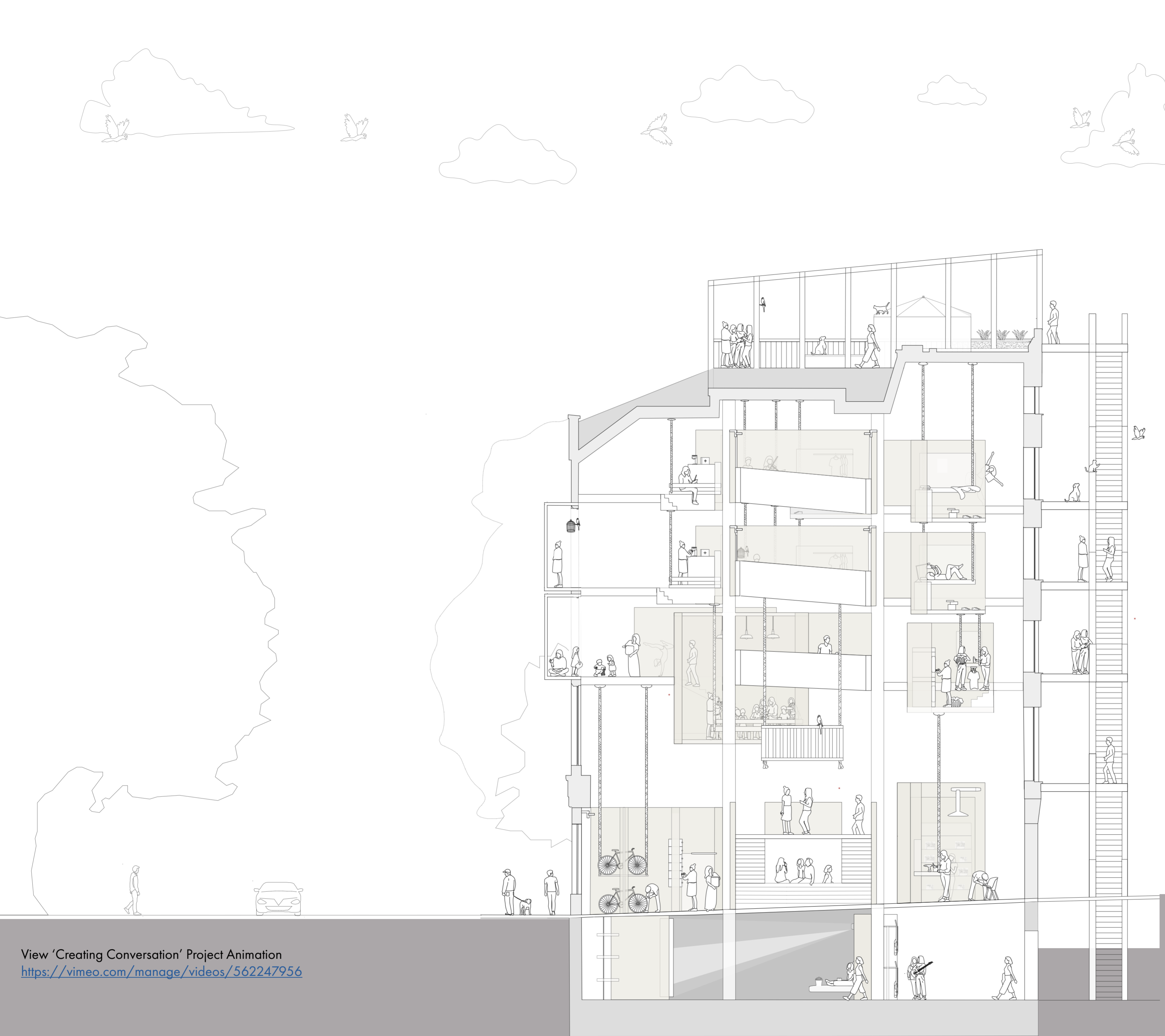
Balcony Extension Detail 1:100



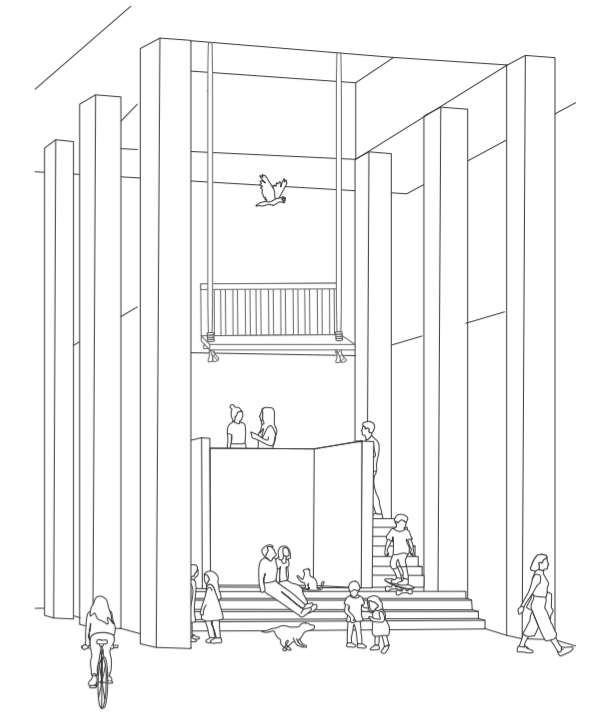
Basement 1:200
1 - Common Room (Social Quarter for the students)
2 - Movie theatre



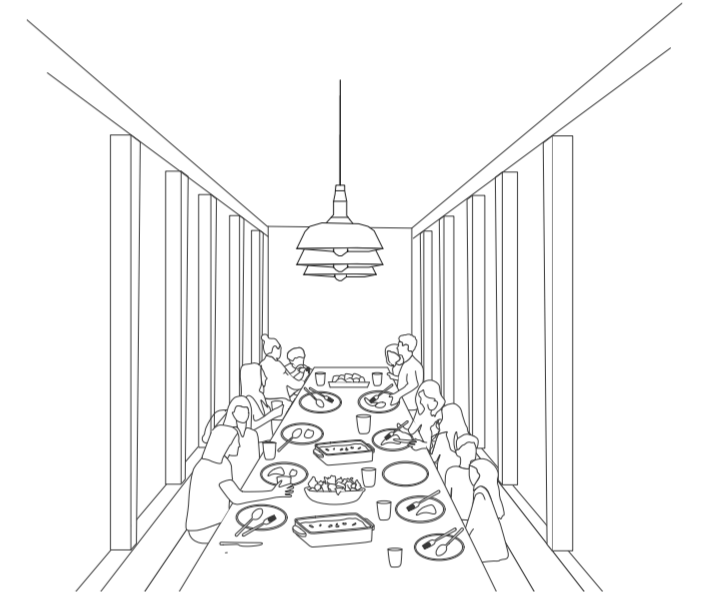
Overlook Detail 1:10



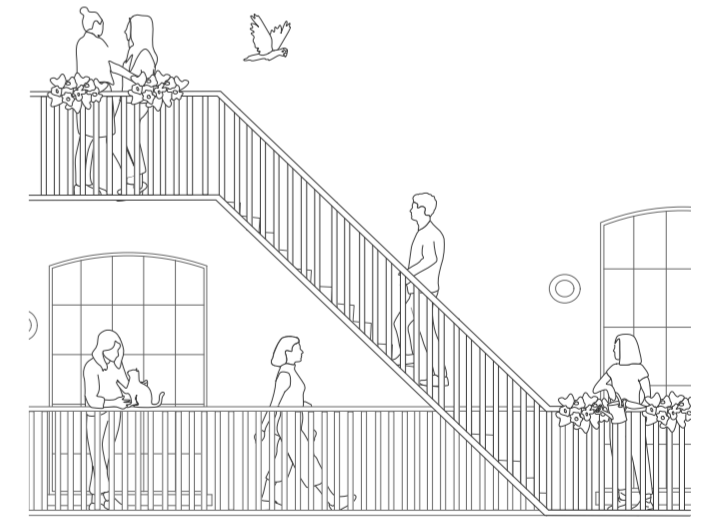
* Courtyard



* Communal Dining



* Social Balconies



View 'Creating Conversation' Project Animation
<https://vimeo.com/manage/videos/562247956>

