

# THE INSIGHT PROJECT

Daily accessibility struggles for the visually impaired stem from preventable, man-made barriers in building design due to a global ocularcentric approach. Systematic discrimination within architecture has fueled an exclusive society for the sighted, forcing the visually impaired to navigate spaces predominantly designed for sight.

Does designing for the visually impaired create barriers for sighted users in the built environment? When designing for equity, it is crucial to balance the needs of the visually impaired with the experience of sighted users. While no space can be 100% inclusive, optimal inclusive design aims to evoke positive emotional responses and accommodate diverse sensory experiences, ensuring usability and functionality for all. This involves minimising disruptions for other users and avoiding sensory overload to foster societal cohesion.

Although challenging, a holistic understanding of bodily experiences can lead to spaces that benefit everyone. The Insight Project addresses these issues by employing inclusive design principles for the social justice of the visually impaired, integrating sensory design elements and optimising visual cues through the strategic use of colour contrast and light reflectance values.



ACOUSTIC BAUX PANELS

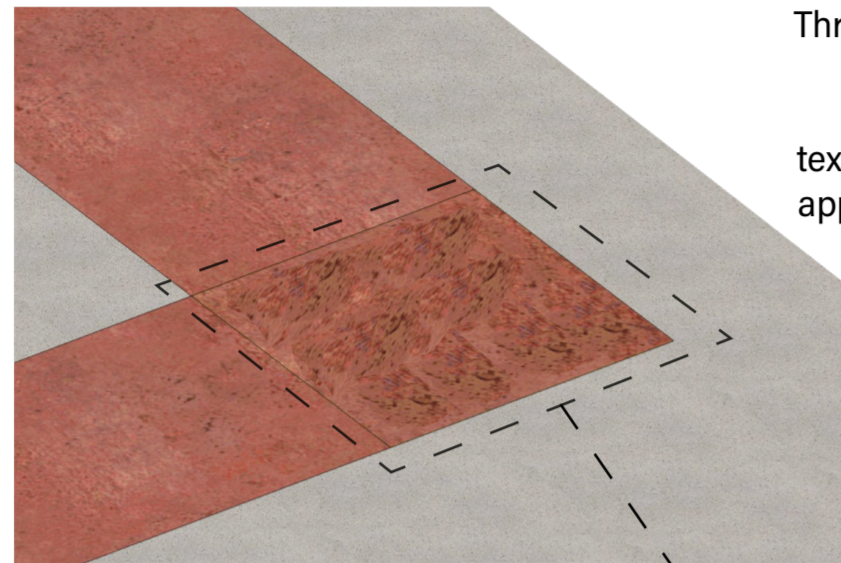
BRIGHT COLOURS

VISIBLE LIGHT SOURCE

TEXTURED PATHS

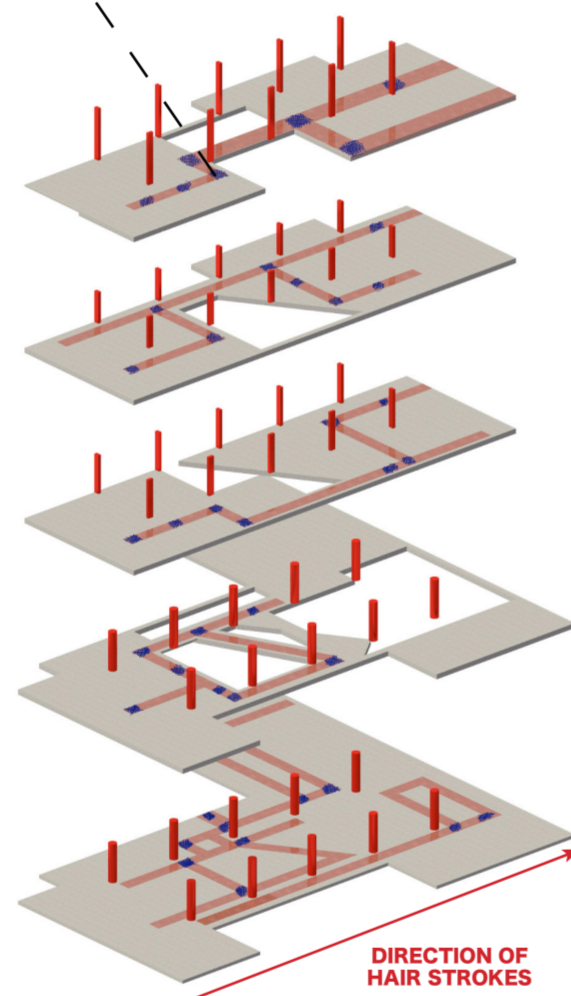
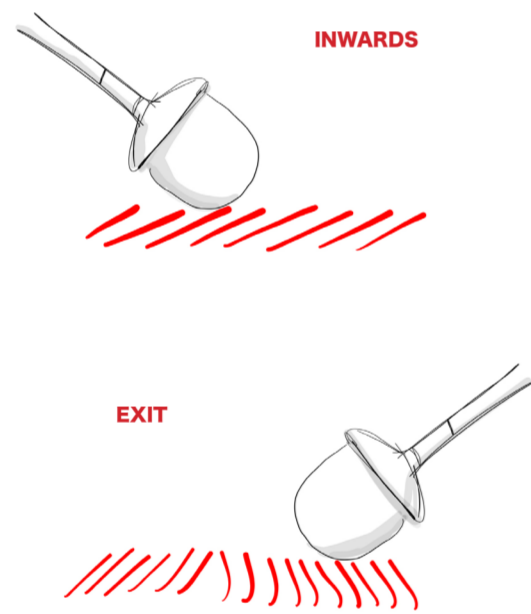
LRV CONTRAST

# TACTILE WAYFINDING STRATEGIES: TEXTURED PATHS & BRAILLE SIGNAGE



Throughout the building is a series of textured paths which change texture when the user is approaching something e.g. a change in direction.

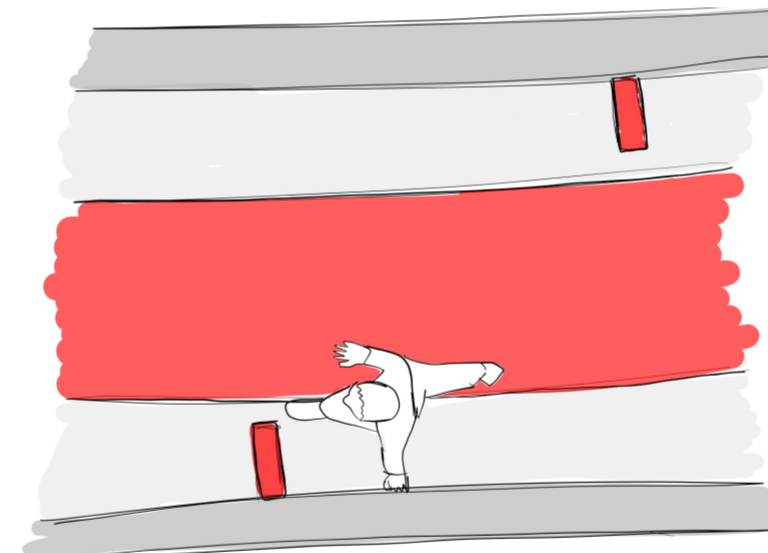
The paths feel smoother on the way further into each floor, and the paths feel rougher on the way towards the exit of each floor; helping to re-centre them.



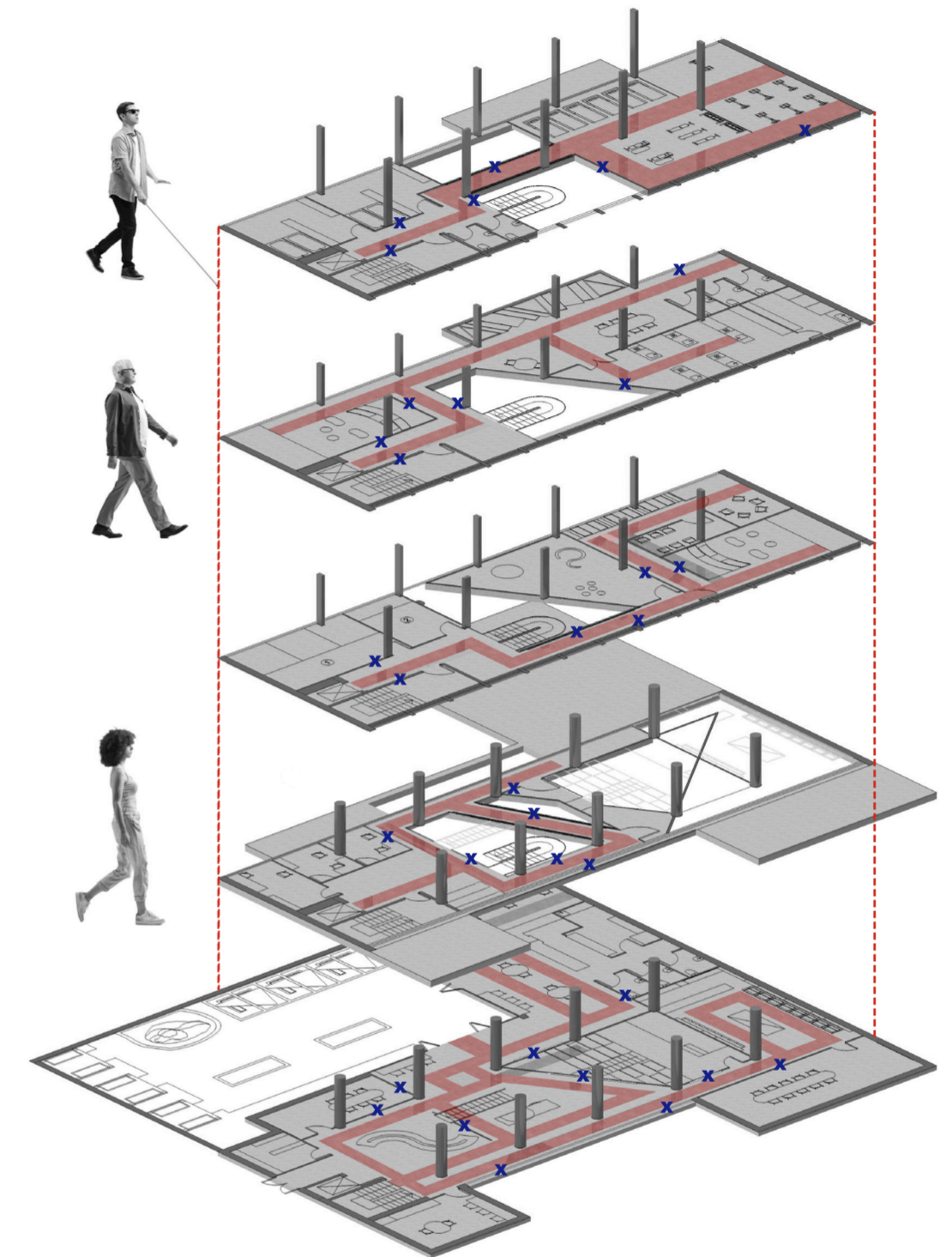
## TAKING A LINE FOR A WALL RULE

Textured line 1.4 metres off the floor of each of the walls with braille signage. How it works:

- Using a wall to their left they follow the line with their finger.
- When a braille sign is present they will feel it with their left hand.
- This ensures that users going opposite ways won't bump into each other.



## X BRAILLE SIGNAGE PRESENT ON WALLS OR HANDRAILS



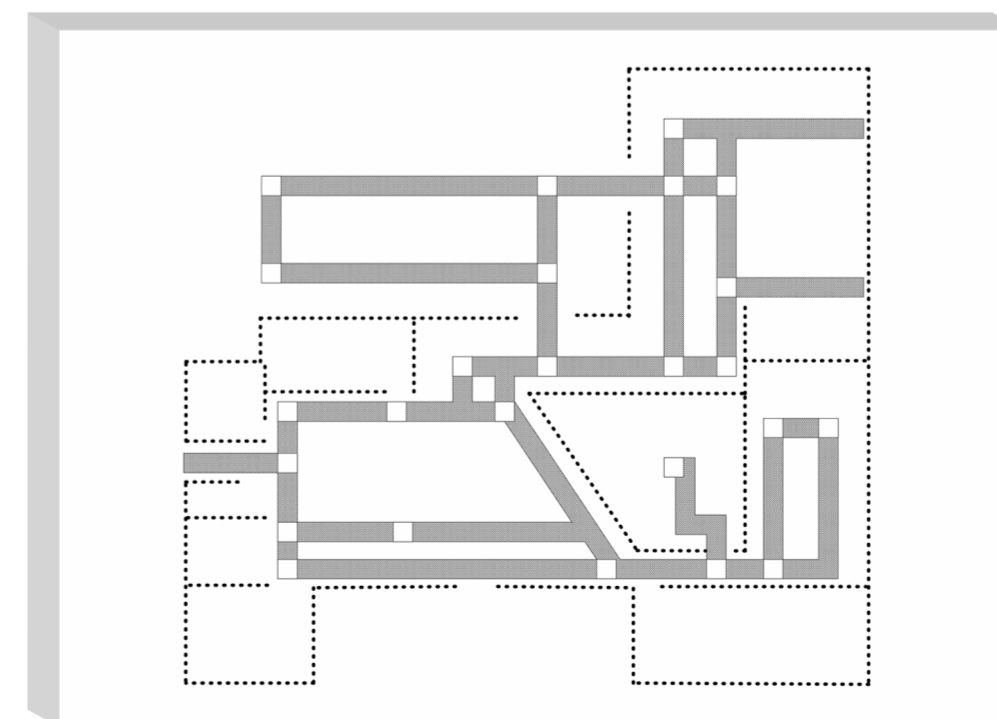
Against a dark wall white braille maps are used to contrast.



Against a light wall red braille maps are used to contrast.

## BRAILLE MAPS

The braille maps are useful as it helps the fully blind users predict their environment better. On the map they can feel the textured paths around the building with their fingers and entrances / potential barriers.



- TEXTURED PATHS
- CHANGE IN TEXTURE
- RAISED DOTTED WALLS

# VISUAL WAYFINDING STRATEGIES: COLOUR CONTRAST & LRV

## 100% VISION



## 60% VISION & NO COLOUR DETECTION

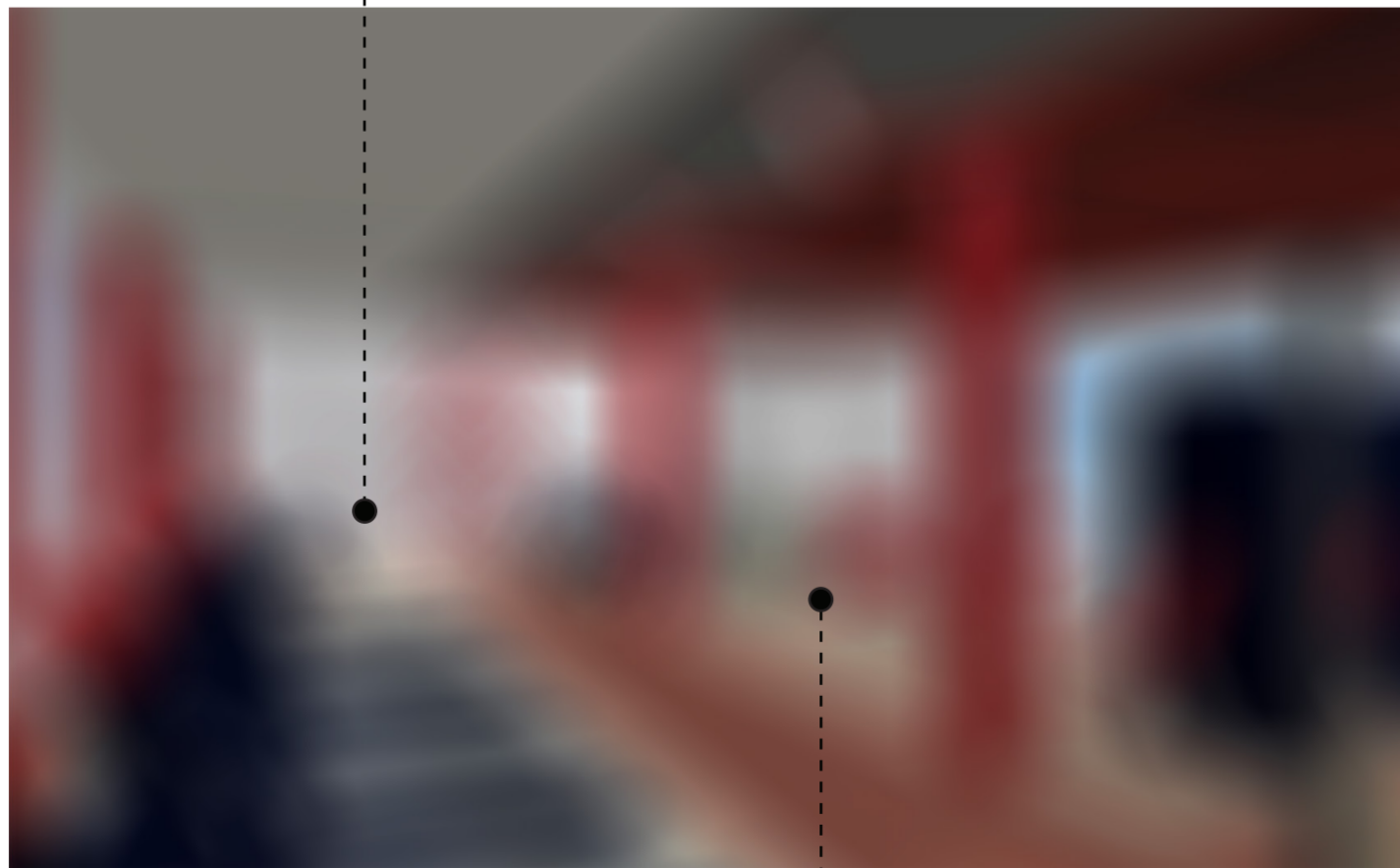


15% of people with visual impairments see nothing.

LRV CONTRAST - HELPS USERS DISTINGUISH PATHWAYS AND OBJECTS

DIFFICULTY SEEING SMALL DISTANT OBJECTS - COLOUR CONTRAST HELPS THEM STAND OUT

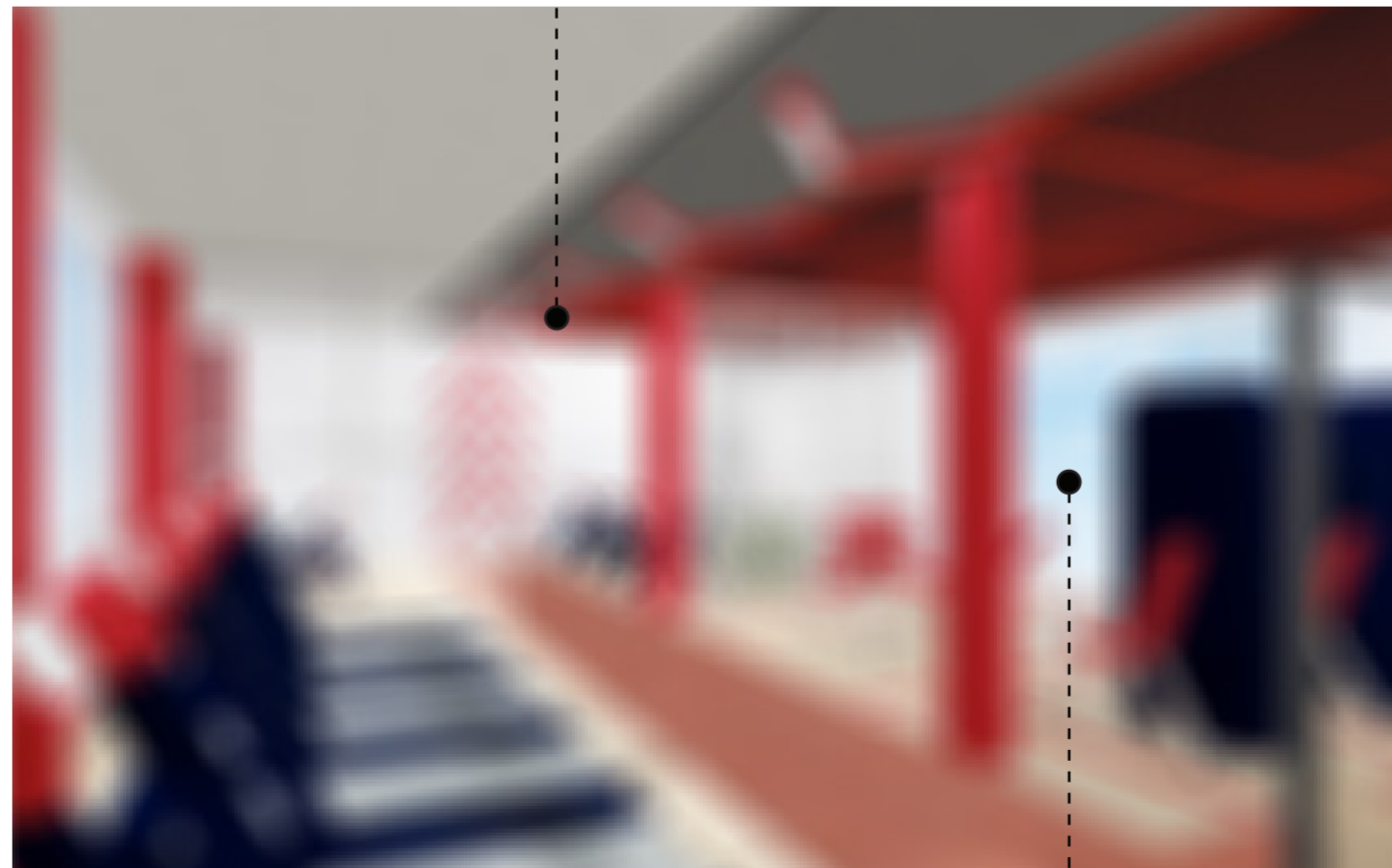
## 10% VISION



LOWER LIGHT PERCEPTION - BRIGHTER COLOURS STIMULATE VISION IN THE RETINA

BLURRY OR CLOUDED VISION - SHARP COLOUR CONTRASTS HELP DISTINGUISH AREAS

## 50% VISION

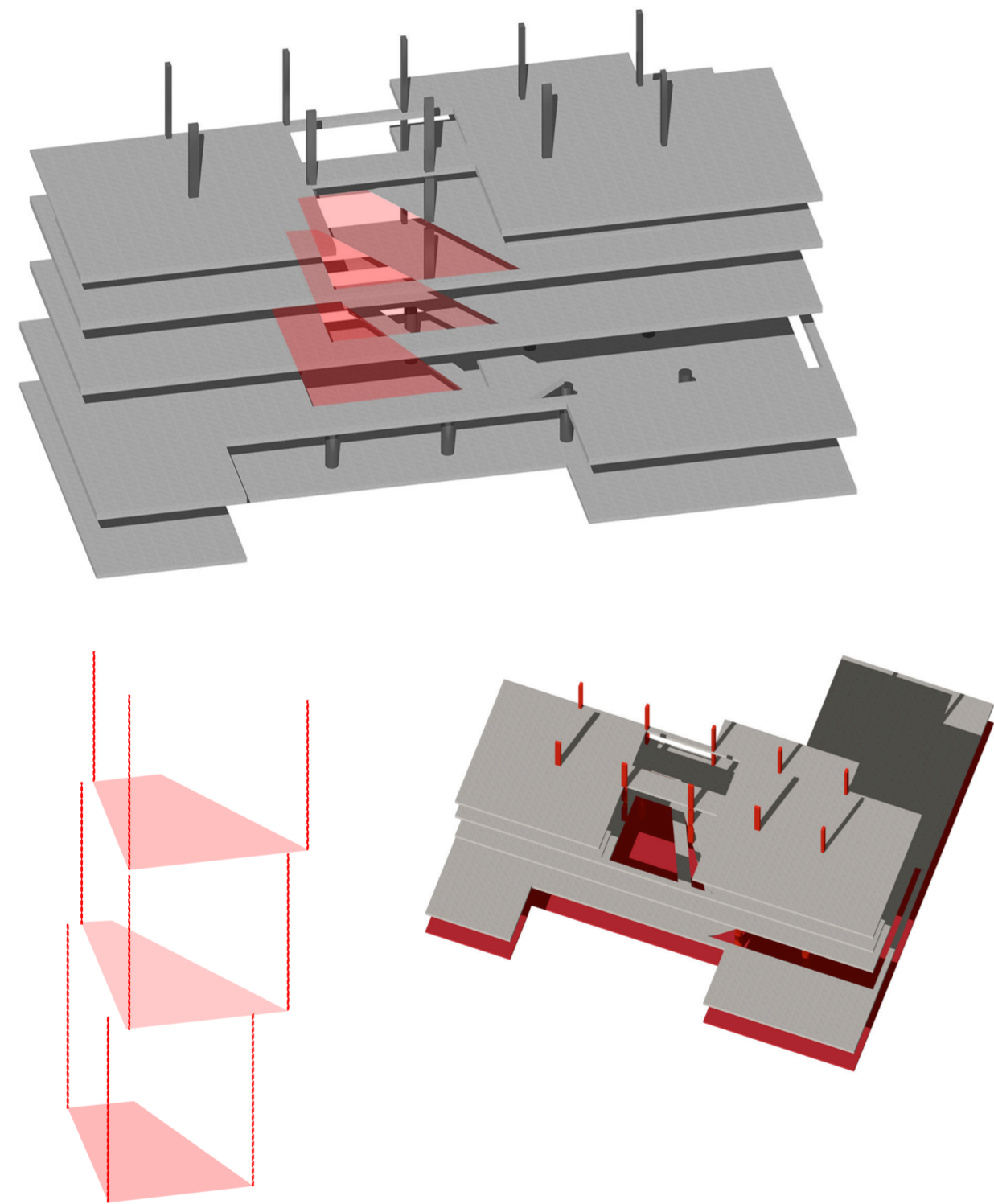


85% of people who are legally blind do have some remaining vision and perceive light.

ABILITY TO IDENTIFY LIGHT SOURCES - WINDOWS AND ARTIFICIAL LIGHT USED TO GUIDE USERS

# AUDITORY WAYFINDING STRATEGIES: CONTROLLING AUDITORY CUES

When creating an inclusive space for those who are visually impaired, it is important to consider auditory architecture. This is not only necessary for wayfinding strategies, but also for creating a positive emotional response. An environment that is too loud and overstimulating makes it hard to navigate and unpleasant to be in.



Voids allow sound to travel upwards through the space, the higher up the users are the more they will be able to hear below them - helping to re-centre them.

BARRIERS HELPING TO CREATE ECHOS AND ABSORB SOUND - HELPS FULLY BLIND USERS TO CREATE A VISUAL IMAGE OF THE SPACE (IDEA OF CEILING HEIGHT AND DISTANCE OF WALLS)

BAUX ACOUSTIC WOOD WOOL CONTROLS THE ACOUSTIC ENVIRONMENT



HARD VINYL FLOORING USED TO EXAGGERATE NOISE - ALLOWING THE VISUALLY IMPAIRED TO HEAR FOOTSTEPS AND GUIDE THEM TOWARDS CERTAIN AREAS