

THE POROUS OFFICE

The writers union

For our final project of the year we were required to create a set of design proposals that explore the future workplace as a complex environment that overlaps not only with our domestic lives, but also with the civic space of the city - based upon our selection of typology and client/activity. My chosen typology was a 'Guild' and client was a 'Publishing Company.'



THE WRITERS UNION

Embracing the original techniques used within the publishing process from writing your book to the published copy. The importance of where it all started grows as the world we live in becomes more and more digital and a large amount of people are able to publish their own books as well as those who more often read on a device instead of purchasing a physical copy.

Creating a space which is able to adopt both natures, modern self publishing writers working with analogue technology, and adapt to their daily routines and rituals in order to generate a novel working environment whilst taking advantage of the existing building.

Creating an architectural palimpsest where the space is driven by reading, writing and editing through the design as well as the programmes.

The main features of the design include:

*Carved bookshelves - The cast bookshelves will be carved into the entire space to give the overwhelming feeling of being in a grand library. This will begin to represent the main concept of palimpsest.

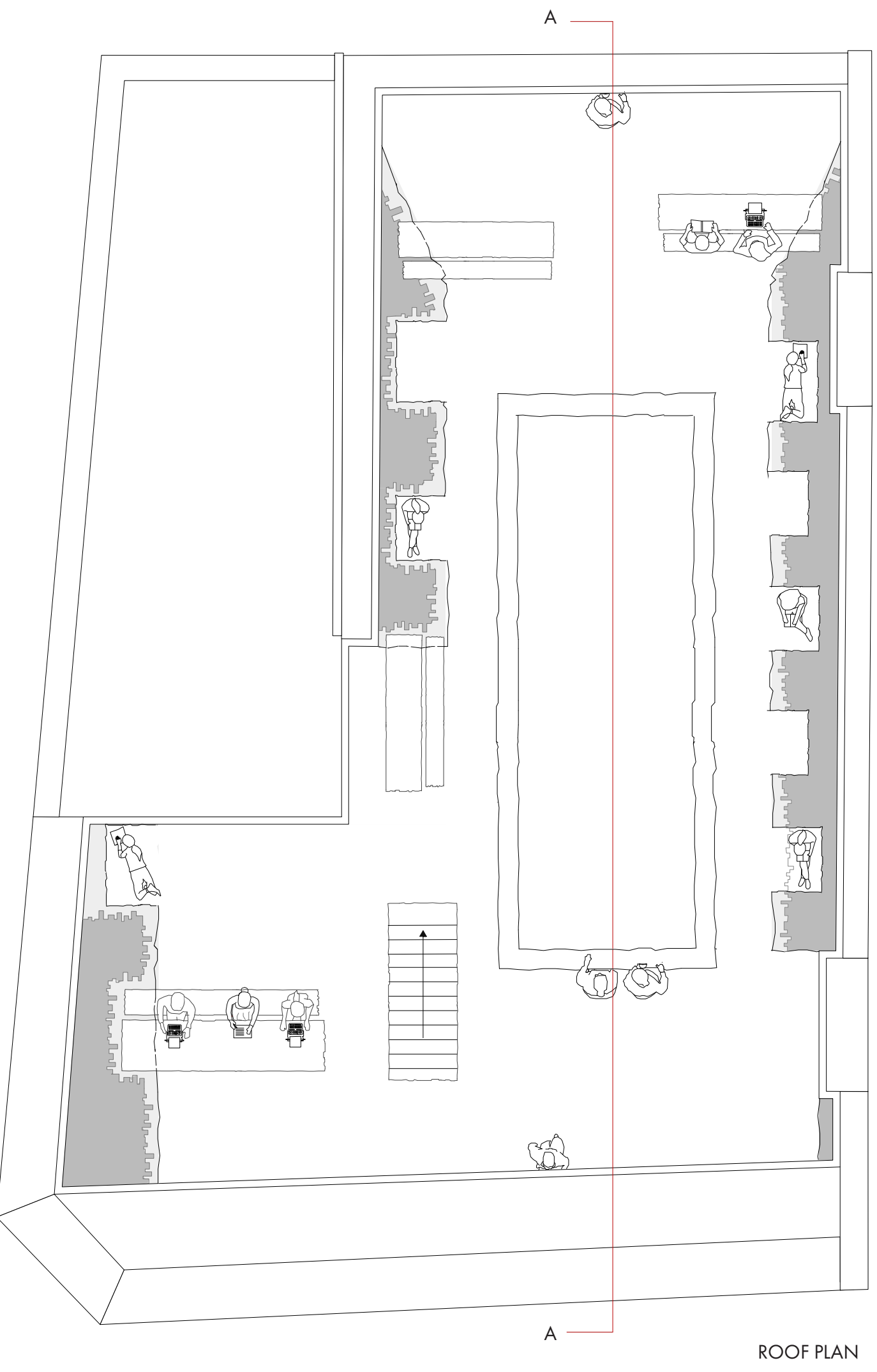
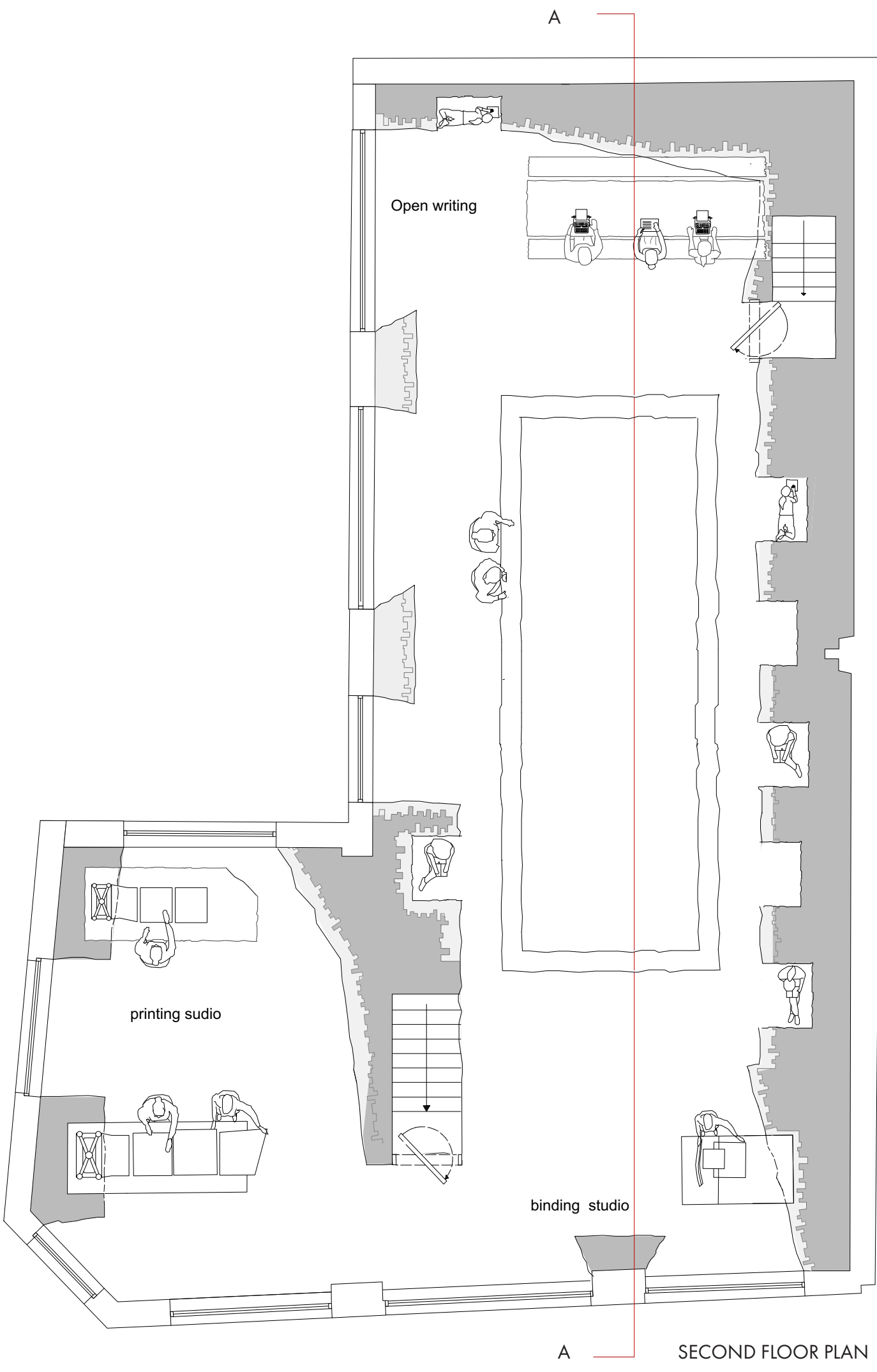
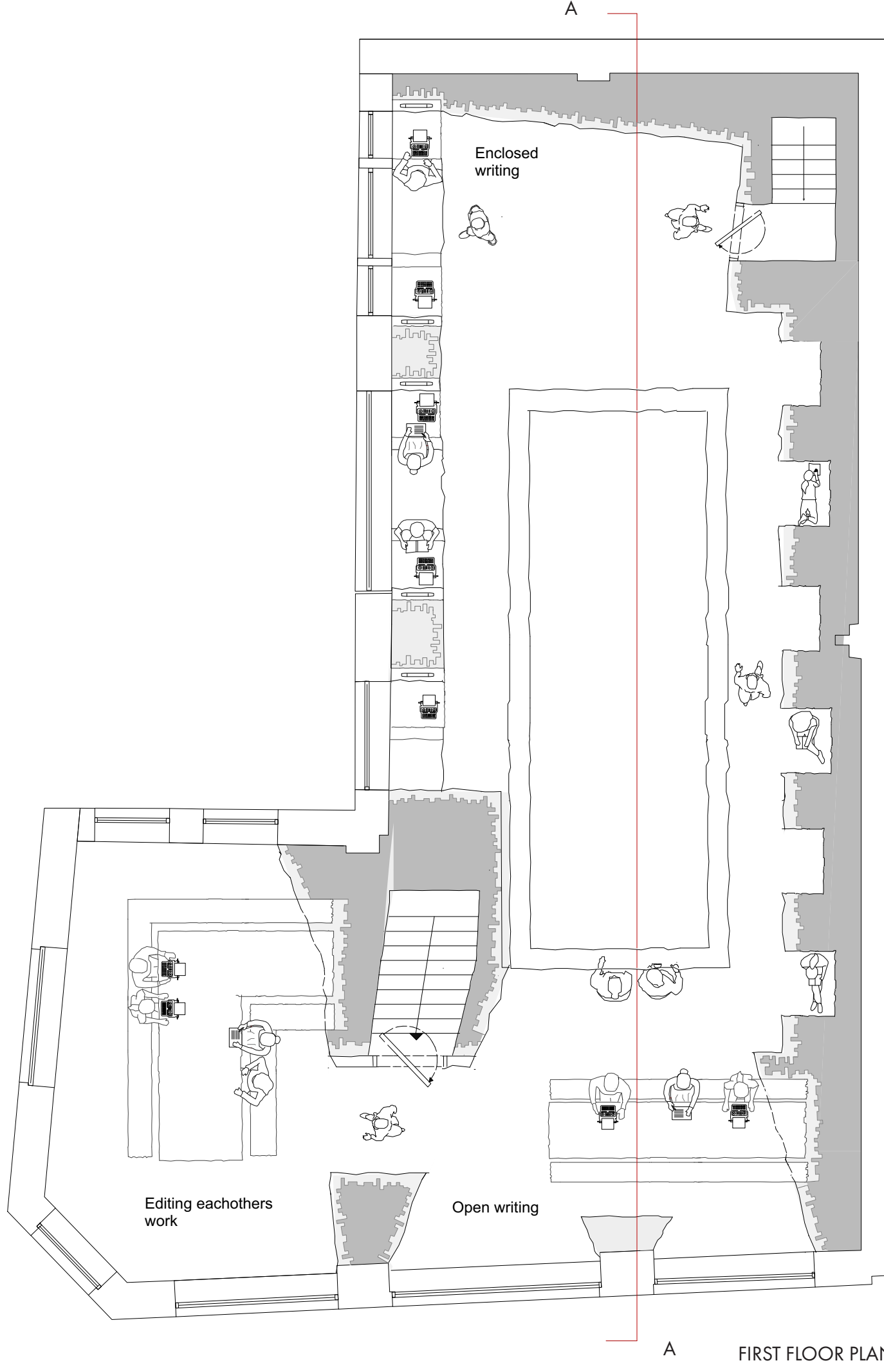
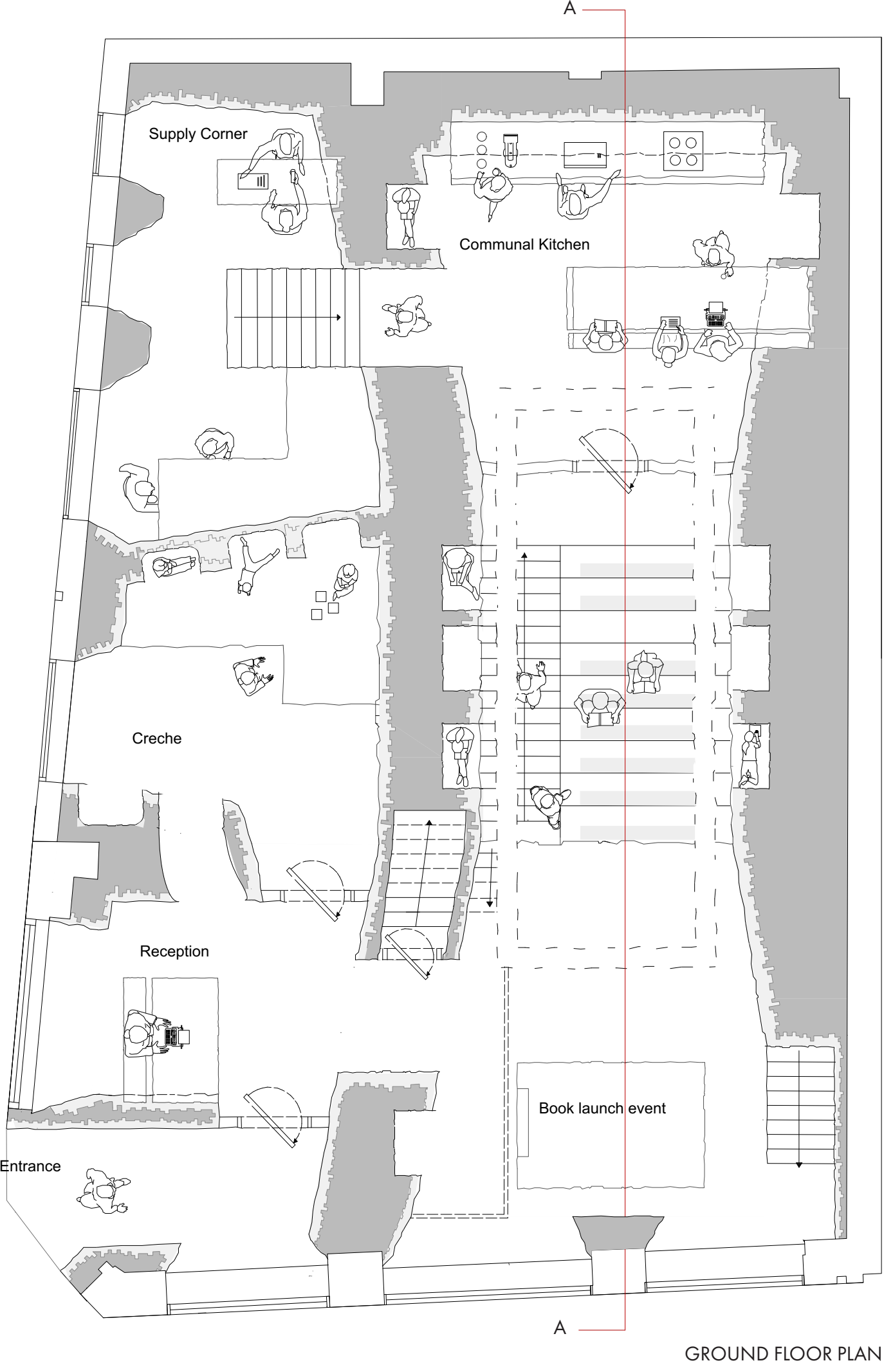
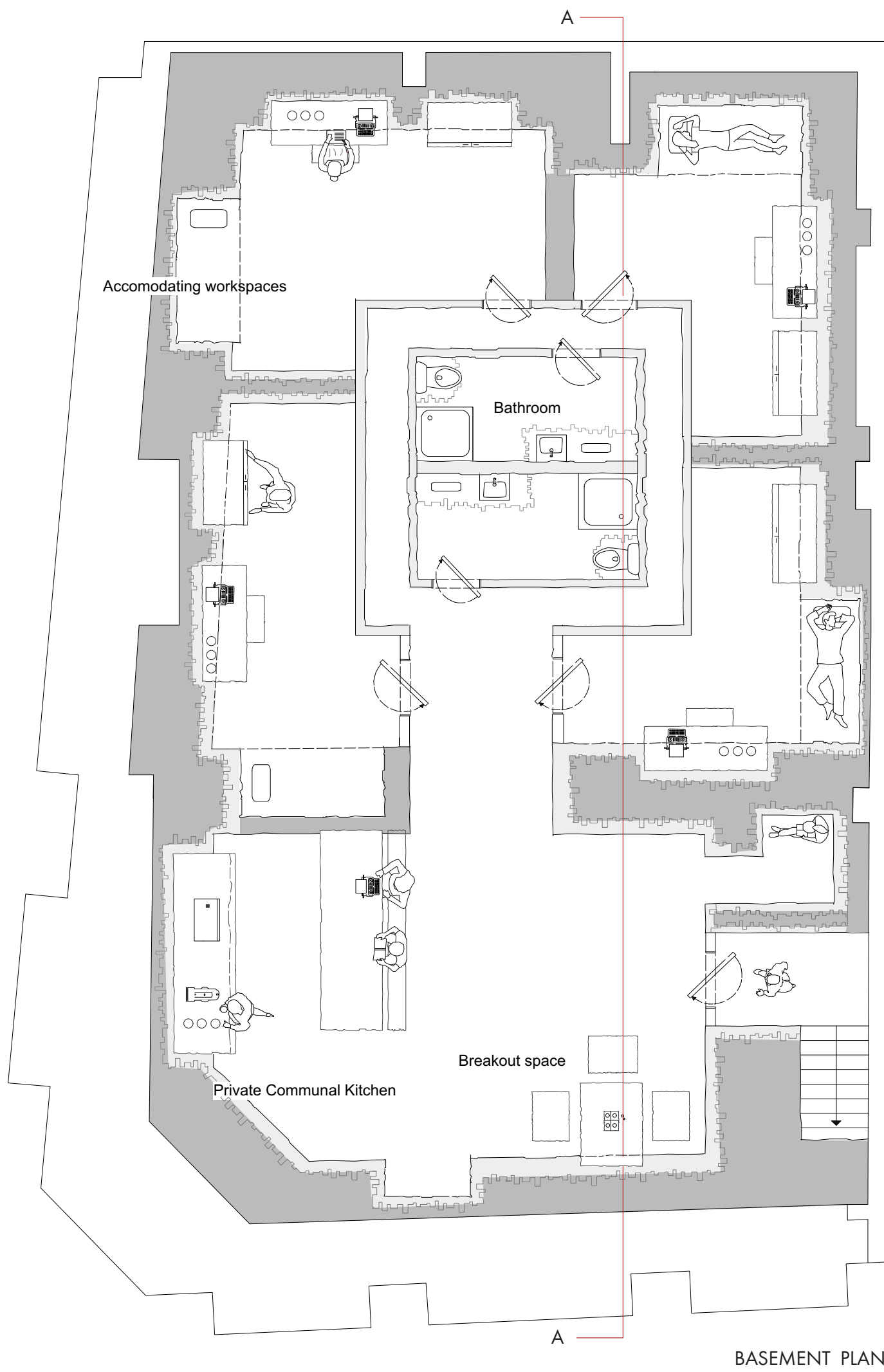
*Reading nooks - These will be carved into the bookshelves throughout the site. Creating an emphasis on reading as well as writing books.

*The Atrium - An atrium will be a key aspect of the design to allow a connection between all the floors.

*A bleacher staircase is a key element of the ground floor atrium . This will not only allow conversation to be created between members in order to ensure they aren’t always isolated but will also be used as access to the guilds main facilities. Writers can also use this to sit and read during their break and the public can gather along the staircase during book launch events.

*Analogue technology - Pivoting doors throughout the site will allow the writers to get into the different zones of the space. The pivot symbolise the movement and mechanical properties behind analogue technology. Typewriters will be available to borrow and printing machines will be accessible for members.

*Writers routines - Researching different writers and their comfortable working environments and methods allowed me to make design decisions based upon the necessary zones and how they would be occupied.



The basement floor will consist of a series of accommodating working environments for those travelling from another city to use the printing facilities.

The ground floor will be occupied by a communal kitchen, used beyond its original purpose, for those who work better in a casual alongside a mini store to buy printing supplies and groceries for those who like to run errands after work. There will also be a crèche for writers who would like to keep their young children nearby. As well as, of course, ‘The atrium.’

The first floor will prioritise different work spaces. Enclosed working zones for those who prefer working quietly and open spaces for those who prefer working with natural background noise e.g. people talking. There will also be a zone for members of the guild to edit each others work as this is a set back for self publishing editors in today’s society.

The second floor will be where the printing studio is located. There will also be further zones for open writing spaces.

An extension has been constructed on the roof to create a cosy space for those who write better with a view.

