

ZLB Alexanderplatz

BERLIN 14.10.25

Atelier Oslo lundhagem



Oslo Central Library



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New public library world champion named

19 August 2021



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Highlights from the IFLA
Governing Board meeting, 25
August 2023

29 August 2023

IFLA WLIC 2023: Day Four
Highlights

26 August 2023

IFLA WLIC 2023: Day Three
Highlights

24 August 2023

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Visitors × 8 after the move to Bjørvika



Old Library at Hammersborg: **350.000** visitors per year



Deichman Bjørvika: **2.7 million** visitors per year

(Physical loans keep increasing 7-8% per year)

Main success factors

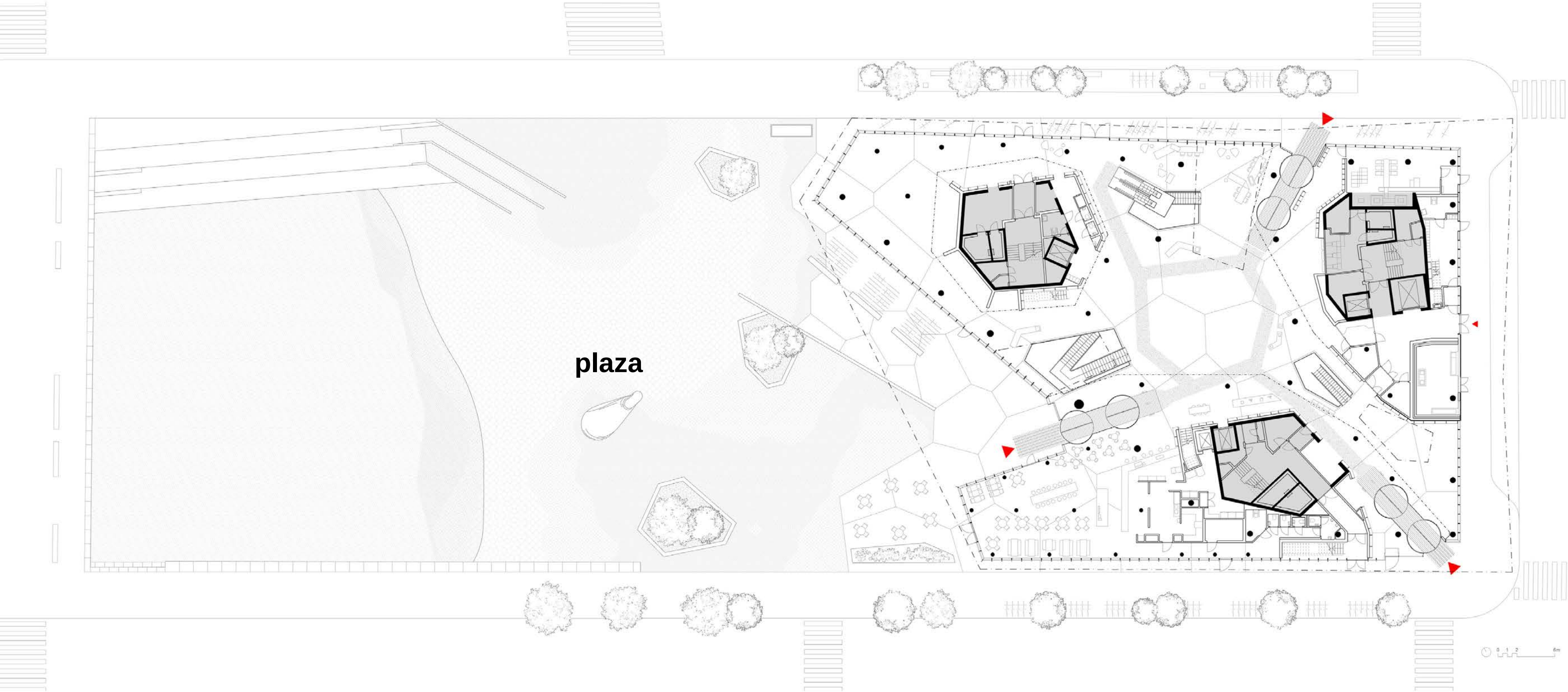
Central location



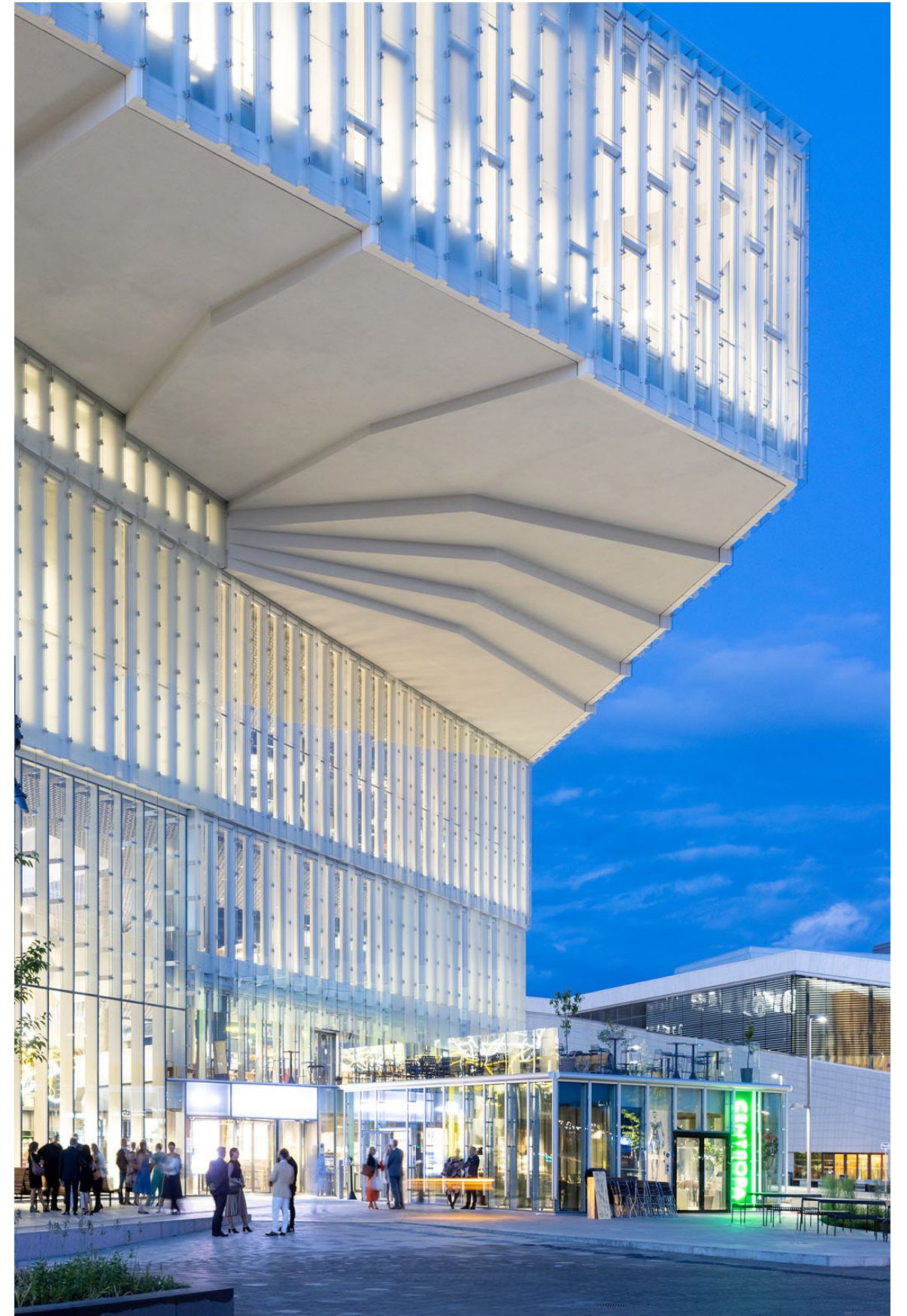
Well connected



Well connected



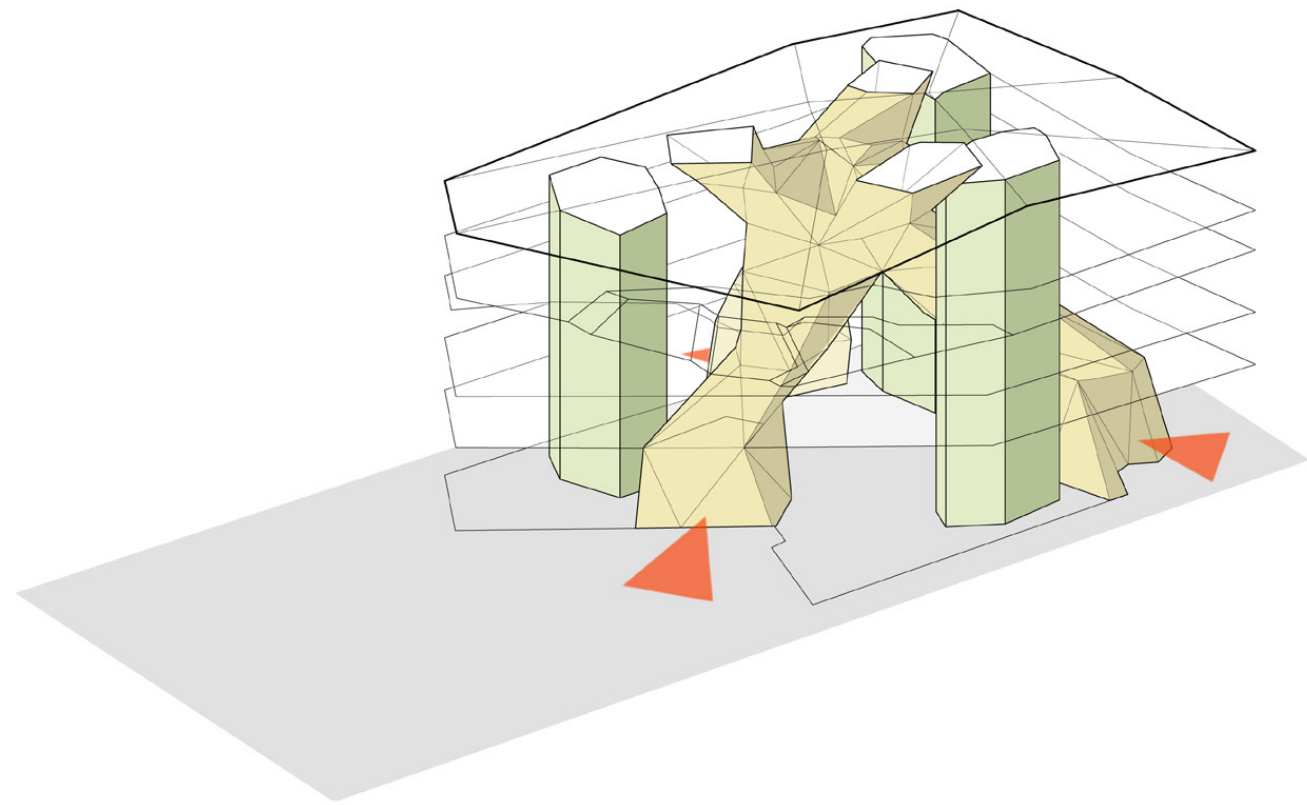
Well connected



Interior plaza - an extension of the public realm



Connecting the library to the city



Connecting the library to the city



A clear hierarchy - easy to orientate



Mix of specialized small spaces and open library space



A variety of spaces for culture, creation and exchange



A variety of spaces for culture, creation and exchange



A variety of reading and study places



A variety of reading and study places



With daylight and views



With daylight and views



An urban living room



With a human scale



An informal library



Where everyone belongs



Rotterdam Central library



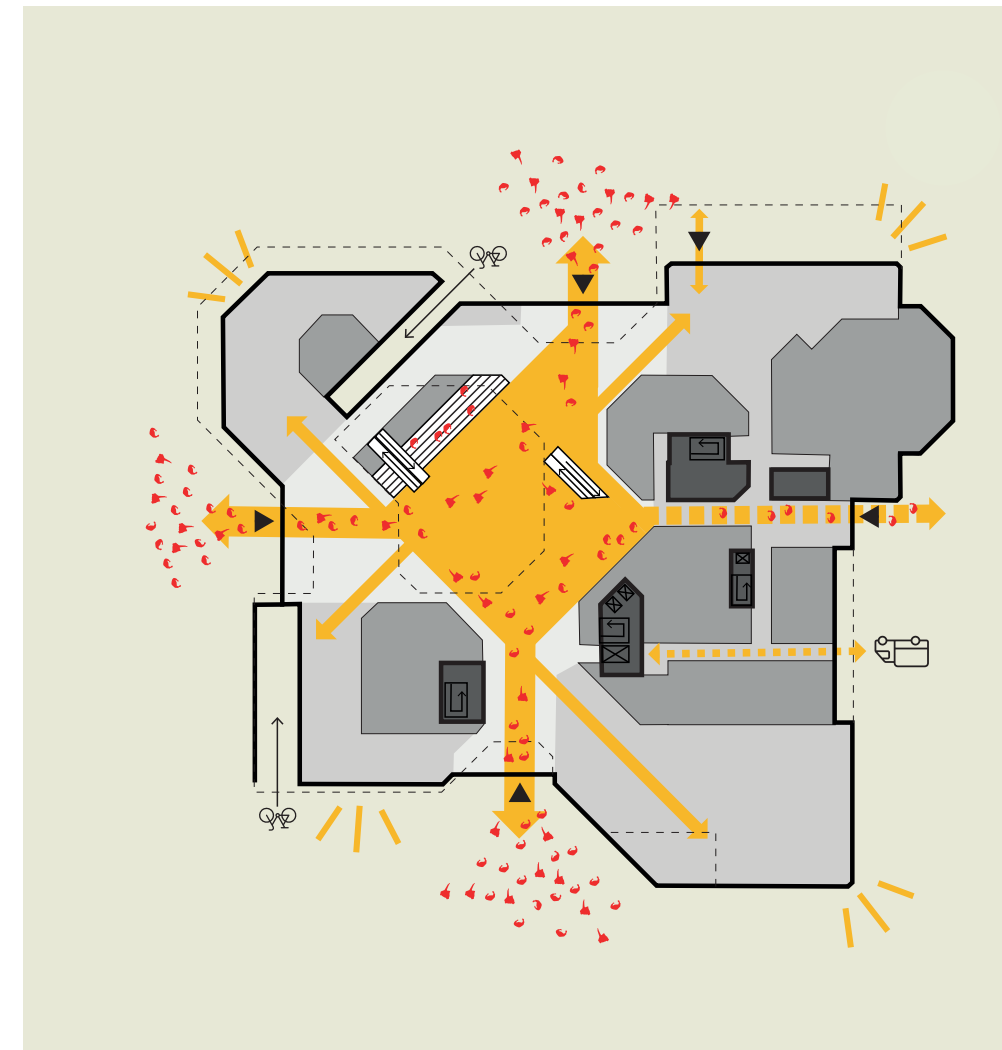
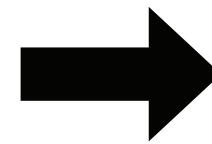
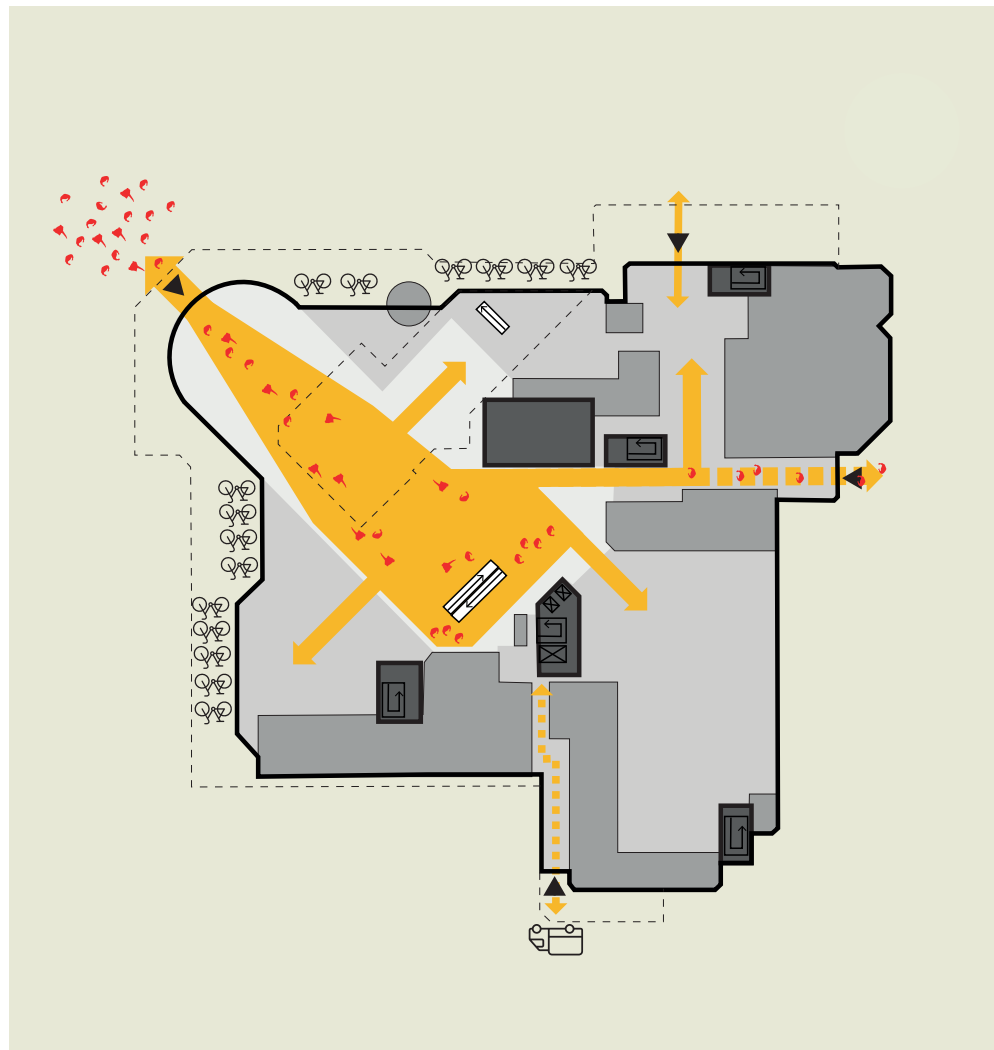
An icon - whether you like it or not



An icon - whether you like it or not



Connect the library with the city



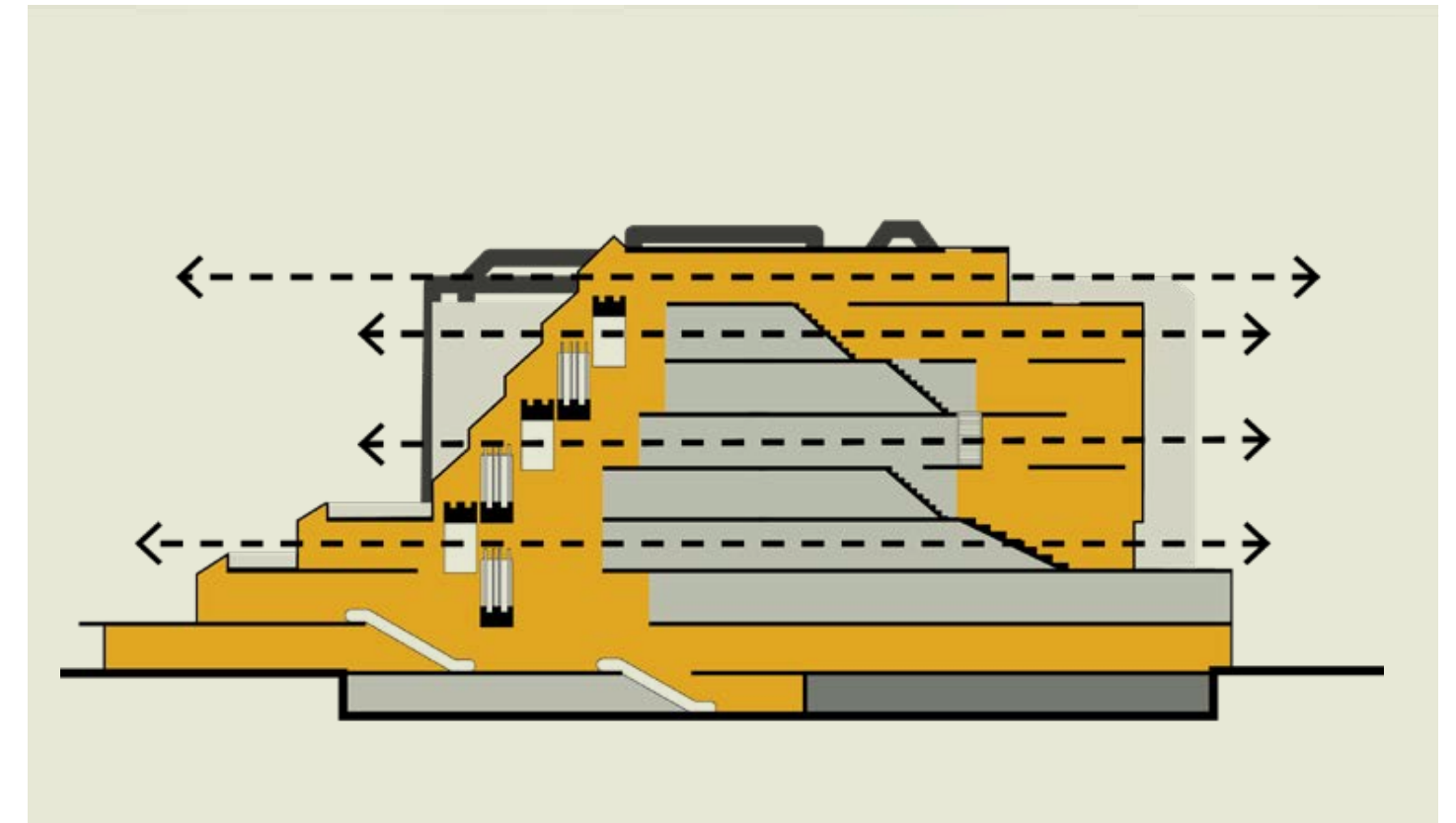
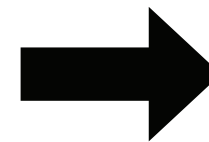
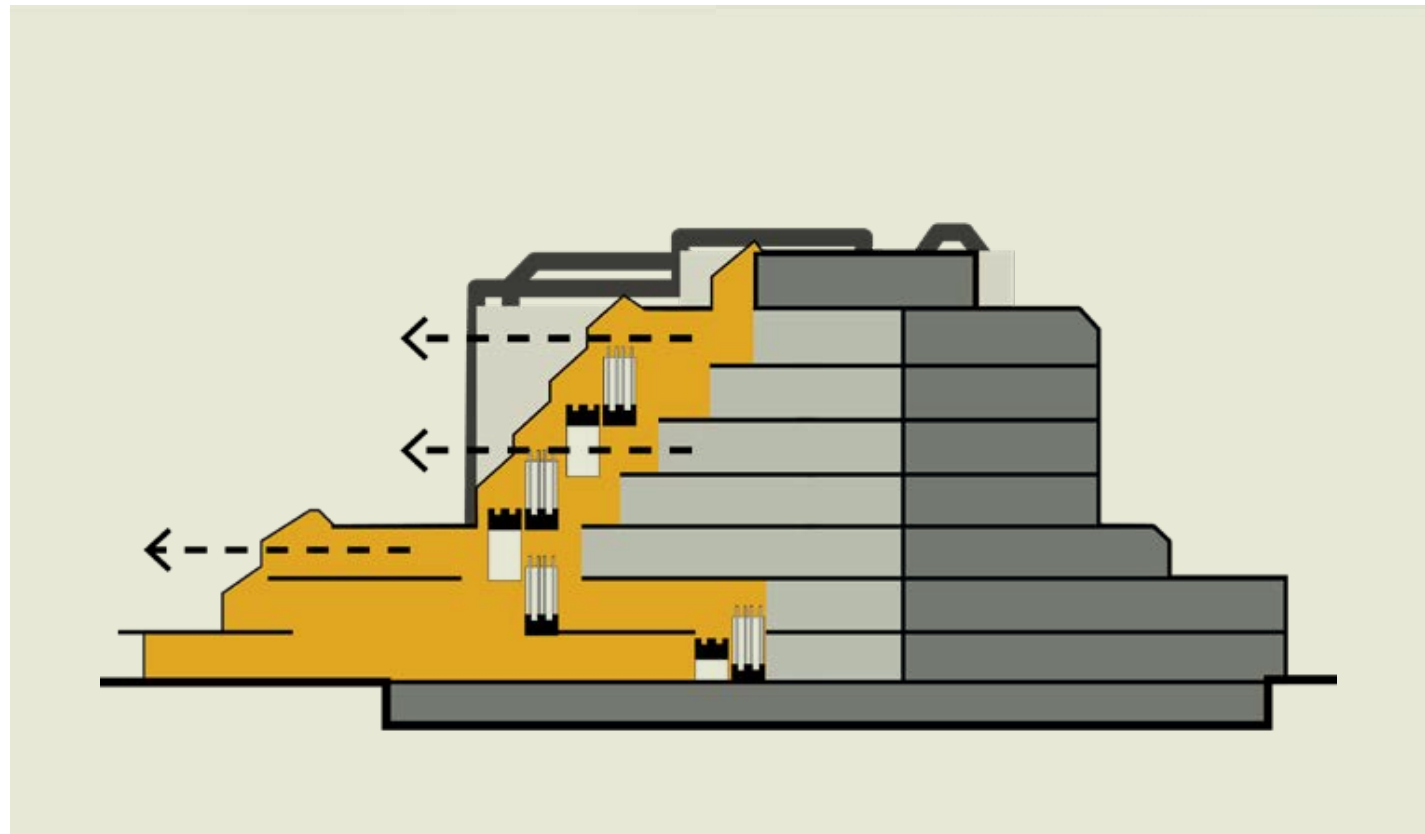
Connect the library with the city



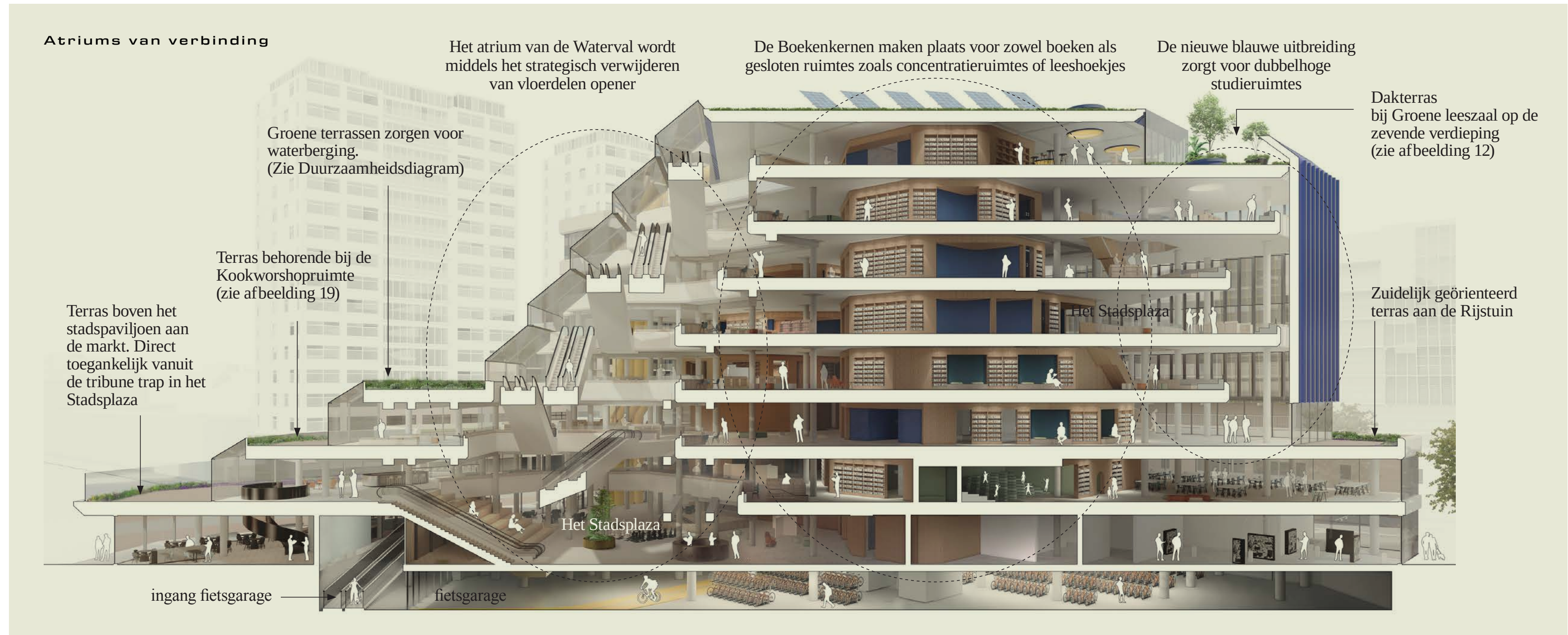
Connect the library to the public realm



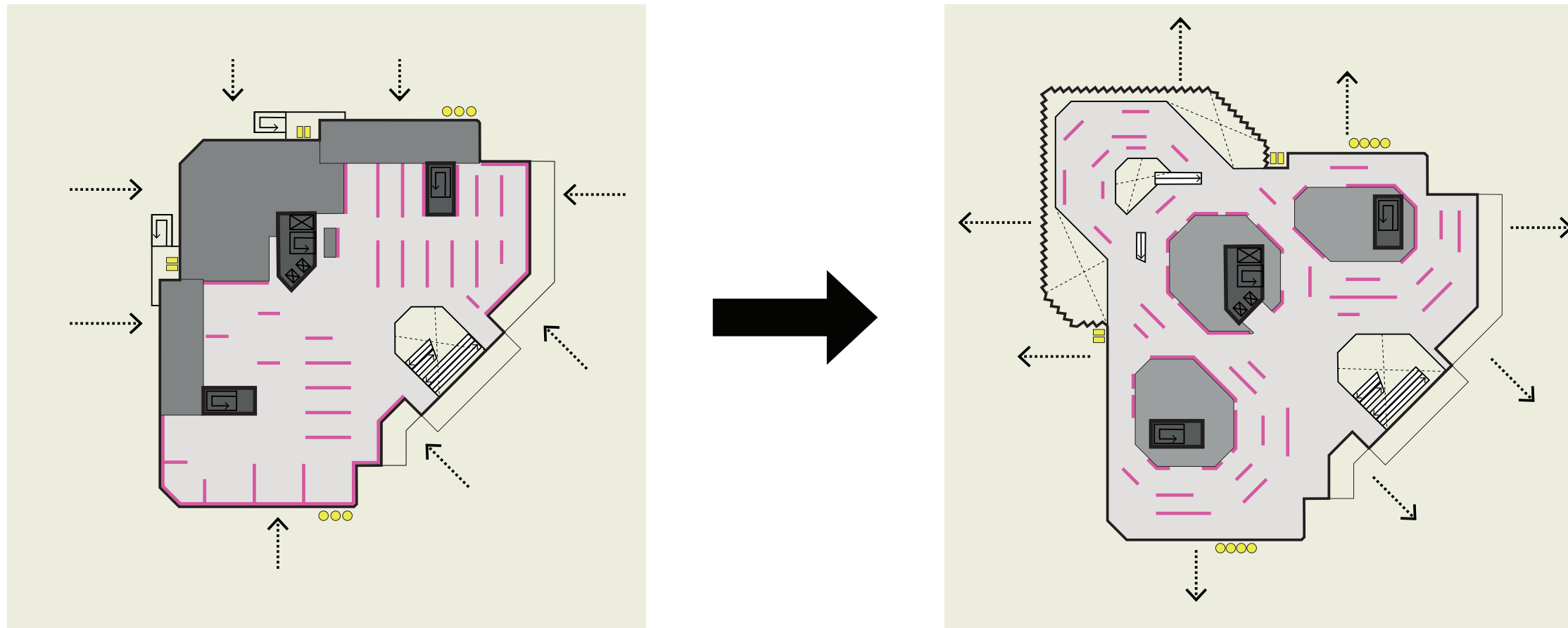
Transformation and expansion



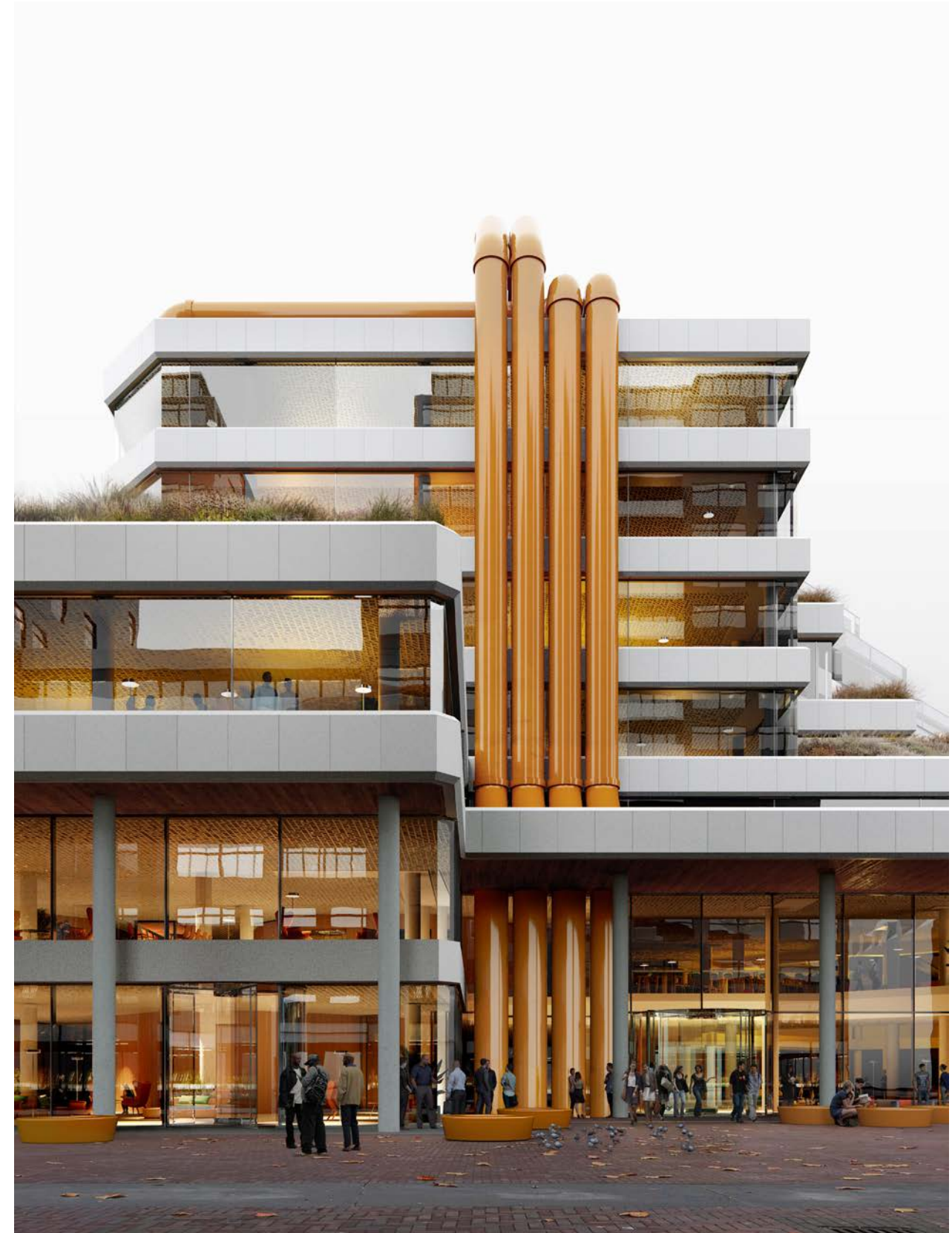
Transformation and expansion



A continuous library connected to the city



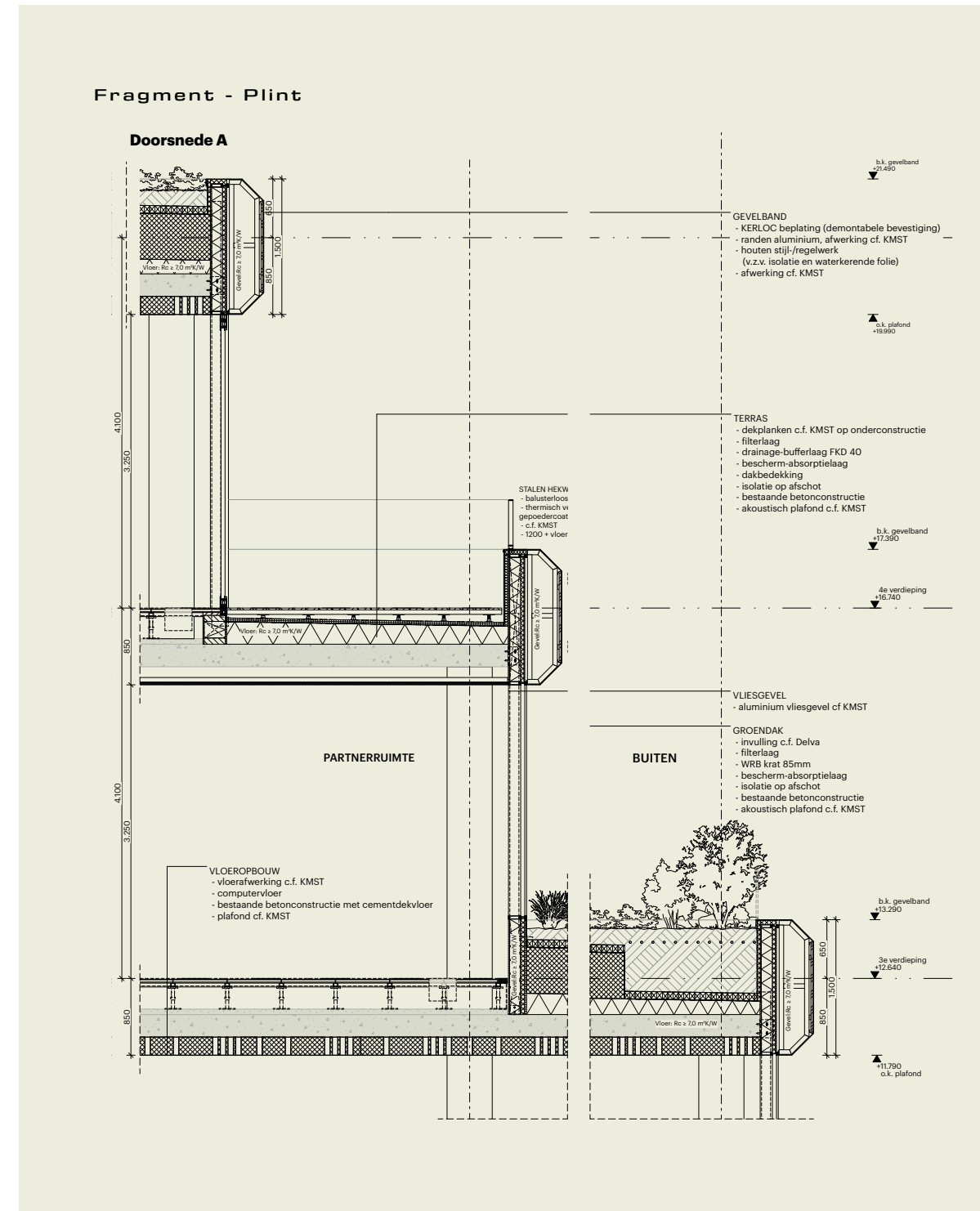
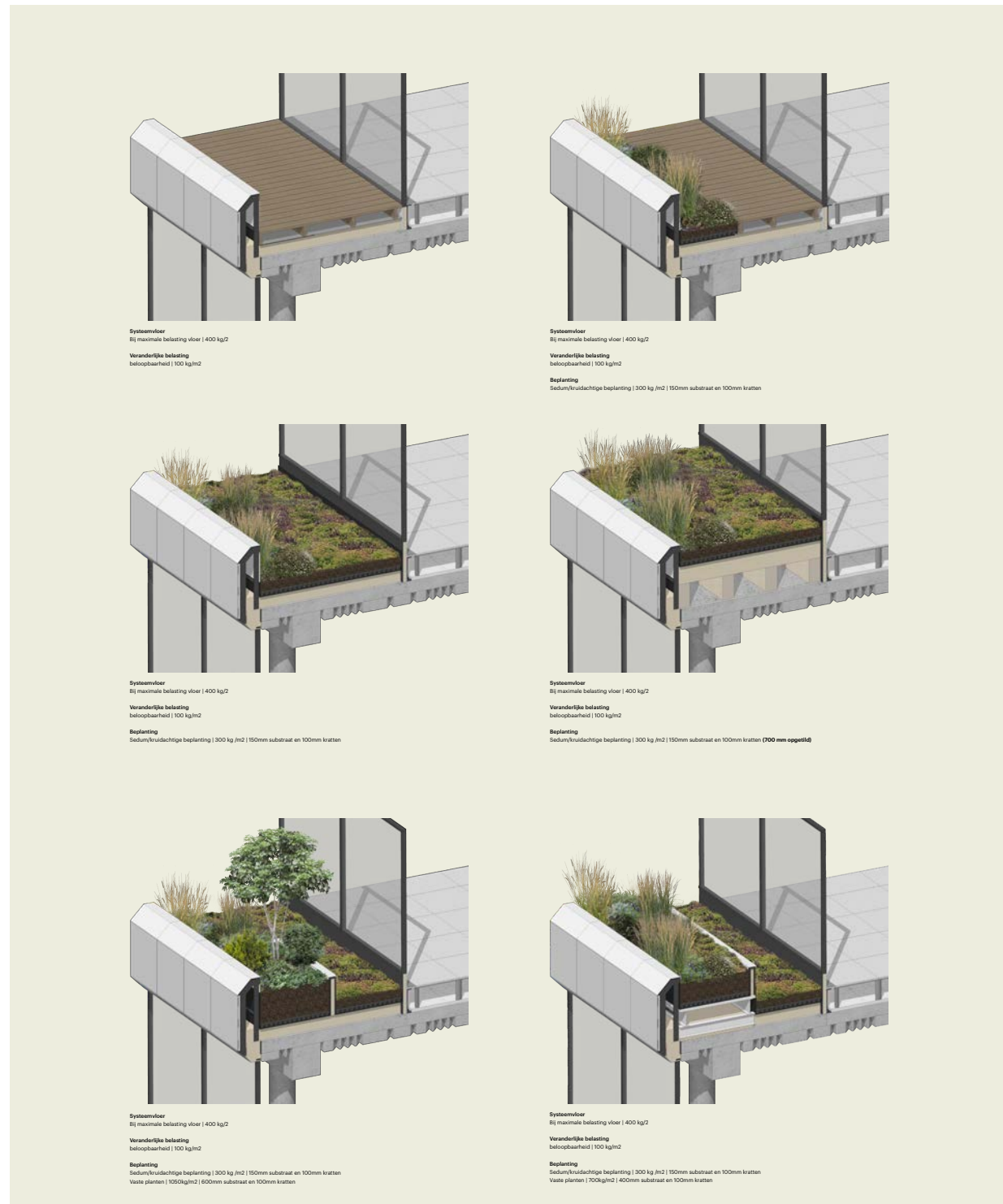
A continuous library connected to the city



Unlocking Potential



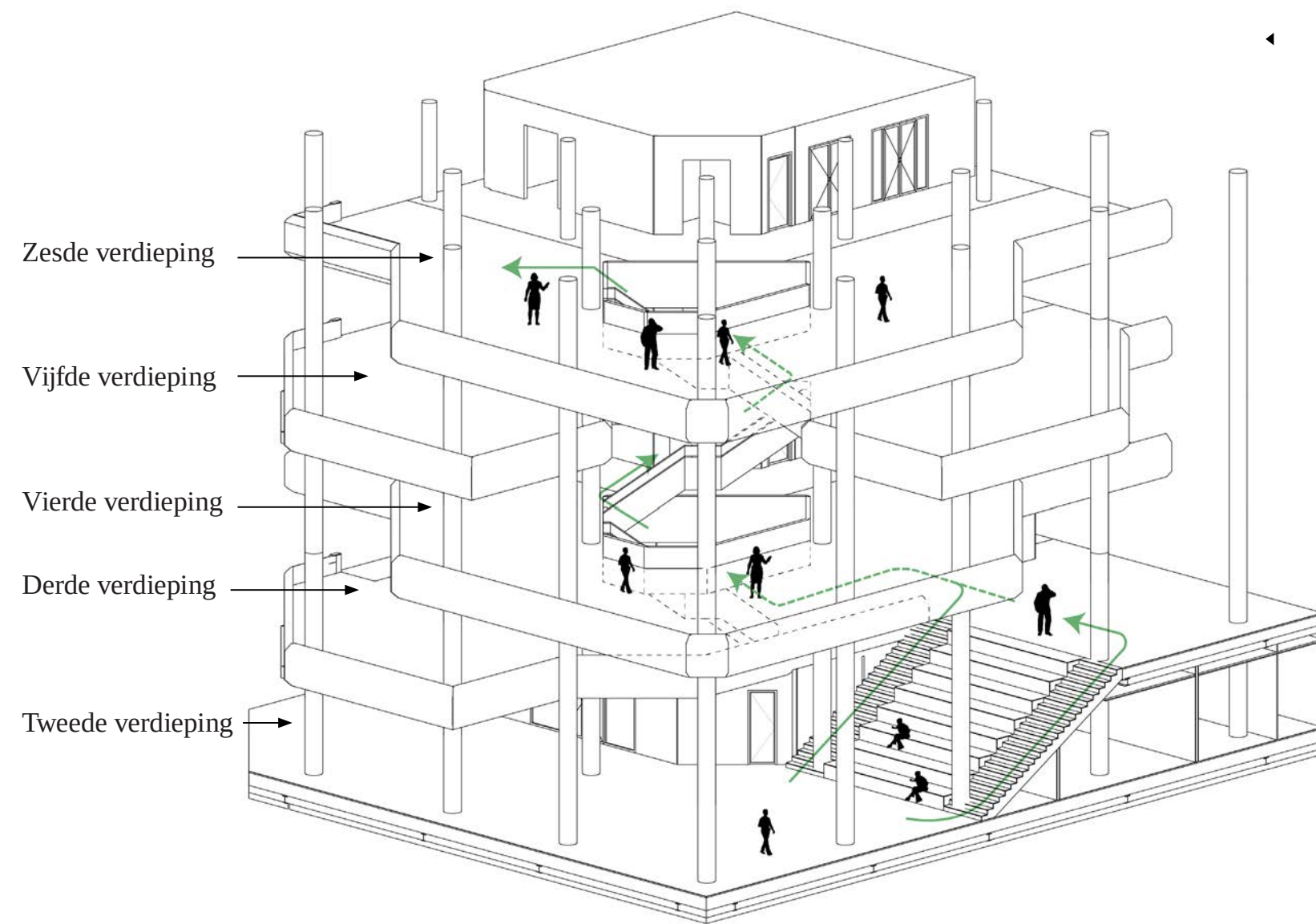
Unlocking Potential



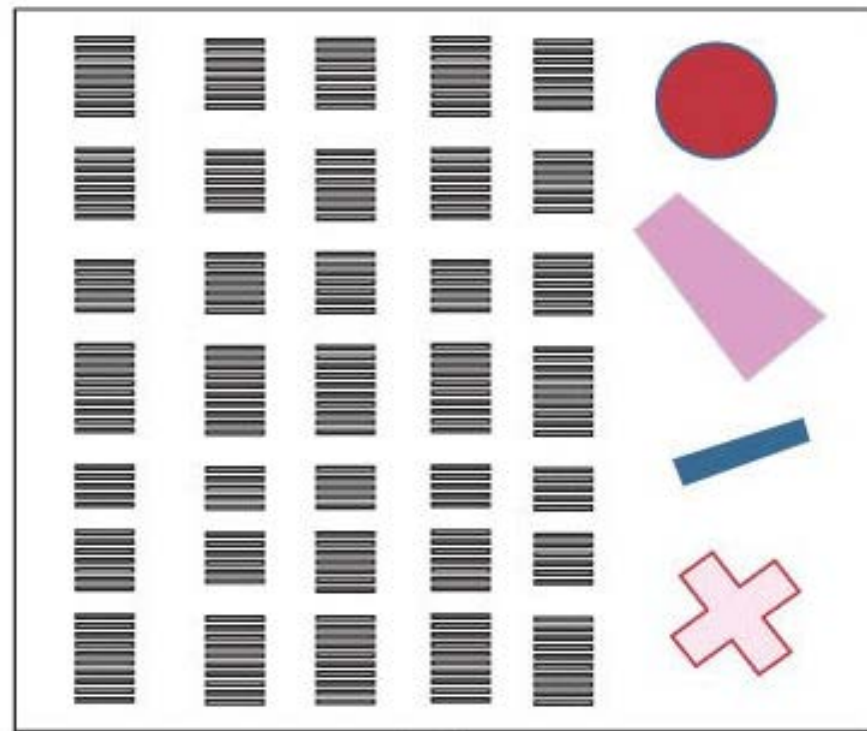
Unlocking Potential



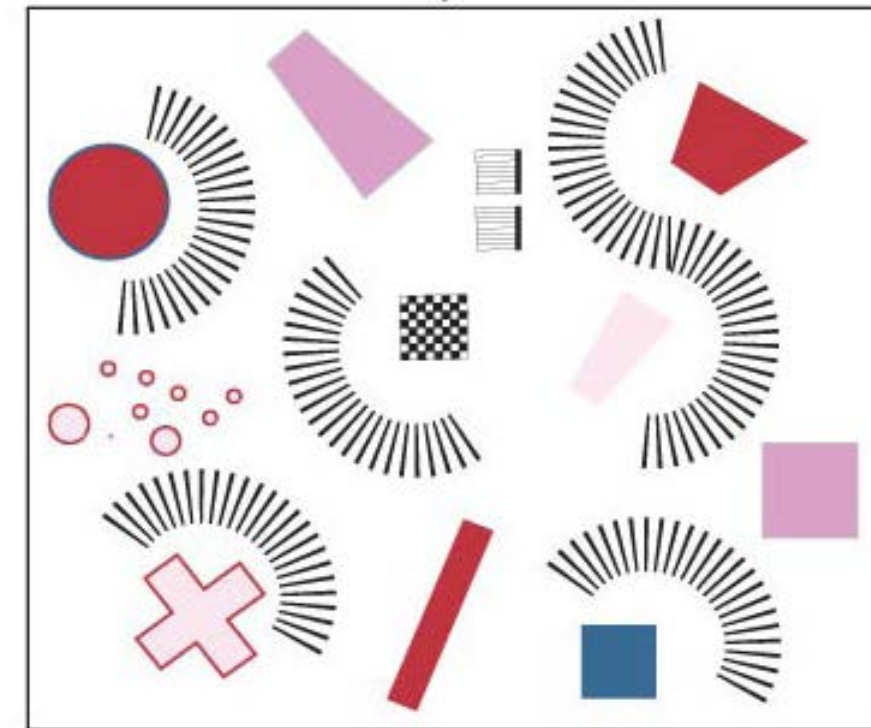
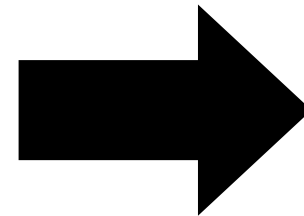
Offering new qualities



From collection to connection



media collections separated from public
and in closed archives



open media collections mixed with reading
places and different activity zones

Activities supported by books



Variation of study places



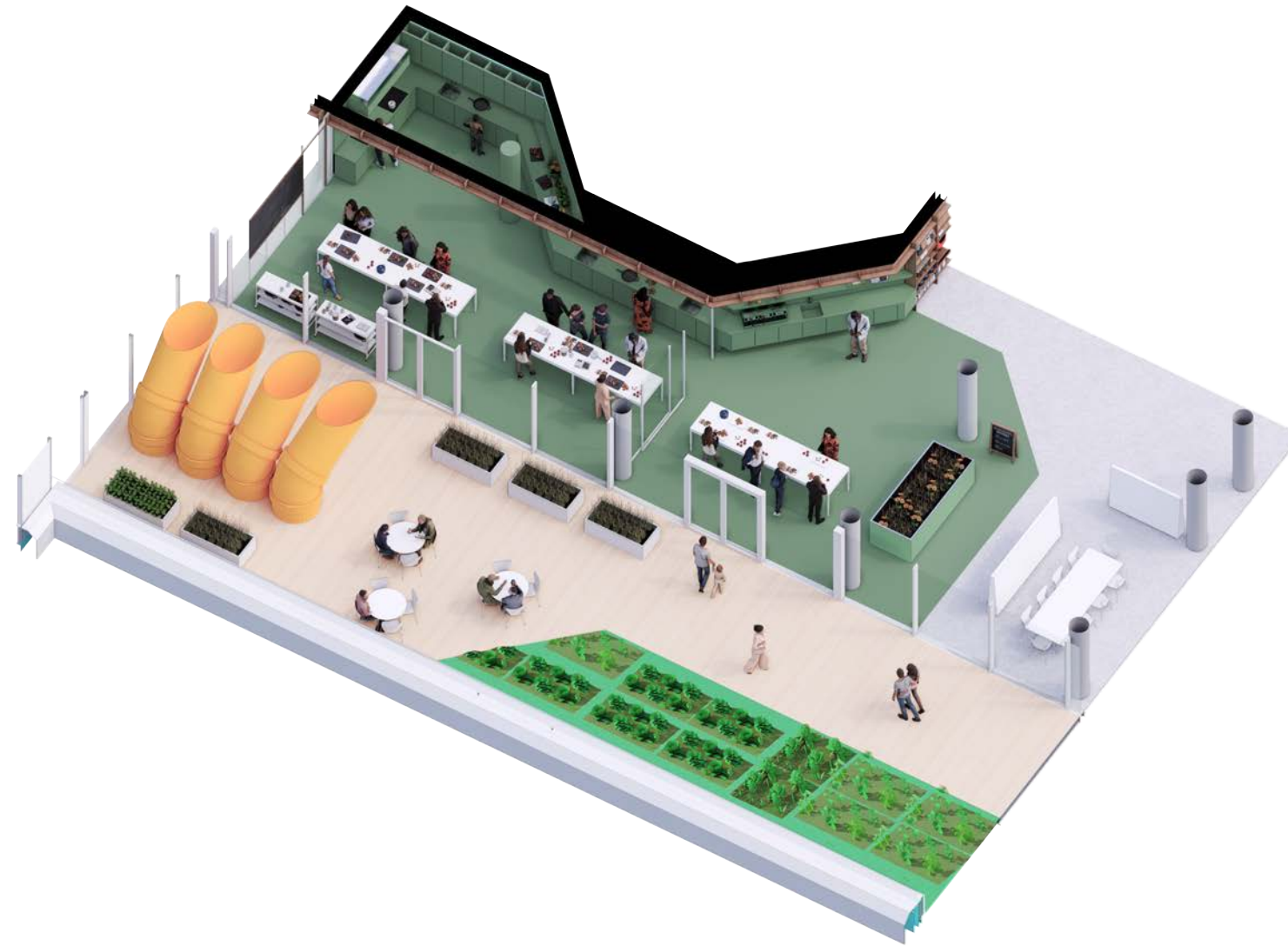
Variation of study places

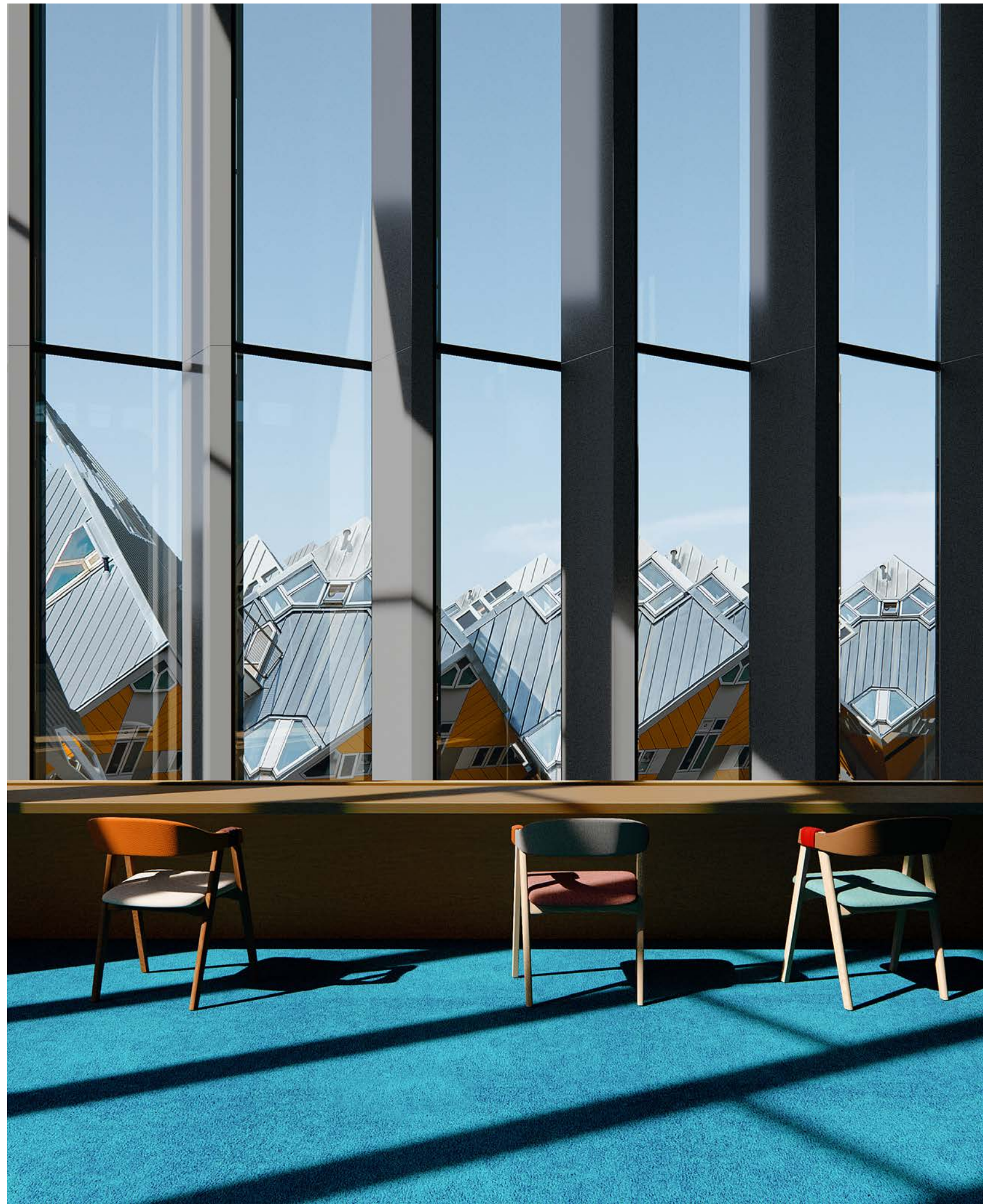


More social partners



New learning arenas



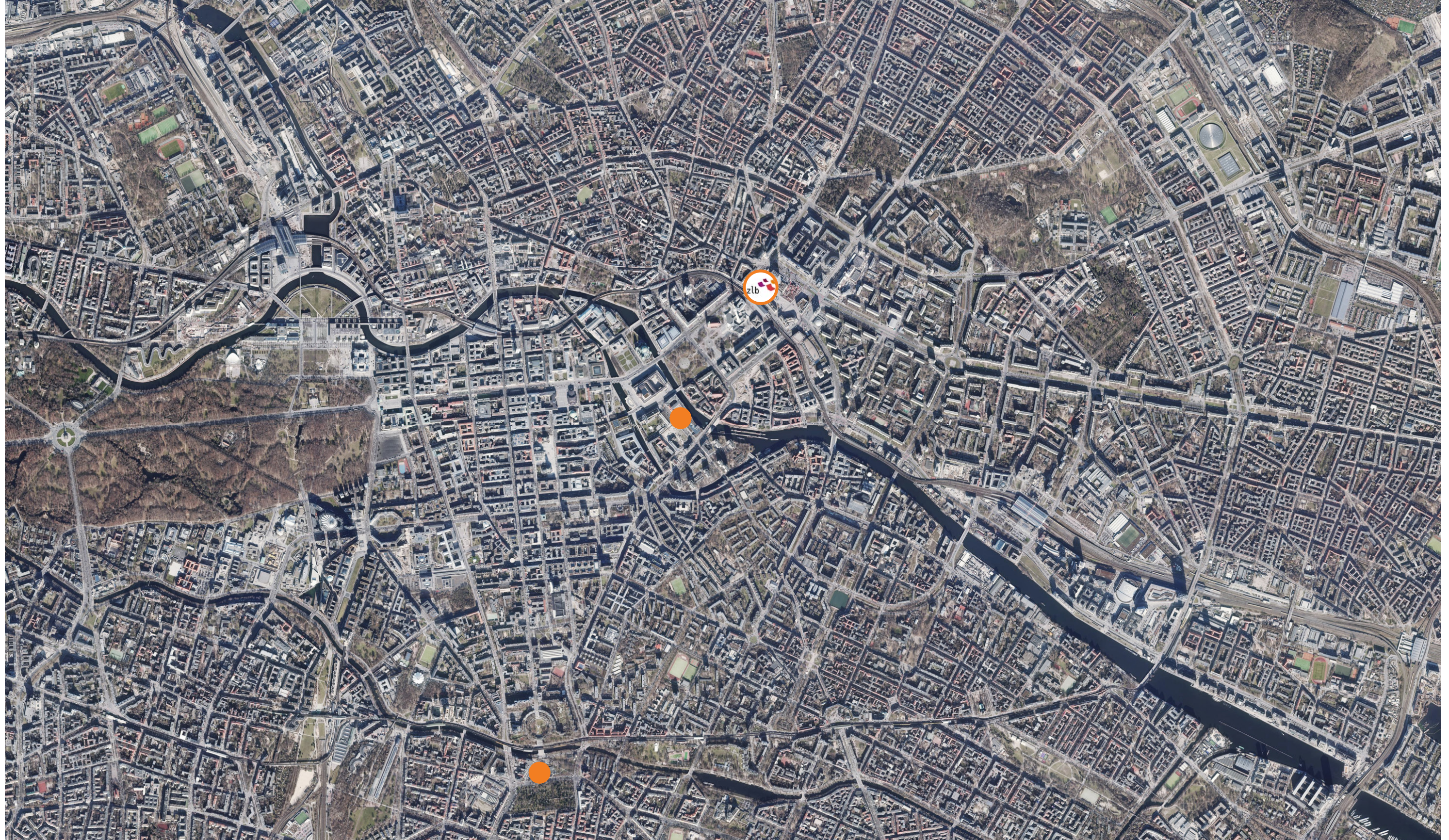


Alexanderplatz

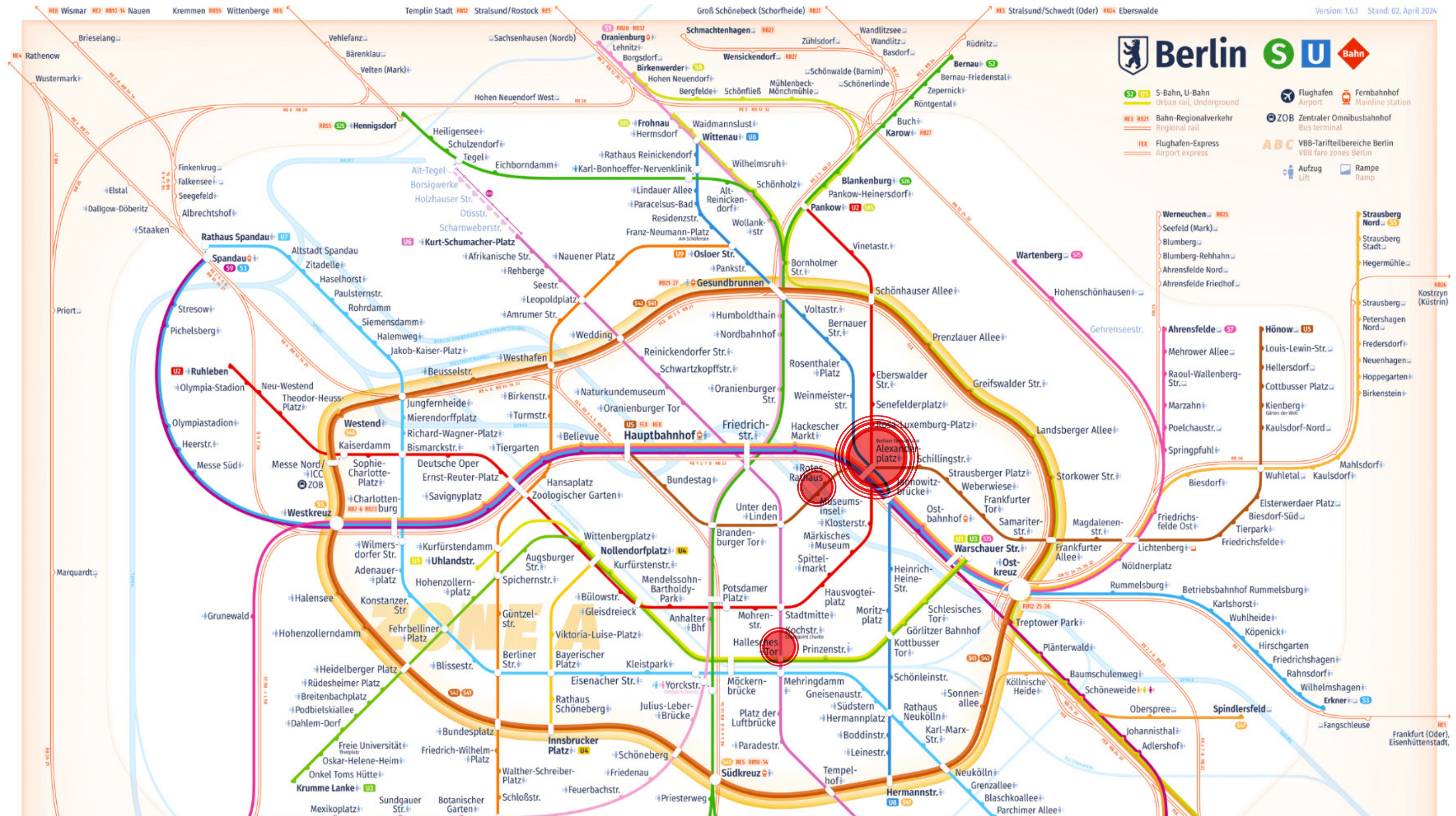
A new opportunity for ZLB



A new opportunity for ZLB



Alexanderplatz will make ZLB more accessible



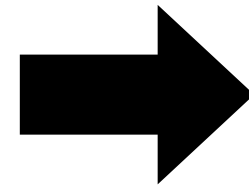
A new opportunity for Alexanderplatz



A new opportunity for Alexanderplatz



Places can change



Places can change

Oslo’s former director of Culture said in 2015:

“Not sure if I would send my grandchildren to Deichman Bjørvika”

Oslo

Oslos tidligere kulturdirektør: Usikker på om jeg vil sende barnebarna mine til Bjørvika

Som sjef i Kulturetaten kjempet Gro Balas (Ap) for nytt hovedbibliotek i Bjørvika. Nå er hun i tvil.



- Når det så kommer et nytt byråd som velger å gå inn i dette, kan jeg ikke annet enn på si at det er fornuftig, sier tidligere kulturdirektør Gro Balas om nye Deichmanske hovedbibliotek, som etter planen skal bygges i Bjørvika. Foto: Borgen Ørn E.

A moment to act



ZLB could give Alexanderplatz a new heart and identity

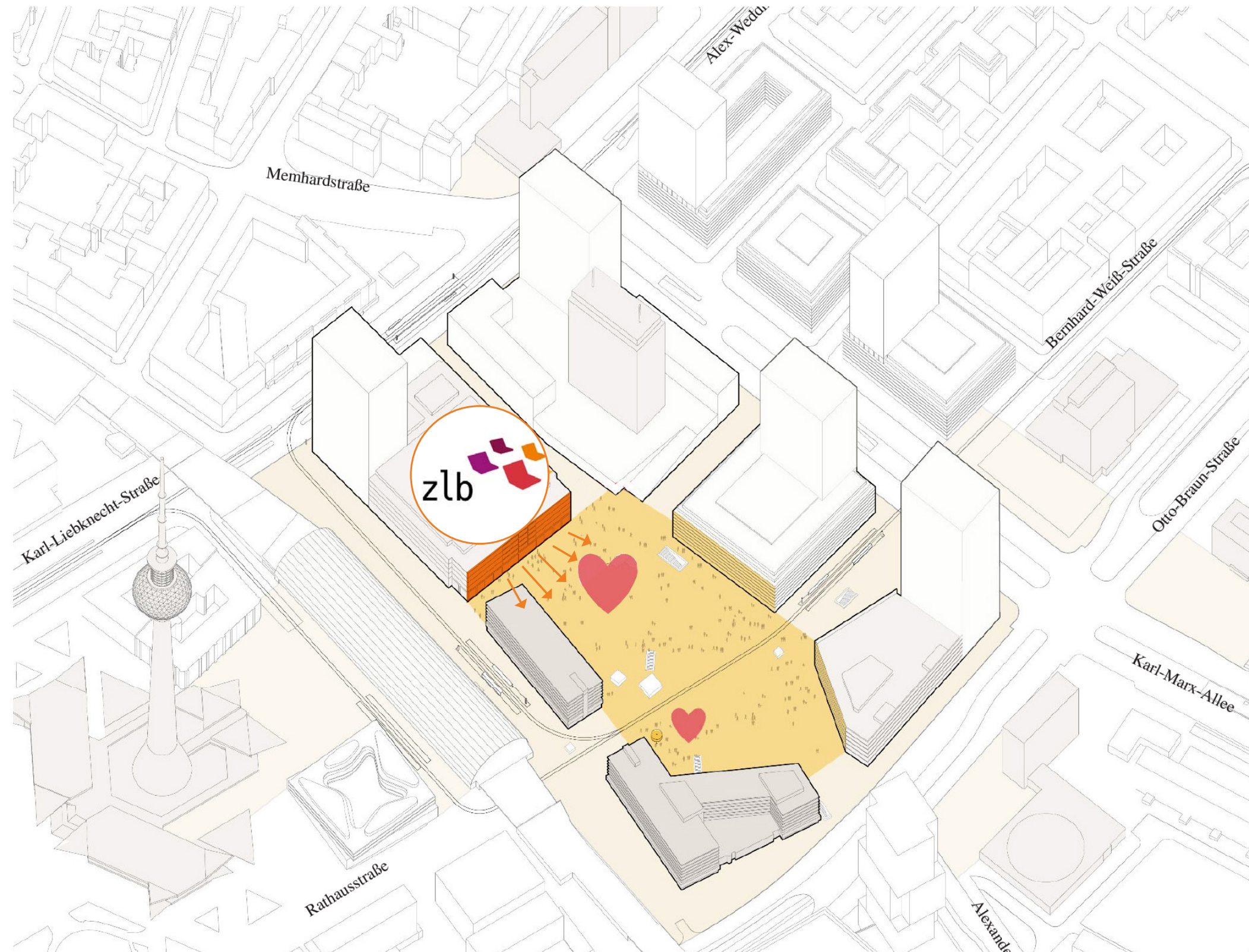


Illustration from Gehl's Placemaking concept

Alexanderplatz could be an extension of the library



Comrades of Extinction installation outside Oodi, Helsinki.



Dance performances outside Deichman Library, Oslo

Alexanderplatz could be an extension of the library



Outdoor library, Brooklyn public library,



New York Public Library, Bryant Park Outdoor Reading Room

Offering places to stay and interact



Outdoor Library, Seoul, South Korea



Outdoor library at Bebelplatz

Offering places to stay and interact



Outdoor library at ZLB Kreuzberg



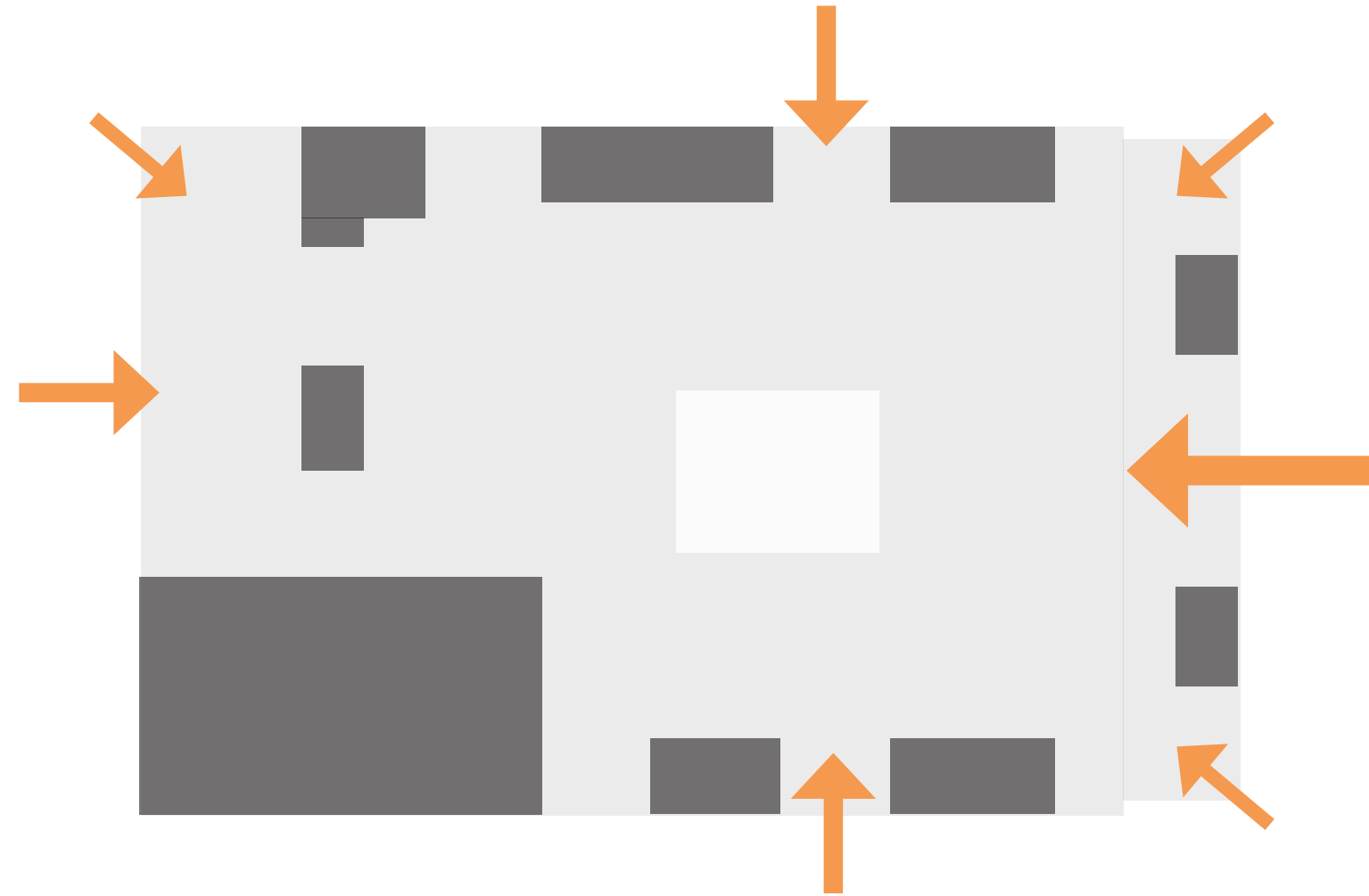
Outdoor event at ZLB Kreuzberg



Galeria — Potential for transformation

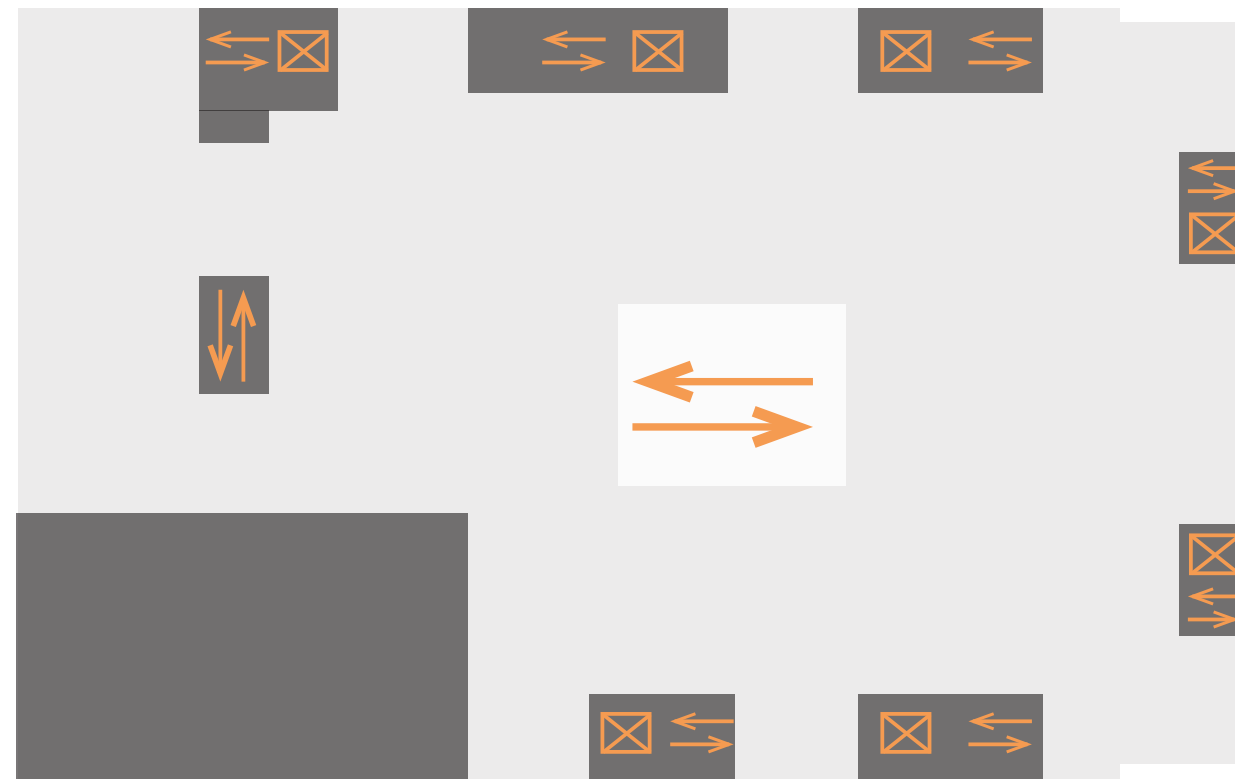


Multiple entry points



Situated at a central urban node with multiple entry points, the building offers strong potential to connect with the public realm.

Flexible circulations systems



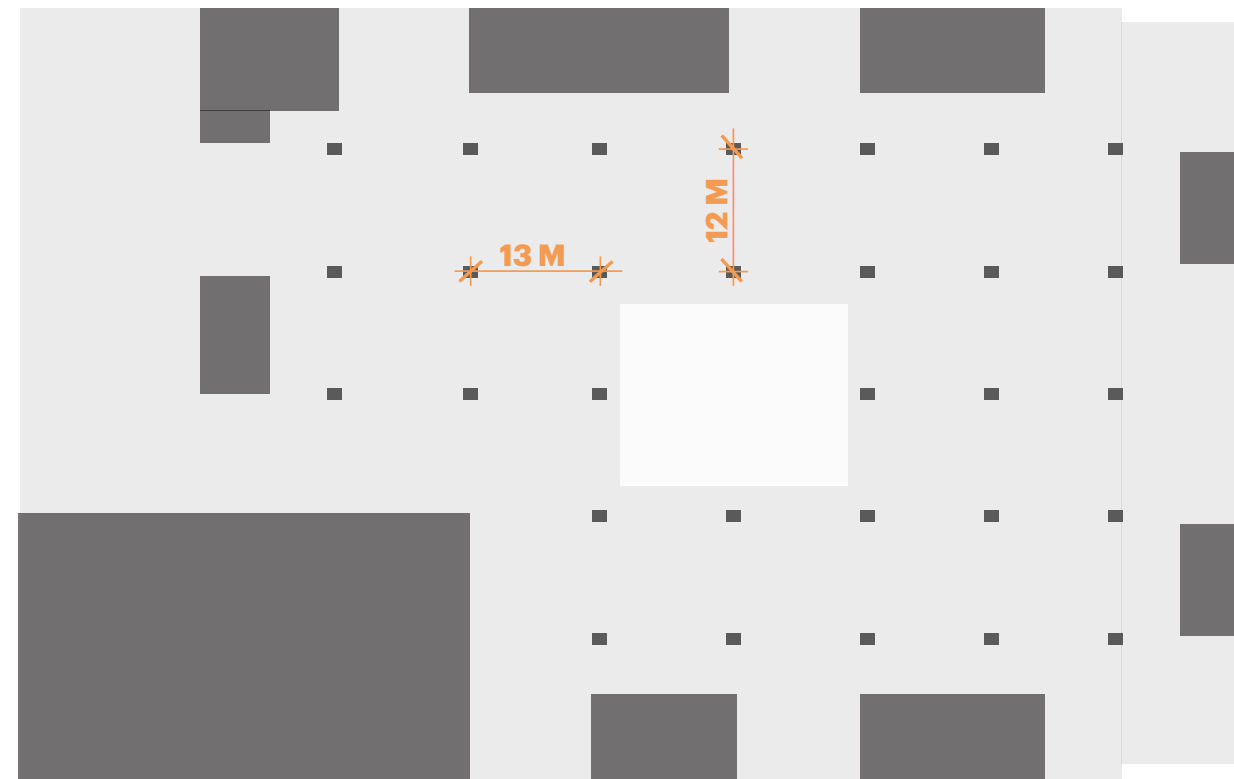
The existing vertical and horizontal circulation cores provide flexibility for reorganizing the interior and accommodating diverse public flows and functions.

Logistic capacity



A dedicated underground delivery zone supports efficient operations, keeping logistics separated from public areas — a key asset for a modern library.

Large open floors with few columns



A structure with large spans allows for flexible programming and spatial diversity — ideal for a multifunctional public library.

Generous ceiling heights



The current ceilings are generous, but there is clear potential to raise them further — enhancing spatial quality, flexibility, and allowing daylight to reach deeper into the interior.

Currently in many areas, 32% of the volume is occupied by technical infrastructure, indicating a significant opportunity for spatial liberation.

Varied views and connection to Berlin



The building's position and height offer the opportunity to frame diverse views of the city — visually connecting the library to Berlin's urban landscape and identity.

Varied views and connection to Berlin



The existing restaurant overlooking Alexanderplatz could be reimaged to work in connection with a future rooftop terrace — forming a coherent public sequence across the upper levels and offering the potential to reuse the existing kitchen infrastructure.

Varied views and connection to Berlin



The building also allows for the creation of a generous rooftop terrace — offering public access to panoramic views over Berlin and creating an attraction that draws visitors through the entire building.

Architectural qualities

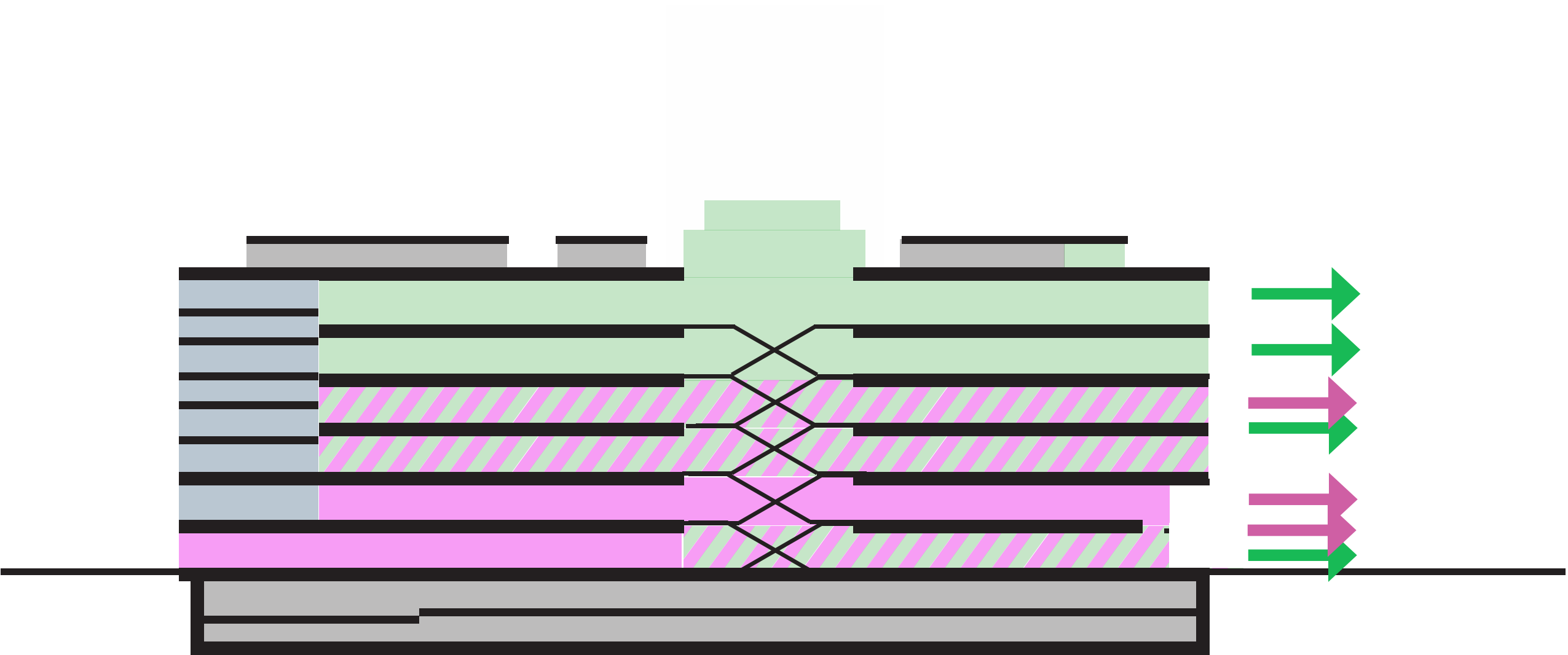


The central atrium is covered by a beautiful dome structure that filters daylight into the space. With its strong spatial identity, it represents a valuable architectural asset in the transformation of the building.

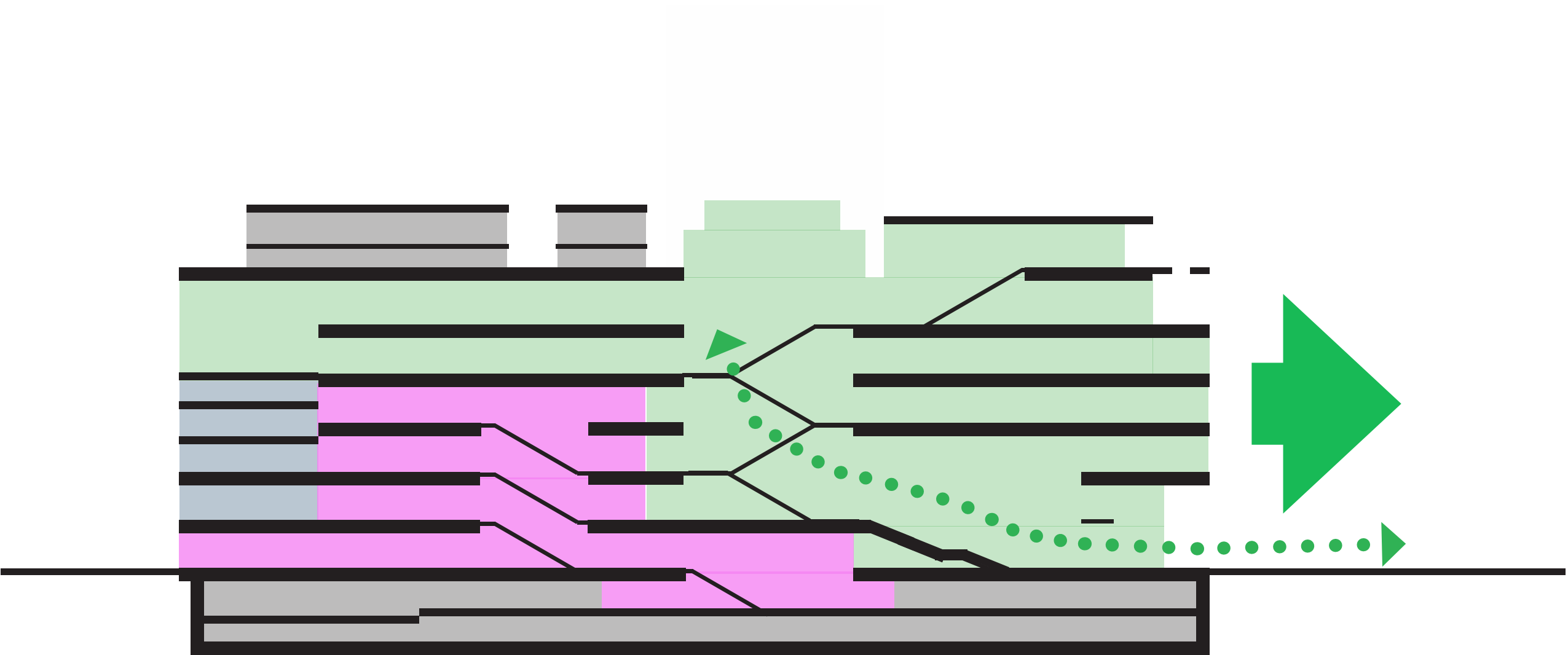


Main interventions

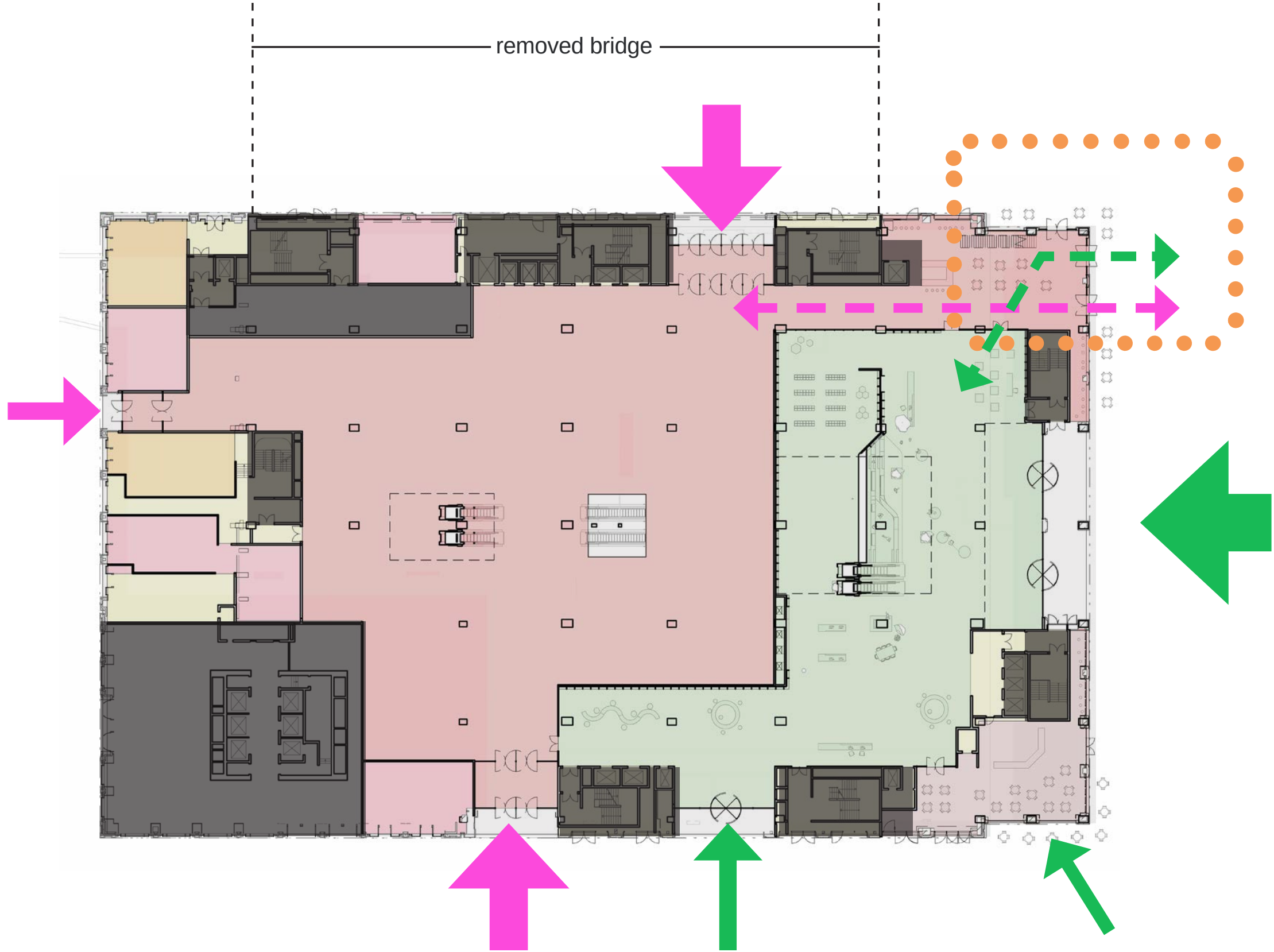
Separate clearly between shopping and library



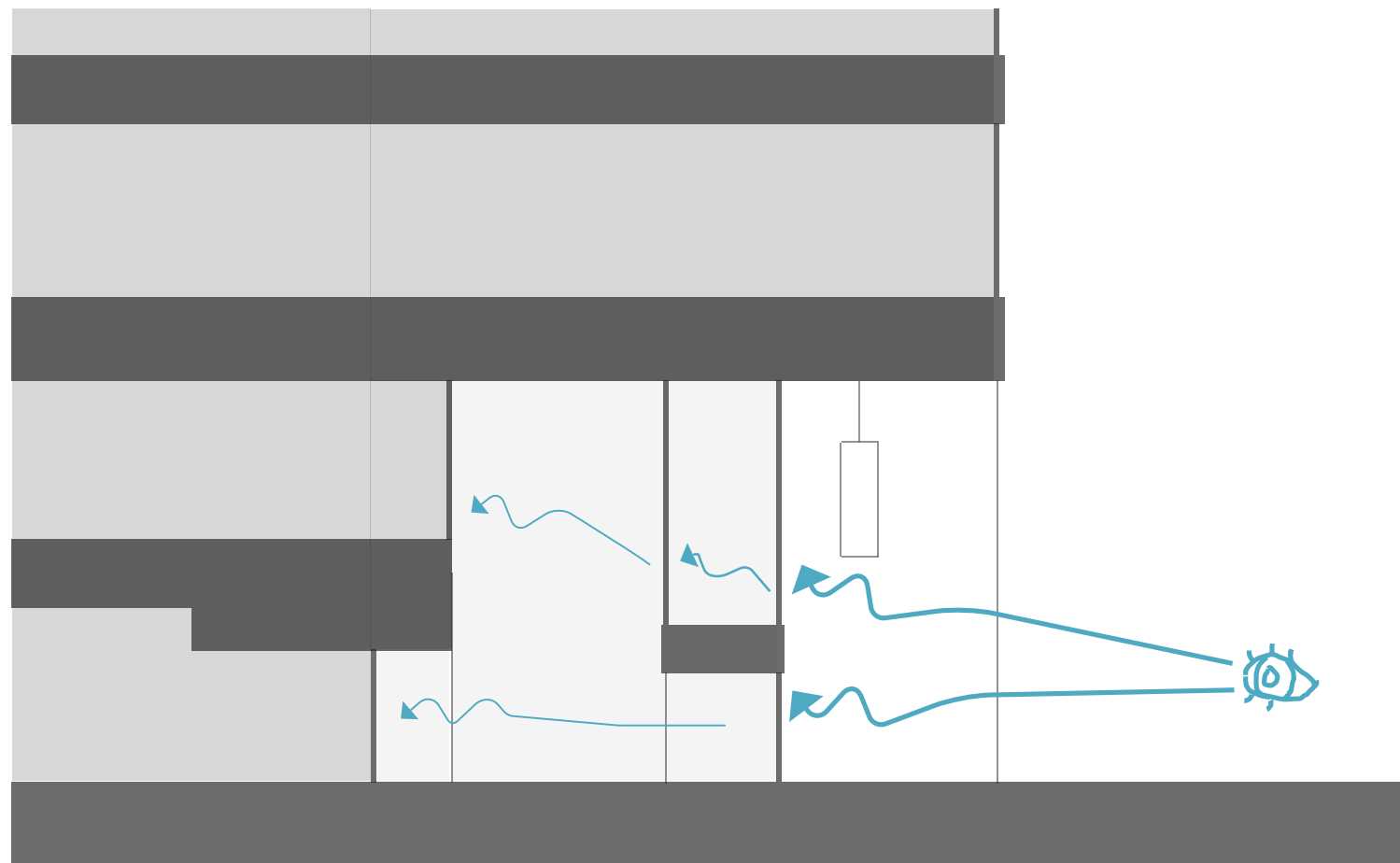
Let the library connect to the square



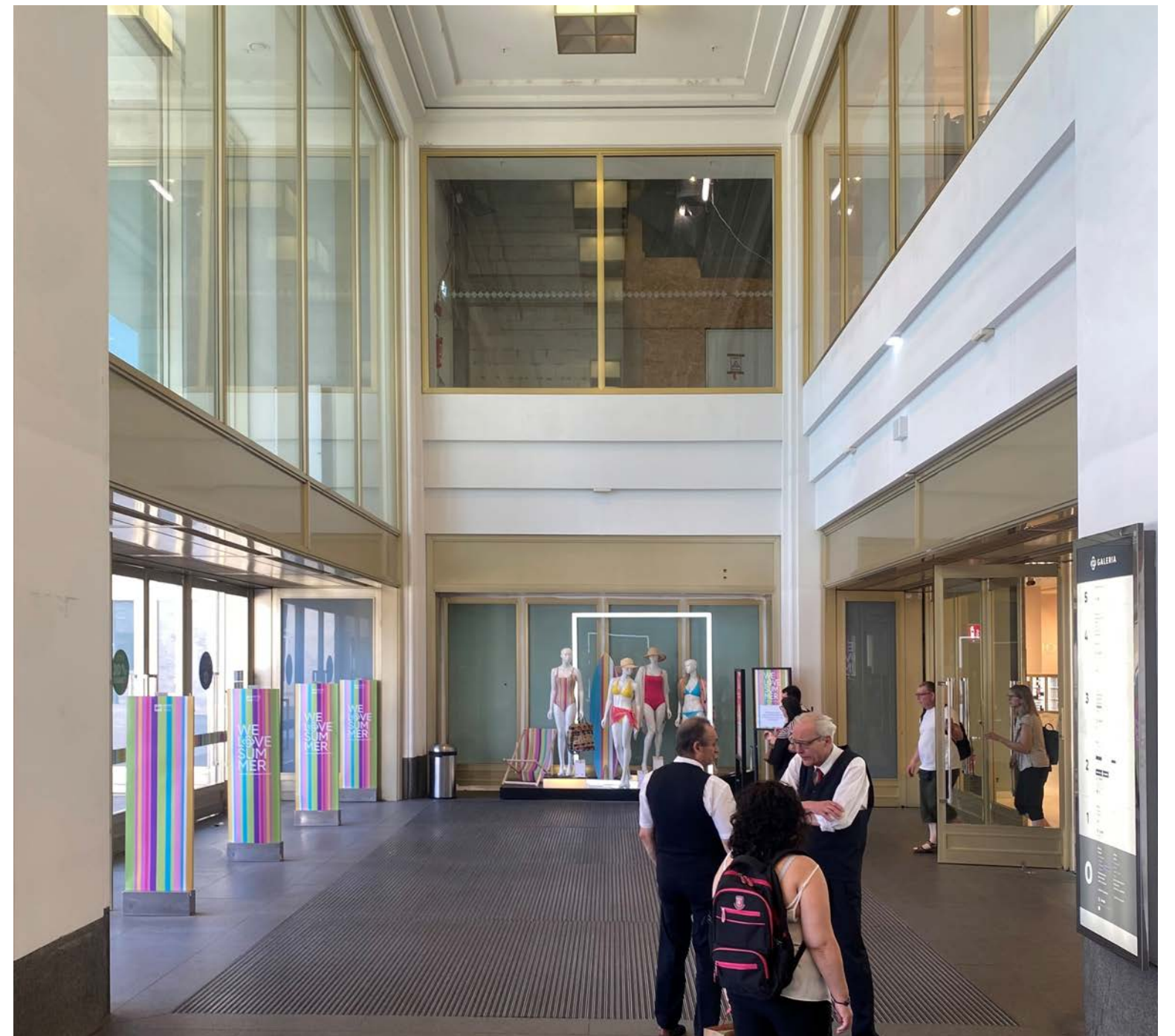
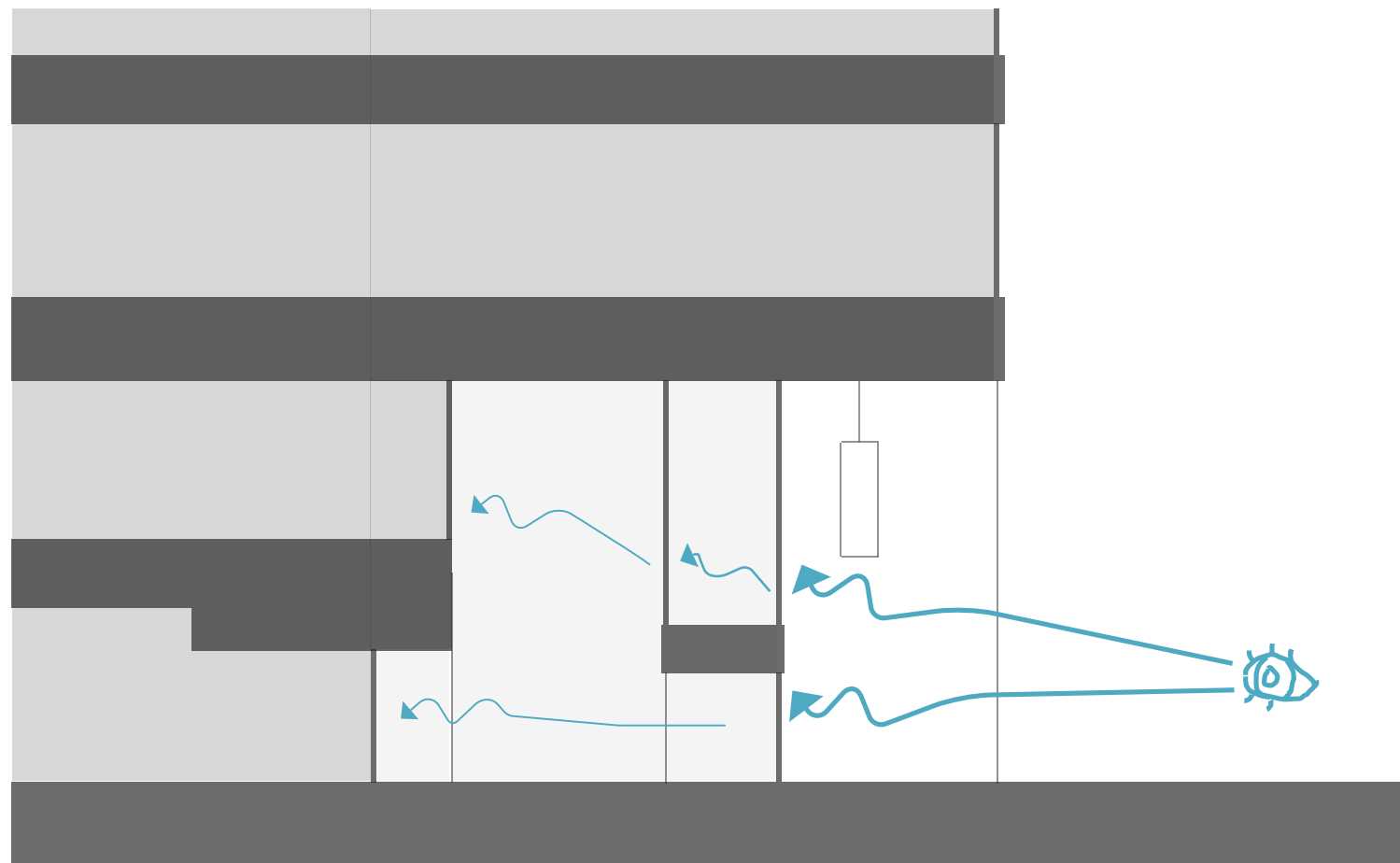
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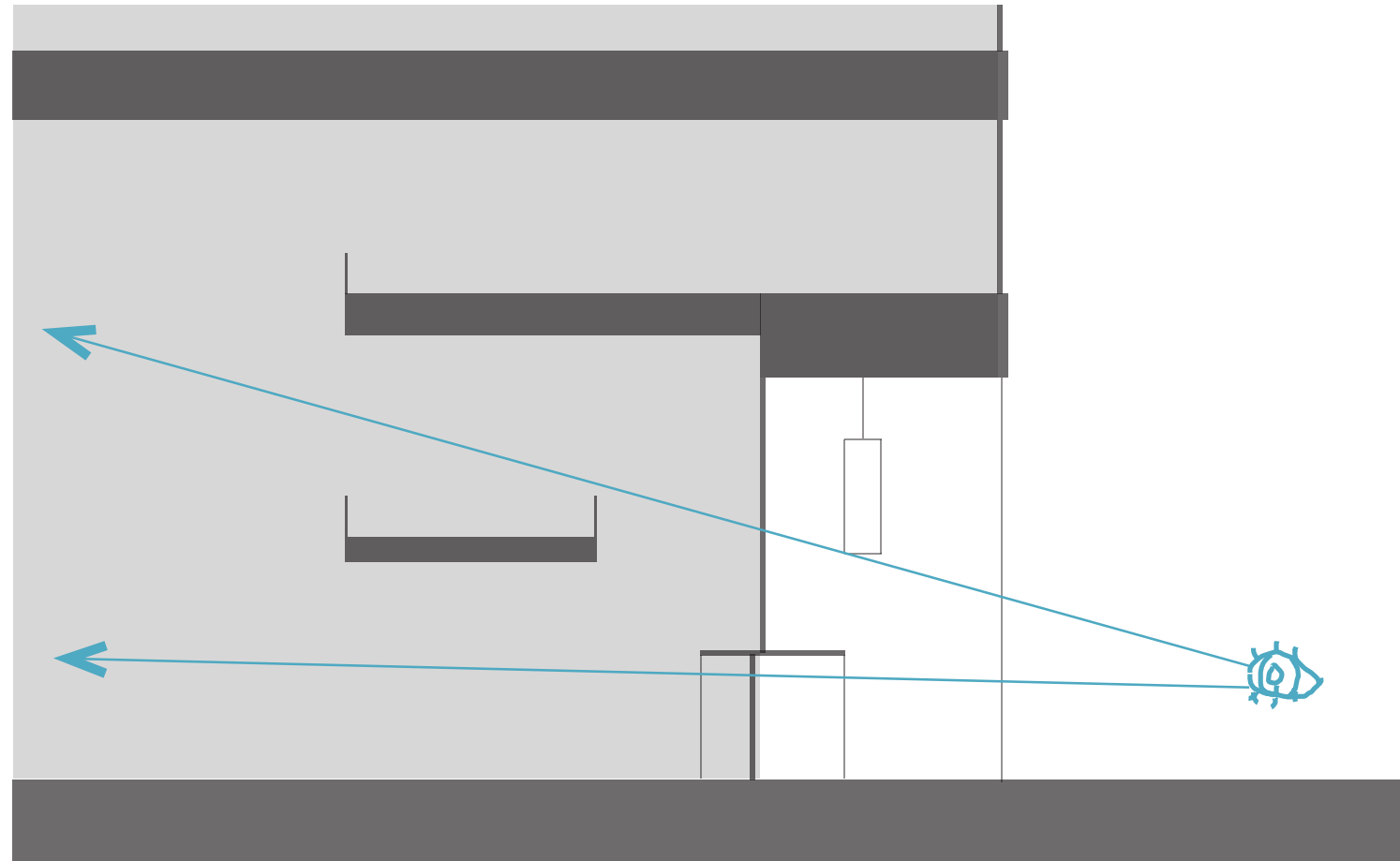
Strengthen the connection to the city



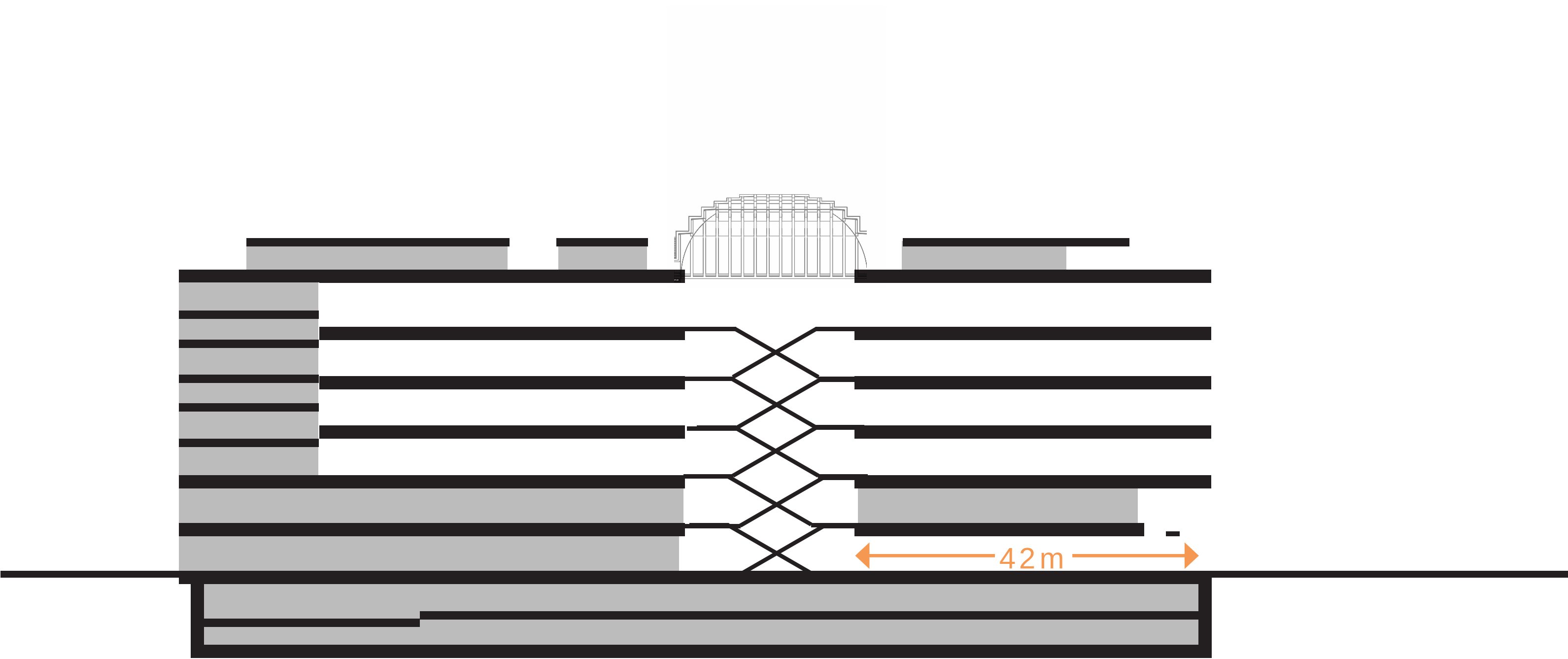
Strengthen the connection to the city



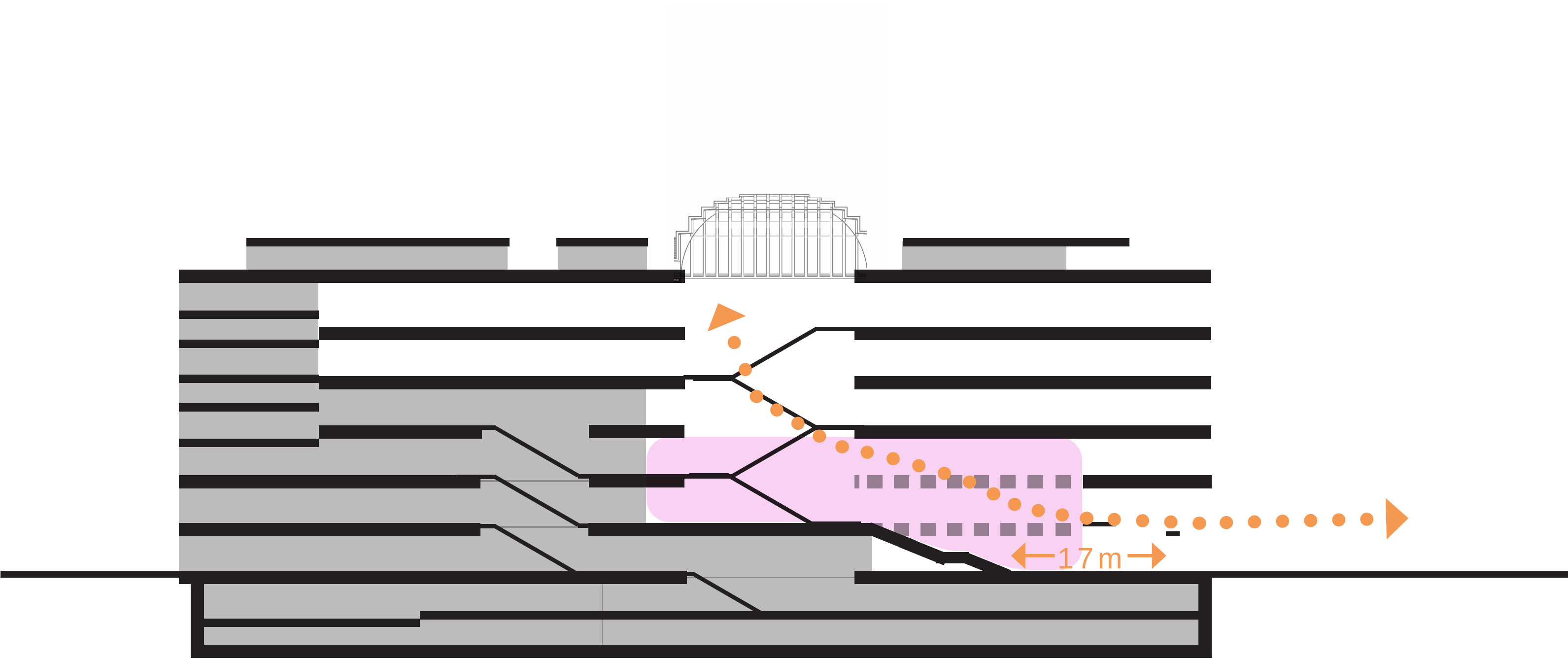
Strengthen the connection to the city



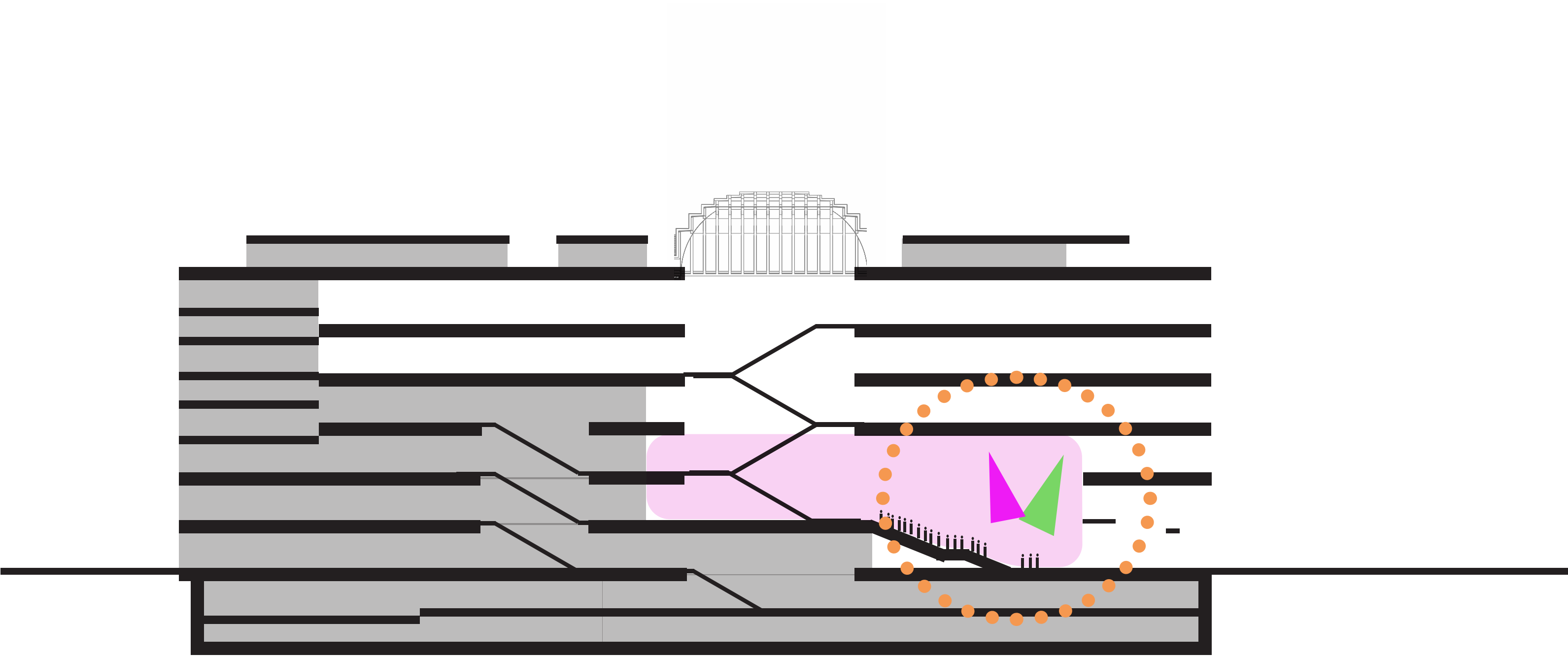
Extend the public realm into the library



Extend the public realm into the library

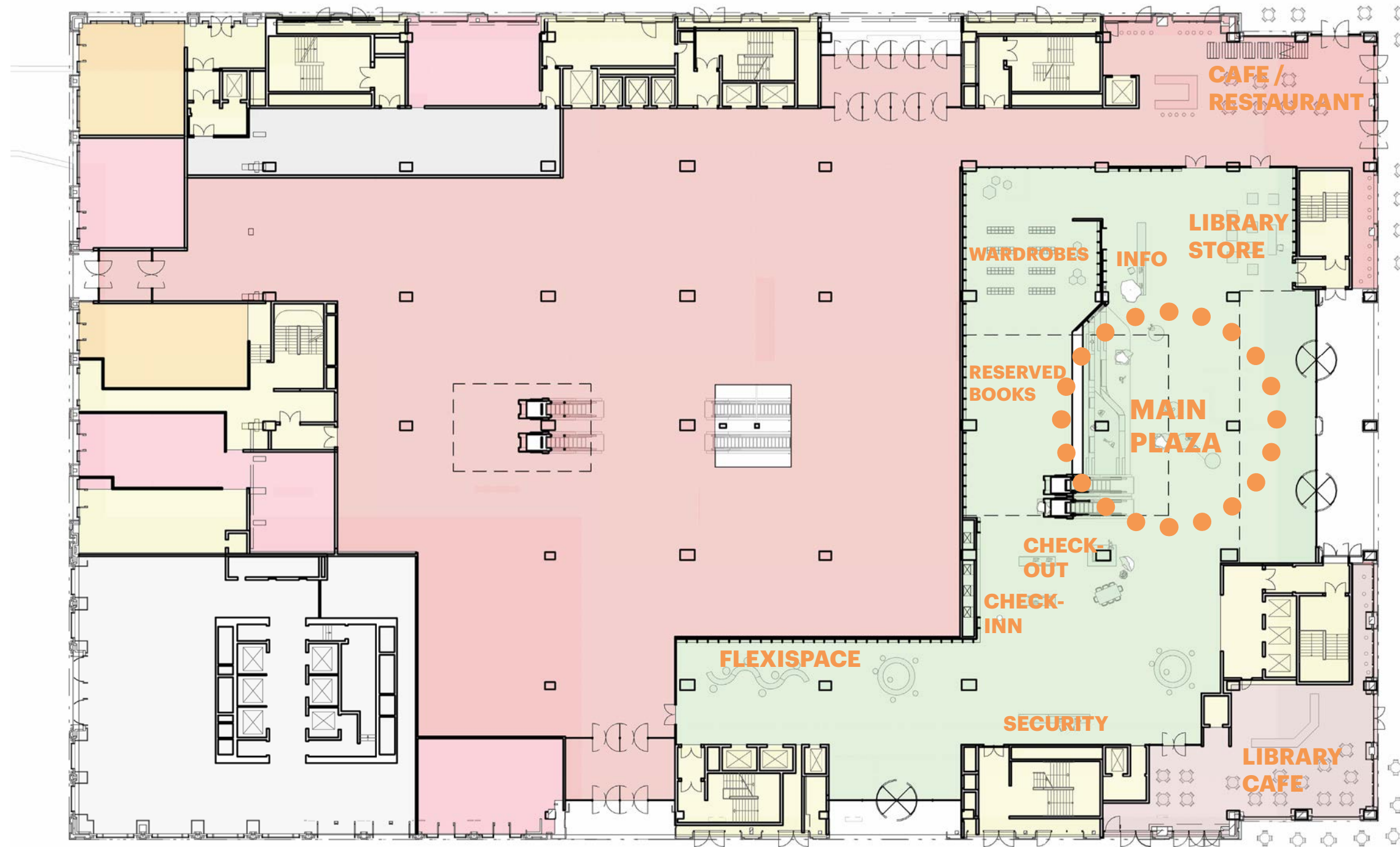


Extend the public realm into the library





Creating an indoor plaza for multiple events and use



Creating an indoor plaza for multiple events and use



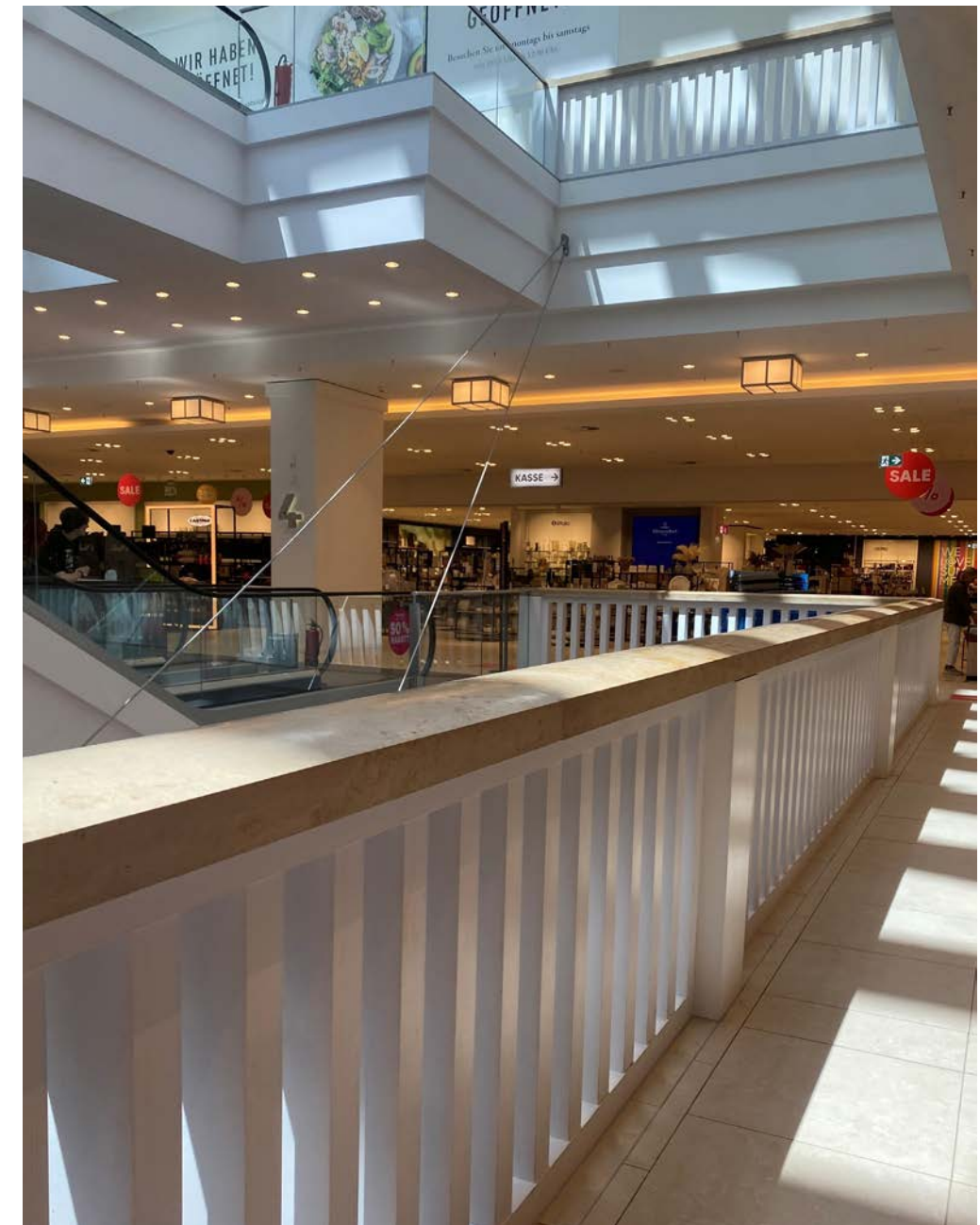
Give the building a new identity



Give the building a new identity



Connecting the floors



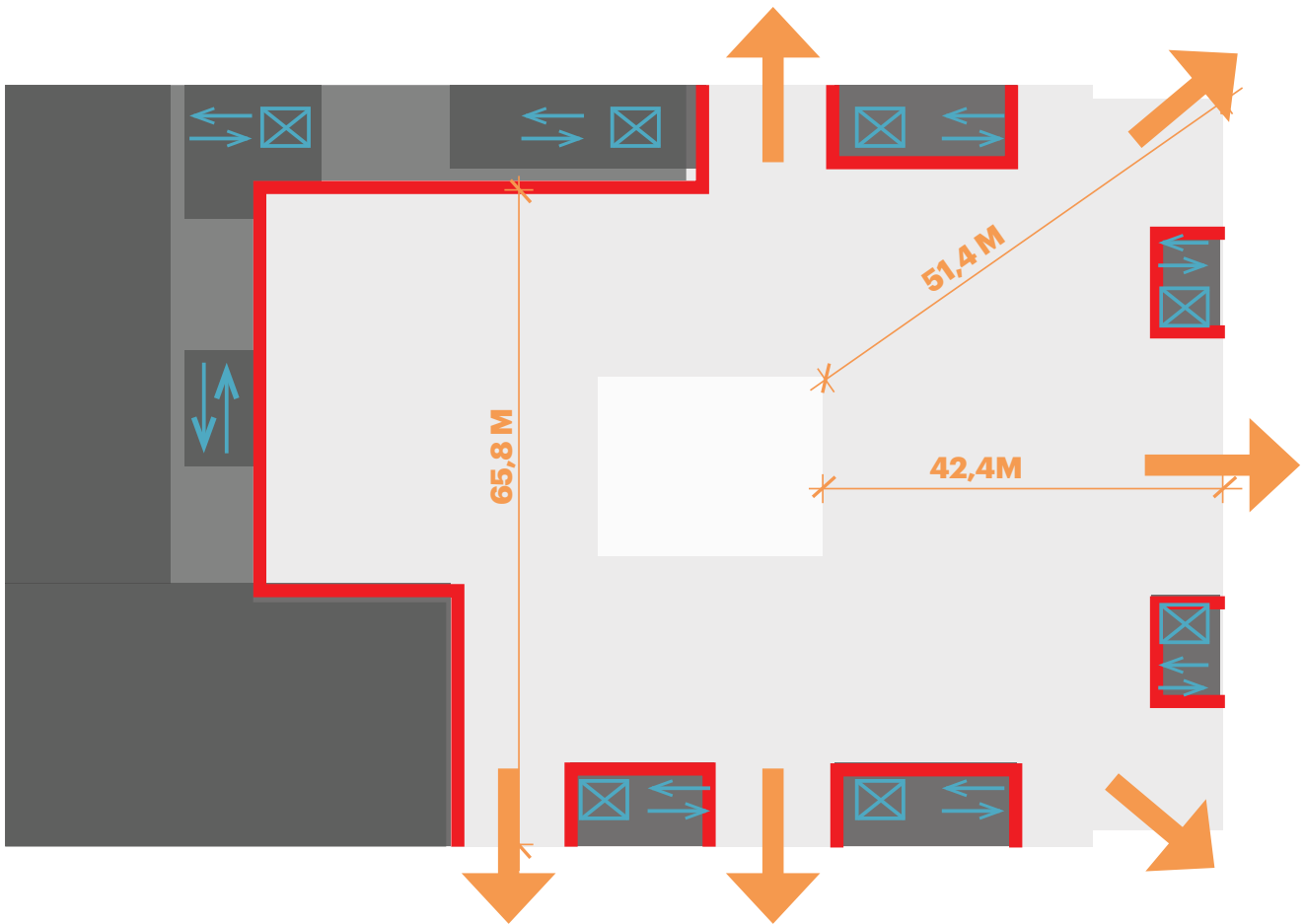
Connecting the floors



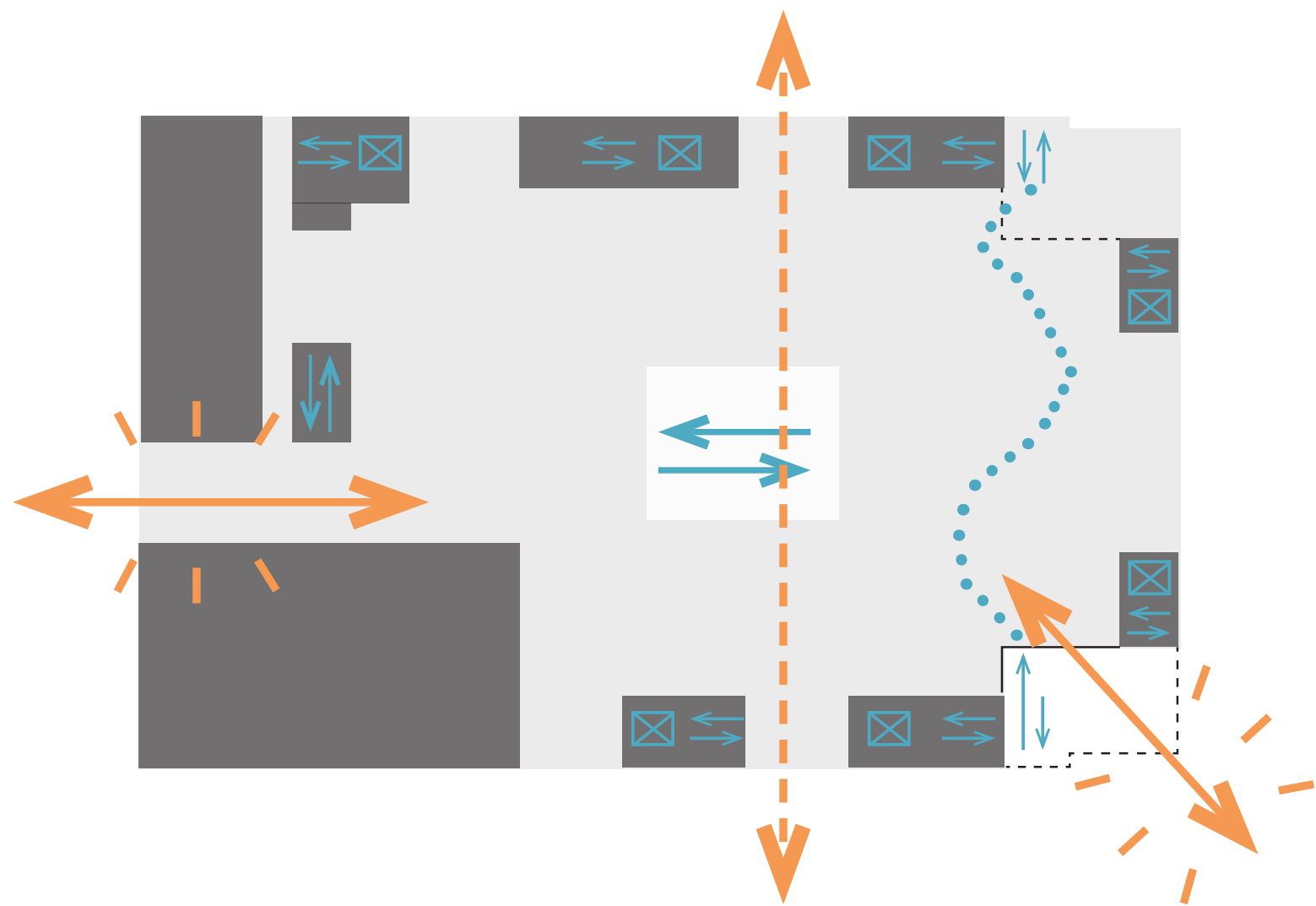
Connecting the floors



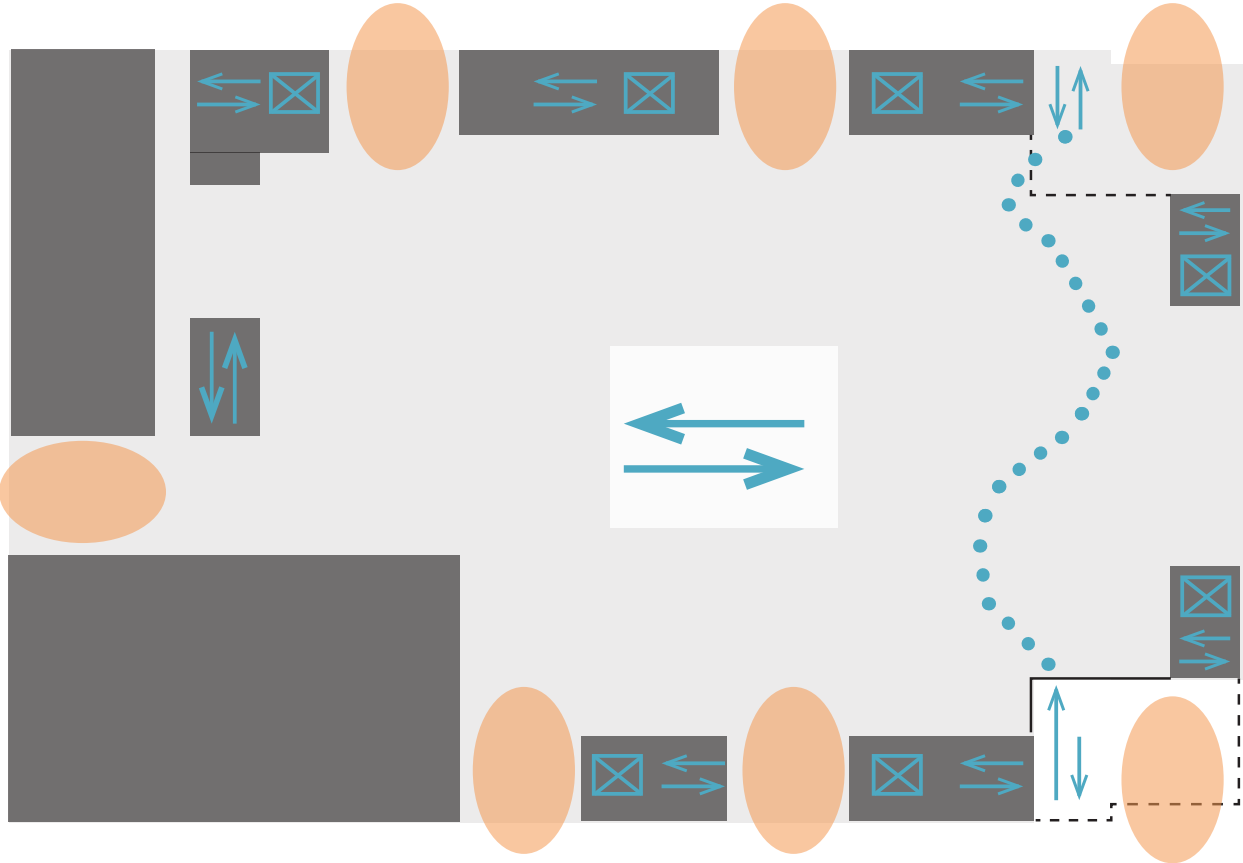
Maximising daylight and views



Maximising daylight and views



Maximising daylight and views



Maximising daylight and views



Creating zones with different atmospheres



Creating zones with different atmospheres



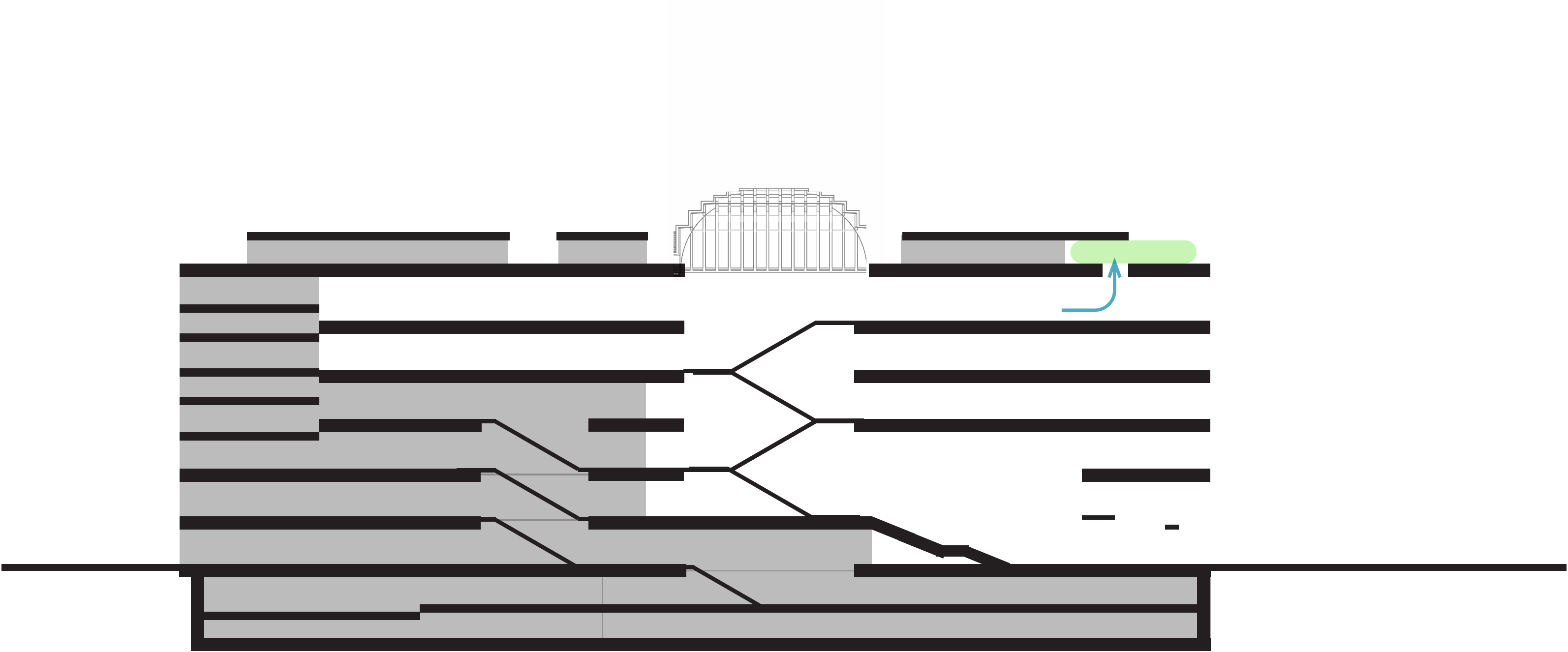
Creating diverse spatial connections



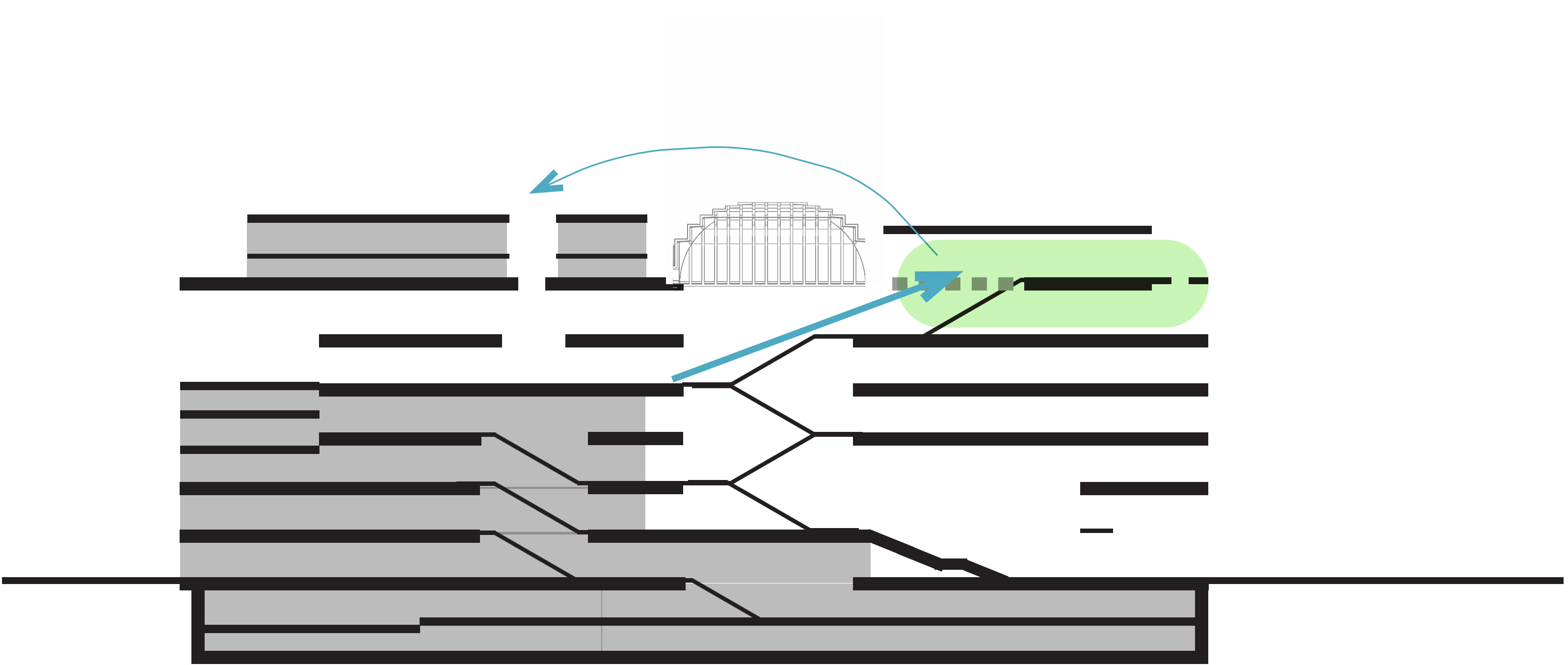
Creating diverse spatial connections



Create an attraction



Create an attraction - an urban oasis





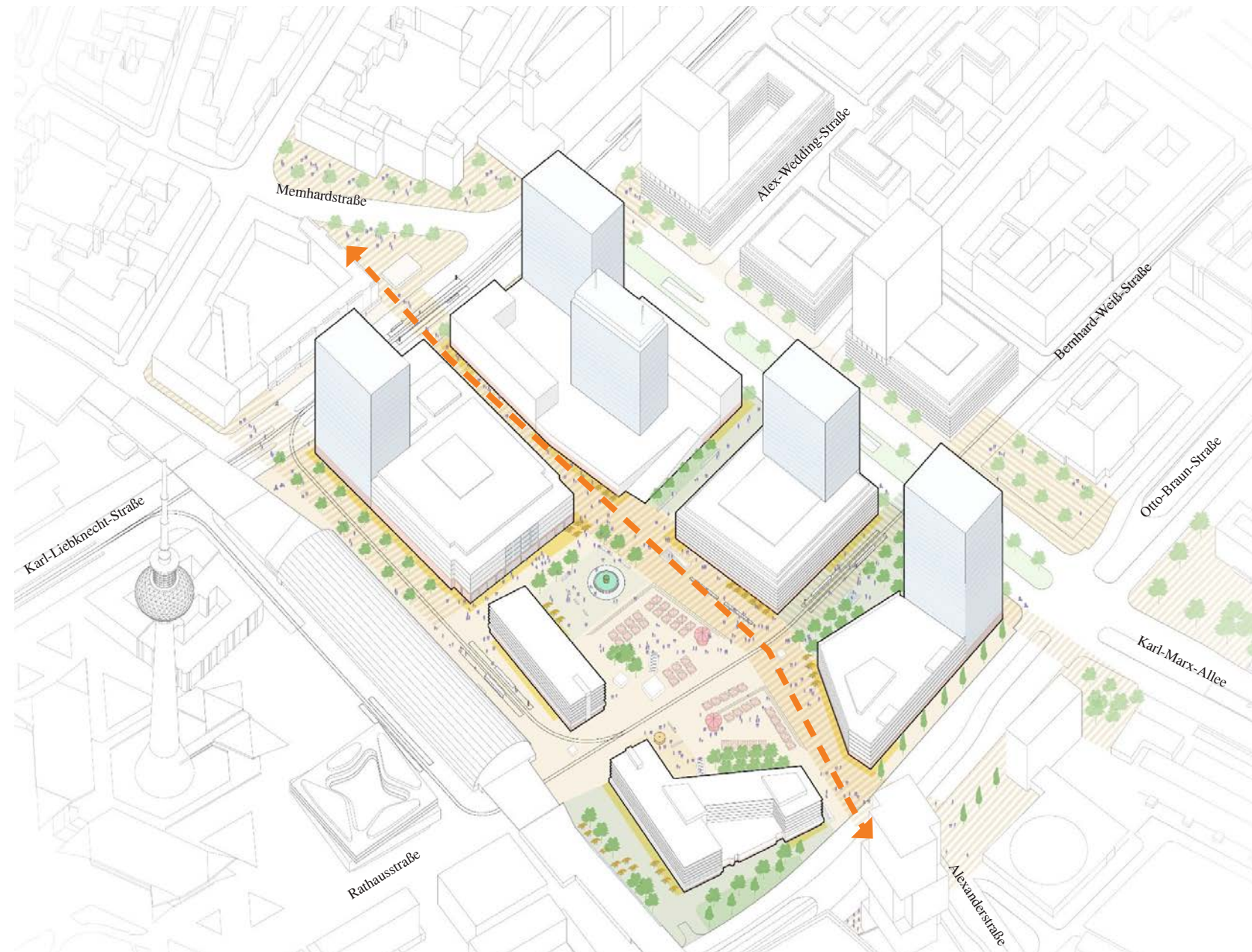




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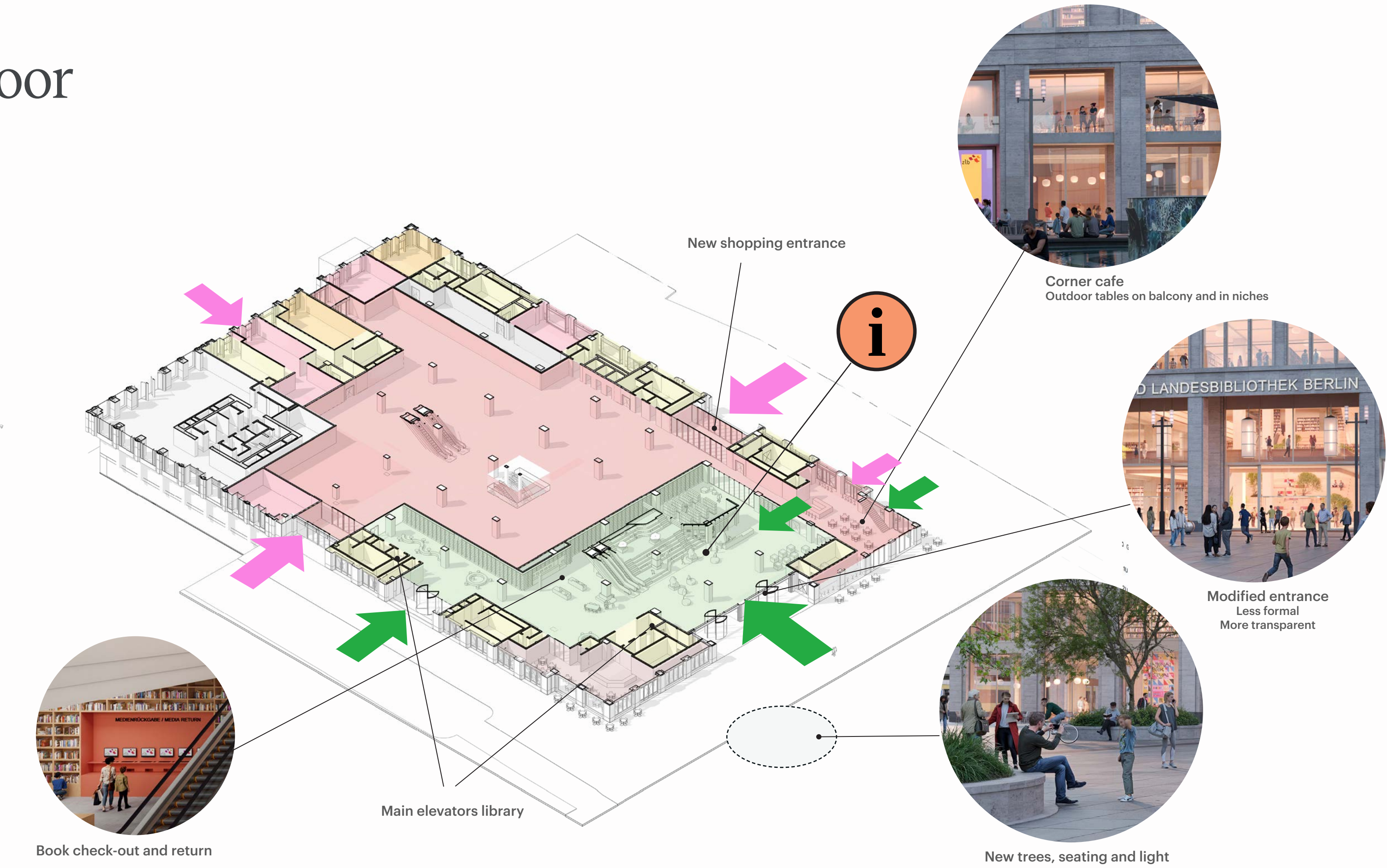
New connections



Strengthening the public realm



Ground floor



Ground floor



New shopping entrance



Corner cafe
Outdoor tables on balcony and in niches



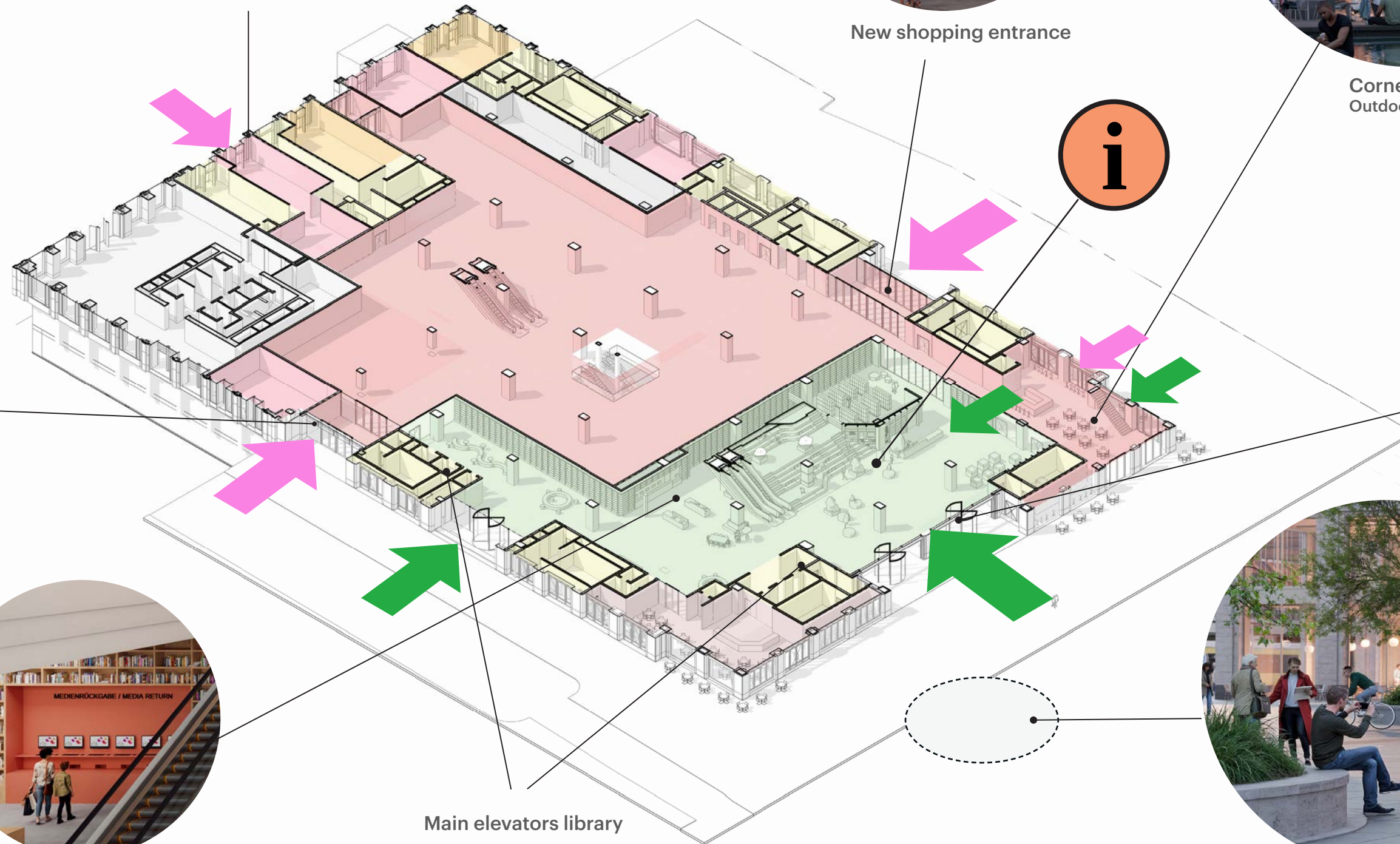
Book check-out and return



Modified entrance
Less formal
More transparent



New trees, seating and light



1st floor



Workhop



Young learning



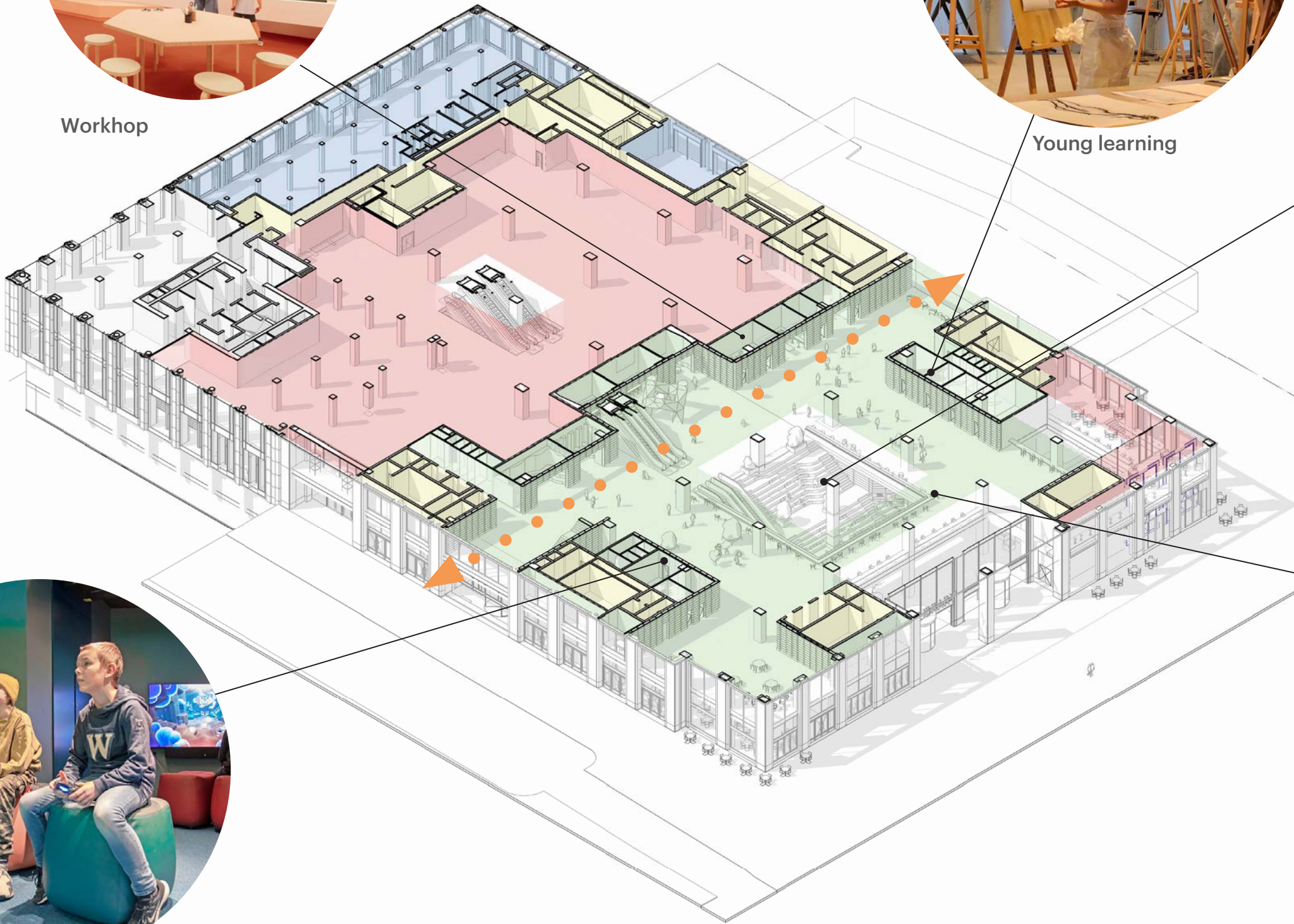
Amphi stair
Informal hang out Flex arena



New edges
Reading places with views



Childrens area



2nd floor



Makespace



Exhibition space
Connection to existing atrium



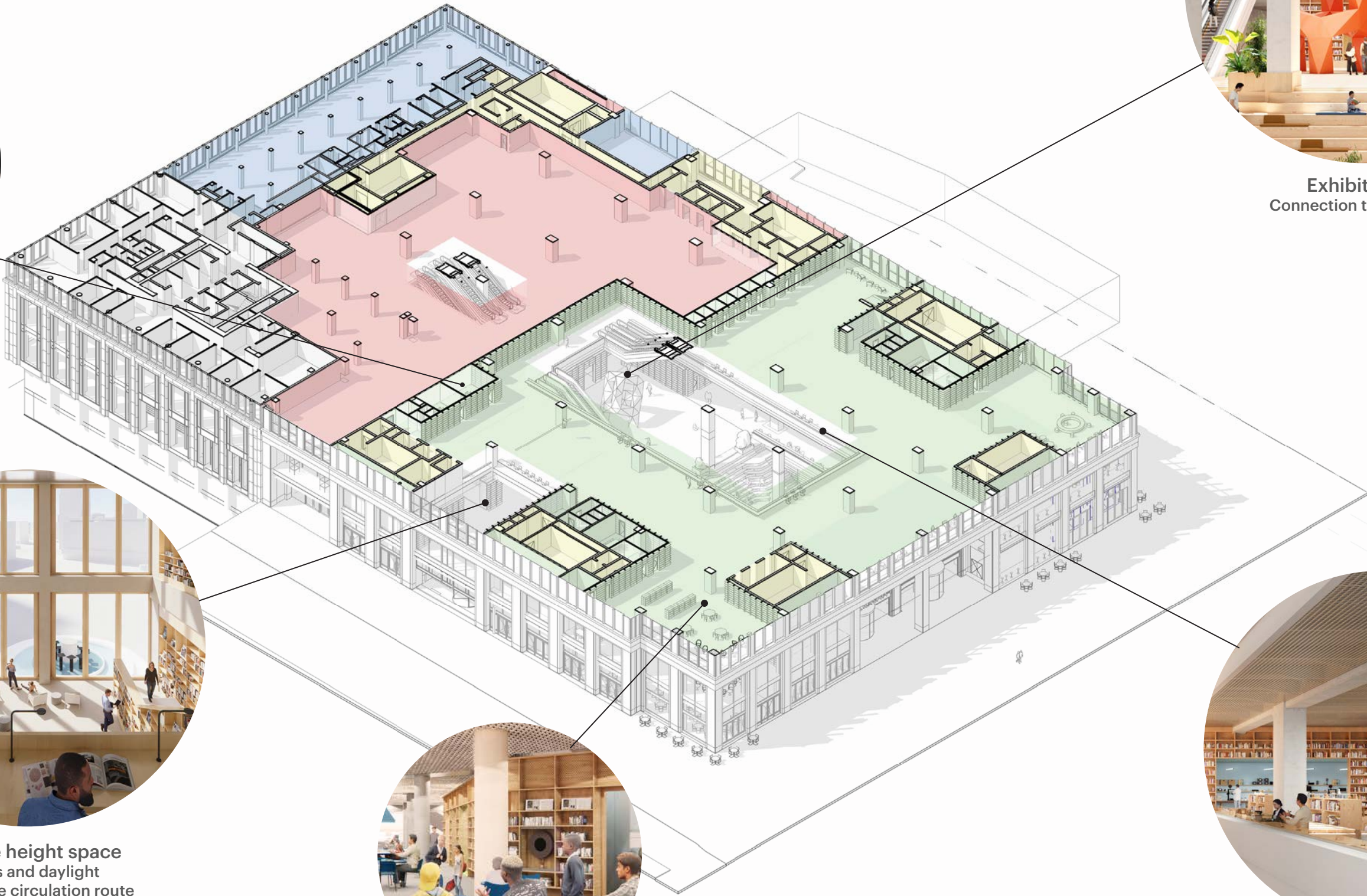
Double height space
Views and daylight
Alternative circulation route



Youth corner



New edges
Reading places with views





3rd floor



Study cells



Modified atrium
More daylight and views
Reading places with views



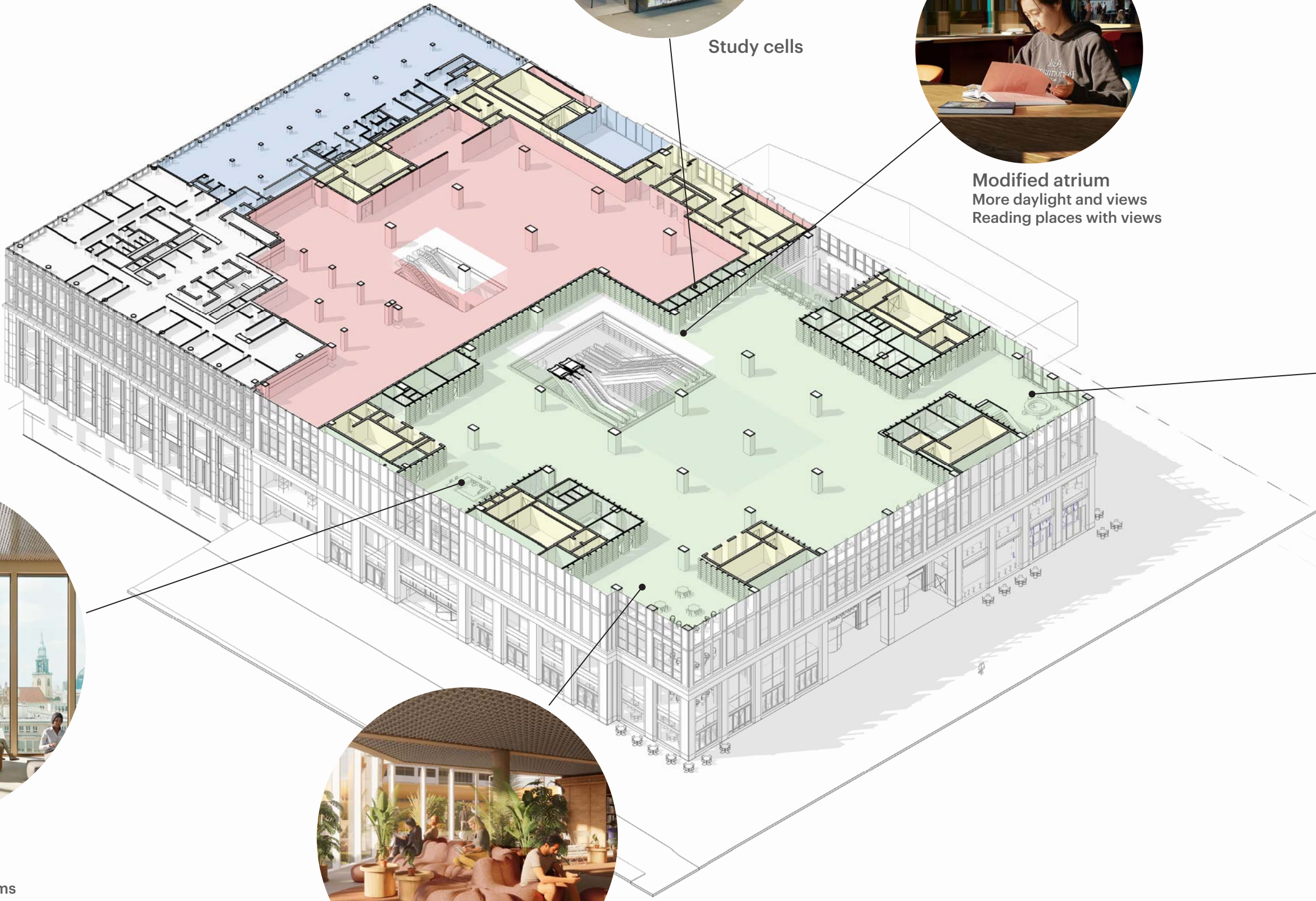
Double height space
Views and daylight
Alternative circulationroute



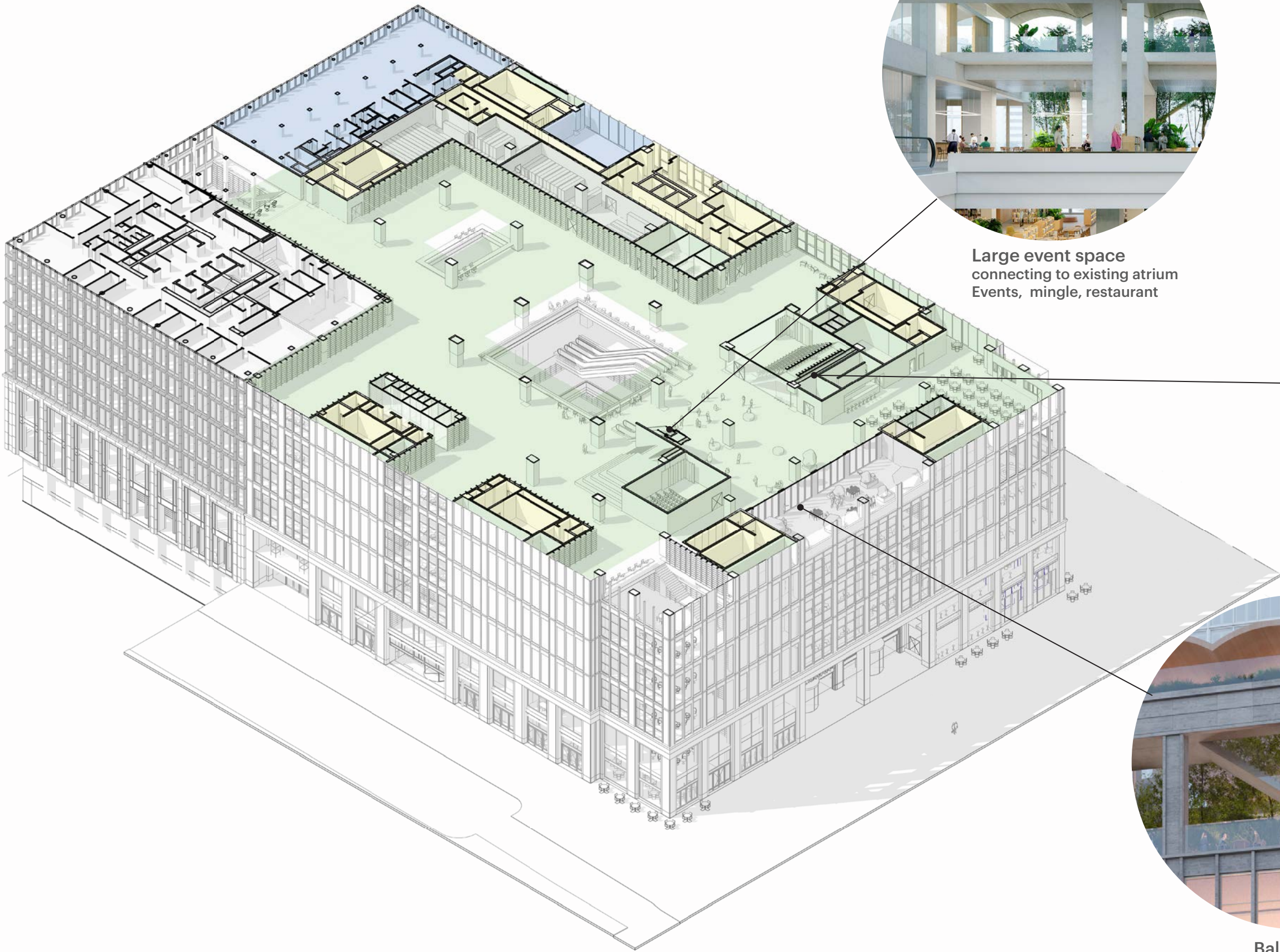
Panoramic lounge
Views and daylight
Placement of larger rooms



Corner lounge
Reading places with views



5th floor



Large event space
connecting to existing atrium
Events, mingle, restaurant



Big theatre hall
Events
Debates



Balcony
Connected to restaurant
Views to Alexanderplatz





4th floor



New connection to west
Daylight and views
Sunset lounge
Alternative circulation route



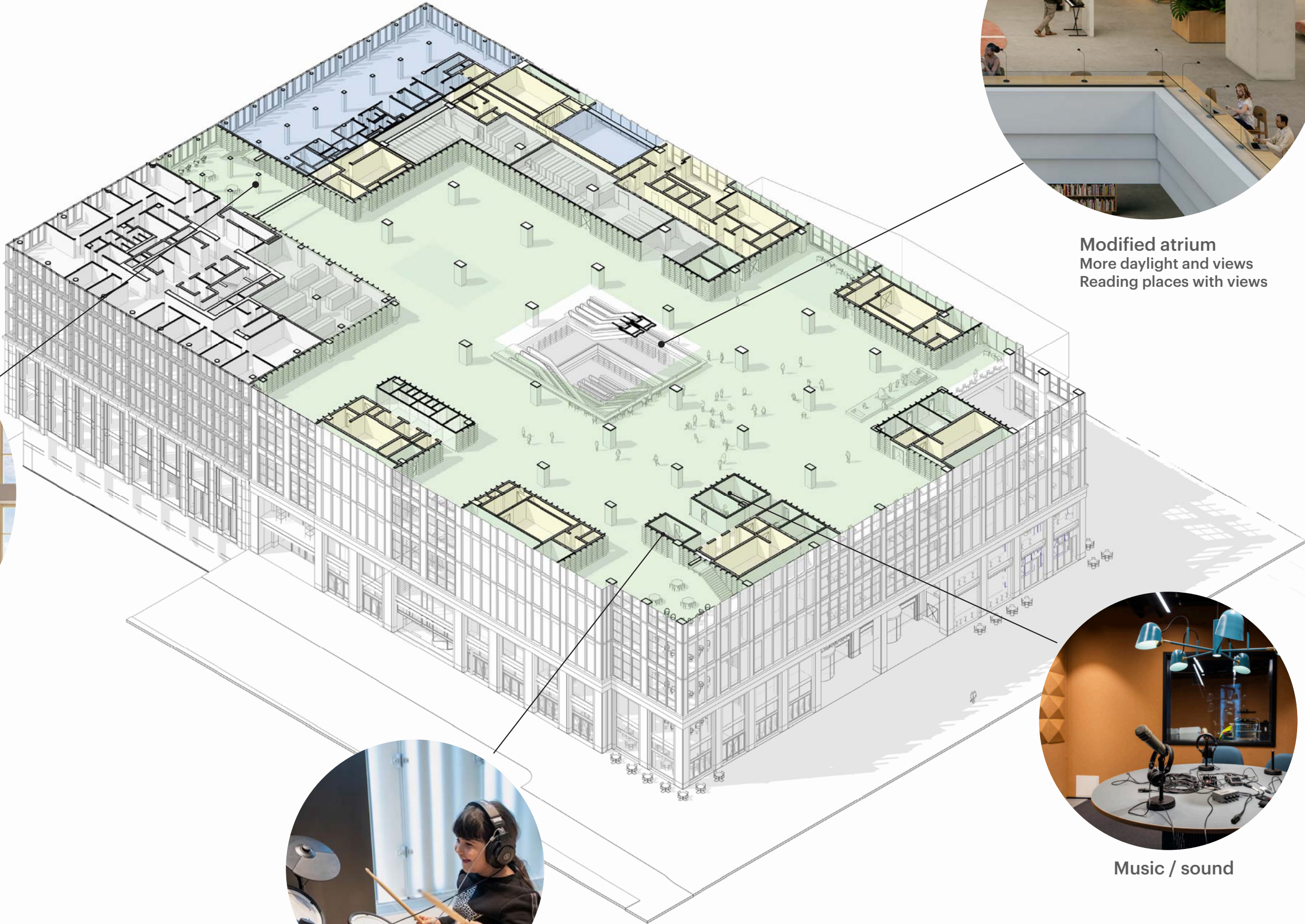
Modified atrium
More daylight and views
Reading places with views



Music / sound



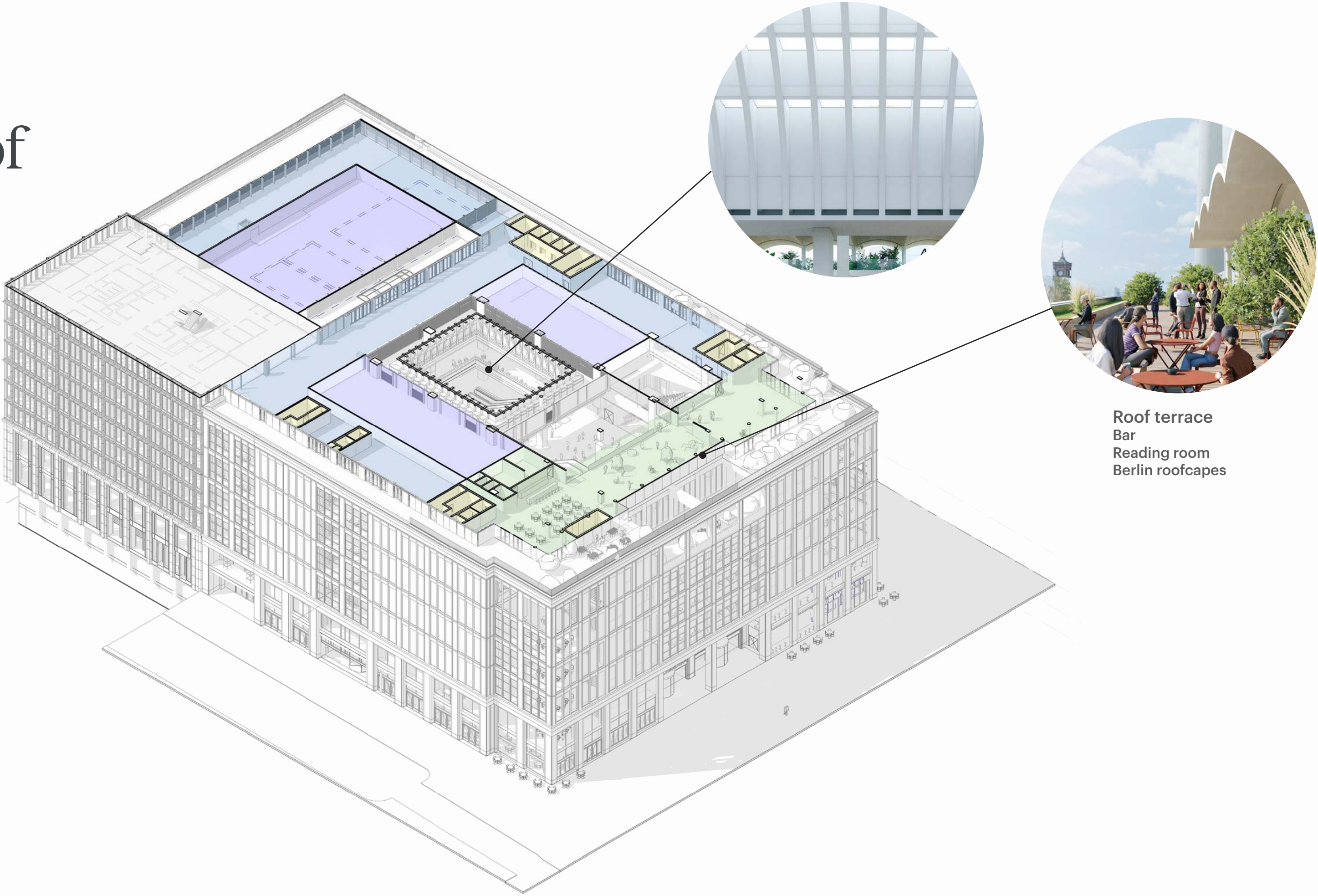
Music / sound



4
15
19
10
20



6th floor / roof



Roof terrace
Bar
Reading room
Berlin roofcapes



Development through collaboration





C&A

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Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin



Thank you - Vielen dank!

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