



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this project was to design a Waldorf preschool which would be located in Bulovka, Prague 8 - Libeň. Waldorf education is based on the writings of Rudolf Steiner who advocated experiential, developmentally appropriate, approach to education.

This education, based on an understanding of the development of human individuality, offers protection and respect for the dignity of childhood.

This developmental approach entails educating the "whole" student. Hands-on experience is crucial to the curriculum, and creativity of any sort is encouraged. Because of their focus on nature, the Waldorf School needed to be built of natural materials, be well integrated with the site and supportive of the many indoor and outdoor activities the students and teachers partake in. Because of the importance of nature, a rooftop garden was designed as well as the outdoor activities area with a playground. The design needed to be organic, reaching out into the site to provide the views of the outdoors.

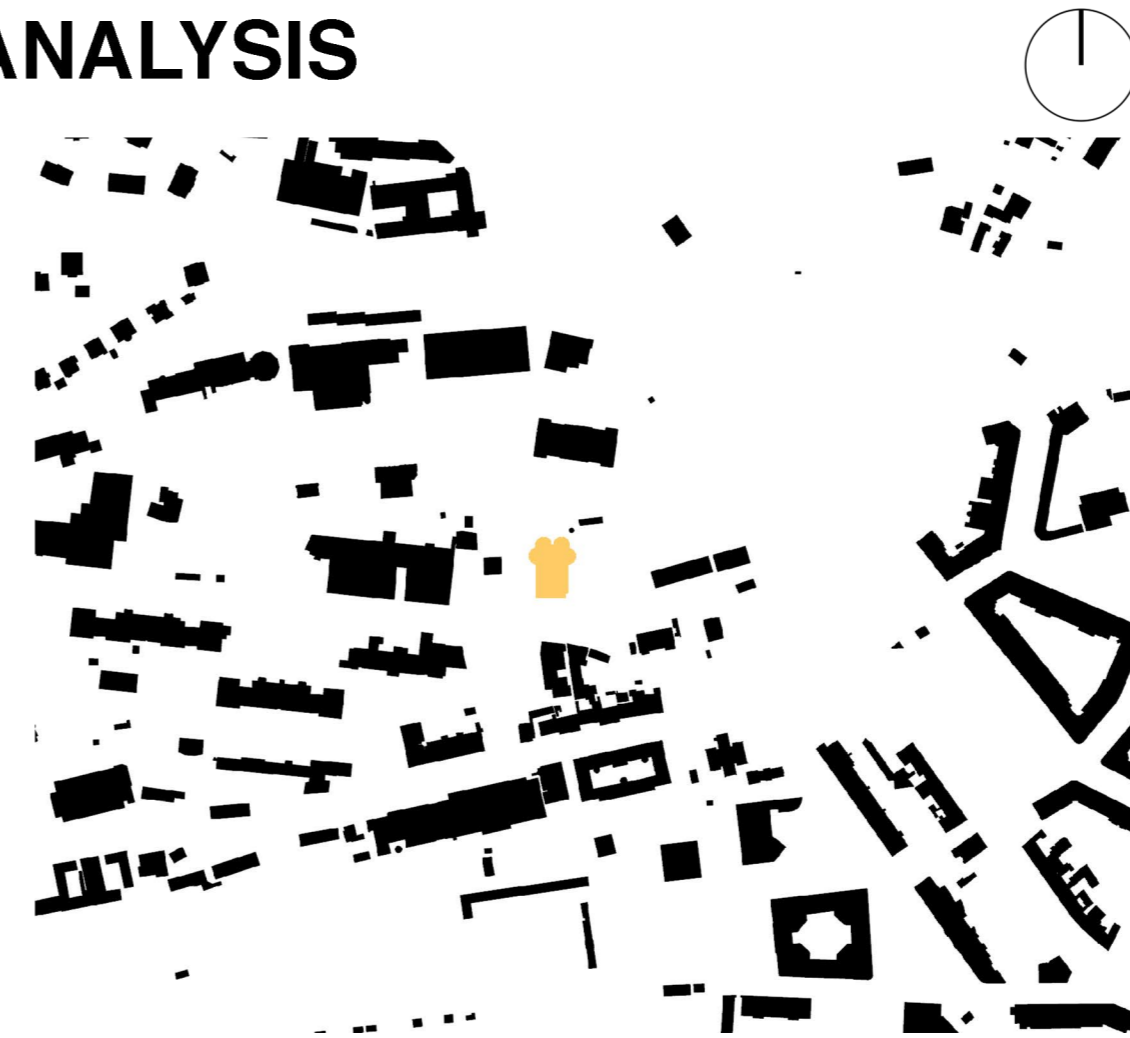
The form of the building nurtures important elements in a child's development by creating spaces in which to further everyday experiences within the ordered central spaces. The organic shape of the classroom areas follow the design principles of Waldorf education.

VISION STATEMENT

Waldorf schools exercise the body, the soul and the mind. The body learns through exercise, the soul learns through relationships and connections, the mind learns in a way that is not directly connected any physical or emotional experience, as in the realm of pure thought. It is vital to have a design that lets the child explore their body, soul and mind.



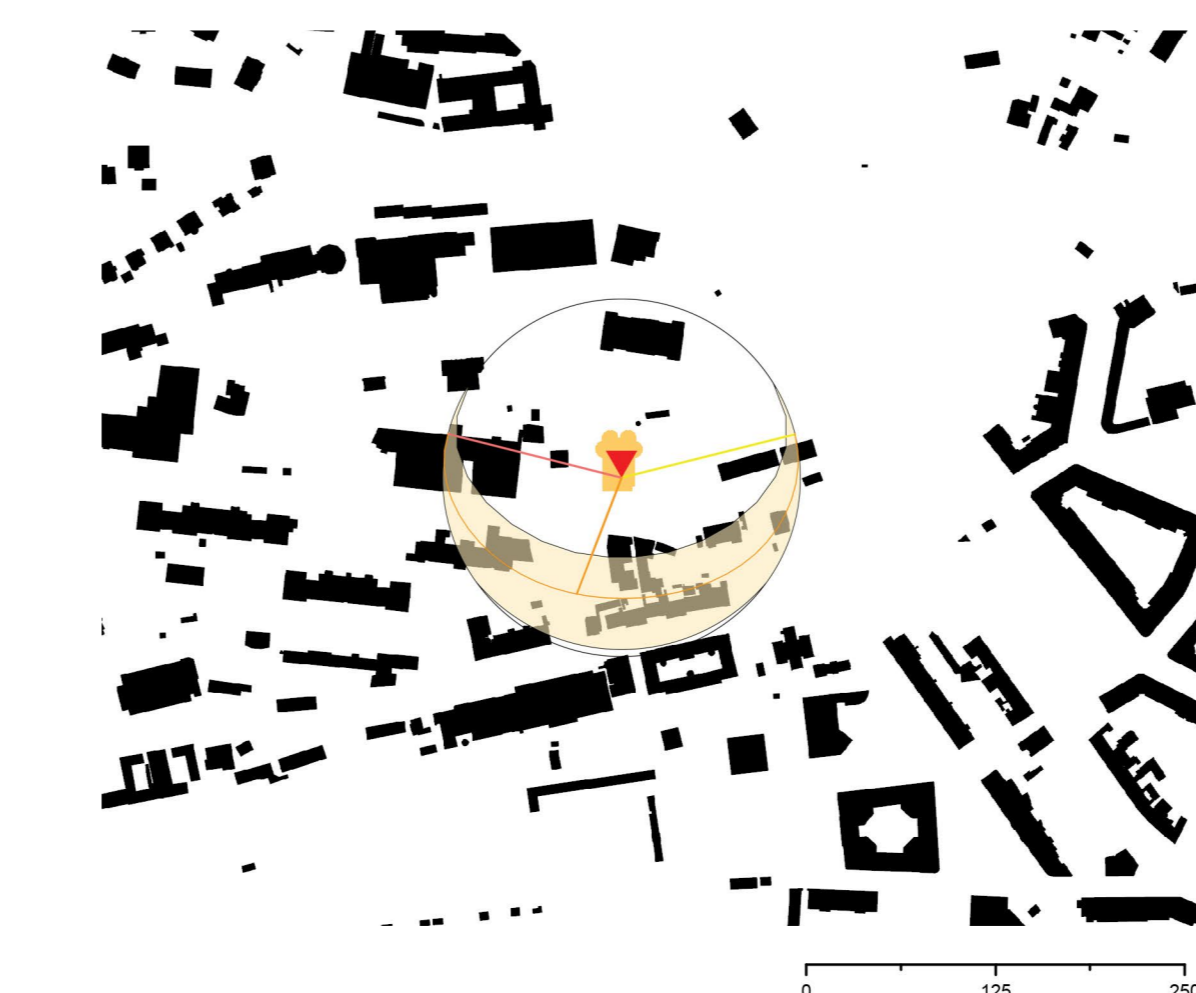
ANALYSIS



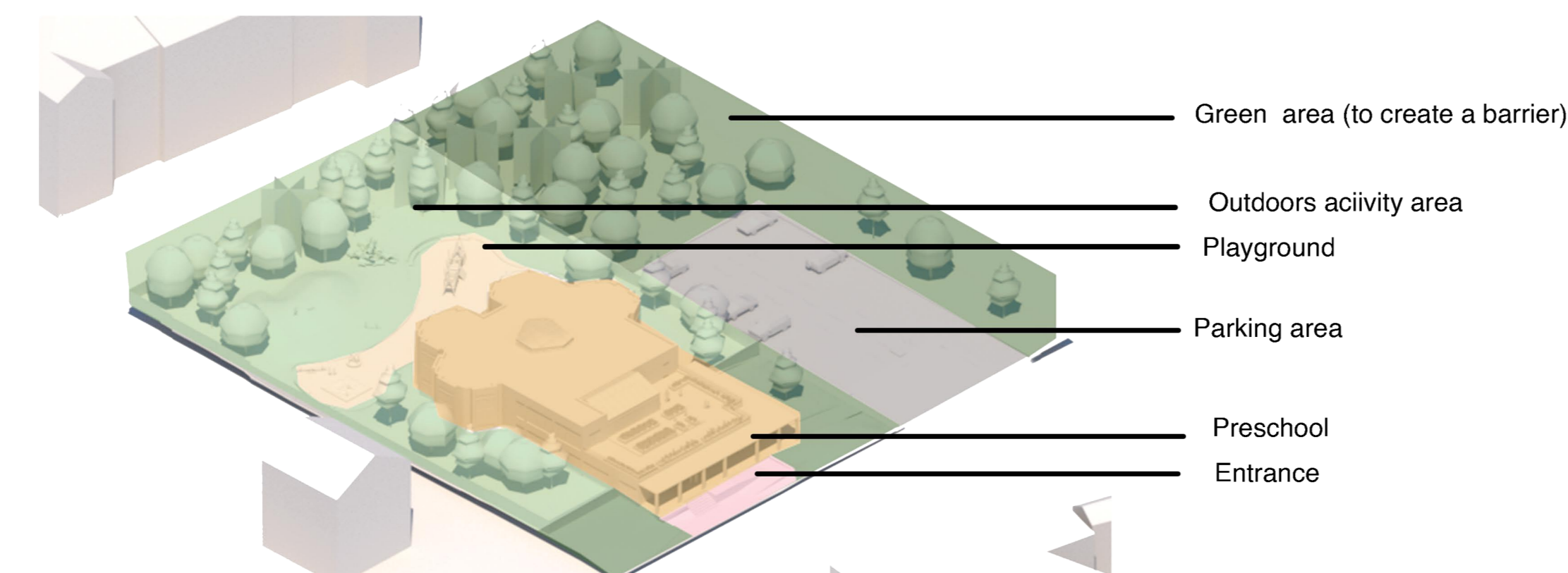
The project location is situated by Bulovka Hospital which is a large teaching hospital complex in Prague, adjoining the White Rock in Prague 8 - Libeň near the defunct homestead of Bulovka. The site has an uneven and hilly terrain and that can be seen in the arrangement of the buildings in the schwarzplan. It has a view of the river Vltava. In an abandoned quarry, the boundary between the goodies / Beroun (Ordovician) stages is exposed. From the west, the Dobrovit Formation (dobrovit, Ordovician) rises to the surface, west of the Bulovka contagious pavilion, the Revnice quartzites have been discovered the Libeň. The project area is located on a surface that does not have too much difference in the elevation, the first concern was having the building close to the public transportation.



Accessibility to the public transport is important for Waldorf schools, luckily there is a tram station that is close to the project area and there is a bus stop. According to the calculations, the travel time from the kindergarten is efficient for the children, parents and staff to get to the building less than 5 minutes. The building being close to the public transport has the possibility encourage the parents use their cars less so the children will be able to get to the school premises by checking their surroundings and have a better understanding of the area that they are taking their education in.



Sun positions at sunrise, specified time and sunset. The thin orange curve is the current sun trajectory, and the yellow area around is the variation of sun trajectories during the year. The closer a point is to the center, the higher is the sun above the horizon. The colors on the time slider above show sunlight coverage during the day (12 April 2PM). Considering that there is a road to the south of the building, the classes face north because the design has to be more integrated with the playground and green area rather than the road. This creates limited sunlight for the activity areas and this issue of having limited sunlight created a different approach for the design.



WALDORF PRESCHOOL FOR BULOVKA COMMUNITY

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DESIGN / SITE PLAN - 1/300

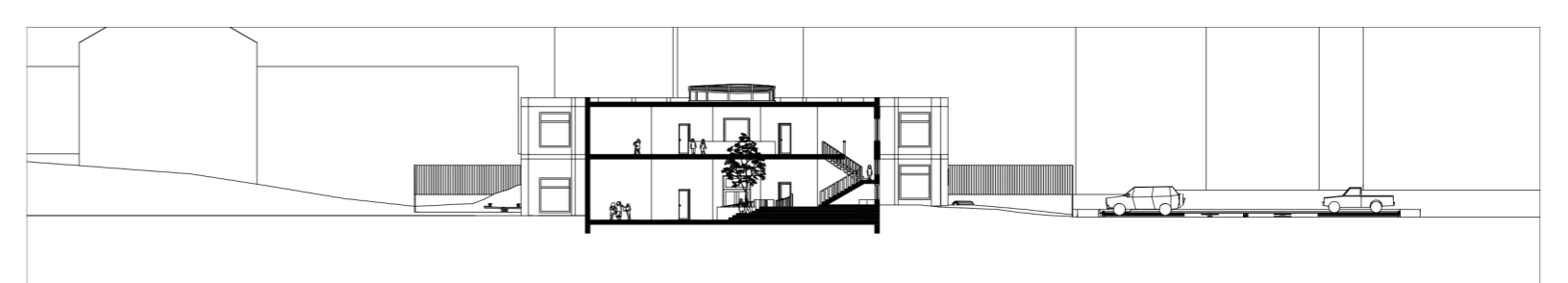
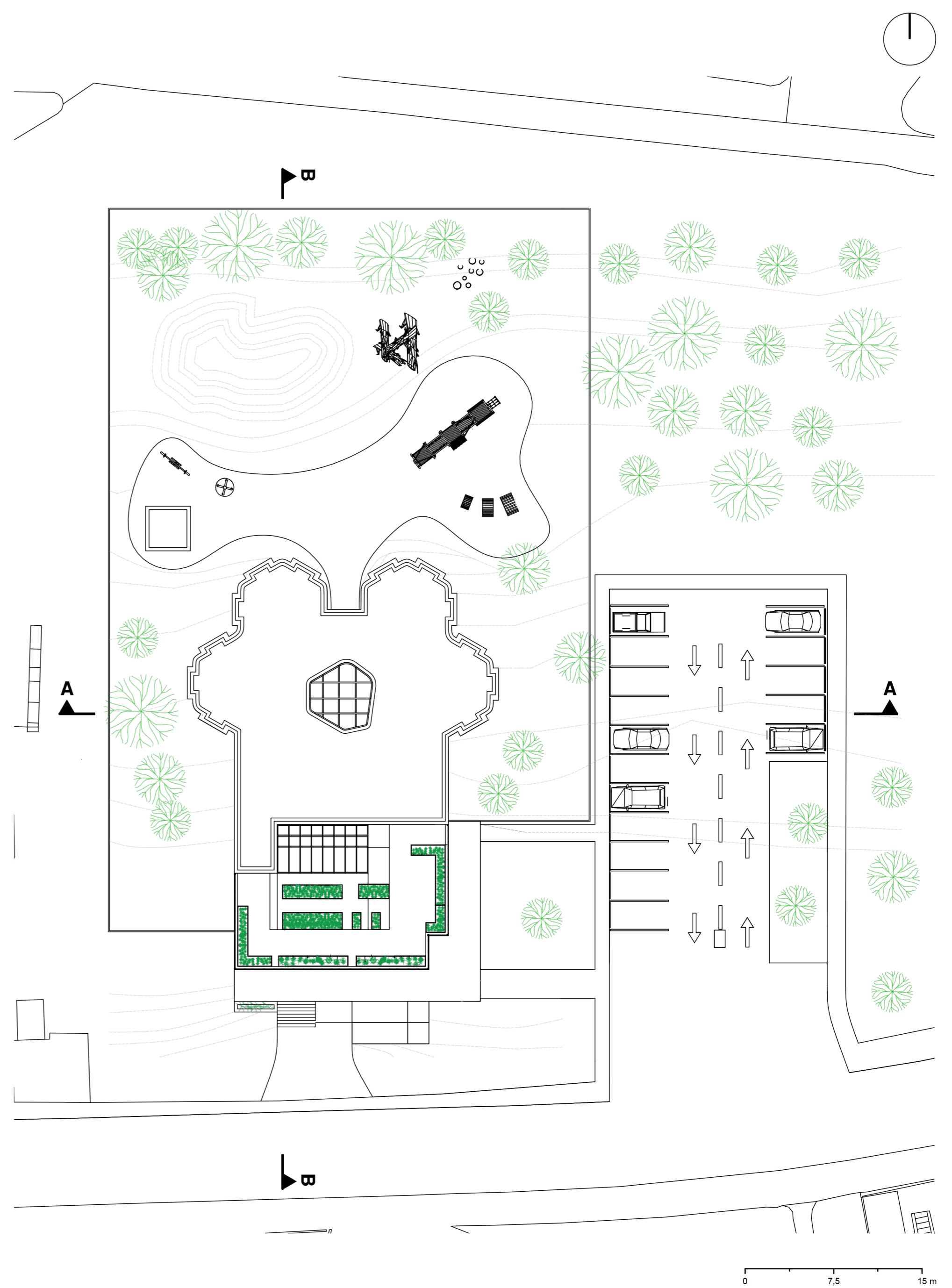
The architectural elements of a Waldorf school are almost always an active part of the learning and development process of its children so both indoors and outdoors activity areas are important for the development of a child.

The entrance to the building is clearly indicated, the building is 1.25m high from the ground so there is a staircase and a ramp that leads to the building. The car park has 17 parking spots, there is a path that connects the parking area to the building directly and there is another path for service so the service and children entrance does not share the same path.

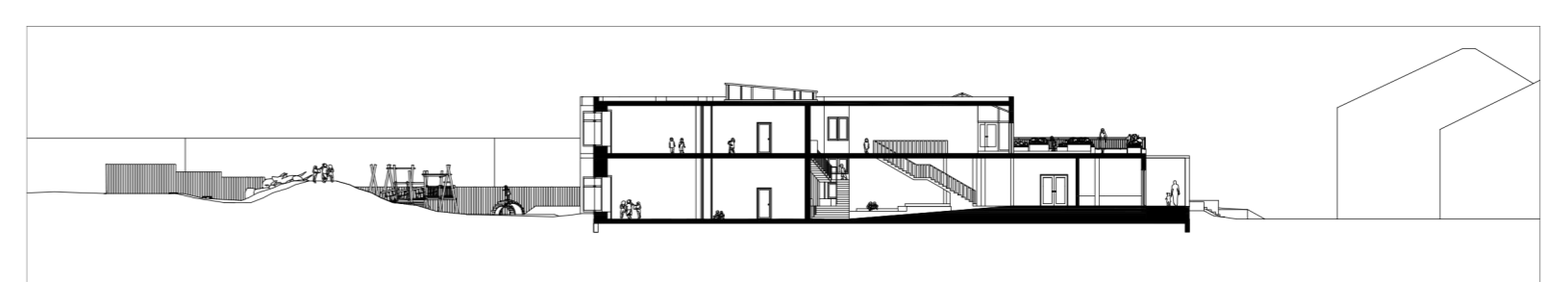
The outdoors area surrounds the building so the children will be able to have connection with nature. There are hills and different elevations in the outdoors because it is important for children to do activities that might challenge them like running up a hill, rolling on the ground etc. The whole outdoors area will be their playground so the project area is surrounded by a wooden fence. The shape of the playground comes from the idea of children running out from the building to embrace nature.

The connection (direct or indirect) with nature is considered highly beneficial for the psycho-emotional health of children so there are trees and bushes that children can interact with. The playground toys were considered to be made from wood. The relationship between the key spaces generate the greatest amount and variety of play-learning activity and benefits across all the developmental domains. Having trees, shrubs and vegetation offer children to have access to water, soil and plants. They create habitat on different scales and they inspire creative thinking, invite observation and provoke inquiry.

Natural lighting is valued in Waldorf education so there is a skylight that is above the main hub of the building which produces an interesting interior atmosphere.



A-A section



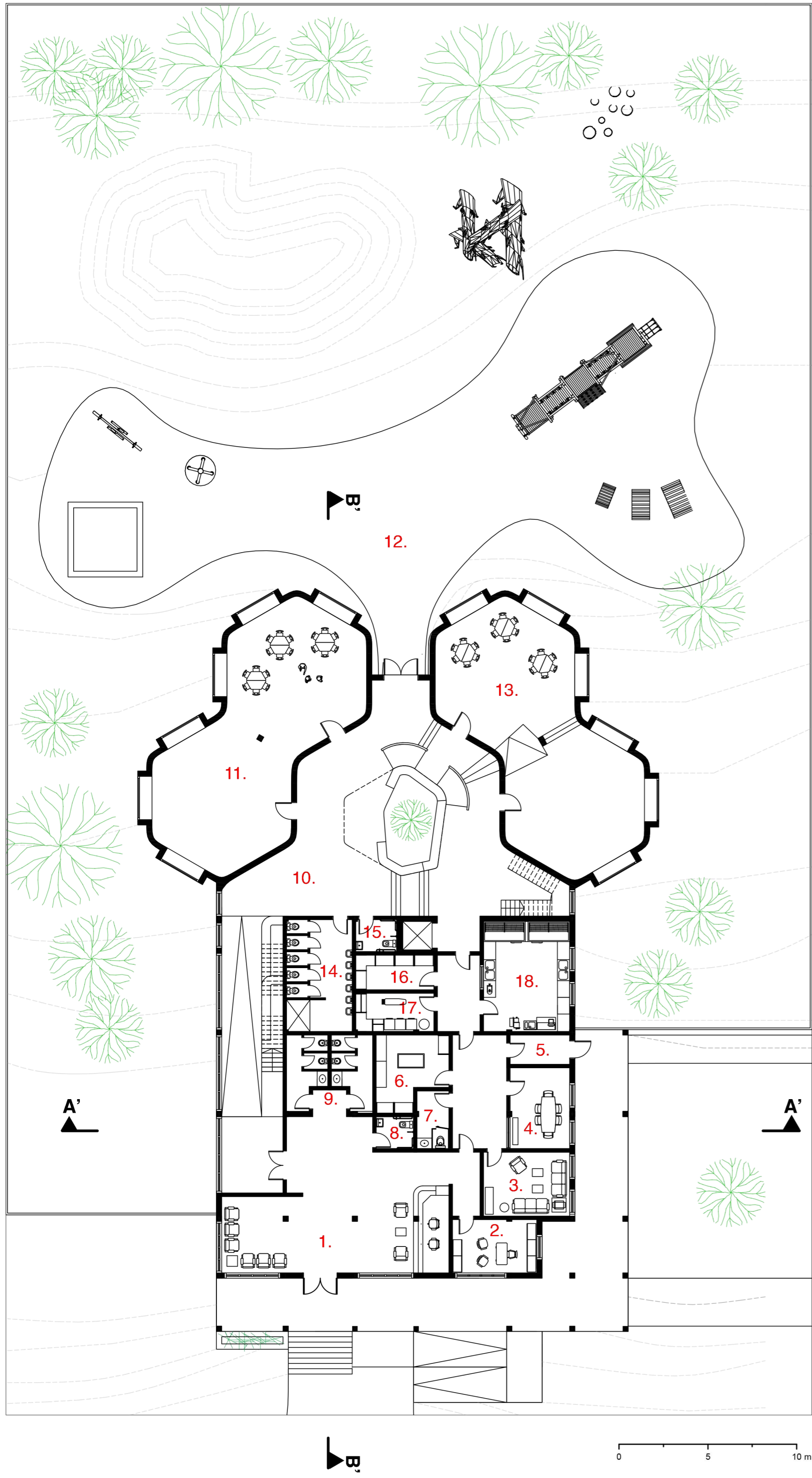
B-B section

0 10 20 m

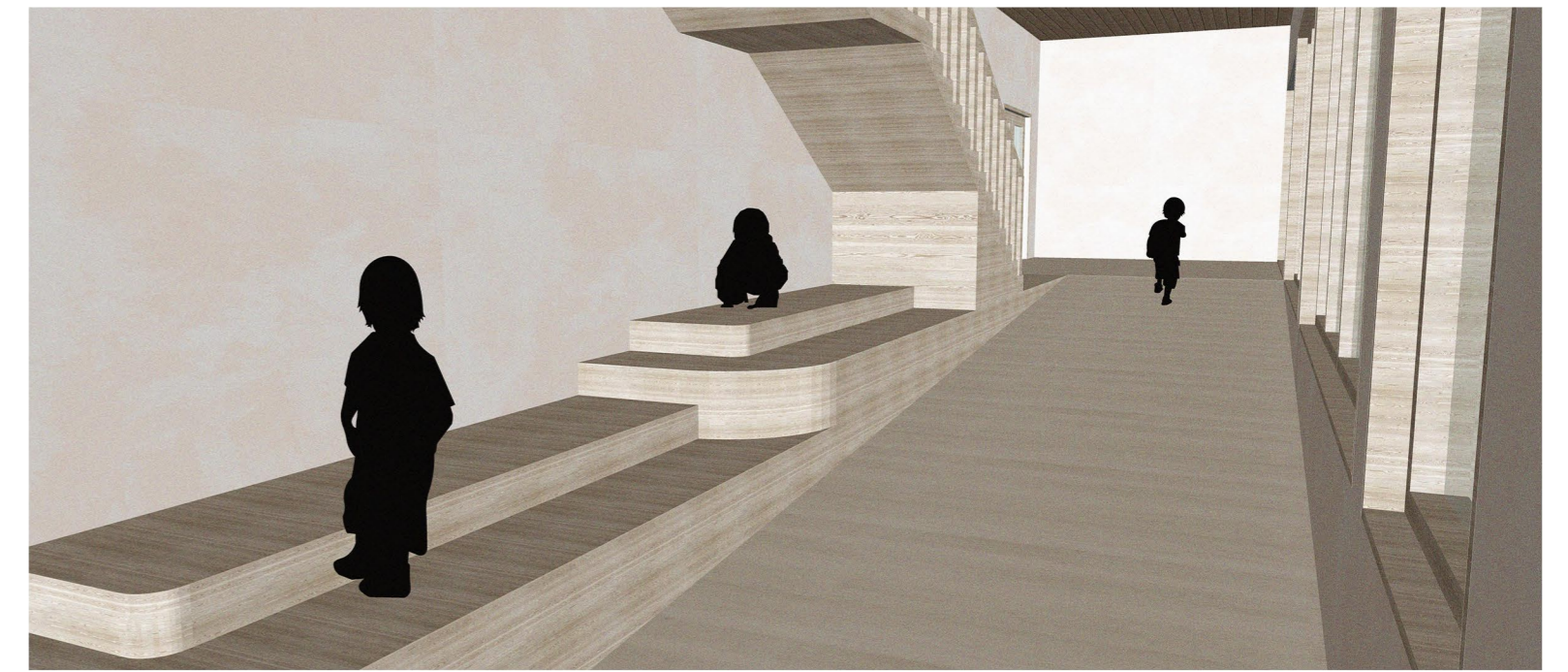
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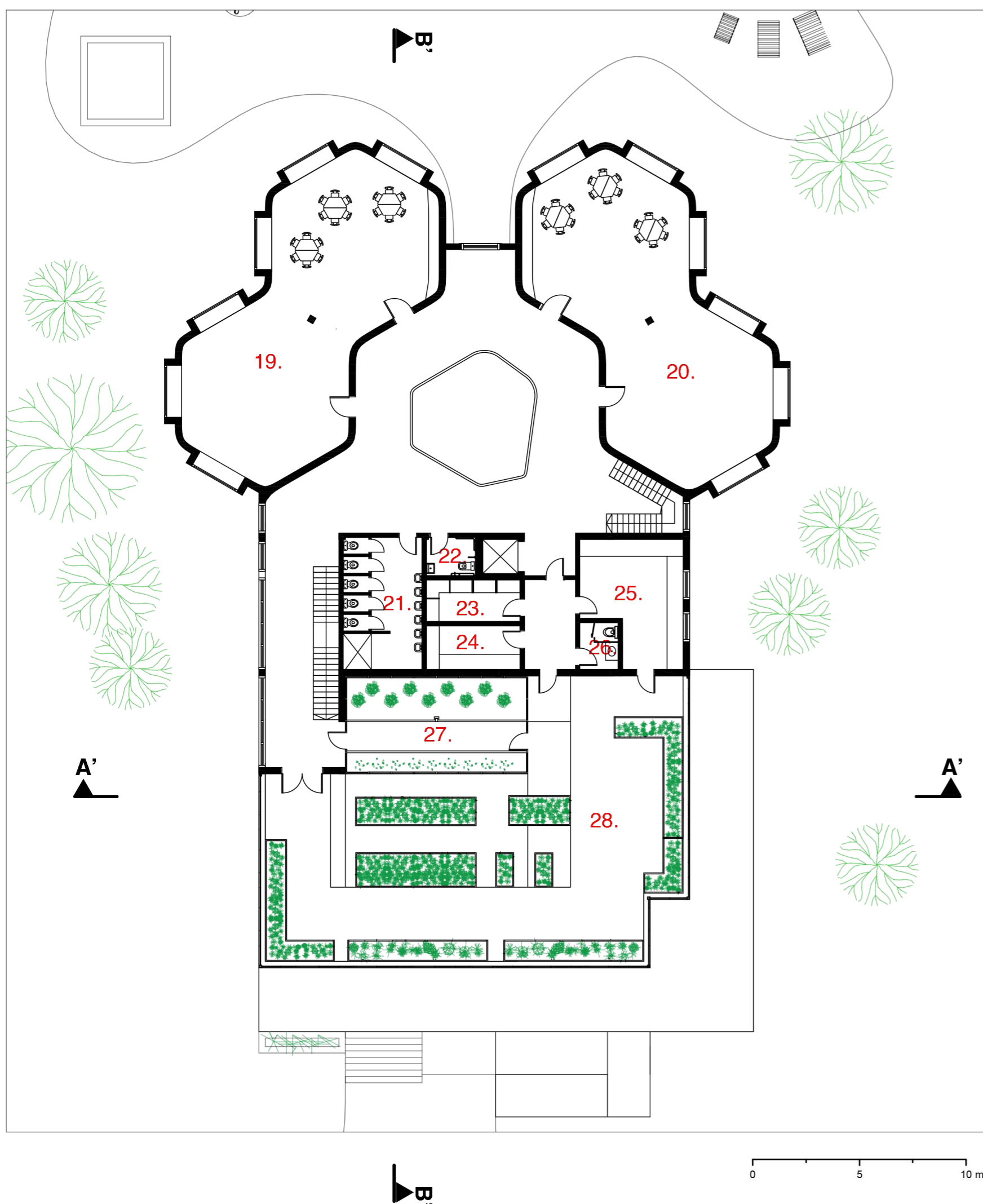
GROUND FLOOR - 1/200



1. Entrance/waiting area
2. Director's office
3. Staff room
4. Meeting room
5. Service corridor
6. Preparation room
7. WC (staff)
8. WC (handicapped)
9. WC (parents)
10. Hub
11. Main activity space
12. Outdoors activity space
13. Main activity space
14. WC (children)
15. WC (handicapped children)
16. Storage (classrooms)
17. Laundry room
18. Kitchen



FIRST FLOOR - 1/200



19. Main activity area
20. Main activity area
21. WC (children)
22. WC (handicapped children)
23. Storage (classrooms)
24. Storage (classrooms)
25. Storage (rooftop garden)
26. WC
27. Greenhouse
28. Rooftop garden



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ELEVATIONS - 1/200



North elevation



South elevation

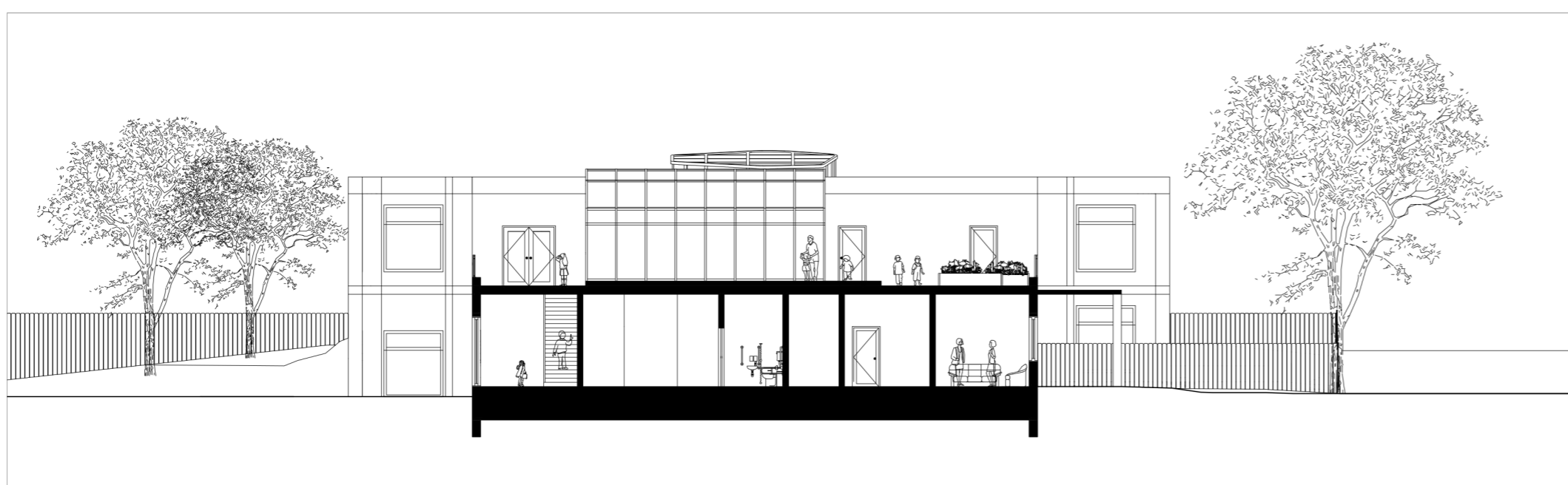


East elevation



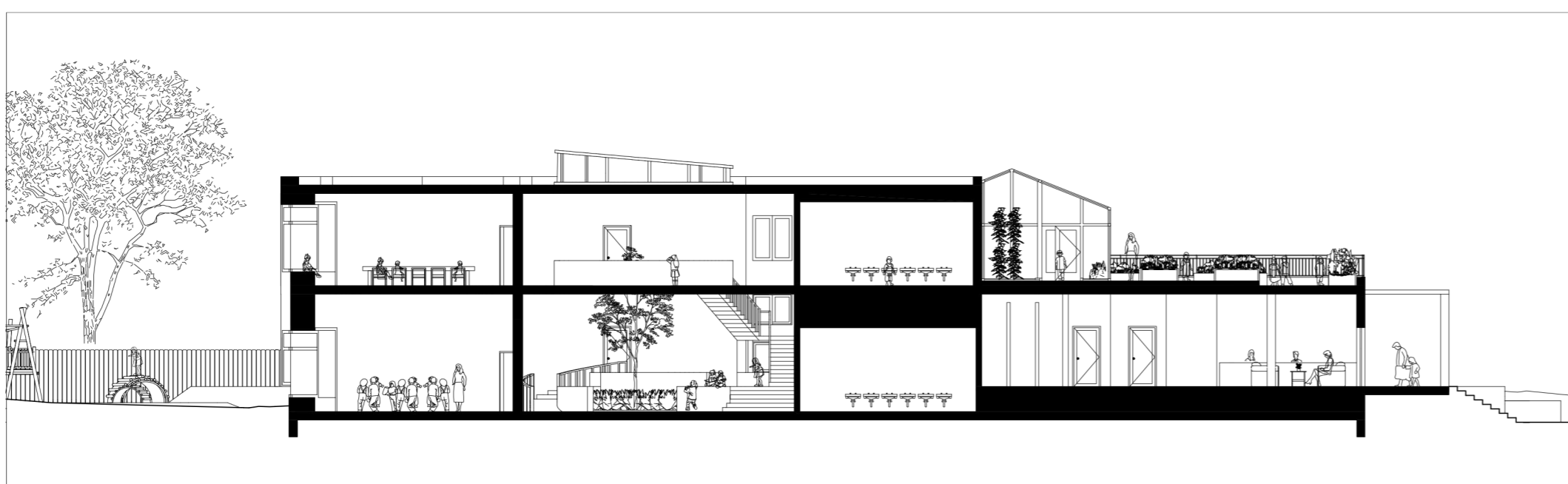
West elevation

SECTIONS - 1/200



A'-A' section

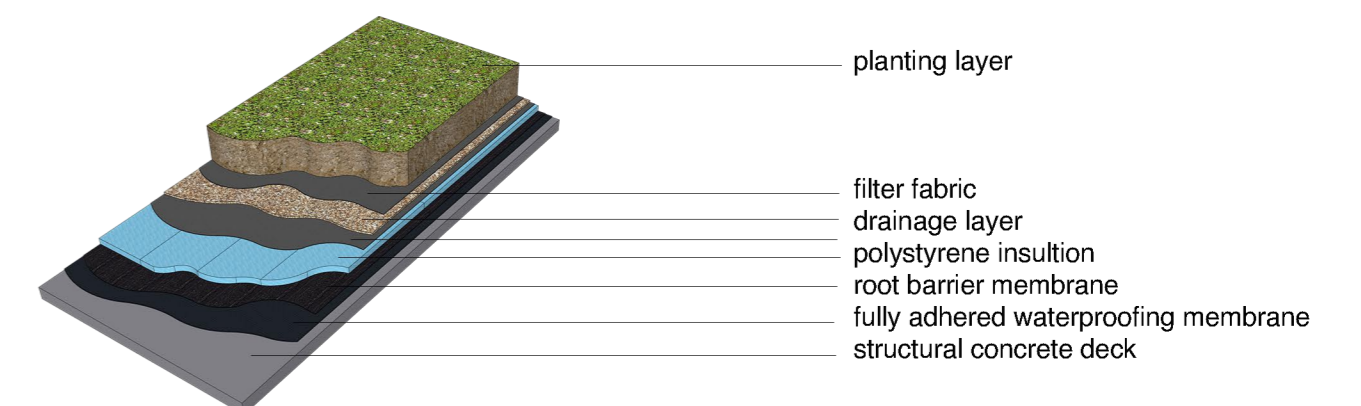
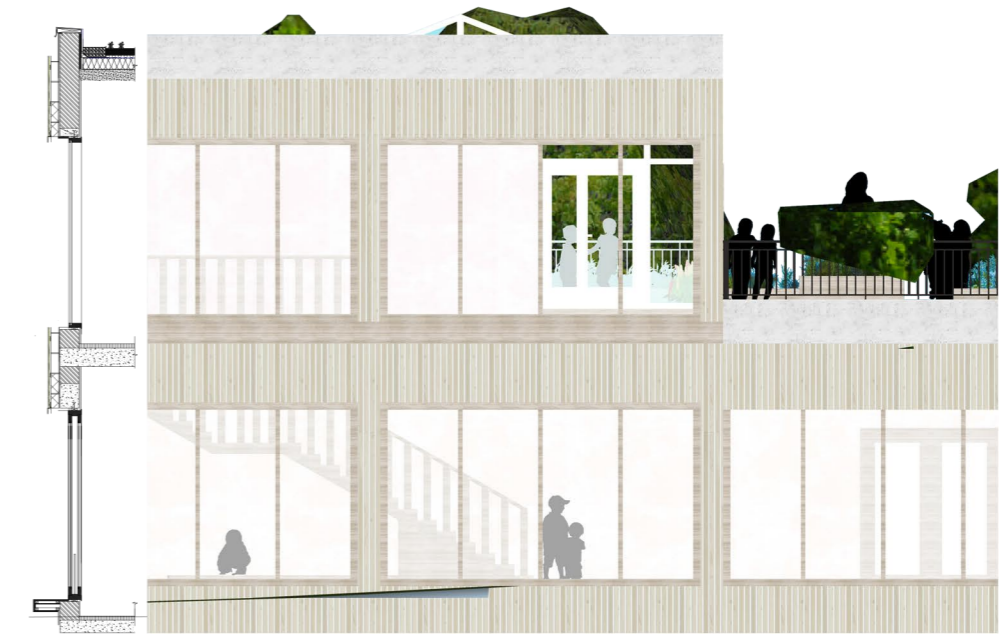
0 5 10 m



B'-B' section

0 5 10 m

DETAIL - 1/100



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