

KNOLL + WASHINGTON

405-503 O'BRIEN

MEDIATHEQUE

BRYAN, TX

MEDIATHEQUE

The site for the mediatheque, located in downtown Bryan, TX, is in essence a tabula rasa. What is a parking lot is to be bulldozed and broken for the sake of this project. Since the natural topography (however miniscule it was, originally) has already been flatted, one must find guidance in the pre-existing built fabric. **It is for this reason that the grid, constructed equally in three dimensions, was chosen to govern the overall form of the building in lieu of more “organic” shapes or forms.**

In this project, the grid was held as sacred. Elements approach, but do not touch the many beams, columns, and girders. “Programmed” spaces (special collection, auditorium, etc.) are modular and composed of either one, two, or three standard square grid arrangements.

The mediatheque is a mixed-use facility, with normal business and after-hours spaces. One enters in the northeast into the lobby for the auditorium. Moving back through the building, visitors are able to access meeting rooms and media rooms (intimate spaces for the consumption of digital media). On the second and third floors, one is able to peer into the special collection room, a sterile, white space enclosed in glass, housing remnants of print media. The special collection preserves the old within the new.

In addition to the digital-media library, the adjacent park is also a part of the new construction. In order to unite the two sites, an exterior walkway and ramp was introduced to connect the two physically. The appearance of the ramp correlates with that of the mediatheque, dragging the language of the grid across a pedestrian street and into the park. On the eastern front, the grid becomes a frame for public use, space for kiosks and a farmer’s market.

STRUCTURES

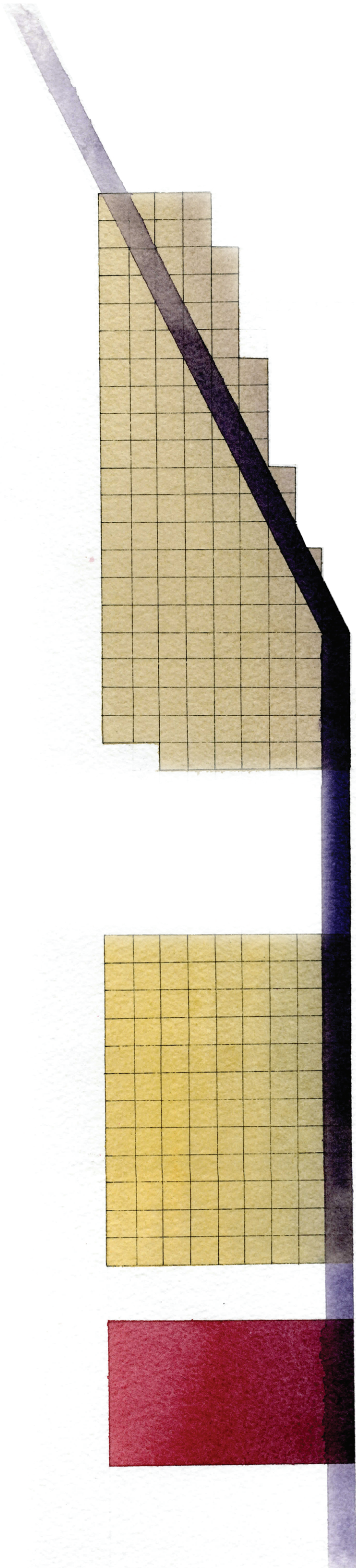
To physically construct the grid, **which measures roughly 14 feet in each direction**, we chose steel as our structural material. Because we could maintain strength at the expense of size (as opposed to using concrete or wood), the grid didn’t become cumbersome. Instead, it remained light. Using the amount of steel that our building requires translates into high construction costs and a significant amount of skilled-labor on-site. Fortunately, however, many of the connections can be prefabricated and assembled off-site.

The individual members are steel tubes, pipes, or channels. Using these sections instead of the typical W is the main reason for many of the welding requirements. Also, although the beams easily meet the spans, the decking and floor systems are pushed to the limit. The steel assemblies allowed us to make complex details that enhance the fineness and repetition of the grid.

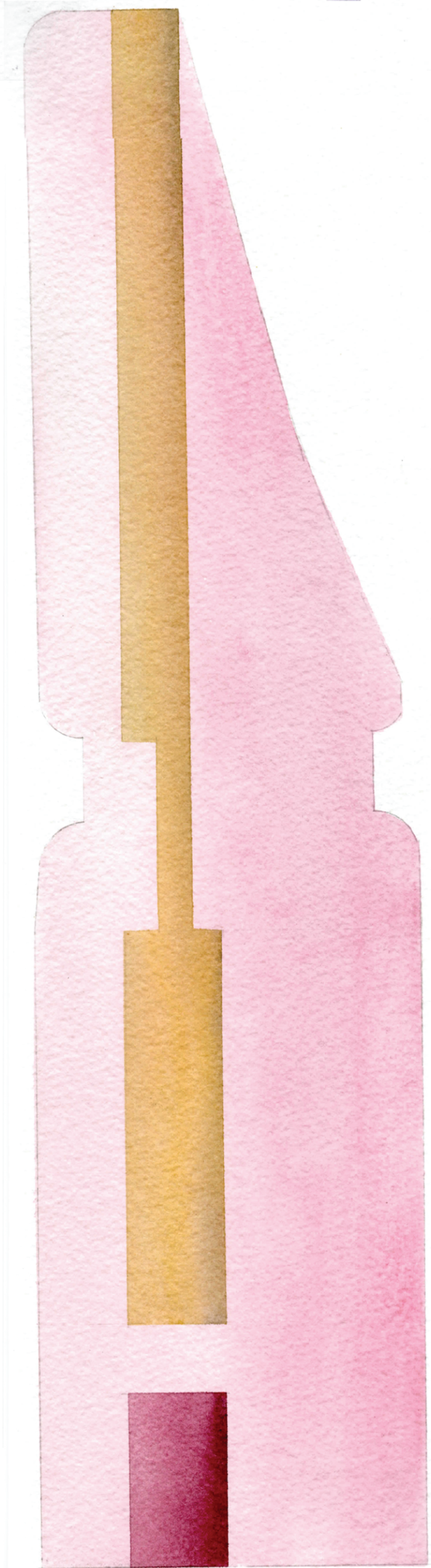
SYSTEMS

The public spaces (corridors in the core of the building) are naturally lit with northern light that enters through the atrium. The building itself is shielded from direct exposure of the sun by a roof that extends to the edges of the grid, and a glassed-in sunspace along the east and south. Within the sunspace is a mechanical lighting system that illuminates those facades of the building at night and can be used, with the atrium, as space for art installations.

The mediatheque is serviced by a ground-source heat pump system. The pipes run from the basement of the building, to the park and deep into the earth, then back to the building. This eliminates the need for separate boilers, chillers, and air-handling units, since the heat pump acts as a combination of all three.

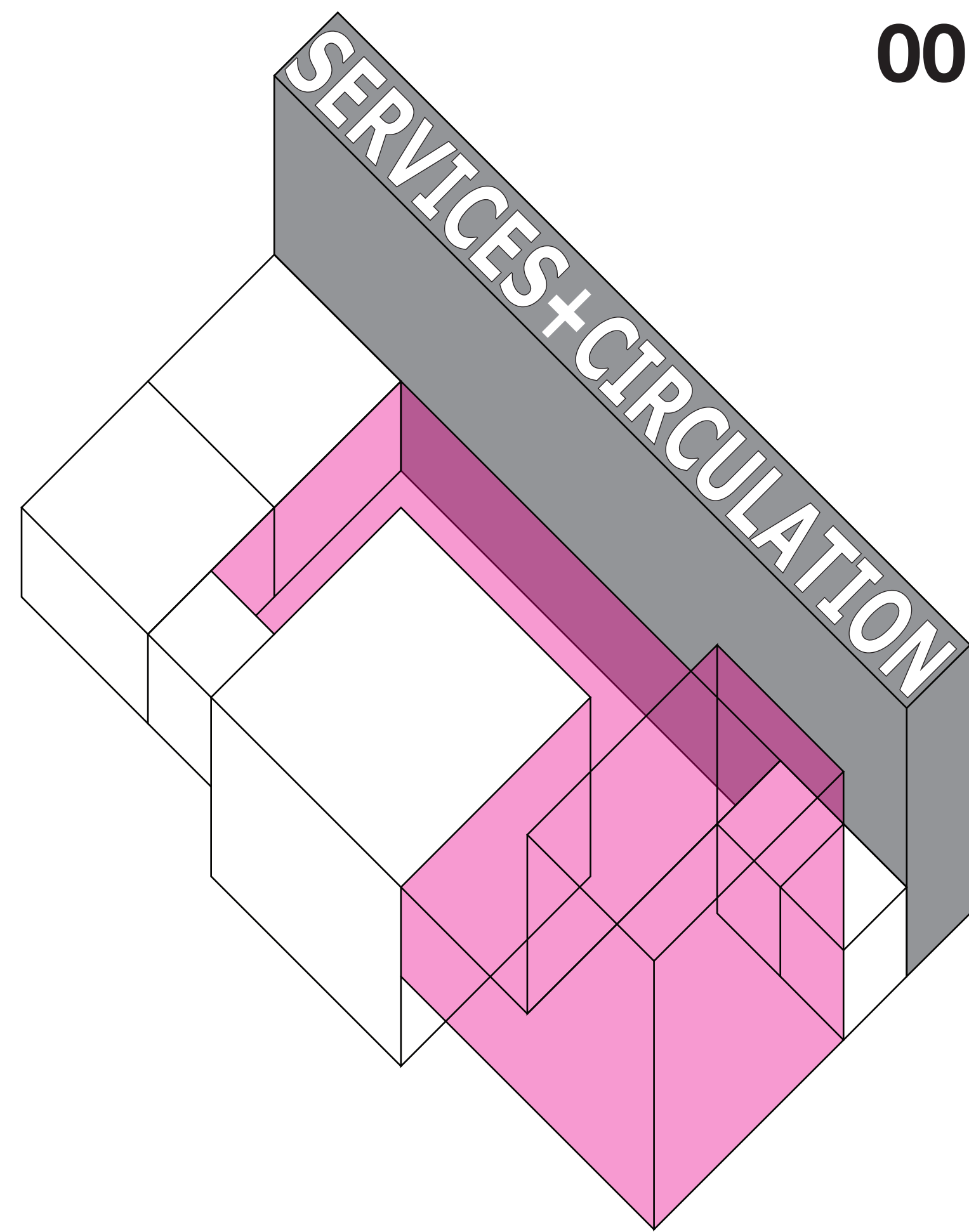


COMPOSITION 1

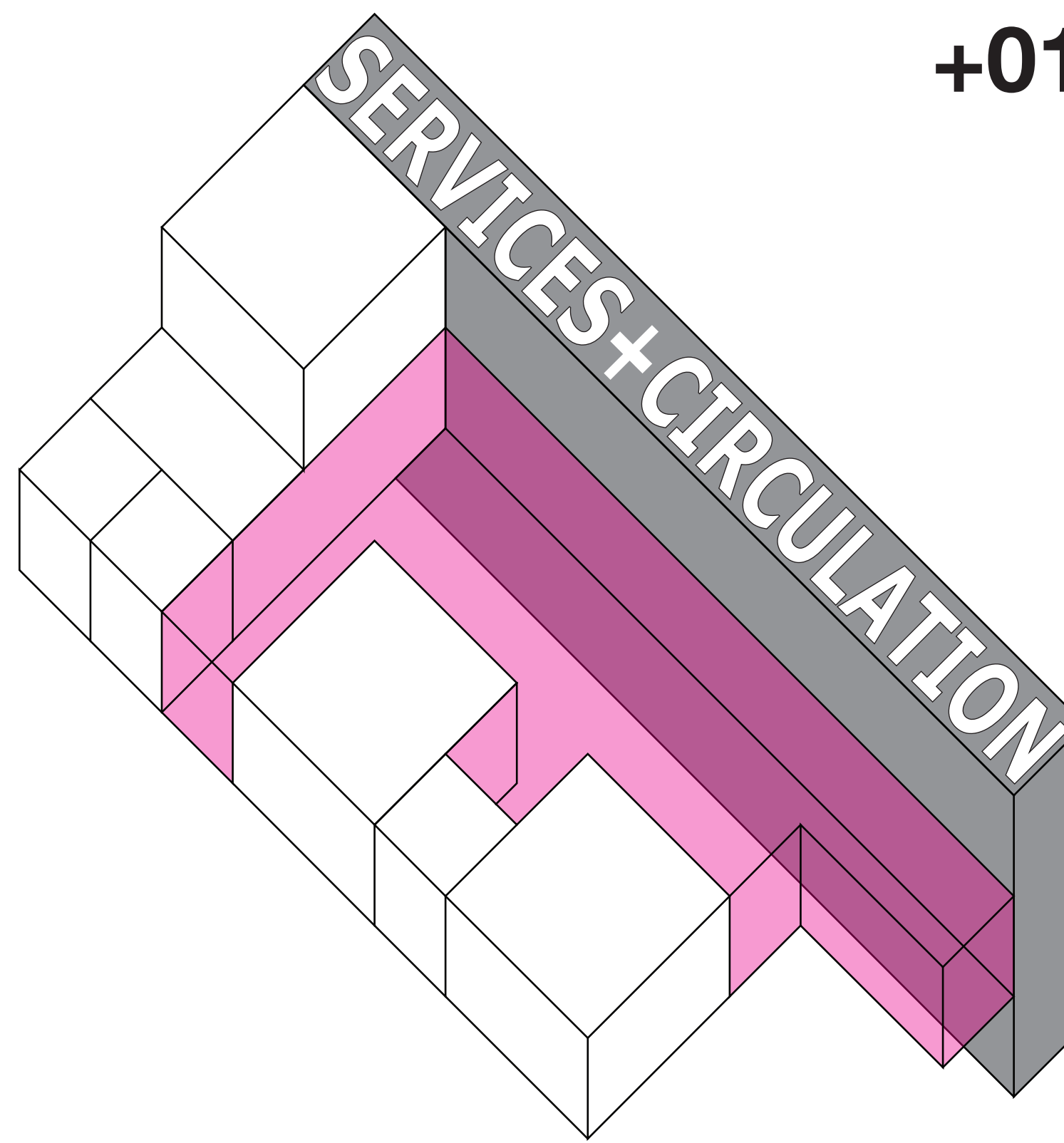


COMPOSITION 2

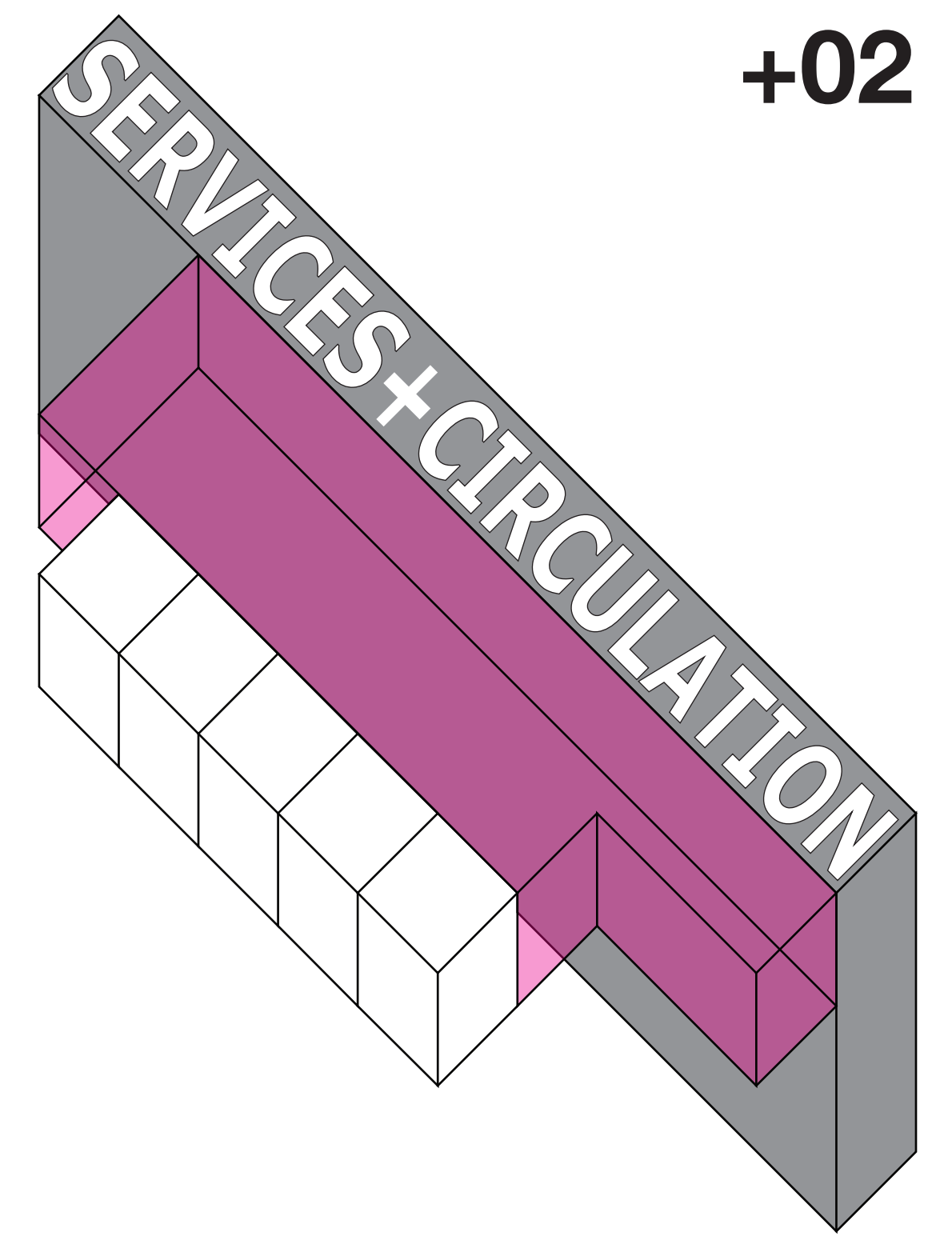
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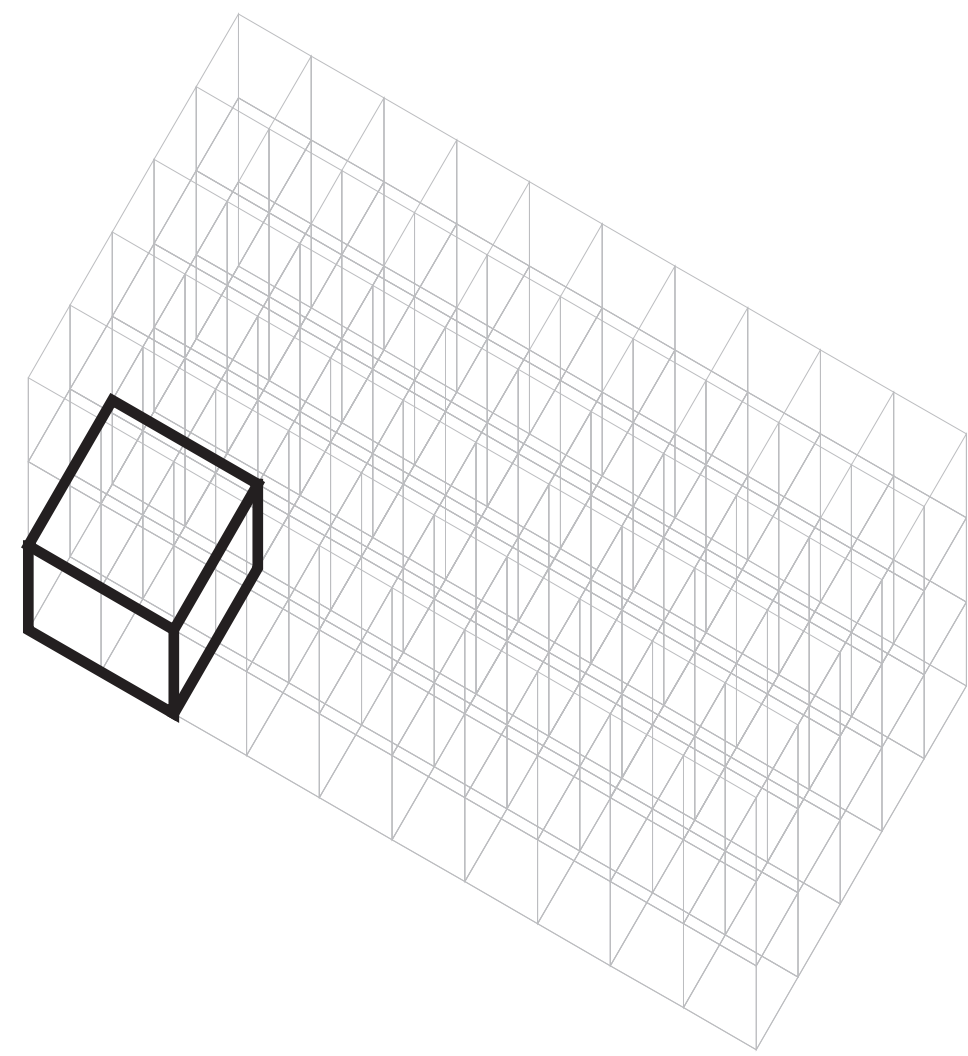


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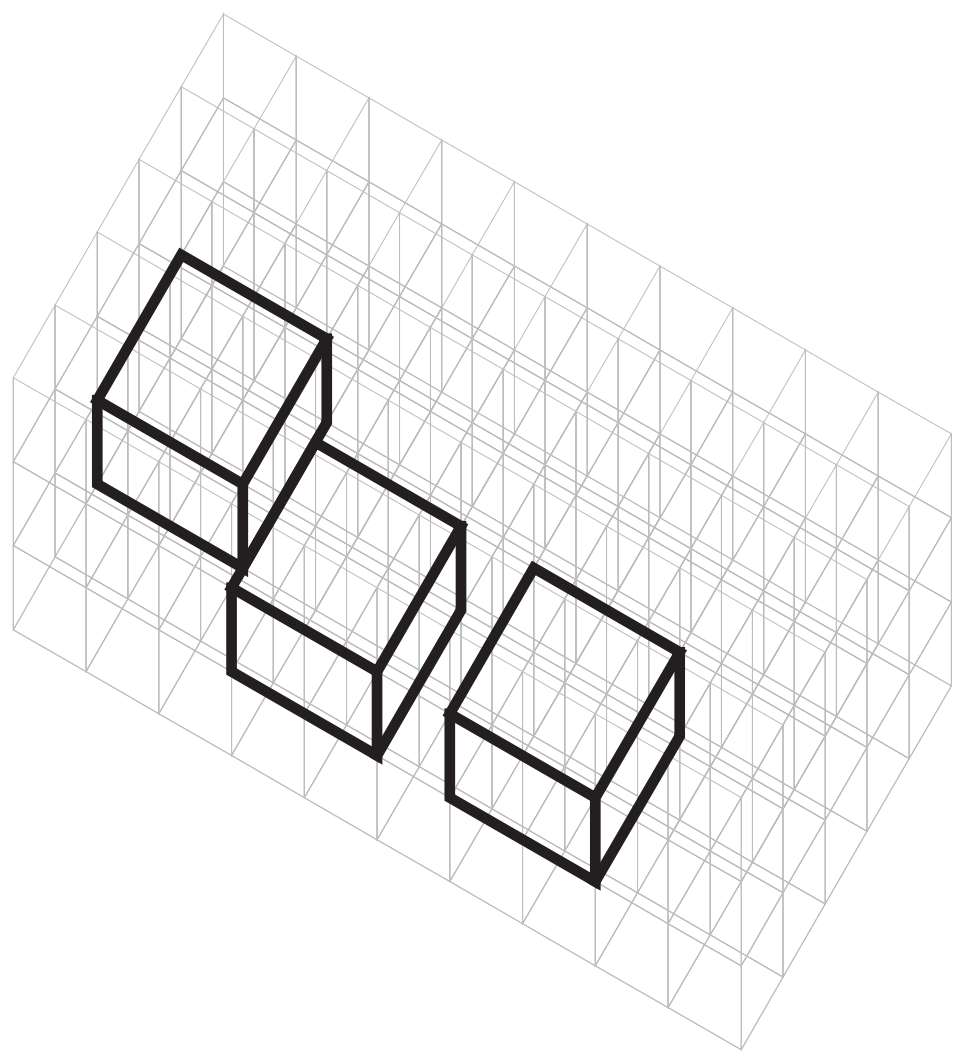


PUBLIC SPACE
(BY FLOOR)

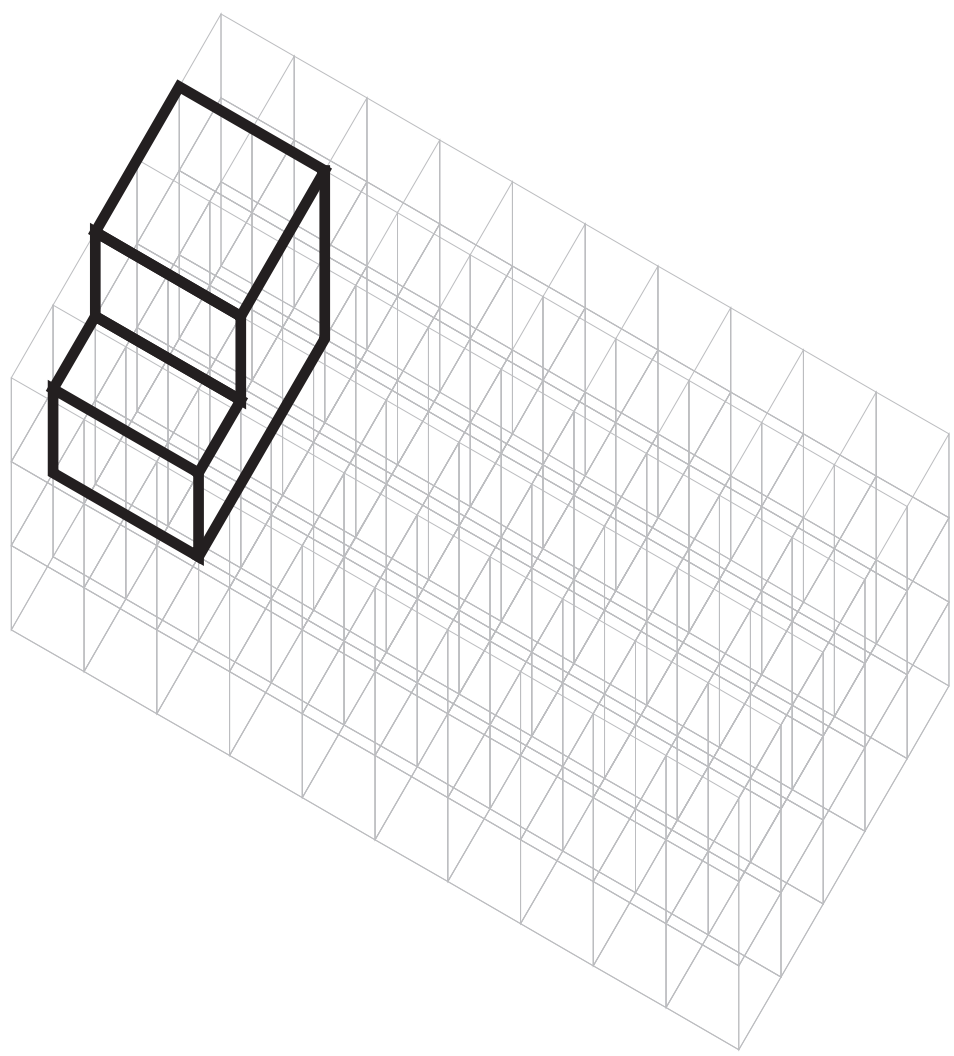




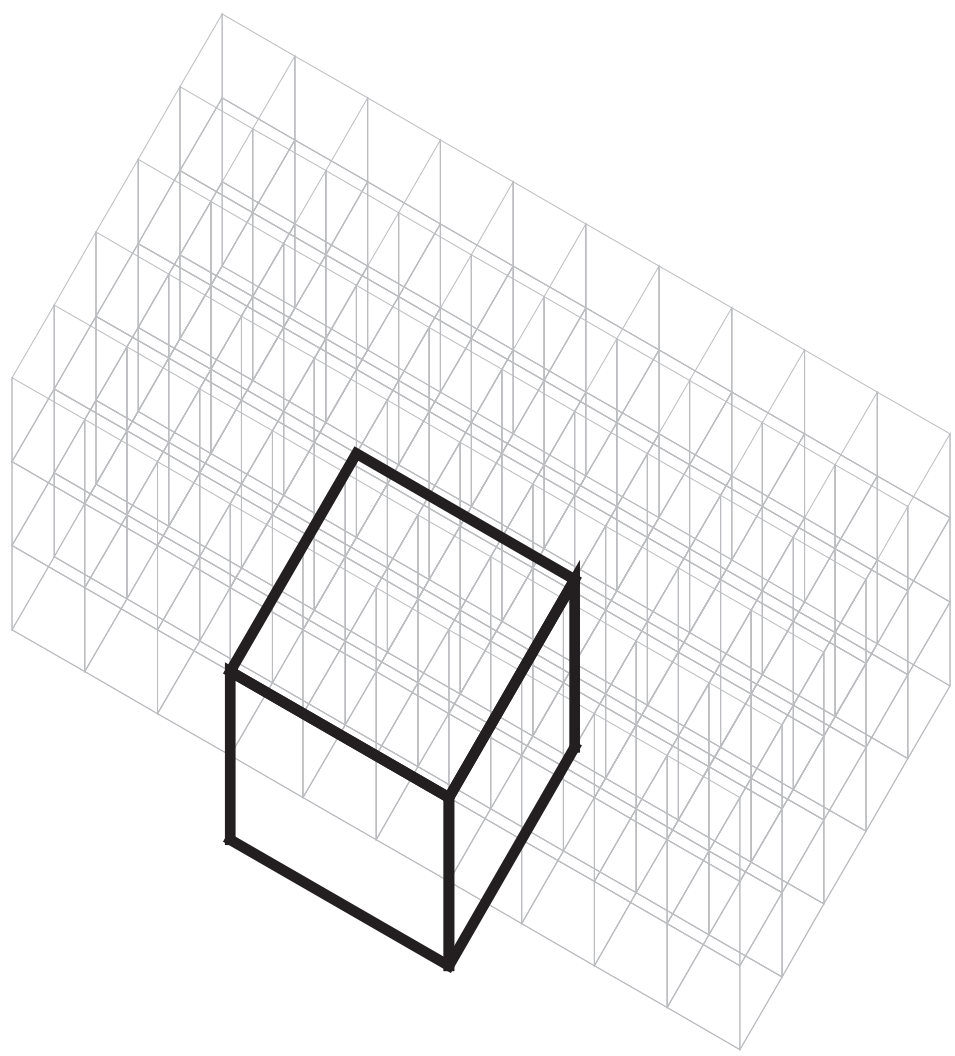
BREAK ROOM



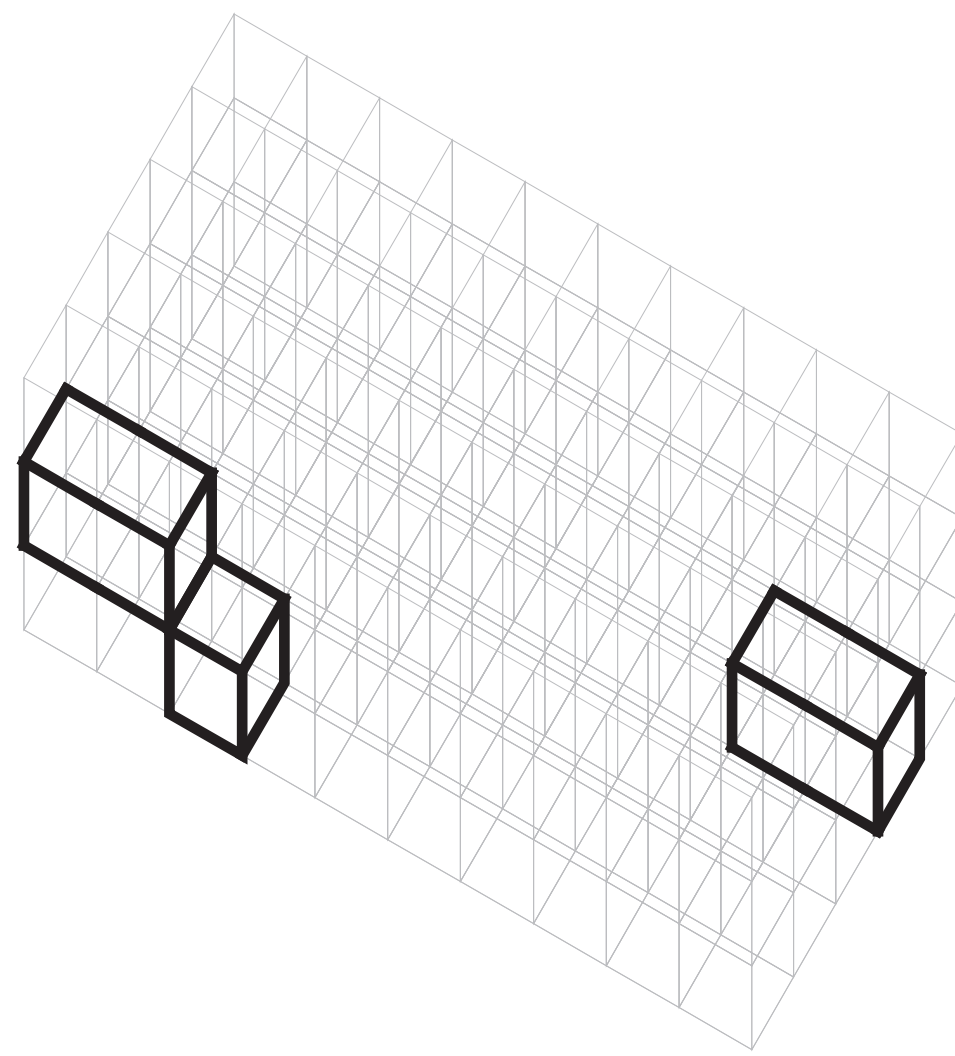
MEETING ROOMS



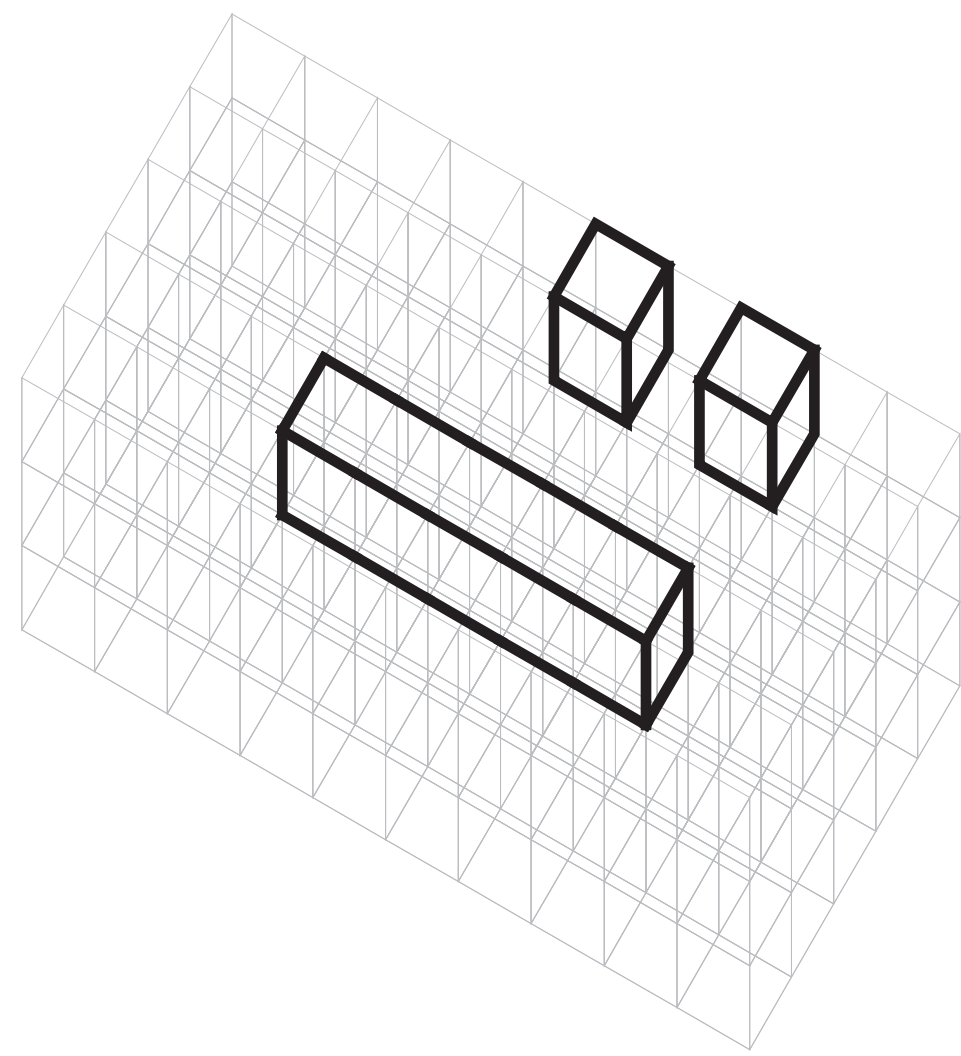
SPECIAL COLLECTION



AUDITORIUM



OFFICES

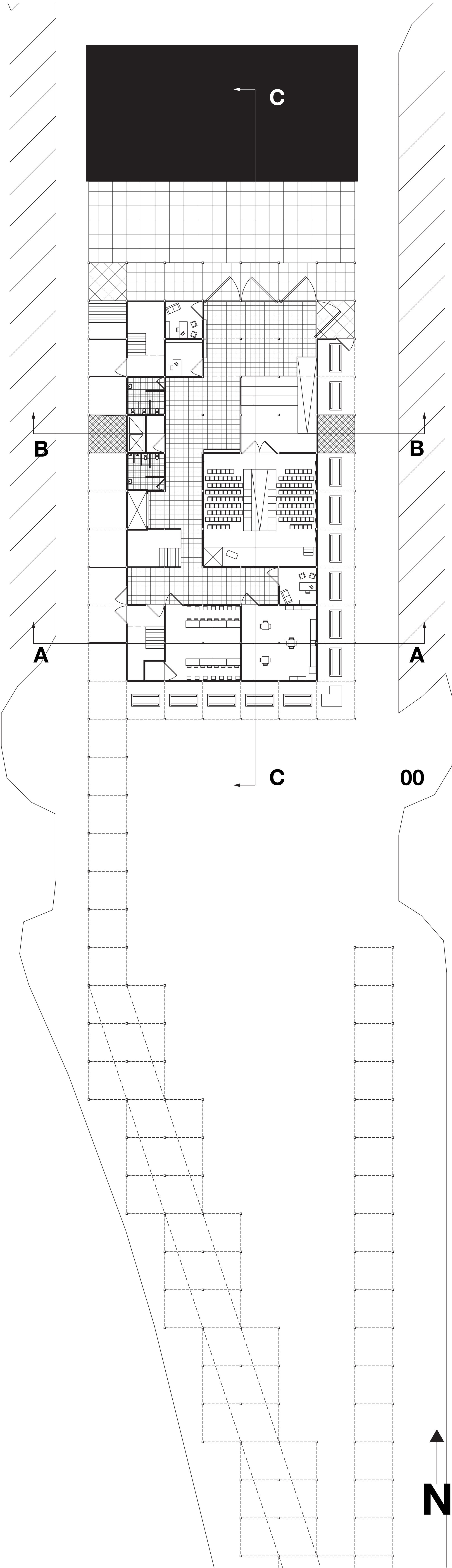
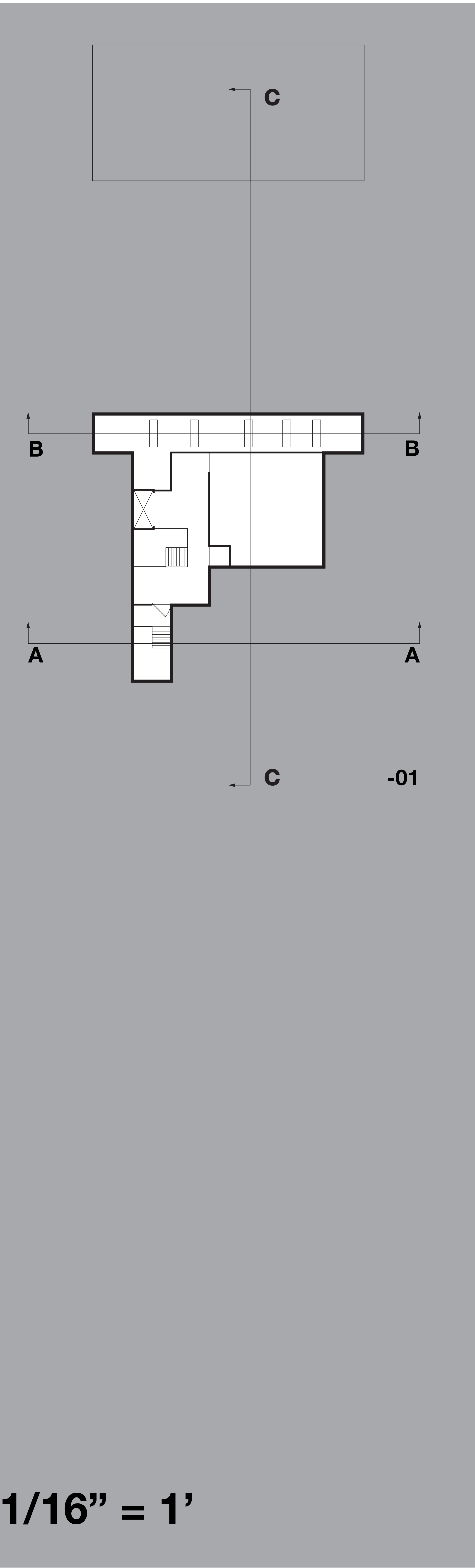


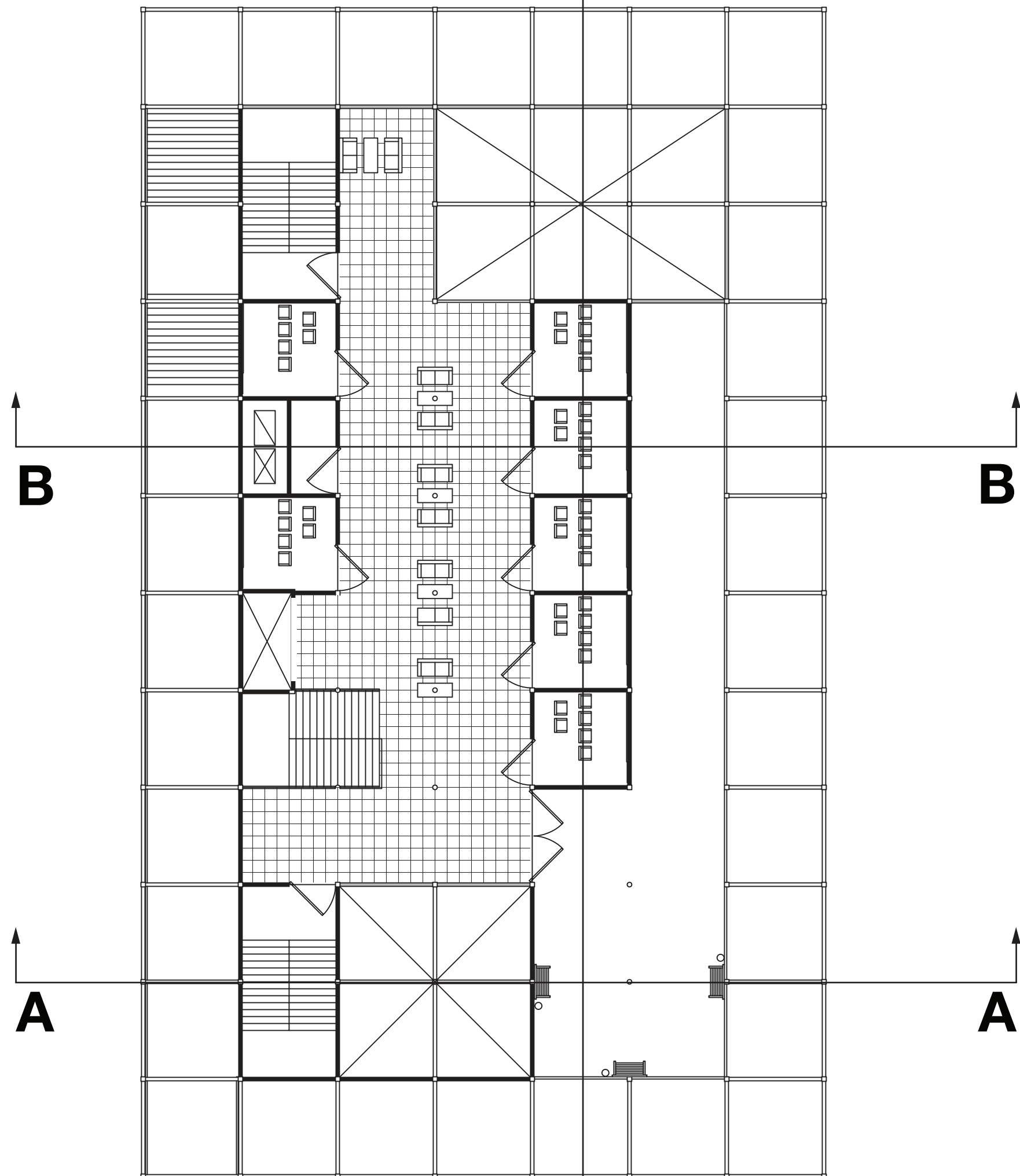
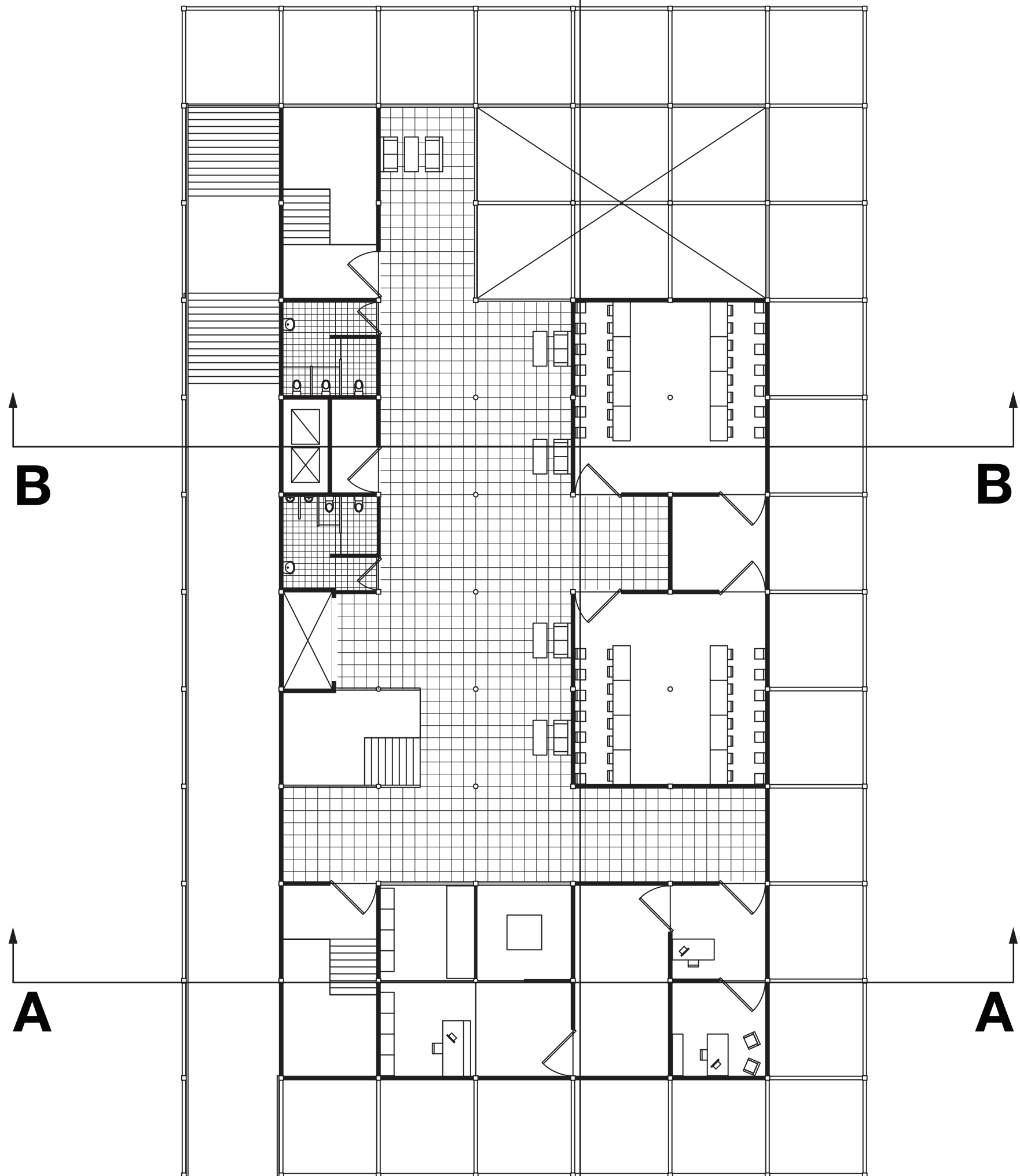
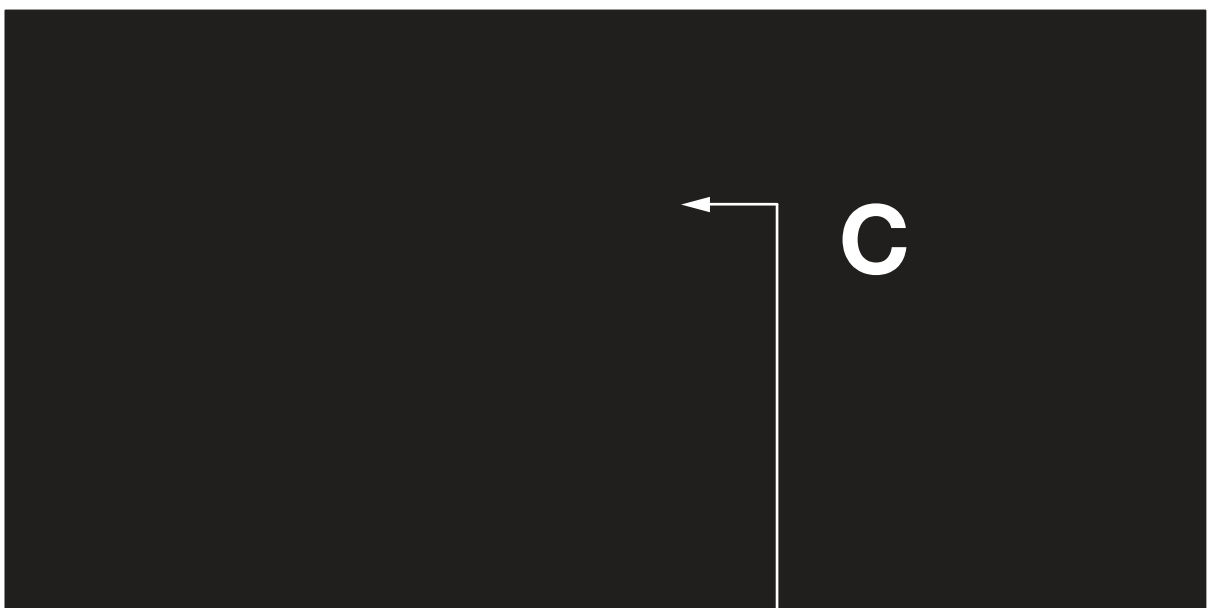
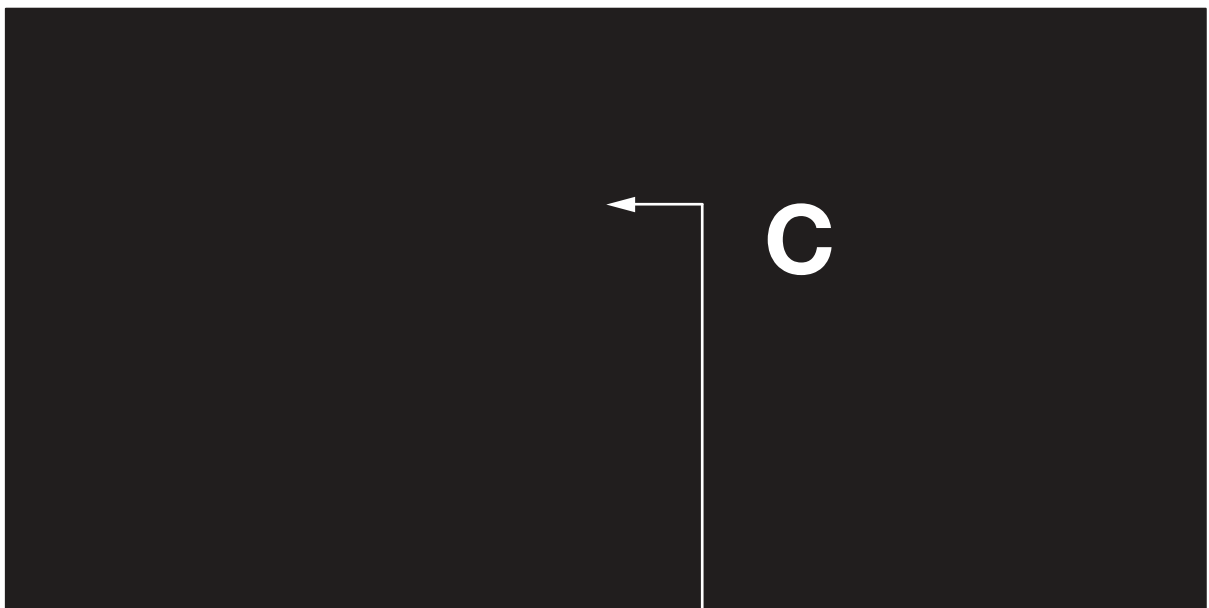
MEDIA ROOMS



WEST ELEVATION

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C

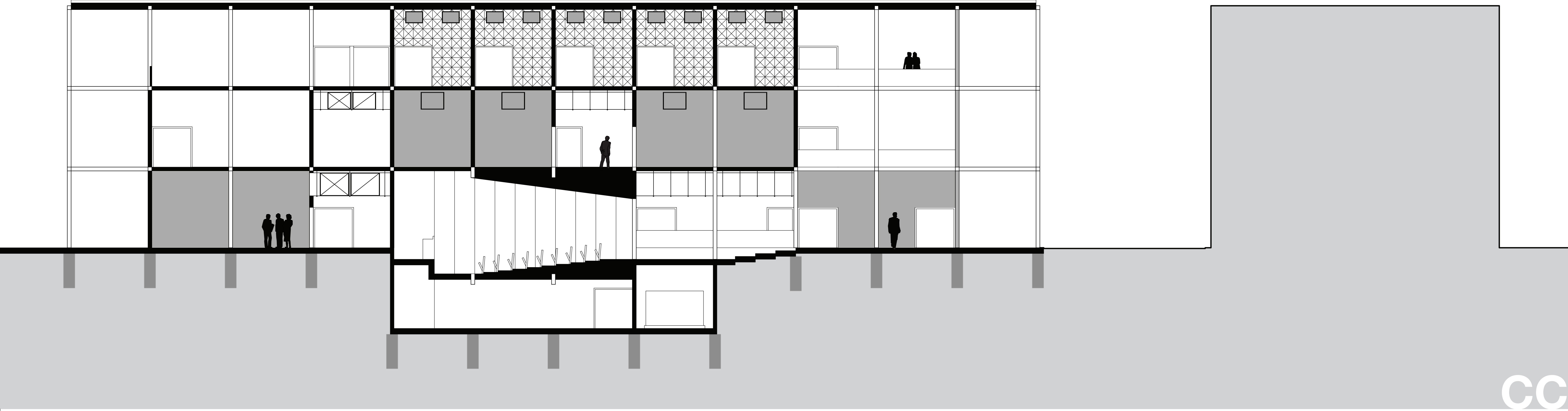
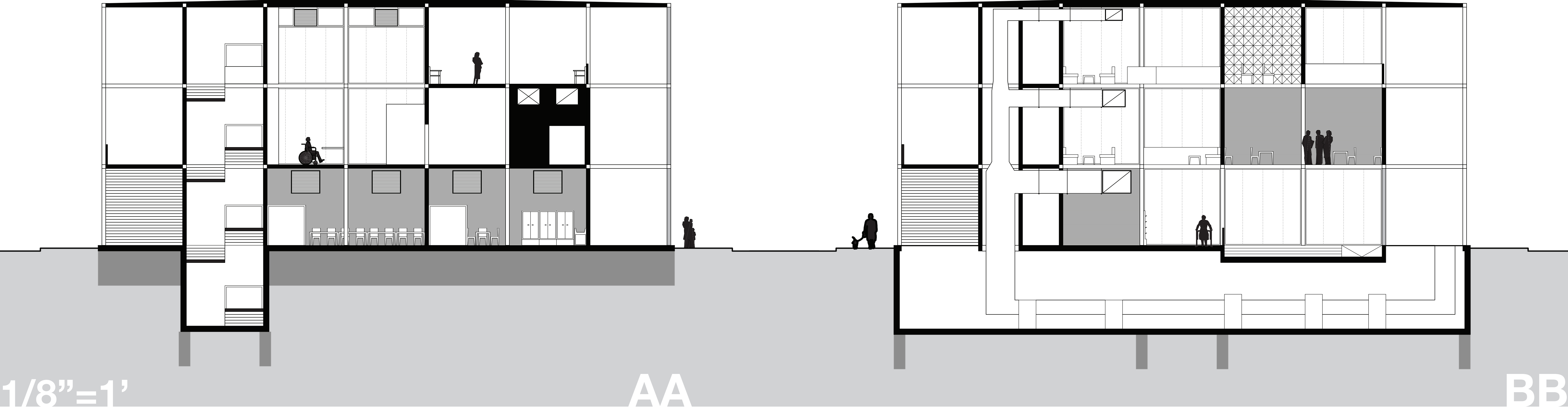
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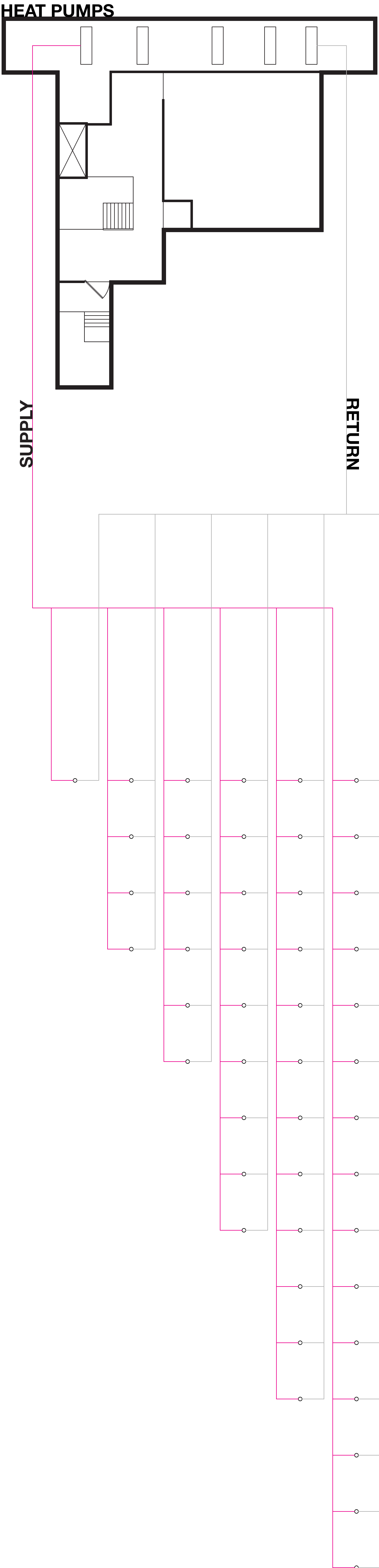
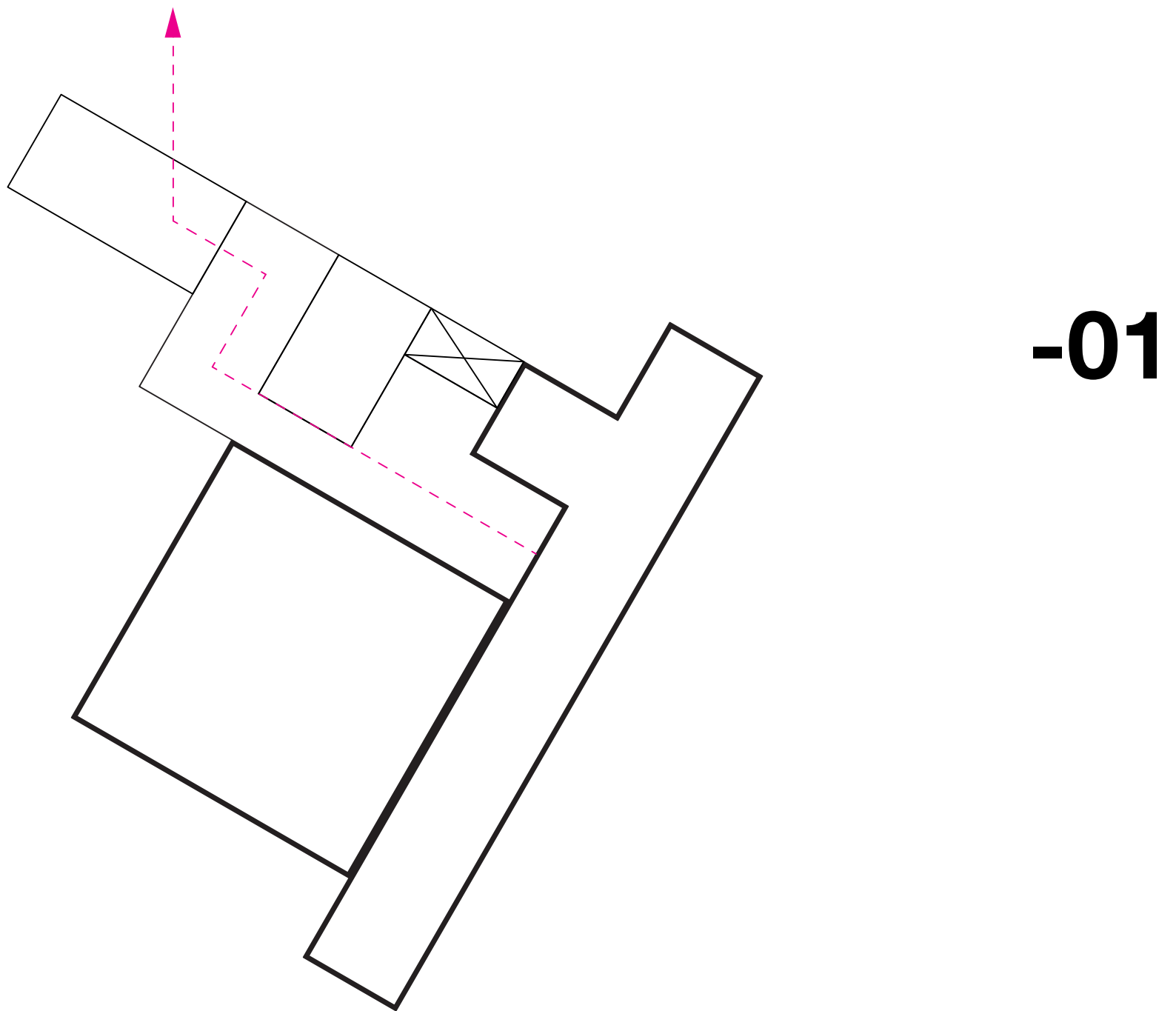
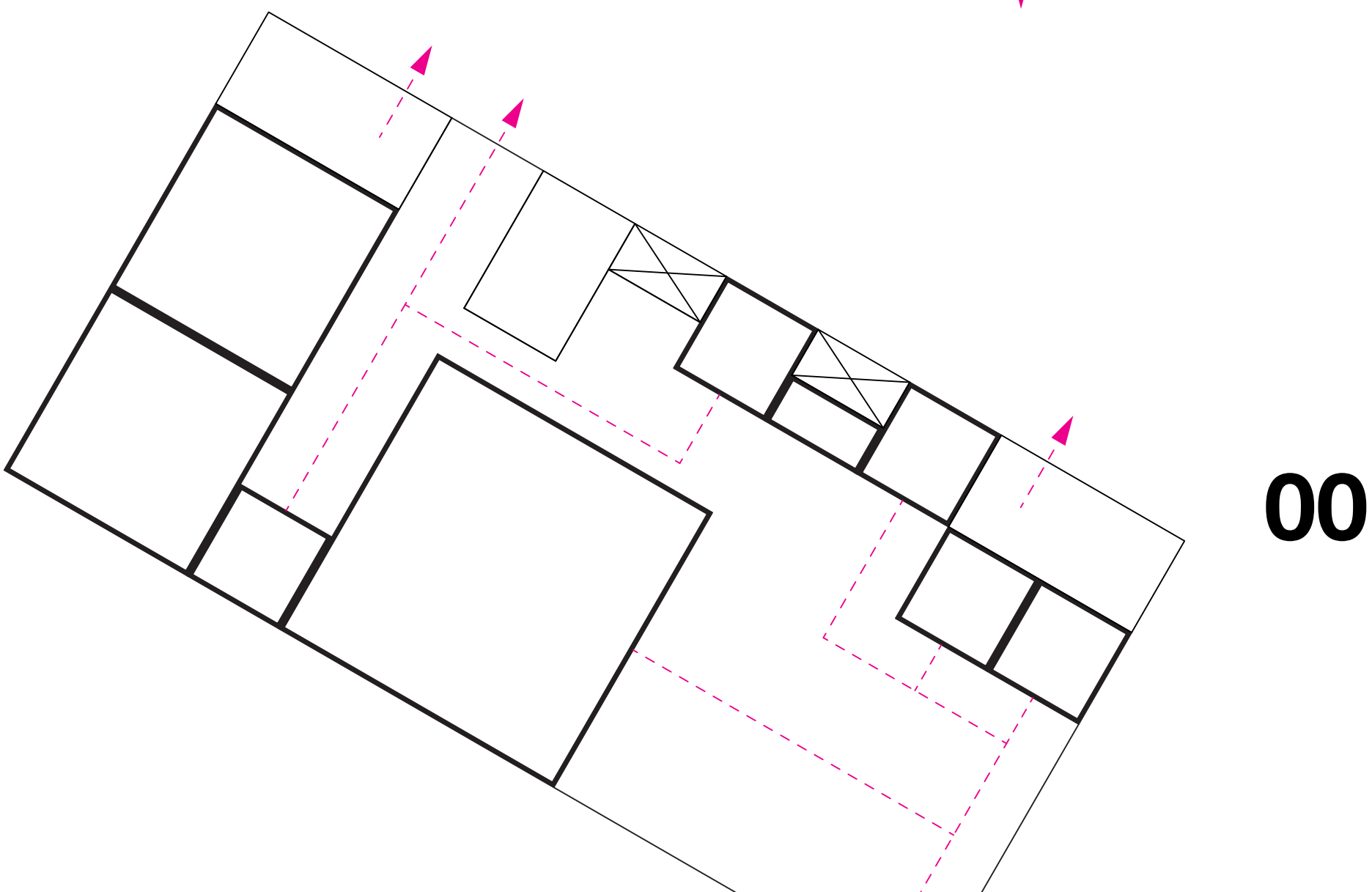
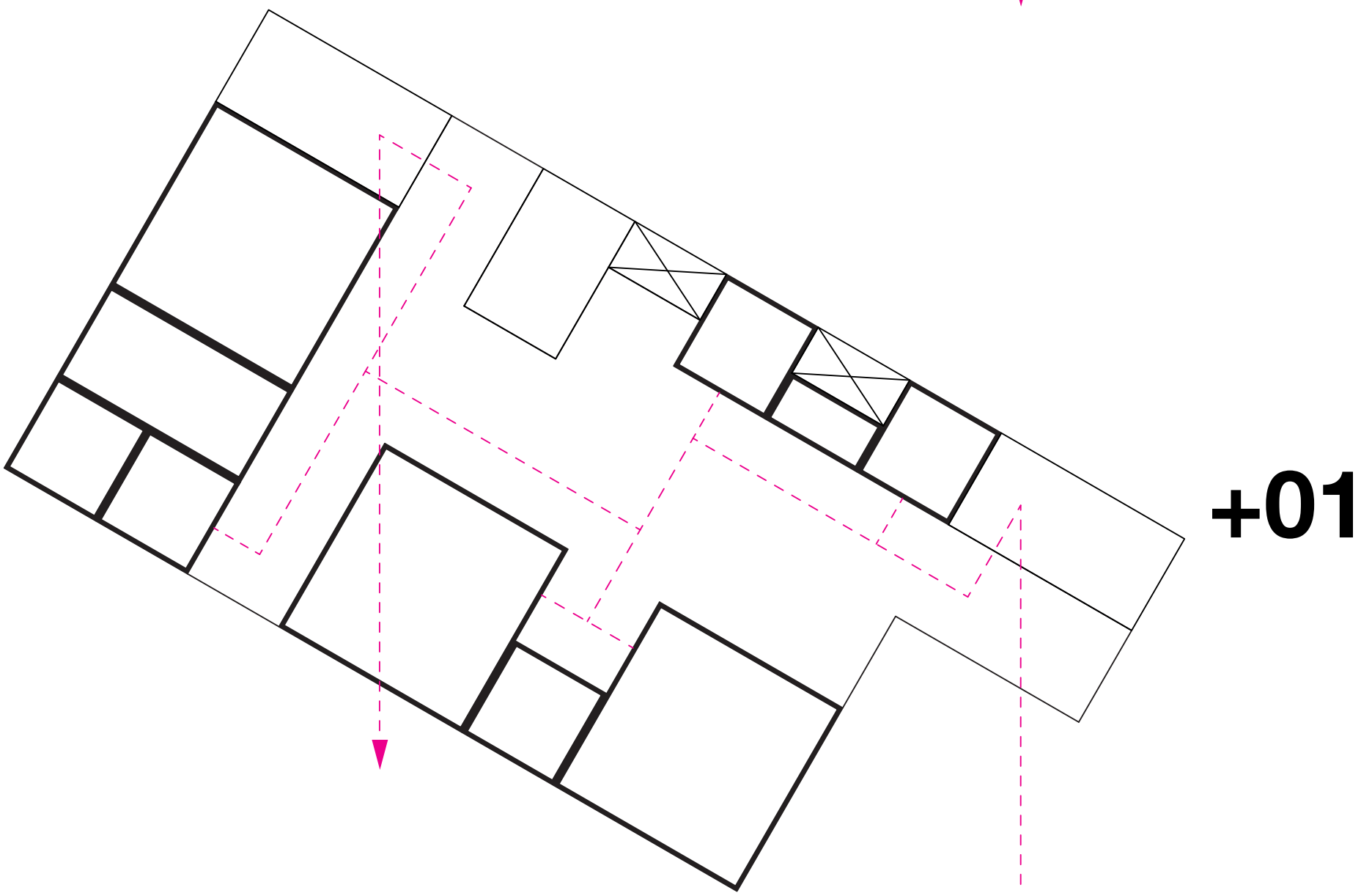
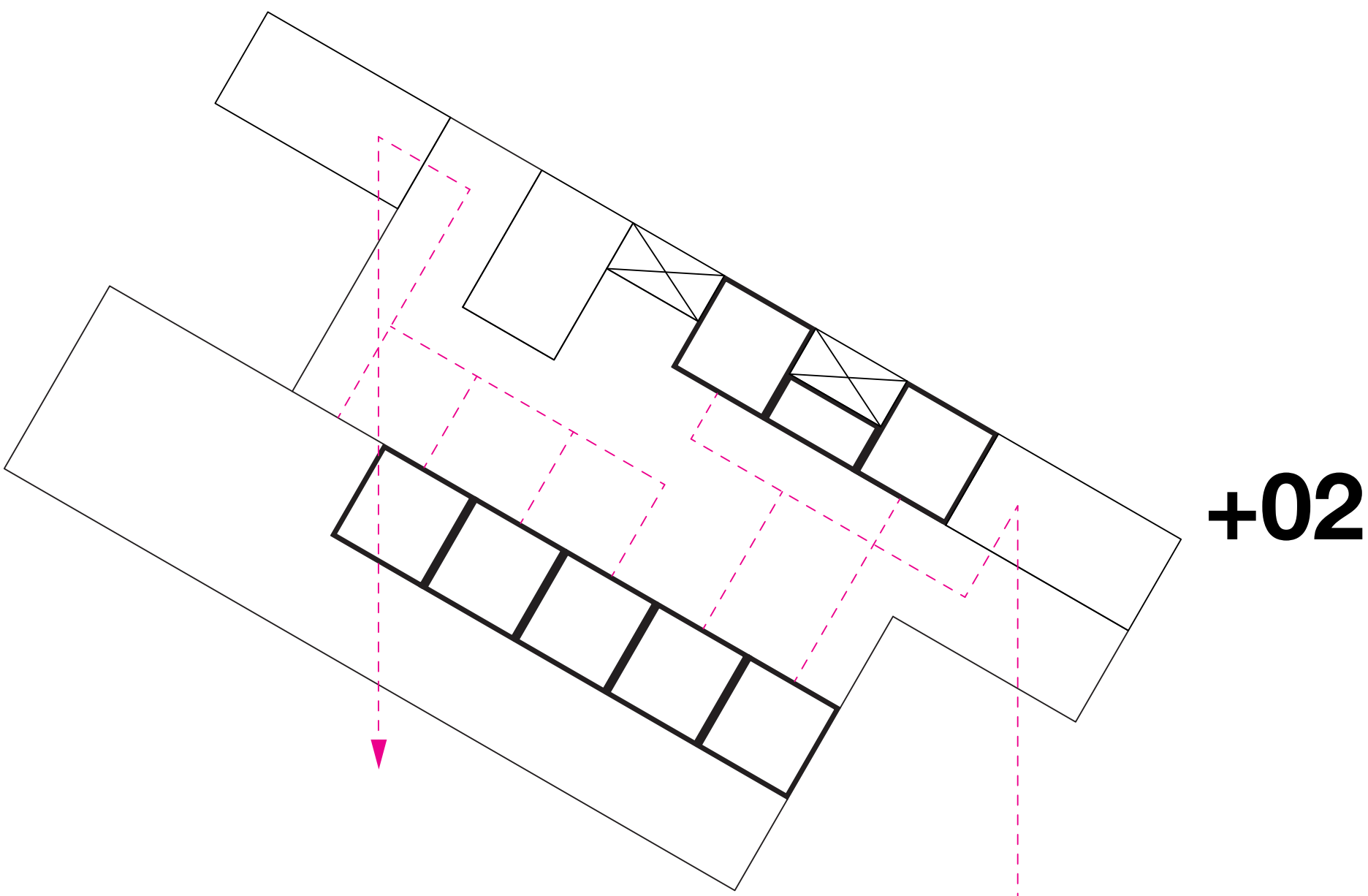
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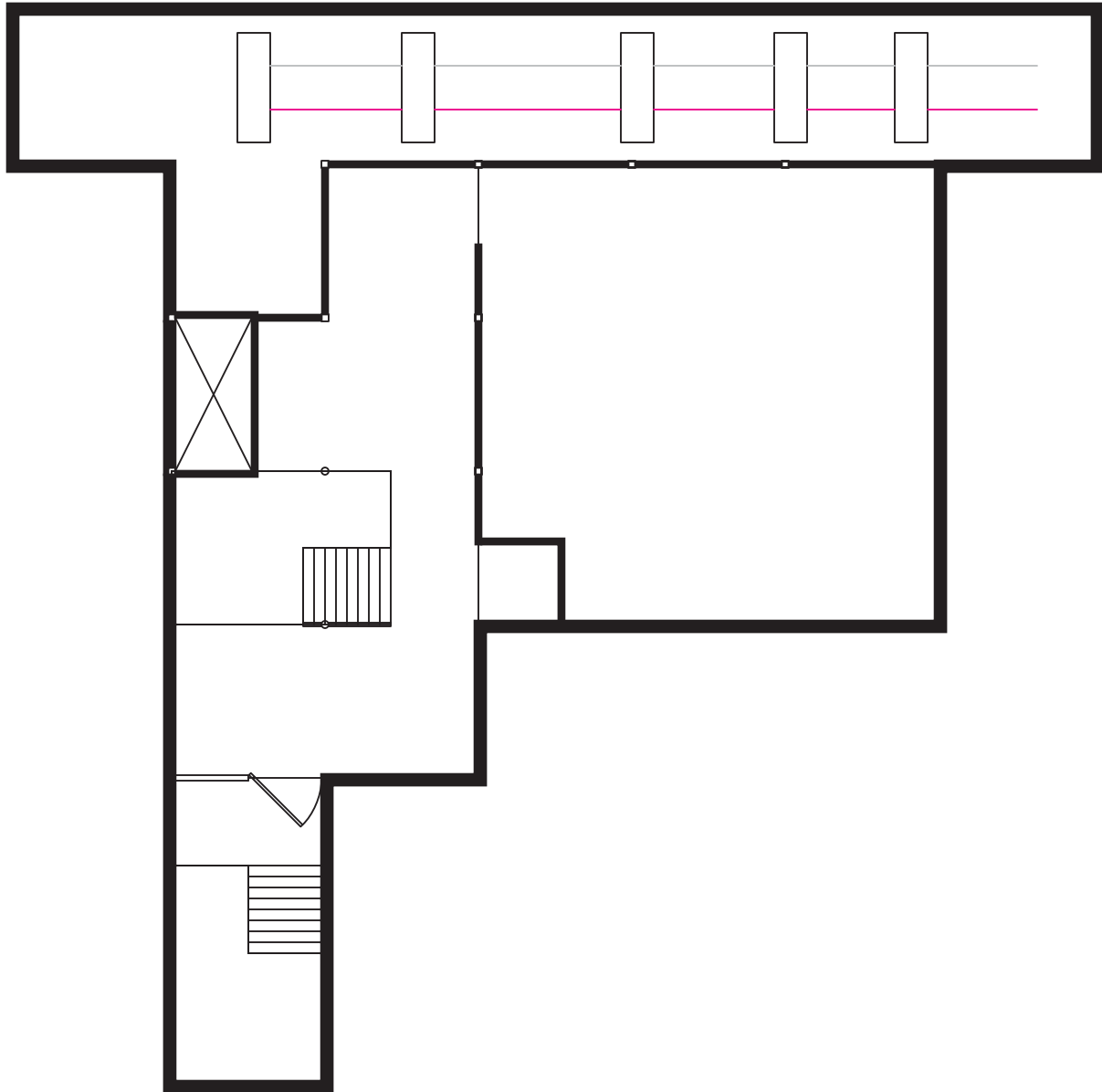
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1/16" = 1'

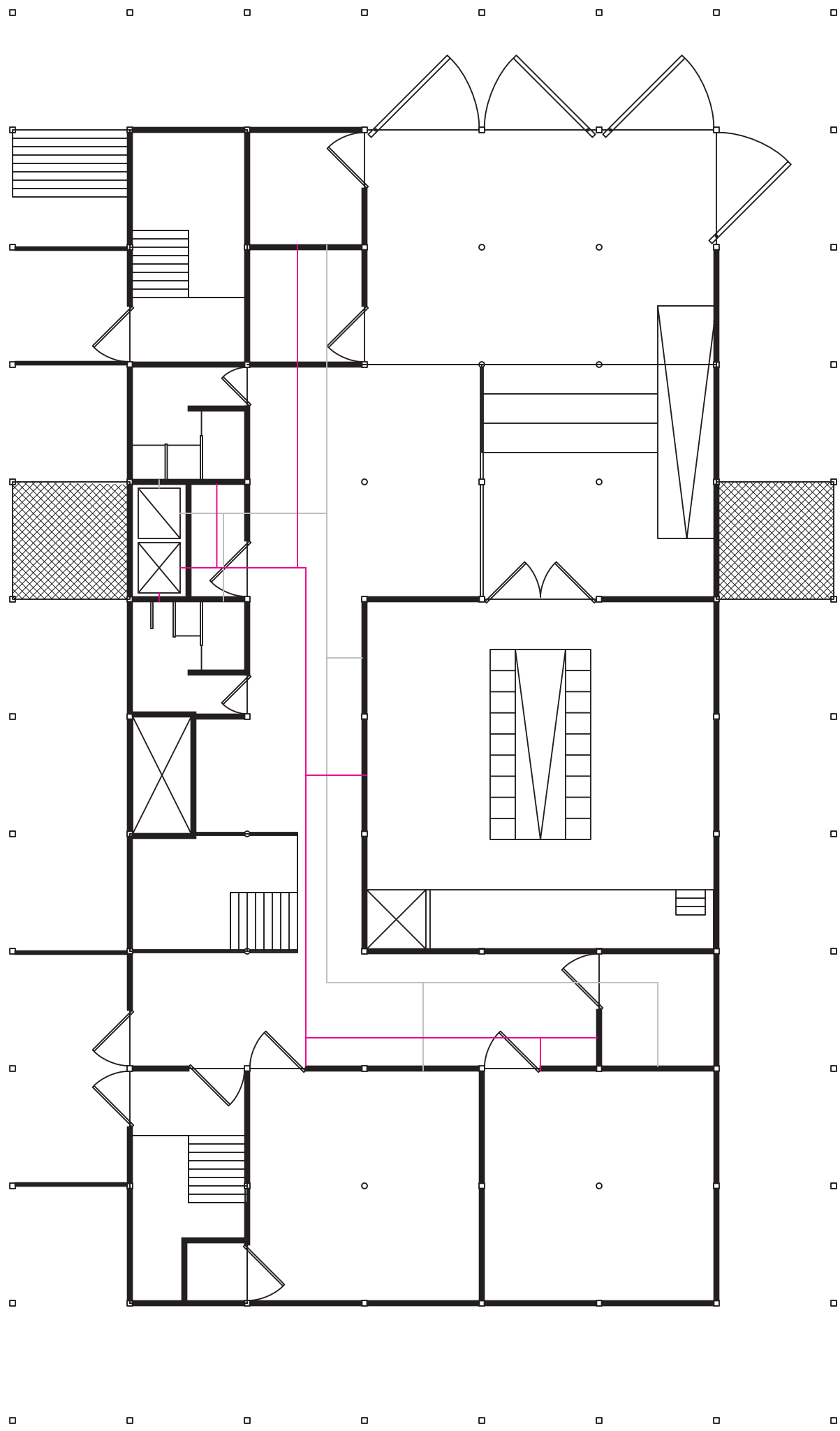




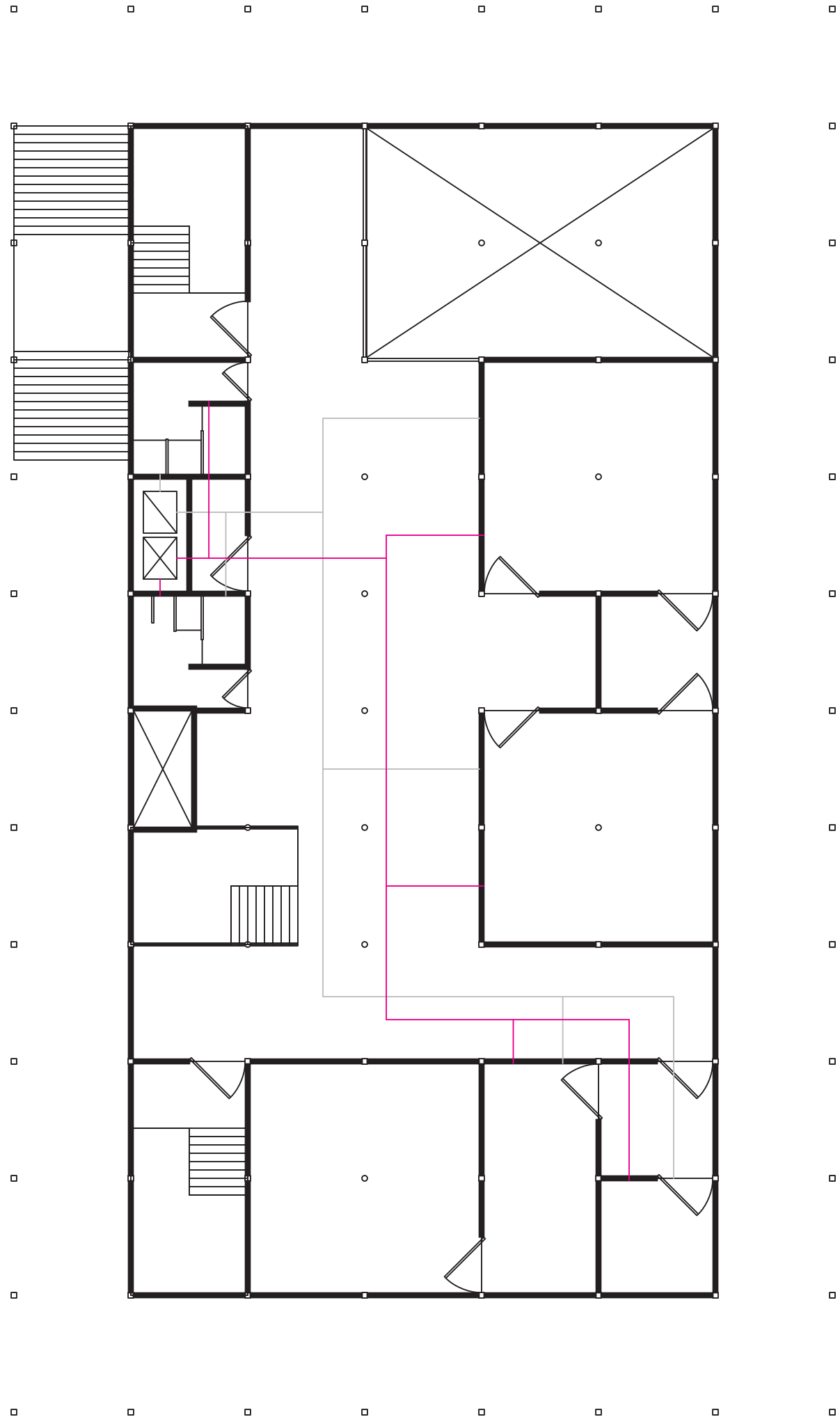




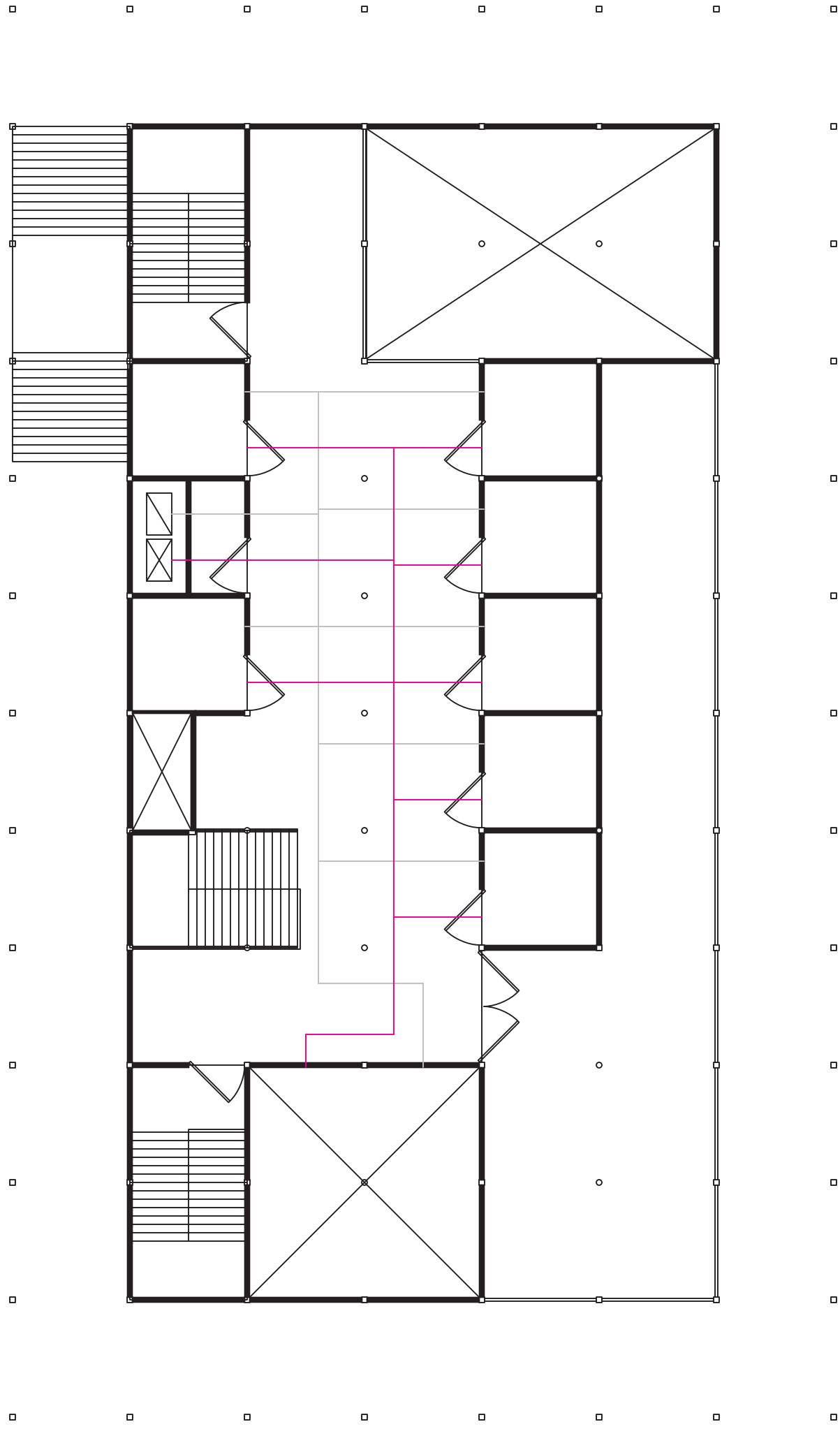
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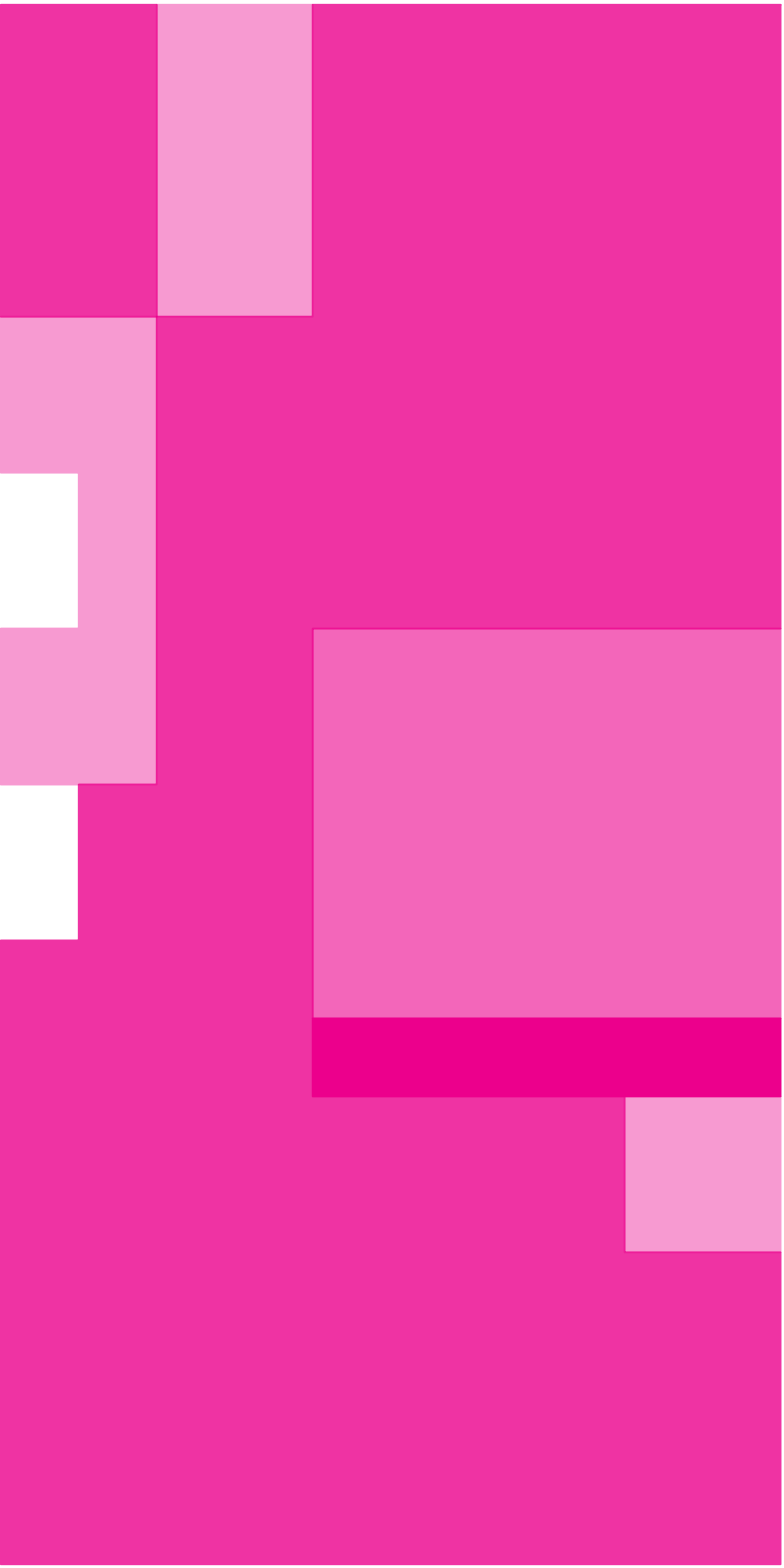
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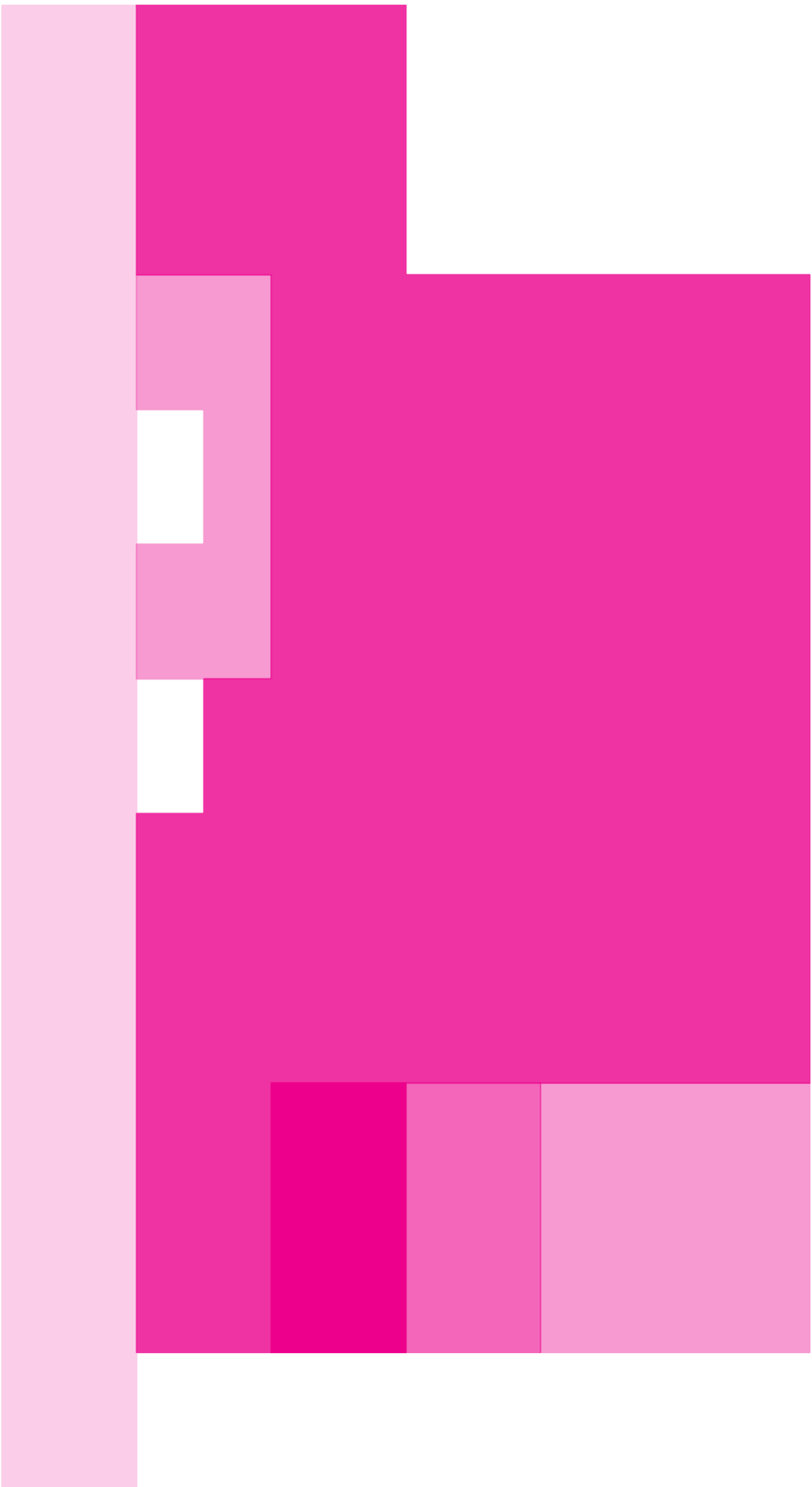
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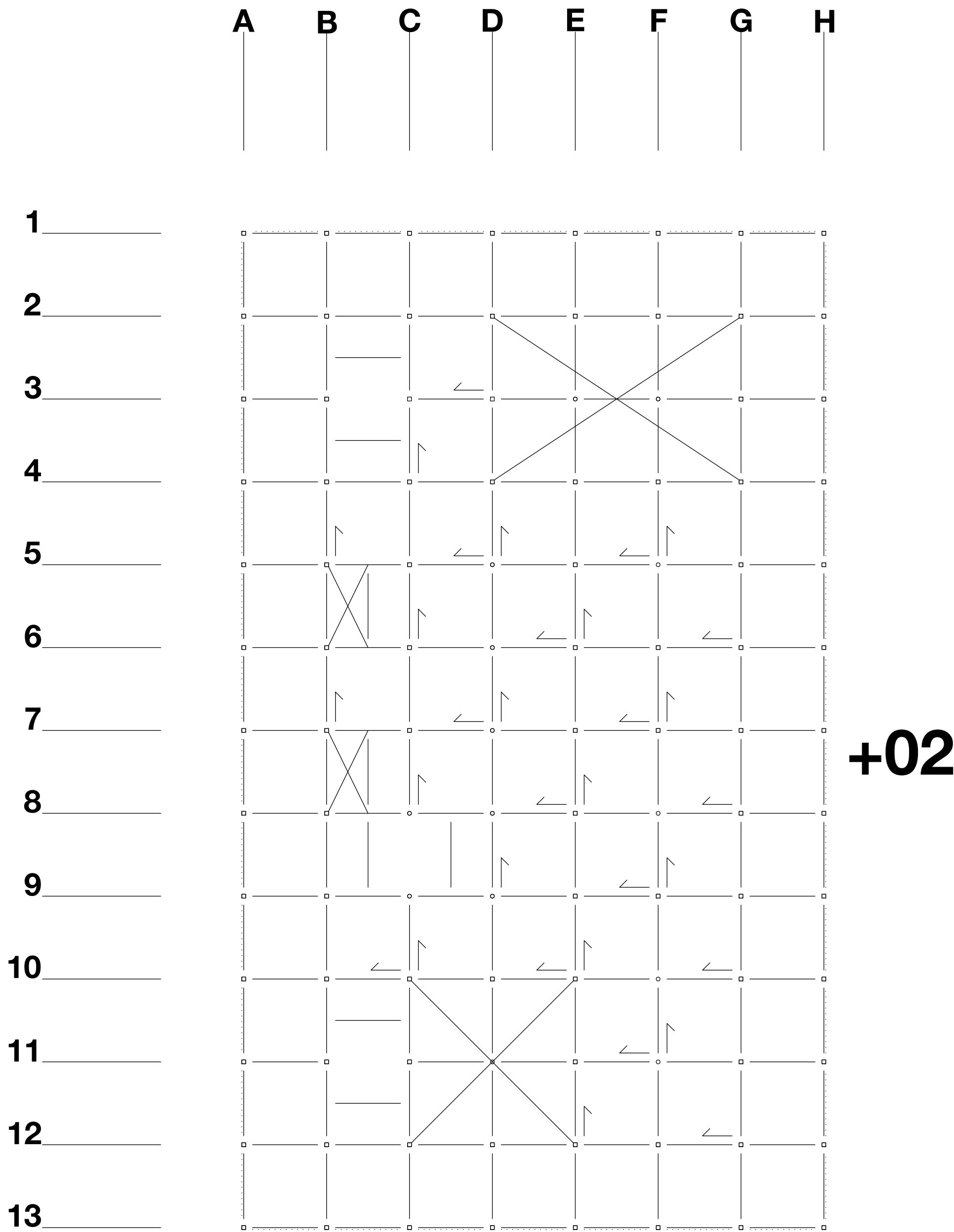
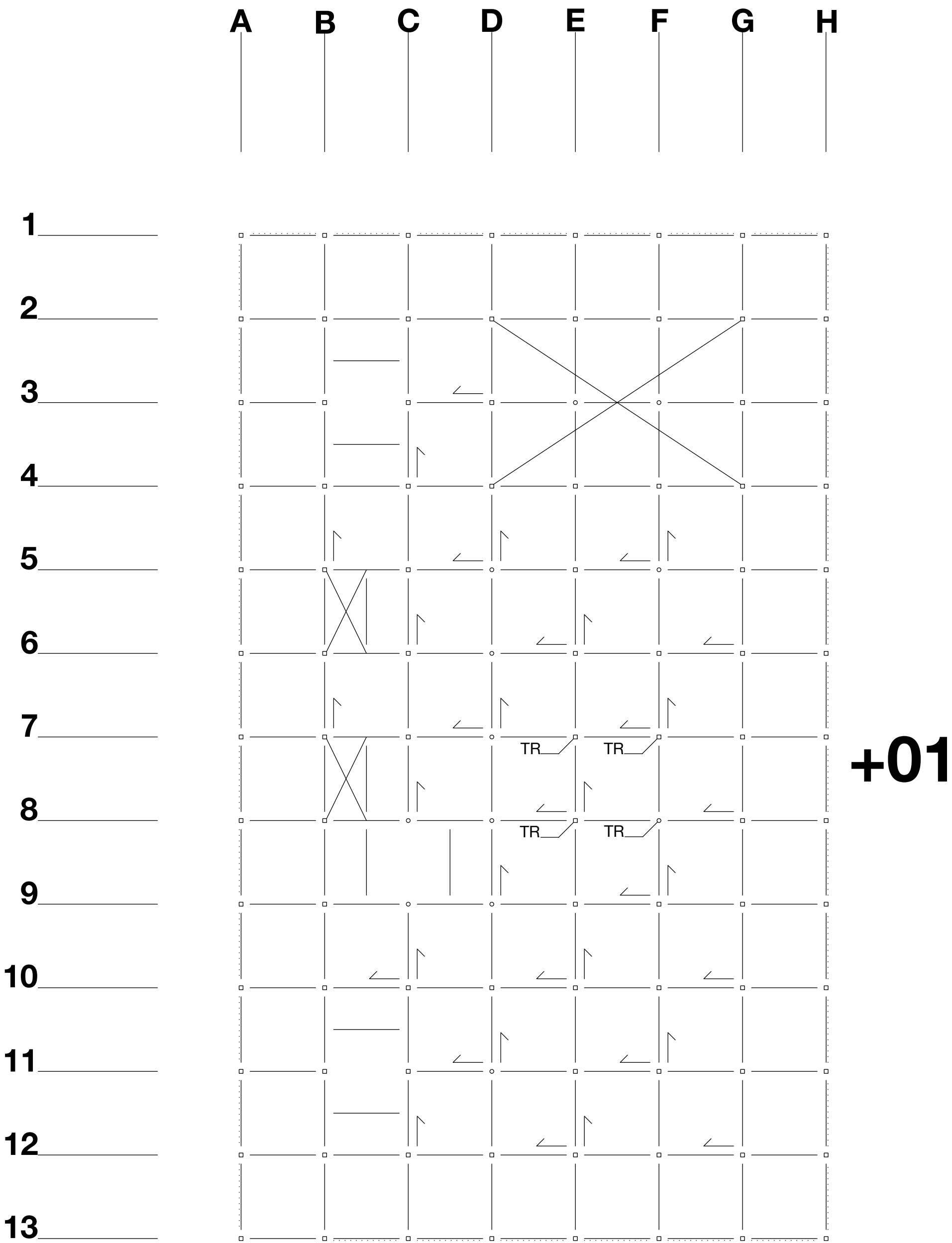
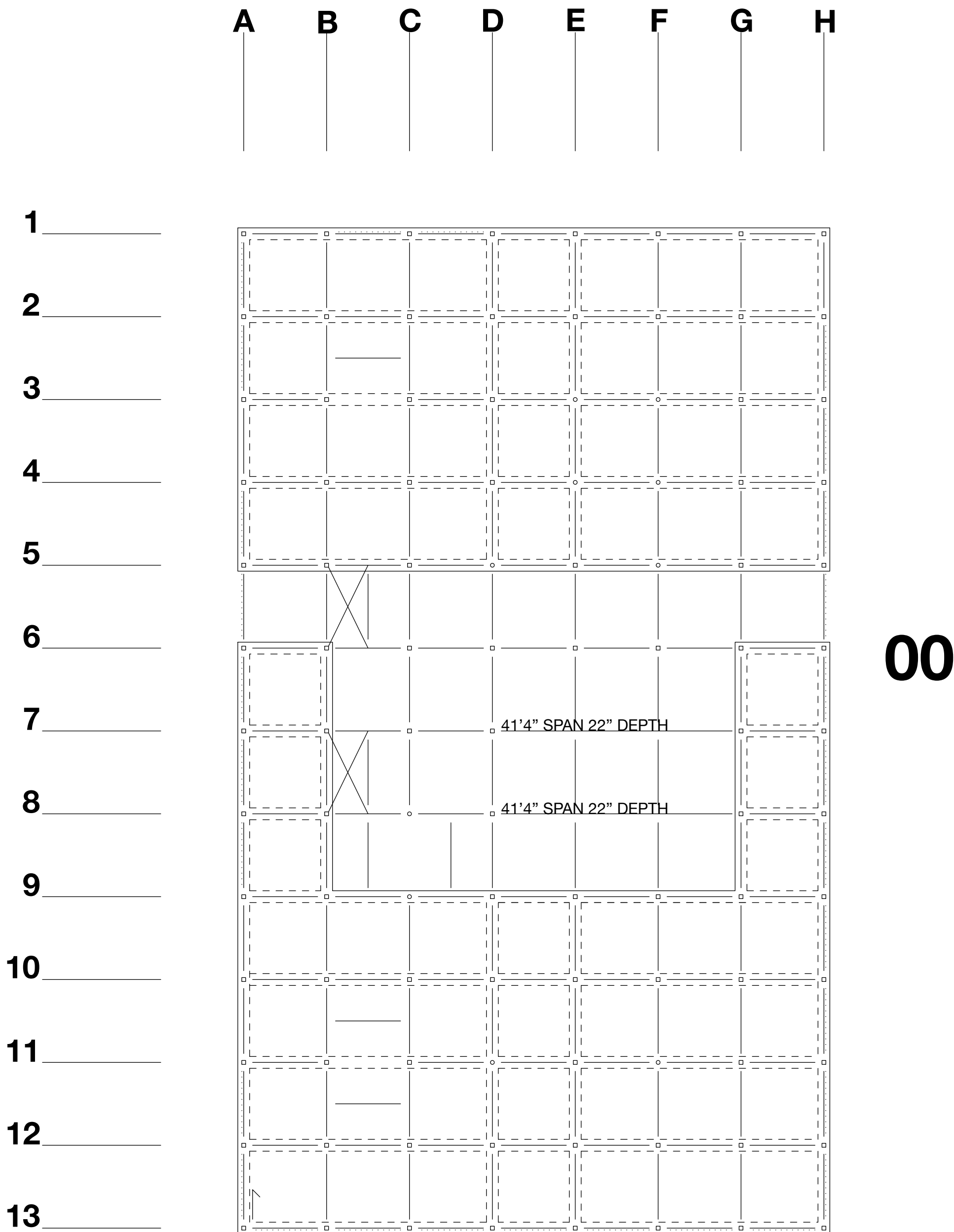
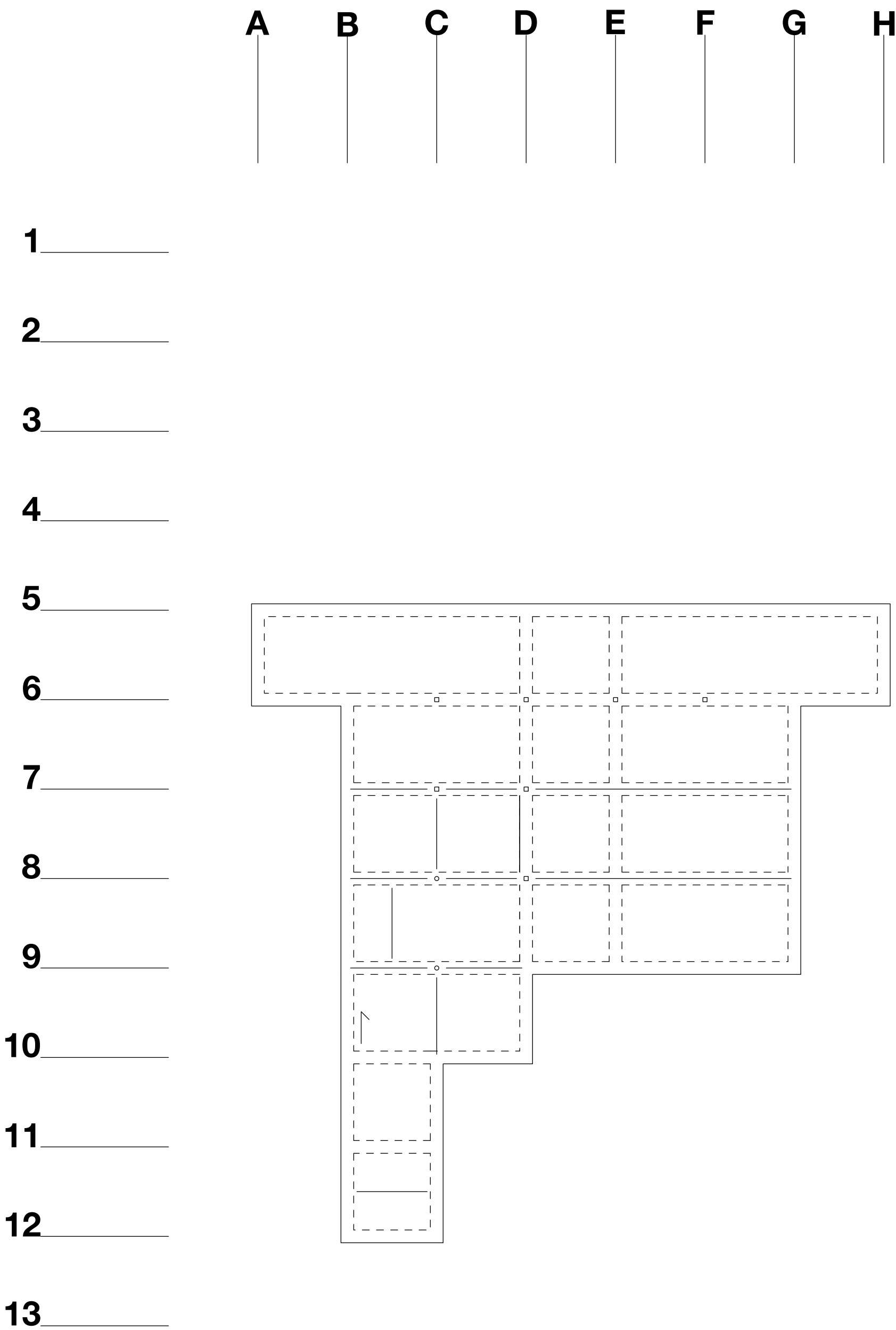
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LIVE LOADS

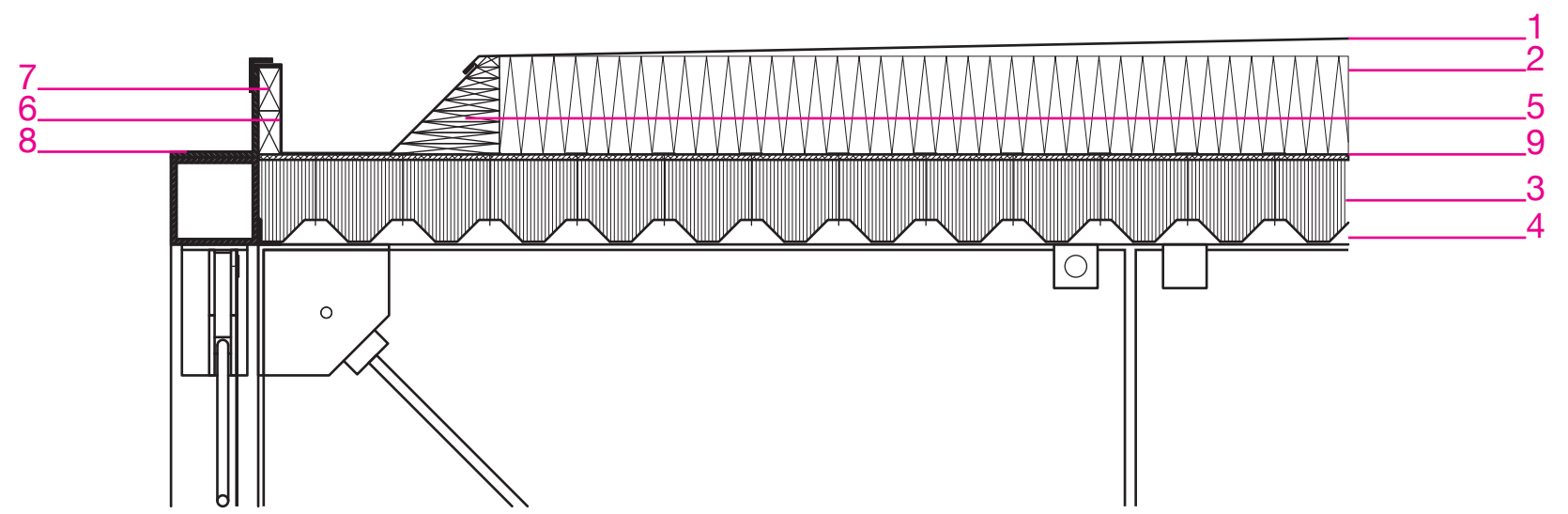




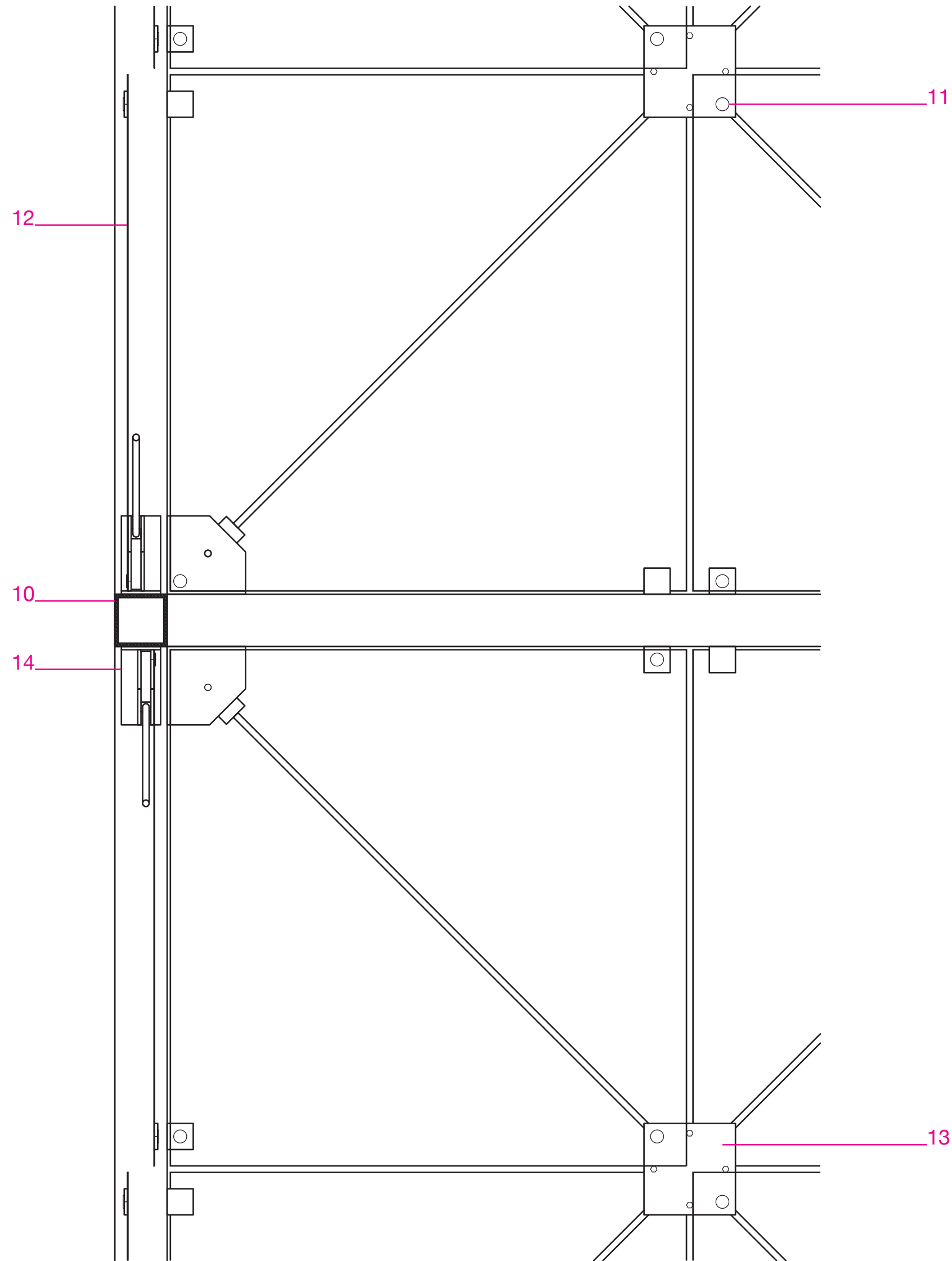
FRAMING PLANS

(dimensions standard except as noted)

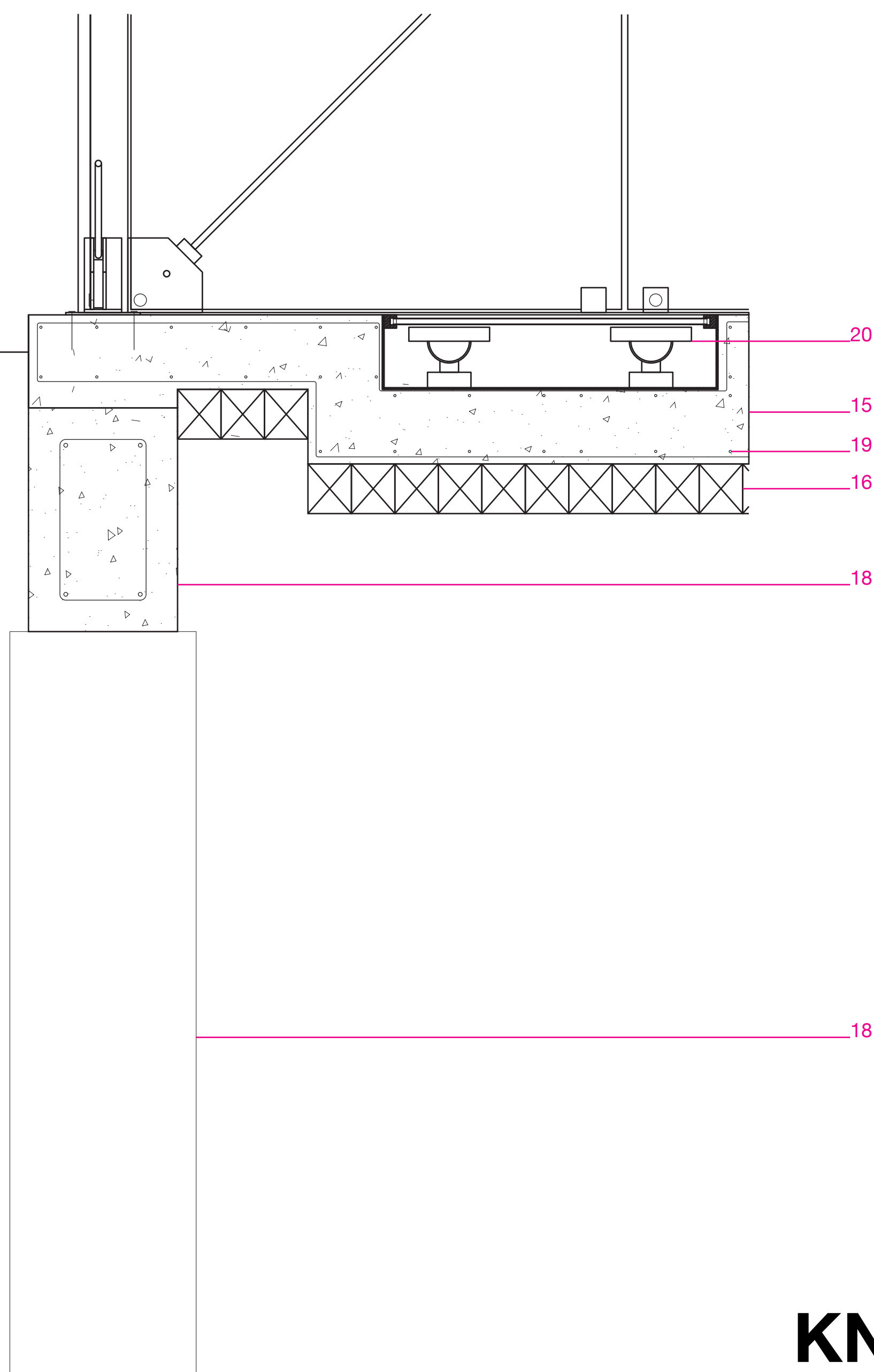
direction of decking 24" foundation & grade beam 8" steel tube column 13'4" unbraced length 8" steel pipe column 13'4" unbraced length 8" steel tube beam 13'4" span steel rod and cable lateral bracing



- 1 - TREATED ALUMINUM ROOFING
- 2 - FIBERGLASS BATT INSULATION
- 3 - NAILBASE INSULATION
- 4 - 3" METAL DECK
- 5 - 1 x SPACERS
- 6 - GUTTER
- 7 - 2 x SPACERS
- 8 - 8" STEEL ANGLE
- 9 - VAPOR BARRIER



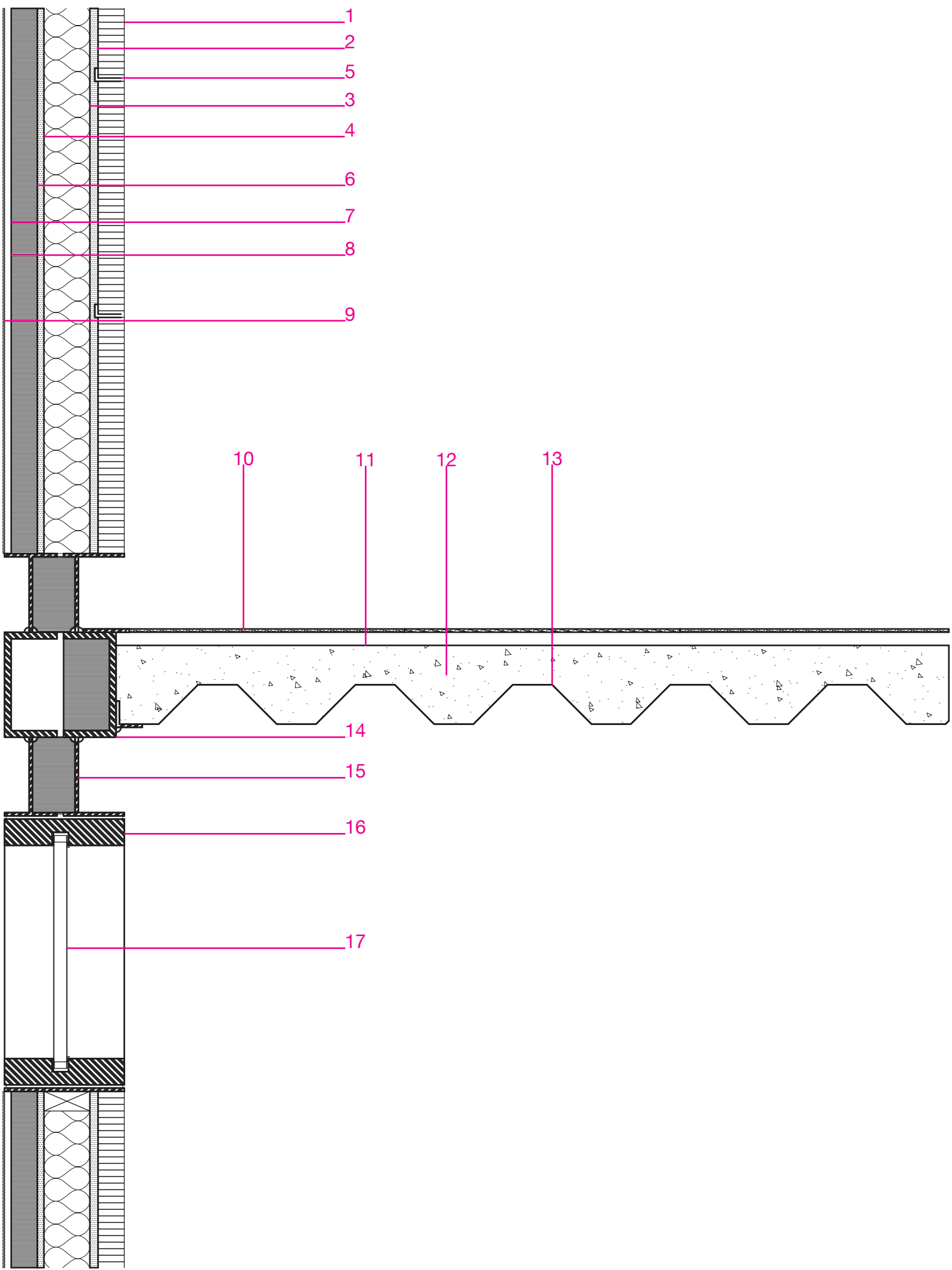
- 10 - 8" STEEL TUBE
- 11 - GLASS FASTENER
- 12 - GLASS
- 13 - STEEL ROD/CABLE BRACING SYSTEM
- 14 - LATERAL BRACING CONNECTION



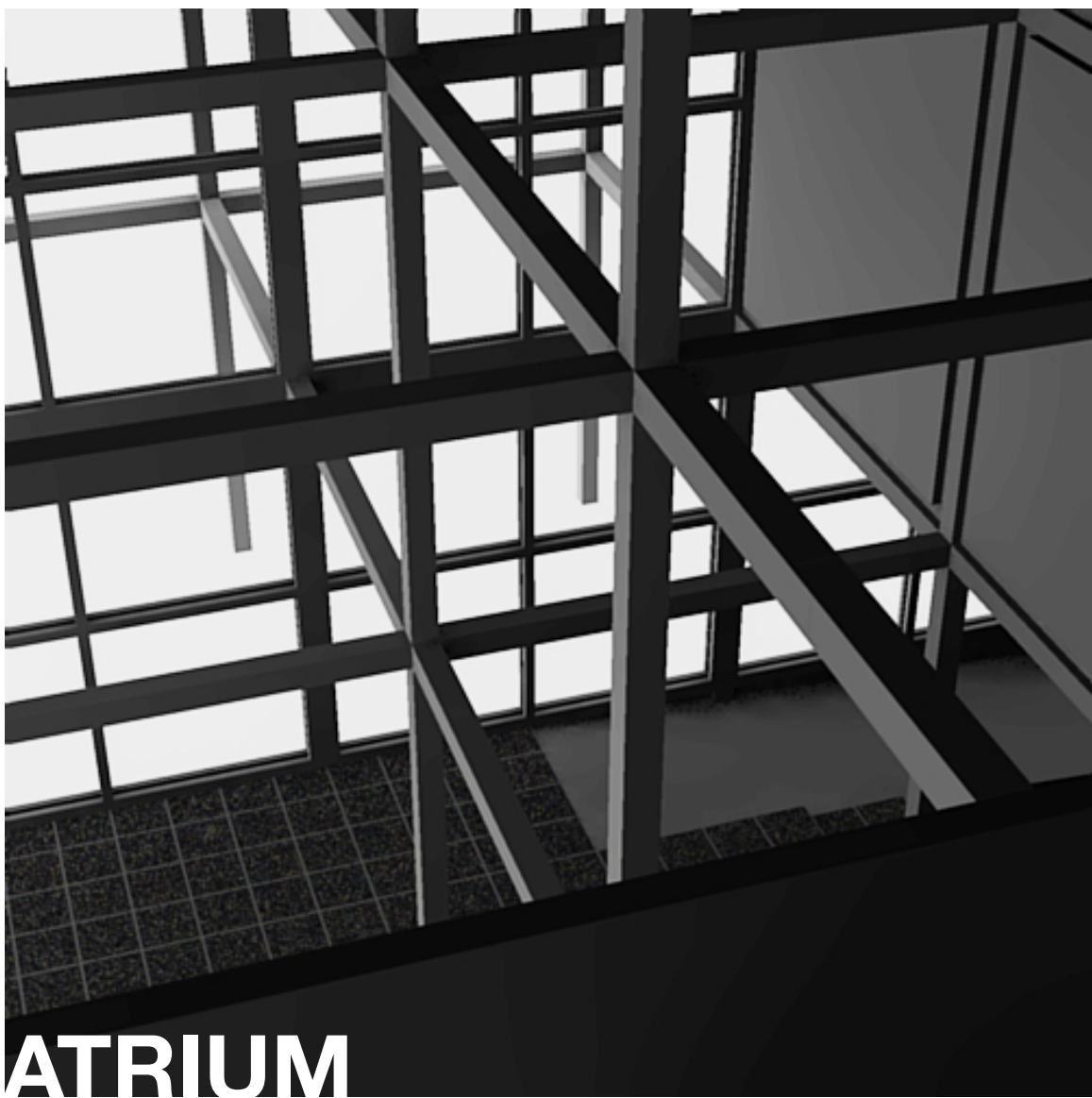
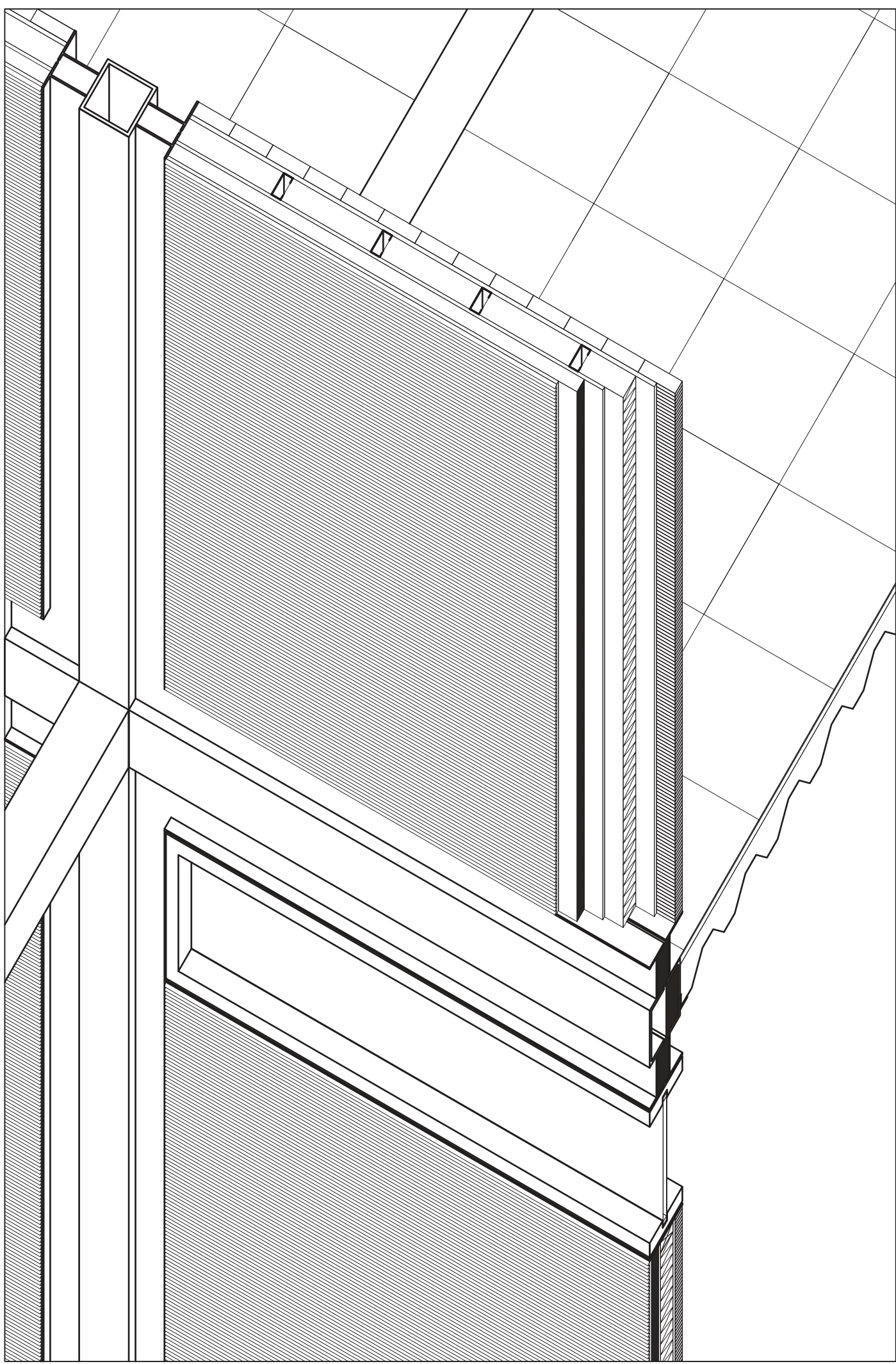
- 15 - 12" CONCRETE SLAB
- 16 - CARTON FORM
- 17 - 24" GRADE BEAM
- 18 - 30" PIER
- 19 - #3 REBAR @ 12" IN TWO DIRECTIONS
- 20 - FLOODLIGHT

ROOF- CONNECTION-
FOUNDATION-DETAIL

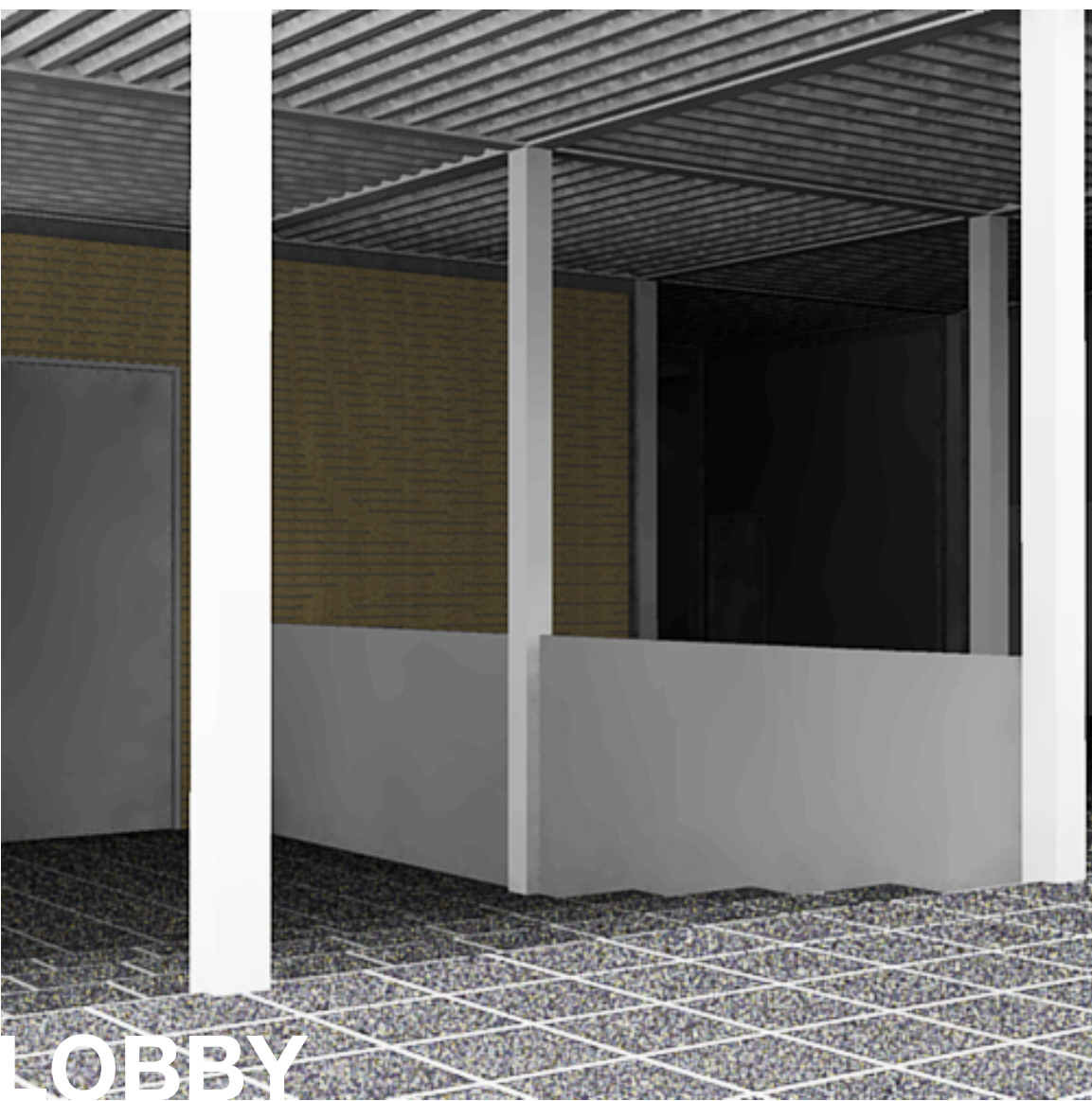
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- 1 - 2" SLATE VENEER
- 2 - 5/8" GYPSUM BOARD
- 3 - R-11 FIBERGLASS BATT INSULATION
- 4 - 1/2" GYPSUM SHEATHING
- 5 - TIEBACK
- 6 - 2" POLYISOCYANURATE INSULATION
- 7 - BITUTHENE MEMBRANE
- 8 - 1/2" HARDY BOARD
- 9 - CORRUGATED ALUMINUM SIDING
- 10 - 21" X 21" X 4" MASONRY TILES
- 11 - 1" TOPPING SLAB
- 12 - 3" CONCRETE SLAB
- 13 - 3" METAL DECKING
- 14 - 8" STEEL CHANNEL-SECTION
- 15 - 6" STEEL T-SECTION
- 16 - METAL FRAME
- 17 - GLASS



ATRIUM



LOBBY



SPECIAL COLLECTION



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