

An Elementary School in Blacksburg, VA

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Thesis submitted to the faculty of the
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of:

Master of Architecture

In

Architecture

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April 30th, 2012

Blacksburg, VA

keywords: elementary, school, Blacksburg, courtyard, main street,
classroom

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Abstract

Sited in downtown Blacksburg's Main Street, this elementary school participates as a citizen of the town as much as it is a singular entity that provides a secure, focused atmosphere for learning. Located directly adjacent to the original sixteen squares of Blacksburg, the site that once held an inward looking, stalwart building now holds an elementary school that realizes its responsibilities as a public building in addition to its internal purpose. Its architecture is an exploration in creating and resolving the tension in materiality and form. Its formal moves call out each element of the program and the following drawings depict the relationship of one to another.

Acknowledgments

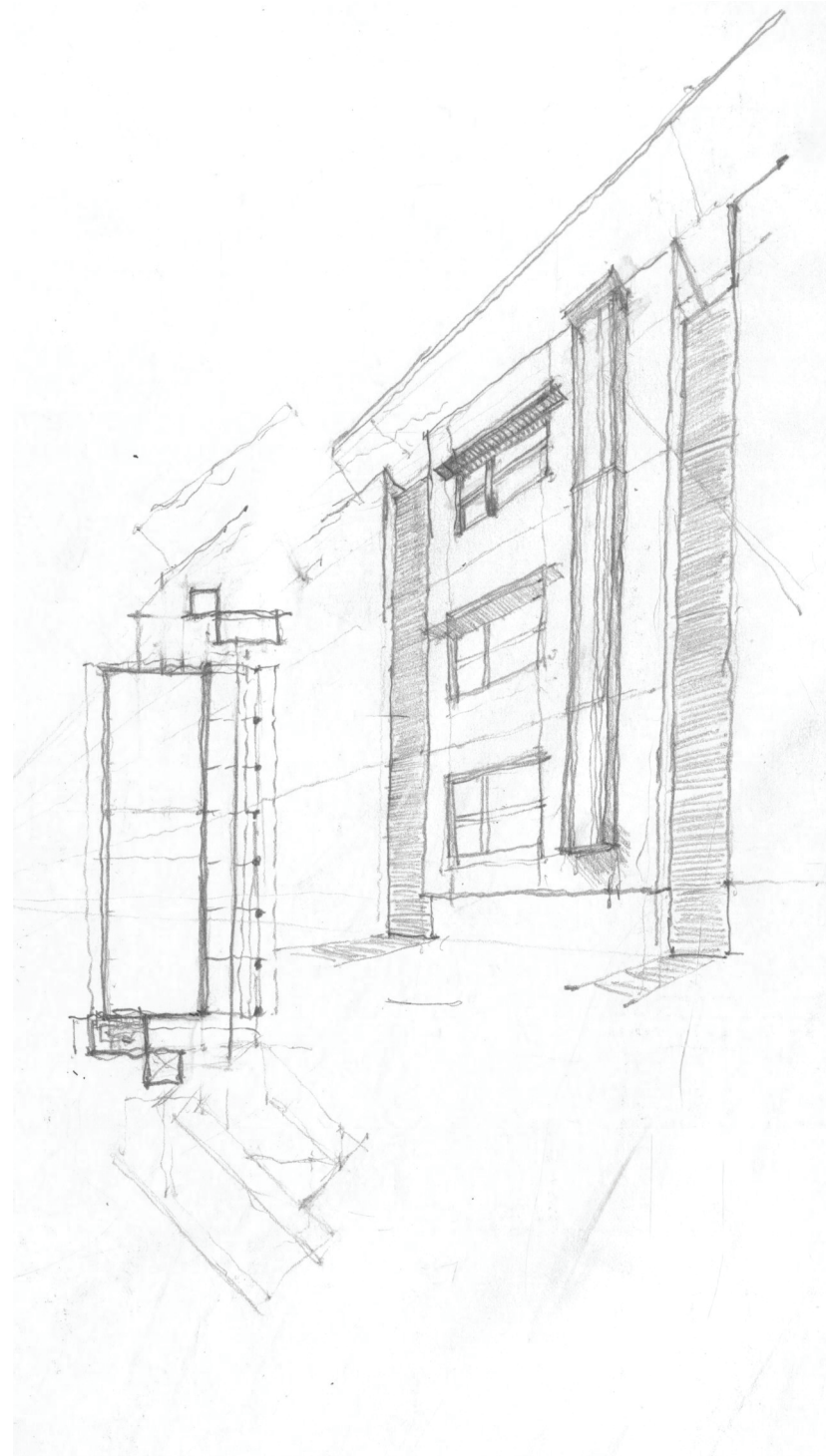
To:

My family, friends and professors;
Mom, Dad, Christina, Anthony, and Joseph;
and Stacey

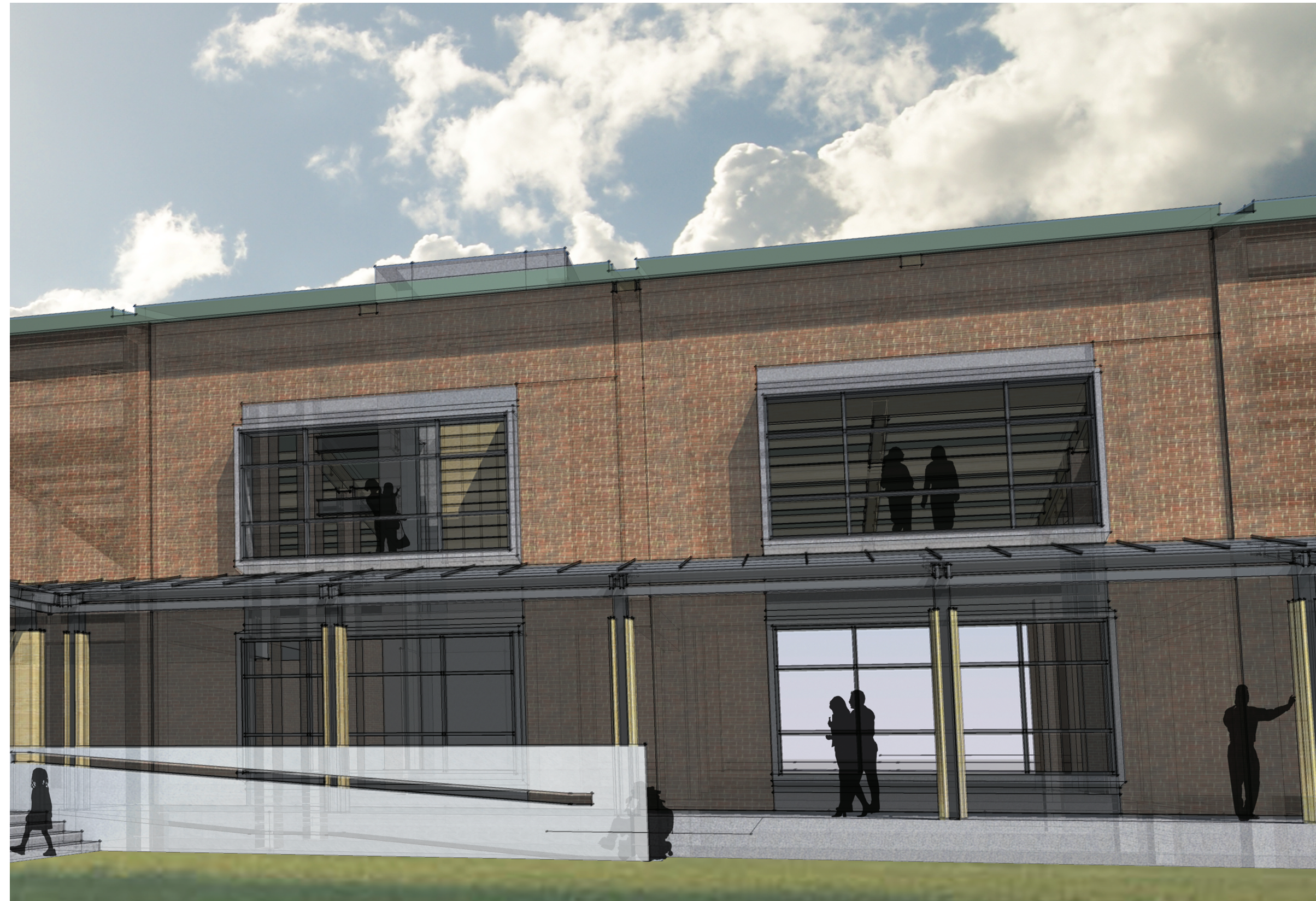
Thank you for asking me simply to do my best

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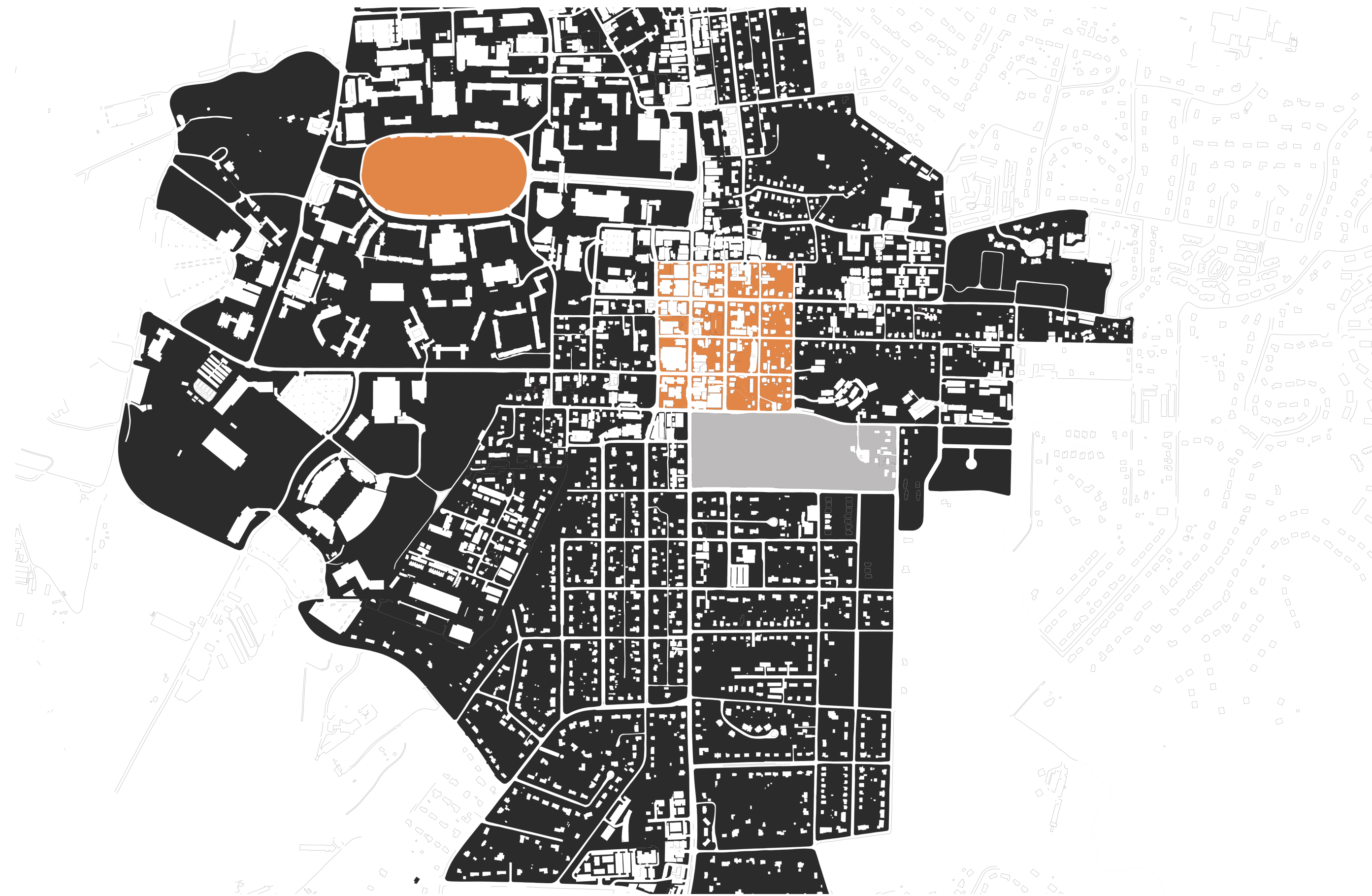
AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL IN BLACKSBURG

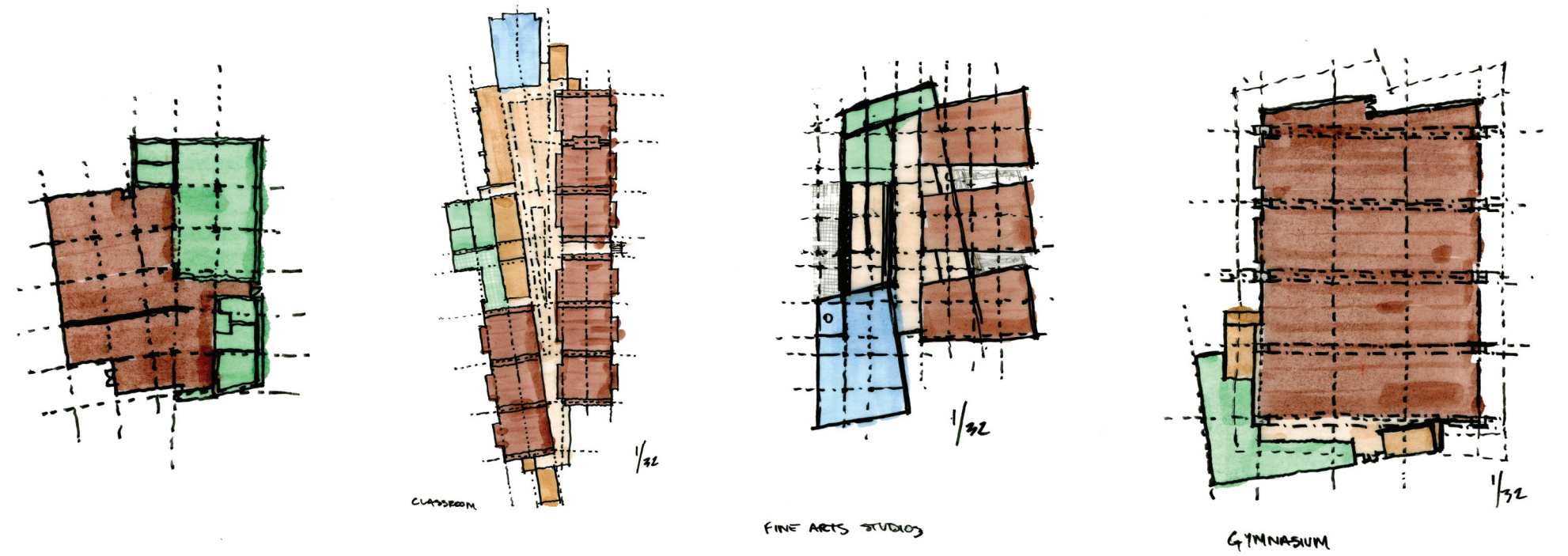
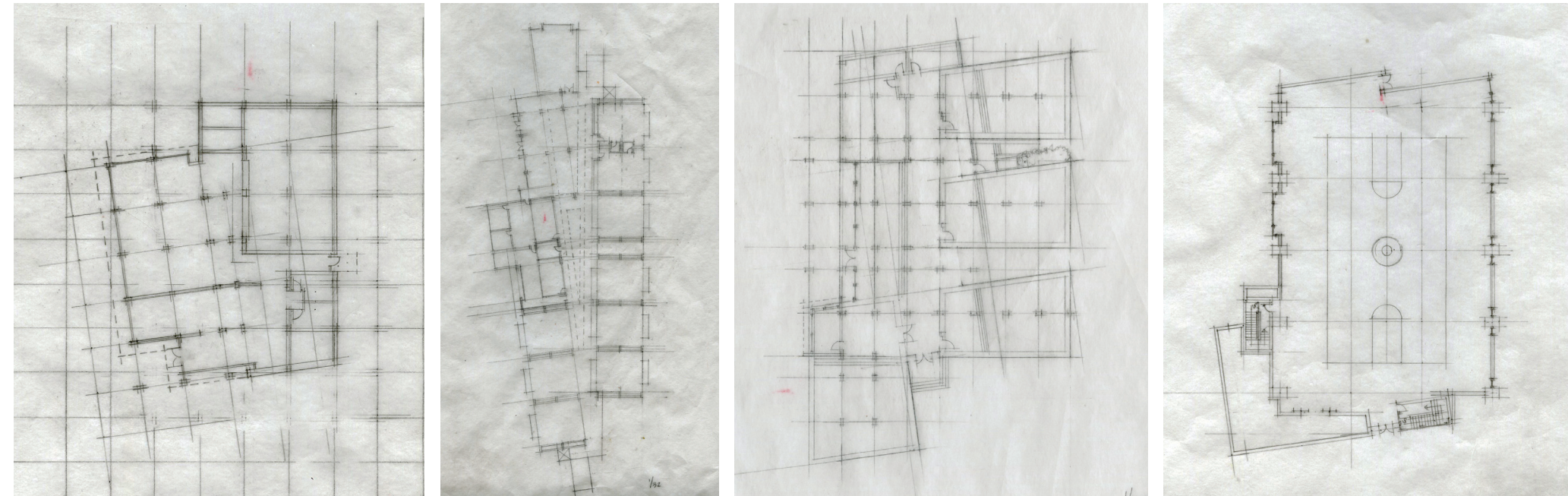
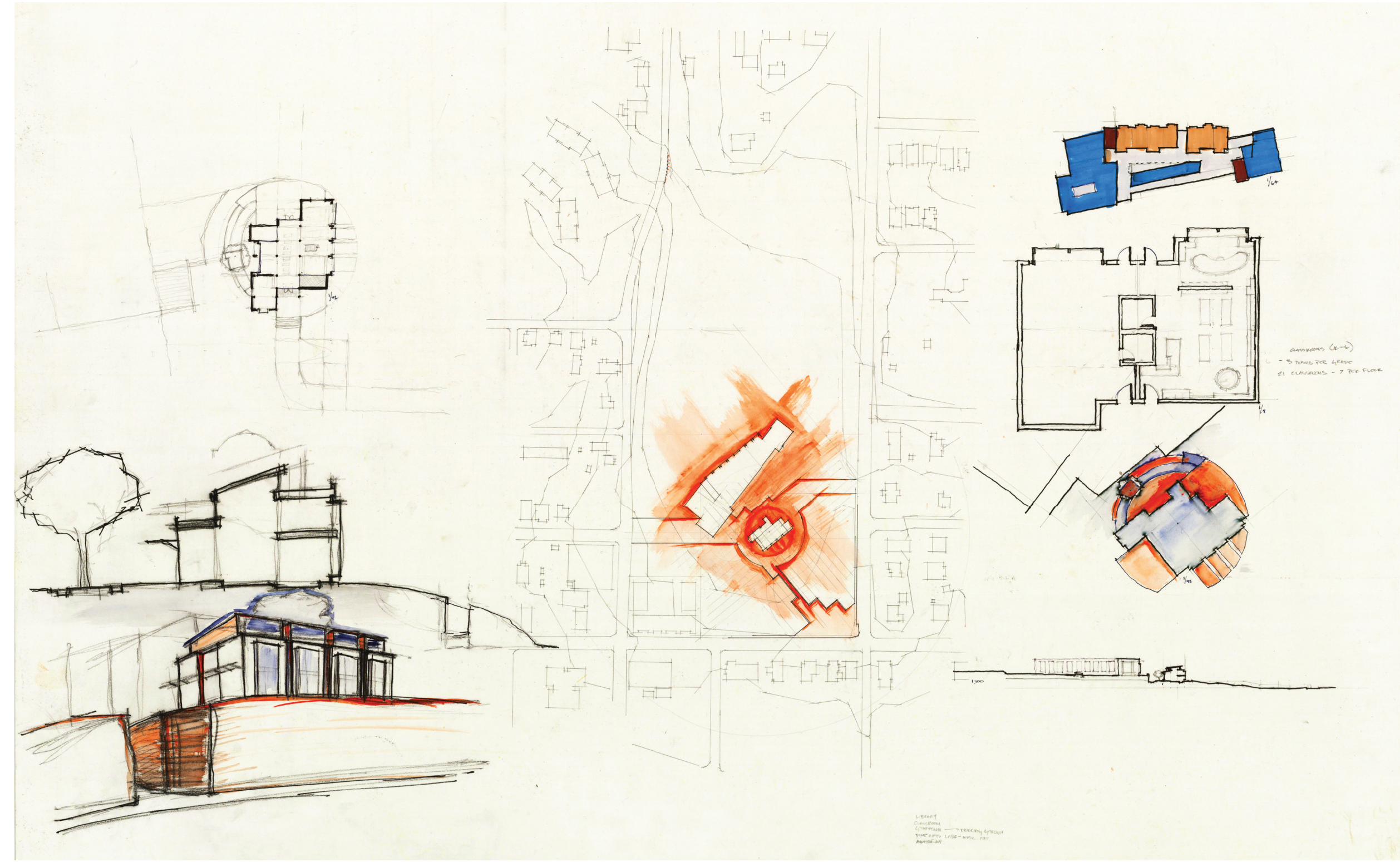


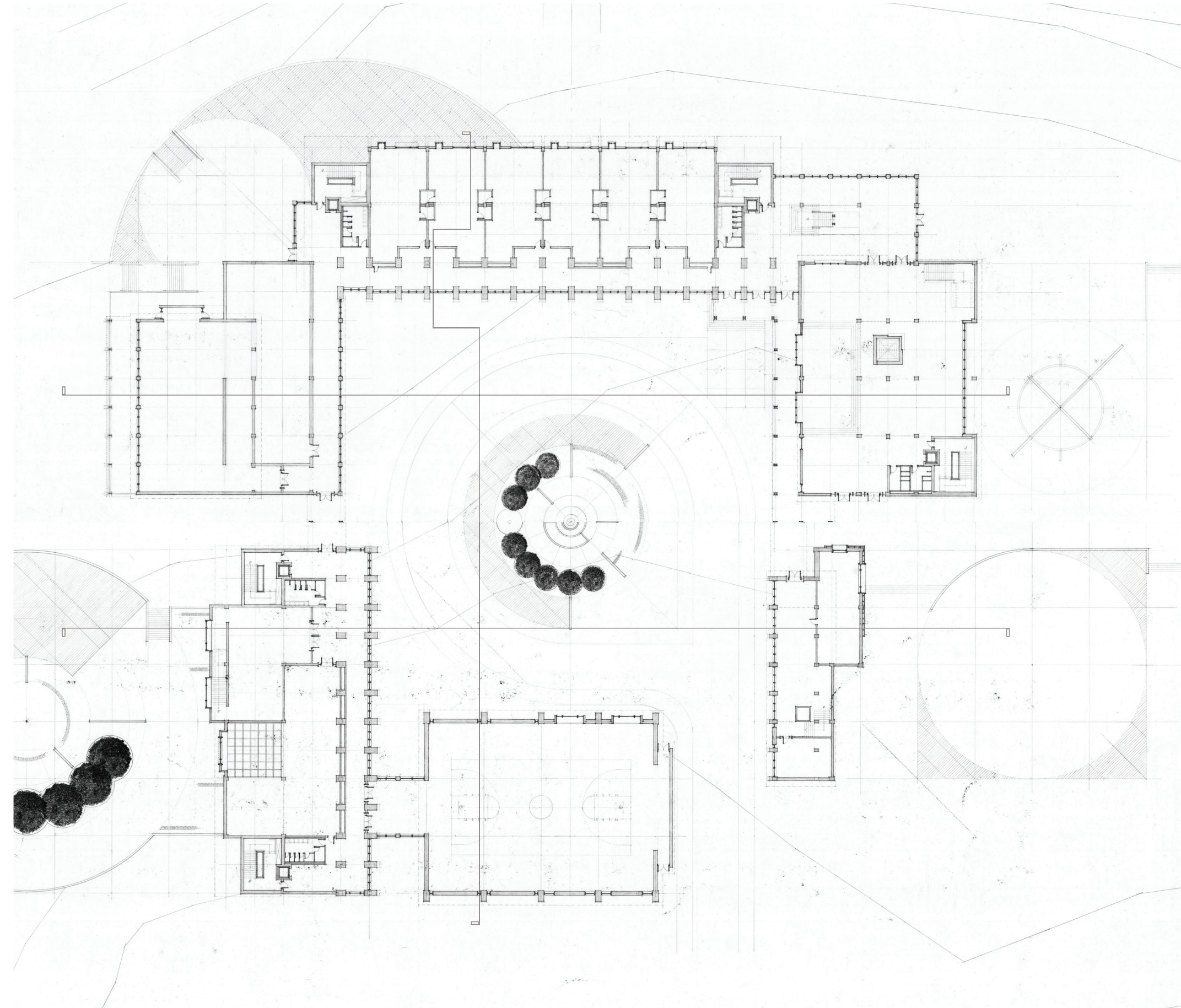
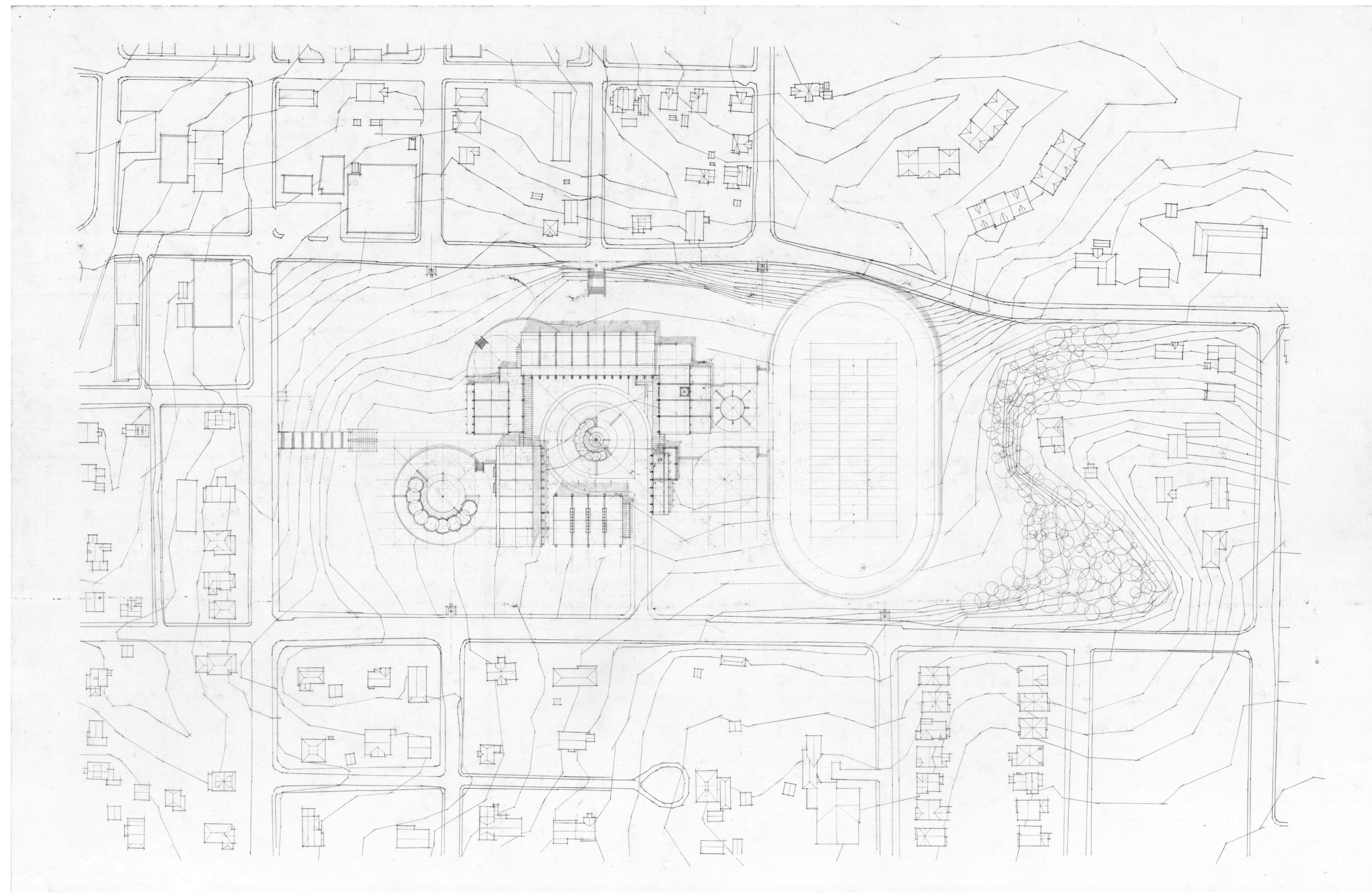
Introduction

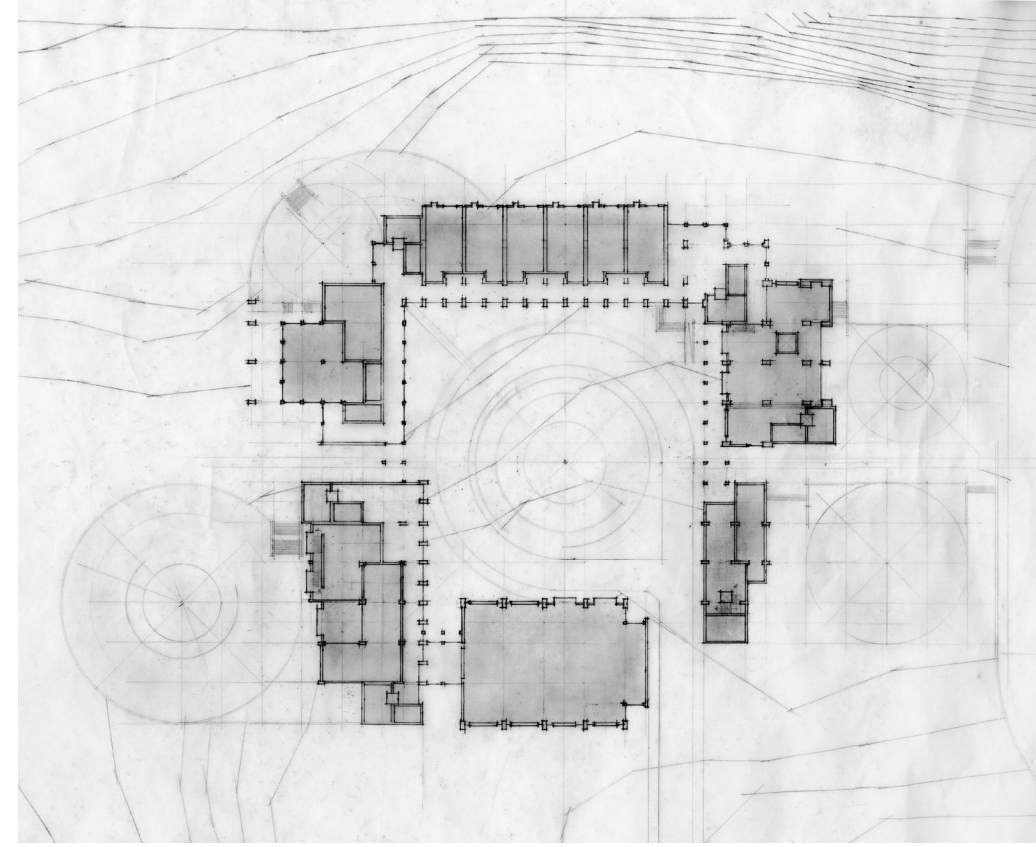
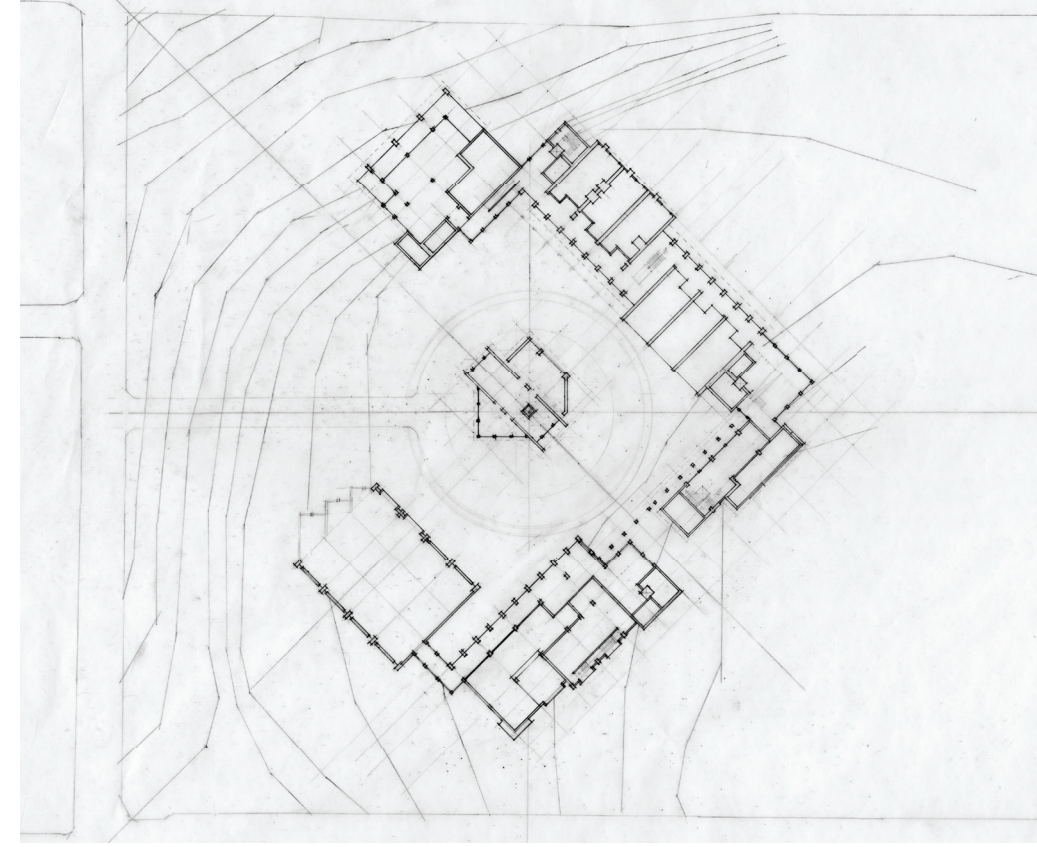
This project is an exploration in manifesting architecture. It is about the dialogue between form (the whole) and the assembly of its parts. It is about juxtaposing oppositions to create dichotomies: heavy and light, thick and thin, open and closed. In this juxtaposition tension is created and the interplay of parts creates an architectural expression that appears balanced and simultaneously at rest. In doing so, the true quality of materiality is self evident: thickness is seen relative to an adjacent thinness.

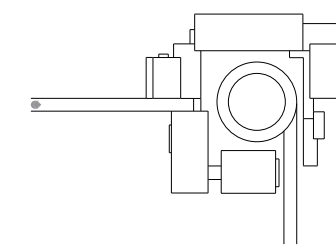
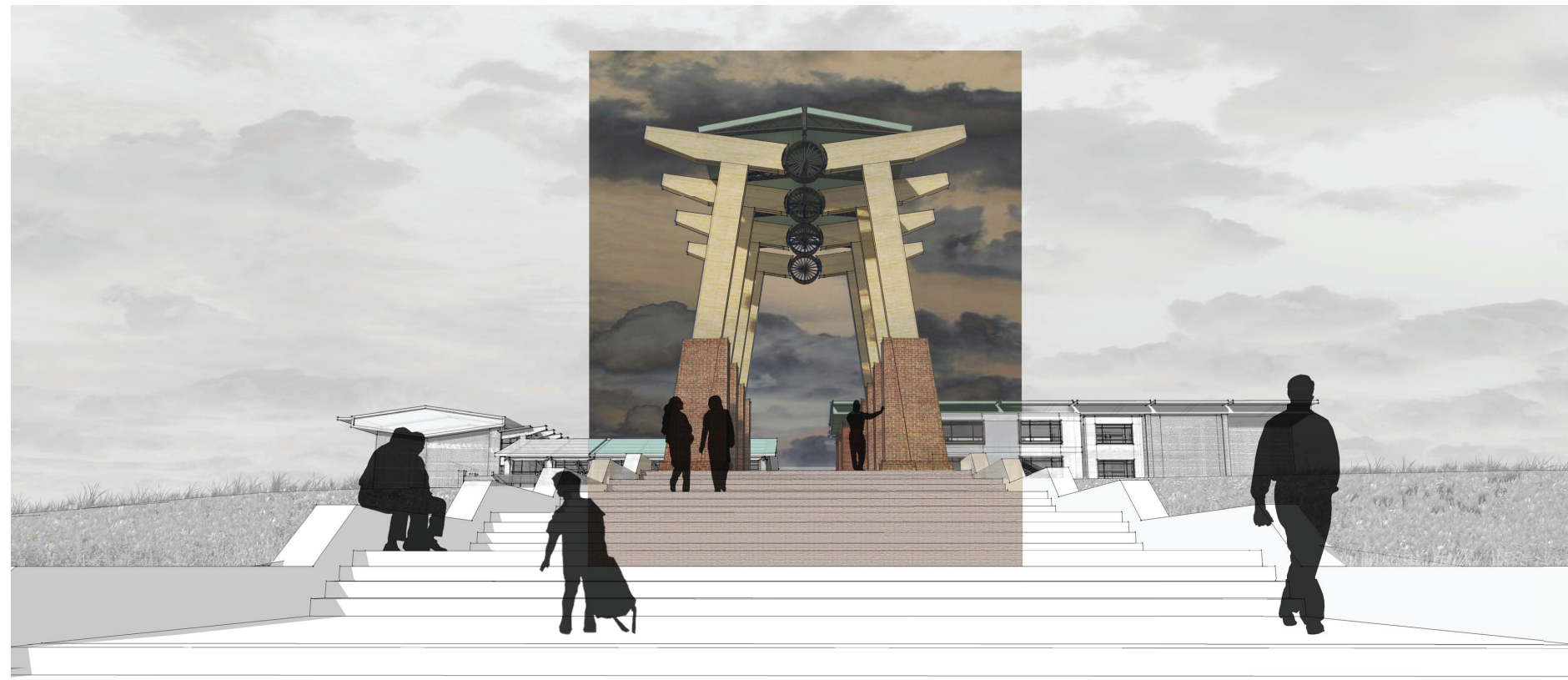
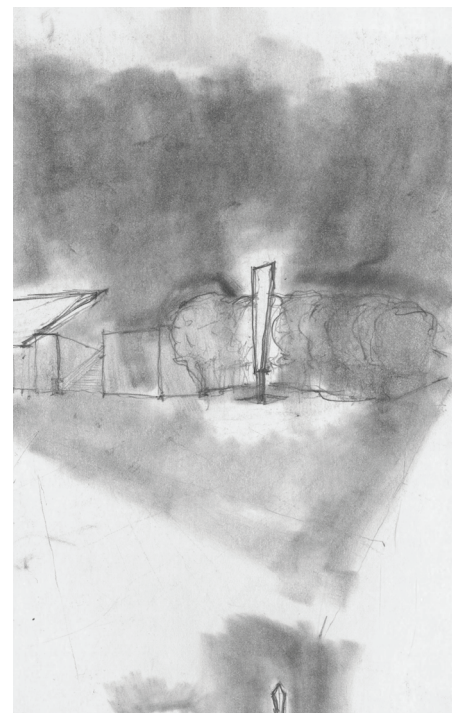
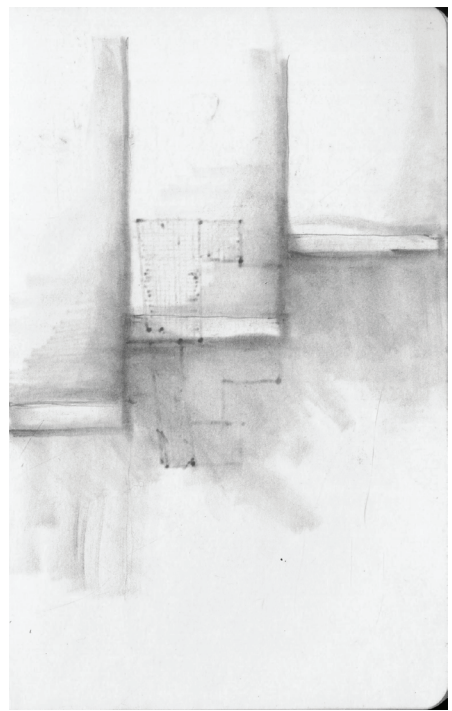
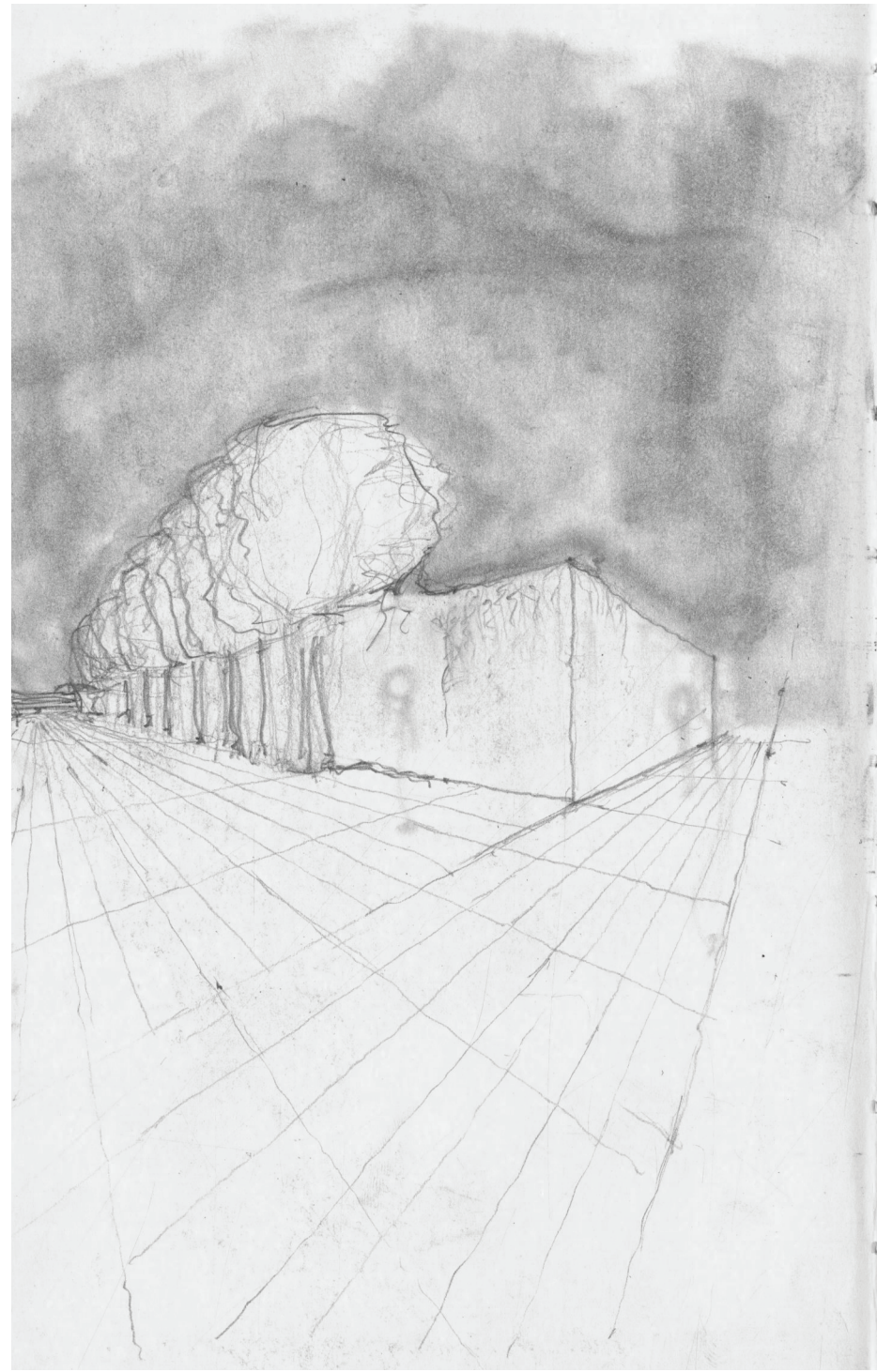
Simultaneously, this project is an exploration in scale and affordance. Certain moves, such as the angled façade of the classrooms, are made with the student in mind. Others attempt to create a framework for interaction and communication by considering how to finish a wall or a make an opening. Designing with this mindset helps keep in mind that this school does have an end to its day, and when the day is over the school gives itself over to the town. A gymnasium may hold church services, an art classroom may display work from university professors, or the teacher's lounge may be a community meeting center; and the school is design with these sensitivities.

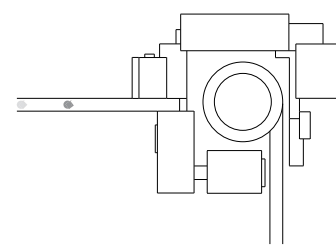
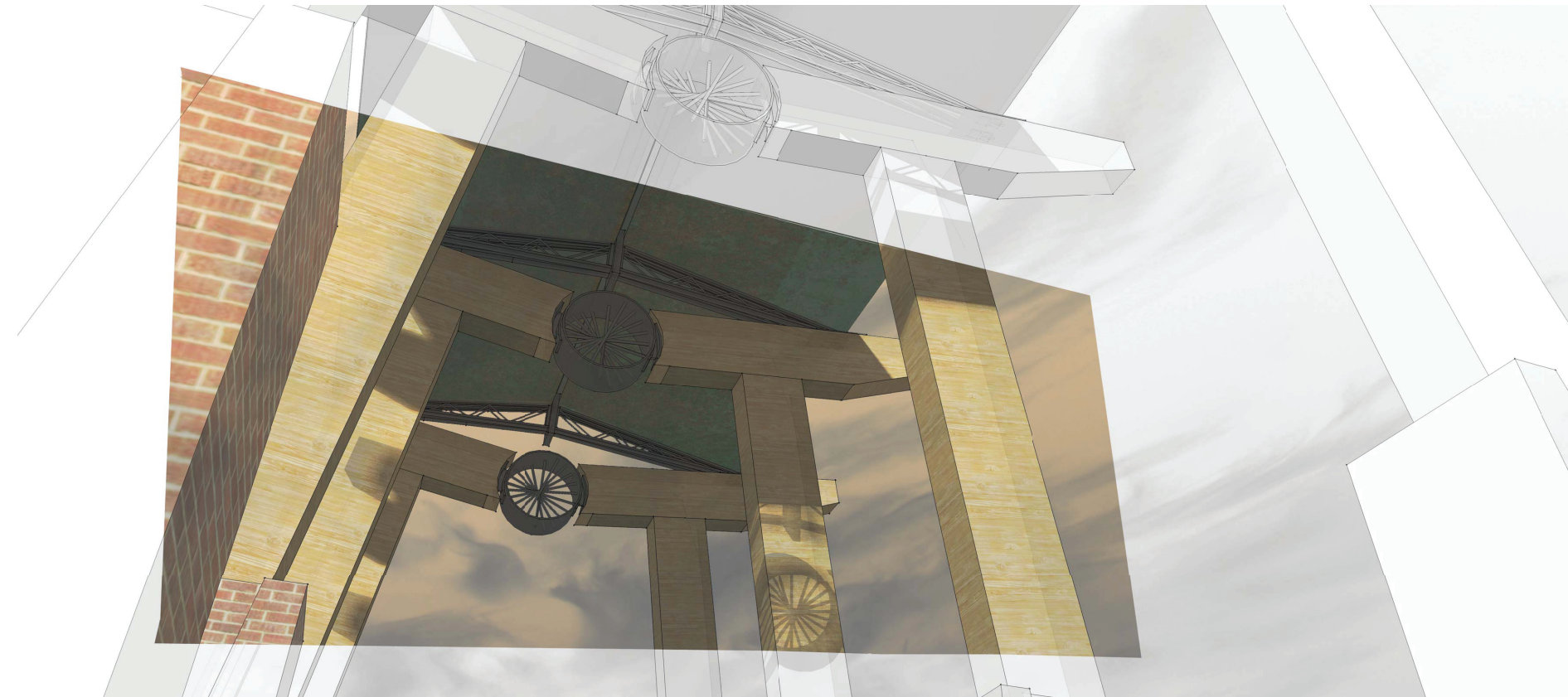
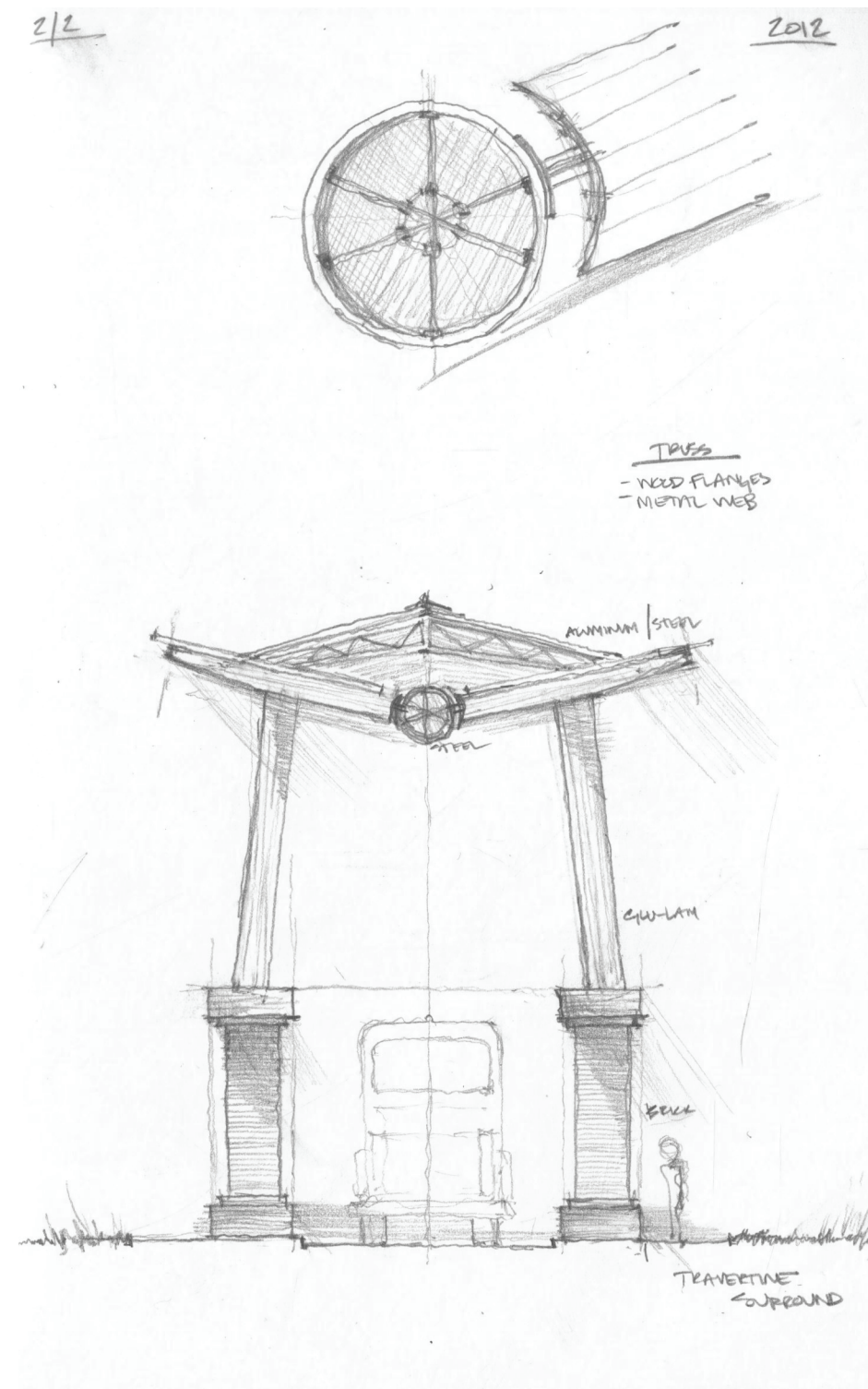


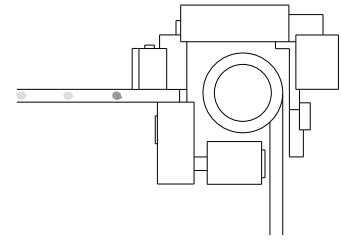
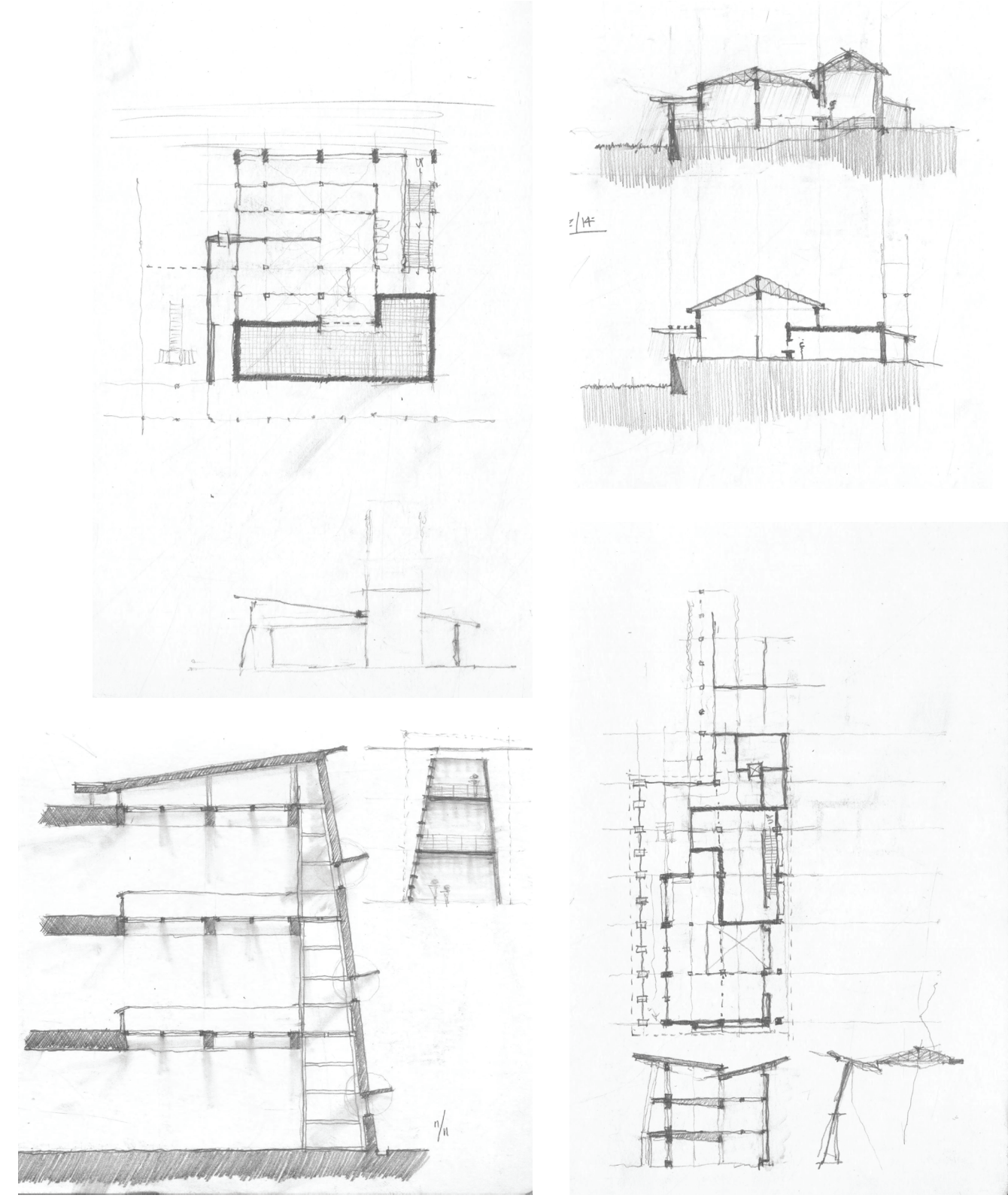


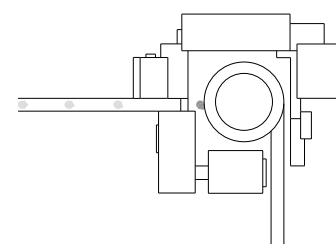
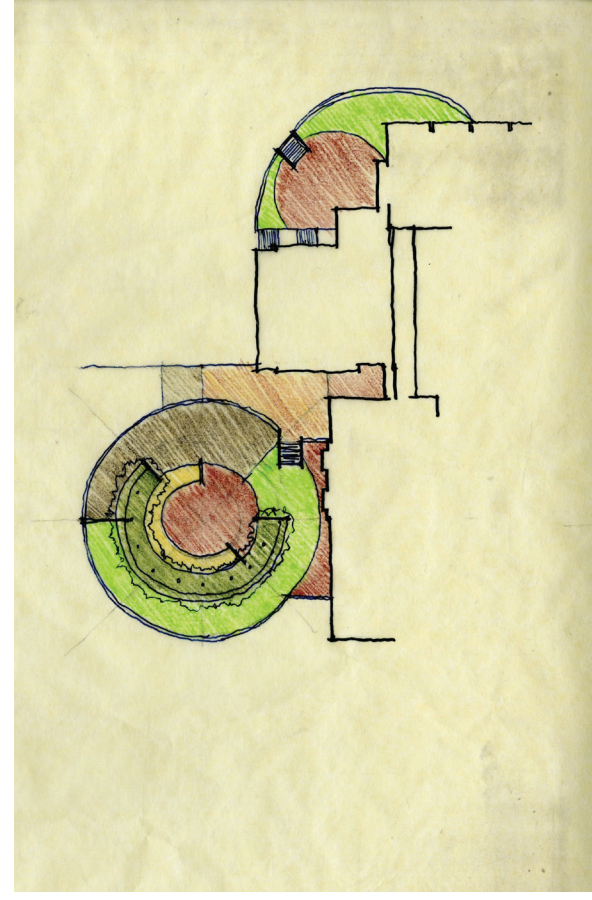
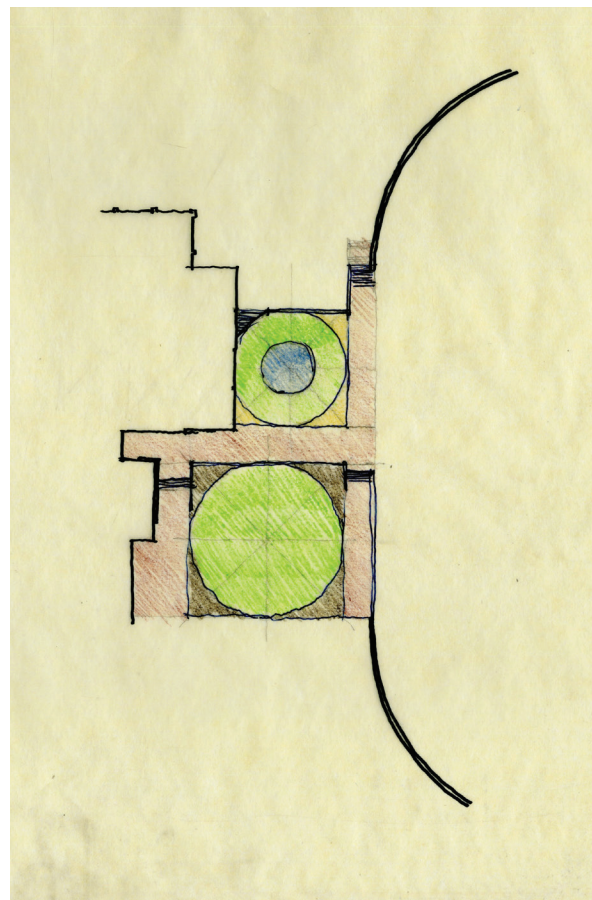
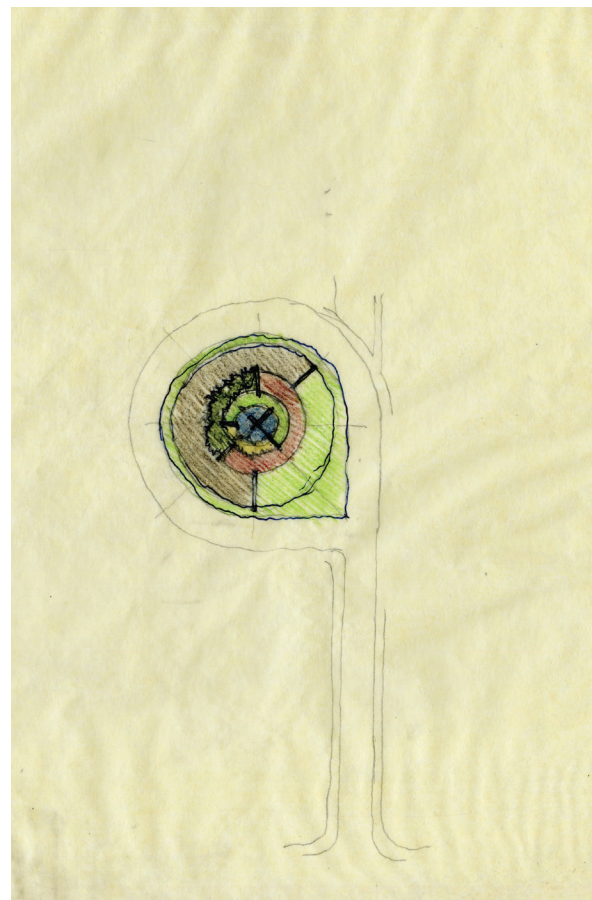


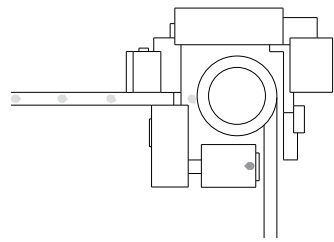
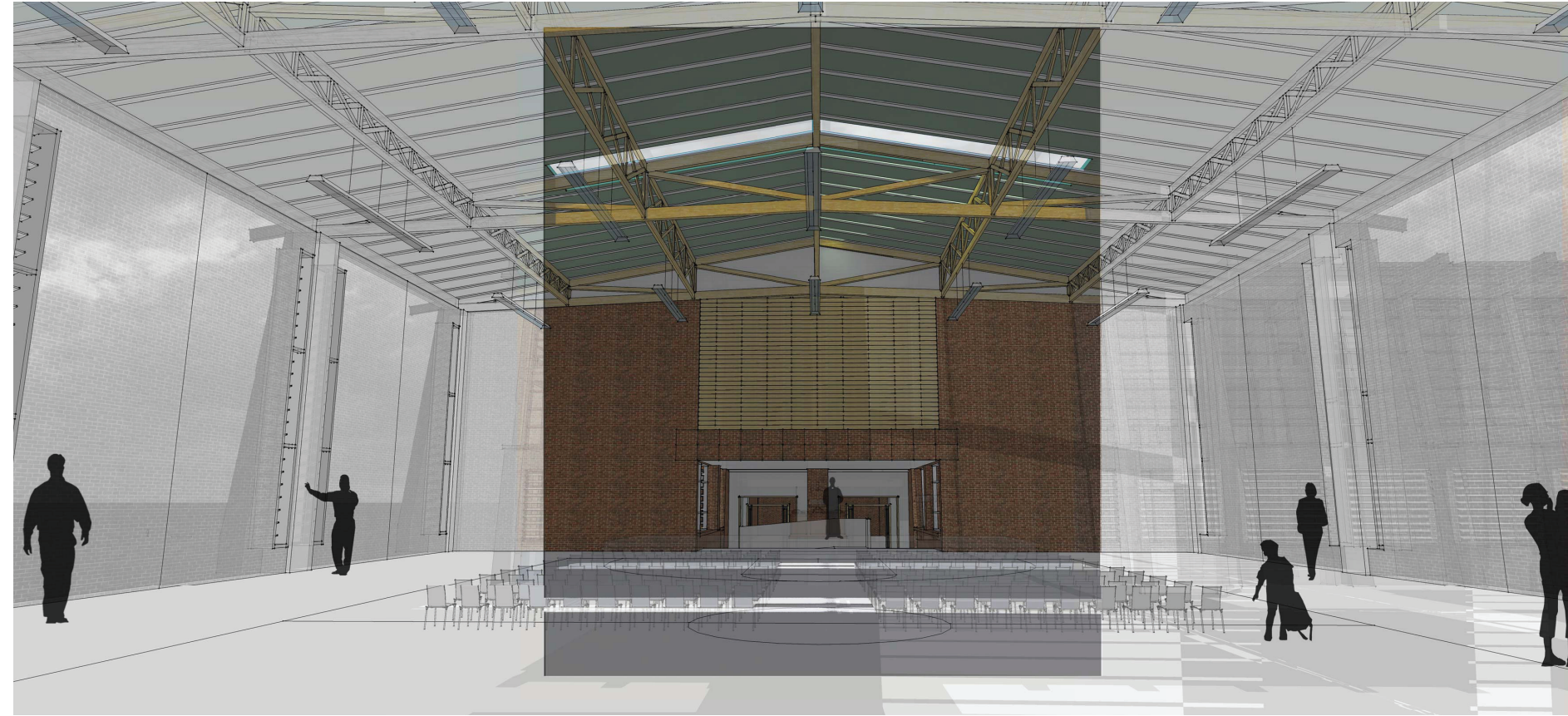
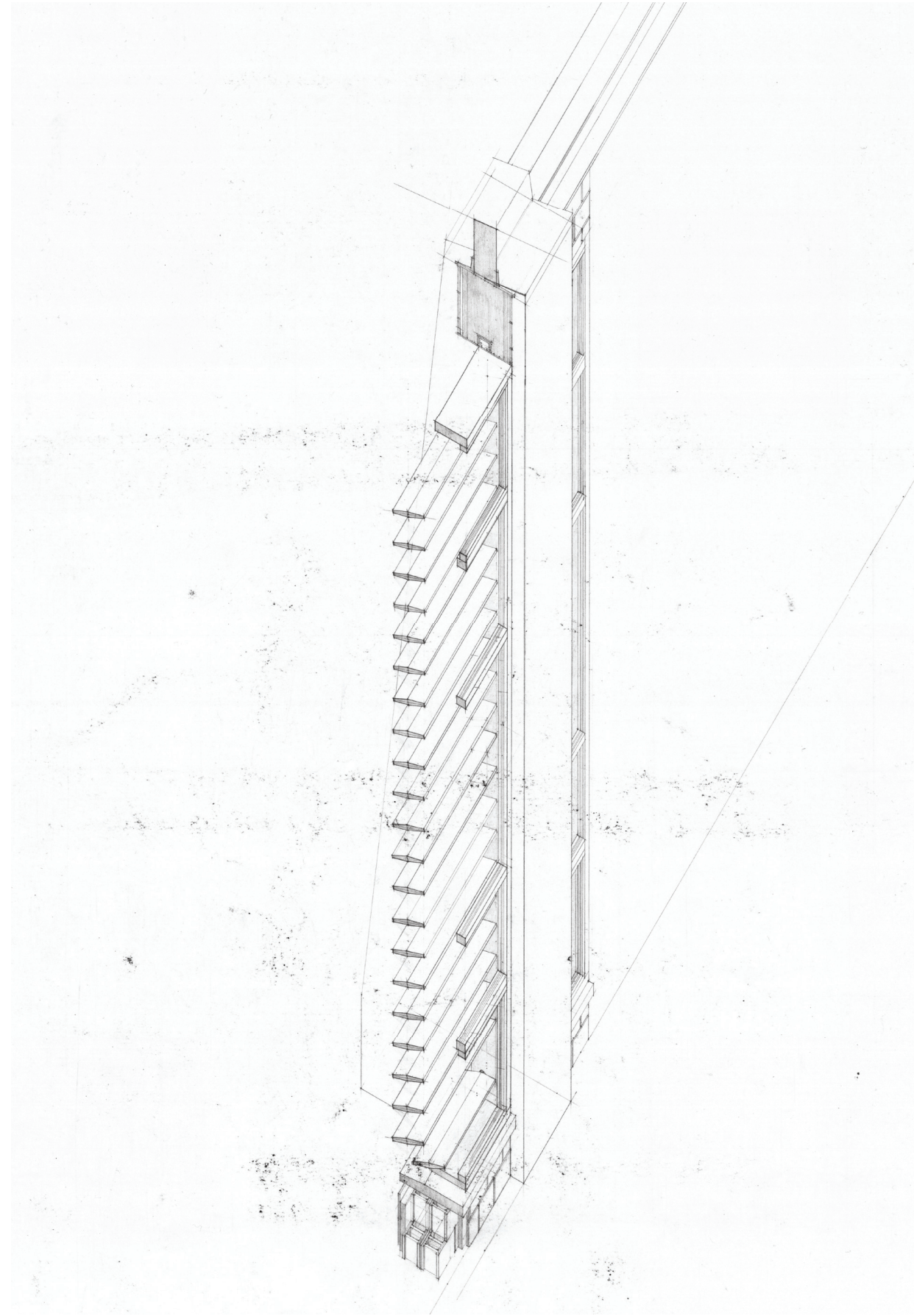


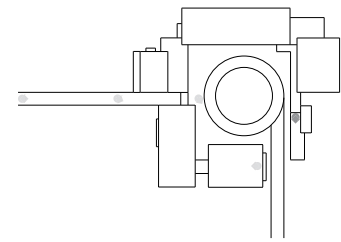
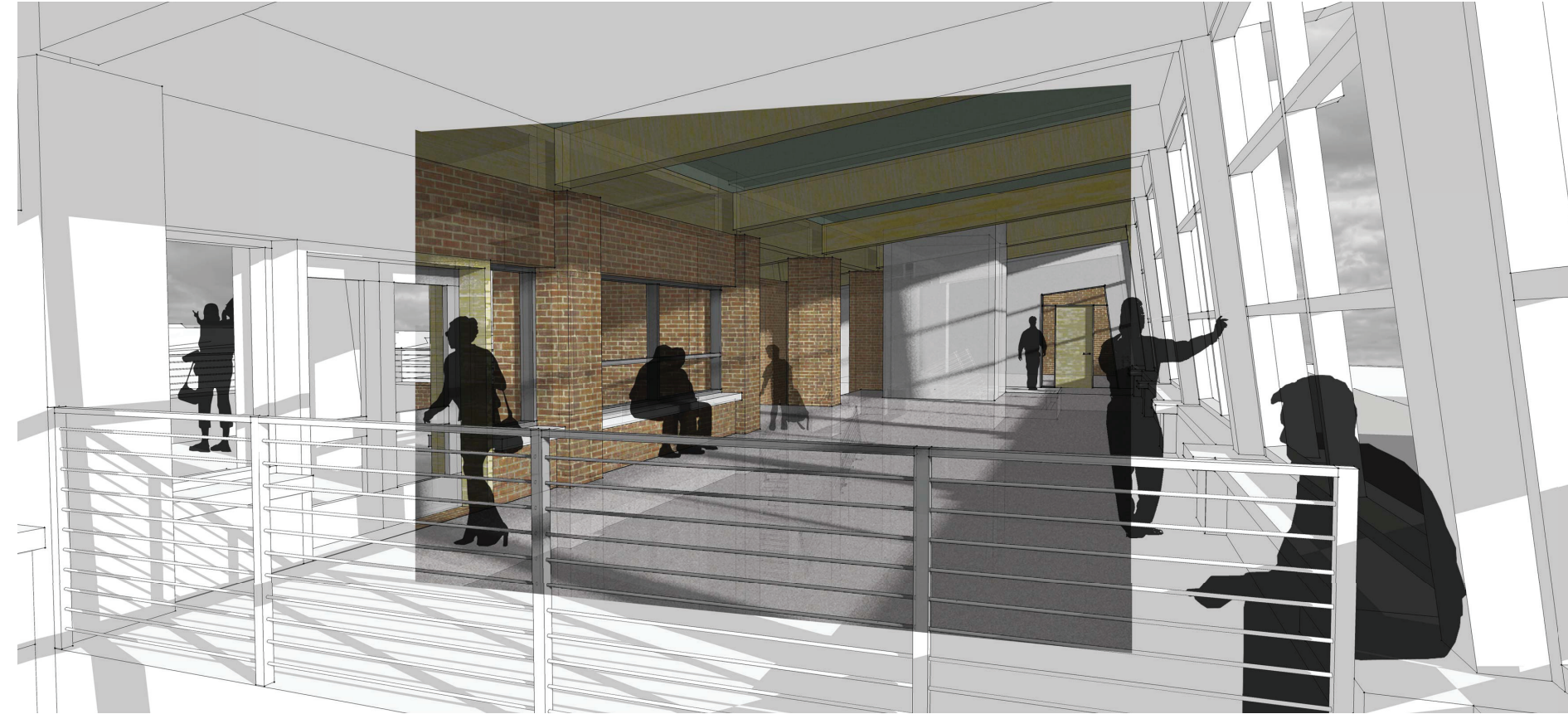
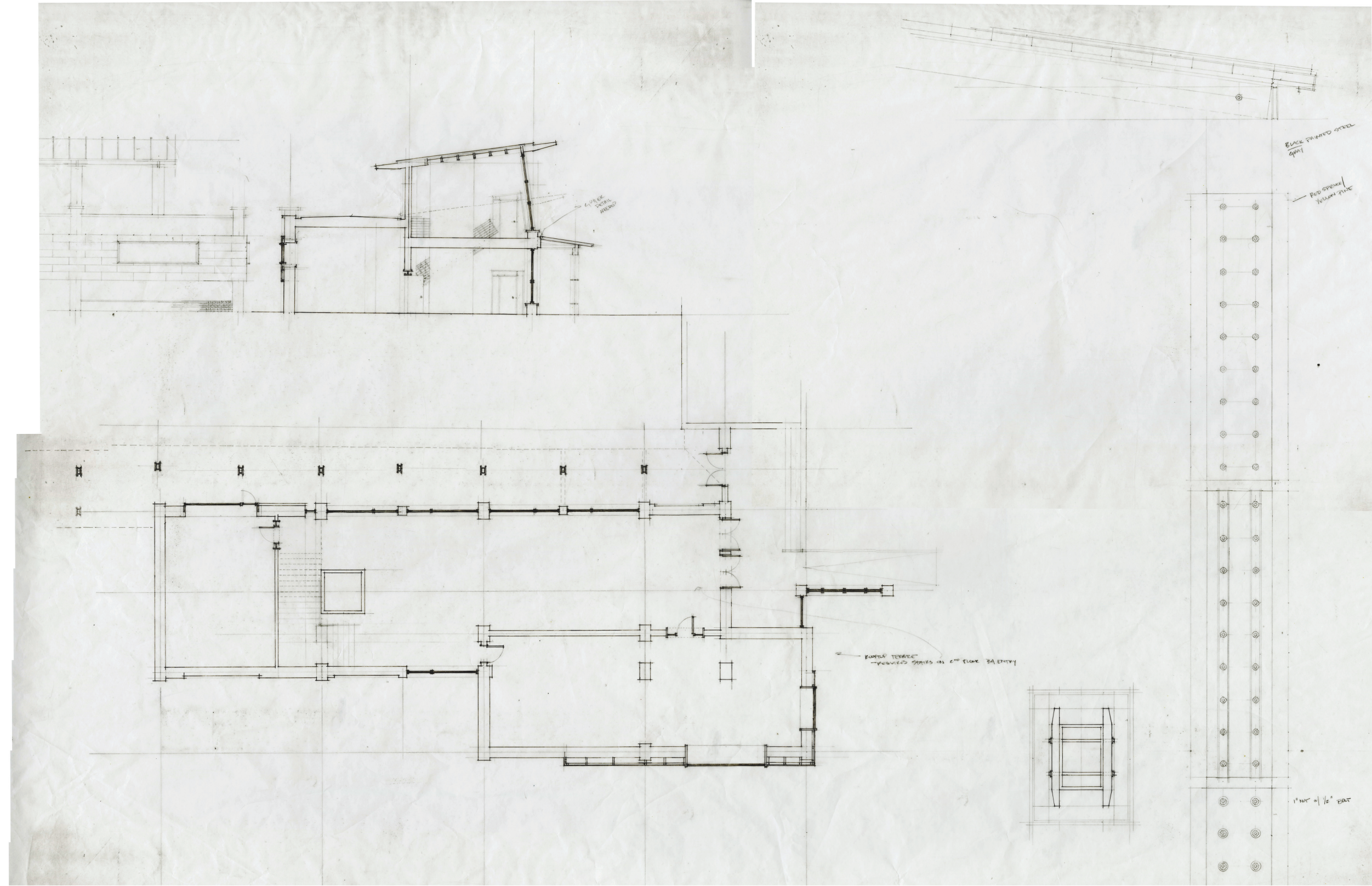


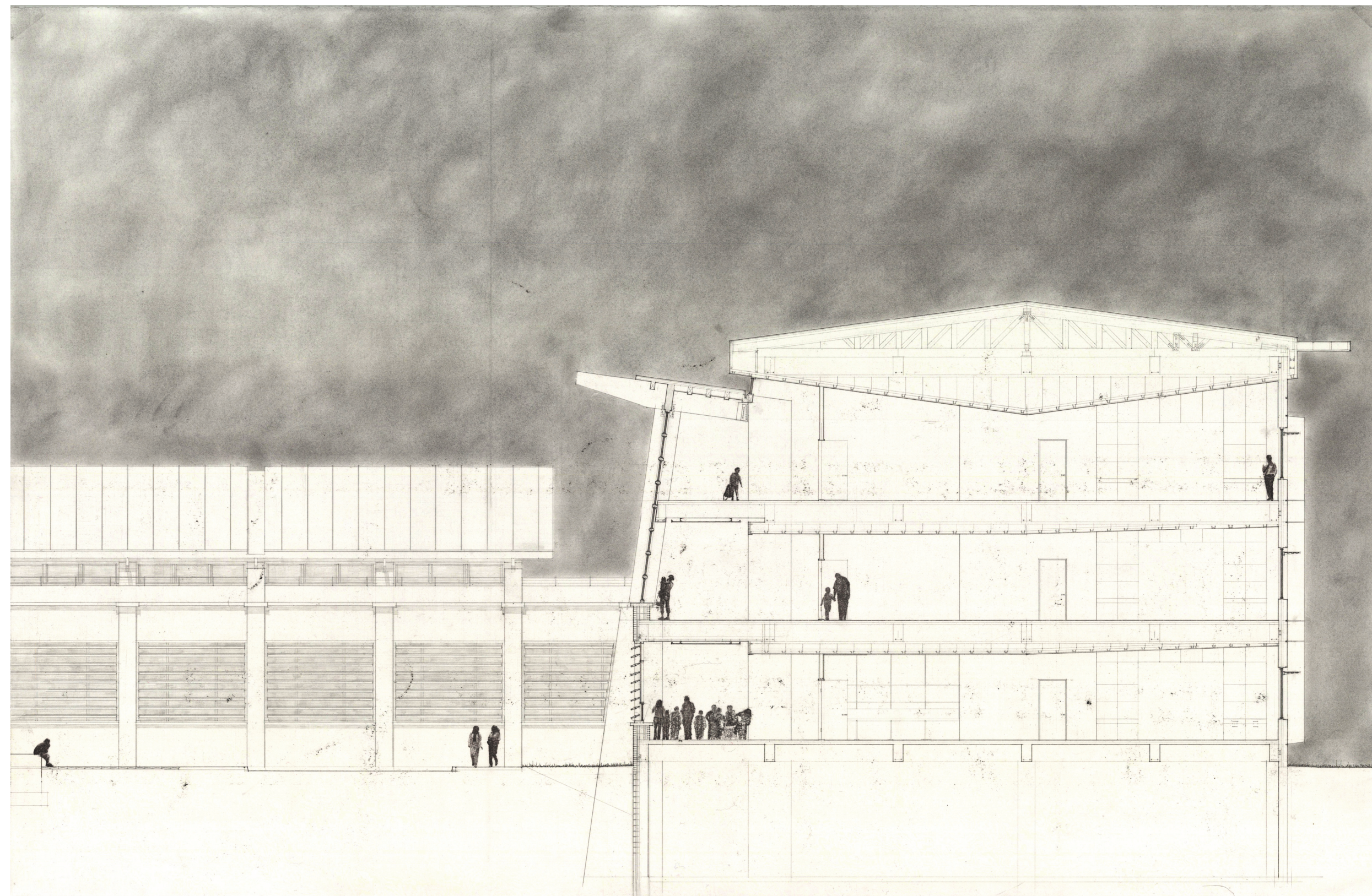
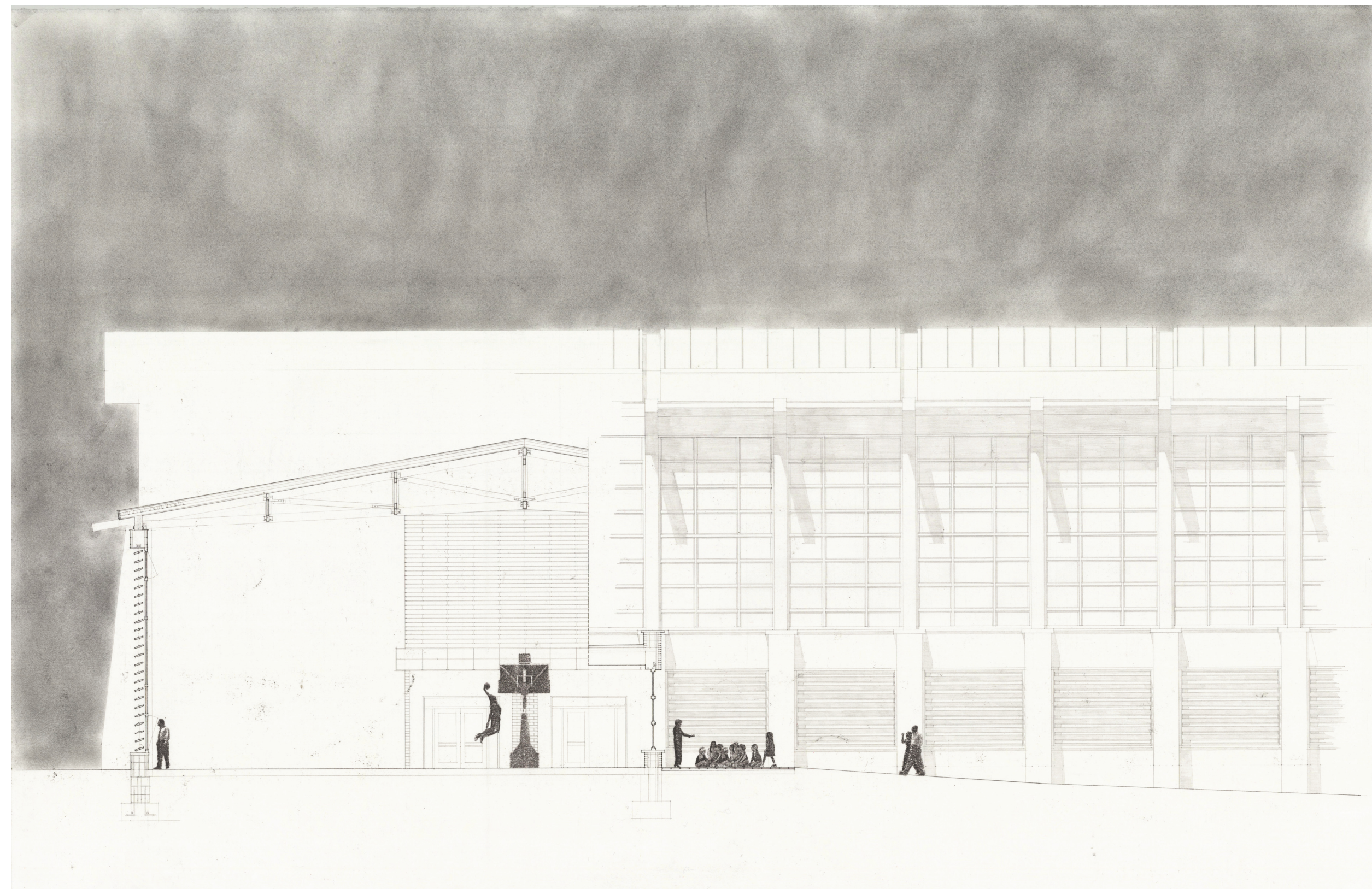


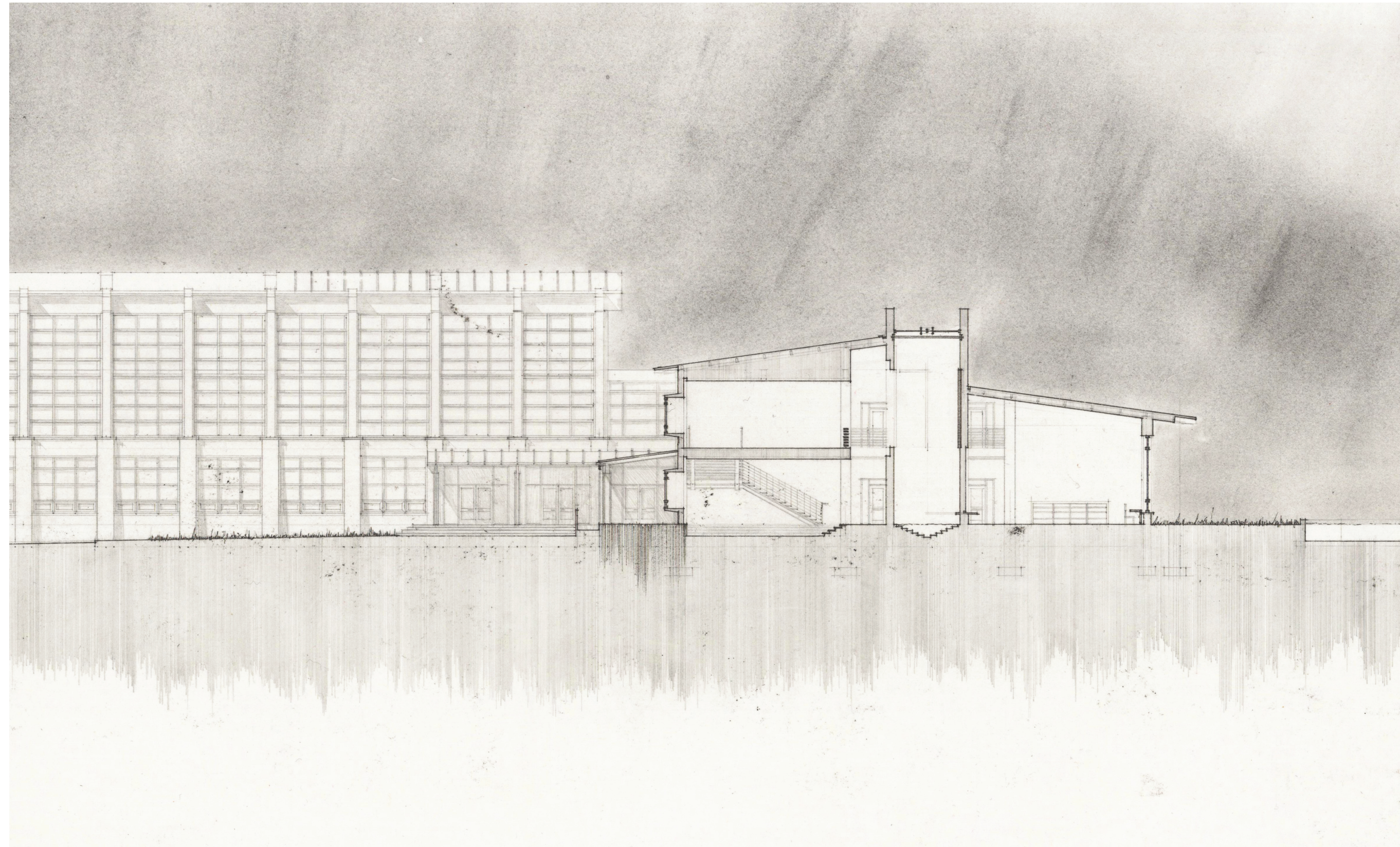
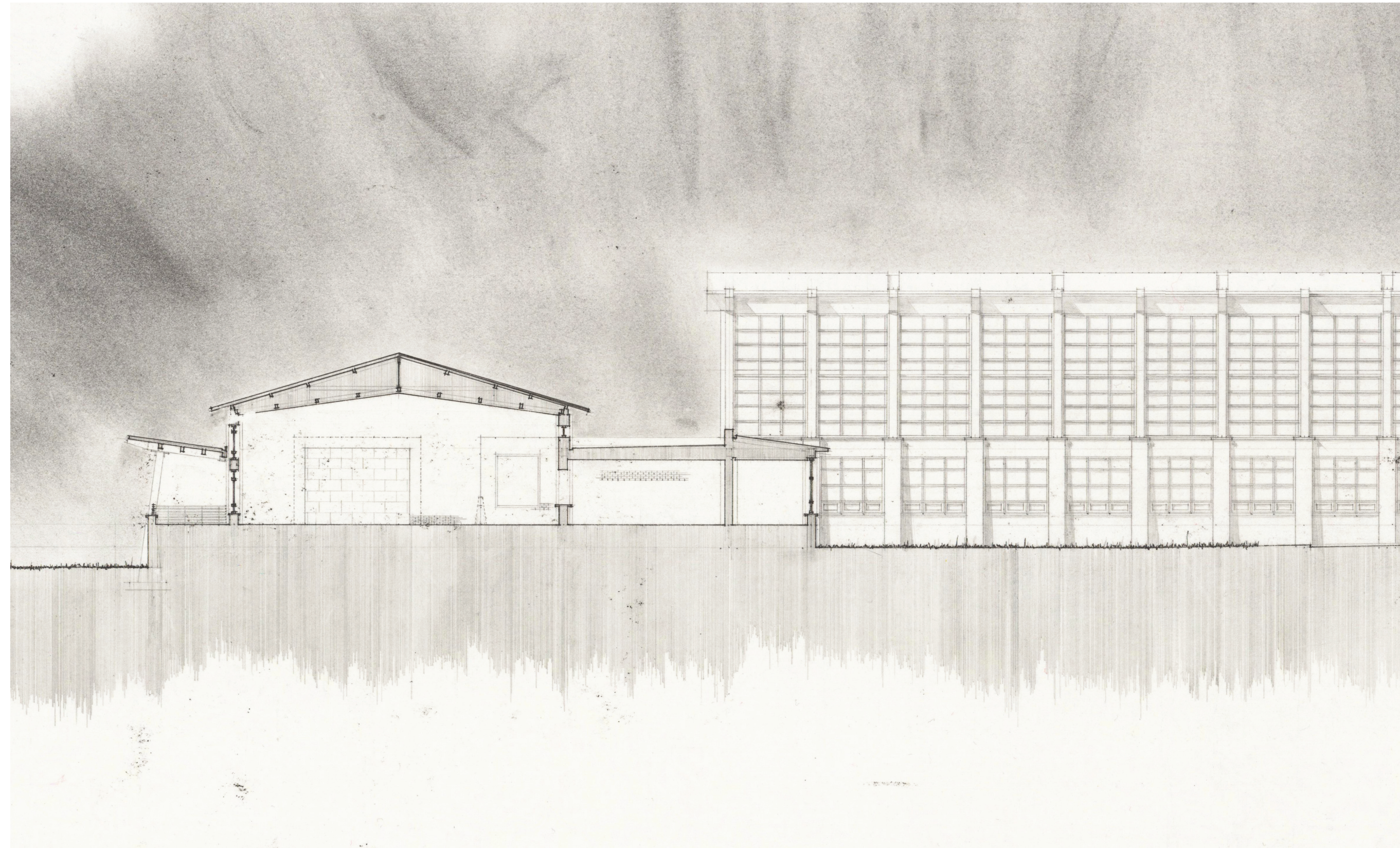


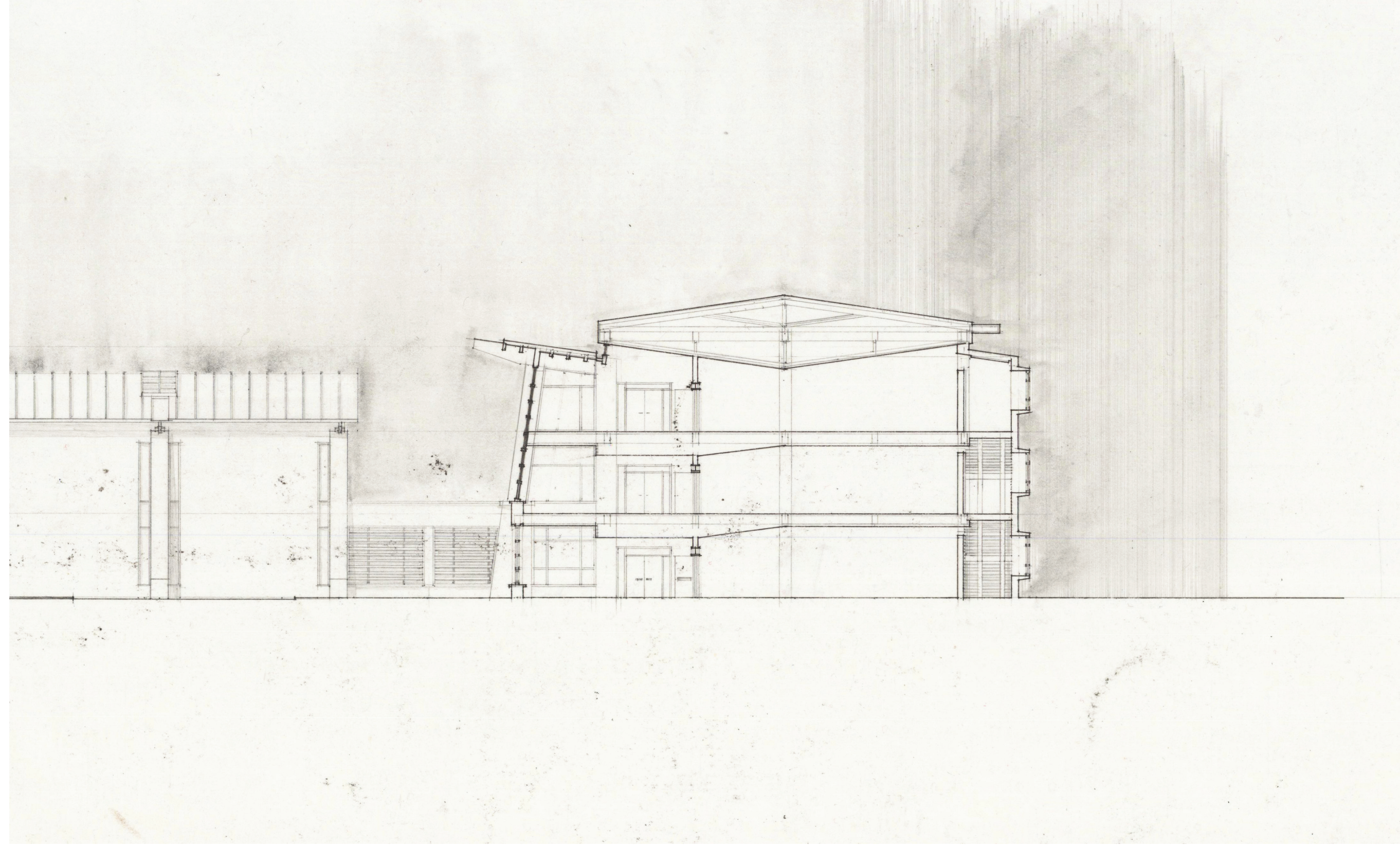
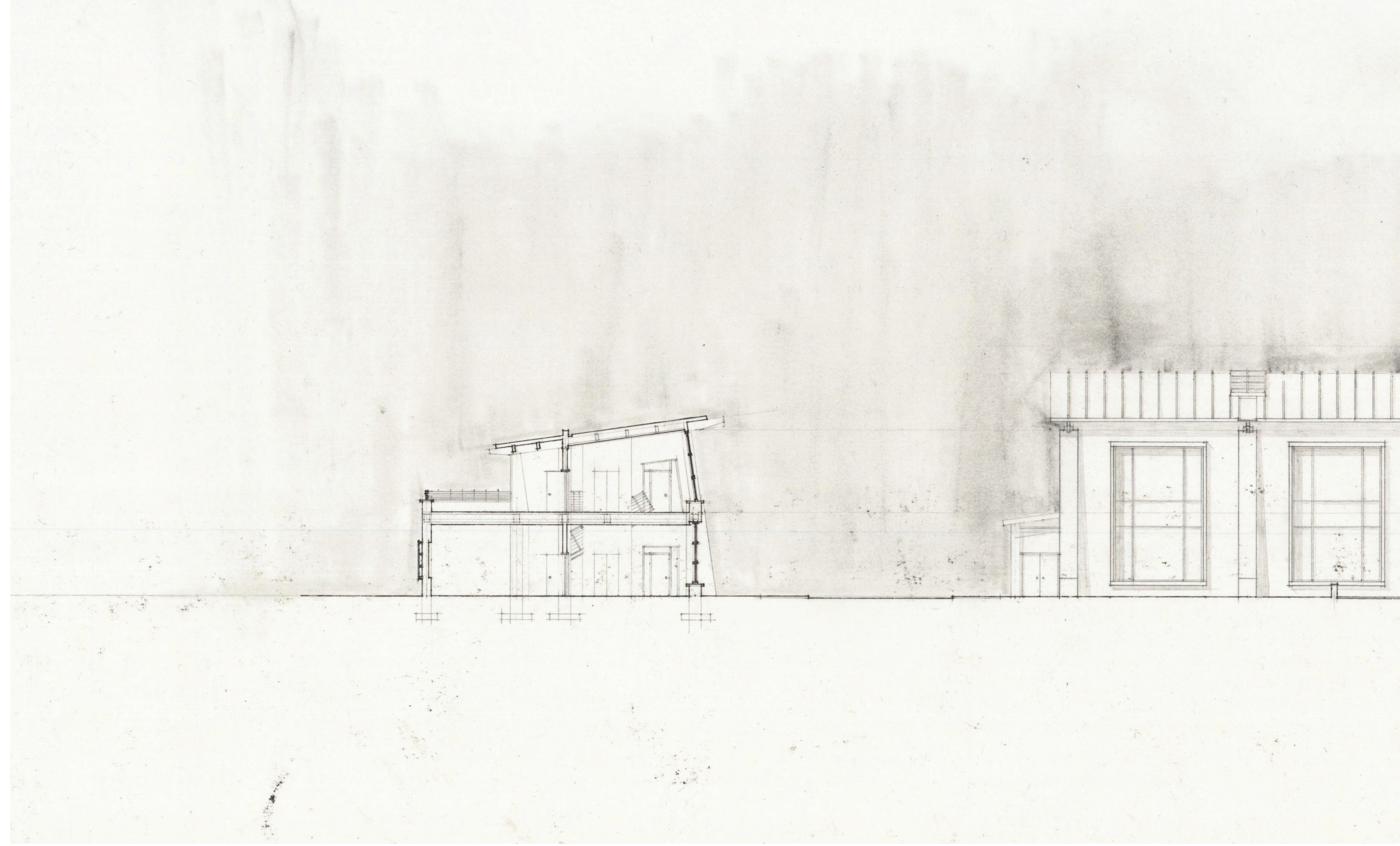


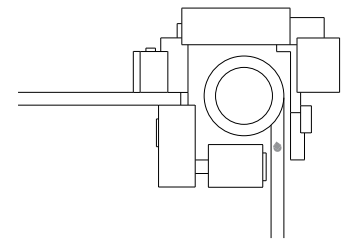
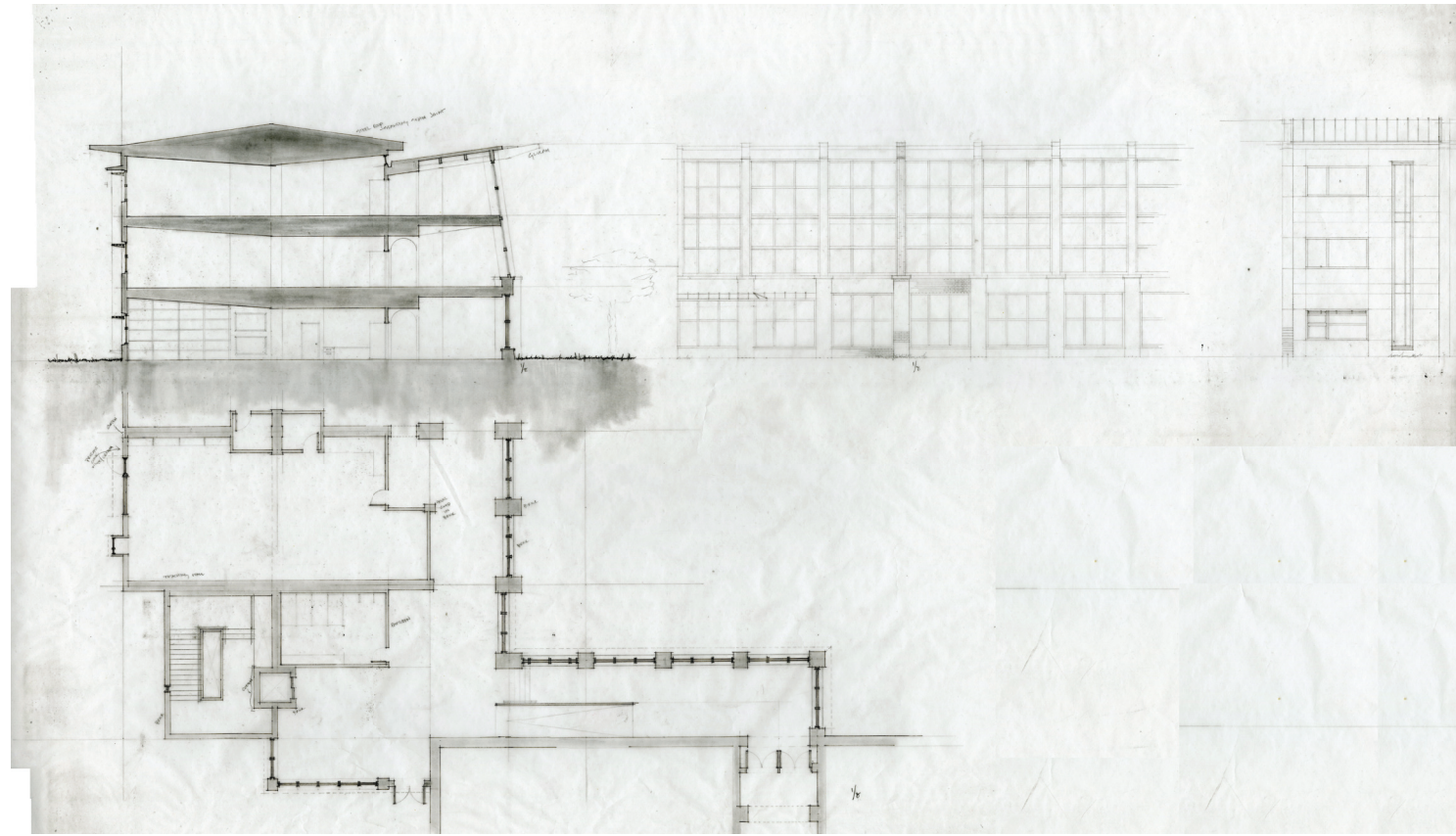
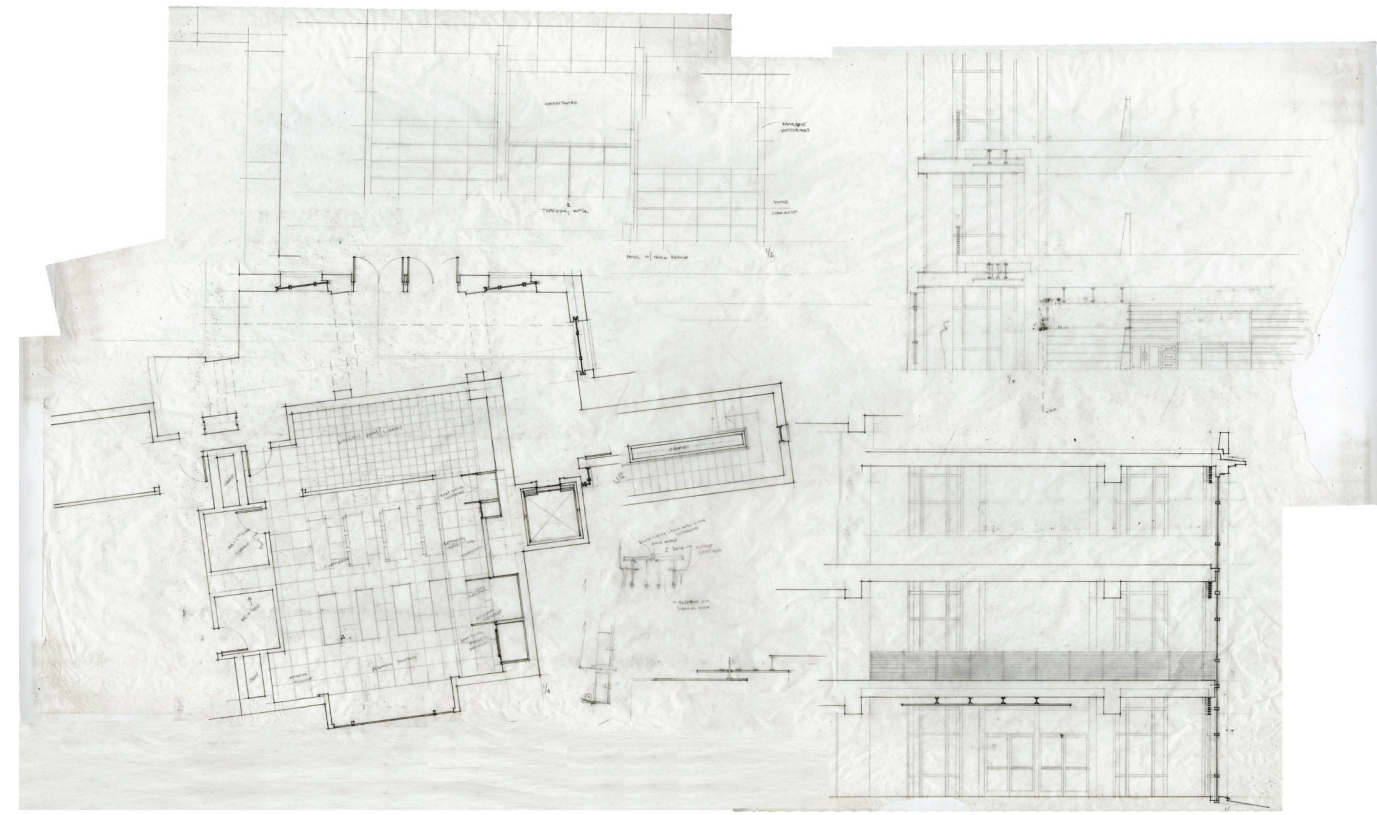


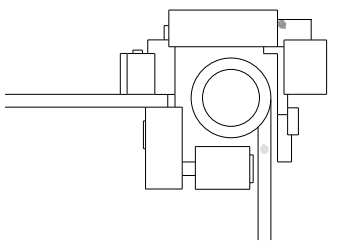
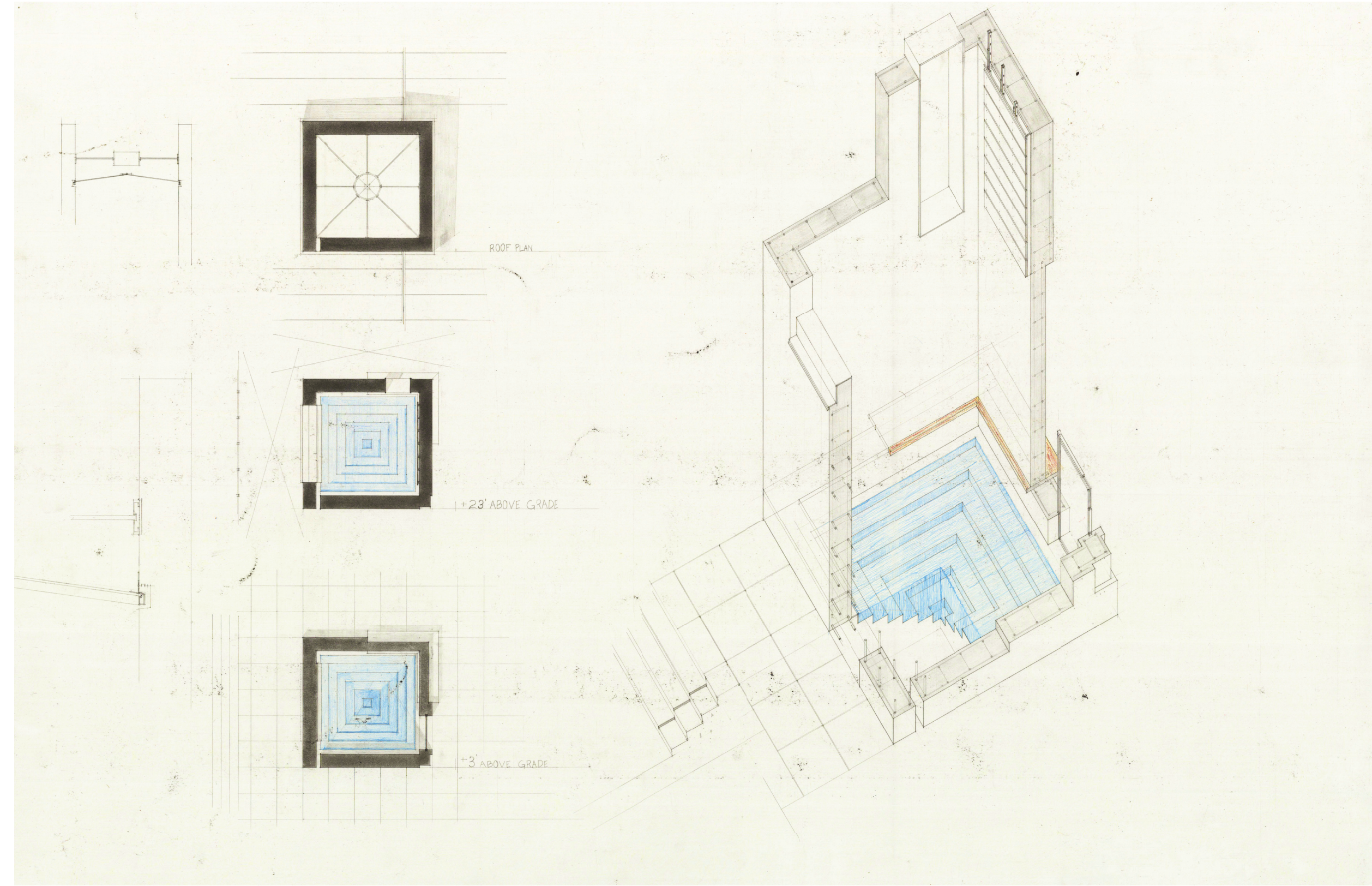


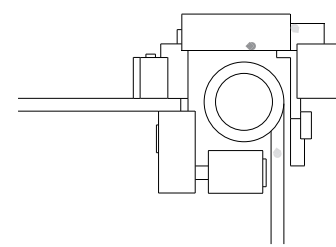
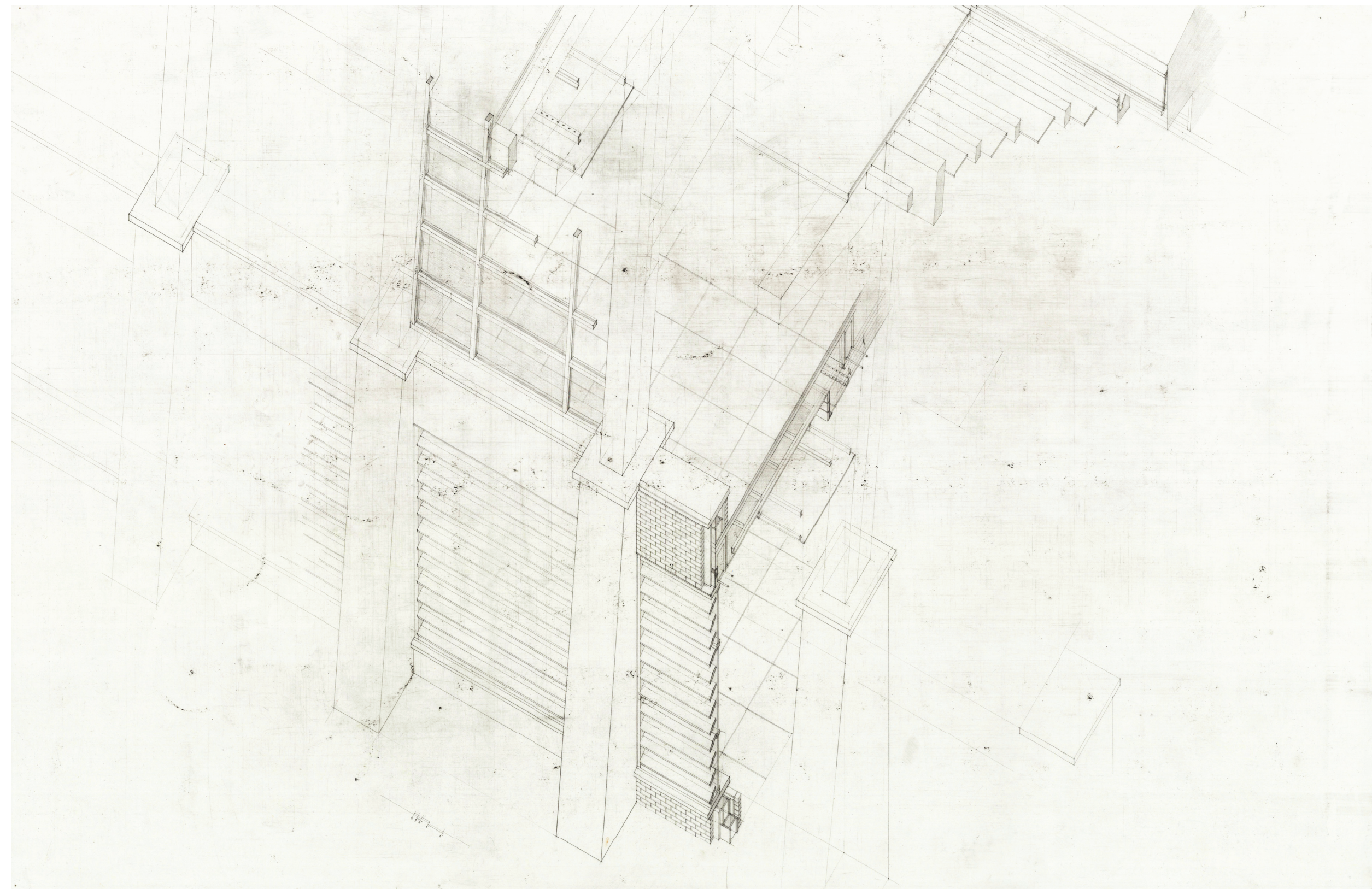


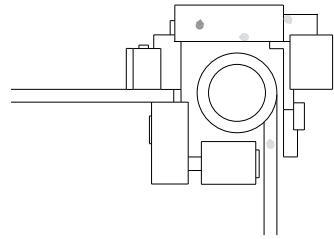
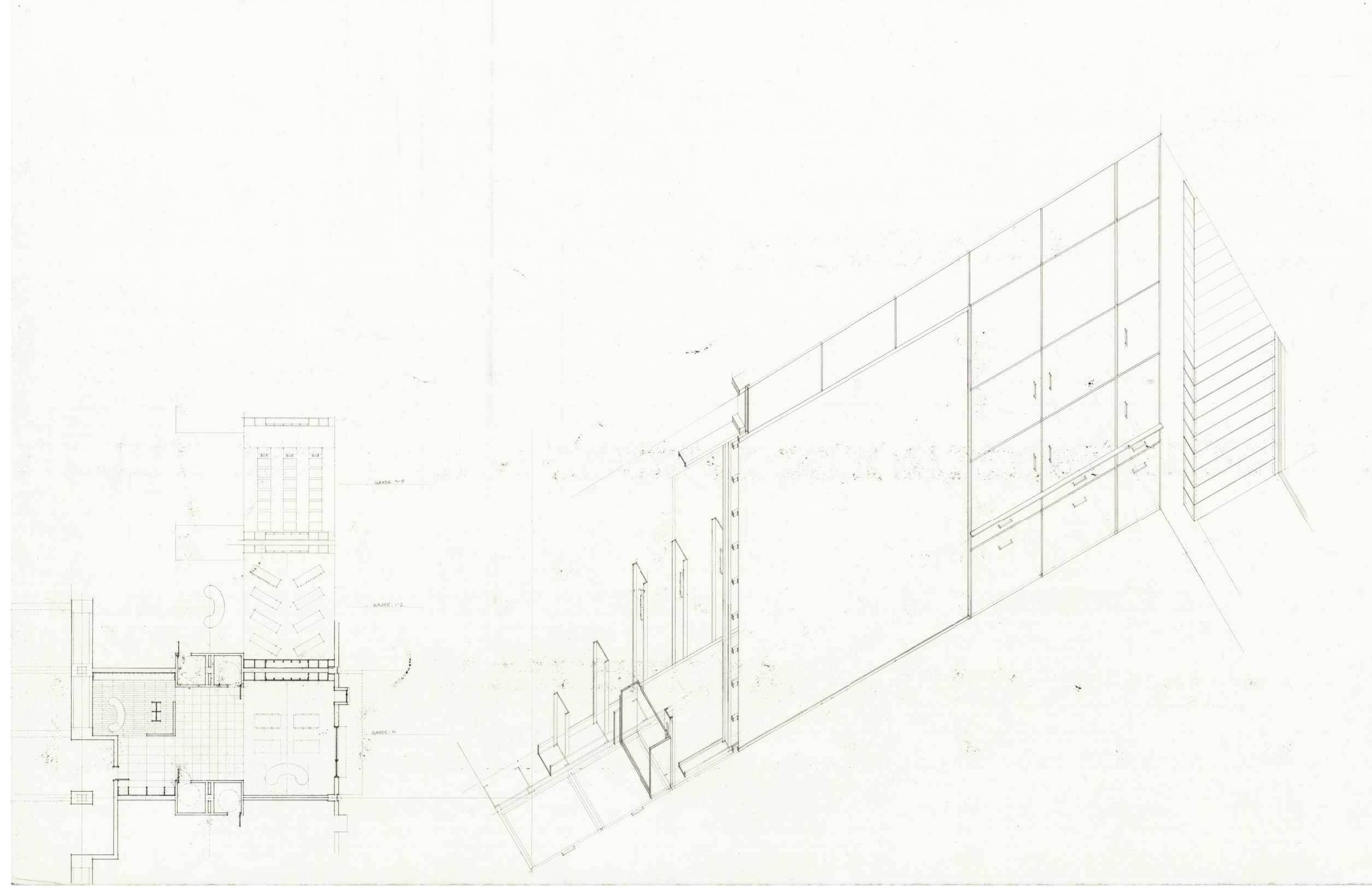


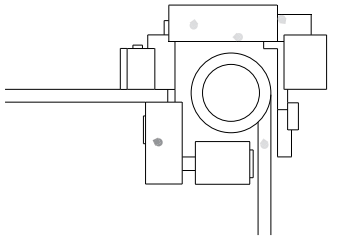
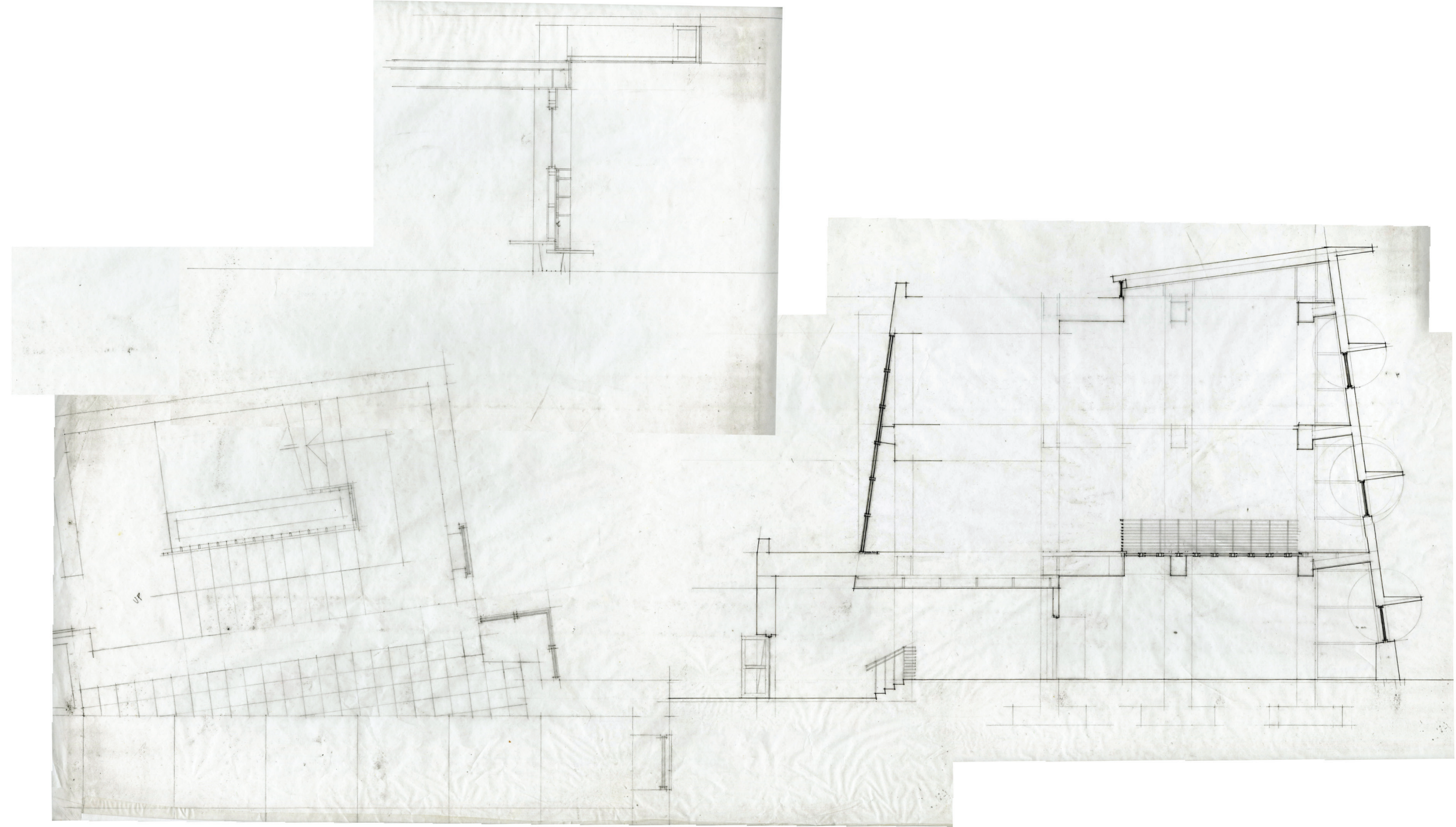


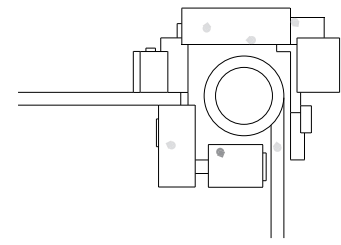
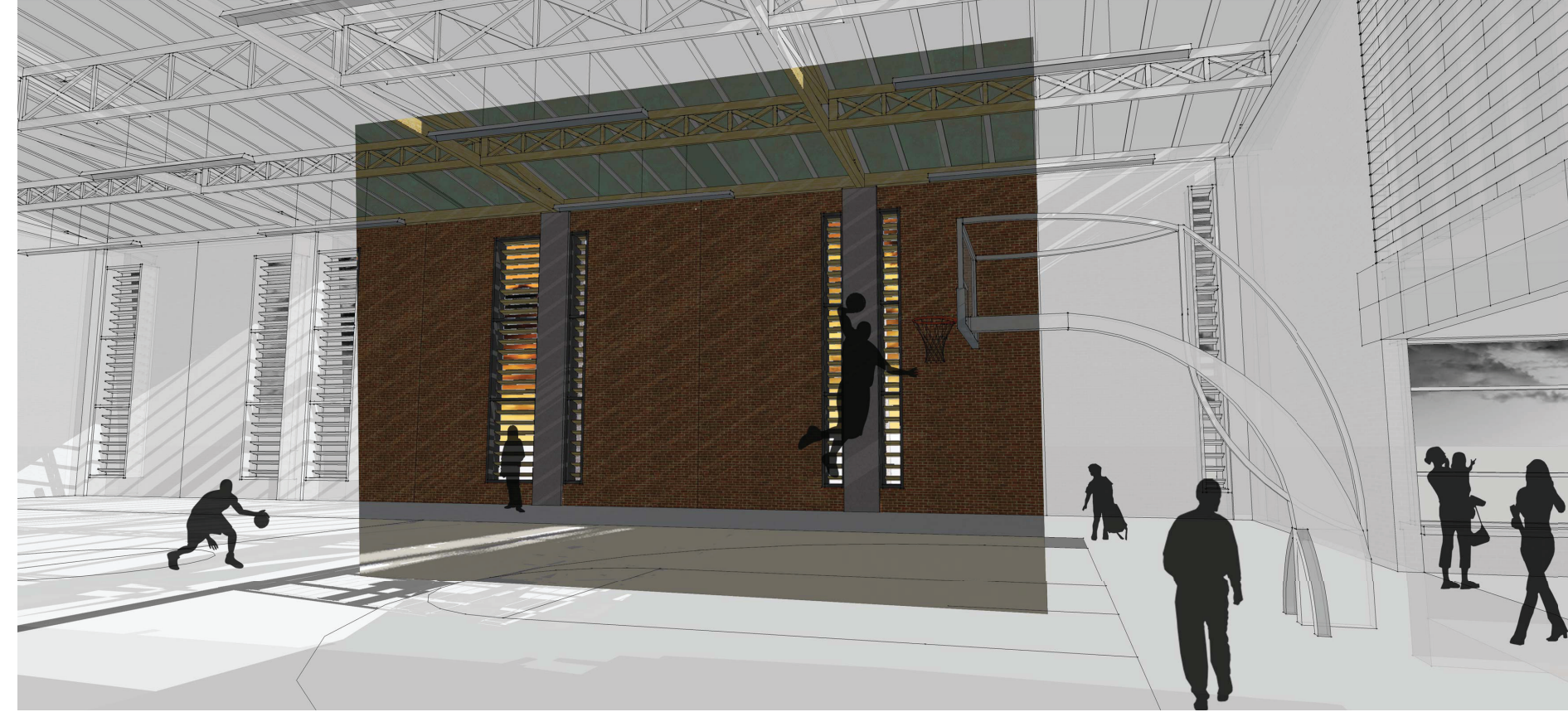
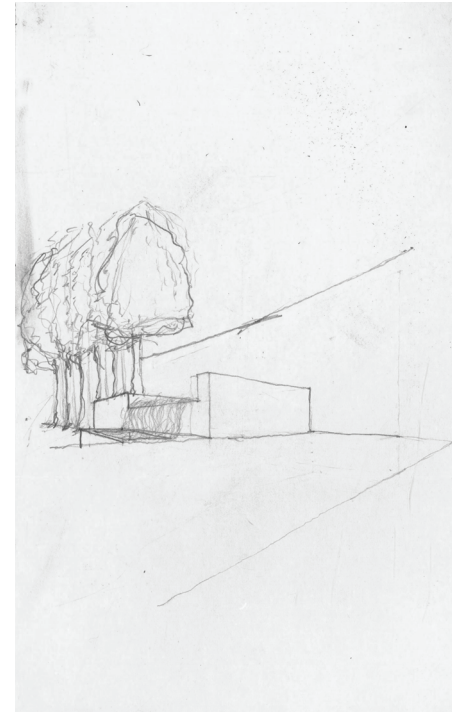
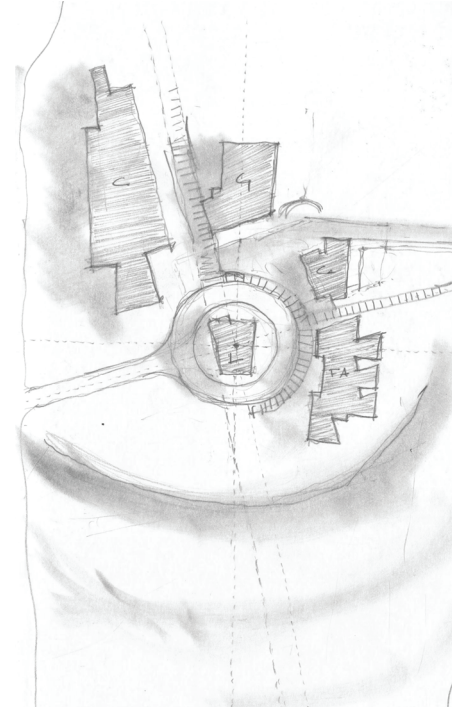
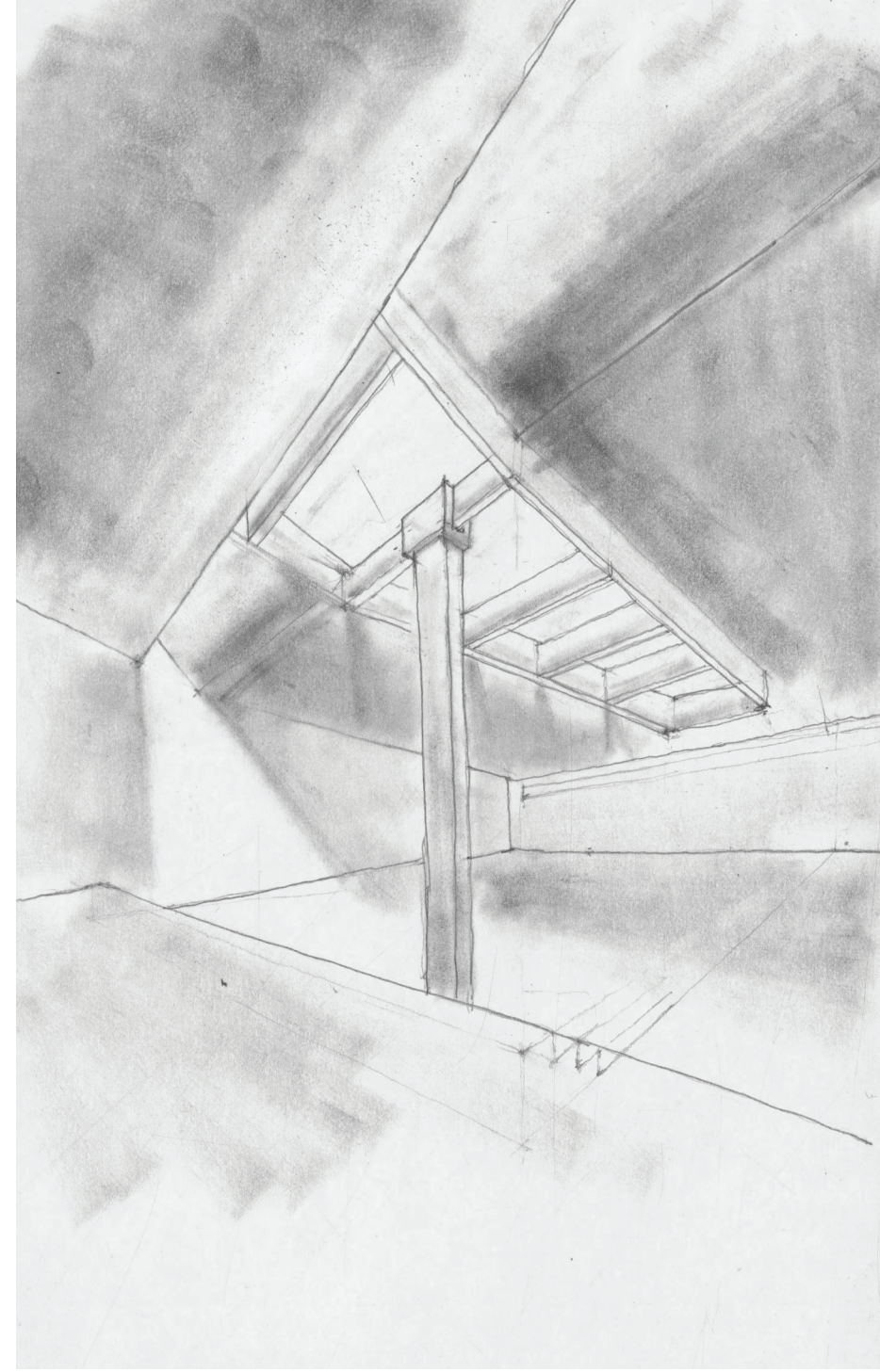






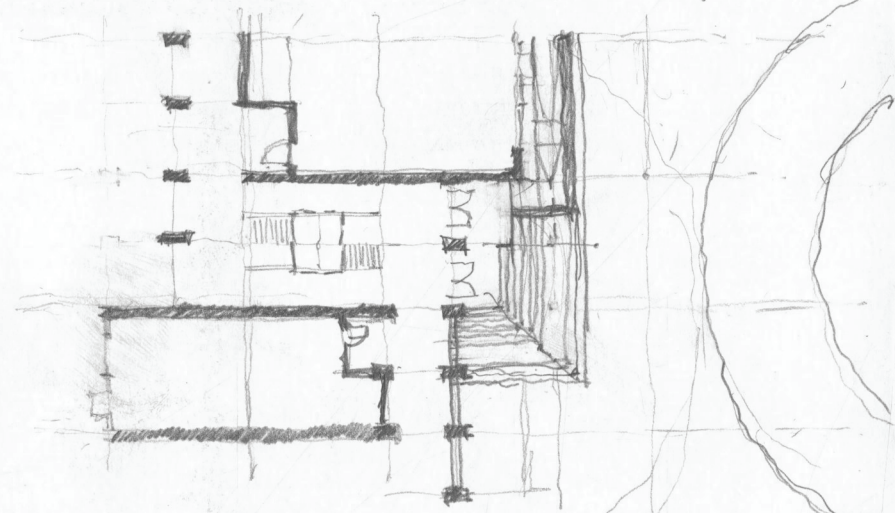




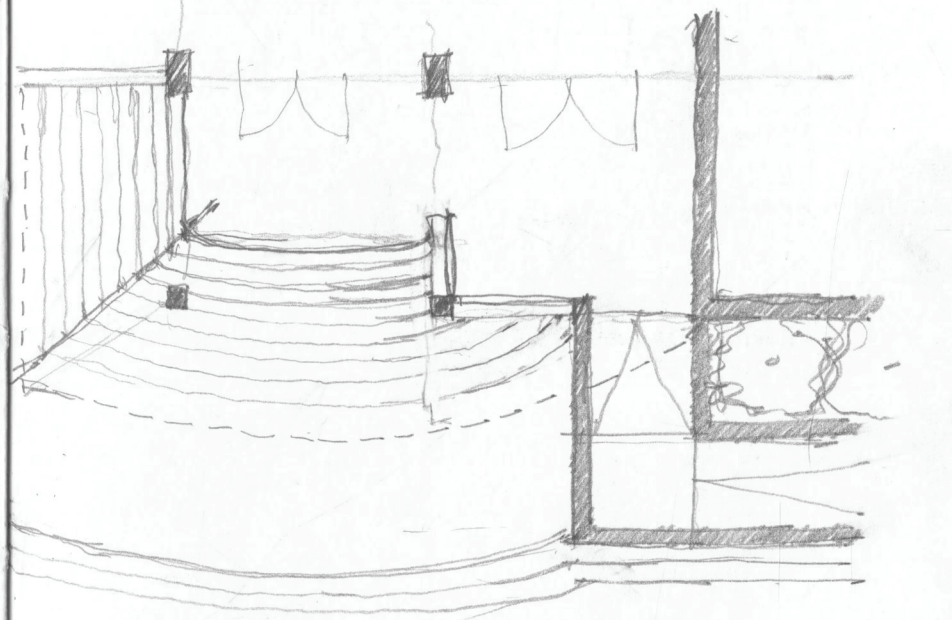
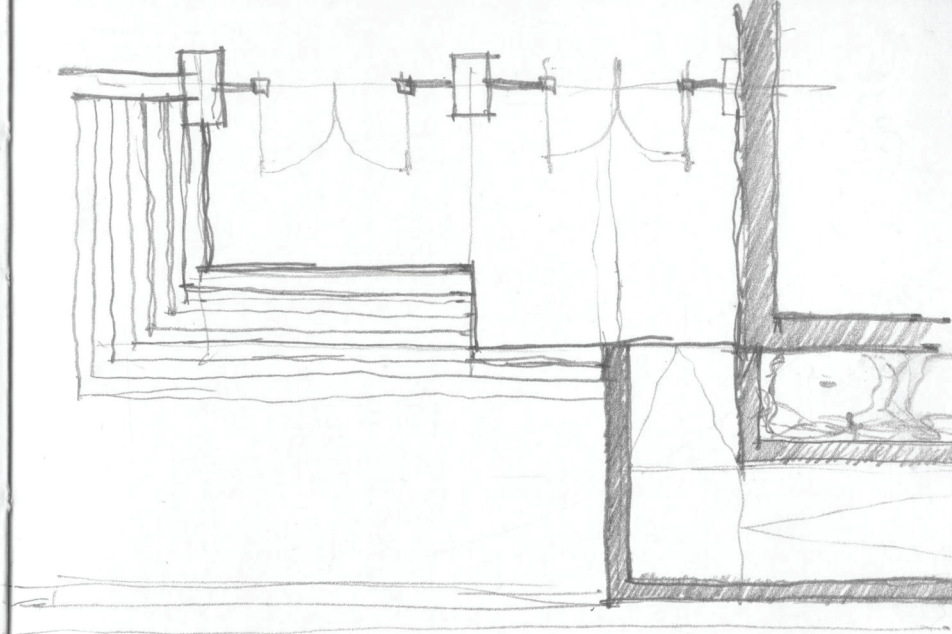


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