



— Pedestrian
 - - - Pedestrian futur pathway
 — Main bikeline
 - - - Secondary bikeline road
 — Pedestrian and bike path

Ground plan 1:2'500



Concept

Halfway between the City of Zurich and the airport, the site is diffuse. Bordered by intertwining busy roads, it is located close to the dense districts of the Glatt and the Töwiling countryside. The question is how to give this soulless place a new identity.

"Meet" is at the origin of the concept. It consists in gathering together nature and construction. Uplifted together with Rümli's municipality, people from the surrounding neighbourhoods with those from elsewhere, young and elderly persons, soft mobility and car traffic, work and leisure, accommodation and trade, all in an unpredictable and magical place.

This new forest block, enclosing an organically shaped city building, extends the surrounding woods and articulates the world built in the south with that of the countryside in the north. This face-to-face encounter between dense nature and a fluid building will be the face of this unique place to discover on foot, by bicycle, by car, by tram or by plane.

The building, a meeting and exchange place, has three main addresses on the ground floor to access the various functions dedicated to the shopping centre and leisure activities in the East and to the business campus and hotel in the West. By its configuration and organization, it offers a succession of indoor and outdoor routes, in plan and cross-section, which encourage the discovery and diversity of the proposed programs. It is lived as a city that can be discovered as you go along.

The joint activities - fitness, wellness, health, food service and nursery - serve as an interface between the two main programmes, the shopping centre and the business campus.

Landscaping

At the territorial level, the proposed project achieves a dual objective, both environmental and social, in a single gesture. While the outdoor spaces cleared by the buildings offer the possibility of linking the neighbouring woods with the banks of the Glatt, the "Meet" project is above all an opportunity to create a new environment, a varied landscape on the scale of the site, both for walkers and new users of the site.

Like the Baroque gardens, where order and harmony are perceived through the paths across nature evoking the countryside and wild nature, the project proposes, here, to combine architecture and landscape to draw together fluid paths in and around the buildings. The walk connects and crosses three atmospheres, three scales, three states of nature: the forest, the countryside and the pleasure garden.

At the scale of the built programme, a forest takes place on the entire unbuilt plot. Combined with fine topographical work, it creates a clear transition with the surroundings, offers a rich green setting to the buildings and gives a new character to the place. Its presence provides significant ecological added value in terms of blue-green networks and microclimate. Inspired by the neighbouring fir beech forests, it is mainly made up of beech, maple, some fir and oak trees on the edge. It contains a geophyte undergrowth along "Birchstrasse" and "Flughotstrasse" as well as under the building. While ferns, oxalis and geraniums, in particular, are visible all year round, bear garlic and woodland anemone mark spring here.

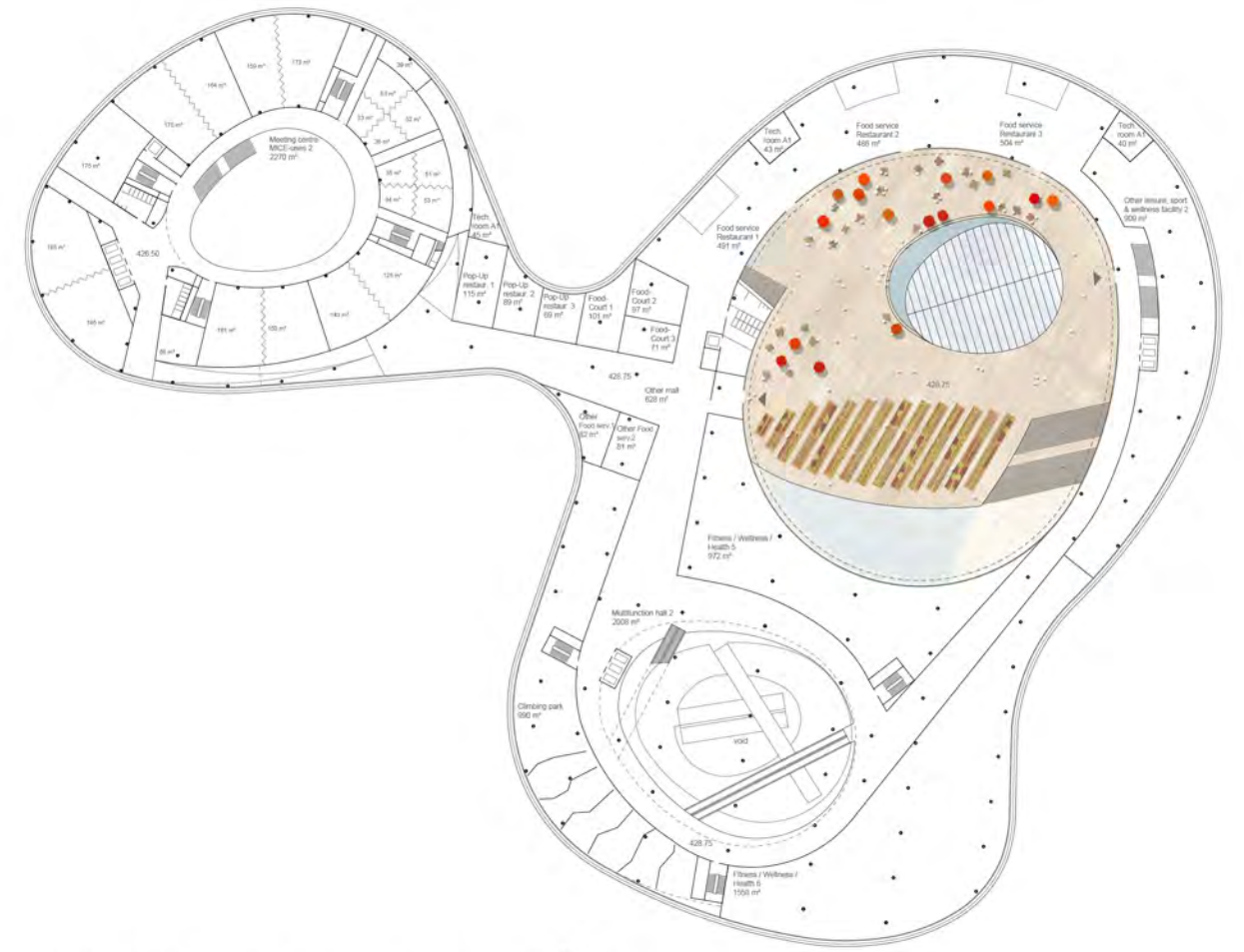
As an extension of the restaurant terraces, a vegetable garden is located in the courtyard on the first floor. It is the place for experimentation and market gardening. A low scal wall draws the outline and thus allows the installation of a sufficient thickness of topsoil to ensure its use.

The roof terrace on the first floor becomes the project's pleasure garden. It is a place for meetings, walks and breaks. A series of linear benches containing topsoil create spaces of various dimensions that allow a wide variety of uses and appropriations. Offering continuous and fluid paths, beds planted with perennials, shrubs and grasses bring, over the seasons, a variation of colours, textures and smells.

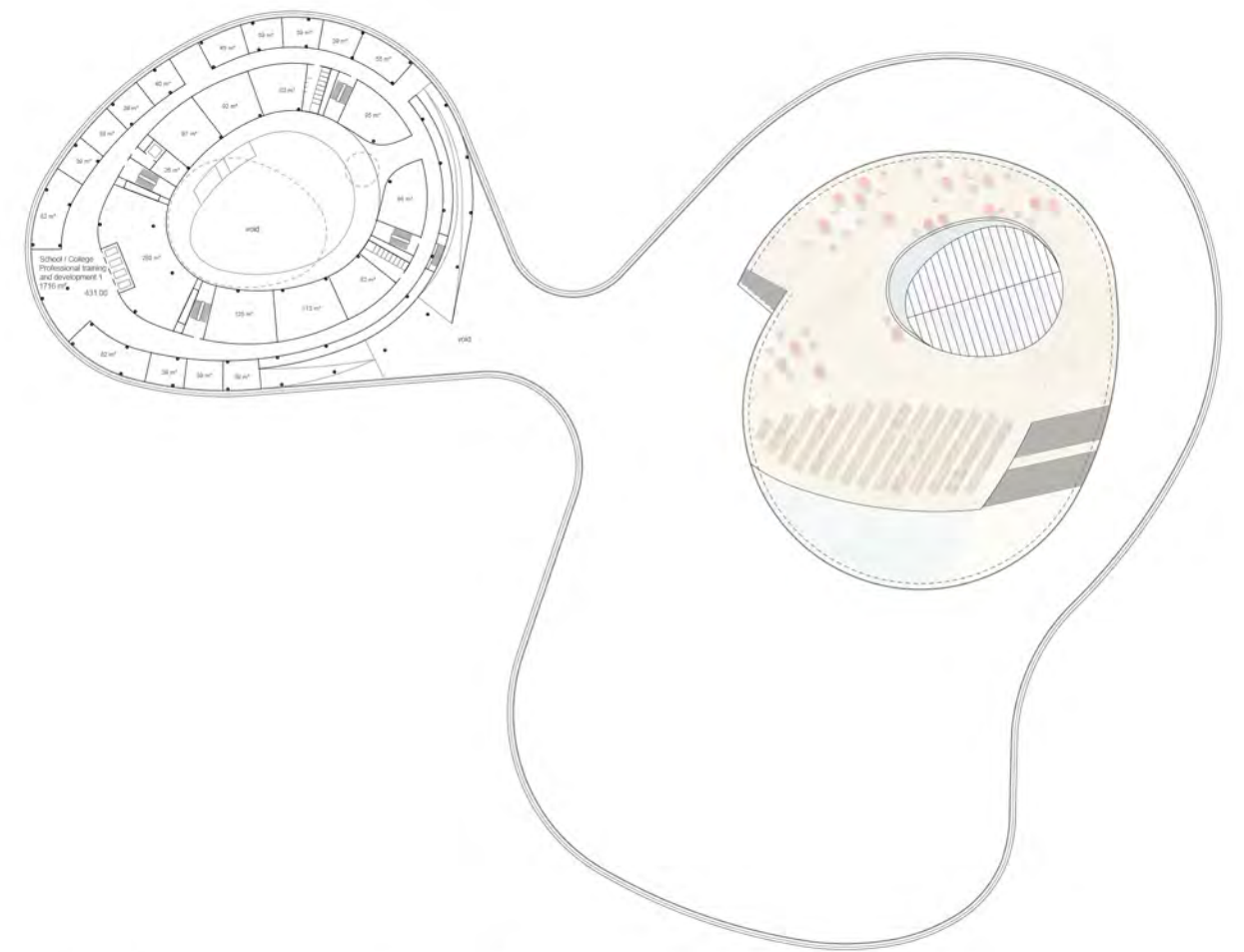




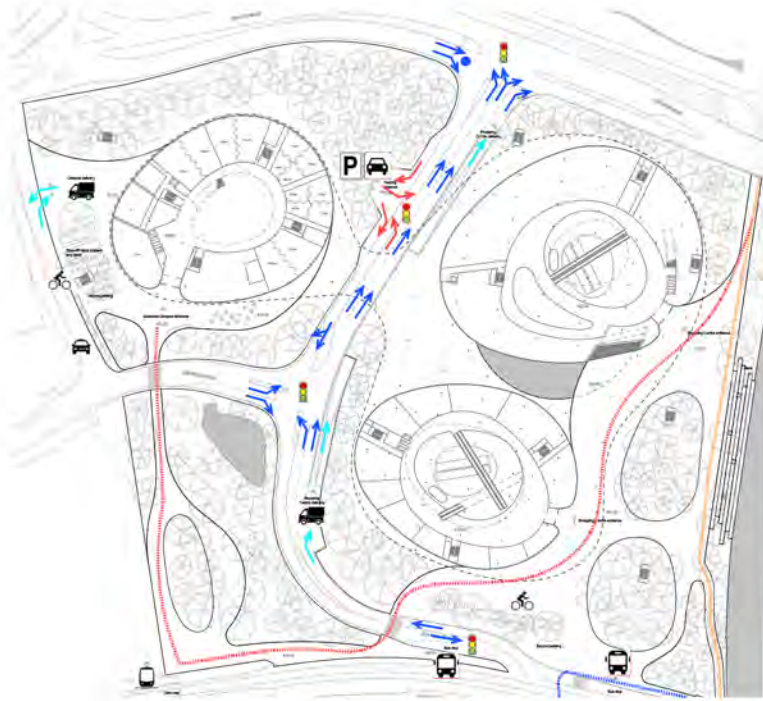
General plan / Ground floor 422.00 m 1:500



1st floor plan 426.50 / 428.75 m 1:500



2nd floor plan 431.00 m 1:500



Access, traffic

Like a city, the key to the success of such an important project lies in the organization and distribution of access and traffic. This problem is all the more acute as traffic on the "Europastrasse", which cuts the site in two, is high, at around 8,000 vehicles per day, and "Birchstrasse", the main arterial road leading to the A1/A6 motorway junction, flows about 25,000 vehicles per day.

The strategy adopted is, on one hand, to separate the various flows - pedestrians, cars, delivery - in order to avoid congestion on the existing network and, on the other hand, to better guide the different categories of users.

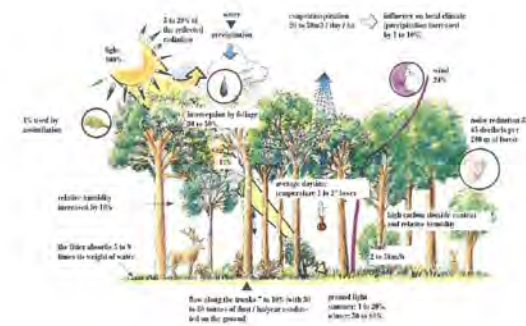
The access and exit of the car park are located 60 meters from the crossroads "Europastrasse / Birchstrasse" so as not to impact the proper functioning of this intersection. Access control to the underground car park, and the guidance of traffic inside it, will be designed in such a way as to avoid any backflow of queues on the external road network.

The main access for deliveries is via "Europastrasse", a secondary access is allowed via "Bühnenstrasse" for direct deliveries to the Business Campus and hotel. This second access is used by four buses, mini-buses and taxis.

The exit ramp for trucks on "Europastrasse" is planned 30 metres from the above-mentioned crossroads and will be equipped with a light signal. The main traffic from "Europastrasse" to "Birchstrasse" will have a forward stop line so as to leave these 30 metres clear when leaving a truck. Maintaining the two lanes assigned to the left turn from "Europastrasse" to "Birchstrasse" is essential in order to maintain good network capacity there.

The project proposes a peripheral distribution in East and West of pedestrian and bicycle access protected from road pollution. From the tram station, pedestrians cut directly across path 5709 to reach the business centre. To access the shopping centre they however follow the tram line and cross "Europastrasse" in front of the UBS complex to reach the main covered entrance opening onto the Glatt. It is also where cyclists are welcomed, equipped with bicycle covers.

- Existing traffic
- Parking traffic
- Delivery traffic
- Existing crossroads light
- Parking crossroads light
- Pedestrian traffic
- Pedestrian and bike path
- Secondary bikeline road



Microclimate influence

"Meet", through its location of hybridization between nature and built, intrinsically ensures the development of a favourable microclimate while cities must fight against overheating.

The "organic" project develops a rich vegetal fabric through the creation of a forest block, both the setting of this city building and a biological corridor between the adjoining forest and the Glatt River, but also through green roofs and vegetable terraces.

Great generosity is given to permeable spaces both in the open ground, on the ground, on the various terraces and on the roof. The project promotes rainwater retention and thus evaporation, which contributes to thermal regulation. The addition of ground permeable surfaces, green roofs and vegetable terraces provides an area of 36,630 m² while the current permeable surface is 35,697 m². Other aquatic elements such as the existing and conserved retention basin, water retention from roofs or the development of water bodies on terraces of the ground floor near the main entrances contribute to the development of a pleasant climate.

All non-vegetated surfaces, whether on the ground for permeable mineral surfaces or on terraces with wooden decks or on organic facades thanks to the proposed wooden screen, allow incident light to be reflected and prevent a high accumulation of heat.

The project also pays particular attention to the circulation of people and the circulation of air between the built elements. This creates a great fluidity of spaces both outside and inside the buildings.

The ambition of the "organic" project is to build a large multifunctional complex on a human scale where living together becomes part of the project.

Phasing

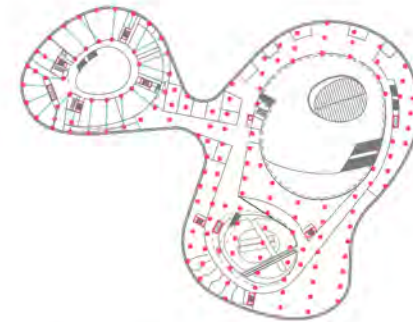
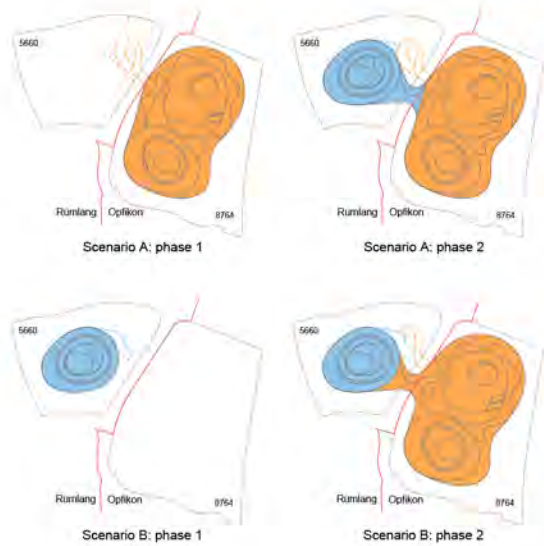
The construction phases of the "Meet" project follow the logic of the site, which consists of two separate plots of land separated by Europastrasse, one in the municipality of Rümlang and the other in the municipality of Opfikon.

Two scenarios emerge, A or B, allowing the project to be developed in phases. The business centre and the hotel in the west, the shopping centre and the wellness centre in the east.

The link between the two parts, above "Europastrasse", is only built when the whole project is completed.

Only access to underground car parks requires a common construction regardless of the chosen scenario, it guarantees the fluidity of traffic on "Europastrasse" and the distribution of car parks on each plot and allows great flexibility for any development.

In case the land were not to be built solely for "Meet", this access would make it possible to preserve the constructible potential of each plot while solving the problem of car access.



Supporting structure

The rounded structure of complex appearance is in fact quite simple and rational.

Horizontal support elements

The horizontal load-bearing elements are made of solid reinforced concrete slabs 35 cm thick, with steel beam (HEM type profiles) integrated inside the slabs in some cases. This makes it possible to cross large free spans of 10 to 12 m by controlling long-term deflection.

These horizontal structural surfaces are protected from fire by the concrete itself, in a simple and economical way. In addition, the integration of metal profiles inside the slabs makes it possible to avoid slab bases that complicate the passage of technical flows.

For the Meeting Center, steel truss beams are placed under the slabs to allow the large spans of around 18m to be covered due to the presence of the conference rooms. This allows the transfer of loads from the discontinuous abutments from the top to the end abutments. The upper cord is embedded in the slab to reduce the height of steel truss beam. These exposed structures will be calculated according to their fire resistance to avoid expensive packaging and protection.

Vertical support elements

The pillars are made of mixed steel-concrete of 35 cm diameter, they are placed with those of the car parks and thus allow a simple and economical run loads down.

All the Co-Working level, in order to allow the creation of cantilever, steel diagonals allow the loads to be transferred to the retracted pillars and thus to free up the outside space.

The other vertical load-bearing elements consist of reinforced concrete walls with a thickness of 20 cm for down-to-earth walls and 20 cm for interior walls.

Braacing

The bracing of the structure is ensured by stairwells, technical shafts and elevators distributed in a balanced manner to absorb the forces due to the wind or a possible earthquake.

Development

The project was pre-dimensioned by finite elements. This makes it possible to validate the static principles and identify the structural parts still to be developed later.

- Concrete slab floor
- Steel truss beam
- Pillar and wall
- Steel beam - HEM profile

Building services engineering concepts

The comfort of the premises is ensured by an efficient thermal envelope and by technical installations combined with natural climate management principles. The installations meet all the requirements in force and guarantee a minimum consumption in winter.

The building is equipped with fixed (low-tech) solar protection and has sufficient thermal inertia to ensure the level of comfort required in summer. However, rooms requiring cooling are cooled first by freecooling and/or natural ventilation principles and then by mechanical installations. The attics are equipped with openings in the lower and upper parts for natural ventilation and night cooling. Hygienic air quality is ensured by mechanical ventilation.

Centralized heat and cooling production will be used to pool infrastructures and thus promote synergies, particularly through the recovery of heat waste. Energy sources for the production of heat and cooling will promote the use of efficient technologies using renewable and local resources (e.g. the Glatt River) to limit grey operational energy and pollutant emissions.

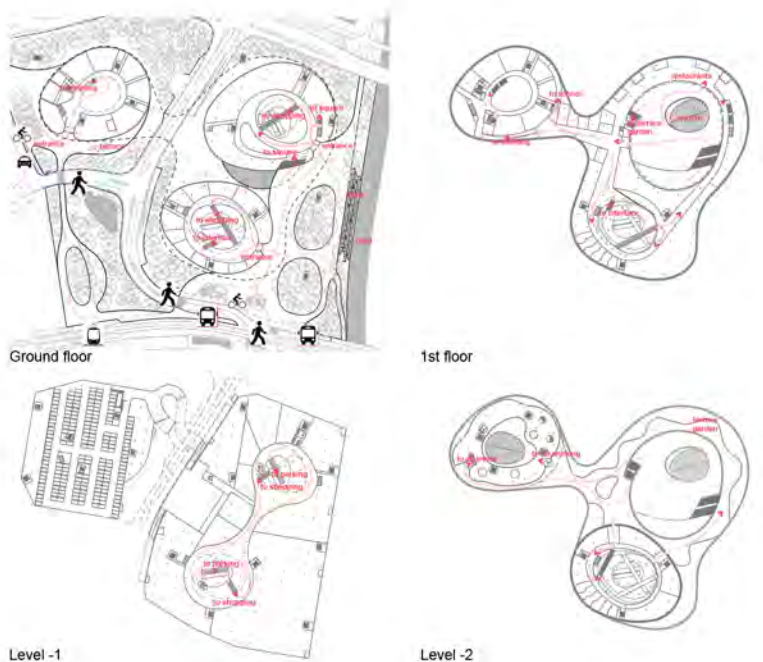
The roofs are green and equipped with a solar thermal installation dedicated to covering the high domestic hot water needs of wellness areas, hotel and catering services. Photovoltaic solar installations are also planned in the form of roof panels, as well as cells integrated into the atrium glass roofs (solar protection). These will be combined with a self-consumption group to cover the majority of the site's electricity consumption.

Rainwater and runoff are collected in an underground system. This retention volume will cover the water needs for watering vegetated areas.

The car parks will be equipped with sprinkler systems. Smoke extraction is ensured by mechanical smoke extraction ventilation. Air flows pass through masonry channels on the building's periphery. In addition, mechanical ventilation systems are provided for the hygienic renewal of the air and the extraction of contaminants.

Therefore, in order to ensure a quality sound environment, the layout of the outdoor and indoor living areas takes into account the noise constraints on the site. The treatment of the facades is also designed to limit environmental noise pollution in order to provide optimal acoustic comfort inside the premises.

- Technical room
- Solar protection facade
- Natural ventilation
- Photovoltaic panels
- Photovoltaic glass
- Solar panels



Meet in and free space

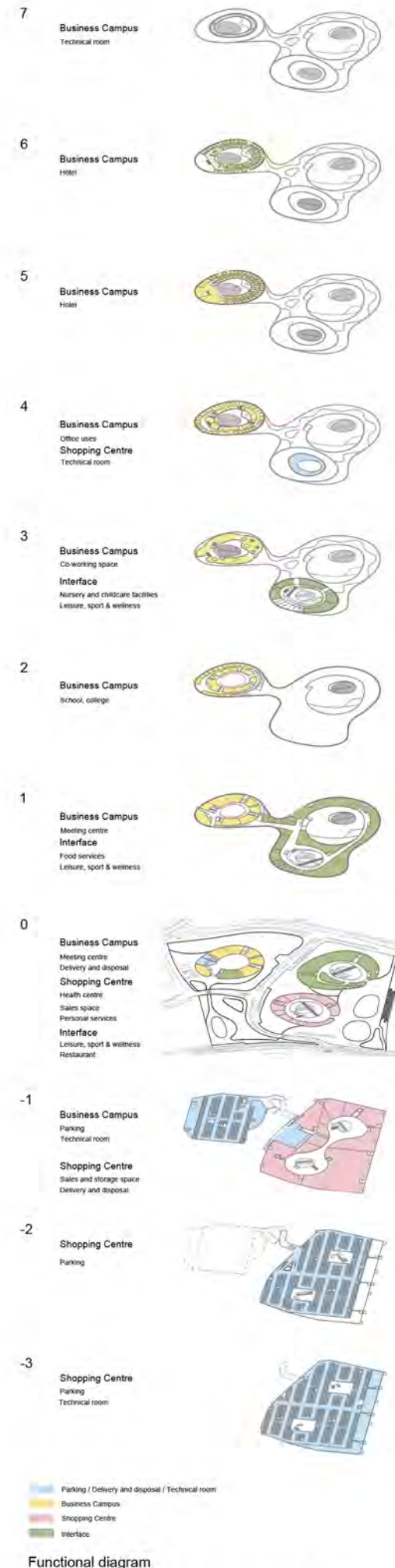
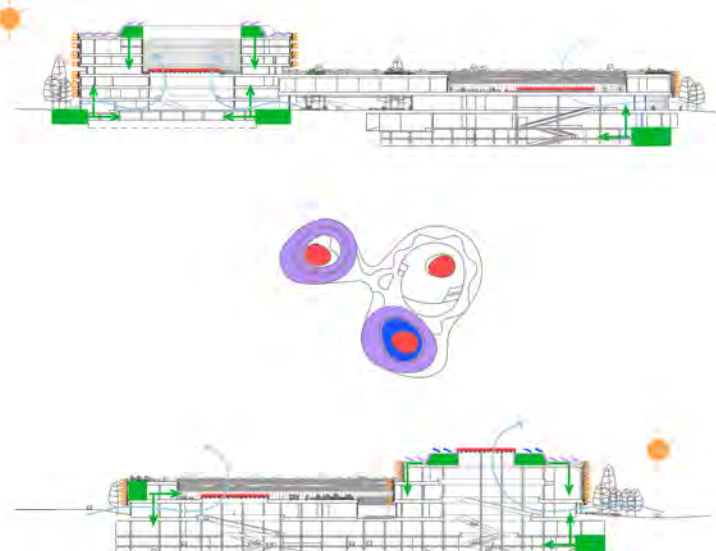
Through the fluidity of its paths, the chosen organic form stimulates walking and exchange, activities inherent to this type of programme.

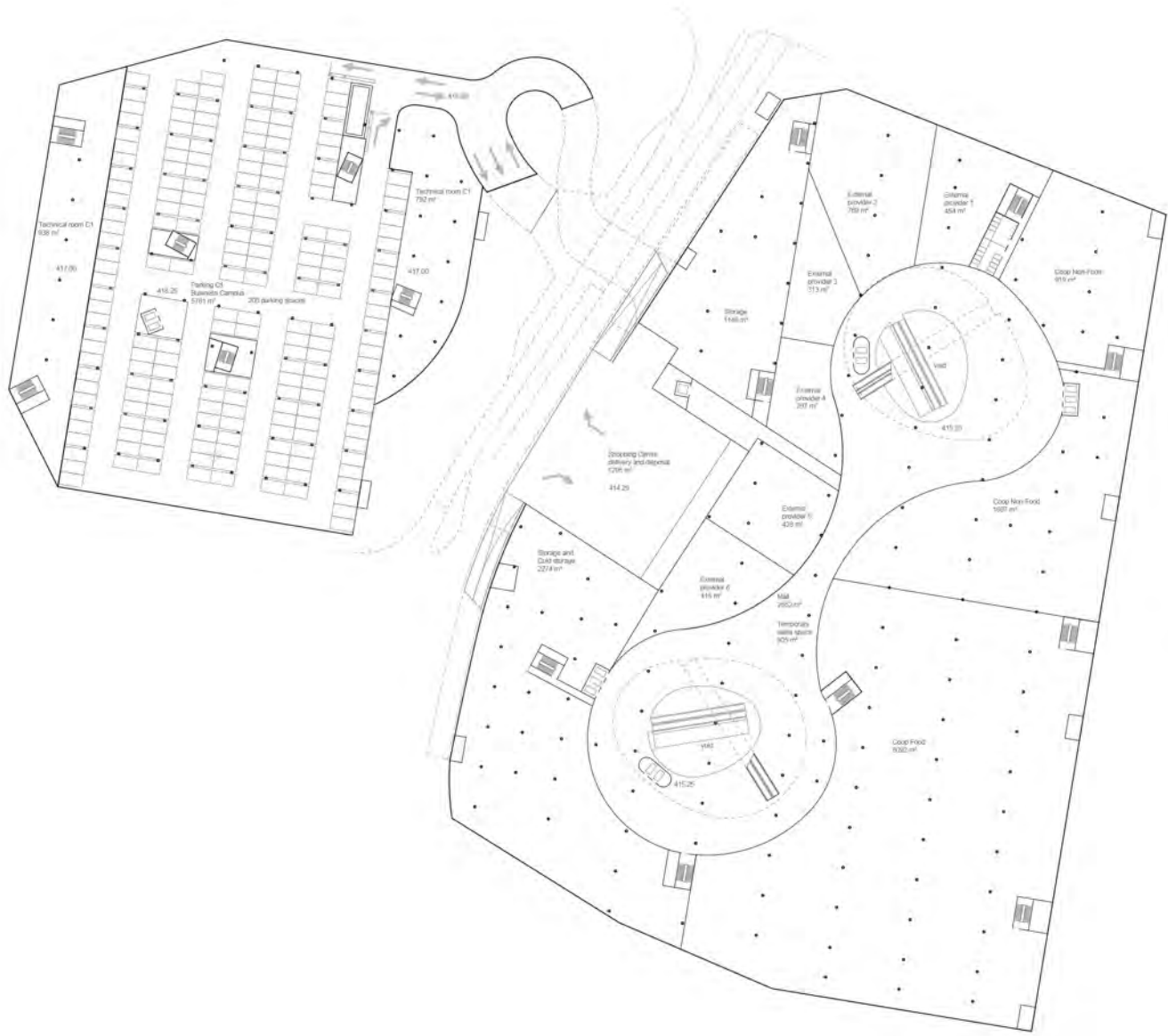
Thanks to the proposed device, the orientation of visitors is easy. In the shopping centre and leisure section, two large malls welcome users who come by car in the basement, and those who arrive on foot on the ground floor. A similar system takes place in the business centre but only from the ground floor.

The building forms a bridge over the "Europastrasse", led on the first floor by common programmes that promote the diversity of uses and audiences and on the second floor by a roof dedicated to walking and strolling (in particular for users of the business centre and co-working spaces). Located in the canopy of the surrounding forest, it offers places of contemplation and relaxation with flower beds and rest areas.

The interest of the project is to propose not only interior but also external routes. Thus, for example, when pedestrians or cyclists arrive at the ground floor in the East, they can either enter the shopping centre and leisure shops themselves connected to the lower level, or go up to the Market Square, restaurants and vegetable gardens - and continue to the upper floor on the "Eplanade des Débambulations", and finally come down to the West via the business centre.

This route, which links the East and West poles and avoids pedestrian/car conflict on "Europastrasse", is also possible from the inside.





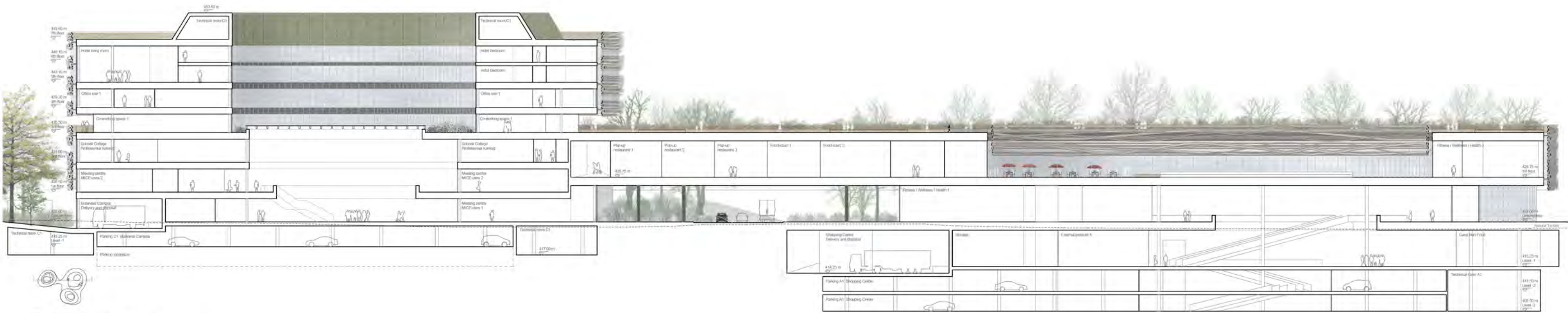
Basement plan level -1 415.25 m 1:500



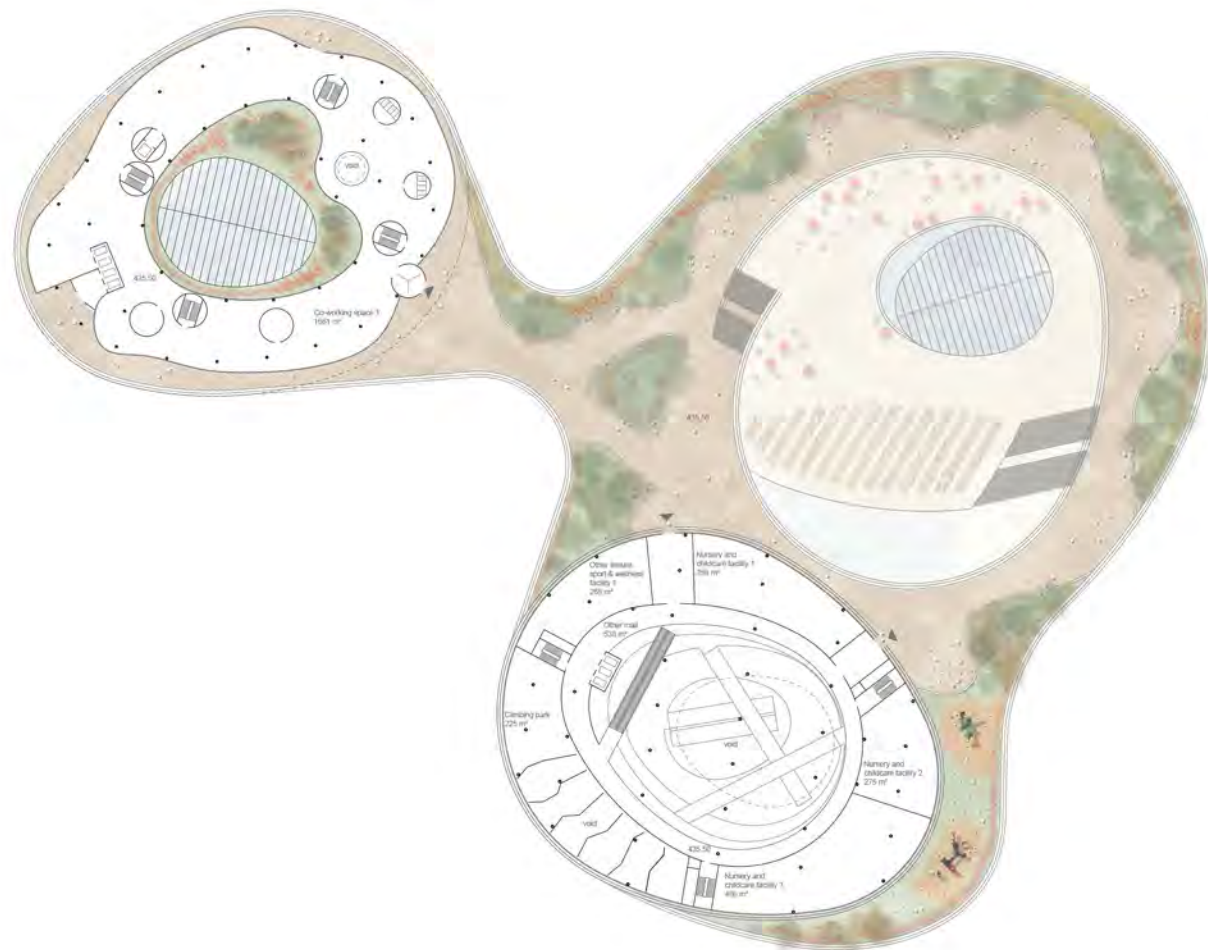
Basement plan level -2 411.50 m 1:500



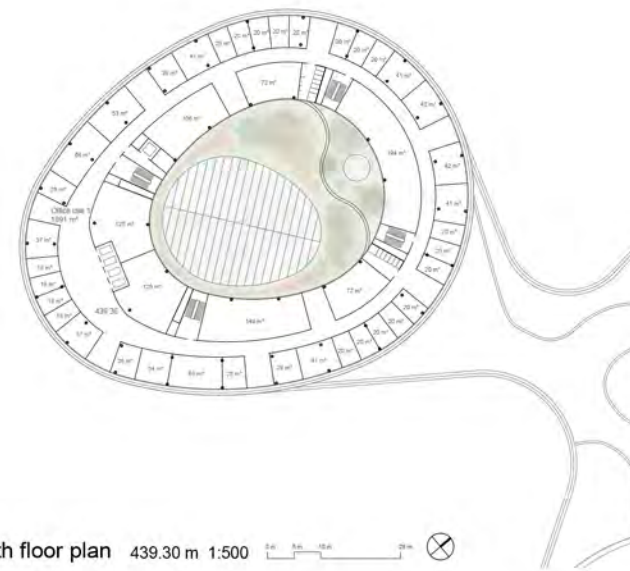
Basement plan level -3 408.50 m 1:500



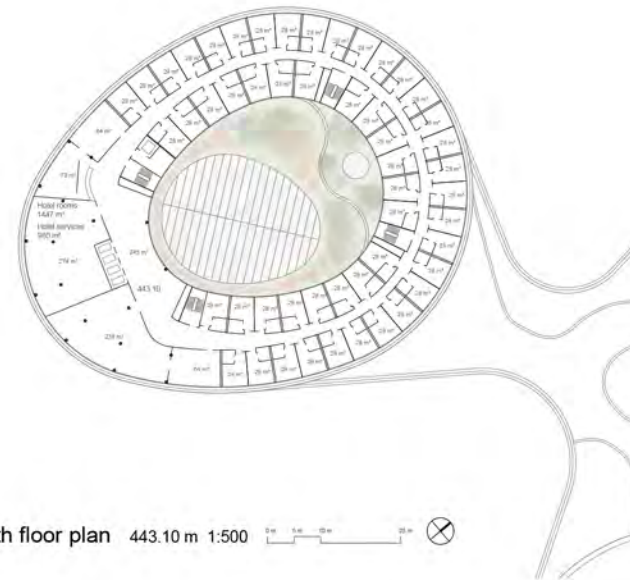
Section 1 1:200



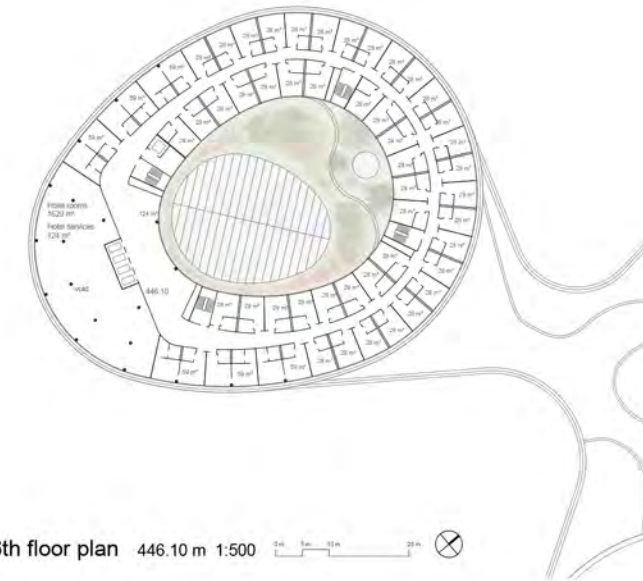
3rd floor plan 435.50 m 1:500



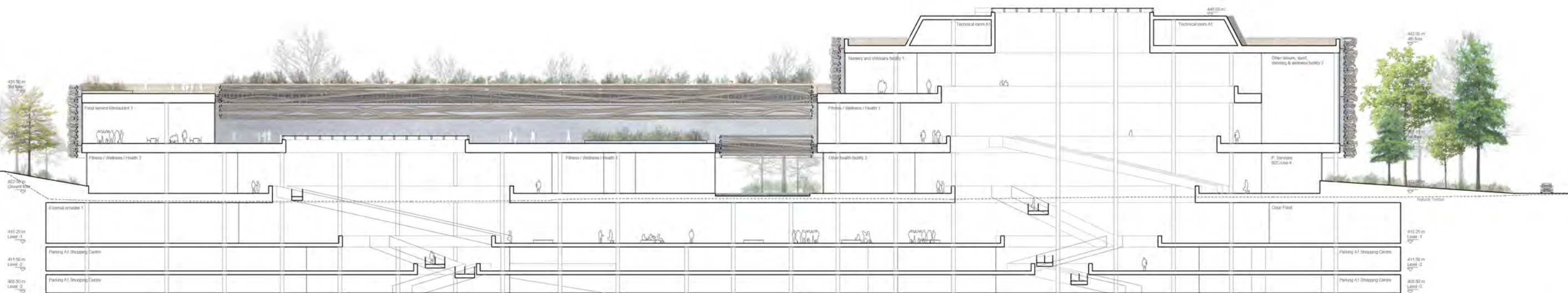
4th floor plan 439.30 m 1:500



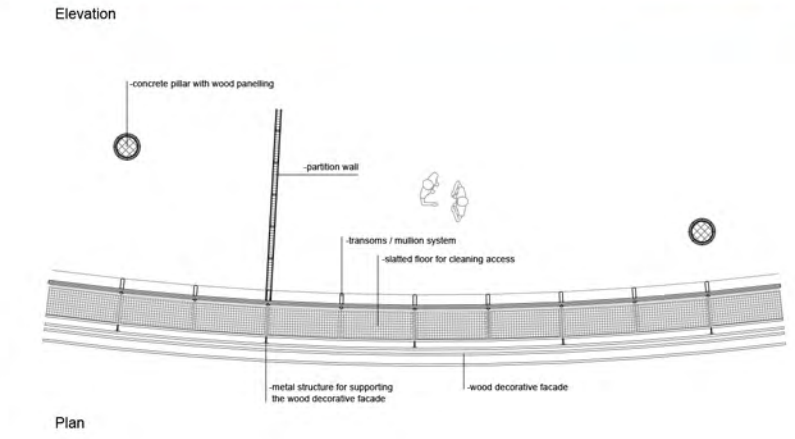
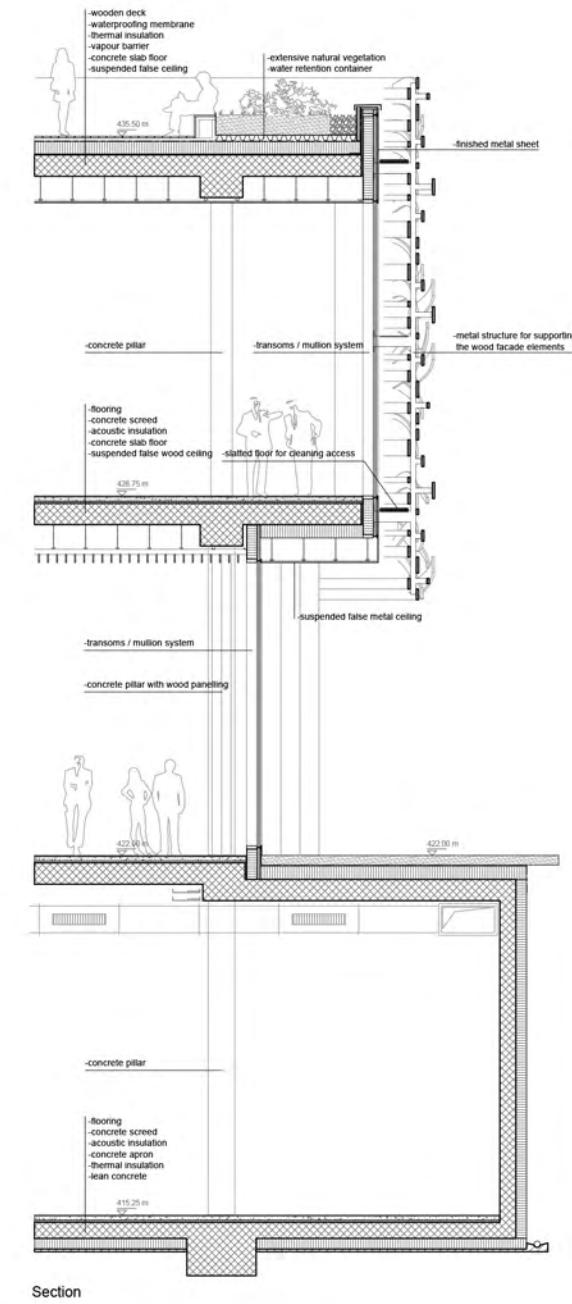
5th floor plan 443.10 m 1:500



6th floor plan 446.10 m 1:500



Section 2 1:200



Section
Facade details 1:50

