

STUDIO ARTIS ISLANDS

OWL ENCLOSURE



PROJECT BOOKLET | BRAM FRANKEN

fascination
eurasian eagle owl
introduction of the building
the encounter
plan of the building
sequence of spaces
entrance of the enclosure
foundations of the enclosure
section
first floor plan
ground floor plan
exploded view enclosure
unfolded interior
vertical landscape
industrial walkway
roof structure
'birt' nest
fragment of the present
changes over time
fragment of the future
final visualization



"The story of the design you will soonly behold is devoted to the fascinating equilibrium of nature and culture which have alternately sculpted our world throughout times. For ages we humans have shown to be able of making the most delusional buildings and constructions out of borrowed natural materials defying not only gravity and space but even the gods. However, in the end one thing is inevitably and fundamentally true; when time passes everything will fade away returning back to its former natural state. The proces of erosion will slowly transform every human artefact, even the most significant like the once shown on the left, back to its original shape."



"It is the endless deep gaze of this mysterious super creature that appealed most to me. The feeling of being looked into your soul everytime it stares at you. A small, elegant animal with a great significance and generally know as a symbol of paranormal wisdom, regal silence and fierce intelligence."

eurasian eagle owl
oehoe | bubo bubo

long ear tufts with the ears underneath
different size of ears positioned asymmetrically for determining the exact location of the pray

fixed binocular eyes for having super vision even in the dark

sharp beak for tearing flesh apart
rotation of the neck; 270 degrees

camouflaged feathers
big wingspan up to 2 meters
soft sharp featers for flying silently

big sharp claws for grabbing on pray



irregular terrain;
cliffs & ravines

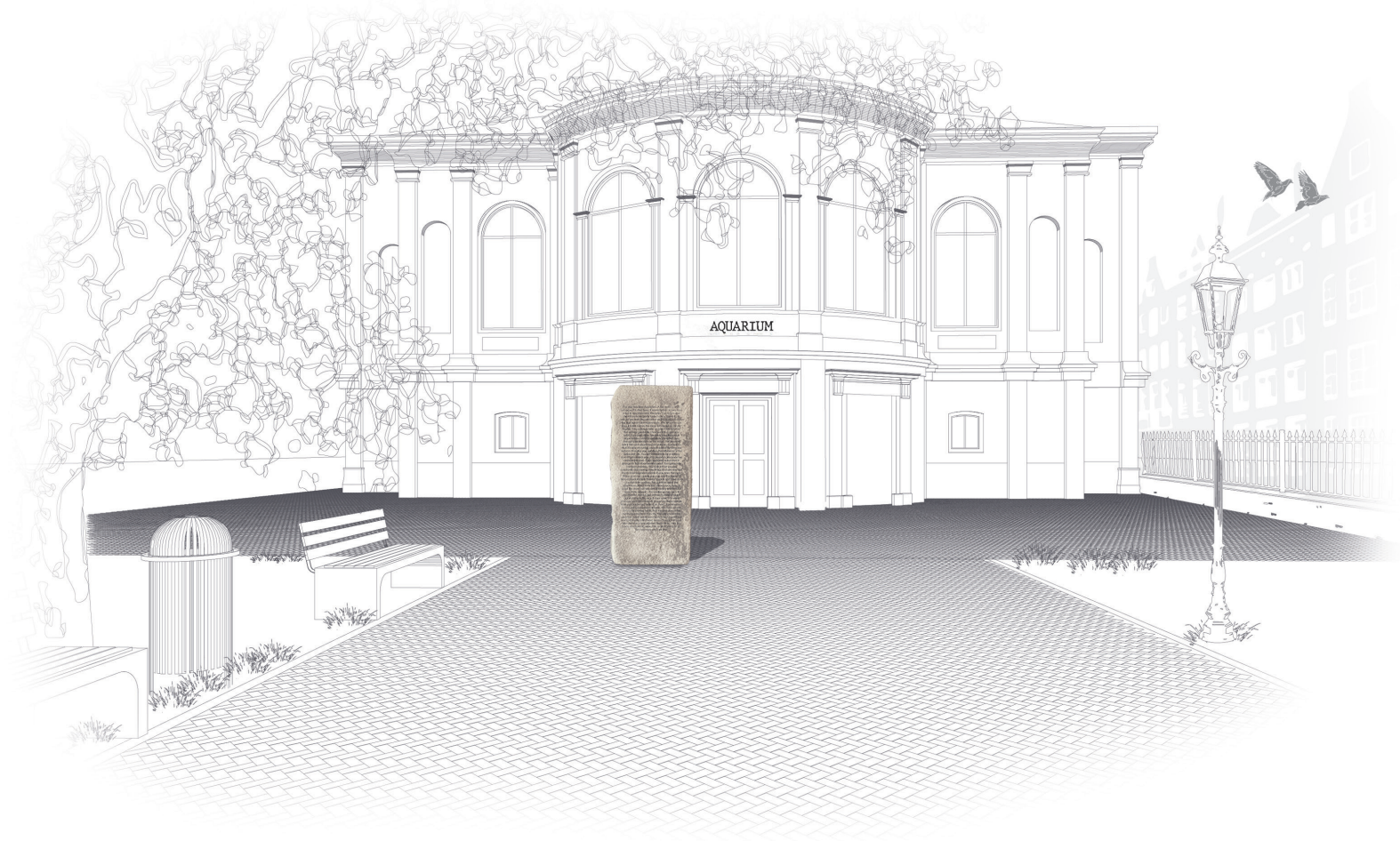
covered terrain which is semi-open;
coniferious and pine forests

open terrain surrounded by a scattering of trees and bushes;
grasslands
alpine meadows
desert steppes

features and habitat

You are about to read the narrative of my design and to become the protagonist of the story. You ask yourself the question how is that even possible without physically being in Artis. In fact, you are sitting at home looking at your digital screen. You look up and pause for a while meditating on the possibilities of getting there without really being present. Before you know, your imagination has brought you past the front entrance without even buying a ticket. You curiously continue reading. You know that you are heading towards the design of an indoor enclosure but you have no idea of what is in there. To fulfil your curious hunger you have to enter the stately aquarium building in front of you and pass through a sequence of richly ornamented spaces. An astonishing classical decor of different ages and atmospheres. You try to imagine what this would be like. It's as if you're meandering around the bottom of the ocean, just following the current and finding your way along the most beautiful coral, with no idea what you're actually heading for. Your quest starts at the encounter of the building and will eventually lead you towards the entrance of the enclosure. When you're finally there your hunger will be satisfied and your thoughts will be released. The intention of the text is to question yourself and guide you on an inner experience. It is not about finding the correct answers but about evoking the right thoughts. The text in front of you has no sense of time and addresses every generation. When time passes the same questions will appeal to you in a different way. Every time you return to the place where you can read this text it will have a different meaning.

You are curiously trying to get a grip on the previous sentences looking for an example of how this works. You decided to start over again and read the text from the beginning. You take a closer look and notice that the text is carved into stone. You wonder why this expressively old method is used. The rugged surface of the solid block is marked with elegantly sharp letters which transform the meaning of the natural element for an indefinite time. This ancient way of communicating was done by our ancestor in primitive times more than 500,000 years ago. Referring to an era when the whole world was a zoo and you also did not have to buy a ticket to be part of it. These Petroglyphs can be seen as one of the very first forms of culture. The story of the design you will soon behold is devoted to the fascinating equilibrium of nature and culture which have alternately sculpted our world throughout times. For ages we humans have shown to be able of making the most delusional buildings and constructions out of natural materials defying not only gravity but also the gods. However, in the end one thing is inevitably and fundamentally true; when time passes everything will fade away returning back to its former natural state. The process of erosion will slowly transform every human artefact, even the most significant like the historical city of Petra, back to its original shape. From the moment this text was forced into a stone surface nature started to restore the balance wiping out this incidental human interference. The weathered rock with its man-made inscriptions slowly fades away creating space for interpretation and making passed time visible. We have devoted our life's to conserve and maintain significant buildings such as monuments and cathedrals only to postpone its execution. When nature finally succeeds, we start over again.

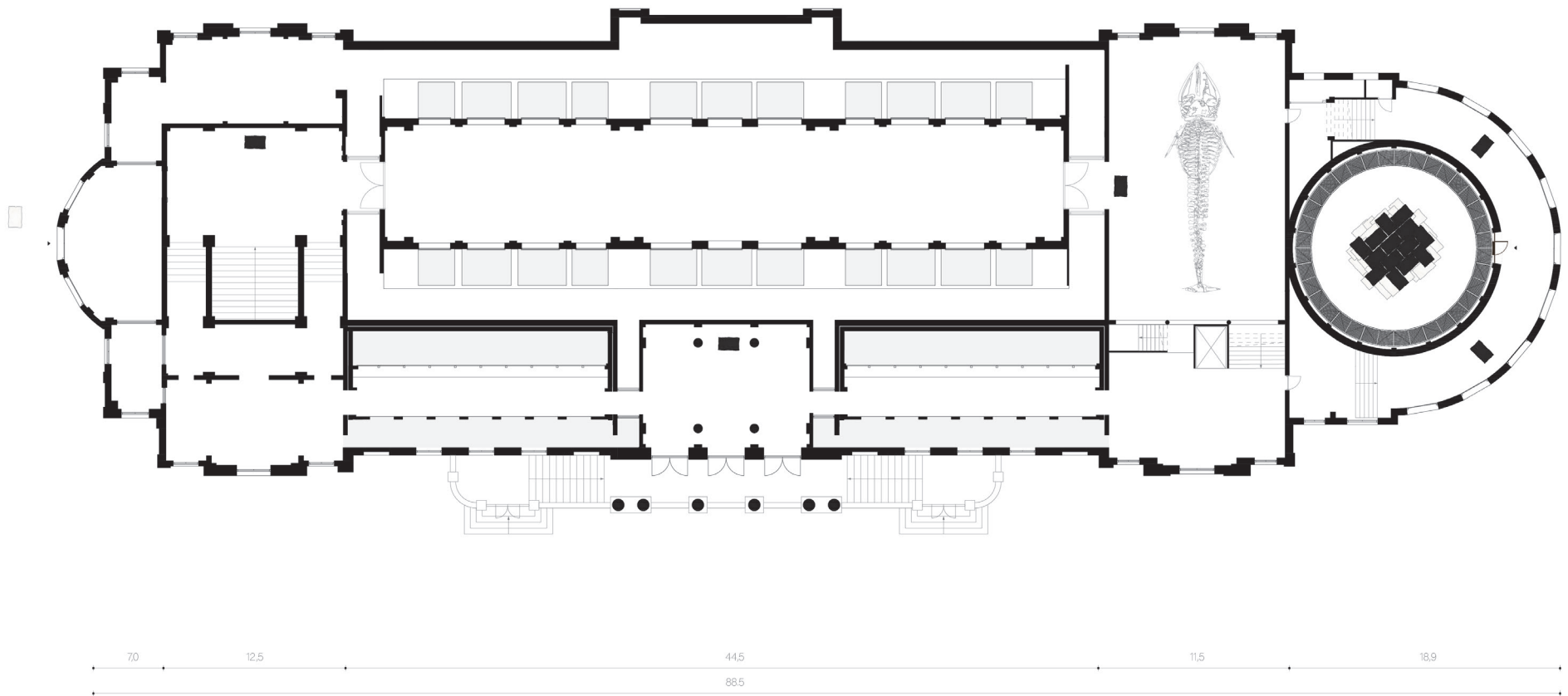


"you have been wandering around the zoo for a while before you reach this place. Something appealed to you. You start reading; Aquarium..."

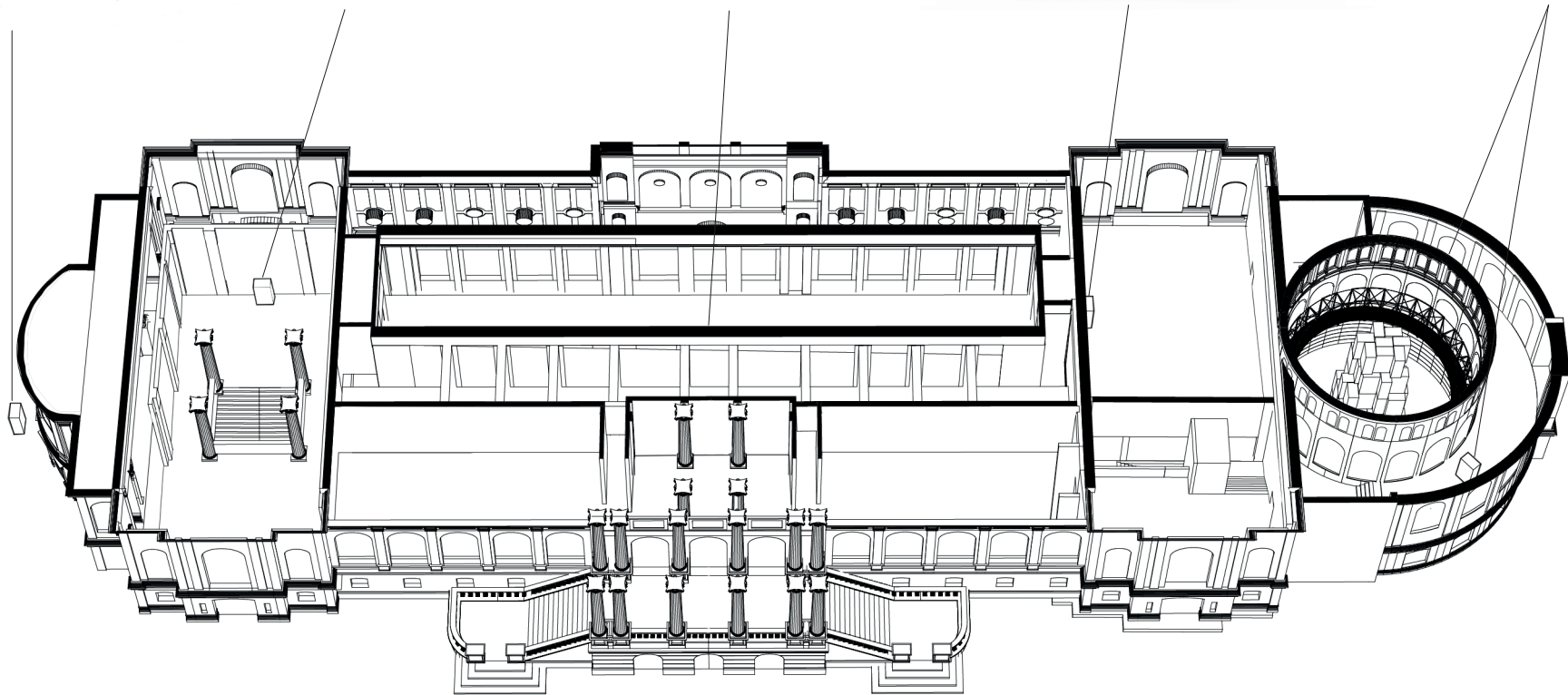
the encounter



You start reading; Aquarium, A lost word you did not expect to find here. It immediately drowns your mind in questions and thoughts, You notice that the letters have partly faded away. These try in vain to win from the elements which slowly change the text back to its original state. You wonder how long it takes before the large letters are no longer legible. You curiously take a closer look at it. The flat surface gradually changes into a graceful relief, Your gaze slides smoothly over the rough stone surface until it is suddenly disrupted by a strange discoloration on the edge. You wonder what this odd appearance could be. You notice that it is only occurring on one side of the irregular surface. It makes you question the influence of the adjacent city. You are interrupted by a striking scent that reminds you of a pleasant place you've been in the past. A recognizable odour that is strange to this urban environment. You ignorantly continue reading. You notice that you are constantly discovering new things that are very old. These fossil fragments speak to you from the past. When you look closely you can see the layers of time embedded in it. You try to relax and take on a comfortable position. The question what the mysterious object is made of keeps you busy. It looks like stone but you are doubting whether it is something organic. You realize you've seen it somewhere before. But at that moment it didn't appeal to you the way it does now. You were younger and did not have an eye for these details. Now you pause and reflect on them. You wonder if you've seen everything already. You try to ignore the loudly passing traffic that reminds you of the hustle-and-bustle of the city. You ask yourself the question; what made you come here? Something unconsciously called your name. You look to your side and see a few pigeons flying away over the fence. It's an ironic view. You realize that they are the only ones who are free.



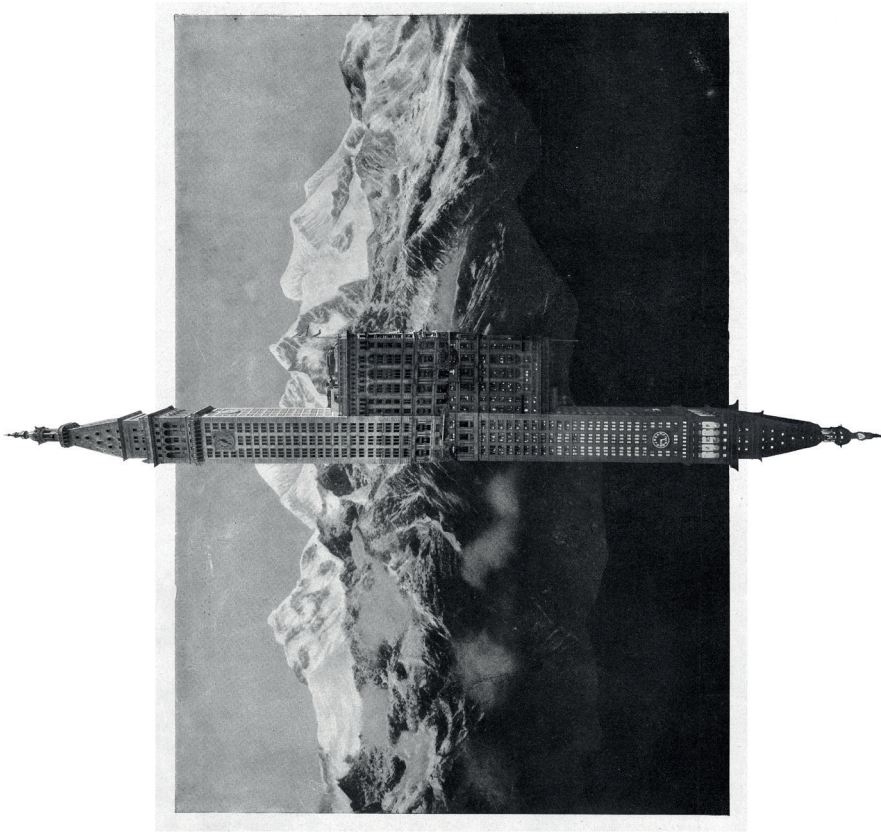
plan of the building



sequence of spaces

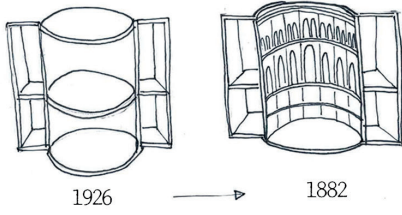


entrance of the enclosure



The ambient colourful world of moments ago gives way to an obscure void full of shadows and silhouettes. You're curious if you are going to find what you are looking for. The surrounding darkness isolates your vision. Your eyes focus and automatically lock on every object that stands out of the rest. Every passing second your sight gets better and better. You diligently observe the mysterious space around you. Your gaze gently scanning every visible surface. No detail escapes to your unstirred attention. There is just enough light coming from above to map everything out. You oversee the situation and feel that you are in control. You feel that the darkness is your ally. Suddenly you catch an eye. Hopefully it is what you came for.

overseeing twilight



1926

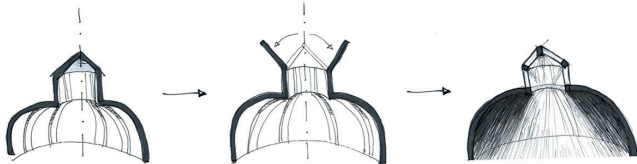
1882



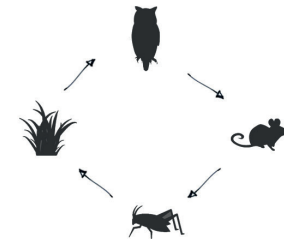
vertical landscape



panopticon structure



opening the roof; allowing the owl to leave and the elements to enter



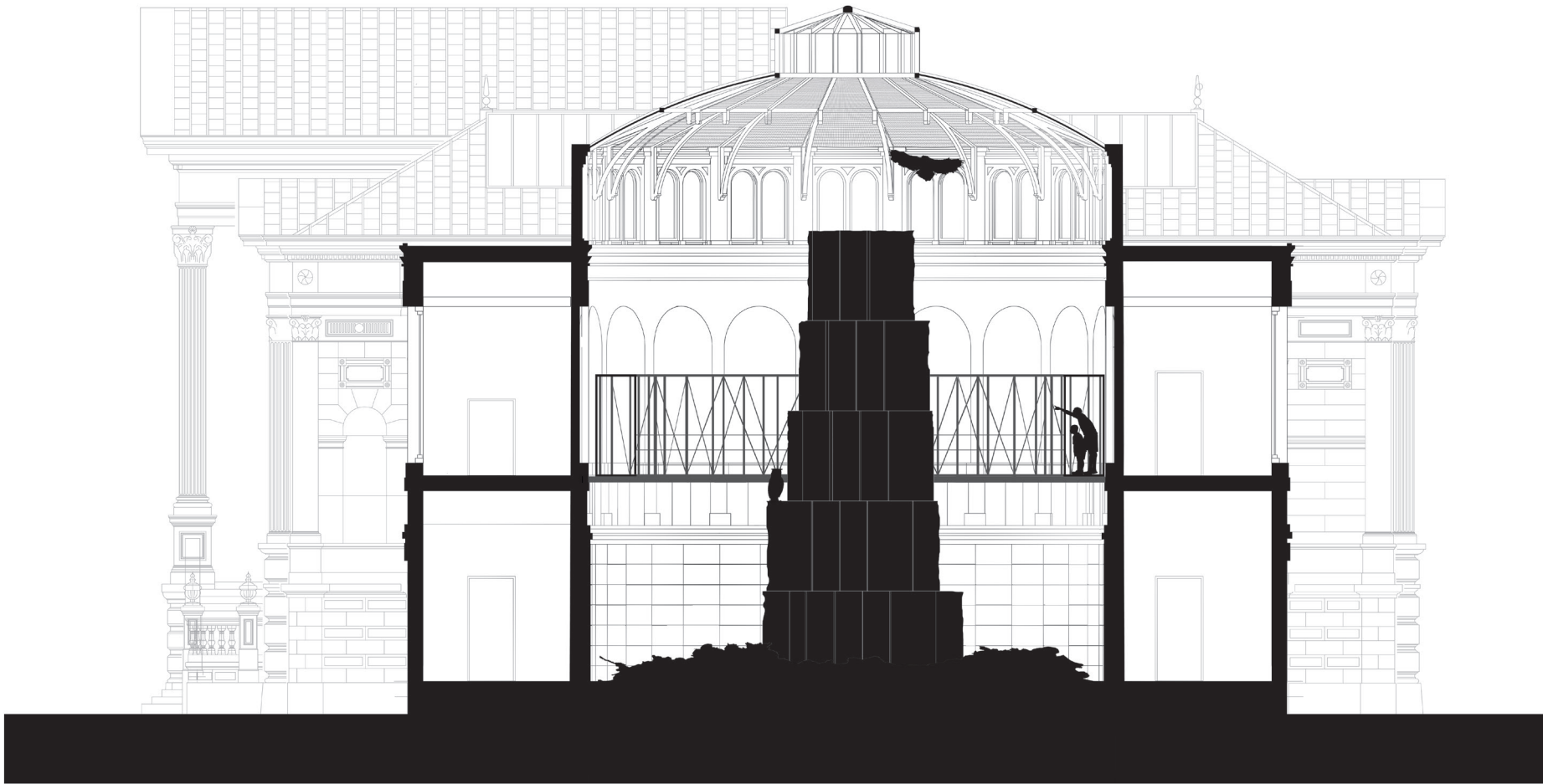
independent novel ecosystem

foundations of the enclosure

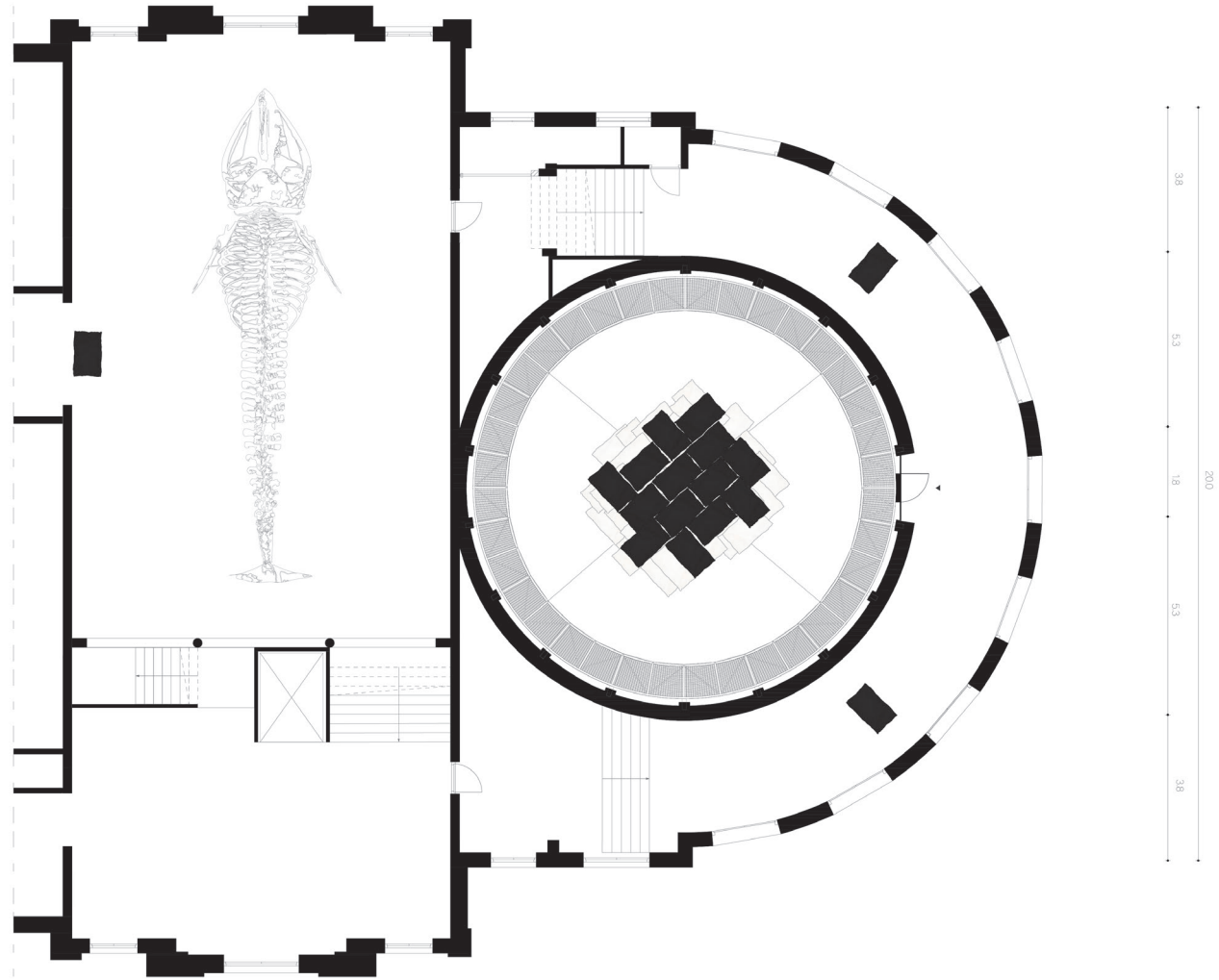


You have the cramped feeling of being stuck in a dark round space. The notion of being watched makes you nervous. Behind the steel bars you see the reflection of eyes looking in your direction. They closely monitor every move you make. You suspiciously wander around in the hope of getting rid of them. It seems the eyes are getting closer. You look around you. There aren't many options. You wonder if there is any danger ahead of you. Before you know it you are standing face to face. Time stops for a moment. You have the indescribable feeling of being looked deeply into your soul. After a few seconds you continue your way satisfied knowing that everything is all right. You're here as a guest and can leave whenever you want to.

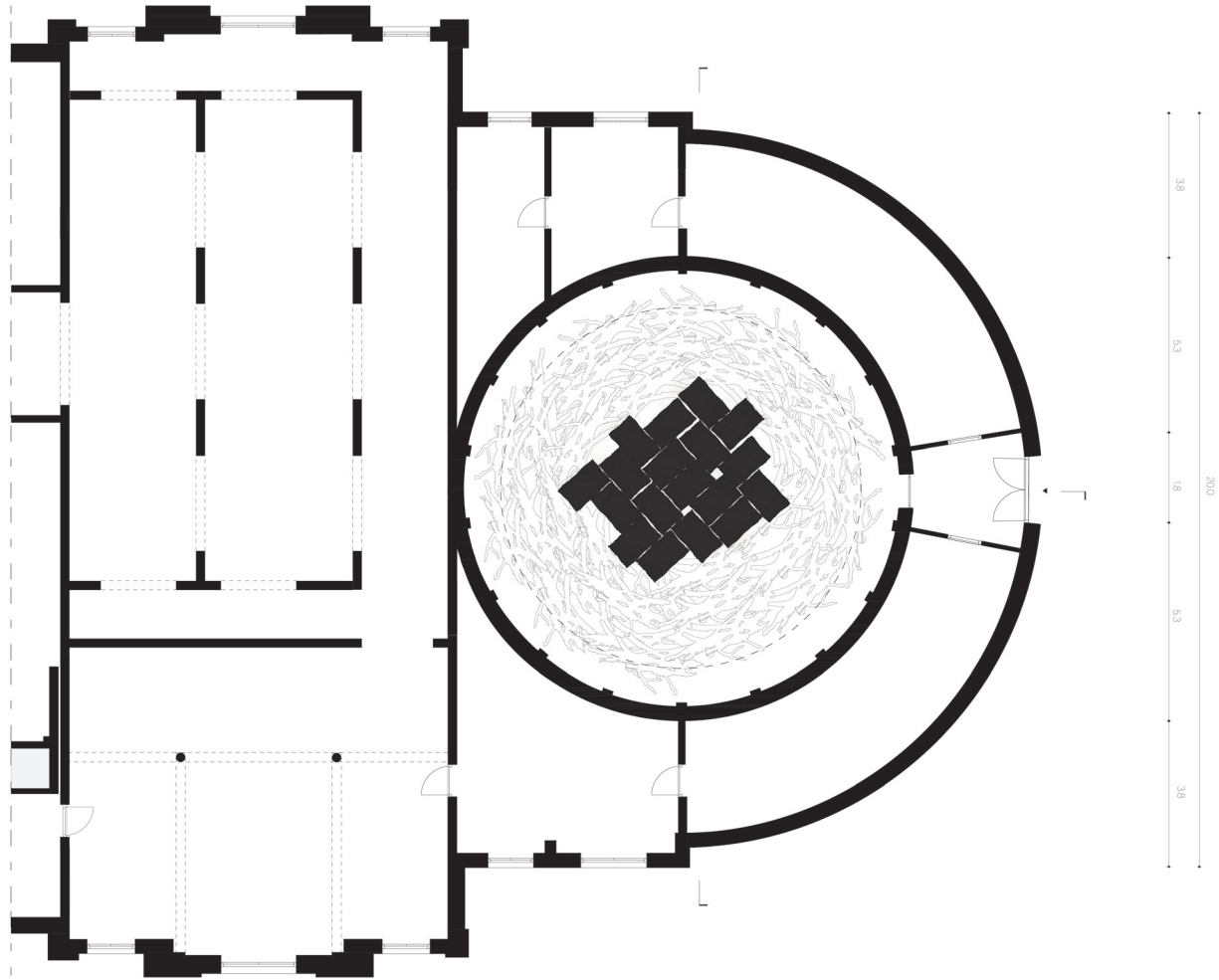
feeling enclosed



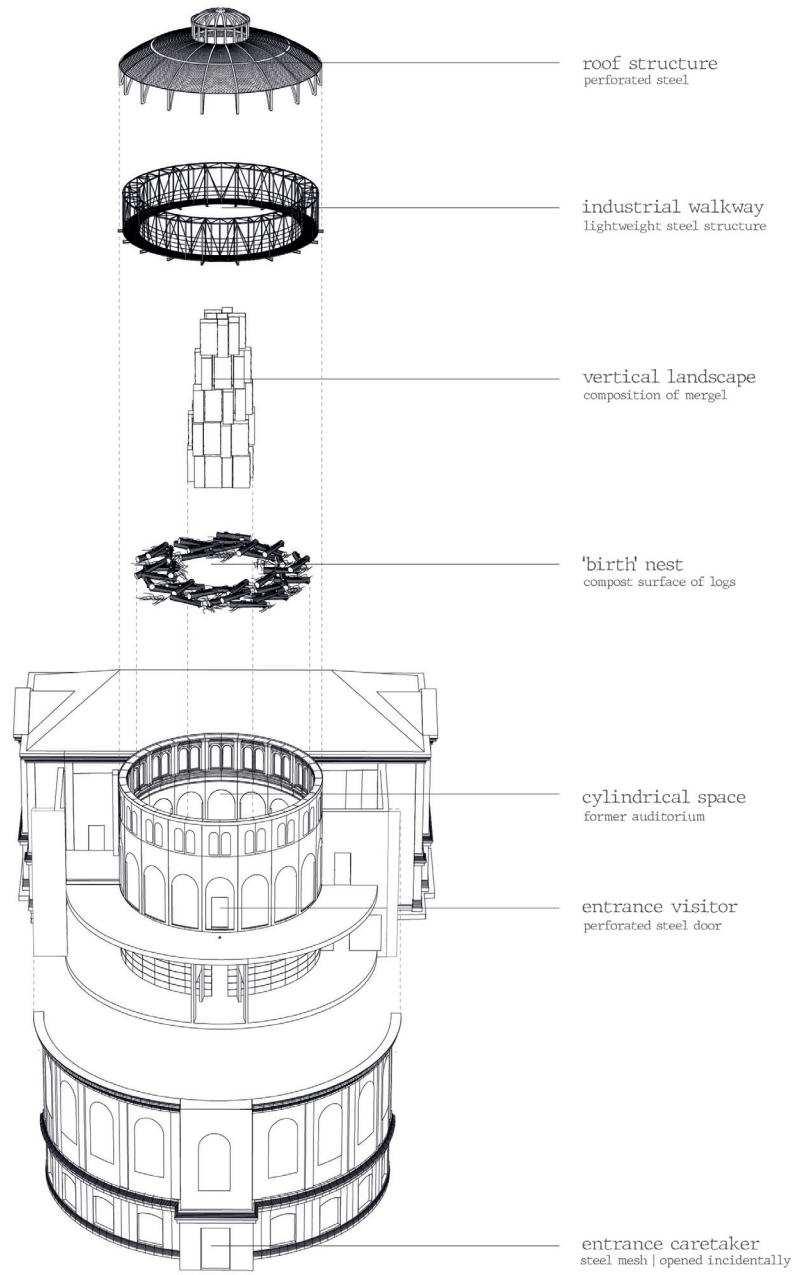
section



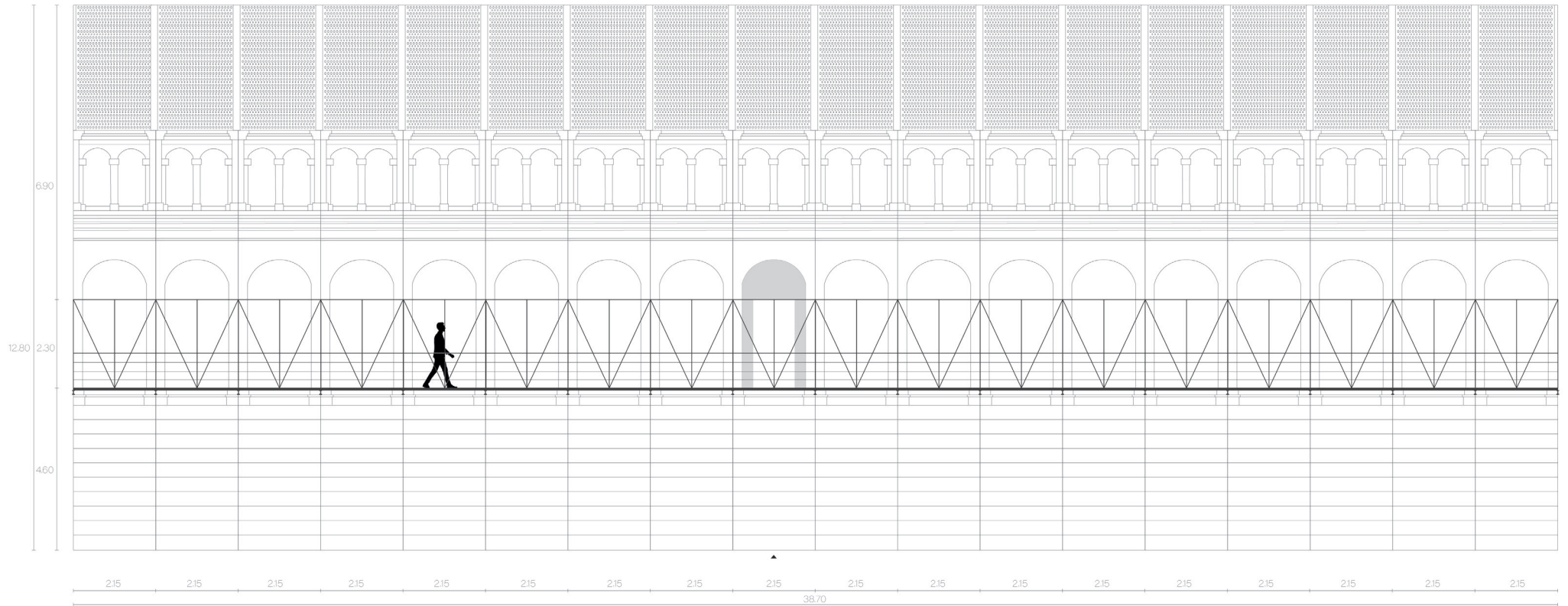
first floor plan



ground floor plan



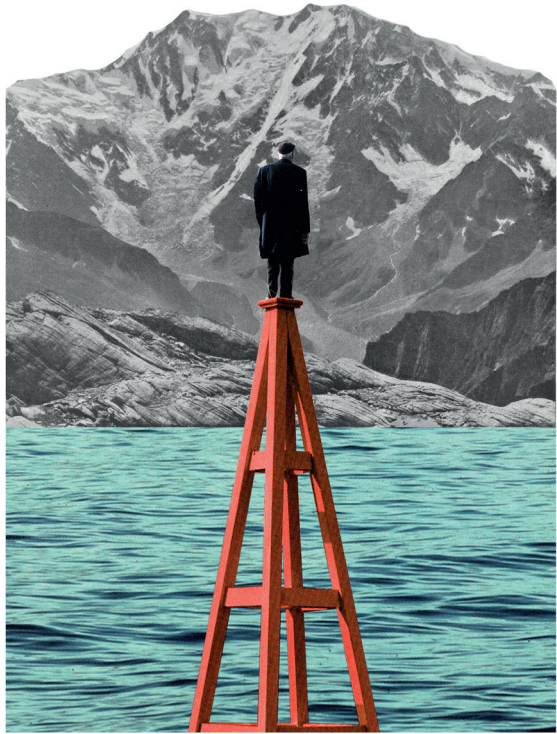
exploded view enclosure



unfolded interior



vertical landscape
composition of mergel



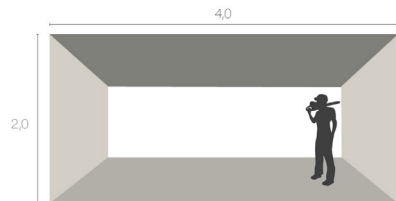
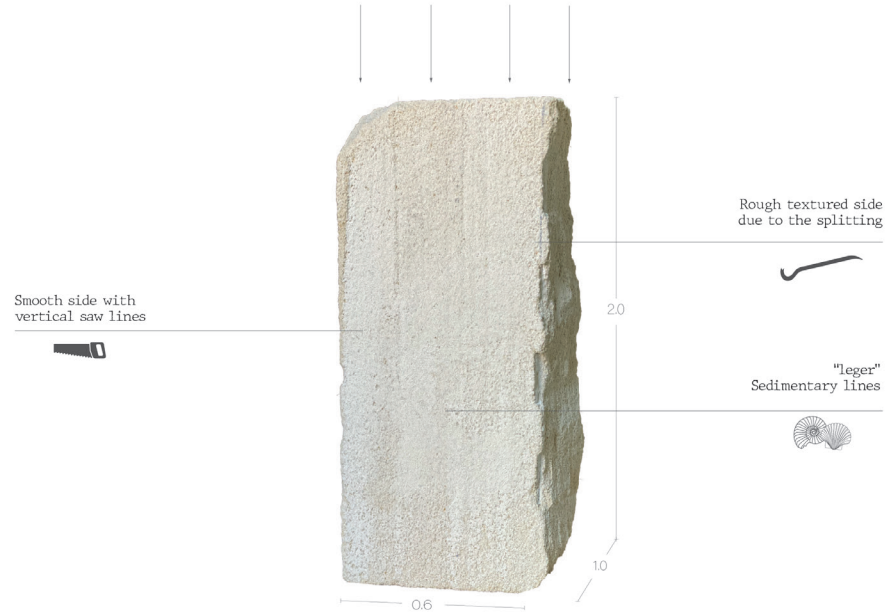
You are taking a brave look downwards into the deep knowing that you are firmly stuck against the stone wall. You are in the confident notion that nothing will happen to you here. You are trusted with the solid structure that covers your back and keeps your body into the air. The height offers you a challenging view over the enclosed space. Your thinking about making the jump and diving into the empty deep. Defying gravity in an elegant way and floating through space with no forces pulling you down. The thought of being fast and weightless gives you an almighty feeling. Your limited perception of space becomes unimaginably greater in just a blink of an eye. You feel the wind sliding down your body. After a while you look at your feet and you are suddenly back to earth again.

defying gravity

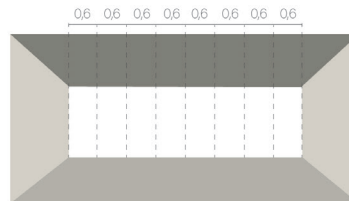


oehoe valley
enci groeve | former mergel quarry in southern limburg

Mergel always should be used in the direction it is formed this, guarrantees its strength



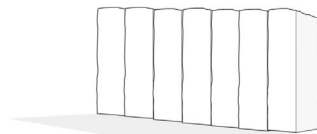
The tunnels have a maximum dimension of 4x2 to prevent it from collapsing



The wall in front is divided into 7 equal blocks with some distance between them for splitting and sawing



The block are transported on its side and marked to know the uppside



Resulting in big blocks of mergel ready to be cut into smaller blocks or used for sculping



proces of quarrying



composition of the blocks
arbitrary placement in an orthogonal connection creates spaces in between



You've been studying the vertical landscape attentively for a while as if you are deciphering the cairns' deeper sense. The monolith composition evokes various thoughts and associations. Every now and then your gaze gets lost inside of a deep dark crevice. For a moment your mind is being trapped inside of a mysteriously ancient cave. A stone void marked by our predecessors. You wonder how these places once originated. But that's not the real reason why you are here, you are looking for a place to shelter. You continue your quest asking yourself what would be the ideal place to settle? You are looking for causes such as small cavities and bare areas. You notice that the massive rock consists of very divergent sides. A clear contrast of texture is visible between smoothly sawn and ruggedly untouched faces. You realise that it won't take long before the elements eventually wipe out all traces of human interference. Nature will always restore itself. Erosion will gradually move states between man-made and nature resulting in a sculpture of passed time. While reflecting on the previous your eyes are being attracted to the top of the stone giant and they notice something odd. It only takes you a couple of seconds before your realise what you're actually seeing. You are pleasantly surprised by this remarkable spot. you found the perfect nest.

lost in crevices

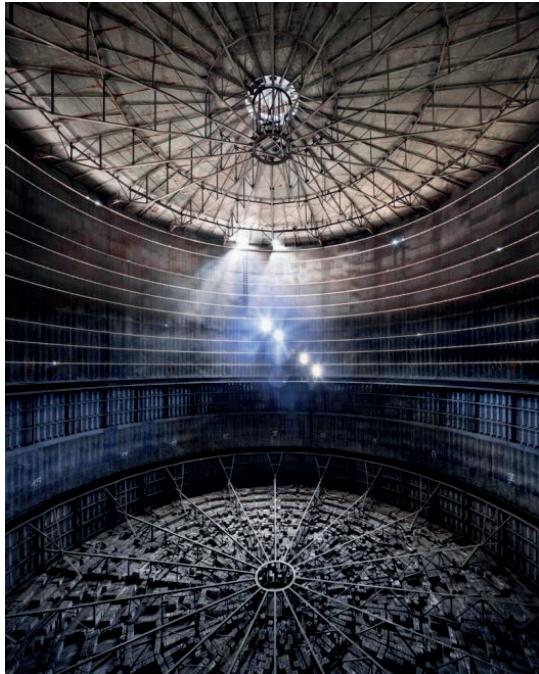


nd the steel bars you see the
eyes looking in your direction.
y monitor every move you
spaciously wander around in
getting rid of them, it seems
re getting closer. You look
There aren't many options.
If there is any danger ahead
fore you know it, you are
ce to face. This stops for a
ou have the indescribable
ing looked deeply into your
few seconds you continue
y satisfied knowing that
is all right. You're here as a
in leave whenever you want
to.

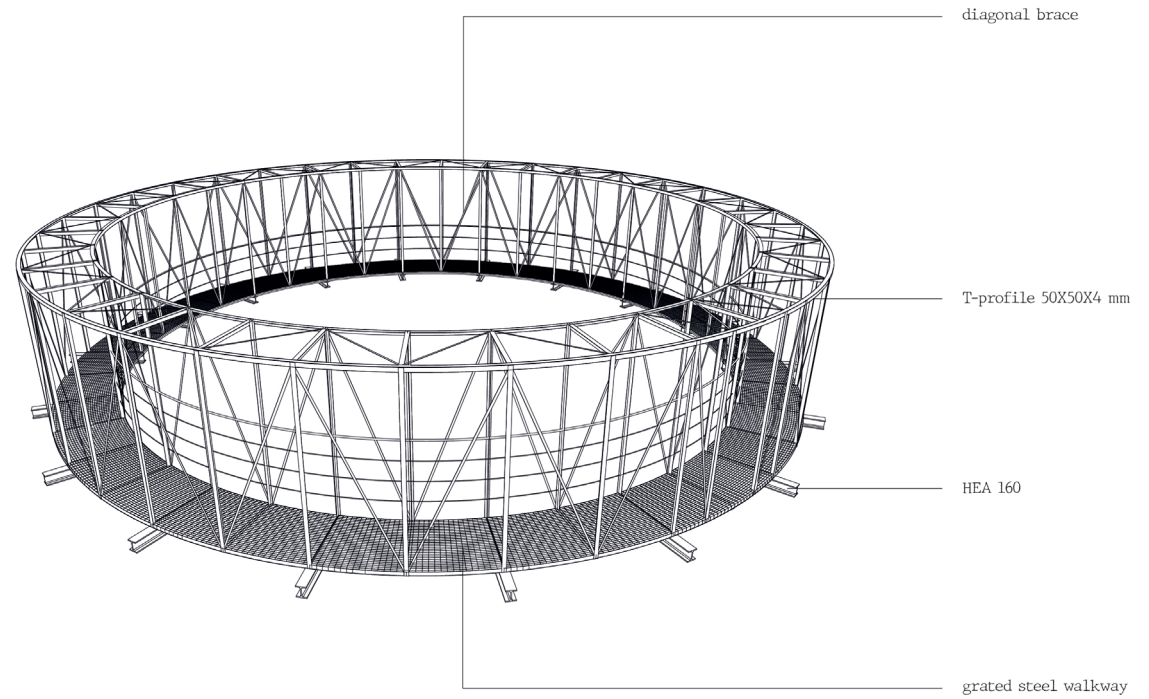
You are taking a brave look
downwards into the deep knowing
that your firmy stuck against the
stone wall. You are in the confident
nation that nothing will happen to
you here. You are trusted with the
solid structure that covering your
back and keeping your body into
the air. The height offers you a
challenging view over the enclosed
space. Your thinking about making
the jump and diving into the empty
deep. Defying gravity in an elegant
way and floating through space with
no forces pulling you down. The
thought of being fast and weightless
gives you an amazing feeling. Your
limited perception of space
becomes unimaginably greater in
the blink of an eye. You feel the
wind sliding down your body. After a
while you look at your feet and you
are suddenly back to earth again.

"The fragments of text inscribed in stone address you as a visitor and as an owl. For a moment you become one with this magnificent creature."

stone inscriptions

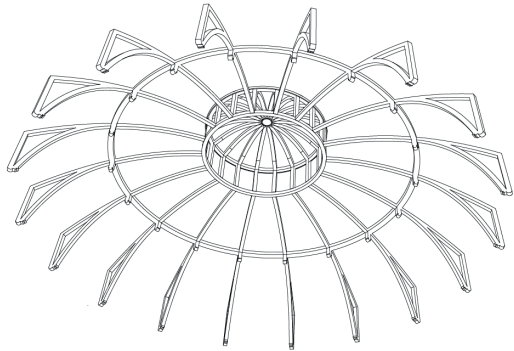


reference gasometer

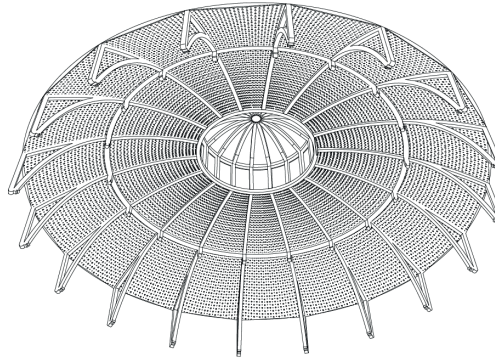


industrial walkway
lightweight steel structure

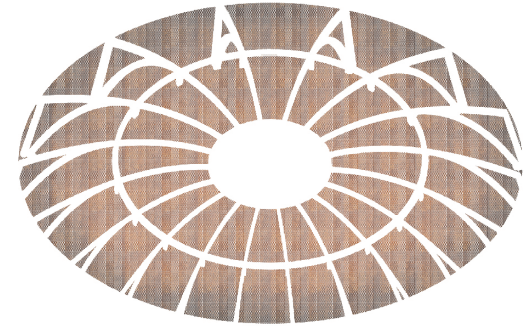
reveiling the
existing structure



semi-closing the roof
to create an obscure place



using perforated steel to allow the
elements to enter



roof structure



You listen carefully to the breathtaking sound of silence surrounding you. Letting loose of everything and concentrate on the absolute nothingness. The only thing you can feel is the rhythm of your heart beating inside of your chest. You try to accurately identify every miniscule sound in your environment. This is complicated by a hollow echo chasing every source. The resonance of a voice from the past. Suddenly you catch a new signal which triggers you. It comes from deep down below. You wonder what's in there. The mysterious swift sound did not betray its location. For a moment, you ignore all the other background noise. You don't move and focus only on that one movement of just seconds ago. Full of hope you wait for it to repeat. But in vain, it's gone. There is something in the air; the silence before the storm.

sound of silence



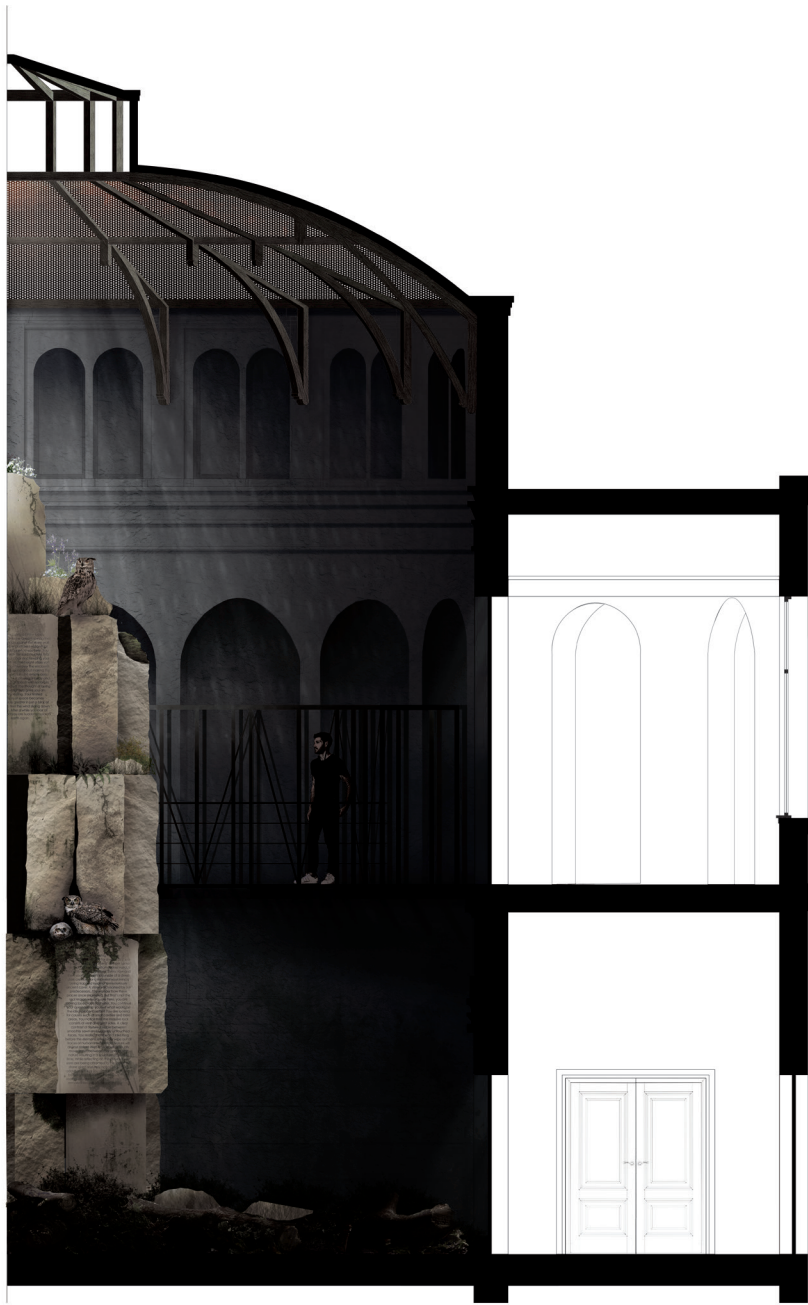
'birth' nest
pruning waste used as compost for the novel ecosystem



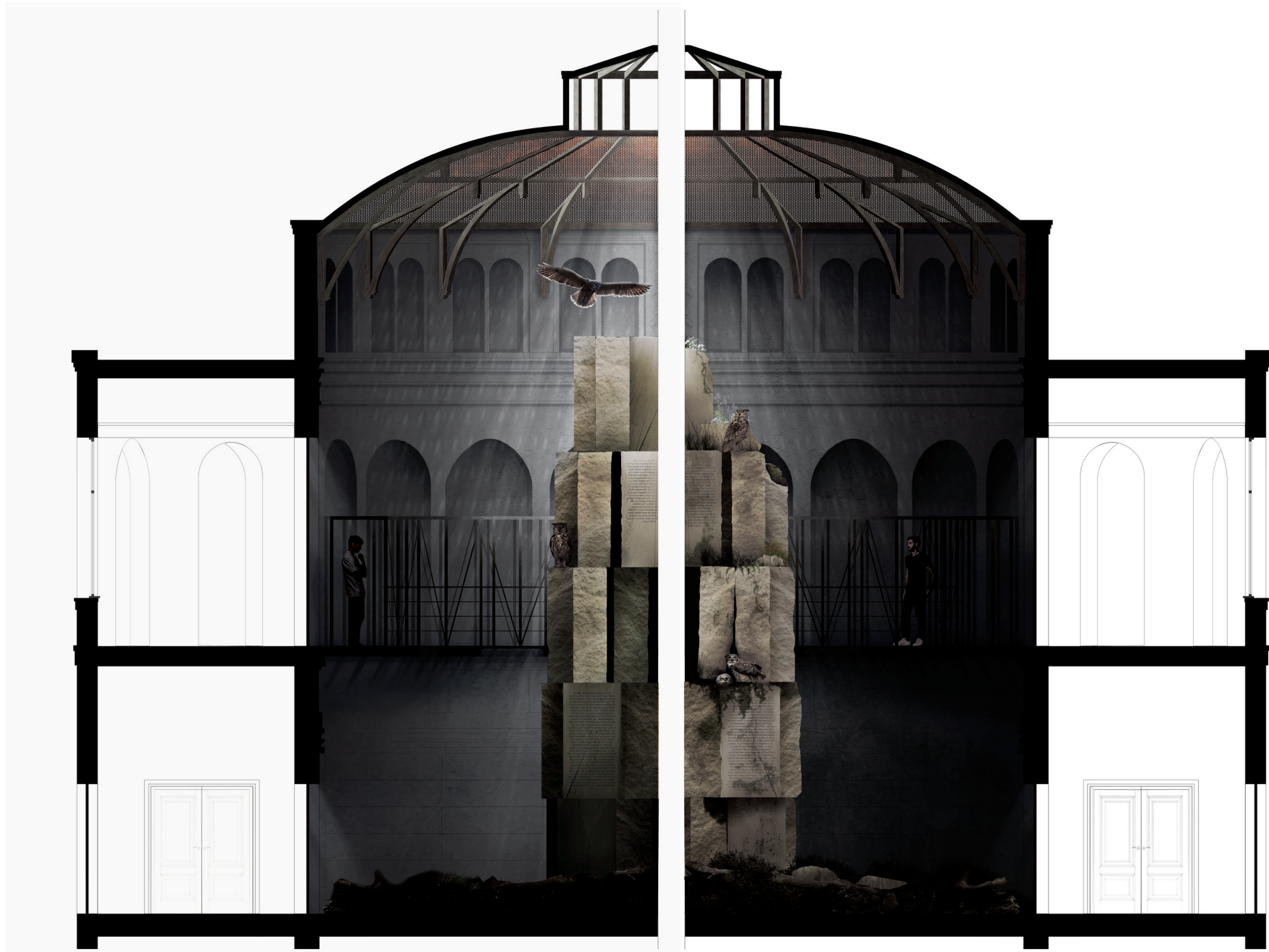
fragment of the present



changes over time



fragment of the future





The ambient cold of a world of
centuries ago gives way to an
air here void full of shadows
silhouettes. You are curious
you are going to find what
you are looking for. The
surrounding darkness isolates
your vision. Your eyes focus
automatically lock on every
object that stands out in the
dark. Every passing second your
sight gets better and better
you diligently observe the
mysterious space around you.
Your gaze gently scanning every
visible surface. No detail
escapes to your unsharpened
attention. There is just enough
light coming from above to make
everything out. You oversee the
situation and feel that you are
in control. You feel that the
darkness is your ally. Suddenly
you catch an eye. Hopefully it
is what you came for.