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Re-designing the New headquarters of the Supreme  
Court and the School of Magistrates  
Tirana, Albania - 2015

# THE SUPREME COURT



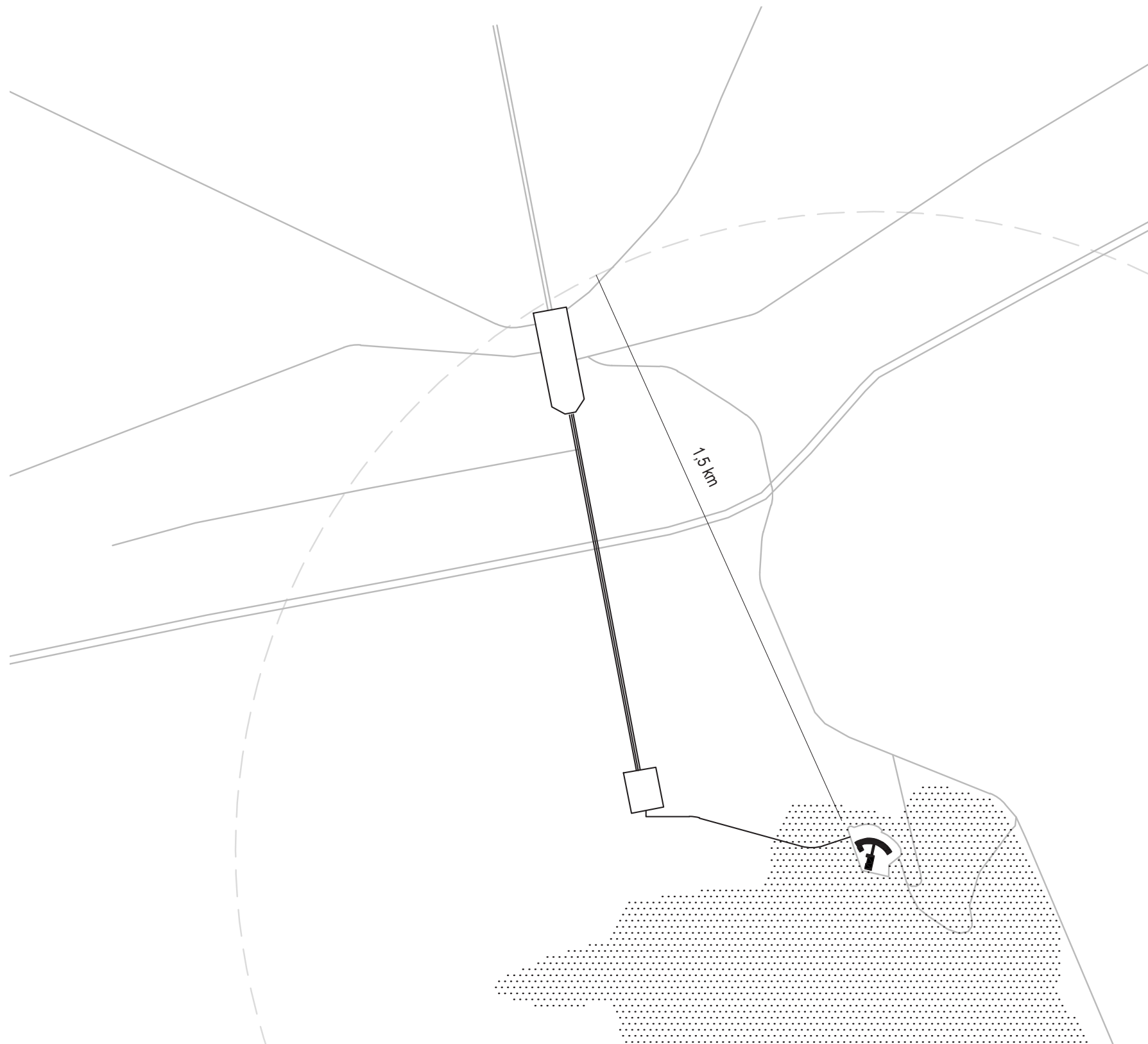
We are honored to participate to the competition for the re-design of the new Headquarters of the Supreme Court and school of Magistrates in Tirana.

The Supreme Court is the most important institution that ensures the good development and execution of law. The institution has to be respected, and at the same time it has to get the trust of the citizens. The citizens should feel represented, and understand their role respecting the duties and rights.

We are assisting to an important historical moment for the Albanian Society, where it is consolidating its democracy and feels ready to become a EU Member. Side to that, some infrastructure has to be made, according to the European Standards.

Our design goes through all these considerations. The outcome recall sense of order, justice, respect and transparency.

# CONTEXT

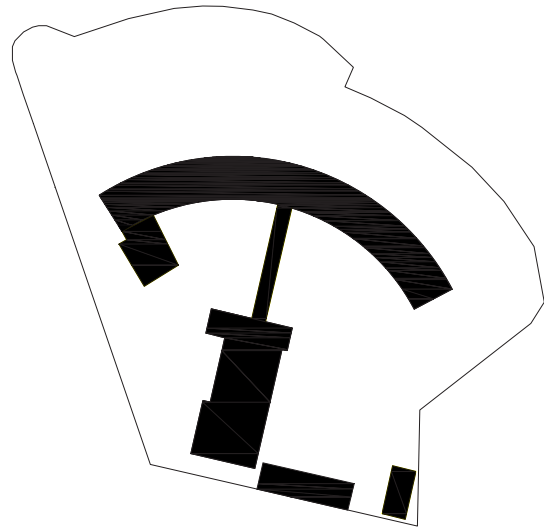


We see the proposed design area as a very suitable place for this institution. The proximity to the Tirana's Artificial Lake Park, offers no urban noise pollution and offers the chance an extra public use of the park.

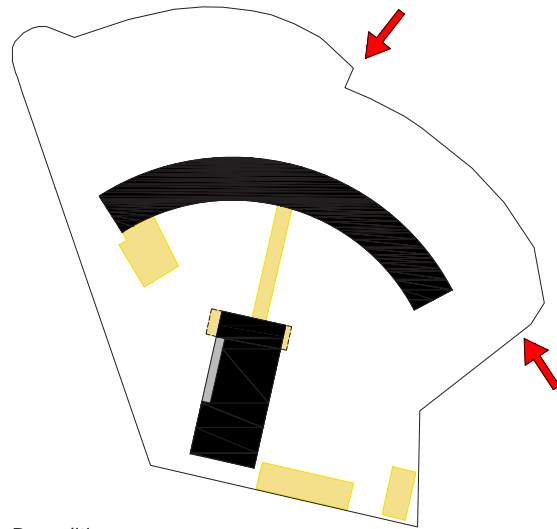
The location in the park is a good occasion to revitalize the area: as any big European city, also the capital of Albania needs a structured green area, where it is fundamental to fit a public program. It is of extreme importance for the identity of the park to recognize in it the possibility for a common public space for the inhabitants of Tirana, which has to be easy and safe to access. Having a public function in the park is an opportunity for the preservation of the green area, preventing big speculative overbuilding while keeping the green lung which is located in a really central area compared to the dimensions of the city.

The location of the area is really peculiar: on one side there is the peaceful tranquility of the park, and on the other side it is very easy to access from the main route of the city. Therefore we propose a new access point to the area, from the side of the main route of the city, the Bulevardi Dëshmorët e Kombit and Sheshi Nënë Tereza, where all the main public institutions are situated. We see this as a good occasion to integrate the Supreme Court and School of Magistrature with the main institutions and give more strength to the Bulevardi Dëshmorët e Kombit. This choice ensures a direct point of access from the city centre. We see our design as a filter between a really green area, and a built environment. The treatment of the surrounding landscape

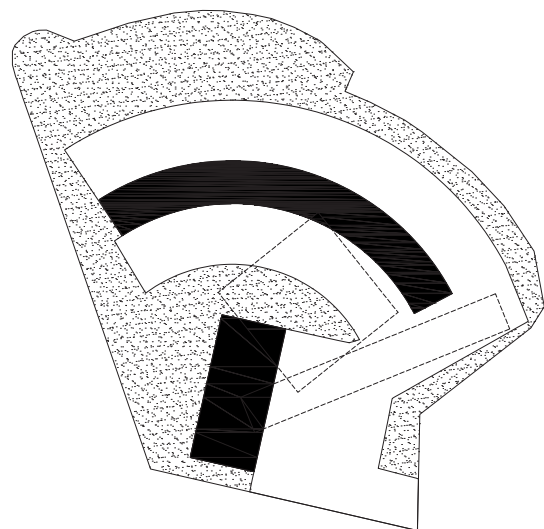
Exiisting situation



Existiong situation

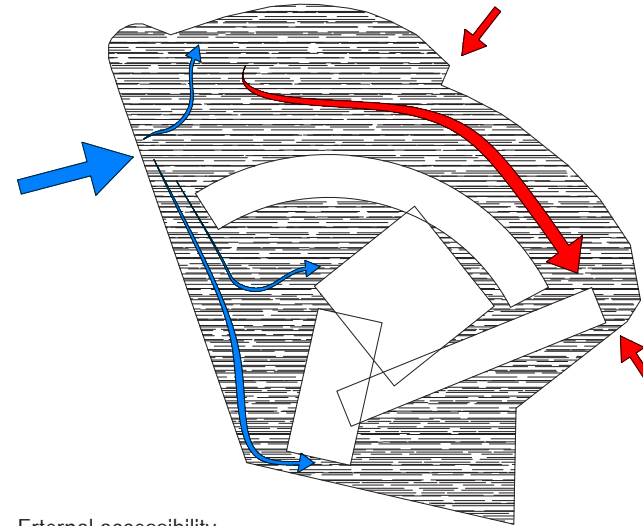


Demolitions

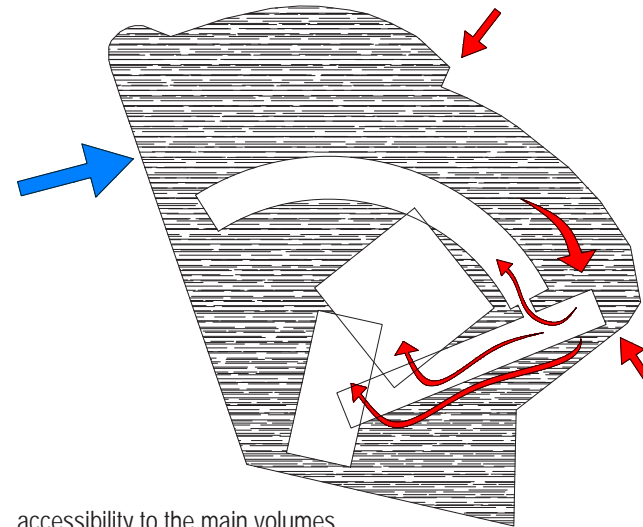


Existing Green areas

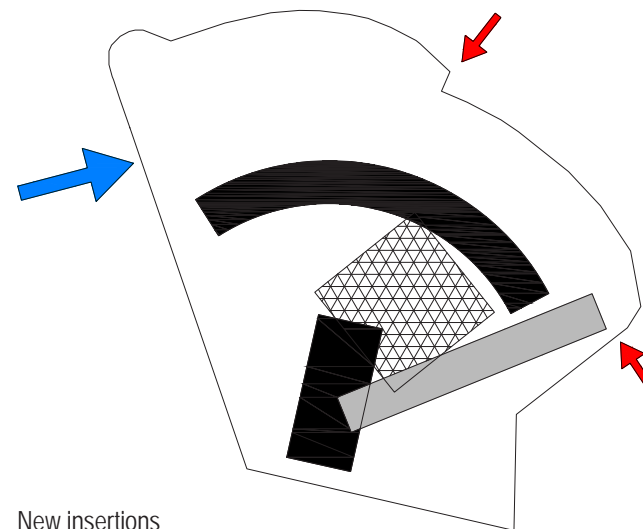
Design proposal



External accessibility



accessibility to the main volumes



New insertions

allows in some spots the trees of the park to be the protagonists, while in some other areas we need to ensure a sense of order, and the green area will be treated as an organized space enhancing a sense of peace an organization.

Aware of the green heritage we are dealing with, we propose our building to be located in the area where the surrounding nature will not be damaged, and we will replant rather than remove the existing trees only where it will be really necessary.

In the respect of the context, a big role is played by the existing buildings. We do recognize the cultural heritage of the historical building, and we see in the white building today already shool of Magistrature, as a potential element to sign another historical moment. In reason of these considerations, we decide to preserve both the existing buildings to make visible the development of the site over time. This choice is also animated by economic considerations.

# COMPOSITION



With its historical heritage site and with the importance of the institution, The Supreme court has all the premises to be a new centrality: we underline its importance with a new access point and with a public square.

The existing volumes are strong shapes, to which is not so obvious and easy to relate. The two buildings together sign an evident axis, which leaves few flexibility if we proceed in the same direction. Thus we change the grammar: to scatter the rigid axuality, we propose a juxtaposition of pure geometrical shapes. The result is a poised composition/ensemble, that allows a good connection of the volumes, and which look forward the fluid use of the complex.



# RELATION WITH THE EXISTING BUILDINGS



We preserve the historical building, and we plan a delicate restoration of it in order to emphasize its monumental character. In its proximity we keep the current building where the lectures for the magistrates are held and we propose a simpler but stronger shape, a straight parallelepiped. This allows a more organized and cleaner space, ready for newer additions. We decide to remove the existing connection, the bridge between the two buildings because it does not respect the standards of accessibility for disabled people and it does not guarantee the proper connections.

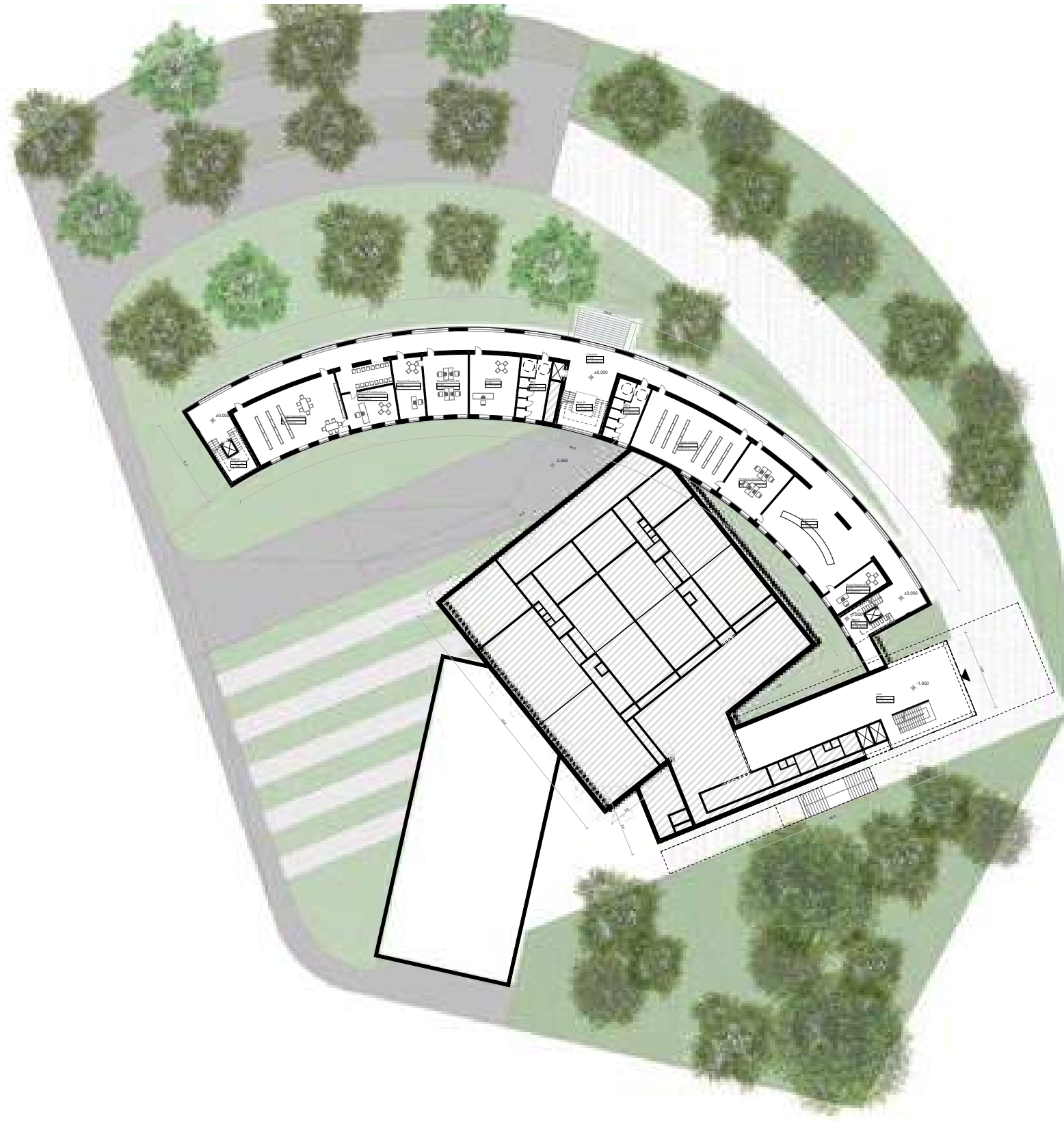
In the building site we have analyzed green and artificial areas. The artificial surfaces are the ones where nature is not really present. Due to the former treatment of the ground, less nature is involved in this artificial area. We underline this area as a possible spot where to settle the new building.

While carefully studying the existing buildings, the accessibility to the area and the green area with its trees, we develop a design which merges our concept of connectivity, order and transparency, represented in a monumental view.

In view of the historical significance of the site we decided to keep both existing buildings so that the development of the site over time will be visible from the presence of both old and new. The historical building will be preserved and refurbished. The parallelepiped one will be renovated, it will get a simplification of the shape, in order to recognize it as a simpler and stronger element of the composition.



# NEW BUILDINGS



With this intervention, the feeling we aim to get, is to give a tangible sign of a new historical moment. In relation to the design area, the new building offers the chance for a new point of view. While entering the area we slowly perceive the new complex, **as we walk to it we see a continuous change of perspective.** We metaphorically see this as the important moment where the Country changed its perspectives, and the citizenship promoted the change of society and governmental systems.

From the point of view of composition, the new building is a volume with a strong presence, quite monumental in its appearance. With its imposing presence the building represents the importance that the institution has in society. The volume is elevated to draw attention to the entrance to the Supreme Court. The ground floor is completely glazed to represent the transparency of power and easy accessibility for everyone, since it is a public institution.

The new building serves as the main access to all the functions, thus it is the connection between the two existing buildings and it accommodates all the functions for which there is not enough space in the existing volumes. Particular attention is given to the location of the mutual program, where the library, the conference hall and the restaurant are studied in a way to be accessible for the public, with a separate route for the facilities, without invading the dedicated area for the administrative and security bodies.

The layout ensures easy access to each part of the institution



while making sure that the influx are separate. The visitors are directed in to the appropriate areas while keeping the route to each function of the building detached.

The new building represent also the main access to the Court rooms. This is the heart of the complex, where law is enforced. In our architectural composition the volume dedicate to the courts is the core around which all three buildings of the institution come together. It is at the same time the place where law is enforced, in the ground floor, and in the upper floor, the square is the occasion for a more informal gathering point. There we have the entrance to the restaurant, the school of magistrate, and a possible access point to the public offices of the Supreme Court (archives and registration offices).

The routes in to the courtrooms are separate. The public uses the main entrance. The judges enter directly from the existing historical building. The defendant uses an entrance at the back of the building and then he directly enters the court rooms via stairs or lift.

According to the change of needs through time, the building offers the occasion to open more or less accessibility through the use of a pass for special areas.







School of Magistrates, Hall

Supreme Court, Court room

# EXTERNAL ACCESSIBILITY



The accessibility to the area is ensured by the new route, coming directly from the boulevard where the main institutions find place. This is an access for cars and pedestrians, while we keep the two existing points of access only for pedestrians.

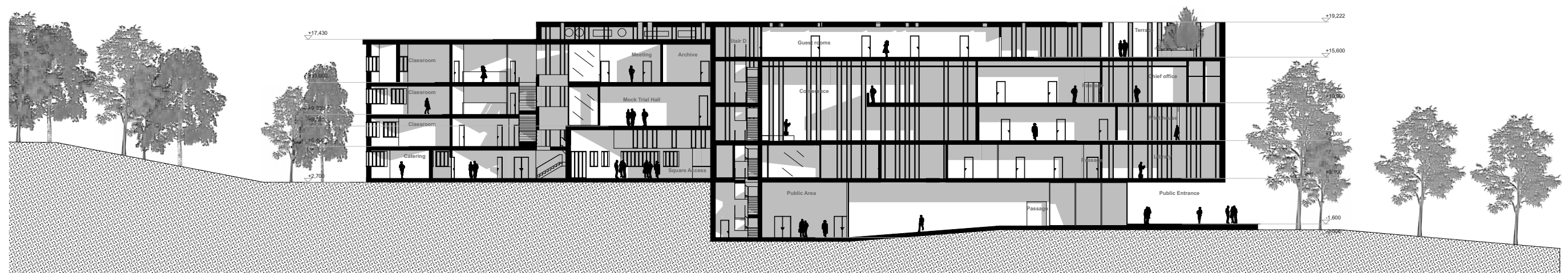
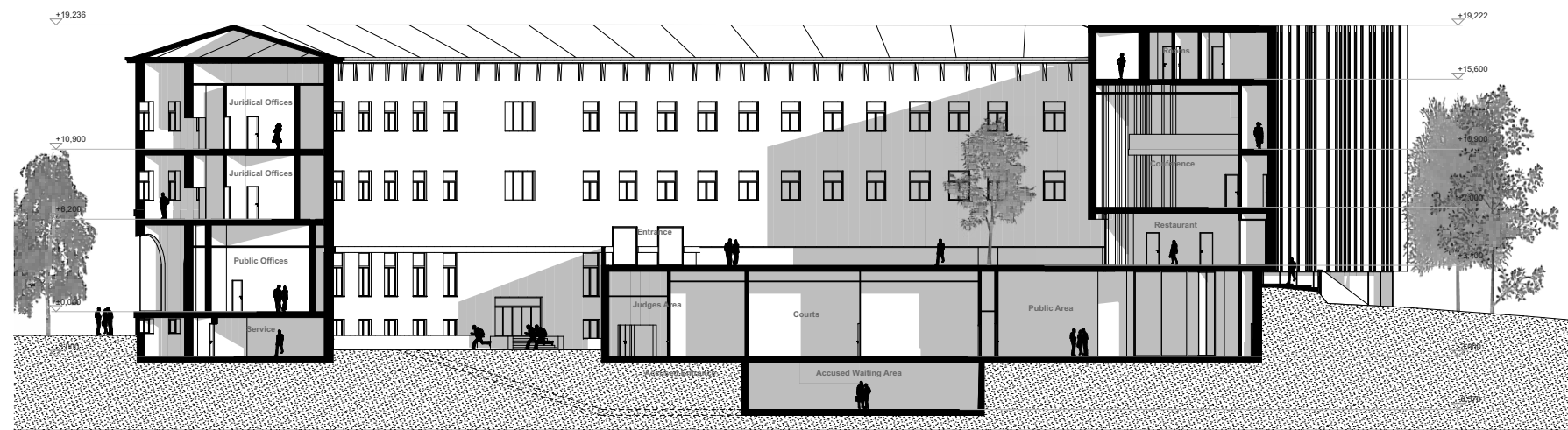
The main entrance split in different flows. Public cars may park at the entrance, and walk there through the main entrance, where we can enter the public offices, the Supreme Court and the School of Magistrate. A second flow is the one for the defendant. His route is completely dedicated to him with its security. This means that the van of the police can enter the building of the Supreme Court using a ramp that leads in the underground area underneath the courtrooms. This is a reserved access to ensure a high security level and discretion from the media. Finally the flow for the facilities: for the daily loading and unloading of goods for the restaurant, library, conference hall and all the other functions, we provide a special route for the van, which will serve till the backstairs of the new building.

# BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

We actively seek technical solutions that provide the most economical and natural systems for minimizing the environmental impact of the buildings we design. When the design development process allows for technology and architecture to optimize for a minimal environmental impact, we create building-integrated solutions where the architectural design responds to the strategy for ventilation, heating, cooling, lighting, acoustics.

We focus on letting knowledge of local climate, energy resources and building materials and techniques to inform the design from the early stages of design development.

We design according to the Net Zero Energy building. A zero-energy building, is a building with zero net energy consumption, meaning the total amount of energy used by the building on an annual basis is roughly equal to the amount of renewable energy created on the site. This building consequently do not increase the amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. We find of primary importance that such an institution is an example of environment commitment for all its citizens.



# MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION METHODS

The new building will be a load bearing structure in reinforced concrete.

The cladding is a dry wall system in stone. This will work like a double skin to ensure the vertical ventilation of the facades.

For the historical existing building we propose a respectful restoration with the cleaning up of the façade, and of the interior structure that we will preserve. Particular attention will be given to the connections of the new materials with the existing floors, which we will preserve.

The building which will host the School of Magistrate will be renovated simplifying its shape. The constructive method and extended structure will be coherent with its former nature.





# COST ESTIMATION

Volumes:			
Historical building:	22.450 m3	x 130 €/m2 =	2.918.500 €
Preservation and restoration			
School of Magistrature:	9.510 m3	x 120 €/m2=	1.141.200 €
Refurbishment			
New volumes:			
Mutual activities	15.060m3	x 160 €/m2=	2.409.600 €
Court rooms:	7.190m3	x 160 €/m2=	1.150.400 €
Total amount			7.619.700 €

# OFFICE TEAM ON THIS PROJECT

Team Leader – expert in rehabilitation/restauration of historical buildings

Arch. Claudio Lucchin

Claudio Lucchin is born in Bolzano (1959). He graduated from Iuav School of Architecture in 1984. After his graduation he's involved with industrial design, graphics and theatre stage design. In 1991 he won the international competition for the design of the new Bolzano trade fair and the tender competition for the Bolzano Ice Rink. In 1996 he has been awarded the Glulam Award for the Bolzano Ice Rink and in 2007 he received a special mention for the Torre Pellice Ice Rink from the International Olympic Committee and the IAKS (International Association for Sports and Leisure Facilities). He was a member of the Board for Landscape protection and he's currently a member of Bolzano Technical Provincial Committee. He was selected for the project 'Italy builds' promoted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to raise awareness of Italian architecture abroad. He has been visiting professor at Venice School of Architecture and Trento Engineering school to teach design and materials technology.

Project Manager - Estimator

Arch. Angelo Rinaldo

Born in Bolzano 1959 He graduated from Iuav School of Architecture in 1986. Since 1988 he worked for different architectural firms especially in managing the detailed design. Informatic consultant to professional firms and companies. Consultant for the humanization of hospitals, follows the refurbishment of many maternity wards in different hospitals.

Since 2004 is partner of CL&AA studio. He's IT manager and involved with detailed design.

Landscape/Interior design

Arch. Daniela Varnier

Born in Venice in 1964. She graduated from Iuav School in Architecture in 1993. Until 1996 she worked for different architectural firms in Venice. In 1996 she moves to Bolzano where she starts collaborating with Claudio Lucchin.

Since 2004 she's partners of CL&AA studio where she's in charge of ISO 9001 quality system, furniture design and landscape design.

Estimator/Architect

Arch. Marco Mozzarelli

Born in Merano (BZ) in 1960. He graduated from IUAV school of architecture in Venice in 1997. Since 1988 he collaborates with Studio Lee in Merano where he was mostly involved with architectonic design for public works, school and sport facilities. During 2002 and 2005 he works with Studio Lee and Cleaa Architects for designing and directing the building Olympic Ice Rinks in Turin and Torre Pellice. Since 2011 he collaborates with Cleaa Architects.

Architect

Arch. Michele Capra

Born in Piacenza in 1986. He graduated with honors from Politecnico di Milano in 2011. The following 3 years he collaborates with different architectural firms in Italy and abroad supervising various projects from the concept to the construction phase. Since 2013 he collaborates with Cleaa Architects.

#### Architect

Arch. Stefania Masuino

Stefania graduated from the University of Architecture in Venice in 2011. In 2008 she characterized her studies attending the Urban Design Villard program and in 2009 she attended the Erasmus exchange program at the TU Delft (NL) in the faculty of Architecture. After her graduation she worked in Dutch firms of architecture in Urecht and Rotterdam. In spring 2015 Stefania joined CL&AA.

#### Architect

Arch. Domenico Fogaroli

Born in Ancona in 1984. He graduated with honors from La Sapienza University of Rome in 2012. The following 3 years he collaborates with different architectural firms in Rome and as freelance architect in Trento. Since 2015 he collaborates with Cleaa Architects.

#### Architect

Arch. Roberto Gionta

Born in Bolzano in 1983. He graduated from Trento Engineering School. Until 2008 he works with different technical firms . He's also a graphic novelist. Since 2008 he works with Cleaa Architects.

#### Architect

Arch. and urban designer Dorina Pllumbi

Graduated in 2007 in architecture at the Polytechnic University of Tirana, in 2010 obtains Master of II Level degree at the Faculty of Architecture \_ Sapienza\_ University of Rome, Italy. At the same Sapienza University and TU Delft, Netherlands, she is conducting PhD studies on the topic of public space management as a tool for urban regeneration. From 2009 she is employed as a lecturer at the Faculty of Architecture and Urbanism, Polytechnic University of Tirana where she teaches the class of Architecture Studio 3,4 (third year of the Bachelor degree in Urbanism) and leading the class of Environmental Design (first year of Master of Science in Urbanism). Her scientific interest focuses on the quality of public spaces as a catalyst of community life and increase of the sense of belonging.

Ergen Agalliu \_architect and urban designer.

Graduated in 2009 in architecture at the Polytechnic University of Tirana with a Master of Science Degree. He is co-founder of 3plusarchitects, after many years of working experience with projects of different scales.

#### PARTNERS

Structural engineering

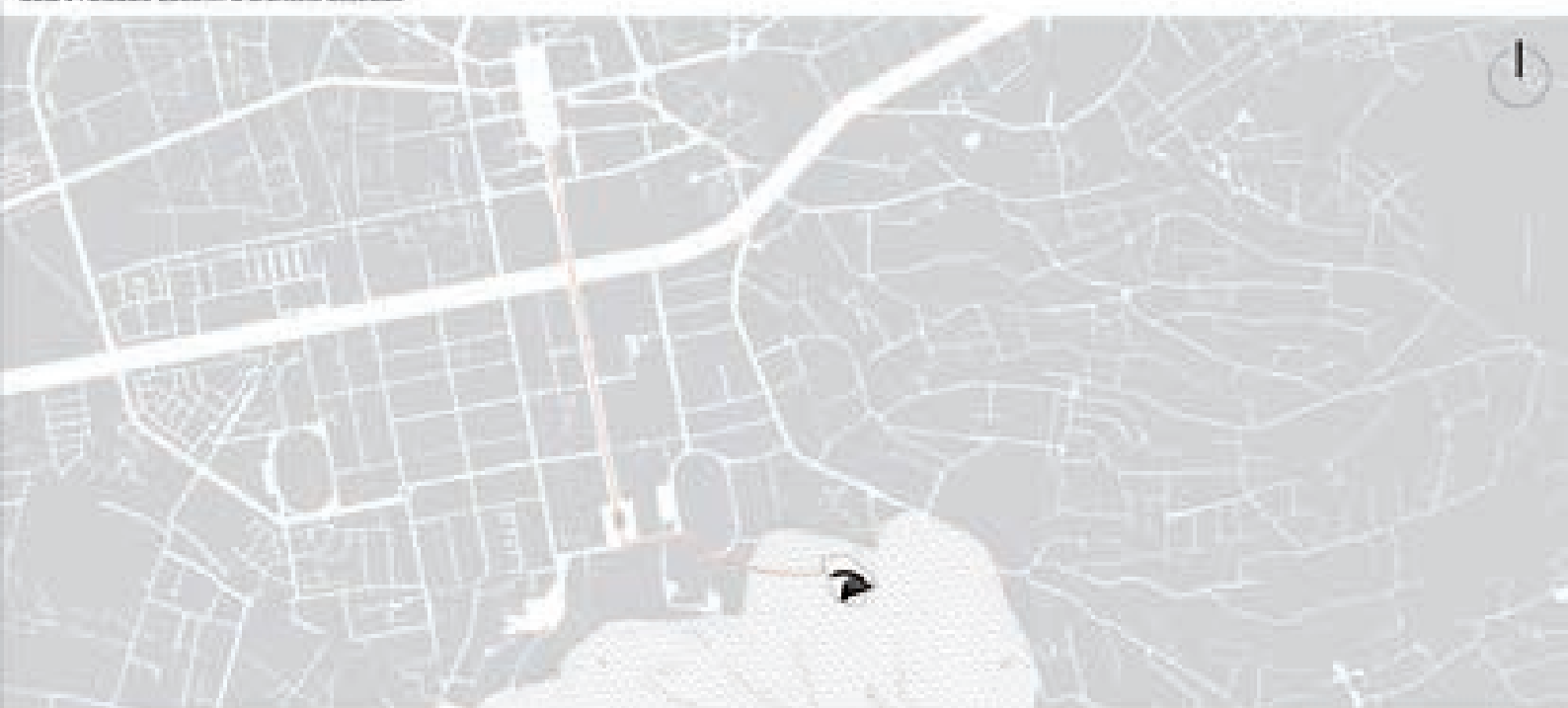
Ing. Primo de Biasi

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He graduated in 1986 in civil engineering from Innsbruck University and he is specialized in complex structures and measures taken to strengthen existing and historical buildings.

From 1987 he has supervised a lot of projects as consultant and designer for the engineering part such as public buildings, hotels, housing complexes, bridges, tunnels, industrial plants.

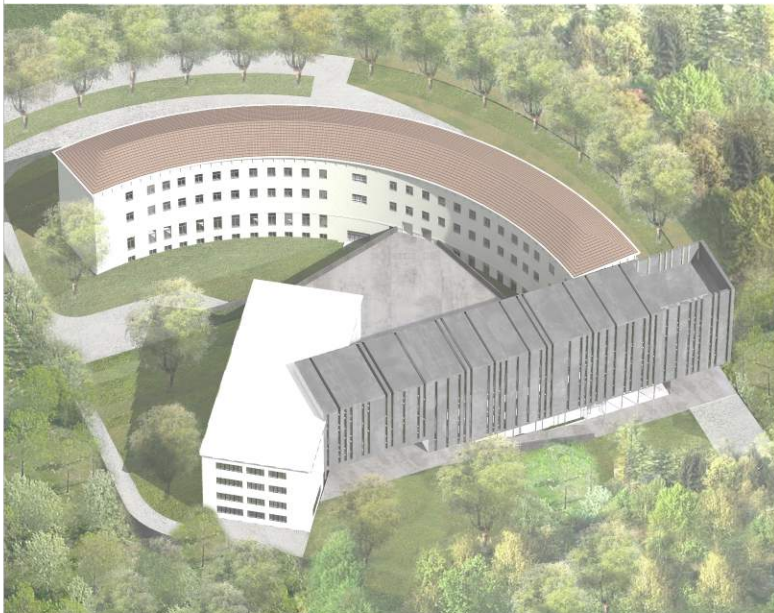
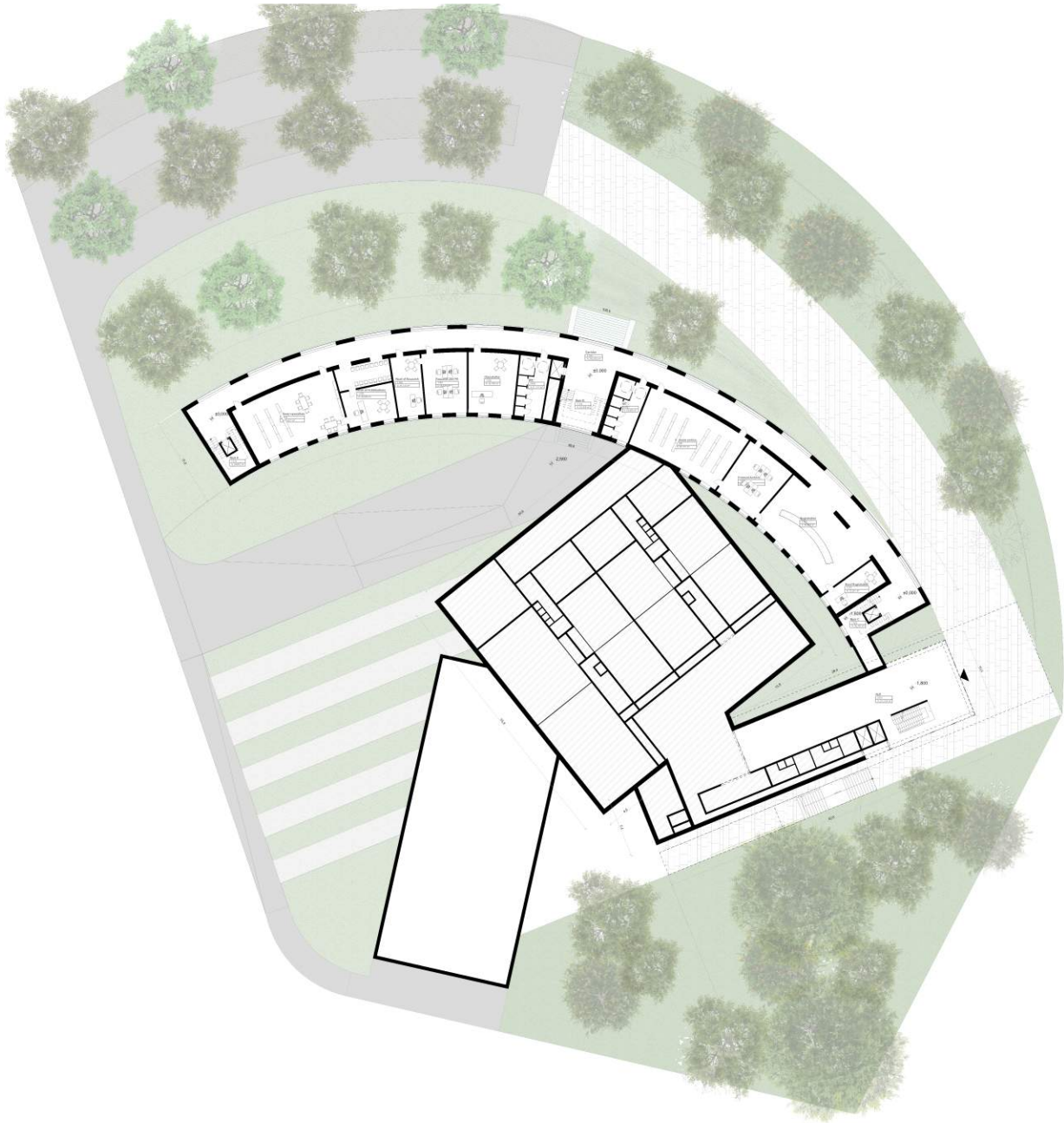
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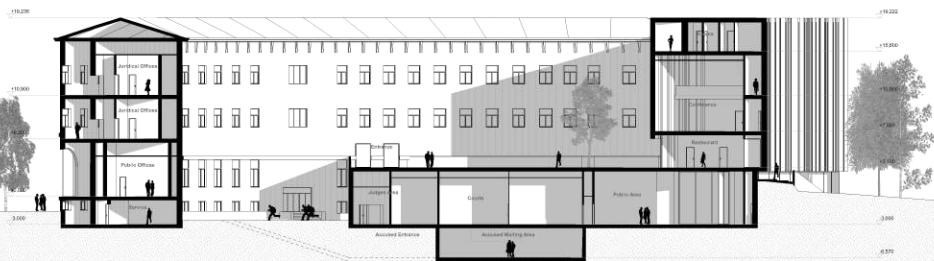
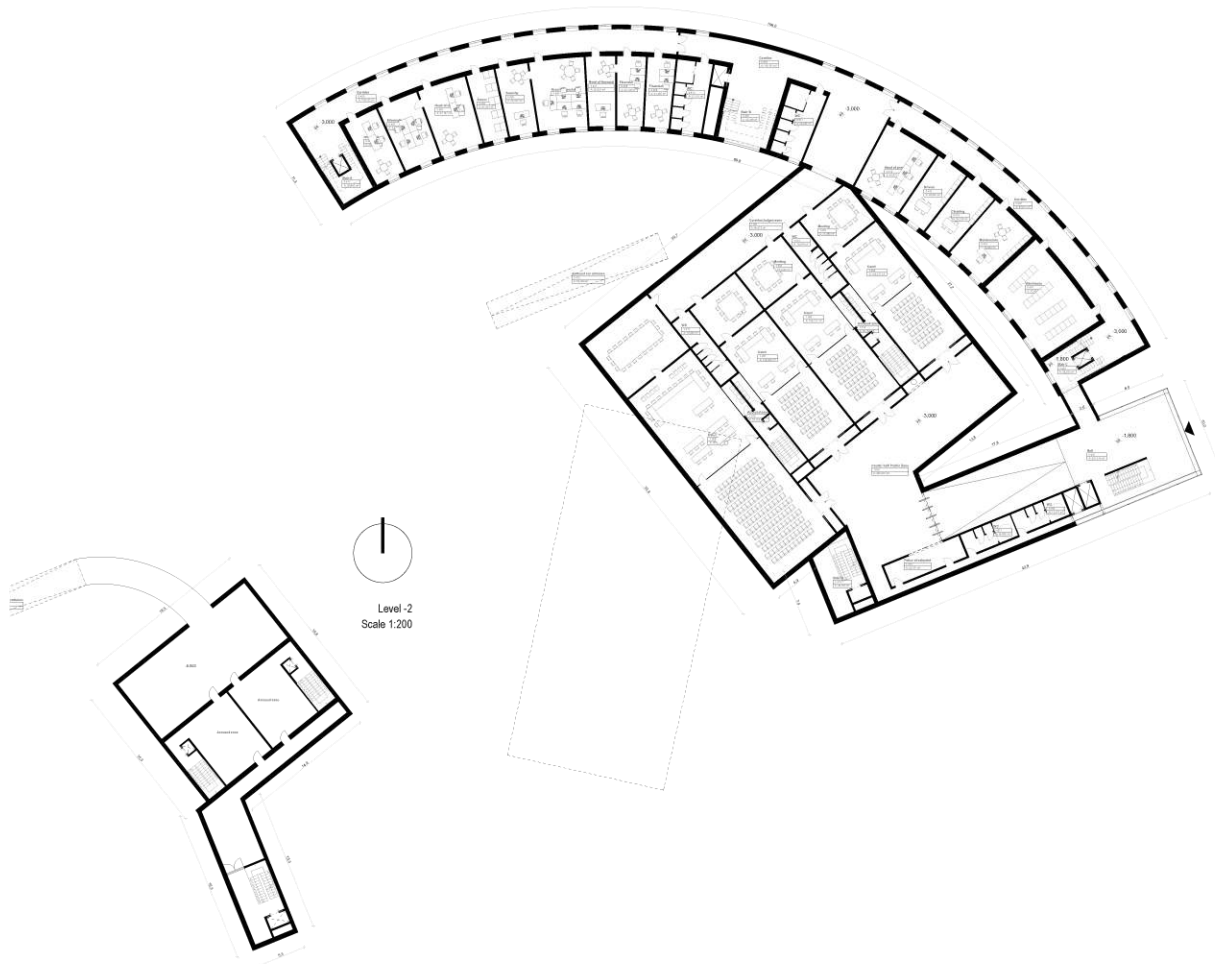
Area of the competition  
Scale 1:500







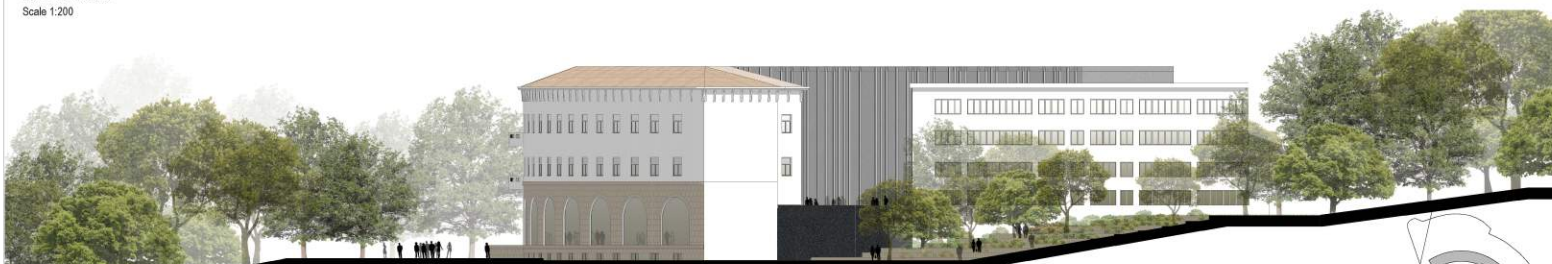




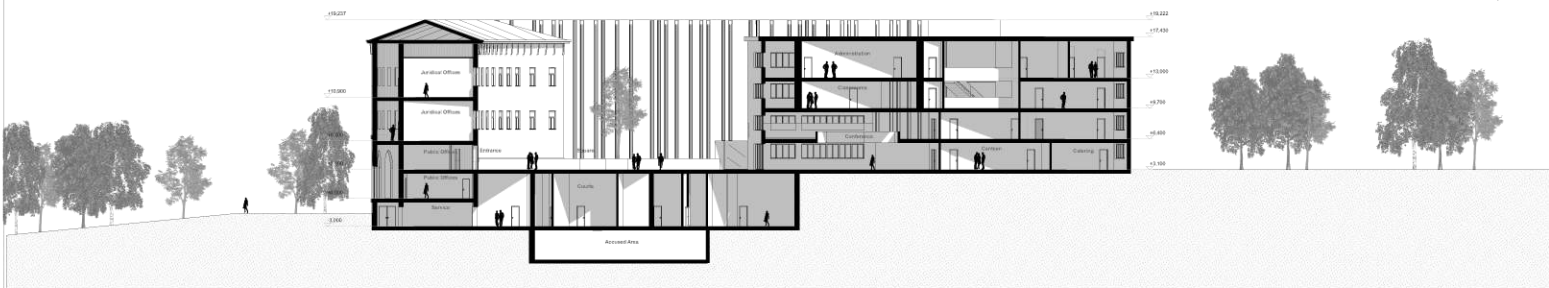
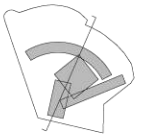
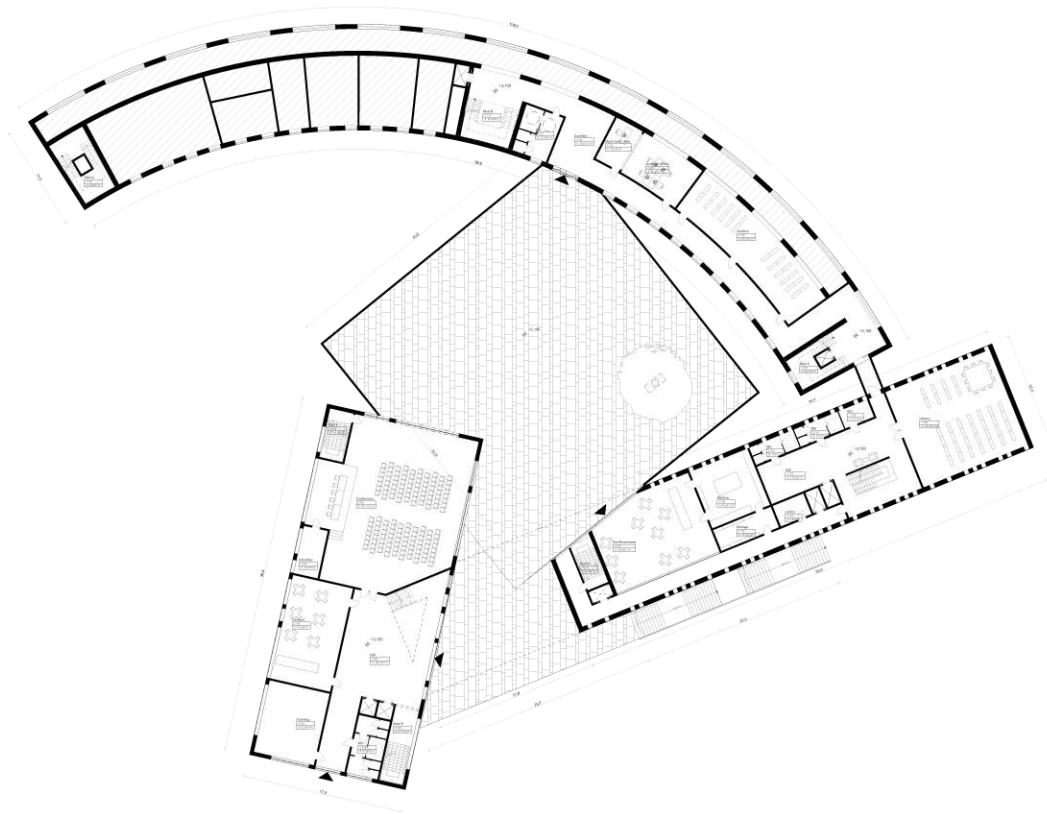
Section  
Scale 1:200



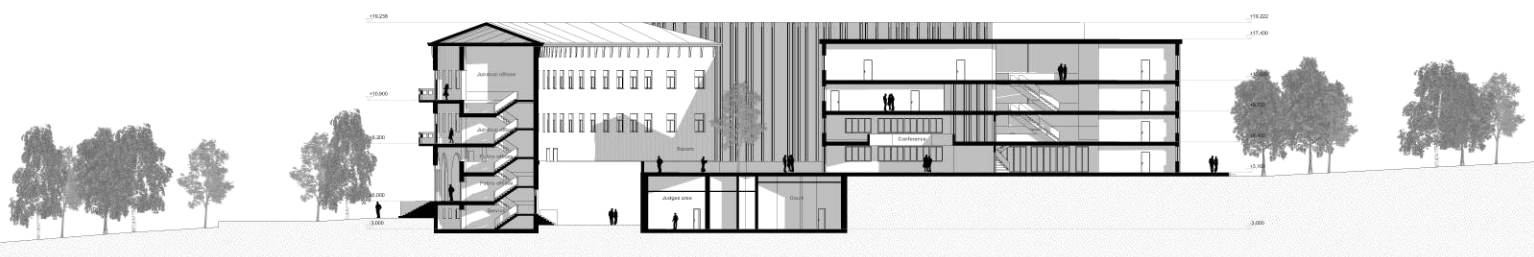
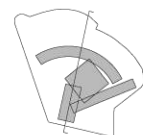
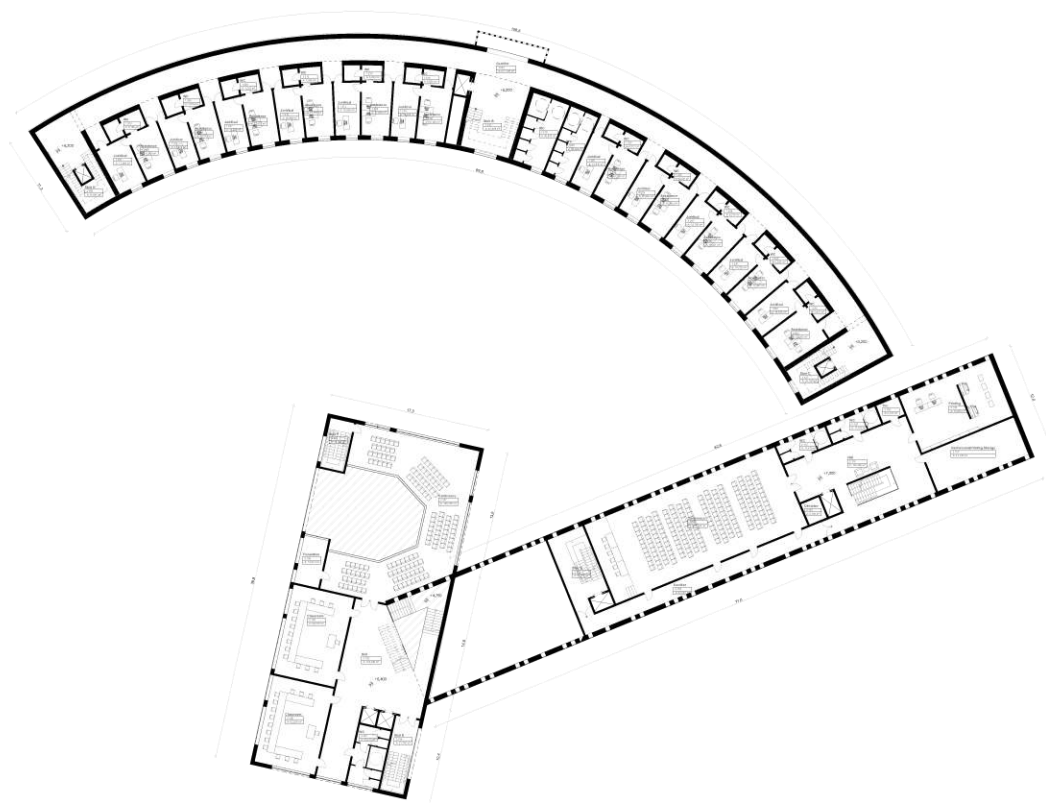
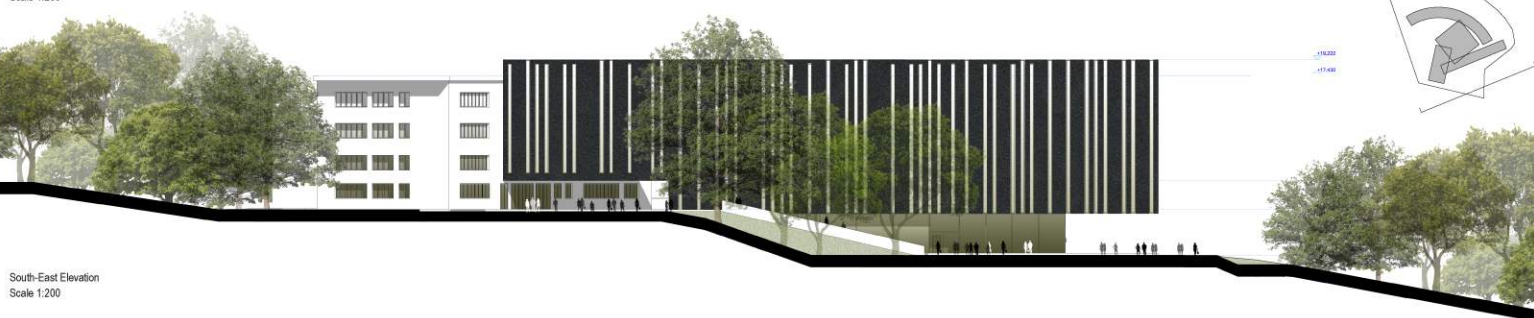
North-East Elevation  
Scale 1:200



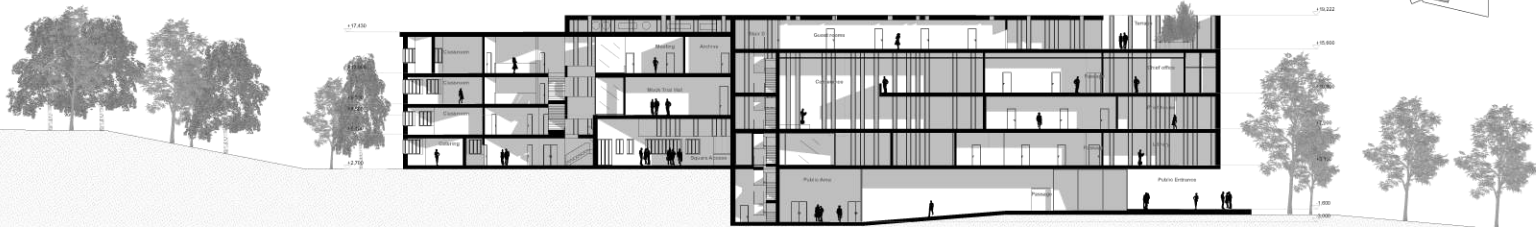
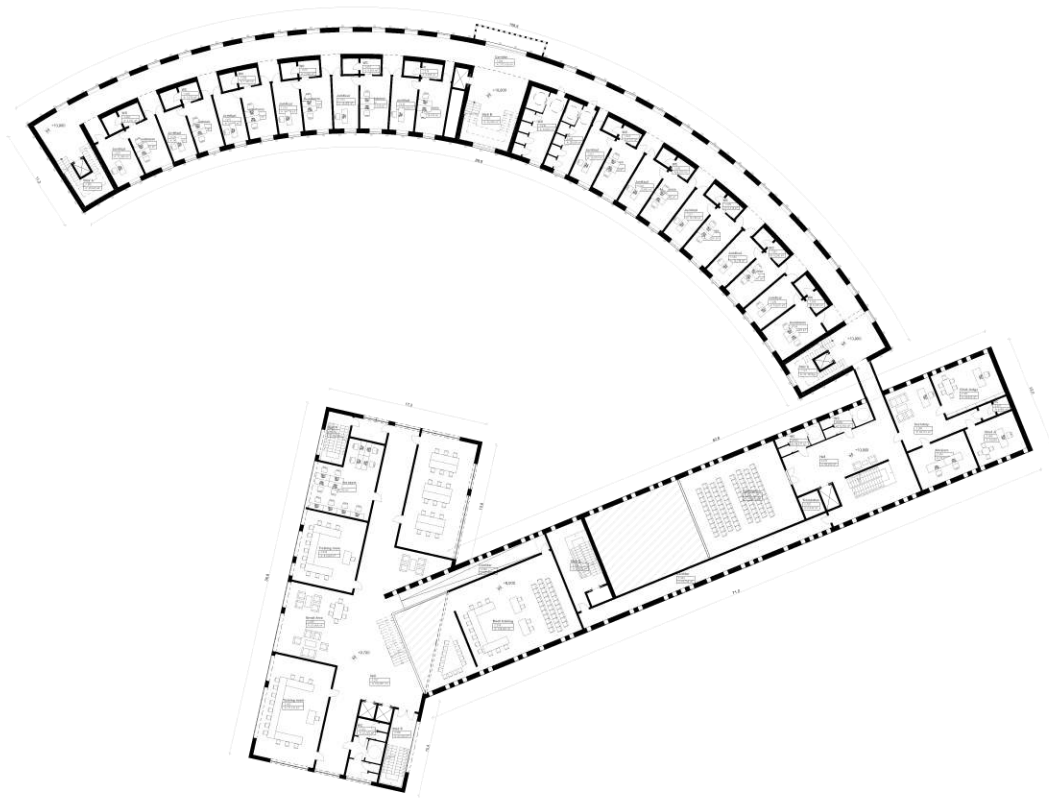
West Elevation  
Scale 1:200

Level 1  
Scale 1:200Section  
Scale 1:200



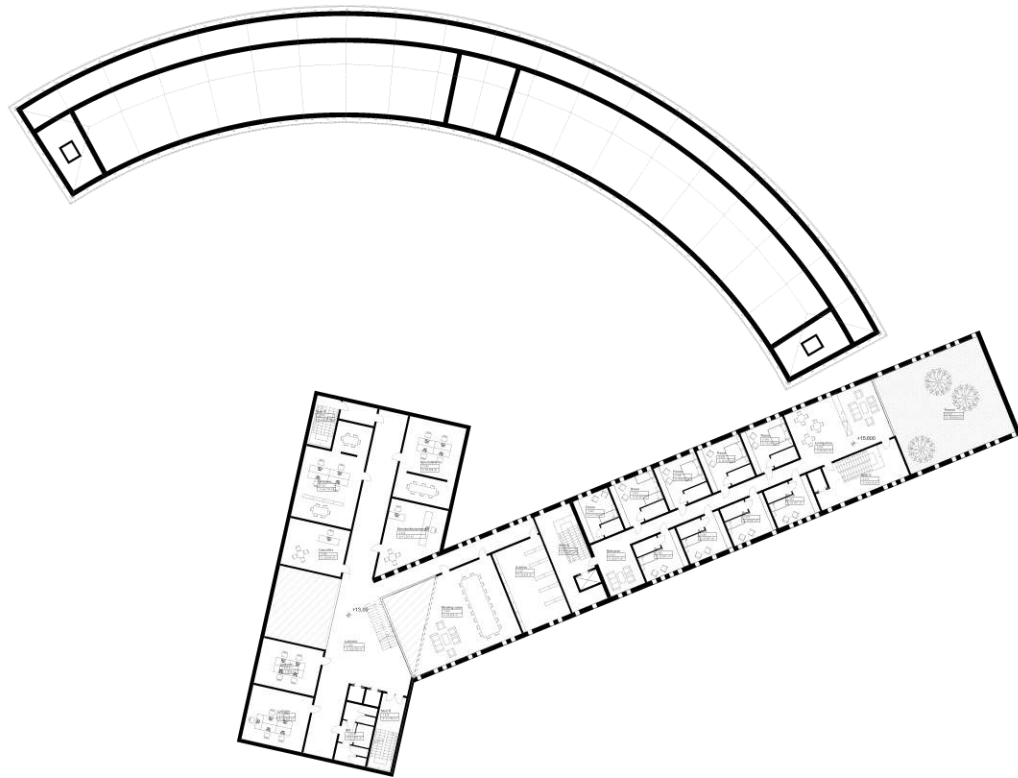
Section  
Scale 1:200South-East Elevation  
Scale 1:200





Section  
Scale 1:200





South Elevation  
Scale 1:200

School of Magistrate, Hall

Supreme Court, Court Room





