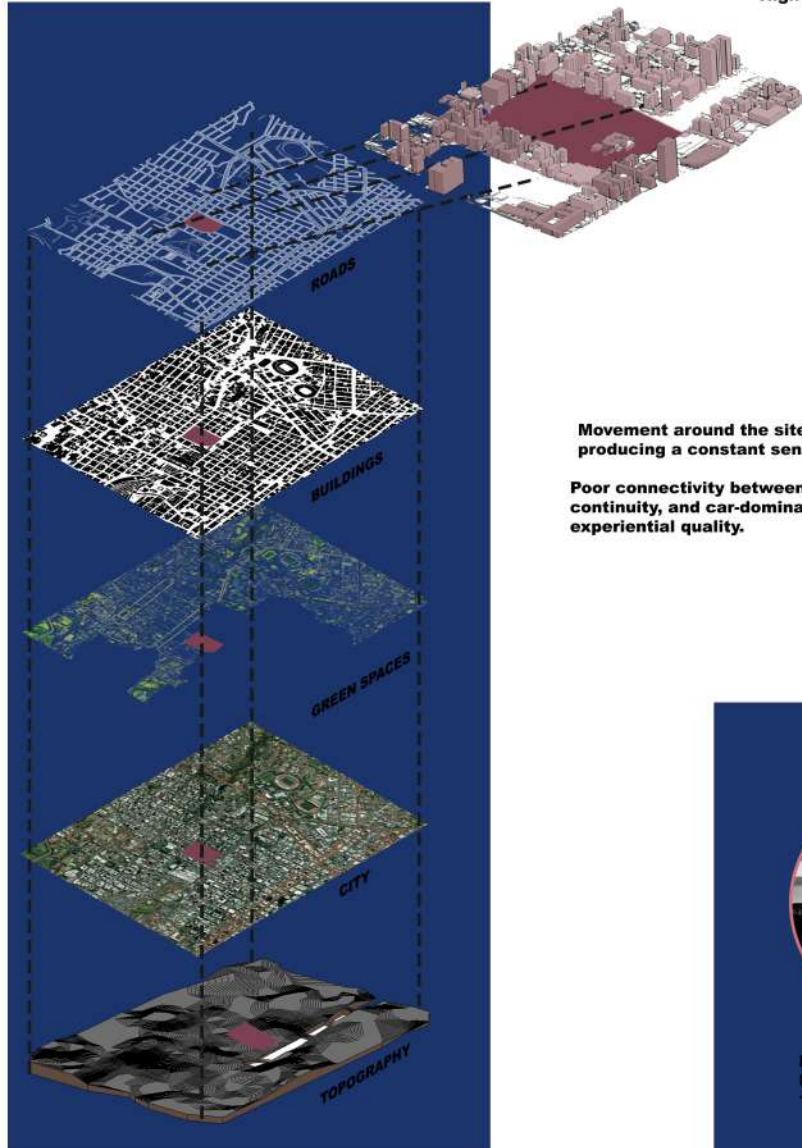


SITE ANALYSIS

**Braamfontein
Johannesburg Art Gallery**



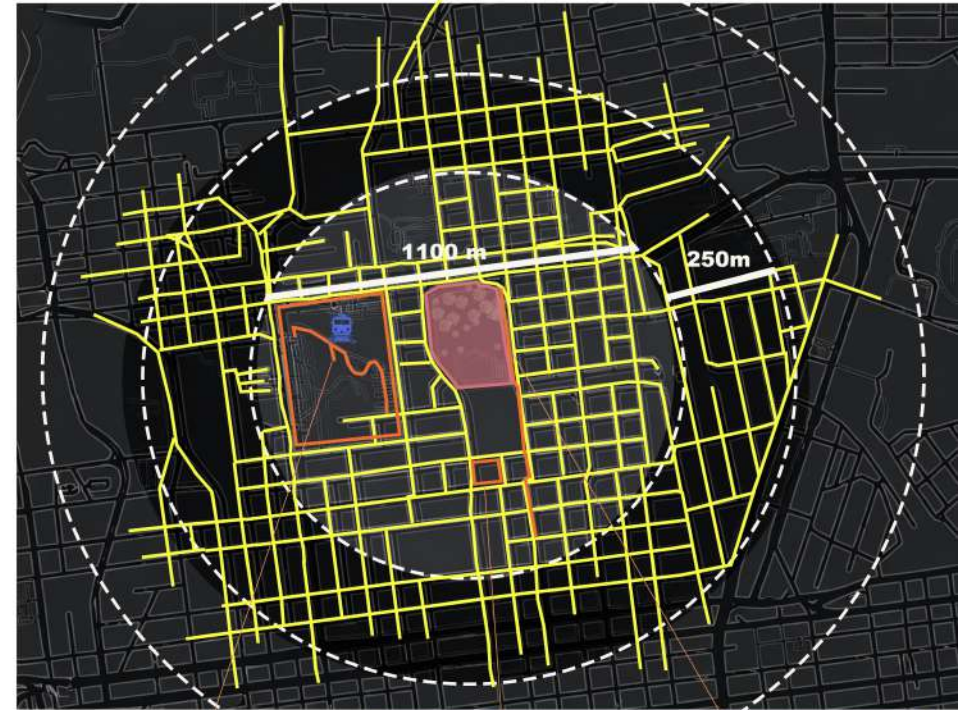
Transportation Hub

The site is embedded within a high-mobility urban zone, supported by:

- Park Station (regional rail hub)
- Metrobus and Rea Vaya BRT routes
- Major taxi ranks
- High-volume pedestrian routes

Movement around the site is intense, multidirectional, and layered, producing a constant sense of motion and activity.

Poor connectivity between cultural nodes, weak pedestrian continuity, and car-dominated streets limit spatial flow and experiential quality.



-Major taxi ranks



Metrobus and Rea Vaya



PARK STATION
MODE OF TRANSPORT
1 BLOCK AWAY FROM THE JAG



The Existing
Entrance to the
JAG



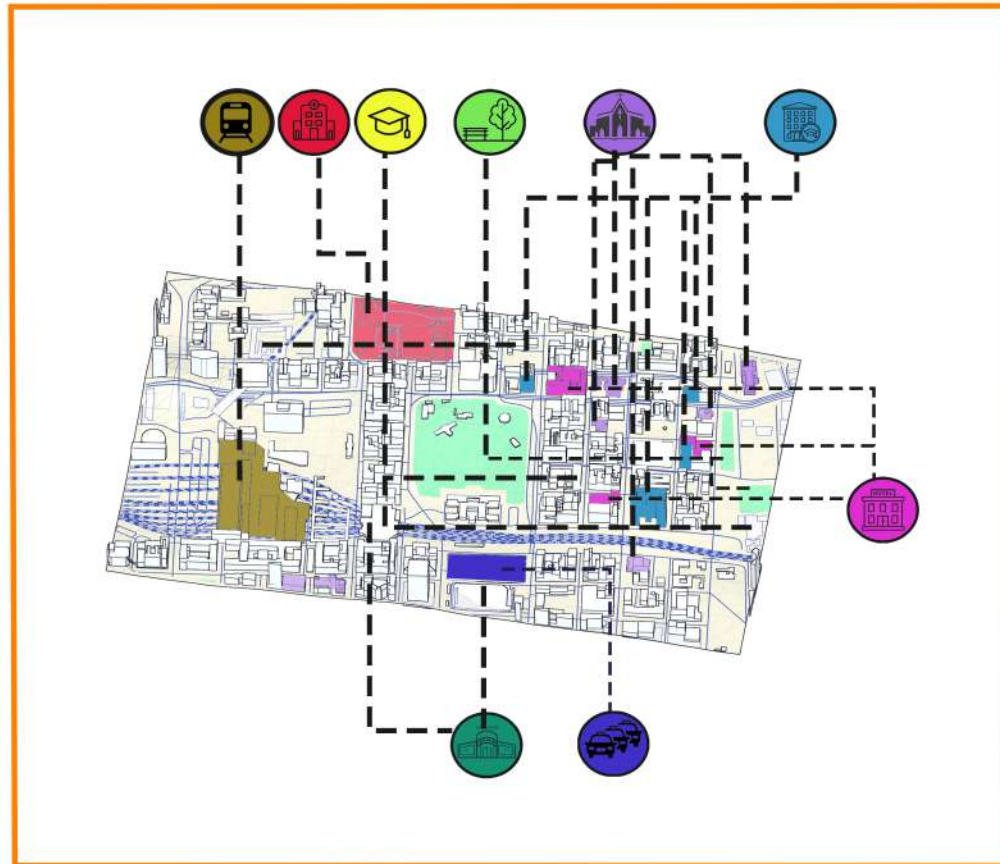
Aging buildings, poor
maintenance, and declining
public realm quality reduce
overall environmental
comfort and attractiveness.



VENDERS OUTSIDE JOBERT
PARK CREATES SOCIAL LIFE



SITE ANALYSIS

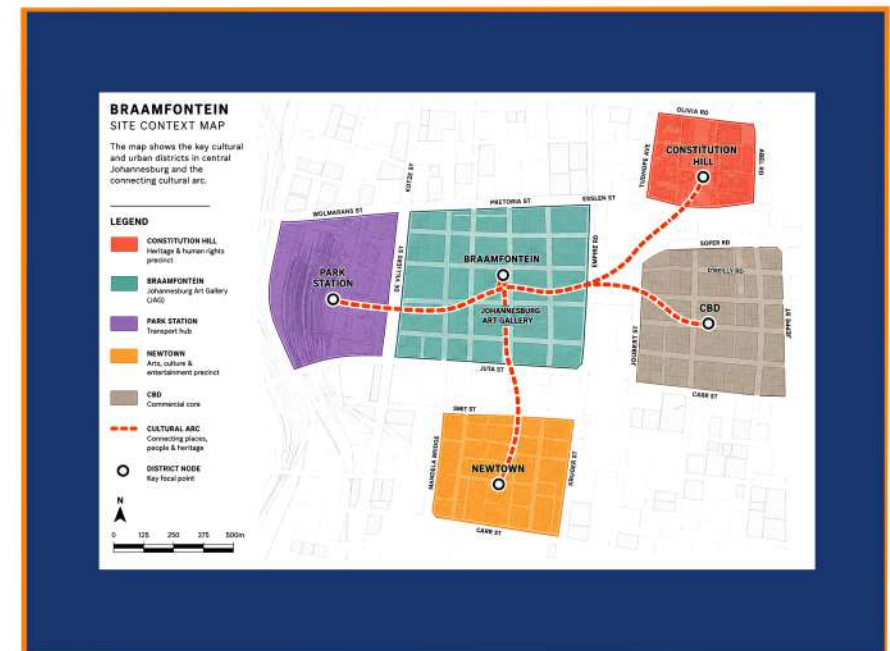


Braamfontein sits along Johannesburg's cultural arc, linking Constitution Hill, Newtown, and the CBD, offering strong connectivity and public transport access.

CONTRASTING ATMOSPHERES WITHIN THE PARK: HIGHLY CONGESTED COMMERCIAL EDGES NEAR TRANSPORT NODES AND CALMER, SOCIALLY FRAGMENTED ZONES NEAR CLINICS AND INTERNAL PARK SPACES.

THE SPACE IS CONSTANTLY ACTIVE THROUGHOUT THE DAY, CREATING A LIVELY BUT CONGESTED ATMOSPHERE.

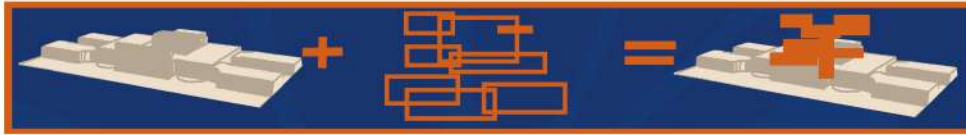
BRAAMFONTEIN IS A MAJOR CREATIVE HUB WITH INSTITUTIONS LIKE WITS ART MUSEUM (WAM), GALLERIES, STREET ART, LIVE MUSIC, AND STUDENT CULTURE, REINFORCING A VIBRANT ARTISTIC IDENTITY.



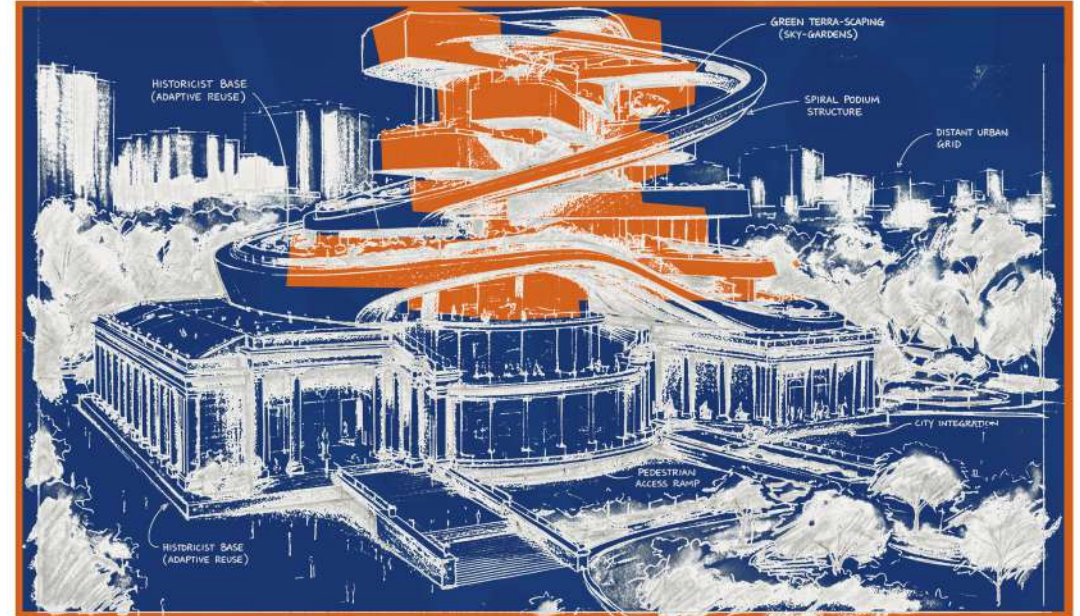
DESPITE THIS VIBRANT URBAN CONTEXT, THE JOHANNESBURG ART GALLERY REMAINS SPATIALLY AND CULTURALLY DETACHED FROM THE SURROUNDING COMMUNITY. WHILE THE WEST GATE EXPERIENCES CONGESTION FROM TAXIS, TRADERS, AND COMMUTERS, THE PARK ITSELF SUPPORTS INFORMAL ECONOMIES, SOCIAL GATHERING, ENTERTAINMENT, HEALTHCARE ACCESS, AND TRANSIENT POPULATIONS, INCLUDING VENDORS, MIGRANTS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, AND CHESS PLAYERS. THE AREA REFLECTS THE BROADER SOCIO-ECONOMIC REALITY OF JOHANNESBURG AS A CITY OF MOVEMENT, OPPORTUNITY, AND INFORMAL CULTURAL EXCHANGE.

SUSPENDED PUBLIC REALM

MASSING DIAGRAM AND CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

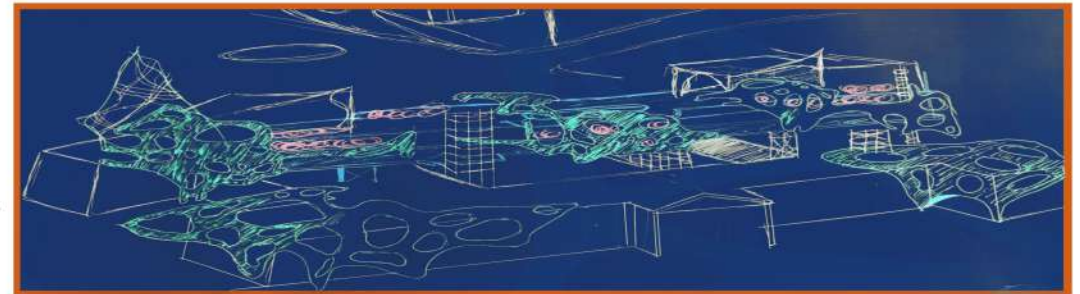
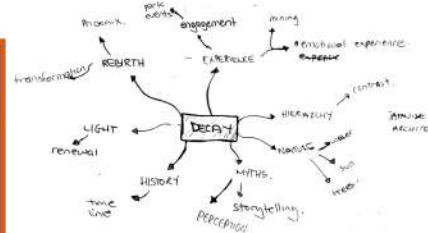
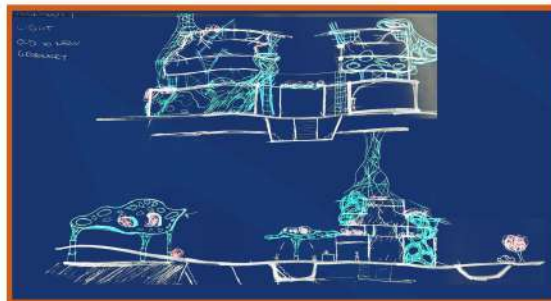


The porous, decayed geometry introduces a second level of hierarchy not just between buildings, but within the structure itself through light intensity. Instead of uniform illumination, the architecture produces a layered light condition, where users move through shifting intensities of



SECTIONAL EXPLORATION

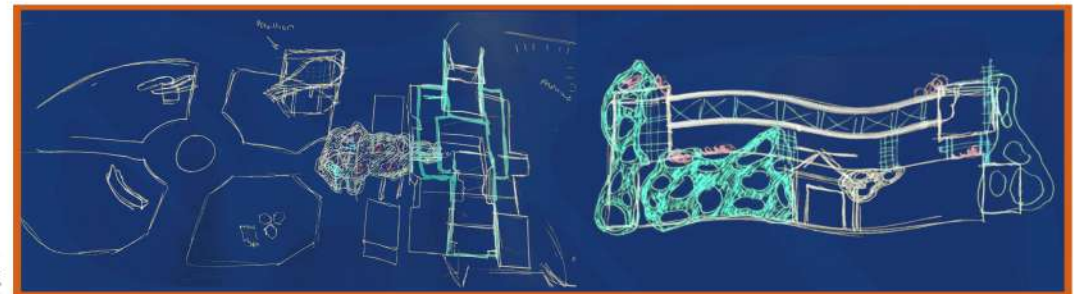
SECTIONAL EXPLORATION



ARCHITECTURAL RESPONSE ACCORDING CONTEXT

The existing gallery suffers from:

- static and uniform lighting conditions
- limited interaction between interior and exterior
- hard boundaries between spaces
- little variation in spatial atmosphere

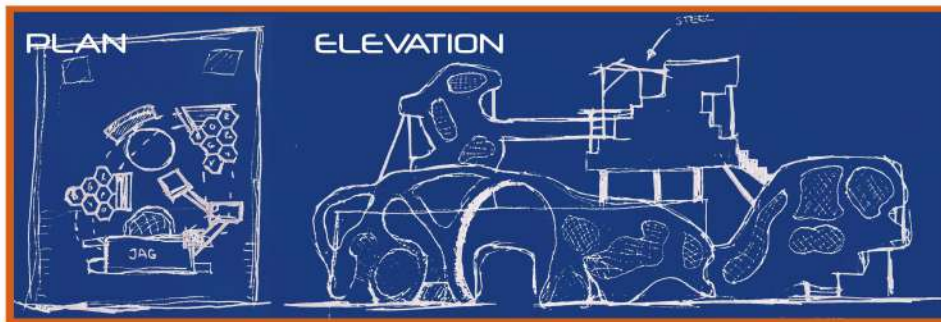


HIERARCHIES OF LIGHT: A PARASITIC INTERVENTION

MASSING DIAGRAM AND CONCEPT DEVELOPMENT

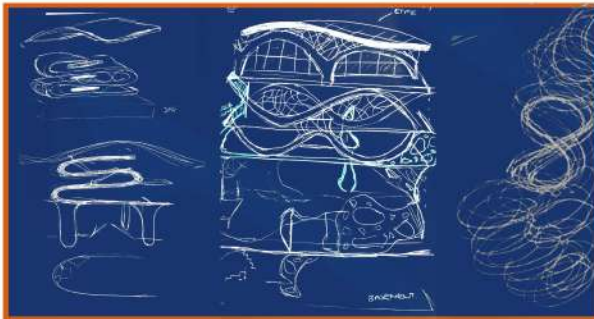


The intervention establishes a clear vertical hierarchy between the historic Johannesburg Art Gallery and the new parasitic layer above it. The gallery remains the primary, grounded mass heavy, enclosed, and rooted in the city. In contrast, the parasite becomes a secondary but visually dominant layer, elevated above the roof and defined by lightness and openness.



urban growth in Johannesburg – layers of history being occupied and reinterpreted.

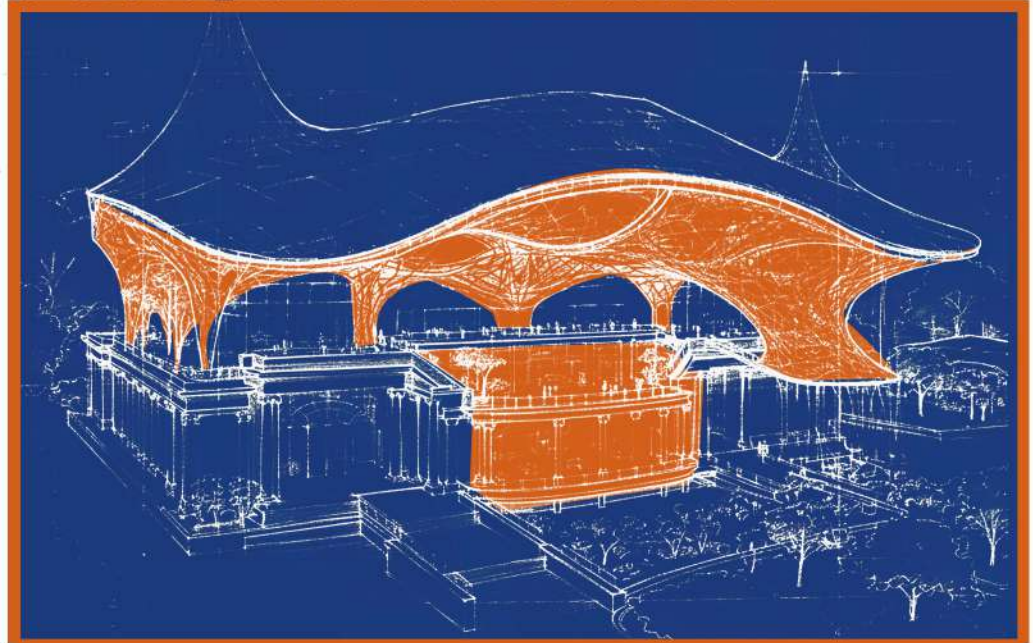
EXPLODED



ARCHITECTURAL RESPONSE ACCORDING CONTEXT

The JAG currently exists as a detached, inward-looking object:

weak visual and spatial connection to Joubert Park
rigid horizontal hierarchy (everything happens at ground level)
the roof is inactive and unused
limited engagement with the surrounding urban life

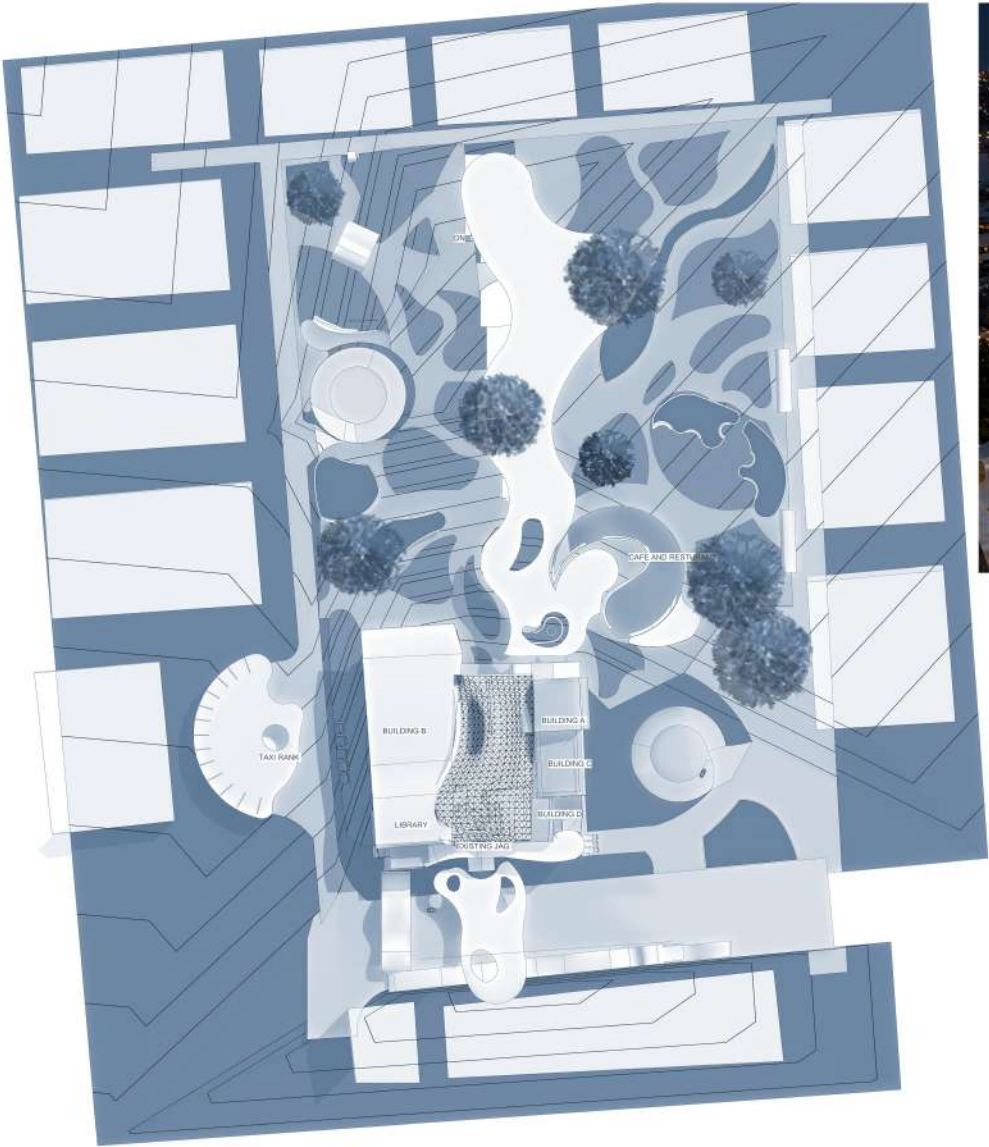


FACADE EXPLORATION

The façade of the parasitic structure above the Johannesburg Art Gallery is conceived as a layered, porous skin that controls light and establishes spatial hierarchy. Inspired by the short façade strategy of the Residence Office Center, it operates as a double-skin system, combining an expressive outer lattice with a more controlled inner layer. The variation in perforation density allows the façade to act as a light filter, creating gradients between bright, exposed areas and more diffused, enclosed spaces. Rather than functioning as a solid boundary, the façade becomes an active environmental mediator, shaping atmosphere, guiding movement, and reinforcing the relationship between the elevated parasitic form and the landscape of Joubert Park.



URBAN SYNAPSE & BIOPHILIC ROOFS



SITE PLAN
1:1000



SPATIAL NARRATIVE

SYNAPTIC FLOW
INTUITIVE CIRCULATION PATHS CREATE A SEAMLESS TRANSITION BETWEEN THE URBAN FABRIC AND THE INTERNAL PUBLIC REALM

BIOPHILIC ROOFS
LAYERED NATIVE PLANTING ACTS AS A NATURAL AIR FILTRATION SYSTEM, CREATING A VIBRANT, LIVING URBAN CANOPY.

NIGHT ACTIVATION
SUBDUED, INTEGRATED LIGHTING HIGHLIGHTS ORGANIC GEOMETRIES, EXTENDING THE GALLERY'S USE INTO THE EVENING.

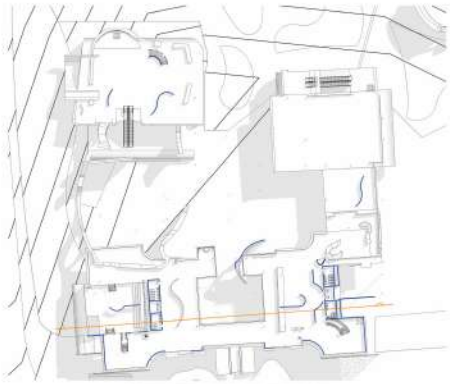
THERMAL COMFORT
HIGH-PERFORMANCE ETFE ROOFING AND STRATEGIC NATURAL VENTILATION MINIMIZE THE BUILDING'S CARBON FOOTPRINT.

URBAN ANCHOR
THE PROJECT FUNCTIONS AS A COMMUNAL NODE, RECONNECTING THE CITY THROUGH SHARED GREEN SPACE AND ART.



GEOMETRIC LOGIC & PROGRAMMATIC BIOMORPHISM

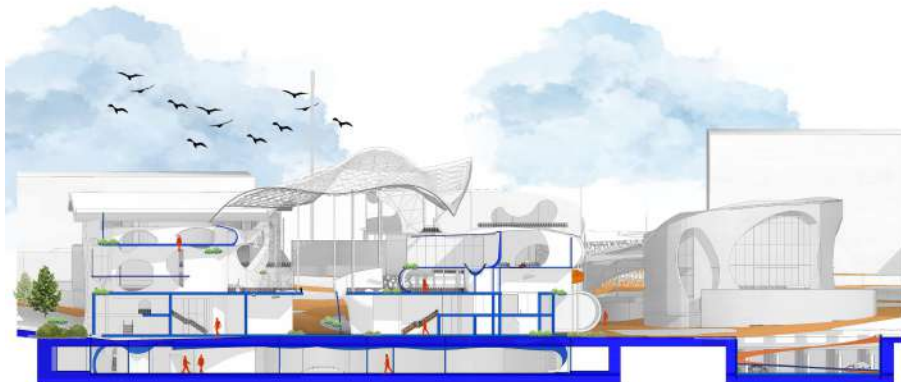
PRIMARY SITE LAYOUT, ELEVATIONAL PROFILES & SECTIONAL ZONING



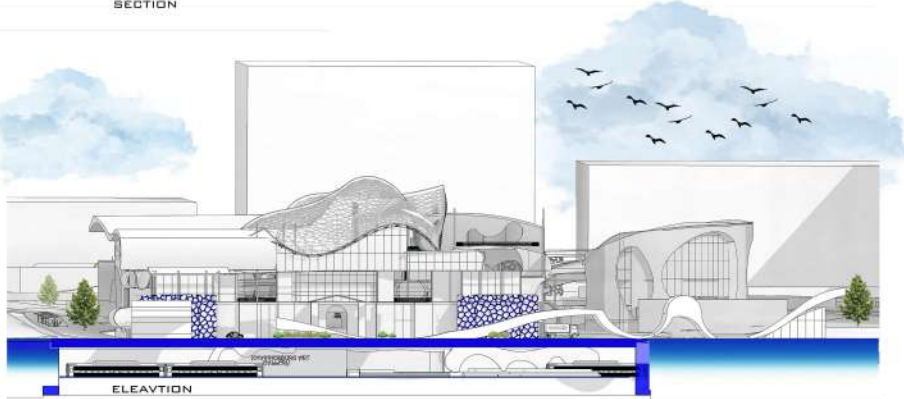
SCULPTURE COURTYARD



FOURTH FLOOR



SECTION

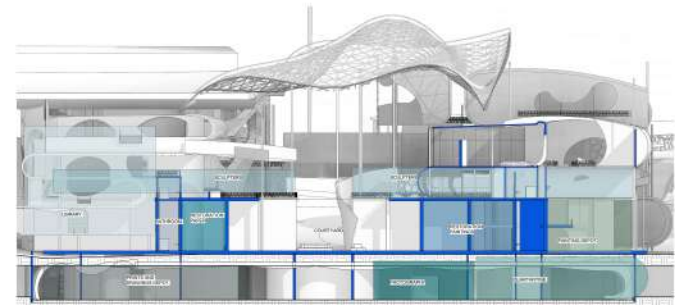


ELEVATION



PROGRAMMATIC STRATIFICATION & SPATIAL LAYERING

THE STRUCTURAL MASSING IS DEEPLY DICTATED BY PROGRAMMATIC LOGIC AND SUBTERRANEAN TRANSIT CONSTRAINTS. FUNCTIONS ARE STRATEGICALLY STRATIFIED ACROSS VERTICAL ZONES: HIGHLY PUBLIC SOCIAL ZONES, RETAIL, AND OPEN-AIR COURTYARDS OCCUPY THE UPPER GRADE, WHILE SPECIALIZED RESTORATION LABS, CURATORIAL DEPOTS, AND DEEP GALLERY SPACES ARE NESTLED SAFELY BELOW GROUND LEVEL. THESE VOLUMES ARE BOUND TOGETHER BY AN EXPRESSIVE, UNDULATING PARAMETRIC ROOF NETWORK THAT RISES AND FALLS TO ACCOMMODATE GRAND INTERNAL VOLUMETRIC HEIGHTS WHERE PUBLIC LIFE THRIVES

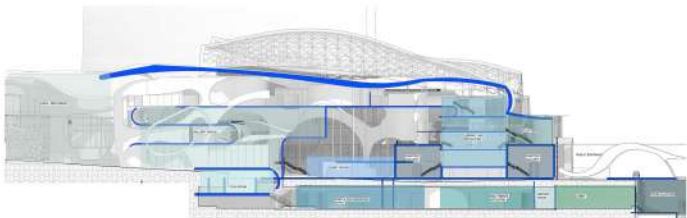


SECTION PROGRAM 1

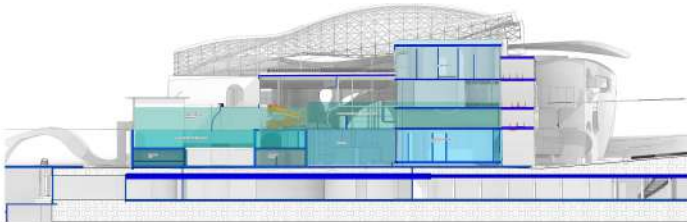
INTERIOR SPATIAL VOLUMES & PROGRAMMATIC STRATIFICATION

THE STRUCTURAL SECTION IS DEEPLY DICTATED BY PROGRAMMATIC DIVISION AND SUBTERRANEAN TRANSIT CONSTRAINTS. FUNCTIONS ARE STRATEGICALLY STRATIFIED ACROSS VERTICAL LAYERS TO MAXIMIZE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WHILE PROTECTING SENSITIVE FACILITIES. HIGH-VOLUME CIVIC SPACES, SOCIAL LEARNING AREAS, AND OPEN-AIR BIOPHILIC COURTYARDS OCCUPY THE UPPER GRADE, DRAWING PEDESTRIAN MOVEMENT DIRECTLY FROM THE STREET LEVEL.

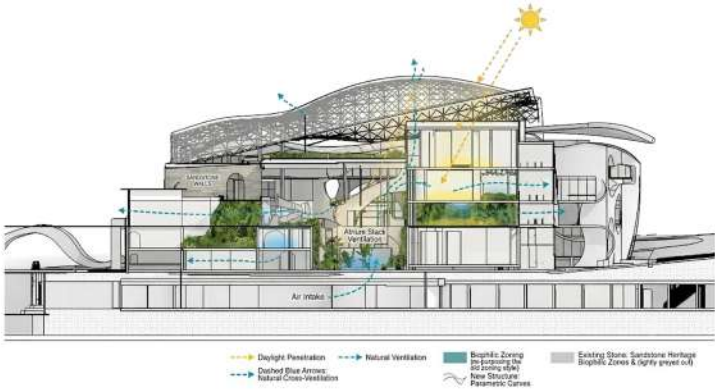
CONVERSELY, HIGHLY SPECIALIZED CURATORIAL RESTORATION LABS, RESEARCH DEPOTS, AND CONTROLLED GALLERY VOLUMES ARE NESTED SAFELY BELOW GROUND LEVEL. THIS LAYOUT ENSURES ACOUSTIC ISOLATION AND PRECISE ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL, PROTECTING THE COLLECTION FROM URBAN VIBRATIONS AND FLUCTUATING DAYLIGHT EXPOSURE.



SECTION PROGRAM 2



SECTION PROGRAM 3



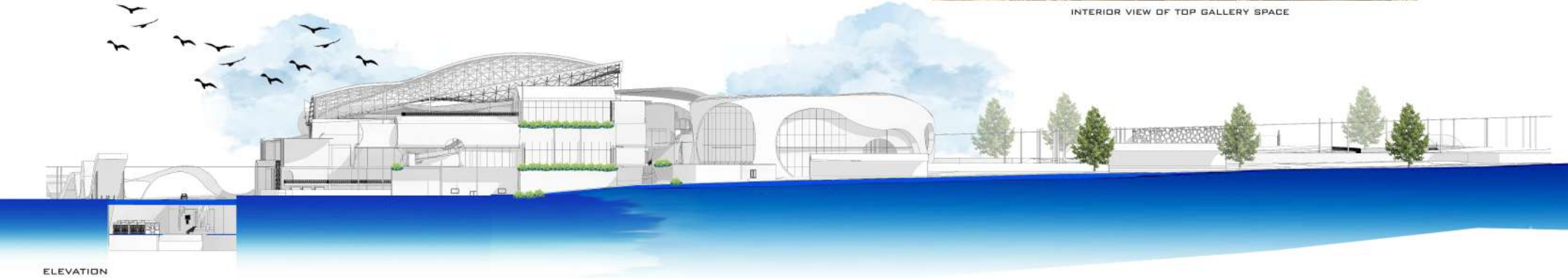
BIOPHILIC STRATEGY DIAGRAM

THERMAL MASS COOLING: SUBTERRANEAN GALLERY AND CURATORIAL ZONES SIT DEEP BELOW PARK GRADE, LEVERAGING GROUND THERMAL MASS FOR PRECISE COOLING AND MAXIMUM ACOUSTIC ISOLATION.

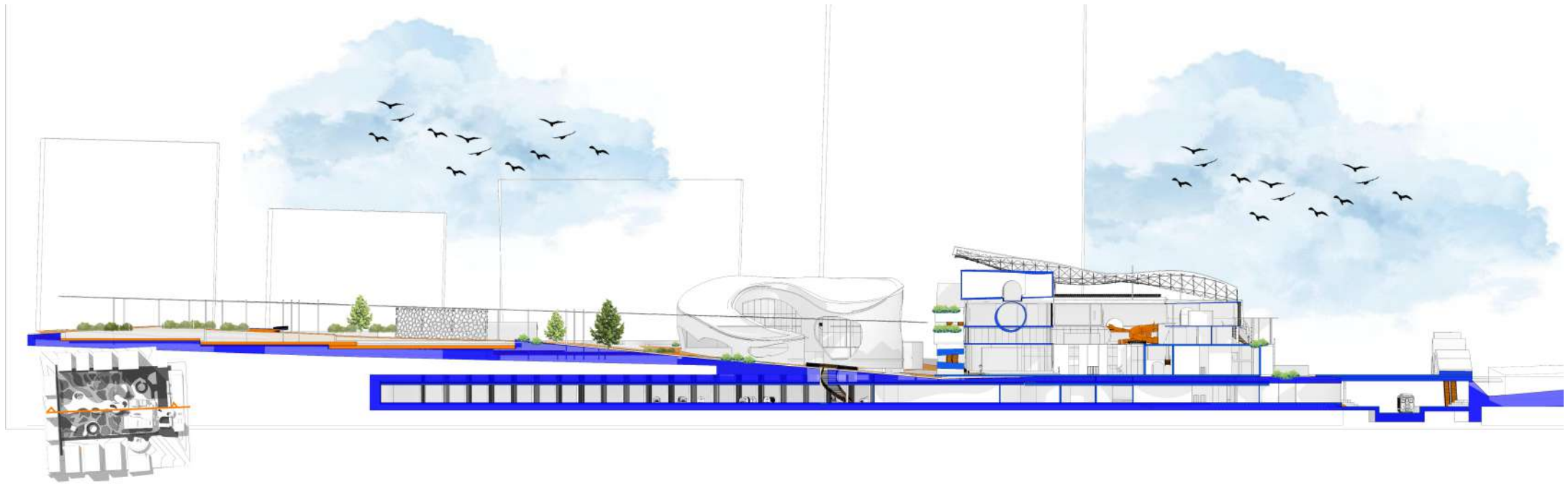
PASSIVE VENTILATION: SCULPTED OVERHEAD COURTYARD APERTURES DRAW HIGH-ANGLE DAYLIGHT DEEP INTO LOWER THRESHOLDS, ACTIVELY DRIVING PASSIVE STACK-EFFECT AIR EXCHANGE.

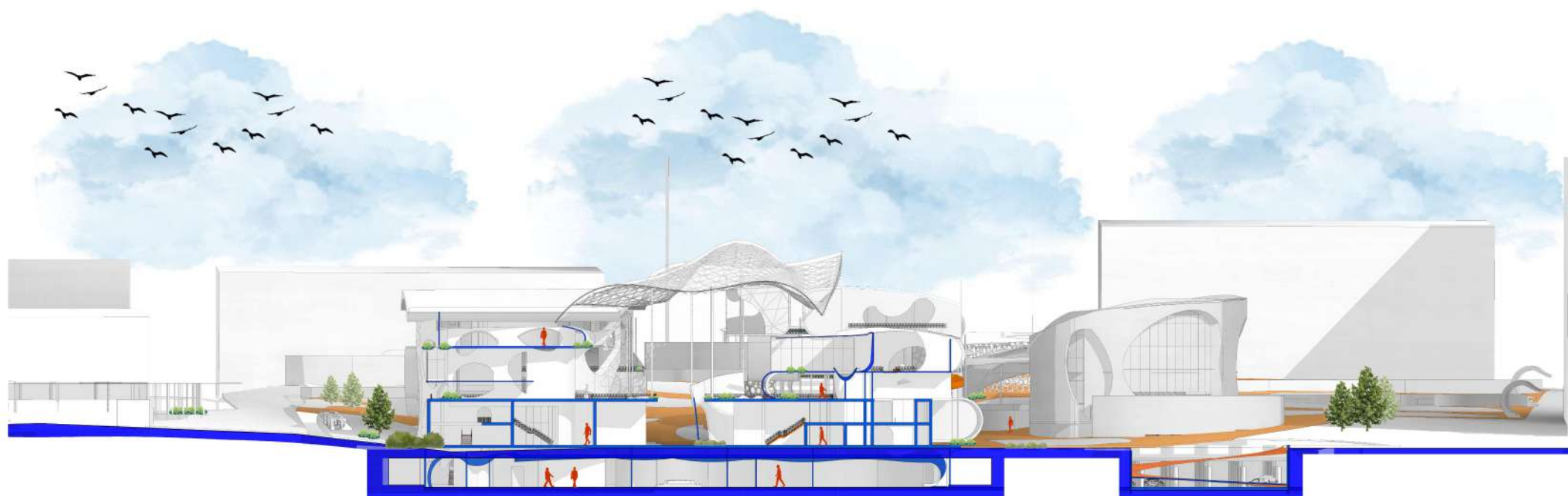


INTERIOR VIEW OF TOP GALLERY SPACE



ELEVATION



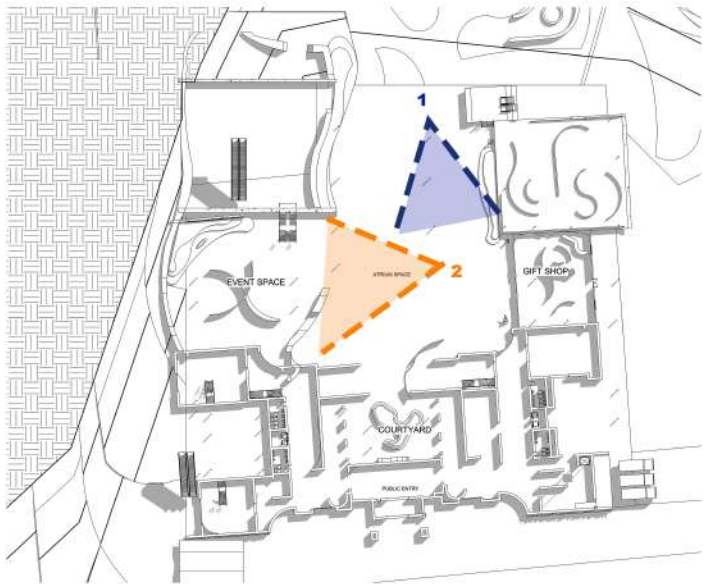


JOHANNESBURG ART GALLERY

SPATIAL EXPERIENCE & MATERIAL PALETTE



1. Atrium



MATERIAL PALETTE



Sandstone
Existing JAG is built with sandstone.



White polished concrete
Main curved walls and sculptural forms
Smooth matte/satin finish
Used to emphasize the flowing geometry



ETFE transparent roof system
Multi-layer ETFE cushions
Lightweight translucent membrane
Allows diffused daylight into the atrium



Steel space-frame structure
Supporting the ETFE canopy
Slim tubular steel members
Light grey/silver finish



Glazing + Transparent Elements
Low-iron frameless glass
Large curtain walls and balustrades
Clear glazing for maximum transparency
Black aluminum framing
Minimal window mullions
Thin-profile modern framing system



Flooring Materials
Large-format limestone / travertine flooring
Main atrium floor
Light beige with subtle veining
Reflects daylight softly
Textured stone paving
Transitional walking areas
Slightly rougher matte finish



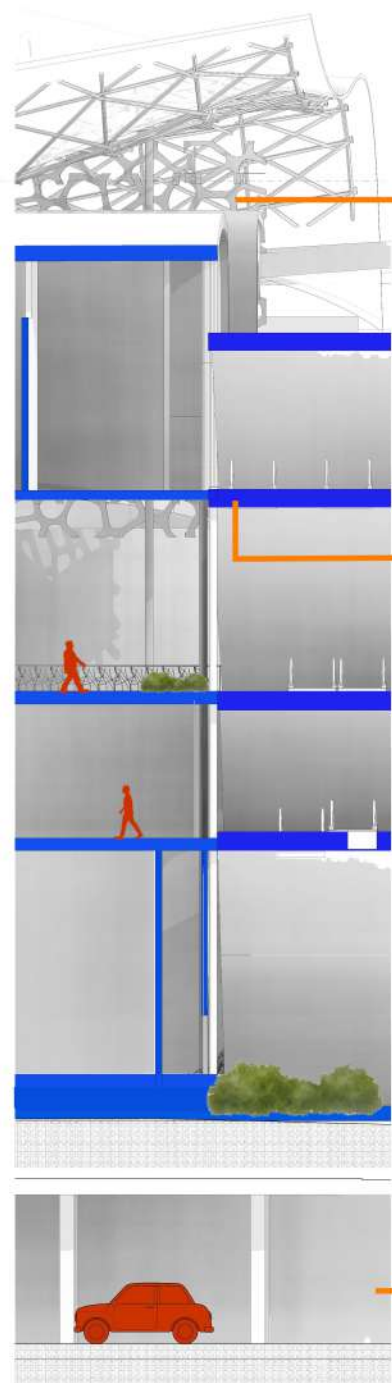
Biophilic + Landscape Materials
Integrated planter beds
Cast concrete planters
Organic curved edges
Tropical planting palette
Hanging vines
Ferns
Palms
Broadleaf tropical plants
Layered groundcover species



2. Event Space

EXPERIENTIAL LIFE & ENVELOPE SCALE

INTERIOR PERSPECTIVES & TECHNICAL PERIMETER DETAIL



ROOF ZONE:
LABEL THE LIGHTWEIGHT SPACE-FRAME TRUSS STRUCTURE
AND THE TRANSLUCENT ETFE MEMBRANE SYSTEM

FLOOR PLATES:
THE PRE-CAST CONCRETE FLOOR SLABS
AND THE INTEGRATED LIGHTING TROUGHS IN THE BIOMORPHIC CURVED
DROP-CEILINGS.

SUBTERRANEAN LEVEL:
THE CONCRETE RETAINING WALLS AND THE STRUCTURAL
CONNECTION TO THE UNDERGROUND TRAIN PLATFORM.



ATRIUM

LIGHT-FILLED CENTRAL VOID EMPHASIZING VERTICAL CIRCULATION AND EXPOSED BIOMORPHIC CONCRETE COLUMNS.



SCULPTURE COURTYARD

AN OPEN-AIR LANDSCAPE SANCTUARY FILTERING NATURAL LIGHT THROUGH THE OVERHEAD PARAMETRIC ROOF STRUCTURE.



GIFT SHOP

TACTILE MATERIAL APPLICATION FEATURING WARM SANDSTONE COUNTERS AND FLUID, CURVED
DISPLAY PARTITION WALLS.



TRAIN PLATFORM

SUBTERRANEAN CONCRETE VAULT GEOMETRY DESIGNED TO OPTIMIZE PASSENGER MOVEMENT
AND ACOUSTICS.

EXPLODED AXONOMETRIC

