

Nothing lasts forever

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Balconies

Nothing lasts forever – neither life nor buildings. The hospice has been designed with the inevitable in mind, providing a dignified and homelike refuge in a building that is resilient to change.

The natural landscape of the site is the basis for the hospice space, which is arranged to provide scenic outlooks and to preserve existing trees at the site. The building is placed above a slope facing directly west, providing an unobstructed sky view and pleasant rays of afternoon sun in all patient-oriented rooms.

The project does not seek to deny the institutional nature of healthcare buildings, but rather to emphasize the rhythm and order imposed by a rational plan layout. By employing classical proportions and articulating depth in the facade elements, the building aims to evoke the impression of grandeur found in institutional buildings of centuries past.

The building volume is divided into two parts, one patient-oriented and one staff/visitor-oriented, connected via two glazed loggias which enclose a small courtyard. Both parts consist of two largely identical floors, where the patient section stands on concrete columns and the staff section contains a basement level.

Patient rooms and common areas are designed with a warm and homelike atmosphere in mind, exposing the wooden construction and inviting patients to furnish all spaces with their own artworks, tapestries and furniture. The common spaces are arranged en file, with the living room and its fireplace as the snug centerpiece, resembling traditional domestic interiors. The kitchen and common room can be accessed independently and therefore also be closed off to accommodate parties or other gatherings of family and visitors.

All patient-oriented rooms have direct access to covered balconies, large enough to accommodate bedridden patients, significantly expanding the size of the rooms if so desired. Beside patient rooms and general common areas, the patient-section contains two guest bedrooms for family members on both floors, and one medical treatment room per floor. A south-facing winter garden is also provided, with weaker patients residing on the second floor especially in mind.

A chapel is located on the ground floor of the staff/visitor section, open for patients and family members at all times. A space for performing ceremonial ablutions is provided therein, as well as a piece of marble flooring indicating the direction towards Mecca. These features address the large muslim community in the northeastern suburbs of Göteborg but do not dominate the space, making it hospitable to all religious and spiritual directions.

The building is constructed using a modular system of facade columns and cross-laminated timber beams spanning the entire width of the building. The beams are set at a distance of 4,8 meters, framing a spatial grid of 2,4 x 2,4 meter units, which is general enough to accommodate all the different spaces required throughout the building.

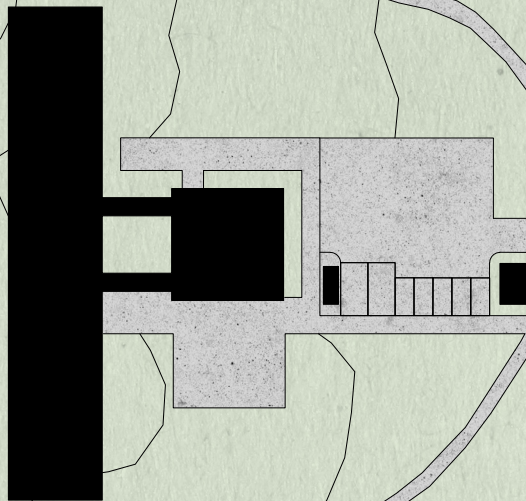
The absence of columns makes the plan fully flexible, and while the room height of 3,4 - 3,6 meters provides generous, almost sacred qualities to the hospice space, it can also accommodate a change in program which might require considerably larger technical installations. These factors provide the building with robustness over time, where minor adjustments could transform it to a youth hostel or student housing complex, and a more comprehensive renovation could transform it to a fully functioning office building.

Thus, regardless of what developments and reforms await in the arenas of demography, economy and healthcare systems, the building will live on.



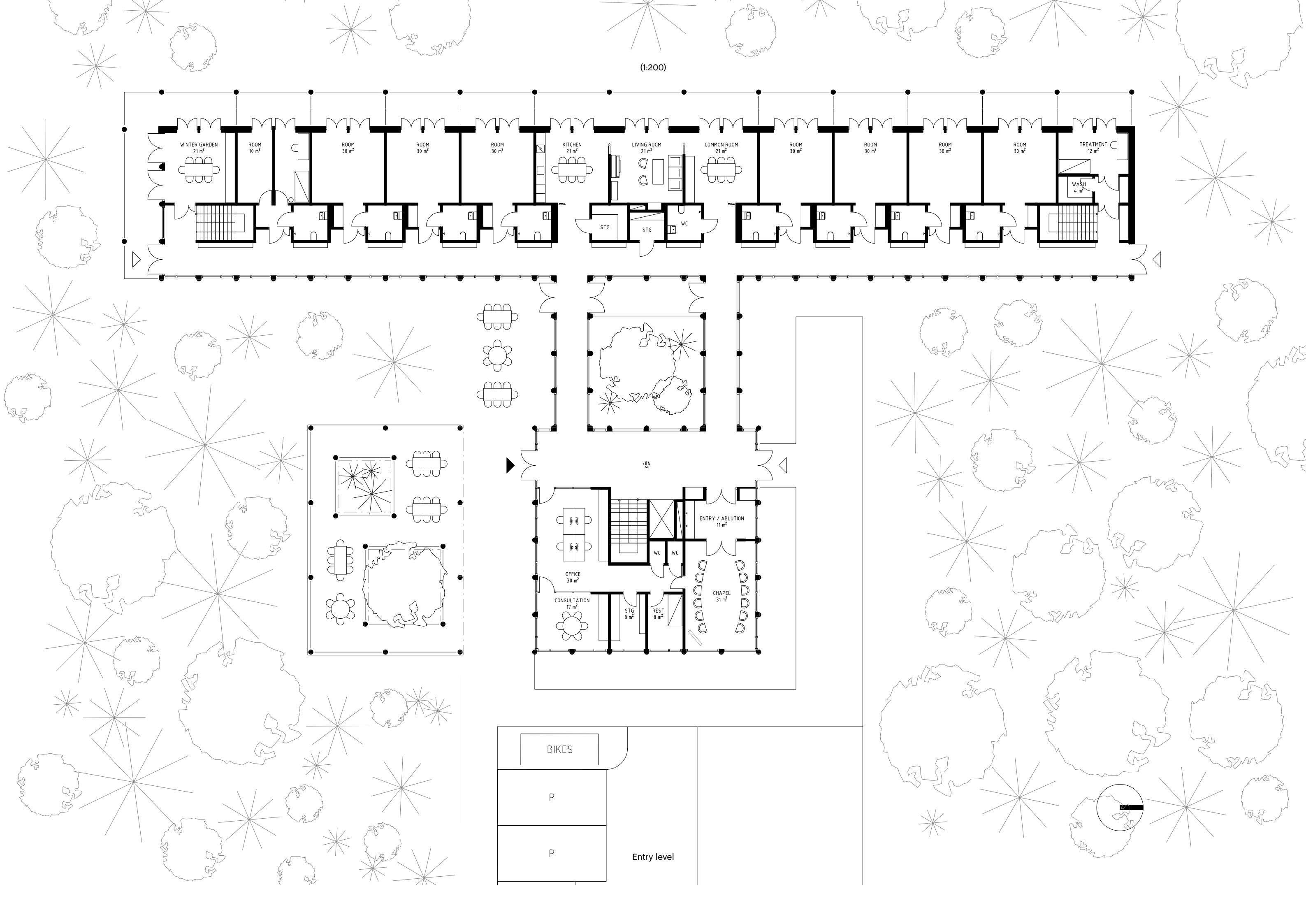
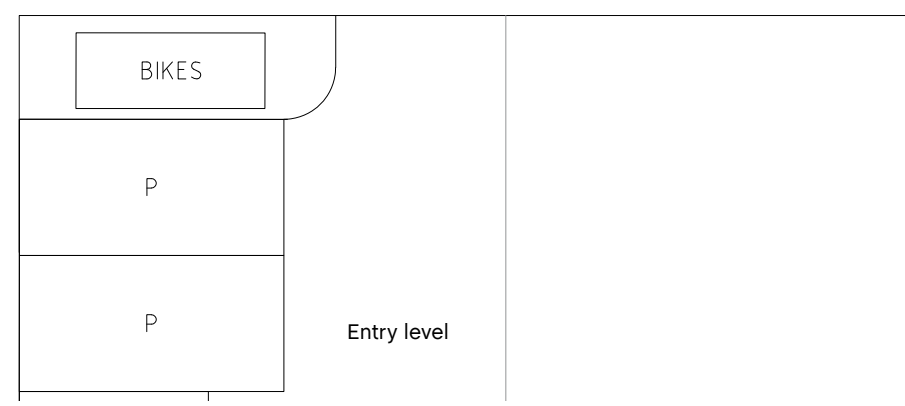
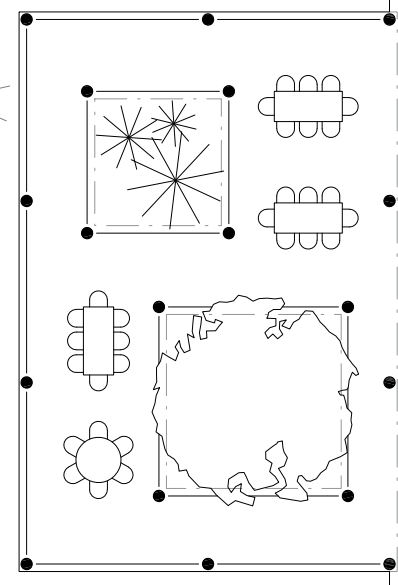
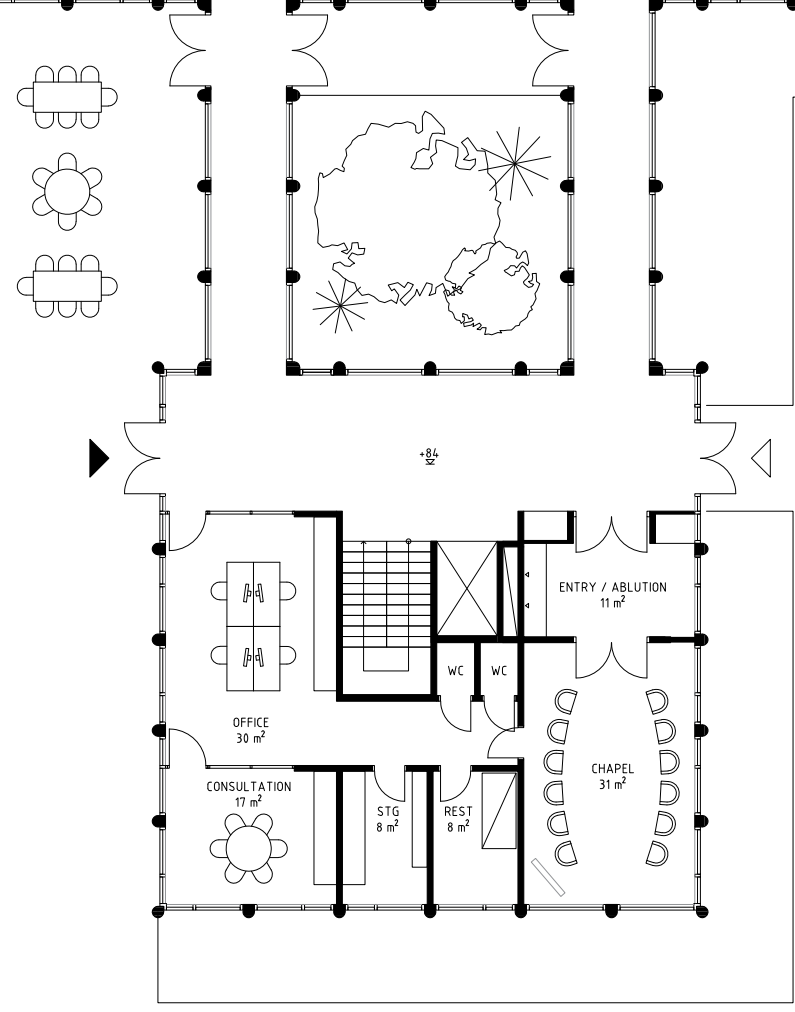
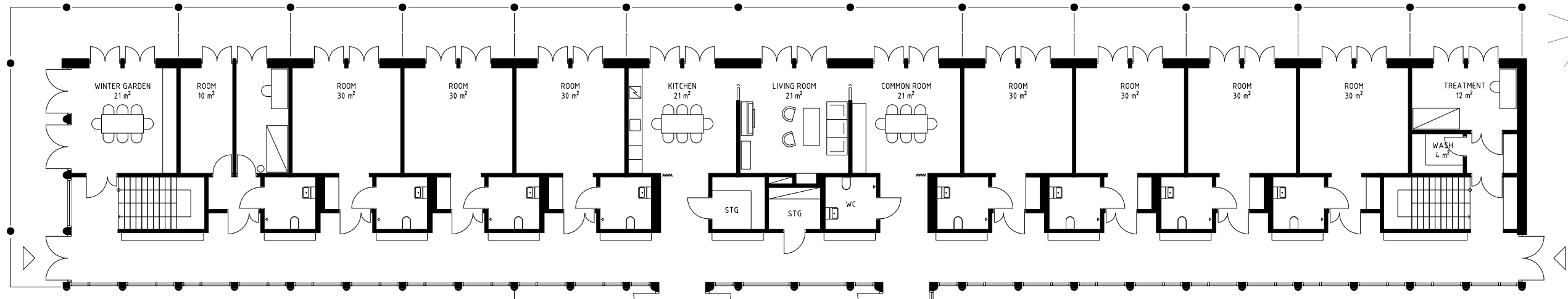
Entry path

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Site plan

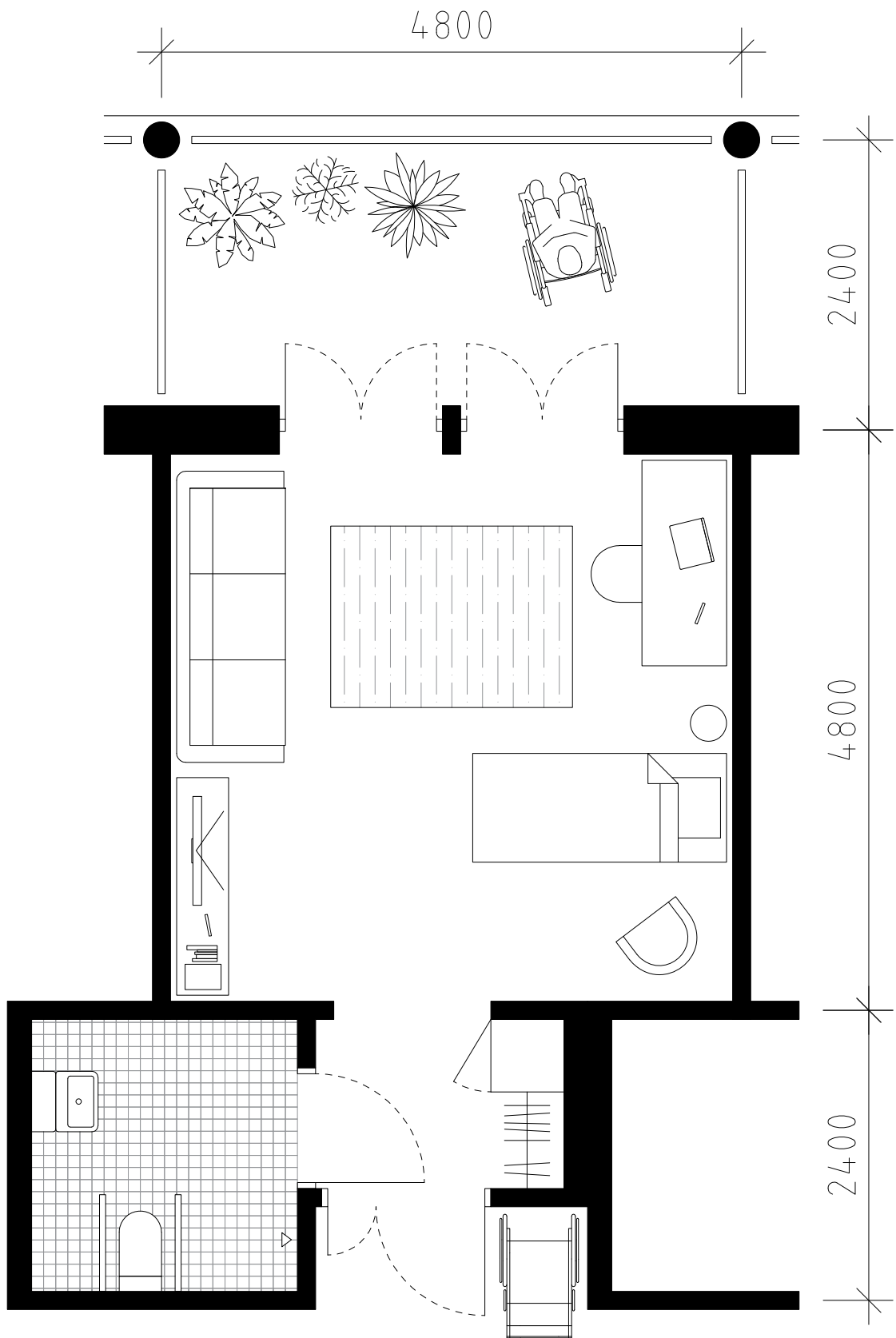
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Guest room

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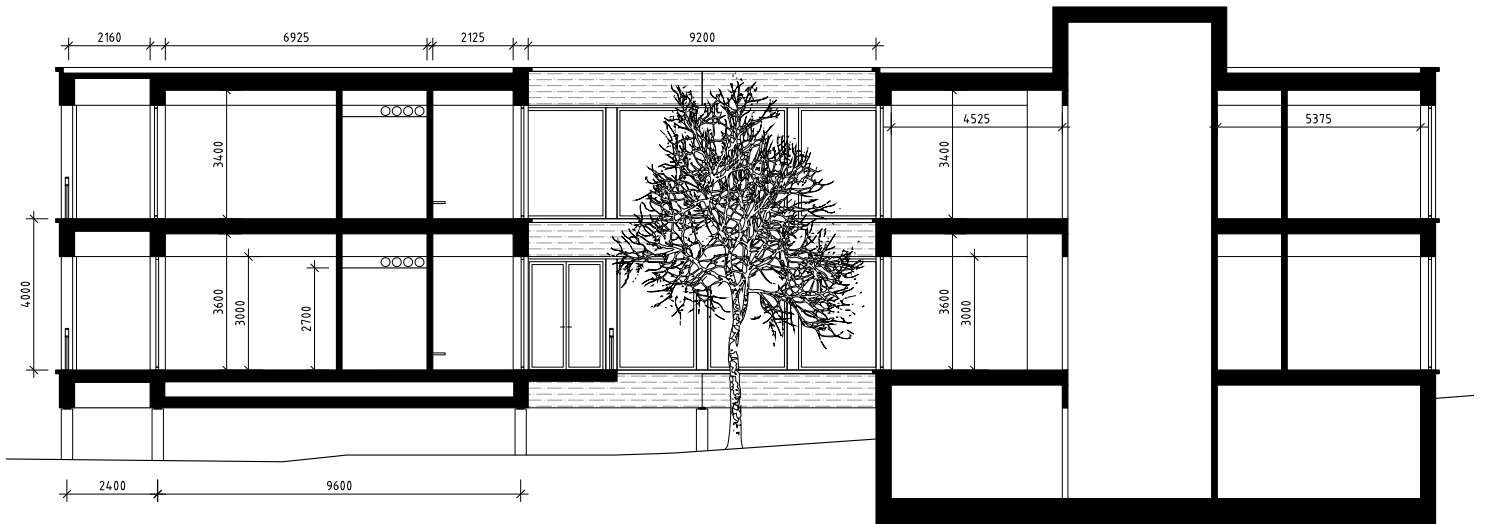


Guest room



Patio

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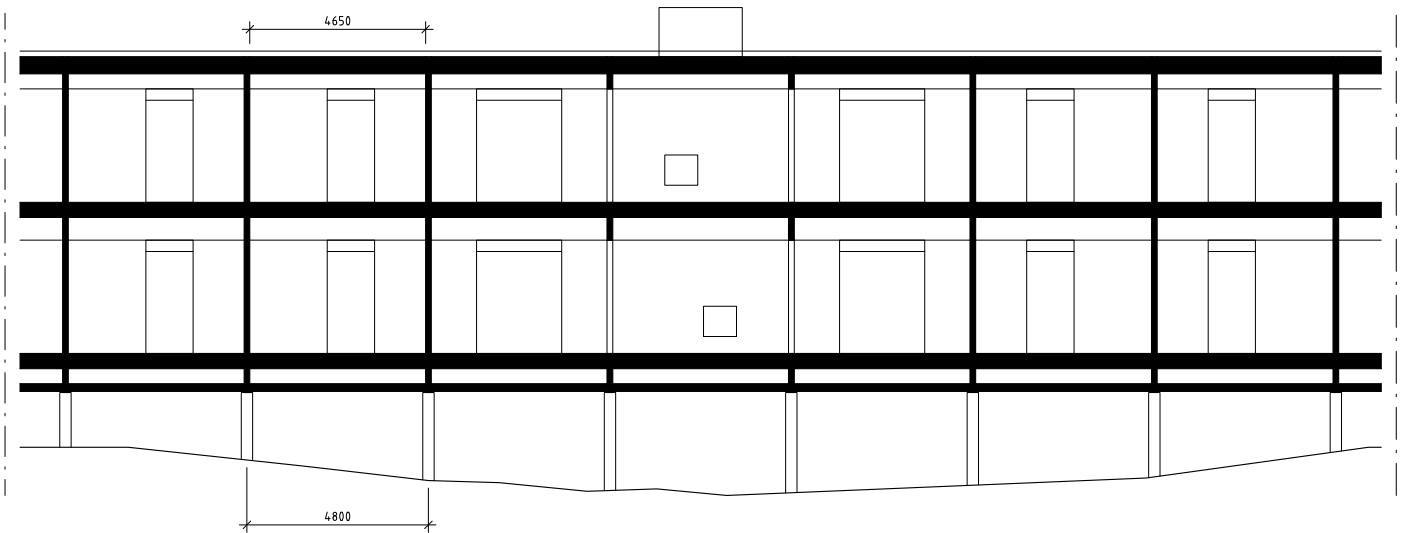


Lateral section



Common space

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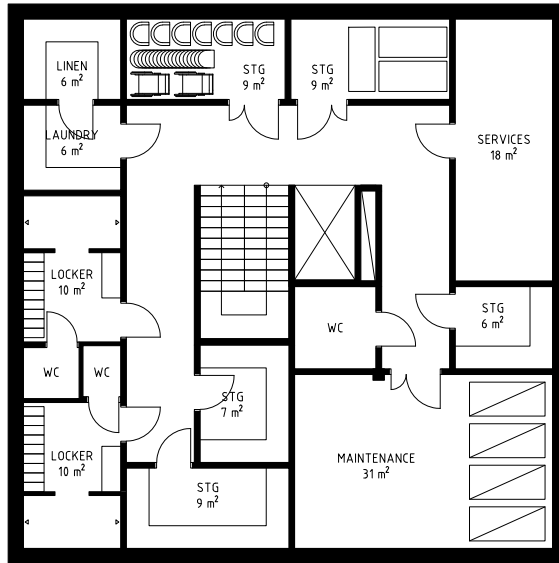


Longitudinal section

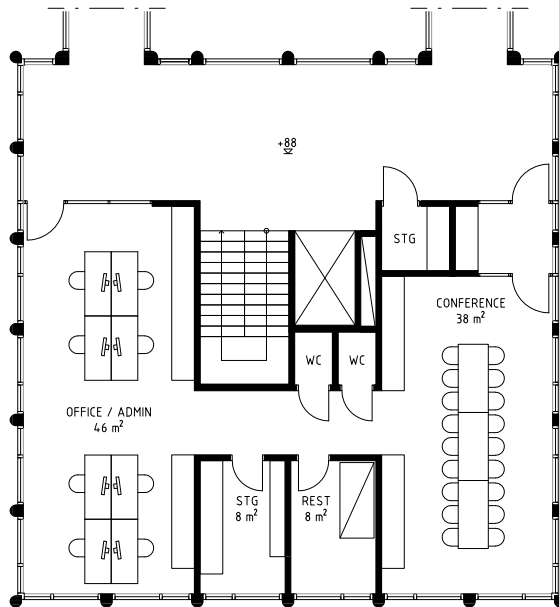


Chapel

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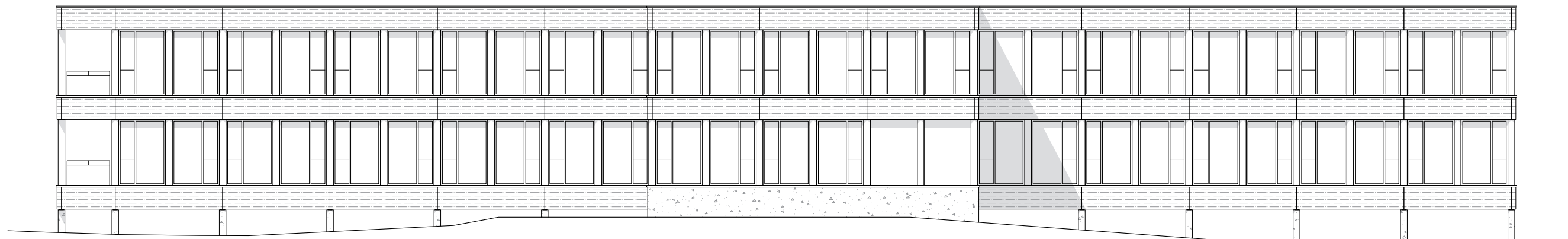


Basement level



Second level

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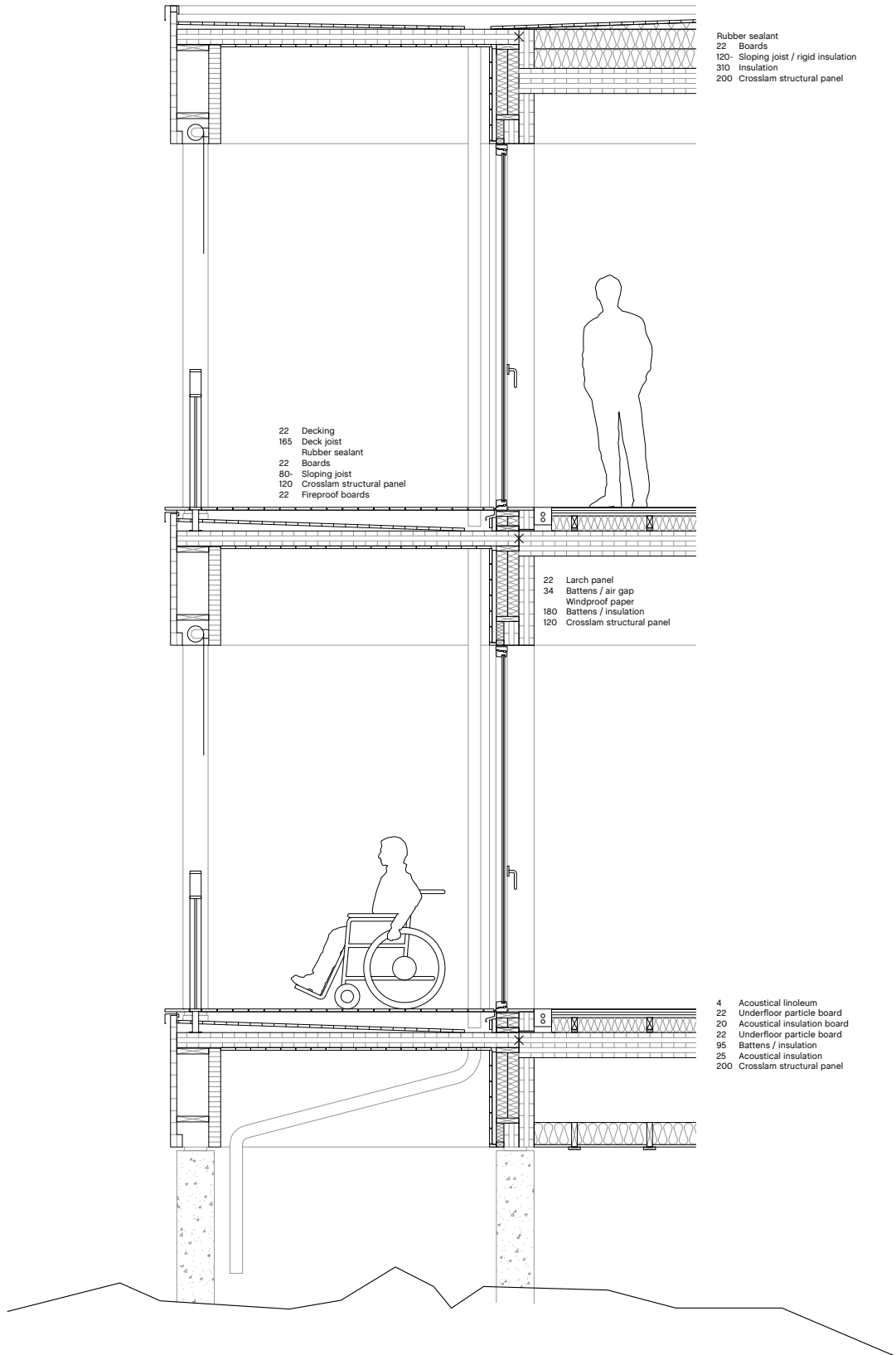
Elevations S, W, E

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Balcony elevation

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Rubber sealant
22 Boards
120 Sloping joist / rigid insulation
310 Insulation
200 Crosslam structural panel

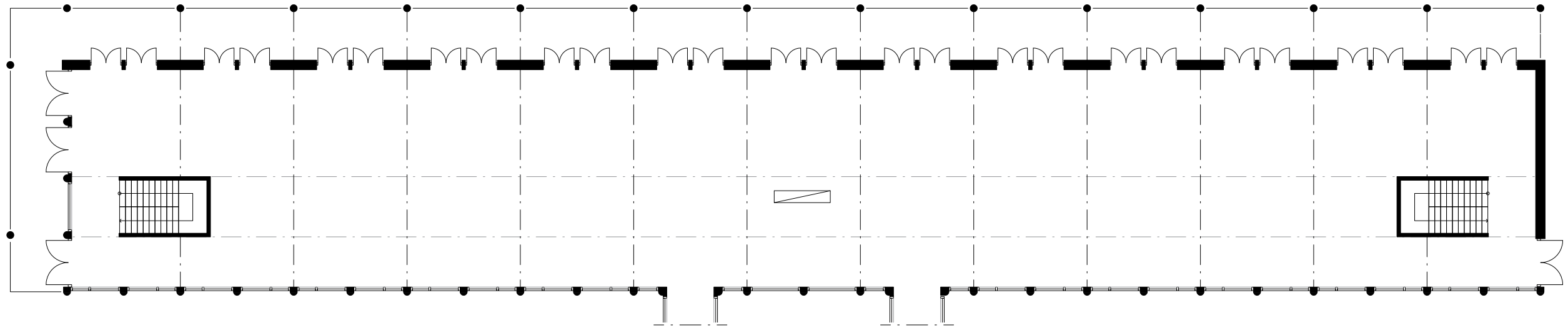
22 Decking
165 Deck joist
Rubber sealant
22 Boards
80 Sloping joist
120 Crosslam structural panel
22 Fireproof boards

22 Larch panel
34 Battens / air gap
Windproof paper
180 Battens / insulation
120 Crosslam structural panel

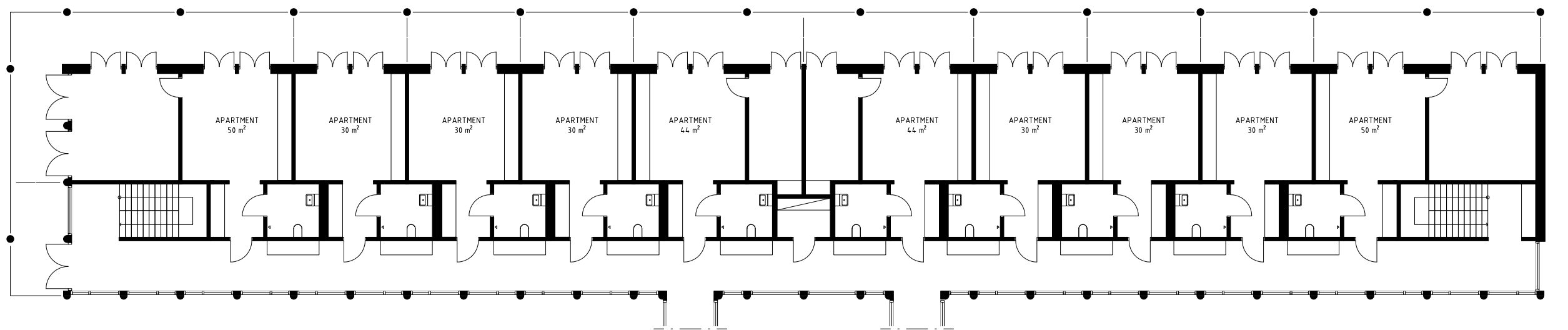
4 Acoustical linoleum
22 Underfloor particle board
20 Acoustical insulation board
22 Underfloor particle board
95 Battens / insulation
25 Acoustical insulation
200 Crosslam structural panel

Detail section

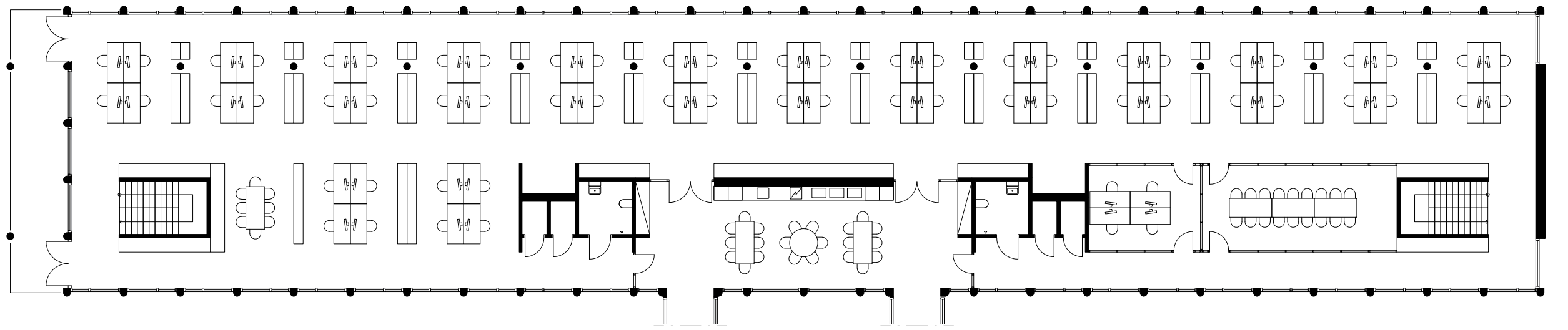
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Structure plan



Student housing layout



Office layout

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Massing / materiality model

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Sectional model

