



site plan 1:2000

COURTYARD FOOD HALL Escher-wyss-platz Zurich

Berte Daan
Graduation Project ETH Zuerich
December 2011

Professor Tom Emerson
Assistant Steffen Jürgensen

The Escher-Wyss Platz is one of the noisiest spots in Zürich. It is crammed between the two-story Hardbrücke bridge over the Limmat river and the tram depot. The Limmat and the Hardturmstrasse border it to the north and south. The intervention proposed is a building that responds to the qualities of the site.

The Courtyard Food Hall is an introvert structure amidst the crowd. A solid brick wall – plastered inside and closed around – fences off the buzzing city outside. The wall's height responds to the surroundings, with its highest level at the Hardbrücke, lowest on the Limmat side. The heavy wall is erected on a base that has a more ornamental approach to the masonry. On the outside connections

are restricted to the public toilets in the east, the entrance and kiosk window in the south and a delivery entrance in the west. In reminiscence of the old Zürich tradition a public water fountain is mounted on the western wall.

Inside the wall, a courtyard reminiscent of some of the finest cloister gardens is the center of the concept.

All open space inside is oriented towards this courtyard. Whereas the outer wall is generally closed, the side to the courtyard is determined by small wooden columns, and a façade of glass doors. Around the courtyard, there are two layers to create a distance in experience to the traffic-based surroundings. The view to the outside world is restricted to the Limmat, either through the courtyard, or directly. The Limmat is another world: a piece of nature in the middle of the city, a piece of peace indeed that is the focus of our place of rest. It withstands the city's buzz without needing the heavy brick wall as the other sides do. The view of the clear stream below heightens the sense of tranquility and contemplation.

All roofs run down to the courtyard, except where the entrance is planned. This entrance is on the southwest side, where the brick wall is lowest as the sheltering roof bends down there. One enters into a long bar area. One overlooks the whole scene: the courtyard in sun or rain, the kitchen to the west, before being seated at the tables to the east. The roof is one element that covers the whole foodhall.

Shaped in floorplan as a polygon, the building responds to the situation; cut off and pulled out where there is space on the site. Parking is planned directly at the edge of the building, to emphasize on the fact that the brick wall is a strong border to the contemplative space. The closed functions – toilets for the restaurant, the public toilets, the kiosk at the corner towards the Escher-Wyssplatz – create a mezzanine that offers quiet space for reading and long Sunday morning coffees, with a view down on the courtyard. A low bookcase around this area fulfills the railing function. West of the courtyard another element, containing the functions that are only for staff – changing room, food storage, delivery, dish

cleaning and a small office – creates a second mezzanine on top. This serves as a storage space for summer furniture and other things.

Made of zinc plates, with a folding pattern that accentuates its orientation toward the courtyard, one roof covers the building. Inside the structure is also pronounced. Four large round wooden pillars support the laminated beams that bridge the long stretch obliquely parallel to the Limmat. The secondary beams are further supported by the outside walls. Between the beams we see white painted ceiling planks.

The materialization of the openings connect the inner, domestic enclosed space and the outside world. Windows and doorframes are made of wood on the inside and covered on the outside with metal, to be able to hold stand to the traffic world.

Different floor materials mark the two main zones of the food hall. Broad wooden planks form the floor of the transition from the world outside to the more domestic public space. This zone includes

the bar and all service areas. The other, cobblestone, floor runs from the open kitchen, around and including the courtyard, to where the long tables are. In summertime, when the large glass sliding doors along the east and west side of the courtyard are opened, the cobblestone floor creates one large space connecting visitor and kitchen. The kitchen is open and waves of attractive smells may drift across the courtyard.

In the courtyard the floor takes on a special pattern. This is created by selectively picking and arranging the colour of the stones. The pattern is based upon, and indeed derived from the first description by Walafrid Strabo of the monastery garden at the Reichenau island (Liber de Cultura Hortorum, 827). The building is a place of rest, of quiet quality, of contemplative intermission in a busy world. A single apple tree in the yard strengthens the illusion of nature.



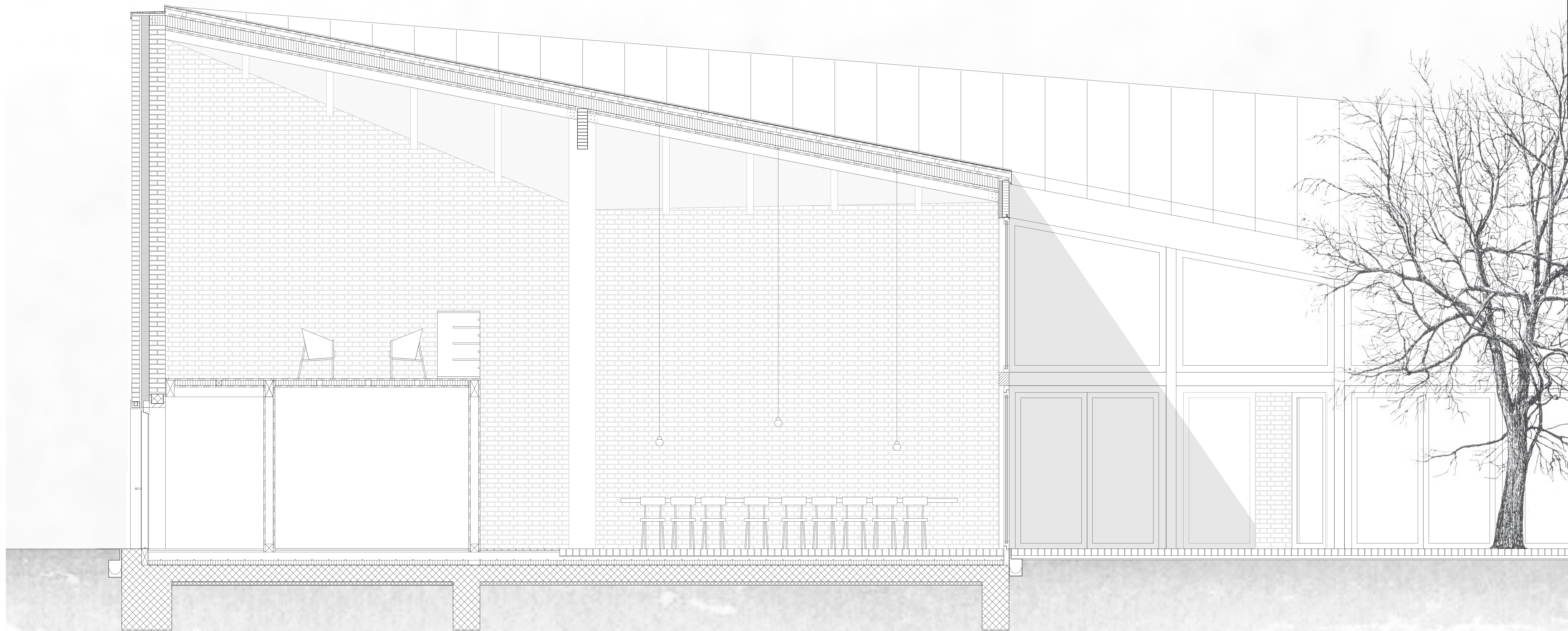
reference



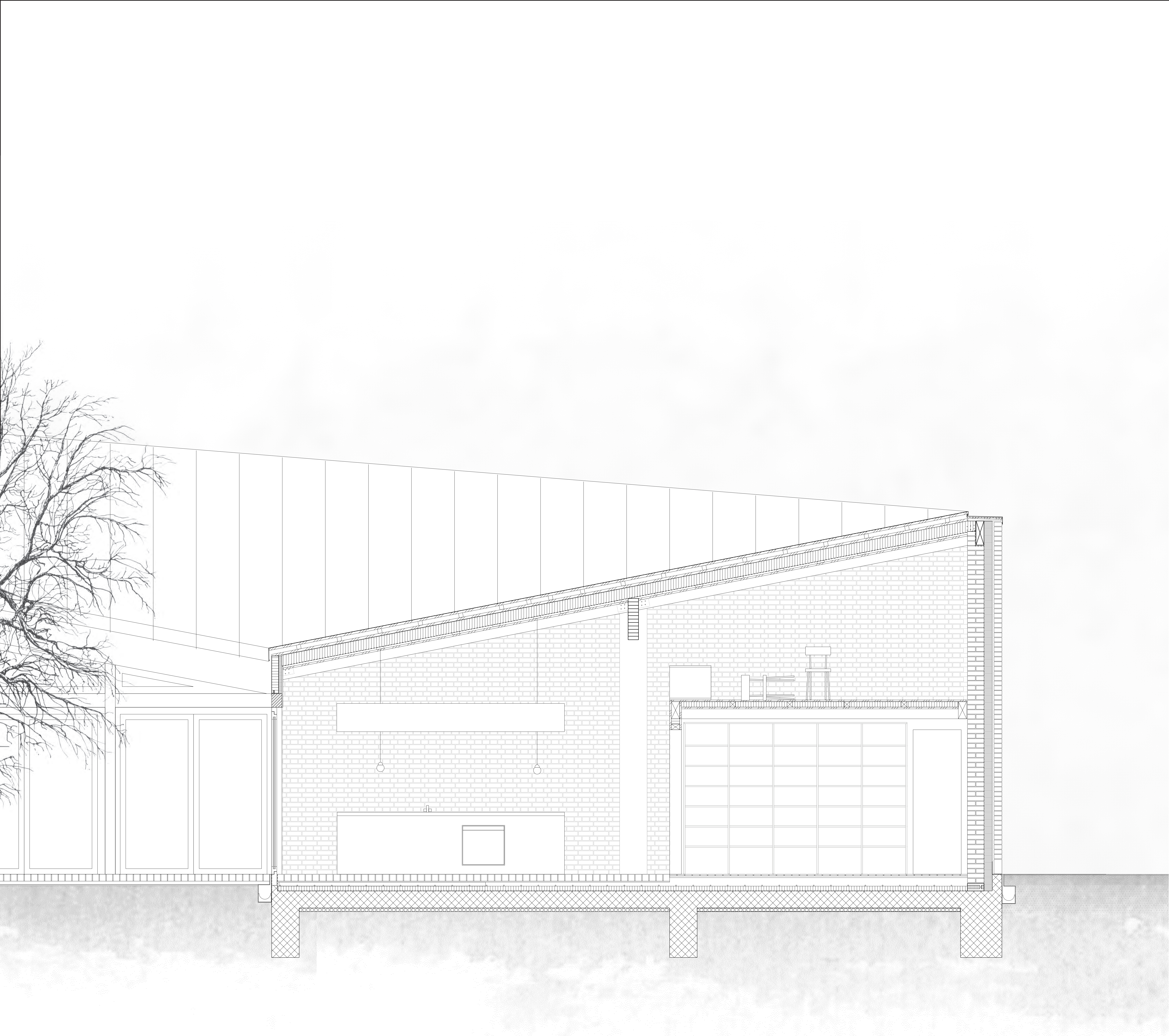
reference: insel hombroch, erwin heerich







section 1:20



dachaufbau:
zinkblech, in bahnen mit stehfalten
unterdach 30mm
unterdachfolie
latung 60mm
dachschalung 30mm
sekundärträger 300/100mm massivholz, dazwischen:
dämmung 160mm
dampfsperre
koncrelatung 30mm
innere verkleidung holzlatten weiss gestrichen 25mm

wandaufbau:
backsteinmauerwerk (waalklk) bs 210/100/60 mm
hinterlüftung 40mm
wärmedämmung 120mm
backsteinmauerwerk (waalklk) bs 210/100/65 mm

boden Aufbau innen:
pflastersteine 100mm
mörtelbett 15 mm
unterlagsboden mit bodenheizung 6mm
wärmedämmung wasserfest (foamglas) 80mm
fruchtigkeitsperre
betonbodenplatte 250mm

boden Aufbau hof:
pflastersteine 100mm
Splittbett 100mm
Schotter/Tragschicht 200mm
Erdreich

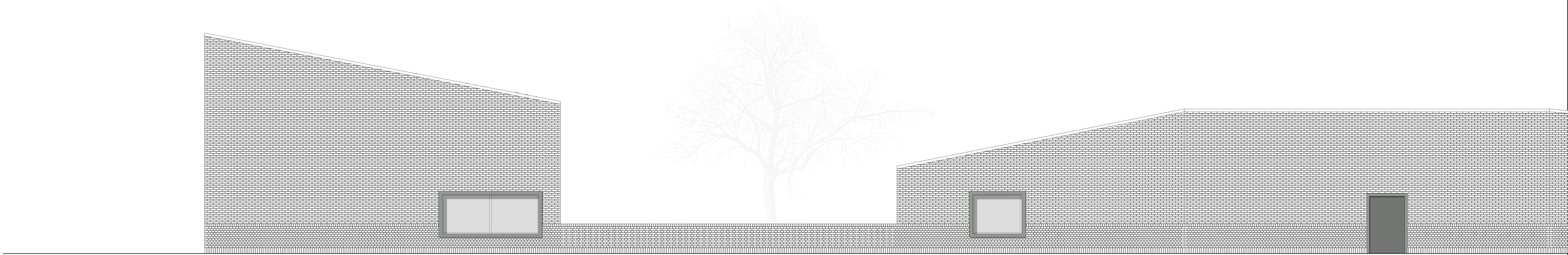
boden Aufbau platz:
asphalt 20mm
bituminöse tragschicht 150mm
Wandkies 400mm
Erdreich

Raum: Malus communis C.V 'Boskoop'

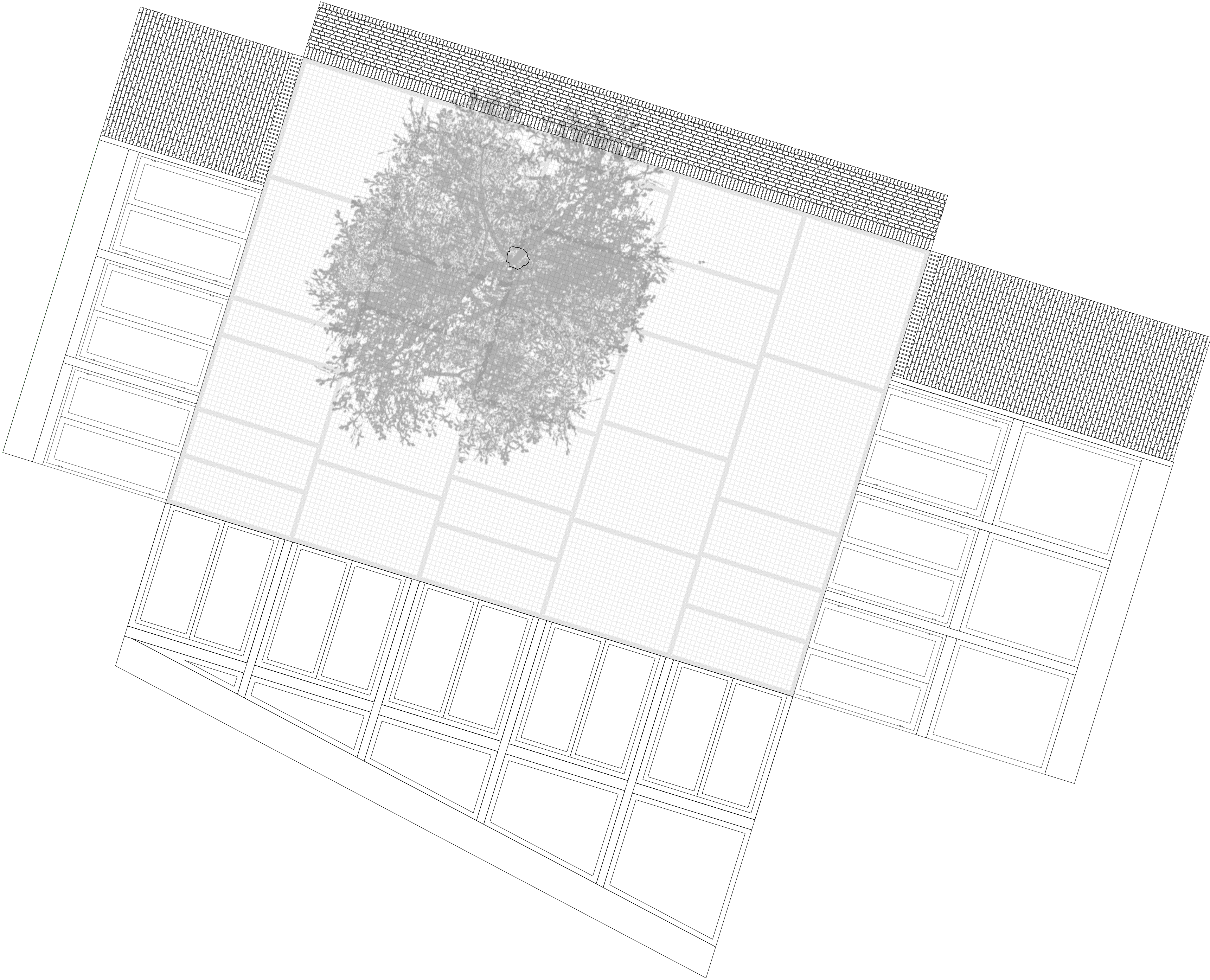




floorplan 1:50



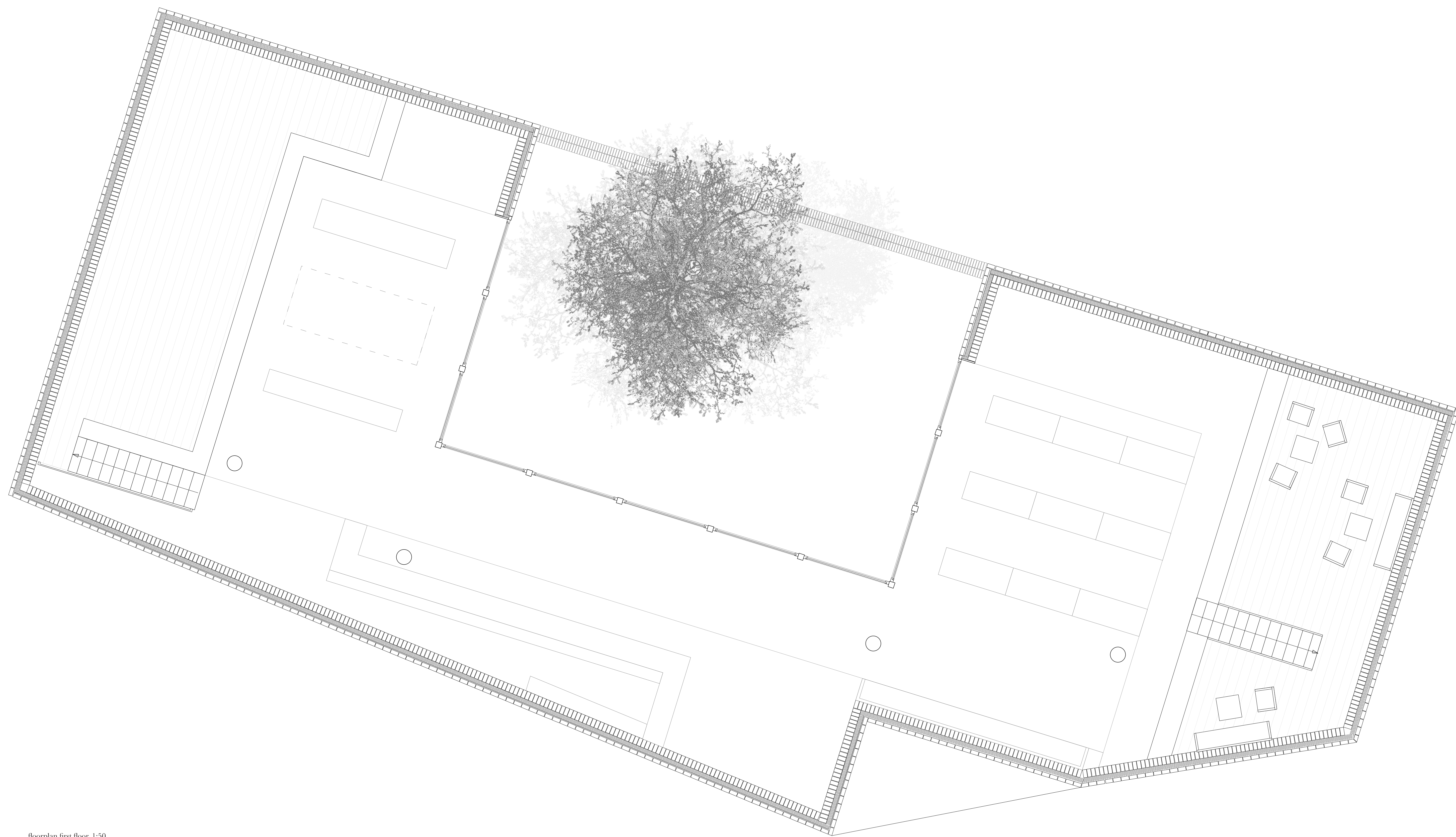
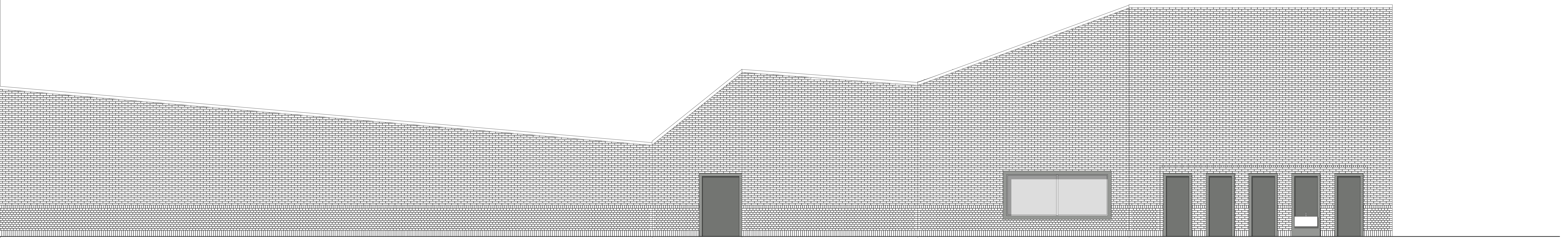
facades, counterclockwise, starting from north



courtyard plan



reference: peristyle



floorplan first floor, 1:50

