



'ELIE

Kaupunkia Kaupungin Ehdoilla

ydinkeskustaa.

erakennusten luomaa
a. Se seisoo harmonis-
en kohti tulevaisuutta.
rakennus kaupallisena
sydentää ympäristönsä
rakennuksiin käyttäen
isiiven sekä Postitalon
peana jotta se rinnastuu
veto tuo myös rakennuks-
jäsentää uuden Elielin-
us liittyy saumattomasti
välle kantakaupungille
nähaa vahvaa identiteettiä.
äilyptyt muistuma ratapi-

sanayhdistysten muiden tapaan kännyt ylläistävät ratapihakään ole luonteva liittää rakennushistoriallisesti maan aukiotiloja. Siihen ka entisestään liittää sen

Kaupunkimaisema: istutukset, kivitöitä ja miltisevää vinerkattoa. IV-konkuuoni

ominaispiirteitä ja
toimittiloja osana toimivaa

a mutta samalla per-
televa osa historiallista
etalon eri valo-olosuhteis-
alle kolmannen materiaa-
len.
oimitaloja kaupunki-
vintola- ja myymälätiloja.
ravintolatiloja. Raken-
toita sekä vertikaali

'ELI

Urban Com

The Helsinki Central Railway Station area is the centre for the city's public and commercial life and the most important hub and crossing point for its public transport. It is a point of entry and arrival into the city and it is here, where the central public spaces of the city meet. The station building by Eliel Saarinen is a symbol of the city and the interconnecting area of the "Helsinki Railway Square" is dedicated as a nationally important cultural landscape by the Finnish National Board of Antiquities. It is surrounded by some of Finland's foremost cultural and corporate institutions. The competition area covers a significant part of this area. Its redesign allows to shape and reorganize a key public area of the city as a safe, open and well-functioning public space that links and unifies all of the most important public spaces of the city centre from the hub of civic buildings, spaces and parks of the Töölönlahti area to the walkable streets of the city centre along Keskuskatu and Esplanadi, as well as towards Kaivaniemi.

Eliel Saarinen's station building actively creates open, public space around it with its three monumental facades and porticoes. The competition area consists of two different zones on the western side of the station: Elielinaukio and Asema-aukio, both with their own distinct characteristics and requirements. The new buildings should not block the axial views to the station's west-facing facade, but create and activate a better functioning public space, in which the station retains its

prominence
in literature.

in between the station and Postitalo is freed for redevelopment and a new building, while also allowing to shape it into a new pleasant and open urban space in a place where such didn't exist before. The volume of the new commercial building Eliel is placed here, along Töölönlahdenkatu. It creates a new hub for business and retail with a distinctly urban character in the very centre of the city while also creating and activating public space around it. It does not block the visual axes of the area but subtly improves the spaces around it. The plan for the Asema-aukio creates a well-functioning central square and transport hub in the middle of the walkable city centre and at the most important crossroad of its public transport. This new square forms a dignified and well-functioning point of entry and transit in the centre of the city.

New Public

This plan does not diminish public space within the competition area, but makes more of it – it better organizes the existing spaces, and creates new, pleasant, safe and well-functioning space. It leaves open the western front of the station building creating a new and better Elielinakio and it improves the Asema-aukio as a hub for public transport giving it a distinct character as a central open space of the city. Moving away cars and busses allows a redesign that creates more and better functioning space for people on the city’s busiest spot. The south-north bicycle route introduces a new, important cross-traffic axis an important entrypoint to the area. The plan shapes the whole area into a more walkable and bicycle friendly environment that also forms a seamless and effortless link and continuation from the walkable areas of the centre from Esplanadi-Keskuskatu to Kansalaistori and Töölönlahti area.

A photograph of a modern urban street scene at dusk or night. On the left, a large, multi-story building with a glass facade and a grid-like pattern is brightly lit from within, showing various rooms and levels. In the foreground, a person wearing a dark jacket and carrying a bag walks away from the camera, holding a dark umbrella. The ground is paved with light-colored stones, and there are some small trees and greenery along the sidewalk. In the background, other buildings are visible under a clear blue sky, and a tall antenna tower stands on the right side. The overall atmosphere is calm and contemporary.

Technical Solutions and Sustainability

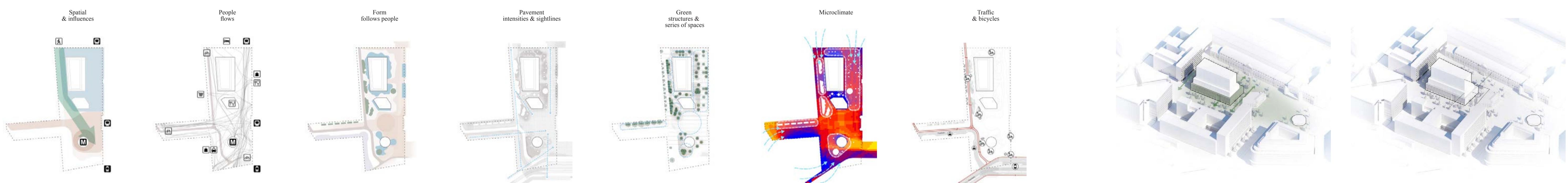
The building's massive timber structure together with its technical, spatial and functional solutions support a long and flexible life cycle and offer a low-carbon solution that follows the principles of circular economy. Its simple structure is based on massive elements left visible: CLT-intermediate floor structure, pillars and beams. The scale of the construction system allows a flexibility in the long run in retail, office or hotel use. The building has a long life span. It is easily serviced and renovated and nearly all of its materials are natural and renewable. The roof of the building will feature solar panels and a green roof to diminish the urban heat island effect. AC and other techni-

Rooms for parties and a green room to accommodate the social and supporting spaces are placed in the basement.

Urban Landscape: Plantings, Pavements, Lighting

The series of open spaces will be interconnected with delicate variations of the pavements. Their tones reflect the colours and materials of the existing pavements and surrounding buildings, as well as the natural colours of typical Helsinki bedrock. Pedestrian streams and their variating intensities in different areas guide the treatment and scale of the paving stones that as a whole form a variable and lively overall appearance. Trees are planted to highlight and underline hierarchies between the different urban spaces and also to introduce a second scale and horizontal balance in the urban space dominated by large squares and high buildings. Plantings create a green urban space that supports the distinctions and features of the existing buildings and subtly separate the new Asema-aukio from the busy Kaivokatu traffic area. As a whole, the pavements, plantings and

On ground level, aligned with the central entrance of the Railway station's west wing, is a street-like open passage with retail space and connection to the belowground spaces of the city centre and the metro. The passage acts as a continuation of the public space outside, and reflects the dignified architecture of entryways typical to the old buildings of central Helsinki. Other retail spaces are accessed directly from the street. The retail spaces are distinctly urban reflecting the spirit of ban passages, shopping streets and markets. On top of the lower part of the building there is a terrace opening towards the new Elielinaukio. The old magazine building can in the future act as



There are three important influencers that affect the spatial division.

1. The station entrances area
2. The new building area of Eelit square
3. The recreational connection from north with the direction towards the Esplanadi Asema-aukio creates a well-functioning central square and transport hub in the middle of the city centre and an important crossroad of its public transport. As the current bus traffic moves away from Etelälinnaukio, the zone in between the station and Postitalo is freed for redevelopment and a new building, while also helping to shape it into a pleasant and open urban space in a place where such didn't exist before.

The directions and amounts of people passing the area create a strong starting point for the development. Moving away cars and buses allows a redesign that creates more and better functioning space for people on the city's busiest spot. This plan does not diminish public space within the competition area, but makes more of it available for the users and creates new, pleasant, safe and well-functioning space. It leaves open the western front of the station building creating a new and better Etelälinnaukio and it improves the Asema-aukio as a hub for public transport giving it a distinct character as a central open space of the city.

The south-north bicycle route introduces a new, important cross-traffic axis an important entrypoint to the area.

The shapes and functions of the new square areas adapt to the demands of the physical surroundings and the logic of the people flow. Areas for metro and serving are connected to the functions of the faades whereas the busiest areas are kept more open. This plan does not diminish public space within the competition area, but makes more of it available for the users and creates new, pleasant, safe and well-functioning space. It leaves open the western front of the station building creating a new and better Etelälinnaukio and it improves the Asema-aukio as a hub for public transport giving it a distinct character as a central open space of the city. The most important sightlines are kept open, which is through the spatial division and junctions also reflected on the pavement pattern.

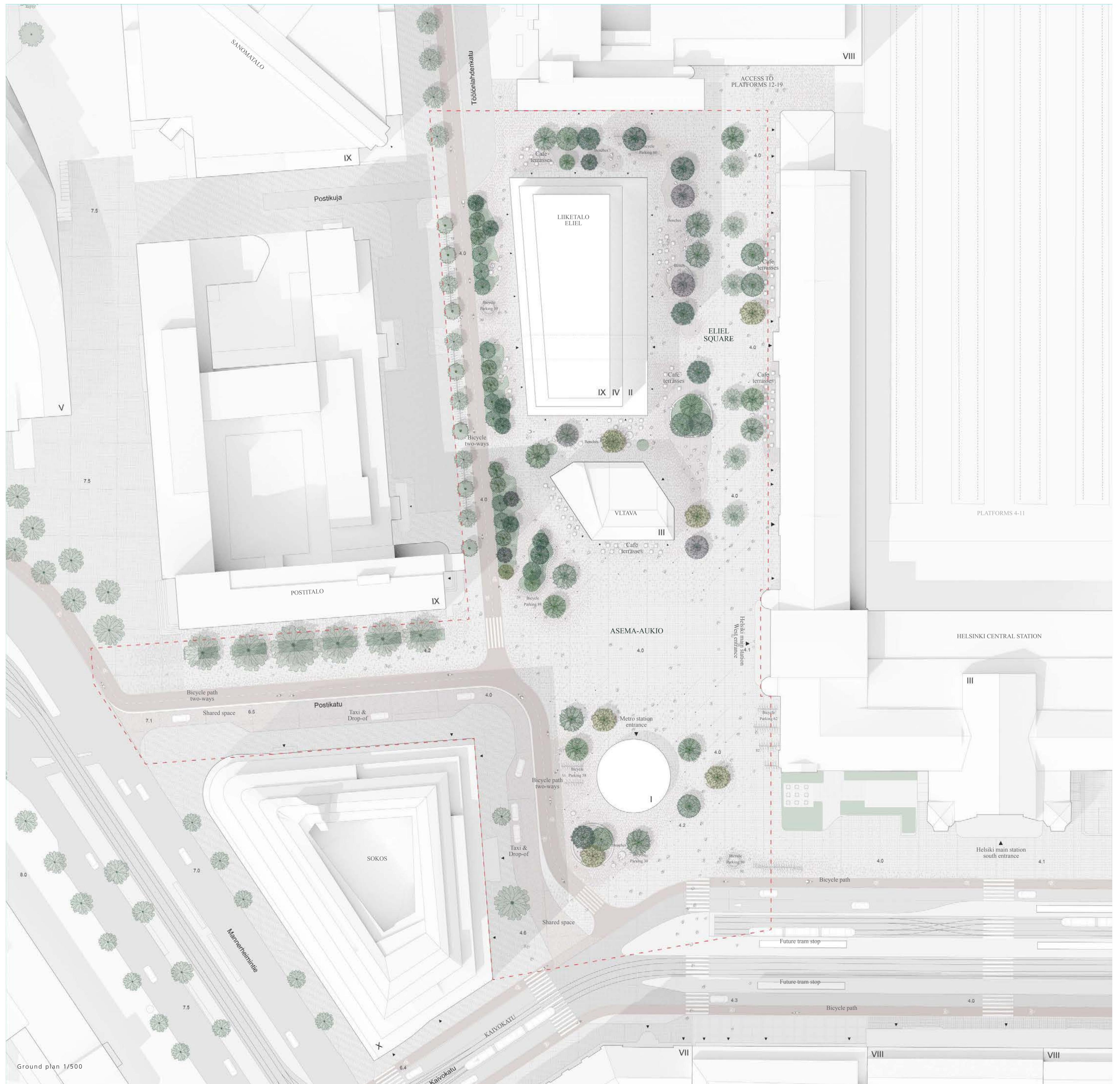
The square area has the possibility to become a place of significance. Not only a space of passage and transition but also an attractive place to meet and relax. To achieve this future the new square is designed to be a continuation of the existing and new functions and to one larger open space. To the western side, the vegetation acts as a buffer along the bicycle lane. On the eastern side, it is used to guide the flow of commercial creating urban rooms, terraces and sheltered zones.

The planting principle strengthens the identity of the various areas within the site, creating a series of spaces in the overall square space. The central deck Asema-aukio is framed by tree rows, existing and new trees, leading to one larger open space. To the western side, the vegetation acts as a buffer along the bicycle lane. On the eastern side, it is used to guide the flow of commercial creating urban rooms, terraces and sheltered zones.

The proposal unfolds simple adaptations to the existing climate conditions while limiting negative impacts. Locally improving comfort helped for example by tree planting areas for winter sun and intersections with other areas with high buildings and the open street spaces. Or fewer planting on the east, oriented southward to benefit the most during sunny hours. Also benefiting from the seasonal change of plant life for letting more natural light in winter while offering gentle shade during summer months. Car and bicycle traffic is limited to the western side, mostly the south-west corner; the most shaded area. While the pedestrian space is to the south. The new building, thanks to its stepped volume only have a small impact on the adjacent public space.

A clear crossing bicycle path is introduced and separated by pavement change from pedestrian areas and car traffic. The bicycle path is a two-way path, in order to reduce the number of intersections with other areas with well-defined zone for pedestrian crossing. 500 bicycle parking are established on site (200 required for the new building) located in protected locations and integrated drop off locations. The Pihlajatie-Asema-aukio road is converted in a shared space street for taxi and deliveries, re-using the existing cobble stones with integrated drop off zones.

In the context of the public and monumental spaces of the Railway station area, the new commercial building does not aim to make a monumental or symbolic gesture, but complements and accentuates the characteristics of its surroundings with its material choices – granite, glass, copper – as well as its roof heights and their alignments on the levels of Postitalo and the station's west wing. The highest part of the building has been kept narrow, so that it forms a pair for the gable of Postitalo.



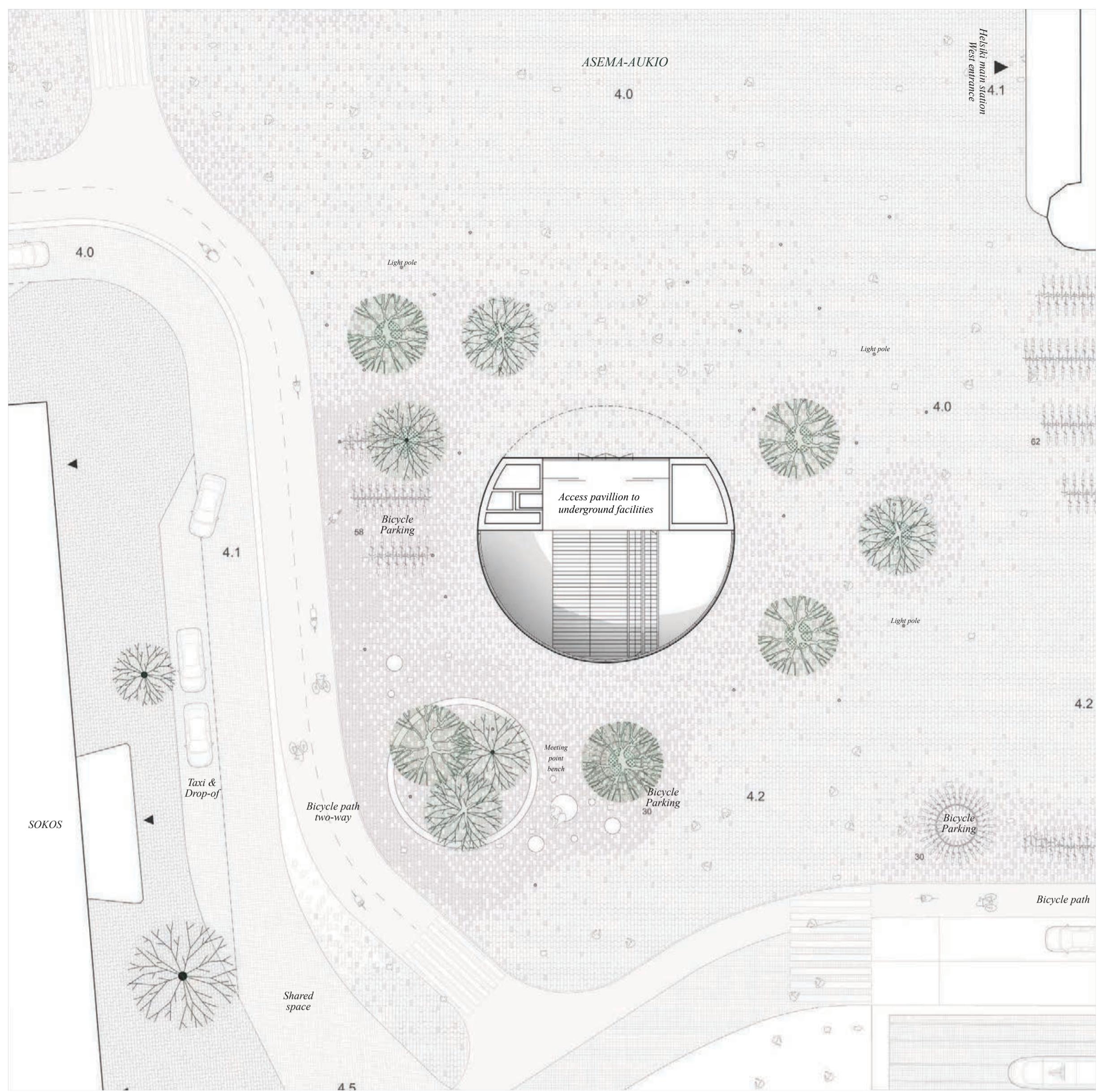
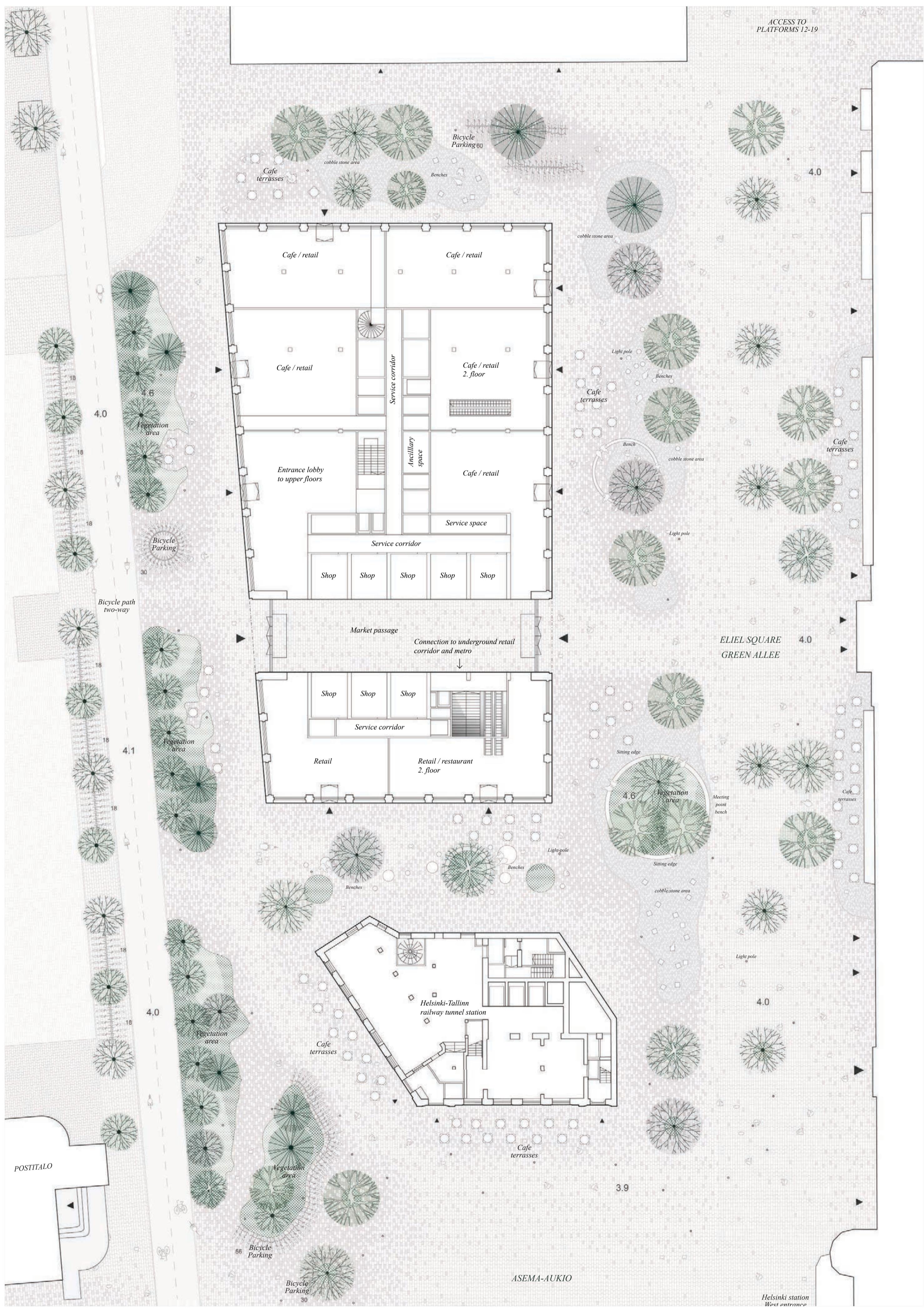
The pavement principle ensures a harmonious integration of the square areas with the surrounding. Variations in size, texture and density of the else homogeneous granite stones mark out in elegant ornamentation principle pedestrian flow areas and more calm stay areas. Along with the free-standing trees, simple furniture in robust materials is placed out as an integrated part of the square areas.



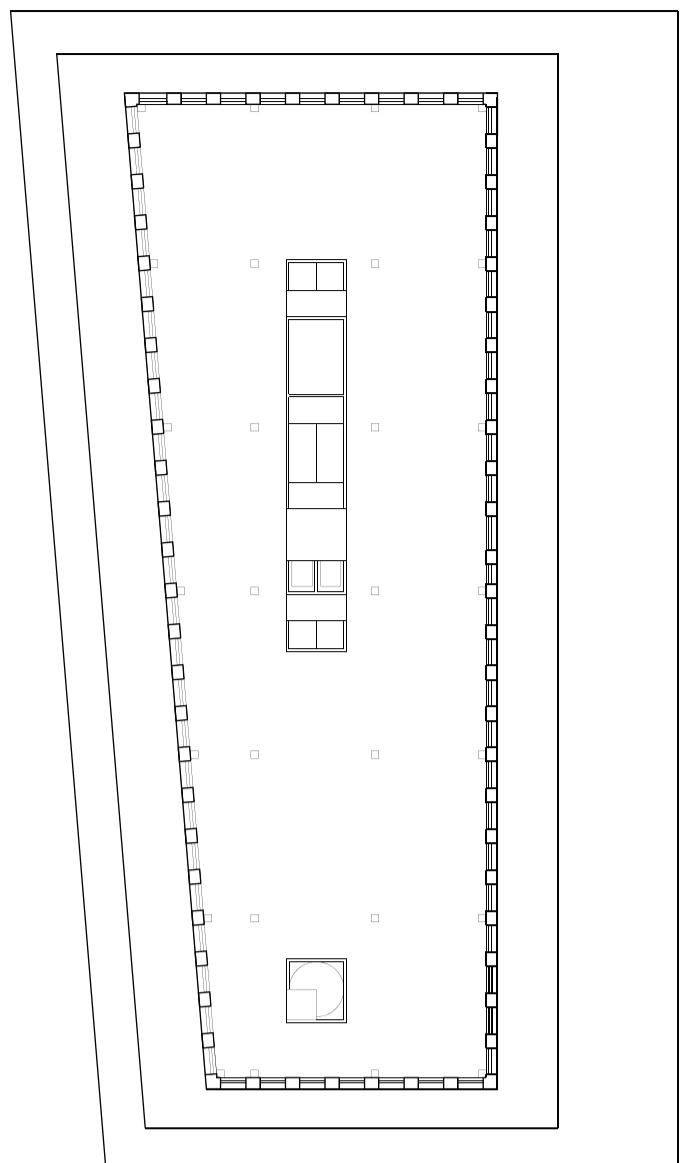
Viewpoint 3

The volume of the new commercial building Eliel is placed here, along Töölönkatu. It creates a new hub for business and retail with a distinctly urban character in the very centre of the city while also creating and activating public space around it. It does not block the visual axes of the area but subtly improves the spaces around it.

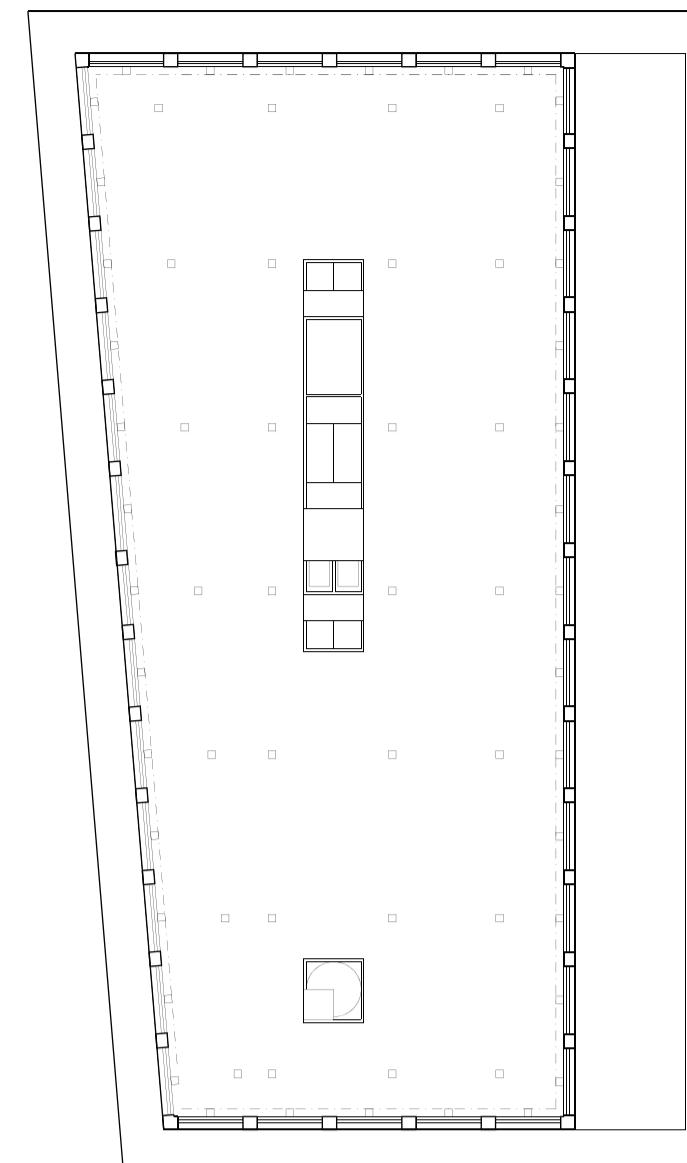




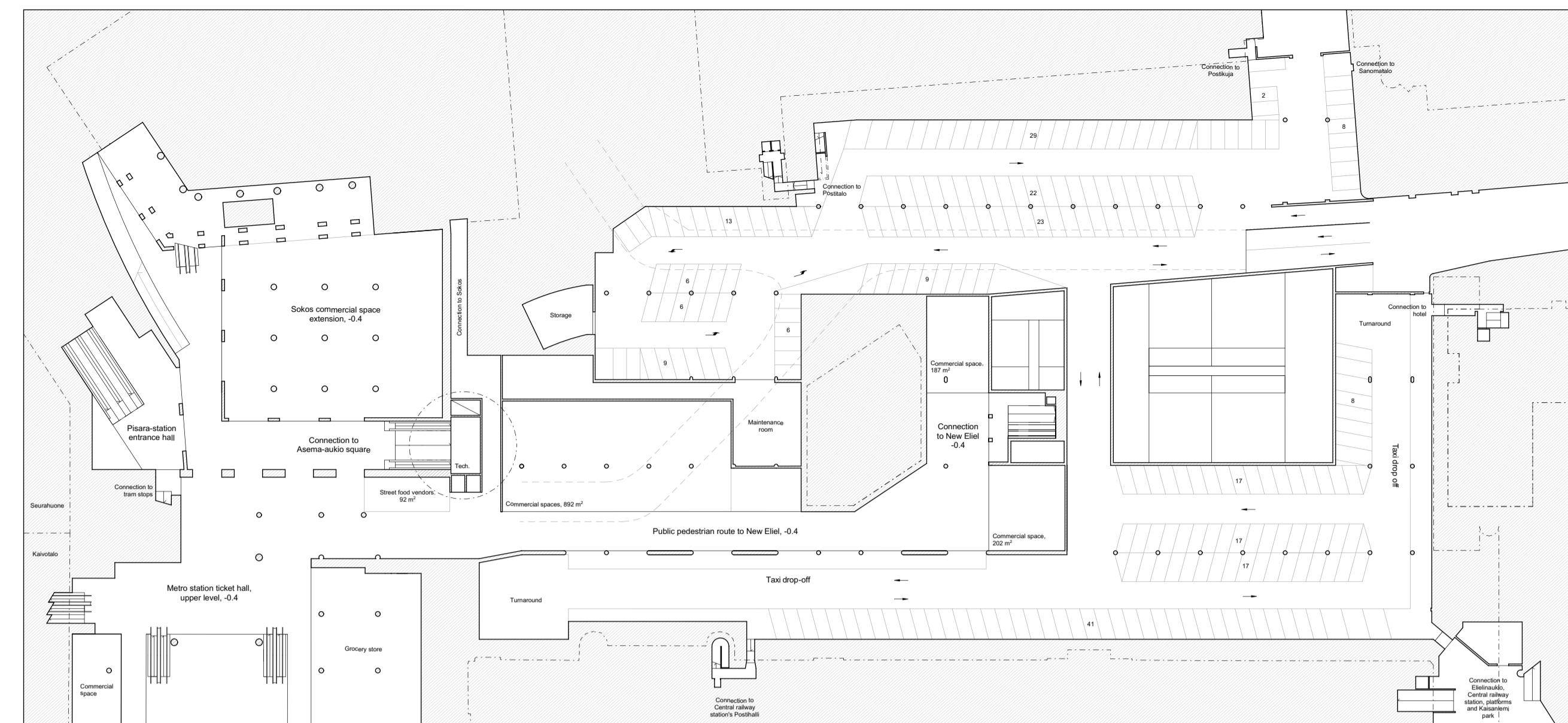
Viewpoint 2



Floor plan 5-9 1/400



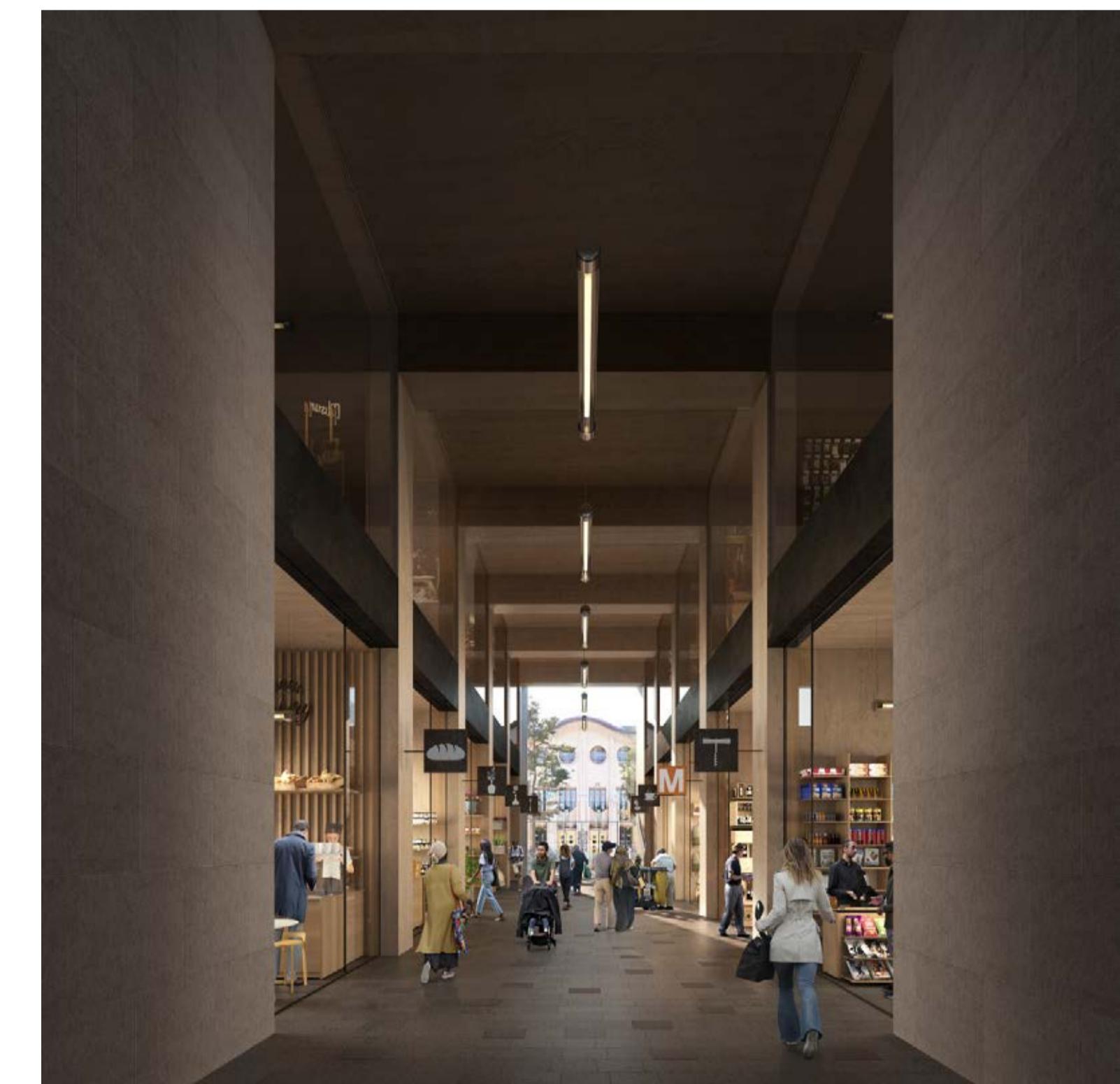
Floor plan 3-4 1/400



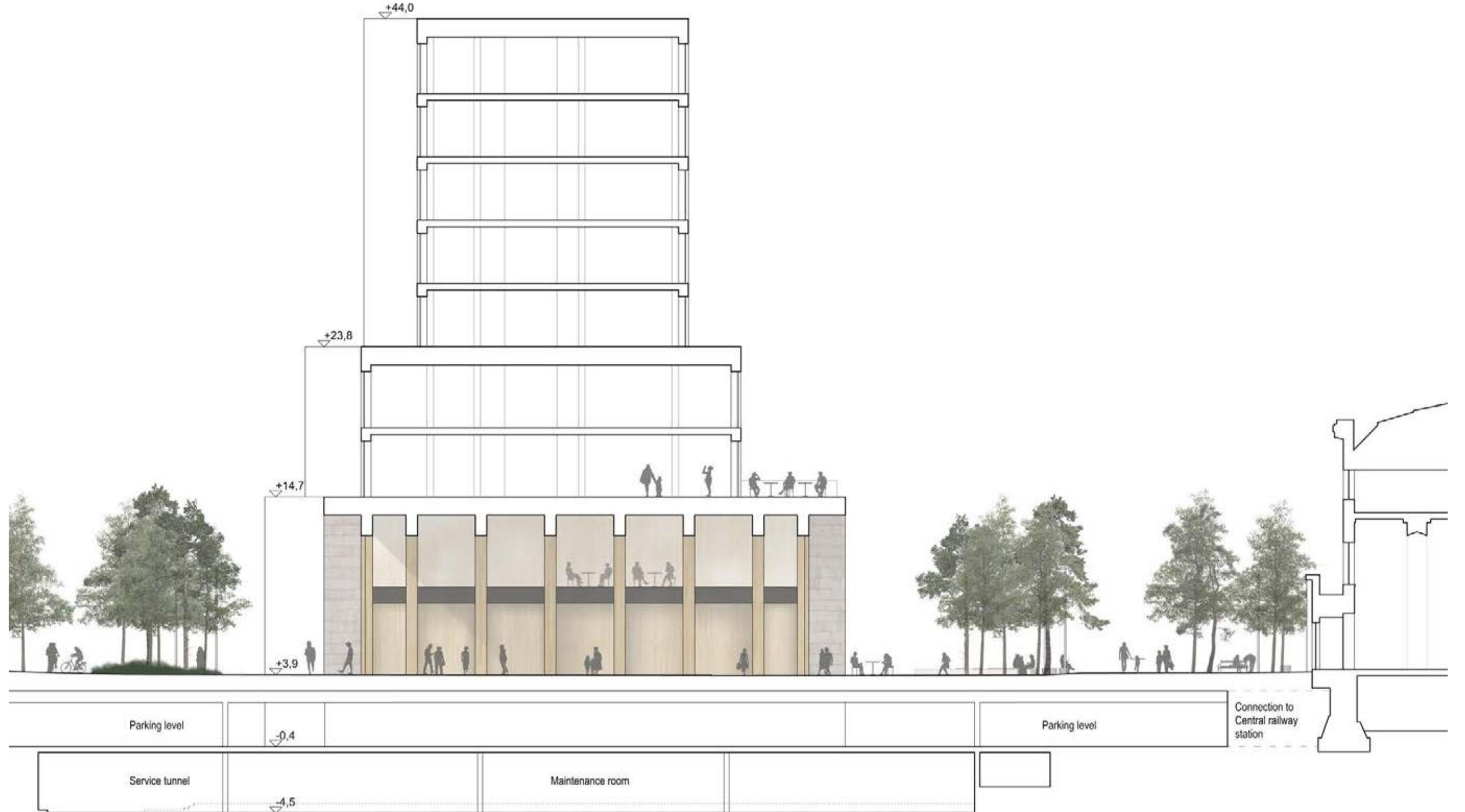
Basement plan 1/800



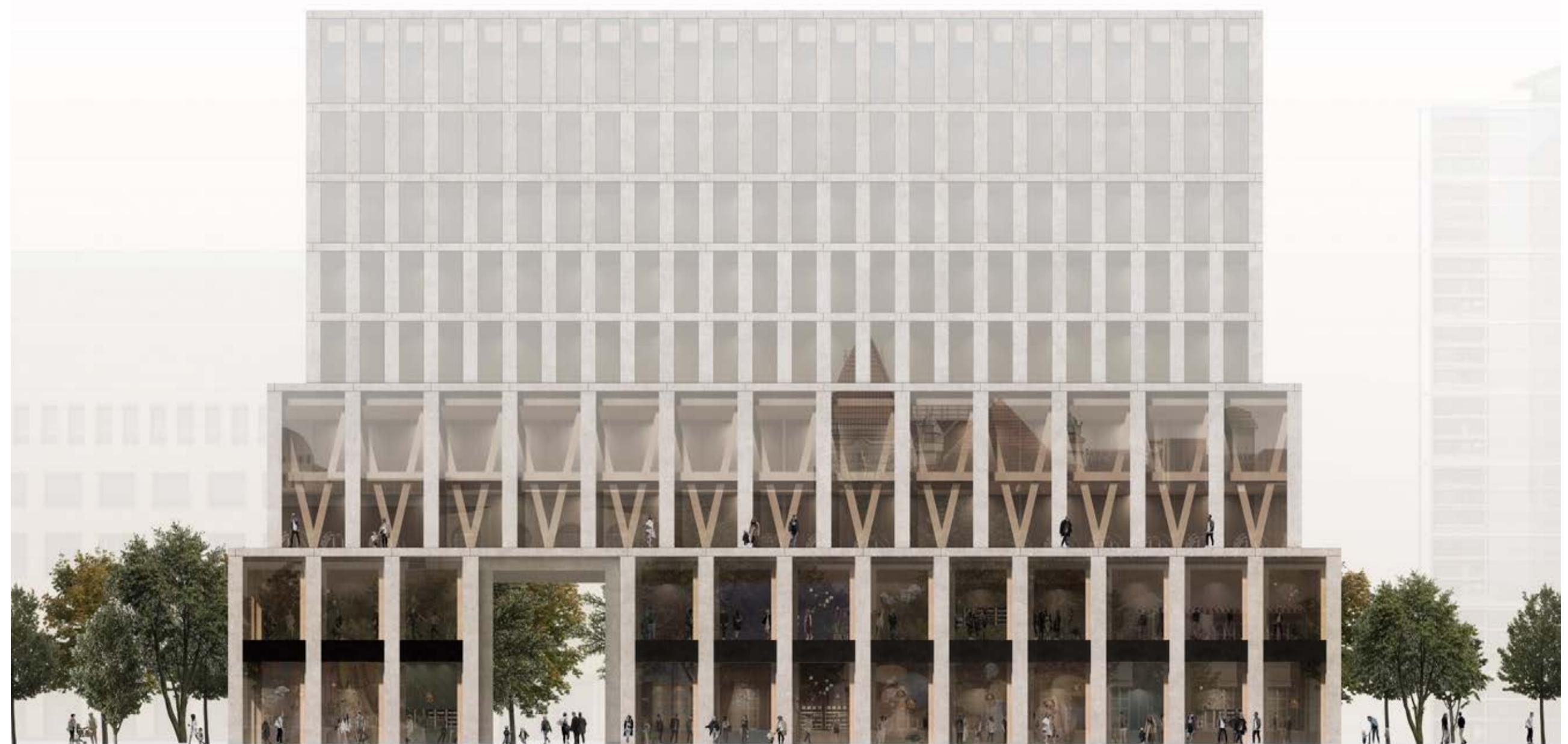
Viewpoint 1



Elevation to the east 1/500



Section A-A 1/250



Elevation to the west 1/250



Elevation to the north 1/500

