



The design proposed for Amsterdam is a multi-purpose building that combines a café, a bookstore and a music store. The building is aimed at promoting Dutch culture to tourists as well as residents. It consists of three major levels: a record store in the basement, a café on the ground floor, and a bookshop in the first floor.

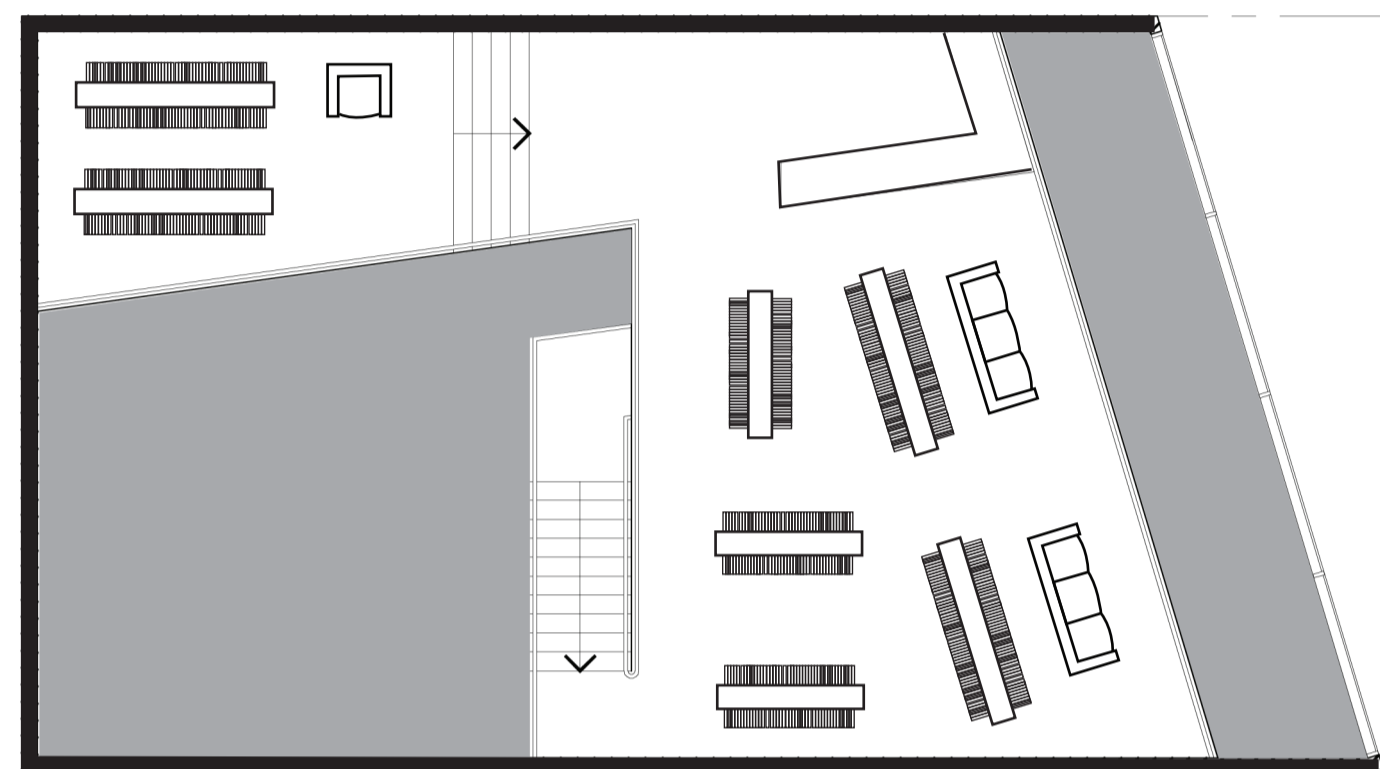
The main aim was to create a series of different spaces where visitors can experience the building and relax. The concept of café/bookshop encourages the user to have a coffee as well as read a book, or listen to a record.

The building consists of three 'phases': an outdoor area where visitors can enjoy the waterfront view, an indoor café space, and a relaxing reading area located on the rear semi-level.

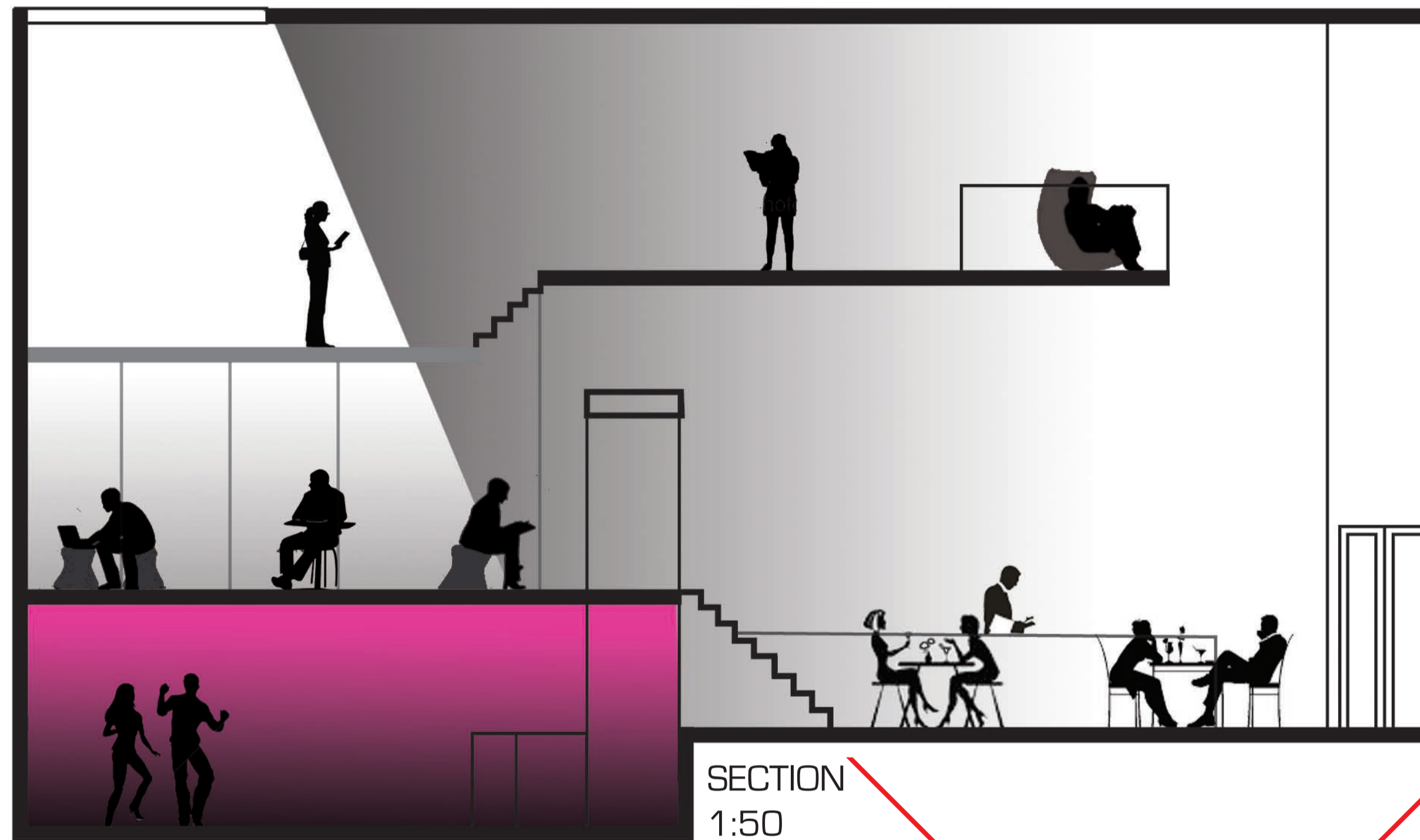
Designing in Amsterdam presents two major problems, providing natural light and ventilation indoors and creating efficient distinctions between spaces in such narrow sites. The building proposed uses a series of half-levels or mezzanines to layer the coexisting parts of the design. I aimed at hinting the difference within spaces without the use of walls or other solid elements. This gives the interior a more spacious feeling. In order to provide natural light to the reading and upper floor areas, a skylight was included at the back of the building.

The exterior of the building is designed to clash with the existing street line, such as the receding steel and glass façade. However, the interior is more indicative of its context, as it consists of exposed brick walls and timber detailing.

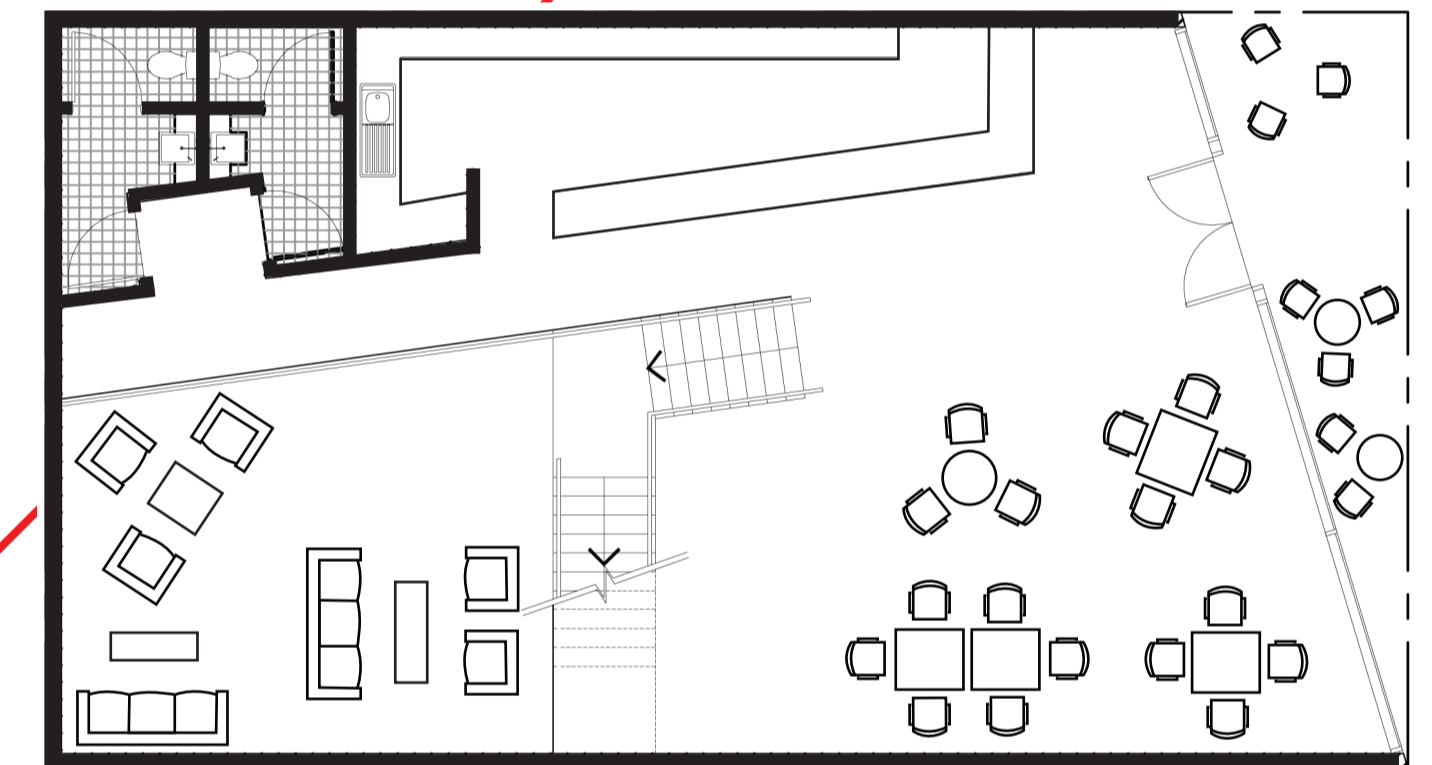
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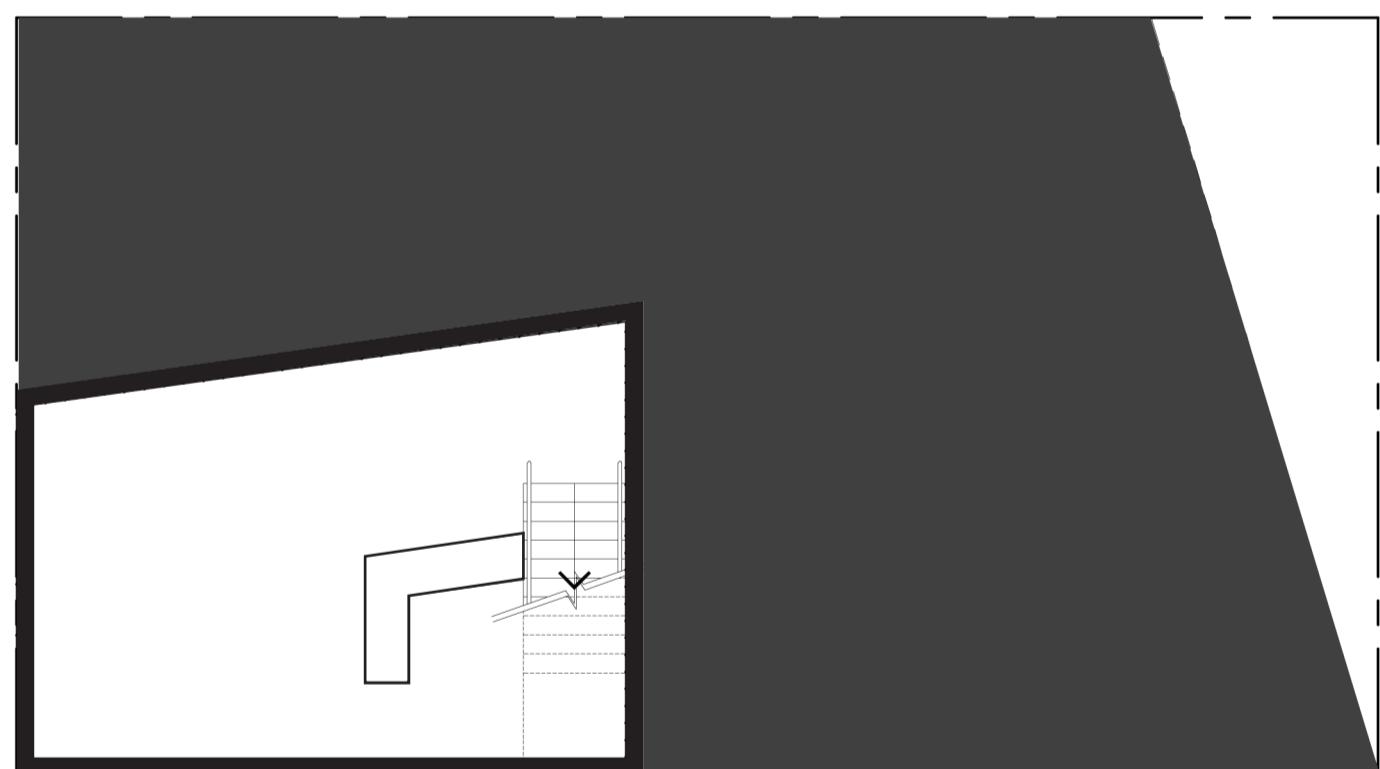
FIRST FLOOR PLAN
1:100



SECTION
1:50



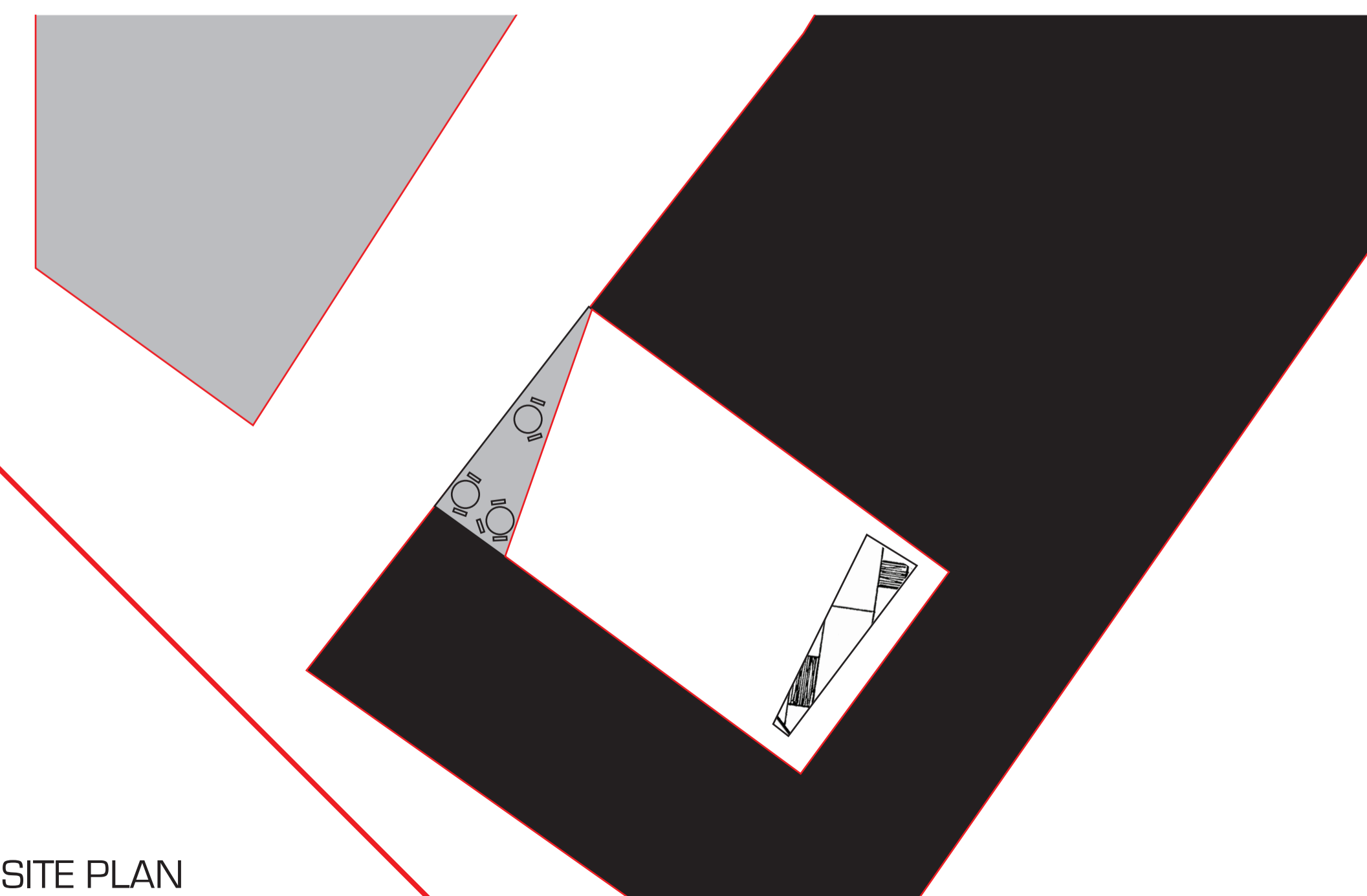
GROUND FLOOR PLAN
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BASEMENT FLOOR PLAN
1:100



SITE ELEVATION
1:100



SITE PLAN
1:200