

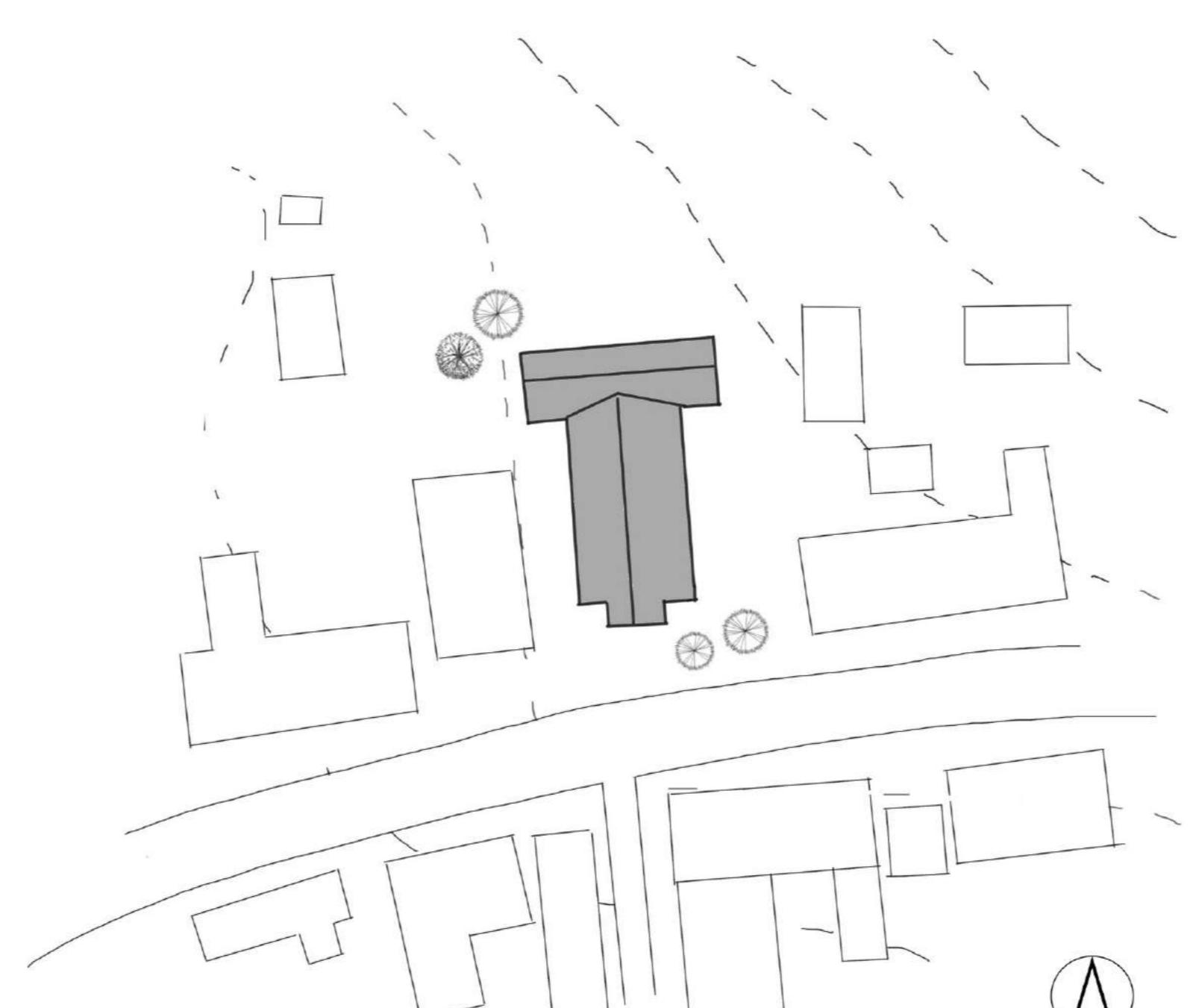


READING BETWEEN THE LINES

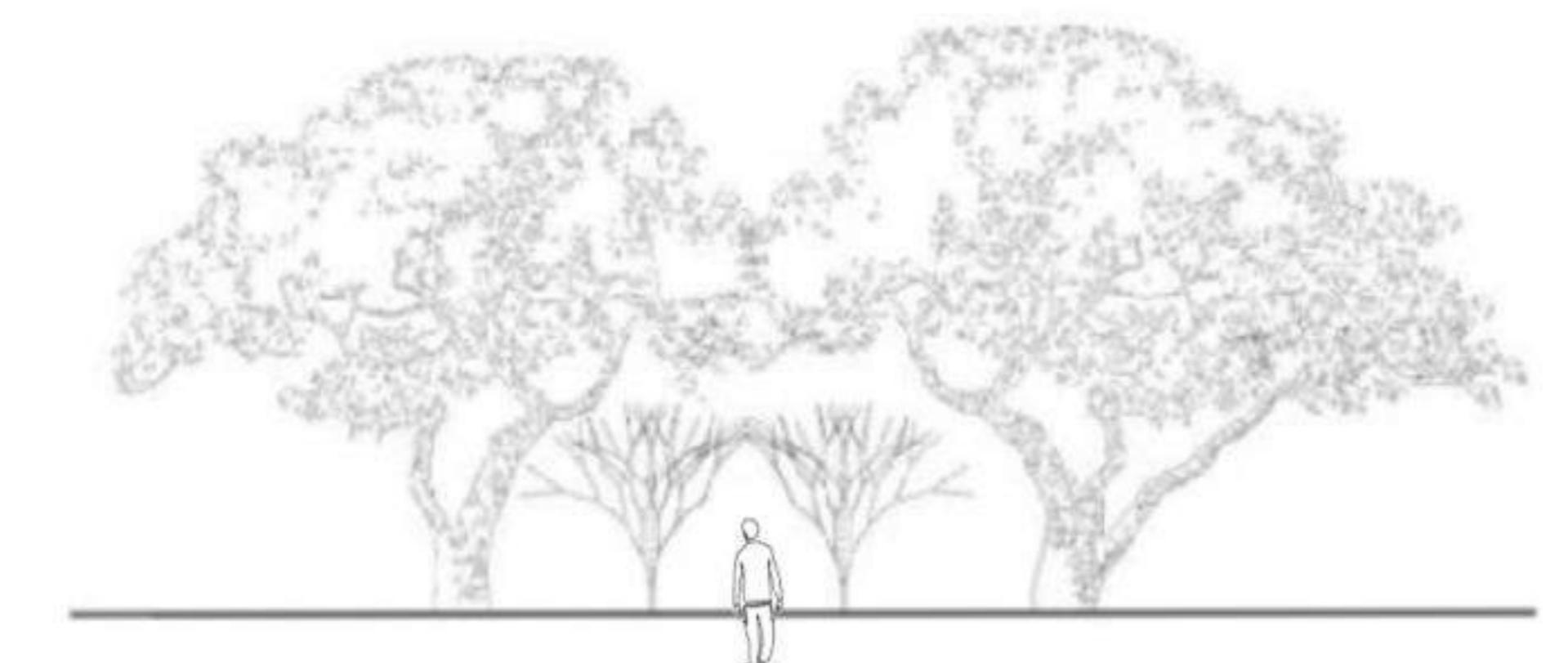
The concept for the design relates to my own personal experiences and preferences to stimulating contemplation and mindfulness. The idea was derived from something I personally turn to when in need of respite- nature. A place I particularly enjoy going to in times of stress is my nearby forest.. The effects of nature on the human mind cannot be undermined with more than two-thirds of people choose a natural setting to retreat to when stressed (Healing Gardens, 1999, p.36).

In effect, the end goal for this architectural space was to induce a similar mental space one has when taking a walk through the woods: one that is a total togetherness of architecture, the body, and the mind. I wished to ultimately promote and inspire quiet reflection and provide users with refuge from the intensity of day-to-day ongoings.

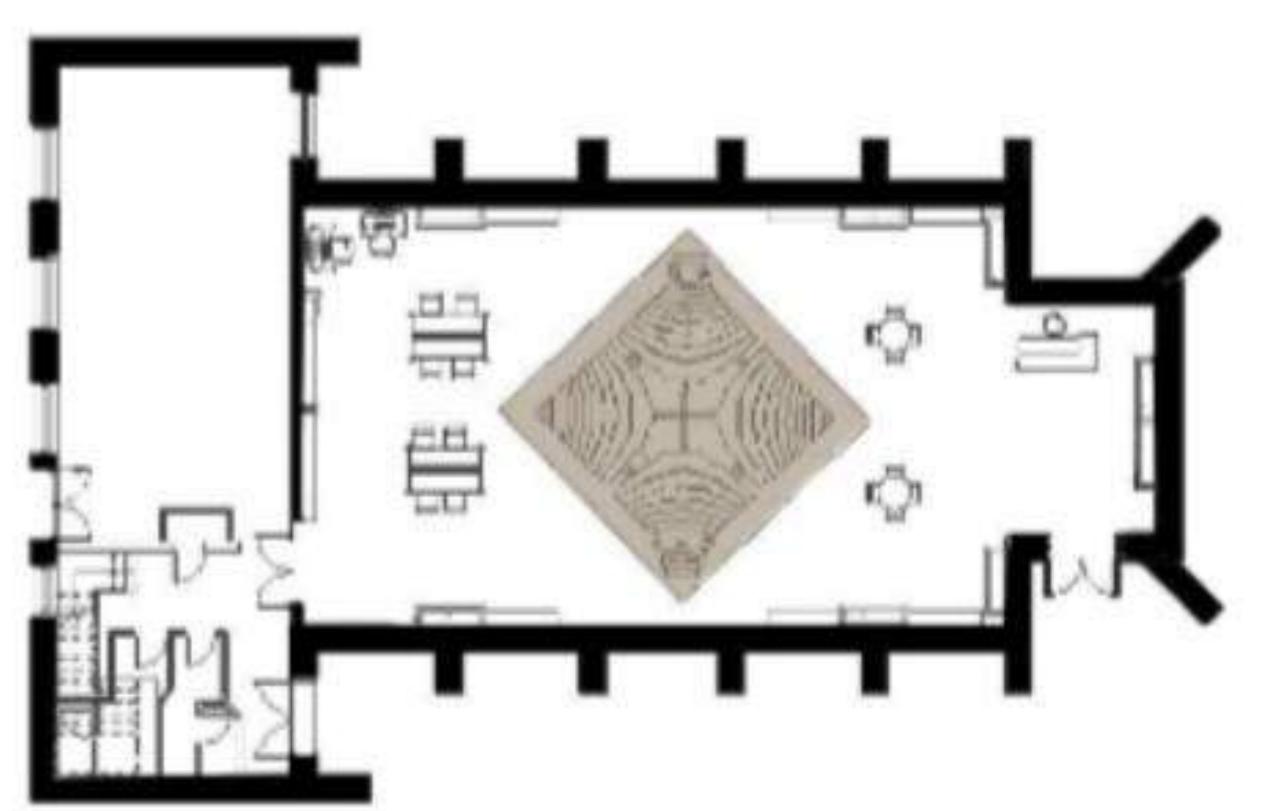
The created singular, intimate reading room wraps the reader in, inviting them to get lost in wonderful stories. Its organic structure (derived from gothic architectural forms), appears to be a natural extension of the libraries wooden floor. The dynamic space is composed of a series of layered wooden planes stacked upon each other. The use of natural materials was important to evoke a sense of memory and place. The oak is not only visually appealing to the user, but provides a tactile experience with a familiar fragrance. It ultimately creates a warm and calming atmosphere for the user.



SITE PLAN



CONCEPT



GROUND FLOOR PLAN 1:200



ELEVATIONS 1:100





“Allow Nature's Peace to Flow into you
as Sunshine Flows into Trees”

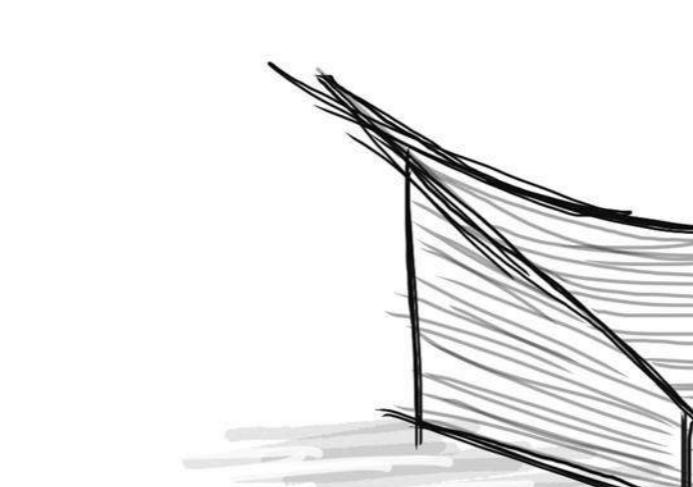
— John Muir



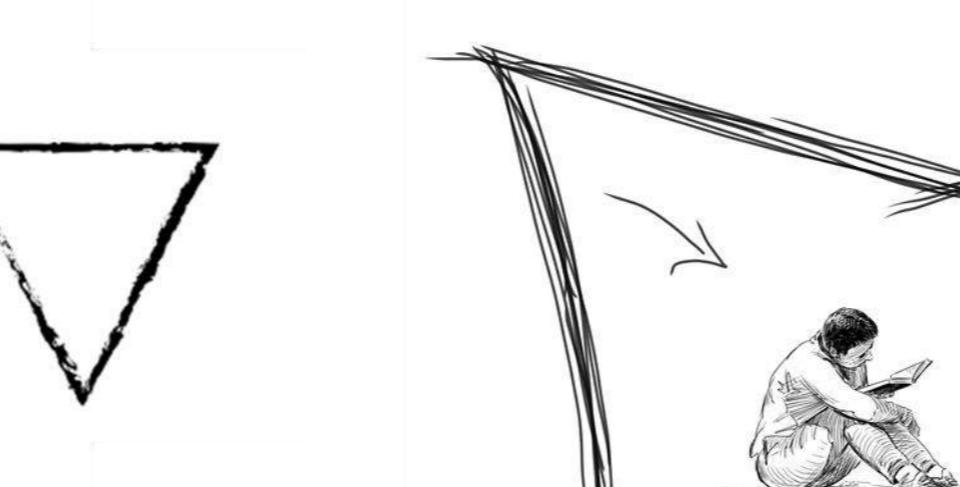
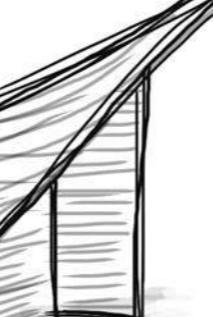


Through my analysis of the space, one characteristic I found necessary to preserve was the controlled use of light, both man made and natural, from the previous function of the building as a Methodist church. The use of candles in Methodist ceremonies inspired me to look at my design as a metaphorical candle enlightening the space and healing the user. The design casts a series of shadows, dependent on the suns position, almost telling a story of their own.

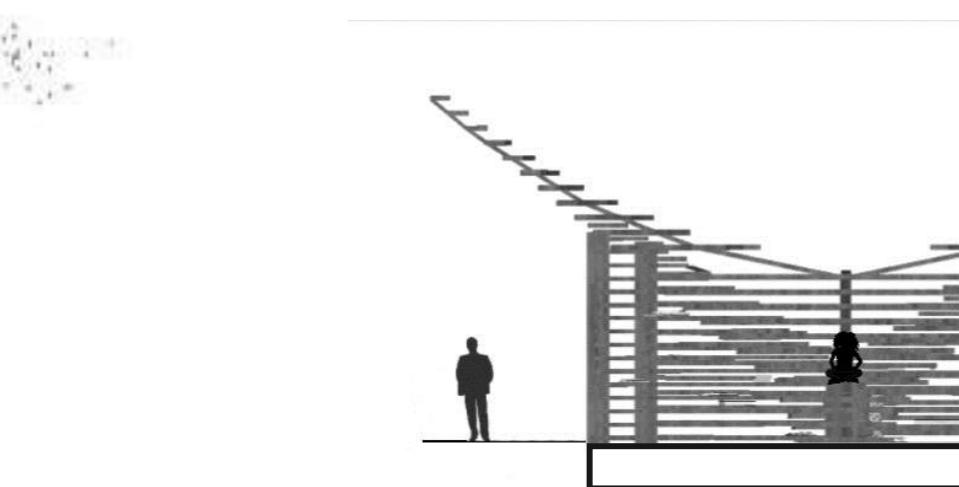
Natural light beaming in between wooden slats heightens the user's sensory experience acoustically, tactually, and visually. It recreates the feeling of being in the forest at dawn, with the sun shining through the trees.



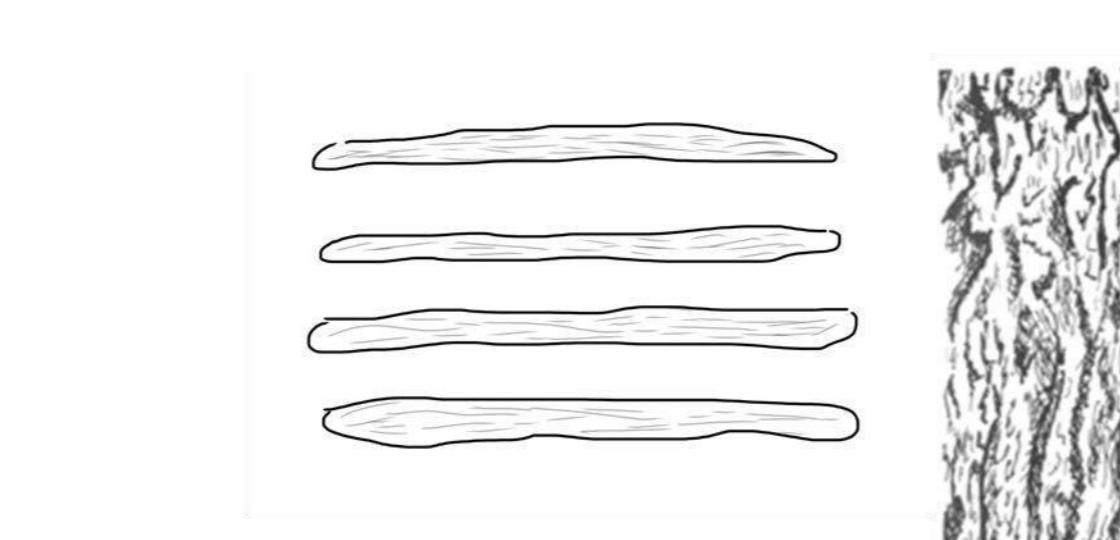
Form- geometrical form



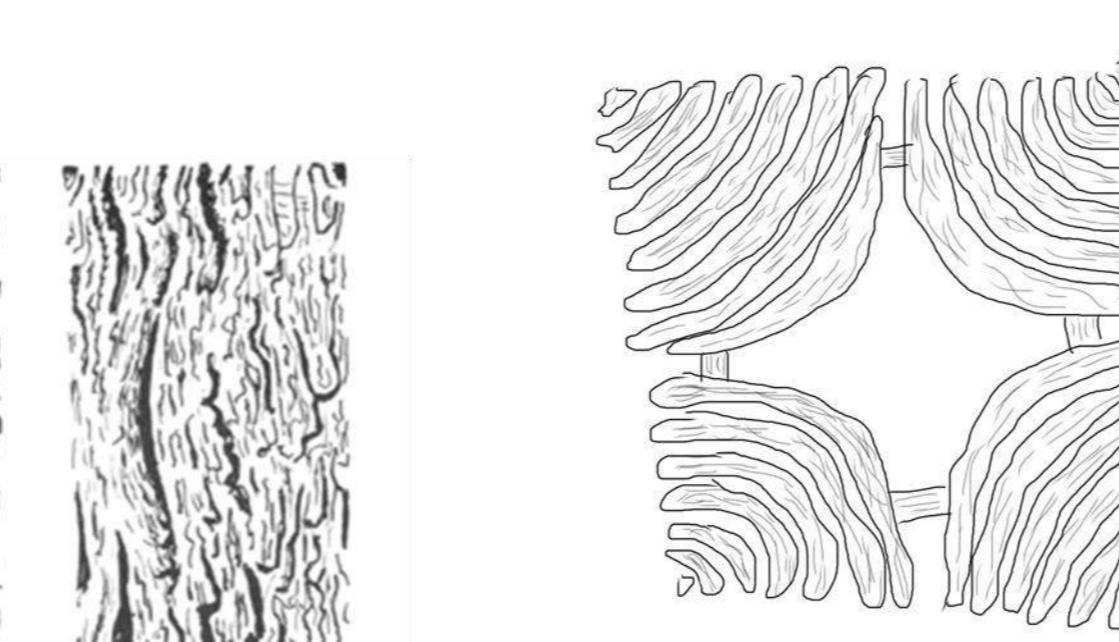
Scale- small, enclosed space.



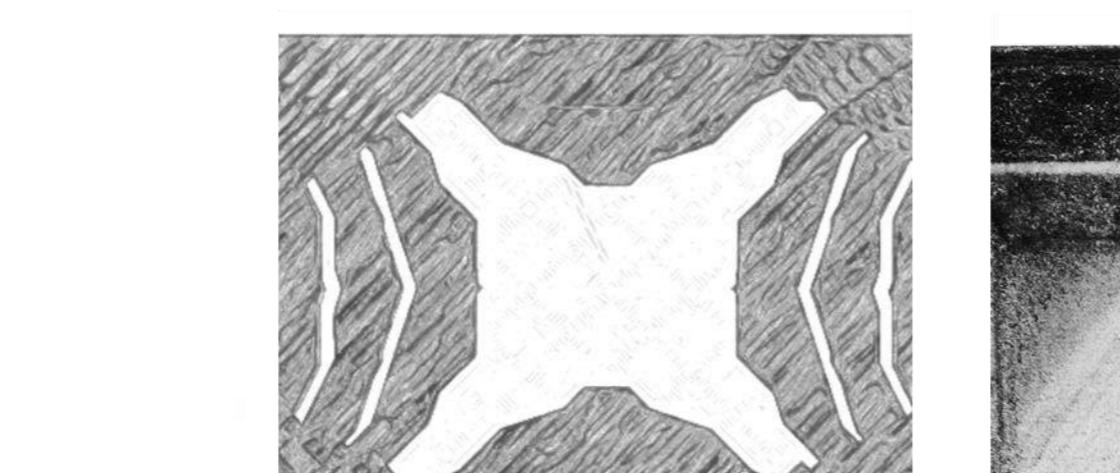
Nestled- to create a sense of enclosure.



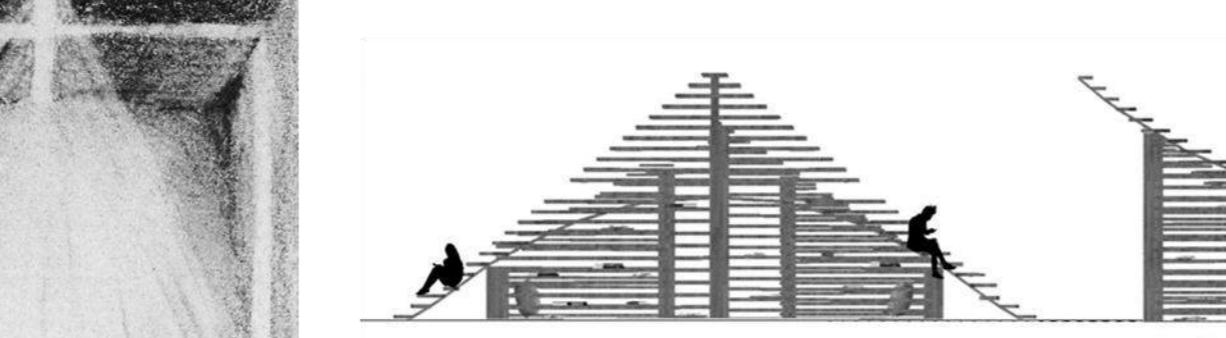
Material- wooden slats



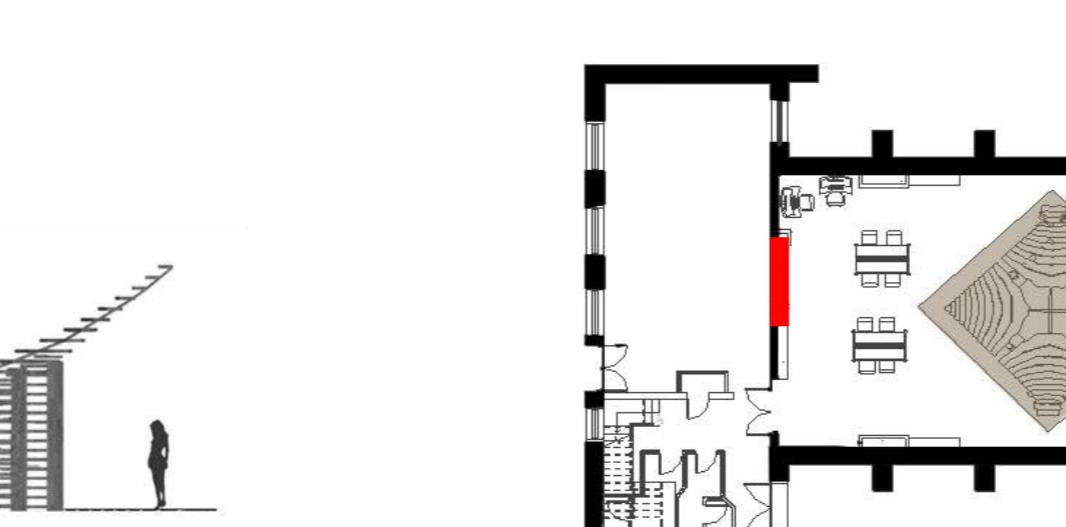
Roof outline- similar to tree rings



Ceiling Void- the form of a cross



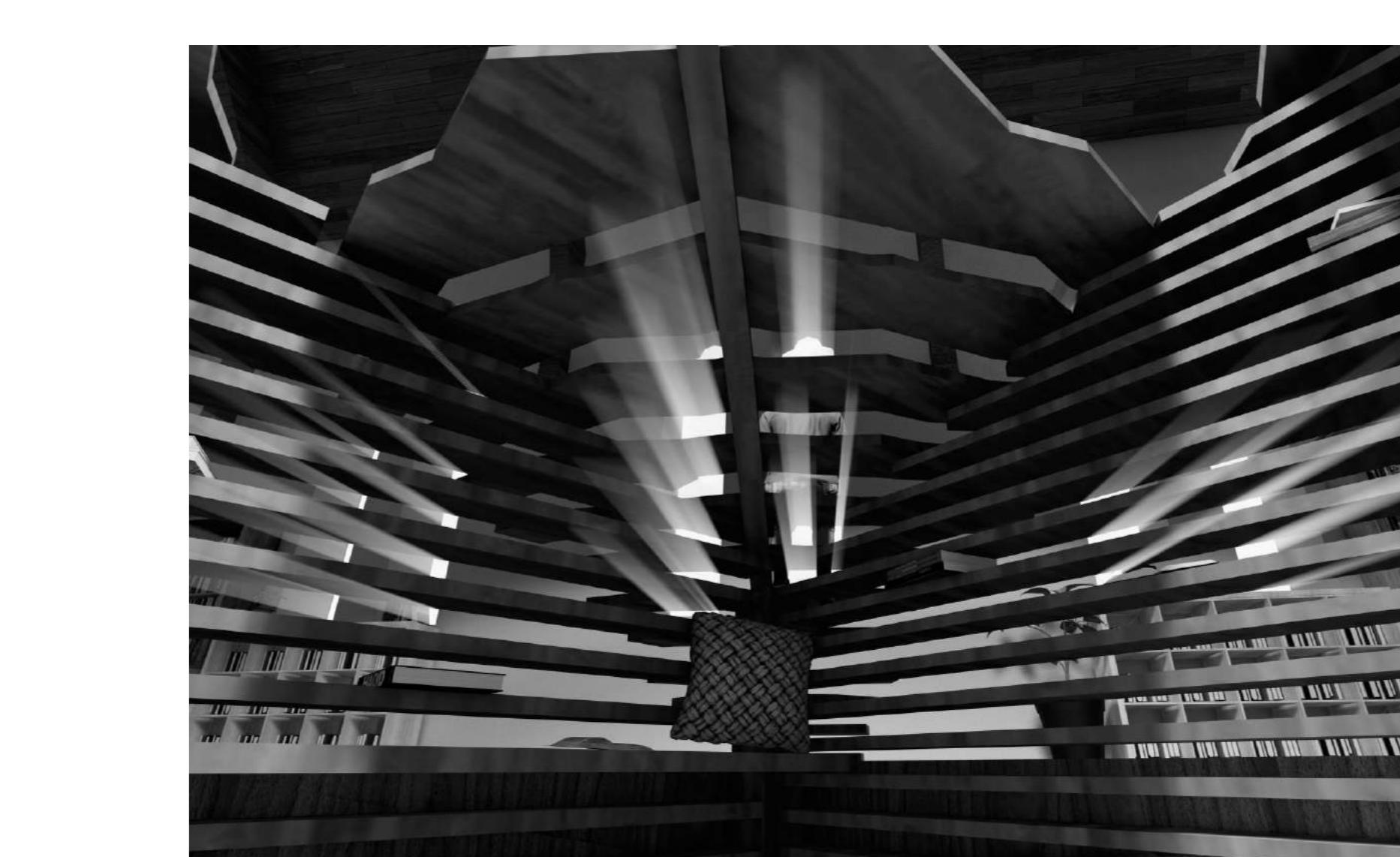
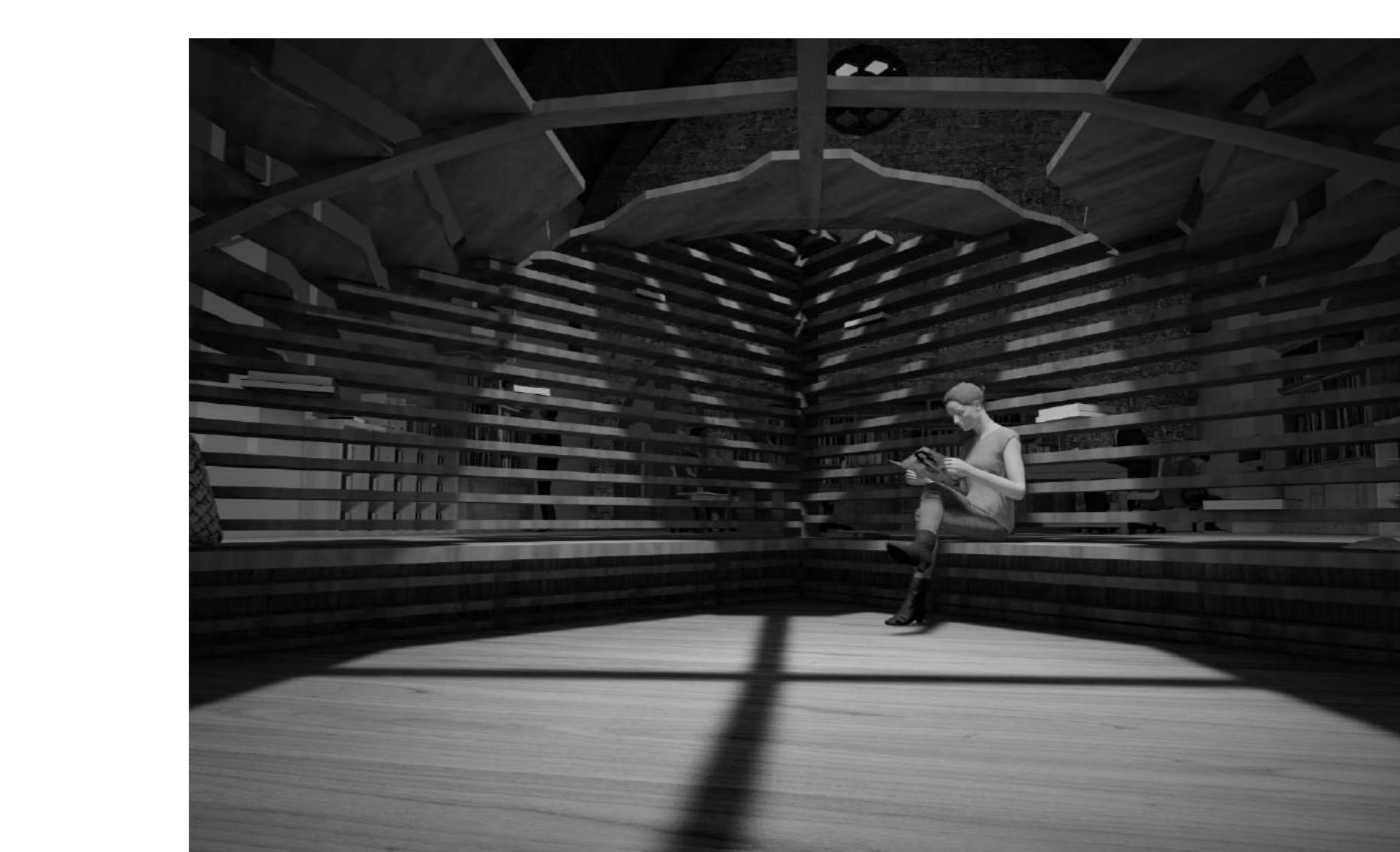
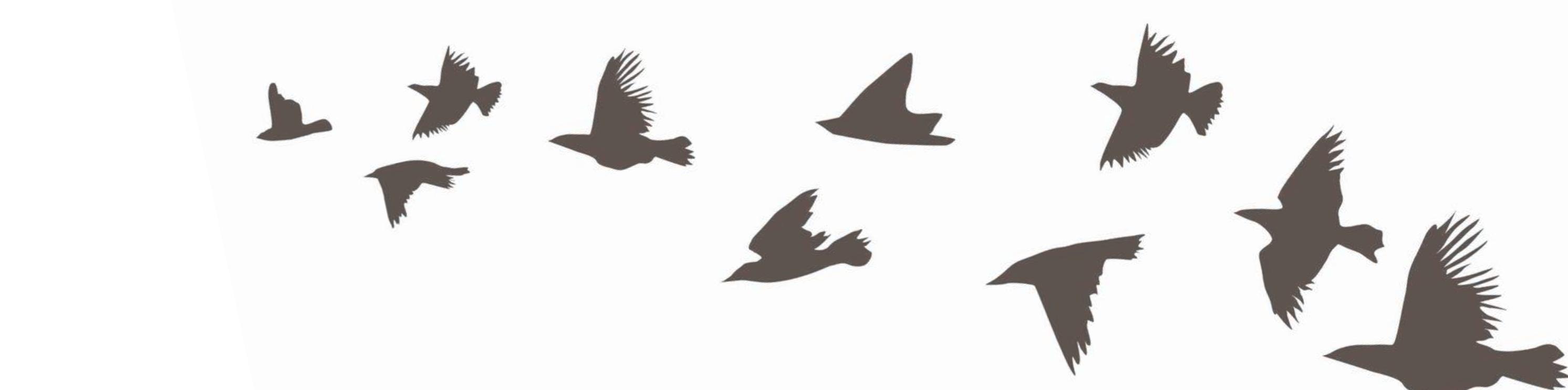
Walkable- the wooden slats also act as steps



The proposal includes reopening the former church's main entrance along with the southern rose window



MODEL



SHADOWS