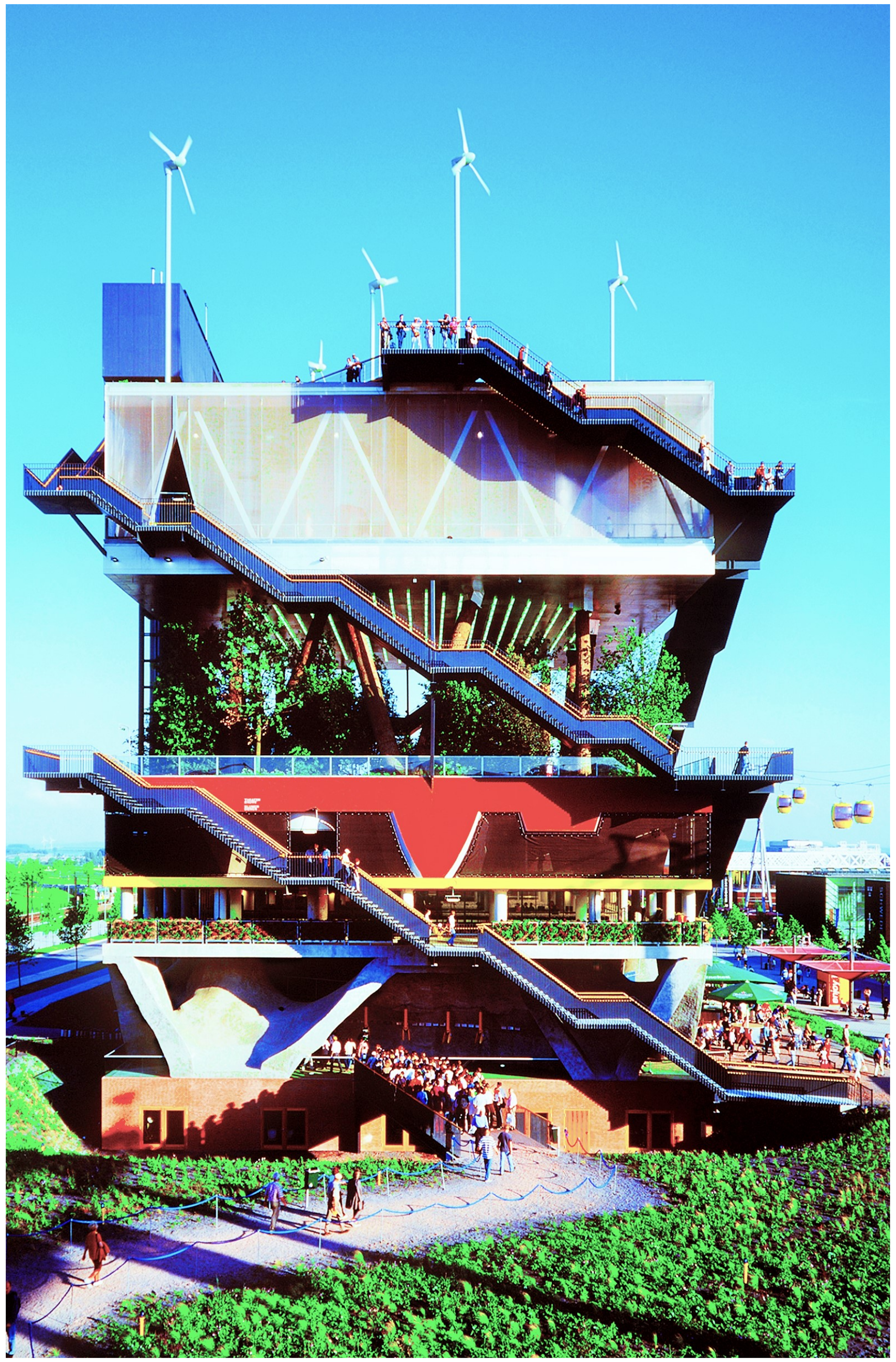
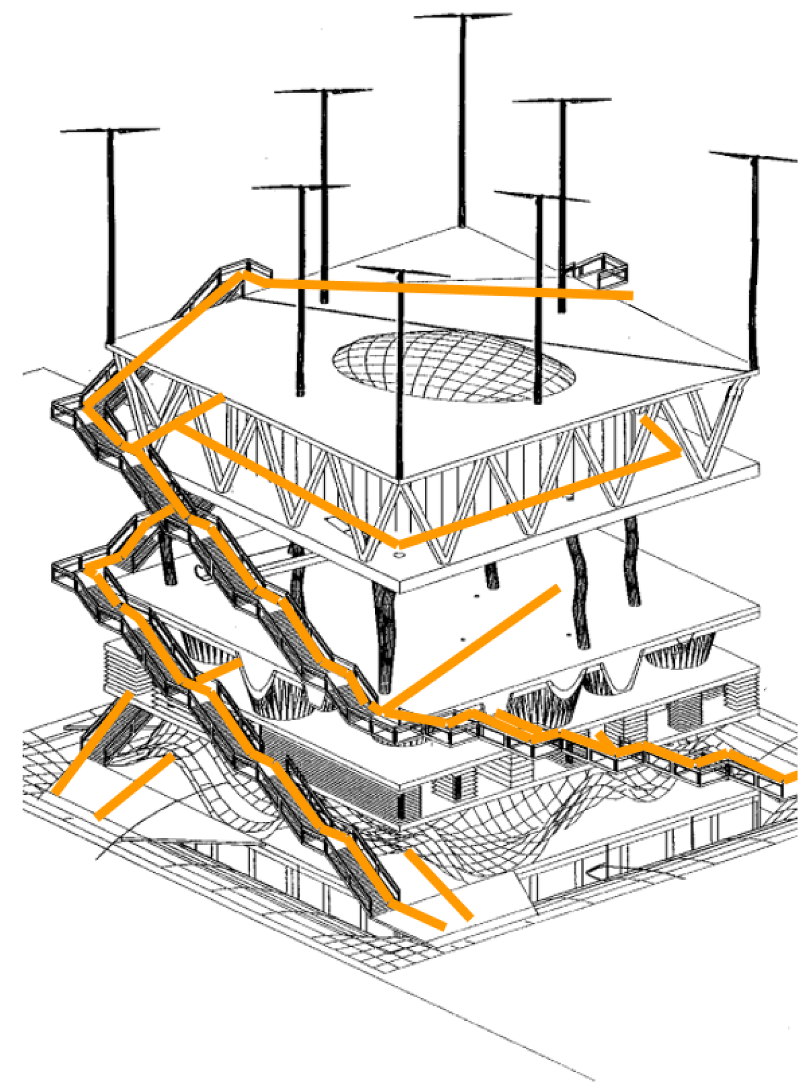
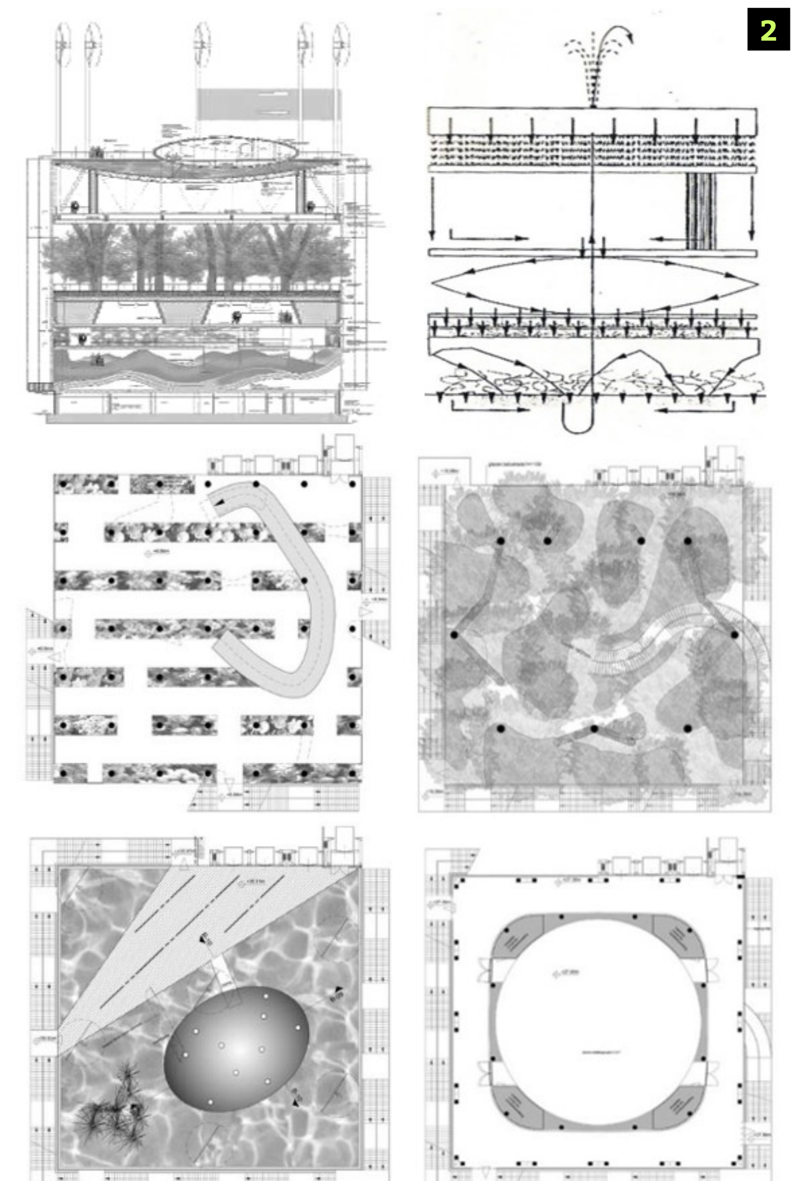




1



2

Dutch Pavilion Hanover World Expo 2000 MVRDV

Despite the unfortunate circumstances leading to the Dutch Pavilion's current state of disrepair, the structure successfully encapsulated its theme of "Holland creates space" through a series of stacked landscapes and exhibition spaces, with inter-level circulation delegated to staircases wrapped around the exterior of the structure.

Designed by MVRDV Architects, the 36m high building was the expo's tallest and quite literally created space by stacking six levels. But it is not a traditional multi-level building; many levels are open-air and highlight the potential to incorporate nature into a man-made structure.

The structure addresses the question of how to increase population density while allowing both technology and nature to coexist peacefully.

Pavilion visitors were taken to the top level by elevators, then proceed downward through the structure's six levels via the exterior stairs. A small lake placed on the top/roof level illustrates that most of the Netherlands are below sea level; surrounding wind turbines provide power for the building.

From a distance, the building appears to be a series of stacked plates, with natural forms such as the trees on the fourth level clearly visible. Topped off with operating wind turbines, the structure fully embodies dreams of an ecologically informed future.

Overall, the architects craft an experience that captures notions of dramatic scenery and environments culturally relevant to the Dutch population, while also offering an alternative, ecologically friendly form for a population-dense structure.

The Dutch Pavilion is primarily a concrete and steel structure. However, the fourth story, which houses a small forest, also utilizes timber in the form of whole structural logs that preserve their appearance as trees with the retention of their bark.

Program

8.000 m^2 exhibition pavilion, divided as follows:

Level 6/roof: a small lake and several wind turbines that power the building (Fig. 3 &4, below)

Level 5: rain walls, primary exhibition space (Fig. 5)

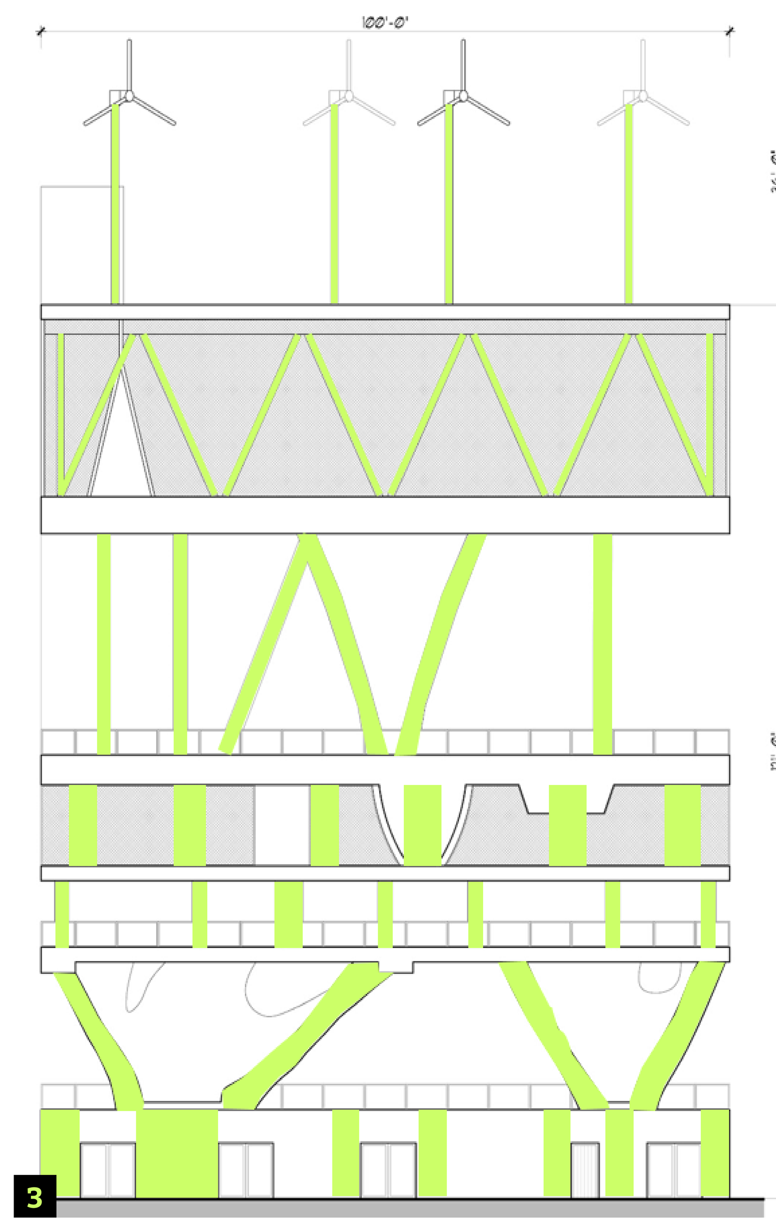
Level 4: open forest area (Fig. 2 &6)

Level 3: "pots" define additional exhibition space and other services (Fig. 3)

Level 2: agricultural space, exhibiting the country's agricultural success (Fig. 1)

Level 1: concrete dunes, additional services below the dunes (Fig. 8)

Basement: offices, utilities



3

4

5

3

6

MVRDV is an architecture and urban design firm based in in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. It was founded in 1993 by Winy Maas, Jacob van Rijs and Nathalie de Vries, with their collective initials forming the company's name MVRDV.

MVRDV's design philosophy is centered around "radical, methodical, investigative research, particularly in relation to density, the public realm and the influence of architectural form on daily life." They currently employ over seventy architects.

The firm is internationally recognized, with significant works including Other built projects include 'Flight Forum', an innovative business park in Eindhoven, the Silodam Housing complex in Amsterdam; the Matsudai Cultural Centre in Japan, the Lloyd Hotel in Amsterdam, the Ypenburg housing and urban plan in The Hague, the Didden Village rooftop housing extension in Rotterdam, the music centre De Effenaar in Eindhoven, the Gyre boutique shopping center in Tokyo, a public library in Spijkenisse, an international bank headquarters in Oslo, Norway, and the Mirador and Celosia housing in Madrid.

The 2000 World Expo was awarded to Hanover, Germany in 1990, beating out Toronto by one vote. An existing fairground was expanded to host the expo, with existing structures housing exhibits from countries that could not build pavilions.

The fair's theme was "*Humankind-Nature-Technology: a new world arising*," offering promise that future technological innovations can begin to embrace and support nature rather than destroying it. Accordingly, plans were made to reuse as many of the fair's structures as possible, with the others being dismantled and recycled.

Unfortunately, many of the remaining buildings have little useful function. The Dutch Pavilion is one of these, and it has fallen into disrepair due to neglect in the years after the fair. The current state of the pavilion is ironic as its theme was "Holland creates space."

The pavilion's goal was to demonstrate how to use the nation's small geographic area to the highest potential for humans while retaining space for nature, but the structure itself sits entirely unutilized and wasted today.

Graffiti currently litters the pavilion's features, glass is gone and trash is abundant. Despite the disrepair, the colorful graffiti and the influence of real nature have allowed the Dutch Pavilion to continue highlighting the relationship between humans and nature, while redefining the notion of beautiful, inhabitable space.

Originally, the Dutch Pavilion was intended to be dismantled, moved, and later reassembled in Amsterdam; however, this plan proved economically infeasible as it would have been cheaper to rebuild the entire structure from scratch.

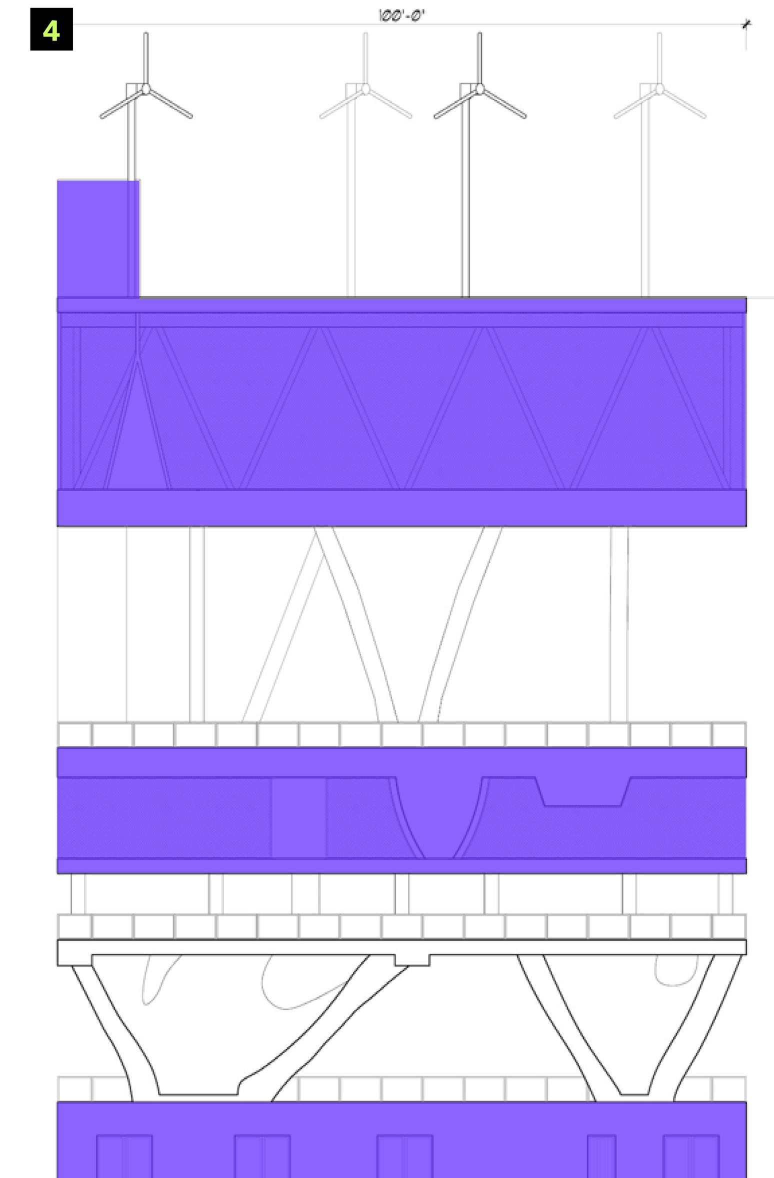
Diagram 1: Circulation, flowing from the top level around the external staircases

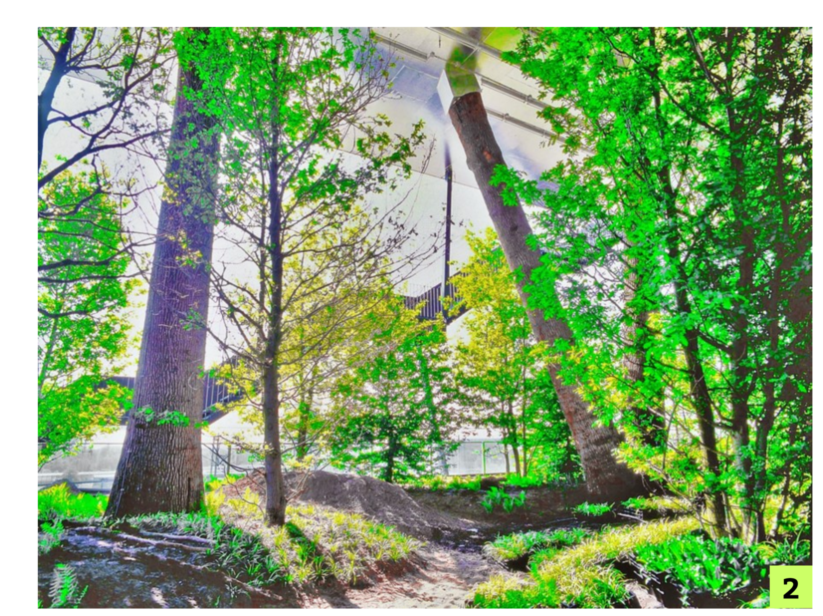
Diagrams 2: Nature, water flow, and plans

Diagram 3: Structures, alternating straight and angled forms, converging to organic forms at the center

Diagram 4: Stacked solid/void levels

4





2

7

1

8