

3.2 The Center of Mediterranean Gastronomy: A Social Platform

The existing plateau in *Site 2* is inhabited from below by a two-storey public garage. Most of the mandatory programs defined by the project brief are accommodated in the reconstructed interior of the *Old Fish Market*, thus freeing up the public space of the plateau in the front. A part of the public space is shaded by a large archetypical gable roof, supported by a light steel construction, that also carries a light upstairs gallery. The roof is covered in fiberglass, a light and translucent material locally widely used in the construction of small boats. At night, it serves as a glow-in-the-dark attractor for visitors. An open kitchen and a large communal table are housed under the roof, ideal for all kinds of events, workshops, parties and festivals. However, apart from commercial programs, the *open roof* could also have a strong social agenda. During the year, it could double as a public canteen or soup kitchen, targeting students and impoverished or senior citizens of all age groups and backgrounds. This would also create job opportunities for Makarska's citizens. Thus, Mediterranean gastronomy is used not only for tourism, but also as a platform for social action, inclusivity, and connection. What better thing to bond over than food?

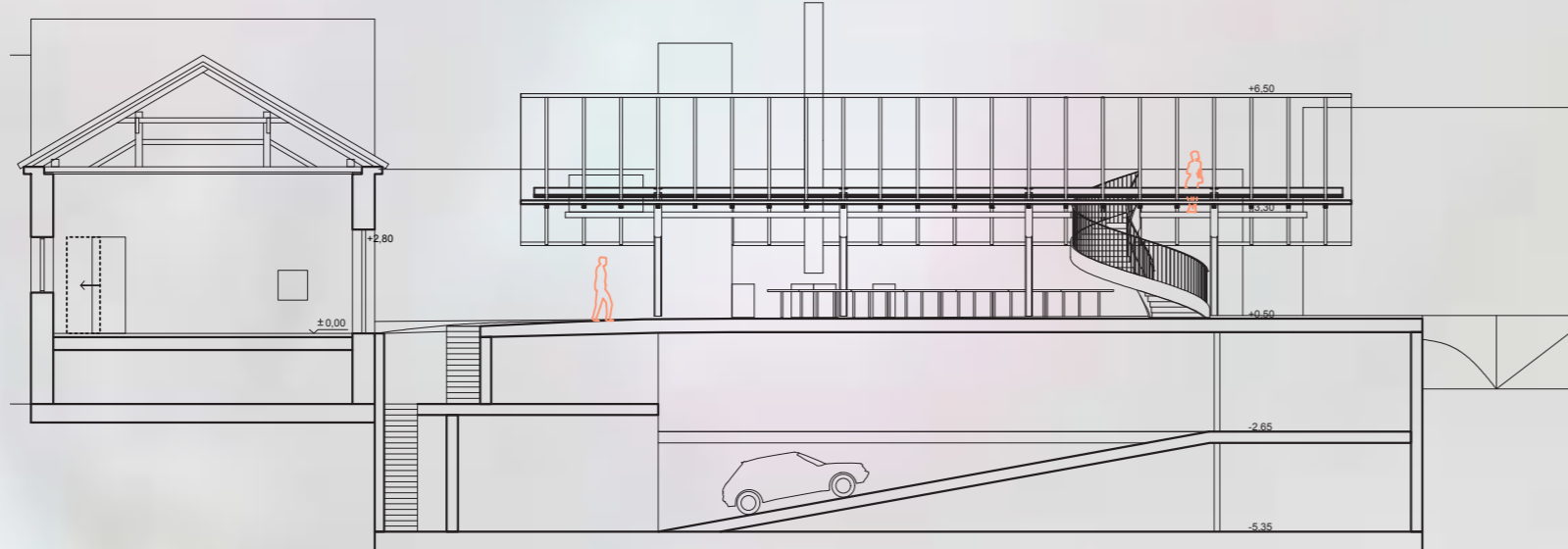
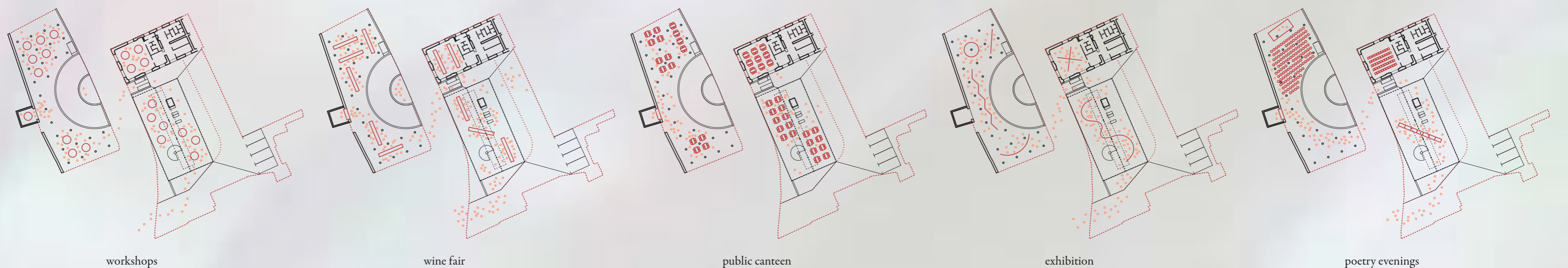
3.3 The Garden: Let the Birds Sing

The natural recession from the road level makes the space of *Site 3* inherently introverted, a natural retreat from the noise and traffic of its dynamic surroundings. Given that Makarska's city center lacks almost any kind of park or green infrastructure, the whole of this site, excluding just the spiral parking ramp leading to the underground garage, is planned as a new public garden — a *bortus conclusus*. On this site, the idea was to *unbuild*, rather than build. Mediterranean pine trees and other types of local vegetation are planted in order to provide a shaded, cool and quiet environment. A mild decline at the south-eastern edge of the site gently leads passers-by from the road level into the garden. Access is also provided from the western side, through the existing passage in the old wall. The garden is equipped only with minimal infrastructure that allows it to house occasional events with programs complementary to the ones planned on *Site 1* and *Site 2*, just within a different atmosphere. The rectangular niche in the garden is used as an open bar with minimum necessary storage. The spaces enclosed by the circular ramp are also connected to the garden: a passage under the ramp leads to an alcove with public toilets, and on the road level above it, a semi-circular pedestrian niche is formed, featuring a water feature reusing the rainwater collected on-site. Crushed stone from the public garage excavation is used as aggregate for the rounded walls of the spiral ramp, showcasing and encouraging the use of (hyper-)locally sourced materials for new building developments. The garden is also seen as the first phase of a new green infrastructure that should spread through Makarska in the years to come, battling ecological issues such as urban heat islands, and housing biodiverse, multi-species ecologies.

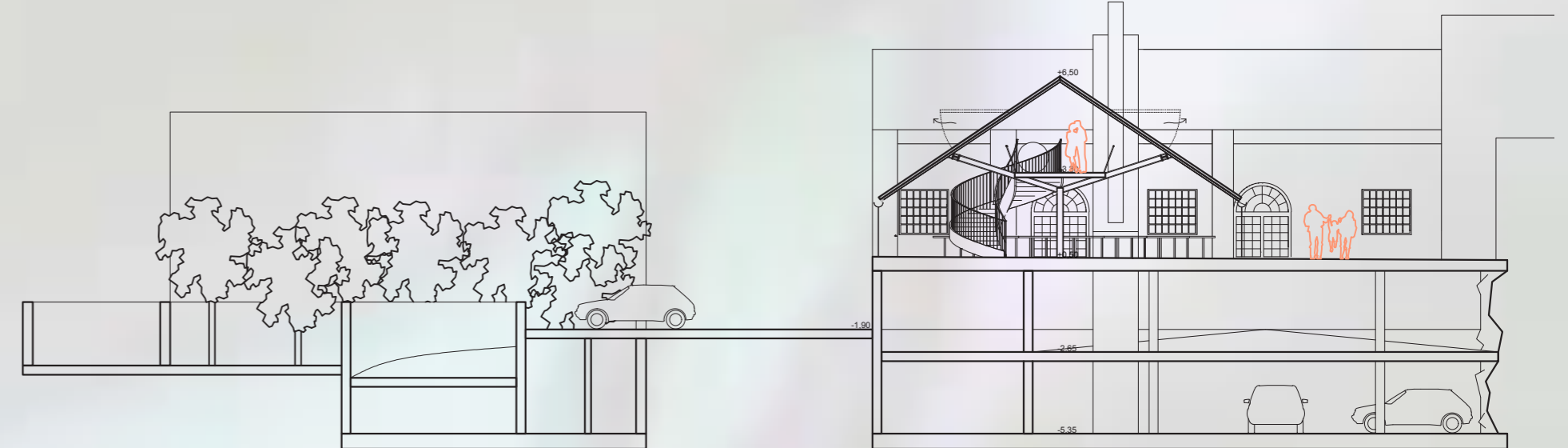


4. Epilogue

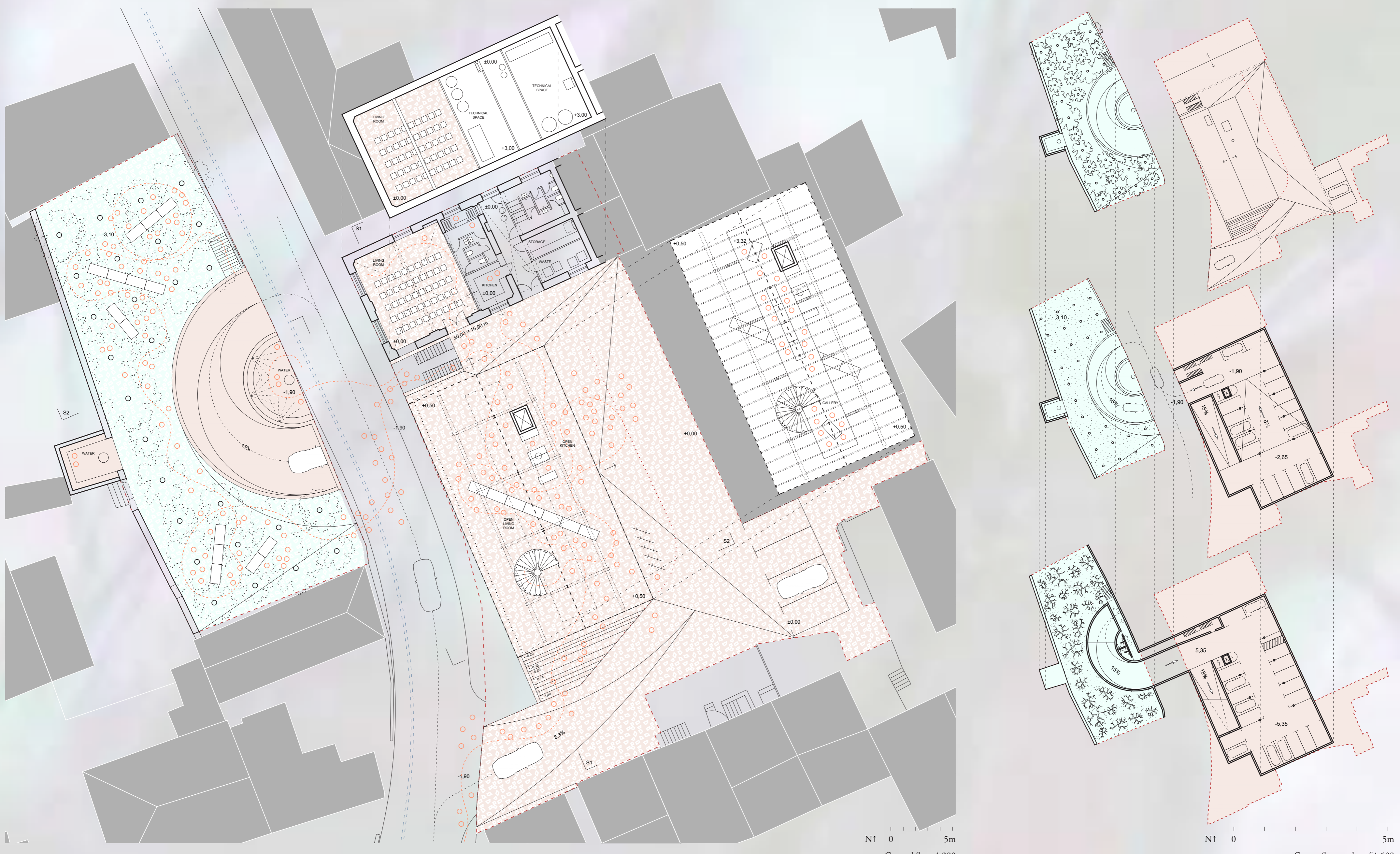
The built and the unbuilt, the human and the non-human, the urban and the natural, the rapid and the slow.



Section 1-1 1:200



Section 2-2 1:200



N1 0 5m
Ground floor 1:200

N1 0 5m
Garage floor and roof 1:500