A Cenotaph For Many

A Thesis Submitted to the Department of Architecture
Harvard University Graduate School of Design, by

Jiwon Kim

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of
[Master of Architecture]

May 2023

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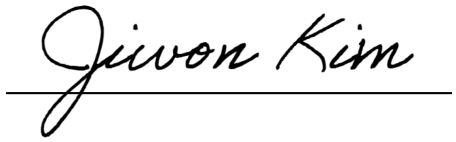


Jiwon Kim

Ajay Manthripragada

A CENOTAPH FOR MANY

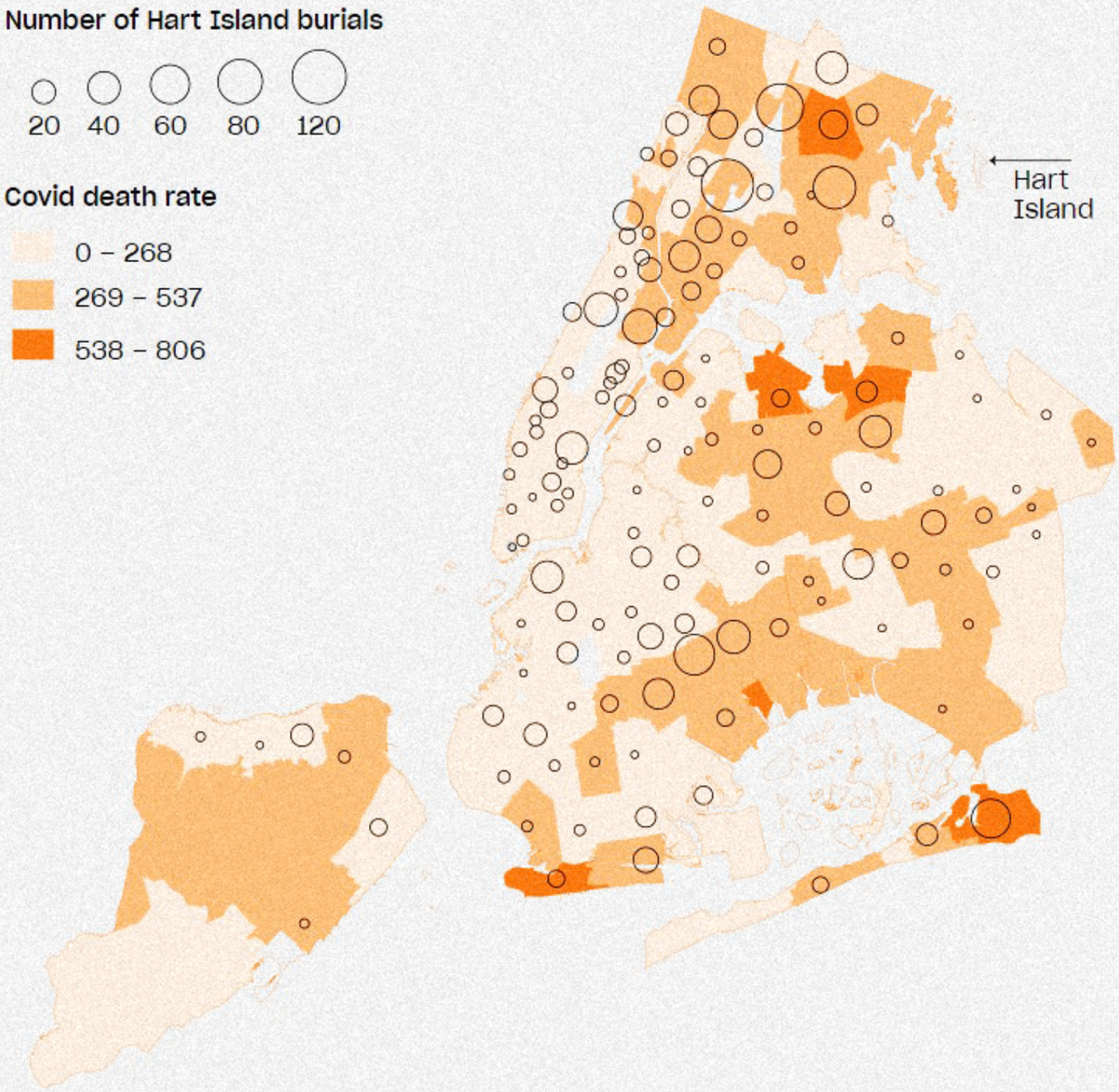
Hart Island, located in the Bronx, New York City, is the only place to bury the bodies of the unclaimed or unidentified in the city. The next of kin of some individuals buried on Hart Island opted for public burial. Others may have a next of kin who is unknown or unreachable. Some are unidentified or do not have a next of kin. Many others were also buried during the AIDS epidemic and COVID-19 pandemic, in 1980 and 2020 respectively. The burial process is simple: Department of Correction staff and incarcerated individuals serving time on nearby Rikers Island travel by ferry to Hart Island. The bodies of the deceased are transported and placed in pine boxes. The boxes are stacked three deep in a 36-inch trench below the surface, burying the remains of 150 to 162 adults and 1,000 infants and fetuses per trench. This burial method and its spatial efficiency seem to be democratic, while consequently removing the association of the person to their body. Those forgotten deaths are the consequences of poverty, apathy, loneliness, and isolation in New York City. Through reflection on the deaths of many minorities, the thesis will celebrate and appreciate their invisible existences, dismantling the conventional spatial characteristics of a "cenotaph"—an empty tomb for one prominent person. What if a cenotaph can be for many minor individuals? This attitude will lead toward a new understanding of death and a shift in perception of a typical memorial space in terms of its form, materiality, and spatial experience.

A. Hart Island
B. Statue of Liberty National Monument

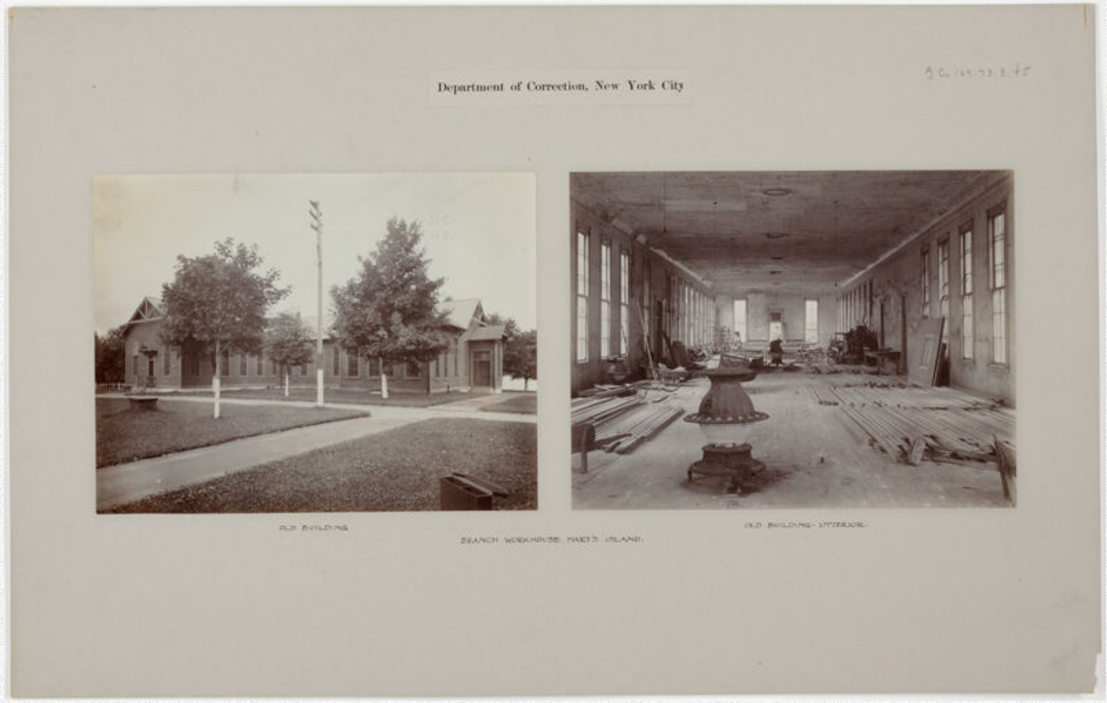
Prisoners watching geese in flight, Potter's Field, May 1992
Hunt, Melinda, and Joel Sternfeld. 1998. Hart Island. 1st Scalo ed. Zurich ; New York: Scalo.

[s] https://www.politico.com/news/2020/05/07/trump-death-toll-coronavirus-241819

[s] https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/11/us/hart-island-coronavirus-burials/index.html



[s] https://www.thecity.nyc/missing-them/2021/3/24/22349311/nyc-covid-victims-destined-for-hart-island-potters-field

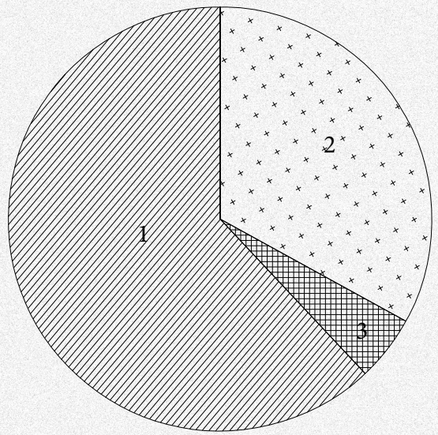


[s] Unidentified Artist, Unidentified Artist. 1900. Crime, Prisons: United States. New York. Hart's Island. Branch Workhouse: Department of Correction, New York City: Branch Workhouse, Hart's Island. New York City, New York, United States.

potter's field (/ˈpädərz ˌfēld/) n.

1. a piece of ground used as a burial place for the poor and for strangers (also figurative).

[s] Oxford English Dictionary, 3rd Ed., Oxford University Press, June 2015.

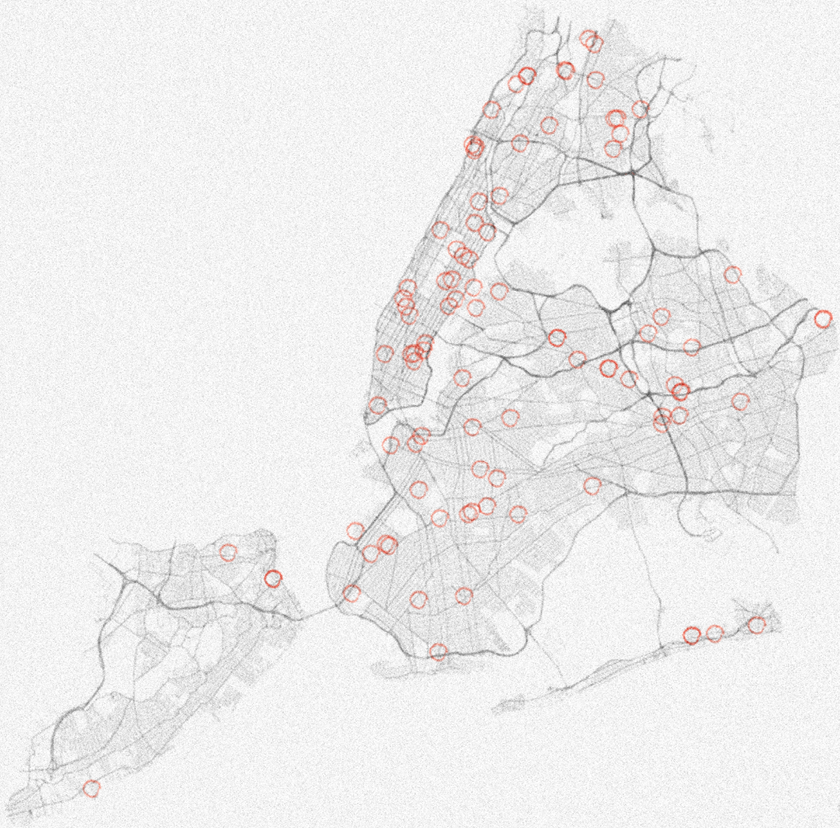


[s] https://council.nyc.gov/data/hart-island/

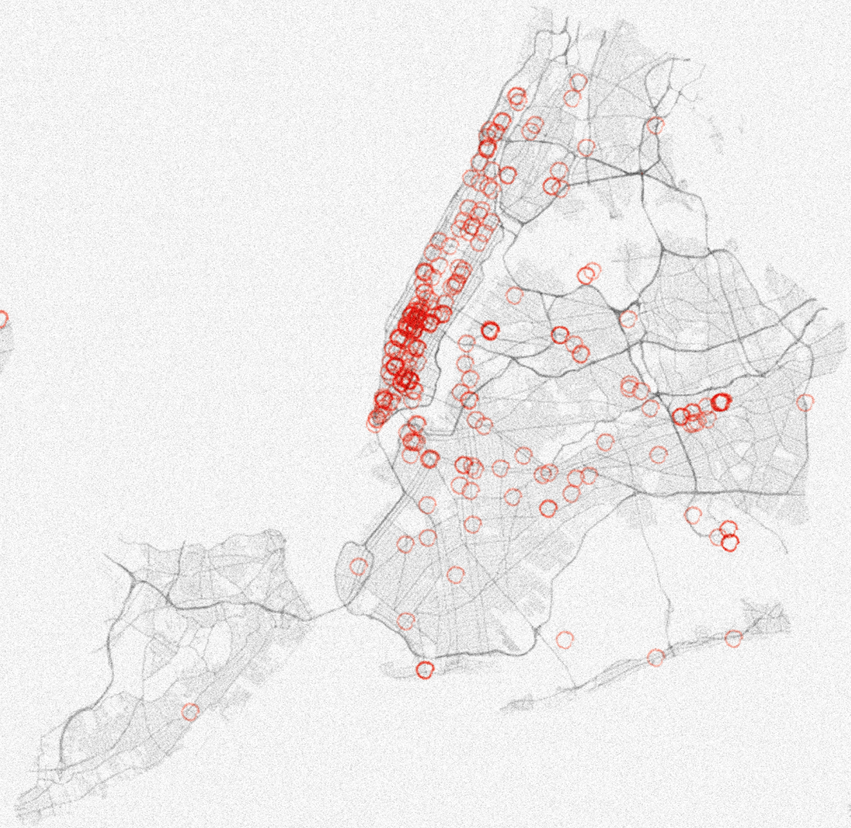
1. A next of kin of some individuals buried on Hart Island opted for public burial. (62 percent)

2. Others may have a next of kin who is unknown or unreachable. (33 percent)

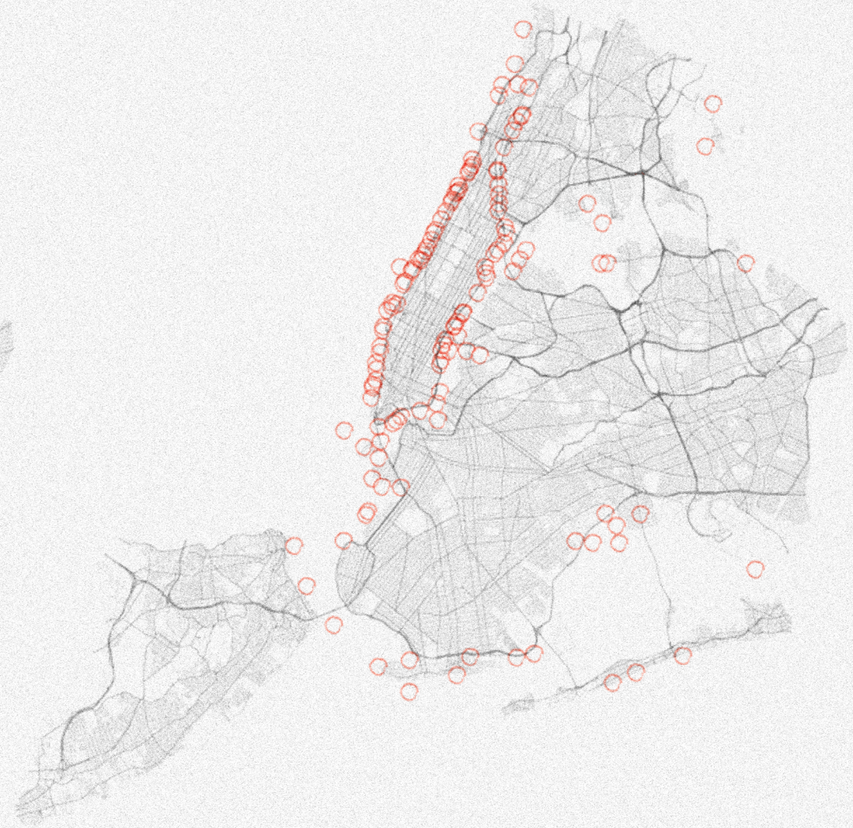
3. Some are unidentified or do not have a next of kin. (5 percent)



1. Hospital or Nursing Home



2. Train or Bus Stop or Airport



3. In a River or Offshore

[s] Nina Bernstein. (2016, May 15). Unearthing the secrets of new york's mass graves. The New York Times. https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2016/05/15/nyregion/new-york-mass-graves-hart-island.html

A. New York City's Morgue
B. City Island
C. Hart Island

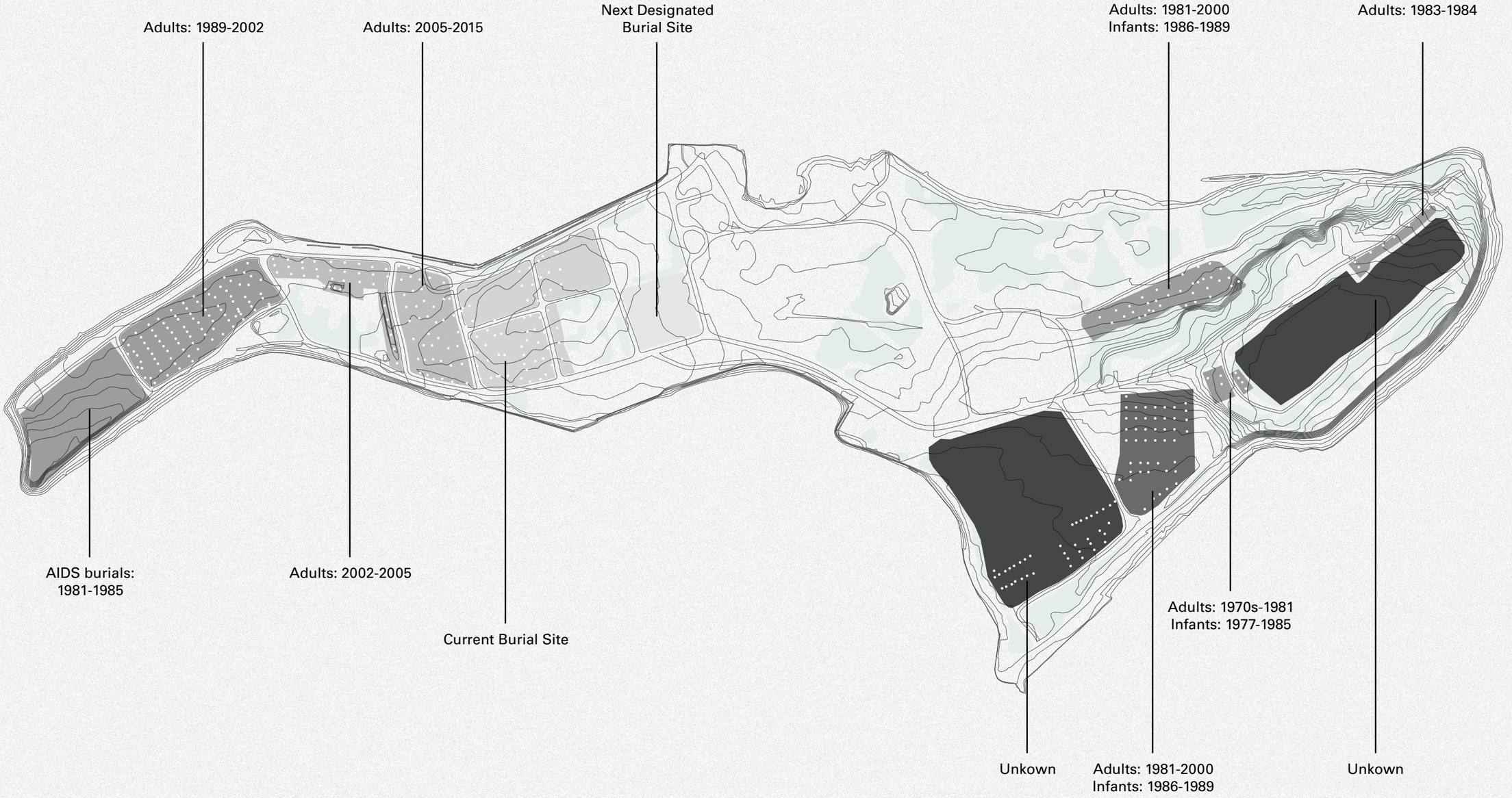
A burial, December 1991
Hunt, Melinda, and Joel Sternfeld. 1998. Hart Island. 1st Scalo ed. Zurich ; New York: Scalo.

Florence Leo, 1992
Hunt, Melinda, and Joel Sternfeld. 1998. Hart Island. 1st Scalo ed. Zurich ; New York: Scalo.

The “baby trench” during a break in the work, March 1992
Hunt, Melinda, and Joel Sternfeld. 1998. Hart Island. 1st Scalo ed. Zurich ; New York: Scalo.

Last Name	First Name	Age	Death Date	Death Year	Place of Death
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	50	09/10/1971	1971	10 W 128TH ST.
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	65	09/18/1971	1971	106 BOWERY
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	45	09/17/1971	1971	1200 BROADWAY
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	55	09/20/1971	1971	B.M.T. PLATFORM 6TH ST. & METRO AVE
PANAKENO	* UNKNOWN	32	10/20/1971	1971	CONEY ISLAND HOSPITAL
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	46	10/17/1976	1976	2570 7TH AVE (ROOF)
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	10/02/1976	1976	334 LENOX AVE
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	40	10/17/1976	1976	79TH ST. & HUDSON RIVER
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	10/15/1977	1977	102ND ST. WEST DR.
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	30	11/25/1977	1977	103RD ST. AND B'WAY SUBWAY
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	45	12/27/1977	1977	114TH ST. AND ST. NICHOLAS
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	25	09/20/1977	1977	149TH ST. HUDSON RIVER
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	50	07/26/1977	1977	14TH ST. UNION STATION
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	40	03/17/1977	1977	160 CENTRAL PARK NORTH
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	20	09/02/1977	1977	2 SHELT ROAD IN WATER OFF PIER
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	40	09/13/1977	1977	216 ELIZABETH ST.
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	35	12/17/1977	1977	250 W 100 ST.
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	40	11/02/1977	1977	300 YARDS N OF GEORGE WASHINGTON BRIDGE
FOREMAN	* UNKNOWN	37	07/19/1977	1977	302 W 112 ST.
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	35	10/09/1977	1977	422 11TH AVE
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	70	10/28/1977	1977	451 EAST 86TH ST.
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	30	07/19/1977	1977	50 YRD. SO OF SO FERRY TERM
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	23	11/25/1977	1977	500 ZEREGA AVE
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	40	09/26/1977	1977	621-623 W 130TH ST.
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	40	09/03/1977	1977	7 PRINCE ST.
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	08/03/1977	1977	711 PARK PL
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	60	10/11/1977	1977	92 BOWERY ST.
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	11/11/1977	1977	AMBEY ROAD
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	20	06/13/1977	1977	APP 110 KOSCIUSKO ST (LOT)
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	20	08/13/1977	1977	ARTHUR C. LOGAN MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	35	06/29/1977	1977	BATTERY PARK FERRY SLIP
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	42	07/18/1977	1977	BOWERY 24/LON BAY
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	40	10/25/1977	1977	CENTRAL PARK ZOO 64TH ST.
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	20	11/12/1977	1977	E. 16TH ST. & AVENUE C
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	60	05/07/1977	1977	E. RIVER SHORE BLVD
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	60	10/02/1977	1977	EAST RIVER SOUNVIEW
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	58	04/04/1977	1977	ERIE BASIN IN WATER
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	65	11/18/1977	1977	F/O 83-08 37TH AVE
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	20	03/30/1977	1977	FD. BEACH 49TH ST. & JAMACA BAY
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	20	03/08/1977	1977	FD. REAR OF 91-18 BEACH CH DRIVE
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	35	07/09/1977	1977	FIRMWATER ROOSEVELT JANET PL.
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	50	08/01/1977	1977	FRONT OF 661 W.179TH ST.
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	10/18/1977	1977	GREENPOINT HOSPITAL
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	20	08/01/1977	1977	HARLEM RIVER BETWEEN 159TH 160TH ST.
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	30	10/02/1977	1977	HARLEM RIVER DRIVE AT 143RD ST.
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	20	11/07/1977	1977	HUDSON RIVER (PIER 98)
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	05/06/1977	1977	I/F/O 106 W 56TH ST
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	65	09/19/1977	1977	I/F/O 28 LAIGHT ST.
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	20	08/06/1977	1977	LINCOLN MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	25	12/08/1977	1977	LINCOLN MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN	50	12/31/1977	1977	LINCOLN MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
FIELDS	ZOLA	69	06/03/2001	2001	ST. CLARE'S HOSPITAL AND HEALTH CENTER
LEBLAND	ZOLAND	* UNKNOWN	08/10/1989	1989	ST. JOHN'S QUEENS HOSPITAL
CHANDLER	ZOLEY NORINE	* UNKNOWN	11/29/1985	1985	KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL CENTER
HARRIS	ZOLIA	45	06/12/1991	1991	HARLEM HOSPITAL CENTER
DELGADO	ZOLIA ROSA	49	04/14/2016	2016	562 WEST 148 STREET MANHATTAN NY
TAVARES	ZOLLA	* UNKNOWN	08/17/1988	1988	LINCOLN MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
TOKAR	ZOLTAN	85	02/04/1982	1982	METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL CENTER
JACKSON	ZONDRA	* UNKNOWN	11/17/1989	1989	ST. LUKE'S-ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL CENTER
WEN LI	ZONG	45	04/05/2004	2004	COLER-GOLDWATER SPECIALTY HOSPITAL
MODRANO	ZONIA	* UNKNOWN	04/30/1984	1984	ST. LUKE'S-ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL CENTER
ROBERTS	ZONNIE MONNAH	* UNKNOWN	11/08/2002	2002	BROOKLYN HOSPITAL CENTER
DELAPENA	ZOPRONIO	* UNKNOWN	07/13/2017	2017	VNSNY HOSPICE INPATIENT UNIT
FOUCHA	ZORA	80	03/16/1978	1978	HARLEM HOSPITAL CENTER
KHAN	ZORA	* UNKNOWN	06/28/1993	1993	BRONX MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL CENTER
KLASAN	ZORA	73	12/27/1999	1999	COLER-GOLDWATER SPECIALTY HOSPITAL
JANUARIO	ZORA	* UNKNOWN	01/06/1999	1999	WOODHULL MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
TORRES	ZORAIDA	* UNKNOWN	05/19/1982	1982	BRONX MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
RIVERA	ZORAIDA	* UNKNOWN	11/29/1986	1986	CONEY ISLAND HOSPITAL
ACEVDO	ZORAIDA	37	02/22/1989	1989	NORTH GENERAL HOSPITAL
RODRIQUEZ	ZORAIDA	* UNKNOWN	02/11/1997	1997	WYCKOFF HEIGHTS MEDICAL CENTER
MATOS	ZORAIDA	* UNKNOWN	05/20/2004	2004	NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL
KHAN	ZORAIDA	58	08/24/2012	2012	BRONX-LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER
SOTO	ZORAIDA	60	02/08/2016	2016	ST BARNABAS REHAB & CONTINUING CARE CENTER
DIAZ	ZORAIDA	71	06/26/2019	2019	NEW YORK WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL CENTER
COLLETTE	ZORENZO	77	01/31/1982	1982	UNION HOSPITAL
SMITH	ZORIDA	* UNKNOWN	* UNKNOWN		BRONX-LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER
KUHNEL	ZORINA	26	08/17/2001	2001	BRONX-LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER
RIVERRA	ZOROBICA	* UNKNOWN	01/07/1982	1982	BROOKLYN HOSPITAL CENTER
MENDEZ	ZORRINA	* UNKNOWN	06/29/1990	1990	INTERFAITH MEDICAL CENTER
GRZYNKOWSKI	ZOZISLAW	41	06/09/2000	2000	KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL CENTER
LEMART	ZOZISLAW	49	05/26/2002	2002	BELLEVUE HOSPITAL CENTER
URYSZCK	ZOZISLAW	50	03/20/2005	2005	BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER
SUNDERS	ZRU	71	09/27/1989	1989	SAINT VINCENT'S CATHOLIC MEDICAL CENTER
LENGYEL	ZSOLT	53	02/19/1990	1990	37 W 20 ST
ALIBASIL	ZUKA	* UNKNOWN	07/13/1992	1992	ELMHURST HOSPITAL CENTER
CAPELLAN	ZULEIDA	* UNKNOWN	09/20/2002	2002	ST. LUKE'S-ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL CENTER
MIRALDA	ZULEIMA	67	01/09/2016	2016	JACK D. WEILER HOSPITAL
DAVILA	ZULMA	* UNKNOWN	07/03/1995	1995	JACOBI MEDICAL CENTER
DEKENY	ZULTAN	47	12/03/1980	1980	LENOX HILL HOSPITAL
OZUNA (A)	ZUNEY	* UNKNOWN	08/18/2006	2006	NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL
OZUNA (B)	ZUNEY	* UNKNOWN	08/18/2006	2006	NEW YORK PRESBYTERIAN HOSPITAL
RIVAS	ZUNILDA	* UNKNOWN	07/23/1983	1983	LINCOLN MEDICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH CENTER
DURAN	ZYAN MANUEL	* UNKNOWN	04/24/2020	2020	MONTIFIORE MEDICAL CENTER -WAKEFIELD HOSPITAL
CIEMEGA	ZYESLAW	55	12/19/2008	2008	BELLEVUE HOSPITAL CENTER
BRZOZOWS	ZYGMONT	71	09/10/2003	2003	COLER-GOLDWATER SPECIALTY HOSPITAL
ZALUSKI	ZYGMUNL	60	04/17/1982	1982	60 E 4TH ST
CINA	ZYGMUNT	84	09/03/2012	2012	DEWITT NURSING HOME
DOMANSKI	ZYGMUNT	84	04/03/2020	2020	JAKE D WEILER HOSPITAL
WILDEHILD TART	ZYLEKE	* UNKNOWN	05/02/2005	2005	SAINT BARNABAS MEDICAL CENTER
PENA	ZY'ONN NICCOLAS	* UNKNOWN	07/29/2019	2019	JACOBI MEDICAL CENTER
RERR	ZYRINA ESTEL-IDA	* UNKNOWN	01/26/2006	2006	BETH ISRAEL MEDICAL CENTER
RHODES	ZYRON	50	01/17/1999	1999	BRONX-LEBANON HOSPITAL CENTER
REDD	TRUE	77	11/17/1979	1979	BRONX MUNICIPAL HOSPITAL CENTER

[s] NYC OpenData, DOC Hart Island Burial Records, Updated on June 17, 2021, provided by Department of Correction (DOC).


Adults: 1989-2002
Adults: 2005-2015
Next Designated Burial Site
Adults: 1981-2000
Infants: 1986-1989
Adults: 1983-1984
AIDS burials: 1981-1985
Adults: 2002-2005
Current Burial Site
Adults: 1970s-1981
Infants: 1977-1985
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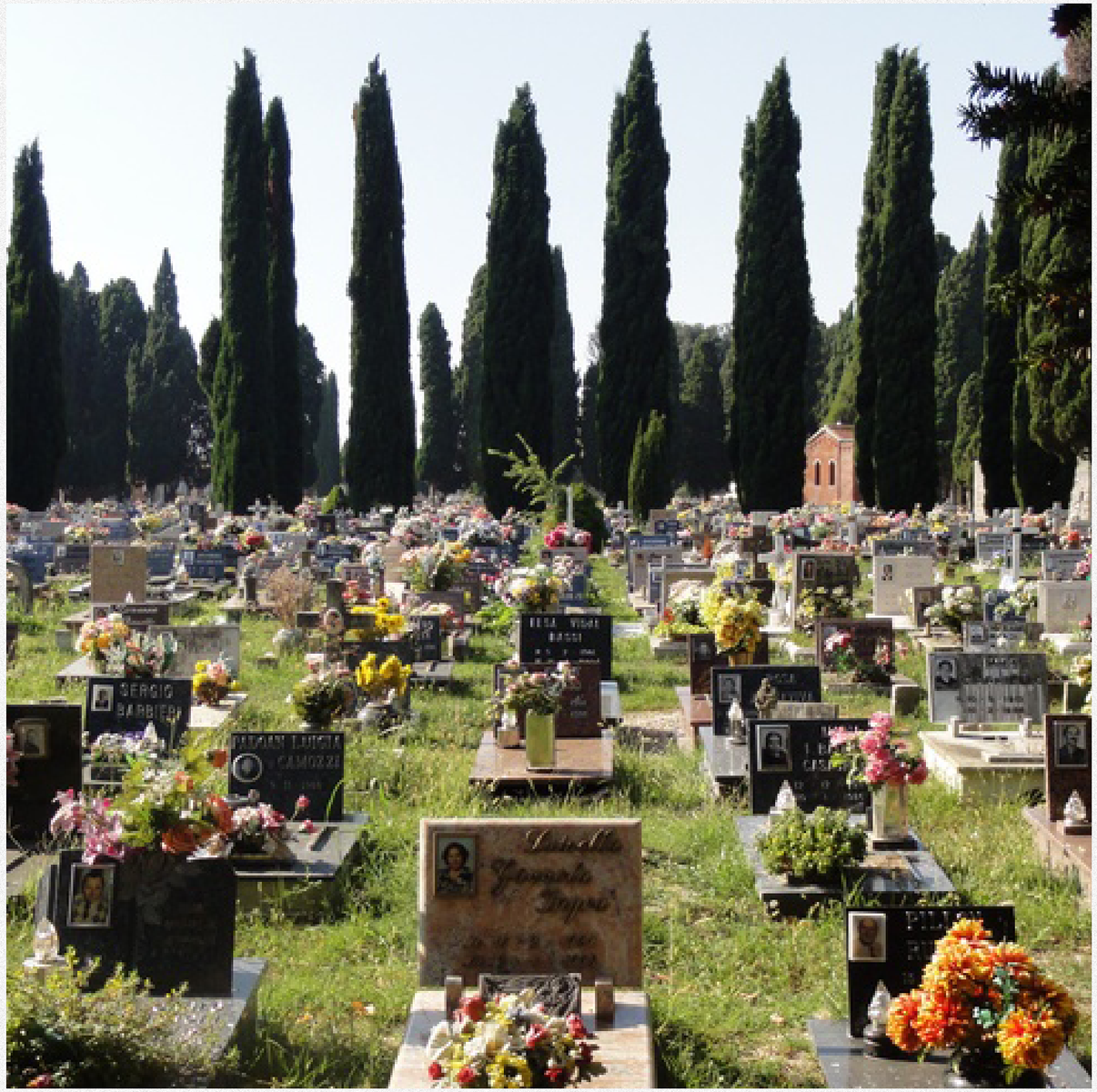
Adults: 1981-2000
Infants: 1986-1989
Unkown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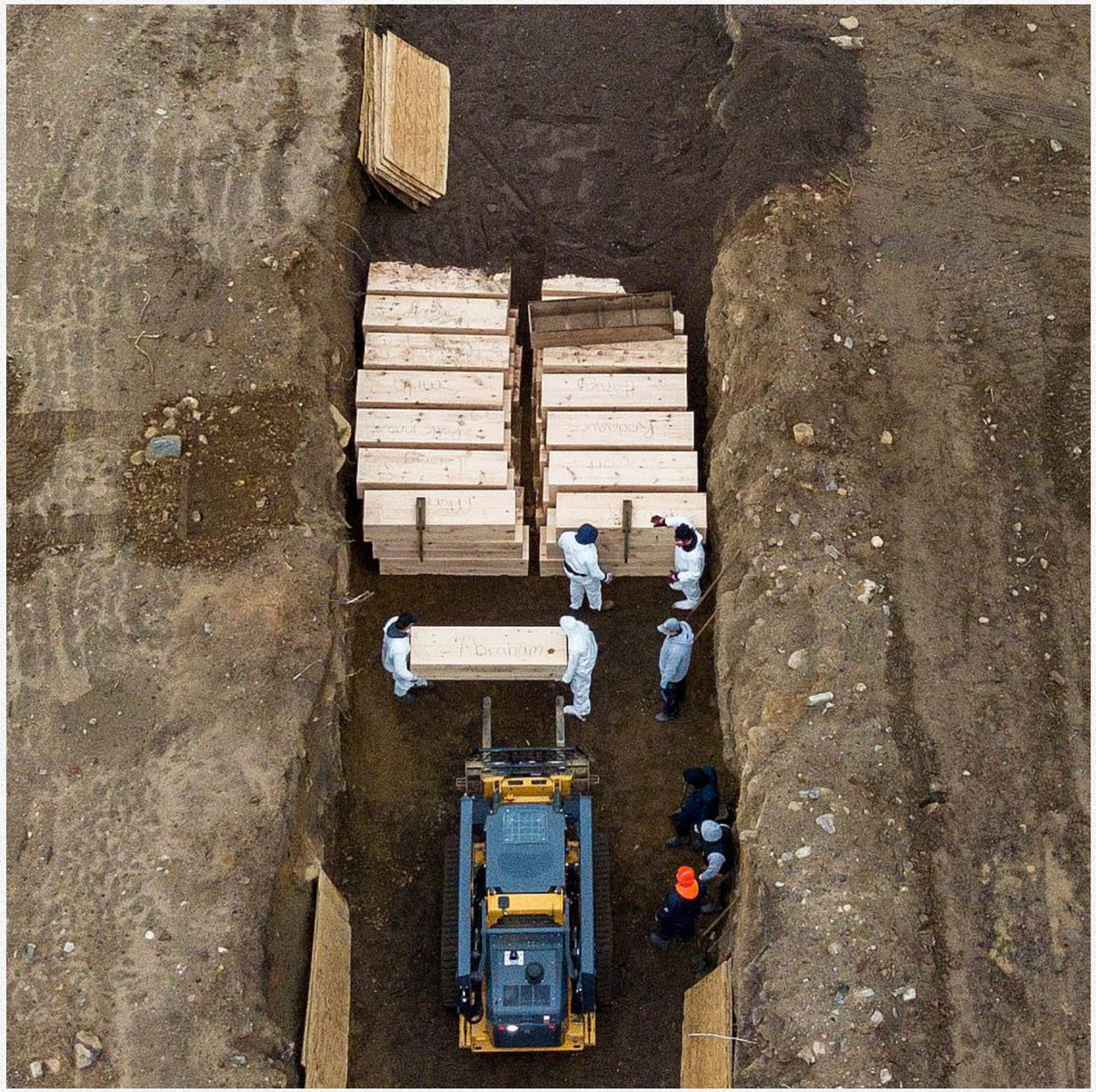
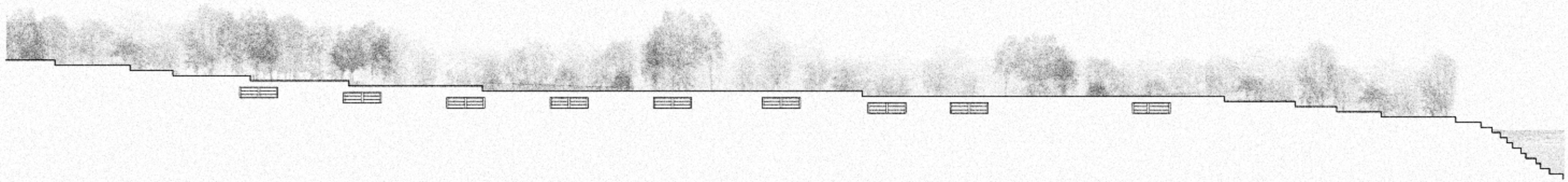
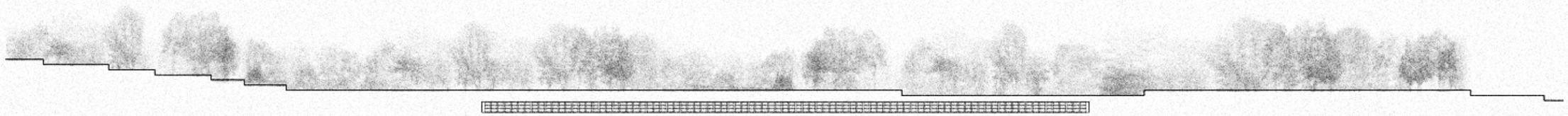


A
B
Trenches
(15 feet wide, 8 feet deep)
Designated Burial Surface
Markers



Section A



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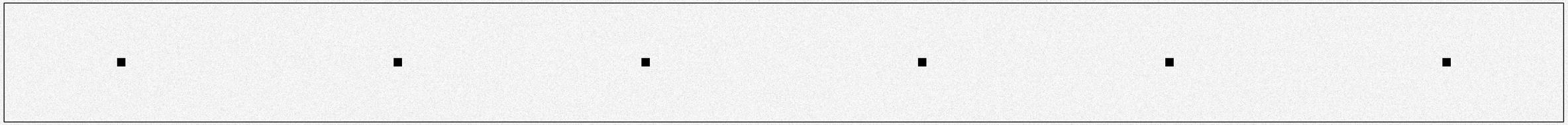
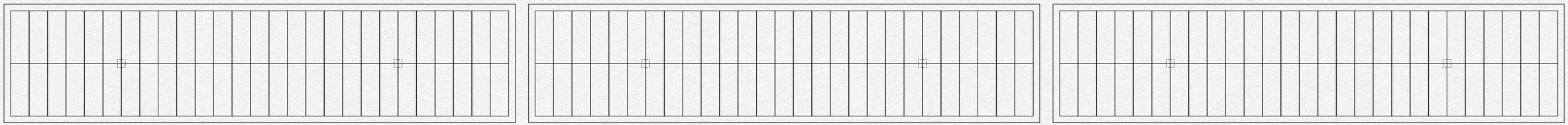
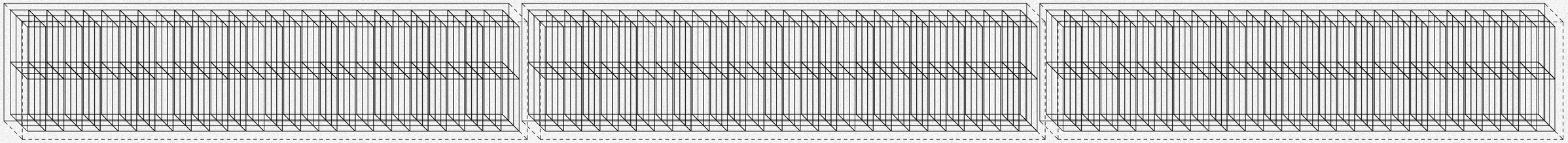


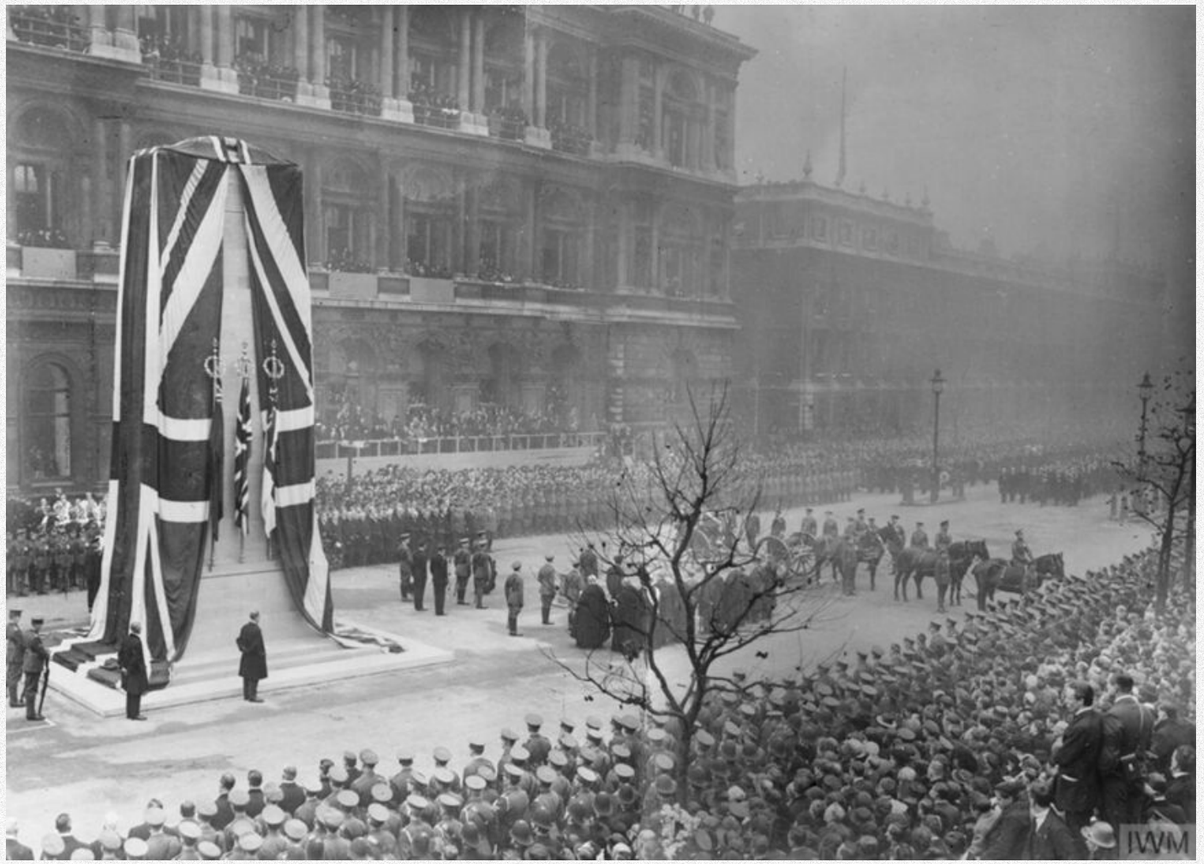
Markers and Trench



Plan of a trench

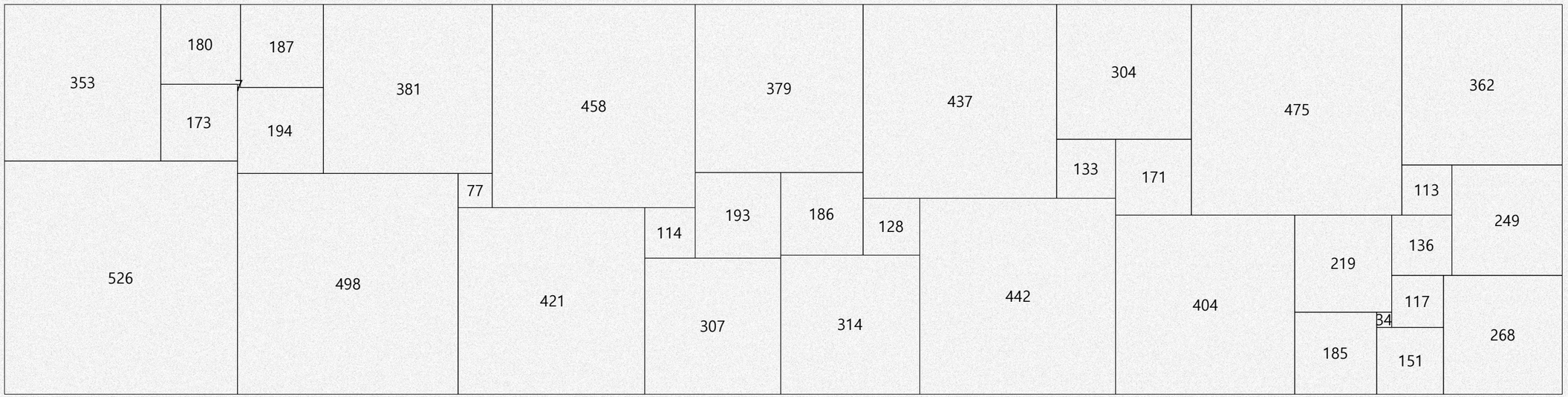


Isometric of a trench



The Cenotaph at Whitehall, 1920

Étienne-Louis Boullée, Coupe du Cénotaphe de Newton, 1784.
Courtesy Bibliothèque Nationale de France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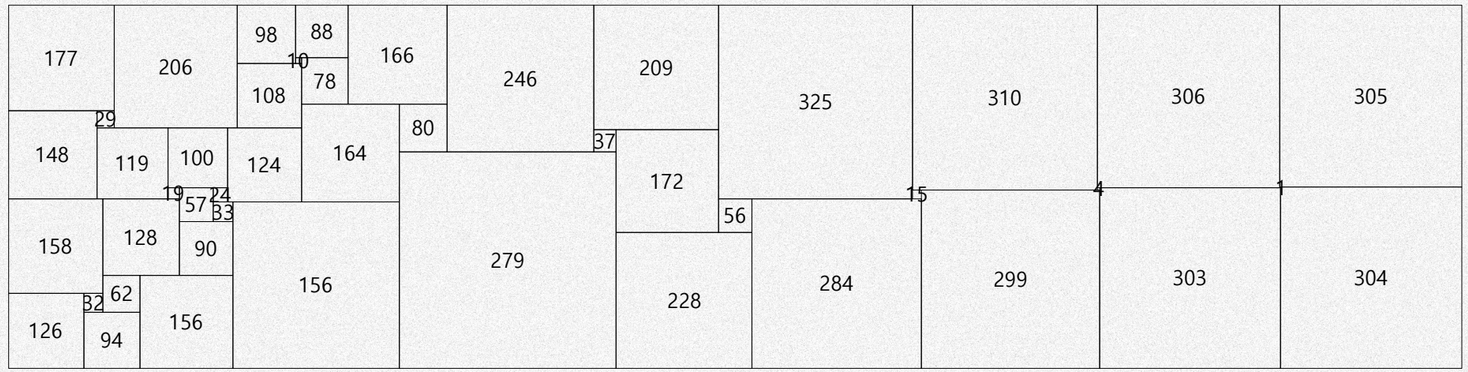
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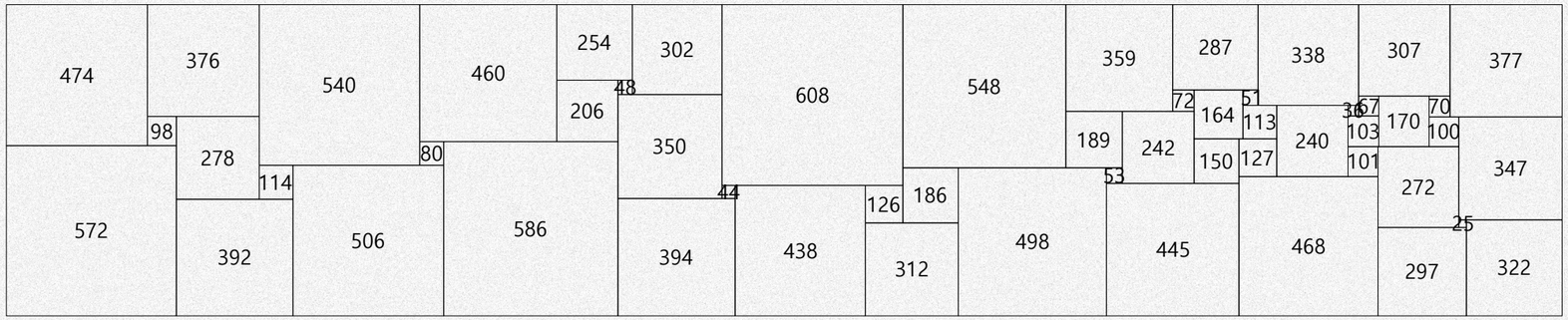
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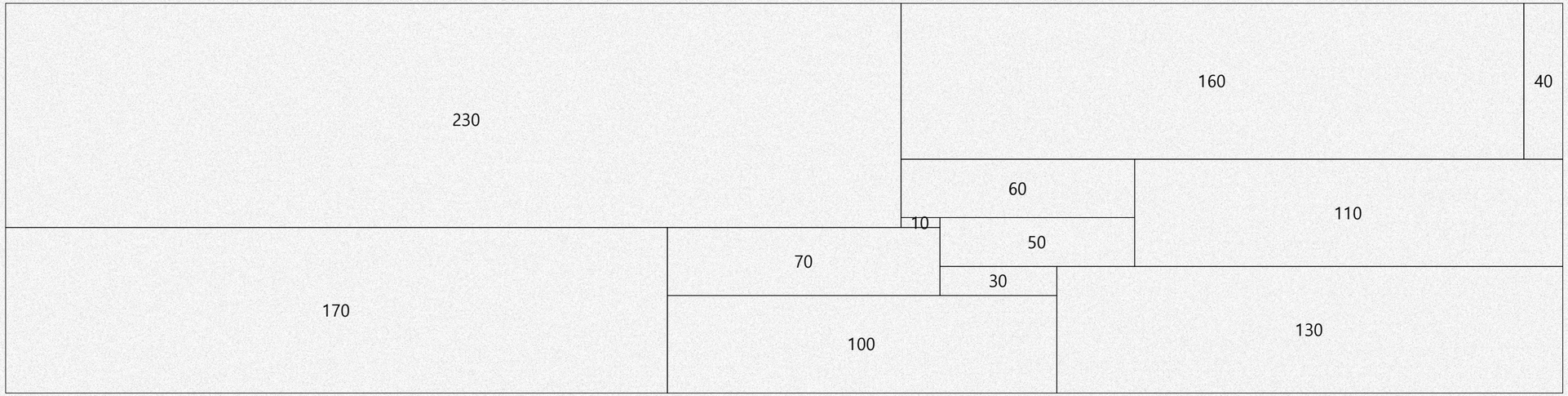
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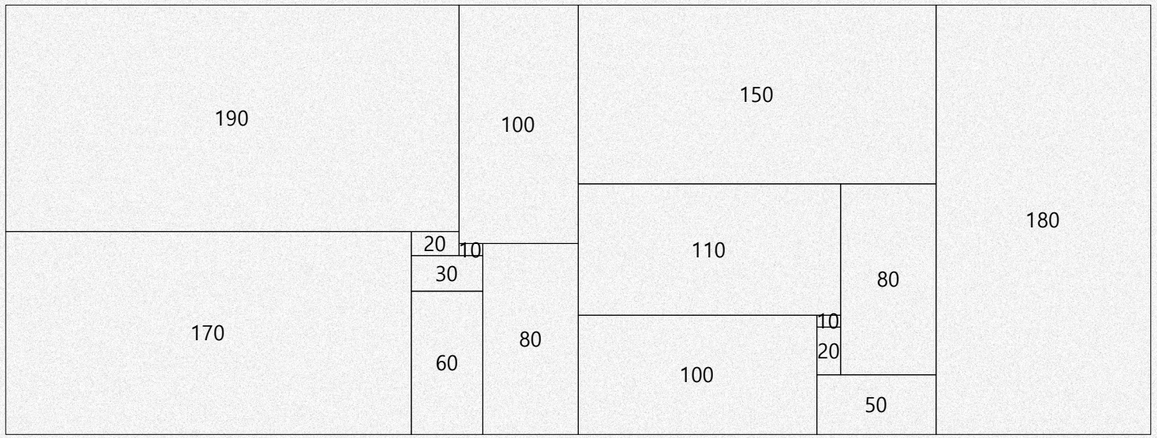
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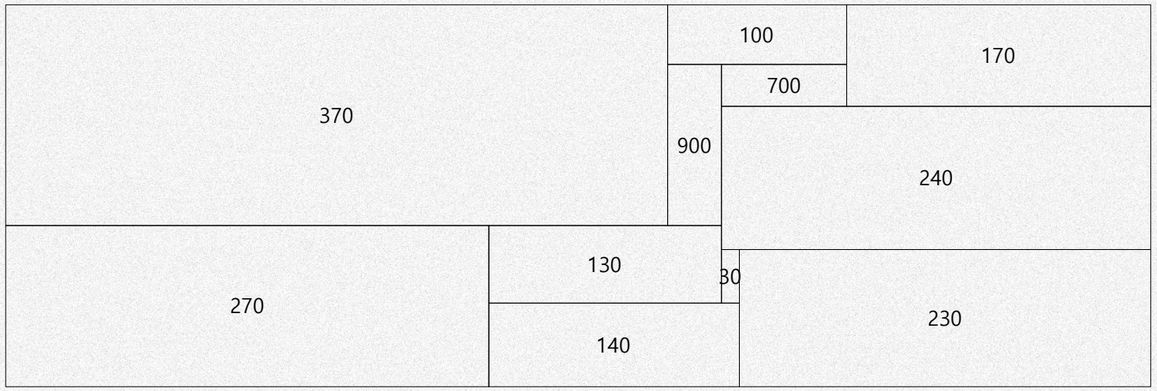
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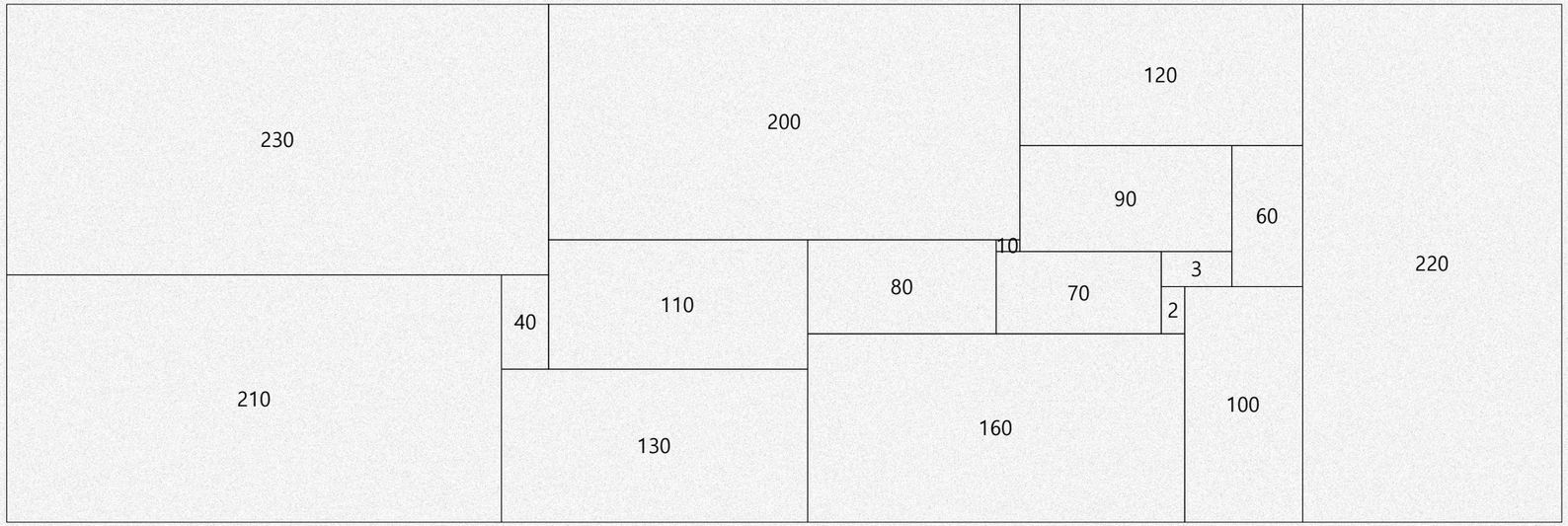
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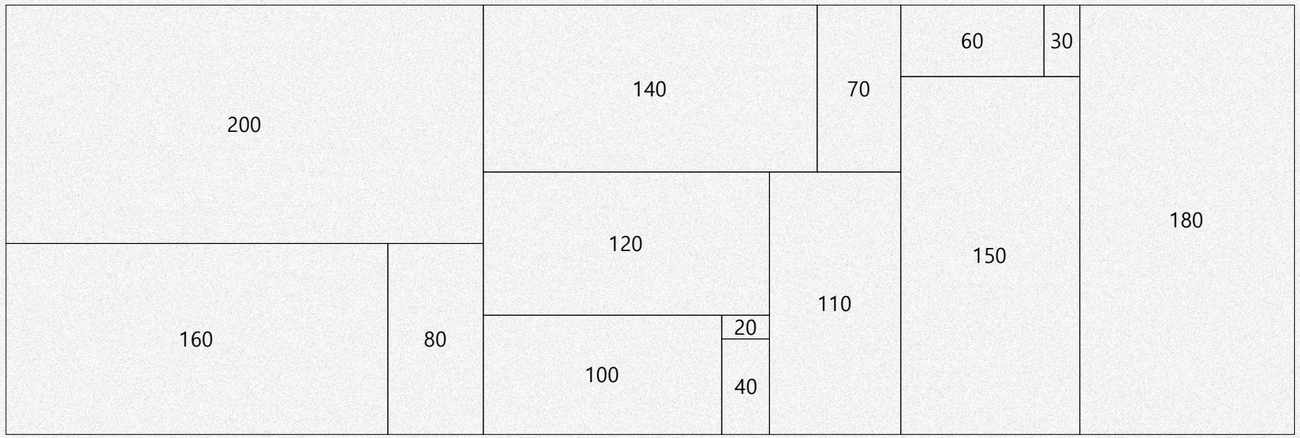
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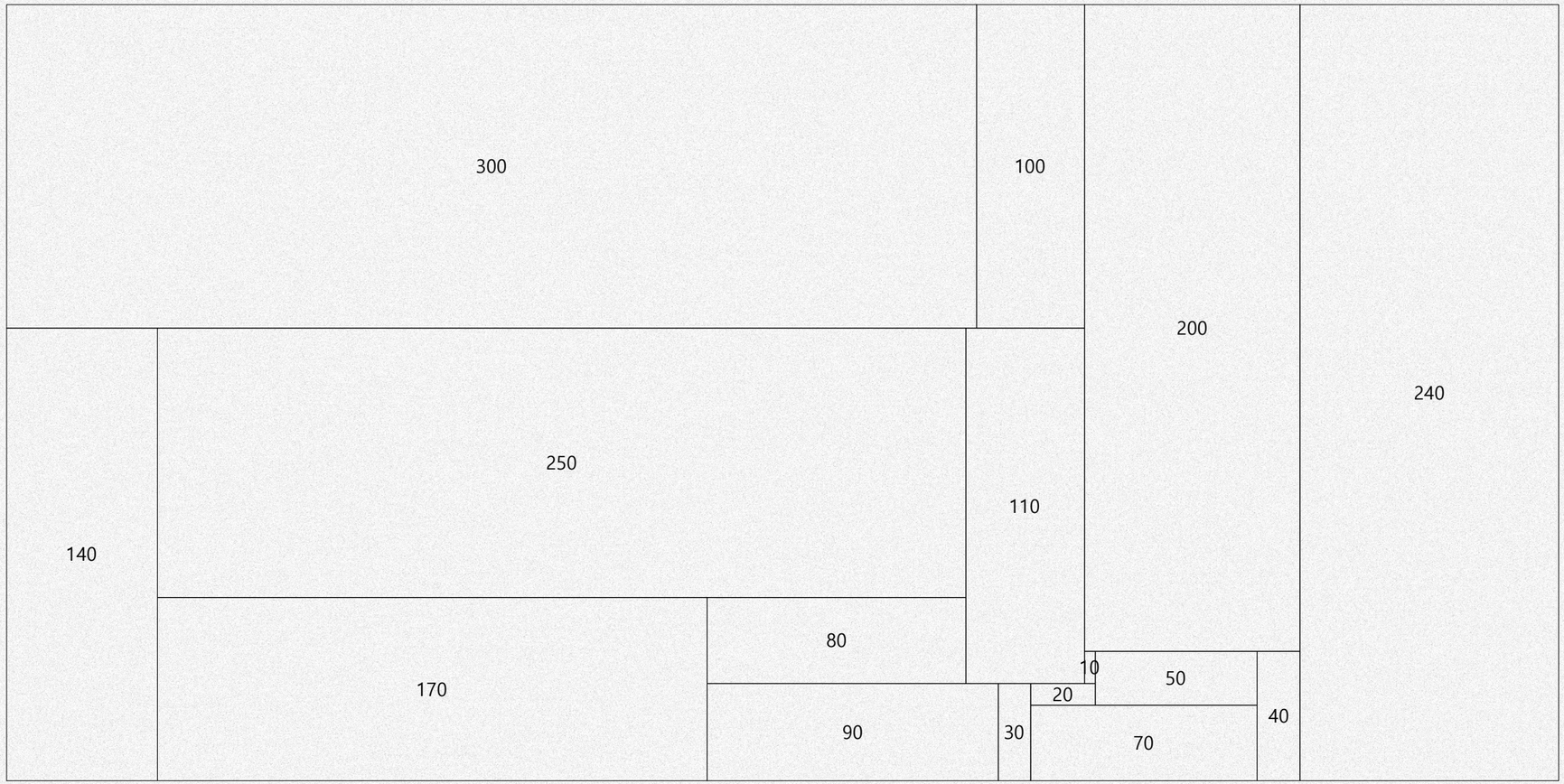
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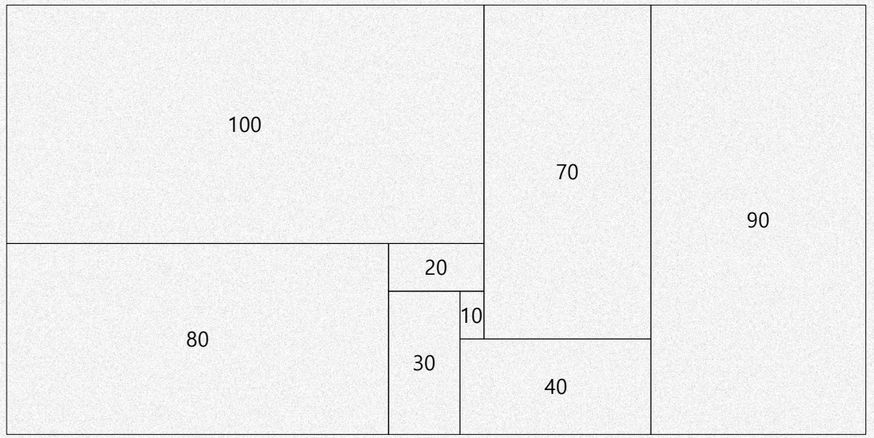
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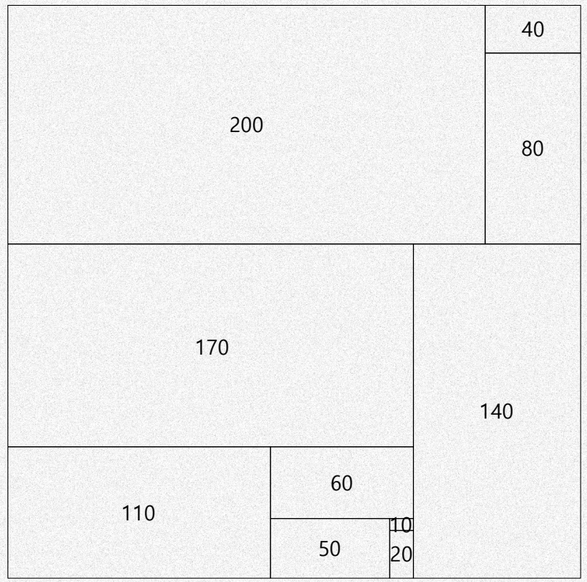
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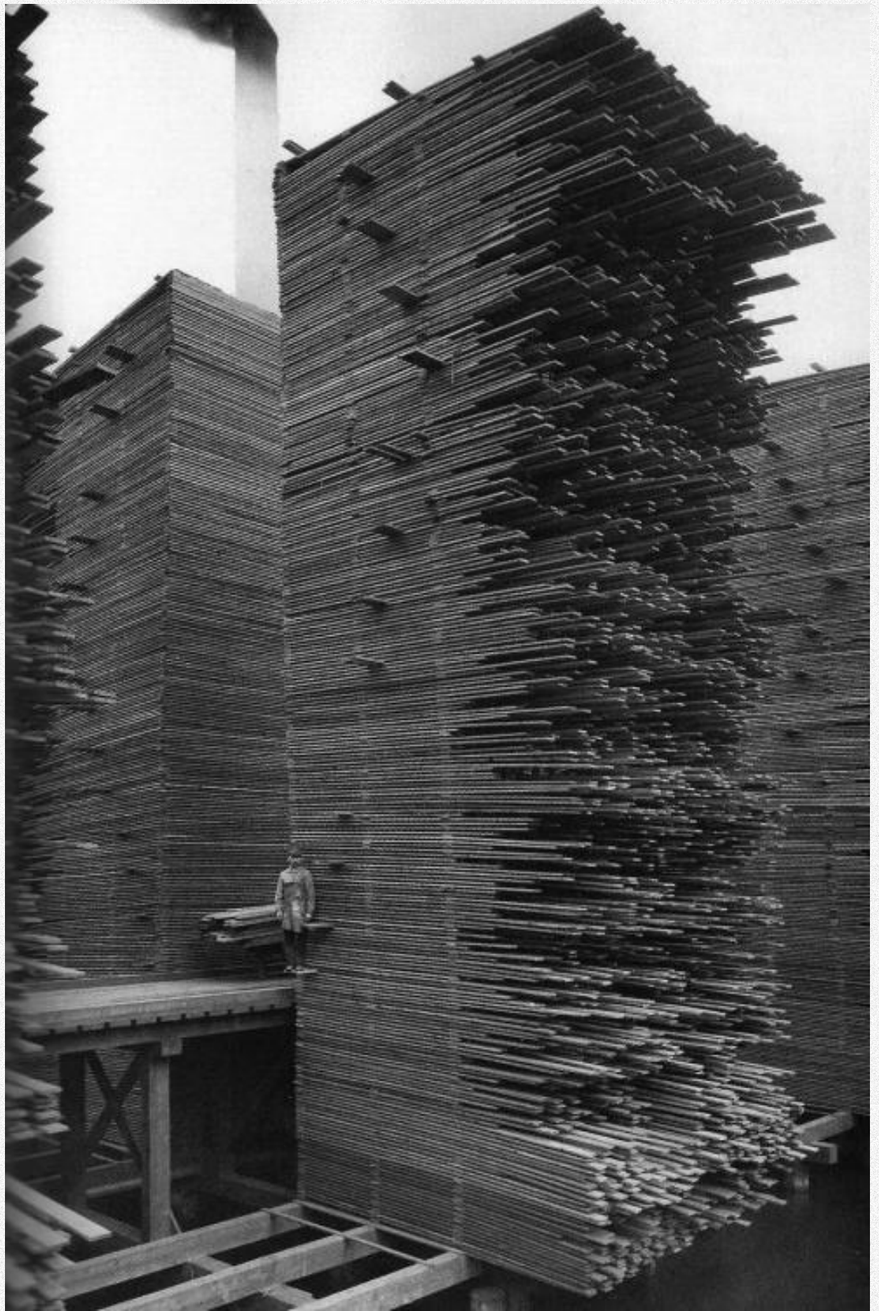
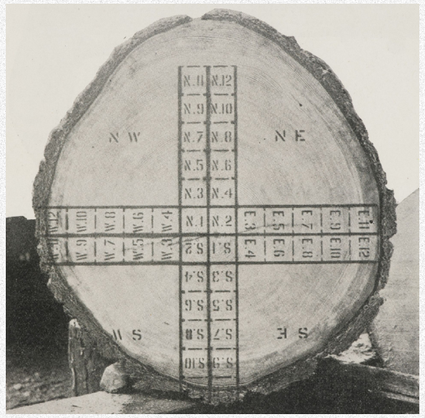


Photo of Pallets

Jiro Takamatsu
Oneness of Cedar, 1970

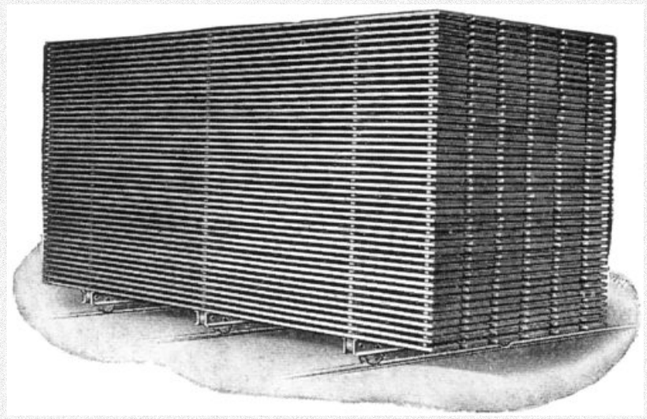
Hidetoshi Nagasawa
Le Muse, 1933



Rochester, G.H. Standard sawing diagram stencilled on end of log,1933

Webster and Stevens Seattle Cedar Mill's drying stacks, 1919

Noboru Takayama
Untitled, 1983

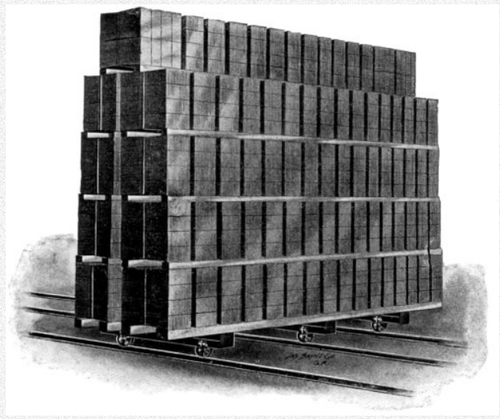


Method of Loading lumber on its flat, cross-wise of the dry kiln when same has three tracks

Souto de Moura, Model of Burgo Tower, photo: Jose Campos, 2017

Carl Andre
Trabum (Element Series), 1960

Richard Long
By walking, 1967

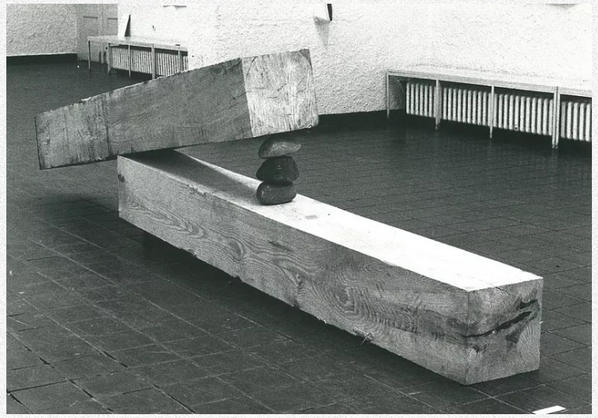


Method of loading kiln car with shingles cross-wise of dry kiln.

Sean Cully
Oak Stacks,

Sarah Lucas
Furniture, 2013

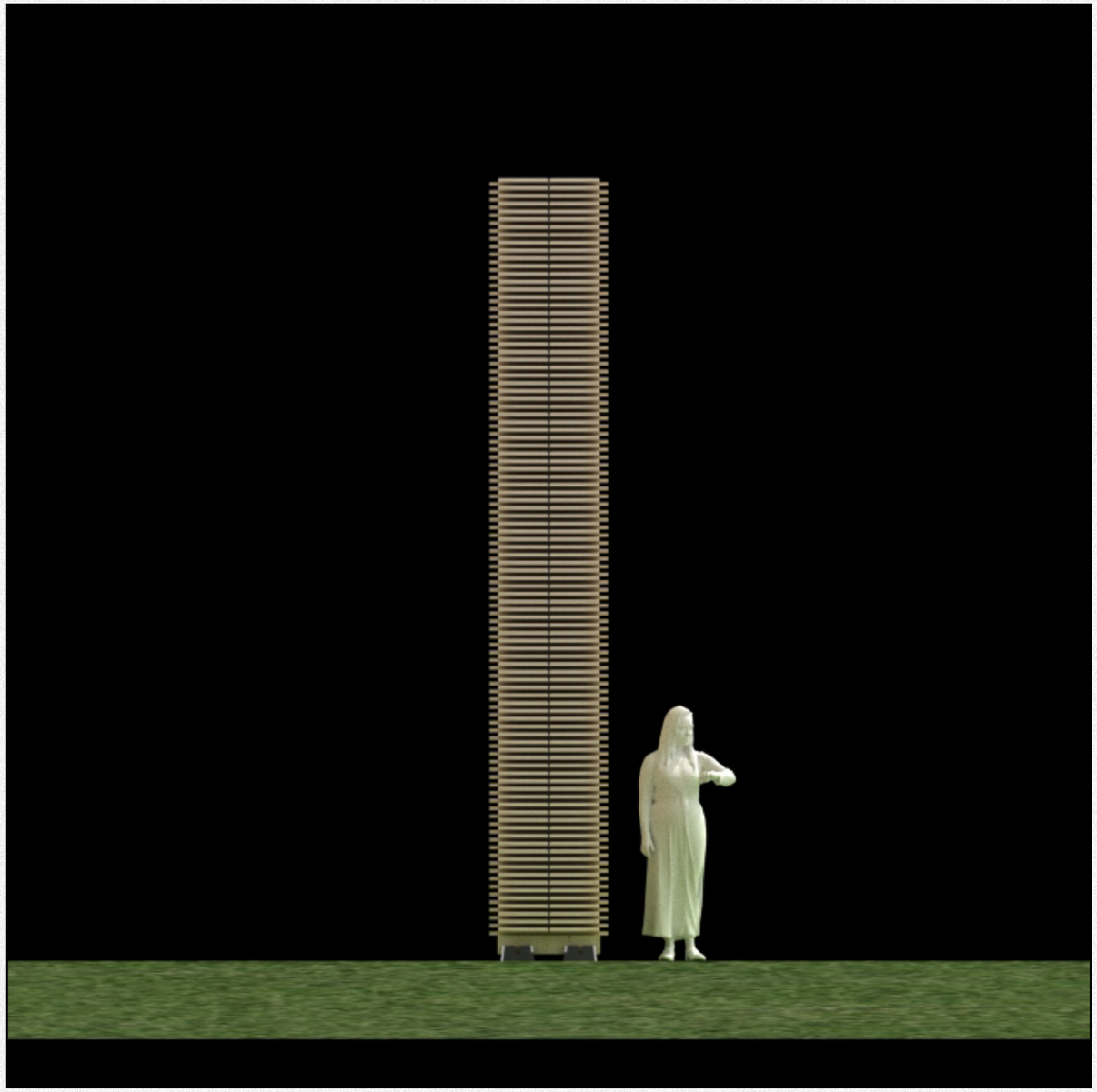
Photo of Kiln Drying facility, India

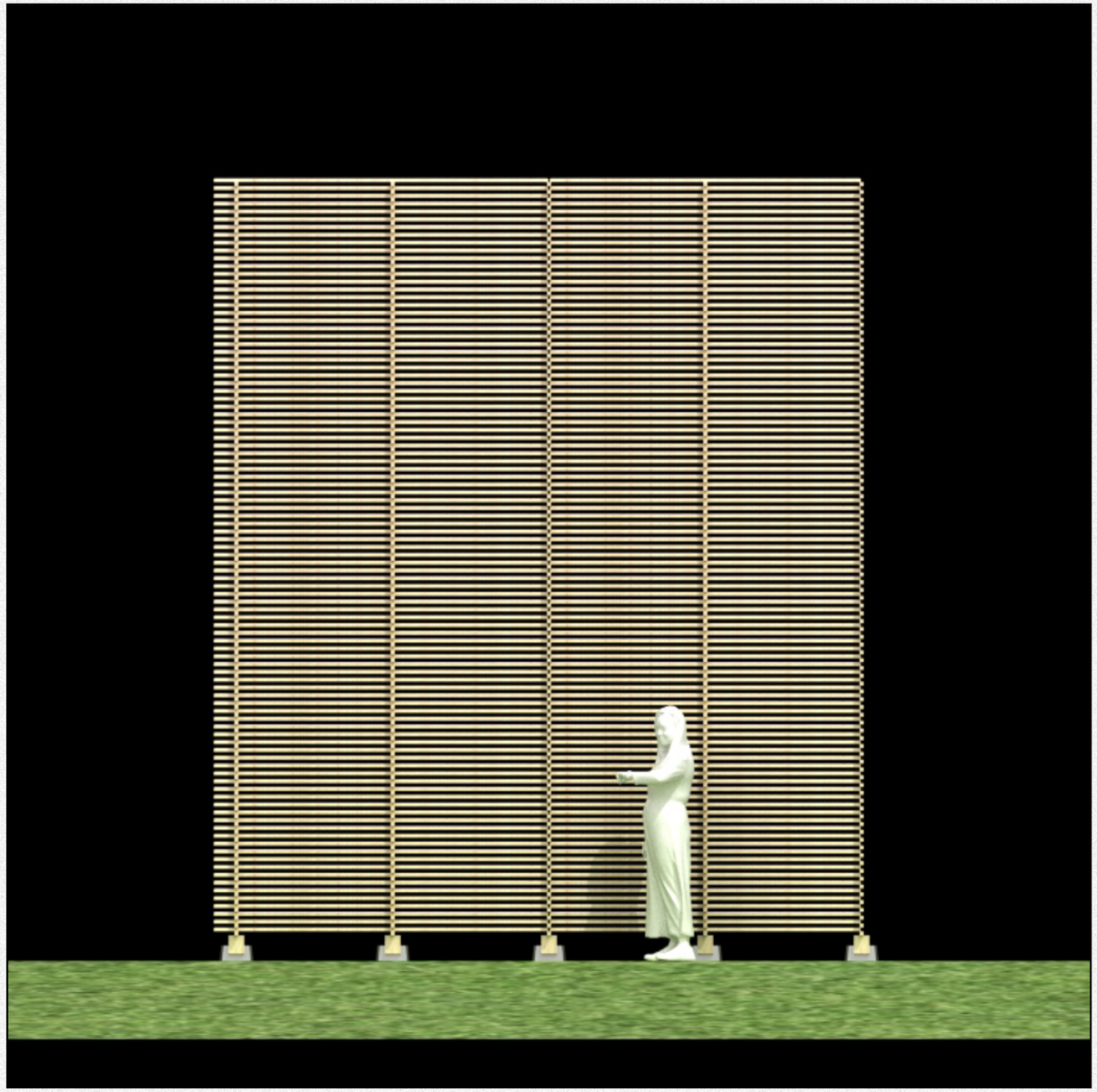


Keiji Uematsu
Three Stones, 1979

Tony Cragg
Stack, 1975

Photo of timbers stacked and air-dry





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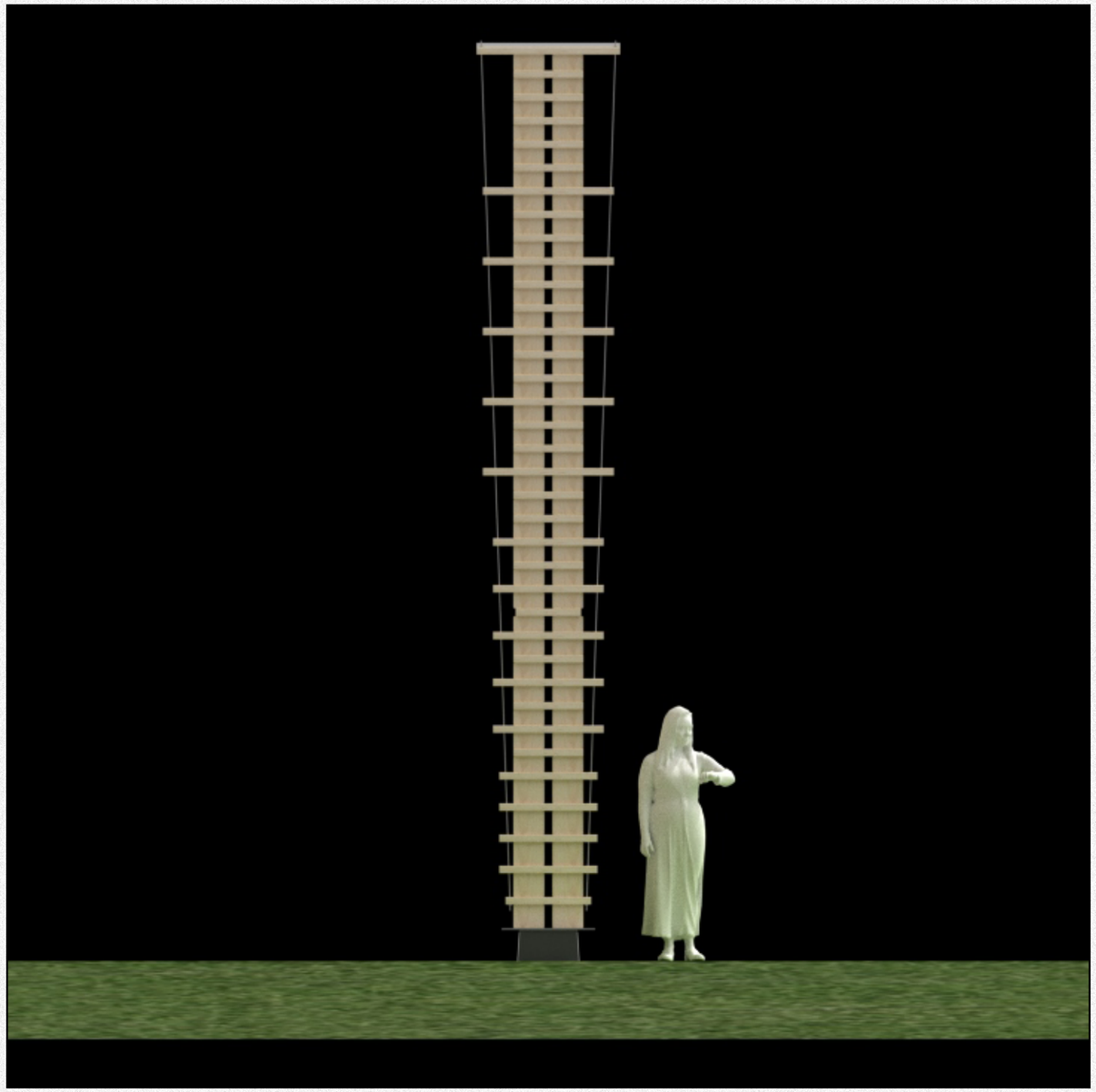

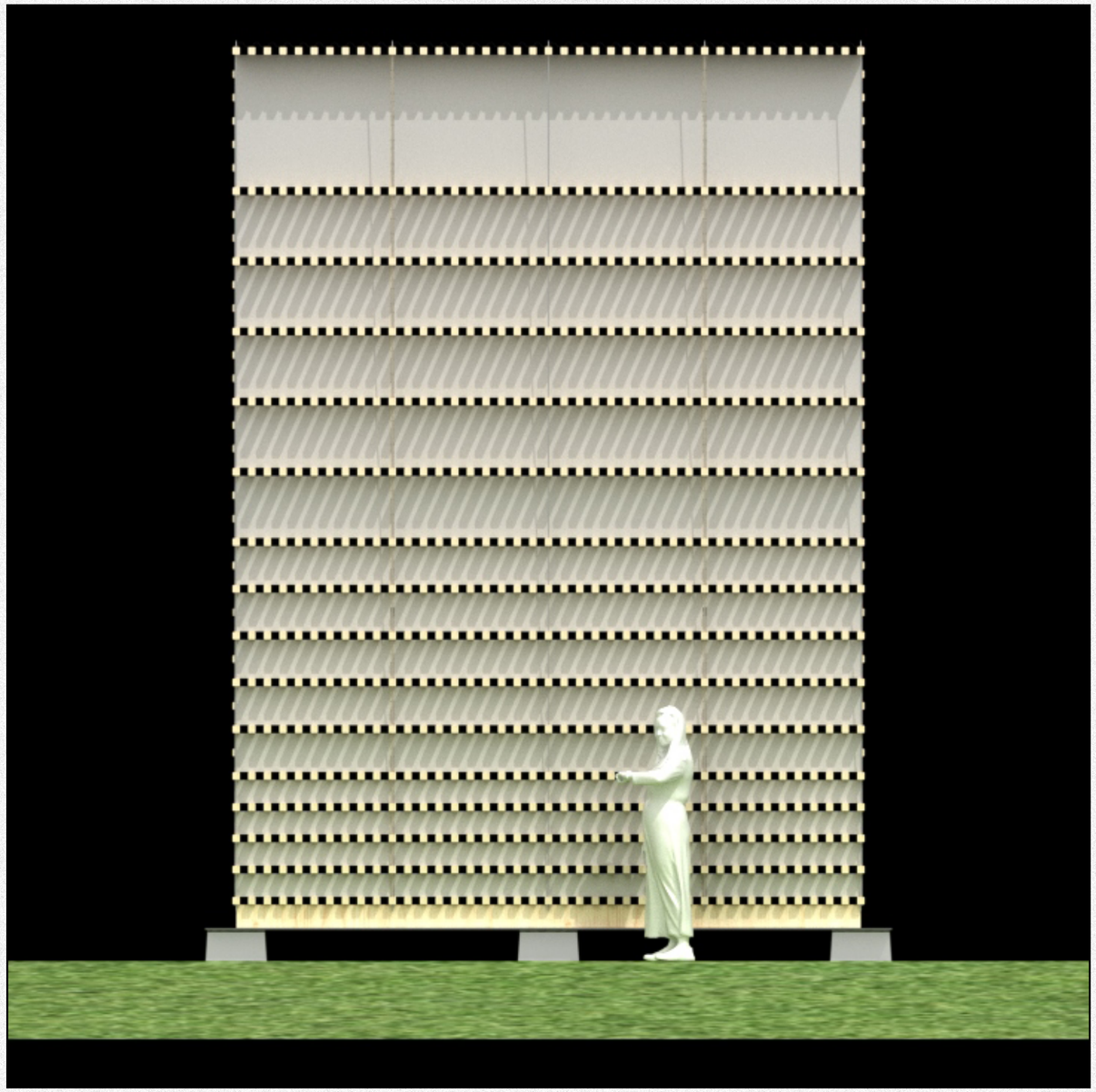

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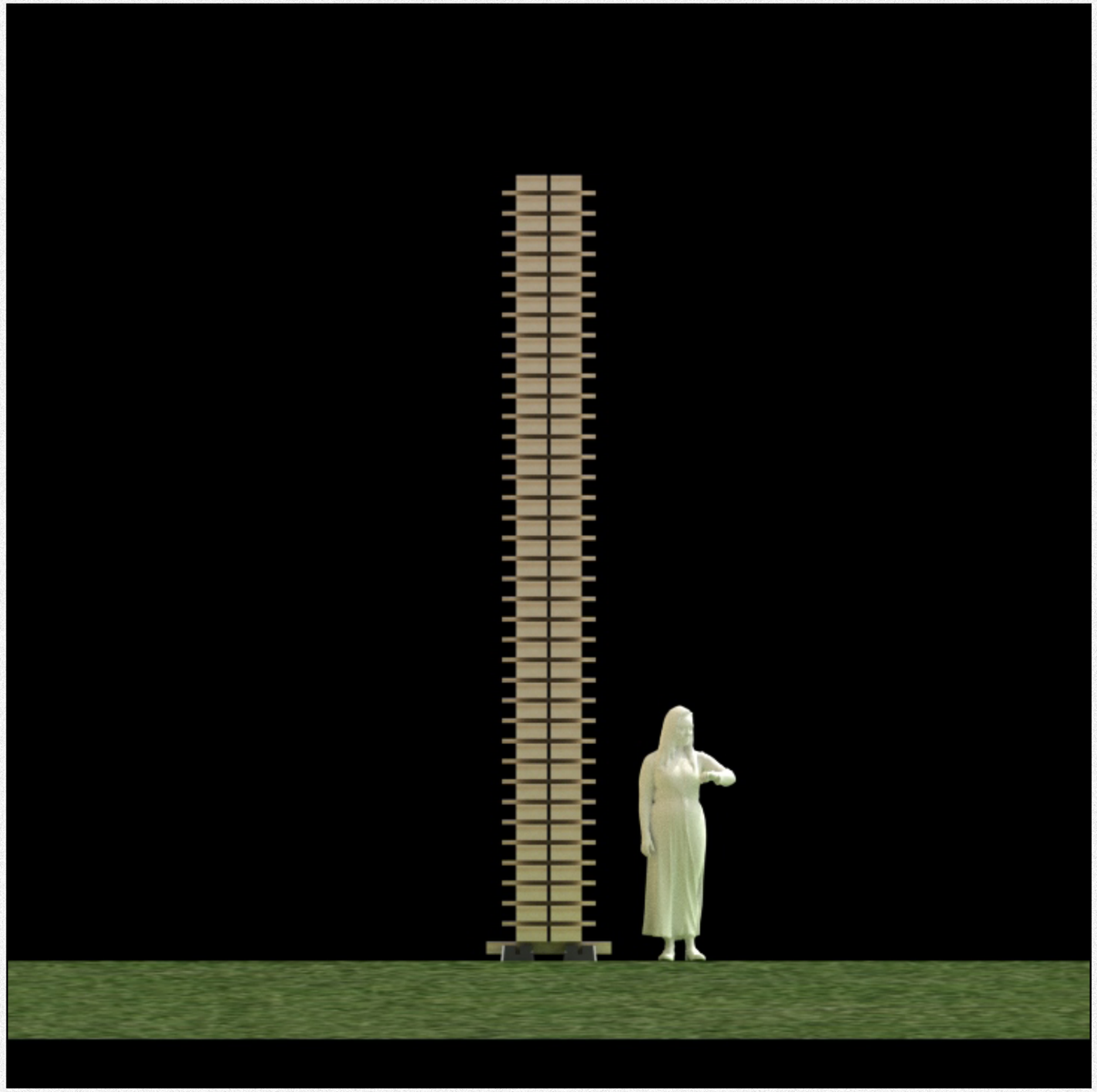

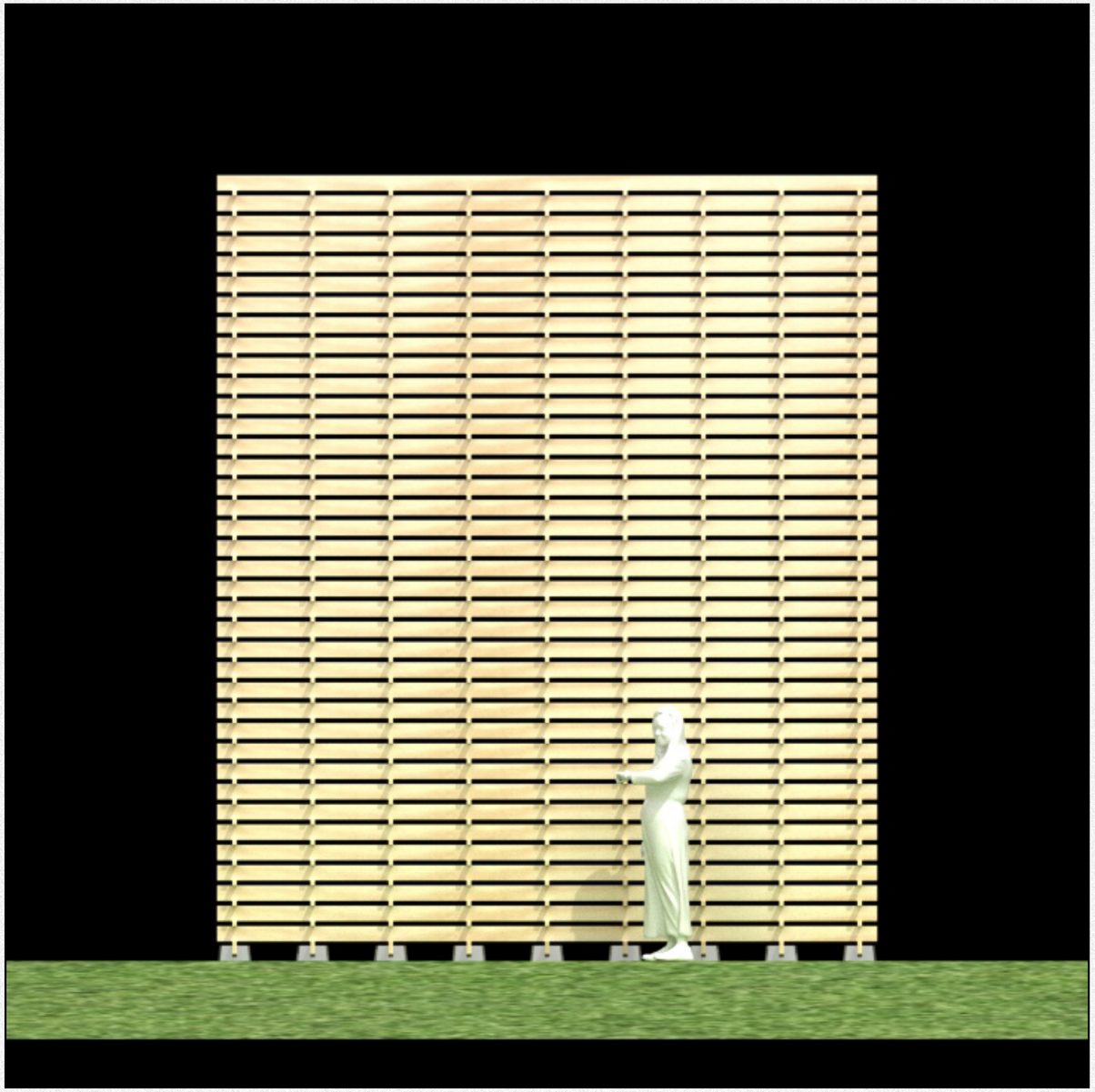

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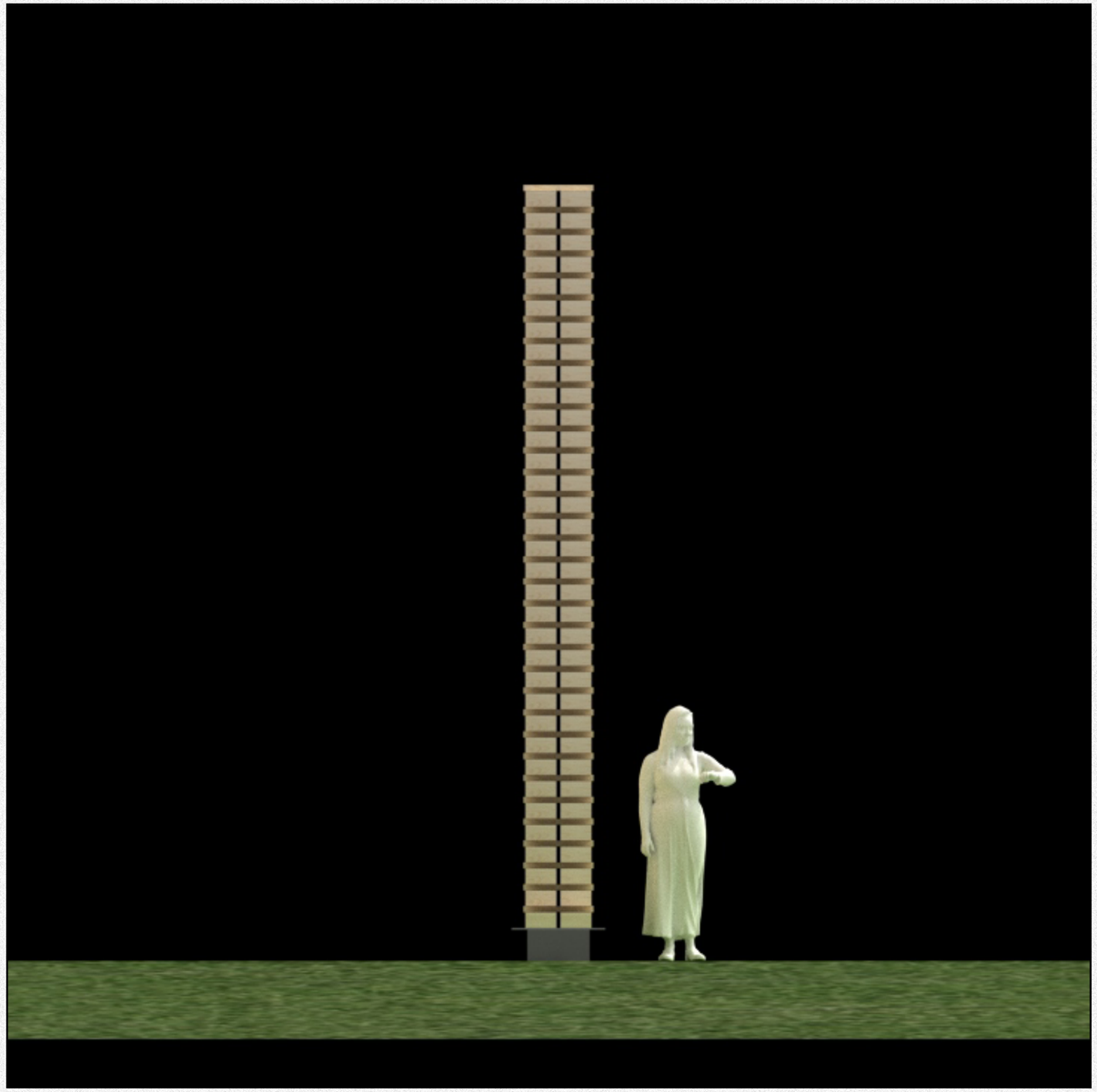
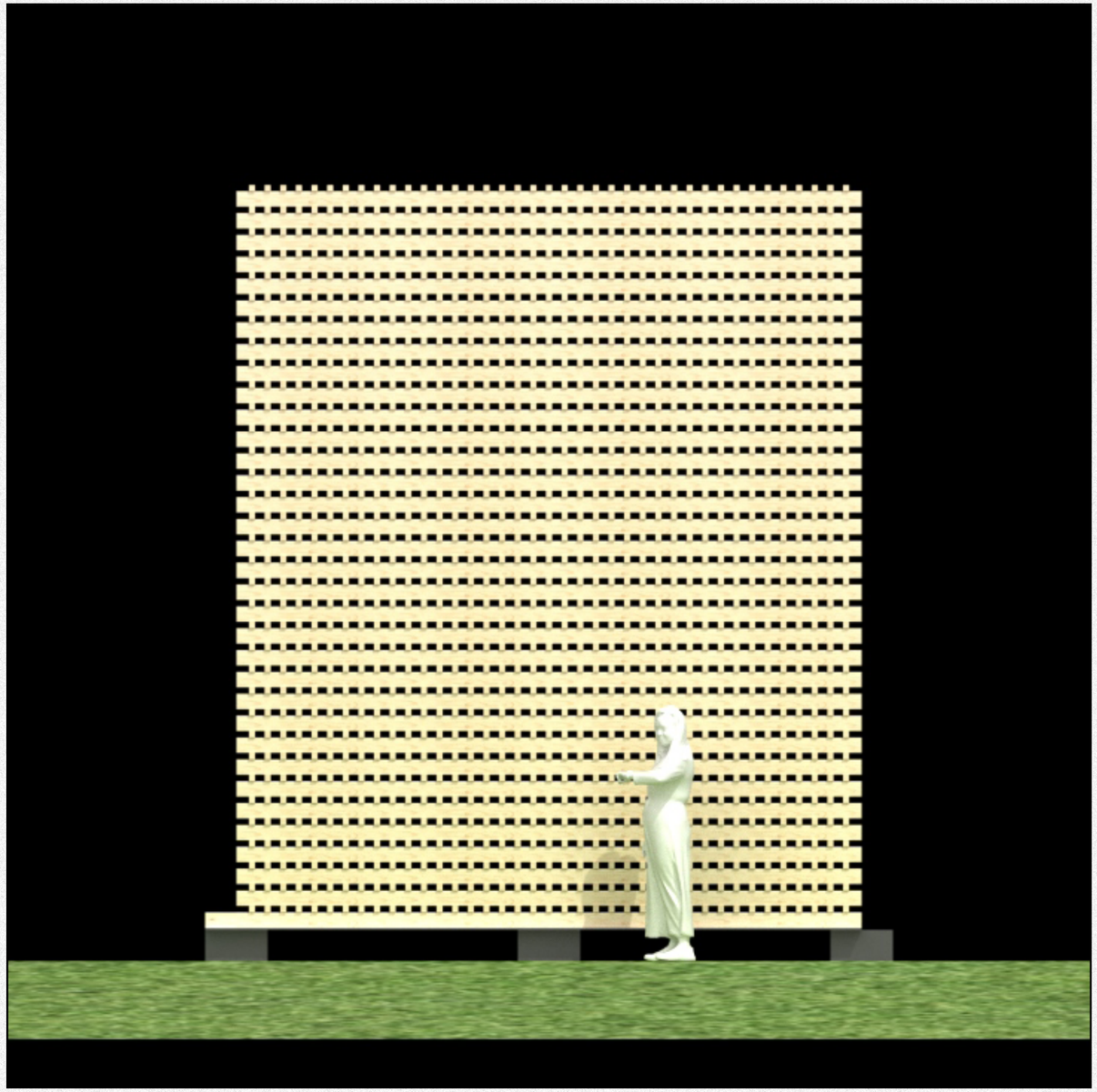
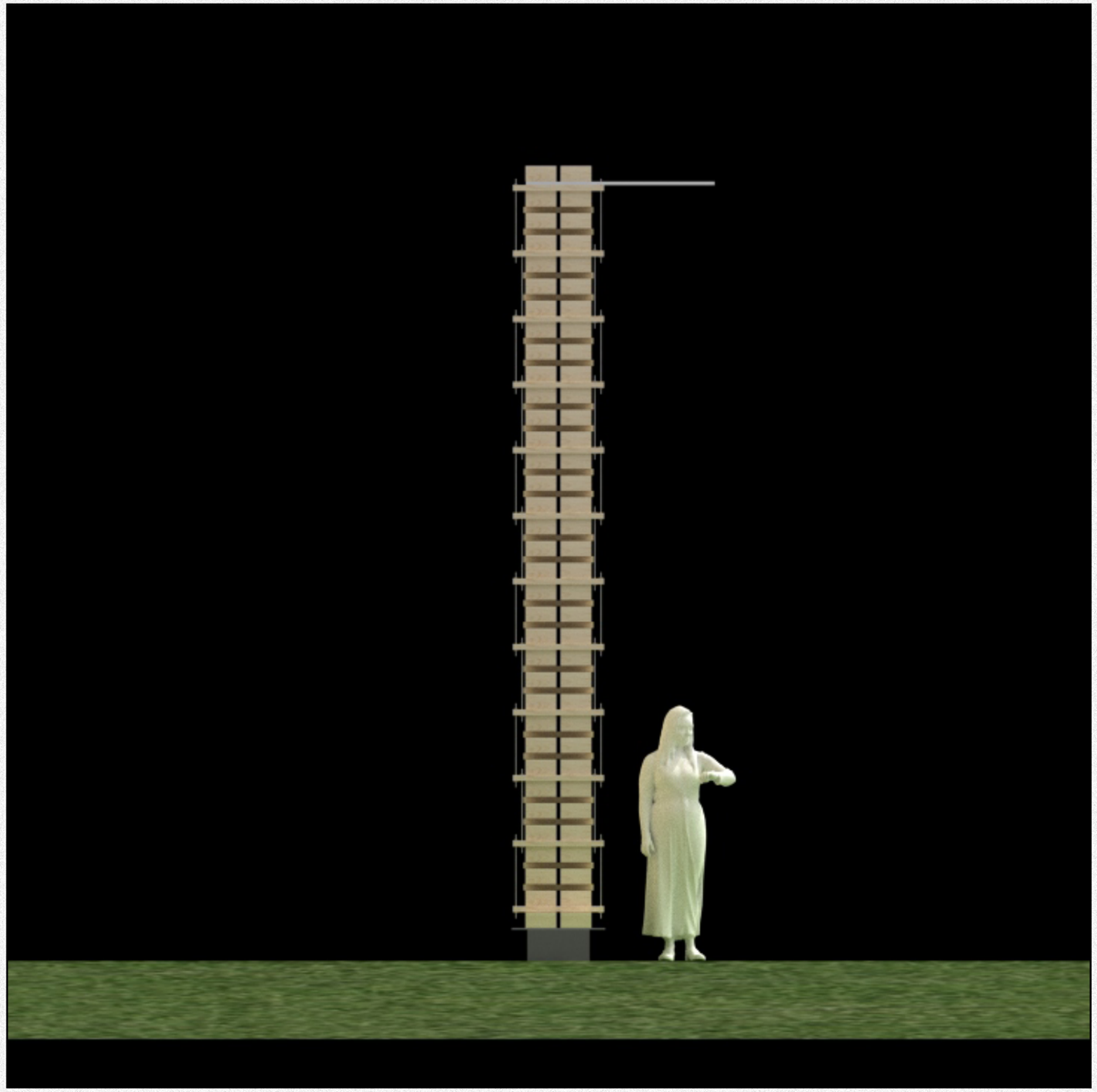
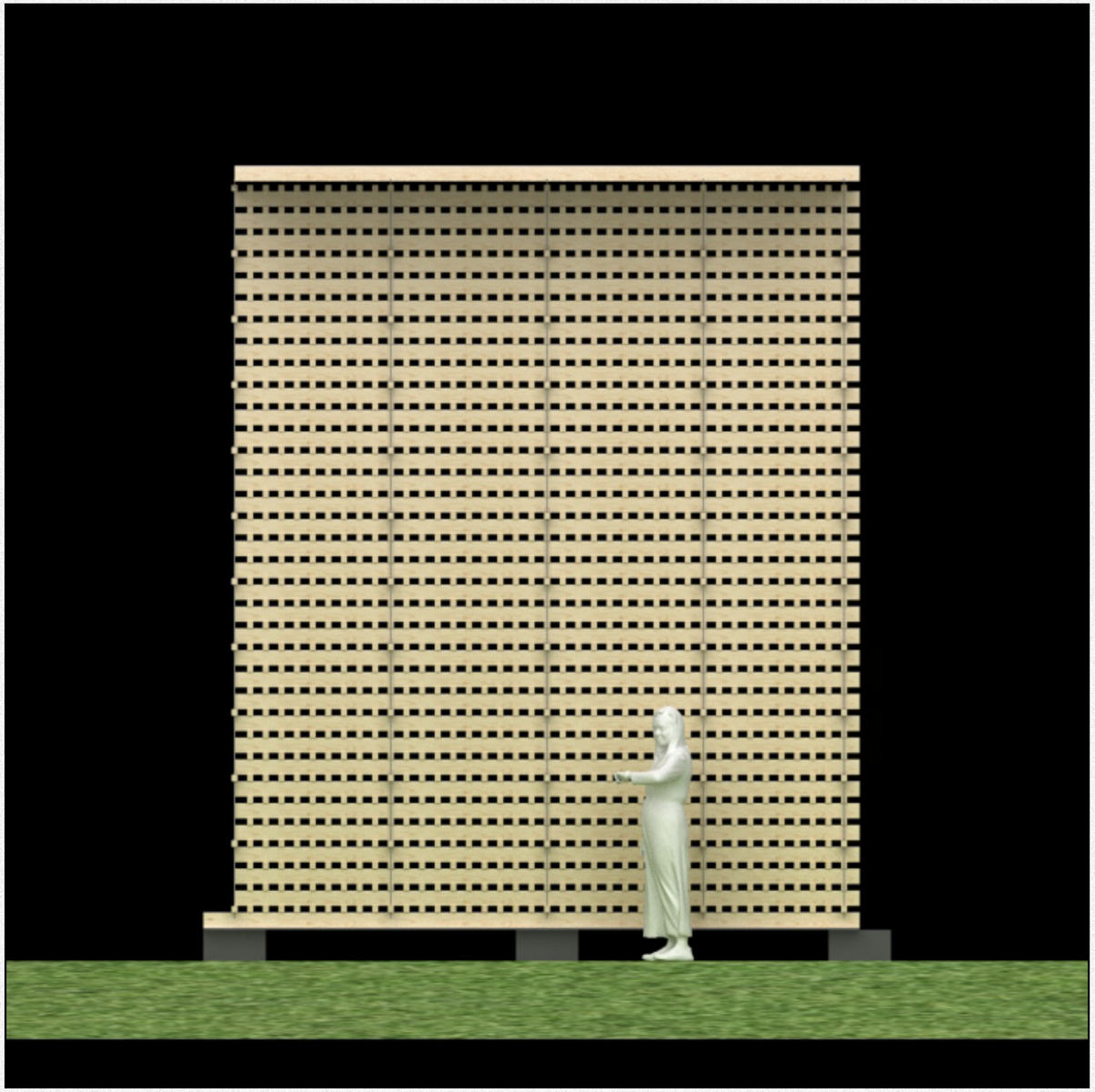


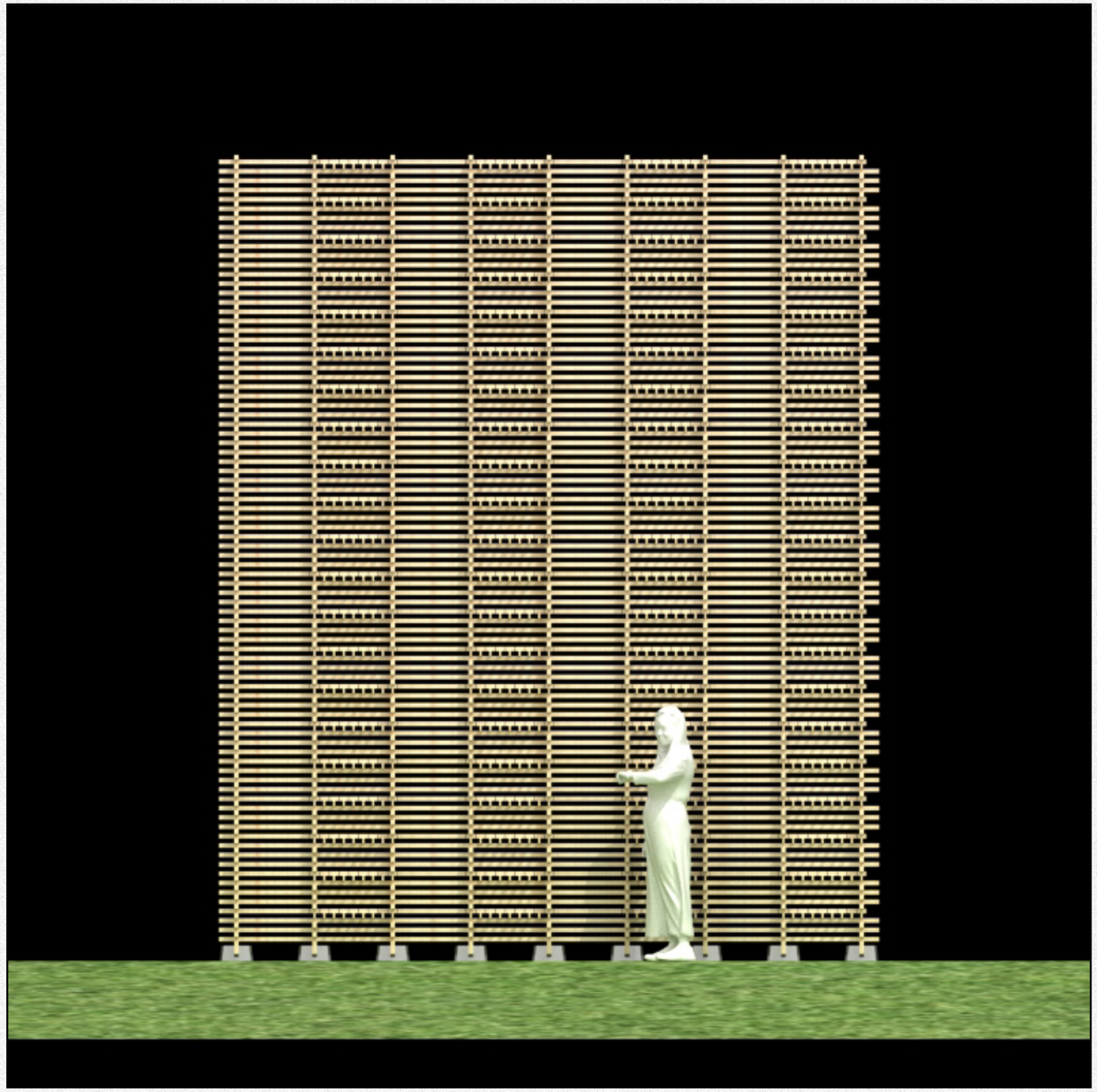


C_ tall and dense

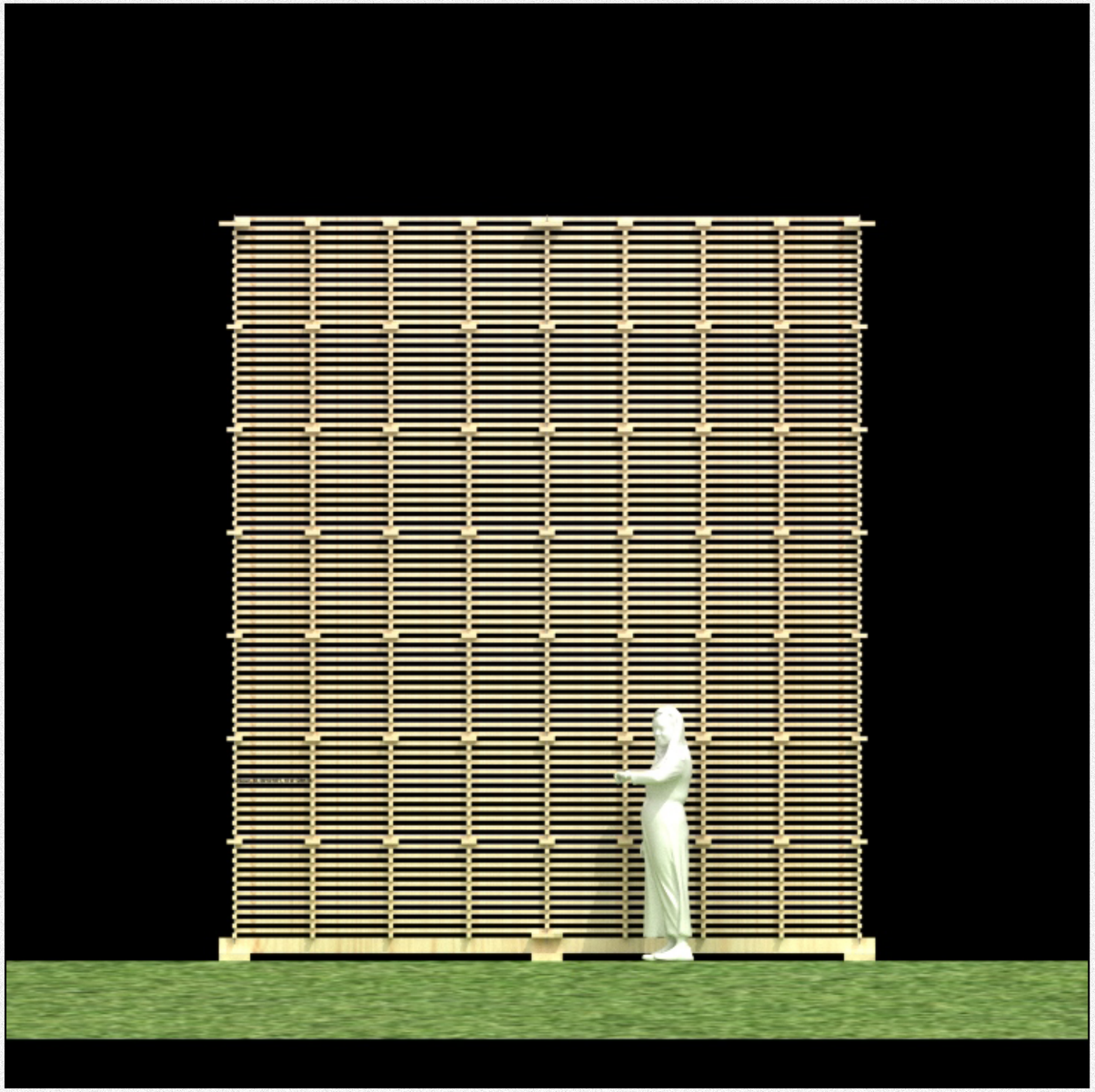




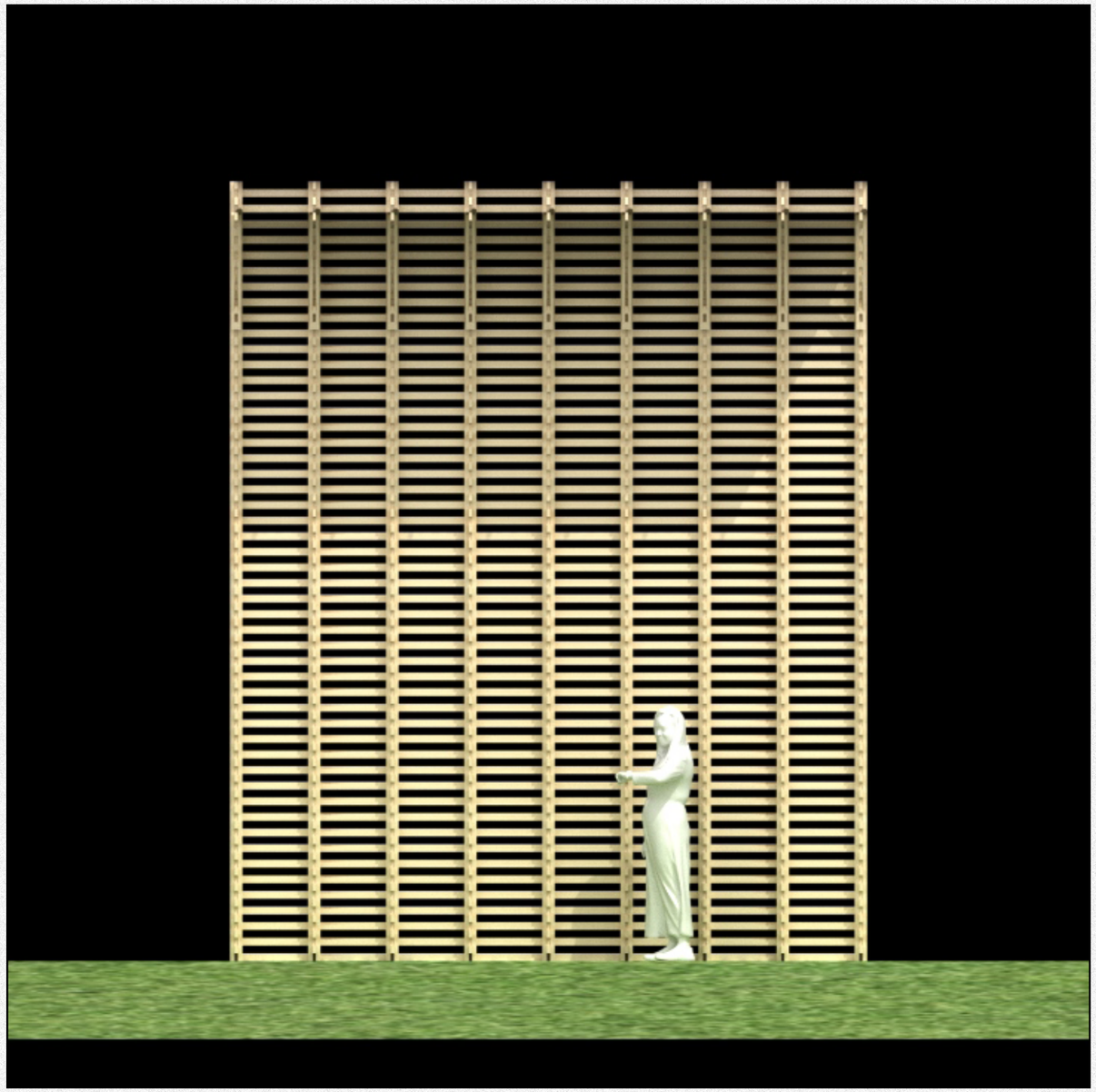
D_ tall and dense



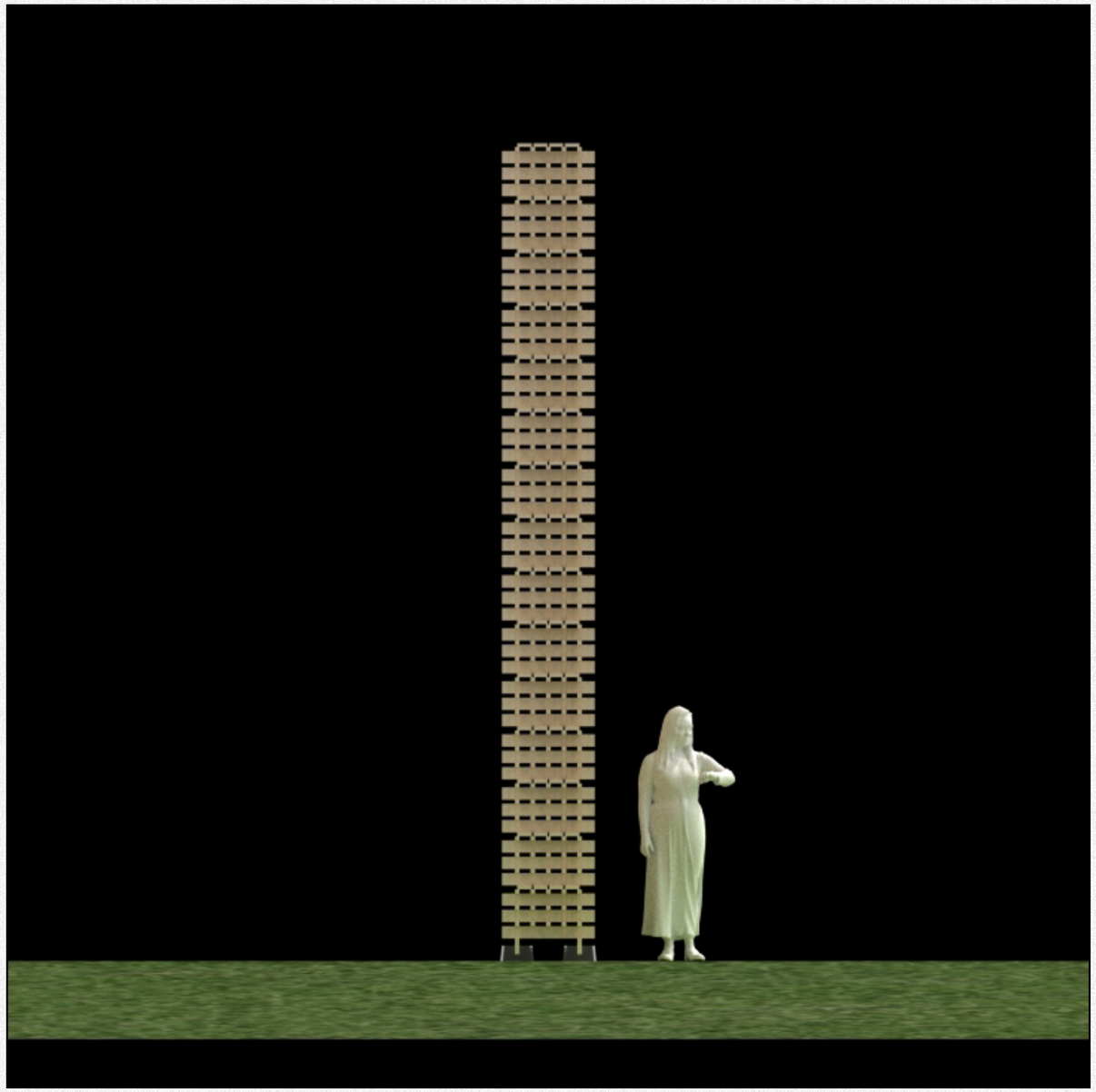
E_ tall and dense

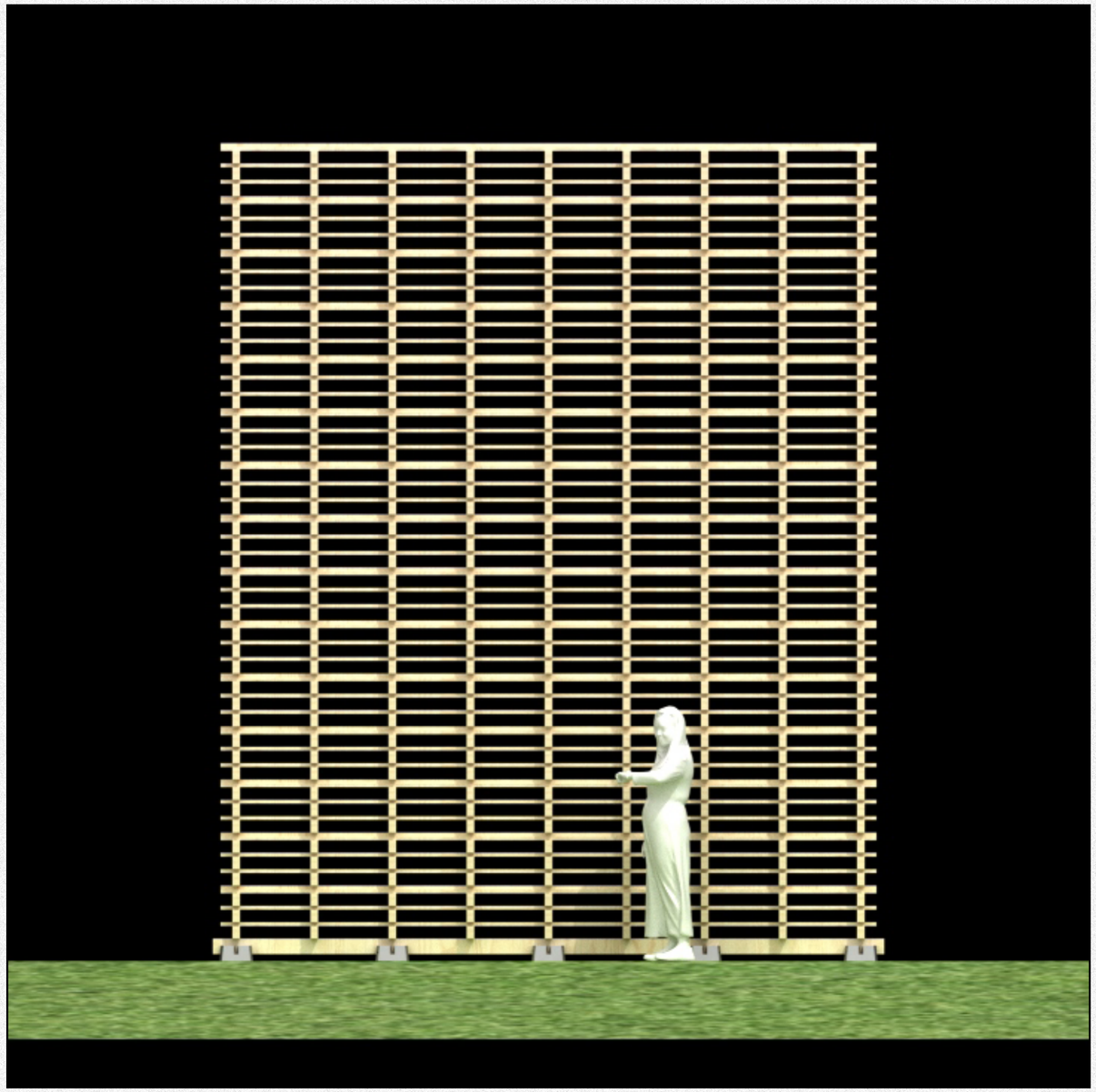


F_ tall and semi-opened

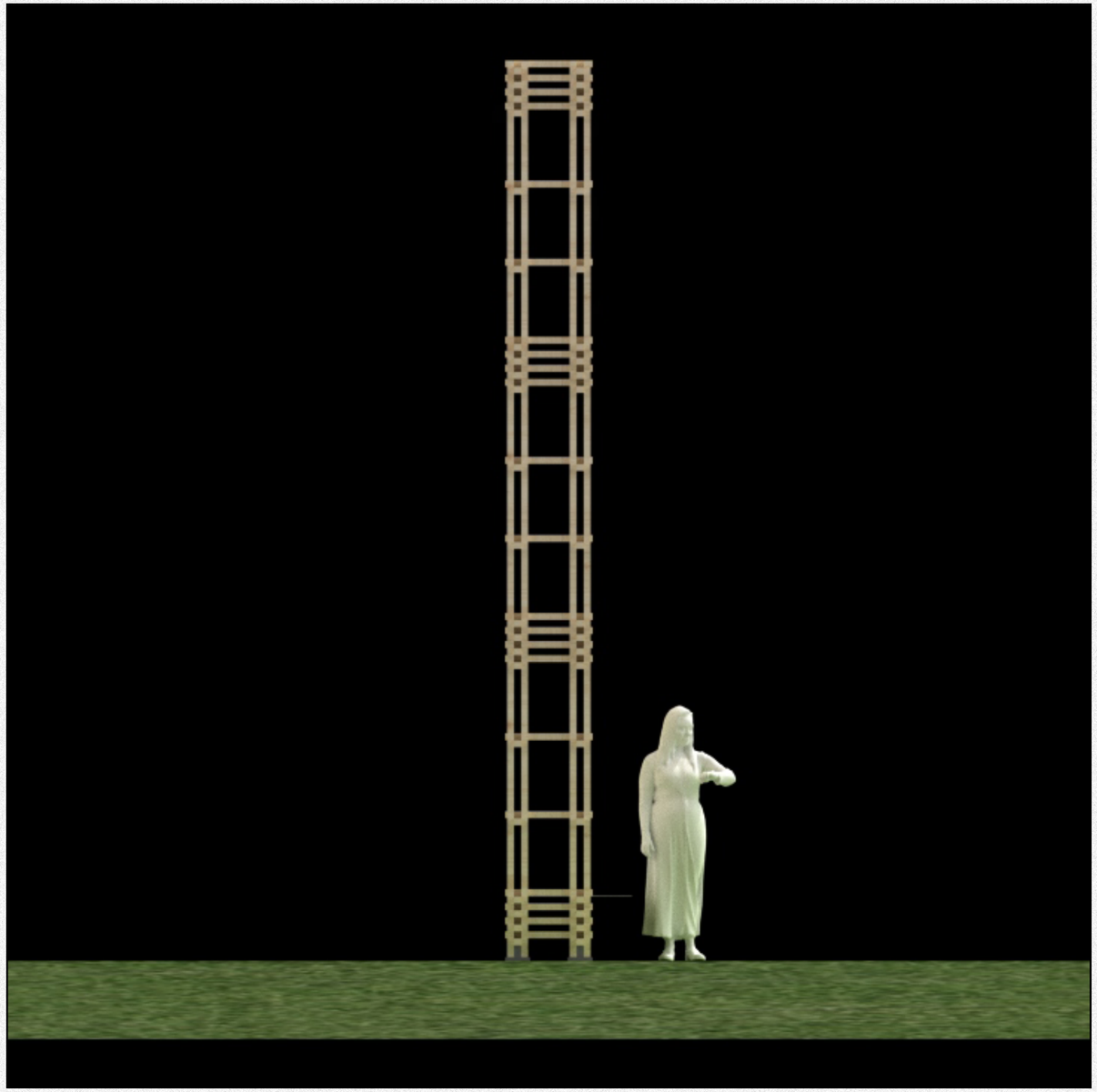


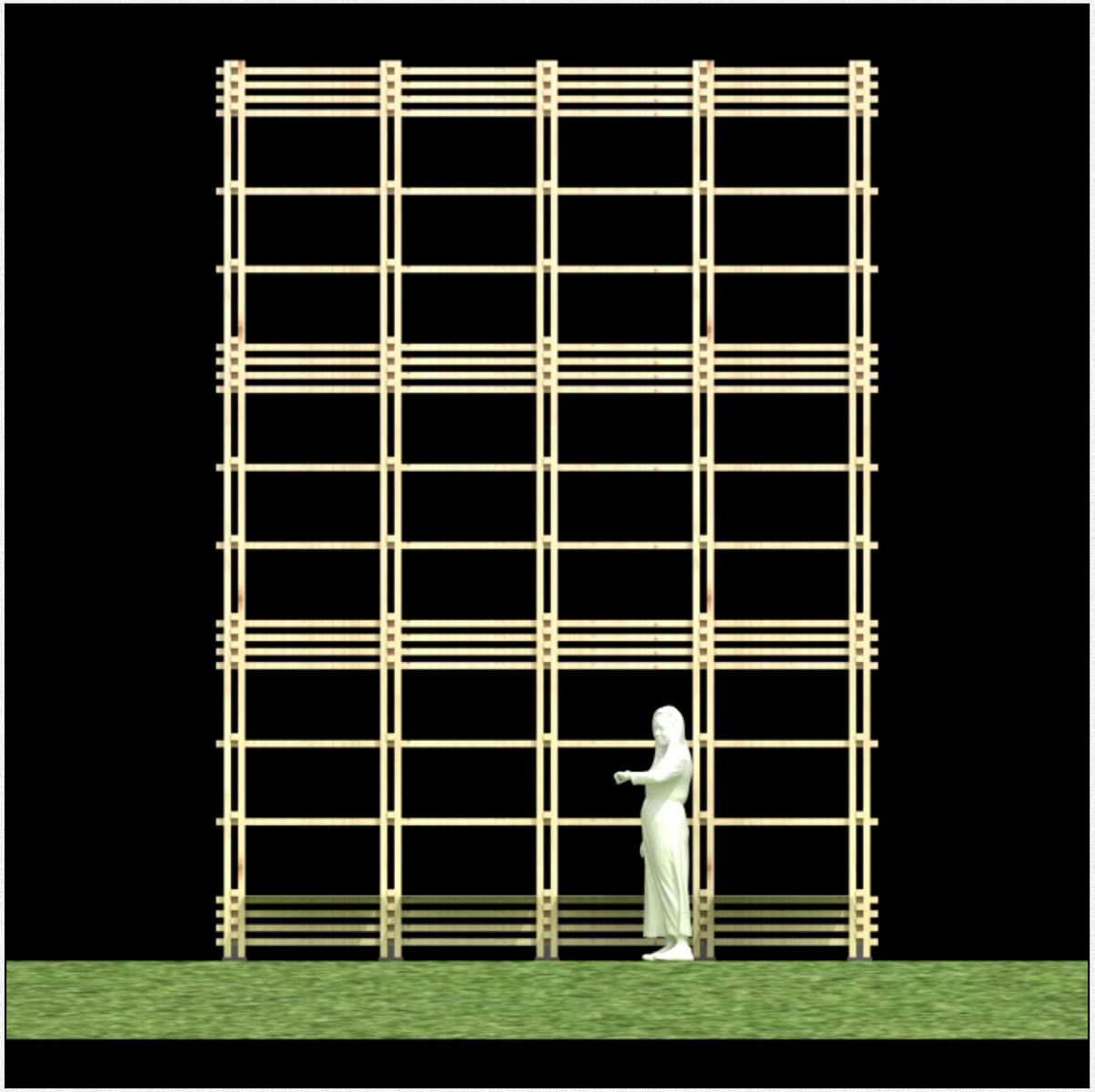
G_ tall and semi-opened



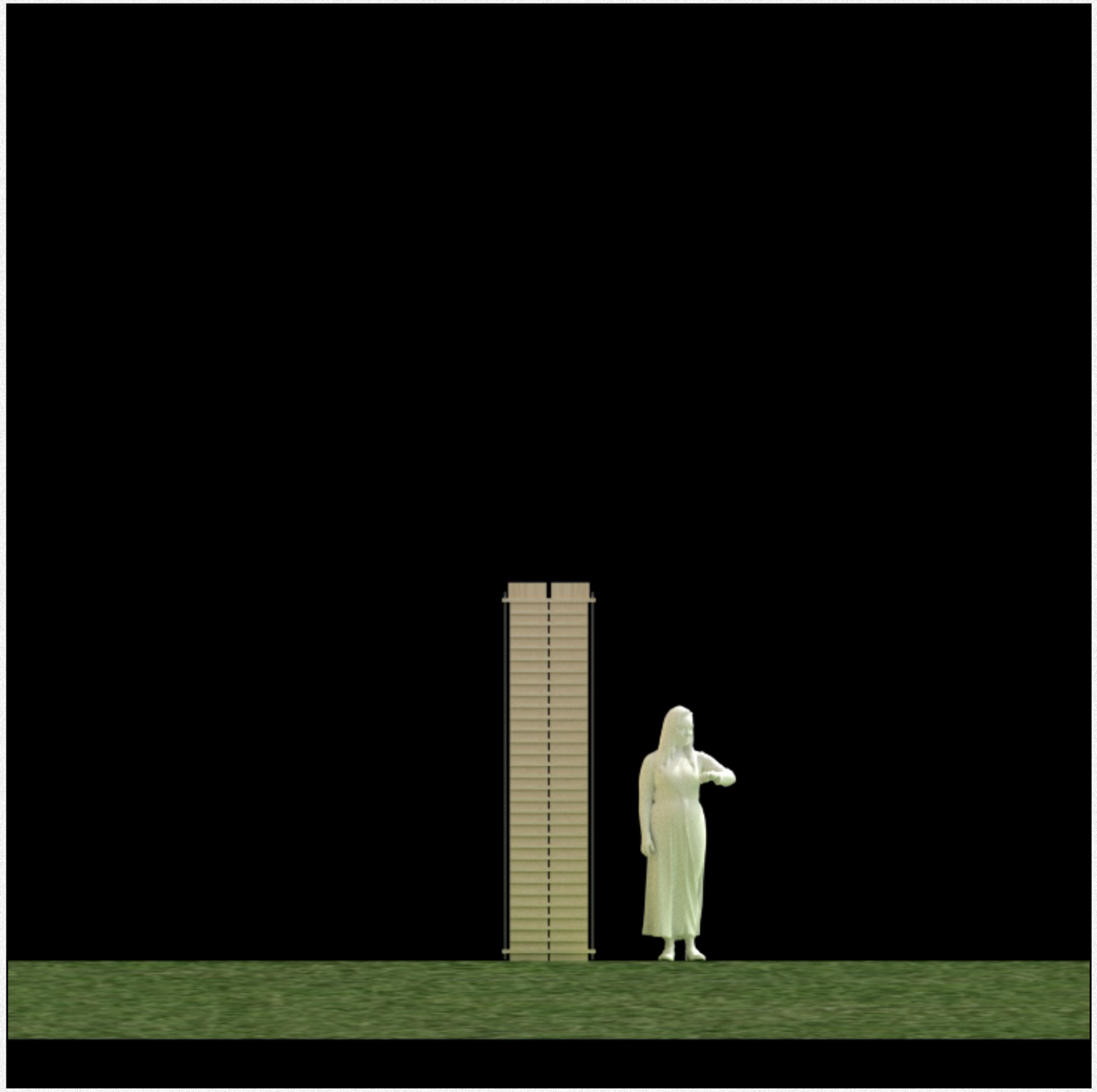


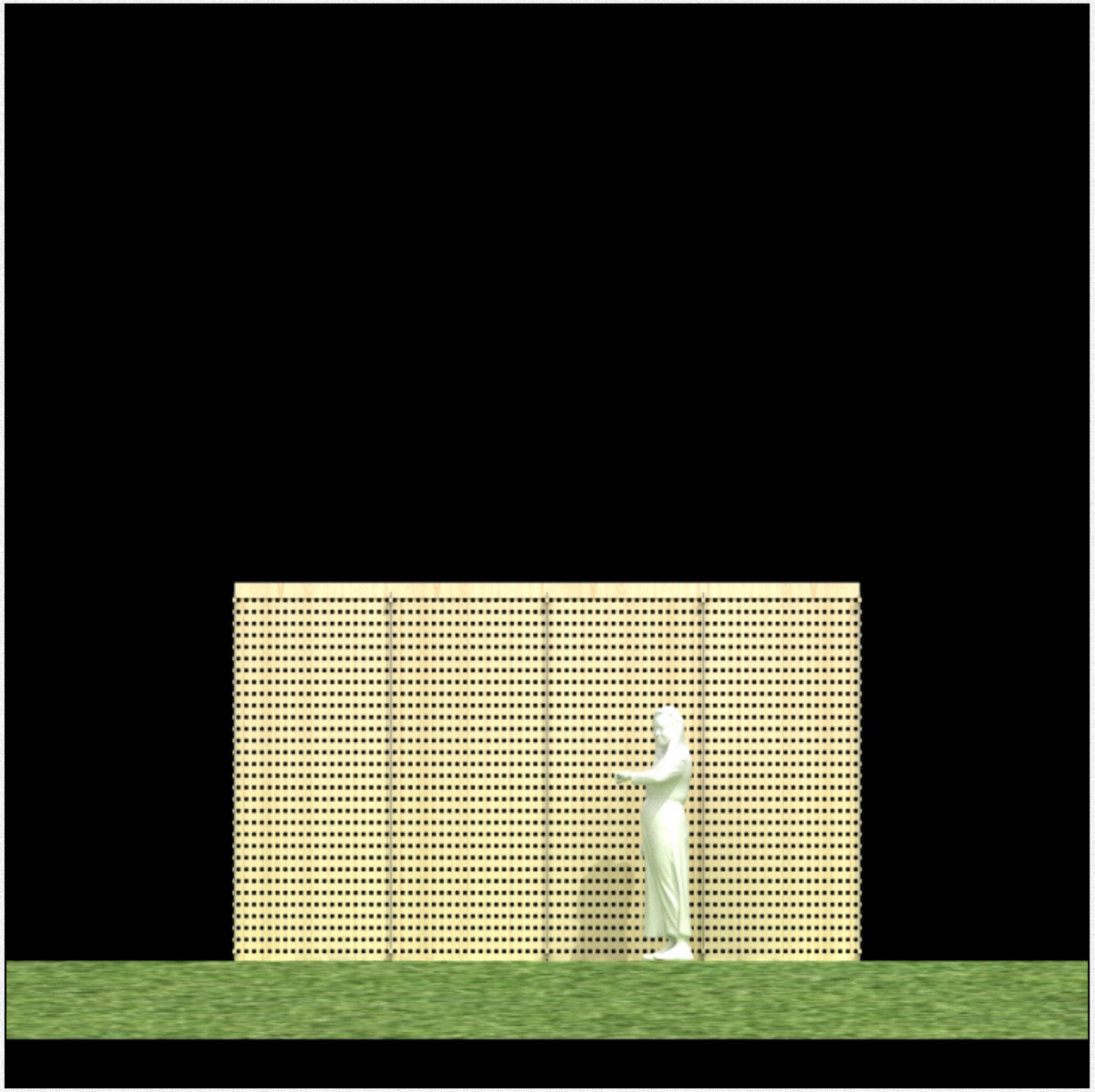
H_ tall and opened



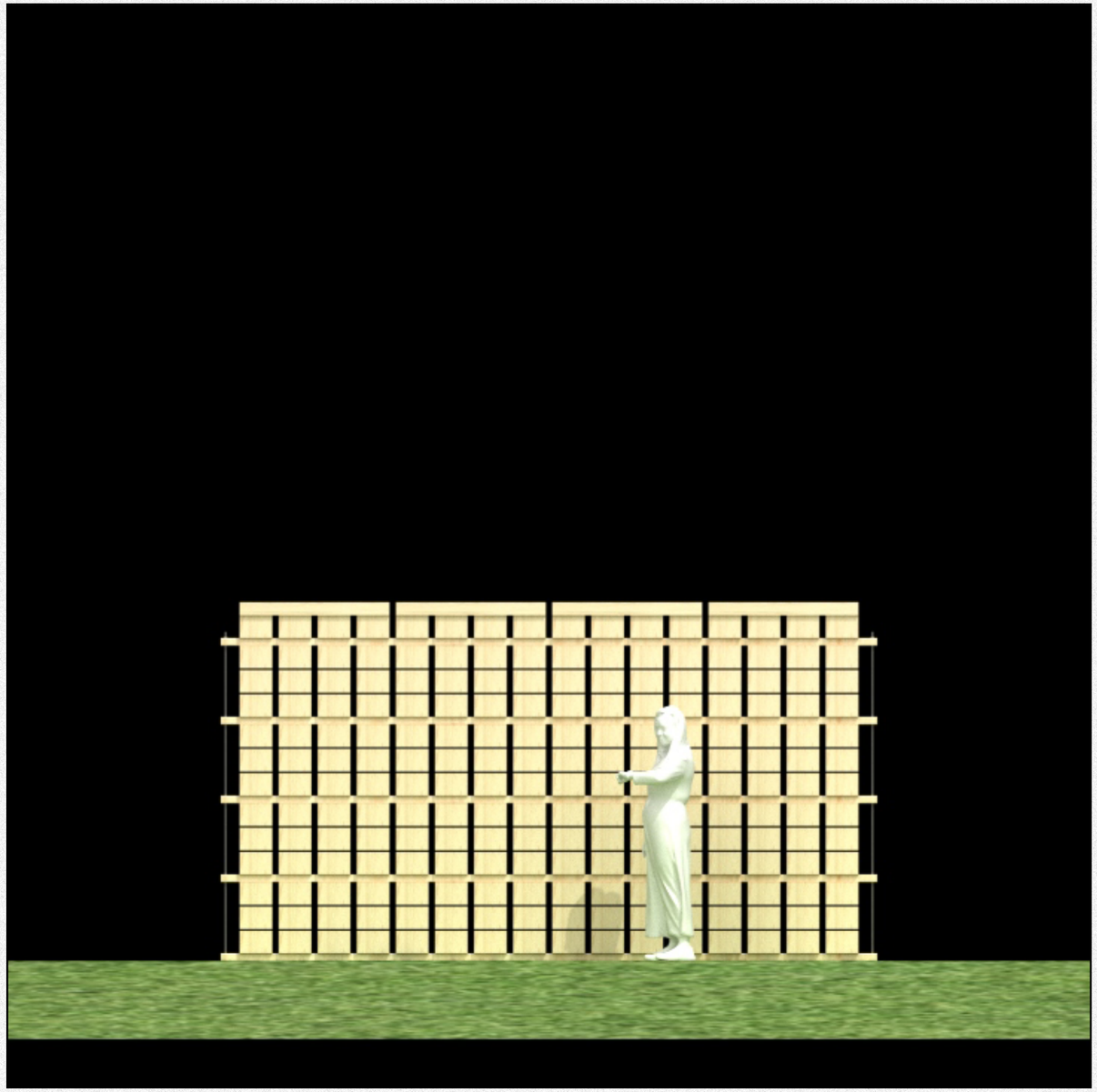


I_ tall and fully opened

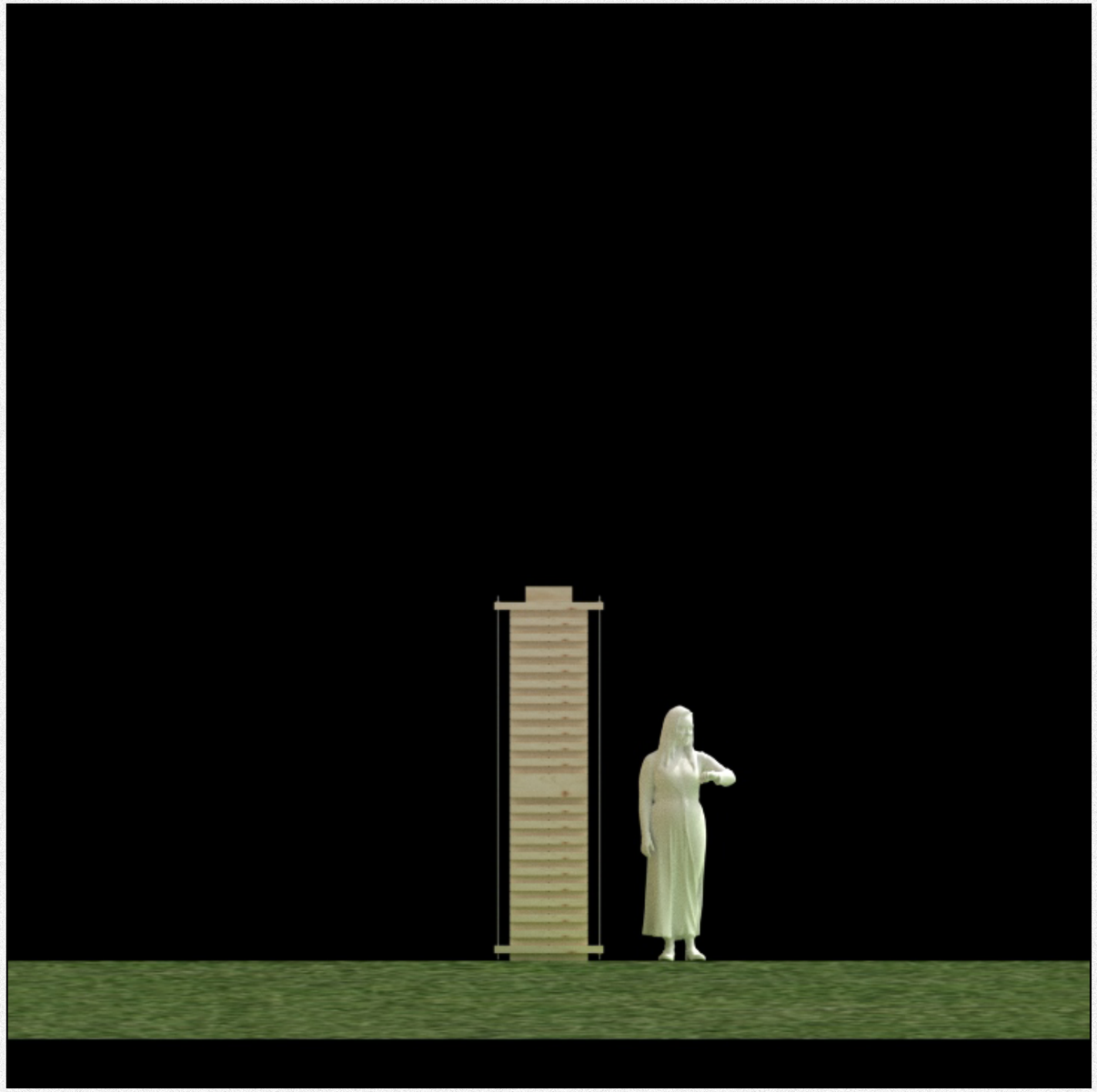


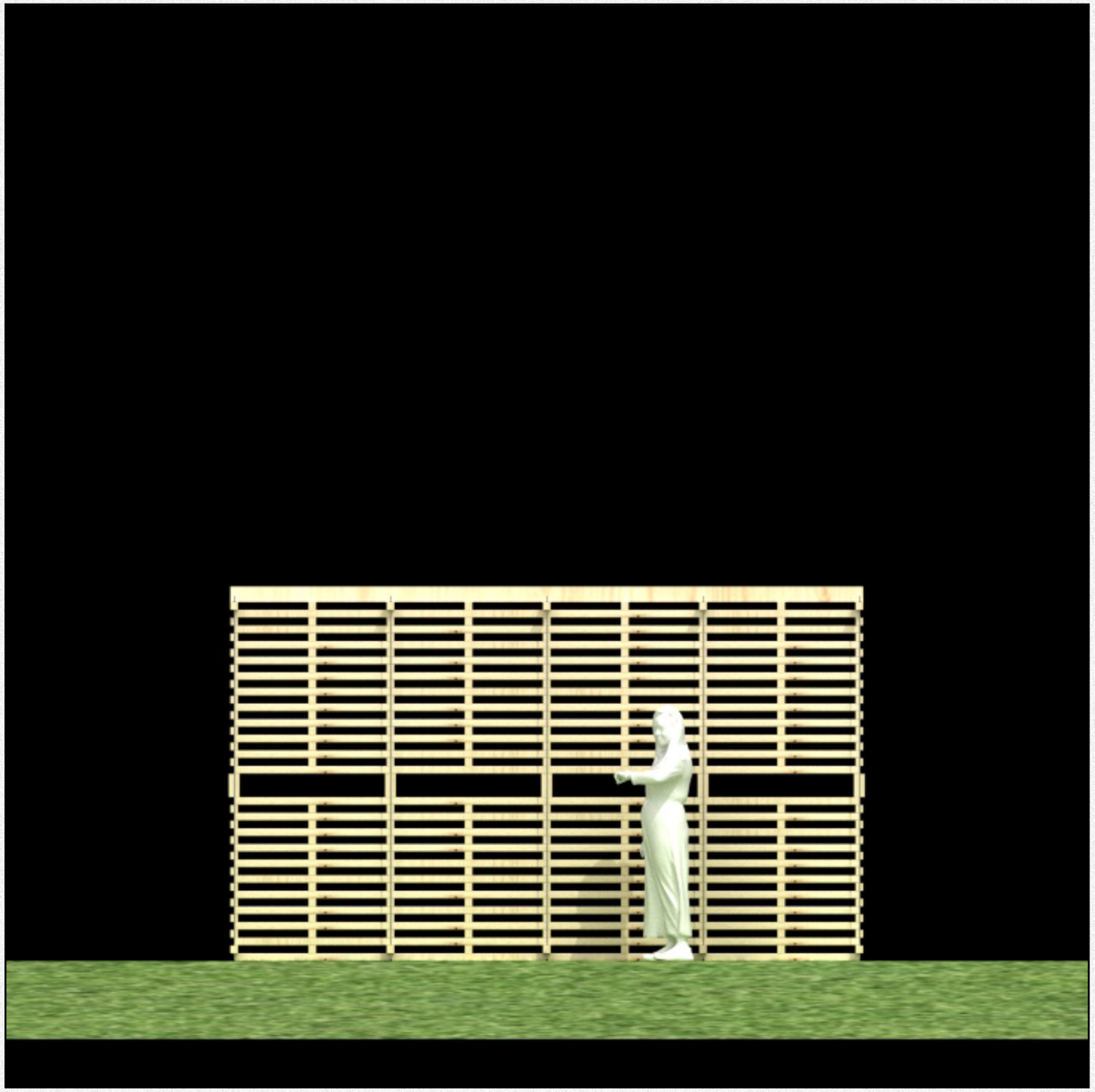


J_ low and fully closed

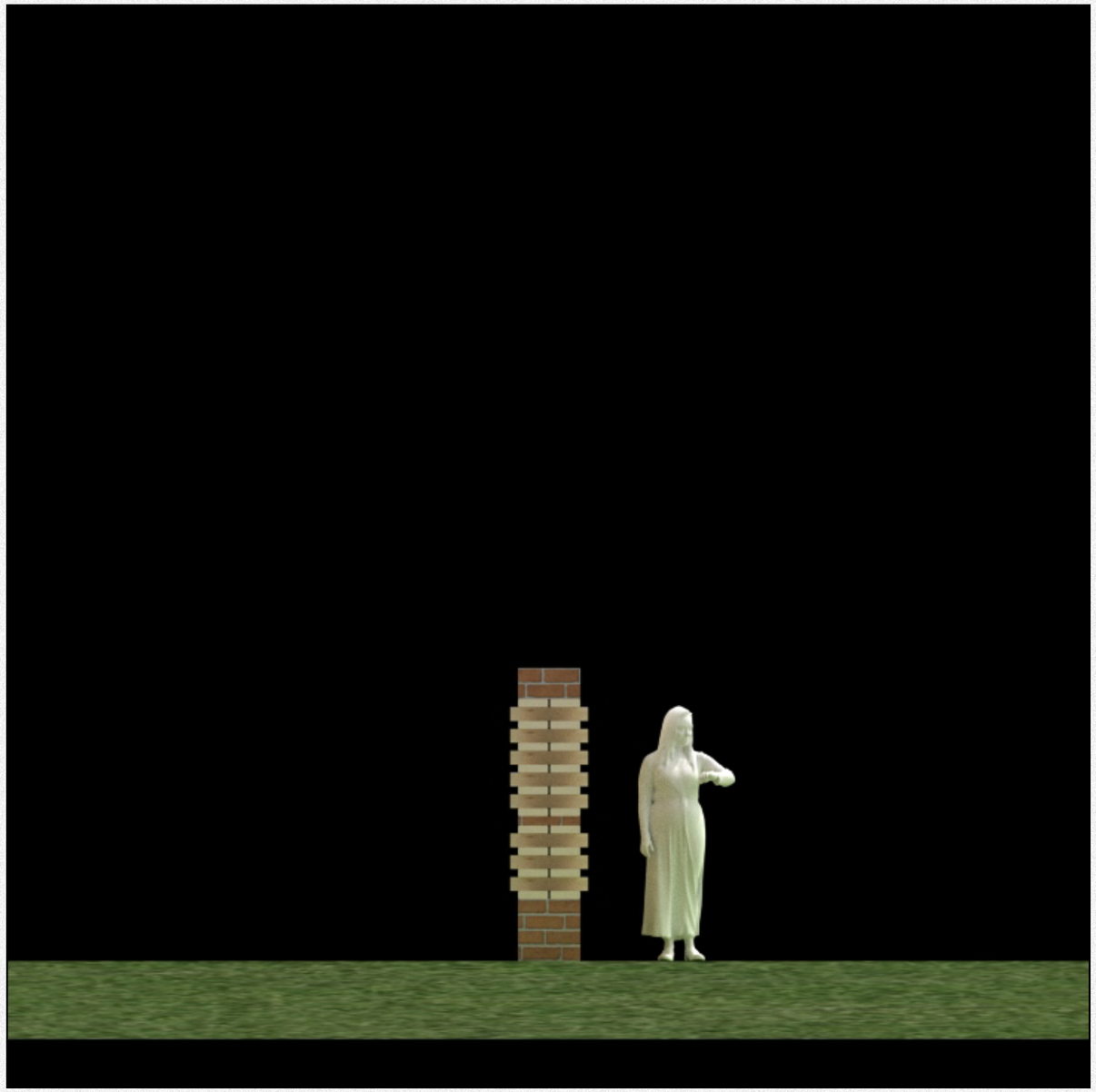


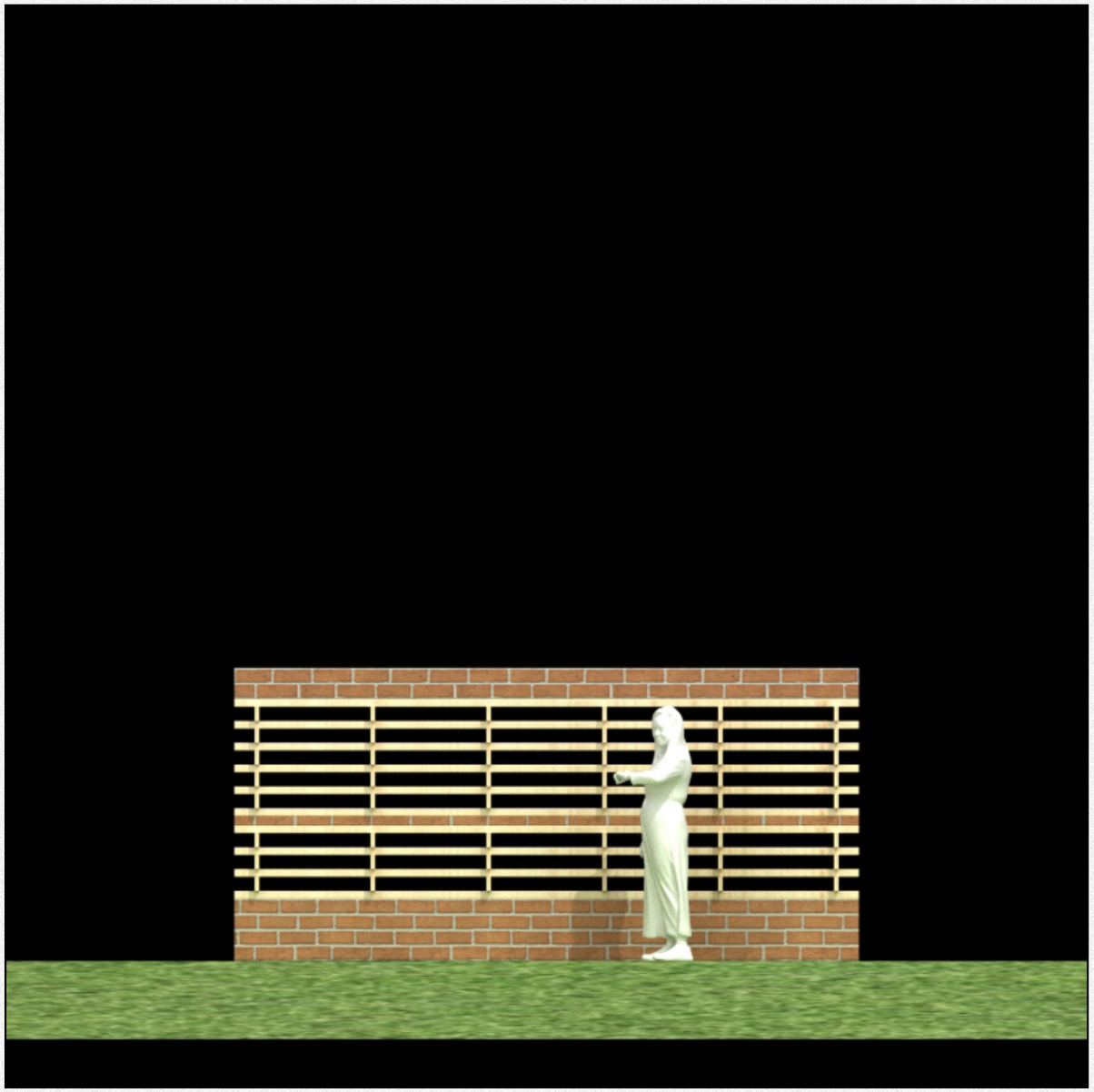
K_ low and semi closed



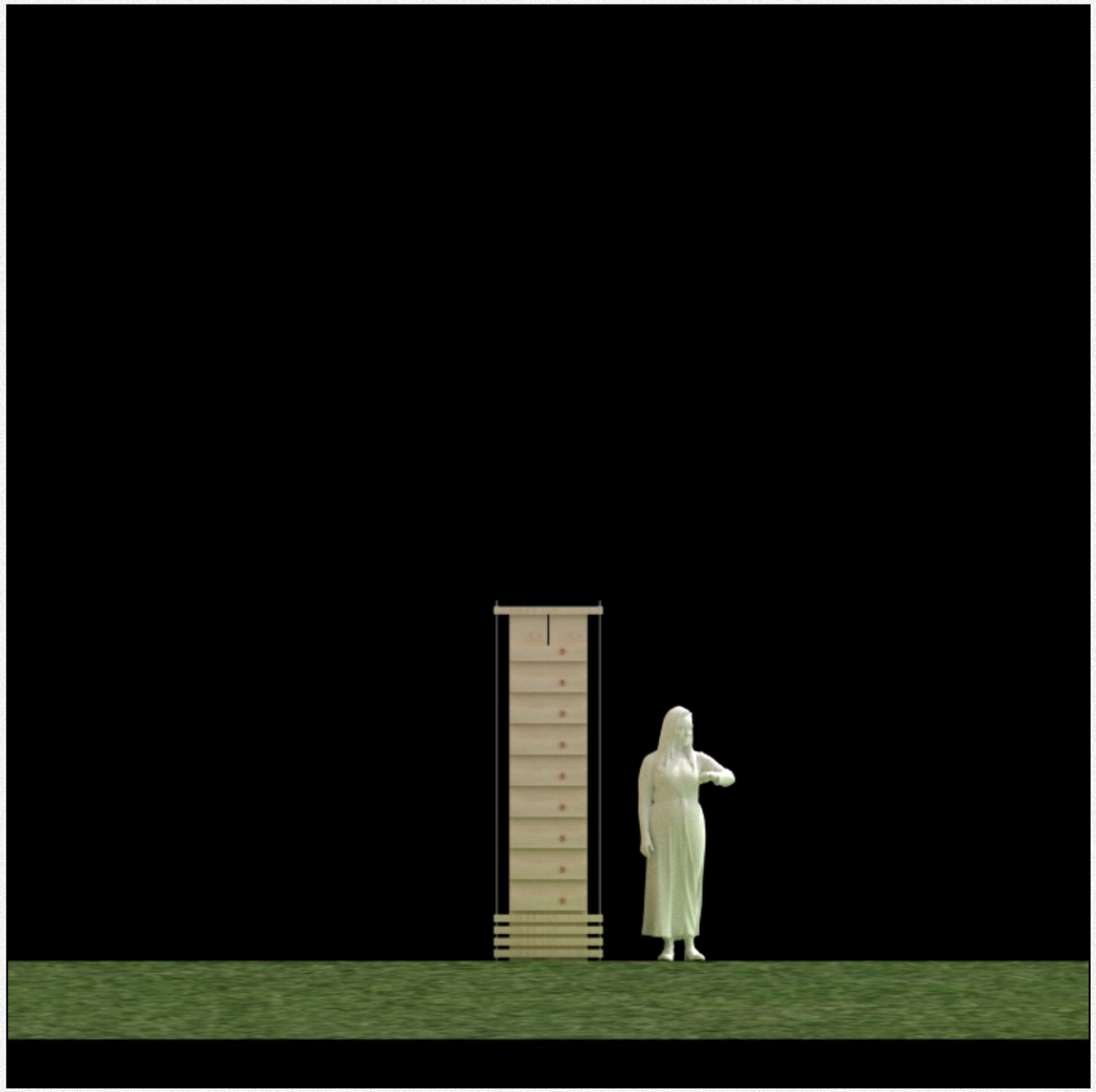


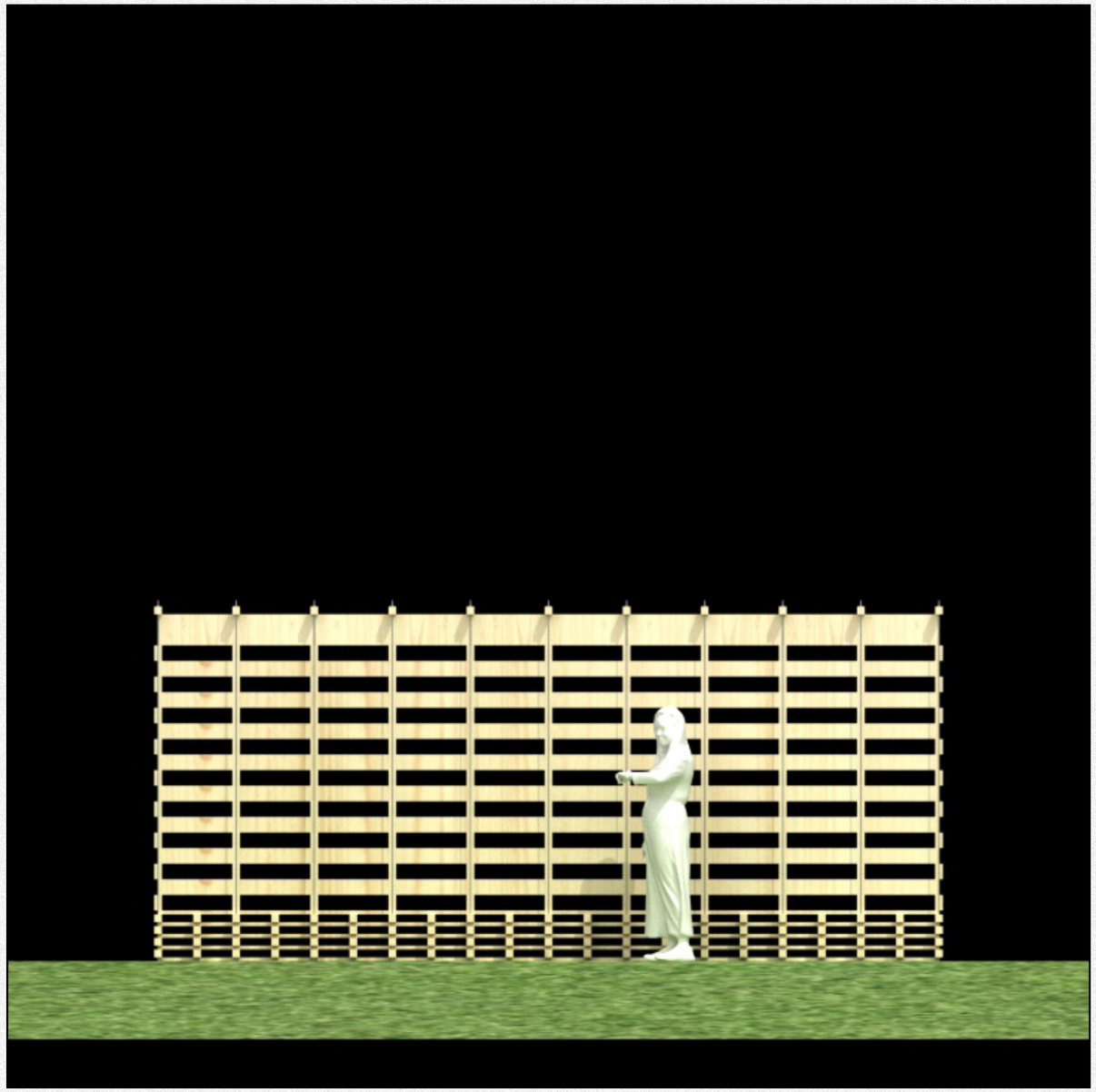
L_ low and semi opened





M_ low and semi opened





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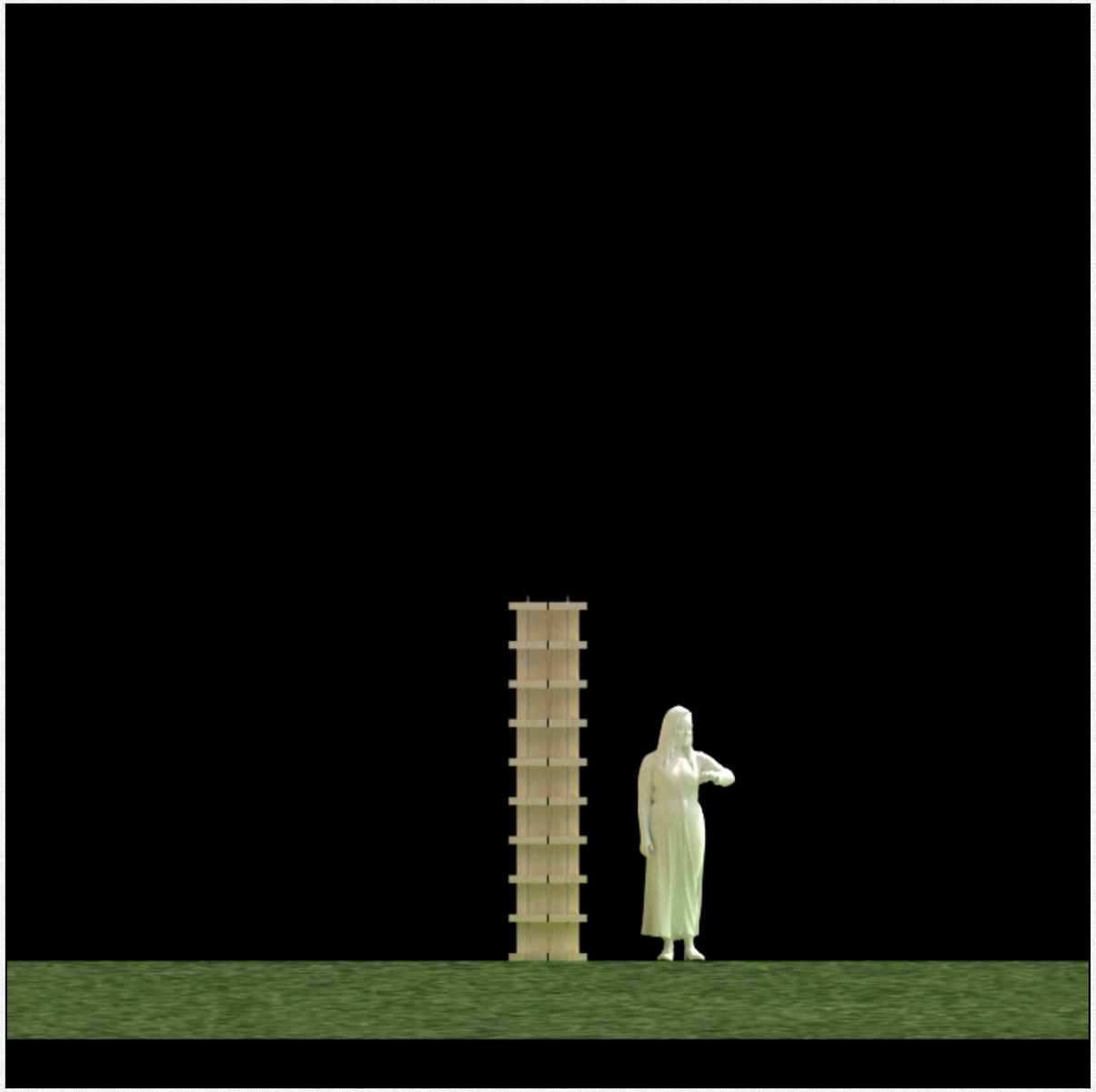
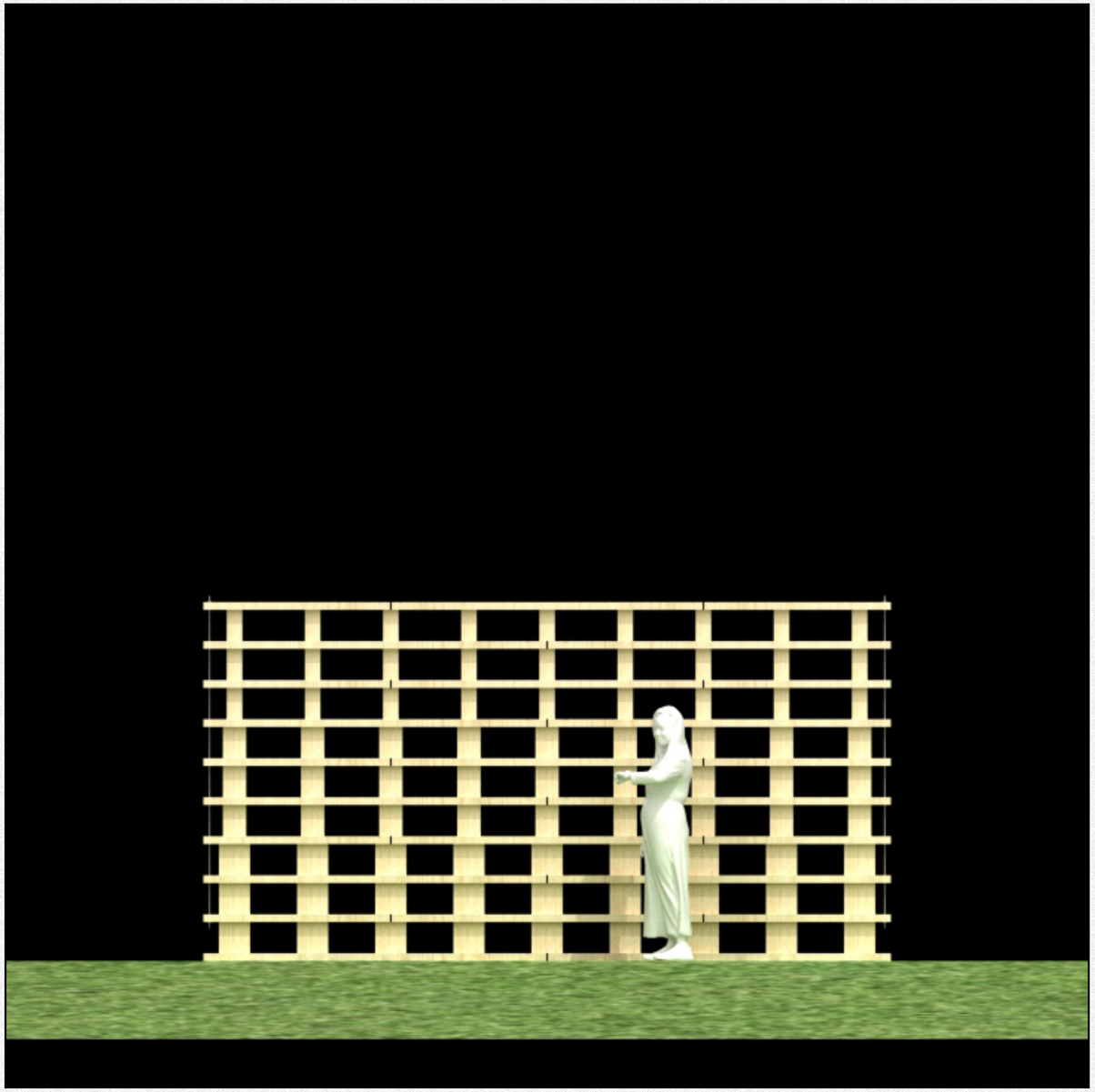
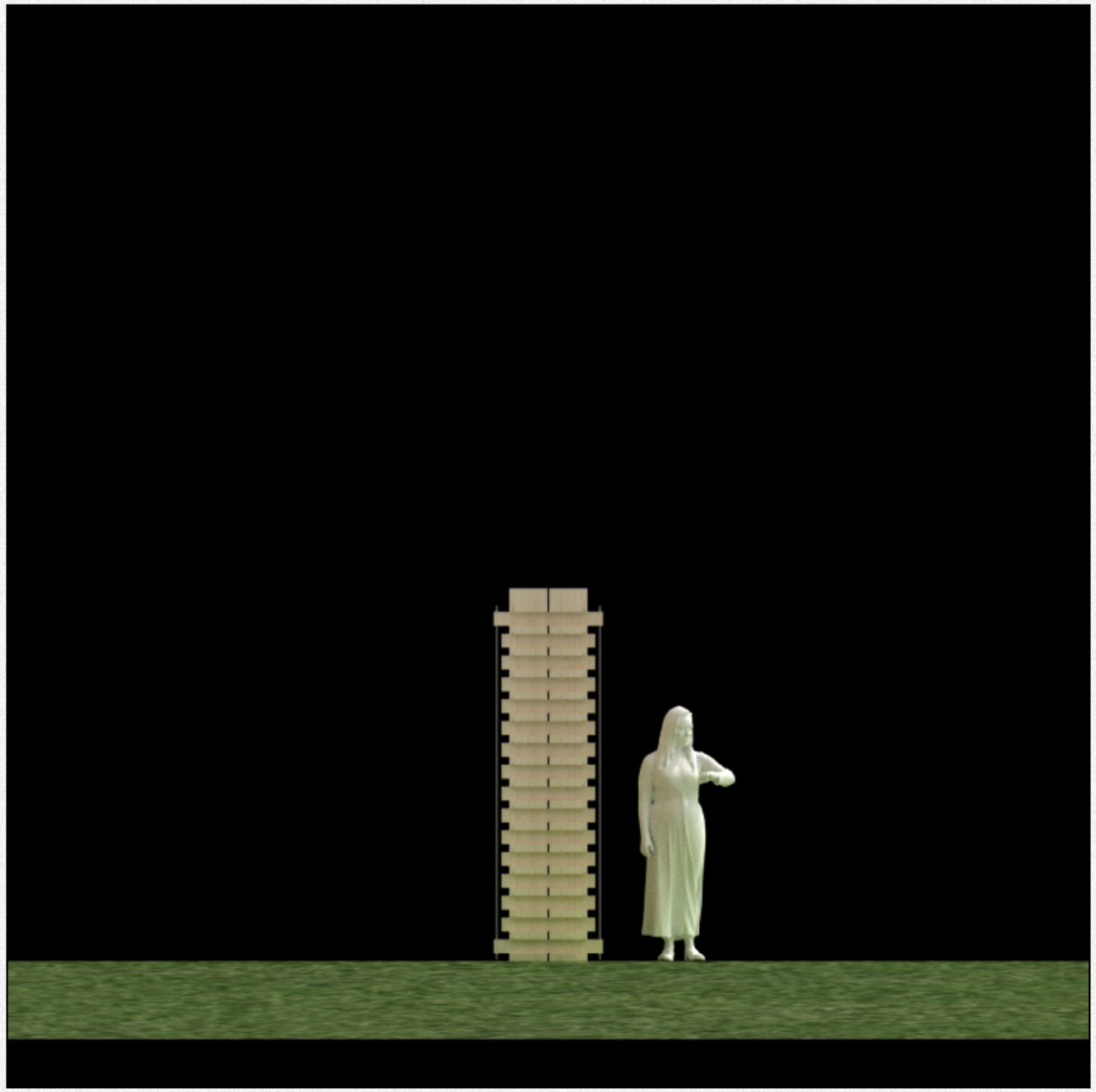
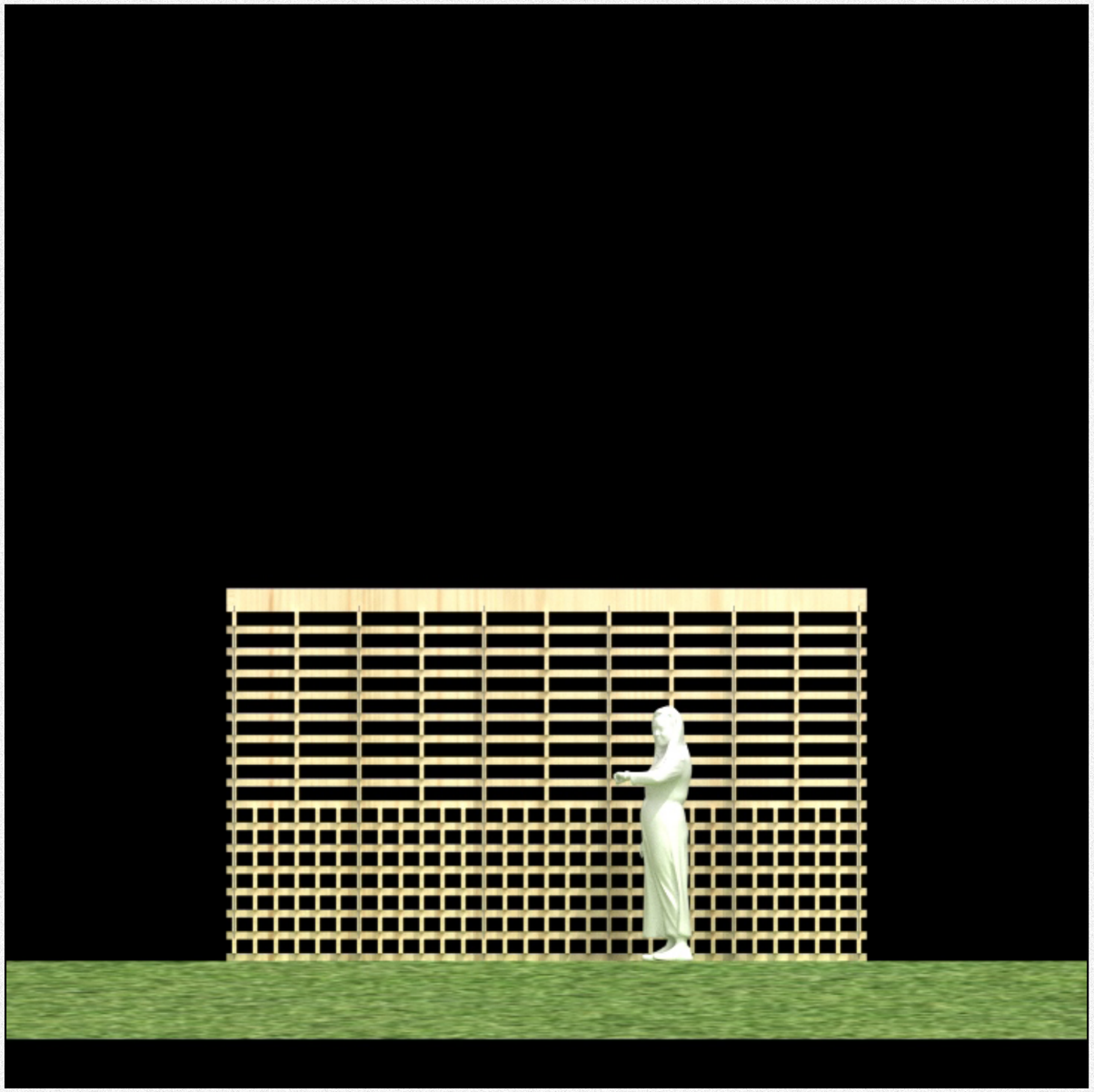


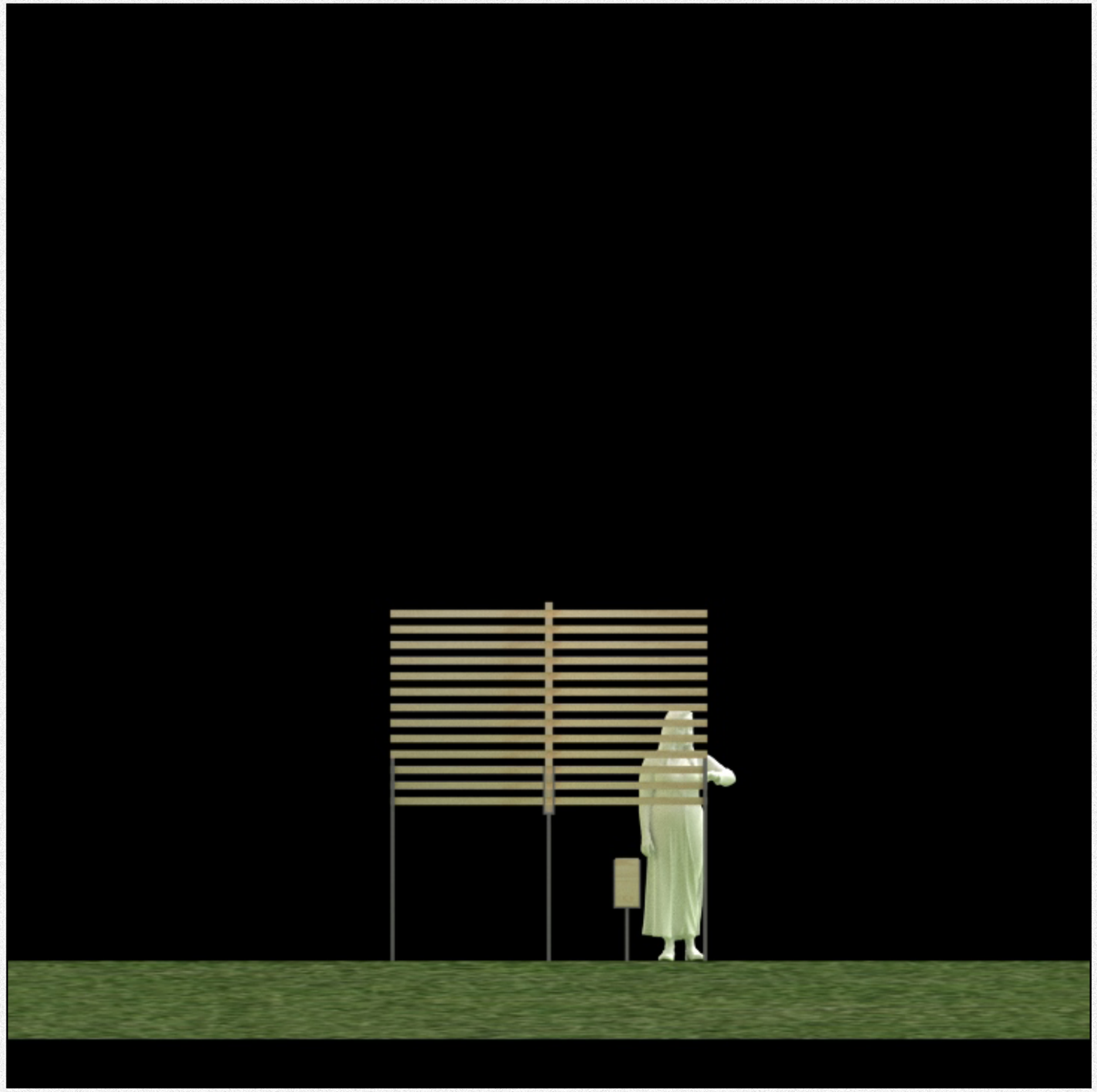


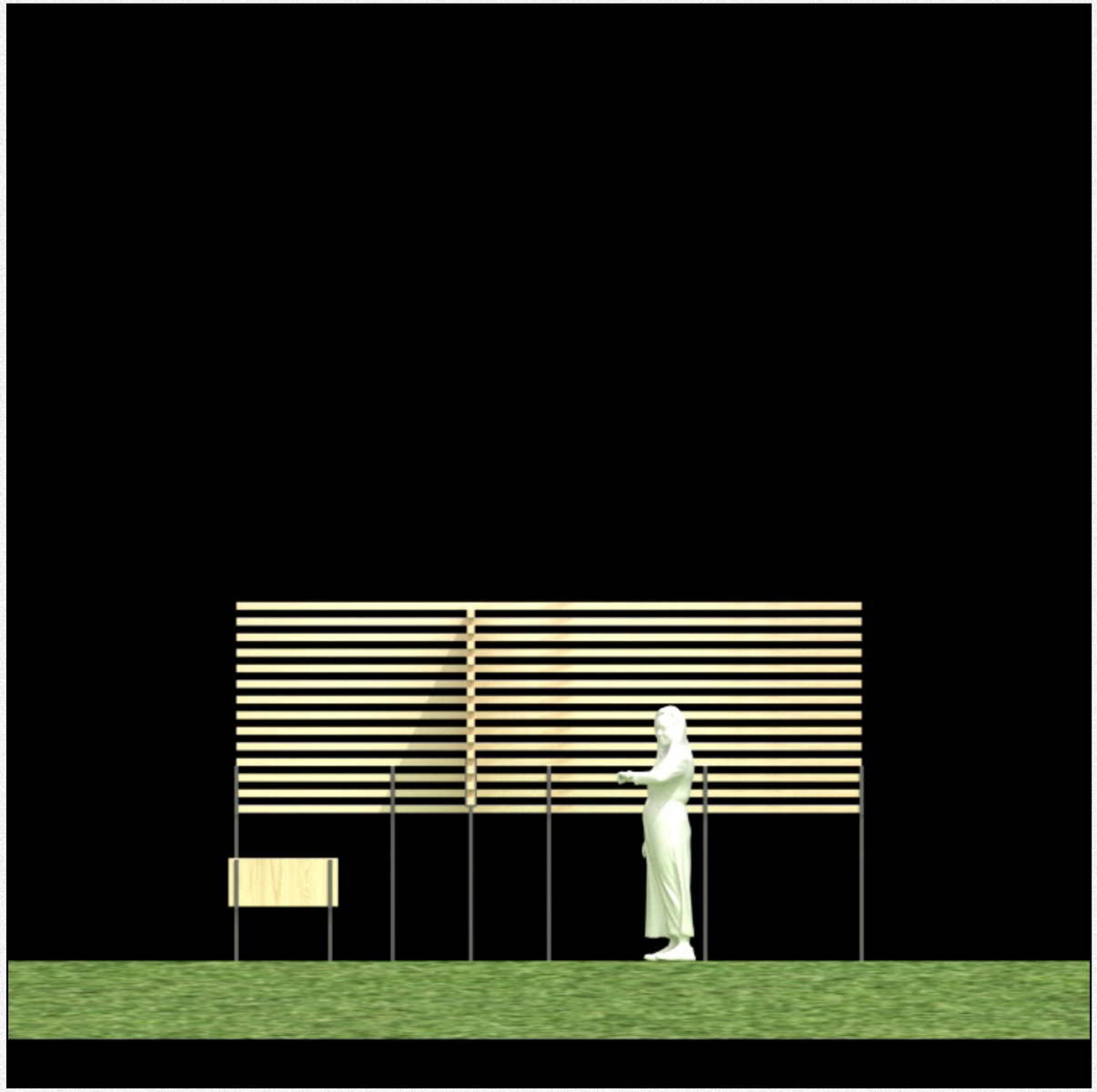
O_ low and opened



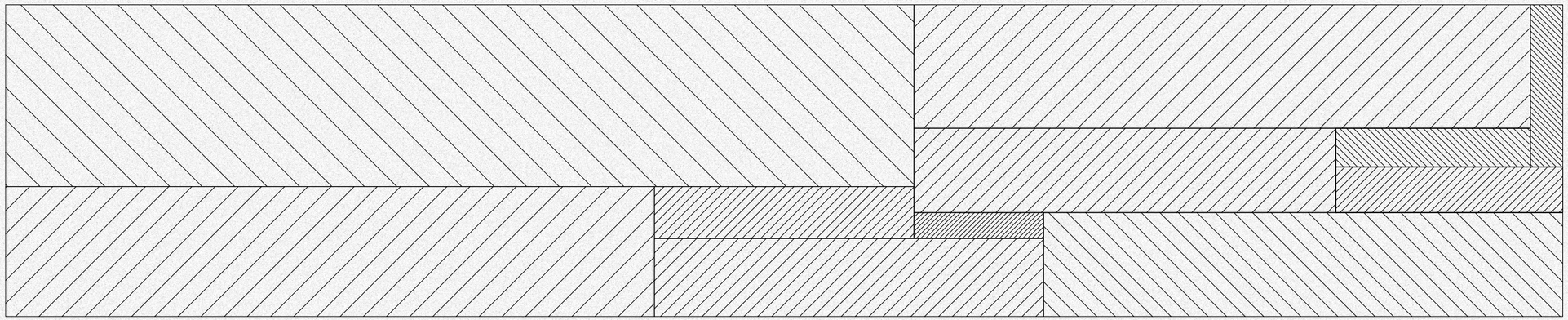


P_ low and opened

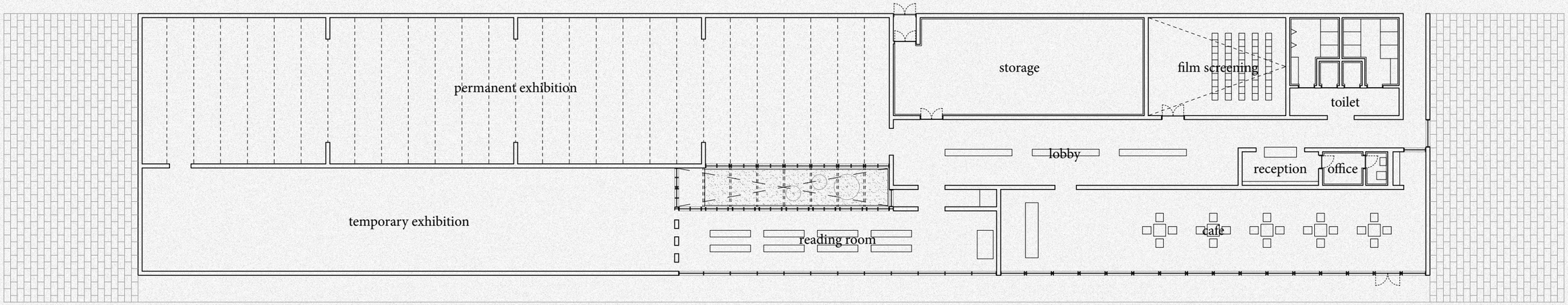




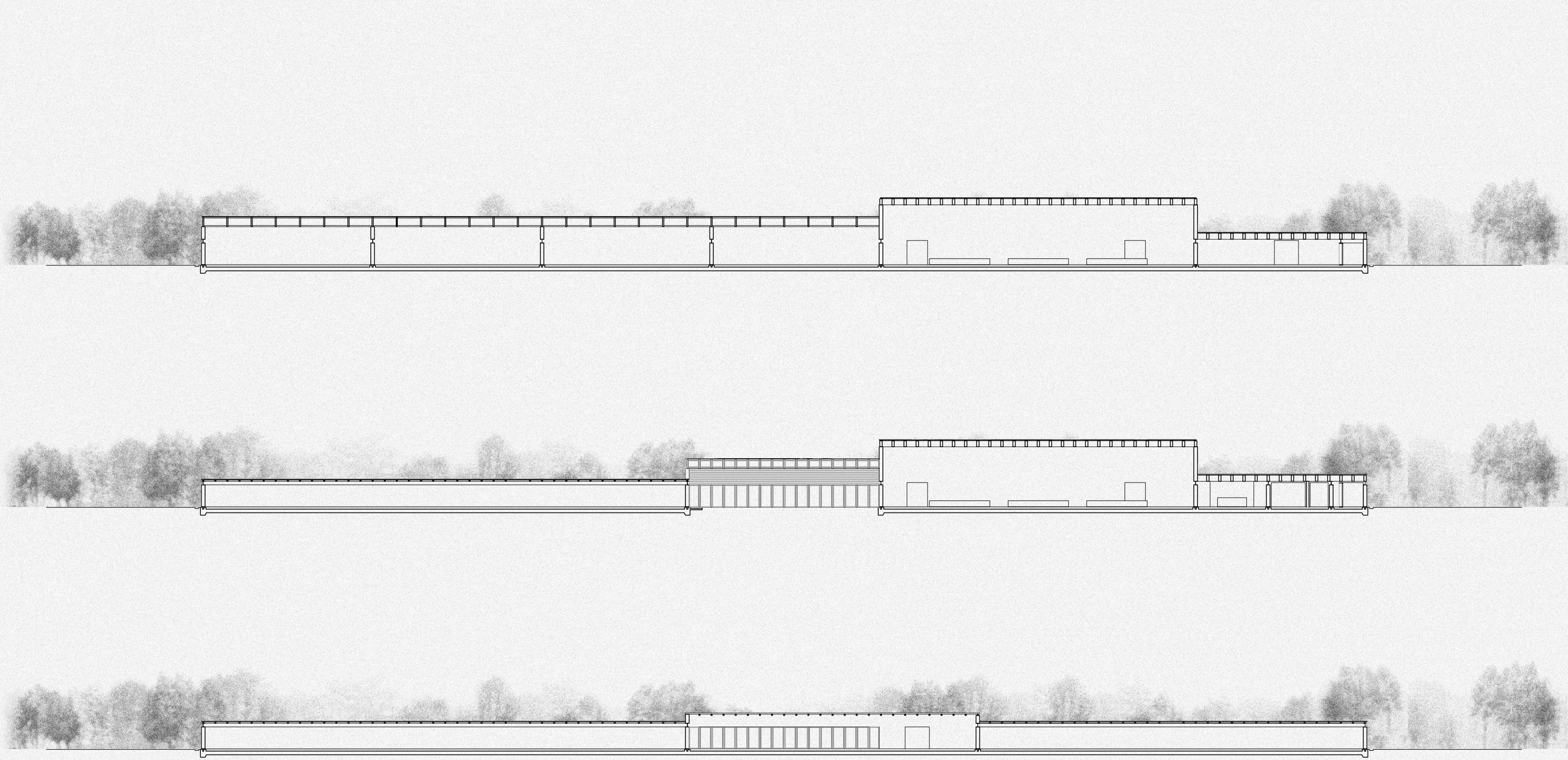
Q_ low and fully opened



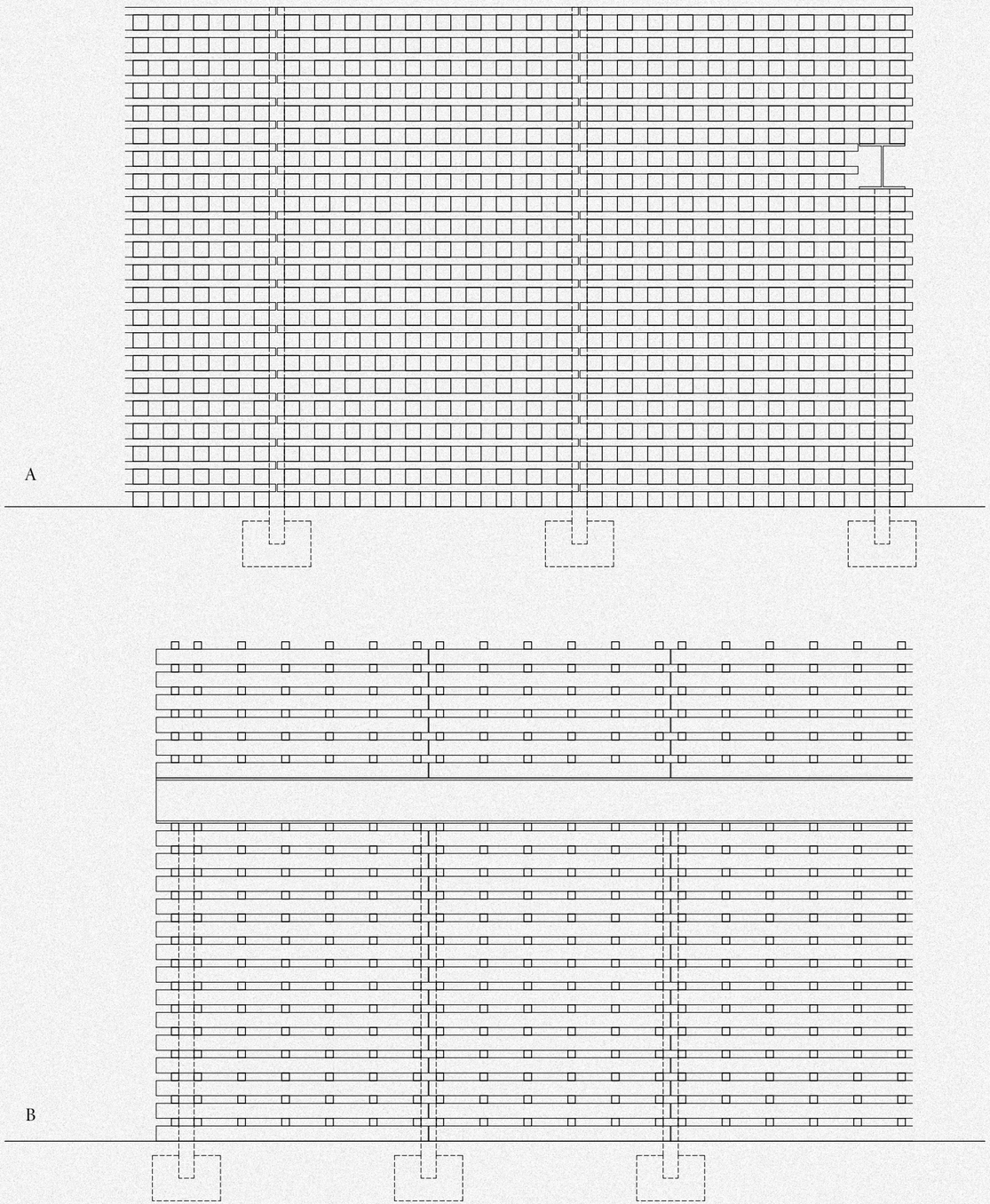
A Cenotaph for Many

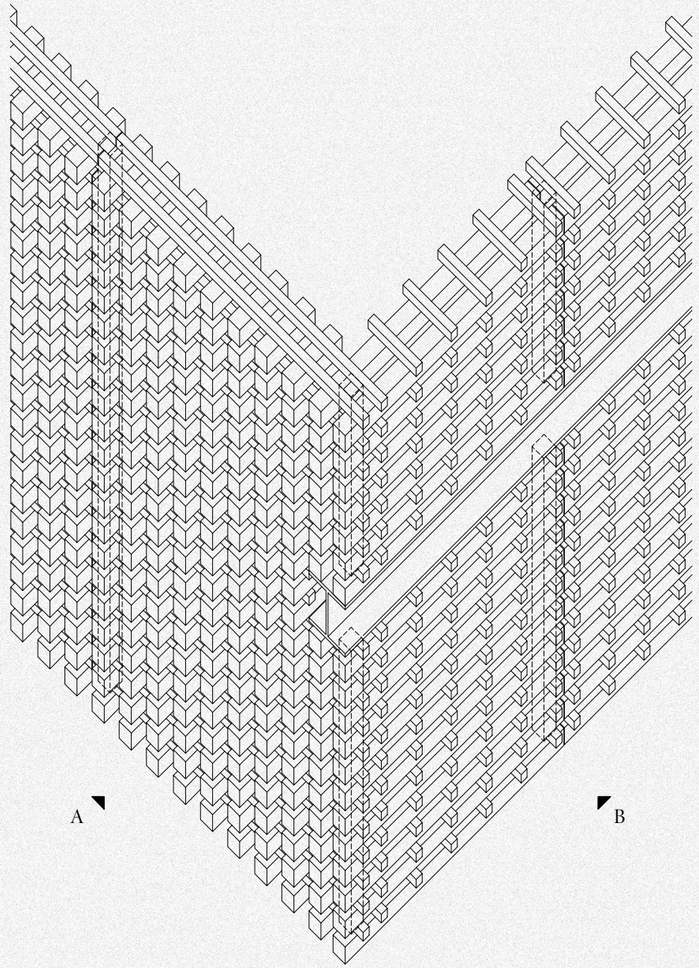


Plan (1843.2 m^2)



Section


A
B


A
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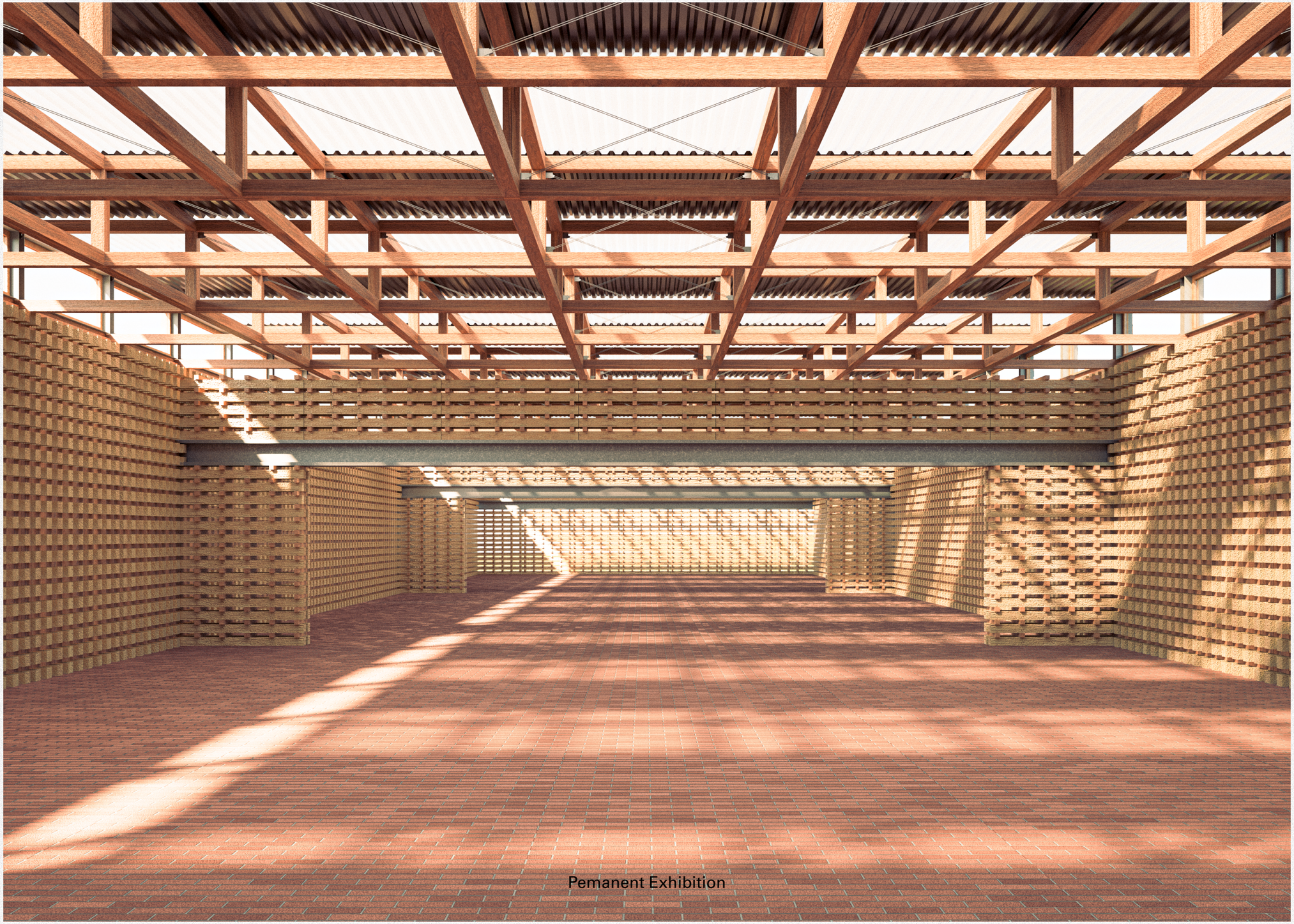
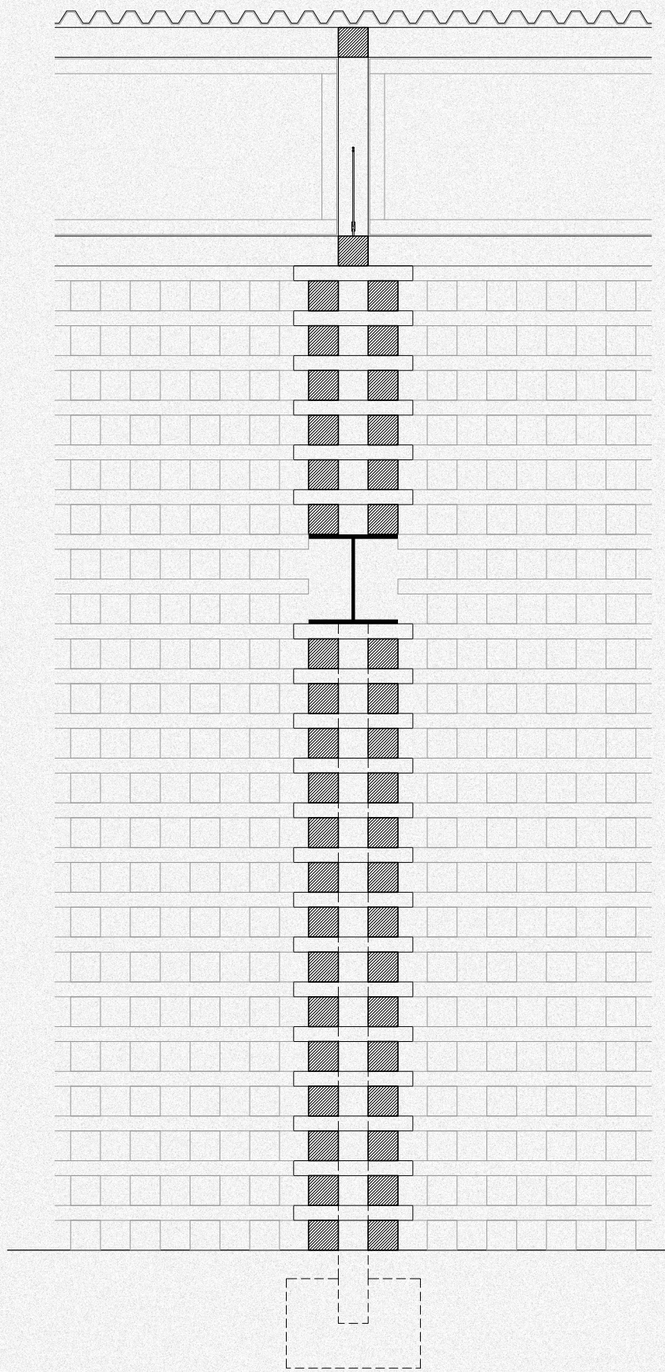


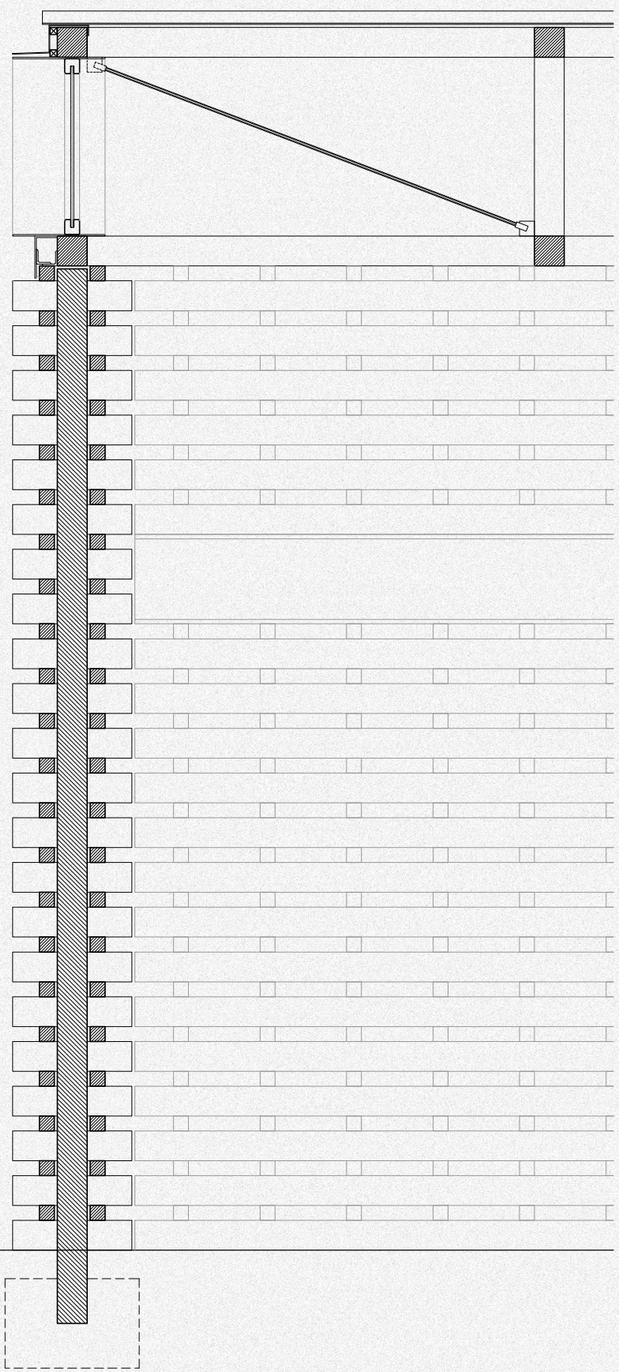
Pemanent Exhibition

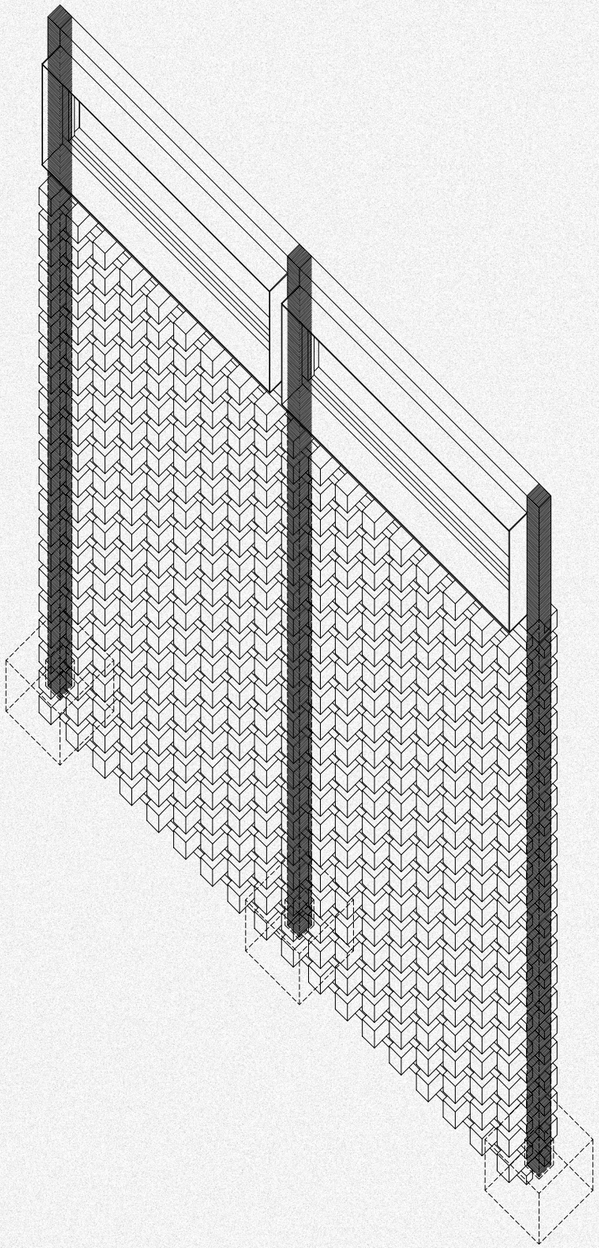


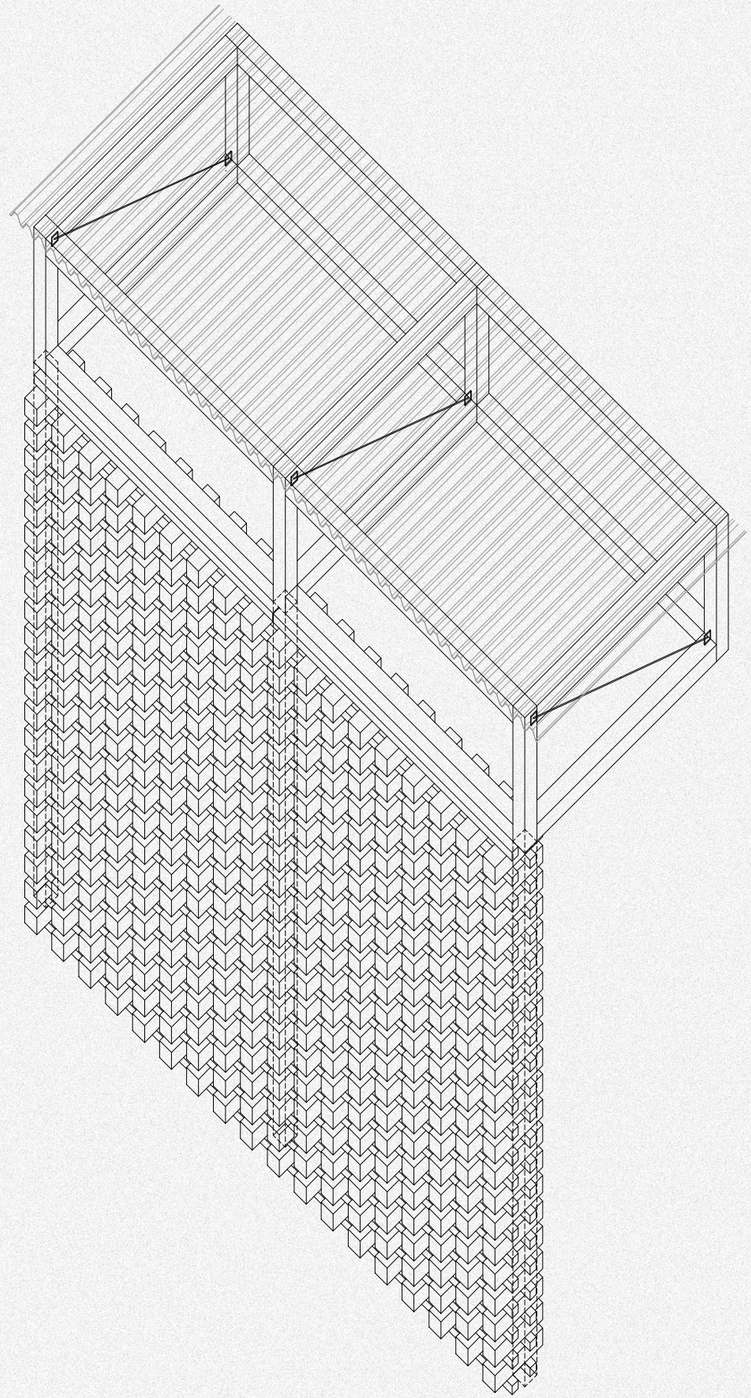
4,100 mm

2,100 mm

Wall Detail







Base to Roof

Lobby

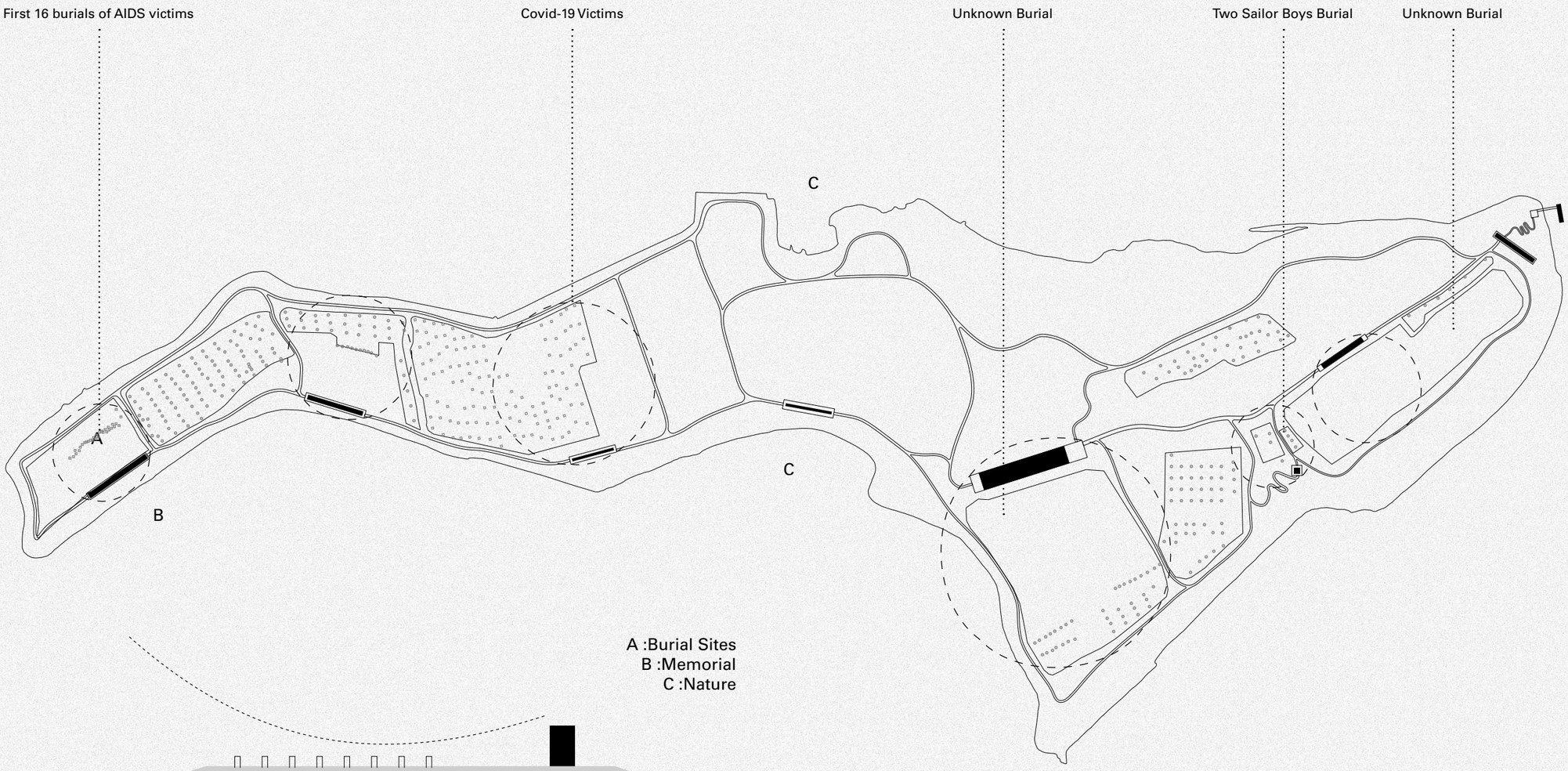
From Exhibition room to the burial site

The New York Times

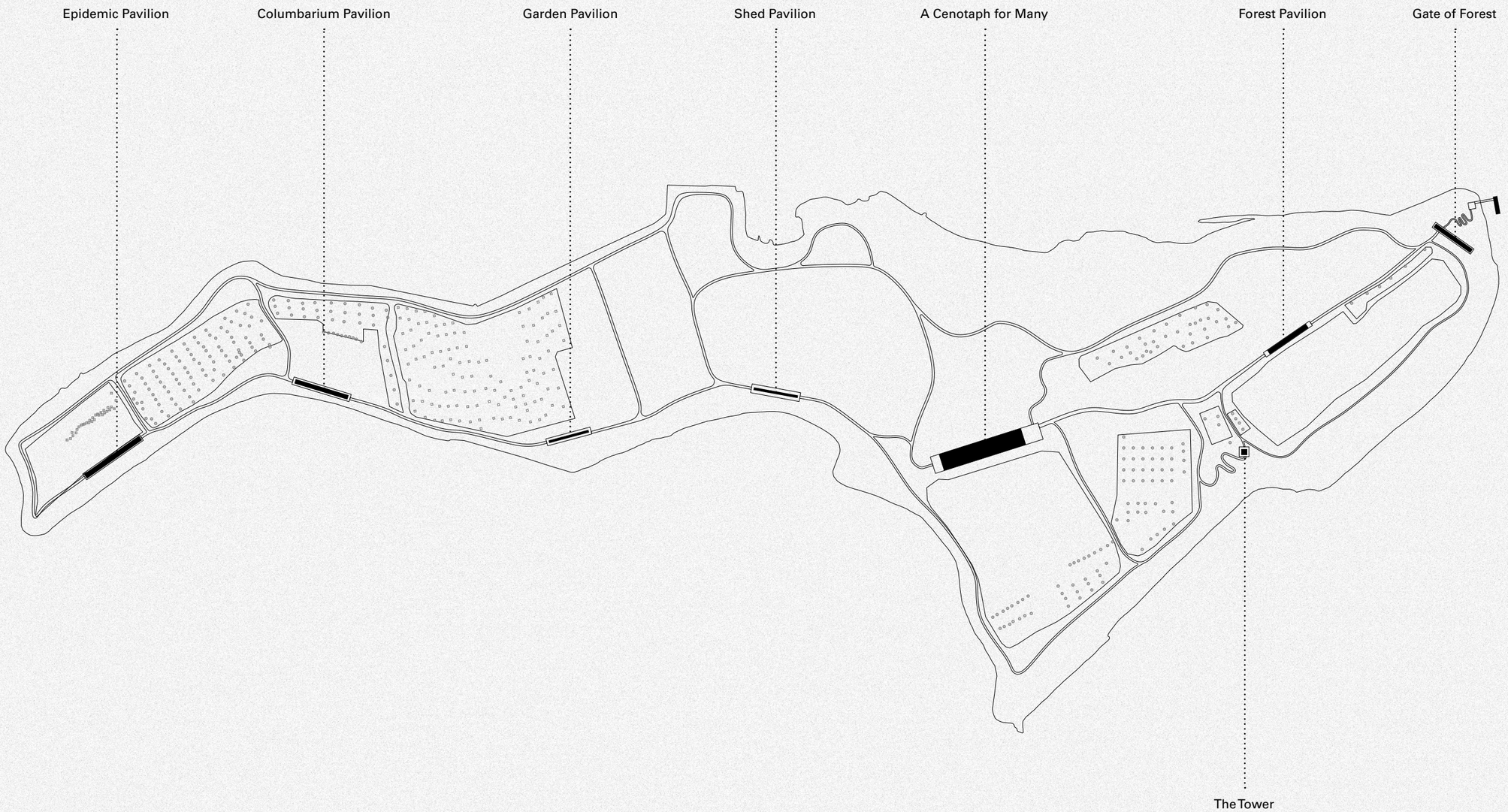
Account

A Million Bodies Are Buried Here. Now It's Becoming a Park.

Hart Island, a potter's field where New York City has buried its unclaimed dead for more than a century, will finally accept visitors this year.



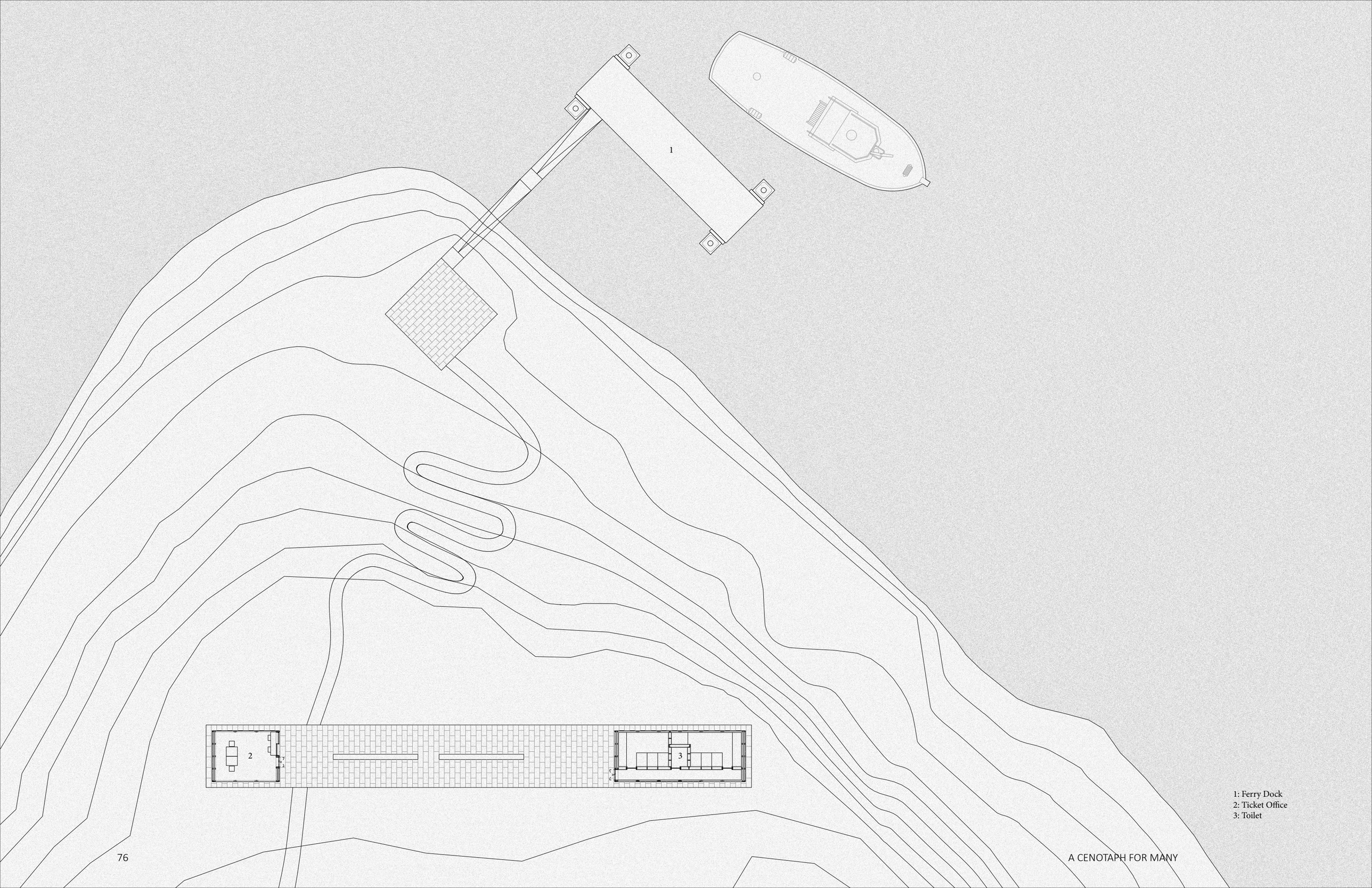
juxtapose bars to specific burial site



Flow of the island

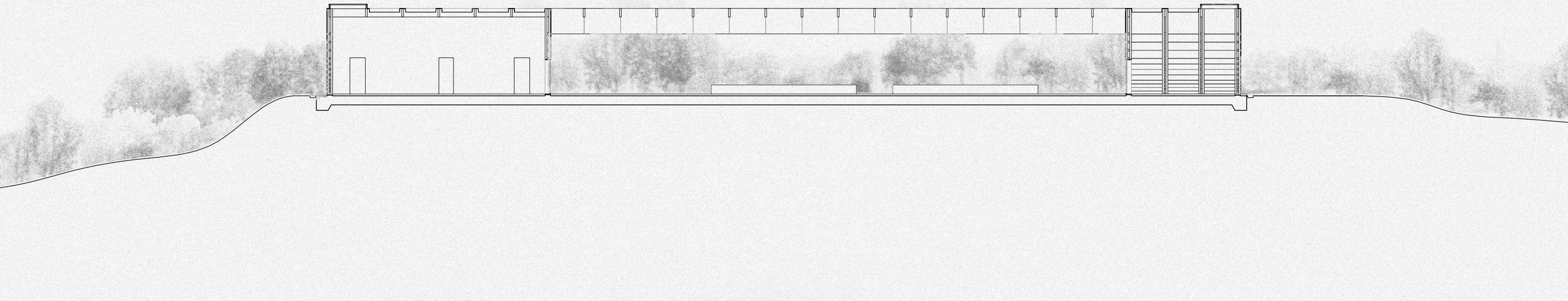
A :Closed Forest
B :Scattered Forest
C :Vineland
D : Herbaceous
E: Salt Marsh
F :Rip Rap Shoreline

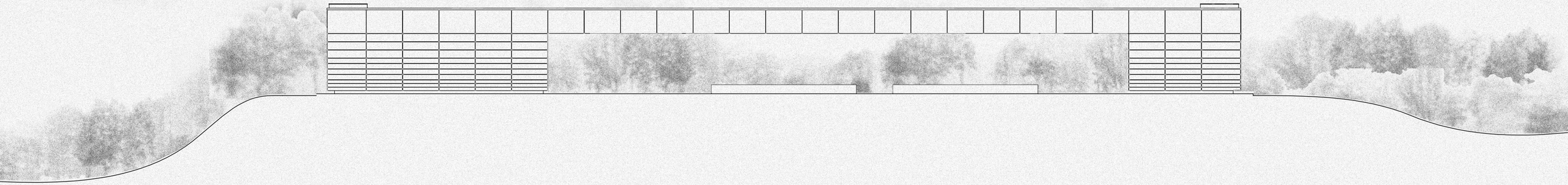
Extending the landscape



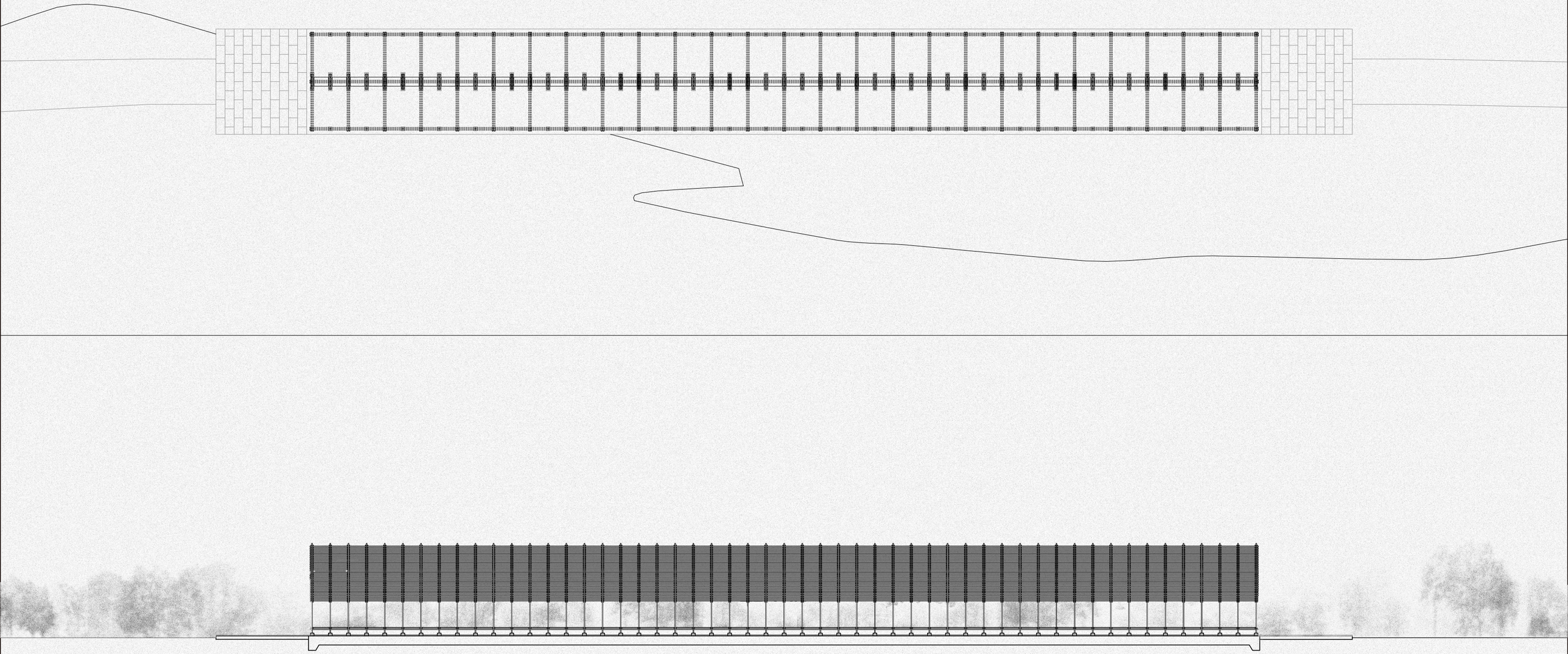
1: Ferry Dock
2: Ticket Office
3: Toilet

Gate of Forest

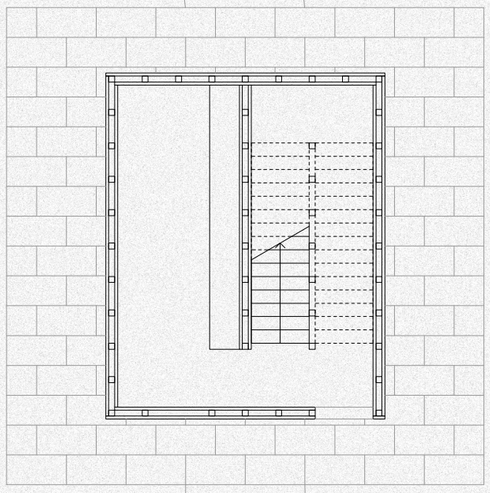


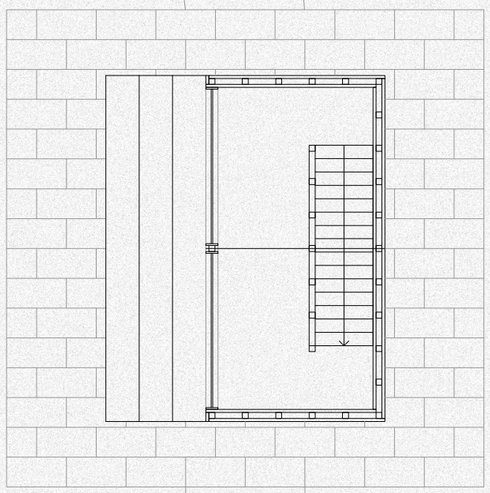


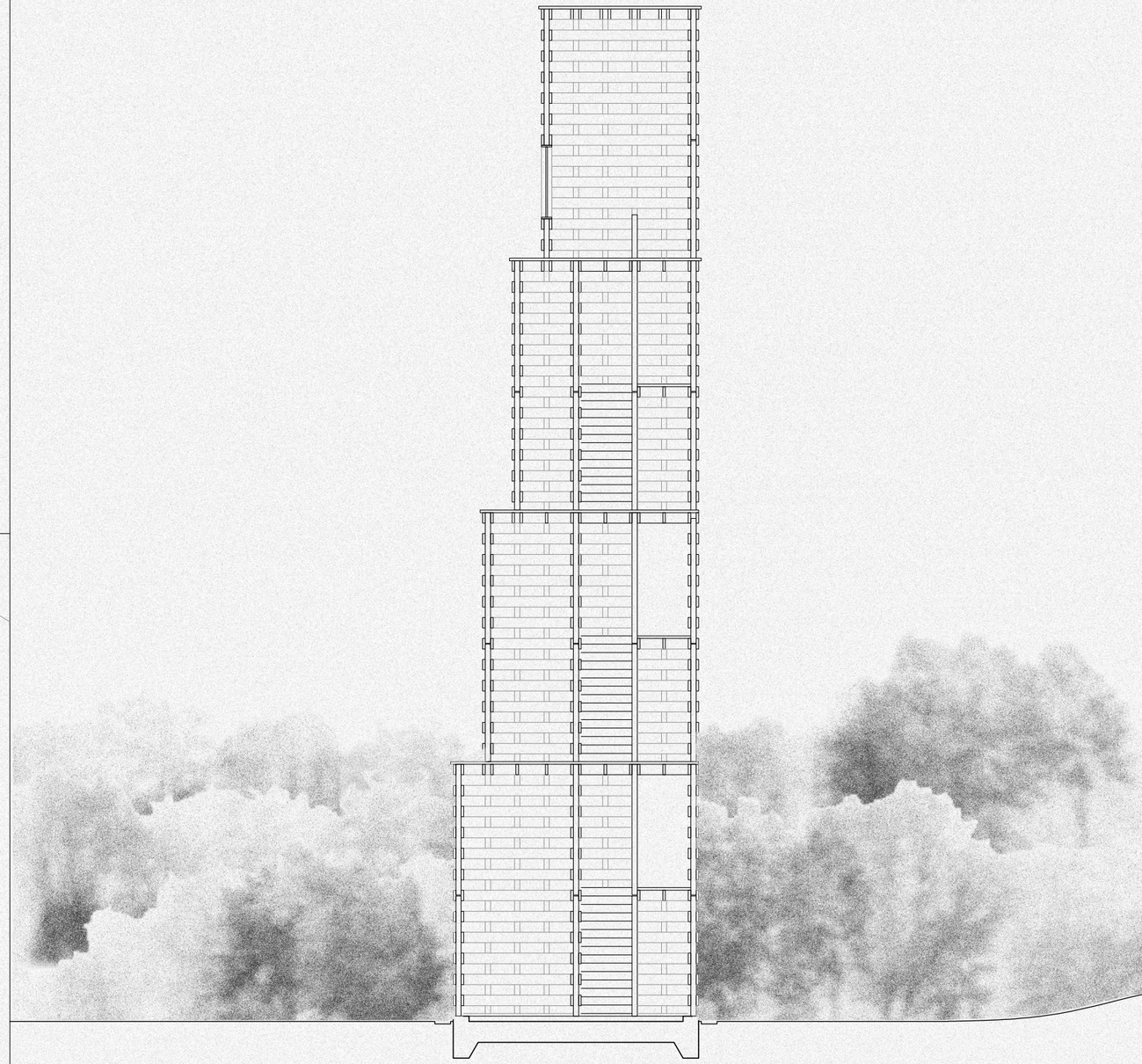
Forest Pavilion



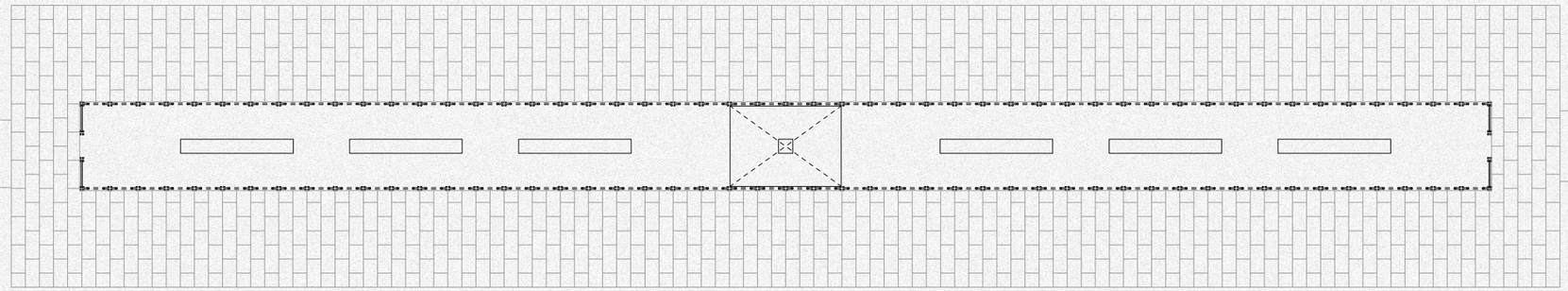
The Tower

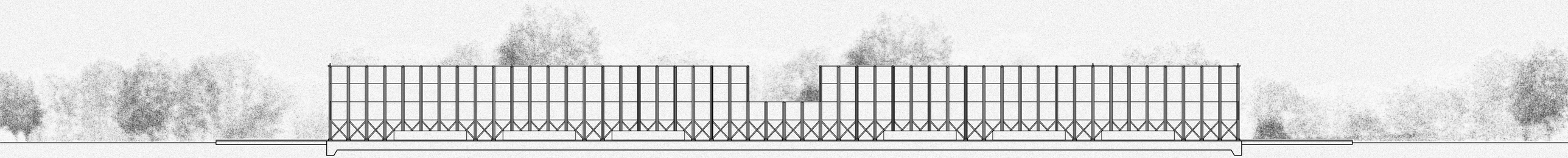






Shed Pavilion

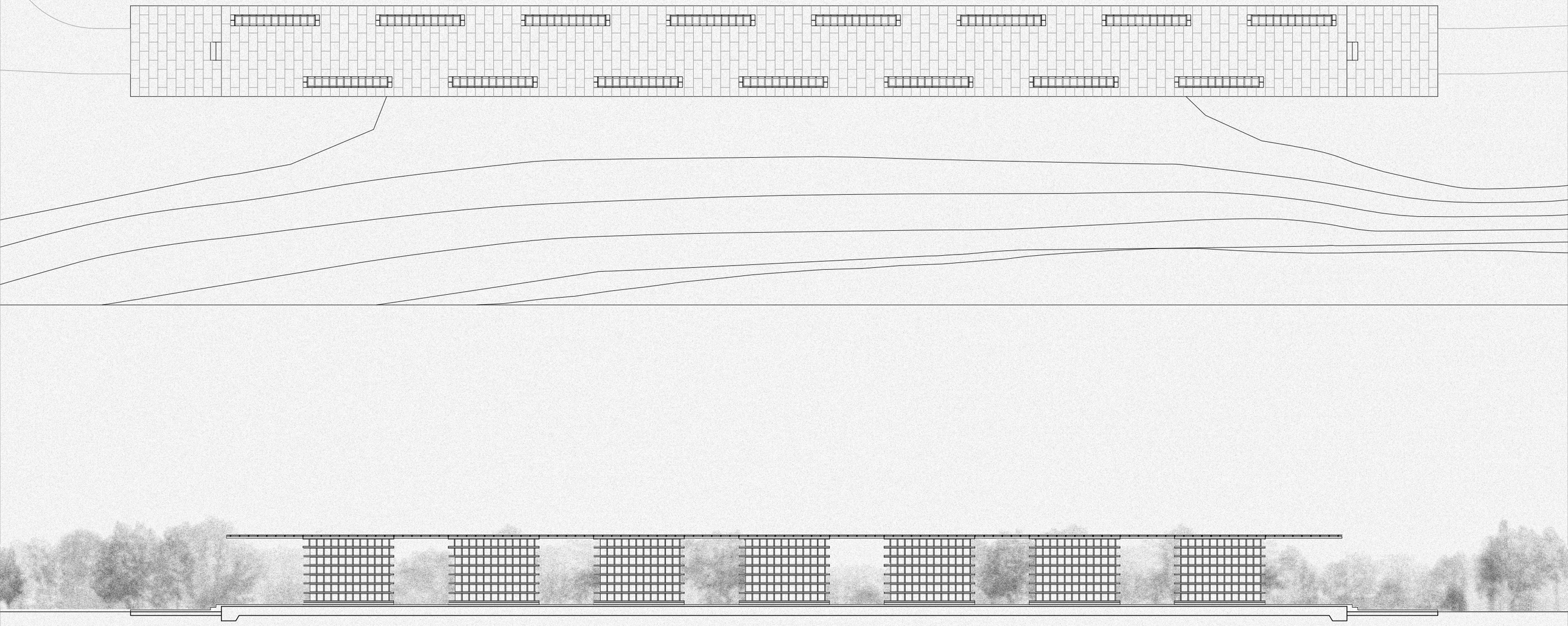




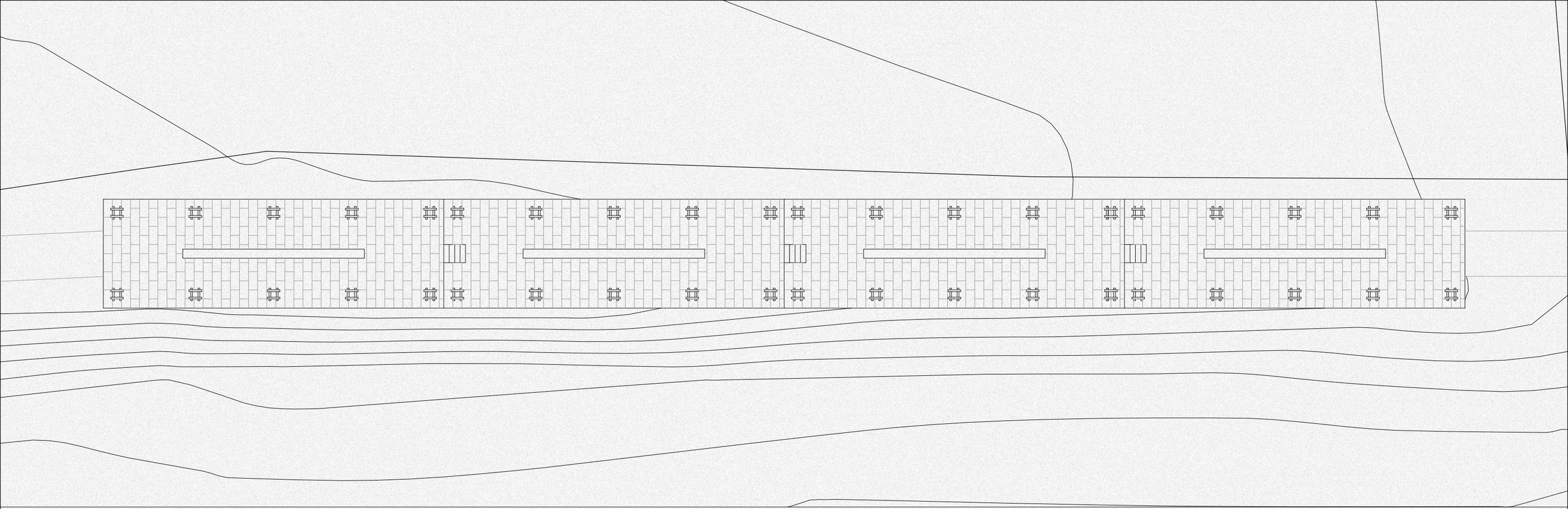
Garden Pavilion

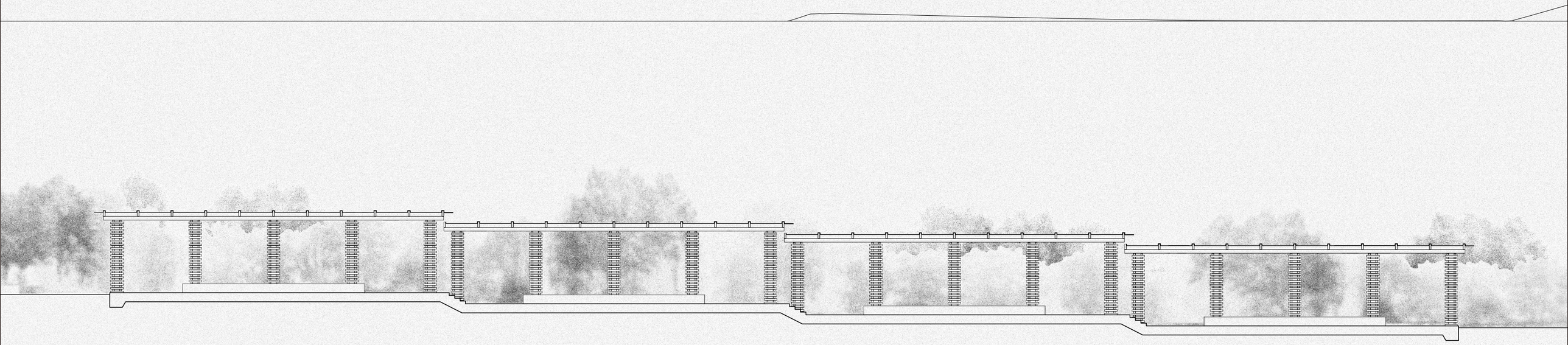
Garden Pavilion

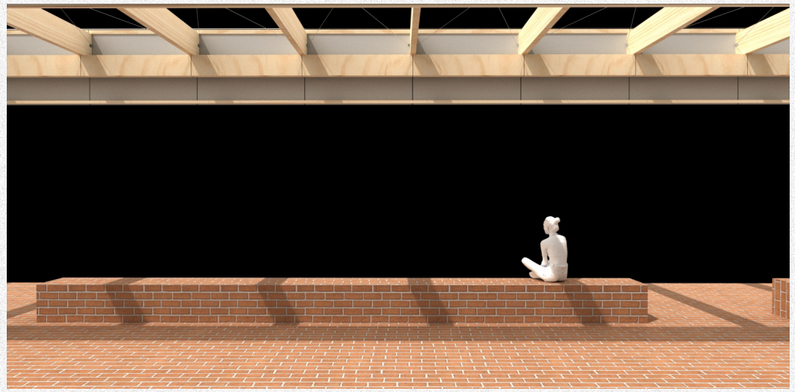
Columbarium Pavilion

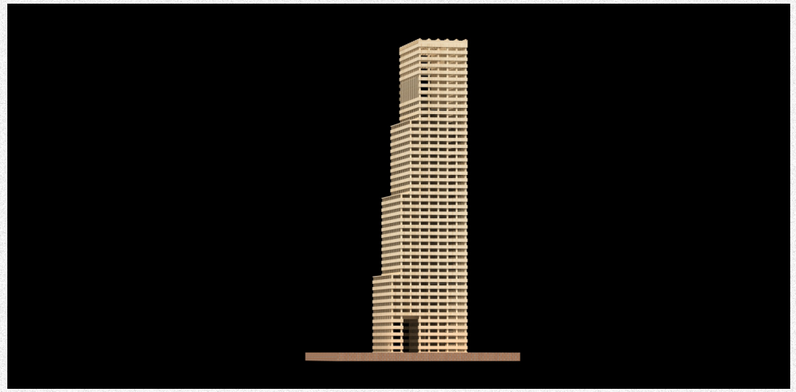


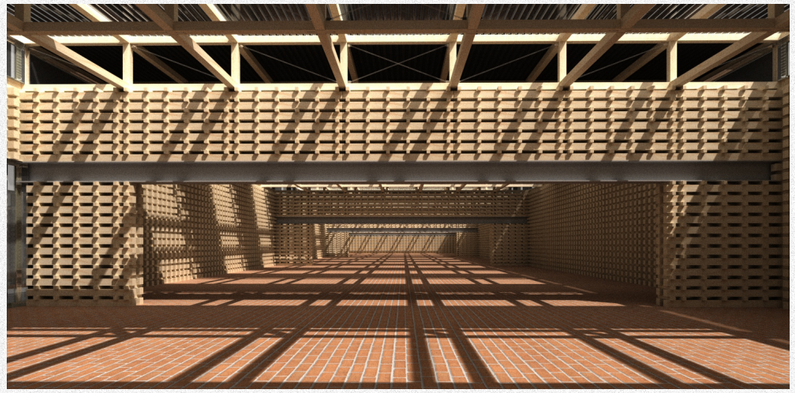
Epidemic Pavilion

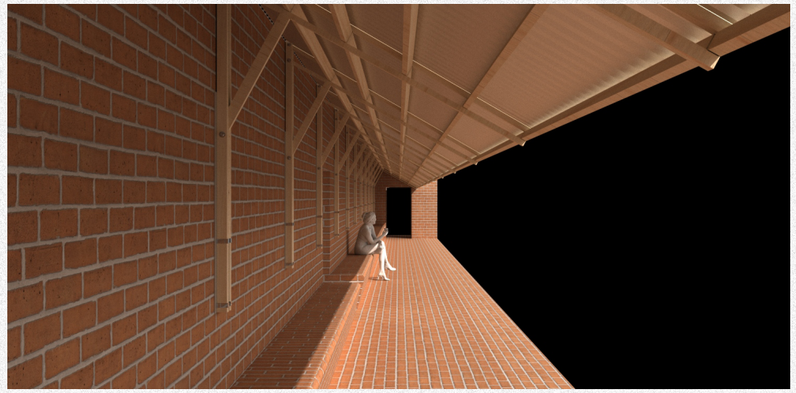


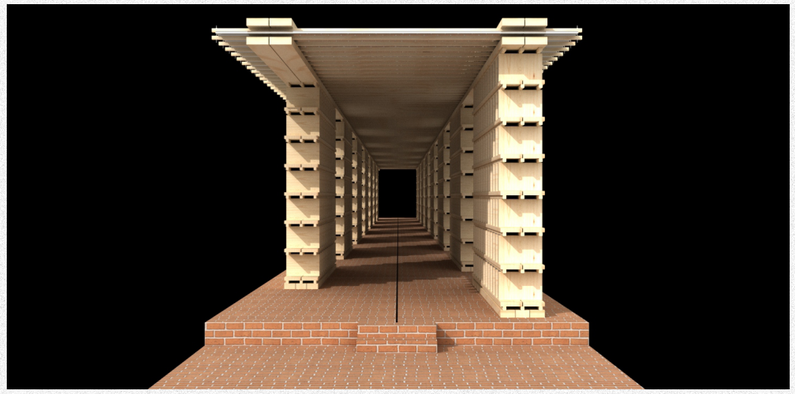


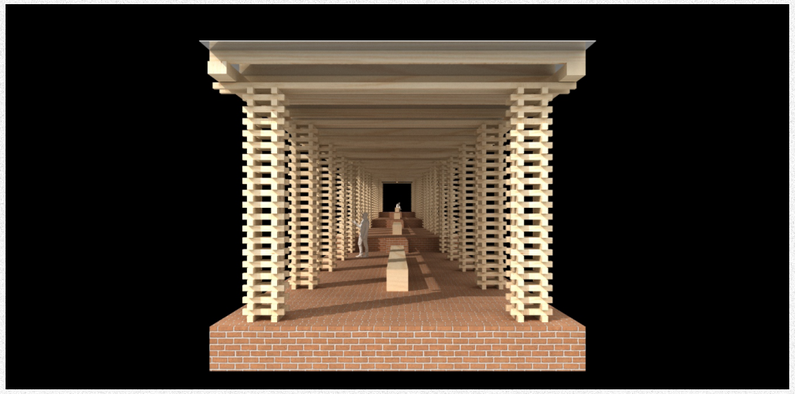












Hart Island, 1992
Hunt, Melinda, and Joel Sternfeld. 1998. Hart Island. 1st Scalo ed. Zurich ; New York: Scalo.

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with
ajay manthripragada,

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