

1.0 Introduction

The Asplund public library is one of the most significant building that has withstood decades of different architecture movements. Today, the library has run out of space; of the 4 annexes proposed by Gunnar Asplund only 3 were built.

2.0 Design Concept

The initial concept for this proposal is based on De Geer's 1897 map; it takes inspiration from its contours. We explored the relationship between the landscape and the existing Stockholm Public Library, realising that the observatory hill contours cannot be the same today as the days when De Geer did his plan. We then explored the ways the earth could move and contours develop to join the hill with Odenplan and the library site below.

Using Asplund's plan with its open views of the landscape behind, we 'cut' four blocks into the 'unhindered' hill around. The interaction between these two elements brought meeting places on open landscaped decks between the new buildings, this 'subnatural' landscape allowing free movement around the site and bringing a positive meaning to the currently semi-abandoned courtyards.

The spaces of friction - voids between the buildings and the landscape - bring light to the deeper parts of the buildings, containing study and service spaces. The heights of the newly proposed blocks create a transition between the Asplund Building, Diligentia, and the Observatory Hill. The tallest annexe is 26,3 m and the shortest 15,8m above pavement level. The library buildings are linked to the open landscape decks via bridges, creating both indoor and outdoor connections.

We are not proposing any changes to the pond by the Sveavagen as we felt the composition of it is justified by Asplund's masterplan as it provides a counter balance to the four annexes with the main library in the middle.

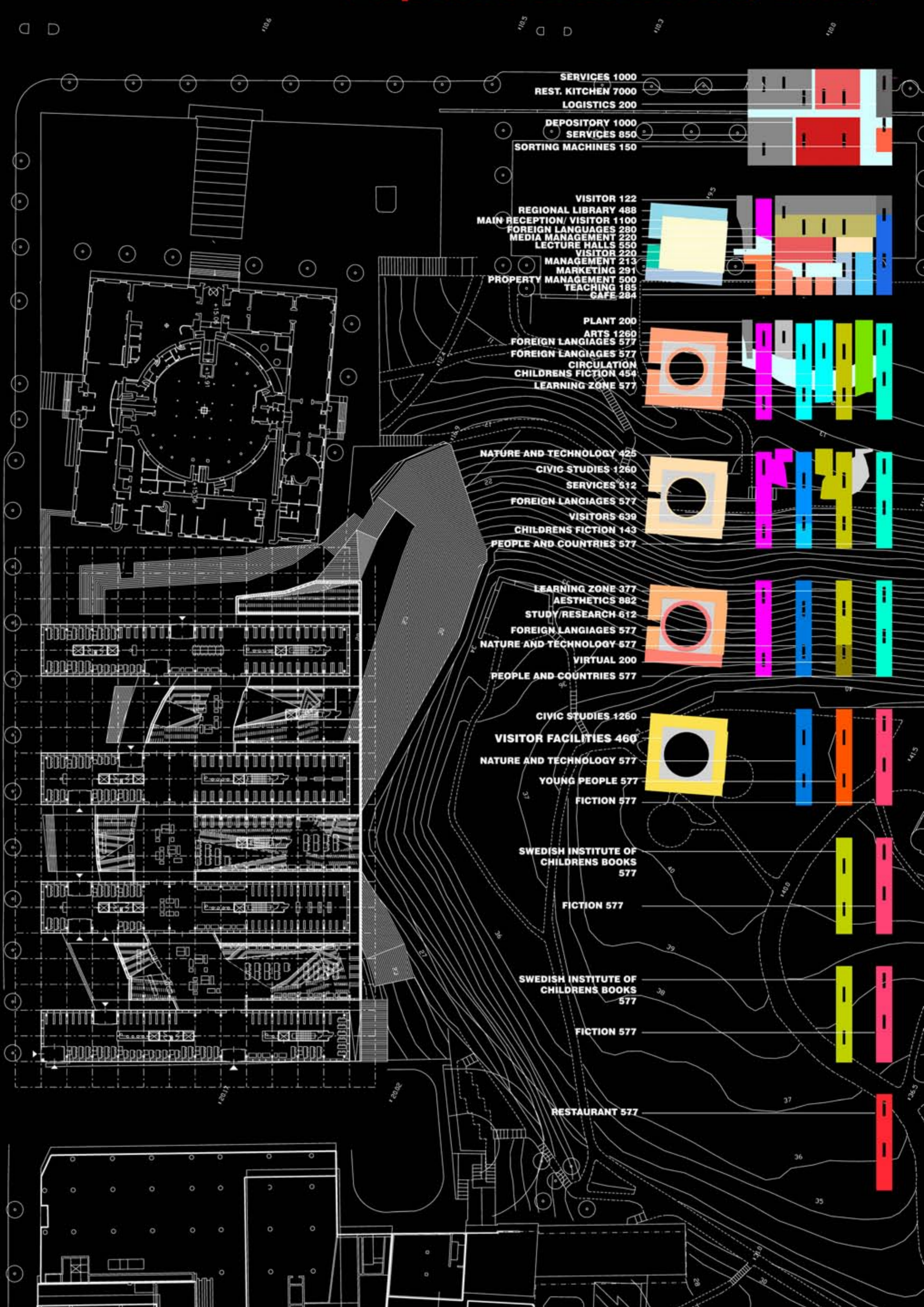
All the materials we specified or use in this design will be sourced locally in Sweden. Natural materials such as granite and timber will be used throughout the design. The external envelope is glass box, shaded and protected by a cladding of thin granite 'slats' with rough-hewn front, and highly polished sides, reflecting light into the building. Offcuts of local quarries might be used to produce these. The hard landscaping uses concrete and timber, with glazed sections allowing light where required by the spaces located below.

Our main objectives :

1. Respecting original masterplan (with its views of the Observatory Hill, whilst allowing for the required programme)
2. Creating new public spaces
3. Creating new landscape and connections to- and on the Observatory Hill
4. Create new facades that would be interactive/ open to the public and provide generous daylighting to the library
5. Redesigning the annexes to supplement the existing monumental public library
6. Creating a sustainable extension building that would serve Stockholm for years to come.



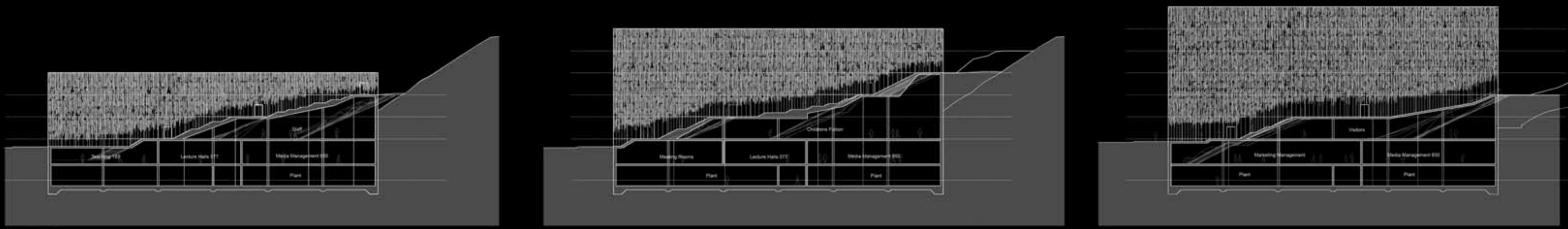
Asplund Stockholm City Library



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Odengaten Elevation



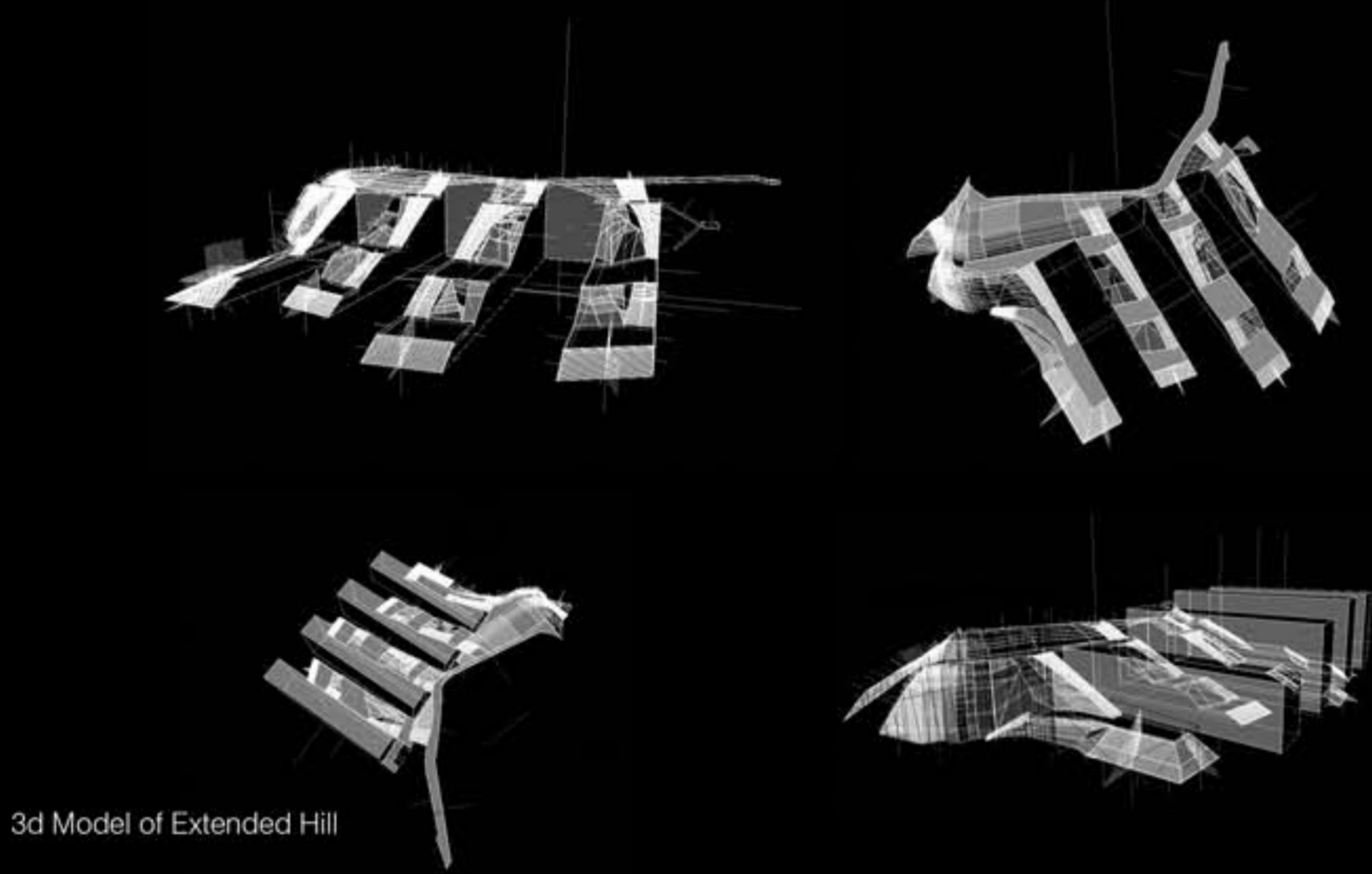
Section 1

Section 2

Section 3



Sveavagen Elevation



3d Model of Extended Hill



Library Interior



Night View from Odengaten