



# CITY ENFILADE

SCHIFFLÄNDE



## History and Modernity

The current urban situation at Schiffflände is defined by a collision of different city models. The dense and small scale medieval city, between the Rhein and the Petersgraben - where the former city wall used to run through, clashes with the larger scale, looser city extension characterised by the concentration of University and the Hospitals beyond Petersgraben.

The manifestation of the partially executed Innenstadtkorrekturenplan of the 1920s - the large scale Spiegelhof building and the creation of the traffic node around Mittlere Brücke, are in conflict with the grain of the medieval city and the historicising buildings from the turn of the 19th to the 20th century. This clash results in the loss of definition, hierarchy and quality of the historic squares Blumenplatz and Fischmarkt as well as the Spiegelgasse, which connects both.

The building ensemble opposite the Spiegelhof is strongly two-faced. Towards Schiffflände it presents itself as a consistent conglomerate of historicising buildings forming a block, while towards Spiegelgasse it is the exact opposite - the conglomerate is not consistent and the block not closed. An undefined ensemble of fragmented, modern buildings in the grain of the medieval city characterises this side.

Hence the differing ideas of the city do not create a functioning neighbourhood and the specific potential of Schiffflände as the gateway connecting the medieval city along the Rhein and then higher set university neighbourhood beyond Petersgraben is lost. The existing connection manifested in the Blumengasse passage and the public courtyard of the Spiegelhof is reduced to a mere pedestrian shortcut due to the lack of spatial definition, architectural quality and public program. The predominance of infrastructure and monofunctionality of program further restrains urban life at Schiffflände.



Petersgraben with former Burkhard city wall separating medieval city from university district



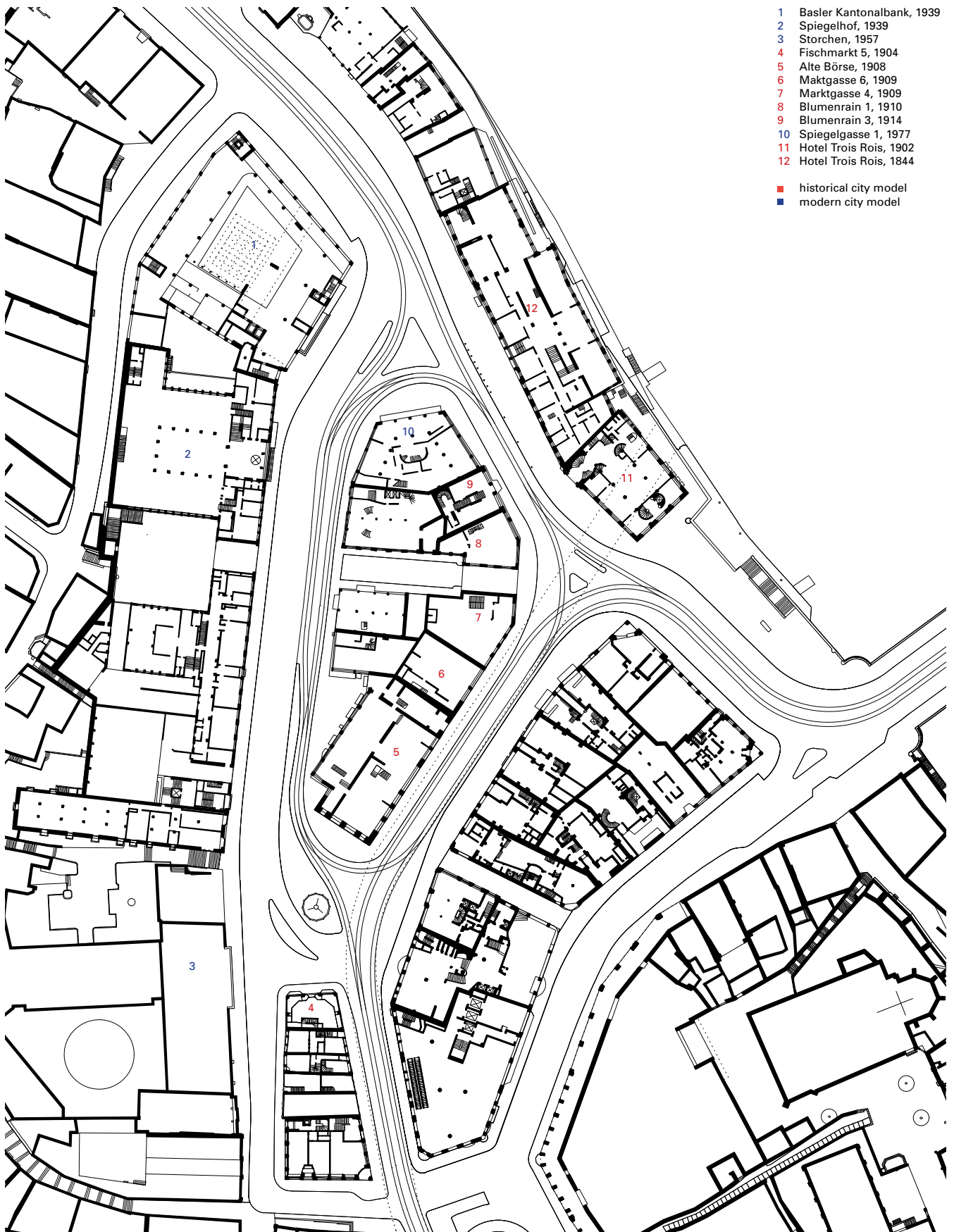
Connection Petersberg - Rhein



Undefined Streets and Squares

- 1 Basler Kantonalbank, 1939
- 2 Spiegelhof, 1939
- 3 Störchen, 1957
- 4 Fischmarkt 5, 1904
- 5 Alte Börse, 1908
- 6 Marktgasse 6, 1909
- 7 Marktgasse 4, 1909
- 8 Blumenrain 1, 1910
- 9 Blumenrain 3, 1914
- 10 Spiegelgasse 1, 1977
- 11 Hotel Trois Rois, 1902
- 12 Hotel Trois Rois, 1844

- historical city model
- modern city model



Rossiplan Scale 1: 1'250, existing situation



Passage connecting Schiffplände and the Petersberg





Blumenplatz - Spiegelgasse - Fischmarkt



Views from inside the Spiegelhof





# APPROACH

## Strategy

The proposal aims at reconnecting the Petersberg - the University neighbourhood, and the medieval city core along the Rhein through a sequence of public spaces with distinct character. Schiffflände is turned not only into a gateway between the Petersberg and the Rhein, but also as a gateway to Basel's University. The different city models at Schiffflände are accepted, transformed and extended in their built manifestations with the intent to clarify their urban typology as well as maximize their distinct potential.

## Spiegelplatz

In a first step, the three small-scale, modern buildings of the unsatisfactory Blumengasse block are demolished. Thus, space for a new public square - the Spiegelplatz, is created, adding a new square to the sequence of the green Petersplatz, Spiegelhof courtyard and the Rhine river bank at Schiffflände.

The Spiegelplatz is of dense, urban character, a space defined by its surprisingly generous scale, its direct access to the future S-Bahn station and by the diverse public, educational, and residential program of its surrounding buildings. It is freed of vehicular and tram traffic, due to the anticipation of the future plans of rerouting the 11 and 16 lines along Petersgraben.

## Blumengasse

The remaining historicizing building row at Blumengasse is wrapped on three sides by one new building, which grows taller at the beginning and end point. It clarifies the adjoining historic Blumenplatz and Fischmarkt spatially as well as injecting public or educational program at these points by working with the existing historic buildings.

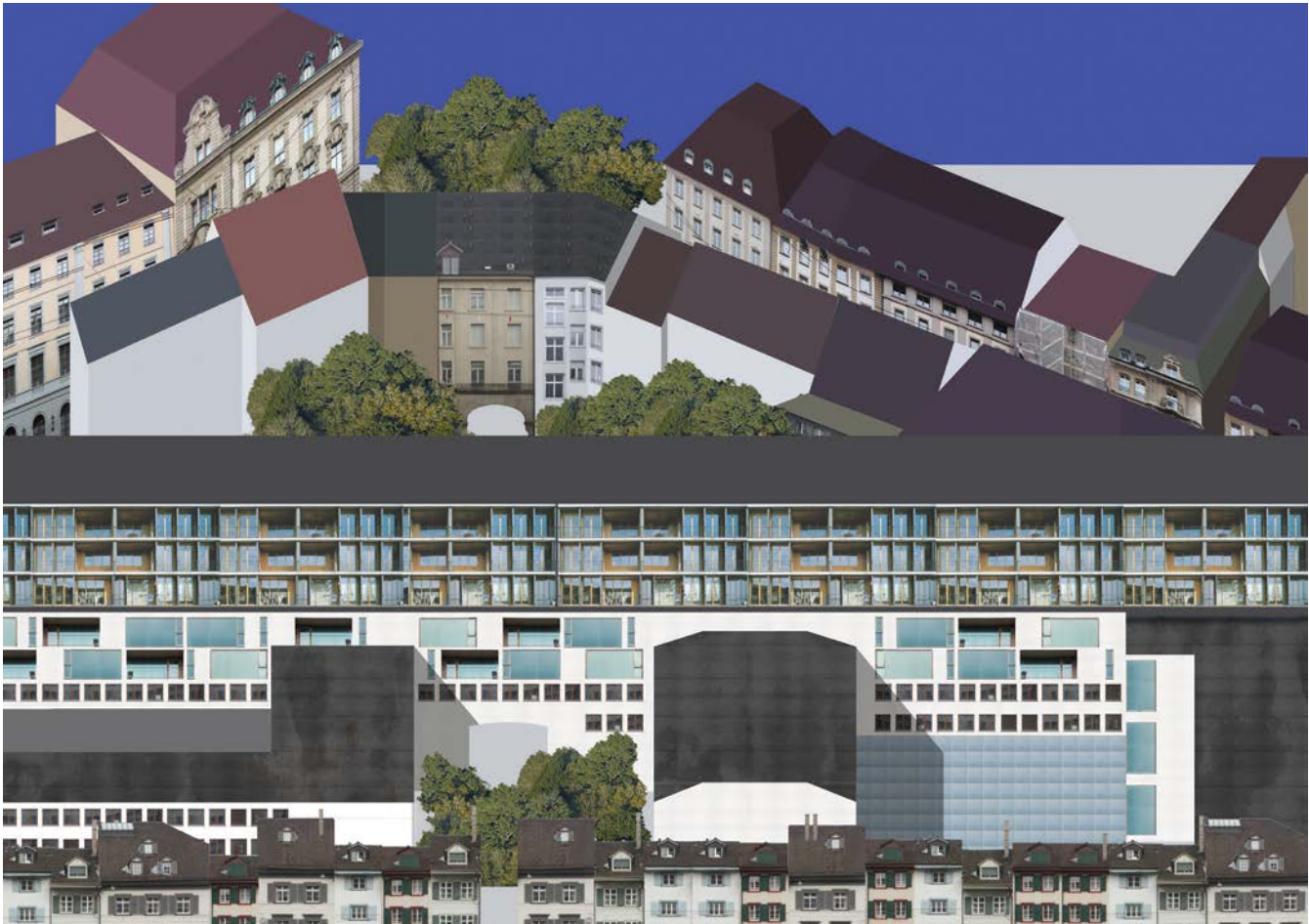
At Blumenplatz, the mathematics faculty building of the Basel University is complemented with a flexible building offering large-scale spaces which could be used as auditoriums, libraries or larger working spaces.



Current Situation



Demolition



Conceptual Collage

At Fischmarkt, the old stock exchange building is transformed into a congress center, offering a variation of different large-scale spaces. The addition works as an entrance and exhibition space towards the Fischmarkt on the ground floor, and offers further congress rooms and office space on the upper floors. Ideally, this side will also be used by the university in time.

Opposite the Spiegelhof, the addition curves back to form the Spiegelplatz and creates a counterpart in scale. The ground floor is used commercially, whereas the upper floors are used residentially. The apartments, ranging from 90 to 150 m<sup>2</sup>, are accessed by the existing cores of the historicizing Blumengasse row, but are vertically shifted by half a storey so as to alleviate the insight in the courtyards separating old and new.

Architecturally, the Blumengasse addition is almost reduced to mere structure in order to accommodate the different program and to react to the conditions of addition or freestanding building. In comparison to the Spiegelhof, it is less rigid in form, lighter, more flexible and more transparent in appearance, but still as repetitive in general.

### Spiegelhof

The Spiegelhof, a modern and monofunctional administration building of the late 1930s, changes from being along a street to being at a square. In a first step, the Spiegelhof is completely reprogrammed into a hybrid and public building. The ground floor is used commercially, and the two lateral courtyards are filled with a library and a theater respectively, which extend over the full height of the building. The central courtyard is kept free, connected to the public functions by foyers and activated by a restaurant. The public functions spill out into the upper floors, whereas the top floor is used as generous lofts. The Spiegelhof's column-plate structure and its facade are of architectonic quality and are so flexible, that both can be preserved.

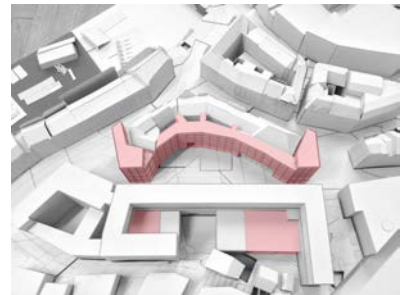
In a second step, a ring of three-storey row houses is added onto the extended structure of the Spiegelhof, leaving a one storey high gap in between. In this gap, the different height roofs of the Spiegelhof and the two filled-in courtyards create plazas, from which the lofts are accessed, and streets, from which each row house is accessed by its own staircase. The roof itself is accessed by the Spiegelhof's existing cores as well as two representative staircases, which are integrated into a wooden balcony which wraps itself around the inside of the central courtyard. Both types of access are shared with the public program, so that the gap between existing and extension functions as a necessary circulatory buffer and offers outside space on a higher level to the public as well as to the Spiegelhof's inhabitants. The row houses stretch over three levels, and are comprised of a flexible first floor, which can be rented out, used as an atelier or a guest room, an open second floor, stretching from facade to facade, intended for living and a subdivided upper floor for sleeping. Every floor can be divided freely, as all facilities are compacted into one party wall of each row house.

The historically important Schiffflände in the center of Basel is transformed into a functioning gateway between the medieval city and the University neighbourhood beyond Petersgraben. It is the access of Basel's medieval core to the future S-Bahn and the starting point of a sequence of attractive and diversified public spaces linking two different parts of the city.

It implements the Basel university as well as reintroduces residential and public qualities to the medieval city core and is an active, accessible, dense and diversified area.



Addition Blumengasse

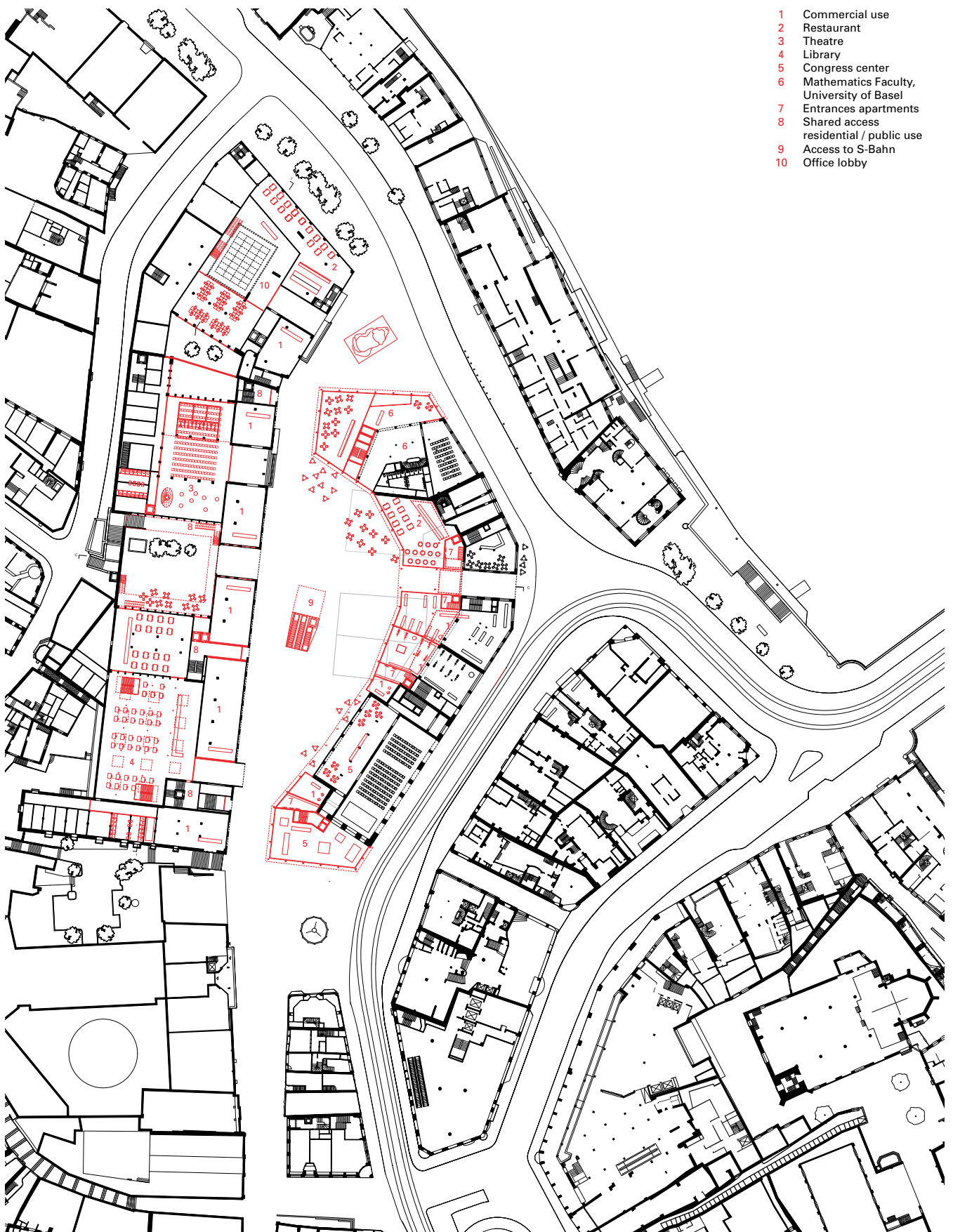


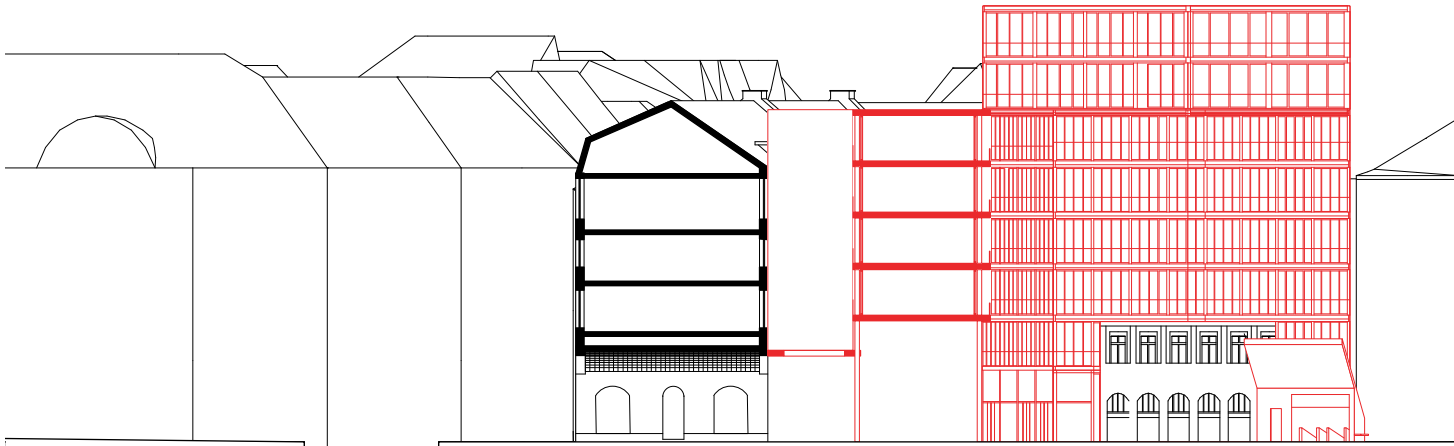
Filling In the Two Lateral Courtyards



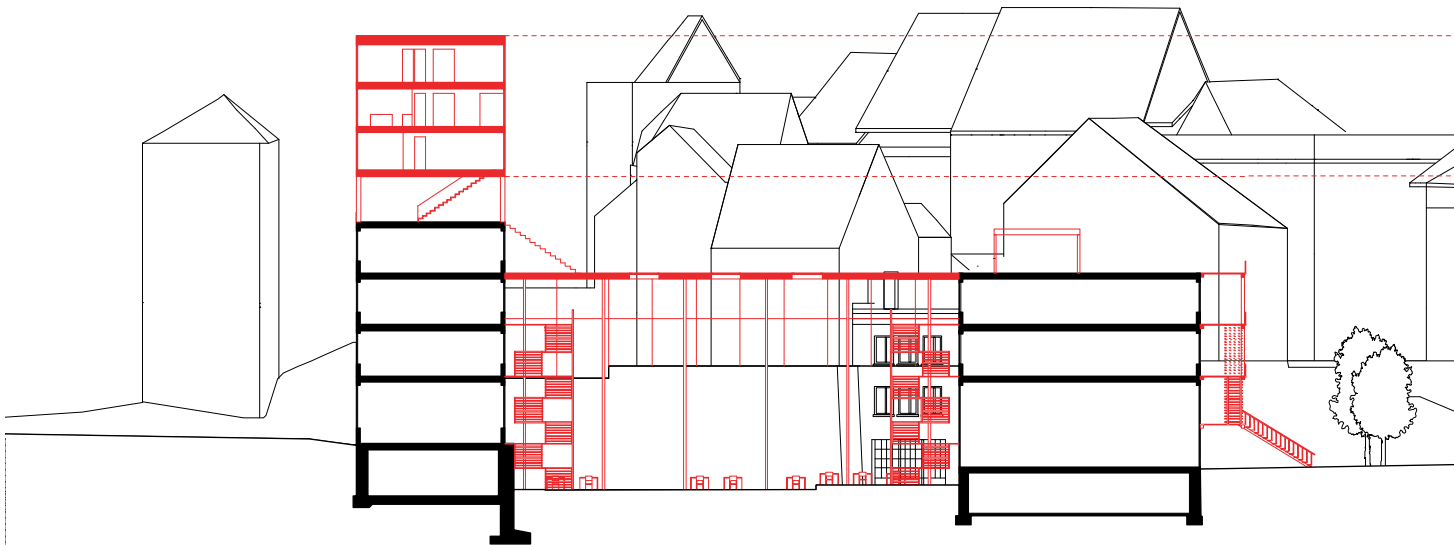
Rooftop Extension

- 1 Commercial use
- 2 Restaurant
- 3 Theatre
- 4 Library
- 5 Congress center
- 6 Mathematics Faculty, University of Basel
- 7 Entrances apartments
- 8 Shared access residential / public use
- 9 Access to S-Bahn
- 10 Office lobby

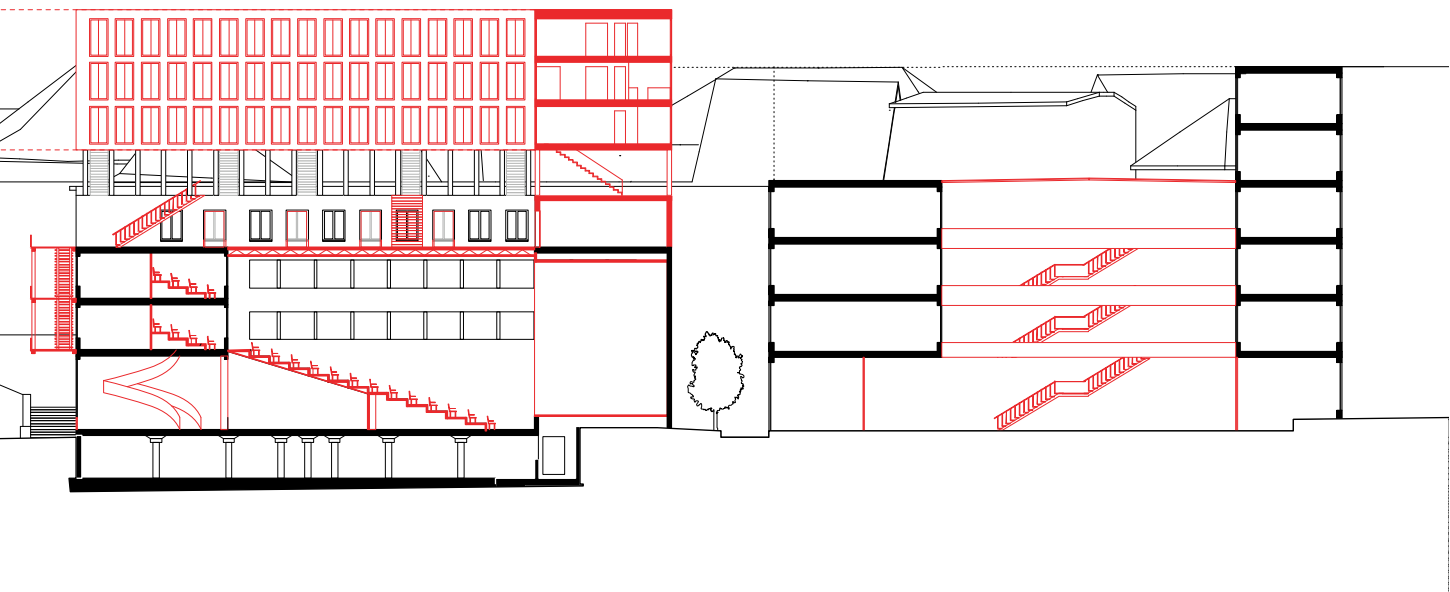




Section C-C Scale 1:500



Section 1-1 Scale 1:500





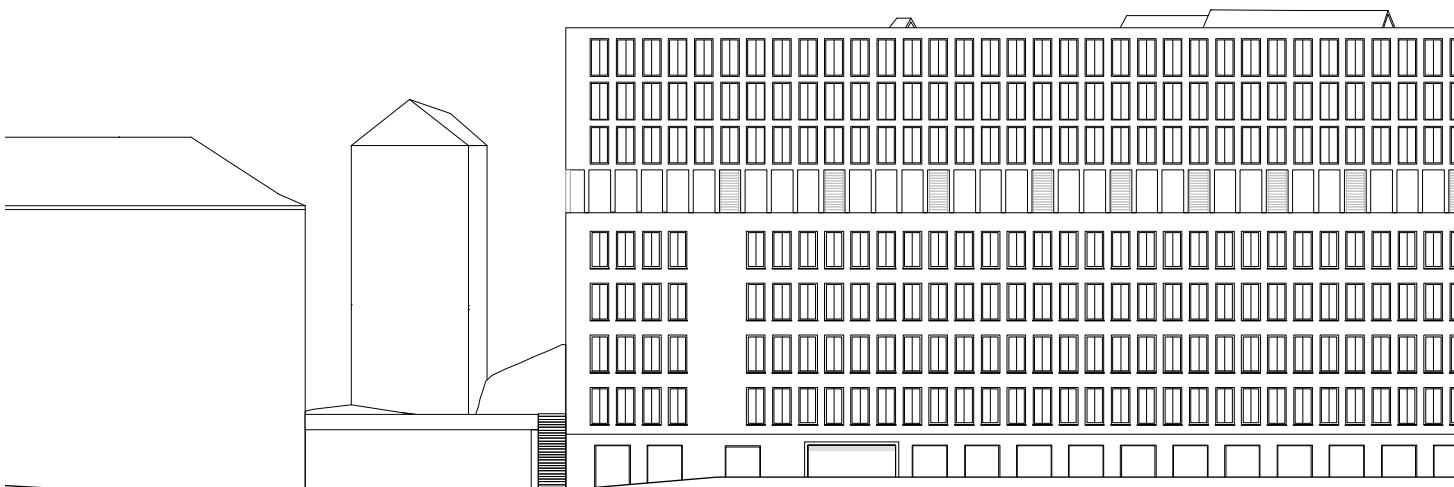
Spiegelplatz



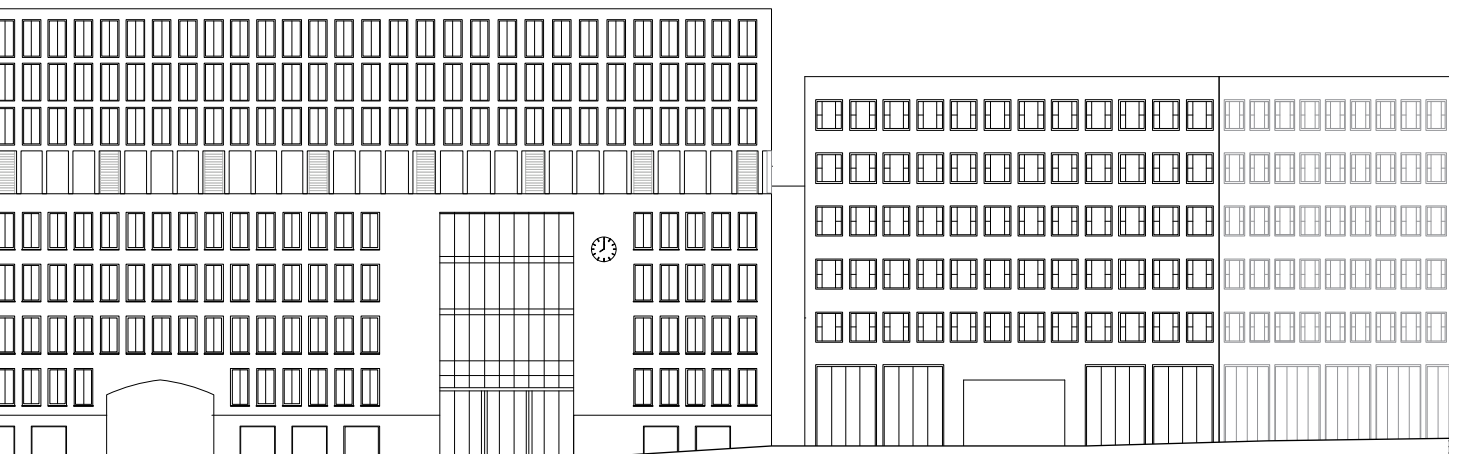


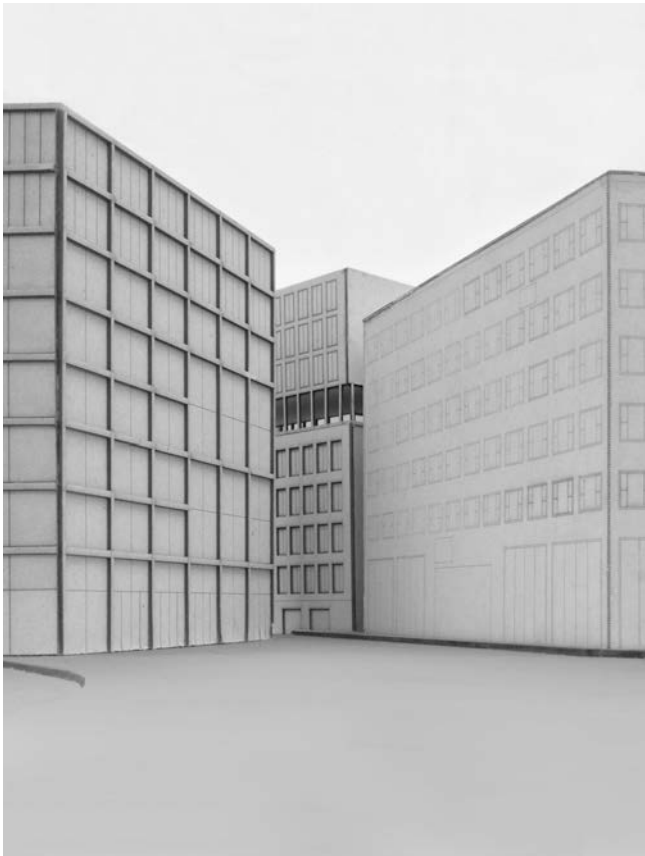


Elevation Blumengasse Scale 1:500

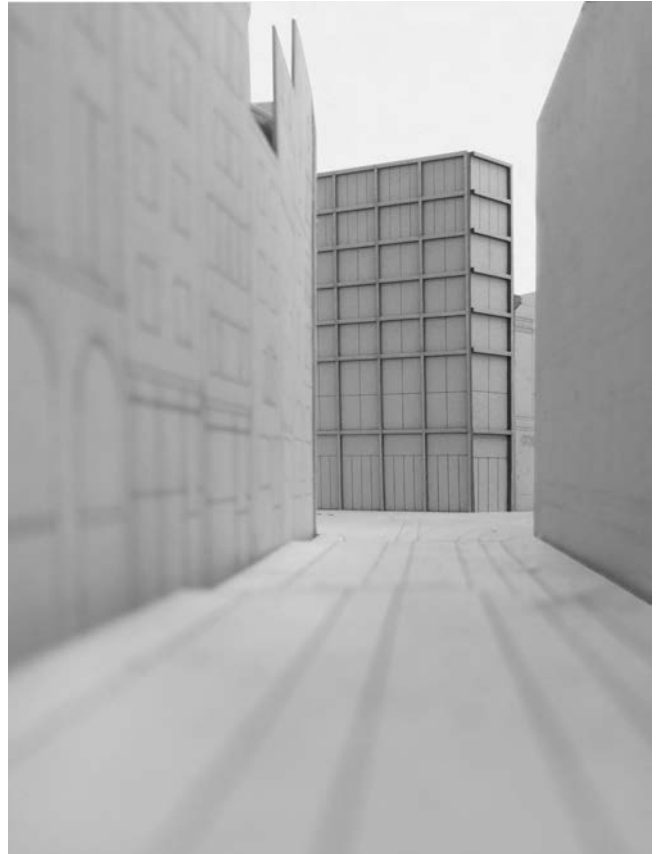
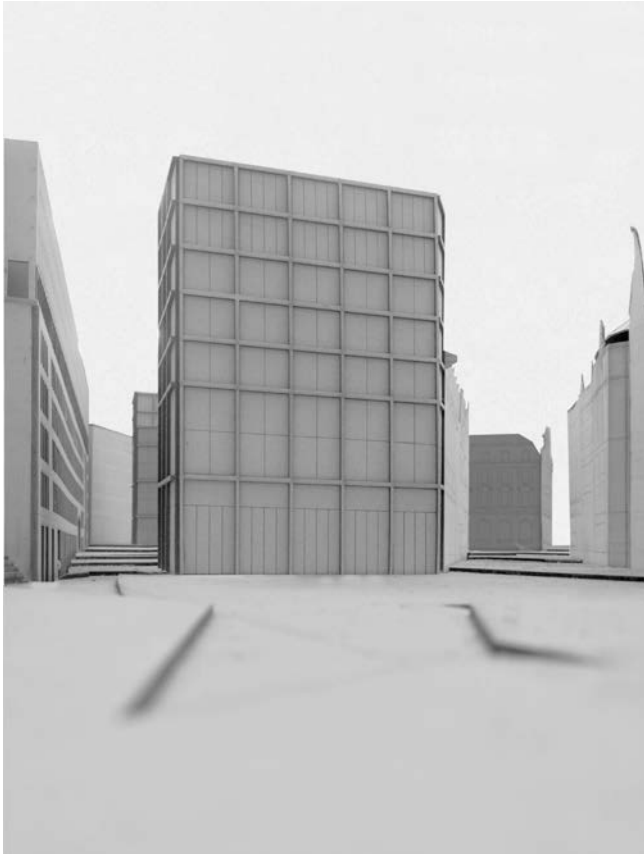


Elevation Spiegelhof Scale 1:500





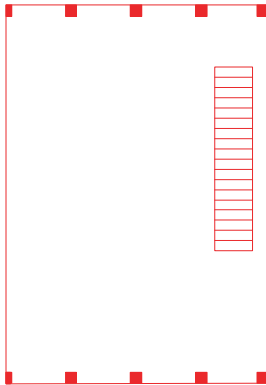
Model Pictures - Blumenplatz



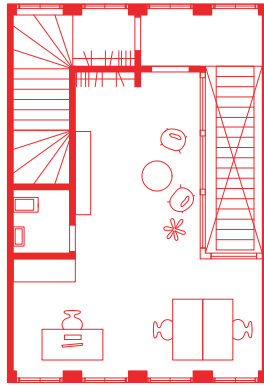
Model Pictures - Fischmarkt

- 1 Public
- 2 Shared representative access
- 3 Public cafe
- 4 Row houses
- 5 Mathematics Faculty, University of Basel
- 6 Congress center
- 7 Apartments

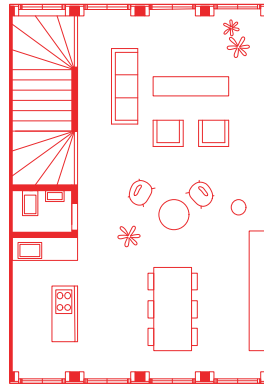




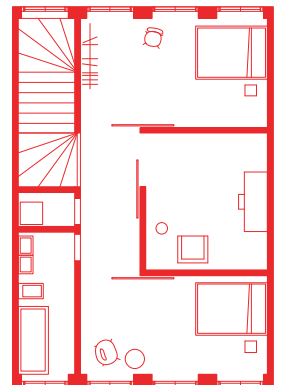
Row House Access Level, Scale 1:200



Row House 1st Floor



Row House 2nd Floor



Row House 3rd Floor



Housing Access Level / Public and Common facilities Scale 1:1000



Housing 1st Floor



Housing 3rd Floor



Housing Street



Passage