

SITE LOCATION

The site of the project is located at the fork of the Chicago River on a plot of land historically known as Wolf Point. The site was selected based on a list of criteria derived from literary research and iterative

"To obtain social sustainability, in relation to site selection, one must consider the relation to resources available to diverse groups within a community." - Dana Taplin Rethinking Urban Parks: Public Space and Cultural Diversity

"Public space is best utilized when placed in areas where people have easy access to perform their natural civic life activities. This is often a centralized location within a city." - Peter G. Rowe

> Resources for Diverse Communities General Resources for All Citizens

RESEARCH CONCLUSIONS

Civic architecture must incorporate civic pride, civic dignity, and appropriate aesthetics to effectively find common ground within a

Civic architecture must accommodate to small groups, large groups, and the personal scale to fully enhance citizens quality of civic life.

Civic architecture can influence and facilitate public engagement through equal opportunities and the discovery of a city's common

Successful public spaces include: Sittable space, access to the street, sun exposure, food availability, access to water, trees, triangulation,

Successful public spaces exclude: Blockades, isolated features, and

THESIS NARRATIVE

The influence of public spaces in urban life is an issue that has been apparent since the development of ancient cities. Opportunities to socialize, interact, and exchange ideas in these spaces allow members of a community to participate in the development of their city. These opportunities occur more frequently when public space is accessible

In American cities, the impact of public space has been diminished and limited due to the overabundance of automobiles and has directed civic life to the streets and privately controlled areas.

By understanding the relationship between civic architecture and public engagement, this thesis aims to provide spaces which incorporate civic pride, civic dignity, and the common ground of a cities citizens in relation to different scales of user interaction. The goal of the design is to provide spaces which collectively contribute to a sense of community, expression of diversity, and the discovery of a city's common culture.



TARGET FIELD STATION MINNEAPOLIS, MN

Target Field Station and this thesis share common goals with aims to inspire a new civic identity and community pride in its variety of uses, central location, and iconic design. The station features a large green area for large pre-game events, community concerts, and seasonal

This thesis takes inspiration from the projects many opportunities for community events and diverse scales of public spaces.



CENTRE GEORGES POMPIDOU

Designed by Richard Rogers, the Pompidou Centers design lent itself to the public even though it was a private building. The Center gave half of its site to a public plaza and extended this plaza through walkways and enclosed escalators which transport the public up the facade of the building. The architecture of this building contributes to the notion that there are two clients to design for: people who utilize the building and people who experience the building from the outside, a notion worth pursuing in this Chicago plaza.



THE ROMAN FORUM

ROME, ITALY Often referred to as the most successful public space to be built, the Roman Forum was analyzed for its multitude of functions. The Forum was available for utilization by multiple scales of user interaction. The incorporation of the "Rostra", the "Comitium" and their successes in the Roman Forum became inspiration for spaces incorporated in the programming phase of this design.

RESEARCH NARRATIVE

How can civic architecture influence and facilitate public engagement within an urban environment?

The research for this thesis had the goal of using an emancipatory system of inquiry to understand the multiple realities that overlap through historical, social, cultural, and empowerment identity. This research was used to allow the architecture to apply to those multiple

Research strategies included producing logical arguments, through iterations, and interpretive and qualitative research.

Research techniques used were logical iterations in site selection as well as a large dependency on literary reviews.

The following strategies, techniques, and goals resulted in a research based design to facilitate engagement through public space and civic



WILLIAM H. WHYTE

William Whyte is a profound sociologist, urbanist, and and author who has had a substantial influence on this project through his books "City, Rediscovering the Center" and "The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces." along with his video production of the latter. His objective observations of successful and unsuccessful public spaces has created a checklist of dos and don'ts throughout the project.



RICHARD ROGERS

and the ability to people watch.

removal of "the undesirables.

Richard Rogers, the 2007 Pritzker Prize Laureate, became a large inspiration through his work within the public realm and his reporting as a guest editor for CNN Style. Rogers philosophy and regard for civic life reflects in his work and his argument that public life is being eroded by a multitude of factors became a warrant for this thesis. "When our public space is eroded, our civic culture suffers, even our democracy." - Richard Rogers



PARIS. FRANCE

POETICS

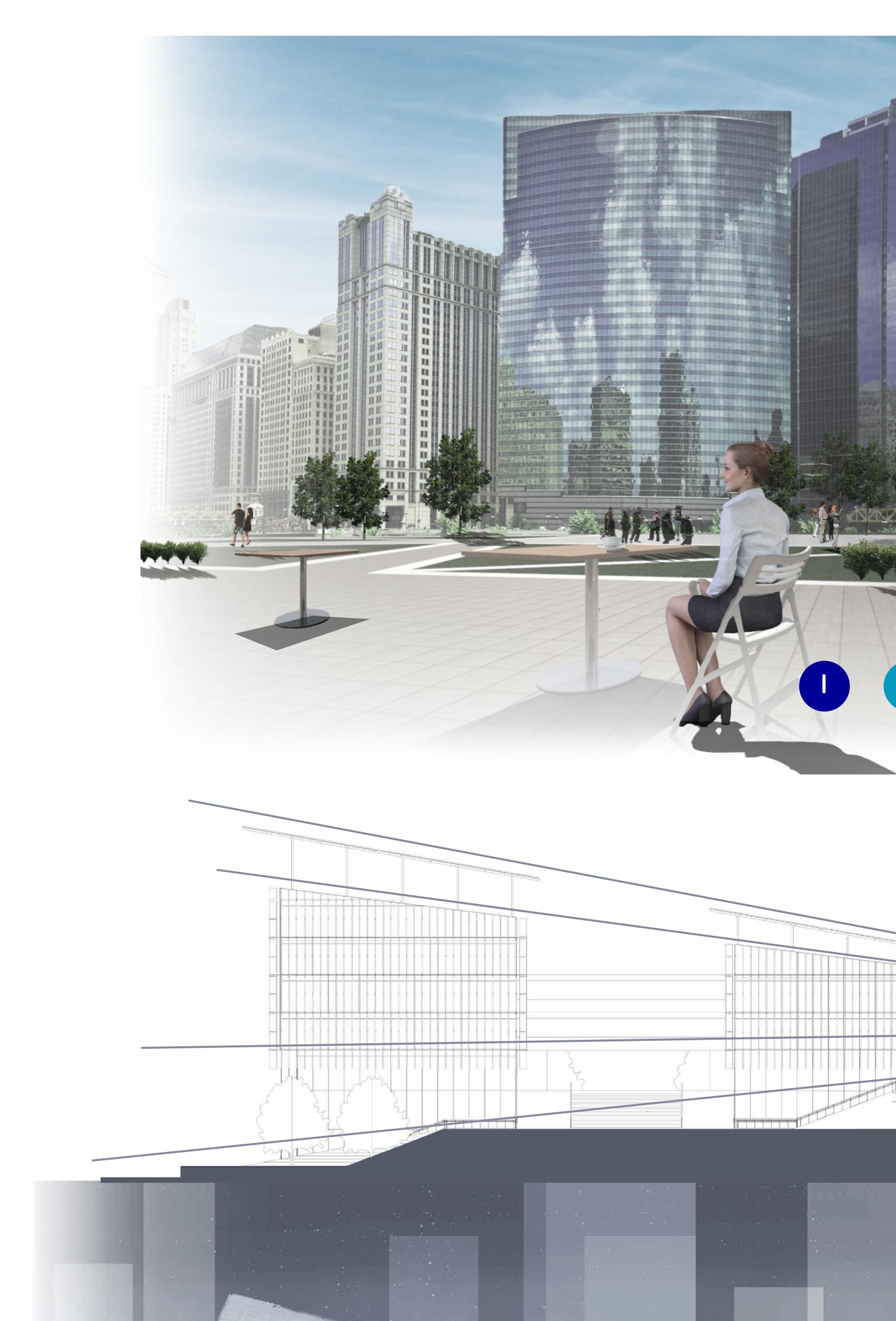
The shape of the architecture is formed by the poetics of Chicago's civic life. The reaching rooftops and the descending staircases create the angles referencing public life being relocated from the streets and extended out into the city. The stoic stance of building hints to the notion of public ownership of their community.

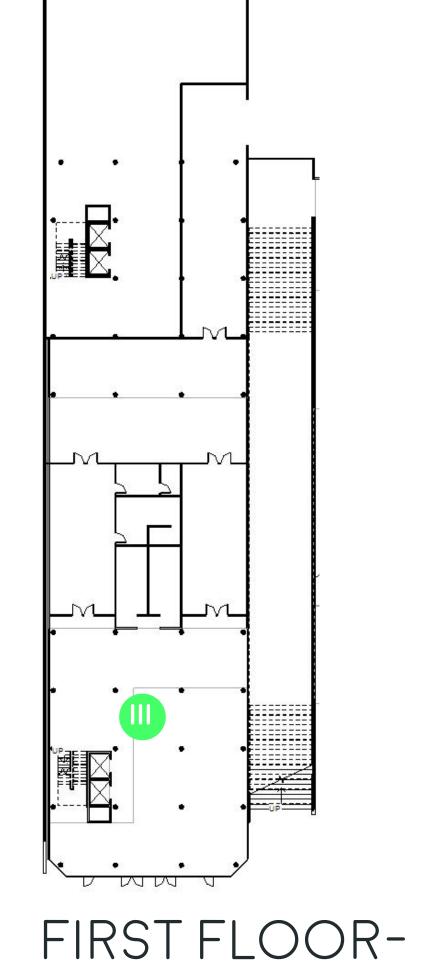
The opening between the two forms acknowledges the division between dichotomies, often resulting with one majority and one minority group. The divide also symbolizes the ever important role of transparency between the city and the people it serves, mediating the connection between opposing forces and creating common ground.



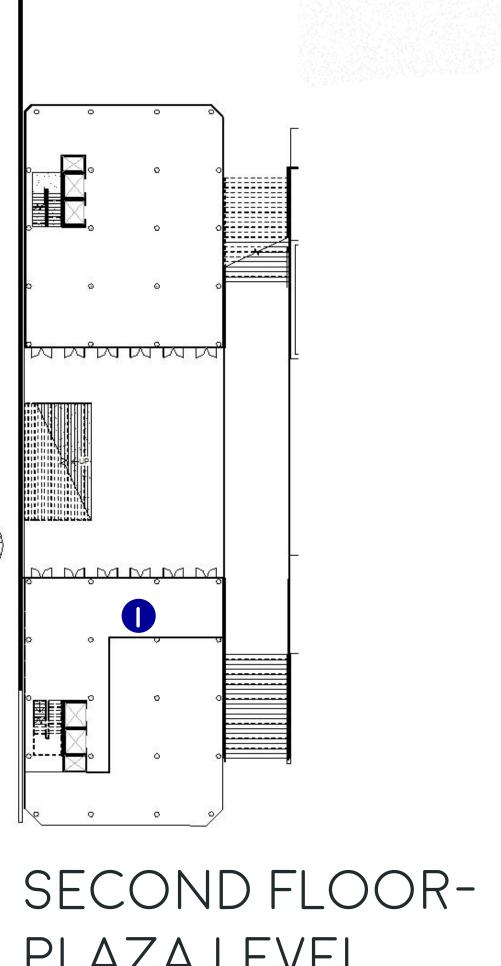
"Because there is not one specific answer for any type of conflict, the greatest thing a city can do for its people is provide flexible space which can be used for an array of events, ceremonies, and celebrations." -Charles T. Goodsell The Social Meaning of Civic Space

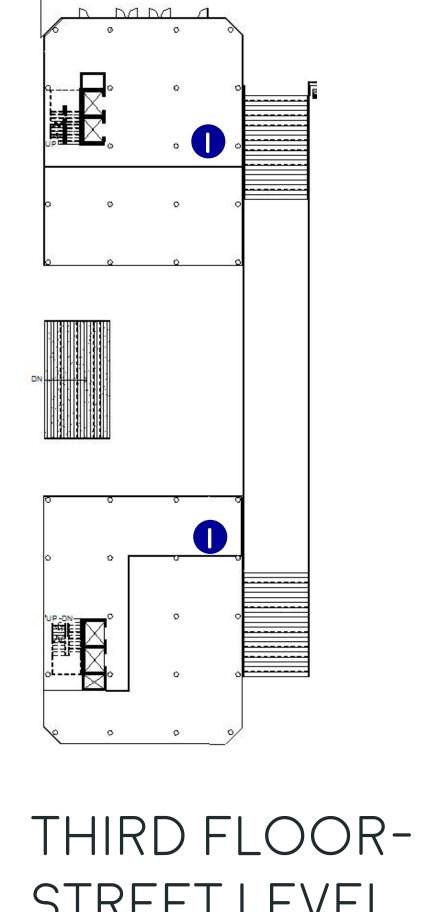
The building's program is designed to be utilized for nearly any event possible. The flexible venue space allows for a multitude of events to happen in the same location. The center can also host large events

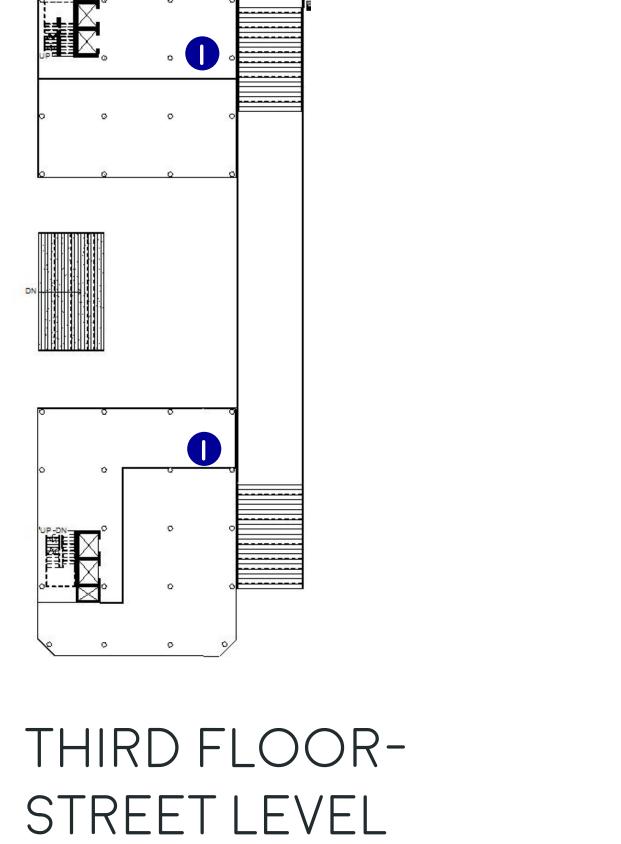


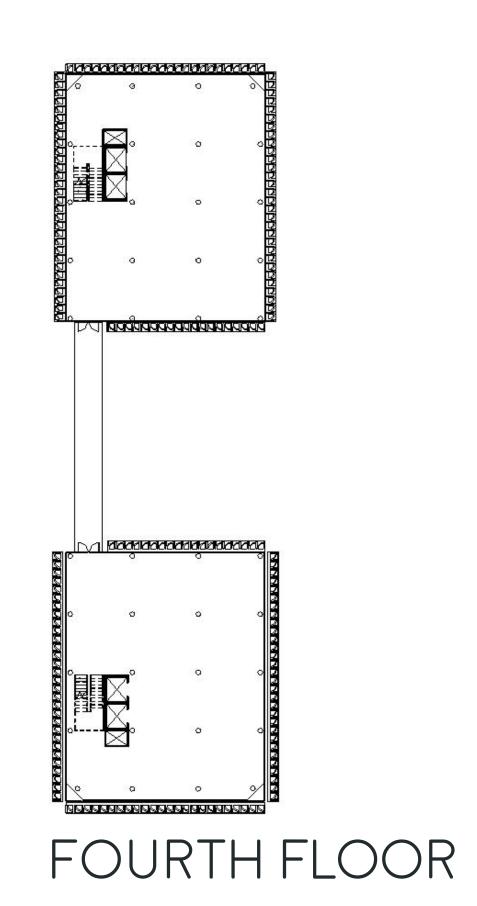


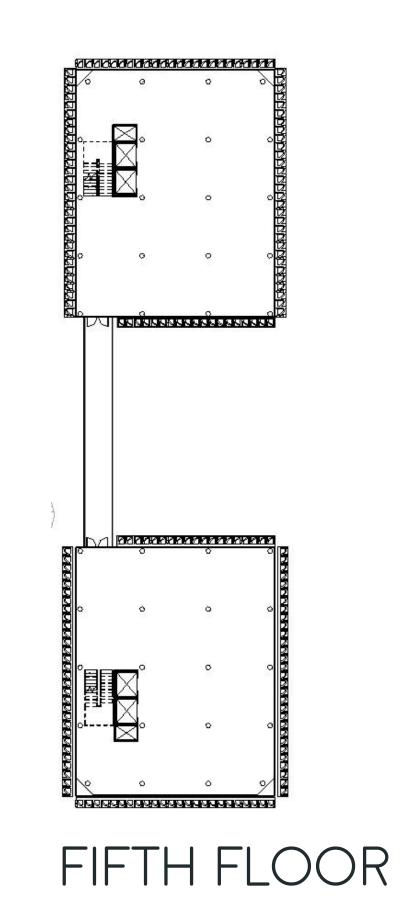
N N°N N°N N <u>nn'nn'nr</u> RIVER LEVEL PLAZA LEVEL

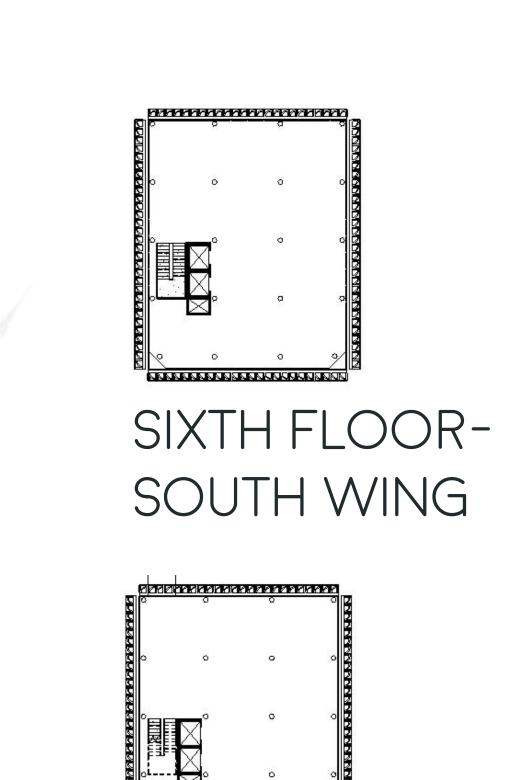












SEVENTH FLOOR-SOUTH WING