

NEW BREATH FOR JOHANNESBURG

Adaptive Reuse of Ponte Tower and the Imagining of Witpoortjie Tower as Catalysts that Foster Urban and Social Growth

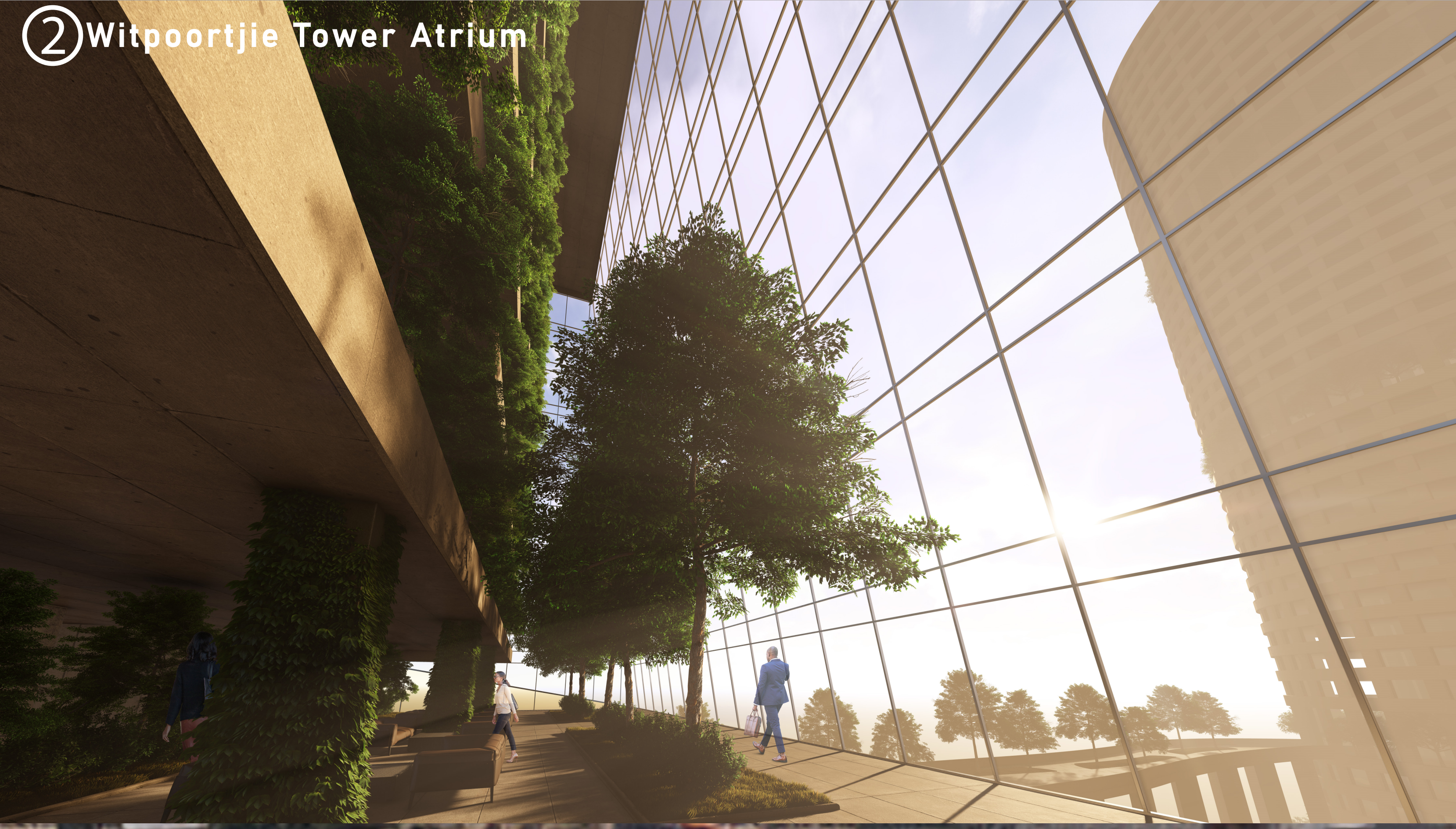
Located in Downtown Johannesburg, South Africa - Hillbrow Neighborhood

ARCH 772 Design Thesis

① Ponte Tower Green Floor



② Witpoortjie Tower Atrium

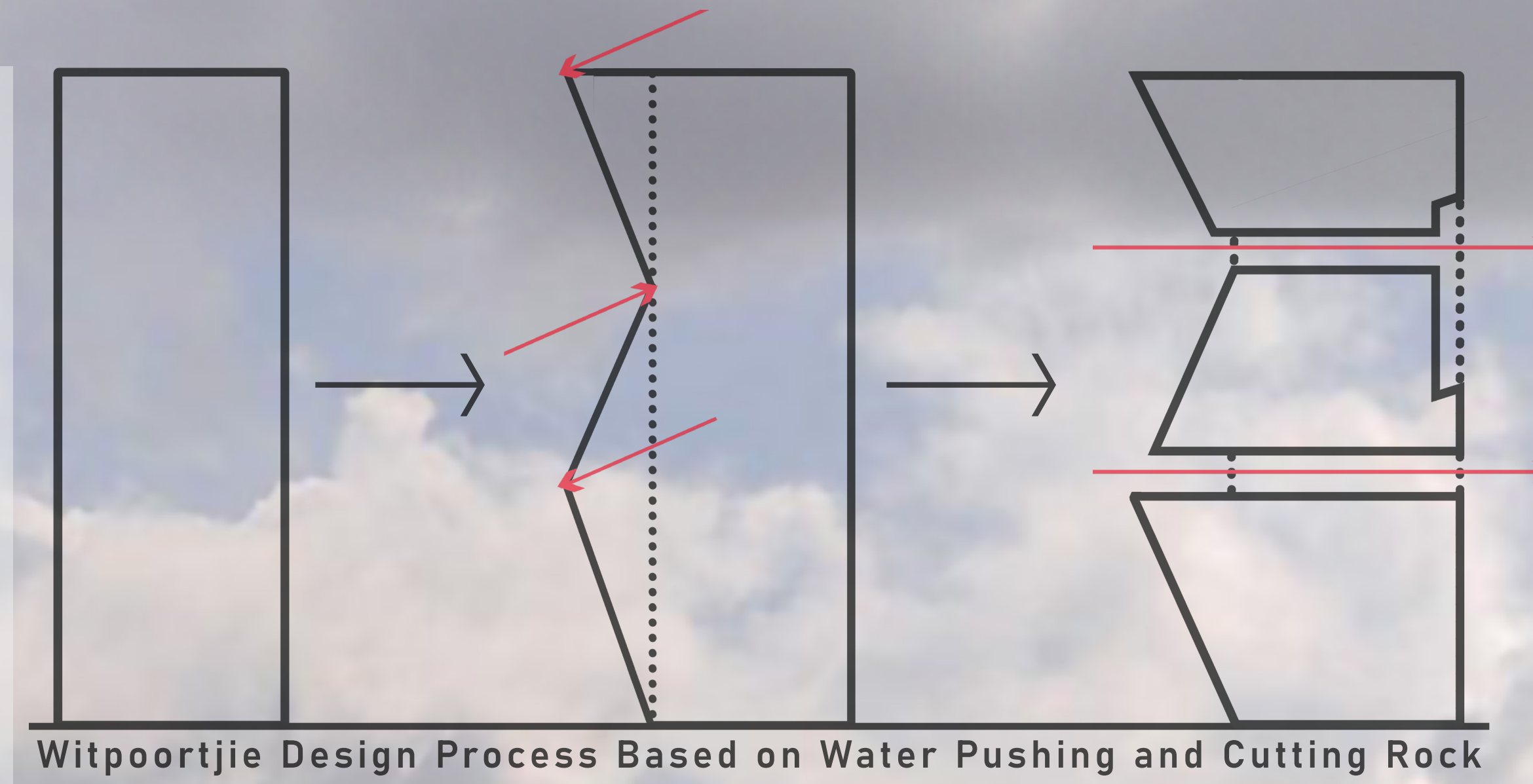


③ Witpoortjie Tower Entrance



Dirty, dangerous, crime infested. These are all words I regularly hear people use when describing downtown Johannesburg. I lived in Johannesburg with my parents and four siblings from 2012 to 2019. During those years I never once visited the inner city, being warned away by every friend and local. I was always curious about what caused the largest city in the country to become so unsafe; was it the aftermath of Apartheid? Negligence of the governing bodies? Lack of funding? Later, I started to realize that it may have been all the above. It got me interested in how someone could use architecture to help revitalize the inner city and build toward a new future of community and progress

This thesis focuses on the adaptive reuse of Ponte Tower, which fell into a pattern of neglect and was swallowed by crime in the 90s. It also explores how a new skyscraper designed to be an economic hub could help revitalize downtown Johannesburg. The idea of a second tower was part of the original plans for Ponte but was never realized





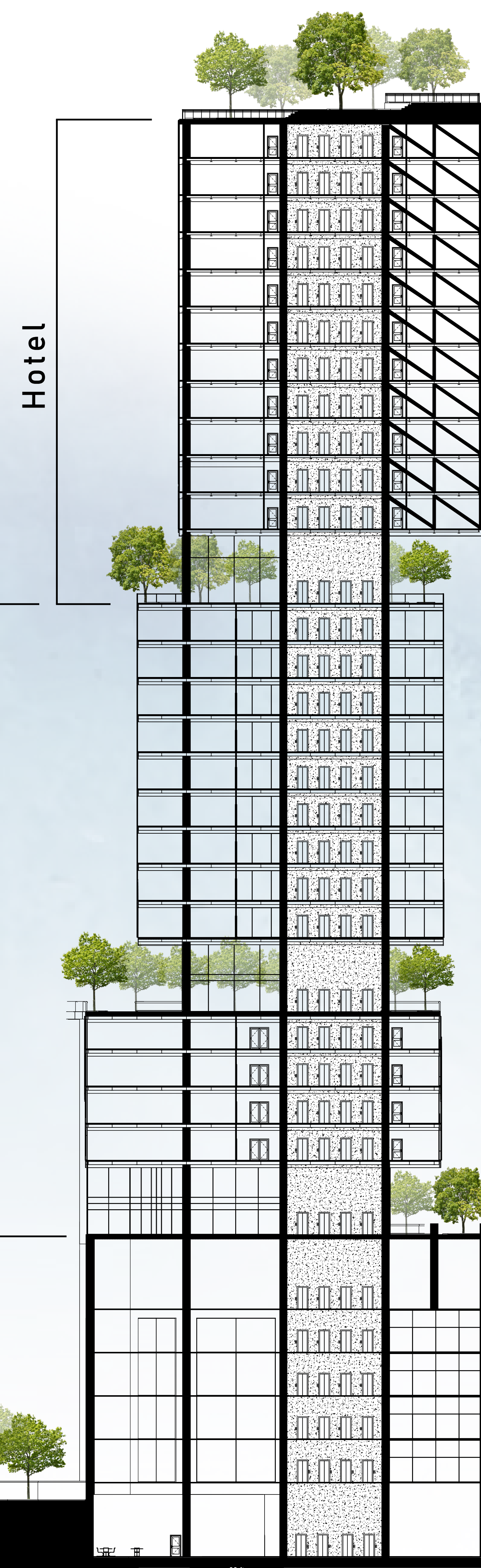
④ Stepping Stone Community Area



⑤ Witpoortjie Tower Green Roof



Site Plan

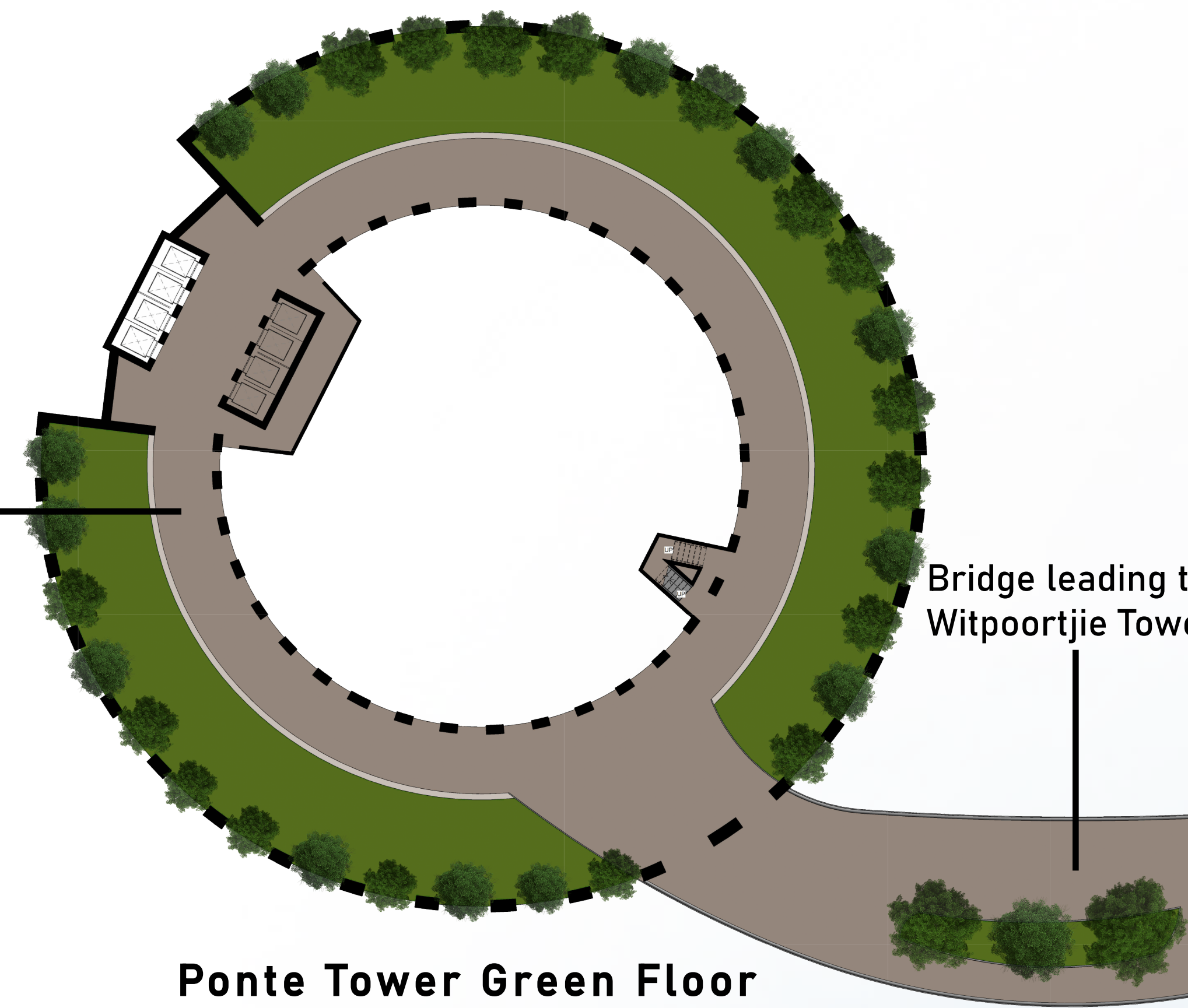


Witpoortjie Tower Section

Custom structure inspired by WoZoCo in Amsterdam which allows Witpoortjie Tower a 32 foot cantilever of the top floors

Raised walkway built into the existing structure

Bridge leading to Witpoortjie Tower



Ponte Tower Green Floor



Witpoortjie Tower Ground Floor and Stepping Stones Community Area

Green Roof/Floor Composition

- Mulch and Grass Layer
- Substrate Growing Medium
- Root Barrier
- Drainage System
- Waterproofing Membrane
- Structural Concrete Slab



⑤ Witpoortjie Tower Green Roof

① Ponte Tower Green Floor

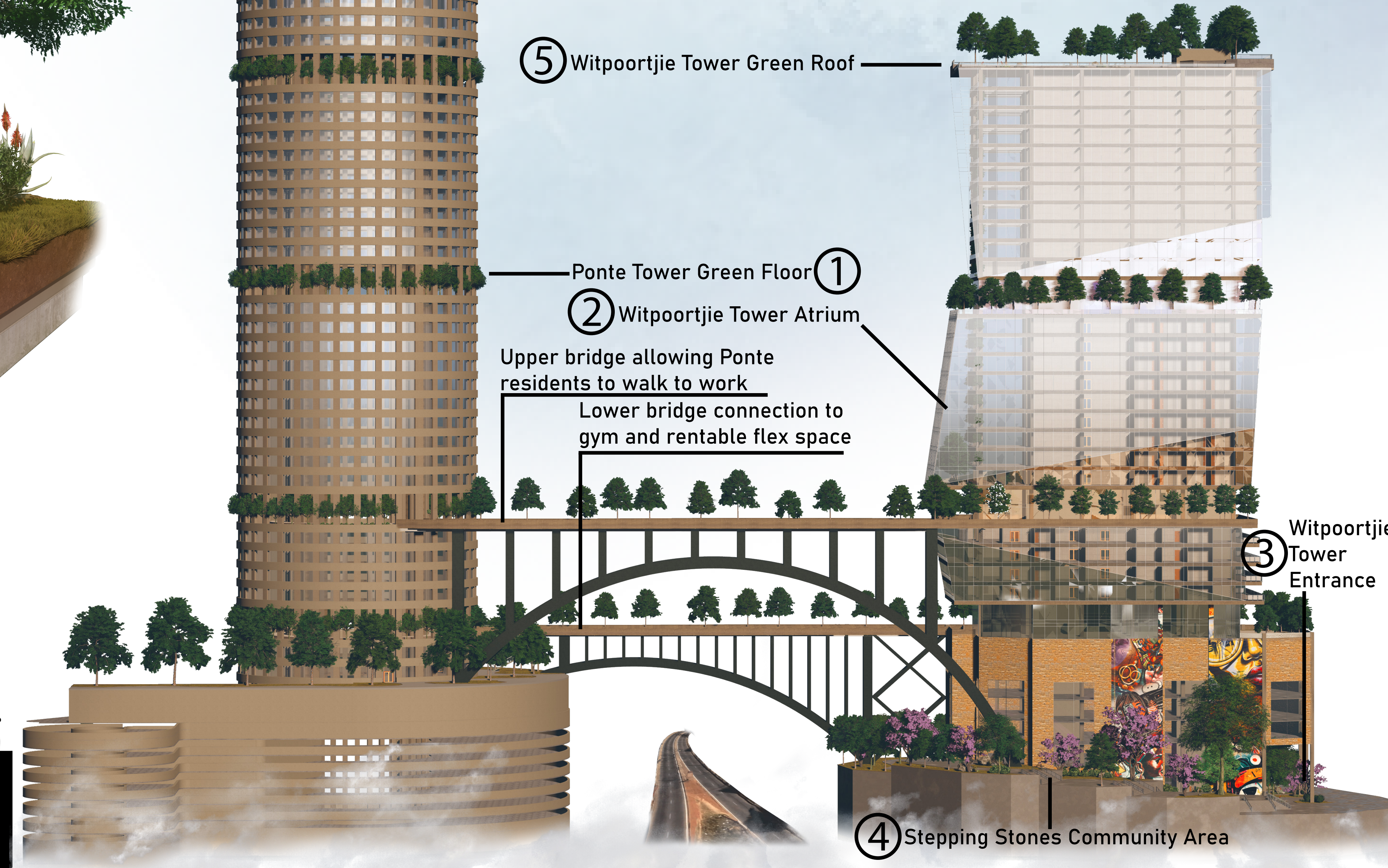
② Witpoortjie Tower Atrium

Upper bridge allowing Ponte residents to walk to work

Lower bridge connection to gym and rentable flex space

③ Witpoortjie Tower Entrance

Retail & Community



④ Stepping Stones Community Area