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Jorge Mejia Hernandez
Matthijs Klooster

Religious Architecture

Analysis

A matter of scale

Methods of Analysis &
Imagination
Graduation studio



St. benedictusberg Abbey
Personal photograph taken in the church
of the St. benedictusberg Abbey

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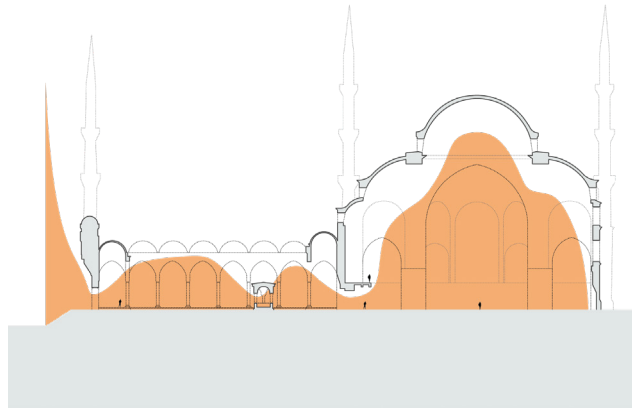
Introduction

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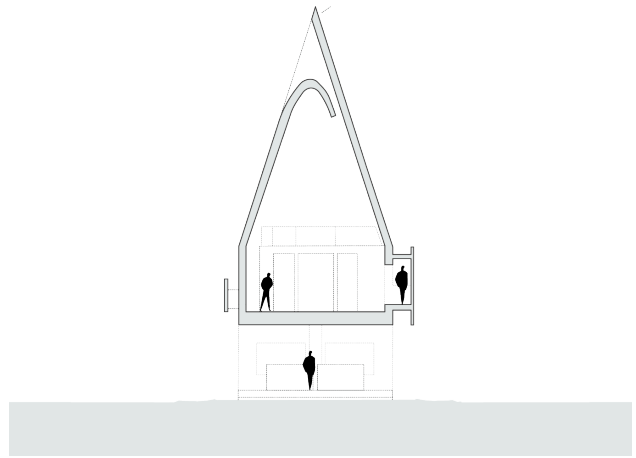
Introduction

Religious architecture is designed to facilitate religious or spiritual experiences. These spaces aim to prepare the soul for sacred encounters, evoking a profound sense of respect that not only stirs emotional responses but also influences the behavior of those within.



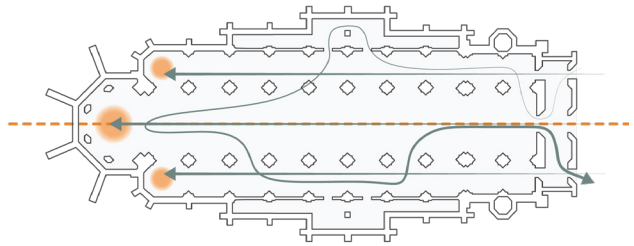
1. Compression & Expansion

Sacred architecture often utilizes a spatial sequence of compression followed by expansion. This contrast amplifies the perceived scale and grandeur of the building, heightening the sense of awe and wonder experienced by visitors.



2. Hierarchy in scale

A key component of religious design is the interaction between human scale and spatial hierarchy. While larger, grandiose settings allow for group gatherings and shared spiritual experiences, intimate places are usually used for introspection and prayer.



3. Geometry & Focal points

Religious architecture traditionally relies on a clear axis and geometric logic to establish spatial clarity. Within these rigorous frameworks, strategic focal points are deployed to anchor the user’s eye, defining both the aesthetic structure and the spiritual experience of the space.

Case Study Analysis

1

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1.1 Stonehenge

United Kingdom I Amesbury
2300 BC

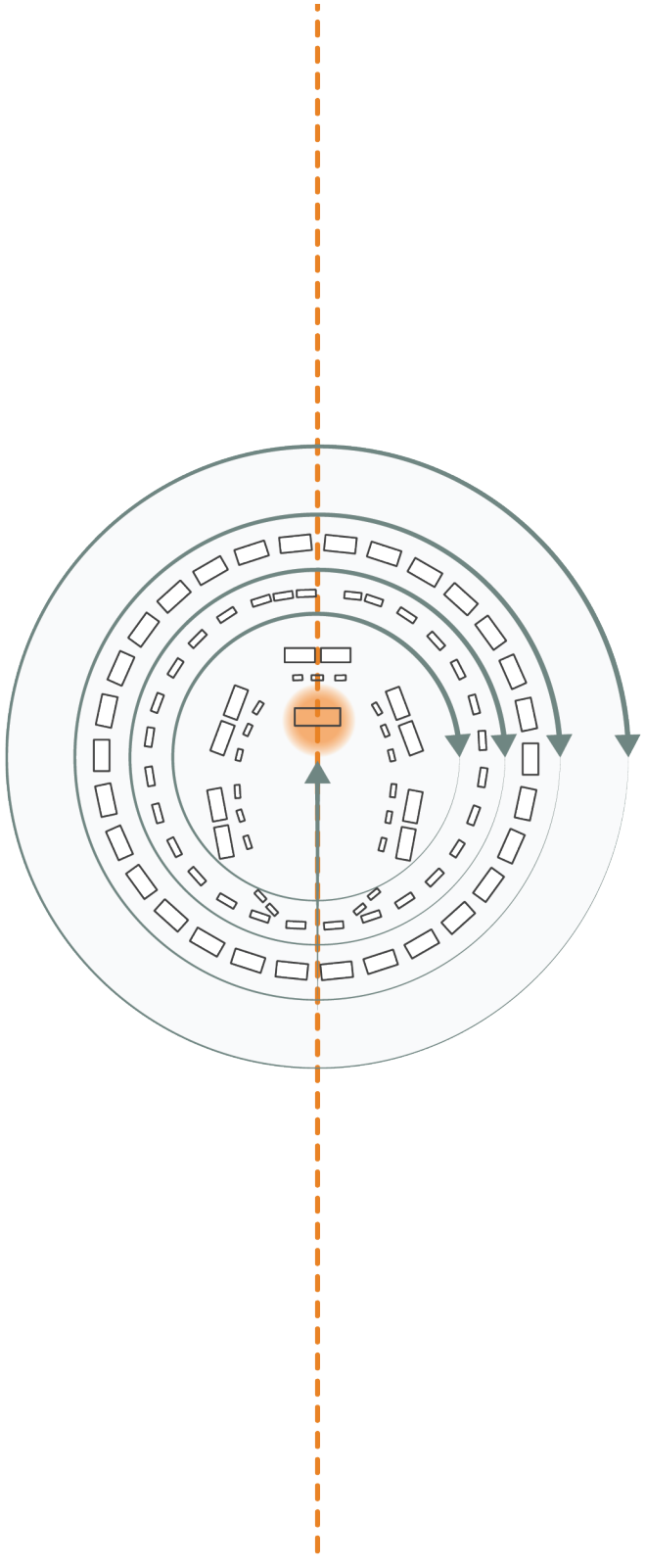


Exterior view

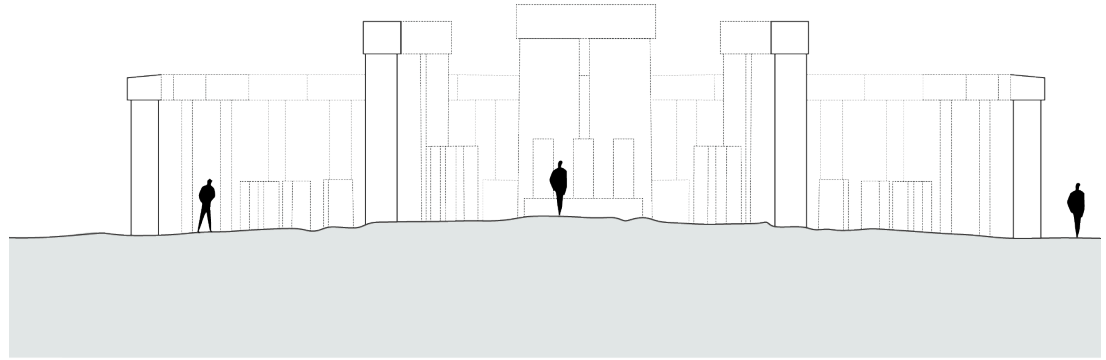
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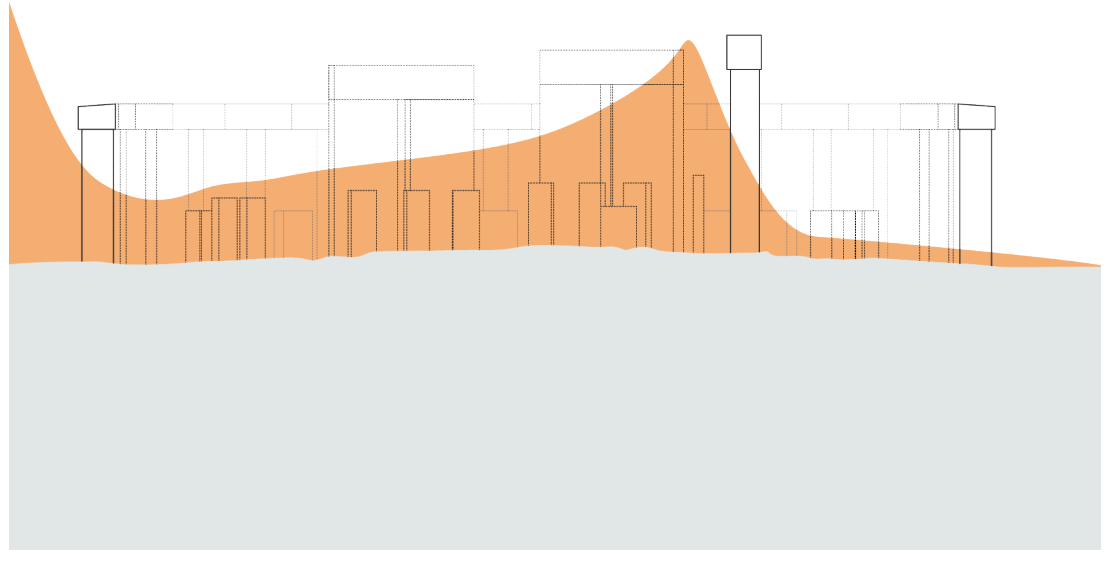
Floorplan
1:250



Cross section
1:250



Longitudinal section
1:250



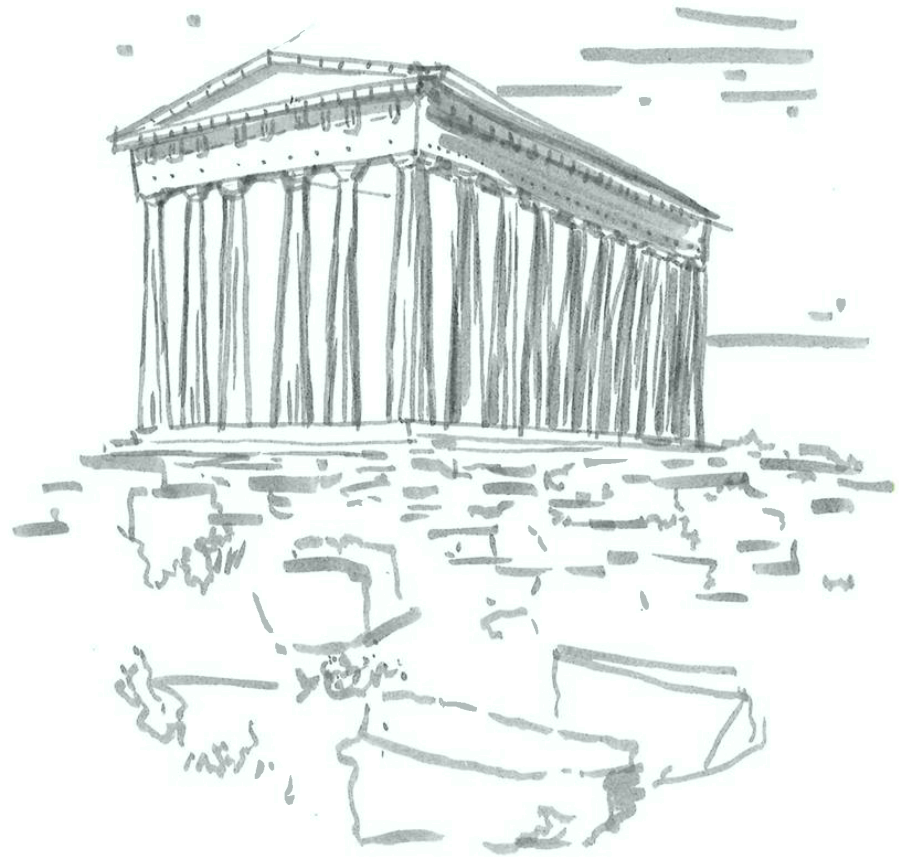
1.2 Parthenon

Greece | Athens
447 BC

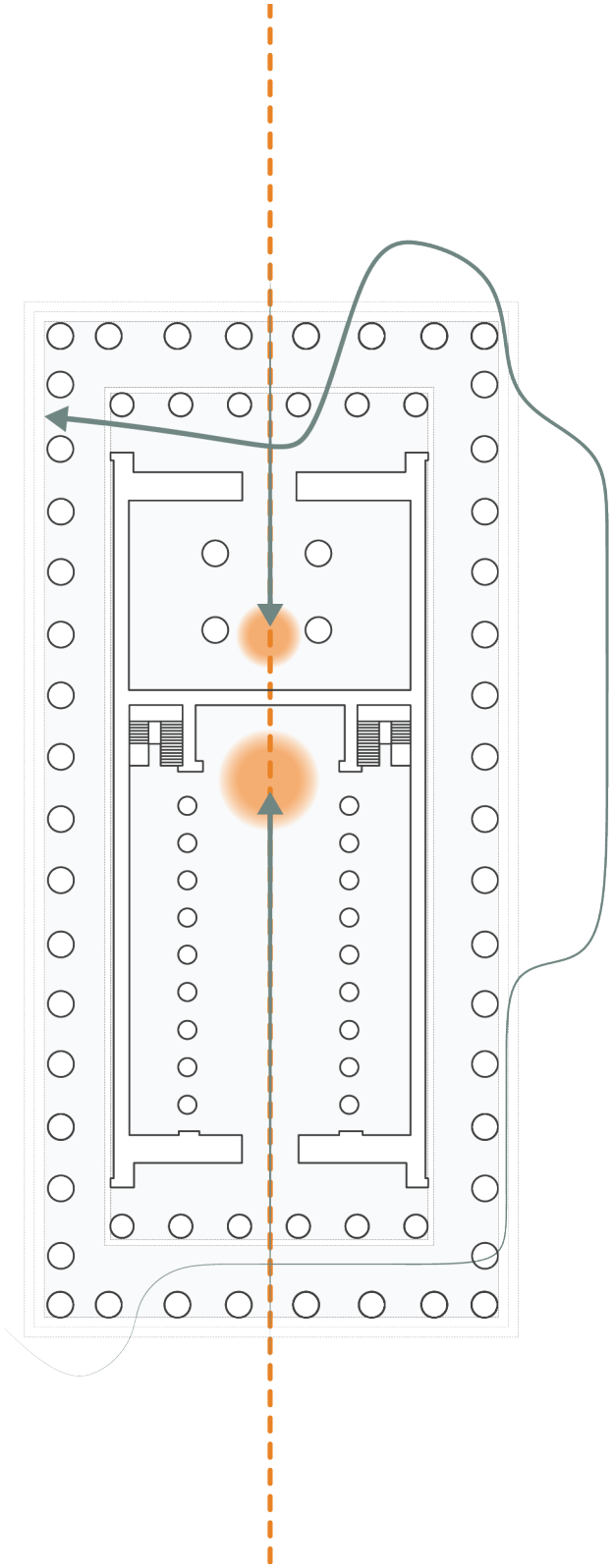


Exterior view

Sketch

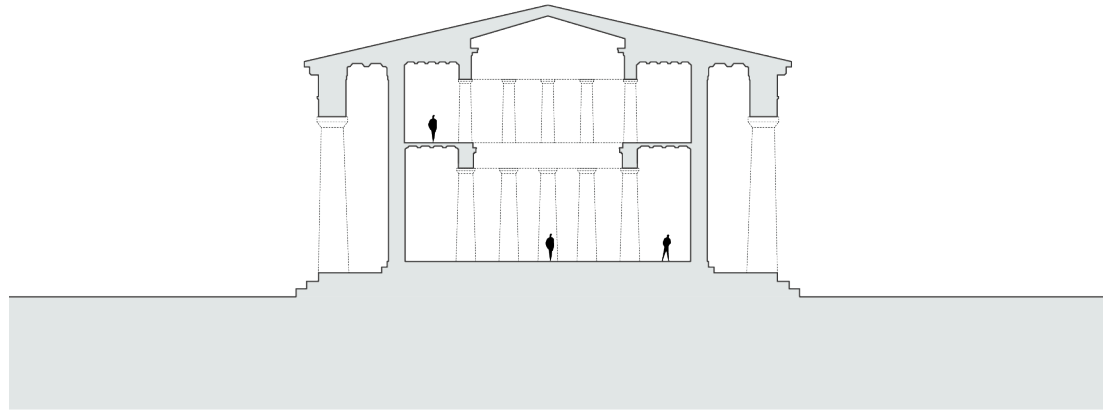


Floorplan
1:500

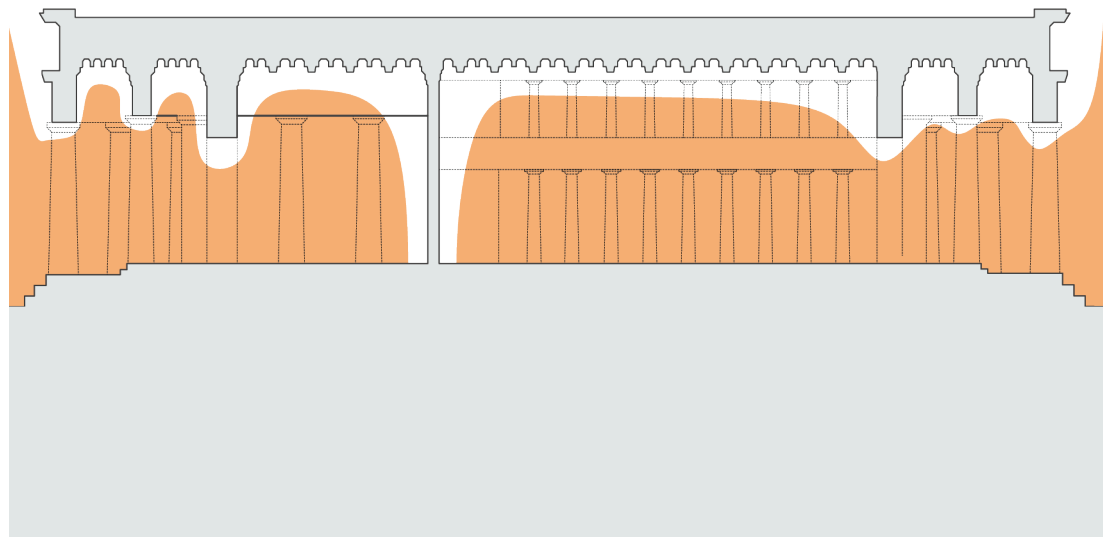




Cross section
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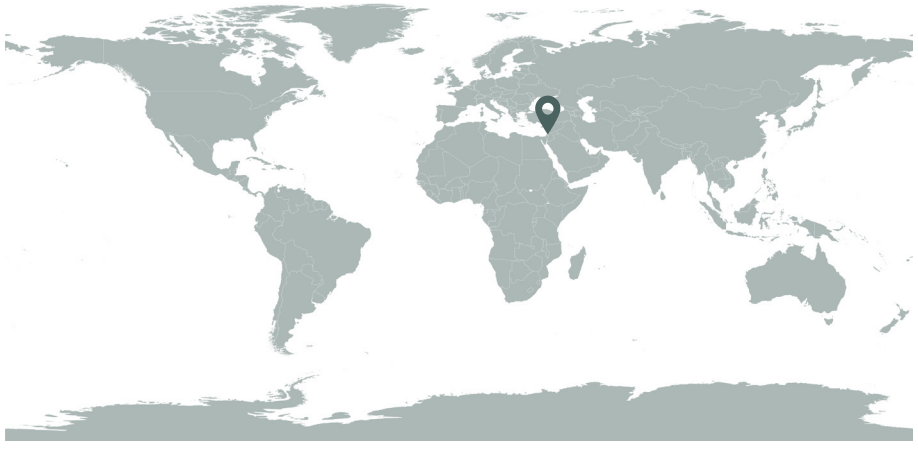


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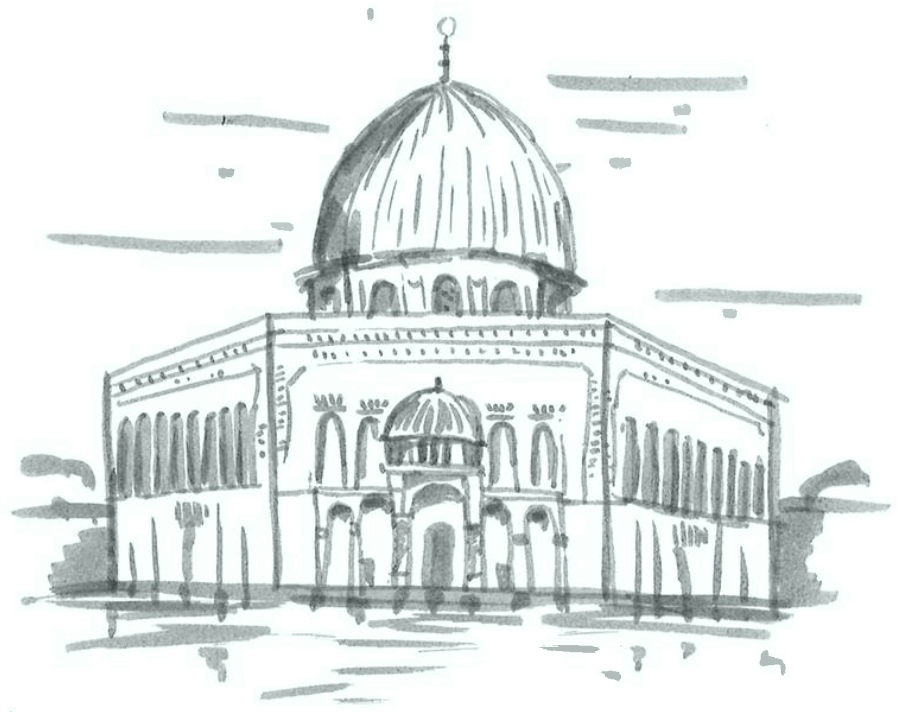
1.3 Dome of the Rock

Jerusalem | Palestine
690

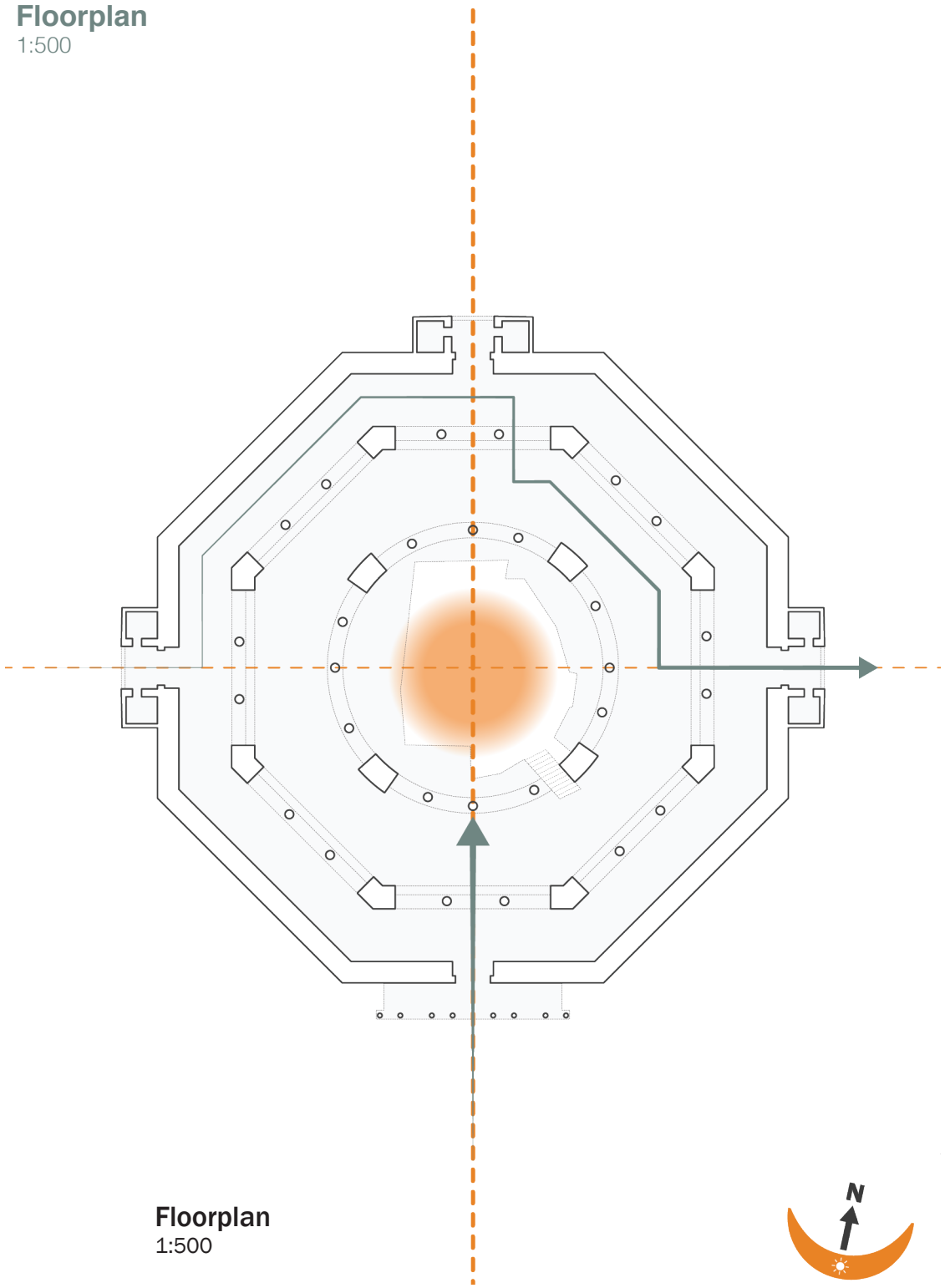


Exterior view

Sketch

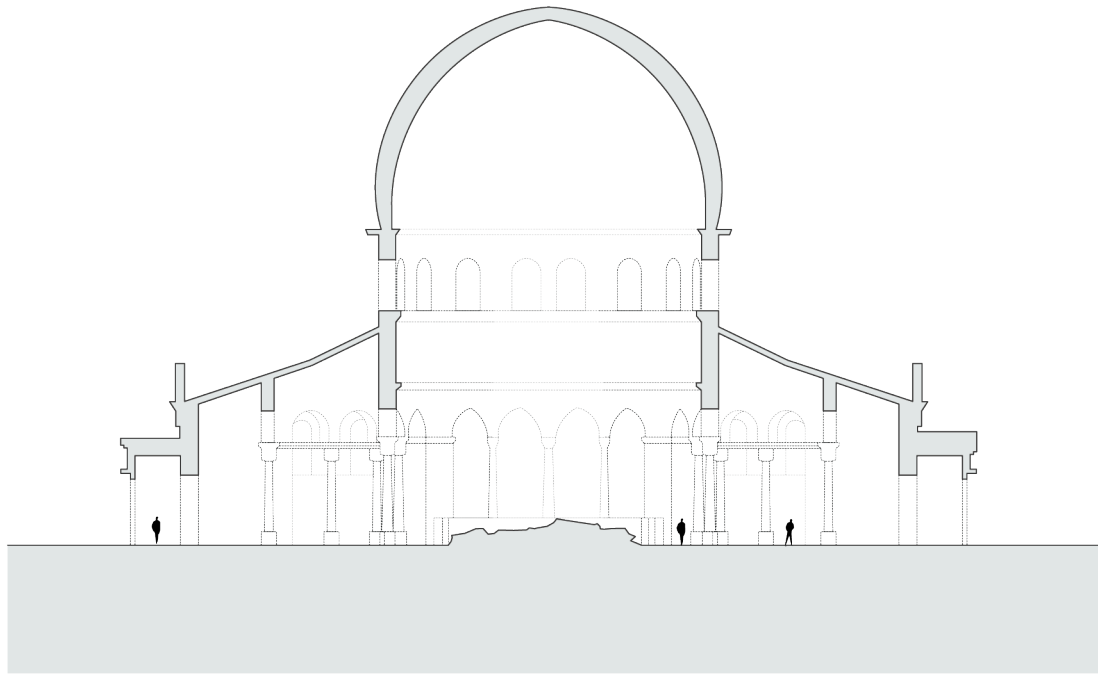


Floorplan
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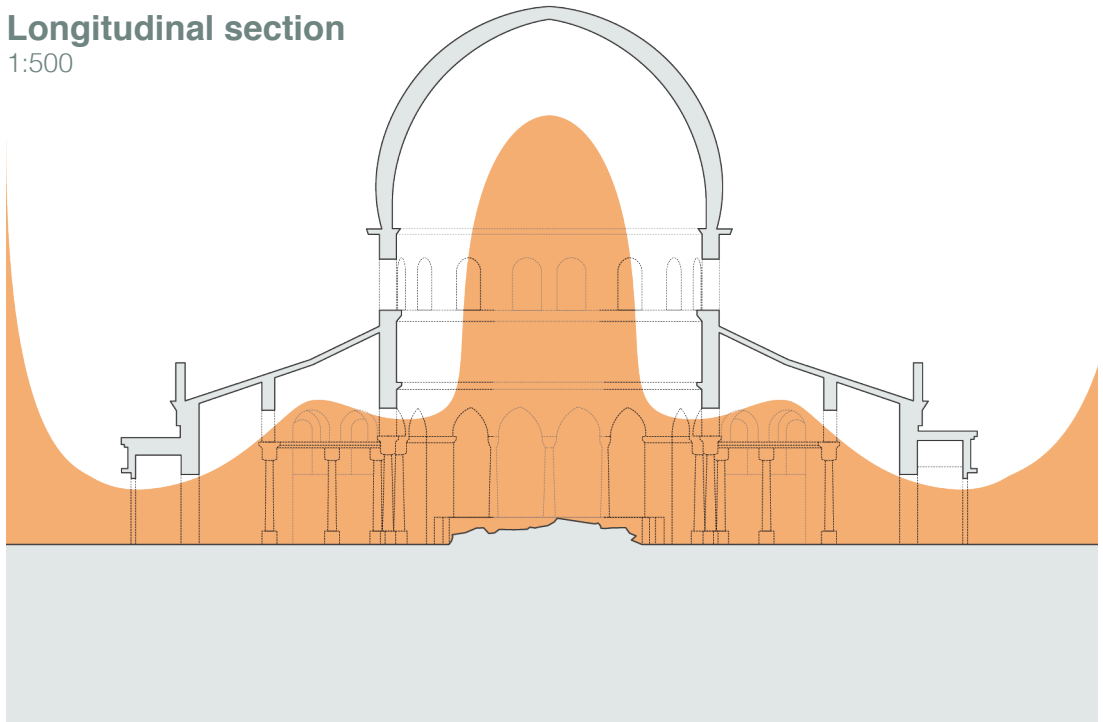


Floorplan
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Cross section
1:500

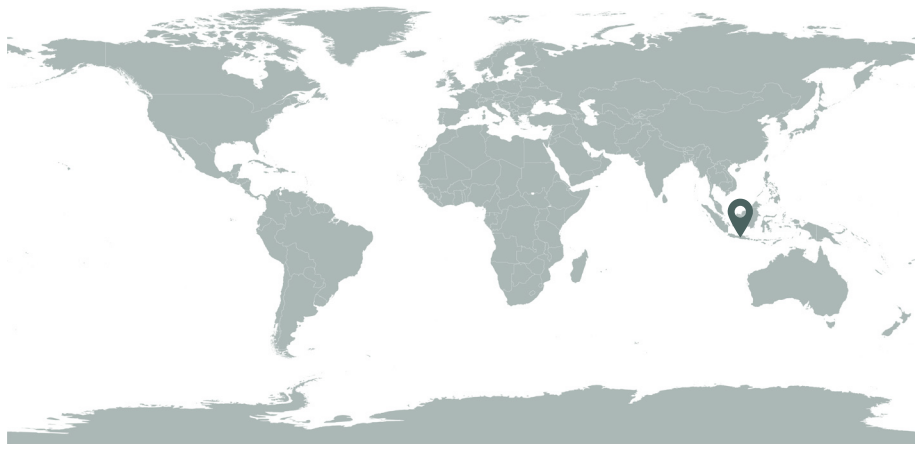


Longitudinal section
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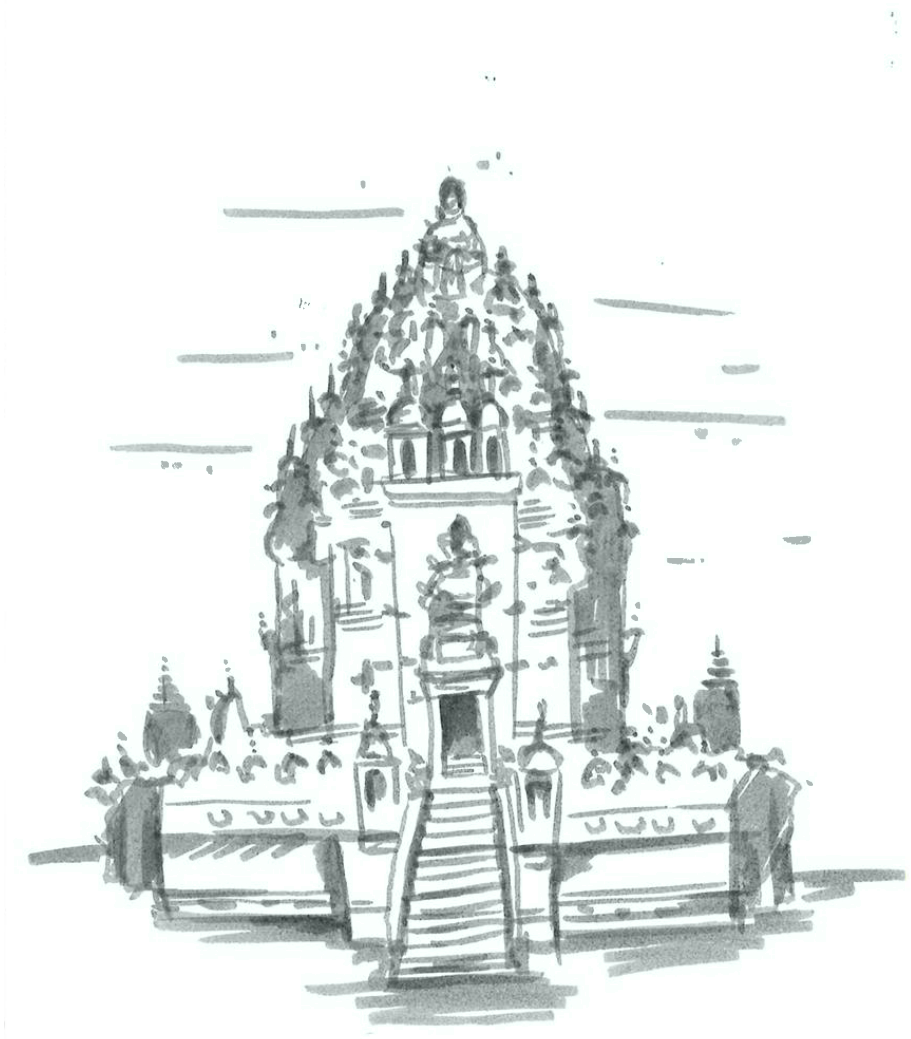
1.4 Prambanan Shiva

Indonesial I Yogyakarta
850

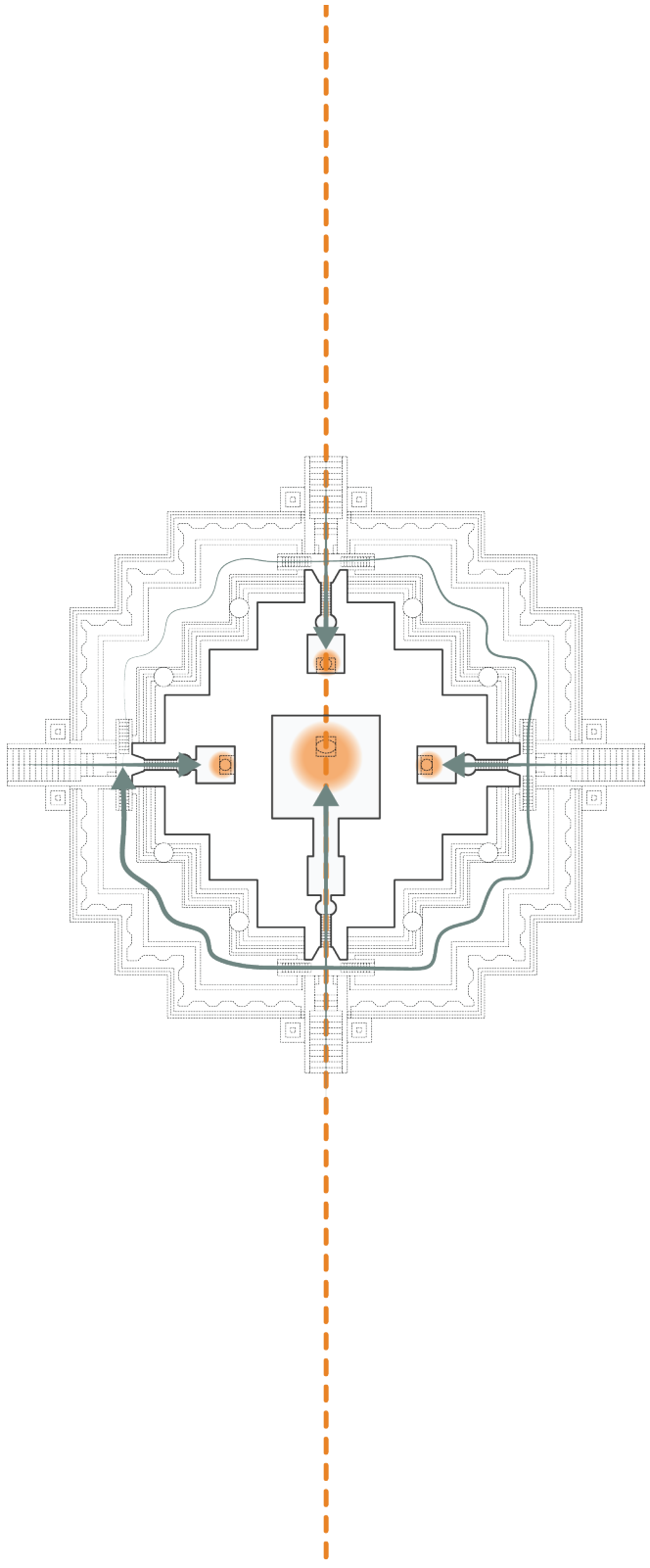


Exterior view

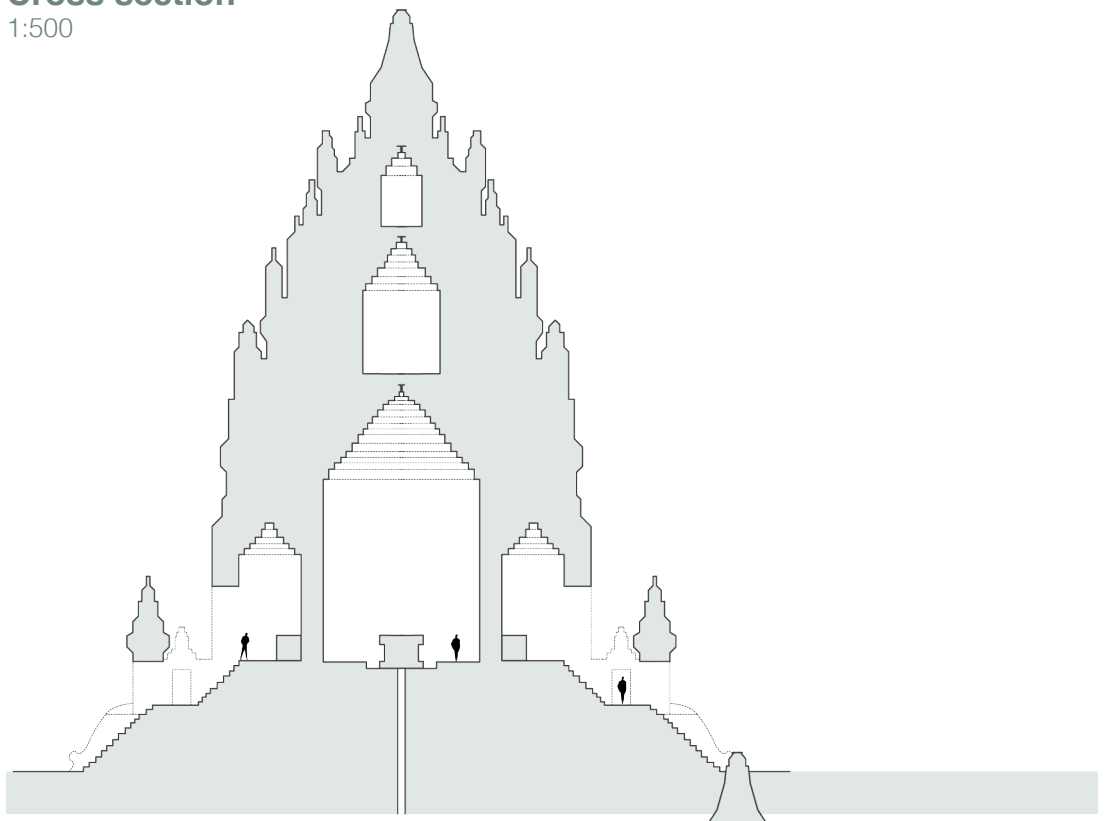
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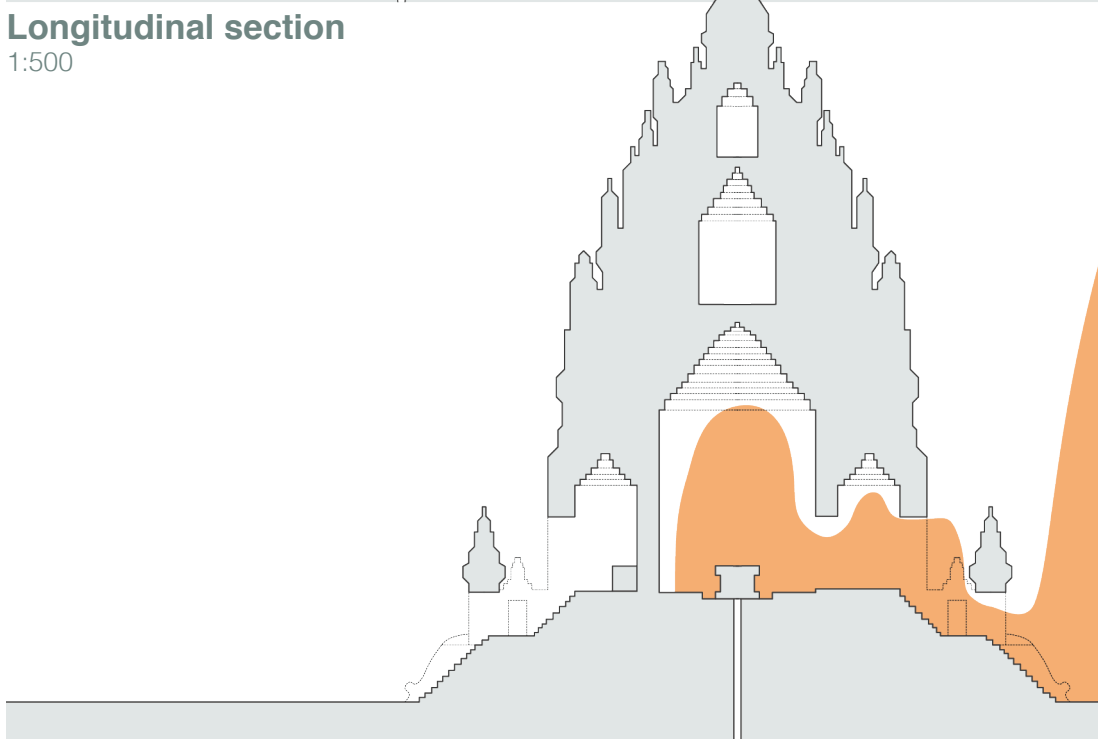
Floorplan
1:500



Cross section
1:500



Longitudinal section
1:500



1.5 St. Peter’s Basilica

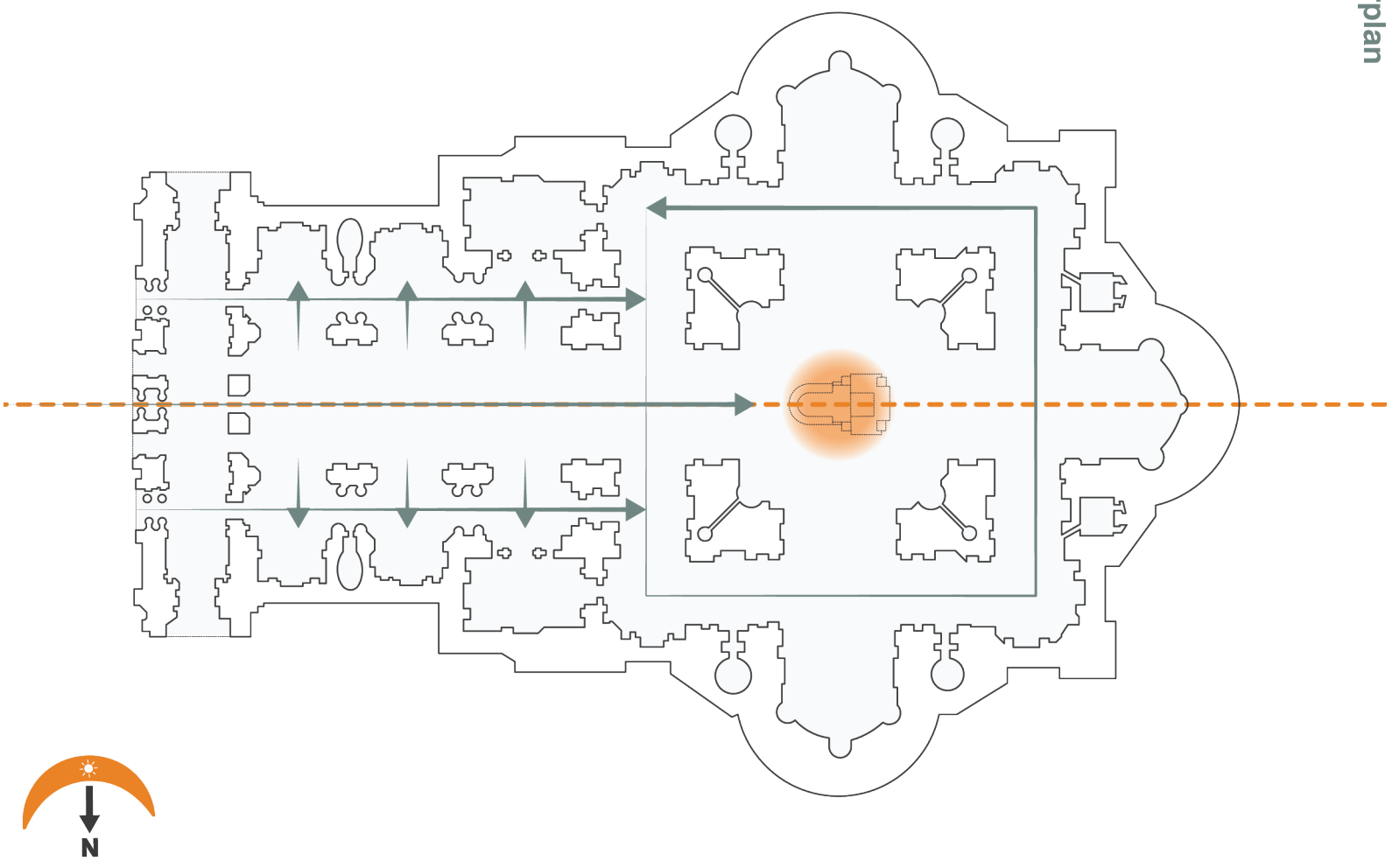
Vatican City
1506



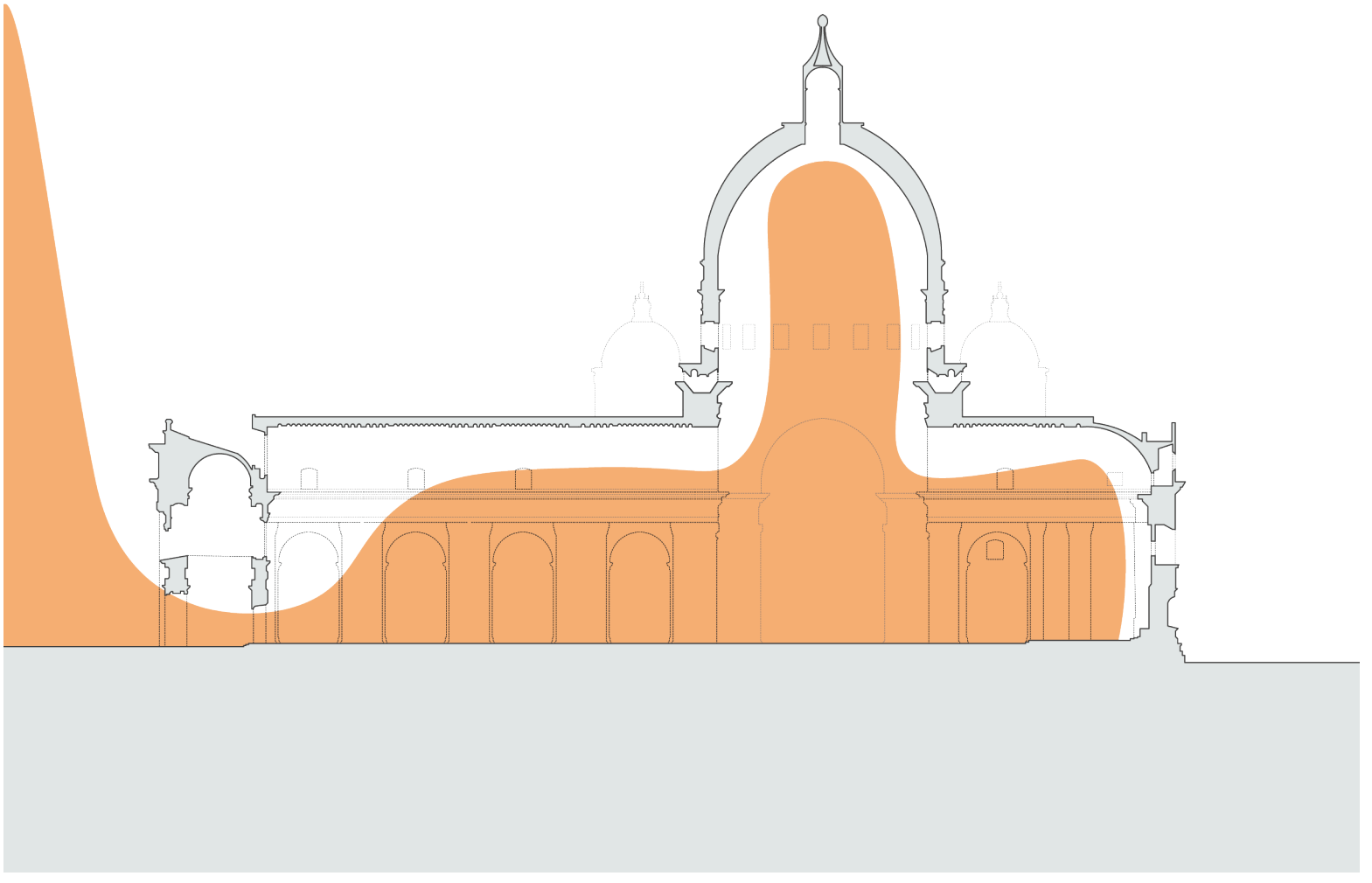
Interior view
Sketch



Floorplan
1:1500



Longitudinal section
1:1500



1.6 Blue Mosque

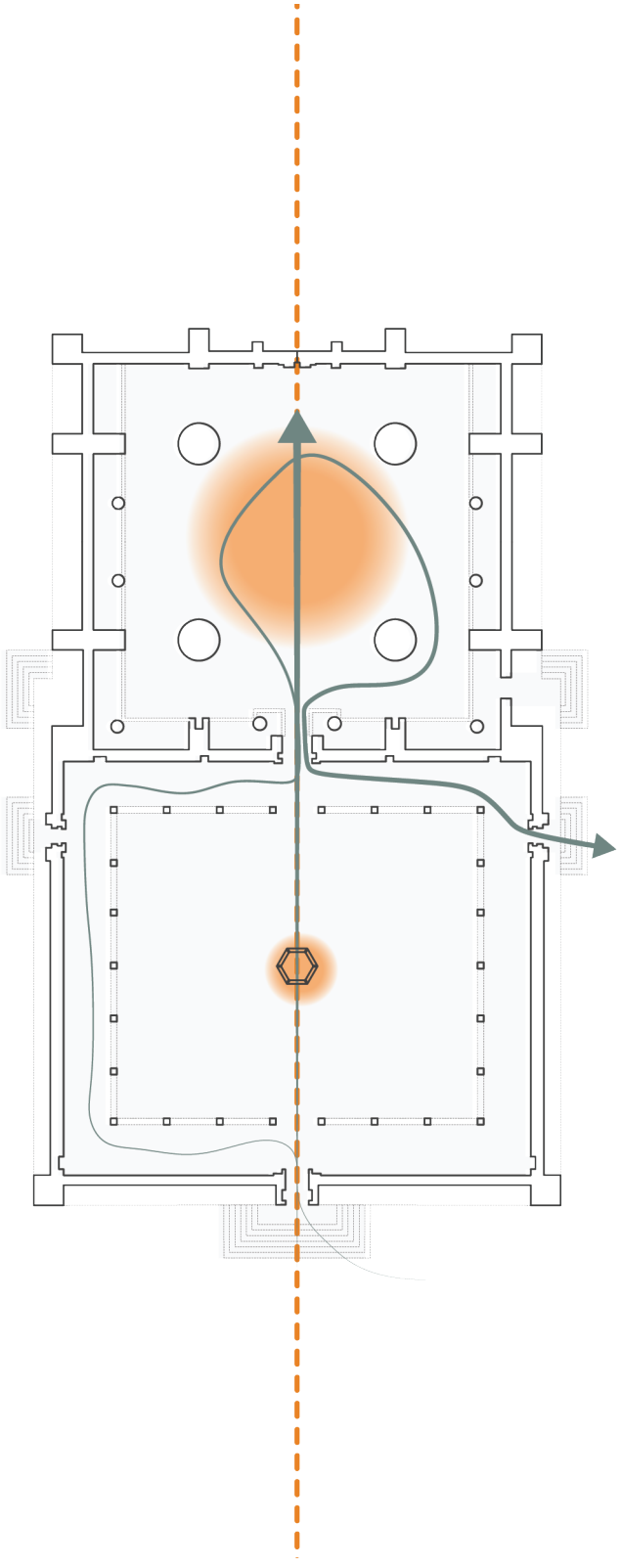
Turkey | Istanbul
1609



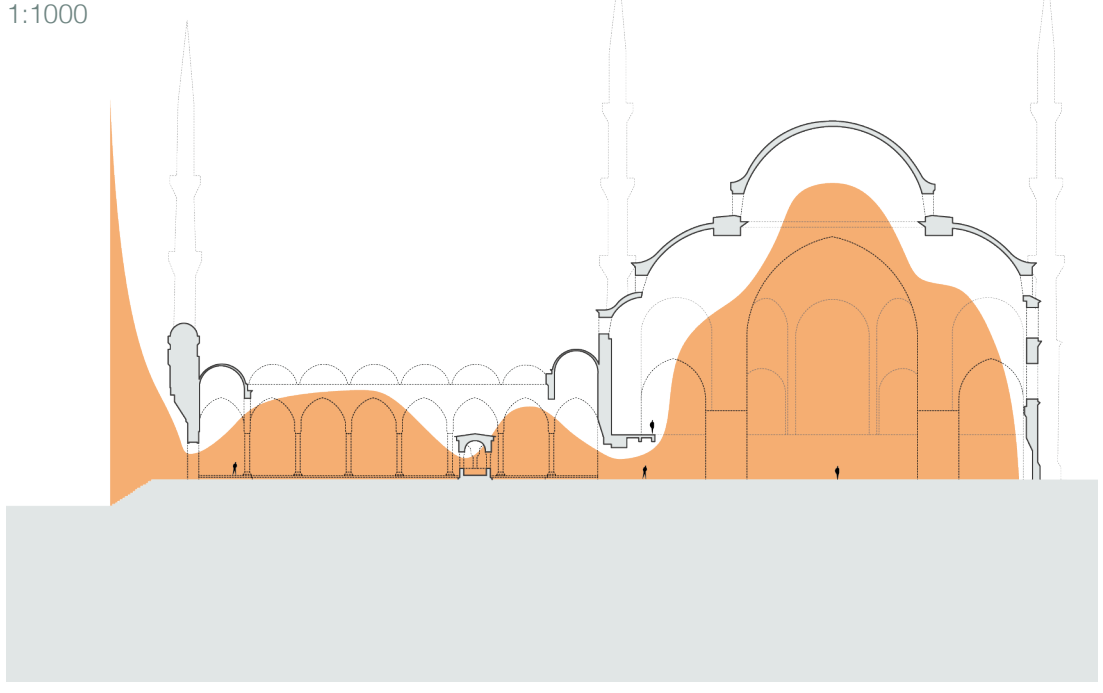
Interior view
Sketch



Floorplan
1:1000

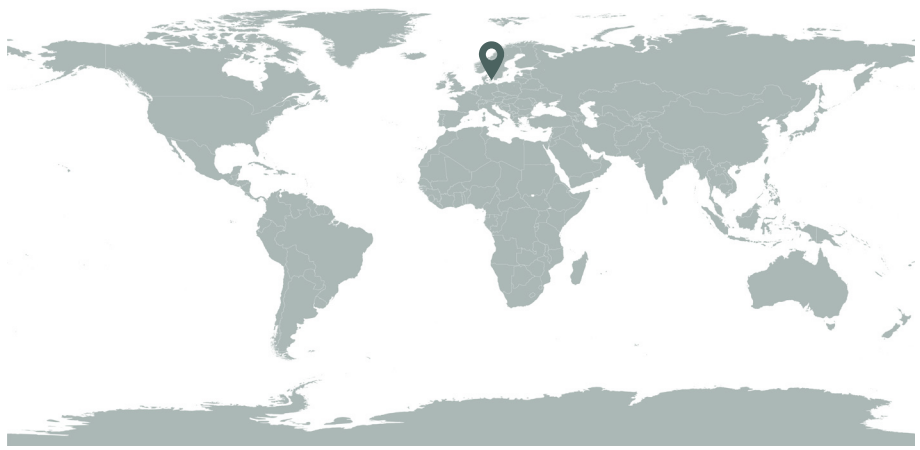


Longitudinal section
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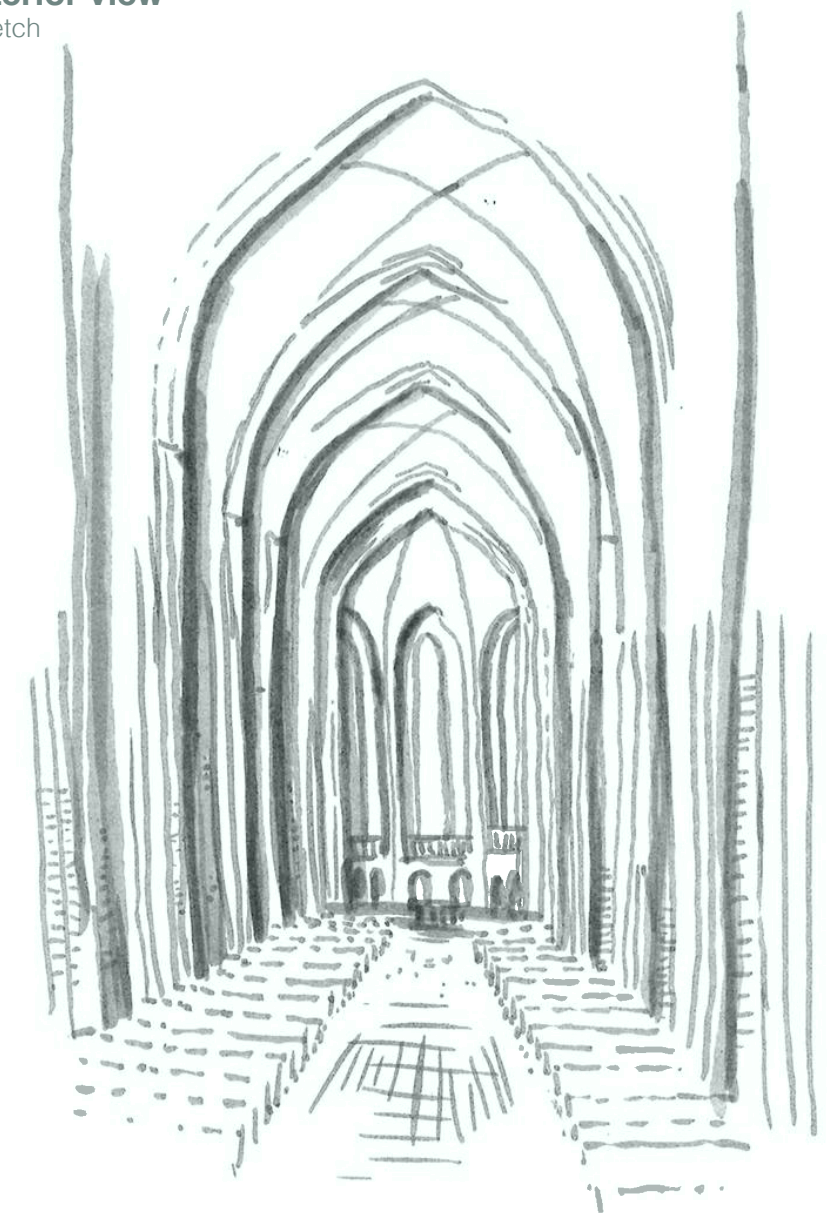


1.7 Grundtvigs Kirke

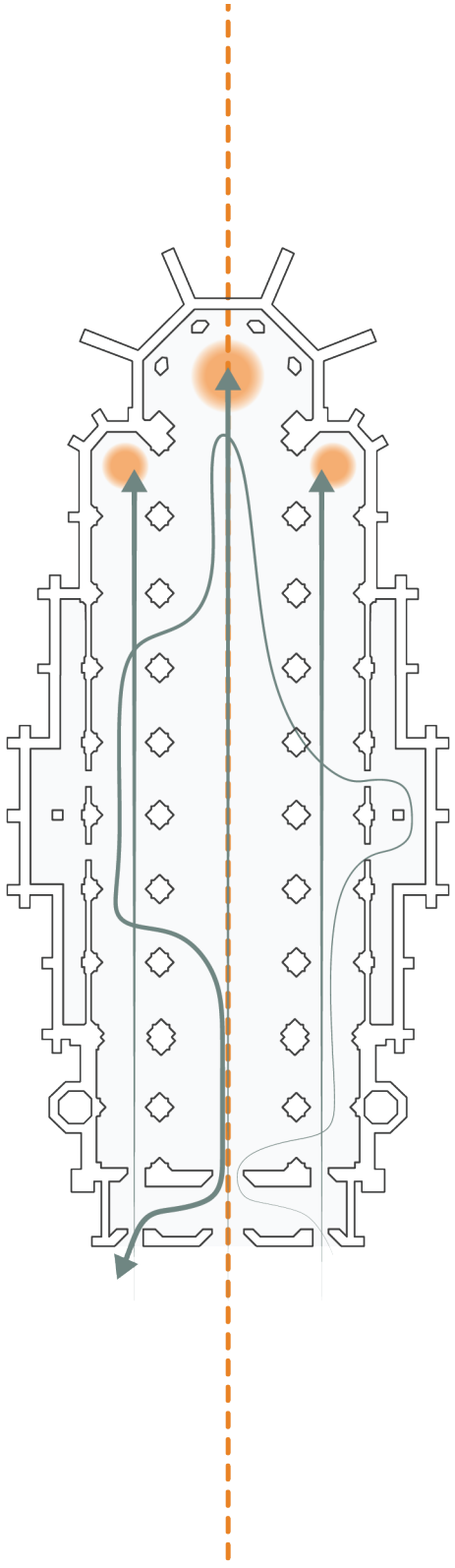
Denmark | Copenhagen
1921



Interior view
Sketch

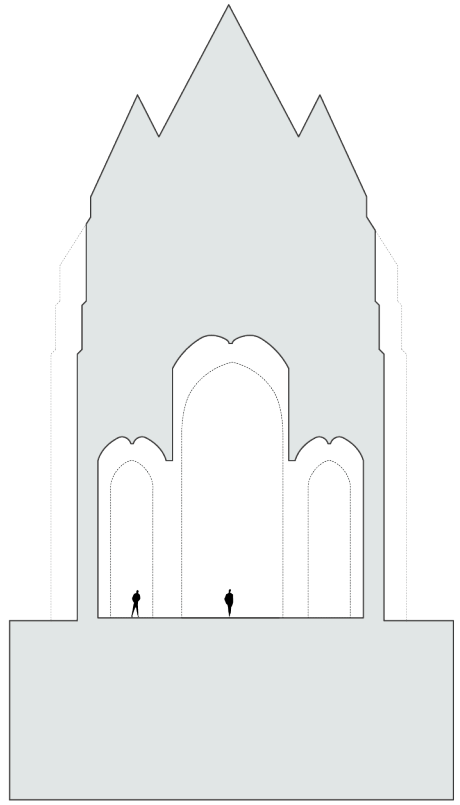


Floorplan
1:500

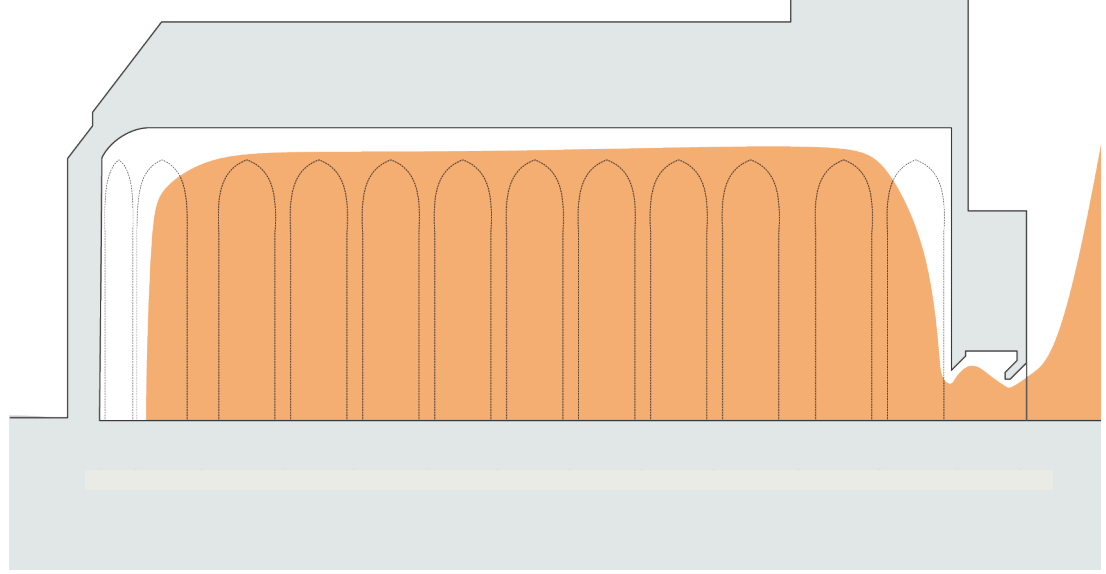




Cross section
1:500

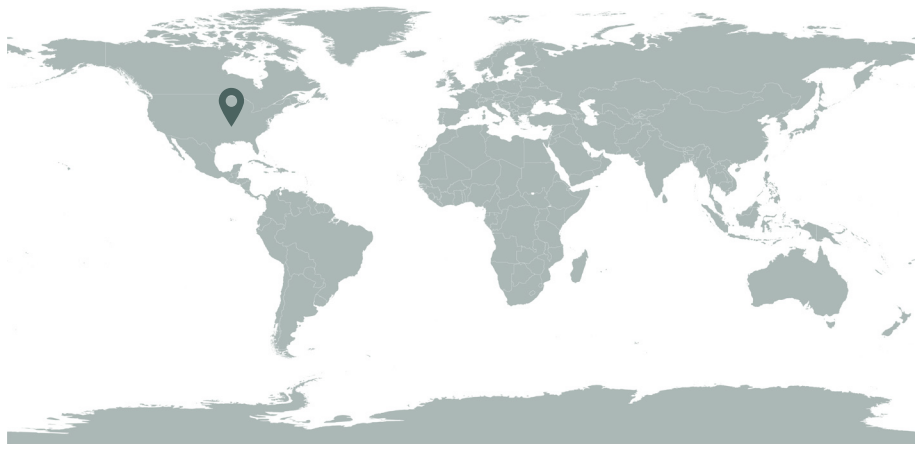


Longitudinal section
1:500

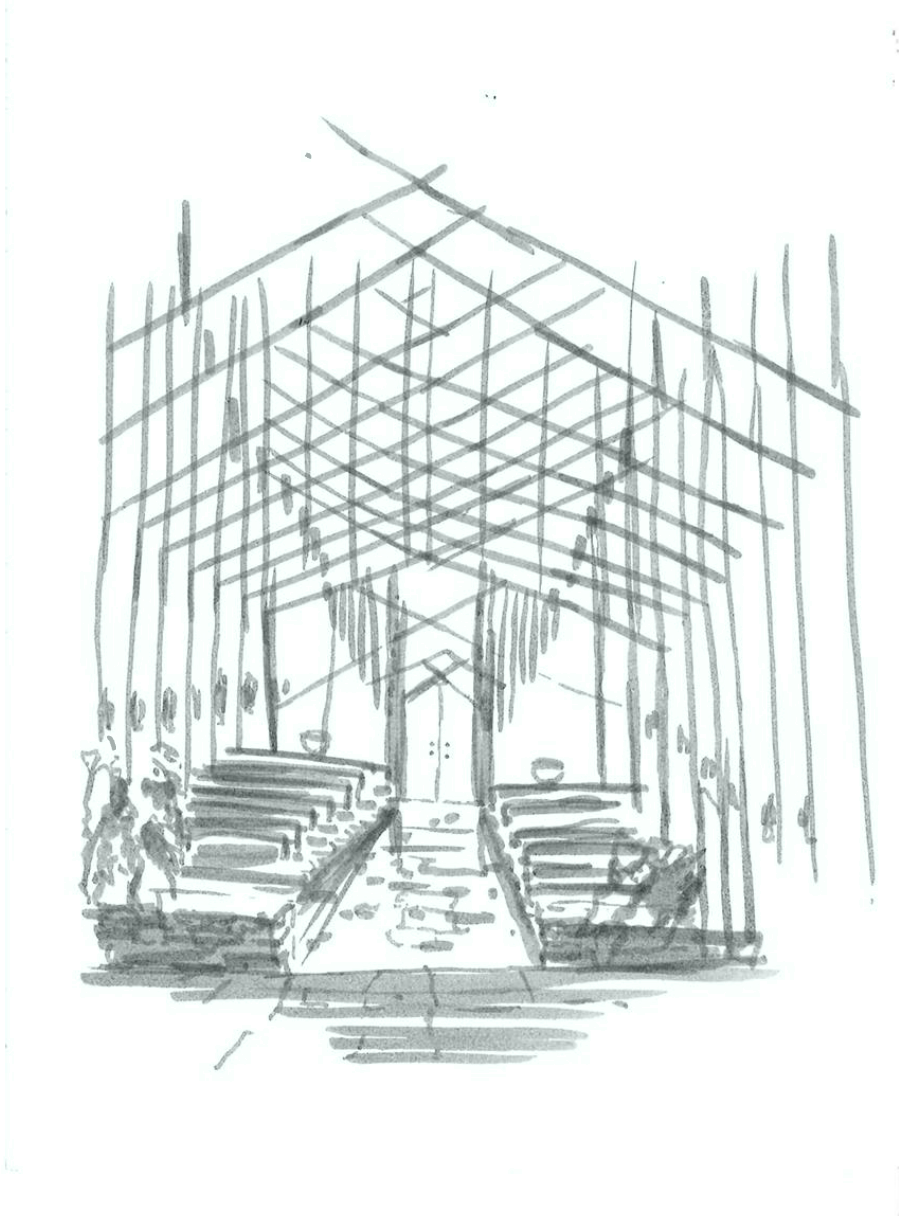


1.8 Thorncrown chapel

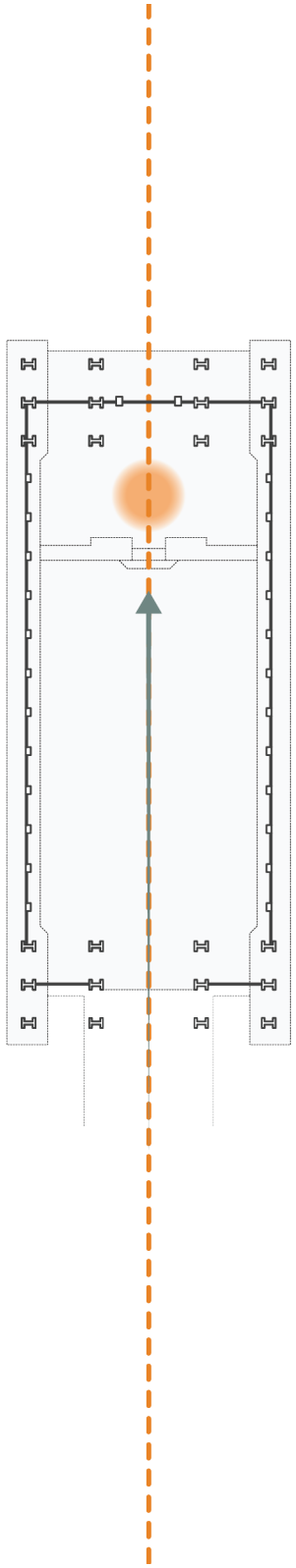
United States I Eureka Springs
1980



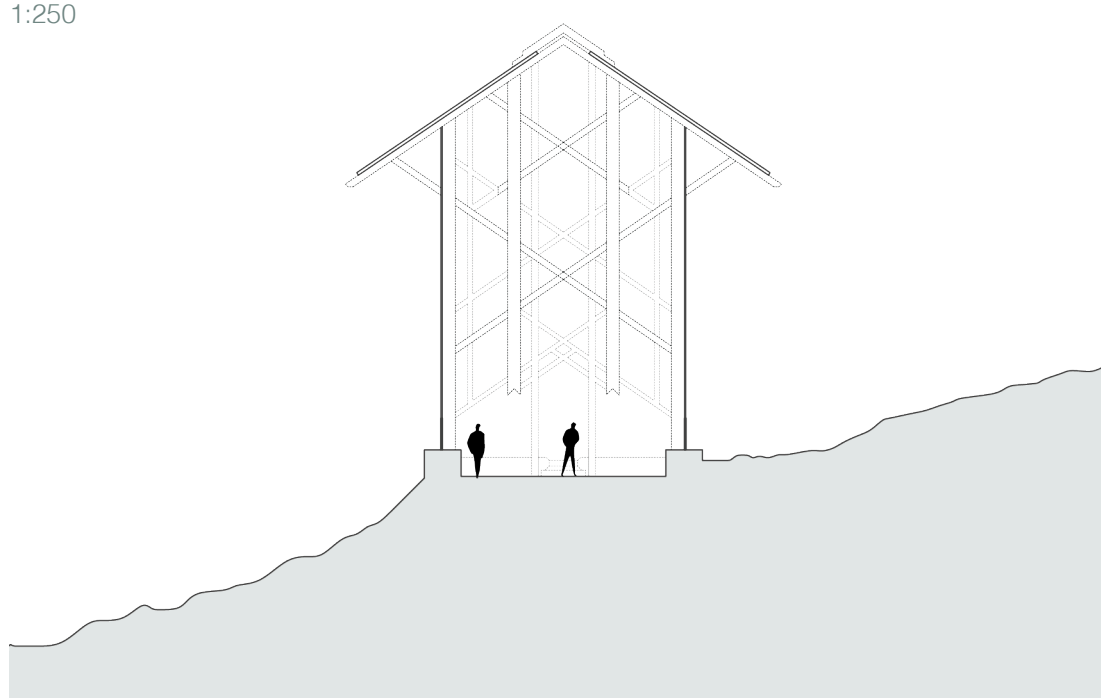
Interior view
Sketch



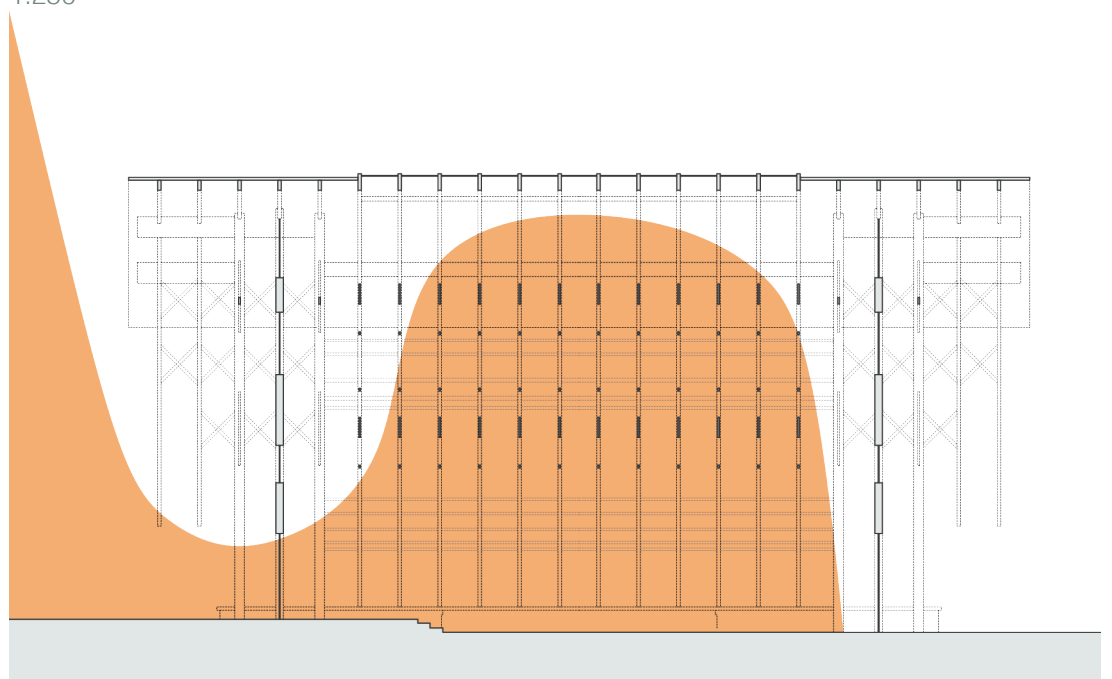
Floorplan
1:250



Cross section
1:250

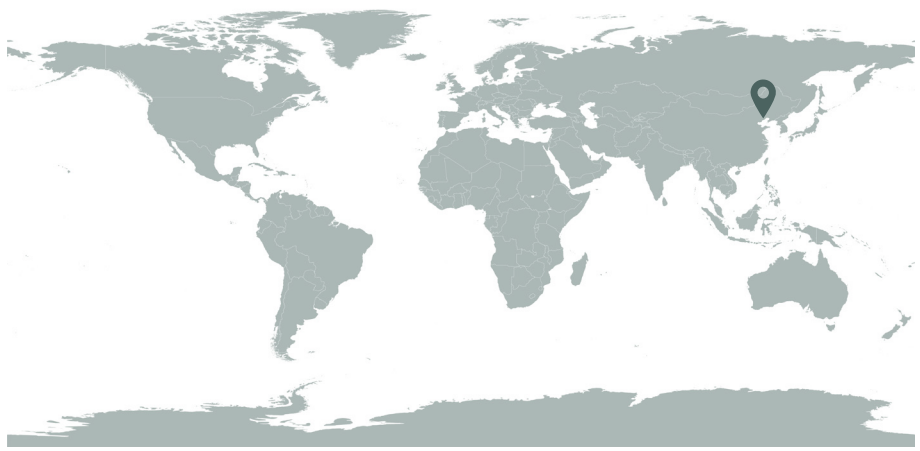


Longitudinal section
1:250



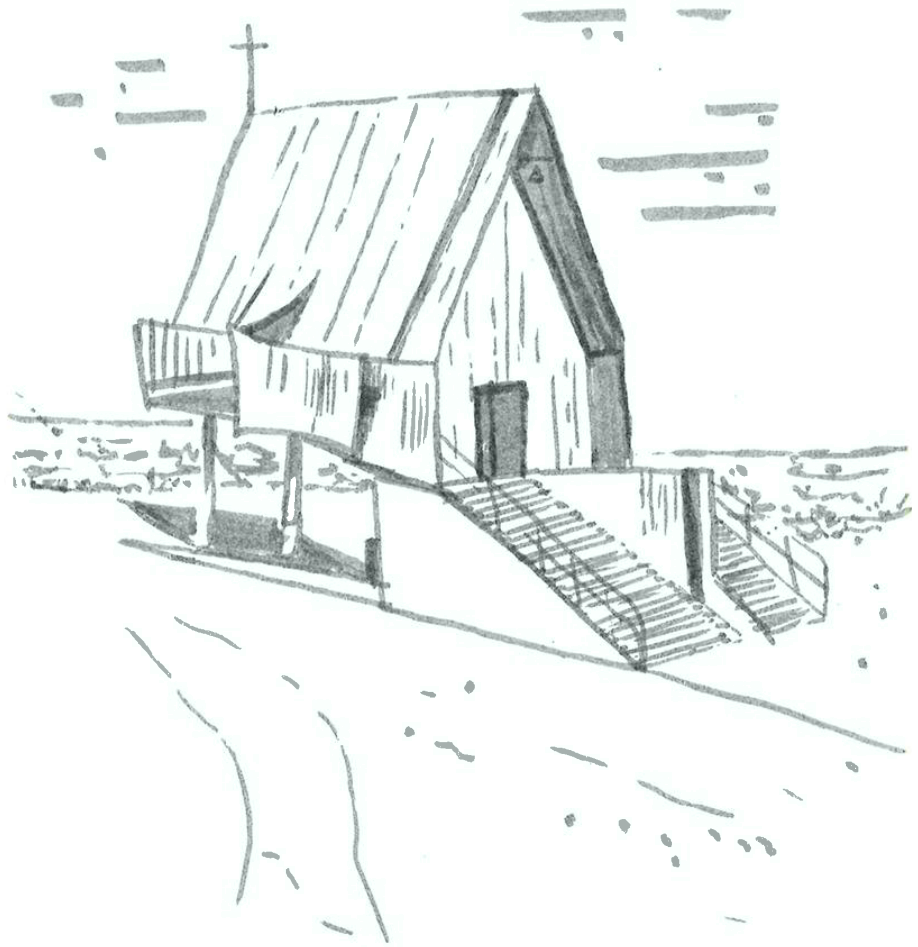
1.9 Seashore Chapel

China | Qinhuangdao
2015

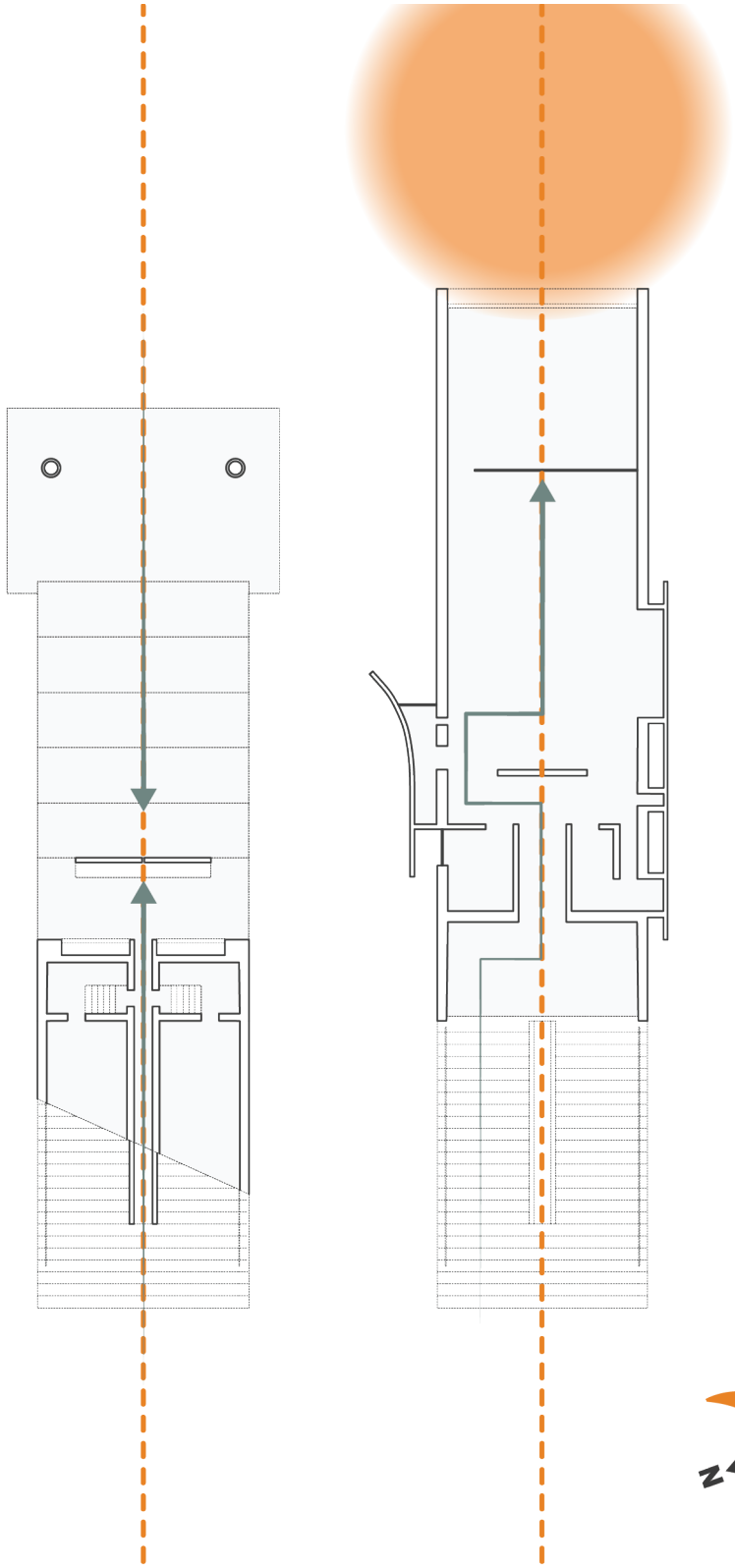


Exterior view

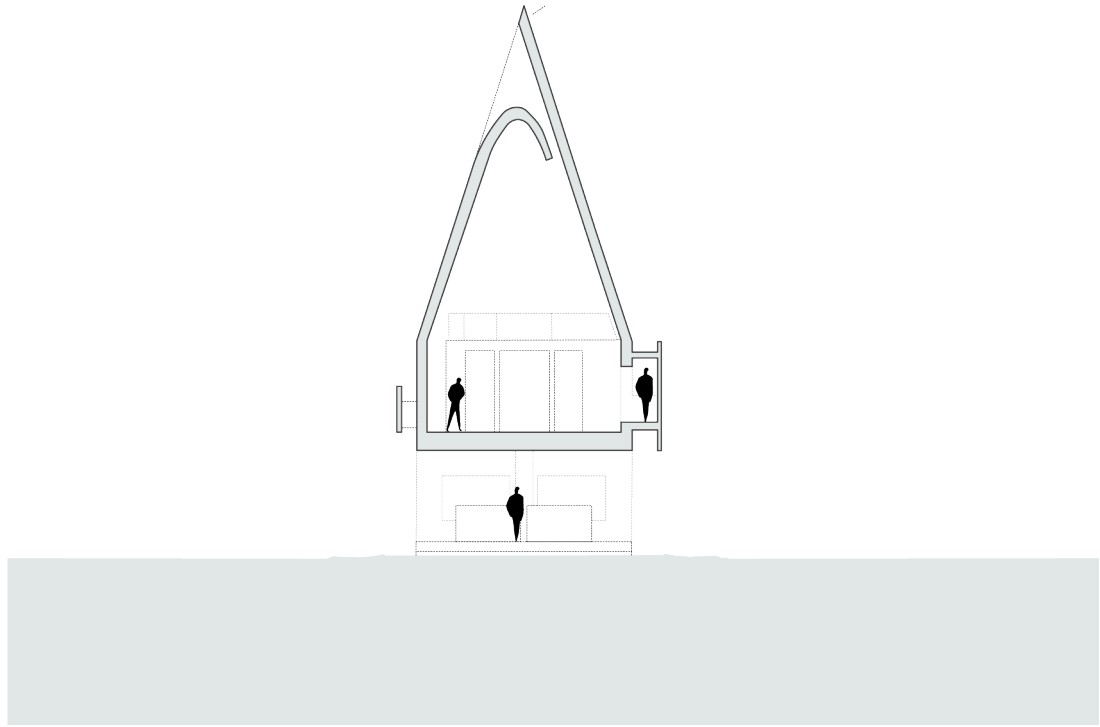
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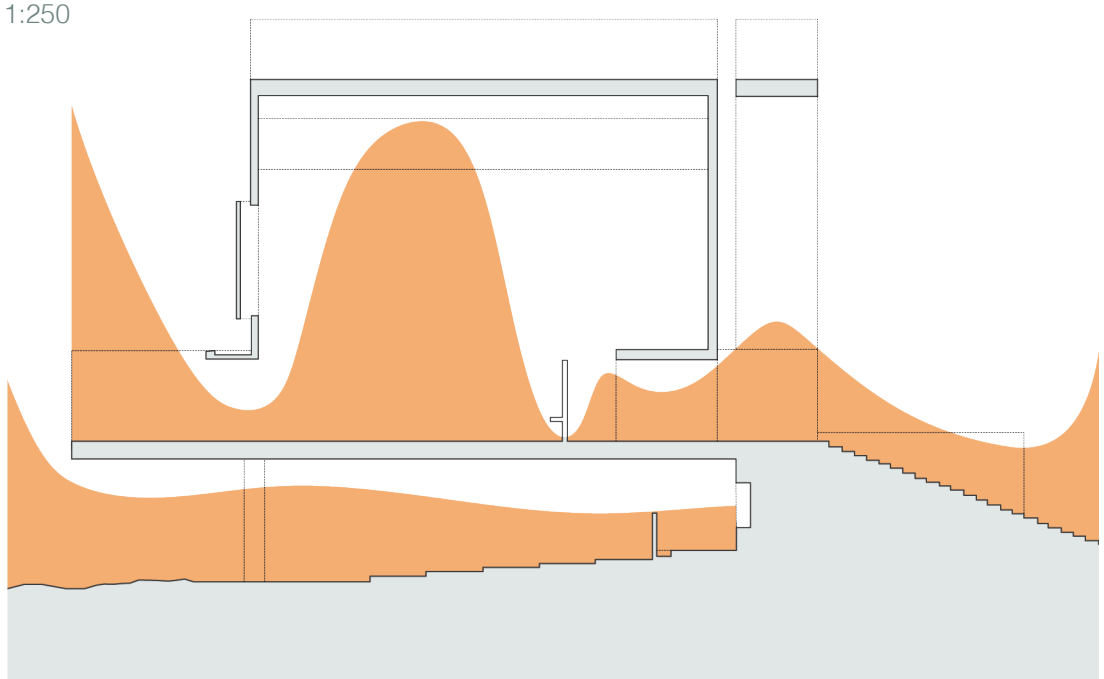
Floorplan
1:250



Cross section
1:250



Longitudinal section
1:250



1.10 New temple complex

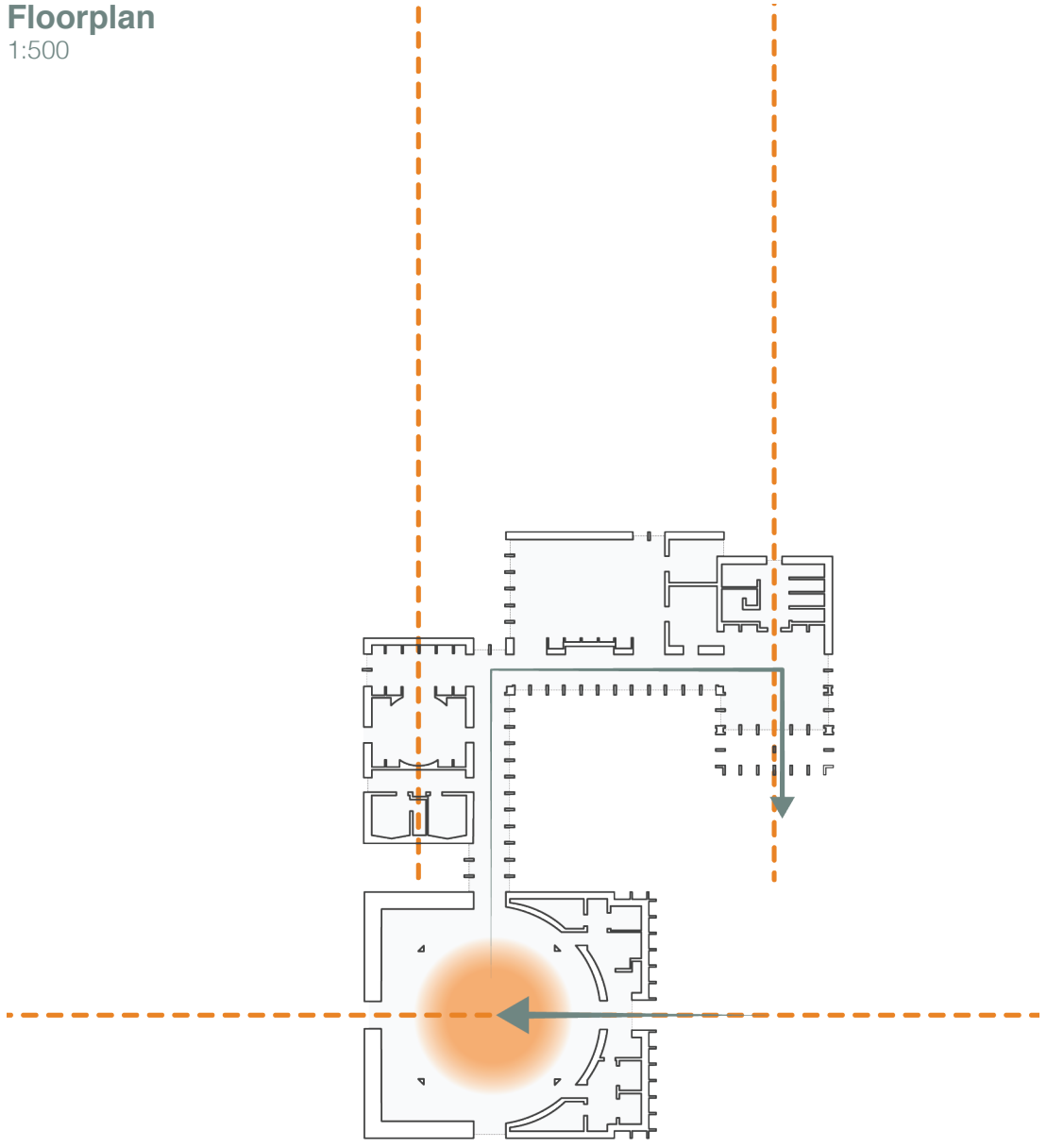
Liss I United Kingdom
2023



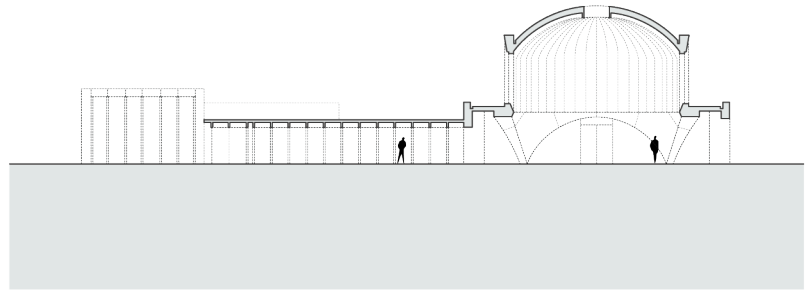
Interior view
Sketch



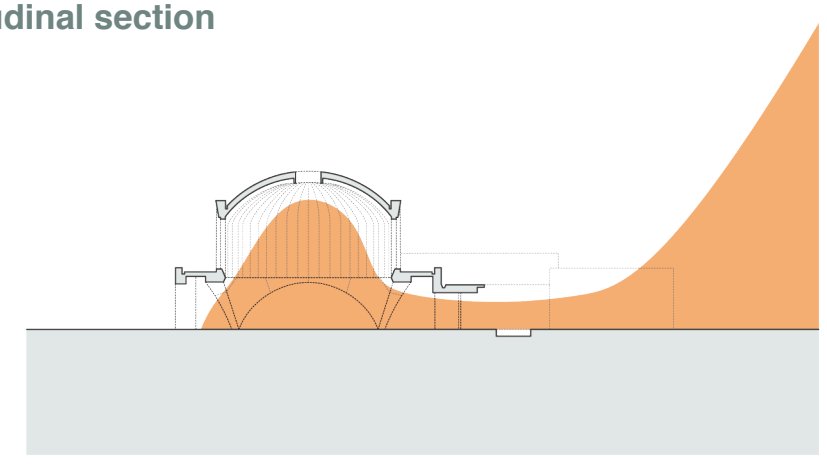
Floorplan
1:500



Cross section
1:500



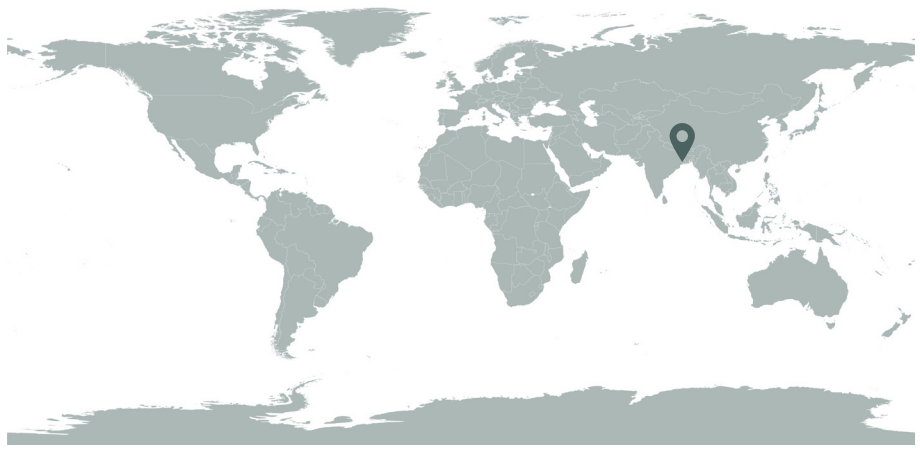
Longitudinal section
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1.11 Ganga Leheri Temple

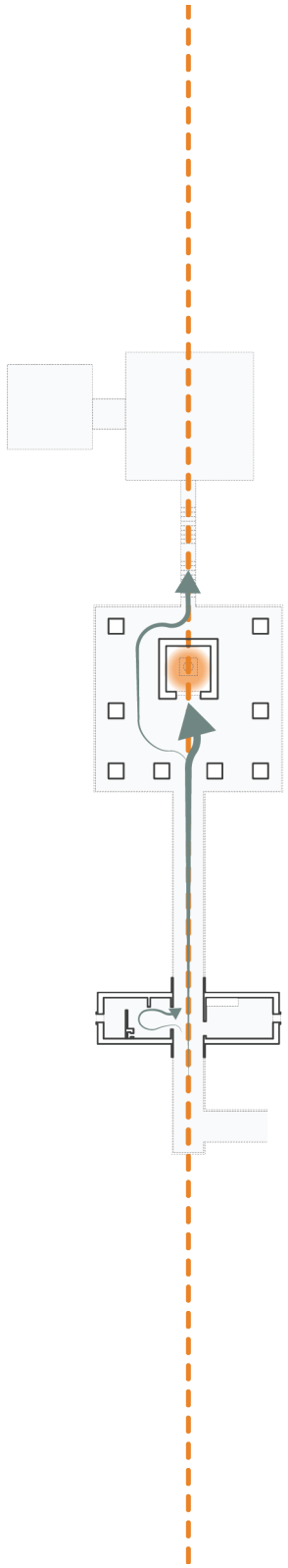
India | Roychak
2024



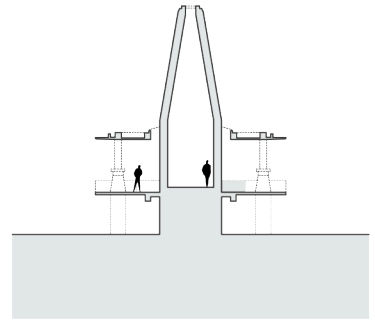
Interior view
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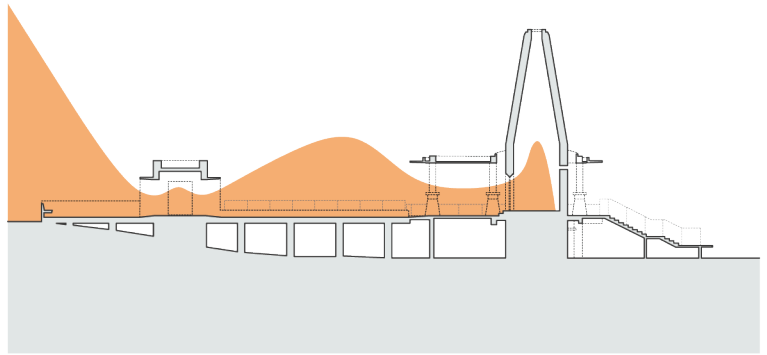
Floorplan
1:500



Cross section
1:500



Longitudinal section
1:500







Grundtvigs Kirke
Personal photograph taken in the grundtvigs kirke in Copenhagen