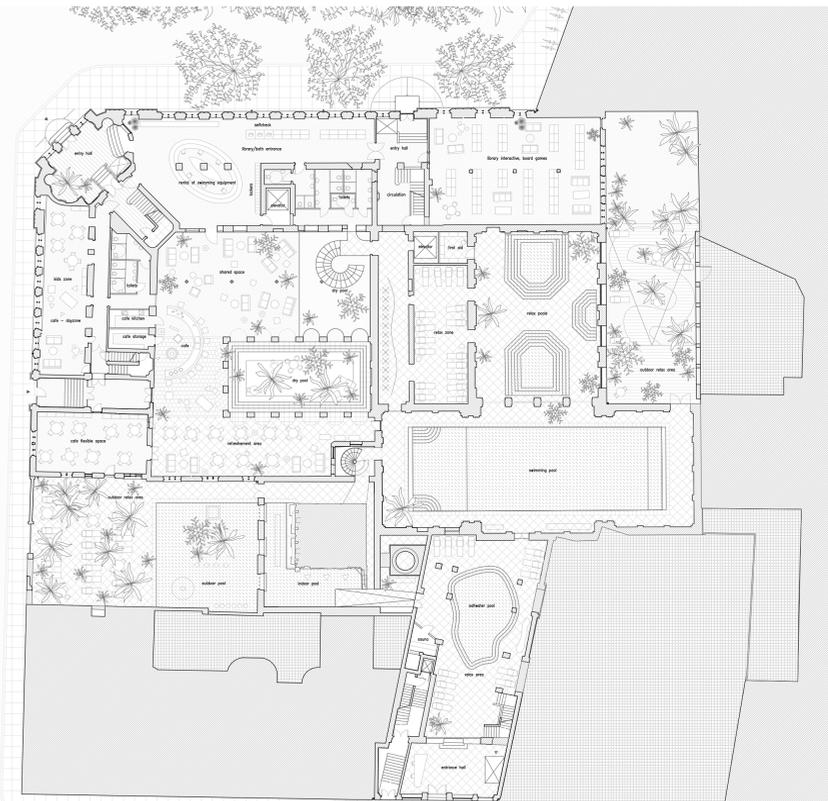
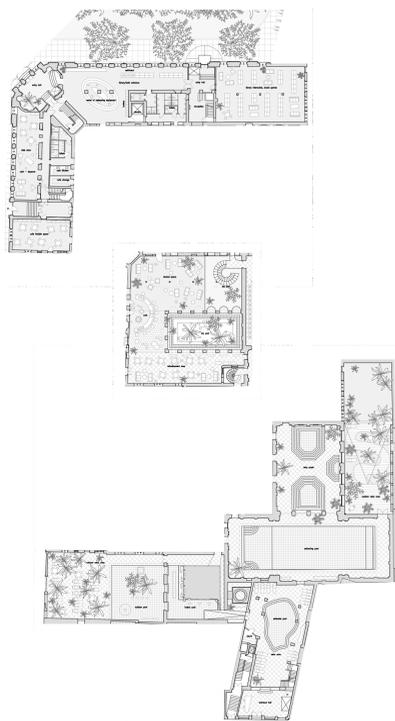




Plan basement 1:300



Plan ground floor 1:300



Library - Dry pool - Bath scheme

PROLOGUE

A bath. A library. A bath forgotten by the city. But now renovated. And moreover expanded. The upside of 2020.

GRÖSSLING POOL - DRY POOL

A bath and a library. Functions that for the first sight don't fit together. But on the other hand they can. They do. They will. There is a space that connects them.

An ambiguous space. A room.

On one end the room reflects the bath. On the other end it reflects the library. The room reflects both of them.

On one hand the room is about the atmosphere, the spatial experience, the collision.

On the other hand it is calm, spacious, inviting.

One side is the stage. The other side is the audience.

A theater where the sides are not clear. It is the matter of perspective.

On one hand the stage is the bath and the audience is the library.

On the other hand the stage is the library and the bath is the audience.

Connected by a space in-between. A space not defined for use. But it is necessary. A pool reflecting history from 1914. But draining the water. Becomes dry. With openable roof above. Letting light in allowing plants to occupy the otherwise undefined space. Reachable from both sides.

Programmed to be used by no one.

Meant to be used by anyone.

A place where people reading and people in bathrobes meet.

A place where beautiful arches are opened up allowing a direct connection.

A place where seniors, youngsters and tourists meet.

A place where Bratislava meets.

CAFÉ

A bar. A bar common for both sides. Serving drinks and snacks for both sides. Fresh publications lay around the tables, free to look at, read or just to scroll through for all the guests.

An event is happening. A book reading. All of a sudden the space becomes an extension of the library. And then the city takes over. Banners are put up and a film is screened while enjoying chilled drinks from the bar.

The dry pool becomes an extension of the public realm of Bratislava.

A place for social interaction, education, leisure time.

Moreover a space for the community.



English courtyard

LIBRARY

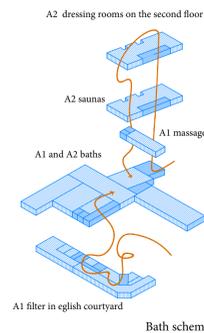
The library of Bratislava. Moving around for years in the city, searching its location. It finds its place in the oldest parts of Grössling. The L shape corner with the main entrance suits its needs. Interactive zones become the front of the library close to the entrance and connected to the park on Medená ulica.

On the inner side of the L shape the dry pool takes its place. The façade openings are copied to the inner façade. This allows open and see-through rooms from the inner spaces to the street.

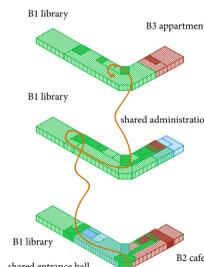
All of a sudden the original colors of the spaces reappear. Accepting and embracing the existing state of the building and preserving it for the future. Becomes part of the presence. Becomes part of the history.

As we immerse into the library we find ourselves on the higher floors on the L shape building in a quieter, calmer space. A space equipped with all the needs for studying and reading. In the west wing one can retreat into separable rooms. Rooms that allow the mind to sink into the whirlpool of thoughts. In the northern wing one can find the whole collection of fiction and foreign-language literature amongst many other sections.

Work spaces are spread out across the spaces of the library. Youngsters, pupils, freelancers, seniors, tourists and everyone else are all welcome. To get lost into the spaces of the library. To occupy their spaces, where everybody can find a spot that suit ones interests. A library for education and collaboration. A library for Bratislava.



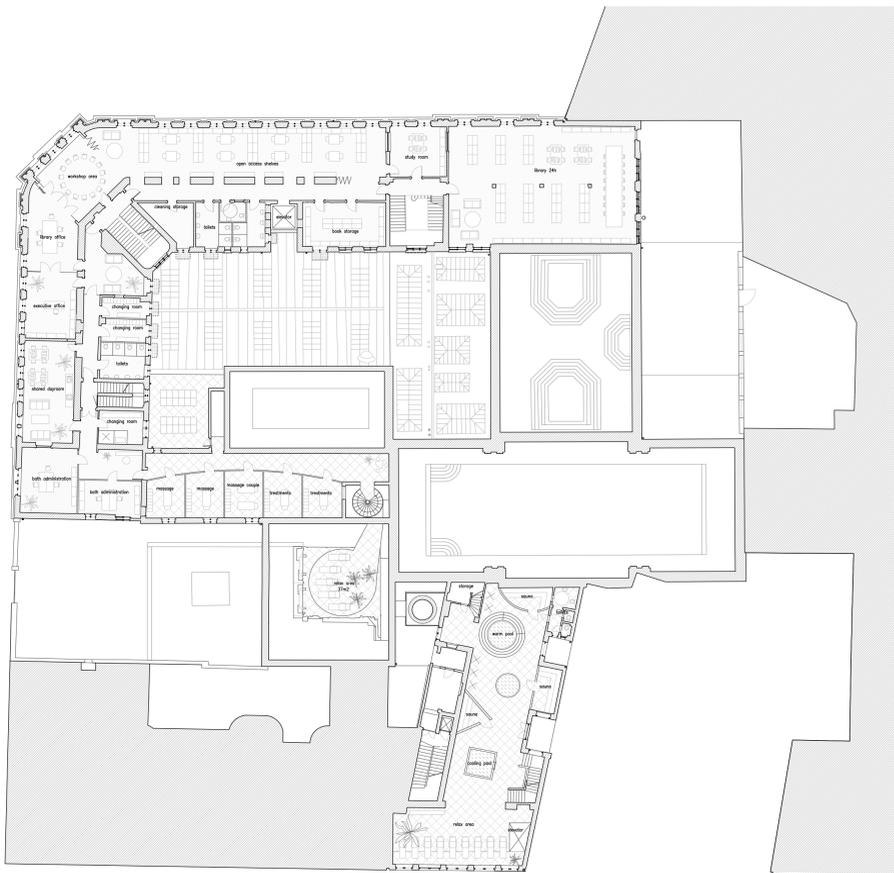
Bath scheme



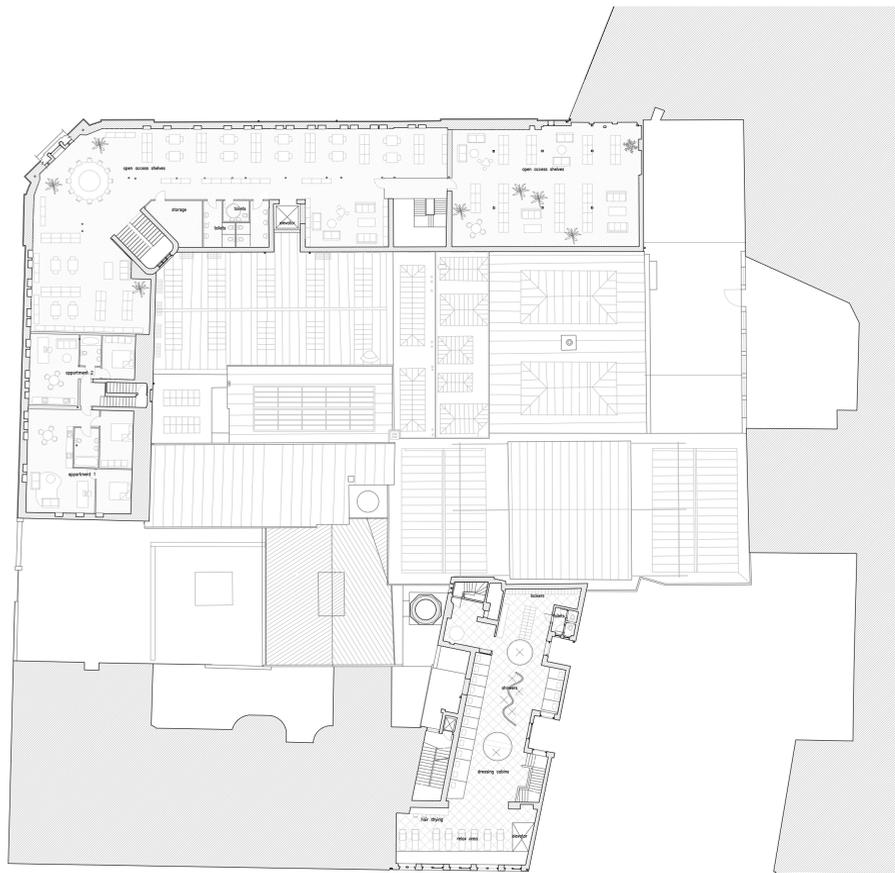
Library scheme



Grössling pool - Dry pool



Plan first floor 1:300



Plan second floor 1:300

CITY BATH

A bath with a lot of history. Many changes in the past. Now it is changing again. Seemingly for the better. Reintroducing a public bath to Bratislava. It has been missed for decades now. It occupies the same building as before. But moves around. Beautiful old pools are restored. Some pools are dried out. Some are introduced as new.

But the Grössling bath is keeping the historical entrance as its main one. Raised street pavement welcomes the visitors. At the same time provides universal access for all. It is ready to greet all guests, both to the library and to the public baths. One can purchase a ticket to the bath and descend to the filter spaces below. After a comfortable change in the private cabins one finds its way through the showers and lockers to reach an English courtyard.

The English courtyard is the first pool one enters. It is actually a lack of pool. A central double height space with a spacious curved staircase. It lets one have a last glimpse into the dry world of the cafe before rising into the bathing complex. The staircase leads one to the restored relax pools and the swimming pool with its original tiles and layout.

The pools are open to an outdoor relax area with a sloping terrain. Through this oasis one can reach the public saunas through an accessible descending garden. At the same time the saunas extend to an outdoor space where cooldown water features and a drinking fountain are placed.

The baths of Grössling were equipped with a historical solid fuel burner and a chimney. These are beautiful additions to an already intriguing site. Almost like a backdrop where one wants to get closer. Hence the area becomes the new point of interest. Flooding the burner, the chimney and the courtyard generates a pool. In fact the 3rd pool. Meandering between all the existing elements of the site. No need for more. The chimney, the burner and the building facades are enough. All existing elements of the site enrich the spatial quality while creating a pool.

This pool is extended by an outdoor relax zone where one can take a break. And even enjoy a drink in the refreshments area nearby.

CITY BATH – SPA & SAUNA

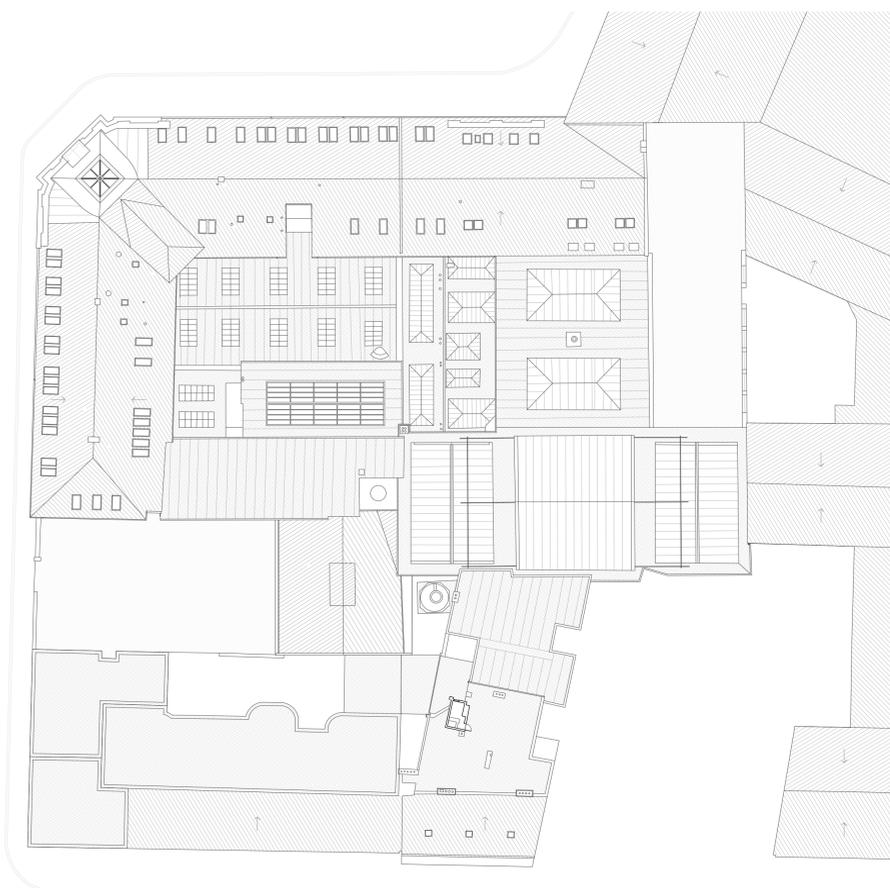
The chimney is ones first interior encounter of the sauna and spa world. On the other side the entrance from the Danube riverside was maintained. The situation from the city bath was reversed. The connection with the bathing complex is reinforced.

After entering one finds oneself standing in front of a glass wall, with silhouettes of the bathers glimmering behind. After entering one takes the elevator two storeys up. The top floor serves as a rite of passage. One comes down as a new person. On the way down countless possibilities tempt one to engage into different activities, saunas, pools, baths, ice caves... However the most important one is the unobstructed view to the Danube. On the ground floor a salt water pool completes the journey.

One finds oneself just behind the thin glass pane that welcomed, But now on the other side. One can have a last glimpse of the outside before springing deeper into the bathing activities.

EPILOGUE

- A bath.
- A library.
- A café.
- But much more than that.
- A building for education.
- A building for relaxation.
- A building for interaction.
- A building for collaboration.
- A building for a community.
- A building for history.
- A building of Grössling.
- A building of Bratislava.
- Grössling for Bratislava.



Plan roofscape 1:300



Reconstructed testing pools



Outdoor resting pool interconnecting old boiler room and courtyard



Cafe

GRÖSSLING