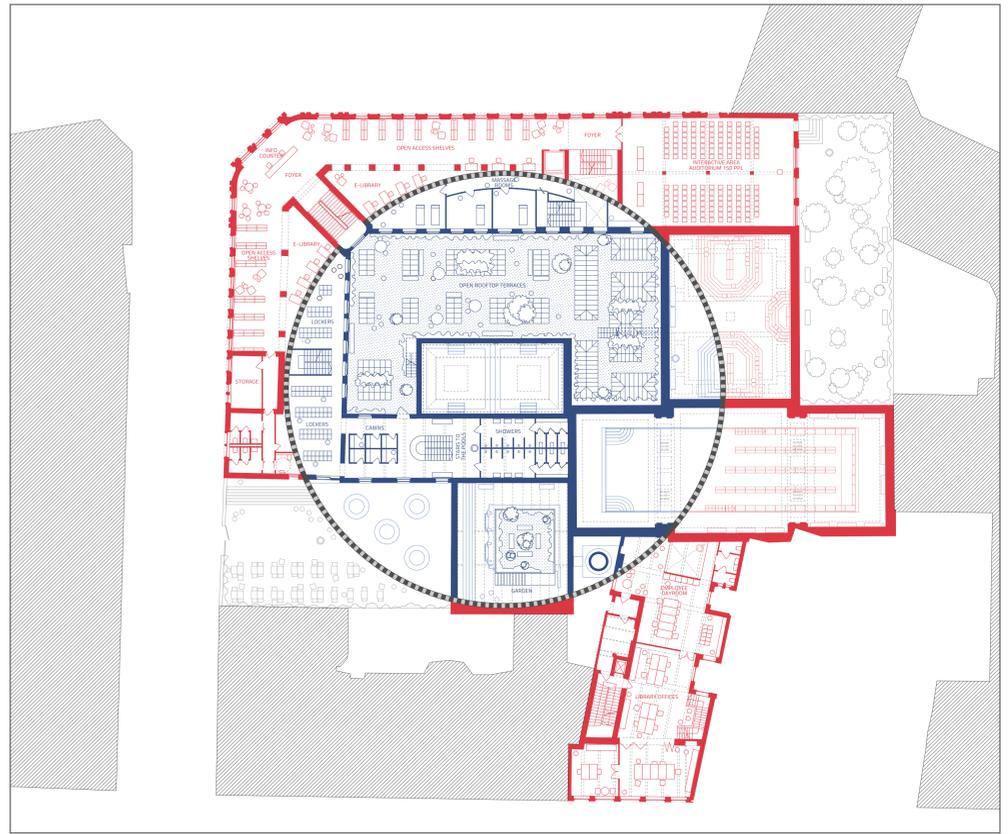
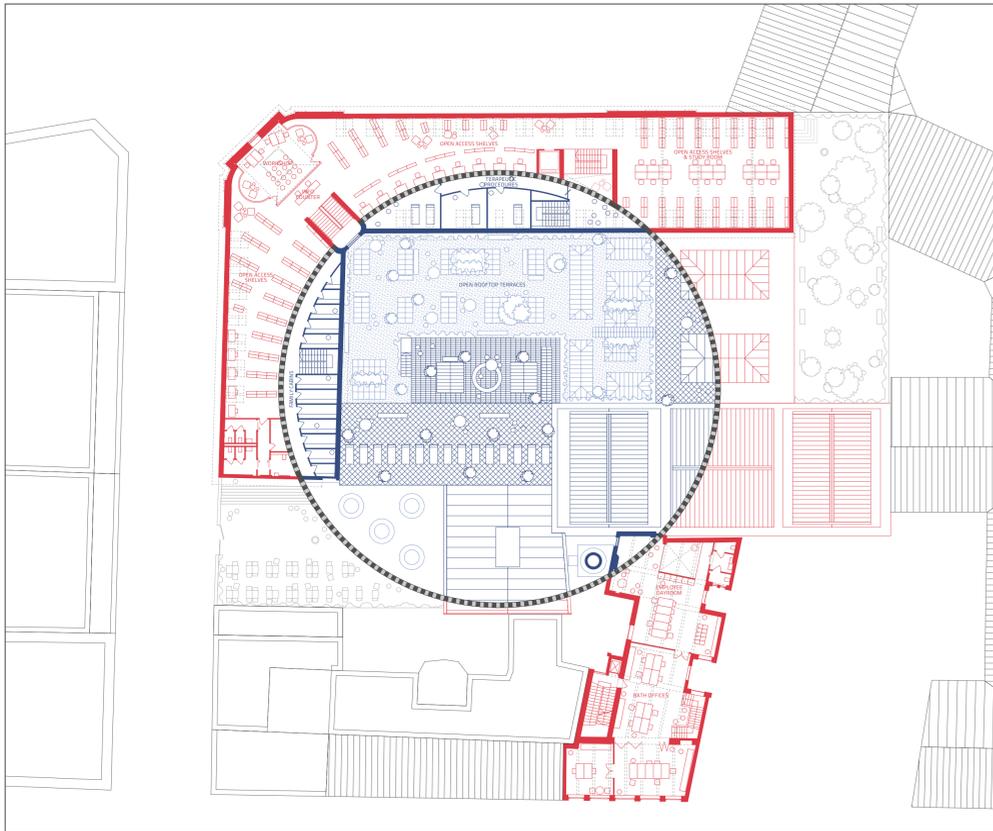


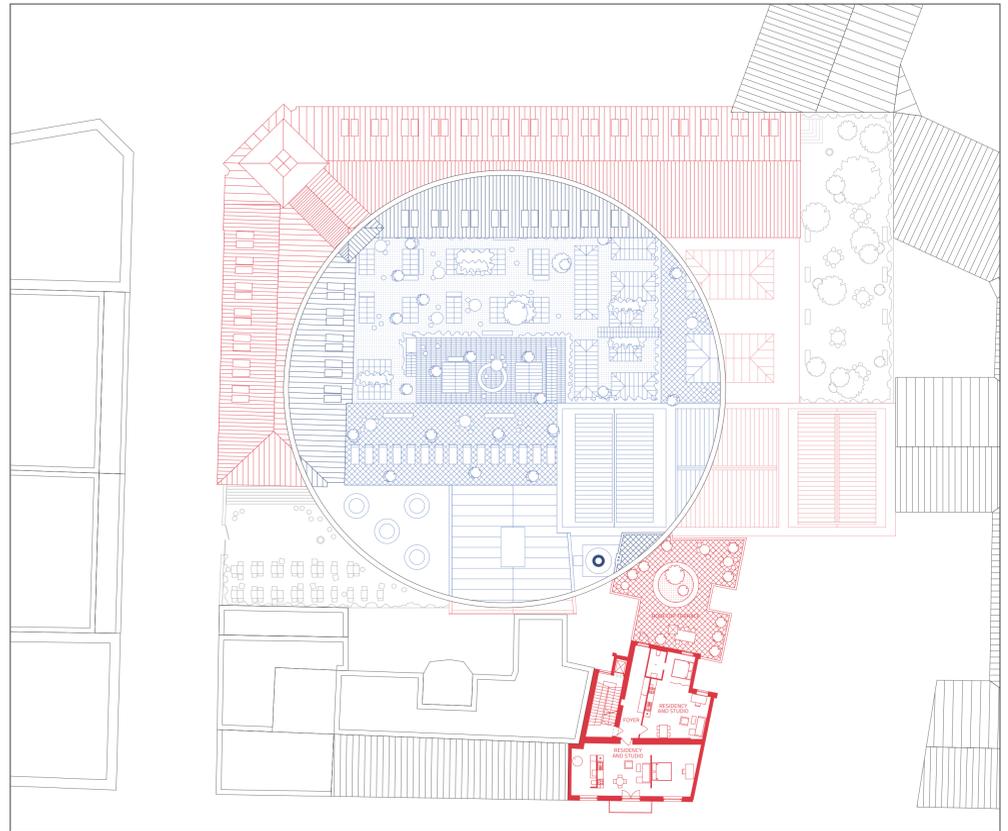
▲ Siteplan with Ground Floor ▲



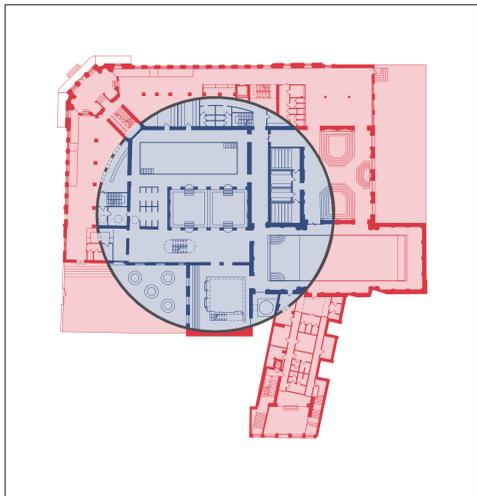
▲ First Floor ▲



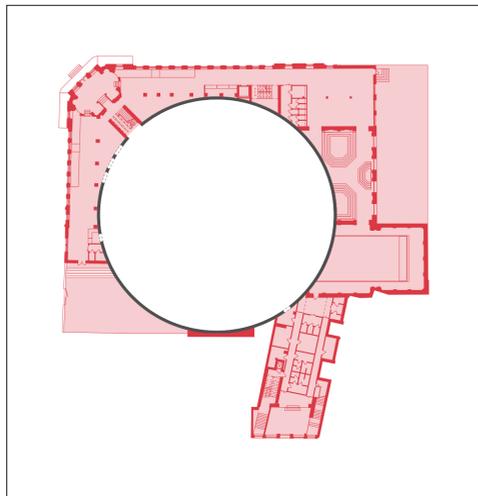
▲ Second Floor ▲



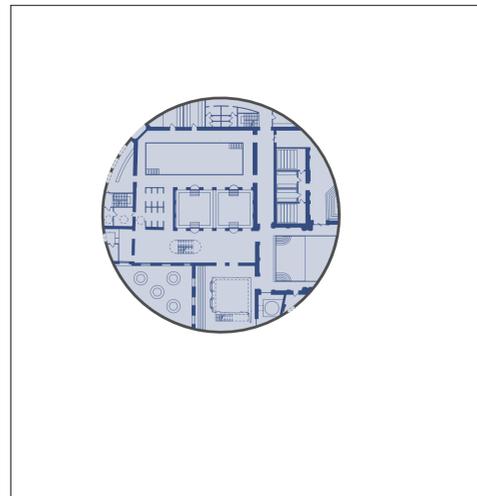
▲ Third Floor ▲



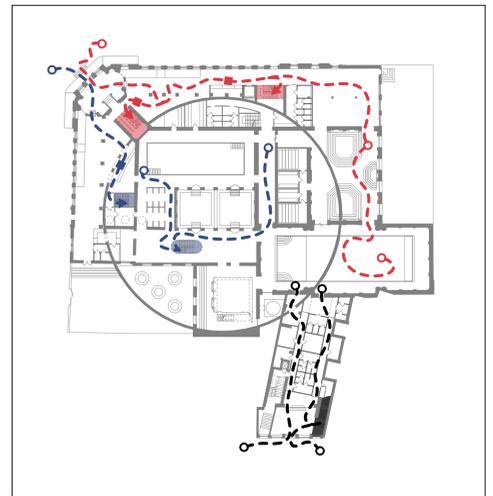
▲ The City Library and Grössling Bath ▲



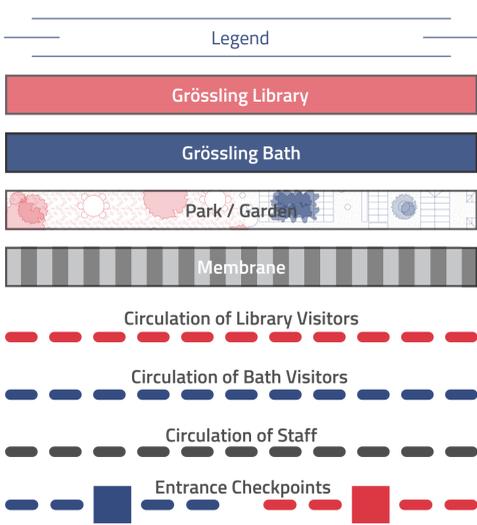
▲ The City Library ▲



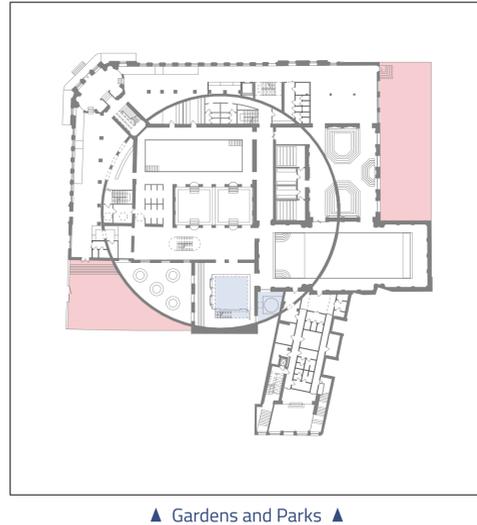
▲ The Grössling Bath ▲



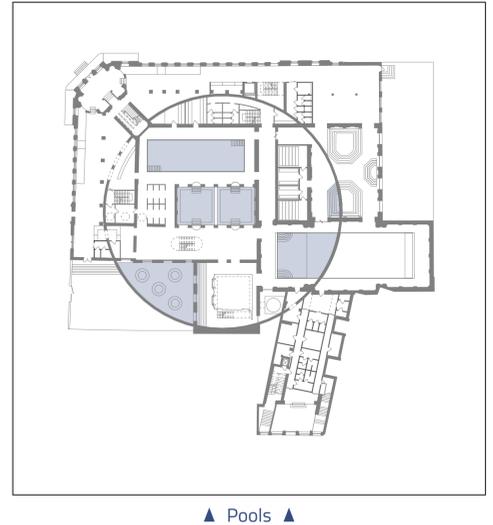
▲ Circulation and Access Points ▲



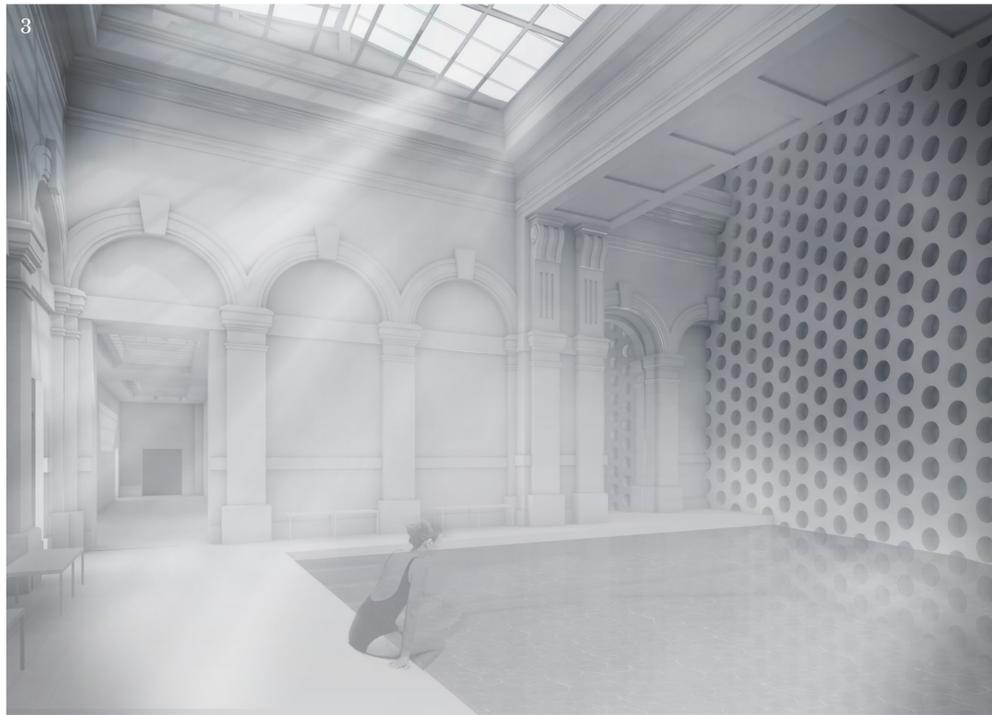
▲ Restored Spaces and Functions ▲



▲ Gardens and Parks ▲



▲ Pools ▲



Overall concept

The competition brief states that the combination of a library and a public bath is eligible as *The main concept of linking these two functions is „the immersion“*. We wanted to make this correlation of the functional concept as highlighted in our design as possible. Having a spa in a public bath and reading a book in a library has similarities. It lets us figure out a spatial concept for this special institution that is able to express the very idea of the competition. The diagram and the geometry of our proposal also strengthen the wished relationship of functions without mixing them.

According to this we respected the given layout of the existing building as seriously as possible, and decided to overwrite the given diagram of it at the same time. With the help of a simple large cylinder applied in the building mass we were able to create new spatial qualities without destroying a single space, and without building new ones. With the application of the cylinder the design process becomes the act of redistribution of spaces not the simple act of reorganization of the layout. This approach avoids starting the design process with a tabula rasa.

The membrane

Our concept set up two separate functional diagrams in this building complex. One diagram for the bath, and another separated for the library. The two diagrams are divided by a large cylinder that serves as a membrane through the whole building between the library and a bath. No people, but only light and atmospheric sounds can diffuse through it.

On one hand this concept is utterly conservative as we kept all the spatial borders that exist in the building now. We applied dozens of new openings and doors on the two sides of the membrane, but we did not move any historical structure away, while we applied a few modifications only in the contour of the original building.

On the other hand this concept is utterly innovative, as we are introducing a new structural element into the given spatial situation. One large membrane in the shape of a circle divides the existing complex to two boldly different parts: Inside of the circle there is the bath, outside of the circle there is the library.

The applied cylinder in the existing building serves as a filter between the two functions that concepts are both about immersion. Those people who immerse themselves in the fictional world of books are able to sense those people who immerse themselves into lukewarm water and vice-versa. In a fragmented way they compose each other's background. Through the holes of the membrane they are able to sense each other in every part of the building

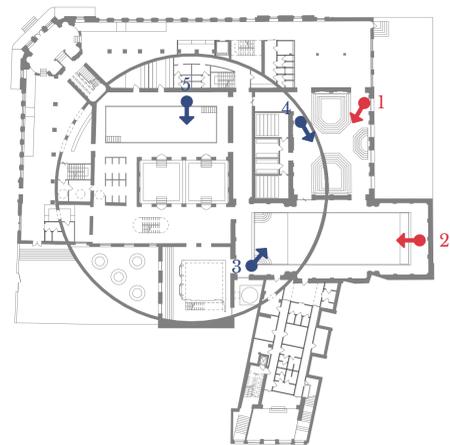
The application of the membrane is total. Thanks to this total approach it goes through the historical pools as well, creating an outstanding and unique spatial experience for every visitor.

The pools

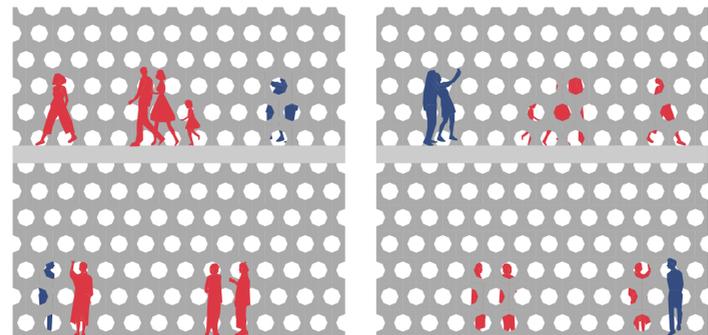
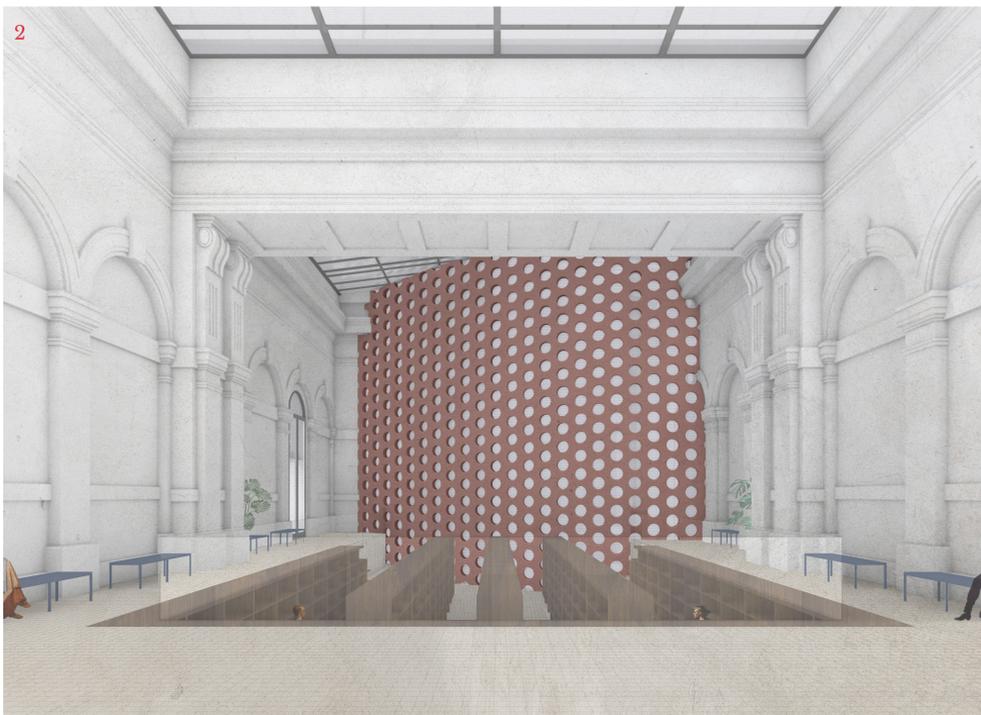
No library can exist without representative spaces. We are sure that if we do not use the spaces of the historical pools as a part of the library, that it would be impossible to create the elevated quality for immersive reading. We keep the historical pools as the key parts of the institution, but we redistributed it between the library and the bath. Thanks to this, both the visitors of the bath and the library are able to enjoy that unique quality of the pools. In the bath the pools are filled with water, in the library they are filled with bookshelves.

Structural concept

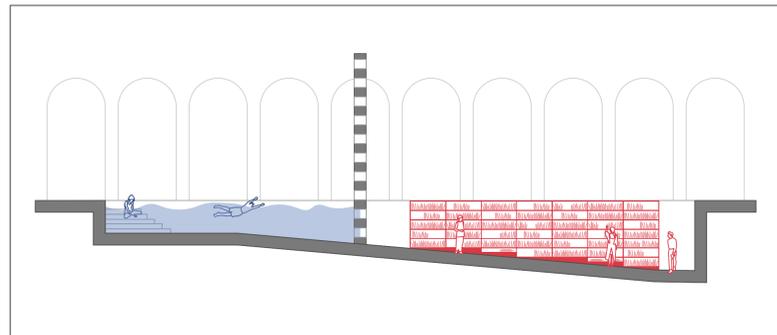
The thickness of the membrane is 50 cm and stretches between all the slabs on every level of the building. It also continues above all the roofs of the building and separates a unique rooftop garden visually, that serves as the open terrace of the bath. The membrane is made of concrete and has glass covered 40 centimetres wide circular lens, that creates a homogenic and simultaneously fragmented visual quality.



▲ Visualisation Viewpoints



▲ The Membrane ▲



▲ The "Immersion" ▲

“...the design process becomes the act of redistribution of spaces, not the simple act of reorganization of the layout.”

“No library can exist without representative spaces.”

“Those people who immerse themselves in the fictional world of books are able to sense those people who immerse themselves into lukewarm water and vice-versa.”

