

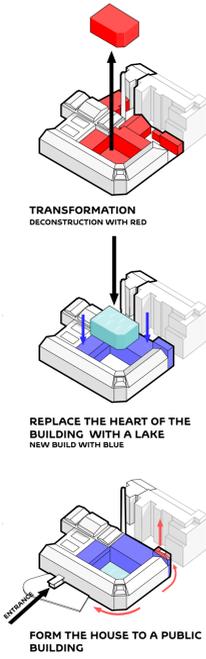


# GRÖSSLING

## TRINITY

The restructured interior, the new features introduced to the building all point towards the same goal - the creation of a new cultural and community centre which overcomes all challenges of the 21st century, creating new quality by strengthening its historical values in a trinity of library, bath and café. The restoration of Grössling's former grandeur lies in pinpointing the exact purpose, which is the concept itself:

- **The old pool as a space for new knowledge**  
rehabilitation of the existing bath through change in function
- **The exterior pool at the centre of the bath**  
a hot water pool placed in a natural lake at the heart of the city
- **Creating order**  
functional restructuring of the intricate, labyrinthine spatial systems, layered atop one another throughout the ages, with the new entrance and central courtyard (pool area) as the basis
- **The street as an integral part of the building complex**  
the public space on Medená street is an integral part of the building, where the common entrance is located and where the café stretches to
- **Strengthening the public building trait**  
separating from the apartment building and broadening to a symmetric bulk
- **Zippered functions**  
the required functions has fitted in a smaller area, that leave the apartment building out of the project as a development area - being sustainable is a primary requirement



## BATH

What makes today's baths attractive?  
What kind of experiences make the imagination soar?  
What roles does a bath have today?

Experience and history. The two most important things we can relate to in today's world. We bring the experimental approach from our digital culture, the immediate happiness factor. History is the brand itself. It defines the target audience, standards and service, and also identifies. Bathing culture changed fundamentally during the Roman times. It was at this time that places dedicated previously only for hygiene became centres of cultural and social life. Bathers were directed through a series of spaces following a precise dramaturgy, along pools of different temperatures and sizes, to the resting area, which served as a both a place for conversations and as library.

At the time of its opening, Grössling was the most advanced bath in the region. Following its heyday (1895-1930) the building fell into disrepair and with renovations cancelled, finally closed in 1994. The reopening of a bath raises many questions, which can be answered by sustainability, memory and uniqueness collectively, influencing an investment's profitability both in a financial sense and in creating value. The overbuilt Grössling bath needs to breathe again. Its organically sprawling body, which decades of growth have turned into a labyrinth, is due a thorough clean-up. And a well-defined concept will help immensely in establishing order.

A lake in the heart of the city - this is our answer to the call to redefine Bratislava's once famed bath. Although a lot of businesses have opened in the nearby downtown area, these have adapted a profile along well defined and less than unique spa services, with mainly Asian treatments and massages. Considering this local profile we have defined a dissimilar quality. By resealing the mass of buildings, an inner courtyard is formed, which is an ideal location for an inner-city lake: an all-season hot water pool surrounded by natural vegetation. Keeping up with the growing popularity for natural swimming pools, the proposal has completed a biologically filtered bathing lake in the city. Planted filtering cascades purify the water and define the soft edge of the lake. The biological water treatment basins - the non-mechanical "heart" of the baths. Together with various leisure facilities provided here, they form a recreational area open the whole year round to the municipal population. In terms of ecological cleaning capacity, the baths are designed to accommodate 2 000 bathers per day. This surreal image is a captivating centre, which loosely organizes its surrounding features: outdoor recreational areas, both covered and uncovered, indoor recreational spaces, saunas, steam rooms, massage parlours, indoor pools.

## LIBRARY

Is the idea of libraries an outdated view?  
Have books lost their value?  
Does the rise of digital education make schools obsolete?

Hardly. Although, according to statistics, we read fewer books every year, the free access lending system has remained an attribute of the largest contemporary libraries. Meanwhile, the digitalization of archives is increasing exponentially, however the navigation in today's sea of information is still a challenge. Information can only transform into knowledge if we can use it in practice as well, thus the role of libraries in education is changing constantly. The 21st century has brought about, and should bring about radically new ways of learning, which require well defined spatial settings. Such are:

The **amphitheatre**, as the focused concentration, the **campfire** as the guided interaction, the **cave** as the place for intensive work, for both individuals and small groups. The **trough** is about providing an opportunity for dynamic collaboration. The basic principle of all spatial settings is the design for proper light and acoustics. The function of libraries has changed and today provides additional possibilities. **Makerspace** is an inspirational area where in addition to digital knowledge-sharing, analogue workshops also provide an insight into the newest technologies and their uses in this new social centre.

This spatial complex of learning situations is called in professional circles as a "learning landscape", which complements, or even replaces traditional "closed classroom" education. Spatial planning of contemporary libraries is based on the principles of the learning landscape.

It's located along the neoclassical bath's spatial line. Modern baths have increased mechanical demands. HVAC, water technology, purifiers, solutions for electronic and insulation problems would all require a remodelling of the bath's inner spaces. To preserve and restore this precious spatial line, we insert a new feature into it while utilizing its spatial advantages. This feature is the library. The structure integrated into the large pool is a reading room with stepped design, and free access bookshelves embedded into the walls. The expanded stepped layout is ideal for solitary reading, small-group sessions or even as a conference room for up to 150 participants. The wooden envelope and ornamentation with the living room-like design, retains great acoustics, while the skylight provides adequate lighting for classes or intense study sessions. The niches along the circulation paths around the pool are fully furnished with bookshelves. The neighbouring room with the small pool turns into a multi-staged space for workshops, and fulfills all contemporary needs complemented with the connected exterior space.

## CAFÉ

How important can a café be?  
Is gastronomy a primary function, or just secondary?  
What functions can be integrated into it?

The café is the heart of the building. Just like the bohemian lifestyle that completes the apartments - cafés serving as public spaces for the miniature flats - reserved for artists and writers, so does it also complement, and even invigorate the bath and library features and the building's immediate downtown milieu. It is a place not only for creation but for business as well. What was once a coffee, a croissant, is today brunch, artisanal products - a café, that shares a passion for originality and a philosophy of attention to detail in its every expression.

The café is located between the library and the bath, with a prominent position in centrelina to the main entrance, and an external patio on Medená Street. The café is the library's control space, with a large, open panorama on the courtyard pool serving as a showcase towards the bath, as advertisement and an object of longing. But its uniqueness doesn't end there. Its interior design carries on the library's homey atmosphere. Considering the efficient upkeep, books can be borrowed from the counter. The experience lies within the spirit of the place and its unique variety.



## LIST OF SPACES

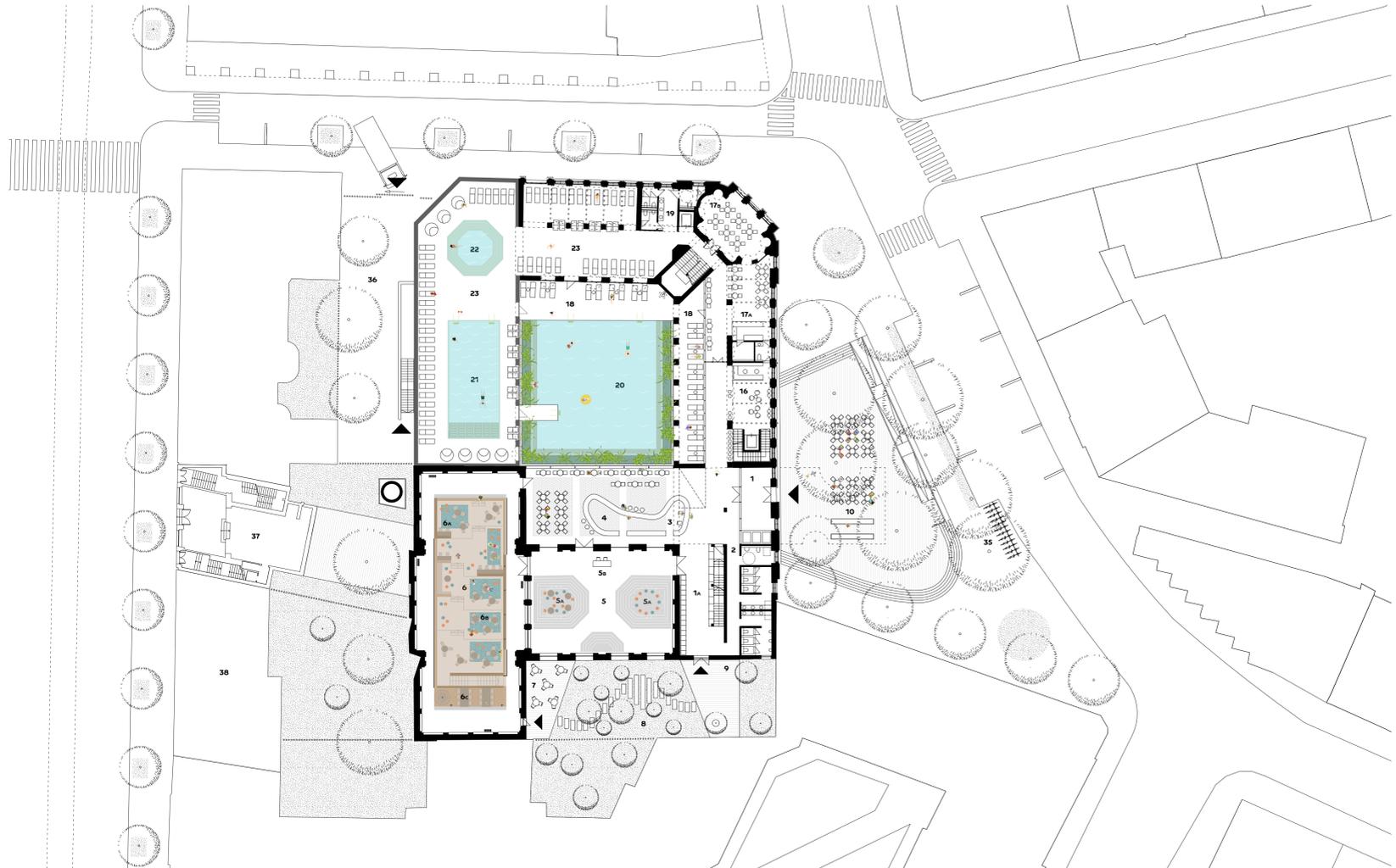
### CAFÉ AND LIBRARY

- 1 Entrance /self-service machine/  
1a Checkroom
- 2 Toilettes
- 3 Reception
- 4 Café
- 5 Library reading space  
5a Campfire, cave situation  
5b Librarian
- 6 Library reading space /open access shelves/  
6a Librarian  
6b Workplaces  
6c Digital workplace  
6d Upper workplace
- 7 Outdoor silent space
- 8 Library garden
- 9 Outdoor space for workshop rooms
- 10 Outdoor public space for café
- 11 Open space learning
- 12 Workshop rooms
- 13 Science part of the library/0-24 library/
- 14 Library storage
- 15 Cafe facilities and storage

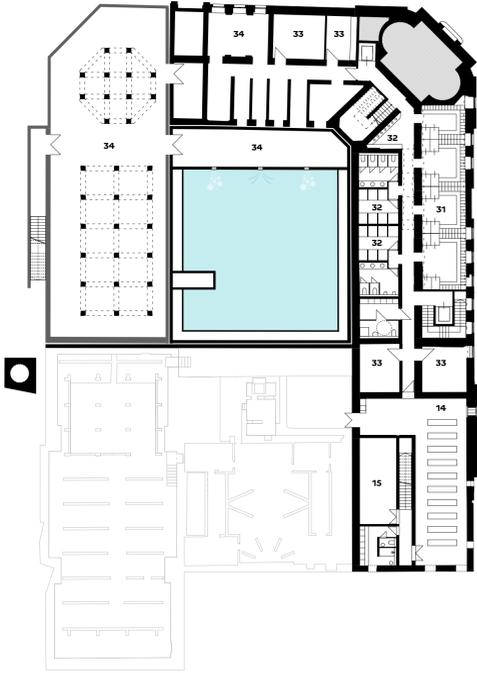
### CITY BATH AND SAUNAS

- 16 City bath entrance hall /reception/
- 17 Refreshment area
- 18 Outdoor recreation zone
- 19 Toilettes
- 20 Outdoor pool
- 21 Indoor pool
- 22 Relaxation pool
- 23 Indoor recreation zone
- 24 Administration / city bath - library/
- 25 Residency zone /rooms for the guests of the library/
- 26 Therapeutic room
- 27 Massage room
- 28 Sauna rooms  
28a Steam bath  
28b Finnish sauna  
28c Roman aromatic sauna
- 29 Recreation / showers, cooling pools/
- 30 Jacuzzi
- 31 Changing rooms
- 32 Sanitary facilities /WC, showers, hair drying/
- 33 Storages
- 34 Water engineering
- 35 Bicycle storage
- 36 Backyard
- 37 Development site  
/1st,2nd floor - gallery/  
/upper floors- residential/
- 38 Development site for building

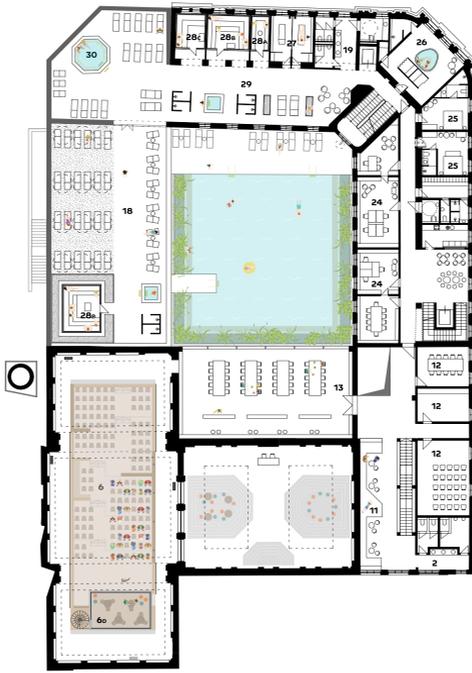
## 1'ST FLOOR PLAN M300



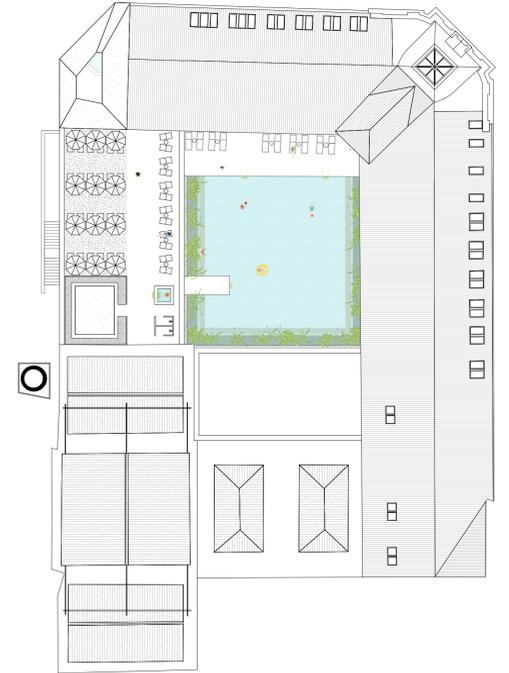
**BASEMENT M300**



**2'ND FLOOR PLAN M300**



**ROOF PLAN M300**



**LIST OF SPACES**

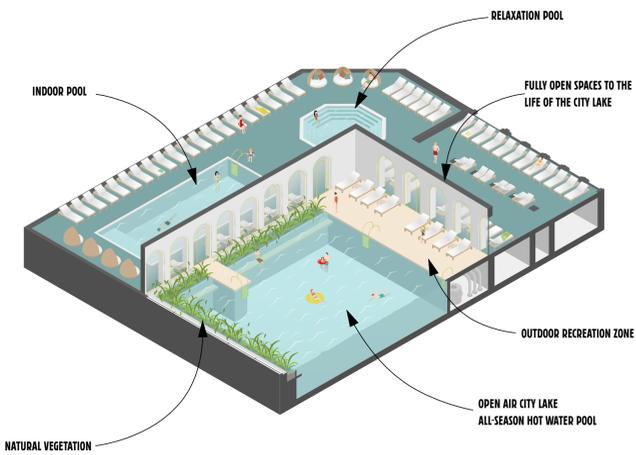
- 1 Entrance /self-service machine/  
1a Checkroom
- 2 Toilettes
- 3 Reception
- 4 Café
- 5 Library reading space  
5a Campfire, cave situation  
5b Librarian
- 6 Library reading space /open access shelves/  
6a Librarian  
6b Workplaces  
6c Digital workplace  
6d Upper workplace
- 7 Outdoor silent space

- 8 Library garden
- 9 Outdoor space for workshop rooms
- 10 Outdoor public space for café
- 11 Open space learning
- 12 Workshop rooms
- 13 Science part of the library/0-24 library/
- 14 Library storage
- 15 Cafe facilities and storage
- 16 City bath entrance hall /reception/
- 17 Refreshment area
- 18 Outdoor recreation zone
- 19 Toilettes
- 20 Outdoor pool
- 21 Indoor pool
- 22 Relaxation pool

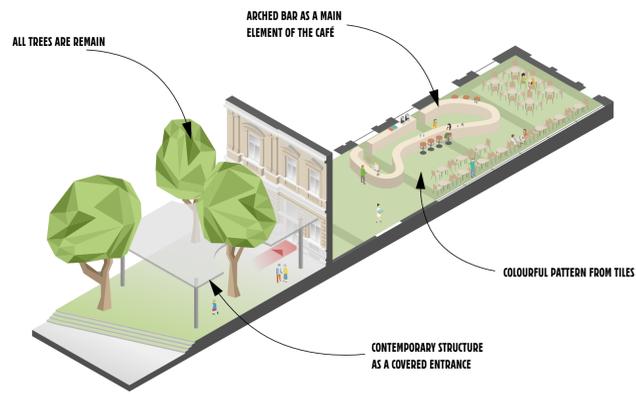
- 23 Indoor recreation zone
- 24 Administration / city bath - library/
- 25 Residency zone /rooms for the guests of the library/
- 26 Therapeutic room
- 27 Massage room
- 28 Sauna rooms  
28a Steam bath  
28b Finnish sauna  
28c Roman aromatic sauna
- 29 Recreation / showers, cooling pools/
- 30 Jacuzzi
- 31 Changing rooms
- 32 Sanitary facilities /WC, showers, hair drying/
- 33 Storages
- 34 Water engineering



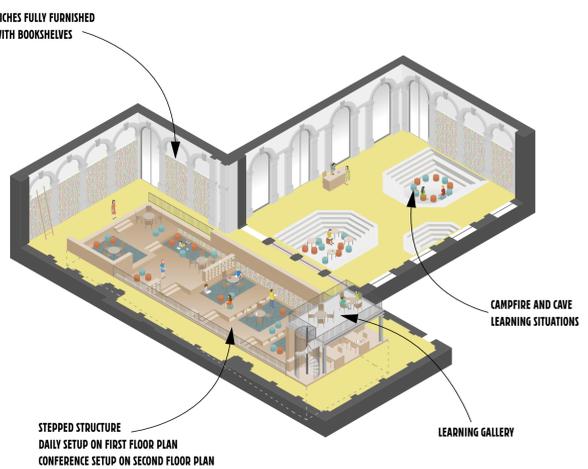
**GRÖSSLING**



**AXONOMETRIC VIEW OF THE BATH**  
1st floor



**AXONOMETRIC VIEW OF ENTRANCE**  
1st floor



**AXONOMETRIC VIEW OF THE LIBRARY**  
1st floor

