



JIGIYA SO REHABILITATION CENTER

KATI', REPUBLIC OF MALI

emilio caravatti, matteo caravatti

Architecture: caravatti_caravatti architetti
Consultants: Chiara Gugliotta, Elena Verri, F. Baldessari, Mattia Calore, Emile Coulibaly, F. B. Panero
Client: Francesco Pianzola Foundation
Chronology: 2005-2015
Area: 2400 m²
Photo: caravatti_caravatti architetti

The JIGIYA SO Psychomotor Rehabilitation Center, addresses the issue of disability and its social integration in the booming district of Kati, twenty kilometers north from Bamako, the capital of the Republic of Mali. Its main goal is to start a process able to raise awareness about disability, far from being dealt in these areas in West Africa. In Mali, with more than thirteen million inhabitants, there are no centers that promote a therapeutic support for people with disabilities, either physical or psychological, as well as a help to enter actively in the community.

The project integrates functions related to therapy, for individual or group, with public functions opened for the local community and associations, also available for the population in the vast rural areas of the nearby Savannah's region. It's equipped with rehabilitation gyms, visiting spaces and workshops rooms for community activities.

On a sloping plot, functions are located under a single roof around porches with patio shady gardens. A continuous concrete floor, casted with gravel and oxides, connects the two existing quotas enabling the use of spaces for people with mobility difficulties.

The project is regulated by the size of common concrete blocks (40x20x20 cm), used for ordinary buildings of this urban contexts, and the rhythm of thin iron pillars, placed on a structural grid of 250 cm. The structure protects the interior from high temperatures, with particular attention to the orientation and the comfort conditions.

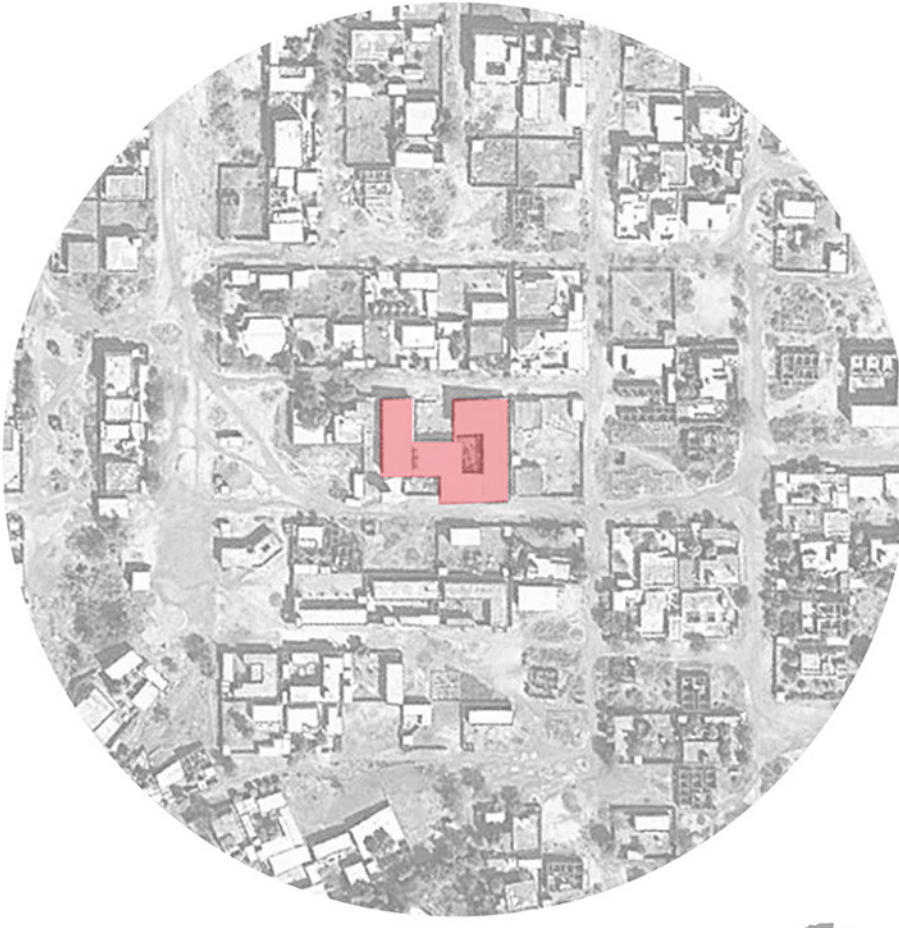
A single type of narrow window in the thick walls facilitates the air-flows and the protection against direct sunlight, dust and insects. Its aggregation suits the needs of the interior and connotes the compositive character of the facades. Inside, rooms are protected by a double roof; in order to ensure optimal climatic performance, even in the limited budget available, the metal cover is filtered by an air chamber composed with modular plywood boards made locally. Thin openings in the ceilings generate convective air flow.

The finishing of the walls is made with a traditional technique - locally called *tyrolienne* - produced with a mixture of sand, gravel with different granulometry, oxides and a low percentage of cement. The result is a handcrafted and stretched by hand plaster, highly tactile and resistant. A well equipped with solar pump and solar panels, combined with a battery system and a water tower, guarantees the supplies of electricity and ensure water autonomy to the entire complex.

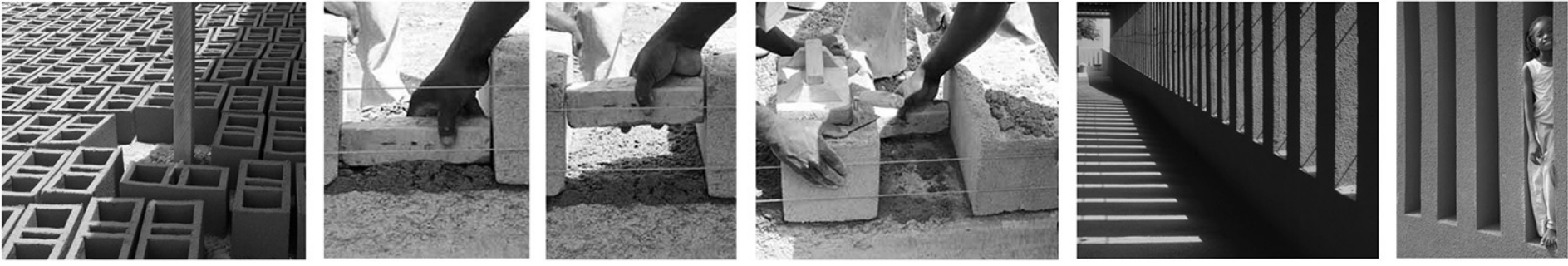
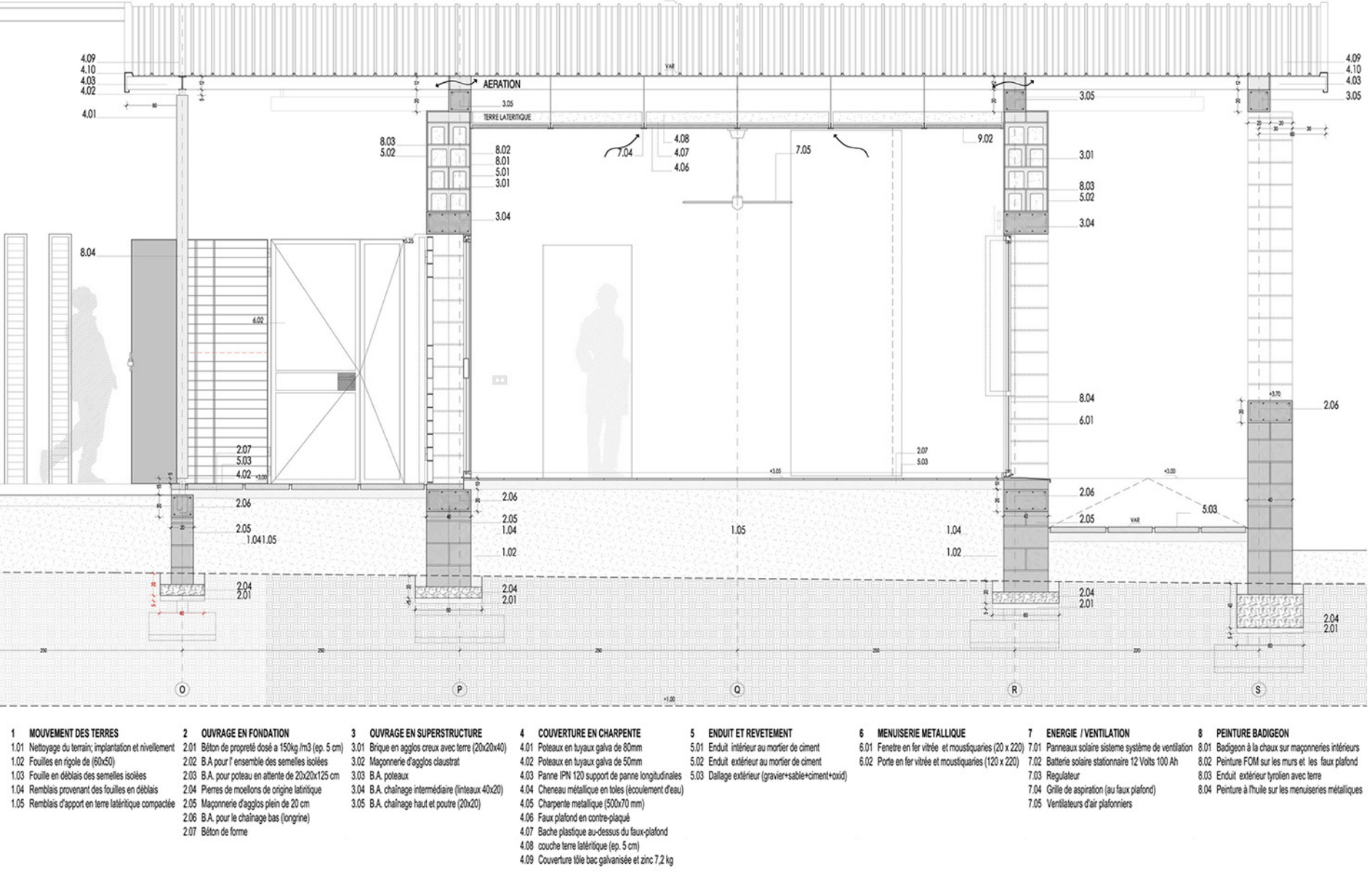
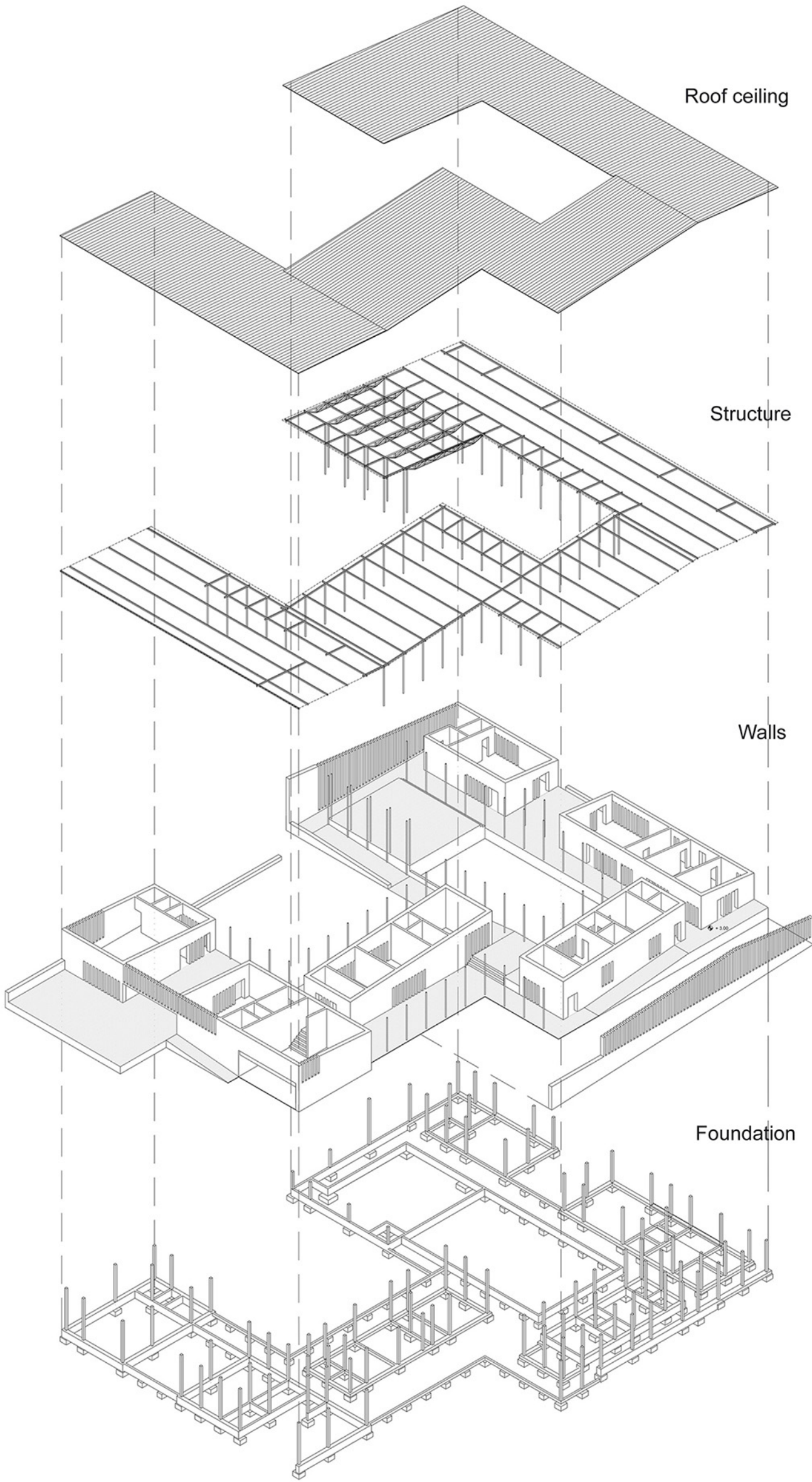
In such marginal process, the relationship between customers and architects needs constant attention and an open dialogue regarding the expectations, the organization and the peculiarity of the context. The project is the result of an extensive study that began in 2005, focused on defining the most appropriate functional program.

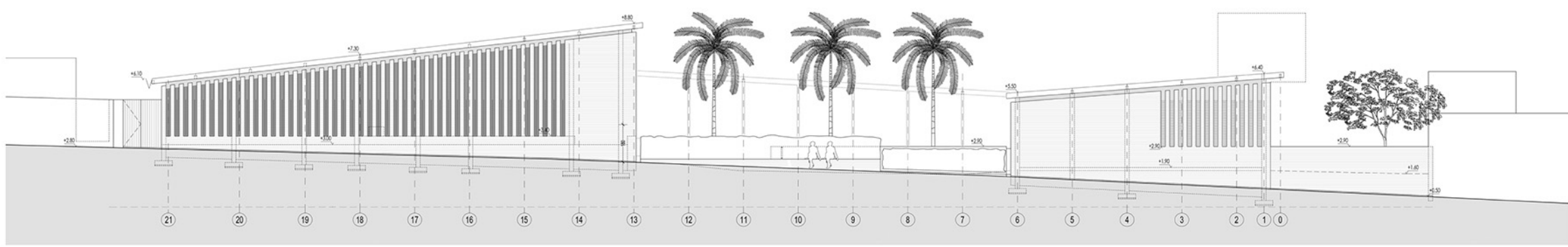


Customer and architects have supported not only the architectural realization of the building, but also the long process of aggregation of the elements of the entire process, such as the creation and growth of a local association JIGIYA TON, that coordinates the activities. Inside, the pathways under the porches are punctuated by graffiti on the walls. Alphonse Traoré, appreciated local artist, has created a cycle of works with ideograms, signs and symbols of the Bambara culture, about equality issues and social cohesion.

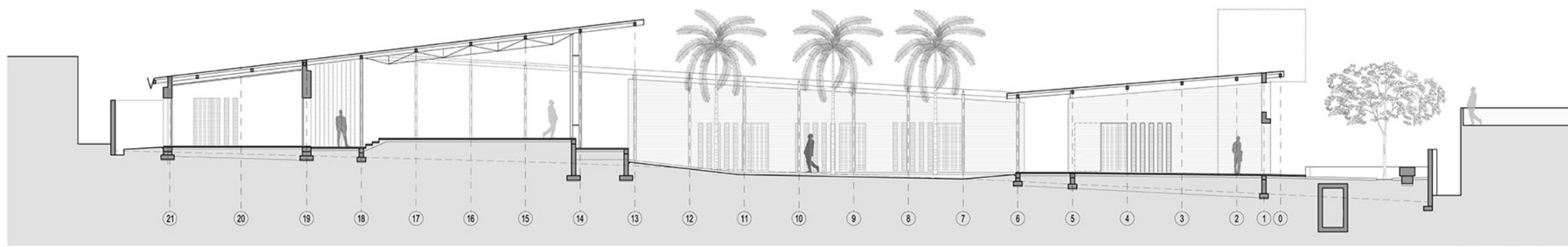


12°45'13.25"N
8°4'13.75"O

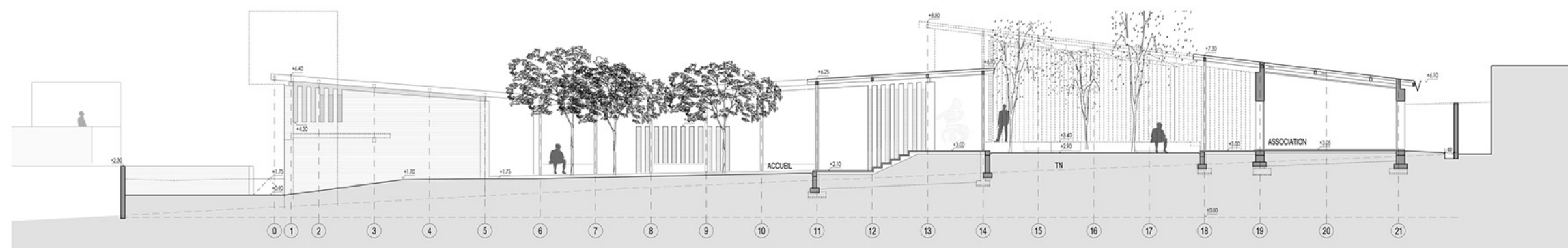




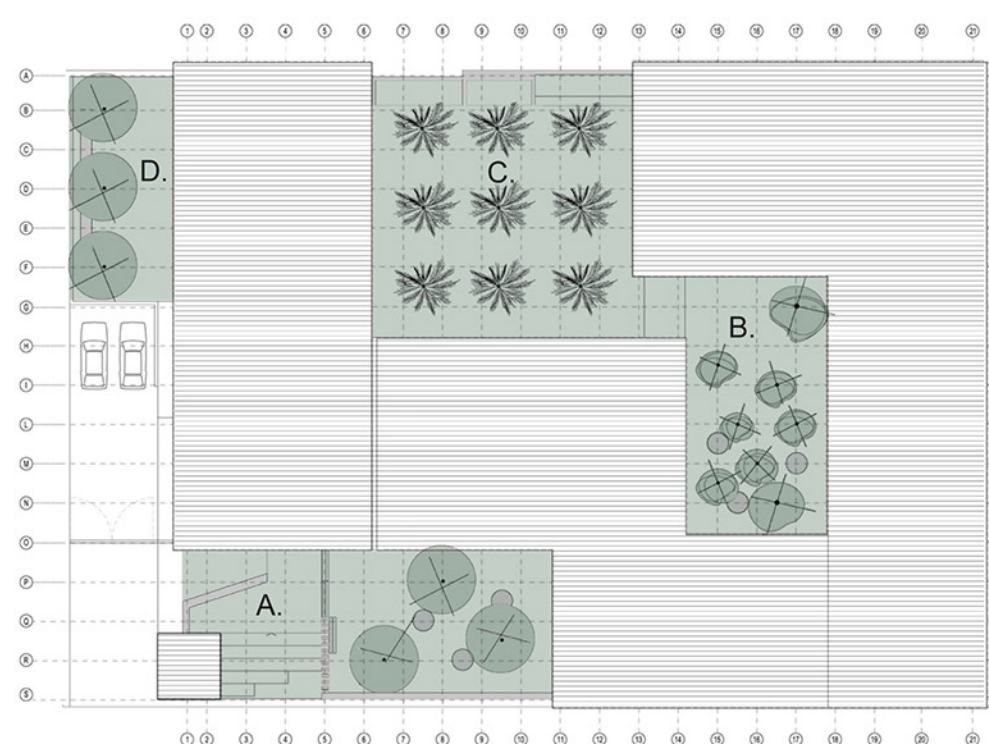
North facade



Section AA

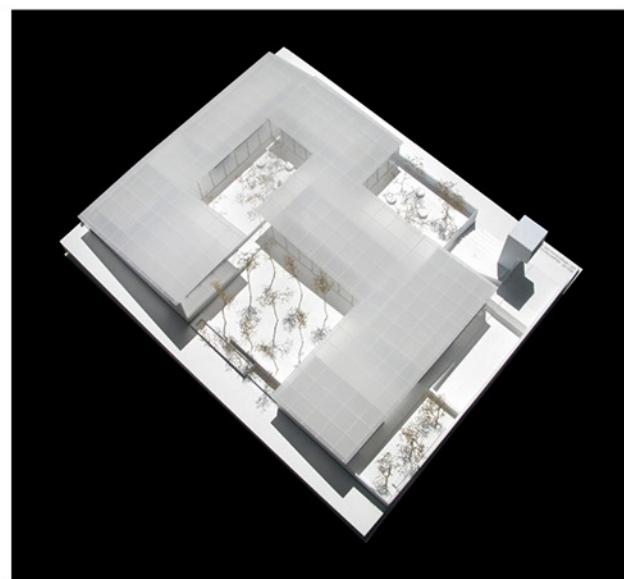


Section BB



The organization and disposition of different pavilions creates inner spaces that provide favorable microclimate and environmental comfort of the entire complex.

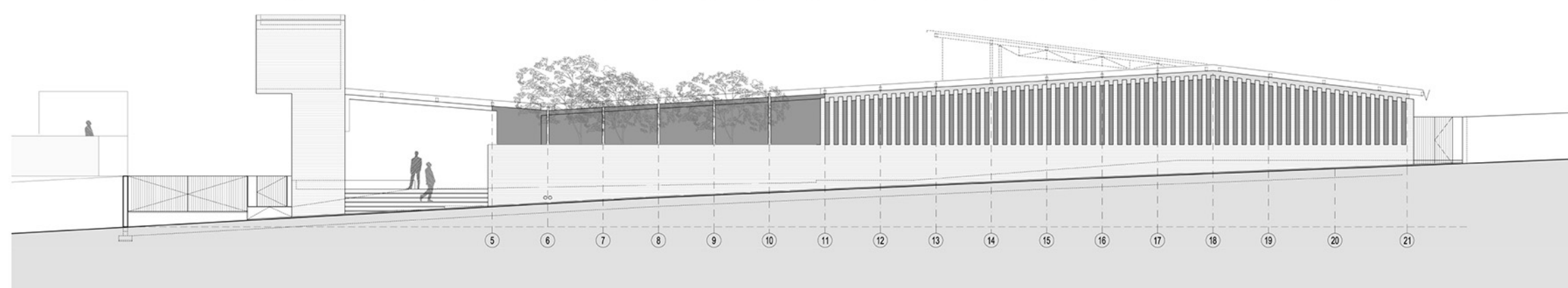
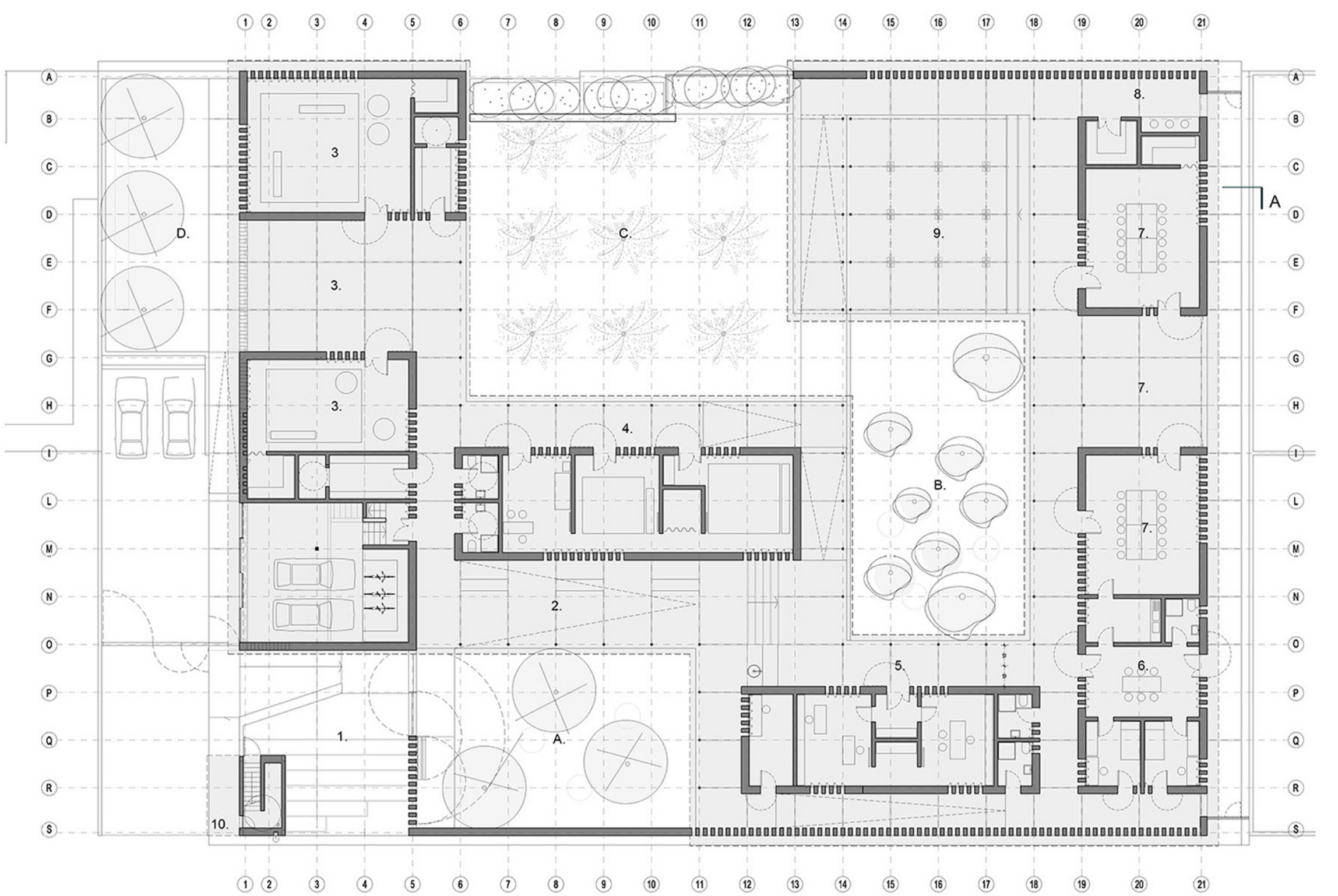
The composition of volumes and room blocks creates in between different exterior hybrid spaces, places of relationship and listening: a kind of room gardens characterized by several native species, as metaphor of a multicultural and integrated community. With his public functions, the building became a center of social relations within its urban context otherwise devoid of public places. The center has quickly become the place of aggregation of the entire community of the district with more than a hundred patients per week.



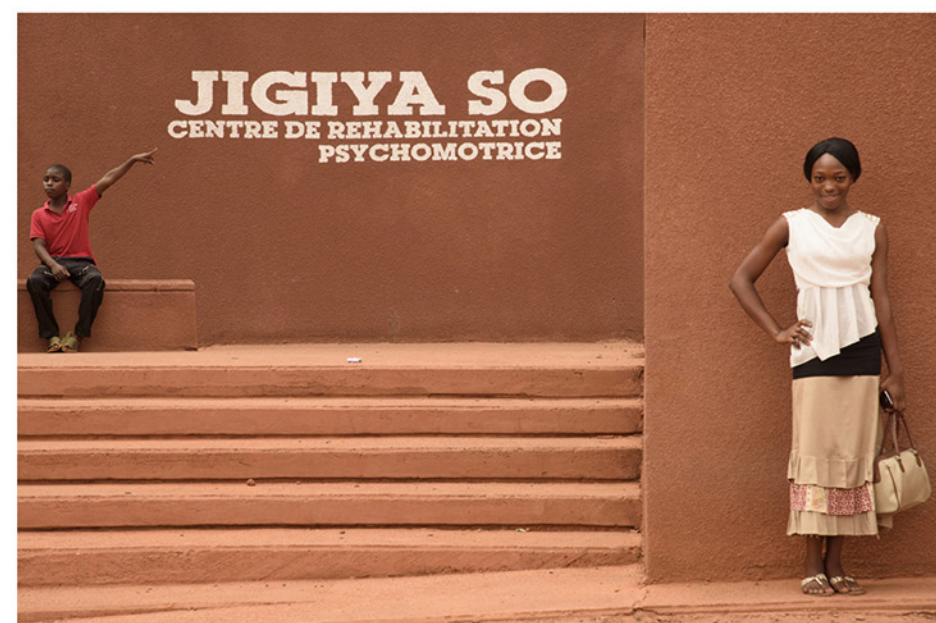
- 1. Entrance
- 2. Hall
- 3. Gymnasium
- 4. Physiotherapy
- 5. Offices
- 6. Housing
- 7. Workshop lab
- 8. Kitchen
- 9. Events area
- 10. Water tower

- OPEN SPACES
- A. Accueil
- B. Association
- C. Therapy
- D. Gymnasium

GROUND FLOOR PLAN
0 2.5



South facade



JIGIYA SO
CENTRE DE REHABILITATION
PSYCHOMOTRICE